

RR Lyrae star

astronomy

Alternate titles: RR Lyrae variable star, cluster-type variable, short-period Cepheid

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RR Lyrae star, any of a group of old [giant stars](#) of the class called pulsating variables (see [variable star](#)) that pulsate with periods of about 0.2–1 day. They belong to the broad Population II class of stars (see [Populations I and II](#)) and are found mainly in the thick disk and halo of the [Milky Way Galaxy](#) and often in [globular clusters](#). There are several subclasses—designated RRA, RRb, RRC, and RRd—based on the manner in which the light varies with time. The intrinsic luminosities of RR Lyrae stars are relatively well-determined, which makes them useful as distance indicators.

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