

Science Seance

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 19 May 1998

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m.driussi — 19 May 1998, 21:42

Robert Borski,

Okay, so far here's what I've got:

Assuming a 30 hour day and given the 402 day year, we have a local year 1.37577 times as long as a Terran year. (Any recollection of a similar ratio given anywhere in the text? Another possible clue.)

$1.37577 = \text{square root of } (D^3/M)$; where D = orbit in AU and M = solar mass in Sols.

Plugging in values for M. An M-type star (M = .35), a K-type star (M = .71).

If M = .35, then D = 0.87 AU

If M = .71, then D = 1.10 AU

The first figure is far outside the lifezone/ecosphere of an M-type star. The second figure is bad news for a K-star, too.

Tangential angel <g>: which astron text is Wolfe using, if any? I mean, our noodling here is in the name of Art Appreciation, and we usually trip into the abyss of frenzy of interpretation at one point or another (Inspiration Point, I'd call it), but honest to Darwin, when you start comparing astron reference books you get a scary sense of how mixed up, jumbled, and impossible everything is. I got three or more books at hand and they often have very different reality maps of supposedly the same realty <g>. I HAVE CORROBERATION FOR THIS: saw a recent episode of "Nova" talking about detecting extrasolar planets. Team California had been working for ten years, couldn't find a thing. Team Europe, tinkering around after hours, found the first one. How and why? Well, the Europeans were using a text that said that particular star fit parameters that they (and everybody else) was looking for; the Californians were using a text in which the info on that particular star was incorrect, so they never bothered to observe that star.

Brrzzt!

"Scientist, fetch thy Ouija Board!"

Anywho, I'm going to guess that if Wolfe is using a text here, it would be PLANETS FOR MAN by Dole and Asimov. I will try to use it as the primary text in this investigation--no sense clouding things up with astronomy texts written within the last thirty years.

M-type stars are pretty much out of the question. Entirely out of the question, according to Dole. K-type stars, well, it depends, but they are more iffy than G-type stars.

(By definition (I think), all Wolf stars are M-type stars, fwiw.)

The bright eyes of The Shadow Child =might=, just might mean that we are talking about a triple star system, with a distant enough binary being the "eyes" for the lonely third star.

=mantis=