High-frequency A-type pulsators discovered using SuperWASP*†


1Astrophysics Group, Keele University, Staffordshire ST5 5BG, UK
2Institut d’Astrophysique et de Géophysique, Université de Liège, Allée du 6 Août, 17, Bat. BSC, Liège 1, Belgium
3Department of Astronomy, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-3411, USA
4Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS, LAM (Laboratoire d’Astrophysique de Marseille) UMR 7326, F-13388 Marseille, France
5SUPA, School of Physics & Astronomy, University of St. Andrews, North Haugh, Fife KY16 9SS, UK
6Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK
7Department of Physical Sciences, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, UK
8Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes, Apartado de Correos 321, E-38700 Santa Cruz de la Palma, Tenerife, Spain
9N. Copernicus Astronomical Centre, Polish Academy of Sciences, Bartycka 18, PL-00-716 Warsaw, Poland

Accepted 2014 January 13. Received 2014 January 10; in original form 2013 December 20

ABSTRACT

We present the results of a survey using the WASP archive to search for high-frequency pulsations in F-, A- and B-type stars. Over 1.5 million targets have been searched for pulsations with amplitudes greater than 0.5 millimagnitude. We identify over 350 stars which pulsate with periods less than 30 min. Spectroscopic follow-up of selected targets has enabled us to confirm 10 new rapidly oscillating Ap stars, 13 pulsating Am stars and the fastest known δ Scuti star. We also observe stars which show pulsations in both the high-frequency domain and the low-frequency δ Scuti range. This work shows the power of the WASP photometric survey to find variable stars with amplitudes well below the nominal photometric precision per observation.

Key words: asteroseismology – techniques: photometric – surveys – stars: chemically peculiar – stars: oscillations – stars: variables: δ Scuti.

1 INTRODUCTION

With the advent of large ground-based photometric surveys (e.g. OGLE, Udalski et al. 1992; ASAS, Pojmański 1997; HATnet, Bakos et al. 2004; WASP; Pollacco et al. 2006) there is a wealth of photometric data on millions of stars. Despite not being the prime science goal, these surveys can be exploited to probe stellar variability across the entire sky (e.g. Norton et al. 2011; Smalley 2013). The ability of these surveys to achieve millimagnitude (mmag) precision provides a vast data base in which to search for low-amplitude stellar variability.

The WASP project is a wide-field survey for transiting exoplanets. The project is a two-site campaign: the first instrument is located at the Observatorio del Roque de los Muchachos on La Palma and achieved first light in 2003 November; the second is located at the Sutherland Station of the SAAO and achieved first light in 2005 December. Each instrument consists of eight 200 mm, f/1.8 Canon telephoto lenses backed by Andor CCDs of 2048 × 2048 pixels observing ∼61 deg² each through broad-band filters covering a wavelength range of 400–700 nm (Pollacco et al. 2006). This set-up enables simultaneous observations of up to eight fields with a pixel size of 13.7 arcsec. The instruments capture two consecutive 30 s integrations at a given pointing, and then move to the next observable field. Typically, fields are revisited every 10 min.

The images collected are passed through the reduction pipeline, where the data are corrected for primary and secondary extinctions, the instrumental colour response and the system zero-point. The atmospheric extinction correction uses a network of stars with a known (B − V) colour to determine the extinction terms, which are then applied to all extracted stars using an assumed colour of G-type stars. This process results in a ‘WASP V’ magnitude which is comparable to the Tycho-2 V passband.

© 2014 The Authors
Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the Royal Astronomical Society
performed at stellar positions provided by the USNO-B1.0 input catalogue (Monet et al. 2003). Stars brighter than \( \sim 15 \)th magnitude are extracted and provided with a unique WASP ID of the format 1SWASPJhhmmss.ss \pm dmmss.ss. Data are stored in FITS format with labels of the observed field, camera and date of observation. Such a configuration and extended time-base allow the extraction of multiple light curves for each object based on either date, field or camera.

To date there are over 428 billion data points in the archive covering over 31 million unique objects. With such a large data base of objects it is possible to search for a wide variety of stellar variability.

In this paper we present the results from a survey of the WASP archive in the search of rapidly varying stars. We focus on stars hotter than mid F-type in the region of the Hertzsprung–Russell (HR) diagram where the classical instability strip intersects the main-sequence. In this region we find the classical \( \delta \) Scorpii (\( \delta \) Sct) pulsators, the non-magnetic metallic-lined (Am) stars, the strongly magnetic, chemically peculiar, rapidly oscillating Ap (roAp) stars, the metal-deficient \( \beta \) Boötis stars, the \( \gamma \) Doradus (\( \gamma \) Dori) pulsators and the SX Phoenicis variables.

Most of the stars in this region of the HR diagram are \( \delta \) Scuti stars which show normal chemical abundances in their atmospheres. However, at about A8, 50 per cent of the A-type stars are in fact Am stars (Smith 1973). These stars show a discrepancy of at least five spectral subclasses between their hydrogen line spectral class, their Ca K line strength, and their metallic line strengths (Conti 1970). If the differences are less than five subclasses they are designated ‘marginal’ Am stars (denoted Am*). It was previously thought that the Am stars cannot pulsate with amplitudes greater than 2.0 mmag, if at all (Breger 1970); however a study by Smalley et al. (2011) has shown that \( \sim 14 \) per cent of known Am stars pulsate at the mmag level. Their study concluded that the pulsations in Am stars must be laminar so as not to produce sub-cm s\(^{-1}\) turbulence which would homogenize the star. The driving mechanism in the Am stars is the opacity (\( \kappa \)) mechanism acting on helium in the He\( ^{2}\) ionization zone, resulting in both radial and non-radial pressure modes (p modes) (see Aerts, Christensen-Dalsgaard & Kurtz 2010).

Rarer than the Am stars are the chemically peculiar Ap stars. Constituting only about 10 per cent of the A-type stars (Wolff 1968), the Ap stars are strongly magnetic and have over-abundances of rare-earth elements. Around 50 Ap stars are known to be roAp stars (Kurtz 1982). These stars show high-overtone p-mode pulsations in the range of 5–24 min. The driving mechanism is the same as that for the Am stars, the \( \kappa \) mechanism, but it is acting in the hydrogen ionization zone instead. The pulsational axis in the roAp stars is thought to be aligned with the magnetic field axis rather than the rotational axis, leading to the oblique pulsator model of Kurtz (1982). Due to the strong global magnetic fields, the Ap stars are subject to stratification in their atmospheres, often leading to surface brightness anomalies in the form of chemical spots (Stibbs 1950). These spots can be stable for many decades, allowing for an accurate determination of their rotation period from the light curve. The roAp stars provide the best test-bed, beyond the Sun, to study the interactions between pulsations and strong global magnetic fields, as well as testing gravitational settling and radiative levitation theories (e.g. Gautschy & Saio 1998; Balbinot et al. 2001; Kurtz et al. 2011).

Hybrid pulsators, which show both p-mode and gravity (g-) mode pulsations, are also found in this region of the HR diagram. At the base of the instability strip there is an area where the \( \gamma \) Dor stars, g-mode pulsators, overlap with the p-mode \( \delta \) Scuti stars. These objects are of great scientific interest as it becomes possible to probe both the core and atmosphere simultaneously. Observations made with the Kepler spacecraft of these hybrid stars (Grigahcène et al. 2010; Catanzaro et al. 2011) have shown that these objects are more common than previously thought, with the possibility that nearly all stars in this region of the HR diagram show both \( \gamma \) Dor and \( \delta \) Sct pulsations (Grigahcène et al. 2010).

Finally, we also have the pre-main-sequence A-type stars in this region of the HR diagram. These stars are among the fastest known \( \delta \) Scuti pulsators, with the fastest being HD 34282 with a period of 18 min (Amado et al. 2004). These targets often show multi-mode periodograms, with ‘noisy’ light curves due to dusty circumstellar environments. As a result of this environment many of these objects are heavily reddened.

Previous surveys for pulsations in the A-type stars have targeted objects that were already known to be spectroscopically interesting A stars (e.g. Smalley et al. 2011; Paunzen et al. 2012; Kochukhov et al. 2013). This approach limits the results to specific types of pulsators. However, the approach we have adopted in our study requires no previous knowledge of the targets, except for a rough photometric spectral type. This has allowed us to search for all types of pulsations in F-, A- and B-type stars and will permit the possible discovery of new types, thus the aim of our study is to identify stars which show variability with a period of less than 30 min. This blind survey enables us to approach the search for different types of pulsators in a novel way, opening our results to pulsating Am stars, roAp stars, fast \( \delta \) Scuti stars and pre-main-sequence stars.

2 ARCHIVE SURVEY

2.1 Determining WASP detection limits

Before a full archive survey is conducted, we need to understand the capabilities of the WASP data in detecting pulsations. In order to do this, we employ the micromagnitude (\( \mu \)mag) precision of Kepler data.

The Kepler mission, launched in 2009 March, observed over 150 000 stars in two cadence modes – the long cadence (LC) mode with an effective exposure time of 30 min was used for the majority of stars, with 512 stars observed in the short cadence (SC) mode with an effective exposure time of 1 min (Gilliland et al. 2010). Kepler consisted of an array of 42 CCDs covering 115 deg\(^2\) of sky in the direction of the constellations Cygnus and Lyra. Observations were made through fixed CCD filters covering 423–897 nm (Koch et al. 2010) which is slightly redder than WASP. Kepler achieved a photometric precision of up to 84 parts per million (Borucki et al. 2010; Koch et al. 2010) resulting in a large quantity of high cadence data at \( \mu \)mag precision.

Debosscher et al. (2011) have conducted a variability study on the first Quarter of Kepler data. We used their results to select 59737 Kepler targets which showed a principal frequency with an amplitude of \( \geq 0.01 \) mmag. Corresponding WASP data were extracted from the archive as long as their \( (J - H) \) colour was less than 0.4 so to target G stars and hotter, ensuring we account for reddened objects to maximize our sample size. This resulted in a final sample size of 13 060 stars.

Periodograms for these targets were calculated using the FASPER method of Press & Rybicki (1989); Press et al. (1992). A small selection of the resulting periodograms were inspected manually where it was found that periodograms suffered greatly from low-frequency noise and a high ‘Fourier grass’ level – the approximate background level of the periodogram which resembles mown

A comparison of the raw (top left), 14,659 data points, and cut (top right), 13,970 data points, light curves and corresponding periodograms for 1SW ASP J192444.63 + 490052.2. The much cleaner light curve shown in the top right plot results in a clean periodogram, with a Fourier grass level of about 0.5 mmag, which clearly shows the principal frequency at 8.77 d$^{-1}$, a secondary peak at 11.47 d$^{-1}$ and a third peak at 9.53 d$^{-1}$. The top left periodogram does not identify the principal frequency correctly due to high-amplitude, low-frequency noise; the Fourier grass level is about 2.5 mmag with the amplitudes of the peaks are also much higher here too. It is clear that the use of resistant mean clipping greatly enhances detection probability. The three pulsation frequencies are marked with vertical lines. The bottom plot shows the corresponding Kepler data of KIC 11295729, the same star as 1SW ASP J192444.63 + 490052.2.

With our subset of stars we extract each season of data and calculate a periodogram, to a maximum frequency of 300 d$^{-1}$, as described above. We choose this upper limit to balance computational time with expected detection rate. In all, we calculate over 9 million individual periodograms, indicating an average of six seasons per star. To increase the speed of later peak identification we do not store the entire periodogram, only the significant peaks. A peak is deemed significant if it has a signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) $> 2.5$. To determine the noise level, the periodogram is split into sections of 10 d$^{-1}$ with the mean of each section calculated. The noise level is then taken to be the lowest value calculated. That is to say, the noise is estimated to be half of the ‘Fourier grass’ level of the most stable section. This value is then used for the entire periodogram. Although not the conventional method to calculate Fourier noise, this method is computationally fast. We have accounted for any overestimates of the noise by lowering the S/N criteria from the widely accepted value of 4 (Breger et al. 1993; Koen 2010). For later analysis of individual targets, for which we use PERIOD04 (Lenz & Breger 2005), we use a threshold S/N of 4.

To identify pulsation candidates in the data with confidence, we require certain criteria to be met. A single object must show a peak at the same frequency in more than one season, within a tolerance of 0.01 d$^{-1}$. We implement this criterion to reduce the possibility of spurious noise being identified as a true signal. We also consider the window function to eliminate any sampling aliases. Targets which satisfy these criteria have their full periodograms calculated and stored for human inspection.

During this selection process we do not consider the effects of blending or overcrowding of the WASP aperture. Due to the large pixel size of the WASP detectors this can be a common occurrence, with an estimated ~12 per cent of targets suffering ≥50 per cent
Table 1. Renson and WASP coincident roAp stars. Columns 9–16 are a measure of the quality of the WASP data for each season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HD</th>
<th>Literature data Mag</th>
<th>Literature data ν (d⁻¹)</th>
<th>Literature data ΔB (mmag)</th>
<th>Literature data Mag</th>
<th>Literature data v (d⁻¹)</th>
<th>Literature data ΔV (mmag)</th>
<th>WASP data Mag</th>
<th>WASP data ν (d⁻¹)</th>
<th>WASP data ΔV (mmag)</th>
<th>No. of seasons</th>
<th>χ²/n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(B)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(V_WASP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(V)</td>
<td>(d⁻¹)</td>
<td>(mmag)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6532</td>
<td>8.60</td>
<td>202.82</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.38</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>42.43</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9289</td>
<td>9.63</td>
<td>137.14</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>9.42</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.46</td>
<td>14.93</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12098</td>
<td>8.46</td>
<td>189.22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8.23</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12932</td>
<td>10.56</td>
<td>124.14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10.28</td>
<td>124.10</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84041</td>
<td>9.74</td>
<td>96.00</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9.25</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.65</td>
<td>9.52</td>
<td>3.95</td>
<td>7.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99563</td>
<td>8.90</td>
<td>134.58</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.28</td>
<td>204.96</td>
<td>11.33</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101065</td>
<td>8.73</td>
<td>119.01</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8.27</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>5.65</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119027</td>
<td>10.41</td>
<td>165.52</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10.19</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>8.69</td>
<td>1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122970</td>
<td>8.70</td>
<td>129.73</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.33</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>4.60</td>
<td>6.95</td>
<td>3.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>185256</td>
<td>10.37</td>
<td>141.18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.10</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>0.934</td>
<td>1.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>193756</td>
<td>9.56</td>
<td>110.77</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>9.27</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td>4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196470</td>
<td>10.14</td>
<td>133.33</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>9.84</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.02</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>4.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203932</td>
<td>9.10</td>
<td>244.07</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.92</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23.25</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>17.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213657</td>
<td>10.05</td>
<td>125.22</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>9.73</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>2.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>218495</td>
<td>9.62</td>
<td>194.59</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.43</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.95</td>
<td>6.41</td>
<td>5.62</td>
<td>7.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This suggests we will only detect a small fraction of the roAp stars that exist in the WASP data base. The main reason for the lack of detections of the known targets is the colour response of the WASP instruments. For the target that was automatically extracted, the amplitude dilution of 75 per cent indicates that we will only observe the highest amplitude pulsators.

Of the 543 Ap stars we studied, we detected no new roAp stars amongst the sample. We are, of course, limited by our threshold of 0.5 mmag which provides an upper limit on any pulsations in the WASP V-band photometry.

3.2 Candidate Targets

Of the 1.5 million F-, A- and B-type stars extracted from the WASP archive, we find 375 stars which show variations on the order of 30 min or less which are present in two or more seasons of observations. Of these 375 targets, we obtained spectral follow-up for 37 stars. The targets were selected for follow-up based on their frequency band photometry. Focus initially on the objects whose periodograms look like that of the rare roAp stars, we then move to lower frequencies and periodograms which show a more complex pulsation spectrum. In Table 2 we present photometric information on the 37 stars for which we obtained spectra.
have had wavelength calibrations applied. Tools from the Starlink project\(^1\) were used to perform these tasks, with the exception of the HamSpec spectra, which were reduced using routines written in IDL. Finally, the spectra were intensity rectified using the UCLSYN spectral synthesis package (Smalley, Smith & Dworetsky 2001).

To determine the stellar temperatures from the spectra we used UCLSYN, setting log g to a constant 4.0 and synthesized the Balmer lines. Due to the low-resolution classification spectra, we are only able to attain the temperatures to within ±200 K. We estimate the S/N for each spectrum using the DER\(_{SNR}\) code of Stoehr et al. (2008). The spectral types of the stars were determined via comparison with MK Standard stars using the method of Gray & Corbally (2009). We present the spectroscopic information and results in Table 3.

3.2 Stellar temperatures from spectral energy distributions

Effective temperatures can be determined from the stellar spectral energy distribution (SED). For our target stars these were constructed from literature photometry, using 2MASS (Skrutskie et al. 2006), DENIS (Fouqué et al. 2000), Tycho \(B\) and \(V\) magnitudes (Høg et al. 1997), USNO-B1 \(R\) magnitudes (Monet et al. 2003), TASS \(V\) and \(I\) magnitudes (Drooge et al. 2006) CM14 \(r'\) magnitudes (Evans, Irwin & Helmer 2002) as available.

The stellar \(T_{\text{eff}}\) values were determined by fitting solar-composition Kurucz (1993) model fluxes to the de-reddening SEDs. The model fluxes were convolved with photometric filter response functions. A weighted Levenberg-Marquardt non-linear least-squares fitting procedure was used to find the solution that minimized the difference between the observed and model fluxes. Since log g is poorly constrained by our SEDs, we fixed log g = 4.0 for all the fits. Stellar energy distributions can be significantly affected by interstellar reddening. However, in the absence of measured reddening values, we have assumed \(E(B - V) = 0.02 ± 0.02\) in

\(^1\) http://starlink.jach.hawaii.edu/starlink/
our fitting. The uncertainties in $T_{\text{eff}}$ include the formal least-squares error and adopted uncertainties in $E(B - V)$ of ±0.02 and log g of ±0.5 added in quadrature. We present the SED derived $T_{\text{eff}}$ for our spectroscopically observed targets in Table 3.

4 RESULTS

4.1 New roAp stars

We present here the 10 new roAp stars discovered in the Super-WASP archive. Some objects show a low-frequency signature in their periodogram which is attributed to rotational modulation. We present both the low-frequency periodograms and the phase-folded light curves alongside a discussion of each object, with the details of the modulations shown in Table 4. The periodograms indicate the frequency ($\nu$) on which the data are folded, as well as labels of other prominent peaks. In this frequency range, the periodograms show the reflection of the $-1 \text{ d}^{-1}$ aliases, labelled as $-\nu$, which must not be confused with the true peak. Each periodogram is calculated with a single season of WASP data for clarity (the peaks are also present in all other data sets for each target). The solid line on each phase plot represents the harmonic fit. The false-alarm probability (FAP) is calculated using the method of Maxted et al. (2011).

4.1.1 J0008

J0008 shows roAp pulsations at 150.26 d$^{-1}$ with an amplitude of 0.76 mmag (Fig. 2 top). WASP has observed the target for three consecutive seasons with slight discrepancies in the pulsation
frequency which is attributed to the 1-d aliases. The spectrum obtained for this star (Fig. 2 bottom) has been classified as A9p, with strong enhancements of Sr II and Eu II. The spectrum confirms this to be a new roAp star.

The pulsations in J0008 are similar to those in HD 119027, which pulsates at 165.52 d$^{-1}$ with an amplitude in the blue of 2.0 mmag (Martínez & Kurtz 1994). HD 119027 is a hotter star, classified as A3p SrEu(Cr), and is also known to show amplitude modulation as a result of closely spaced frequencies.

4.1.2 J0353

The star J0353 displays pulsations at about 224 d$^{-1}$ with an amplitude of 1.65 mmag as well as a low-frequency variation corresponding to 13.95 d (Figs 3 and 4). The spectrum of this star is classified as A5p with an enhancement of Sr II and Eu II, confirming it as a new roAp star.

Similar to J0353, HR 1217 shows pulsations at about the same frequency (232.26 d$^{-1}$; Kurtz 1981) and is classified as an A9p SrEu(Cr) star. The rotation period of HR 1217 has been discussed at length in the literature; recently Rusomarov et al. (2013) present a period of 12.458 12 d derived from 81 longitudinal magnetic field data points spanning over four decades. Balona & Zima (2002) present spectra of HR 1217 which show a core-wing anomaly in the Hα line, a feature which we also note in our ISIS red-arm spectrum.

4.1.3 J0629

J0629 has pulsations at 169.54 d$^{-1}$ with an amplitude of 1.49 mmag (Fig. 5 top). The spectrum (Fig. 5 bottom) shows strong overabundances of Sr II, Cr II and Eu II. The photometric observations give no indication of rotational modulation. We classify the star as F4p.

Through both Balmer line analysis and SED fitting, we conclude that J0629 is a very cool Ap star with a $T_{\text{eff}}$ similar to the roAp star HD 213637 (6400 K; Kochukhov 2003), and thus placing J0629 amongst the coolest roAp stars.

4.1.4 J0651

We classify J0651 as an F0p star whose spectrum shows a strong over-abundance of Sr II at λλ 4077 and 4216 (Fig. 6). We also see enhanced features of Eu II at λλ 4128 and 4205 and Cr II at λ4111. Our photometry shows pulsations at 132.38 d$^{-1}$ (Fig. 6), with no clear indications of rotational modulation in the light curve.

In the literature we find a very similar roAp star to J0651. Pulsating at a frequency of 137.17 d$^{-1}$ with an amplitude in the blue of 3.5 mmag, HD 9289 is an Ap SrEu star (Kurtz & Martinez 1993). Elkin, Kurtz & Mathys (2008) present photometric and spectroscopic $T_{\text{eff}}$
values for HD 9289, deriving 7700 and 8000 K, respectively, which are similar to those we obtain for J0651.

4.1.5 J0855

J0855 shows rapid pulsations at 197.27 d$^{-1}$ with an amplitude of 1.4 mmag (Fig. 7). Balmer line fitting gives a $T_{\text{eff}}$ of 7800 K, and a spectral type of A6p when compared to MK standards. The spectrum also shows an overabundance of Eu ii at λλ 4205, 4128, with weak Ca K and Ca I at λ 4266 (Fig. 7). As well as the high-frequency pulsation, the periodogram shows a low-frequency signature with a period of 3 d (Fig. 8).

Our temperatures derived for J0855 vary greatly between methods; however the SED method is very poorly constrained for this target as indicated by the error bar. Assuming a $T_{\text{eff}}$ of that derived through Balmer line fitting, J0855 is almost identical to the known roAp star HD 190290 (Martinez & Kurtz 1990). The pulsations of the two are at the same frequency, with J0855 showing a larger undulated amplitude. The ISIS red arm spectrum also shows a core-wing anomaly in the Hα line.

4.1.6 J1110

J1110 exhibits low amplitude pulsations at 106 d$^{-1}$ (Fig. 9). We classify the spectrum as a cool F3p star with a $T_{\text{eff}}$ measured from the Balmer lines of 6500 K. The spectrum shows a slight over-abundance of Eu ii at λλ 4128, 4205, and a marginal overabundance of Sr ii (Fig. 9). We also note the weak Ca i K and λ 4266 lines which may be due to stratification in the atmosphere.

J1110 has the lowest pulsation frequency of our roAp stars and is also the coolest, as derived from the Balmer lines. J1110 is similar in amplitude and frequency to HD 193756. However, HD 193756 is classified as A9 with a temperature of 7500 K derived from its Hα profile (Elkin et al. 2008).

4.1.7 J1430

Pulsating at a frequency of 235.5 d$^{-1}$ with an amplitude of 1.06 mmag (Fig. 10), we classify J1430 as an A9p star with an effective temperature of 7100 K derived from the Balmer lines. The spectrum shows an over-abundance of Eu ii (Fig. 10). J1430 is the fastest roAp star we have found in the WASP archive, and is third fastest of all the roAp stars.

HD 86181 is a similar object to J1430 in both pulsations and temperature. HD 86181 has a $T_{\text{eff}}$ of 7900 K (Balmforth et al. 2001), but is classified as only having an over-abundance of Sr. The Hα line profile of J1430 indicates the presence of a core-wing anomaly.
Figure 10. Periodogram and WHT/ISIS spectrum of J1430. The low-frequency peaks in the periodogram are due to noise.

Figure 11. Periodogram and WHT/ISIS spectrum of J1640.

4.1.8 J1640

WASP photometry shows J1640 to pulsate at 151.93 d$^{-1}$ with an amplitude of about 3.5 mmag (Fig. 11). The classification spectrum shows over-abundances of both Sr II and Eu II allowing us to classify this star as A8p (Fig. 11). We also detect in the photometry a signature with a period of 3.67 d, most likely due to the rotation of the star (Fig. 12).

We obtained two spectra of this target using two different instruments. The separate analysis of both spectra resulted in the same classification and $T_{\text{eff}}$. There are no known roAp stars which exhibit a similar pulsation spectrum as J1640, in the sense that J1640 exhibits pulsations of 3.52 mmag in our diluted photometry, making it one of the highest amplitude pulsators.

4.1.9 J1844

J1844 shows a low-amplitude pulsation at 181.73 d$^{-1}$ (Fig. 13). We classify this star as A7p with a $T_{\text{eff}}$ of about 7000 K. The spectra for this target were obtained using the Hamilton Echelle Spectrometer mounted on the Shane 3-m telescope at Lick observatory (Fig. 13). We utilized this instrument to gain a high-resolution spectrum to be able to perform a full abundance analysis on J1844 as it lies in the Kepler field. Identified as KIC 7582608, the target has been observed in LC mode for the duration of the mission. Analysis of both the Kepler data and the HamSpec spectrum is under-way (Holdsworth et al., in preparation).

We observe J1844 to have a rotationally modulated light curve with a period of 20 d (Fig. 14), a signature which is also present in the Kepler data. This is the longest rotation period roAp star we present. The mono-periodic pulsations are similar to those of HD 12098 which pulsates at 189.22 d$^{-1}$ with a blue-band amplitude of 3 mmag (Martinez et al. 2000).

4.1.10 J1940

J1940 shows pulsations at 176.39 d$^{-1}$, and is the highest amplitude roAp star discovered by SuperWASP at 4.2 mmag (Fig. 15). Given the effects of amplitude reduction of pulsations in the WASP data, J1940 may be the highest amplitude roAp star known. The SALT/RSS classification spectrum was obtained at a low S/N due to the faintness of the target. After smoothing the spectrum (by convolving it with a Gaussian profile), we deduce that J1940 is an F2p star with enhancements of Eu II (Fig. 15). We also detect a
WASP high-frequency A-type pulsators

4.2 Other pulsating stars

As we have a lower boundary of 50 d$^{-1}$ as our search criterion, we also anticipated the detection of fast δ Sct systems. In total, we detect 375 objects which have periods less than 30 min. We chose, for follow-up spectroscopic observations, objects which appear to us as either possibly relatively slow roAp stars, with the slowest known being HD 17765 (61 d$^{-1}$; Alentiev et al. 2012), or multi-periodic δ Sct stars.

Of our spectroscopically observed targets, we classify 13 stars as new pulsating Am stars, with a frequency range of 65–164 d$^{-1}$, and temperature range of 7700–8300 K. However, we note that at classification resolution there is not always a clear distinction between Am and Ap stars. It is also possible that within this group of stars there are Ap stars which show multi-periodicity of the δ Sct type. Although it was not initially thought that Ap stars pulsate in the δ Sct range, Kurtz (2000) proposed a list of likely targets, with the first example of such a system being HD 21190 (Koen et al. 2001). Kepler observations have also detected this phenomenon in five of the seven Ap stars that it has observed (e.g. Balona et al. 2011a). However, there are currently no known systems which exhibit both high overtone roAp pulsations and low overtone δ Sct pulsations.
Figure 18. Phase-folded TRAPPIST light curve for J1940. Obtained to confirm the origin of the variability seen in the WASP data. Data folded on the principal frequency of 176.39 d$^{-1}$.

Theoretical work by Saio (2005) suggests that both high and low overtone p modes cannot co-exist in magnetic Ap stars as δ Sct pulsations are suppressed by the presence of the magnetic field, whereas roAp pulsations can be enhanced. However, our survey has identified a few targets, such as J1917 (Section 4.2.2), which show both low and high overtone p modes in a single target. Further observations are needed, however, to eliminate any other explanations such as target blending and binary systems.

We present below four further targets which show pulsations above 80 d$^{-1}$ for which we have obtained spectra.

The remaining 23 targets for which we obtained spectra are presented in Appendix A. We also provide an on-line catalogue of all the variable systems which show periods shorter than 30 min. Table 5 shows an example of the on-line table format.

### 4.2.1 J1403

J1403 is an interesting target as our observations show it to pulsate in two distinct frequency ranges (Fig. 19 top). We detect nine pulsational frequencies between 25 and 34 d$^{-1}$ and 4 between 87 and 100 d$^{-1}$. We classify the star as A9 (Fig. 19 bottom); however we note different classifications recorded in the literature [e.g. A3/SIII; Houk 1978, FOV; Pickles & Depagne 2010, F8 (HD)]. We detect low-frequency variations in J1403 at a period of 1.5053 d. The phases folded plot (Fig. 20) shows that this target is most likely an ellipsoidal variable. In such a case, we do not expect this target to be a hybrid pulsator, but a pulsating non-eclipsing binary pair.

### 4.2.2 J1917

J1917 also shows pulsations in two separate regions. However, here we have pulsations in the δ Sct range (41.3, 45.5 and 53.1 d$^{-1}$) and a single peak in the higher frequency domain (164 d$^{-1}$). We obtained a classification spectrum with the RSS spectrograph on SALT, revealing the star to be Am in nature. Similar to the blending problem we saw with J1940, J1917 also has nearby objects which

### Table 5

Abridged version of the photometric information for the δ Sct pulsators. In the full table, available on-line, columns 6–15 give the first five frequencies, if present, above 50 d$^{-1}$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WASP ID</th>
<th>Other ID</th>
<th>$V$</th>
<th>$v_1$ (d$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>$A_1$ (mmag)</th>
<th>$v_2$ (d$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>$A_2$ (mmag)</th>
<th>$v_3$ (d$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>$A_3$ (mmag)</th>
<th>$v_4$ (d$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>$A_4$ (mmag)</th>
<th>$v_5$ (d$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>$A_5$ (mmag)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1SWASPJ000415.12-172529.6</td>
<td>HD 225186</td>
<td>9.05</td>
<td>60.08</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1SWASPJ000537.79+313058.8</td>
<td>TYC 2259-818-1</td>
<td>11.70</td>
<td>52.92</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1SWASPJ000830.50+042818.1</td>
<td>TYC 4-562-1</td>
<td>10.16</td>
<td>150.26</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1SWASPJ000940.84+562218.9</td>
<td>TYC 3660-1935-1</td>
<td>10.34</td>
<td>66.37</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1SWASPJ002436.35+165847.3</td>
<td>HD 2020</td>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>54.41</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>⋯</td>
<td>–</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Also available at CDS.*
may have caused this multi-periodic light curve (Fig. 21). We again used the TRAPPIST telescope to confirm that J1917 is the source of the pulsations (see Fig. 22). The star is listed in the Washington Double Star catalogue (WDS; Mason et al. 2001) with a separation of 1.3 arcsec based on two observations in the 1930s. We estimate the distance to J1917 to be about 400 pc, which suggests a binary separation of 500 au. The two components of the visual binary system have magnitudes of 10.8 and 14 in the V band (Mason et al. 2001). If the companion is a main-sequence star, given the spectral type of the primary, we estimate it to be a G-type star. We would expect none of the pulsations to originate from a G star. We propose that either both sets of pulsations originate on the Am star, or that there is an unresolved binary system with two pulsating components. Further observations are required to fully understand the nature of J1917.

4.2.3 J2054

J2054 shows two pulsations over 100 d$^{-1}$. The strongest is at 104.86 d$^{-1}$ with an amplitude of 1.1 mmag, with the second at 100.44 d$^{-1}$ with an amplitude of 0.53 mmag. The Shane/HamSpec spectrum obtained for this target indicates that it is an A3m: star based on a weakened Ca K line and slightly enhanced Sr (Fig. 23). We note that there is no clear depletion of Sc II. We estimate a $v \sin i$ of $\sim$50 km s$^{-1}$ for J2054.

Low-frequency variations are noted in the photometry, corresponding to a period of 1.3 d (Fig. 24). When the data are folded on this period, the resulting phase diagram shows two maxima with unequal minima. The light curve indicates a binary target, where the pulsations may originate in one or both components. However, there is no evidence for this in the single spectrum we obtained.

J2054 is the fastest Am star that we have found with SuperWASP, superseding the previous fastest, HD 108452 (Smalley et al. 2011) pulsating at 71 d$^{-1}$. Our results have therefore pushed the boundary of the pulsating Am stars farther into the domain of the roAp stars, further blurring the distinction between these two types of pulsator.

Figure 21. Photometric aperture (dark circle) for J1917 showing multiple stars in the WASP aperture. Follow-up observations using the TRAPPIST telescope confirm the pulsations are originating from the central object. Image from DSS.

Figure 22. Top: two hours of TRAPPIST follow-up observations confirm the pulsations originate on J1917 (the data have been binned on $\sim$1 min intervals). Second: periodogram of the TRAPPIST data. The peak at 45 d$^{-1}$ is stronger than in the WASP periodogram as there are many pulsations contributing power that are not resolved in just 2 h. The high frequency is at about the same amplitude as the WASP data. Third: the WASP periodogram of J1917 for comparison. Bottom: SALT/RSS spectrum of J1917 showing it to be an A7m star.

Figure 23. Periodogram and Shane/HamSpec spectrum of J2054.
The discovery of this number of new roAp stars increases the known stars of this class by 20 per cent, providing a larger sample for further study.

This work shows the power of photometric surveys to identify a whole variety of variable stars. There are many more sources of data that can be exploited in a similar way to that which we have presented here for the search for rare and interesting pulsating stars. We have been able to push the previous limits of pulsation frequencies in some types of A stars, leading to a greater frequency overlap between different pulsator classes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DLH acknowledges financial support from the STFC via the PhD studentship programme. The WASP project is funded and maintained by Queen’s University Belfast, the Universities of Keele, St. Andrews, Warwick and Leicester, the Open University, the Isaac Newton Group, the Instituto de Astrofisica Canarias, the South African Astronomical Observatory and by the STFC. Some of the observations reported in this paper were obtained with the SALT under programs 2012-1-UKSC-001 (PI: BS), 2012-2-UKSC-001 (PI: DLH) and 2013-1-UKSC-002 (PI: DLH). TRAPPiST is a project funded by the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS) with the participation of the Swiss National Science Foundation. The Digitized Sky Surveys were produced at the Space Telescope Science Institute under U.S. Government grant NAG W-2166. The images of these surveys are based on photographic data obtained using the Oschin Schmidt Telescope on Palomar Mountain and the UK Schmidt Telescope. The plates were processed into the present compressed digital form with the permission of these institutions. This publication makes use of data products from the 2MASS, which is a joint project of the University of Massachusetts and the Infrared Processing and Analysis Center/California Institute of Technology, funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation. We thank the referee, Donald Kurtz, for useful comments and suggestions.

REFERENCES

Borucki W. J. et al., 2010, Science, 327, 977

4.2.4 J2305

J2305 is a double-mode, high-frequency Am pulsating star similar in nature to J2054. It pulsates slightly slower than J2054 at 92.75 and 101.68 d$^{-1}$ (Fig. 25 top). We classify J2035 as an A7m star (Fig. 25 bottom).

We detect no low-frequency variability in the SuperWASP photometry, indicating that both pulsations are most likely originating in J2305. Multiple periods have previously been observed in Am stars (e.g. Joshi et al. 2003; Balona et al. 2011b), however not at the frequencies or amplitudes presented here.

5 CONCLUSION

We have exploited the SuperWASP archive in the search for rapidly varying F-, A- and B-type stars. Our survey, of over 1.5 million objects, has resulted in the discovery of 10 new roAp stars as well as 13 new pulsating Am stars. Further to this, there are over 350 systems which show variations on periods less than 30 min.
APPENDIX A: SPECTROSCOPICALLY OBTAINED TARGETS

Below we present the periodograms and spectra for the remaining 23 spectroscopically observed targets.
Figure A1. Periodograms and spectra for the remaining spectroscopically observed targets.
Figure A1 — continued
Figure A1 – continued
SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article:


Please note: Oxford University Press are not responsible for the content or functionality of any supporting materials supplied by the authors. Any queries (other than missing material) should be directed to the corresponding author for the article.

This paper has been typeset from a TeX/LaTeX file prepared by the author.