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The eclipsing cataclysmic variable AY Piscium [★]

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Abstract. Photometric observations of the cataclysmic variable AY Psc are presented. We found that the star shows deep eclipses with an orbital period of 5.22 h. The orbital ephemeris is given as well as an analysis of 30 h of fast photometry.

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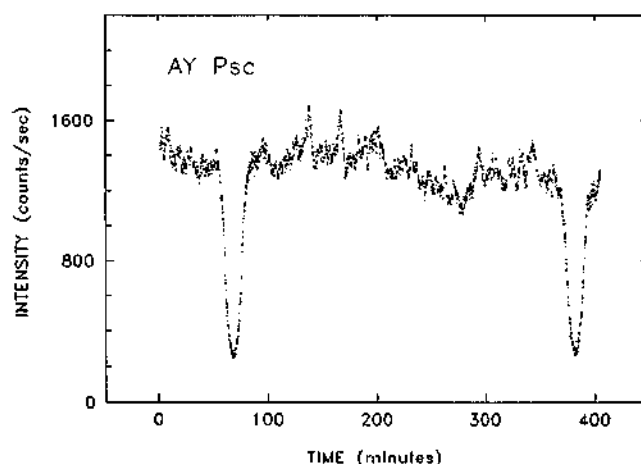


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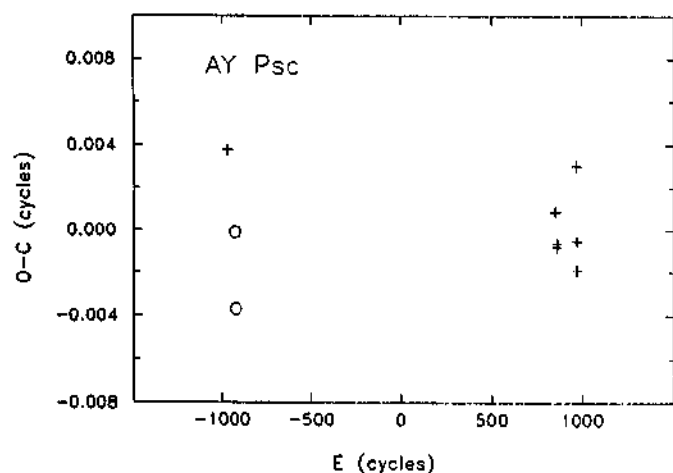


Fig. 2. O-C diagram for the adopted ephemeris. Circles indicate timings taken from Figs 9a and 9b in Szkody et al. (1989)

The average behaviour of the system outside eclipse was studied by folding all the data sets at the orbital period. There is no evidence of a hot spot at phase 0.8. Flickering is seen along all the orbital cycle with semi-amplitude of about 0^m08 (rms). A test using F statistics on the data between eclipses indicates that a sine wave with semi-amplitude of 0^m017 and maximum at phase 0.06 fits the data better than a constant, at a 5.6σ confidence level (Quast et al. 1983).

The observations of high excitation emission lines motivated a search for short pulsations in the system, possibly caused by a magnetized white dwarf. For this purpose, the eclipses were removed and periodograms were calculated for the 1988 and 1989 data. No significant peak was found. In the periodograms of October and November 1989, non-significant peaks with periods of $1310(\pm 60)$ and $1285(\pm 40)$ s respectively are visible in the red noise region of the periodogram; no periodicities with semi-amplitude greater than 0^m008 are present for periods in the range 40–550 s.

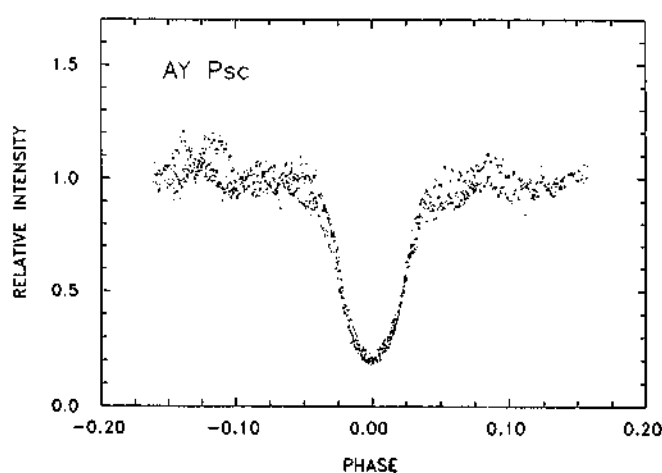


Fig. 3. Profile of the eclipses of AY Psc in November 1989. The intensity was normalized to the mean level outside eclipse

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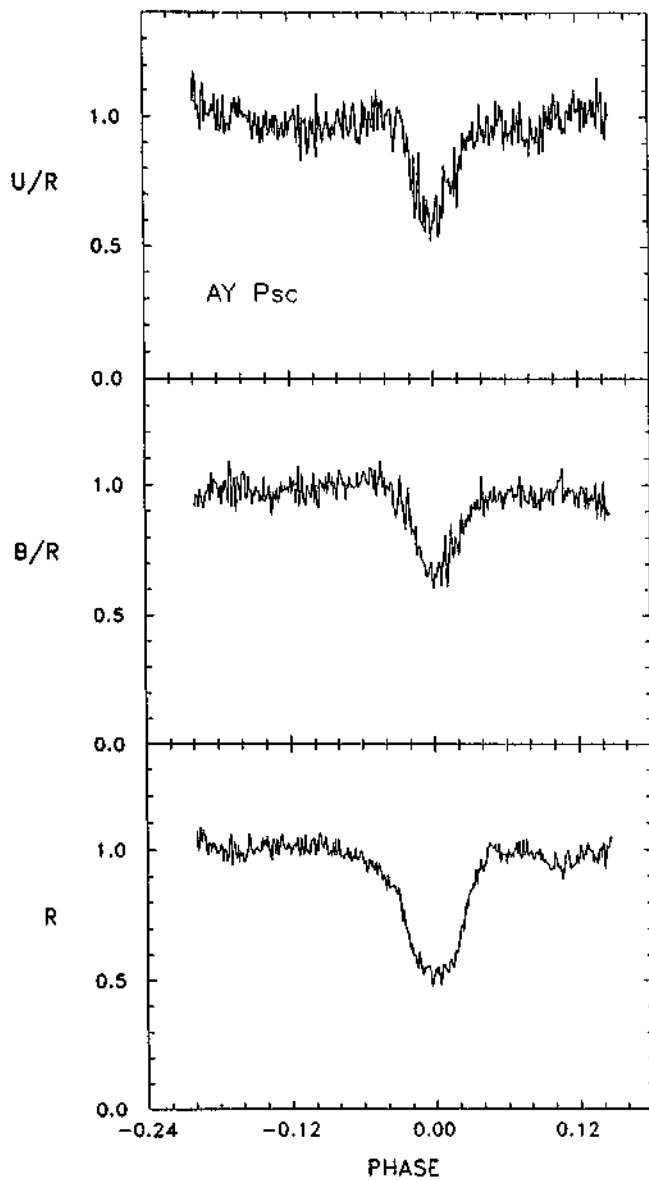


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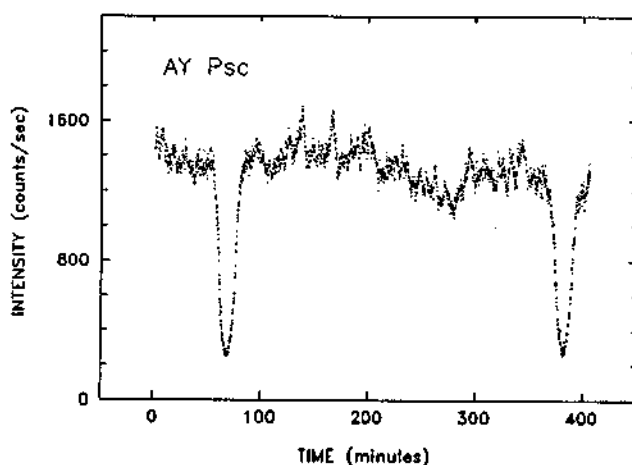


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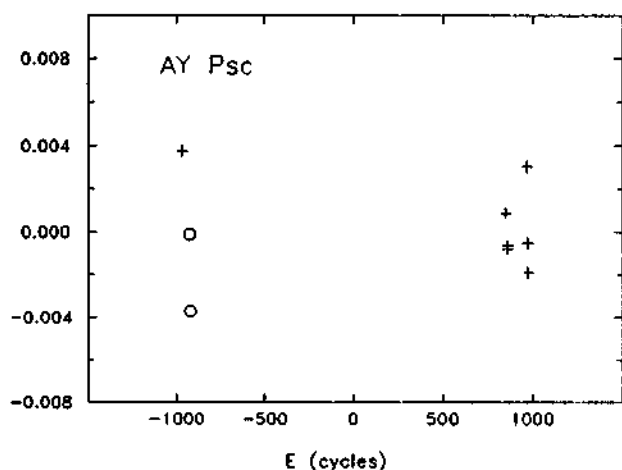


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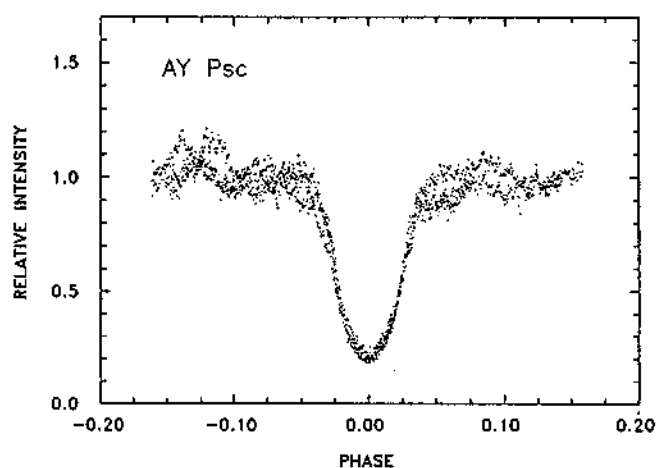


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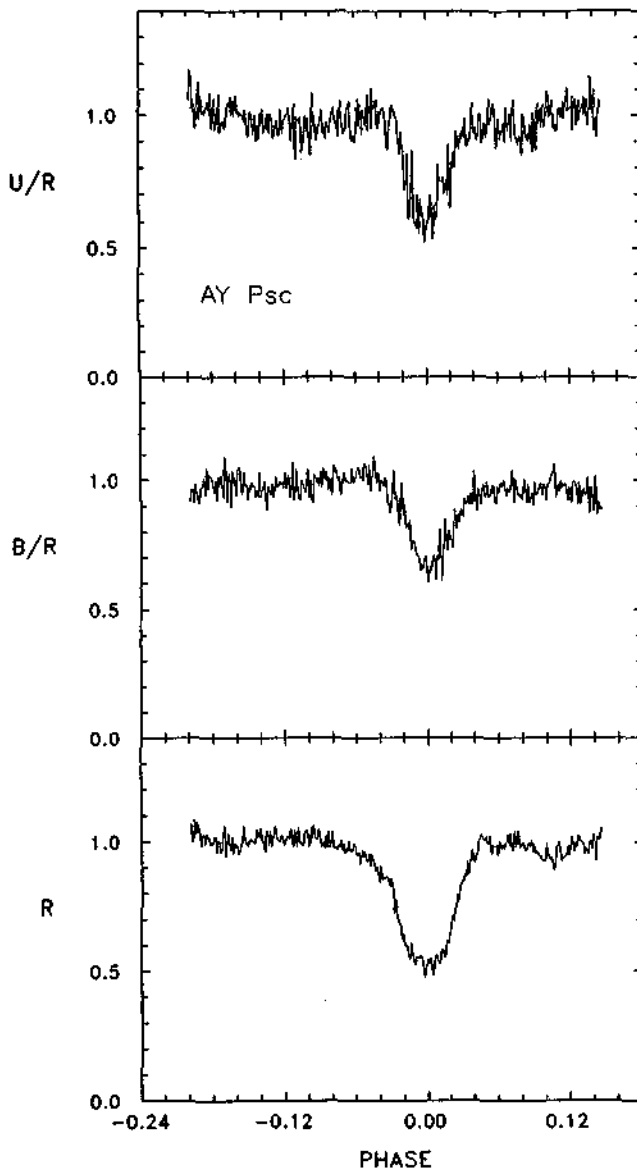


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