On using dipolar modes to constrain the helium glitch in red giant stars
G Dréau, M Cunha, M Vrard, P Avelino

To cite this version:
G Dréau, M Cunha, M Vrard, P Avelino. On using dipolar modes to constrain the helium glitch in red giant stars. Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 2020, 497 (1), pp.1008-1014. 10.1093/mnras/staa1981. hal-03256881

HAL Id: hal-03256881
https://hal.science/hal-03256881
Submitted on 11 Jun 2021

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L’archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire HAL, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d’enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Copyright
On using dipolar modes to constrain the helium glitch in red giant stars

G. Dréau,1,2★ M. S. Cunha,3,4 M. Vrard3,5 and P. P. Avelino3,4,6

1Magistère de Physique Fondamentale, Université Paris-Saclay, Bât. 625, F-91405 Orsay CEDEX, France
2LESIA, Observatoire de Paris, PSL Research University, CNRS, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Université Paris Diderot, F-92195 Meudon, France
3Instituto de Astrofísica e Ciências do Espaço, Universidade do Porto, CAUP, Rua das Estrelas, P-4150-762 Porto, Portugal
4School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK
5Department of Astronomy, The Ohio State University, 140 West 18th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210, USA
6Departamento de Física e Astronomia, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade do Porto, Rua do Campo Alegre 687, P-4169-007 Porto, Portugal

ABSTRACT

The space-borne missions CoRoT and Kepler have revealed numerous mixed modes in red giant stars. These modes carry a wealth of information about red giant cores, but are of limited use when constraining rapid structural variations in their envelopes. This limitation can be circumvented if we have access to the frequencies of the pure acoustic dipolar modes in red giants, i.e. the dipole modes that would exist in the absence of coupling between gravity and acoustic waves. We present a pilot study aimed at evaluating the implications of using these pure acoustic mode frequencies in seismic studies of the helium structural variation in red giants. The study is based on artificial seismic data for a red giant branch stellar model, bracketing seven acoustic dipole radial orders around $\nu_{\text{max}}$. The pure acoustic dipole-mode frequencies are derived from a fit to the mixed-mode period spacings and then used to compute the pure acoustic dipole-mode second differences. The pure acoustic dipole-mode second differences inferred through this procedure follow the same oscillatory function as the radial-mode second differences. The additional constraints brought by the dipolar modes allow us to adopt a more complete description of the glitch signature when performing the fit to the second differences. The amplitude of the glitch retrieved from this fit is 15 per cent smaller than that from the fit based on the radial modes alone. Also, we find that thanks to the additional constraints, a bias in the inferred glitch location, found when adopting the simpler description of the glitch, is avoided.

Key words: stars: evolution – stars: interiors – stars: oscillations.

1 INTRODUCTION

The space-borne missions CoRoT (Baglin et al. 2006) and Kepler (Gilliland et al. 2010) opened a new window of opportunities to enhance our understanding of stellar physics by providing unrivalled high-quality data. Thanks to the high precision of space-based photometric time series, asteroseismology has become an increasing powerful tool to probe the internal structure and dynamics of stars. A common way to explore the constraining power of the seismic data is to include the frequencies of the oscillation modes or specific combinations of these, in the set of observations used in model-data comparisons (e.g. Cunha et al. 2007; Lebreton & Goupil 2014; Reese et al. 2016). However, this procedure suffers from specific degeneracies that can limit the precision with which stellar properties are inferred. In particular, the fact that the impact on stellar observables from changing the stellar mass can be mimicked by changes in the initial helium abundance can severely hamper the determination of the stellar mass when the fractional helium abundance is not well constrained, as discussed in the context of different types of pulsating stars (e.g. Cunha, Fernandes & Monteiro 2003; Baudin et al. 2012; Lebreton & Goupil 2014). Therefore, having a precise determination of the helium abundance can help to improve the precision with which the stellar properties are inferred. In principle, the helium content of the envelope can be estimated from the seismic signature of the glitch associated with the helium ionization region (Gough 1990). G glitches are sharp variations in the structure of a star, taking place on a scale comparable or smaller than the local wavelength of the oscillation, and they introduce a modulation in the observed oscillation frequencies – the glitch seismic signature. This signature can be used as a diagnostic of the region where the glitch occurs, containing information on its location, as well as on how significantly and sharply the structure varies at that location. The signature from the helium glitch has been identified in the oscillation frequencies of the Sun (Monteiro & Thompson 2005; Houdek & Gough 2007), main-sequence stars (Mazumdar et al. 2014; Verma et al. 2014a, 2019), and red giants (Miglio et al. 2010; Broomhall et al. 2014; Corsaro, De Ridder & García 2015; Vrard et al. 2015).

Solar-like oscillations are stochastically excited by near-surface convection. In a star with a spherical equilibrium (thus non-rotating and without a magnetic field), the oscillation frequencies $\nu_{\text{rad}}$ are characterized by the radial order $n$ and the degree $\ell$. In main-sequence solar-like pulsators, the observed modes have an acoustic nature and their frequencies are approximately equally spaced in the power spectrum (Aerts, Christensen-Dalsgaard & Kurz 2010). However, in red giant stars gravity waves trapped in the stellar core are coupled with pressure waves trapped in the stellar envelope through the small
evanescent region that separates the two cavities (Dupret et al. 2009). This coupling is possible when the underlying perturbation is non-radial and gives rise to mixed modes. Although mixed modes provide valuable information about the stellar core, the information they carry on the stellar envelope is more difficult to access than when the modes are purely acoustic. This, in turn, limits our ability to infer information about the helium glitch located in the envelopes of red giant stars.

In the specific case of the helium glitch, the structural variation is best seen in the first adiabatic exponent, $\gamma_1$, defined by

$$\gamma_1 = \left( \frac{d \log P}{d \log \rho} \right)_s,$$

where $P$ and $\rho$ are pressure and density, respectively, and the subscript $s$ indicates that the derivative is taken at constant entropy. The value of $\gamma_1$ changes rapidly with depth at the location of the helium second ionization, inducing a rapid variation in the adiabatic sound speed. It has been commonly assumed that the helium glitch signature arises from the dip in $\gamma_1$ caused by the helium second ionization (Monteiro & Thompson 2005; Houdek & Gough 2007). However, based on a detailed study of the glitch signatures in main-sequence model frequencies, Verma et al. (2014a) have argued that the local maximum of $\gamma_1$, between the helium second and first ionization zones, provides a better representation of the location of the helium glitch in main-sequence stars. A similar conclusion was reached for red giants by Broomhall et al. (2014).

When the oscillations are purely acoustic, such as in main-sequence solar-like pulsators, the helium glitch signature has a well-understood oscillatory behaviour (e.g. Houdek & Gough 2007) that is often best captured by computing the second frequency differences (Gough 1990),

$$\Delta v_{n,\ell}^a = v_{n,\ell}^a - 2v_{n-1,\ell}^a + v_{n+1,\ell}^a,$$

where we used the superscript ‘$a$’ on the frequencies to emphasize that we are referring to pure acoustic modes. However, as previously mentioned, in red giant stars non-radial modes are mixed (only the radial modes are purely acoustic). Previous studies aiming at detecting and characterizing the signatures of the helium glitch in red giants have thus been based on radial modes alone (Miglio et al. 2010; Corsaro et al. 2015; Vrard et al. 2015). This limits significantly the number of frequencies available to constrain the properties of the glitch.

In this work, we present the results of a pilot project aimed at understanding whether pure acoustic dipolar frequencies retrieved from fitting the period spacing may strengthen the constraints on the helium glitch’s properties in red giant stars. Moreover, we want to understand if using the radial modes alone to characterize the helium glitch properties, as done in previous works, may introduce biases in the results. The study is based on model simulated data. In Section 2, we describe the model adopted for our data simulation, the frequency range of the modes, and the uncertainties considered on the simulated frequencies. In Section 3, we present the method used to retrieve the pure acoustic frequencies from the simulated period spacing. In Section 4, we compare the helium glitch properties inferred from the second differences using different analytical expressions and different sets of modes, highlighting the improvement brought by the inclusion of the pure acoustic dipolar frequencies. In Section 5, we discuss the results and identify further tests to be carried out in future work.

## 2 SIMULATED RED GIANT PULSATION DATA

Based on a study of a series of red giant branch (RGB) stellar models, Broomhall et al. (2014) concluded that for models with $v_{\text{max}} > 70 \mu$Hz the $\ell = 1$ mixed modes are not useful to constrain the properties of the helium glitch, since even the modes of lowest inertia have their frequencies significantly perturbed compared to those of pure acoustic modes. Our aim is to infer the pure acoustic frequencies for the $\ell = 1$ modes, and to use them to constrain the properties of the helium glitch. Therefore, we chose to simulate pulsation data for an RGB model with $v_{\text{max}} \sim 105 \mu$Hz, well in the $v_{\text{max}}$ range where the frequencies of the mixed $\ell = 1$ modes cannot be used to achieve that goal. To that effect, we used one of the models studied by Cunha et al. (2019), whose global properties are shown in Table 1. This model has been extracted from an evolution series of 1 $M_\odot$ models computed with the evolution code ASTEC (Christensen-Dalsgaard 2008a). The corresponding pulsation frequencies have been derived with the adiabatic pulsation code ADIPLS (Christensen-Dalsgaard 2008b).

According to Mosser et al. (2012), the underlying power distribution of the observed modes in an RGB star can be described by a Gaussian centred on $v_{\text{max}}$ with a full width at half-maximum of $\delta v_{\text{env}} = 0.66v_{\text{max}}^{0.88}$.

To keep a realistic approach, in our simulations we shall consider only a limited number of radial orders within this power envelope. Based on the stars analysed by Corsaro et al. (2015), we chose to consider eight radial modes distributed around $v_{\text{max}}$, which allow us to compute six radial-mode second differences. In the case of our model that represents modes within an envelope of $1.78v_{\text{env}}$, slightly larger than the $1.58v_{\text{env}}$ considered in the theoretical work by Broomhall et al. (2014). In addition, we consider the dipole mixed modes with frequencies within the same range, which brackets seven pure acoustic $\ell = 1$ frequencies that will need to be inferred.

Based on the radial and dipolar mode frequencies for the adopted red giant model, we generate sets of artificial data. To that end, we perturb the mode frequencies by considering a normal distribution for the errors on the frequencies with zero average and two possible standard deviations, namely: (1) $\sigma = 0.005 \mu$Hz, which will be referred to as the best-case scenario and (2) $\sigma = 0.01 \mu$Hz, which corresponds to a more realistic scenario, considering the results from the analysis of stars observed by Kepler for a period of 4 yr (tables 1, A.1, and B.1–B.49; Corsaro et al. 2015; Vrard et al. 2018).

## 3 INFERRING THE ‘PURE’ ACOUSTIC DIPOLE FREQUENCIES

Gravity modes of a given degree $\ell$ in a non-rotating star have asymptotically equally spaced periods whose difference is given by the asymptotic period spacing (Tassoul 1980),

$$\Delta P_{\ell} = \frac{2\pi^2}{\omega_\ell},$$

where

$$\omega_\ell = \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \frac{L}{r} \, dr.$$
In red giant stars, gravity modes couple with acoustic modes and give rise to mixed modes. At constant degree $\ell$, mixed modes are not equally spaced in period, as would be expected in purely gravity-mode pulsators (Tassoul 1980). Instead, the period spacing shows rapid variations at the frequencies where the pure acoustic modes would appear if no coupling existed (e.g. Mosser et al. 2012). These pure acoustic frequencies are approximately equally spaced in frequency by the asymptotic large frequency separation. To infer the pure acoustic frequencies of the dipolar modes, we consider the analytical expression derived by Cunha et al. (2015) to describe the mixed-mode period spacing, $\Delta P$, defined as the difference between the periods of consecutive mixed modes of the same degree $\ell$. Adopting the formulation presented in Cunha et al. (2019), the period spacing for dipole modes ($\ell = 1$) in a non-rotating red giant star without core glitches is

$$\Delta P \approx \frac{\omega^2}{2} \left[ \cos^2 \left( \frac{\omega - \omega_{n,1}^0}{\omega_0} \right) + q^2 \cos^2 \left( \frac{\omega - \omega_{n,1}^0}{\omega_0} \right) \right]^{-1},$$

where the function $Q(\omega)$ is given by

$$Q(\omega) = \frac{q_1 a_0^2}{2 \pi v_{\text{max}} a_0^2} \left[ q^2 \cot \left( \frac{\omega - \omega_{n,1}^0}{\omega_0} \right) + \tan \left( \frac{\omega - \omega_{n,1}^0}{\omega_0} \right) \right]^{-1}.$$  

In the expressions above, $\omega = 2 \pi v$ is the angular frequency and $\omega_0 = \left( \int_{r_3}^{r_2} e^{-1} \, dr \right)^{-1}$, where $r_3$ and $r_2$ are the turning points of the p-mode cavity. This quantity is approximately equal to twice the asymptotic large frequency separation (and never smaller than that). Moreover, $q$ is the coupling factor which is allowed to depend linearly on frequency (cf. Cunha et al. 2019) through

$$q = q_1 \left[ \sigma \left( \frac{\omega}{2 \pi v_{\text{max}}} - 1 \right) + 1 \right],$$

where $v_{\text{max}}$ is the cyclic frequency at maximum power (e.g. Chaplin & Miglio 2013). Thus, $q_1$ represents the coupling factor at the maximum oscillation power, while $\sigma$ determines how strongly $q$ depends on frequency. Finally, the frequencies $\omega_{n,1}^0$ are the set of pure acoustic frequencies of radial orders $n$ that shall be estimated through the fitting of equation (6) to the model simulated data.

Fig. 1 shows the result from the fit of the analytical expression given by equation (6) to the unperturbed model data. The fit was performed using the PYTHON module EMCEE implementation of the affine-invariant ensemble sampler for Markov chain Monte Carlo (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013) with the likelihood defined by

$$L = \frac{1}{(2 \pi \sigma_{\text{fit}}^2)^{N_T}} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2 \sigma_{\text{fit}}^2} \chi^2 \right),$$

where the uncertainty $\sigma_{\text{fit}}$ was left as a free parameter and

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \left( \frac{\Delta P_i - \Delta P_{\text{ADIPLS},i}}{\sigma_{\text{fit}}} \right)^2,$$

with the subscript ‘ADIPLS’ indicating the period spacing derived from the frequencies returned by ADIPLS.
without improving the fit, we decided not to include it. To quantify
the term into consideration would not improve the quality of the fit.

\( \nu \)
to parameters in the model in equation (12), and

\( N \)
adiabatic pulsation code ADIPLS, thus, in the error-free case discussed
on the data points. Note that our data points are derived from the
aim is solely to compare the goodness of the fits, we choose to set
in this subsection they do not have associated uncertainties. As our

\( F \)
The results from the theoretical studies by Broomhall et al. (2014)
and by Verma et al. (2014b) both indicate that the glitch position corresponds to the local maximum of \( \gamma_1 \). Fig. 3 shows that only
when both radial and dipole modes are considered and the smooth
function is allowed to vary with the square of the frequency, the
expected position of the glitch is accurately recovered for this mode.
That is quantified in Table 3 where the relative distance of the glitch
location from the local maximum in \( \gamma_1 \) is provided for each of the
three cases shown in Fig. 3.

As the abundance of helium is expected to be directly related to
the glitch amplitude, we also consider the impact on the inferred amplitude from fitting different sets of observables or using different
fitting expressions. Different proxies for the glitch amplitude are adopted by different authors. Here we follow Verma et al. (2019),
and use the average glitch-signature amplitude defined by

\[
\langle A \rangle = \frac{\int_{v_1}^{v_2} A \nu e^{-2\Delta_2(2\nu^2)\nu} d\nu}{\int_{v_1}^{v_2} \nu^2 d\nu},
\]
where \( v_1 = 85.09 \muHz \) and \( v_2 = 132.74 \muHz \) are the smallest
and largest radial-mode frequencies that limit the frequency range
considered in the study. The results are shown in Table 3. We find
that the average amplitude varies by a maximum of 26 per cent when
the three different cases are considered. The difference between the
average amplitudes from the fit with the most complete expression
(blue line in Fig. 3, left) and the fit to the radial-order second
 differences only (red line in the same figure) is 15 per cent.

4.2 Impact of uncertainties on the glitch location
So far we have fitted the model data without uncertainties to quantify
the biases on the inferred glitch location introduced by the use of
different sets of data and different fitting expressions. In reality the
errors on the measured oscillation frequencies will propagate to the
differing uncertainties and the function \( F \). In addition, we calculate \( \chi^2_R \) for the solution found when fitting the
radial modes alone, now including the purely acoustic \( \ell = 1 \) modes.
This allows us to assess how far this solution is from reproducing the
dipolar-mode second differences which were not accounted for in the
fit. We find \( \chi^2_R = 0.0041 \), a value comparable to the value found when
only the radial modes are considered in the \( \chi^2_R \) computation and much
larger than the value of \( \chi^2_R \) obtained for the best case shown in Table 2.

The right-hand panel of Fig. 3 shows a comparison of the glitch
location inferred in the three cases illustrated on the left-hand panel
of the same figure. We present the glitch location in terms of its
acoustic radius, \( r_{\text{HeII}} \), rather than acoustic depth, \( \tau \), so that it can
be directly compared with the results from the study of Broomhall et al. (2014). That is achieved by making the transformation \( r_{\text{HeII}} = T - \tau \), where \( T \) is the total acoustic radius of the star estimated by \( 2(\Delta \nu)^{-1} \). Here, \( \langle \Delta \nu \rangle \) is the average large frequency separation which we compute by determining the slope of the linear fit to the \( \ell = 0 \) mode frequencies expressed as a function of radial order. The acoustic radius computed in this way provides an estimator of the
location of the glitch that is less biased by the unknown exact position
of the surface radius (Christensen-Dalsgaard, Monteiro & Thompson
1995; Ballot, Turk-Chièze & García 2004).

The results from the theoretical studies by Broomhall et al. (2014)
and by Verma et al. (2014b) both indicate that the glitch position corresponds to the local maximum of \( \gamma_1 \). Fig. 3 shows that only
when both radial and dipole modes are considered and the smooth
function is allowed to vary with the square of the frequency, the
expected position of the glitch is accurately recovered for this mode.
That is quantified in Table 3 where the relative distance of the glitch
location from the local maximum in \( \gamma_1 \) is provided for each of the
three cases shown in Fig. 3.

As the abundance of helium is expected to be directly related to
the glitch amplitude, we also consider the impact on the inferred amplitude from fitting different sets of observables or using different
fitting expressions. Different proxies for the glitch amplitude are adopted by different authors. Here we follow Verma et al. (2019),
and use the average glitch-signature amplitude defined by

\[
\langle A \rangle = \frac{\int_{v_1}^{v_2} A \nu e^{-2\Delta_2(2\nu^2)\nu} d\nu}{\int_{v_1}^{v_2} \nu^2 d\nu},
\]
where \( v_1 = 85.09 \muHz \) and \( v_2 = 132.74 \muHz \) are the smallest
and largest radial-mode frequencies that limit the frequency range
considered in the study. The results are shown in Table 3. We find
that the average amplitude varies by a maximum of 26 per cent when
the three different cases are considered. The difference between the
average amplitudes from the fit with the most complete expression
(blue line in Fig. 3, left) and the fit to the radial-order second
 differences only (red line in the same figure) is 15 per cent.

4.2 Impact of uncertainties on the glitch location
So far we have fitted the model data without uncertainties to quantify
the biases on the inferred glitch location introduced by the use of
different sets of data and different fitting expressions. In reality the
errors on the measured oscillation frequencies will propagate to the
differing uncertainties and the function \( F \). In addition, we calculate \( \chi^2_R \) for the solution found when fitting the
radial modes alone, now including the purely acoustic \( \ell = 1 \) modes.
This allows us to assess how far this solution is from reproducing the
dipolar-mode second differences which were not accounted for in the
fit. We find \( \chi^2_R = 0.0041 \), a value comparable to the value found when
only the radial modes are considered in the \( \chi^2_R \) computation and much
larger than the value of \( \chi^2_R \) obtained for the best case shown in Table 2.

The right-hand panel of Fig. 3 shows a comparison of the glitch
location inferred in the three cases illustrated on the left-hand panel
of the same figure. We present the glitch location in terms of its
acoustic radius, \( r_{\text{HeII}} \), rather than acoustic depth, \( \tau \), so that it can
be directly compared with the results from the study of Broomhall et al. (2014). That is achieved by making the transformation \( r_{\text{HeII}} = T - \tau \), where \( T \) is the total acoustic radius of the star estimated by \( 2(\Delta \nu)^{-1} \). Here, \( \langle \Delta \nu \rangle \) is the average large frequency separation which we compute by determining the slope of the linear fit to the \( \ell = 0 \) mode frequencies expressed as a function of radial order. The acoustic radius computed in this way provides an estimator of the
location of the glitch that is less biased by the unknown exact position
of the surface radius (Christensen-Dalsgaard, Monteiro & Thompson
1995; Ballot, Turk-Chièze & García 2004).

The results from the theoretical studies by Broomhall et al. (2014)
and by Verma et al. (2014b) both indicate that the glitch position corresponds to the local maximum of \( \gamma_1 \). Fig. 3 shows that only
when both radial and dipole modes are considered and the smooth
function is allowed to vary with the square of the frequency, the
expected position of the glitch is accurately recovered for this mode.
That is quantified in Table 3 where the relative distance of the glitch
location from the local maximum in \( \gamma_1 \) is provided for each of the
three cases shown in Fig. 3.

As the abundance of helium is expected to be directly related to
the glitch amplitude, we also consider the impact on the inferred amplitude from fitting different sets of observables or using different
fitting expressions. Different proxies for the glitch amplitude are adopted by different authors. Here we follow Verma et al. (2019),
and use the average glitch-signature amplitude defined by

\[
\langle A \rangle = \frac{\int_{v_1}^{v_2} A \nu e^{-2\Delta_2(2\nu^2)\nu} d\nu}{\int_{v_1}^{v_2} \nu^2 d\nu},
\]
where \( v_1 = 85.09 \muHz \) and \( v_2 = 132.74 \muHz \) are the smallest
and largest radial-mode frequencies that limit the frequency range
considered in the study. The results are shown in Table 3. We find
that the average amplitude varies by a maximum of 26 per cent when
the three different cases are considered. The difference between the
average amplitudes from the fit with the most complete expression
(blue line in Fig. 3, left) and the fit to the radial-order second
 differences only (red line in the same figure) is 15 per cent.
exception is a radial-mode second difference found at 2.73σ from the Monte Carlo simulations in the best-case scenario. The parameters taken to be the median values of the distributions resulting from the Monte Carlo simulations discussed in Section 4.2.

The analysis of space-based asteroseismic data has brought the study of acoustic glitches to a new standard. A number of recent works (Mazumdar et al. 2012, 2014; Verma et al. 2014a, 2019) have shown that the properties of the glitch associated with the helium ionization zone can be successfully inferred in main-sequence stars through the fitting of the frequencies, or combinations of frequencies, from radial and non-radial, low-degree modes. However, in the case of red giant stars the situation is more complex due to the mixed character of the non-radial modes. Since their frequencies deviate from those of pure acoustic modes they cannot reliably be used to infer the glitch parameters. The problem is more significant for stars with $v_{\text{max}} \geq 70 \mu$Hz, as discussed by Broomhall et al. (2014). One possible solution is to use only radial modes in the inference process. However, as discussed in Section 4, considering only the radial modes in the fit of the second differences limits the number of parameters allowed in the smooth component of the model, which, in turn, bias the inferred glitch parameters: the acoustic radius of the glitch $t_{\text{HeII}}$ inferred from the fit deviates from the glitch expected location, at the local maximum in $\gamma_1$, and the average amplitude of the glitch signature can be affected (in the case of the present model, by about 15 per cent). Although the authors do not discuss it, inspection of the results from Broomhall et al. (2014) seems to indicate that the bias in the location inferred for the glitch is amplified towards more evolved red giants, with lower $\Delta \nu$ (cf. comparison of the two panels in their fig. 3).

In our study, we have tested a new procedure aimed at improving the characterization of the glitch, which consists in first inferring what the frequencies of pure acoustic dipole modes in a red giant star would be, if no mode coupling existed, and then using those frequencies to construct the coupling-free dipole second differences. To infer the pure acoustic dipole frequencies, we followed the method proposed by Cunha et al. (2019). We have shown that the second differences computed from the pure acoustic dipole-mode frequencies inferred by this method follow the same oscillatory function as the second

### Table 2. Values of the $x_R^2$ computed with equation (14), for the three cases discussed in the text.

| Fitting conditions | $x_R^2$ |
|--------------------|---------|
| $t = 0$, constant $\mathcal{F}$ | 0.0054 |
| $t = 0$ and $t = 1$, constant $\mathcal{F}$ | 0.0016 |
| $t = 0$ and $t = 1$, quadratic $\mathcal{F}$ | 0.00005 |

### Table 3. Average glitch-signature amplitude, $\langle A \rangle$, and glitch acoustic radius, $t_{\text{HeII}}$, inferred from the fits to the second differences, for the three cases discussed in the text. Also shown is the relative distance of the glitch to the local maximum of $\gamma_1$, $\Delta \nu = (\gamma_{1, \text{max}} - t_{\text{HeII}})/T$, where $\gamma_{1, \text{max}} = 33.069$ s and $T = 52.576$ s. The last row concerns the results for the median values derived from the Monte Carlo simulations discussed in Section 4.2.

| Fitting conditions | $\langle A \rangle$ | $t_{\text{HeII}}$ (s) | RD |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|----|
| $t = 0$, constant $\mathcal{F}$ | 0.122 | 31.435 | 0.0311 |
| $t = 0$ and $t = 1$, constant $\mathcal{F}$ | 0.094 | 31.947 | 0.0213 |
| $t = 0$ and $t = 1$, quadratic $\mathcal{F}$ | 0.105 | 33.297 | -0.0043 |
| $t = 0$ and $t = 1$, quadratic $\mathcal{F}$, MCS | 0.111 | 33.236 | -0.0032 |

to compute the corresponding period spacing which we then fit with equation (6), leaving all parameters in this equation free to vary, to derive a simulated set of purely acoustic dipole modes. These purely acoustic modes are then used to compute the dipole second differences for each simulation. We repeat the procedure for a total of 200 simulations and for each simulation we fit the resulting radial and dipolar second differences simultaneously with equation (12), taking $\mathcal{F} = B + D\nu^2$. For a few simulations (7 out of the 200) the returned $\tau$ was larger than the Nyquist period and the fits were rejected. From the remaining fits, we obtain the probability distributions for the parameters in the fitted expression. The results are shown in Fig. 4. The uncertainties in the dipole-mode second differences are significantly larger than those in the radial-mode second differences (left-hand panel), reflecting the additional error introduced by the fit of the analytical expression (equation 6) to the period spacings. All but one second-difference values are within 1σ of the median curve, represented by equation (12) with $\mathcal{F} = B + D\nu^2$ and the parameters taken to be the median values of the distributions resulting from the Monte Carlo simulations in the best-case scenario. The exception is a radial-mode second difference found at 2.73σ away from the median curve. Moreover, when uncertainties are considered, the median value of the glitch acoustic radius inferred from the fitting of the combined radial-mode and dipole-mode second differences still lies near the local maximum of $\gamma_1$ (right-hand panel), at a relative distance of $-0.0032$ (Table 3).
differences computed from the radial modes. The end product of this process is an additional set of observational constraints that, in turn, allows us to adopt a more complete description for the smooth component $F$ of the fitting function given in equation (12). Indeed, this study brings to light that the use of a constant smooth component in the fitting expression is not appropriate. A significant curvature in the smooth component is not entirely surprising because in red giants the observed frequencies are further away from the asymptotic limit than in main-sequence stars. Thus, one of the main advantages of the addition of the dipolar modes is indirect, in that it allows us to fit a more complete expression (i.e. to give the necessary freedom for the smooth part to be properly accounted for and the actual glitch signature to be extracted). With the addition of the pure acoustic mode dipole frequencies and the modified smooth term in the fitting function, the inferred acoustic radius of the glitch is less biased than when only radial modes are used. This remains true, when uncertainties on the simulated frequencies are included in the fitting process. The results from this pilot project reveal the potential of the proposed approach to use the dipolar modes to characterize the helium glitch in red giants, as well as the drawbacks of using the radial modes alone to that end. The success of this approach depends on the ability to recover the pure acoustic dipole frequencies from the fit to the period spacings that, in turn, is likely to deteriorate as the number of mixed modes per radial order decreases with decreasing stellar luminosity (Jiang et al. 2020). Future work will aim at understanding the extent of applicability of this method both to model data, by exploring a grid of red giant models with a range of masses, luminosities and metallicities, and to real data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GD acknowledges the support of the University of Paris-Saclay through the internship grant IDEX (grant agreement no. 4207). This work was supported by FCT – Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia through national funds (PTDC/FIS-AST/30389/2017, UIDB/04434/2020, and UIDP/04434/2020) and by FEDER – Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional through COMPETE2020 – Programa Operacional Competitividade e Internacionalização (POCI-01-0145-FEDER-030389). MSC is supported by FCT through a contract (CEECIND/02619/2017). PPA acknowledges the support from FCT through the sabbatical grant SFRH/BSAB/150322/2019.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The data underlying this article will be shared on reasonable request to the corresponding author.

REFERENCES

Aerts C., Christensen-Dalsgaard J., Kurtz D. W., 2010, Asteroseismology, Springer, Netherlands
Baglin A., Auvergne M., Barge P., Deleuil M., Catala C., Michel E., Weiss W., COROT Team, 2006, in Fridlund M., Baglin A., Locharb J., Conroy L., eds, ESA SP: 1306, The CoRoT Mission Pre-Launch Status – Stellar Seismology and Planet Finding. ESA, Noordwijk, p. 33
Ballot J., Turck-Chièze S., García R. A., 2004, A&A, 423, 1051
Baudin F. et al., 2012, A&A, 538, A73
Broomhall A.-M. et al., 2014, MNRAS, 440, 1828
 Chaplin W. J., Miglio A., 2013, ARA&A, 51, 353
Christensen-Dalsgaard J., 2008a, Ap&SS, 316, 13
Christensen-Dalsgaard J., 2008b, Ap&SS, 316, 113
Christensen-Dalsgaard J., Monteiro M. J. P. F. G., Thompson M. J., 1995, MNRAS, 276, 283
Corsaro E., De Ridder J., García R. A., 2015, A&A, 578, A76
Cunha M. S., Fernandes J. M. M. B., Monteiro M. J. P. F. G., 2003, MNRAS, 343, 831
Cunha M. S. et al., 2007, A&A, 471, 117
Cunha M. S., Stello D., Avelino P. P., Christensen-Dalsgaard J., Townsend R. H. D., 2015, ApJ, 805, 127
Cunha M. S., Avelino P. P., Christensen-Dalsgaard J., Townsend R. H. D., 2015, ApJ, 805, 127
Cunha M. S., Mosser B., 2019, MNRAS, 490, 909
Dupret M. A. et al., 2009, A&A, 506, 57
Foreman-Mackey D., Hogg D. W., Lang D., Goodman J., 2013, PASP, 125, 306
Gilliland R. L. et al., 2010, PASP, 122, 131
Gough D. O., 1990, in Osaki Y., Shibahashi H., eds, Lecture Notes in Physics, Vol. 367, Progress of Seismology of the Sun and Stars. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, p. 283
Goudie G., Gough D. O., 2007, MNRAS, 375, 861
Jiang C., Cunha M., Christensen-Dalsgaard J., Zhang Q., 2020, MNRAS, 495, 621
Lebreton Y., Goupil M. J., 2014, A&A, 569, A21
