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## Absolute dimensions of eclipsing binaries

### XXIV. The Be star system DW Carinae, a member of the open cluster Collinder 228<sup>\*,\*\*</sup>

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#### ABSTRACT

**Context.** The study of detached eclipsing binaries which are members of stellar clusters is a powerful way of determining the properties of the cluster and of constraining the physical ingredients of theoretical stellar evolutionary models.

**Aims.** DW Carinae is a close but detached early B-type eclipsing binary in the young open cluster Collinder 228. We have measured accurate physical properties of the components of DW Car (masses and radii to 1%, effective temperatures to 0.02 dex) and used these to derive the age, metallicity and distance of Collinder 228.

**Methods.** The rotational velocities of both components of DW Car are high, so we have investigated the performance of double-Gaussian fitting, one- and two-dimensional cross-correlation and spectral disentangling for deriving spectroscopic radial velocities in the presence of strong line blending. Gaussian and cross-correlation analyses require substantial corrections for the effects of line blending, which are only partially successful for cross-correlation. Spectral disentangling is to be preferred because it does not assume anything about the shapes of spectral lines, and is not significantly affected by blending. However, it suffers from a proliferation of local minima in the least-squares fit. We show that the most reliable radial velocities are obtained using spectral disentangling constrained by the results of Gaussian fitting. Complete Strömgren *uvby* light curves have been obtained and accurate radii have been measured from them by modelling the light curves using the Wilson-Devinney program. This procedure also suffers from the presence of many local minima in parameter space, so we have constrained the solution using an accurate spectroscopic light ratio. The effective temperatures and reddening of the system have been found from Strömgren photometric calibrations.

**Results.** The mass and radius of DW Car A are  $M_A = 11.34 \pm 0.12 M_\odot$  and  $R_A = 4.558 \pm 0.045 R_\odot$ . The values for DW Car B are  $M_B = 10.63 \pm 0.14 M_\odot$  and  $R_B = 4.297 \pm 0.055 R_\odot$ . Strömgren photometric calibrations give effective temperatures of  $T_{\text{effA}} = 27\,900 \pm 1000$  K and  $T_{\text{effB}} = 26\,500 \pm 1000$  K, and a reddening of  $E_{b-y} = 0.18 \pm 0.02$ , where the quoted uncertainties include a contribution from the intrinsic uncertainty of the calibrations. The membership of DW Car in Cr 228 allows us to measure the distance, age and chemical composition of the cluster. We have used empirical bolometric corrections to calculate a distance modulus of  $12.24 \pm 0.12$  mag for DW Car, which is in agreement with, and more accurate than, literature values. A comparison between the properties of DW Car and the predictions of recent theoretical evolutionary models is undertaken in the mass-radius and mass- $T_{\text{eff}}$  diagrams. The model predictions match the measured properties of DW Car for an age of about 6 Myr and a fractional metal abundance of  $Z \approx 0.01$ .

**Key words.** stars: fundamental parameters – stars: binaries: eclipsing – stars: emission-line, Be – stars: distances – stars: individual: DW Carinae – open clusters and associations: individual: Collinder 228

## 1. Introduction

The study of detached eclipsing binary star systems (dEBs) is one of the few ways in which the absolute properties of stars can be measured directly and accurately (Andersen 1991). These objects are therefore of fundamental importance to the understanding of the characteristics of single stars. The masses and radii of the component stars in dEBs can be determined to accuracies of better than 1% from the analysis of light curves and double-lined

radial velocity curves (e.g., Southworth et al. 2005b; Torres et al. 1997). The effective temperatures of the two stars can be found by spectral analysis or photometric calibrations, allowing the luminosities and distance of the stars to be calculated directly (e.g., Southworth et al. 2005a; Clausen & Giménez 1991).

One of the most important uses of the physical properties of dEBs is as a check of the predictions of theoretical models of stellar evolution. The two components of a dEB have the same age and chemical composition, as they were born together, but in general different masses, radii and luminosities. Theoretical models must therefore be able to match their accurately-known properties for one age and chemical composition. A good match is often achieved (e.g., Southworth et al. 2004b) for two reasons. Firstly, the models are in general fairly reliable, and the effects of improved input physics lead to only minor adjustments in the evolutionary phases for which we are able to study dEBs.

\* Based on observations carried out with the Strömgren Automatic Telescope (SAT) and the FEROS spectrograph at ESO, La Silla, Chile (62.H-0319, 62.L-0284, 63.H-0080, 64.L-0031).

\*\* Full list of the radial velocity measurements is only available in electronic form at the CDS via anonymous ftp to [cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr](http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr) (130.79.128.5) or via <http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/cgi-bin/qcat?J/A+A/461/1077>

**Table 1.** Identifications and astrophysical data for DW Car.  $T_0$  is a reference time of mid-eclipse of the primary star.

	DW Car	References
Henry Draper Catalogue	HDE 305543	1
Tycho number	TYC 8957-1314-1	2
$\alpha_{2000}$	10 43 10.1	2
$\delta_{2000}$	-60 02 12	2
Spectral type	B1 V + B1 V	3
$V$	$9.675 \pm 0.005$	4
$b - y$	$0.067 \pm 0.005$	4
$m_1$	$0.046 \pm 0.008$	4
$c_1$	$-0.017 \pm 0.008$	4
$\beta$	$2.528 \pm 0.007$	4
$T_0$ (HJD)	2 446 828.6692(4)	4
Orbital period (days)	1.32774934(44)	4

References: (1) Cannon (1925); (2) Høg et al. (2000); (3) Levato & Malaroda (1981); (4) Paper I; quantities in parentheses are uncertainties in the final digit of the quantities.

Secondly, there are several quantities which are not in general independently known for dEBs, including age, metal abundance and helium abundance, and these can be freely adjusted to help the models match the observed properties of a dEB. This last point means that it is extremely difficult to investigate the success of the treatment in theoretical models of several physical phenomena, for example convective core overshooting, mixing length, mass loss and opacity (see Cassisi 2004, 2005).

Extra constraints on the properties of a dEB can be obtained if it is a member of a co-evolutionary group of stars (Southworth et al. 2004a; Hebb et al. 2004). If the age and chemical composition of the stars is known independently then these quantities can be used to constrain the models, making it more challenging for them to match observations and so allowing the effects of more subtle physical phenomena to be investigated (e.g., Torres & Ribas 2002). If the age and composition of the stellar group is not known then these may be found very precisely by comparing model predictions to the properties of the dEB (Southworth et al. 2004a,b; Thompson et al. 2001). In addition, dEBs are excellent distance indicators (e.g., Guinan et al. 1998; Clausen 2004), allowing accurate and precise distances to be found to the parent stellar systems in several empirical and semi-empirical ways (Southworth et al. 2005a; Guinan et al. 1998).

### 1.1. DW Carinae

Here we present a study of the young, early B-type system DW Car, which is a member of the Southern open cluster Collinder 228 (Ferrer et al. 1985). We have obtained complete and accurate Strömgren *uvby* light curves, which are presented in Clausen et al. (2007, hereafter Paper I) along with a revised orbital ephemeris. We have also obtained extensive spectroscopy using the FEROS échelle spectrograph and the 1.5 m telescope at ESO La Silla.

DW Car (Table 1) is composed of two similar B1 V stars in a 1.3 day orbit. The stars are well separated, despite the shortness of the orbital period, as they are essentially unevolved. Such a system is particularly useful because there are very few well-studied components of dEBs with masses of  $10 M_{\odot}$  or greater which are close to the zero-age main sequence (ZAMS) (Andersen 1991; Gies 2003). High-mass unevolved dEBs can be particularly useful for investigating the effects of the opacities used in theoretical models (Torres et al. 1997).

The eclipsing nature of DW Car was discovered by Hertzsprung (1924), who measured the orbital period to be 0.66382 d from a photographic light curve containing 251 observations. Van den Hoven van Genderen (1939) refined the orbital period using a 914-point photographic light curve, but stated that the period should be doubled even though there was no clear evidence that adjacent minima had different depths. Gaposchkin (1952, 1953) published a photographic light curve containing over one thousand points and found an orbital period of 1.3277504 d. His estimated masses and radii are quite close to the values we measure below.

A spectroscopic orbit for DW Car was published by Ferrer et al. (1985) based on 67 photographic observations. They found no evidence for orbital eccentricity, and a systemic velocity which is consistent with membership of Cr 228. A spectral classification of B1 V + B1 V was provided by Levato & Malaroda (1981).

We shall refer to the primary and secondary components of DW Car as star A and star B, respectively, where star A is eclipsed by star B at phase 0.0. Star A has a greater surface brightness and mass than star B.

### 1.2. Collinder 228

The open cluster Cr 228 is a young and sparse cluster located in the Carina spiral arm feature. Its immediate surroundings are quite nebulous, making photometric studies very difficult.

Feinstein et al. (1976) found a reddening of  $E_{B-V} = 0.33 \pm 0.08$  mag, an age of less than 5 Myr and a distance modulus of  $V_0 - M_V = 12.0 \pm 0.2$  mag on the basis of a photoelectric *UBV* study.

Thé et al. (1980) obtained photoelectric observations in the Walraven system and found a distance modulus of 12.0 mag assuming a normal reddening law (or 11.7 mag assuming  $R_V = \frac{A_V}{E_{B-V}} = 4.0$ ).

Turner & Moffat (1980) obtained photoelectric *UBV* observations and showed that the reddening in the region was normal and that the open clusters Trumpler 14, Trumpler 15 and Cr 228 are at a common distance modulus of  $12.15 \pm 0.14$  mag. They found that the age of Cr 228 must be at least 1 Myr from the presence of main sequence stars at  $(B - V)_0 = -0.1$ .

Tapia et al. (1988) obtained *JHK* photometry of the region, and found the reddening characteristics of Cr 228, and other nearby clusters, to be anomalous. These authors found that the absolute visual extinction,  $A_V$ , is quite different when calculated from the colour excess  $E_{B-V}$  rather than from colour excesses for longer-wavelength passbands. Under the assumption that  $E_{B-V}$  is anomalous in this region, they found  $A_V = 1.94 \pm 0.16$  mag from  $E_{V-K}$ , giving a distance modulus of  $V_0 - M_V = 11.6 \pm 0.4$ .

Carraro & Patat (2001) obtained *UBVRI* photometry of Cr 228 and several nearby clusters. They found an extinction of  $E_{B-V} = 0.30 \pm 0.05$  mag, in agreement with Feinstein et al. (1976) but disagreeing with Tapia et al. (1988). Their distance modulus,  $11.4 \pm 0.2$  mag, is smaller than that derived in most previous studies. Carraro & Patat suggested that about 30% of the stars in Cr 228 are binary, in good agreement with the spectroscopic study of Levato et al. (1990).

Massey et al. (2001) obtained new spectral types for 16 stars, and collected literature values for another 40 stars, in the region of Cr 228. They found a median  $E_{B-V}$  of 0.37 and a distance modulus of 12.5 mag. They obtained the ages of the higher-mass unevolved stars from interpolation in effective temperature and absolute bolometric magnitude using the theoretical

evolutionary tracks of Schaller et al. (1992). The age and standard deviation is  $2.2 \pm 1.0$  Myr, but these authors note that the appearance of the HR diagram suggests a spread in ages in Cr 228.

It is clear from the above discussion that the physical properties of the open cluster Cr 228 are rather uncertain, because the cluster is quite sparse and located in a nebulous area. The brightest member of this cluster, QZ Car (HD 9326), is a quadruple system which contains two spectroscopic binaries, one of which shows eclipses of a semi-detached nature (Mayer et al. 2001).

## 2. Observations and data reduction

Light curves of DW Car in the Strömrgren *wby* photometric system were obtained from the Strömrgren Automated Telescope at ESO La Silla. These are presented in Paper I and contain 518 observations in each passband. Paper I also presents an updated orbital ephemeris and standard Strömrgren *wby* and Crawford  $H\beta$  indices for DW Car.

### 2.1. Spectroscopic data

29 high-resolution spectra were obtained using the FEROS fibre-fed échelle spectrograph on the ESO 1.52 m telescope at La Silla (Kaufer et al. 1999, 2000) between 1998 November and 2000 January. This spectrograph is located in a temperature-controlled room and covers the spectral region from the Balmer jump to  $8700 \text{ \AA}$  without interruption and at a constant velocity resolution of  $2.7 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ px}^{-1}$  ( $\lambda/\Delta\lambda = 48\,000$ ). An observing log is given in Table 2.

A modified version of the MIDAS FEROS package, prepared by H. Hensberge, was used for the basic reduction<sup>1</sup>. This package pays careful attention to background removal, definition and extraction of the individual orders and wavelength calibration, and provides a significant improvement on the standard quick-look reduction pipeline. The observations were reduced night by night using calibration exposures (thorium-argon and flat field) obtained during the preceding afternoon and following morning for each night. Standard (rather than optimal) extraction was applied, and no order merging was attempted. A standard error of the wavelength calibration of about  $0.002\text{--}0.003 \text{ \AA}$  was typically obtained.

## 3. Radial velocity analysis

The FEROS spectra of DW Car cover essentially the entire optical wavelength range, but are disappointingly short of stellar features. The only absorption lines which are easy to discern are the hydrogen Balmer lines and several He I lines. The high rotational velocity of both stars, approximately  $170 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , twinned with the fact that the spectrum of each star is diluted by the flux of the companion, means that only the strongest spectral lines are visible.

The  $H\alpha$  line shows significant emission with an absorption superimposed on the line core. The emission and absorption do not follow the orbital motion of the stars but remain at the systemic velocity of the system. Slight emission is also visible in the centre of  $H\beta$  for some of the spectra, depending on signal to noise ratio. Figure 1 shows  $H\alpha$  spectra at phases 0.27,

**Table 2.** Logbook of the spectroscopic observations of DW Car. HJD refers to the exposure midpoint, ID to the identification number, SD to if it was included in the spectral disentangling analysis and  $t_{\text{exp}}$  to the exposure time. The column headed “Obs” indicates the observer (H indicates Heidelberg/Copenhagen guaranteed time observations). The signal to noise ratio,  $S/N$ , of single exposures was measured at approximately  $4000$  and  $5000 \text{ \AA}$ .

HJD minus 2 400 000	ID	SD	Obs	Orbital phase	$t_{\text{exp}}$ (s)	$S/N$
51 144.83060	s 1	y	H	0.73512	600	35–60
51 145.84400	s 2		H	0.49836	600	30–55
51 146.86755	s 3	y	H	0.26925	600	40–75
51 147.86649	s 4		H	0.02161	600	35–60
51 148.80902	s 5	y	H	0.73148	600	40–85
51 149.87170	s 6		H	0.53184	420	25–40
51 150.83746	s 7	y	H	0.25920	600	40–60
51 152.73657	s 8		H	0.68953	600	25–60
51 172.69544	s 9	y	H	0.72164	900	50–80
51 174.78088	s 10	y	H	0.29229	900	75–110
51 176.80734	s 11	y	H	0.81853	600	65–95
51 178.84953	s 12	y	H	0.35661	600	70–90
51 179.87450	s 13	y	H	0.12857	600	65–100
51 180.81349	s 14	y	H	0.83578	600	60–80
51 181.87490	s 15	y	H	0.63519	600	65–90
51 182.86220	s 16	y	H	0.37877	600	60–100
51 184.86864	s 17		H	0.88993	600	55–75
51 187.87364	s 18		H	0.15316	600	35–65
51 189.86682	s 19	y	H	0.65433	600	50–75
51 190.84867	s 20		H	0.39382	600	50–70
51 191.86279	s 21	y	H	0.15760	600	50–75
51 192.80846	s 22	y	H	0.86984	600	65–85
51 193.87953	s 23		H	0.67652	720	65–95
51 197.85496	s 24	y	H	0.67063	600	40–65
51 199.87004	s 25	y	H	0.18830	900	60–85
51 209.72395	s 26		JVC	0.60981	1800	110–140
51 382.51044	s 27	y	H	0.74468	1800	50–125
51 386.50761	s 28		H	0.75517	1800	70–135
51 563.86655	s 29	y	JVC	0.33380	2400	105–150

0.50 and 0.72. Whilst the emission appears to be twice as strong at phase 0.50, this is simply an artefact of the continuum normalisation as the system is about half as bright at eclipse midpoint compared to during quadrature phases. Further investigation of the emission line strengths will require flux-calibrated spectra (D. Lennon, private communication).

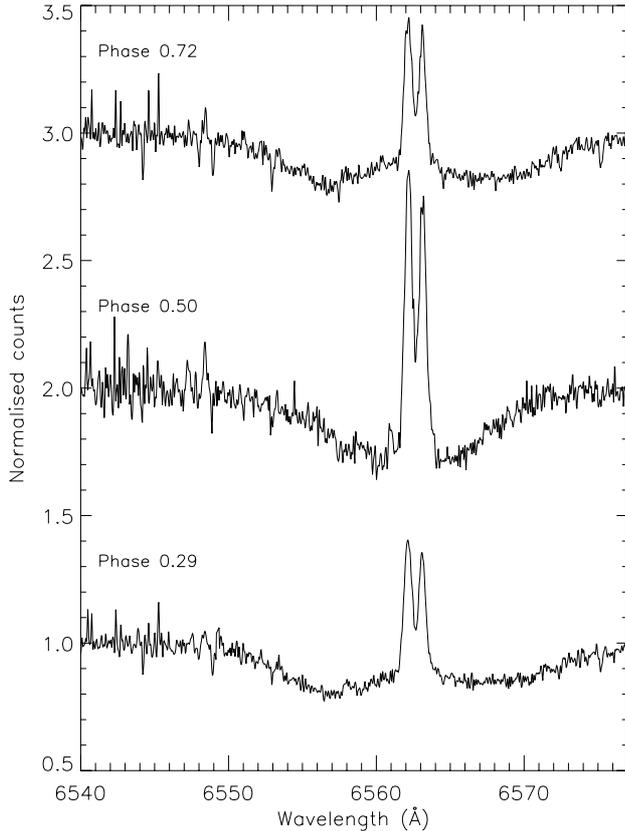
Narrow regions around the five He I absorption lines at  $4026$ ,  $4388$ ,  $4471$ ,  $4922$  and  $6678 \text{ \AA}$  were chosen for our radial velocity analysis. The remaining visible He I lines are all broad and very shallow, and we have found that minor errors in continuum placement can cause a large systematic error in the measured centres and widths of these lines. The hydrogen Balmer lines were not included in the radial velocity analysis, as line blending can cause large and systematic underestimation of the velocity semi-amplitudes (Petrie et al. 1967; Hilditch 1973; Andersen 1975). Regions from an example spectrum around the lines used are shown in Fig. 2.

As there are very few spectral lines strong enough to yield reliable radial velocities, we have used four different methods to measure these velocities, allowing us to investigate which are the most reliable. The techniques are fitting double Gaussian functions (hereafter called 2GAUSS), cross-correlation (ONECOR), two-dimensional cross-correlation (TODCOR) and spectral disentangling. Spectroscopic orbits were calculated for each spectral line and for each technique.

<sup>1</sup> See these websites for further details:

<http://www.ls.eso.org/lasilla/sciops/2p2/E2p2M/FEROS/DRS>

<http://www.ls.eso.org/lasilla/sciops/2p2/E1p5M/FEROS/Reports>



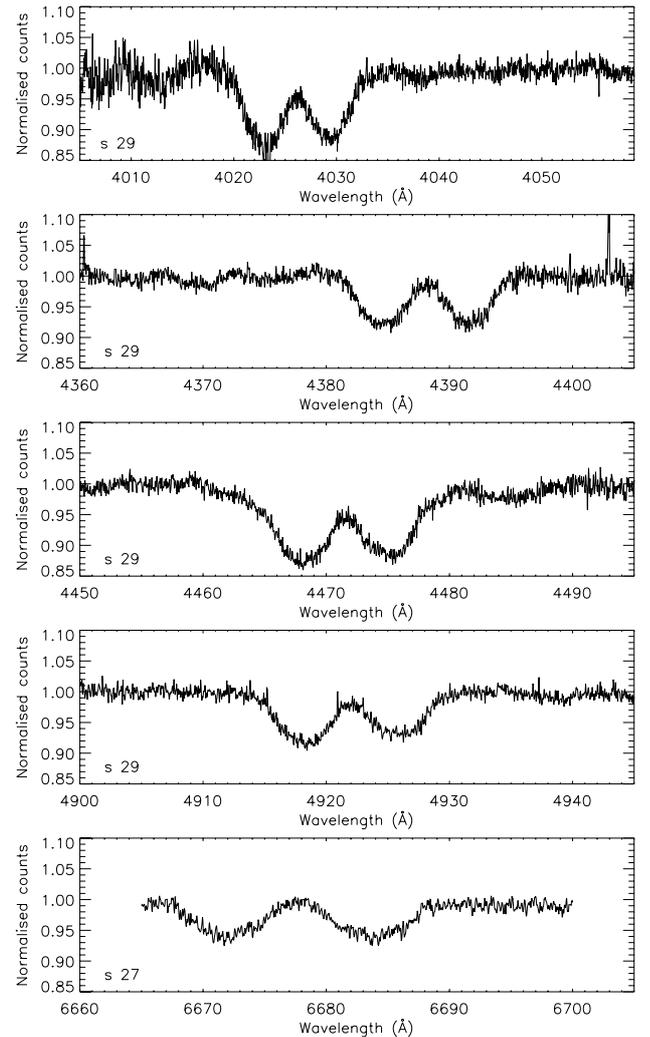
**Fig. 1.** Continuum-normalised  $H\alpha$  profiles of DW Car at phases 0.29, 0.50 and 0.72 (spectra s 10, s 2 and s 9). Spectra s 2 and s 9 have been shifted by +1 and +2, respectively, for clarity.

The ONCOR and TODCOR algorithms require a template spectrum which closely matches the spectral characteristics of the components of DW Car. We have used a FEROS spectrum of the rotational velocity standard star HR 1855 ( $\nu$  Ori, spectral type B0 V), which has a rotational velocity of 10–20  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  (Lyubimkov et al. 2004; Abt et al. 2002). This spectrum has signal to noise ratios of between 235 and 350 depending on the échelle order, and was broadened by a rotational velocity of 150  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  using the method of Gray (1992) with linear limb darkening coefficients of between 0.39 and 0.30 depending on the wavelength of the spectral order. We have measured the radial velocity of this star to be  $+19.9 \pm 2.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  from Gaussian fits to several He I lines, in agreement with the Wilson-Evans-Batten radial velocity catalogue (Duflo et al. 1995) value of  $+17.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . We have subtracted 19.9  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  from all the velocities of DW Car measured using HR 1855 as a template.

### 3.1. Gaussian fitting (2GAUSS)

The spectra of DW Car were velocity-binned to 5  $\text{km s}^{-1} \text{ px}^{-1}$  and a double Gaussian function was fitted to four of the five good He I lines (listed above) by the method of least squares with rejection of points deviating by more than  $4\sigma$  from an initial best fit. The fit to each spectrum was inspected by eye and poor fits were rejected. Double weights were assigned to a few fits which seemed to be of a particularly high quality.

Spectroscopic orbits were fitted to the measured radial velocities for each spectral line and the systemic velocities of the two stars were not forced to be equal (see Popper & Hill 1991). The orbits were calculated using the method of Lehman-Filhés



**Fig. 2.** Continuum-normalised example spectra in the regions of the five He I lines used in the radial velocity analysis. Spectrum s 29 (phase 0.33) is shown in the *top four panels* and spectrum s 27 (phase 0.74) in the *last panel*. Shallow lines can also be seen at 4009 Å (He I) and 4481 (Mg II). We have chosen spectra with a high signal to noise ratio to plot – most of the spectra have a significantly lower ratio.

implemented in the SBOP<sup>2</sup> program (Etzel 2004), which is a modified and expanded version of an earlier code by Wolfe et al. (1967). The ephemeris from Paper I was adopted (Table 1) and the orbit was assumed to be circular based on initial analyses, the shortness of the orbital period and the shape of the light curve.

The means and standard deviations of the full widths at half maximum of the fitted Gaussian functions are given in Table 3.

### 3.2. One-dimensional cross-correlation (ONCOR)

The velocity-binned spectra of DW Car were subjected to a cross-correlation analysis (Simkin 1974; Tonry & Davis 1979) using Fast Fourier Transform techniques. We investigated using three different types of template spectra to derive radial velocities from the target spectra:

- We attempted to use spectrum s 2 as a template, which was observed at conjunction (phase 0.498), because this provides

<sup>2</sup> Spectroscopic Binary Orbit Program, <http://mintaka.sdsu.edu/faculty/etzel/>

**Table 3.** Additional parameters found during the spectroscopic analysis. The full widths at half maximum of the Gaussian functions come from the 2GAUSS analysis and light ratios ( $\frac{L_B}{L_A}$ ) come from the TODCOR analysis.

He I line (Å)	FWsHM of the Gaussian fits (km s <sup>-1</sup> )		Light ratio from TODCOR
	Star A	Star B	
4026.189	171.5 ± 9.6	161.9 ± 11.2	0.839 ± 0.138
4387.928	167.8 ± 10.1	163.8 ± 6.7	0.855 ± 0.106
4471.681	194.9 ± 16.2	200.8 ± 21.6	0.893 ± 0.059
4921.929	173.9 ± 9.2	163.8 ± 10.6	0.856 ± 0.082

the best match to the target spectra. These attempts failed because bad pixel values in the target spectra, caused by CCD defects, tended to correlate against their counterparts in the template spectrum and deform the cross-correlation function (CCF).

- The artificially broadened spectrum of HR 1855 was used and found to give good results. This spectrum does not contain the bad pixels common to the spectra of DW Car. We therefore used this template to measure radial velocities.
- Synthetic spectra generated using the UCLSYN code (see Southworth et al. 2004a for references). The results were inaccurate because the synthetic profiles were a poor match to the observations, as expected because UCLSYN is not intended for stars this hot. We did not pursue the use of synthetic spectra further because good results had already been obtained using template spectra of HR 1855.

Radial velocities were accepted or rejected by eye, based on the shape of the CCF. The peaks of the CCF were then determined by least-squares quadratic interpolation and spectroscopic orbits were calculated using SBOP as before (Sect. 3.1). We experimented with using unbroadened template spectra as these should be less strongly affected by line blending, but found that the results were excessively noisy. This effect has been noted before and is due to the template and target spectra being quite different to each other.

### 3.3. Two-dimensional cross-correlation (TODCOR)

The TODCOR algorithm (Zucker & Mazeh 1994) produces a two-dimensional CCF by cross-correlating two template spectra (one for each star) with each target spectrum, which should reduce the problems caused by blending effects when the stellar spectral lines are separated by less than their total broadening. As with the ONCOR analysis, three types of template spectrum were investigated and the broadened spectrum of HR 1855 was found to be the best. Radial velocities were measured by determining the position of the relevant peak of the CCF by fitting a surface with the IDL<sup>3</sup> procedure MIN-CURVE-SURF. They were accepted or rejected via visual inspection of the CCF, and orbits were calculated using SBOP as before.

The TODCOR algorithm can be used to analytically evaluate the light ratio between the two component stars ( $\frac{L_B}{L_A}$ ) on the basis of the relative strengths of their absorption lines (Zucker & Mazeh 1994). The mean and standard deviation of the light ratio calculated for each spectrum is given in Table 3 for each échelle order. These light ratios are meaningful because of the negligible difference in spectral type between the two components of DW Car.

### 3.4. Spectral disentangling

The spectral disentangling technique solves simultaneously for the contributions of the components to the observed composite spectra, and for the Doppler shifts in the component spectra. We have applied the method introduced by Simon & Sturm (1994) using a version of the original code revised for the Linux operating system. It assumes a constant light level, so observations taken during eclipse were rejected from the analysis; DW Car is constant to within about 5% outside eclipses. Dedicated IDL programs were applied to remove cosmic ray events and other defects, and for careful normalization of the individual orders.

We have assumed the ephemeris from Paper I and a circular orbit, and fitted for the velocity semiamplitudes of the spectroscopic orbit for each star,  $K_A$  and  $K_B$ . Suitable spectral lines are present only in orders 55, 51, 50, 45 and 33, and these orders were analysed individually. The formal errors in  $K_A$  and  $K_B$  returned by the code are generally around 0.3 km s<sup>-1</sup>, which is much smaller than expected given the range in  $K_A$  and  $K_B$  for different orders (Tables 4, 5). It is not clear how to calculate robust uncertainties for spectroscopic orbits calculated in disentangling analyses (Hynes & Maxted 1998), so we will not quote uncertainties for individual spectroscopic orbits.

We have also disentangled the spectra for a grid of fixed values of  $K_A$  (from 245 to 290 km s<sup>-1</sup>) and  $K_B$  (260 to 305 km s<sup>-1</sup>) with a spacing of 1 km s<sup>-1</sup>, to study how the quality of the least-squares fit varies. The results are shown in Fig. 3 for the spectra from échelle order 55. There are several local maxima but one clear global maximum. The highest point of a surface fitted by least squares around the global maximum is indicated. This diagram shows that whilst spectral disentangling can be used to determine spectroscopic orbits for binary stars, the best-fitting solution returned by minimisation algorithms cannot in general be trusted unless confirmed to be the global maximum by a grid search or by external information.

### 3.5. Corrections from synthetic spectra

The need to apply corrections to the radial velocities derived using the TODCOR algorithm has been demonstrated in several cases, e.g., Torres et al. (1997) and Torres & Ribas (2002). These corrections may be needed to remove small radial velocity measurement errors due to line blending and/or the shifting of spectral features in or out of the analysed wavelength range due to orbital motion. The corrections are found by simulating observed spectra with known radial velocities and analysing them in the same way as in the target spectra.

A set of simulated spectra were generated for each spectroscopic orbit, using HR 1855 (broadened) as a template, for the observed phases and calculated velocities. A light ratio of 0.9 was used and no additional simulated observational noise was added. We have derived these corrections for all four of our velocity analysis methods because there was a priori no reason to assume that the corrections would be negligible for any one of them. The derived corrections were applied to the radial velocities from the target spectra and new spectroscopic orbits were calculated.

The spectroscopic orbits without velocity corrections are given in Table 4 and the corrected orbits are given in Table 5; it can be seen that in the case of DW Car the velocity corrections generally amount to a compensation for the systematic error caused by line blending. We have chosen the TODCOR analysis of the He I  $\lambda$ 4471 line to illustrate these results and the nature

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.rsinc.com/idl/>

**Table 4.** Spectroscopic orbits calculated for each component of DW Car, given for each of the considered He I lines and for each of the four radial velocity measurement techniques.  $K_A$  and  $K_B$  refer to the velocity semiamplitudes of the stars and  $V_{\gamma,A}$  and  $V_{\gamma,B}$  to the systemic velocities (all quantities in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ). Systemic velocities cannot be measured as directly using spectral disentangling, and no error estimates are available (see text for details).

Spectral line ( $\text{\AA}$ )	Échelle order		Gaussian fitting	Cross-correlation		Spectral disentangling
				One-dimensional	Two-dimensional	
He I 4026.189	55	$K_A$	$259.0 \pm 2.2$	$252.8 \pm 1.5$	$254.5 \pm 1.6$	263
		$K_B$	$277.8 \pm 1.5$	$265.5 \pm 3.2$	$267.3 \pm 3.3$	277
		$V_{\gamma,A}$	$-15.2 \pm 2.0$	$-0.4 \pm 1.5$	$-1.3 \pm 1.6$	
		$V_{\gamma,B}$	$-14.5 \pm 1.3$	$-0.7 \pm 3.1$	$-2.3 \pm 3.2$	
He I 4387.928	51	$K_A$	$261.4 \pm 1.3$	$259.8 \pm 1.8$	$257.2 \pm 1.1$	263
		$K_B$	$280.6 \pm 2.0$	$280.2 \pm 2.2$	$274.8 \pm 2.0$	279
		$V_{\gamma,A}$	$-3.4 \pm 0.9$	$-1.3 \pm 1.7$	$-1.0 \pm 1.0$	
		$V_{\gamma,B}$	$-3.8 \pm 1.5$	$-1.0 \pm 2.2$	$-0.2 \pm 1.9$	
He I 4471.681	50	$K_A$	$261.9 \pm 1.5$	$252.2 \pm 2.0$	$255.4 \pm 1.5$	258
		$K_B$	$281.5 \pm 2.2$	$274.6 \pm 3.1$	$273.7 \pm 2.7$	277
		$V_{\gamma,A}$	$-30.9 \pm 1.4$	$+9.9 \pm 2.0$	$+0.2 \pm 1.5$	
		$V_{\gamma,B}$	$-23.7 \pm 2.0$	$+8.3 \pm 3.1$	$+5.5 \pm 2.7$	
He I 4921.929	45	$K_A$	$254.1 \pm 2.0$	$251.6 \pm 4.0$	$251.3 \pm 3.6$	255
		$K_B$	$276.3 \pm 1.1$	$269.1 \pm 3.0$	$270.6 \pm 2.7$	275
		$V_{\gamma,A}$	$-11.3 \pm 1.8$	$-3.4 \pm 4.0$	$-4.4 \pm 3.4$	
		$V_{\gamma,B}$	$-13.0 \pm 1.0$	$-9.9 \pm 3.0$	$-9.8 \pm 2.6$	
He I 6678.149	33	$K_A$				263
		$K_B$				281

**Table 5.** As Table 4 but with velocity corrections applied (see text for details).

Spectral line ( $\text{\AA}$ )	Échelle order		Gaussian fitting	Cross-correlation		Spectral disentangling
				One-dimensional	Two-dimensional	
He I 4026.189	55	$K_A$	$263.1 \pm 2.1$	$262.8 \pm 1.1$	$259.3 \pm 1.6$	263
		$K_B$	$282.2 \pm 1.5$	$275.2 \pm 2.0$	$275.0 \pm 1.8$	277
		$V_{\gamma,A}$	$-0.4 \pm 1.9$	$3.6 \pm 1.1$	$2.0 \pm 1.5$	
		$V_{\gamma,B}$	$0.4 \pm 1.3$	$2.5 \pm 1.9$	$0.8 \pm 1.6$	
He I 4387.928	51	$K_A$	$254.6 \pm 1.0$	$251.4 \pm 1.2$	$252.4 \pm 1.1$	263
		$K_B$	$272.1 \pm 1.7$	$266.1 \pm 2.0$	$267.6 \pm 1.8$	279
		$V_{\gamma,A}$	$-17.5 \pm 0.9$	$-18.9 \pm 1.8$	$-18.6 \pm 1.0$	
		$V_{\gamma,B}$	$-15.5 \pm 1.5$	$-19.2 \pm 1.1$	$-18.1 \pm 1.6$	
He I 4471.681	50	$K_A$	$262.0 \pm 1.2$	$257.6 \pm 1.6$	$257.8 \pm 1.4$	258
		$K_B$	$281.6 \pm 1.8$	$275.9 \pm 2.6$	$273.9 \pm 2.2$	277
		$V_{\gamma,A}$	$0.0 \pm 1.1$	$5.7 \pm 2.6$	$1.3 \pm 1.3$	
		$V_{\gamma,B}$	$3.0 \pm 1.6$	$3.0 \pm 1.6$	$1.4 \pm 2.0$	
He I 4921.929	45	$K_A$	$255.0 \pm 2.0$	$252.4 \pm 2.8$	$252.5 \pm 2.1$	256
		$K_B$	$276.9 \pm 1.1$	$274.1 \pm 1.9$	$272.2 \pm 2.0$	275
		$V_{\gamma,A}$	$-6.2 \pm 1.5$	$-7.4 \pm 2.6$	$-6.9 \pm 1.9$	
		$V_{\gamma,B}$	$-8.4 \pm 1.1$	$-9.2 \pm 1.7$	$-10.5 \pm 1.8$	
He I 6678.149	33	$K_A$				263
		$K_B$				281

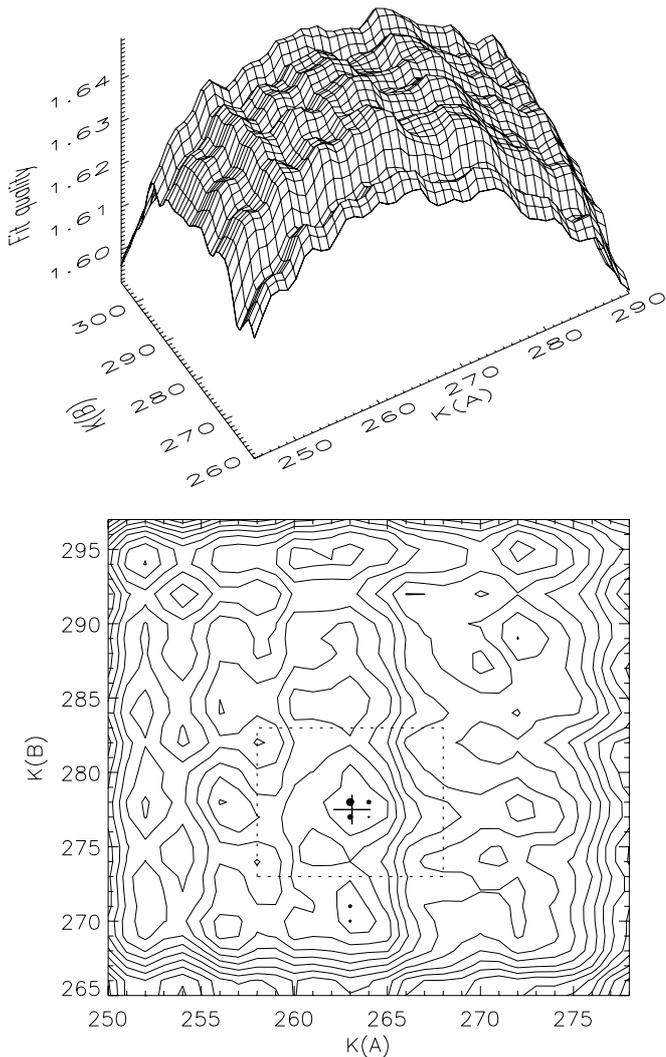
of the velocity corrections. The uncorrected radial velocities and best-fitting spectroscopic orbits are shown in Fig. 4, and the derived corrections are plotted in Fig. 5. The corrected radial velocities are shown in Fig. 6; note that the use of corrections allows more velocities to be retained as reliable, improving the quality of the resulting spectroscopic orbits.

The two cross-correlation techniques require the largest velocity corrections, which is understandable because CCFs are effectively smoothed by the rotational broadening both of DW Car and of the template spectrum, which was broadened to provide the closest match to the spectra of the components of DW Car. Whilst TODCOR was introduced to minimise the effects of spectral line blending (Zucker & Mazeh 1994), the two-dimensional CCF produced by the TODCOR algorithm is calculated from the normal CCFs between the target and each template spectrum and between the two template spectra themselves. As the

one-dimensional CCFs suffer from line blending, it is not surprising that this effect is still present in the TODCOR CCFs.

The velocity corrections required by 2GAUSS were a lot smaller than those for ONECOR or TODCOR. This is understandable because fitting a *double* Gaussian function explicitly compensates for spectral line blending. The velocity corrections arise mainly due to slight departures in the shape of spectral lines from Gaussians. However, the corrections of 2GAUSS radial velocities have a larger effect on the resulting systemic velocities than those for ONECOR and TODCOR. This is again due to slightly non-Gaussian spectral line shapes, and is particularly noticeable for the  $\lambda 4471$  line which has a blended forbidden component on its short-wavelength side.

Velocity corrections to spectroscopic orbits calculated by disentangling were negligible, confirming in this case that the technique is an excellent way to measure spectroscopic orbits.



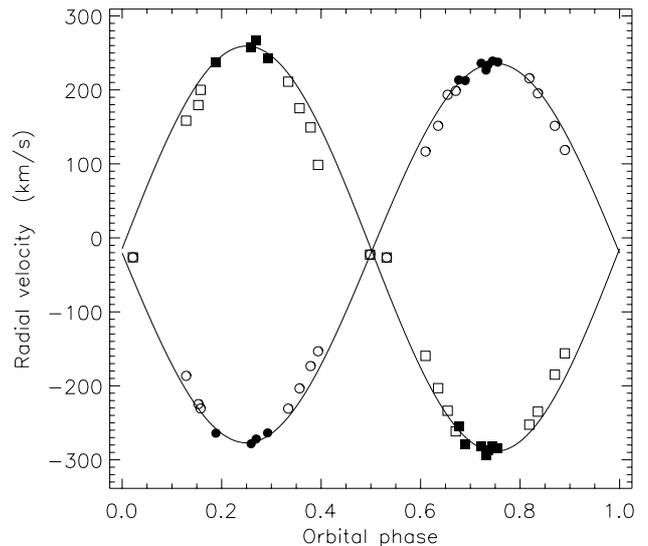
**Fig. 3.** Variation of the quality of the fit for spectral disentangling the échelle order 55 spectra of DW Car. The upper panel is a surface plot of fit quality versus  $K_A$  and  $K_B$ . The lower panel is a contour plot of the same data with the six highest values of fit quality indicated by filled circles (largest for the best fit and smallest for the sixth-best fit). On the lower panel the area which a surface was fitted to is indicated by a dashed box and the highest point of that surface by a cross.

This suggests that spectral disentangling is not significantly affected by line blending. This conclusion was also reached by Hilditch (2005).

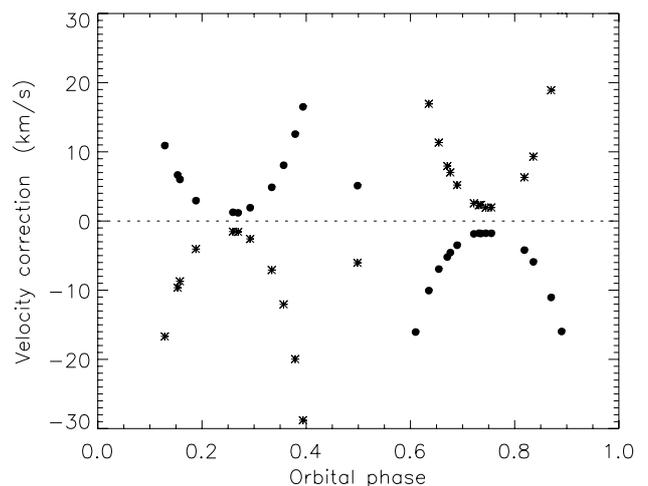
### 3.6. Final Keplerian orbit

The final velocity semiamplitudes for each radial velocity measurement technique are given in Table 6 along with our adopted values (velocity semiamplitudes from spectral disentangling and systemic velocities from 2GAUSS). The velocity semiamplitudes are in good agreement with the values derived by Ferrer et al. (1985):  $K_A = 261 \pm 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and  $K_B = 278 \pm 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Our systemic velocities are in acceptable agreement with the  $-10 \pm 5$  and  $-16 \pm 5 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  found by Ferrer et al.

We have shown that velocity corrections are needed for ONECOR and 2GAUSS as well as for TODCOR, and that both cross-correlation techniques seem to suffer from line blending even when these corrections have been included. We have also discovered that small differences in how the CCFs are calculated



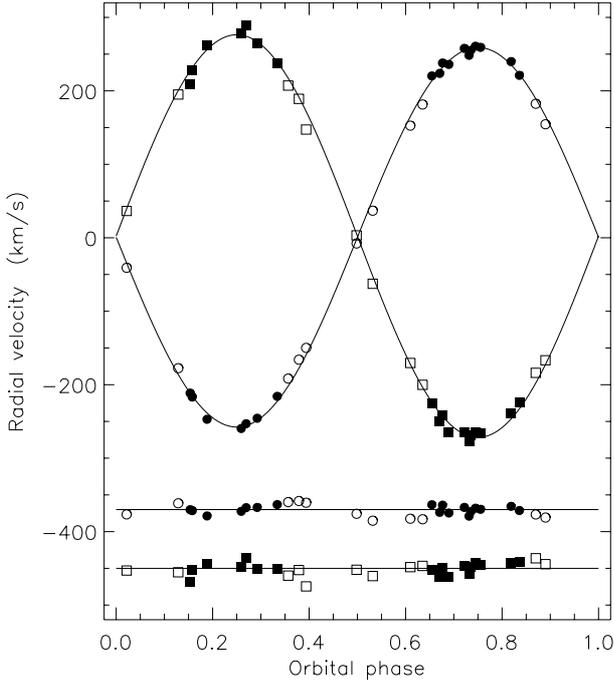
**Fig. 4.** Radial velocities and best-fitting spectroscopic orbit measured from analysing the  $\lambda 4471$  spectral line with TODCOR. No velocity corrections have been made. Circles represent velocities for star A and squares for star B. Rejected observations are shown using open symbols. They were rejected due to the appearance of their CCF, not the value of the derived velocities. See text for discussion.



**Fig. 5.** Corrections derived for the radial velocities measured from the  $\lambda 4471$  line using TODCOR. Values for star A are shown using filled circles and those for star B using asterisks. These corrections are an excellent indicator of the effects of line blending.

(including the size of the spectral range and whether the lowest frequency components of the Fourier transforms are suppressed) can make a significant difference to the uncorrected velocity semiamplitudes. These differences normally vanish when the velocity corrections are applied, illustrating how important the corrections can be. However, strongly blended lines continue to give unreliable velocities even when corrections are applied. Calculating corrections iteratively, using already corrected orbits, improves this slightly, but cross-correlation cannot reliably deal with spectra which are strongly affected by line blending.

Averaged spectroscopic orbits for each analysis technique have been calculated by finding the mean and the standard error of the velocity-corrected orbital parameters in Table 5 for different spectral lines (Table 6). It can be seen that the velocity semiamplitudes calculated using ONECOR and TODCOR are lower



**Fig. 6.** Radial velocities and best-fitting spectroscopic orbit measured from a TODCOR analysis of the  $\lambda 4471$  spectral line with velocity corrections subtracted. Symbols are as in Fig. 4. The residuals of the fit are shown towards the bottom of the plot. Points were rejected on the basis of the appearance of their CCF, but taking into account the effects of applying the corrections.

than those from 2GAUSS and disentangling. The main problem in determining these spectroscopic orbits is line blending, which will always act to reduce  $K_A$  and  $K_B$ . Therefore the techniques which are least affected by line blending should give higher  $K_A$  and  $K_B$ , implying that disentangling is best, closely followed by 2GAUSS, whereas the cross-correlation techniques, ONECOR and TODCOR, are significantly affected.

We have adopted the averaged spectroscopic orbit (and standard error) from disentangling as the best result, with the systemic velocities from 2GAUSS (note that this is not the final orbit: see below). The good agreement between this and the average orbit for 2GAUSS shows that the technique of fitting double Gaussians also performs very well in situations such as this. It is important to note that the results we derived using spectral disentangling can only be fully trusted because the results from other techniques confirm that we have chosen the correct peaks in the surfaces of fit quality versus  $K_A$  and  $K_B$  (Fig. 3), although in every case this peak was a global maximum. We have tabulated one set of radial velocities for the interested reader (Table 7). We chose the 2GAUSS analysis of the He I  $\lambda 4471$  line, as 2GAUSS seems to be more reliable than ONECOR or TODCOR, and the  $\lambda 4471$  line velocities give a similar result to the adopted final orbit.

It is also noticeable from Table 6 that the agreement between different analyses of the same spectral line is greater than that between the same analysis method used on different lines. This suggests that the systematic errors of different techniques are smaller than the random errors, although it must be remembered that the systematic errors may remain at full strength after the results from several lines have been averaged. The systemic velocities from different échelle orders have a poorer agreement than expected; any further investigation of this will require the

**Table 6.** Keplerian spectroscopic orbital parameters for DW Car. The mean and standard error are given for each of the four radial velocity analysis techniques, and for the final results. All quantities are in units of  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ .

	$K_A$	$K_B$	$V_{\gamma A}$	$V_{\gamma B}$
2GAUSS	$258.7 \pm 1.9$	$278.2 \pm 2.0$	$-7.3 \pm 3.7$	$-6.3 \pm 4.0$
ONECOR	$256.0 \pm 2.3$	$272.8 \pm 2.0$	$-4.3 \pm 4.9$	$-5.7 \pm 4.6$
TODCOR	$255.5 \pm 1.5$	$272.2 \pm 1.4$	$-5.6 \pm 4.2$	$-6.6 \pm 4.1$
Spec. dis.	$260.4 \pm 1.5$	$277.8 \pm 0.9$		
Adopted	$260.4 \pm 1.5$	$277.8 \pm 0.9$	$-7.3 \pm 3.7$	$-6.3 \pm 4.0$

**Table 7.** Corrected radial velocities from a 2GAUSS analysis of the He I  $\lambda 4471$  spectral line. Note that these data are only a small part of those used to calculate the final spectroscopic orbits. The columns marked O–C give the observed minus calculated velocity residuals.

HJD – 2 400 000	Weight	Radial velocities		O–C	
		star A	star B	A	B
51 144.83060	1.0	257.4	-279.8	-3.0	-2.0
51 145.84399	0.0	25.0	13.2	28.5	8.8
51 146.86755	1.0	-256.0	284.5	5.2	4.5
51 147.86649	0.0	-1.4	48.9	34.9	9.4
51 148.80902	1.0	247.7	-278.5	-12.1	-1.4
51 149.87170	0.0	106.7	66.2	55.4	120.4
51 150.83746	1.0	-262.2	276.5	0.5	-5.1
51 152.73657	1.0	240.0	-275.1	-2.8	-16.1
51 172.69544	2.0	256.2	-273.6	-1.2	1.0
51 174.78088	2.0	-252.7	269.4	1.3	-2.8
51 176.80734	1.0	246.9	-245.4	9.3	8.0
51 178.84953	1.0	-208.1	226.8	-1.6	5.4
51 179.87450	0.0	-192.6	216.3	-2.2	12.0
51 180.81349	1.0	230.1	-238.3	5.8	1.0
51 181.87490	1.0	193.7	-219.9	-2.4	-10.8
51 182.86220	0.0	-184.0	209.9	-2.2	14.8
51 184.86864	0.0	167.6	-193.0	1.1	-15.6
51 187.87364	1.0	-220.4	233.8	-4.4	2.1
51 189.86682	1.0	215.1	-223.6	-0.5	6.2
51 190.84867	0.0	-207.3	118.5	-44.1	-56.6
51 191.86279	1.0	-229.4	238.5	-9.3	2.5
51 192.80846	1.0	199.0	-201.8	8.4	1.4
51 193.87953	1.0	232.0	-244.4	-2.1	5.2
51 197.85496	1.0	230.3	-254.2	0.7	-9.4
51 199.87004	2.0	-247.1	254.8	-3.5	-6.4
51 209.72395	1.0	164.3	-196.2	-1.9	-19.1
51 382.51044	2.0	263.2	-270.3	1.9	8.6
51 386.50761	2.0	261.8	-273.0	0.5	5.9
51 563.86655	2.0	-221.5	251.4	6.1	7.4

use of spectra from a dEB which exhibits a far richer set of spectral lines.

### 3.7. Final spectroscopic orbit

The spectroscopic orbits fitted so far have been purely Keplerian, i.e. we have assumed that the velocities of the centres of light of the stars are identical to those of their centres of mass. In close binaries, though, the effects of reflection and ellipsoidal stellar shape can cause the observed velocities to be significantly different to the centre-of-mass velocities. These effects are accurately modelled by the Wilson-Devinney code (see Sect. 4), which can be used to correct individual radial velocities using a given system geometry. However, our adopted velocity semi-amplitudes were calculated using spectral disentangling. With this technique the spectroscopic orbit is calculated directly without the intermediate step of calculating radial velocities. We

**Table 8.** Final spectroscopic orbit after correction for non-Keplerian effects.  $i$  and  $a$  are the orbital inclination and semimajor axis, respectively.

	Star A	Star B
$K$ (Keplerian) (km s <sup>-1</sup> )	260.4 ± 1.5	277.8 ± 0.9
$K$ (corrected) (km s <sup>-1</sup> )	261.7 ± 1.6	279.3 ± 1.2
Mass ratio	0.9370 ± 0.0070	
$a \sin i$ ( $R_{\odot}$ )	14.192 ± 0.052	
$M \sin^3 i$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	11.25 ± 0.12	10.54 ± 0.14

therefore cannot apply radial velocity corrections and so must calculate corrections which can be applied to the velocity semi-amplitudes themselves.

We have calculated spectroscopic orbits for the 2GAUSS radial velocities, using the Wilson-Devinney code both with and without the inclusion of non-Keplerian effects. This has been done for échelle orders 55, 51, 50 and 45. The mean value and standard error of the resulting corrections to the velocity semi-amplitudes (in the sense  $K_{\text{true}} - K_{\text{Keplerian}} = \Delta K$ ) are  $\Delta K_A = +1.3 \pm 0.1$  km s<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta K_B = +1.5 \pm 0.2$  km s<sup>-1</sup>. This indicates that in this case fitting Keplerian orbits caused the velocity amplitudes (and so the masses) to be systematically underestimated by a small but significant amount. This is the expected result, because the light centres for each star are shifted towards the companion due to their mutual irradiation, causing the measured radial velocities to be underestimates of the motion of the centre of mass.

The final spectroscopic orbit, with the non-Keplerian correction applied, is given in Table 8. The resulting minimum masses are  $M_A \sin^3 i = 11.25 \pm 0.12 M_{\odot}$  and  $M_B \sin^3 i = 10.54 \pm 0.14 M_{\odot}$  where  $i$  is the orbital inclination. The corrections to the systemic velocities are negligible and have not been applied.

### 3.8. Spectroscopic light ratio

The light ratio of the two stars is poorly defined by the light curves of the system (see below) so we have derived a spectroscopic light ratio to help constrain the light curve solutions. The TODCOR algorithm was used to analytically determine the light ratio for each spectral line analysed (see Sect. 3.3 and Table 3), yielding an average value and standard deviation of  $\frac{I_B}{I_A} = 0.873 \pm 0.042$ . The wavelength dependence of the light ratio is negligible between the Balmer jump and 5500 Å (see Sect. 4.1). This is a reliable equivalent width ratio measurement because the components of DW Car have very similar spectral characteristics, and the same template spectrum was used for both stars.

The equivalent widths of the He I  $\lambda 4026$  and  $\lambda 4471$  lines for both stars were also measured directly using several spectra with large velocity separations and high signal to noise ratios. The component lines are still slightly blended so we have used the deblending feature of the IRAF<sup>4</sup> task SPLIT to measure the line strengths. The mean values and standard deviations are  $0.87 \pm 0.03$  and  $0.89 \pm 0.03$  for the  $\lambda 4026$  and  $\lambda 4471$  lines respectively, in good agreement with the TODCOR results.

The He I lines are intrinsically slightly stronger in star B ( $T_{\text{eff}} = 26\,500$  K) than in star A ( $T_{\text{eff}} = 27\,900$  K), so the equivalent width ratios are slightly different to light ratios. A correction was derived using intrinsic equivalent width ratios taken from

<sup>4</sup> IRAF is distributed by the National Optical Astronomical Observatories, which are operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. under contract with the National Science Foundation.

UCLSYN and was found to be  $0.97 \pm 0.01$ . The final light ratio, using the equivalent width measurements, is  $0.84 \pm 0.04$  for the  $\lambda 4026$  line, which is close to the central wavelength of the Strömgen  $v$  passband, 4110 Å (Strömgen 1963).

### 3.9. Spectroscopic helium abundance

At the suggestion of the referee we have attempted to derive surface helium abundances for the components of DW Car. The high rotational velocities mean that this is difficult, but spectroscopic abundance analyses have been successfully performed on similar objects by Pavlovski & Hensberge (2005) and Pavlovski et al. (2006). Our data contain insufficient information to significantly constrain the metal abundances of the components of DW Car.

Model atmospheres were calculated using the ATLAS9 code (Kurucz 1979). Non-LTE atomic level populations were obtained for hydrogen and helium using the DETAIL code and synthetic spectra were constructed using the SURFACE code (Butler & Giddings 1985). We adopted the effective temperatures and light ratio for DW Car found below and calculated the residuals of the best fit for several different helium abundances.

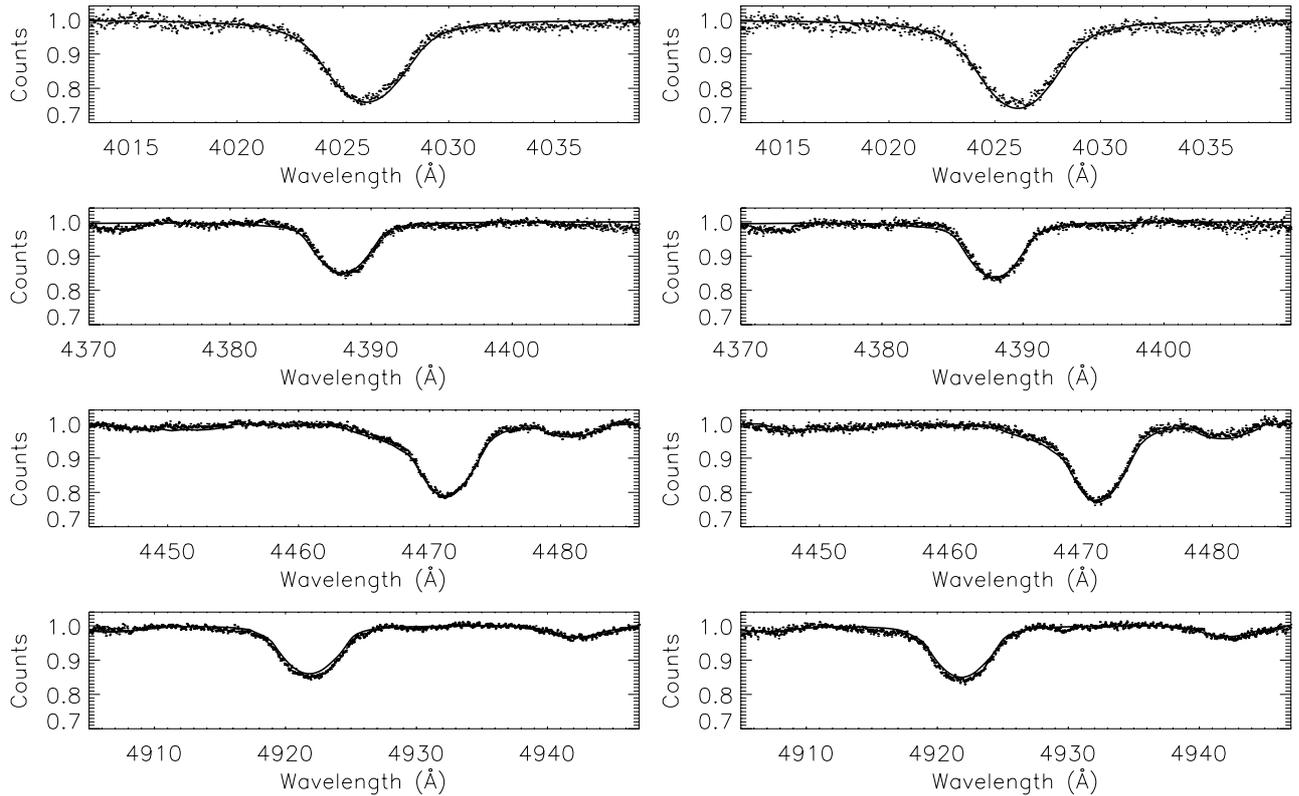
Formally, the best fits are found for a helium abundance equal to or slightly lower than the solar value (Fig. 7), but with a large uncertainty. Varying the metal abundance within reasonable limits has no significant effect. However, whilst the fit of the lines at 4388 Å and 4471 Å are excellent, the 4026 Å line is too shallow in the synthetic spectrum whilst the 4922 Å line is too deep. The investigation of these effects is beyond the scope of this work. We conclude that the spectra are consistent with a solar or subsolar helium abundance but not with an abundance significantly greater than solar.

The rotational velocities were also optimised when fitting the theoretical spectra to the disentangled spectra, and the best-fitting values are  $V_A \sin i = 182 \pm 3$  km s<sup>-1</sup> and  $V_B \sin i = 177 \pm 3$  km s<sup>-1</sup>.

## 4. Light curve analysis

The light curves of DW Car contain 518 photoelectric observations in each of the *uvby* passbands (Paper I). The two eclipses are relatively long in phase units and are both about 0.7 mag deep, indicating that the system is composed of two similar and close stars. We have used the 2003 version (Van Hamme & Wilson 2003) of the Wilson-Devinney code (Wilson & Devinney 1971; Wilson 1979, 1993), hereafter called WD2003, to model the light curves, as Roche geometry is needed to adequately represent the tidal deformation of the two stars. WD2003 optionally uses the predictions of the ATLAS9 model atmospheres (Kurucz 1993) to connect the flux ratios of the two stars in different passbands.

Initial investigations showed that the orbital eccentricity is negligible, so we assumed that the orbit is circular. The rotational velocities of the stars were fixed at the synchronous values as these are consistent with the spectral line widths. The bolometric albedo coefficients and gravity brightening exponents were fixed at 1.0, which is the expected value for stars with radiative envelopes (Claret 1998). The mass ratio was fixed at the spectroscopic result of 0.937 and we chose to model reflection using the faster and simpler of the two alternatives implemented in WD2003. We have used grid sizes of  $N = 20$  for each star; solutions with finer grids gave negligibly different results.



**Fig. 7.** Plot of the normalised disentangled profiles of four helium lines for each star compared to theoretical spectra calculated for helium abundance  $Y = 0.28$  and the effective temperatures and light ratio found in our analysis. The *left-hand panels* are for star A and the *right-hand panels* for star B. The observed spectra are plotted using points and the theoretical spectra using solid lines.

We expected that there would be a small amount of contaminating “third” light in the light curves of DW Car, as its Be star nature indicates that there is substantial circumbinary material. Third light was therefore included as a fitting parameter in the light curve analysis, but the optimised values were all consistent with, and marginally lower than, zero. We therefore have assumed that third light is zero. A small amount of third light (up to about 5%, which is an order of magnitude greater than the best-fitting values) will have a negligible effect on the light curve solutions.

Limb darkening coefficients were initially set to values found by bilinear interpolation in effective temperature and surface gravity from the coefficients tabulated by Van Hamme (1993), but in our final solutions we have always optimised these values to avoid the theoretical dependence caused by using coefficients calculated from stellar atmosphere models. The choice of linear, logarithmic or square-root law has a negligible effect on the solutions so we have chosen to use the latter, as this provides the best fit to model atmosphere predictions for hot stars (Van Hamme 1993). Fixing the limb darkening coefficients at either the Van Hamme (1993) or Claret (2000) theoretical values causes a negligible change in the final solution – of the order of 0.1% in the stellar radii. The optimised values are generally in good agreement with the theoretically predicted coefficients.

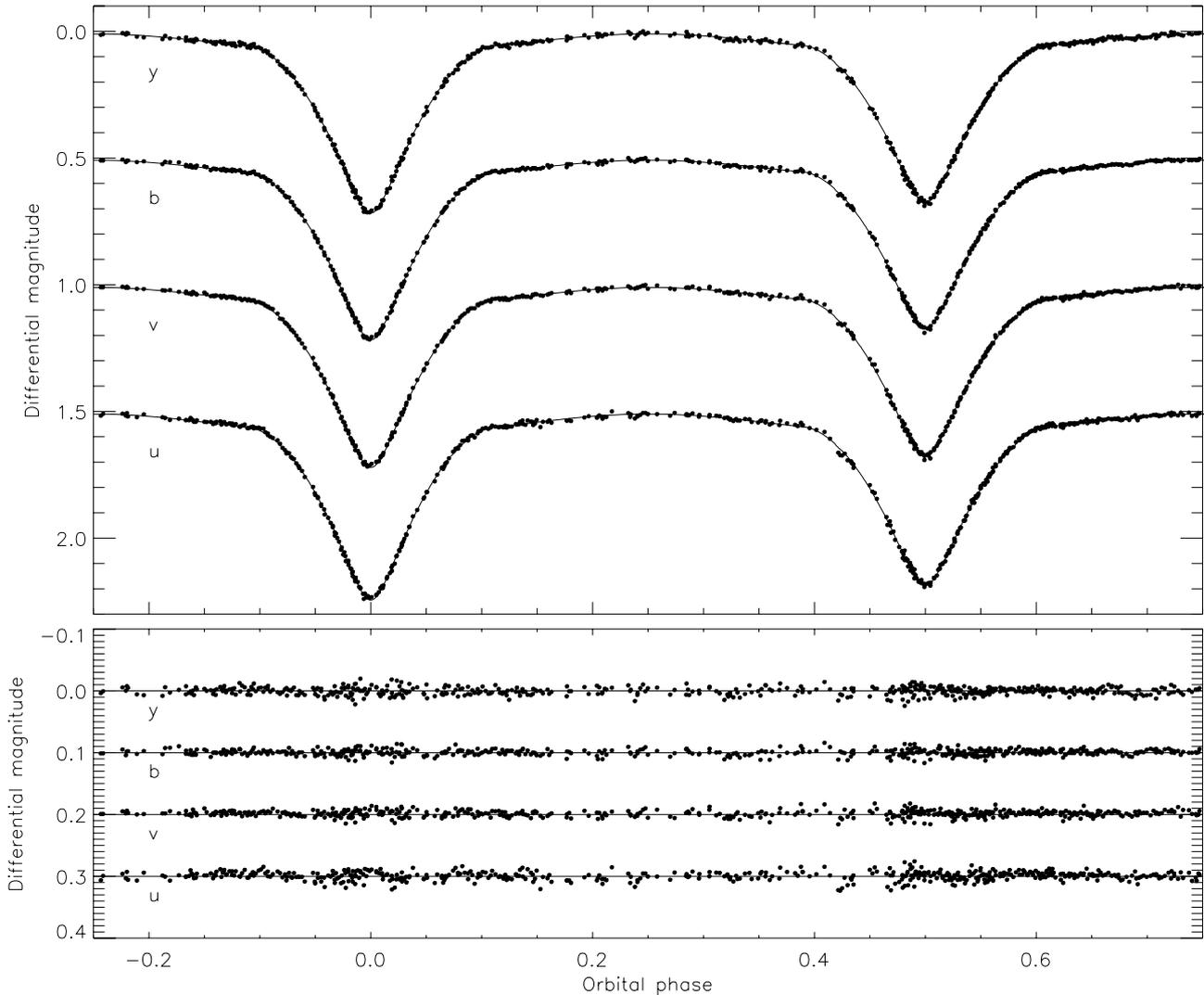
The radii found by fitting the light curves with WD2003 are strongly correlated with each other and with the light ratio, resulting in one of many different light curve solutions (i.e., local minima in parameter space) being found depending on the initial fitting estimates. The residuals of the fit are approximately constant for ratios of the radii between 0.8 and 1.2. We have therefore used the light ratio of  $0.84 \pm 0.04$  found in Sect. 3.8 to

constrain the solution of the  $v$  band light curve. This was done by fixing the potential of star A at values which gave the desired light ratio and plus or minus its uncertainty. These values for potential were then fixed for the  $uby$  light curve solutions. The potential of star B, the orbital inclination, the phase shift between primary midminimum and phase zero, and the light contributions for the two stars were optimised for each light curve. The linear terms in the square-root limb darkening law were also optimised. The effective temperatures of the two stars were fixed at nominal values (27 500 and 26 750 K), but these do not affect the final solution because we are fitting for the light contributions of both stars directly. Figure 8 shows the light curve fits and residuals.

Table 9 contains the values of the optimised parameters, as well as the standard errors calculated by WD2003, for each light curve and for each of the three potentials of star A (4.101, 4.132 and 4.157) which are required to reproduce the light ratios 0.80, 0.84 and 0.88 for the  $v$  light curve. We have adopted the results for a star A potential of 4.132 as the final values. The uncertainties in these light curve parameter values have been calculated by adding in quadrature an uncertainty from the variation for different potentials to the mean standard error for each parameter. Additional uncertainties due to the treatment of third light and limb darkening are negligible.

#### 4.1. Strömgren indices for each star

Separate Strömgren photometric indices can be derived for each star from the indices of the system and the light ratios in the  $uby$  passbands. This requires a solution of the light curve with a consistent geometry, so we have derived the flux ratios and



**Fig. 8.** Light curves and best WD2003 fit with the potential of star A fixed at 4.1706 (*upper panel*) and the residuals of the fit (*lower panel*) shown with an expanded scale in magnitudes.

corresponding Strömgren indices (and uncertainties) by fitting the light curves with the potential of star A fixed at the values found above. For each fixed potential, we have calculated the Strömgren indices for each star from the indices of the combined system and the light ratios in the four light curves (Table 9). The uncertainties in Table 9 have been calculated by adding in quadrature all the relevant uncertainties, including those resulting from the range of possible values of the potential of star A. They are somewhat lower than they would be if we had simply used the final light ratio errors for each light curve, because the light ratios are correlated with each other (i.e., a change in the potential of star A causes absolute changes in the light ratios significantly larger than they change relative to each other).

The *uvby* light curves have also been solved simultaneously to derive an effective temperature difference for the two component stars. In this case, the light ratios in different passbands must be connected, which can be achieved either using Planck law or by using the predictions of theoretical model atmospheres. The Planck law is not a good option for DW Car because the Balmer jump causes the stars' radiative properties to be quite different from black bodies. WD2003 optionally uses predictions from Kurucz ATLAS9 model atmospheres, which should be

reliable in this case as the effective temperatures of the two stars are very similar. Using this option, we have obtained an effective temperature difference of  $T_{\text{effA}} - T_{\text{effB}} = 1380 \pm 420$  K for the stars in DW Car, where the error has been found by adding in quadrature the uncertainty caused by varying the potential of star A as before, and the formal error of the temperature difference calculated from the covariance matrix by WD2003. Formal errors can be underestimates of the real uncertainties of light curve parameters (Popper 1984; Maceroni & Rucinski 1997; Southworth et al. 2005a).

## 5. Absolute dimensions

The masses, radii and surface gravities of the two components of DW Car have been calculated from the results of the spectroscopic and photometric analyses. Using careful error propagation, we find that the masses and radii are known to accuracies of about 1% (Table 11). DW Car therefore joins the (very short) list of well-studied high-mass unevolved dEBs, alongside QX Car (Andersen et al. 1983) and V578 Mon (Hensberge et al. 2000).

We have derived the effective temperatures of the two stars from the Strömgren indices found in Sect. 4.1 using the

**Table 9.** WD2003 light curve solutions for DW Car. A light ratio was used to constrain the solution for the  $v$  light curve, and the resulting potential of star A was fixed for the other light curves (see text for further details). The quoted errors (except for the adopted values in the final column) are the standard errors calculated by WD2003.

Parameter	Potential of star A	$v$ $\pm$	$y$ $\pm$	$b$ $\pm$	$u$ $\pm$	Adopted values
Light ratio	4.101	0.800	$0.796 \pm 0.012$	$0.797 \pm 0.009$	$0.769 \pm 0.034$	
	4.132	0.840	$0.840 \pm 0.014$	$0.840 \pm 0.010$	$0.813 \pm 0.034$	
	4.157	0.880	$0.879 \pm 0.013$	$0.881 \pm 0.010$	$0.858 \pm 0.032$	
Potential of star B	4.101	$4.225 \pm 0.007$	$4.236 \pm 0.009$	$4.228 \pm 0.007$	$4.248 \pm 0.011$	
	4.132	$4.192 \pm 0.007$	$4.200 \pm 0.009$	$4.193 \pm 0.007$	$4.211 \pm 0.010$	
	4.157	$4.157 \pm 0.007$	$4.167 \pm 0.008$	$4.158 \pm 0.007$	$4.172 \pm 0.009$	
Fractional radius of star A	4.101	0.3237	0.3236	0.3237	0.3237	0.3203
	4.132	0.3203	0.3203	0.3203	0.3203	$\pm 0.0030$
	4.157	0.3176	0.3175	0.3175	0.3175	
Fractional radius of star B	4.101	$0.2993 \pm 0.0007$	$0.2982 \pm 0.0009$	$0.2990 \pm 0.0007$	$0.2970 \pm 0.0011$	0.3019
	4.132	$0.3026 \pm 0.0007$	$0.3018 \pm 0.0009$	$0.3025 \pm 0.0007$	$0.3007 \pm 0.0010$	$\pm 0.0037$
	4.157	$0.3063 \pm 0.0007$	$0.3052 \pm 0.0009$	$0.3061 \pm 0.0007$	$0.3048 \pm 0.0010$	
Orbital inclination (degrees)	4.101	$85.76 \pm 0.07$	$86.00 \pm 0.09$	$85.96 \pm 0.07$	$86.13 \pm 0.08$	85.72
	4.132	$85.61 \pm 0.07$	$85.77 \pm 0.04$	$85.75 \pm 0.04$	$85.74 \pm 0.06$	$\pm 0.28$
	4.157	$85.63 \pm 0.07$	$85.73 \pm 0.08$	$85.70 \pm 0.07$	$85.83 \pm 0.09$	
Phase shift of primary midminimum ( $10^{-3}$ )	4.101	$0.06 \pm 0.04$	$-0.02 \pm 0.03$	$-0.02 \pm 0.05$	$0.03 \pm 0.05$	
	4.132	$0.08 \pm 0.05$	$-0.03 \pm 0.07$	$-0.01 \pm 0.05$	$0.01 \pm 0.05$	
	4.157	$0.06 \pm 0.04$	$-0.04 \pm 0.04$	$0.00 \pm 0.05$	$0.04 \pm 0.04$	
Linear LD coefficient of star A (using the square-root law)	4.101	$-0.124 \pm 0.031$	$-0.132 \pm 0.037$	$-0.156 \pm 0.029$	$-0.056 \pm 0.038$	
	4.132	$-0.084 \pm 0.031$	$-0.091 \pm 0.038$	$-0.113 \pm 0.030$	$-0.023 \pm 0.038$	
	4.157	$-0.125 \pm 0.036$	$-0.114 \pm 0.043$	$-0.137 \pm 0.036$	$-0.039 \pm 0.045$	
Linear LD coefficient of star B (using the square-root law)	4.101	$-0.093 \pm 0.042$	$-0.087 \pm 0.050$	$-0.117 \pm 0.041$	$-0.069 \pm 0.058$	
	4.132	$-0.095 \pm 0.042$	$-0.068 \pm 0.052$	$-0.109 \pm 0.042$	$-0.017 \pm 0.057$	
	4.157	$-0.145 \pm 0.043$	$-0.114 \pm 0.052$	$-0.149 \pm 0.042$	$-0.065 \pm 0.058$	
Size of residuals $\sigma_{\text{rms}}$ (mmag)	4.101	5.21	6.20	4.97	7.15	
	4.132	5.16	6.23	5.00	7.04	
	4.157	5.39	6.23	5.02	7.04	

calibration of Moon & Dworetzky (1985) contained in the code UVBYBETA (Moon 1985). Using the individual Strömgren indices for each star, we find  $T_{\text{effA}} = 27\,800 \pm 1100$  and  $T_{\text{effB}} = 26\,500 \pm 1300$  K, where the error does not include any uncertainty in the calibration and its main contribution comes from the uncertainty in the  $m_1$  indices. However, the equivalent effective temperature of the system is much better defined:  $T_{\text{effA+B}} = 27\,230 \pm 390$  K, and the temperature difference is also well defined from the light curve analysis:  $T_{\text{effA}} - T_{\text{effB}} = 1380 \pm 420$  K (formal error). Using these quantities, and including an estimated uncertainty in the photometric calibration, we find temperatures of  $27\,900 \pm 1000$  and  $26\,500 \pm 1000$  for the two stars. The calibrations of Davis & Shobbrook (1977) and Napiwotzki et al. (1993) give temperatures in good agreement with these values.

The equatorial rotational velocities quoted for each star were found by comparing the disentangled spectra of the stars to theoretical spectra in order to determine the surface helium abundance (Sect. 3.9). They are slightly greater than the synchronous value despite the short orbital period of DW Car. This indicates that it is a young system in which the rotational and orbital velocities have not yet been equalised by tidal effects.

The reddening of the system has been found using the UVBYBETA code, which implements the  $(b - y)_0$  vs.  $c_0$  relation by Crawford (1978). The reddening for the system indices and for the individual stars is  $E_{b-y_{A+B}} = 0.180 \pm 0.007$ ,  $E_{b-y_A} = 0.177 \pm 0.054$  and  $E_{b-y_B} = 0.182 \pm 0.064$ , where the quoted errors come only from varying the indices within their uncertainties. The main contribution to the reddening uncertainties for the individual stars comes from the uncertainty

in their  $(b - y)$  colours. We will adopt  $E_{b-y} = 0.18 \pm 0.02$  for DW Car, where the quoted error includes a contribution from the estimated uncertainty in the calibration.

### 5.1. The distance to DW Car

Now we have the absolute dimensions and effective temperatures of the two stars we can calculate the distance to the system. Distances are in general more accurate and precise at infrared wavelengths (Southworth et al. 2005a), but we are lacking reliable apparent magnitudes in the *JHKL* passbands. These would be available from 2MASS, but are too faint because they were taken during secondary eclipse. *JHKL* photometry is available from Tapia et al. (1988) but seems to be too bright compared to the optical colours of DW Car. The emission-line nature of DW Car suggests that there may be a circumbinary disc. This may affect the infrared colours of the system, resulting in brighter apparent magnitudes. We are therefore unable to use infrared magnitudes of DW Car to measure its distance with any confidence.

We have used the *V* band magnitude and flux ratio of DW Car (Table 10) to determine the distance to each star and to the system using several sources of bolometric corrections. We used the JK TABSDIM code<sup>5</sup>, which calculates distances using several different sources of bolometric corrections (Southworth et al. 2005a). The available sets of bolometric corrections are calculated using, in general, different radiative parameters for the Sun (Bessell et al. 1998). It is important to adopt the appropriate

<sup>5</sup> This can be obtained from <http://www.astro.keele.ac.uk/~jkt/codes.html>

**Table 10.** Light ratios of DW Car for a consistent geometry, with the resulting Strömgren indices. Note that the quoted flux ratio errors were not used in calculating the errors of the indices of each star.

	$y$	$b$	$v$	$u$
Flux ratios	0.840	0.840	0.840	0.813
$\pm$	0.046	0.044	0.040	0.056
	$V$	$b-y$	$m_1$	$c_1$
System	9.675	0.067	0.046	-0.017
$\pm$	0.005	0.005	0.008	0.008
Star A	10.307	0.067	0.046	-0.034
$\pm$	0.026	0.011	0.016	0.023
Star B	10.563	0.067	0.046	0.004
$\pm$	0.032	0.014	0.020	0.030

values when using bolometric corrections, and improper results can be obtained if this is not done (see discussion in Southworth et al. 2005c).

Adopting the bolometric correction formula of Flower (1996), we find that the individual distances of the two stars are in acceptable agreement (2877 and 2742 pc), and the overall distance measurement to the system is  $2810 \pm 160$  pc, where the main contributor to the uncertainty comes from the reddening. If we use the theoretically-derived  $V$  band bolometric corrections of Bessell et al. (1998) or Girardi et al. (2002) we find distances to DW Car of  $2710 \pm 140$  pc and  $2720 \pm 140$  pc, respectively. The agreement between the different distance measurements is acceptable given the uncertainties, but not as good as we were expecting. The components of DW Car are hot stars, and transforming their visual absolute magnitudes into bolometric ones requires corrections which are large and relatively uncertain. An improved distance estimate could be found by studying the ultraviolet to optical spectral energy distribution of the system (see Guinan et al. 1998; and Fitzpatrick & Massa 1999).

Using the  $RI$  photometry of DW Car from Carraro & Patat (2001) and bolometric corrections from Girardi et al. (2002) gives distances of  $2890 \pm 130$  pc and  $2710 \pm 110$  pc, for  $R$  and  $I$  respectively, where the decreasing importance of the uncertainty in reddening towards longer wavelengths can be seen. However, we will adopt  $2810 \pm 160$  pc as our final distance, found from the  $V$  band photometry and the Flower bolometric correction formula, because this is an empirical measurement. The corresponding distance modulus is  $12.24 \pm 0.12$  mag.

## 6. Comparison with theoretical models

Graphical comparisons between the predictions of theoretical stellar models and the physical properties of a dEB provide a clear and straightforward interpretation of the agreement or disagreement between theory and observation. The most important plot is of mass versus radius, as these are the two quantities which have been directly measured for the dEB (i.e., without using any calibrations). A second plot can be made because we have measured both the radii and effective temperatures of two stars with known masses. Choosing the ordinate quantity to be mass is again the best approach because the masses of the stars have been directly measured and because model predictions are calculated for specific (initial) masses. The abscissal quantity could be either effective temperature or luminosity (or, equivalently, absolute bolometric magnitude); we prefer the former because this quantity has been measured more directly than luminosity.

**Table 11.** The physical parameters of the component stars of DW Car derived from the results of the spectroscopic and photometric analyses.  $V_{\text{eq}}$  denotes the observed equatorial rotational velocities of the stars. † Calculated assuming  $L_{\odot} = 3.826 \times 10^{26}$  W and  $M_{\text{bol}\odot} = 4.75$  (Zombeck 1990).

Parameter	Star A	Star B
Mass ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$11.34 \pm 0.12$	$10.63 \pm 0.14$
Radius ( $R_{\odot}$ )	$4.558 \pm 0.045$	$4.297 \pm 0.055$
$\log(g/\text{cm s}^{-2})$	$4.175 \pm 0.008$	$4.198 \pm 0.011$
$V_{\text{eq}}$ ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	$183 \pm 3$	$178 \pm 3$
$V_{\text{synch}}$ ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )	$173.6 \pm 1.7$	$163.7 \pm 2.1$
$\log T_{\text{eff}}$ (K)	$4.446 \pm 0.016$	$4.423 \pm 0.016$
$\log(L/L_{\odot})$ †	$4.055 \pm 0.063$	$3.915 \pm 0.067$
$M_{\text{bol}}$ †	$-5.39 \pm 0.16$	$-5.04 \pm 0.17$

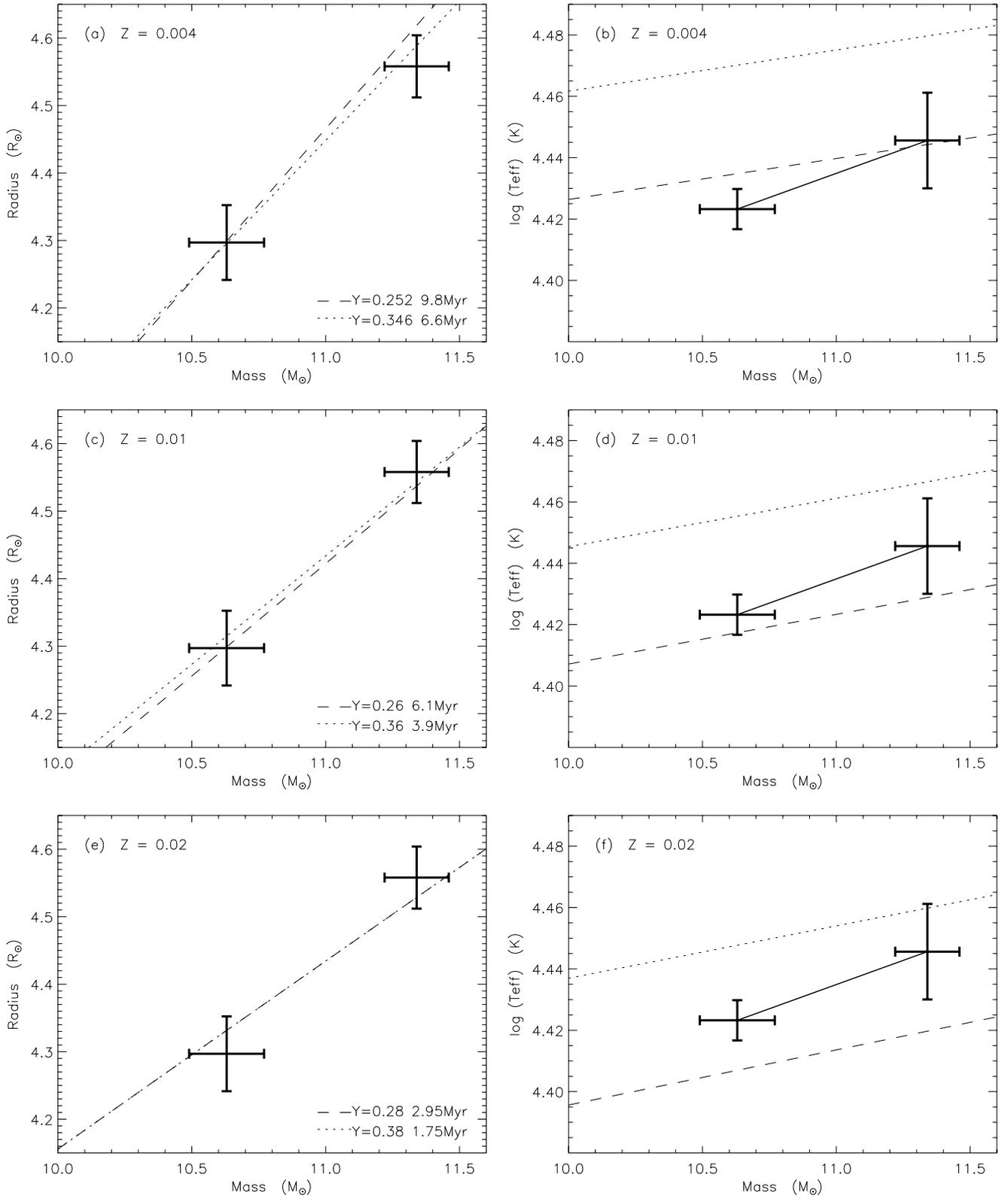
In dEBs such as DW Car, which are composed of two similar stars, the effective temperatures can be very similar and the errorbars often overlap. In this case, the temperature difference suggested by the individual temperatures (Table 11) is  $1400 \pm 1420$  K, whereas results from the light curve analysis give a much more precise temperature difference of  $1380 \pm 420$  K. This can be represented on a mass-temperature plot by giving full-size errorbars to one star (here star A) and only relative errorbars to the other star (B).

We have chosen to compare the properties of DW Car with theoretical predictions from the Claret evolutionary models (Claret 1995, 1997; Claret & Giménez 1995) which are available for several fractional helium abundances,  $Y$ , for each fractional metal abundance,  $Z$ . These models use the opacities of Iglesias et al. (1992) and incorporate moderate convective core overshooting (with  $\alpha_{\text{OV}} = 0.20$ ) and mass loss, and are given for scaled-solar metal abundances.

Isochrones for the best-fitting ages are plotted in Fig. 9 for metal abundances of  $Z = 0.004, 0.01$  and  $0.02$ . A subsolar metal abundance,  $Z = 0.01$ , provides an excellent match to the masses and radii of DW Car, but predictions for the other chemical compositions are also in reasonable agreement here. However, the standard helium abundances in the Claret models (dashed lines) give rise to predicted temperatures slightly too cool for  $Z = 0.01$  and  $0.02$ , although good agreement is found for  $Z = 0.004$ . A slightly enhanced helium abundance gives a better fit. All models predict shallower mass- $T_{\text{eff}}$  slope for DW Car, although they agree within the uncertainties.

Other sets of model predictions (Schaller et al. 1992; Pols et al. 1998) were investigated and similar results were found. ‘‘Classical’’ models (without convective core overshooting; Pols et al. 1998), gave predictions which were negligibly different from their equivalent overshooting models, as expected for such young stars.

Whilst we found the surface helium abundance of DW Car to be approximately solar (Sect. 3.9), the model comparison suggests an overall abundance slightly greater than solar. Note that these two statements are not mutually inconsistent because they refer to different parts of the stars. However, neither abundance measurement is very accurate. We conclude that the best match between stellar models and the properties of DW Car is found for a metal abundance of  $Z = 0.01$ , a helium abundance of  $Y = 0.26$  (roughly solar), and an age of 6 Myr. However, these three quantities are all quite uncertain and have a dependence on theoretical models. The age and chemical composition we infer for DW Car are relatively imprecise because its two component



**Fig. 9.** Comparison between the properties of DW Car and the predictions of the Claret stellar evolutionary models. Panels **a)** and **b)** are a simultaneous match for metal abundance  $Z = 0.004$ , panels **c)** and **d)** likewise for  $Z = 0.01$  and panels **e)** and **f)** for  $Z = 0.02$ . The model helium abundances and interpolated ages are given in the legend of each *left-hand panel*. The errorbars plotted for the effective temperature of star B are relative to the effective temperature of star A and *do not represent the overall uncertainty*.

stars have similar properties. Much more precise conclusions are possible for dEBs with smaller mass ratios (e.g., Southworth et al. 2004b).

## 7. DW Car and Collinder 228

DW Car is a photometric member of Cr228 and has a sky position close to the cluster centre. However, the systemic

velocities of Cr 228 quoted by Rastorguev et al. (1999) and Levato et al. (1990),  $-12 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and  $-13.5 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  respectively, disagree slightly with our measured systemic velocity for DW Car (Table 6). However, as noted in Sect. 3.7, the systemic velocities from the different échelle orders are not in full agreement considering their formal errors. Ferrer et al. (1985) found systemic velocities for the components of DW Car in good agreement with the cluster velocity. As our measured distance and reddening are also appropriate for cluster membership, it seems most probable that DW Car does belong to Cr 228. We can therefore derive the important astrophysical properties for Cr 228 from those for DW Car.

The distance we derive,  $(m - M)_0 = 12.24 \pm 0.12 \text{ mag}$ , is in good agreement with most of the measurements in the literature, including that of Thé et al. (1980) for a *normal* reddening law, but not including those of Carraro & Patat (2001) and Tapia et al. (1988). The disagreement with Tapia et al. results from the very large interstellar extinction value they find using infrared photometry. Our distance is the most accurate of the measurements, demonstrating that dEBs are excellent distance indicators. Our reddening value for DW Car, equivalent to  $E_{B-V} = 0.25 \pm 0.03 \text{ mag}$  (Crawford 1978), is in reasonable agreement with most literature values.

The age of Cr 228 is less well known. Determinations on the basis of photometry alone are tricky due to the sparse nature of the cluster, difficulties with measuring reddening, and because *UBV* photometry is a poor temperature indicator for hot stars (e.g., Massey & Johnson 1993). Massey et al. (2001) used classification spectroscopy to measure ages for many stars in Cr 228 and found an age of about 2 Myr, in good agreement with our estimate of about 5 Myr from comparison with the Claret evolutionary models.

The chemical composition of Cr 228 has not previously been studied. We find a metal abundance of  $Z \approx 0.01$  and an approximately solar helium abundance from the properties of DW Car. A spectroscopic abundance study of some of the more slowly-rotating members of Cr 228 would be very useful in specifying the chemical composition of the cluster and of DW Car, which would provide an additional constraint when comparing model predictions to the properties of this system.

## 8. Summary

DW Carinae is a young, high-mass detached eclipsing binary system with a short orbital period. It is particularly interesting because it is unevolved, shows Be star emission-line characteristics, and is a member of the young open cluster Collinder 228 in the Carina complex.

The spectra of DW Car contain strong hydrogen lines, with some superimposed Be-type emission from circumbinary material, but there are very few other noticeable absorption lines. As a result of this, we were only able to measure radial velocities from four or five helium lines. The high rotational velocities of the stars mean that other lines are not detectable, or that small changes in continuum placement can cause a large change in the derived radial velocities. Due to the high rotational velocities, we measured radial velocities using several ways to investigate which are the most reliable in the presence of strong line blending.

Individual radial velocities were obtained by fitting double Gaussians, by cross-correlation, and by the two-dimensional cross-correlation algorithm TODCOR (Zucker & Mazeh 1994) using the spectrum of a standard star as a template. Spectroscopic orbits were also obtained directly (by least-squares fitting) using

spectral disentangling (Simon & Sturm 1994), although this procedure is not straightforward due to a profusion of local maxima in the surface of the quality of the fit in parameter space.

We have found that the radial velocities derived from Gaussian fitting and from cross-correlation require substantial corrections for the effects of line blending. These corrections were derived from simulated composite spectra, constructed using a broadened observed template spectrum, for radial velocity offsets appropriate for each observed spectrum. The corrections were the best-behaved for Gaussian fitting, despite the obvious shortcoming of this technique that helium lines do not have strictly Gaussian shapes. However, the corrections for cross-correlation do not seem to have been completely successful, in that the resulting spectroscopic orbits have systematically lower amplitudes than those derived from the other two methods. The line blending problem is more severe for cross-correlation, because both the object and the template spectra are broadened (using an unbroadened template spectrum causes excessive random errors in the resulting radial velocities). Gaussian fitting, on the other hand, explicitly accounts for the presence of blending lines from the other star, so gives results which are reliable. The cross-correlation results could probably be improved by fitting single-lined CCFs to the double-lined CCFs (see Hill 1993). The broadening-function approach advocated by Rucinski (2002) is also a useful alternative. The poor performance of TODCOR in dealing with line blending arises because it presents no significant advantage over traditional cross-correlation when the component stars have very similar spectral characteristics (P. F. L. Maxted, private communication).

The orbits measured from spectral disentangling were the most internally consistent, and did not require correcting for blending. Disentangling should be innately more appropriate to this situation because it assumes nothing about the spectral characteristics of the stars, and uses (almost) every observed spectrum in a simultaneous least-squares fit. However, it suffers from the presence of many local maxima in the surface of quality of the fit to the observations. The best approach for measuring spectroscopic orbits in the presence of strong line blending is therefore to use spectral disentangling, checked and corroborated by the results of fitting double Gaussian functions. Conducting such analyses for many lines (helped if the spectra have the wide wavelength coverage achievable using échelle spectrographs) is very useful as it allows the overall errors to be both reduced and robustly estimated.

The light curves of DW Car were modelled using the Wilson-Devinney code. The ratio of the radii of the stars is intrinsically poorly determined by the light curves due to correlations between various photometric parameters, as is often found for systems with deep but not total eclipses. This degeneracy was broken by constraining the light curve solution using a spectroscopically-derived light ratio. We also fitted directly for the limb darkening coefficients of the stars in order to avoid a dependence on theoretically-derived coefficients. The adoption of different limb darkening laws (linear, square-root and logarithmic) makes a negligible difference to the result, and the fitted coefficients are also in good agreement with the predictions from model atmosphere analyses.

The masses and radii of the components of DW Car, calculated from the results of the spectroscopic and photometric analyses, are known to accuracies of about 1%, so this system joins the short list of well-studied dEBs containing components with masses above  $10 M_{\odot}$ . The effective temperatures, and interstellar extinction were derived using photometric calibrations and the individual Strömberg indices, which were calculated for the

two stars from the combined indices and the light ratios found during the light curve analysis.

The properties of DW Car can be used to infer the properties of its parent cluster, Cr 228. The distance modulus of the dEB, calculated using the empirical bolometric corrections of Flower (1996), is  $12.24 \pm 0.12$  mag, which is the most accurate measurement of Cr 228's distance yet. A comparison between the properties of DW Car and predictions from the theoretical evolutionary models of Claret (1995) was also undertaken. The mass-radius and mass- $T_{\text{eff}}$  diagrams are the best choice for such a comparison, because they rely on the properties which are most directly measured and are most easily interpreted. A good match to the properties of the dEB is found for an age of roughly 6 Myr, a metal abundance of  $Z \approx 0.01$ , and a solar helium abundance. We have modelled the helium lines of both components of DW Car, using non-LTE calculations, to find a roughly solar or slightly subsolar helium abundance which is in acceptable agreement with that inferred from comparison with the theoretical models. The age is in good agreement with literature values for Cr 228, and the inferred metal and helium abundances are (to our knowledge) the first measurements for this cluster, illustrating the usefulness of detached eclipsing binaries for the investigation of stellar clusters.

### 8.1. DW Car, a Be star system

The emission-line nature of the DW Car system is of interest both because of its implications for the properties of the system and in the study of classical Be stars. The Be nature of DW Car rests only on strong double-peaked emission in  $H\alpha$  and a possible small emission in  $H\beta$ : there is no noticeable emission in the helium or metal lines of the system. The presence of double peaks indicates that the inclination of the circumbinary disc is high, which is consistent with the properties of the orbit of the eclipsing stars and the hypothesis that the orbit and disc should have a common orientation.

The rotational velocities of the components of DW Car are towards the lower end of the distribution of Be star rotational velocities (e.g., Chauville et al. 2001; Zorec et al. 2005). The significance of this is not straightforward to quantify, because we have not considered the effect of gravity darkening when measuring line widths (which tends cause the measured rotational velocities to be underestimates), but is reinforced because we have obtained an *equatorial* rotational velocity (which is the upper limit of the possible  $V \sin i$  values).

The Be phenomenon is thought to arise from the presence of some kind of pulsation in combination with a rotational velocity close to the critical limit for break-up of the star, causing the ejection of material to form a circumstellar disc (Porter & Rivinius 2003), although magnetic fields may play a part. There are several effects which we would expect to see in DW Car. Firstly, about 90% of Be stars earlier than B5 exhibit small-scale variability (Porter & Rivinius 2003). There are no suggestions of this in our light curves of DW Car, but we would not have noticed anything with an amplitude significantly smaller than 5 mmag, which is the photometric precision of the  $v$  and  $b$  light curve data (Table 9; Paper I). We would also expect that there would be some light contribution from the circumbinary material, but third light is negligible in the light curves. Both of these effects would have an insignificant effect on the light curve solution, so would not affect the reliability of the radius values. In the absence of intrinsic variability, the presence of a disc (which is confirmed by the  $H\alpha$  emission) must be caused by either dynamical effects due to the close-binary nature of DW Car or by capture of

material from the surrounding environment. The unevolved status of DW Car is also consistent with the field population of high-mass Be stars (Zorec et al. 2005).

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