

PLANETARY DISTANCE LAWS ON THE SLAVIC SOUTH

The first planetary distance law was the Titius-Bode law (TBL) from 1766. Early history of the TBL is fairly well-known, but more recent history much less so. Here, we consider several forgotten contributions whose authors are from the South Slavic countries. In 1925, the mathematician V. Varićak published a paper in which exponential TBL with different coefficients for the inner and outer Solar System was proposed, the first such rule ever. Special attention is devoted to the physicist S. Mohorovičić and his highly original planetary distance law from 1938. The decades-long activity of the amateur M. Hegedušić connected to the TBL is considered. In 1952, the Bulgarian astronomer N. Boneff tried to prove indirectly that a planetary distance law has to depend on the planetary masses. We also briefly consider the articles by L. Vagaja and A. Bonov, which relate to the special cases of the TBL. We conclude that there was usually no mutual influence among the authors, that many contributions have been completely forgotten and that the global trends were followed in the 1925-1955 period.