

Abstract Submitted
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**Asymmetric disk heating in an extreme binary, epsilon Aurigae:
a useful tool for unveiling a system's unknowns** RICHARD PEARSON, Uni-
versity of Denver — Epsilon Aurigae is a 27-year eclipsing binary system consisting
of a large, warm F0 star and a hidden companion inside a semi-grey, opaque disk.
The evolutionary state (and hence, the characteristics of the system components)
is not well-defined due to a large uncertainty in the determined distance. By using
the observed disk temperatures, I attempt to resolve the distance discrepancy by
analytic and numeric means. Both methods require investigation of the disk prop-
erties. Examination of disk temperatures in epsilon Aurigae creates a blueprint for
a novel way of determining dust properties and other characteristics of additional
dusty systems. This is another tool for extracting information from systems with
limited known quantities. I am grateful to the estate of William Herschel Womble
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