Asteroseismology of Red Giants & Galactic Archeology

About me

- 2003 MSc Applied Physics Delft
- 2007 Phd Leiden (A. Quirrenbach, C. Aerts, I. Snellen)
- 2008 Postdocs ROB (CoRoT)
- 2009 2010 Postdoc UoB (Kepler)
- 2011 2013 Veni fellow Amsterdam
- 2013 2018 ERC-group MPS, Göttingen
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Asteroseismology of Red Giants & Galactic Archeology

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July 21, 2016

red-giant stars

Noname manuscript No. (will be inserted by the editor)

Giant star seismology

S. Hekker · J. Christensen-Dalsgaard

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Abstract The internal structures of stars in the red-giant phase undergo significant changes on relatively short timescales. Quasi-direct observations of these internal structures have now been enabled by dedicated space missions such as CoRoT and *Kepler* using long near-uninterrupted high-precision photometric timeseries observations. The seismic inferences from these observations are confronted with predictions from theoretical models to improve our understanding of stellar structure and evolution. Our knowledge and understanding of red giants has indeed increased tremendously, and we anticipate that more information is still hidden in the data. Unraveling this will further improve our understanding of stellar evolution. This will also have significant impact on our knowledge of the Milky Way Galaxy as well as on exoplanet host stars. The latter is important for our understanding of the formation and structures of planetary systems.

Stellar evolution



Question?

What physical phenomenon describes the difference between low and intermediate mass stars?

Low / intermediate mass stars







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Subgiant branch



- thermal and hydrostatic equilibrium with a degenerate isothermal core
- core contraction
- expanding and cooling envelope

Mirror principle

Mirror principle

"When the region within a burning shell contracts, the region outside the shell expands; and when the region inside the shell expands, the region outside the shell contracts."

This is not a physical law as such, but an empirical observation, supported by the results of numerical simulations.



- Bottom red-giant branch
- expanding cooling star approaches Hayashi line: locus in HRD of fully convective stars
- further increase of radius: increase in luminosity
- large convective region • develops

First dredge-up



- convective envelope penetrates deep into the star reaching regions
- processed material is transported by convection to the surface: ¹²C/¹³C decrease
- convective region reaches maximum depth in mass and recedes leaving a chemical discontinuity

Chemical discontinuity



Luminosity bump



- H-burning shell moves
 outwards
- at chemical discontinuity the star readjusts to new composition before it continues its evolution

Luminosity bump



- q_ε fractional mass of hydrogen-burning shell (maximum energy generation)
- q_{dis} fractional mass of chemical discontinuity
- at $q_{dis} q_{\epsilon} = 0$ luminosity starts to increase again

Luminosity bump



Gratton et al. 2000

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Onset of He-core burning: He-flash



- degenerate core: P does not depend on T
- ~10⁸ K start 3 α process
- thermal run away process for a very short time
- energy absorbed by nondegenerate layers

He-flash



- L_s surface luminosity
- L_{3α} He-burning luminosity
- L_H H-burning luminosity

Pols 2011

Red-clump stars



- He-core burning + H-shell
 burning
- all stars that undergo Heflash have similar coremass, i.e. very similar position in HRD
- stars have a convective core and discontinuities due to sub-flashes





age [Gyr]

age [Gyr]

age [Gyr]



Pols 2011

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Question?

What physical phenomenon takes place in the "hook" at the end of the main sequence?

age [Gyr]

age [Gyr]

age [Gyr]



Pols 2011

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Hertzsprung gap



- non-degenerate core: no sufficient pressure support
- contraction on Kelvin-Helmholtz scale to maintain equilibrium
- stars cross the HRD rapidly
- deficiency of stars





- core contracts and heats on RGB till ~10⁸ K where He ignites gently
- Luminosity at which He ignites is a monotonically increasing function of core mass

Secondary clump



- He-core burning + H-shell
 burning
- more spread out in positions in HRD due to core mass dependent Heignition





- mirror principle seems to play an essential role
- not understood what physical mechanism(s) drive the mirror
- what other physical mechanism(s) are essential?

strong gravitational field mean molecular weight gradient

necessary but may not be sufficient

asteroseismology of red-giant stars

Solar-like oscillations: main sequence



Asymptotic approximation: high-order p modes

$$v_{nl} \approx \Delta v \left(n + \frac{l}{2} + \varepsilon \right)$$
$$\Delta v = \left(2 \int_{0}^{R} \frac{dr}{c(r)} \right)^{-1}$$
$$\Delta v \propto \sqrt{\frac{M}{R^{3}}} \propto \sqrt{\overline{\rho}}$$

Asteroseismic scaling relations

$$\Delta v \propto \sqrt{\frac{M}{R^3}} \propto \sqrt{\overline{\rho}}$$

$$r_{\text{max}} \propto \frac{g}{\sqrt{\pi}} \propto \frac{M}{R^2}$$

$$|T_{eff} R^2 \sqrt{T_{eff}}$$

Subgiant



Hekker & Mazumdar 2014



Hekker & Mazumdar 2014

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Question?

Where in these diagrams can oscillations propagate? Where are the oscillations gravity modes? Where are the oscillations acoustic modes?



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Evolution





Evolution



Red giant



Hekker & Mazumdar 2014

Asymptotic approximation: high-order g modes

$$\Pi_{nl} \approx \frac{\Delta \Pi}{\sqrt{l(l+1)}} \left(n + \frac{l}{2} + \varepsilon \right)$$
$$\Delta \Pi = \left(2\pi \right)^2 \left(\int_0^R \frac{N(r)}{r} dr \right)^{-1}$$
$$N^2 = \frac{Gm}{r^2} \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma_1} \frac{d\ln P}{dr} - \frac{d\ln P}{dr} \right)$$

Mixed modes



Bedding et al. 2011

Period spacing



- S: subgiant
- R: red giant branch star
- f: helium subflash stage
- C: red clump
- p2: pre secondary clump
- 2: secondary clump
- A: stars leaving the clump moving towards AGB

Brunt-Väisälä frequency



Hekker & Christensen-Dalsgaard in prep.

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Question?

What physical phenomenon is causing the difference in N?

Brunt-Väisälä frequency



Hekker & Christensen-Dalsgaard in prep.

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Miglio et al. 2010



Individual frequencies: buoyancy glitches



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Individual frequencies: buoyancy glitches





Individual frequencies: buoyancy glitch



Cunha et al. 2015

Period spacings



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Core convective conditions RC stars



no overshoot standard overshoot semiconvection maximal overshoot observations

Constantino et al. 2015



Inclination = 90°



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Rotation in red giants



Rotation in red giants



Observed core rotation



Mosser et al. 2012

Predicted core rotation



Cantiello et al. 2014





Suppressed dipole modes



Stello et al. 2016

Suppressed modes: magnetic greenhouse



Fuller et al. 2015

Milky Way galaxy

Question? What are the main components of the Milky Way galaxy?

Milky Way Galaxy



Galactic Halo



- spherical shape
- old stars (Pop II) on random orbits
- sparsely populated
- absence of gas or dust

Globular Clusters



- conglomerations of stars that are gravitationally bound
- old stars (Pop II) stars
- no gas or dust
- multiple populations
- on elliptical orbits around galactic centre
- about 150- 200 in our Milky Way
- by Shapley used to determine location of Sun in MW

Galactic Bulge



- half as wide as long
- old stars (Pop II) and young (Pop I) stars
- stars on random orbits with net rotation about center
- contains stars and dust in inner region

Galactic bar



- overdensity of stars in bar shape in galactic centre
- gas near the galaxy's center moves at faster speeds than that farther out. This, combined with density waves, helps create the bar.

Galactic Disk



- flattened
- relatively young stars (thin disk) and older stars (thick disk)
- spiral arms
- contains gas and dust
| GALACTIC
DISK | GALACTIC
HALO | GALACTIC BULGE |
|--|--|---|
| Highly flattened | Roughly
spherical—
mildly
flattened | Somewhat flattened and
elongated in the plane of
the disk ("football
shaped") |
| Contains both
young and old
stars | Contains old
stars only | Contains both young and
old stars; more old stars at
greater distances from the
center |
| Contains gas and dust | Contains no gas and dust | Contains gas and dust,
especially in the inner
regions |
| Site of ongoing
star formation | No star
formation
during the last
10 billion
years | Ongoing star formation in the inner regions |
| Gas and stars
move in circular
orbits in the
Galactic plane | Stars have
random orbits
in three
dimensions | Stars have largely random
orbits but with some net
rotation about the Galactic
center |
| Spiral arms | No obvious
substructure | Ring of gas and dust near center; Galactic nucleus |
| Overall white
coloration, with
blue spiral arms | Reddish in color | Yellow-white |

Dark matter

Visible mass in the Milky Way not enough to explain the orbital motions: more mass needs to be present!!

Large dark matter halo:

- Black holes
- Brown dwarfs
- White dwarfs
- WIMPs (weakly interacting massive particles)



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Galactic Archeology
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"the study of the formation and evolution of the Milky Way by reconstructing its past from its current constituents"

what are the current ingredients for the formation of the Milky Way?



Saskia Hekker

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Galaxy formation: in situ



Galaxy formation: in situ

early star formation:

- massive stars ($M \ge \sim 8M_{\odot}$) with low-Z
- massive stars evolve faster than lower mass stars
- SNell: when nuclear fusion suddenly becomes unable to sustain the core against its own gravity
 - →core collapses enriching ISM
 - \rightarrow relatively large fraction of α -elements compared to Fe

(α -elements are elements formed by capturing an α (⁴He) particle: e.g. O. Mg, Ne, Si, S, Ca, Ti)

Galaxy formation: in situ

early star formation:

- intermediate mass stars (M ≤ ~ 8M_☉) evolve over longer timescales compared to more massive stars
- SNela: when white dwarf accumulates sufficient material from companion to raise core T to ignite carbon fusion
 - →run away nuclear fusion that disrupts it
 - → Fe pollution of ISM

Chemical evolution



Martig et al. 2015

Galaxy formation: mergers



Streams: visible remnants of mergers



Migration!

Stars migrate away from birth place: this was not taken into account in MW formation models till about a decade ago! → chemo-dynamical models



Minchev et al. 2013

Thick disk

- extragalactic origin
- created through heating of preexisting thin disk with the help of mergers
- radial migration

Thick disk

- extragalactic origin
- created through heating of preexisting thin disk with the help of mergers
- radial migration
- i) stars born hot and heated by mergers at early times
- ii) radial migration

(Minchev et al. 2013)



Age-Metallicity Relation (AMR)



Bergemann et al. 2014

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In the solar neighbourhood, the vertical velocity dispersion (σ_z) of stars is correlated with their age.



- AVR imprinted at birth?
- AVR due to heating from stars born kinematicaly hot?
- mergers do effect AVR

Martig et al. 2014

Different flavours of galaxies



Galactic archeology

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Galactic Archeology
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"the study of the formation and evolution of the Milky Way by reconstructing its past from its current constituents"

important parameters:

- position
- distance
- velocity
- chemical composition
- age / evolutionary phase

Gaia!



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Galactic Archeology
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"the study of the formation and evolution of the Milky Way by reconstructing its past from its current constituents"

important parameters:

- position
- distance
- velocity
- chemical composition

RG asteroseismology
 RG asteroseismology

Why red giants?

- many
- intrinsically luminous
- present in all parts of MW
- "direct" probes of M and R ³/₈
 through scaling relations







Ensemble / population studies

Note of caution: selection effects / observational biases

Selection effects: which fraction of stars are chosen to be observed out of the total number of stars available

Observational biases: to what parameter space the observations are limited due to limitations of instrumentation / observing strategy



Ensemble / population studies

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α-rich young stars



adapted from Martig et al. 2015

Chemical signature of first dredge-up



Martig et al. 2015

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Halo stars





Scaling relations

$$\Delta v \propto \sqrt{\frac{M}{R^3}} \propto \sqrt{\overline{\rho}}$$

 $v_{\rm max} \propto \frac{g}{\sqrt{T_{eff}}} \propto \frac{M}{R^2 \sqrt{T_{eff}}}$

Reference of scaling relation



Reference of scaling relation



Reference of scaling relation



Testing scaling relations





Testing scaling relations


Spectroscopic surveys











Miglio et al. 2013



Miglio et al. 2014

Plato fields



Question?

What would you want to investigate with all these facilities at hand?