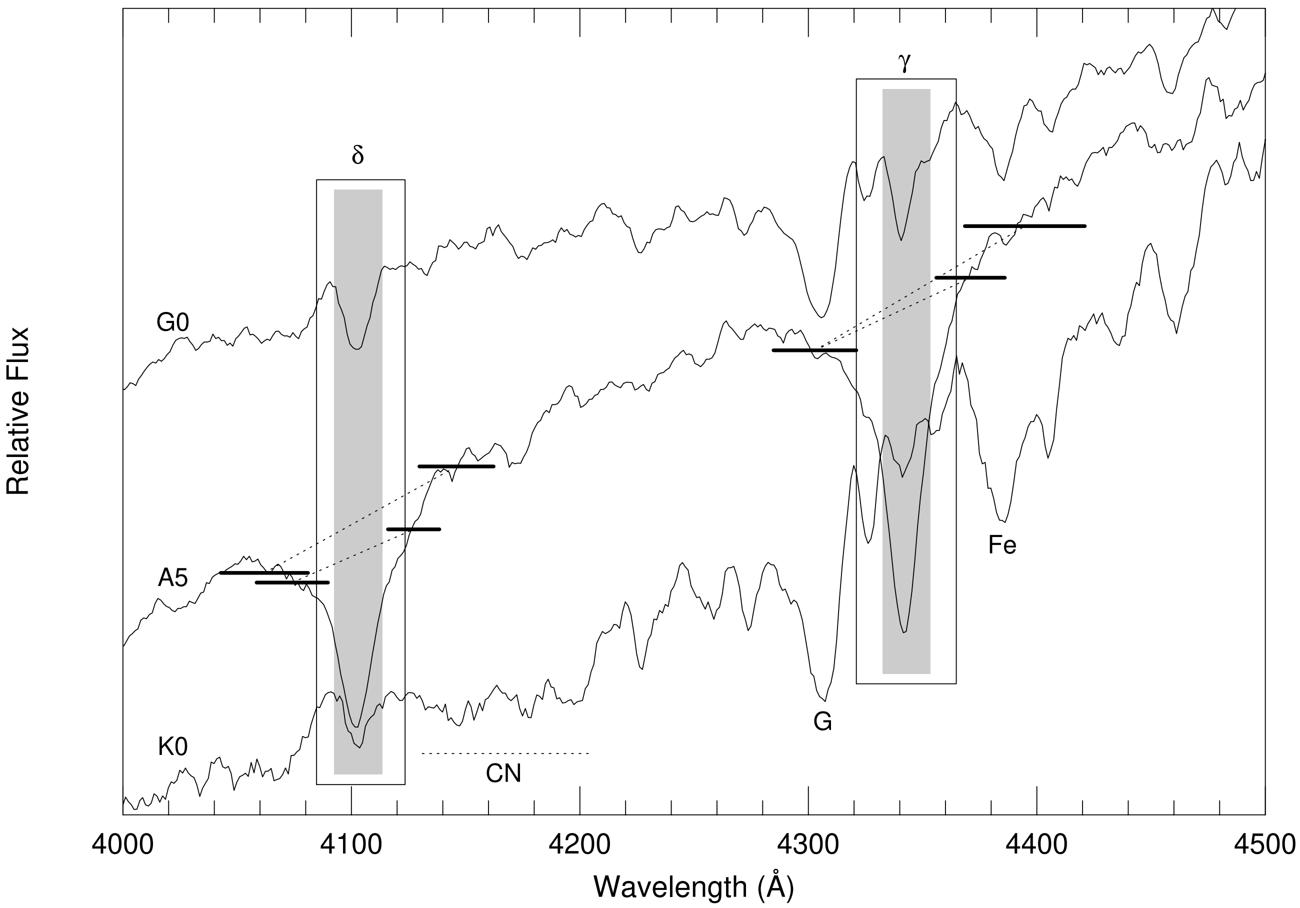

Fig. 1.— Representative stellar spectra are plotted with the definitions of all four Balmer indices shown. The flux scale is arbitrary and the spectra retain the instrumental response of the IDS (they are not flattened or fluxed). Stars of spectral type A5 V (HR 7141), G0 V (HR 660), and K0 III (HR 6018) are shown. The central passbands are shown as boxes, filled for the F-definitions, empty for the wider A-definitions. Pseudo-continuum sidebands are illustrated on the spectrum of the A-star as bold horizontal strokes at the approximate average flux level. The pseudocontinuum used for index measurement is drawn as a dashed line between flanking sidebands. The F-definitions have the narrower pairs. The blue-side sideband is the same for Hγ_F and Hγ_A. A few additional spectral features discussed in the text are marked.