

POLARIZATION OF STARS IN THE FIELD OF NGC 3372

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BV polarimetry of about 60 stars belonging to the clusters Tr 14, Tr 16 and Coll 228 as well as some luminous stars of the surrounding field is presented.

The polarization of the stars projected behind the two most prominent dark lanes is found to be roughly aligned with the direction of the lanes. There is no evidence of circumstellar shells with the probable exception of the WR star HD 93162. The observed λ_{\max} are similar to those of field stars indicating normal interstellar reddening.

The results are shown in Figure 1, on the following page.

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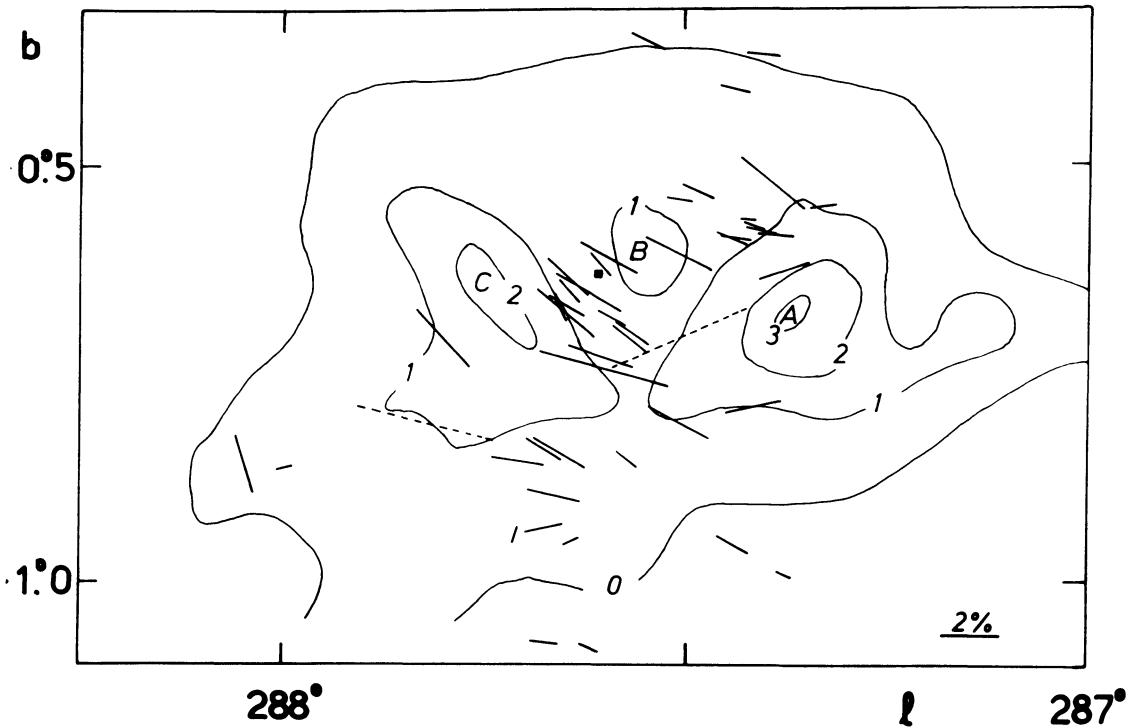


Figure 1. The visual polarization vectors of the observed stars in the field of the Carina Nebulae superposed on the visual absorption distribution in magnitudes. Both quantities were corrected for the effect of the foreground dust. The dashed lines belong to emission line stars and the square indicates the star, η Carinae.

DISCUSSION

LODEN: You commented on the picture you showed by saying that in this picture there was a connection between the electric vector and the direction of the large structure of the nebula. Was that so?

MARRACO: I didn't say it's so, but the idea is that the strength of star formation in associations proceeds along the magnetic fields and, sometimes, or most of the time, the magnetic field is in the galactic plane. If you look at the directions of the electric vector in Figure 1 they are mostly near the galactic plane.

LODEN: That's what I meant.