

GROUND-BASED AND *IUE* SPECTRAL OBSERVATIONS OF AU MONOCEROTIS

J.Sahade^{1,2}

Instituto de Astronomía y Física del Espacio
Argentina

and

O.E. Ferrer^{1,2}

Observatorio Astronómico
La Plata, Argentina

RESUMEN

Las observaciones espectroscópicas de la variable eclipsante AU Monocerotis, llevada a cabo en el Observatorio Interamericano de Cerro Tololo en enero de 1979, sugieren un comportamiento del sistema que es completamente diferente a los que se habían reportado en las observaciones hechas en 1944, y más recientemente, en base a la emisión H α .

Las nuevas observaciones sugieren que:

- a) La componente primaria B5 se caracteriza por una actividad superficial que se hace evidente en las variaciones irregulares de velocidad que llegan a ser de 75 km s $^{-1}$ en placas consecutivas, y por la eyeción de gas relativamente caliente (puesto que el efecto se aprecia en He I) con aparente simetría esférica.
- b) La compañera F0 eyecta gas más frío en todas direcciones.
- c) Hay una concentración de material entre ambas estrellas.

El espectro *IUE* ultravioleta de AU Mon sólo muestra líneas en absorción que pueden ser clasificadas en distintos grupos, cada uno de los cuales se originaría en una región diferente de la envolvente que rodea al sistema. Hasta ahora hemos podido establecer cuatro grupos de líneas y las asociaciones a distintas regiones responsables de su formación.

ABSTRACT

Spectroscopic observations of the eclipsing variable AU Monocerotis at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in January, 1979 suggested a behavior of the system that is completely different from the behavior that had been reported from observations made in 1944, and, more recently, on the basis of the H α emission.

The new observations suggest that:

- a) The B5 primary component is characterized by a surface activity that shows erratic velocity variations that amount to as much as 75 km s $^{-1}$ on consecutive plates, and by ejecting relatively hot gas (since the effect is seen in He I) with perhaps a sort of spherical symmetry.
- b) The F0 companion ejects cooler gas in all directions.
- c) There is a concentration of matter between the two stars.

The *IUE* ultraviolet spectrum of AU Mon displays only absorption features that can be classified in different groups, each group would originate in a different region of the envelope that surrounds the system. So far, we have been able to establish four groups of lines and we place the regions responsible for them in the following order, going from the outermost layers towards the close pair:

- 1) Zero or low excitation sharp, deep lines of neutral and singly ionized elements produced in a circumstellar region; some of these lines may be of interstellar origin.
- 2) Broad resonance lines of N V, Si IV that suggest a maximum of the excitation temperature T $_e$ at some distance from the stars, in a region of relatively low density and where turbulence must be at work.
- 3) High excitation transitions of ions like Fe III, C III, Si III.
- 4) Lines that may be of stellar origin.

Key words: ULTRAVIOLET-SPECTRA – STARS-ECLIPSING BINARIES

1. Member of the Carrera del Investigador Científico, CONICET, Argentina. Visiting Astronomer, Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory, supported by the National Science Foundation under Contract No. AST 78-27879.

2. Guest Investigator, *International Ultraviolet Explorer*.