SEMIEMPIRICAL CEPHEID PERIOD-LUMINOSITY RELATIONS IN SLOAN MAGNITUDES

C. NGEOW
Department of Astronomy, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

AND

S. M. KANBUR
State University of New York at Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we derive semiempirical Cepheid period-luminosity (P-L) relations in the Sloan ugriz magnitudes by combining the observed BVI mean magnitudes from the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC) Cepheids and theoretical bolometric corrections. We also constructed empirical gr band P-L relations, using the publicly available Johnson-Sloan photometric transformations, to be compared with our semiempirical P-L relations. These two sets of P-L relations are consistent with each other.

Subject headings: Cepheids — distance scale

1. INTRODUCTION

The Cepheid period-luminosity (P-L) relation is a fundamental tool in distance scale and stellar pulsation studies, which is traditionally studied in the standard Johnson-Cousin BV magnitude system. However, the magnitude system from the broadband filters employed in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS, hereafter Sloan magnitudes) are becoming more popular in current and future studies. For example, observations with the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (CFHT), the Pan-STARRS1 (Kaiser 2004), the Dark Energy Survey2 (DES; Abbott et al. 2005), and the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope3 (LSST; Tyson 2002), to name a few, will be done in the Sloan filters. In addition to wide field imaging, many of these surveys will include a time-domain component to detect asteroids and supernovae. Therefore, it is possible that a large number of variable stars, including Cepheids, will be observed and/or detected from these surveys. The purpose of this paper is to provide semiempirical Cepheid P-L relations in the Sloan magnitudes for current and future Cepheid and distance scale studies (for example, the M33 Cepheids observed with CFHT as presented in Hartman et al. 2006).

2. DATA, METHOD, AND RESULTS

Since the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC) Cepheid P-L relation is extensively used in distance scale studies, we use the publicly available LMC Cepheid data from the OGLE (Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment; Udalski et al. 1999) database in this paper. The logarithmic periods, the extinction corrected BV1 mean magnitudes and the extinction corrected (B-V) colors for the LMC Cepheids were then cross-correlated with the sample given in Kanbur & Ngeow (2006) to remove outliers and “bad” Cepheids in our OGLE sample. Additional LMC Cepheids data are supplemented from Table 1 of Sandage et al. (2004). However, we only include Cepheids with 0.4 < log P < 1.8 (where P is pulsation period in days; see Kanbur & Ngeow [2006] for details of why Cepheids are restricted to this range). Our final sample consists of 711 LMC Cepheids with BV1 band photometric data, 605 of them having periods less than 10 days. From our sample, the fitted linear LMC P-L relations are

\[ B = -2.370(\pm 0.041) \log P + 17.346(\pm 0.031), \]
\[ V = -2.715(\pm 0.030) \log P + 17.048(\pm 0.023), \]

with dispersion of 0.295 and 0.222 in B and V band, respectively. For completeness, we also include the I-band P-L relation from the 680 Cepheids in our sample that have the I-band mean magnitudes (because the number of Cepheids with (I-I) colors is less than those with (B-V) colors in the Sandage et al. 2004 sample):

\[ I = -2.968(\pm 0.021) \log P + 16.603(\pm 0.016), \]

with dispersion of 0.147. These P-L relations are in good agreement with the results presented by the OGLE team,4 Sandage et al. (2004), and Kanbur & Ngeow (2006).

It is possible to derive semiempirical P-L relations in the Sloan magnitudes by combining the LMC BV band photometric data, with theoretical bolometric corrections (BC). In this paper we use the theoretical BC from the Padova group (Girardi et al. 2002, 2004), which are tabulated in grids with different metallicity, effective temperature (T eff), and surface gravity (log g). We first selected the BC within the grids of 4000 ≤ T eff ≤ 7000 K and 0.0 ≤ log g ≤ 2.5, which are appropriate for classical Cepheids at mean light, from all of the available metallicity ([M/H] = [0.5, 0.0, -0.5, -1.0, -1.5, -2.0, -2.5] dex) given by the Padova group. To obtain the BC for LMC Cepheids at [M/H] = -0.3 dex, these grids of BC were then interpolated using the available metallicity. From the interpolated BC, we obtain a regression between T eff, log g, and (B-V) color in the form of

\[ \log T_{\text{eff}} = 3.8944 - 0.0058 \log g - 0.2089(B-V) + 0.0151(B-V)^2, \]

\[ I = -2.968(\pm 0.021) \log P + 16.603(\pm 0.016), \]

4 See ftp://sirius.astrouw.edu.pl/ogle/ogle2/var_stars/lmc/cep/catalog/README.PL.
which has a dispersion of 0.009. Similarly, regressions for BC in passband $\lambda$ take the form of $BC_\lambda = a_0 + a_1 \log \left( g \right) + a_2 (\Delta T)^\lambda + a_3(\Delta T)^2 + a_4 (\Delta T)^3$, where $\Delta T = \log T_{\text{eff}} - T_{\text{eff}}$. The coefficients in Johnson-Cousin $BVI$ and Sloan $ugriz$ passbands are given in Table 1.

For each of the LMC Cepheids in our sample, the surface gravity can be estimated using $\log g = 2.62 - 1.21 \log P$ (Kovács 2000; Beaulieu et al. 2001). Then the $T_{\text{eff}}$ and the BC for our LMC Cepheids can be determined using the regressions we found previously. By combining the definitions of bolometric correction ($BC_\lambda = M_{\text{bol}} - M_\lambda$) and distance modulus ($\mu = m_\lambda - M_\lambda$), we have $m_\lambda + BC_\lambda = M_{\text{bol}} + \mu$. For each of the individual LMC Cepheids in our sample, $M_{\text{bol}} + \mu$ is a constant and independent of passband. This quantity can be estimated using either $B + BC_B$ or $V + BC_V$ with available $BV$ mean magnitudes, or using either $V + BC_V$ or $I + BC_I$ with available $VI$ mean magnitudes. The mean difference between $B + BC_B$ and $V + BC_V$ for our LMC Cepheids is 0.005 mag., with a standard deviation of 0.007 mag., while the difference for $V + BC_V$ and $I + BC_I$ is 0.009 mag., with a larger standard deviation of 0.057 mag. For the 711 LMC Cepheids in our sample, we adopt the averaged value of $M_{\text{bol}} + \mu = \left( (B + BC_B) + (V + BC_V) + (I + BC_I) \right)/3$ if all three $BVVI$-band data are available for a given Cepheid; otherwise we use $M_{\text{bol}} + \mu = \left( (B + BC_B) + (V + BC_V) \right)/2$ as the averaged value from $B$ and $V$ bands. Once the values of $M_{\text{bol}} + \mu$ and the BC in Sloan magnitudes are known for each Cepheid in the sample, the apparent Sloan magnitudes can be estimated by $m_\lambda = (M_{\text{bol}} + \mu) - BC_\lambda$, and the $P$-L relations can be derived.

To test the above semiempirical approach, we assume that only the LMC $B$-band data are available for the 711 Cepheids and derive the semiempirical $V$-band $P$-L relation. Using $M_{\text{bol}} + \mu = B + BC_B$, the resulting semiempirical $V$-band $P$-L relation is $V = -2.723(\pm 0.030) \log P + 17.050(\pm 0.023)$ with a dispersion of 0.219. Doing the same for the $B$-band data, the semiempirical $B$-band $P$-L relation is $B = -2.361(\pm 0.041) \log P + 17.345(\pm 0.031)$ with a dispersion of 0.298. Both of the semiempirical $P$-L relations are in good agreement with equations (1) and (2): the difference in the slope is less than 0.010 mag, and the zero points are almost identical in both passbands. For testing the semiempirical $I$-band $P$-L relation, we use both of the $B$- and $V$-band mean magnitudes and $M_{\text{bol}} + \mu = \left( (B + BC_B) + (V + BC_V) \right)/2$ for the common Cepheids to derive equation (3), and the resulting semiempirical $I$-band $P$-L relation is $I = -2.979(\pm 0.023) \log P + 16.599(\pm 0.018)$, with a dispersion of 0.164, which is still in good agreement with equation (3). Therefore, the above semiempirical approach can be used to derive $P$-L relations in Sloan magnitudes, which we summarize in Table 2. The plots of these $P$-L relations are presented in Figure 1. Note that the dispersion of the $P$-L relation decreases from $u$ to $z$ passbands. This reduction of the dispersion as wavelength increases is well known in the Cepheid community (see, e.g., Madore & Freedman 1991).

## 3. A Sanity Check: Empirical P-L Relations from Photometric Transformations

The Johnson-Sloan photometric transformations that are available in the literature can be used to transform the $BV$ mean magnitudes for our LMC Cepheids to the Sloan magnitudes. The transformation for $u'g'r'i'z'$ magnitudes (from the United States Naval Observatory 40 inch [1 m] telescope) are available, for example, in Fukugita et al. (1996), Smith et al. (2002), and Rodgers et al. (2006); while the transformation for $ugriz$ magnitudes (from the SDSS 2.5 m telescope) are given in Bilir et al. (2005), Jester et al. (2005), and Jordi et al. (2006). These transformations in general take the form of $X - V = a_0(B - V) + a_1$, where $X = \{g', r', g, r\}$ for the $(B - V)$ color. Therefore, the observed $V$-band mean magnitudes and $(B - V)$ colors for the LMC Cepheids can

### Table 1

| \(\lambda\) | \(a_0\) | \(a_1\) | \(a_2\) | \(a_3\) | \(a_4\) | \(\sigma\) |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| $B$         | -0.5815 | +0.0242 | +7.4534 | -19.180 | +11.358 | 0.057   |
| $V$         | +0.0313 | -0.0111 | +2.0419 | -12.176 | +56.059 | 0.012   |
| $I$         | +0.6736 | -0.0115 | -2.2856 | -12.237 | +23.944 | 0.009   |
| $u$         | -1.9787 | +0.1932 | +9.5140 | -60.418 | +12.036 | 0.112   |
| $g$         | -0.2506 | +0.0028 | +5.1822 | -14.651 | +44.885 | 0.036   |
| $r$         | +0.1306 | -0.0114 | +0.2299 | -12.250 | +39.899 | 0.006   |
| $i$         | +0.2009 | -0.0087 | -1.7603 | -13.445 | +26.189 | 0.011   |
| $z$         | +0.2462 | -0.0218 | -2.7303 | -7.8426 | +29.746 | 0.004   |

Note.—\(\sigma\) is the dispersion of the regression.

### Table 2

| \(\lambda\) | Slope | Zero Point | \(\sigma\) |
|-------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| $u$         | -1.981 | 18.195     | 0.035     |
| $g$         | -2.518 | 17.165     | 0.027     |
| $r$         | -2.819 | 17.027     | 0.020     |
| $i$         | -2.928 | 17.032     | 0.018     |
| $z$         | -3.007 | 17.064     | 0.017     |

Note.—\(\sigma\) is the dispersion of the P-L relation.
be transformed to the Sloan magnitudes, and the P-L relations can be fitted in these passbands. This serves as an independent check to our results presented in § 2. In this paper we apply the transformation from Jester et al. (2005) only, but the resulting P-L relations from other transformations are available upon request. Using Jester et al.’s (2005) transformation we obtain $g = -2.514(\pm 0.036) \log P + 17.119(\pm 0.028)$ with a dispersion of 0.265 and $r = -2.855(\pm 0.027) \log P + 17.025(\pm 0.020)$ with a dispersion of 0.195, which are in good agreement with the P-L relations given in Table 2.

However, there is a major drawback to using the Johnson-Sloan photometric transformation to obtain the empirical P-L relations. The empirical Johnson-Sloan photometric transformations available in the literature are mostly derived from the standard stars, which could span a wide range of luminosity class (Smith et al. 2002; Rodgers et al. 2006), effective temperature and/or metallicity (which could be close to the solar value; Jordi et al. 2006). On the other hand, Cepheids are cool supergiants with spectral type from F to K. Therefore, the photometric transformations may not be applicable to the LMC Cepheids. To test this, we use the same theoretical bolometric corrections in § 2 to obtain the theoretical Johnson-Sloan transformation for two “extreme” cases:

1. We use the grids of BC with $4000 \leq T_{\text{eff}} \leq 7000$ K and $0.0 \leq \log g \leq 2.5$, which are appropriate for Cepheids at mean light with metallicity $[\text{M/H}] = -0.3$, to represent the LMC Cepheids.

2. We use the grids of BC with $3100 \leq T_{\text{eff}} \leq 80,000$ K and $0.0 \leq \log g \leq 5.0$, to represent the standard stars that cover a wide range of effective temperature and surface gravity, and metallicity of $[\text{M/H}] = 0.0$ and $[\text{M/H}] = -0.5$, which roughly bracket the solar metallicity and LMC-type metallicity. Figure 2 compares the grids of theoretical colors with the colors of standard stars, which shows that the theoretical colors are well covered by the observation of standard stars.

The Johnson-Sloan transformations are then derived from these grids of theoretical colors. After obtaining the transformations for the two cases as mentioned, we transform our LMC Cepheid data to the Sloan magnitudes and fit the linear P-L relations. The differences ($\Delta$) of the slope from the fitted $gr$ P-L relations for these two cases are $\Delta g = 0.011 \pm 0.052$ and $\Delta r = 0.016 \pm 0.038$; while the difference for the zero point are $\Delta g = 0.001 \pm 0.040$ and $\Delta r = 0.009 \pm 0.029$. The small differences between the P-L relations of case 1 and case 2 implies that the derived P-L relation in the Sloan magnitudes, at least in the $gr$ passbands, will be insensitive to the adopted transformations. Therefore, we believe the adopted transformations from the literature should not significantly affect the empirical P-L relations. The work for verifying the transformations for Cepheids in a more proper and rigorous way is currently underway with Cepheids in M33 by D. Bersier et al. (2007, in preparation).

4. CONCLUSION

Using the observed $BVIT$ mean magnitudes from LMC Cepheids and the theoretical bolometric corrections from Padova group, we derive semiempirical Cepheid P-L relations in the Sloan magnitudes that can be used in the current and future distance scale and Cepheid works. For a sanity check, we compare the $gr$ band P-L relations derived from adopting the available Johnson-Sloan photometric transformation in the literature to our semiempirical P-L relations. The resulting comparison finds that these two sets of P-L relation are generally consistent with each other.

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