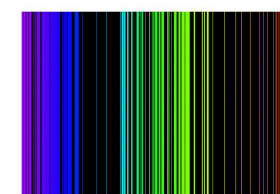
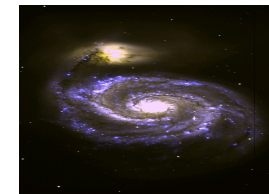
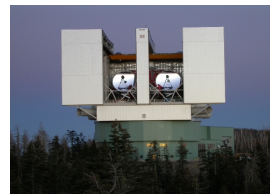




THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



Supercomputer
Center



Research based online course:

**”Atomic and Molecular Astrophysics and Spectroscopy
with Computational workshops on R-matrix and
SUPERSTRUCTURE Codes II”**

**- PROF. SULTANA N. NAHAR,
PROF. ANIL K. PRADHAN**

Astronomy Department, Ohio State University, USA



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



A.P.J. Abdul Kalam STEM-ER Center
(Indo-US collaboration)

- Organized under the Indo-US STEM Education and Research Center of OSU-AMU, AMU, Aligarh, India, & OSU, Columbus, USA

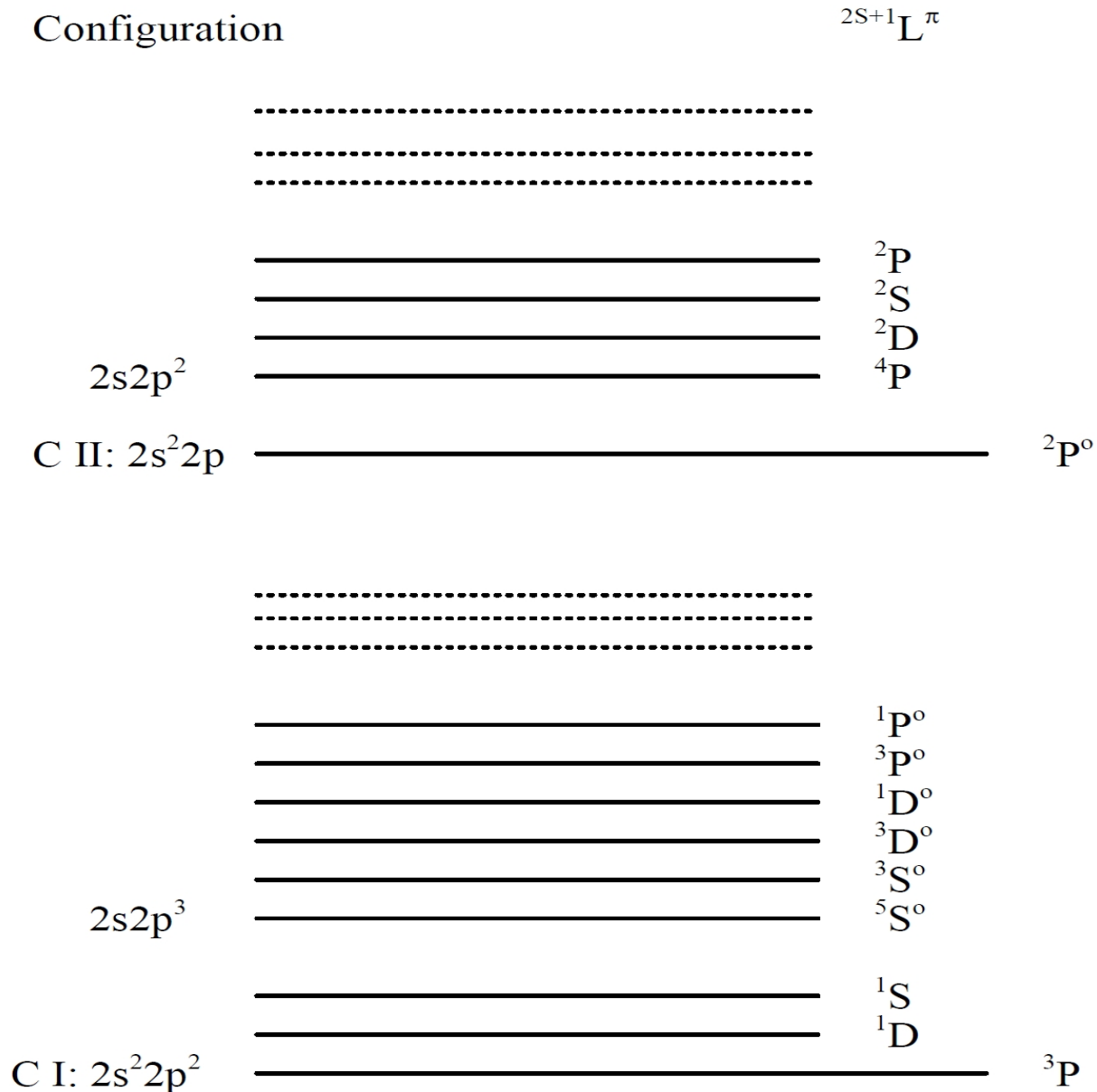
Oct 4 - 26, 2025

Support: OSU, OSC, OSU-AMU STEM ER Center, AMU

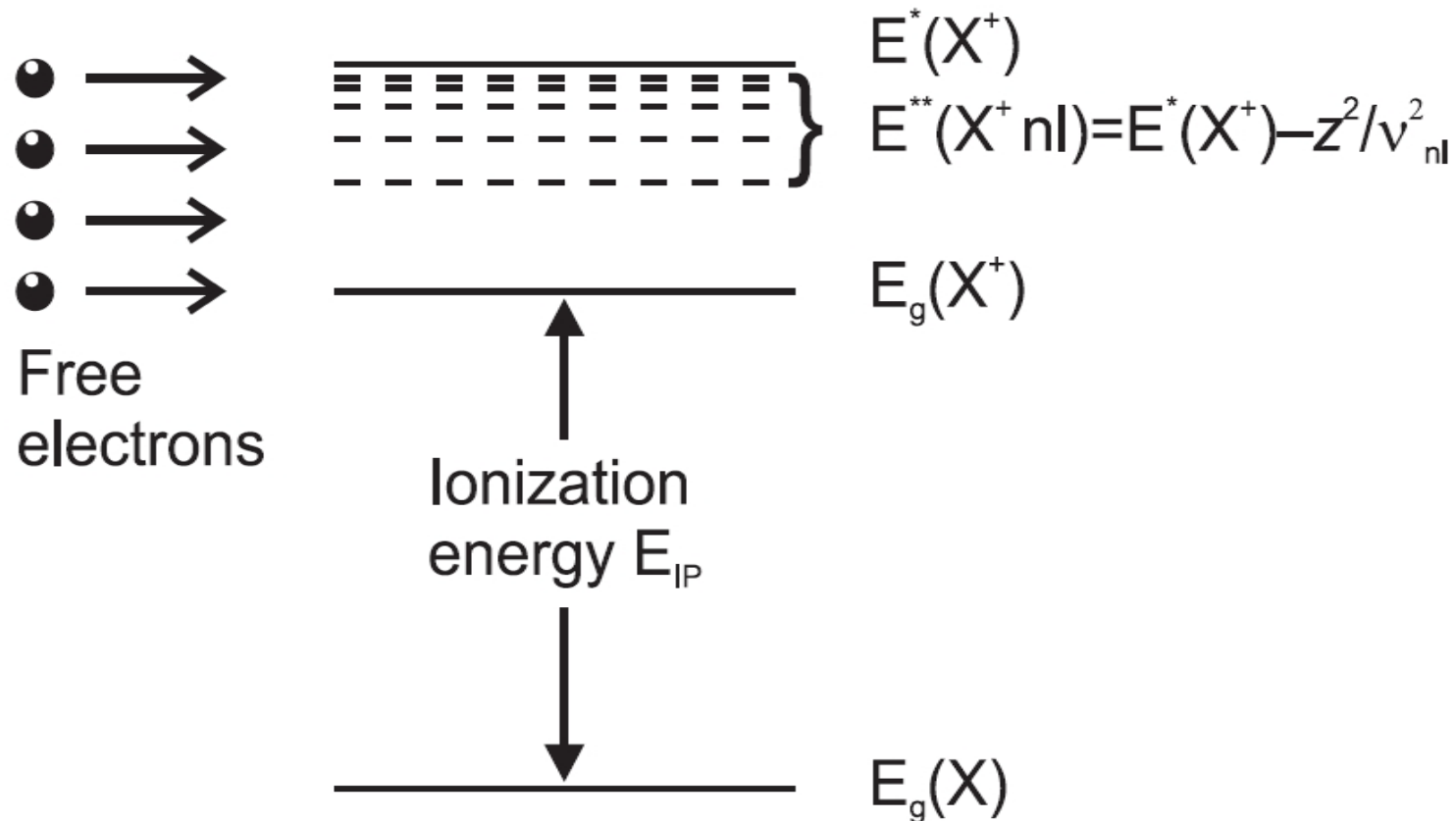
ATOMIC ENERGY LEVELS OF AN ATOM AND ITS ION

- Bound energy levels are negative, electron is free at zero energy. Ex: C I and C II levels

Energy Levels



Rydberg Series of Autoionizing States: Quasi-Bound Quantum States



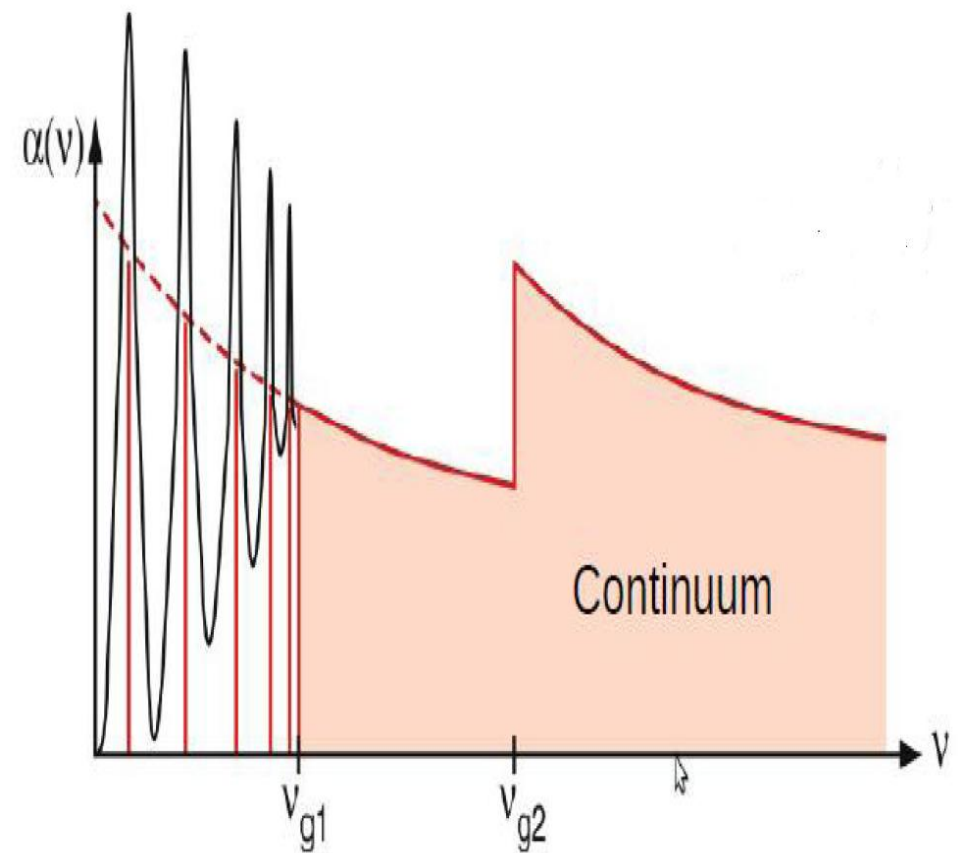
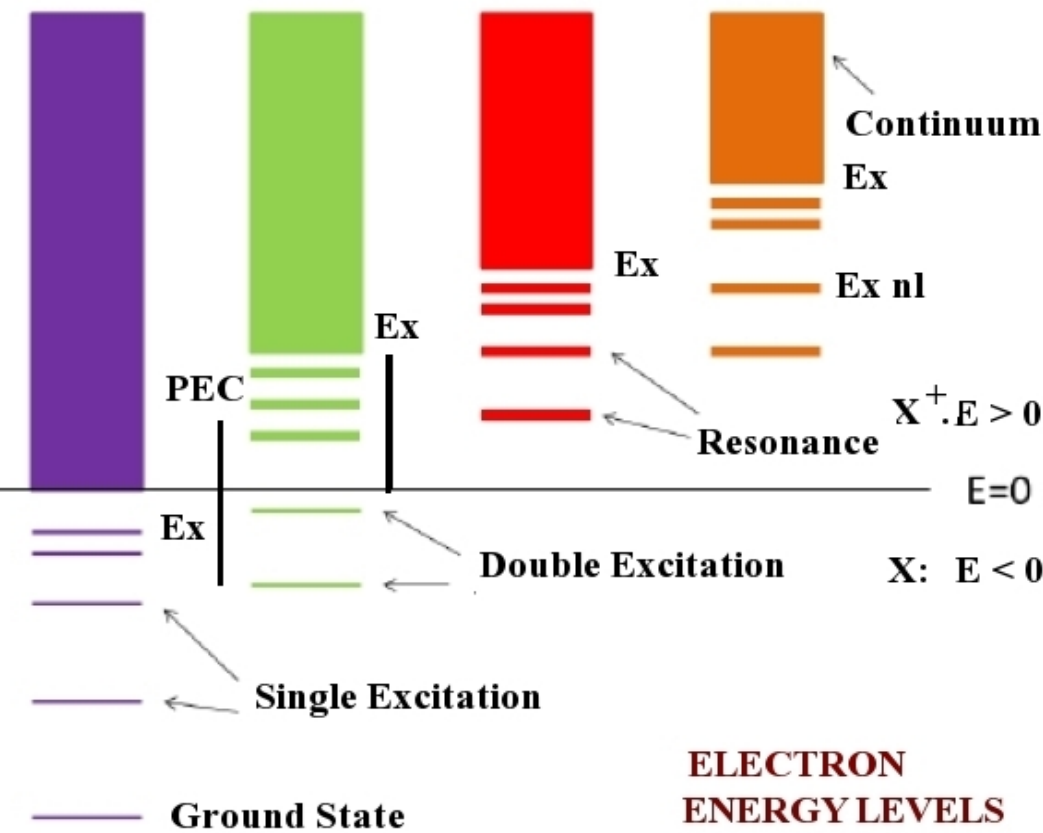
- Rydberg series of autoionizing states $(LS)_c \nu l$ lie above the ionization threshold & below an excited core state $(LS)_c$
- Energy of the state is given by the Rydberg formula

$$E^{**}(X^+ \nu l) = E_{Res} = E_c - z^2/\nu^2$$

$E_c = E^*(X^+) =$ an excited threshold of the residual ion X^+

- ν = effective quantum number, $\Delta \nu \sim 1$ for each series

Autoionizing States: RYDBERG & SEATON RESONANCES



Left: Autoionizing state: Electron at Rydberg states ($E_{xnl} > 0$)

$$E_{xnl} = E_{Res} = E^{**}(X^+ \nu l) = E_x - z^2/\nu^2$$

- PEC (Seaton) Resonance: $h\nu = E_x = E_i + E_e$
- **Right:** These introduce resonances in the continuum or smooth background of photoionization cross sections
- Details of resonances have been under investigation since the start of the Opacity Project (1987)

Close-Coupling (CC) Approximation: Produces Resonances

- CC approximation: Atomic system treated as a (N+1) electron system: - a target or an ion core of N electrons & an interacting (N+1)th electron
- Total wavefunction expansion is:

$$\Psi_E(e + \text{ion}) = A \sum_i^N \chi_i(\text{ion}) \theta_i + \sum_j c_j \Phi_j(e + \text{ion})$$

$\chi_i \rightarrow$ core wavefunction from atomic structure code

$\theta_i \rightarrow$ interacting electron wavefunction (free or bound)

$\Phi_j \rightarrow$ correlation functions of (e+ion)

- Complex resonances in the atomic processes are included via channel couplings (Not available in other approximation, e.g. DWBA)
- Substitution of $\Psi_E(e + \text{ion})$ in

$$H\Psi_E = E\Psi_E$$

results in a set of coupled equations

- Coupled equations are solved by R-matrix method

Example: Close-Coupling Wave Function for O II

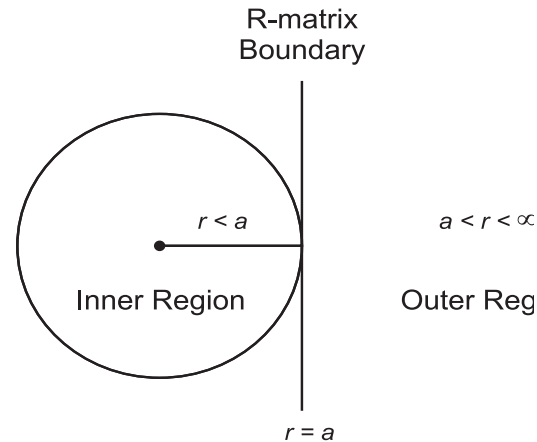
$$\Psi_{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{e} + \mathbf{ion}) = A \sum_i^N \chi_i(\mathbf{ion}) \theta_i + \sum_j \mathbf{c}_j \Phi_j(\mathbf{e} + \mathbf{ion})$$

$\chi_i \rightarrow$ core ion wavefunction - obtained from SUPERSTRUCTURE,

Level		$\mathbf{J}_t$	$\mathbf{E}_t(\text{Ry,NIST})$ NIST	$\mathbf{E}_t(\text{Ry,SS})$ SS
1	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^2(^3P)$	0	0.0	0.
2	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^2(^3P)$	1	0.0010334	0.0011497
3	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^2(^3P)$	2	0.0027958	0.003384
4	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^2(^1D)$	2	0.18472	0.21215
5	$1s^2 2s^2 2p^2(^1S)$	2	0.39352	0.38420
6	$1s^2 2s 2p^3(^5S^o)$	2	0.54972	0.46200
7	$1s^2 2s 2p^3(^3D^o)$	3	1.0938	1.12584
8	$1s^2 2s 2p^3(^3D^o)$	2	1.0940	1.12576
9	$1s^2 2s 2p^3(^3D^o)$	1	1.0941	1.12573
10	$1s^2 2s 2p^3(^3P^o)$	2	1.2975	1.32510
11	$1s^2 2s 2p^3(^3P^o)$	1	1.2975	1.32500
12	$1s^2 2s 2p^3(^3P^o)$	0	1.2976	1.32495
13	$1s^2 2s 2p^3(^1D^o)$	2	1.7045	1.83934
14	$1s^2 2s 2p^3(^3S^o)$	1	1.7960	1.89708
15	$1s^2 2s 2p^3(^1P^o)$	1	1.9178	2.02463
16	$1s^2 2s 2p 3s(^3P^o)$	0	2.4354	2.33186
17	$1s^2 2s 2p 3s(^3P^o)$	1	2.4365	2.33300
18	$1s^2 2s 2p 3s(^3P^o)$	2	2.4388	2.33186
19	$1s^2 2s 2p 3s(^1P^o)$	1	2.4885	2.40908

R-MATRIX METHOD

Substitution of CC $\Psi_E(\text{e} + \text{ion})$ in $\mathbf{H}\Psi_E = \mathbf{E}\Psi_E$ introduces a set of coupled equations which are solved by the R-matrix method



- Divide the space in two regions, the inner and the outer regions, of a sphere of radius r_a
- r_a is large enough for to include electron-electron interaction potential. Wavefunction at $r > r_a$ is Coulombic due to perturbation
- In the inner region, the radial part $F_i(r)/r$ of the outer electron wave function (θ) is expanded in terms of a basis set, called the R-matrix basis,

$$\mathbf{F}_i = \sum \mathbf{a}_k \mathbf{u}_k$$

which satisfies

$$\left[\frac{d^2}{dr^2} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} + \mathbf{V}(r) + \epsilon_{lk} \right] \mathbf{u}_{lk} + \sum_n \lambda_{nlk} \mathbf{P}_{nl}(r) = 0.$$

& is made continuous with Coulomb functions outside r_a

RELATIVISTIC BREIT-PAULI R-MATRIX (BPRM) METHOD

- Breit-Pauli Hamiltonian (applies for a multi-electron system in contrast to single electron Dirac equation) is

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{BP}} = \mathbf{H}_{\text{NR}} + \mathbf{H}_{\text{mass}} + \mathbf{H}_{\text{Dar}} + \mathbf{H}_{\text{so}} +$$

and parts of two body interaction terms.

Solve Schrodinger equation with CC expansion

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{BP}}\Psi = E\Psi$$

- $E < 0 \rightarrow$ Bound (e+ion) states Ψ_{B}
- $E \geq 0 \rightarrow$ Continuum states Ψ_{F}
- Advantage of CC approximation $\rightarrow$ both +ve & -ve solutions

The objective of the series "R-matrix calculations for opacities" is to provide high accuracy opacities obtained using the high accuracy atomic data.

- The R-matrix method is the most powerful method to obtain high accuracy parameters for the two main radiative atomic processes of photo-absorption or opacities:

i) Photo-excitation,

ii) Photo-ionization

- Relativistic Breit-Pauli R-matrix (BPRM) method implements close-coupling (CC) wavefunction expansion that generates very large number oscillator strengths for transitions and resonances in photoionization
- It can accommodate interactions of a large number of configurations that is not possible for an atomic structure calculation. This results in large Hamiltonian matrix, transition matrix elements.
- Hence, solving the Hamiltonian matrix with coupled channels becomes complex and extensive for numerical computation.

Role of R-matrix codes

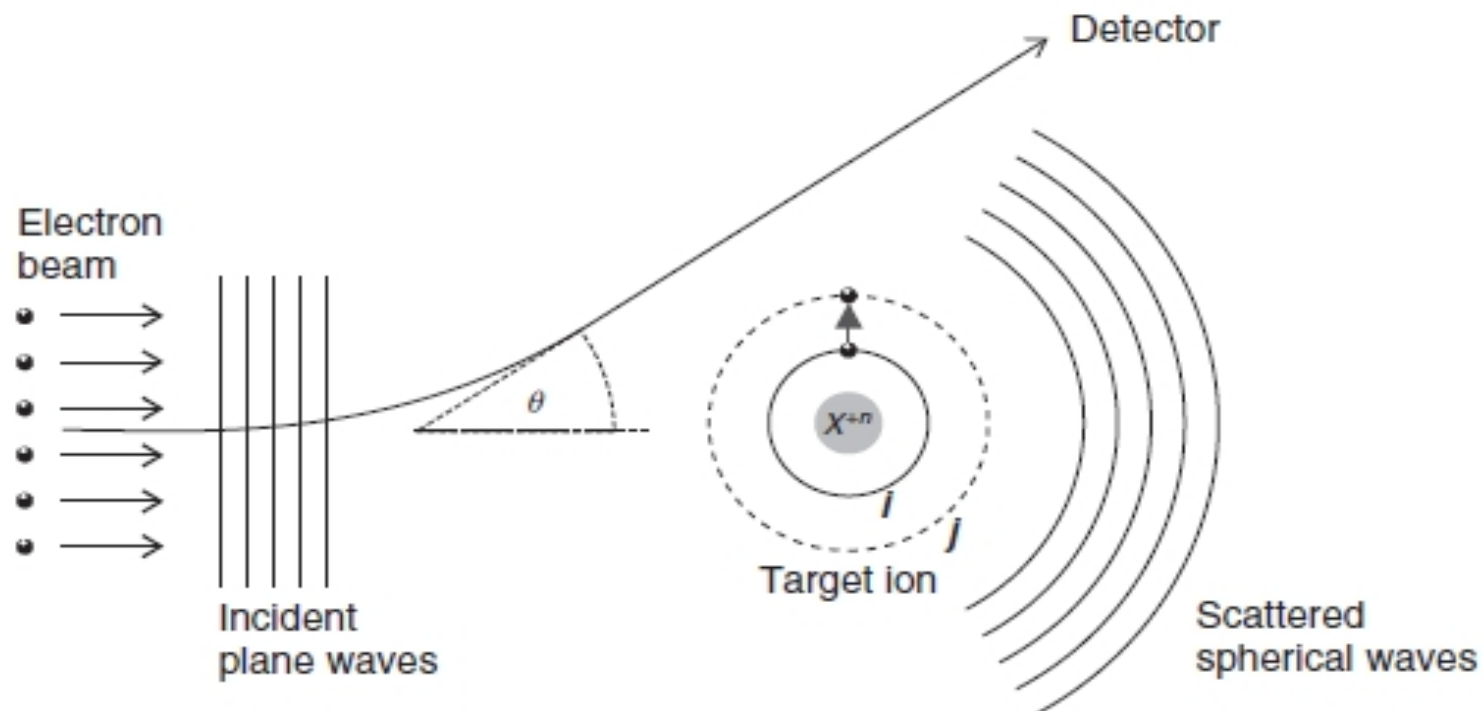
- For practicability, but still producing largest sets of atomic data, R-matrix method adopts typically to compute

ELECTRON-IMPACT EXCITATION (EIE)



- Light is emitted as the excitation decays
 - seen as most common lines in astrophysical spectra
 - mostly diagnostic forbidden lines
- Scattered electron shows features with energy & can have autoionizing resonances
- Atomic quantity: *Collision Strength* (Ω)

Fig. Excitation by electron impact:



ULTRA-LUMINOUS INFRARED GALAXY (ULIRG) IRAS-19297-0406: STUDY THROUGH FORBIDDEN LINES

- ULIRG - emits more than 10^{11} solar luminosities in IR (as stars are born), heavily dust obscured
- Only far-infrared photons (e.g. forbidden lines of Ne V) escape from absorption, observed at high redshift (by SPITZER, HERSCHEL, SOFIA) - provides information on chemical evolution of the galaxy.
- Ne V lines are observed in ULIRG



ELECTRON IMPACT EXCITATION (EIE)

- EIE Scattering matrix $\mathbf{S}_{SL\pi}(i, j)$ is obtained from the excitation transition matrix. The EIE collision strength is

$$\Omega(\mathbf{S}_i \mathbf{L}_i - \mathbf{S}_j \mathbf{L}_j) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{SL\pi} \sum_{l_i l_j} (2S + 1)(2L + 1) |\mathbf{S}_{SL\pi}(\mathbf{S}_i \mathbf{L}_i l_i - \mathbf{S}_j \mathbf{L}_j l_j)|^2$$

Ω is a dimensionless quantity, introduced by Seaton. It does not diverge like the cross section, σ_{EIE} at origin,

$$\sigma_{\text{EIE}} = \frac{\pi}{g_i k^2} \Omega a_o^2,$$

- The quantity used in models is **effective collision strength** $\Upsilon(T)$, the Maxwellian averaged collision strength:

$$\Upsilon(T) = \int_0^\infty \Omega_{ij}(\epsilon_j) e^{-\epsilon_j/kT} d(\epsilon_j/kT)$$

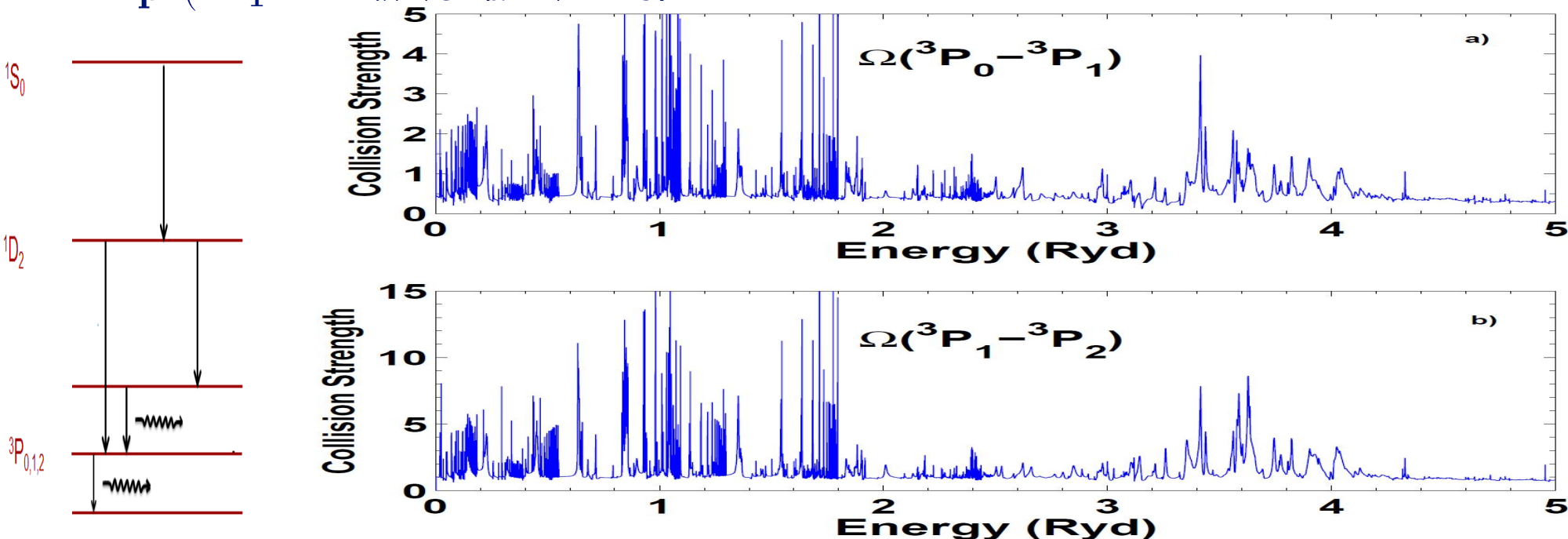
- The **excitation rate coefficient** $q_{ij}(T)$ is given by

$$q_{ij}(T) = \frac{8.63 \times 10^{-6}}{g_i T^{1/2}} e^{-E_{ij}/kT} \Upsilon(T) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

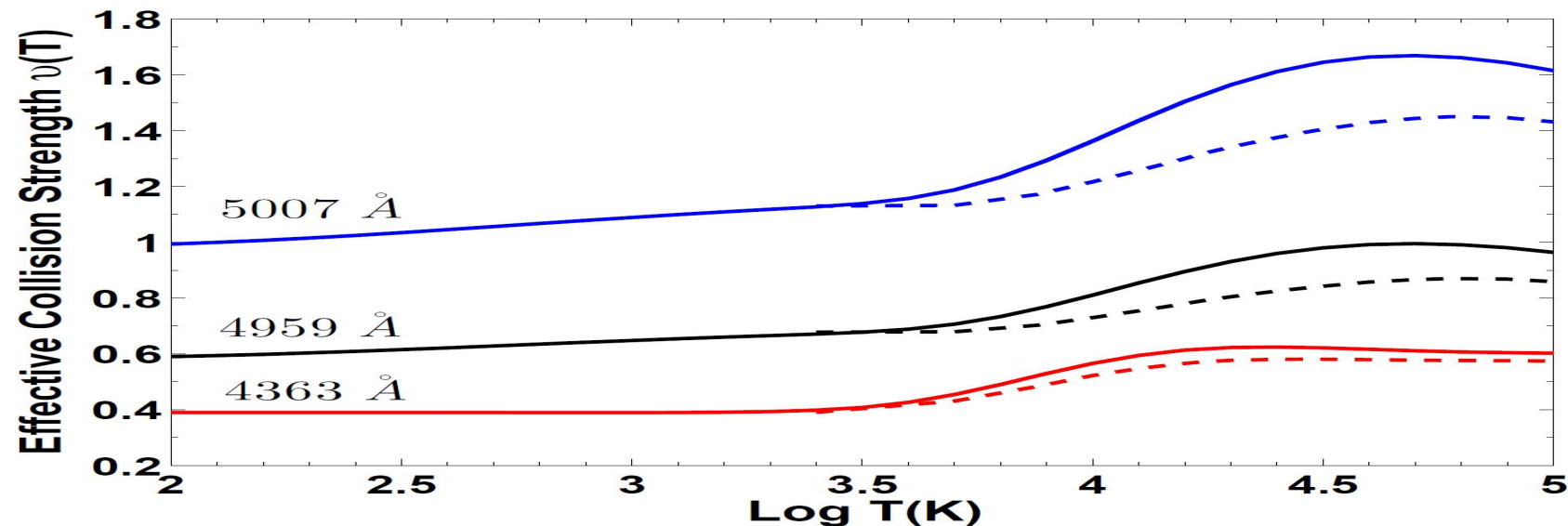
$E_{ij} = E_j - E_i$ in Ry, T in K, $(1/kT = 157885/T)$

EIE OF O III (Palay et al 2012)

- **Fig** Resonances in Ω (EIE): Top: $2p^2(^3P_0 - ^3P_1)$ ($88\mu\text{m}$), Bottom: $2p^2(^3P_1 - ^3P_2)$ ($52\mu\text{m}$) -IR

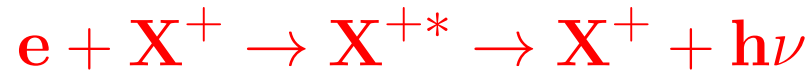


- **Fig** $\Gamma(T)$ of 3 optical lines; Solid: BPRM (present), Dashed: R-matrix(LS) (Aggarwal & Keenan) Differences affect T and ρ



LINE RATIO DIAGNOSTICS

- Collisionally Excited Lines (CEL):



- The intensity of a CEL due to transition between a & b

$$I_{ba}(X^+, \lambda_{ba}) = \frac{h\nu}{4\pi} n_e n_{ion} q_{ba}$$

q_{ba} - EIE rate coefficient in cm^3/sec .

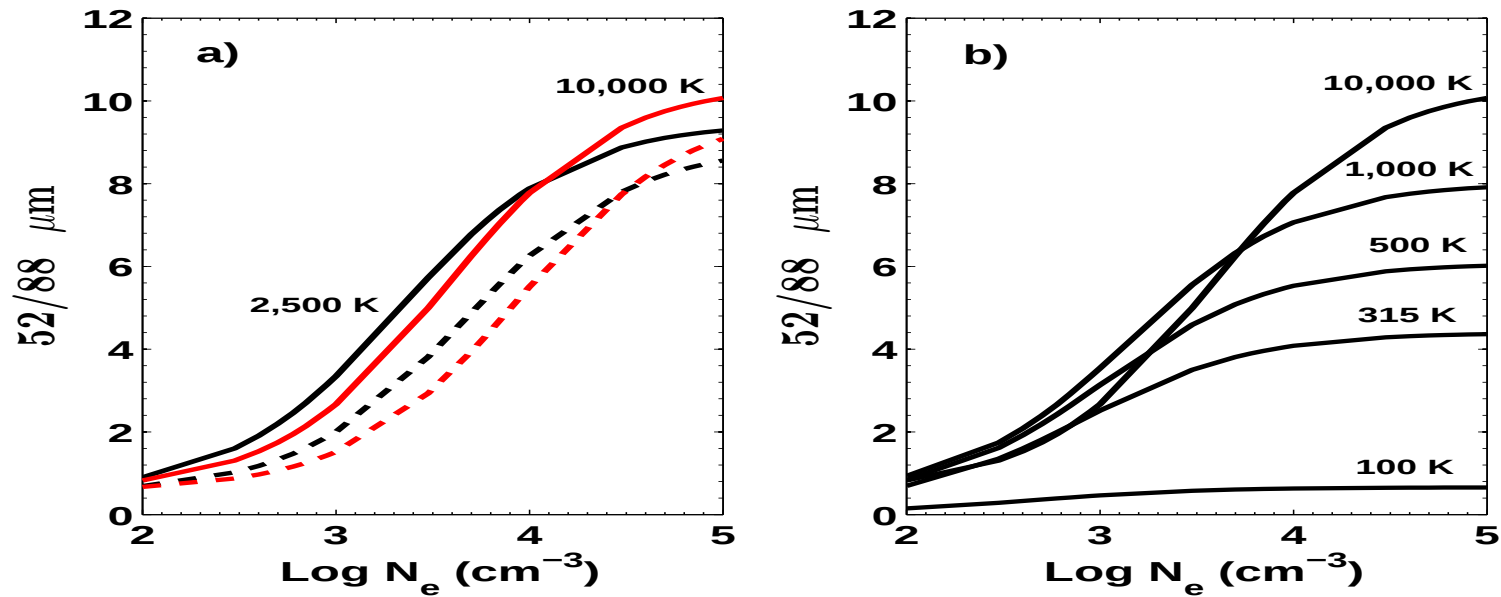
- The ratio of intensities, mainly the emissivity ratio, of two different lines arising from the same level can be used for temperature and density diagnostics.
- The ratio depends on the level populations.
- Level populations depend on excitation rate coefficients and electron density.

$$\frac{I_{ji}(\lambda_{ji})}{I_{lk}(\lambda_{lk})} = \frac{\nu_{ji} n'_{ion} q_{ji}}{\nu_{lk} n''_{ion} q_{lk}}$$

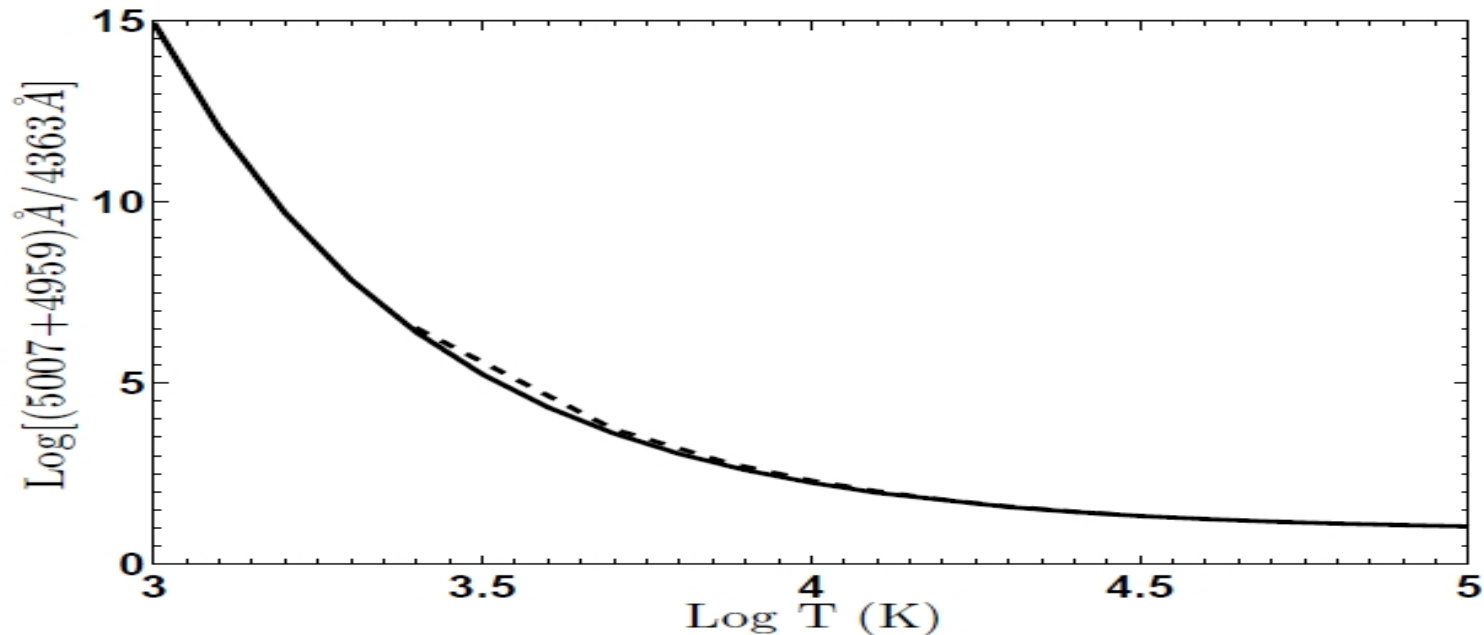
The density or T are varied for the line ratios to carry out the diagnostics of plasmas.

LINE RATIO: DENSITY ρ & T DIAGNOSTICS (Palay et al 2012)

- Intensity ratio of two observed lines can be compared to the calculated curves for density (ρ) & T diagnostics. Significant FS effect on ρ diagnostics, 100 - 10,000 K

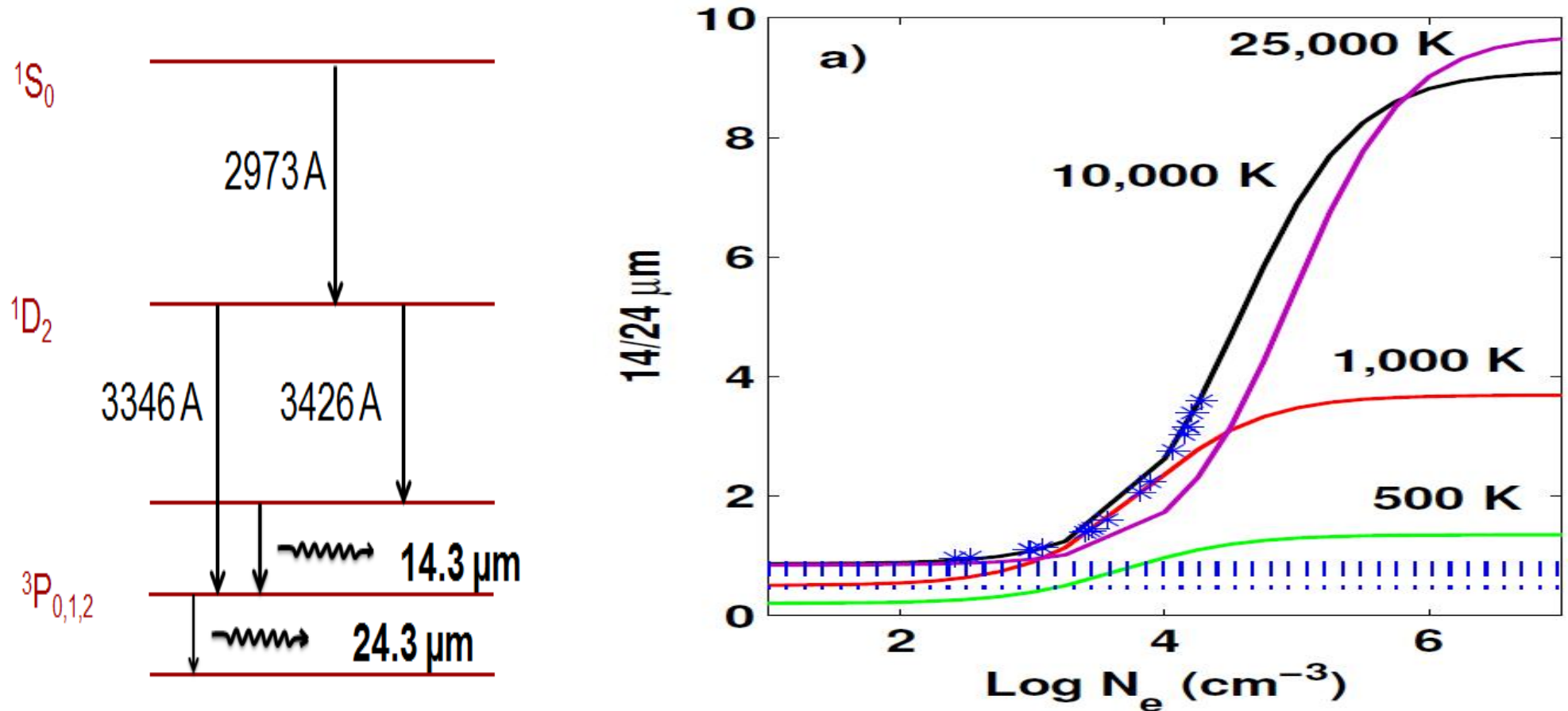


Blended line ratio with T at $N_e = 10^3 \text{cm}^{-3}$ indicates considerable rise in low T region



EIE: LINE RATIOS OF Ne V (Dance et al 2010)

- The intensity of a CEL of ion X_i : $I_{ba}(X_i, \lambda_{ba}) = \left[\frac{h\nu}{4\pi} n_e n_{ion} \right] q_{ba}$



- Comparison:** IR 14/24 μm line emissivity ratios: a) Present curves (solid) at different T, Asterisks (observed from PNe at T = 10,000 K with assigned densities, Rubin 2004), Dotted curves (observed line ratios, outside typical nebular T-ρ range except at low T, Rubin 2004),
- Better agreement at T = 10,000 (10 PNe) and 500 K (anomalously low, 11 PNe)

DETERMINATION OF ELEMENTAL ABUNDANCES

From the intensity of a line

$$I_{ba}(X^+, \lambda_{ba}) = \frac{h\nu}{4\pi} n_e n_{ion} q_{ba}$$

population of a level b can be written as

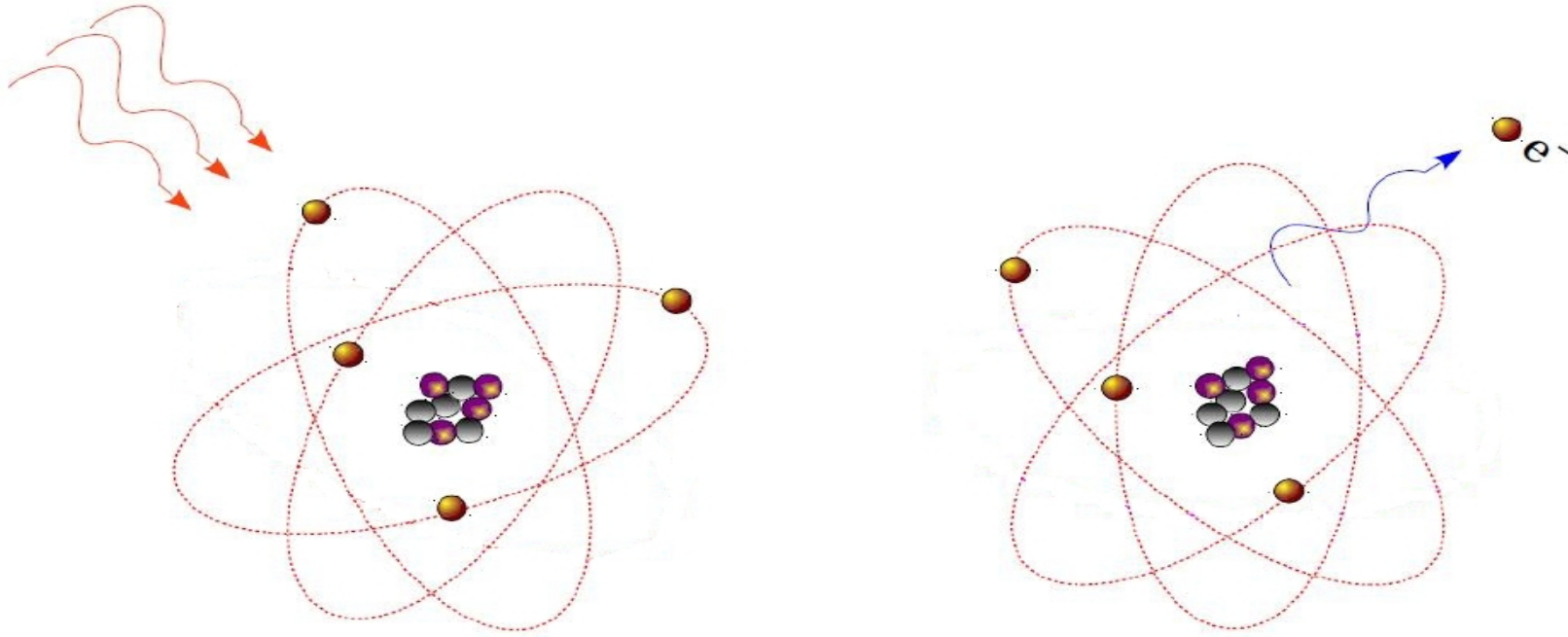
$$N(b) = n_{ion} q_{ba} = \frac{1}{n_e} \frac{4\pi}{h\nu} I_{ba}$$

Abundance of element X w.r.t. H , $n(X)/n(H)$, can be obtained from the intensity I of a collisional excited line of wavelength λ_{ba} from its ionization state X_i using several quantities. as

$$I(X^+, \lambda_{ba}) = \frac{h\nu}{4\pi} A_{ba} \frac{N(b)}{\sum_j N_j(X^+)} \frac{n(X^+)}{n(X)} \left[\frac{n(X)}{n(H)} \right] n(H)$$

A_{ba} = radiative decay rate, $\sum_j N_j$ = total populations of all excited levels, $N(b)/\sum_j N_j(X^+)$ = population fraction, $\frac{n(X^+)}{n(X)}$ - ionization fraction (from photoionization model)

PHOTOIONIZATION (PI):



i) Direct Photoionization (background):

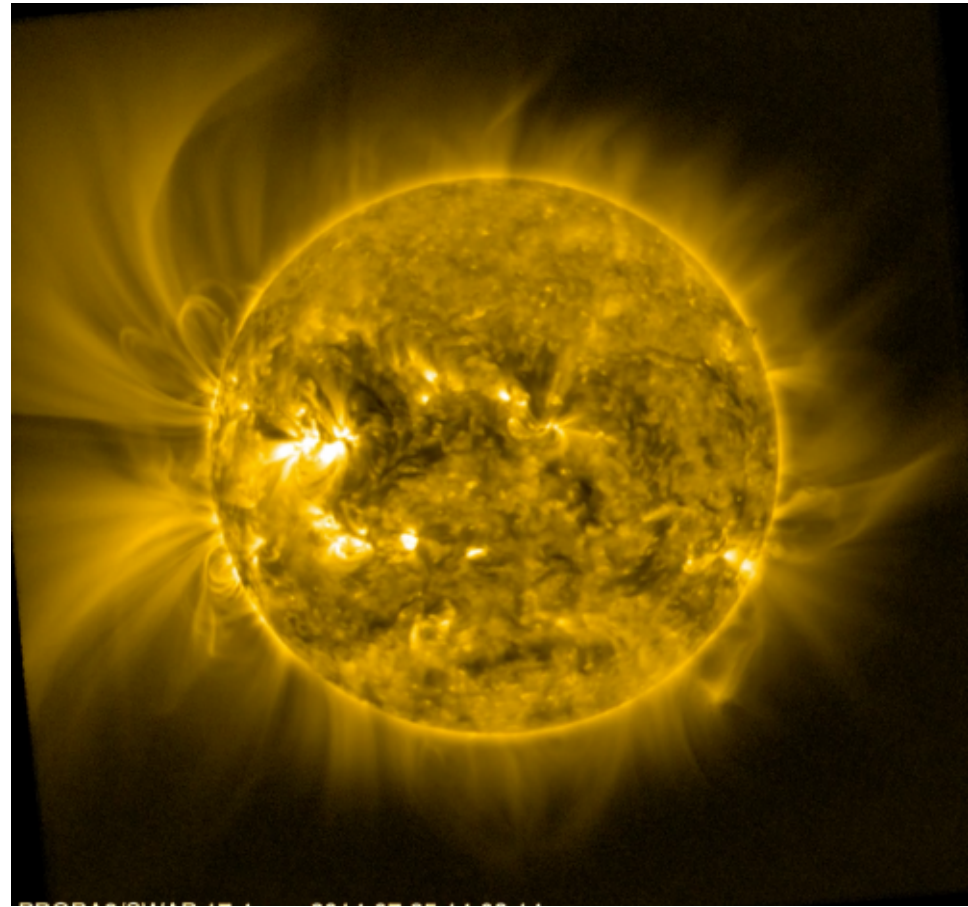
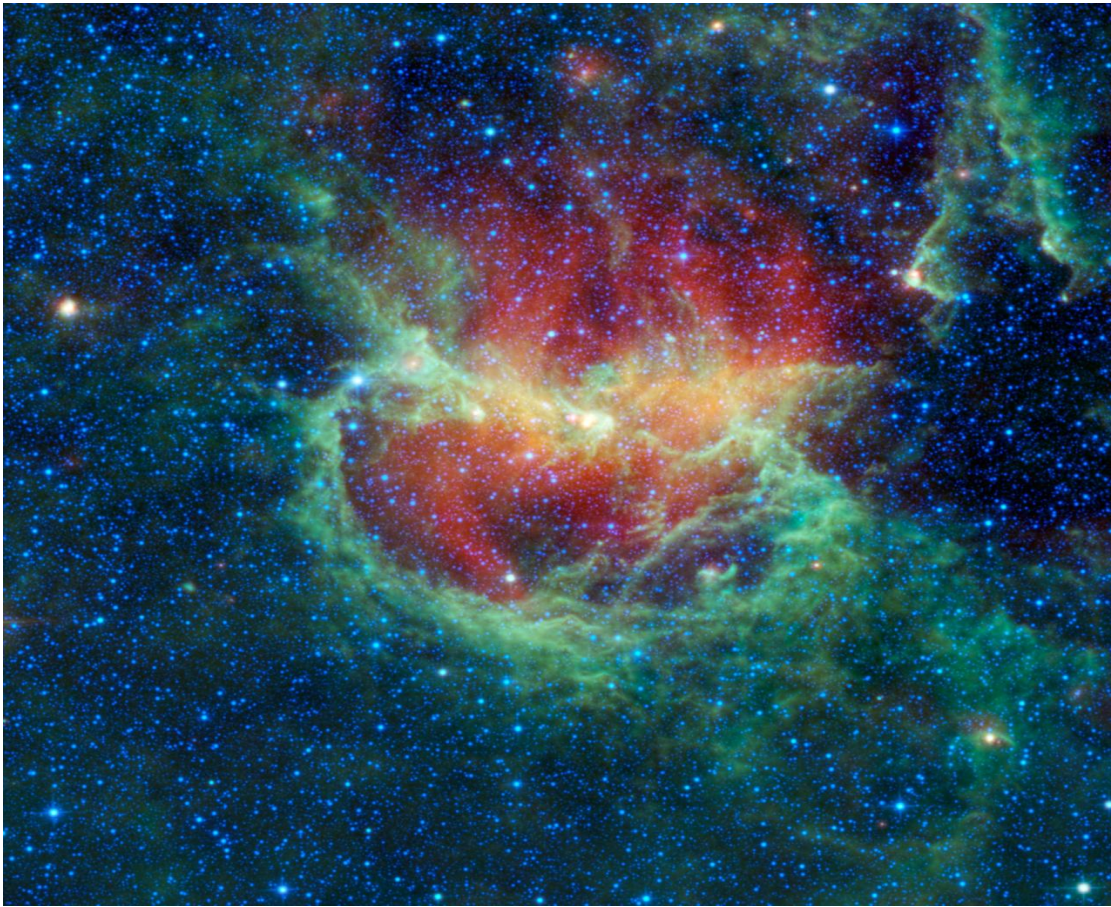


ii) Resonant Photoionization: an intermediate state before ionization $\rightarrow$ "Autoionizing state" $\rightarrow$ RESONANCE



- Autoionizing states form in nature all the time and hence require to be treated in the calculations.

PHOTOIONIZED PLASMAS



- Photoionization occurs with any light source
- L: Lambda Centauri nebula with radiation sources of stars, R: Solar corona
- Ionization fractions in plasmas at photoionization equilibrium is obtained from equation of balance:

$$N(z) \int_{\nu_0}^{\infty} \frac{4\pi J_{\nu}}{h\nu} \sigma_{\text{PI}}(z, \nu) d\nu = N_e N(z+1) \alpha_{\text{RC}}(T_e)$$

where $\sigma_{\text{PI}}(z, \nu)$ is photoionization cross sections

PHOTOIONIZATION (PI) CROSS SECTIONS

Radiative Transition Matrix:

Transition Matrix elements with a Photon

$\langle \Psi_B || \mathbf{D} || \Psi_F \rangle$ Dipole operator: $\mathbf{D} = \sum_i \mathbf{r}_i$

- Selection rules (E1-dipole) for photoionization,

$$\Delta l = l_j - l_i = \pm 1, \Delta L = L_j - L_i = 0, \pm 1,$$

$$\Delta M = M_{L_j} - M_{L_i} = 0, \pm 1$$

$$\Delta J = J_j - J_i = 0, \pm 1; \text{ Parity changes}$$

(1)

- Ex: $np \rightarrow \epsilon s, \epsilon d, {}^3P \rightarrow {}^3S^0, {}^3P^0, {}^3D^0$

Matrix element is reduced to generalized line strength

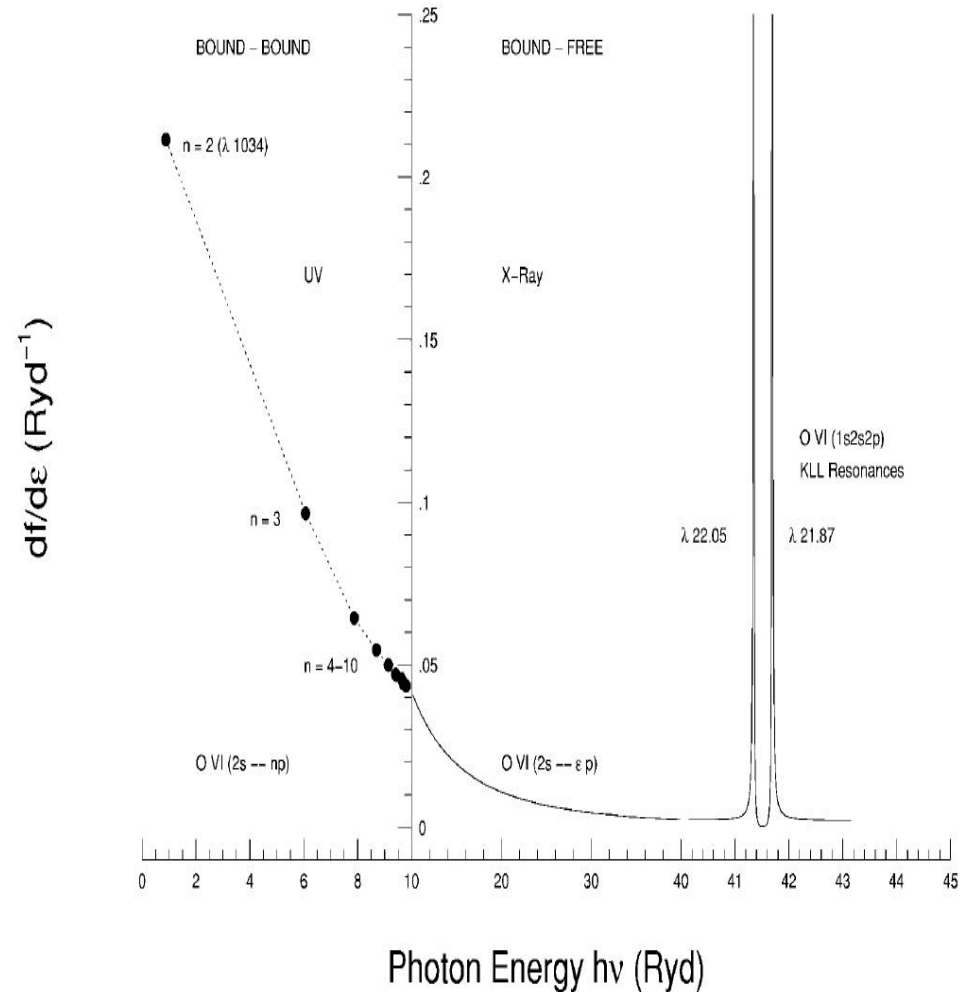
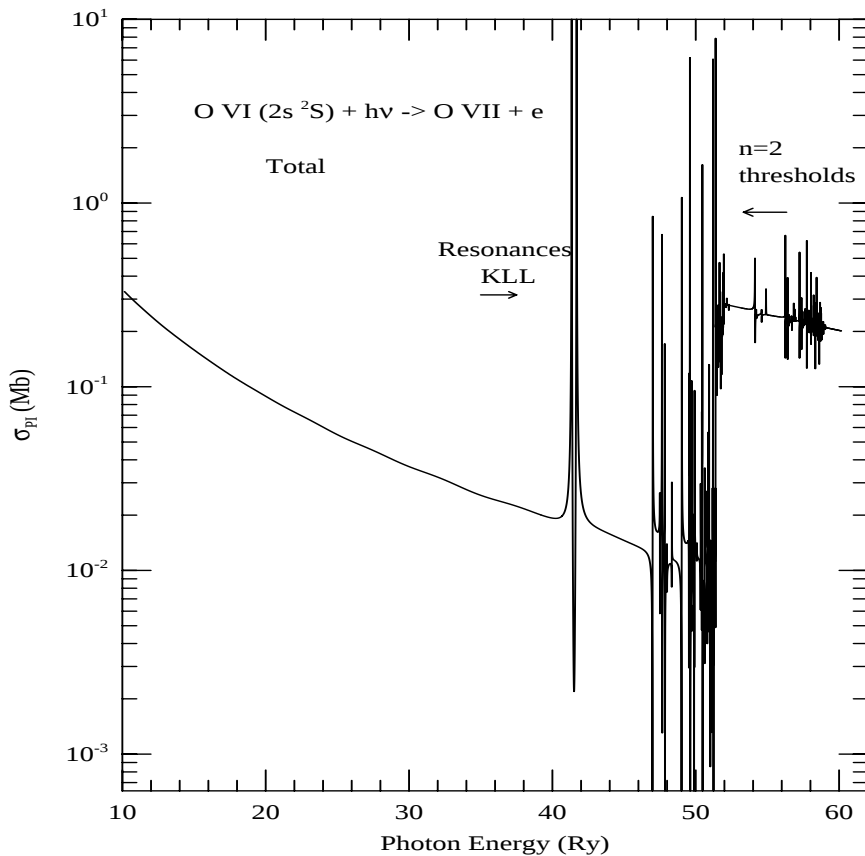
$$S = | \langle \Psi_j || \mathbf{D} || \Psi_i \rangle |^2 = \left| \left\langle \Psi_f \left| \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} \mathbf{r}_j \right| \Psi_i \right\rangle \right|^2$$

Photoionization: The cross section is

$$\sigma_{PI} = \frac{4\pi}{3c} \frac{1}{g_i} \omega S,$$

$\omega \rightarrow$ incident photon energy in Rydberg unit

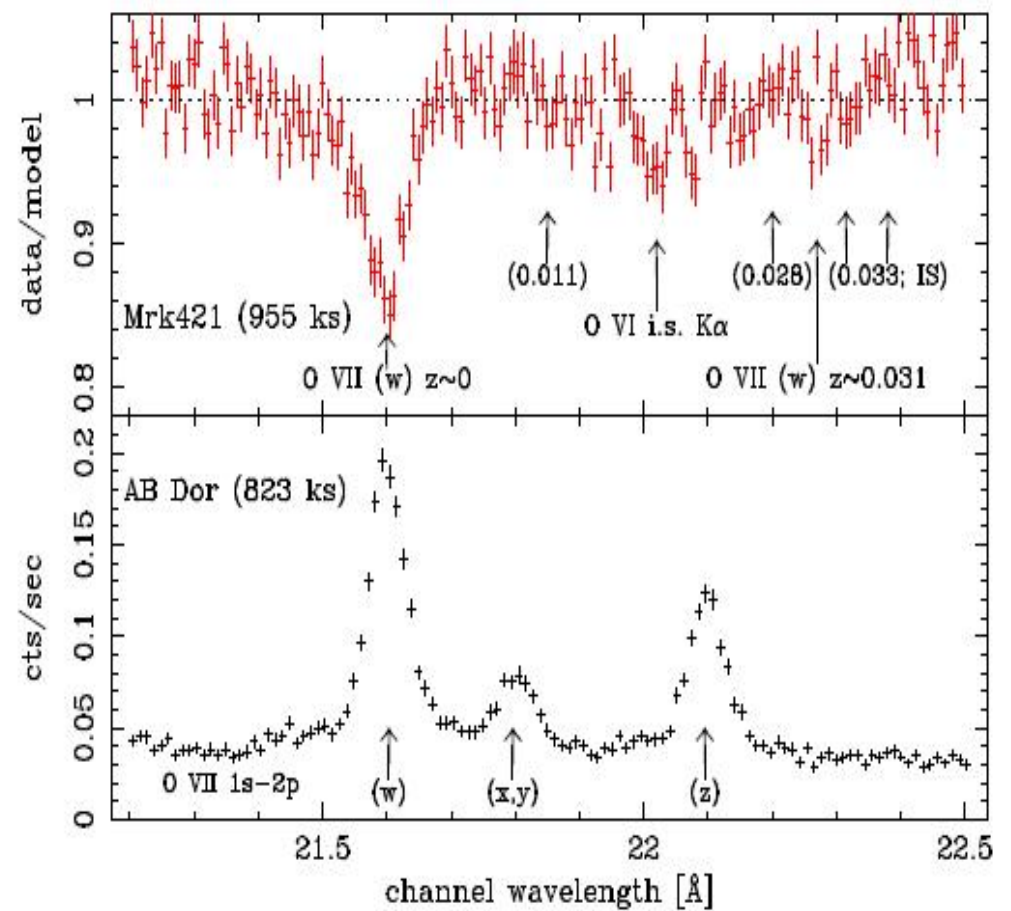
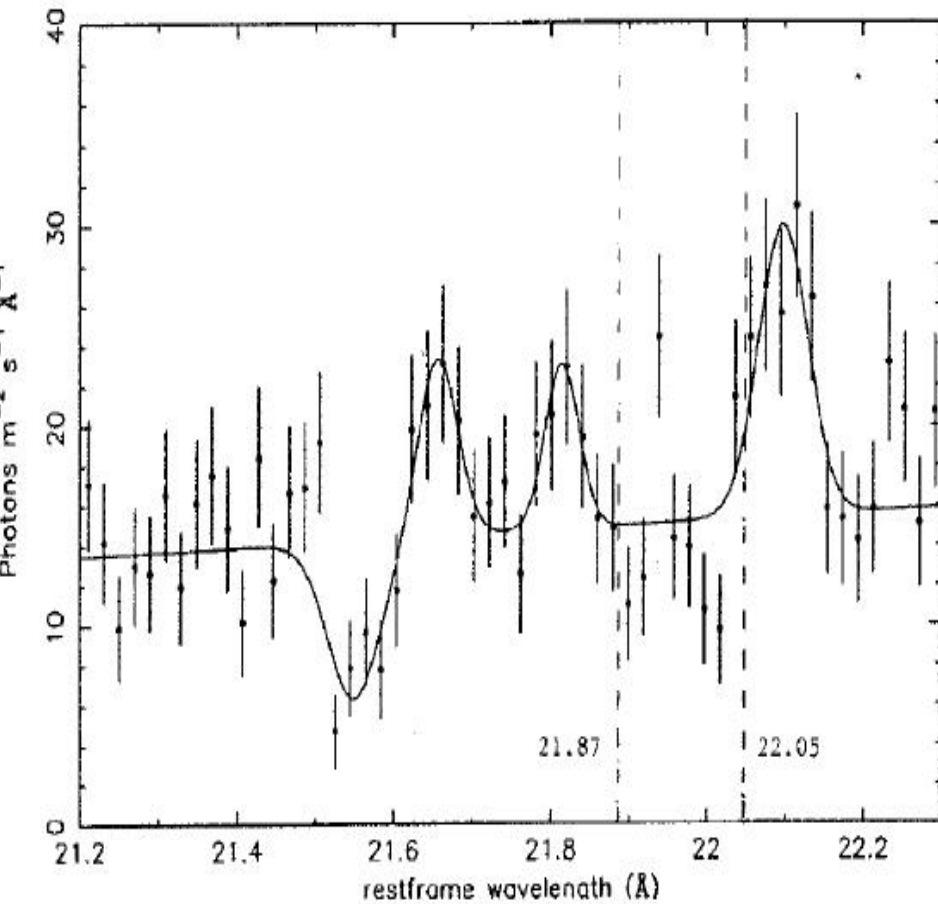
PHOTOIONIZATION RESONANCE CAN BE SEEN IN ABSORPTION SPECTRUM



L) KLL ($1s^22s - 1s2s2p$) or $K\alpha$ resonances in photoionization of Li-like O VI (Nahar 1998).

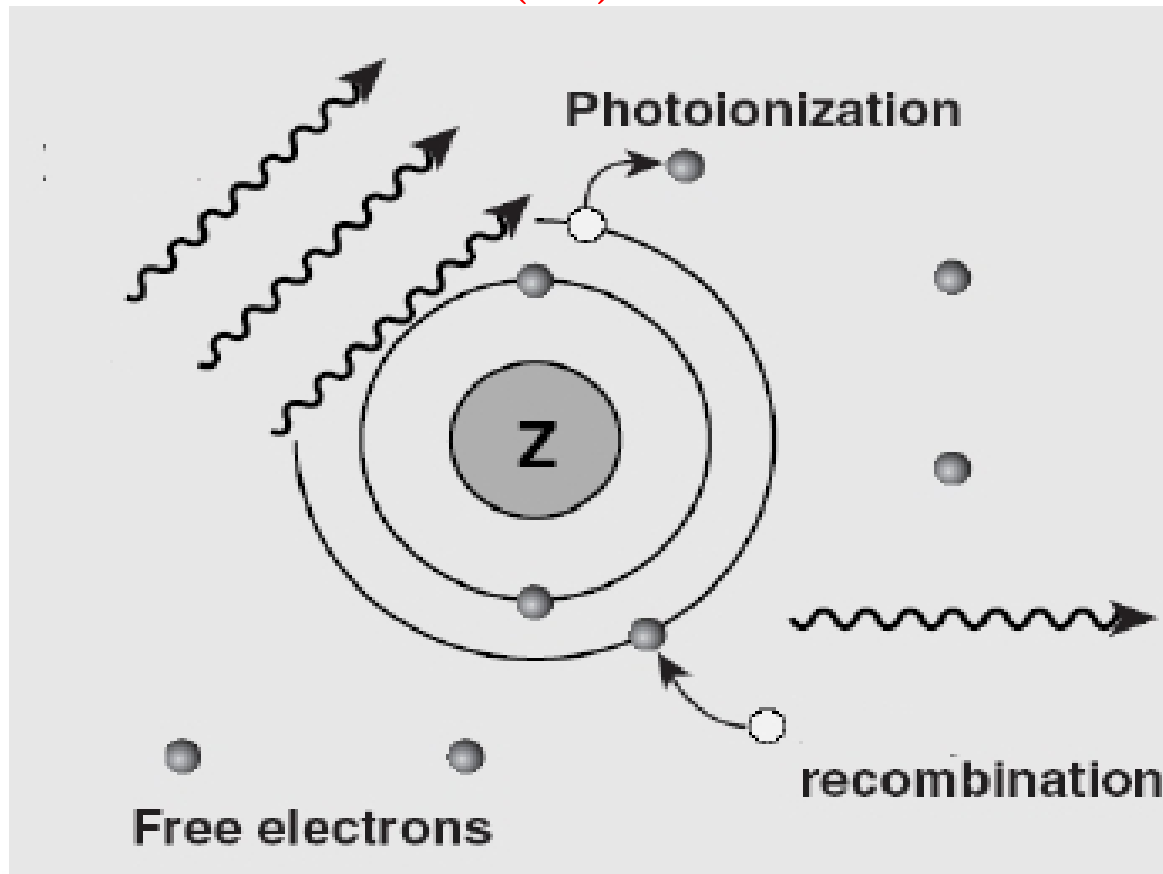
R) Pradhan (2000) calculated the resonant oscillator strength and predicted the presence of the absorption KLL lines at 22.05 and 21.87 Å between the two emission lines i and f of He-like O VII at 21.80 and 22.01 Å

PHOTOIONIZATION RESONANCE SEEN IN ABSORPTION SPECTRUM (Seen for the first time under the OP)



L) Pradhan (APJL 2000) identified the O VI absorption lines in between the two x-ray emission lines of O VII in the spectra of Seyfert galaxy NGC5548 (Kastrup et al 2000).
R) These lines were later detected in the X-ray spectra of Mrk 421 observed by XMM-Newton (Rasmussen et al 2007) and led to estimation of oxygen abundance

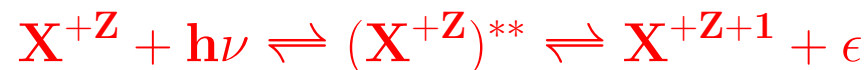
PHOTOIONIZATION (PI) & ELECTRON-ION RECOMBINATION



i) Photoionization (PI) & Radiative Recombination (RR):

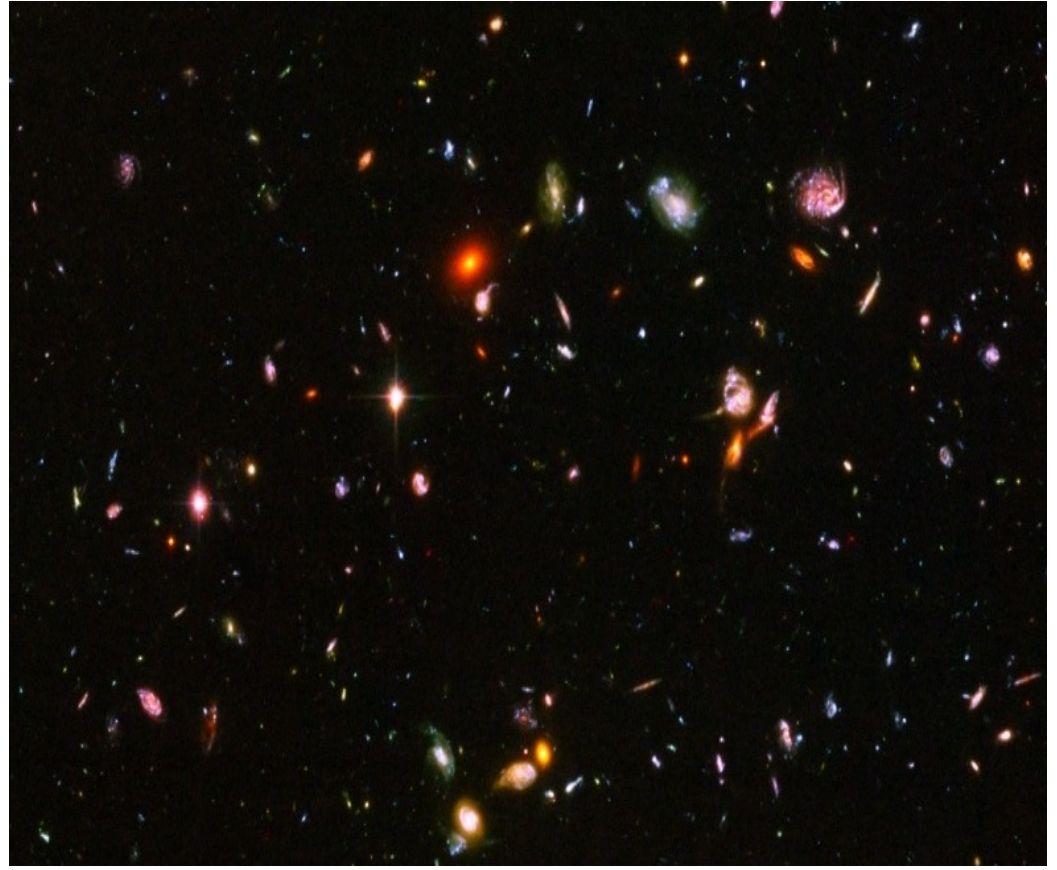


ii) Indirect PI & Dielectronic Recombination (DR) with intermediate autoionizing state → RESONANCE:



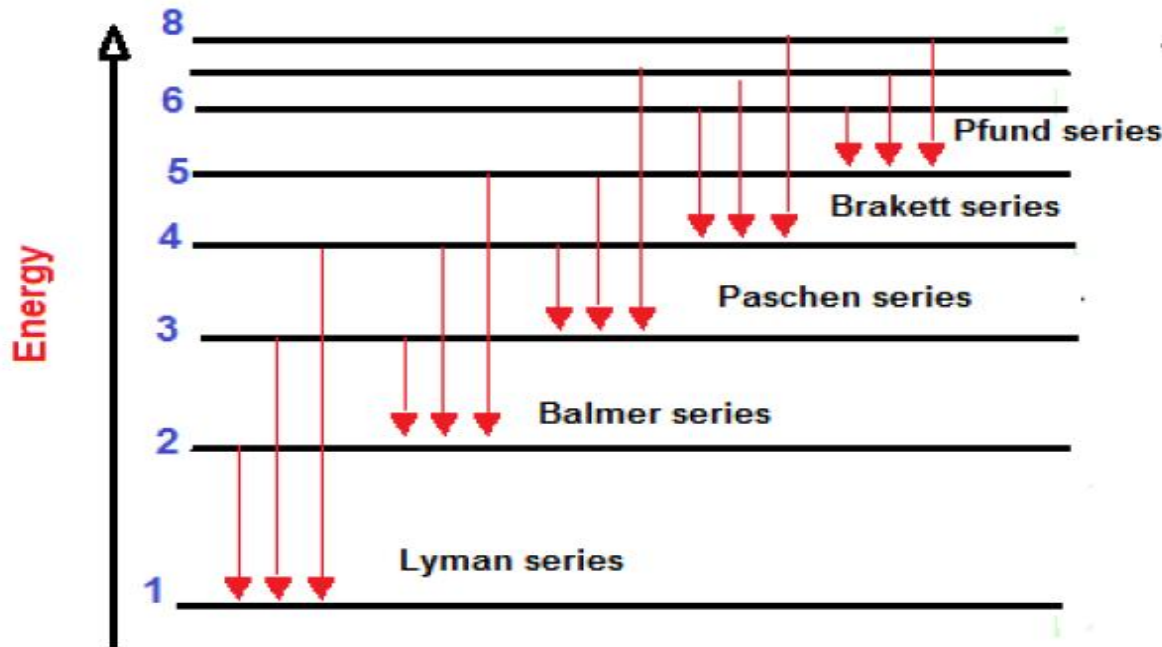
• Unified method (Nahar and Pradhan 1992, 1994) combines the two processes for the total recombination

ELECTRON-RECOMBINATION IS COMMON IN ALL ASTRONOMICAL OBJECTS



- Crab nebula with stars radiating the plasma - photoionization and electron ion recombination are the dominating atomic processes
- Intergalactic region with no light source - recombination occurs. - Even in dark, cold space there are electrons and ions which go through recombination process
- Recombination - in emission spectra, Photoionization - absorption spectra
- Recombination determines the ionization fractions in astrophysical plasma

ELECTRON-ION RECOMBINATION LINES (REL):



- In thin and cooler nebular plasmas, electrons are not excited - the observed high lying emission lines form from recombination. • The intensity of lines depend on level population where recombination can contribute directly or by cascading
- Elemental Abundances ($N(X^+)$) is related to emissivity intensity of a REL & the effective recombination rate coefficient: (α_{eff})

$$\epsilon(\lambda_{pj}) = [N_e N(X^+) h \nu_{pj}] \alpha_{\text{eff}}(\lambda_{pj}) [\text{erg cm}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}]$$

- Ionization fractions in plasmas at coronal equilibrium:

$$N(z-1) S_{\text{EII}}(z-1) = N(z) \alpha_{\text{RC}}(z)$$

ELECTRON-ION RECOMBINATION: UNIFIED METHOD (NAHAR & PRADHAN 1992, 1994)

$$X^Z + h\nu \rightleftharpoons X^{Z+} + e \begin{cases} \rightarrow \text{Photoionization} \\ \leftarrow (\text{e,Ion}) \text{ Recombination} \end{cases}$$

TRANSITION MATRIX: Photoionization & Recombination:

$$T_{BF} = \langle \Psi_B || D || \Psi_F \rangle, \quad D_L = \sum_n r_n$$

D → dipole operator in "length" form, n = number of electrons the generalized line strength (**S**) is defined as,

$$S = | \langle \Psi_j || D_L || \Psi_i \rangle |^2 = \left| \left\langle \Psi_f \left| \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} r_j \right| \Psi_i \right\rangle \right|^2$$

Photoionization: The cross section is

$$\sigma_{PI} = \frac{4\pi}{3c} \frac{1}{g_i} \omega S,$$

ω → incident photon energy in Rydberg unit

Recombination: Cross section, σ_{RC} is related to σ_{PI} :

$$\sigma_{RC} = \sigma_{PI} \frac{g_i}{g_j} \frac{h^2 \omega^2}{4\pi^2 m^2 c^2 v^2}.$$

ELECTRON-ION RECOMBINATION: UNIFIED METHOD (NAHAR & PRADHAN 1992, 1994)

Typical Approximation

- Separate calculations of Radiative Recombination (RR) rate & Dielectronic recombination (DR) rate

$$\alpha_{RC} = \alpha_{RR} + \alpha_{DR}$$

- Unified Method $\rightarrow$ total recombination

$$\alpha_{RC} = \text{Unified}[\alpha_{RR} + \alpha_{DR}] \text{ \& Interference!of RR + SR}$$

- Recombination cross section, σ_{RC} , from principle of detailed balance (Milne Relation):

$$\sigma_{RC} = \sigma_{PI} \frac{g_i}{g_j} \frac{h^2 \omega^2}{4\pi^2 m^2 c^2 v^2}.$$

The recombination rate coefficient:

$$\alpha_{RC}(T) = \int_0^\infty v f(v) \sigma_{RC} dv,$$

$$f(v, T) = \frac{4}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\frac{m}{2kT} \right)^{3/2} v^2 e^{-\frac{mv^2}{2kT}} = \text{Maxwellian distribution function}$$

Total α_{RC} : Contributions from infinite number of recombined states