

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Cape Centre held at SAAC on wed 12th of May 1982 at 8 pm.

In the absence of Mr Bondetti (the chairman) and Mr Mike Kramer (vice chairman) Mr van der Post opened the meeting and read the minutes of the previous meeting and then introduced the speaker, ~~Mr~~ ^{Doctor} Coulson. There were 38 members and 5 visitors.

* → ~~Mr~~ ^{Dr} Coulson's talk was on "The Determination of Distances."

Different methods are required for measuring short and long distances eg. on earth we measure a distance by ~~going~~ ^{walking} there or we can use geometric methods with ^{measurements and} calculations. Outside our planet we use various ways to determine the distance to the Moon, Sun and planets. Close stars can be calculated by a parallax method (up to 60 light years). Cepheid variables are very useful because of their period - luminosity relationships. Another method is the maximum ^{magnitude} ~~brightness~~ versus rate of decline in brightness of novae. These methods take us to the nearest galaxies. H₂ regions as distance indicators are not accurate. We can also note the maximum velocity of particles in a galaxy versus brightness as a distance indicator.

↑ * Apologies for absence were received from Mr Bondetti, Mr Mike Kramer and Mr Ivanov

John