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CARD CATALOGUE OF ECLIPSING BINARIES

The Card Catalogue of Eclipsing Binaries has been described in some of the IAU reports in recent years. Nevertheless, it has to be emphasized as strongly as possible that this is not a data center or archives. For example, if one wished to know the most reliable data such as depths of minimum for a number of systems, one would not go to this and expect a tabulated best values. Neither would you send raw data here if you wished it preserved in archival form. Actually much of this material is accessible from our catalogue, but it is in the form of literature references. We can supply these thus giving anyone interested references which in some cases can reach in number several hundred publications, and a brief summary as to the nature of the material. The user can then judge for himself as to the validity of the material after he has used the references in the catalogue. Let me emphasize again that this is not a data center, nor is it archives. As you know, there are several of these, some operating under IAU sanctions, while these present quite a different approach. The CCEB consists of a series of references to publication on eclipsing (or now "interacting") binaries, listed in the variable star nomenclature (R CMa, SX Cep, etc. but also using when appropriate other naming systems VV (Vatican Variable), HD (Henry Draper Catalogue), etc. On each card is given the fundamental data (position in RA and Dec, magnitude at max, depths of primary and secondary eclipses, duration of any total (or annular) phase when there is one, and all the other properties one would need to know when laying out an observing program. Then, for each star is given all the literature references since date of discovery. This can be quite extensive. Note that we try to limit this to interacting binaries; that is, systems which show only radial velocity changes are not included.

This catalogue has been maintained for some time. It has been at the University of Florida for more than 25 years and was maintained for about the same interval at the University of Pennsylvania. Before that it was maintained at the Princeton University Observatory by R.S. Dugan. I am not certain as to the exact date of the earliest entry but this is now at least seventy years old and I think probably closer to ninety. Publications have been made summarizing chief features. Unfortunately, since this is a major task, these have not been as frequently as we would have liked, but they are in the astronomical literature as publications of the Princeton Observatory, (Finding Lists) of the Flower and Cook Observatory of the University of Pennsylvania, and most recently of the Rosemary Hill Observatory of the University of Florida. These will almost certainly be available at any first rate astronomical library such as the Naval Observatory.

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