Highlights of Astronomy, Vol. 13 International Astronomical Union, 2003 O. Enqvold, ed.

Eclipsing Binaries as Precise Standard Candles and Distance Indicators

Jens Viggo Clausen

Niels Bohr Institute for Astronomy, Physics, and Geophysics, Astronomical Observatory, Copenhagen University, Denmark

Double-lined eclipsing binaries are (still) our main source for accurate information on stellar masses, radii, and luminosities. Also, they offer very direct distance determinations, useful within the Milky Way and for Local Group Galaxies. I will briefly review the methods involved and discuss critically their advantages and limitations. Furthermore, past and recent highlights will be presented.