Atomic Data: their role in interpreting observations of the solar corona / TR

Giulio Del Zanna

Senior Research Associate DAMTP, CMS University of Cambridge





Further readings

Spectroscopic diagnostics (X-rays, EUV):

- Living Review in Solar Physics (Del Zanna & Mason, 2018)
- CHIANTI user guide (Del Zanna+)
- More advanced level: Part-III lectures (Del Zanna, in prep.)
- Phillips, Feldman, Landi, 2008, Ultraviolet and X-ray Spectroscopy of the Solar Atmosphere (Cambridge University press)
- Gabriel & Mason, 1982, in Applied Atomic Collision Physics, Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry, Massey, Bates eds.
- Dere & Mason, 1981, in Solar Active Regions: A Monograph from Skylab Solar Workshop III, eds. F. Q. Orrall
- Mariska, 1992 (The solar transition region, Cambridge University Press)
- Mason & Monsignori Fossi, 1994, A&A Rev., 6, 123
- Del Zanna (PhD thesis, 1999)
- Del Zanna, Landini & Mason, 2002, A&A, 385,968
- Del Zanna & Mason, The Sun as a star, Springer 2012

Solar corona



Spectrum of the solar corona from Lyot

'Coronium' green emission line first observed in 1869 by Young and Harkness at 5303 A. Red line observed later at 6374.6 A

Fe X

Zur Kenntnis der ClI-ähnlichen Spektren ClI, AII, KIII, CaIV, TiVI, VVII, CrVIII, MnIX, FeX und CoXI.

Von Bengt Edlén in Upsala.

Mit 5 Abbildungen. (Eingegangen am 21. November 1936.)



Grotrian (1939) suggested that the red line was due to Fe X, based on Edlen X-ray work.



Solar corona in the EUV

1958: First EUV spectra of the Sun (Violett & Rense) using rockets. First identifications only in 1965

comparison of fusion machines (ZETA) with solar spectra



Brian Fawcett, Alan Gabriel and Carole Jordan (1965)

 $3p^n - 3p^{n-1}3d$ transitions in Fe IX to Fe XIV

Line identifications are still on-going..

See Del Zanna `benchmarking' papers



The EUV



IRIS FUV2: TR Lines



Wavelength [Å]

Solar Orbiter SPICE wavelengths



SPICE data (first light)



Hinode EUV imaging spectrometer (EIS)





SDO/AIA vs. Hinode/EIS Del Zanna et al. (2011)



AIA EUV 211 band



Figure 3. EUV spectrum of fluorine and sulfur produced by injecting SF₆ into the EBIT-I electron beam ion trap covering the spectral range $\lambda 198 - \lambda 218$. The electron beam energy was 1000 eV, but the spectrum differs very little from observations at 600 eV. Identified spectral features are labeled by the corresponding spectrum. Unidentified features are labeled by a question mark. The response of the *SDO*/AIA $\lambda 211$ channel is indicated on top.

SDO AIA 94



0.0

92.5

93.0

93.5

94.0

Wavelength (Å)

G. Del Zanna - Solarnet school - Jan 2021

94.5

95.0

• Fe XVIII 93.9 line: 6MK

CHIANTI AIA responses (v.9)

AIA_RESP= ch_aia_resp('20100522', pressure=1e15, \$ abund_name=!xuvtop+'/abundance/sun_coronal_1992_feldman_ext.abund',\$ ioneq_name= !xuvtop+'/ioneq/chianti.ioneq',/verbose)

- Bands are multithermal.
- Off-band contribution
- Degradation of the bands difficult to assess.
- Responses depend on chemical abundances



- High-resolution line spectroscopy is featuring in many future missions and proposals.
- Main instrument is EUVST.

DKIST





Cryo-NIRSP Spectropolar.

Fe XIII λ10747 ; Log(T) ~ 6.22 Fe XIII λ10797 ; Log(T) ~ 6.22 Hel $\lambda 10830$; Log(T) ~ 4* λ14300 ; Log(T) ~ 6.13 Si X λ39350 ; Log(T) ~ 6.04 Si IX

Cryo-NIRSP Context Imager

Fe XIII λ 10747 ; Log(T) ~ 6.22 λ10830 ; Log(T) ~ 4* Hell Si IX λ 39340 ; Log(T) ~ 6.04

DKIST Cryo-NIRSP will measure up to 1.5 Rsun:

- 1. coronal Ne (Fe XIII ratio and others),
- 2. non-thermal widths
- 3. Te (approx)
- 4. coronal B

-1200

-1100

X [arcsec]

-1000

-900

5. in the future chemical abundances in coronal 1-3 MK plasma (Del Zanna & DeLuca 2018).

Aditya VELC



Spectroscopic mode ! FOV: 1.05 – 1.5 Ro (3 Ro imaging) Spatial resolution: 5" Cadence:1-5s Fe XIV (green), Fe XI (7892 A), Fe XIII (NIR), WL continuum Spectropolarimetry in Fe XIII → magnetic field

G. Del Zanna - Solarnet school - Jan 2021

Images: D.Banerjee



Level designation

- Electrons occupy *nl* orbitals
- L = orbital angular momentum, represented by a letter: S=0, P=1, D=2, F=3 …
- S = spin angular momentum
- J = total angular momentum
- S and J take values 0, 1/2, 1, 3/2, 2, ...
- Notation is ${}^{2S+1}L_J$
- E.g., for Fe XII, the ground configuration is



G. Del Zanna - Solarnet school - Jan 2021

Line emission

- •Number of photons = $N_j A_{jj}$
- • A_{ji} is Einstein's probability for spontaneous decay
- • N_j fraction of ions in the state j
- •Two main types
 - $-forbidden (A_{ji} < 10^3 \text{ s}^{-1})$
 - $-allowed (A_{jj} > 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1})$
- • Δ J=0, ±1 and Δ L=0, ±1
- • Δ S=1 intercombination have smaller A_{ji}
- •All transitions *within* a configuration are forbidden
- •If a level has no allowed transitions ⁹ then it is *metastable*



Ionization vs. excitation

Ionizations/recombinations occur on timescales of 1-100s Dipole-allowed lines decay in $\sim 10^{-10}$ s. Forbidden ones in 10^{-4} s or longer



Usual to treat separately excitation / ionization, but collisional-radiative models (CRM) are actually necessary in many cases.

Most codes calculate ion balance assuming population is all in ground states.

Line intensities

In optically-thin plasmas line intensities are proportional to:



The Hydrogen/electron density depends on the elemental abundances relative to H. For the solar corona, H, He are fully ionised and the ratio is about 0.8--0.9.

CHIANTI population modelling before v.9



G. Del Zanna - Solarnet school - Jan 2021

population

Contribution function

Spectral line intensity:

$$I(\lambda_{ij}) = \frac{h\nu_{ij}}{4\pi} \int N_j A_{ji} dh = \int Ab(X)C(T, \lambda_{ij}, N_e)N_e N_H dh \quad [\text{ergs cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}]$$
$$C(T, \lambda_{ij}, N_e) = \frac{h\nu_{ij}}{4\pi} \frac{A_{ji}}{N_e} \frac{N_j(X^{+m})}{N(X^{+m})} \frac{N(X^{+m})}{N(X)} \quad [\text{ergs cm}^{+3} \text{ s}^{-1}]$$

Note that in the literature there are various definitions of contribution functions. Aside from having values in either photons or ergs, sometime the factor π is not included. Sometimes a value of 0.83 for N(H)/N(e) is assumed and included. Sometimes the element abundance factor is also included.



Atomic data for astrophysics

CALCULATION:

UK APAP Network <u>http://www.apap-network.org/</u> (STFC funded): main ion atomic data provider for fusion and astrophysics (PI: Badnell, Strathclyde) BENCHMARK:

EUV line identifications and benchmark

DISTRIBUTION: CHIANTI (www.chiantidatabase.org) CHIANTI Google user group

IDL suite (stand-alone, SSW) Chiantipy (Dere) in Python CHIANTI-VIP (Del Zanna) in Python

Latest version 10: Del Zanna+2021





Atomic physics

Most theory and programs developed over a long period of time with significant contributions in the UK from UCL (Seaton's group), QUB (e.g. Burke, Hibbert), Cambridge (Burgess), and a few groups in Europe.

Atomic structure theory and codes received significant contributions from C. Froese Fisher and I. Grant (Oxford).

Atomic physics went out of fashion long ago and soon we will go back to the middle ages.



Mike Seaton (UCL) Alan Burgess (Cambridge)

Collisional excitation (CE) and de-excitation

The main processes affecting the level populations within one ion are scattering with particles.

Most abundant particles in the quiescent corona are thermal electrons, protons, alpha.

Electron collisions are the main excitation process in the low corona.

Proton collisions are also important when level separation is small.

Within CHIANTI, a matrix with all the upward and downward rates (no bf) is solved to obtain the level populations (since v.9 I introduced a two-ion CRM)



Collision strength

The number of transitions form level i to level j due to electron collisions per unit volume and time is given by Ni Ne *Cij* where *Cij* is the rate:

$$C_{ij}^e = \int_{v_o}^{\infty} v \sigma_{ij}(v) f(v) dv$$

with v_o the velocity corresponding to the threshold energy for the transition and the cross section normally written as a function of a symmetric adimensional quantity, function of the kinetic energy of the colliding electron, called the *collision strength*

$$\sigma_{ij} = \frac{\pi a_0^2}{g_i} \frac{E_H}{E} \Omega_{ij}(E)$$

 a_0 the first Bohr orbit radius for the hydrogen, g_i the statistical weight of the level i, E_H the ionization energy for H I (13.6 eV). Assuming a Maxwellian distribution function *f*:

$$C_{ij}^{e} = 8.63 \ 10^{-6} \frac{\Upsilon_{ij}}{T_{e}^{1/2} g_{i}} \ exp\left(-\frac{E_{ij}}{kT_{e}}\right)$$

Collision strength

The Maxwellian-averaged collision strength:

$$\Upsilon_{ij} = \int_0^\infty \Omega_{ij} \, exp\left(-\frac{E_j}{kT_e}\right) d\left(\frac{E_j}{kT_e}\right)$$

 E_j is the energy of the scattered electron relative to the energy of the final state of the ion.

The electron de-excitation rate is obtained with the principle of detailed balance:

$$C_{ji}^e = \frac{g_i}{g_j} C_{ij}^e \, exp\left(\frac{E_{ij}}{kT_e}\right)$$

Collision strength- example: Mg IX

CHIANTI data

Currently, for each ion at least ascii files:

fe_12.elvlc	Energy levels (theoretical, observed), level descriptions
fe_12.wgfa	Transition probabilities, gf values, theoretical, observed wavelengths
fe_12.scups	Maxwellian-averaged e- collision strengths on a scaled domain

• + proton rates only for a few levels and ions.

Non-Maxwellian e- (NMED)

Non-thermal particles are also present, especially during flares.

Most codes in astrophysics assume Maxwellian particles.

There is evidence that in solar active regions non-Maxwellian electron distributions (NMED) are present (Lorincik+2020). Within CHIANTI, there is a way to treat NMED assuming sums of Maxwellians

$$f(E;a_i) = \sum_{i} a_i f_M(E,T_i)$$

$$C_{jk} = \int_{E_{jk}}^{\infty} Q_{jk} v f(E;a_i) dE$$

$$= \sum_{i} a_i \int_{E_{jk}}^{\infty} Q_{jk} v f_M(E,T_i) dE$$

$$= \sum_{i} a_i C_{jk}(T_i)$$

The collisional excitation rate is the sum.
The coefficients a_i are passed via a
keyword

Alternatively, if you assume a k-distribution you can use the KAPPA package (being updated for CHIANTI v.8) or ask for cross-sections.

Level population and coronal model

Without proton CE:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dN_j}{dt} &= \sum_{k>j} N_k A_{k,j} + \sum_{k>j} N_k N_e C_{k,j}^d + \sum_{ij} N_k B_{k,j} J_{\nu_{k,j}} - N_j \left(\sum_{ij} C_{j,k}^e \right) \\ &+ \sum_{ij} B_{j,k} J_{\nu_{k,j}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

In a two-level ion model (e.g. a ground state g and an excited state j) and neglecting photoexcitation:

Two-level ion

$$N_{\rm g}N_{\rm e}C^e_{gj} = N_j(N_{\rm e}C^e_{jg} + A_{jg})$$

so the relative population of the level j is

$$\frac{N_j}{N_{\rm g}} = \frac{N_{\rm e} C_{gj}^e}{N_{\rm e} C_{jg}^e + A_{jg}} \tag{15}$$

i.e. depends strongly on the relative values between the radiative rate A_{jg} and the collisional de-excitation term $N_{\rm e}C_{jg}^e$.

Metastable levels- electron density diagnostics

Density diagnostics involve metastable levels. Best are ratios of allowed lines

CHIANTI: IDL>plot_populations, 'fe_14',2e6

The number of photons emitted by the transition per second and per ion is:

$$A_{jg}\frac{N_j}{N_{\rm g}} = A_{jg}\frac{C_{gj}^e}{C_{jg}^e}\left(1 + \frac{A_{jg}}{N_{\rm e}C_{jg}^e}\right)^{-1} = \frac{g_j}{g_g}\exp\left(\frac{-\Delta E_{gj}}{kT_{\rm e}}\right)A_{jg}\left(1 + \frac{A_{jg}}{N_{\rm e}C_{jg}^e}\right)^{-1}$$

At low densities the intensity is then proportional to the density but independent of the A value: $N_e C_{qj}^e$. The emission is directly related to the collision.

At high densities the intensity is

$$A_{jg} \frac{g_j}{g_g} \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta E_{gj}}{kT_{\rm e}}\right) ,$$

Fe XII

The 186/195 is a good density diagnostic for Hinode EIS. The populations of the metastable levels are hard to calculate.

Del Zanna (2012): the population of the 3s² 3p³ ²D_{5/2} is 50 % higher than previous models (Storey et al. 2005; Del Zanna & Mason 2005).

Fe XIII – log Ne=8



Measuring densities

When more than one line ratio is available, a convenient way is the emissivity ratio method (Del Zanna et al. 2004)



IRIS densities



Table 3: O	IV transitions	commonly u	sed to n	neasure densities.
------------	----------------	------------	----------	--------------------

Transitions	λ (Å)	Instrument	\logN_e
$^{2}\mathrm{P}_{3/2}$ - $^{4}\mathrm{P}_{5/2}$ $2\mathrm{s}^{2}$ 2p $^{2}\mathrm{P}_{3/2}$ - 2s 2p 2 $^{4}\mathrm{P}_{3/2}$	1401.16 1404.78 (bl S IV)	Skylab, HRTS, SMM/UVSP SUMEB_IBIS	9-19
982 9n 2p. 10 - 98 9n2 4p. 10	1300 78	Solutin, indo	5 12



G. Del Zanna - Solarnet school - Jan 2021

CHIANTI GUI applications





'Direct' temperature diagnostics

For allowed lines, intensities are I_{jg} , proportional to the excitation rate.





Ratios of lines with very different excitation energies are T-sensitive.

O VI SOHO GIS + SUMER David et al. (1998)

At flare temperatures very good measurements can be obtained from the satellite lines in the X-rays, with different diagnostics.

Measuring Te with Mg IX



Break out hands-on session?

Line widths

 $I_{\lambda} = \frac{I}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} exp[-(\lambda - \lambda_0)^2/2\sigma^2]$ For a Maxwellian distribution $\sigma^2 = \frac{\lambda^2}{2c^2} \left(\frac{2kT}{M_i} + \xi^2\right) + \sigma_I^2$ Ion mass
gaussian instrumental width
most probable non-thermal velocity $< v^2 >^{1/2} = (3/2)^{1/2}\xi$

A key issue is the ion temperature – not easy to know. Te has hardly been measured. The ionization temperature is normally used.

Opacity in coronal lines



The EIS Fe XII 192,193.5,195 Å Lines should have the same width and constant ratios. They do not in AR and some off-limb observations.

Del Zanna+2019

$$\tau_0 = 8.3 \ 10^{-21} \ f_{lu} \frac{\lambda^2}{\Delta \lambda_{FWHM}} \ N_l \ \Delta S \tag{4}$$

with λ and $\Delta \lambda_{FWHM}$ expressed in Å. For the 195 Å line, $f_{lu} = 2.97/4$, neglecting the weaker line blending the main line.

The population of the lower level can be written as

$$N_l = \frac{N_l}{N(\text{Fe XII})} \frac{N(\text{Fe XII})}{N(\text{Fe})} Ab(\text{Fe}) \frac{N_{\text{H}}}{N_{\text{e}}} N_{\text{e}} , \qquad (5)$$

where $N_l/N(\text{Fe XII}) = 0.9$ is the relative population of the ground state at quiet Sun densities, N(Fe XII)/N(Fe) = 0.25 is the peak relative population of the ion, $Ab(\text{Fe}) = 3.16 \, 10^{-5}$ is the Fe photospheric abundance, $N_{\text{H}}/N_{\text{e}} = 0.83$, and N_{e} is the averaged electron number density. We therefore have $\tau_0 = 6.9 \, 10^{-20} \, N_{\text{e}} \, \Delta S$ [cm⁻²] assuming $\Delta \lambda_{FWHM} = 0.02 \, \text{\AA}$.

plot_populations, 'fe_12',1.5e6,20, densities=1e8*[1,3,5] plot_ioneq, 'fe', ion=[12]

for Ne=7 10⁸ and a path = $1.8 \ 10^{10}$ cm (from the EM) we get $\tau = 0.9$ for the 195 Å line.

Del Zanna+2019

Assuming that the source function does not vary alos:

 $I_{\nu} = S_{\nu} (1 - e^{-\tau_0}) ,$

while the the line source function S_{y} is:

$$S_{\nu} = \frac{2h\nu^3}{c^2} \left(\frac{g_u N_l}{g_l N_u} - 1\right)^{-1} ,$$

for τ (195 Å) = 0.9, τ (192 Å) = 0.3, the ratio of the source functions is close to 1, and the 195/192 Å ratio decreases by ~30%, close to what observed.

Break out hands-on session?

Photo-excitation (PE)

Photoexcitation and stimulated emission depend on the local radiation field. It is not so important in the low corona and EUV/UV lines.

It is very important for the forbidden lines in the corona, when densities are low and little CE is present.

Also, for all cool lines in the corona (esp. H,He), and low charge states in the TR/chromosphere.



PE for H, He in the corona



Neutral He is also strongly affected by PE (Del Zanna+2020)

PE

Assuming a uniform disk intensity:

$$J_{\nu} = \frac{\Delta \,\Omega}{4\pi} \,\overline{I_{\nu}} = W(r) \,\overline{I_{\nu}}$$

where W(r) is the *dilution factor* of the radiation, i.e., the geometrical factor which accounts for the weakening of the radiation field at a distance r from the Sun, and $\overline{I_{\nu}}$ is the averaged disk radiance at the frequency ν .

Assuming spherical symmetry (i.e., the solar photosphere a perfect sphere), and indicating with *r* the distance from Sun centre R_{\odot} the solar radius, we have:

$$W(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\theta_0} \sin\theta \, d\theta \, d\phi = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \cos\theta_0 \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \left[1 - \left(\frac{R_\odot}{r} \right)^2 \right]^{1/2} \right)$$
(26)

where θ_0 is the angle sub-tending R_{\odot} at the distance r, i.e., $\sin\theta_0 = R_{\odot}/r$.

In terms of the energy density per unit wavelength, U_{λ} , the photoexcitation rate for a transition $i \rightarrow j$ is:

$$P_{ij} = A_{ji} W(r) \frac{g_j}{g_i} \frac{\lambda^5}{8\pi hc} U_\lambda$$
(27)

where A_{ji} is the Einstein coefficient for spontaneous emission from j to i, g_j and g_i are the statistical weights of levels j and i, and W(r) is the radiation dilution factor.



Photo-excitation (PE)



$$\mathcal{A}_{ij} = \begin{cases} W(r)A_{ji}\frac{g_j}{g_i}\frac{1}{\exp(\Delta E/kT_*)-1} & i < j \\ \\ A_{ji}\left[1+W(r)\frac{1}{\exp(\Delta E/kT_*)-1}\right] & i > j \end{cases}$$

FIG. 3.—Fe XIII $\lambda 10746/\lambda 10797$ ratio plotted as a function of density for two different dilution factors. W = 0 corresponds to no radiation field, while W = 0.29 corresponds to 0.1 source radii above the source surface ($r_* = 1.1$).





Photo-excitation is pumping the forbidden lines. Each spectral line is sensitive to Ne and disk radiation in a different way.



Del Zanna+2018

PE and coronal lines

Forbidden lines in the visible/IR are great to measure

- Ne via line ratios or actual radiances
- T (ionisation T, but also Te in combination with EUV)
- Chemical abundances
- Non-Thermal effects (line widths, non-thermal electrons)
- Magnetic field (see CoMP Science paper by Yang, Zihao+2020)

However:

- Atomic data not simple to calculate. Latest calculations (Del Zanna+ 2012, several A&A papers), made available to CHIANTI v.8 Del Zanna+(2015) showed increases of ~2 in the intensities. (cf. Del Zanna & Mason, 2018, Liv. Rev. Sol. Phys.)
- Visible/IR nearly unexplored ! (see Del Zanna & DeLuca (2017)
- Modelling the signal is not trivial (see e.g. Del Zanna+2018, Dudik+2020)
- Significant atmospheric absorption in the IR (DKIST)

PE in CHIANTI

Is included as a correction to the A-value (resonant process) with a dilution W. A black-body is one option. Alternatively an user-defined energy density U file can be passed as a keyword, with RADFUNC= 'my_function,lambda, a, b'. The function must return an array of energy density with the same dimensions of the wavelength array lambda, which is internally defined.

Note: the relation between radiance and energy density is:

The optional two parameters can e.g. be the velocity for the Doppler dimming and a temperature.

Doppler dimming is a powerful diagnostic to measure the plane-of-sky solar wind outflow velocity.

$$I_{\lambda} = rac{c}{4\pi} U_{\lambda}.$$



Break out hands-on session?

Ionization/Recombination

Processes that depopulate the upper ionization state:

- (1): radiative recombination, induced ~ $N_{r+1} N_e R_{r+1}^i$
- (2): radiative recombination, spontaneous ~ $N_{r+1} N_e R_{r+1}^r$
 - is the inverse process of photoionization (cf Badnell 2006)
- (3): dielectronic recombination ~ $N_{r+1} N_e R^{d}_{r+1}$ (Burgess 1964,1965)

Processes that populate the upper ionization state:

(4): collisional ionization (+auto) by direct impact by electrons (inverse of three-body recombination) ~ N_r N_e S^e_r (5): photoionization ~ N_r Rⁱ_r $R^{i}_{r} = R^{i}_{r} \sim \int I_{\nu} d\Omega$

LTE: detailed balance of (1), (2), (5) --> Saha equation

$$\frac{N_{r+1}}{N_r} = \frac{u_{r+1}}{u_r} e^{-\chi_{r+1}/kT} \frac{2 (2\pi m kT)^{3/2}}{N_e h^3} \qquad u_r = \sum_n g_{r,n} \exp(E_{r,n}/kT)$$
Partition function

At low densities plasmas become optically thin and most of radiation escape, therefore processes (1) and (5) are attenuated. The Saha equation does not apply.



Direct Ionization (DI) by electron impact

$$S^e = \int_{v_0}^{\infty} v\sigma(v)f(v)dv \quad (\mathrm{cm}^{-3}s^{-1})$$

direct impact coefficients for ionization by collision with electrons (much more efficient than the protons).

Dere (2007) calculated ab-initio direct-ionization (DI) crosssections between ground states and compared them with available experimental data. They are available in CHIANTI.

There are discrepancies among calculations and (sparse) experiments (see also Dufresne & Del Zanna 2019,2020)



Fig. 3. FAC DI cross sections for CV and the measurements of Crandall et al. (1979a) (diamonds) and Donets & Ovsyannikov (1981) (triangles, plotted with an arbitrary 10% experimental error).

```
CHIANTI:
IDL>e= 350+ 10.*indgen(1000)
plot_oi, e,ioniz_cross('c_5',e),chars=2,/xst
```

EA collisional ionisation

- Ionisation via excitation-autoionization (EA) is an additional process important for some ions at higher temperatures.
- Available calculations are sparse. See Dufresne & Del Zanna for examples and references.



Figure 2. Cross section for electron impact ionisation of N^{4+} . The connected full circles are present data; open circles are data of Donets and Ovsyannikov (1977); broken curve is scaled Coulomb-Born of Golden and Sampson (1977); full bold curve is Coulomb-Born by Moores (1978).

G. Del Zanna - Solarnet school - Jan 2021

Three body recombination is the inverse process of collisional ionization. The rate coefficient for the three body recombination C_{ji}^{3B} can be obtained by applying the principle of detailed balance:

$$N_{\rm e} N_i(Z^{+r}) C_{ij}^{\rm I} = N_{\rm e} N_j(Z^{+r+1}) C_{ji}^{3{\rm B}}$$

which leads to

$$C_{ji}^{3B} = C_{ij}^{I} = \frac{g_i N_e}{g_j 2} \left(\frac{h^2}{2\pi m k T_e}\right)^{3/2} e^{-(E_i - E_f)/kT_e}$$

for Maxwellian electrons

Radiative recombination (RR)

- It is a recombination by a free electron. The photon-induced is not usually relevant. Rates are normally obtained from the PI crosssections via detailed balance. Level-resolved (initial and final) crosssections are needed. Very accurate values are available for H, He and several ions.
- Level-resolved rates for all ions obtained from simplified PI (background distorted-wave) are available at the UK APAP network.
- CHIANTI has the total of these rates, between ground states. Since v.9 CHIANTI introduced some level-resolved rates in two-ion models (Del Zanna, see Appendix of Dere+2019).

Dielectronic recombination (DR)

When a free electron is captured into an autoionization state of the recombining ion while a bound electron is excited. The ion is in a doubly-excited unstable state. It can then autoionize (releasing a free electron) or produce a radiative transition into a bound state (a satellite line) producing a recombined ion.

Shown by Burgess (1964,1965) to be a very important effect for the solar corona at high temperatures, typically 10 times more effective than RR





IDL> t= 100+ 10.*lindgen(1e6) plot_oo, t, recomb_rate('o_3',t,\$ /radiative),chars=2,/xst

oplot, t, recomb_rate('o_3',t, /diel),line=2

FIG. 9.—Total ground state rate coefficients for O^{2+} . Solid curves, RR (present), DR (Zatsarinny et al. 2004), and total (DR + RR) from AUTOSTRUCTURE; dashed curve, total (unified DR + RR) from *R*-matrix (Nahar 1999).

Badnell (2006)

G. Del Zanna - Solarnet school - Jan 2021

DR

Level-resolved (final states) DR rates from ground and metastable states are available for many ions at the UK APAP network, calculated as part of the DR project (Badnell+1998)

CHIANTI mostly has these DR rates , but totals and from ground states only



Density dependence on DR



FIG. 7.—Fe $^{+8} + e$ recombination coefficient

Ionisation equilibrium at zero density

$$\frac{1}{N_{\rm e}} \frac{dN_r}{dt} = N_{r-1} S_{r-1} - N_r (S_r + \alpha_r) + N_{r+1} \alpha_{r+1}$$

Each ion is considered to be in the ground state and rates only depend on Te Usually called coronal approximation, but in Continuum reality it is a zero density (lower than densities of planetary nebulae) C IV (C³⁺) Continuum In equilibrium, the relative two-ion abundance is obtained from the $C III (C^{2+})$ ratio of the rates: $\frac{N_{r+1}}{N} = \frac{S_r(T)}{\alpha + 1(T)}$

the timescales for N_r to ionise are $1/(N_e S_r^e)$, while to recombine $1/(N_e \alpha_r)$

CI - DR



There are CHIANTI routines to plot these rates. Note the Ne-dependence of the DR rates (ADAS)

t=10^[5.+0.2*indgen(10)] plot_io, chars=2 ,alog10(t), ioniz_rate('o_4',t)

Zero density



ionisation T - DKIST



Photo-Ionisation (PI)

Photoionization is normally negligible in the lower solar corona. But it is important for example for prominences, the low transition region and the outer corona.



Important for H, He which recombine after being ionized by the coronal radiation.



G. Del Zanna - Solarnet school - Jan 2021

Andretta, Del Zanna, Jordan (2003)
$$\alpha_{ic}^{\mathrm{PI}} = 4\pi \int_{\nu_0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_{ic}^{\mathrm{(bf)}}(\nu)}{h\nu} J_{\nu} \, \mathrm{d}\nu \qquad \qquad J_{\nu} = \frac{\Delta \Omega}{4\pi} \overline{I_{\nu}} = W(r) \overline{I_{\nu}} ,$$
$$W = \frac{1}{2} \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{r^2}\right)^{1/2} \right]$$
$$r = \frac{R}{R_{\star}}$$

ΡΙ

Data are available from the Opacity Project (Seaton+), the UK APAP Network and the literature.

Only cross-sections from ground states are available in CHIANTI.

PI from populated excited states can be very important, see e.g. Dufresne, Del Zanna+ (2019,2020,2021) and for He Del Zanna+2020

C III PI for QS

lam=1.+lindgen(300)

plot, lam, verner_xs(6,3, lam), chars=2, ytit='10!U-18!N cm!U-2!N',\$

xtit='Wavelength (Angstroms)

The spectrum close to the PI edge is important.



PI is also important when H,He absorbs background emission as in filaments, spicules, etc.

Ρ



PI for O



Figure 3. Coronal approximation for oxygen: solid line - this work including photo-ionisation only, dotted - CHIANTI v.9. Ions are highlighted by Roman numerals and different colours.

CR Modelling: Level-Resolved

Two main effects: 1) suppression of DR and 2) CI from metastable levels. A new approach – building a level-resolved matrix with all the main levels for all the ions, see Dufresne & Del Zanna (2019,2020) with some approximations. Full CRMs are being built.



Combined CI and DR effects - C



Fig. 12. Combined effect of density on level-resolved, electron impact ionisation and DR suppression in the CR model; blue dotted line - CHIANTI v.8, green dash-dotted - this work at 10^4 cm⁻³ density, red dash-dot-dotted - 10^8 cm⁻³, purple dashed - 10^{10} cm⁻³, black solid - 10^{12} cm⁻³.

Dufresne & Del Zanna

Combined CI and DR effects - O



Figure 9. Final ionisation equilibrium of oxygen at various densities; dotted line - CHIANTI, dash-dot-dotted - this work at 10^4 cm⁻³ density, dash-dotted - 10^8 cm⁻³, dashed - 10^{10} cm⁻³, solid - 10^{12} cm⁻³. Individual charge states are highlighted by Roman numerals and different colours.

Dufresne Del Zanna, Badnell

Charge tranfer (CT)

Very important for low charge states of some elements. Mostly due to interaction (both ways) with neutral H,He, which themselves are difficult to model (see issues with He in the corona in Del Zanna+2020). Availability of CT rates is sparse.



O results for quiet Sun

Dufresne, Del Zanna Badnell 2021

Figure 4. Coronal approximation of oxygen: solid line - this work including charge transfer only, dotted - CHIANTI v.9. Ions are highlighted by Roman numerals and different colours.

Ne-dependent CI, DR, + PI, CT



Figure 5. Ionisation equilibrium of oxygen: solid line - full model, dashed - Dufresne et al. electron collisional model, dotted - CHI-ANTI v.9. Ions are highlighted by Roman numerals and different colours.

O results for quiet Sun

Dufresne, Del Zanna Badnell 2021

Ionisation (time dependent)

Time-dependent ionization can substantially affect ion populations. Important in the solar wind (low Ne) and in active regions (whenever the heating timescales are short).



Effects on spectral lines can be studied e.g. with the HYDRAD code (see examples in Bradshaw, Del Zanna & Mason (2003):

FIG. 5.—Oxygen ion fractions as a function of temperature for the equilibrium case (*dotted lines*) and when a constant flow speed of 30 km s^{-1} is assumed (*solid lines*).

Esser+1998

The radiative losses are calculated by solving the time-dependent ionization, including the advective term (the rate coefficients I and R are functions of temperature)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(N_r) + \frac{\partial}{\partial s}(N_r v) = N_e(N_{r-1}S^e_{r-1} - N_r(S^e_r + R_r) + N_{r+1}R_{r+1}) \qquad N(X) = \sum_r N_r$$

G. Del Zanna - Solarnet school - Jan 2021

Ionization equilibrium with NMED

A fully self-consistent model is very complex and is not available. Approximations used within the KAPPA package show the effects for strong NMED:



DEM / EM

$$I(\lambda_{ji}) = \int_h N_{\rm e} N_{\rm H} A(X) \, G(N_{\rm e},T,\lambda_{j,i}) dh$$

If there is a continuous distribution of densities and temperatures along the line of sight, then we can define the column Differential Emission Measure (DEM) and total emission measure EM:

DEM (T)
$$\equiv N_e N_H \frac{dh}{dT} [\text{cm}^{-5} \text{K}^{-1}]$$

EM $\equiv \int_h N_e N_H dh = \int_T DEM(T) dT [\text{cm}^{-5}]$
 $I(\lambda_{ij}) = A(X) \int_T G(T) DEM(T) dT$

The DEM(T) gives an indication of the amount of plasma along the line of sight that is emitting the radiation observed and has a temperature between T and T+dT. It is also used for measuring chemical abundances. Note that in the literature many different definitions of DEM, EM, and approximations can be found, for example:

DEM(T) =
$$N_e^2 (dT/dh)^{-1}$$
.
EM = $\int N_e^2 dh = \int DEM(T) dT$

Effective Te (Del Zanna & Mason 2014)



G. Del Zanna - Solarnet school - Jan 2021

Spectroscopic filling factors

If one assumes an homogeneous slab of plasma of thickness dh, once elemental abundances are known, and a line intensity measured, one can obtain an average $\langle EM \rangle = \langle N_e^2 \rangle$ dh from which the path length dh can be estimated once N_e is measured from e.g. a line ratio. Dere et al.(1987) used HRTS transition region C IV intensities and O IV densities form a line ratio to obtain path lengths of 0.1-10 km, much smaller than the observed sizes of the spicular structures (2400 km).

In other words, average <N_e²> obtained from the measured EM and estimated dh are much smaller than expected from the averaged densities obtained from line ratios.

$$f = \frac{\langle N_{\rm e}^2 \rangle}{\langle N_{\rm e} \rangle^2} = \frac{\langle EM \rangle}{\langle N_{\rm e} \rangle^2 \, \Delta h}$$



For coronal loops is close to 1 (SOHO/CDS: Del Zanna 2003, Del Zanna & Mason 2003; Hinode/EIS: Tripathi et al. 2009)

EM loci

$$I_{ji} = \int f \ Ab(Y) \ G_{ji}(T_e) \ N_e^2 \ dh \cong$$
$$Ab(Y) \int \ G_{ji}(T_e) dT < \int \ N_e^2 \ dh / dT >$$
$$EM = \int N_e(h)^2 dh \qquad \frac{Iobs}{Ab(Y) \ Gji(Te)}$$

Del Zanna (2003) re-introduced the EM loci method (Strong 1978) to AR loops. Isothermal !



For each line and temperature T_i the value $I_{ob} / G(T_i)$ represents an upper limit to the value of the emission measure at that temperature, assuming that all the observed emission I_{ob} is produced by an isothermal plasma at the temperature T_i .

Anomalous ions

Lines from Li-like and Na-like ions are stronger (factors of 2-5) than predicted. These lines are the strongest in the UV ! Si IV and C IV

$$I_{ji} = \int Ab(X) G_{ji}(T_e) N_e^2 dh$$

$$EM = \int N_e(h)^2 dh$$

$$EMLoci = \frac{Iobs}{Ab(X) Gji(Te)}$$





Del Zanna+(2002): first to show that the problem is present also in UV stellar observations

Chemical abundances

- EM Loci or EM, DEM curves have been used since 1963 to measure the relative abundances in the corona, which are different than photospheric. There is a correlation with the FIP, indicating that the process occurs in the chromosphere (hard to model !), see one of the possible explanations in Laming, Sol. Phys. Living Review.
- Abundances relative to H can be measured using the continuum.
- For a review of key results see our Living Review, as many in the literature are incorrect for various reasons, one related to how the plasma is distributed in temperature.

Chemical abundances in CH plumes

The Widing and Feldman (1989) approximation imposes a continuous distribution of the values DEM_L plotted at the temperature of maximum ion abundance.

Incorrect abundances (by a factor of 10) can be obtained when plasma is isothermal as in CH plumes.



FIP BIAS in AR loops (Skylab)



Mg VI,

The EM Loci curves are consistent with an FIP

bias present but 4 times lower ! (Del Zanna 2003)



Sheely (1996)

Continuum

Free-free (f-f) produce a continuum of photons with energies E=0- $1/2 \text{ mv}^2$)

Free-bound (f-b) produces photons at energies $1/2 \text{ mv}^2$ - E_f

with E_f the final energy of the atomic state. F-b depends on the chemical abundances.

Continuum is present at all wavelengths

Note that the expressions found in the literature for the f-f and f-b normally assume Maxwellian electron distributions.



END

Thank you