INTERNATIONAL METEOR ORGANIZATION

Founded in 1988, the International Meteor Organization is a scientific non-profit organization created in response to an ever growing need for international cooperation in amateur meteor work. Its main objectives are to encourage, support, and coordinate meteor observing, to improve the quality of amateur observations, to disseminate observations and to make global analyses of observations received world-wide.

The International Meteor Organization is comprised of members from all over the world. Activities are coordinated through its bimonthly journal *WGN* (printed in English) which annually contains about 220 pages of general meteor news, observing program guidelines, reports and analyses, and other articles by amateurs and professionals.

New membership in the International Meteor Organization is $15 US or 500 BEF (Belgian francs) and includes a one year subscription to *WGN*. To join or for more information contact one of the following persons: (North America) Peter Brown, 181 Sifton Ave., Ft. McMurray, Alberta T9H 4V7 Canada; (Japan) Masahiro Koseki, 4-3-5 Annaka Annaka-shi, Gunmaken 379-01 Japan; (all others) Ann Schroyens, Stuivenbergvaart 48, B-2800 Mechelen, Belgium.

CLOSE MUTUAL APPROACHES OF MINOR PLANETS IN 1990

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The table below lists 54 cases where one minor planet comes to within 120" of another and both are of magnitude 16 or brighter. A challenge for minor planet observers!

Here I present a list of close approaches between numbered minor planets larger than 20 km during 1990 where:

- the elongation of the Sun is more than 31°.
- both minor planets are brighter than visual magnitude 16.
- and the minimum geocentric separation is less than 120".

The table gives the following data:

1. Date: date and time of closest geocentric approach (in U.T.). All other information is given for this instant.

2. Closest approach: gives the minimum geocentric distance (in seconds of arc) and the position angle (in degrees) of the *nearest* minor planet with respect to the *farthest* one.

3. Minor planet 1: contains information about the *nearest* minor planet:
   - number and name
   - visual magnitude
   - parallax in seconds of arc
   - apparent motion in seconds of arc per hour
   - position angle of the direction of motion in degrees

4. Minor planet 2: information about the *farthest* minor planet. The same data as for the nearest one are given. In addition the right ascension and declination (1950.0) are printed.

5. Sun and Moon:
   - elongation of the Sun in degrees
   - elongation of the Moon (degrees)
   - illuminated fraction of the Moon in %

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