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A NEW PROBABLE Be STAR ALPHA Leo

Spectroscopic observations of  $\alpha$  Leo have been carried out. This study has been done under our program of spectroscopic observations of Be stars. Suspected variability appears to be a valuable clue in finding new emission stars. Irvine (1975) observed 43 stars,  $v \sin i \geq 300$  km, with a 91 cm Cassegrain spectrograph at a dispersion of  $67 \text{ \AA/mm}$  in the  $H\alpha$  region on 103 aF Kodak emulsion. Spectra were widened to 300 or 600  $\mu\text{m}$ . This investigation led to five new and one probable (19 Mon, HR 2648) emission stars. However, Irvine (1975) could not detect emission in  $H\alpha$  in  $\alpha$  Leo and predicted it would be an excellent candidate for Be star.

We obtained 7 spectra of  $\alpha$  Leo, with the 50 cm reflecting telescope, at Cassegrain focus, with plane grating spectrograph at a dispersion of  $17.2 \text{ \AA/mm}$  at  $H\alpha$  on 09802 Kodak photographic plates, widened 800  $\mu\text{m}$ . These spectra were taken on February 22 (two), February 23 (two), February 26 (one), April 8 (two), 1981. On February 22 and 23, we could notice weak emission with central reversal, out of these we are presenting four density tracings in Figure 1. From Figure 1, we conclude that  $\alpha$  Leo has variable  $H\alpha$  profile, with variable weak centrally reversed emission.

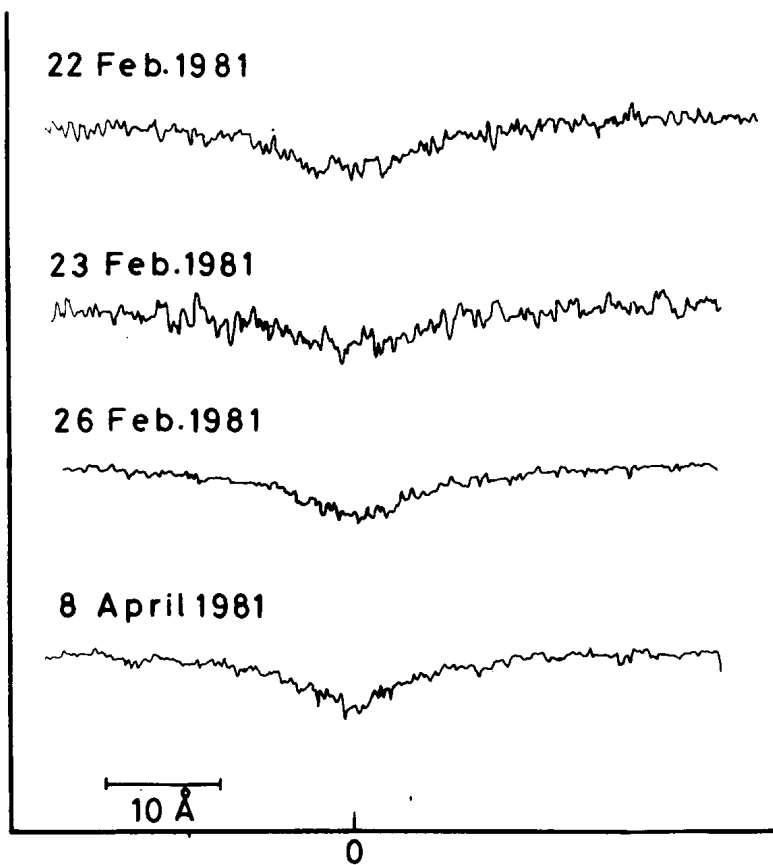


Figure 1: H $\alpha$  density tracings

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Reference:

Irvine, N.J. 1975, *Astrophys. J.* 196, 773