SpectroWeb Database Development

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The Interactive Database of Spectral Standard Star Atlases



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SpectroWeb Rationale

SpectroWeb was developed to provide the astronomical community with publicly available interactive digital spectral atlases of bright stars for the identification of spectral features used in a wide range of scientific and instrumental applications. The demand for publicly available standard spectral atlases is steadily increasing with the fast improvements in spectral wavelength resolution and the quality by which bright stars of nearly all spectral types are being observed with modern spectrographs. Printed atlases of stellar spectra often only provide a small list of identified features without an assessment of the reliability of the spectral line identifications. Users often have no means of telling whether or not the spectral line identifications are valid, or if they have been revised since publication. On the other hand, many public databases with spectral line information (that can be text queried on-line), are based on theoretical calculations that have not been tested, or are difficult to test against observed stellar spectra. Users often cannot verify if the provided line lists apply to their spectrum because of unknown atmospheric formation conditions or elemental abundance differences with the solar values. Conversely, observed spectral features can often not be identified because the quality of the provided atomic and molecular line data is limited and requires further improvements.

SpectroWeb has been developed to provide users with a means to directly assess the quality of spectral line identifications by comparing high-quality observed spectra of bright stars with state-of-the-art computed spectra through an interactive on-line application. The program currently allows users to select 10 and 25 Angstroms spectral regions of interest from an interactive list of observed wavelengths. The continuum normalized observed and computed spectra are overplotted and marked with spectral line identifications when the central flux of the lines differs by more than two percent from the flux level of the stellar continuum. The user can further enlarge (zoom in) the displayed spectral regions by selecting smaller regions of interest by pressing and releasing the left mouse button. Atomic, molecular, and Earth spectral line identifications in the region of interest can be selected and listed in an interactive table to the right of the displayed spectrum. Each identified line can then be selected from the table to list corresponding detailed atomic and molecular information. View a SpectroWeb screenshot.

SpectroWeb Software and Releases

SpectroWeb 1.0 is based in part on graphical software packages written nearly a decade ago by Leigh Brookshaw of the Univ. of Southern Queensland, Australia [1]. The Java software packages are written to allow dynamic linking across the Web through an "applet" that loads in any Internet browser for which the Java interpreter has been activated. Java is an objectoriented programming language that has much in common with the C++ programming language.

SpectroWeb Development and Science Goals

- On-line graphical database of bright spectral reference stars for reliable identification of optical atomic, molecular and telluric absorption features based on state-of-the-art detailed spectral synthesis calculations.
- Interactively provides line rest wavelengths, log(gf)-values, damping constants, and central core depths. Also lists computed equivalent width values of evaluated lines.
- Currently includes HERMES spectra of Procyon (F5 V), Eps Eri (K2 V), and Arcturus (K1 III) between 4000 and 6800 Å observed with S/N~2,000 for program No. 20. Also includes spectra of the Sun (G2 V) from KPNO-FTS, and Betelgeuse (M2 Iab) & Canopus (F0 II) from VLT-UVES.
- Involve students in hands-on stellar spectroscopy for its development.
- Perform detailed spectral synthesis calculations to check quality of atomic line input data from atomic databases and the literature. Evaluate, and if required, adjust the literature log(gf)-values. Measure log(gf) and investigate systematic trends in the adjustments





Spectral synthesis modeling method

- Radiative transfer in LTE approximation for dwarf star atmospheres.
- Comparative absorption line spectrum calculations with SCANSPEC code of:
 - Sun (G2) Teff = 5777 K, logg = 4.438
 FTS/KPNO disk integrated spectrum, R=350,000 & SNR~2,500.
 - Procyon (F5) Teff = 6550 K, logg = 4.0, [Fe/H]=-0.05±0.03 HERMES 50 x 20 s (V=0^m.34), R=80,000 & SNR~2,200.
 - Epsilon Eridani (K2) Teff = 5050 K, logg = 4.5, [Fe/H]=-0.01±0.08 HERMES 20 x 160 s (V=3^m.73), R=80,000 & SNR~2,000.
- 1-D model atmosphere structures (Tgas, density, ...) without chromosphere.
- MLT theory approximation, constant micro-turbulence velocity with depth.
- Elemental abundance values of Anders & Grevesse (1989), [M/H]=0.
- Equation of state includes important hydrides, C₂, CN, CO, TiO, SiO, ...
- Atomic input data from NIST (N), VALD-2 (V), Kurucz website (K), Topbase, CHIANTI, ... online databases.

Spectral synthesis log(gf) measurement method



Spectral synthesis log(gf) measurement method



Spectral synthesis log(gf) measurement method



Iterative log(gf) measurement of 911 neutral lines

483 Fe I lines



Measured vs. literature log(gf)-values



Measured vs. literature log(gf)-values



log(gf)-corrections vs. computed line depths



log(gf)-corrections vs. computed line depths



Curve of growth analysis



Curve of growth analysis



Curve of growth analysis



Summary

- Detailed spectrum synthesis of optical HERMES spectra of Procyon and Eps Eri with S/N~2,000 and the Sun used for measurements of accurate log(gf)-values of 911 weak and medium-strong absorption lines (483 Fe I).
- We measure remarkable systematic over-estimations of literature log(gf)-values for weak lines (< 15 %) of iron-peak elements Fe I, Ni I, and also Si I. Average curve-of-growth error budget of the log(gf) measurements yields mean accuracies of 0.05 – 0.1 dex.
- The ∆log(gf) trends are due to the limited accuracy of log(gf)-values for weak lines offered in atomic databases and literature. Many of the measured lines have only predicted log(gf)-values.
- ∀ ⇒ A. Lobel, Oscillator Strength Measurements of Atomic Absorption Lines from Stellar Spectra, Can. J. Phys. 2010, submitted.
- Future research: HERMES observations with S/N~2,000 of spectral standard stars with Teff > 7000 K.
 Analyses of literature log(gf)-values and accurate log(gf) measurements of ionic species. Evaluation of many more log(gf)-values for line identification in optical spectra.