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Title: Search for Exoplanets Orbiting the Kepler Contact Binaries
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Abstract: The Kepler mission has uncovered a rich dynamical class of planets, circumbinary planets (CBPs), with Kepler-16b [Doyle et al. 2011], Kepler-34b & 35b [Welsh et al. 2012], and Kepler-47b & 47c [Orosz et al. 2012] as the most notable examples. Among this class, a few common features persist which may imply some consequences of planetary formation within these systems. Specifically, the discovered CBPs have host binaries with orbital periods within 7-40 days and a planetary body orbiting near the inner stability boundary. No CBPs have yet been announced in orbit about contact binaries. The discovery of a CBP hosted by a contact binary will represent a new class of objects with a rich dynamical past and possibly present. We present the preliminary findings of our planet search within this subset of the Kepler data. The future goals for our investigation will also be discussed.