Asteroseismology over the HR Diagram – Kepler results

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The internal constitution of the stars 1926

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At first sight it would seem that the deep interior of the Sun and stars is less accessible to scientific investigation than any other region of the universe.

Our telescopes may probe farther and farther into the depths of space; but how can we ever obtain certain knowledge of that which is hidden behind substantial barriers? What appliance can pierce through the outer layers of a star and test the conditions within?

Asteroseismology





Aerts Christensen-Dalsgaard Kurtz ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS LIBRARY

Asteroseismology

C. Aerts J. Christensen-Dalsgaard D.W. Kurtz



Asteroseismology















organ pipe P₁/P₀= 0.33

Cepheids P₁/P_o= 0.7

Radial modes

Structure of stellar pulsation modes

$$Y_{I}^{m}(\theta,\varphi) = N_{I}^{m}P_{I}^{m}(\cos\theta)e^{im\varphi}$$

n = number of radial nodes

- I = total number of surface nodes
- m = number of surface nodes that are lines of longitude
- I m = number of surface nodes that are lines of latitude

Nonradial modes-Dipole modes $Y_{1}^{m}(\theta,\varphi) \propto P_{1}^{m}(\cos\theta) e^{im\varphi}$







l = 1, m = -1

l = 1, m = 0

l = 1, m = +1

Nonradial modes-Quadrupole modes $Y_2^m(\theta,\varphi) \propto P_2^{|m|}(\cos\theta) e^{im\varphi}$







l = 2, m = 0

l = 2, m = -1

l = 2, m = -2

Asteroseismology – how does it work?



p modes and g modes





Driving mechanisms

Heat engine mechanism

- Gains heat on compression
- κ-mechanism(κappa = opacity)
- H, He, Fe main drivers
- Cepheids, RR Lyr stars,
 δ Sct stars, β Cep stars,
 SPB stars, roAp stars,
 pulsating white
 dwarfs, ...

Stochastic driving

- Star resonates with acoustic noise
- Solar-like oscillators
- Main interest in exoplanet finding



LCSE University of Minnesota "... the deep interior of the Sun ... is less accessible ... than any other region of the universe." Eddington 1926



Rachel Howe



Planet-finding: the timing method

V391 Peg sdBV star Excellent clock 7 years with WET V391b Peg 3 M_i a = 1.7 au a = 1 au in red giant stage



Silvotti et al., 2007, Nature, 449, 189



The era of Kepler: Why do asteroseismology from the ground?



courtesy of Hans Kjeldsen

Atomic diffusion

Radiative levitation

Gravitational settling

- Solar model
- White dwarf stucture
- Pulsation driving
- Stellar cluster ages



The roAp stars



The roAp stars

- T_{eff}: 6600 8500 K
- P_{pul}: 5.65 21.2 min
- A_{phot}: < 10 mmag</p>
- A_{rv}: < 8000 m s⁻¹
- B_s: < 30 kG</p>
- Very peculiar: atomic diffusion
- Oblique pulsators
- Chemically stratified atmospheres







Theoretical expectation



Saio, H. 2005, MNRAS, 360, 1022

Resolving the third dimension – HD99563



Elkin, Kurtz, Mathys, 2005, MNRAS, 364, 864

Doppler imaging of HD99563



NdIII spots

VLT UVES + Subaru HDS 3 nights

Freyhammer, Kurtz, Elkin, Mathys, Savanov, Zima, Shibahashi & Sekiguchi, 2009, MNRAS, 396, 325

roAp stars test:

- Atmospheric structure in 3D
- Pulsation mode geometry in 3D
- Interaction of pulsation with rotation and strong magnetic fields
 - Relevant to solar p mode interaction with sunspots
- Atomic diffusion





Metcalfe, T. S., Montgomery, M. H., Kanaan, A. 2004, ApJ, 605, 133 Kanaan et al., 2005, A&A, 432, 219 Brassard & Fontaine, 2005, ApJ, 622, 572

Harvard press release

courtesy of Travis Metcalfe







The µmag revolution



HD188136 δ Sct star

6 weeks of telescope time –

Grinding away on the ground

Kurtz, D., 1980, MNRAS, 193, 29



Just four days of Kepler data for only one of >150,000 stars

The Tychonic principle



- Precision leads to discovery
- The Kepler data are 100 times higher precision than typical ground-based data
 - The Kepler "duty cycle" is better than 90%
- Asteroseismic discoveries are pouring out of the Kepler data

Three selected examples (out of many!)

RR Lyr:

- The Blazhko effect
- Period doubling
- KPD 1946 +4340
 - sdBV + WD eclipsing binary
 - Doppler beaming
 - Gravitional lensing
- KIC 8677585
 - roAp star

Balona and the Kepler team, 2010, MNRAS, submitted

Unpredicted, unprecedented g mode

Szabó and the Kepler team, 2010, MNRAS, in press

Bloemen and the Kepler team, 2010, MNRAS, in press

RR Lyr





KPD 1946 +4340



- The sdB star is an EHB star
 - He star
 - Mass probably 0.5 M_{\odot}
- P_{orb} = 0.403739 d

- V = 14.30; Kp = 14.65
- White dwarf companion
- Eclipsing binary

KPD 1946 +4340

Distortion of the sdB star accounts for some of the ellipsoidal variability, but not all.

Gravitational lensing reduces the apparent geometrical cross-section of the white dwarf

Doppler "beaming" makes the sdB star apparently hotter (thus brighter) when approaching and cooler (thus fainter) when receding.



KIC 8677585











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Asteroseismology:

a new Keplerian revolution