Better Stellar Modeling: Numerical Tools and Techniques for the Modern Observational Landscape

> IPMU, Kashiwa, Japan 15 January 2020



Dr. Meridith Joyce RSAA Postdoctoral Fellow Australian National University



In this talk:

Stellar Structure and Evolution (SSE) Programs

- Explanation and examples
- The Modules for Experiments in Stellar Astrophysics (MESA) software suite

Insights from precision 1D stellar modeling

- calibrators for convection in the stellar interior
- Predicting the near-future behavior of T Ursae Minoris through seismic evolution models

^{1D}MESA2HYDRO^{3D}

 Translating the customizable physics of 1D SSE codes to 3D smoothed-particle hydrodynamics initial conditions

Who here has used a stellar track, isochrone, or synthetic frequency spectrum?

Who here has used a stellar track, isochrone, or synthetic frequency spectrum?

Who here has ever used a stellar age or mass estimate in their work?

Who here has used a stellar track, isochrone, or synthetic frequency spectrum?

Who here has ever used a stellar age or mass estimate in their work?

Who here knows how to calculate or compute all of these things by hand?

Who here has used a stellar track, isochrone, or synthetic frequency spectrum?

Who here has ever used a stellar age or mass estimate in their work?

Who here knows how to calculate or compute all of these things by hand?

Like any instrument, stellar structure and evolution codes are subject to calibration errors, biases, and "black-box" treatment

The cycle of computational stellar astrophysics



Stellar Structure and Evolution (SSE) codes/programs:



We all need them, but do we really understand what they do?

How do stellar models work?

Mathematical Statement

 $\rho \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -\nabla P - \rho \nabla \Phi$ $\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G \rho$ $\frac{dP}{dr} = -\rho \frac{d\Phi}{dr}$ $\frac{dM}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho$ $\frac{dL}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho \varepsilon(\rho, T, \mu)$ $\frac{dT}{dr} = -\frac{3}{16\pi ac} \frac{\kappa \rho L}{r^2 T^3}$ $=-\frac{GM}{c_p r^2}$

 $\frac{d\rho_i}{dt} = Q_i$

Physical Principle

Momentum conservation

Gravitation

Hydrostatic equilibrium

Mass continuity

Conservation of energy

Radiative energy transport

Adiabatic convective energy transport

Nuclear energy generation.

Simplest model of a star

A form of Poisson's equation describes a self-gravitating, spherically symmetric ball of fluid Dimensionless form: Lane—Emden equation $\frac{1}{\xi^2} \frac{d}{d\xi} \left(\xi^2 \frac{d\theta}{d\xi}\right) + \theta^n = 0$

Solve this under an equation of state relating certain physical quantities (e.g. ideal gas law) to obtain the radial profile, or stellar structure, described by P(r), $\rho(r)$, m(r) Simplest: polytropic EOS $P = K \rho^{1+\frac{1}{n}}$

Compute the structure of this sphere at many times t under prescribed conditions for energy transport to see changes in state variables: Luminosity (L), temperature (T), composition (μ)

A map of the state variables over time constitutes the evolution of the model



Math to Astronomy







allows us to study how stars live and die



We have had functional models of stellar structure and evolution for several decades...

What's left to learn?

We have had functional models of stellar structure and evolution for several decades...

What's left to learn? Many things.

Let me convince you.

D S E P Dartmouth Stellar Evolution Program written by Brian Chaboyer (my PhD adviser) w/ updated release by Aaron Dotter and contributions from Greg Feiden and myself

Pros:

- -excellent for low mass stars (~0.5–2.5 Msolar)
- -best code for reproducing the observed
- mass-radius relation on the main sequence
- -good for metal-poor stars
- -uses heavy element diffusion (Thoul et al.,
- 1994)
- -fast execution

D S E P

Dartmouth Stellar Evolution Program

Pros:

- -excellent for low mass stars (~0.5–2.5 Msolar) -best code for reproducing the observed mass-radius relation on the main sequence -good for metal-poor stars
- -uses heavy element diffusion (Thoul et al., 1994)
- -fast execution

written by Brian Chaboyer (my PhD adviser) w/ updated release by Aaron Dotter and contributions from Greg Feiden and myself

Cons:

- -limited scope (i.e. no high mass capabilities)
- -not user friendly
- -not open source
- -only ~4 people have contributed to its
- development
- -difficult to add extensions

D S E P

Dartmouth Stellar Evolution Program

Pros:

- -excellent for low mass stars (~0.5–2.5 Msolar) -best code for reproducing the observed mass-radius relation on the main sequence -good for metal-poor stars
- -uses heavy element diffusion (Thoul et al., 1994)
- -fast execution



Paxton et al., 2011–2019; 5 paper releases and numerous code releases

Pros:

- -widest scope in astrophysics—everything from large planets to black hole progenitor systems -open source
- -modular: easy to add features
- -large user base
- -actively maintained and documented

written by Brian Chaboyer (my PhD adviser) w/ updated release by Aaron Dotter and contributions from Greg Feiden and myself

Cons:

- -limited scope (i.e. no high mass capabilities)
- -not user friendly
- -not open source
- -only ~4 people have contributed to its
- development
- -difficult to add extensions

D S E P

Dartmouth Stellar Evolution Program

Pros:

- -excellent for low mass stars (~0.5–2.5 Msolar) -best code for reproducing the observed mass-radius relation on the main sequence -good for metal-poor stars
- -uses heavy element diffusion (Thoul et al., 1994)
- -fast execution



Pros:

- -widest scope in astrophysics—everything from large planets to black hole progenitor systems -open source
- -modular: easy to add features
- -large user base
- -actively maintained and documented

written by Brian Chaboyer (my PhD adviser) w/ updated release by Aaron Dotter and contributions from Greg Feiden and myself

Cons:

- -limited scope (i.e. no high mass capabilities)
- -not user friendly
- -not open source
- -only ~4 people have contributed to its
- development
- -difficult to add extensions

Paxton et al., 2011–2019; 5 paper releases and numerous code releases

Cons:

- -slower run time
- -"broad" rather than "deep" in its physics
- -steep learning curve
- -installation and technical barriers can be intimidating

But it is worth it!

Modules for Experiments in Stellar Astrophysics

MESA

You may also want to visit **the MESA marketplace**, where users share the inlists from their published results, tools & utilities, and teaching materials.

Why a new 1D stellar evolution code?

The MESA Manifesto discusses the motivation for the MESA project, outlines a MESA code of conduct, and describes the establishment of a MESA Council. Before using MESA, you should read the **manifesto document**. Here's a brief extract of some of the key points

Stellar evolution calculations remain a basic tool of broad impact for astrophysics. New observations constantly test the models, even in 1D. The continued demand requires the construction of a general, modern stellar evolution code that combines the following advantages:

- Openness: anyone can download sources from the website.
- Modularity: independent modules for physics and for numerical algorithms; the parts can be used stand-alone.
- Wide Applicability: capable of calculating the evolution of stars in a wide range of environments.
- Modern Techniques: advanced AMR, fully coupled solution for composition and abundances, mass loss and gain, etc.
- **Comprehensive Microphysics**: up-to-date, wide-ranging, flexible, and independently useable microphysics modules.

 Performance: runs well on a personal computer and makes effective use of parallelism with multi-core architectures.

Latest News

- 10 Sep 2019
 » Release 12115
- 30 Aug 2019
 » New MESA SDK Version
- 03 May 2019
 » Release 11701
- 03 May 2019
 » New MESA SDK Version
- 15 Mar 2019
 » Release 11554
- 15 Mar 2019
 » New MESA SDK Version
- 04 Mar 2019
 » Release 11532
- 04 Mar 2019
 » Instrument Paper 5
- 11 Jan 2019
 » Summer School 2019
- 21 Mar 2018
 » Release 10398

O underlying program is a 1 dimensional stellar structure solver

- O widest breadth of physical conditions available in any code
- O software development is:
 - -lead by an actual computer scientist
 - collaborative effort between ~13 world experts in diverse subfields of computational astrophysics
 - driven by demand from a broad user base

Modules for Experiments in Stellar Astrophysics

MESA

You may also want to visit **the MESA marketplace**, where users share the inlists from their published results, tools & utilities, and teaching materials.

Why a new 1D stellar evolution code?

The MESA Manifesto discusses the motivation for the MESA project, outlines a MESA code of conduct, and describes the establishment of a MESA Council. Before using MESA, you should read the **manifesto document**. Here's a brief extract of some of the key points

Stellar evolution calculations remain a basic tool of broad impact for astrophysics. New observations constantly test the models, even in 1D. The continued demand requires the construction of a general, modern stellar evolution code that combines the following advantages:

- Openness: anyone can download sources from the website.
- Modularity: independent modules for physics and for numerical algorithms; the parts can be used stand-alone.
- Wide Applicability: capable of calculating the evolution of stars in a wide range of environments.
- Modern Techniques: advanced AMR, fully coupled solution for composition and abundances, mass loss and gain, etc.
- **Comprehensive Microphysics**: up-to-date, wide-ranging, flexible, and independently useable microphysics modules.
- Performance: runs well on a personal computer and makes effective use of parallelism with multi-core architectures.

Latest News

- 10 Sep 2019
 » Release 12115
- 30 Aug 2019
 » New MESA SDK Version
- 03 May 2019
 » Release 11701
- 03 May 2019
 » New MESA SDK Version
- 15 Mar 2019
 » Release 11554
- 15 Mar 2019
 » New MESA SDK Version
- 04 Mar 2019
 » Release 11532
- 04 Mar 2019
 » Instrument Paper 5
- 11 Jan 2019
 » Summer School 2019
- 21 Mar 2018
 » Release 10398



- O underlying program is a 1 dimensional stellar structure solver
- O widest breadth of physical conditions available in any code
- O software development is:
 - -lead by an actual computer scientist
 - collaborative effort between ~13 world experts in diverse subfields of computational astrophysics
 - driven by demand from a broad user base

How I got involved with MESA:

-wrote a software package that interfaces with MESA (Joyce et al., 2019, ApJ)

-talked w/ first female developer, Anne Thoul, after her presentation on implementing convective boundaries in MESA at "Stars and Their Variability," University of Vienna





Josiah Schwab



Adam Jermyn



Meridith Joyce

North Atlantic

Ocean



Evan Bauer



Anne Thoul



North

Pacific

Ocean

Radek Smolec



Rob Farmer



Warrick Ball



South Pacific Ocean

Aaron Dotter



Rich Townsend



South Atlantic

Ocean

Frank Timmes



MESA : Community of ~1000, Sep 2019

Indian Ocean

Bill Paxton



Matteo Cantiello



Pablo Marchant

Components of a Stellar Structure and Evolution Code



Components of a Stellar Structure and Evolution Code



Mixing Length Theory (MLT) Formalism







$$F_{\text{conv}} = \frac{1}{2} \rho v c_p T \frac{\lambda}{H_P} (\nabla_T - \nabla_{\text{ad}}).$$
$$\alpha_{\text{MLT}} = \frac{\lambda}{H_P} \quad \nabla_T = \left(\frac{d \ln T}{d \ln P}\right).$$

-discrete parcels consist of fluid which are in pressure, but not thermal, equilibrium

-parcels move along vertical trajectories

- "mixing length:" average distance which parcels can travel before denaturing

 $-\alpha_{_{MLT}}$ represents mean free path measured in pressure scale heights, $H_{_P} = d \ln(P) / d \ln(T)$ **MLT calibrations** are tedious, difficult, and only possible in a specific regime, but using uncalibrated values introduces modeling errors

Because it is a free parameter, $\alpha_{_{MLT}}$ absorbs **modeling inconsistencies**

Calibrate here:

- low mass stars (0.5 1.4 Ms)
- sub-surface convective envelope
- main sequence, subgiant, or (maybe) early RGB



Two separate science questions:

(1) How does α_{MLT} vary among stars with different global properties? (2) How does α_{MLT} change within a single star's evolution?

MLT Calibrations with Seismic Binaries

α Centauri A & B

Classical optimization of α Centauri





Incorporating seismic constraints

-Ratio between small and large frequency separation tells us about the sound speed in the interior

-can be computed from observations and obtained theoretically using GYRE

-*r*₀₂ corrects "surface effects"—the known deviation of ridges in observed vs theoretical Echelle diagrams caused by approximate atmospheric modeling



Incorporating seismic constraints



Results:

-refined fundamental parameters of α Centauri A & B -new method for age estimation



General Conclusions:

- seismic constraints severely restrict α_{MIT} , especially for α Cen A
- solar-normalized $\alpha_{_{MLT}}$ converge to well-defined values in both stars!
- MLT calculations seem to be insensitive to variations in (1D) input physics; main effect is on the age estimate
- under all conditions tested, the hotter and more massive star prefers smaller mixing length values than its cooler, lower-mass counterpart

Important to note: this directly contradicts trends found when using 3D atmospheres (e.g. Zhou, Asplund, et al in prep; STAGGER grid)

Our group's work on this discrepancy continues...



More MLT calibrations with seismic binaries

Kepler targets Solar twins & Procyon
What makes alpha Cen the perfect lab?

Independent measurements remove degrees of freedom and isolate MLT

Mass – kinematics

Radius – interferometry

Luminosity – photometry



Surface abundance – high resolution spectroscopy

Stellar interior constraints from which surface effects can be removed – seismology

IF the candidate is binary with all classical measurements satisfied in both components --> free, prior-independent age constraint!

Problem:

No other (known) system satisfies all of these conditions!



Other contenders:

doubly oscillating *Kepler* targets: usually missing interferometry

interferometric targets: usually cannot also be spectroscopic binaries

 stars with high resolution spectroscopy (HRS): powerful for determining input composition, but lack an interior constraint

– stars that DO satisfy the basics:

[X] typically only measurements for one component
[X] period too long for dynamical mass (e.g. 16 Cyg)
[X] difficult to model / incorrect region of the HRD
-wrong mass regime
-nested or inverted convective structure

How about....Procyon?



Figure 14. Power spectrum of Procyon overlaid with mode frequencies listed in Table 1. Symbols indicate angular degree (squares: l = 0; diamonds: l = 1; crosses: l = 2; pluses: l = 3). Asterisks show the peaks that have not been identified, as listed in Table 2. Bedding et al. 2010



Challenges:

-**Ridge identification** is difficult observationally

-**p-mode behavior** in this part of the HRD is much more complicated

-surface convection zone in evolutionary models is very thin and therefore much less sensitive to changes in α mlt

How about....16 Cyg A & B?

Preliminary results are UNLIKE α Cen A & B: --> no age bifurcation



New method: Simplex Optimizer with MESA

Work in progress using the ASTERO and SIMPLEX_SOLAR_CALIBRATION modules, to which I am currently contributing



High precision seismic evolution

AGB stars & T Ursae Minoris

The dying breaths of a Sun-like star



Studied: T Ursae Minoris



Pictured: U Camelopardalis, a similar TP-AGB star

As seen in recent pop science coverage...

Star nearing death offers a preview of our

Sun's fate



f y F 🗇 🔍 🖂 f 🗹 < e rare opportunitie ageing could be tly observed in or journalists • we wrote A Send email **Z**UWIRE MOVIES TV COMICS FANGRELS VIDEOS PODCASTS D23 EXPO WATCH SYFY SHOWS Q LATEST STORIES 40 years ago Doctor Who changed ese bridge-building robots want yo ndle Comics Spotlight: Alitha ce Dicks, writer, script editor Ø BAD ASTRONOMY NGC 6826 is a pla **ASTRONOMERS ARE WATCHING A** STAR DIE IN REAL TIME NGC 6826 is a planetary nebula, a dying star whose light is causing previously expelled gas around it to glow. Credit: Bruce Balick (U. Washington), Jason Alexander (U. Washington) Hallan (USNO). Yervant Terzlan (Cornell). Mario Perinotto (U. Florence, Italy). Patrizio Patr

eventually come for our own sun. BY ERIC MACK 10 1 JULY 25, 2019 3:08 PM PDT



T Ursae Minoris: Evolutionary Context



Anatomy of a Thermal Pulse



T Ursae Minoris: why this star?

(1) 100+ years of visual observations

(2) undergoing dramatic changes while we're watching

(3) turns out to be located in a very special and short-lived part of the evolutionary diagram, a region amenable to capturing its **seismic evolution**

(4) evolutionary trajectory is similar to the Sun's

Important distinction:

Pulse—helium shell flash episode (evolutionary behavior)

Pulsation—coherent global oscillation in the envelope (seismic behavior)

→ T UMi is experiencing both

Lightcurve: dramatic change in amplitude of oscillations in visual mag over last ~30 years



Last 20 years

Difference in T UMi's period spectrum thento-now suggests need for reclassification



Figure 2. Middle: distances of successive (local) light maxima. Left and right: the corresponding periodograms from the early (gray highlighted region in the upper left of middle panel) and late (gray highlighted region in the lower right) sections of the light curve. The "early" region covers truncated JD 32,000 to 41,000 and the "late" region, 54,500 to 58,500.





Visually, looks like it's just meandering Seismically, there is a **rapid period decline**

Same data, divided into **before (black) / after (blue)** the rapid period change



Let's model it!



Let's model it!



Let's model it!

- The region over which we want to compute frequency spectra is ~50 years long (out of a 5 billion year evolutionary track)
- Isolating that region reliably—much less sampling it—is actually hard
- Only in the last year has anyone else tried to map seismic evolution onto stellar evolution: uncharted territory!



Constraints & Considerations

Scientific: - luminosity change must be consistent with longitudinal brightness decrease in observations

- need to match starting period ratio (function of radius) as well as **rate of change** of decay

- period ratio implies a certain range of acceptable starting radii depending on initial mass

- no metal enhancement: weak spectroscopic constraints suggest solar or slightly sub-solar metallicity

- T UMi is not a carbon star \rightarrow evolutionary profiles should not produce strange abundances (Li, Tc)

- number of pulses we find in seed model should be roughly consistent with other theorists' calculations, to verify appropriate convective parameters

Practical: - COMPUTING TIME

- automation
- avoiding excess data production
- timestep issues

Meeting most of these conditions is "easy" enough, but one is not

→ MESA's timestepping procedure has difficulty with this precision



Pulses are being resolved, but offset in time...How can we ensure that we compute GYRE spectra for the appropriate region of the pulse?

···*·*·*·*

1.8





1e13

MESA and an external adaptive time sampling algorithm







Result of successful iteration scheme:

GYRE spectra are computed for critical pulse regions under variable radial constraints while working around MESA's local timestep resolution, without wasting storage and time on inter-pulse regions



Utility of seismic constraints



Major Result:

(Possibly) the best ZAMS mass and age estimate for a single AGB star:

 $2.0 \pm 0.15 \mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{Sun}}$

1.17 ± 0.21 Gyr

Other parameters: $R = 290 \pm 15 R_{Sun},$ $M = 1.66 \pm 0.10 M_{sun},$ $T_{eff} = 3200 \pm 30 K$

...but these are highly dependent on modeling choices for e.g. convective parameters, mass loss, etc

We have testable predictions for its behavior over the next few decades!



In Short...

Mira has transitioned to semi-regular pulsator: identification of nonharmonic pulsation mode

Period dropped dramatically in last few decades and **first overtone** (O1) oscillation mode emerged

MESA + GYRE model grid exploited to fit mode periods, Pdot, and luminosity

 \rightarrow sampling at this resolution is **very hard!**

First "confirmation" of ongoing **thermal pulse** via direct observation

Obtained most precise ZAMS mass (2.0±0.15 Ms) and age (1.17±0.21 Gyr) for a single AGB star...ever(?)

Modeling implies **Pdot should reverse in 40-60 years**—evidence within our lifetimes

^{1D}MESA2HYDRO^{3D}

a Python interface tying stellar evolution calculations to 3D hydrodynamic simulations

Co-developers:

Lianne Lairmore (lead) packaging, portability, software development, upgrade to Python3

Dan Price integration with Phantom

Thomas Reichardt Ohlmann et al. 2017 damping scheme, dispersion analysis

Supporters and contributors:

Tom Jarrett 3D data visualization (VIDEO!)

Amanda Karakas AGB expertise and outreach

Orsola De Marco Phantom

Phil Taylor & Zhengwei Liu soft testing with GADGET-2

Martin Asplund resources & supervision

Shazrene Mohamed project inception & oversight at SAAO

Computing & IT at ANU patience & technical support!

MESA developers, MESA collaboration, & Phantom community





Good dog, bad developer

Gaia LIGO SDSS Hubble JWST LSST TESS LCOGT NuSTAR



Laboratory Astrophysics

M2H's original motivation: translate AGB capabilities of 1D SSECs to hydro models



MESA2HYDRO: Motivation



How can we combine the benefits of both types of simulation?
Mapping radially extended stars: not easy



Fig. 4. Comparison of density (*upper left*), pressure (*upper right*), internal energy (*lower left*) and derivative of pressure (*lower right*) for a 2 M_{\odot} RG with a ~0.4 M_{\odot} He core. Shown is the original profile from the MESA stellar evolution code as well as approximate profiles for cut radii of 1%, 5%, and 10% of the total radius. The approximate profiles were computed using a polytropic index of n = 3 for the interior part.

Ohlmann et al., 2017









Result



Agreement between MESA input and M2H-rendered distributions



Stability Assessment

We evolve the distributions for 10 dynamical timescales (τ_{dyn}) , following the damping prescription of Ohlmann et al.'s (2017) Equation (9), implemented in Phantom by Reichardt (2019):

$$\tau(t) = \begin{cases} \tau_{1}, & t < 2t_{dyn} \\ \tau_{1} \left(\frac{\tau_{2}}{\tau_{1}}\right)^{\frac{t-2t_{dyn}}{3t_{dyn}}}, & 2t_{dyn} < t < 5t_{dyn} \\ \infty, & t > 5t_{dyn}. \end{cases}$$

Configuration after relaxation and undamped evolution



Stability Assessment: velocity field after 10 dynamical timescales



Agreement between MESA input, M2H-rendered distributions, and Phantom-evolved distributions (back-projected to 1D)



In Summary:

Precision 1D stellar modeling: plenty of innovation to come!

- Much work remains to be done calibrating stellar convection zones
- Predicting the near-future behavior of T Ursae Minoris through seismic evolution models has laid foundation for further attempts at modeling dynamical behavior in 1D

→^{1D}MESA2HYDRO^{3D}: Extending 1D

Great potential in combining the customizable physics of 1D SSE codes with hydrodynamical modeling

Last Comment

MESA has been used successfully to model numerous high-energy phenomena, including...

- > core-collapse supernova explosions
- > x-ray bursts
- > massive binaries as gravitational wave sources
- > tidal disruption events
- > modified theories of gravity
- > new elementary particles (scalar and vector)
- > universes without the weak force



If you are interested in using MESA for your projects, please take advantage while I am here!

ありがとうございました





