WSU PHYSICS SEMINAR

Stability Regions in Extrasolar Planetary Systems

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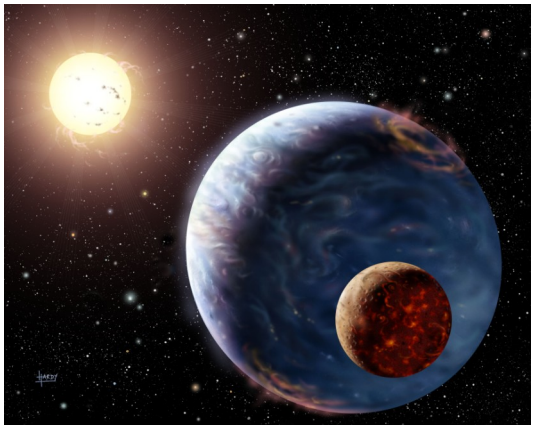
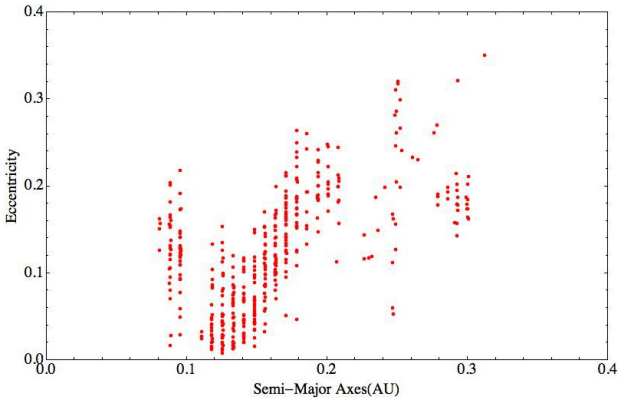
Wednesday, March 26, 2008
1:00 PM, LL 121





Extrasolar planetary science has grown dramatically over the recent decade. In 1998, there were only 13 known extrasolar planets. Since that time, there have been 258 additional detections. Some of these detections include systems of two or more planets orbiting the same star. Unfortunately, the ability to detect individual planets is limited by the sensitivity of the instrumentation.

My research is focused on the possible existence of additional planets, which are currently undetectable, in known systems. These would be planets that don't fall within the current detection limits. Using the available data from a known system, I run orbital simulations to test for possible regions of stable orbits. A stable orbit indicates the possibility of an additional planet. As the instrumentation advances, we may soon have the ability to detect such planets. When that time arrives, it will be very helpful to know the best places to start looking.

Light refreshments will be served.