

MgII SPECTRA OF LATE TYPE STARS USED TO PROBE THE LISM

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ABSTRACT

IUE spectra of Mg II h and k in late type dwarfs and giants have been used to detect and measure absorption components due to the LISM. This technique gives a method of probing the awkward range from $d = 3$ pc to $d = 80$ pc from the sun. In spite of interpretational uncertainties we can plot the HI component of the LISM well enough to confirm it as a cloud some 20-30 pc in extent, peaking sharply in density towards $l^{\text{II}} = 25^\circ$, moving towards the sun from $l^{\text{II}} = 25^\circ$, $b^{\text{II}} = +10^\circ$, at 28 Km/sec. The "hole" towards $l^{\text{II}} = 150^\circ$ is confirmed, suggesting a solar position close to the cloud's edge in this direction.

OBSERVATIONS

In order to explore the LISM using MgII absorptions at h and k we employed high resolution IUE spectra of late-type stars, some from our own programme on chromospheres, some from the IUE archive, and some taken specifically by ourselves for LISM measurements. The observational parameters are summarized in Table 1: col. 6 gives the radial velocity of the stars (RV), col.7 gives the predicted heliocentric velocity of the LISM according to Crutcher (1982) (V_{CR}) and col.8 the velocity of any interstellar feature with respect to the photospheric rest frame ($Vis = V_{CR} - RV$). Detection of a feature at Vis implies its origin in the LISM.

Table 1

Star	Type	d (pc)	$l^{\text{II}} (^\circ)$	$b^{\text{II}} (^\circ)$	RV(km/s)	V_{CR} (km/s)	Vis (km/s)
τ Cet	G8 V	3.6	173	-63	-16	+15	+31
δ Pav	G5/8 V	5.9	338	-32	-22	-11	+11
β Hyi	G1 IV	6.3	305	-40	+23	- 1	-24
ζ Tuc	G0 V	7.5	308	-52	+ 9	0	- 9
β TrA	F2 V	12.8	322	- 8	0	-12	-12
α Hyi	F0 V	24.4	298	-54	+ 1v	+ 6	+ 5v
24UMa	G2 III	25.6	143	+39	-27	+ 7	+34
γ Mic	G6 III	29.4	12	-40	+18	-17	-35
δ Dra	G9 III	31.3	99	+23	+25	- 9	-34
20Mon	K0 III	33.3	219	+ 2	+79	+27	-52
ζ Vol	K0 III	58.8	285	-22	+48	+ 6	-42

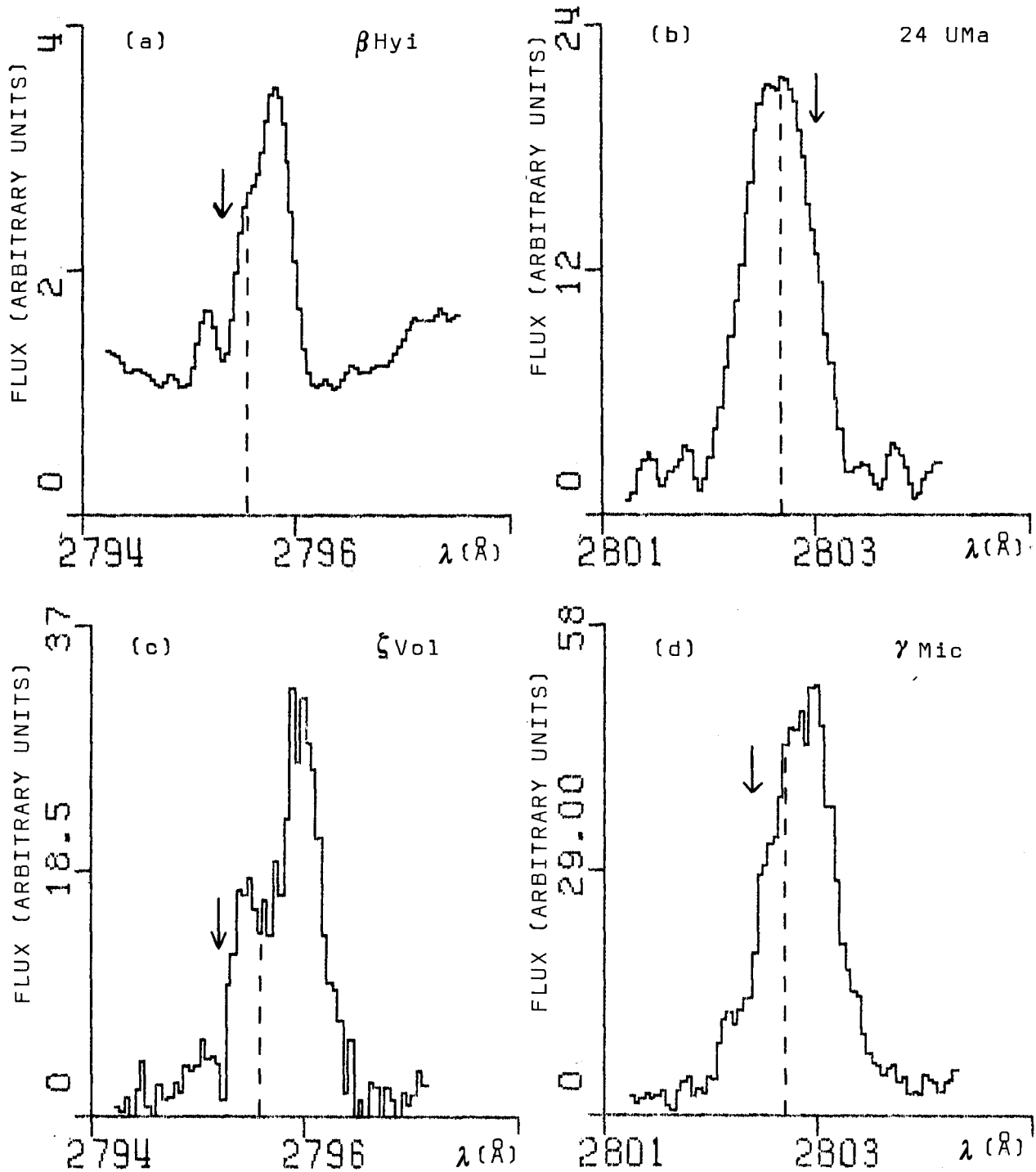


Figure 1. Profiles of MgII h ((a) and (c)) and k ((b) and (d)) in four late-type stars within 60 pc of the sun. Dashed lines show photospheric h or k rest wavelengths. Arrows show IS wavelengths predicted by the Crutcher (1982) relation.

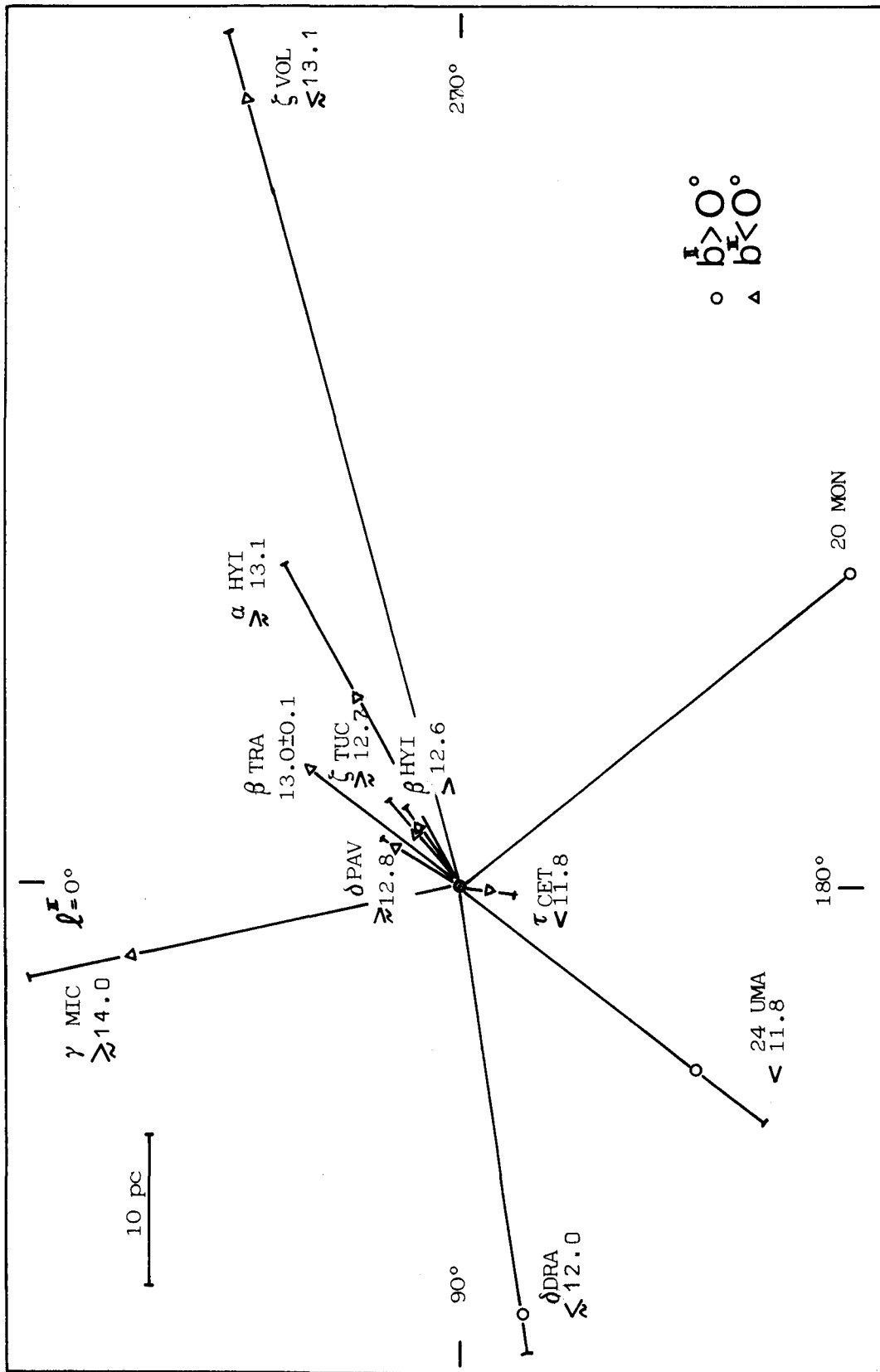


Figure 2. Log column densities of MgII towards late-type stars within 60 pc of the sun. Linear distances d to stars are solid lines. Projected distances $d \cos b$ in the galactic plane are indicated by triangles and circles.

RESULTS

Table 2 shows the results under the following headings: cols. 2 and 3, equivalent widths of IS k and h features; col. 4, MgII column densities (derived using doublet ratio method (Spitzer,1968)); col. 5, IS turbulence parameter (km/s); col. 6, HI column densities (assuming cosmic abundance and Mg depletion factor of 10 (Paresce,1984)); col. 7, mean MgII number density along line of sight ($\text{cm}^{-3} \times 10^{-7}$); col. 8, mean HI number density (cm^{-3}).

Table 2

Star	Wk(mÅ)	Wh(mÅ)	LogN(MgII)	b	LogN(HI)	n(MgII)	n(HI)
τ Cet	< 30	< 30	< 11.8	--	< 17.4	< 0.6	< 0.02
δ Pav	\gtrsim 98	\gtrsim 74	\gtrsim 12.8	\gtrsim 3.9	\gtrsim 18.4	\gtrsim 3.5	\gtrsim 0.13
β Hyi	> 77	> 55	> 12.6	> 3.4	> 18.2	> 2.2	> 0.08
	< 165	< 137	< 13.2	< 5.6	< 18.8	< 8.9	< 0.34
ζ Tuc	\gtrsim 92	\gtrsim 67	\gtrsim 12.7	\gtrsim 3.8	\gtrsim 18.3	\gtrsim 2.3	\gtrsim 0.09
β TrA	158 \pm 30	117 \pm 20	13.0 \pm 0.1	6.5	18.6 \pm 0.1	2.5	0.1
α Hyi	> 135	> 135	> 13.1	--	> 18.7	> 1.7	> 0.07
24UMa	< 30	< 30	< 11.8	--	< 17.4	< 0.1	< 0.003
γ Mic *	\approx 230	\approx 220	\gtrsim 14.0	--	\gtrsim 19.5	\gtrsim 10.2	\gtrsim 0.39
δ Dra *	< 50	< 50	< 12.0	--	< 17.6	< 0.1	< 0.004
20Mon *	< 100	< 100	----	--	----	---	----
ζ Vol *	\lesssim 340	\lesssim 205	\lesssim 13.1	\approx 25(?)	\lesssim 18.6	\lesssim 0.04	\lesssim 0.02

* Preliminary reduction only; very recent data.

CONCLUSIONS

We have demonstrated the value of using late-type stars for MgII LISM measurements and have augmented the sum of reported MgII column densities within 80 pc by a factor two. We confirm the observations by, i.a., Bruhweiler (1982) of a "hole" in the neutral LISM centred on $l^{\text{II}}=150^\circ$, and by, i.a., Paresce (1984) of a strong density peak towards $l^{\text{II}}=10^\circ$. Detailed treatment of this work will appear elsewhere (Vladilo *et al.* 1984, Molaro *et al.* 1984).

REFERENCES

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