

A Catalog of Accurate Equatorial Coordinates for Variable Stars in Globular Clusters

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ABSTRACT. We have compiled a catalog of equatorial coordinates for 3398 variable stars in those 103 globular clusters that, according to the most recent update of the Catalogue of Variable Stars in Globular Clusters (CVSGC) available in 2008 June (essentially that of 2002, with some more recent additions), had known variable stars. Our catalog is in the electronic attachment to this article. We found that 216 stars are also contained in the General Catalogue of Variable Stars (GCVS) or in the New Catalogue of Suspected Variable Stars (with Supplement); most of these identifications were not previously recognized. We also detected a number of previously unknown cross-identifications among stars of the CVSGC. Our results allow us to initiate compilation of name lists in order to add to the GCVS those stars from the CVSGC that satisfy GCVS naming criteria.

Online material: machine readable table

1. INTRODUCTION

For reasons of tradition, most known variable stars in globular clusters remain outside the General Catalogue of Variable Stars (GCVS; cf. Kholopov et al. 1985). The origin of this tradition is not quite clear: in principle, the GCVS should include all reliably identified variable stars of our Galaxy. Globular-cluster variable stars were not included in the catalogs that preceded the GCVS, namely the variable star catalogs published by the “Astronomische Gesellschaft” (see Prager 1926, Schneller 1942); apparently the rule was introduced when membership of globular clusters in the Galaxy had not yet been established beyond doubt.

The need in catalogs of variable stars in the Galaxy’s globular clusters is obvious, and the total number of variable stars in globular clusters exceeded 1000 as early as in the first half of the twentieth century. Thus, specialized catalogs appeared. Three editions of the Catalogue of Variable Stars in Globular Clusters (CVSGC) were compiled and published in Canada (Sawyer 1939, 1955; Sawyer Hogg 1973). This work was continued by Helen Sawyer Hogg’s successors who are now keeping the catalog as an Internet resource (Clement et al. 2001).

The presentation of information on star positions in the CVSGC differs from that in the GCVS. All the printed CVSGC editions contain rectangular coordinates of different precision (as a rule, formally to 1'' in both coordinates) for variable stars in each globular cluster. The catalog presents low-accuracy equatorial coordinates of globular-cluster centers (to 0.1^m in right ascension and 1' in declination, or even worse in some cases).

In all the CVSGC printed editions, the coordinates of globular-cluster centers are given for the equinox 1950.0. There is no information on the equinox of the rectangular coordinates of variables, but they are often directly taken from original papers, possibly from several papers for the same cluster, including papers published as early as by the end of the nineteenth century. Thus, the equinox of the rectangular coordinates is not exactly fixed. Obviously, a system of rectangular coordinates with axes along right ascension and declination for a certain equinox will be aligned incorrectly for a different equinox. In many cases, the precision of published rectangular coordinates, reproduced in the CVSGC, was no better than 3'' or even worse. This can lead to ambiguous identifications in the crowded central regions, and identification charts are a valuable resource.

Table 1
GLOBULAR-CLUSTER VARIABLE STARS IN THE GCVS AND NSV CATALOGUES

GC	Var	GCVS, NSV	GC	Var	GCVS, NSV	GC	Var	GCVS, NSV	GC	Var	GCVS, NSV
104	V12	CO Tuc	6304	V1	V2167 Oph	6441	V49	V1169 Seo	6638	V56	NSV 24475
	V1	Z Col	V2	V2161 Oph	V50	V1167 Seo	V57	V4054 Sgr			
	V2	Y Col	V3	V2171 Oph	V68	V1166 Seo	V58	NSV 24476			
3201	V15	NSV 04813	V4	NSV 21164	6522	V7	V3900 Sgr	V59	NSV 24478		
	V65	KP Vel	V5	V2173 Oph	V8	V1437 Sgr	V60	NSV 24481			
	V68	NSV 04810	V6	NSV 21193	V9	V1438 Sgr	V61	V3845 Sgr			
Rup 106	V2	V887 Cen	V7	V2166 Oph	6535	V1	MO Ser	V62	NSV 24485		
4590	V27	Fl Hya	V8	V2177 Oph	V2	MP Ser	V63	IL Sgr,			
	V32	EN Hya	V9	V2181 Oph	6541	V1	SS Cta	V64	V4056 Sgr		
4833	V1	RY Mus	V10	V2155 Oph	6553	Nova	V1148 Sgr	6642	V1	V2578 Sgr	
	*V2	RZ Mus	V11	V2159 Oph	6558	V5	V4301 Sgr	6637	V2	V3484 Sgr	
5139	V11	FQ Mus	V12	V2160 Oph	V8	V4601 Sgr	V4	V1894 Sgr			
	V1	NSV 06235	V13	NSV 08349	V9	V4595 Sgr	6652	V7	V3616 Sgr		
	V2	V825 Cen	V14	V2163 Oph	6569	V4	V2711 Sgr	V9	V3641 Sgr		
	V56	V833 Cen	V15	NSV 08361	V6	NSV 10364	6656	V14	V1311 Sgr		
	V65	V813 Cen	V16	V2169 Oph	V15	V2698 Sgr	V17	V4068 Sgr			
	V78	V814 Cen	V17	NSV 08377	6584	V15	PX Tel	V22	V3853 Sgr		
	V129	V826 Cen	V18	V2180 Oph	V24	PU Tel	V26	V2007 Sgr			
	V133	V594 Cen	V19	NSV 08367	V27	PT Tel	V28	V2367 Sgr			
	V168	V832 Cen	V20	NSV 08369	V39	PS Tel	V29	NSV 11080			
	V269	V791 Cen	V21	NSV 08385	6626	V7	V4137 Sgr	V30	NSV 11084		
	V283	V1045 Cen	V14	V798 Her	V15	V4128 Sgr	V31	V3855 Sgr			
5272	V113	XXX CVn	V3	V1864 Oph	V16	V4130 Sgr	V32	V4067 Sgr			
	*V141	RV CVn	V7	V1845 Oph	V17	V2342 Sgr	V33	V4069 Sgr			
	V205	WY CVn	V12	V1840 Oph	V24	V4129 Sgr	6681	V2	V4082 Sgr		
	V206	WZ CVn	V13	V2208 Oph	V1	NSV 10895	V5	V4081 Sgr			
5286	V1	GI Cen	6356	V2009 Oph	V2	NSV 10896	6712	V1	MP Sct		
5466	V19	BL Boo	V6	V1995 Oph	V3	V4051 Sgr	V2	*V2	AP Sct		
IC 4499	V173	PQ Aps	6352	V6	V819 Ara	V4	NSV 10908	*V7	CH Sct		
6093	V6	S Sco	HP 1	V1	NSV 08984	V5	NSV 10913	V8	MR Sct		
	V7	R Sco	V2	NSV 08989	V6	NSV 10914	V15	MW Sct			
	*Nova	T Sco	V3	NSV 08973	V7	NSV 10916	V16	LZ Sct			
6101	V12	NSV 20592	V4	NSV 09002	V8	NSV 10918	V21	MN Sct			
	V13	NSV 20587	V5	NSV 09011	V9	NSV 10921	V30	NSV 24641			
	V14	NSV 20591	V6	NSV 09016	V10	NSV 10928	V4	V394 Pav			
	V15	NSV 20604	V7	NSV 08967	V11	NSV 10930	V5	V395 Pav			
	V1	BP Sco	V8	NSV 08978	V12	V4052 Sgr	V6	V396 Pav			
	V2	BO Sco	V9	NSV 08983	V13	V1673 Sgr,	V8	V397 Pav			

Table 1 (*Continued*)

GC	Var	GCVS, NSV	GC	Var	GCVS, NSV	GC	Var	GCVS, NSV	GC	Var	GCVS, NSV	
6171	*V1	V720 Oph	V10	NSV 08988		V14	NSV 10942	6779	V11	V398 Pav	
6235	V3	V2249 Oph	V11	NSV 08997		V15	V4055 Sgr			V7	V487 Lyr	
	V4	V2250 Oph	V12	NSV 09007		V16	NSV 10948			V8	V485 Lyr	
6266	V29	PU Oph	V13	NSV 09012		V17	NSV 10951			V9	V486 Lyr	
	V70	OU Oph	V14	NSV 09021		V18	NSV 10952			V10	V483 Lyr	
6273	*V2	FK Oph	V15	NSV 09023		V19	NSV 10956	Pal 10		V11	V484 Lyr	
	V6	NSV 20887	Ter 1	V4	NSV 22828		V46	NSV 24458			V2	MV Sge
6284	V7	V2135 Oph	6388	V4	MU Sco		V47	NSV 24460	6838		V3	MZ Sge
	V10	V2121 Oph	V29	V1164 Sco		V48	NSV 24459			*V1	Z Sge	
	V11	V2123 Oph	6401	V1	NSV 09335		V49	NSV 24461			V3	QU Sge
	V12	GM Oph	6397	V1	V639 Ara		V50	NSV 24463			V4	NSV 24932
6293	V2	V2137 Oph	V2	V825 Ara		V51	NSV 24462	6934		V6	V345 Sge	
	V7	V2145 Oph	V3	V826 Ara		V52	NSV 24465	6934, continued		V75	OP Del	
6293, continued	V9	NSV 21001	6426	*V11	V979 Oph		V53	NSV 24466			V76	OO Del
	V10	V2136 Oph	6441	V36	V1165 Sco		V54	NSV 24472	7099		V4	NSV 25717
	V11	V2102 Oph	V47	V1168 Sco		V55	NSV 24471					
	V12	IW Oph	V48	V1170 Sco								

Table 2

A FRAGMENT OF THE CATALOGUE OF ACCURATE EQUATORIAL COORDINATES FOR VARIABLE STARS IN GLOBULAR CLUSTERS

NGC 1261		!				
NGC 1261	V	1	03 12 12.51	-55 13 25.5	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	2	03 12 11.28	-55 12 22.0		X,Y
NGC 1261	V	3	03 12 21.78	-55 13 50.7	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	4	03 12 18.56	-55 13 28.4		X,Y
NGC 1261	V	5	03 12 11.93	-55 13 01.9		X,Y
NGC 1261	V	6	03 12 25.05	-55 13 08.6	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	7	03 11 58.44	-55 10 37.3	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	8	03 12 00.44	-55 15 16.4	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	9	03 12 20.40	-55 13 35.3		X,Y
NGC 1261	V	10	03 12 21.99	-55 11 45.9	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	11	03 12 05.50	-55 11 27.7	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	12	03 12 26.15	-55 12 45.8	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	13	03 12 07.01	-55 14 33.1	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	14	03 12 09.75	-55 14 07.6	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	15	03 12 02.50	-55 10 48.1	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	16	03 12 13.90	-55 13 12.9		X,Y
NGC 1261	V	17	03 12 15.48	-55 12 36.6		X,Y
NGC 1261	V	18	03 12 13.80	-55 12 40.6	1999.821	2MASS
NGC 1261	V	19	03 12 18.19	-55 12 44.7		X,Y
NGC 1261	V	20	03 12 19.31	-55 13 00.4		X,Y
NGC 1261	V	21	03 12 14.47	-55 12 31.3		X,Y
NGC 1851		!				
NGC 1851	V	1	05 14 28.93	-40 02 56.5	1998.997	2MASS Z Col
NGC 1851	V	2	05 14 02.75	-40 02 24.4	1998.997	2MASS Y Col
NGC 1851	V	3	05 14 02.44	-40 01 20.6	1998.997	2MASS ?
NGC 1851	V	4	05 14 08.53	-40 02 17.0	1994.0	GCVS
NGC 1851	V	5	05 14 09.89	-40 02 11.8	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	6	05 14 00.01	-40 03 04.2	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	7	05 14 07.06	-40 04 42.9	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	8	05 14 08.90	-40 02 26.9	1994.0	GCVS
NGC 1851	V	9	05 14 01.33	-40 02 05.8	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	10	05 14 10.95	-40 06 08.9	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	11	05 14 12.64	-40 05 07.6	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	12	05 13 59.84	-40 03 41.8	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	13	05 14 06.73	-40 02 07.4	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	14	05 14 12.85	-40 02 34.8	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	15	05 14 09.07	-40 02 01.1	1994.0	GCVS
NGC 1851	V	16	05 14 12.27	-40 02 51.9	1994.0	GCVS
NGC 1851	V	17	05 14 02.90	-40 03 50.2	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	18	05 14 09.91	-40 00 13.5	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	19	05 14 08.76	-40 03 25.2	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	20	05 14 05.57	-40 03 16.8	1994.0	GCVS
NGC 1851	V	21	05 14 01.14	-40 01 53.6	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	22	05 14 17.50	-40 01 00.8	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	23	05 14 16.15	-40 03 47.5	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	24	05 14 19.34	-40 04 23.9	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	25	05 13 55.80	-40 07 31.8	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	26	05 13 55.35	-40 01 10.9	1998.997	2MASS
NGC 1851	V	27	05 14 03.70	-40 03 05.8	1994.0	GCVS
NGC 1851	V	28	05 14 09.75	-40 03 10.4	1994.0	GCVS
NGC 1851	V	29	05 14 05.52	-40 02 20.8	1994.0	GCVS

Table 2 (*Continued*)

NGC 1851	V	30	05 14 07.53	-40 02 59.2	1994.0	GCVS
NGC 1851	V	31	05 14 08.73	-40 03 07.9	1994.0	GCVS
NGC 1851	V	32	05 14 04.65	-40 02 15.7	1994.0	GCVS
NGC 1851	V	33	05 14 07.91	-40 03 13.9	1994.0	GCVS

NOTE.—Units of right ascension are hours, minutes, and seconds, and units of declination are degrees, arcminutes, and arcseconds. Table 2 is published in its entirety in the electronic edition of the *PASP*. A portion is shown here for guidance regarding its form and content.

The use of rectangular rather than equatorial coordinates surely had its historical reasons. It is easy to point a telescope at a globular cluster even if the telescope setting is off by as much as a minute of arc. Until recently, studies of clusters were mostly photographic and were undertaken with relatively wide field cameras. The way the investigators identified the variables was to label them on photographic prints, and the rectangular coordinates provided a useful guide for locating a star on the identification chart. Another convenience of the rectangular coordinate system was that one could easily get a sense of how far the star was from the cluster center, just by reading the table.

In the “online” Internet catalog of variable stars in globular clusters, for some clusters, the rectangular coordinates were replaced with equatorial coordinates, for the equinox B1950.0 or J2000.0. The sources of the equatorial coordinates were heterogeneous and, as we will describe, not always reliable. However, the online CVSGC contained, until recently, rectangular coordinates for most stars, often unchanged as compared to the printed editions.

The SIMBAD database provides equatorial coordinates for some objects of the CVSGC, but the majority of globular-cluster variables are not contained there.

In the twenty-first century, it is more advantageous to list accurate equatorial coordinates of globular-cluster variables for several reasons. First, they allow one to point the telescope immediately at the right star. Second, it becomes possible to cross correlate the catalog with other catalogs, and check possible cross-correlations for variables in the same cluster. For some stars, it is possible to find observations in the public domain of the Internet and thus to improve the CVSGC information (see § 3).

When working on the GCVS, its authors often thought about adding all reliable and sufficiently well-studied globular-cluster variable stars to the GCVS, their omission being in contradiction with the declared purpose of the catalog. (If these plans are fulfilled, the specialized catalogs of variable stars in globular clusters will still remain important, as they present needed information in a form handy for those studying individual clusters.) However, we were not able to start implementing such plans until the solution was found to the problem of finding equatorial coordinates for all variable stars in the CVSGC.

We decided to compile a catalog of equatorial coordinates of globular-cluster variable stars, containing as close to all the CVSGC objects as possible.

2. COMPILATION OF THE CATALOGUE

For the list of objects, we downloaded the most recent update of the Catalogue of Variable Stars in Globular Clusters (CVSGC) available in 2008 June. This was essentially the version of 2002, with more recent additions for a small number of clusters. Note that this version is no longer accessible; currently (2009 September), a new revision is partially posted.

The CVSGC lists 147 globular clusters of our Galaxy. The number of variable stars strongly varies from one cluster to another. No variable stars were detected in many clusters, despite searches. The CVSGC contains a total of 103 globular clusters with known variable stars, from a single star in NGC 6380 and in NGC 6717, to almost 300 in NGC 5139 (ω Cen) and NGC 5272 (M3).

It is possible to find in the literature one or more photographic finding charts of variable stars for most clusters. In several clusters, we were able to use earlier studies aimed at identification of variables or their astrometry. The key references, not including papers with few stars, are the following. NGC 104: Geffert et al. (1997); NGC 288: Kaluzny (1996); NGC 2808, NGC 5024: Evstigneева et al. (1997); NGC 4147: Stetson et al. (2005); NGC 5139: Shokin & Samus (1996a), Kaluzny et al. (2004); NGC 5272: Evstigneева et al. (1994), Bakos et al. (2000); Pal 5: Vivas et al. (2004); NGC 5897, NGC 6712: B. Skiff, (private communication to the CVSGC compilers); NGC 5904: Evstigneева et al. (1995); NGC 6121: Shokin & Samus (1996b), Kaluzny et al. (1997); NGC 6341: Tucholke et al. (1996); NGC 6362: Mazur et al. (1999); NGC 6397: Kaluzny (1997); NGC 6584: Samus et al. (1995); NGC 6656: Kravtsov et al. (1994); NGC 6752: Thompson et al. (1999); NGC 6809: Olech et al. (1999), Pych et al. (2001); NGC 6838: Park & Nemec (2000); NGC 6934: Kaluzny et al. (2001). If necessary, we checked the coordinates from these papers using finding charts, and improved them as needed using position catalogs or performing special measurements.

It should be noted that all the equatorial coordinates presented for 37 variables in the globular cluster NGC 6638 in

Rutily & Terzan (1977) are quite wrong (Samus et al. 2008). The errors are from 13 to 49 minutes of arc (exceeding half a degree in 18 cases). We have an impression that Rutily and Terzan calculated their equatorial coordinates from rectangular coordinates measured with respect to a reference point in several arcminutes to the northeast of the cluster center and used a wrong scale factor in these calculations. The very wrong coordinates in this article led to the result that two of the variable stars in the region of NGC 6638 have two GCVS identifications each (V13 = V1673 Sgr = V4053 Sgr; V63 = IL Sgr = V4056 Sgr).

For most clusters, the CVSGC contained no equatorial coordinates of their variable stars. In each of such clusters, we usually proceeded in the following way.

1. A search for all finding charts. For this purpose, we used not only the online version of the CVSGC but also the earlier CVSGC editions (Sawyer 1955; Sawyer Hogg 1973) and, in some cases, other sources of bibliography, selecting the best charts, checking agreement of the identifications suggested for the same stars.

2. Identifying the finding charts with position catalogs using the Aladin interactive atlas (the Strasbourg Center of Astronomical Data). Only two CVSGC stars could be identified with the Tycho-2 Catalogue (Høg et al. 2000), which also provided their proper motions.

In the cases of Tycho-2 identifications not available, we identified variable stars with the following catalogs, in the order of our preferences.

2MASS: Two Micron All Sky Survey (Cutri et al. 2003).

GSC2.3: Guide Star Catalog, version 2.3 (Lasker et al. 2008).

B1.0: Whole-Sky USNO-B1.0 Catalog of 1,045,913,669 sources (Monet et al. 2003).

Images from the 2MASS survey provided by the Aladin atlas often were also the most suitable for our purposes, the central cluster areas being, as a rule, not overexposed.

3. Measurements of photographic and CCD images of globular-cluster fields with variable stars using astrometric calibration from stars of the catalogs cited above. This approach was applied to stars missing in the position catalogs, as well as to double and multiple stars if the position of the variable component looked biased compared to the coordinates given for the whole blend in the position catalog.

4. Reductions of rectangular coordinates to equatorial coordinates. Such an approach was effective if there were sufficiently accurate rectangular coordinates in the same system for variables of a given cluster in the literature. It can be used to determine equatorial coordinates for stars with no other sources of information or to check identifications. Especially helpful were the precise catalogs of stars in the globular clusters NGC 5272 (Küstner 1922); NGC 5904 and NGC 6218 (Küstner 1933); NGC 6205 (Ludendorff 1905); NGC 6779 (Küstner 1920); NGC 7078 (Küstner 1921).

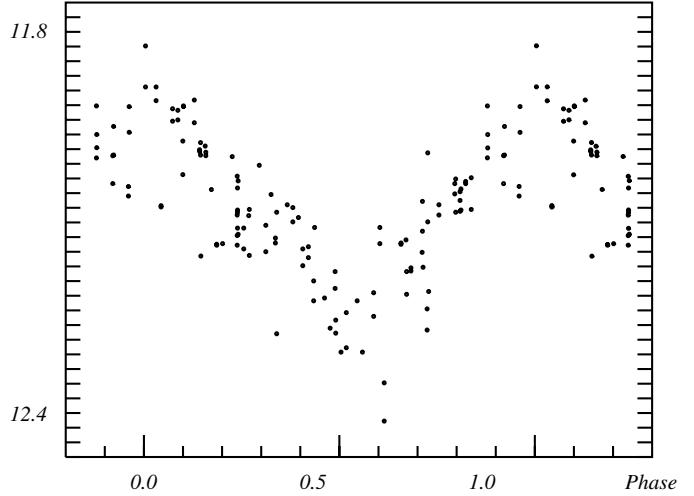


FIG. 1.—Phased light curve of V2 (NGC 6366) from NSVS data (maximum JD = 2,451,373 + 72E).

5. A check of the derived coordinates for possible matching of the CVSGC stars with objects of the GCVS or of the New Catalogue of Suspected Variable Stars (the NSV catalog, Kukarkin et al. 1982) and its Supplement (Kazarovets et al. 1998).

We found that 146 CVSGC stars are already contained in the GCVS (as noted, two of them, in the globular cluster NGC 6638, have two GCVS names each). GCVS names were given in the CVSGC only for nine stars. Designations from the NSV catalog (with Supplement) are available for 70 stars, with none of these identifications mentioned in the GCVS. The identifications we found are collected in Table 1. The cluster numbers with no prefix in its first column are from the NGC. The column “Var” presents CVSGC designations; asterisks mark those with the GCVS identification given in the CVSGC.

The referee, Professor C. M. Clement, turned our attention to two problem identification cases in the globular cluster NGC 7078 (M15). We made our identifications without using the new paper, Corwin et al. (2008), that contains, among other results including discoveries of new variables, accurate equatorial coordinates for many previously known variable stars. The agreement with the coordinates in our catalog is generally very good. The referee found, however, several discrepant cases. In most of them, we agree that the identification in Corwin et al. (2008) is correct (it is often confirmed with reliable period determinations by Corwin et al.), so we have introduced necessary corrections in our catalog. Two problem cases, however, should be discussed here.

The star called V106 in Corwin et al. (2008) is Küstner 421 (Küstner 1921), while the star originally announced as V106 (Rosino 1969) is Kü 438. The angular distance between the two stars is only 5''. In the catalog, we decided to call Kü 438, V106a and Kü 421, V106b.

The variable V114, first announced by Kadla et al. (1984), is definitely not Kü 537 but rather is Kü 579. Thus, the real V114 is the star called NV3 in Corwin et al. (2008), and their “V114” is a new variable.

3. THE CATALOG

The catalog is available in electronic form in the online Table 2 of this article. The structure of the file is the following.

The first catalog line for each cluster contains the cluster name, with an exclamation mark in the sixteenth position. An asterisk in the fifteenth position means that there is a remark to the cluster as a whole in column (5) of the table. Then, lines for variable stars in the cluster follow.

Column 1. CVSGC name of the variable.

Column 2. Equatorial coordinates for equinox 2000.0, to 0.01^s in right ascension and $0.1''$ in declination. For 218 stars, the coordinates are less precise.

Column 3. Epoch and source of the coordinates. Some of the symbols in this column will be explained below.

Column 4. GCVS and NSV identifications of the variable, if any. An asterisk after the GCVS or NSV identification means that the identification was mentioned in the CVSGC.

Column 5. Note. For supplemental information as needed. For example, a note was added for several clusters where we detected mutual identifications of CVSGC stars not recognized earlier. Notes can describe identification problems or present other additional information.

The catalog contains a total of 3398 variable stars in 103 globular clusters (15 stars entered in the CVSGC twice under different names have been counted once in the total; V106 in NGC 7078, the star with two identifications, has also been counted once).

The coordinates of 2184 stars (64%) were taken from the 2MASS catalog. All other sources of coordinates were used much less frequently. For 332 stars, the coordinates were measured by the authors using images, with respect to reference stars. For such stars, the column identifying the source of data contains the abbreviation GCVS. We took the coordinates of 403 stars directly from sources in the literature (indicated by the code Lit.; most of these sources are cited in the previous section). The equatorial coordinates of 229 stars in our catalog are based on reductions of rectangular coordinates of different precision (marked X,Y). Notes for 85 stars indicate doubtful identifications or low accuracy of their coordinates. Uncertain identifications and/or coordinates are designated with question marks after the column with the source of the coordinates.

New prospects from this catalog of equatorial coordinates for globular-cluster variable stars can be illustrated using, as an example, the following three CVSGC stars, which have quite insufficient information in the CVSGC but can now be studied using public-domain data of automatic photometric sky surveys. So far, such possibilities exist only for brightest cluster stars, mostly red variables.

V68 (NGC 3201). Identified with NSV 4810. The CVSGC gives the type “long”, even without a variation range indicated. The star is very bright in the infrared ($K_S = 3.49^m$ in the 2MASS catalog). It can be found in the ASAS-3 catalog of variable stars (Pojmanski 2002) as the star ASAS 101711–4610.8, of unidentified type (the ASAS-3 type MISC–miscellaneous), with the period of 71.8^d . The excellent ASAS-3 light curve shows brightness variations between 11.9^m and 13.3^m V . From 580 ASAS-3 observations, we can classify the variable as LB in the GCVS system.

V2 (NGC 6366). The CVSGC mentions the star’s red color and that it is possibly a field star. Its photographic variability range ($15.7^m – 16.8^m$) is also given. There is no information on the variability type or period. The star is too faint for the ASAS-3 survey, which contains only a few observations scattered near the photometric limit, but its 123 red-light observations can be found in the ROTSE-I/NSVS survey (Woźniak et al. 2004). From these data, the star is a semiregular (SR) variable with a probable period about 72^d . Its red-light variation range is $11.9^m – 12.4^m$. Figure 1 shows its phased light curve.

V3 (NGC 6752). No type or variability range in the CVSGC, with only the star’s red color indicated. The star does not enter the ASAS-3 variable star catalog, but the photometric catalog of the same survey nevertheless provides more than 580 observations revealing LB variations approximately between 11.2^m and 11.5^m V .

4. CONCLUSIONS

We compiled a catalog of accurate equatorial coordinates for 3398 variable stars in 103 globular clusters. These coordinates made it possible to perform the first maximally complete identification of the Catalogue of Variable Stars in Globular Clusters with the General Catalogue of Variable Stars and with the New Catalogue of Suspected Variable Stars (plus Supplement). 146 CVSGC stars were found to be contained in the GCVS and 70 stars, in the NSV Catalogue (with Supplement). Only 9 of these identifications were already indicated in the CVSGC.

The complete conversion of the CVSGC to equatorial coordinates makes it much easier to identify globular-cluster variable stars in the sky, permitting automatic pointing of ground-based and space-borne telescopes as well as studies of bright variables using available data of automatic photometric surveys. It becomes possible to add to the GCVS those globular-cluster variable stars that satisfy the rather strict GCVS naming criteria.

In future, we are planning a more detailed comparison of our results to the SIMBAD data, in contact with SIMBAD astronomers. Currently, coordinates of globular-cluster variables in SIMBAD are sparse, and the SIMBAD sources of identification are not always clear. In the course of our study, we noted some cases of agreement as well as of disagreement of our identifications with those in SIMBAD.

We continue our work in close contact with the CVSGC team to improve information on variable stars in globular clusters provided to the users. Our catalog of equatorial coordinates for globular-cluster variable stars is available electronically.

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