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HD 271227, A NEW  $\beta$  LYRAE TYPE STAR JUST  
OUTSIDE THE ERROR BOX OF LMC X-2

Photo-electric observations have been made of two stars viz. HD 271213 (12 mag, B31) which is the only LMC member within the error box of LMC X-2 (or 3U 0521-72, Giacconi et al. 1973, preprint) and HD 271227 (10.8 mag, A3), a galactic foreground star (Fehrenbach, Duflot and Petit, 1970, Astron. Astrophys. Special Suppl, Ser. No.1), which is only a few minutes of arc outside the error box.

Feast (private communication) suggested to make photometric observations of the first star and the second was taken as the comparison star. Soon it was evident that the last one was strongly variable. A new comparison star was taken for both objects viz. HD 35434 (9.6 mag, A3).

The observations were made with the Walraven simultaneous five-colour photometer (Walraven and Walraven, 1960 Bull. Astron. Inst. Netherl. 15, 67; Rijf, Tinbergen and Walraven 1969, Bull. Astron. Inst. Netherl. 20, 279) attached to the 90 cm light-collector of the Leiden Southern Station at the SAAO annexe in South-Africa, from December 1973 to March 1974. A preliminary reduction showed that the LMC member HD 271213 stayed constant during these months and that the foreground star HD 271227 is an eclipsing binary of the  $\beta$  Lyrae type with a period of  $0^d.7765 \pm .0002$  e.e. and a primary minimum of 0.65 mag. deep. The figure shows the log intensity differences variable minus comparison star for the Walraven B band (4260 Å). The phases have been computed with the formula:

$$(JD - 2442050.3042) \times 0.7765^{-1} .$$

There is an indication that the primary minimum is slightly asymmetric and that the maxima are unequal. If real, it would mean that a small extra light source is present in the system. Further observations are however urgently needed to confirm this.

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