

Abstract

Spectroscopic mode identification techniques, which monitor intensity variations across an absorption line, provide the possibility to determine the quantum numbers ℓ and m , the inclination and the intrinsic pulsation amplitude of a star. Of course, the uncertainties of the mode identification are dependent on the quality of the observations and the identification method applied. We have focused on the Pixel-by-Pixel Method/Direct Line Profile Fitting (Mantegazza 2000) and the Moment Method (Balona 1987, Briquet&Aerts 2003) for pinpointing mode parameters and tested the impact of various observational effects and stellar properties on the identification.

Pulsational Model of the Tests

The line profiles we used for this analysis were computed by integrating over the pulsational velocity field on the stellar surface, consisting of a 64800-element grid and taking a Gaussian as intrinsic line profile. The resulting velocities were calculated by summing up the contribution of every single pulsation mode. The model is based on the descriptions given by Schrijvers et al. (1997) and Balona (2000) and takes into account the effect of the Coriolis force, first and second order limb darkening, and temperature variations.

Radial Velocity Limit for Doppler Imaging

A major limit for the application of both the Intensity Period Search Method (Schrijvers & Telting 1999) and the Pixel-by-Pixel Method is set by the pulsational amplitude and the resulting projected radial velocity (RV) of the pulsation modes. If the RV of a certain mode becomes a significant fraction of $v \sin i$, the Doppler imaging of the stellar surface does not obey a linear law. In a multi-periodic star this prevents a correct identification of its pulsation modes due to phase- and amplitude-distortion, if one or more modes have RV amplitudes above 0.2 $v \sin i$.

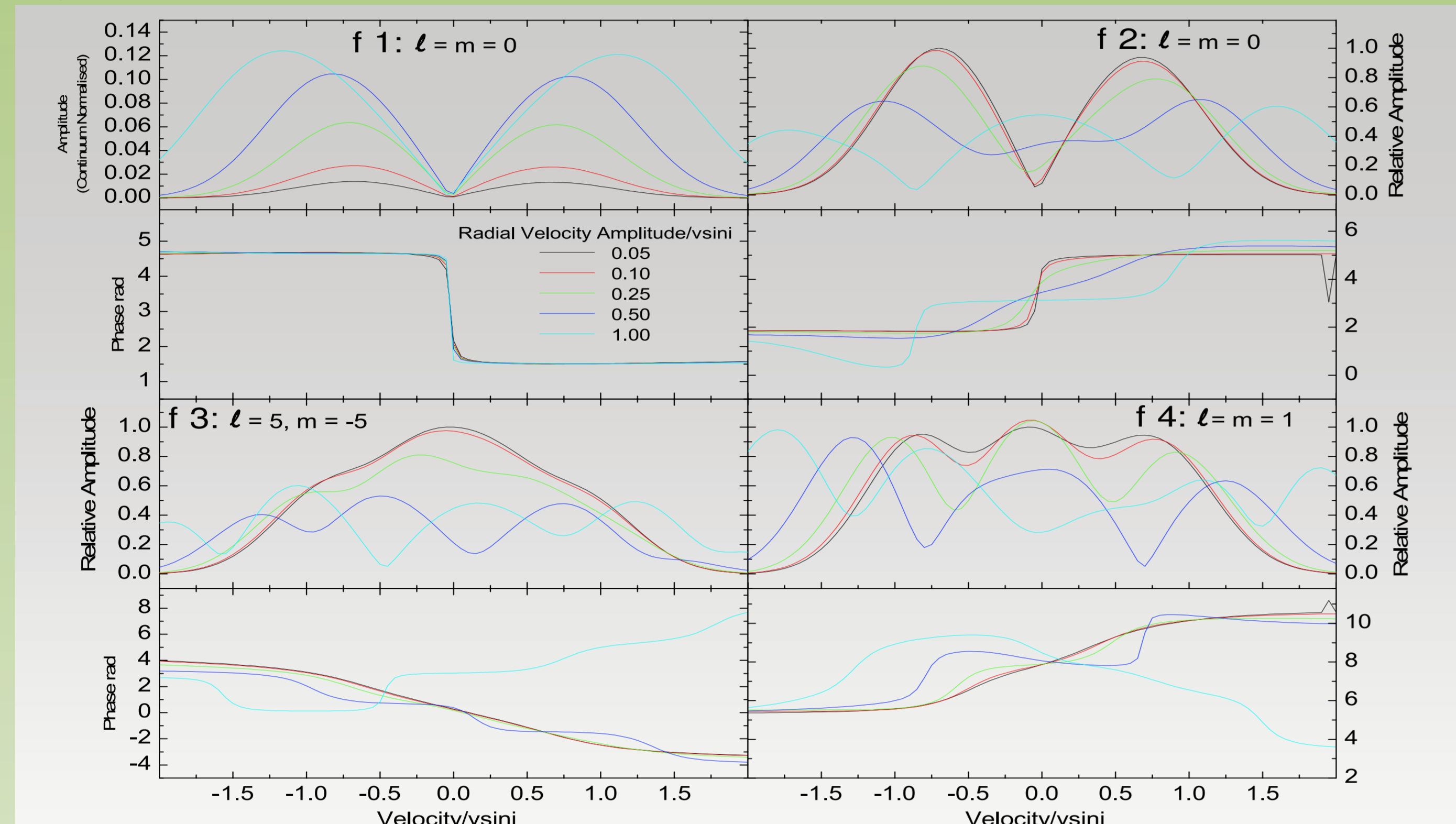


Figure 1: Influence of a mode having large radial velocity on the amplitude and phase across the line of other simultaneously excited pulsation modes. When applying Fourier techniques and Least-Squares fitting, respectively, on the pixel-by-pixel variations of a line in order to decompose the pulsational content of every single pulsation mode, non-linearities caused by modes having radial velocity amplitudes (RVA) a significant fraction of $v \sin i$ can prevent mode identification. In this test we simulated line profile variations of four simultaneously excited pulsation modes. We subsequently increased the amplitude of only f1 to study the impact on the three other modes, which have radial velocity amplitudes below 0.01 $v \sin i$. For a ratio of the RVA to the projected rotational velocity of above 0.2, the amplitude- and phase-distributions for all three modes are significantly distorted and a correct identification is hindered. For f3 even the sign of m can not be stated, if RVA/ $v \sin i$ reaches one.

Phase Smearing

An integration time being a significant fraction of the measured sinusoidal signal's period leads to the so called phase smearing, inducing a damping of the observed amplitude. Therefore it is important to keep the integration time as short as possible. We examined the influence of phase smearing on the line profile variations for different values of the relative integration time to the pulsation period. For modes having a pulsation period of five times the integration time, a significant (0.93) reduction of the observed amplitudes occurs, which mainly affects the derived intrinsic pulsational amplitude and only has minor influence on the identification of ℓ and the star's aspect angle.

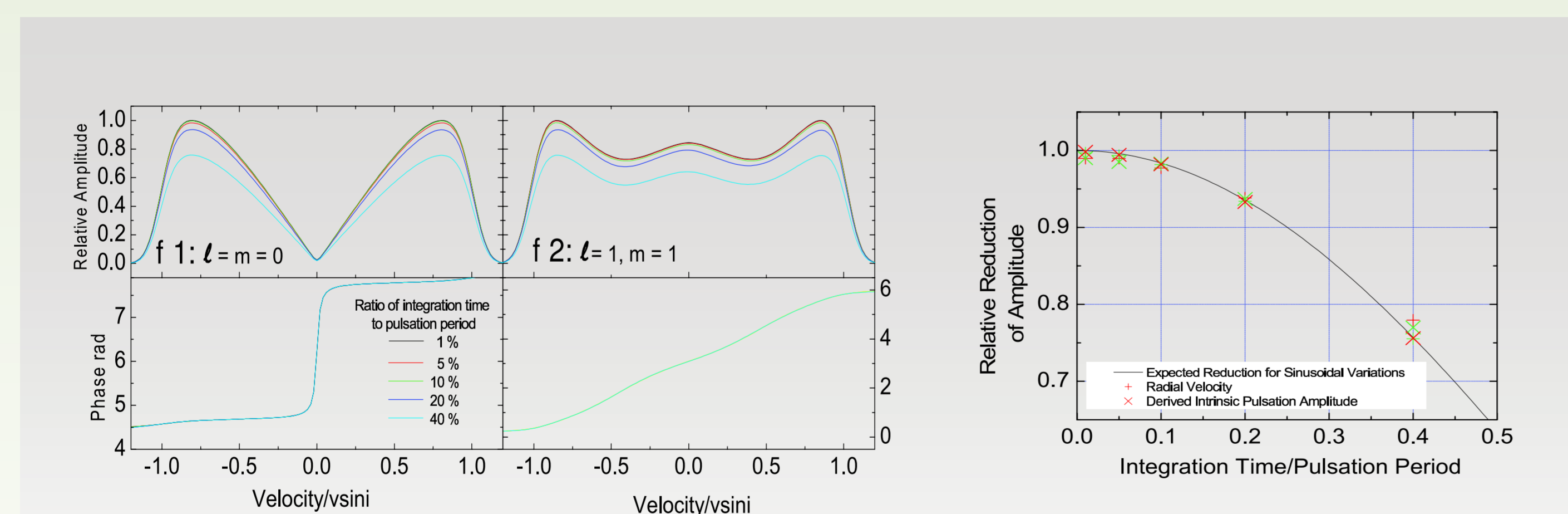


Figure 2: Effect of phase smearing on amplitude and phase across the line for different pulsation modes. The left panels show the relative amplitude and phase across a line for different integration times. The phase smearing primarily affects the amplitude of the pixel variations, which in turn gives rise to an underestimation of the intrinsic pulsation amplitude, a wrong determination of the harmonic degree ℓ or the stellar inclination. Due to the fact that the phase distribution is independent of the smearing, no additional error on the azimuthal degree m is induced. The right panel shows the relative amplitude reduction of the First Moment (radial velocity) and the intrinsic pulsation amplitude ($\Delta R/R$), derived from a direct line profile fit (f1 in red, f2 in green). Both values fit to the expected trend. The behaviour of the two illustrated modes is representative for other values of ℓ and m .

Conclusions

- Mode ID Methods relying on Doppler Imaging fail for a multi-periodic star, having a mode with a ratio of the radial velocity amplitude to $v \sin i$ of above 0.2
- long integration time reduces the observed amplitude by smearing → must be taken into account when deriving the intrinsic pulsational amplitude
- The Pixel-by-Pixel and Moment Methods give consistent results for low order pulsation modes in slowly rotating stars → but: problems with the identification of the harmonic degree ℓ
- successful spectroscopic mode ID of FG Vir → new theoretical models will be proposed soon

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A Hare-and-Hound Test

We have carried out a Hare-and-Hound test on synthetic spectroscopic data in order to examine the capability and reliability of the Pixel-by-Pixel Method as well as the Moment Method on low order pulsation modes, such as detected in FG Vir or 44 Tau.

The first mode identification technique we tested makes use of the Pixel-by-Pixel Method, where briefly summarized, the pulsational content of every single oscillation mode is detected by Fourier-analysing the variations of each wavelength bin, extracted by Least-Squares Techniques (decomposition), treated as mono mode pulsation and fitted with theoretical profiles by means of a genetic algorithm.

The Moment Method makes use of the fact that line profile variations can be sufficiently described by three moments, which are integrated over the line and fitted with theoretically determined moments.

We also tested a combined method by fitting the moments of the decomposed line profiles. This technique enabled the fitting of all detected modes simultaneously in much shorter computational time.

We created „realistic“ data of a FG Vir-like star having a $v \sin i$ of about 20 km/s, which exhibited pulsation mode parameters initially unknown to us. The simulation included the effect of phase smearing, the noise of real observational data and observation times of the 2002 FG Vir campaign of the Delta Scuti Network (Zima et al. 2003).

All applied identification methods yielded consistent results. Whereas the azimuthal order m could be determined unambiguously, it was not possible to discriminate between different ℓ values.

The inclination was determined with an error of 4°. Fitting all modes simultaneously gives much more consistent results, due to the fact that for continuous parameters, such as the inclination, only one value is derived. Unfortunately, such a multi-mode fit is computationally much more time-demanding and can only be applied on a limited number of modes.

A more detailed description of this test can be found in Zima et al. (2004).

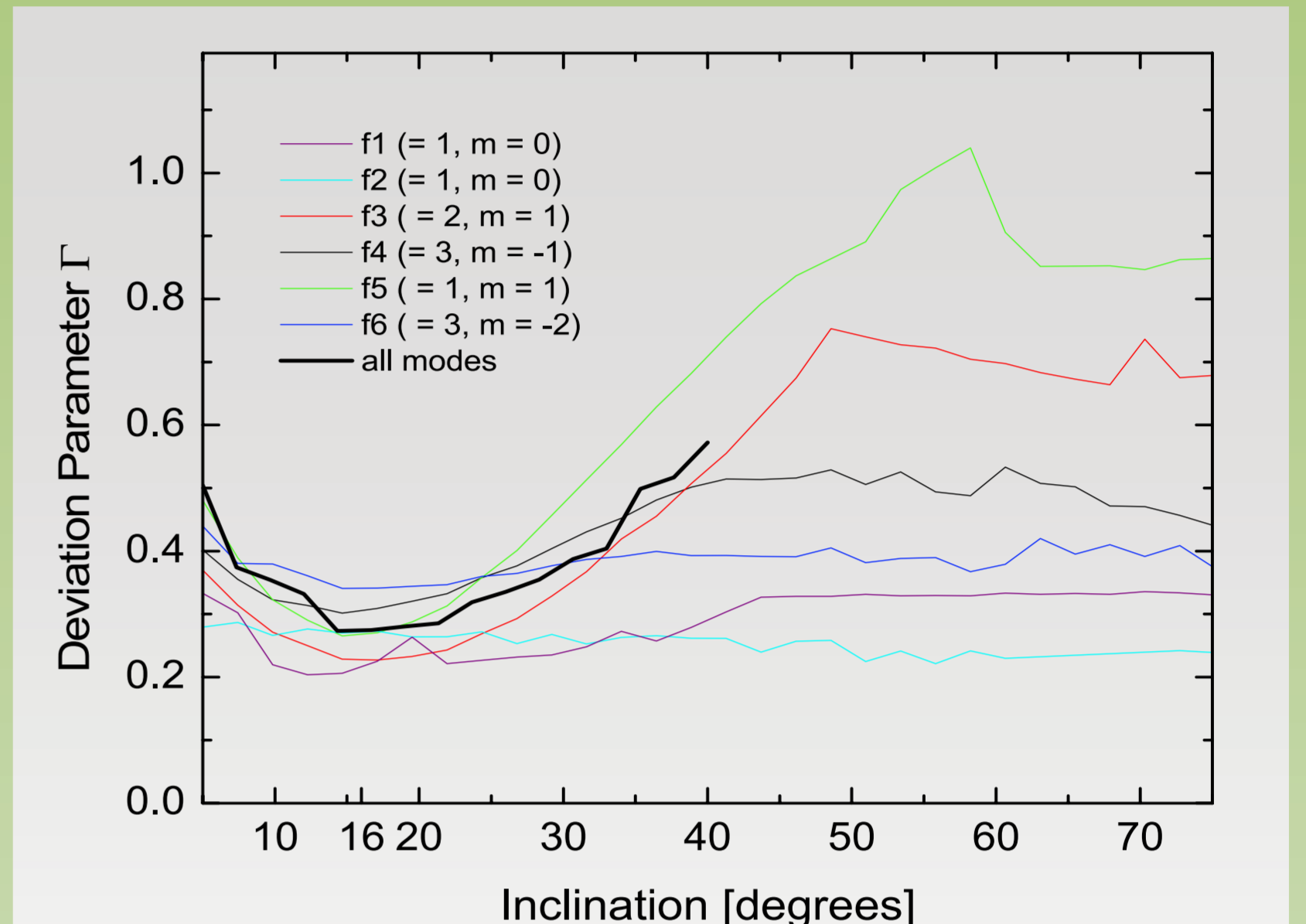


Figure 3: Dependence of the deviation parameter (arbitrary units) derived from the line profile fits in the inclination of the model. For every inclination only the lowest deviation parameter, representing the difference between the observed and modelled line profiles, for the specific mode is shown. An important feature is that for the two axisymmetric modes we derive significantly wrong inclinations, which mainly is a consequence of a low dependence of Γ on the aspect angle. In contrast, the non-axisymmetric modes all show a minimum of the deviation parameter at about 16 degrees, the correct value of the input model. An improvement is made by fitting all six modes simultaneously with common inclination.

Mode Identification of FG Vir

We observed line profile variations of the Delta Scuti star FG Vir (HD 106384, V=6.6, A5V) in the framework of a global spectroscopic/photometric observing campaign (ESO, Chile; McDonald Obs., USA; Tautenburg, Germany; SAAO, South Africa; Mt. John Obs., New Zealand) which lasted from 2002 February to April, yielding 122 hours of high resolution spectra. The mode identification of these spectra was successfully acquired by the above described methods.

We were able to detect 13 independent pulsation frequencies between 9.1 and 24.2 c/d in the spectra, which all have a counterpart among the 60 frequencies detected photometrically during this campaign (Breger et al. 2004).

The results of the line profile analysis showed that eight modes have axisymmetric character ($m=0$) and 5 modes have an azimuthal order between -2 and 1. All detected modes are low order modes with $\ell \leq 3$, which mainly is caused by this star's low projected rotational velocity of about 21 km/s. We were also able to derive the inclination of FG Vir ($i=20 \pm 5^\circ$) and through comparison of photometric light variations in Strömgren filters with the intrinsic pulsation amplitude we derived the ratio of flux perturbation to radial displacement, which is very sensitive to convection, and thus enables the selection between different convective models (Daszynska-Daszkiewicz et al. 2003).

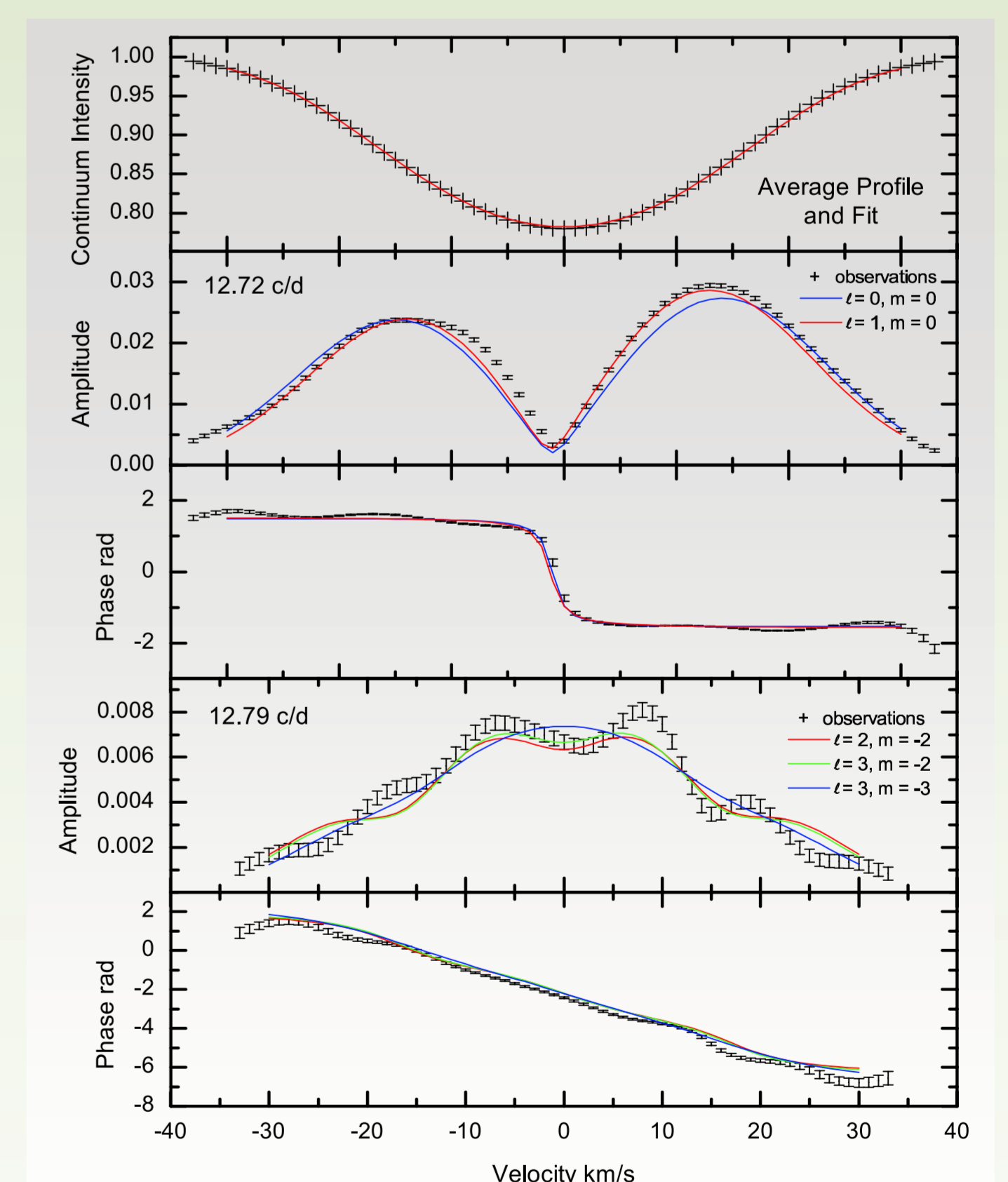


Figure 4: Observed and modelled amplitude and phase across the line (combination of 3 FeI lines) for two pulsation modes of FG Vir.

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