AFE Meeting Meudon, France November 17, 2014

Massive-star magnetospheres in the NIR

Mary Elizabeth Oksala

LESIA Paris-Meudon Observatory

with J. Grunhut, ESO-Garching and C. Neiner, LESIA

Additional work by: M. Shultz, M. Kraus, M. Borges Fernandes, L. Cidale, M.L. Arias

Basic properties of magnetic massive stars









Courtesy of H. Henrichs

Why IR for massive stars?

Infrared is an effective tool to "see" through dust and other optical barriers.

With E(B-V) > 1.67 (or 5 magnitudes of extinction), the stellar flux at 2 microns > flux at 4500 A.

Many massive stars, especially within the Galaxy, are hidden in star forming regions and other areas highly-obscured from optical and UV observations

Barnard 68



Why IR for massive stars?

Infrared is an effective tool to "see" through dust and other optical barriers.

With E(B-V) > 1.67 (or 5 magnitudes of extinction), the stellar flux at 2 microns > flux at 4500 A.

Many massive stars, especially within the Galaxy, are hidden in star forming regions and other areas highly-obscured from optical and UV observations

For stars with circumstellar material:

Emission is stronger in IR, less stellar contribution — more spectral features

Najarro et al. (2011): Hydrogen lines in the IR are **more sensitive to low massloss rates, detecting rates 10x lower than measurable by Ha**, making them ideal to study of low density environments.

Eikenberry et al. 2014



OSIRIS NIR Spectrograph

- Operates on the 4.1-m SOAR telescope @ Cerro Pachon
- For cross-dispersed spectra (JHK), R ~1200
- J-band: 1.26 1.56 microns
- H-band: 1.45 1.98 microns
- K-band: 1.80 2.30 microns
- Because of the shape of the filter continuum only a few lines utilized

 Br 10, 11, 12, Br γ





Time series – HR 5907





Time series – HR 7355



Summary

- ★ NIR spectra, particularly the H-band Brackett series, are ideal to study massive-star magnetospheres, given the lower contribution of stellar flux at these wavelengths
- ★ Even with low resolution spectra, we can detect this material and its variability.
- ★ NIR spectroscopy is necessary to detect and study lower-density environments around magnetic stars.
- ★IR is a tool to detect magnetic candidates in the Galactic center and star forming regions. The NIR is needed to study young PMS OB stars and to increase the number of known magnetic stars to determine basic formation properties.
- ★ We will continue to obtain more data from medium and high (?) resolution spectrographs (with higher S/N), with emphasis on preparation for SPIRou and other infrared spectropolarimeters.