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Language of the Stars

By Kopal, Zdenek

Book Condition: New. Publisher/Verlag: Springer Netherlands | Discourse on the Theory of the Light Changes of Eclipsing Variables | Eclipsing Variables - What They can Tell Us and What We can do with Them The aim of the present book will be to provide an introduction to the interpretation of the observed light changes of eclipsing binary stars and their analysis for the elements of the respective systems. Whenever we study the properties of any celestial body - be it a planet or a star - all information we wish to gain can reach us through two different channels: their gravitational attraction, and their light. Gravitational interaction between our Earth and its celestial neighbours is, however, measurable only at distances of the order of the dimensions of our solar system; and the only means of communication with the realm of the stars are their nimble-footed photons reaching us - with appropriate time-lag - across the intervening gaps of space. As long as a star is single and emits constant light, it does not constitute a very revealing source of information. A spectrometry of its light can disclose, to be sure, the temperature (colour, or ionization) of the star's semi-transparent...



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