Comprehensive comparison between APOGEE and LAMOST

Radial velocities and atmospheric stellar parameters


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ABSTRACT

Context. In the era of massive spectroscopy surveys, automated stellar parameter pipelines and their validation are extremely important for an efficient scientific exploitation of the spectra.

Aims. We undertake a critical and comprehensive comparison of the radial velocities and the main stellar atmosphere parameters for stars in common between the latest data releases from the Apache Point Observatory Galaxy Evolution Experiment (APOGEE) and the Large sky Area Multi-Object Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) surveys.

Methods. APOGEE is a high-resolution ($R = 22,500$) spectroscopic survey with high signal-to-noise ratio that is part of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS). The latest data release, SDSS DR14, comprises APOGEE spectra for 263,444 stars, together with main stellar parameters and individual abundances for up to 20 chemical species. LAMOST is a low-resolution ($R = 1800$) optical spectroscopic survey also in the Northern Hemisphere, where 4000 fibers can be allocated simultaneously. LAMOST DR3 contains 3,177,995 stars.

Results. A total of 42,420 dwarfs and giants stars are in common between the APOGEE DR14 – LAMOST DR3 stellar catalogs. A comparison between APOGEE and LAMOST RVs shows a clear offset of $5.40 \pm 0.03$ km s$^{-1}$, with a dispersion of $5.83$ km s$^{-1}$, in the sense that APOGEE radial velocities are higher. We observe a small offset in the effective temperatures of about 13 K, with a scatter of 155 K. A small offset in [Fe/H] of about 0.13 dex together with a scatter of 0.13 dex is also observed. We note that the largest offset between the surveys occurs in the surface gravities. Using only surface gravities in calibrated red giants from APOGEE DR14, with which there are 24,074 stars in common, a deviation of 0.14 dex is found with substantial scatter (0.25 dex). There are 17,482 red giant stars in common between APOGEE DR14 and those in LAMOST tied to APOGEE DR12 via the code called the Cannon. There is generally good agreement between the two data-sets. However, we find that the differences in the stellar parameters depend on effective temperature. For metal-rich stars, a different trend for the [Fe/H] discrepancies is found. Surprisingly, we see no correlation between the internal APOGEE DR14 – DR12 differences in $T_{\text{eff}}$ and those in DR14 – LAMOST tied to DR12, where a correlation should be expected since LAMOST has been calibrated to APOGEE DR12. We find no correlation between the [Fe/H] discrepancies, suggesting that LAMOST/Cannon is not well coupled to the APOGEE DR12 stellar parameter scale. An [Fe/H] dependence between the stellar parameters in APOGEE DR12 and those in DR14 is reported. We find a weak correlation in the differences between APOGEE DR14 – DR12 and LAMOST on DR12 surface gravity for stars hotter than 4800 K and in the log $g$ range between 2.0 and 2.8 dex. We do not observe an [Fe/H] dependency in the gravity discrepancies.

Key words. surveys – stars: fundamental parameters – asteroseismology

1. Introduction

The structure of a stellar atmosphere is principally determined by three atmospheric parameters: the effective temperature, the surface gravity, and the chemical enrichment level. These parameters are the foundation of the physical interpretation of stellar spectra, and are together with radial velocities the most important measurements sought after for the different scientific goals of current massive stellar spectroscopic surveys. Hence automated stellar parameter pipelines (SPPs) and their

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validation are extremely important for the scientific exploitation of these survey data (Lee et al. 2008; Smolinski et al. 2011, and Anguiano et al. 2015).

In this study we focus on the latest data releases from two large ongoing observational programs, the APOGEE (Majewski et al. 2017) and LAMOST (Zhao et al. 2012) surveys. Our main goal is to work out a comprehensive comparison between the radial velocities and the main stellar atmosphere parameters for the stars in common between the two surveys. This comparison can illuminate how similar the stellar velocity and atmospheric parameters are for each survey, to evaluate random errors, and to find systematic effects within the data sets. This comparison is especially helpful because LAMOST observes in the optical at medium-low resolution, while the APOGEE survey works in the H band at higher resolving power, and they use different analysis methods to obtain the information from the observed spectra.

Data-driven methods for measuring stellar parameters, like the code called the Cannon (Ness et al. 2015), have been developed in recent years to bring surveys with disjoint wavelength coverage and different resolving power onto the same scale using a training sample observed by both spectroscopic programs. Recently, Ho et al. (2017) used the Cannon to transfer information from APOGEE data release 12 (DR12) to determine precise stellar parameters from the spectra of 450,000 LAMOST giants. In this study we also use the intersection between the APOGEE and LAMOST data sets to compare the more recent data release 14 (DR14) of APOGEE to the LAMOST giants calibrated to the APOGEE DR12 scale. Moreover, asteroseismology in the Kepler field (Borucki et al. 2010) provides accurate surface gravities for red giants. Using the overlap between APOGEE and LAMOST, and also the photometric survey SAGA (Casagrande et al. 2014) in the Kepler field, we are able to quantify the discrepancies between surface gravity derived from spectroscopic analysis and those from asteroseismology (Pinsonneault et al. 2014).

This paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2 we describe the APOGEE and LAMOST surveys together with the stellar catalog of common stars. Sky coverage, signal-to-noise ratio (S/N), radial velocities, and stellar parameters together with their uncertainties and systematic effects are discussed in detail. The APOGEE and LAMOST targets in the Kepler field are described in Sect. 3. We emphasize that in Sects. 2 and 3 we compare the pipelines specific to APOGEE and LAMOST. In Sect. 4 we study the discrepancies between APOGEE and LAMOST calibrated to the APOGEE DR12 stellar parameters scale via the Cannon. We present our conclusions and describe the opportunity that this massive overlap between the surveys presents for building a robust training data-set for data-driven methods for measuring stellar parameters in Sect. 5.

2. APOGEE-LAMOST stellar catalog

The Apache Point Observatory Galaxy Evolution Experiment (APOGEE), and its successor APOGEE-2, is a high-resolution (R \(\sim\) 22,500), high-S/N (S/N \(>\) 100 per half resolution element) spectroscopic survey using the 2.5-m Sloan telescope in the Northern Hemisphere and the du Pont telescope at Las Campanas Observatory for the Southern Hemisphere (Majewski et al. 2017). The survey operates in the near-infrared H band, and can take 300 spectra simultaneously (Wilson et al. 2010). The latest APOGEE data release, DR14 (Abolfathi et al. 2018), comprises spectra for 263,444 stars, together with main stellar parameters and individual abundances for up to 15 chemical species.

The Large sky Area Multi-Object Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) is a national scientific research facility operated by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. LAMOST is a low-resolution (R \(\sim\) 1800), optical (3650–9000 Å) spectroscopic survey in the Northern Hemisphere. Using a modified Schmidt telescope, LAMOST can observe up to 4000 objects simultaneously over a 20 square degrees field of view. The LAMOST Experiment for Galactic Understanding and Exploration (LEGUE) is an ongoing Galactic survey with a current sample of more than five million stellar spectra (Deng et al. 2012). LAMOST DR3\(^1\) published 3177995 stars in this catalog, including 45826 A-type stars, 988947 F-type stars, 1600512 G-type stars, and 542710 K-type stars. These objects are selected with the criteria of having an S/N in the g band higher than 6 obtained during dark nights, and an S/N in g band higher than 15 obtained during bright nights.

Using a comparison of positions in equatorial coordinates between the surveys, we selected stars where \((\Delta \alpha^2 + \Delta \delta^2)^{1/2} < 3\) arcsec, and find a total of 42,420 stars in common between APOGEE DR14 and LAMOST DR3. For this study we used the APOGEE flag called ASPCAPFLAG, to remove stars where any of the TEFF, LOGG, CHI2, COLORTE, ROTATION, and S/N flags are set (see Holtzman et al. 2015; García Pérez et al. 2016; for full details on the different flags used in APOGEE data). This leaves 41,547 objects in the APOGEE – LAMOST stellar catalog.

2.1. Sky coverage and magnitude range

In Fig. 1 we show the Galactic coordinates of the APOGEE-LAMOST stellar catalog in a Hammer–Aitoff projection. Because of the Northern Hemisphere location of LAMOST and the SDSS-telescope APOGEE used for DR12 and DR14, most of the common stars lie in the Galactic anticenter and in the North Galactic Cap.

There are also common targets in the Kepler field, where the spectroscopic parameters provided by the APOGEE project are complemented with asteroseismic surface gravities, masses, radii, and mean densities determined by members of the Kepler Asteroseismology Science Consortium (KASC; Pinsonneault et al. 2014). There are similar efforts within the LAMOST collaboration in the Kepler fields (Ren et al. 2016).

\(^1\) http://dr3.lamost.org/
The APOGEE S

Fig. 2. Luminosity distribution function in the H band for the APOGEE – LAMOST stellar catalog. The catalog covers a broad magnitude range from 7 to almost 14 mag. Most of the stars are in the magnitude range from 9 to 12 in the H band.

Figure 2 shows the H-band luminosity distribution for the APOGEE – LAMOST stellar catalog compiled in this study. Most stars in common between APOGEE and LAMOST are in the magnitude range from 9 to 12 in the H band.

2.2. Signal-to-noise ratio

APOGEE aims to obtain high-resolution H-band spectra with high S/N (>100 per half-resolution element of pixels) for stars in the bulge, disk, and halo of the Milky Way (Zasowski et al. 2013, 2017). Most APOGEE targets are observed in several visits. After multiple visits, a combined spectrum is produced (Nidever et al. 2015). LAMOST DR3 provides the S/N per pixel for the targets as calculated in five different bands, u, g, r, i, and z. Using the center wavelength and bandwidth, they obtain the wavelength range for each SDSS band, and then the S/N in each band is the median value at each pixel in this band (Luo et al. 2015). The cumulative histograms of S/N in APOGEE and in LAMOST for the z band (left panel in Fig. 3) shows that the APOGEE survey has 80% of stars in common with S/N > 100, and 40% with S/N > 200. The LAMOST survey has 40% of stars in common with S/N > 100, and 10% with S/N > 200. The right panel in Fig. 3 shows the S/N from APOGEE and LAMOST spectra for the common stellar catalog as a function of the H-band magnitude from the 2MASS survey (Skrutskie et al. 2006). This figure shows a clear relation between magnitude and S/N in APOGEE. This relation is weaker in LAMOST DR3 data and the H band, where a given stellar magnitude has a wide range in S/N.

2.3. Radial velocities

In APOGEE DR14 (Abolfathi et al. 2018), RVs are determined for each individual visit to identify stars with companion-induced Doppler shifts. The individual visit spectra are resampled and combined to generate a single spectrum for each object. Final RVs are obtained by cross-correlation against a grid of synthetic spectra spanning a wide range of stellar parameters. The APOGEE instrument and the existing RV software routinely deliver RVs per visit at a precision of ~0.07 km s\(^{-1}\) for S/N > 20, while the survey provides external calibration sufficient to ensure accuracies at the level of ~0.35 km s\(^{-1}\). RVs in APOGEE are reported with respect to the center of mass (barycenter) of the solar system (Nidever et al. 2015).

The LAMOST 1D pipeline (Luo et al. 2015) also measures the RVs using a cross-correlation method. The pipeline recognizes the stellar spectral classes and simultaneously determines the RVs from the best-fit correlation function between the observed spectra and the template. The RVs are translated from geocentric into barycentric coordinates. Figure 4 shows the mean reported RV uncertainties with respect to the mean S/N for the common catalog between APOGEE and LAMOST. Figure 4 shows the standard deviation of the S/N and the error deviation of \(\sigma_{RV}\) for bins of 3000 stars by S/N. Nearly all the stars in the APOGEE catalog in common with LAMOST have \(\sigma_{RV} < 0.1\) km s\(^{-1}\). For stars with S/N_{APOGEE} > 100, APOGEE determines \(\sigma_{RV} < 0.03\) km s\(^{-1}\). The LAMOST-calculated RV uncertainties for stars in common with APOGEE range from 3.5 to 18 km s\(^{-1}\), depending on the S/N. Stars with S/N_{LAMOST} > 100 show \(\sigma_{RV} < 8\) km s\(^{-1}\) (see Fig. 4).

In Fig. 5, we show the histogram of discrepancies between APOGEE and LAMOST RVs. The discrepancies show a clear offset of 4.54 ± 0.03 km s\(^{-1}\), with a dispersion of 5.8 km s\(^{-1}\). Most of the scatter in the discrepancies is expected to come from LAMOST RV uncertainties (Fig. 4), which suggests that the average LAMOST measurement error for the RVs is ~6 km s\(^{-1}\). This is consistent with the median in the reported RV LAMOST uncertainty, where the value is ~6.5 km s\(^{-1}\). Huang et al. (2015) compared 499 RVs from LAMOST DR1 with RVs of the same targets derived from MMT+Hectospec, and also found an offset, in their case of 3.8 ± 0.3 km s\(^{-1}\). Furthermore, a similar offset appears between an external comparison between LAMOST DR1 and SEGUE DR9 for common objects, where the result is \(\langle \Delta RV \rangle = 7.2\) km s\(^{-1}\). A similar offset is also reported in Schönrich & Aumer (2017) for the LAMOST survey.

In Fig. 6 we explore the mean RV discrepancies as a function of (S/N), \(T_{eff}\), \([\text{Fe/H}]\) and \((\log g)\) from APOGEE DR14. We find no clear systematic trends between the RV discrepancies and the stellar parameters, except for a weak trend of amplitude 1 km s\(^{-1}\) as a function of \([\text{Fe/H}]\) (lower left panel in Fig. 6). Based on the lack of trends in what we are able to compare between the data sets, the origin of the global RV offset between the surveys is unclear.

2.4. Stellar atmospheric parameters

Stellar parameters are derived from the combined APOGEE spectra with the APOGEE stellar parameters and chemical abundances Pipeline (ASPCAP; García Pérez et al. 2016), where an interpolated grid of synthetic spectra (e.g., Zamora et al. 2015) is searched to find the best match to each observed spectrum. ASPCAP performs a a multidimensional \(\chi^2\) minimization using the code FERRE\(^3\). We emphasize that for this comparison we used APOGEE calibrated stellar parameters. ASPCAP derives parameters for nearly all the observed stars, but these parameters show systematic errors, most likely associated with shortcomings in the models. Hence, APOGEE produces calibrated parameters, that is, surface gravities calibrated to seismic gravities via asteroseismology for giant stars. We refer to Holtzman et al. (2015) and García Pérez et al. (2016), where ASPCAP and calibrated parameters are explained in detail.

\(^2\) The APOGEE S/N is not real for S/N > 200–300 since it is obtained from the photon shot noise. At very high S/N, it becomes limited by the detector flatfielding, artifacts, and telluric or sky lines. 

\(^3\) github.com/callendepréto/ferre
The LAMOST stellar parameter pipeline (LASP) also automatically determines the fundamental stellar parameters from LAMOST spectra. LASP adopts two methods to obtain a single set of derived stellar parameters: (i) the correlation function initial (CFI) values (Du et al. 2012) followed by the ULySS package (Wu et al. 2011), and (ii) the CFI method is used to make an initial guess for the stellar parameters, while ULySS generates the final values from the observed spectra (Luo et al. 2015).

In Fig. 7 we show the stellar atmospheric parameters for temperature, metallicity, and surface gravity reported in APOGEE DR14 (black line) and in LAMOST DR3 (red line) for the APOGEE – LAMOST catalog. The histograms show the stellar parameter range we compare in this exercise. Figure 8 shows the histograms of discrepancies between derived $T_{\text{eff}}$, [Fe/H], and log $g$ in logarithmic scale from the APOGEE and LAMOST surveys for the objects in common. We observe a small offset in effective temperature of about $13 \text{ K}$, with a scatter of $155 \text{ K}$. We also observe a small offset in [Fe/H] of about $0.06 \text{ dex}$ together with a scatter of $0.13 \text{ dex}$. Using only surface gravities in calibrated red giants from APOGEE DR14, where there are 24 074 stars in common, we note that the largest offset between the two surveys occurs in the surface gravities, where a deviation of $0.14 \text{ dex}$ is observed with a substantial scatter of $0.25 \text{ dex}$. Holtzman et al. (in prep.) reported that at low surface gravities, the APOGEE ASPCAP spectroscopy surface
gravities are systematically higher than the asteroseismic surface gravities; as a result, the log \( g \) in APOGEE DR14 is calibrated using a linear surface gravity fit to the seismic log \( g \) measured for giants in the first APOKASC catalog (Pinsonneault et al. 2014). This calibration could explain the offset reported here with respect to the LAMOST surface gravities. More details about the spectroscopic and photometric NASA Kepler field follow-ups is given in Sect. 3. Figure 8 also shows that the histograms of discrepancies between the measured stellar parameters in APOGEE and LAMOST are not symmetric, which suggests that other systematic effects may be present in the data.

Figure 9 shows the \( T_{\text{eff}} - \log g \) diagram from the APOGEE DR14 and LAMOST DR3 stellar parameters, color-coded by [Fe/H]. Overplotted are 5 Gyr isochrones (Bressan et al. 2012) at three different metallicities, as indicated in the figure. The theoretical stellar tracks and the data sets from the two surveys agree well in general. However, the Red Clump (RC) appears clearly distinct in the APOGEE \( T_{\text{eff}} - \log g \) diagram around \( \log g \sim 2.5 \), while the clump in the LAMOST data is more diffuse, showing a spread from 2.2 to 2.7 dex in surface gravity. In the next sections we explore the reported uncertainties associated with the atmosphere stellar parameters.

2.4.1. Uncertainties

In Fig. 10 we explore the quoted uncertainties in the main atmosphere stellar parameters in the APOGEE-LAMOST stellar catalog. The three panels show the reported uncertainties in \( T_{\text{eff}} \), [Fe/H], and \( \log g \) as a function of the S/N for both surveys.

From the entire sample in common, we calculated the mode of the reported uncertainty distribution for the three atmospheric parameters. The median APOGEE uncertainties are \( \sim 90 \text{ K} \), \( \sim 0.01 \text{ dex} \), and \( \sim 0.06 \text{ dex} \) in \( T_{\text{eff}} \), [Fe/H], and \( \log g \), respectively. For LAMOST, we find \( \sim 80 \text{ K} \), \( \sim 0.08 \text{ dex} \), and also \( \sim 0.12 \text{ dex} \), respectively. Based on these latter values, the reported LAMOST DR3 uncertainties seem underestimated. Interestingly, the uncertainties in the APOGEE DR14 stellar parameters are nearly independent of the S/N, the curve describing an asymptote that reaches a floor due to systematics. On the other hand, the uncertainties reported in the LAMOST DR3 show a clear dependence on the S/N, with no clear floor reached at the highest S/N. For the effective temperature, stars with \( S/N_{\text{LAMOST}} > 100 \) show that on average, \( \sigma_{\text{T_{eff, LAMOST}}} < \sigma_{\text{T_{eff, APOGEE}}} \). For iron abundances, APOGEE uncertainties are on average lower than the iron uncertainties reported in LAMOST, independent of the S/N of the spectrum, while stars with \( S/N_{\text{LAMOST}} > 150 \) report on average more precise surface gravity uncertainties than those claimed for the APOGEE sample (Fig. 10). We use the histograms of discrepancies between stellar parameter to understand the true error values behind the data, where we assume that the observed scatter constrains the stellar parameter uncertainties. In Table 1 we show the mean offset determined from the histograms of discrepancies, the observed scatter, and the sum of the uncertainties in the two catalogs. Although the discrepancies are not perfect Gaussians as a result of the systematic effects in the data (see Fig. 8), we assume that \( \sigma \sim (\sigma_{x}^2 + \sigma_{y}^2)^{1/2} \).

Moreover, we saw in Fig. 10 that APOGEE stellar parameters are nearly independent of S/N. We therefore conclude that at high S/N (>100), the uncertainties from LAMOST are underestimated.

2.4.2. Systematic effects

We used the APOGEE-LAMOST stellar catalog to explore systematic errors in the atmosphere stellar parameters derived using the respective survey stellar pipelines described above. In Fig. 11 we show the discrepancies in \( T_{\text{eff}} \) between the surveys for stars in common as a function of \( (S/N), \langle T_{\text{eff}} \rangle, \langle [\text{Fe/H]} \rangle \), and \( \log g \), where every point bins 1500 stars. \( \Delta T_{\text{eff}} \) has small variations with respect to the APOGEE S/N, with an amplitude smaller than 80 K. Interestingly, we observe that \( \Delta T_{\text{eff}} \) changes sign for stars colder than \( \sim 4500 \text{ K} \) and for stars hotter than \( \sim 5200 \text{ K} \). The offset for the cold stars is around \( \sim 50 \text{ K} \), but for hot stars, it reaches values of 100 K (see the top panels in Fig. 11). The trend between \( \Delta T_{\text{eff}} \) and \( \langle [\text{Fe/H]} \rangle \) is clear, where the sign of \( \Delta T_{\text{eff}} \) changes at solar metallicity. No trend is evident between \( \langle \log g \rangle \) and \( \Delta T_{\text{eff}} \) (see lower panels in Fig. 11).

Figure 12 shows the change in average discrepancy in [Fe/H] with respect to the (S/N) and the main stellar parameters. The offset of \(-0.06 \text{ dex} \) is evident, as reported above. This offset is nearly independent of the (S/N) in the APOGEE spectra, although for stars with S/N < 100, the offset extends from 0.06 to 0.1 dex (see the top left panel in Fig. 12). We also find a clear relation between \( \langle T_{\text{eff}} \rangle \) and \( \Delta [\text{Fe/H}] \). The metallicity offset is larger for colder stars, while for stars with \( T_{\text{eff}} > 5200 \text{ K} \), \( \Delta [\text{Fe/H}] \sim 0.0 \text{ dex} \) (top right panel in Fig. 12). \( \Delta [\text{Fe/H}] \) is independent of the [Fe/H] for the range \(-0.5 < [\text{Fe/H}] < 0.5 \text{ dex} \), but there is a relation between the two quantities for stars more metal.
Fig. 8. Histograms of discrepancies between effective temperature (upper panel), metallicity (middle panel), and surface gravity (bottom panel) in logarithmic scale. The offset between APOGEE and LAMOST for the surface gravity is clear, as is a substantial scatter of 0.25 dex. See text for details.

Finally, Fig. 13 shows $\Delta \log g$ as a function of the main stellar parameters from APOGEE and the average S/N. As in the previous figures, each point represents 1500 stars and the errors bars are the standard error of the mean for $\log g$ and the standard deviation in the S/N. As described above, there is an offset of ~0.15 dex in $\Delta \log g$. This offset is independent of the S/N of the observed spectra. For stars colder than 4800 K, we observe a dependence between $\Delta \log g$ and $T_{\text{eff}}$. In the lower panels of Fig. 13, $\Delta \log g$ as a function of $\langle \text{[Fe/H]} \rangle$ shows variations of about 0.1 dex. We also find...
Table 1. Offset from the histogram of discrepancies, observed scatter, and sum of uncertainties in the two catalogs for different S/N ranges in the LAMOST survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$S/N_L$</th>
<th>$\langle \Delta T_{\text{eff}} \rangle$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{T_{\text{eff}}}$</th>
<th>$\langle \sigma_{\text{Fe/H}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{log g}}^2 \rangle^{1/2}$</th>
<th>$\langle \Delta \text{Fe/H} \rangle$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{\text{Fe/H}}$</th>
<th>$\langle \sigma_{\text{log g}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{log g}}^2 \rangle^{1/2}$</th>
<th>$\langle \Delta \text{log g} \rangle$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{\text{log g}}$</th>
<th>$\langle \sigma_{\text{log g}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{log g}}^2 \rangle^{1/2}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;100</td>
<td>-2.92</td>
<td>146.82</td>
<td>191.58</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>-0.13</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;200</td>
<td>-30.09</td>
<td>119.47</td>
<td>97.28</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>-0.17</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 11. Mean effective temperature discrepancies (APOGEE – LAMOST) as a function of ($S/N$), ($T_{\text{eff}}$), ($\text{Fe/H}$), and ($\text{log g}$).

a dependence between ($\text{log g}$) and $\Delta \text{log g}$ for stars with $\text{log g} < 2.5 \text{dex}$.

3. NASA Kepler field

In Sect. 2.4 we reported a substantial offset in the surface gravity of 0.14 dex between the two surveys. We can make use of the NASA Kepler mission (Borucki et al. 2010) to independently check the source of the discrepancies. The Kepler mission has obtained high-precision photometric data over the past four years. Kepler data enable precise stellar astrophysics thanks to asteroseismic measures of red giants, where uncertainties in surface gravity $<$0.05 dex can be derived (Mathur et al. 2017 and references therein). The APOGEE-LAMOST stellar catalog contains 6846 stars in the Kepler field.

The Strömgren Survey for Asteroseismology and Galactic Archaeology (SAGA) also mapped the Kepler field using the ndby Strömgren photometric system. Effective temperatures in the SAGA survey are derived using the infrared flux method (IRFM). This technique uses multiband optical and infrared photometry to recover the bolometric and infrared flux of each star, from which its $T_{\text{eff}}$ and angular diameter can be computed (Casagrande et al. 2014). The APOGEE survey contains 588 stars in common with SAGA, while LAMOST contains 312 objects. Figure 14 shows the histogram of discrepancies between APOGEE and SAGA for $T_{\text{eff}}$, $\text{Fe/H}$, and $\text{log g}$ in black lines, and between LAMOST and SAGA (red lines). We find a small offset of $-43 \text{ K}$ in $T_{\text{eff}}$ between APOGEE and SAGA and also between LAMOST and SAGA. This similarity between APOGEE and LAMOST $T_{\text{eff}}$ is consistent with our earlier assessment finding in Fig. 8.

Fig. 12. Mean $\text{Fe/H}$ discrepancies (APOGEE – LAMOST) as a function of ($S/N$), ($T_{\text{eff}}$), ($\text{Fe/H}$), and ($\text{log g}$).

There is also a consistent offset in $\text{Fe/H}$ of $+0.16 \text{ dex}$ between APOGEE and SAGA and LAMOST and SAGA, together with a substantial scatter of 0.3 dex. For the surface gravities we find a good agreement with a scatter of 0.09 dex between APOGEE and SAGA. The discrepancies between LAMOST and SAGA show a clear offset in gravities of 0.14 dex, where the comparison is dominated by red giants. In Sect. 2.4 we described how APOGEE surface gravities from spectroscopy are calibrated to seismic gravities, while the SAGA survey also uses global oscillation parameters to obtain $\text{log g}$. We summarize our findings in Table 2.

Recently, Mathur et al. (2017) revised stellar properties for a total number of 197 096 Kepler targets, where the prior-
Calibrating LAMOST to Kepler could resolve this discrepancy. See Table 3 for the simple statistics describing this comparison.

4. The Cannon on LAMOST

Ho et al. (2017) used a data-driven approach to spectral modeling, the Cannon (Ness et al. 2015), to transfer the calibrating information from the APOGEE survey to determine precise $T_{\text{eff}}$, log $g$, and [Fe/H] from the spectra of 454 180 LAMOST DR2 giants. Ho et al. (2017) selected 9952 objects common to LAMOST DR2 and APOGEE DR12 for their training set, and these objects span a representative range of parameter space for giants (see their Fig. 4 for details), but are relatively concentrated compared to the parameter ranges explored in this paper so far. We find 17 482 stars in common between APOGEE DR14 and the catalog from Ho et al. (2017). Figure 16 shows the histogram of discrepancies between APOGEE DR14 and LAMOST/Cannon for $T_{\text{eff}}$, [Fe/H] and log $g$, respectively. The two data-sets agree well in general. The offset in [Fe/H] we found in Fig. 8 by comparing APOGEE DR14 and LAMOST DR3 is less evident in this new comparison, but the scatter remains similar. Moreover, the offset in log $g$ is still present, with a scatter of $\sim 0.2$ dex.

We also studied the behavior of the discrepancies in the atmosphere parameters with respect to $S/N$, $T_{\text{eff}}$, [Fe/H], and log $g$. Figure 17 shows that the discrepancies in the stellar parameters are nearly independent of the $S/N$ of the APOGEE spectra. However, we find some dependence in the discrepancies of the stellar parameters with respect to $T_{\text{eff}}$, particularly at the coolest $T_{\text{eff}}$. For metal-rich stars, we also find a different trend for the [Fe/H] discrepancies with respect to [Fe/H] in APOGEE DR14.

A helpful exercise for understanding how the different calibrations and data analysis pipelines are performing is to compare the stellar parameters from APOGEE DR12 to APOGEE DR14 versus LAMOST tied to APOGEE DR12 using the Cannon. Figure 18 shows the discrepancies in $T_{\text{eff}}$ between APOGEE DR14 – APOGEE DR12 versus APOGEE DR14 – LAMOST, where the latter has been calibrated using stellar parameters from APOGEE DR12 as a reference. The figures are color-coded with respect to $T_{\text{eff}}$ (top panels), [Fe/H] (middle panels), and log $g$ (bottom panels) from APOGEE DR14. The trends in Fig. 18 show that there is a temperature and metallicity dependence in the calibration from DR12 to DR14 (Holtzman et al., in prep.). These dependences are also present in the transformation of LAMOST into APOGEE DR12 parameters space via the Cannon. These temperature and metallicity dependences are weaker than those observed in the transformation from DR12 into DR14. Interestingly, there is no correlation between the DR14 – DR12 discrepancies and DR14 – LAMOST tied to DR12 for $T_{\text{eff}}$, where a correlation would be anticipated if the parameters derived from LAMOST spectra were brought onto the APOGEE DR12 scale. More specifically, if the LAMOST parameters and abundances were perfectly tied to the APOGEE DR12 scale, we would expect to see the known differences between DR12 and DR14 imprinted on the LAMOST parameters.

Figure 19 shows the [Fe/H] discrepancies from APOGEE DR14 – DR12 and DR14 – LAMOST calibrated by DR12 via the Cannon. We find no correlation between the [Fe/H] discrepancies here either, suggesting that LAMOST/Cannon is not entirely in the APOGEE DR12 abundances space.
Table 2. Average discrepancies and standard deviations in the main stellar parameters for stars in common between APOGEE – SAGA (588 stars) and LAMOST – SAGA (312 stars) in the Kepler field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$\langle \Delta T_{\text{eff}} \rangle$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{T_{\text{eff}}}$</th>
<th>$\langle [\text{Fe/H}] \rangle$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{[\text{Fe/H}]}$</th>
<th>$\langle \Delta \log g \rangle$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{\log g}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APOGEE – SAGA</td>
<td>-43.67</td>
<td>79.17</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMOST – SAGA</td>
<td>-43.41</td>
<td>82.56</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 15. Discrepancies between the surface gravity derived in APOGEE, LAMOST and Mathur et al. (2017). See text for details.

Table 3. Surface gravity average discrepancies and its standard deviation with respect APOGEE (Mathur et al. 2017), and LAMOST (Mathur et al. 2017) in the NASA Kepler field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$\langle \Delta \log g \rangle$</th>
<th>$\sigma_{\log g}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APOGEE – Mathur17</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMOST – Mathur17 (dwarfs/giants)</td>
<td>0.01/0.10</td>
<td>0.23/0.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

graphics color-coded by $T_{\text{eff}}$, [Fe/H], and log $g$ from DR14 also indicate that there is an [Fe/H] dependence in the calibration from APOGEE DR12 to DR14.

Finally, Fig. 20 shows the surface gravity discrepancies. Unlike the previous comparison, we do see a weak correlation that would suggest the mapping of LAMOST parameters to APOGEE DR12. The correlation has a broad scatter, and there is a stellar temperature dependency (top panel in Fig. 20). We do not observe an [Fe/H] dependence in the gravity discrepancies.

5. Conclusions

In this section we summarize our findings from this exercise.

We created the APOGEE-LAMOST stellar catalog by combining APOGEE DR14 and LAMOST DR3, and find a total of 42,420 stars in common. Most of the common stars lie in the Galactic anticenter and in the North Galactic Cap. There are also common objects in the Kepler field. The luminosity distribution in the $H$ band covers a broad magnitude range, from 7 to nearly 14 mag. Most of the stars lie in the magnitude range from 9 to 12 mag. We find that the APOGEE survey has 80% of these stars with $S/N > 100$, and 40% with $S/N > 200$, while the LAMOST survey has 40% of stars with $S/N > 100$, and 10% with $S/N > 200$ in the $z$ band.

The histogram of discrepancies between APOGEE and LAMOST RV’s shows a clear offset of $4.54 \pm 0.03 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, with a scatter of $5.8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. We observe that most of the scatter in the discrepancies comes from LAMOST RV uncertainties, suggesting that the average LAMOST measurement error for the RVs is $\sim 6 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. The median reported LAMOST RV uncertainty in APOGEE-LAMOST stellar catalog is $6.5 \text{ km s}^{-1}$; this agrees well with our findings in this comparison study. This
seems to be a universal offset because no clear systematic trends are found between the RV discrepancies and the stellar parameters, except for a weak trend of amplitude 1 km s\(^{-1}\) as a function of ([Fe/H]).

We also investigated histograms of discrepancies for \(T_{\text{eff}}\), [Fe/H] and \(\log g\) between the APOGEE and LAMOST surveys for the stars in common. We recall that we used calibrated APOGEE stellar parameters, while the LAMOST parameters are not calibrated; see Sect. 2.4 for details. We observe a small offset in the effective temperature of about 13 K, with a scatter of 155 K. A small offset in [Fe/H] of about 0.06 dex together with a scatter of 0.13 dex is also found. We note that the largest offset between the two surveys occurs in the surface gravities, where a deviation of 0.14 dex is observed with a substantial scatter of 0.25 dex. The histograms of discrepancies between the measured stellar parameters in APOGEE and LAMOST are not symmetric, suggesting that other systematic effects may be present in the data. For a detailed study on the reported uncertainties, we refer to Sect. 2.4.1.

We used the APOGEE-LAMOST stellar catalog to explore the existence of systematic errors in the atmosphere stellar parameters. \(\Delta T_{\text{eff}}\) has small variations with respect to the APOGEE S/N, where the amplitude is smaller than 80 K. We observe that \(\Delta T_{\text{eff}}\) changes sign for stars colder than \(\sim 4500\) K and for stars hotter than \(\sim 5200\) K, where the population is dominated by dwarfs. A trend between \(\Delta T_{\text{eff}}\) and ([Fe/H]) is found; the sign of \(\Delta T_{\text{eff}}\) changes sign at solar metallicity. There are no evident trends between \((\log g)\) and \(\Delta T_{\text{eff}}\). The average discrepancy in [Fe/H] varies with respect to the (S/N) and the main stellar atmosphere parameters. For example, we find a relation between ([Fe/H]) and \(\Delta\)([Fe/H]). Moreover, the metallicity offset is larger for colder stars, while for stars with \(T_{\text{eff}} > 5200\) K, \(\Delta\)([Fe/H]) \(\sim 0.0\) dex. \(\Delta\)([Fe/H]) is independent of the ([Fe/H]) for the range \(-0.5 < \langle\text{[Fe/H]}\rangle < 0.5\) dex, but there is a relation between the two quantities for stars more metal poor than \(-0.5\) dex. Interestingly, for stars in the surface gravity range 1.0 < \(\log g < 1.5\), we do not see the offset in [Fe/H]. As described previously, there is an offset of \(-0.15\) dex in \(\Delta\log g\). This offset is independent of the S/N of the observed spectra. For stars colder than \(4800\) K, a dependence between \(\Delta\log g\) and \(T_{\text{eff}}\) is observed. The parameter \(\Delta\log g\) as a function of \((\langle\text{[Fe/H]}\rangle)\) shows variations of about 0.1 dex. We also find a dependence between \(\Delta\log g\) and \((\log g)\) for stars with \(\log g < 2.5\) dex. The reported systematic trends in \(T_{\text{eff}}\) are within the uncertainties, while the reported trends for cold, metal-poor giants are significant.

Mathur et al. (2017) revised stellar properties for a total of 197 096 Kepler targets, where the priority list for input surface gravity comes from asteroseismology. There are 17 131 stars in common between APOGEE and Mathur et al. (2017), while with LAMOST, there are 32 547 objects in common. We find a good agreement between \(\log g\) in APOGEE and the surface gravities revised in Mathur et al. (2017). This is expected as APOGEE surface gravities are calibrated to Kepler seismic log g. The surface gravity for dwarfs stars in LAMOST show an agreement with the gravities derived in Mathur et al. for the Kepler field, while for giants, there is a clear offset and a large scatter of 0.24 dex.

Ho et al. (2017) used the Cannon (Ness et al. 2015) to transfer-calibrating information from the APOGEE DR12 survey to determine precise \(T_{\text{eff}}\), \(\log g\), and [Fe/H] calibration for the spectra of 454 180 LAMOST giants. We find 17 482 stars in common between APOGEE DR14 and the catalog from Ho et al. (2017). The two data-sets agree well in general. The offset in [Fe/H] we found by comparing APOGEE DR14 and LAMOST DR3 is less evident in this new comparison, but the scatter remains similar. Furthermore, the offset in \(\log g\) is still present, with a scatter of \(\sim 0.2\) dex, which is similar to that found between the APOGEE gravities and those found from the LAMOST/Cannon pipeline. The discrepancies in the stellar parameters are nearly independent of the [S/N] in the APOGEE spectra. However, we find dependences in the discrepancies of the stellar parameters with respect to \(T_{\text{eff}}\). For the metal-rich stars, we also find a different trend for the [Fe/H] discrepancies with respect to [Fe/H] in APOGEE DR14. There is also a temperature and metallicity dependence in the calibration from DR12 to DR14. These dependences are also present in the transformation of LAMOST to APOGEE parameters space via the Cannon, but these temperatures and metallicity dependences are weaker than those observed in the transformation from DR12 to DR14. We report no correlation between the DR14 – DR12 discrepancies and DR14 – LAMOST tied to DR12 for \(T_{\text{eff}}\), where a correlation would be expected if LAMOST is correctly transferred into APOGEE DR12. We find no correlation either between the [Fe/H] discrepancies, suggesting that LAMOST/Cannon is not entirely in the APOGEE DR12 stellar parameters space, or suggesting that because of the low resolution of LAMOST, the uncertainties in the stellar parameters are large. We also report a [Fe/H] dependence in
Fig. 18. $T_{\text{eff}}$ discrepancies between APOGEE DR14 and DR12 with respect to APOGEE DR14 and LAMOST on the APOGEE DR12 stellar parameters space. The three graphics are color-coded by $T_{\text{eff}}$, [Fe/H] and log $g$ from APOGEE DR14.

Fig. 19. [Fe/H] discrepancies between APOGEE DR14 and DR12 with respect to APOGEE DR14 and LAMOST on the APOGEE DR12 stellar parameters space. The three graphics are color-coded by $T_{\text{eff}}$, [Fe/H], and log $g$ from APOGEE DR14.

the calibration applied to the stellar parameters from APOGEE DR12 to DR14. We find a weak correlation between APOGEE DR14 – DR12 and LAMOST on DR12 surface gravity for stars hotter than 4800 K and in the log $g$ range from 2.0 to 2.8 dex, but we do not observe an [Fe/H] dependency in the gravity discrepancies. This correlation arises because both catalogs use seismic gravities from Kepler to calibrate the surface gravity.
Fig. 20. Surface gravity discrepancies between APOGEE DR14 and DR12 with respect to APOGEE DR14 and LAMOST on the APOGEE DR12 stellar parameters space. The three graphics are color-coded by $T_{\text{eff}}$, $[\text{Fe}/H]$, and $\log g$ from APOGEE DR14.

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