

Advances in Treating Non-Equilibrium Processes in the Solar Corona*

* - as well as in the TR and flares

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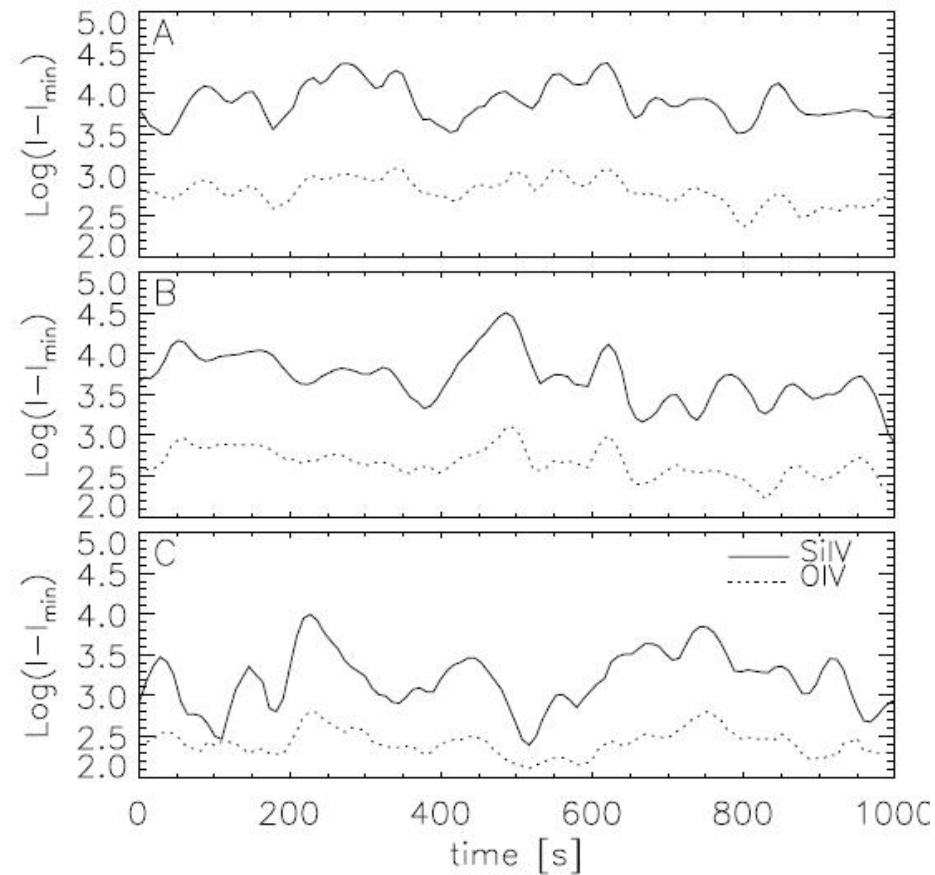
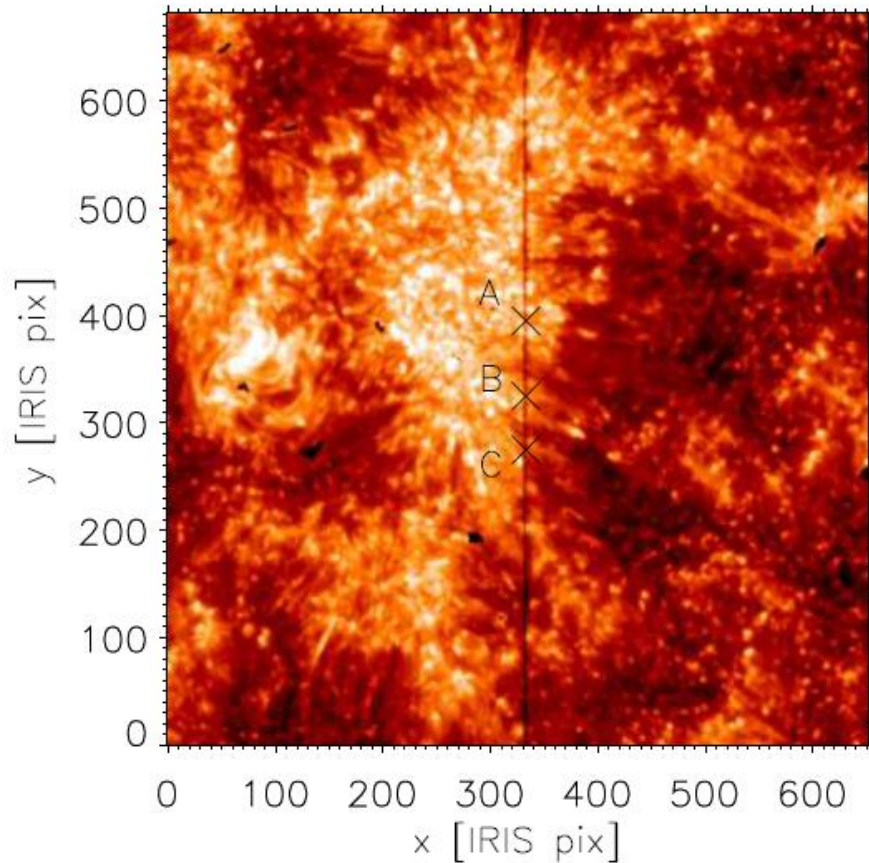
**Astronomical
Institute**
of the Czech Academy
of Sciences

**Coronal Loops Workshop 7, Cambridge
2015 July 23**

Outline

- I. **The Case for Non-Equilibrium**
Highly dynamic phenomena seen by IRIS and Hi-C
- II. **The Non-Equilibrium Ionization (NEI)**
Evolution of ionization stages
Occurrence in cooling loops and rapidly heated loops (nanoflares)
Effects and Observables
- III. **Non-Maxwellian Distributions (n-Maxw)**
Why, What, Where
Consequences for UV/EUV line formation; DEMs
Detection, or lack thereof
Combination with non-equilibrium ionization
- IV. **Open Problems and Future Prospects**

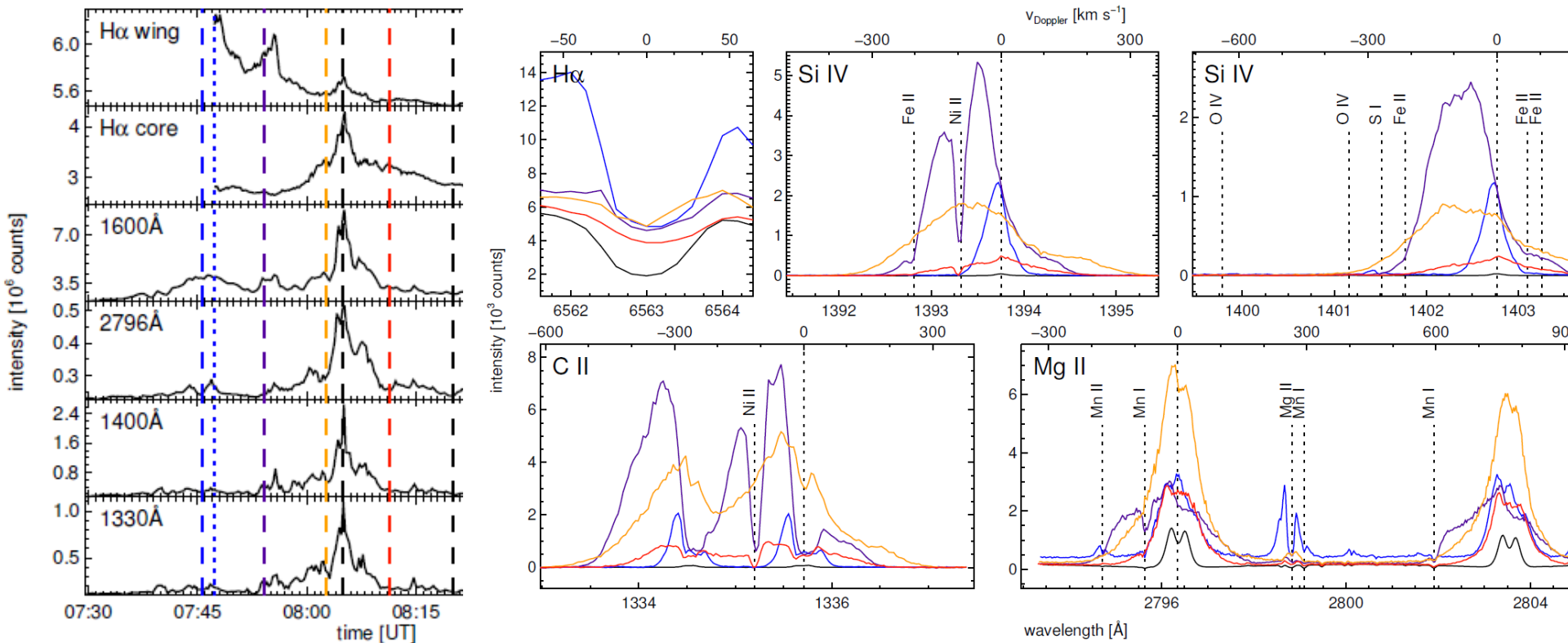
The Case for Non-Equilibrium



Bradshaw & Testa 2015, IRIS-4 talk

- Plage at the base of fan loops
- **Strong intensity enhancements** of TR lines **on short timescales**
- Si IV enhanced more than O IV

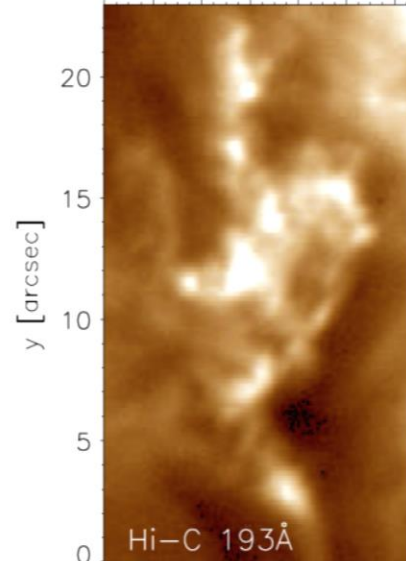
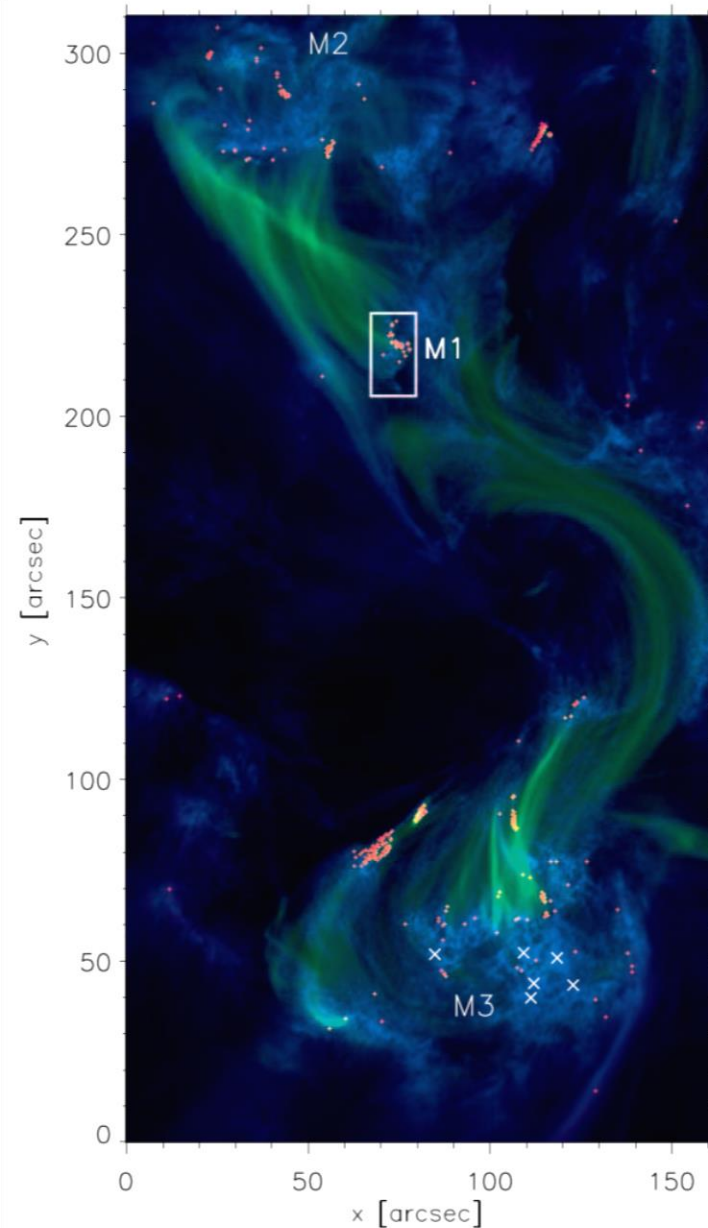
The Case for Non-Equilibrium



Vissers et al. 2015, ApJ, accepted

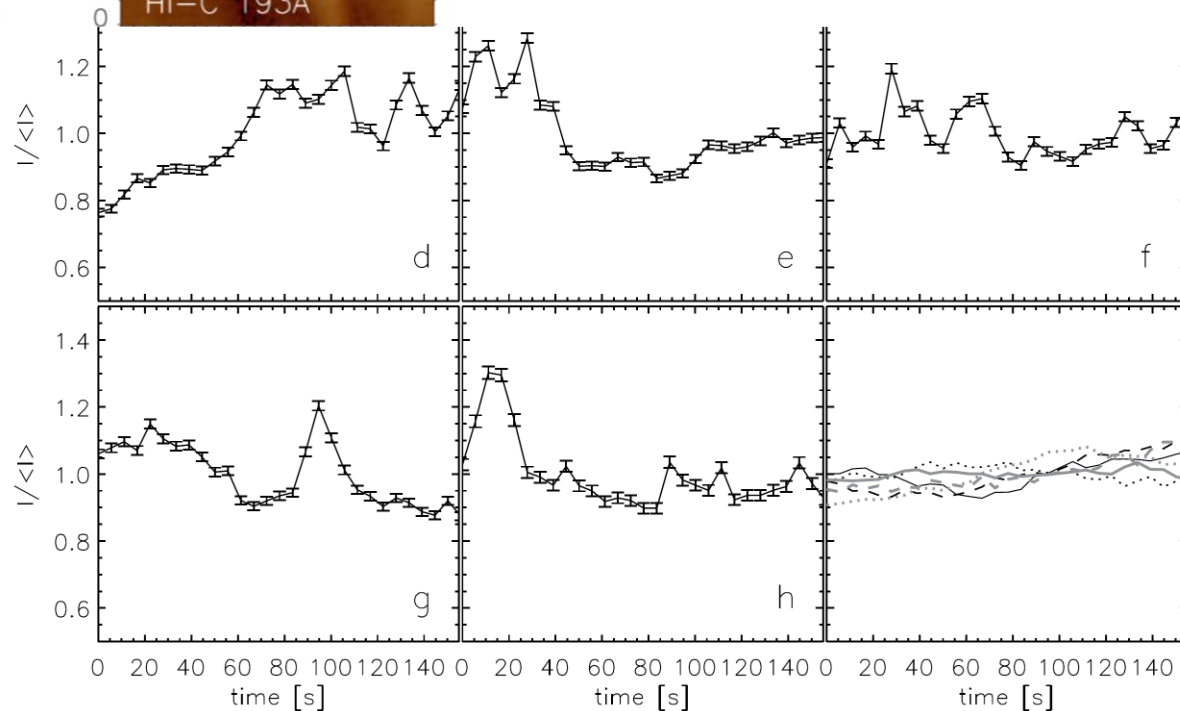
- Flaring Arch Filaments (FAF): 1D bright filaments **with AIA 171Å + 193Å**
- **Strong intensity enhancements** of TR lines + **blueshifts**
- Si IV profiles similar to C II profiles (+ blended by thin absorption lines)

The Case for Non-Equilibrium

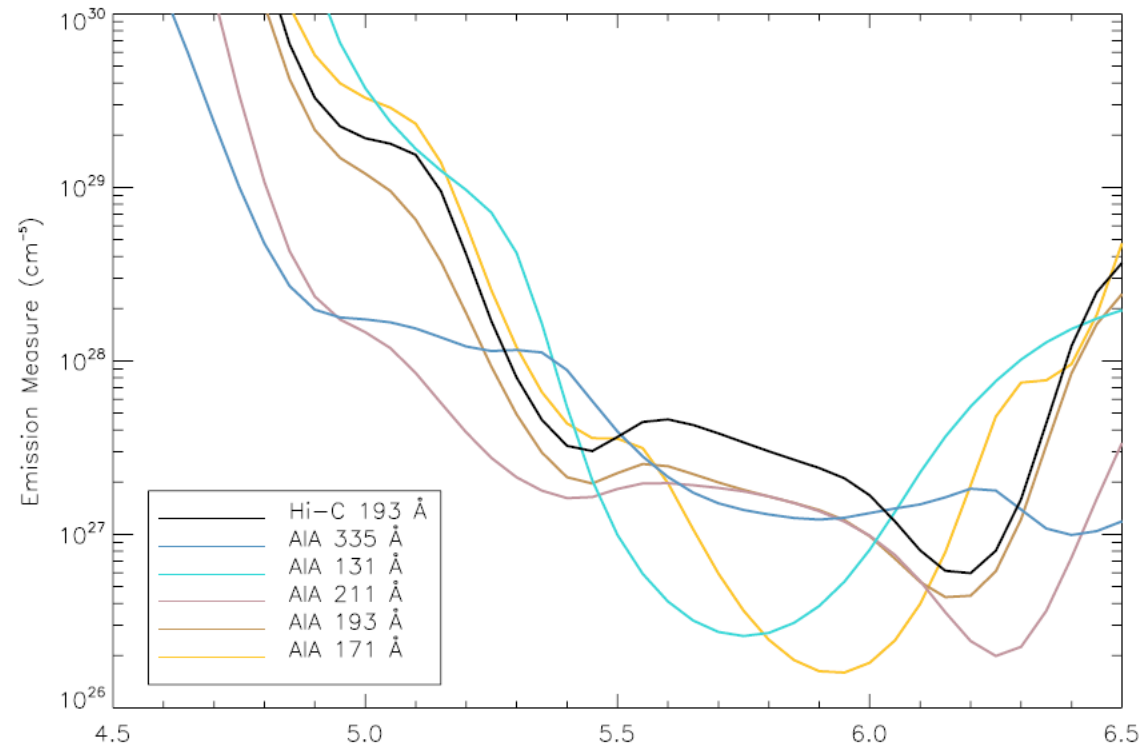
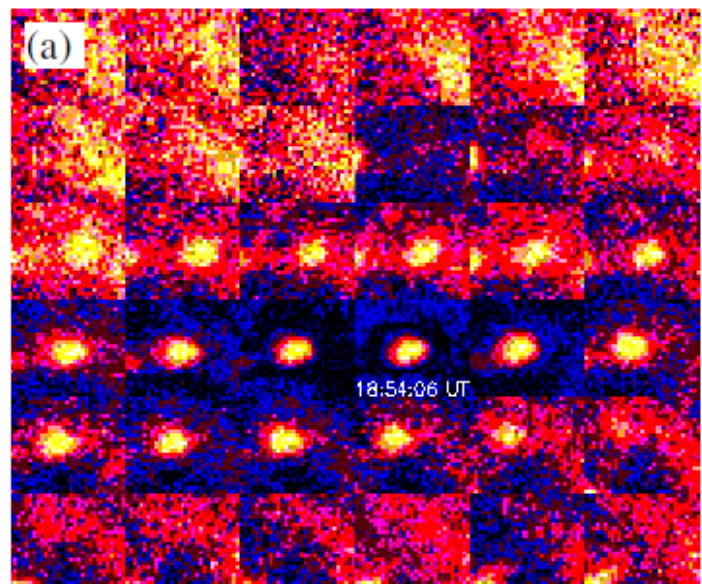
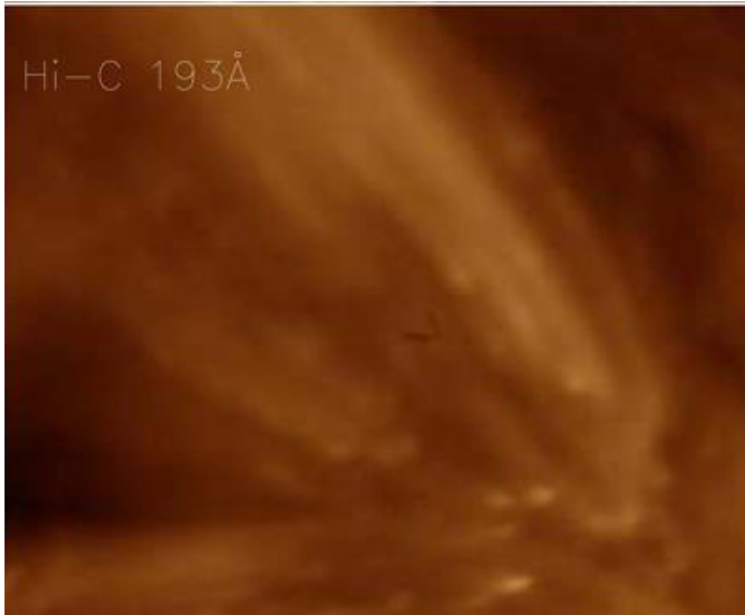


- Intensity enhancements at 193 Å moss seen by Hi-C
- Footpoints of Fe XVIII loops
- Slipping **reconnection**
- **Variability down to 10s of seconds**

Testa et al. 2013, ApJ, 770, 1



The Case for Non-Equilibrium



Régnier et al. 2014, ApJ, 784, 134

- EUV bright dots seen by Hi-C
- At footpoints of 193Å open loops
- Likely at $\log(T/K) = 5.5$
- **Variability on 11-44 s**

Non-Equilibrium Ionization (NEI)

$$\frac{\partial Y_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial s}(Y_i v) = n_e(I_{i-1}Y_{i-1} + R_i Y_{i+1} - I_i Y_i - R_{i-1}Y_i + \dots)$$

e.g., Bradshaw & Mason (2003), A&A 401, 699

where

Y_i – population of ion $+i$

I_i – total ionization rate of ion $+i$

v – plasma velocity along s (loop)

R_i – total recombination rate of ion

If $v = 0$:

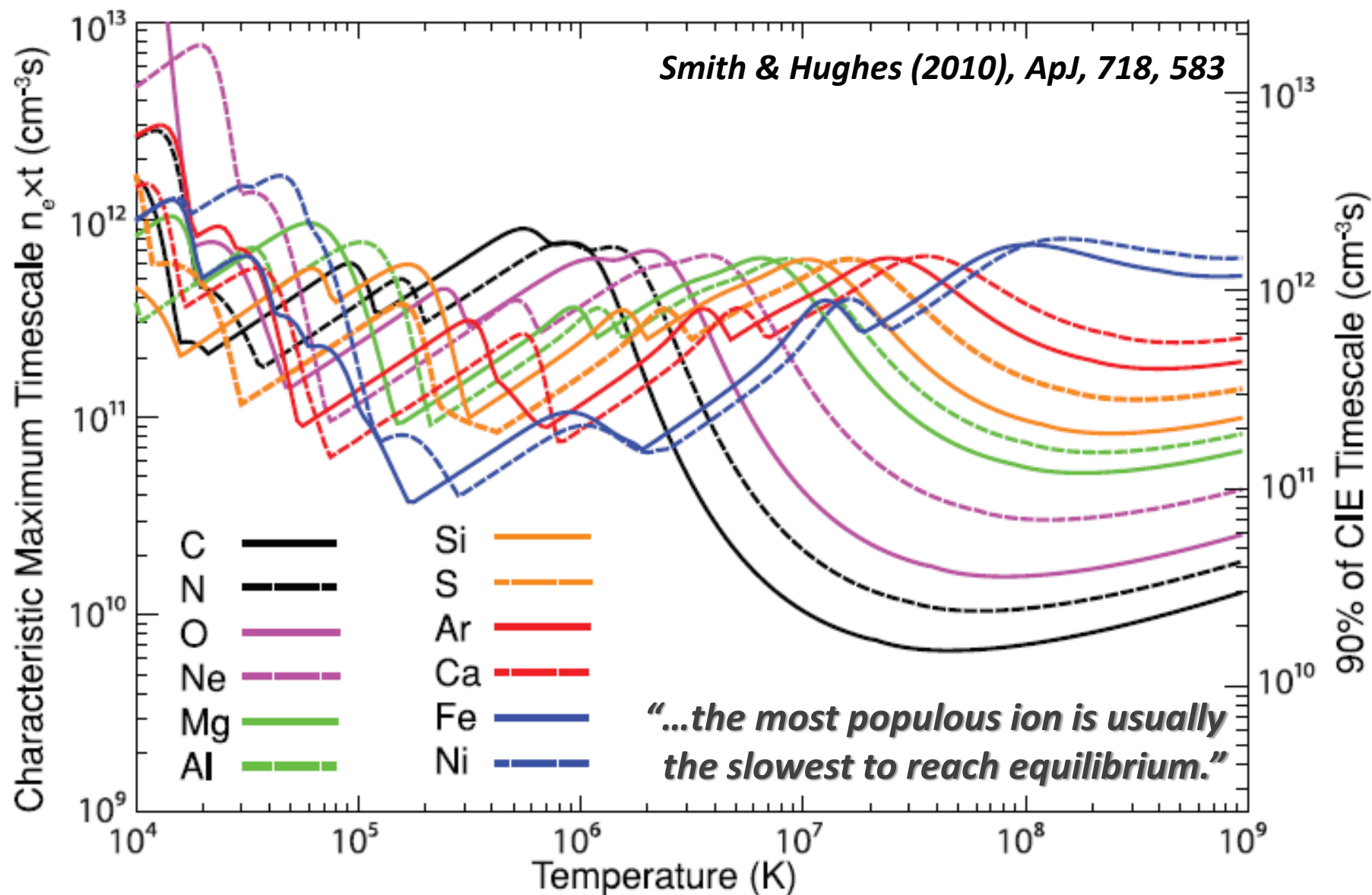
- Coupled set of $Z+1$ first-order differential equations for Y_i
- Can be re-cast as Z uncoupled first-order diff eqs using eigenvector basis
- Solution is a set of Z separate exponential functions
- Ionization equilibration timescale is given by the smallest eigenvalue λ_j

$$Y_i(t, T_e) - Y_{i,\text{eq}}(T_e) = \sum_j W_{ji}(T_e) c_j \exp(-n_e \lambda_j t)$$

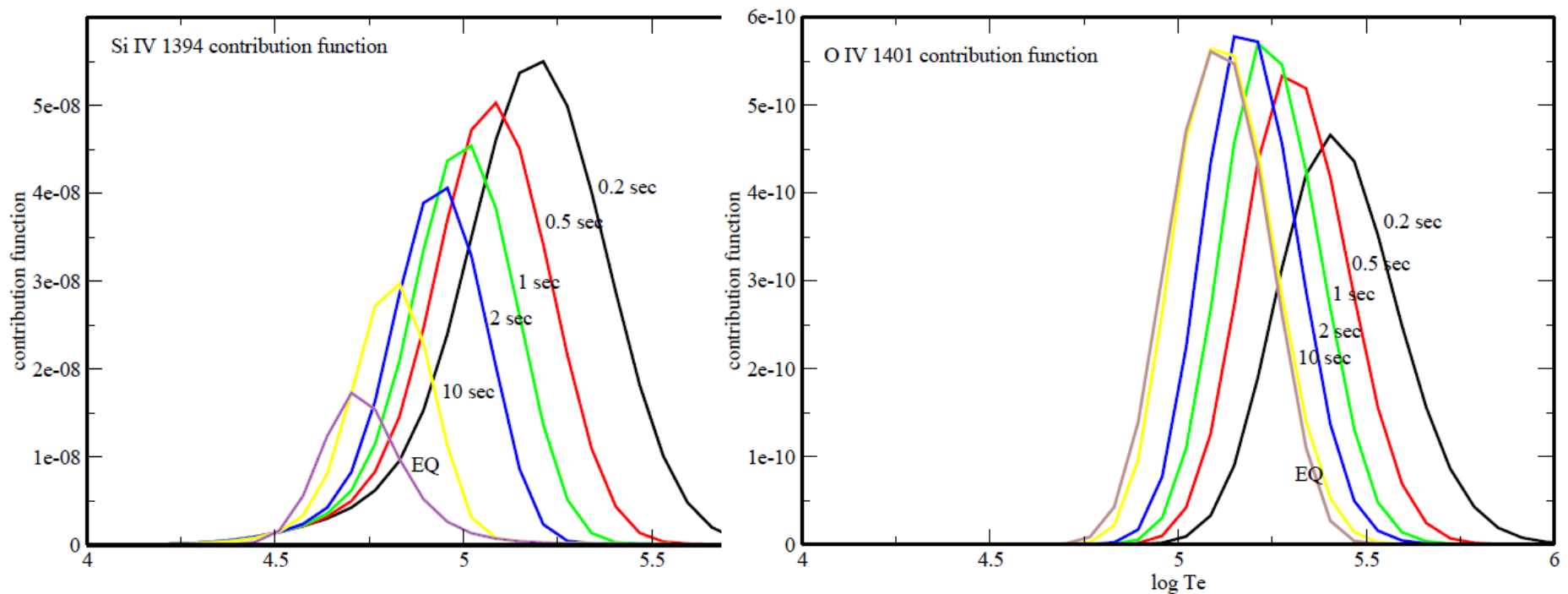
Smith & Hughes (2010), ApJ, 718, 583

see also Golub et al. (1989), SoPh 122, 145; Reale & Orlando (2008), ApJ 684, 715

NEI: Timescales



Effect on Line Contribution Function



Doyle et al. (2013), A&A, 557, 9

- At $\log(n_e) = 10$, Si IV takes ≈ 100 s to reach equil.; O IV only ≈ 10 s
- **For short bursts** (less than 2 s), **Si IV produces intensity enhancement** of a factor of 3 compared to O IV
- This is due to the cross-section behavior with E (Si IV are allowed line, O IV intercombination lines)

Non-Equilibrium Ionization (NEI)

$$\frac{\partial Y_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial s}(Y_i v) = n_e(I_{i-1}Y_{i-1} + R_i Y_{i+1} - I_i Y_i - R_{i-1}Y_i + \dots)$$

*Bradshaw & Mason (2003), A&A 401, 699
A&A 407, 1127*

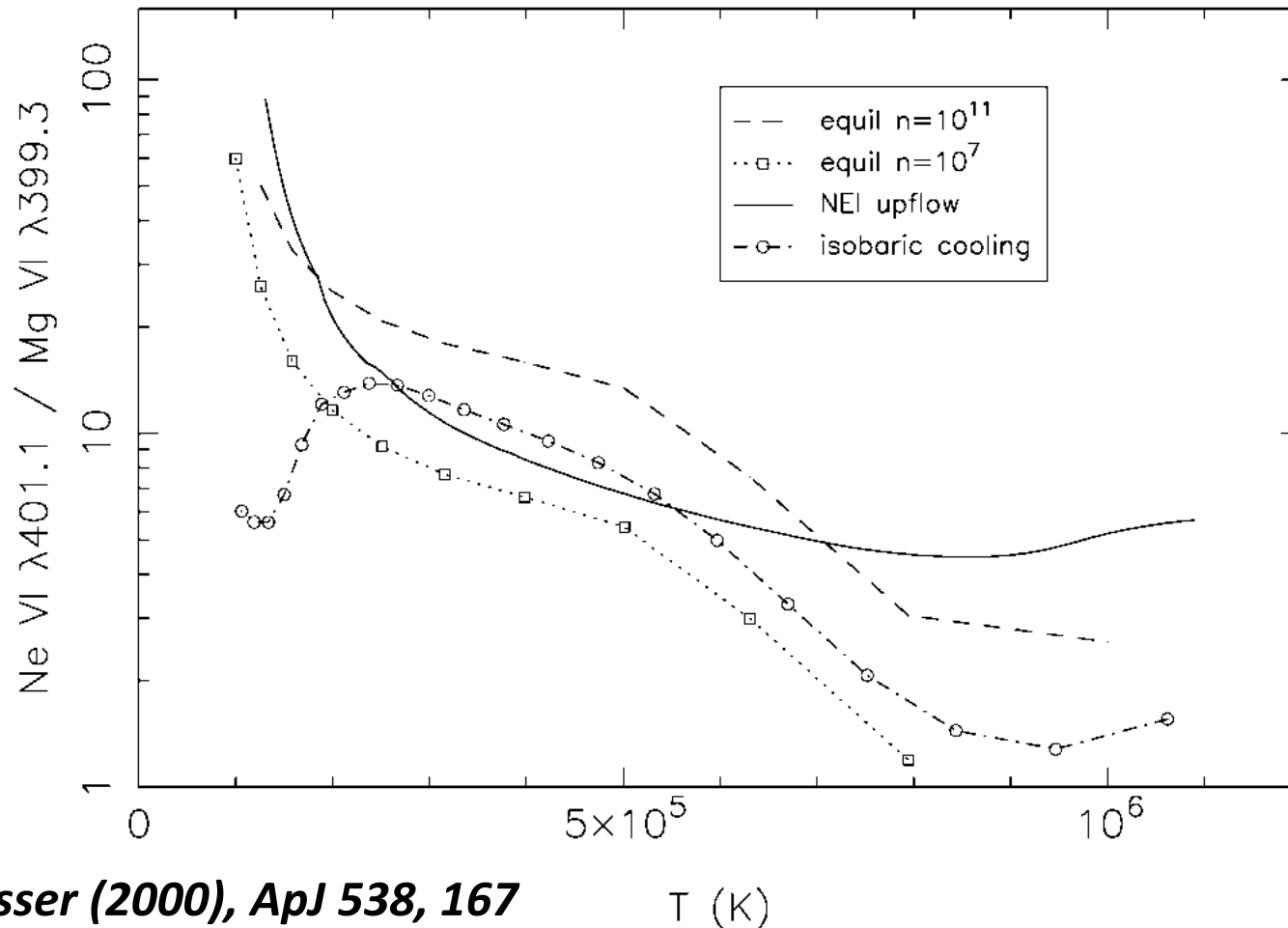
If $v \neq 0$:

- Ionization fraction becomes coupled to (M)HD equations via v
- Evolution of T_e becomes dependent on heating and radiative losses
- Radiation is dependent on ionization fractions
- **Self-consistent loop modeling required** (e.g., HYDRAD code)
- Rapid heating: ionizing plasma
- Rapid cooling: recombining plasma
- **Plasma temperature derived from ion population *may be incorrect***

*Raymond & Dupree (1978)
Noci et al. (1989)
Spadaro et al. (1990)*

*Hansteen (1993)
Spadaro et al. (1994)
Edgar & Esser (2000)*

NEI: Influence on line intensities

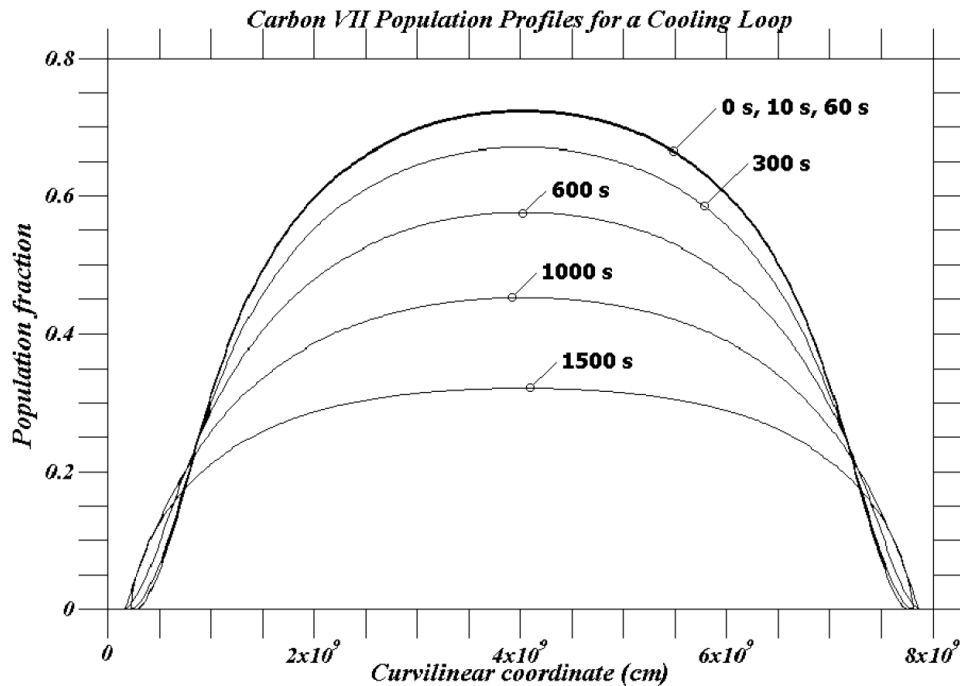
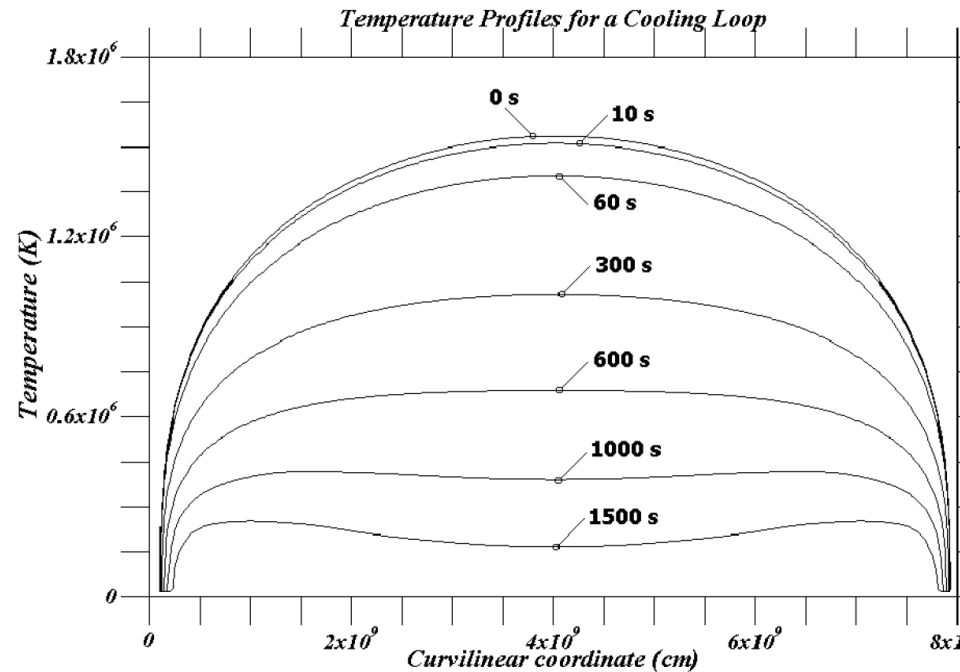


Edgar & Esser (2000), ApJ 538, 167

Calculation of Ne VI / Mg VI line intensity ratio

- In equilibrium, Ne VI and Mg VI have similar contribution functions
- Sensitive to densities & assumed flows: NEI for solar wind upflow in TR

NEI: Cooling Loop

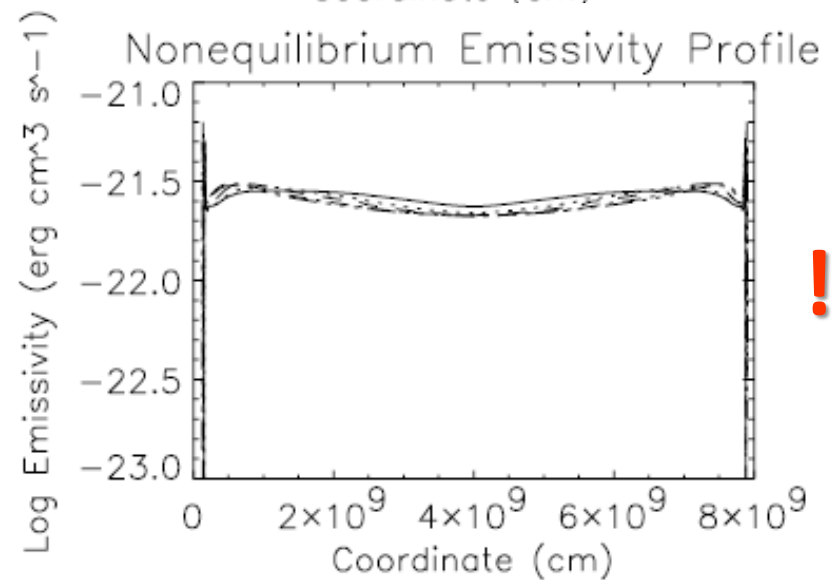
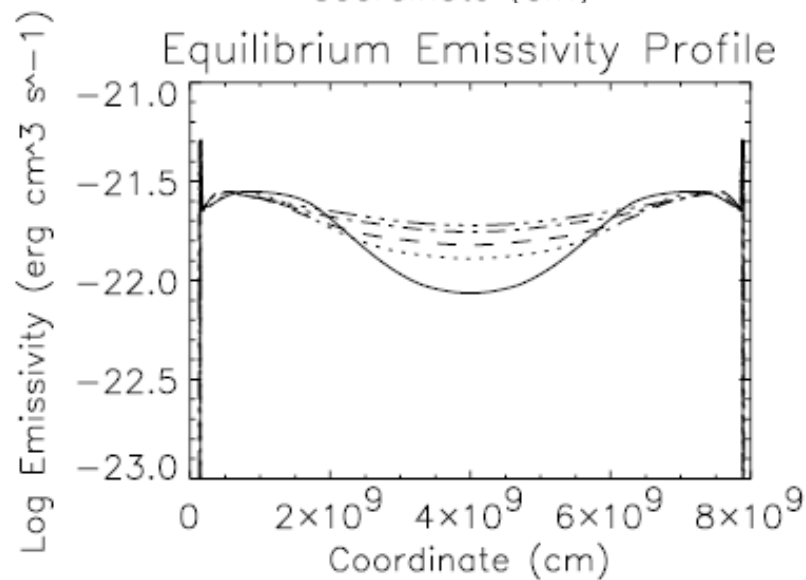
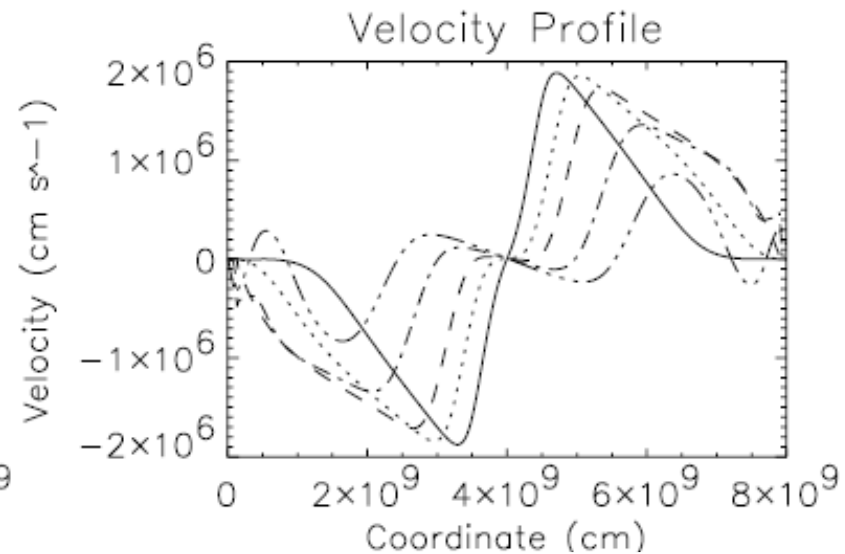
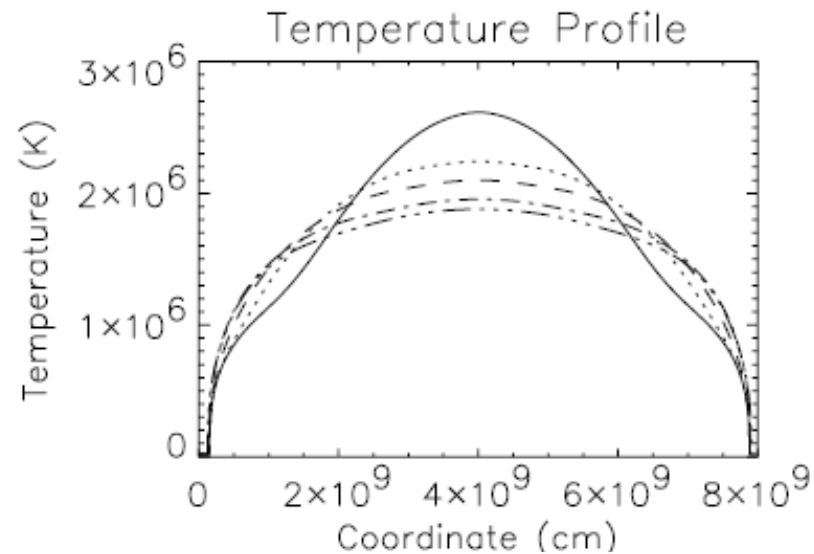


Bradshaw & Mason (2003), A&A 401, 699

Simulation of a cooling warm coronal loop with non-equilibrium ionization

- C VII formed at ≈ 1.5 MK in equilibrium
- **C VII population in places where there should be none in equilibrium (low T)**
- Recombination timescale for C VII at model densities: ≈ 2000 s
- Downflows from loop top carrying C VII to lower parts of the loop
- Emissivity differences of up to a factor of 3: loop cools more slowly than in eq

NEI: Coronal Heating at Loop Apex

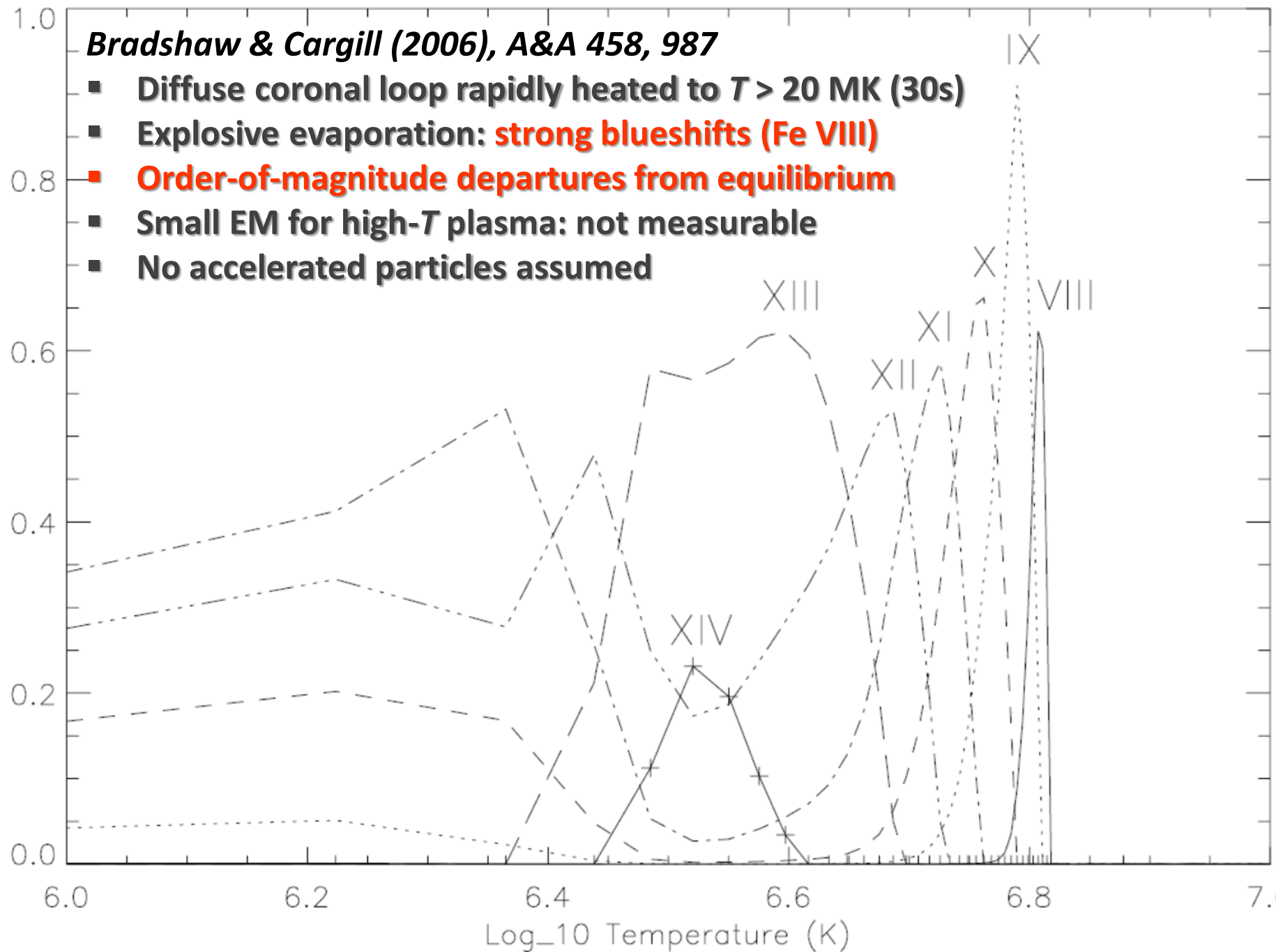


Ionisation Balance of Iron at 20 s

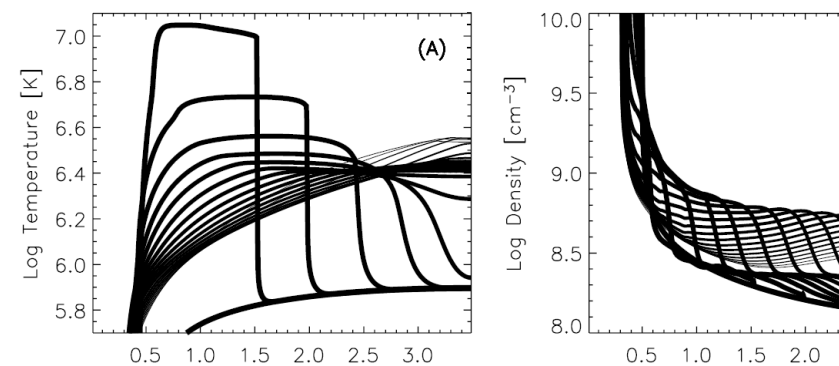
Bradshaw & Cargill (2006), A&A 458, 987

- Diffuse coronal loop rapidly heated to $T > 20$ MK (30s)
- Explosive evaporation: **strong blueshifts (Fe VIII)**
- **Order-of-magnitude departures from equilibrium**
- Small EM for high- T plasma: not measurable
- No accelerated particles assumed

Population Fraction

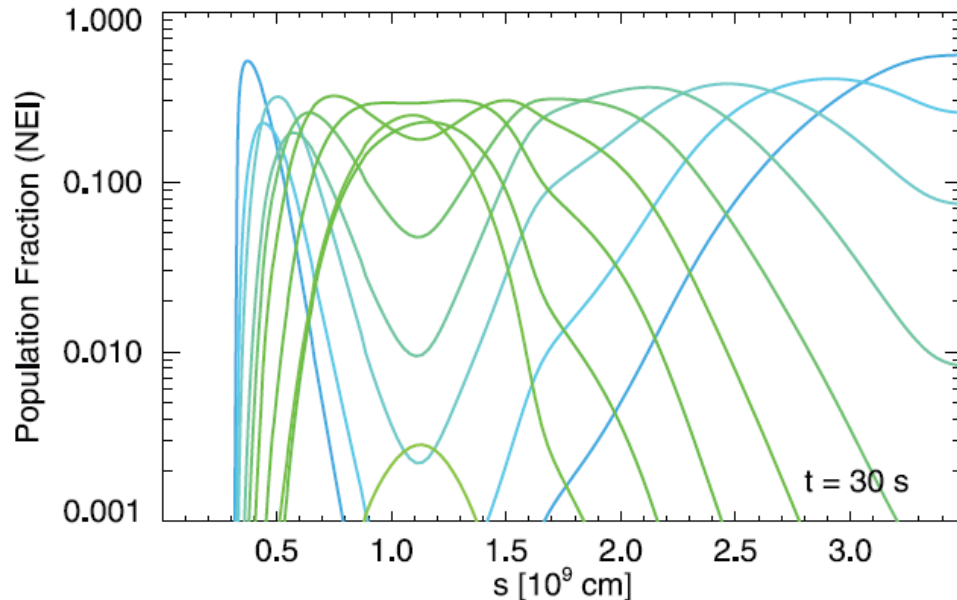
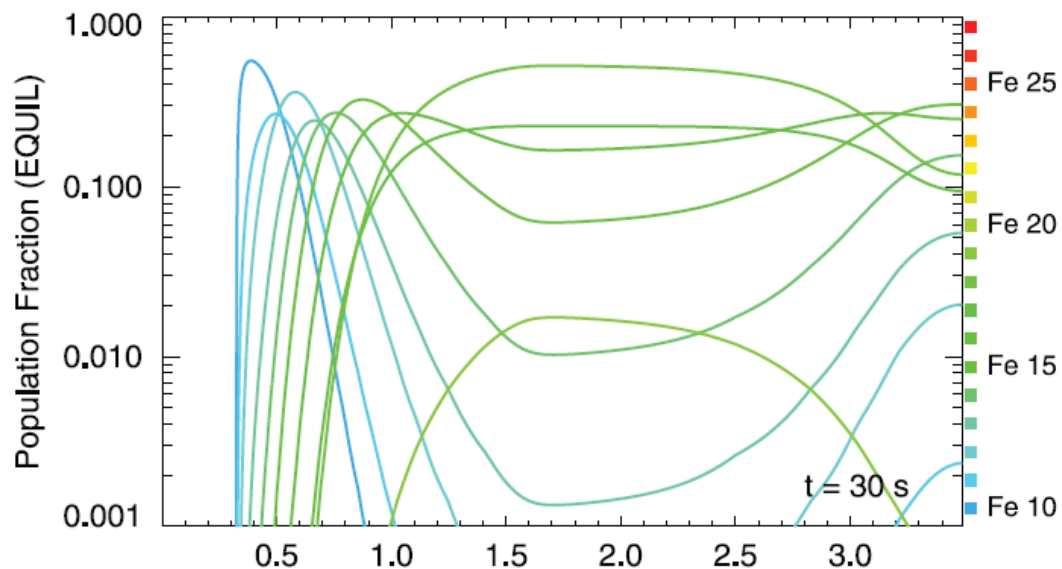
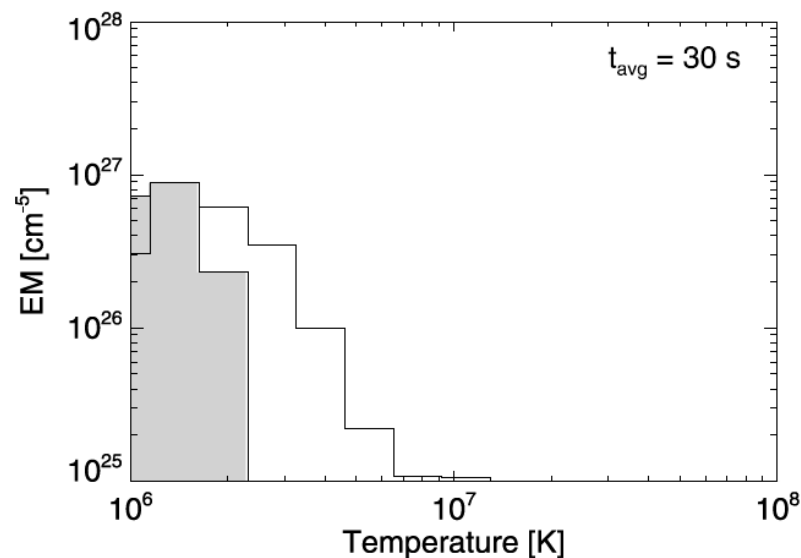


NEI: Nanoflare Heating



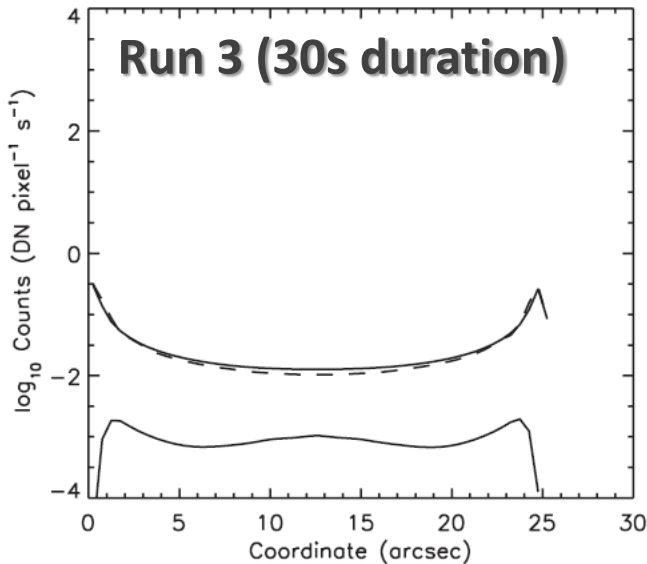
Reale & Orlando (2008), *ApJ* 684, 715

- Single heating pulse
- Hot plasma not detectable if nanoflare durations < 1 min

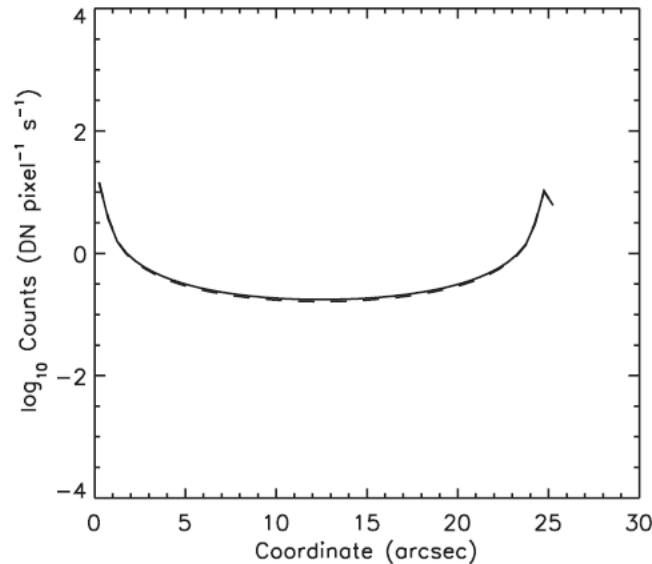


NEI: Nanoflare storm

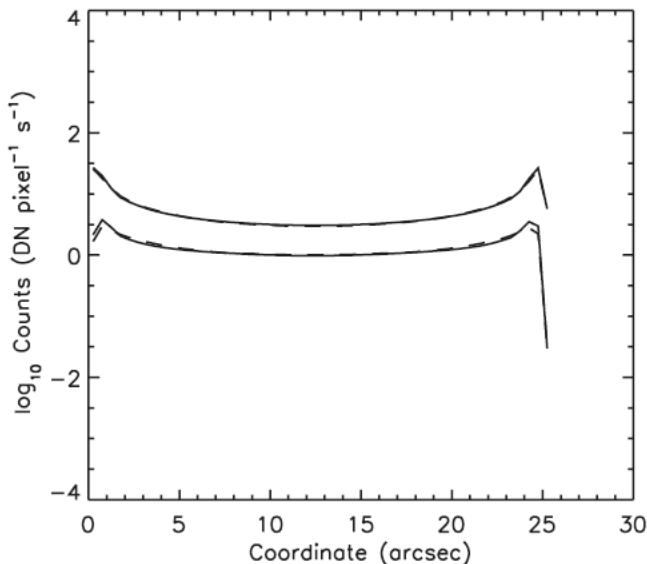
SDO-AIA 94 Å



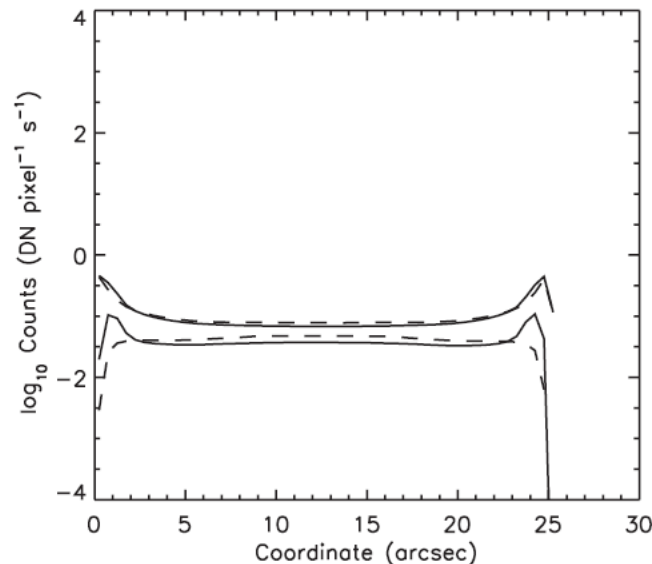
SDO-AIA 131 Å



SDO-AIA 211 Å



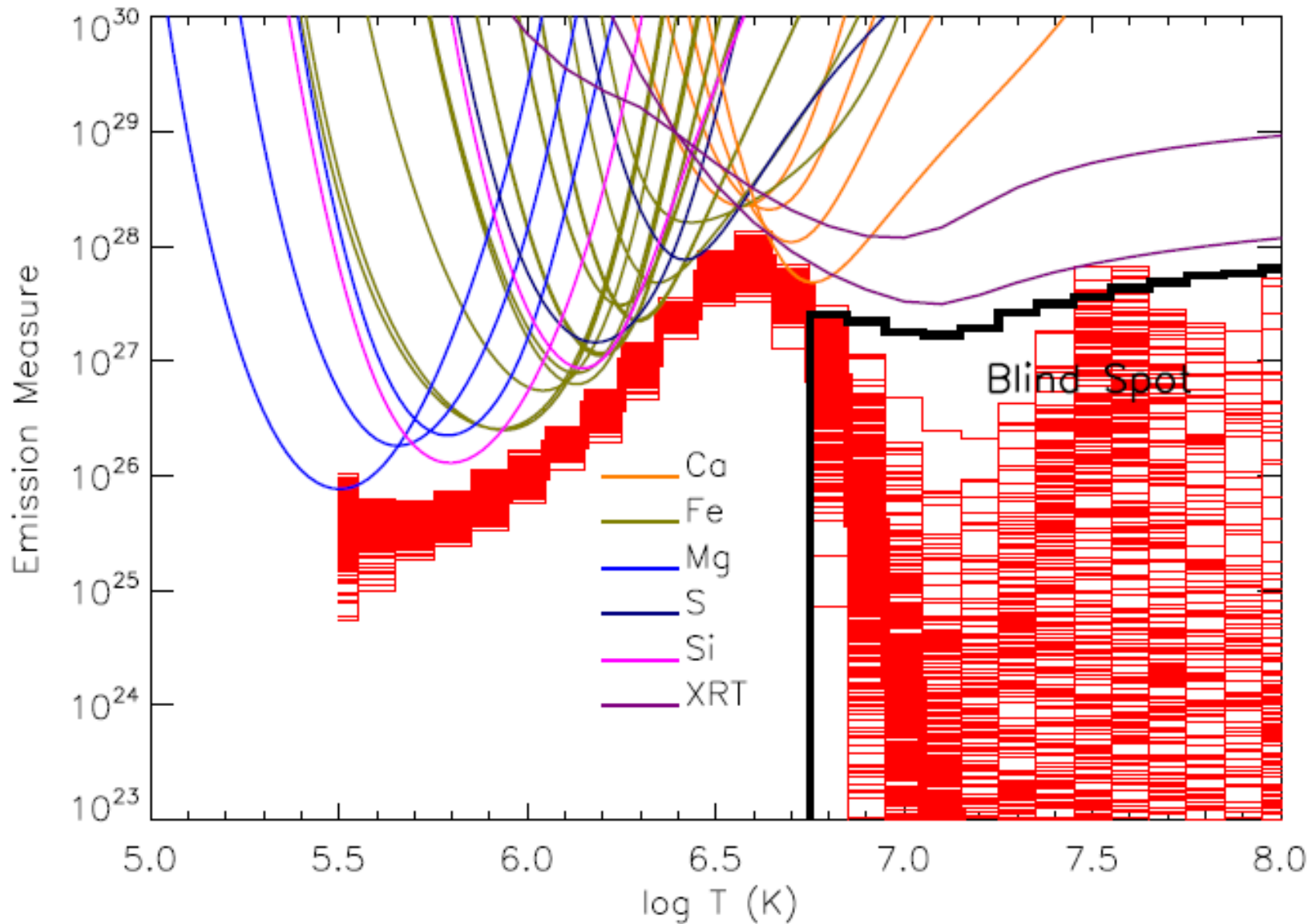
SDO-AIA 335 Å



Bradshaw & Klimchuk (2011), ApJ 194

- Each strand heated separately (storm), complete cycle
- Hot plasma present, but **AIA channels dominated by warm plasma** near equil
- Difficult not to create loops at 1.5 – 6 MK
- Cooler lines formed long after nanoflare
- Longer heating create 1% hot 131Å emission
- **Hot emission is still out of equilibrium**

Side Note: Blind Spots



NEI in 3D: Bifrost

$$\frac{\partial Y_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial s}(Y_i v) = n_e(I_{i-1}Y_{i-1} + R_i Y_{i+1} - I_i Y_i - R_{i-1} Y_i + \dots)$$



$$\frac{\partial n_k}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot (n_k \vec{v}) = \sum_{j \neq k}^{N_l} n_j P_{jk} - n_k \sum_{j \neq k}^{N_l} P_{kj}$$

Olluri et al. (2013), AJ 145, 72

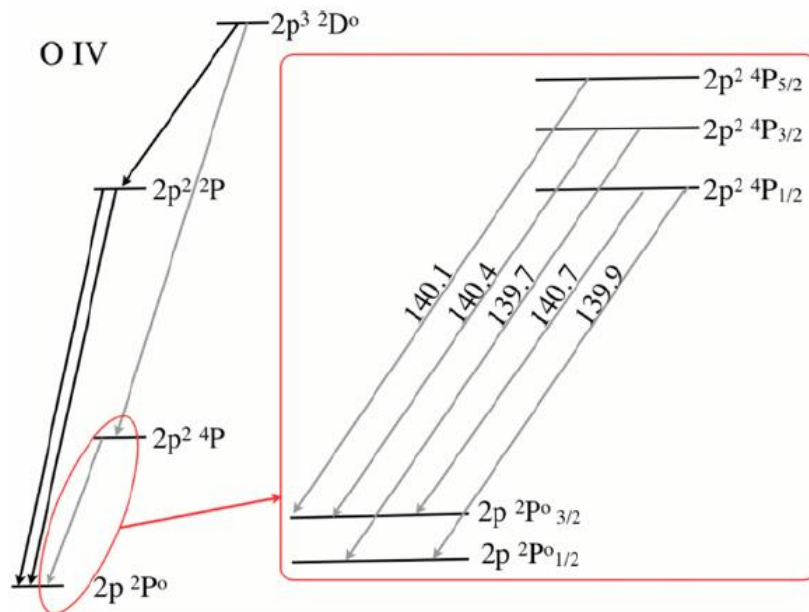
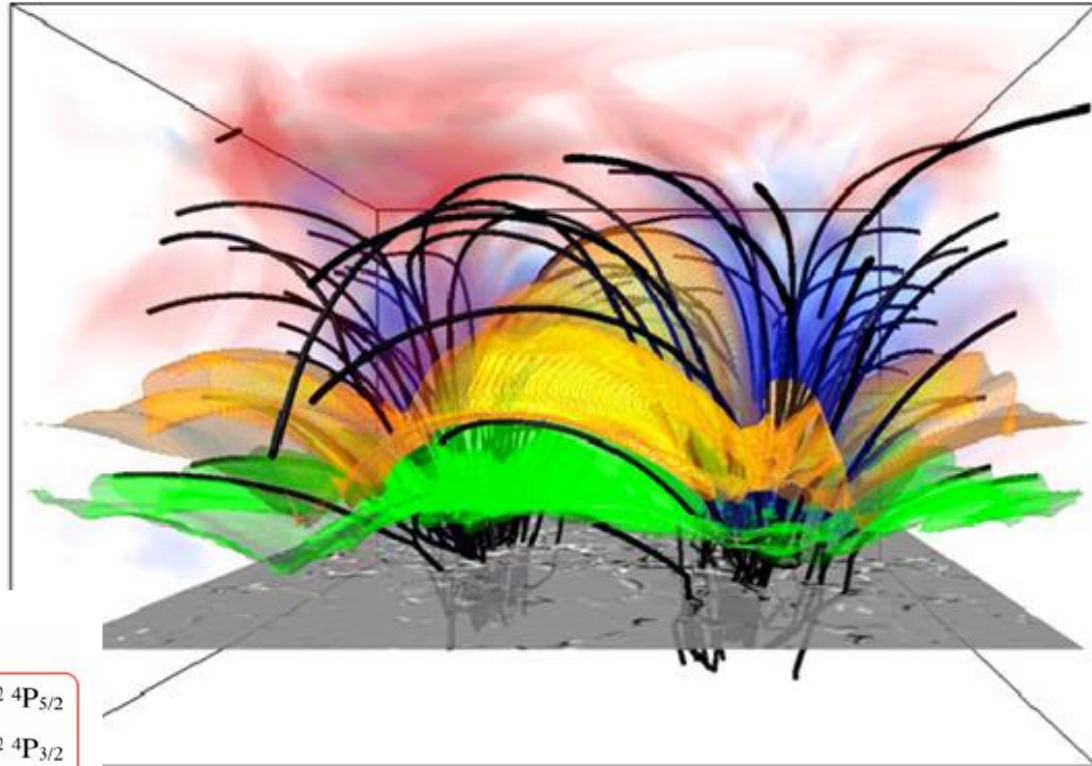
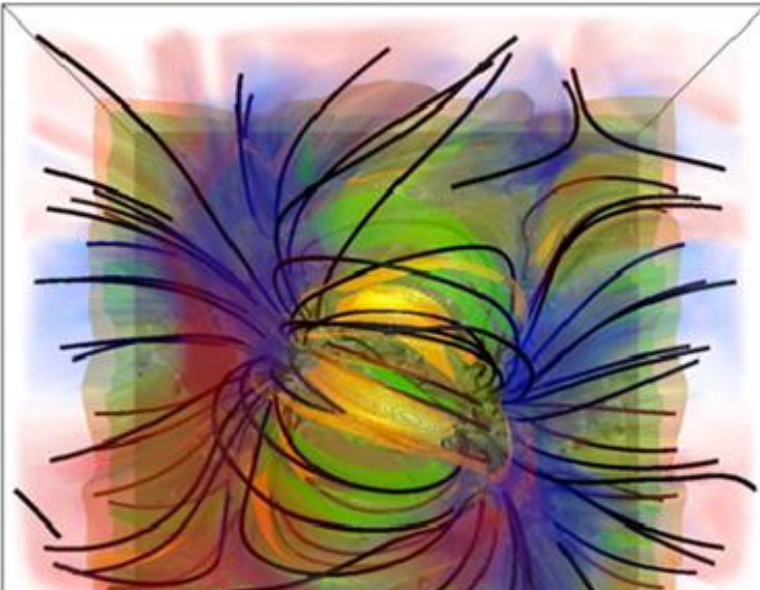
where

n_k – population density of ion level k

P_{jk} – transition rate coefficient $j \rightarrow k$

- **DIPER atomic package**
- **Fully 3D, solution uses operator splitting**
- **Levels are excitation or ionization levels, P_{jk} are radiative or collisional**
- **Assumes only a few levels for each atom: 12 for Si, 14 for O, 20 for Fe X–XV**
- **Optically thin atomosphere, otherwise global coupling & radiative transfer**

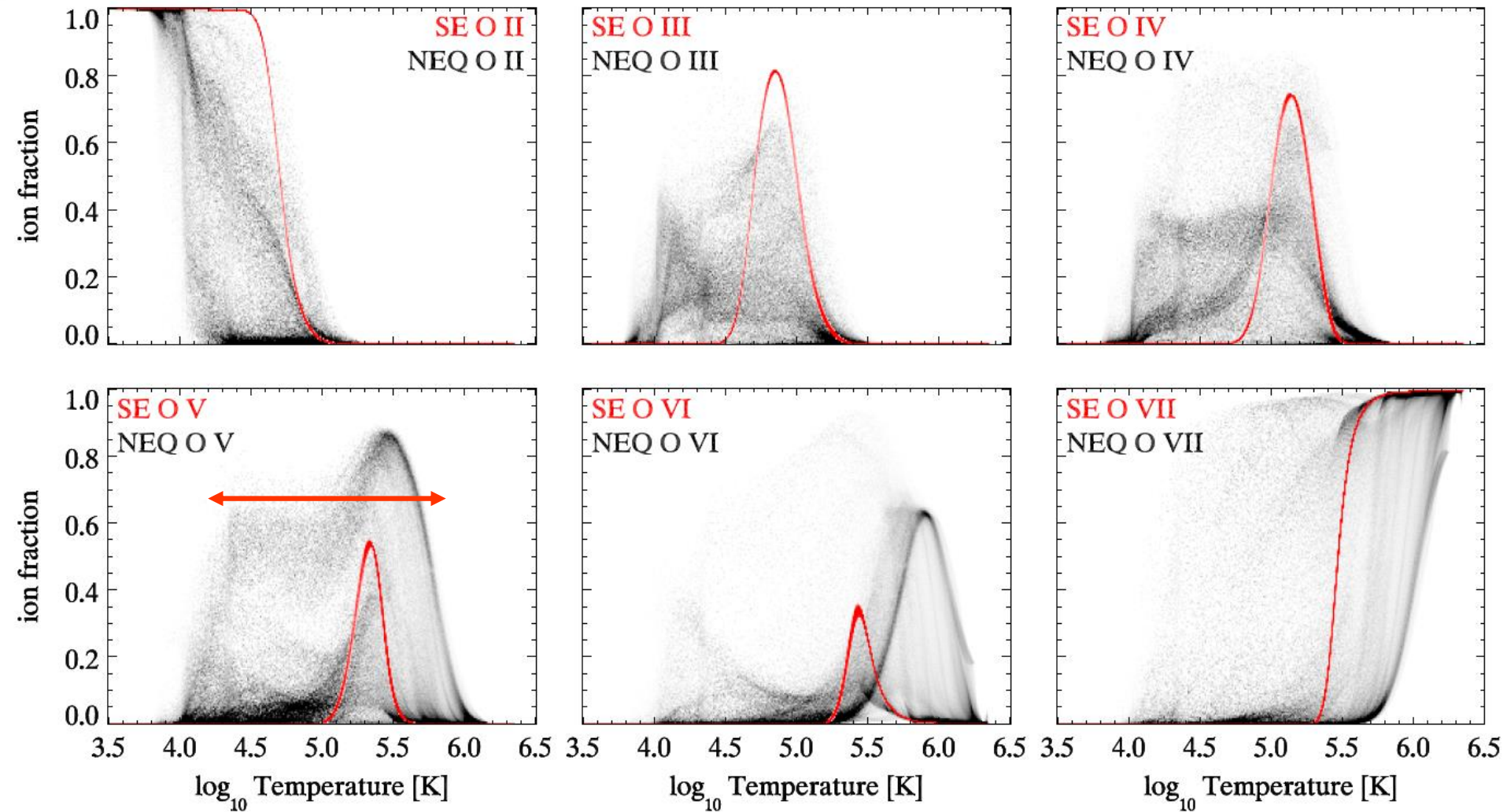
NEI in 3D: Bifrost



Gudiksen et al. (2011), A&A 531, A154
Olluri et al. (2013), ApJ 767, 43
Olluri et al. (2015), ApJ 802, 5

- Bifrost: 3D model of a quiet Sun
- $24 \times 24 \times 16 \text{ Mm}^3$, 48 G mean phot. field
- **Coronal heating by many dissipation events**
- Green & Yellow: 10^5 K & 10^6 K isosurfaces

NEI in 3D: Oxygen in Bifrost



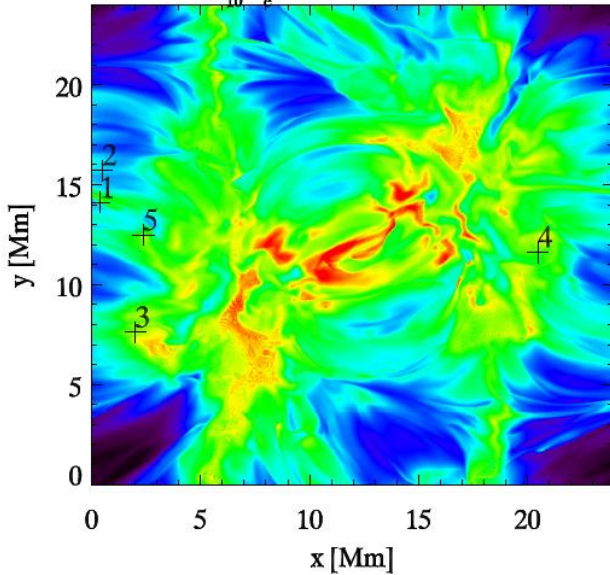
Olluri et al. (2013), ApJ 767, 43

- Ions formed at wider range of temperatures than in equilibrium (CIE/SE)
- Advection, long recombination times (O III – IV), long ionization times (O V)

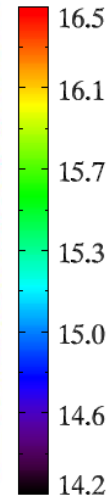
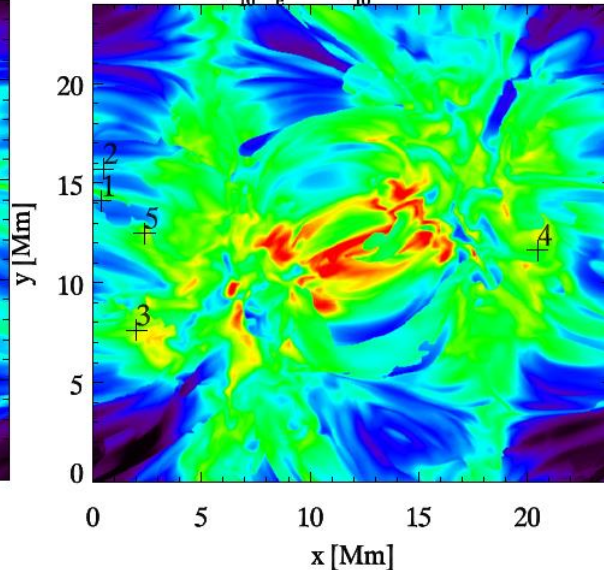
NEI in 3D: O IV diagnostics

*Olluri et al. (2013),
ApJ 767, 43*

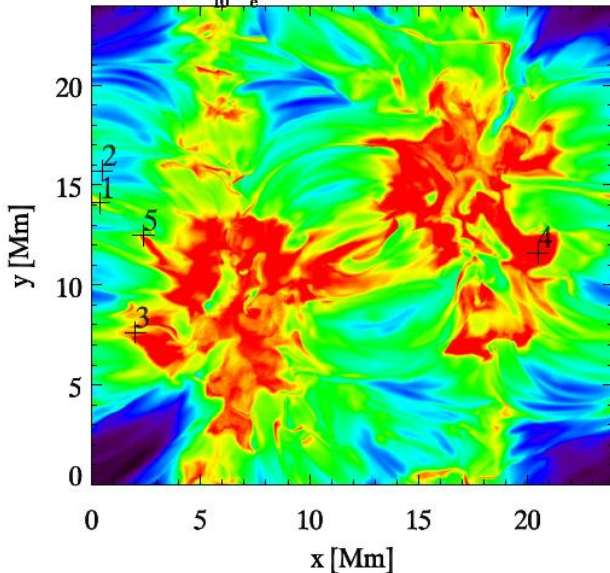
$\log_{10} n_e$ from SE atmosphere



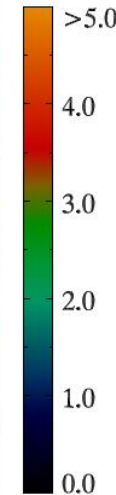
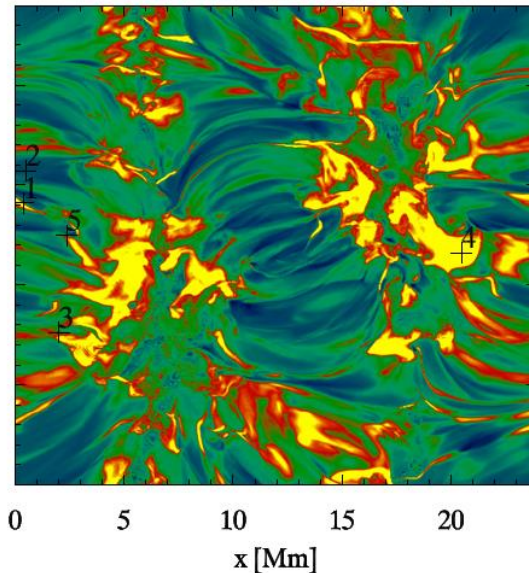
$\log_{10} n_e$ at $\log_{10} T = 5.15$ K



$\log_{10} n_e$ from NEQ atmosphere



NEQ/SE density ratio



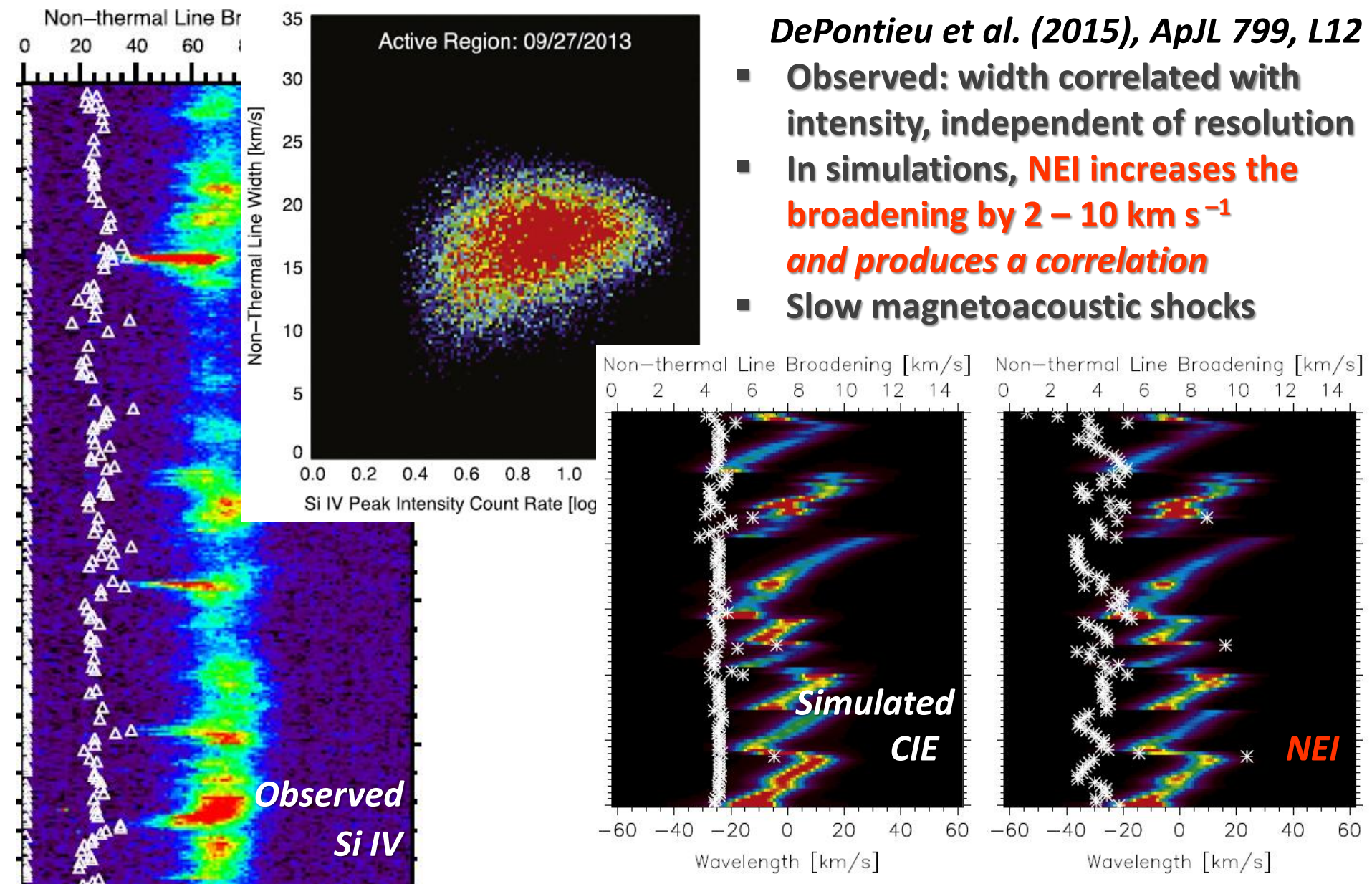
n_e diagnosed from NEI atmosphere using line ratio technique is **very different** from the n_e in the simulation

Because O IV is formed at lower T in NEI

Line ratio is of limited use in NEI atmospheres

LOS effects:
Deduced n_e is a **mean weighted by NEI emissivities** and is not related to T

NEI and non-thermal broadening



Summary: NEI

NEI is important for dynamic phenomena

Long timescales for equilibration: Something, somewhere will be NEI

The advection term is important

Need for (M)HD models

Advection / flows contribute to ions existing in wider range of T

This may produce correlations between line intensities and widths

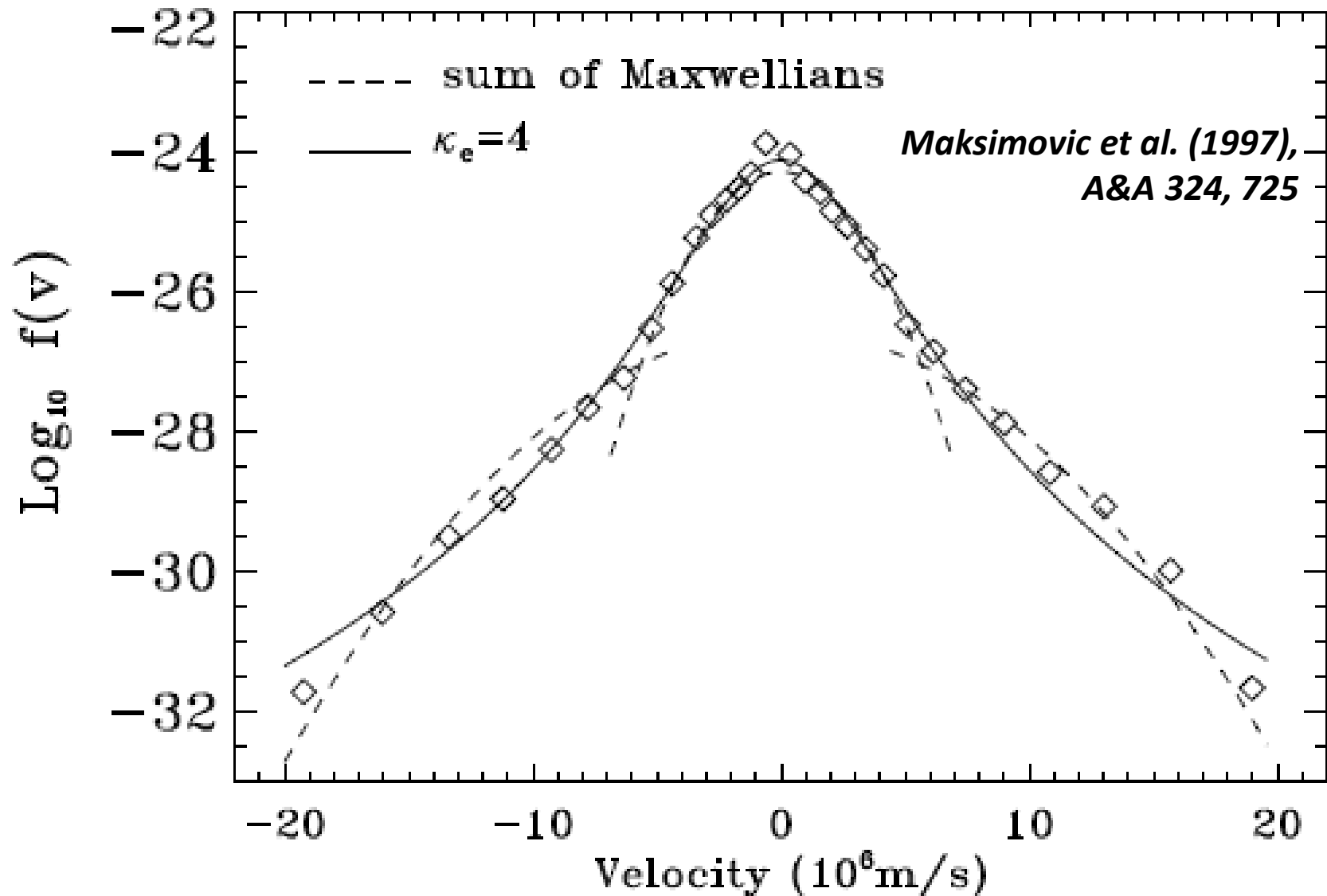
Emissivities are significantly affected

Short, bursty heating may not produce enough hot plasma
especially if the heating recurs only after significant cooling

**Plasma diagnostics using standard techniques could be affected
and/or sometimes useless**

We may measure densities in places where most of the emission originates
independently of the respective equilibrium temperatures

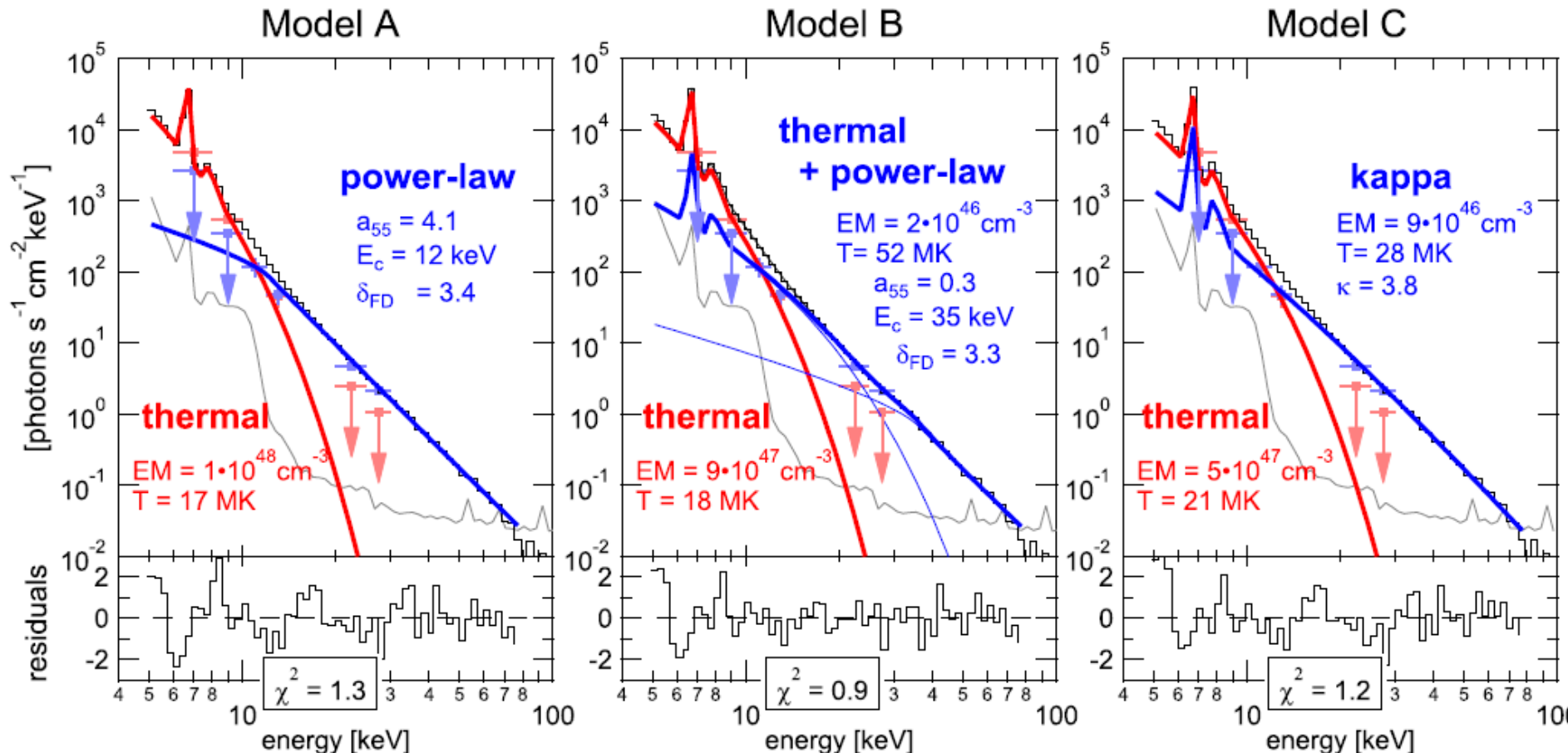
The case for non-Maxwellians



- Solar wind is non-Maxwellian

The case for non-Maxwellians

Oka et al. (2013) ApJ 764, 6

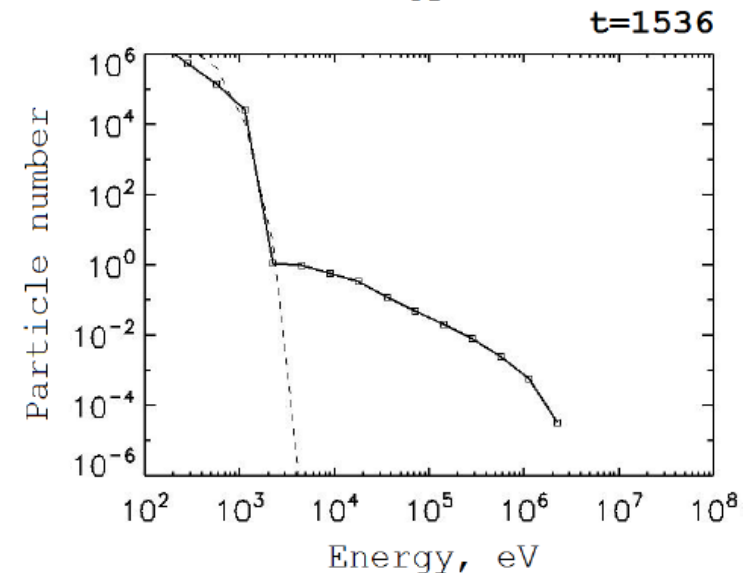
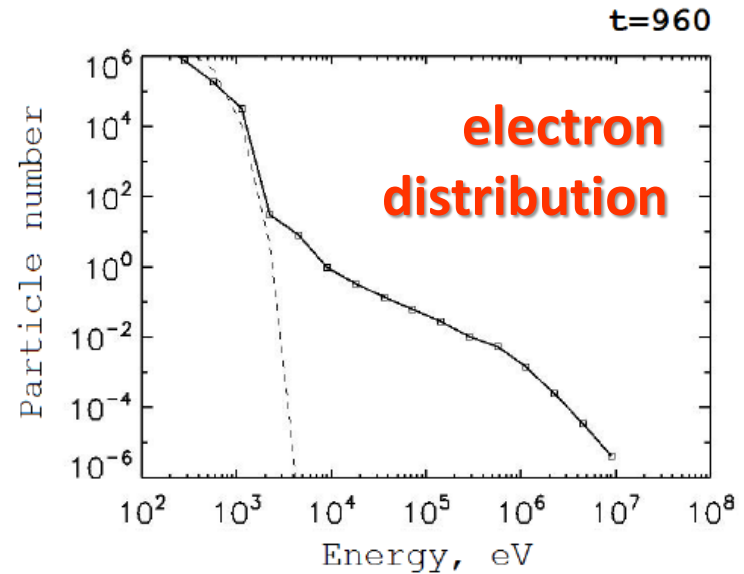
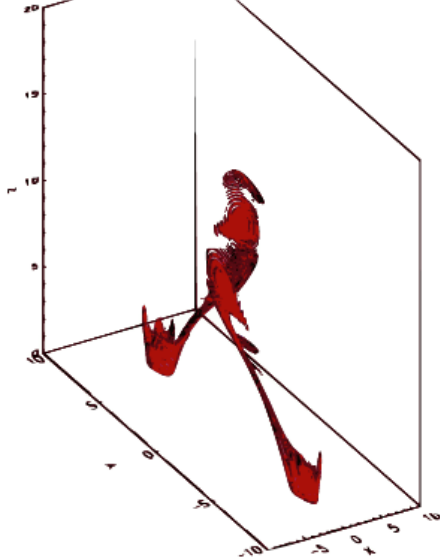
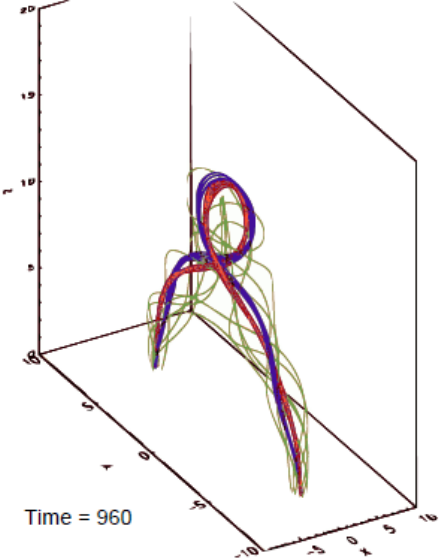
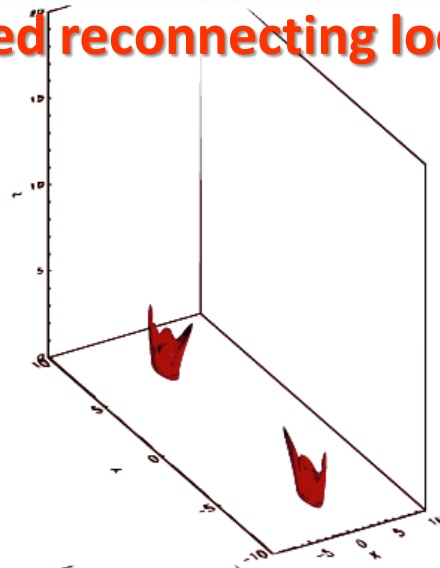
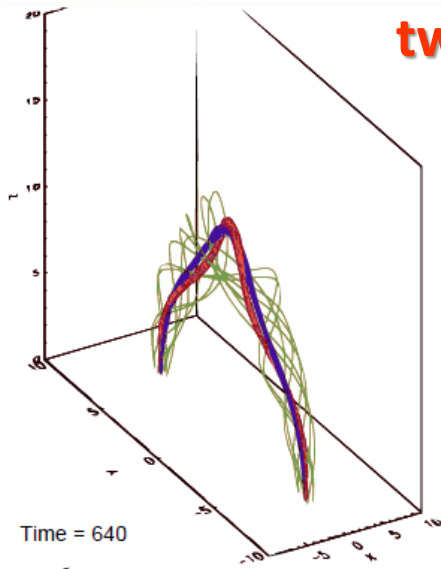


- Flares are non-Maxwellian (high-energy power-law tails)
- What about nanoflares? : Reconnection produces accelerated particles and so do waves (*Vocks et al. 2008, A&A 480, 527*)

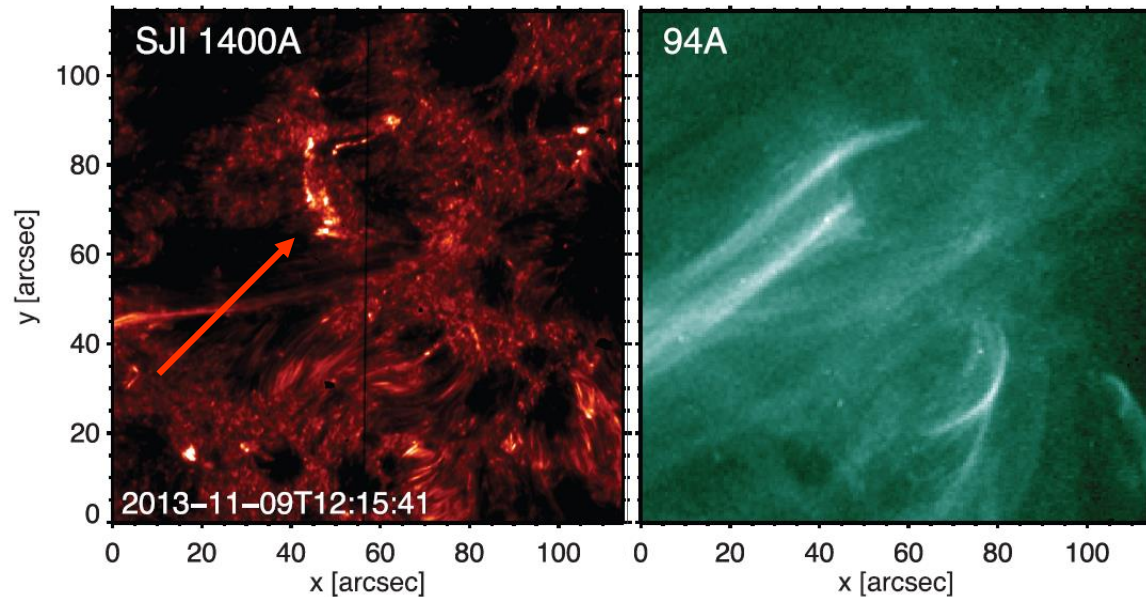
The case for non-Maxwellians

Gordovsky et al. (2014), A&A 561, A72

twisted reconnecting loop

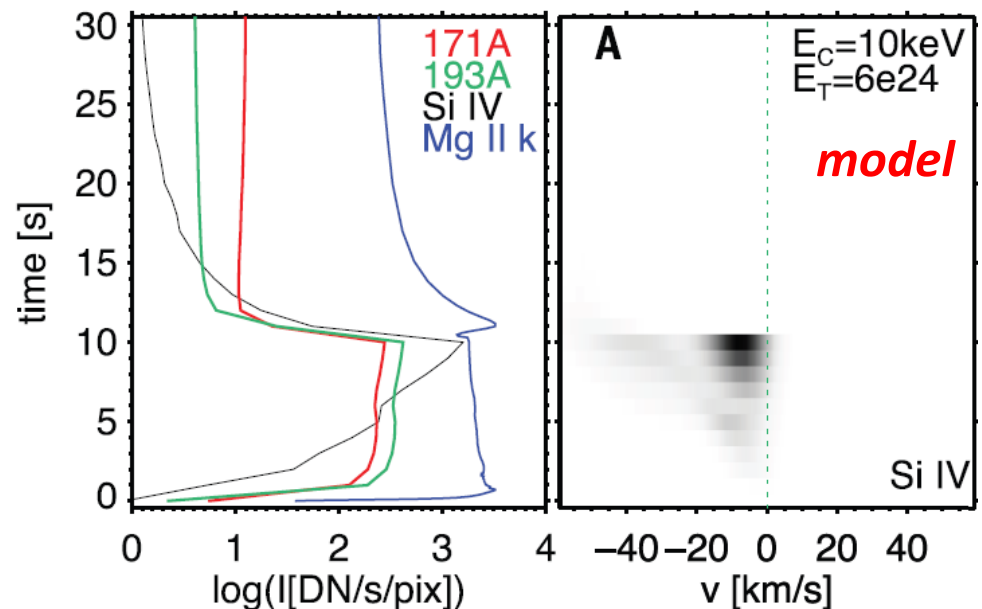
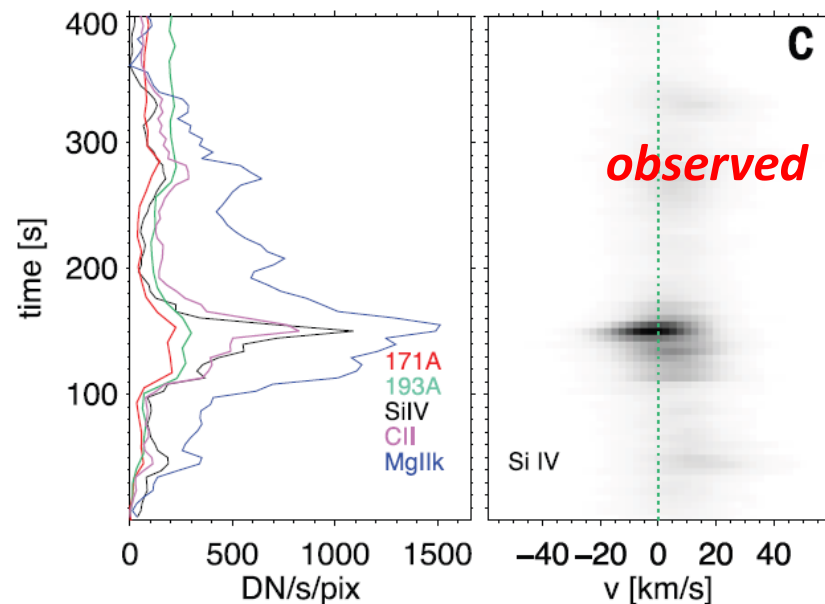


The case for non-Maxwellians



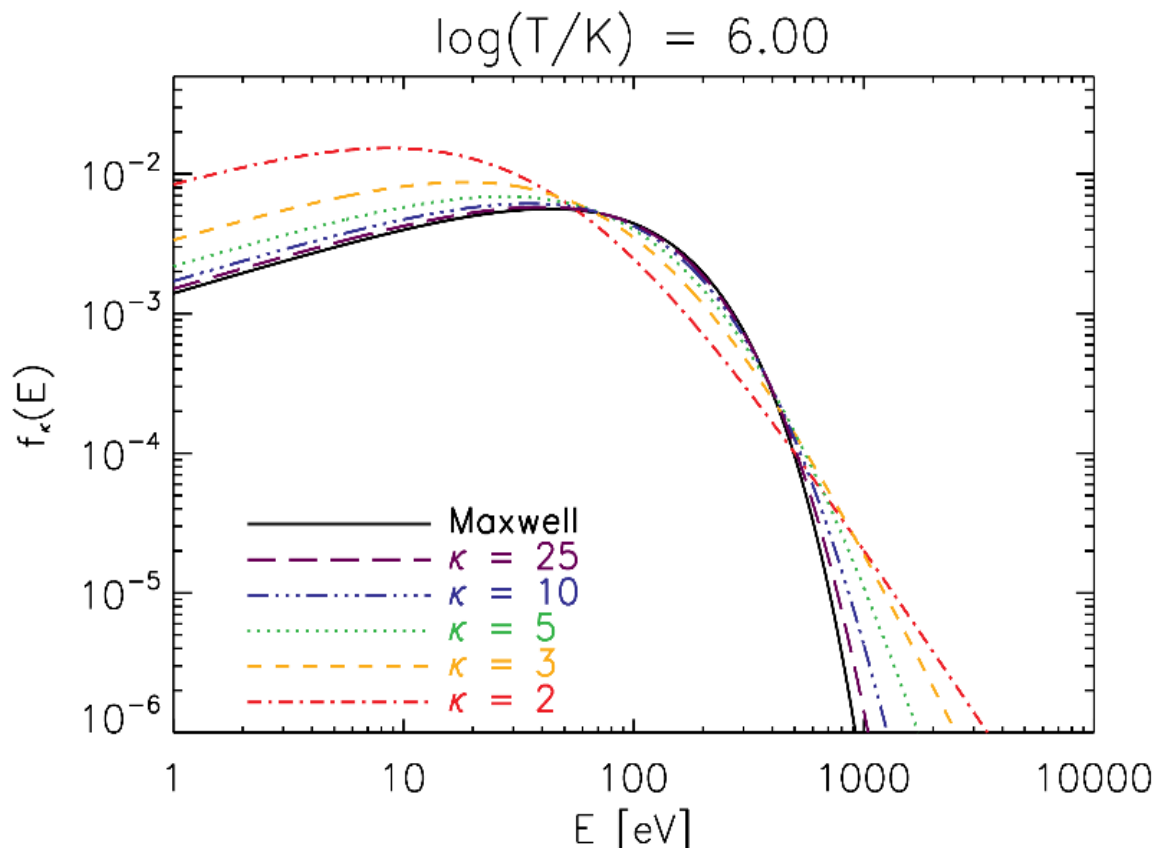
Testa et al. (2014), Sci 346, 6207

- TR ribbon-like brightenings at footpoints of 94Å loops
- Blueshifts in Si IV can be reproduced by RADYN only if nanoflare-like **heating by electron beams** is assumed
- Heating without accelerated particles does reproduce observations



The κ -distributions

$$f_{\kappa}(E)dE = A_{\kappa} \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi} (k_B T)^{3/2}} \frac{E^{1/2}}{\left(1 + \frac{E}{(\kappa - 3/2)k_B T}\right)^{\kappa+1}} dE$$



- Maxwellian-like bulk
- **Power-law tails** (strongest possible)
- Differences from Maxwellian at all energies E

$$\langle E \rangle_{\kappa} = \frac{3}{2} k_B T_{\kappa} = \frac{3}{2} k_B T$$

Owocki & Scudder (1983)

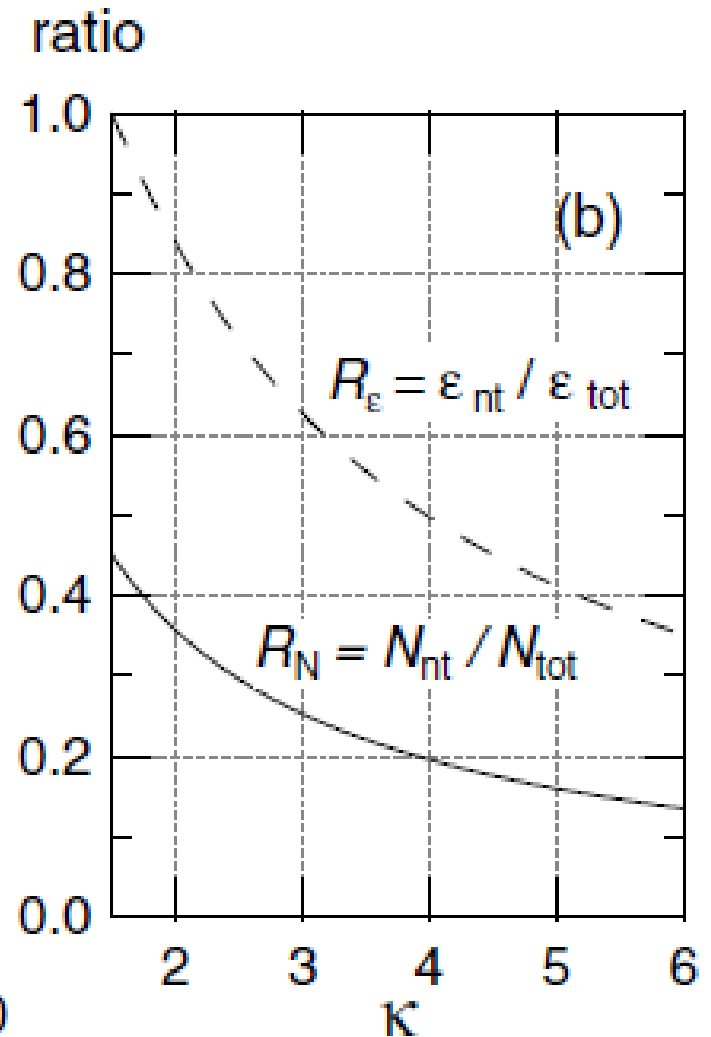
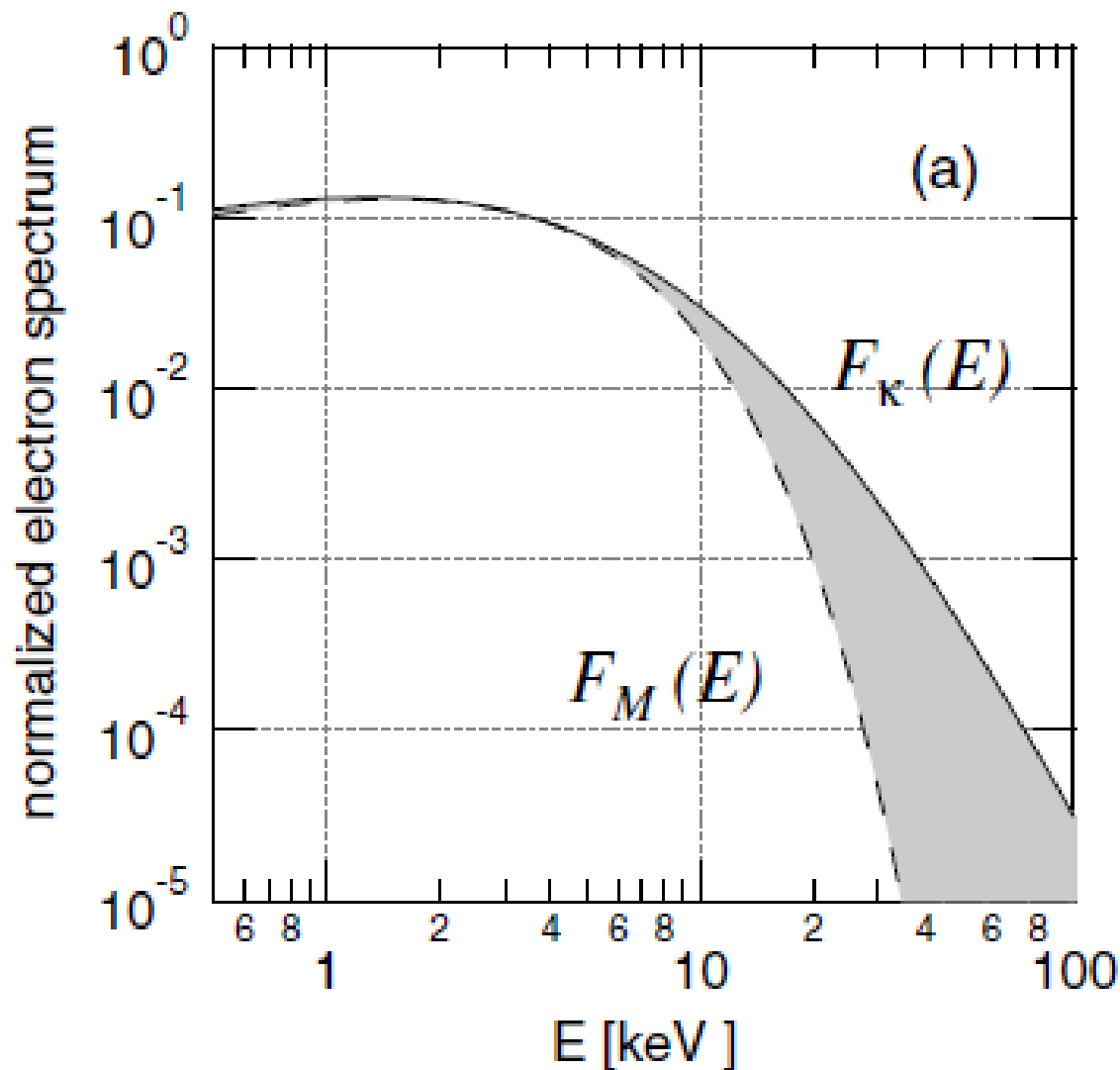
Tsallis (1988, 2009)

Leubner (2004, 2005, 2008)

Livadiotis & McComas (2009, 2010)

Bian et al. (2014)

The κ -distributions



Oka et al. (2013), ApJ 764, 6

N-Maxw: Line Intensities

$$I_{ji} = \int G_{ji}(T, n_e, \kappa) A_X n_e^2 dl$$

$$= \int G_{ji}(T, n_e, \kappa) A_X \text{DEM}(T) dT,$$

$$G_{ji}(T, n_e, \kappa) = \frac{hc}{\lambda_{ji}} \frac{A_{ji}}{n_e} \frac{n_{X,i}^{+k}}{n_X^{+k}} \frac{n_X^{+k}}{n_X} \frac{n_H}{n_e},$$

**excitation
fraction**

**ionization
fraction**

- **Ionization fractions:** from *Dzifčáková & Dudík (2013), ApJS 206, 6*
- **Excitation fractions:** obtained from the original collision strengths Ω
Dudík et al. (2014), A&A 570, A124

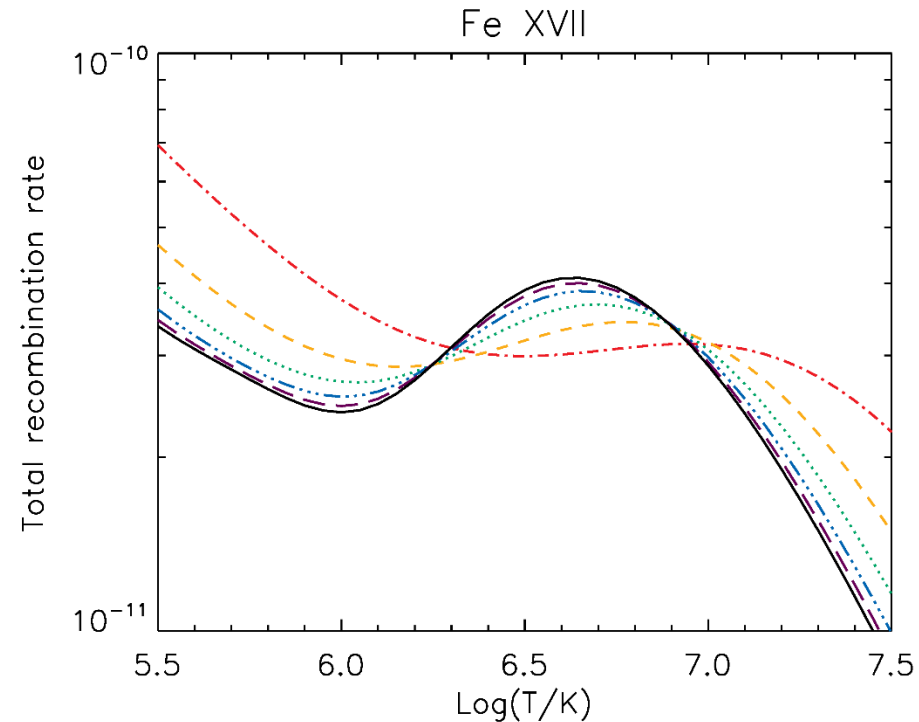
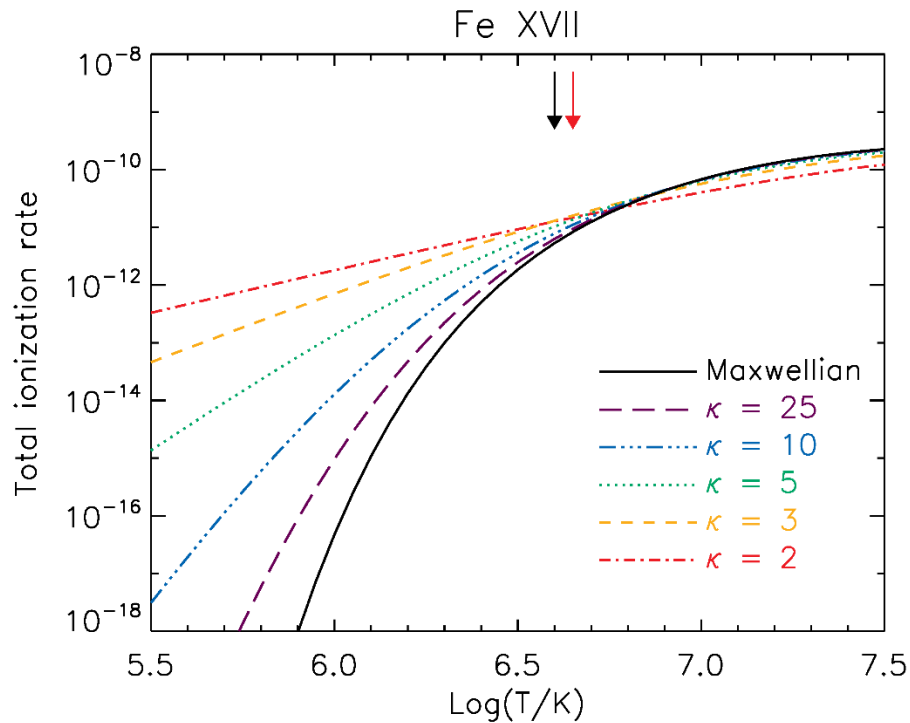
or using indirect approximative method

Dzifčáková (2006), SoPh 234, 243

Dzifčáková & Kulinová (2011), A&A, 531, A122

Dzifčáková et al. (2015), ApJS 217, 14

κ -distr.: Ioniz./Recomb. Rates

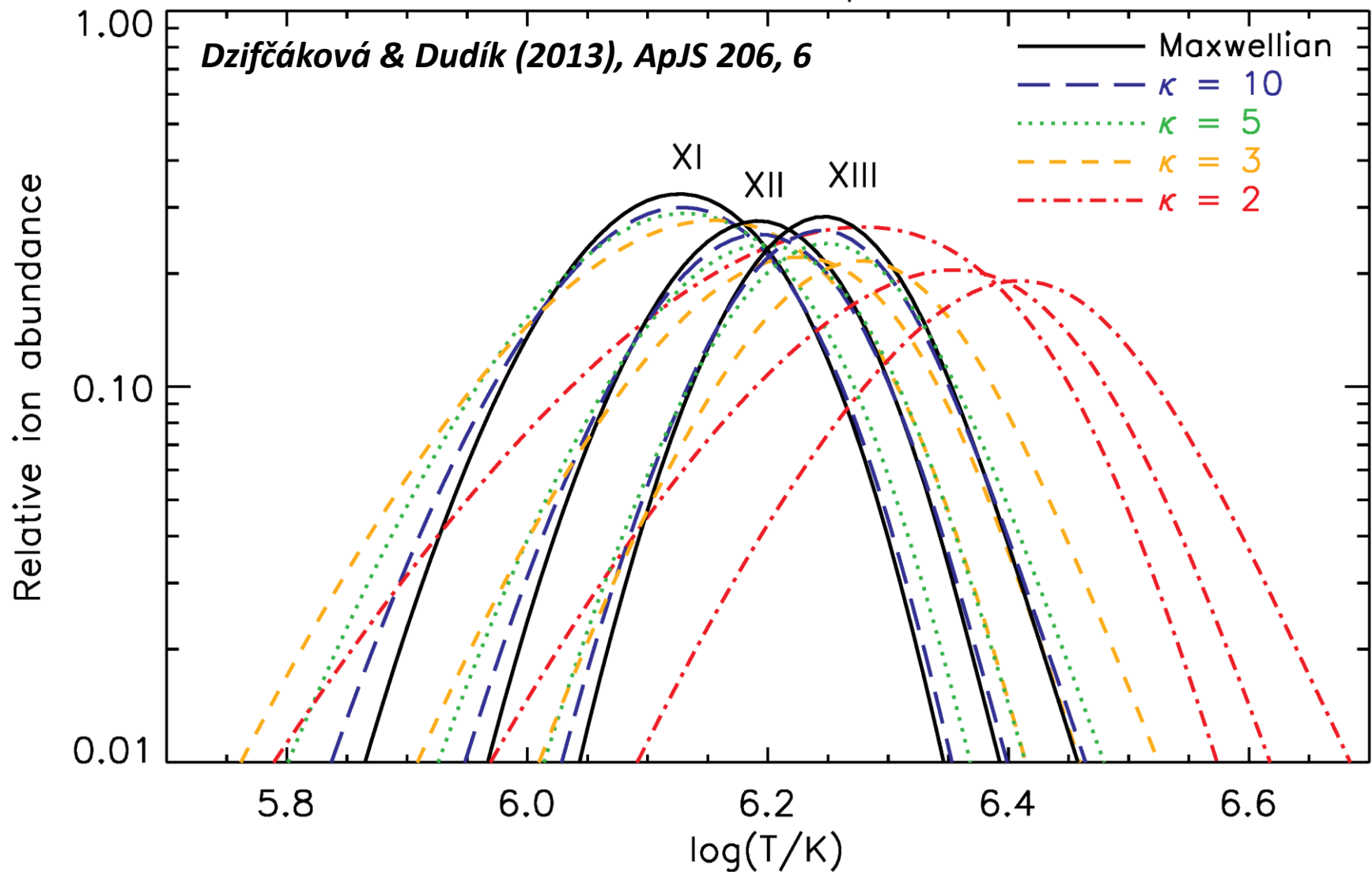


Dzifčáková & Dudík (2013), ApJS 206, 6

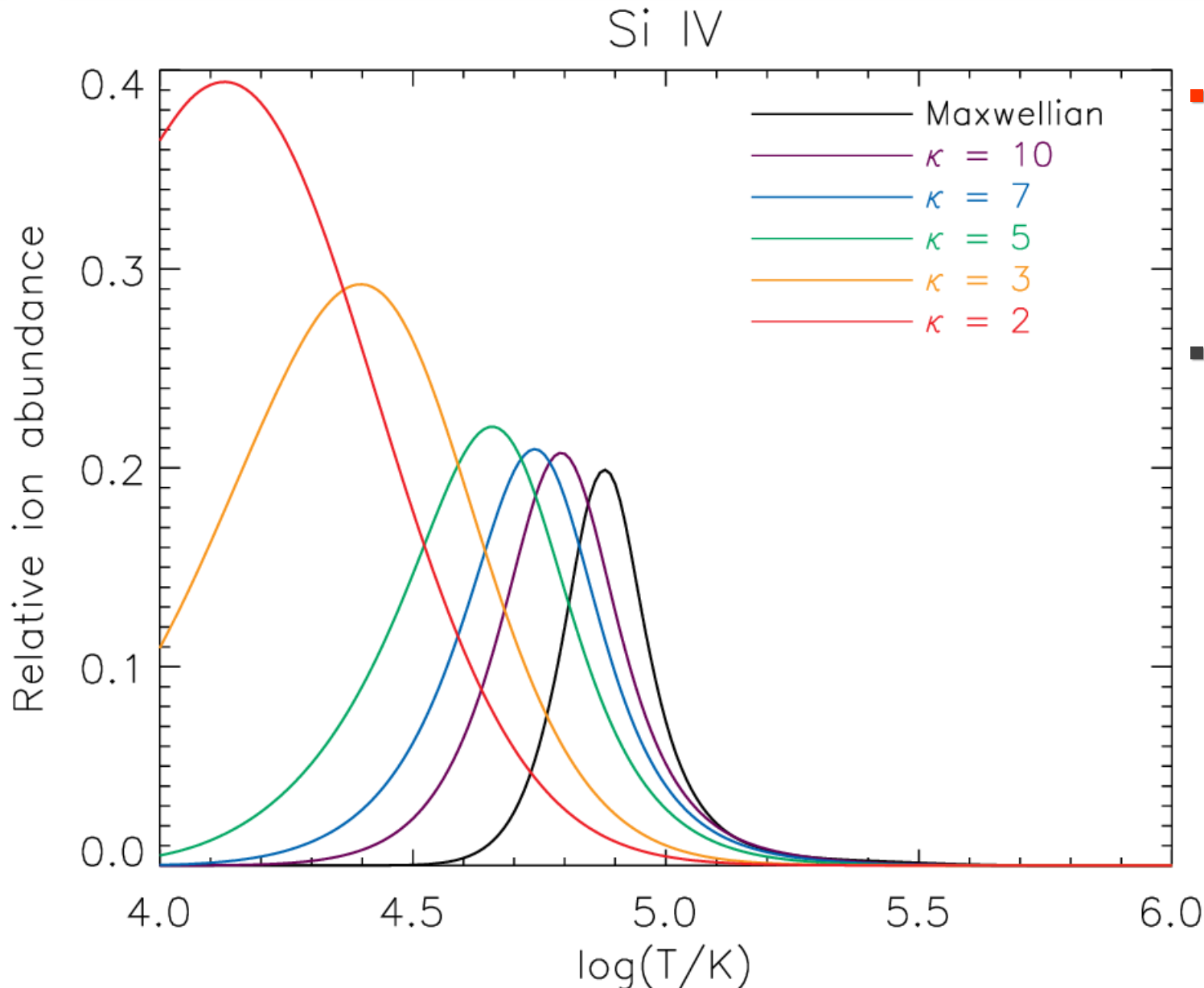
- Ionization rate dominated by high-energy electrons (power-law tail)
- Recombination rate dominated by low-energy electrons
- The location of the peak of the relative ion abundance *in equilibrium* is determined by these rates

κ -distr.: Ionization Equilibrium

Fe ionization equilibrium

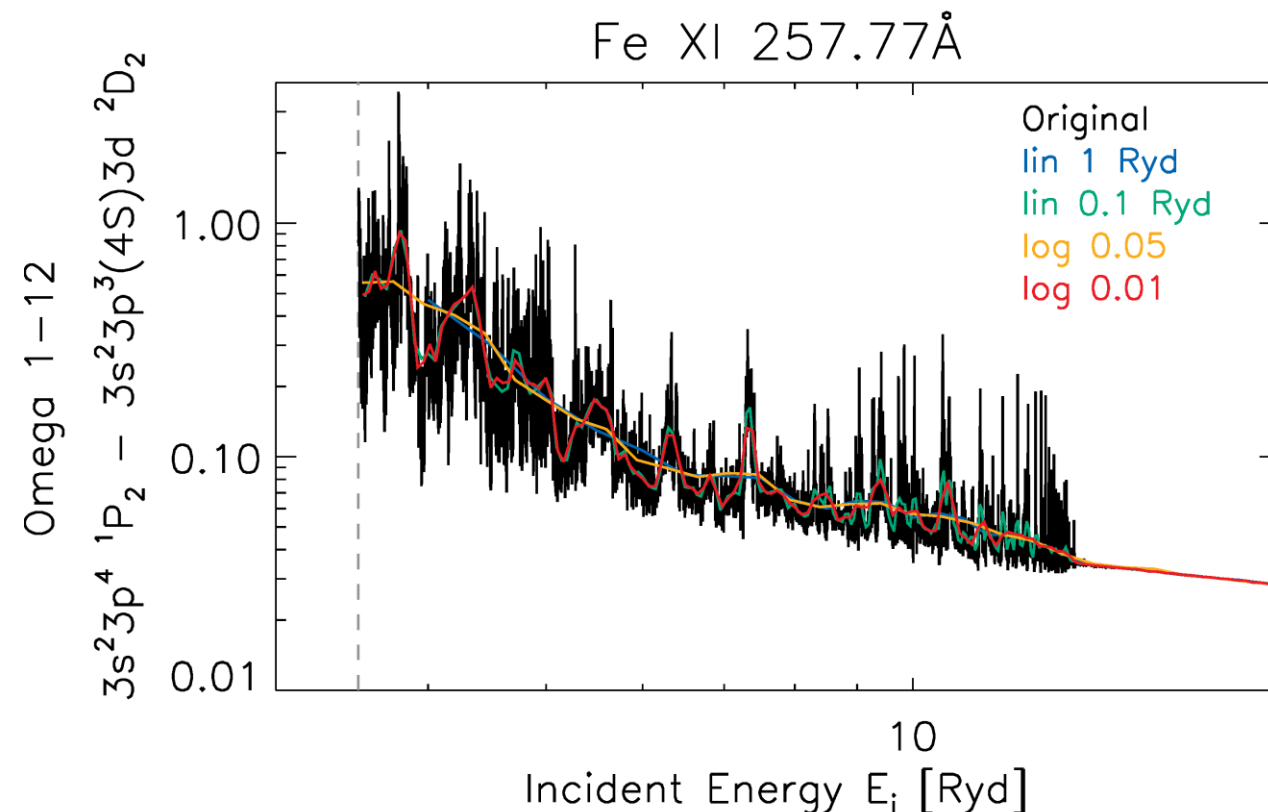


κ -distr.: Ionization Equilibrium



- **TR ions typically shifted to lower T**
- **Some can have enhanced abundances compared to Maxwellian case**

Excitation Rates: Direct Method

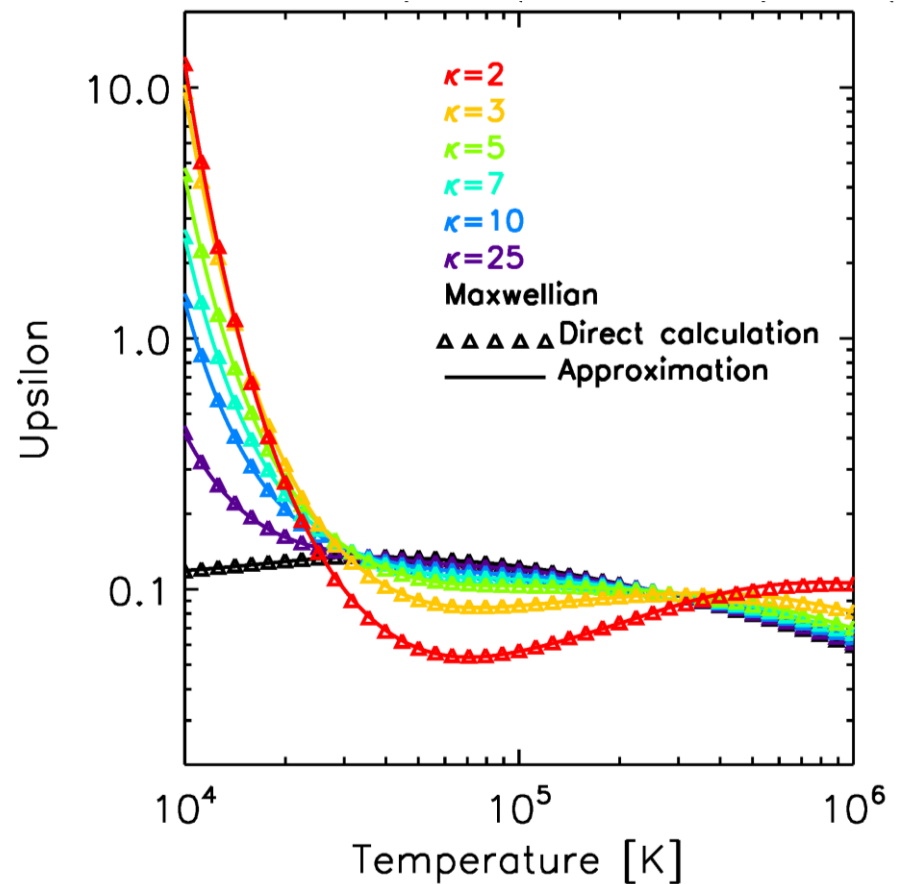
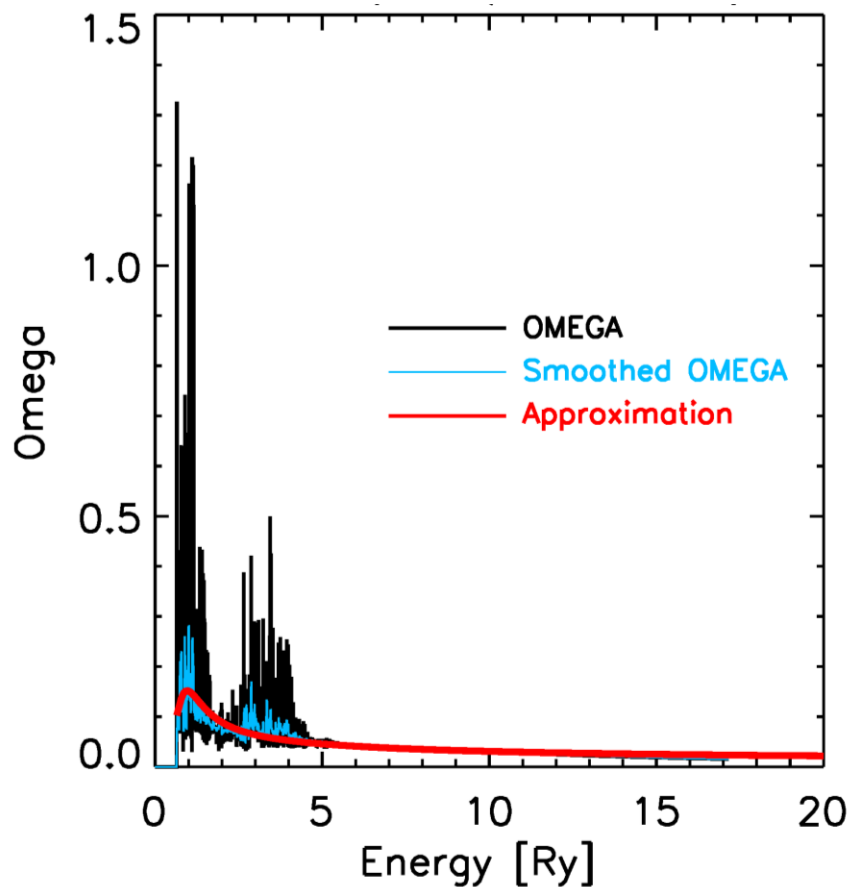


$$\Upsilon_{ij}(T, \kappa) = A_\kappa \exp\left(\frac{\Delta E_{ji}}{k_B T}\right) \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\Omega_{ji}(E_j)}{\left(1 + \frac{E_j + \Delta E_{ji}}{(\kappa - 3/2)k_B T}\right)^{\kappa+1}} d\left(\frac{E_j}{k_B T}\right), \quad (14)$$

$$\mathcal{J}_{ji}(T, \kappa) = A_\kappa \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\Omega_{ji}(E_j)}{\left(1 + \frac{E_j}{(\kappa - 3/2)k_B T}\right)^{\kappa+1}} d\left(\frac{E_j}{k_B T}\right). \quad (15)$$

- **Excitation rate integrated directly from the cross-section**
- **Problem:** huge cross-section files for a single ion (about 30 GB)
- Has been done for selected ions
- **Si IV, O IV**
Dudík et al. (2014), ApJL 780, 12
- **Fe IX – XIII**
Dudík et al. (2014), A&A, 570, A124
- *Bryans (2006), PhDT*

Excitation Rates: Indirect Method



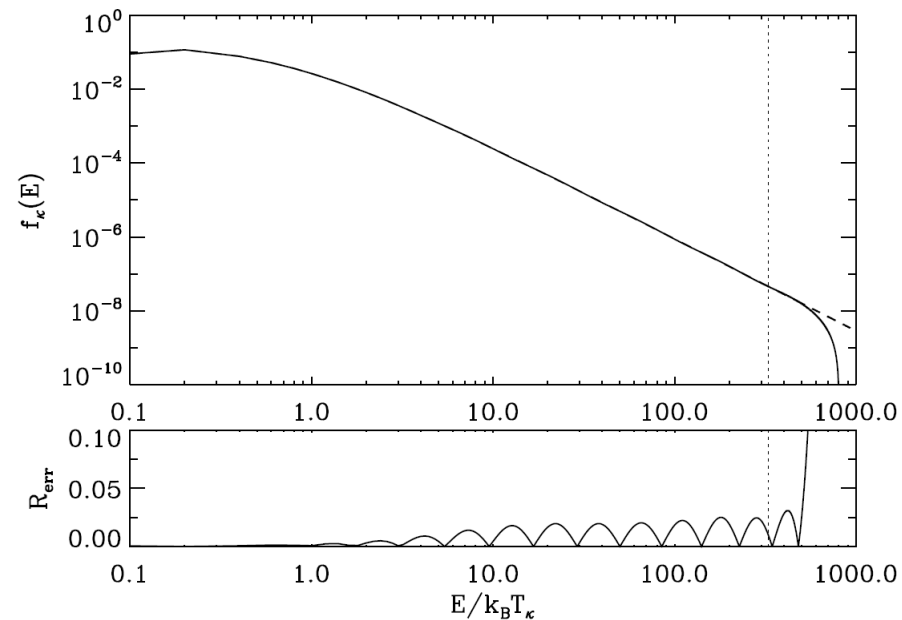
- Approximate the Υ using an assumption on functional form of Ω
- Calculate the Υ for κ -distributions using this approximation
- An overall precision of 5-10% is found (*Dzifčáková et al. 2015, ApJS 217, 14*)
- KAPPA database for several values of κ – <http://kappa.asu.cas.cz>

κ -distr.: Maxwellian Decomposition

$$f_{\kappa}(E, T) = \sum_i c_i f_{\text{Maxw}}(E, a_i T)$$

Hahn & Savin (2015), ApJ, in press

- Initial guess of a_i
 - Coefficients c_i determined by matching the κ -distribution at a given set of energies E_j
 - Iterations
 - Relative error less than 5%
 - Similar as in the indirect method
-
- A rate coefficient P_{jk} is given by (linearity)



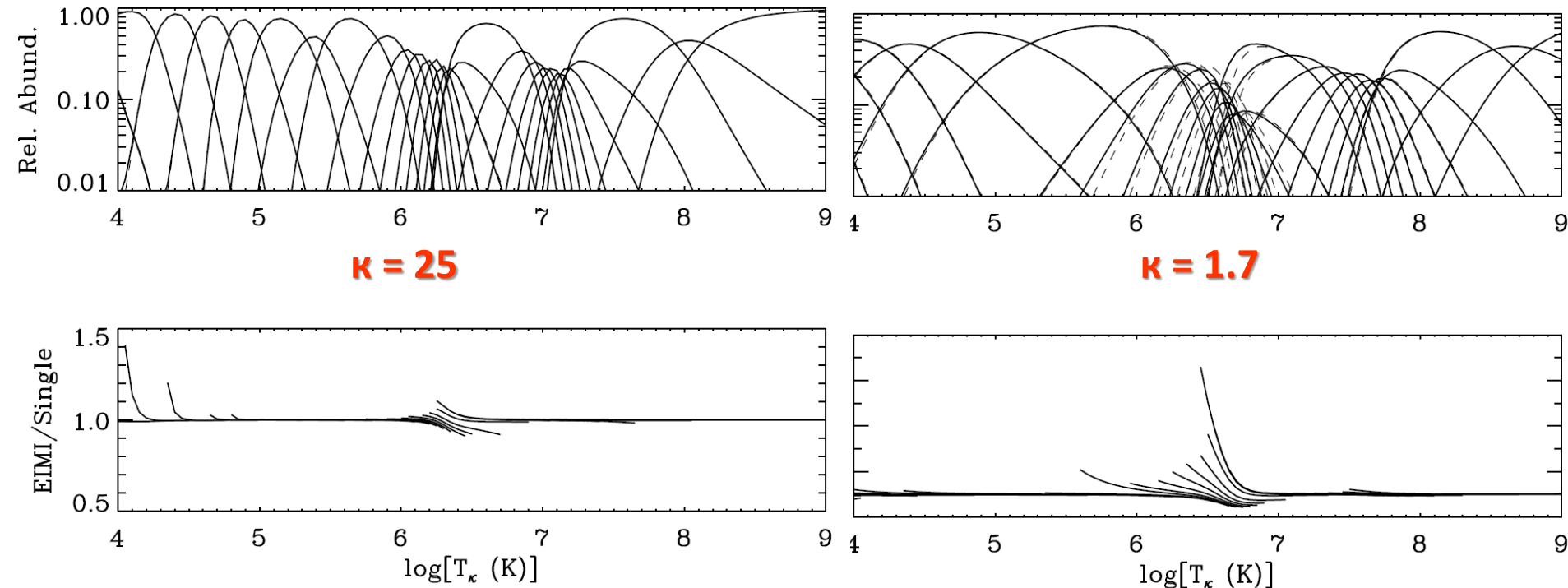
$$P_{jk,\kappa}(T) = \sum_i c_i P_{jk, \text{Maxw}}(a_i T)$$

Side note: EIMI & κ -distributions

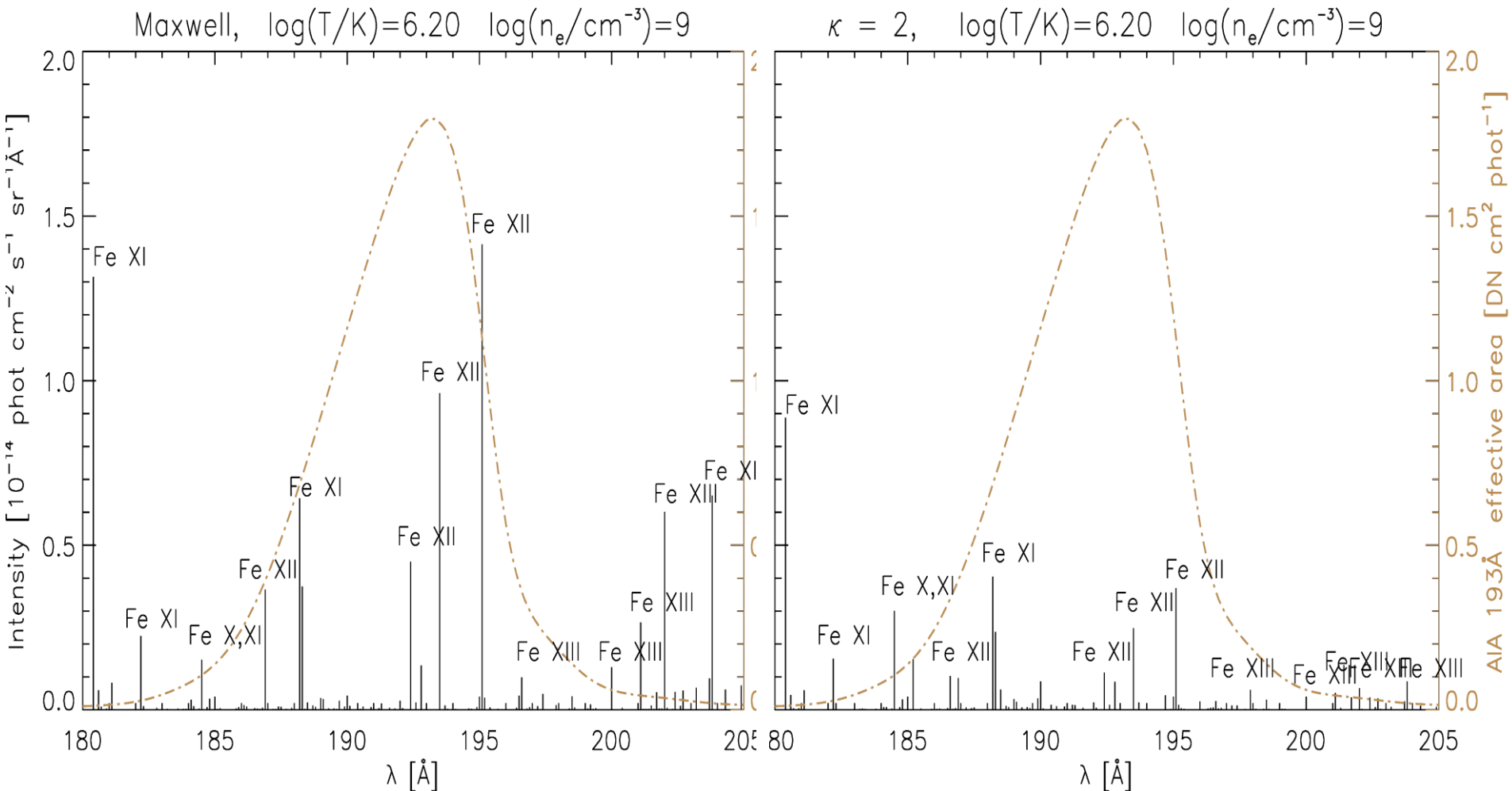
Hahn & Savin (2015), ApJ, in press

Electron impact multiple ionization

- An **impact** of a single electron with high enough E can cause **multiple ionization**
- This contributes less than 5% for Maxwellian CIE (ionization equilibrium)
- **Worsens dramatically for low κ and coronal Fe ions**
- Can also be important for non-equilibrium ionization (NEI)



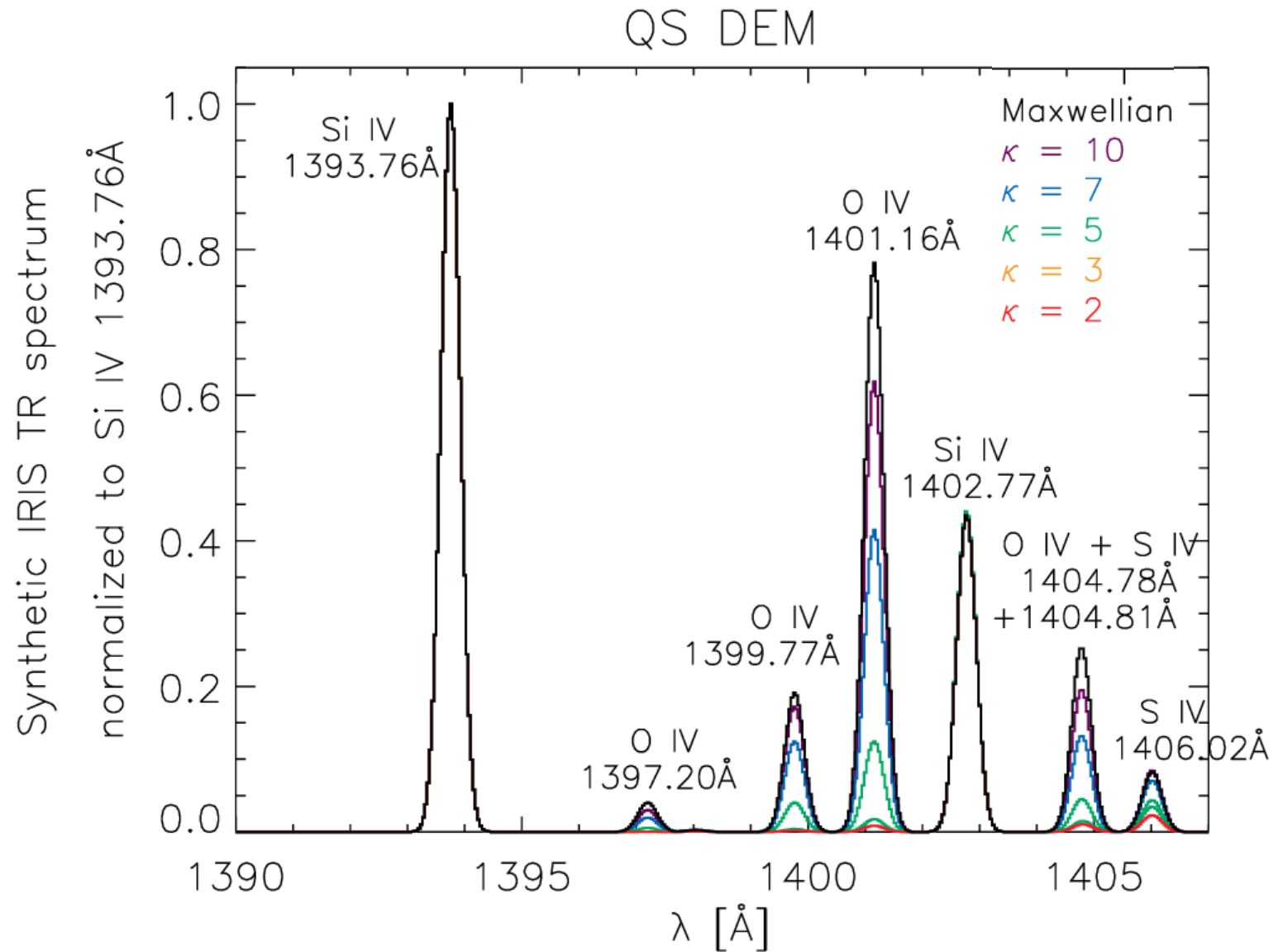
κ -distr.: Line Spectra



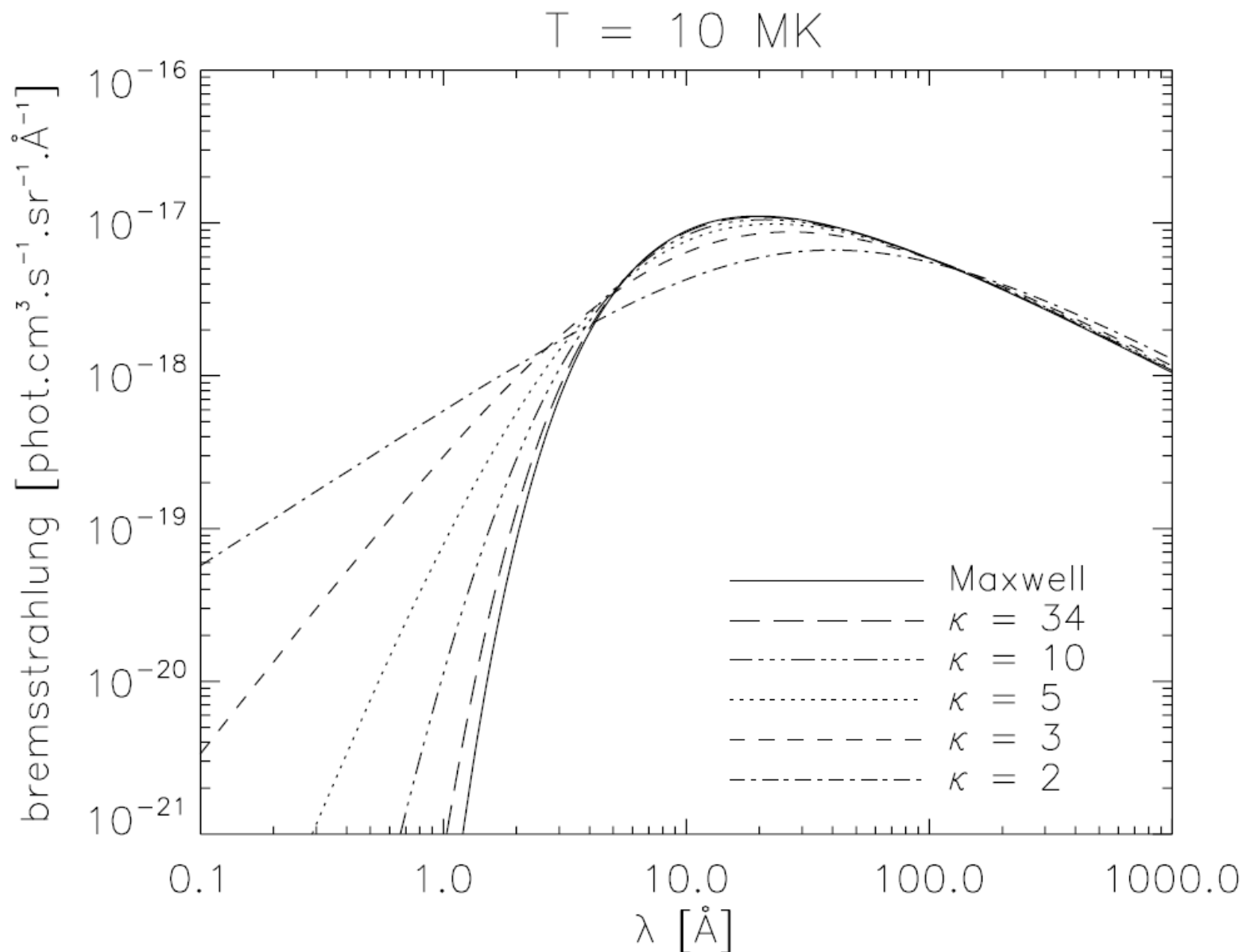
Dzifčáková et al. (2015), ApJS, 217, 14

- **Line intensities are significantly affected**
- **Complicated by dependence on temperature and electron density**

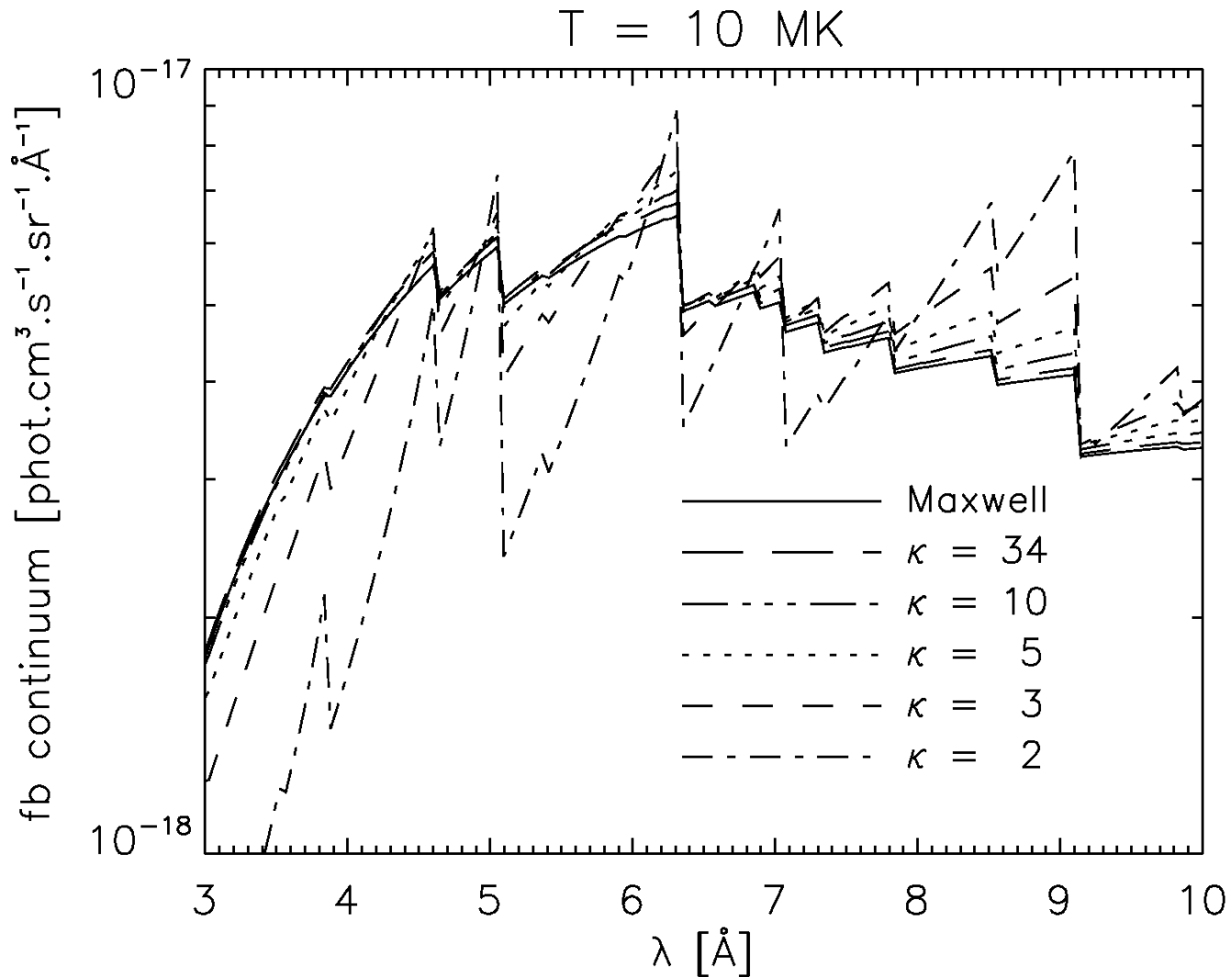
κ -distr.: Line Spectra



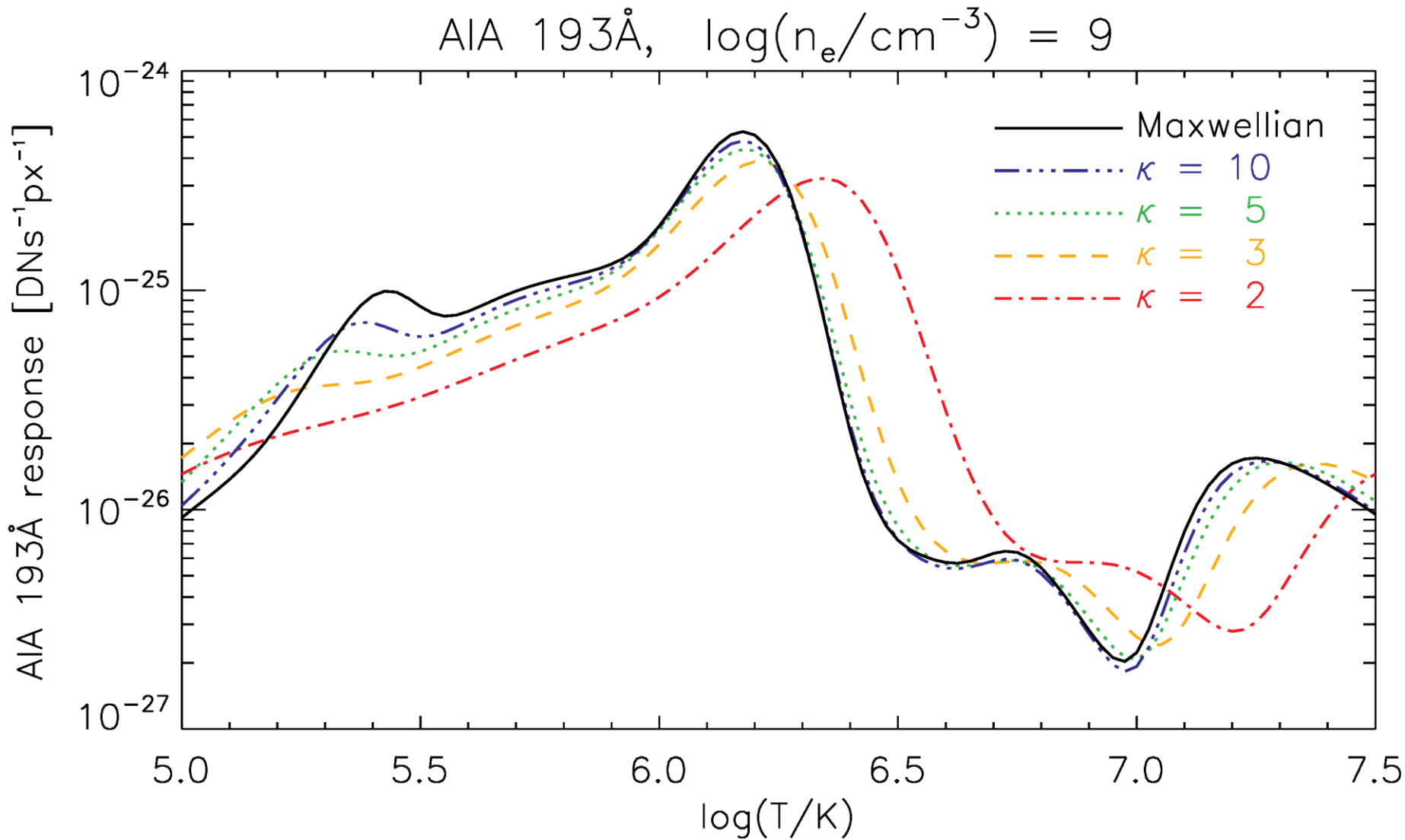
κ -distr.: Free-free Continuum



κ -distr.: Free-bound continuum

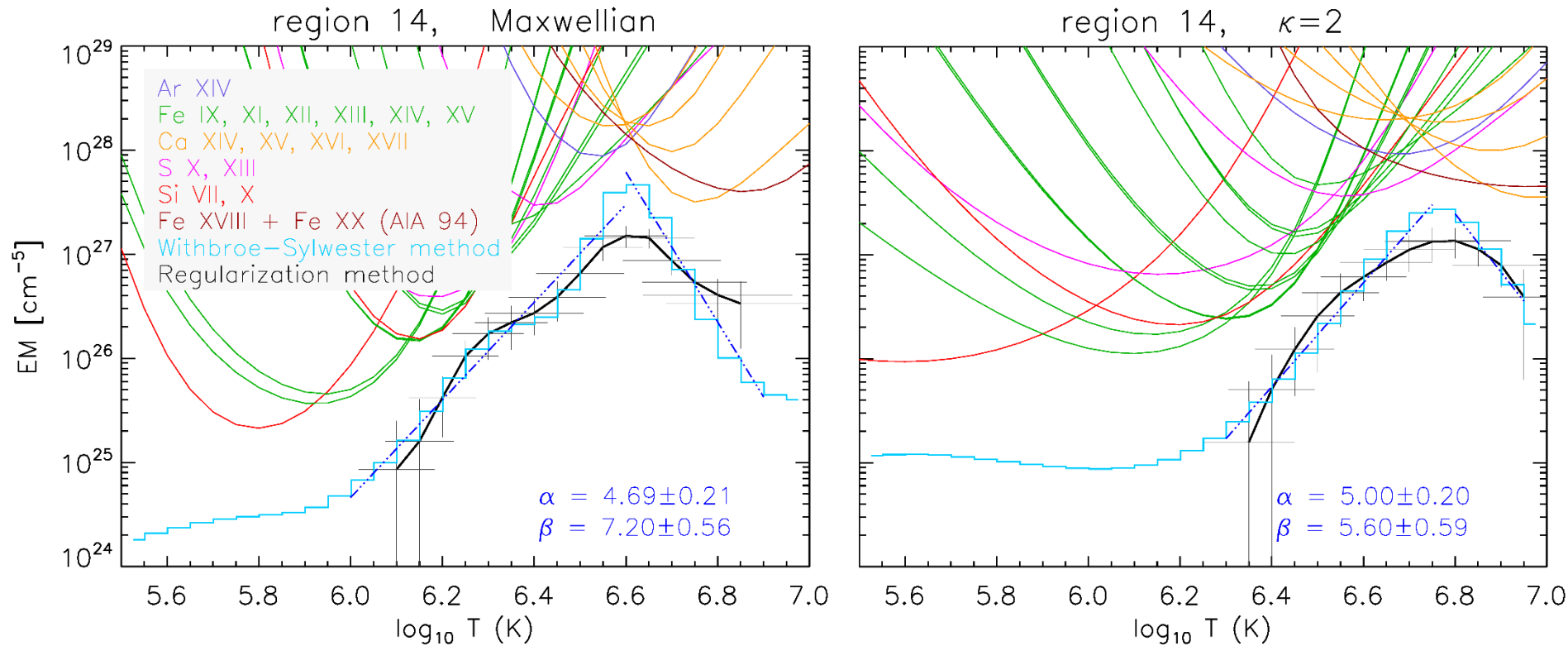


κ -distr.: AIA Responses



κ -distr.: AR core DEM slopes

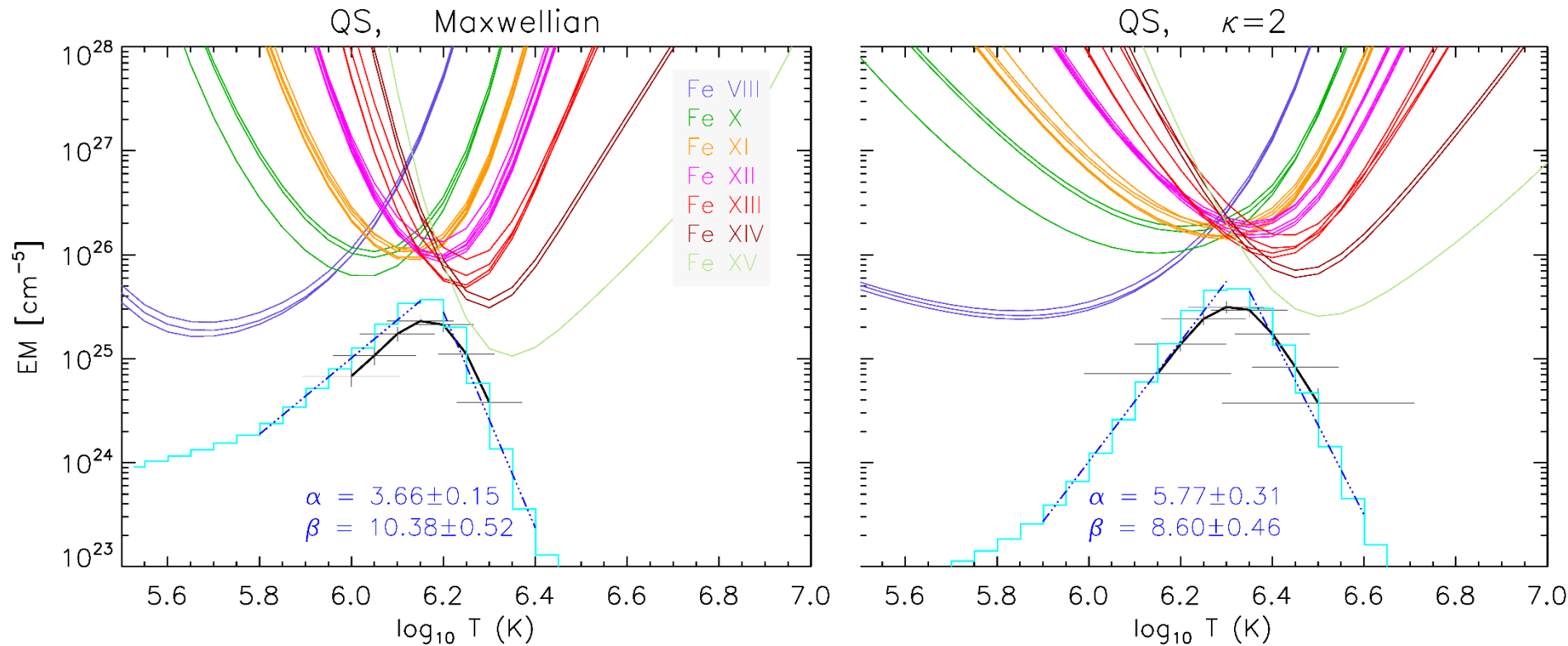
Mackovjak et al. (2014), A&A, 564, A130



- AR core intensities from *Warren et al. (2012), ApJ 759, 141*
- **The low- T slope of the EM(T) does not change appreciably with κ**
- This behavior does not depend on the AR core
- The high- T slope decreases

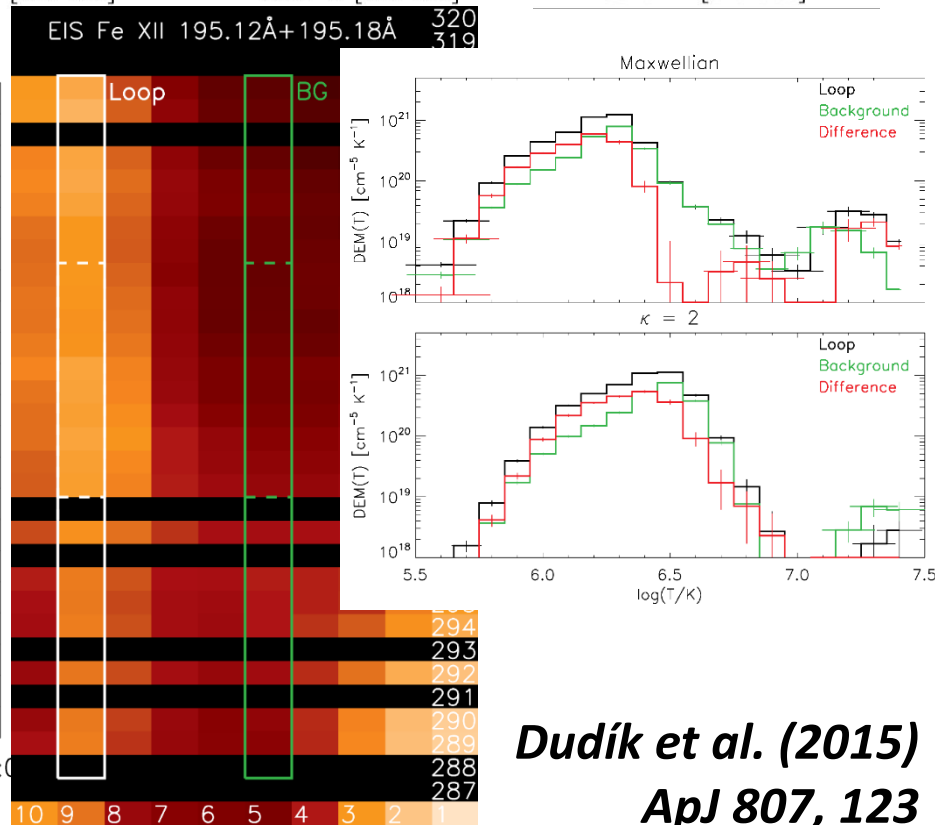
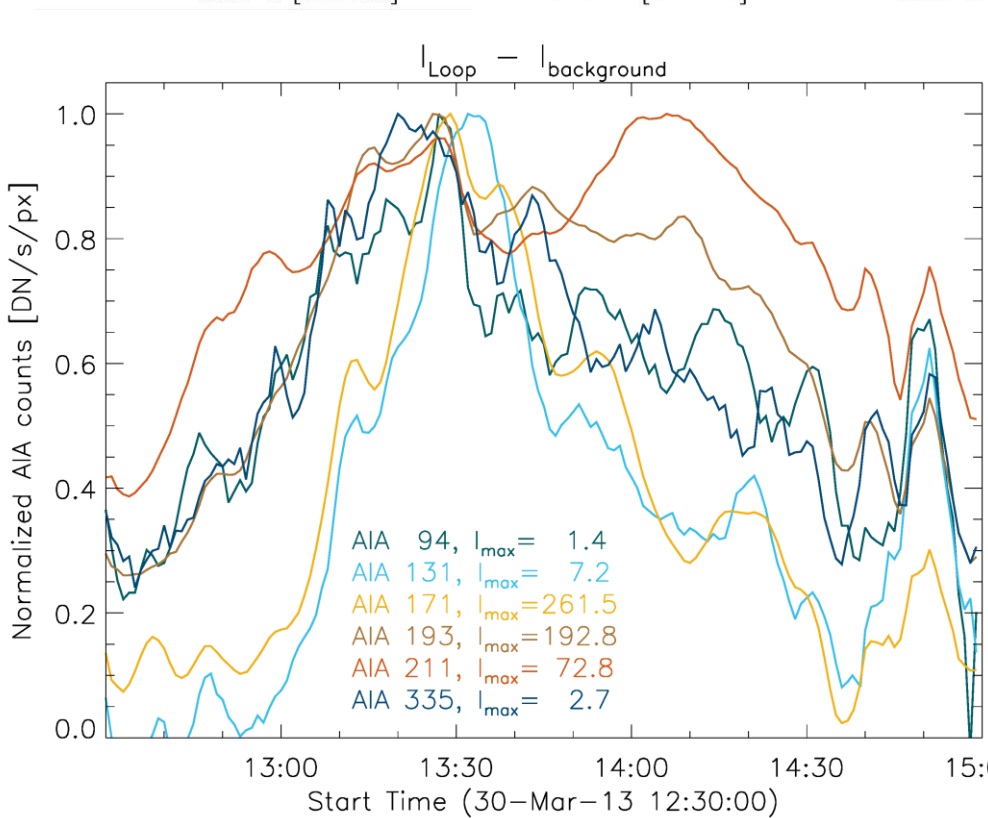
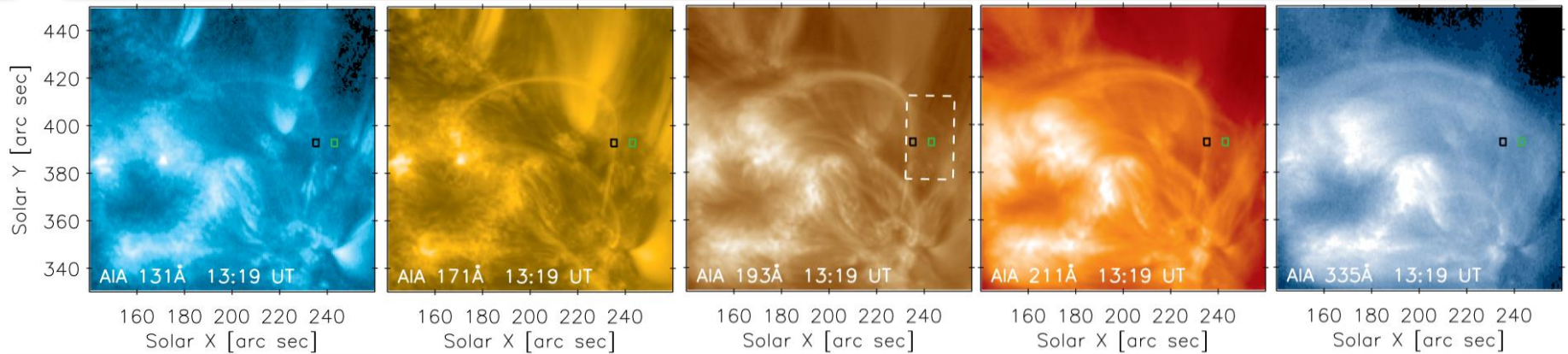
κ -distr.: Quiet Sun DEMs

Mackovjak et al. (2014), A&A, 564, A130



- QS intensities from *Landi & Young (2010), ApJ 714, 636*
- Both low- T and high- T slopes of the EM(T) change with κ
- **The $\kappa = 2$ case shows almost an isothermal crossing point**
- Non-Maxwellian QS?

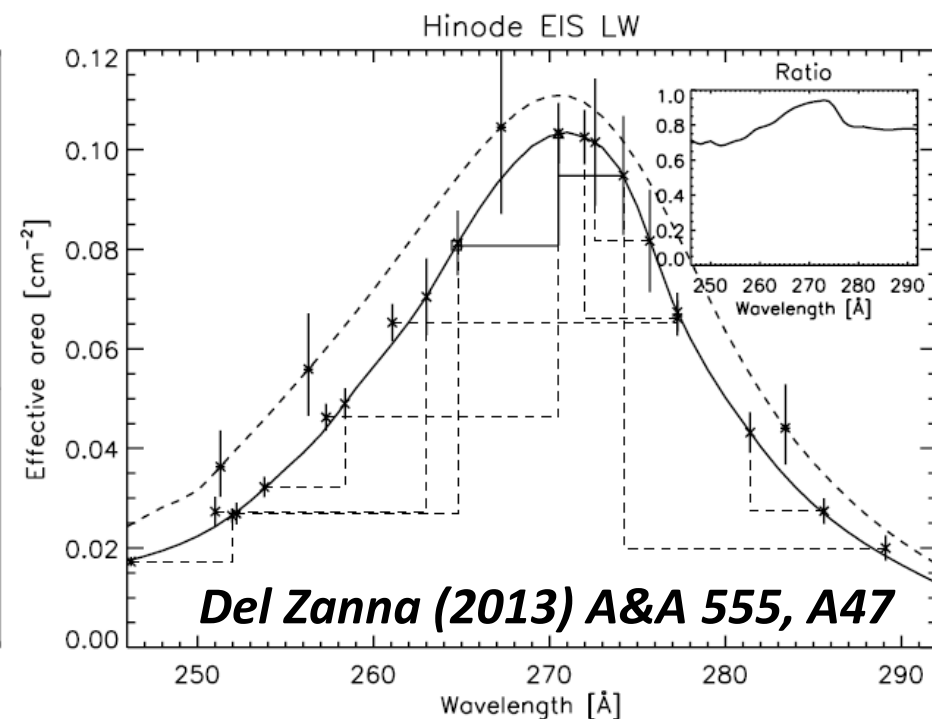
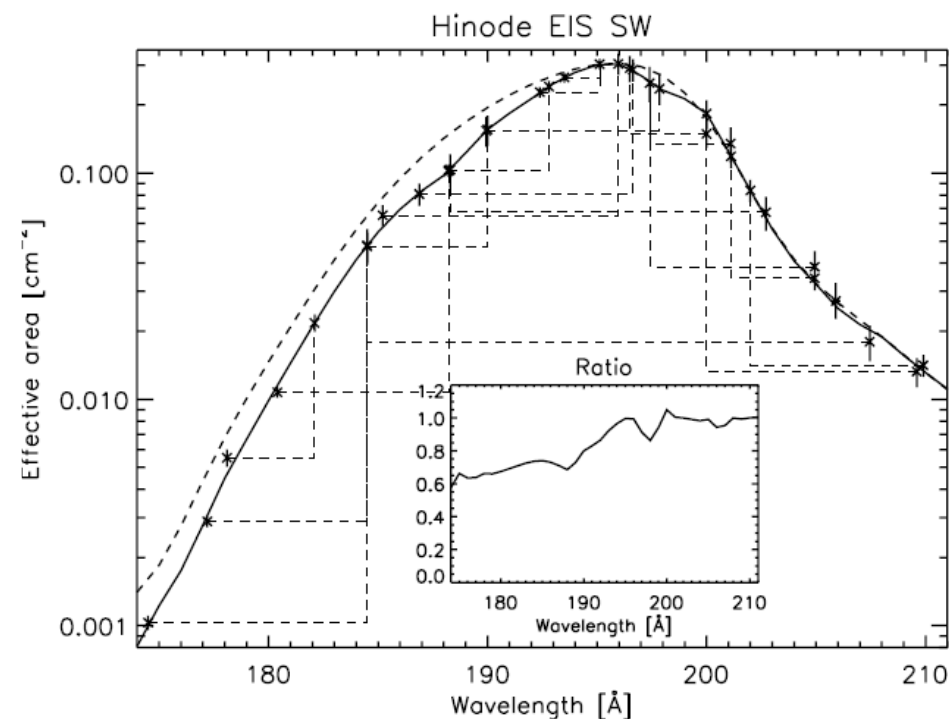
κ-distr.: Transient Loop Diagnostics



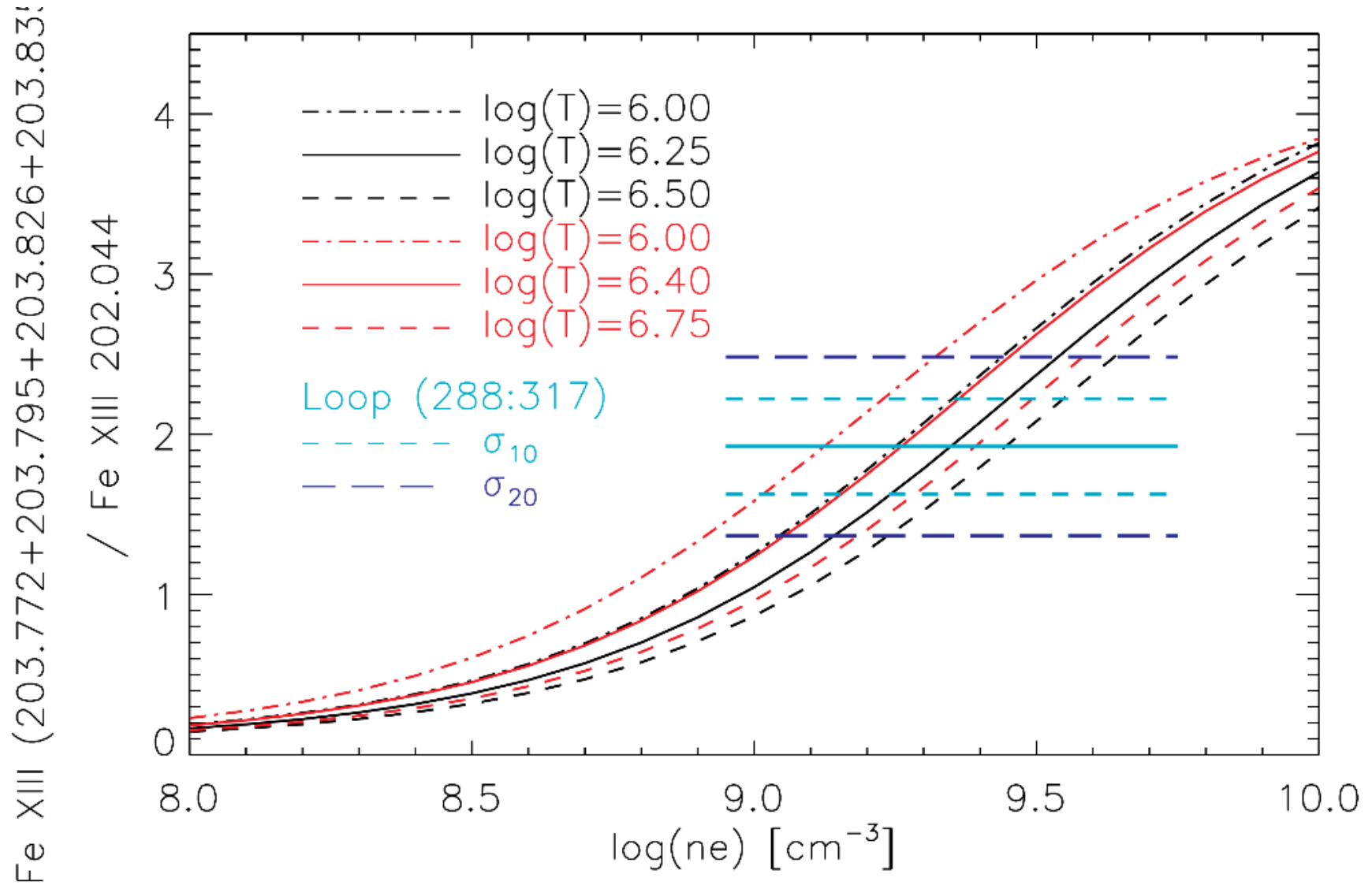
Dudík et al. (2015)
ApJ 807, 123

Side Note: EIS Calibration

Ion	λ [Å]	selfblending transitions [Å]	Loop (288:317)			Loop (300:309)		
			I	$\sigma_{10\%}(I)$	$\sigma_{20\%}(I)$	I	$\sigma_{10\%}(I)$	$\sigma_{20\%}(I)$
Fe XI	182.167	—	795	99	169	934	117	199
Fe XI	188.216	—	1638	172	332	1947	204	394
Fe XI	257.554	257.538, 257.547, 257.558	398	45	82	414	47	86
Fe XI	257.772	257.725	178	23	38	234	30	50
Fe XII	186.887	186.854, (186.931)	1406	145	283	1498	154	302
Fe XII	195.119	195.179, (195.078), (195.221)	2256	228	453	2506	254	503
Fe XIII	196.525	—	261	27	53	223	23	45
Fe XIII	202.044	—	1346	153	279	1779	202	368
Fe XIII	203.826	203.772, 203.795, 203.835	2591	270	524	2532	264	512

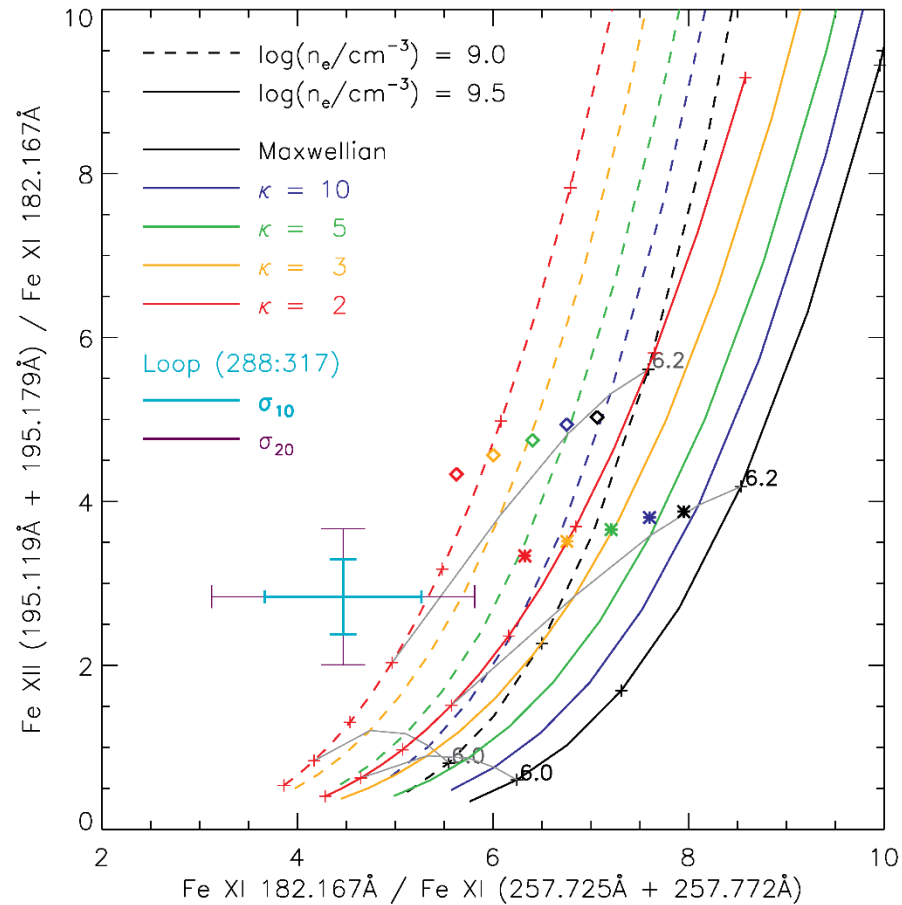
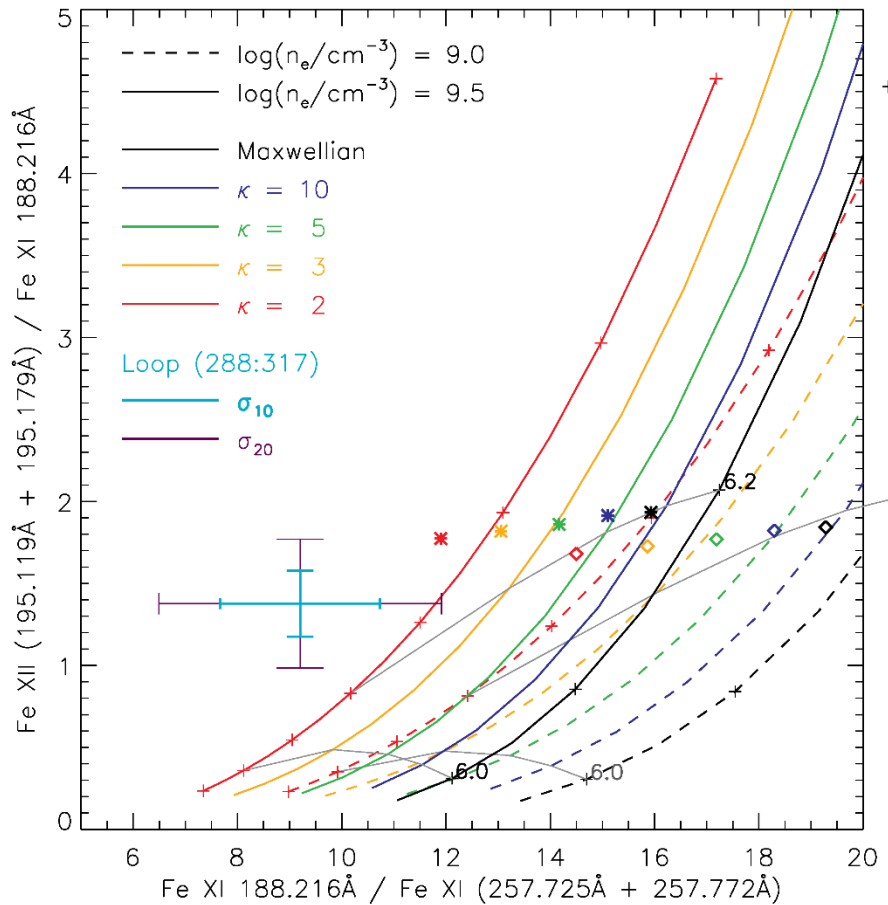


κ -distr.: Density Diagnostics



c.f. Dudík et al. (2014) A&A 570, A124

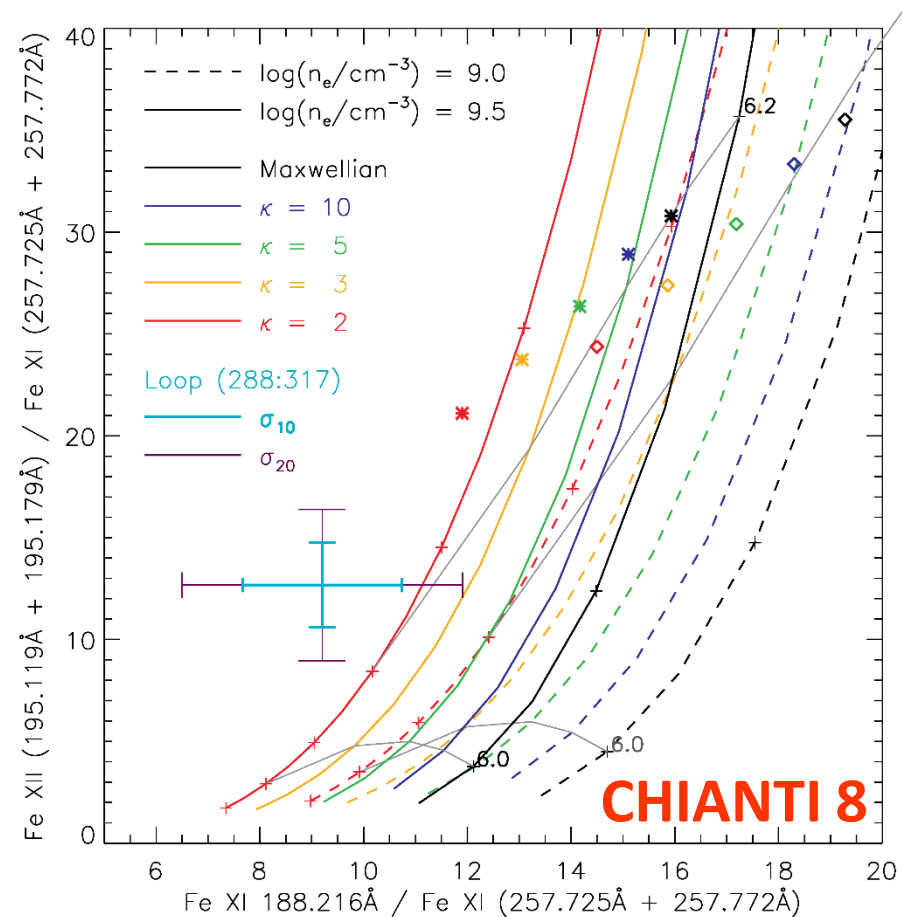
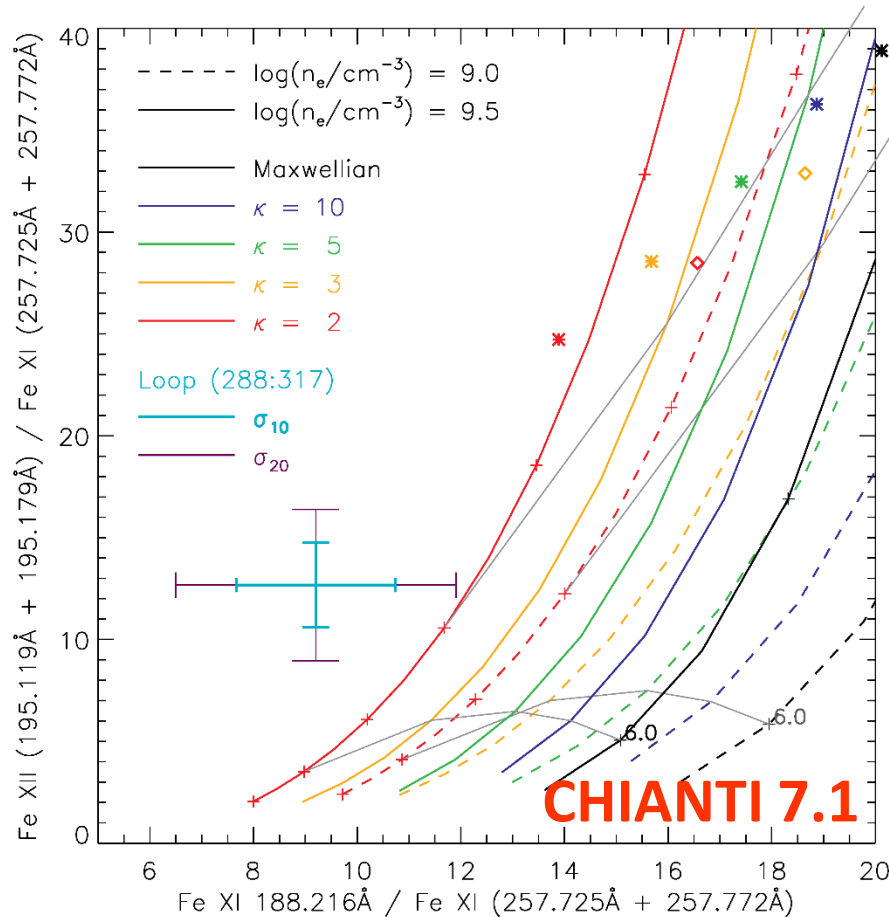
κ -distr.: Diagnostics of κ



Dudík et al. (2012) ApJ 807, 123

- Loop has $\kappa \leq 2$ (is highly non-Maxwellian)
- This does not change if DEM is considered

Side Note: Atomic Data



- **Still, our calculations are missing $n \geq 5$ levels: Cascading & Resonances**
- **This is less than 10 %: Del Zanna et al. (2014, A&A 543, A139)**

Summary: Non-Maxwellians

Non-Maxwellians observed in solar wind, flares, and **one loop**
And derived in modelling: reconnection, Si IV blue-shifts

One more parameter (at least)

Ionization, recombination, and excitation rates are strongly affected

Ionization rates are more strongly affected at low T

→ spectra are affected

TR line spectra can show decreased O IV compared to Si IV

AIA temperature responses, DEMs, ...

Diagnostics is more difficult

requires lines with different wavelengths (instrumentation consequences)

Calculation of non-Maxwellian spectra (tools) are freely available

The KAPPA database: <http://kappa.asu.cas.cz>

The Maxwellian decomposition technique

Integrating NEI and n-Maxw

- **Beam heating in HYDRAD**

Reep et al. (2013), ApJ 778, 76

Reep et al. (2015), ApJ, in press

- **Incorporating the κ -distributions directly using KAPPA package**

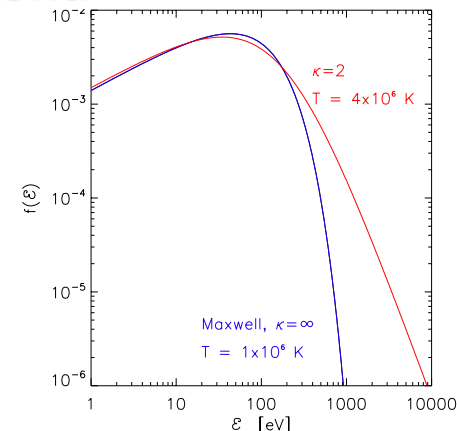
Calculation of lookup tables for:

- ionization/recombination rates
- ionization equilibrium
- emissivities as a function of T
- wvl resolved emissivities

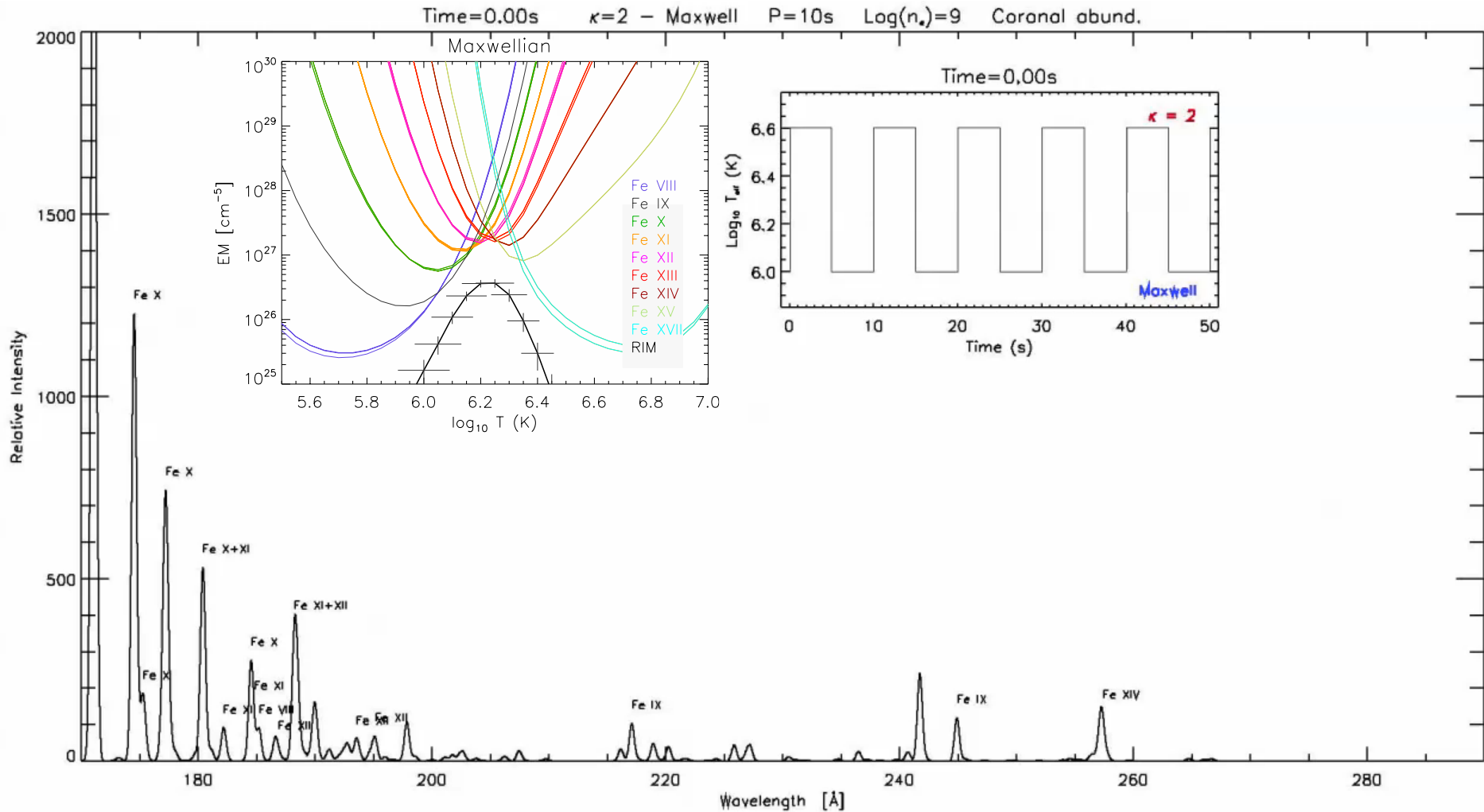
- **Numerical experiments with beam passing through corona**

- Distribution periodically changes from Maxwellian to $\kappa = 2$
- Bulk of the distribution is the same but the temperature changes: 1 MK --> 4 MK
- Small periods (5 – 60 s)

Dzifčáková et al. (2015) poster P3.4



Integrating NEI and n-Maxw



**"If the spectrum
is the secret code to sunlight,**

then we are the code breakers."

- prof. Joan T. Schmelz

κ -distr.: Free-free Continuum

- Emissivity of the free-free continuum for κ -distributions

$$P_{\text{ff}}(\lambda, \kappa) = \mathcal{A}_\kappa C T^{1/2} \int_0^\infty \frac{g_{\text{ff}}(y, w)}{\left(1 + \frac{y+w}{\kappa-3/2}\right)^{\kappa+1}} dy,$$

where $w = hc/\lambda k_B T$

- The constant C depends on abundances
and the ionization equilibrium

$$C = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{32\pi}{3} \frac{e^6}{m_e c^2 \lambda^2} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi k_B}{3m_e}} n_e n_H \sum_Z \sum_k k^2 \frac{n_k}{n_Z} A_Z,$$

κ -distr.: Free-bound continuum

- Emissivity of the free-bound continuum for κ -distributions

$$P_{\text{fb}}(E, \kappa) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{1}{hc^3 m_e^{3/2} k_B^{3/2}} \frac{E^5}{T^{3/2}} n_e n_H \\ \times \sum_{i,k,Z} \frac{n_{k+1}}{n_Z} A_Z \frac{g_i}{g_0} \sigma_i^{\text{bf}} \mathcal{A}_\kappa \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{E - I_i}{(\kappa - 3/2) k_B T}\right)^{\kappa + 1}}$$

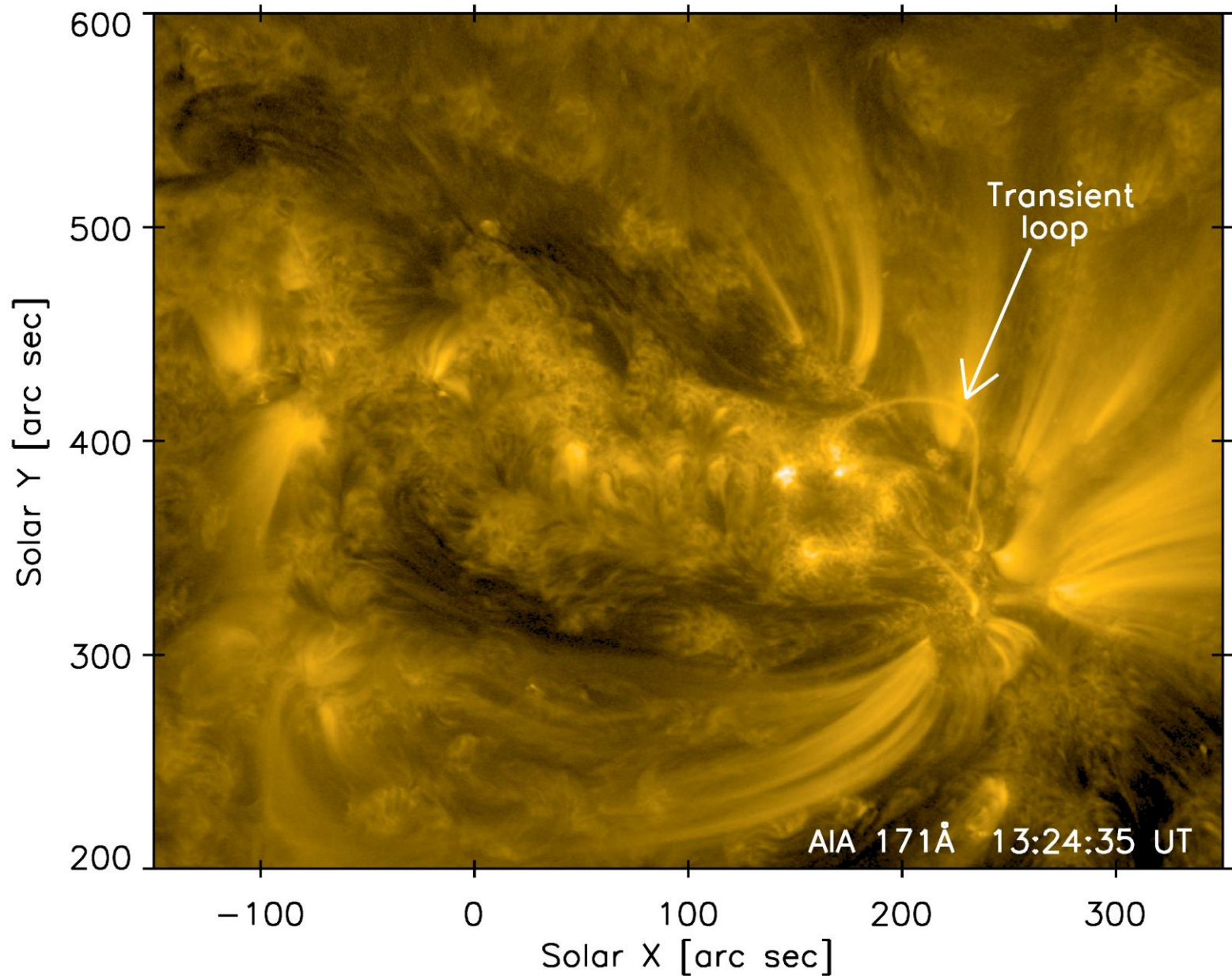
- Depends directly on the distribution function
- Influenced by the number of low-energy electrons

κ -distr.: KAPPA package

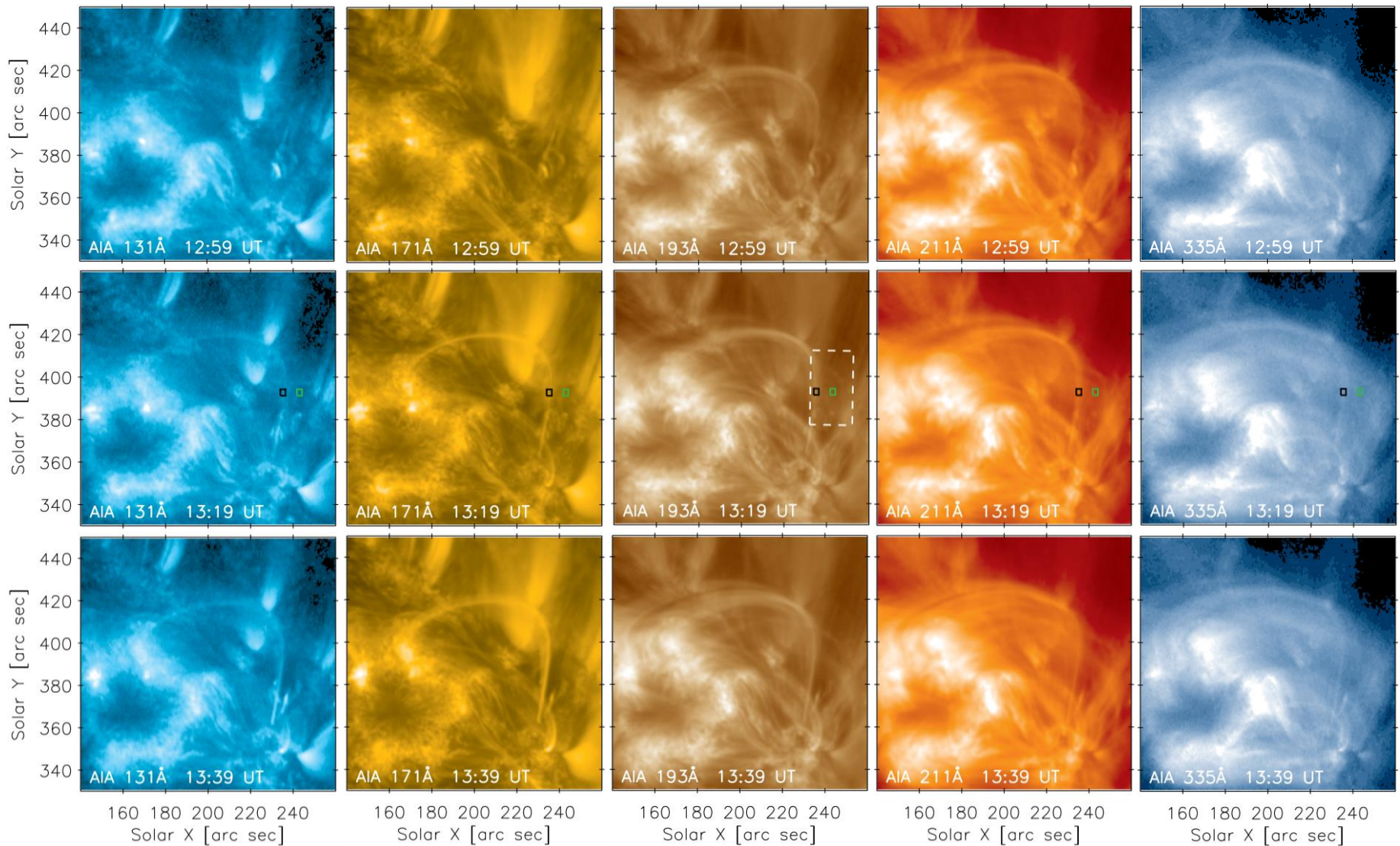
Table 1
List of Routines within the KAPPA Package

Routine name	Function
kappa.pro	interactive widget for calculation of synthetic spectra, based on ch_ss.pro
ch_synthetic_k.pro	calculates line intensities as a function of κ , n_e and T
descale_diel_k.pro	converts $\Upsilon_{ij}(T, \kappa)$ and $\mathfrak{J}_{ji}(T, \kappa)$ from the scaled domain for dielectronic satellite lines and performs correction in Equation (23)
emiss_calc_k.pro	calculates $hc/\lambda A_{ji}n(X_j^{+k})$
freebound_ion_k.pro	calculates the free-bound continuum arising from a single ion
freebound_k.pro	calculates the free-bound continuum
free-free_k.pro	free-free continuum interpolated from pre-calculated data
free-free_k_integral.pro	calculates the free-free continuum directly
isothermal_k.pro	calculates isothermal spectra as a function of λ
make_kappa_spec_k.pro	routine for calculating the synthetic spectra
plot_populations_k.pro	calculates and plots relative level populations
pop_solver_k.pro	calculates the relative level population
read_ff_k.pro	reads the pre-calculated free-free continuum as a function of Z and T
read_rate_ioniz_k.pro	reads the total ionization and recombination rates
read_rate_recomb_k.pro	reads the total ionization and recombination rates
ups_kappa_interp.pro	routine for interpolating the $\Upsilon_{ij}(T, \kappa)$ and $\mathfrak{J}_{ji}(T, \kappa)$

SDO/AIA: Transient Loop



SDO/AIA: Transient Loop



EIS Observations: HOP 226

