

FUSS
For Use with Supernova Spectropolarimetry
v0.6

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Overview

FUSS consists of a few IRAF routines written in IRAF CL, and a PYTHON 2.7 package.

1.2 Dependencies

The following packages are required: numpy, math, scipy (stats and odr), matplotlib (pyplot and gridspec), pylab, astropy, mpl_toolkits, pysynphot

To use `datred.lin_specpol()` you also need the chromatic zeror-angles for FORS2 whcih can be foud on the website¹. In my computer I've put it in `/home/heloise/FUSS/theta_fors2.txt`. The location can be changed at the top of the `datred.py` file.

¹http://www.eso.org/sci/facilities/paranal/instruments/fors/img/eps_theta_2000-01-25.txt

Chapter 2

Data Reduction

The actual data reduction is expected to be done in IRAF, and a few IRAF CL scripts have been written to make this process less tedious. A few functions are defined in `datred.py` to help set up the data reduction and to calculate the spectropolarimetry from the data extracted in IRAF. They can be used interactively from a standard (not IRAF `xgterm`) terminal. The arguments in **bold** are compulsory and the other are optional. All input files have their columns **delimited by a space**

2.1 IRAF Routines and associated PYTHON scripts

The data reduction is principally performed in IRAF and routines have been written in IRAF CL to eliminate some of the tedium. Additionally some of the IRAF scripts call PYTHON scripts which perform tasks that are much more easily automated in PYTHON than in IRAF. Those scripts are also written in PYTHON 2.7 and are expected to be in the same location as the `.cl` files. You should check in the `.cl` files that the path to the PYTHON scripts is correct. Note that most of these scripts rely on the naming convention adopted by the `datred.sort_red()` script.

- **first_calibs.cl**: This script performs the first basic calibrations by removing biases and flats from the science images and arcs. It also combines all arcs images into one.

Creating the Master Flat in IRAF is interactive. You need to select an aperture or apertures that will cover your science spectra. Then the response function is fitted; the default function for the fit is `spline3` and the order is 35. Change the order if needed but best results were obtained with `spline3` (legendre has caused some trouble).

Another version, called `first_calib_no_flat.cl` is available. Spectropolarimetry does not absolutely require flat field removal since polarimetry is a differential effect. I tend to do it because most of the time I'm going to combine the polarised spectra into a flux spectrum eventually. If not then doing flats is just an extra step which can introduce oddities if the response function is not well fitted.

- **arc_apertures.cl**: After defining the apertures on all the science frames (using `apall`) this creates calibration arc images for each science frame by cutting out the same apertures in the combined arc created by `first_calib.cl`. It also adds to the headers of the `SCIENCE_###.ms.fits` images which is the calibration arc image. This information will be used by the task `identify`.

Uses `edit_list.py` to update the filenames in one of the lists used by IRAF.

- **create_id.cl**: Its actually just calls the python script `create_idcal.py`, which copies a template `idcal` file and modifies it to create `idcal` files for each science frame.
- **disp2.cl**: This just removes `dSCIENCE*` files and calls `dispcor` again.
- **auto_calibrate.cl**: **GET BACK TO THAT WHEN I'VE USED IT PROPERLY** Uses `airmass.py`
- **toascii_pol.cl**: Takes data from the `dSCIENCE*` files and creates text files containing the flux of all individual apertures (2 per science frame), and separate files for their errors. These can then be used by `lin_specpol()` to obtain Stokes parameters. **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE CREATED A 1D_spectra FOLDER BEFORE USING.** Nothing terrible will happen if you don't, just keeps the working folder neat.

Uses `rename_txt.py` to rename the text files.

- **toascii_flux.cl**: Same but for the data reduced to produce the flux spectrum. These should be in `c_dSCIENCE*` files. They should be flux calibrated (unlike the data used for polarisation) and their wavelength bins are smaller (we bin the data used for polarisation to increase S/N)

Uses `rename_flux_txt.py` to rename the text files.

You can create permanent tasks by updating the login.cl file: under "package user" define your own tasks e.g:

```
task $firstcal = myraf$first_calibs.cl
task $firstcal_noflat = myraf$first_calibs_no_flat.cl
task $arc_aps = myraf$arc_apertures.cl
task $idfiles = myraf$create_id.cl
task $disp2 = myraf$disp2.cl
task $ascii_pol = myraf$toascii_pol.cl
task $auto_calib = myraf$auto_calibrate.cl
task $ascii_f = myraf$toascii_flux.cl
```

Here "myraf" is my environment variabe leading to the location of my iraf scripts.

2.2 Data Reduction Submodule: datred.py

- **sort_red():**

Description: Sorts and uncompresses the observation files (which MUST end in ".Z", which they should if they are FORS2 datafiles downloaded from the ESO website). Requires astropy.fits to read the headers of the fits files. It also renames files using the naming convention required for use with my .cl and python scripts used for data reduction in IRAF.

Input format: None.

Returns: None.

- **info():**

Description: Creates table containing useful information on the images (taken from the headers). Use in folder containing the uncompressed FITS files.

Input format: None.

Output File Format: Filename, ESO label, Retarder Plate Angle, Exposure time,Airmass, Grism, Bin, umber of Pixels, 1/Gain, Read Out Noise, Date.

Returns: None.

- **hwrpangles():**

Description: Creates the hwrpangles file required by the lin_specpol and circ_specpol functions to function.

Requirements: Needs to be called in the directory where the "SCIENCE_##.fits" images are (where ## is a 2 digit number).

Note: To know what unique string to use to isolate to SN, polarised standard and zero polarisation standard images, have a look in the second column of the info file created by info().

Optional parameters:

Argument	Type	Description	Default
sn_name	string	String unie to the ESO name of the SN images	'CCSN'
zeropol_name	string	String unie to the ESO name of the zero polarisation standard images	'Zero_'
polstd_name	string	String unie to the ESO name of the polarised standard images. This is the most suseptible to change.	'NGC2024'
return		output_name + " created"	

Output:

Linear polarisation: 4 columns (0°, 22.5°, 45°, 67.5°) each containing the number in the name of files corresponding the those angles.

Circular polarisation: 2 columns (45°, 315°) each containing the number in the name of files corresponding the those angles.

- **lin_specpol():**

Description: Creates files containing: wl, p, Δp , q, Δq , u, Δu , θ , $\Delta \theta$

Requirements: Need the file created by hwrpangles in the working directory as well as the text files of the extracted apertures at all retarder plate angles and their assoiated error files.

Optional parameters:

Argument	Type	Description	Default
oray	string	Aperture correspnding to the ordinary ray: Either 'ap1' or 'ap2'.	'ap2'
hwrpafile	string	file listing image numbers corresponding to sets of HWRP angles	'hwrpangles.txt'
e_min_wl	int	Lower Wavelength cut-off for $\Delta\epsilon$ calculations.	3375
return	Arrays	Wavelengths, p, Δp , q, Δq , u, Δu , θ , $\Delta\theta$, $\Delta\epsilon$ (2D array - One set of values per data set)	

- **circ_specpol()**:

Description: Creates files containing: wl, v, Δv

Requirements: Need the file created by hwrpangles in the working directory as well as the text files of the extracted apertures at all retarder plate angles and their assoiated error files.

Optional parameters:

Argument	Type	Description	Default
oray	string	Aperture correspnding to the ordinary ray: Either 'ap1' or 'ap2'.	'ap2'
hwrpafile	string	file listing image numbers corresponding to sets of HWRP angles	'hwrpangles_v.txt'
e_min_wl	int	Lower Wavelength cut-off for ϵ calculations.	3375
return	Arrays	Wavelengths, v, Δv , ϵ_v (2D array - One set of values per data set)	

- **lin_vband()**:

Description: Creates synthetic V band linear polarimetry data from spectropolarimetric data.

Optional parameters:

Argument	Type	Description	Default
oray	string	Aperture correspnding to the ordinary ray: Either 'ap1' or 'ap2'.	'ap2'
hwrpafile	string	file listing image numbers corresponding to sets of HWRP angles	'hwrpangles_v.txt'
return	float	p_v , Δp_v , q_v , Δq_v , u_v , Δu_v , θ_v , $\Delta\theta_v$	

- **flux_spectrum()**:

Description: Takes text files ouput by IRAF data reduction which contain the calibrated flux spectra and creates file containing: wl, flux, Δflux

2.3 Data Reduction Procedure

2.3.1 Pre-reduction steps

- Download the data and calibration frames from the FORS2 archive.
- In folder containing the compressed data files use **sort_red()**. Can use interactive python, if you do your working directory at the end of the task will be [start]/FITS/Data.reduction/ where the images are located.
- Use **info()**. Get rid of the calibration frame that don't fit with the data (e.g gain and RON not consistent with the SCIENCE frames).
- In IRAF, check exposure of the calibration, standard and science frames and remove poorly exposed images.
- Make a note of where the spectra are located on the chip (need to know where to place the apertures when doing flats).
- Use **hwrpangles()** to create the necessary files. Create a seperate file for the supernova, zero poalrisation standard and polarised standard.

2.3.2 Data Reduction Steps

General

- firstcal or firstcal.noflat
- noao, imred, specred, epar apall (@list_obj)

- arc_aps
- idfiles. Have template file in database folder already can do from folder above and just use as file name the path: databasidcal_SCIENCE_### (will have to make the python code better so I don't have to move template file to /database).
- identify (@list_cal)
- epar dispcor
- mkdir 1D_spectra

For Flux Spectrum

- epar dispcor (or disp2?) Change w1 but not dw.
- epar sensfunc (can I automate that a bit?)
- auto_calib
- ascii_f
- Need to add rmv_tell to FUSS

For Polarisation Data

- disp2. Change w1 and dw.
- ascii_pol
- In folder use **lin_specpol()**

Chapter 3

Utility Functions and Routines

3.1 Functions

- **get_spctr(filename, wlmín=0, wlmax=100000, err=False, scale=True)**

Description: Imports flux spectrum from an ASCII file. Allows easy cropping (with wlmín and wlmax) and rescaling (using scale).

File format: Wavelength(Å), Flux, Optional: Flux Error. Each column should be separated by a space and the file should not contain strings because get_spctr() uses numpy.loadtxt() which does not support strings.

Argument	Type	Description	Default
filename	string	Name of the ASCII file where the spectrum is	
wlmín	int/float	Lower wavelength cutoff	0
wlmax	int/float	Upper wavelength cutoff	100,000
err	boolean	If there is an error column, set to True	False
scale	boolean	Multiplies the spectrum (and error) by the median values of the flux.	True
return	arrays	Wavelength, Flux , (optional: Flux error)	

- **get_pol(filename, wlmín=0, wlmax=100000):**

Description: Imports values from polarisation files (best suited to those given by my specpol routine).

File format: Required File format: 9 columns, delimited by spaces. First column **must be wavelength** (Å). Other 8 columns for stokes parameters, degree of pol and P.A, and associated errors. (See output format of data reduction script).

Argument	Type	Description	Default
filename	string	Name of the ASCII file where the spectrum is	
wlmín	int/float	Lower wavelength cutoff	0
wlmax	int/float	Upper wavelength cutoff	100,000
return	arrays	Nine 1D arrays containing the data. First array contains wavelengths bins, the others contain the stokes parameters, degree of pol and P.A, and associated errors in the order of the columns in the input ASCII file.	

- **dopcor(val, z):**

Description: Applies Doppler correction.

Input format: val must be an array containing at least 2 columns, with val[0] being the wavelength.

Argument	Type	Description	Default
val	array	Array containing the data. val[0] MUST be the column containing the wavelength bins	-
z	float	Redshift	-
return	array	Array of same size as val but with val[0] being Doppler Corrected.	

- **dopcorFile(filename, z):**

Description: Applies Doppler correction on data from a file and creates a new file with the doppler corrected data.

Input format: The first column of the input file must contain the wavelength bins.

Argument	Type	Description	Default
filename	string	File with data to doppler correct. First column MUST contain the wavelength bins	-
z	float	Redshift	-
return			

- **yylim_def(wl, f, wlmin, wlmax):**

Description: Finds appropriate limits for a plot

Argument	Type	Description	Default
wl	array	Array containing the wavelength bins	-
f	array	Array containing the flux values corresponding to wavelength bins. Must have the same dimensions as wl.	-
wlmin	float/int	Start of wavelength range where min and max are found	4500-
wlmax	float/int	End of wavelength range where min and max are found	9500-
return	float	ymin and ymax	

- **rot_data(q, u, θ_{rot})**

Description: Rotates the data by θ_{rot} . Input in RADIANS.

return: Rotated q and u , i.e P_d and P_o .

Note: Obviously this can be used to rotate any 2D data set, not limited to Stokes parameters.

- **norm_ellipse(xc, yc, a, b, θ_{rot} , n)**

Description: Creates ellipsoidal data set normally distributed around (xc,yc). The ellipse is described by 2 normal distributions $\mathcal{N}(\text{xc}, a^2)$ and $\mathcal{N}(\text{yc}, b^2)$. It is then rotated by θ_{rot} (in RADIANS). The number of data points created is n.

return: Two arrays containing the x and y values of the created data.

3.2 Interactive Routines

- **ep_date()**

Description: This allows you to find the epoch with respect a given date (e.g + or - X days with respect to V-band maximum) or a date given an epoch.

Options in interactive mode: Just type the number corresponding to what you want to do.

- 1 - Get epoch in days. Inputs: Date of epoch
- 2 - Get date for an epoch in days. Inputs: Epoch in days (can be negative)
- 3 - Update the V-band max date
- 4 - Exit

- **vel()**

Description: This routine give you the velocity of an element given the observed wavelength and the rest wavelength.

Note: When asked whether to continue or not (Continue?(y/n):) you can continue by either pressing 'y' then 'Enter' or simply 'Enter'. Any other input will exit the routine.

Chapter 4

The PolData() class

In FUSS each set of polarisation data is treated as one entity. One set of data (e.g for each epoch) must contain the following quantities: the wavelength bins, the stokes parameters, the degree of polarisation, the angle of polarisation, and the errors associated with each of those quantities. Additionally, one can add the flux spectrum (and corresponding wavelength bins, which will probably be different from those associated with the polarisation) and the values for the ISP. Alternatively PolData contains a method (i.e function) to quantify and initialise the ISP, and another the remove the ISP that has been found using **find_isp()** or given with **add_isp()**. Other functions allow you to create $q - u$ plots.

4.1 Core Attributes and Initialisation

Not all attributes are initialised with a values when creating a new instance of PolData. The "core" attributes that make a set of sepectropolarimetric data are given a value when initialising a new instance of PolData. They are:

- The wavelength bins (self.wlp) – in Å
- The degree of polarisation p (self.p) and the error on p (self.pr) – in %
- The normalised Stokes vector q (self.q) and the error on q (self.qr) – in %
- The normalised Stokes vector u (self.u) and the error on u (self.ur) – in %
- The polarisation angle (self.a) and the associated error (self.ar) – in degrees

There are 9 necessary quantities, which should all be contained within the text files produced by the data reduction process described earlier. You must specify the name of the instance you are creating and the name of the file containing those quantities when initialising. You can also define a wavelength range using wlmin and wlmax. The filename and wavelength limit are passed on to the get_pol() function (see 3.1) during initialisation.

If you are using a file that was not created using FUSS to initialise PolData it must have the following format (if you don't kwo errors just fill the error columns with zeros).

wavelength p Δp q Δq u Δu θ $\Delta\theta$

So to initialise a new instance of PolData just do:

```
example = PolData('example', 'filename', wlmin, wlmax_data)
```

4.2 Optional attributes and related methods

There are additional aspects of the data that can be considered: The flux spectrum corresponding to a particular data set for example, or the ISP (especially if it needs to be removed).

4.2.1 Flux Spectrum

- **add_flux_data**(self, flux, err = False):
- **flu_n_pol**(self, save = False)

Description: Creates plots of p, q, u, θ and f. If the flux spectrum has not been added to a particular instance of PolData the flux spectrum subplot will be plotted, albeit empty.

Option: The 'save' option is Boolean and determines whether the plot will be saved. By default it is False. If it is set to True the name of the plot will be [self.name]_fnp.png

Argument	Type	Description	Default
flux	Array	Contains 2 or 3 columns separated by a space: [Wavelengths, F, Optional: ΔF]	-
err	Boolean	If True, read in the error on the flux (i.e third) column	False
return		None	

4.2.2 Interstellar Polarisation: finding, adding and/or removing the ISP.

- **find_isp(self, wlmin, wlmax):**

Description: To find the ISP using the data in the current instance of PolData. It's just an average of q and u within a range given as input which should correspond to the region of line blanketing. The associated errors are the standard dev within that range. From q and u , p and θ are then derived as well as their errors. It initialises the values of q_{isp} , Δq_{isp} , u_{isp} , Δu_{isp} for this particular instance of PolData.

Input format: The wavelength range limits should be given in Å.

Argument	Type	Description	Default
wlmin	int/float	Lower limit	-
wlmax	int/float	Upper limit	-
return	floats	q_{isp} , Δq_{isp} , u_{isp} , Δu_{isp}	

- **add_isp(self, qisp, qispr, uisp, uispr):**

Description: Initialises q_{isp} , Δq_{isp} , u_{isp} , Δu_{isp} from given values.

Argument	Type	Description	Default
qisp	int/float	Normalised Stokes Q contribution from ISP	-
Δq_{isp}	int/float	Uncertainty on q	-
uisp	int/float	Normalised Stokes U contribution from ISP	-
Δu_{isp}	int/float	Uncertainty on u	-
return		None	

- **rmv_isp(self):**

Description: Removes ISP from the polarisation data stores in the present instance of PolData. The previous attributes are **updated** and new attributes containing the original non ISP corrected values are created (p_0 , p_{0r} , q_0 , q_{0r} , u_0 , u_{0r} , a_0 , a_{0r}). Returns None

Prerequisite: Optional attributes q_{isp} , Δq_{isp} , u_{isp} , Δu_{isp} MUST have been initialised, either through **add_isp()** or **find_isp()**.

4.3 Creating $q - u$ plots

Before using the following methods it is good to pre-define a figure in matplotlib (e.g $f = \text{plt.figure(figsize=(12,10))}$). One can also use GridSpec (e.g $gs1 = \text{gridspec.GridSpec(2,2)}$). Also you must call **plt.show()** after using the following methods as, although they create the plots, they do not show them automatically (maybe should add an option to do that...). Side note: Even when using $\text{hspace} = 0$ or $\text{wspace} = 0$, the size of the graph has a strong influence on how much space there will be between the plots, it is just a matter of fine tuning.

The plot-making method is **qu_plt()**. It returns the axis it is plotting on so that you can use that outside of the QUpot instance if you want to add something to the $q - u$ plot (e.g an ellipse if you've done principal component analysis and want to show the result).

- **qu_plt(self, *options*)**

Description: Creates a $q - u$ plot with a color scale either representing wavelength or velocity.

Argument	Type	Description	Default
subplot_loc	?	3 number integer representing subplot location OR gridspec locator (e.g $gs1[0]$ if we take the same example given above)	111
wlmin	int/float	Start of wavelength range (Blue cut off)	None
wlmax	int/float	End of wavelength range (Red cut off)	100000

qlim	array	limits of the q axis	[-3, 3]
ulim	array	limits of the u axis	[-3, 3]
textloc	array	location of the text (which is the 'name' given to the QUpot instance when initialising)	[-2.7,-2.7]
cisp	string	Color of the ISP marker	'k'
fs	int	fontsize of the text	16
ls	int	(short for labelsiz) size of the numbers on the axis ticks	14
isp	Boolean	Whether to plot ISP or not. $q_{isp}, \Delta q_{isp}, u_{isp}, \Delta u_{isp}$ should have been initialised preemptively.	-
colorbar	Boolean	If True the colorbar is plotted	True
wlrest	int	Rest wavelength of spectral feature of interest. Will change the colour scale from wwavelength to velocity	None
size_clbar	float	Changes the size of the colorbar. Oddly enough seems to sometimes change the size of the plot too??	0.05
line_color	string	If want a solid colour for the lines between the markers. Default gives lines cycling through rainbow colors to match the color of the point they are associated with.	None
marker	string	Type of marker to be used	'.'
lambda_xshift	float	That is to help the placement of the colorbar label. The x position of the label will be qmax + lambda_xshift, where qmax is the upper limit given by qlim.	1.7
fit	Boolean	Whether to plot the dominant axis fit to the data or not. The fit will always be calculated and the best values returned even if fit is False.	True
qlab_vis	Boolean	Whether to make the q axis label visible	True
ulab_vis	Boolean	Whether to make the u axis label visible	True
qticks_vis	Boolean	Whether to make the q ticks labels visible	True
uticks_vis	Boolean	Whether to make the u ticks labels visible	True
return		The Axis the plot is being plotted on	

Chapter 5

Other Submodules

5.1 Some Statistics: `stat.py`

This submodule contains a few functions required for routines that are not used as often as the ones previously described. As its name indicates it provides statistics related methods. At present it only contains Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and the Pearson's Test (PT).

5.1.1 Variance, Covariance and Covariance Matrix

PCA and PT will most likely be performed on the Stokes parameters, so for any point (q, u) on the $q - u$ plane the covariance matrix has the form:

$$C(q, u) = \begin{pmatrix} \text{var}(q) & \text{cov}(q, u) \\ \text{cov}(q, u) & \text{var}(u) \end{pmatrix} \quad (5.1)$$

- **`cov_el(j, k, q, u, Δq, Δu)`**

Description: Creates the elements of $C(q, u)$. j and k are indices of the columns and rows, respectively, so that for example $\text{var}(q) \equiv C(j=0, k=0)$.

return: Covariance matrix element $C(j, k)$.

- **`cov_mat(q, u, Δq, Δu)`**

Description: Creates the covariance matrix of the Stokes parameters (or any 2D data-set I guess but that's what I'm using it for).

return: Covariance matrix

5.1.2 Principal Components Analysis

- **`pca(q, u, Δq, Δu)`**

Description: Performs PCA on data provided.

return: Axis ratio (b/a), rot. angle of major axis ($\theta_{\text{major axis}}$ - degrees), rot. angle of minor axis (degrees)

- **`draw_ellipse(q, u, a, axis_ratio, θmajor axis)`**

description: Creates ellipse that best fits the data to be drawn onto the $q - u$ plane.

Note: a is the length of the major axis. Just pick a number that makes the ellipse look nice on top of your data. The axis ratio and $\theta_{\text{major axis}}$ come from doing **`pca()`**.

return: The ellipse. To be used as input of the function **`add_artist()`** from `matplotlib.axes`.

5.1.3 Pearson Correlation

Pearson correlation allows you to determine whether a linear correlation is likely to exist in a given data set. Pearson's coefficient ρ is close to 1 or -1 if there is linear dependence and close to 0 when there isn't. It is defined as:

$$\rho = \frac{\text{cov}(q, u)}{\sigma_q \sigma_u} \quad (5.2)$$

Where σ is the standard deviation. So from 5.1:

$$\rho = \frac{C(0, 1)}{\sqrt{C(0, 0) C(1, 1)}} \quad (5.3)$$

- `pearson(q, u, Δq , Δu)`

Description: Calculates the Pearson's coefficient ρ for the given data set.

`return ρ`

5.2 Making Polar Plots: `polplot.py`

This submodule contains the functions that will help you create polar plots to represent the SN ejecta.

5.2.1 Creating the polar axis: `polplot.axis()`

This function creates and returns the polar axis where the data will be plotted.

Pre-requisite: You need to define a figure using `matplotlib.pyplot` before calling this function as the first argument of `axis()` is the figure on which you will be plotting the axes.

Argument	Type	Description	Default
fig	matplotlib.figure.Figure	The figure to plot the axis.	-
loc	3 digit int	Location of the subplot (<code>add_subplot()</code> argument)	111
num_ticks	int	<i>Scales</i> the number of ticks. Actual number of ticks is: <code>int(maximum velocity/10000)*num_ticks</code>	1
phot_vel	int/float	<i>Absolute value</i> of the photospheric velocity	None
vel_lim	Array	Velocity limits [0, max]	[0, 30000]
ang_grid	string	How many lines on angular grid. 'h' for heavy, 'l' for light, 'ul' for ultra-light	'ul'
rad_grid	string	How many lines on radial grid. 'h' for heavy, 'l' for light, 'ul' for ultra-light, or specify where want the velocity grid using a list of velocities (again give absolute values, no negative numbers)	'l'
return		The Axis the plot is being plotted on	

5.2.2 Creating the data to plot: `polplot.data()`

This functions creates the data points that can then be plotted on the polar axis created using `polplot.axis()`

Argument	Type	Description	Default
pa_start	int	Angle at start of range (in DEGREES)	-
pa_end	int	Angle at end of range (in DEGREES)	-
vel	int	Velocity	-
return		Two 1D arrays of the same length containing the angular component and radial component to be plotted.	

Appendix A

Reducing Spectropolarimetry

Polarisation is characterised by 4 Stokes parameters: The intensity \mathbf{I} and two quasi-vectors which describe the orientation of the electric field, \mathbf{Q} , \mathbf{U} and \mathbf{V} . They are measured using a spectropolarimeter which is composed of: a half-wave or quarter-wave retarder (with retardance $\delta = \pi$ and $\delta = \pi/2$, respectively) plate with optical axis θ which can be rotated to make θ vary; a Wollaston prism which splits the beam into the 2 orthogonal components of polarisation – the ordinary and extraordinary ray ($f_{o,i}$ and $f_{e,i}$).

In order to derive the expressions for $f_{o,i}$ and $f_{e,i}$ as functions of the Stokes parameters, one must consider what happens to an incoming beam of light passing through both the retarder plate and then the Wollaston prism. The changes in the polarisation of the beam as it travels through the optical train are described by combining the Mueller matrices of the individual components. Generally speaking, if there are n elements in an optical train in the order 1, 2, ..., $n-1$, n , then the Mueller matrix of the system is :

$$\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}_n \times \mathbf{M}_{n-1} \times \dots \times \mathbf{M}_2 \times \mathbf{M}_1 \quad (\text{A.1})$$

So if the original Stokes parameters are $\mathbf{S} = (\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V})^T$, the retarder plate Mueller matrix is $\mathbf{R}(\theta, \delta)$ and the Wollaston prism Mueller matrix is \mathbf{W}_o and \mathbf{W}_e , for the ordinary and the extra-ordinary ray respectively, then the Stokes parameters of the light reaching the detector are $\mathbf{S}'_{o,e}$ such that:

$$\mathbf{S}'_{o,e} = \mathbf{W}_{o,e} \times \mathbf{R}(\theta, \delta) \times \mathbf{S} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

Additionally, as given by [?], the general Mueller matrix of the linear retarder plate is:

$$\mathbf{R}(\theta, \delta) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_2^2 + s_2^2 \cos \delta & c_2 s_2 (1 - \cos \delta) & -s_2 \\ 0 & c_2 s_2 (1 - \cos \delta) & s_2^2 + c_2^2 \cos \delta & c_2 \\ 0 & s_2 & -c_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Where $c_2 = \cos 2\theta$ and $s_2 = \sin 2\theta$. And the Mueller matrices of the Wollaston prism for the ordinary and extra-ordinary rays are:

$$\mathbf{W}_o = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.4})$$

$$\mathbf{W}_e = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.5})$$

A.1 Linear Polarisation

To measure linear polarisation we only consider Stokes \mathbf{I} , \mathbf{Q} and \mathbf{U} , and we use a half-wave retarder plate (with retardance $\delta = \pi$). Consequently, the Mueller matrix of the retarder plate becomes:

$$\mathbf{R}(\theta, \delta = \pi) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos 4\theta & \sin 4\theta \\ 0 & \sin 4\theta & -\cos 4\theta \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.6})$$

Hence, for a beam with initial Stokes parameters $\mathbf{S} = (\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{U})$ and final Stokes parameters $\mathbf{S}' = (\mathbf{I}', \mathbf{Q}', \mathbf{U}')$, the ordinary ray has Stokes vectors:

$$\mathbf{S}'_o = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}'_o \\ \mathbf{Q}'_o \\ \mathbf{U}'_o \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos 4\theta & \sin 4\theta \\ 0 & \sin 4\theta & -\cos 4\theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{Q} \\ \mathbf{U} \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.7})$$

Yielding:

$$\mathbf{I}'_o = \frac{1}{2} \left[\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{Q} \cos 4\theta + \mathbf{U} \sin 4\theta \right] \quad (\text{A.8})$$

And similarly, for the extra-ordinary ray:

$$\mathbf{I}'_e = \frac{1}{2} \left[\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{Q} \cos 4\theta - \mathbf{U} \sin 4\theta \right] \quad (\text{A.9})$$

Where \mathbf{I}'_o and \mathbf{I}'_e are the fluxes measured on the detector f_o and f_e , respectively. So if we define the normalised flux difference at a given half-wave plate angle θ_i as:

$$F_i \equiv \frac{f_{o,i} - f_{e,i}}{f_{o,i} + f_{e,i}} \quad (\text{A.10})$$

Then:

$$F_i = \frac{\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{Q} \cos 4\theta_i + \mathbf{U} \sin 4\theta_i - \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{Q} \cos 4\theta_i + \mathbf{U} \sin 4\theta_i}{\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{Q} \cos 4\theta_i + \mathbf{U} \sin 4\theta_i + \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{Q} \cos 4\theta_i - \mathbf{U} \sin 4\theta_i} = \frac{\mathbf{Q} \cos 4\theta_i + \mathbf{U} \sin 4\theta_i}{\mathbf{I}} \quad (\text{A.11})$$

And if we define the normalised Stokes parameters as $q = \mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{I}$ and $u = \mathbf{U}/\mathbf{I}$, then:

$$F_i = q \cos 4\theta_i + u \sin 4\theta_i \quad (\text{A.12})$$

And when we consider the instrumental signature ϵ as in [?], the normalised flux becomes:

$$F_i = q \cos 4\theta_i + u \sin 4\theta_i + \epsilon \quad (\text{A.13})$$

From Equation A.13, it is easily seen that for $\theta_i = \{0^\circ, 22.5^\circ, 45^\circ, 67.5^\circ\}$, $F_i = \{q + \epsilon, u + \epsilon, -q + \epsilon, -u + \epsilon\}$. And consequently we can combine F_0 with F_2 , and F_1 with F_3 to cancel out the instrumental signature and obtain the normalised Stokes parameters:

$$q = \frac{1}{2} F_0 - \frac{1}{2} F_2 \quad (\text{A.14})$$

$$u = \frac{1}{2} F_1 - \frac{1}{2} F_3 \quad (\text{A.15})$$

Once q and u are known, the degree of polarisation p and the polarisation angle χ can be calculated:

$$p = \sqrt{q^2 + u^2} \quad (\text{A.16})$$

$$\chi = \frac{1}{2} \arctan \left(\frac{u}{q} \right) \quad (\text{A.17})$$

The measured q and u also need to be corrected for wave plate chromatism (i.e the polarisation zero-angle varies with wavelength). In our case this is done by interpolating the zero-angles provided on the European Southern Observatory (ESO) web-page¹ to our set of wavelengths, subtracting the zero-angles from our initial χ , and then re-calculating q and u :

$$q_{\text{corr}} = p \cos (2 \times (\chi - \chi_{\text{zero angle}})) ; u_{\text{corr}} = p \sin (2 \times (\chi - \chi_{\text{zero angle}})) \quad (\text{A.18})$$

The degree of polarisation and the poalrisation angle can then be calculated again using the new values of the normalised Stokes parameters and Equations A.16 and A.17.

Lastly since the degree of polarisation p is found by adding q and u in quadrature, for low values of p and high levels of noise p will be biased towards values greater than the true degree of polarisation. We correct for this effect as in [?]:

$$p_{\text{corr}} = p - \frac{\sigma_p^2}{p} \times h(p - \sigma_p) \quad (\text{A.19})$$

Where σ_p is the uncertainty in p , and $h(p - \sigma_p)$ is the Heaviside function, defined as:

$$h(p - \sigma_p) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p - \sigma_p > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } p - \sigma_p < 0 \end{cases}$$

¹<http://www.eso.org/sci/facilities/paranal/instruments/fors/inst/pola.html>

A.2 Circular Polarisation

Circular polarisation is characterised by the Stokes parameters \mathbf{I} and \mathbf{V} (with positive values of \mathbf{V} corresponding to left-handed circular polarisation and negative values corresponding to right-hand circular polarisation). The set up is practically the same as in the case of linear polarisation, but a quarter-wave retarder plate (i.e with retardance $\delta = \pi/2$). Consequently A.3 becomes:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_2^2 & c_2 s_2 & -s_2 \\ 0 & c_2 s_2 & s_2^2 & c_2 \\ 0 & s_2 & -c_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.20})$$

Considering a beam with initial Stokes parameters $\mathbf{S} = (\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V})$ and final Stokes parameters $\mathbf{S}' = (\mathbf{I}', \mathbf{Q}', \mathbf{U}', \mathbf{V}')$, the ordinary ray will have polarisation characterised by \mathbf{S}'_o :

$$\mathbf{S}'_o = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}'_o \\ \mathbf{Q}'_o \\ \mathbf{U}'_o \\ \mathbf{V}'_o \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_2^2 & c_2 s_2 & -s_2 \\ 0 & c_2 s_2 & s_2^2 & c_2 \\ 0 & s_2 & -c_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{Q} \\ \mathbf{U} \\ \mathbf{V} \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.21})$$

Yielding:

$$\mathbf{I}'_o = \frac{1}{2} \left[\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{Q} \cos^2 2\theta + \mathbf{U} \cos 2\theta \sin 2\theta - \mathbf{V} \sin 2\theta \right] \equiv f_o \quad (\text{A.22})$$

And similarly for the extra-ordinary ray:

$$\mathbf{I}'_e = \frac{1}{2} \left[\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{Q} \cos^2 2\theta - \mathbf{U} \cos 2\theta \sin 2\theta + \mathbf{V} \sin 2\theta \right] \equiv f_e \quad (\text{A.23})$$

So for $\theta_i = \{45^\circ, -45^\circ\}$ and a normalised flux F_i (A.10) is:

$$F_0 = v + \epsilon \text{ and } F_1 = -v + \epsilon \quad (\text{A.24})$$

Where v is the normalised V Stokes parameters and ϵ is the ensemble of instrumental signature. We therefore obtain:

$$v = \frac{1}{2} [F_0 + F_1] \quad (\text{A.25})$$