

# Lithium enrichment on the single active K1-giant DI Piscium <sup>★</sup>

## Possible joint origin of differential rotation and Li enrichment

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### ABSTRACT

**Aims.** We investigate the surface spot activity of the rapidly rotating, lithium-rich active single K-giant DI Psc to measure the surface differential rotation and understand the mechanisms behind the Li-enrichment.

**Methods.** Doppler imaging was applied to recover the surface temperature distribution of DI Psc in two subsequent rotational cycles using the individual mapping lines Ca I 6439, Fe I 6430, Fe I 6421 and Li I 6708. Surface differential rotation was derived by cross-correlation of the subsequent maps. Difference maps are produced to study the uniformity of Li-enrichment on the surface. These maps are compared with the rotational modulation of the Li I 6708 line equivalent width.

**Results.** Doppler images obtained for the Ca and Fe mapping lines agree well and reveal strong polar spottedness, as well as cool features at lower latitudes. Cross-correlating the consecutive maps yields antisolar differential rotation with shear coefficient  $\alpha = -0.083 \pm 0.021$ . The difference of the average and the Li maps indicates that the lithium abundance is non-activity related. There is also a significant rotational modulation of the Li equivalent width.

**Key words.** stars: activity – stars: imaging – stars: late-type – stars: individual – starspots – stars: individual: DI Psc

## 1. Introduction

As a star evolves towards the red giant branch (RGB), it arrives at an evolutionary phase on the ascent of the RGB. Here the convective envelope deepens, and the surface Li abundance is decreased as the convective motions carry the Li-rich material towards the inner, hotter regions, where the lithium is diluted and depleted. This evolutionary stage is called the first dredge-up phase. As a result of this phenomenon, the measured surface lithium abundance is expected to be  $A(\text{Li}) < 1.5$ . However, a rather small set of stars in this evolutionary stage shows an unusually high surface Li abundance (up to  $\approx 2.5$ ), which cannot be explained well by the current stellar evolutionary models.

Events capable of explaining this elevated Li abundance follow two distinct directions. The first one concerns external phenomena as contamination of the upper layers of the star by accretion of material in the form of a companion, for example planets or brown dwarfs (Brown et al. 1989; Gatton & D’Antona 1989), while the second one is related to internal processes. Among the scenarios proposed to explain the elevated lithium abundance by internal courses, one of the most well-known is the Cameron & Fowler (1971) process. In this case,  ${}^7\text{Be}$  is produced in the inner, hotter layers via the  ${}^4\text{He}(\alpha, \gamma){}^7\text{Be}$  reaction. If an enhanced outward convective flow transports the freshly synthesised beryllium towards the cooler regions, the lithium produced by the  ${}^7\text{Be}(e^-, \nu){}^7\text{Li}$  process can be preserved. In RGB stars, this enhanced mixing can be explained by rapid rotation (Charbonnel & Balachandran 2000; Drake et al. 2002; Lugaro & Chieffl 2011).

The possible connection between rotation and Li surface abundance has been investigated by several authors. De Medeiros et al. (2000) found that giants later than G0 were generally slow rotators and exhibit lower Li abundance, while hotter stars were rotating faster and show more surface lithium. There is, however, a small group of cool giants with an unusually high  $A(\text{Li})$  and fast rotation (e. g. Fekel & Balachandran 1993; Drake et al. 2002). Charbonnel & Balachandran (2000) pointed out the existence of two distinct strips on the RGB where this additional mixing occurs, and mentioned a high rotational rate as one of the possible inducers.

Rapid rotation is another well-known cause of enhanced stellar activity. Based on the well-observed fact that the surface lithium abundance is higher in sunspots than in quiet regions, the measured Li equivalent widths of disk-integrated stellar spectra can be affected by spottedness (Giampapa 1984). However, in hot plage regions the Li abundance is lower, which can counterbalance this effect. Thus, studies that aim to investigate the relation between activity and Li-enhancement are inconclusive (cf. Jeffries et al. 1994; Fernández & Miranda 1998; Berdyugina 1998). Giampapa (1984), Fekel (1996) and others also pointed out that Li abundance measurements could be affected by non-uniform temperature distribution. Since the Li I 6708 line is highly sensitive to temperature changes in the temperature regime of K stars due to its low ionization potential, a higher equivalent width is expected for increased spottedness.

In our recent paper (Kővári et al. 2013, hereafter Paper I), we investigated the possible connections between rapid rotation, enhanced stellar activity, and elevated Li abundance on DI Psc (HD 217352) and DPCVn (HD 109703), two fast-rotating Li-rich K1 giants identified by the Vienna-KPNO Doppler imag-

<sup>★</sup> Data were gathered via OPTICON FP7 in semester 2012B.

**Table 1.** Averaged spectra used in the two series. The table gives the mean phases and HJDs of the observations, and the calculated signal-to-noise ratios at 6480 Å.

Series I			Series II		
$\phi_{\text{rot}}$	HJD	S/N	$\phi_{\text{rot}}$	HJD	S/N
	-2456000			-2456000	
0.035	214.3238	466	0.039	232.3354	433
0.371	202.4162	565	0.095	251.2953	591
0.421	203.3953	546	0.150	234.3355	469
0.483	204.4186	535	0.151	252.2921	591
0.539	205.4321	352	0.321	237.3939	579
0.594	206.4202	301	0.375	238.3655	261
0.872	229.3381	535	0.425	239.2611	331
0.986	213.4494	700	0.595	224.3826	431
			0.926	230.3121	238

**Table 2.** Astrophysical parameters of DIPsc used during the Doppler imaging process.

Spectral type	K1 III
$\log g$ (adopted)	2.5
$T_{\text{eff}}$	$4600 \pm 100$
$v \sin i$ (km s <sup>-1</sup> )	42
Inclination (°)	$50 \pm 10$
$P_{\text{rot}}$ (days)	18.02
LTE Li abundance (log)	$2.20 \pm 0.15$

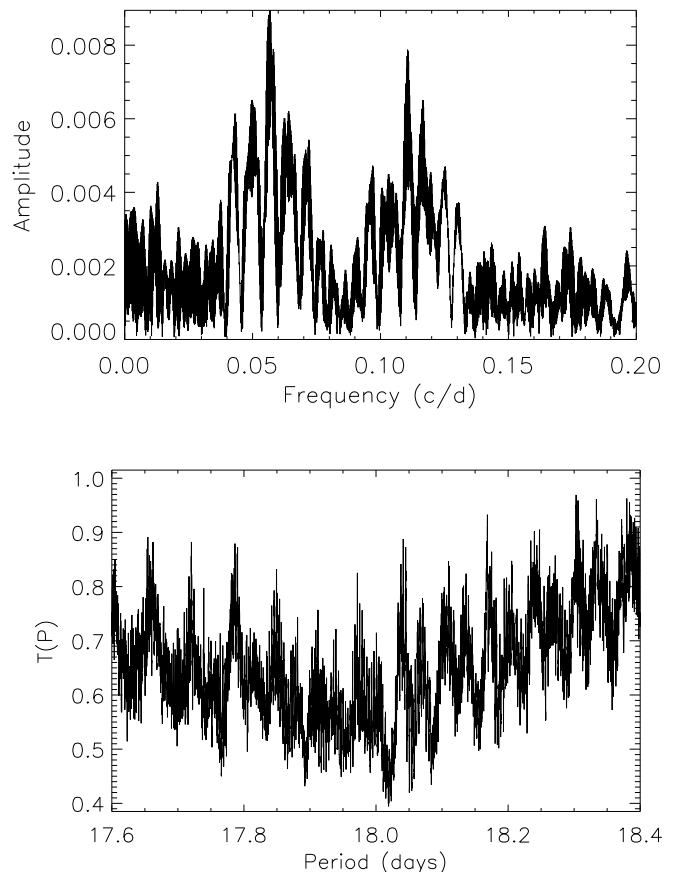
ing candidate survey (Strassmeier et al. 2000). We concluded, in accordance with Fekel & Balachandran (1993), that these stars with unusually high Li-abundance ( $A_{\text{DIPsc}}(\text{Li}) = 2.20$ ,  $A_{\text{DPCVn}}(\text{Li}) = 2.28$ ) had just left their first dredge-up. The spot configuration of the stars was investigated by means of Doppler imaging and proved to be unremarkable in that there were no large polar features present. Antisolar differential rotation of DPCVn ( $\alpha = -0.035 \pm 0.010$ ) was also detected. This finding may agree with the enhanced mixing, since angular momentum can also be transported towards the poles by this additional convection, resulting in an antisolar-type differential rotation.

Rapid rotation can also affect the length of dynamo cycles. Saar & Brandenburg (1999) found that a correlation can be established between rotational period and cycle length. Lindborg et al. (2014) classified DIPsc as a member of the active branch. According to Saar & Brandenburg (1999), stars on this branch systematically show activity cycles that are two orders of magnitude higher than their rotational periods, i.e. a few years. Based on the large variability in spottedness even on a scale of a few years, Lindborg et al. (2014) suggested that the activity cycle of DIPsc is shorter than 10 years.

In this paper, we perform a new Doppler imaging study of DIPsc. Surface differential rotation is investigated from the time evolution of the spot distribution, to verify or rule out the dependency of Li equivalent width on spottedness. The surface lithium distribution is also studied, as is the rotational modulation of the Li I 6708 equivalent widths.

## 2. Observations

Photometric  $VI_C$  data were taken with Amadeus, one of the 0.75 m Automatic Photoelectric Telescopes operated by the Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam at Fairborn Observa-



**Fig. 1.** Top panel: power spectrum of all available V and y data. The two peaks at 0.0561 and 0.1098 cycles/day correspond to  $P_{\text{rot}} = 17.82$  d and  $P_{\text{rot}} = 9.11$  d, respectively. Bottom panel: result of the SLLK fit (see Sect. 3 for the details). The best fit is at  $P = 18.020 \pm 0.006$  d.

tory, Arizona (Strassmeier et al. 1997) through 13 September 1999–27 September 2001 and 15 May 2013–7 January 2014. All measurements were made differentially with respect to HD 217019. The check star was HD 217590. For more details on the reduction process we refer to Strassmeier et al. (1997) and Granzer et al. (2001). In total, we have 365 new observations in V and  $I_C$ , and 329 points altogether of V and y from Paper I. The mean photometric errors were 0.021 mag.

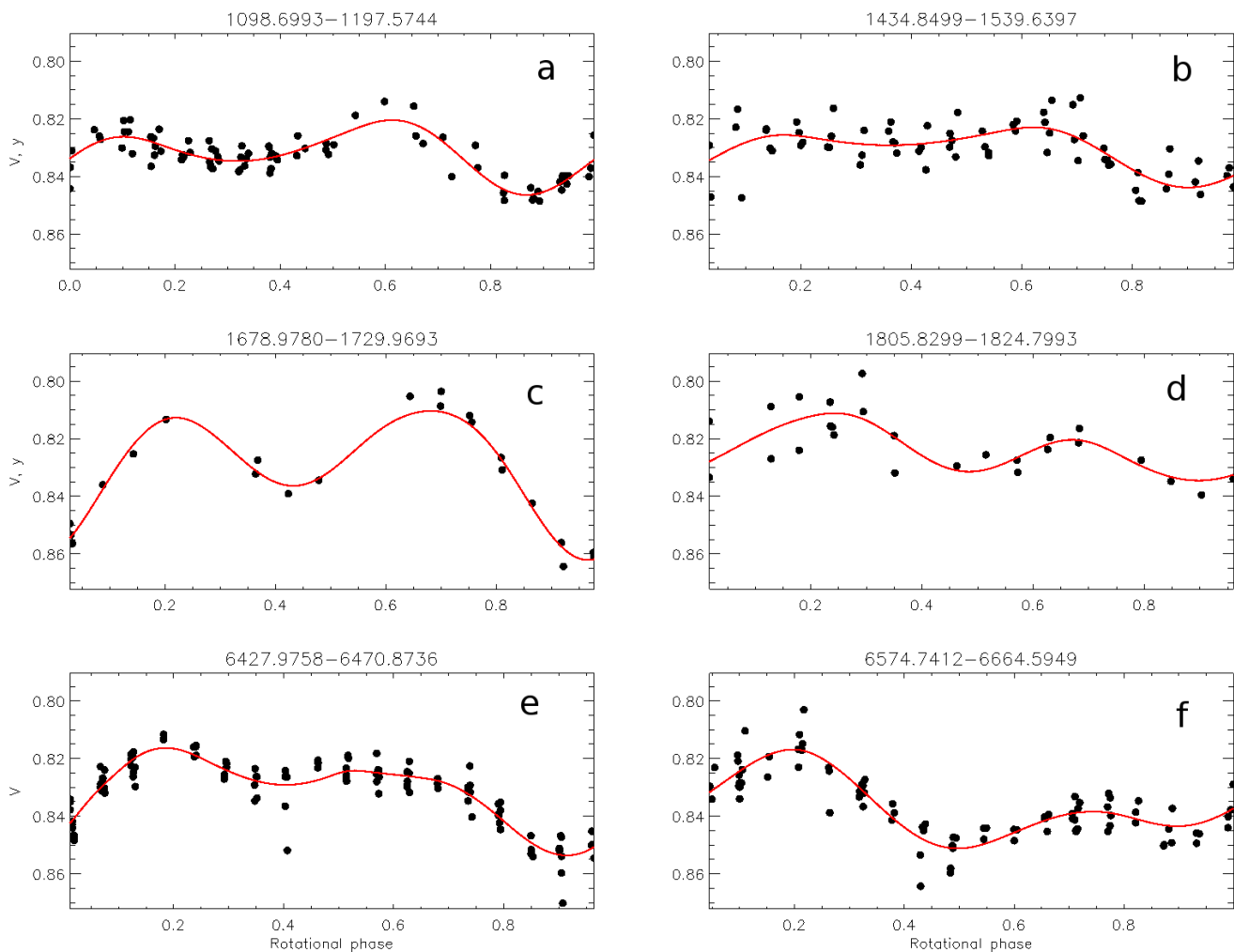
Spectroscopic observations were obtained with the NARVAL high-resolution echelle spectropolarimeter mounted on the 2 m Bernard Lyot Telescope (TBL) of the Observatoire Midi-Pyrenees at Pic du Midi, France between 1 October and 20 November in 2012. Spectroscopic object mode was used to achieve a peak resolution of  $R = 80000$ . The exposure time  $t_{\text{exp}} = 600$  s yielded a typical signal-to-noise ratio of 300 at 6400 Å. Each night, three consecutive spectra were taken and averaged to filter out cosmic beats and to increase signal-to-noise ratio.

The photometric period taken from Paper I is refined (see Sect. 3). Rotational phases were calculated using the following equation:

$$\text{HJD} = 2451639.0033 + 18.020 \times E. \quad (1)$$

For the observing log, see Table 1.

Data reduction was carried out with the standard NARVAL pipeline. Wavelength calibration was done by using ThAr arc-



**Fig. 2.**  $V + y$  (panel *a-d*) and  $V$  (panel *e-f*) data from six different timespans between 8 Oct 1998 and 7 Jan 2014 (corresponding HJDs-2450000 are seen on the top of the panels). Dots are the measurements, the continuous line shows the fitted spot model.

lamps. An additional continuum fitting and normalization was applied to avoid artifacts on the Doppler reconstructions.

### 3. Photometric analysis

In Paper I, the derived power spectrum from the fast Fourier transform (FFT) had two peaks due to the bicentral longitudinal spot distribution. The real rotational period is the longer one, while the shorter (half) period is caused by persistent spots with phase differences of about 0.5. From the extended photometric data, we refined the rotational period determination of DI Psc. For this, we use the same two methods as in Paper I, i.e. the FFT and string length Lafler Kinman (SLLK, see Clarke 2002) methods for all available data. The results are plotted in Fig. 1. The most prominent peak from FFT indicates a rotational period of  $P_{\text{rot}} = 17.84^{+0.31}_{-0.32}$  d. This agrees well with  $P_{\text{rot}} = 18.020 \pm 0.006$  d derived with the SLLK method (which is more reliable in this case because of the spots at half period) and with the result from Paper I ( $P_{\text{rot}}/18.066 \pm 0.088$ ). In this paper, we use the refined SLLK period.

The new  $V + y$  data are shown in Fig. 2 fitted with analytic spot models. The light curves were inverted with the code `SpotModel` (Ribárik et al. 2003). A two-spot model was used, except in panel *e*, where a third spot was applied to obtain an acceptable fit. There are two distinct, well separated active lon-

gitudes near phases 0.0 and 0.5 in every timespan, with slightly changing positions (cf. Paper I).

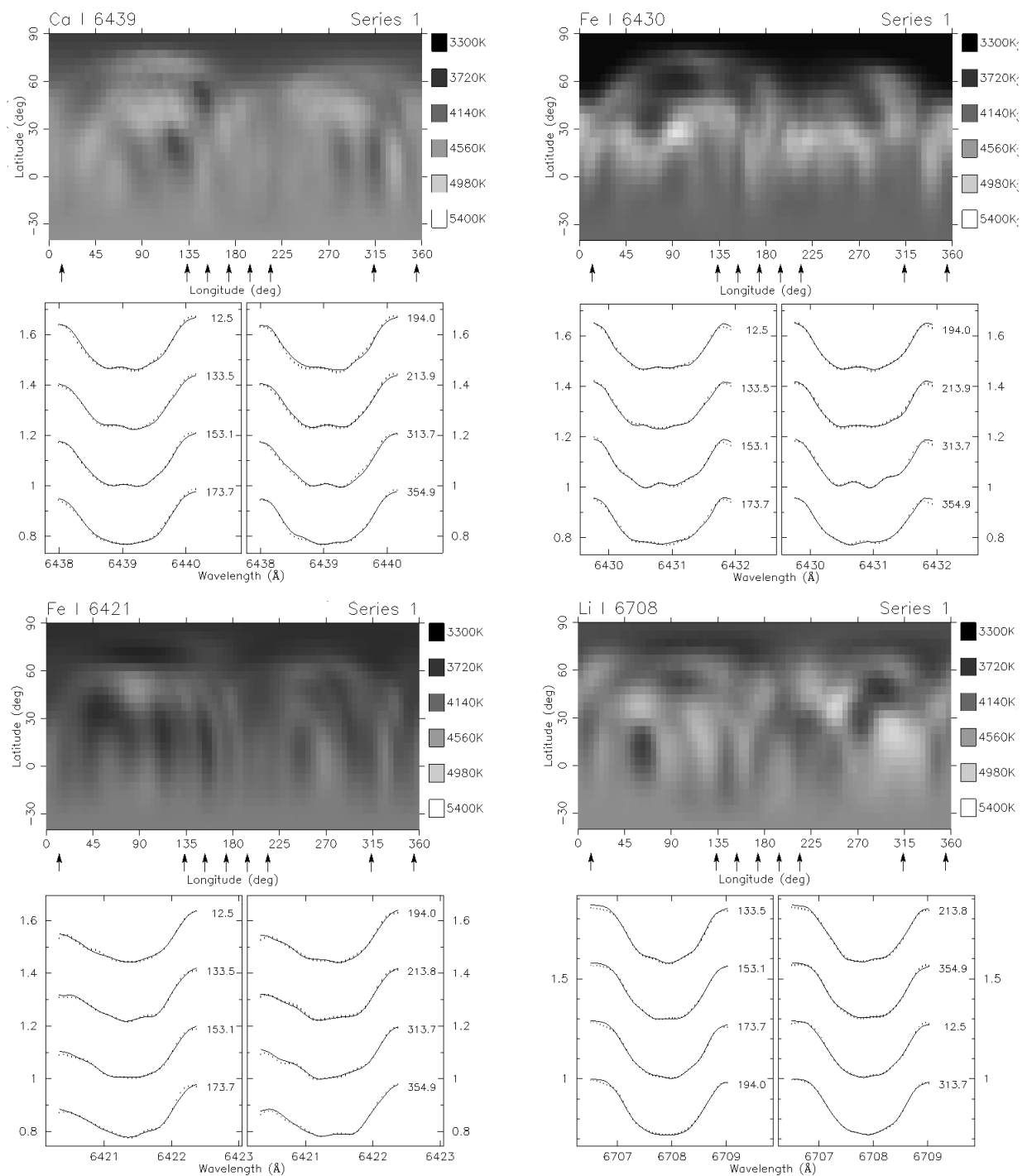
### 4. Doppler imaging

#### 4.1. Doppler imaging code `TempMap`

Our Doppler imaging code `TempMap` (Rice et al. 1989, Rice & Strassmeier 2000, Rice 2002) performs a full LTE spectrum synthesis through a series of ATLAS-9 (Kurucz 1993) atmospheric models. Atomic parameters of the transitions were obtained from the VALD database (Piskunov et al. 1995; Kupka et al. 1999). Local line profiles were calculated for temperatures ranging from 3500 K to 5500 K in steps of 250 K and with solar abundances, except for the Li abundance, where the value  $A(\text{Li})=2.20$  was used. Simultaneous inversions of the usual mapping lines were then carried out using maximum-entropy regularization. The astrophysical parameters for the inversion process are given in Table 2.

#### 4.2. Doppler reconstructions of DI Psc

The spectroscopic dataset was divided into two subsets, both consisting of eight spectra. The phase coverage is not completely



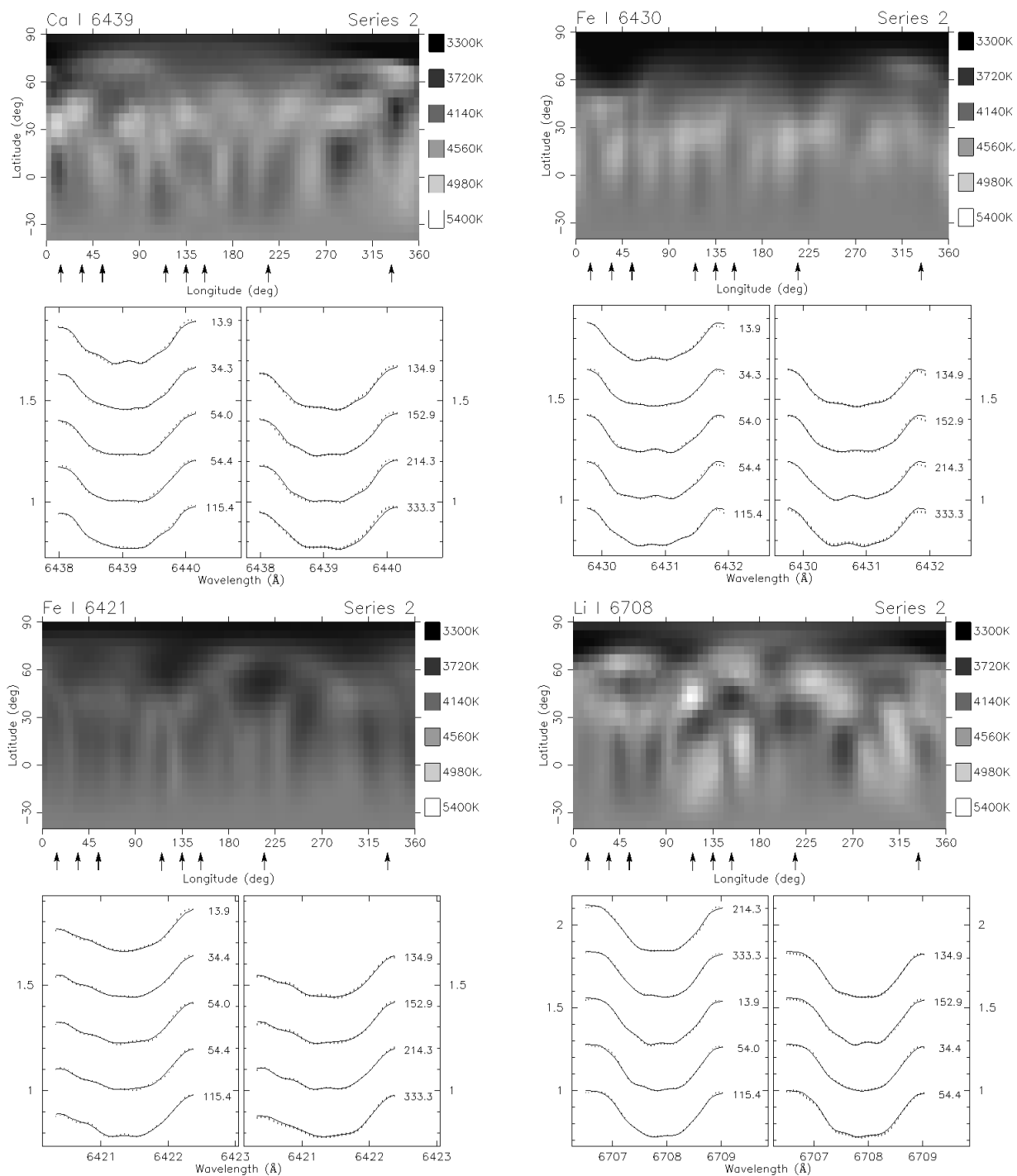
**Fig. 3.** Ca I 6439 (upper left), Fe I 6430 (upper right), Fe I 6421 (lower left), and Li I 6708 (lower right) maps for the first series of spectra. The temperature maps are presented in pseudo-Mercator projection. The phases of the spectroscopic observations are marked with arrows below the panels.

uniform, but is still suitable for deriving subsequent Doppler maps.

Surface reconstructions for the two datasets were carried out for the commonly used inversion lines (Ca I 6439, Fe I 6430, Fe I 6421) of well-known formation physics, as well as for the Li I 6708 line. Resulting maps for the individual lines are plotted in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. The maps reveal a cool polar cap, in good agreement with each other, but the temperature ranges differ somewhat, due to the different temperature sensitivity of the

mapping lines. In lower latitudes, spot concentrations are found around  $80^\circ$  and  $300^\circ$  longitudes. The two appendages of the polar spot agree with the results of the photometric spot modeling. However, gaps in the phase coverage may affect the reliability of the inversions, or in other words, such arch-like artifacts may appear.

In Fig. 5, the combined maps are plotted for the subsequent datasets. The Li maps were excluded from the averaging process and the cross-correlation analysis (see Sect. 4.3), because



**Fig. 4.** Maps for the second series of spectra. For the details, see the caption of Fig. 3.

of the prominent bright features around  $150^\circ$  and  $300^\circ$  that are suspected to be non-activity related phenomena. This issue is further discussed thoroughly in Section 5.3.

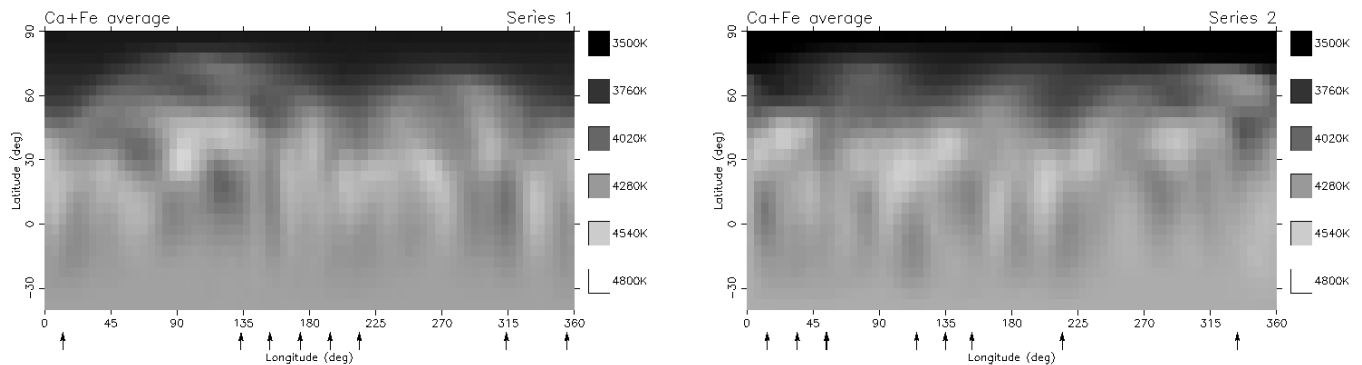
#### 4.3. Surface differential rotation

Longitudinal spot displacements from the first series compared to the second can be used as a tracer of surface differential rotation. Such rearrangements might be suspected from the visual comparison of the respective subsequent maps (note the chang-

ing shape of the polar cap, or displacement of the features around  $300^\circ$ ).

Differential rotation can be measured by cross-correlating consecutive Doppler images (Donati & Collier-Cameron 1997). We applied our code ACCORD and used average cross-correlation as described e.g. in Kóvári et al. (2012). To fit the cross-correlation pattern, a quadratic rotational law was assumed with the form

$$\Omega(\beta) = \Omega_{\text{eq}} - \Delta\Omega \sin^2 \beta, \quad (2)$$



**Fig. 5.** Average maps of DI Psc in a pseudo-Mercator projection (Li I 6708 inversions excluded).

where  $\Omega_{\text{eq}}$  is the angular velocity of the equator, while  $\Delta\Omega = \Omega_{\text{eq}} - \Omega_{\text{pole}}$  defines the difference between the equatorial and polar angular velocities. The dimensionless surface shear coefficient  $\alpha$  is defined as  $\Delta\Omega/\Omega_{\text{eq}}$ .

In Fig. 6, the cross-correlation function map is plotted, with the best-fit rotation law to the correlation peaks. Although the cross-correlation pattern is somewhat noisy because we had only two maps per mapping line for comparison, it is clear that the near-equatorial features are dropped behind the higher latitude features, indicating an antisolar-type differential rotation at first inspection. On the other hand, the uncertainty of the inclination may also affect the result. Nevertheless, the cross-correlation was weighted for the temperature contrast to avoid overinterpretation of the low latitude spots.

Our fit yields  $\Omega_{\text{eq}} = 9.70 \pm 0.15^\circ/\text{d}$  and  $\Delta\Omega = 1.63 \pm 0.41^\circ/\text{d}$ , with  $\alpha = -0.083 \pm 0.021$  surface shear parameter. Errors are estimated from the FWHMs and amplitudes of the Gaussian fits to the latitude bins.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Activity cycle length

The presence of a dominant polar spot in our new maps agree with the results of Paper I, as the low-latitude features does, which were also found in 2000. In 2012, the contrast of the low-latitude spots was somewhat higher, although spot temperatures in general are in the same range,  $T_{\text{eff}} - T_{\text{spot}} \approx 1000$  K.

On the other hand, Lindborg et al. (2014) found significantly lower spot contrasts of  $\approx 500$  K. Their result is consistent with the smaller bumps in the line profiles of these spectra. Lindborg et al. (2014) concluded that the spottedness of DI Psc is highly erratic, meaning there was virtually no temperature spot in 2004. One year later, both high- and low-latitude features were detected. Indeed, the spot contrast increased even more in September 2006.

Based on our new Doppler maps of higher spottedness and following Lindborg et al. (2014), we estimate that the activity cycle of DI Psc is in the range of 5-7 years.

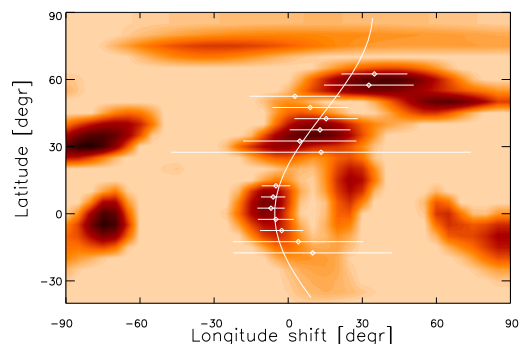
### 5.2. Antisolar differential rotation

In Paper I, antisolar differential rotation was also detected on DPCVn, a "twin" of DI Psc. Furthermore, an antisolar-type rotational law was reported for V1192 Ori (HD 31993), a K2III single giant (Strassmeier et al. 2003; Weber et al. 2005). According to Fekel & Balachandran (1993), V1192 Ori exhibits a lithium abundance of  $A(\text{Li}) = 1.4 \pm 0.2$ , which indicates that

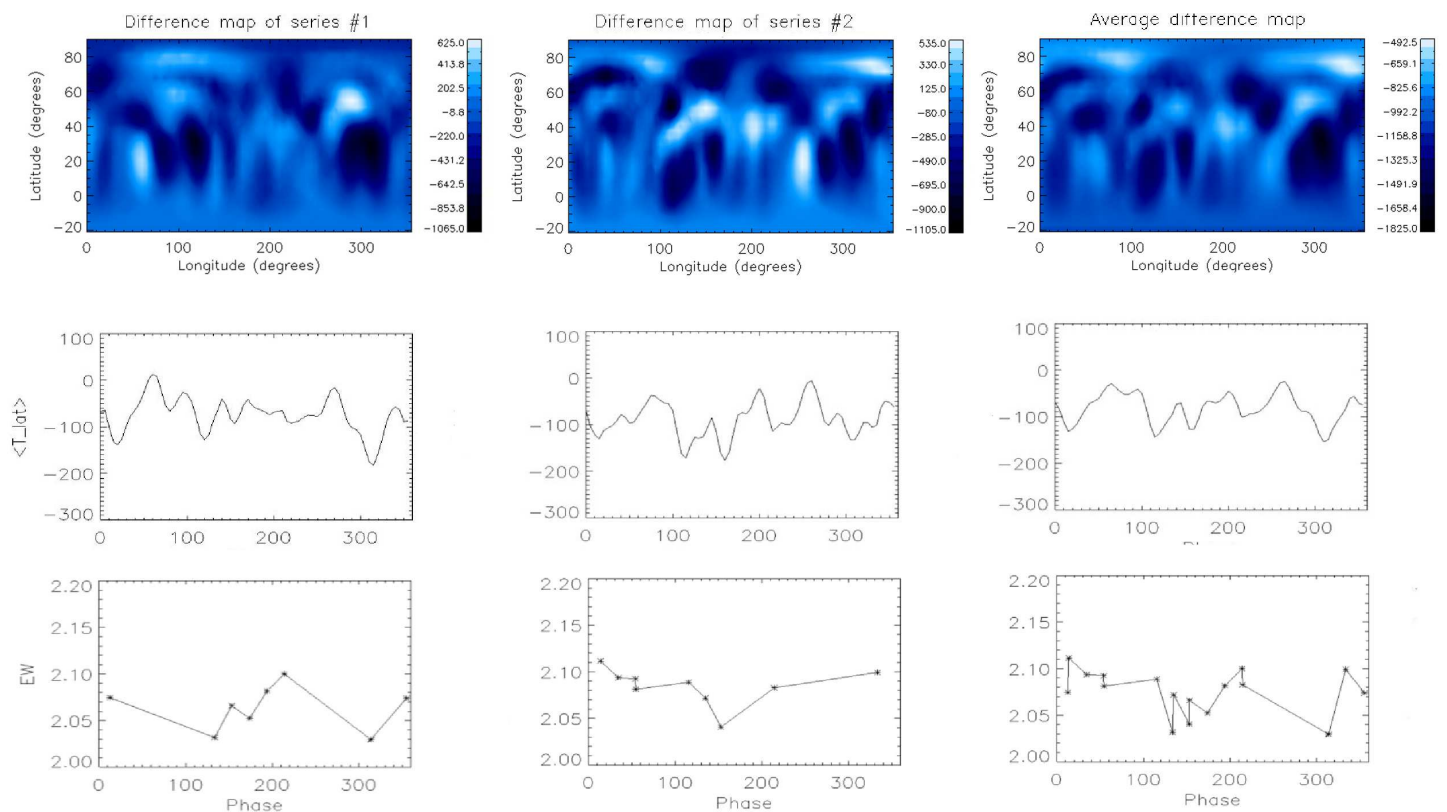
the star is around the end of its first dredge-up phase, similarly to DI Psc and DPCVn (cf. Paper I and Strassmeier et al. 2003). Fig. 8 shows the three stars on the H-R diagram. We also note that DIPsc, DPCVn and V1192 Ori are currently the only known single K giants with detected antisolar-type differential rotation, and all of them are at the end of their first dredge-up. This may indicate that a process occurs at about this very position of the RGB, which can account for both the antisolar direction of the differential rotation and the lithium-enhancement through a stronger meridional circulation capable of transporting Li-rich material from the inner parts towards the surface (and the poles) along with angular momentum (Fekel & Balachandran 1993, Kitchatinov & Rüdiger 2004).

### 5.3. Investigating the surface Li-enhancement – signs of lithium enhancement that is not related to activity

From the visual inspection of the individual Doppler maps, it is clear that the Li maps significantly differ from maps of the other mapping lines, while the two Li maps have several similar features (note the bright features around  $150^\circ$  and  $300^\circ$ ). These hot spots are probably not caused by insufficient phase coverage, because there are measurements around the given phases, and the phase distribution for the subsequent maps are different. Lithium spots are probably related more to chemical inhomogeneities. On the other hand, features appearing at both rotations could be more persistent than (regular) spots. This might indicate that the Li-enrichment is caused by processes that are not related to ac-



**Fig. 6.** Cross-correlation function map for DI Psc. The image is the average of three correlation maps obtained from cross-correlating our individual Doppler reconstructions (Ca I 6439, Fe I 6430, Fe I 6421), excluding the lithium inversions. The dots with the error bars represents the correlation peaks fitted with Gaussians per latitude bin of  $5^\circ$ . The best fit suggests an antisolar differential rotation of  $\alpha = -0.083 \pm 0.021$ .



**Fig. 7.** Top panels: difference maps by subtracting the Li-maps from the corresponding Ca+Fe average maps of the subsequent series (plotted in Fig 5). In the last column, plotted are the averaged difference maps. Note the similar high-latitude features at  $\approx 0^\circ$  and  $\approx 230^\circ$  and the low-latitude ones around  $150^\circ$  and  $300^\circ$ . Middle panels: the difference maps are averaged latitudinally. Bottom panels: measured equivalent widths of the Li I 6708 line.

tivity. Our temperature inversion code assumes constant element abundances over the surface. Therefore, a bump on the line profile caused by a chemical abundance enhancement would be interpreted as a hotter region, as shown in the maps at  $\approx 150^\circ$  and  $\approx 300^\circ$ . To investigate the surface lithium distribution, we performed an indirect test by subtracting the Li maps from the corresponding averaged Ca+Fe images. This way, the hotter spots will presumably appear on the difference maps as negative temperature differences, indicating lithium abundance spots.

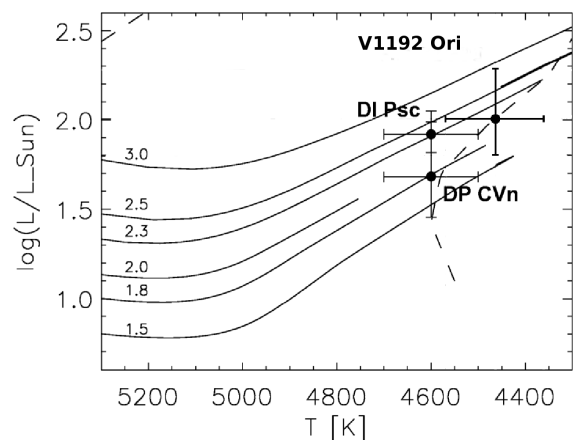
The difference maps are shown in the top row of Fig. 7. Note that the spots of negative pixel values (i.e. dark features, indicating suspected Li abundance spots) around  $150^\circ$  and  $300^\circ$  at low latitudes, and the high latitude features at  $\approx 0^\circ$  and  $\approx 220^\circ$  are apparent on the difference maps of both series, meaning they are stable. In addition, the shape and structure of the low-latitude features around  $150^\circ$  and  $300^\circ$  seem to be persistent. The possibility of an artificial origin can be ruled out, since inadequate phase-coverage would cause arch-like structures, which are not seen. Moreover, the spots of negative pixels can be seen at the same phases, but the phase distribution of the observations is different in the subsequent maps. The heavy spottedness at lower latitudes might bias this finding however.

The polar spot in the difference maps may indicate an enhanced lithium abundance around the pole. This would agree with the antisolar differential rotation, considering that lithium-rich material can be transported towards the surface by an enhanced meridional flow, which would elevate the freshly synthesized Li to the outer regions and simultaneously move it towards the pole. Along with the lithium, material of higher angular momentum is also transported and carried to the po-

lar regions, causing antisolar type differential rotation (cf. Kitchatinov & Rüdiger 2004).

#### 5.4. Rotational modulation of the Li equivalent widths

We determine the rotational modulation of the measured Li I 6708 line equivalent widths (hereafter EWs). The result is plotted in the bottom panels of Fig. 7. In the middle panels, the difference maps are averaged latitudinally. Visual inspection of



**Fig. 8.** Evolutionary tracks taken from Paper I, overplotted with the most likely positions of DI Psc, DP CVn and V1192 Ori. The dashed lines indicate the borders of the first dredge-up phase.

the two curves reveals that lower temperature values coincide with lower lithium EWs. However, a correlation analysis does not confirm this, yielding  $r = 0.17$ . Nevertheless, the rotational modulation of the EW suggests that one single measurement of the Li line may not be sufficient to determine precise abundance values (cf. Fekel 1996).

## 6. Summary and conclusions

We applied Doppler imaging for high-resolution time-series spectroscopic data in order to reconstruct the temperature distribution, surface differential rotation, and investigate the possible inhomogeneities in the surface lithium enrichment.

Our conclusions are as follows:

- Photometric spot modeling at six different time intervals shows two active longitudes slightly moving in phase, which is consistent with the light curves and Doppler maps in Paper I. This finding is also supported by our new Doppler reconstructions.
- Doppler maps of two subsequent datasets were reconstructed for the Ca I 6439, Fe I 6430, Fe I 6421, and Li I 6708 mapping lines. The reconstructions reveal prominent polar spots, and various low-latitude features. Individual Ca and Fe maps agree well, but Li maps significantly differ, for example by showing bright features at lower latitudes.
- Li maps indicate surface abundance inhomogeneities, which may be related to non-uniform Li-enhancement.
- Our cross-correlation technique yields an antisolar-type differential rotation of  $\alpha = -0.083 \pm 0.021$  surface shear coefficient. This finding resembles the differential rotational pattern of DP CVn and V1192 Ori, two lithium-rich giants. We note, however, that more observations are necessary to confirm this result.
- Based on the comparison of our new results with Paper I and Lindborg et al. (2014), we estimate that the activity cycle of DIPsc is in the range of 5-7 years.

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