Life on Other Planets?

Four hundred years ago a rebellious, independent Dominican monk, Giordano Bruno, advocated the idea that planets orbited stars other than our Sun. He infuriated religious leaders by asserting in the late 16th century that beings like humans inhabited these other worlds. He was burned at the stake in Rome's Campo de' Fiori in 1600.



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Look here first.

How Do We Find Extra-solar planets?

- Look here first.
- 2 Look here second.

How Do We Find Extra-solar planets?

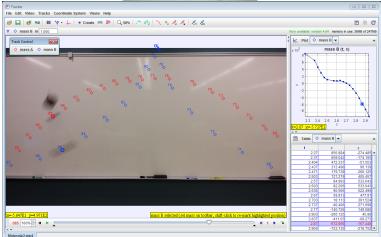
Look here first.
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How Do We Find Extra-solar planets?

Look here first.
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'Wobbling' Stars

Consider a solar system consisting only of the Sun and Jupiter orbiting about their center of mass. What is the size of the Sun's 'wobble' as it orbits the center of mass? Compare the wobble with the radius of the Sun. If 51-Pegasus has a Jupiter-like planet (same mass and distance from its star) what would be the angular size of the wobble? The distance from 51 Pegasus to the Sun is 51 ly.

Jupiter's mass Sun's mass Sun-Jupiter distance Sun's radius 1 light-year $1.90 \times 10^{27} \ kg$ $1.99 \times 10^{30} \ kg$ $7.8 \times 10^{11} \ m$ $6.96 \times 10^8 \ m$ $9.46 \times 10^{15} \ m$



Measuring the Wobble

What is the angular shift in position of 51 Peg orbiting the center-of-mass associated with a Jupiter-like planet?

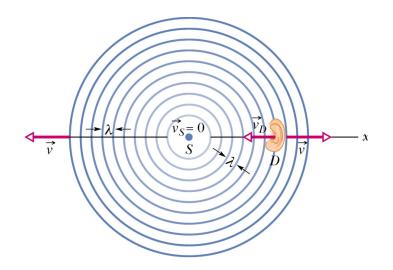
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Measuring the Wobble

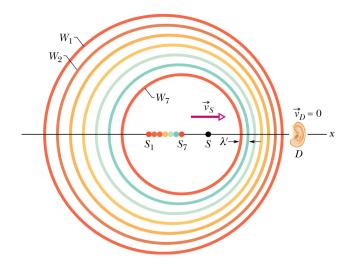
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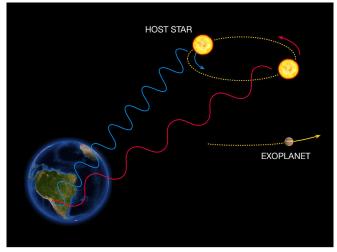
Telescope resolutions: VLBA (3 \times 10⁻⁷ deg), Hubble (8 \times 10⁻⁶ deg)



The Doppler Effect



Wobbling Stars



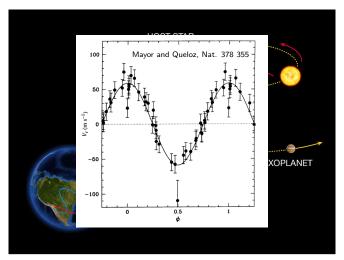
The Radial Velocity Method



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Wobbling Stars



The Radial Velocity Method

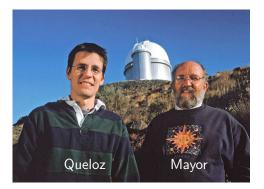
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A Nobel Prize for 51 Pegasus

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2019 was awarded "for contributions to our understanding of the evolution of the universe and Earth's place in the cosmos" with one half to James Peebles "for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology", the other half jointly to Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz "for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star."

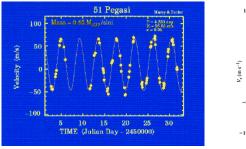


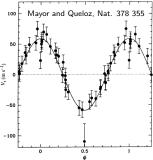


Jerry Gilfoyle

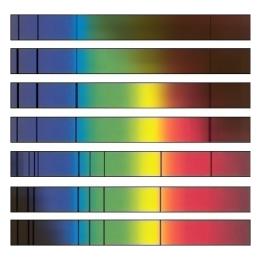
A Planet Around 51 Pegasus

The data below show the oscillations in the speed of the star 51 Pegasus implying the existence of an unseen, orbiting companion. What is the period of the oscillation? How is this period related to the distance from 51 Pegasus to the unseen companion? What do these results imply about the maximum mass of the unseen companion? Assume the mass of 51 Pegasus is $m_s = 2.2 \times 10^{30} \ kg$ from its spectral type and that it is a distance $r_{peg} = 51/y$ from Earth. The planet is now called Dimidium.



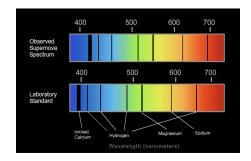


The velocities of distant stars towards or away from the Earth are measured using small blueor red-shirts of the absorption lines like those shown here in the spectra of a variety of stars. Several methods are used to keep the spectra precisely calibrated for the long periods needed to record the observations.

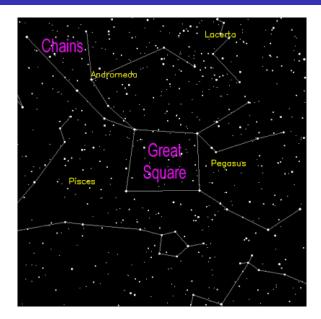


Measuring Stellar Velocities - 2

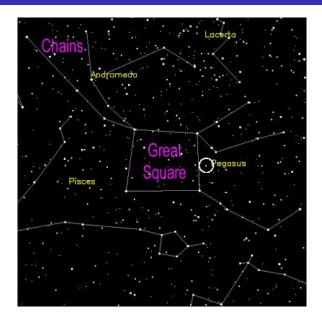
Hydrogen atoms in a lab absorb light of wavelength $\lambda = 656 \ nm$. This spectral line (called the H_{α} line) can also be observed in the absorption spectrum from galaxies. In the figure below the lower spectrum is measured in the laboratory while the upper one was measured from a distant galaxy. The light from the distant galaxy is red-shifted due to the Doppler effect so the H_{α} line is now at $\lambda_{rs} = 689 \ nm$. What is the speed of the galaxy? Is is coming toward or moving away from the Milky Way?



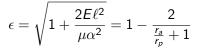
51 Pegasus Location in the Sky

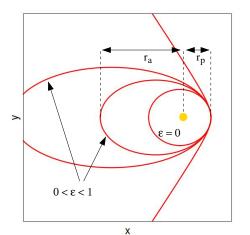


51 Pegasus Location in the Sky



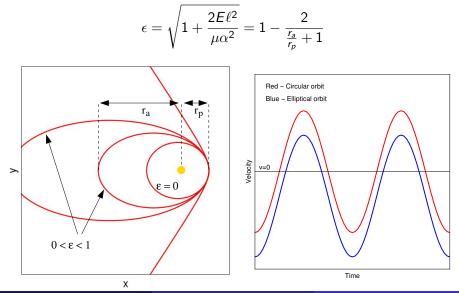
Is 51 Peg's Planet Orbit Eccentric?





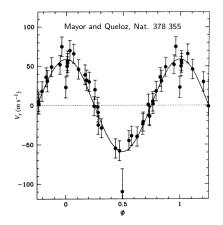
Jerry Gilfoyle

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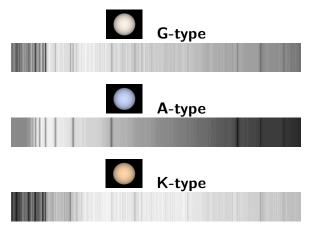
51 Pegasus' Planet Data



Orbital period: $4.2293 \pm 0.0011d$ Velocity resolution: 13 m/s

Stellar Spectra

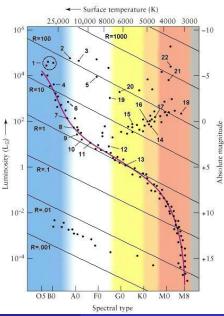
The spectral class is a method for classifying stars based on the pattern of absorption lines (which reveal the elements in the star's photosphere) and their intensity (which reflects the abundance). These measurements can be translated into the temperature and density of the star's photosphere.



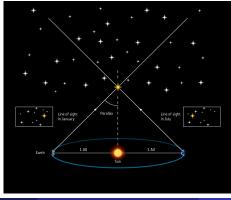
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The Main Sequence

The main sequence of the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram is the curve where the majority of stars are located in this diagram. This line is so pronounced because both the spectral type and the luminosity depend on a star's mass only to zeroth order as long as it is fusing hydrogen.



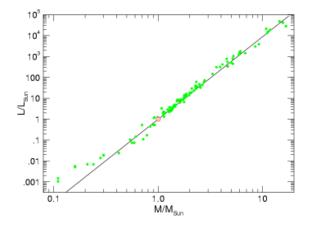
To place a star on the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram the absolute luminosity has to be determined. This step requires measuring the distance from the Earth to the star. Nearby stars appear to move with respect to more distant background stars due to the motion of the Earth around the Sun. This apparent motion (it is not "true" motion) is called Stellar Parallax.



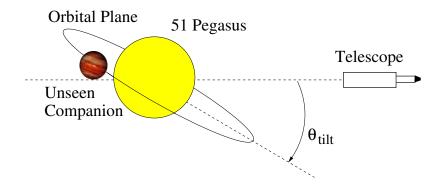
26

Getting the Mass of the Star

The luminosity of main sequence stars is proportional to their mass as shown in the plot below. Thus identifying the spectral type places the star on the main sequence and then measurments of its luminosity can be directly related to its mass.

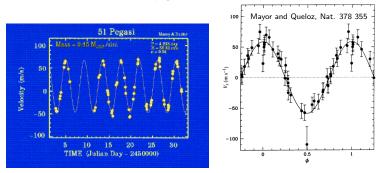


27

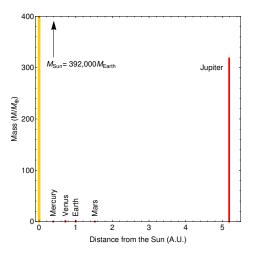


A Planet Around 51 Pegasus

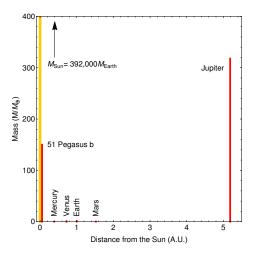
Consider the data below which shows the oscillations in the speed of the star 51 Pegasus implying the existence of an unseen, orbiting companion now called 51 Pegasus b. What is the period of the oscillation? How is this period related to the distance from 51 Pegasus to 51 Peg b? What do these results imply about the maximum mass of the unseen companion? Assume the mass of 51 Pegasus is $m_s = 2.2 \times 10^{30} \ kg$ from its spectral type and that it is a distance $r_{peg} = 51/y$ from Earth.



Planet Comparison



Planet Comparison



Planet Comparison

