

reception in Burlington House to which you are all invited. Next month is the AGM for Fellows only, followed by the Presidential Lecture which will be open to all on-line and that will be on Friday, May 10th.

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REDISCUSSION OF ECLIPSING BINARIES. PAPER 21.  
THE TOTALLY-ECLIPSING B-TYPE SYSTEM IQ PERSEI

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IQ Per is a totally-eclipsing binary system containing a B8 V star and an A6 V star in an orbit of period 1.744 d with eccentricity and apsidal motion. We use new light-curves from the *Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite* (TESS) and published spectroscopy from Lacy & Frueh<sup>1</sup> to measure the physical properties of the component stars, finding masses of  $3.516 \pm 0.050 M_{\odot}$  and  $1.738 \pm 0.023 M_{\odot}$ , and radii of  $2.476 \pm 0.015 R_{\odot}$  and  $1.503 \pm 0.016 R_{\odot}$ . Our fit to the light-curve is imperfect, with a small sinusoidal trend in the residuals *versus* orbital phase and a slight mismatch in the depth of secondary eclipse, but the total eclipses mean the system is still well-characterized. The distance to the system from its masses, temperatures, apparent magnitudes, and bolometric corrections is in agreement with the parallax distance from *Gaia* DR3. Theoretical models cannot adequately match the measured properties of the system, and new spectroscopy to confirm the temperatures and determine the chemical compositions of the stars would be useful. A Fourier analysis of the residuals of the best fit to the light-curve shows many peaks at multiples of the orbital frequency, and one significant peak at  $1.33 \text{ d}^{-1}$  which is not. This pulsation and the properties of the primary component are consistent with it being a slowly-pulsating B star.

### Introduction

This work continues our series of papers<sup>2</sup> presenting analyses of detached eclipsing binaries (dEBs) with a significant observational history and available radial-velocity (RV) measurements, based on new high-quality light-curves from the *Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite* (TESS<sup>3</sup>). Our aim is to increase the number of stars, and the precision of their measured properties, in the *Detached Eclipsing Binary Catalogue*<sup>4</sup> (DEBCat<sup>\*</sup>), which lists all known dEBs with mass and radius measurements to 2% precision and accuracy. These results represent

<sup>\*</sup><https://www.astro.keele.ac.uk/jkt/debcats/>

TABLE I

*Basic information on IQ Persei. The BV magnitudes are each the mean of 93 individual measurements<sup>20</sup>.*

| <i>Property</i>                | <i>Value</i>  | <i>Reference</i> |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Right ascension (J2000)        | 03 <sup>h</sup> 59 <sup>m</sup> 44 <sup>s</sup> .68 | 21               |
| Declination (J2000)            | +48°09′04″.4  | 21               |
| Henry Draper designation       | HD 24909  | 22               |
| <i>Gaia</i> DR3 designation    | 246797724301643904                                  | 23               |
| <i>Gaia</i> DR3 parallax       | 3.4478 ± 0.0313 mas                                 | 23               |
| TESS Input Catalog designation | TIC 265767012                                       | 24               |
| <i>B</i> magnitude             | 7.778 ± 0.013                                       | 20               |
| <i>V</i> magnitude             | 7.733 ± 0.012                                       | 20               |
| <i>J</i> magnitude             | 7.561 ± 0.030                                       | 25               |
| <i>H</i> magnitude             | 7.591 ± 0.031                                       | 25               |
| <i>K<sub>s</sub></i> magnitude | 7.544 ± 0.018                                       | 25               |
| Spectral type                  | B8 V + A6 V   | 1                |

an important resource of empirical measurements of stellar properties against which theoretical models of stellar evolution can be benchmarked<sup>5,6</sup>, and the availability of large archives of light-curves from space missions enables such work for a large number of objects<sup>7</sup>.

Here we study the system IQ Persei (Table I), which contains a late-B star (hereafter star A) and an early-A star (star B) in an orbit of period 1.744 d. It is one of many whose variability was discovered by Hoffmeister<sup>8</sup> using photographic plates obtained at Sonneberg. It is a visual double with a companion at 39.3 arcsec which is fainter by 1.58 mag in the *Gaia* *G* band. Meisel<sup>9</sup> assigned spectral types of B8 Vp: to IQ Per and A0 Vnp: to the visual companion. Burke<sup>10</sup> narrowed down the orbital period to be either 6.974 d or its submultiples 3.487 d or 1.743 d. Hall, Gertken & Burke<sup>11</sup> presented *UBV* light-curves which confirmed the shortest of the possible orbital periods, the eccentricity, and that the system exhibits total eclipses. They also derived its photometric properties using the Russell–Merrill<sup>12</sup> method. Bischof<sup>13</sup> presented new times of minimum and Young<sup>14</sup> a first spectroscopic orbit for both stars.

Lacy & Frueh<sup>1</sup> (hereafter LF85) published a detailed analysis of IQ Per, and their measurements of the physical properties have been used in many subsequent papers. They obtained a set of 20 spectra using a Reticon detector at the 2.7-m telescope at McDonald Observatory, measuring from these RVs of both stars plus projected rotational velocities of  $V_A \sin i = 68 \pm 2$  km s<sup>−1</sup> and  $V_B \sin i = 44 \pm 2$  km s<sup>−1</sup>, where ‘A’ denotes the more massive primary (star A) and ‘B’ the less massive secondary (star B). LF85 also obtained light-curves in the *V* and *R* bands; these data cover all of the secondary and almost all of the primary eclipse. They deduced photometric spectral types of B8 for star A and A6 for star B.

IQ Per also shows apsidal motion dominated by tidal effects, and this has been measured by a multitude of researchers using essentially the same gradually-growing compilation of times of mid-eclipse. Apsidal motion was predicted by Hall *et al.*<sup>11</sup>, and confirmed by LF85 who found an apsidal period of  $U = 140 \pm 30$  yr. Drozd *et al.*<sup>15</sup> improved this measurement to  $119 \pm 9$  yr. Değirmenci<sup>16</sup> obtained complete *BV* light-curves and used them to determine the photometric properties of the system and  $U = 122 \pm 7$  yr. Lee *et al.*<sup>17</sup> obtained four new timings and  $U = 122.2 \pm 0.3$  yr, where the error bar is anomalously

small. Wolf *et al.*<sup>18</sup> presented nine new times of minimum and used these and published times to determine  $U = 124.2 \pm 6.5$  yr. The most recent assessment of the apsidal motion period of IQ Per is by Claret *et al.*<sup>19</sup> who included the *TESS* data to obtain  $U = 116.2 \pm 3.9$  yr.

#### Photometric observations

IQ Per has been observed in two sectors by *TESS*: sector 19 at cadences of 120 s and 1800 s; and sector 59 at cadences of 120 s and 200 s. Further observations are scheduled in sector 86 (2024 December). We downloaded both sets of 120-s-cadence data from the NASA Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST\*) using the *LIGHTKURVE* package<sup>26</sup>. We adopted the simple aperture photometry (SAP) data from the SPOC data reduction<sup>27</sup> with a quality flag of “hard”, normalized them using *LIGHTKURVE*, and converted them to differential magnitude.

The two light-curves are shown in Fig. 1. That from sector 59 has a greater coverage and lower scatter, but the basic shape of the light variation is consistent between sectors. When the two light-curves are overlaid on the same plot the eclipses do not quite line up. This is due to apsidal motion changing the relative times of eclipses in the 1069 d between the sectors. For the record, the numbers of data points are 17 058 for sector 19 and 18 367 for sector 59.

A query of the *Gaia* DR3 database<sup>†</sup> returns a total of 142 sources within 2 arcmin of IQ Per, as expected due to the faint limiting magnitude of *Gaia* and the proximity of our target to the Galactic plane. Aside from the nearby companion mentioned above, all of the stars are fainter by at least 5.5 mag in the *G* band.

#### Preliminary light-curve analysis

We performed a first analysis of the data using version 43 of the JKTEBOP<sup>‡</sup> code<sup>28,29</sup>. We concentrated on the data from sector 59, as these are of higher quality than those from sector 19 and we do not want to combine the sectors due to change in the argument of periastron between the sectors. This work confirmed that the fractional radius of star A ( $r_A = R_A/a$  where  $R_A$  is its radius and  $a$  the semi-major axis of the relative orbit) is close to the limits of applicability of JKTEBOP and thus it was advisable to use a more sophisticated code for the final analysis.

We therefore fitted the sector-59 light-curve using JKTEBOP only to determine the orbital ephemeris and the coefficients of a polynomial to normalize the brightness of the system to zero differential magnitude. We then subtracted the polynomial, converted the times of observation to orbital phase, and combined them into 1000 phase bins. The resulting phase-binned data were then suitable for the next step in the analysis.

#### Analysis with the Wilson–Devinney code

The main analysis of the light-curve was undertaken using the Wilson–Devinney (WD) code<sup>30,31</sup>, which uses Roche geometry to represent the shapes of the stars. We used the 2004 version of the code (WD2004), driven by the JKTWD wrapper<sup>32</sup>, to fit the 1000-point phase-binned light-curve. Following

\*<https://mast.stsci.edu/portal/Mashup/Clients/Mast/Portal.html>

†<https://vizier.cds.unistra.fr/viz-bin/VizieR-3?-source=I/355/gaiadr3>

‡<http://www.astro.keele.ac.uk/jkt/codes/jktebop.html>

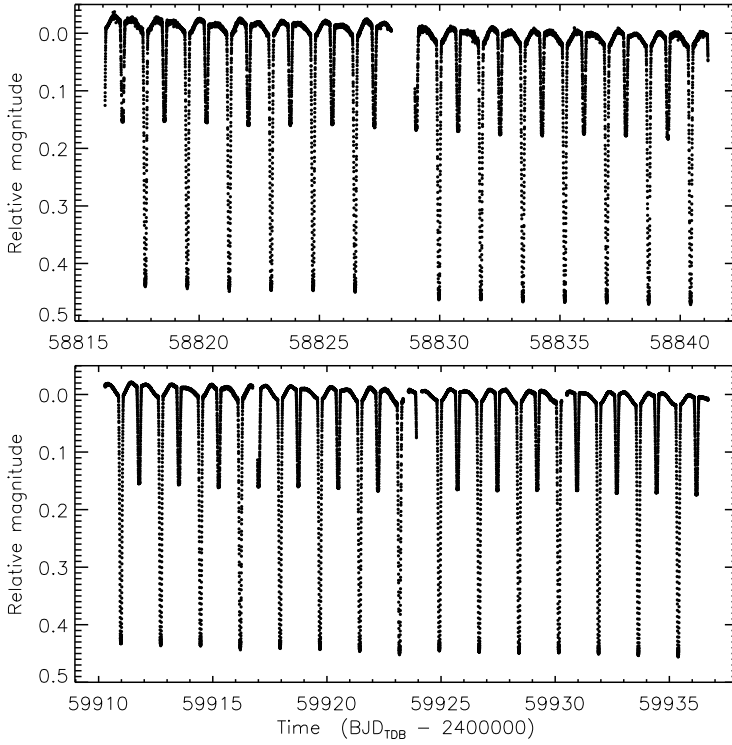


FIG. 1

TESS short-cadence SAP photometry of IQ Per from sectors 19 (upper panel) and 59 (lower panel). The flux measurements have been converted to magnitude units then rectified to zero magnitude by subtraction of the median.

our usual practice, we first describe the adopted solution of the light-curve and then discuss the alternative approaches which comprise our error analysis. The parameters used in WD2004 are described in the WD-code user manual<sup>33</sup>.

The fitted parameters in the adopted solution were: the potentials of the two stars; the orbital inclination; the orbital eccentricity; the argument of periastron; a phase offset; one limb-darkening (LD) coefficient per star; the light contribution of star A; the effective temperature ( $T_{\text{eff}}$ ) of star B; and the amount of third light. For LD we used the logarithmic law<sup>34</sup> with the nonlinear coefficient fixed<sup>35</sup> to theoretical values from Van Hamme<sup>36</sup>. Albedo values and gravity-darkening exponents were fixed to 1.0 (suitable for radiative atmospheres), synchronous rotation was assumed, the simple model of reflection was used, and the mass ratio was fixed to the spectroscopic value from LF85.

Our adopted solution differs from our usual approach in that we have chosen as default to operate the WD code in `MODE=2`, where the  $T_{\text{eff}}$  values and light contributions of the stars are linked. Our initial experiments using `MODE=0` gave similar fits but for albedo values significantly greater than unity, a situation we have noticed several times in the past<sup>2,32,37,38</sup>. This problem does not occur in WD `MODE=2`. Table II contains the parameters of our adopted fit.

TABLE II

Summary of the parameters for the WD2004 solution of the TESS light-curve of IQ Per. Uncertainties are only quoted when they have been assessed by comparison between a full set of alternative solutions.

| Parameter                             | Star A              | Star B              |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Control parameters:</i>            |                     |                     |
| WD2004 operation mode                 |                     | 2                   |
| Treatment of reflection               |                     | 1                   |
| Number of reflections                 |                     | 1                   |
| Limb-darkening law                    |                     | 2 (logarithmic)     |
| Numerical grid size (normal)          |                     | 60                  |
| Numerical grid size (coarse)          |                     | 60                  |
| <i>Fixed parameters:</i>              |                     |                     |
| Phase shift                           |                     | 0.0                 |
| Mass ratio                            |                     | 0.493               |
| Rotation rates                        | 1.0                 | 1.0                 |
| Bolometric albedos                    | 1.0                 | 1.0                 |
| Gravity darkening                     | 1.0                 | 1.0                 |
| $T_{\text{eff}}$ value of star A (K)  | 12300               |                     |
| Bolometric linear LD coefficient      | 0.7321              | 0.6565              |
| Bolometric logarithmic LD coefficient | 0.0714              | 0.2421              |
| Passband logarithmic LD coefficient   | 0.2354              | 0.2849              |
| <i>Fitted parameters:</i>             |                     |                     |
| Potential                             | $4.838 \pm 0.019$   | $4.814 \pm 0.050$   |
| Orbital inclination ( $^{\circ}$ )    | $88.63 \pm 0.52$    |                     |
| Orbital eccentricity                  | $0.0677 \pm 0.0022$ |                     |
| Argument of periastron ( $^{\circ}$ ) | $200.0 \pm 5.2$     |                     |
| $T_{\text{eff}}$ value of star B (K)  |                     | $8180 \pm 360$      |
| Light contribution                    | $10.30 \pm 0.18$    |                     |
| Passband linear LD coefficient        | $0.486 \pm 0.067$   | $0.38 \pm 0.17$     |
| Third light                           | $0.054 \pm 0.014$   |                     |
| <i>Derived parameters:</i>            |                     |                     |
| Fractional radii                      | $0.2336 \pm 0.0009$ | $0.1418 \pm 0.0014$ |

Fig. 2 shows the fit of the model to the data, which is imperfect. We tried all possible options available in the WD code to improve the fit (see our work on V1388 Ori; ref. 39) but were unable to do so. There is an increased scatter through the primary eclipse, which is due to the numerical resolution of the WD2004 code. There is a sinusoidal trend in the residuals at twice the orbital frequency; its shape is not consistent with any of the ellipsoidal, reflection, or Doppler-beaming effects<sup>40,41</sup>. A similar but not identical trend has previously been seen for the dEBs  $\zeta$  Phe<sup>2</sup> and KIC 9851944<sup>42</sup>. Possible causes include the assumption of point masses in the Roche model, and thus neglect of the mass of the envelopes of the stars, and the brightness changes due to pulsations (see below). The relatively poor fit during secondary eclipse is an artefact of the sinusoidal trend, which causes incorrect normalization of the light-curve in the region of the secondary eclipse and a slight deformation of the eclipse to obtain the overall best least-squares fit. In our analysis below we make the assertion that our best fit — whilst not a good fit — nevertheless yields reliable parameters which can be used to determine the physical properties of the component stars; the reader is free to disagree if they wish.

We determined the error bars of the fitted parameters in the WD2004 analysis by considering a range of possible choices in delineating the adopted solution. The scatter of the data is small, and the residuals *versus* the best fit are significantly larger, so the contribution of Poisson noise is negligible. Instead we

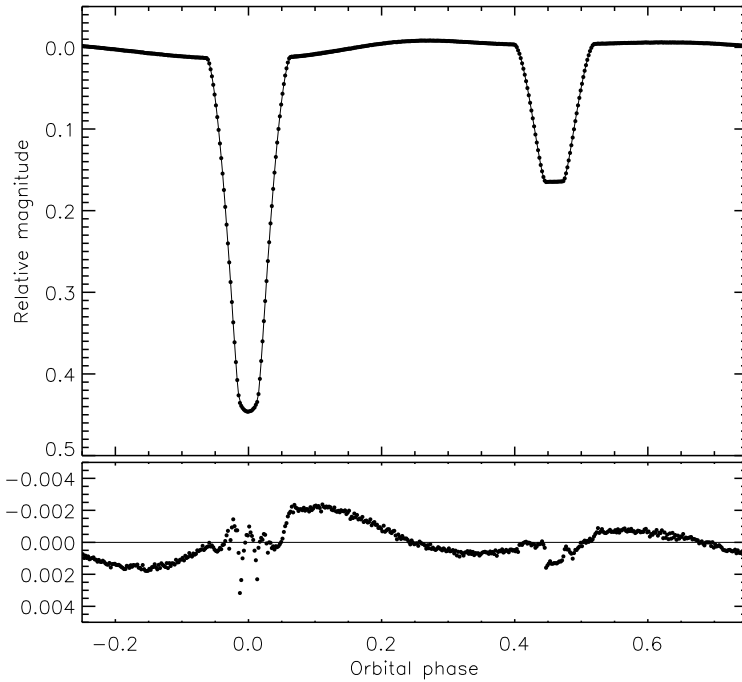


FIG. 2

Best fit to the binned light-curve of IQ Per using wd2004. The phase-binned data are shown using open circles and the best fit with a continuous line. The residuals are shown on an enlarged scale in the lower panel.

ran a set of alternative solutions varying one or more control parameters or input physics from the adopted solution. These alternative solutions included: use of a light-curve binned into 500 phase points instead of 1000; numerical precisions of 40 and 55–59 instead of the maximum 60; a different approach to polynomial normalization of the data before phase-binning; changing the spectroscopic mass ratio by its uncertainty; changing the rotation rates by  $\pm 0.1$ ; changing the gravity-darkening exponents by  $\pm 0.1$ ; changing the albedos by  $\pm 0.1$ ; using the square-root LD law; fixing all LD coefficients at the theoretically-predicted values; and using the Cousins *I* band instead of the *R* band as a surrogate for the *TESS* passband.

The result of this process was a large set of alternative parameter values. The differences for each parameter *versus* the adopted solution were calculated then added in quadrature to obtain the final uncertainty for that parameter. These are the error bars reported in Table II. We also give a breakdown in Table III of the error bars for the fractional radii, as these are the most important results from the WD analysis. The final uncertainties in the fractional radii are 0.4% for star A and 1.0% for star B. The  $T_{\text{eff}}$  of star B from this analysis is not reliable because the *TESS* passband is not an available option for the wd2004 code. We also obtained a fit to the *TESS* sector-19 data, finding it to be consistent with that for the sector-59 data but with a different small trend in the residuals. We postpone further analysis of these trends to a future work.

TABLE III

*Changes in the measured fractional radii of the stars due to differing model choices. Each is expressed as the percentage change versus the value of the parameter.*

| Model choice                                  | Effect (%) |       |
|---|------------|-------|
|   | $r_A$      | $r_B$ |
| Binning into 500 phase bins instead of 1000   | -0.06      | 0.15  |
| Setting the numerical precision to $N1=N2=40$ | 0.07       | -0.32 |
| Different polynomial normalization            | 0.16       | 0.19  |
| Changing mass ratio                           | 0.00       | -0.07 |
| Changing rotation rates by $\pm 0.1$          | -0.09      | 0.05  |
| Changing gravity darkening by $\pm 0.1$       | -0.15      | 0.22  |
| Changing the albedos by $\pm 0.1$             | 0.02       | 0.03  |
| Using the square-root limb-darkening law      | -0.02      | -0.05 |
| Fixing limb-darkening coefficients            | 0.00       | 0.41  |
| Using the Cousins <i>I</i> -band              | 0.30       | -0.72 |

### *Radial-velocity analysis*

LF85 presented 20 medium-resolution spectra, and measured 20 RVs for star A and 16 for star B using cross-correlation. We digitized the data and modelled the RVs with the JKTEBOP code to determine the velocity amplitudes of the two stars. A time of minimum close to the mean time of the spectra was chosen\* and a shift in orbital phase was included as a fitted parameter. We also fitted for the velocity amplitudes ( $K_A$  and  $K_B$ ) and systemic velocities ( $V_{\gamma,A}$  and  $V_{\gamma,B}$ ) of the stars. Due to the apsidal motion in the system, we fitted for the argument of periastron ( $\omega$ ) but fixed the eccentricity at the photometric value (Table II). Alternative solutions with eccentricity fitted or with  $V_{\gamma,A} = V_{\gamma,B}$  gave results which differed by much less than the uncertainties, indicating that the orbital solutions are robust. We followed LF85 by allocating half weight to two spectra with a lower count rate, and iteratively adjusted the error bars of the RVs of each star to obtain a reduced  $\chi^2$  of 1.0.

The fitted orbits are shown in Fig. 3. The parameters of the fit are  $K_A = 101.95 \pm 0.65 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ,  $K_B = 206.2 \pm 1.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ,  $V_{\gamma,A} = 0.55 \pm 0.47 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ,  $V_{\gamma,B} = 0.65 \pm 0.88 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , and  $\omega = 73.0 \pm 5.0$ . These are all in good agreement with the values found by LF85, but have smaller error bars because we fixed the eccentricity to a known value instead of fitting it separately for the two stars.

### *Physical properties and distance to IQ Per*

We determined the physical properties of IQ Per from the results of the wd2004 code and RV analyses given above. For this we used the JKTEBOP code<sup>44</sup>. The results are given in Table IV. The masses of the stars are measured to 1.5% precision, and the radii to 0.5% (star A) and 1.1% (star B) assuming the wd2004 fit is good enough to give reliable parameters. Our results are in excellent agreement with those from LF85, highlighting the robustness of such information for totally-eclipsing binaries (and our use of the same RV data). We also retain the  $T_{\text{eff}}$  values given by LF85, which were based on photometric colour indices for the individual stars. The pseudo-synchronous rotational velocities are consistent with the values measured by LF85.

\*HJD 2444926.749 from table 5 of LF85

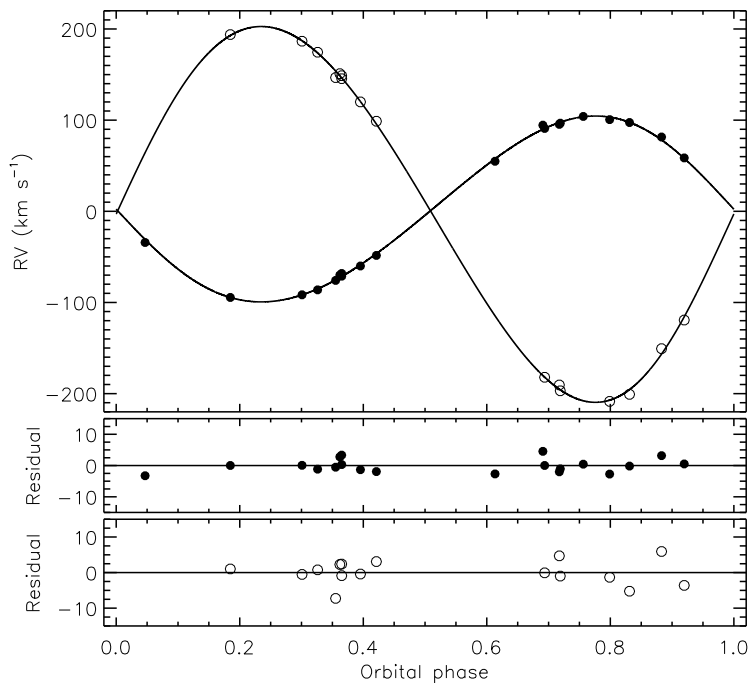


FIG. 3

Radial velocities of IQ Per from LF85 (filled circles for star A and open circles for star B), compared to the best fit from JKTEBOP (solid lines). The residuals are given in the lower panels separately for the two components.

TABLE IV

Physical properties of IQ Per defined using the nominal solar units given by IAU 2015 Resolution B3 (ref. 43). The  $T_{\text{eff}}$  values are from LF85.

| Parameter   | Star A              | Star B              |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mass ratio $M_B/M_A$                                  | $0.4944 \pm 0.0043$ |                     |
| Semi-major axis of relative orbit ( $R_\odot^N$ )     | $10.598 \pm 0.047$  |                     |
| Mass ( $M_\odot^N$ )                                  | $3.516 \pm 0.050$   | $1.738 \pm 0.023$   |
| Radius ( $R_\odot^N$ )                                | $2.476 \pm 0.015$   | $1.503 \pm 0.016$   |
| Surface gravity (log[cgs])                            | $4.1967 \pm 0.0042$ | $4.3244 \pm 0.0090$ |
| Density ( $\rho_\odot$ )                              | $0.2317 \pm 0.0028$ | $0.512 \pm 0.015$   |
| Synchronous rotational velocity (km s <sup>-1</sup> ) | $71.84 \pm 0.42$    | $43.61 \pm 0.47$    |
| Effective temperature (K)                             | $12300 \pm 170$     | $7675 \pm 100$      |
| Luminosity log( $L/L_\odot^N$ )                       | $2.102 \pm 0.025$   | $0.849 \pm 0.022$   |
| $M_{\text{bol}}$ (mag)                                | $-0.514 \pm 0.061$  | $2.618 \pm 0.056$   |
| Interstellar reddening $E(B-V)$ (mag)                 | $0.12 \pm 0.03$     |                     |
| Distance (pc)   | $278.1 \pm 3.8$     |                     |



We estimated the distance to the system using our measured radii, the apparent magnitudes in Table I, and bolometric corrections from Girardi *et al.*<sup>45</sup>. Imposing an interstellar reddening of  $E(B-V) = 0.12 \pm 0.03$  mag to bring the  $BV$  and  $JHK_s$ -band distances into agreement, we obtained a distance of  $278.1 \pm 3.8$  pc. This is a reasonable match to the distance of  $287.5 \pm 2.6$  pc from the *Gaia* DR3 parallax of IQ Per, supporting the reliability of the  $T_{\text{eff}}$  values from LF85.

We compared the measured properties of the components of IQ Per to the predictions of the PARSEC theoretical stellar-evolutionary models<sup>46</sup>. The large difference between the two stars means they are a high-quality test of theoretical predictions, and in this case the test is failed. We can obtain a good match to the masses and radii of the stars for a metal abundance of  $Z = 0.017$  and an age of 80 Myr, but the predicted  $T_{\text{eff}}$  values are too large ( $\sim 16000$  and  $\sim 8200$  K, respectively). A higher or lower metal abundance gives a poorer fit to the radii. A metal abundance of  $Z = 0.030$  and an age of 45 Myr can match the radius of star A and the  $T_{\text{eff}}$  of star B, but not the radius of star B and the  $T_{\text{eff}}$  of star A. A spectroscopic analysis to confirm the  $T_{\text{eff}}$  values and obtain a metallicity measurement for the stars would be very helpful in exploring this discrepancy further.

### Pulsation analysis

An increasing number of dEBs are known to harbour pulsating stars<sup>47,48</sup>. We performed a search for pulsations in IQ Per using the residuals of the JKTEBOP fit to the *TESS* sector-59 light-curve. An amplitude spectrum was calculated using version 1.2.0 of the PERIOD04 code<sup>49</sup> and is shown in Fig. 4. We find a large number of small signals at multiples of the orbital frequency, which is expected due to the trend with orbital phase seen in the residuals from the JKTEBOP and WD2004 fits (*e.g.*, Fig. 2). No significant frequencies were found from 22 d<sup>-1</sup> up to the Nyquist frequency of 360 d<sup>-1</sup>.

There are three frequencies which are not at multiples of the orbital frequency, at 0.75, 1.33, and 2.11 d<sup>-1</sup>. These are probably related as the highest frequency is approximately the sum of the two lower frequencies. Of these, only the 1.33 d<sup>-1</sup> frequency is significant<sup>50</sup>, with a signal-to-noise ratio of 6.2 and an amplitude of 1.3 mmag (calculated using PERIOD04). Based on this detected frequency and the masses of the stars, we conclude that star A is a slowly-pulsating B star<sup>51,52</sup>. It thus joins the small but increasing sample of such stars in dEBs<sup>53</sup>. The prospects for asteroseismology of this star are poor as only one significant pulsation has been detected with a frequency not corresponding to a multiple of the orbital frequency.

### Conclusion

IQ Per is a dEB containing a  $3.5-M_{\odot}$  B-star and a  $1.7-M_{\odot}$  A-star in an orbit of short period (1.744 d) which is eccentric and shows apsidal motion. We have used new light-curves from *TESS* and published RVs from LF85 to determine the masses and radii of the component stars to high precision (0.5–1.5%). The significant differences between the two stars makes IQ Per a good test of stellar theory. The masses, radii, and  $T_{\text{eff}}$  values of the stars cannot be fitted for a single age and metallicity using the PARSEC models. A more extensive analysis could be performed by obtaining spectroscopic  $T_{\text{eff}}$  and metallicity measurements and by including in the analysis internal-structure constants measured from the apsidal motion.

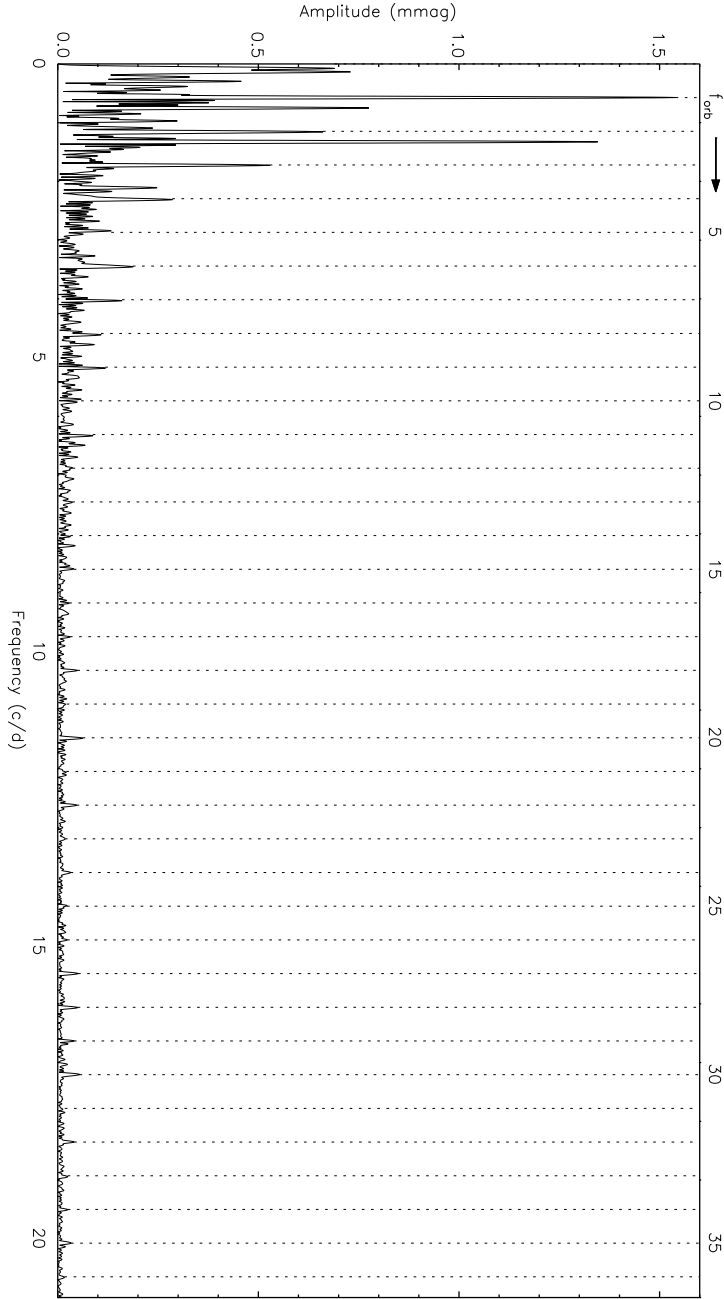


Fig. 4  
Frequency spectrum of the *TESS* light-curve of IQ Per. Multiples of the orbital frequency are shown along the top.

Our fit to the *TESS* light-curve is imperfect, with a roughly sinusoidal residual *versus* orbital phase and a slight mismatch of the depth of the secondary eclipse. However, the total eclipses mean the radii of the stars can still be measured reliably from the times of the contact points. A frequency spectrum of the residuals of the fit has many peaks at multiples of the orbital frequency, as expected due to the residuals *versus* the best fit. It also shows one significant peak at  $1.33 \text{ d}^{-1}$ , away from multiples of the orbital frequency, and less-significant peaks at  $0.75 \text{ d}^{-1}$  and  $2.11 \text{ d}^{-1}$ . These results are consistent with star A being a slowly-pulsating B-star.

### Acknowledgements

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## CORRESPONDENCE

*To the Editors of ‘The Observatory’*

### *Book Reviews*

I look forward to Phillip Helbig’s book reviews. In the 2024 June issue review of Bill Press’ memoir *More Than Curious*, he writes<sup>1</sup> of Press “I’ve never met Bill Press”. As a final year undergraduate at Caltech, I got to know him as well as any undergraduate might know a professor. During the 1973–4 academic year, Press was an assistant professor teaching PH 236, a year-long postgraduate-level course in General Relativity. That year was the first in many the course had not been taught by Kip Thorne: he was on sabbatical, recovering from having spent 90% of the preceding three years on completion of *Gravitation* by Misner, Thorne & Wheeler, more often called ‘*MTW*’. Publisher W. H. Freeman shipped the first paperback copies struck off the press to Caltech. I still have mine on my bookshelf, and consult it on occasion, still.