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PHOTOELECTRIC OBSERVATIONS OF THE SYMBIOTIC STAR AG DRACONIS

This well-known symbiotic star has been observed photographically and photoelectrically by several authors. The observations of Meinunger (1979) showed periodic variations in the U-magnitude with a period of 554<sup>d</sup>.

After a quiet phase till JD 244 4450 two outbursts with amplitudes in B of about 1.7 mag and 1.3 mag followed (Luthardt 1983). Since March 1982 I have been observing AG Dra photoelectrically in U, B and V with the 60 cm mirror II of Sonneberg Observatory. During this time the star was at first in the

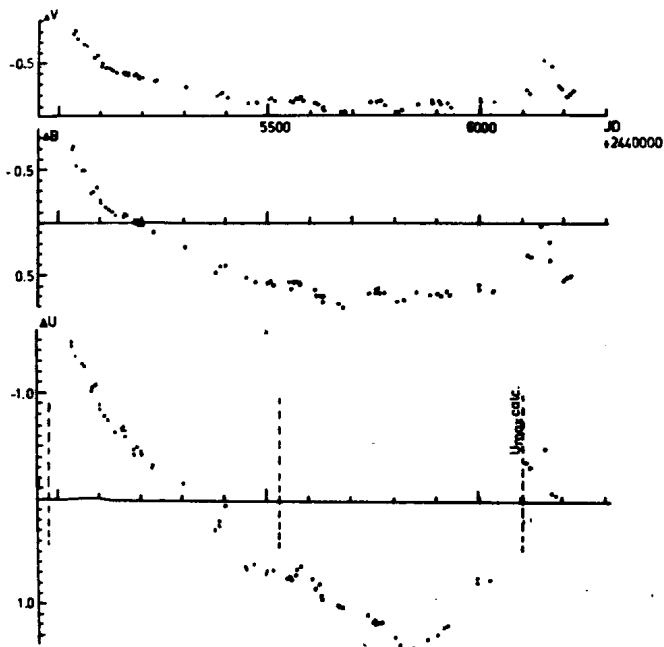


Figure 1

declining phase following the last outburst. The star reached a low state in B and V at JD 244 5650, but in U the decline continued till JD 244 5850. A quiet phase, showing only small variations, followed in B and V, but in U the brightness increased soon after a short minimum. At JD 244 6100 a new, but small, outburst began. The amplitude amounted to 0.45 mag in V, 0.70 mag in B and 1.90 mag in U. Since JD 244 6200 AG Dra has dropped in minimum again.

It is remarkable that the variations in U correspond with the elements of Meinunger (1979). Also the maxima of the two last outbursts in V and B correspond with the calculated maxima for U.

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