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THE ECLIPSING/SPECTROSCOPIC BINARY HD 193964 = 71 Dra

The star 71 Dra was found to be a photometric variable by W. Fuertig (IBVS No. 1071). The star was already known as a spectroscopic binary for which this writer had published a solution (J.R.A.S.C. 67, 161, 1973) and in which it was remarked that there was an unusually large scatter in the radial velocities near the predicted time of conjunction. Fuertig and his collaborators have made additional photometric observations confirming that the star is eclipsing and has a period of approximately $5^d.2984$ (private communication). D.W. Willmarth, Toledo, Ohio, having apparently overlooked the earlier orbital solution, has independently observed the star spectroscopically and solved for the orbital parameters (P.A.S.P. 88, 86, 1976).

The two spectroscopic solutions differ substantially in the systemic velocity and semi-amplitude. Using all 52 published radial velocities which now extend over 56 years, the writer has obtained another solution which gives a period of $5^d.298095 \pm 0.000025$.

The system requires further spectroscopic observations since, clearly, the definitive spectroscopic orbital solution has not been published. It would also be of interest to clarify the nature of the radial velocity variations near conjunction.

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