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Physics and Evolution of Magnetic and Related Stars SAO, Russia, August 25-31, 2014





The role of magnetic fields in massive stars

Magnetic fields have fundamental effects

- on the evolution of massive stars,
- on their rotation,
- on the structure, dynamics, and heating of radiative winds.
- During the last years an increasing number of massive stars have been investigated for magnetic fields.
- Currently, about a dozen of magnetic O-type stars and more than two dozens of magnetic early B-type stars (excluding classical Hestrong/He-weak Bp stars?) are known.

The origin of magnetic fields in massive stars

The origin of magnetic fields is still under debate: it has been argued that magnetic fields could be "fossil", or magnetic fields may be generated by strong binary interaction, i.e. in stellar mergers, or during a mass transfer or common envelope evolution.



Recent magnetic field surveys in OB stars: MiMeS and BOB

- Aims: To understand nature and origin of magnetic field and to study physics of their atmospheres, winds and magnetospheres.
- MiMeS studies were carried out using high-resolution spectropolarimetry (Narval, ESPaDOnS, and HARPS; *R*~65000–110000).
- Recent FORS2 and HARPS runs are carried out in the framework of the ESO large program BOB "Magnetic fields in OB stars", Prg. 191.D-0255, (PI Th. Morel) for which 35.5 nights with FORS2 and HARPS over 2.5 years have been granted.



The B fields in OB stars (BOB) project overview



A total of 35.5 nights allocated over 2.5 years (ESO P91-P96) on FORS2 and HARPSpol

Survey biased towards slow rotators to enhance field detectability

For both FORS2 and HARPS, data reduction and analysis carried out completely independently by two groups (Bonn and Potsdam)







The B fields in OB stars (BOB) project

Number stars surveyed Number new firm detections **Detection rate**
 MiMeS
 BOB

 ~525
 97

 ~35
 5

 7±1%
 ~5%



But ~15 candidates are still being followed up: detection rate may be (slightly) revised upwards

Polarization V spectra observed with FORS1/2 (Focal Reducer low dispersion Spectrograph) 0.00 0.002 F 0.001 0.001Stokes V/I Stokes V/I 0.000 0.000 -0.001-0.001 -0.002 b -0.002 huma 4855 4860 4865 4870 4080 4090 4100 4110 4120 Wavelength [Å] Wavelength [Å] $\frac{V}{I} = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \left(\frac{f^{o} - f^{e}}{f^{o} + f^{e}} \right)_{\alpha = -45^{\circ}} - \left(\frac{f^{o} - f^{e}}{f^{o} + f^{e}} \right)_{\alpha = +45^{\circ}} \right\}$

 α gives the position angle of the retarder waveplate and f^o and f^e are ordinary and extraordinary beams, respectively.



Determination of the magnetic field



The mean longitudinal magnetic field is the average over the stellar hemisphere visible at the time of observation of the component of the magnetic field parallel to the line of sight. It is diagnosed from the slope of the linear regression:

$$\frac{V}{I} = -\frac{g_{\rm eff}e\lambda^2}{4\pi m_{\rm e}c^2} \frac{1}{I} \frac{\mathrm{d}I}{\mathrm{d}\lambda} \langle \mathcal{B}_z \rangle$$

Spectral lines in O-type stars show complex profiles. Many lines appear in emission or display P Cyg-type profiles. Most stars rotate very fast - low-resolution Balmer line spectropolarimetry is preferred.



Searches for magnetic fields in OB stars: high-resolution spectropolarimetry

• The method:

Least-Squares Deconvolution introduced by Semel (1989) and Donati (1997). Assumptions: line formation is similar in all lines, weak-field approximations (works below 1 kG), overlapping lines add up linearly... The LSD method does not work well for non-radial pulsating OB type stars.

First detections:

 Θ^1 OriC - Donati et al. 2002 HD 191612 – Donati et al. 2006 T Sco – Donati et al. 2006 ξ^1 CMa (FORS1)– Hubrig et al. 2006



Different categories of O-type stars

- Of?p stars: Walborn (1973) introduced the Of?p category for massive O stars displaying recurrent spectral variations in certain spectral lines, sharp emission or P Cygni profiles in He I and the Balmer lines, and strong C III emission lines around 4650 Å. Only five Galactic Of?p stars are currently known: HD 108, NGC 1624-2, CPD-28 2561, HD 148937, and HD 191612. Interestingly, our kinematical assessment of space velocities of the three brightest, HD 108, HD 148937, and HD 191612, indicates that all three can be considered as candidate runaway stars (Hubrig et al. 2011).
- Ofc stars: These stars display normal spectra with C III $\lambda\lambda 4647-4650-4652$ emission lines of comparable intensity to those of the Of defining lines N III $\lambda\lambda 4634-4640-4642$ (Walborn 2010).
- Other examples: fp, ((f+)), ((f)), (f), (n) (nf), nn...



HD 54879: A magnetic O9.7 V star

Detection	FORS2 observations				
		Hydrogen lines		All lines	
		V	Ν	V	Ν
07 02 2014	Bonn	-654±111	23±80	-503±56	70±46
	Potsdam	-639±121	-16±119	-460±65	76±66
08 02 2014	Bonn	-978±104	-35±81	-653±50	40±4
	Potsdam	-877 ± 91	-102±105	-521 ± 62	23±63









Detection of weak fields in early B-type stars







Detection of weak fields in early B-type stars



Seismic study of β CMa (Mazumdar et al. 2006) Prot = 18.6±3.3 days: i = 61 (+29-15) degrees Not seen pole-on No field variations during 5 days (one third of rotation period): Magnetic field axis likely nearly aligned with rotation axis



A young, magnetic binary in the Trifid Nebula

The Trifid Nebula is one of the youngest star forming regions.

Seven components identified in the central system HD 164492 (Kohoutek et al. 1999).

The three brightest components were observed: A, C, and D.





A young, magnetic binary in the Trifid Nebula



Clear magnetic signal in the FORS2 V/I spectrum of HD 164492C obtained on 2013 April 9.

Two fully independent (and consistent) magnetic field determinations:

Bonn:

$$_{all} = 523 \pm 37 \text{ G}$$

 $_{hyd} = 600 \pm 54 \text{ G}$

Potsdam: $<B_z>_{all} = 472 \pm 44 \text{ G}$ $<B_z>_{hyd} = 576 \pm 60 \text{ G}$

Hubrig et al. (2014)



A young, magnetic binary in the Trifid Nebula

Is HD 164492C actually a multiple system?



Hubrig et al. (2014)

CPD − 57 3509: A **σ** Ori E analogue?



MCR



CPD − 57 3509: A **σ** Ori E analogue?



Strong, daily variations of the field



CPD−*57 3509: A* **σ** *Ori E analogue?*





CPD−*57 3509: A* **σ** *Ori E analogue?*





Star evolved throughout ~30% of its main-sequence lifetime One of the most evolved He-rich stars with a tight age estimate Will provide constraints on the evolution of stars with magnetically-confined stellar winds Still unclear whether CPD -57 3509 is a σ Ori E analogue (e.g., X-ray properties unknown)



Conclusions

- Observations of ~100 OB stars carried out so far with both FORS2 and HARPS.
- Only very few targets in common with MiMeS.
- About fifteen nights remaining. Will be mainly devoted to confirm marginal detections and to characterize field properties for new magnetic stars.
- Consistent detections using completely different reduction and analysis techniques.
- Confirmation that the occurrence of fields above the detectability threshold (~100-200 G) is low in massive stars. *However, exact estimation of incidence rate still pending (may be revised upwards).*
- Discovery of a young, massive magnetic binary in the Trifid Nebula (Hubrig et al. 2014). Unclear at this stage whether only one or more components are magnetic.
- Indications for intrinsically weak fields ($B_d \sim 150$ G) in early B-type stars. Much stronger case for β CMa.

No evidence in massive stars for the "magnetic desert" found in intermediatemass stars (e.g., Aurière et al. 2007). Evidence for field decay? Strong Dipolar field (>3.1 kG) of CPD-57 3509 (Ori E analogue?)