What we can learn from constant stars, and what means constant?

Ernst Paunzen

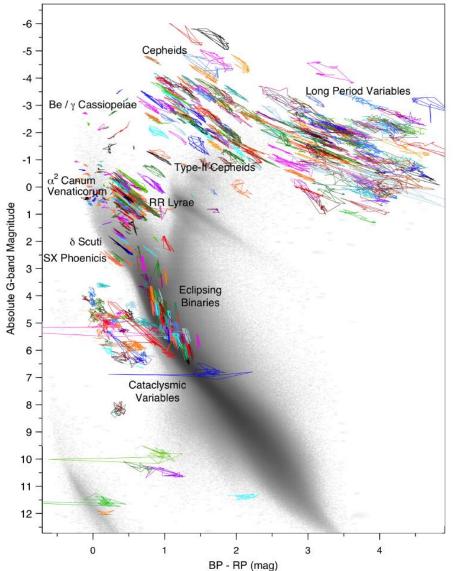
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Why do we need non-variable stars?

Gaia Collaboration, 2019 A&A, 623, A110



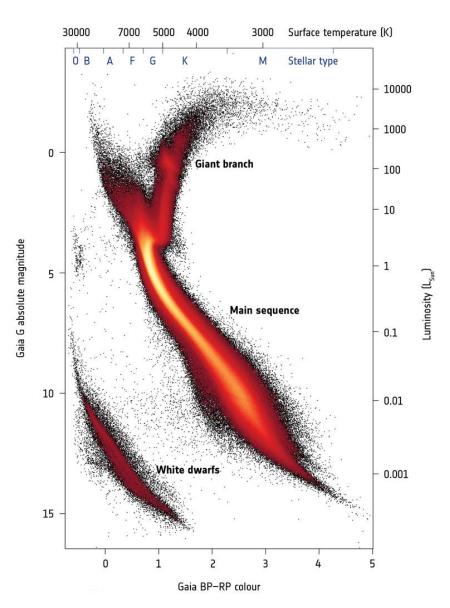
- Flux standards
- RV standards
- Calibration of stellar formation and evolutionary tracks
- Photometric calibration of effective temperature and metallicity



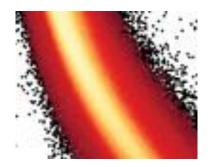
What does non-variability mean?

- A star is constant (not variable) for a given
 - I. Frequency range
 - 2. Time basis of the observations
 - 3. Amplitude Noise level
 - 4. Wavelength region filter
 - 5. Applied "pipeline software"
 - 6. Applied time series analysis method

Motivation



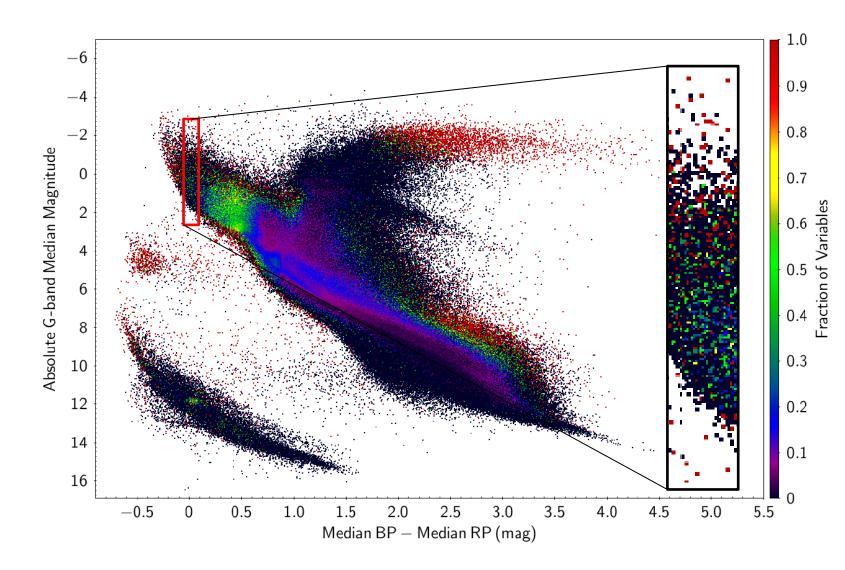
- From Gaia better estimates of the luminosities and hopefully also for the temperatures
- Zoom in and define boxes



Motivation

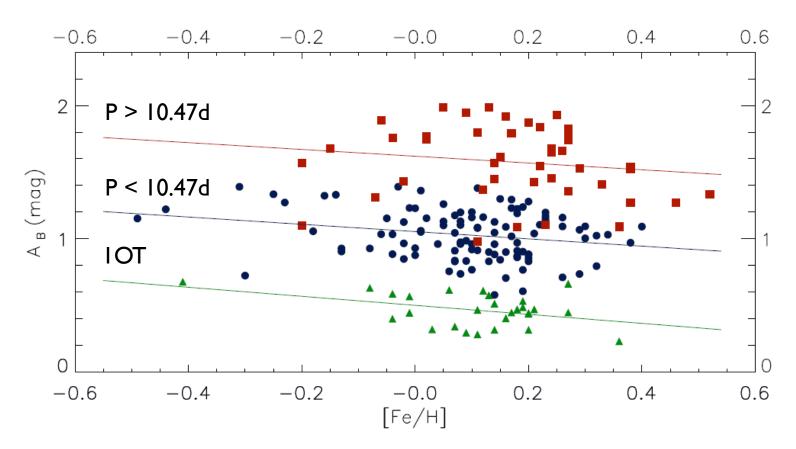
- What determines if a star with "identical" effective temperature and luminosity (same age) is variable or not?
- Some guesses
 - I. Rotation
 - 2. Metallicity
 - 3. Binarity
 - 4. Stellar Magnetic Field
 - 5. Circumstellar Material
 - 6. Inclination

Gaia's view



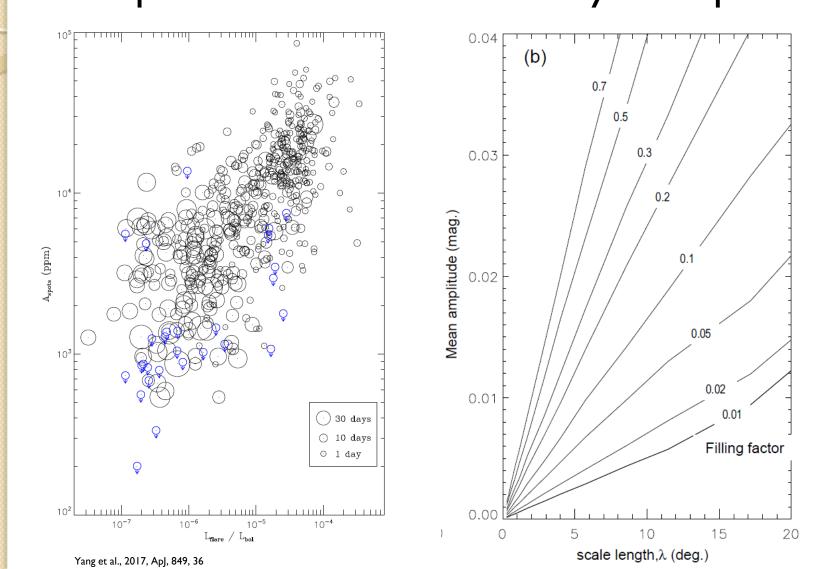
The study of amplitudes

 An amplitude-period-metallicity relation exists for Cepheids and RR-Lyrae stars



Szabados & Klagyivik, 2012, A&A, 537, A81

The study of amplitudes Amplitude versus Flare Activity and Spots



Available light curves

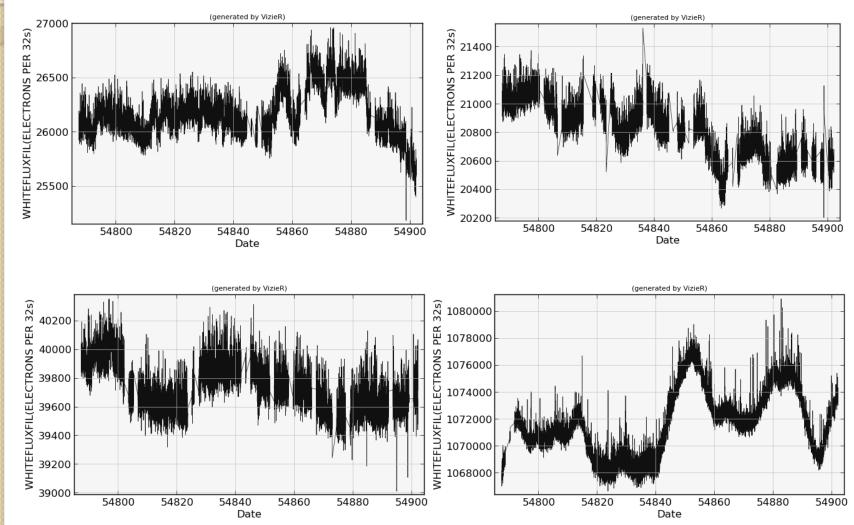
• The current available amount of light curves is huge

Name	Туре	Cadence	Time Basis	Mag. range	$N_{ m lc}$	Filter/Wavelength
		(d)	(d)	(mag)		(nm)
CoRoT		0.00041/0.022	20 - 150	6 – 9/11 – 16	170 000	360 - 950
Kepler		0.00069/0.2083	1500	8 – 19	200 000	420 - 900
K2	Long Cadence	0.2083	80	8 – 19	490 000	420 - 900
	Short Cadence	0.00069	80	8 – 19	2000	420 - 900
TESS		0.00139/0.02083	27 - 351	4 – 17	250 000	600 - 1 000

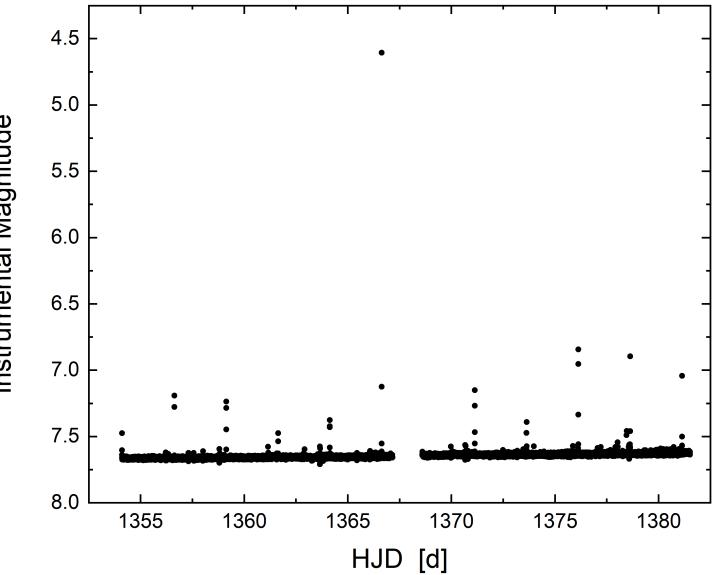
- Different cadences, filter/wavelength ranges, qualities, magnitude ranges, ...
- Also a lot of ground based data available

An example – CoRoT

Which one is the known variable star?

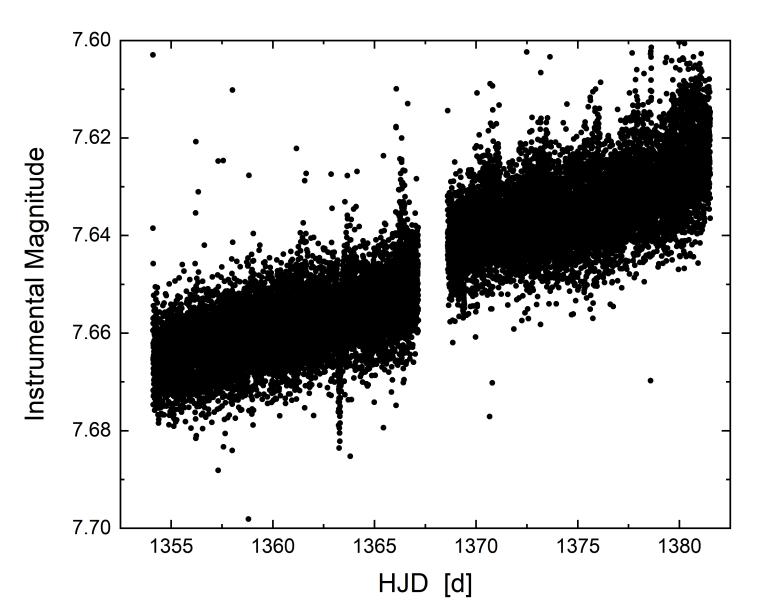


An example - TESS



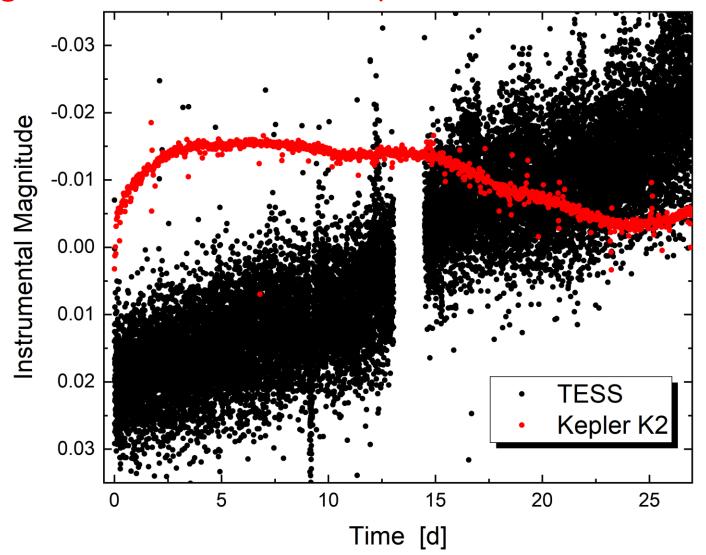
Instrumental Magnitude

An example - TESS



An example – TESS and Kepler K2

Light curve of the same object – constant or variable?

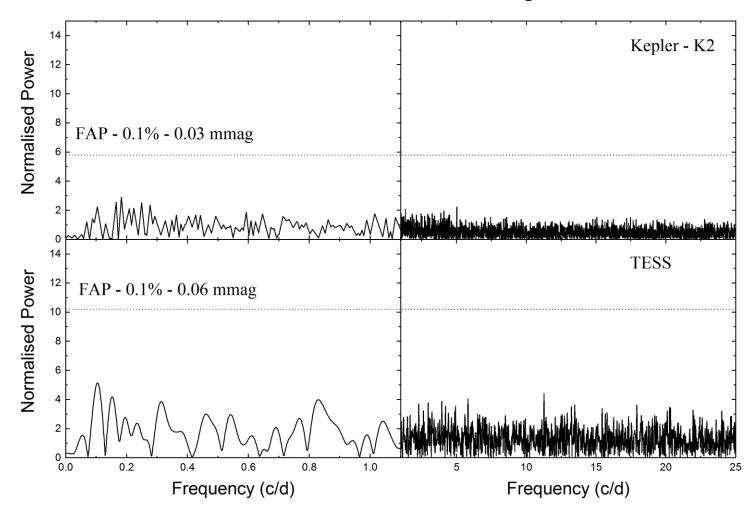


A short recipe

- Learn about the "instrumental frequencies"
- Study known variable stars in your data set
- Be aware of the time basis
- Be aware of the frequencies removed by your method/algorithm
- Divide the investigated frequency range
- Be aware of irregular variability
- Use more than one time series analysis method, i.e. Fourier and String based techniques

An example – TESS and Kepler K2

UCAC3 157-294882, V = 14.86 mag, M3V



Our pipeline software

Thank you for your attention