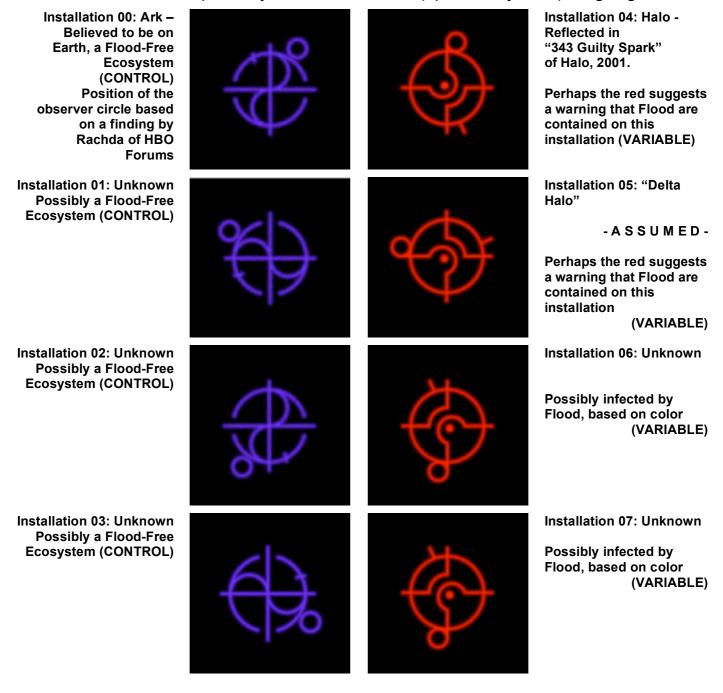
Scientific Method and Fortress World Numeric Identification

-these numbers possibly reflect Covenant (specifically Elite) language-



343 GS states that Installation 04 was built to contain and study the Flood. Assuming that the Forerunner constructed Halos with the scientific method in mind, the ideal construct would be a balance of controls (blue -benign- numeric series) and variables (red -warning- numeric series). Where the variable ecosystems contain the subject of study (the Flood).

One can then assume the presence of an observer in the system. Perhaps the smaller perimeter circle indicates the observer and the hash mark indicates the subject. Note that none of the observer marks are in the same quadrant as a subject. Thus, the observers remain isolated from the experiment. Also of note, observers in the Flood Infected variable ecosystems are noteably distanced and locked out from their subject.

The symbol series for the control environments suggest a free flow among all four quadrants for the ecosystem, its occupants and observers, inside and outside the system (the breaks in the circle). *IF* one assumes the 'yin/yang' appearance has bearing and the observer/subject assumption is accurate, the control can be said to be "in harmony".

However, the symbol series for the variable system appears to suggest restriction, containment or isolation and is not in harmony. The subject hash mark appears in a highly restricted environment. The observer maintains a position of study, but also a direct line to the system's lock.

Perhaps Covenant scientists were still attempting to determine whether or not Installation 04 was a control or a variable system, when the Flood outbreak occurred.