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COMET P/2006 B7 (ODAS)

Further to IAUC 8929, orbital elements for the comet's last return:

Epoch = 2005 Apr. 20.0 TT

T = 2005 May 3.19	$0.36 \text{ TT} \qquad \omega =$	= 69.1455
e = 0.447143	Ω =	$= 69.1455 \\ = 358.6275 \\ 2000.0$
q = 1.980985 AU	<i>i</i> =	= 1.3516 J
a = 3.583176 AU	$n^{\rm o} = 0.1453121$	P = 6.78 years

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A. R. Conrad, W. M. Keck Observatory (WMKO); W. J. Merline, Southwest Research Institute (SwRI): J. D. Drummond, Starfire Optical Range, Air Force Research Laboratory, Kirtland Air Force Base; P. M. Tamblyn, Binary Astronomy, Dillon, CO, and SwRI; C. Dumas, European Southern Observatory (ESO), Chile; B. X. Carry, ESO; R. D. Campbell and R. W. Goodrich, WMKO; W. M. Owen, Jet Propulsion Laboratory; and C. R. Chapman, SwRI, report the discovery on Mar. 28.5 UT of a satellite of minor planet (41) Daphne from more than 100 J-, H-, K-, and K'-band images with the 10-m Keck II telescope (+ NIRC2/AO adaptive-optics system) on Mauna Kea. On Mar. 28.5032, the satellite was at separation 0''.56 (projected separation 443 km) and position angle 277°. The satellite was observed to be moving with the primary, as they traveled 80'' across the background sky over the 3 hours. The significant (0''.3) orbital motion of the satellite observed during this time implies an orbital period near 1.6 days. The H-band brightness ratio is estimated at ~ 10 mag, giving an estimated diameter of the satellite of < 2 km; if so, this system has the most extreme size ratio known (cf. *EMP 2008*, p. 256).

COMETS 196P/TICHÝ AND 197P/LINEAR

Comet P/2008 C2 = 2000 U6 (cf. IAUC 8917) has been assigned the number 196P (cf. MPC 61921), and comet P/2008 E2 = 2003 KV₂ (cf. IAUCs 8924, 8925) has been assigned the number 197P (cf. MPC 62220).

STEREO SPACECRAFT

Clarifying IAUC 8926, the two STEREO spacecraft will be 45° from the earth in its orbit about two years after launch, and continue to drift away from the earth (ultimately passing each other behind the sun).

2008 March 31

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