

Overview on CP Stars

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Chemically peculiar stars (CP stars) have been subject of research since more than 50 years. With the discovery of pulsation of some of the cool CP stars, the availability of advanced spectropolarimetric instrumentation, and of high signal-to-noise ratio, high resolution spectroscopy, a new era of CP star research emerged about 20 years ago. These exciting new developments clearly demonstrate the scientific potential of this rather small group of specific stars as excellent laboratories for investigating effects of convection, magnetic fields, atomic diffusion and rotation. Hence, CP star research has significance for stellar astrophysics well beyond this rather small group of peculiar stars. Past and present developments will be presented also in context with the activities of the IAU Interdivision Working Group of Chemically Peculiar Stars.