

## New Mira variables from the MACHO Galactic Bulge Fields

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**Abstract:** 500 new Mira variables in the direction of the Galactic Bulge are presented, which were found in the MACHO database.

500 previously unrecorded Mira variables were found during an inspection of R-band lightcurves from the MACHO Galactic Bulge fields (<http://macho.anu.edu.au/>). This research continues the search for new Miras in the MACHO database (Bernhard 2011).

The MACHO 1.3 m telescope is situated at Mount Stromlo in Australia and uses B and R filters in combination with eight 2048\*2048 CCD cameras. Calculation of MACHO R magnitudes was done from the given instrumental R magnitudes using the formula given in Alcock et al. (1999). Astrometric positions and near-infrared color indices were derived from the 2MASS catalog (Skrutskie et al. 2006).

Only objects with an amplitude  $> 2$  mag ( $R_c$ ) were taken into consideration. In addition, all lightcurves have been inspected visually; objects with significant changes in amplitude, mean magnitude and / or period suggesting semi-regularity have been rejected. Each object was checked against the Strasbourg CDS Vizier service and the International Variable Star Index (VSX) for pre-existence as a Mira-type star in variability catalogues.

Summary data for all new Mira variables are listed in Table 1. (:) denotes uncertain value.

Lightcurves, folded lightcurves and further details are available via AAVSO-VSX (<http://www.aavso.org/vsx/>).

### 1. Period distribution

The present sample encompasses Miras with periods between 94 and 592 days. With a peak at 251-300 days, the distribution of periods (figure 1) is in agreement with results from the OGLE-II survey of the Galactic Bulge (Groenewagen & Blommaert 2005).

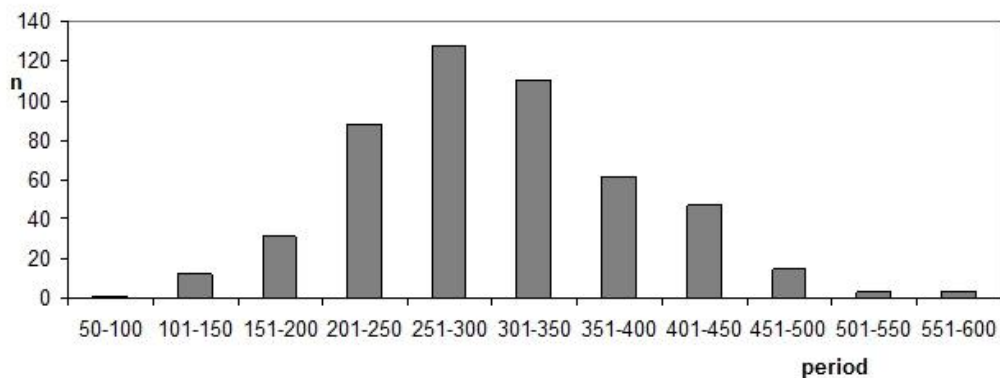


Figure 1: Period distribution of the new Mira variables

2. Colour-Colour diagram and log(P)-Colour diagram

Assuming an interstellar extinction of  $A_K \sim 0.3$  mag for our fields similar to those values for other Bulge fields given in Matsunaga et al. (2005), the H-Ks vs. Ks diagram of our objects fits well to the corresponding diagram of OGLE-II Miras.

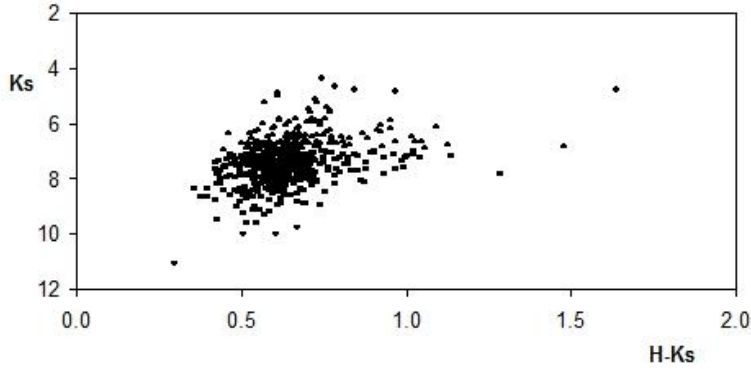


Figure 2: 2MASS (H-Ks) vs. Ks diagram

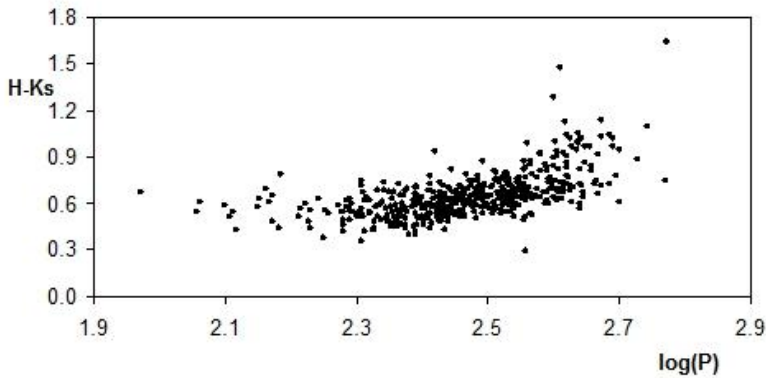


Figure 3: log(P) vs 2MASS H-Ks diagram

This holds true also for the log(P) vs 2MASS H-Ks diagram. Miras with longer periods tend to have larger H-Ks values.

The Mira with the largest H-Ks (1.639) – MACHO 305.35072.100 (RA 18 14 30.72, DEC -21 38 28.3; 15.1-19.3 R<sub>c</sub>) – has also the longest period of the sample (592 d) and is listed in Sevenster et al. (2001) as an OH maser source.

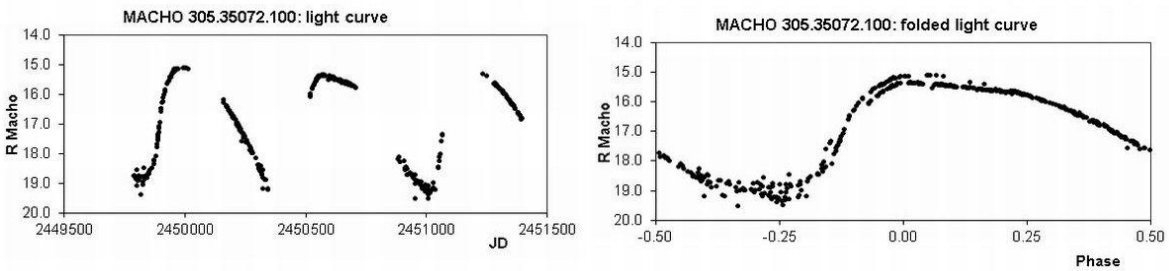


Figure 4: Lightcurve and folded lightcurve of MACHO 305.35072.100

### 3. Lightcurve parameters

Mira lightcurves come in a variety of shapes. While most Miras exhibit more or less symmetrical lightcurves, there are also objects displaying a clear asymmetry between rising and descending branch. This holds true for the present sample: Most Miras show symmetrical lightcurves with a ratio of rise time over period of 0.4 to 0.5 (e.g. Lebzelter 2011).

The following graphic gives examples of symmetrical lightcurves (MACHO 128.22058.29, P=235 d; MACHO 120.21270.120, P=284 d) and asymmetrical ones (MACHO 120.21911.3444, P=393.5 d; MACHO 179.21713.1283, P=483 d). Note the bump on the ascending branch of the last object.

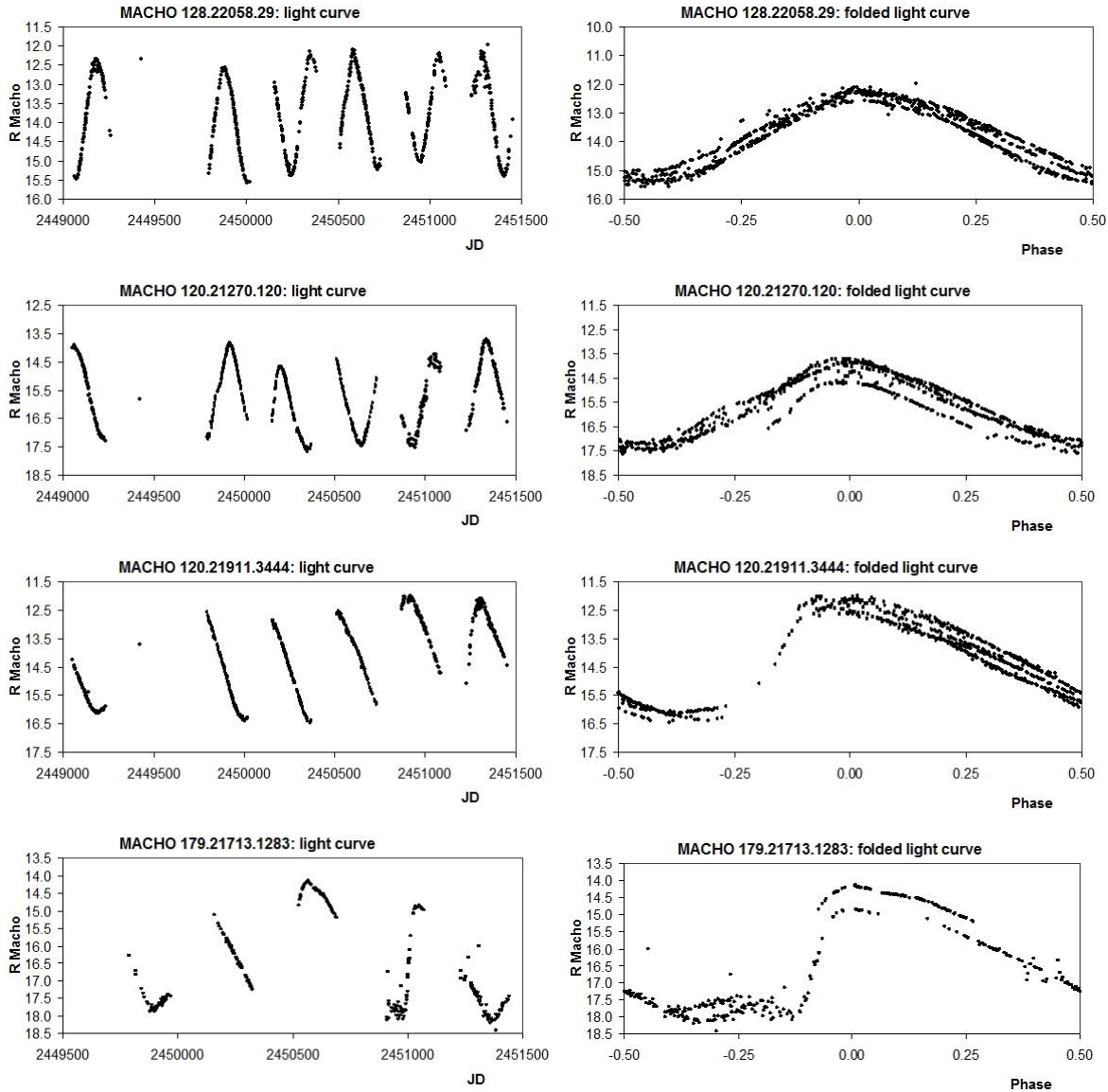


Figure 5: Sample lightcurves of Miras with asymmetric and symmetric lightcurve shapes

Furthermore, some Miras exhibit bumps on their rising (or sometimes falling) branches, which may be of transient nature and need not necessarily repeat every cycle. This phenomenon is particularly common among Miras of longer period. In fact, in an analysis of the shape of the visual lightcurves of 312 M-type Miras, Vardya (1988) finds no humps in the lightcurves of objects with a period of  $P \leq 300$  d (see his figure 3 on p. 183 l.c.). In general, we can confirm this finding in the present sample. However, there are also a few stars showing slight bumps whose periods are shorter than 300 d, e.g. MACHO 159.25878.23 (P=190 d).

The following graphic gives examples of Miras exhibiting bumps on their ascending branches (MACHO 161.24309.62; P=554 d, MACHO 176.18832.15; P=380 d, MACHO 159.25878.23; P=190 d). Note the variable shape of the bump in the second object's lightcurve.

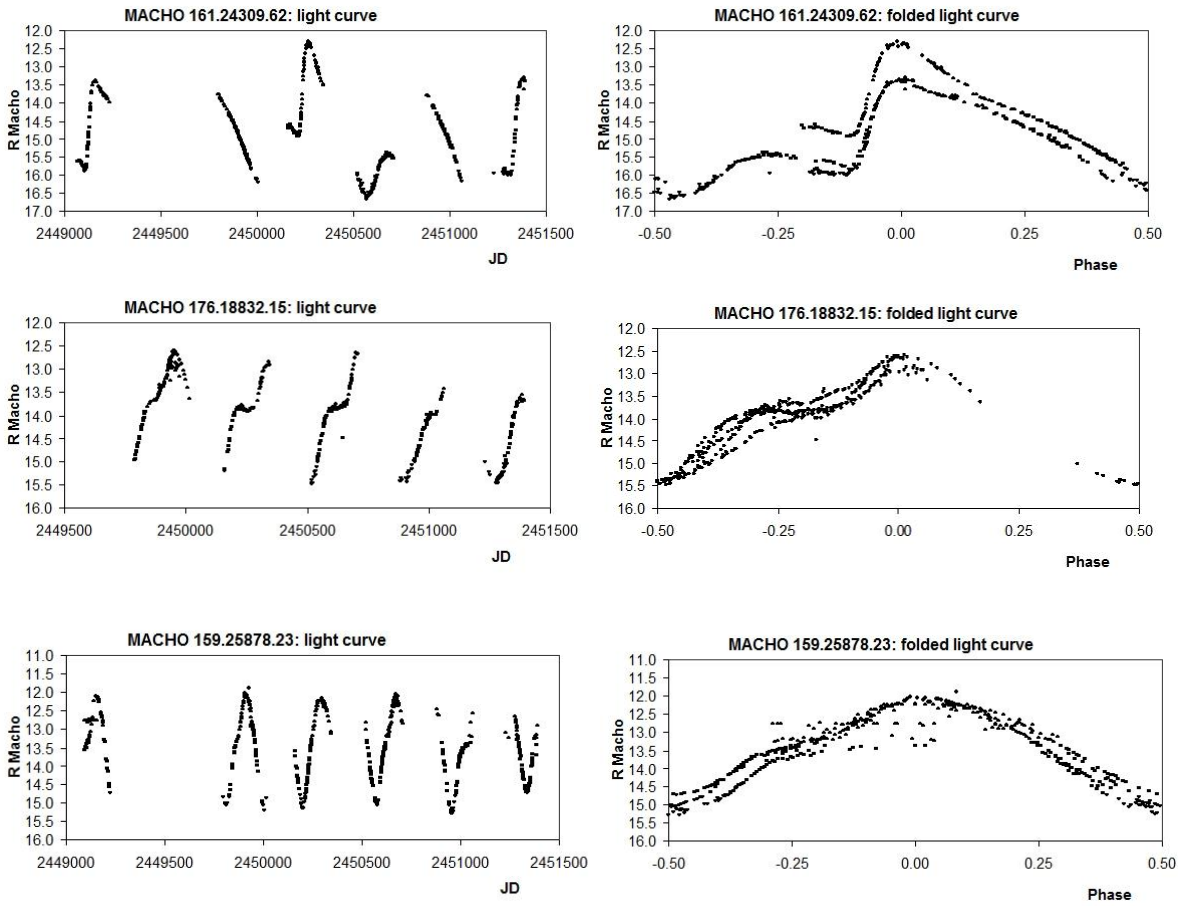


Figure 6: Sample lightcurves of Miras with bumps on their ascending branches

In addition, some Miras show strong changes in amplitude. The difference between consecutive maxima might amount to several magnitudes. In the case of MACHO 120.21789.114, the difference between the highest maximum at around JD 2450210 and the lowest maximum at around JD 2451290 is a respectable 2.6 mag (Rc).

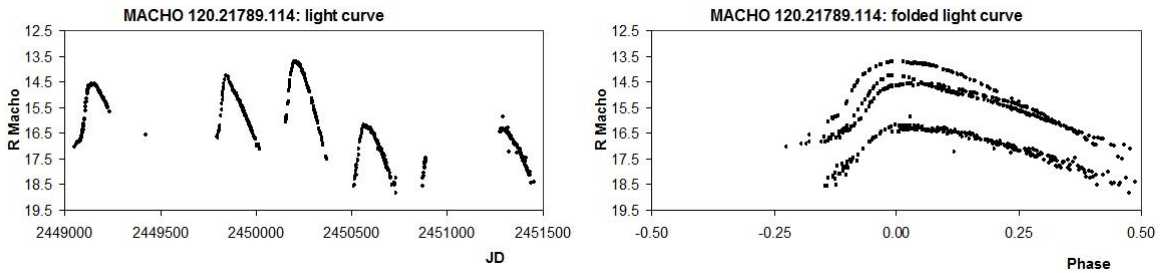
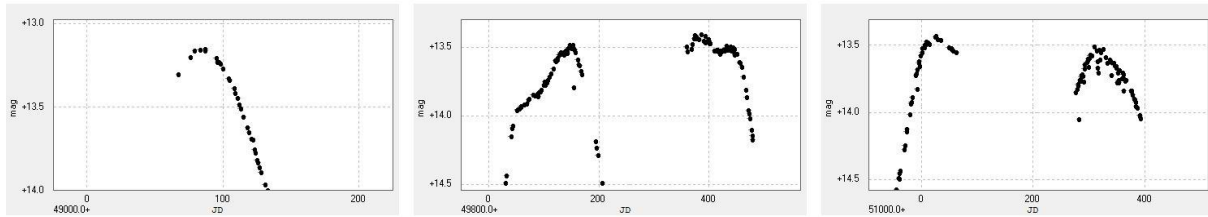
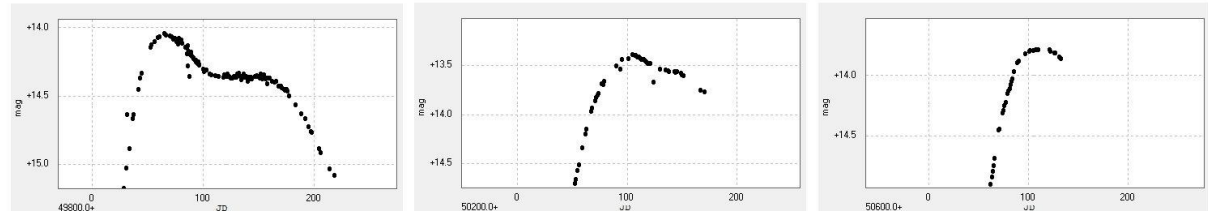


Figure 7: Sample lightcurve of a Mira displaying strong changes in amplitude

Generally speaking, the lightcurve form may vary considerably from cycle to cycle. Some examples of the varying shape of maxima are given below:



MACHO 161.24828.47; P=276 d



MACHO 120.21658.37; P=418 d

Figure 8: Sample lightcurves of Miras with considerably varying maxima shapes

Table 1: Positions, identifications and photometric data for the new Mira stars

No.	MACHO	other	RA	DEC	(2000)	Range (MACHO R)	Epoch (Max)	Per. (d)
1	118.17884.219	VSX J175804.7-294748	17 58	4.75	-29 47	48.6 12.6-17.3	2451377	142.2
2	118.18011.25	VSX J175828.8-300117	17 58	28.85	-30 1	17.7 13.2-16.4	2451007	459.8
3	118.18145.99	VSX J175839.2-294506	17 58	39.26	-29 45	6.1 13.6-16.8	2450881	335.7
4	118.18141.12	VSX J175842.5-300146	17 58	42.57	-30 1	46.3 11.9-16.1	2451367	248.5
5	118.18271.397	VSX J175857.3-300030	17 58	57.34	-30 0	30.4 13.3-18.0	2451375	340.5
6	118.18402.42	VSX J175911.6-295705	17 59	11.65	-29 57	5.5 13.5-<16.5	2451307	310.5
7	118.18404.394	VSX J175917.1-294929	17 59	17.14	-29 49	29.0 13.4-16.9	2450918	309.6
8	113.18551.44	VSX J175940.2-284146	17 59	40.29	-28 41	46.4 11.4-15.7	2451376	209.4
9	176.18565.1	VSX J175943.1-274419	17 59	43.1	-27 44	19.4 13.7-18.0:	2450924	263
10	108.18553.116	VSX J175943.1-283257	17 59	43.16	-28 32	57.1 12.0-15.3	2451327	202.1
11	118.18661.59	VSX J175944.2-300311	17 59	44.22	-30 3	11.0 13.4-16.4	2450194	343.4
12	108.18690.29	VSX J175944.6-280702	17 59	44.63	-28 7	2.3 13.2-16.5	2451225	230.8
13	108.18688.36	VSX J175948.5-281244	17 59	48.53	-28 12	44.1 12.6-16.6	2451310	266.5
14	118.18662.426	VSX J175949.0-295555	17 59	49.04	-29 55	55.5 13.8-<17.0	2451292	344.9
15	176.18694.1121	VSX J175949.3-274929	17 59	49.37	-27 49	29.3 15.1-19.0:	2450635	438
16	118.18664.475	VSX J175950.9-294944	17 59	50.99	-29 49	44.9 12.9-17.1	2451279	220.7
17	118.18670.21	VSX J175955.4-292646	17 59	55.41	-29 26	46.3 11.6-<15.7	2450544	292.7
18	108.18691.45	V4689 Sgr	17 59	59.31	-28 3	19.8 11.9-16.1	2451278	261.9
19	118.18669.254	VSX J175959.8-293105	17 59	59.87	-29 31	5.3 13.0-16.2	2450566	219.9
20	176.18697.699	VSX J180000.4-273823	18 0	0.4	-27 38	23.5 14.0-17.4	2450594	277
21	108.18689.118	VSX J180000.6-280929	18 0	0.68	-28 9	29.0 13.1-16.1	2451265	244.4
22	176.18696.75	VSX J180001.3-273946	18 0	1.35	-27 39	46.6 12.1-15.7	2450244	232
23	176.18823.85	VSX J180005.5-275405	18 0	5.51	-27 54	5.5 13.1-16.1	2450608	219
24	118.18798.54	VSX J180005.8-293206	18 0	5.8	-29 32	6.5 13.0-<16.7	2450540	355
25	108.18821.429	VSX J180008.5-280127	18 0	8.52	-28 1	27.5 13.8-18.1	2451428	368.2
26	108.18814.447	VSX J180009.2-283033	18 0	9.26	-28 30	33.3 12.0-16.3	2451358	352.7
27	118.18790.15	VSX J180010.3-300606	18 0	10.37	-30 6	6.6 12.6-15.8	2451370	224.7
28	176.18832.15	VSX J180012.0-271905	18 0	12.09	-27 19	5.7 12.6-15.5	2450330	380
29	108.18817.863	VSX J180014.6-281655	18 0	14.69	-28 16	55.9 14.5-18.5:	2451396	360.4
30	176.18822.24	VSX J180015.9-275551	18 0	15.95	-27 55	51.2 14.5-18.3	2451028	163
31	118.18798.221	VSX J180016.6-293527	18 0	16.63	-29 35	27.3 13.3-16.3	2451415	297
32	108.18816.45	VSX J180017.6-282026	18 0	17.64	-28 20	26.3 12.6-16.7	2449433	337
33	108.18948.14	Mis V0490	18 0	20.9	-28 13	37.1 11.5:-<13.9	2451295	342
34	176.18960.317	VSX J180020.9-272431	18 0	20.99	-27 24	31.1 >12.9-16.5	2450972	236
35	108.18949.47	VSX J180024.2-280857	18 0	24.23	-28 8	57.6 12.5-15.9	2451307	259.3
36	118.18926.32	VSX J180029.2-294147	18 0	29.21	-29 41	47.4 13.4-16.6	2450588	291.5
37	118.18923.209	VSX J180029.5-295431	18 0	29.59	-29 54	31.8 12.4-16.4	2450177	320.5
38	176.18960.146	V4694 Sgr	18 0	30.37	-27 23	46.3 12.7-16.4	2450980	298
39	118.18928.209	VSX J180031.2-293347	18 0	31.21	-29 33	47.4 14.3-<17.3	2450616	230
40	108.18948.200	Mis V0542	18 0	33.61	-28 11	56.6 11.8-16.1	2450605	265.3
41	176.18960.241	VSX J180034.6-272358	18 0	34.6	-27 23	58.5 14.1-<17.1	2451325	335
42	176.19089.58	VSX J180039.0-273042	18 0	39.04	-27 30	42.2 13.7-16.9	2450525	311
43	108.19078.306	VSX J180043.2-281425	18 0	43.27	-28 14	25.4 14.5-<19.0	2451276	369.1
44	176.19083.434	VSX J180043.5-275331	18 0	43.59	-27 53	31.1 >14.0-16.9	2451305	393
45	108.19074.30	VSX J180044.8-283114	18 0	44.86	-28 31	14.9 12.5-<16.4	2451358	375.2
46	176.19086.310	VSX J180045.4-274312	18 0	45.4	-27 43	12.7 11.8-15.8	2451241	247
47	176.19083.306	VSX J180048.0-275453	18 0	48.06	-27 54	53.8 12.2-15.8	2451333	170
48	108.19079.25	Mis V0348	18 0	52.4	-28 10	52.1 12.0-15.7	2451245	163.8
49	176.19086.157	VSX J180054.3-274310	18 0	54.35	-27 43	10.2 >11.8-15.5	2451290	189
50	176.19215.30	VSX J180058.6-274352	18 0	58.69	-27 43	52.5 12.9-16.2	2450943	268
51	108.19202.5187	VSX J180059.0-283638	18 0	59.02	-28 36	38.1 11.7-<15.9	2451309	222.4
52	108.19210.727	VSX J180059.8-280602	18 0	59.88	-28 6	2.3 12.8-16.5	2451365	343.5
53	176.19216.505	Mis V0871	18 1	6.48	-27 41	24.5 11.6:-16.5	2450533	255
54	108.19207.3456	VSX J180108.9-281911	18 1	8.92	-28 19	11.2 12.6-<15.9	2451421	220.9
55	108.19208.317	VSX J180109.9-281420	18 1	9.97	-28 14	20.1 13.8-17.0	2451299	301.2
56	113.19192.698	VSX J180114.1-291812	18 1	14.11	-29 18	12.2 14.0-17.5	2451313	339.9
57	176.19349.5049	VSX J180115.1-272934	18 1	15.17	-27 29	34.1 12.3-16.9	2451014	309
58	108.19462.5386	VSX J180135.8-283710	18 1	35.81	-28 37	10.1 13.6-<16.8	2451341	343.9
59	176.19478.42	VSX J180139.6-273201	18 1	39.64	-27 32	1.1 13.8-17.2	2451305	94
60	108.19466.84	VSX J180142.8-282110	18 1	42.87	-28 21	10.7 13.7-16.5	2451330	246
61	113.19584.81	VSX J180153.1-290957	18 1	53.18	-29 9	57.8 12.5-<16.4	2451255	344.1
62	176.19604.7	VSX J180154.6-274857	18 1	54.6	-27 48	57.6 12.3-15.8	2451303	181
63	108.19601.121	VSX J180203.2-275946	18 2	3.26	-27 59	46.3 11.6-16.0	2451421	237.9
64	176.19607.34	VSX J180205.4-273645	18 2	5.44	-27 36	45.6 13.1-16.5	2451233	270
65	108.19600.34	VSX J180205.6-280401	18 2	5.67	-28 4	1.2 12.6-17.4	2451299	311.1
66	114.19580.1183	VSX J180208.8-292437	18 2	8.83	-29 24	37.8 13.8-18.1	2451344	192.6
67	114.19710.19	VSX J180220.4-292654	18 2	20.45	-29 26	54.9 11.8-16.8	2451313	274.8
68	176.19737.24	VSX J180221.5-273812	18 2	21.51	-27 38	12.7 12.9-17.6	2451332	292
69	114.19846.60	VSX J180230.0-290055	18 2	30.09	-29 0	55.4 11.9-<15.7	2451308	301.4
70	114.19842.460	VSX J180233.9-291843	18 2	33.95	-29 18	43.9 12.4-16.3	2450940	279.3
71	114.19843.30	VSX J180242.7-291412	18 2	42.75	-29 14	12.4 12.9-17.3	2451361	202.6
72	176.19996.10	VSX J180249.1-274327	18 2	49.11	-27 43	27.7 12.2-16.0	2451284	230
73	176.19998.2804	VSX J180253.1-273515	18 2	53.1	-27 35	15.9 12.7-<16.5	2450940	269
74	114.19970.39	VSX J180255.1-292502	18 2	55.17	-29 25	2.9 13.4-16.8	2451279	359.8
75	104.19997.944	VSX J180257.2-273801	18 2	57.21	-27 38	1.2 13.3-17.4	2450882	326
76	104.19990.3784	Mis V0557	18 3	0.43	-28 4	42.5 11.2-15.8	2451433	324.9
77	114.19972.22	VSX J180301.9-291641	18 3	1.99	-29 16	41.6 12.8-16.3	2450147	349.5
78	114.20099.104	VSX J180305.7-293039	18 3	5.79	-29 30	39.1 13.5-<17.1	2451246	347.3













489	302.45601.28	VSX J183156.0-140616	18	31	56.0	-14	6	16.5	13.2-<16.3	2451408	380
490	301.45607.116	VSX J183156.4-133959	18	31	56.4	-13	39	59.1	14.5-<17.5	2451307	279.5
491	303.45587.144	VSX J183158.4-150127	18	31	58.41	-15	1	27.2	>13.8-<16.9	2451307	381
492	302.45597.69	TSVSC1 TN-S300112112-331-67-2	18	31	59.12	-14	22	5.0	12.6-15.7	2451240	209
493	302.45595.105	VSX J183159.7-142819	18	31	59.7	-14	28	19.6	13.8-<16.8	2451293	367
494	302.45594.19	TSVSC1 TN-S300112132-320-67-2	18	31	59.89	-14	31	56.9	12.8-<17.0	2451286	237
495	301.45775.97	VSX J183202.9-133905	18	32	2.91	-13	39	5.5	14.3-18.2	2451397	305
496	303.45754.153	TSVSC1 TN-S300112121-304-67-2	18	32	12.88	-15	3	33.0	>12.1-16.1	2450938	295
497	302.46107.155	VSX J183236.3-135536	18	32	36.38	-13	55	36.8	14.0-16.6	2451408	268
498	302.46105.33	VSX J183240.9-140640	18	32	40.99	-14	6	40.7	13.0-17.0	2450595	333
499	301.46108.65	VSX J183249.0-135200	18	32	49.06	-13	52	0.3	14.3-17.2	2451244	209
500	301.46447.49	VSX J183314.4-133953	18	33	14.48	-13	39	53.7	13.6-17.2	2450969	275

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