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Absolute Parameters of Young Stars: NO Puppis

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Abstract

The southern early-type, young, eccentric-orbit eclipsing binary NO Puppis forms the A component of the multiple star Gaia DR3 5528147999779517568. The B component is an astrometric binary now at a separation of about 8.1 arcsec. There may be other fainter stars in this interesting but complex stellar system. We have combined several lines of evidence, including TESS data from 4 sectors, new ground-based BVR photometry, HARPS (ESO) and HERCULES (UCMJO) high-resolution spectra and astrometry of NO Pup. We derive a revised set of absolute parameters with increased precision. Alternative optimal curve-fitting programs were used in the analysis, allowing a wider view of modelling and parameter uncertainties. The main parameters are as follows: M_{Aa} = 3.58 ± 0.11, M_{Ab} = 1.68 ± 0.09 ($M_\odot$); R_{Aa} = 2.17 ± 0.03, R_{Ab} = 1.51 ± 0.06 ($R_\odot$), and T_{eAa} = 13300 ± 500, T_{eAb} = 7400 ± 500 (K). We estimate approximate masses of the wide companions, Ba and Bb, as M_{Ba} = 2.0 and M_{Bb} = 1.8 ($M_\odot$). The close binary's orbital separation is a = 8.51 ± 0.05 ($R_\odot$); its age is approximately 20 Myr and distance 172 ± 1 pc. The close binary's secondary (Ab) appears to be the source of low amplitude δ Scuti-type oscillations, although the form of these oscillations is irregular and unrepetitive. Analysis of the λ 6678 He I profile of the primary show synchronism of the mean bodily and orbital rotations. The retention of significant orbital eccentricity, in view of the closeness of the A-system components, is unexpected and poses challenges for the explanation that we discuss.

Keywords: keyword entry 1, keyword entry 2, keyword entry 3

1. Introduction

This paper forms part of a programme addressing relatively neglected close binary systems in the Southern Hemisphere (Idaczyk et al. 2013). A recent example was that of Erdem et al. (2022) dealing with the system V410 Pup, which has some similarities in its physical properties to NO Pup. Close binary systems provide a recognised source of fundamental data on stellar parameters, notably their masses and radii. The advent of space based facilities, such as the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS: Ricker et al., 2014 and 2015) with its wealth of high-precision photometry, together with available high-resolution spectrometry, have transformed our knowledge of stellar astrophysics.

This knowledge becomes interestingly augmented in the case of eclipsing binaries such as NO Pup (HD 71487, HIP 41361, CoD –38°4462, HR 3327), whose orbital motion includes a steady additional rotation of its main elliptical form. This is associated with the departure from simple Keplerian motion mainly due to the perturbation from the sphericity of the component stars. Data on the difference between observed and calculated times of minimum light from these eclipsing binaries, 'O – C's, allow tests of the physics underlying this apsidal motion (Wolf, Zejda, and de Villiers 2008). Substantiation of this point can be found in the reviews of Giménez (1992), Claret and Giménez (1993), Tohline (2002), Horch (2013), and others. The short-period (~1.2569 d) of NO Pup's orbit makes for a relatively fast apsidal motion. In fact, that such a short period system should have retained a noticeable eccentricity seems *prima facie* surprising (cf. the case of ζ TrA;

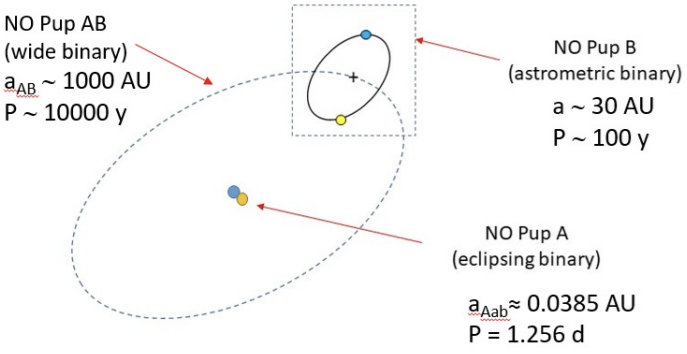


Figure 1. Schematic of the main four stars of the NO Pup system.

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Skuljan, Ramm, and Hearnshaw 2004). As well as the classical two-body discussion of apsidal motion (Sterne 1939), the case of NO Pup may present effects associated with the close binary's wide orbit companions.

The early-type close pair forms the 'A' component of the multiple star WDS J08263-3904[a] (Figure 1). The 'B' component, discovered by John Herschel in 1835, is now at a separation of about 8.1 arcsec and position angle 124 deg. The AB double star, at a distance of 172 pc, has apparently closed in by a few arcsecs over the last ∼ 200 yr, although without a significant change of position angle. The B component is itself an astrometric binary (Bab), with a relatively short period of 103 yr. This pair has a combined V magnitude of about 7, and the source would have been included in conventional photometry of NO Pup A. A third component (C) apparently has optical closeness only (Veramendi and González 2014), while companion D was identified by Tokovinin et al. (1999), with a separation of 5.4 arcsec and position angle 265°. The whole group lies to the south of a small asterism, about half a degree south of the Galactic plane.

The close pair's combined brightness is given as V ≈ 6.49 (SIMBAD), with B – V ≈ –0.06, which is slightly bluer than the reported combination of Main Sequence spectral types B8V+A7V would suggest (for the Aa and Ab stars). The visible companion Bab is reported with V mag 7.04 and B – V = 0.07 (SIMBAD: Wenger et al. 2000).

NO Pup (Aab) was discovered to be variable by Grønbech (1976) during *uvby* photometry of bright southern stars in 1972 (Jørgensen 1972). He derived the first light elements, revealing the relatively short orbital period. A diaphragm of 30 arcsec was used in the photometric measurements of Grønbech (1976), so the light contribution of the visible companion was always included in the flux measurements. This four-colour photometry was analysed by Giménez, Clausen, and Jensen (1986), who gave the following linear ephemerides for the primary minimum:

$$\text{Min I} = \text{HJD } 2441752.6576 \pm 0.0012 + (1.2569 \pm 0.0027)E \quad (1)$$

and for the secondary:

$$\text{Min II} = \text{HJD } 2441753.3780 \pm 0.0004 + (1.2569 \pm 0.0004)E \quad (2)$$

Giménez, Clausen, and Jensen (1986) improved our knowledge of the orbit and its behaviour, announcing the short period of apsidal motion $U = 37.2 \pm 0.2$ yr.

a. Gaia DR3 5528147999779517568

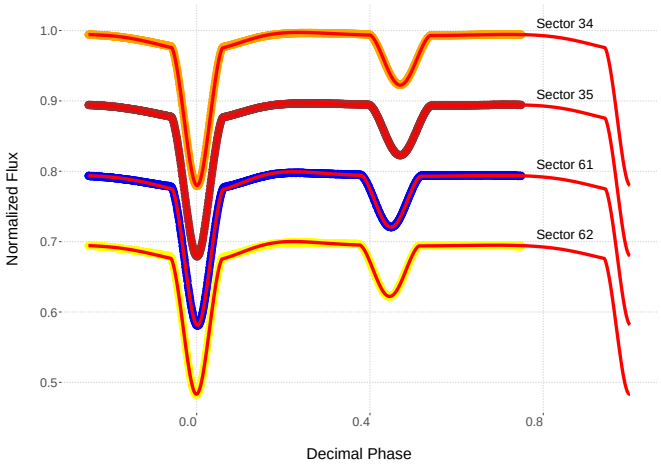


Figure 2. Binned TESS data are plotted for sectors 34, 35, 61, and 62 with optimal WinFitter models. Fluxes for Sector 35 are offset by –0.2 from their actual values, Sector 61 by a further –0.2, and Sector 62 by an additional –0.2. The model fluxes are presented as red continuous curves. The TESS data for each sector have been folded by the orbital period and then binned to 3600 points. Model parameters are given in Table 1.

2. Photometry

2.1 WinFitter fits to TESS data

We downloaded the TESS data in sectors 34, 35, 61 and 62 with short cadence (120-s sampling) from the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST). Our adopted procedure for extraction of TESS data has been spelled out by Blackford (2025). While noting the Pre-search Data Conditioning Simple Aperture Photometry (PDCSAP) (Jenkins et al. 2016), we concentrated LC analysis on the Simple Aperture Photometry (SAP) fluxes, since the PDCSAP detrending produces artificial side-effects associated with the search for planetary transits.

LC modelling for close binary stars often refers to the numerical integration procedure of Wilson and Devinney (1971) (WD), which represents the distorted component surfaces as equipotentials, according to the classical point-mass formulation attributed to Roche (1873), recalled in Ch. 3 of Kopal (1959). Both the WD and WiNFitter (WF) methods converge to the same approximation for the surface perturbation when the internal structural constants k_j are neglected, implying disregard of the effects of tides on tides. The relevant formula, Eqn 1-11 in Ch 2, or Eqn 2-6 in Ch. 3 of Kopal (1959), is:

$$\frac{\Delta' r}{r_0} = q \sum_{j=2}^{4} r_0^{j+1}(1 + 2k_j)P_j(\lambda) + nr_o^3(1 - \nu^2) \ , \quad (3)$$

where r is the local stellar radius expressed as a fraction of the orbital separation of the components with mean value r_0. $P_j(\lambda)$ is the Legendre polynomials and $n = (1 + q)/2$, where q is the mass ratio. λ and ν are the direction cosines for an arbitrary point on the star's surface with respect to the line of centres (λ) and the spin axis (ν). In any case, the difference between the stellar distortions in WD and WF become small at greater relative separations of the two stars ($r_0 \to 0$.). The direction cosine of the angle between the radius vector $\hat{r}$ and the line

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Table 1. Parameter values for WF models to TESS Sectors 34, 35, 61, and 62, folding each sector's data by the ephemeris given by Veramendi and González (2014). The mass ratio q was adopted as 0.47 (Veramendi and González 2014). The linear limb darkening coefficient for the primary star was set at 0.29, and for the secondary 0.39. The latter parameters depend on the assigned effective temperatures and wavelength. These were set as T_1 = 12000 K; T_2 = 7700 K; $\lambda_{\rm eff}$ = 0.835 μm. The fractional luminosities L_i are the mean relative fluxes from each star, normalized so that their sum is unity. The radii r_i are mean radii of the two stars in the close binary system divided by the semi-major axis of the relative orbit. Angles are given in degrees. M_0 is the mean anomaly at phase zero. The phase bin size is then close to 0.4 deg. See Figure 2 for plots of the model fits to the four data sets.

Parameter	Sector 34	Sector 35	Sector 61	Sector 62
Primary luminosity L_1	0.576 ± 0.015	0.608 ± 0.015	0.602 ± 0.014	0.595 ± 0.012
Secondary luminosity L_2	0.123 ± 0.010	0.114 ± 0.008	0.140 ± 0.008	0.134 ± 0.007
Tertiary luminosity L_3	0.301 ± 0.019	0.278 ± 0.018	0.258 ± 0.020	0.271 ± 0.016
Primary radius r_1	0.254 ± 0.001	0.255 ± 0.001	0.256 ± 0.002	0.254 ± 0.001
Secondary radius r_2	0.181 ± 0.003	0.177 ± 0.002	0.184 ± 0.003	0.181 ± 0.002
Inclination i	78.3 ± 0.6	78.6 ± 0.7	79.9 ± 0.8	78.4 ± 0.6
Eccentricity e	0.131 ± 0.012	0.132 ± 0.013	0.141 ± 0.011	0.139 ± 0.013
Mean anomaly M_0	343.7 ± 6.9	343.8 ± 6.6	330.6 ± 6.7	343.7 ± 7.0
Exposure time (seconds)	120	120	120	120

of centres is here λ, and ν is the direction cosine of the angle between $\hat{r}$ and the rotation ('spin') axis. The coefficients k_j (in WF) can be taken from suitable stellar models, e.g. Inlek, Budding, and Demircan (2017). They are set to zero in WD.

Sector 34 gathered observations of the photometric flux during the period 2021 Jan 14 to 2021 Feb 08; Sector 35 2021 Feb 09 to 2021 Mar 06; Sector 61 2023 Jan 18 to 2023 Feb 12; and Sector 62 2023 Feb 12 to 2023 Mar 10.[b] Rhodes (2023) provides background and a user manual for WinFitter, Banks and Budding (1990) discussed its optimization methods that build on chapter 11 of Bevington (1969). WinFitter numerically inverts the Hessian of the χ^2 variate in the vicinity of its minimum to derive estimates for resulting parameter uncertainties, that include effects of inter-correlations between these parameters.

Later, we binned the 17,385 individual observations of Sector 34 by phase to produce 1,021 representative points. Similarly, 14,156 observations in Sector 35 were binned to 1,010 points, 17,771 to 1,045 in Sector 61, and 18,025 to 1,045 in Sector 62. Such binning tends to remove photometric structure with periods not synchronised with that of the orbit (see Section 2.3). However, certain systematic, but unmodelled effects remain in the data, working against the idea of one clear and unequivocal LC 'solution'. Parameter estimates from the best fitting model are given in Table 1, while Figure 2 displays the model fits to each sector's data.

The main optimal parameters derived from the WF analysis of the TESS light curves are as follows (the angular parameters i, M_0 and ω in degrees) : $L_1 = 0.595 \pm 0.013$, $L_2 = 0.128 \pm 0.008$, $L_3 = 0.277 \pm 0.019$, $r_1 = 0.255 \pm 0.001$, $r_2 = 0.181 \pm 0.004$, $i = 78.8 \pm 0.4$, $e = 0.136 \pm 0.012$, $M_0 = 340.5 \pm 6.6$, $\omega = 119.8 \pm 8.5$.

2.2 WinFitter fits to BVR Photometry

Multicolour photometry of NO Puppis was carried out over 6 nights in January and February 2019 from the Congarinni Observatory, NSW, Australia (152° 52' E, 30° 44' S, Alt. 20 m). Images were captured with an ATIK™ One 6.0 CCD camera equipped with Johnson–Cousins BVR filters attached to an 80 mm f6 refractor stopped down to 50 mm aperture. MaxIm DL™ software was used for image handling, calibration, and aperture photometry.

Table 2. BVR magnitudes of NO Pup Aab and B.

	NO Pup components			
Filter	mag Aa	mag Ab	mag B	Err. (mag Aa)
B	6.479	9.26	7.51	0.019
V	6.588	8.96	7.40	0.015
R	6.593	8.91	7.40	0.013

HD 71932 was the main comparison star. Its magnitude and colours were measured as V = 8.274, B – V = 0.486, and V – R = 0.283. The magnitudes and colours of NO Pup just before and after primary eclipse were then determined as V = 6.086(6), B – V = –0.019(10), V – R = –0.002(9). These measures, coupled with the determinations of the relative fluxes of the components from the LC analysis, allow the magnitudes and colours of the components to be derived, and thence the surface temperatures checked.

Table 3 presents the best fit parameter estimates for the three light curves, while Figure 3 shows the model LC fits to the observations. Table 2 presents the magnitudes of the components in the standard BVR system. From this we see that the primary star (NO Pup Aa) has B – V of –0.11, in agreement with the assigned B8V spectral type (Section 1). Ab, with B – V = 0.30, corresponds to an F0 main sequence star (Table 9.2 in Budding and Demircan 2022). We could expect NO Pup B to be characterised by a mid-A dwarf spectral type. The WDS catalogue gives a slightly brighter combination V magnitude for NO Pup B as 7.23. The separate magnitudes given in the same catalogue would correspond to A5V and A6V spectral types, with a total mass of about 3.8 $M_\odot$.

b. https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/tess/sector.html

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Table 3. Parameter values for WinFitter models to the *BVR* photometry. The parameter symbols carry the same meaning as in Table 1. See Figure 3 for plots of the model fits to the three data sets. Angles are in degrees. The eccentricity (e = 0.127), adopted after checking the results of numerous optimisation estimates, has been used in these fittings (see Section 5).

Parameter	B	V	R
Primary Luminosity L_1	0.684 ± 0.079	0.630 ± 0.020	0.628 ± 0.089
Secondary Luminosity L_2	0.053 ± 0.008	0.071 ± 0.002	0.074 ± 0.009
Tertiary Luminosity L_3	0.264 ± 0.093	0.299 ± 0.027	0.298 ± 0.100
Primary radius r_1	0.261 ± 0.009	0.247 ± 0.003	0.244 ± 0.010
Secondary radius r_2	0.183 ± 0.027	0.163 ± 0.004	0.151 ± 0.028
Inclination i	81.0 ± 1.0	80.8 ± 0.4	81.4 ± 0.9
Mean Anomaly M_0	355.8 ± 0.8	356.2 ± 0.7	357.7 ± 0.6
Exposure time (seconds)	30	20	30

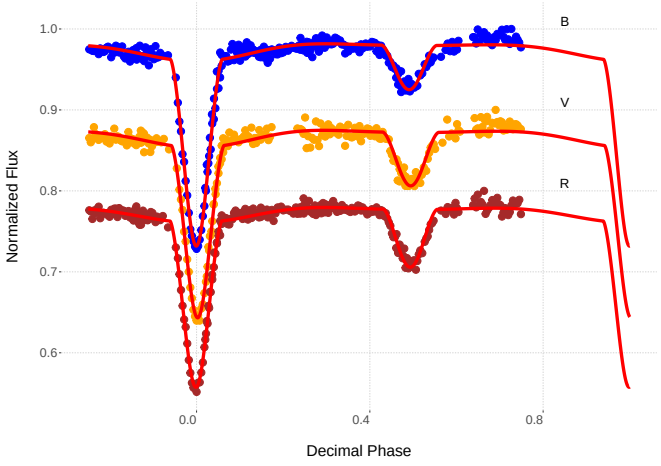


Figure 3. WinFitter model lightcurves for the ground-based *BVR* photometry. The V and R light curves are offset by –0.1 and -0.2 respectively in normalised flux for display purposes. Optimal parameter values are listed in Table 3

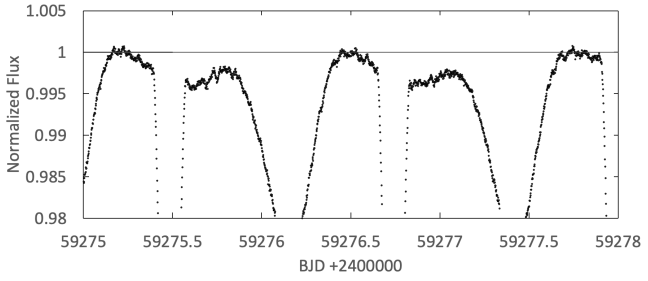


Figure 4. Maximum light levels in the light curve of NO Pup along two consecutive orbits from TESS Sector 35 data. Asymmetry between the maximum light levels is evident and it is also seen that NO Pup shows pulsations with very low amplitude.

2.3 WD+MC fits to TESS data

We separately downloaded TESS data in sectors 34, 35, 61 and 62 in short cadence (120-s sampling rate) from the MAST[c], as recalled in Subsection 2.1. We preferred to work with the SAP fluxes, as mentioned above. Data with a quality flag of zero were selected and used approximately 17,000, 14,000, 16,500 and 17,000 points to define the LCs for sectors 34, 35, 61 and 62, respectively.

In the light curves of NO Pup, the light level of maximum I remain higher than that of maximum II. The maximum I light level was then selected for reference in all sectors of the TESS data and additional detrending was applied with a low-order polynomial fit in order to normalise the LCs. As an example, the maximum light levels in two consecutive orbital light curves selected from Sector 35 are shown in Figure 4. Apart from the asymmetry in the maximum light levels, NO Pup shows low amplitude pulsations. We have performed a frequency analysis of these oscillations that will be discussed in Section 7.

c. https://mast.stsci.edu/portal/Mashup/Clients/Mast/Portal.html

In the SAP data of all sectors the CROWDSAP parameter, i.e. the ratio of target to total flux in the photometric aperture, is given as 0.62. This indicates that approximately 38% of the observed flux in the SAP aperture does not come from the target star. This is most probably due to other background starlight collected in the rather large pixels of the TESS detector. The relative contribution of third light (l_3) was therefore taken into account in the LC analysis of NO Pup A (see Table 4).

We used the numerical integration method of Wilson and Devinney (1971) (WD) which models the light curve of a given binary star by taking into account proximity effects, regarding the surfaces of the components as Roche equipotentials. The original program, WD, has been combined with a Monte Carlo (MC) optimisation procedure, as discussed in Zola et al. (2004). Representative values and uncertainties of the adjusted parameters were derived in this way.

WD requires a preliminary value of the primary's effective temperature, which was deduced as follows: Veramendi and González (2014) assigned the spectral type of the system as B5V + B9.5V from their spectral analysis;. from that, they adopted that T_1 = 13000 K. In our later Section 4 we set T_1 = 13500 and 13700 K (Table 10) by applying Kurucz atmospheric modelling to the disentangled spectrum of the primary. However, the colour index of B-V = –0.11 mag from the photometric analysis in Section 2.2 yields the spectral type as B8V for the primary star. Furthermore, we estimated T_1 = 12000 K from the measured equivalent widths of He I 6678 lines in

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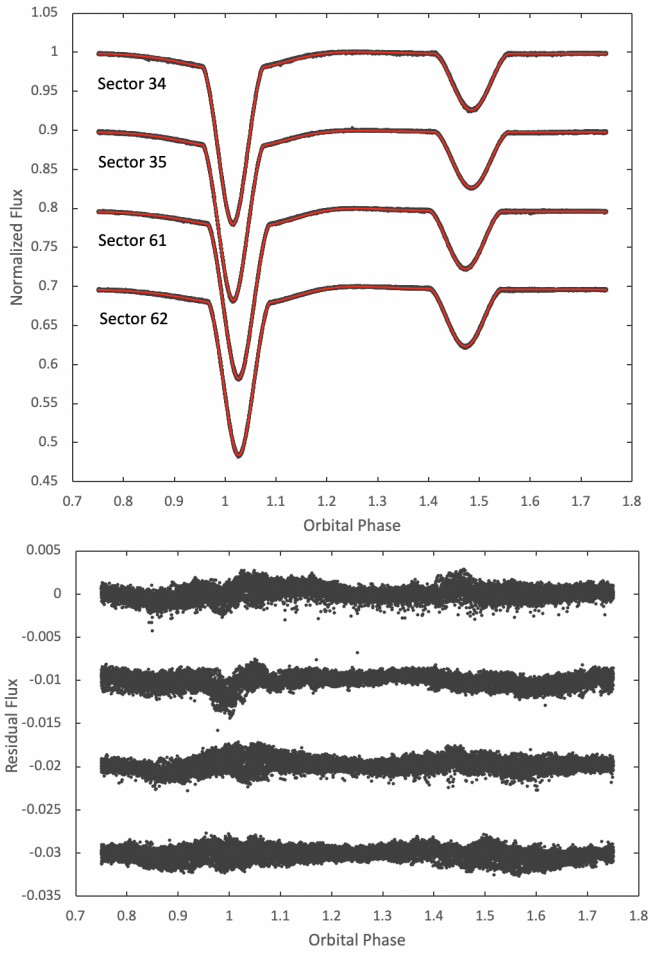


Figure 5. TESS light curves with the WD model fitting. Residuals to the LC model are plotted in the lower figure. The fluxes for sectors 35, 61 and 62 and their residuals are shifted downward to enhance visibility.

the UCMJO spectra (see Section 3.4). As a result, the values trialled for T_1 range from 12000 to 13700 K.

To determine which T_1 value is the most suitable, we followed the following procedure: TESS Sector 62 light curves were fitted with T_1 values between 11000 and 14000 K in steps of 500 K. We then calculated the photometric parallax from each LC solution. As a result, we adopted the value T_1 = 13000 K in our LC analysis. This gives the photometric parallax value (5.747 mas, see Section 5) closest to the Gaia DR3 parallax. Gaia DR3 gives the trigonometric parallax for NO Pup as 5.799 mas (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2023). If we add to this the 0.015 mas to account for the zero-point offset suggested by Lindegren et al. (2021), the trigonometric parallax of NO Pup becomes 5.814 mas. The effective temperature of the secondary (T_2) was adjustable in the range of 5000 to 9000 K.

The input range of the orbital inclination was set to 70° < i < 90°, considering the WinFitter LC fittings in Section 2.1. For changes in T_0 and P, the input range for phase-shift ($\Delta\phi$; which allows the WD code to adjust for a zero-point error in the ephemeris used to compute the phases; the unit is the orbital period) was set to –0.01 < $\Delta\phi$ < 0.01.

Based on the RV results in Tables 7 and 9 in Section 3,

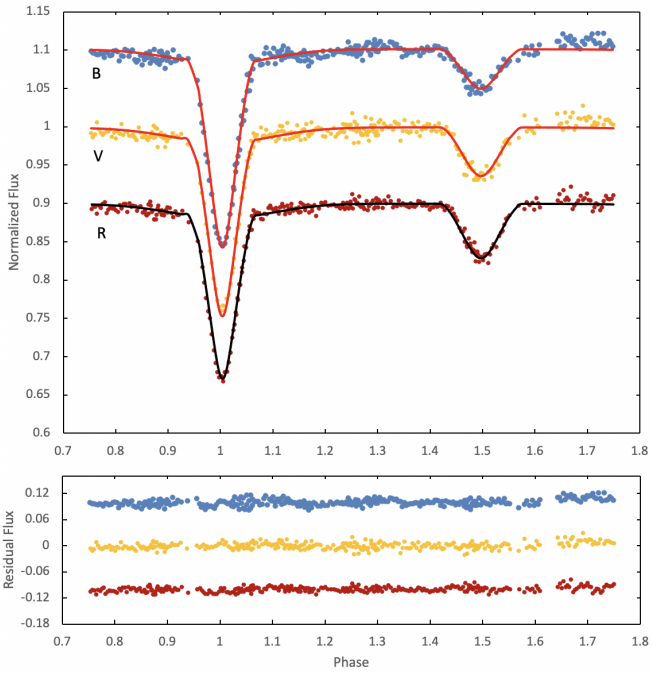


Figure 6. BVR light curves with the WD+MC model fitting. Residuals to the LC model are plotted in the lower figure.

the mass ratio (q) was fixed at 0.473. Consequently, the input range of the surface potentials (Ω_1, Ω_2) was set to 3.5 – 5.0. Taking into account the RV and $O-C$ analyses, the input range for eccentricity (e) was set to 0.09 – 0.15. The orbital cycle number of NO Pup A corresponding to the start and end times of the TESS data was calculated using the linear ephemeris given in Table 6, and the argument of periastron (ω) corresponding to these cycle numbers were calculated from Equation 6. Accordingly, the input range for ω was entered as 100° to 140°.

A range from 0.3 to 0.8 was set for the fractional luminosity of the primary component (L_1). The input range for the third contribution of light to the total light of the system (l_3) was set to 0.30 to 0.50, based on the CROWDSAP parameter discussed above with the recognition that NO Pup is a multiple star.

A quadratic limb-darkening law was assumed; the coefficients were taken from Claret (2017) according to the effective temperatures and the filter used. The bolometric gravity darkening exponents and albedoes for both components were taken as 1.0, assuming that the components have radiative atmospheres, in accordance with the regular procedure of the WD program.

The values of the adopted WD + MC model for all the sectors' data are listed in Table 4. A comparison of the sectors' LCs with the WD + MC fits is provided in Figure 5.

2.4 WD+MC fits to BVR Photometry

We also used the WD+MC program for simultaneous fittings of our ground-based BVR data. The input ranges of the adjustable parameters (e, ω, i, T_2, Ω_1, Ω_2, L_1, L_2 and L_3) were entered into the program as with the TESS data (Section 2.3).

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Table 4. Final parameter values for WD+MC model to the BVR and TESS light curves. r (volume) is the radius of a sphere having the same volume as the tidally distorted star. l_3 is the third light contribution to the total light at phase 0.25.

Parameter	BVR (Model I)	BVR (Model II)	Sector 34	Sector 35	Sector 61	Sector 62
e	0.130 (fixed)	0.130 (fixed)	0.1302 ± 0.0008	0.1269 ± 0.0012	0.1307 ± 0.0007	0.1260 ± 0.0009
ω (deg)	94 ± 1	94 ± 1	111 ± 1	112 ± 1	129 ± 2	131.5 ± 0.9
i (deg)	83.54 ± 0.31	81.33 (fixed)	81.37 ± 0.20	81.46 ± 0.22	80.95 ± 0.21	81.56 ± 0.18
T_1 (K)	13000 (fixed)	13000 (fixed)	13000 (fixed)	13000 (fixed)	13000 (fixed)	13000 (fixed)
T_2 (K)	7516 ± 34	7454 ± 25	7306 ± 37	7267 ± 42	7380 ± 38	7252 ± 39
$q = M_2/M_1$	0.473 (fixed)	0.473 (fixed)	0.473 (fixed)	0.473 (fixed)	0.473 (fixed)	0.473 (fixed)
Ω_1	4.952 ± 0.043	4.390 (fixed)	4.403 ± 0.014	4.406 ± 0.016	4.375 ± 0.026	4.387 ± 0.021
Ω_2	3.725 ± 0.043	4.336 (fixed)	4.321 ± 0.036	4.328 ± 0.042	4.334 ± 0.044	4.378 ± 0.050
r_1 (volume)	0.229 ± 0.010	0.264 (fixed)	0.263 ± 0.006	0.262 ± 0.007	0.265 ± 0.009	0.263 ± 0.006
r_2 (volume)	0.208 ± 0.008	0.163 (fixed)	0.164 ± 0.008	0.163 ± 0.009	0.163 ± 0.008	0.160 ± 0.010
$L_1/(L_1+L_2)$	0.86, 0.82, 0.79 (±0.12)	0.93, 0.91, 0.89 (±0.09)	0.882 ± 0.043	0.884 ± 0.059	0.882 ± 0.038	0.889 ± 0.042
$L_2/(L_1+L_2)$	0.14, 0.18, 0.21 (±0.05)	0.07, 0.09, 0.11 (±0.01)	0.118 ± 0.008	0.116 ± 0.009	0.118 ± 0.007	0.111 ± 0.008
l_3	0.56, 0.57, 0.58 (±0.02)	0.30, 0.34, 0.36 (±0.01)	0.366 ± 0.003	0.374 ± 0.004	0.345 ± 0.003	0.361 ± 0.003

For the periastron longitude parameter, ω, 80 to 110-degree limits were entered, according to the observation epochs, calculated from Equation 6.

The orbital eccentricity, e, was found to drop below the reasonable limit of 0.10 when allowed to be set by the optimiser program. We have associated this with the effects of data irregularities, especially around the secondary minimum. Subsequently e was fixed at $e = 0.13$.

The adopted parameters of the WD+MC model for the the BVR LCs are presented in Table 4. However, when these results were compared with the TESS results given in Table!4, it transpired that allowing freely adjustable third light contributions (l_3) could change their nominal values by a factor of up to 2. In an alternative approach to the BVR fittings, the geometric parameters (e, i, Ω_1 and Ω_2) were fixed at those found in the TESS LC analyses and just T_2, ω, phase shift, L_1, L_2 and l_3 were left free.

We have thus referred to the normal approach as producing Model I, and the alternative, with the geometric elements taken as constant, as Model II. The results of Model I and II fittings are given together in Table 4. The third light contribution (l_3) in Model II is consistent with the l_3 values obtained in other solutions. A comparison of Model II with the WD+MC and BVR LCs is shown in Figure 6.

We assumed that the third light came from the B component of NO Pup and calculated the relative light contributions of each component to the total light of the system (as $l_1+l_2+l_3$) in each band at 0.25 phase from the Model II results in Table 4. These l_1, l_2 and l_3 values, and their corresponding magnitudes and colours, are given in Table 5. In this calculation, the magnitude $V = 6.086$ and colour indices $B-V = -0.019$ and $V-R = -0.002$ given in Section 2.2 for NO Pup were used. The dereddened colour indices were obtained from the colour excess $E(B-V) = 0.020$ derived from the SED analysis in Section 5. Spectral types correspond to the $(B-V)_0$ colour index according to the calibration in Budding and Demircan (2022) and in Eker et al. (2018).

Table 5. Magnitudes and colours of NO Pup Aab and B from WD+MC results. Errors are on the order of 0.02 mag.

Parameter	Aa	Ab	B
$l_{1,2,3}$ (B,V,R)	0.65, 0.61, 0.57	0.05, 0.06, 0.07	0.30, 0.34, 0.36
B	6.536	9.39	7.36
V	6.630	9.16	7.27
R	6.692	8.98	7.21
$B-V$	−0.094	0.23	0.09
$V-R$	−0.062	0.18	0.06
$(B-V)_0$	−0.114	0.21	0.07
Spectral type	B8V	A7V	A3V

When comparing the WinFitter results (Table 2) with the WD+MC results (Table 5) for the magnitudes and colours of the components, there are small discrepancies of a few percent within the error limits in the magnitudes and colours of the Aa and Ab components, while the slightly larger discrepancy in those of the B component, and thus its spectral type shifts slightly to the early A spectral type in the WD+MC estimation. However, since component B is probably a binary star (see Section 1), it does not seem possible to make a definitive estimate for this component.

2.5 *Times of Minima*

We followed the methodology of Zasche et al. (2009) to analyse times of minima (ToM)s, extending the analysis of Wolf, Zejda, and de Villiers (2008), who analysed data up to HJD 2452284.261 covering 25 minima. Our analysis is based on 53 ToMs extending from HJD 2441351.7094 to 2460013.952957 with the inclusion of estimates from TESS data (20 ToMs), our BVR photometry (2 ToMs), and 6 ToMs from Kreiner (2004).

To find the parameters related to the apsidal motion using the ToMs of NO Pup A, the methods given by Giménez and Garcia-Pelayo (1983) and Giménez and Bastero (1995) were used. Accordingly, each observed ToM of the eclipsing binary

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Table 6. Best fit estimates for the apsidal motion elements of NO Pup. See Figure 7 for plots of the model fits to the times of minima. The parameter estimates from Wolf, Zejda, and de Villiers (2008) are given for easy reference.

Element	This study	Wolf, Zejda, and de Villiers (2008)
JD_0 (HJD)	2441361.8145 ± 0.0094	2441752.0741 ± 0.0006
P_o (days)	1.2568804 ± 0.0000009	1.2568803 ± 0.0000003
e	0.127 ± 0.027	0.1257 ± 0.0012
ω_0 (deg)	2.9 ± 2.6	15.42 ± 0.30
$\dot{\omega}$ (deg/cycle)	0.033 ± 0.001	0.03235 ± 0.00025
U (yrs)	37.5 ± 1.2	38.29 ± 0.04
P_a (days)	1.2569956 ± 0.0000009	1.2569933 ± 0.0000003

star with apsidal motion can be represented by the equation:

$$T = T_0 + EP_s + \Delta\tau, \tag{4}$$

where P_s is the sidereal period and is related to the anomalistic period P_a and apsidal motion rate $\dot{\omega}$ by:

$$P_s = P_a\left(1 - \frac{\dot{\omega}}{360}\right), \tag{5}$$

where P_s and P_a is in days, $\dot{\omega}$ is in degrees per cycle, and 360 is the number of degrees in one cycle. $\Delta\tau$ in Equation 4 is the term which shows that the primary and secondary ToMs shift periodically in antiphase about the linear ephemeris and as a function of the eccentricity e, argument of periastron ω and orbital inclination i of the relative orbit of the binary star (see Giménez and Bastero (1995), their Eqs (15-21)).

We performed our O-C analysis under the assumption of apsidal motion, taking the initial values for T_0 and P_s from Kreiner (2004) and the input values for other apsidal motion parameters from Wolf, Zejda, and de Villiers (2008). Our results from the best-fitting model are given in Table 6, while Figure 7 plots the model fit against the ToMs, and also the rescaled residuals. Our findings are in good agreement with those of Wolf, Zejda, and de Villiers (2008), with the apsidal period U also in accord with that of Giménez, Clausen, and Jensen (1986). However, although there are more data in our O-C analysis, the error estimates in the parameters of Wolf, Zejda, and de Villiers (2008) are generally smaller. A possible reason for this, apart from the different accuracies of the data samples used, is that different methods have been followed in the O-C analysis and therefore in the error estimation. We utilised a numerical method based on the incomplete gamma function for error estimation (see Zasche 2008, and his references), while Wolf, Zejda, and de Villiers (2008) use the least squares method to derive formal uncertainty values.

Keeping in mind the variation of the argument of periastron (ω) determined from the O-C analysis, as an alternative approach, we plotted the ω values found from the solutions of the RV and LCs of the system according to the cycle number in Figure 8. The ω values in the lower left of the figure are taken from the analysis of the HARPS RV curves (Table 7), the RV1 solution from the UCMJO spectra and that from the REOSC spectra (Table 9), and the ω values in the upper right of the figure are from the BVR and TESS LC fittings (Table 4). In this way, we obtained the linear time dependence of ω

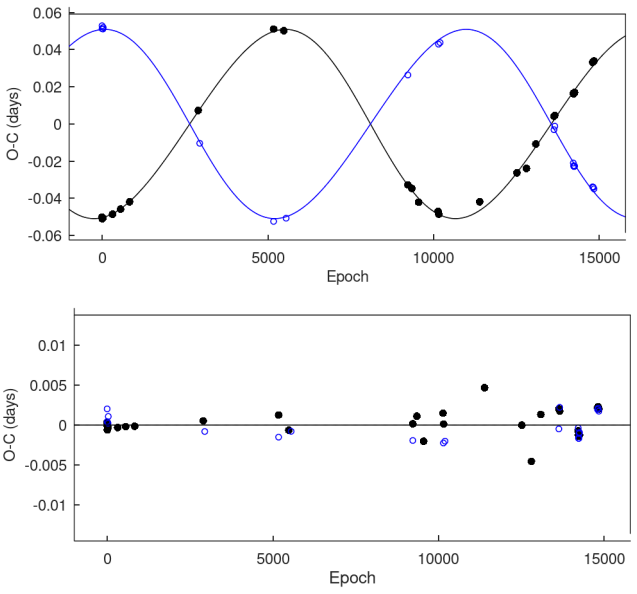


Figure 7. In upper panel we plot the optimal model (shown as a black curve) for the primary minima (black filled circles), along with the optimal model fit to the secondary ToMs (blue curve and unfilled circles). Units are days. Lower panel shows the residuals from the optimal models.

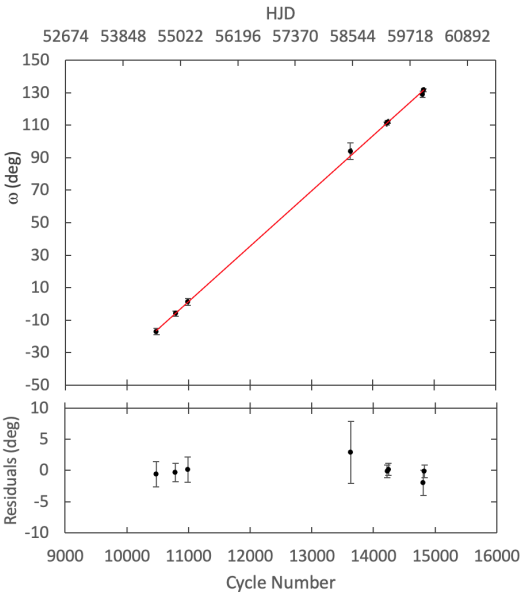


Figure 8. Variation of the argument of periastron ω of the eccentric binary NO Pup A.

shown in Figure 8:

$$\omega = \omega_0 + \dot{\omega}E, \tag{6}$$

where E is the cycle number of the mid-times of the related observations. These were calculated from the linear ephemeris given in Table 6. The plot of the ω values against cycle number in Figure 8 reveals that $\dot{\omega} = 0.0340 \pm 0.0003$ deg/cycle and $\omega_0 = -373 \pm 4$ deg as the linear best fit parameters. This value of $\dot{\omega}$, which was confirmed by the O-C analysis (see Table 6), results in a value of $U = 36.4 \pm 0.3$ yrs.

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3. Spectrometry

3.1 HARPS spectra

The European Southern Observatory (ESO) Science Archive Facility (SAF)[d] contains 43 HARPS (High-Accuracy Radial-velocity Planet Searcher) spectra of NO Pup, taken between December 09, 1996 and June 21, 2015.[e] Of these spectra, we selected 34 from the nights of April 2 to 7, 2009. We used the HARPS cross-dispersed échelle spectrograph at the 3.6-m telescope at La Silla Observatory (Mayor et al. 2003). We chose to operate HARPS in the EGGS mode, which has a larger fibre entrance on the sky than the standard HAM mode (1.4 versus 1.0 arcsec), resulting in a higher throughput (by a factor of approximately 1.75), a lower resolving power (80,000 as against 115,000) and a lower but still excellent RV precision ($3\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$ rather than $1\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$).

Each spectrum consists of 72 orders incident on two CCDs that cover the range 3780–6900 Å with a gap at 5304–5337 Å between the CCDs. The data were reduced using the standard HARPS pipeline, with the pipeline products retrieved from the ESO SAF.

3.2 FEROS spectra

Upon reviewing source material we found that the ESO SAF [f] maintains several datasets from the Fiber-fed Extended Range Optical Spectrograph (FEROS) on the 2.2-m telescope at La Silla (Elkin, Kurtz, and Nitschelm 2012). This échelle spectrograph has a resolving power of 48,000 and each exposure covers the full optical range (3600–9200 Å). The majority of these data were obtained under ESO Program ID 088.D-0080(B) (PI: Hełminiak). However, since the HARPS spectra have a higher spectral resolution and signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio (on average 170), we preferred to use only the HARPS spectra in the present study. We discuss these data next.

3.3 HARPS spectral analysis

Although all 43 HARPS spectra available at ESO SAF were taken into account for RV measurements and atmosphere modelling (see Section 4), the consequences of the rapid apsidal motion caused us to select only RVs from the 34 HARPS spectra during a 5-day interval for the spectroscopic orbit model.

For the RV measurements, we employed the cross correlation technique using the IRAF FXCOR task (Tody 1986). As template material, we generated synthetic spectra based on the known spectral types of the binary components (Sections 1 and 2). For each binary component, two different theoretical templates were generated based on their spectral types and the spectral type–effective temperature relationship (Cox 2000), using ATLAS9 model atmospheres (Kurucz 1993) and the SYNTHE code (Kurucz and Avrett 1981) as the two components have significantly different spectral types. These synthetic templates were then broadened according to the spectral type–projected rotational velocity relationship (Cox 2000). RV variations were determined and are listed in Table A1. These HARPS RVs were phased according to the linear ephemeris given in Table 6 . Additional spectral analysis to estimate atmospheric parameters is provided in Section 4.

The selected 34 HARPS RV were fitted using the DC mode of the WD program. The semi-major axis (a), eccentricity (e) and periastron longitude (ω) of the relative orbital ellipse, the phase-shift ($\Delta\phi$), systemic velocity (γ), and mass ratio (q) of the binary system were taken as adjustable parameters. However, due to the orbital eccentricity tending to drop below the assigned limit of 0.10, presumably due to insufficient optimal parameter resolution, e was fixed to the weighted average of the values in the previous RV and LC solutions, i.e. 0.127. The optimal values are given in Table 7, and a comparison of the model with the observations is shown in Figure 9. The amplitudes (K_1 and K_2) were calculated accordingly. Similar results were found using the WINFITTER program.

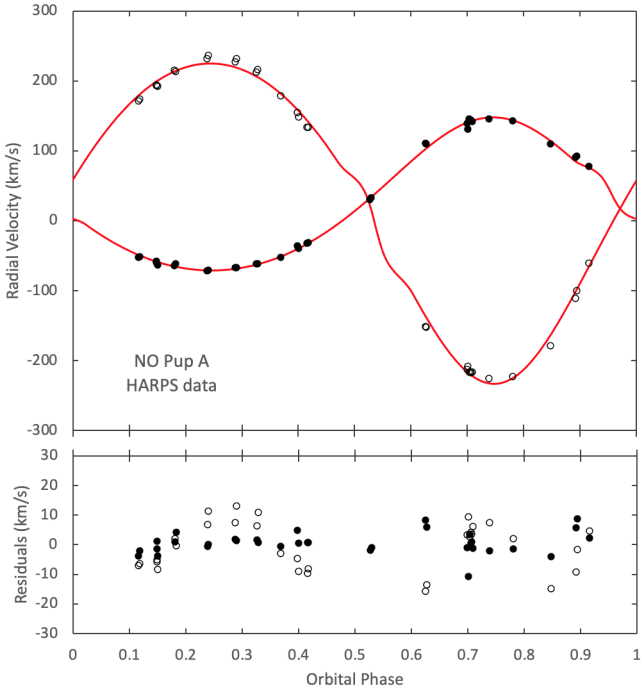


Figure 9. RV curves measured from selected HARPS spectra of NO Pup A with the WD model fitting. Residuals to the RV models are plotted in the bottom figure. RVs of the primary and the secondary components are marked as filled and hollow symbols, respectively.

3.4 UCMJO spectra

Relevant spectroscopic observations include those made with the HERCULES spectrograph (Hearnshaw et al. 2003), together with the 1m McLellan telescope at the University of Canterbury Mt John Observatory (UCMJO).

Observations were recorded with a 4k×4k Spectral Instruments (SITe) camera (Skuljan, Ramm, and Hearnshaw 2004). Wavelength and relative flux calibration was performed using the latest version of the software package HRSP (Skuljan 2004, 2021) that outputs measurable data in FITS (Wells, Greisen, and Harten 1981) formatted files. Typical exposures lasted

d. http://archive.eso.org/cms.html
e. ESO proposal 083.D-0040(A), PI J. Southworth.
f. http://archive.eso.org/cms.html

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Table 7. Best fit WD modelling for the RV curves measured from selected HARPS spectra of NO Pup A.

Parameter	Value
Phase shift	-0.0042 ± 0.0012
a ($R_\odot$)	8.53 ± 0.05
e	0.127 (fixed)
ω (deg)	359 ± 2
γ (km s^{-1})	24.7 ± 0.8
$q = M_2/M_1$	0.473 ± 0.006
K_1 (km s^{-1})	109.9 ± 0.9
K_2 (km s^{-1})	232.1 ± 1.5

for ∼700 seconds. Further information on the spectroscopic arrangements at UCMJO were given by Bakış et al. (2024).

24 exposures of NO Pup were made during the interval December 3 - 13, 2009, although, unfortunately, a number of them were affected by technical difficulties. However, 10 spectra were selected from these spectral images for analysis. The individual lines detected in the orders in the observed spectra are listed in Table A2. Since the light contribution of the secondary component is relatively low – on the order of ∼10 percent (see Section 2), mostly only the primary features could be distinguished.

Apart from Hα and Hβ, the best-defined line is probably the primary He I λ6678, where there is no significant contribution from the secondary since its effective temperature is ∼7500 K (see Table 4). The He I λ6678 lines in these 10 spectra were studied, and the RVs of the primary determined, using the program Prof (latest version, Erdem et al. 2022).

If the resolution is sufficiently high, Prof models spectral line profiles with a parameter set that determines the RV of the centre of light, as well as the rotation rate of the source and the turbulence scale in the surrounding plasma. The application of Prof to the He I λ6678 features resulted in the values of RV, rotation parameter (r) and equivalent width (EW) listed in Table 8, and an example of such a profile fitting is displayed in Figure 10.

The mean value of the rotation parameter (r) for the data sets in Table 8 yields a projected mean equatorial rotation speed of 82 ± 2 km s^{-1}. If we assume that the inclination of the primary star's rotation axis is equal to that of the system's orbit ($i_{rot} = i_{orb}$) and we neglect effects related to the low orbital eccentricity, the primary exhibits a synchronised rotation with the mean orbital revolution ($P_{rot} = P_{orb}$), we find the synchronous projected rotation speed of the primary as 86 ± 5 km s^{-1} using the formula $v_{rot} \sin i_{rot} = (2\pi R_1 \sin i_{rot})/P_{rot}$ and the values of i and R_1 in Table 11. In this way, the projected rotational velocity of the primary component, derived from the He I λ6678 line profile fitting, and the projected synchronous rotational velocity computed from Table 11 agree within the uncertainty limits, supporting that NO Pup Aa rotates synchronously. The possibility of pseudo-synchronous rotation in the NO Pup A system is considered in Section 8.

The fitting function in Prof has two main components: uniform rotation and a Gaussian turbulence broadening. Here

Table 8. Values of RV, rotation parameter (r) and equivalent width (EW) of the primary component of NO Pup A derived from the He I lines in the UCMJO spectra.

BJD 2400000+	Orbital phase	RV1 km s^{-1}	Err. km s^{-1}	r km s^{-1}	EW Å
55170.0967	0.1554	-60.1	3.8	88	0.077
55170.1414	0.1910	-62.1	4.5	84	0.080
55172.8736	0.3647	-48.6	4.8	91	0.069
55172.9421	0.4192	-36.4	5.4	76	0.058
55177.9041	0.3671	-57.4	4.3	90	0.093
55178.9096	0.1672	-67.3	4.1	91	0.100
55178.9452	0.1954	-69.3	6.2	77	0.050
55178.9834	0.2259	-69.9	5.0	80	0.062
55179.0374	0.2688	-73.4	4.5	71	0.053
55179.0939	0.3138	-67.0	3.9	76	0.084

Prof applied to the He I line in the UCMJO spectra of NO Pup A gives the turbulence parameter of the order of a few km s^{-1} for the surface of the primary star.

Prof also estimates the equivalent width of a line by numerical integration. The results are given in Table 8. The mean value of the measured equivalent widths (EWs) for the data sets in Table 8 is 0.07 ± 0.01 Å. The relative noise in the He I lines in the observed spectra makes for a fairly uncertain mean value of the EWs. However, in comparison with the calibration data of Leone and Lanzafame (1998), the effective temperature of the primary was estimated to be 12000 ± 1000 K, which corresponds to a spectral type B8/9.

The UCMJO observations, adopted as of suitable quality, provide coverage for the first half of the full radial velocity (RV) cycle, consistent with the spectroscopic data of Veramendi and González (2014). Their observations were made with the 2.15 m telescope and the REOSC échelle spectrograph at the Complejo Astronómico El Leoncito (CASLEO) during 10 allocations between 2008 and 2013. RVs were determined by the cross-correlation technique, with spectral disentangling of double-lined systems.

The spectroscopic results, as a whole, have confirmed the type classifications for NO Pup and obtained good orbital coverage, with twenty individual points having signal/noise ratios of greater than 100. Veramendi and González (2014) went on to provide absolute parameters of the system, making use of Grønbech (1976)'s *uvby* photometry and the well-known Russell paradigm.

We remodelled the RV data set of Veramendi and González (2014) using the program suites Winfitter (Rhodes 2023) and WD and presented our results in Table 9. Although the main parameters of the optimal RV curve fittings are essentially similar to those of Veramendi and González (2014), the values of the longitude of the periastron (ω) appear different. Noting the decline in precision of the determination of ω at low e, the estimates of Winfitter and WD are tolerably in agreement; however, the ω value of Veramendi and González (2014) is quite closer to zero. This may reflect a different reference epoch for the data of Veramendi and González (2014), given

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Table 9. Best fit modelling for the RV curves of Veramendi and González (2014) of NO Pup.

Parameter	WINFITTER Model	WD Model	V & G (2014)
P	1.256879	1.2568804	1.25700056
T_0	2441361.815	2441361.8145	2441351.7568
$T_{\rm ref}$	2454538.119	2454544.272	—
K_1 (km s^{-1})	107.7 ± 2.0	106.9 ± 1.4	107.5 ± 1.8
K_2 (km s^{-1})	222.0 ± 2.0	224.1 ± 2.0	226.2 ± 3.0
$\Delta\theta_{00}$ (deg)	14.4 ± 0.4	—	—
Phase shift	—	0.0024	—
γ (km s^{-1})	25.2 ± 1.3	24.8 ± 0.7	25.4 ± 0.6
e	0.127 ± 0.027	0.123 ± 0.006	0.1249 ± 0.0004
M_0 (deg)	98.2 ± 16	—	—
ω (deg)	338 ± 16	343.6 ± 2.5	6.1 ± 1.2

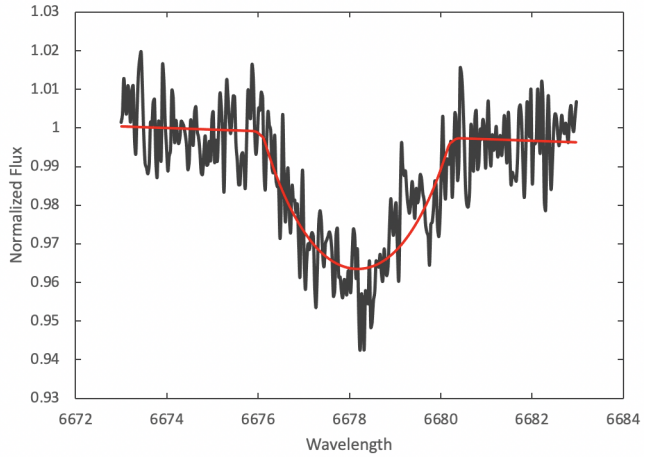


Figure 10. Convolved rotation Gaussian fitting to the He I λ6678 line profile in UCMJO spectrum of NO Pup.

the fast rate of apsidal motion (∼10 deg y^{-1}).

4. Determination of the atmospheric parameters

The atmospheric parameters of a star, in particular the effective temperature ($T_{\rm eff}$) and surface gravity ($\log g$), are crucial for understanding the nature of the source. This is especially true for binary stars, where accurately estimating the $T_{\rm eff}$ values of both components is essential for performing reliable binary modelling analysis.

There are two methods that can be applied in advance to determine the atmospheric parameters of binary systems. The first involves creating composite synthetic spectra and comparing them with the observed binary spectra. The second method is spectral disentangling, which allows us to separate the spectra of both binary components. For both methods, the flux ratios of the binary components must be known. However, for spectral disentangling, reliable results require spectra spread over the orbital phase. Since our data have such a distribution, we preferred applying the spectral disentangling. This is explained more fully in the next section.

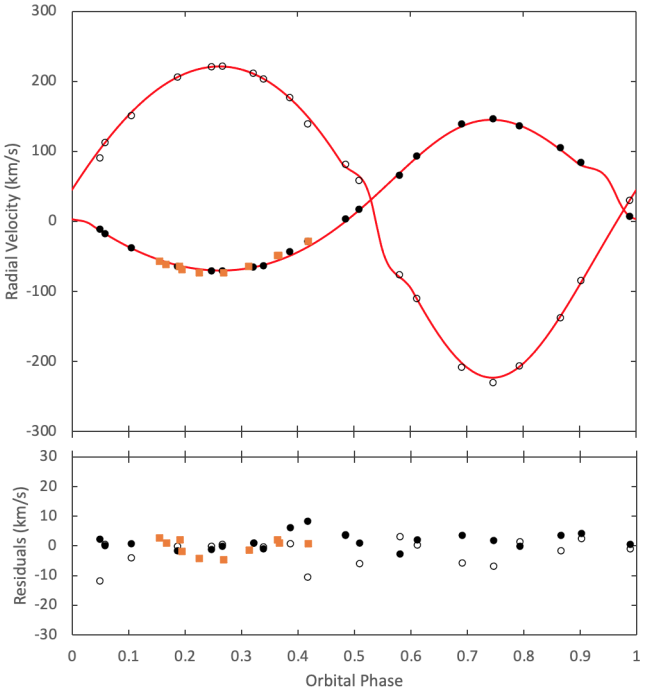


Figure 11. RV curves of NO Pup A with the WD model fitting. Black circles denote REOSC RV data of Veramendi and González (2014), whereas orange circles denote the RVs of the primary component derived from He I lines in the MJUCO spectra. Residuals to the RV models are plotted in the bottom figure. RVs of the primary and the secondary components are marked as filled and hollow symbols, respectively.

4.1 Disentangling Components' Spectra and Atmosphere Modelling

We have selected two spectral regions in the HARPS data to disentangle the component spectra. Both regions are centred around the Hβ line, as shown in Figure 12. This region was chosen due to the presence of a relatively high number of metal lines for both components. This enables the extraction of their individual spectra and facilitates the modelling of the spectroscopic orbit. The codes KOREL (Hadrava 2004) and FDBINARY (Ilijic et al. 2004) were used to cross-check the results.

Spectra obtained during eclipses, except at mid-eclipse,

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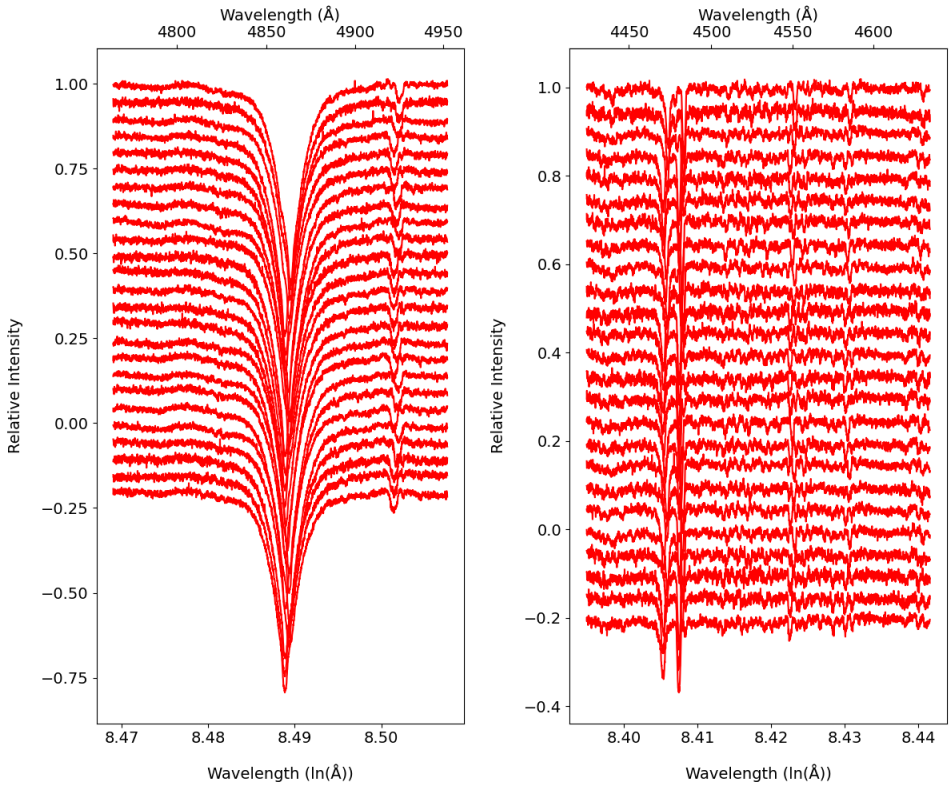


Figure 12. Spectral regions around Hβ in the HARPS data used for disentangling.

were excluded from the analysis, because non-Keplerian effects, such as the Rossiter-McLaughlin effect, are not accounted for in the codes. In the KOREL analysis, each spectral region was re-binned to 2048 bins, resulting in a resolution of approximately 7 km s^{-1} per pixel. This re-binning smoothed the data without significantly compromising resolution. For the FDBINARY analysis, the spectra were used directly, with no additional processing applied before the disentangling. During the analysis, some orbital parameters, such as P and $K_{1,2}$ were held constant. Additionally, the flux ratio of the binary components was examined.

The disentangled spectra determined from both KOREL and FDBINARY programs were modelled using synthetic spectra computed from Kurucz' ATLAS9 model atmosphere grids (Kurucz 1993). In the atmospheric determination with the KOREL disentangled spectra, the grid parameters and intervals for the primary and secondary components were chosen as given below. During this analysis, the microturbulence parameter, ξ, was set at 2 km/s for both components.

- **Primary:**
  - Effective temperature ($T_{\rm eff}$): 11,000–14,000 K, in steps of 100 K
  - Surface gravity ($\log g$): 4.3–4.4 cgs, in steps of 0.05 cgs
  - Metallicity ([M/H]): –0.5 to +0.5, in steps of 0.5
  - Projected rotational velocity ($v \sin i$): 60–100 km s^{-1}, in steps of 10 km s^{-1}
- **Secondary:**
  - $T_{\rm eff}$: 7000–9000 K, in steps of 100 K
  - Surface gravity ($\log g$): 4.3–4.4 cgs, in steps of 0.05 cgs
  - Metallicity ([M/H]): –0.5 to +0.5, in steps of 0.5
  - $v \sin i$: 60–100 km s^{-1}, in steps of 10 km s^{-1}

with FDBINARY. the input parameters used in the spectral analysis of the separated spectra were selected a follows:

- **Primary:**
  - Effective temperature ($T_{\rm eff}$): 10000–14000 K, in steps of 100 K
  - Surface gravity ($\log g$): 3.8–4.4 cgs, in steps of 0.1 cgs
  - Metallicity ([Fe/H]) : –0.5 to +0.5, in steps of 0.1
  - $v \sin i$: 30–150 km s^{-1}, in steps of 1 km s^{-1}
- **Secondary:**
  - $T_{\rm eff}$: 6800–8500 K, in steps of 100 K
  - Surface gravity ($\log g$): 3.8–4.4 cgs, in steps of 0.1 cgs
  - Metallicity ([Fe/H]): –0.5 to +0.5, in steps of 0.1
  - $v \sin i$: 30–150 km s^{-1}, in steps of 1 km s^{-1}.

In this analysis, the spectrum synthesis method (Niemczura and Polubek 2006) was used to estimate the atmospheric parameters ($T_{\rm eff}$, $\log g$, ξ) and iron (Fe) abundances of both close binary components by taking into account the Kurucz line list[g]. Based on the Saha-Boltzmann equation, the atmospheric parameters were estimated during the analysis in the way presented by Kahraman Aliçavuş et al. (2016).

g. kurucz.harvard.edu/linelists.html

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Table 10. The results of atmospheric parameter analyses for the primary and secondary components of No PUP using the KOREL and FDBINARY disentangled spectra. The metallicity values given in the table are the [M/H] and [Fe/H] for the KOREL and FDBINARY analyses, respectively. * represents the fixed parameters.

Parameters	KOREL	FDBINARY
	Primary	
$T_{\rm eff}$ (K)	13700 ± 300	13500 ± 300
$\log g$ (cgs)	4.39 ± 0.05	4.3 ± 0.1
ξ (km s^{-1})	2*	2.4 ± 0.2
$v \sin i$ (km s^{-1})	85 ± 5	86 ± 2
Metallicity	0.0 ± 0.25	-0.02 ± 0.01
	Secondary	
$T_{\rm eff}$ (K)	8100 ± 1000	7500 ± 200
$\log g$ (cgs)	4.35 ± 0.05	4.2 ± 0.1
ξ (km s^{-1})	2*	2.1 ± 0.2
$v \sin i$ (km s^{-1})	65 ± 5	64 ± 2
Metallicity	0.0 ± 0.25	-0.08 ± 0.03

The resulting atmospheric parameters, after examination of the KOREL and FDBINARY disentangled spectra, are given in Table 10. As can be seen in the table, the results of both analyses agree within the adopted error limits.

Our results are consistent with those of Veramendi and González (2014) within the error bars; however, the $v \sin i$ of the secondary component shows a slight discrepancy (58.7 ± 0.6 km s^{-1} from Veramendi and González, 2014). Given that the secondary component is fainter and the spectral data used by Veramendi and González (2014) have lower resolving power and signal-to-noise ratio, we consider this difference acceptable. The disentangled spectra of both components, along with the best-fitting synthetic spectra, are displayed in Figure 13 and Figure 14. The derived effective temperatures in Table 10 appear slightly greater than those given in Table 4, but the differences are within reasonable uncertainty estimates of each other.

5. Absolute parameters

Applying the well-known rearrangement of Kepler's third law as:

$$(M_1 + M_2) \sin^3 i = CP(1 - e^2)^{3/2}(K_1 + K_2)^3, \qquad (7)$$

where the constant $C = 1.03615 \times 10^{-7}$, period P is in days, and the RV amplitudes K_1 and K_2 are in km s^{-1}. Adopting the weighted average values of eccentricity and orbital inclination from Section 2 as $e = 0.127$ and $i = 81.33°$ and taking the RV amplitudes K_1 and K_2 from Table 7, we find the component masses of NO Pup A to be $M_1 = 3.58 \pm 0.11$ and $M_2 = 1.68 \pm 0.09$ in solar units. These masses are slightly larger than those found using the RV data of Veramendi and González (2014) in Table 9, perhaps due to the larger values of K_1 and K_2 from the HARPS analysis.

With the total mass of the close binary at 5.26 ± 0.20 $M_\odot$ and the period 0.0034411 yr, Kepler's third law yields the semi-major axis of the orbit as 0.03956 ± 0.00023 AU, or

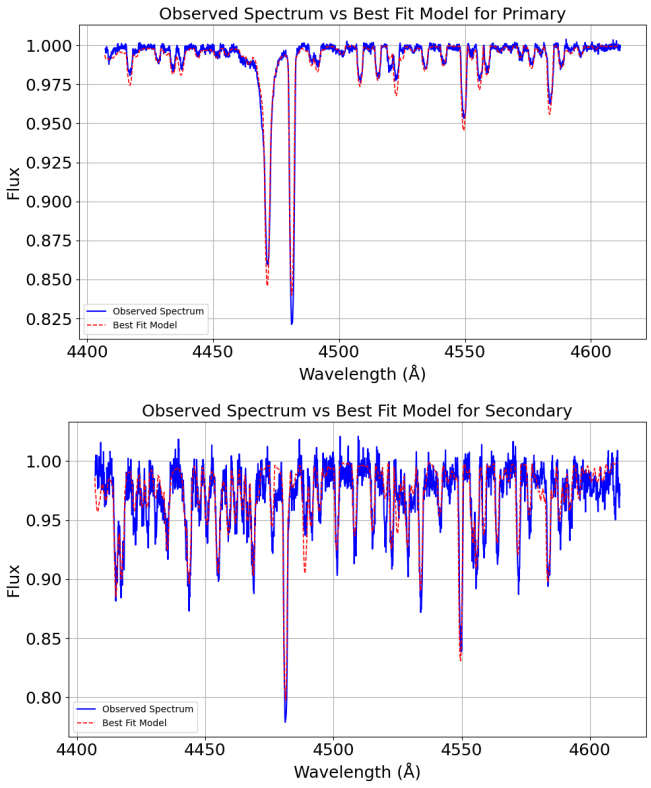


Figure 13. Disentangled metal lines and best fitting synthetic spectrum for the primary (top) and secondary (bottom) components, respectively.

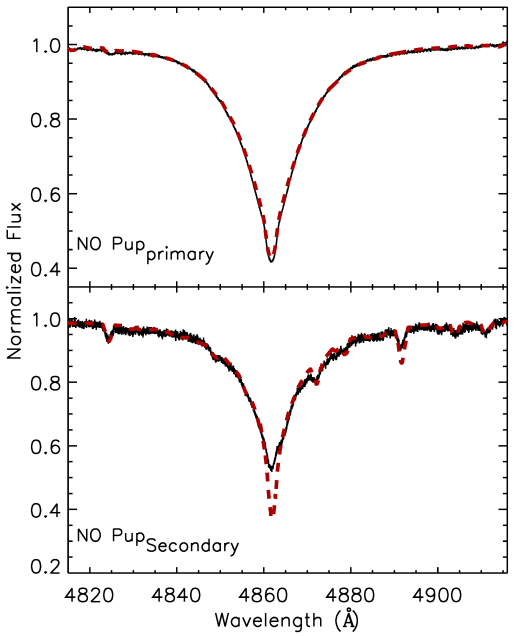


Figure 14. Disentangled H_β line and best fitting synthetic spectrum for the primary (top) and secondary (bottom) components, respectively.

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8.51 ± 0.05 solar radii. From the results given in Section 2 we find R_1 = 2.17 ± 0.03 and R_2 = 1.51 ± 0.06.

The high accuracy of this determination allows us to constrain the temperatures used in the photometric parallax (see Section 2.3 and the following paragraphs). The mean effective temperatures, taking into account the results given in Sections 2-4, are, for the primary, ∼ 13300±500; and for the secondary ∼ 7400 ± 500 K.

The surface gravitational accelerations (g_1, g_2) are directly related to solar values through $g/g_\odot = (M/M_\odot)/(R/R_\odot)^2$. The bolometric magnitudes (M_{bol}) and luminosities (L) of the component stars are calculated using Pogson's formula and the absolute radii and effective temperatures listed in Table 11. We thus write $M_{bol} = M_{bol,\odot} + 10\log T_\odot - 10\log T - 5\log(R/R_\odot)$, and $L/L_\odot = 10^{0.4(M_{bol,\odot}-M_{bol})}$. The solar values, adopted by IAU 2015 Resolutions B2 and B3, were used in our calculations.

Bolometric corrections in the V band for the components ($BC_{1,2}$) were taken from Flower (1996), while those in the TESS band were taken from Eker and Bakış (2023), according to their effective temperatures used in the conversion from bolometric magnitudes to V and TESS-band absolute magnitudes ($M_{V,1,2}$ and $M_{TESS,1,2}$). The absolute magnitude of the eclipsing binary NO Pup A is also computed from following equation:

$$M_{band,\mathrm{system}} = M_{band,2} - 2.5\log\left(1 + 10^{-0.4(M_{band,1}-M_{band,2})}\right). \quad (8)$$

Finally, the distance to the system is calculated from the distance modulus ($d = 10^{m_{band}-M_{band}+5-A_{band}}$). Here m_{band} is the apparent magnitude and A_{band} is the interstellar extinction in the given band.

The A_{band} extinction is estimated from the SED analysis following the method described in Bakış and Eker (2022), later refined by Eker and Bakış (2023) for the TESS pass-band. The best-fitting SED model determines the reddening as E(B–V)=0.02±0.01 mag, corresponding to A_V=0.062±0.031 mag and A_{TESS}=0.041±0.019 mag. Figure 15 presents the SED data alongside synthetic spectra computed using the system parameters, demonstrating a strong agreement between the model and observations. The absolute parameters thus obtained are given in Table 11 with their errors.

On the other hand, the following equations given by Budding and Demircan (2007) can also be used for the photometric parallax:

$$\log\Pi = 7.454 - \log R - 0.2\mathrm{V} - 2F'_\mathrm{V} \quad (9)$$

where F'_V (flux scale) is equal to 0.25 × the logarithm of the surface flux in the V band, and is specified by

$$F'_\mathrm{V} = \log T_{eff} + 0.1BC \quad (10)$$

Here, if we use the equations given above for the NO Pup Aa component, i.e. V = 6.630 from Table 5, R = 2.17 $R_\odot$ and A_V = 0.062 from Table 11, and T_{eff} = 13000 K and BC = –0.89, we find the photometric parallax of this component as Π = 5.747 mas (i.e. its distance d = 174 pc).

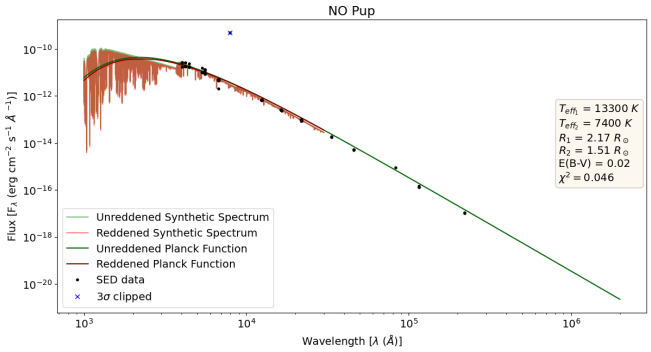


Figure 15. SED data (black dots) and the combined synthetic spectra of the components, which are calculated using the absolute parameters of the components and the distance of the system given in Table 11.

One way to assess the accuracy of the absolute parameters in Table 11 is to compare them with those in the Gaia DR3 catalogue. An absolute magnitude of M_G = 0.225 mag for the system is calculated from the distance modulus, using the G-band apparent magnitude G = 6.525 mag, distance d = 172 pc and extinction A_G = 0.122 mag from the Gaia Archive[h]. This absolute Gaia magnitude, M_G = 0.225 mag, is then converted to the bolometric magnitude M_{bol} = –0.595 mag from the formula $M_{bol} = M_G + BC_G$, using the bolometric correction BC_G = –0.820 mag for T=13300 K, derived from Eker and Bakış (2023) (their Eqn. 4).

The bolometric magnitude and distance values derived from the BVR & TESS-band LCs + HARPS RVs solutions for NO Pup A (–0.617 ± 0.426 mag and 171 ± 20 pc) agree with those computed from the Gaia Archive (–0.595 ± 0.026 mag and 172 ± 1 pc) within the error limits. Here, the difficulties in calibrating bolometric corrections, especially for hot stars with T > 12000 K, should be kept in mind.

We used the Geneva evolution models (Yusof et al. 2022) to study the evolutionary status of the eclipsing binary NO Pup A. According to the mass values of the components listed in Table 11, the Geneva evolutionary tracks and isochrone were created using the interpolation interface on the Geneva group website[i].

The H-R diagram shown in Figure 16 was used to estimate the ages of the components. In this diagram, the positions of the two components are plotted on the evolutionary tracks for their measured masses. As a result, the isochrone of log(age) = 7.30 (that is, 20 My) with supersolar metallicity (Z=0.020) matches the positions of both components within the error limits. We may note that the atmosphere models in Section 4.1 produced metallicities close to solar, while according to the evolution models at 20 Myr, the metallicities of the components would be somewhat larger than that. This result (age and metallicity) was also confirmed using the Padova evolution models (e.g., Nguyen et al. 2022).

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Table 11. Absolute parameters of the eclipsing binary NO Pup A.

Parameter	Value
a ($R_\odot$)	8.51 ± 0.05
e	0.127 ± 0.005
i (deg)	81.33 ± 0.20
M_1 ($M_\odot$)	3.58 ± 0.11
M_2 ($M_\odot$)	1.68 ± 0.09
R_1 ($R_\odot$)	2.17 ± 0.03
R_2 ($R_\odot$)	1.51 ± 0.06
$\log g_1$	4.32 ± 0.01
$\log g_2$	4.31 ± 0.01
T_1 (K)	13300 ± 500
T_2 (K)	7400 ± 500
L_1 ($L_\odot$)	133 ± 24
L_2 ($L_\odot$)	6.16 ± 2.16
$M_{\rm bol,1}$ (mag)	-0.568 ± 0.193
$M_{\rm bol,2}$ (mag)	2.766 ± 0.380
$M_{\rm bol,system}$ (mag)	-0.617 ± 0.426
$BC_{\rm V,1}$ (mag)	-0.943 ± 0.010
$BC_{\rm V,2}$ (mag)	0.035 ± 0.010
V (mag)	6.490 ± 0.010
A_V (mag)	0.062 ± 0.031
$M_{\rm V,system}$ (mag)	0.258 ± 0.409
d (pc) from V band results	171 ± 20
$BC_{\rm TESS,1}$ (mag)	-0.979 ± 0.010
$BC_{\rm TESS,2}$ (mag)	0.213 ± 0.010
TESS (mag)	6.600 ± 0.010
A_{TESS} (mag)	0.041 ± 0.019
$M_{\rm TESS,system}$ (mag)	0.270 ± 0.413
d (pc) from TESS band results	181 ± 25

6. Astrometry

Astrometric data for the visual binary WDS J08263-39044 (NO Pup Bab) were taken from the Washington Double Star catalogue (WDS, Mason et al., 2024). We made use of the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) optimisation technique as described by Ersteniuk et al. (2024) to fit the apparent orbit. The best fit parameter estimates together with formal uncertainties are given in Table 12, while Figure 17 shows the model orbit based on these parameter values plotted against the fitted data.

Comparison between the parameters published in the WDS from Josties and Mason (2019) and those derived from this study are in reasonable agreement, particularly for the period (P in years), semi-major axis (a in arcsecs), and eccentricity (e). ω is the argument of periastron. Ω gives the position angle of the ascending node relative to the north direction in the sky plane. The Eulerian angles (ω, inclination i, and Ω) are less well-constrained by the MCMC fit.

The WDS catalogue lists the primary component of NO Pup B to be about 1.42 V mag fainter than that of the B8 primary of NO Pup A. The secondary component of NO Pup B is 0.20 V mag fainter than the primary. Using the data in Table 9.2 of Budding and Demircan (2022) we can then surmise that component B likely comprises two Main Sequence dwarfs of spectral types A5 and A6 respectively. Their masses, from that same Table 9.2, are around 2 and 1.8 $M_\odot$. If we correspondingly adopt the mass sum of NO Pup B to be 3.8 $M_\odot$ we require the inclination to be close to 115 deg to allow Kepler's third law to be satisfied with the orbit's semi-major axis being near to 34.4 AU. Although this inclination is appreciably different from the MCMC estimate in Table 12, the difference is comparable to that between the WDS and MCMC results. Further monitoring of the pair of stars in NO Pup B is clearly needed for derivation of more reliable orbital parameters (see also the related discussion on model fitting and the use of historic data in Tokovinin 2024).

h. https://gea.esac.esa.int/archive/
i. https://www.unige.ch/sciences/astro/evolution/en/database/

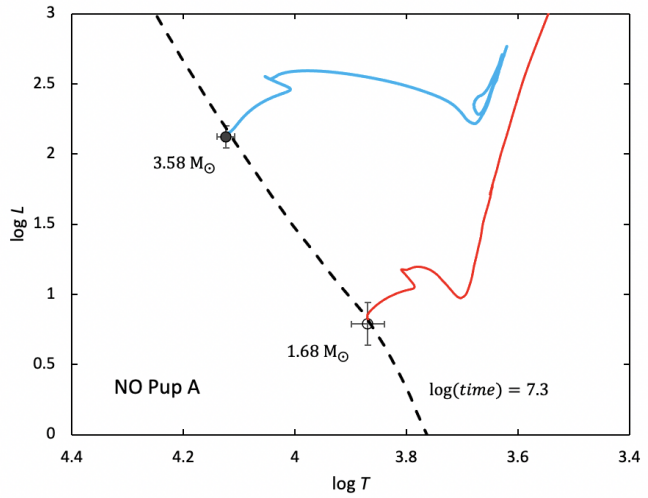


Figure 16. Location of the components of NO Pup A in the H-R diagram. The Geneva evolutionary tracks for 3.58 $M_\odot$ (blue line) and 1.68 $M_\odot$ (red line), corresponding to the primary and secondary stars, are plotted for $Z_\odot$ = 0.020. The Geneva isochrone of 20 Myr for Z=0.020 is also indicated by the dashed black curve. Filled and open circle symbols represent primary and secondary components, respectively. Vertical and horizontal lines show error bars of the measured quantities.

Table 12. Best-fit estimates for the orbital parameters of NO Pup B. WDS refers to the orbit parameters listed in the Washington Double Star catalogue and MCMC refers to the best-fitting parameters estimate derived by this study using Hamiltonian Markov Chain Monte Carlo. Angles are in degrees, semi-major axis a in arc-seconds, period in years, and the epoch (time of periastron passage) is in fractional Besselian year.

Parameter	WDS	MCMC
P (yr)	103.33	101.3 ± 3.8
a (arcsec)	0.199	0.179 ± 0.012
e	0.013	0.054 ± 0.041
ω (deg)	50.6	47.45 ± 70.65
i (deg)	136.4	154.7 ± 13.3
Ω (deg)	277.2	318.1 ± 73.6
Epoch (yr)	1990.41	1976.23 ± 13.06

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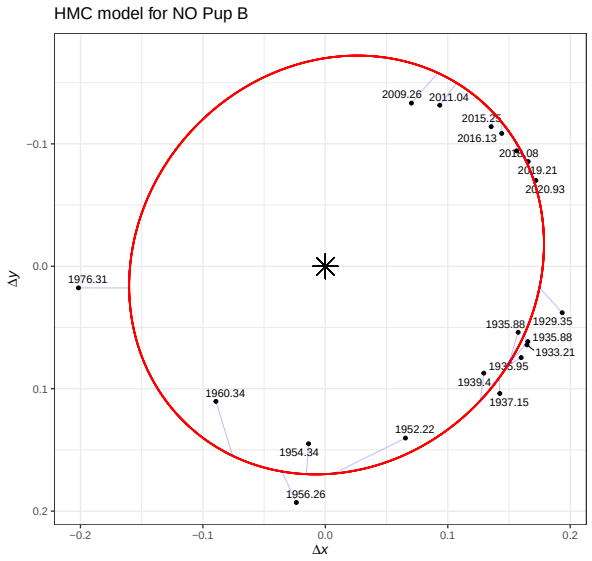


Figure 17. Model fit to WDS astrometric data for NO Pup B. The red curve plots the model orbit (see Table 12 for the listed parameter values), the black dots show the observational data, and the short blue lines connect the fitted data points with their expected positions along the model orbit. The primary is indicated by the star symbol at the origin. East is to the right, and down is northwards. Labels give the observation dates.

7. Pulsation analysis

The out-of-eclipse ranges of the TESS LCs of NO Pup show systematic variations that we attributed to pulsations. We investigated these using the 120-second cadence data. With close binary variations having a dominant effect, we first separated the binary LC from the full flux. This was achieved by fitting the harmonics of the orbital frequency of NO Pup A using a method similar to the study of Kahraman Aliçavuş et al. (2023).

The residual light curve was then analysed using the Period04 program, which derives pulsational frequencies based on a discrete Fourier transform algorithm. To estimate the significant frequencies, a 4.5σ significance limit was applied, as outlined in the study of Baran and Koen (2021). As a result, we obtained pulsation frequencies between 1.26 and 36.95 d^{-1}. The list of derived frequencies is provided in Table 13, and the amplitude spectrum is shown in Figure 18.

Taking into account the estimated frequencies and $T_{\rm eff}$ values of the binary components, as well as the visual companion, we conclude that there are probably two types of oscillating star present in the source. One is of δ Scuti type, and the other exhibits pulsations characteristic of a slowly pulsating B (SPB) star. δ Scuti stars, which range from A to F spectral type, show oscillations in the frequency range of approximately 5-80 d^{-1} (Chang et al. 2013). In contrast, SPB stars are hotter objects, typically of spectral types B3-B9. Their oscillations occur with frequencies ranging from roughly 0.3 to 1.3 d^{-1} (Aerts et al., 2010). These two types of pulsating stars have their own instability regions in the HR diagram, on evolving into which, oscillatory behaviour is expected from current theory.

We have plotted the close binary components Aa and Ab on the instability strips of both δ Scuti and SPB stars, as shown in Figure 19. The diagram was plotted with the same Z value as Figure 16 assuming single-star evolution. In Figure 19, the component Aa lies within the SPB instability strip, while the cooler component Ab is located within that of δ Scuti. On this basis, the hotter component should be an SPB and the secondary a δ Scuti star. However, we must take into account also the B component, which has mid-A spectral type components (Veramendi and González 2014).

Since this companion binary is located 8" away from the binary companion and the TESS pixel size is larger than this separation, we are at present unable to distinguish whether the δ Scuti type oscillations originate from this visual companion. Additionally, there are hybrid δ Scuti – γ Doradus stars (Uytterhoeven et al. 2011) that exhibit both low and high frequency pulsational effects. The component Ab could also be a δ Scuti – γ Doradus star. In such systems, there is generally a gap between the low-frequency γ Doradus-type oscillations and the higher-frequency δ Scuti ones (Grigahcène et al. 2010). In our data, however, no such gap appears in the amplitude spectrum and we may exclude this possibility.

To summarise, we infer that the hotter component of the A system is likely to be an SPB object. The δ Scuti -type

Table 13. Results of the frequency analysis.

	Frequency (d^{-1}) ± 0.00004	Amp (mmag) ± 0.02	SNR
	High	frequencies	
f_1	13.8868	0.22	54
f_2	33.7115	0.19	45
f_3	14.8767	0.15	37
f_4	22.1121	0.10	16
f_5	19.9876	0.07	13
f_6	23.6175	0.04	8
f_7	36.9543	0.04	9
	Low	frequencies	
f_1	1.4937	0.08	7
f_2	1.2975	0.06	5
f_3	1.2614	0.06	5

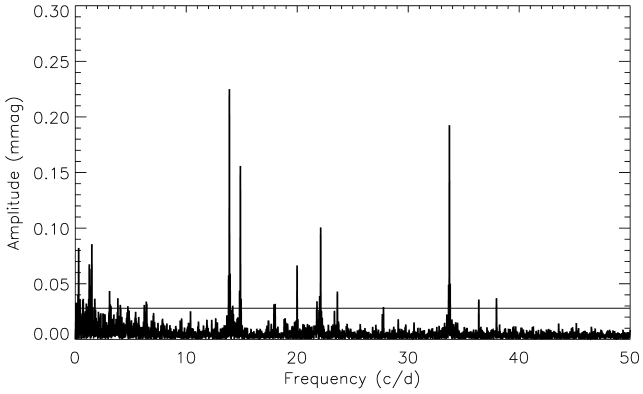


Figure 18. Power spectrum of NO Pup. The vertical line represents the 4.5σ level.

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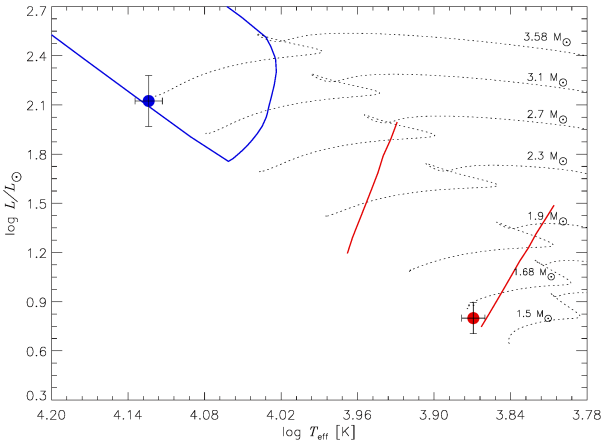


Figure 19. Position of the primary (Aa blue dot) and secondary (Ab red dot) binary components on the instability strips of δ Scuti (below solid red lines Murphy et al. 2019) and SPB (above solid blue line Pamyatnykh 1999) stars. The theoretical evolutionary tracks (faint dotted lines) were taken from the MESA Isochrones and Stellar Tracks (MIST; Dotter 2016) and were generated using the same input parameters as in Figure 16..

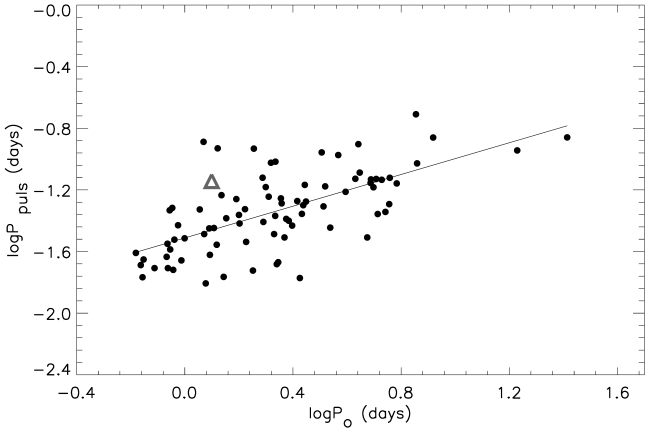


Figure 20. The logP_o - logP_puls relationship and the position of the δ Scuti star (triangle) on it. The dots represent the known δ Scuti stars in eclipsing binaries, taken from Kahraman Aliçavuş et al. (2017).

oscillations could originate either from the cooler component of the close binary or the B component of NO Pup.

As a check, we examined the position of the δ Scuti pulsator on the proposed relationship between orbital (P_o) and pulsation periods (P_{puls}) (Kahraman Aliçavuş et al. 2017). This relationship was derived from data on eclipsing binaries with δ Scuti pulsating components. Due to binary effects on oscillation, a correlation between pulsation and orbital periods is observed. This relationship could be used to determine whether the δ Scuti pulsator is in the A or B binaries.

The position of the δ Scuti star on the log(P_o)-log(P_{puls}) relationship is shown in Figure 20. As seen in the figure, the position of the δ Scuti pulsator follows the general trend of the relationship. We conclude that the secondary in the eclipsing binary system, i.e. Ab, is probably the δ Scuti variable.

8. Discussion and Concluding remarks

NO Pup belongs to a small, young association (Tokovinin et al. 1999), with an estimated age of ∼ 20 Myr (see Section 5). The Aab component has separation (0.03956 AU) that is three orders of magnitude smaller than its astrometric-binary B-component. In its present configuration, therefore, the dynamical behaviour of A is essentially governed by rotational and tidal distortions between the Aab components alone. Given the short period ($P \approx 1.256$ d) and close separation ($R/a \approx 0.2$), the relatively high orbital eccentricity ($e \approx 0.13$) appears anomalous. Tidal friction should tend to circularise the orbit in the available time. On the other hand, very close encounters (of the order of the Aab separation) with other stars in the system afford a possible way to increase orbital eccentricity — for example, through the Kozai-Lidov mechanism (Naoz et al. 2013). Therefore, it is necessary to determine the timescales over which tidal friction and close 3-body encounters with Aab occur, and whether they may have a substantial effect within the system's age.

The components of NO Pup B, from the information given in the WDS Catalogue, are Main Sequence stars with V-magnitudes corresponding to spectral types A5V ($M \approx 2.0 M_\odot$) and A6V ($M \approx 1.8 M_\odot$). From standard stellar modelling they should possess convective cores and radiative envelopes. Within these envelopes, internal (g–mode) gravity waves can propagate and efficiently transport angular momentum from the convective-core boundary to the outer layers (Zahn 1977; Goldreich and Nicholson 1989; Aerts, Christensen-Dalsgaard, and Kurtz 2010). Such waves are partly dissipated through thermal damping in the thin, non-adiabatic surface region (Khaliullin and Khaliullina 2010; Townsend, Goldstein, and Zweibel 2018). Tidal forcing (Zahn 1975, 1977)) operates mostly in these outer layers with radiative damping, creating spin-up/down in the visible surface, which may thus be a poor indicator of the internal rotational angular momentum.

Orbital circularisation by tidal friction depends on the age of the system. As a measure of its efficacy, one may specify an upper limiting value of the ratio a/R of orbit size to stellar radius, below which circularisation can be achieved within an interval of one-quarter of the star's Main Sequence lifetime (Zahn 1977, Table 2). For NO Pup Aab, using the Table 11 masses, one finds this upper limiting value $(a/R)_{lim}$ to be ∼ 4.0. Since for the Aa component of NO Pup, $(a/R) \sim 4.2$, the case for effective tidal circularisation of the orbit appears marginal, especially given our lack of knowledge of the rotational structure of the stars. Zahn's analysis indicates that the upper limiting value of a/R for synchronisation would be ∼ 5.6, suggesting that tidal friction may have de-spun the components into synchronicity. The spectroscopic measurements set out in Tables 7, 9 and 10 in Section 3, including values of $v \sin i$, enables assessment of synchronicity of the Aab stars to the available accuracy of measurement. If the pseudo-synchronisation formula proposed by Hut (1981) (in his Equation 42) is used for the components of NO Pup A, rotation velocities 95 and 66 km s^{-1} for the components Aa and

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Ab, respectively, are obtained. Comparison of these estimated velocity values with the measured rotation velocities (82 and 64 km s^{-1} for the components Aa and Ab; see Sections 3.4 and 4), would suggest that, in this eccentric binary, the rotation and orbital motion are pseudo-synchronised for Ab but not for Aa, as noted by Veramendi and González (2014). However, Aa appears to have a rotation period of 1.32 d – close to the orbital period, as noted in Section 3.4 – and thus nearly synchronised to the mean orbital motion. Confirmation of these suggestions would be possible with the availability of more extensive and more accurate data.

As noted in Section 7, the Ab component lies in the instability region of the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram for the δ Scuti variables (Aerts, Christensen-Dalsgaard, and Kurtz 2010, Figure 1.12). These are likely to experience *p*–mode oscillations, whereas in the higher-mass Aa component, one would expect *g*–modes excited at the convective core/radiative envelope boundary. In addition, the high eccentricity of the orbit means that a large number of harmonics of the orbital frequency could be excited, thereby providing possibilities for resonance with one or more of the *p*– and *g*– stellar oscillation modes, that in turn may be split by stellar rotation. The increase in amplitude associated with these resonances could provide additional tidal damping. However, harmonics of the orbital frequency ($f_{orb} = 0.7956d^{-1}$) become separated out with the general binary effects in the pre-whitening process.

A possible alternative explanation for the observed orbital eccentricity is by a three-body interaction. Since the orbital size of the Aab eclipsing binary system is much smaller than that of the Bab astrometric binary, we may regard Aab as a single point mass. The resulting hierarchical 3-body system may be subject to the classical Kozai-Lidov mechanism, mentioned above. Consider the Aab-Bab system, in which Aab is approximated by a single point mass The Aab component (mass = $M_{Aab} = 5.26M_{\odot}$) is in a wide orbit about the centre-of-mass of the Bab (astrometric) system (masses M_{Ba}, M_{Bb}). The Kozai-Lidov cycle time t_{KL} for such a system, to the quadrupole level of approximation (Naoz 2016, Equation (27)), is:

$$t_{KL} \approx \frac{16}{30\pi}\frac{M_{tot}}{M_{Aab}}\frac{P_{wide}^2}{P_{close}}(1-e_{wide}^2)^{3/2}$$

where "close" and "wide" refer to the (Ba,Bb) astrometric binary and the wide orbit of Aab about Bab's centre-of-mass, respectively. $M_{tot} = M_{Ba} + M_{Bb} + M_{Aab}$ is the total mass.

Neglecting the value of e_{wide}^2, and from Table 11 using $M_{Aab} = 3.58+1.68 = 5.26M_{\odot}$, then with the values given above for the masses $M_{Ba} = 2M_{\odot}, M_{Bb} = 1.8M_{\odot}$, so $M_{Ba} + M_{Bb} = 3.8M_{\odot}$; the distance d being 171 pc, we find $a_{close} = d \times 0.179$ arcsec = 30.609 AU. Now the B-component has orbital period $P_{close} = 101.3$ yr, while for the wide orbit, assuming the apparent (projected) angular separation of 8.1 arcsec corresponds to the semi-major axis, we derive $a_{wide} = 1385$ AU. Kepler's Third Law then yields $P_{wide} \sim 17,100$ yr, on using $M_{tot} = 9.06M_{\odot}$. For the NO Pup system, we find $t_{KL} \approx 8.5 \times 10^5$ yr – or at least an order of magnitude smaller than the estimated age

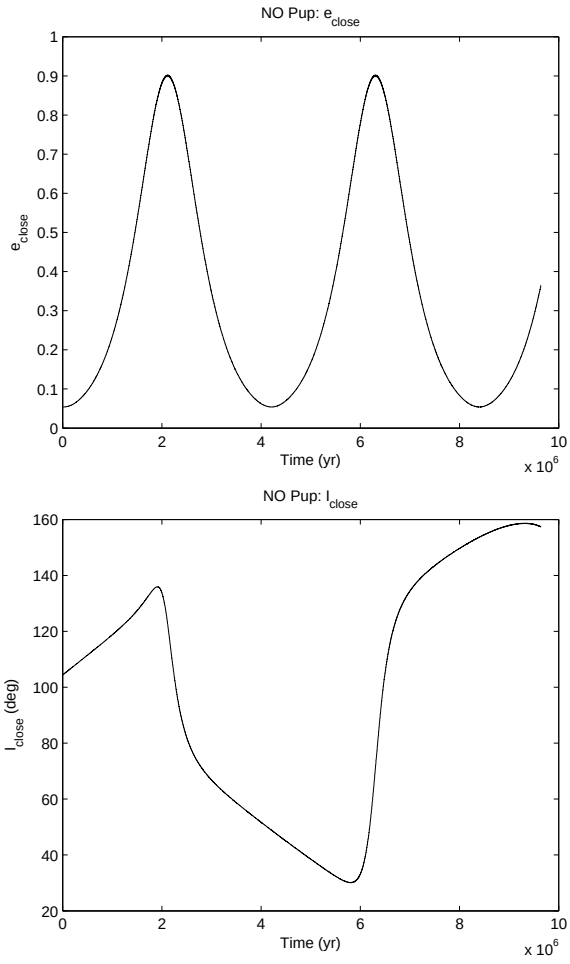


Figure 21. Top: Eccentricity of astrometric binary system (Ba,Bb) over a time interval of 10 Myr, from integrating the reduced 3-body system (Aab,Ba,Bb) using the Aarseth-Zare regularisation scheme. MCMC data from Table 12 was used.The Kozai cycle is clearly evident. Bottom: Inclination between the close orbital and invariable planes.

of the system.[j] This would clearly imply the possibility of the Kozai-Lidow effect operating in the NO Pup system, to produce apparently anomalous parameters.

In addition to classical Kozai-Lidow processes in this quadruple system's history, since NO Pup is a member of an association (Tokovinin et al. 1999), it may previously have comprised several more components that have since escaped via close binary-binary or 3-body interactions (Aarseth and Mardling 2001; Mikkola 2010). Of interest is the short-term dynamical behaviour of the system.

To gain insights, we may replace Aab by a point mass, as before and use the available observational data on NO Pup. Initial conditions for a 3-body model system were then chosen to be $a_{wide} = 1385$ AU; the orbit was assumed to be circular: $e_{wide} = 0$, and edge-on ($i_{wide} = 90$ deg); and masses $(M_{Ba}, M_{Bb}, M_{Aab}) = (2, 1.8, 5.26)M_{\odot}$. This system was inte-

j. Note: Companion D (see Introduction) appears to be a highly-reddened background star, possibly belonging to the association. We assume that it is sufficiently distant not to affect the dynamics of the NO Pup system (Tokovinin et al. 1999).

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grated over a time interval $T = 1 \times 10^7$ yr, implementing an Aarseth-Zare (AZ) regularised scheme (Aarseth and Zare 1974) with Kustaanheimo-Stiefel regularisation (Kustaanheimo and Stiefel 1965) to remove singularities in the equations of motion due to possible 2-body collisions. The AZ scheme was adapted so that, after each set of 2000 time-steps of integration, the Keplerian orbital parameters corresponding to the current smallest two of the three interparticle separations were computed. The time transformation $t(s)$ between "regularised time" s and physical time t was chosen to be the Lagrangian, which gives the most accurate integration scheme and has the advantage that the function $t(s)$ is known explicitly (Alexander 1986). Constancy of total energy and angular momentum was maintained to one part in 10^{14} and 10^{12}, respectively. In addition, integrations of the Kozai-Lidov equations, taking into account quadrupole and octupole level perturbations (Naoz 2016) were performed. The results of AZ integrations for e_{close}, I_{close} are shown in Figure 21.

Numerical integrations of the AZ scheme over 10 Myr revealed the existence of Kozai cycling with respect to the B-components, with a cycle time of 4.5 Myr. During the span of the integrations, for the astrometric binary (B-components), e_{close} twice reached a maximum of $e_{close} = 0.902$, corresponding to a minimum separation between the B-components of 3.0 AU ($\approx 645 R_\odot$). The perturbation approach (quadrupole or octupole) may become suspect at such close encounters. However, the distances between Aab and both of the B components remain large (≈ 1400 au) throughout the Kozai cycle, so that tidal effects between Aab and Bab are negligible. By the same token, apsidal motion in the Aab eclipsing system will be governed exclusively by tidal and rotational distortions of its components.

With regard to the B-components, the quadrupole formula above for t_{KL} yields a value ~ 5 times smaller than was found with the much more accurate AZ numerical integrations. In the immediate vicinity of closest approach, where e_{close}, I_{close} were rapidly changing, there was poor agreement between the perturbative and AZ results; however, away from these events, there was fairly good agreement.

In this paper, we have marshalled evidence from the available data streams – photometric, spectrometric and astrometric – so as to quantify parameters as accurately as possible. This allows well-defined and comprehensive analyses. To this end we have combined various curve-fitting techniques to determine optimal values and uncertainties. Corresponding results are presented in the preceding tables and diagrams. In turn, this permits more detailed theoretical discussion.

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Competing Interests None.

Data Availability Statement The TESS data are available from the MAST data archive (https://archive.stsci.edu/). The astrometric data may be obtained from United States Naval Observatory on request. The other data supporting this study are available upon reasonable request to the corresponding author.

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Table A1. Radial velocity values of NO Pup derived from the HARPS spectra.

HJD 2450000+	Orbital phase	RV1 km s^{-1}	err km s^{-1}	RV2 km s^{-1}	err km s^{-1}
426.5324	0.0774	–48.44	2.77	178.39	1.85
4888.7444	0.3057	–65.57	1.34	225.022	8.88
4890.7276	0.8836	97.42	3.81	–118.231	7.45
4924.4813	0.7387	146.04	3.78	–225.21	6.12
4924.5334	0.7802	142.75	3.06	–222.914	2.42
4924.6177	0.8472	110.46	1.76	–178.46	6.83
4924.6734	0.8915	90.77	5.12	–110.77	5.78
4924.6761	0.8937	92.77	2.37	–100.05	2.15
4924.7039	0.9158	78.01	3.83	–60.201	8.13
4925.4724	0.5272	30.64	1.49		
4925.4751	0.5294	32.88	1.75		
4925.5957	0.6253	110.98	1.25	–151.752	1.19
4925.5984	0.6275	110.08	1.85	–152.68	3.93
4925.6886	0.6993	139.68	2.25	–212.814	2.10
4925.6913	0.7346	130.76	1.47	–208.12	5.41
4925.6941	0.7036	145.60	4.09	–216.27	3.53
4925.6968	0.7058	143.13	5.24	–216.17	5.87
4926.4762	0.3259	–61.21	1.92	212.901	3.76
4926.4789	0.3280	–61.68	6.85	216.29	7.40
4926.5297	0.3685	–52.02	4.78	179.24	5.63
4926.5670	0.3981	–35.77	1.62	154.56	6.98
4926.5697	0.4003	–39.24	1.81	148.377	3.15
4926.5888	0.4155	–32.43	3.42	133.93	3.27
4926.5912	0.4174	–31.54	2.20	133.763	3.02
4927.4694	0.1161	–52.58	1.29	171.91	2.99
4927.4721	0.1182	–51.79	1.56	174.13	4.75
4927.5101	0.1485	–57.56	1.88	194.21	3.06
4927.5101	0.1485	–59.94	1.28	193.61	2.63
4927.5128	0.1506	–63.01	1.54	192.18	5.16
4927.5503	0.1805	–64.58	3.76	215.647	6.65
4927.5530	0.1826	–61.76	5.27	214.02	7.65
4927.6230	0.2383	–71.62	4.78	231.74	5.88
4927.6257	0.2405	–70.99	3.85	236.39	3.90
4927.6851	0.2877	–67.16	3.14	227.19	3.17
4927.6878	0.2899	–67.36	5.11	232.28	4.64
4929.4680	0.7069	143.96	4.98	–217.33	4.65
4929.4715	0.7090	142.47	4.76	–216.042	4.66
5120.8646	0.9853	12.56	2.78		
5469.8902	0.6773	129.03	3.25	–194.30	5.62
5471.8856	0.2649	–66.53	4.76	234.54	3.04
6213.8976	0.6250	105.50	1.74	–119.43	2.88
6606.7105	0.1551	–62.68	2.45	192.18	3.43
7195.4915	0.6015	84.82	2.70	–103.13	7.00

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Table A2. Identified spectral lines for NO Pup based on comparison with the ILLSS Catalogue (Coluzzi 1993; VizieR Online Data Catalog: Revised version of the ILLSS Catalogue (Coluzzi 1993-1999)). The lines are confidently detected mainly for the primary (Aa).

Species	Order no.	Adopted λ	Comment
He I	85	6678.149	measurable, Aa
H_α	87	6562.817	strong, blended, Aa & Ab
Ca I	88	6455.600	visible, telluric intrusions
Si II	89	6371.159	Aa strong, Ab weak
Si II	90	6347.091	Aa strong, Ab weak
Fe I	92	6157.41, 6157.734	broad & blended
Si II	95	5978.970	telluric intrusions
He I	97	5875.852	He I triplet (av. λ) Aa
Fe II	104	5466.020	weak & blended
Fe I	107	5315, 5321, 5329	visible & blended
Ca I, Fe II	108	5264, 5275	visible & blended
Fe II	110	5169, 5177	visible & blended
Si II	112, 113	5056.02	strong, Aa
He I	115, 116	4922	detectable, Aa
H_β	117	4861.3	strong, blended, Aa & Ab
He I	121	4713	weak, Aa
Fe II, N III	123	4629, 4634	weak
Fe I	124	4587	weak
Fe II	124	4583.8	weak
Fe II	124	4576	weak
Fe II	125	4549.5	weak & blended

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