ASCA X-RAY OBSERVATIONS OF TWO CONTACT BINARIES: SW LACERTAE AND W URSAE MAJORS

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We present X-ray light curves and the energy spectra obtained from the ASCA observations of the contact binaries, SW Lac and W UMa. We find that both the sources show appreciable flux variations during the observations. The variations are erratic and show no orbital phase dependence. From a spectral analysis, we also find that the W UMa spectrum is reproduced by a variable-abundance plasma model having a single temperature of T_1 = 6.8 x 10^6 K, while the SW Lac spectrum requires two different temperatures, T_1 = 6.5 x 10^6 K and T_2 = 1.4 x 10^7 K, to be fitted acceptably.