The convection of close red supergiant stars observed with near-infrared interferometry

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Physics of Evolved Stars - In memory of Olivier Chesneau Nice - June 11th 2015

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The convection of close red supergiant stars observed with near-infrared interferometry

Trigerring the RSG mass loss

- Physical process remains unknown (no flares, no large pulsations)
- $\bullet\,$ Verhoelst et al. (2006) proposed Al_2O_3 as nucleus for dust condensation
- Josselin & Plez (2007) suggested a convection triggered mass loss
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- $\rightarrow\,$ Study of the photosphere + CSE



Antares (α Sco) & Betelgeuse (α Ori)

Parameter	Antares	Betelgeuse
m (visible)	0.91	0.42
m (IR)	-3.49	-3.73
M (M _☉)	15 ± 5	21 ± 2
$R (R_{\odot})$	~ 680	897 ± 211
T _{eff} (K)	3707 ± 77	3690 ± 54
d (pc)	~ 170	197 ± 45
$\nu_{\rm rad}~({\rm km.s^{-1}})$	-3.50 ± 0.8	21.91 ± 0.51
Spectral Type	M0.5lab	M2lb



Interferometric observations of Antares

- VLTI/PIONIER observations : 4 telescopes, H band (low spectral resolution)
- 3 array configurations (baseline lengths from 11m to 153m)





Antares@PIONIER : analytical model



- $\rightarrow\,$ Fit in 1st lobe only
 - $heta_{
 m LDD}=$ 39.8 \pm 0.70 mas, $lpha_{
 m LDD}=$ 0.660 \pm 0.10

Receipt to fit RHD simulations (see Chiavassa et al. 2011):

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More ? \rightarrow Talk of A. Chiavassa at 3:20pm.



- Up to 16th lobe of visibility function
- \rightarrow Very small scale structures
- $\rightarrow\,$ Statistical approach



Parameter	Antares	st36g00m05
Grid	-	401 ³
M (M $_{\odot}$)	6	15 ± 5
$R(R_{\odot})$	$\textbf{376.7} \pm \textbf{0.5}$	~ 680
$T_{ ext{eff}}$	3707 ± 77	3710 ± 20

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• Convection remains the best scenario to explain the high SF

(See: Montargès et al. 2014 in A&A on Betelgeuse with VLTI/AMBER)

• Numerical constraints on simulations

Interferometric observations of Betelgeuse

- VLTI/PIONIER observations (still 4 telescopes, H band, low spectral resolution)
- 4 epochs of monitoring: Jan. 2012, Feb. 2013, Jan. 2014 and Nov. 2014
- Only the compact array configuration



2012 observations



UD/LDD models

First lobe only :

- UD: $\theta_{\rm UD} = 42.64 \pm 0.97$ mas $\chi^2 = 814$
- LDD: $\theta_{\text{LDD}} = 60.64 \pm 2.27 \text{ mas}$ $\alpha_{\text{LDD}} = 2.30 \pm 0.27 \quad \chi^2 = 118$

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- 1st lobe shape: indication of non-spherical star, not expected
- \rightarrow True feature or instrumental artifact ?

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- 2012: diaphragms to avoid saturation, calibrator: Sirius (d = 27°)
- 2013: neutral densities + calibrators with $d \leq 7^\circ$

2013 observations : disk models



UD/LDD models

First lobe only :

- UD: $\theta_{\rm UD} = 42.71 \pm 1.00$ mas $\chi^2 = 619$
- LDD: $\theta_{\text{LDD}} = 53.64 \pm 1.52 \text{ mas}$ $\alpha_{\text{LDD}} = 1.41 \pm 0.19 \quad \chi^2 = 195$

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• Still the 1st lobe feature \rightarrow cannot be ignored !

2013 observations: LD ellipse



• Visibilities \sim ok ($\chi^2=$ 70, better than for disk models)

A little break : closure phases

 $\bullet~$ Visibility = amplitude of Fourier Transforn of light intensity distribution of the source

A little break : closure phases

- Visibility = amplitude of Fourier Transforn of light intensity distribution of the source
- Closure phase = sum of the phases measured by 3 baselines on a closed triangle (independent from phases atmospheric pertubations)



2013 observations: LD ellipse



• Visibilities \sim ok ($\chi^2 =$ 70, better than for disk models)

 $\bullet\,$ Difference between major/minor axes $\sim\,25\%$ of usual diameter of the star

• Closure phases bad (
$$\chi^2 = 718$$
, expected)

Hot spot hypothesis



- Huge hotpost can affect the 1st lobe
- Difficulty: strong link between the star diameter and the spot characteristics

2013 observations : LDD+gaussian hotspot



Parameter	Value	
$ heta_{ m LDD}$ (mas)	43.73 ± 0.50	
$\alpha_{ m LDD}$	0.19 ± 0.07	
$W_{ m spot}$	$\textbf{0.08} \pm \textbf{0.02}$	
x_{center} (mas)	19.76 ± 2.02	
y_{center} (mas)	-7.46 ± 2.42	
FWHM (mas)	18.42 ± 2.42	
χ^2	31	

4 epochs of monitoring



Fit with SF $< 51 m ~arcsec^{-1}$
• $\chi^2_{2012 \ 01} = 29$ • $\chi^2_{2013 \ 02} = 31$ • $\chi^2_{2014 \ 01} = 29$ • $\chi^2_{2014 \ 11} = 70$
Nov. 2014 : need to use 2 spots (+ all SF range)
 Montargès et al. 2015 in prep.

2014: evolution of the signal



2014: evolution of the signal



TBL/Narval (spectro-polarisation) Aurière, Lopez Ariste, Mathias et al. in prep.

Spring 2015: VLT/SPHERE



Kervella et al. in prep. (preliminary)

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Conclusion

Antares

• Convection : statistical approach using RHD simulations (resolution up to more than 1/10 of the star diameter)

Betelgeuse

- NIR photosphere, massive hot spot evolving over 4 years
- What would be the result with only one sample in the 1st lobe ?
- $\rightarrow\,$ Related to spectro-polarimetric measurements ?
- $\rightarrow\,$ Montargès et al. A&A in prep.
 - Visible : higher photosphere domain ?
- \Rightarrow Complex and unexpected shape of RSG
- \Rightarrow Evolution clearly visibly from one epoch to one other



Polarization with SPHERE (Spring 2015)

