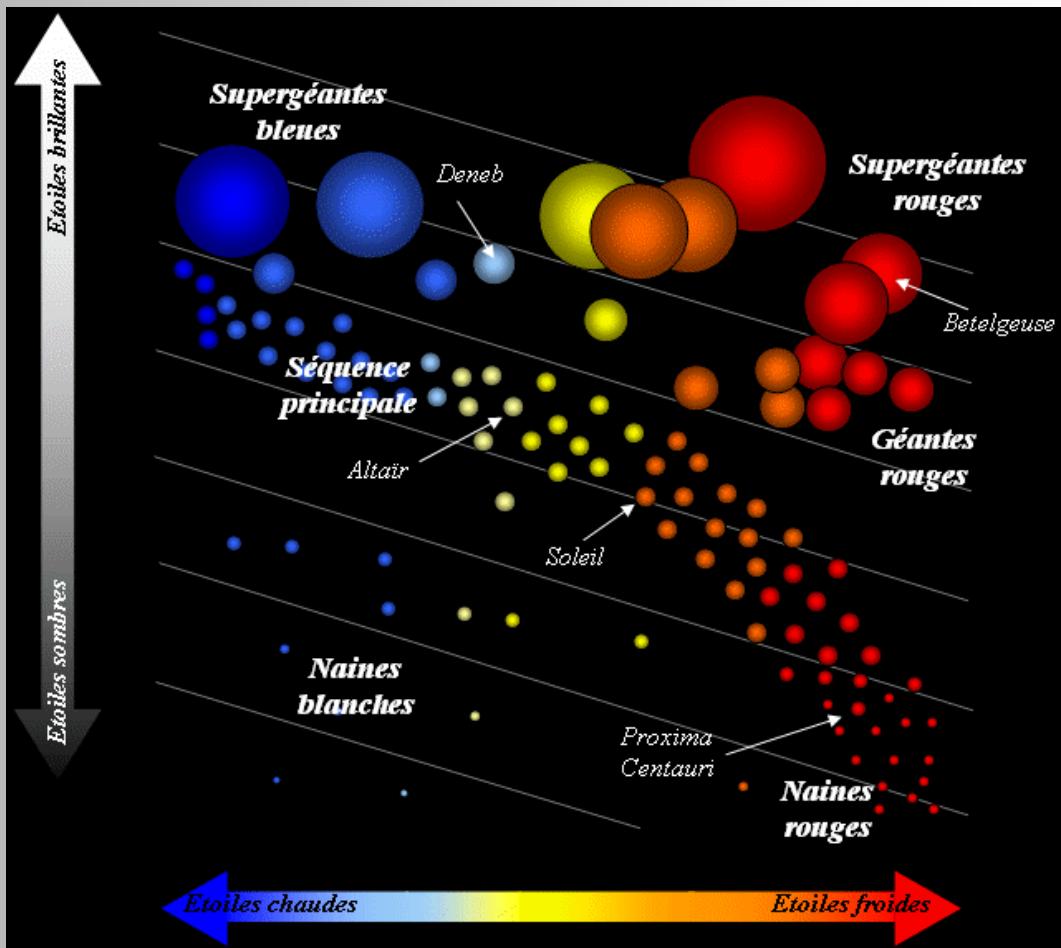


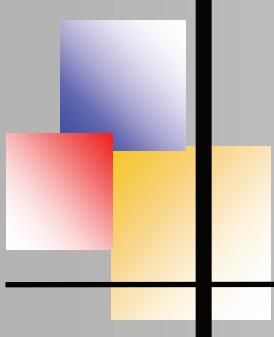
BAV MAGAZINE SPECTROSCOPY



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&
WORKING GROUP
VARIABLE STARS BAV

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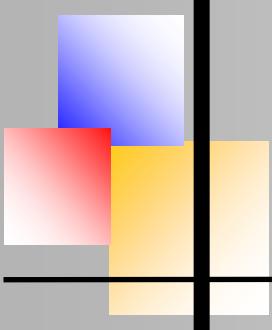
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A model-based interpretation of H α dynamics in spectra of V1334 Cyg

Kevin Gurney (k.gurney@sheffield.ac.uk), member of BAA & AAVSO)



Introduction

High resolution spectra were taken of the Cepheid variable V1334 Cygni, around the H α line, over five nights between 26th August 2019 and 6th September 2019¹. The observations were made with a LHIRES III spectrograph and C11 OTA. During calibration it became apparent that, while the atmospheric H₂O lines were well aligned with their expected wavelengths, the H α minimum was consistently blue shifted and varied from night to night. The blue shift, with a heliocentric-corrected mean of 11.7km/s, could not be accounted for by the radial velocity of -1.8Km/s given in Simbad. Other contributions might include a Doppler shift due to a radial velocity component from the Cepheid pulsation. However, such shifts would give positive and negative values; there had to be some other contribution. I therefore investigated the literature to see what else could explain this phenomenon. Fortunately there was a recent paper [1] which addressed these issues, and which forms the basis of the analysis in the report.

Data preparation

Fig. 1 shows part of one of the spectra I took (31 August 2019) over a range of just over 35Å. The water absorption line is very close to its nominal position at 6543.91 Å, whereas H α is clearly displaced to the blue end of the spectrum².

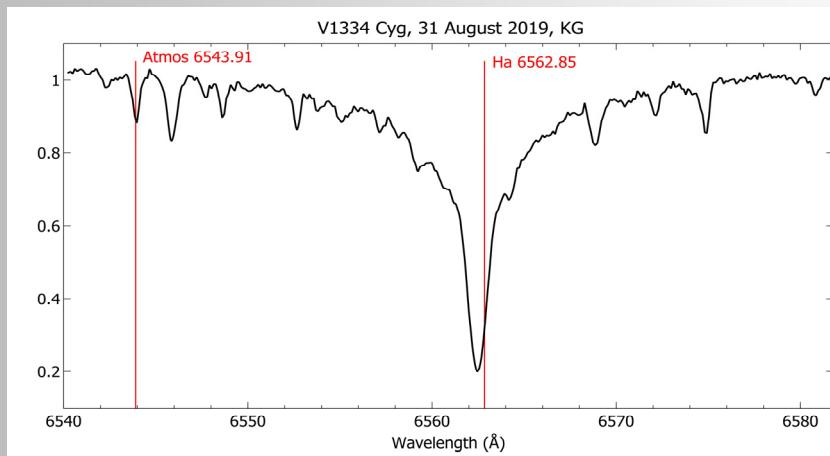
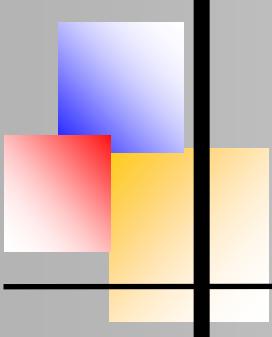


Fig.1: Part of spectrum of V1334 Cyg from 31 August 2019, showing atmospheric H₂O, and stellar H α absorption lines.

¹⁾All data files can be downloaded in .fits format from <https://britastro.org/specdb/>

²⁾The mean of the absolute value of the wavelength difference between data and reference for the H₂O line was 0.037Å (a simple mean of signed values was 0.001Å). The mean difference for H α was 0.25Å, all blue shifted.



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H α dynamics in spectra of V1334 Cyg

Each minimum for the H α line, $\lambda H\alpha_{\text{obs}}$, was calibration-corrected by aligning it against the H₂O line at 6543.91Å. The resulting minimum, $\lambda H\alpha_{\text{calcor}}$, was then used to calculate a Doppler shift $\Delta V = (\lambda H\alpha_{\text{calcor}} - \lambda_0)/c$, where λ_0 is the reference wavelength for H α and c is the speed of light (in Km/s). This shift was then adjusted to accommodate heliocentric velocity to give an estimated radial velocity ΔV_{cor} , for V1334 Cyg. The results are shown in the first three columns of Table 1.

Table 1: Observed quantities and their relation to the model of Gallenne et. a 2018 [1]. $\lambda H\alpha_{\text{obs}}$ is the observed minimum of the H α line in the spectrum. ΔV_{cor} is the heliocentric-corrected Doppler shift, derived from the difference between this minimum - corrected against the H₂O line at 6543.91Å - and the H α reference 6562.801Å. V_{orb} is the orbital velocity of the Cepheid extracted from the model, and ΔV_{res} is the difference between this and the observed Doppler shift, ΔV_{cor} .

Observation time (JD-2458700)	$\lambda H\alpha_{\text{obs}}$	ΔV_{cor}	V_{orb}	V_{res}
22.492	6562.552	-7.43	-12.15	4.72
24.533	6562.441	-14.52	-12.22	-2.30
27.391	6562.473	-17.23	-12.31	-4.92
28.385	6562.564	-8.37	-12.35	3.98
33.443	6562.627	-10.77	-12.51	1.74

The radial velocities were all blue shifted which is inconsistent with a simple interpretation in terms of a Cepheid-like, pulsation phenomenon. However a recent model of V1334 Cyg is able to give insight as to why this might be so.

A model of V1334 Cyg

The study by Gallenne et. a 2018 [1] reports work unique to V1334 Cyg. It transpires this star is a triple system. The Cepheid itself has a very close (but faint) companion and this pair has a wider companion which is just about separable visually; the paper by Gallenne et al. focuses on the wide pairing. In spite of this complexity, the visible spectrum is dominated by the Cepheid itself [2]. This allows us to interpret the spectra I observed as plausibly derived from the main Cepheid component. Further, Gallenne et al provide a model of the radial velocity of the Cepheid, split into components due to the orbital motion and pulsation. The results of the model and fit to data are shown in Fig. 2.

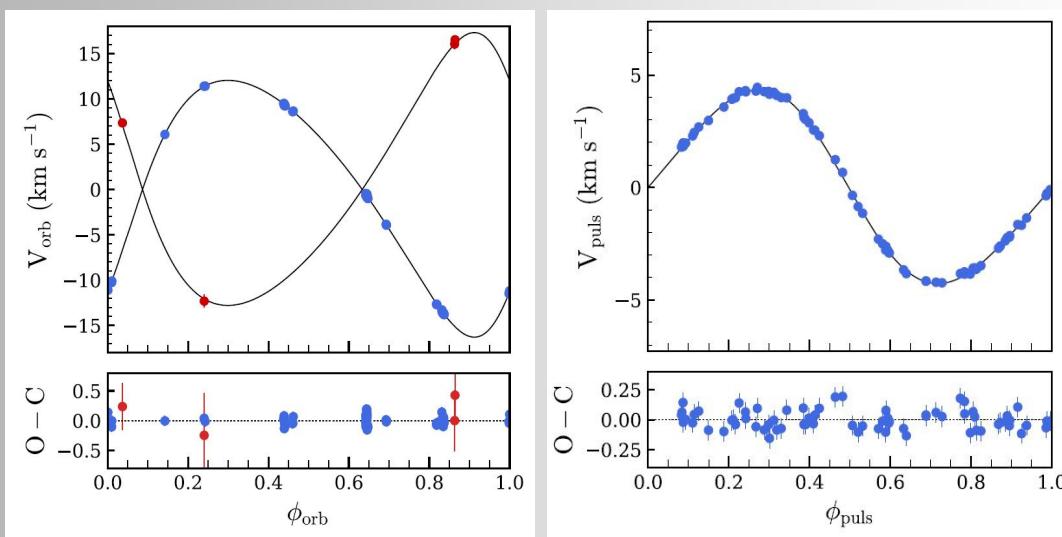
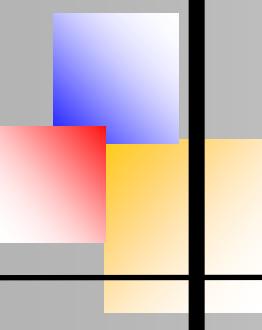


Fig. 2: Figures from Gallenne et al 2018 [1]. Left - model of orbital motion for wide binary components of V1334 Cyg. Blue and red data dots identify models for primary and secondary components respectively. Right - model of pulsation radial velocity of primary component.

The period of the orbit is around 5.4 years and so any contribution from this to my data will be almost constant. It may, however, account for some of the blue shift if the orbital phase of my observations is appropriate. The period of pulsation is around 3.3 days and so may figure in any variation I saw, as observations were taken over an 11 day period.

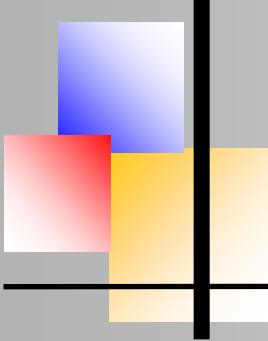
Using the model

Orbital component of radial velocity

The orbital solution for radial velocity against phase in Fig. 2 is analytic but is given implicitly, and would require (a non-trivial) numerical solution. I therefore fitted a polynomial to the primary component curve (shown with blue dots) which I had extracted using *Datathief* [3]. Then, using the ephemeris of Gallenne et al., (with time-of-origin 2453316.75, and period 1932.8) I mapped my observation times to an orbital phase and read off radial velocities, ΔV_{orb} , from the polynomial; see column four of Table 1. The values are all close to 12 km/s which is of the same order as my velocities ΔV_{cor} .

Pulsation component of radial velocity

Subtracting the orbital component of radial velocity from the Doppler shift in my data (that is forming $(\Delta V_{\text{cor}} - \Delta V_{\text{orb}})$) gives a residual observed velocity, ΔV_{res} , which might be due to pulsation of V1334 Cyg. These are given in column 5 of Table 1. It is encouraging that these values are comparable with those in the pulsation model function given in the right hand panel of Fig. 2. That is, they take both negative and positive values and have magnitudes extending over a range of around 5.



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H α dynamics in spectra of V1334 Cyg

To explore this possibility further, I converted my observations times to a phase, ϕ_{pulse} using the pulsation ephemeris of Gallenne et al.; that is, time-of-origin, T_0 is 2445000.55, and period 3.33242 days. It is important to note that T_0 was chosen somewhat arbitrarily by Gallenne et al to allow a convenient fitting procedure in their model, with zero radial velocity at zero phase. Thus, we anticipate that any real relation, $V_{\text{pulse}}(\phi_{\text{pulse}})$, between pulsation velocity and phase, to have a phase offset other than zero.

I therefore fitted² a simple sinusoid to the data pairs of $(\Delta V_{\text{cors}}, \phi_{\text{pulse}})$ with two parameters of amplitude and phase offset. The original model included two sinusoids, but one very much dominated and, given the sparsity of my data, there was no merit in over-fitting with extra complexity. The vertical offset of the sinusoid was also kept to zero to ensure the physical result that total distance travelled in a pulsation is zero. The results are shown Fig. 3.

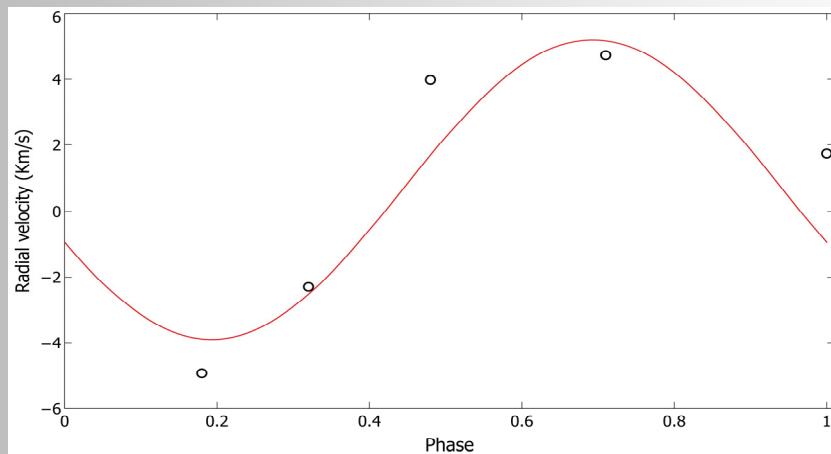
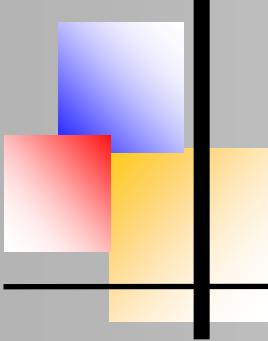


Fig. 3: Fitting a sinusoid to the residual Doppler shifts $\Delta V_{\text{cors}} - \Delta V_{\text{orb}}$. Open circles are these data expressed as a function of pulsation phase (with arbitrary time origin - see text). The red line is the best fitted sinusoid.

Fortunately, my five observations are scattered fairly evenly across phase values which highlights any pattern in the results. There is some indication of a sinusoidal trend, and the phase offset was 0.56. Further the amplitude is similar to that shown in Fig. 2.

Notwithstanding the fact there are only a few data points, I ran a Kolmogorov-Smirnov goodness-of-fit test against the sinusoid and found a test statistic of 0.225. According to [4], in order to not have to reject the null hypothesis (of fitting) the test statistic should be less than $1.36/\sqrt{n}$. Here, with $n=5$, this criterion is 0.61, so that we cannot conclude the data do *not* come from a sinusoid.

²⁾ Using the function fminsearch in the *octave* language



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H α dynamics in spectra of V1334 Cyg

The exercise of fitting against the pulsation model makes the prediction that the phase offset (with respect to nominal ephemeris of the model) is 0.56. It is possible to test this against photometric data which should show a similar sinusoidal patterning.

Comparison with photometric data

Fortunately there was some data for V1334 Cyg available from the AAVSO database. It is visual data from observer Sherrill Shaffer (SSHA) covering the last two years (JD 2458377.7 - 2458762.5). A similar procedure to that used for the Doppler shifts was used to convert times to phase and fit a sinusoid with two parameters of amplitude and phase offset. This time, however, the data were mean-subtracted first, and the mean was then added back afterwards, as the mean of the data (i.e. magnitudes) is not zero *a priori*. The results are shown in Fig. 4.

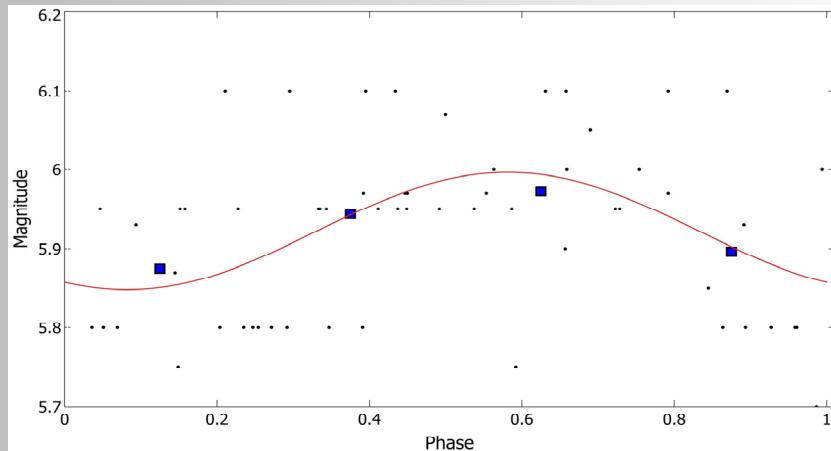
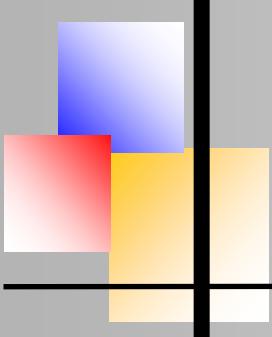


Fig. 4: Fitting a sinusoid to the photometric data for V1334 Cyg. Black dots are the raw data, filled squares are the data binned over four equal periods, and the red line the best sinusoidal fit.

The data are quite noisy, and the sinusoidal trend is best highlighted by binning them into four periods. Interestingly, the phase offset here is 0.67 which is reasonably close to the prediction from the Doppler shift analysis (0.56).

Summary

The Doppler shifts observed in my spectra appear to be consistent with a dual component analysis into orbital and pulsation periods, as described in the model of Gallenne et al 2018 [1]. I suspect the wavelength differences being used in this analysis are close to the resolution possible with the instrument (Lhires III), but it appears that basic trends and some information (like phase offset and amplitude) can be obtained with limited precision. It would be interesting to obtain more data on this system and see how much it can sharpen up the outcomes given here.



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H α dynamics in spectra of V1334 Cyg

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-

Low resolution spectroscopy of SS Cygni

Kevin Gurney (k.gurney@sheffield.ac.uk, member of BAA & AAVSO)

The spectra and their relation to a previous study

Spectra of SS Cygni were taken between 26 July and 24 August 2019 using an Alpy600 spectrograph mounted on a Celestron C11 OTA (with 0.63 focal reducer)¹. V-filter magnitudes for SS Cygni at the time of each spectrum were estimated from the AAVSO lightcurve generator for this period. All spectra were flat fielded and corrected for instrument response. The results, with no further processing are shown in the top panel of Fig. 1.

¹All data files can be downloaded in .fits format from <https://britastro.org/specdb/>

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Low resolution spectroscopy of SS Cygni

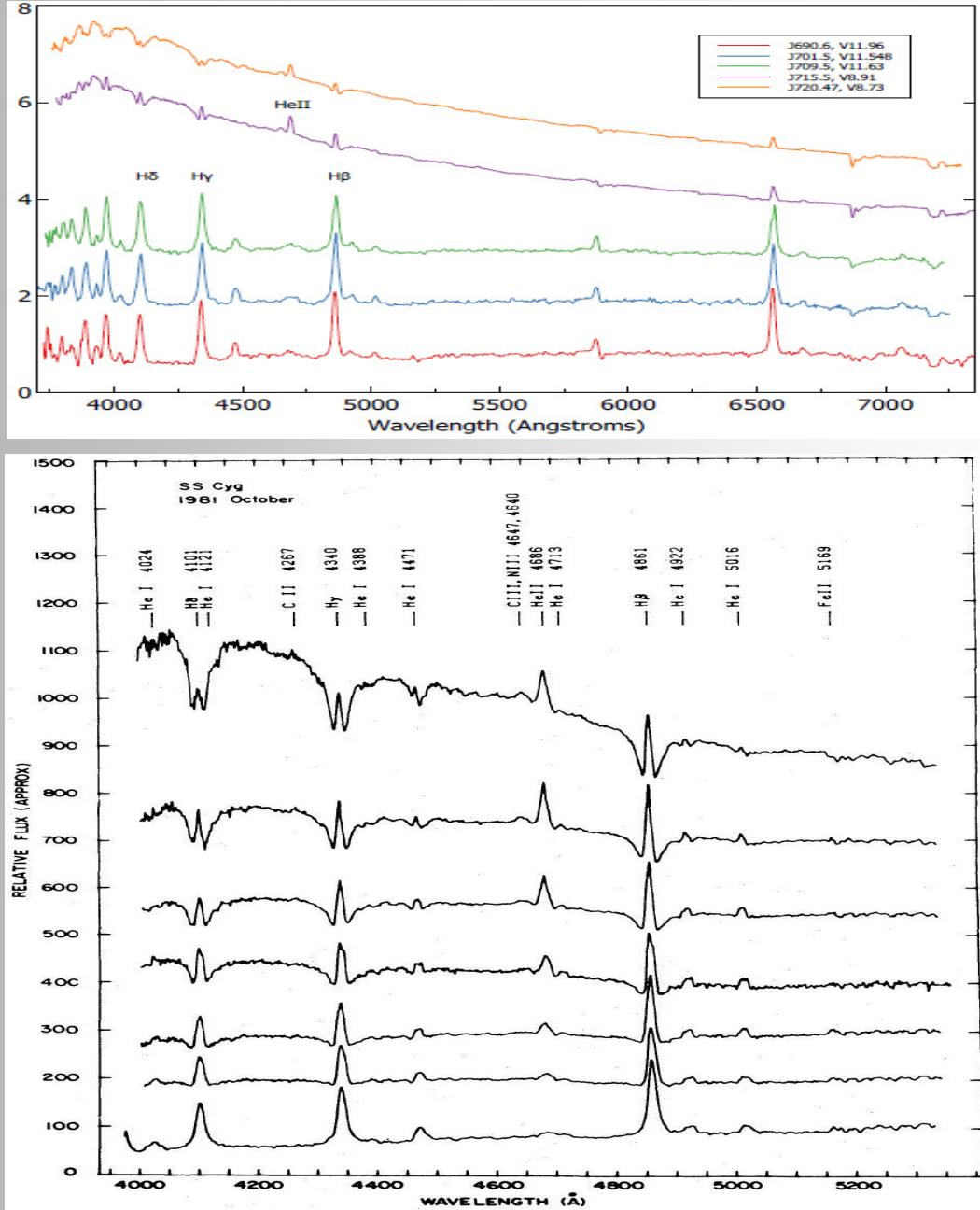
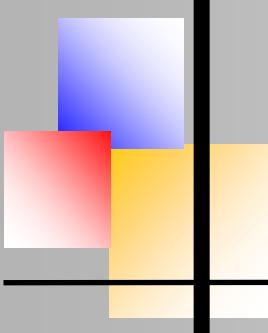


Fig. 1: *Top:* Spectra of SS Cygni taken over 30 days (starting on 26 July 2019). The legend refers to the Julian date offset from 2458000, and the V-filter magnitude. Plots are offset vertically and stacked in temporal sequence with the earliest ($J = 690.6$, in red) at the bottom. This sequence also reflects a brightening transition from magnitudes 12 to 8.7. Some Balmer lines and an HeII emission line feature are identified. *Bottom:* Representative spectra of SS Cygni from Fig. 5 of Hessman et al [1].



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Low resolution spectroscopy of SS Cygni

The spectra are comparable with those obtained by Hessman et al [1] (see bottom panel of Fig.1.) Both sets show similar trends in the continuum and feature shape dynamics as the brightening occurs.

Continuum analysis

With reference to the continuum: while the binary system comprising SS Cygni is complex, there is a clear change in overall black body temperature associated with these spectra. This is obvious in the last two (J715.5, J720.47) compared to the first three, but, even within the latter, there is some indication of this effect. Thus, as temperature is increased, the roughly linear part of the spectrum between 4000Å and 6800Å has a slope which appears to become increasingly negative. To quantify this (short of fitting a full Planck curve!) I fitted a straight line in this wavelength range; the slopes are shown in Fig. 2. Also shown there are the Vmag estimated from the AAVSO light curve.

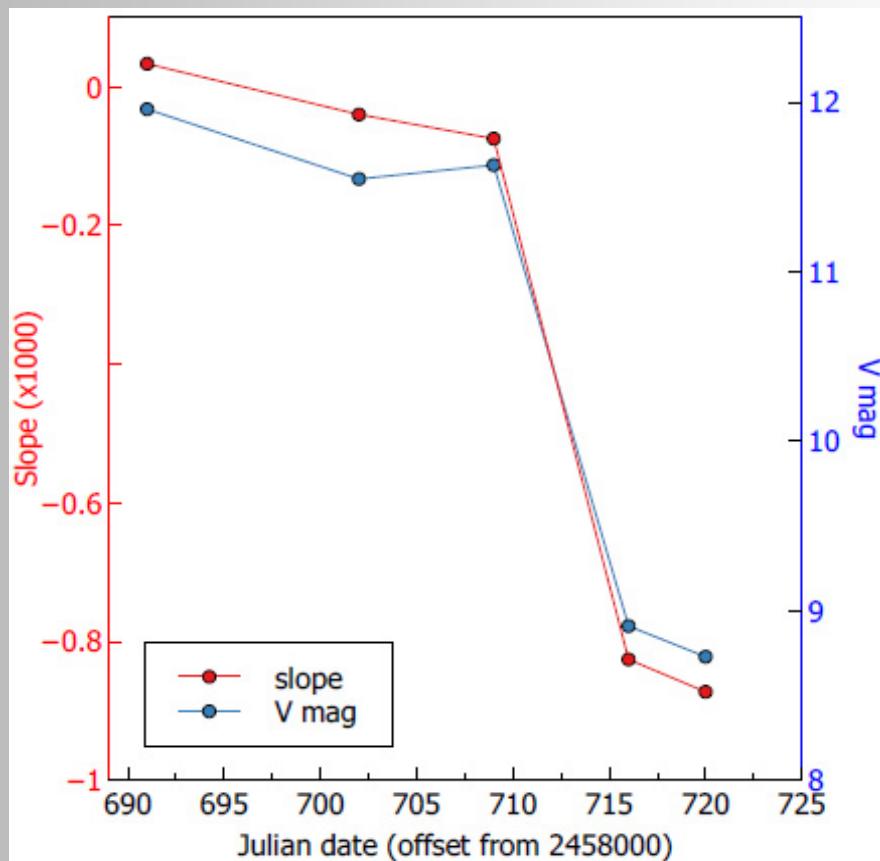
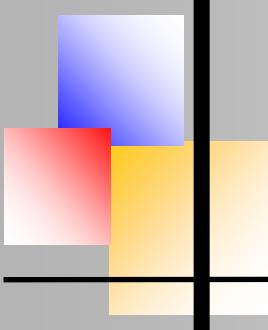


Fig. 2: Slopes of best linear fit to the spectra between 4000Å and 6800Å, and Vmag for each spectrum



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Low resolution spectroscopy of SS Cygni

There is indeed a trend of increasingly negative slopes, but a firm rule is prevented by the relation between second and third spectra in the sequence.

Line feature analysis

The Balmer line features show a change from emission only, before the brightening, to a complex of emission and absorption afterwards. This is highlighted in Fig.3 which shows the rectified (continuum removed) versions of the spectra for J690.6, J720 and J715.5 (magnitudes 11.96, 8.91 and 8.73, respectively). Even during the brightened phase, there is clearly some dynamic at work.

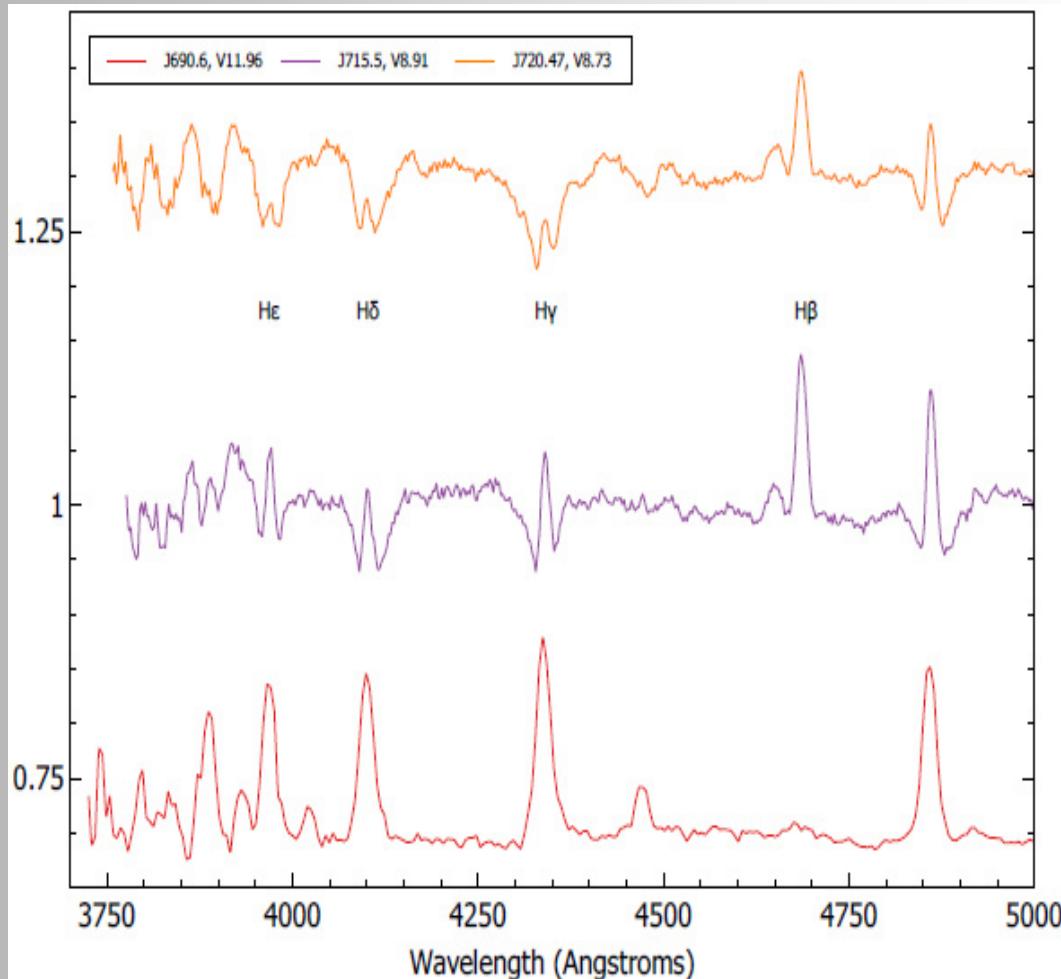
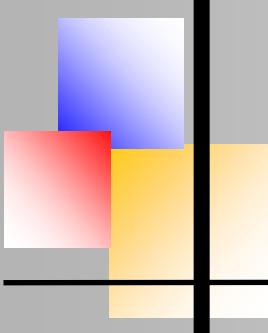


Fig. 3: Rectified spectra for J690.6, J720 and J715.5. That for J690.6 has been scaled by 0.1 as its line features have much larger amplitudes than the others.



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Low resolution spectroscopy of SS Cygni

Flux calibration

The plots in Fig 1 are not flux calibrated; the spectrum amplitudes are relative values only. However, given the availability of concurrent estimates of Vmag, I thought it would be interesting to attempt flux calibration. The method is outlined by David Boyd in [2] and requires use of a V-filter profile. I used that in [3] and the result is shown in Fig. 4.

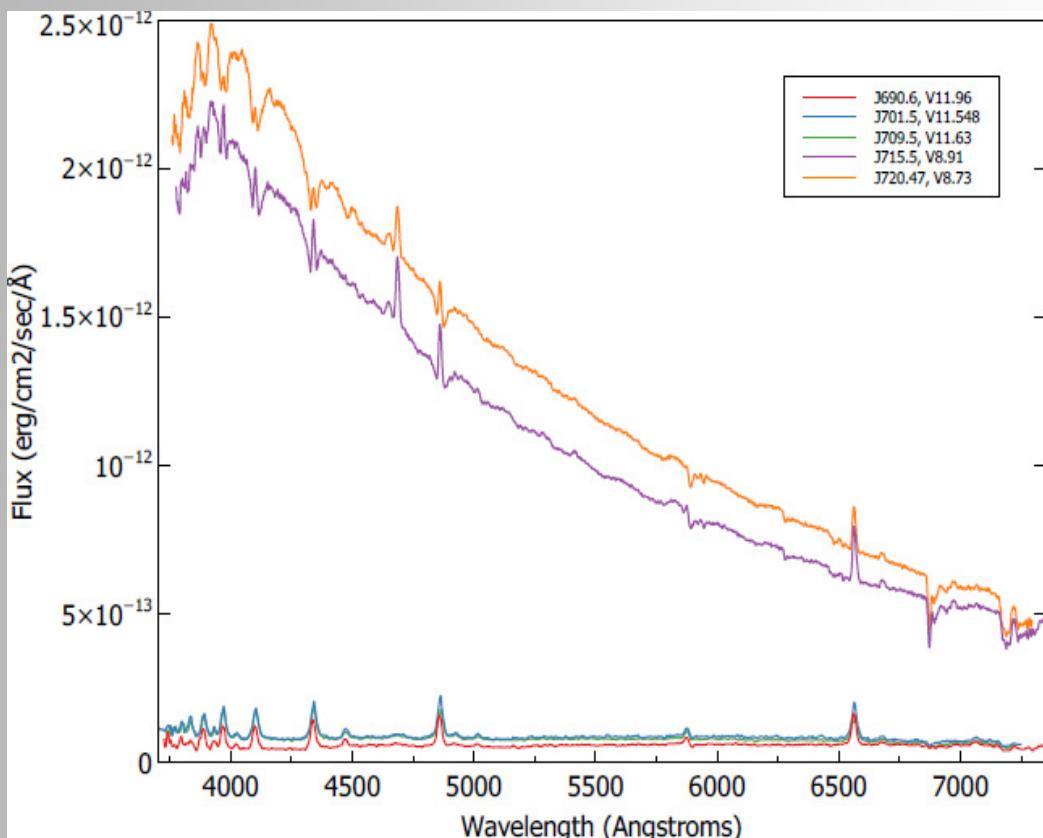
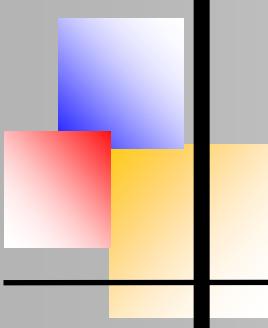


Fig. 4: The spectra flux calibrated against V-magnitude photometry.

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- [3] Leibniz-Institut für Astrophysik, Potsdam, Johnson-cousins UBVRI filter curves; <https://www.aip.de/en/research/facilities/stella/instruments/data/johnson-ubvri-filter-curves/>



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Slitless Spectroscopy

(by Conrad Cardano, email: cardanoconrad@gmail.com)



When I first saw the Star Analyzer and RSpec eight years ago, I said “this is for me”. With my Physics background, stars went from just points of light to physical objects.

I have taken hundreds of spectra with the Star Analyzer. This uncollimated, low resolution arrangement is easy to use; but, I wanted higher resolution. Over the last eight years, many books have been written about spectroscopy. I bought and read them all. I learned that slit spectroscopes are:

- Expensive (>\$2000)
- Heavy (requiring a heavy duty mount)
- Difficult to guide
- Difficult to setup

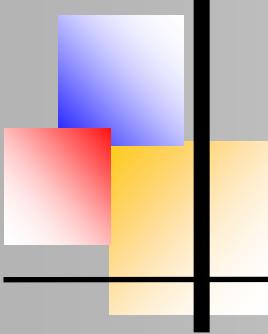
These costs are out of the range for most amateur astronomers. I wondered if there was a better way to do it. I read about the collimated, slitless spectroscope.

I put a Star Analyzer (100l/mm) in front of a 150mm camera lens. Results were very good! The only problem is that I now have a 1" telescope. This is a useless arrangement for 6th magnitude stars.

I wondered if I could put large 3" square grating in front of a 3" f/6 lens. Using the TransSpec spreadsheet, I calculated that the grating would have to be 30 lines/mm. A blazed grating with that specification does not exist.

I considered using the Star Analyzer (100l/mm), the 150mm camera lens, and eyepiece projection. That worked; however, the camera lens is long, heavy and produces some sagging which ruins the image (a new \$500 eyepiece holder is not an option). I replaced the projection eyepiece with a barlow lens.

It works, but I had a problem with vignetting. Barlow lenses are usually 2x or 3x. They never tell you the focal length. I needed a barlow that is not available on the market. Using the Simspec spreadsheet, I figured that a 50mm camera lens and a 300 l/mm grating should work. I want this to work not only on my 3" f/6 refractor, but also my 6" f/9 Ritchey-Cretien scope.



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Slitless Spectroscopy

The Setup



Fig. 1: My basement is over 50ft long and very dark. It is an ideal location to perform optical experiments. A neon light source is on the wall at the opposite end of the basement.



Fig. 2: The Neon light source: these neon test lamps are used to determine the presence of electricity. They glow when the voltage is over 90v. They are common and can be found in most hardware stores for \$3.



Fig. 3: The camera lens

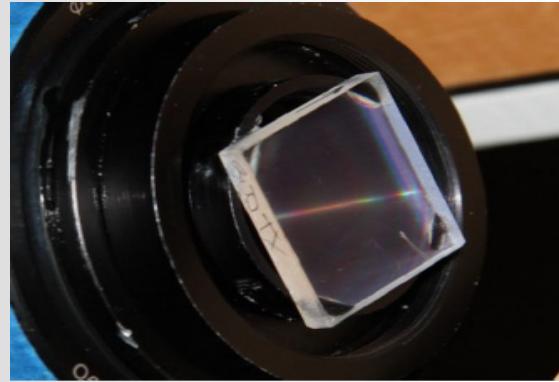
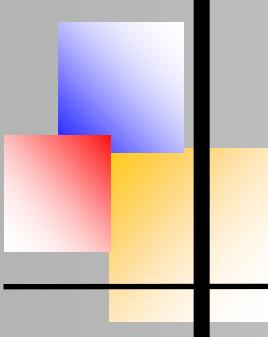


Fig. 4: The Grating

I put a lot of thought into this. If I use a Star Analyzer (100 l/mm), then I needed a 135mm f1 camera lens to get 4Å/pixel dispersion. These lenses are available on the used camera market, but they are **heavy**. I could get a lens with a shorter focal length, but I would need a grating with more lines per millimeter. 300 lines/mm gratings are easily available.



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Slitless Spectroscopy

After reading reviews and specifications, I felt that the Yongnuo 50mm F1.8 (weight 5.7 oz/162 grams) was the best choice. To the right of the lens is a 50 to 42 mm step down adapter ring. It allows me to connect a T2 connector to the lens. The last object on the right is an AD-T2 DSLR adapter. With this connected to the lens, I can attach both a 1¼" threaded ring and a T2 ring. I tried using a 25mm f/4 achromat as the camera lens. The results were awful.

There are several manufacturers of gratings. I only found 1 company, Optometrics, which sold gratings with an anti-reflection coating. I took the grating and glued the back of it to a 1¼" extension ring. This allowed me to connect the grating to the AD-T2 DSLR adapter.



Fig. 5: The Collimating Lens;The top of this 1.25" Plossl eyepiece has a T / T2 male thread that can be exposed by unscrewing an eye guard. I can connect this eyepiece to the AD-T2 DSLR adapter on the lens.

Breakdown of the costs

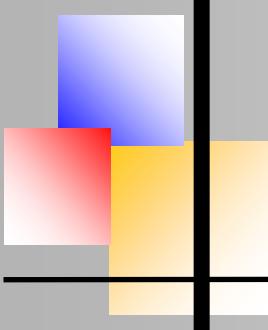
1. 50mm f/1.8 Yongnuo lens \$75 (B & H Photo)
2. 58mm to 42mm step down filter ring \$20
3. AD-T2 DSLR Adapter \$42 (RSpec)
4. 1¼" spacer (10mm) \$13 (RSpec)
5. Grating: 300 l/mm 1" square, coated \$146 (Optometrics)
6. GSO 1¼" Camera Projection Eyepiece 40mm \$79 (Agena Astro)

Total cost: \$375

This may sound like a lot of money, but a Star Analyzer and 3.8° prism cost me almost \$300.

Software Used

I use RSpec for focusing the spectra. It is the only software that I know of that can help me do this. I also use it to calibrate the final image and produce a nice graph. All spectra photos are taken with FireCapture in order to record FITS images. I use Astro Art for summing the FITS images and applying the dark and flat frames.



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Slitless Spectroscopy

The Camera

For several years I have been using a ZWO ASI 174MM (monochrome, uncooled) camera. The pixels are 5.8 micron wide and the chip is 1920 x 1206 pixels. I tried cameras with smaller pixels, but I found the exposure times for stellar spectra to be too long. Seeing conditions and air turbulence became a big factor.

The Scope

I used an Astro Tech 72mm f/6 ED refractor.

The Slitless Spectroscope with Camera



Fig. 6: Here is the full slitless spectroscope. It weights 1lb 5oz (600 grams). This is a lot of weight to hang off a small telescope.

Final Results

How good is it? Let's calculate the resolution from the graph in Fig. 7:

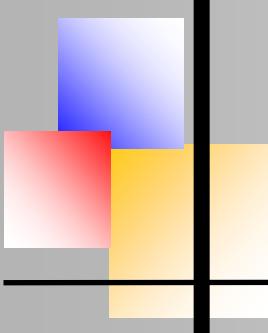
Lines 5852 and 5882: $\delta = 30$ R = 195

Lines 5945 and 5976: $\delta = 31$ R = 191

Lines 6074 and 6096: $\delta = 22$ R = 276

Lines 6383 and 6402: $\delta = 19$ R = 335

Of course, the question is "is this any better than a Grism arrangement".



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Slitless Spectroscopy

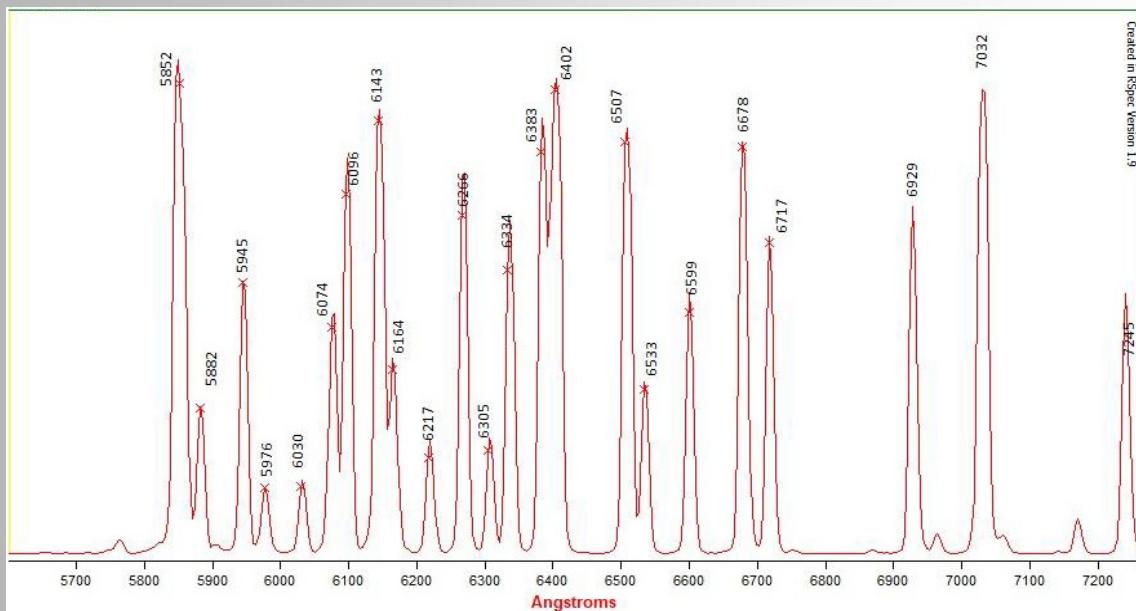


Fig. 7: Neon Spectrum: Camera ASI174; Grating 300L/mm; collimated beam (AT72); 3.8 A/p

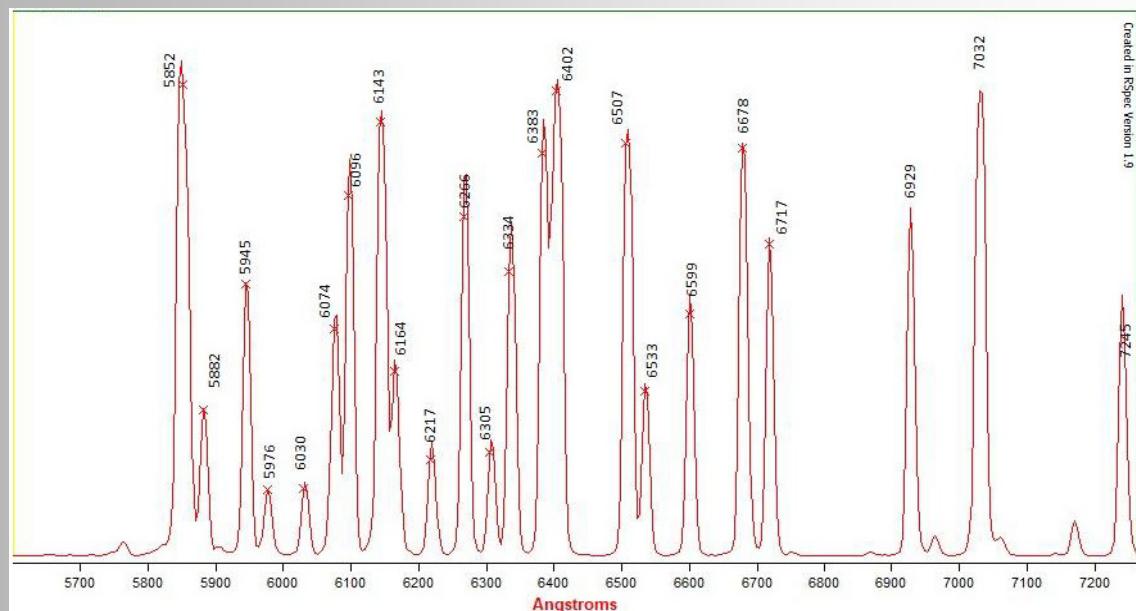
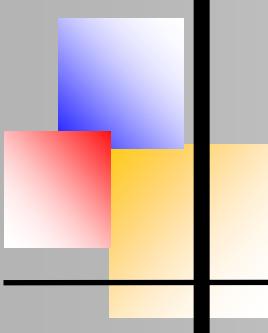


Fig. 8: Neon Spectrum: Camera ASI174; SA 100&Prism; uncollimated beam (AT72); 4.0 A/p



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Slitless Spectroscopy

The equipment used is the same except I replaced the slitless spectroscope with a Star Analyzer plus 3.8° prism (same camera).

How good is this arrangement? Let's calculate the resolution from the graph:

Lines 5852 and 5882: $\delta = 30$ R = 195

Lines 5945 and 5976: $\delta = 31$ R = 191

Lines 6074 and 6096: $\delta = 22$ R = 276

Lines 6143 and 6164: $\delta = 21$ R = 292

Lines 6383 and 6402: $\delta = 19$ R = 335

From looking at the graph, I conclude that the Star Analyzer plus prism produced better results! The lines are well defined and distinct. *This is not the result I was expecting!*

Analysis

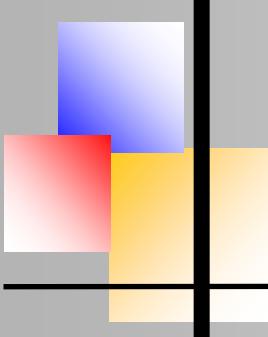


Fig. 9: Enlarged imaged of the neon emission lines from the slitless spectroscope.



Fig. 10: Enlarged imaged of the neon emission lines from the Star Analyzer plus prism.

There is quite a difference between the two images. The emission lines from Star Analyzer plus prism are definitely sharper and well defined across the whole image. With the slitless spectroscope, the emission lines start off well-defined, but get bloated toward the right-hand side.



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Slitless Spectroscopy

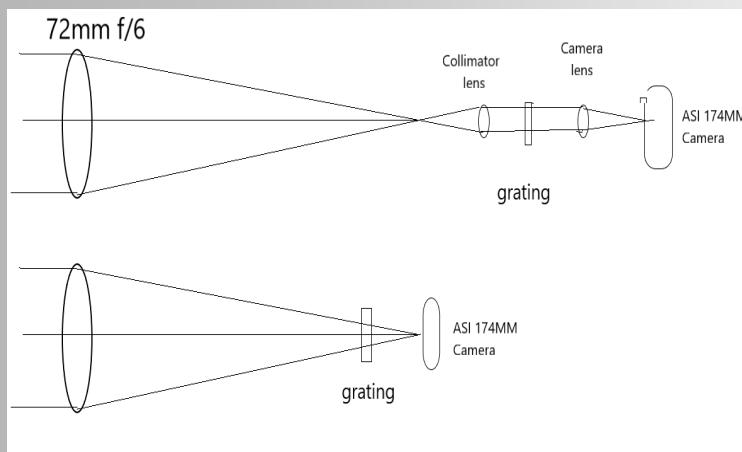


Fig.11:

The slitless spectroscope is optically more complex.

1. The collimator lens must be of good quality.
2. The collimator lens must be accurately focused to produce a parallel beam.
3. The camera lens must be of good quality.
4. The camera lens must be accurately focused to get sharp spectra.

With the Star Analyzer, there are no additional lenses to deal with. Getting a good focus with the camera lens was the hardest part of this experiment. All camera lenses have an adjustment ring for the focus. *Very small changes in the ring produce big changes in the sharpness of the spectra.* To get a good focus, I would aim just the Grating + camera lens + camera at the distant neon lamp and adjust the focus ring until the emission lines were sharp. I taped the camera focus ring in place so as not to move. The slitless spectroscope has a lot of weight hanging off the end of the eyepiece holder. It is very possible that there is some sagging which would degrade the image.



Additional note

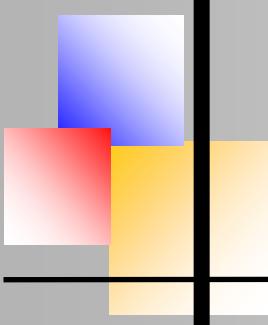
Fig. 12: This is a photo of the micro-focuser on my scope. It has the usual 1:10 ratio for moving the eyepiece holder.

A quarter turn of the micro-focuser can make a big difference in the quality of the spectrum. Camera lenses cannot do this.

Conclusions about the Slitless Spectroscope

1. The cost is not much more than a Grism.
2. There are more parts involved.
3. It is harder to focus than I expected.
4. It is heavy. Sagging may be a problem.
5. The spectra was not better than the Grism.

There is an old saying “keep it simple”. I will stick to a grism assembly unless someone designs a better, simpler spectroscope.



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Be Stars in the Pleiades cluster: a comparison of BESS spectra 1991-2020

Matthias Kolb, City of Wuppertal, Germany



Pleione, Alcyone, Merope and Electra are classified as Be stars, which by definition means that they show or have shown emission lines, at least H α . (Struve 1931). Scope of this paper is to compare H α emission in spectra from the BESS database since 1991 until today. BESS does not show spectra including the H α region prior to 1991.

All four Be stars, similar to the other bright members of the Pleiades cluster, have similar properties regarding effective temperature, age, mass, metallicity. But despite their similarities they show very different periodicities and magnitudes in their light curves (White, 2017), but none of them is classified as a variable star. Largest amplitudes in relative flux are around 1% (Atlas, Merope).

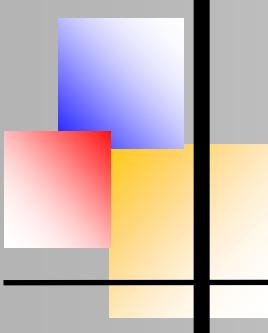
Table 1. Basic data of the four Be stars in the Pleiades

	Name	HD	Spec. Class	Teff	Binary
Pleione	28 Tau	23862	B8Vne	12100	yes
Alcyone	η Tau	28630	B5IIIe	12258	no
Merope	23 Tau	23480	B6IVe	13690	no
Electra	17 Tau	23302	B6 IIIe	12750	no

Be stars in general are fast rotating late B stars and at least some also show non-radial pulsation (Rivinius 2013, 2016). Due to the fast rotation close to the critical velocity (where no further energy is needed to move mass out of the equatorial region of the star) - and in combination with pulsation - gas can leave the star to build a so-called decretion disc. Interferometric measurements show that the gas in the disc material is in Keplerian motion with the radial velocity inversely proportional to the square root of the distance from the star (r).

As the gas leaves the star with angular momentum the rotational velocity should decrease inversely to r . As this is not the case angular momentum transfer must occur via friction and the physical description is therefore called the Viscous Decretion Disc (VDD) model (Rivinius 2013).

Depending on the line of sight from earth to the disc (described by the declination angle i) we see different shape of the emission lines: Pole-on ($i=0^\circ$) only one line, no Doppler broadening, edge-on ($i=90^\circ$) double peak emission with a sharp central absorption core. This is called a shell phase. Be stars can also show phases of regular B star spectra with no emission at all.



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Be Stars in the Pleiades

Analysis of the spectra

All spectra were taken from the BESS database (<http://basebe.obspm.fr/basebe/>) without further data reduction; type of spectrographs and resolution differ. In periods where many spectra were available, only few were evaluated numerically, the others were checked visually for consistency.

This analysis is intended to show trends rather than precise numbers. Evaluation of the spectra was done with the BASS software for equivalent width (EW) of the H α -region (in nm). In the following “strong emission” refers to higher absolute values of EW, from now on called EW_{abs}.

In case two emission peaks showed up with different intensity the data point are colored blue (left peak higher), red (right peak higher), in case of no significant difference green. A numerical calculation of the B/R ratio was due to the different quality of the spectra not possible.

The spectra were classified according to the number and appearance of the emission peaks (similar to Saad, 2005):

E1 (Fig.1: H α spectrum of Electra) or **E2** (Fig.2: H α spectrum of Alcyone) for cases where single or double emission peaks lie more or less completely above the continuum level. **EA** classifies spectra where the emission is embedded partly in a broader absorption. These spectra typically show two peaks. **AE** applies to cases where the emission peak does not exceed the continuum line and **SH** to those spectra where a sharp absorption minimum appears well below the continuum.

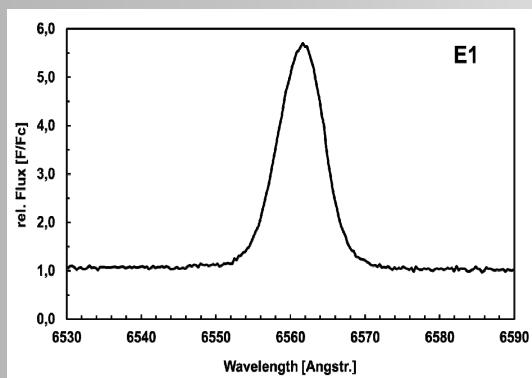


Fig. 1: H α spectrum of Pleione 1996/02/27

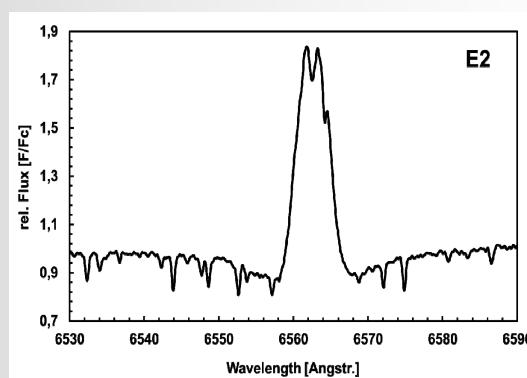
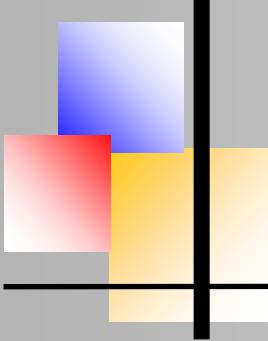


Fig. 2: H α spectrum of Alcyone 2019/10/25



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Be Stars in the Pleiades

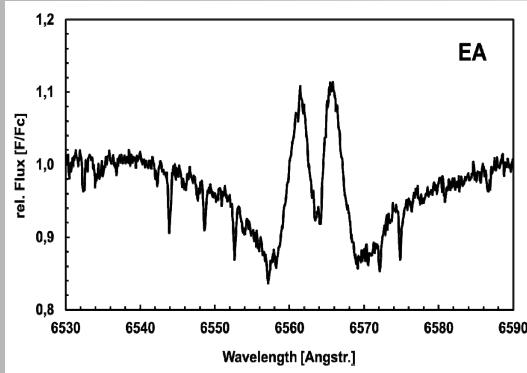


Fig. 3: H α spectrum of Merope 2010-02-03

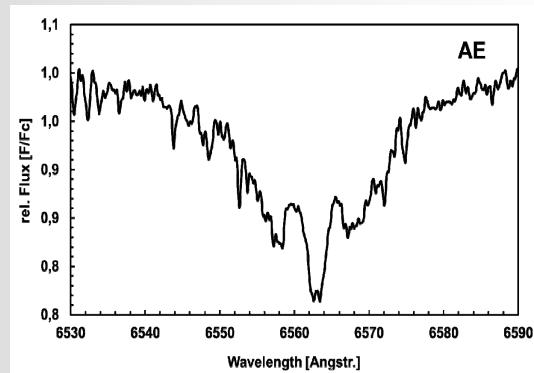


Fig. 4: H α spectrum of Merope 2018-11-17

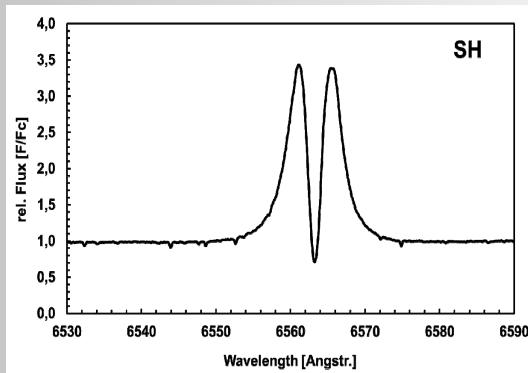


Fig. 5: H α spectrum of Pleione 2019/12/21

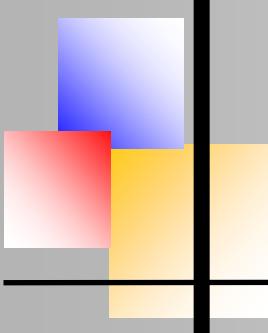
Summary

Fig. 6 shows EW for all four stars versus time. All four stars showed more or less pronounced emission during the period of this analysis. Electra, but also Merope show significantly lower emission compared to Alcyone and in particular Pleione.

Pleione clearly shows a phase change from Be to shell starting around 2005. EW_{abs} values shrink due to the formation of the strong absorption core in the middle of the two emission peaks (E2 > SH).

Alcyone does not show a shell type spectrum, the double peak emission stays pretty stable over time (E2).

Merope showed stronger emission in the early 90th, but since then emission has gone down and spectra change from E2 over EA to AE. Some EA spectra showed up in the middle of the 00 years.



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Be Stars in the Pleiades

Electra only showed around 2007 some short term pronounced activity, represented by increase of EW_{abs} and change from AE to EA. Recently, activity has increased and it will be interesting to monitor if this increase is sustainable and will lead to a phase change. None of the other stars show Shell phases like *Pleione*.

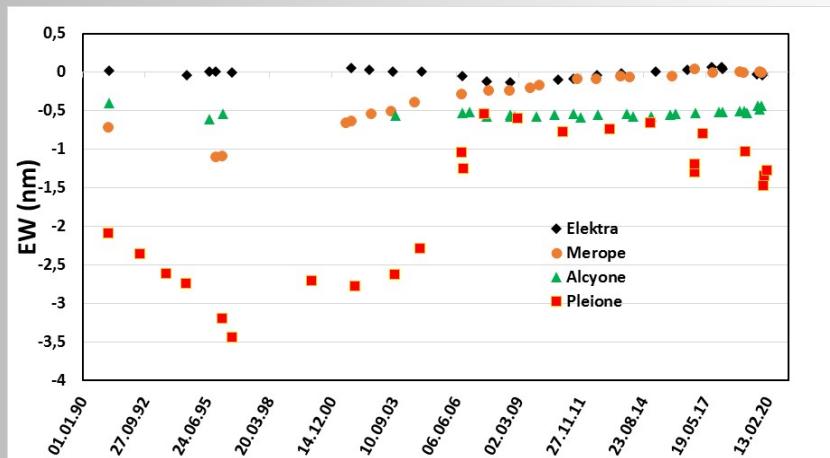


Fig. 6: H α EW of the Be stars in Pleiades

There is a pretty good correlation between EW_{abs} and the distance of the peaks in double emission profiles ($\Delta\lambda$). Fig. 7 shows this correlation where $\Delta\lambda$ was converted into $v_*\sin(i)$ using $v_*\sin(i) = (\Delta\lambda/2\lambda) * c$. The absolute position of the H α line (or the middle of the two lines) was not evaluated in this context.

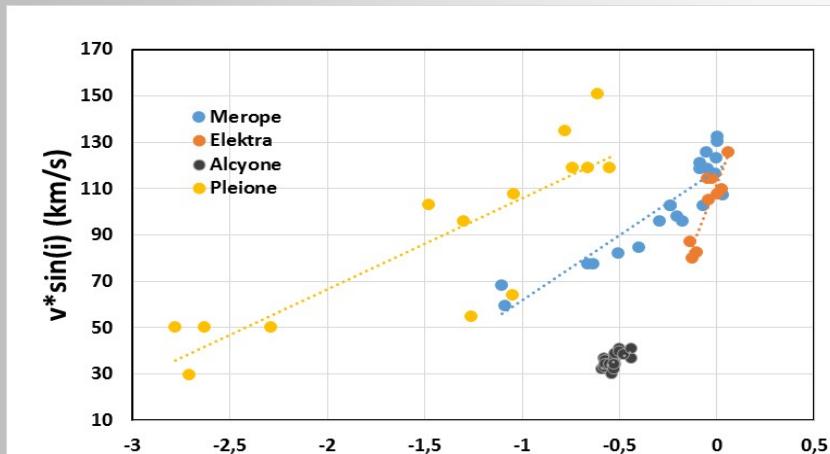
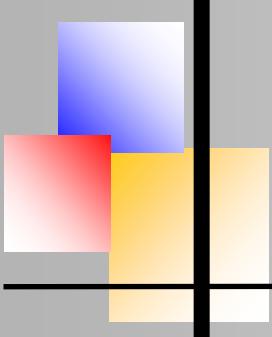


Fig. 7: $v^* \sin(i)$ versus EW



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Be Stars in the Pleiades

Apparently, lower values of EW_{abs} correlate with higher $v \cdot \sin(i)$. The slope is about the same for Alcyone and Pleione. The changes in EW_{abs} are too low for Electra and Merope to evaluate and compare slope with the other two. Higher values for $\Delta\lambda$ or $v \cdot \sin(i)$ can be explained by:

Increasing declination of the disc (versus line of sight from earth)

Decreasing density of the shell (Nemravova, 2010)

Degradation of the disc due to reduced gas flow from the equatorial region of the star to the desk and diffusion from the outer disc region into space. Reduced mass of the disc will lead to reduced emission and also move the source of emission more close to the star, leading to faster rotation and Doppler broadening.

More detailed evaluation of the four stars:

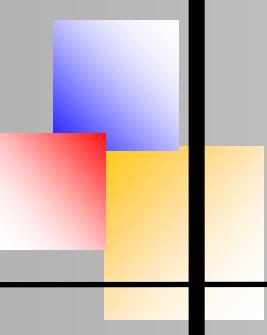
The following evaluation include also some other features of the spectra. Colors of the $v \cdot \sin(i)$ dots have same meaning as above: blue if short wavelength peak was higher, red for the long wavelength peak higher and green for same height. Missing dots: Only one line detectable.

Pleione

Pleione is by far the most investigated Be star within the Pleiades cluster. Spectral variations indicated phase transitions (Hirata 1976) around 1974. Historical data show Be / shell phases of approx. 17 years each (34-35 years for a full cycle), whereas during 1910-1940 Pleione behaved like a “regular” B star.

At the end of the last shell phase the stars brightness increased (Wang 2017). Detailed analysis of the depths of the central absorption (CA) as well as V/R ratio, radial velocity (RV) and EW of the H α emission were carried out by the ARAS spectroscopy group (Pollmann, 2018).

During maximum shell phase the variation of CA, V/R and RV is in very good alignment with the orbital period of 218.6 days of the companion star.



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Be Stars in the Pleiades

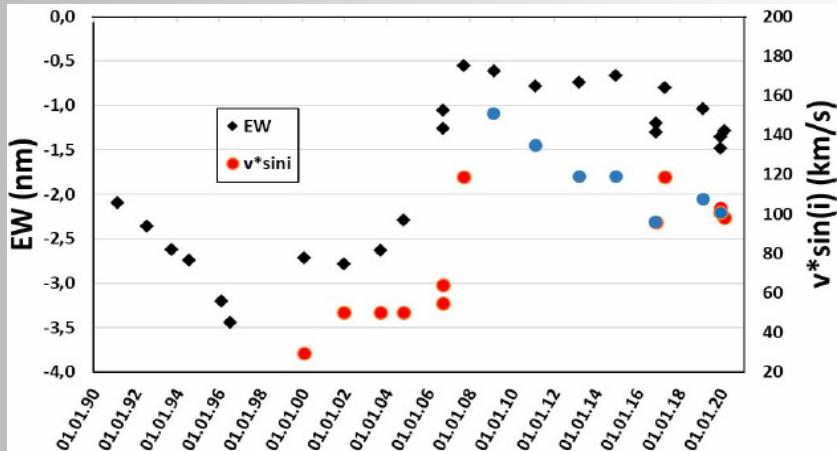


Fig. 8: Pleione H α -EW and $v \cdot \sin(i)$ versus time

During 1991-2019 absolute EW has a maximum around 1997 (Fig. 8), followed by a decrease to a more or less stable plateau (2007). Since 2017 EW is increasing again (absolute). Typical spectra are shown in Fig. 9 below:

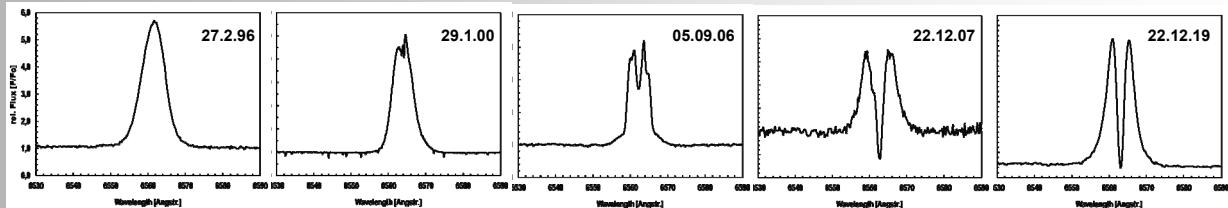
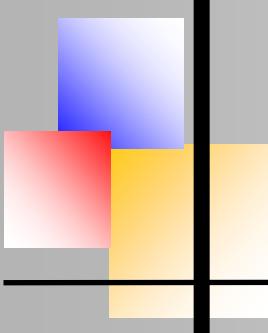


Fig. 9: see text above (scaling: wavelength 6530-6550Å; rel. flux F/Fc = 0-6)

The shell phase was reached 2007 and has not yet been finished. This is in good agreement with a 34- year cycle (1974 as beginning of previous shell phase).

The switch to a shell phase is due to a change of the declination angle i towards 90° (edge-on view from earth). The reason for the change is a precession of the rotational axis of the decretion disc due to the gravitational force from the companion star. Opposite to this standard explanation Nemravova argues that the change is more due to real physical changes in the shell rather than change in the view of inclination (Nemravova, 2010).

Further observations during 2020 and beyond will show whether the decline of Dl and the increase of EW_{abs} since 2017 are significant and could be regarded as an indication of a decrease of the declination angle i or a degradation of the disc.



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Be Stars in the Pleiades

Also a number of absorption lines show on the „red“ side an additional small emission, for example the Fe II line at 5169Å (Fig. 10) or the He I line at 4922Å (Fig. 11). This is similar a P-Cygni profile but the absorption is more narrow and deeper the emission.

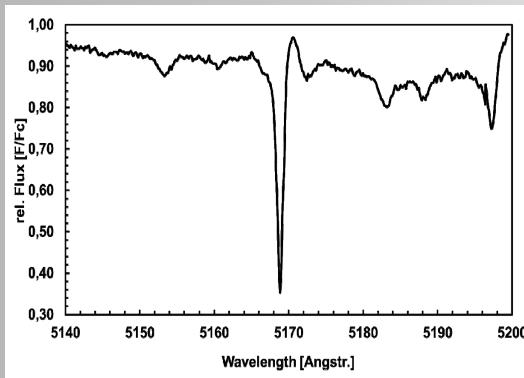


Fig.10: Fe II at 5169Å (2007-12-22)

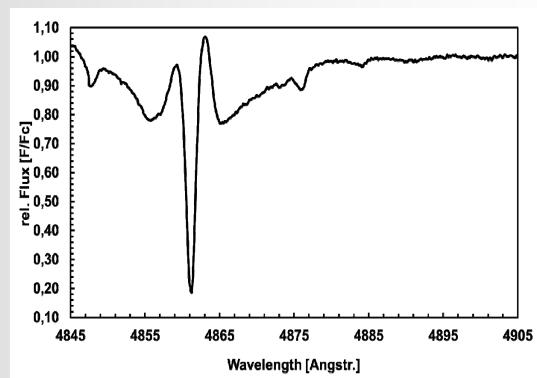


Fig.11: HeI at 4922Å (2007-12-22)

Hirata and Kogure (1976) observed that the shell phase also leads to the appearance of strong and broad Ca II K absorption. According to them “a rapidly rotating region with a temperature less than 10,000 K was newly formed in the equatorial region of the star”. This is also visible comparing spectra from 2001 (before shell phase started) (Fig.12) and 2019 (Fig.13):

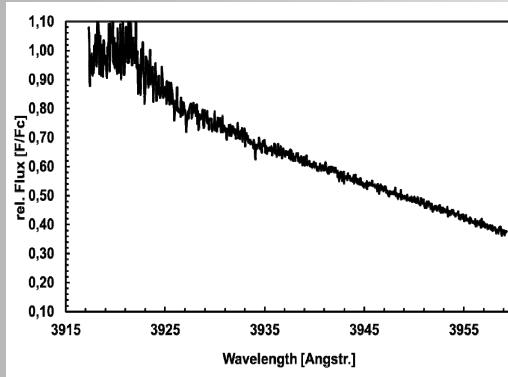


Fig.12: CaIIK line before shell phase 2005/06/23

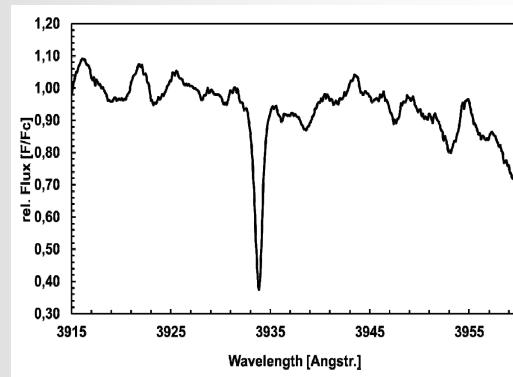
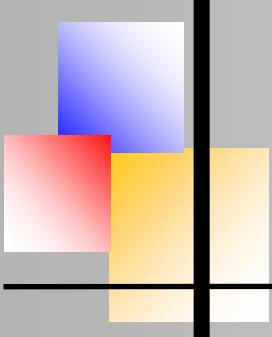


Fig.13: CaIIK line 2005/07/11

Unfortunately no spectra of the other three stars in the BESS database include the wavelengths region of Ca II transitions.



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Be Stars in the Pleiades

Alcyone

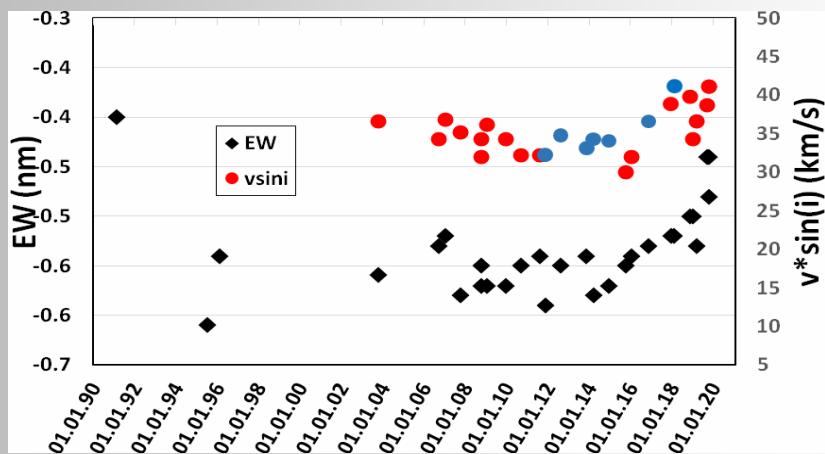


Fig. 14: Alkyone: H α -EW and $v * \sin(i)$ versus time

The spectra of Alcyone (Fig. 14) do not indicate any transition to a shell phase, which is not a surprise as Alcyone – like Merope and Electra – has no companion which could cause a shift of the declination angle i . Alternatively, a shell phase could exist if by coincidence the line of sight from earth to the star is edge-on. This seems to be not the case.

All spectra show two emission lines, H α nearly completely above continuum, the other Balmer lines embedded in an absorption (see H α in Fig. 15 and H β in Fig. 16).

$\Delta\lambda$ of both lines of H α is fairly constant and small, the blue line is in most cases a bit stronger. Most recent spectra show lower EW_{abs}, and it will be very interesting to monitor the further development.

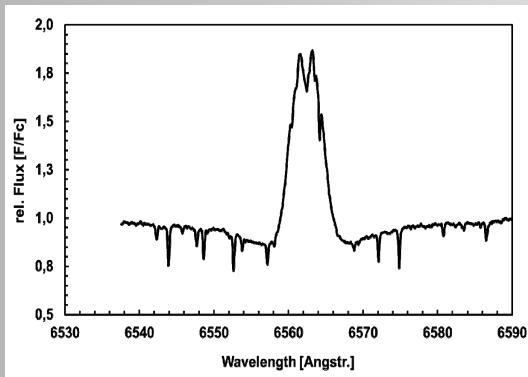


Fig.15: H α spectrum of Alcyone 2019/10/04

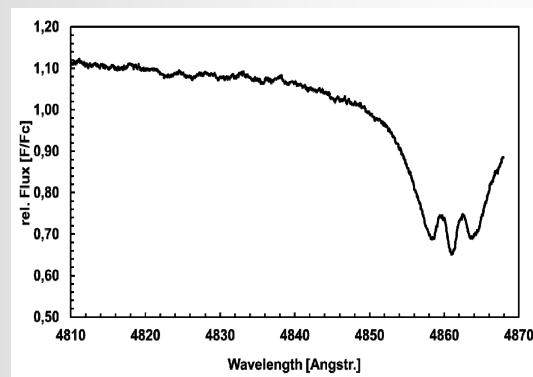
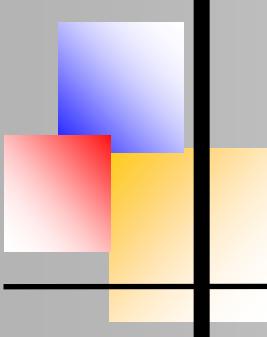


Fig.16: H β spectrum of Alcyone 2019/10/04



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Be Stars in the Pleiades

Merope

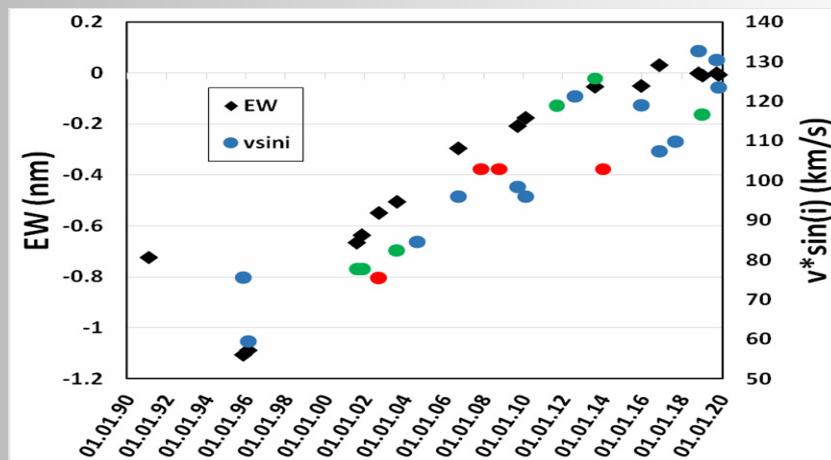


Fig. 17: Merope H α EW and $v * \sin(i)$ versus time

Although emission activity of Merope is well below Pleione a decrease over the years is evident, $v * \sin(i)$ is increasing in parallel (Fig.17). The data point from 1991 is unique, therefore it cannot be decided if there was a real maximum of $EW_{(abs)}$ between 1991 and 2000. The H α line shape developed from E2 type via EA to AE, emission is more and more embedded in a broader absorption (Fig.18).

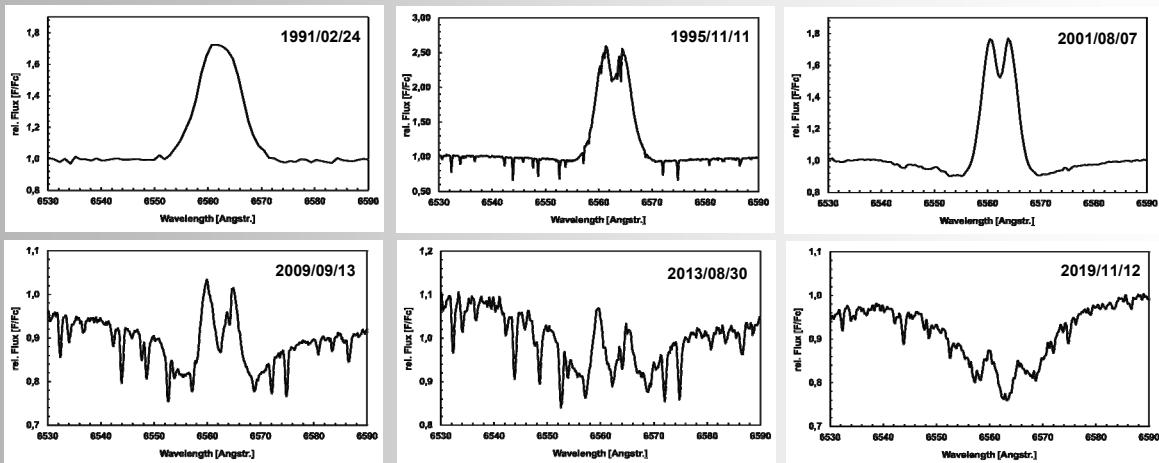
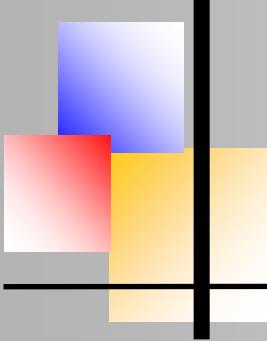


Fig. 18: H α line shape developing of Merope between February 1991 to November 2019

Also in the case of Merope the blue emission is typically stronger, but not in all spectra. Also for Merope the distance of the two peaks is getting bigger with decreasing emission activity which can be explained by a degradation of the disc. The location of the emission moves closer towards the star where rotation is bigger, leading to a stronger Doppler shift.



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Be Stars in the Pleiades

Electra

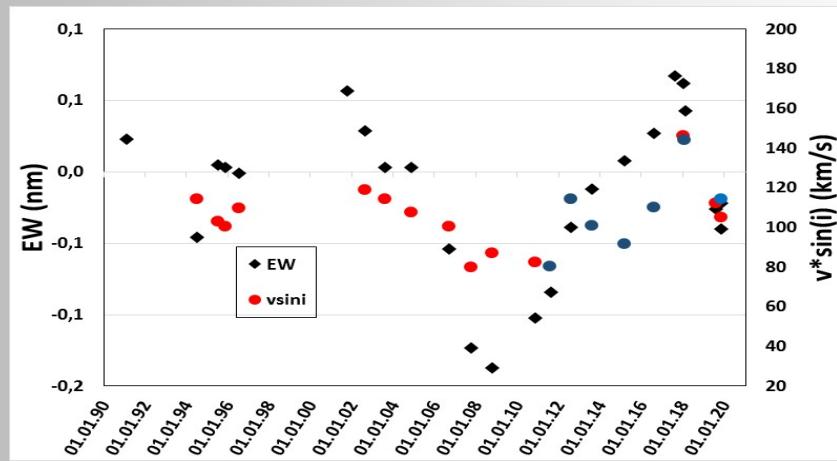


Fig. 19: Electra H α EW and $v^* \sin(i)$ versus time

Electra does not show a lot of emission activity during the period of observation (Fig.19). Some increase is visible during 2006 to 2010, but the scale of the graph is different to the other stars. The stronger EW 1994 in Fig.19 may not be significant and the increase in 2019 needs to be monitored 2020 further before drawing conclusions. Emission lines are always embedded in a broad absorption (AE type) as can be seen in the spectra sequence from 1991 to 2019 in Fig.20.

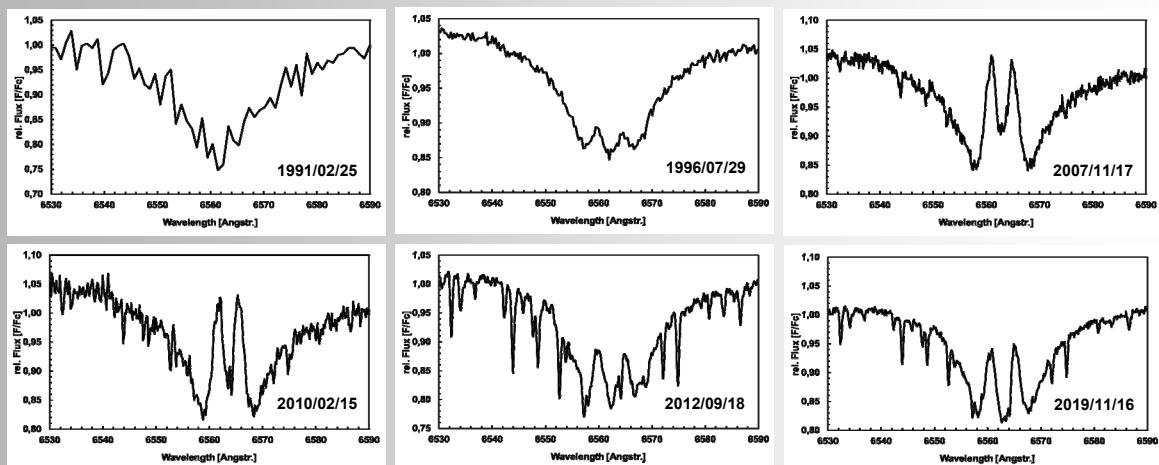
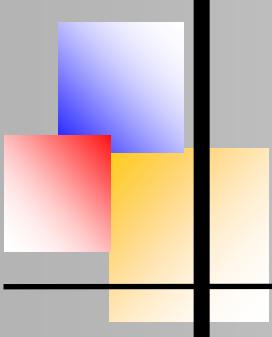


Fig. 20: H α line shape developing of Electra between February 1991 to November 2019



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Even during the small maximum of H α emission September 2009 (see Fig.21), H β shows nearly no emission (Fig. 16).

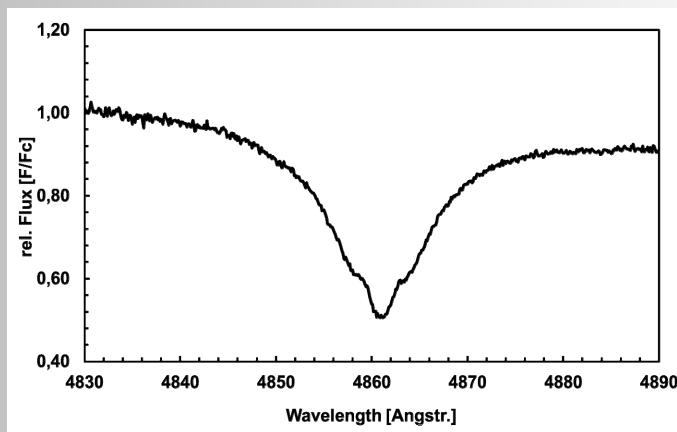


Fig. 21: H β spectrum of Electra 2009-09-13

Literature

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Pollmann, E., 2018, IBVS No. 6239
Rivinius, T. Carciofi, A., Martayan, C., 2013, Astronomy & Astrophysics Review 21(1)
Rivinius, T., Martayan, C., Baade, D., 2016, arXiv 1602.03449
Nemravova, J. et. al., 2010, Astronomy & Astrophysics
Saad, S.M. et. al. , 2005, Astronomy & Astrophysics 450, 427-430+Online material
Struve, O., 1931, Astrophys J. 73
Wang L., Gies D., 2017, ApJ 5/12
White, T.R. et al., 2017, MRAS 471

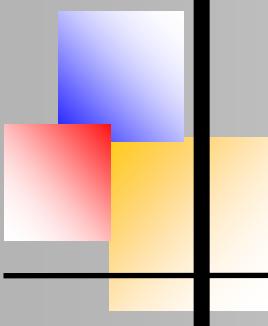
Spectra

Spectra from the following observers were used for this work :

E. Bertrand, N. Boudin, E. Bryssinek, C. Buil, C. Catala, B. deBatz, V. Desnoux, A. Favaro, G. Flo, O. Garde, T. Garrel, F. Houpert, P. Lailly, M. Leonardi, G. Martineau, J. Montier, B. Mauclare, C. Neiner, E. Pollmann, J. Ribeiro, A. Stiewing, O. Thizy

The author

Dr. Matthias Kolb is new in the field of spectroscopy of stellar objects. 2019 he joined of the spectroscopy group at the SNH (Observatory Neanderthal Hochdahl). From profession chemist he works as a procurement and quality manager in the paint industry. He is also member of the BAV and reports visual observations and DSLR photometry data for variable stars to the AAVSO database.



Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von α Cygni (Deneb)

Moritz van Eimern und Juliane Neußer, Carl-Fuhlrott-Gymnasium, Wuppertal



Juliane Neußer und Moritz van Eimern gewannen mit ihrer Arbeit zu den Leuchtkräftigen Blauen Veränderlichen den Landeswettbewerb 2019 Jugend forscht in Nordrhein-Westfalen in der Kategorie Geo- und Raumwissenschaften.

Sie erreichten den dritten Platz im Bundeswettbewerb Jugend forscht 2019 in Chemnitz. Nachzulesen auf der Webseite des Schülerlabors Astronomie des Carl-Fuhlrott-Gymnasiums Wuppertal, <https://www.schuelerlabor-astronomie.de>.

Abstract

Der Hauptstern des Sternbildes Schwan, Deneb (α Cyg), gehört zur Klasse der Leuchtkräftigen Blauen Veränderlichen Sterne (LBV). Die Besonderheit dieser Sternklasse spiegelt sich in ihren stark variierenden Sternwinden wider, die im Zentrum unserer spektroskopischen Forschungsarbeit liegen. Diese werden durch Pulsationen und Eruptionen in der Sternhülle hervorgerufen.

Pulsationen solcher Sterntypen verursachen wahrnehmbare Änderungen, die sich in Helligkeitsvariationen und in Änderungen der Expansionsgeschwindigkeit der Sternwinde ausdrücken. Die ungewöhnlichen Zustände treten nur sehr selten und unregelmäßig auf, was Deneb als besonderes Forschungsobjekt prädestiniert. Im Vergleich zu älteren Spektren von Deneb, die bis zu drei Jahre zurückgehen, wurde das Verhalten bis Ende 2018 untersucht. Mithilfe der hochauflösenden Spektroskopie analysieren wir Deneb in zeitlicher Abhängigkeit und stellen Hypothesen und Deutungen über das Verhalten der Sternwinde auf. Im Zentrum unserer Forschungen steht die $H\alpha$ -Emissionslinie und die durch diese Linie ermittelten Parameter, anhand derer wir die Änderung der Sternwinde vermessen und ihr Verhalten entschlüsseln können.

Einleitung

Eine Übersicht über die Arbeiten zu Deneb findet man bei Richardson (2010). Die ersten Beobachtungen und Analysen des Sterns Deneb und seiner Sternwinde durch Fath (1935) und Paddock (1935) erfolgten photometrisch und durch Messung der Radialgeschwindigkeit.

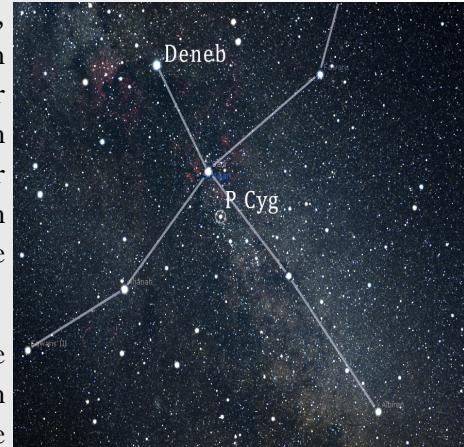
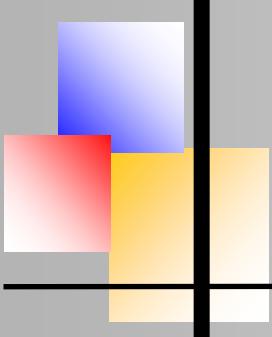


Abb. 1: LBV-Sterne Deneb und P Cygni im Sternbild Schwan.
(Darstellung in Stellarium)



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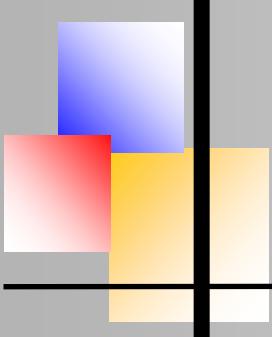


Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

Die ersten Studien zu Schwingungen in der Sternatmosphäre erfolgten von Abt (1957), gefolgt von einer Schwingungsanalyse durch Lucy (1976), die aufzeigt, dass solche in der Atmosphäre vorhanden waren. In den folgenden Jahren wurden weitere spektroskopische Beobachtungen von Deneb vorgenommen, wobei von Parthasarathy & Lambert (1987) eben jene Geschwindigkeitsvariationen, wie von Paddock beobachtet und von Lucy analysiert, bestätigt wurden. In den Jahren 1996 und 1997 untersuchten Kaufer et al. die Variationen der Radialgeschwindigkeit und des P-Cygni-Profils, wodurch sich zeigen ließ, dass solche Ereignisse mit starken Variationen periodisch auftreten. Im Kontrast hierzu fanden Morrison & Mulliss (1998) heraus, dass es oft Absorptionsereignisse gebe, in denen ein sekundärer Absorptionsbestandteil im blauverschobenen Teil des Absorptionsbestandteils des H α -Profils zu finden ist. Zwar war bereits lange bekannt, dass die Stärke der H α -Emission in Beziehung zur Leuchtkraft steht, allerdings wurde diese Information erst von Kudritzki et al. (1999) für die von ihnen entwickelte „wind momentum–luminosity relationship“ (WLR) Methode genutzt, mit der große Entfernungswerte wie solche zu Deneb oder P Cygni präziser als zuvor gemessen werden können.

Weiterhin gehören zu den wichtigsten Komponenten dieser Sterne die Variationen im H α -Profil. Insofern diese sich wiederholen, stehen sie möglicherweise in Relation zur Rotationsperiode des Sterns (Cranmer & Owocki 1996). Weitere Studien, die sich mit den Variationen des H α -Profils befassen, könnten Hinweise auf die physischen Mechanismen geben, die diese hervorrufen (z.B. Maeder 1980). Deneb ist zurzeit der am besten studierte Überriese der Spektralklasse A; die folgenden Ausführungen sind bei Schiller (2007) nachzulesen. Trotz der bahnbrechenden Atmosphärenmodelle von Groth (1961) und der neuesten Studien von Aufdenberg et al. (2002) lässt sich allerdings keine Übereinstimmung bezüglich der atmosphärischen Parameter und des Vorkommens chemischer Elemente nachweisen.

So reichen beispielsweise die bisher gemessenen Temperaturen des Sterns von 7635K (Blackwell 1980) bis zu 10080K (Burnashev 1980). Anhand von Nahinfrarotspektroskopie konnte von Schiller (2007) eine detaillierte Analyse des Atmosphärenmodells erstellt werden. Diese impliziert eine Weiterentwicklung Denebs zum Roten Überriesen. Im Vergleich zu Deneb zeigt P Cygni als Protagonist der LBV-Sterne (Conti 1984) auffällige zeitliche Schwankungen und außergewöhnlich starke Emissionslinien in seinen Linioprofilen (Lamers 1986). Die weiteren Angaben stammen von Castor (1978) und Vakili (1996). Bereits im Jahr 1929 war bekannt, dass die P-Cygni-Profile von Sternen von einer expandierenden Hülle hervorgerufen werden (McCrea, 1929). Zwar wurde ihm viel Aufmerksamkeit von sowohl Beobachtern und Theoretikern zuteil (Davidson 1986, de Groot und Lamers 1992, Stahl 1995), allerdings wurden bisher fast nur photometrische und spektroskopische Analysen durchgeführt.



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

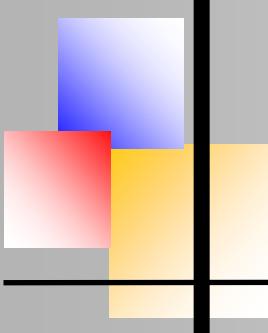
Durch Langbasisinterferometrie oder den Einsatz hochauflösender adaptiver Optik (de Vos 1992, Nishimoto 1994) könnten, wenn gleichzeitig hochauflösende spektroskopische Untersuchungen vorgenommen würden, die physikalischen Theorien bzgl. des Sternwindes von P Cygni eingeschränkt werden (Burgin und Chalabaev 1992). Zudem könnten so weitere Aussagen über P Cygnis Eigenschaften und seinen Wind getroffen werden. Eine weitere Möglichkeit zur Analyse von P Cygni besteht im Abgleich von Modell und Beobachtung der Veränderlichkeit des Sternwindes (Lamers und Morton 1976 und Lamers und Rogerson 1978). Hierdurch können weitere Theorien über den Sternwind und sein Verhalten entwickelt werden (Castor 1978, Vakili 1996). In Bezug auf beide Sterne lässt sich bestätigen, dass blaue Überriesen, die die oben genannten Eigenschaften aufweisen, nicht so intensiv erforscht werden, wie es heute technisch möglich wäre.

In dieser Forschungsarbeit geht es um hochauflösende spektroskopische Beobachtungen des LBV-Sterns Deneb. Diese wurden von uns an der Sternwarte unserer Schule, dem Carl-Fuhlrott-Gymnasium in Wuppertal, durchgeführt. Mit eigenen Spektren und mit Hilfe einiger Rohspektren bislang unverarbeiteter Aufnahmen unseres Projektleiters Bernd Koch konnte eine Langzeitbeobachtung mit Aufnahmen von 2014 bis 2018 erstellt werden. Somit können auch wir als Amateurastronomen einen Teil zur Erforschung der Sternwinde von LBV-Sternen beitragen, da besonders dieses Feld der Astronomie noch weiter bestellt werden sollte.

Was unsere Neugier an diesem Thema besonders erregte, war die Chance, selbst eine der seltenen Eruptionen und Veränderungen des Sternwindes zu entdecken, da diese nur sehr unregelmäßig auftreten. Ein weiterer Grund für dieses Thema fand sich in der Fünfjahres-Beobachtung von Richardson et al. (2010), welche im Rahmen dieser Kampagne ein äußerst auffälliges „High-velocity absorption“ Event im Jahr 2001 beobachten konnten. Hierbei verschwand die Emission im P-Cygni-Profil von Deneb fast gänzlich und die dort gemessenen Werte erreichten ein noch nie gemessenes Minimum. Diese Periode dauerte ca. 40 Tage, wie bereits eine ähnliche, die Jahrzehnte zuvor stattfand. Das gleiche Ereignis zeigte im weiteren Verlauf eine nie dagewesene ausgeprägte Absorption. Daraus entwickelte sich nun unsere Frage, ob und wann in den letzten Jahren speziell solche Ereignisse stattgefunden haben. Sind diese folglich öfter als in den letzten Jahrzehnten eingetreten oder hat sich der Stern ruhig verhalten?

Steckbrief von Deneb (α Cyg)

Deneb ist als blauer Überriese der scheinbar hellste Stern im Sternbild Schwan. Er befindet sich ca. 800pc (Schiller et al. 2007) entfernt von der Erde und bildet zusammen mit den Sternen Wega und Altair das Sommerdreieck. Deneb ist ein Stern der Spektralklasse A2, Leuchtkraftklasse Ia, mit einer Effektivtemperatur von 8525K.



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

Seine absolute Helligkeit beträgt $-8,49$ mag, das entspricht ungefähr de 180fachen Sonnenleuchtkraft. Sein Radius umfasst ca. 200 Sonnenradien, während seine Masse schätzungsweise der 20-fachen der Sonnenmasse entspricht. Deneb gehört zur Klasse der LBV-Sterne. Die besondere Eigenschaft der LBV Sterne liegt in ihrer veränderlichen Leuchtkraft. Diese Veränderungen können entstehen, wenn bei einem massereichen Stern, welcher von einer Gaswolke umgeben ist, das hydrostatische Gleichgewicht gestört ist. Dabei baut sich im Stern immer mehr Druck auf, der dann impulsartig entladen wird. Daraus resultieren Pulsationen des Sterns und starke Sternwinde. Diese Änderungen können je nach Beschaffenheit des Sterns sowohl zyklisch als auch unregelmäßig vorkommen. In Abb. 2 ist das Spektrum von Deneb im sichtbaren Spektralbereich dargestellt. Es wurde mit einem DADOS-Spaltspektrographen aufgenommen. Eine verbreiterte Absorption bei $H\alpha$ ist bereits in dieser niedrigen Auflösung zu erkennen.

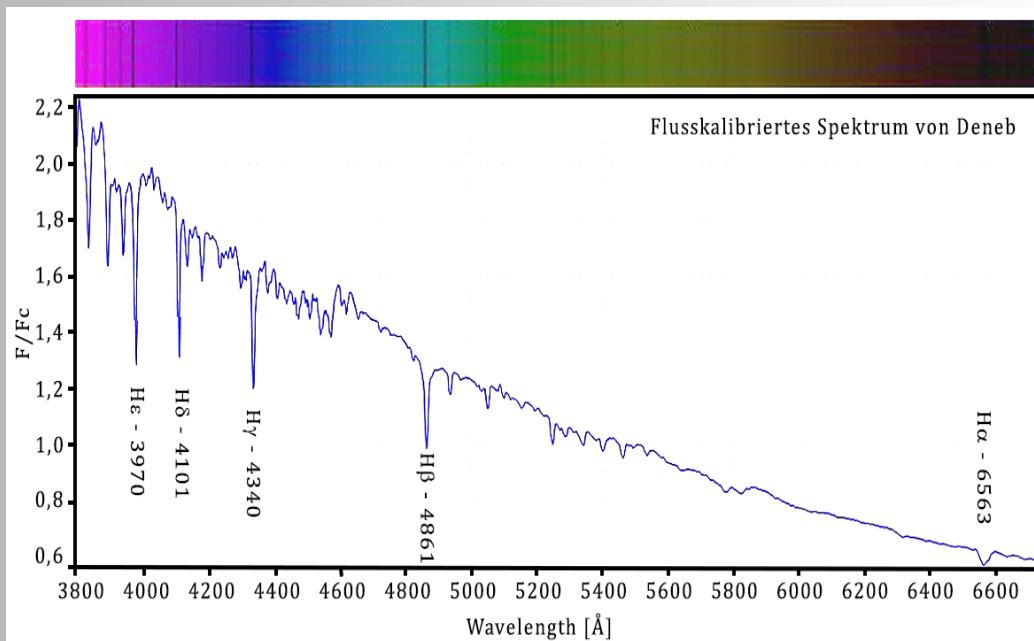
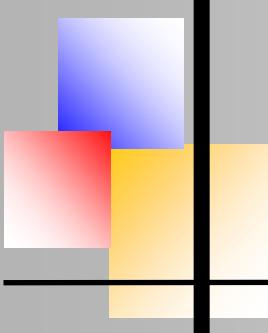


Abb. 2: Flusskalibriertes Spektrum von Deneb, aufgenommen mit dem DADOS-Spaltspektrographen bei einem Auflösungsvermögen von 1,3 nm

Entstehung des P-Cygni-Profil

Typisch für LBV-Sterne ist das sogenannte P-Cygni-Profil ihrer Spektrallinien, welches wir bei der $H\alpha$ -Linie ($6562,8\text{\AA}$) zeitabhängig untersucht haben. Das Profil ergibt sich aus der Existenz eines Sternwindes. Die Sternwindhülle (Abb. 3) ist kugelsymmetrisch um den Stern S



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

und erzeugt den eigentlich symmetrischen Emissionsteil E aus leuchtendem Wasserstoff. Durch die Sichtlinie zum Beobachter B definiert, wird ein Teil des Sternwinds aber vor den Stern projiziert. Dort, und nur dort, kann er auch Sternlicht absorbieren und erzeugt einen Absorptionstrog (A). Dieser ist asymmetrisch, denn a) alles Gas dort ist blauverschoben zum Beobachter wegen der Expansion des Sternwinds, und b) das Gas wird beschleunigt, startet also langsam und wird dann immer schneller, bis zu einer gewissen Maximalgeschwindigkeit.

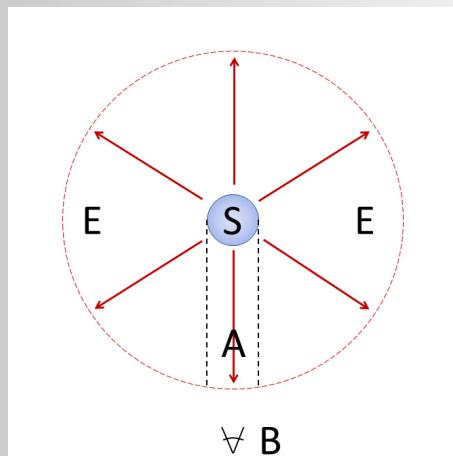


Abb. 3: Emittierende kugelsymmetrische Sternwindhülle mit Absorptionstrog in Richtung Beobachter B.
Grafik:Reinhard Hanuschik

Teilt man das Absorptionsvolumen in Teile gleicher Radialgeschwindigkeit, so kann man sich den Trog als Überlagerung vieler schmaler Absorptionslinien vorstellen, die umso schwächer werden (Verdünnung), je schneller sie sind (Abb. 4). Der Beobachter sieht die Summe aller Komponenten, inkl. der normalen H α -Absorption des Sterns.

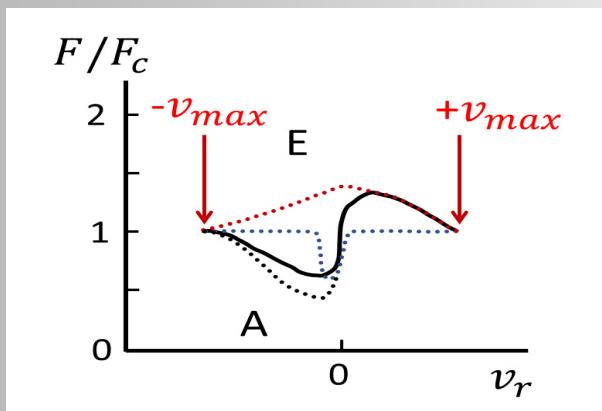
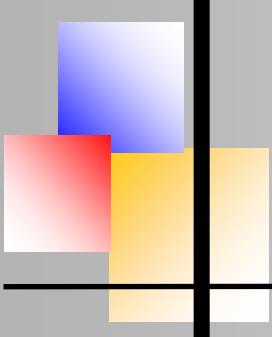


Abb. 4:
Das P-Cygni-Profil setzt sich aus einem blauverschobenen Absorptionsanteil (A) und einem unverschobenen Emissionsanteil (E) zusammen.
Grafik: Reinhard Hanuschik



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

Bei Deneb ist davon auszugehen, dass der Sternwind größtenteils aus einer Wasserstoffhülle besteht, da sich nur bei der Wasserstofflinie H α (6562,8Å) ein ausgeprägtes P Cygni-Profil ausbildet. Die genaue Form des Profils hängt dann noch vom Verhältnis von Emission zu Absorption ab: Deneb hat eine im Vergleich zu P Cyg eine kleine Sternwindhülle, so dass der Emissionsanteil deutlich kleiner ist als der Absorptionsanteil.

Einer der interessanten Aspekte ist nun, dass man im Profil die Maximalgeschwindigkeit des Sternwinds ablesen kann, entweder als äußere (rote) Kante des Emissionsprofils, oder als äußere (blaue) Kante des Absorptionsprofils. Theoretisch müsste beides den gleichen Wert ergeben. Die Position des Maximums von Emission und des Minimums von Absorption hängen dagegen von der Überlagerung all der Teilkomponenten ab.

Arbeitshypothese

In Hinblick auf die Berechnung der Geschwindigkeit des Sternwinds erwarten wir mehrfache, jedoch geringe Veränderungen, da schwächere Pulsationen zur Eigenschaft des Sterns gehören. Anhand unserer Ergebnisse können wir daraufhin feststellen, ob auch bedeutendere Ereignisse, wie z.B. „High-velocity absorption“ Events (HVA) stattgefunden haben. Diese „Klumpen“ sind vermutlich Instabilitäten (Turbulzenzen im Gas). Man kann sie sich besser „Wolken“ vorstellen, auch mit „Löchern“ dazwischen. Die „Einhüllende“ (Abb. 4, E) definiert sozusagen den ungestörten Sternwind, und ein Emissionsbuckel wäre dann weniger Absorption, sprich ein Wolkenloch. In der Arbeit werden also zwei Dinge vermessen:

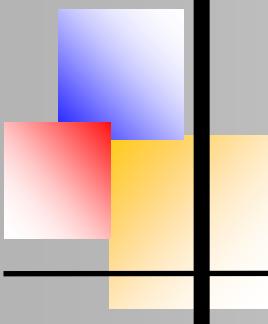
- Das Erscheinen und Verschwinden solcher Klumpen/Löcher, und
- der Normalzustand (die maximale Expansionsgeschwindigkeit und die Tiefe des Tropes).

Beobachtungen

Für unser Projekt wurde uns die Sternwarte (Abb. 5, 6 und 7) unserer Schule zur Verfügung gestellt, sowie einige zuvor an seiner privaten Sternwarte aufgenommene Spektren unseres Projektleiters Bernd Koch. Für die Aufnahmen wurde das 0,5m Corrected Dall-Kirkham (CDK 20) Teleskop in Kombination mit dem hochauflösenden *BACHES*-Spektrographen (Basic Echelle Spectrograph¹) genutzt. Der *DADOS*-Spektrograph (Abb. 5) wurde mit einem niedrig dispersiven Reflexionsgitter (200 L/mm) mit einem spektralen Auflösungsvermögen von ca. 500 am TEC 160FL-Refraktor verwendet. Zur Aufnahme verwendeten wir die monochrome CCD-Kamera SBIG STF-8300M².

¹*DADOS*, CDK 20, *BACHES* Echelle: <https://www.baader-planetarium.de/>

²CCD-Kamera (SBIG STF-8300M): <http://www.sbig.de/stf-8300/stf-8300.htm>



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

Das Übersichtsspektrum in Abb.2 diente zur Darstellung des gesamten Spektrums im visuellen Bereich und Verifikation der Spektralklasse. Die Besonderheit des *BACHES* Echelle Spektrographen besteht darin, dass ein komplettes optisches Spektrum mit einem hohen spektralen Auflösungsvermögen von ca. 15000 erhalten wird³. Der Spektralbereich erstreckt sich von 3920Å bis ca. 8000Å.



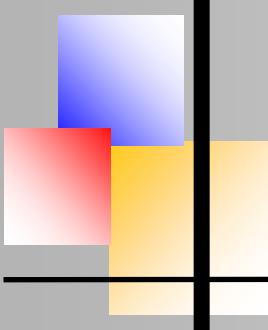
Abb.5: DADOS Spektrograph mit angeschlossener CCD-Kamera SBIG STF-8300M



Abb.6: BACHES Echelle Spektrograph und CCD-Kamera SBIG STF-8300M am Planewave CDK20 (Fotos: Autoren)



Abb.7: 0,5m Planewave CDK 20 in Station 7 (Fotos: Autoren)



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

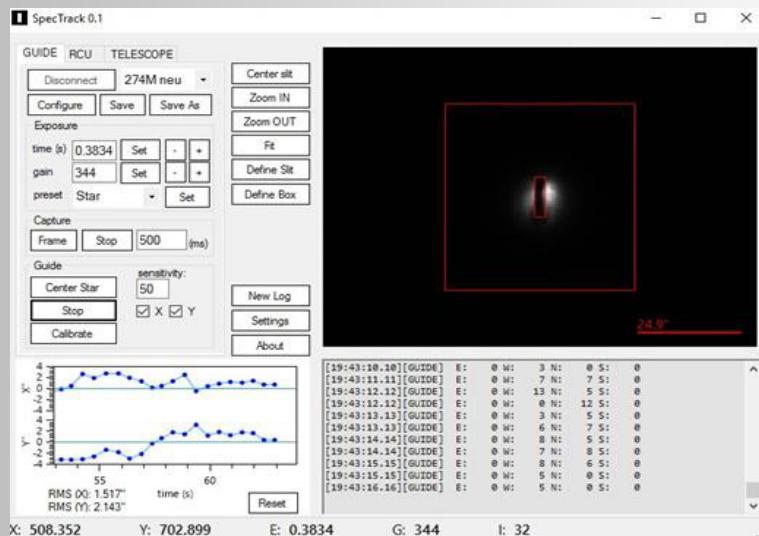


Abb.8: Steuerung der Remote Calibration Unit (RCU), der ASCOM-GM4000HPS-Montierung (TELESCOPE) und der Nachführkamera Skyris 274M (GUIDE) mit SpecTrack

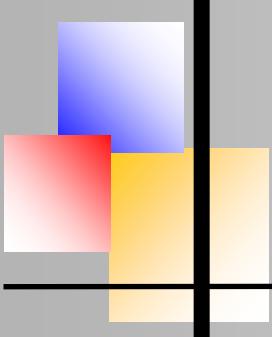
Das Guiding geschieht anhand der Software *SpecTrack*⁴ (Abb. 8). Jegliche Einstellungen sind durch Computersteuerung zu erreichen, da alle Programme miteinander verknüpft werden. Sobald alles für den Aufnahmeprozess ausgelegt ist, werden in einer bestimmten Reihenfolge Sternspektren aber auch Referenzspektren einer Thorium-Argon Lampe zur Wellenlängenkalibrierung und einer Halogenlampe zur Ordnungserkennung der Spektren aufgenommen. Hierfür nutzen wir die RCU (Remote Calibration Unit), die beide Lampen beinhaltet und über eine Faserleitung mit dem BACHES Echelle-Spektrographen verbunden ist.

BACHES Workflow inklusive Dunkelbildabzug und Integrationszeiten pro Einzelspektrum:

1. Referenzspektren der Halogenlampe (120s)
2. Referenzspektren der Thorium-Argon Lampe (60s)
3. Spektren von Deneb (60s/120s)
4. Referenzspektren der Thorium-Argon Lampe (60s)
5. Referenzspektren der Halogenlampe (120s)

³ BACHES Echelle Spektrograph: <https://www.baader-planetarium.com/en/baches-echelle-spectrograph.html>

⁴ SpecTrack: <https://www.baader-planetarium.com/en/software/spectrack-autoguiding-software-for-spectroscopy.html>



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

Kalibrierung der Spektren

Bevor die Kalibrierung startet, werden die Spektrensätze mithilfe der Aufnahmesoftware *Maxim DL* gemittelt und zur Weiterverarbeitung mit *MIDAS* abgespeichert. Der Prozess der Kalibrierung startet mit der Erkennung der spektralen Ordnungen im Halogenlampenspektrum. Dann erfolgt die Wellenlängenkalibrierung des ThAr-Spektrums. Bei den erhaltenen Kalibrierungsparametern muss besondere Achtung auf die 34. Ordnung gelegt werden, da dort die H α -Linie enthalten ist. Dort sollte die mittlere Genauigkeit der Kalibrierung nicht weniger als 0,01Å betragen. Die Wellenlängenkalibrierung des ThAr-Spektrums wird nun auf die Sternspektren übertragen. Um vergleichbare Ergebnisse zu erhalten, entfernen wir das Pseudokontinuum und normieren den Strahlungsfluss auf „1“. Jegliche weiteren Berechnungen werden darauffolgend am normierten Spektrum vorgenommen.

Berechnet wird die Expansionsgeschwindigkeit des Sternwinds. Der Wert ergibt sich aus der Berechnung $v = (\Delta\lambda/\lambda_s) * c$, wobei $\Delta\lambda = \lambda_{rot} - \lambda_{blau}$ die Wellenlängendifferenz zwischen Emissionsmaximum und Absorptionsminimum darstellt (Abb. 9).

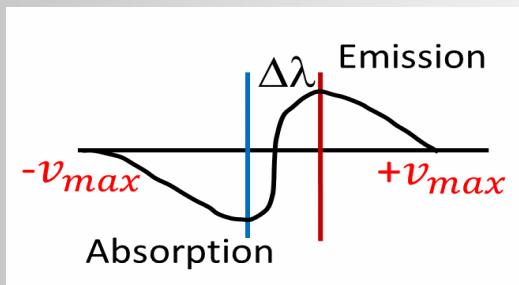
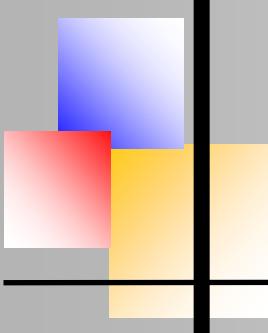


Abb.9: P Cygni Profil mit Emission und Absorption

Ergebnisse

Tabelle 1 enthält die Ergebnisse unserer Berechnungen, die Geschwindigkeit des Sternwinds von Deneb. Diese Messwerte liegen zwischen 65km/s und 125km/s. Die maximalen Werte betragen $-v_{max} = 250\text{km/s}$ und $+v_{max} = 150\text{ km/s}$ (Abb. 10).

Der Sternwind ist trotz seiner beinahe konstanten Geschwindigkeit veränderlich und es treten in unregelmäßigen Abständen „High-velocity absorption“-Ereignis (HVA) ein. Um den 15.08.2016 herum scheint sich in unseren Spektren ein solches HVA-Ereignis zu finden. Die starke Variation des Profils im blauverschobenen Bereich weist deutlich auf einen Massenausbruch hin.



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

Tabelle 1: Gemessene Geschwindigkeiten des Sternwinds von Deneb

Datum	Aufnahmemitte (UT)	Belichtungszeit	v (km/s)
08.09.2014	19:35:42	480s	92,3
02.08.2015	22:34:15	900s	79,6
06.08.2016	21:34:46	900s	95,1
15.08.2016	20:37:22	660s	125,3
12.09.2016	22:19:11	600s	64,9
26.05.2017	23:24:24	900s	79,1
10.06.2017	21:58:30	600s	67,2
16.08.2017	21:12:47	900s	70,4
19.08.2017	21:39:15	900s	77,7
15.10.2017	17:50:10	900s	73,6
19.10.2017	18:20:21	900s	65,4
10.10.2018	18:37:17	60s	66,3

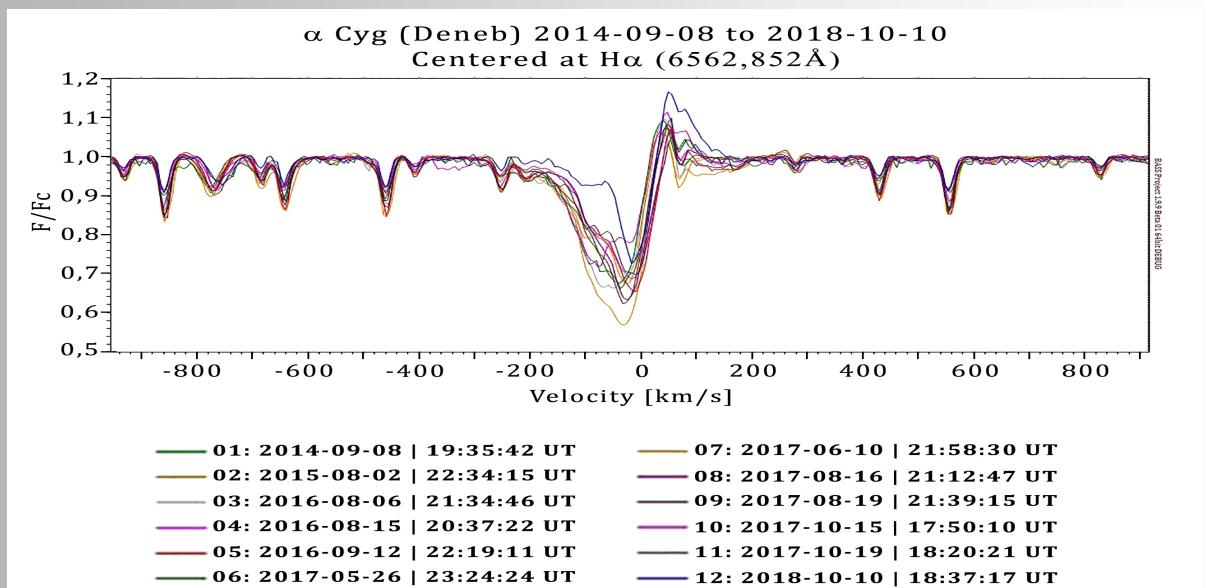
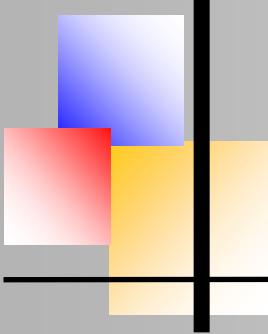


Abb. 10: Überlagerung aller Geschwindigkeitsprofile von Deneb, bezogen auf H α .



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

Der Sternwind ist trotz seiner beinahe konstanten Geschwindigkeit veränderlich und es treten in unregelmäßigen Abständen „High-velocity absorption“-Ereignis (HVA) ein. Um den 15.08.2016 herum scheint sich in unseren Spektren ein solches HVA-Ereignis zu finden. Die starke Variation des Profils im blauverschobenen Bereich weist deutlich auf einen Massenausbruch hin.

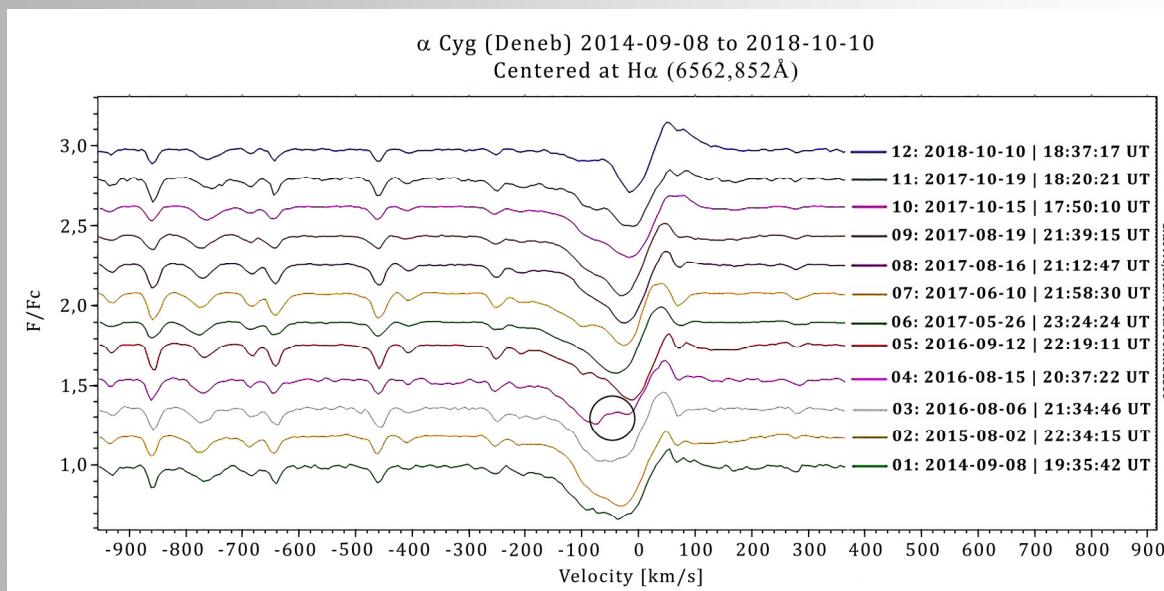
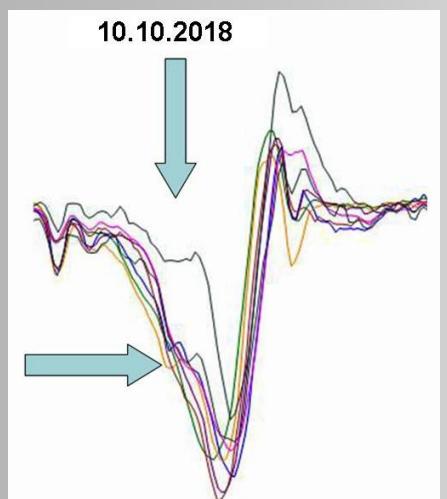
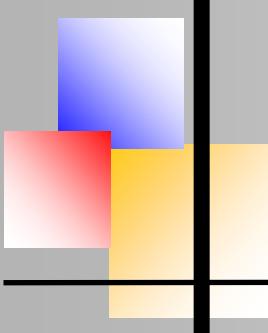


Abb. 11: H α -Profile von Deneb im Zeitraum 2014-2018.
Man beachte das HVA-Ereignis am 15.8.2016 (Profil 4)



Zusätzlich zur Profiländerung weist die Geschwindigkeit (Tabelle 1) des Sternwinds mit 125,3km/s ein Maximum auf. Auffällig ist ebenfalls die starke Abnahme, denn ca. einen Monat später beträgt die Geschwindigkeit 64,9km/s: der niedrigste unserer gemessenen Werte. Eine weitere Besonderheit ist die Differenz der Geschwindigkeiten vor dem Ereignis mit ca. 80km/s – 90km/s und nachher mit 65km/s – 80km/s.

Abb. 12:
H α -Profile von Deneb im Zeitraum September 10. Oktober 2018. Verklumpungen im Sternwind sind markiert



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

Auch in den zeitlich nachfolgenden Spektren können wir die „Verklumpungen“ im Sternwind erkennen (Abb. 12). Hierbei handelt es sich allerdings nicht um eine zeitliche Verfolgung eines Ereignisses, sondern um punktuelle Messungen verschiedene Einzelereignisse. Die einzeln gemessenen Verdichtungen bestätigen die vorausgegangene Hypothese des Auftretens kleiner Ausbrüche.

Deneb und P Cygni im Vergleich

Der Protagonist dieser Klasse von Sternen ist P Cygni, mit dem wir Deneb im Folgenden vergleichen.

Tabelle 2: Daten von Deneb und P Cygni

	Deneb	P Cygni
Temperatur	8400K	18000-20000K
Absolute Helligkeit	-8,49mag	-6,65mag
Masse	$18-25M_{\odot}$	$30-60M_{\odot}$
Radius	$200-220R_{\odot}$	$76R_{\odot}$
Abstand zur Erde	800pc	1700pc
Leuchtkraft	$196000L_{\odot}$	$610000L_{\odot}$
Spektralklasse	A2 Ia	B1-2 Ia-0
Radialgeschwindigkeit	-4,5km/s	-9m/s
Expansionsgeschwindigkeit (eigene Werte)	64,9-125,3km/s	193,4km/s

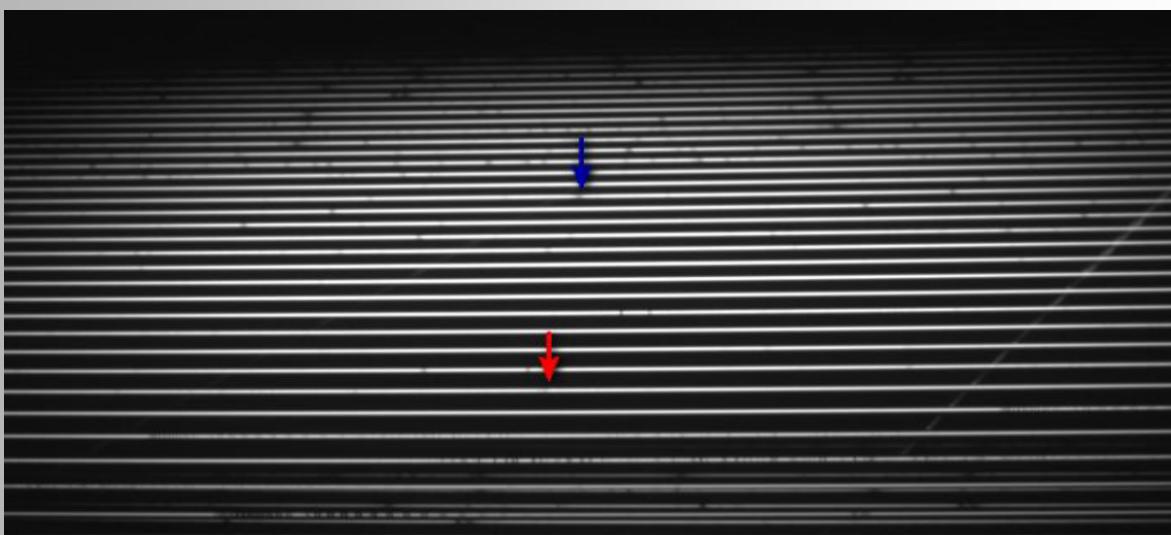
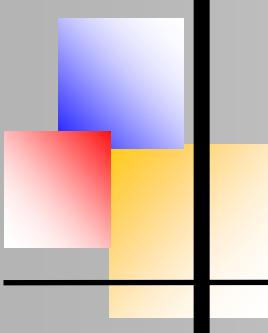


Abb.13: Rohspektrum von Deneb (10.10.2018)



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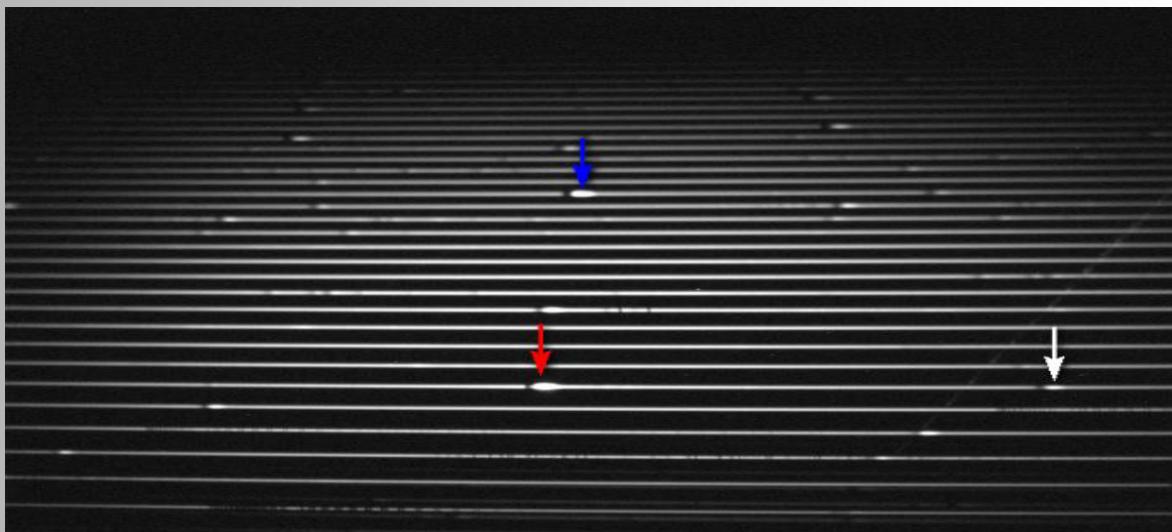


Abb.14: Rohspektrum von P Cygni (10.10.2018)

Große Differenzen zwischen beiden Sternen zeigen sich bereits in deren Rohspektren (Abb. 13, 14). Markiert sind He I (6678Å, weißer Pfeil), H α (6563Å, roter Pfeil) und H β (4861Å, blauer Pfeil).

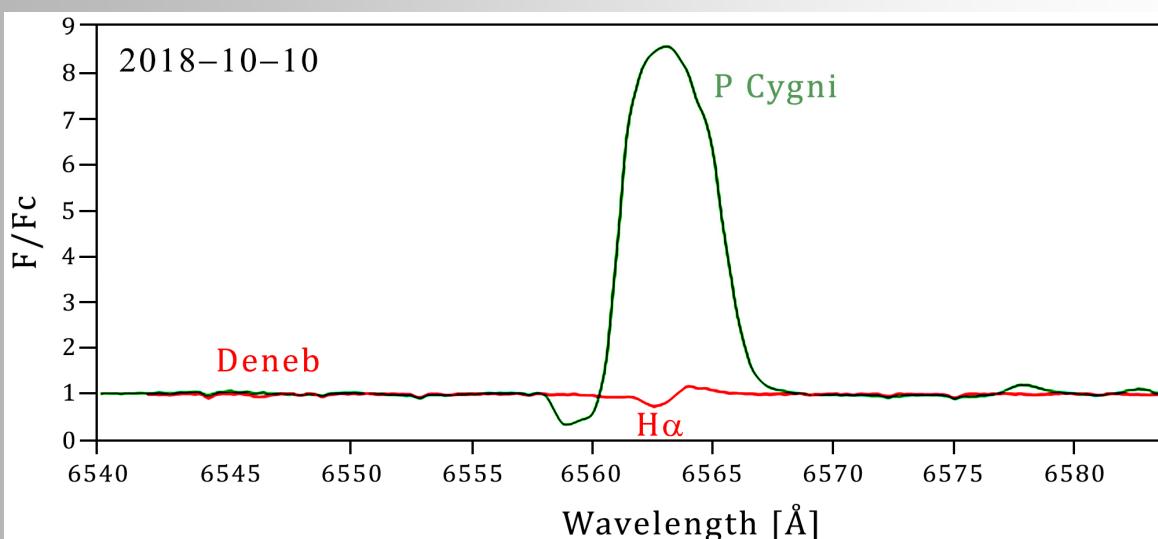
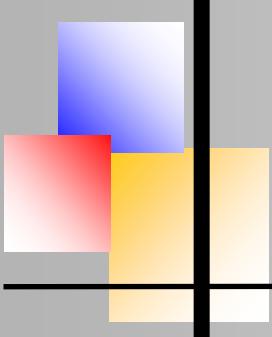


Abb.15: Normierte Spektren von Deneb (rot) und P Cygni (grün) überlagert.



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Klumpen und Instabilitäten im Sternwind von Deneb

Die in Abb. 15 dargestellten P-Cygni-Profile von Deneb (rot) und P Cygni (grün) unterscheiden sich deutlich. Das Profil von P Cygni weist im Vergleich eine stärkere Absorption und Emission auf. Unsere Berechnungen ergeben für die Expansionsgeschwindigkeit des Sternwinds von P Cygni ebenfalls einen wesentlich höheren Wert. Im Vergleich zu den gemessenen Geschwindigkeiten bei Deneb erreicht unsere Vergleichsmessung bei P Cygni einen Wert von 193,4 km/s. Der höchste gemessene Wert von Deneb liegt bei 125,3 km/s.

Zusammenfassung

Die von uns erarbeiteten Messergebnisse bestätigen die Annahme, dass Deneb weiterhin einen stark variierenden Sternwind besitzt. Zwar konnten wir während unseres Zeitfensters kein außergewöhnlich starkes HVA-Ereignis beobachten, haben aber trotzdem mehrere Variationen und Ausbrüche vermessen können. Besonders auffällig war in dieser Periode das Ereignis im Zeitraum vom 15.08.2016 bis zum 12.09.2016.

Die Stärke des Ereignisses nähert sich dem zuvor gemessenen HVA-Ereignis im Jahr 2001 und sticht mit der Geschwindigkeitsmessung und Veränderung des P-Cygni-Profils aus der Messreihe hervor. Zusätzlich konnten wir zeigen, dass die Ausbrüche noch immer in unregelmäßigen Abständen erfolgen. Demnach können wir einen direkten Zusammenhang zwischen der Rotation des Sterns und der Variabilität des Sternwinds vorerst ausschließen.

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