

Revisiting the absolute-magnitude calibration of F-type supergiants and bright giants as a function of the equivalent width of the OI λ 7774Å triplet

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Abstract. We reduce the published measurements of the equivalent width of the oxygen triplet (OI λ 7774Å) to a single system and combine the resulting homogenized indices with revised *Hipparcos* parallaxes to derive the M_K versus $\log[W(\text{OI}\lambda 7774\text{\AA})]$ absolute-magnitude calibration for bright F-type giants and supergiants and use the resulting calibration to estimate both the distance to the Large Magellanic Cloud and the parameters of the Galactic rotation curve.

Keywords. stars: distances, stars: luminosities, supergiants, stars: kinematics

1. Introduction

Merrill (1925, 1934) found that the strength of the OI λ 7774Å feature was very different in stars of different luminosity classes and Keenan & Hynek (1950) proposed to use it as a luminosity indicator for A- and F-type stars. Since then, many authors have measured the strength of the OI λ 7774Å feature in different stars and calibrated it in terms of absolute magnitude (Osmer 1972; Baker 1974; Sorvari 1974; Kameswara Rao & Mallik 1978; Hopkinson & Humrich 1981; Faraggiana *et al.* 1988; Arellano Ferro *et al.* 1989, 1991, 1993, 2003; Mendoza & Arellano Ferro 1993; Slowik & Peterson 1993, 1995; Kovtyukh *et al.* 2012). Our aim is to determine the parameters of the linear $\log[W(\text{OI}\lambda 7774\text{\AA})]$ versus M_K relation for F0–G0 I–II stars. K -band absolute magnitudes (M_K) are adopted rather than V -band magnitudes (M_V) to minimize the effect of possible errors in the adopted interstellar extinction estimates by rendering these barely significant.

2. Sample and Calibration

Our working sample consists of 96 F0–G0 I–II-type stars with published OI λ 7774Å strength measurements in different systems (equivalent widths and photometric indices), which we reduced to a single homogeneous system defined by the measurements of Kovtyukh *et al.* (2012).

We first use 14 F0–G0 I–II-type stars in 13 open clusters (see Table 1) with homogeneously determined (main-sequence fitting) photometric distances (Dambis 1999) to determine the slope of the $\log[W(\text{OI}\lambda 7774\text{\AA})]$ versus M_K relation (see Fig. 1).

The resulting equivalent width–luminosity relation is

$$M_K = -5.33 - 10.81 \log [W(\text{OI}\lambda 7774\text{\AA})]; \sigma(M_K) = 0.48 \text{ mag.} \quad (2.1)$$

We now adjust the zero point of this relation in two ways. First, we use the technique employed by Feast & Catchpole (1997), which consists of determining the correction

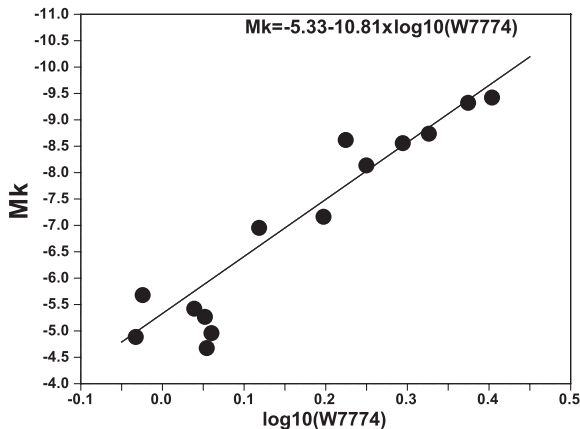


Figure 1. M_K as a function of $\log[W(\text{O}I\lambda 7774\text{\AA})]$ for stars from Table 1.

Table 1. Parameters of the cluster stars used for calibration.

Star	Spectral type	$W(7774)$ (\AA)	$\sigma_{W(7774)}$ (\AA)	K_s (mag)	$(m - M)_0$ (mag)	$E(B - V)$ (mag)	M_K (mag)	Cluster
HD 7927	F0Ia	2.36	0.02	2.750	11.92	0.505	-9.33	NGC 457
HD236433	F2Iab	1.15	0.05	6.165	10.97	0.508	-4.97	NGC 129
BD+59 65	F5Ib	1.13	0.23	5.857	10.97	0.508	-5.28	NGC 129
HD332843	F0Ib	1.13	0.13	7.225	11.66	0.777	-4.69	NGC 6834
HD 20902	F5Ib	1.09	0.02	0.540	5.94	0.099	-5.43	α Per
BD+60 2532	F7Ib	0.94	0.04	5.320	10.80	0.650	-5.69	NGC 7654
HD 10494	F5Ia	1.77	0.03	4.104	11.95	0.935	-8.15	NGC 654
HD 87283	F0II	0.93	0.09	5.030	9.90	0.080	-4.90	NGC 3114
HD 90772	F0Ia	2.12	0.05	3.070	11.68	0.428	-8.75	IC 2581
HD 54605	F8Ia	1.67	0.03	0.380	9.00	0.027	-8.63	Cr 121
HD 17971	F5Ia	1.57	0.03	4.428	11.39	0.657	-7.17	IC 1848
HD101947	G0Ia	1.97	0.04	3.180	11.67	0.245	-8.57	Stock 14
HD173638	F1II	1.31	0.05	3.840	10.61	0.601	-6.96	NGC 6694
HD 74180	F2Ia	2.53	0.03	1.890	11.18	0.444	-9.43	Pismis 6

factor, p , to reconcile photometric parallaxes based on the above $\log[W(\text{O}I\lambda 7774\text{\AA})]$ - M_K relation with the revised *Hipparcos* trigonometric parallaxes (van Leeuwen 2007) of 51 stars:

$$\pi_{\text{HIP}} = p\pi_{\text{phot}}. \tag{2.2}$$

We find $p = 0.90 \pm 0.07$, implying an absolute-magnitude correction of $\Delta M_K = -0.23 \pm 0.17$ mag. We next estimate an independent absolute-magnitude correction using the maximum-likelihood version of the method of statistical parallax determination as described by Murray (1983). The resulting kinematic plus distance-scale solution is summarized in Table 2.

We finally apply the weighted average of the two corrections to Eq. (1) to derive the final relation,

$$M_K = -5.66 - 10.81 \log [W(\text{O}I\lambda 7774\text{\AA})]. \tag{2.3}$$

When applied to 20 F0–G0 I–II-type stars in the Large Magellanic Cloud with published $W(\text{O}I\lambda 7774\text{\AA})$ data (Mantegazza 1991), this relation yields $(m - M)_0^{\text{LMC}} = 18.53 \pm 0.28$ mag.

Table 2. Rotation-curve plus distance-scale solution for local F0–G0 I–II-type stars (statistical parallax method).

U_0 (km s ⁻¹)	V_0 (km s ⁻¹)	W_0 (km s ⁻¹)	σ_U (km s ⁻¹)	σ_V (km s ⁻¹)	σ_W (km s ⁻¹)	Ω_0 (km s ⁻¹ kpc ⁻¹)	A (km s ⁻¹ kpc ⁻¹)	Ω'' (km s ⁻¹ kpc ⁻³)	ΔM_K (mag)
-8.9 ± 2.2	-14.8 ± 1.9	-8.0 ± 1.3	16.8 ± 1.7	14.0 ± 1.4	8.3 ± 1.2	23.8 ± 2.4	13.5 ± 2.0	+0.84 ± 0.44	-0.29 ± 0.22

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (grants 10-02-00489-a and 11-02-00608-a).

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