Visual Orbits of WR stars

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Wolf-Rayet stars

WR + O star = colliding wind binary





γ^2 Vel at Narrabri

Mon. Not. R. astr. Soc. (1970) 148, 103-117.

A STUDY OF γ^2 VELORUM WITH A STELLAR INTENSITY INTERFEROMETER

R. Hanbury Brown, J. Davis, D. Herbison-Evans and L. R. Allen

(Received 1969 November 11)

SUMMARY

The stellar intensity interferometer at Narrabri Observatory has been used, for the first time, to make observations of a multiple star (γ Vel). Measurements have been made in the continuum at λ 4430 and in the C III-IV emission feature at λ 4650. The observations at λ 4430 give the angular size of the semi-major axis of the binary system γ^2 Vel and the angular diameter of the Wolf-Rayet component, while the observations at λ 4650 give the angular size of the extended region responsible for the emission feature. The results have been

Jump from 1970 to 2007



North et al. (2007)





 γ^2 Vel

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Coming soon for gamma Vel:

- Thanks to Peter for helping retrieve the original SUSI data!
- Include all VLTI and SUSI data, along with 1000+ radial velocities to obtain super-precise orbit
- Work of student Randy Loberger for senior capstone project.



WR140 – Monnier et al. (2004, 2011); Thomas et al. (2022)

- WC7pd + O5.5fc
- P = 7.93 years
- e = 0.8993
- M_O = 29.3 Msun
- M_WR = 10.3 Msun



Orbit is very useful

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The fingerprints of mass-loss



Best ground-based 12.9 μm image of dust



Lau et al. (2022) Han et al. (2022)



WR 133 - background

- Results in Richardson et al. (2021)
- WN50 + O9I
- Known SB2 orbit with P=113 d, but relatively understudied.
- member of NGC 6871
- Inclination at least 115deg from polarimetric analysis



WR137, WR138 – resolved with CHARA (Richardson et al. 2016)

- WR 137
 - WC7 + O
 - P = 13 yr
 - Dust formation at periastron
- WR 138
 - WN + O
 - P~4 yr?
- CLIMB observations resolved the binaries

 began a long-term NOAO NOIRLab
 program for orbits.
 - Upgraded MIRC-X made the program finally take off!



WR 137 (nearing completion)



Table 4. Orbital Elements			
Measured Quantities			
Orbital Element	Value		
P(d)	4785.2 ± 6.5		
P(yr)	13.101 ± 0.018		
T (JD)	$2,\!460,\!255.64\pm4.24$		
T (yr)	2023.848 ± 0.012		
e	0.3147 ± 0.0013		
a(mas):	8.5614 ± 0.0116		
i	97.192 ± 0.034		
Ω (°)	117.914 ± 0.027		
$\omega_{ m WR}$ (°)	0.755 ± 0.552		
$K_1 \; ({ m km \; s^{-1}})$	25.75 ± 0.98		
$\gamma~({ m km~s^{-1}})$	-12.70 ± 0.62		
χ^2	286.0		
$\chi^2_{ m red}$	0.46		
Derived Quantities			
Quantity	Fit, $K_2 = 6.3$	Fit, $d=2.11 \text{ kpc}$	Fit, d= 1.94 kpc
$M_{ m WR}~(M_{\odot})$	2.69 ± 2.38	12.69 ± 8.60	8.42 ± 2.99
$M_{ m O}~(M_{\odot})$	11.34 ± 3.00	20.18 ± 3.33	17.00 ± 1.35
a1(AU)	10.84 ± 0.41	11.11 ± 0.42	11.11 ± 0.42
a2(AU)	2.57 ± 1.64	6.99 ± 1.51	5.50 ± 0.72
d(pc)	1566 ± 198	2114 ± 160	1941 ± 71
Parallax (mas)	0.639 ± 0.081	0.473 ± 0.038	0.515 ± 0.018
Reference (d)	Derived	Rate & Crowther (2020)	Bailer-Jones et al. (2021)



Other cool aspects of WR 137



WR 138 (hopefully finish in next several months)





Hot shock front vhere winds me Wind from WR star \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow PROPOSED DATES, 2024B -0.010 -0.0050.000 0.005 0.010 ORBITAL PHASE (P = 2895.00 d)

Hopeful new NOIRLab program for 2024B