

# SOLAR SPECTRUM FORMATION

Robert J. Rutten

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Texts: R.J. Rutten, “*Radiative Transfer in Stellar Atmospheres*” (RTSA), [my website](#)  
D. Mihalas, “*Stellar Atmospheres*”, 1970, 1978  
G.B. Rybicki and A.P. Lightman, “*Radiative Processes in Astrophysics*”, 1979, 2004  
M. Stix, “*The Sun*”, 1989, 2002/2004

**examples of local, nonlocal, converted photons:**    white light corona    coronium lines  
EUV corona    EUV bright/dark    [Zanstra & Bowen PN lines]

**radiative transfer basics:**    basic quantities    constant  $S_\nu$     plane-atmosphere RT  
Eddington-Barbier cartoons

**LTE 1D solar radiation escape:**    Planck    continuous opacity    LTE continuum  
Boltzmann-Saha    LTE line equations    LTE line cartoons  
solar ultraviolet spectrum    VALIIC temperature    solar spectrum formation  
Ca II H&K versus H $\alpha$

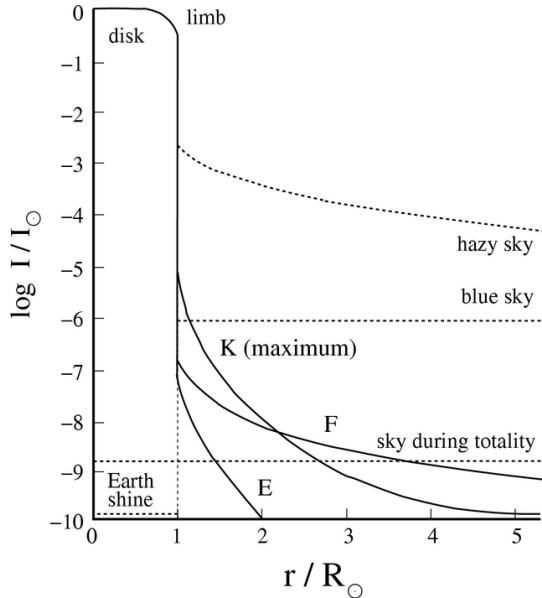
**NLTE 1D solar radiation escape:**    bb processes    bb rates    bb equilibria    scattering  
solar radiation processes    VAL3C continuum formation    radiative cooling  
VAL3C radiation budget    realistic line cartoon    Na D1    Ca II 8542 versus H $\alpha$

**MHD-simulated essolar radiation escape:**    Ca II H in 1D    Na D1 in 3D  
non-E hydrogen in 2D

**summary:**    RTSA rap

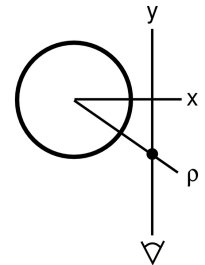
# WHITE LIGHT CORONA

Stix section 9.1.3



Grotrian (1931): Thomson scattering  $8000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  electrons (S9.2–9.3)

$$\rho^2 = x^2 + y^2 \quad I(x) = 2 \int_0^\infty j(\rho) dy = 2 \int_x^\infty \frac{\rho j(\rho)}{\sqrt{\rho^2 - x^2}} d\rho$$



$N_e$  from inverse Abel transform = isotropically scattered irradiation (S9.4–9.5)

$$j(\rho) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_\rho^\infty \frac{dI/dx}{\sqrt{x^2 - \rho^2}} dx = \sigma_T N_e \frac{1}{4\pi} \int I_\odot(\theta) d\Omega$$

# “CORONIUM” LINES

Stix section 9.1.3

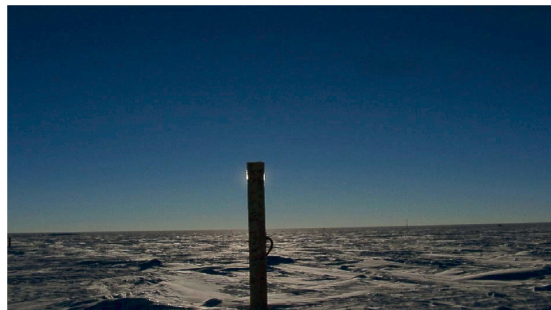
<http://laserstars.org/spectra/Coronium.html>



Grotrian, Edlén 1942: forbidden lines high ionization stages (Stix Table 9.2 p. 398)

name	wavelength	identification	$\Delta\lambda_D$	$\bar{v}$	$A_{ul}$	previous ion	$\chi_{ion}$
green line	530.29 nm	[Fe XIV]	0.051 nm	29 km/s	60 s <sup>-1</sup>	Fe XIII	355 eV
yellow line	569.45	[Ca XV]	0.087	46	95	Ca XIV	820
red line	637.45	[Fe XI]	0.049	23	69	Fe IX	235

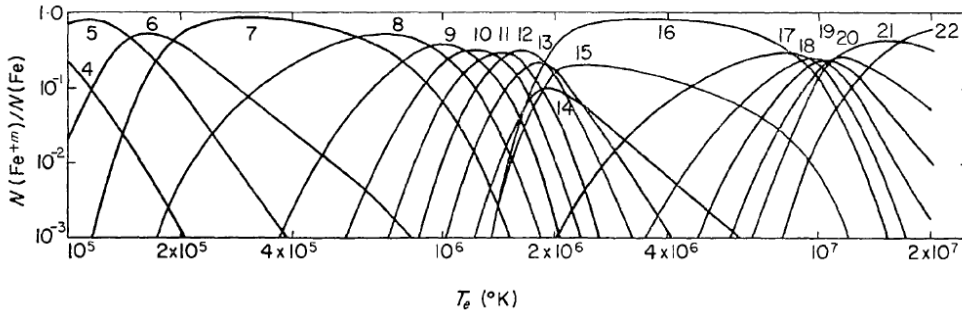
Coronal sky at Dome C



# EUV CORONA

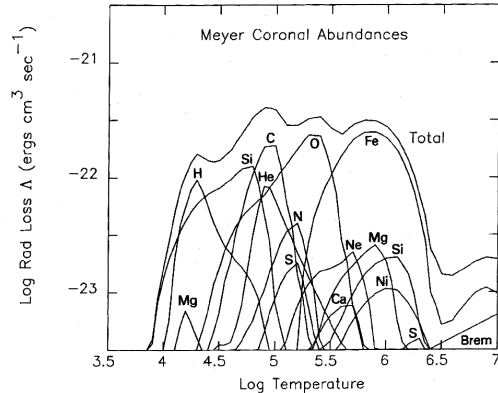
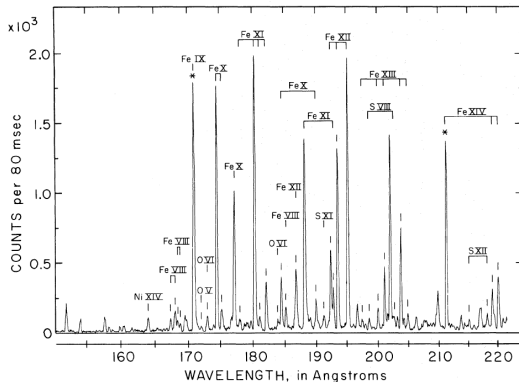
## Stix section 9.1.3

bf equilibria: collisional ionization = radiative recombination  $\Rightarrow$  only  $f(T)$ , not  $f(N_e)$

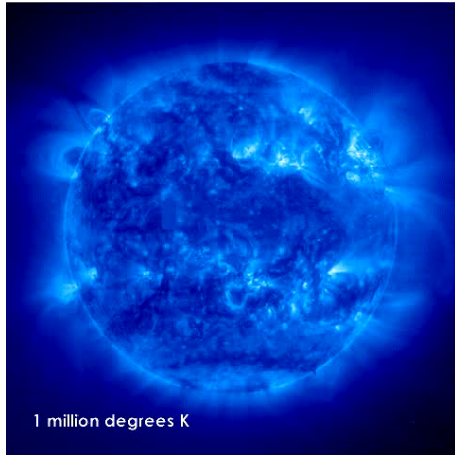


bb equilibria: collisional excitation = spontaneous deexcitation  $\Rightarrow f(T, N_e)$  (S 9.9–9.10)

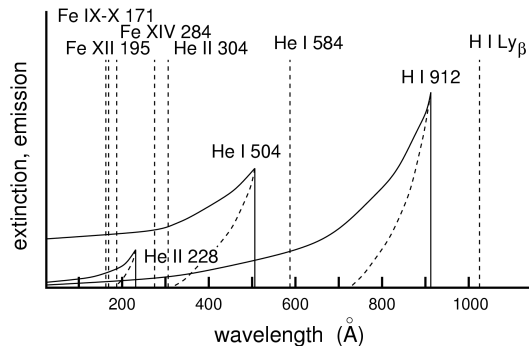
$$n_l C_{lu} = n_l N_e \int_{v_0}^{\infty} \sigma_{lu} f(v) v dv \approx n_u A_{ul} \quad \sum h\nu \propto \int n_{\text{ion}} N_e dz = \int N_e^2 \left( \frac{dT}{dz} \right)^{-1} dT \equiv \text{EM}$$



# BRIGHT AND DARK IN EUV IMAGES



- *iron lines*
  - Fe IX/X 171 Å: about 1.0 MK
  - Fe XII 195 Å: about 1.5 MK
  - Fe XIV 284 Å: about 2 MK
- *bright*
  - collision up, radiation down
  - thermal photon creation, NLTE equilibrium
  - 171 Å: selected loops = special trees in forest



- *dark*
  - radiation up, re-radiation at bound-free edge
  - matter containing He<sup>+</sup>, He, H: 10<sup>4</sup> – 10<sup>5</sup> K
  - large opacity

# BASIC QUANTITIES

*RTSA 2.1–2.2, Stix 4.2.5*

Monochromatic emissivity (Stix uses  $\varepsilon$ )

$$dE_\nu \equiv j_\nu dV dt d\nu d\Omega \quad dI_\nu(s) = j_\nu(s) ds$$

$$\text{units } j_\nu: \text{erg cm}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ Hz}^{-1} \text{ ster}^{-1} \quad I_\nu: \text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ Hz}^{-1} \text{ ster}^{-1}$$

Monochromatic extinction coefficient

$$dI_\nu \equiv -\sigma_\nu n I_\nu ds$$

$$dI_\nu \equiv -\alpha_\nu I_\nu ds$$

$$dI_\nu \equiv -\kappa_\nu \rho I_\nu ds$$

$$\text{units: cm}^2 \text{ per particle (physics)} \quad \text{cm}^2 \text{ per cm}^3 = \text{per cm (RTSA)} \quad \text{cm}^2 \text{ per gram (astronomy)}$$

Monochromatic source function

$$S_\nu \equiv j_\nu / \alpha_\nu = j_\nu / \kappa_\nu \rho \quad S_\nu^{\text{tot}} = \frac{\sum j_\nu}{\sum \alpha_\nu} \quad S_\nu^{\text{tot}} = \frac{j_\nu^c + j_\nu^l}{\alpha_\nu^c + \alpha_\nu^l} = \frac{S_\nu^c + \eta_\nu S_\nu^l}{1 + \eta_\nu} \quad \eta_\nu \equiv \alpha_\nu^l / \alpha_\nu^c$$

thick:  $(\kappa_\nu, S_\nu)$  more independent than  $(\alpha_\nu, j_\nu)$       stimulated emission negatively into  $\alpha_\nu, \kappa_\nu$

Transport equation with  $\tau_\nu$  as optical thickness along the beam

$$\frac{dI_\nu}{ds} = j_\nu - \alpha_\nu I_\nu \quad \frac{dI_\nu}{\alpha_\nu ds} = S_\nu - I_\nu \quad d\tau_\nu \equiv \alpha_\nu ds \quad \frac{dI_\nu}{d\tau_\nu} = S_\nu - I_\nu$$

Plane-parallel transport equation with  $\tau_\nu$  as radial optical depth and  $\mu$  as viewing angle

$$d\tau_\nu \equiv -\alpha_\nu dz \quad \tau_\nu(z_0) = -\int_\infty^{z_0} \alpha_\nu dz \quad \mu \equiv \cos \theta \quad \mu \frac{dI_\nu}{d\tau_\nu} = I_\nu - S_\nu$$

# CONSTANT SOURCE FUNCTION

Transport equation along the beam ( $\tau_\nu =$  optical thickness)

$$\frac{dI_\nu}{d\tau_\nu} = S_\nu - I_\nu \quad I_\nu(\tau_\nu) = I_\nu(0) e^{-\tau_\nu} + \int_0^{\tau_\nu} S_\nu(t_\nu) e^{-(\tau_\nu - t_\nu)} dt_\nu$$

Invariant  $S_\nu$

$$I_\nu(D) = I_\nu(0) e^{-\tau_\nu(D)} + S_\nu (1 - e^{-\tau_\nu(D)})$$

example:  $S_\nu = B_\nu$  for all continuum and line processes in an isothermal cloud

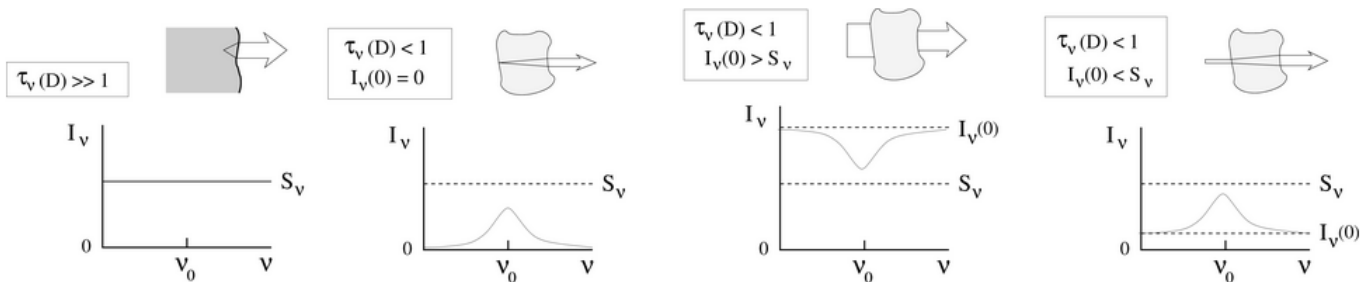
Thick object

$$I_\nu(D) \approx S_\nu$$

Thin object

$$I_\nu(D) \approx I_\nu(0) + [S_\nu - I_\nu(0)] \tau_\nu(D)$$

$$I_\nu(0) = 0 : I_\nu(D) \approx \tau_\nu(D) S_\nu = j_\nu D$$



# RADIATIVE TRANSFER IN A PLANE ATMOSPHERE

## RTSA 2.2.2; Stix 4.1.1

Radial optical depth

$$d\tau_\nu = -\kappa_\nu \rho dr$$

$r$  radial

Hubeny  $\tau_{\nu\mu}$

$\kappa_\nu$  cm<sup>2</sup>/gram

$\alpha_\nu$  cm<sup>-1</sup> = cm<sup>2</sup>/cm<sup>3</sup>

$\sigma_\nu$  cm<sup>2</sup>/particle

Transport equation

$$\mu \frac{dI_\nu}{d\tau_\nu} = I_\nu - S_\nu$$

Integral form

$$I_\nu^-(\tau_\nu, \mu) = - \int_0^{\tau_\nu} S_\nu(t_\nu) e^{-(t_\nu - \tau_\nu)/\mu} dt_\nu / \mu$$

“formal solution”

$$I_\nu^+(\tau_\nu, \mu) = + \int_{\tau_\nu}^{\infty} S_\nu(t_\nu) e^{-(t_\nu - \tau_\nu)/\mu} dt_\nu / \mu$$

NB: both directions

pm: Doppler anisotropy  $S_\nu$

Emergent intensity without irradiation

$$I_\nu(0, \mu) = (1/\mu) \int_0^\infty S_\nu(\tau_\nu) e^{-\tau_\nu/\mu} d\tau_\nu$$

Eddington-Barbier approximation

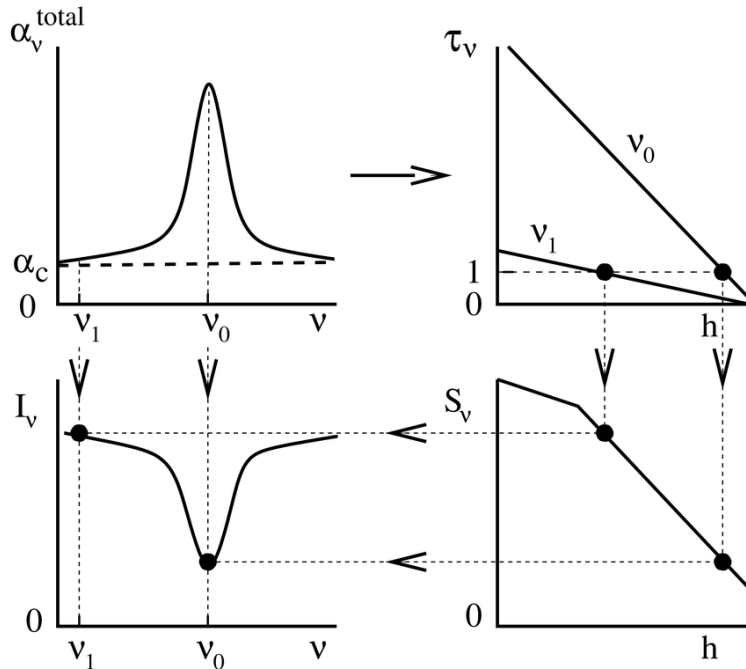
$$I_\nu(0, \mu) \approx S_\nu(\tau_\nu = \mu)$$

exact for linear  $S_\nu(\tau_\nu)$



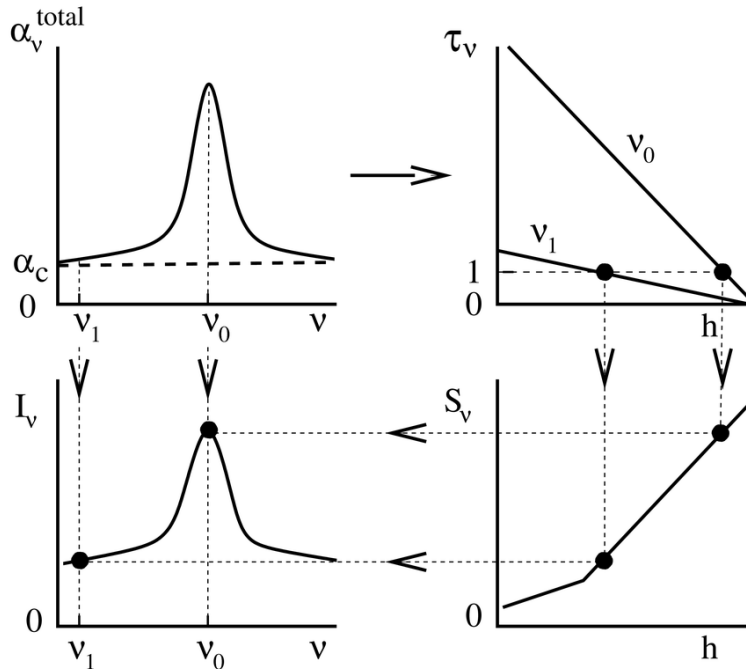
## SIMPLE ABSORPTION LINE

- extinction: bb process gives peak in  $\alpha_{\text{total}} = \alpha_c + \alpha_l = (1 + \eta_\nu) \alpha_c$
- optical depth: assume height-invariant  $\alpha_{\text{total}} \Rightarrow$  linear  $(1 + \eta_\nu) \tau_c$
- source function: assume same for line (bb) and continuous (bf, ff) processes
- use Eddington-Barbier (here nearly exact, why?)



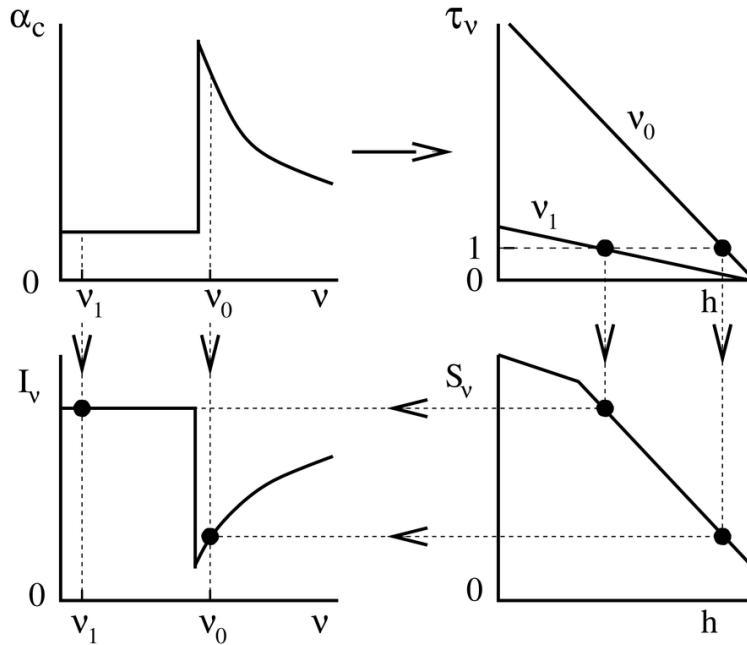
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- extinction: bb process gives peak in  $\alpha_{\text{total}} = \alpha_c + \alpha_l = (1 + \eta_\nu) \alpha_c$
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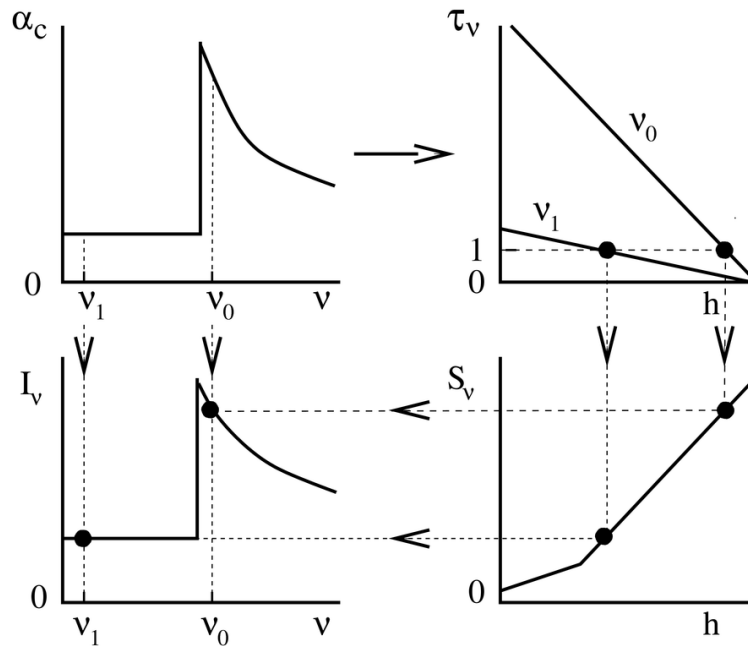
## SIMPLE ABSORPTION EDGE

- extinction: bf process gives edge in  $\alpha_\nu^c$ , with  $\alpha_\nu^c \propto \nu^3$  if hydrogenic
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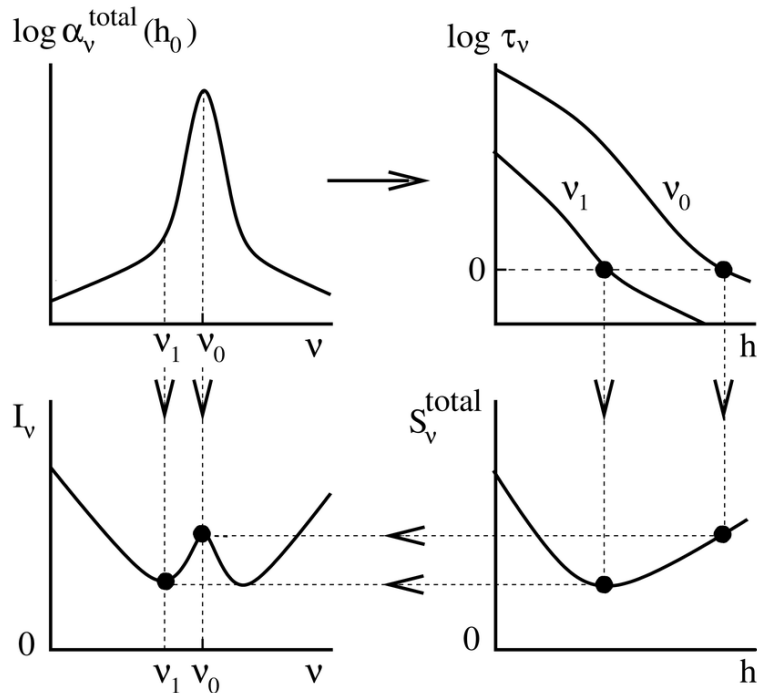
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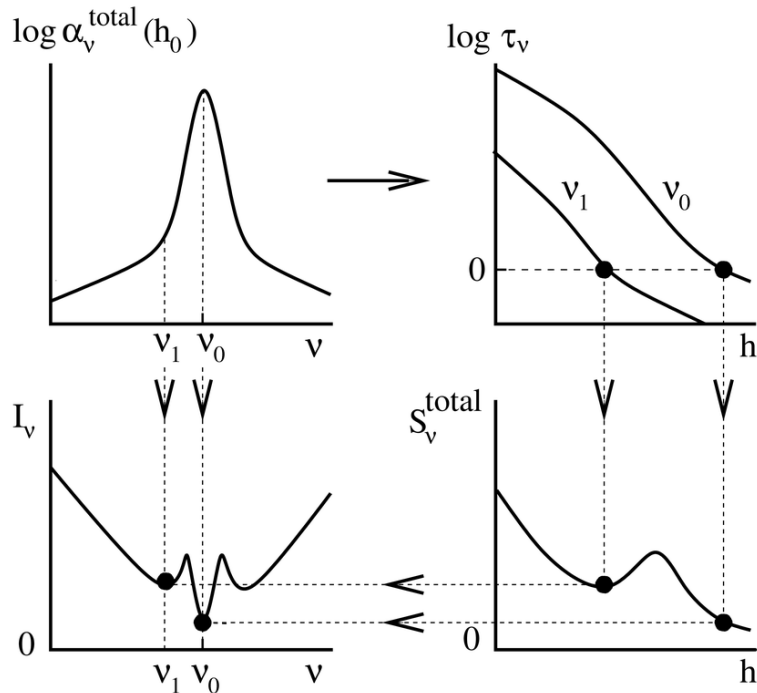
## SELF-REVERSED ABSORPTION LINE

- extinction: bb peak with height-dependent amplitude and shape
- optical depth: non-linear even in the log
- source function: decrease followed by increase (any idea why?)
- use Eddington-Barbier (questionable, why?)



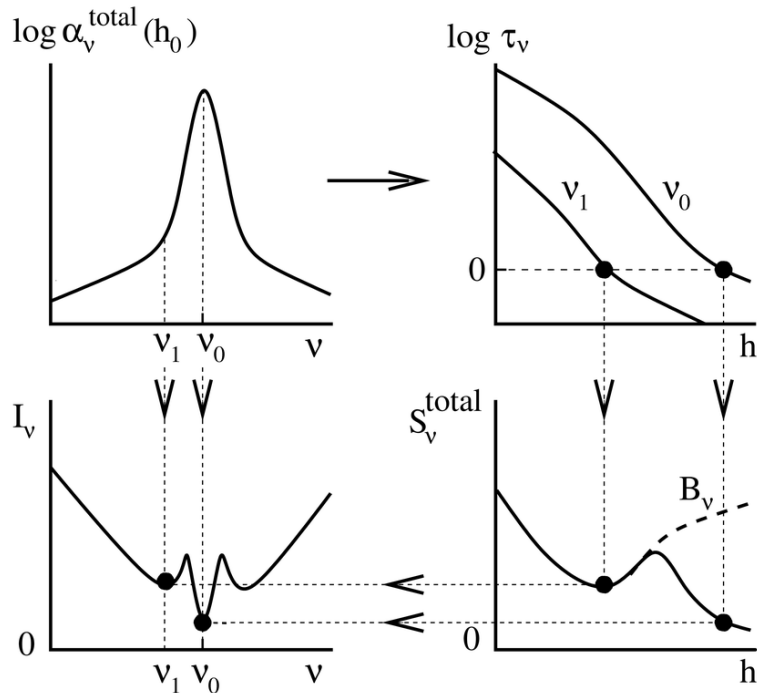
# DOUBLY REVERSED ABSORPTION LINE

- extinction: bb peak with height-dependent amplitude and shape
- optical depth: non-linear even in the log
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- use Eddington-Barbier (questionable, why?)



## DOUBLY REVERSED ABSORPTION LINE

- extinction: bb peak with height-dependent amplitude and shape
- optical depth: non-linear even in the log
- source function: decrease followed by increase followed by decrease (NLTE scattering)
- use Eddington-Barbier (questionable, why?)



# SOLAR SPECTRUM FORMATION

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**examples of local, nonlocal, converted photons:**    white light corona    coronium lines  
EUV corona    EUV bright/dark    [Zanstra & Bowen PN lines]

**radiative transfer basics:**    basic quantities    constant  $S_\nu$     plane-atmosphere RT  
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**LTE 1D solar radiation escape:**    Planck    continuous opacity    LTE continuum  
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solar ultraviolet spectrum    VALIIC temperature    solar spectrum formation  
Ca II H&K versus H $\alpha$

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VAL3C radiation budget    realistic line cartoon    Na D1    Ca II 8542 versus H $\alpha$

**MHD-simulated essolar radiation escape:**    Ca II H in 1D    Na D1 in 3D  
non-E hydrogen in 2D

**summary:**    RTSA rap



# PLANCK

RTSA Chapt. 2; Stix 4.5

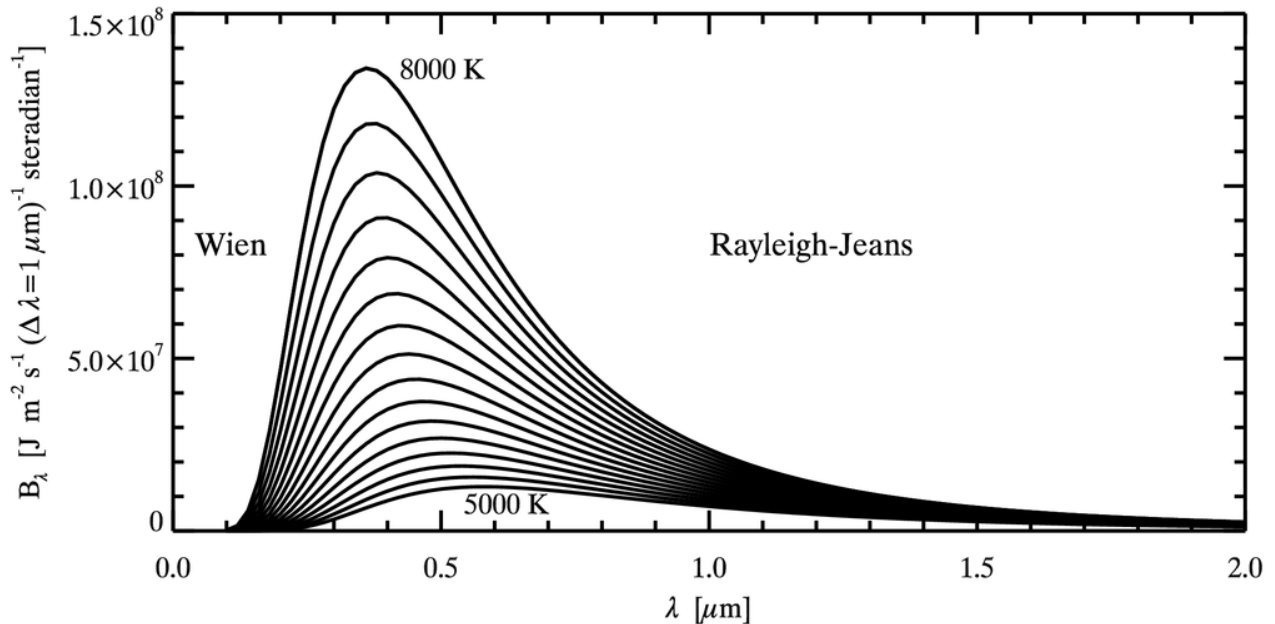
Planck function in intensity units

$$B_\nu(T) = \frac{2h\nu^3}{c^2} \frac{1}{e^{h\nu/kT} - 1} \quad B_\lambda(T) = \frac{2hc^2}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{e^{hc/\lambda kT} - 1} \quad B_\sigma(T) = 2hc^2\sigma^3 \frac{1}{e^{hc\sigma/kT} - 1}$$

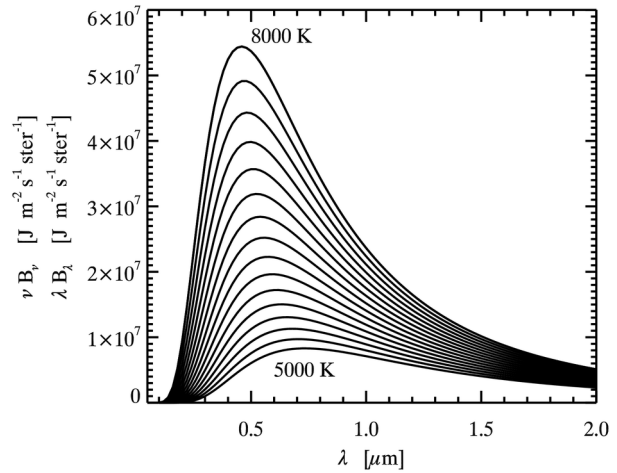
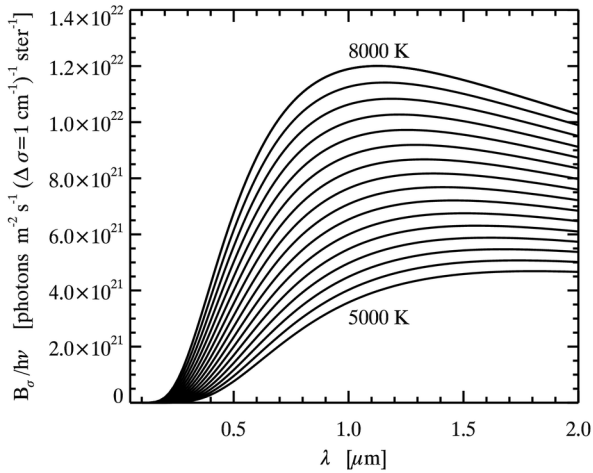
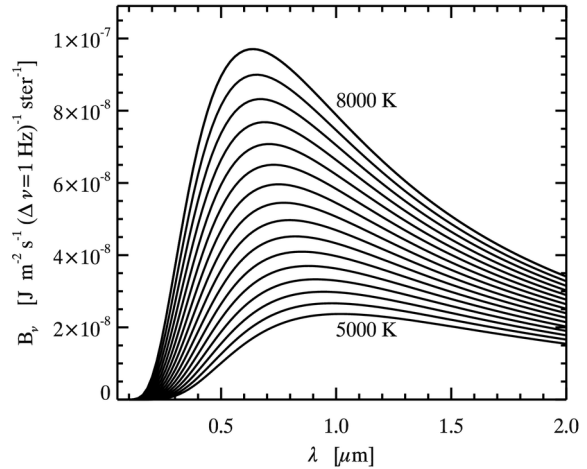
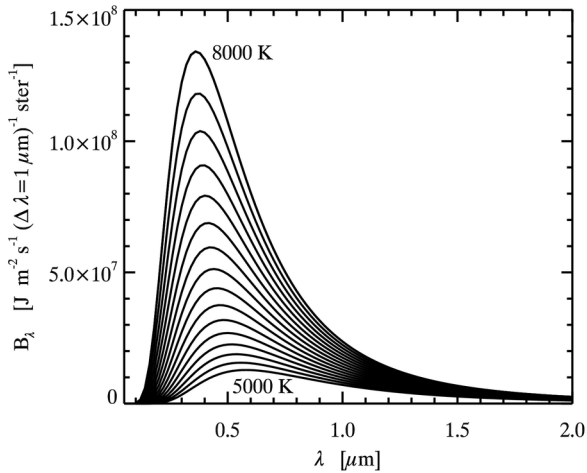
Approximations

$$\text{Wien: } B_\nu(T) \approx \frac{2h\nu^3}{c^2} e^{-h\nu/kT}$$

$$\text{Rayleigh-Jeans: } B_\nu(T) \approx \frac{2\nu^2 kT}{c^2}$$



# PLANCK FUNCTION VARIATIONS

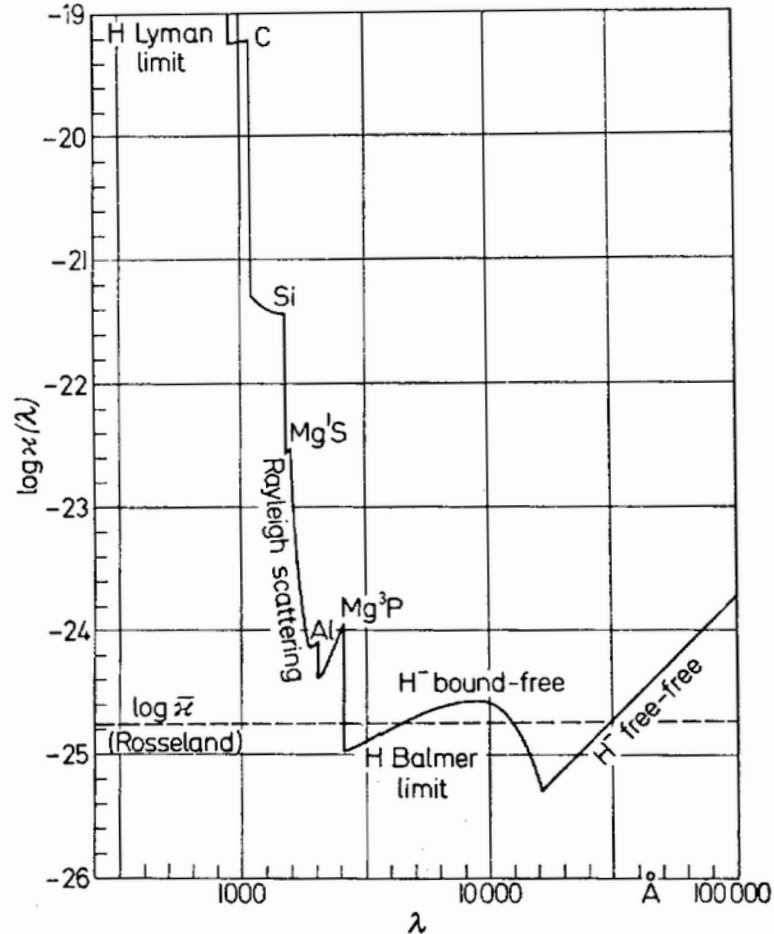


# CONTINUOUS OPACITY IN THE SOLAR PHOTOSPHERE

RTSA Chapt. 8; Stix Fig. 4.5; figure from E. Böhm-Vitense

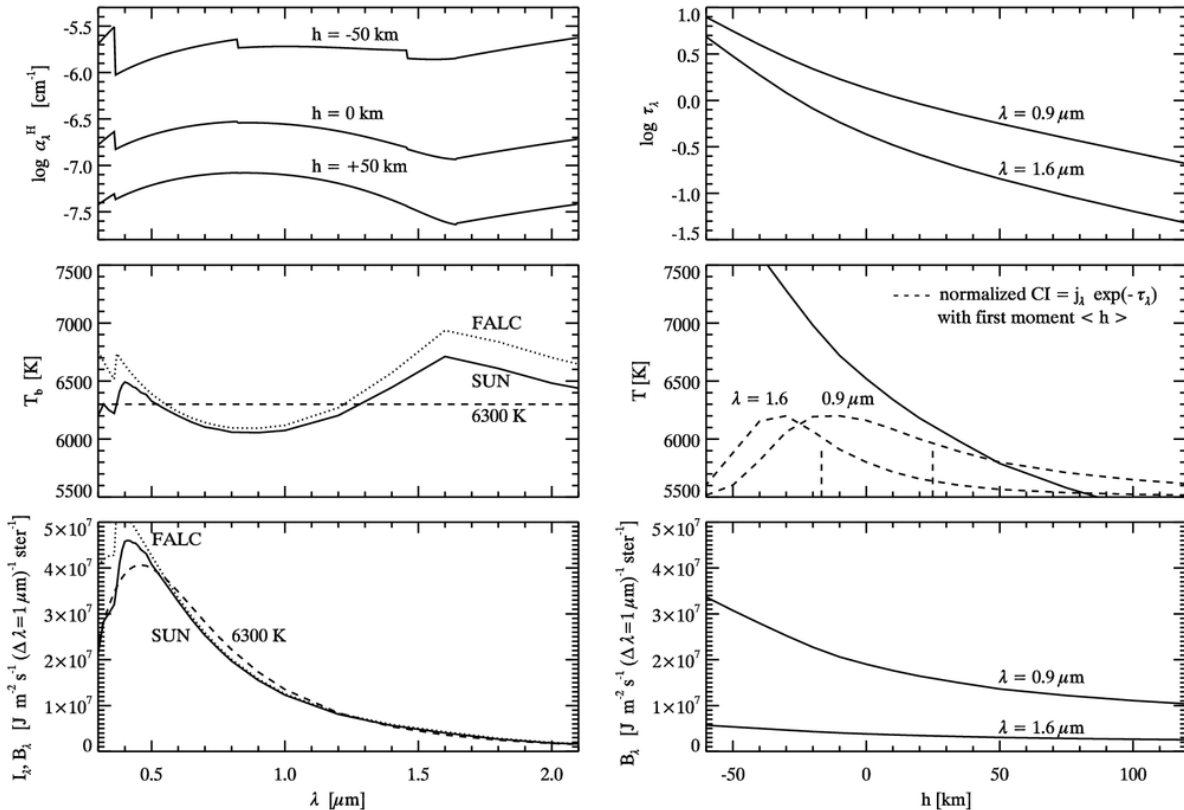
- *bound-free*
  - optical, near-infrared:  $H^-$
  - UV: Si I, Mg I, Al I, Fe I (electron donors for  $H^-$ )
  - EUV: H I Lyman; He I, He II
- *free-free*
  - infrared, sub-mm:  $H^-$
  - radio: H I
- *electron scattering*
  - Thomson scattering (large height)
  - Rayleigh scattering (near-UV)
- *Rosseland average*

$$\frac{1}{\bar{\kappa}} = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\kappa_\nu} \frac{dB_\nu/dT}{dB/dT} d\nu$$



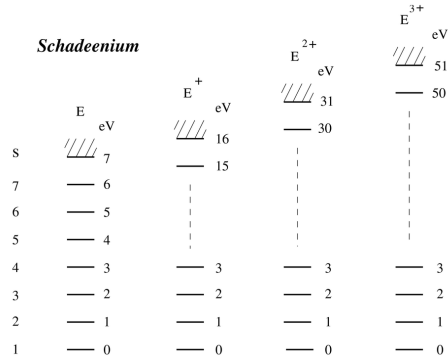
# SOLAR OPTICAL AND NEAR-INFRARED CONTINUUM FORMATION

Assumed: LTE, opacity only from H I bf+ff and H<sup>-</sup> bf+ff, FALC model atmosphere  
 Solar disk-center continuum: from Allen, "Astrophysical Quantities", 1976



Does the Eddington-Barbier approximation hold?

# Saha–Boltzmann level populations



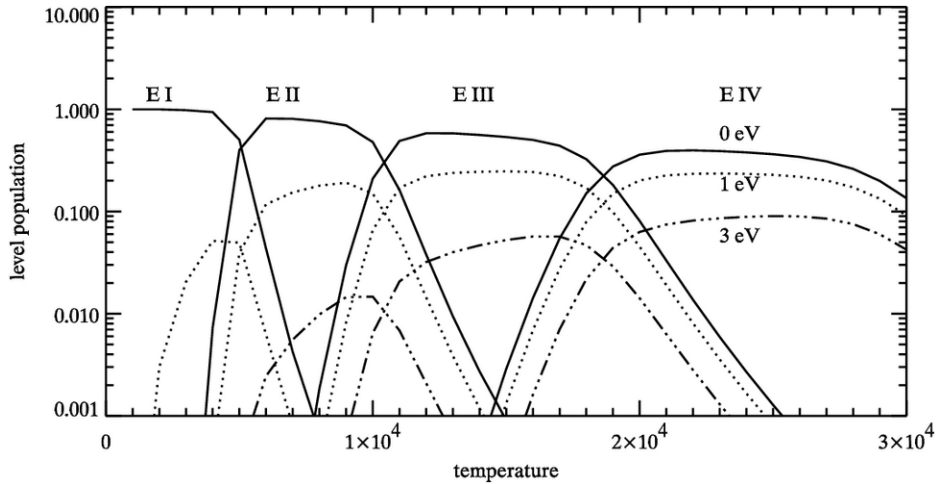
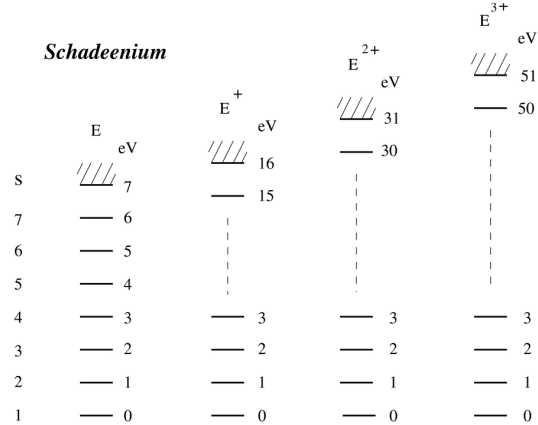
Boltzmann distribution per ionization stage: 
$$\frac{n_{r,s}}{N_r} = \frac{g_{r,s}}{U_r} e^{-\chi_{r,s}/kT}$$

partition function: 
$$U_r \equiv \sum_s g_{r,s} e^{-\chi_{r,s}/kT}$$

Saha distribution over ionization stages:

$$\frac{N_{r+1}}{N_r} = \frac{1}{N_e} \frac{2U_{r+1}}{U_r} \left( \frac{2\pi m_e kT}{h^2} \right)^{3/2} e^{-\chi_r/kT}$$

# Saha-Boltzmann Schadeenium



# LTE LINES

## RTSA Chapt. 2; Stix 4.1.3

continuum optical depth scale

$$\eta_\nu \equiv \kappa_l / \kappa_C \quad d\tau_\nu = d\tau_C + d\tau_l = (1 + \eta_\nu) d\tau_C$$

emergent intensity at disk center in LTE

$$I_\nu(0, 1) = \int_0^\infty B_\nu \exp(-\tau_\nu) d\tau_\nu = \int_0^\infty (1 + \eta_\nu) B_\nu \exp\left(-\int_0^{\tau_C} (1 + \eta_\nu) d\tau'_C\right) d\tau_C$$

Eddington-Barbier:  $I_\nu(0, 1) \approx B_\nu [\tau_\nu = 1] = B_\nu [\tau_C = 1/(1 + \eta_\nu)]$

line extinction coefficient shape = Maxwell [+ “microturbulence”] Gauss  $\otimes$  damping Lorentz

$$\Delta\nu_D \equiv \frac{\nu_0}{c} \sqrt{\frac{2RT}{A}} [+ \xi_t^2] \quad \phi(\nu) = \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{\pi} \Delta\nu_D} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\exp(-(\nu - \nu')^2 / \Delta\nu_D^2)}{[2\pi(\nu' - \nu_0)]^2 + \gamma^2/4} d\nu' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi} \Delta\nu_D} H(a, v)$$

Voigt function

$$v \equiv \frac{\nu - \nu_0}{\Delta\nu_D} \quad a \equiv \frac{\gamma}{4\pi \Delta\nu_D} \quad H(a, v) \equiv \frac{a}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{e^{-y^2}}{(v - y)^2 + a^2} dy \quad \text{area in } v: \sqrt{\pi}$$

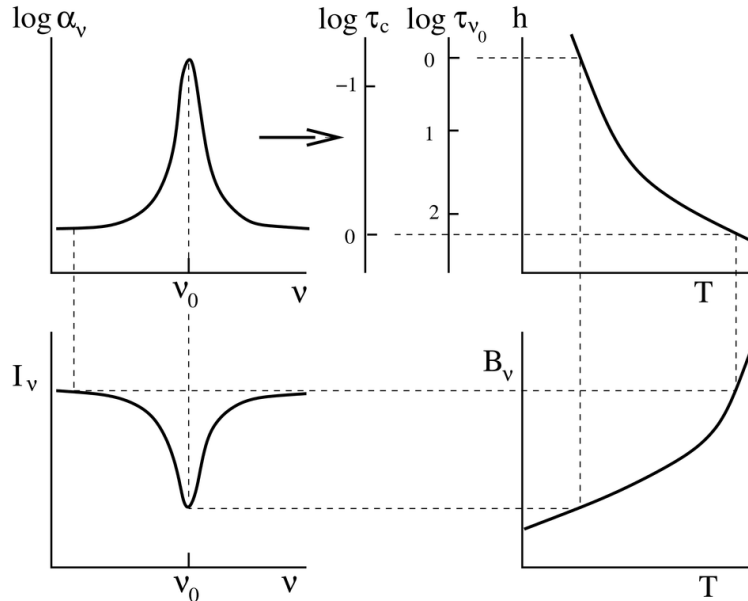
line extinction coefficient

$$\sigma_l = \frac{h\nu}{4\pi} B_{lu} \phi(\nu) = \frac{\pi e^2}{m_e c} f_l \phi(\nu) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} e^2 f_l}{m_e c \Delta\nu_D} H(a, v) \quad A_{ul} = 6.67 \times 10^{13} \frac{g_l}{g_u} \frac{f_{lu}}{\lambda^2} \text{ s}^{-1} (\lambda \text{ nm})$$

$$\kappa_l = \sigma_l n_l^{\text{LTE}} (1 - e^{-h\nu/kT}) / \rho = \frac{\sigma_l}{\mu m_H} \frac{n_i}{\sum n_i} \frac{n_{ij}}{n_i} \frac{n_{ijk}}{n_{ij}} (1 - e^{-h\nu/kT}) \quad i, j, k \text{ species, stage, lower level abundance, Saha, Boltzmann}$$

## STELLAR LTE ABSORPTION LINE

- extinction: large bb peak in  $\alpha_{\text{total}}(h) = \alpha_c(h) + \alpha_l(h)$ , both decreasing with height
- optical depth: the inward integration  $\tau_\nu = -\int \alpha_\nu dh$  along the line of sight reaches  $\tau_\nu = 1$  at much larger height at line center than in the adjacent continuum
- source function:  $S_\nu(h) = B_\nu[T(h)]$  (neglect variation over the profile)
- intensity: the emergent profile is a two-sided mapping of  $B_\nu[T(h)]$  sampled at  $h(\tau_\nu \approx 1)$

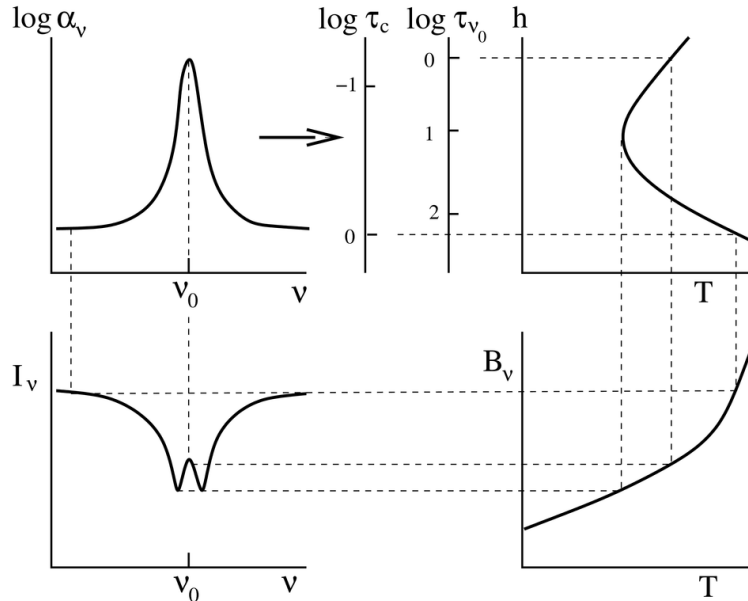


Why are LTE lines with the same  $\alpha_c(h)$  and  $\alpha_l(h)$  deeper in the blue than in the red?



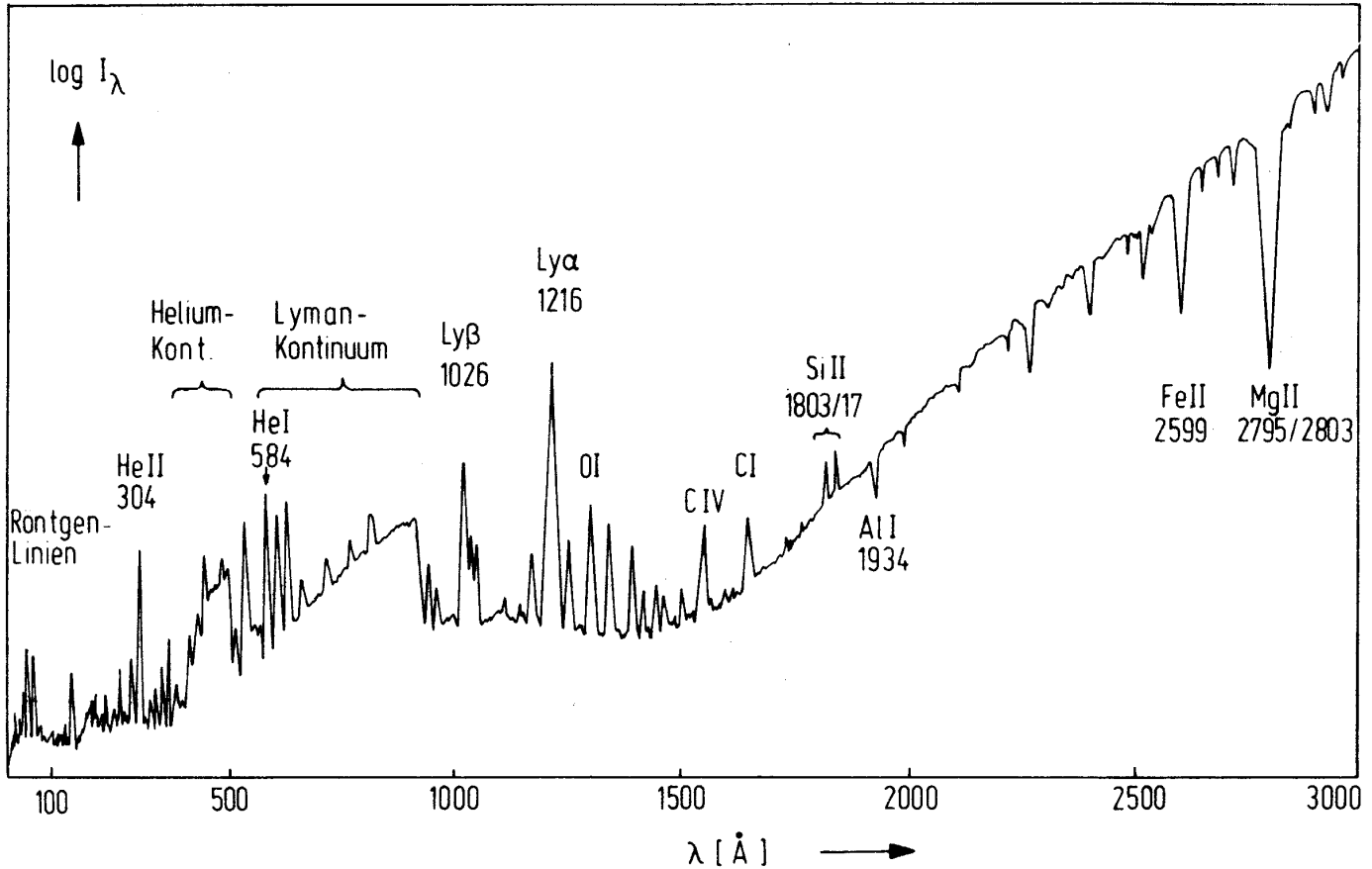
## STELLAR LTE SELF-REVERSED LINE

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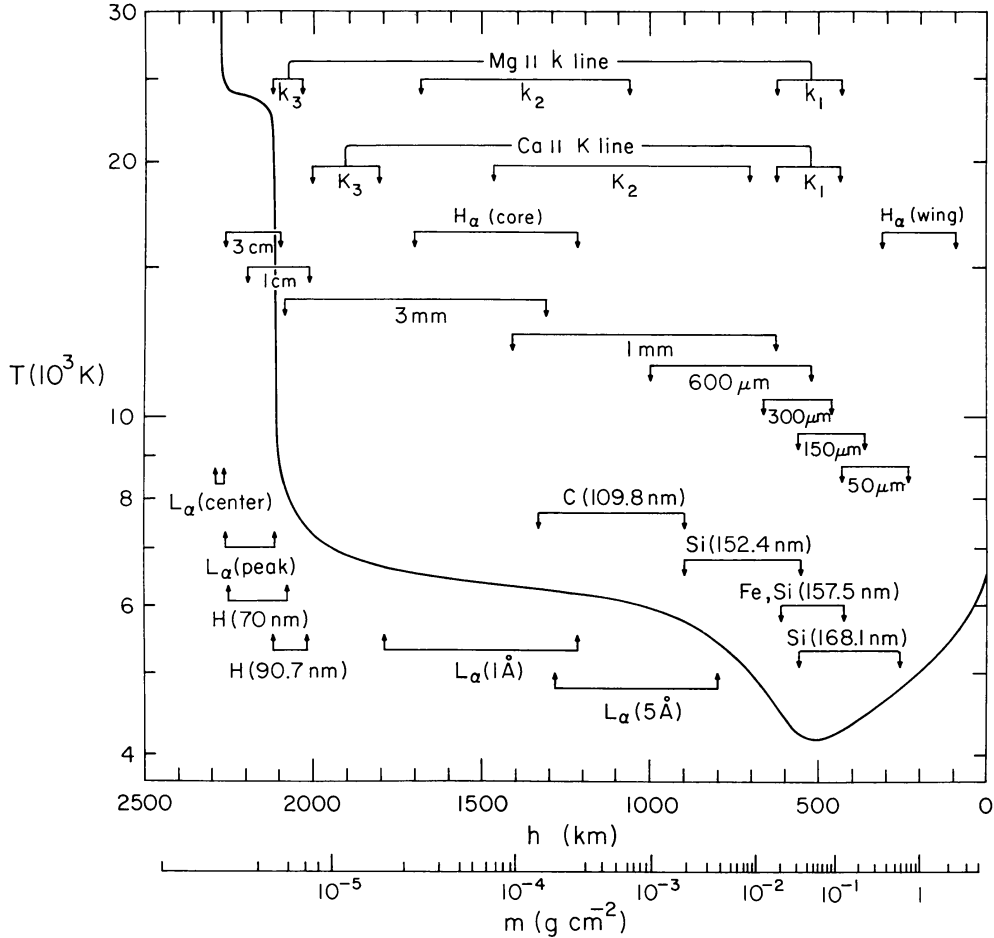
# SOLAR ULTRAVIOLET SPECTRUM

*Scheffler & Elsässer, courtesy Karin Muglach*



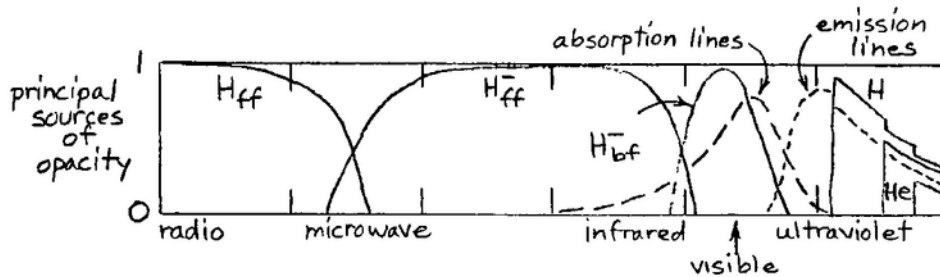
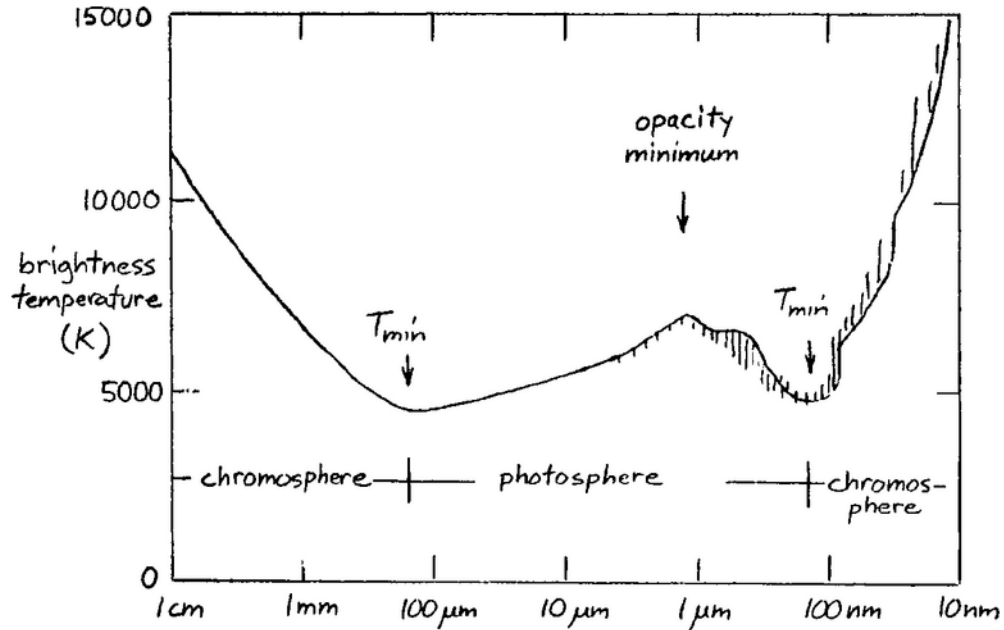
# VALIIC MODEL

Vernazza, Avrett, Loeser 1981ApJS...45..635V

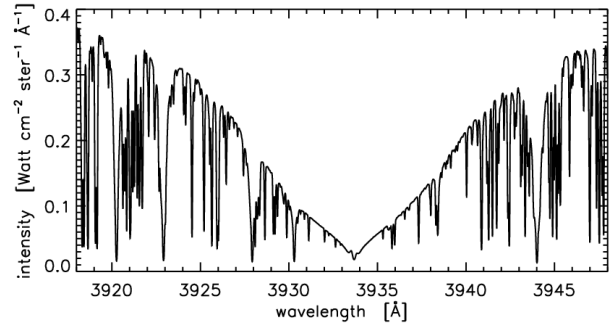
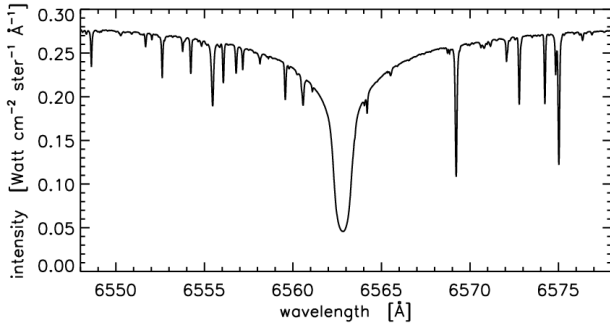


# SOLAR SPECTRUM FORMATION

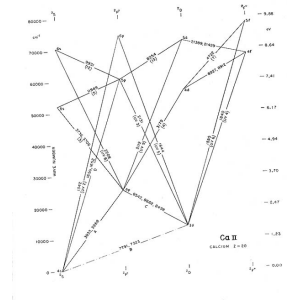
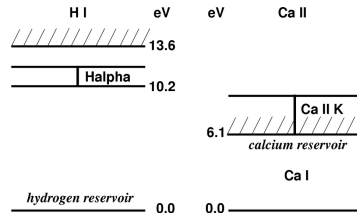
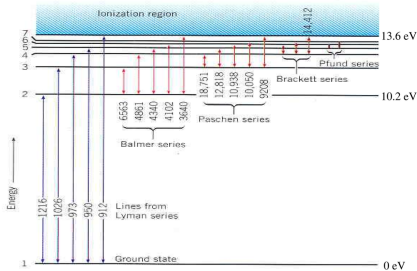
Avrett 1990IAUS..138....3A



# H- $\alpha$ AND Ca II K IN THE SOLAR SPECTRUM



solar abundance ratio:  $\text{Ca}/\text{H} = 2 \times 10^{-6}$



Assuming LTE at  $T = 5000 \text{ K}$ ,  $P_e = 10^2 \text{ dyne cm}^{-2}$ :

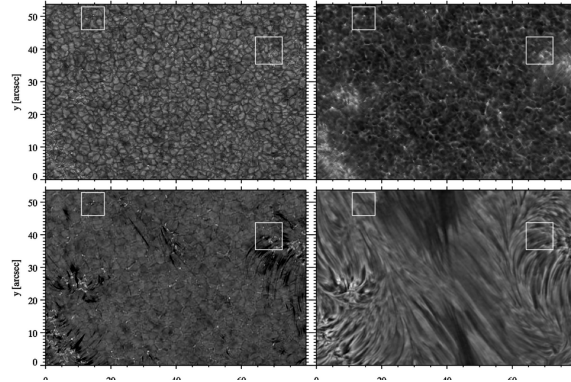
Boltzmann H I:  $\frac{n_2}{n_1} = 4.2 \times 10^{-10}$

Saha Ca II:  $\frac{N_{\text{Ca II}}}{N_{\text{Ca}}} \approx 1$

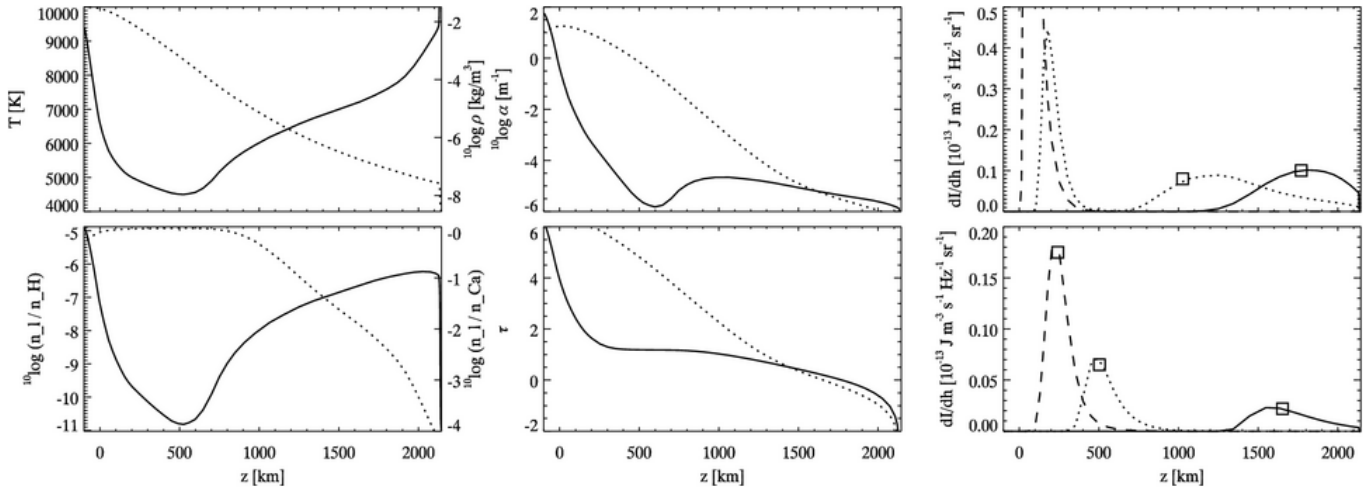
$\frac{\text{Ca II } (n=1)}{\text{H I } (n=2)} = 8 \times 10^3$

# Ca II H & H $\alpha$ in LTE

Leenaarts et al. 2006A&A...449.1209L



<http://dot.astro.uu.nl>



# SOLAR SPECTRUM FORMATION

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Texts: R.J. Rutten, “*Radiative Transfer in Stellar Atmospheres*” (RTSA), [my website](#)  
D. Mihalas, “*Stellar Atmospheres*”, 1970, 1978  
G.B. Rybicki and A.P. Lightman, “*Radiative Processes in Astrophysics*”, 1979, 2004  
M. Stix, “*The Sun*”, 1989, 2002/2004

**examples of local, nonlocal, converted photons:**    white light corona    coronium lines  
EUV corona    EUV bright/dark    [Zanstra & Bowen PN lines]

**radiative transfer basics:**    basic quantities    constant  $S_\nu$     plane-atmosphere RT  
Eddington-Barbier cartoons

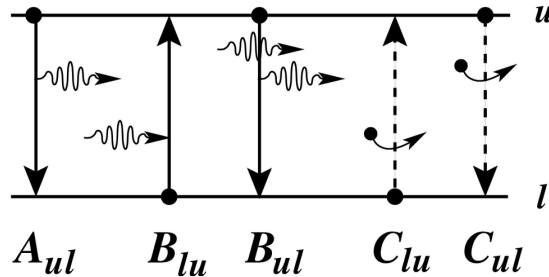
**LTE 1D solar radiation escape:**    Planck    continuous opacity    LTE continuum  
Boltzmann-Saha    LTE line equations    LTE line cartoons  
solar ultraviolet spectrum    VALIIC temperature    solar spectrum formation  
Ca II H&K versus H $\alpha$

**NLTE 1D solar radiation escape:**    bb processes    bb rates    bb equilibria    scattering  
solar radiation processes    VAL3C continuum formation    radiative cooling  
VAL3C radiation budget    realistic line cartoon    Na D1    Ca II 8542 versus H $\alpha$

**MHD-simulated essolar radiation escape:**    Ca II H in 1D    Na D1 in 3D  
non-E hydrogen in 2D

**summary:**    RTSA rap

# BOUND-BOUND PROCESSES AND EINSTEIN COEFFICIENTS



Spontaneous deexcitation

$A_{ul} \equiv$  transition probability for spontaneous deexcitation  
from state  $u$  to state  $l$  per sec per particle in state  $u$

Radiative excitation

$B_{lu} \bar{J}_{\nu_0}^{\varphi} \equiv$  number of radiative excitations from state  $l$  to state  $u$   
per sec per particle in state  $l$

Induced deexcitation

$B_{ul} \bar{J}_{\nu_0}^{\chi} \equiv$  number of induced radiative deexcitations from state  $u$   
to state  $l$  per sec per particle in state  $u$

Collisional excitation and deexcitation

$C_{lu} \equiv$  number of collisional excitations from state  $l$  to state  $u$   
per sec per particle in state  $l$

$C_{ul} \equiv$  number of collisional deexcitations from state  $u$  to  
state  $l$  per sec per particle in state  $u$



# BOUND-BOUND RATES

RTSA 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.6.1; Stix 4.2

Monochromatic bb rates expressed in Einstein coefficients (intensity units)

$n_u A_{ul} \chi(\nu) / 4\pi$	$n_u B_{ul} I_\nu \psi(\nu) / 4\pi$	$n_l B_{lu} I_\nu \phi(\nu) / 4\pi$	$n_u C_{ul}$	$n_l C_{lu}$
spontaneous emission	stimulated emission	radiative excitation	collisional (de-)excitation	

Einstein relations

$$g_u B_{ul} = g_l B_{lu} \quad (g_u/g_l) A_{ul} = (2h\nu^3/c^2) B_{lu} \quad C_{ul}/C_{lu} = (g_l/g_u) \exp(E_{ul}/kT)$$

required for TE detailed balancing with  $I_\nu = B_\nu$ , but hold universally

General line source function

$$j_\nu = \frac{h\nu}{4\pi} n_u A_{ul} \chi(\nu) \quad \alpha_\nu = \frac{h\nu}{4\pi} [n_l B_{lu} \phi(\nu) - n_u B_{ul} \psi(\nu)] \quad S_l = \frac{n_u A_{ul} \chi(\nu)}{n_l B_{lu} \phi(\nu) - n_u B_{ul} \psi(\nu)}$$

Simplified line source function

CRD:  $\chi(\nu) = \psi(\nu) = \phi(\nu)$

$$S_l = \frac{n_u A_{ul}}{n_l B_{lu} - n_u B_{ul}} = \frac{2h\nu^3}{c^2} \frac{1}{\frac{g_u n_l}{g_l n_u} - 1} \quad \text{Boltzmann: } S_l = B_\nu(T)$$

Statistical equilibrium equations for level  $j$

$$n_j \sum_{j \neq i} R_{ji} = \sum_{j \neq i} n_j R_{ij} \quad R_{ji} = A_{ji} + B_{ji} \bar{J}_{ji} + C_{ji} \quad \bar{J}_{ji} \equiv \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^{4\pi} \int_0^\infty I_\nu \phi(\nu) d\nu d\Omega$$

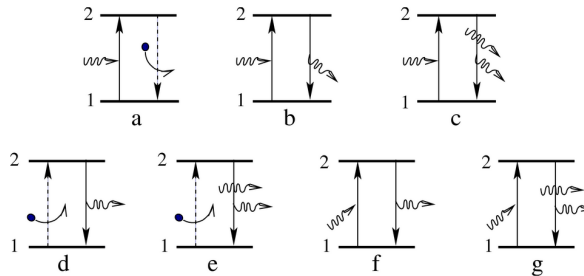
time-independent population

bb rates per particle in  $j$

total (= mean) mean intensity

# BOUND-BOUND EQUILIBRIA

*RTSA missing; Stix 4.1.2*



- *LTE = large collision frequency* – interior, low photosphere
  - up: mostly collisional = thermal creation (d + e)
  - down: mostly collisional = large destruction probability (a)
  - photon travel: “honorary gas particles” or negligible leak
- *NLTE = statistical equilibrium or time-dependent* – chromosphere, TR
  - photon travel: non-local impinging (pumping), loss (suction)
  - two-level scattering: coherent/complete/partial redistribution
  - multi-level: photon conversion, sensitivity transcription
- *coronal equilibrium = hot tenuous* – coronal EUV
  - up: only collisional = thermal creation (only d)
  - down: only spontaneous (only d)
  - photon travel: escape / drown / scatter bf H I, He I, He II

# SCATTERING EQUATIONS

## RTSA 4.1–4.3

Destruction probability

$$\text{coherent: } \varepsilon_\nu \equiv \frac{\alpha_\nu^a}{\alpha_\nu^a + \alpha_\nu^s} \quad \text{2-level CRD: } \varepsilon_{\nu_0} \equiv \frac{\alpha_{\nu_0}^a}{\alpha_{\nu_0}^a + \alpha_{\nu_0}^s} = \frac{C_{21}}{C_{21} + A_{21} + B_{21}B_{\nu_0}}$$

Elastic scattering

$$\text{coherent: } S_\nu = (1 - \varepsilon_\nu)J_\nu + \varepsilon_\nu B_\nu \quad \text{2-level CRD: } S_{\nu_0} = (1 - \varepsilon_{\nu_0})J_{\nu_0} + \varepsilon_{\nu_0}B_{\nu_0}$$

Schwarzschild equation and Lambda operator

$$J_\nu(\tau_\nu) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^{+1} I_\nu(\tau_\nu, \mu) d\mu = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty S_\nu(t_\nu) E_1(|t_\nu - \tau_\nu|) dt_\nu \equiv \mathbf{\Lambda}_{\tau_\nu}[S_\nu(t_\nu)]$$

$$\text{surface: } J_\nu(0) \approx \frac{1}{2} S_\nu(\tau_\nu = 1/2) \quad \text{depth: } J_\nu(\tau_\nu) \approx S_\nu(\tau_\nu) \quad \text{diffusion: } J_\nu(\tau_\nu) \approx B_\nu(\tau_\nu)$$

Scattering in an isothermal atmosphere

$$\text{coherent: } S_\nu(0) = \sqrt{\varepsilon_\nu} B_\nu \quad \text{2-level CRD: } S_{\nu_0}(0) = \sqrt{\varepsilon_{\nu_0}} B_{\nu_0}$$

Thermalization depth

$$\text{coherent: } \Lambda_\nu = 1/\varepsilon_\nu^{1/2} \quad \text{Gauss profile: } \Lambda_{\nu_0} \approx 1/\varepsilon_{\nu_0} \quad \text{Lorentz profile: } \Lambda_{\nu_0} \approx 1/\varepsilon_{\nu_0}^2$$

# EXPONENTIAL INTEGRALS

RTSA figure 4.1

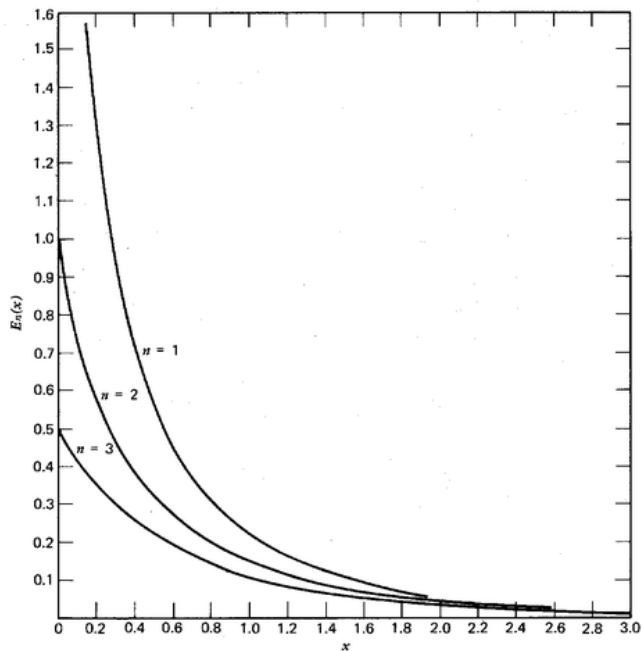
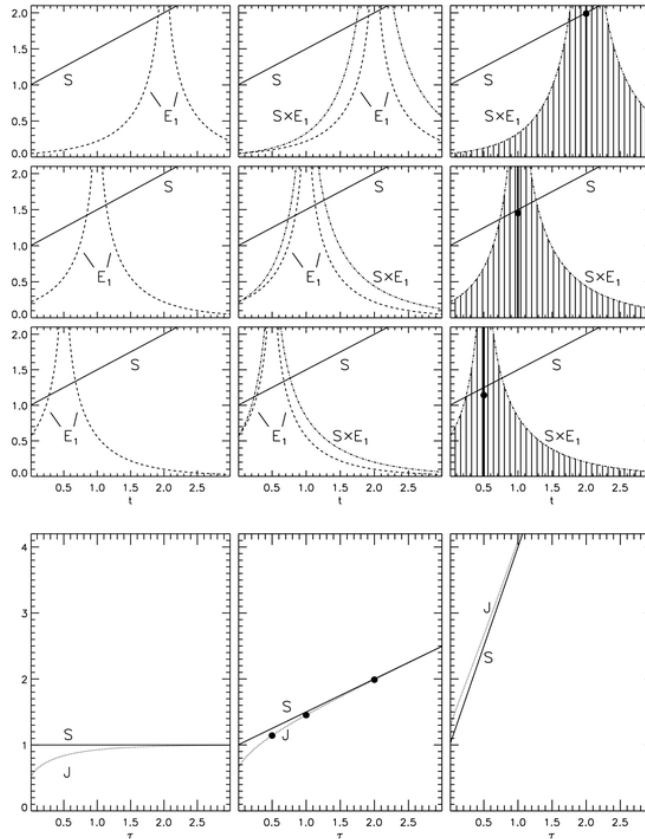


Figure 4.1: The first three exponential integrals  $E_n(x)$ .  $E_1(x)$  has a singularity at  $x = 0$ . For large  $x$  all  $E_n(x)$  have  $E_n(x) \approx \exp(-x)/x$ . From Gray (1992).

# THE WORKING OF THE LAMBDA OPERATOR

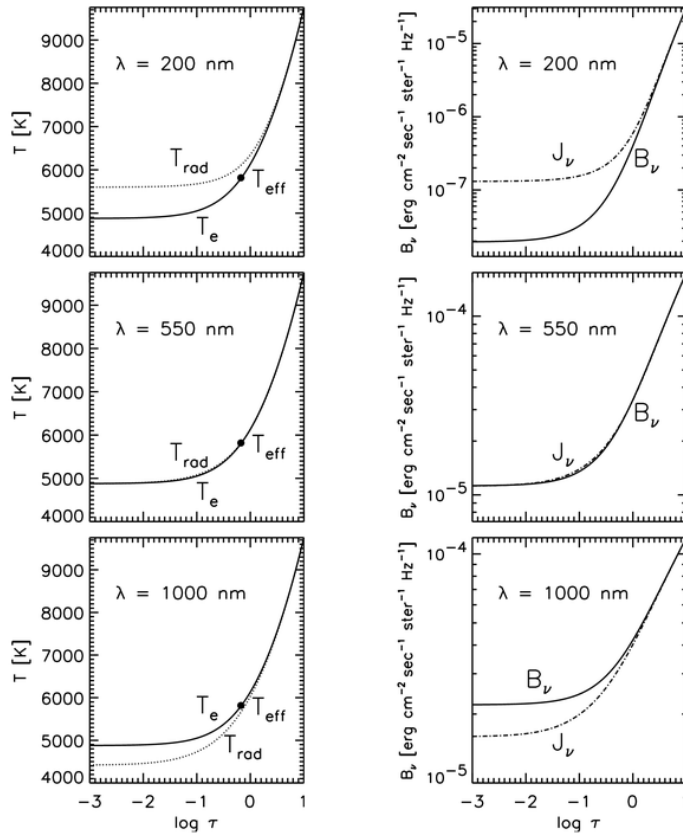
RTSA figure 4.1; Thijs Krijger production



# GREY RE LTE SOLAR-TEMPERATURE ATMOSPHERE

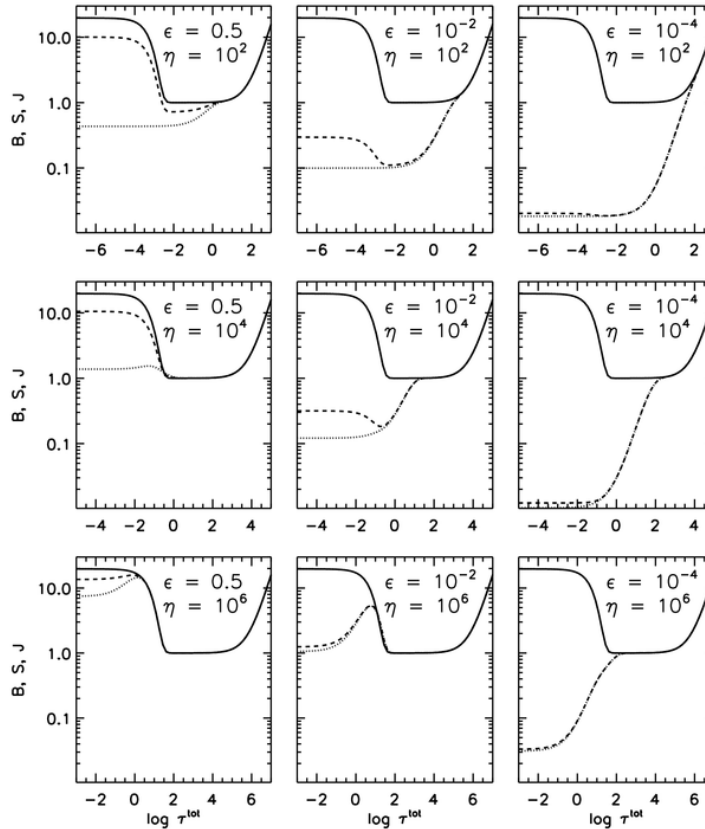
RTSA figure 4.9; Thijs Krijger production

Temperature stratification:  $T(\tau) \approx T_{\text{eff}} \left( \frac{3}{4}\tau + \frac{1}{2} \right)^{1/4}$



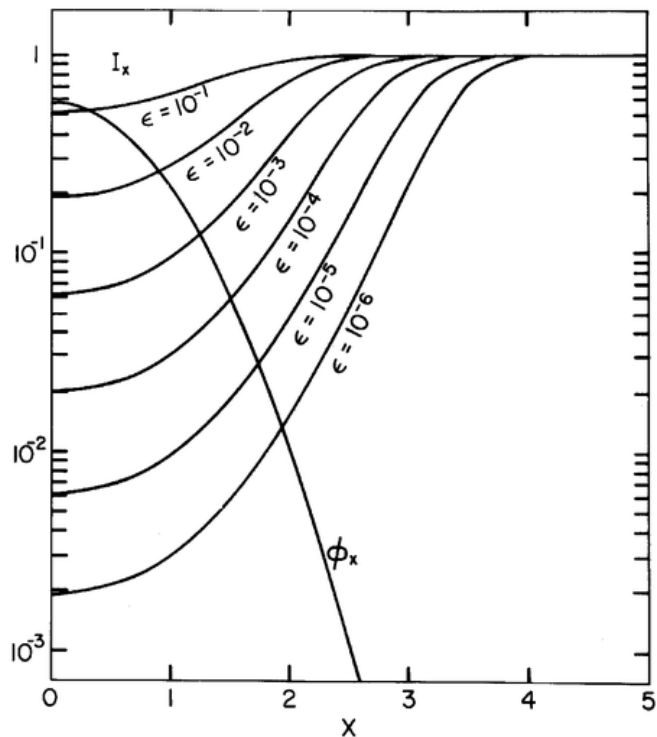
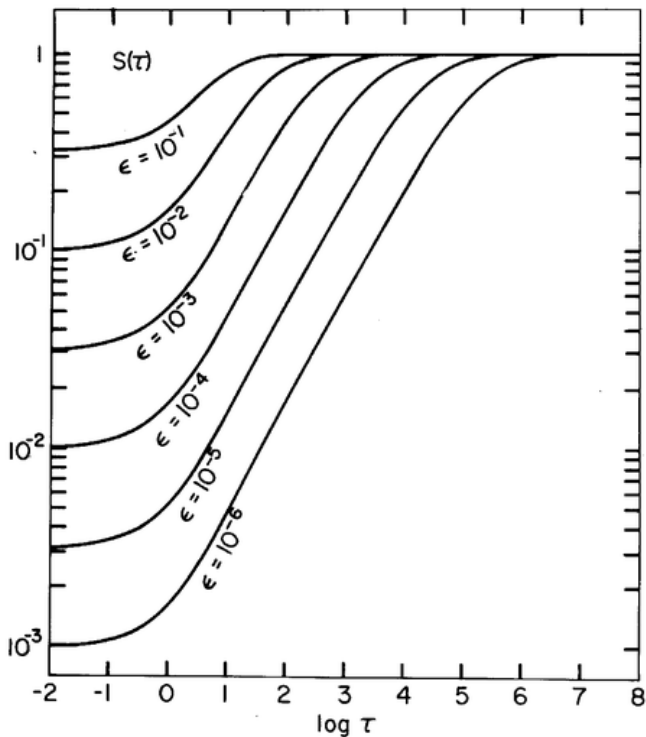
# $B, J, S$ FOR SOLAR-LIKE COHERENT LINE SCATTERING

RTSA figure 4.11; Thijs Krijger production



# CRD RESONANT SCATTERING IN AN ISOTHERMAL ATMOSPHERE

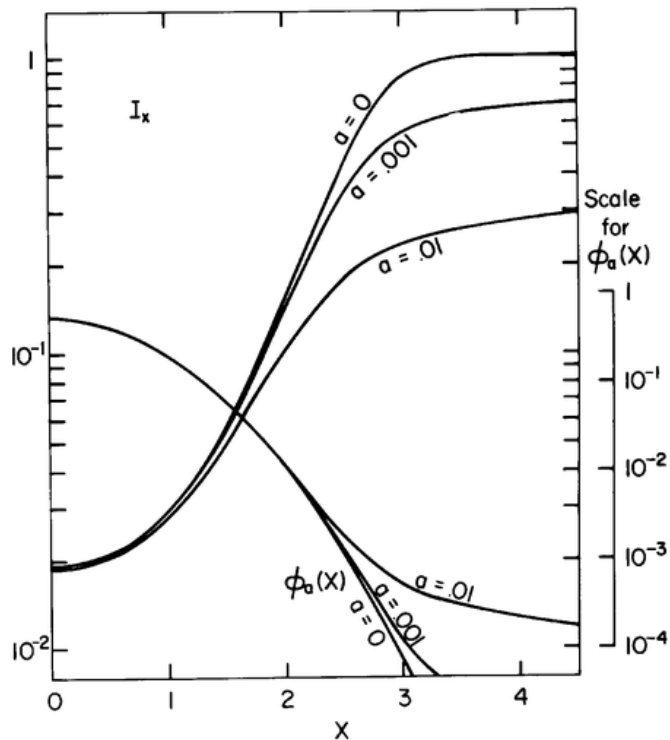
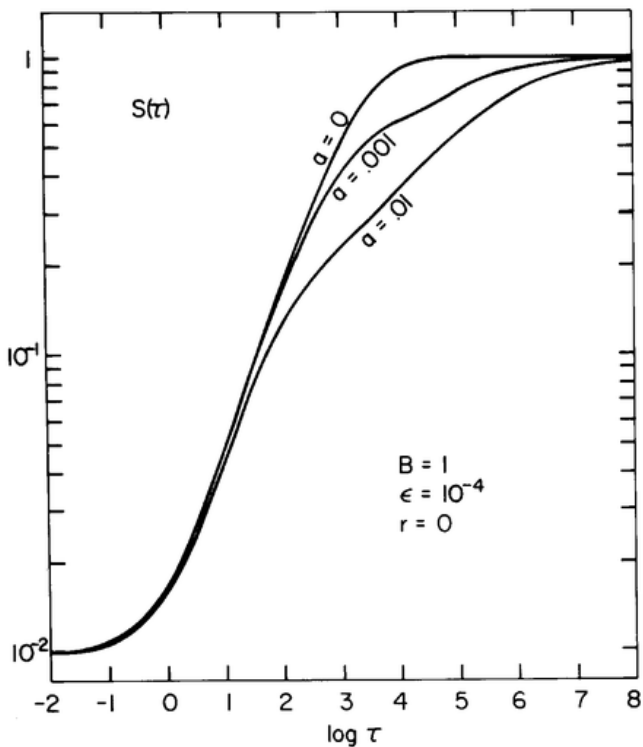
RTSA figure 4.12; from Avrett 1965 SAOSR.174..101A





# IDEM FOR DIFFERENT LINE PROFILES

RTSA figure 4.12; from Avrett 1965SAOSR.174..101A



# IDEM WITH BACKGROUND CONTINUUM

RTSA figure 4.13; from Avrett 1965 SAOSR.174..101A

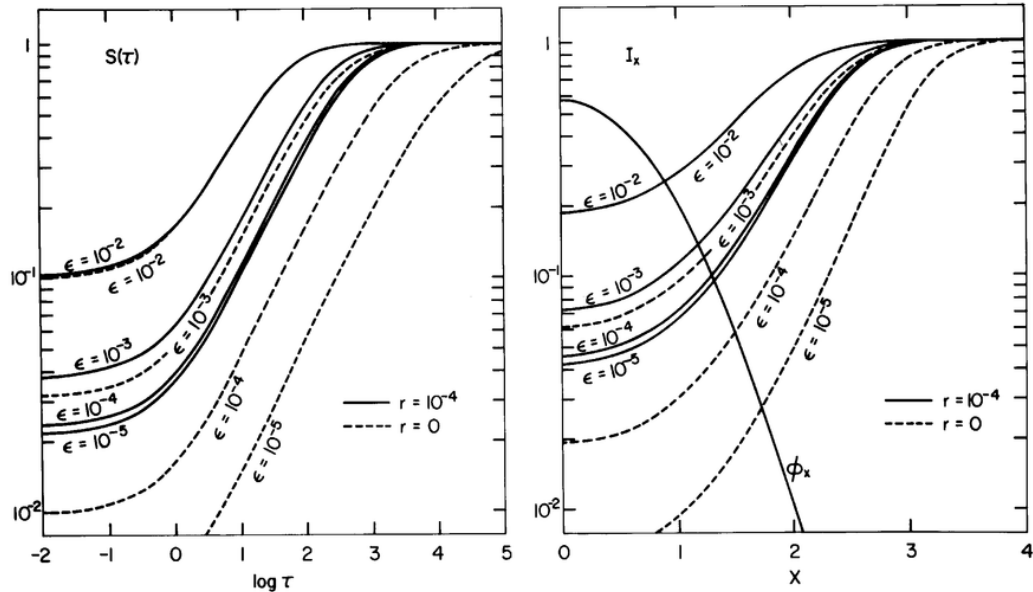
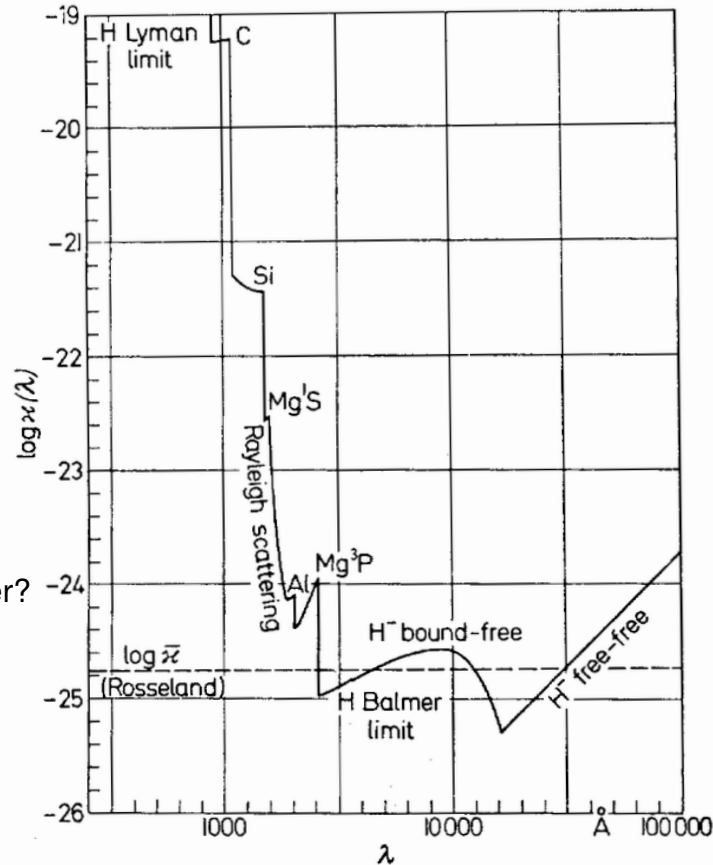


Figure 4.13: Avrett results for two-level-atom lines with complete redistribution and a background continuum. The atmosphere is isothermal. Axis labeling and parameters as for the upper panels of Figure 4.12; the extinction profile  $\phi(x)$  is again Gaussian (righthand panel). *Dashed curves*:  $r \equiv \alpha_v^c / \alpha_{\nu_0}^l$  set to  $r = 0$ , describing pure resonance scattering without background continuum. *Solid curves*:  $r = 10^{-4}$  or  $\eta_{\nu_0} = 10^4$ , describing fairly strong lines. Lack of continuum thermalization is unimportant when  $r \ll \epsilon_{\nu_0}$ . Lack of collisional destruction is unimportant when  $\epsilon_{\nu_0} \ll r$ . From Avrett (1965).

# SOLAR ATMOSPHERE RADIATIVE PROCESSES

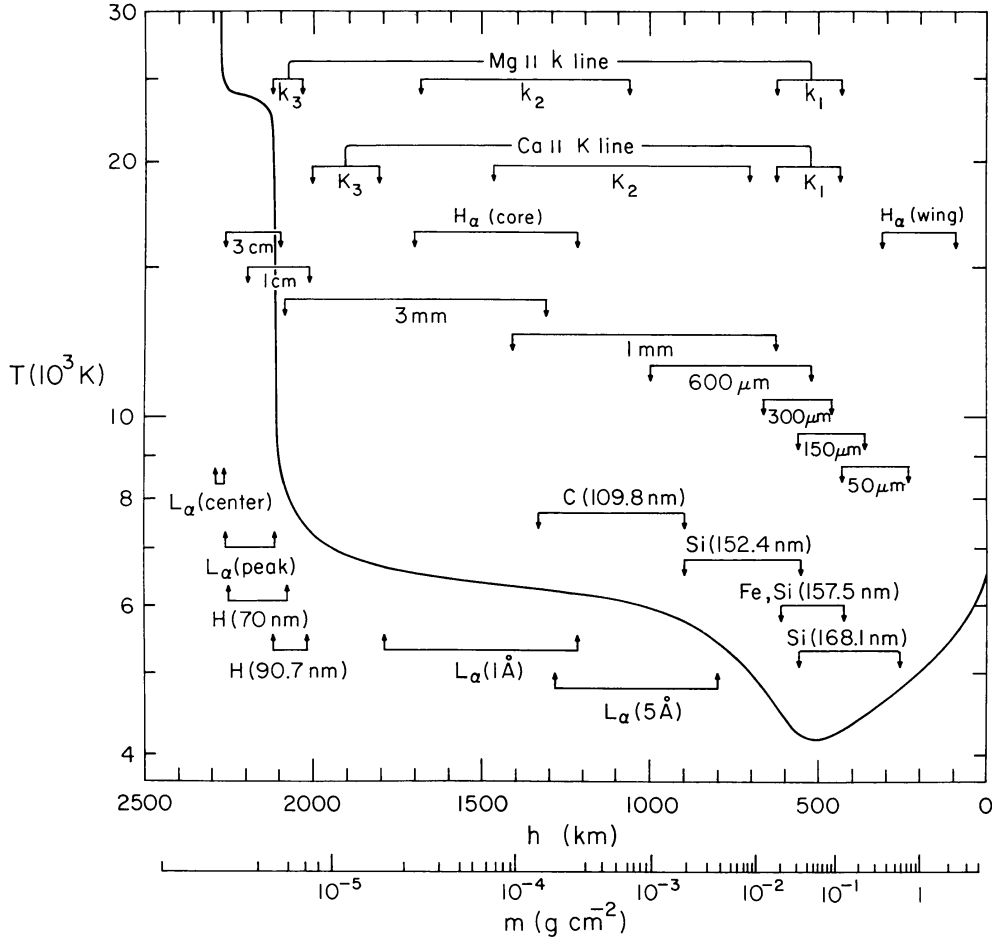
RTSA Chapt. 8; Stix Fig. 4.5

- *bound-bound* –  $S_\nu, \kappa_\nu$  NLTE? PRD?
  - neutral atom transitions
  - ion transitions
  - molecule transitions
- *bound-free* –  $S_\nu, \kappa_\nu$  NLTE? always CRD
  - $H^-$  optical, near-infrared
  - H I Balmer, Lyman; He I, He II
  - Fe I, Si I, Mg I, Al I electron donors
- *free-free* –  $S_\nu$  always LTE,  $\kappa_\nu$  NLTE
  - $H^-$  infrared, sub-mm
  - H I radio
- *electron scattering* – always NLTE, Doppler?
  - Thomson scattering
  - Rayleigh scattering
- *collective* – p.m.
  - cyclotron, synchrotron radiation
  - plasma radiation

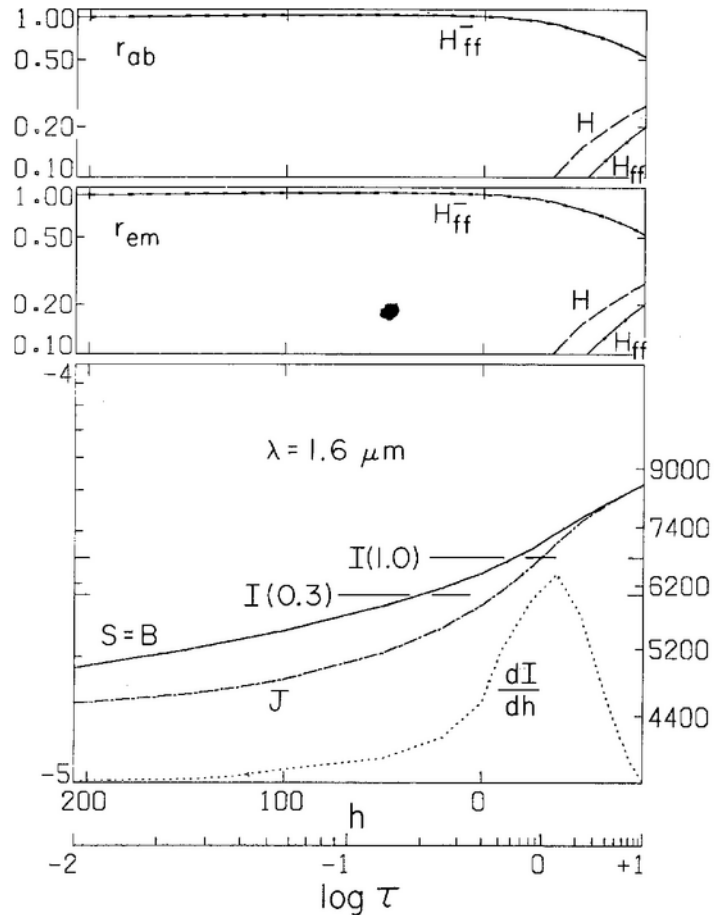
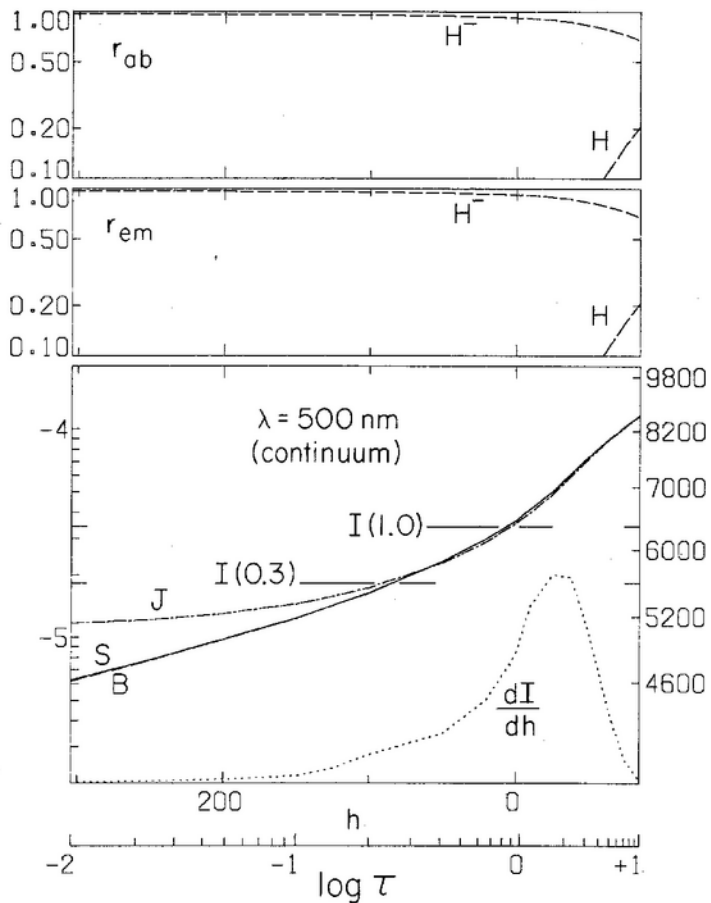


# VALIHC MODEL

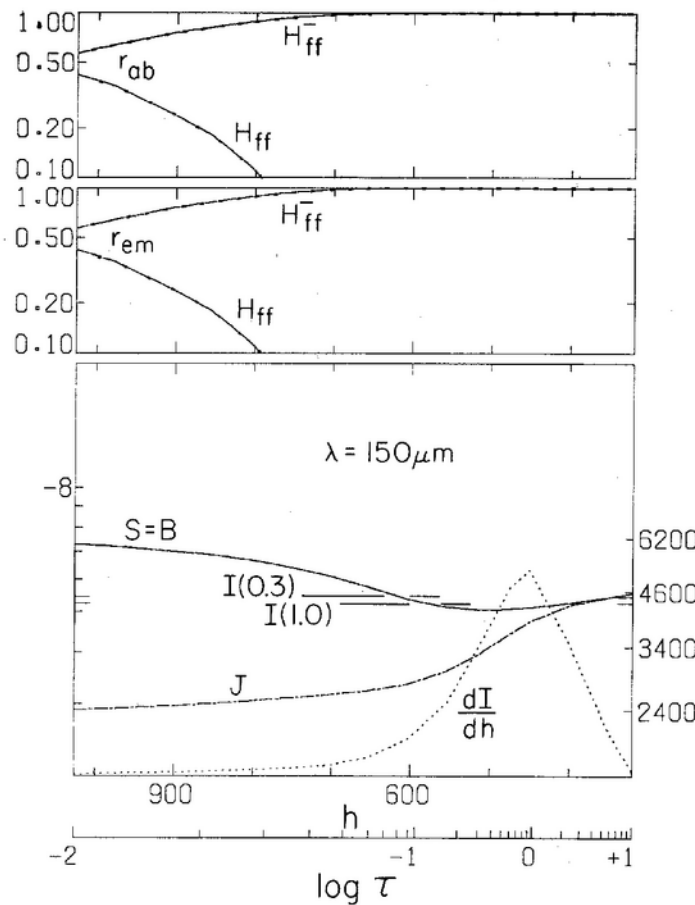
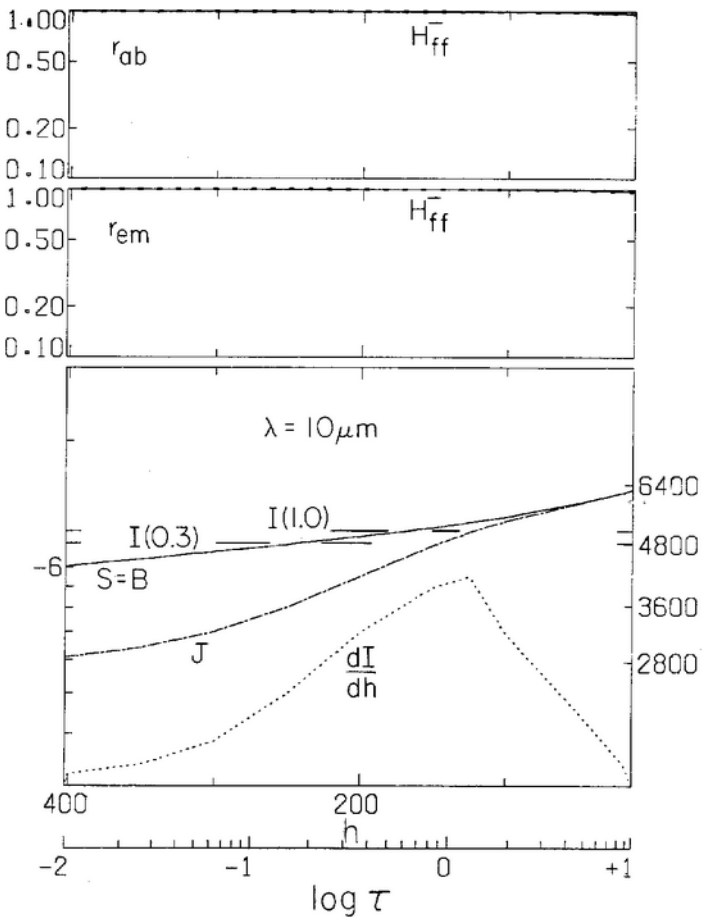
Vernazza, Avrett, Loeser 1981ApJS...45..635V



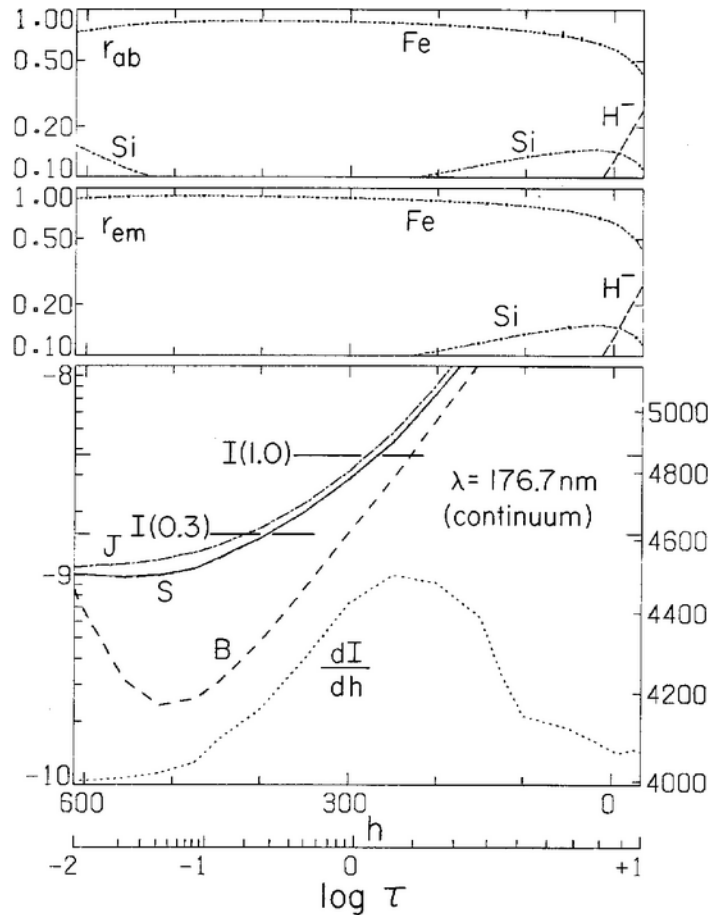
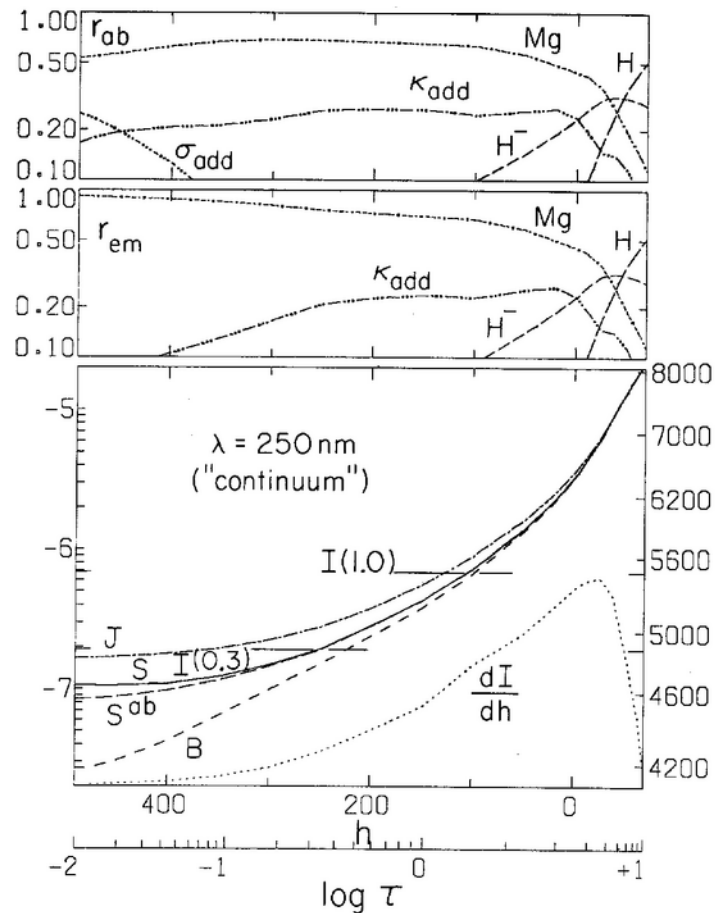
# VAL3C CONTINUUM FORMATION



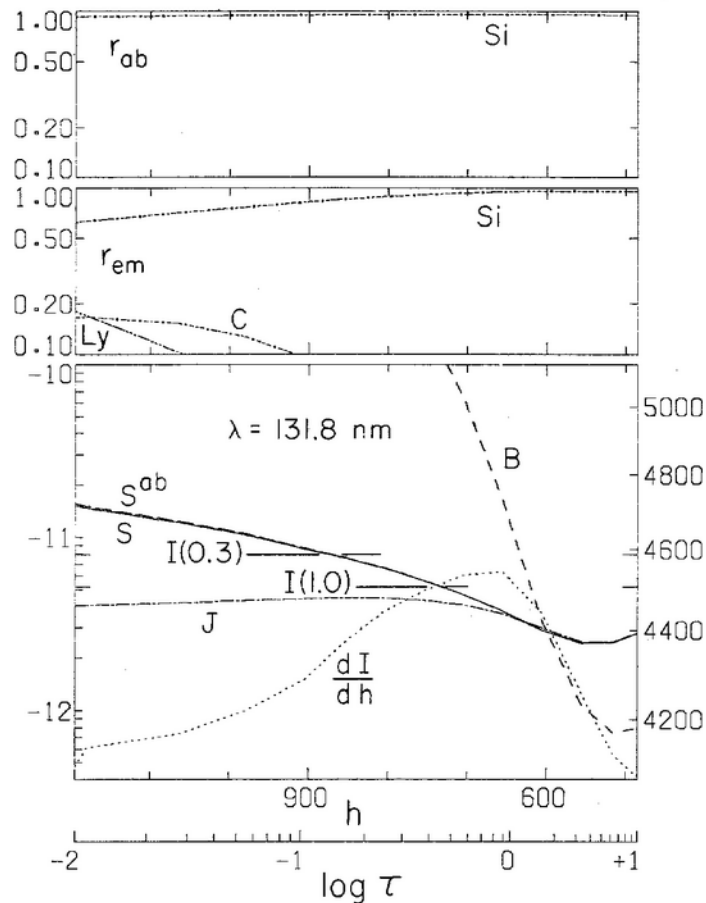
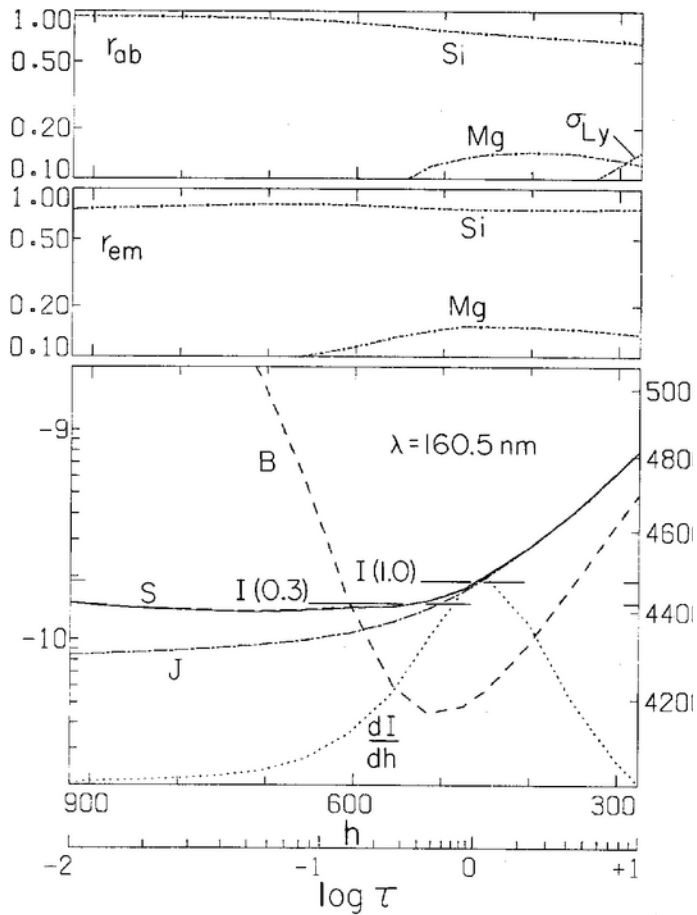
# VAL3C CONTINUUM FORMATION



# VAL3C CONTINUUM FORMATION

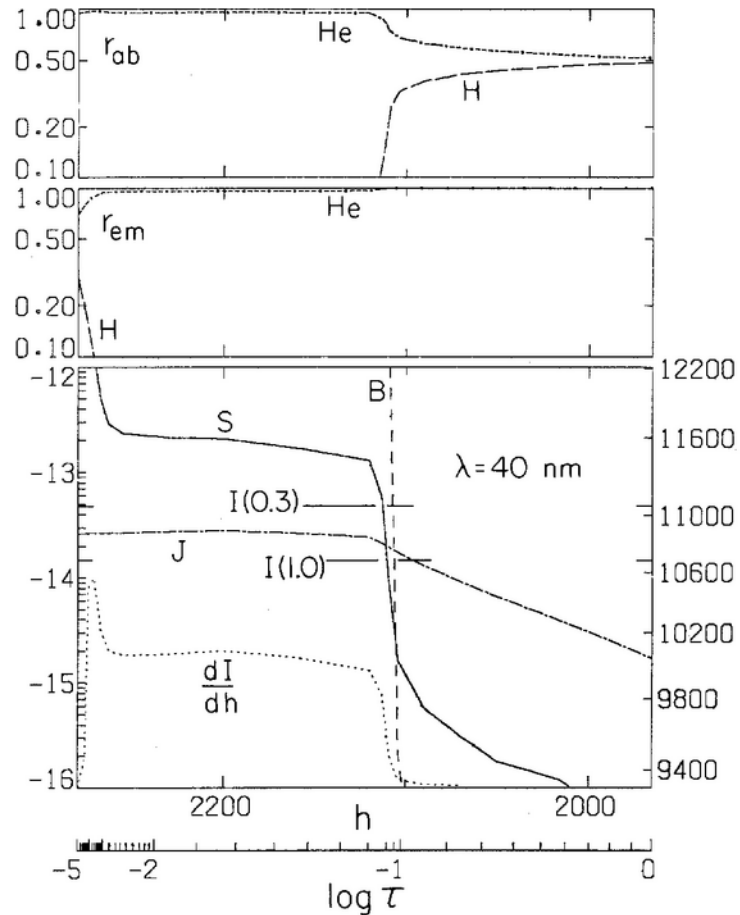
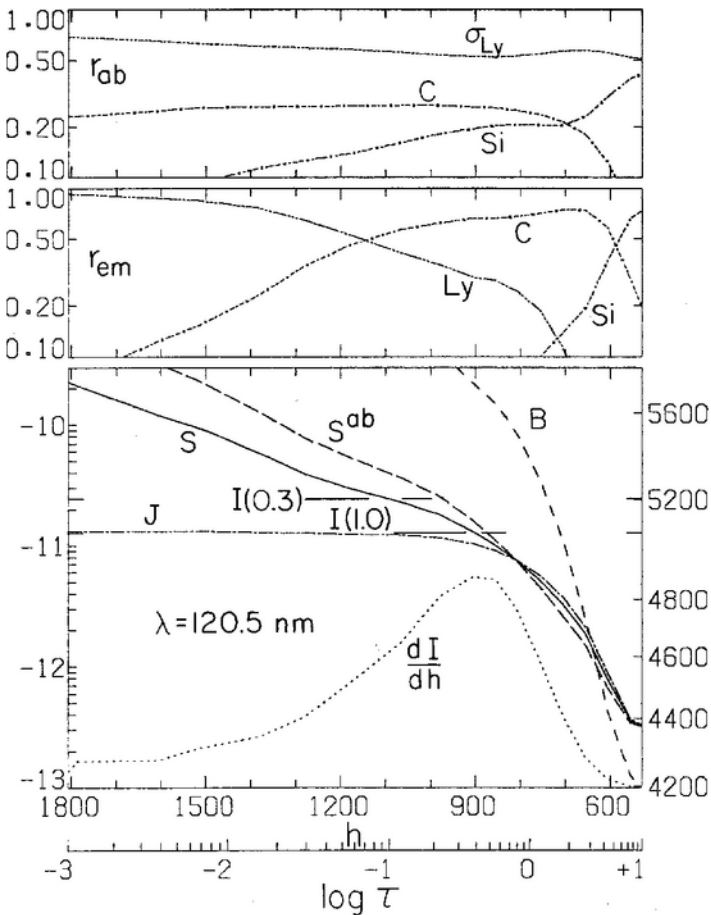


# VAL3C CONTINUUM FORMATION





# VAL3C CONTINUUM FORMATION



# RADIATIVE COOLING

## RTSA 7.3.2

Radiative equilibrium condition

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{\text{tot}}(z) &\equiv \frac{d\mathcal{F}_{\text{rad}}(z)}{dz} = 0 \\ &= 4\pi \int_0^\infty \alpha_\nu(z) [S_\nu(z) - J_\nu(z)] d\nu \\ &= 2\pi \int_0^\infty \int_{-1}^{+1} [j_{\nu\mu}(z) - \alpha_{\nu\mu}(z) I_{\nu\mu}(z)] d\mu d\nu\end{aligned}$$

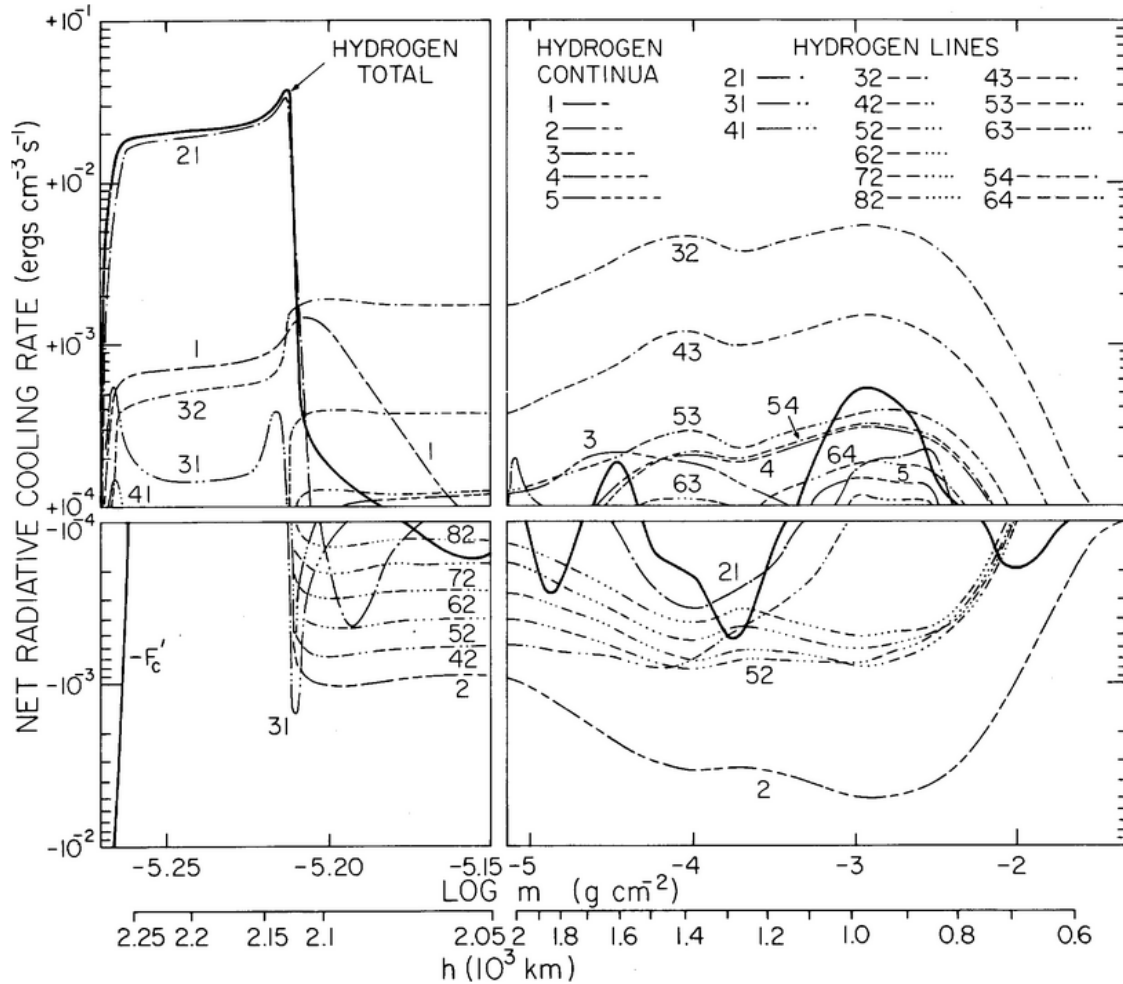
Net radiative cooling in a two-level atom gas

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{ul} &= 4\pi\alpha_{\nu_0}^l (S_{\nu_0}^l - \bar{J}_{\nu_0}) \\ &= 4\pi j_{\nu_0}^l - 4\pi\alpha_{\nu_0}^l \bar{J}_{\nu_0} \\ &= h\nu_0 [n_u(A_{ul} + B_{ul}\bar{J}_{\nu_0}) - n_l B_{lu}\bar{J}_{\nu_0}] \\ &= h\nu_0 [n_u R_{ul} - n_l R_{lu}]\end{aligned}$$

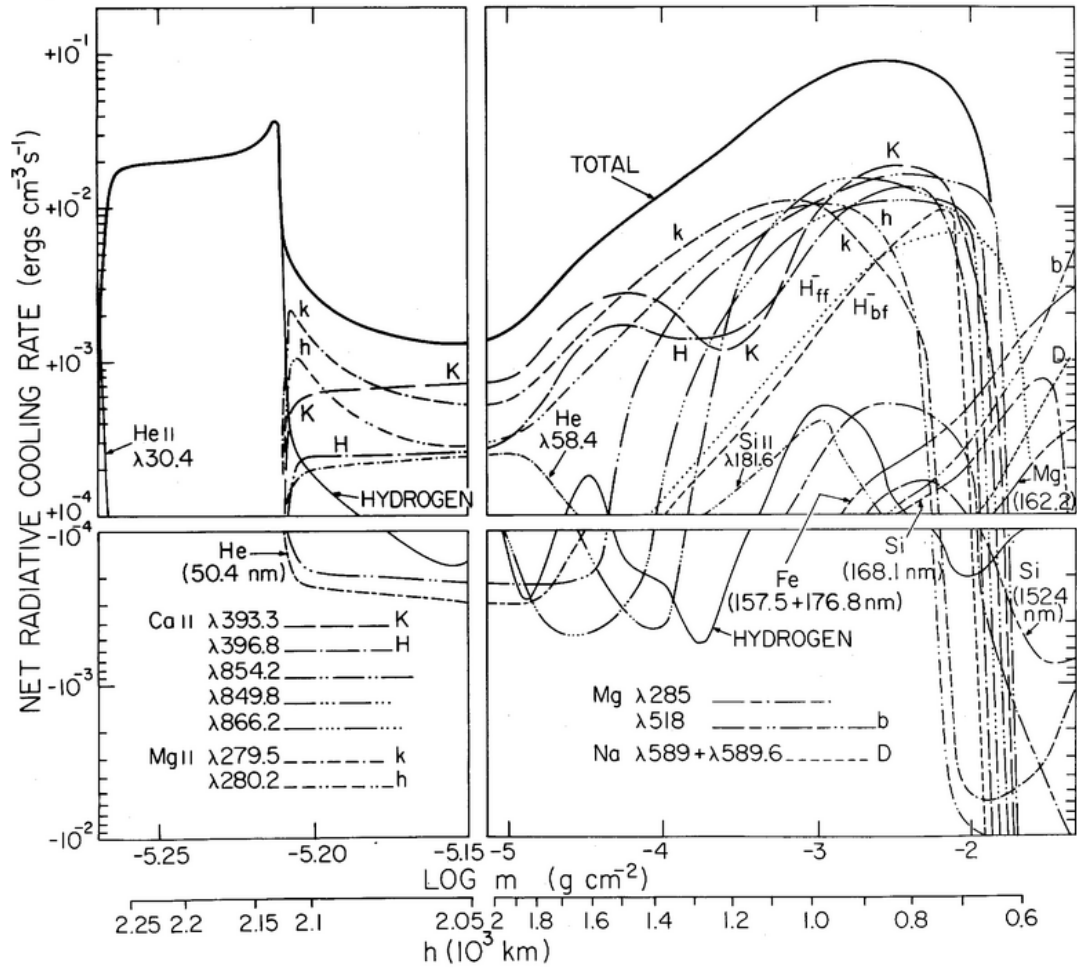
Net radiative cooling in a one-level-plus-continuum gas

$$\Phi_{ci} = 4\pi n_i^{\text{LTE}} b_c \int_{\nu_0}^\infty \sigma_{ic}(\nu) \left[ B_\nu (1 - e^{-h\nu/kT}) - \frac{b_i}{b_c} J_\nu \left( 1 - \frac{b_c}{b_i} e^{-h\nu/kT} \right) \right] d\nu$$

# VAL3C RADIATION BUDGET

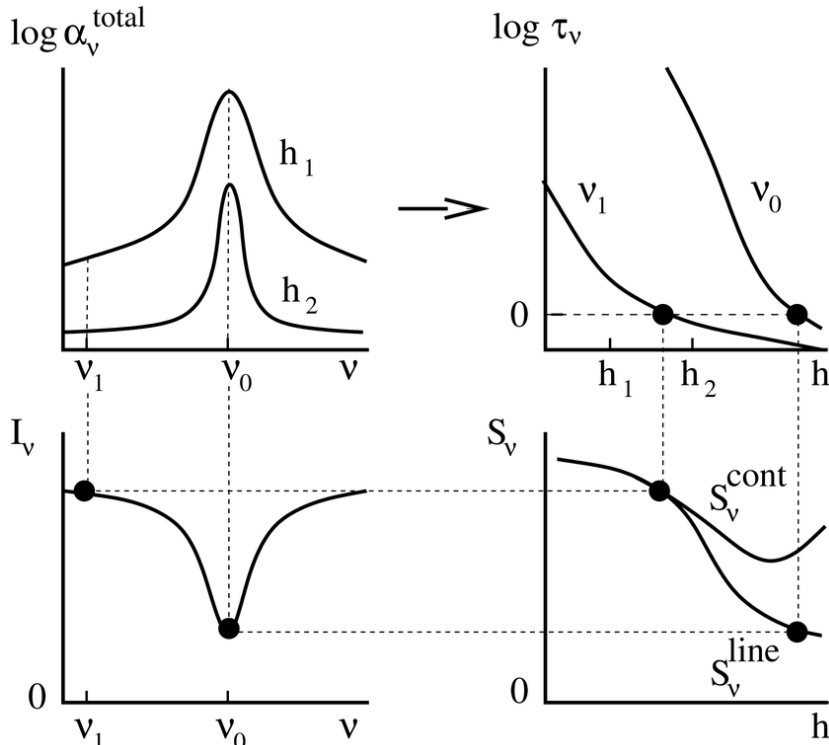


# VAL3C RADIATION BUDGET

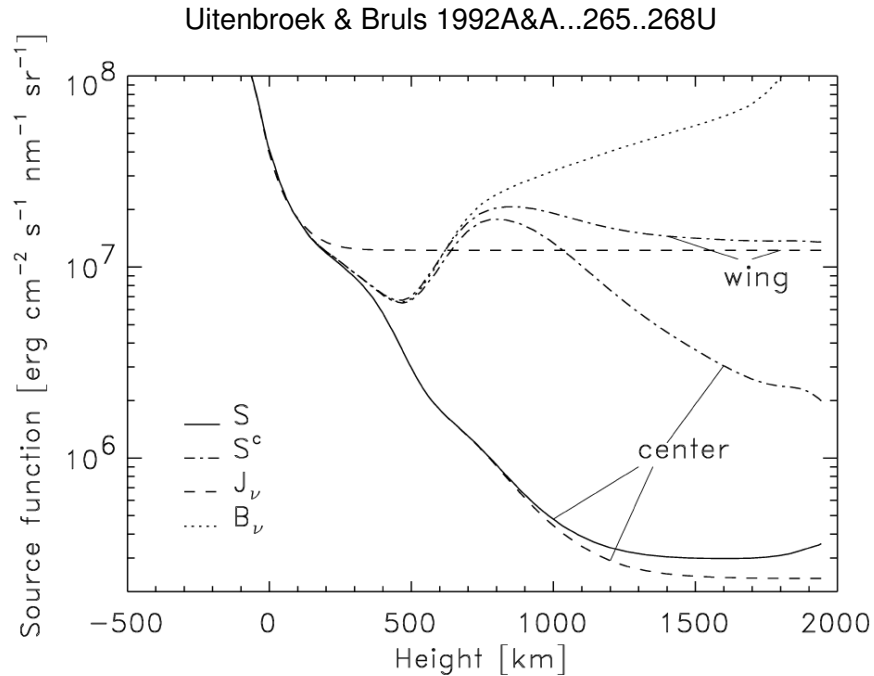
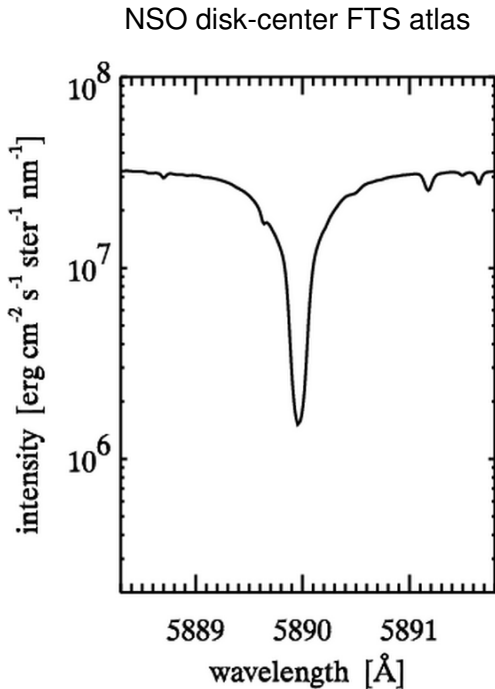


# REALISTIC SOLAR ABSORPTION LINE

- extinction: bb peak in  $\eta_\nu \equiv \alpha_l/\alpha_c$  becomes lower and narrower at larger height
- optical depth:  $\tau_\nu \equiv -\int \alpha_\nu^{\text{total}} dh$  increases nearly log-linearly with geometrical depth
- source function: split for line (bb) and continuous (bf, ff, electron scattering) processes
- intensity: Eddington-Barbier for  $S_\nu^{\text{total}} = (\alpha_c S_c + \alpha_l S_l)/(\alpha_c + \alpha_l) = (S_c + \eta_\nu S_l)/(1 + \eta_\nu)$



## SOLAR Na I D<sub>2</sub>

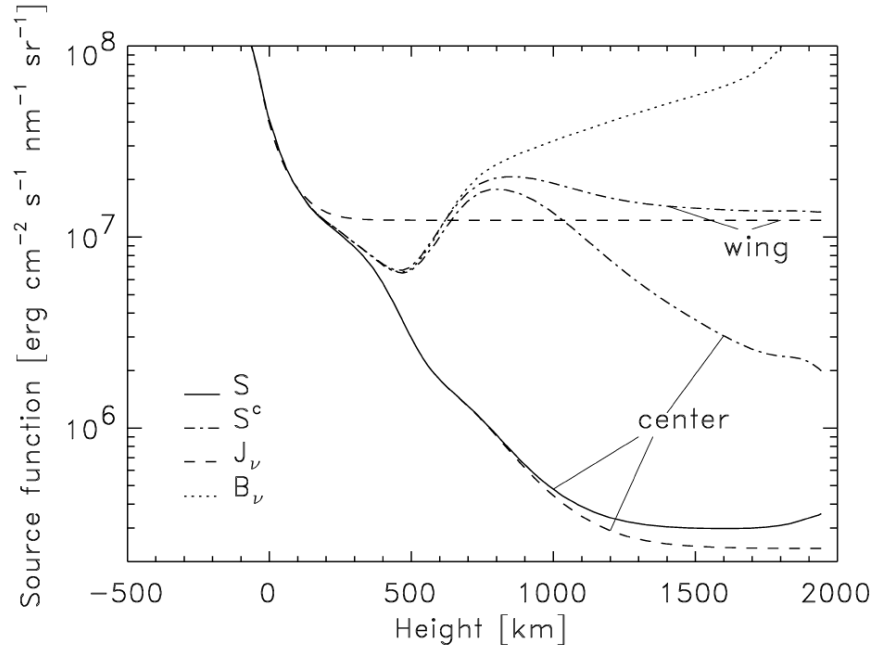
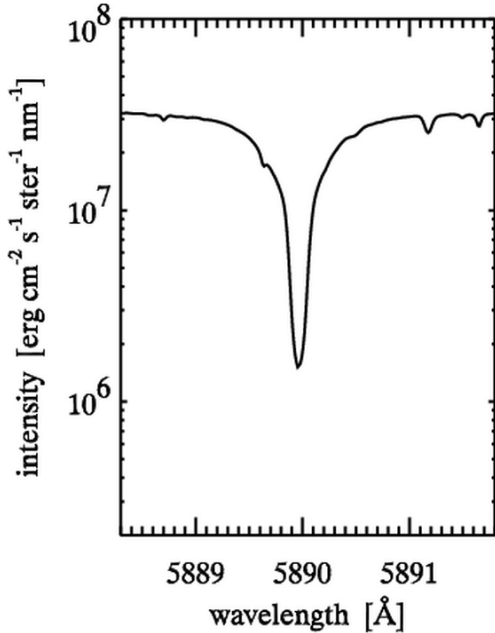


Na I D<sub>2</sub> is a good example of two-level scattering with complete redistribution: very dark

Eddington-Barbier approximation: line-center  $\tau=1$  at  $h \approx 600$  km  
 chromospheric velocity response but photospheric brightness response

What is the formation height of the blend line in the blue wing?

## SOLAR NaI D2

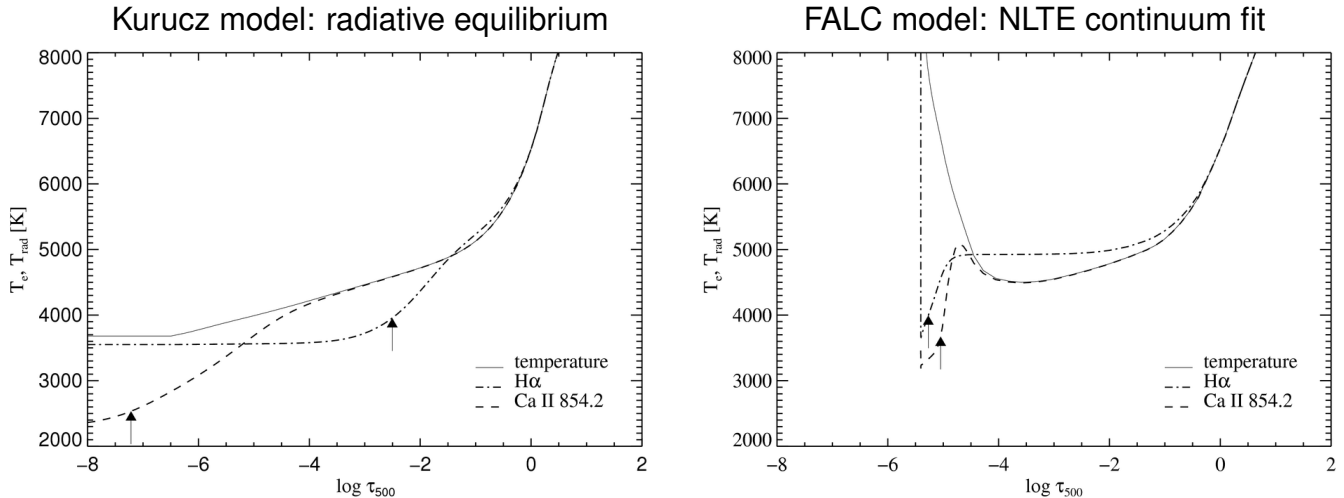


Eddington-Barbier for the blends? Moore, Minnaert, Houtgast 1966sst..book.....M:

5888.703	10.	2.	ATM H2O	R4	302	26
5889.637	14.	2.	ATM H2O	R4	401	26
5889.756	* 752.	4.	ATM H2O	R3	401	26
5889.973M	* 752.	120.SS	NA 1 (D2)	0.00	1	
5890.203	* 752.	3.	ATM H2O	R4	302	26
5890.495	5.	1.S"	FE 1P	5.06	1313	
5891.178	17.	3.S	ATM H2O	R3	401	17,26
5891.178	17.	3.S	FE 1P	4.65	1179	

# Ca II 8542 VERSUS H-alpha IN 1D NLTE

Cauzzi et al. 2007A&A...503..577C



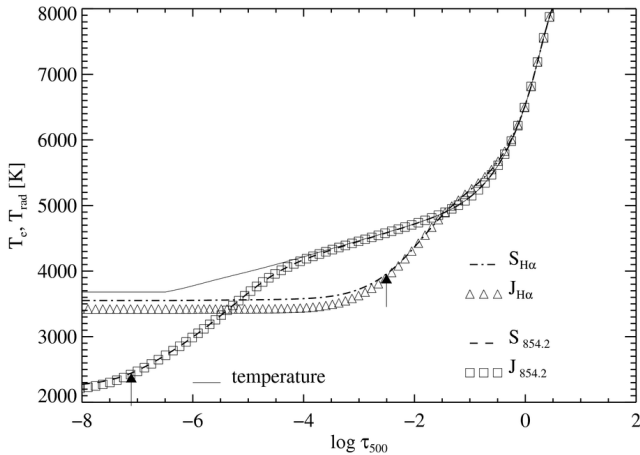
Demonstration of difference in temperature sensitivity between Ca II 854.2 nm and H $\alpha$ . Each panel shows the temperature stratification of a standard solar model atmosphere and the resulting total source functions  $S_\lambda$  at the nominal line-center wavelengths for Ca II 854.2 nm and H $\alpha$ , as function of the continuum optical depth at  $\lambda = 500$  nm and with the source functions expressed as formal temperatures through Planck function inversion. The arrows mark  $\tau = 1$  locations. *Lefthand panel*: radiative-equilibrium model KURUCZ from Kurucz (1979, 1992a, 1992b). It was extended outward assuming constant temperature in order to reach the optically thin regime in Ca II 854.2 nm. *Righthand panel*: empirical continuum-fitting model FALC of Fontenla et al. (1993). Its very steep transition region lies beyond the top of the panel but causes the near-vertical source function increases at left.



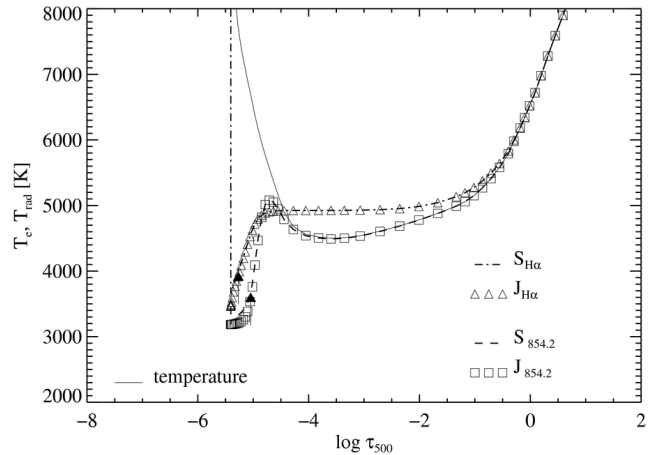
# SAME WITH RADIATION FIELD

Courtesy Han Uitenbroek

Kurucz model: radiative equilibrium



FALC model: NLTE continuum fit



Two-level scattering with  $S_{\nu_0} = (1 - \epsilon_{\nu_0})J_{\nu_0} + \epsilon_{\nu_0}B_{\nu_0}$  dominates each source function

# SOLAR SPECTRUM FORMATION

Robert J. Rutten

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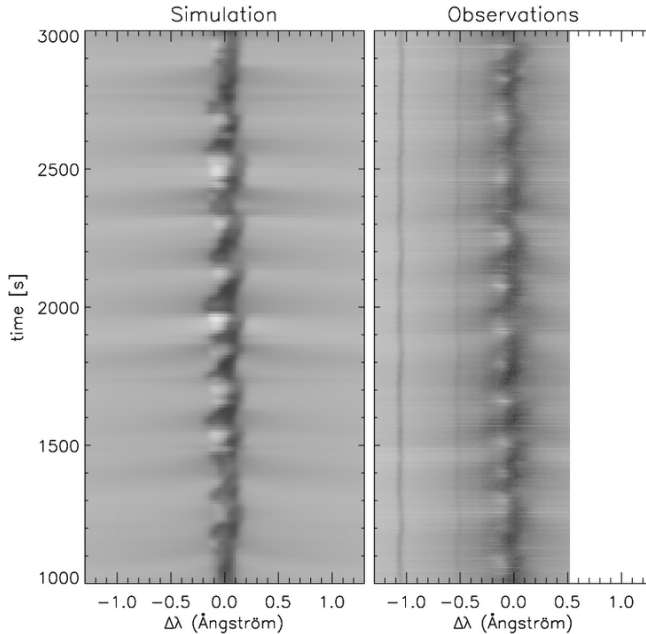
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# Ca II H<sub>2V</sub> GRAIN SIMULATION

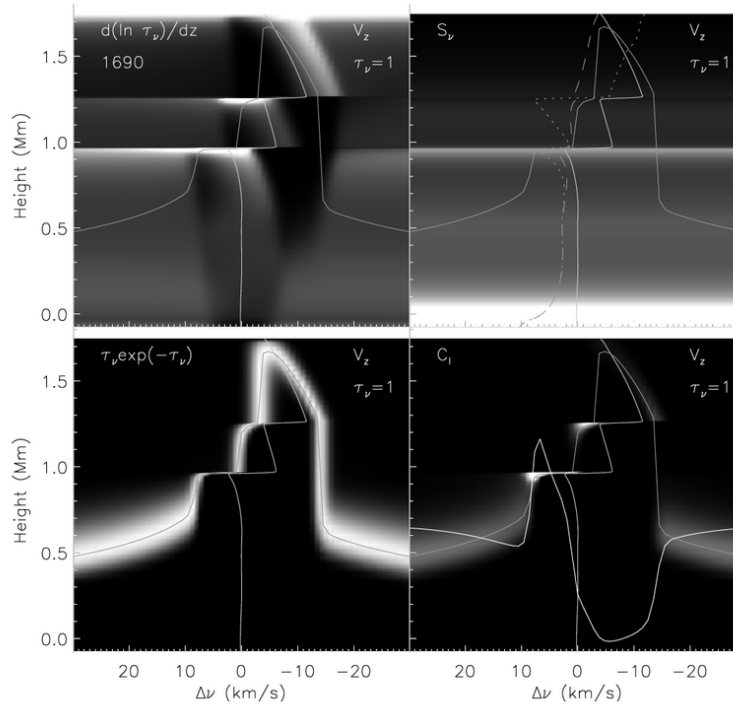


- observation
  - Lites, Rutten & Kalkofen 1993*
    - sawtooth line-center shift
    - triangular whiskers
    - H<sub>2V</sub> grains
- simulation
  - Carlsson & Stein 1997*
    - 1D radiation hydrodynamics
    - subsurface piston from Fe I blend
    - observer's diagnostics
- analysis
  - (RR radiative transfer course)*
    - source function breakdown
    - dynamical chromosphere
    - H<sub>2V</sub> grains = acoustic shocks

# SHOCK GRAIN DIAGNOSIS

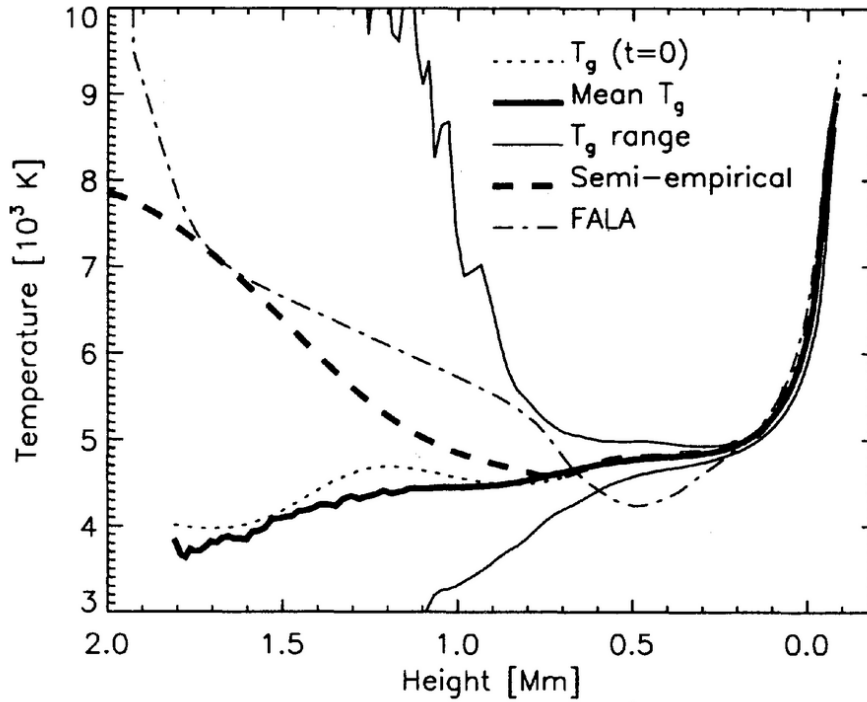
*Carlsson & Stein, ApJ 481, 500, 1997*

$$I_\nu(0) = \int_0^\infty S_\nu e^{-\tau_\nu} d\tau_\nu = \int_0^\infty S_\nu \tau_\nu e^{-\tau_\nu} \frac{d \ln \tau_\nu}{dz} dz$$



# DYNAMIC LOWER CHROMOSPHERE

*Carlsson & Stein, ApJ 440, L29, 1995*



# 3D NLTE-SE Na I D<sub>1</sub> IN 3D MHD SIMULATION

Leenaarts et al. 2010ApJ...709.1362L

## THE QUIET SOLAR ATMOSPHERE OBSERVED AND SIMULATED IN Na I D<sub>1</sub>

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<sup>5</sup> Astrophysics Research Centre, Queen's University, Belfast, BT7 1NN, UK

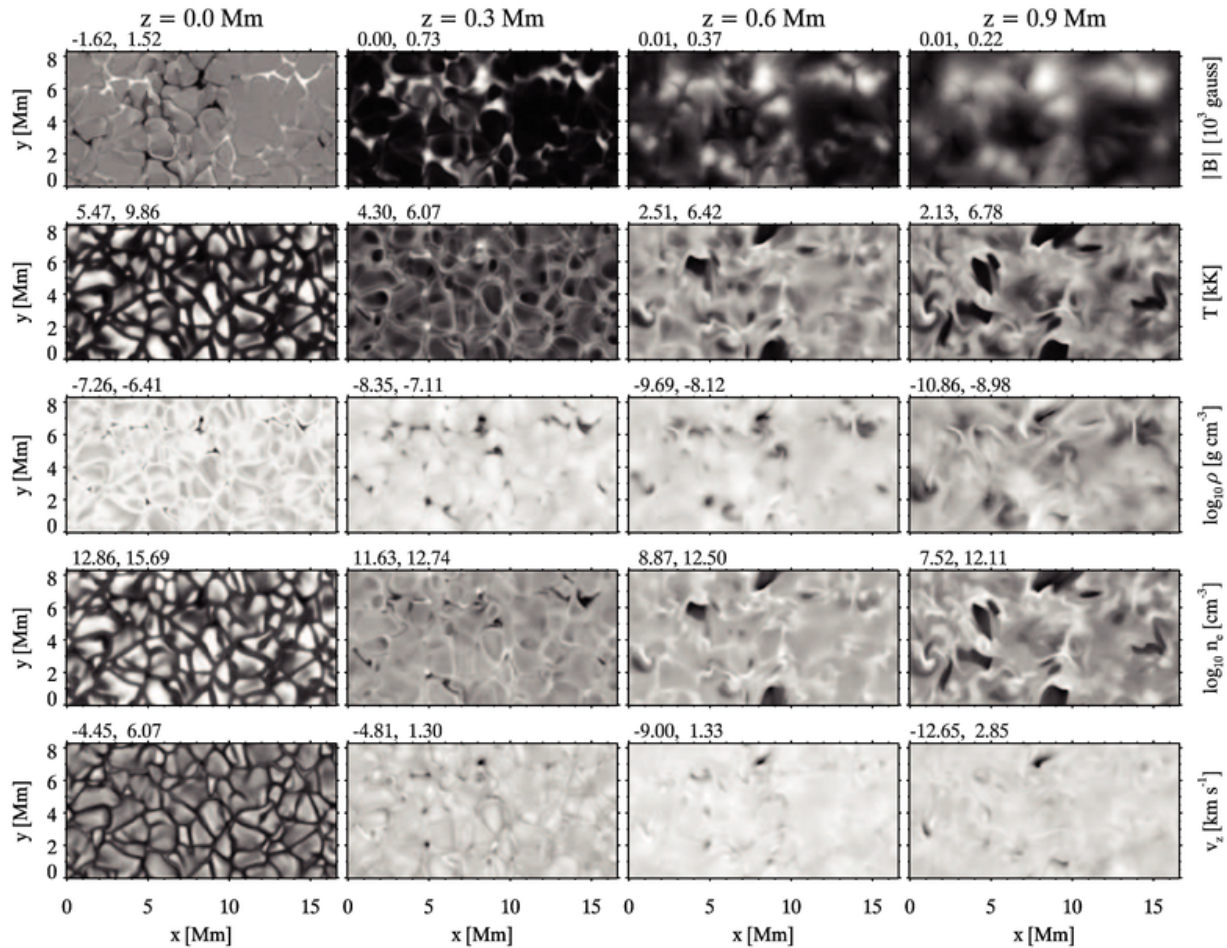
<sup>6</sup> NSO/Sacramento Peak, P.O. Box 62, Sunspot, NM 88349-0062, USA

*Received 2009 May 10; accepted 2009 December 15; published 2010 January 13*

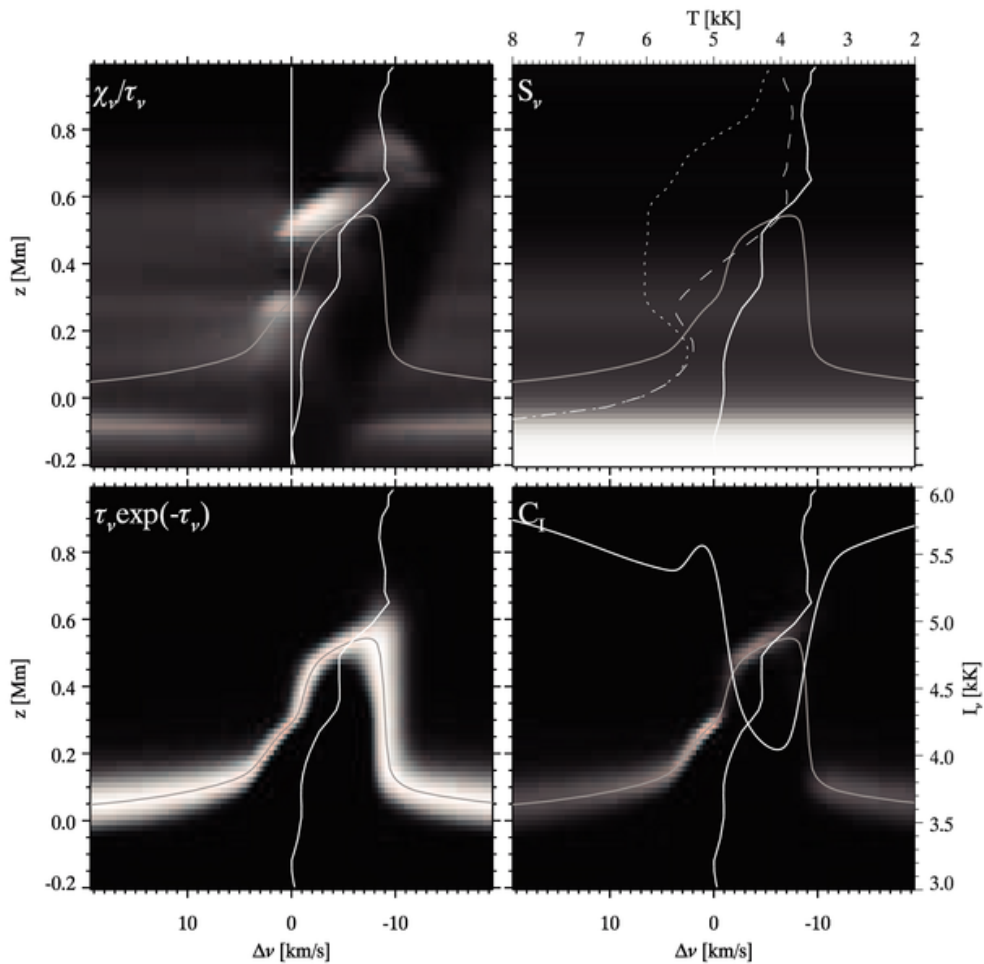
### ABSTRACT

The Na I D<sub>1</sub> line in the solar spectrum is sometimes attributed to the solar chromosphere. We study its formation in quiet-Sun network and internetwork. We first present high-resolution profile-resolved images taken in this line with the imaging spectrometer Interferometric Bidimensional Spectrometer at the Dunn Solar Telescope and compare these to simultaneous chromospheric images taken in Ca II 8542 Å and H $\alpha$ . We then model Na I D<sub>1</sub> formation by performing three-dimensional (3D) non-local thermodynamic equilibrium profile synthesis for a snapshot from a 3D radiation-magnetohydrodynamics simulation. We find that most Na I D<sub>1</sub> brightness is not chromospheric but samples the magnetic concentrations that make up the quiet-Sun network in the photosphere, well below the height where they merge into chromospheric canopies, with aureoles from 3D resonance scattering. The line core is sensitive to magneto-acoustic shocks in and near magnetic concentrations, where shocks occur deeper than elsewhere, and may provide evidence of heating deep within magnetic concentrations.

# SIMULATION PROPERTIES



# MAGNETIC CONCENTRATION





# COOL CLOUD

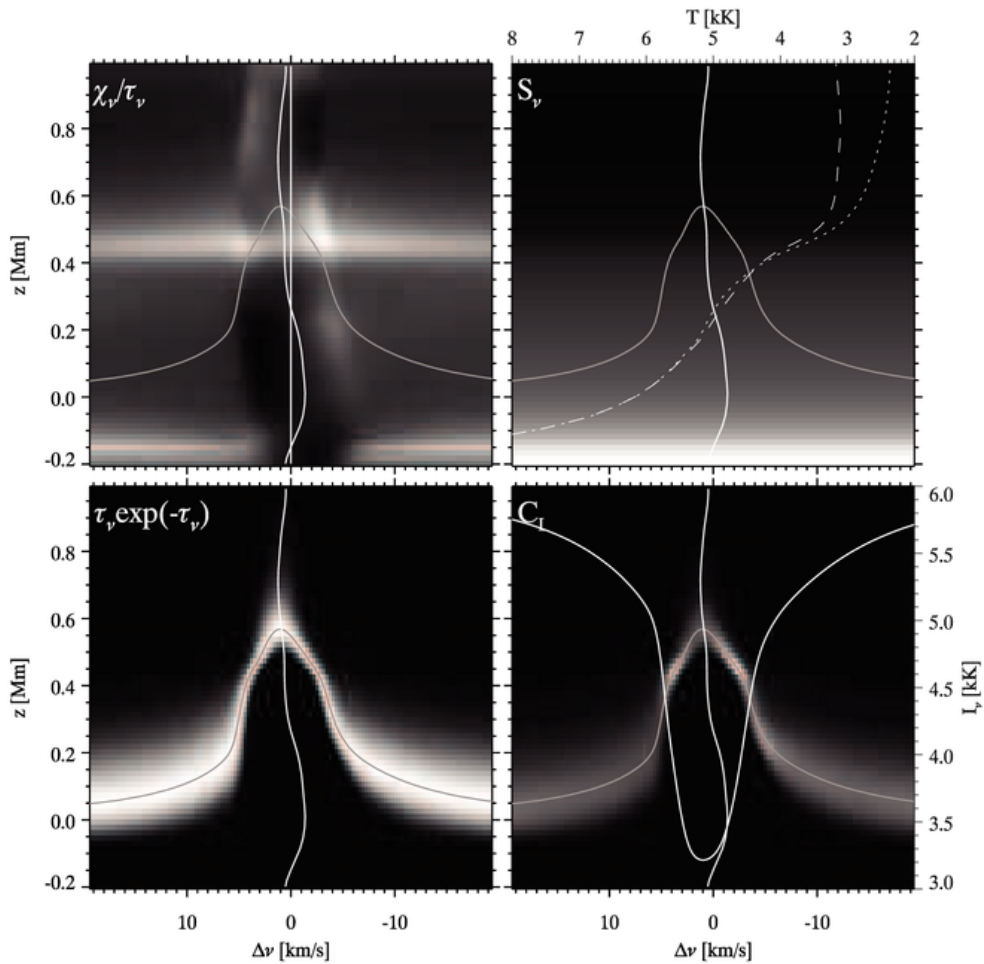
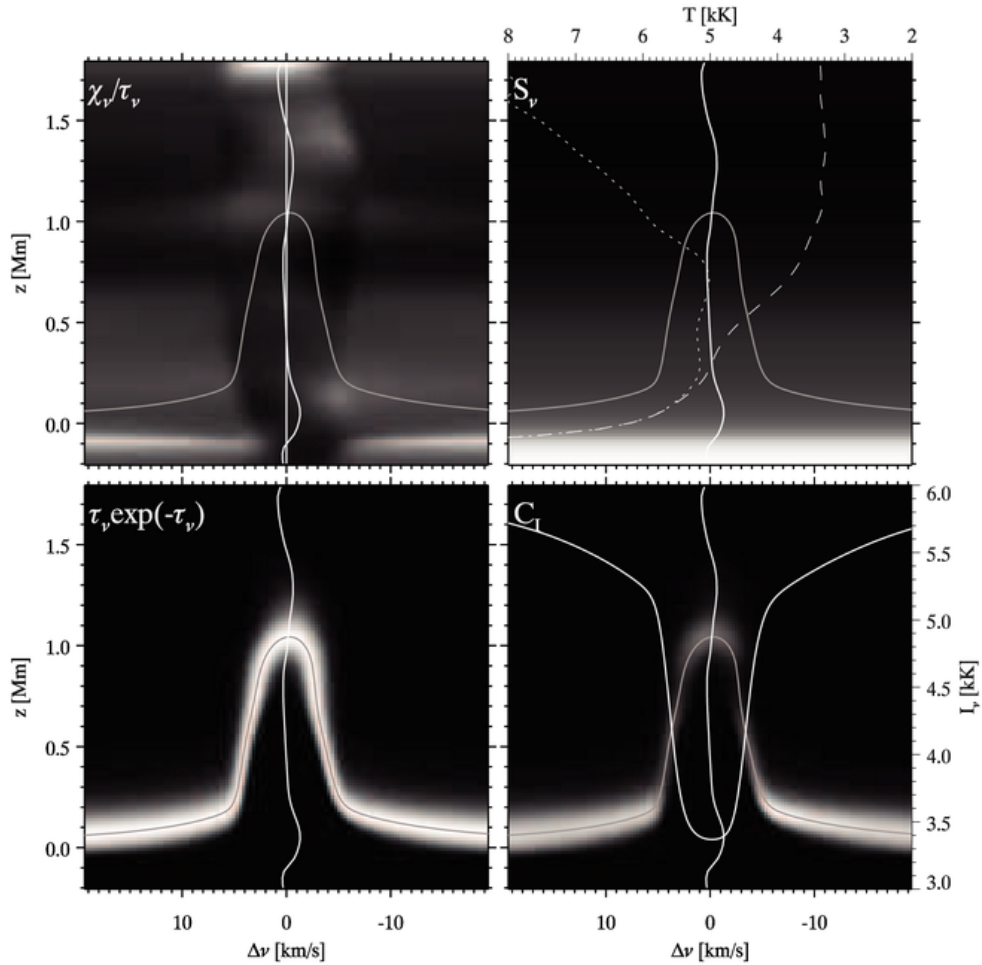


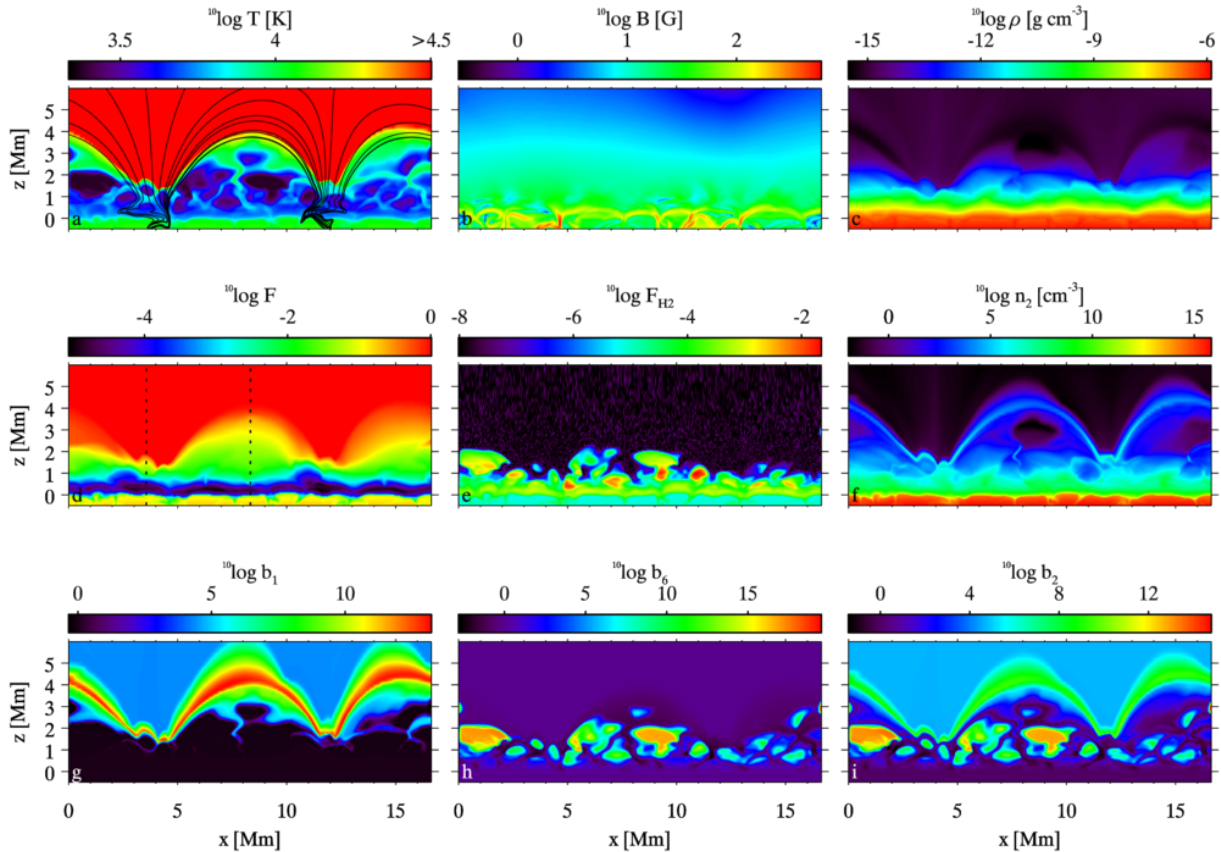
FIG. 10. Vertical profiles of the quantities shown in Figure 8 for the cool cloud model. The secondary y-axis of the bottom row is of the same scale as the top row.

# HOT FRONT



# NON-E HYDROGEN IONIZATION

Leenaarts et al. 2007A&A...473..625L



time evolution along the two cuts in the 4th panel

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# BASIC RADIATIVE TRANSFER EQUATIONS

RTSA last page

specific intensity	$I_\nu(\vec{r}, \vec{l}, t)$ erg cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> Hz <sup>-1</sup> ster <sup>-1</sup>
emissivity	$j_\nu$ erg cm <sup>-3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> Hz <sup>-1</sup> ster <sup>-1</sup>
extinction coefficient	$\alpha_\nu$ cm <sup>-1</sup> $\sigma_\nu$ cm <sup>2</sup> part <sup>-1</sup> $\kappa_\nu$ cm <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup>
source function	$S_\nu = \sum j_\nu / \sum \alpha_\nu$
radial optical depth	$\tau_\nu(z_0) = \int_{z_0}^{\infty} \alpha_\nu dz$
plane-parallel transport	$\mu dI_\nu/d\tau_\nu = I_\nu - S_\nu$
thin cloud	$I_\nu = I_0 + (S_\nu - I_0) \tau_\nu$
thick emergent intensity	$I_\nu^+(0, \mu) = \int_0^{\infty} S_\nu(\tau_\nu) e^{-\tau_\nu/\mu} d\tau_\nu/\mu$
Eddington-Barbier	$I_\nu^+(0, \mu) \approx S_\nu(\tau_\nu = \mu)$
mean mean intensity	$\bar{J}_{\nu_0}^\varphi = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\infty} \int_{-1}^{+1} I_\nu \varphi(\nu - \nu_0) d\mu d\nu$
photon destruction	$\varepsilon_\nu = \alpha_\nu^a / (\alpha_\nu^a + \alpha_\nu^s) \approx C_{ul} / (A_{ul} + C_{ul})$
complete redistribution	$S_{\nu_0}^l = (1 - \varepsilon_{\nu_0}) \bar{J}_{\nu_0}^\varphi + \varepsilon_{\nu_0} B_{\nu_0}$
isothermal atmosphere	$S_{\nu_0}(0) = \sqrt{\varepsilon_{\nu_0}} B_{\nu_0}$