



Synthetic Stellar Photometry – II. Testing the bolometric flux scale and tables of bolometric corrections for the Hipparcos/Tycho, Pan-STARRS1, SkyMapper, and JWST systems

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ABSTRACT

We use MARCS model atmosphere fluxes to compute synthetic colours, bolometric corrections and reddening coefficients for the *Hipparcos/Tycho*, Pan-STARRS1, SkyMapper, and *JWST* systems. Tables and interpolation subroutines are provided to transform isochrones from the theoretical to various observational planes, to derive bolometric corrections, synthetic colours and colour–temperature relations at nearly any given point of the HR diagram for $2600 \text{ K} \leq T_{\text{eff}} \leq 8000 \text{ K}$, and different values of reddening in 85 photometric filters. We use absolute spectrophotometry from the CALSPEC library to show that bolometric fluxes can be recovered to ~ 2 per cent from bolometric corrections in a single band, when input stellar parameters are well known for FG dwarfs at various metallicities. This sole source of uncertainty impacts interferometric T_{eff} to $\simeq 0.5$ per cent (or 30 K at the solar temperature). Uncertainties are halved when combining bolometric corrections in more bands, and limited by the fundamental uncertainty of the current absolute flux scale at 1 per cent. Stars in the RAVE DR5 catalogue are used to validate the quality of our MARCS synthetic photometry in selected filters across the optical and infrared range. This investigation shows that extant MARCS synthetic fluxes are able to reproduce the main features observed in stellar populations across the Galactic disc.

Key words: techniques: photometric – stars: atmospheres – stars: fundamental parameters – Hertzsprung–Russell and colour–magnitude diagrams – globular clusters: general.

1 INTRODUCTION

Synthetic stellar photometry is crucial for the translation of theoretical stellar quantities, namely effective temperatures (T_{eff}), surface gravities ($\log g$), metallicities ([Fe/H] often together with $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$), and luminosities into observables such as magnitudes and colours in different photometric systems. With the advent of large-scale photometric surveys, this is becoming increasingly important, in order to allow comparisons of observed stellar populations with theoretical stellar models, to derive, e.g. stellar ages, star-formation histories, distances etc. The *Gaia* mission is providing exquisite distances of stars, which then translate into precise absolute magnitudes (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016). However, when comparing them with stellar models, one of the main limiting factors is the availability of bolometric corrections (BCs) to translate those magnitudes into luminosities.

In this paper, we continue our effort to provide reliable synthetic colours and BCs from the MARCS library of theoretical fluxes (Gustafsson et al. 2008) for different T_{eff} , $\log g$, [Fe/H], and $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ combinations. We follow the approach of Casagrande & VandenBerg (2014, hereby Paper I), where detailed information on the MARCS flux library, and the main concepts of synthetic photometry can be found. Paper I also addresses one of the main limitation of synthetic colours computed from static 1D model atmospheres, namely microturbulent velocity, whose effect can be substantial in the blue and ultraviolet spectral region (see Bonifacio et al. 2018; Chiavassa et al. 2018, for an investigation of synthetic colours from 3D model atmospheres). Here, we extend Paper I to include photometric systems which underpin large-scale surveys, and which will be increasingly used over the next several years. These are the Tycho system (i.e. the Tycho-2 catalogue, as described in Høg et al. 2000) which comprises 2.5 million of the brightest stars in the sky (all part of the Tycho–*Gaia* Astrometric Solution, Michalik, Lindegren & Hobbs 2015; Lindegren et al. 2016); SkyMapper (a photometric survey of the entire southern sky, Wolf et al. 2018);

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Pan-STARRS1 (Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System in the Northern hemisphere; Chambers et al. 2016) and the filters installed on the *James Webb Space Telescope* (*JWST*) (Gardner et al. 2006). Together with the photometric systems explored in Paper I (Johnson–Cousins, SDSS, 2MASS, *HST*-ACS, and *HST*-WFC3) our transformations provide one of the most extended set of homogeneously derived and tested BCs and synthetic colours available in the literature. Expanding from Paper I, we provide an explicit formulation to translate bolometric corrections in physical fluxes, and use a number of well-calibrated flux standards from the CALSPEC library¹ to test the performances of our bolometric corrections. This is becoming increasingly relevant in the context of deriving reliable bolometric fluxes for interferometric targets (e.g. Karovicova et al. 2018). Further, we use stellar parameters from the RAVE DR5 survey (Kunder et al. 2017) to generate synthetic colours for $\sim 10^5$ stars, and compare them with the observed ones, to validate our synthetic photometry at different wavelengths, and over a wide range of stellar parameters. Star cluster fiducials in the Pan-STARRS1 system are also used to show how our synthetic photometry can be used together with theoretical stellar models to produce colour–magnitude diagrams (CMDs).

2 SYNTHETIC PHOTOMETRY

The main concepts of synthetic photometry, along with the rationale behind the Vega, AB, and ST magnitude systems are discussed in Paper I. Here, we adhere to the same nomenclature, and provide information on the filters transmission curves (Fig. 1), zero-points and absolute calibrations used to compute synthetic colours and BCs for the systems reported in Table 1 (analogous to that in Paper I).

As in Paper I, we apply the Cardelli, Clayton & Mathis (1989) parametrization of the extinction law (A_λ) to synthetic spectra, in order to derive synthetic colours and bolometric corrections for different values of reddening $E(B - V)$, between 0 and 0.72. The Cardelli et al. (1989) law is described by a smooth power law in the range 0.3–3.3 μm , and for the sake of this work we extrapolate its applicability to the reddest *JWST*-NIRCam filters, i.e. up to $\simeq 5 \mu\text{m}$. This extrapolation is qualitatively supported by recent observations, but beyond this limit the use of a single power law breaks down, and the extinction law is characterized by emission features (e.g. Fritz et al. 2011). Hence, it is not possible to apply a simple parametrization beyond this limit, but overall A_λ is rather constant when averaged over the wavelength range of a broad-band filter. Here, we assume that the Cardelli et al. (1989) law, which is parametrized as function of $x = 1/\lambda$, remains constant at A_{λ_x} longward of $\lambda_x = \frac{1}{0.21} \mu\text{m}$. Because this assumption does not capture the full complexity of the mid-infrared extinction, the effects of reddening given in our tables for the MIRI system only provide some guidance of how synthetic magnitudes and bolometric corrections will behave when $E(B - V) > 0$. *JWST*-MIRI filters centred on emission features might have different magnitudes, and indeed, a full characterization of the extinction law in the mid-infrared will be one of the studies to be carried out by the *JWST*.

2.1 Hipparcos/Tycho

The Hipparcos catalogue contains photometry (and astrometry) for more than 100 000 stars measured with the H_p band (Perryman et al.

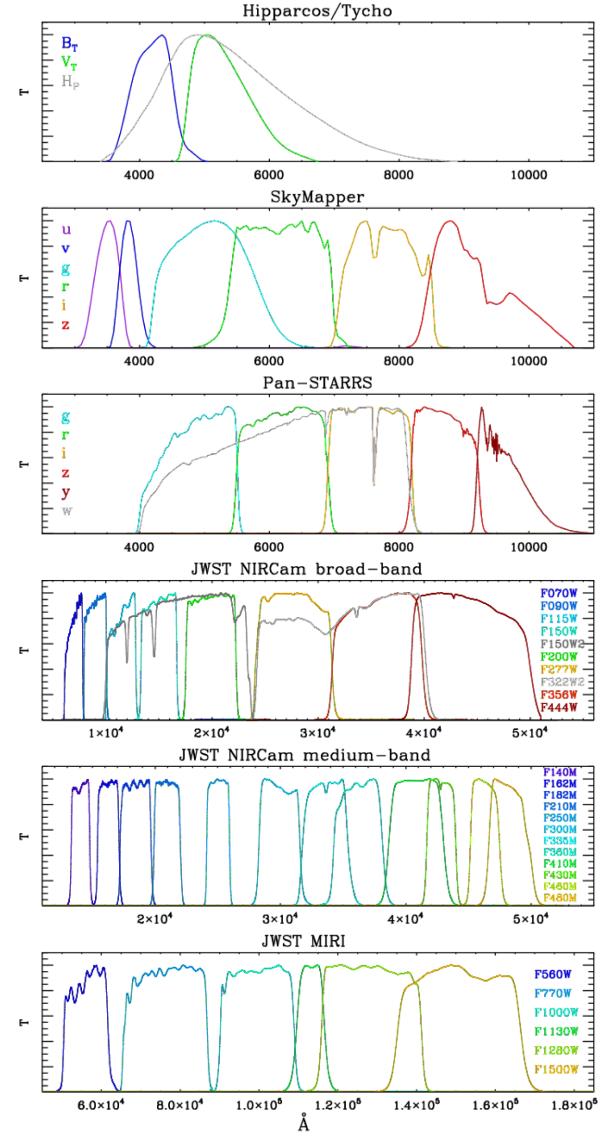


Figure 1. System response functions from which synthetic colours and bolometric corrections have been computed. All curves are normalized to one, and shown as a function of wavelength (in \AA).

1997). In addition, for a much larger number of sources, a dichroic beam splitter on the *Hipparcos* satellite sent light on to two photomultiplier tubes, providing simultaneously measured B_T and V_T magnitudes. These are part of the Tycho-2 catalogue (*nota bene* the photometric system is called Tycho, but the catalogue is Tycho-2 being the second and final data release, Høg et al. 2000) which contains photometry for 2.5 million stars. The *Hipparcos* and Tycho photometric systems and passbands are discussed in van Leeuwen et al. (1997), and have subsequently been revised by Bessell (2000) and Bessell & Murphy (2012). Here, we generate synthetic H_p , B_T , V_T adopting the AB formalism, with the passbands and zero-points provided by Bessell & Murphy (2012). Some limitations of the observed H_p , B_T , and V_T magnitudes should be kept in mind. While these magnitudes are accurately and precisely calibrated over the entire sky for the bulk of stars, the quality of *Tycho* photometry quickly downgrades for $V_T \gtrsim 9$ (e.g. Ruchti et al. 2013, their fig. 5). In addition, H_p photometry of the brightest stars (say

¹ <http://www.stsci.edu/hst/observatory/crds/calspec.html>

and provides good temperature sensitivity in hot stars, and gravity sensitivity across A, F, and G spectral types. The SkyMapper v band is similar to the DDO38 filter, which is metallicity sensitive. A description and characterization of the SkyMapper photometric system can be found in Bessell et al. (2011). The goal of SkyMapper is to map the entire southern sky in all six filters. Currently, Data Release 1 (DR1) is available, which covers more than 20 000 deg 2 and has more than 300 million unique sources. Further details on the survey, data quality and calibration are provided in Wolf et al. (2018). It should be appreciated that the standardization of SkyMapper photometry to the AB system is still in progress. That is, while our synthetic magnitudes have been computed assuming perfect adherence to the AB system, small differences may be present in observed data. As a result, minor zero-point adjustments (ϵ_ζ) might be necessary to match observations. Therefore, when comparing predicted colours with published photometry from a given DR, the accompanying paper should be checked for information on potential zero-points departures from the AB system.

2.3 Pan-STARRS1

The Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System (Pan-STARRS1) employs a 1.8 m telescope at Haleakala Observatories (Hawaii) to image three quarters of the sky (3 π Survey) in the visible and near-infrared broad-band filters *grizy* (Chambers et al. 2016). A thorough discussion of the the Pan-STARRS1 photometric system is given in Tonry et al. (2012), who provide filter transmission curves, and detailed information on how to achieve standardization to the AB magnitude system.

2.4 JWST

The *JWST* will be the premier infrared space observatory for the next decade (Gardner et al. 2006). The scientific instruments on board will allow imaging, spectroscopy, and coronography, covering a wide range of wavelengths from the edge of the visible to the mid-infrared. The two imaging instruments, the Near Infrared Camera (NIRCam; Rieke, Kelly & Horner 2005) and the Mid Infrared Instrument (MIRI; Rieke et al. 2015) will deliver high-precision and high-accuracy photometry across the 0.6–28 μm range. At the present time, the system on to which *JWST* photometry will be standardized, and their zero-points, is not yet clear. Hence, in analogy to what is currently available for the *HST* (see Paper I), we have generated magnitudes in the VEGA, AB, and ST systems also for *JWST* filters. The zero-points of the AB and ST systems are known by definition. (Standardizing observations to the definition is the main observational challenge.) To derive zero-points for the VEGA system, we have used the latest absolute flux for α Lyr (Bohlin 2014) available from the CALSPEC library.² While we expect that our synthetic photometry provides a realistic representation of future *JWST* observations, contaminations might still occur to the optical telescope elements during deployment, thus changing the throughputs we have used here. Also, the standardization of real data should be checked to determine whether any zero-point shifts should be applied on to our definitions.

² Regularly updated absolute spectrophotometry can be found at <http://www.stsci.edu/hst/observatory/cdbs/calspec.html>. We have used the latest available at the time of this investigation, alpha_lyr_stis_008.fits.

2.4.1 NIRCam

NIRCam is *JWST*'s primary imager in the wavelength range 0.6–5 μm . It consists of two, nearly identical modules, A and B, and offers 29 bandpass filters, covering extra-wide (W2), wide (W), medium (M), and narrow (N) bands. A description of each filter and their science goals can be found at <https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu/display/JTI/NIRCam+Filters>. We have generated colours and bolometric corrections for all but the narrow filters, using the total system throughputs. Throughputs vary somewhat between the two modules, especially at long wavelengths due to differences in detector quantum efficiencies. Thus, we have computed synthetic NIRCam photometry using module A, module B, and the average of the two (AB). The system response functions plotted in Fig. 1 are for the AB case.

2.4.2 MIRI

The imaging mode for *JWST*'s MIRI offers nine broad-band filters from 5.6 to 25.5 μm . A description of each filter, and their purpose is available at <https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu/display/JTI/MIRI+Imaging>. Since MARCS synthetic fluxes extend only to 20 μm , we have not computed synthetic photometry for filters redder than *F1500W* (Fig. 1).

3 CONVERSION TO PHYSICAL FLUXES

In certain situations, it might be useful to transform a bolometric correction into a bolometric flux. For example, when the apparent magnitude of a star is known, and its angular diameter is measured, then knowledge of the bolometric flux allows a direct determination of its T_{eff} (e.g. Hanbury Brown et al. 1967). Alternatively, one might wish to know the bolometric flux of a star, to compare with luminosities predicted from stellar models if the distance is known. From the definition of bolometric correction in a given band ζ :

$$BC_\zeta = m_{\text{Bol}} - m_\zeta = M_{\text{Bol}} - M_\zeta, \quad (1)$$

which is the same whether applied to apparent (lower case) or absolute (upper case) magnitudes. However, the zero-point of both apparent and absolute bolometric magnitudes is defined by the solar absolute bolometric magnitude ($M_{\text{Bol}, \odot}$) and luminosity (L_\odot):

$$M_{\text{Bol}} = -2.5 \log \frac{L}{L_\odot} + M_{\text{Bol}, \odot}. \quad (2)$$

We stress that while the solar luminosity L_\odot is a measured quantity, $M_{\text{Bol}, \odot}$ is an arbitrary zero-point and any value is equally legitimate on the condition that once chosen, all bolometric corrections are scaled accordingly. To keep consistency with Paper I, our tables of bolometric corrections and interpolation routines are computed fixing $M_{\text{Bol}, \odot} = 4.75$, and this value must be used in equations (1)–(3). It can be shown that the bolometric flux of a star having an observed magnitude m_ζ and bolometric correction BC_ζ is then:

$$f_{\text{Bol}} (\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}) = \frac{\pi L_\odot}{(1.296 \times 10^9 \text{ au})^2} 10^{-0.4(BC_\zeta - M_{\text{Bol}, \odot} + m_\zeta - 10)}$$

$$\simeq 8.358 \times 10^{-45} L_\odot \times 10^{-0.4(BC_\zeta - M_{\text{Bol}, \odot} + m_\zeta - 10)}, \quad (3)$$

where we adopted $\text{au} = 1.495978707 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}$ from the IAU 2012 Resolution B2, and L_\odot is the solar luminosity in erg s $^{-1}$. Note that

the solar luminosity specified in IAU 2015 Resolution B3 is reduced by $\simeq 0.4$ per cent with respect to older measurements.³ Also worth mentioning is that, when deriving bolometric fluxes to compare with the predictions of a given set of stellar models, the same value of L_{\odot} that was assumed in the computation of those models should be used in equation (3) in order to obtain internal consistency. Finally, we recall that if a value of $E(B - V)$ is provided, our interpolation routines take into account the effect of reddening on bolometric corrections, which can then be directly used in equation (3). Alternatively, one could use bolometric corrections for no reddening, and deredden apparent magnitudes as $m_{\zeta} - R_{\zeta}E(B - V)$, using the extinction coefficients R_{ζ} tabulated in table A1 of Paper I, and Table B1 in the Appendix (the first method is to be preferred because it automatically takes into account the dependence of extinction coefficients on stellar parameters, whereas using tabulated R_{ζ} is not as exact. See discussion in Paper I).

It might also be useful to deal with physical units in the case of infrared observations, where Jansky is often the adopted unit of measurement instead of magnitude. This might be relevant for the JWST filters, and the fact that we provide AB magnitudes readily allows for this conversion. From the definition of AB magnitudes, it follows that:

$$\bar{f}_{\nu}(\text{Jy}) = 3631 \times 10^{-0.4(m_{\text{AB}} - \epsilon_{\zeta})}, \quad (4)$$

where m_{AB} is the AB magnitude for a given ζ filter and ϵ_{ζ} allows for zero-point offsets (with $\epsilon_{\zeta} = 0$ for a perfect standardization to the AB system, see the discussion in Paper I).

4 COMPARISONS WITH OBSERVATIONS

Here, we evaluate the performance of our BCs and synthetic colours in three different ways. The first method relies on having precise and accurate stellar parameters, observed magnitudes and absolute spectrophotometry (which is currently possible only for a limited number of stars) to check how well bolometric fluxes can be recovered. The second depends instead on having a statistically large sample of stars (of order 10^5) with overall well-calibrated stellar parameters. In this case, comparisons of synthetic and observed colours in different bands for a wide range of T_{eff} , $\log g$, and $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ test the combined performance of the MARCS model fluxes together with the standardization, zero-points, and system response functions that were adopted when we computed the synthetic photometry. In the third approach, we couple our BCs with stellar isochrones to examine the extent to which the stellar models are able to provide consistent interpretations of as many CMDs as possible that can be constructed from multicolour observations of a given star cluster. Such analyses can provide valuable insights into both the temperatures of the stellar models and possible deficiencies of the synthetic colours. In all instances, we have used the MARCS tables of BCs and interpolation routines made publicly available through this work, assuming standard $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$ enhancements. As for Paper I, BC transformations for different α -enhancements can also be generated (see also Appendix A).

³ The relevant IAU Resolutions can be found at https://www.iau.org/static/resolutions/IAU2012_English.pdf https://www.iau.org/static/resolutions/IAU2015_English.pdf. These resolutions also recommend the adoption of $M_{\text{Bol},\odot} = 4.74$. If users wish to adopt this value, the BCs from our interpolation routines must be increased by -0.01 mag.

4.1 Testing the bolometric flux scale

The CALSPEC library contains composite stellar spectra that are flux standards on the *HST* system. The latter is based on three hot, pure hydrogen white dwarf standards normalized to the absolute flux of Vega at 5556 Å. This spectrophotometry is expected to be accurate at the (few) percent level (Bohlin 2014).

Thus, CALSPEC absolute spectrophotometry currently provides the best way to test how well our bolometric corrections can recover stellar fluxes. In particular, the highest quality measurements in the CALSPEC library are those obtained by the STIS (0.17–1.01 µm) and NICMOS (1.01–2.49 µm) instruments on board of the *HST*.

Since our synthetic BCs are computed at a given T_{eff} , $\log g$, $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$, and $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$, these quantities need to be known. Also, we want to consider stars with good photometry, no binary contamination, no dust emission, no reported variability, and ideally little or no reddening. These requirements are met at different levels by a number of stars in the CALSPEC library, and for this reason we group them into three categories. A summary of all stars, their adopted parameters, CALSPEC bolometric fluxes, and those we recover using our BCs is presented in Table 2. In what follows, we briefly discuss each category.

4.1.1 Tier 1

Tier 1 stars are those with best possible parameters. In fact, only one star, HD209458, qualifies. It has both STIS and NICMOS spectrophotometry, meaning that almost 96 per cent of its bolometric flux is directly measured. This star is a primary CALSPEC calibrator, and a proposed JWST primary flux standard (Gordon et al. 2009). Its stellar parameters are extremely well characterized, which then lead to a reliable estimate of its bolometric flux (del Burgo & Allende Prieto 2016). Also, this star is nearby ($\simeq 50$ pc) and hence reddening free, and it has very good photometry in the Tycho (Høg et al. 2000) and 2MASS (Skrutskie et al. 2006) systems.

Using the BCs that are obtained by interpolations in our tables, we are usually able to recover the CALSPEC bolometric flux of this star to within $\simeq 1$ per cent in each band. To account for the uncertainties associated with the bolometric fluxes so derived, we ran MonteCarlo simulations that take into account the quoted uncertainties in both the input stellar parameters and the observed photometry. This source of uncertainty amounts to of order 2 per cent in each band.

4.1.2 Tier 2

Stars in this category still have good stellar parameters, but they lack the full optical and infrared spectrophotometric coverage. They all have STIS observations between 1700 and 10 000 Å, a region which encompasses about 70 per cent of the bolometric flux, as well as most of the absorption lines in these stars. Longward of 10 000 Å the CALSPEC spectrophotometry has been extended with tailored synthetic fluxes (Bohlin 2014; Bohlin et al. 2017). All stars in this category are nearby (~ 25 –75 pc), and hence located within the local bubble where reddening is virtually non-existent (e.g. Leroy 1993; Lallement et al. 2003). The absence of any measurable reddening is confirmed by H β photometry (Holmberg, Nordström & Andersen 2007). For all of these stars, we adopt stellar parameters from the latest revision of the Geneva–Copenhagen Survey (Casagrande et al. 2011).

For stars in this category as well, we usually recover their CALSPEC bolometric fluxes to within $\simeq 1$ per cent in each band,

Table 2 – continued

Star	Tier	T_{eff} (K)	$\log g$	[Fe/H]	$E(B - V)$	f_{Bol} CALSPEC	f_{Bol} MARCS	σ (per cent)	Δ (per cent)
HD160617	3	6048	3.73	-1.78	0.005	9.510×10^{-9}	<>: 9.406×10^{-9} H_P : 9.482×10^{-9} B_T : 9.520×10^{-9} V_T : 9.286×10^{-9} J : 9.582×10^{-9} H : 9.390×10^{-9} K_S : 9.261×10^{-9} B : 9.390×10^{-9} V : 9.390×10^{-9} R_C : 9.372×10^{-9} I_C : 9.390×10^{-9}	1.14 3.62 2.00 3.62 5.65 5.27 3.29 1.66 1.50 2.02	-1.09 per cent -0.30 per cent 0.11 per cent -2.35 per cent 0.75 per cent -1.27 per cent -2.62 per cent -1.27 per cent -1.27 per cent -1.45 per cent -1.27 per cent

Note. f_{Bol} MARCS is the bolometric flux recovered in different bands: H_P Hipparcos, B_T , V_T Tycho, JHK_S 2MASS and $BV(RI)C$ Johnson–Cousins. For the latter system, we have used the $ubvri12$ transformations (see Paper I). <> is the average of all systems listed for a given star. σ (per cent) is the percent uncertainty in the bolometric flux recovered from a single band, and estimated from MonteCarlo as described in text. Δ (per cent) is the percent difference between the CALSPEC bolometric flux and that recovered from our bolometric corrections. In case of reddening, also the CALSPEC flux has been corrected by the same amount, with the same extinction law adopted in our tables of bolometric corrections.

although occasionally the agreement downgrades to approximately 5 per cent. Flux uncertainties estimated from MonteCarlo simulations are usually larger than the differences with respect to CALSPEC, suggesting that the precision at which we recover bolometric fluxes is higher than that inferred from the MonteCarlo analyses.

4.1.3 Tier 3

Finally, we list stars which are affected by reddening as Tier 3. These stars are further away, generally at ~ 100 pc, and they all happen to be metal-poor. In this case, we apply the same reddening corrections to the CALSPEC spectra, as well as to the observed photometry. As for stars in the Tier 2 category, all of these stars have STIS observations between 1700 and 10 000 Å, with extensions longward of 10 000 Å derived from model atmospheres. We adopt stellar parameters from Meléndez et al. (2010), who determined the reddening of these stars from interstellar Na I D lines. Also, the T_{eff} scale for stars in both Tier 2 (Casagrande et al. 2011) and Tier 3 (Meléndez et al. 2010) is based on the same implementation of the infrared flux method (Casagrande et al. 2010).

We use synthetic photometry of an archetypal metal-poor star ($T_{\text{eff}} = 6000$ K, $\log g = 4.0$, [Fe/H] = -2.0) to assess the impact of reddening on bolometric flux. A variation of 0.01 in $E(B - V)$ affects the recovered bolometric flux by an amount which varies between 0.3–0.8 per cent in the infrared, to around 2–3 per cent in the optical. On average we recover the CALSPEC bolometric fluxes to within $\simeq 1$ per cent, but single bands can occasionally return differences as large as 5–7 per cent. Also in this case, differences with respect to CALSPEC bolometric fluxes are usually within the MonteCarlo uncertainties.

4.1.4 Regarding the precision and accuracy of bolometric fluxes

In the above comparisons, we have estimated the mean uncertainty in recovering bolometric fluxes using MonteCarlo studies that take into account the uncertainties in the input parameters and observed photometry. The mean uncertainty in the bolometric fluxes obtained from our tables increases from around 2 per cent for the star in Tier 1, to 3 per cent for stars in Tier 3, reflecting the lower quality of the input parameters. However, comparisons with CALSPEC fluxes suggest that the precision is usually better than those derived from the MonteCarlo analyses.

For a given band, the average difference between the fluxes we recover and the CALSPEC observations is ± 1.1 per cent at Tier 1, increasing to ± 1.7 per cent and ± 1.8 per cent for stars in the Tier 2 and Tier 3 categories, respectively. When combining the results for all available bands, the mean difference varies from -0.2 per cent for the Tier 1 star, to ~ -0.7 per cent for stars in the Tier 2 and 3 categories. This difference is clearly systematic, in the sense that our fluxes are usually smaller. These findings could be modified by changing the adopted value of L_\odot , but it should also be kept in mind that the systematic uncertainty in CALSPEC spectrophotometry is at the 1 per cent level (Bohlin 2014). Hence, we conclude that, when combining the results from different bands, it is feasible to recover the bolometric flux to within 1 per cent, below which we are limited by the fundamental uncertainty of the current absolute flux scale.

4.2 Testing colour indices

Another way to test the performance of our synthetic photometry is by comparing various combinations of synthetic and observed colours for stars of known stellar parameters. In order to do this, we cross-matched RAVE DR5 (Kunder et al. 2017) with the Tycho, 2MASS, and SkyMapper catalogues. RAVE DR5 provides stellar parameters for nearly 0.5 million stars in the Southern hemisphere: we retained only those stars with the best determined stellar parameters (`ALGO_CONV=0`, $c1=c2=c3=n$). We rescaled the reddening from Schlegel, Finkbeiner & Davis (1998) as described in Kunder et al. (2017, which in fact provides overall good agreement between photometric and spectroscopic T_{eff}). In addition, to avoid regions with severe extinction, we considered only stars at Galactic latitudes $|b| > 10^\circ$ and excluded stars with rescaled $E(B - V) \geq 0.1$. Further cuts on photometric quality were also applied, depending on the filters (see captions to figures), typically yielding $> 100 000$ usable stars. We compared observed and synthetic colours by plotting stars in different ranges of $\log g$. Stars with lower surface gravities have higher intrinsic luminosities, and thus in RAVE (grossly magnitude limited) they span larger distances. The metallicity gradients in the Galactic disc (e.g. Boeche et al. 2013, 2014) explain why the bulk metallicity decreases with decreasing $\log g$.

MARCS synthetic colours perform overall well across a wide range of filters and stellar parameters, as showcased in Fig. 2 through 5. They are able to predict the main observed features, although they fail in the $u - g$ versus $g - r$ plane at the lowest gravities

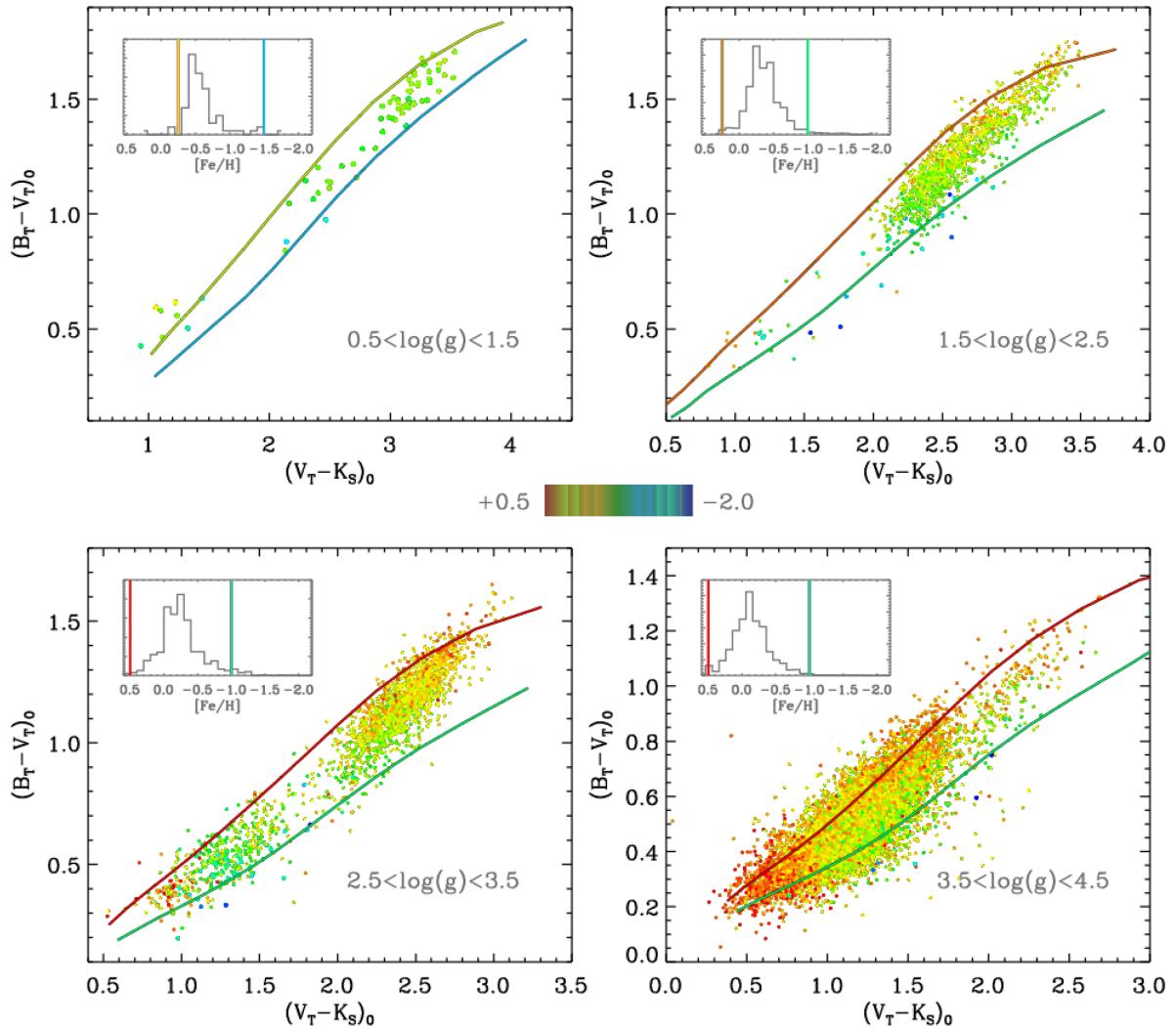


Figure 2. Colour–colour planes for stars in RAVE DR5 satisfying the quality cuts described in the text, and also having Tycho and 2MASS photometry. Each panel displays stars in the $\log g$ range indicated in the bottom right, coded by metallicity as indicated by the palette. Insets show the metallicity histogram within each panel. Continuous lines are synthetic colours predicted by MARCS models at metallicities broadly encompassing the sample (marked by vertical lines in histograms). $\log g$ of MARCS models is 1, 2, 4, 3 (clockwise from top-left). Only stars with photometric errors <0.05 mag in each band are shown. Photometry has been dereddened using rescaled $E(B-V)$ values as described in the text.

and hottest T_{eff} . To better quantify these findings, we generated synthetic colours for each RAVE DR5 star that passed our quality and photometric cuts. This is shown in Fig. 6, which compares observed and synthetic colours as function of stellar parameters. Again, the overall agreement between observed and synthetic photometry is quite remarkable, with mean offsets that are always within the scatter and never exceeding a few hundredths of a mag. In particular, the Tycho and 2MASS colours have nearly no offsets, indicating that the synthetic colours in these two systems are extremely well standardized (both observationally and theoretically). The overall agreement for the SkyMapper colours is equally remarkable, especially considering that, at the present time, the exact standardization of observed SkyMapper photometry to the AB system is still work in progress.

It can immediately be seen that indices involving bluer colours ($B_T - V_T$ and $u - g$), while well centred at the solar $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$, are increasingly offset at higher and lower metallicities. This is likely due to the fact that, at short wavelengths, synthetic spectra depend critically on the adopted opacities and microturbulence (see the

discussion in Paper I). The SkyMapper u filter is also sensitive to gravity, and it is apparent the predicted colours depart from the observed ones for $\log g < 1.5$. There is also a tendency for the synthetic colours to be bluer than observed at $T_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 4500$ K, which could indicate missing molecular opacities.

4.3 Star cluster colour–magnitude diagrams

The colour–magnitude diagrams (CMDs) of open and globular star clusters provide especially good constraints on properties of stellar models for lower mass stars, including their colours, because the member stars have very close to the same age and initial chemical abundances (modulo the presence of multiple populations, see e.g. Gratton, Carretta & Bragaglia 2012, for a review). The CMDs therefore describe how the colours (and effective temperatures) of stars vary with gravity at a fixed age and metallicity. Even though current stellar models appear to be able to reproduce the principal photometric sequences of star clusters quite well (see e.g. Vandenberg et al. 2013; Vandenberg et al. 2014; Paper I), the

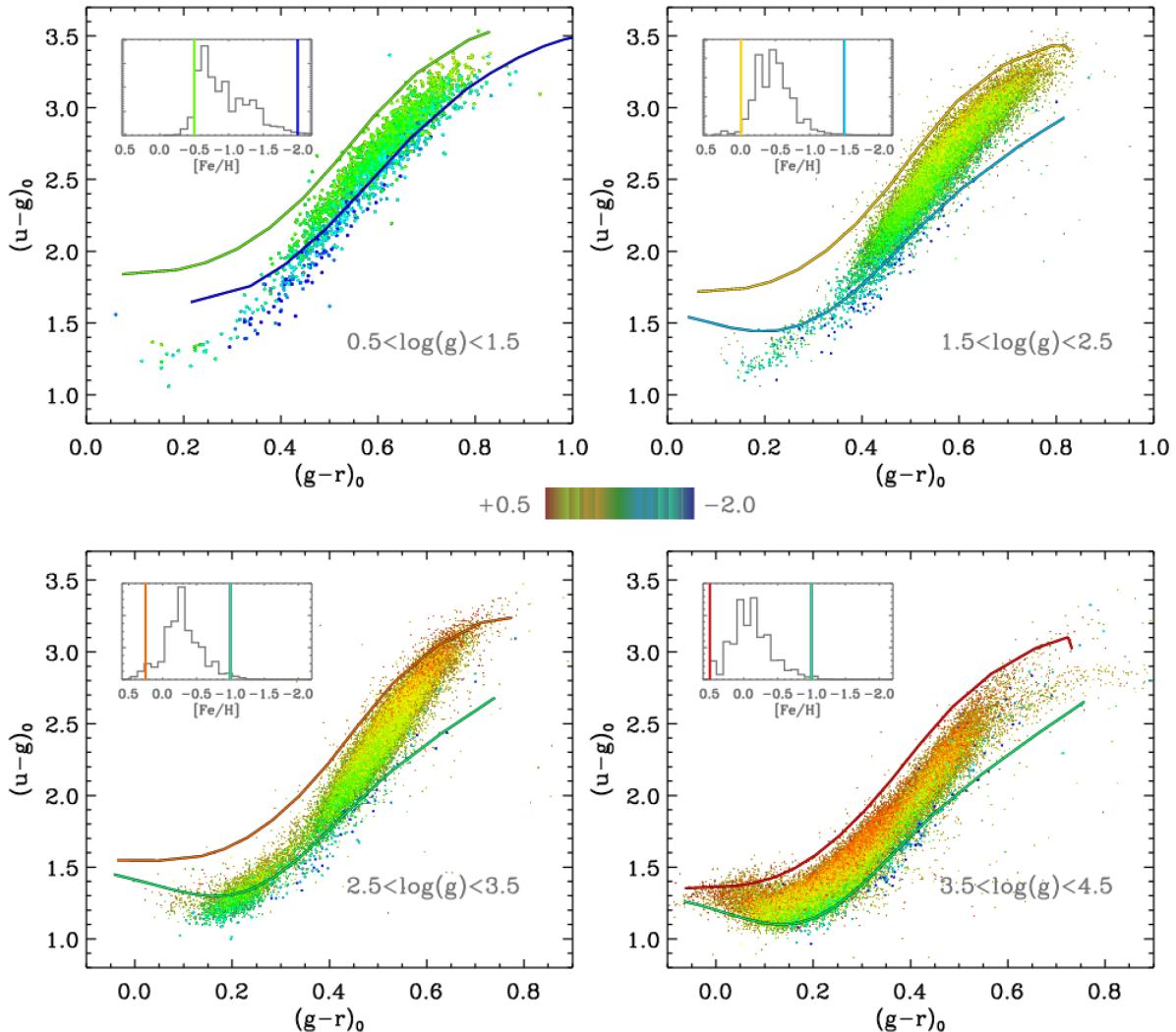


Figure 3. Same as Fig. 2 but for combinations of SkyMapper colours. In addition to the RAVE quality cuts described in the main text, only stars with photometric errors <0.05 mag in each band, no photometric flags, and $\text{class_star}>0.9$ are shown. Photometry has been dereddened using rescaled $E(B-V)$.

predicted T_{eff} scale is subject to uncertainties associated with, e.g. convection theory, the atmospheric boundary condition, and the treatment of diffusive processes, while synthetic colours depend sensitively on T_{eff} , the temperature structures of model atmospheres, the treatment of blanketing, etc. Consequently, one should not expect to find perfect agreement between isochrones that have been transformed to various observational planes and observed CMDs.

Still, the consistency of predicted colour– T_{eff} relations can be tested by determining if the same interpretation of the data (including discrepancies between theory and observations) is found on many different CMDs. For instance, in the study of $UBV(RI)_C$, Sloan ($ugriz$), and HST -ACS photometry of the globular cluster (GC) M 5 that was presented in Paper I (see their figs 9–11), the red giant branch (RGB) of the isochrone that was fitted to the observations was consistently located along the red edge of the observed distribution of giants in all of the different CMDs that were considered. The most likely explanation of this offset is that the predicted temperatures along the RGB are somewhat too cool. Moreover, with the exception of the $[(F606W - F814W), F606W]$ - and $[(g-r), r]$ -diagrams, the same isochrone provided an excellent match to the turnoff (TO) and upper main sequence (MS) observations. Here

again, very encouraging consistency was found, though it would appear that either the HST and Sloan observations (in the $F606W$ and/or the $F814W$ passbands and in the g and/or r filters, respectively), or the corresponding bolometric correction transformations presented in Paper I, suffer from small zero-point errors.

This investigation affords us with the opportunity to extend the aforementioned analysis of star cluster CMDs to the Pan-STARRS1 photometric system given that Bernard et al. (2014) have published well-defined fiducial sequences for the same GC (M 5) and open clusters (M 67 and NGC 6791) that were considered in Paper I. If, as adopted previously, an isochrone for 11.75 Gyr, $[Fe/H] = -1.33$, $[\alpha/Fe] = 0.4$, and $Y = 0.25$ is overlaid on to the Pan-STARRS1 fiducials assuming the same cluster parameters ($E(B-V) = 0.032$ and a true distance modulus $(m-M)_0 = 14.35$), we obtain the results shown in Fig. 7. As before, the observed RGB is somewhat bluer than the predicted giant branch, though both loci have nearly the same slope, while the upper MS observations are generally quite well matched by the models – except in the case of the $[(g-r), g]$ -diagram, where the isochrone is too blue by ~ 0.02 mag. Since no such problem is apparent in the other CMDs that involve the g passband, it would appear that there is a small zero-point

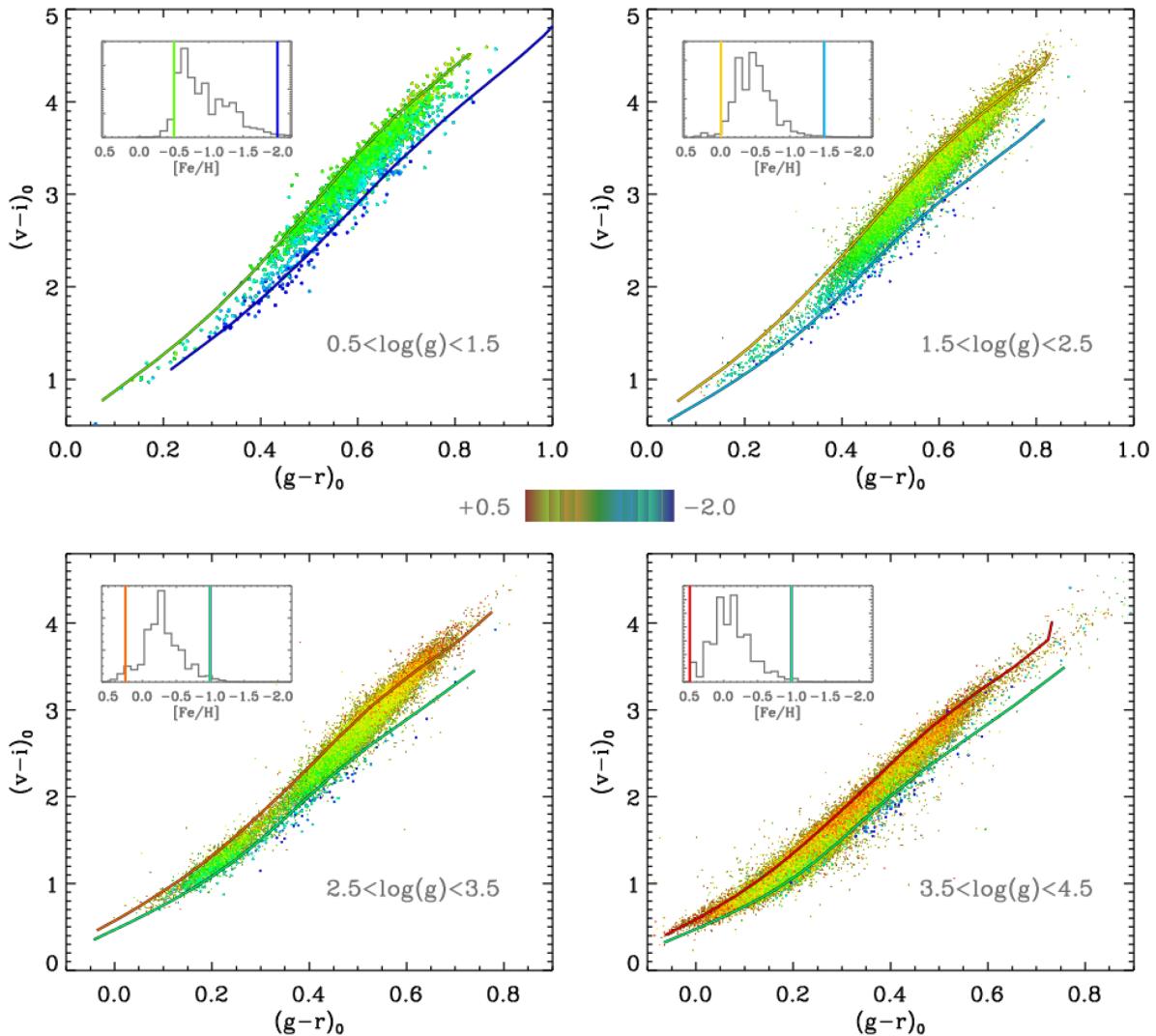


Figure 4. Same as Fig. 3 but for a different combination of SkyMapper colours.

problem with either the r photometry or the BC_r predictions. Nevertheless, for the most part, the selected isochrone provides nearly identical fits to Pan-STARRS1 observations as to $BV(RI)_C$ and Sloan data (see Paper I). This indicates that the transformations to the different photometric systems are highly consistent with one another.

The fact that bluer colours are more difficult to match than those derived from filters at longer wavelengths is almost certainly due primarily to deficiencies in the modelling of stellar atmospheres and synthetic spectra, as is the increased difficulty of explaining the colours of cooler stars. For instance, fig. 14 in Paper I shows that a 4.3 Gyr, solar abundance isochrone provides a very good fit to the MS of the open cluster M 67 down to $V \sim 16.7$ on the $[(B-V), V]$ -diagram, as compared with $V \sim 19$ on the $[(V-K_S), V]$ -diagram. Moreover, at fainter magnitudes, the differences between the predicted and observed colours typically increase with decreasing T_{eff} . The same behaviour is found (see Fig. 8) when the same isochrone is fitted to Pan-STARRS1 photometry of M 67 (Bernard et al. 2014) on the assumption of $E(B-V) = 0.03$ and $(m-M)_0 = 9.60$ (as adopted in Paper I). On the one hand, it is very gratifying to find that this isochrone provides a superb fit to the upper MS, irrespective of the filter system that was employed. On the other hand, it is

clear that the predicted colours of lower-MS stars are too blue by $\gtrsim 0.2$ mag at $g > 20$. (We note that such CMD comparisons as those plotted in Fig. 8 could be used to derive empirical corrections to the purely synthetic colours.)

Although an isochrone for 8.5 Gyr, $[Fe/H] = +0.30$, $[\alpha/Fe] = 0.0$, and $Y = 0.28$ provides a very good fit, in an absolute sense, to many of the CMDs of NGC 6791 that can be constructed from BVI_CJ and Sloan $ugriz$ photometry (see figs 12 and 13 in Paper I), it does not reproduce the fiducial sequences that were derived from Pan-STARRS1 observations by Bernard et al. (2014) quite as well. As shown in Fig. 9, the predicted TO and RGB tend to be somewhat too red if $E(B-V) = 0.16$ and $(m-M)_0 = 13.05$ (as adopted in Paper I, which discusses recent determinations of the cluster parameters), whereas no such discrepancies were found previously. Much better consistency can be obtained if $E(B-V) = 0.14$ (the red curve) or a slightly larger value, likely indicating a small zero-point offset (0.01–0.02 mag) between Pan-STARRS1 photometry and Johnson–Cousins–Sloan observations of NGC 6791. In fact, a small difference in the same sense was found by Bernard et al. (2014, see their fig. 5) when they compared their fiducial sequences with those obtained by transforming the Sloan CMDs given by An et al. (2008) to the Pan-STARRS1 system. Although further work is

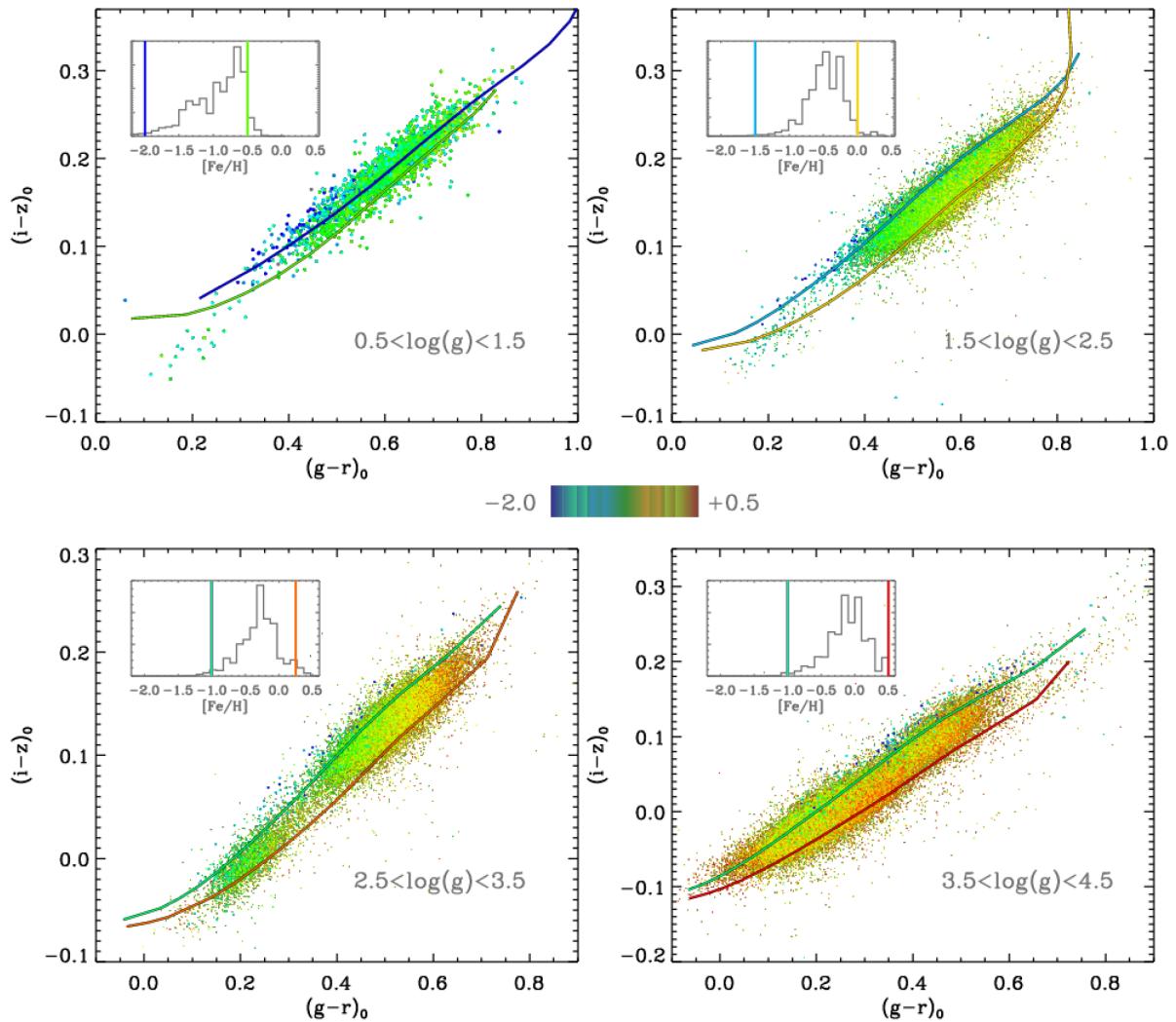


Figure 5. Same as Fig. 3 but for a different combination of SkyMapper colours.

needed to fully understand this discrepancy, this level of consistency is still quite satisfactory given that observations typically involve zero-point uncertainties close to 0.01 mag (see e.g. Stetson 2005).

In fact, it is remarkable that the Pan-STARRS1 transformations yield colours that provide fully consistent interpretations of the data (to within 0.01 mag) as the transformations considered in Paper I over a wide range in metallicity and gravity – especially for stars within \$\sim\pm 2\$ mag of the turnoff.

5 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have continued our effort to provide reliable and well-tested synthetic colours and bolometric corrections from the MARCS library for various combinations of \$T_{\text{eff}}\$, \$\log g\$, \$[Fe/H]\$, and \$[\alpha/Fe]\$. We have extended our previous investigation (Paper I) to include many of the systems underpinning large photometric surveys in the optical (Hipparcos/Tycho, Pan-STARRS1 and SkyMapper), and we plan to add *Gaia* photometry once the transmission curves and standardization details become available. Together with 2MASS and SDSS (included in Paper I, among other systems), these surveys are fostering a wide variety of studies in stellar and Galactic astronomy. However, to reap the maximum returns, prop-

erly standardized, reliable, and well-tested stellar synthetic colours are needed to interpret the observations.

Encouragingly, our study of star clusters has demonstrated that isochrones generally provide very similar fits to observed CMDs in different photometric systems under the same assumptions concerning the age, reddening, and distance modulus. Small adjustments at the level of 0.01–0.02 mag are sometimes needed to obtain fully consistent interpretations of the data, but this appears to be an exception more than the rule. This indicates that overall we have achieved our goal of providing synthetic colours that are homogeneously standardized across different system to within \$\sim 0.01\$ mag, which is also the zero-point limit of typical ground-based observations.

Once we trust our zero-points, we can have meaningful discussions concerning the performance of the MARCS synthetic photometry. We have done so by computing synthetic colours for more than a hundred thousand stars from RAVE DR5, and comparing them with the observed colours. Overall, we find very satisfactory agreement of optical and infrared colours for most of the parameter space that has been explored. However, at short wavelengths, models have some difficulties predicting colours for stars with gravities roughly below \$\log g = 1.5\$, and while good agreement between observed and synthetic colours is always found close to the solar metallicity, differences become evident in the direction of both lower and

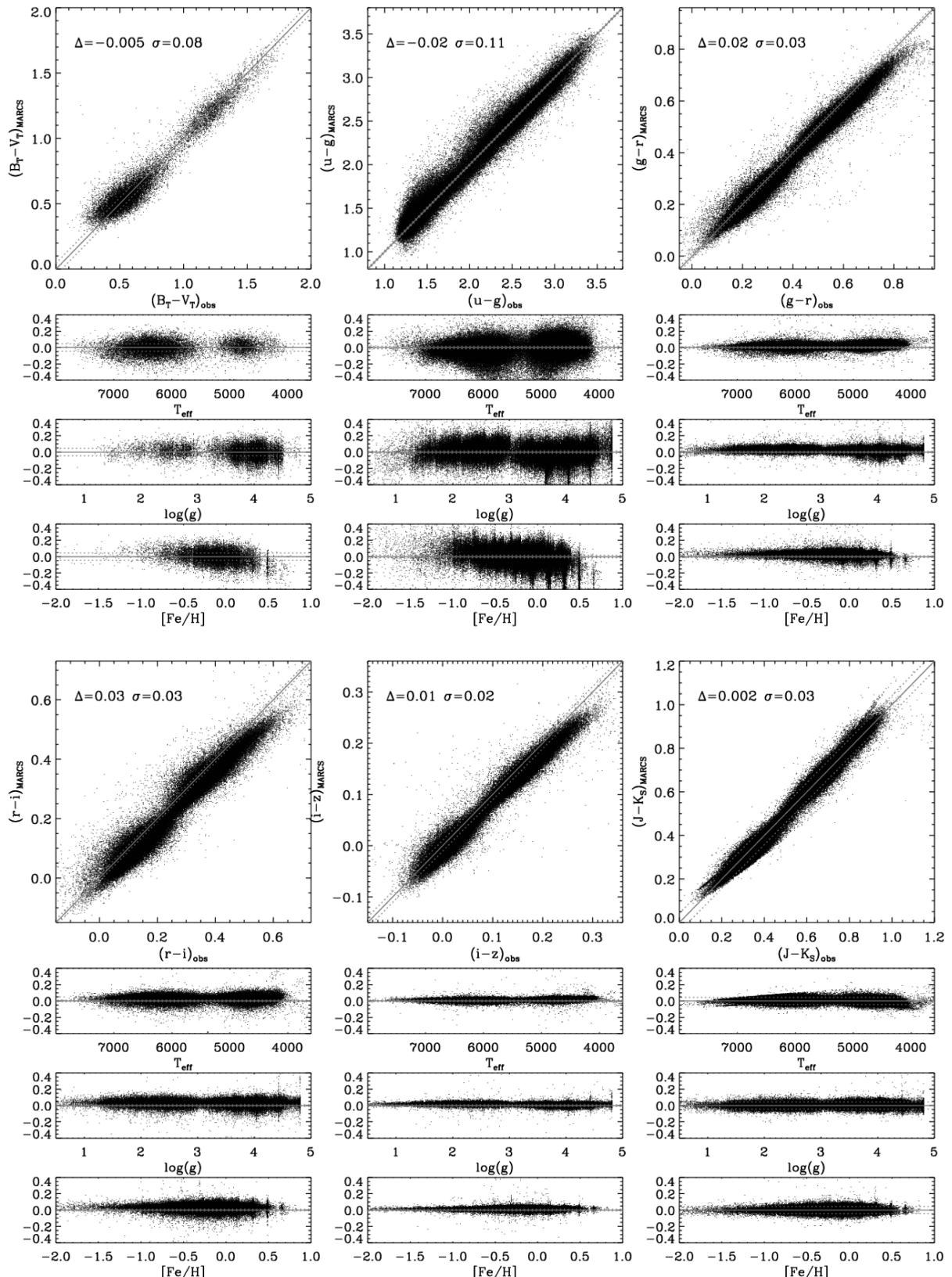


Figure 6. Comparison between observed and synthetic MARCS colours interpolated from our tables at the IRFM T_{eff} , $\log(g)$, $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$, and rescaled $E(B - V)$ of each RAVE DR5 star. Continuous grey line is the one-to-one relation, whereas dotted lines indicate the mean scatter arising solely from observed photometric errors. Δ and σ are the mean colour index difference (observed minus synthetic) and scatter in magnitudes.

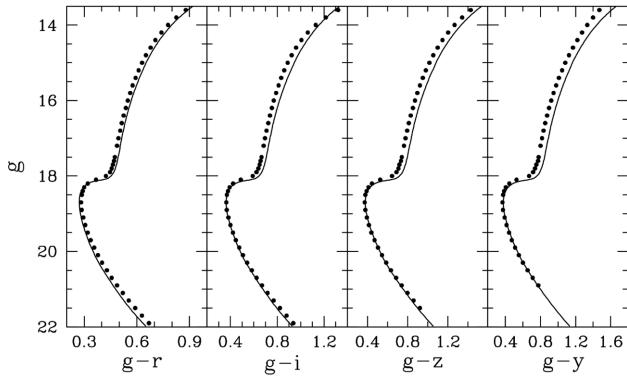


Figure 7. Overlay of an 11.75 Gyr isochrone for $[{\rm Fe/H}] = -1.33$, $[\alpha/{\rm Fe}] = 0.4$, and $Y = 0.25$ (solid curve) to the principal photometric sequences of M 5 (small filled circles) that were derived by Bernard et al. (2014) from their Pan-STARRS1 *grizy* observations. The transformation of the isochrone to the observed planes assumes $E(B-V) = 0.032$ (e.g. Schlafly & Finkbeiner 2011) and $(m-M)_0 = 14.35$.

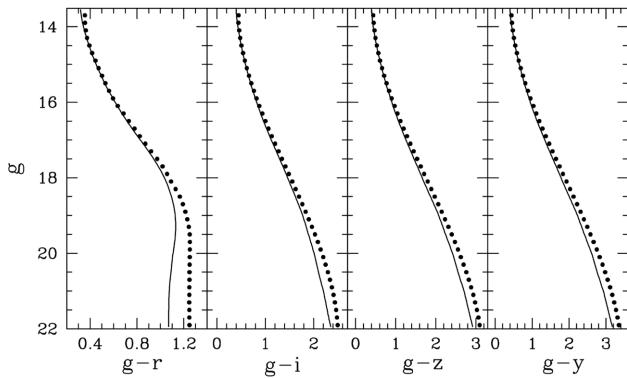


Figure 8. Similar to the previous figure; in this case, a 4.3 Gyr isochrone for $[{\rm Fe/H}] = 0.0$ and $Y = 0.255$ has been overlaid on the main-sequence fiducial of M 67 derived by Bernard et al. (2014), assuming $E(B-V) = 0.03$ (e.g. Schlafly & Finkbeiner 2011) and $(m-M)_0 = 9.60$.

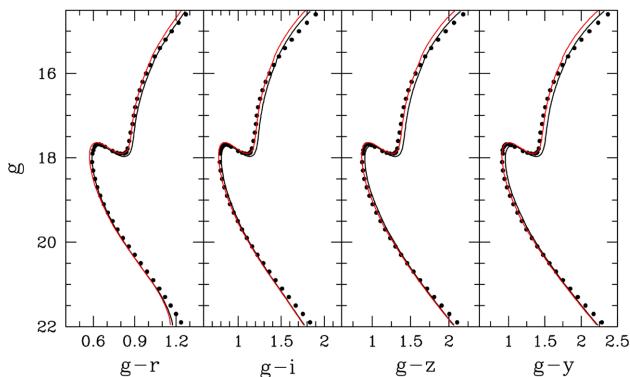


Figure 9. Similar to the previous two figures; in this case, an isochrone for 8.5 Gyr, $[{\rm Fe/H}] = +0.30$, and $Y = 0.28$ has been overlaid on the main-sequence fiducial of NGC 6791 derived by Bernard et al. (2014), assuming $(m-M)_0 = 13.05$ and $E(B-V) = 0.16$ (black curve) or 0.14 (red curve).

higher $[{\rm Fe/H}]$. Irrespective of the filters that are used, discrepancies always begin to appear as the temperature drops towards the coolest $T_{\rm eff}$ values that we have considered. We recall from Paper I that for the blue and ultraviolet spectral region (in particular for the coolest and most metal rich stars) synthetic colours show dependence on microturbulence, which is fixed to 2 km s^{-1} in this investigation. (Note that this investigation has focused on FGK type stars. Although we predict the BCs for M dwarfs and giants, their performance is not as thoroughly tested as for earlier spectral types.)

HST spectrophotometry has enabled us to perform the most stringent test yet on the level at which bolometric fluxes can be recovered from our tables of synthetic BCs. For FG dwarfs of known input stellar parameters, we conclude that, on average, bolometric fluxes can be recovered to within about 2 per cent from our computed bolometric corrections in a single band, and that this uncertainty is usually halved when combining the results from more bands. To facilitate further investigations of MARCS colours, we have provided tables of BCs and suitable computer programs to interpolate in them for any combination of $T_{\rm eff}$, $\log g$, $[{\rm Fe/H}]$, and $[\alpha/{\rm Fe}]$ that is contained within the MARCS library. The most obvious application of these data and interpolation codes, which are described in the Appendix, is to transpose isochrones to many different CMDs. Among the photometric systems that have been considered (here and in Paper I), we have included synthetic photometry for the imaging cameras on *JWST*. While the standardization of real data from *JWST* may turn out to be somewhat different from what we have assumed, our programs make it possible to obtain a first estimate of the appearance of stellar populations through the eye of *JWST* and, therefore, to assist with the planning of future observations.

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