

It is to the dimensions of these and similar orbits described by others of those wonderful bodies, the double stars, about each other, that we have now to turn our attention: thus opening another chapter in the history

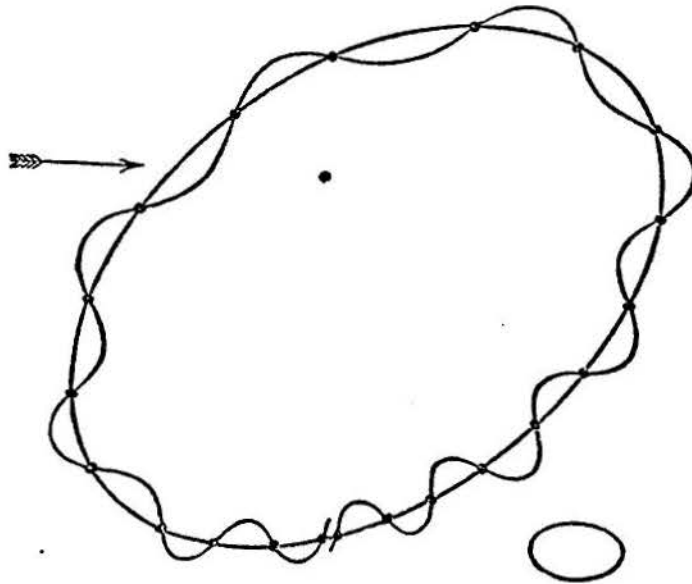


Fig 2.

of sidereal mensuration. The mode in which these two elliptic movements, the larger real, and the smaller apparent or parallactic, are combined together or superposed, and the sort of undulating line apparently described by either star in consequence, will easily be understood by a glance at Fig. 2.

(29.) Assiduous observation, aided by a powerful and not very complicated system of calculation, has enabled astronomers to assign in a great many instances with considerable precision the true *forms* of these orbits as distinguished from those in which, by the effect of perspective (owing to their oblique presentation to our sight), they *appear*; to state the amount of that obliquity;