

Stellar atmospheres

Yago Ascasibar

Procesos Radiativos en Astrofísica
Máster en Física Teórica (Astrofísica)

Radiative transport

Transfer equation

$$\frac{dl_\nu}{ds} = j_\nu - \alpha l_\nu$$

$$\frac{dl_\nu}{d\tau} = S_\nu - l_\nu$$

- emiss. coeff.: $j_\nu = j_{sp} + j_{in} + j_{sc}$
- specific emissivity: $j_\nu = \rho \epsilon_\nu$
- source function: $S_\nu = \frac{j_\nu}{\alpha}$

- extinction coeff.: $\alpha = \alpha_{ab} + \alpha_{sc}$
- opacity: $\alpha = \rho \kappa$
- optical depth: $\tau = \int \alpha ds$

Local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE)

Kirchhoff law

$$\epsilon_\nu = \kappa B_\nu(T)$$

Transport equation

$$\frac{dl_\nu}{d\tau} = \frac{\alpha_{ab}}{\alpha_{ab} + \alpha_{sc}} B_\nu(T) + \frac{\alpha_{sc}}{\alpha_{ab} + \alpha_{sc}} J_\nu - l_\nu$$

$$T \simeq T_0, \alpha_{sc} \simeq 0 \text{ o } J_\nu \simeq B_\nu$$

$$\frac{dl_\nu}{d\tau} = B_\nu(T) - l_\nu$$

$$l_\nu(\tau) \simeq l_0 e^{-\tau} + B_\nu(T_0)(1 - e^{-\tau})$$

Stellar interiors

Internal structure

- 1 mass conservation: $\frac{dM}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho$
- 2 hydrostatic equilibrium: $\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dP}{dr} = -\frac{GM}{r^2}$
- 3 thermal equilibrium: $\frac{dL}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho \epsilon$
- 4 energy transport:
 - radiative $\frac{dT}{dr} = -\frac{3}{16\sigma} \frac{\rho \kappa_T}{T^3} \frac{L}{4\pi r^2}$
 - convective $\frac{dT}{dr} = \frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma} \frac{T}{P} \frac{dP}{dr}$

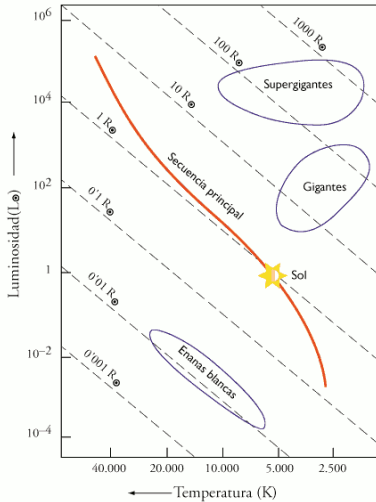
Composition

$$P(\rho, T)$$

$$\epsilon(\rho, T)$$

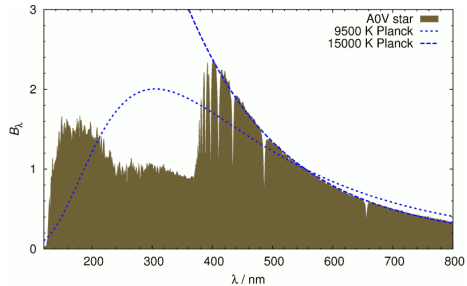
$$\kappa_T(\rho, T)$$

Hertzsprung-Russell diagram



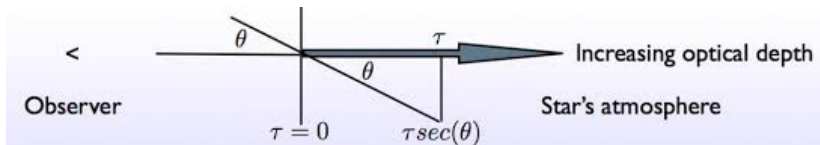
Black body

$$L = 4\pi R^2 \sigma T_{eff}^4$$



Stellar atmospheres

Radiative transfer equation



Spherical symmetry

$$\frac{1}{\alpha(\nu)} \frac{dl_\nu}{ds} = \frac{dl_\nu \cos \theta}{dr \alpha(\nu)} - \frac{dl_\nu \sin \theta}{d\theta r \alpha(\nu)} = S_\nu - l_\nu$$

Plane-parallel atmosphere

$$\cos \theta \frac{dl_\nu}{d\tau(\nu)} = l_\nu - S_\nu$$

Analytical solution

Plane-parallel atmosphere

$$I_{\nu}^{in}(\tau, \theta > \frac{\pi}{2}) = - \int_0^{\tau} S_{\nu}(t) e^{-(t-\tau)\sec\theta} \sec\theta dt$$

$$I_{\nu}^{out}(\tau, \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}) = - \int_{\infty}^{\tau} S_{\nu}(t) e^{-(t-\tau)\sec\theta} \sec\theta dt$$

Thermal equilibrium

$$\int_0^{\infty} F_{\nu}(\tau) d\nu = F_0 = \frac{L}{4\pi R^2} \equiv \sigma T_{eff}^4$$

Analytical solution

Schwarzschild-Milne equations

$$\textcircled{1} \quad J_\nu = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int I_\nu \, d\Omega \qquad = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty S_\nu(t) E_1(|t - \tau|) \, dt$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad H_\nu = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int I_\nu \cos \theta \, d\Omega \qquad = \frac{1}{2} \int_\tau^\infty S_\nu(t) E_2(t - \tau) \, dt - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\tau S_\nu(t) E_2(\tau - t) \, dt$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad K_\nu = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int I_\nu \cos^2 \theta \, d\Omega \qquad = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty S_\nu(t) E_3(|t - \tau|) \, dt$$

$$E_n(x) \equiv \int_1^\infty \frac{e^{-wx}}{w^n} \, dw$$

Approximate solution

Gray atmosphere

$$\cos \theta \frac{dI}{d\tau} = I - \frac{\sigma T^4}{\pi}$$

Moments

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{0} \quad 0 &= J - \frac{\sigma T^4}{\pi} \\ \textcircled{1} \quad 4\pi \frac{dK}{d\tau} &= \sigma T_{\text{eff}}^4 - 0 \end{aligned}$$

Eddington approximation

$$I(\tau, \theta < \pi/2) = I(\tau, 0) \equiv I^{\text{out}}(\tau)$$

$$I(\tau, \theta > \pi/2) = I(\tau, \pi) \equiv I^{\text{in}}(\tau)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{0} \quad J &= \frac{1}{2} (I^{\text{in}} + I^{\text{out}}) = \frac{\sigma T^4}{\pi} \\ \textcircled{1} \quad F &= \pi (I^{\text{out}} - I^{\text{in}}) = \sigma T_{\text{eff}}^4 \\ \textcircled{2} \quad K &= \frac{1}{6} (I^{\text{in}} + I^{\text{out}}) = J/3 \end{aligned}$$

Thermal structure

$$T^4 = T_{\text{eff}}^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{4}\tau \right)$$

Observable spectrum

Limb darkening

Eddington-Barbier approximation

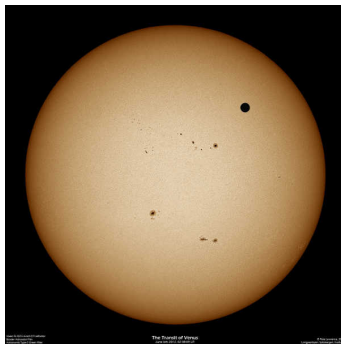
$$S_\nu(\tau) \approx S_\nu(\tau_0) + (\tau - \tau_0) \frac{dS_\nu}{d\tau}(\tau_0)$$

$$\begin{aligned} I_\nu(0, \theta) &\approx S_\nu(\tau_0) + (\cos \theta - \tau_0) \frac{dS_\nu}{d\tau}(\tau_0) \\ &\approx B_\nu[T(\tau = \cos \theta)] \end{aligned}$$

Gray atmosphere + Eddington-Barbier

$$\frac{I(0, \theta)}{I(0, 0)} = \frac{3}{5} \left(\cos \theta + \frac{2}{3} \right)$$

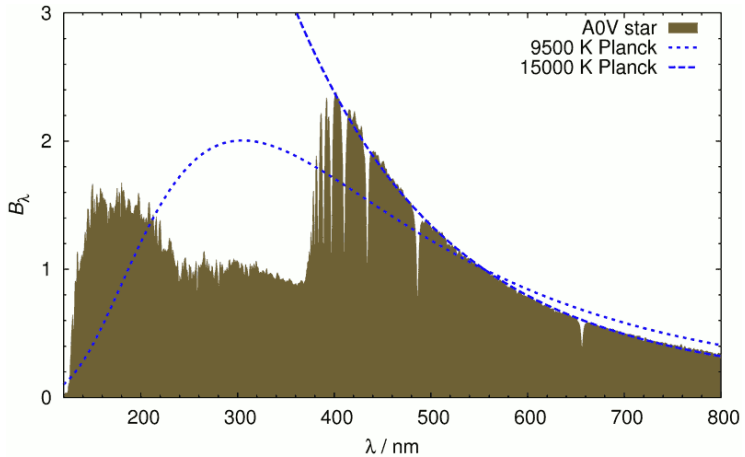
Limb darkening



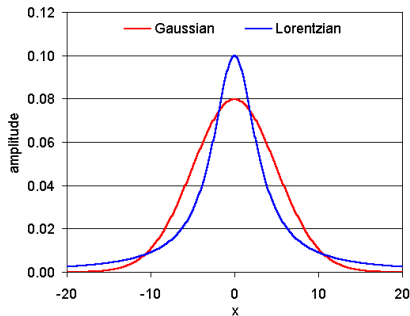
Gray atmosphere + Eddington-Barbier

$$\frac{I(0, \theta)}{I(0, 0)} = \frac{3}{5} \left(\cos \theta + \frac{2}{3} \right)$$

Absorption lines



Absorption lines



$$G(x; \sigma) \equiv \frac{e^{-x^2/(2\sigma^2)}}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \quad L(x; \gamma) \equiv \frac{\gamma}{\pi(x^2 + \gamma^2)}$$

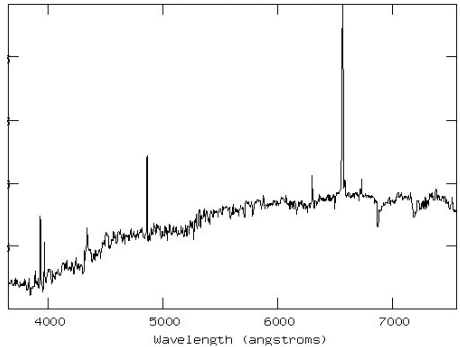
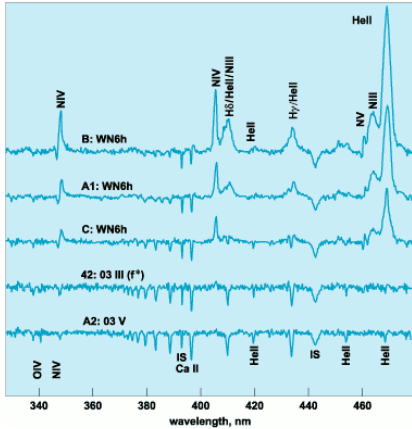
Voigt profile

$$V(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(x') L(x - x') dx'$$

FWHM

- density, temperature, chemical composition
- velocity (thermal, turbulent, rotation)
- surface gravity
- magnetic field

Emission lines



P-Cygni profiles

