Name: Susan Thompson

Email: susan.e.thompson@nasa.gov Institution: SETI Institute/NASA Ames

Title: Searching for Third Bodies Around Heartbeat Stars

Type: Poster

Session: Multiple Planets and Multiple Star Systems

Abstract: co-authors: Fergal Mullally, Kelly Hambleton, and Jim Fuller

Heartbeat stars are a class of highly-eccentric binary stars that undergo dynamic tidal distortions and tidally induced pulsation. The mere existence of Heartbeat stars is a puzzle for tidal theory. For stars with

radiative outer envelopes, Zahn (1975) and Khaliullin et al. (2010) argue that

damping of tidally excited g-modes leads to the circularization of eccentric, long period binaries on very short timescales. The heartbeat star's high eccentricity could be driven by the presence of an unseen third body. We discuss how to detect a tertiary object by searching for changes in the observed arrival time of

the Heartbeat signal and how to place limits on its mass.