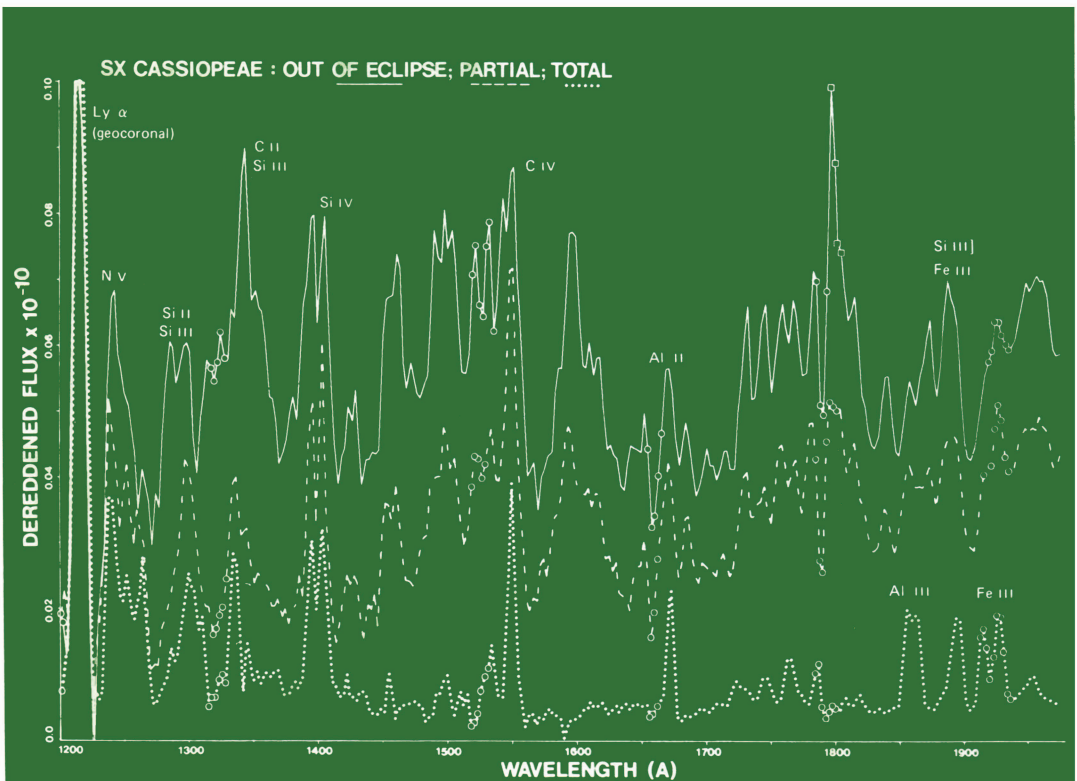


INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

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CLOSE BINARY STARS: OBSERVATIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Edited by MIREK J. PLAVEC, DANIEL M. POPPER, and ROGER K. ULRICH



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Traditional optical spectroscopy and photometry had provided numerous hints of the rich variety of phenomena taking place in close binary systems, making their study an active field of astronomical research. The discovery made some ten years ago that the X-ray sky is full of new classes of binary systems undergoing highly energetic processes not previously dreamed of, has brought an ever widening group of theoreticians and observers into this field.

The whole manifold of interacting close binary stars has been reviewed at the IAU Symposium No. 88, providing a broad sampling of current research. In addition to X-ray and optical observations, new results from radio astronomy and, in particular, in the ultraviolet from the IUE satellite, provide coverage of the complete spectral range.

In addition to review papers the volume contains numerous shorter presentations. Together, they document well this fascinating variety of phenomena which pose new, unanswered yet challenging questions.

Cover picture: "Far ultraviolet spectrum of the eclipsing binary system SX Cassiopeae, observed at three orbital phases by M. J. Plavec and R. H. Koch, with the International Ultraviolet satellite, in August 1978 and February 1979."

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