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The Homogeneous Study of Transiting Systems (HoSTS) – II. The influence of the line list on stellar parameters

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ABSTRACT

The use of high-resolution, high signal-to-noise stellar spectra is essential in order to determine the most accurate and precise stellar atmospheric parameters via spectroscopy. This is particularly important for determining the fundamental parameters of exoplanets, which directly depend on the stellar properties. However, different techniques can be implemented when analysing these spectra which will influence the results. These include performing an abundance analysis relative to the solar values in order to negate uncertainties in atomic data, and fixing the surface gravity (log g) to an external value such as those from asteroseismology. The choice of lines used will also influence the results. In this paper, we investigate differential analysis and fixing log g for a set of FGK stars that already have accurate fundamental parameters known from external methods. We find that a differential line list gives slightly more accurate parameters compared to a laboratory line list; however, the laboratory line list still gives robust parameters. We also find that fixing the log g does not improve the spectroscopic parameters. We investigate the effects of line selection on the stellar parameters and find that the choice of lines used can have a significant effect on the parameters. In particular, removal of certain low excitation potential lines can change the $T_{\rm eff}$ by up to 50 K. For future HoSTS papers we will use the differential line list with a solar microturbulence value of 1 km s⁻¹, and we will not fix the $\log g$ to an external value.

Key words: stars: abundances – stars: fundamental parameters.

1 INTRODUCTION

Our understanding of exoplanets is strongly tied to our understanding of their host stars. The mass and radius of a transiting exoplanet cannot be determined without first knowing the mass and radius of the star (Winn 2011). Direct determinations of stellar mass and radius are only possible for those in a binary system (Andersen 1991). For other stars, the mass and radius needs to be determined indirectly. This can be done via asteroseismology once the effective temperature ($T_{\rm eff}$) is known (Chaplin et al. 2011). The planet transit can yield the stellar density, which can be used to determine the stellar mass and radius once the $T_{\rm eff}$ and metallicity are known (Sozzetti et al. 2007). The distance to a star, which can be measured via parallax with Gaia, can also be used to determine the stellar

For stars without asteroseismic measurements, spectroscopy is used to determine the $T_{\rm eff}$, surface gravity (log g) and metallicity ([Fe/H]). These parameters are then input into a calibration (e.g. Torres, Andersen & Giménez 2010) or used with a grid of stellar models (e.g. Girardi et al. 2000) to find the stellar mass and radius.

For the spectroscopic analysis, some authors rely on differential analysis as opposed to the atomic data from the VALD database (e.g. Meléndez et al. 2009, Bruntt et al. 2010, Brugamyer et al. 2011, Sousa et al. 2014). The disadvantage is that differential analysis can only be performed accurately for stars with similar parameters to the Sun. However, while it is clear that stars with properties that deviate vastly from the Sun should not be used in differential analysis, it is not clear what the cut-off in parameters should be for planet host stars, which are typically FGK dwarfs and subgiants, although planets have also been found around giant stars (e.g. Wittenmyer et al. 2017). In this paper, we analyse a set of 23 FGK stars and

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radius, once T_{eff} and bolometric flux are known (Stassun, Collins & Gaudi 2016).

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compare a line list using the laboratory data from VALD with a differential line list in order to investigate if the differential list is really the best one to use and if errors are more likely for stars with parameters furthest from solar.

Due to the uncertainties inerrant in the spectroscopic $\log g$, fixing the $\log g$ to an external value such as those obtained from the planet transit or asteroseismology can improve the spectroscopic parameters for some methods which directly compare the observed spectrum with a synthetic spectrum. For example, Torres et al. (2012) found that fixing $\log g$ improved the parameters when using the software SME and SPC, but when they used an equivalent width (EW)-based method with the software MOOG, they found the latter to be more accurate. Mortier et al. (2014) also found the EW-based method does not require $\log g$ to be fixed to an external value.

The Homogeneous Study of Transiting Systems (HoSTS) project aims to characterize planets and their host stars consistently, and to use a homogeneous, high-quality set of stellar spectra. Four spectral analysis methods were compared in the pilot study of WASP-13 (Gómez Maqueo Chew et al. (2013); hereafter Paper I) using a high-resolution (R = 72 000) HIRES spectrum. Each of the methods performed three different analyses: an unconstrained analysis to obtain $T_{\rm eff}$, $\log g$ and [Fe/H], an analysis with the $T_{\rm eff}$ fixed to that determined from the H α line from a long-slit IDS spectrum, and an analysis with $\log g$ fixed from the transit value. Paper I found that the results from the unconstrained analysis agreed well between all four methods and are consistent with the transit $\log g$ and the H α $T_{\rm eff}$, leading to the conclusion that the four different methods of spectral analysis have no systematic differences between them.

In this paper, we investigate differential analysis and fixing the $\log g$ to an external value, in order to determine if there is any preferential method. We also determine the effect that line selection will have on the stellar parameters. We use the Fe-line method, where the EWs are measured for a number of Fe lines in order to determine the stellar parameters. We also obtain the $\log g$ from the pressure broadened Mg 1 b and Na 1 D lines.

The stars that we chose to analyse are a set of 23 bright, standard stars that were previously analysed by Bruntt et al. (2010) (hereafter B10). This selection of standard stars was chosen for this work as the parameters span the range of stars that can host exoplanets, i.e. FGK stars from dwarfs to giants. B10 determined non-spectroscopic parameters for these stars, which are a useful test of our spectroscopic parameters; the bolometric $T_{\rm eff}$, photometric $T_{\rm eff}$, the log g determined from a binary mass and interferometric angular diameter, and asteroseismic log g. The bolometric $T_{\rm eff}$ from Heiter et al. (2015) (hereafter H15) is also used.

All of the spectra that we used were taken from the ESO HARPS archive and the spectra all have S/N \sim 100. While higher S/N could be achieved by coadding several spectra, an S/N of 100 is more representative of a typical planet host star.

In Section 2, we discuss the methods used for our analysis and the selection of the line lists. Section 3 details our results where the results between the VALD and differential line lists are compared. Section 4 discusses the results and we conclude in Section 5.

2 METHODS

2.1 Measuring spectral parameters

The spectroscopic parameters can be determined using a set of Fe lines and we use the same method as in Doyle et al. (2013). Once the equivalent widths (EWs) of the lines have been measured, the abundance is calculated for each line. The low excitation potential (EP)

Fe I lines are sensitive to temperature, where as the temperature sensitivity is negligible for high EP lines. Thus requiring that there is no trend between EP and abundance will yield the $T_{\rm eff}$ of the star and this is known as the excitation balance $T_{\rm eff}$. The error for the excitation balance $T_{\rm eff}$ is from the 1σ variation in the slope of abundance against excitation potential. The same principle can be applied to Fe II lines, but in this case it is the high EP lines that are sensitive to $T_{\rm eff}$ changes. However, there are usually an insufficient number of Fe II lines present in solar-like stars to determine the $T_{\rm eff}$.

The $\log g$ of the star can be determined via the ionization balance, which occurs when the Fe I and Fe II abundances agree. This is because the Fe II abundance will increase with increasing $\log g$, where as the Fe I abundance is insensitive to $\log g$ variations (Takeda, Ohkubo & Sadakane 2002). The error for the ionization balance $\log g$ is determined by varying the $T_{\rm eff}$ by 1σ . It should also be noted that the number of Fe II lines used is an important factor in determining the ionization balance $\log g$. An insufficient number of Fe II lines will lower the $\log g$ and likely explains the low $\log g$ found in Paper I for WASP-13 using the Schuler et al. (2011) line list, as this list has only 5 Fe II lines.

The microturbulence ($v_{\rm mic}$) is a line broadening parameter required in 1D analyses that also affects abundance and thus the derived $T_{\rm eff}$ and $\log g$. Microturbulence was introduced by Struve & Elvey (1934) so that the abundance calculated from strong lines would be the same as for weak lines. Therefore the $v_{\rm mic}$ is determined by requiring that there is no slope between the abundance and EW.

The determination of parameters via the Fe lines is an iterative process. The excitation balance $T_{\rm eff}$ is first determined using an initial $T_{\rm eff}$ estimate from the bolometric, photometric, or the B10 spectroscopic value. An initial guess of 1 km s⁻¹ is used for the $v_{\rm mic}$. A $T_{\rm eff}$ value is determined when the slope of the excitation balance plot is zero. The $\log g$ is then adjusted so that the Fe I and Fe II abundances agree, and the $v_{\rm mic}$ is adjusted until there is no trend between abundance and EW. The Fe I lines used to determine the excitation balance $T_{\rm eff}$ have very little dependence on the $\log g$ so the $\log g$ will not change the excitation balance. However, $T_{\rm eff}$ is sensitive to $v_{\rm mic}$, which will change the slope so that excitation balance no longer occurs. A second iteration of $T_{\rm eff}$ is therefore performed using the new $v_{
m mic}$ value. The new $T_{
m eff}$ will affect the log g, therefore the ionization balance needs to be redetermined. Several iterations are performed until the slopes of both plots have been minimized and the ionization balance is correct.

2.2 Software

University College London SYNthesis (UCLSYN) is the software we used for spectral analysis (Smith 1992; Smalley, Smith & Dworetsky 2001). ATLAS 9 models without convective overshooting were used (Castelli, Gratton & Kurucz 1997) and local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE) is assumed. Spectral lines were measured manually by using equivalent widths. A global continuum fit was performed using iSpec (Blanco-Cuaresma et al. 2014); however, the local continuum still needed to be adjusted on a line-by-line basis within UCLSYN. The atomic data used to generate the synthetic spectra was obtained from Kurucz & Bell (1995), although lines can also be input manually using atomic data from other sources. The broadening parameters that are input are microturbulence, macroturbulence, rotational velocity and instrumental broadening. The radiative damping constant, Van der Waals damping constant and the Stark broadening factor are input via the line list. We used the solar abundances from Asplund et al. (2009).

2.3 Line list

2.3.1 Line selection

We selected spectral lines from the Kitt Peak Solar Atlas (Kurucz et al. 1984) by looking for unblended lines. It is important to have as many low EP lines as possible for the determination of $T_{\rm eff}$ via the excitation balance, however many of these lines are in 'resolved blends'¹, which meant that they were initially ignored when selecting lines from the solar spectrum. All of the low EP lines listed in the NIST database (Fuhr & Wiese 2006) were then checked in the solar spectrum. Any that were still measurable despite being in a resolved blend were added to the line list. Any lines with EW greater than 0.12 Å were not included as these will skew the $\nu_{\rm mic}$. This is because the stronger lines are affected more by $\nu_{\rm mic}$ and also the stronger lines are more difficult to measure due to the extent of the wings.

A line selected in the Sun may not necessarily be measurable in other stars. Stars with higher metallicity will have more blended lines, as will cooler stars. However, as we checked each line manually in each star, it is not necessary to have different line lists for different $T_{\rm eff}$ and metallicity ranges for our method. The majority of the lines are measurable in all of our spectra.

2.3.2 Low metallicity

Two of the stars in this sample have low metallicity; 171 Pup has [Fe/H] = -0.76 and ν Ind has [Fe/H] = -1.46. It is still possible to get a solution for these stars, although most of the lines are very weak and are more prone to errors. Ideally, a separate line list should be used for low-metallicity stars so as not to use only very weak lines. Lines which are easily measurable and unblended in low-metallicity stars are usually too strong or blended in solar-metallicity stars. However, as most planet host stars do not have such low metallicities, we deemed it beyond the scope of this work to also create a line list for the low-metallicity stars.

2.3.3 Atomic data

The oscillator strength ($\log gf$) will affect the derived abundance for a line, however these values are not always known to great accuracy, which can create large errors in abundance. In order to deal with this problem, some authors instead use differential $\log gf$ values, i.e. those that are normalized to the Sun. Here, we create three line lists: one using the laboratory values thus giving the absolute abundances and two differential line lists that use two different solar $v_{\rm mic}$ values.

For the laboratory line list, the atomic data were taken from the VALD III database (Ryabchikova et al. 2015) and only the laboratory values for $\log gf$ were used. VALD II data were used for the $\log gf$ values for Fe II. This is because the Fe II $\log gf$ values from VALD III result in Fe II abundances that are too low in the Sun. This changes the ionization balance $\log g$, which in turn changes the $v_{\rm mic}$. As $T_{\rm eff}$ is dependent on $v_{\rm mic}$, the resulting $T_{\rm eff}$ for the Sun becomes 5701 ± 33 K. The $\log g$ and $v_{\rm mic}$ are 4.48 ± 0.08 dex and 0.72 ± 0.03 km s⁻¹, respectively. This $T_{\rm eff}$ is too low compared to the known solar value of 5777 K (Gray 2008); however, on using the Fe II $\log gf$ values from VALD II (Kupka et al. 1999)

the solar parameters are now 5750 \pm 31 K, 4.42 \pm 0.06 dex and 0.83 \pm 0.02 km s⁻¹ for $T_{\rm eff}$, log g and $v_{\rm mic}$, respectively.

It is known that the VALD values can be poorly determined, resulting in a large (\sim 0.6 dex) dispersion even in the Sun (Sousa et al. 2014). In order to have a line list that uses the VALD atomic data and still be as accurate as possible, we imposed several criteria for line selection. If a selected line did not have laboratory data available, then it wasn't used. All lines were also required to have an abundance that did not deviate more than 0.25 dex from the mean abundance in the Sun. When these lines were used across all of the sample stars, we found that there were still a number of lines that resulted in abundances that were consistently too low or too high in all stars compared to the mean abundance of each star. If there was an alternate laboratory log gf available in VALD that gave a better abundance, then it was used. If there were no alternate values available, then the lines were deleted from the list. Our log A(Fe)for the Sun is 7.56 ± 0.07^2 and the metallicity error is from the dispersion in the abundance values.

For the two differential line lists, the $\log gf$ was adjusted so that all of the lines give the Asplund et al. (2009) abundance of $\log A(\text{Fe}) = 7.5$ in the Sun. In order to calculate the abundance of each line, the solar parameters ($T_{\text{eff}} = 5777 \text{ K}$ and $\log g = 4.44 \text{ dex}$) need to be input, along with the solar v_{mic} . Two different lists were produced using two different assumptions of solar v_{mic} : 1.0 and 0.85 km s⁻¹, as there is no standard value for the solar v_{mic} . Throughout the paper, the two lists will be referred to as differential (1) and differential (0.85). The line list is given in the appendix and uses the differential $\log gf$ values with a solar v_{mic} of 1 km s⁻¹.

3 RESULTS

The parameters from B10 and H15 are given in Table 1. The $T_{\rm eff}$, log g, metallicity and $v_{\rm mic}$ results from this work are displayed in Tables 2–5, respectively.

3.1 Comparison between laboratory and differential line lists

In this section, we compare the results from the laboratory and differential line lists to each other, and also compare the results from each list to the external parameters, i.e. the bolometric $T_{\rm eff}$, the binary $\log g$ and the asteroseismic $\log g$.

3.1.1 Temperature

There is good agreement in $T_{\rm eff}$ between the laboratory and differential lists. There is a difference of 2 ± 35 K between the laboratory and differential (1) list and a difference of 9 ± 16 K between the laboratory and differential (0.85) list.

The difference in $T_{\rm eff}$ between the two different differential lists is 11 ± 26 K. The $T_{\rm eff}$ derived with the solar $v_{\rm mic}$ of 0.85 km s⁻¹ has a slightly higher $T_{\rm eff}$ of 36 ± 17 K for stars hotter than 6000 K, as seen in Fig. 1. The most noticeable difference is Procyon, where the $T_{\rm eff}$ is 67 K higher. The difference in $T_{\rm eff}$ is because $T_{\rm eff}$ is dependent on $v_{\rm mic}$ and the output $v_{\rm mic}$ for each star is dependent on which solar value was used initially to calculate the differential $\log gf$.

¹ A resolved blend is where two close-by spectral lines have blended wings, but the individual lines can still be measured.

² Abundances can be given in the format of $\log{(A)} + 12$, where $\log{(A)}$ is the number ratio of the element with respect to hydrogen, $\log{(N_{el}/N_H)}$. The format [X/H] refers to the abundance of an element relative to the Sun, i.e. [Fe/H] = 0 for the Sun.

Table 1. The bolometric and photometric $T_{\rm eff}$, the binary and asteroseismic $\log g$, and the [Fe/H] from Bruntt et al. (2010) are listed. The errors on the photometric $T_{\rm eff}$ are 90 K and the errors on the [Fe/H] are 0.07 dex. The bolometric $T_{\rm eff}$ values from Heiter et al. (2015) are also given.

Star name	HD	T _{effbol} B10	$T_{ m effbol}$ H15	$T_{ m effphot}$	$\log g_{\mathrm{bin}}$	$\log g_{\rm ast}$	[Fe/H]
171 Pup	63077			5790		4.244 ± 0.023	-0.86
70 Oph A	165341				4.468 ± 0.030	4.555 ± 0.023	0.12
α Cen A	128620	5746 ± 50	5792 ± 16	5635	4.307 ± 0.005	4.318 ± 0.017	0.22
α Cen B	128621	5140 ± 56	5231 ± 20		4.538 ± 0.008	4.530 ± 0.018	0.30
α For	20010			6105		4.003 ± 0.033	-0.28
α Men	43834						0.15
β Aql	188512	4986 ± 111				3.525 ± 0.036	-0.21
β Hyi	2151	5840 ± 59	5873 ± 45	5870		3.955 ± 0.018	-0.10
β Vir	102870	6012 ± 64	6083 ± 41	6150		4.125 ± 0.018	0.12
δ Eri	23249	4986 ± 57	4954 ± 30			3.827 ± 0.018	0.15
δ Pav	190248			5540		4.306 ± 0.034	0.38
η Βοο	121370	6028 ± 47	6099 ± 28	6025		3.822 ± 0.019	0.24
η Ser	168723					3.029 ± 0.037	-0.11
γ Pav	203608			6135		4.397 ± 0.022	-0.74
γ Ser	142860			6245		4.169 ± 0.032	-0.26
HR 5803	139211			6280		4.229 ± 0.023	-0.04
ι Hor	17051			6110		4.399 ± 0.022	0.15
ξ Hya	100407	4984 ± 54	5044 ± 40			2.883 ± 0.032	0.21
μ Ara	160691			5690		4.228 ± 0.023	0.32
ν Ind	211998					3.432 ± 0.035	-1.63
Procyon A	61421	6494 ± 48	6554 ± 84	6595	3.976 ± 0.016	3.972 ± 0.018	0.01
τ Cet	10700	5383 ± 47	5414 ± 21	5420		4.533 ± 0.018	-0.48
τ PsA	210302			6385		4.240 ± 0.021	0.01

Table 2. The effective temperatures derived in this work. The second column gives the $T_{\rm eff}$ based on the abundances from the laboratory list. The third column gives the constrained $T_{\rm eff}$ after fixing the $\log g$ to the asteroseismic value. The fourth and fifth columns give the $T_{\rm eff}$ determined when using abundances calculated differentially to the Sun, with a solar $v_{\rm mic}$ of 1 and 0.85 km s⁻¹, respectively.

Star name	Laboratory	Fixing log g		Differential $(v_{\text{mic}} \ 0.85 \ \text{km s}^{-1})$
171 Pup	5747 ± 37	5771 ± 38	5760 ± 35	5783 ± 36
70 Oph A			5760 ± 35 5355 ± 23	5763 ± 36 5333 ± 23
α Cen A		5792 ± 37	5825 ± 21	5826 ± 21
α Cen A		5192 ± 37 5189 ± 82	5823 ± 21 5220 ± 31	5202 ± 21 5202 ± 31
α For		6275 ± 49	6253 ± 37	6289 ± 40
α Men		5614 ± 36	5627 ± 17	5620 ± 18
β Aql		5072 ± 50	5103 ± 24	5089 ± 26
β Hyi	5870 ± 37	5875 ± 36	5864 ± 25	5874 ± 26
β Vir	6224 ± 46	6231 ± 43	6209 ± 29	6232 ± 30
δ Eri	4976 ± 48	4960 ± 55	5023 ± 31	5005 ± 33
δ Pav	5576 ± 47	5560 ± 47	5611 ± 21	5599 ± 22
η Βοο	6205 ± 83	6231 ± 107	6200 ± 60	6214 ± 61
η Ser	4888 ± 48	4880 ± 53	4911 ± 21	4894 ± 23
γ Pav	6157 ± 51	6167 ± 51	6085 ± 39	6131 ± 42
γ Ser	6350 ± 55	6368 ± 50	6321 ± 40	6363 ± 41
HR 5803	6385 ± 47	6416 ± 46	6363 ± 35	6395 ± 37
ι Hor	6215 ± 45	6205 ± 44	6218 ± 34	6236 ± 36
ξ Hya	5097 ± 45	5101 ± 51	5120 ± 29	5106 ± 29
μ Ara	5764 ± 39	5757 ± 34	5772 ± 22	5772 ± 29
ν Ind	5218 ± 36	5212 ± 37	5178 ± 31	5195 ± 33
Procyon A	6645 ± 46	6648 ± 42	6583 ± 38	6650 ± 38
τ Cet	5317 ± 41	5322 ± 42	5320 ± 22	5308 ± 23
τ PsA	$6494~\pm~71$	6511 ± 88	6426 ± 44	6473 ± 45

The bolometric $T_{\rm eff}$ is a 'direct' temperature determination in which it is almost independent of stellar models. The temperature is found from the bolometric flux and the angular diameter. The comparison between our spectroscopic $T_{\rm eff}$ using the laboratory line list and the bolometric $T_{\rm eff}$ is shown in the top panel of Fig. 2. The values from both B10 and H15 are shown. H15 compiled bolometric temperatures for their sample of 34 *Gaia* FGK benchmark stars. The fact that there are two different versions of the bolometric $T_{\rm eff}$, which is a direct measurement and is supposed to represent the fundamental $T_{\rm eff}$ of the star, is a matter of concern. It is difficult to compare our indirect values with the fundamental $T_{\rm eff}$ as even those values are not certain.

Our $T_{\rm eff}$ using the laboratory list is hotter on average than B10 by 81 \pm 86 K and H15 by 32 \pm 74 K. There is good agreement for the stars <6000 K, particularly for the H15 values. For the three stars hotter than 6000 K, our spectroscopic $T_{\rm eff}$ values using the laboratory list are significantly hotter, bringing the difference to 180 ± 30 K for B10 and 113 ± 26 K for H15.

The differential (1) $T_{\rm eff}$ is hotter than B10 by 87 \pm 76 K and H15 by 36 \pm 67 K. The differential (0.85) $T_{\rm eff}$ is hotter than B10 by 91 \pm 87 K and H15 by 41 \pm 78 K. Therefore, there is no advantage or disadvantage in using the laboratory line list for $T_{\rm eff}$.

The comparison between our spectroscopic $T_{\rm eff}$ using the laboratory list and the photometric $T_{\rm eff}$ from B10, which is derived from Strömgren photometric indices, is shown in the middle panel of Fig. 2. Our temperatures are systematically higher by 70 ± 80 K. The differential (1) $T_{\rm eff}$ is hotter than the photometric $T_{\rm eff}$ by 55 ± 80 K and the differential (0.85) $T_{\rm eff}$ is hotter by 76 ± 81 , K suggesting that the differential (1) list offers a slight improvement with $T_{\rm eff}$ over the other two lists.

Table 3. The $\log g$ determined in this work. The second column gives the value based on the ionization balance using the laboratory line list. The third and fourth columns give the $\log g$ determined when using abundances calculated differentially to the Sun, with a solar $v_{\rm mic}$ of 1 and 0.85 km s⁻¹, respectively. The last two columns give the $\log g$ calculated from the pressure broadened Mg I b and Na I D lines.

Star name	Laboratory	Differential $(v_{\text{mic}} 1 \text{ km s}^{-1})$	Differential ($v_{\text{mic}} 0.85 \text{ km s}^{-1}$)	Mg I b	Na i D	
171 Pup	4.17 ± 0.06	4.19 ± 0.06	4.22 ± 0.06	3.83 ± 0.10	4.00 ± 0.12	
70 Oph A	4.35 ± 0.10	4.46 ± 0.06	4.43 ± 0.06	4.28 ± 0.15	4.45 ± 0.12	
α Cen A	4.25 ± 0.09	4.32 ± 0.04	4.32 ± 0.04	4.02 ± 0.20	4.25 ± 0.10	
α Cen B	4.36 ± 0.12	4.40 ± 0.07	4.38 ± 0.07	4.07 ± 0.30	4.50 ± 0.15	
α For	4.09 ± 0.09	4.03 ± 0.07	4.08 ± 0.07	4.10 ± 0.40	4.10 ± 0.10	
α Men	4.40 ± 0.09	4.44 ± 0.04	4.44 ± 0.04	4.30 ± 0.10	4.45 ± 0.13	
β Aql	3.44 ± 0.11	3.47 ± 0.07	3.45 ± 0.07	3.27 ± 0.10	3.40 ± 0.15	
β Hyi	3.95 ± 0.08	3.95 ± 0.04	3.96 ± 0.04	3.75 ± 0.17	3.95 ± 0.10	
β Vir	4.22 ± 0.08	4.17 ± 0.06	4.19 ± 0.06	4.07 ± 0.15	4.30 ± 0.20	
δ Eri	3.49 ± 0.14	3.63 ± 0.08	3.60 ± 0.08	3.13 ± 0.05	3.45 ± 0.25	
δ Pav	4.18 ± 0.11	4.23 ± 0.08	4.21 ± 0.08	3.85 ± 0.05	4.15 ± 0.15	
η Βοο	4.04 ± 0.19	4.04 ± 0.09	4.06 ± 0.09	3.93 ± 0.10	4.10 ± 0.20	
η Ser	2.96 ± 0.15	3.02 ± 0.07	3.00 ± 0.07	2.48 ± 0.35	2.75 ± 0.15	
γ Pav	4.31 ± 0.08	4.18 ± 0.08	4.24 ± 0.08	4.23 ± 0.20	4.10 ± 0.20	
γ Ser	4.17 ± 0.09	4.18 ± 0.06	4.23 ± 0.06	4.13 ± 0.15	4.33 ± 0.05	
HR 5803	4.21 ± 0.08	4.18 ± 0.06	4.22 ± 0.06	4.15 ± 0.10	4.10 ± 0.05	
ι Hor	4.43 ± 0.08	4.43 ± 0.06	4.45 ± 0.06	4.25 ± 0.15	4.35 ± 0.05	
ξ Hya	2.93 ± 0.14	2.94 ± 0.07	2.92 ± 0.07	2.27 ± 0.30	2.80 ± 0.40	
μ Ara	4.20 ± 0.08	4.20 ± 0.05	4.21 ± 0.05	4.02 ± 0.20	4.20 ± 0.20	
ν Ind	3.40 ± 0.10	3.26 ± 0.09	3.29 ± 0.09	2.92 ± 0.10	2.90 ± 0.10	
Procyon A	3.96 ± 0.07	3.90 ± 0.05	3.93 ± 0.05	3.98 ± 0.05	4.00 ± 0.05	
τ Cet	4.49 ± 0.10	4.47 ± 0.05	4.46 ± 0.05	4.20 ± 0.30	4.30 ± 0.10	
τ PsA	4.31 ± 0.11	4.27 ± 0.07	4.32 ± 0.07	4.52 ± 0.25	4.35 ± 0.05	

Table 4. The metallicity determined in this work. All abundances are relative to Asplund et al. (2009). The second column gives the [Fe/H] using the laboratory line list. The third and fourth columns give the [Fe/H] determined using abundances calculated differentially to the Sun, with a solar ν_{mic} of 1 and 0.85 km s⁻¹, respectively. The fifth and sixth columns give the [Mg/H] and [Na/H] abundances, respectively.

Star name	Laboratory	Differential $(v_{\text{mic}} 1 \text{ km s}^{-1})$	Differential $(v_{\rm mic} \ 0.85 \ {\rm km \ s^{-1}})$	[Mg/H]	[Na/H]
171 Pup	-0.76 ± 0.09	-0.82 ± 0.08	-0.82 ± 0.08	-0.59 ± 0.07	-0.59 ± 0.08
70 Oph A	0.14 ± 0.09	0.08 ± 0.05	0.08 ± 0.05	0.21 ± 0.07	0.18 ± 0.07
α Cen A	0.31 ± 0.08	0.24 ± 0.05	0.25 ± 0.05	0.39 ± 0.10	0.44 ± 0.08
α Cen B	0.29 ± 0.10	0.21 ± 0.06	0.21 ± 0.07	0.51 ± 0.12	0.45 ± 0.09
α For	-0.09 ± 0.08	-0.18 ± 0.07	-0.17 ± 0.07	-0.16 ± 0.21	-0.09 ± 0.05
α Men	0.21 ± 0.09	0.14 ± 0.05	0.14 ± 0.05	0.29 ± 0.05	0.28 ± 0.09
β Aql	-0.09 ± 0.10	-0.14 ± 0.07	-0.15 ± 0.07	0.06 ± 0.07	-0.04 ± 0.08
β Hyi	0.01 ± 0.08	-0.08 ± 0.06	-0.08 ± 0.06	0.11 ± 0.07	0.06 ± 0.09
β Vir	0.27 ± 0.09	0.18 ± 0.06	0.19 ± 0.06	0.27 ± 0.09	0.29 ± 0.11
δ Eri	0.15 ± 0.11	0.09 ± 0.09	0.09 ± 0.09	0.38 ± 0.02	0.30 ± 0.13
δ Pav	0.43 ± 0.09	0.37 ± 0.06	0.37 ± 0.06	0.59 ± 0.02	0.59 ± 0.10
η Βοο	0.40 ± 0.12	0.31 ± 0.09	0.31 ± 0.09	0.37 ± 0.04	0.60 ± 0.09
η Ser	-0.11 ± 0.11	-0.17 ± 0.05	-0.18 ± 0.05	0.06 ± 0.14	-0.05 ± 0.09
γ Pav	-0.58 ± 0.09	-0.69 ± 0.08	-0.69 ± 0.08	-0.50 ± 0.13	-0.38 ± 0.13
γ Ser	-0.12 ± 0.09	-0.22 ± 0.06	-0.21 ± 0.06	-0.10 ± 0.06	-0.06 ± 0.01
HR 5803	0.10 ± 0.08	0.01 ± 0.06	0.02 ± 0.06	0.08 ± 0.08	0.09 ± 0.00
ι Hor	0.23 ± 0.09	0.15 ± 0.07	0.16 ± 0.07	0.28 ± 0.08	0.28 ± 0.05
ξ Hya	0.26 ± 0.09	0.18 ± 0.07	0.18 ± 0.07	0.43 ± 0.10	0.50 ± 0.15
μ Ara	0.38 ± 0.08	0.30 ± 0.05	0.30 ± 0.05	0.43 ± 0.09	0.51 ± 0.10
ν Ind	-1.46 ± 0.10	-1.56 ± 0.09	-1.57 ± 0.09	-1.09 ± 0.05	-1.54 ± 0.05
Procyon A	0.04 ± 0.08	-0.06 ± 0.06	-0.04 ± 0.06	0.05 ± 0.07	0.10 ± 0.02
τ Cet	-0.47 ± 0.10	-0.55 ± 0.09	-0.56 ± 0.10	-0.11 ± 0.07	-0.33 ± 0.06
τ PsA	0.18 ± 0.10	0.05 ± 0.06	0.06 ± 0.06	-0.03 ± 0.16	0.12 ± 0.03

3.1.2 Surface gravity

There is good agreement between the laboratory and differential line lists for $\log g$. There is a difference of 0.00 ± 0.07 dex between laboratory and differential (1) and 0.01 ± 0.05 dex between

laboratory and differential (0.85). The difference between the two differential lists is 0.01 ± 0.03 dex; however, this depends on $T_{\rm eff}$ as seen in Fig. 3.

Only four stars in this sample have $\log g$ known from their binary nature. There is excellent agreement between the binary $\log g$ for

Table 5. The $v_{\rm mic}$ determined in this work. The errors are 0.03 km s⁻¹. The second column gives the $v_{\rm mic}$ based on the laboratory line list. The third and fourth columns give the $v_{\rm mic}$ when using abundances calculated differentially to the Sun, with a solar $v_{\rm mic}$ of 1 and 0.85 km s⁻¹, respectively.

Star name	Laboratory	Differential $(v_{\rm mic} 1 \text{ km s}^{-1})$	Differential $(v_{\rm mic}0.85~{\rm km~s^{-1}})$	
171 Pup	0.81	1.15	1.02	
70 Oph A	0.79	0.94	0.79	
α Cen A	0.87	1.02	0.89	
α Cen B	0.74	0.85	0.71	
α For	1.19	1.37	1.28	
α Men	0.74	0.96	0.80	
β Aql	0.91	0.96	0.86	
β Ηγί	1.00	1.17	1.07	
β Vir	1.12	1.29	1.18	
δ Eri	0.86	0.94	0.85	
δ Pav	0.80	0.94	0.80	
η Βοο	1.36	1.49	1.41	
η Ser	1.02	1.09	1.01	
γ Pav	1.00	1.29	1.19	
γ Ser	1.34	1.54	1.45	
HR 5803	1.17	1.34	1.25	
ι Hor	0.96	1.14	1.02	
ξ Hya	1.18	1.25	1.18	
μ Ara	0.90	1.07	0.95	
ν Ind	1.06	1.31	1.23	
Procyon A	1.61	1.80	1.72	
τ Cet		0.62	0.36	
τ PsA	1.23	1.47	1.39	

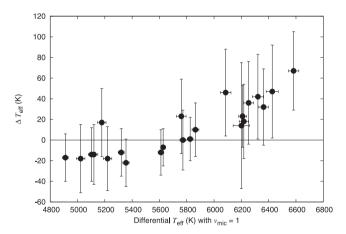
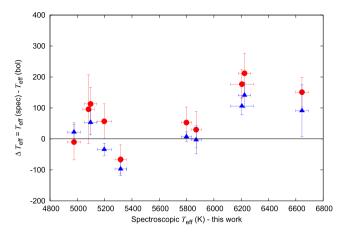


Figure 1. $\Delta T_{\rm eff} = T_{\rm eff}$ differential (0.85) $-T_{\rm eff}$ differential (1). The $T_{\rm eff}$ derived differentially with the solar $v_{\rm mic}$ of 0.85 km s⁻¹ is hotter for stars >6000 K compared to the differential $T_{\rm eff}$ derived with solar $v_{\rm mic}$ of 1 km s⁻¹.

Procyon (3.976 \pm 0.016 dex) our spectroscopic $\log g$ using the laboratory list (3.96 \pm 0.07 dex). The differential (1) and differential (0.85) lists give slightly lower $\log g$ values, 3.90 \pm 0.05 and 3.93 \pm 0.05 dex, respectively.

The binary $\log g$ for α Cen A is 4.307 ± 0.005 dex, which agrees with the spectroscopic $\log g$ with the laboratory list of 4.25 ± 0.09 dex within the errors. The differential (1) and differential (0.85) values, which are both 4.32 ± 0.04 dex, are in much better agreement with the fundamental $\log g$. The same is true for 70 Oph A, where the spectroscopic $\log g$ with the laboratory list (4.35 \pm 0.10 dex) agrees with the binary $\log g$ (4.468 \pm 0.030) within the errors, but the differential (1) and differential (0.85) values of 4.46 ± 0.06



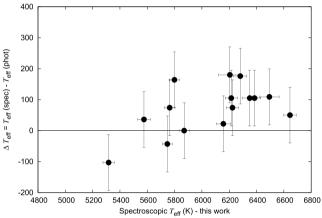


Figure 2. The top panel shows the comparison between the spectroscopic $T_{\rm eff}$ with the laboratory line list from this work and the bolometric $T_{\rm eff}$ of Bruntt et al. (2010) (red circles) and Heiter et al. (2015) (blue triangles). The bottom panel shows the comparison between the spectroscopic $T_{\rm eff}$ and the photometric $T_{\rm eff}$ from B10. Our temperatures are hotter for stars with $T_{\rm eff} > 6000~{\rm K}$.

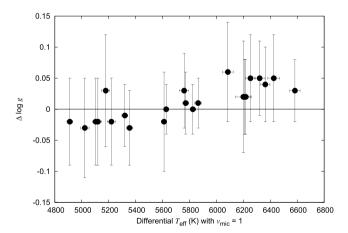


Figure 3. $\Delta \log g = \log g$ differential (0.85) $-\log g$ differential (1). The $\log g$ derived differentially with the solar $v_{\rm mic}$ of 0.85 km s⁻¹ is higher for stars >6000 K compared to the differential $\log g$ derived with solar $v_{\rm mic}$ of 1 km s⁻¹

and 4.43 \pm 0.06 dex, respectively, are in better agreement with the fundamental value.

The spectroscopic $\log g$ with the laboratory list of 4.36 ± 0.12 dex does not agree with the binary $\log g$ for α Cen B, which is

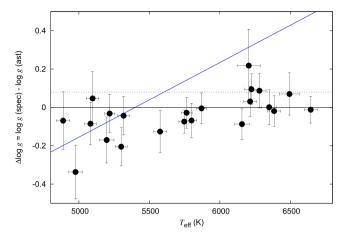


Figure 4. The difference between spectroscopic and asteroseismic $\log g$ as a function of $T_{\rm eff}$. The dotted line at 0.08 dex is the mean difference between $\log g_{\rm spec}$ and $\log g_{\rm ast}$ found by Bruntt et al. (2012). The blue line is the linear trend seen in Mortier et al. (2014). There appears to be a $T_{\rm eff}$ dependence in our data, but if the two outliers (δ Eri and η Boo) are removed then this no longer holds.

 4.538 ± 0.008 dex. The differential (1) and differential (0.85) values of 4.40 ± 0.07 and 4.38 ± 0.07 dex, respectively, agree within the errors.

When comparing the spectroscopic $\log g$ with the laboratory list to the asteroseismic $\log g$, there is a lot of dispersion as seen in Fig. 4. This figure shows the difference between the spectroscopic $\log g$ that we derived and the asteroseismic $\log g$ as a function of the spectroscopic $T_{\rm eff}$ with the laboratory list. Bruntt et al. (2012) found the mean difference between $\log g_{\rm spec}$ and $\log g_{\rm ast}$ to be 0.08 ± 0.07 dex for their sample of 93 solar-like *Kepler* stars, shown as a dashed line. In an analysis of 76 planet host stars by Mortier et al. (2014), the difference was found to be dependent on $T_{\rm eff}$ and this is shown with the blue line.

The mean difference between the spectroscopic $\log g$ with the laboratory list and the asteroseismic $\log g$ is 0.04 ± 0.11 dex. There is no real improvement when using the differential lists, with the differential (1) list giving a mean difference of 0.04 ± 0.10 dex when compared to the asteroseismic $\log g$, and the differential (0.85) list giving a difference of 0.03 ± 0.10 dex.

3.1.3 Metallicity

The difference between [Fe/H] of the two differential analyses for our sample of stars is negligible; 0.00 ± 0.01 dex, showing that the choice of initial $\nu_{\rm mic}$ does not affect the resulting abundance.

Our laboratory [Fe/H] is also systematically higher than both differential lists by 0.08 ± 0.02 dex, as seen in Fig. 5.

The laboratory [Fe/H] is also systematically higher than the B10 [Fe/H] by 0.09 ± 0.06 dex. Both differential lists are in good agreement with the B10 values (0.01 \pm 0.05 dex for differential (1) and 0.01 \pm 0.06 dex for differential (0.85), which is to be expected as the B10 line list was also created differentially to the Sun.

3.1.4 Microturbulence

Unlike $T_{\rm eff}$ and $\log g$, which are physical parameters, the $v_{\rm mic}$ of the Sun is model-dependent and is also strongly dependent on the line list used. While either solar $v_{\rm mic}$ can be used when creating a differential line list, it is important to remember that using $\log gf$

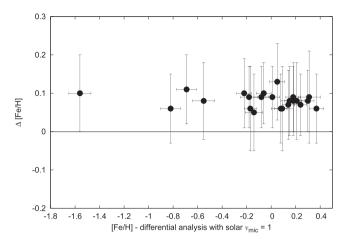


Figure 5. The comparison between the laboratory [Fe/H] and the differential [Fe/H] (assuming a solar ν_{mic} of 1 km s⁻¹). Δ [Fe/H] = laboratory –differential. The laboratory values are systematically higher.

values calculated from the Sun will create a significant bias when trying to determine the $\nu_{\rm mic}$ for another star. This is seen in Table 5, where the differential (0.85) line list always results in a lower $\nu_{\rm mic}$ for other stars compared to the differential (1) list, as expected. The systematic offset is 0.11 ± 0.04 km s⁻¹.

3.2 Surface gravity from pressure broadened lines

We also obtained the $\log g$ for the pressure broadened Mg I b and Na I D lines, which are listed in Table 3. It is important to know the abundance of these elements before measuring the $\log g$, so the EWs of several weaker Mg I and Na I lines were measured in order to determine the abundance. These are given in Table 4. The error for the pressure broadened $\log g$ is determined from the error in the Na and Mg abundances.

The continuum is very difficult to measure around the Mg triplet, particularly for cooler stars with high metallicity. As such, the $\log g$ from the Na₁ D lines should be prioritized, although it should be noted that these lines can be affected by interstellar absorption. The Ca lines used in B10 were not used here as these lines are much more sensitive to changes in other broadening factors such as macroturbulence and rotational velocity compared to the Mg I b and Na₁ D lines.

The $\log g$ from the Mg triplet is significantly underestimated compared to the binary $\log g$, except for Procyon. The $\log g$ from the Na I D lines on the other hand, agrees well with all of the binary $\log g$ values.

The Mg log g does not compare well with the asteroseismic log g, giving a mean difference of 0.24 ± 0.25 dex. The Na log g is somewhat better, with a mean difference of 0.09 ± 0.19 dex compared to the asteroseismic log g.

There is no advantage in using the Mg triplet in order to get the spectroscopic $\log g$, as the values are highly discrepant from the binary and asteroseismic $\log g$. The Na_I D returns reasonable results and can be used as an additional check on the spectroscopic $\log g$, but it does not offer any improvement over the $\log g$ from the ionization balance.

3.3 Mass and radius

The mass and radius were determined using the Torres et al. (2010) calibration, which determines M and R from the T_{eff} , $\log g$ and

Table 6. The mass and radius are given in units of M_{\bigodot} and R_{\bigodot} . M_{spec} and R_{spec} are the values determined using spectroscopy with the differential (1) list. M_{ast} and R_{ast} use the asteroseismic $\log g$, but the same spectroscopic T_{eff} and [Fe/H].

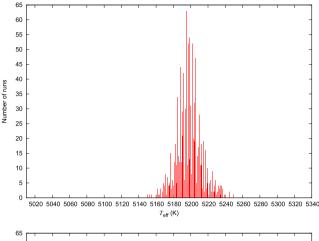
Star name	r name M_{spec} R_{spec} differential (1) differen		$M_{ m ast}$	R _{ast}
171 Pup	0.93 ± 0.06	1.29 ± 0.11	0.91 ± 0.06	1.20 ± 0.05
70 Oph A	0.95 ± 0.06	0.94 ± 0.08	0.93 ± 0.06	0.84 ± 0.04
α Cen A	1.16 ± 0.07	1.22 ± 0.07	1.16 ± 0.07	1.22 ± 0.05
α Cen B	0.95 ± 0.06	1.00 ± 0.09	0.93 ± 0.06	0.85 ± 0.03
α For	1.30 ± 0.09	1.82 ± 0.19	1.31 ± 0.09	1.89 ± 0.11
α Men	1.04 ± 0.07	1.01 ± 0.06		
β Aql	1.31 ± 0.10	3.50 ± 0.39	1.27 ± 0.09	3.23 ± 0.20
β Hyi	1.25 ± 0.08	1.96 ± 0.13	1.25 ± 0.08	1.94 ± 0.08
β Vir	1.32 ± 0.09	1.55 ± 0.13	1.34 ± 0.08	1.64 ± 0.07
δ Eri	1.22 ± 0.10	2.78 ± 0.34	1.10 ± 0.08	2.09 ± 0.09
δ Pav	1.16 ± 0.08	1.34 ± 0.15	1.14 ± 0.08	1.22 ± 0.07
η Boo	1.43 ± 0.11	1.87 ± 0.24	1.59 ± 0.09	2.54 ± 0.11
η Ser	1.67 ± 0.14	6.70 ± 0.75	1.66 ± 0.12	6.61 ± 0.43
γ Pav	1.04 ± 0.07	1.38 ± 0.16	0.98 ± 0.07	1.04 ± 0.05
γ Ser	1.23 ± 0.08	1.49 ± 0.13	1.23 ± 0.08	1.51 ± 0.08
HR 5803	1.31 ± 0.09	1.53 ± 0.13	1.29 ± 0.08	1.43 ± 0.06
ι Hor	1.21 ± 0.08	1.10 ± 0.09	1.22 ± 0.08	1.15 ± 0.05
ξ Hya	2.06 ± 0.17	8.11 ± 0.91	2.15 ± 0.14	8.85 ± 0.52
μ Ara	1.21 ± 0.08	1.42 ± 0.11	1.20 ± 0.08	1.37 ± 0.06
ν Ind	1.11 ± 0.10	4.25 ± 0.60	0.99 ± 0.08	3.28 ± 0.20
Procyon	1.53 ± 0.10	2.30 ± 0.18	1.47 ± 0.10	2.07 ± 0.09
τ Cet	0.81 ± 0.05	0.87 ± 0.06	0.80 ± 0.05	0.80 ± 0.03
τ PsA	1.30 ± 0.09	1.37 ± 0.13	1.31 ± 0.08	1.43 ± 0.06

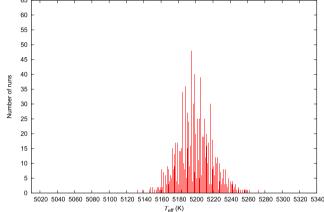
[Fe/H]. Two determinations of mass and radius are given in Table 6. The first uses the spectroscopic parameters determined using the differential (1) list. The second uses the asteroseismic $\log g$, but the same values of $T_{\rm eff}$ and [Fe/H] as in the first determination. There is an improvement in the precision for the radius.

3.4 Line selection

The $T_{\rm eff}$ derived from the excitation balance, and thus the $\log g$ and [Fe/H], is sensitive to the exact lines used. α Cen B was used as a test case and 1000 temperature runs were performed with five random Fe I lines removed for each run. The input parameters were those derived using the full set of lines with laboratory data; $T_{\rm eff} = 5197$ K, $\log g = 4.34$ dex and $v_{\rm mic} = 0.74$ km s⁻¹. The resulting $T_{\rm eff}$ distribution is shown in the top panel of Fig. 6. The peak of the distribution is at 5198 \pm 14 K. The middle panel shows the distribution with 10 Fe_I lines removed, which has a peak at 5200 ± 20 K. The bottom panel has 30 Fe I lines removed with a peak at 5199 ± 42 K. With more lines removed, the scatter obviously increases and the result is that fewer runs return the input $T_{\rm eff}$. In low S/N (~50) CORALIE or SOPHIE spectra that are frequently used to characterize planet host stars, it is quite common for ~ 30 lines to be unmeasurable when using the Doyle et al. (2013) line list of 72 Fe lines.

The lowest temperatures (5150–5185 K) in the plot with five Fe I lines removed are caused by the removal of two low EP lines; 6120 and 6625 Å. The top panel of Fig. 7 shows the correct excitation balance for a $T_{\rm eff}$ of 5197 K using all of the Fe I lines. The middle panel of Fig. 7 shows the excitation balance for the same $T_{\rm eff}$, using the set of lines that give a lower $T_{\rm eff}$ of 5150 K. The hottest temperatures (5220–5249 K) are caused by one low EP line (5250 Å) being removed, as seen in the lower panel of Fig. 7 for a $T_{\rm eff}$ of





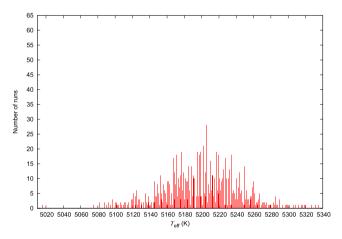


Figure 6. The $T_{\rm eff}$ distribution for 1000 temperature runs of α Cen B with random Fe I lines removed. The top panel has 5 Fe I lines removed, the middle panel has 10 Fe I lines removed and the bottom panel has 30 Fe I lines removed. The majority of runs still return the input value of 5197 K, but the scatter obviously increases when more lines are removed.

5249 K. This shows the importance of including as many low EP lines as possible.

For cool stars, it is extremely difficult to determine the position of the continuum for wavelengths less than ${\sim}5200$ Å due to the increased strength of the lines, as well as the addition of molecular lines. However, not including the lines less than ${\sim}5200$ Å only makes the solution worse. This is due to the removal of several low EP Fe I lines, as well as some Fe II lines. The removal of Fe II lines, even ones that are difficult to measure, will affect the ionization

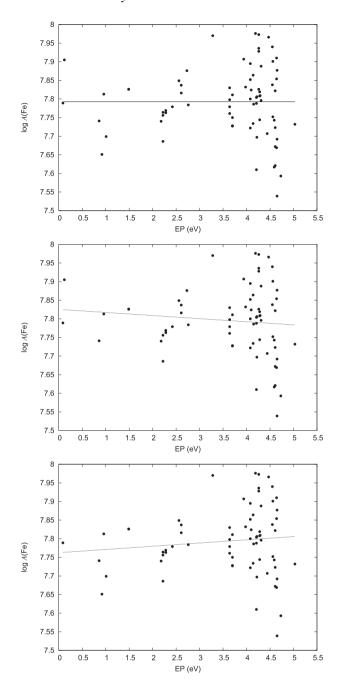


Figure 7. The top panel shows the correct excitation balance at $T_{\rm eff} = 5197~{\rm K}$ for α Cen B using all of the Fe_I lines. The middle panel shows one of the runs with 5 of the Fe_I lines removed. The $T_{\rm eff}$ derived with this set of lines is 5150 K, however the plot is shown for the correct $T_{\rm eff}$ of 5197 K, thus introducing a slope. The bottom panel is for a derived $T_{\rm eff} = 5249~{\rm K}$, where the 5250 Å line is missing.

balance $\log g$. In the Sun, removing the lines below 5200 Å results in $\log g = 4.36$ dex.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Differential analysis

When comparing the laboratory line list with the differential line lists, there is good agreement for $T_{\rm eff}$ and $\log g$, however the [Fe/H] of the laboratory line list is systematically higher. In this regard,

there is no clear advantage in using the differential lists, especially as it is not possible to tell which metallicity is the 'correct' value.

When comparing the differential line lists to each other, there is excellent agreement in metallicity between the two lists. However, there is a difference in $T_{\rm eff}$ and $\log g$ as a function of increasing $T_{\rm eff}$, most likely due to the different $v_{\rm mic}$. As these lists use different solar $v_{\rm mic}$ values, the $v_{\rm mic}$ determined for the stellar sample will also be different and $v_{\rm mic}$ will affect the $T_{\rm eff}$ and $\log g$.

There is no advantage or disadvantage in using either the laboratory or differential lists when comparing to the bolometric $T_{\rm eff}$ or asteroseismic $\log g$, as the mean difference between the spectral parameters and the external parameters is the same for all lists. However, the mean difference between the differential (1) list and the photometric $T_{\rm eff}$ is lower than for the laboratory and differential (0.85) lists. There is excellent agreement between the $\log g$ with the laboratory list and the binary $\log g$ of Procyon, but for the other three binary stars, the differential lists are in better agreement.

Using either of the differential lists does not appear to have a negative effect on the parameters for stars with low metallicity or low $\log g$, which suggests that differential analysis could be used on a wider range of stellar parameters than originally thought, although it would be better to test this with a larger sample.

While the line list using the laboratory $\log gf$ values from VALD does result in robust stellar parameters, for future HoSTS papers we will use the differential (1) list as it does seem to produce slightly more accurate results when compared to the binary $\log g$ and the photometric $T_{\rm eff}$.

4.2 Fixing $\log g$

As shown in Fig. 4, our spectroscopic $\log g$ with the laboratory list does not always agree with the asteroseismic $\log g$. However, the offset between the values does not agree with that found by either Bruntt et al. (2012) or Mortier et al. (2014), showing that while there can be systematic offsets between the $\log g_{\rm spec}$ and $\log g_{\rm ast}$, this depends on the specific method used for the analysis. Our results show that there might be some dependency with $T_{\rm eff}$, as hotter stars tend to have $\log g_{\rm spec}$ higher than $\log g_{\rm ast}$, whereas cooler stars have a lower $\log g_{\rm spec}$. However, the trend is not as obvious as in Fig. 6 of Mortier et al. (2014). The mean difference between $\log g_{\rm spec}$ and $\log g_{\rm ast}$ for our data is 0.04 ± 0.11 dex. If the two outliers, δ Eri and η Boo are removed, this difference reduces to 0.03 ± 0.08 dex.

When fixing the $\log g$ to the asteroseismic value and redetermining the $T_{\rm eff}$, we found that the mean difference between the laboratory constrained and unconstrained $T_{\rm eff}$ is 3 ± 13 K, showing that there is excellent agreement between the unconstrained laboratory spectroscopic $T_{\rm eff}$ and the spectroscopic $T_{\rm eff}$ using the laboratory list obtained when $\log g$ is fixed to the asteroseismic value. This is because acquiring the $T_{\rm eff}$ via the excitation balance has little or no dependence on $\log g$. The excitation balance depends on the EP and the abundance of the FeI lines and these lines are not sensitive to changes in surface gravity. Changing the $\log g$ will therefore have a minimal effect on the $T_{\rm eff}$ derived from this method.

In contrast, Mortier et al. (2014) find a mean difference of 68 K for their sample; however, they also take into account the $v_{\rm mic}$ when determining their temperatures. For this method, after the excitation $T_{\rm eff}$ is determined with the $\log g$ fixed, the $v_{\rm mic}$ is adjusted from the Fe I lines only (as the ionization balance will no longer be met on including the Fe II lines). Another iteration is run of the excitation balance $T_{\rm eff}$ with the new $v_{\rm mic}$. When we computed the laboratory constrained $T_{\rm eff}$ using this method, there is a mean difference of

 18 ± 39 K between this and our unconstrained $T_{\rm eff}$, which is still not as large as that of Mortier et al. (2014).

While fixing $\log g$ to the asteroseismic value does not have a significant effect on the spectroscopic parameters determined with this method, it may still be better to use the asteroseismic or transit $\log g$, if available, when determining the mass and radius of the star as this will result in a more accurate mass and radius for the planet.

5 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have used a set of standard stars with known parameters to compare laboratory with differential line lists and also to test if the $\log g$ needs to be fixed to an external value. We have shown that the laboratory $\log gf$ values from VALD can be used to obtain robust parameters, although there may be a slight advantage in using the differential (1) line list. Despite the fact that we have subgiants and low metallicity stars in our sample, the differential lists still result in robust parameters, showing that it is possible to use the differential line lists across a range of stellar parameters that deviate somewhat from the solar values.

The choice of solar $v_{\rm mic}$ when creating a differential line list will create a systematic offset in $v_{\rm mic}$ for the stars analysed. This should be borne in mind when comparing $v_{\rm mic}$ to that derived via different methods, but it is not a problem when a homogeneous analysis is performed using only one value. The different $v_{\rm mic}$ will also cause differences in $T_{\rm eff}$ and $\log g$ as a function of increasing $T_{\rm eff}$. Using the differential (0.85) list will give higher values of $T_{\rm eff}$ and $\log g$ for hotter stars compared to the differential (1) list.

The $T_{\rm eff}$ is sensitive to the selection of Fe I lines. Randomly removing Fe I lines decreases the chances of returning the correct $T_{\rm eff}$ in 1000 temperature iterations. The $T_{\rm eff}$ distribution for α Cen A with 5 Fe I lines removed is 5198 \pm 14 K, for 10 Fe I lines removed the $T_{\rm eff}$ distribution is 5200 \pm 20 K, and for 30 Fe I lines removed the $T_{\rm eff}$ distribution is 5199 \pm 42 K. The $T_{\rm eff}$ is particularly sensitive to the number of low EP lines used and removing certain low EP lines can change the $T_{\rm eff}$ by \sim 50 K. Therefore it is important to use as many low EP lines as possible.

We have also shown that fixing the $\log g$ to the transit or asteroseismology value offers no improvement to the spectroscopic $T_{\rm eff}$ and [Fe/H] for the EW method of spectral analysis. It is therefore sufficient to use the unconstrained values so that the spectral analysis will be self-consistent. However, fixing the $\log g$ to an external value does improve the stellar parameters in other methods which rely on comparing the observed spectrum directly to the synthetic spectrum (Torres et al. 2012). Also, the transit or asteroseismic $\log g$ should be used when determining the stellar mass and radius, as this will improve the precision on the planetary mass and radius.

The inclusion of the $\log g$ from the pressure broadened Mg I b and Na I D lines does not improve the result and the Mg I b $\log g$ is usually worse. The Na I D lines can still be used as a check, but this $\log g$ is not better than the ionization balance method.

While we have chosen to use the differential (1) list and not to fix $\log g$ in future HoSTS papers, we conclude that the most important factor is to have a consistent analysis across all stars. Future analyses may also avail the improved stellar radii, and thus planetary radii, determined from the *Gaia* parallaxes, which will

have improved precision after the second data release (Stassun et al. 2016).

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APPENDIX: LINE LIST

Table A1. The line list as used in UCLSYN. Log gf values are those created differentially to Sun with $v_{\rm mic}=1~{\rm km~s^{-1}}$. The radiative damping constant and the Stark broadening factor are the inverse logs of the values given in VALD, as the inverse log values are required for UCLSYN. The Van der Waals (VDW) damping constants are listed as they are in VALD for those with ABO values. VDW without ABO values are given as the inverse log. A temperature cut-off is given for some lines if they are too strong or blend above or below a certain $T_{\rm eff}$. Lines that consistently have an EW > 0.12 Å are deemed to be too strong.

Element	Wavelength	EP	Log gf	Radiative	VDW	Stark	$T_{\rm eff}$ cut-off
Fe II	4620.521	2.83	-3.292	3.63E+08	185.306	2.95E-07	
Fe II	4656.981	2.89	-3.737	3.63E+08	184.251	2.95E-07	
Fe II	4670.182	2.58	-4.016	3.47E + 08	172.228	2.88E-07	
Fe II	4825.736	2.64	-4.957	3.55E + 08	172.225	2.95E-07	
Feı	4939.686	0.86	-3.243	1.78E + 07	244.246	7.08E-07	
Fe II	4993.358	2.81	-3.731	3.09E+08	172.22	2.95E-07	
Feı	4994.129	0.92	-3.186	1.74E + 07	246.245	7.08E-07	Too strong in high [Fe/H] stars < 5800 H
Fe II	5000.743	2.78	-4.631	3.47E + 08	173.22	2.88E-07	Too strong in high [Fe/H] stars <5300 H
Fe i	5016.476	4.26	-1.647	2.40E + 08	982.279	4.07E-05	
Fe i	5023.198	4.28	-1.544	2.40E + 08	1013.279	1.74E-05	
Fe i	5058.496	3.64	-2.773	3.39E+07	353.313	7.94E-07	
Fe i	5079.740	0.99	-3.430	1.70E + 07	248.244	7.08E-07	
Fe i	5127.359	0.92	-3.353	1.86E + 07	243.246	7.08E-07	
Fe i	5127.679	0.05	-6.072	2.88E+03	1.51E-08	5.25E-07	
Fe 11	5132.669	2.81	-4.120	3.47E+08	172.219	2.95E-07	
Feı	5151.911	1.01	-3.196	1.70E+07	248.245	7.08E-07	Blended < 5400 K
Fe 11	5160.839	5.57	-2.000	3.02E+08	175.234	2.95E-07	
Fe II	5197.577	3.23	-2.300	2.88E+08	180.247	2.95E-07	
Fei	5217.389	3.21	-1.115	1.12E+08	815.232	4.17E-06	Too strong <5800 K
Fei	5247.050	0.09	-4.973	4.27E+03	206.253	5.25E-07	
Fei	5250.209	0.12	-4.923	1.66E+03	207.253	5.25E-07	Too strong < 5000 K
Fe II	5264.812	3.23	-3.148	3.63E+08	186.3	2.95E-07	100 strong 15000 II
Fei	5379.574	3.70	-1.485	7.08E+07	363.249	7.59E-07	
Feп	5414.073	3.22	-3.651	3.63E+08	185.303	2.95E-07	
Fei	5421.849	4.55	-1.938	1.62E+08	1111.29	8.71E-06	
Fe II	5425.257	3.20	-3.318	2.88E+08	178.255	2.95E-07	
Feп	5427.826	6.72	-1.557	3.24E+08	173.21	2.95E-07	
Fei	5441.354	4.31	-1.594	2.04E+08	807.278	2.00E-05	
Fei	5464.278	4.14	-1.577	9.77E+07	1.70E-08	5.50E-06	
Fei	5506.779	0.99	-2.835	1.45E+07	241.248	6.03E-07	Too strong <5800 K
Fei	5522.447	4.21	-2.633 -1.409	1.05E+08	744.215	2.69E-06	Blended <5800 K
Fei	5538.517	4.22	-1.536	2.82E+08	3.31E-08	3.39E-05	Blended <4900 K
Fei	5539.284	3.64	-2.609	3.24E+07	383.26	7.24E-07	Bichaea <4900 K
Fei	5549.948	3.70	-2.809 -2.829	3.80E+07	373.316	8.51E-07	
Fei		4.44	-2.029 -1.095	1.91E+08	895.278	5.75E-05	
Fei	5560.207	3.43	-0.857		854.232	4.07E-06	Too strong <5800 K
Fei	5576.090 5577.031	5.43	-0.837 -1.495	1.15E+08 7.59E+08	4.07E-08		100 strong < 3800 K
	5577.031	4.15	-1.493 -2.228	4.07E+08		5.13E-06 1.32E-05	
Fei	5607.664	4.13	-2.228 -2.357		816.278 733.214	4.57E-06	
Fei	5608.974			1.02E+08			
Fei	5611.361	3.64	-2.929	1.45E+08	376.256	1.12E-06	
Fei	5618.631	4.21	-1.311	1.55E+08	732.214	2.69E-06	
Fei	5619.224	3.70	-3.182	3.63E+07	401.237	1.02E-06	
Fei	5633.975	4.99	-0.186	7.59E+08	635.27	8.51E-06	
Fei	5635.824	4.26	-1.602	2.29E+08	928.279	3.39E-05	
Fei	5636.696	3.64	-2.523	4.07E+07	368.31	8.91E-07	
Fei	5651.470	4.47	-1.801	1.86E+08	898.278	3.89E-06	
Fei	5652.320	4.26	-1.800	1.02E+08	754.21	2.69E-06	
Fei	5679.025	4.65	-0.761	1.62E+08	1106.291	8.71E-06	
Fei	5680.241	4.19	-2.349	4.90E + 07	1.70E-08	9.33E-07	

Table A1 - continued

Element	Wavelength	EP	Log gf	Radiative	VDW	Stark	$T_{ m eff}$ cut-off
Fe I	5724.454	4.28	-2.549	6.46E + 07	914.278	2.04E-05	
Feı	5741.846	4.26	-1.656	2.95E+08	725.232	2.69E-06	
Fei	5793.913	4.22	-1.642	2.95E+08	714.231	5.13E-06	
Fei	5806.717	4.61	-0.928	2.09E+08	985.281	1.95E-05	
Fei	5811.917	4.14	-2.337	4.07E+07	1.58E-08	9.55E-07	
Fei	5827.875	3.28	-3.226	1.66E+08	748.245	3.89E-06	
Fei	5849.682	3.70	-3.011	6.03E+07	379.305	1.32E-06	
Fei	5853.150	1.49	-5.097	2.14E+07	1.62E-08	7.59E-08	
Fei	5855.091	4.61	-1.575	2.14E+08	962.279	2.88E-05	
Fei	5856.083 5861.107	4.29	-1.572	9.77E+07	404.264	5.50E-06	
Fei		4.28	-2.399 0.822	2.40E+08	854.279	4.79E-05	
Fe i	5905.689	4.65	-0.822	2.14E+08	994.282	1.74E-05	
Fe i Fe i	5929.667 5930.173	4.55 4.65	-1.237 -0.326	2.14E+08 2.09E+08	864.275 983.281	2.63E-05 1.95E-05	Too strong in high [Fe/H] stars <5300 H
Fei	5934.653	3.93	-0.326 -1.184	2.09E+08 6.03E+07	959.247	5.13E-06	100 strong in high [Fe/H] stars < 3500 F
Fei		0.86	-4.527				
Fe п	5956.692 5991.376	3.15	-4.527 -3.593	1.00E+04 3.47E+08	227.252 172.221	6.76E-07 2.95E-07	
Fe i		2.22	-3.393 -3.845	4.79E+06	309.27	2.93E-07 1.67E+02	Blended > 5800 K
	6012.206	4.55	0.014		823.275	8.71E-06	Too strong in high [Fe/H] stars <5800 H
Fe i Fe i	6024.049 6027.050	4.08	-1.073	2.09E+08 1.02E+08	1.66E-08	9.33E-07	100 strong in high [Fe/H] stars < 3000 F
Fei	6034.033	4.08	-1.073 -2.397	1.95E+08	710.223	9.33E-07 1.00E-05	
Fei	6055.992	4.73	-2.397 -0.433		1029.286	1.12E-05	
Fei	6065.482	2.61	-0.433 -1.518	2.09E+08 1.17E+08	354.234	5.13E-07	Too strong in high [Fe/H] stars < 5800 H
Feп	6084.111	3.20	-3.815	3.47E+08	173.223	2.95E-07	100 strong in high [1-0/11] stars < 3000 f
Fe i	6093.666	4.61	-3.813 -1.369	2.14E+08	866.274	2.93E-07 2.69E-05	
Fei	6096.662	3.98	-1.844	5.62E+07	963.25	5.13E-06	
Fei	6098.280	4.56	-1.786	2.75E+08	797.269	2.00E-05	
Fe п	6113.322	3.22	-1.780 -4.184	3.47E+08	173.228	2.95E-07	
Fei	6120.249	0.92	-5.915	1.00E+04	1.51E-08	6.76E-07	
Fe II	6149.250	3.89	-2.750	3.16E+08	186.269	2.95E-07	Blended <5700 K
Fei	6151.617	2.18	-2.730 -3.331	1.95E+08	277.263	6.92E-07	Biclided <5700 K
Fei	6157.730	4.08	-3.331 -1.135	7.76E+07	1.62E-08	9.33E-07	
Fei	6173.340	2.22	-2.885	2.04E+08	281.266	6.92E-07	
Fei	6187.987	3.94	-1.657	5.62E+07	903.244	4.17E-06	
Fei	6200.313	2.61	-2.330	1.20E+08	350.235	5.13E-07	
Fei	6213.429	2.22	-2.569	2.04E+08	280.265	6.92E-07	
Feп	6239.366	2.81	-4.745	2.95E+08	167.219	2.95E-07	Blended > 5800 K
Fe II	6239.953	3.89	-3.481	3.16E+08	186.271	2.95E-07	Blended > 6000 K
Fei	6240.645	2.22	-3.309	6.46E+06	301.272	7.41E-07	21011000 7 0000 11
Fe II	6247.557	3.89	-2.383	3.16E+08	186.272	2.95E-07	
Fei	6252.554	2.40	-1.733	1.05E+08	326.245	8.51E-07	Too strong <5800 K
Fei	6265.131	2.18	-2.514	2.00E+08	274.261	6.92E-07	Too strong 5200 K
Feı	6330.838	4.73	-1.185	2.57E+08	915.277	3.16E-05	8
Feı	6335.340	2.20	-2.254	2.00E+08	275.261	6.92E-07	Too strong <5700 K
Fe п	6369.462	2.89	-4.188	2.95E+08	169.204	2.95E-07	8
Fe i	6392.538	2.28	-3.939	2.04E+08	310.243	6.92E-07	
Fe i	6400.318	0.92	-4.153	2.69E+04	1.48E-08	6.31E-07	
Fe II	6432.680	2.89	-3.555	2.95E+08	169.204	2.95E-07	
Fe II	6446.410	6.22	-2.001	4.37E+08	181.214	2.95E-07	
Fe II	6456.383	3.90	-2.028	3.16E+08	185.276	2.95E-07	
Fe II	6482.204	6.22	-1.830	3.31E+08	181.212	2.95E-07	
Fe I	6498.938	0.96	-4.629	2.29E+04	226.253	6.17E-07	
Feı	6593.871	2.43	-2.302	1.02E+08	321.247	8.32E-07	Too strong <5200 K
Fei	6608.024	2.28	-3.958	2.00E+08	306.242	6.92E-07	C
Feı	6625.022	1.01	-5.340	1.15E+04	1.48E-08	6.17E-07	
Fei	6627.540	4.55	-1.503	2.14E+08	754.209	4.57E-06	
Fei	6646.940	2.61	-3.957	9.12E+07	339.243	8.32E-07	
Fei	6699.150	4.59	-2.125	1.23E+08	297.273	2.34E-06	
	6703.568	2.76	-3.019	1.20E+08	320.264	5.25E-07	

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Table A1 - continued

Element	Wavelength	EP	Log gf	radiative	VDW	stark	$T_{\rm eff}$ cut-off
Feı	6710.316	1.49	-4.774	1.86E+07	252.246	7.08E-07	
Feı	6725.353	4.10	-2.209	2.51E+08	897.241	4.17E-06	
Feı	6732.070	4.58	-2.177	6.61E+07	274.26	4.27E-06	
Feı	6733.151	4.64	-1.451	2.57E + 08	781.273	4.37E-06	
Feı	6745.970	4.08	-2.711	3.09E+07	1.51E-08	9.77E-07	
Feı	6750.150	2.42	-2.564	4.90E + 06	335.241	7.41E-07	
Feı	6752.705	4.64	-1.212	2.63E+08	778.274	3.39E-06	
Feı	6806.847	2.73	-3.112	1.17E + 08	313.268	8.13E-07	
Feı	6810.257	4.61	-0.980	2.63E+08	873.275	5.89E-06	
Feı	6837.016	4.59	-1.718	7.08E + 07	273.258	7.59E-07	
Feı	6839.840	2.56	-3.333	1.12E + 08	330.248	8.71E-07	
Fe i	6842.679	4.64	-1.206	2.24E+08	896.279	2.04E-05	
Feı	6857.243	4.08	-2.067	1.70E + 07	1.51E-08	9.33E-07	
Feı	6858.145	4.61	-0.953	2.69E + 08	765.211	2.69E-06	
Fe i	6862.492	4.56	-1.419	3.89E+08	804.269	1.32E-05	

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