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TIMES OF MINIMA OF RZ OPHIUCHI

The eclipsing binary RZ Oph shows spectroscopic evidence of mass transfer, and yet it is unlikely that either star in the system fills its Roche lobe (Baldwin, unpublished). Two recent primary eclipses were observed photoelectrically (with B and V filters) with the 12-inch telescope of the University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia. Although not enough observations were obtained to warrant an orbital solution, times of minima and times between contact points were determined.

$$T_{\min} \text{ (JD)} = \begin{array}{l} 2,441,942.3 \pm 0^{\text{d}}2 \\ 2,442,204.1 \pm 0^{\text{d}}2 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Duration of totality} = 9^{\text{d}}3 \pm 0^{\text{d}}2 \\ \text{Duration of each partial phase} = 1^{\text{d}}5 \pm 0^{\text{d}}2 \end{array}$$

The uncertainties were estimated visually from the light curve. The values for the duration of totality and the duration of each partial phase are significantly different from those listed in the current literature (e.g., Rocznik Astronomiczny Observatorium Krakowskiego, 1975).

A linear ephemeris was derived from these and an additional 32 times of minima uncovered during a literature search:

$$T_{\min} \text{ (JD)} = (2,442,204.4 \pm 0^{\text{d}}2) + (261^{\text{d}}928 \pm 0^{\text{d}}003)E,$$

where E is the cycle number. There is no evidence for a period variation within the uncertainties of the observations.

The next primary eclipse occurs in late July 1976, and additional photometric observations at that time are desirable.

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