BEHAVIORS OF B STAR CONTINUA AND ABSORPTION FEATURES DETERMINED FROM THE TD1 S2/68 "ULTRAVIOLET BRIGHT STAR SPECTROPHOTOMETRIC CATALOGUE" AND FROM COPERNICUS SPECTRA

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Ultraviolet low resolution spectra of most of the B stars observed with the S2/68 experiment onboard the TD1 satellite in the spectral range 1350 A - 2500 A are computer-investigated in order to define a grid of standard behaviors (J.M. Vreux and J.P. Swings, 1976 Astron. Astrophys., in press). The behavior of the relative intensities of the Balmer and Paschen continua is studied as a function of the spectral type and the visible photometric index Q : both relations are shown to be luminosity dependent. A comparison to theoretical predictions and to previous studies is also presented. A measure of the slope of the pseudo-continuum drawn between $\sim \lambda$ 1660 A and $\sim \lambda$ 2550 A is studied in the same way: the effect of luminosity is discussed in connection with recently proposed temperature scales for supergiants. The behavior of the depths of the absorption features at $\lambda\lambda$ 1550 A, 1940 A, 2000 A, 2055 A, 2105 A, 2340 A and 2395 A with respect to the spectral type, the Q index and the luminosity class is also briefly presented. Special emphasis is given to the absorption features at λ 1550 A in connection to the discussion of the FeIII lines in the ultraviolet spectra of early B stars by J.P. Swings, M. Klutz, J.M. Vreux and E. Peytremann (1976, Astron. Astrophys. Suppl. 25, 193). Preliminary results of a study of high resolution Copernicus spectra in the λ 1550 A region are also presented: it is shown that the role of FeIII remains predominant for stars of spectral type as early as about B1II - B1III (J.P. Swings and J.M. Vreux, to be published).

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