

WZ SGE: RECENT OBSERVATIONS LEADING TO A
MODEL FOR SUPERHUMP PHENOMENA*

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ABSTRACT

The short period eclipsing binary system and recurrent nova WZ Sge (1913, 1946, 1978) was observed spectroscopically during its renewed, December 1978 outburst. Absorption line radial velocities and H_{α} emission profiles suggest a circumbinary gaseous disk. A schematic model is presented to explain both the observed radial velocities and the photometric properties of WZ Sge during outburst. The model also accounts for 'superhump' phenomena in SU UMa type dwarf novae.

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