

DETERMINATION OF STELLAR PARAMETERS FOR FGK-DWARF STARS: THE NIR
APPROACH

by

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A thesis submitted in conformity with the requirements
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
Graduate Department of Departamento de Física e Astronomia
University of Porto

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Dedication

To Linnea, Henriette, and Rico

For always supporting me

Acknowledgements

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Abstract

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Chapter 4

Results for FGK stars

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.

Dr. Seuss

It is time to apply the theory and methodology on some real data. There is the compilation of a NIR iron line list for deriving stellar atmospheric parameters. This line list was tested against the well-studied solar-type star, HD 20010 in [Andreasen et al. \(2016\)](#). Later a second version of the line list was made. This was tested again on HD 20010 and additionally on two colder stars, Arcturus and 10 Leo in [Andreasen et al. \(2017a\)](#). A small summary of the stars and their characteristics can be found in Table 4.1. More details are provided in the individual sections below for each star. An update to SWEET-Cat ([Santos et al., 2013](#)), a catalogue which provides homogeneous stellar parameters of planet hosts, was provided in [Andreasen et al. \(2017b\)](#). Additionally in this work, there was an analysis of how a selection of lines with different excitation potential might affect the final parameters of a star, which is discussed in Section 4.8. Last is the analysis of a range of synthetic spectra from the PHOENIX spectral library ([Husser et al., 2013](#)), with T_{eff} lower than analysed in previous stars with the methodology described above in Section 3.3. However, before diving into the results of the analysis it is important to describe how the NIR line list was compiled, and why and how it was later refined.

Table 4.1: Summary of the four stars used in this thesis. The stellar parameters are an average from the PASTEL catalogue ([Soubiran et al., 2016](#)) (see text for details), except the parameters for the Sun.

Star	Spectrographs	Resolution	T_{eff} (K)	$\log g$ (dex)	ξ_{micro} (km/s)	[Fe/H] (dex)
Sun	FTS	600 000	5777	4.44	1.00	0.00
Arcturus	FTS	100 000	4300 ± 111	1.60 ± 0.29	1.93 ± 0.17	-0.54 ± 0.11
HD 20010	CRIRES	100 000	6152 ± 95	3.96 ± 0.11	1.17 ± 0.24	-0.27 ± 0.06
10 Leo	CRIRES	100 000	4742 ± 61	2.76 ± 0.17	1.45 ± 0.08	-0.03 ± 0.02

4.1 The creation of a NIR line list

Although previous work have compiled some NIR line lists for different purposes, there still does not exist an iron line list to determine stellar atmospheric parameters from high S/N and high resolution

which work exactly? See recent paper

spectra. With the advancement of NIR high resolution spectrographs the time has arrived to compile such a line list, which should be properly tested (used to determine parameters of well known stars).

As discussed extensively in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3, an atomic line list is needed for employing the method of deriving the stellar atmospheric parameters used in this thesis. This line list is composed by neutral and ionized iron lines in the NIR. This has already been mentioned in Chapter 2. Here the process will be explained in greater detail below for the two versions presented in [Andreasen et al. \(2016\)](#) and [Andreasen et al. \(2017a\)](#), respectively.

4.1.1 Measuring the EWs and first filtering

The first version of a NIR iron line list for determining stellar atmospheric parameters of high resolution and high S/N spectra were presented in [Andreasen et al. \(2016\)](#). Other NIR line lists exists such as the one from [Lindgren et al. \(2016\)](#); [Önehag et al. \(2012\)](#) for utilising the synthetic method described above of high resolution spectra. Their line list cover the J band in the NIR and consists of 48 lines of different elements.. For this line list all iron transitions between 10 000 Å to 25 000 Å¹ were downloaded from the VALD database ([Kupka et al., 2000](#); [Piskunov et al., 1995](#)), only including Fe I and Fe II transitions. In total were 50 198 Fe I and 28 339 Fe II lines respectively acquired.

Add more line lists from the literature.

The EW of all lines were measured in the solar atlas by [Hinkle et al. \(1995b\)](#). The EWs were measured using **ARES** due to the large amount of lines and to be as consistent as possible in the measurements. Since **ARES** expect a 1D spectrum with equidistant wavelength step, the solar spectrum was interpolated onto a regular wavelength grid of 0.01 Å. This did not change the appearance, and hence not the EW, of the final spectrum. This wavelength step is equivalent to a spectral resolution of 1 500 000 at 15 000 Å. The S/N for the solar atlas varies between 300 to 2000 across the spectrum, but is generally of a very high quality.

The EWs were measured by fitting Gaussian profiles to the spectral lines. For a given line, **ARES** output the central wavelength of the line (provided in the line list), the FWHM maximum of the fitted line, the number of lines fitted for the final result (in case of blending), the depth of the line, and the EW of the line of the line. In the latest version of **ARES**, the error of the EW is also provided ([Sousa et al., 2015](#)).

As a first selection step, lines were discarded according to the following four criteria:

- Lines with EW lower than 5 mÅ: these lines can be problematic to see in spectra with lower S/N or spectra with many spectral features. Therefore the measurements of these lines are less reliable than stronger lines.
- Lines with EW higher than 200 mÅ: These lines are too strong to be fitted with a Gaussian profile. These lines might also be saturated and do not fall in the linear regime of the curve-of-growth (see Figure 2.5).
- Lines where the total number of fitted lines are 10 or higher meaning the presence of severe blending.
- If the fitted central wavelength is more than 0.05 Å away from the wavelength provided by VALD3 to avoid false identification. This should also remove some blended lines.

¹ That is equivalent to the YJHK bands.

- Removal of lines with EP higher than 5.5 eV. This cut was inspired by available EPs in the optical (see e.g. [Sousa et al., 2008](#)).

After this removal the number of Fe I and Fe II lines were reduced to 6060 and 2735, respectively.

4.1.2 Visual removal of lines

At this point a visual inspection was necessary. All atomic data for possible transitions from all elements were downloaded from the VALD3 database in a 3 \AA window around each of the nearly 9000 iron lines from the previous step. For each small spectral window, all absorption lines (including the iron line(s)) were located in a plot of the solar spectrum. An iron line was discarded if another line had the same central wavelength and/or the absorption line were severely blended. Most of the discarded iron lines had high EP, which are weak compared to the low EP lines. Therefore, it is fair to assume that many of these iron lines were falsely identified as another stronger line from another element. After the visual removal the number of Fe I and Fe II lines were reduced to a mere 593 and 22, respectively. In Figure 4.1 is a case where too many lines are present near the iron line of interest (green line in the middle). The green lines are all iron lines in the spectral region, while the orange lines are other elements or molecules. The depth and transparency is a measure by the line strength given by

$$\text{strength} = \log gf - \chi\Theta, \quad (4.1)$$

where $\Theta = 5040 \text{ K}/T_{\text{eff}}$ (solar temperature is used here). Note that this strength of the lines does not include any abundance information, and should therefore be a guide rather than an actual measure.

For some of the absorption lines it was not clear which element was causing it. These lines were marked for further investigation with synthesis as described below.

4.1.3 Synthetic investigation

For the lines marked above for further investigation an even broader window of 6 \AA was used. Once again, all atomic data for possible transitions were downloaded from the VALD3 database in these spectral windows. MOOG was used with the `synth` driver to create a synthetic spectrum using a solar atmosphere model with $T_{\text{eff}} = 5777 \text{ K}$, $\log g = 4.438$, $A(\text{Fe}) = 7.47$, and $\xi_{\text{micro}} = 1.00 \text{ km/s}$. The iron abundance (7.47) is from [Gonzalez and Laws \(2000\)](#), while the overall metallicity for the solar atmosphere model is $[\text{M}/\text{H}] = 0.00$ by definition. This step is different from the step visual inspection done in Section 4.1.2 since synthetic spectra were created here. This was done for all spectral windows for three different iron abundances $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = \{-0.20; 0.00; 0.20\}$ in order to identify iron lines and their impact on the synthetic spectra. Before creating a synthetic spectrum all elements which are more than singly ionised were removed since MOOG does not allow these. An example of the three synthetic spectra can be seen in Figure 4.2. Here the neutral iron line at $15\,550.439 \text{ \AA}$ was investigated. The three coloured curves are synthetic spectra with the three different $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$. The upper plot shows the result with the full VALD3 line list, while in the lower plot the iron line was removed from the line list. The grey curve is the solar atlas for reference. Note that it is not the purpose to match a synthetic spectrum to the solar atlas.

If the synthetic spectra shows variation at the iron line of interest, then it is assumed that the iron line is the cause for the absorption line. As a simple test, the iron line was also removed from the line list used to create the synthetic spectra. If the iron line in the synthetic spectra disappeared, it was a clear

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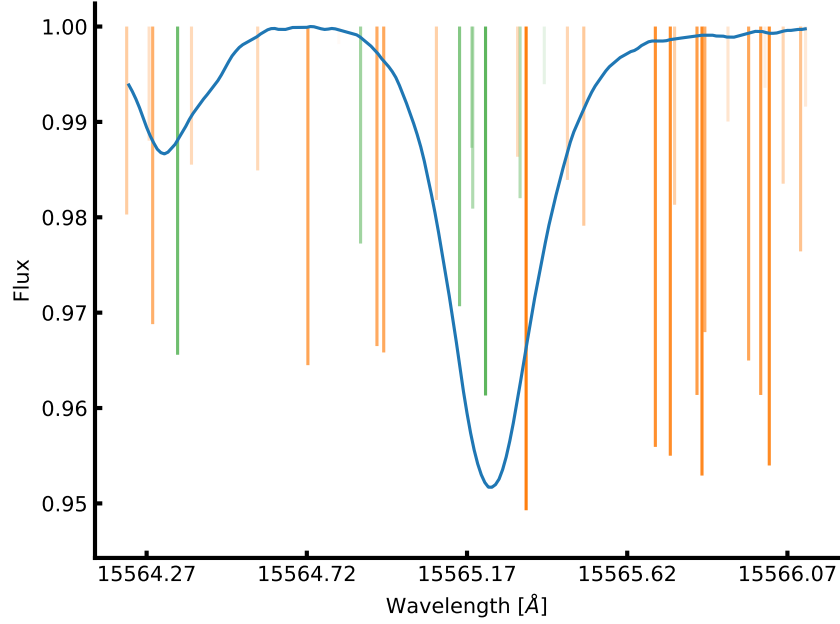


Figure 4.1: Solar spectrum (blue) with all iron lines in the spectral region (green) and other elements (orange). The depths and transparencies of the vertical lines are a measure of the line strengths (see Equation 4.1 for details). This is a case where the iron line is discarded due to blending, which is clear in the left wing of the central absorption line.

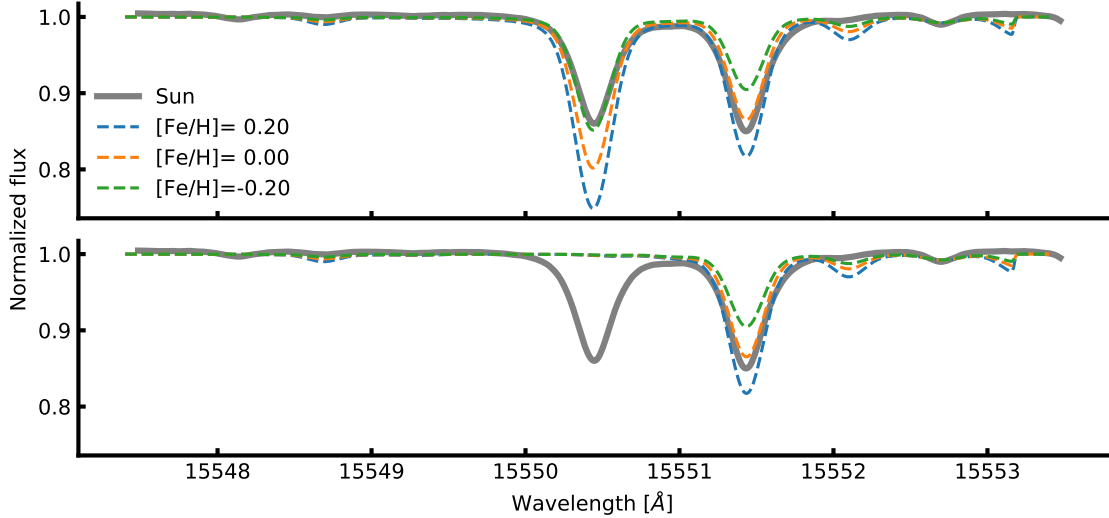


Figure 4.2: The three coloured curves represent different iron abundance, $\{-0.20; 0.00; 0.20\}$ compared to solar abundance. The grey curve is the solar atlas for reference. In this case the iron line at $15\,550.439\text{ Å}$ was investigated. *Upper panel*: Synthetic spectra were computed using the full VALD line list in the spectral range for the three different iron abundances. *Lower panel*: Same as the upper panel, but with the iron line removed from the line list. Since the synthetic spectra shows no features at this absorption line anymore, it is a fair assumption to say the iron line is the cause of this absorption line.

signal that this line can be used in the final iron line list (this can be seen clearly in the lower plot of Figure 4.2). In some cases two iron lines had the same or very similar wavelength, and this technique was used to include the correct iron line. In cases where both iron lines causes the absorption line, they were both discarded since they are blended. In theory both iron lines will contribute to the absorption, however one of the contributions might be negligible, hence only one of the lines will be discarded.

In a few cases two iron lines had the same wavelength and EP but different $\log gf$. In these cases the two iron lines they can be combined into a single line by adding their gf values. After this step, there were 414 Fe I lines and 12 Fe II lines, respectively.

4.1.4 Calibrating the line list: astrophysical $\log gf$ values

These lines were collected into a single line list in the format required by MOOG (Snedden, 1973) and the line abundance were measured by all lines using the solar atmosphere model described above. If the derived abundance for a single line differs by more than 1.0 dex from the solar iron abundance, the line was discarded. All lines before this step can be seen in Figure 4.3 with all lines discarded marked in red.

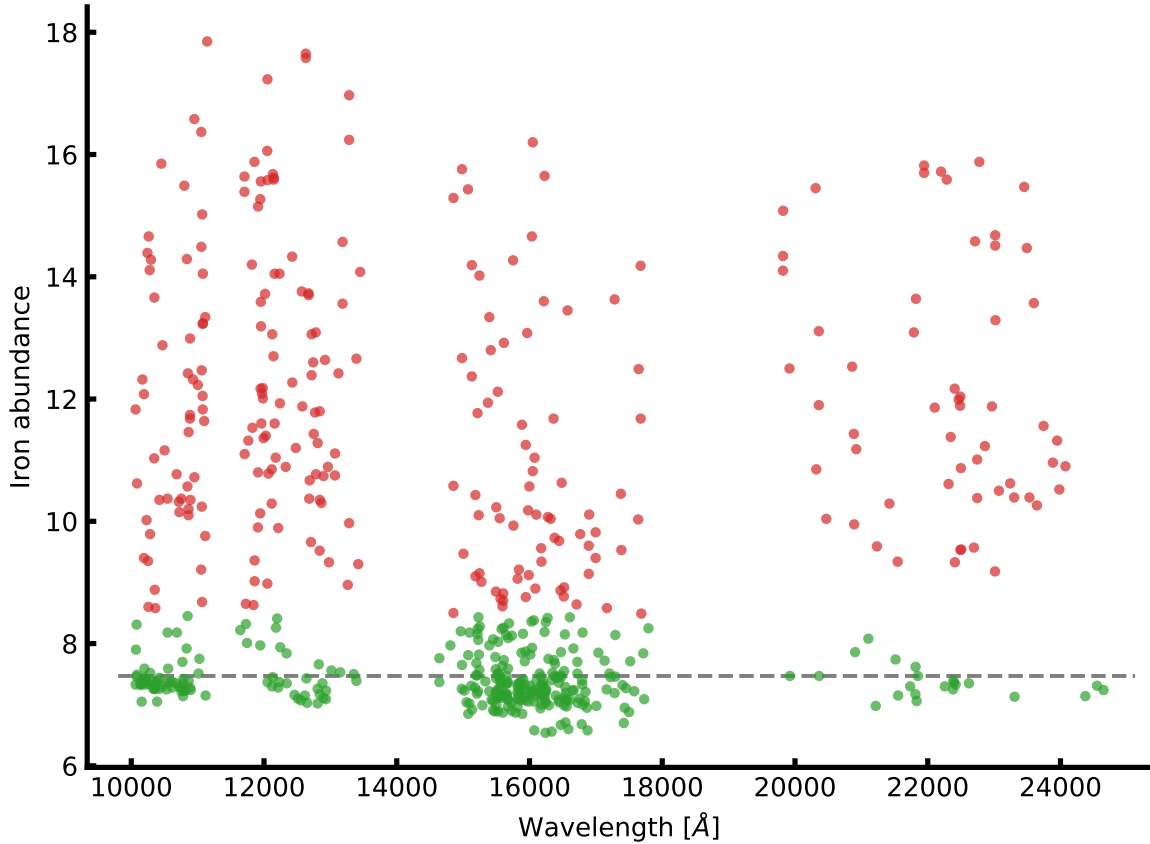


Figure 4.3: Line abundance of all iron lines before calibrating the $\log gf$ values. The green points are the points with a deviation less than 1.0 dex from the solar iron abundance. All the red points are discarded. The horizontal line shows the solar iron abundance.

After the removal of the lines mentioned above, the final line list is almost compiled. At this point the line list has to be calibrated. This is done by changing $\log gf$ so the line abundance for all iron lines

are 7.47 when using the solar atmosphere model mentioned above. As mentioned in Section 2.3 there is an anti-correlation between the abundance of a line and $\log gf$. This means a simple bisector minimization can be used to locate the $\log gf$ that gives the desired abundance. This was done for all the iron lines at this stage.

Note If the setup used to determine the parameters is changed, then it is important to calibrate the $\log gf$ values for the line list again. This includes the type of model atmospheres used (e.g. ATLAS9 or MARCS), the interpolation code to generate a model atmosphere from the grid, or the settings of the radiative code, here MOOG, and even the settings used in the radiative transfer code, i.e. the specific physics used. In the results listed below the setups are identical, except for the work done with synthetic spectra (see Section 4.7). There both ATLAS9 and MARCS model atmospheres were used, and a calibrated set of $\log gf$ values are available for both setups.

4.1.5 Removal of high dispersion lines

The line list calibrated above was used to derive parameters for HD 20010 (see Section 4.2), however the derived parameters showed poor results when compared to the literature values. This led to the following test:

A Gaussian distribution was made for the EW of each line centred on the EW itself,

$$f(x, EW, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(x-EW)^2}{2\sigma^2}}, \quad (4.2)$$

where σ is the error on the EW, expressed by Cayrel (1988):

$$\sigma \simeq 1.6 \frac{\sqrt{\Delta\lambda EW}}{S/N}, \quad (4.3)$$

where $\Delta\lambda = 0.1$ and a $S/N=50$ were considered here, which is much lower than the actual S/N of the solar atlas. The search for lines to remove from the line list, in order to improve the results is as follows:

1. Make 100 draws for each EW (giving a total of 100 line lists)
2. Derive the line abundances for all 100 line lists using the solar model atmosphere and MOOG
3. Calculate the mean absolute deviation (MAD) for each line using the derived abundances
4. Locate the lines with highest dispersion in a MAD versus original EW plot (see Figure 4.4)

In the upper panel of Figure 4.4 the weaker lines (i.e. lines with lower EW) show a higher MAD value, however this is expected since a small absolute change in the EW results in a large relative change in abundance for these lines. This does not mean these lines necessarily have a high dispersion, since it is just the expected outcome of this test. Moreover, these relatively weak lines from the solar atlas should be stronger for some other spectral types, and therefore important to include if possible. Therefore the disperse lines are found in the de-trended MAD value, where an exponential function was used for de-trending. A single point above 3σ was removed iteratively in the de-trended data. After this process there are 334 Fe I lines and 13 Fe II lines.

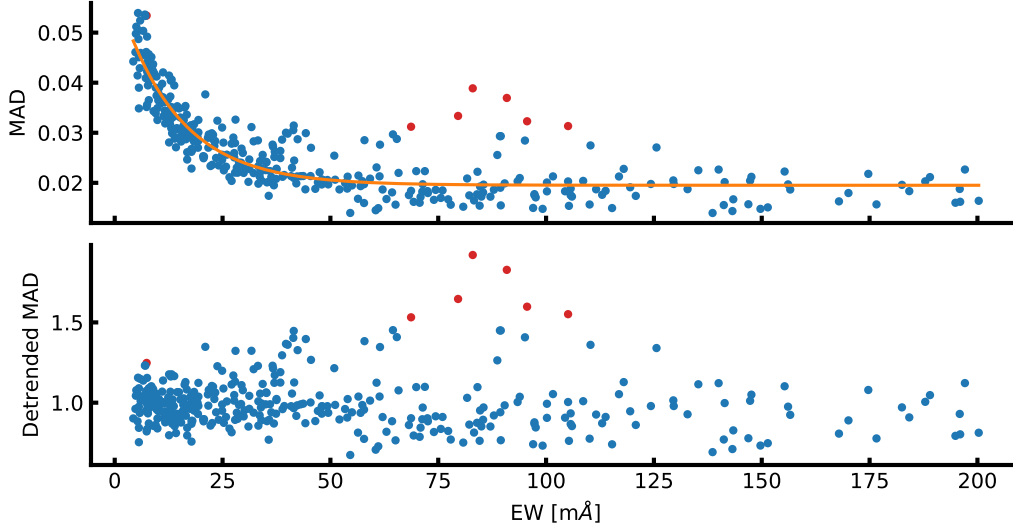


Figure 4.4: The most disperse lines. *Upper panel:* The MAD versus the original EW. The red points are the outliers which were discarded during this process. *Lower plot:* Same as above with the de-trended MAD by the exponential fit as shown in the upper panel.

4.2 HD20010

To test the NIR line list a well-studied solar-type star was needed. The spectrum for such a target needs to be available in the NIR at both high resolution and high S/N. An ideal place to look for such a star was the CRIRES-POP database (Lebzelter et al., 2012b). Here, the best target for testing was HD 20010, an F8 subgiant star. At the time of writing this thesis and Andreasen et al. (2016) the spectrum of HD 20010 was not fully reduced. Here it is still contaminated by some telluric lines, and the wavelength solution used is not optimal; both which are essential, however a tedious and difficult task to accomplish.

HD 20010 star has been part of many surveys and is therefore well studied. Different parameters from the literature are listed in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Selection of literature values for the atmospheric parameters for HD 20010. The mean and a 3σ standard deviation is presented at the end of the table from the literature values included, which was used as a reference for the derived parameters.

Author	T_{eff} (K)	$\log g$ (dex)	[Fe/H] (dex)	ξ_{micro} (km/s)
Balachandran (1990)	6152	4.15	-0.27 ± 0.08	1.60
Favata et al. (1997)	6000	...	-0.35 ± 0.07	...
Santos et al. (2004)	6275 ± 57	4.40 ± 0.37	-0.19 ± 0.06	2.41 ± 0.41
Gonzalez et al. (2010)	6170 ± 35	3.93 ± 0.02	-0.206 ± 0.025	1.70 ± 0.09
Ramírez et al. (2012)	6073 ± 78	3.91 ± 0.03	-0.30 ± 0.05	...
Mortier et al. (2013a)	6114	...	-0.19	...
Mean	6131 ± 255	4.01 ± 0.60	-0.23 ± 0.14	1.90 ± 1.08

The data available at CRIRES-POP are in the raw format and pipeline reduced, while three small pieces of the spectrum are fully reduced on the web page². The data is in the standard CRIRES format

² <http://www.univie.ac.at/crerespop/data.htm>

with each fits file including four binary tables with the data from the four detectors with the same resolution in each spectrum. In the future, the final reduced data will be presented by the CRIRES-POP team. In contrast to the pipeline reduced data, this will be of higher quality, a better wavelength calibration, and telluric corrected.

The EWs were measured of the pipeline reduced spectrum, and where there was an overlap with the fully reduced spectrum, the EW was measured in both cases as a consistency check. The measured EWs from the fully reduced spectra were consistent with the measured EWs from the pipeline reduced spectra, although with less noise in the fully reduced spectral parts. As mentioned above, the Y, J, H, and K-bands, which are all available for this star, were used in this analysis. The spectra come in pieces of 50 Å to 120 Å. These pieces overlap each other, and up to five EW measurements were made for some lines. Unfortunately, wavelength calibration is a difficult task for CRIRES owing to the rather small spectral regions measured on each detector. Each calibration was performed separately for each detector and required the availability of a sufficient number of calibration lines in the respective spectral region. This was not always the case and a default linear solution was applied. A pipeline reduced spectrum shows up as a stretched spectrum if the wavelength calibration is poor compared to a model spectrum or a solar spectrum, for example. The wavelength calibration does not have any effect on the signal-to-noise ratio, which is generally high for the spectrum of HD 20010. The signal-to-noise varies between 200 and 400 for different chunks. However, the stretched spectra will most likely have an effect on the measured EWs.

The pipeline reduced spectrum for HD 20010 contains tellurics and the wavelength is shifted in radial velocity. All of these factors make the line identification very difficult, so a program was developed³ to properly identify the lines, which does the following:

1. Plotting the observed spectrum
2. Overplotting a model spectrum. In this particular case the solar spectrum was used since the atmospheric parameters are close enough, so the sun was able to serve as a model
3. Overplotting a telluric spectrum from the TAPAS web page (Bertaux et al., 2014)
4. Overplotting vertical lines at the location of lines in the list
5. Calculating the cross-correlation function (CCF) for the telluric spectrum with respect to the observed spectrum, locating the maximum value by a Gaussian fit, and using this to shift the telluric spectrum with the found RV
6. Performing the same as step 5, but for the model spectrum
7. Shifting the lines with the same RV as found for the model/solar spectrum

The final plot shows the shifted spectra, and the CCFs at the sides. An example of the software in use is shown in Figure 4.5. The two radial velocities (for the telluric and model spectrum) are part of the title of the plot. Once the lines were identified, the EWs were measured with the `splot` routine in *Image Reduction and Analysis Facility* (IRAF). The reason not to choose ARES for this task was to visually confirm the identification of the line given the relative poor wavelength calibration from the automatic pipeline. 249 Fe I lines and 5 Fe II EWs were measured compared to 344 Fe I lines and 13 Fe II

³ The program (and other small scripts) can be found here https://github.com/DanielAndreasen/astro_scripts

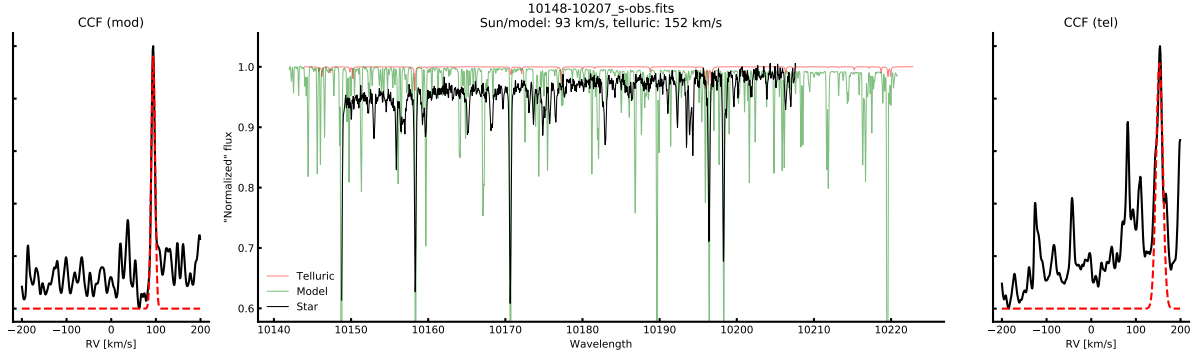


Figure 4.5: Line identification in piece of Arcturus spectrum with PHOENIX model and telluric model for correcting RV.

lines for the Sun over the whole NIR spectral region in the line list. Whenever there were more than one EW measurement of a line, due to overlap in different spectra, the average was used for the final EW. The stellar atmospheric parameters were derived using the standard procedure (see Section 3.3). Lines below $5 \text{ m}\text{\AA}$ were removed in order to remove the lines which are most affected by contamination from either telluric or other line blends. Additionally, a cut in EP at 5.5 eV was made since the Fe I and Fe II lines usually used for stellar parameter determination in the optical regime are also limited to similar values (see e.g. Sousa et al., 2008). Higher excitation potential lines are also more likely to be affected by non-LTE effects.

When deriving the stellar atmospheric parameters, one outlier were removed at a time (after a completed minimization) until no outliers were present. Since we could only measure 5 Fe II lines, the parameter were also derived with $\log g = 4.01 \text{ dex}$ fixed at the reference mean value (see Table 4.2). The resulting atmospheric parameters and iron abundances are presented in Table 4.3. The effective temperature, surface gravity, and metallicity agree within the errors with the literature values. Similar parameters are obtained by fixing $\log g$ to the average literature value or by leaving it free.

Any reference for this?

Table 4.3: The derived parameters for HD20010 with and without fixed surface gravity.

	T_{eff} (K)	$\log g$ (dex)	ξ_{micro} (km/s)	[Fe/H] (dex)
Literature	6131 ± 255	4.01 ± 0.60	1.90 ± 1.08	-0.23 ± 0.14
	6116 ± 224	4.21 ± 0.58	2.45 ± 0.45	-0.14 ± 0.14
	6144 ± 212	4.01 (fixed)	2.66 ± 0.42	-0.13 ± 0.29

The errors on the atmospheric parameters for HD 20010 are much higher than what is achievable with other measurements in the literature, as presented above in Table 4.2. In order to explain these errors, the abundances for all lines which have at least two measurements of the EW were calculated from the highest and lowest measured EW. The differences in abundances are presented in Figure 4.6. The very large differences (more than 0.1 dex) translate to the high errors in the parameters.

This test strongly suggest that errors in the EWs, likely due to the telluric contamination and non-optimal reduction of the spectrum (poor default wavelength calibration), are responsible for the relatively large error in the derived stellar parameters. After the first analysis of HD 20010, the CRIRES-POP team published a fully reduced spectrum of 10 Leo (Nicholls et al., 2017) with telluric correction and an optimal wavelength solution. The results obtained from this star (see Section 4.6) are very promising for

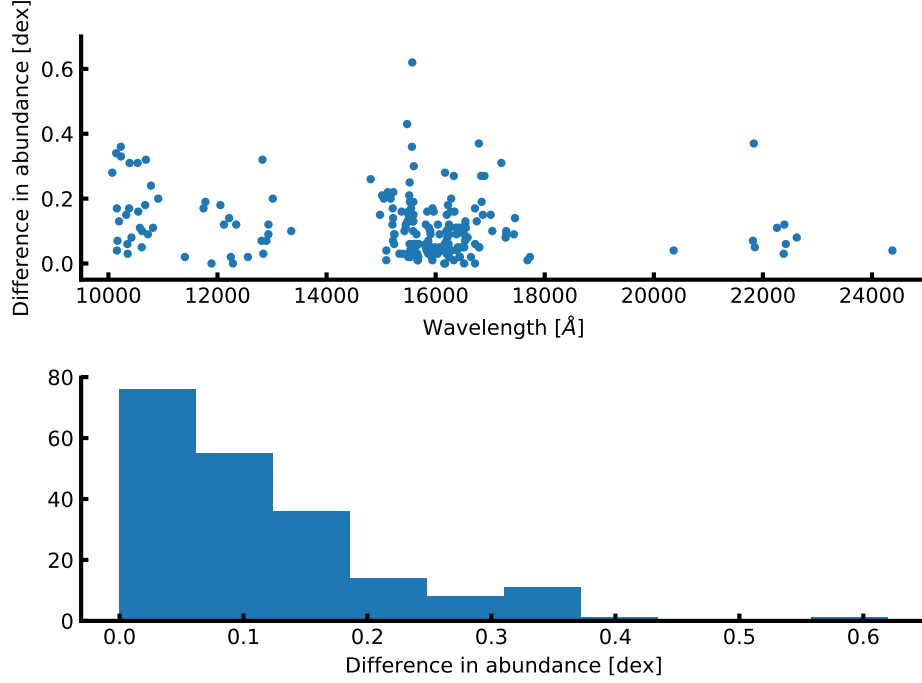


Figure 4.6: Difference in abundance for HD 20010 when multiple measurements of EW were obtained. The differences are between the lowest and highest measured EW in case of multiple measurements. This is shown against the wavelength (*upper panel*) and in a histogram (*lower panel*).

the method used here, and it encourage a complete re-visit of HD 20010 once the reduction is optimal.

4.3 The NIR line list - toward cooler stars

As will be seen in Section 4.2 the line list presented above was used to derive atmospheric parameters of HD 20010. Even though the first test of the line list was successful, it left room for improvements. The errors on the derived parameters were quite high for the spectral type compared results obtainable with a similar analysis utilising the optical spectrum (see Section 4.2 for details on this). Additionally, the derived metallicity was 0.10 dex higher than the literature values used.

If all derived parameters except metallicity are reliable (when compared to e.g. a literature value), then it suggest that the measured EW are either over- or underestimated. However, when using a line list for the first time like here, it can also suggest problems with the line list itself, most likely a bad calibration. This could have been wrong measurements of the EWs of the calibrator star, Sun in this case. This combines to several cases:

- Correct measurements of EWs of calibrator star:
 - Systematic lower measurements of EWs of target star leads to underestimated $[M/H]$
 - Systematic higher measurements of EWs of target star leads to overestimated $[M/H]$
 - Correct measurements of EWs of target star leads to correct $[M/H]$
- Systematic lower measurements of EWs of calibrator star:

- Systematic lower measurements of EWs of target star leads to underestimated $[M/H]$
- Systematic higher measurements of EWs of target star can lead to underestimated, correct or overestimated $[M/H]$ depending on the amount of systematic higher measurements
- Correct measurements of EWs of target star leads to underestimated $[M/H]$
- Systematic higher measurements of EWs of calibrator star:
 - Systematic lower measurements of EWs of target star can lead to overestimated, correct or underestimated $[M/H]$ depending on the amount of systematic lower measurements
 - Systematic higher measurements of EWs of target star leads to overestimated $[M/H]$
 - Correct measurements of EWs of target star leads to overestimated $[M/H]$

It is important to note, that *correct* has been used here, assuming a perfect setup, that includes perfect model atmosphere, perfect radiative transfer code, etc. In reality the final $[M/H]$ (and the other parameters) measured by different groups will occasionally differ regarding the setup used (see e.g. [Hinkel et al., 2016](#)).

As described in Section 4.1 the EW of the Sun (calibrator star) was measured with **ARES**. A crucial option to set when using **ARES** is the `rejt` parameter as mentioned in Section 3.3.2. This option is used to place the continuum and will thus directly affect the measured EW. At the time of compiling the first version of the line list it seems the `rejt` value used did not reflect the high S/N of the spectrum, thus placing the continuum too low and thereby underestimate the EW. The `rejt` parameter used was 0.995 (S/N=200), while it should have been closer to 0.999 (S/N=1000). This might have excluded some of the weakest lines, since a cut in EW was made at 5 mÅ.

In this second version of the line list, the goal is to:

1. Make sure the EW measurements are as correct as possible by measuring them by hand
2. Free of blended lines in cooler stars (K stars in this case)

The second point is a similar exercise which was done in the optical by [Tsantaki et al. \(2013\)](#), where blended lines were removed from the larger line list by [Sousa et al. \(2008\)](#). This allowed to determine the atmospheric parameters of stars colder than 5000 K. However, the optical spectrum still suffer for severely blended lines at low T_{eff} , thus this method does not work for M stars.

Both of the above steps were done at the same time, by measuring the EWs by hand using **IRAF**. Whenever a line was difficult to reliably measure, i.e. a consistent measurement was not possible/easy, it was discarded since it was blended. This can be seen in Figure 4.7 where the EW measurements from the first version is shown against this version with the manual measurements. There are some measurements of EW higher than 150 mÅ which should have been removed. These lines have not been used during the analysis, however they were kept since they might appear useful on a later stage.

With the increased access to high quality NIR spectra and the gained experience during the course of the thesis, it was possible to improve the line list by a second visual inspection on the solar spectrum.

After the new measurements of the EWs, the line list was re-calibrated according to the procedure described above. The average change in $\log gf$ is -0.062 ± 0.157 , i.e. on average the oscillator strengths are higher in the second version compared to the first version of the line list.

With the second version there are only 5 Fe II lines left which is a concern since these are crucial for the derivation of the surface gravity.

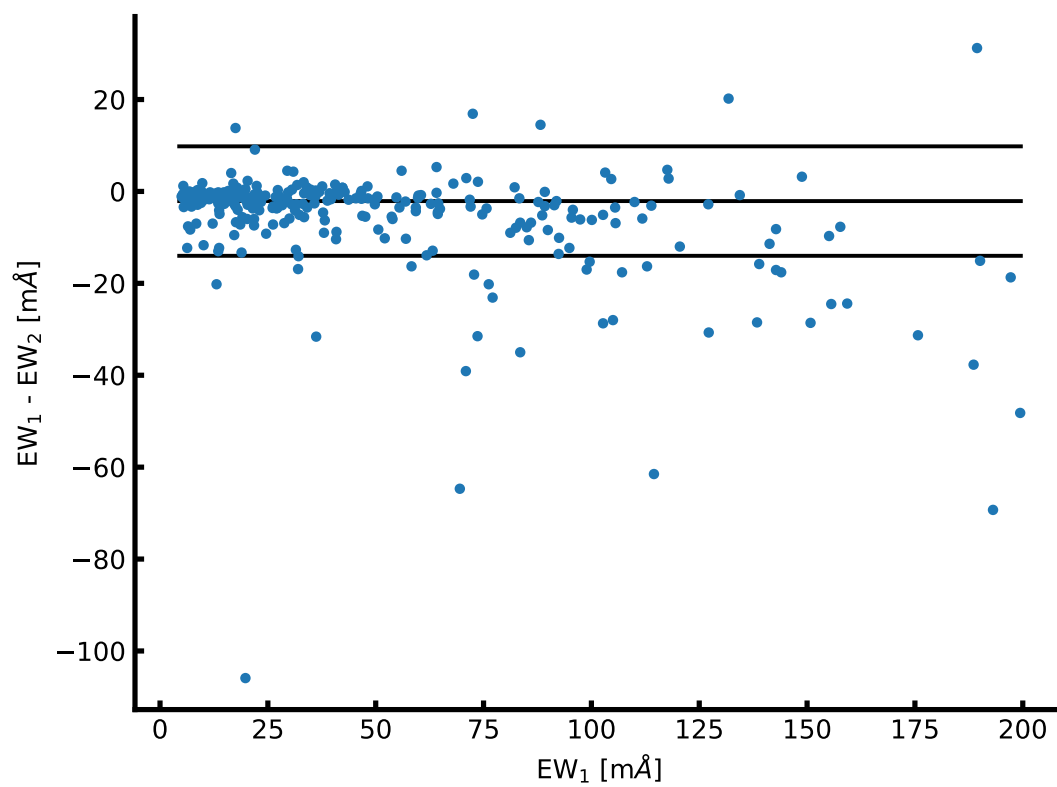


Figure 4.7: Comparison of the EW from the first version of the line list, EW_1 , and the second version, EW_2 . The EWs are generally higher in the second version, with an average difference between the two version of $(2.1 \pm 11.1) \text{ m\AA}$. The three horizontal lines show the average value and the standard deviation.

4.4 HD 20010 - revisited

During the analysis of Arcturus (see Section 4.5) and 10 Leo (see Section 4.6) with the refined line list presented in Section 4.3 it was a simple task to apply the updated line list on HD 20010 a second time as a test whether it would perform similar, worse or better. This is compared to results obtained from the literature and the previous results in Section 4.2.

Therefore HD 20010 was revisited, and the atmospheric stellar parameters were derived. The measured EWs from the results above in Section 4.2 were kept, however the lines which did not make the cut in the second version of the line list were removed. Moreover, the $\log gf$ values were updated since these were re-calibrated.

At this point FASMA was fully developed and was used to obtain the results which are shown in Table 4.4 along with the results for Arcturus and 10 Leo (details on their parameters will be found below). The agreement with the adopted average literature values are better for HD 20010 compared to the results from above in Section 4.2 (especially $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ and $\log g$), and smaller errors with the updated results. This first test of the line list already shows promising results. The literature values are slightly different here than compared to the first analysis of this star. This is solely because other references were used, the PASTEL catalogue (Soubiran et al., 2016). However, this does not change the improvement seen.

Table 4.4: Results for the three stars where first set of parameters are the literature values as presented in Table 4.1, second set of parameters are results with $\log g$ set to the same value during the minimization procedure as found in the literature (fixed), and last set of parameters are with all parameters free during the minimization procedure.

	HD 20010	10 Leo	Arcturus
Literature			
T_{eff} (lit.)	6152 ± 95	4741 ± 60	4300 ± 110
$\log g$ (lit.)	3.96 ± 0.19	2.76 ± 0.17	1.60 ± 0.29
$[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ (lit.)	-0.27 ± 0.06	-0.03 ± 0.02	-0.54 ± 0.11
ξ_{micro} (lit.)	1.17 ± 0.24	1.45 ± 0.08	1.93 ± 0.13
$\log g$ fixed			
T_{eff}	6161 ± 164	4761 ± 118	4357 ± 74
$\log g$	3.96 (fixed)	2.76 (fixed)	1.60 (fixed)
$[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$	-0.18 ± 0.11	0.01 ± 0.07	-0.55 ± 0.04
ξ_{micro}	1.72 ± 0.44	1.25 ± 0.11	1.55 ± 0.10
All free			
T_{eff}	6162 ± 184	4805 ± 98	4439 ± 62
$\log g$	4.08 ± 0.77	2.42 ± 0.61	1.20 ± 0.20
$[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$	-0.18 ± 0.11	-0.01 ± 0.07	-0.58 ± 0.06
ξ_{micro}	1.59 ± 0.49	1.23 ± 0.10	1.55 ± 0.10

4.5 Arcturus

Arcturus is one of the brightest stars on the Northern hemisphere with a V magnitude of -0.05 (Ducati, 2002), and is well studied (see e.g. Griffin and Griffin, 1967; McWilliam, 1990; Ramírez et al., 2013, to mention just a few), and a benchmark star in current spectroscopic surveys such as Gaia-ESO (Jofré et al., 2014; Smiljanic et al., 2014). Hence it is a prime target for testing with the numerous measurements of

the atmospheric parameters.

The atlas of Arcturus, acquired at Kitt Peak National Observatory using the FTS spectrograph at the Mayall telescope by [Hinkle et al. \(1995a\)](#), covers the spectral range of interest (YJHK bands). Strong telluric features were identified with a spectrum from the TAPAS web page ([Bertaux et al., 2014](#)) which was useful during the line identification. The atlas also comes with a telluric standard and the ratio of the two spectra in order to correct for the tellurics. The telluric spectrum from TAPAS was only used for telluric line identification. Both the telluric corrected and non-corrected spectra was used during the analysis, however the focus was on the non-corrected spectrum since it is simple to identify the telluric lines in this spectrum.

The atlas consists of both a summer observation set and a winter observation set. The two data sets have been obtained in order to minimise the effect of tellurics at different spectral regions. A comparison between the two sets of measured EWs, both the manual measurements using IRAF and the automatic measurements using ARES, are shown in Figure 4.8. The automatic EW measurements for the summer set and winter set show excellent agreement with a dispersion of 7 mÅ and a systematic difference of 0.1 mÅ, i.e. negligible. This means that the two data sets are very similar, thus it was decided to only manually measure the EWs for one set (summer). Since this is a test of the line list (rather than a study of Arcturus) and the fact that the EWs are very similar, the parameters are only derived from the summer set with the EWs measured by ARES. Parameters were derived with and without $\log g$ set to a fixed value (1.60 dex, the average literature value adopted). The derivation of the parameters followed the same procedure as described above for HD 20010 using FASMA. Again outliers in abundance were removed one at the time until there were no more outliers. The final results are presented in Table 4.4 together with mean parameters from the literature.

There is overall good agreement between the derived parameters and the average values from the literature adopted (see Table 4.4). The only parameter being difficult to measure is the surface gravity due to the low number of Fe II lines in the NIR. This was already suspected and mentioned in Section 4.3. There are also some problems determining ξ_{micro} , however this is not a major concern, since it is not as important a parameter as the other three. The derived metallicity is consistent with the literature here which is promising since there were some problems with this parameter in Section 4.2.

4.6 10 Leo

The spectrum for 10 Leo was recently made available by the CRIRES-POP team ([Nicholls et al., 2017](#)). 10 Leo is very similar to Arcturus, which is also one reason this star was the first to be fully reduced by the CRIRES-POP team. The spectrum is divided into several pieces according to the atmospheric windows in the NIR: YJ (only together), H, K, L, and M. Here the first three were used since this is the range of the line list. Some small gaps are present in the spectrum due to tellurics that could not be properly removed, low S/N, bad pixels, etc. Rather than giving an uncertain interpolation, [Nicholls et al. \(2017\)](#) decided to leave small gaps in the data. This had very little effect on this line by line analysis, however, due to those gaps, one Fe II line were not measured which are crucial to determine the surface gravity.

The approach for determining the atmospheric stellar parameters for 10 Leo is identical to Arcturus. ARES was used on each band (YJ, H, and K-band) separately. For the small gaps in the spectrum, the flux was simply set to 1, since the spectrum has already been normalised. This also prevented ARES to

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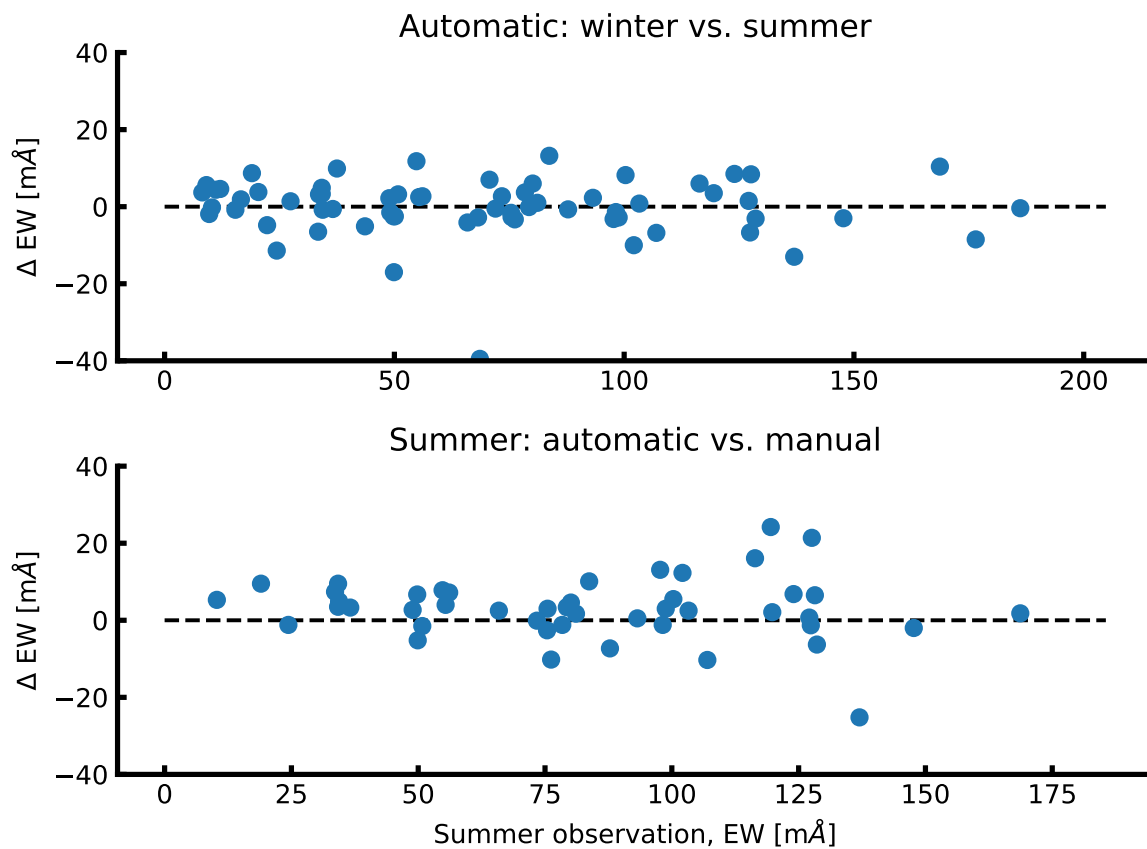


Figure 4.8: Top figure: Difference of the automatic EW measurements between the summer observations and winter observations from the Arcturus spectra. Bottom figure: Same as above, but with manual measurements from ARES (summer) and automatic measurements (summer).

identify and measure any lines in these regions. The EWs from the three regions were combined to one final line list used for the determination of the parameters. The final results can be seen in Table 4.4.

Generally the derived parameters are in excellent agreement with the literature values listed here. A 64 K difference is seen for T_{eff} with $\log g$ set as a free parameter, well within the errors. The only parameter that show a discrepancy compared to the literature value is ξ_{micro} with a difference of 0.22 km/s, which is at the limit of the errors reported. We note that this parameter is not reported in the PASTEL database, and this was a derived parameter from an empirical relation. $\log g$ was derived with large errors which is a result from the few Fe II (three lines) measured. However, the $\log g$ is not far from the literature value, only 0.34 dex lower, which is well within the large errors reported. However, it also shows it is safer to obtain $\log g$ from other more reliable methods, such as asteroseismology when possible.

Then find some reliable values instead

4.7 Synthetic cool stars

Mainly due to lack of available high quality spectra in the NIR, it is a good test to use a simulation. By deriving parameters from synthetic spectra, it is possible to carefully control the work flow, in the sense that the target parameters are known. In this section the synthetic library⁴ by Husser et al. (2013) will be used. These are synthetic spectra created from spherical symmetric PHOENIX atmosphere models under local thermodynamic equilibrium. The model atmospheres does not include dust settling since all models are hotter than 2300 K. The details for the atmosphere models can be seen in Husser et al. (2013).

For this test only the T_{eff} will vary, ranging from 3500 K to 6000 K with most densely sampled at lower temperatures (see Figure 4.9). Here $\log g = 4.5$ dex and $[M/H] = 0.00$ dex, i.e. synthesised dwarf stars with solar metallicity. Before analysing the data, the spectra was broadened to have a spectral resolution of 100 000, comparable with current and future high resolution NIR spectrographs.

In this test ARES was used to measure the EWs of as many lines from the line list (second version) as possible for each of the 12 synthetic spectra. These line list were used to derive parameters with two different model atmospheres, ATLAS9 (Kurucz, 1993) and MARCS (Gustafsson et al., 2008), with FASMA. This was done twice, with all parameters derived from FASMA (Figure 4.9), and again with $\log g$ fixed at 4.5 dex and ξ_{micro} fixed which means it is changed in each iteration (see Section 3.3 for details) according to an empirical relation. The latter case with fixed parameters is shown in Figure 4.10.

For the results with $\log g$ and ξ_{micro} fixed at the correct parameters during the derivation, the first thing noticed is the good agreement between the two model atmospheres. Second, the derived T_{eff} are underestimated for $T_{\text{eff}} > 4000$ K while for the two lowest T_{eff} it is the opposite case. It is important to know that the grid of ATLAS9 models only go down to 3750 K, however these synthetic spectra were included for completeness. For $T_{\text{eff}} > 4000$ K it is systematically lower by the same amount, roughly 100 K. As have been shown in the previous sections in this chapter, the methodology is reliable for T_{eff} ranging from 4300 K to 6200 K (see Table 4.4). With the consistent offset in T_{eff} , it is a clear indication that the methodology is reliable down to these temperatures.

In the case of $\log g$ and ξ_{micro} fixed the derived mean metallicity for the 12 synthetic spectra are $[Fe/H] = (-0.12 \pm 0.17)$ dex and $[Fe/H] = (-0.19 \pm 0.12)$ dex for the ATLAS9 and MARCS model atmospheres, respectively. The offset is likely to be found in the discrepancy between the model atmosphere and real data (Arcturus in this case) as shown in Figure 4.12. Here a PHOENIX synthetic spectrum with

⁴ <http://phoenix.astro.physik.uni-goettingen.de/>

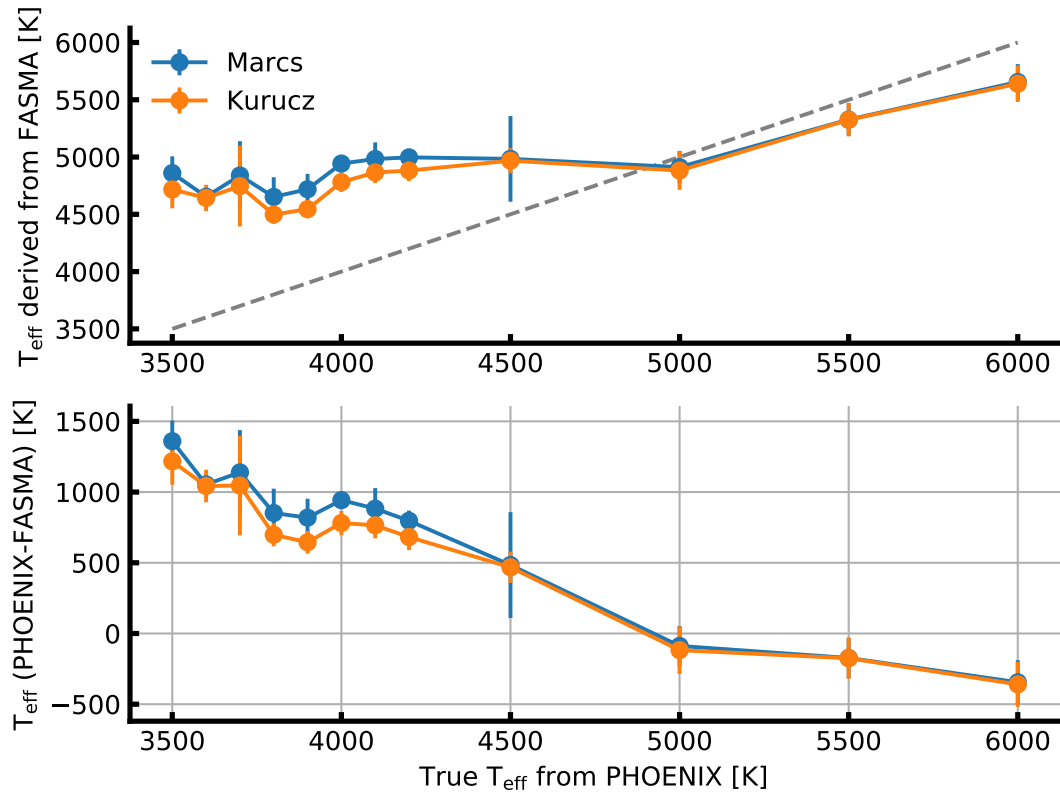


Figure 4.9: Derived parameters of 12 synthetic PHOENIX spectra with varying T_{eff} .

$T_{\text{eff}} = 4300 \text{ K}$, $\log g = 1.50 \text{ dex}$, and $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -0.50 \text{ dex}$ is plotted with a piece of the Arcturus atlas from Section 4.5. The synthetic spectrum has similar parameters as Arcturus, thus they should have similar spectral features. However, in the plot the spectral lines are deeper for the PHOENIX model and there seem to be more absorption lines in this synthetic spectrum compared to the observed spectrum. This have a direct effect on the measured EWs as they will be blended and deeper than expected.

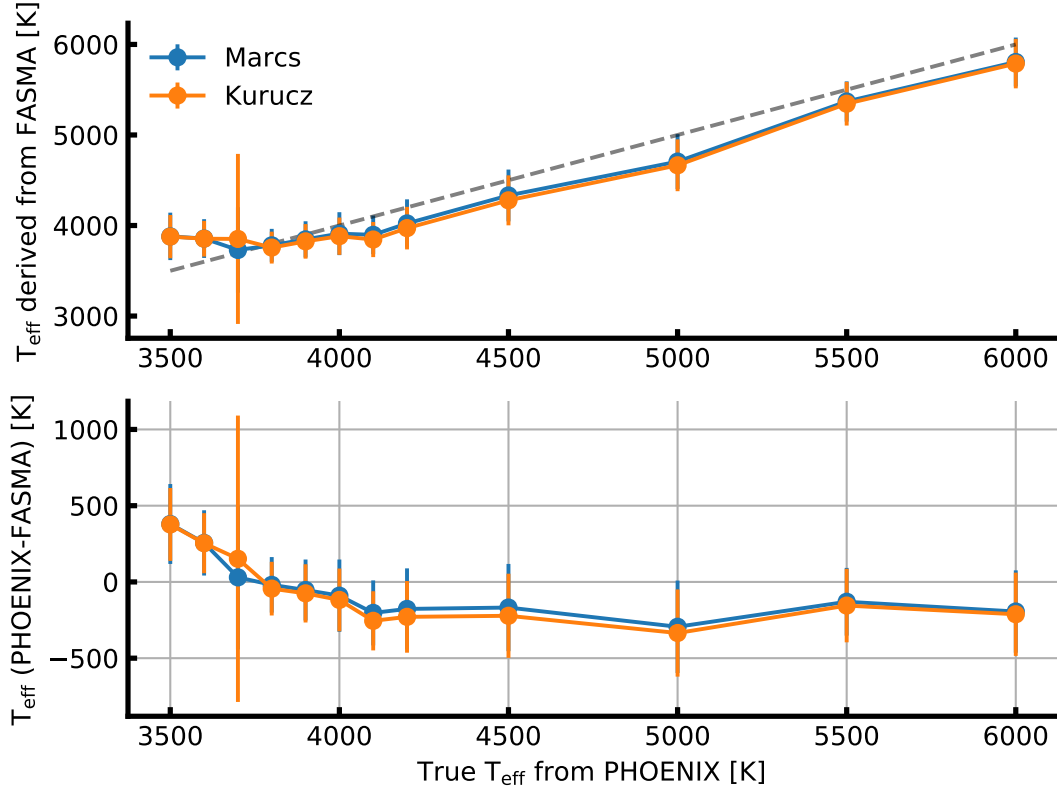


Figure 4.10: Derived parameters of 12 synthetic PHOENIX spectra with varying T_{eff} . Here $\log g$ is fixed at 4.5 dex and ξ_{micro} fixed according to an empirical relation, thus only deriving T_{eff} and $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$.

A comparison with EWs from the iron line list from the observed Arcturus spectrum and the synthetic spectrum which resembles Arcturus closest is shown in Figure 4.11. The EWs are clearly getting more disperse with increasing EW.

When all the parameters are derived it is a very different story for T_{eff} . In this case the T_{eff} are overestimated for the synthetic spectra colder than 5000 K. Above this limit the T_{eff} are slightly underestimated with a hint of the results getting worse further from this limit. The reason for this can partly be found in the measured Fe II lines. As mentioned before, these are used to determine $\log g$. There have been measured between 1 and 3 Fe II lines, generally fewer the lower T_{eff} is, out of 5 possible measurements. The mean derived values for the surface gravity are $\log g = (1.11 \pm 1.63) \text{ dex}$ and $\log g = (1.38 \pm 1.45) \text{ dex}$ for ATLAS9 and MARCS model atmospheres, respectively. Similarly for the metallicity the following mean values are $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = (-0.73 \pm 0.37) \text{ dex}$ and $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = (-0.73 \pm 0.38) \text{ dex}$ for ATLAS9 and MARCS model atmospheres, respectively. The measured iron abundance for the 12

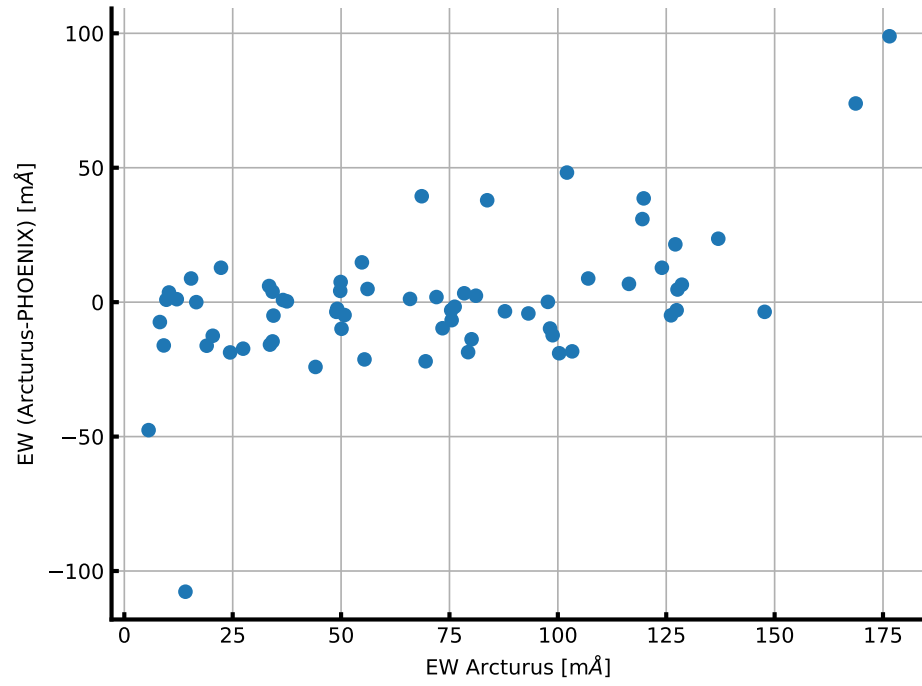


Figure 4.11: Common EWs between Arcturus and the synthetic spectrum with closest parameters (see text for details). The EWs are getting more disperse with increasing EW which is expected when seeing the direct comparison of the spectrum in Figure 4.12.

synthetic spectra can be seen in Figure ???. The figure only includes runs which reached convergence with FASMA.

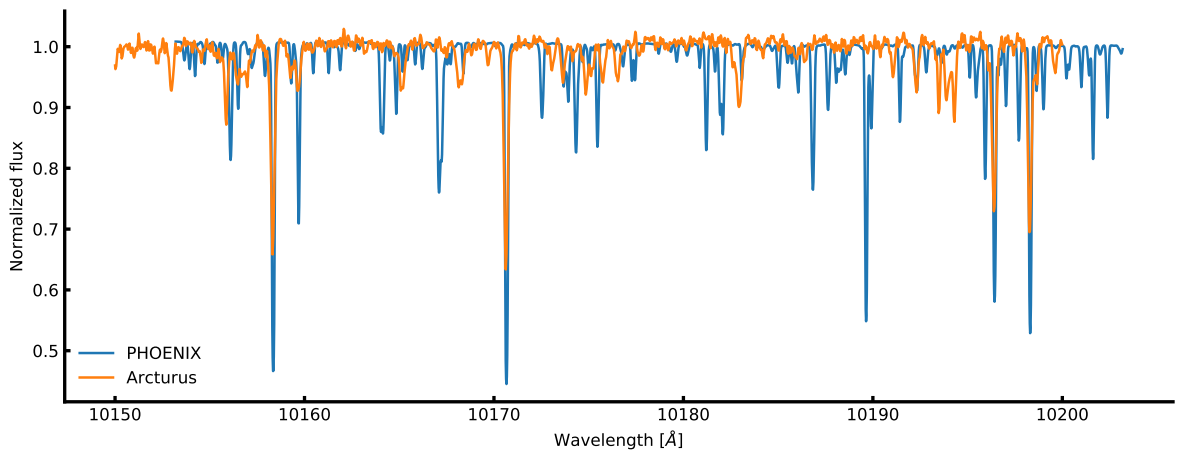


Figure 4.12: Comparison between the Arcturus atlas and a PHOENIX synthetic spectrum with similar parameters to Arcturus (see text for details).

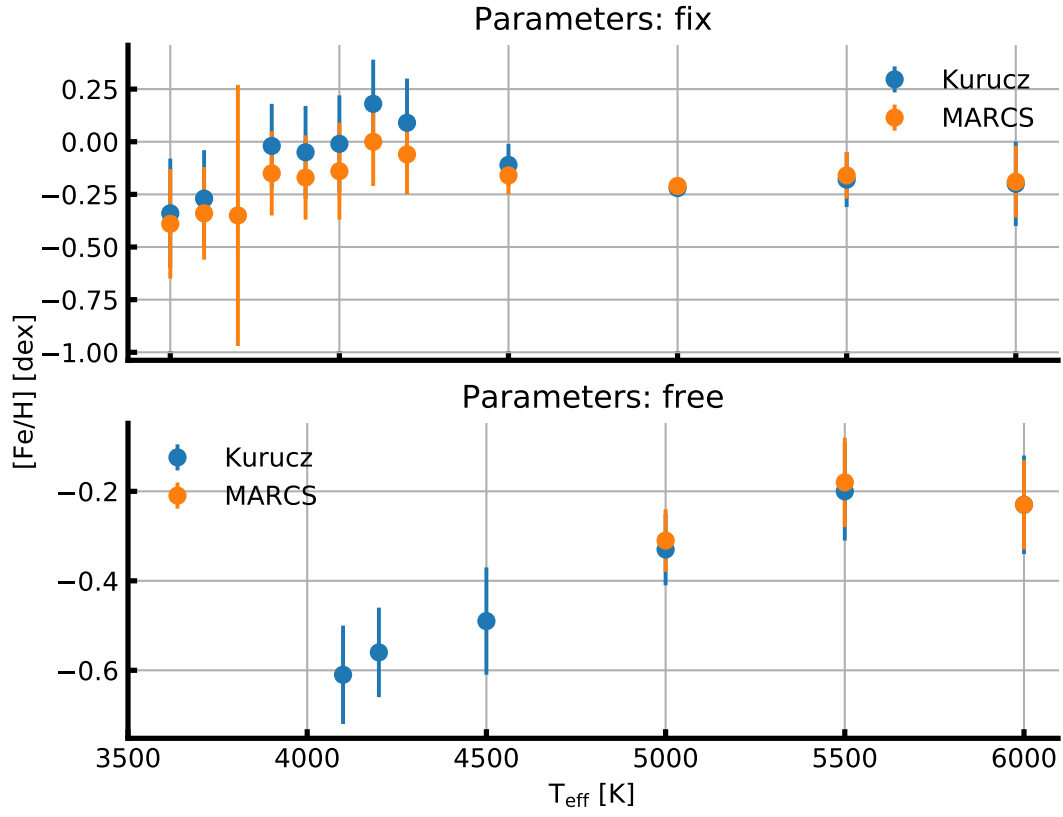


Figure 4.13: Derived $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ with respect to the true T_{eff} for runs that reached convergence. *Top panel*: $\log g$ fixed at 4.5 dex and ξ_{micro} to the empirical relation (see text for details). *Lower panel*: All parameters free.

4.8 Parameter dependence on EP cut

It is common practise, as in this case, to make a cut in EP for a line list when deriving parameters. This was suggested in [Andreasen et al. \(2016\)](#) (later done in [Andreasen et al., 2017a](#)) for the NIR line list used here. This cut was made at 5.5 eV, inspired by a similar cut in the optical ([Sousa et al., 2008](#)), including only lines below this limit. The lines with higher EP might also be affected by non-LTE effects which is not treated in this methodology.

As the parameters are dependent on this cut in EP, it seemed interesting to divide a line list in two with upper and lower EPs and analyse those separately. Before going into that analysis it is important to note, that the parameters should not depend on any cut in EP if the theory is right, the radiative transfer code is working properly, and the atmospheric models are correct. Lines with different EP are likely to be formed in different layers of the atmosphere as discussed in [Section 2.2](#), however this should not effect the final derived abundance, which is the problem here.

Make a figure that shows this

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