

U CEPHEI REVISITED

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(Not reviewed)

Observations of U Cephei made by C. M. Huffer, et al, in 1950-51 and in 1959, are presented here to contrast with other observations made by Huffer and others.

In many cases, to see a light-curve of an eclipsing binary is to see all light-curves for that particular system. This is certainly not true of U Cephei which, because of its rapid variations, has held the attention of so many for so long.

The 1950-51 yellow and blue observations were made at Washburn Observatory, Madison. The data have been transcribed from Huffer's note books to a floppy disk and are available.

It is clear, from these observations, that the major challenge of this system in 1950-51 was to account for the disturbance in the shoulder at ingress to primary eclipse. If the G8 star is a major factor in the light-curve disturbances observed during primary eclipses at other times, it was relatively quiescent at that time and did not attract our attention.

The 1959 UBV observations, made by Huffer at Pine Bluff Observatory, Wisconsin, are quite extensive but we do not have the amplifier gain table so it is not possible, at this time, to combine observations made at different amplifier gains. Only observations at the bottom of primary eclipse, which are all at the same gain, are shown. Light is expressed in terms of relative deflections because a normalized intensity scale cannot be established until the amplifier gain ratios are known.

It is of interest to compare these observations with those made by C. M. Huffer and A. D. Code the previous year. Activity associated with the G8 star has clearly decreased in 1959 compared to 1958.

Space Science Reviews 50 (1989), 355
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