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Long-term Optical Properties of High Mass X-ray Binaries in the Small Magellanic Cloud

We present 16 yr baseline optical lightcurves of Be/X-ray binaries (BeX) in the SMC. All the BeX in our sample display both orbital (usually tens of days) modulation, plus a much longer non-orbital variation on timescales of ~ 200 -3000 d. We compare and contrast their behaviour with the prototypical BeX, A0538-66. In addition, the amplitude of their orbital outbursts can vary through the long-term superorbital cycle. We discuss mechanisms which can produce this effect, as well as an apparent correlation between these periodicities.

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