Charlie Nitschelm

Satellites

01/25/2020

Betelgeuse Dimming

It has been recorded that the star Betelgeuse, a red supergiant star, has been dimming over the last several years. The rate of dimming is slowing, though. It is known that stars have cycles of brightness, but the current cycle being observed is new and not seen since observations and data recording was started. The current predictions of why this could be occurring is a layer of dust or feature could be obstructing our view, changing the apparent brightness of the star. It also could be transitioning to a different stable brightness as it continues to eat its fuel away to avoid its inevitable collapse. Astronomers will continue to observe the star closely and hopefully determine the true cause of its dimming. It is an important star to us as its massive size and relative proximity. It is the only other star we can observe surface features!