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THE CATAclySMIC BINARY MV LYRAE RE-ATTAINED ITS UPPER LEVEL

Contrary to the expectation of some theoreticians the cataclysmic variable MV Lyrae has re-attained the brightness ($B \approx 12.5^m$) of its "active" state. We observed the star on plates of the Sonneberg 40 cm astrographs and of the Sky Patrol in continuation of our previous investigation (Wenzel and Fuhrmann 1989) and noticed that its mean brightness continued to increase in the last part of 1989, and after the sun gap the object has been presenting itself in the high state. The star had left this upper level in 1979 - for a complete long-term lightcurve before and including this fading see e.g. Wenzel and Fuhrmann (1983). Afterwards MV Lyrae showed an extraordinarily strong activity (Andronov, Fuhrmann, Wenzel 1988), characterized by eruptions rising from the minimum state, but never reaching the maximum high level.

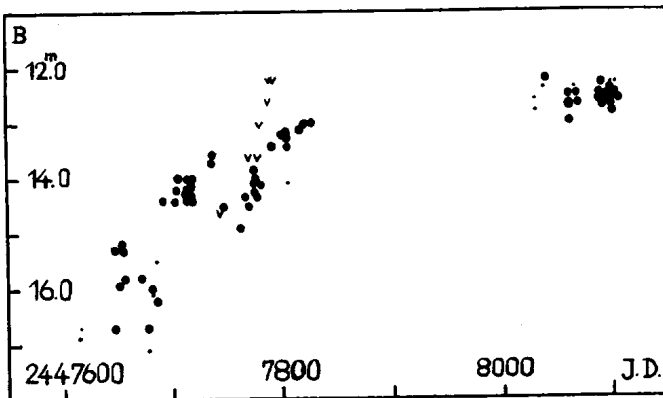


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the ascending branch of 1989 and the maximum observations of 1990. The B system of comparison star magnitudes of Andronov and Shugarov (1982) was used; smaller dots denote values of less weight, and the arrows indicate "fainter-than" observations.

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