Amplitude modulation in δ Sct stars: statistics from an ensemble of Kepler targets

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The δ Sct stars

 δ Sct stars lie in the classical instability strip: 6400 \leq T_{eff} \leq 8900 K.

983 δ Sct stars continuously observed by *Kepler* for 4 yr.



The δ Sct stars

High-frequency signals in LC *Kepler* data are suppressed in amplitude.





Introduction

What is amplitude modulation?

e.g., KIC 7106205



(Bowman & Kurtz 2014)

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Introductio

What is amplitude modulation?

e.g., KIC 7106205



Defining significant amplitude modulation

Each δ Sct is defined as being an AMod or a NoMod star.

e.g., KIC 7106205





Result

AMod: KIC parameter statistics



61.3 per cent of 983 δ Sct stars are **AMod** stars, with significant amplitude modulation in at least a single pulsation mode.



Constant amplitude stars

e.g., KIC 2304168 (Balona & Dziembowski 2011)

Period ratio of v_1 and v_2 is 0.7725, associated with fundamental and first overtone radial modes

> $T_{eff} = 7220 \pm 270 \text{ K}$ log g = 3.67 ± 0.19 (Huber et al. 2014)

> > NoMod star



Variable amplitudes

e.g., KIC 4733344

Period ratio of v_2 and v_3 is 0.7678, associated with fundamental and first overtone radial modes.

$$T_{eff} = 7210 \pm 260 \text{ K}$$

log g = 3.50 ± 0.23
(Huber et al. 2014)

AMod star



Non-linearity: combination frequencies

Non-linear distortion model:

Higher amplitude pulsation modes have "higher order" combinations: (Kurtz et al. 2015; Balona 2016).



Non-linearity: models

Theoretical prediction of resonant coupling between pulsation modes (Dziembowski 1982; Buchler et al. 1997).

Q: Coupling or a combination frequency?

 $\nu_1 = \nu_2 \pm \nu_3$

 $\varphi_1=\varphi_2\pm\varphi_3$

 $A_1 = \mu_c (A_2 A_3)$

e.g., KIC 4733344 (Bowman et al. 2016)



 $\mu_c \ll 1$ favours non-linear distortion model

 $\mu_c \sim 1$ favours resonant mode coupling

(Breger & Montgomery 2014)

HADS stars

δ Sct stars with peak-to-peaklight excursions greater than0.3 mag (McNamara 2000).



Pulsate in fundamental and/or first overtone radial modes (McNamara 2000).

Typically slow rotators with: v sin i < 40 km s⁻¹ (Breger 2000; McNamara 2000; Rodríguez et al. 2000).

Post-main sequence stars? (Petersen & Christensen-Dalsgaard 1996).

Only 2 of 983 Kepler δ Sct stars are HADS stars!

HADS stars



Conclusions

- The δ Sct stars exhibit diverse pulsational behaviour.
- Amplitude modulation is common among δ Sct stars, but not ubiquitous.
- Models can be used to quantify the *strength* of nonlinear mode coupling.
- The HADS stars are rare and exhibit non-linearity, which may explain why these stars differ to typical δ Sct stars.



Jeffery & Saio (2016)

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Thank you for your attention



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