

Non-evolutionary effects on Period change in Magellanic Cloud Cepheids

Rajeev Singh Rathour

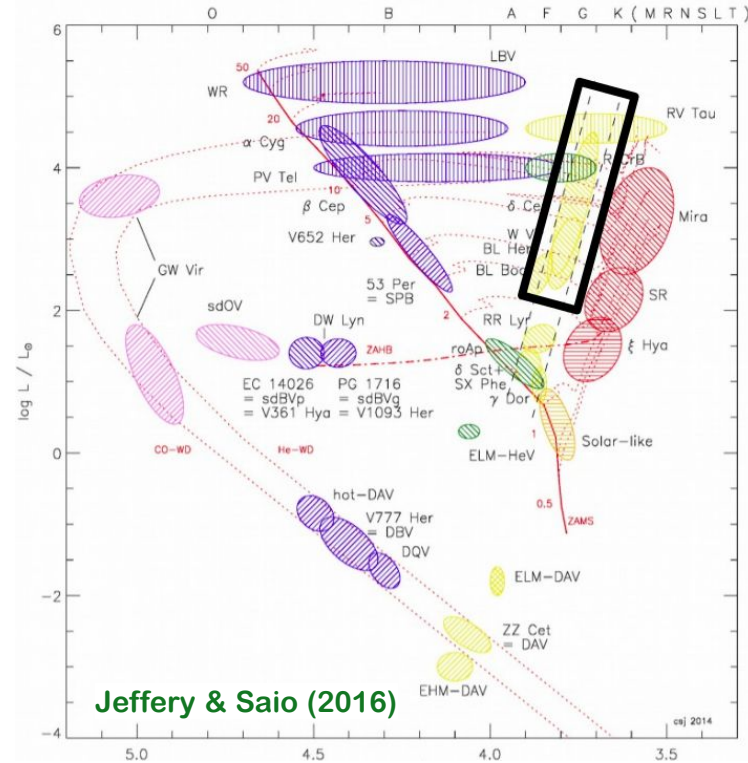
Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center, Warsaw

Collaborators: G. Hajdu, R. Smolec, P. Karczmarek, V. Hócdé, O. Ziółkowska,
I. Soszyński, A. Udalski



CEPHEIDS

- **Classical Cepheids:** mainly core He burning stars
Period: ~upto 100 days
Mass: ~3–13 M_{\odot}
- Excellent for extragalactic distance indicators
- Perfect for stellar evolution and pulsation studies

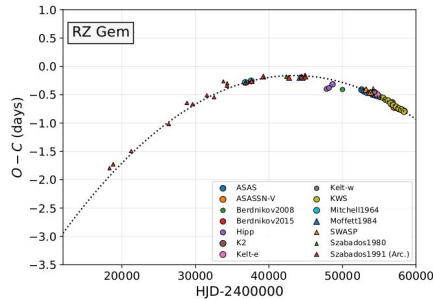
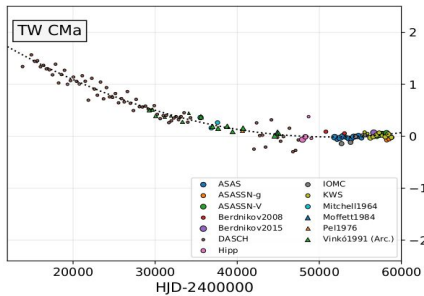


Taxonomy of Period Changes (PC)

Evolutionary
($\sim 10^4 - 10^7$ yr)

Positive

Negative



G. Csörnyei et al. (2021)

Taxonomy of Period Changes (PC)

Evolutionary
($\sim 10^4 - 10^7$ yr)

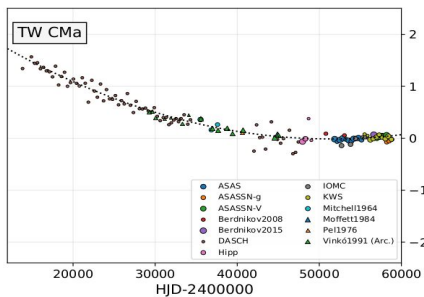
Non-evolutionary
($\sim 10^3$ days)

Positive

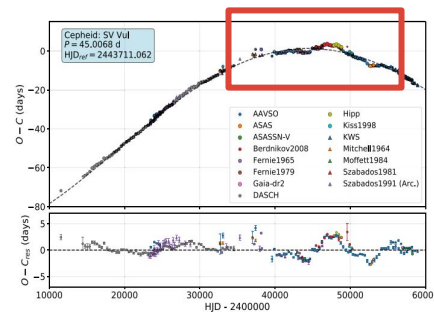
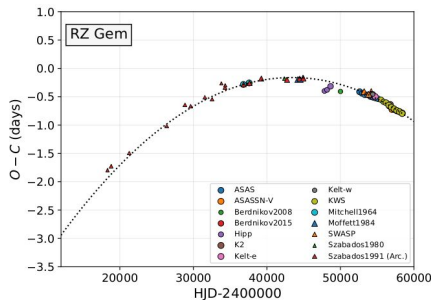
Negative

Irregular

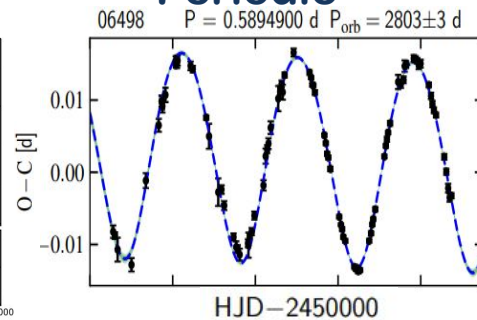
Periodic



G. Csörnyei et al. (2021)



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G. Hajdu et al. (2021)

Taxonomy of Period Changes (PC)

Evolutionary
($\sim 10^4 - 10^7$ yr)

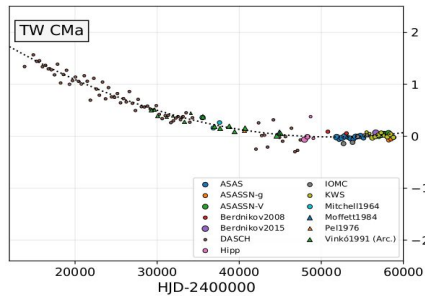
Non-evolutionary
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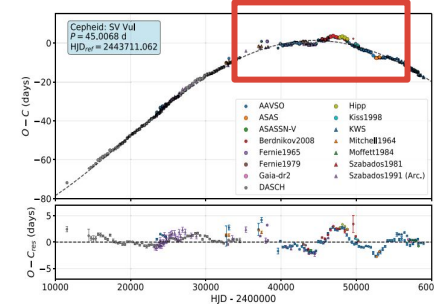
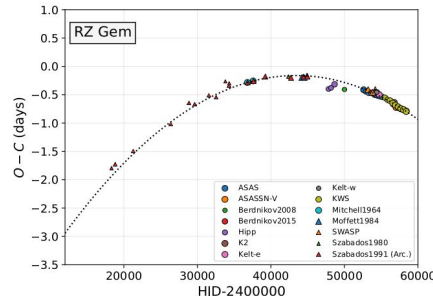
Negative

Irregular ??

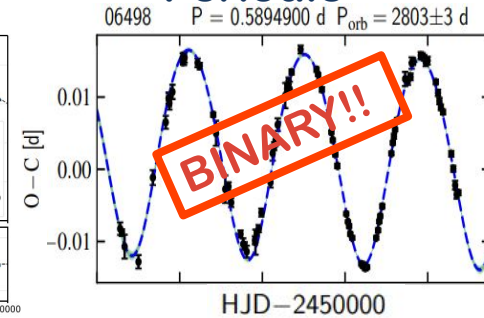
Periodic



G. Csörnyei et al. (2021)



G. Csörnyei et al. (2021)



G. Hajdu et al. (2021)

NON-EVOLUTIONARY PC-I

Binary hunt begins!

Rathour et al. 2024a (Published)

MOTIVATION



Credit: K. Ulaczyk / J. Skowron

- **Data:** OGLE survey (15+ years data)
- **LMC/SMC fields:** Completeness near 100% with 9649 Cepheids [Soszyński et al. \(2017\)](#)
- **Context:** ~25 LMC (~5 EBs) [\(Szabados & Nehez 2012; Pilecki et al. 2021\)](#)
~ 9 SMC (~2 EBs) [\(Szabados & Nehez 2012\)](#)
BIND Cepheids 9 new SB2 [\(Pilecki et al. 2024\)](#)

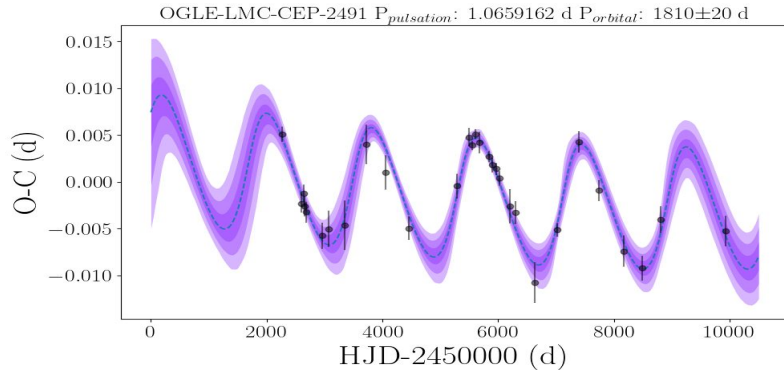
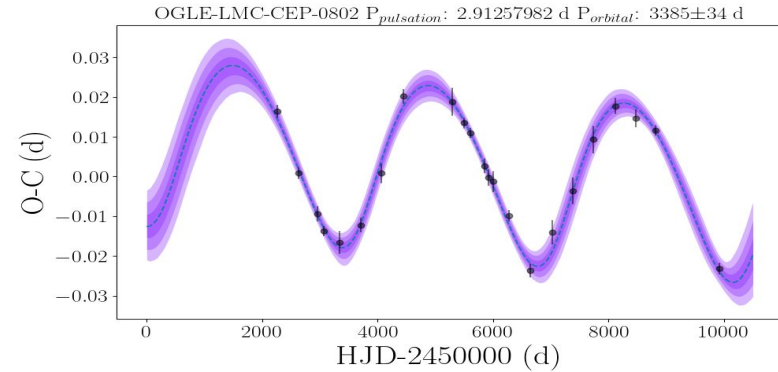
RESULTS: Binary Statistics

	LMC F	LMC 10	SMC F	SMC 10
Starting sample:	1801	1238	2582	1617
O-C + stat. Inspection:	39	52	102	133
Posterior filtering:	30	22	85	60

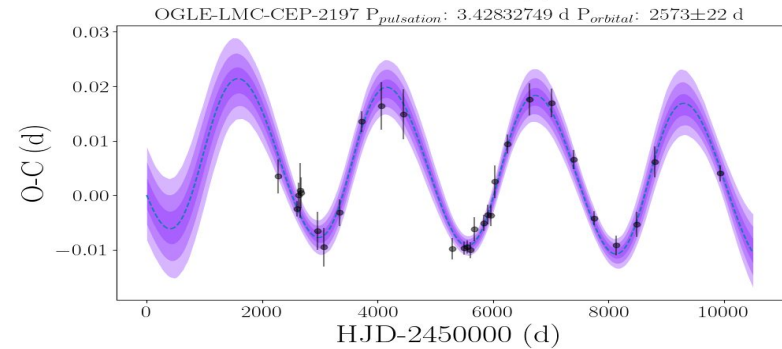
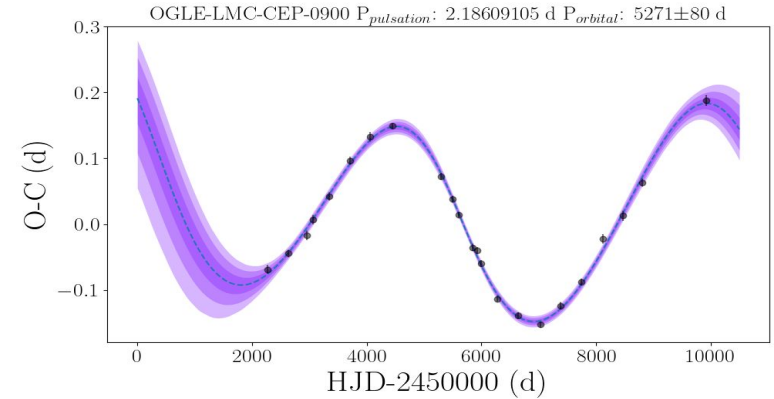
Eight parameters: P(orb), T(per), e, asini, omega, PCR, K and f(m)

LMC Binary candidates

Fundamental

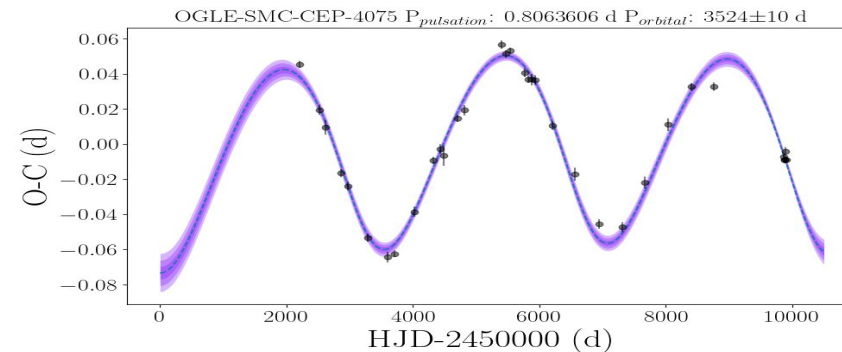
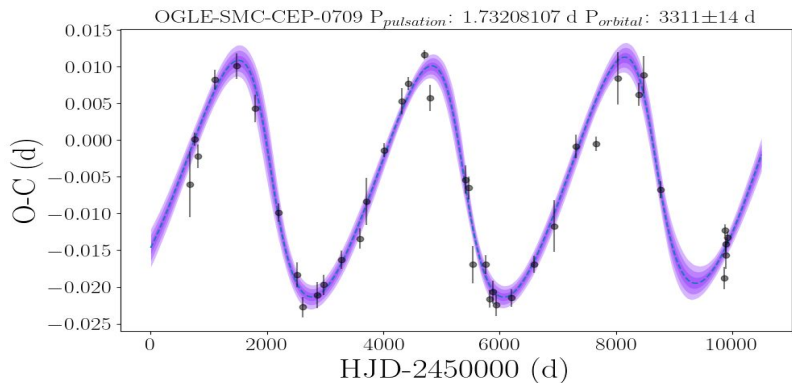
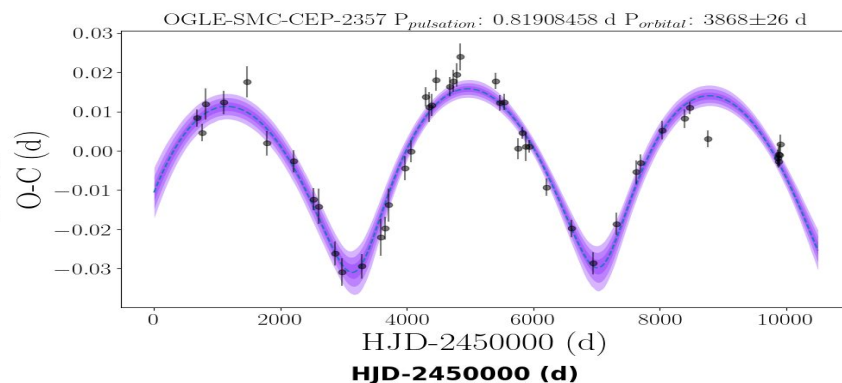
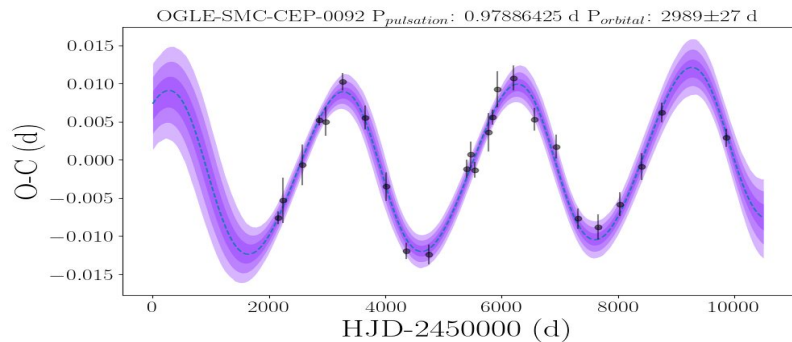


Overtone

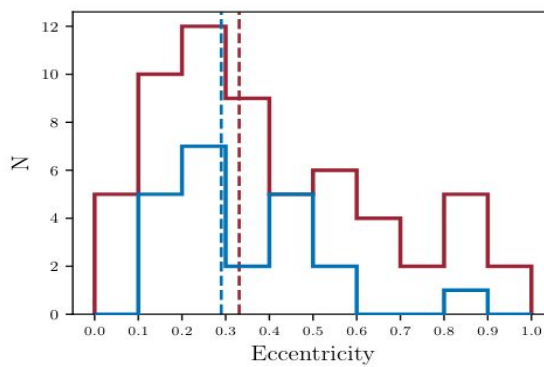
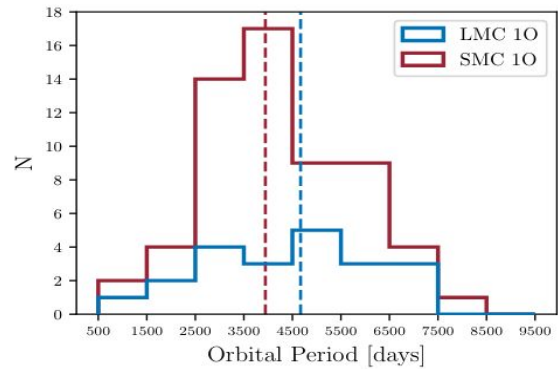
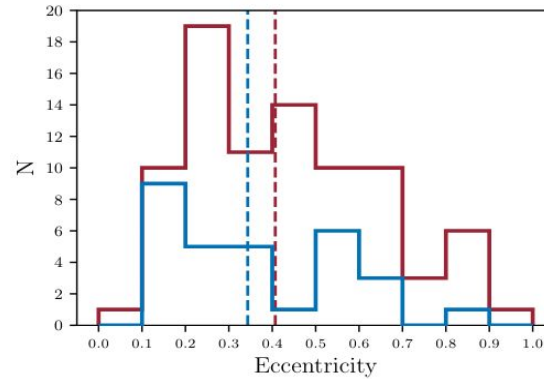
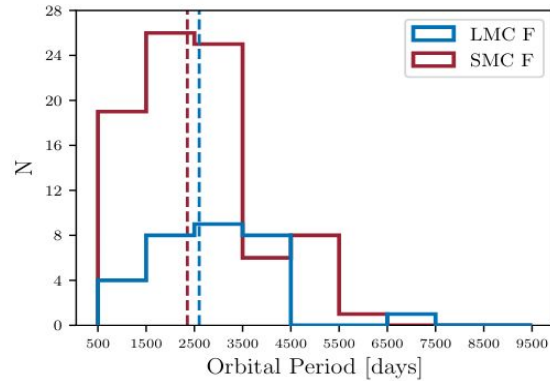


SMC Binary candidates

Fundamental



RESULTS: Orbital Parameters



CEPHEID COMPANIONS

RESULTS: Mass Estimation

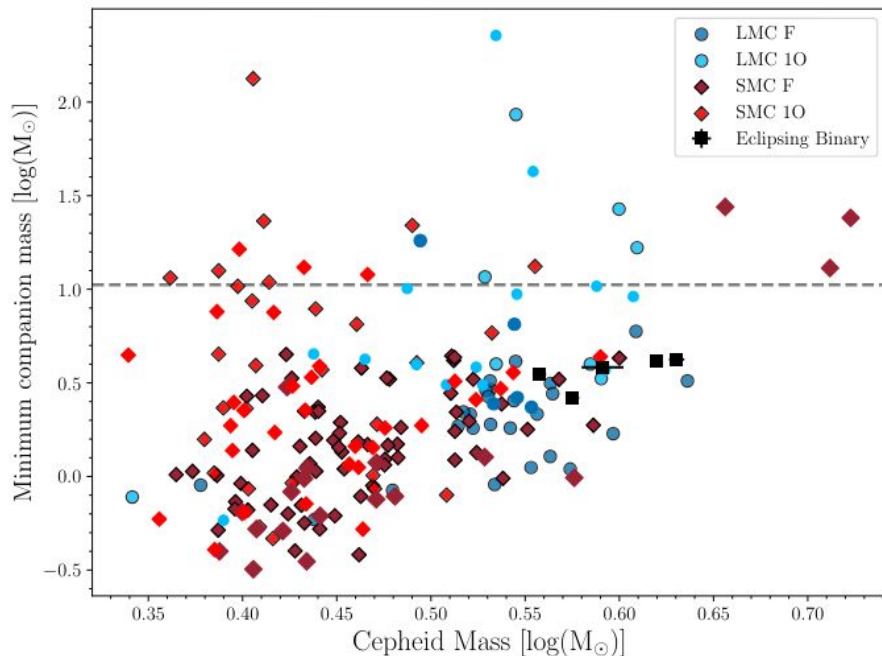
- **Minimum companion mass relation**

$$f(m) = \frac{m_c^3 \sin^3 i}{(m_{\text{cep}} + m_c)^2},$$

- **Cepheid mass estimated with P-M relation** [Groenewegen & Lub \(2023\)](#)

$$\log(M/M_{\odot}) = (0.368 \pm 0.022) + (0.352 \pm 0.018) \log P.$$

RESULTS: Mass Estimation



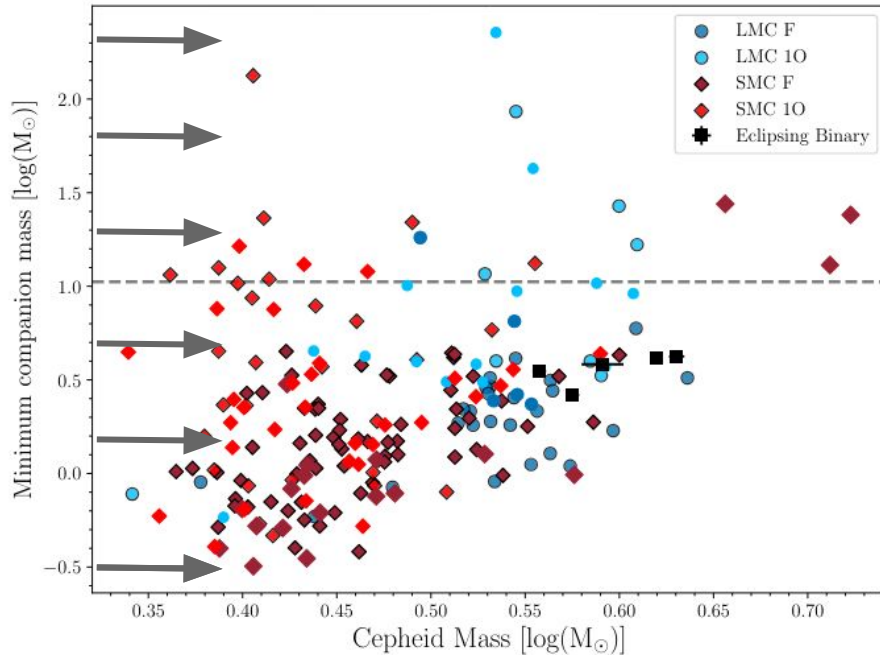
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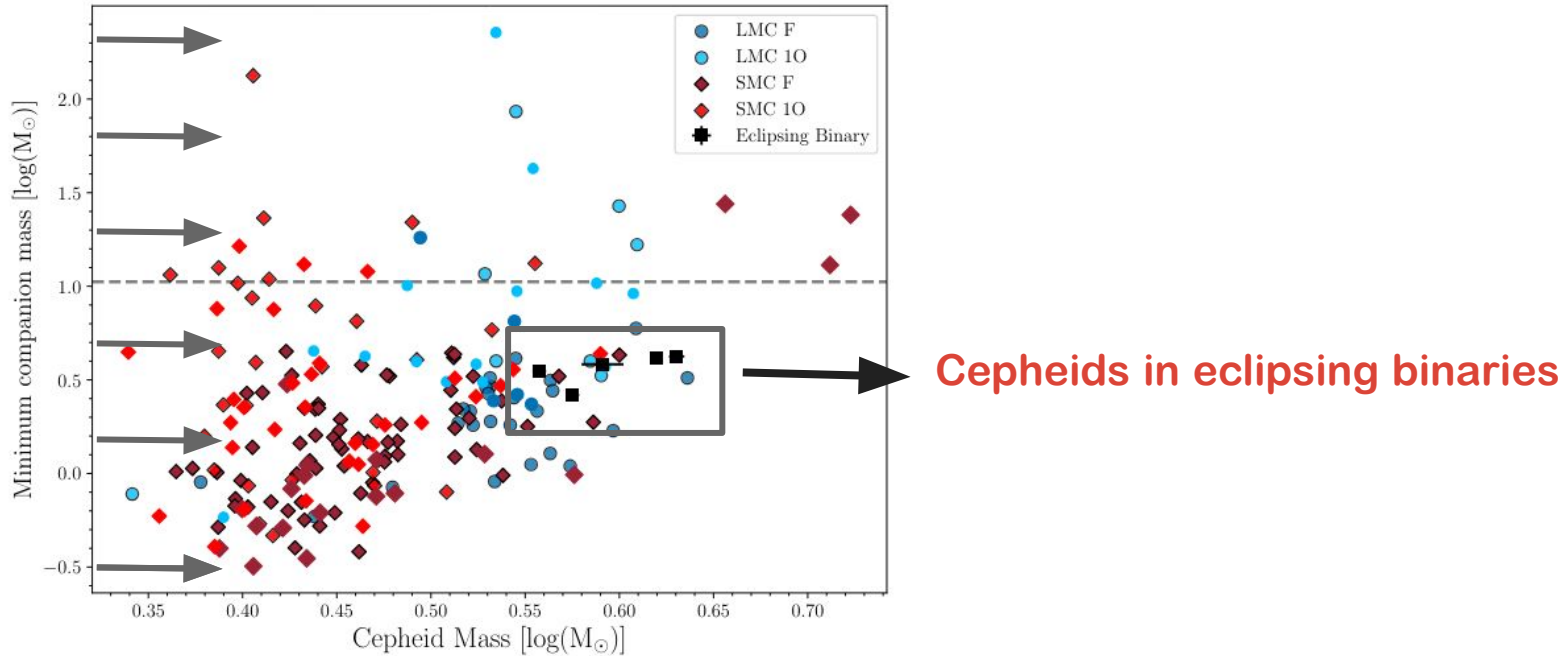


Caveat!

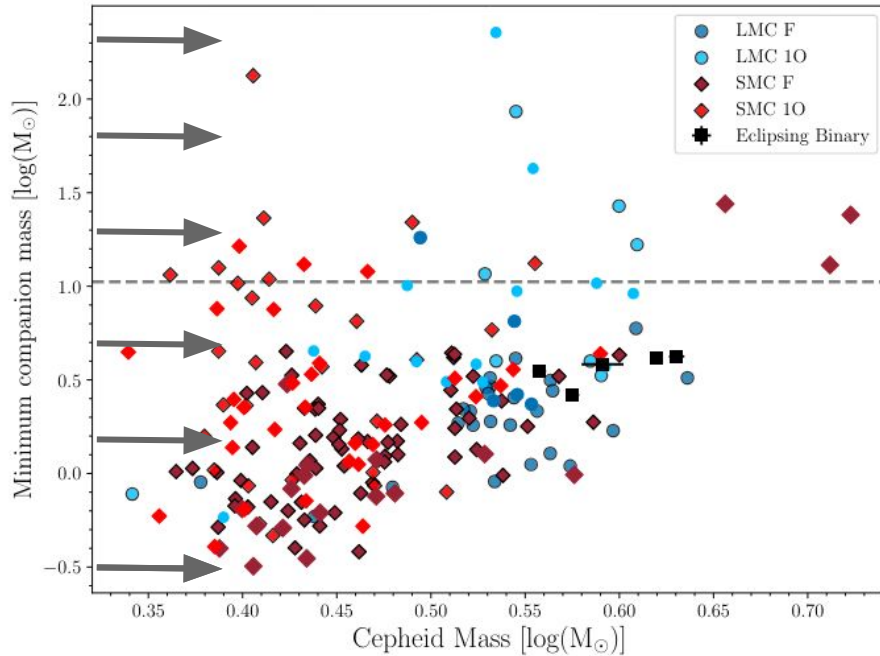
Cepheid Masses are systematically underestimated by $\sim 1 M_{\odot}$

Need better P-M relation at short periods!

RESULTS: Mass Estimation



RESULTS: Mass Estimation



Probably unphysical!

Massive companions!

(Non-evolutionary PC? Triple systems? Black holes?)

:|

:o

:O

RESULTS: Mass Estimation

A cautionary tale of interpreting O–C diagrams: period instability in a classical RR Lyr Star Z CVn mimicking as a distant companion

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T. G. Barnes⁷ and K. Kolenberg^{8,9}

ABSTRACT

We present a comprehensive study of Z CVn, an RR Lyrae star that shows long-term cyclic variations of its pulsation period. A possible explanation suggested from the shape of the O–C diagram is the light travel-time effect, which we thoroughly examine. We used original photometric and spectroscopic measurements and investigated the period evolution using available maximum times spanning more than one century. If the binary hypothesis is valid, Z CVn orbits around a **black hole with minimal mass of $56.5 M_{\odot}$** on a very wide ($P_{\text{orbit}} = 78.3$ yr) and eccentric orbit ($e = 0.63$). We discuss the probability of the formation of a black hole–RR Lyrae pair, and, although we found it possible, there is no observational evidence of the black hole in the direction to Z CVn. However, the main objection against the binary hypothesis is the comparison of the systemic radial velocity curve model and spectroscopic observations that clearly show that Z CVn cannot be bound in such a binary. Therefore, the variations of pulsation period are likely intrinsic to the star. This finding represents a discovery/confirmation of a new type of cyclic period changes in RR Lyrae stars. By the analysis of our photometric data, we found that the Blazhko modulation with period of 22.931 d is strongly dominant in amplitude. The strength of the phase modulation varies and is currently almost undetectable. We also estimated photometric physical parameters of Z CVn and investigated their variations during the Blazhko cycle using the inverse Baade–Wesselink method.

Massive companions!

(Non-evolutionary PC? Triple systems? Black holes?)

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RESULTS: Mass Estimation

HIGH-MASS TRIPLE SYSTEMS: THE CLASSICAL CEPHEID Y CARINAE¹

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AND

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Harvard College, Cambridge, MA 02138

Received 2004 November 29; accepted 2005 March 22

Massive companions!

(Non-evolutionary PC? Triple systems? Black holes?)

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ABSTRACT

We have obtained a *Hubble Space Telescope* STIS ultraviolet high-dispersion echelle-mode spectrum of the binary companion of the double-mode classical Cepheid Y Car. The velocity measured for the hot companion from this spectrum is very different from reasonable predictions for binary motion, implying that the companion is itself a short-period binary. The measured velocity changed by 7 km s^{-1} during the 4 days between two segments of the observation, confirming this interpretation. We summarize “binary” Cepheids that are in fact members of a triple system and find that at least 44% are triples. The summary of information on Cepheids with orbits makes it likely that the fraction is underestimated.

RESULTS: Mass Estimation

A Sun-like star orbiting a black hole

Kareem El-Badry ^{1,2,3}★ Hans-Walter Rix,³ Eliot Quataert ⁴ Andrew W. Howard,⁵ Howard Isaacson,^{6,7} Jim Fuller ⁵ Keith Hawkins ⁸ Katelyn Breivik,⁹ Kaze W. K. Wong,⁹ Antonio C. Rodriguez,⁵ Charlie Conroy,¹ Sahar Shahaf ¹⁰ Tsevi Mazeh ¹¹ Frédéric Arenou,¹² Kevin B. Burdge ¹³ Dolev Bashi ¹¹ Simchon Faigler,¹¹ Daniel R. Weisz ⁶ Rhys Seeburger ³ Silvia Almada Monter³ and Jennifer Wojno³

Massive companions!






(Non-evolutionary PC? Triple systems? **Black holes?**)

:|

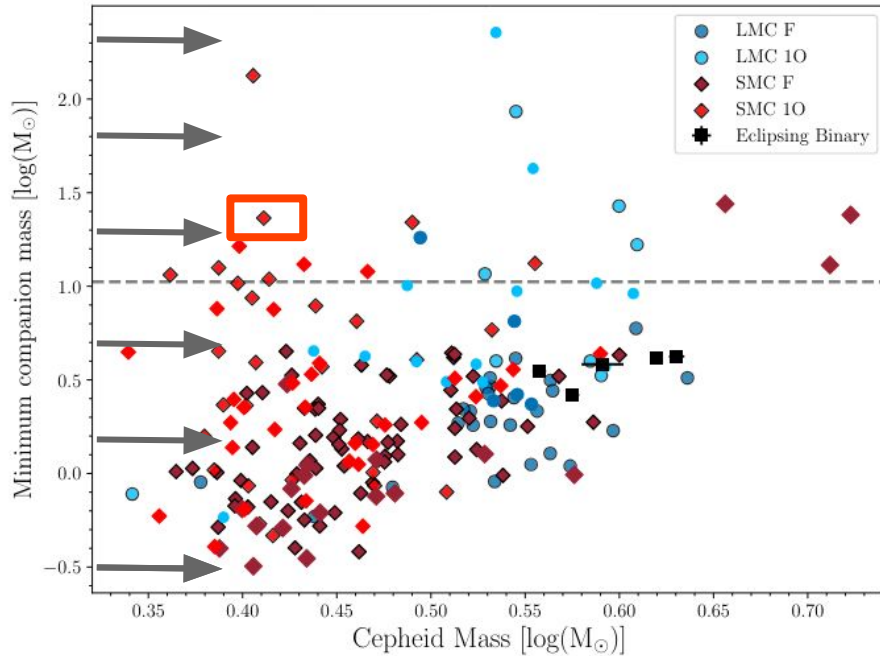
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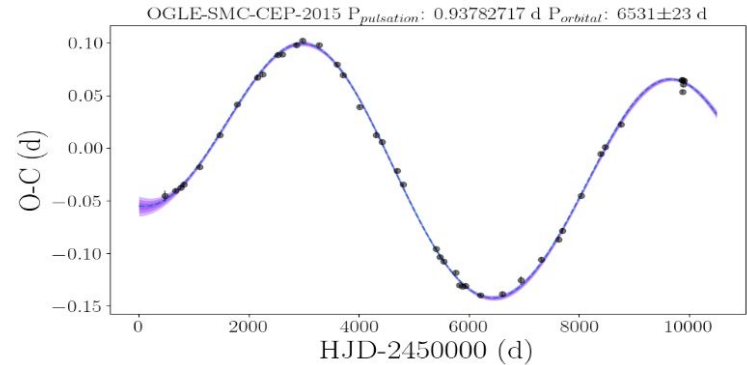
A red giant orbiting a black hole

Kareem El-Badry ^{1,2,3,4}★ Hans-Walter Rix,³ Yvette Cendes,¹ Antonio C. Rodriguez,⁴ Charlie Conroy,¹ Eliot Quataert ⁵ Keith Hawkins ⁶ Eleonora Zari,³ Melissa Hobson,³ Katelyn Breivik,⁷ Arne Rau,⁸ Edo Berger,¹ Sahar Shahaf ⁹ Rhys Seeburger ³ Kevin B. Burdge ¹⁰ David W. Latham,¹ Lars A. Buchhave ¹¹ Allyson Bieryla,¹ Dolev Bashi ¹² Tsevi Mazeh ¹² and Simchon Faigler¹²

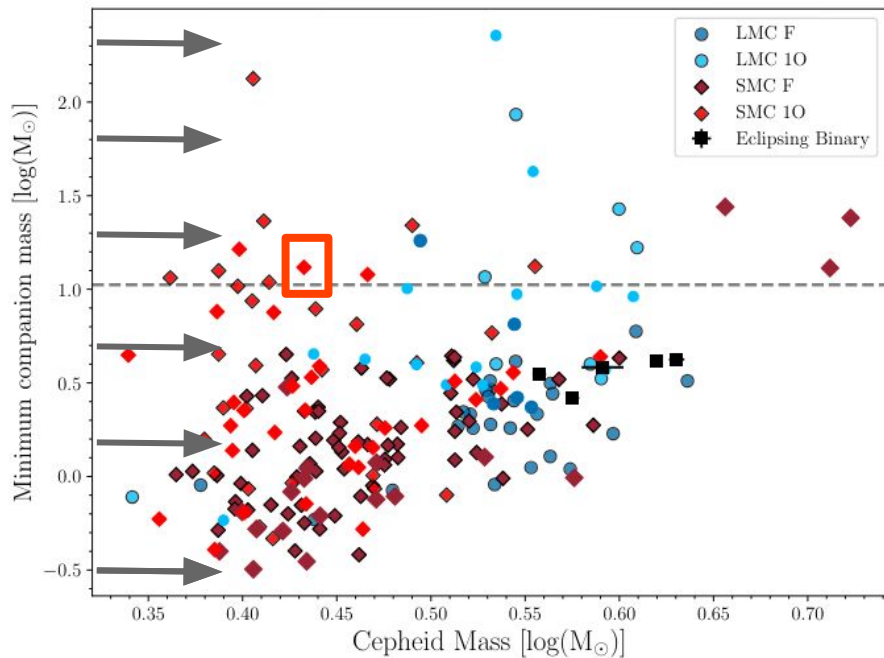
RESULTS: Mass Estimation



Massive companions!
(Non-evolutionary PC? Triple systems? Black holes?)

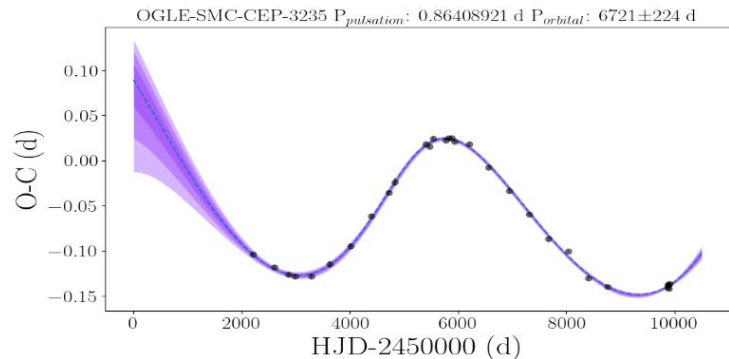


RESULTS: Mass Estimation

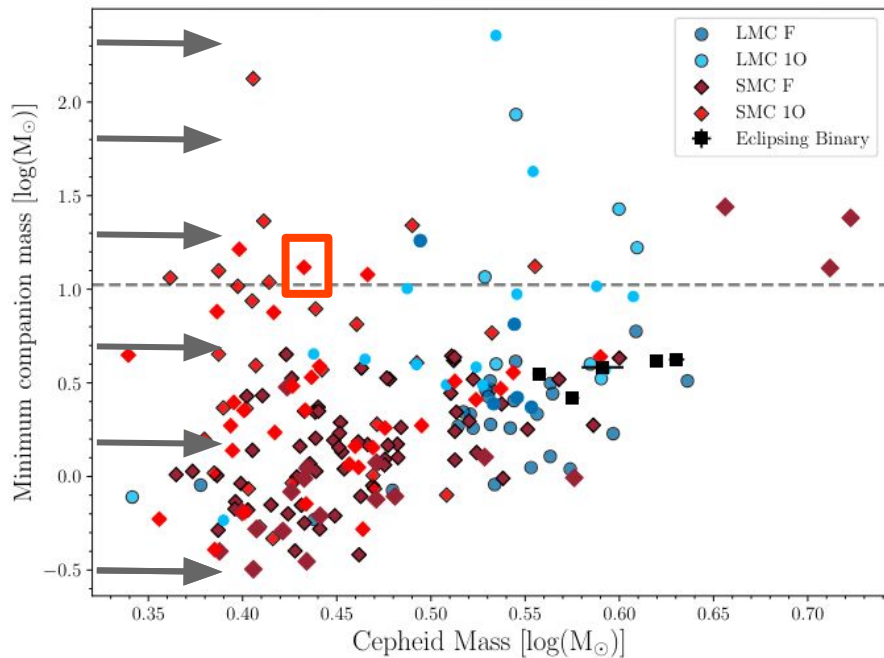


Massive companions!

(Non-evolutionary PC? Triple systems? Black holes?)

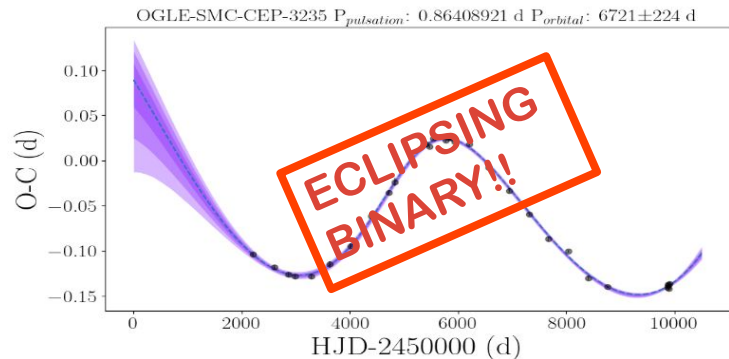


RESULTS: Mass Estimation



Massive companions!

(Non-evolutionary PC? Triple systems? Black holes?)

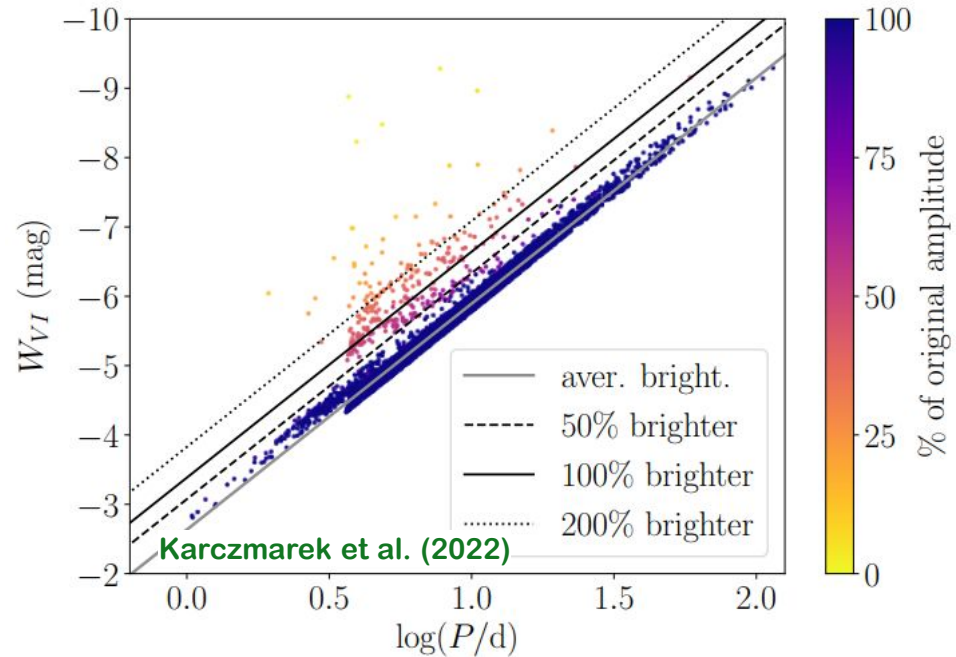
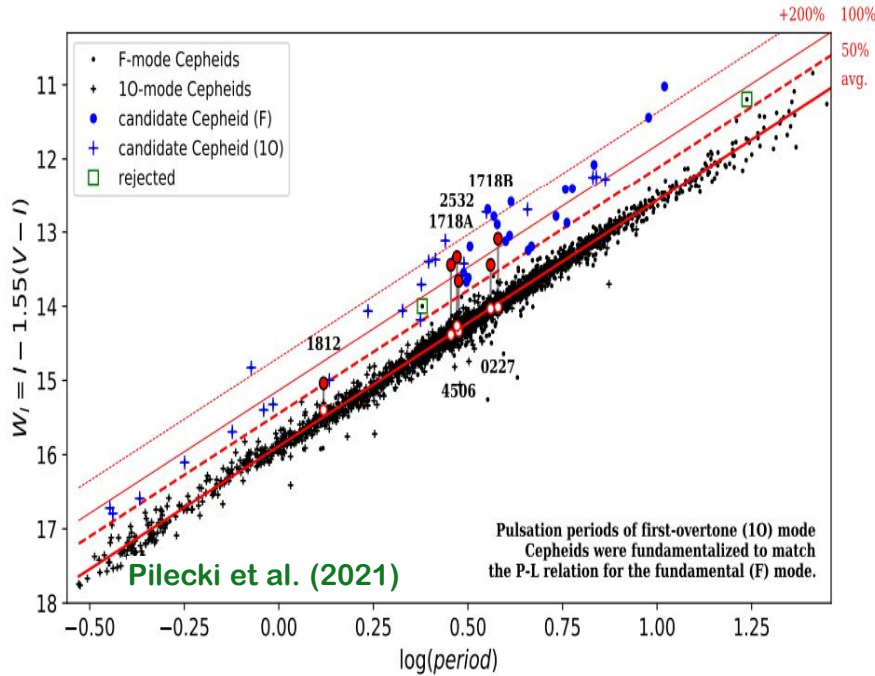


Spectroscopic confirmation on best candidates needed!

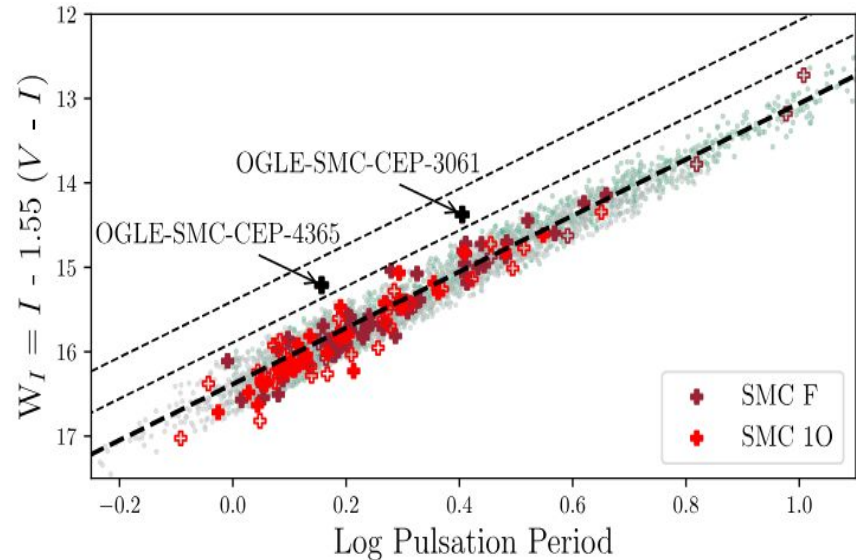
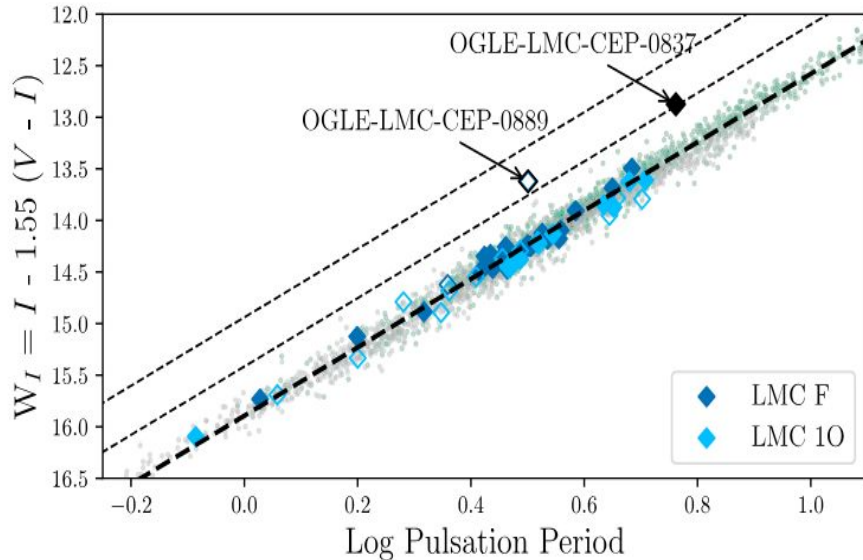
COMPANION NATURE

Curious case of “overbright” Cepheids!

Finding companions with Period-Wesenheit relation?

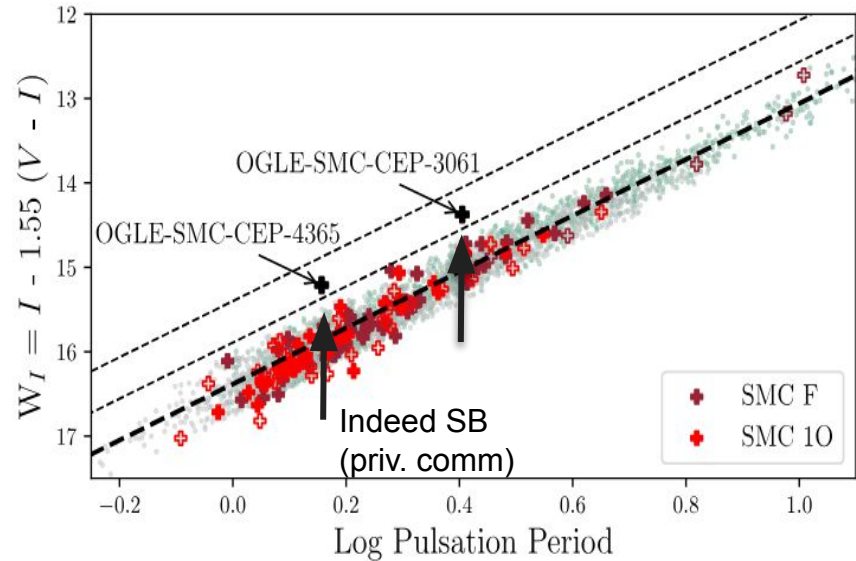
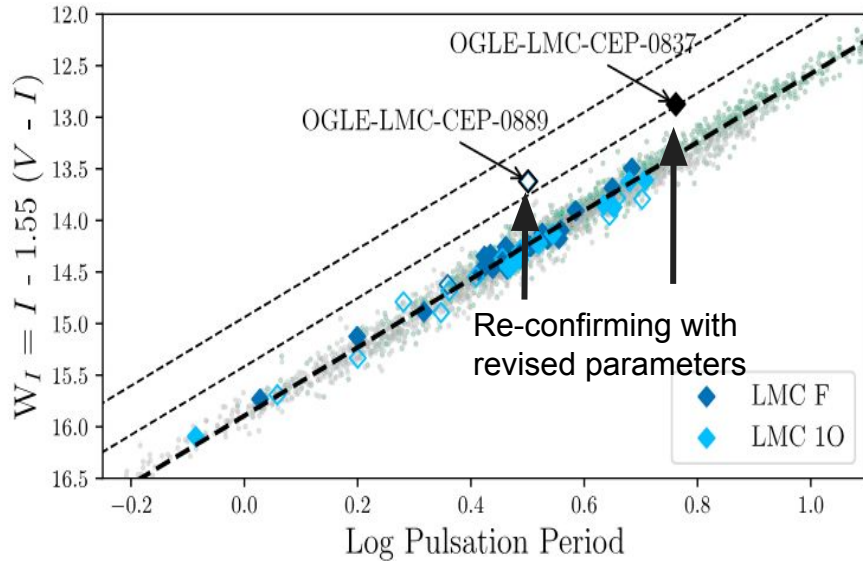


Finding companions with Period-Wesenheit relation?



Makes sense!: Synthetic populations of binary Cepheids suggest upto 90% main sequence and upto 5% giant evolved companions! (Karczmarek et al. 2022)

Finding companions with Period-Wesenheit relation?

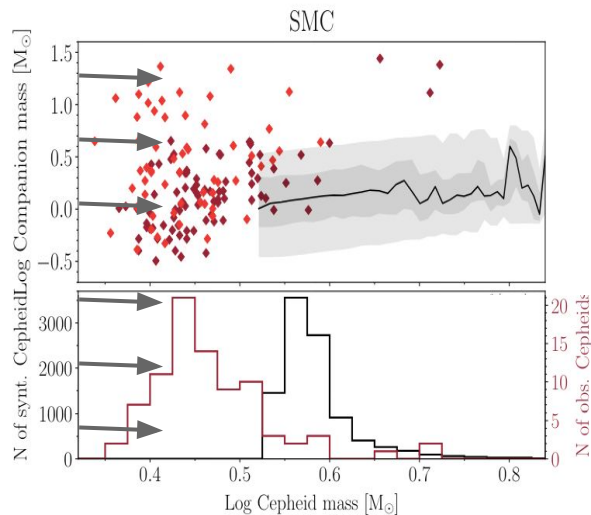
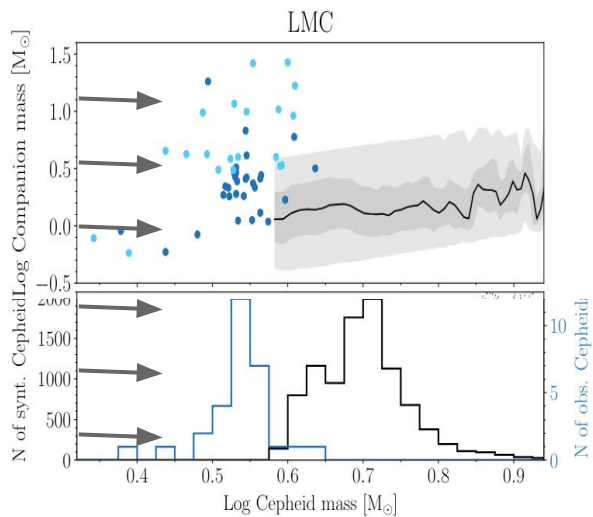


GIANT TYPE COMPANIONS!

DO MODELS AGREE?

Let's find out!

RESULTS: Observations v/s Models



- **Discrepancy in mass: Observed masses are underestimated!**
- **Synthetic population from [Karczmarek et al. \(2022\)](#) are computed for binary (no triples/multiples)**
- **Newer models suited for multiples needed to explore the higher companion mass regime.**

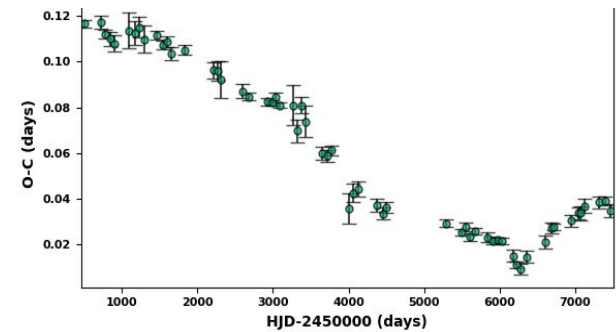
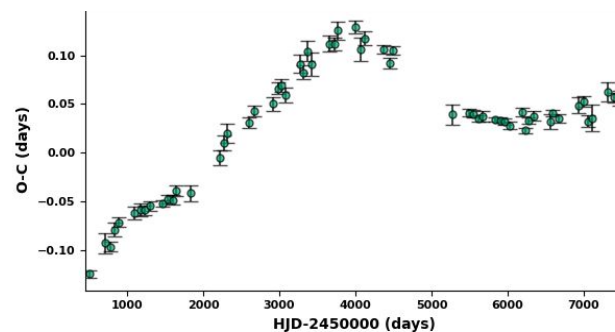
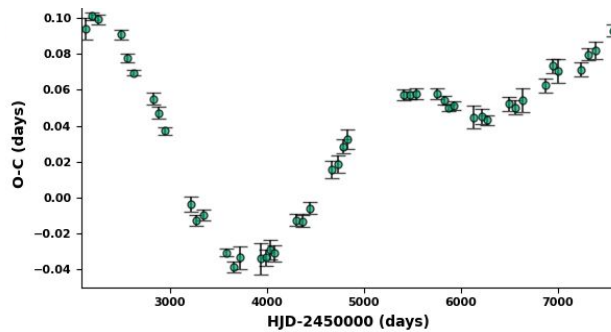
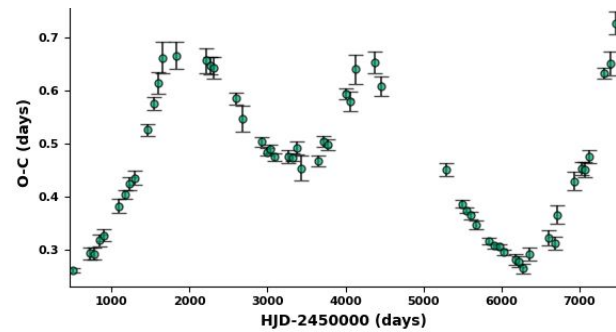
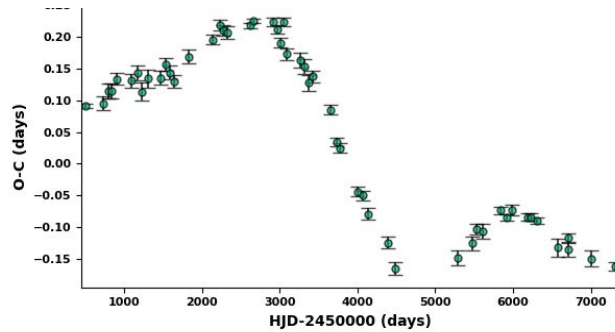
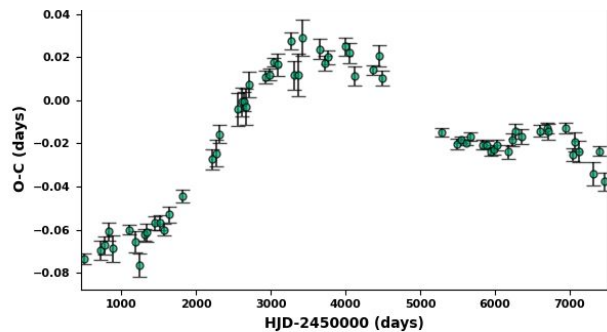
IN PROGRESS
(SNEAK PEEK)

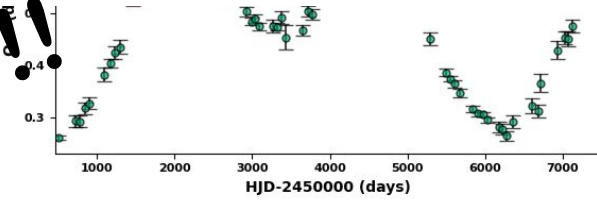
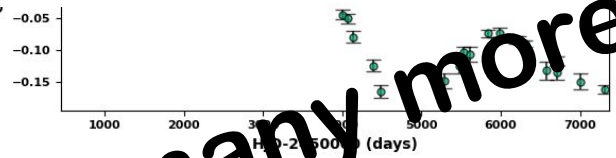
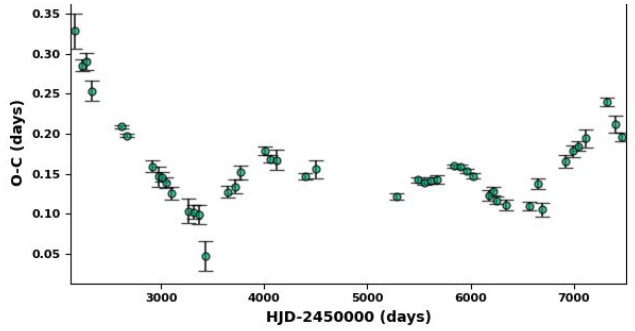
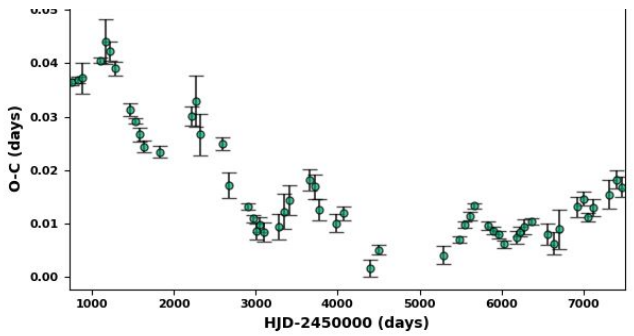
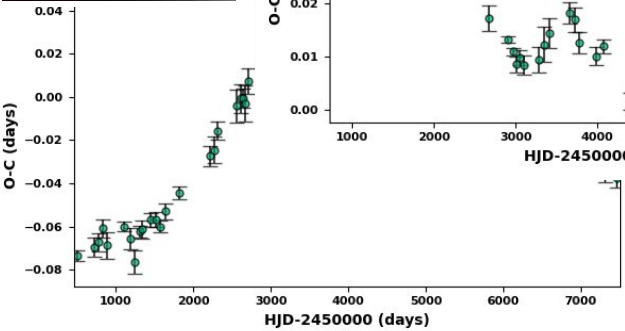
NON-EVOLUTIONARY PC-II

The irregular mess

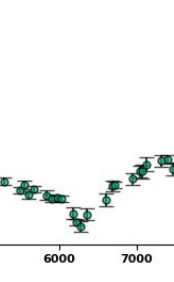
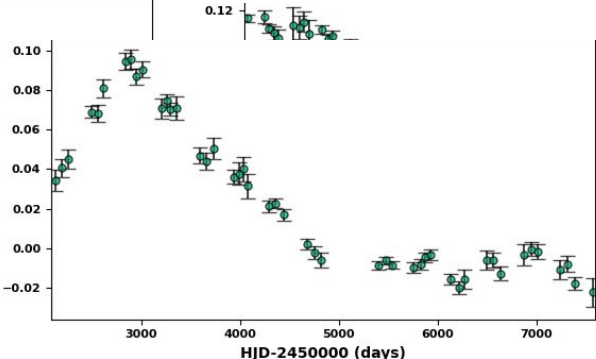
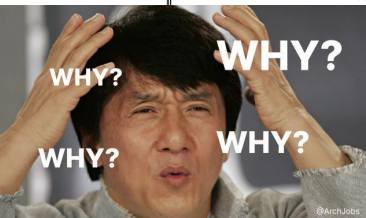
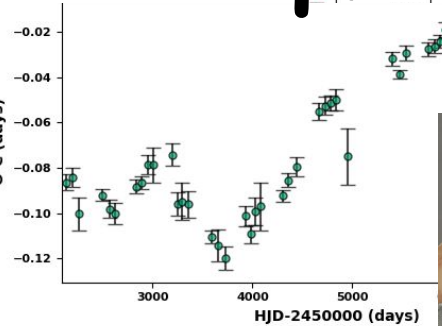
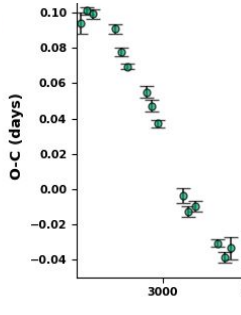
Rathour et al. 2024b (in prep.)

SOME EXAMPLES

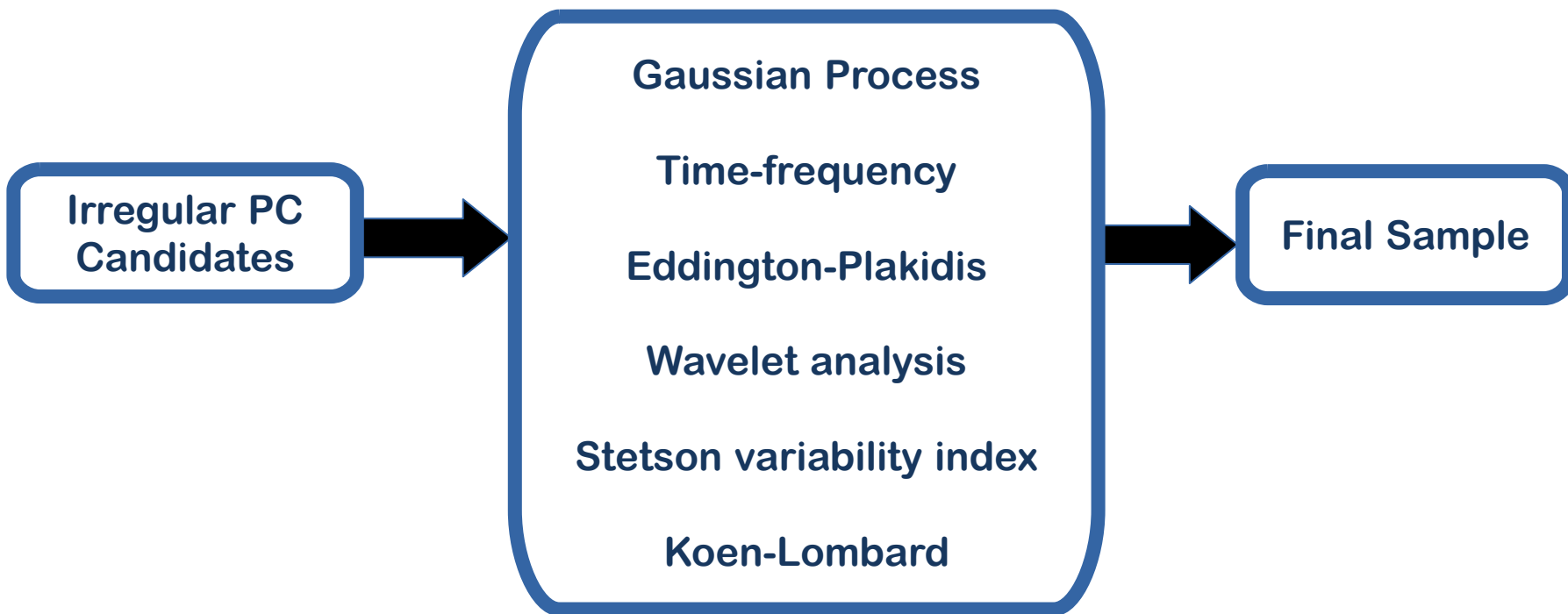




And many more!!

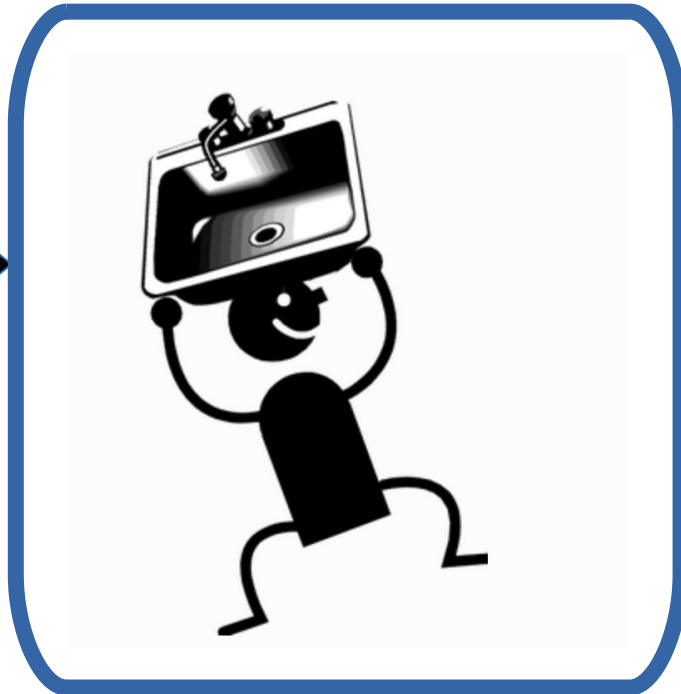


Absence of physical model



Absence of physical model

Irregular PC
Candidates



Final Sample

FINDINGS!

**IN PROGRESS
(SNEAK PEEK)**

What is speculated

- Substantial fraction?
- More likely in overtone Cepheids?
(Poleski 2008)
- Metallicity effect ? (Deasy 1985)
- Fluctuations increase with pulsation period ? (Csörnyei et al. 2021)
- Uncorrelated with amplitude changes?

What is speculated What we see

- Substantial fraction? ~1600 Cepheids ✓
- More likely in overtone Cepheids? FO>FU ✓
(Poleski 2008)
- Metallicity effect ? (Deasy 1985) SMC>LMC ✓
- Fluctuations increase with pulsation period ? (Csörnyei et al. 2021) ✓
- Uncorrelated with amplitude changes? ✓

What is speculated

What we see

Mechanisms?

- Substantial fraction? ~1600 Cepheids ✓
- More likely in overtone Cepheids? FO>FU ✓
(Poleski 2008)
- Metallicity effect ? SMC>LMC ✓
(Deasy 1985)
- Fluctuations increase with pulsation period ? ✓
(Csörnyei et al. 2021)
- Uncorrelated with amplitude changes? ✓

- Convection
(Swigart and Renzini 1984)
- Mass-loss
(Neilson et al. 2012)
- Magnetic field
(Stothers et al. 1982)
- Combination? Other?

What is speculated

What we see

Mechanisms?

- Substantial fraction?

~1600 Cepheids



- More likely in overtone Cepheids?

(Poleski 2008)

FO>FU



- Metallicity effect ?

(Deasy 1985)

SMC>LMC



- Fluctuations increase with pulsation period ?

(Csörnyei et al. 2021)



- Uncorrelated with amplitude changes?



- Convection

(Swigart and Renzini 1984)

- Mass-loss

(Neilson et al. 2012)

- Magnetic field

(Stothers et al. 1982)

- Combination? Other?

Any valid mechanism should explain these effects!!

SUMMARY ++

PART 1

- ~5x boost to Magellanic binary Cepheid sample. Open for community to confirm spectroscopically.
- Two new SMC “overbright” Cepheids with likely giant companion!
- LTTE effect recovered in three LMC and two SMC eclipsing binaries.
- 21 candidate binary systems with very high mass-function, open to further investigation.
- Agreement with population synthesis predicted incidence rate ratio.

PART 2

- ~1000x boost to Magellanic nonlinear PC Cepheid sample.
- Key empirical constraints from a large sample of stars. Time to test underlying mechanism!
- 5 first crossing candidates!
- Next step:

MESA

Exoplanet Carina Nebula
Image Credit: NASA, ESA, CSA, and STScI, J. DePasquale (STScI)



Thank you for your attention!