Catalogues and parameters of orbital binaries

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Term

 Orbital binary is a visual binary with known orbital elements (and known distance)



Outline

- Goals
- Compilation of a list of orbits
- Construction of refined list of pairs
- Parameter distributions

Goals

- Construct a largest list of orbital binaries, containing, beside orbital elements, magnitudes and spectral types of components, distances and indication on spectroscopic and eclipsing phenomena
- Estimate dynamical masses of orbital binaries, compare them with photometric and spectral masses, and make preliminary conclusions on distribution of systems along principal parameters (mass, P, a, e, ...)

Existing catalogues

- ORB6 (Hartkopf et al., 2000 pairs): no spectral classification; no parallax; P or/and a values sometimes absent; about fifty misprints/errors (most of them are format variances)
- OARMAC (Docobo et al., 1700 pairs): poor availability; uncomfortable format; no orbital parameters' uncertainty; pair names are often written incorrectly; outdated photometry; about a hundred misprints/errors

General "drawbacks" of existing lists

- They are not exhaustive
- They often contain several orbits per pair: it is not convenient for statistical studies

Step 1:

Compilation of a list of ORBITS

Compilation of a list of orbits

- Join the ORB6 and OARMAC. Keep systems without parallax, but remove systems without P, a
- Get recent photometry and spectral classification from WDS
- Get data from SIMBAD (see next slide)

Data from SIMBAD

- Coordinates: to estimate interstellar extinction (it is an important value for photometric mass calculation)
- Magnitude(s): if absent in original catalogues and WDS
- Spectral type(s): if absent in original catalogues and WDS
- Parallax with uncertainty
- Indication on spectroscopic and eclipsing nature

Format

- Identification: No in ORB6, No in OARMAC, WDS, Name, HIP, ADS
- Number of pair in system, number of orbit for pair
- Magnitudes, spectral types, parallax (with uncertainty), interstellar extinction
- Orbital elements (with uncertainties)
- Grade in ORB6 and OARMAC
- Notes in ORB6 and OARMAC
- Indication on spectroscopic and eclipsing binarity

Some statistics. 1

- The catalogue contains 3139 orbits for 2278 pairs:
 - 1588 pairs have a single orbit,
 - 548 pairs have 2 orbits,
 - 120 pairs have 3 orbits,
 - 19 pairs have 4 orbits,
 - 1 pair have 5 orbits,
 - 2 pairs have 7 orbits.
- Those 2278 pairs combine into
 - 2016 binaries,
 - 76 triples,
 - 26 quadruple systems,
 - 5 quintuple (5) systems,
 - 2 septuple (7) systems

Some statistics. 2

- For 650 orbits there is no photometry for secondary component
- For 65 orbits there is no spectral type
- Parallax for 270 orbits is unknown, zero or negative

Step 2:

Construction of a refined list of PAIRS

Construction of refined list of pairs

- Remove triple+ systems
- Remove pairs with unknown parallax
- Remove orbits with poor quality (4,5,9 in ORB6, 'C' in OARMAC)

- Select one (best) orbit for every pair
 - Compare orbits' quality
 - Compare dynamical and photometric mass

Mass calculation

• $M_d = M_1 + M_2 = a^3/(P^2\pi^3) - dynamical mass$

• $M_{1,2} = f_{MLR} [m_{1,2}+5Ig\pi+5-A(I,b,\pi)] - photometric mass$

• $M_{1,2} = f_{MSR} (SpType_{1,2}) - spectral mass$

Photometric mass estimation: mass-luminosity relation

- Upper MS (-5<M_V<1.45): Malkov O. 2007, MNRAS 382, 1073
- Lower MS (1.45<M_V<17.59): Henry, T. J., & McCarthy, D. W. Jr. 1993, AJ, 106, 773; Henry, T. J., Franz, O. G., Wasserman, L. H., et al. 1999, ApJ, 512, 864
- Subgiants and early-type (O-F6) giants are 1 mag brighter than dwarfs: Halbwachs J.-L. 1986, AA 168, 161

Dynamical mass uncertainty estimation for OARMAC orbits

- Errors in P(%): 5, 10, 20 for A,B,C grade, respectively.
- Errors in a(%): 3, 6, 12 for A,B,C grade, respectively.

Refined list of PAIRS

- 652 orbits = pairs = systems
- Two orbits have dynamical mass < 0.1, four orbits have dynamical mass > 100

Comparison of dynamical, photometric and spectral mass



Possible reasons for discrepancy between dynamical (D), photometric (P) and spectral (S) mass

- Wrong parallax (see parallax value and uncertainty): D, P
- Wrong orbital elements (see orbit's grade): D
- Wrong spectral type (depends on brightness):
 - Spectral (temperature) class: S
 - Luminosity class: P, S
- Third body (see Notes): D
- Unresolved binarity: D, P
- Variability: P, S?
- Interstellar extinction underestimation (for low galactic latitudes): P

Selection effects



Difference between the magnitudes of the components vs the semimajor axis of the orbit (upper panel) and the magnitudes of the primaries (lower panel).

The dashed lines mark the area that satisfies the definition of selected systems, $a'' \sim 0''.1 - 1''$, $m_1 \leq 7.m5$ and $dm \leq 2^m$.

Visual magnitudes (V) of components are taken from WDS.

207 systems are selected

Grey: all 652 systems black: selected 207 systems



Resume

- The resulting distributions are still distorted by the selection effects inherent to the OARMAC and ORB6 catalogues, and cannot be mistaken for initial or present-day distributions of binary parameters.
- They, however, can be used to construct the initial mass function and star formation history of wide binaries. This is a subject for future study.
- Observations to determine spectral types and magnitudes (when absent) are needed.
- The results are published in Malkov et al. 2012, A&A 546, 69; the catalogue is published in VizieR.