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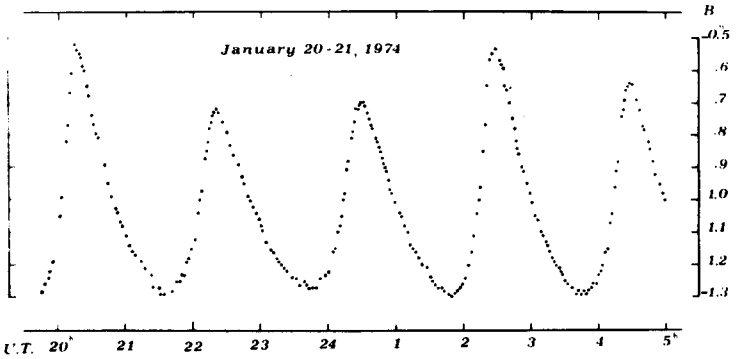
ON THE BEAT PERIOD OF AE UMa*

AE Ursae Majoris has been found recently by V.P. Tsessevich (1) to be a dwarf Cepheid variable. Tsessevich noted also that the light curve varies strongly.

Some hundreds B and V photoelectric measures obtained at the Merate Observatory during the first months of 1974 give evidence of a beat phenomenon in the light curves. A nine hours observing run is reported in the figure. It appeared evident there was a remarkable variation in the light maxima, which can reach two tenths of magnitude from one maximum to the next. A preliminary analysis of our observations confirms the fundamental period given by Tsessevich: $P_o = 0^d.087017$ and displays a beat phenomenon whose period is approximately: $P_b = 0^d.294$.



P. BROGLIA, P. CONCONI

Merate August 26, 1974.

(1) Tsessevich V.P., 1973, Astron. Circ. 775.

* S. also B. Szeidl, IBVS 903, 1974.