

<https://doi.org/10.18524/1810-4215.2023.36.290040>

## THE H $\alpha$ AND H $\beta$ LINES IN THE SPECTRUM OF CH CYG IN 2016

Kh.M. Mikailov<sup>1</sup>, B.N. Rustamov<sup>1,2</sup>, A.B. Rustamova<sup>2</sup>, A.J. Orujova<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Baku State University, Baku, Azerbaijan

<sup>2</sup> Shamakhy Astrophysical Observatory named after N. Tusi, Azerbaijan  
mikailovkh@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT.** We present the results of spectral observations of the symbiotic star CH Cyg, carried out at the Cassegrain focus of the 2-m telescope of the ShAO named after N.Tusi, by using the Shamakhy Fiber Echelle Spectrograph (ShAFES). The spectra of star CH Cyg were obtained with the spectral resolution of  $R = 28000$ , between June and November 2016. We also present the results of the comparative analysis of the brightness curve of the star with the main parameters of H $\alpha$  and H $\beta$  emission lines. During the observation period, both lines exhibited changing profiles characterized by complex structures, predominantly with double peaks. The ratio of the intensities of the blue and red components was typically  $I_B/I_R < 1$  for the H $\alpha$  line and  $I_B/I_R \geq 1$  for the H $\beta$  line. A quasi-period of 241 days was found in the variation of the equivalent widths of H $\alpha$  and H $\beta$  emission lines as well as in the intensities of their components

**Keywords:** Symbiotic star – CH Cyg; echelle spectra; line profile; radial velocity.

**АНОТАЦІЯ.** Наводяться результати спектральних спостережень симбіотичної зорі CH Cyg, виконані у фокусі Кассегрена 2-м телескопа ШАО ім. Н. Тусі за допомогою Шамахінського волоконного ешелє-спектрографа (ShAFES). Спектри зорі CH Cyg були отримані зі спектральною роздільною здатністю  $R = 28000$  у період з червня по листопад 2016 р. Також використовуючи фотометричну базу даних змінних зір AAVSO побудовані криві блиску зорі CH Cyg за період наших спектральних спостережень. За профілями емісійних ліній H $\alpha$  та H $\beta$  були виміряні наступні параметри: променеві швидкості синього та червоного піків випромінювання –  $RV(I_B$  та  $I_R)$ ; променеві швидкості центрального поглинання –  $RV(I_{CA})$ ; еквівалентні ширини емісійних ліній H $\alpha$  та H $\beta$  – EW; інтенсивності компонентів емісійних ліній H $\alpha$  і H $\beta$  та їх відношення –  $I_B/I_R$ . За період спостережень лінії демонстрували мінливий профіль, що характеризується складною структурою, переважно з подвійним піком. Співвідношення ін-

тенсивностей синьої та червоної компонентів загальном становило  $I_B/I_R < 1$  для лінії H $\alpha$  та  $I_B/I_R \geq 1$  для лінії H $\beta$ . Співвідношення інтенсивностей лінії H $\beta$  не так сильно варіюється, як у H $\alpha$ . Зміна відношення  $I_B/I_R$  інтенсивностей синьої ( $I_B$ ) і червоної ( $I_R$ ) емісійних компонентів лінії H $\alpha$  корелюється зі змінами променевих швидкостей центрального поглинання ( $RV(I_{CA})$ ), зі зменшенням відношення  $I_B/I_R$  радіальна швидкість центрального поглинання збільшується.

За період спектральних спостережень з червня до листопада 2016 р. яскравість зорі у V-фільтрі зменшилася приблизно на  $1^m.5$ . Приблизно з 16 по 28 серпня 2016 року яскравість зорі збільшилася приблизно на  $0^m.5$  і знову почала зменшуватися. У змінах, еквівалентної ширини та інтенсивності синьої ( $I_B$ ) та червоної ( $I_R$ ) емісійних компонентів ліній H $\alpha$  та H $\beta$ , у спектрі симбіотичної зорі CH Cyg, встановлено квазіперіод з характерним часом 241 днів.

**Ключові слова:** Симбіотичні зорі – CH Cyg; ешелє-спектри; профілі спектральних ліній; променеві швидкості.

### 1. Introduction

The symbiotic system consists of two completely different types of stars that coexist – interacting, cold red giant – RG (in some cases yellow) and hot compact – WD stars. As a result of strong gravity, the substance flowing from the red giant gathers around this star and forms a disk. This couple is surrounded by nebula as a whole.

By studying symbiotic stars, we simultaneously study 3 different types of space objects: 1. Red giant; 2. White dwarf and accretion disk; 3. Star environment gas and dust nebula. In systems of this type, a powerful flow of matter occurs through the stellar wind from a cold Star, and an accretion disk is formed around a hot compact star. Symbiotic stars can reflect a transitional stage in the evolution of several types of double systems with a powerful flow of matter from a

large-mass star to a small-mass star. (Mikailov, 2010; Mikolajewska et al., 2010).

Among symbiotic stars, CH Cyg is of particular interest and has remained the focus of most researchers until the present time and attracted them due to its inherent characteristics. These features include:

1. CH Cyg is the brightest and closest symbiotic star. The distance to the star, according to measurements by Hipparcos, is  $268 \pm 62$  pc. Its average visual magnitude of about  $m_v = 6^m.5$  at maximum,  $m_v = 10^m.5$  at minimum, and it is brighter in infrared region, and its magnitude at a wavelength of 2mkm is  $m_k = -1$ . (Munari et al., 1997; Belczynski et al., 2000).

2. In the star CH Cyg, both optical and radio domain, directional jet-shaped bipolar eruptions (jets) are observed at a speed of 1200 km/s, the length of which reaches 750 astronomical units. To understand such phenomena and unravel their origin, CH Cygni is the most optimal laboratory (Karovska et al., 2010; Kellogg et al., 2007).

3. CH Cyg pulsates with the exact period (100 and 750 days) characteristic of the cold red giant o Cet (Mira) of the symbiotic system. As a result, the accretion regime changes, and the system shows changes of an even more complex nature. At the same time, such systems with different short and long orbital periods behave differently than other symbiotic stars. The study of the evolution of such a system is of great importance (Hinkle et al., 2009; Hinkle et al., 1993).

4. In the CH Cyg symbiotic system, evidence has been increasing lately indicating the existence of the 3rd Star. Many researchers perceive it as a system of 3 stars. The 756-day short period may be the period of the 3rd star in an invisible inner orbit of a symbiotic pair of M giants and hot stars with a 15.5-year long period (Mikailov, 2010).

5. CH Cyg is also completely different from other symbiotic stars due to its long activity dynamics. After many years of passivity, activity began in 1963, and after the great flashing in 1977, this activity continues to the present (Mikailov, 2010).

## 2. Observations and data reduction

Spectral observations symbiotic star CH Cyg, were carried out at the Cassegrain focus of the 2-meter telescope at the Shamakhy Astrophysical Observatory, named after N. Tusi, using the Shamakhy Fiber Echelle Spectrograph (Mikailov et al., 2020) and the CCD matrix with  $4096 \times 4096$  pixels. The spectral resolution was  $R = 28000$ , and the wavelength range was  $3800-8000 \text{ \AA}$  in during June – November 2016 were obtained 9 echelle spectrums of star CH Cyg. Processing of echelle spectra was carried out according to the standard method using the new version of the DECH30 program developed by Galazutdinov

([http://www.gazinur.com/DECH\\_software.html](http://www.gazinur.com/DECH_software.html)). A list of all used spectra is given in Table 1.

For the spectral observations period between June – November of 2016, the brightness curve of the star CH Cyg has been constructed using the AAVSO photometric database. As displayed of the figure, the brightness of the star has reduced by approximately  $1^m.5$  in the V filter. Around 16 – 28th of august 2016-time interval, the brightness of the star has increased by about  $0^m.5$  and started to reduce once again.

## 3. Results of observations

The following parameters were measured from the available spectra, from the  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  emission lines profiles:

a) the radial velocities of the blue and red emission peaks:  $RV(I_B \text{ and } I_R)$ ;

b) as well as the radial velocities of the central absorption:  $RV(I_{CA})$ ;

c) the equivalent widths in the  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  emission lines (EW);

d) the intensities of the  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  emission lines components ( $I_B$  and  $I_R$ ) and their ratios  $I_B/I_R$ .

Results of measurements of parameters of  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  lines is given in Table 1 and 2.

Figure 1 presents the  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  emission lines profiles in the spectrum of CH Cyg for the period of our spectroscopic observations (June – November 2016). During the observation period, both lines exhibited changing profiles characterized by complex structures, predominantly with double peaks. The ratio of the intensities of the blue and red components was typically  $I_B/I_R < 1$  for the  $H\alpha$  line and  $I_B/I_R \geq 1$  for the  $H\beta$  line. The  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  emission lines (blue and red emission components as well as the central absorption) as a rule, is blue shifted.

As seen in Figure 1 and Table 1, 2: a) The intensity of red ( $I_R$ ) and blue ( $I_B$ ) components of H alpha lines show abrupt variations. In two nights, the intensity ratio was  $I_B/I_R > 1$ , but for the rest of the nights was  $I_B/I_R < 1$  displaying strong variability. This variability agrees with the radial velocity of central absorption of  $H\alpha$  lines  $RV(I_{CA})$ . As the  $I_B/I_R$  ratio reduces, the radial velocity of central absorption increases. b) The intensity ratio of blue and red components of  $H\beta$  was  $I_B/I_R > 1$  for 6 nights and for the rest 3, it was  $I_B/I_R \approx 1$ . The intensity ratio doesn't display as much variability as it did in  $H\alpha$ .

A quasi-period of 241 days was found in the variation of the equivalent widths of  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  emission lines, as well as in the intensities of their components (Fig. 2).

Table 1: Results of measurements of parameters of profiles of H $\alpha$  line.

Data	JD +2457000	EW (Å)	Rv (km/s)			Int		$I_B/I_R$
			$I_R$	$I_{CA}$	$I_B$	$I_R$	$I_B$	
15.05.2016	524.455	15.01	-17.15	-77.00	-113.34	3.88	5.00	1.29
13.06.2016	553.444	5.07	-28.42	-72.53	-113.58	2.20	2.57	1.17
16.07.2016	586.304	8.05	-34.82	-80.01	-109.33	4.54	3.08	0.68
16.08.2016	617.233	18.21	-38.79	-90.67	-115.02	9.67	3.79	0.39
19.08.2016	620.254	13.96	-37.41	-85.58	-117.42	5.82	3.58	0.62
28.08.2016	629.21	13.76	-39.04	-84.20	-120.55	4.77	3.77	0.79
21.09.2016	653.198	10.27	-41.36	-87.6	-119.20	3.47	2.60	0.75
			-15.96		-184.90			
26.11.2016	719.186	34.27	-30.41	-91.23	-118.67	11.16	6.91	0.62
30.11.2016	723.161	41.10	-36.74	-95.65	-120.36	15.75	7.25	0.46

Table 2: Results of measurements of parameters of profiles of H $\beta$  line.

Data	JD +2457000	EW (Å)	Rv (km/s)			Int		$I_B/I_R$
			$I_R$	$I_{CA}$	$I_B$	$I_R$	$I_B$	
15.05.2016	524.455	10.66	-8.22	-52.60	-102.46	4.81	6.41	1.33
13.06.2016	553.444	5.53	-17.10	-53.41	-107.57	2.49	3.23	1.30
16.07.2016	586.304	6.42	-22.59	-66.40	-97.90	2.98	3.68	1.23
			-44.87		-170.40			
					-216.60			
16.08.2016	617.233	11.82	-14.76	-28.99	-102.56	3.89	5.20	1.34
19.08.2016	620.254	11.33	-13.44	-36.06	-106.75	3.86	5.57	1.44
28.08.2016	629.21	12.08	-10.47	-39.56	-109.46	4.32	5.50	1.27
					-55.36			
21.09.2016	653.198	10.91	-7.85	-35.24	-103.33	4.16	4.08	0.98
					-54.00			
					-165.41			
26.11.2016	719.186	24.37	-22.94	-54.61	-110.69	9.55	9.28	0.97
					-74.11			
30.11.2016	723.161	25.13	-23.50	-57.75	-110.41	9.74	8.96	0.92
					-79.35			

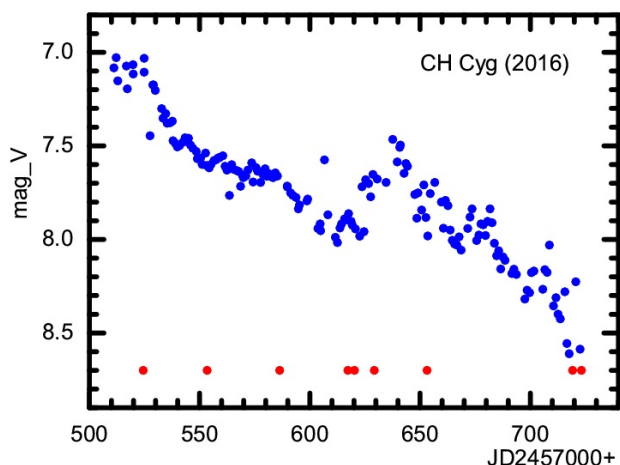


Figure 1: Visual light curve of the CH Cyg star in June – November of 2016. The filled red circles indicate the time of observations.

#### 4. Conclusions

1. Over the period of our spectral observations (June–November 2016) of the symbiotic star CH Cyg, the profiles of the H $\alpha$  and H $\beta$  lines represent the emission profiles with predominantly double peaks, highly variable intensities of the red ( $I_R$ ) and blue ( $I_B$ ) components. The  $I_B/I_R$  ratio is  $< 1$  for the H $\alpha$  line and  $I_B/I_R \geq 1$  for the H $\beta$  line.

2. Changes in the  $I_B/I_R$  ratios of the intensities of the blue ( $I_B$ ) and red ( $I_R$ ) emission component of the H $\alpha$  line is correlated with changes in the radial velocities of the central absorption ( $RV(I_{CA})$ ); as the  $I_B/I_R$  ratio decreases, the radial velocity of the central absorption increases.

3. During the spectral observation period from June to November 2016, the luminosity of the star in the V-filter decreased by about  $1^m.5$ . From about August 16 to August 28, 2016, the luminosity of the star increased by about  $0^m.5$  and began to decrease again.

4. A quasi-period with a characteristic time of

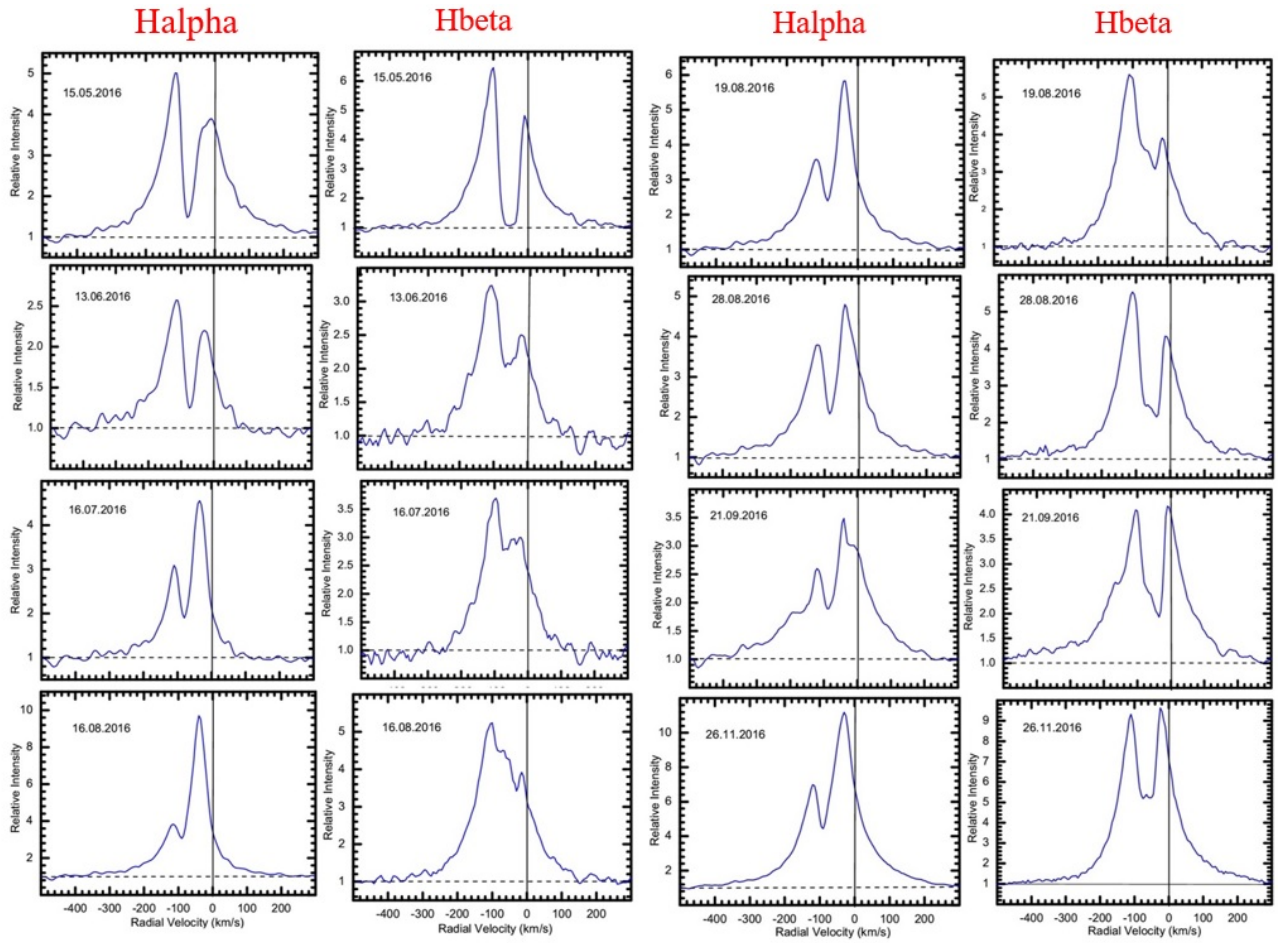


Figure 2: Profiles of H $\alpha$  and H $\beta$  lines in spectrum CH Cyg.

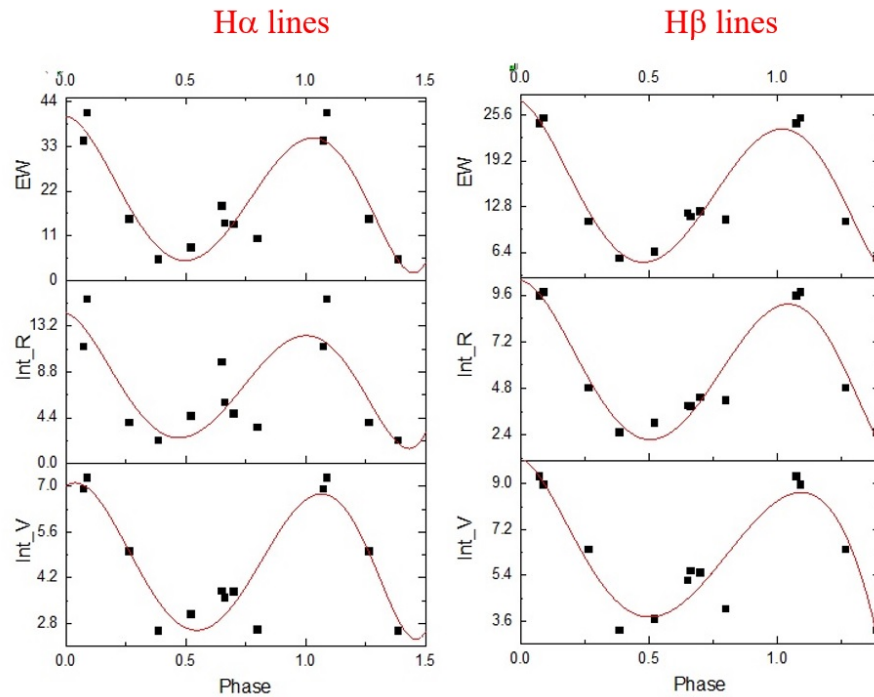


Figure 3: Periodicity in the variabilities of the equivalent widths of  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  emission lines, as well as in the intensities of their components.

241 days has been established in the changes in the equivalent width and intensities of the blue ( $I_B$ ) and red ( $I_R$ ) emission component of the lines  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  in the spectrum of the symbiotic star Cyg.

### References

- Belczynski K., Mikolajewska J., Munari U. et al.: 2000, *Astron. Astrophys. Suppl.*, **146**, 407.
- Galazutdinov G.: <http://www.gazinur.com/DECHsoftware.html>.
- Hinkle K.H., Fekel F.C., Johnson D.S., Scharlach W.W.G.: 1993, *Astron. J., Washington*, **105**, Iss. 3, 1074.
- Hinkle K.H., Fekel F.C., Joyce R.: 2009, *Astrophys. J., Washington*, **692**, 1360.
- Karovska M., Gaetz T.J., Carilli C. L. et al.: 2010, *Astrophys. J. Lett., Washington*, **710**, Iss.2, 132.
- Kellogg E., Anderson C., Korreck K. et al.: 2007, *Astrophys. J., Washington*, **664**, 1079.
- Mikhailov Kh.M.: 2010, *Ph.D. dissertations on the topic "Creation of echelle spectrometers and spectral study of symbiotic stars" Baku, Azerbaijan*
- Mikhailov Kh.M, Musaev F.A. , Alekberov I.A. et al.: 2020, *Kinem. and Phys. of Cel. Bod.*, **36**, 22.
- Mikolajewska J., Balega Y., Hofmann K., Weigelt G.: 2010, *Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc.*, **403**, 21.
- Munari U., Renzini A., Bernacca B.L.: 1997, *Hipparcos-Venice 97 (ESA SP-402)*, **413**.