

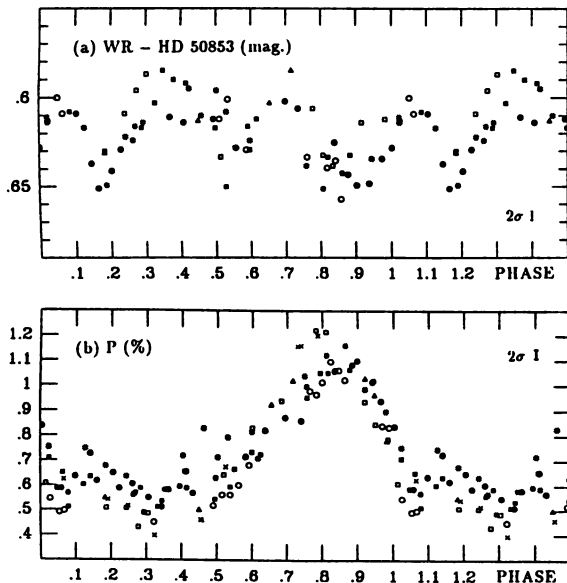
## EZ (EASY?) CANIS MAJORIS

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EZ CMa (HD 50896, WN5) is an enigmatic object. New photometry and polarimetry of EZ CMa are presented in the figure. Again the 3.77 day period is found but, as observed at previous epochs (e.g. Drissen *et al.* 1989, *Ap. J.*, **343**, 426), the shapes of the curves change. The new photometry can also be interpreted in terms of a shorter period, of 1.254 days. A period of about one day is also claimed in other sets of photometric data (e.g. van der Hucht *et al.*, 1990, *A. A.*, **228**, 108) and in the IUE spectra of St.-Louis *et al.* (1990, this symposium). However, despite the complex nature of the light curve, the 3.77 day period is strongly supported by the polarimetry, which shows no evidence for the shorter period.

If EZ CMa is a binary WR + c system (Firmani *et al.* 1980, *Ap. J.*, **239**, 607), then the short-term phase-dependent variations could be an indication of interaction between the WR wind and the 3.77 day orbiting companion. Long term changes may be related to the precession of an accreting disk around the companion; however, no long periodicity is obvious yet. The possibility of a single rotating or pulsating star must also be considered.



**FIGURE.** (a) Light curve (WR - HD 50853) and (b) polarization curve (P, the degree of polarization) of EZ CMa in 1990. The phase has been calculated from the Lamontagne *et al.* (1986, *Astron. J.*, **91**, 925) ephemeris. Measurements obtained at the San Juan Observatory (Argentina) with VATPOL and a 30 Å wide filter centered on 4700 Å (continuum) are plotted for the observing runs Jan. 13 to Feb. 1 (●) and Mar. 19 to 27 (×). Filled symbols are data from the University of Toronto Southern Observatory (Chile) collected with MINIPOL and a G filter from Feb. 5 to 17 (●), Feb. 18 to Mar. 1 (●) and Mar. 17 to 22 (▲). Open symbols refer to the data collected with the South African Astronomical Observatory photo-polarimeter from Feb. 19 to 27 (○) and Mar. 20 to Apr. 1 (○), both with a Johnson V filter. Each group of data has been shifted in ordinate to give the same mean value.