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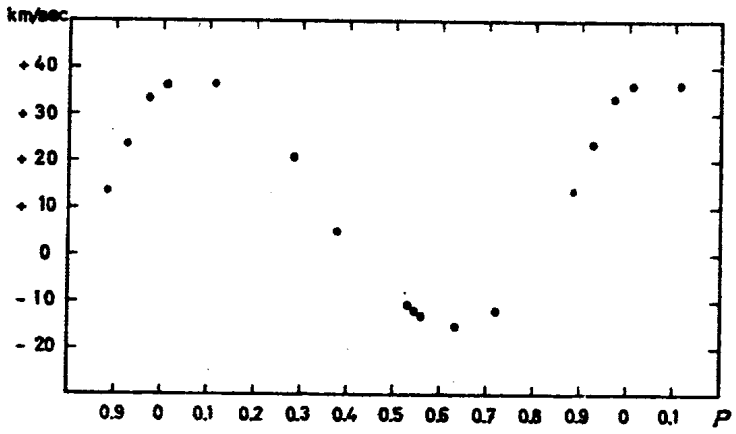
THE PERIOD OF THE SPECTROSCOPIC BINARY AND MAGNETIC STAR HD 8441

The period of $2^d.9632$ announced by Steinitz (Information Bulletin on Variable Stars No. 101) for the magnetic variations of HD 8441 ($\alpha_{1950} = 1^h21^m23^s$, $\delta_{1950} = +42°53'$, A2p, No. 3 in Babcock's catalog Ap.J. Suppl. 3, 141, 1958) cannot be considered as definitely established. There are only 13 measured values of $\underline{H}_e$, spread over an interval of about 5y i.e. more than 600 times that period. In fact it is not confirmed by the eye-estimated signs of H_e on the non-measured plates. Moreover it is in disagreement with the period-line-width relation, the lines being ultra-sharp ($\underline{w} = 0.08$ Å).



On the other hand, the measured radial velocities give a period of $106^{d}.27 \pm 0^{d}.03$ for the orbital motion, with $\gamma = +10$ km/sec and $2K = 53$ km/sec. A slight correlation with the phase computed according to this period seems to exist both for the measured values and for the estimated polarities of the magnetic field.

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