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A-type supergiants are primary targets for quantitative spectroscopy of individual stars in nearby galaxies because of their intrinsic brightness. A brief overview is given on the non-LTE techniques mandatory for their analysis, which are tested on bright Galactic targets. Applications concentrate on placing observational constraints on evolutionary models for massive stars and their host galaxies by detailed abundance analyses. Results from high-resolution studies of A-type supergiants in the Galaxy and in several other systems of the Local Group are summarised, and from intermediate-resolution multi-object spectroscopy of supergiants far beyond the Local Group.
