STATISTICS OF THE LARGEST SAMPLE OF LATE-TYPE CONTACT BINARIES STUDIED SO FAR

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Late-type contact binaries, also known as W UMa stars, are intriguing objects whose present-day properties, evolutionary history and membership in multiple stellar systems are still not fully understood despite decades of dedicated research. At the same time, they are a favorite target for observations with relatively small, ground-based telescopes because of their short periods, so an entire light curve can often be recorded in a few nights. The last decade has seen a considerable rise in both the number and quality of studies of W UMa stars, and the establishment of de-facto standards in their analysis that help aggregate the results. We have collected new and updated solutions of light curves for 700 W UMa stars, more than half of which have been studied for the first time in the last few years. As the largest such catalog published to date, it provides ample material for various statistics. We showcase and discuss the most interesting findings.