KINEMATICS OF THE MIRA VARIABLES*

JOZEF I. SMAKf AND GEORGE W. PRESTON Lick Observatory, University of California, Mount Hamilton Received May 3, 1965

ABSTRACT

Radial velocities based on Lick 120-inch coudé spectrograms are given for 270 Mira variables previously unobserved for radial velocity. The great majority of these Miras have magnitudes in the interval 10 $< m_{pe} < 15$. These observations are combined with those of Merrill and Feast to discuss the kinematic properties of the Miras. Distances are calculated by means of the absolute magnitudes of Osvalds and Risley and an exponential layer model of the interstellar extinction. Three values of the interstellar extinction coefficient were assumed: 1 5, 2 0, and 2.5 pg. mag kpc⁻¹ Values of the Oort constant $A \sim 15$ motion for Miras decreases with increasing height above the galactic plane. This decrease is interpreted in terms of the ellipsoidal hypothesis and leads to z-dependent expressions for V_{θ} , A, and R_{max} , the galactocentric distance for which V_{θ} is a maximum.

I. INTRODUCTION

While the galactic rotation of the B-type stars and the Cepheids has been the subject of numerous studies, there are few comparable investigations for members of the disk or halo populations. It is well known that the galactic rotational velocities near the Sun of various components of these older populations are smaller than that for the very young stars. However, the lack of radial velocities for distant members of the disk and halo and the large velocity dispersions (particularly in the halo populations) have made studies of differential galactic rotation difficult or impossible. Of all the members of the older stellar populations the Miras are the most promising candidates for the study of galactic dynamics for the following reasons: (1) the studies by Merrill (1941), Merrill and Wilson (1942), and more recently, Feast (1963) show that the Miras possess a considerable spread in kinematic characteristics ordinarily used as population indicators, characteristics that are correlated, albeit imprecisely, with period; (2) the Miras are of moderately high luminosity and, more important, their spectra contain strong emission lines of H near maximum light that may be used to determine their radial velocities; (3) because of their large light ranges they have been discovered in large numbers at faint magnitudes. In this paper we present new radial-velocity data for distant Miras and a preliminary discussion of galactic motions based on all available data. Our definition of a Mira star is necessarily that of the *General Catalogue of Variable Stars* (2d ed.) from which our observing list was chosen.

II. THE OBSERVING PROGRAM

All spectrograms, except those for four stars, were obtained with the 20-inch camera of the 120-inch coudé spectrograph in the first order of a 400-groove/mm Bausch and Lomb grating (dispersion 48 \AA/mm). The spectrograms for four of the stars were obtained with the air-Schmidt camera of the prime-focus spectrograph (dispersion 50 Â/ mm). Kodak 103a-O emulsion was used throughout the program. It was found that in mm). Kodak 103a-O emulsion was used throughout the program. It was found that in
average seeing the H-emission lines of a Mira with $m_{pg} \sim 14-15$ could be recorded in 1 hour, which was adopted as a rough limiting exposure in this first survey. A given star was observed only if its visual magnitude, estimated at the field-viewing eyepiece, was

* Contributionsfrom the Lick Observatory, No. 189.

f Present address: Warsaw University Observatory, Warsaw, Poland.

943

less than or equal to its photographic magnitude at maximum light as given in the *General* Catalogue of Variable Stars (2d ed.). Some stars were examined several times before they became bright enough to observe. Only one spectrogram was obtained for each star. Spectrograms of one or both of the two planetary nebulae IC 418 and IC 4997 were obtained regularly with the same equipment in order to study the stability of the instrumental radial velocities and to compare the instrumental velocities to other systems. As an additional check, spectrograms of both planetaries were obtained with the 40-inch camera and two other gratings (dispersions 5.3 and 8.2 $\rm \AA/mm$). Finally, spectrograms (dispersion 48 \AA /mm, as for the program stars) were obtained for thirteen of the Miras observed by Merrill (1941). The observing program extended over a 9-month period, March-December, 1964. Altogether, spectrograms of 270 Miras (exclusive of the thirteen observed in common with Merrill) were obtained. It might be mentioned that the rapidity with which this program was carried out with conventional equipment suggests that the days of photographic spectroscopy are not yet over. As a final aside we remark that, quite apart from those variable stars for which no finding charts have been published, we were unable to identify many variable stars on the basis of finding charts that exist in the literature. In our opinion it is pointless to report the discovery of variable stars that cannot be located for subsequent study. Reproductions of small portions of the Palomar Observatory Sky Survey plates or prints make excellent charts and are greatly preferable to freehand impressions of star fields.

III. MEASUREMENTS AND REDUCTIONS

With the exception of one star (DF Her; see notes to Table 3) radial velocities are based exclusively on measurements of the emission lines $H\gamma$, $H\delta$, $H8$, and $H9$. Various combinations of these lines were measured depending on the quality of the exposure and the phase of the observation (which in general is not known) as tabulated below :

> 4 lines (H γ , H δ , H 8 , H 9) for 96 stars, 3 lines $(\ldots, H\delta, H8, H9)$ for 21 stars, 2 lines $(H\gamma, H\delta, \ldots, \ldots)$ for 127 stars, 1 line $(H\gamma \text{ or } H\delta)$ for 27 stars.

The continuous spectrum appeared at adequate density for about one-fifth of the stars observed, but because of the narrowness of the spectrograms and the inhomogeneities that might be introduced by measurement of absorption velocities in only a portion of the sample, we decided not to measure the absorption lines. The spectrograms were measured on two Gaertner long-screw (250-mm) comparators by the authors. From twenty plates measured in common, the mean difference in measured velocity (J. I. S. *minus* G. W. P.) was found to be $+0.06$ km/sec while the measurement error for a single line was found to be ± 1.7 km/sec.

Instrumental velocities derived from the spectrograms of the planetary nebulae are based on mean velocities of the H-emission lines $H\gamma$, $H\delta$, and H9 (H8 omitted due to contamination by λ 3888 He I). The mean radial velocities were found to be

IC 4997: -78.5 ± 1.2 km/sec based on 27 spectrograms (48 Å/mm),

IC $418: +56.3 \pm 1.3$ km/sec based on 11 spectrograms (48 Å/mm).

There is no indication that the radial velocity of either object depends on Julian date or hour angle. Single spectrograms obtained with the 40-inch camera give

IC 4997: -74.8 ± 1.0 km/sec (errors estimated from internal agreement),

IC $418: +64.0 \pm 1.9$ km/sec (errors estimated from internal agreement).

grams.

On the basis of the two sets of radial velocities given above and the superior definition of the 40-inch camera, we conclude that a correction of $+5 \text{ km/sec}$ should be applied to radial velocities derived from H-emission lines on the 48 Å/mm spectrograms. A similar correction of $+6$ km/sec is indicated by comparison with the velocity ($+62$ km/sec) for IC 418 given in the General Catalogue of Stellar Radial Velocities. However, the radial velocity for IC 4997 (—64.4 km/sec) given by Campbell and Moore (1918) differs by 14 km/sec from the average derived from our 48-Â/mm plates and by 10.4 km/sec from the velocity of our 8.2-Â/mm plate. The latter discrepancy is too large to ascribe to errors of measurement, and an examination of their original reductions shows that it is not due to errors in either the heliocentric corrections or wavelengths used by Campbell and Moore. Two 10-Â/mm spectrograms of IC 4997, ce 15536, and ce 15540, obtained with the Mount Wilson 100-inch coudé spectrograph, were kindly loaned to us by Dr. O. C. Wilson. The radial velocities from these two spectrograms, -75.2 and -74.5 km/sec, are in excellent agreement with the radial velocity from our 8-Â/mm spectrogram. Hence, while the origin of the disagreement with Campbell and Moore remains unexplained, we are sure that it is not associated with the 120-inch coudé spectrograph. On the basis of the considerations above, we consider that a correction of $+4$ or $+5$ km/sec should be applied to the radial velocities derived from the H-emission lines on $48-\text{\AA}/\text{mm}$ spectro-

TABLE ¹

Mean Differences in Velocity between H-Lines

Systematic differences were found between velocities derived from the various H-lines of the planetary nebulae as indicated in Table 1. The differences for the Miras (also given in Table 1) are larger, of opposite sign, in the case of Hô-H9 and, to judge from the errors, real. The absolute values of these differences may be due largely to instrumental effects, e.g., a variation of instrumental profile with wavelength. However, we tentatively attribute the difference in behavior between the planetaries and Miras to effects intrinsic in the Mira spectra, e.g., mutilation of the emission lines by overlying absorption (Joy 1947). It should be noted that the apparent run of velocity with wavelength is in reasonable agreement with that found by Merrill (1923) in his comparison of velocities derived from $H\gamma$, H δ , and H δ in Miras.

Since various combinations of lines were measured in different Miras as indicated above, we decided to reduce velocities derived from each line to $H\delta$ by means of the differences for the Miras given in Table ¹ before forming the average velocity for each star. Weights of 1 for H8 and H9 and 2 for $H\gamma$ and H δ were arbitrarily adopted. Application of this procedure to the measures of the stars observed by Merrill leads to the results in Table 2. The mean difference in radial velocities is

Merrill *minus* This study $= +1$ km/sec,

which we have applied as a systematic correction to put our data on the system of Merrill. It should be noted that this correction can be reconciled with the instrumental correction derived above if it is assumed that $H\gamma$ in the Miras gives the instrumental velocity as derived from the planetary nebulae. Final quality estimates (1, 2, or 3) for each stellar radial velocity were assigned on the basis of the number of lines measured and the quality of the spectrogram. Weight ¹ indicates one or two poor lines while weight 3 indicates two or more good lines.

We assumed, following Merrill, that the velocity of the star is given by the velocity derived from the absorption lines. We adopted the linear relation

$$
A - E = 0.035P \text{ km/sec}, \qquad (1)
$$

which is based on the data in Figure $1a$ for Feast (1963). The emission velocities and absorption velocities derived from equation (1) are listed in Table 3 for 270 Miras, of which nine stars at the end of Table 3 are considered to be probable S- or C-type stars on the basis of their periods and ${ {\rm H}{\beta} / {\rm H}{\gamma}}$ intensity ratios. They have been omitted in the analyses that follow, as has GV Ori, for which there is no published period.

The radial velocities contain errors due to measurement $(1 + 1 - 2 \text{ km/sec})$, dependence on phase and/or intrinsic variations in velocity $(\pm 2-3 \text{ km/sec})$, and dispersion in the relation between $A - E$ and P ($\pm 3-4$ km/sec). Thus, we expect a random error of about \pm 5 km/sec for the radial velocity of a Mira for which we have a single spectrogram

TABLE 2

Comparison of Lick and Mount Wilson Radial Velocities of Mira Variable Stars

* Merrill lists observed velocities of $+70$, $+75$, $+58$, and $+53$ for which the average is $+64$ If $+64$ is used instead of his adopted value of $+70$, the difference Merrill minus our study is reduced to $+7$ km/sec

t Spectrograms obtained with a calcite block in front of slit during a search for linear polarization of the emission lines.

RADIAL VELOCITIES OF MIRA VARIABLE STARS

TABLE 3 (Continued)

 $$\sf 948$$ $$\sf 0$ American Astronomical Society • Provided by the NASA Astrophysics Data System

11.8*

203.2

2438546

15

22

W Lib

350.9

30.8

1965ApJ...142..943S

TABLE 3 (Continued)

TABLE 3 (Continued)

ter

* An estimated color index of +1.5 mag. has been added to the visual magnitude if only the latt is given in the General Catalogue of Variable Stars.

 \dagger The radial velocity is derived from the emission lines λ 4202 and λ 4308 of Fe I.

MIRA VARIABLES 953

of average quality. This estimate compares favorably with the mean error calculated for a single spectrogram in Table 2 on the assumption that Merrill's velocities are errorfree. Finally, in view of the uncertainty of our mean difference, Merrill minus this study (see Table 2), we cannot rule out the possibility of a systematic error of the order of 2 km/sec in our radial velocities.

IV. DISTANCES

Since the great majority of magnitudes given in the *General Catalogue of Variable* Stars are photographic, we corrected all visual magnitudes to the photographic scale by addition of $B - V = +1.5$ obtained from Smak (1964). The visual magnitudes refer almost exclusively to stars brighter than $m_v = 10$ for which interstellar reddening corrections to $B - V$ may be neglected relative to other errors. Next we adopted a smooth relation between absolute photographic magnitude and period based on the results of Osvalds and Risley (1961) as follows:

$$
M_{pg} = -0.2, \t P < 140 \text{ days};
$$

\n
$$
M_{pg} = -13.4 + 5.4 \log P, \t P > 140 \text{ days}.
$$
\n(2)

The cut-off point at 140 days is arbitrary. Osvalds and Risley and Feast used 149 days. However, our data contain a higher proportion of high-velocity stars in the interval $140 < P < 150$ than is found in their samples. We assume that high velocity is indicative of high luminosity.

In general there are no color excesses known for faint Miras and in any event recent reports by Johnson (1965) support arguments that the ratio of total to selective absorption is not constant in all directions and in all parts of the Galaxy. Therefore, we have resorted to a simple exponential layer model for the interstellar medium of the form employed by Parenago (1945) for which

$$
A_{\rm pg} = \frac{a_0 \beta}{\sin b} \left[1 - \exp\left(\frac{-r \sin b}{\beta} \right) \right]. \tag{3}
$$

We adopted $\beta = 150$ pc as a compromise between the value 125 pc given by Zonn (1956) and a more recent determination of 187 pc by Abt and Golson (1962). We then computed distances for our stars as well as those of Merrill and Feast with equations (2) and (3) by means of an iterative routine devised for the Observatory's IBM 1620 computer for a series of values of a_0 (= 1.5, 2.0, and 2.5 mag/kpc) that should bracket the appropriate average value for stars chosen by apparent magnitude (rather than true distance) as we have done. The distribution of our stars projected on the galactic plane is shown in Figure 1 for $a_0 = 2.0$.

V. ANALYSIS OF THE RADIAL VELOCITIES

The analyses that follow are based on the radial velocities of the M-type Miras published by Merrill, by Feast, and those listed in Table 3 of this paper. We first reduced our absorption velocities, V_r , to the local standard of rest used by Feast and defined by

$$
u_0 = +10.11
$$
 toward $l^{\text{II}} = 0^0$, $b^{\text{II}} = 0$,
\n $v_0 = + 9.63$ toward $l^{\text{II}} = 90^0$, $b^{\text{II}} = 0$,
\n $w_0 = + 6.25$ toward $b^{\text{II}} = +90^0$.

We denote the reduced velocities by V_r' . The superscript "II" for l and b has been omitted everywhere below. These velocities are the equivalents of the values of ρ given by Feast for his stars and those of Merrill. The stars were then divided into groups according to period, galactocentric distance R , and distance from the plane \tilde{z} as indicated

in Table 4. For each group the average components of motion V_R , V_{θ} , and V_z in the cylindrical coordinate system R , θ , z were determined by least-squares solutions of the equation

$$
V_r' + V_c \sin l \cos b = V_R \cos a \cos b + V_\theta \sin a \cos b + V_z \sin b , \qquad (4)
$$

where sin $\alpha = (R_0/R) \sin l$, and where it is assumed that V_c , the circular velocity of the local standard of rest, is 250 km/sec and the distance from the Sun to the galactic center $R_0 = 10$ kpc. Note that $V_R = -(dR/dt)$. The reason for omitting a K-term in equation (4) is discussed in § VIa. In addition, velocity dispersions $\sigma_R,$ $\sigma_\theta,$ σ_z where computed from least-squares solutions of

$$
\sigma_R^2(\cos a \cos b)^2 + \sigma_\theta^2(\sin a \cos b)^2 + \sigma_z^2 \sin^2 b = (\Delta V_r')^2, \qquad (5)
$$

where Δ

$$
V_r' = V_r' + V_c \sin l \cos b - V_R \cos a \cos b - V_\theta \sin a \cos b - V_z \sin b .
$$
 (6)

Fig. 1.—Distributions projected on the galactic plane for Mira variable observed in this study. (a) $140 < P < 240$ days; (b) $240 < P < 340$ days; (c) $340 < P < 700$ days. Filled and open circles denote stars with $|z| < 1$ kpc and $|z| > 1$ kpc, respectively.

© American Astronomical Society • Provided by the NASA Astrophysics Data System

No. 3, 1965 MIRA VARIABLES 955

Results of these solutions are given in Table 5. Because of the spatial distributions of the stars in the various groups of Table 4 (see Fig. 1), it was usually not possible to obtain accurate values of the velocity dispersions in all three coordinates for any one group. In several cases we obtained negative squares of the dispersions. These cases are indicated by the abbreviation "imag." in Table 5. In several cases the values of V_R and V_z are comparable to or exceed their dispersions in Table 5. In such cases the calculated dispersions would have been larger if we had set V_R and V_z equal to zero, the values we expect from the study of Feast. His stars were distributed more uniformly over the sky than those in a number of our groups and therefore are more suitable for a study of the motions in the R and z directions (see Fig. 1). In most instances his estimates of σ_R and σ_z are of much greater accuracy than ours.

TABLE 4

GROUPS USED TO ESTIMATE V_R , V_θ , V_z and Velocity Dispersions from Equations (4) and (5)

We also computed the slope (A) and the curvature (α) of the rotation-curves for various period groups from least-squares solutions of

$$
V'_r + V_c \sin l \cos b = U \cos l \cos b + V \sin l \cos b + W \sin b
$$

- 2A(R - R₀) sin l cos b - 2a(R - R₀)² sin l cos b, (7)

where U, V , and W are the rectangular components of the galactocentric group motion at $R = R_0$,

$$
A = -\frac{1}{2}R_0 \frac{d\omega(R)}{dR} \Big|_{R=R_0}, \qquad a = -\frac{1}{4}R_0 \frac{d^2\omega(R)}{dR^2} \Big|_{R=R_0}
$$
 (8)

and

$$
\omega(R) = \frac{V_{\theta}(R)}{R}.
$$
\n(9)

The notation employed is that of Kraft and Schmidt (1963). Two cases were considered. In the first A and α were both determined. In the second we assumed that $\alpha = 0$. Finally, solutions of equations (4), (5), and (7) were made for values of R based on equations (2) and (3) and for the three assumed values of $a_0 = 1.5, 2.0,$ and 2.5. The results, all calculated with the IBM 1620 computer, are summarized in Table 6.

TABLE 5

SOLUTIONS FOR V_R , V_{θ} , V_z AND σ_R , σ_{θ} , σ_z WITH $a_o = 1.5$, 2 0, AND 2 5

$a_0 = 1\ 5$

956

TABLE 6

SOLUTIONS FOR U, V, W, A, AND α WITH $a_0 = 1.5$, 2.0, AND 2.5

$a_0 = 1.5$

957

VI. DISCUSSION

a) General Remarks

Our results may be conveniently examined in Figure 2, which contains plots of $\omega(R) = V_{\theta}/\langle R \rangle$ versus R for one value of a_0 , and in Figure 3 which shows the variation of $V(= V_{\theta}$ at $R = 10$) and A with period. The values of V increase with period as found

FIG. 2.—The variation of $\omega(R) = V_{\theta}/\langle R \rangle$ versus R for the case $a_0 = 2.0$ mag kpc⁻¹ and for stars with (a) $140 < P < 240$ days; (b) $240 < P < 340$ days; (c) $340 < P < 700$ days. The straight lines denote solutions in Table 6 for which $a = 0$. The curve line in (a) refers to the solution for both A and a. The open circle in (a) denotes a value of V_θ for stars with $|z| > 1$. The vertical bars denote the probable errors of the determinations.

by Merrill and by Feast. The values of V are not very sensitive to the inclusion or exclusion of the α -term in equation (7), and the average values of U and W are satisfactorily small in all cases. The values of A are not sensitive to this choice and exceed their probable errors by comfortable margins for all the groups for which $z < 1$. A comparison of our errors with those of Feast, who first looked for the effects of differential galactic rotation in the Mira radial velocities, indicates the need for radial velocities for stars at distances greater than 1 kpc if A is to be estimated with any precision. For the first (shortest) two period groups the values of $A \sim 15$ are surprisingly similar to those obtained for the B-type stars (Rubin and Burley 1964) and the Cepheids (Kraft and Schmidt 1963). However, the values for the group with $340 < P < 700$ exceeds the maximum possible value of about 18 km/sec/kpc for point mass attraction with V_c = 250 km/sec and $R_0 = 10$ kpc. We can only suspect that the distances for this group have been underestimated. In order to obtain values of $A \sim 15$ the distances would have to be

increased systematically by a factor of about 1.7. Errors in the assigned distances might arise in several ways:

1. The luminosities may have been underestimated. In this case the absolute magnitudes would have to be decreased by more than ¹ magnitude. Such a correction is incompatible with the errors (\sim 10 per cent) in the mean parallaxes quoted by Osvalds and Risley.

2. There may be a selection effect present in our data due to dispersion in absolute magnitude. If such dispersion exists, then for stars selected by apparent magnitude the

FIG. 3.— (a) The variation of V with period. Coding is as follows: filled circles, open circles, and crosses denote values of V in Table 6 for which $a_0 = 1.5$, 2.0, and 2.5, respectively. Triangles denote values of V for the smaller period intervals in Table 7 with $a_0 = 1.5$. (b) The variations of A with period. Coding is as in Fig. 3, a. Vertical bars denote probable errors.

absolute magnitudes will be brighter than the mean for the class by an amount $\Delta M \sim$ $-\frac{1}{4}\sigma_M^2$, where σ_M is the dispersion in absolute magnitude (Stromberg 1936). For the required correction of -1.0 to -1.5 mag. (the precise value depends on the correct value of $\overline{a_0}$, the value of σ_M would have to be between ± 2 and ± 3 mag. In this connection it should be noted that Feast's spectroscopic absolute magnitudes indicate a dispersion of this order at all periods. His dispersions are, if anything, larger at shorter periods.

3. The adopted values of a_0 may be too large. However, this cannot be the whole source of the difficulty since the average value of A_{pg} for the case where $a_0 = 1.5$ is only about 0.5 mag. for the $340 < P < 700$ group.

4. The apparent magnitudes in the General Catalogue of Variable Stars may be systematically in error. In this regard we would have to suspect the distance scales for all period groups, i.e., such errors cannot be responsible for the difference in values of A in the various period groups. A discussion of errors in apparent magnitudes is beyond the scope of this paper. It suffices to say that a homogeneous set of apparent magnitudes at maximum light for faint Miras is urgently needed.

To summarize, several possible sources of error may be present in a variety of combinations in our distances. While these errors may be present in all three period groups, the steep increase in A between the second and third groups suggests that the errors are peculiar to the Miras with periods greater than about 350 days. This notion is supported by the data in Table ⁷ and Figure 3 (which contains solutions for six period groups rather than three). The steep increase in A near 350 days persists when the period intervals of the groups are halved. The results of Feast's analysis are also given in Table 7. Although he did not stress the fact, his data also indicate an increase in A near $P = 350$ days. Finally it should be noted that, because of the longitude distribution of the Miras

COMPARISON OF SOLUTIONS FOR U, V, W , AND A OF FEAST AND OF THIS STUDY*

* Solutions for "All data" assume $a_0 = 1.5$

f The values for Feast's groups are derived from Feast's data on the assumption that $V_c = 250$ km/sec

with distances greater than ¹ kpc (mostly Lick observations), a systematic error in velocities of instrumental origin will enter the values of Λ roughly as the systematic error divided by the mean distance of the stars. On the basis of the discussion in § III we expect such errors to be of the order of ± 1 km sec⁻¹ kpc⁻¹. Furthermore, the longitude distribution of the distant Miras (see Fig. 1) makes it unfeasible to attempt to eliminate such errors by the inclusion of a K -term in equation (7).

The values of α for all period groups are poorly determined. We believe that this is due to the fact that in general σ_{θ} is large compared with the derivatives of V_{θ} involved in the calculation of α while the numbers of stars at large distances, which largely control the values of α , are small (see Table 4). The number of radial velocities for distant stars will have to be doubled or tripled before curvature of the galactic rotation-curves for the Miras can be determined satisfactorily. It may be noted (see Table 6) that the calculated values of \tilde{A} are not critically dependent on the inclusion or exclusion of the α -term except in the case of the group with $140 < P < 240$ and $|z| > 1$ for which the values of A are indeterminate in either case. It should also be noted that for the group with $340 < P <$ 700 the inordinately large values of α suggest an error in the distance scale in the same sense as that indicated by values of A .

b) The Variation of V_{θ} with z

The solutions by Feast and by us give values of V and A that agree to within their probable errors for all groups except the first with $P < 200$ days (see Table 7). In that case the values of both V and A differ by more than the sum of the errors of their respective determinations. An explanation for this discrepancy appears to lie in the fact that our solution refers to stars within ¹ kpc of the galactic plane while Feast's analysis includes stars at all 2-distances. The data in Table 8 demonstrate that only for the shortest periods does the restriction on z alter the sample significantly. The effect of this restriction is apparent in Tables 5 and 6 and in Figures 2 and 3, where it can be seen that for 140 $\lt P \lt 240$ the value of V_{θ} for $|z| > 1$ is smaller by $\lt 70$ km/sec than that for $\vert z \vert$ < 1 at $R = 8.8$ kpc and smaller by \sim 30 km/sec at $R = 10$. While the errors of the determinations of V_{θ} are large for $|z| > 1$, it appears safe to conclude that V_{θ} decreases with height above the plane.

We explore some consequences of this conclusion. Oort (1928) showed that, if an ellipsoidal distribution of stellar velocities is to satisfy the equation of continuity in a

TABLE 8

AVERAGE VALUES OF z FOR THREE PERIOD GROUPS AND TWO ASSUMED VALUES OF a_0

	$a_0 = 1.5$					$a_0 = 2 \; 0$				
P (Days)	z <1		z >1		All z	z <1		z >1		All z
	\langle $ z $ \rangle	$\cal N$	\langle $ z $ \rangle	$\cal N$	\langle $ z $ \rangle	\langle z \rangle	\boldsymbol{N}	(z ,	\boldsymbol{N}	z
$140 - 240$ 240-340 340-700	047 39 025	138 242 142	1 60 1 35 46 1	52 28 6	78 $\mathbf{0}$ 49 0 ₃₀	$\mathbf{0}$ 44	146	1 60	44	071 \bullet

region of the Galaxy, then the velocity dispersions $h = 1/\sqrt{2}(\sigma_R)$ and $k = 1/\sqrt{2}(\sigma_\theta)$ and the mean velocity of rotation V_{θ} are related to the coordinates by

$$
h^2 = c_1 + c_5 z^2 \t\t(10)
$$

$$
k^2 = c_1 + c_2 R^2 + c_5 z^2, \qquad (11)
$$

and

$$
V_{\theta} = \frac{c_3 R}{c_1 + c_2 R^2 + c_5 z^2},
$$
\n(12)

where c_1, \ldots, c_5 are constants. If, for a given value of $R = R'$ we know V_{θ} for two values of 2, we can evaluate the quantities

$$
M = \frac{c_3}{c_5} R' = \frac{V_{\theta_1} V_{\theta_2} (z_1^2 - z_2^2)}{V_{\theta_2} - V_{\theta_1}}
$$
\n(13)

and

$$
N = \frac{c_1 + c_2 R'^2}{c_5} = \frac{V_{\theta 1} z_1^2 - V_{\theta 2} z_2^2}{V_{\theta 2} - V_{\theta 1}},
$$
\n(14)

which, together with the ratio h/k at $(R = R_0, z = 0)$,

$$
L_0 = \frac{h_0}{k_0} = \frac{c_1}{c_1 + c_2 R_0^2},
$$
\n(15)

© American Astronomical Society • Provided by the NASA Astrophysics Data System

may be used to determine the constants

may be used to determine the constants
\n
$$
c_1 = k_0^2 L_0^2
$$
, $c_2 = k_0^2 \frac{(1 - L_0^2)}{R_0^2}$, $c_3 = k_0^2 \frac{M}{NR'} \Big[L_0^2 + (1 - L_0^2) \Big(\frac{R'}{R_0} \Big)^2 \Big]$, and
\n $c_5 = k_0^2 \frac{1}{N} \Big[L_0^2 + (1 - L_0^2) \Big(\frac{R'}{R_0} \Big)^2 \Big].$ (16)

Relevant values of V_{θ} and z at two values of R for the group with 140 $\lt P \lt 240$ are taken from Tables 5 and 6 and the resulting values of M and N are collected in Table 9. If these values of M and N are substituted into equation (16) and thence into equation (12) we find that the observed variation of V_{θ} with R at $z = 0.45$ is reproduced only if

TABLE 9

SUMMARY OF DATA AND CALCULATIONS USED TO DERIVE V_{θ} (R, z)

	z	$\langle z \rangle$	$V_{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$	M(R)	N(R)	c_1/k_0^2	c_2/k_0^2	c_3/k_0^2	c_5/k_0^2
$R' = 88$.	>1 \leq 1	60 1 0 45	135 205	934	4 3 6	0 ₁₆	8.4×10^{-3}	20 0	0 ₁₉
$R_0 = 10$	>1 ${<}1$	60 1. 0 45	155 185	2260	120	0 ₁₆	84×10^{-3}	18 8	0 ₀₈
Average						016	$8\,4\times10^{-3}$	19 4	0.14

 $L_0 \sim 0.4$, in which case we obtain the values of the c constants in units of k_0^2 given in Table 9. The average values of the constants at the bottom of Table 9 then lead to the equation

$$
V_{\theta} = \frac{19.4R}{0.16 + 0.84(R/10)^2 + 0.14z^2},
$$
\n(17)

which approximates the observed variation of V_{θ} with R and z within the framework of the ellipsoidal hypothesis. Differentiation of equation (12) or (17) then gives the value of R for which V_{θ} is a maximum as a function of z,

$$
R_{\text{max}} = 10(0.19 + 0.17 \, z^2)^{1/2} \tag{18}
$$

and, by means of equations (8) and (9), the variation of A with $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{z}}$:

$$
A = \frac{16}{1 + 0.14z^2}.
$$
 (19)

Equation (17) differs from those generally employed in the past in that it contains a z-term which is non-negligible for the Miras. It indicates that the value of V_{θ} for $z = 0$ (analogous to those derived from Cepheids or B stars) may be larger by as much as 5-10 km/sec than the value of V derived from equation (7) for a sample of stars for which $\langle |z| \rangle \geq 0.5$. The value of A must be corrected similarly according to equation (19).

Three comments should be made regarding the c constants used in equations (17), (18), and (19). First, the reliability of c_5 , the coefficient of x^2 , depends on a relatively small sample (53 stars) with $|z| > 1$, and it applies only to the short-period Miras. Our estimate of $c₅$ can and should be improved by more radial-velocity data for stars with large z-distances. Furthermore it would be of interest to make estimates of c_6 for the

Miras of longer period as well as those in the interval $140 < P < 240$. Second, the numerical value of the c constants are based on the value $L_0 = 0.4$ required by our rotation-curve for the group with $140 < P < 240$. This value of L_0 is smaller by a factor of 2 than that obtained directly from observation by Feast and by us. We interpret this discrepancy as follows: the value of V_{θ} at $R = R_0$ increases with period from about 180 km/ sec at $\dot{P} = 200$ days to about 240 km/sec at $P = 400$ days. In view of the periodfrequency functions of other classes of kinematically homogeneous variable stars (e.g., the classical Cepheids or the RR Lyrae stars in a given globular cluster), it is reasonable to suppose that the Miras consist of a mixture of several or perhaps a continuum of kinematic families with overlapping period-frequency functions. If this be true, then σ_{θ} for any period interval will be overestimated because the peculiar motions upon which it is based are measured not relative to the true mean values of V_{θ} but rather they are measured relative to a value of V_{θ} that represents a weighted average over all the kinematic groups present in the period interval. Clearly, if our suppositions are correct, a criterion other than period or radial velocity is needed to make more meaningful subdivisions of the Miras for the analysis of their motions. Third, one may question whether the ellipsoidal hypothesis should be invoked at all in a discussion of kinematics over the range of distances involved in this study. It is particularly disturbing that the predicted value of $R_{\text{max}} = 4.5$ for the 140 $\lt P \lt 240$ group differs so greatly from the observed values of 8-9 kpc for the B stars (Münch and Münch 1964) and the 21-cm observations (Kwee, Muller, and Westerhout 1954). On the other hand, it must be noted that our observations do not allow R_{max} to be greater than 8 kpc (see Table 5). Clearly it will be preferable to construct an empirical distribution $V_{\theta}(R, z)$ upon which an improved theory can be based. This will require observation of many more distant variables. Such observations are within the grasp of existing telescopic facilities and are well worth pursuing.

Finally, it should be remarked that we have deliberately not chosen a value of a_0 on which to base final estimates of A or, more generally, the shapes of the galactic rotationcurves. In our opinion, the several difficulties mentioned in \S VIa and in the preceding paragraph must all be confronted before a definitive description of the kinematics of the Miras can be constructed.

REFERENCES

Abt, H. A, and Golson, J. C. 1962, Ap. J., 136, 363.

- Campbell, W. W., and Moore, J. H. 1918, Pub. Lick Obs., 13, 75.
-
- Feast, M. 1963, M N, 125, 367.
Johnson, H. L. 1965, Ap. J. (in press).
- Joy, A H. 1947, A_p , J_{\cdot} , 106, 288.
- Kraft, R. P., and Schmidt, M, 1963, Ap. J., 137, 249.
- Kwee, K. K., Muller, C. A., and Westerhout, G. 1954, *B.A.N.*, 12, 220.
Merrill, P. W. 1923, Ap. J., 58, 195.
-
-
- ———. 1941, *ibid*, 94, 171.
Merrill, P. W., and Wilson, R. E. 1942, Ap. J., 95, 248.
Münch, G., and Münch, L. 1964, Ap. J., 1**40,** 162.
-
- Oort, J. H. 1928, B.A.N., 4, 269.
- Osvalds, V., and Risley, A. M. 1961, Pub. Leander McCormick Obs., Vol. 11, Part 21.
- Parenago, P. 1945, Astr. Zhur., 22, 129
- Rubin, V. C., and Burley, J. 1964, A.J., 69, 80.
- Smak, J. I. 1964, Ap. J. Suppl, 9, 141.
- Stromberg, G. 1936, Ap. J., 84, 555.
- Zonn, W. 1956, Astr. Zhur., 33, 855.