

Editorial Note

This issue carries the article “Photoelectric Radial Velocities, Paper XVIII: Spectroscopic Orbits for another 52 Binaries in the Hyades Field” by R. F. Griffin. Even casual readers will notice that the length and formatting differ from the standard practices of this journal. In fact, the common practice all over the world is to consign extensive tabular material to an electronic archive and keep the print version confined to a more standard length. As the Editor who received the article two years ago and processed it, it seems appropriate to record the considerations which went into publishing it in the present extended form.

That astronomy abounds in examples of data which gain in value over a long time baseline is not in doubt – remarkable conclusions have been drawn from observations of ancient supernovae and eclipses to cite just two cases. The present study probes long period orbits with great accuracy and attention to detail and may well at some time contribute to unravelling the dynamics and formation of open clusters, when combined with future observations. The decisive factor for publishing the full data in the hard copy was the anticipated time baseline for future use – no one can guarantee the maintainability and readability of any storage medium or format over decades as we all know from our own experience. And at the other end, we have palm-leaf manuscripts from centuries back, not to mention cuneiform tablets which have survived three millennia and contributed to astronomy.

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