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NOTE ON THE PERIOD OF THE PULSATING VARIABLE V 477 Oph

The variable V 477 Oph was discovered by Hoffmeister (1943 Kl. Veröff. Babelsberg No. 28). Using 16 times of maximum he classified the variable as a cepheid with a period of $1^d.9729$. Recently Mandel (1970 Per. Zv. 17, 347) made new photographic observations of this star and found that Hoffmeister's period was in error. According to Mandel it should be $2^d.015702$. Moreover, he found that in order to fit Hoffmeister's epochs, a considerable change in the period had occurred around 1940.

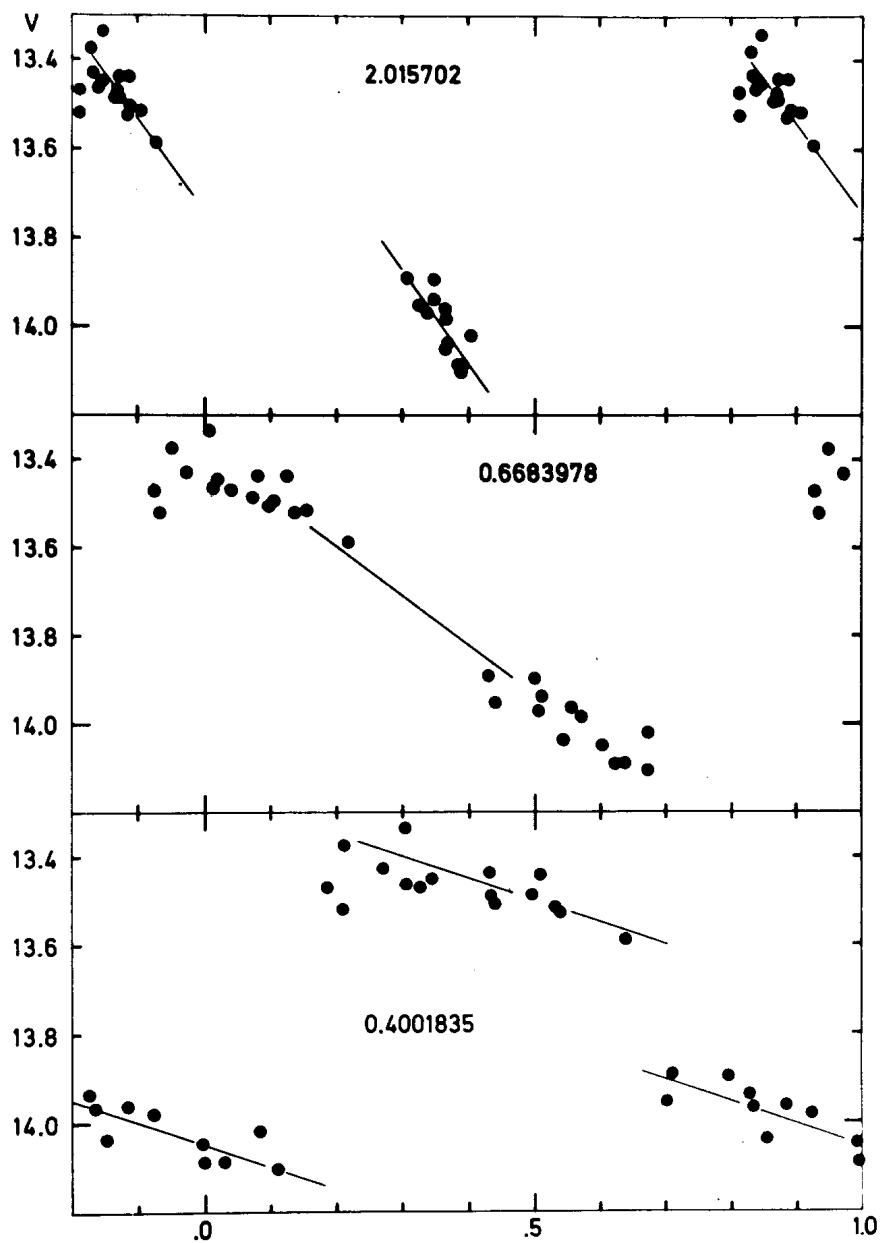
A closer investigation of Mandel's observations learned, however, that two other periods, shorter than a day, fit as well as the $2^d.015702$ period. In the accompanying table the four concerned periods have been listed together with their reciprocals, to show their relationships.

Period in days	Reciprocal	Reference
1.9729	0.50687	Hoffmeister
2.015702	0.49611	Mandel
0.6683978	1.49612	first alternative
0.4001835	2.49885	second alternative

In the course of a running investigation on UBV photometry of Population II cepheids with periods between 1 and 3 days, the present author also observed this variable on 8 nights between 21 and 30 August 1973, at the European Southern Observatory at La Silla in Chile. On 7 nights the star was observed over a period of 4 hours. The period of the variable allowed the cover of only two stretches in the phase of the lightvariation for a large number of cycles.

In the accompanying figure, provisional V magnitudes have been plotted against the phases of the three concerned periods. Regarding the slopes of the observed stretches in the phase, one can see, that the period of $0^d.6683978$ is the most likely one of the three. Moreover when this period is adopted, there appears to be no need for assuming a substantial change in the period in order to fit Hoffmeister's early epochs of maximum. Therefore, one may safely conclude, that V 477 Oph is in fact an RR Lyrae variable with a period of $0^d.6683978$.

More detailed information of the observations will appear in a future publication elsewhere.



European Southern Observatory,
 La Silla, Chile
 3 September, 1973.

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