

Systematic measurements of opacity dependence on temperature, density, and atomic number at stellar interior conditions

Taisuke Nagayama

The stellar opacity collaboration involves universities, U.S. national labs, a private company, the French CEA, and the Israeli NRCN laboratories



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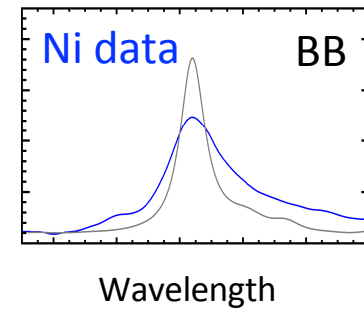
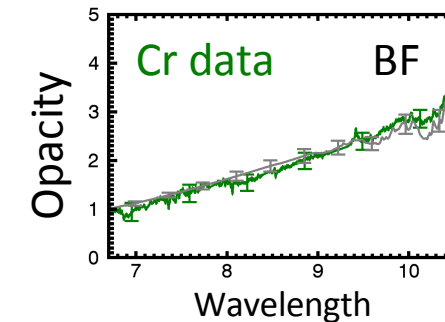
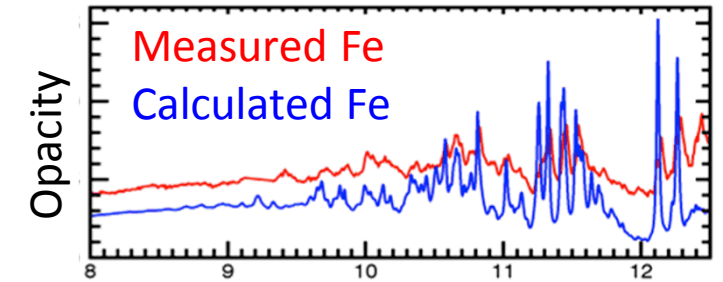
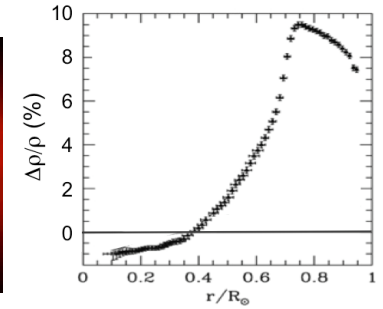
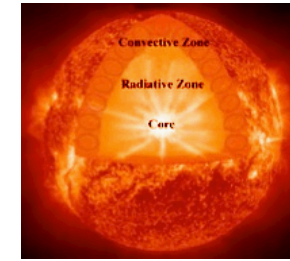


R.C. Mancini
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Nuclear Research Center Negev, Israel

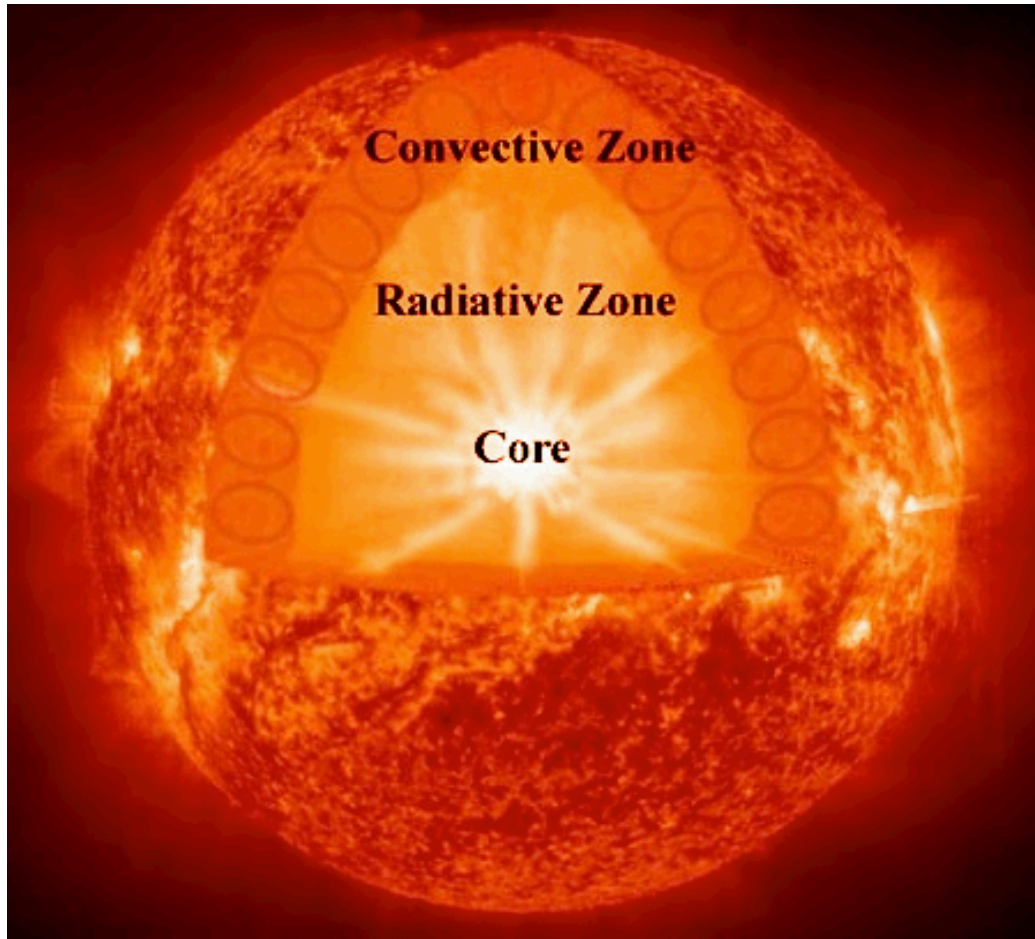
Calculated Fe opacity at solar interior condition disagrees with data; Various investigations provide clues for the discrepancy

- We found 30–400% disagreement between modeled and measured Fe opacity at solar interior conditions
 - Partially resolves solar problem, but the source of discrepancy needs to be identified
- Cr, Fe, and Ni opacities measured at multiple electron temperatures (T_e) and electron densities (n_e)
 - Opacity valley disagreement found on Cr and Fe, but not Ni
 - Calculated line-broadening is too narrow
 - Element dependence on bound-free (BF) agreement is puzzling
- Missing physics in opacity theory:
 - Two-photon opacity may be important



Working towards completing the systematic study to resolve the discrepancy

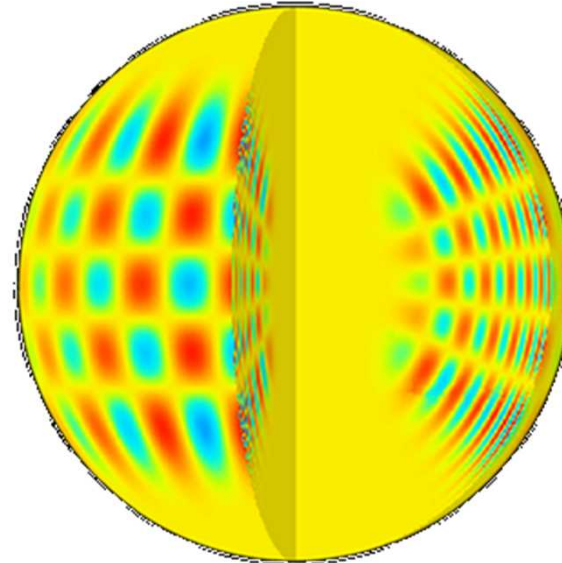
Modeled solar structure disagree with observations



- Standard solar model (simulation)

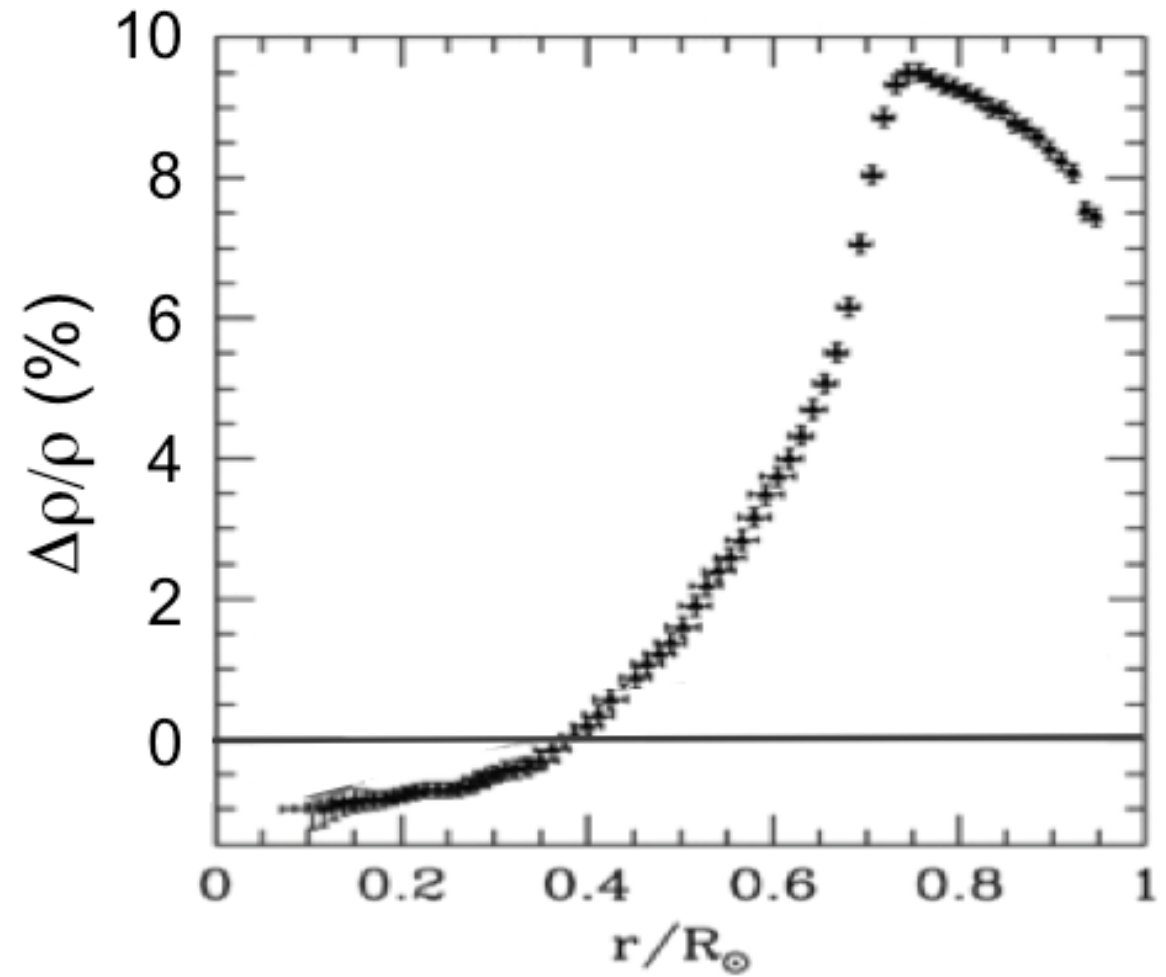
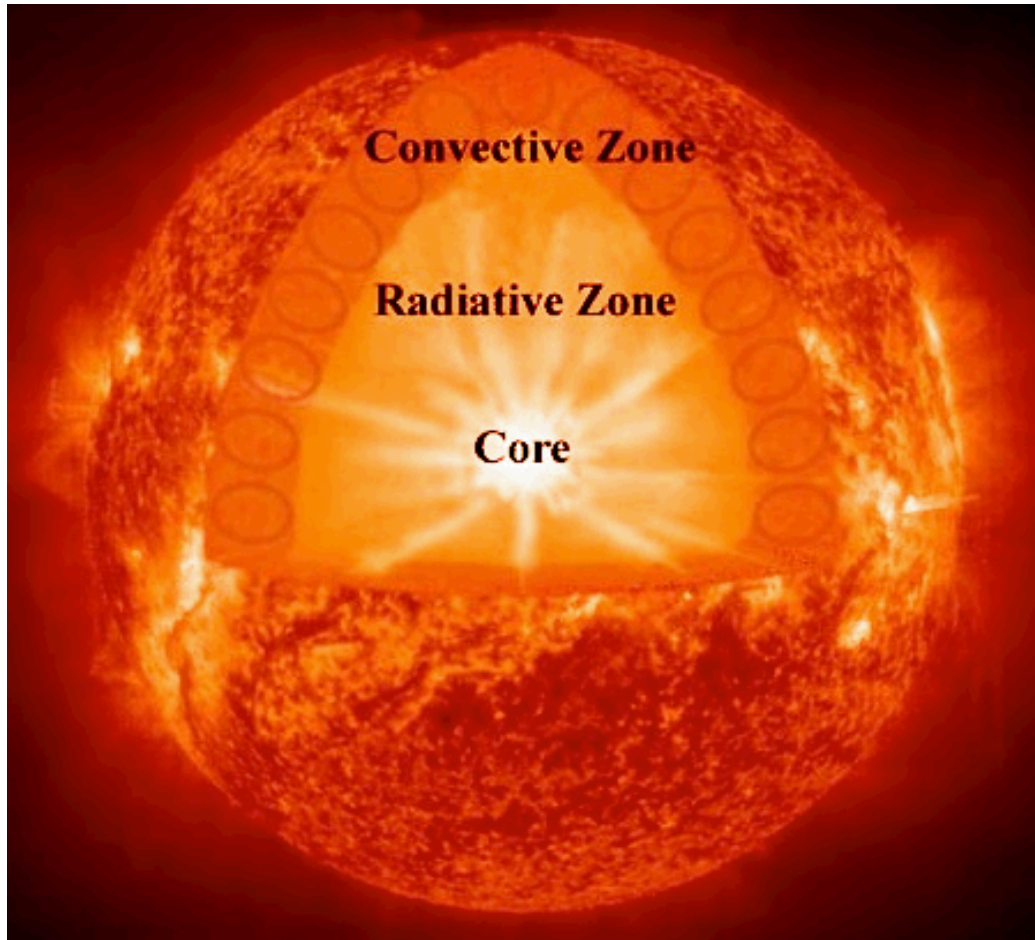
Inputs:

- Abundance
 - EOS
 - Opacity
 - Etc.
- Helioseismology (measurements)

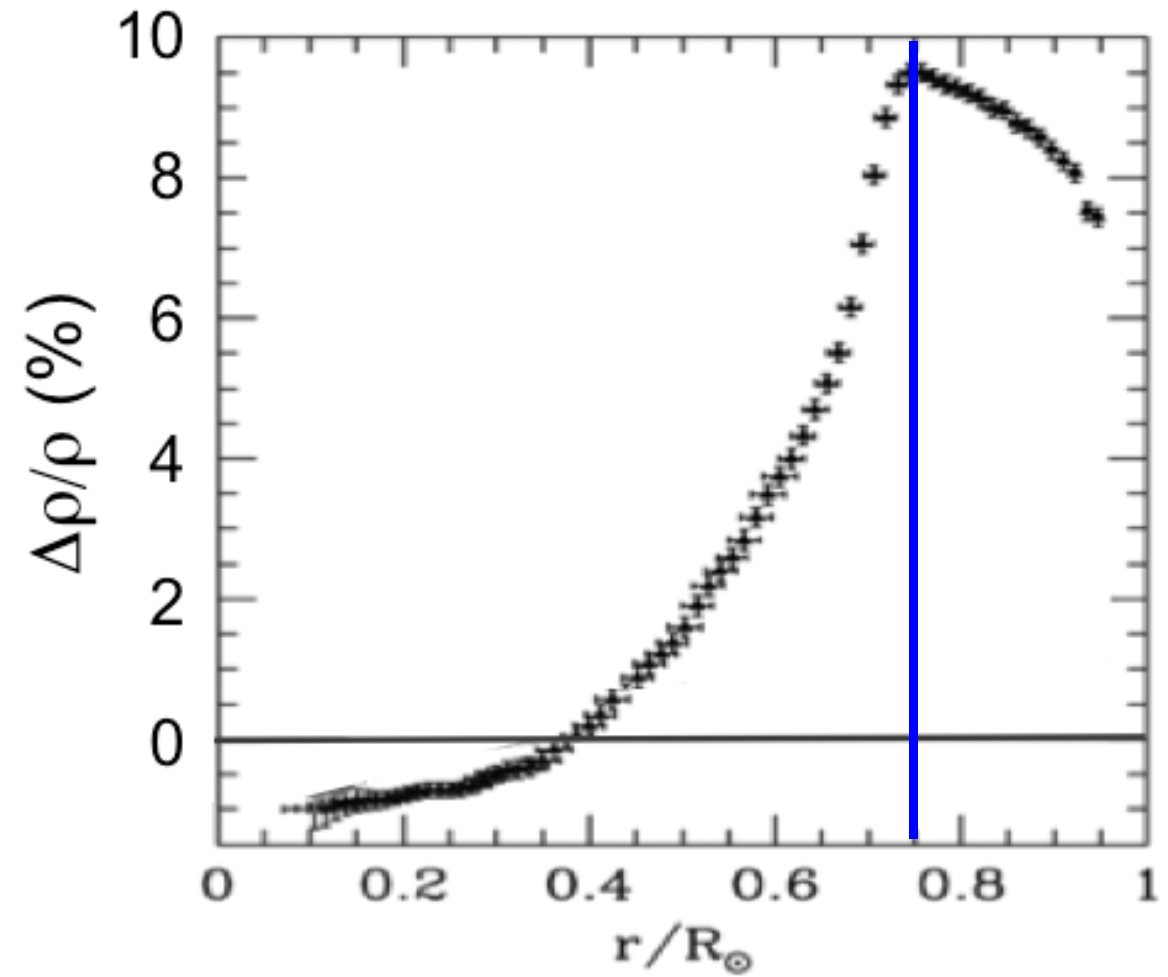
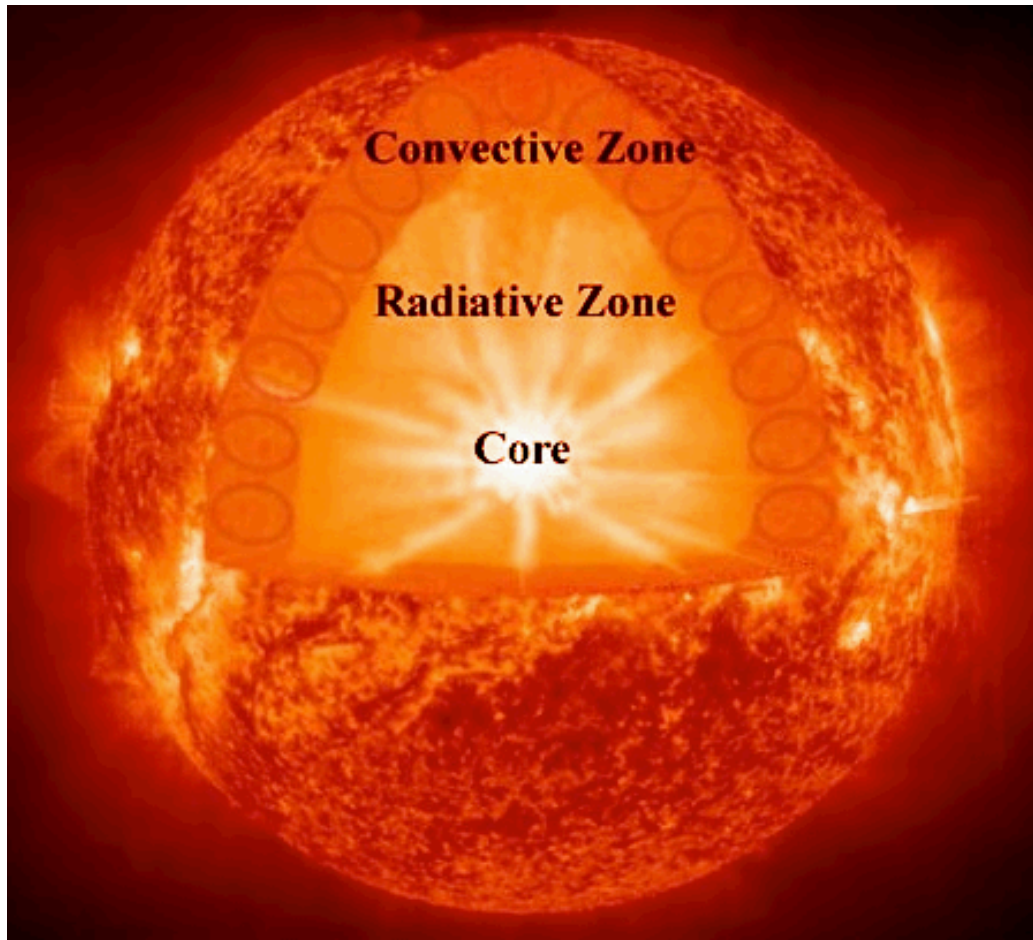


Analysis of 2D-resolved pulsation reveals the solar structure

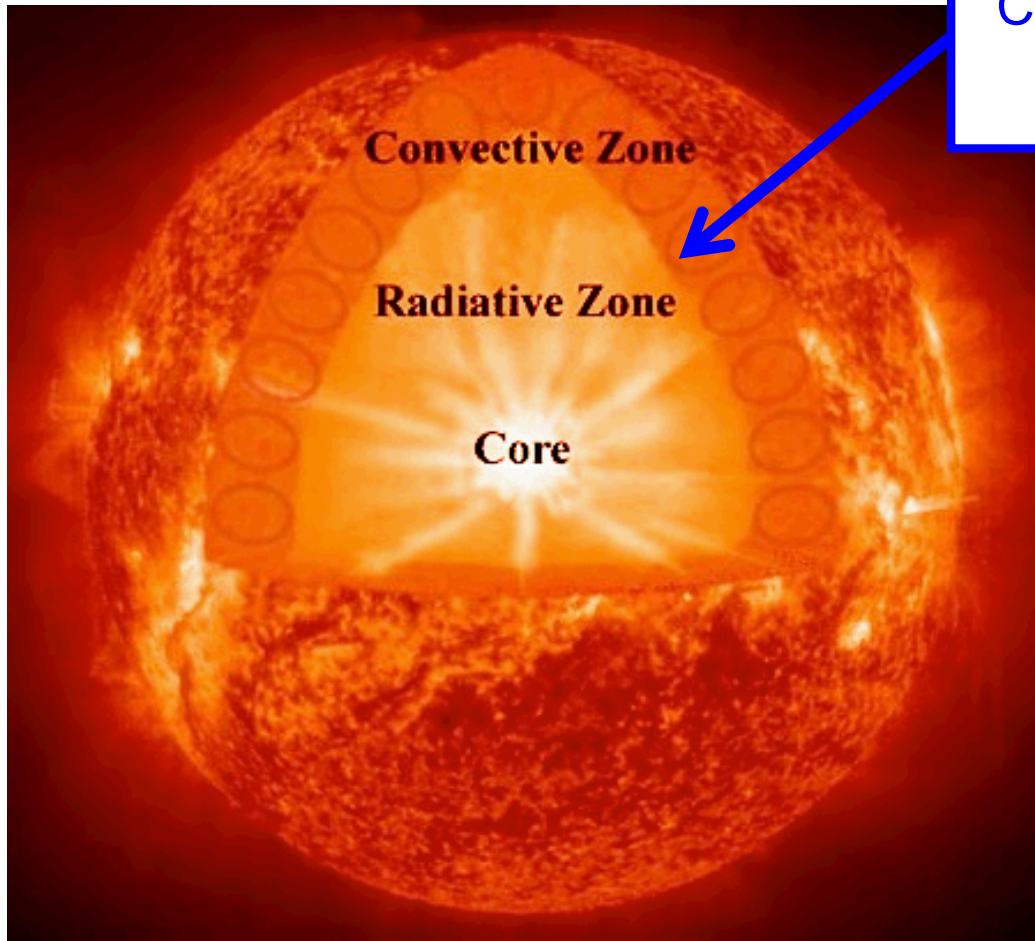
Modeled solar structure disagree with observations



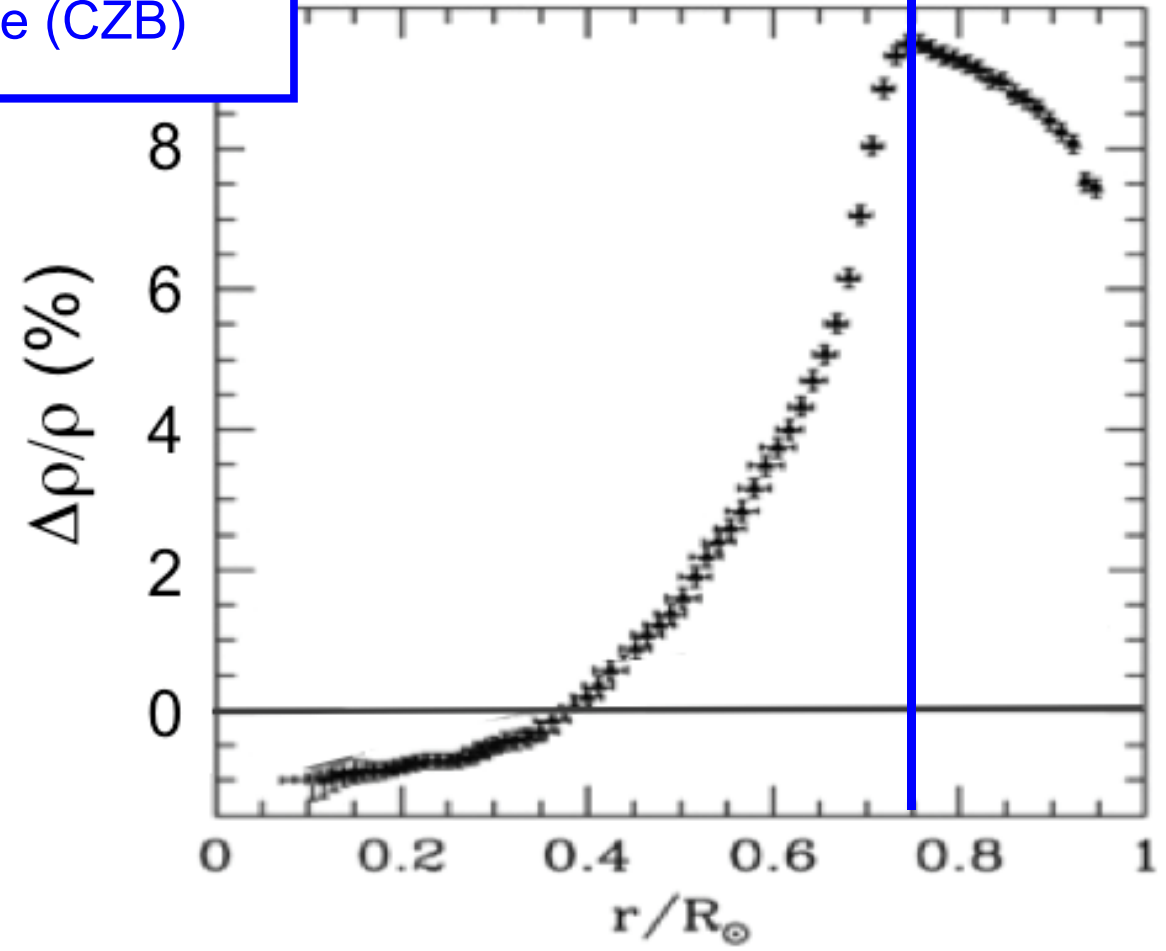
Modeled solar structure disagree with observations



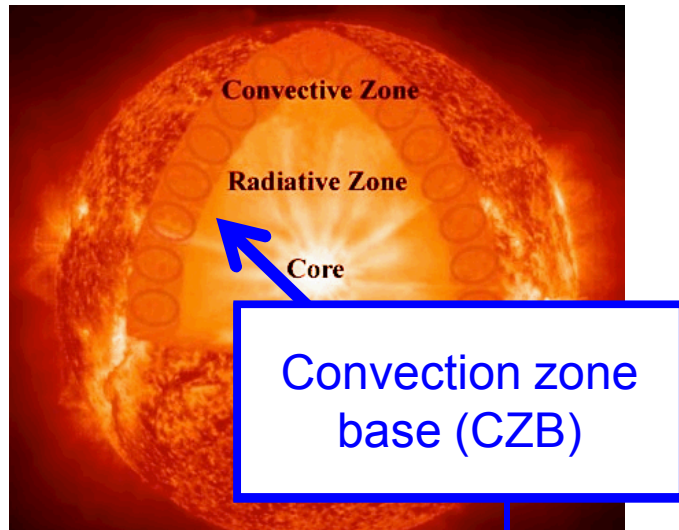
Modeled solar structure disagree with observations



Convection zone base (CZB)

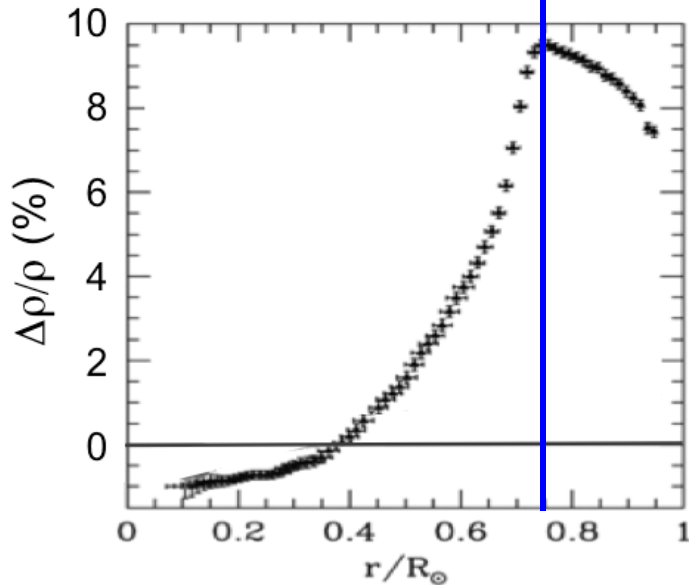


17% mean-opacity increase in the solar model is needed to resolve this discrepancy

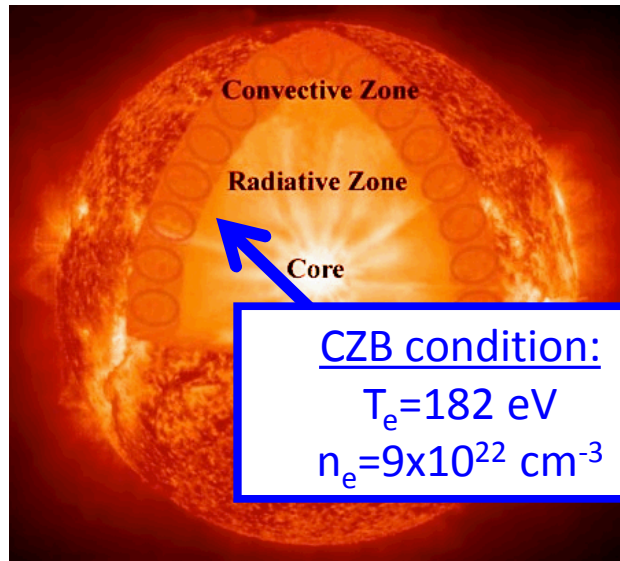


Opacity: κ_v

- Quantifies radiation absorption
- $\kappa_v(T_e, n_e)$... input for solar models
- Opacity models have never been tested



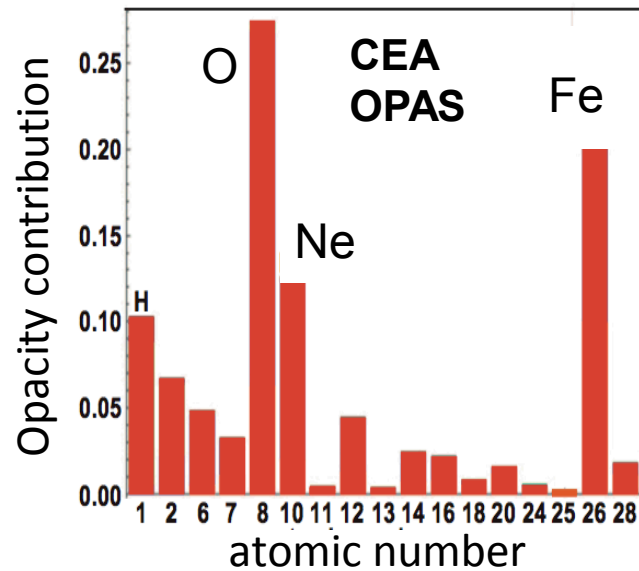
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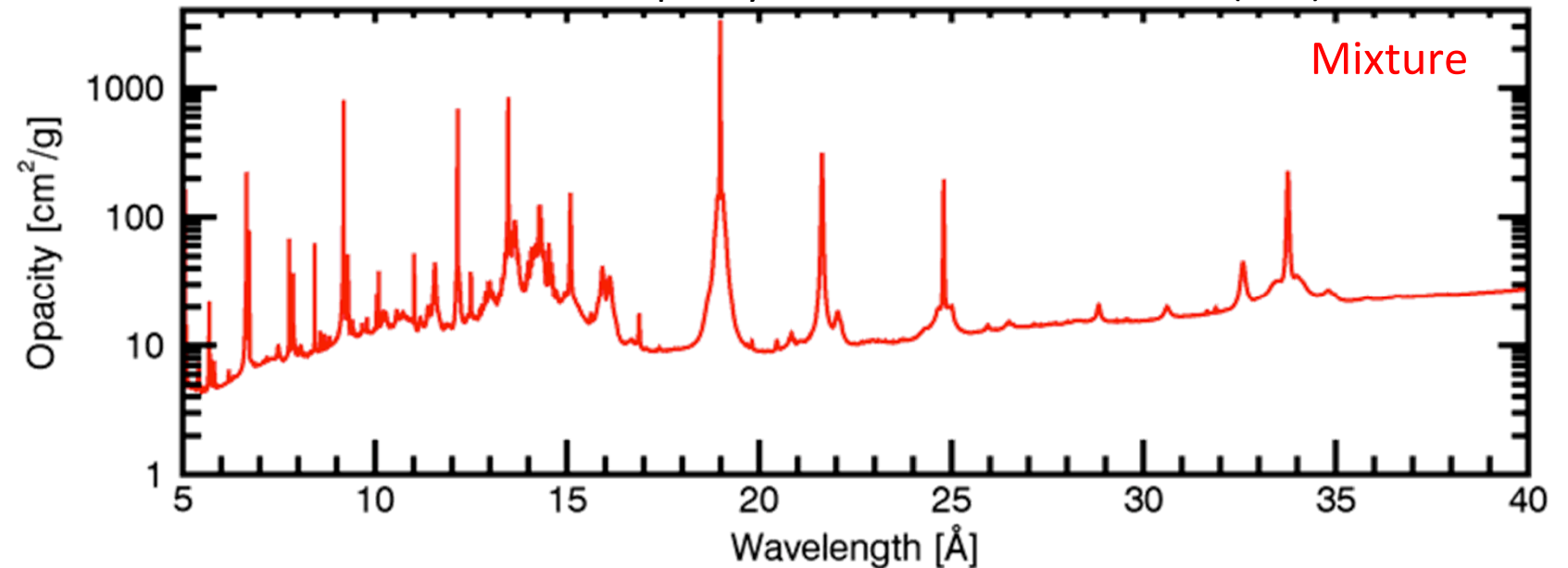
CZB condition:
 $T_e = 182 \text{ eV}$
 $n_e = 9 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Opacity: κ_v

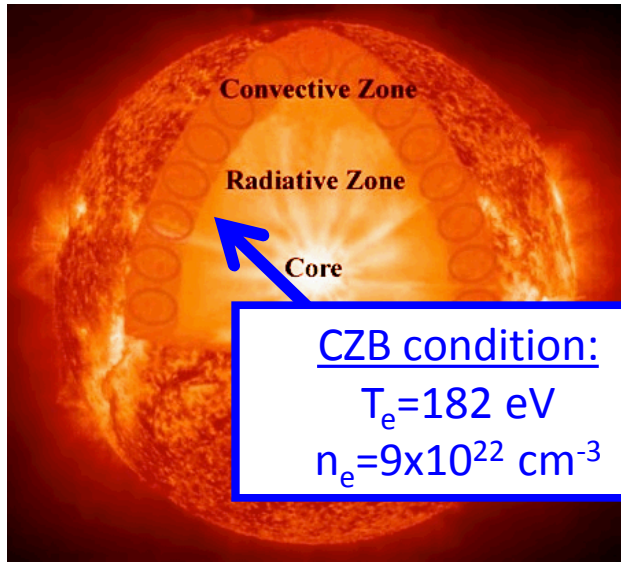
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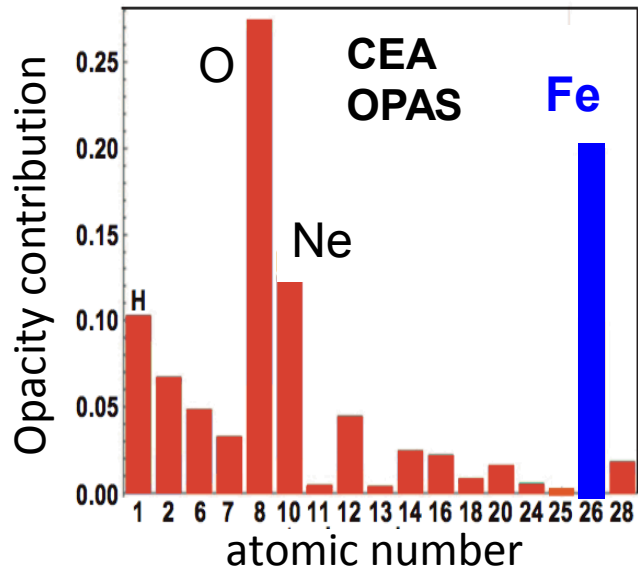
Solar mixture opacity at Convection Zone Base (CZB)



17% mean-opacity increase in the solar model is needed to resolve this discrepancy



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 $T_e = 182 \text{ eV}$
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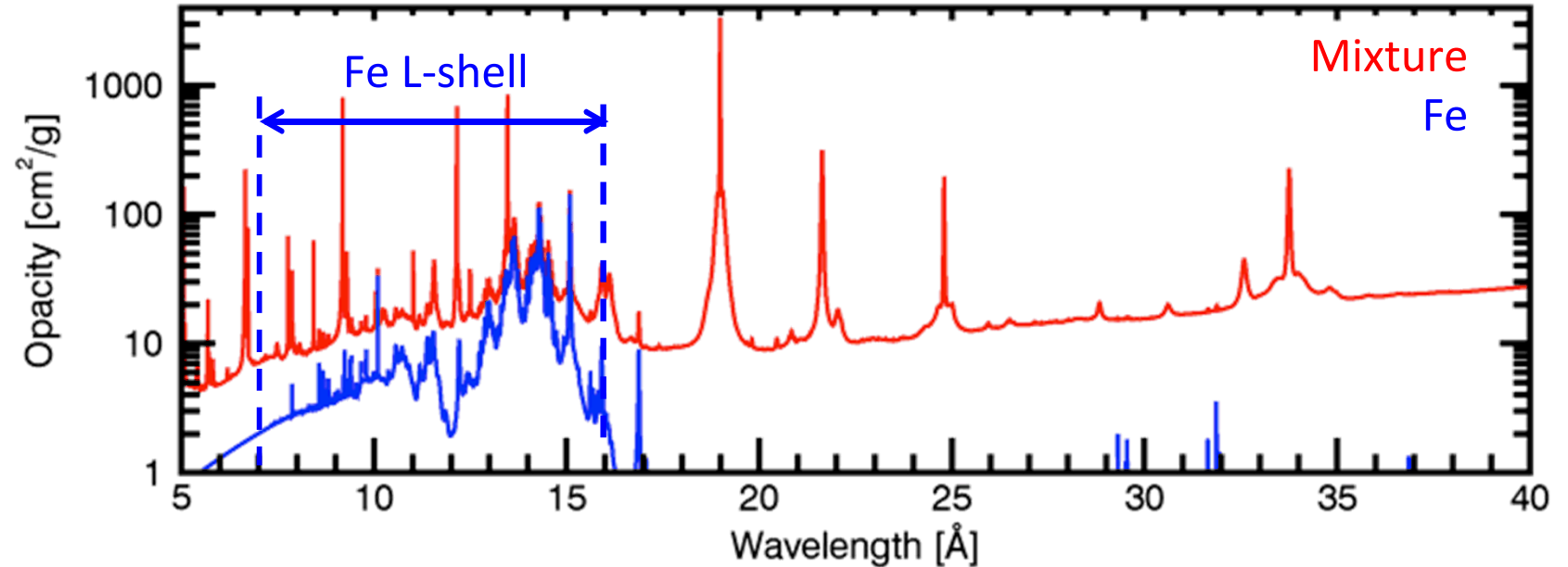
Opacity: κ_v

- Quantifies radiation absorption
- $\kappa_v(T_e, n_e)$... input for solar models
- Opacity models have never been tested

Fe is a likely suspect:

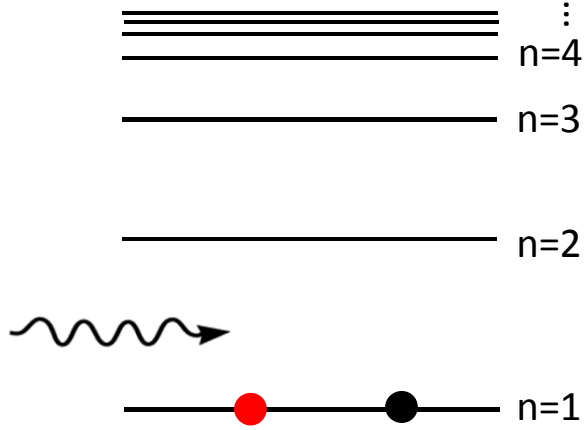
- 2nd largest contribution
- Most difficult to model

Solar mixture opacity at Convection Zone Base (CZB)

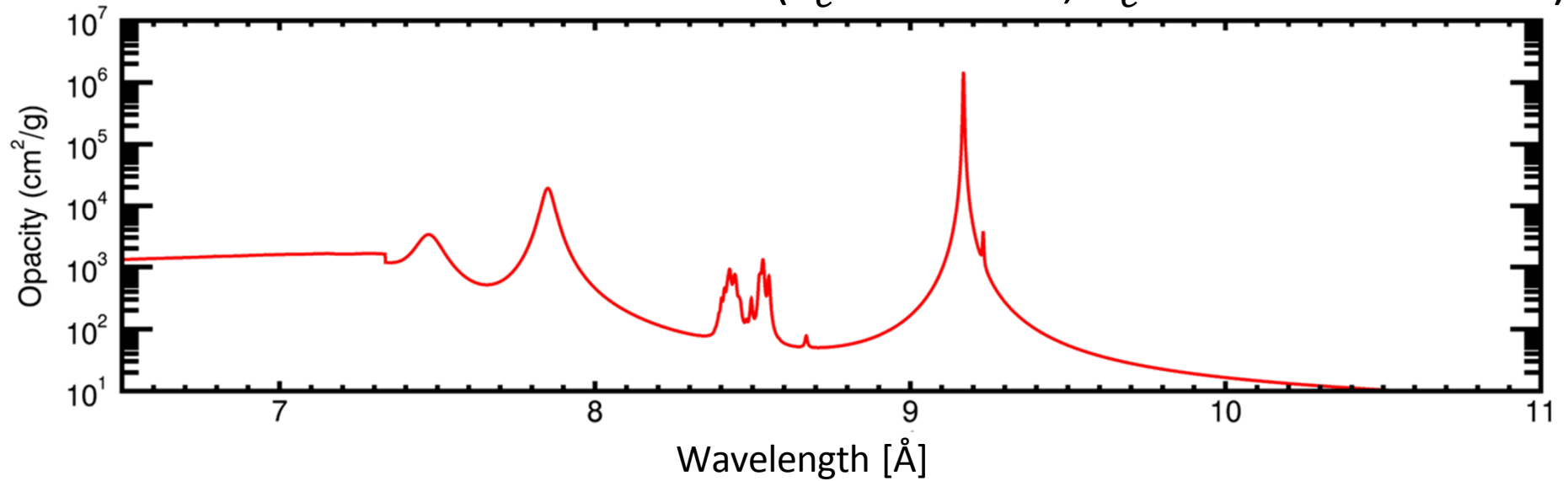


Opacity calculation at Convection-Zone Base is easier for lower atomic number elements

Mg at CZB (Z=12)

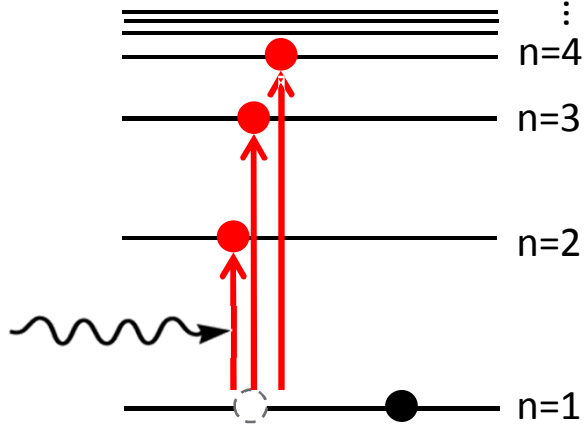


CZB = Convection Zone Base ($T_e = 182$ eV, $n_e = 9 \times 10^{22}$ cm⁻³)

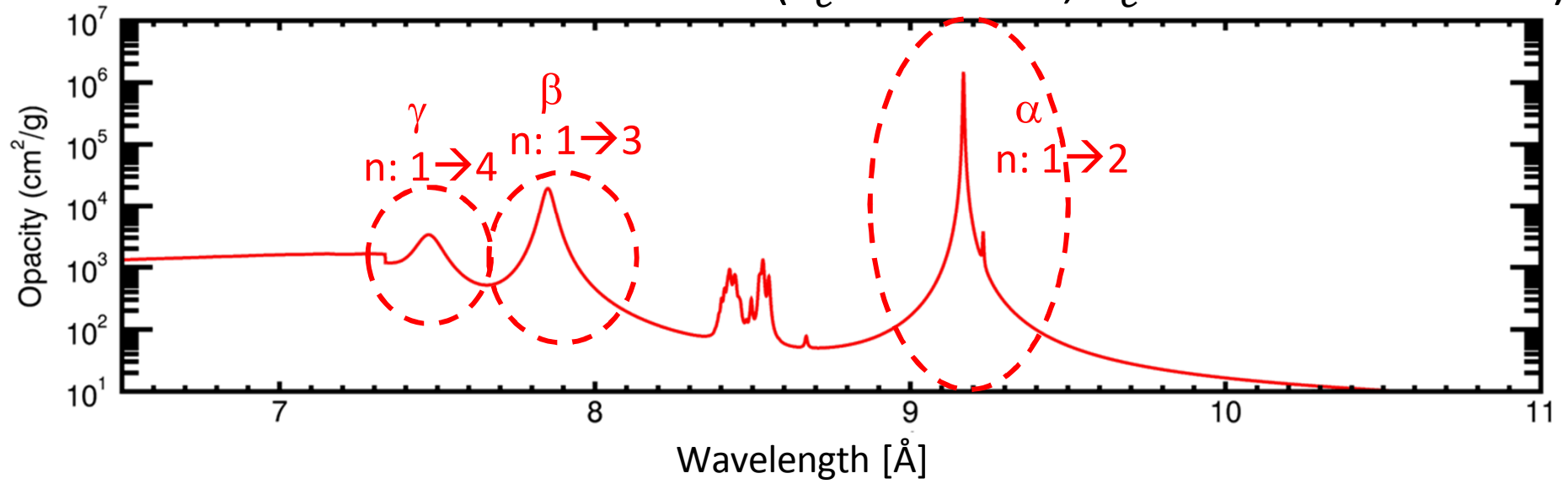


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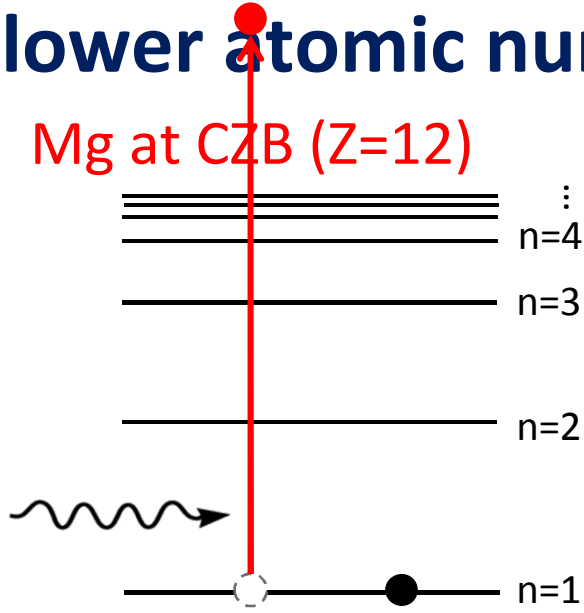


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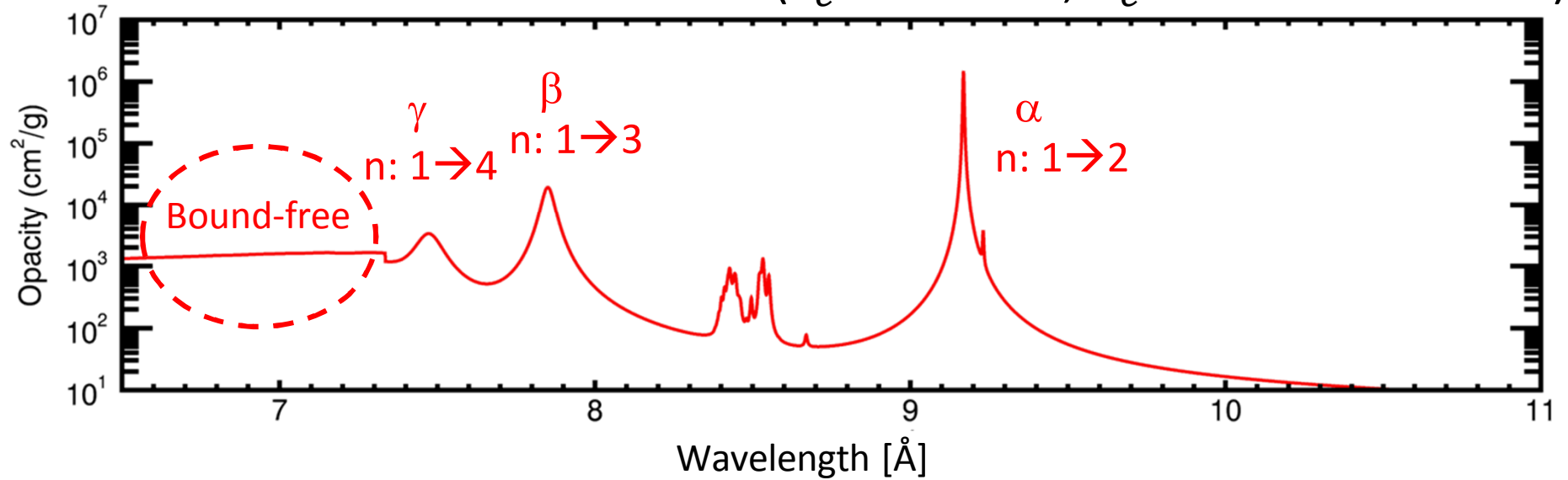


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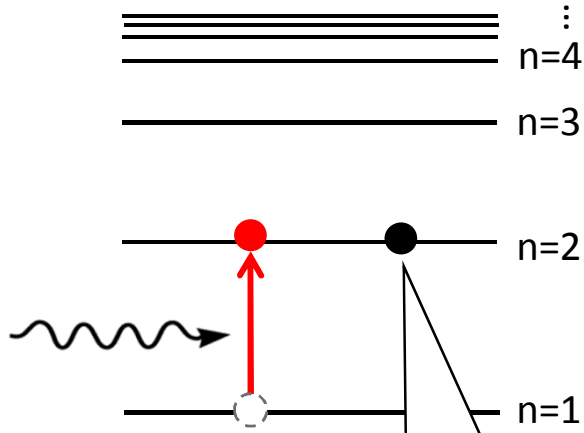


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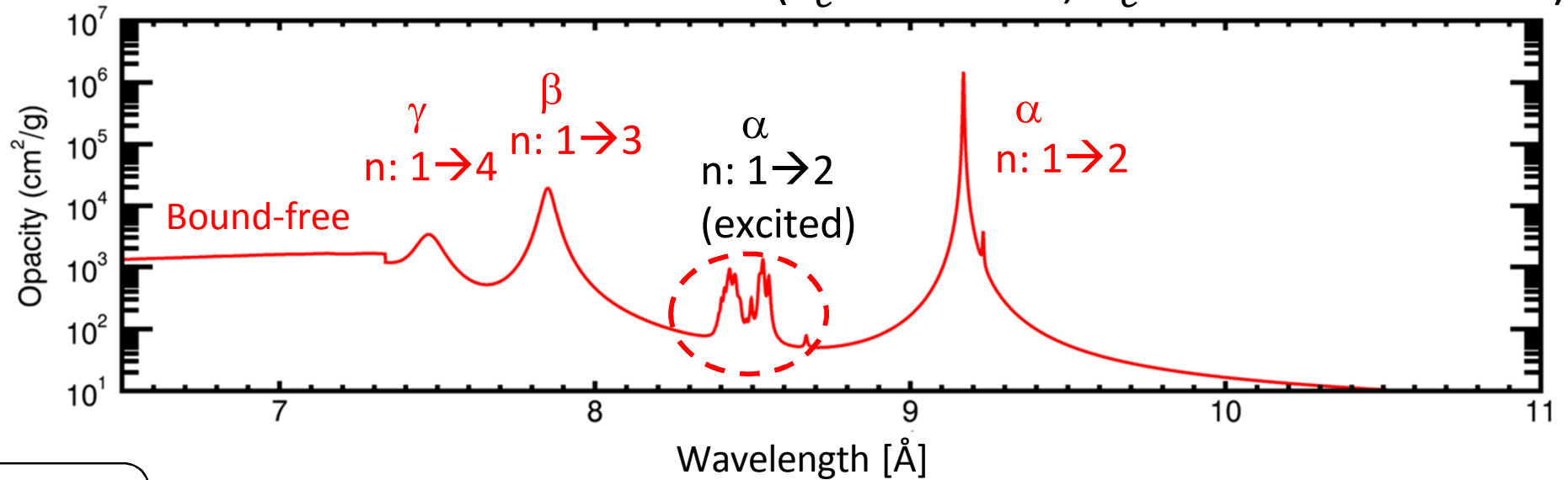
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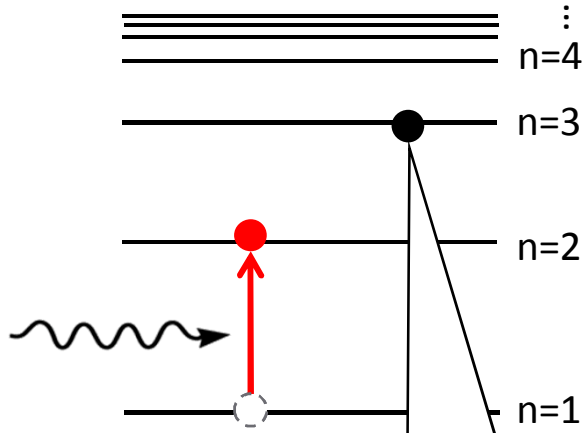
Spectator electron affects the transition energies

CZB = Convection Zone Base ($T_e = 182 \text{ eV}$, $n_e = 9 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-3}$)



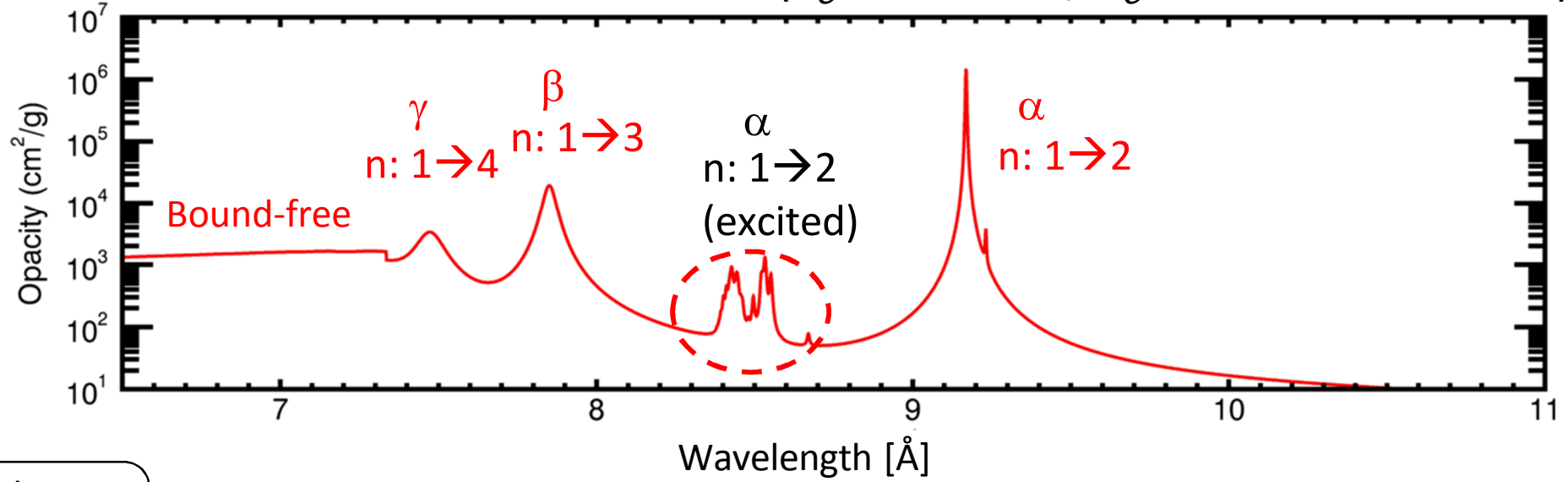
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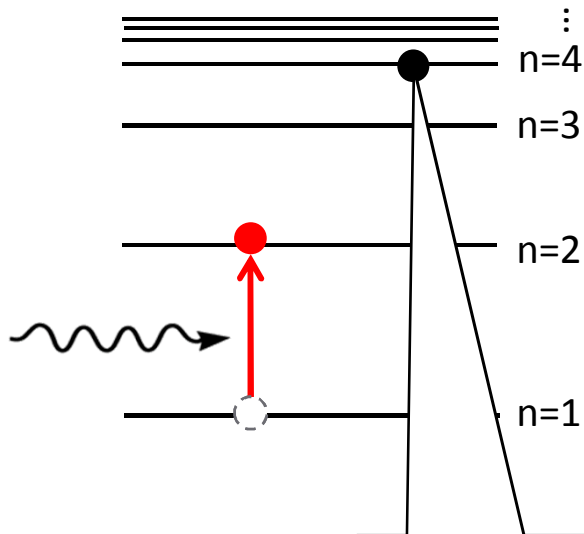
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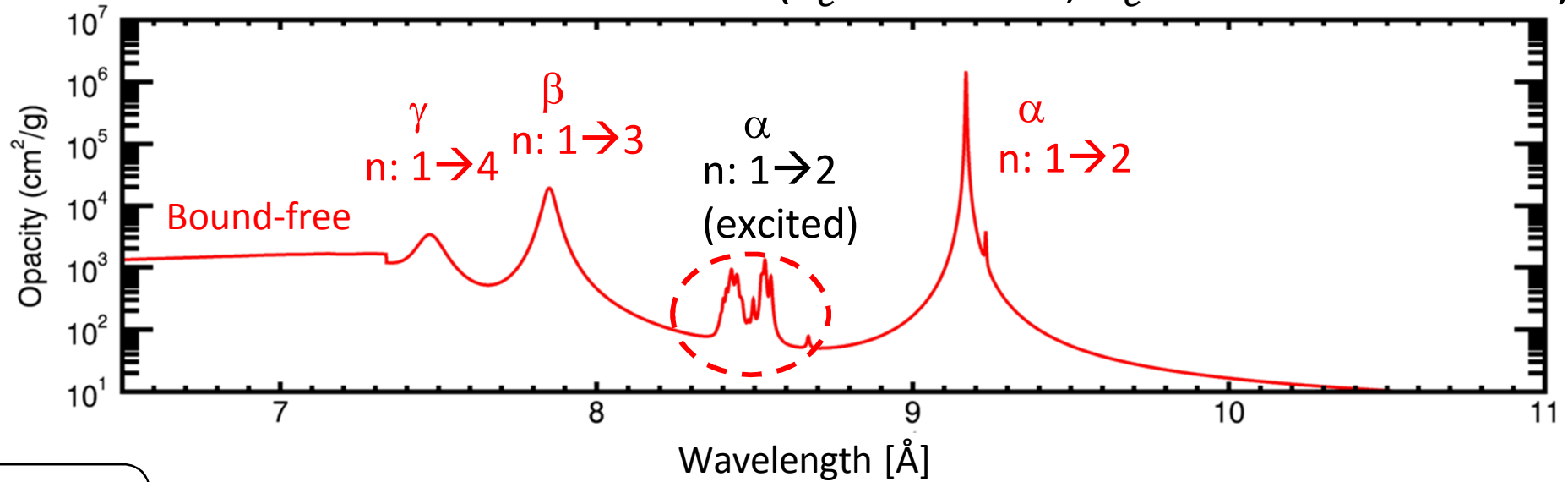
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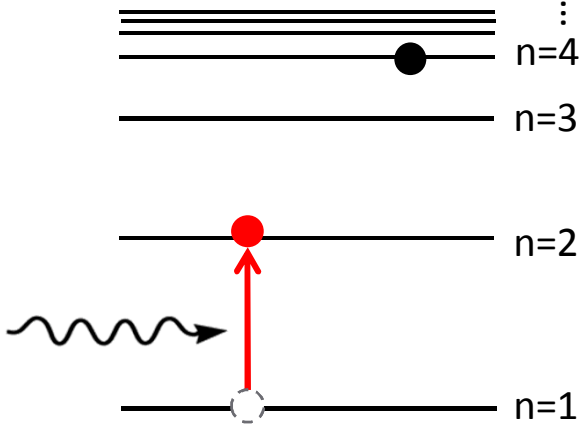
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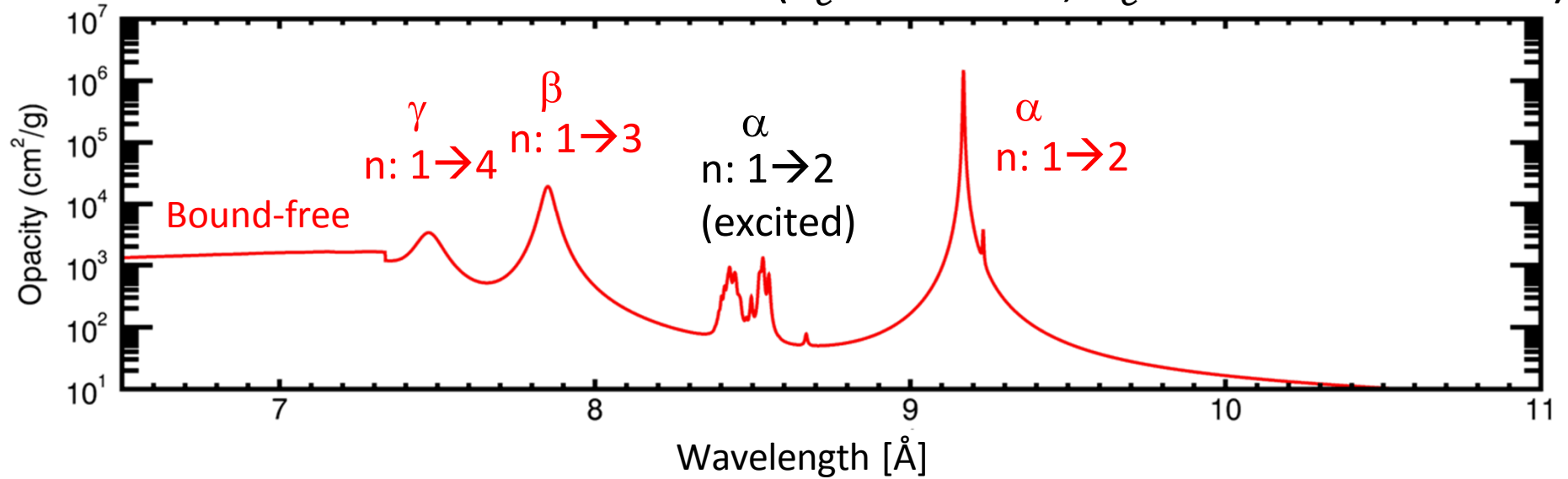


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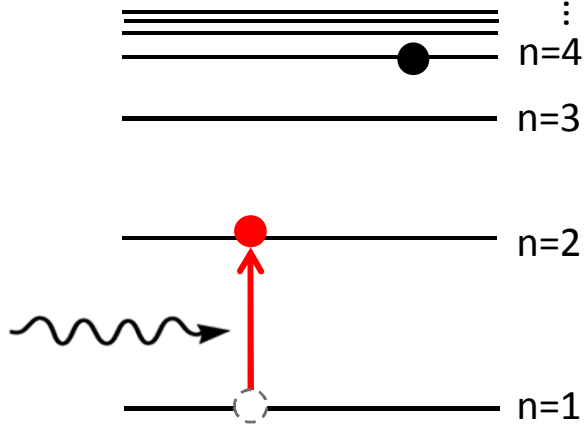


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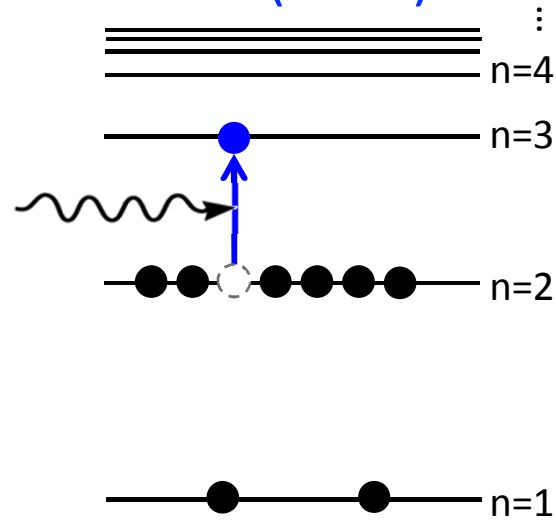


Iron opacity at Convection-Zone Base is challenging due to large contribution from excited states

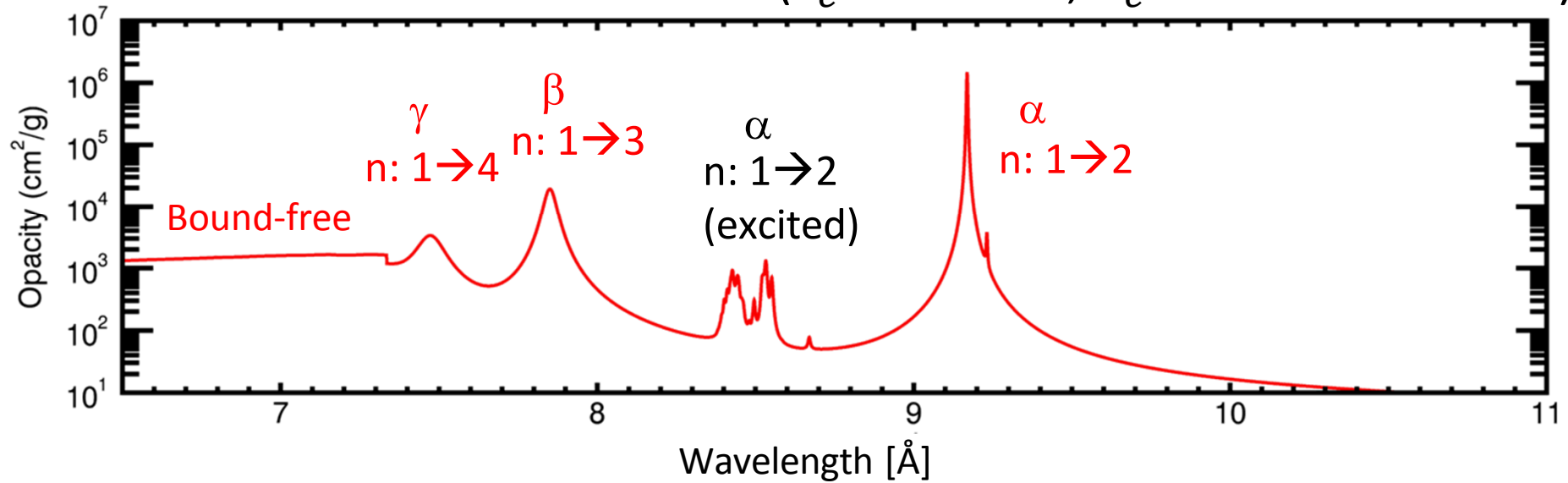
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Fe at CZB (Z=26)

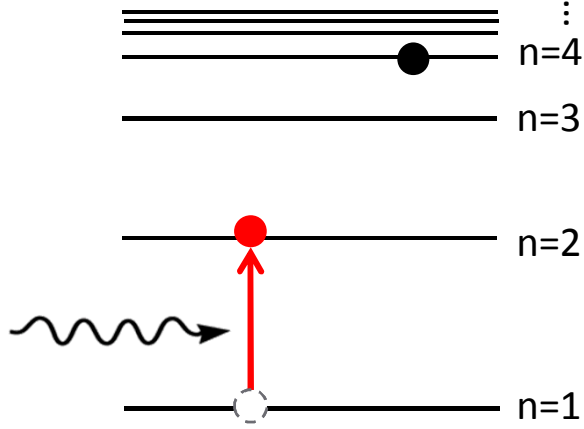


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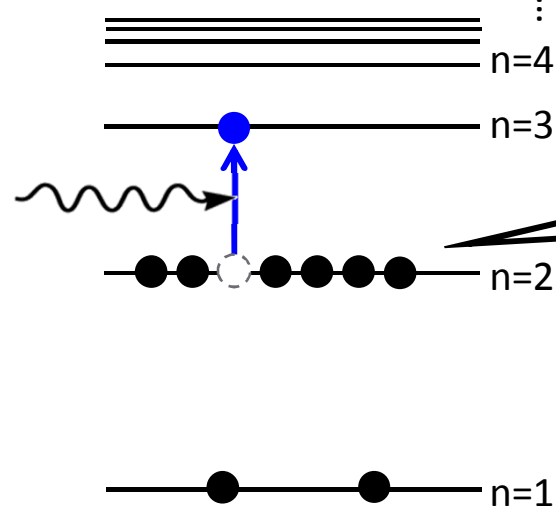


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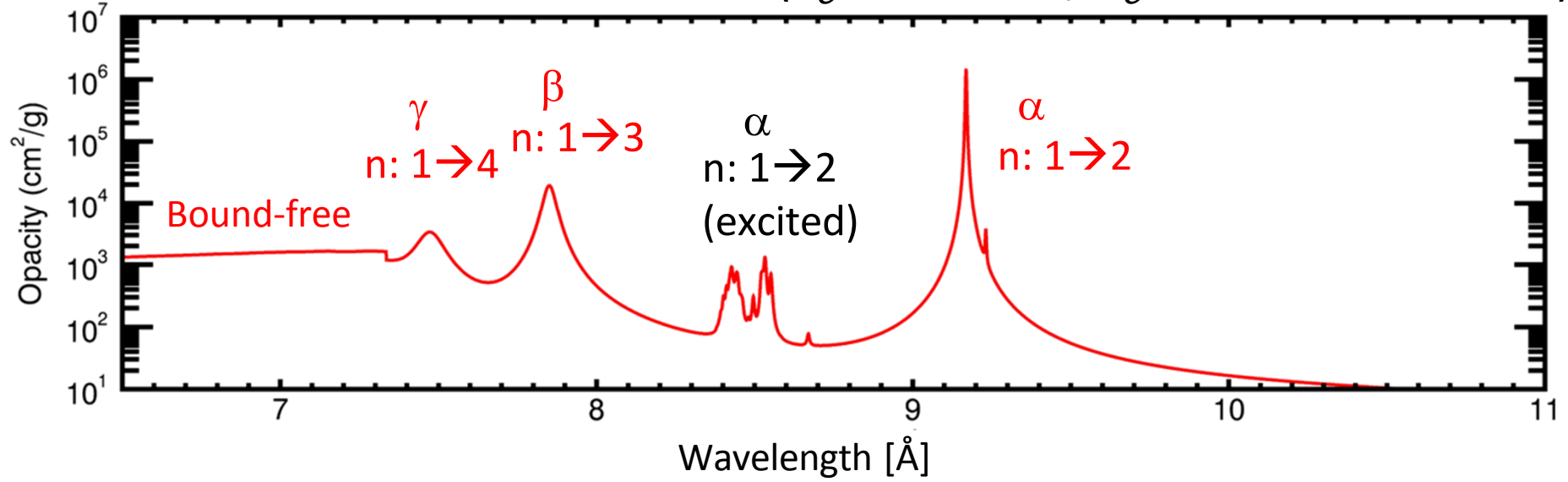
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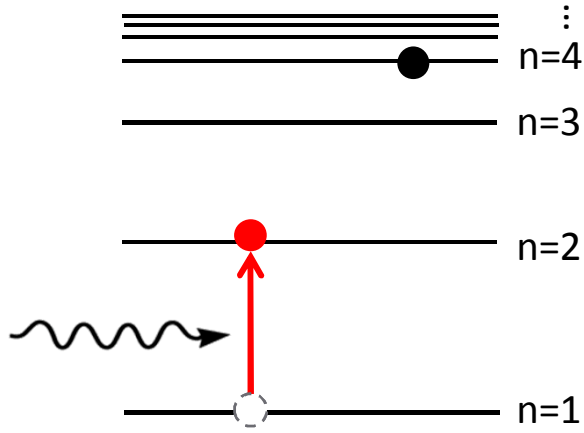
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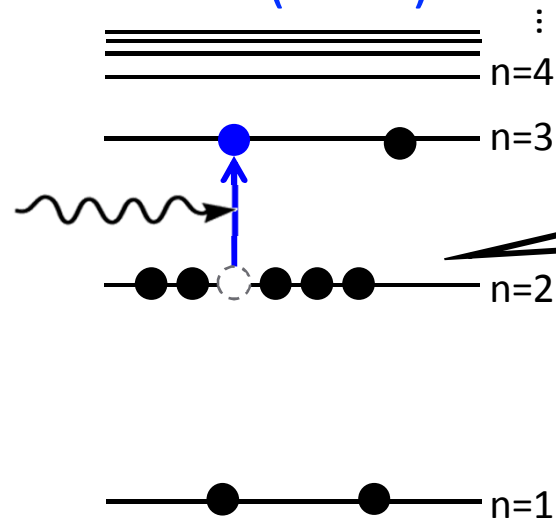
• So many spectator electrons!

Iron opacity at Convection-Zone Base is challenging due to large contribution from excited states

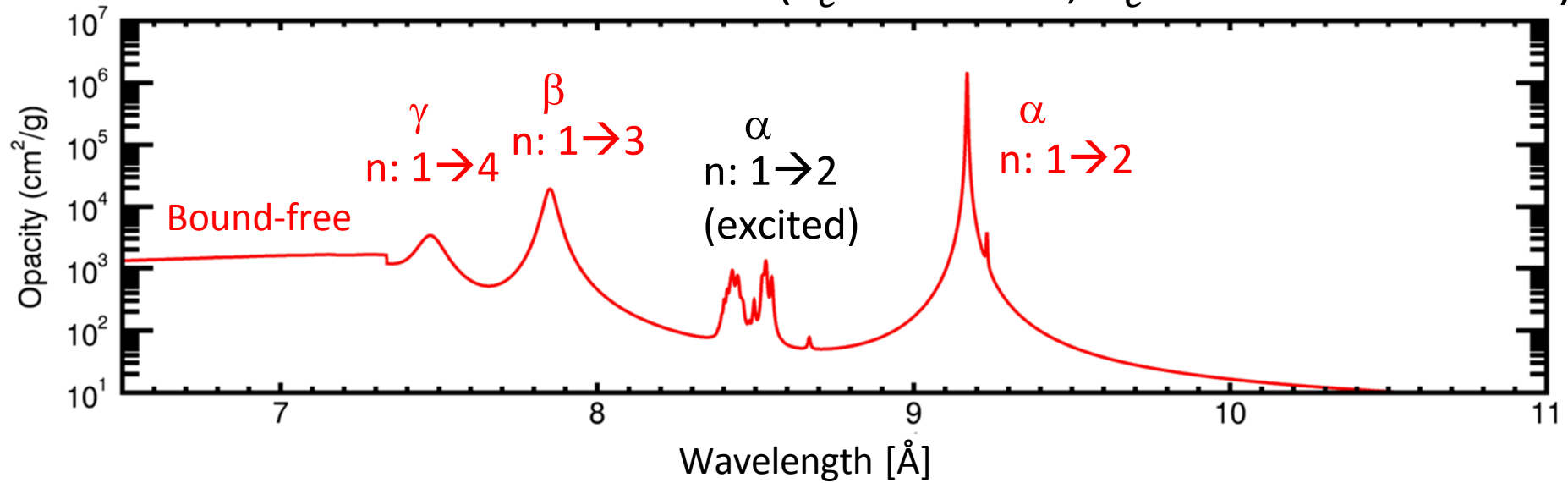
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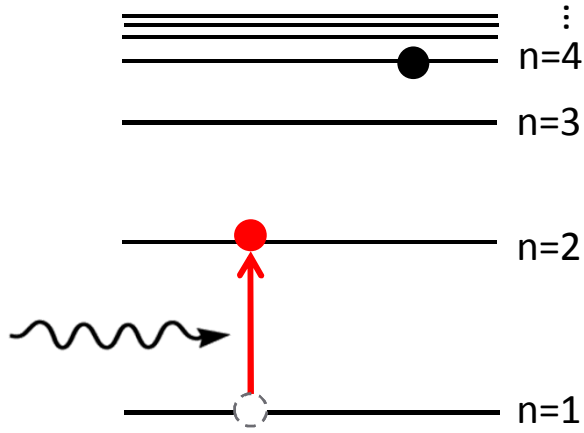
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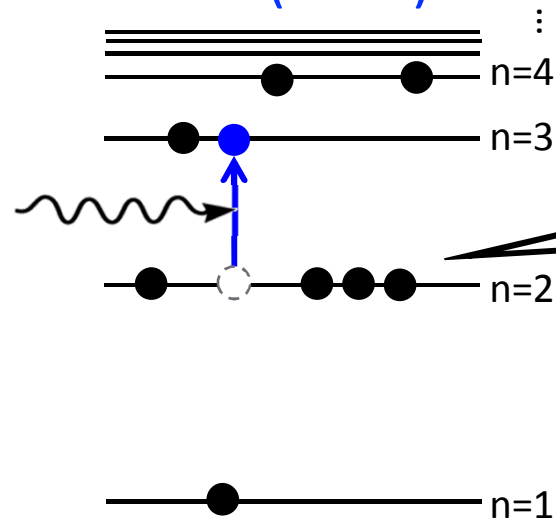
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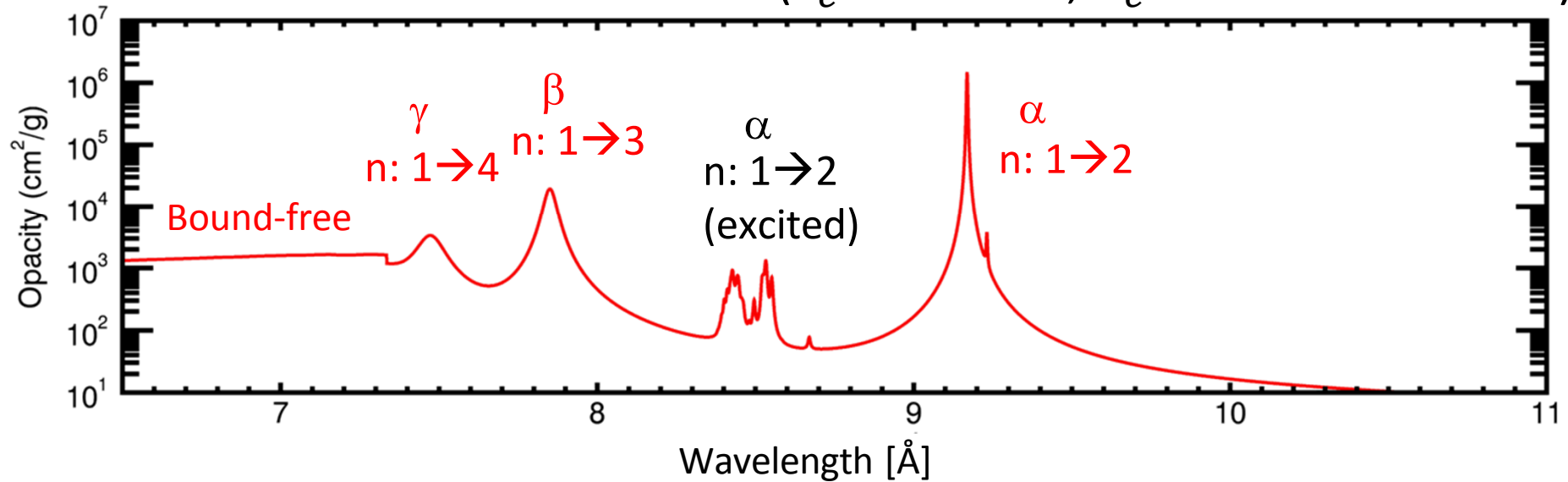
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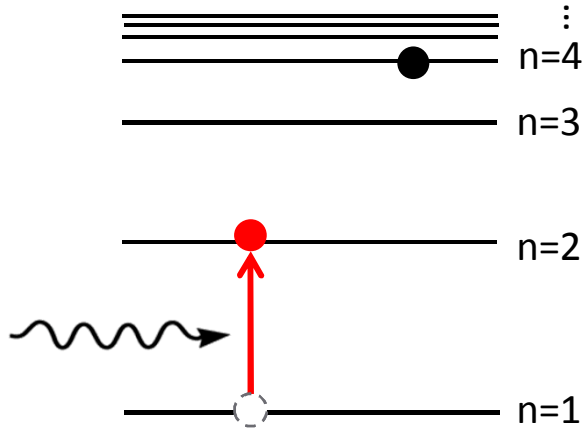
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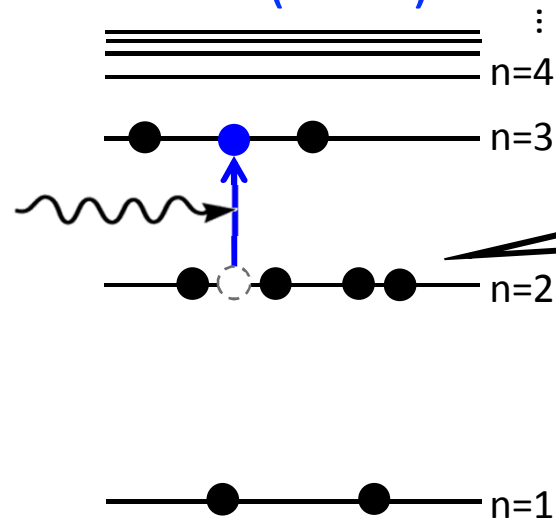
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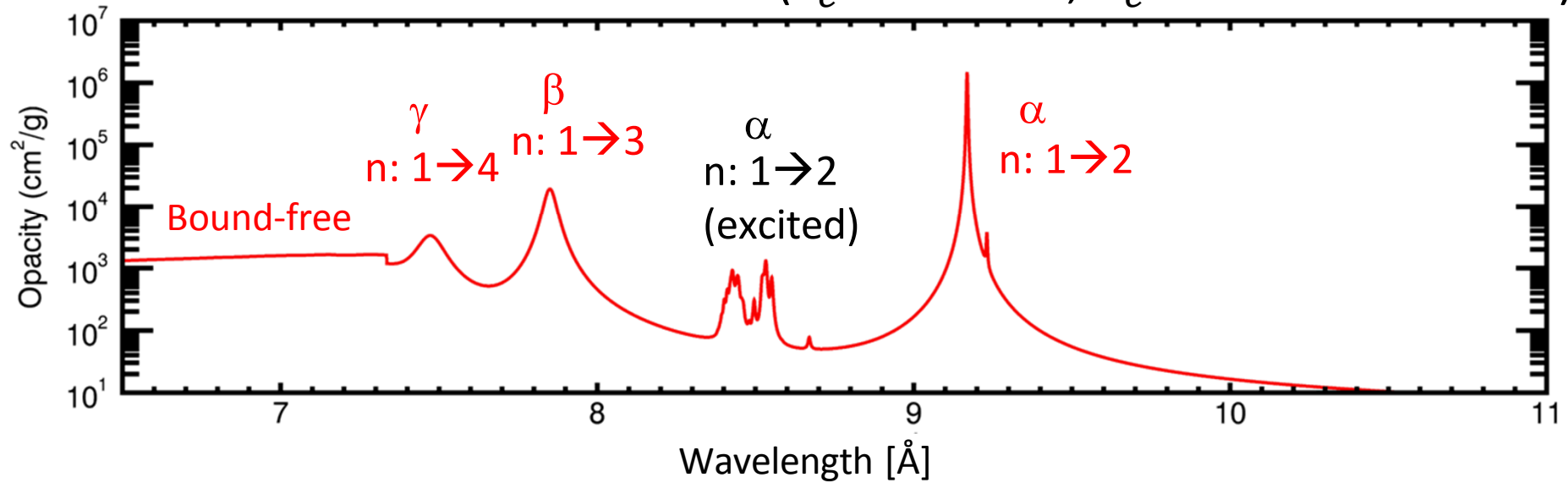
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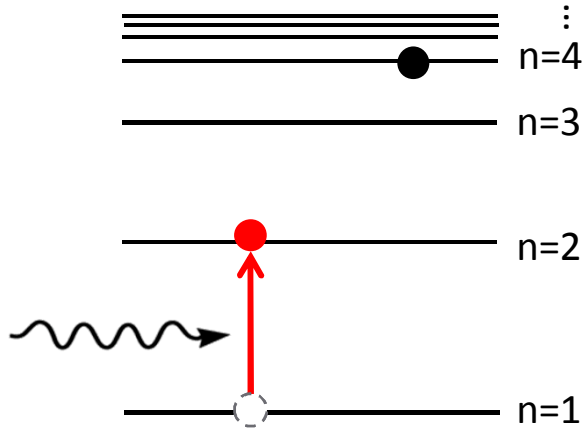
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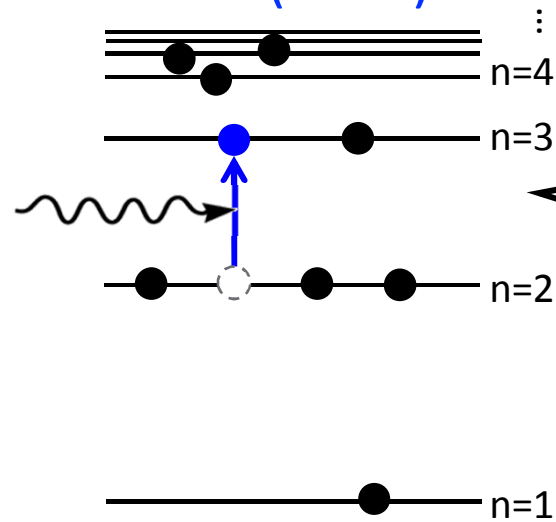
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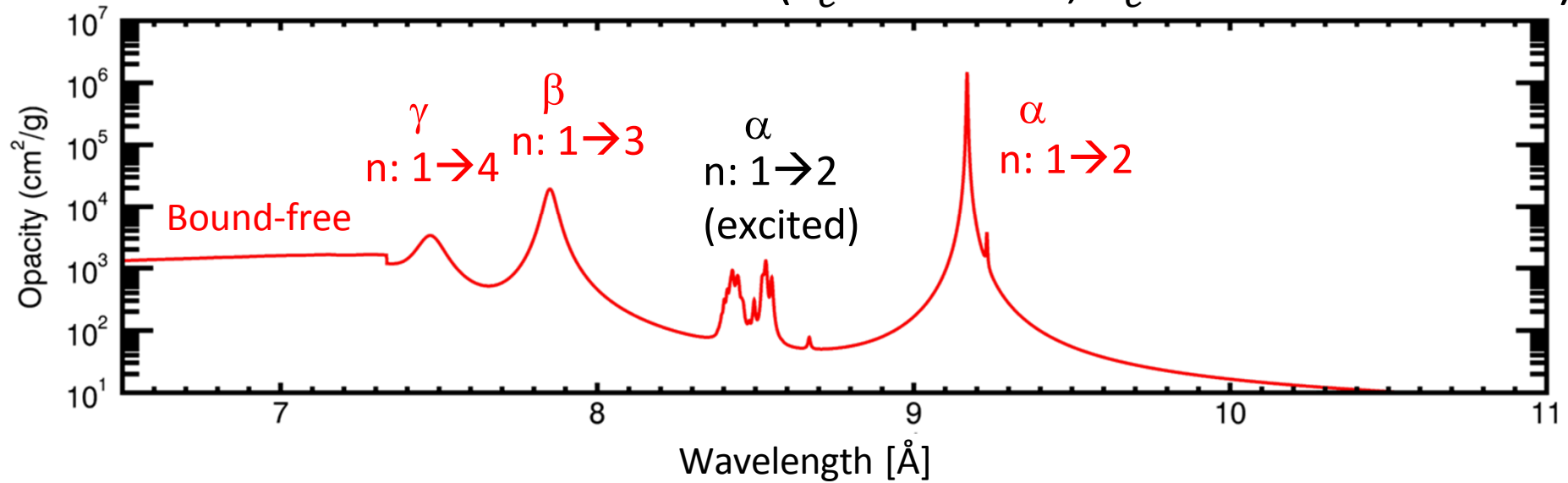
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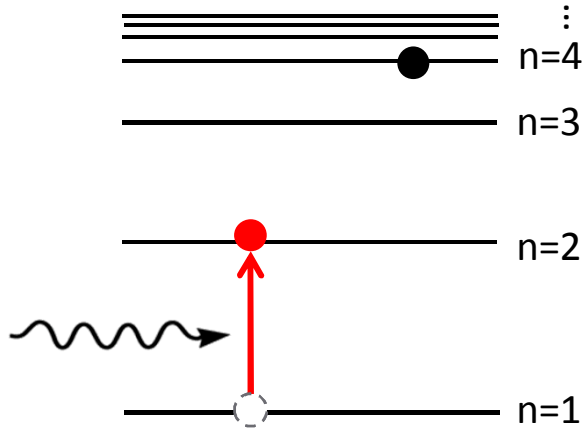
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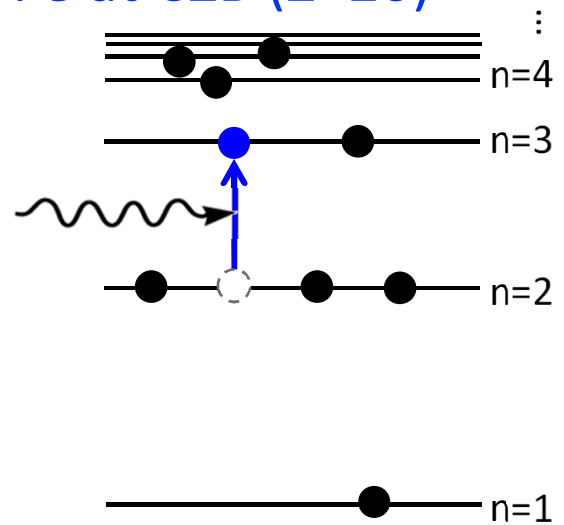
- So many spectator electrons!
- Tremendous contributions from excited states!

Iron opacity at Convection-Zone Base is challenging due to large contribution from excited states

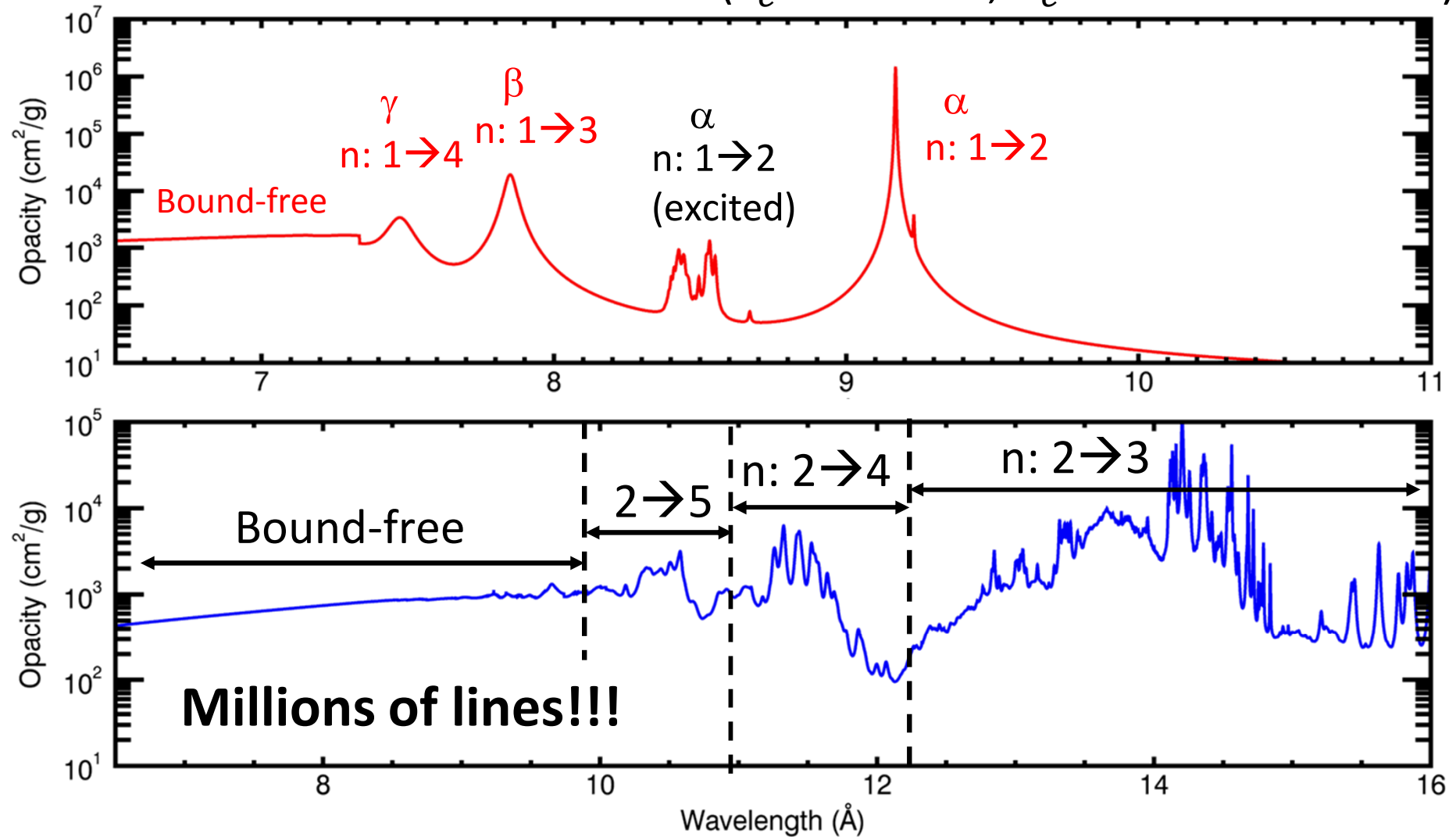
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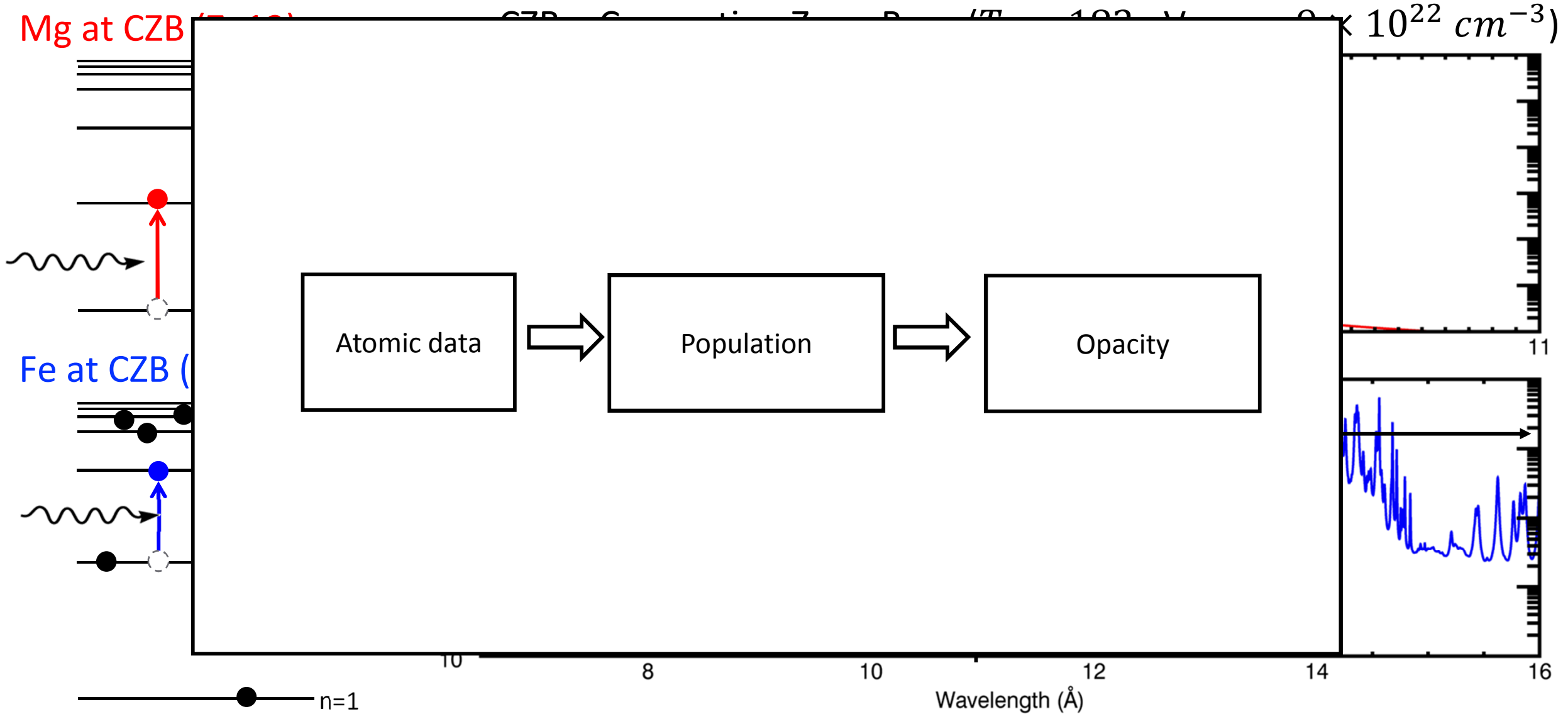
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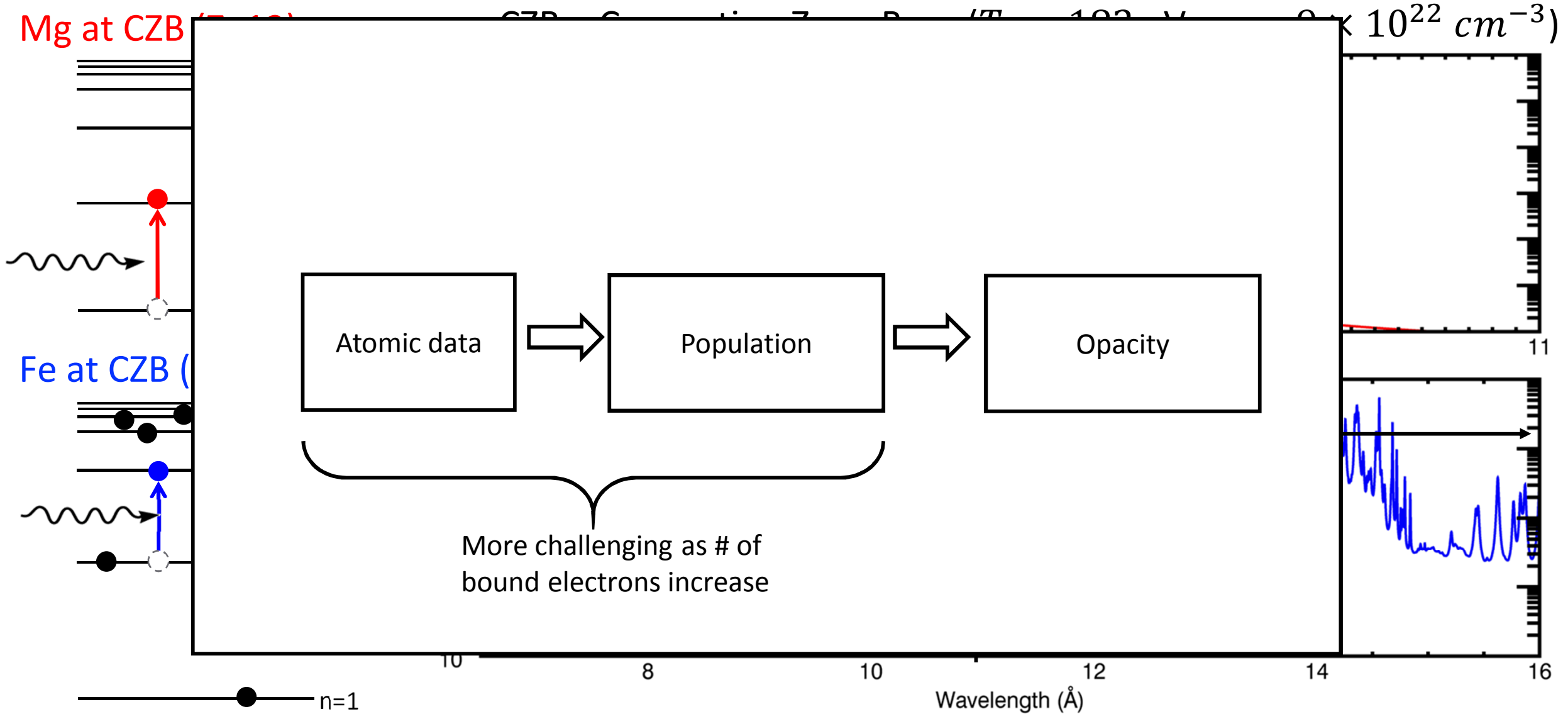
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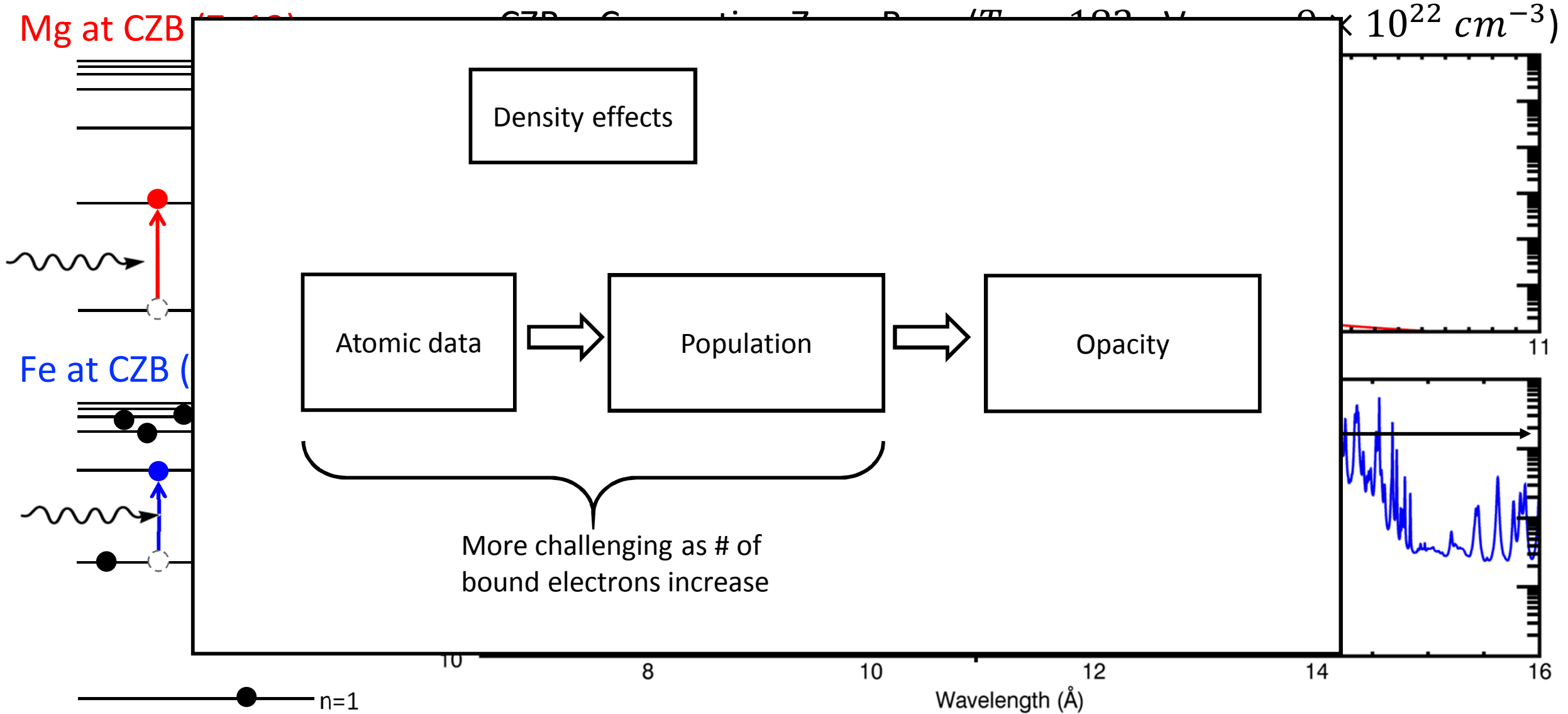
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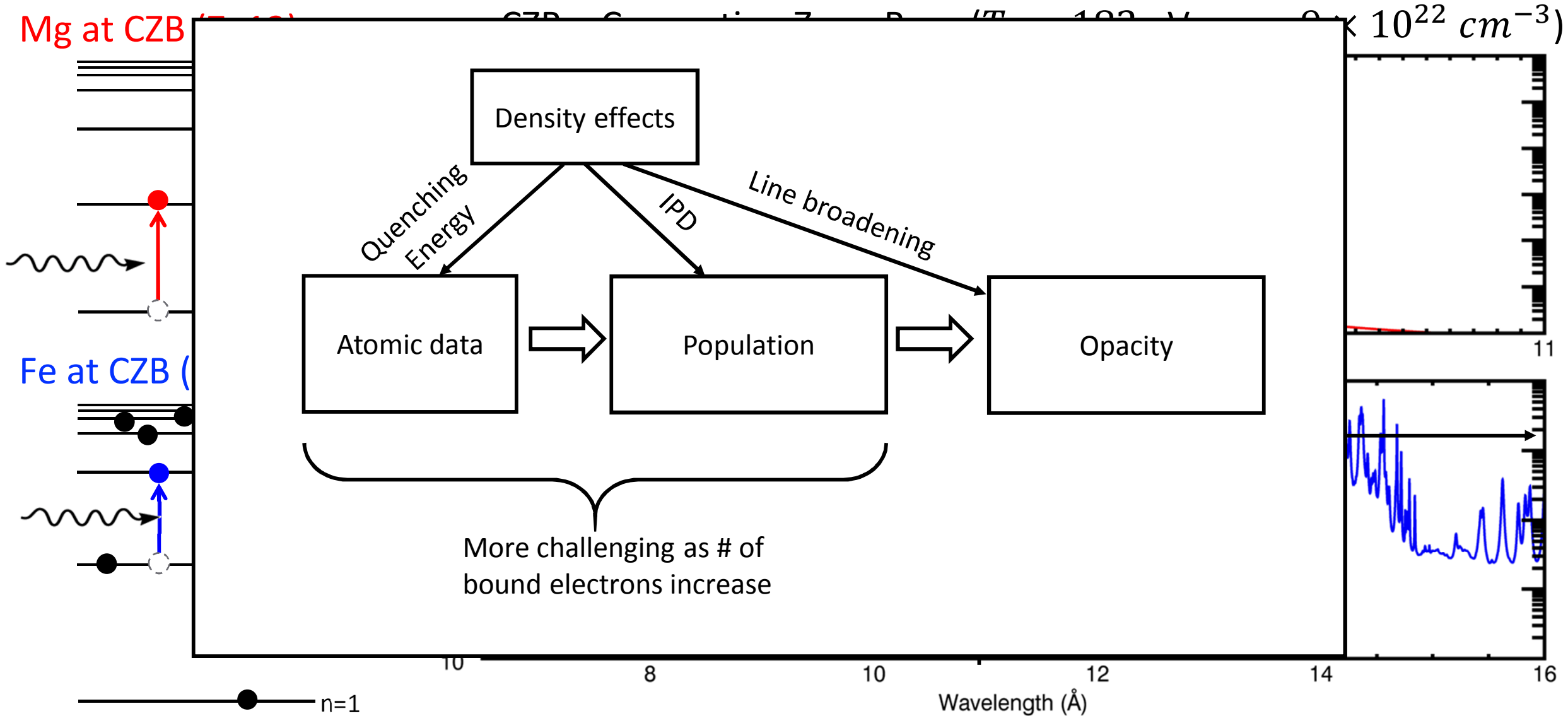
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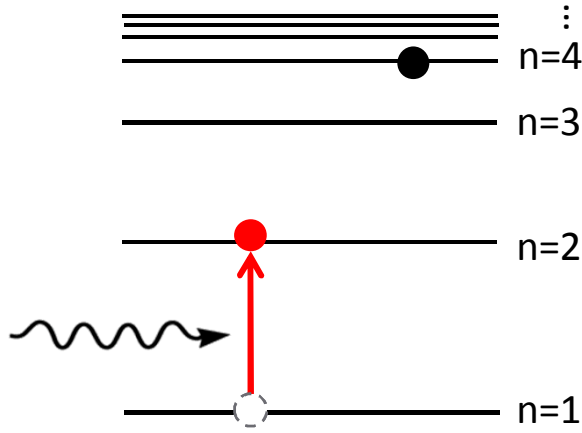


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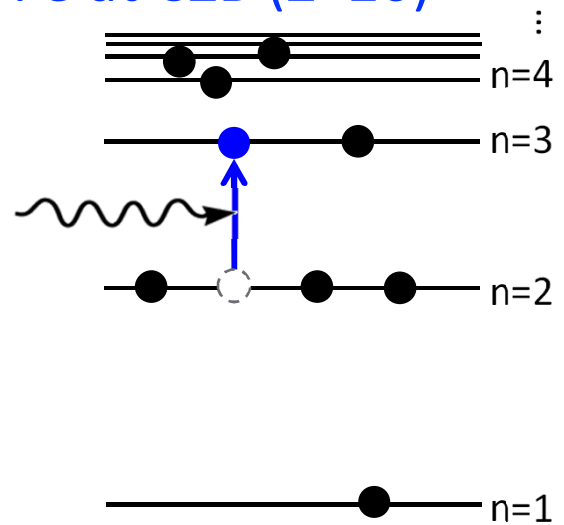


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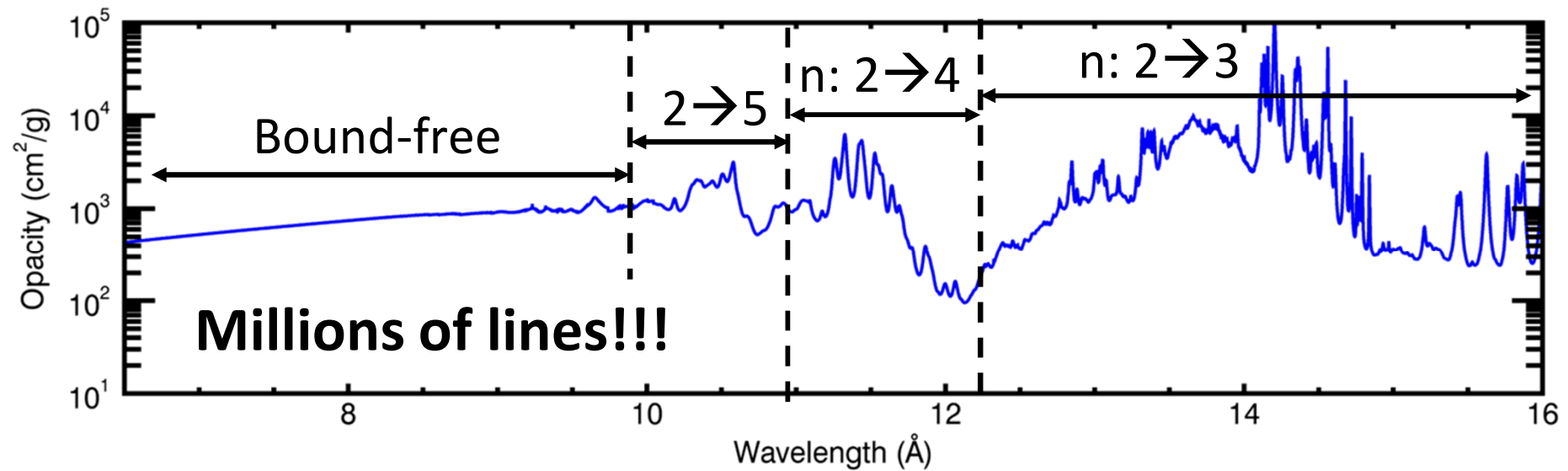
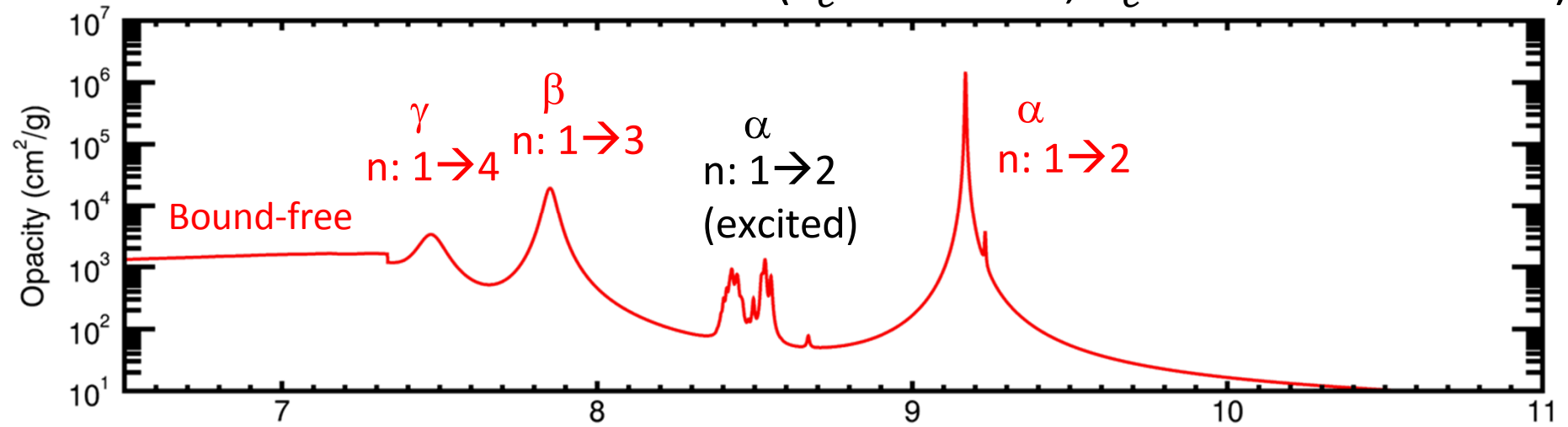
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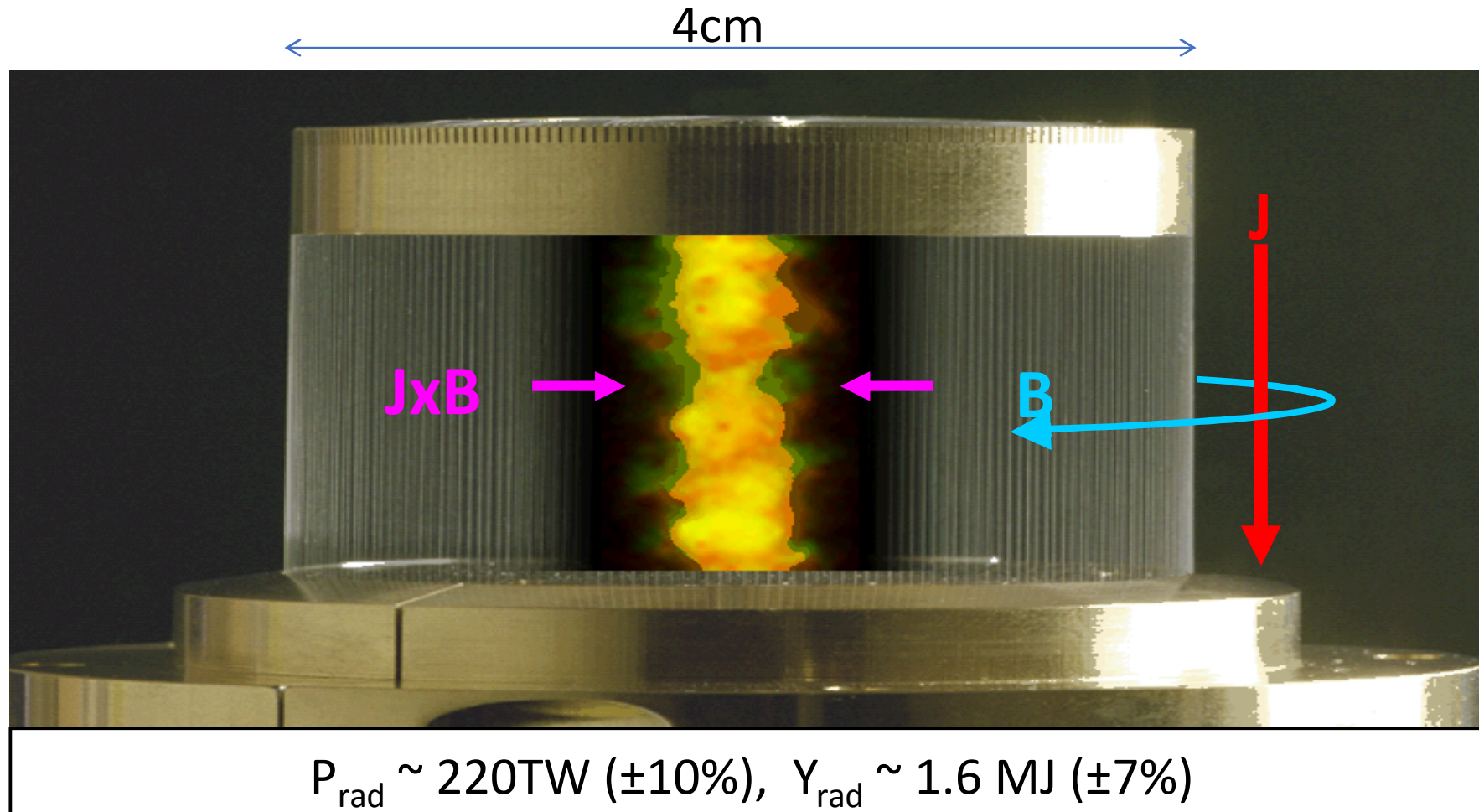
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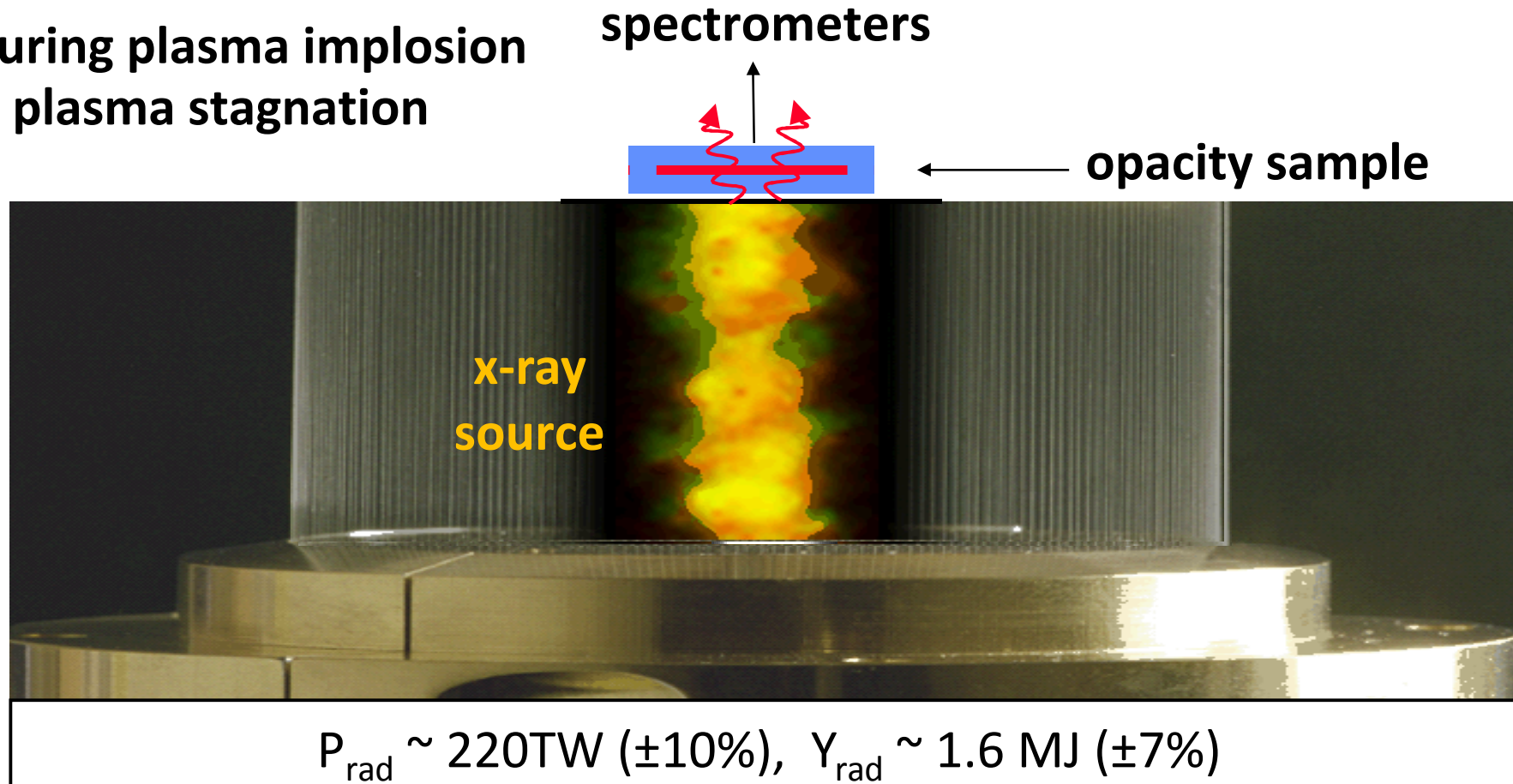
The Z machine uses 27 million Amperes to create x-rays



The Z x-ray source both heats and backlights samples to stellar interior conditions.

Sample is:

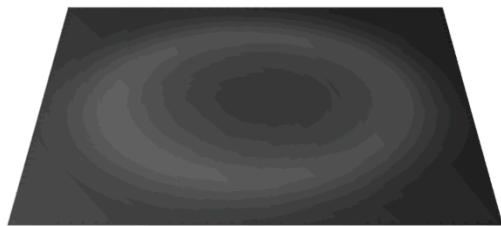
- Heated during plasma implosion
- Backlit at plasma stagnation



High-temperature Fe opacities are measured using the Z-Pinch opacity science platform

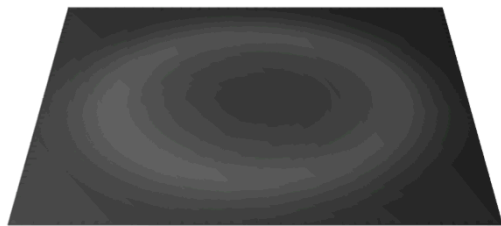
Requirements

- Uniform heating
- Mitigating self emission
- Condition measurements



Z-pinch radiation source

High-temperature Fe opacities are measured using the Z-Pinch opacity science platform

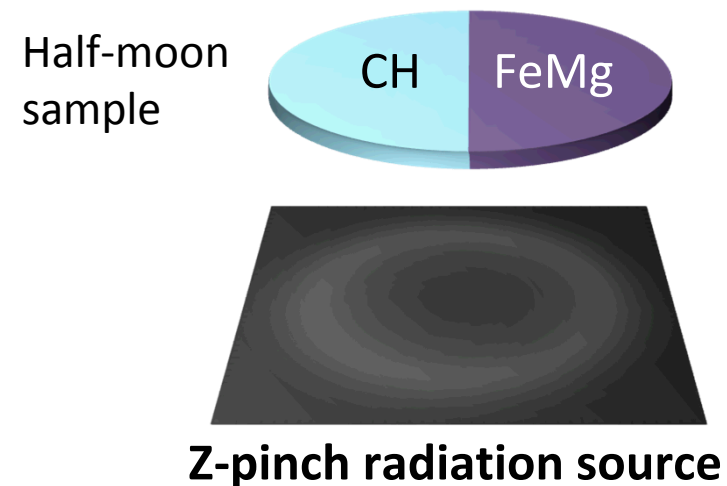


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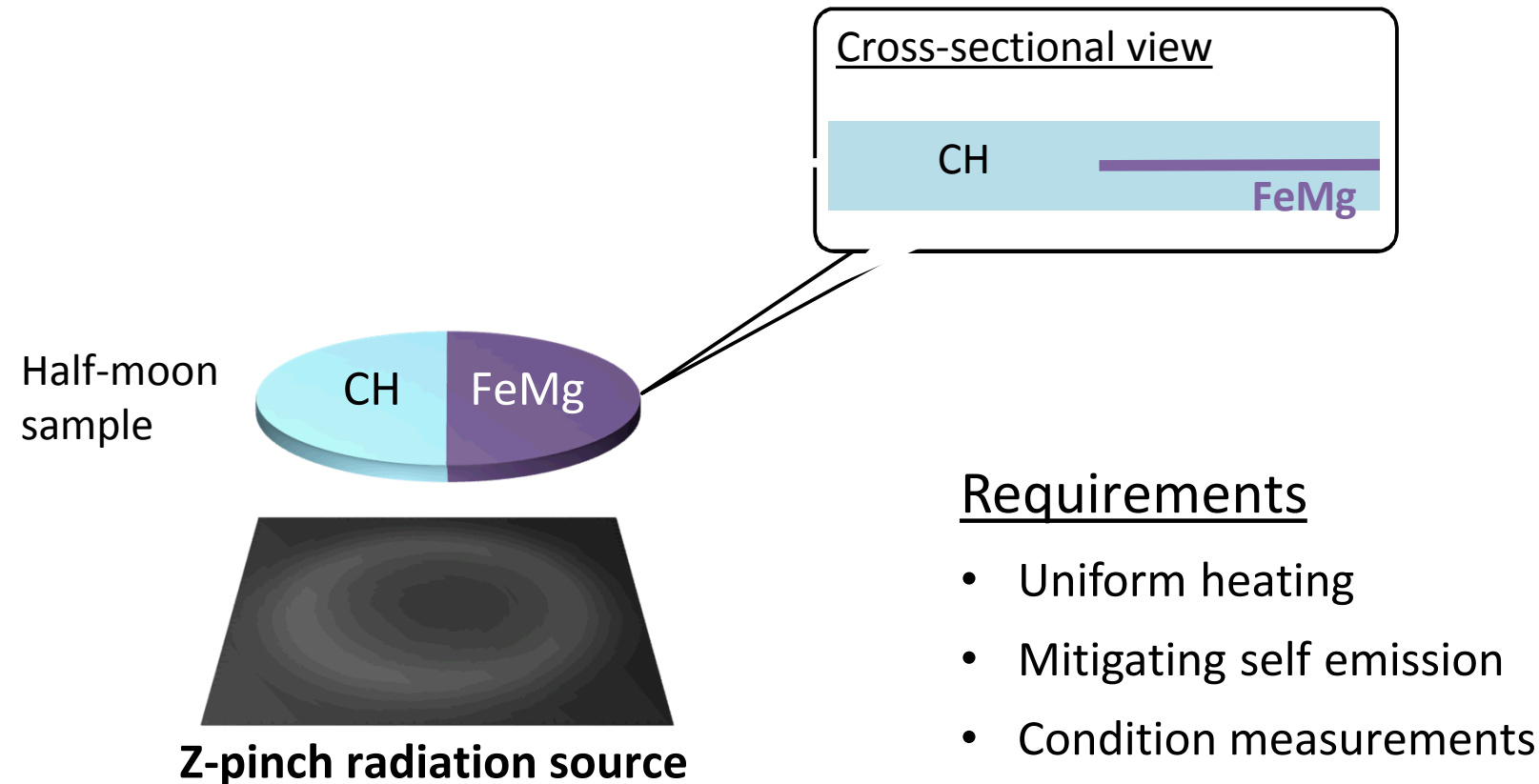
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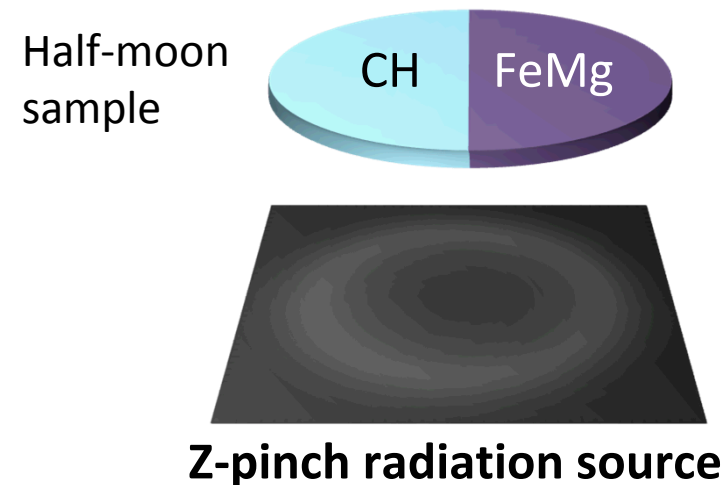
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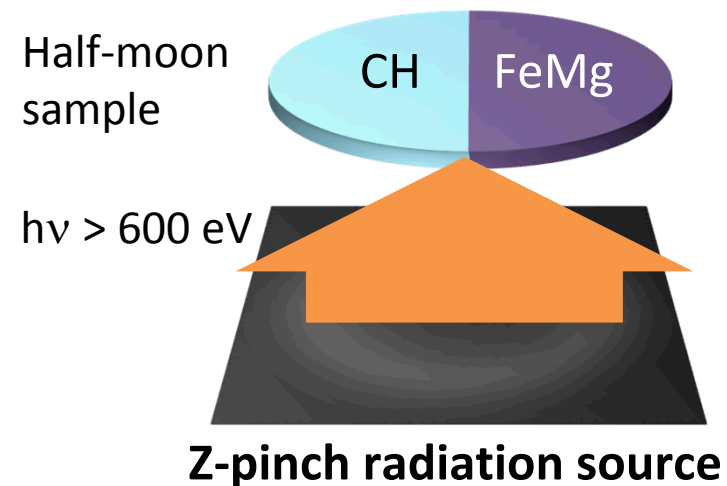
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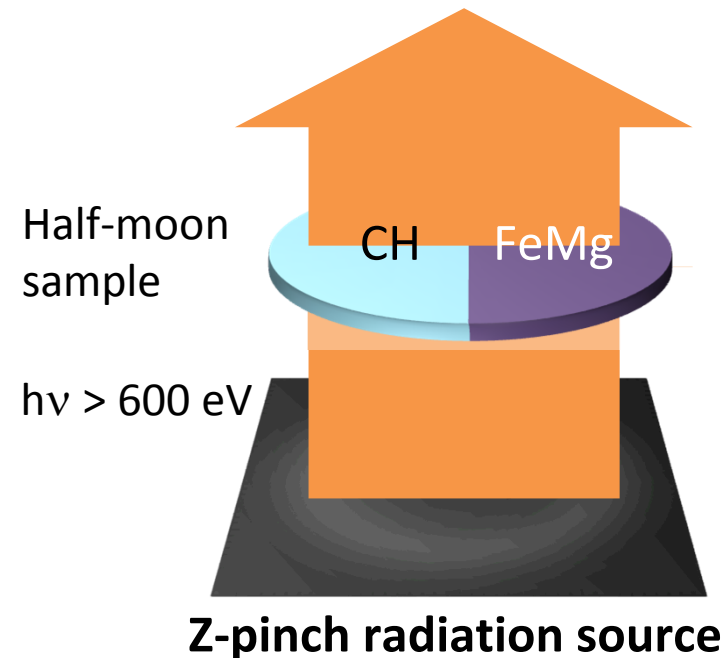
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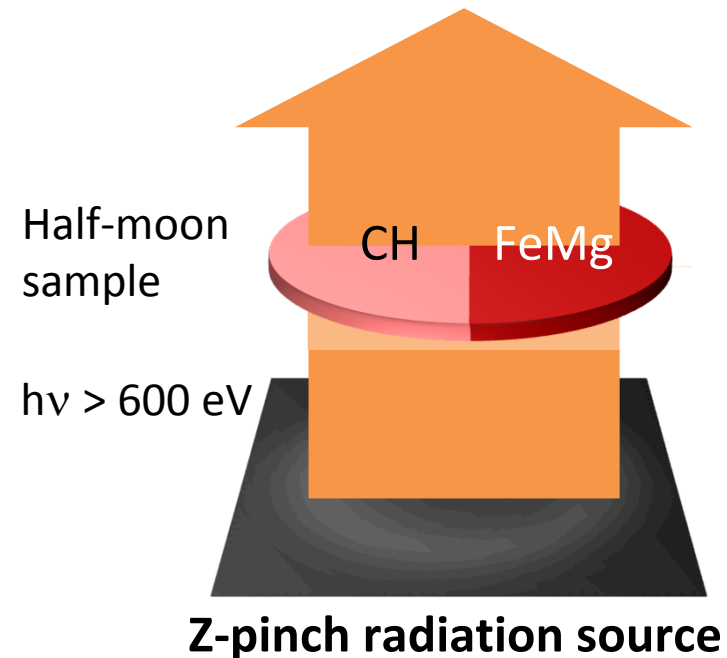
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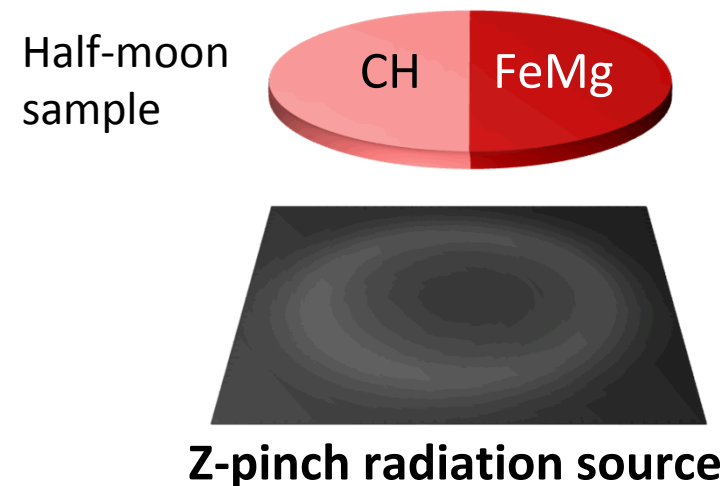
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SNL Z satisfies:

Volumetric heating

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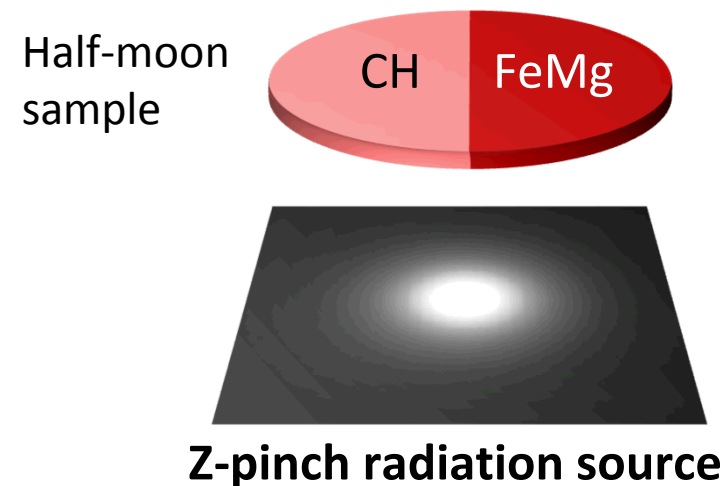
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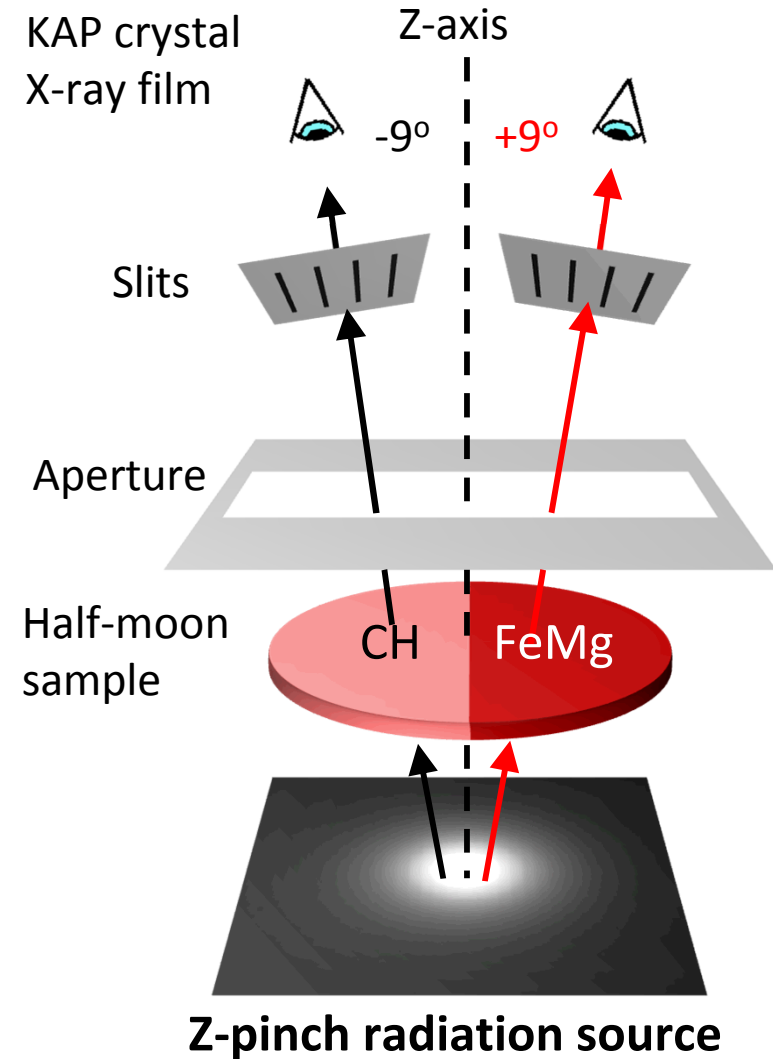
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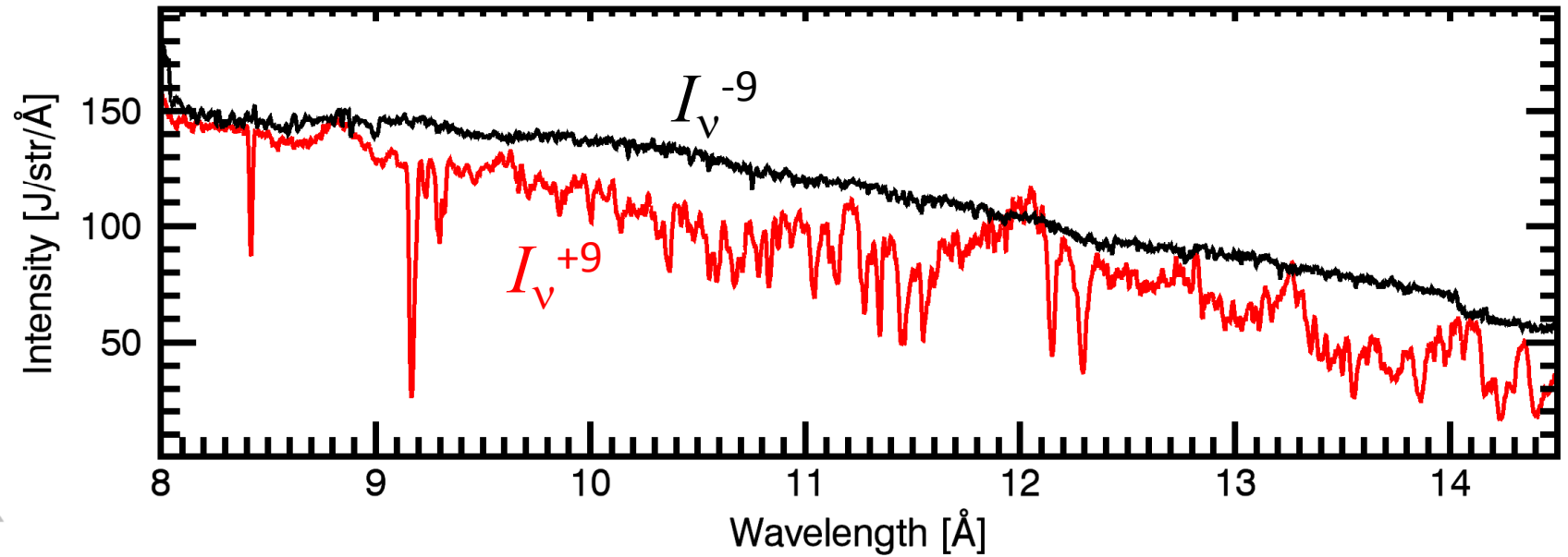
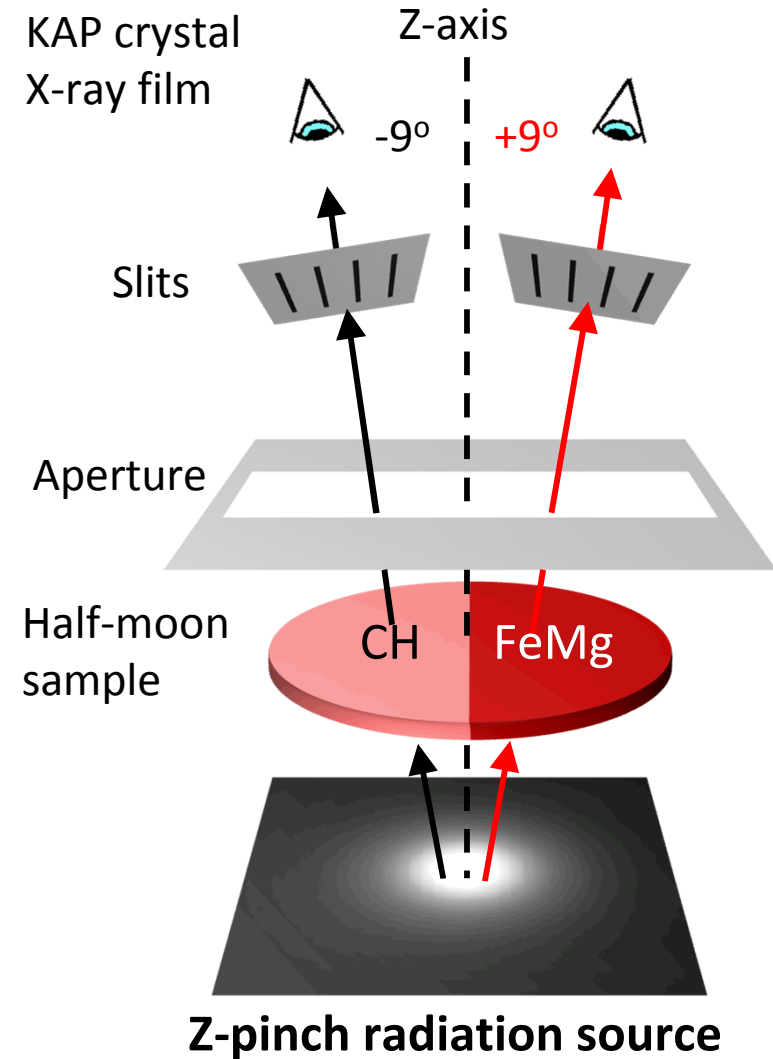
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- 350-eV Planckian backlight

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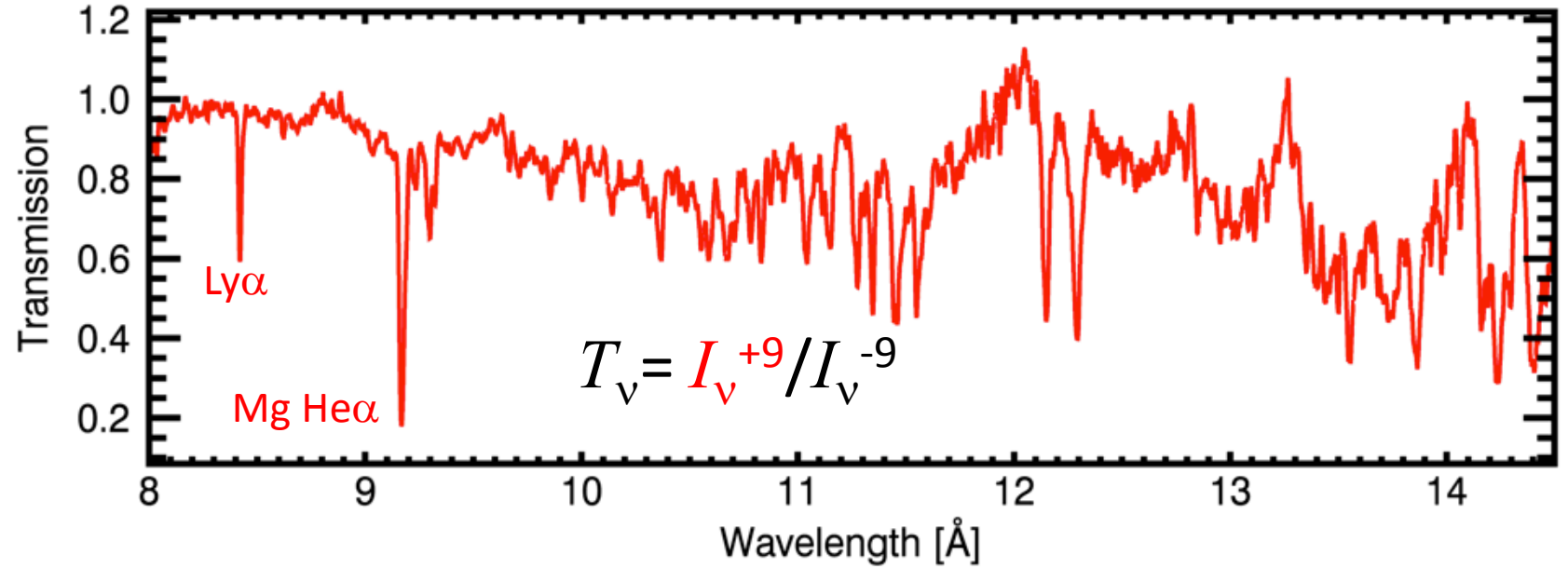
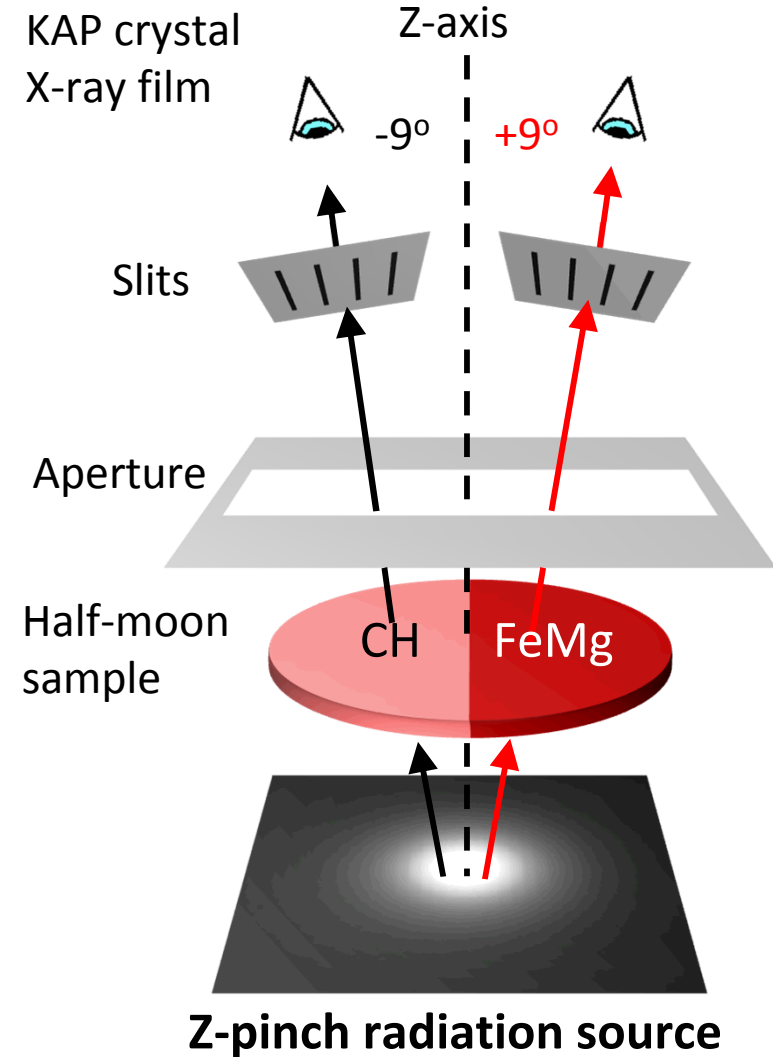
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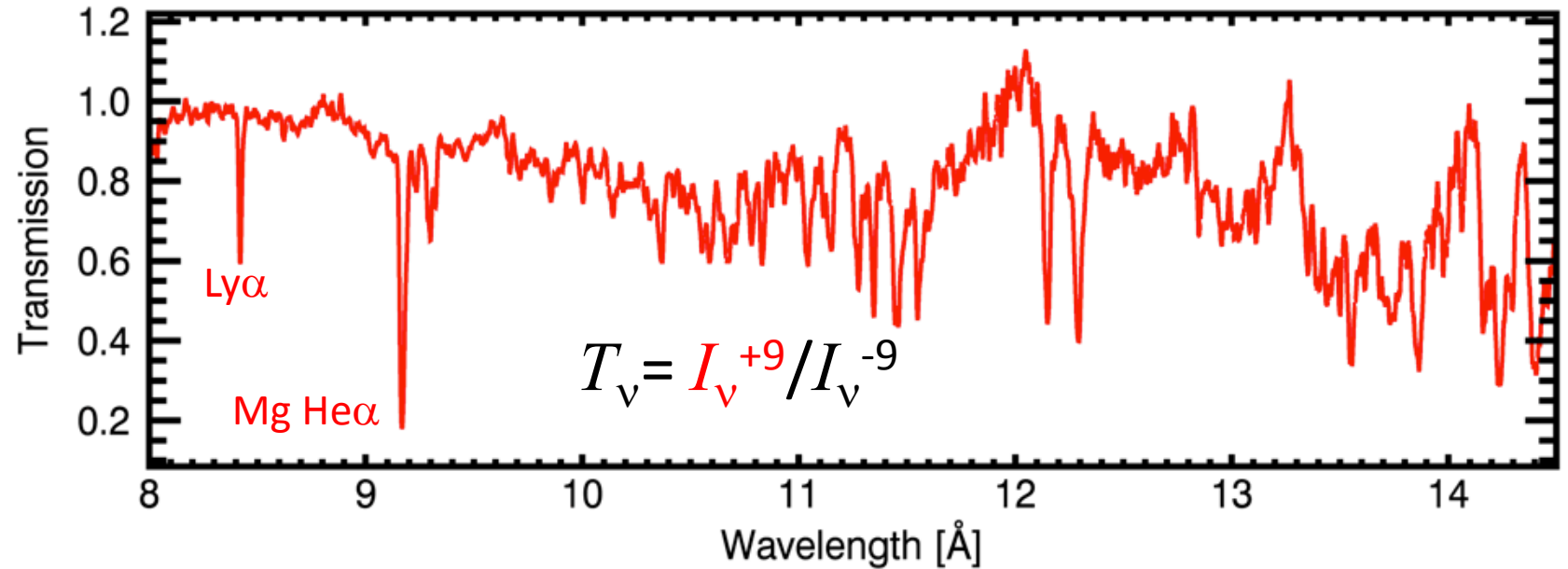
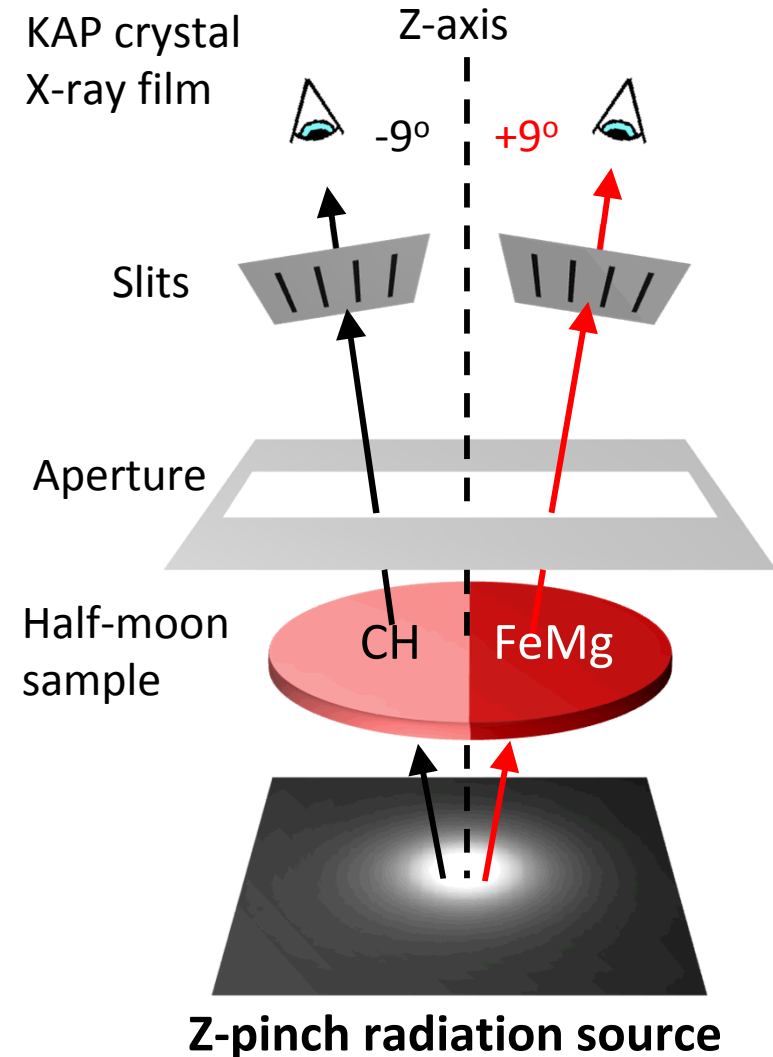
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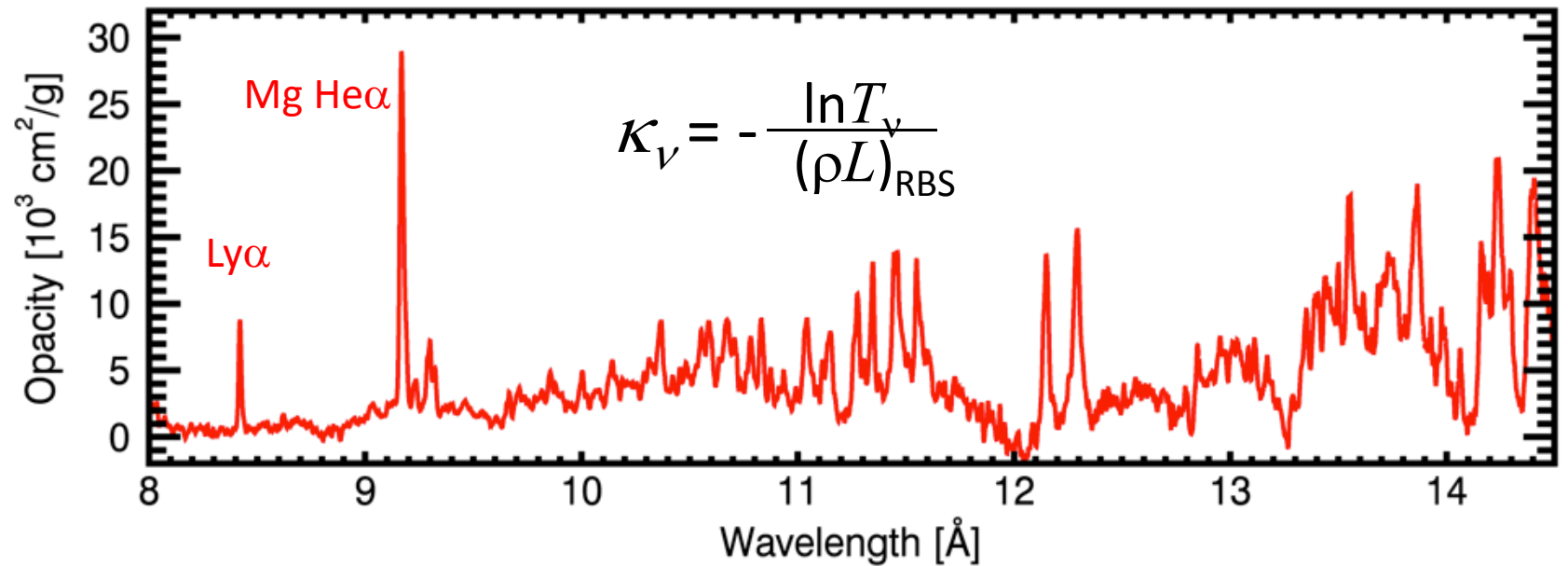
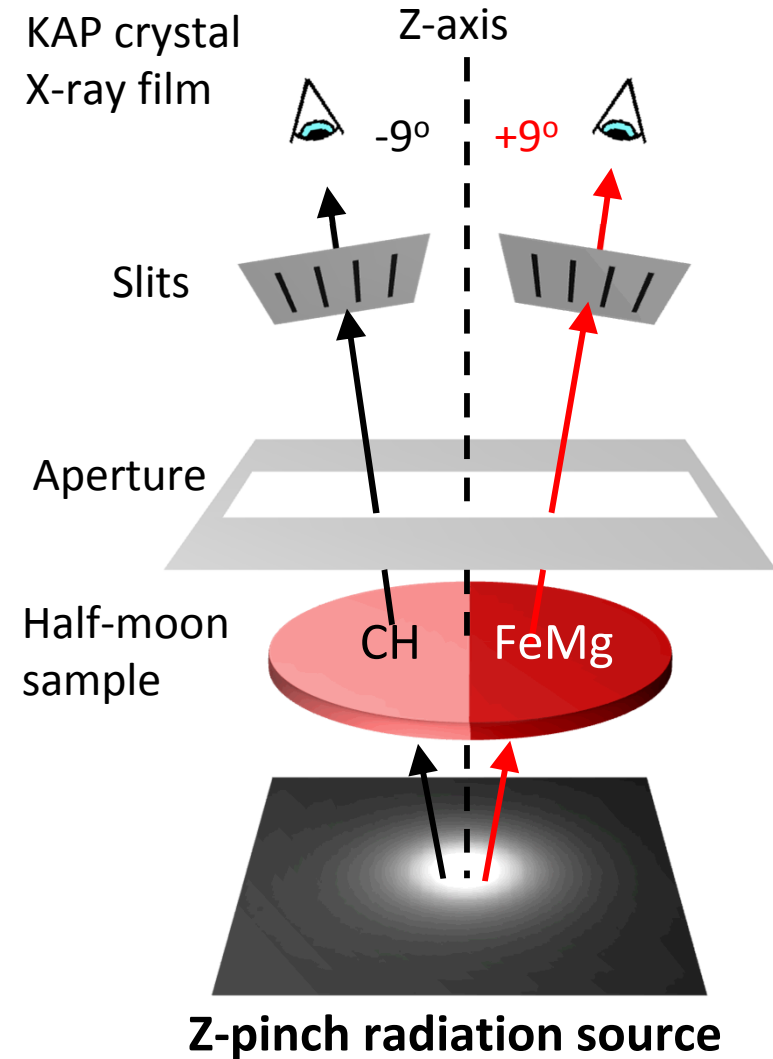
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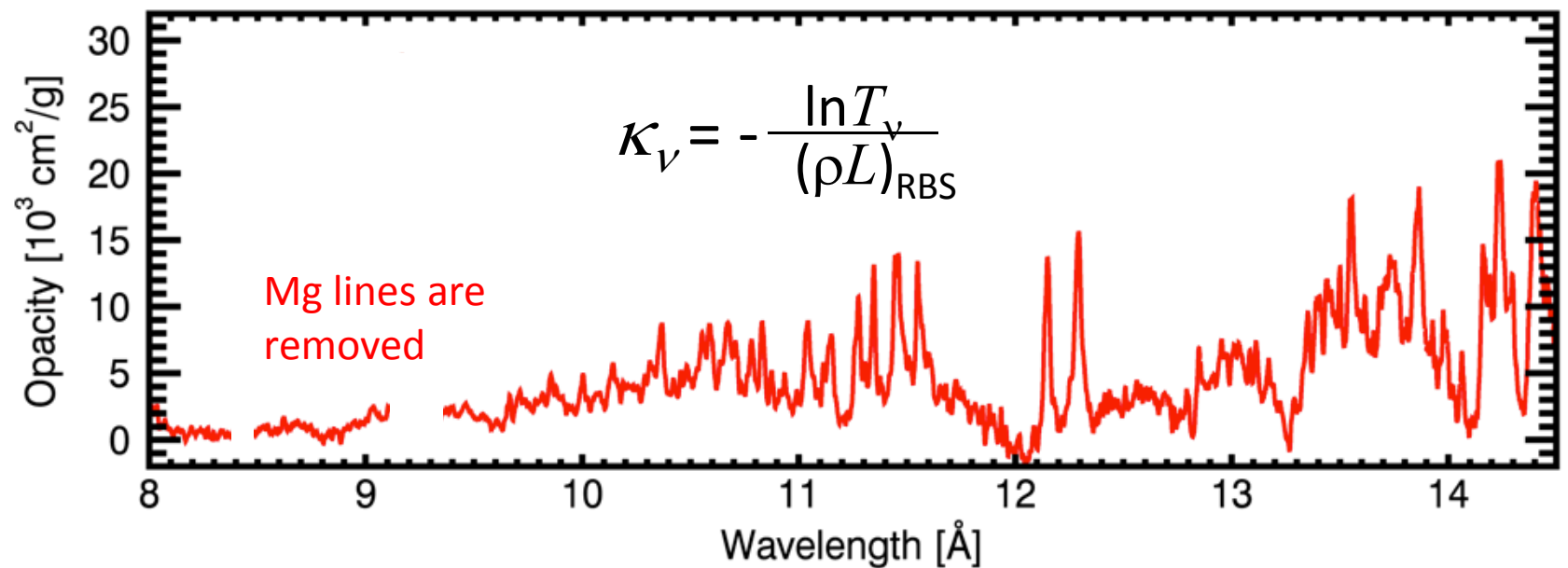
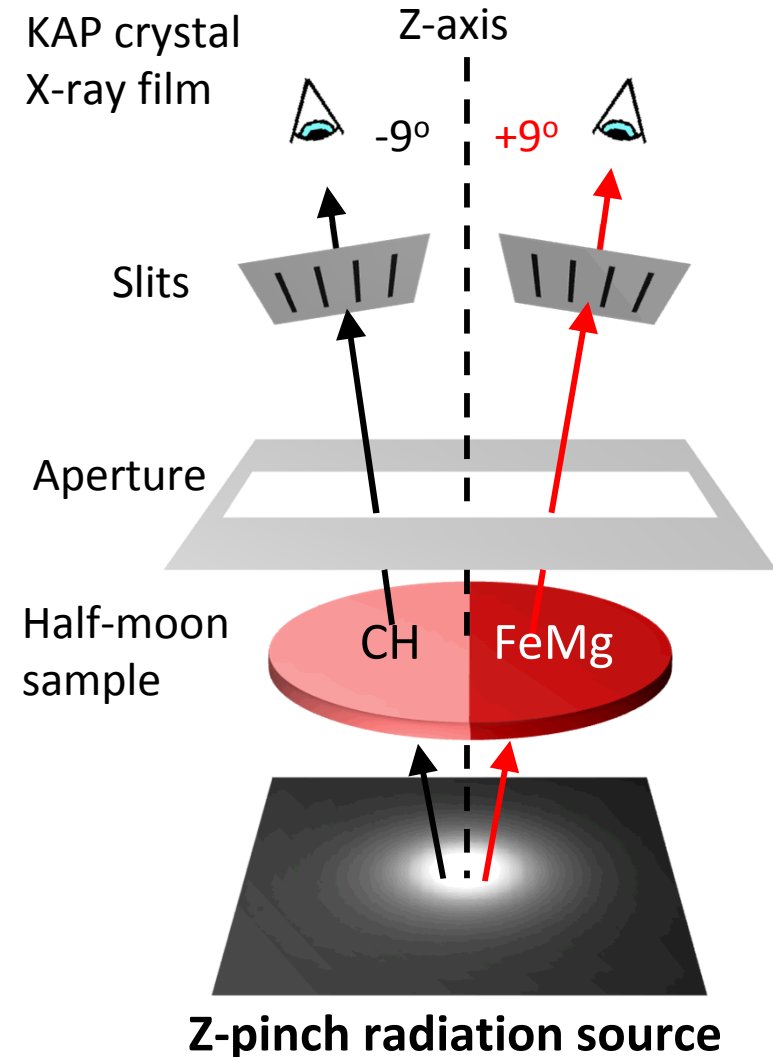
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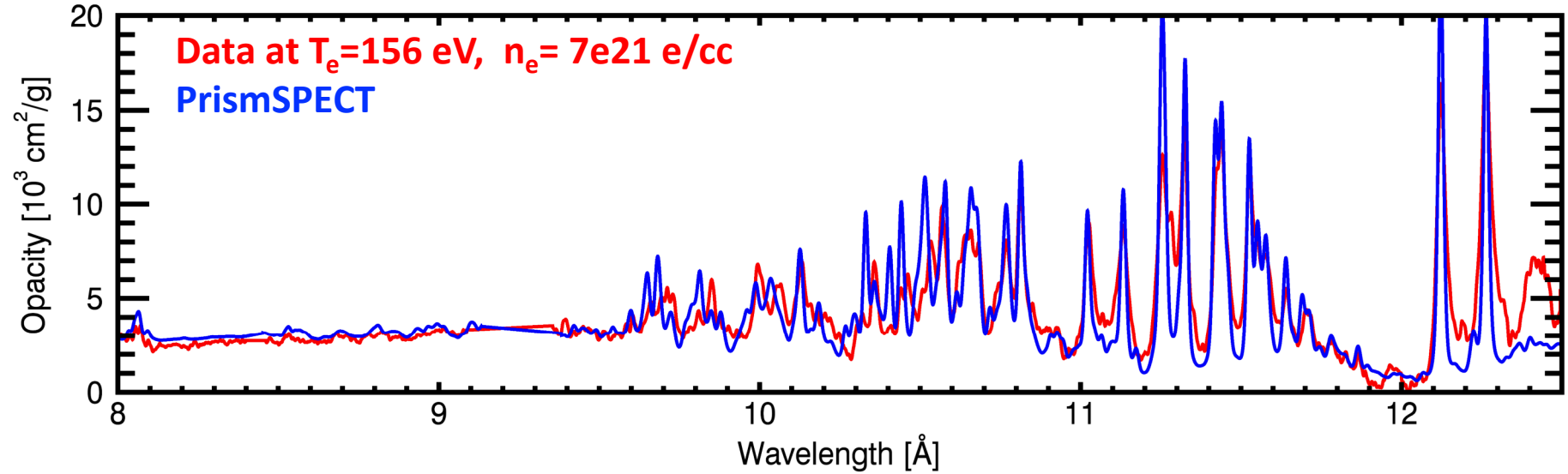
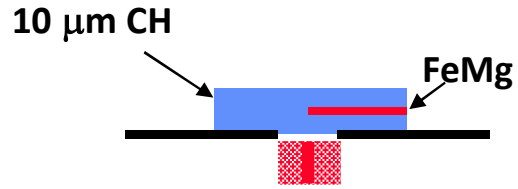
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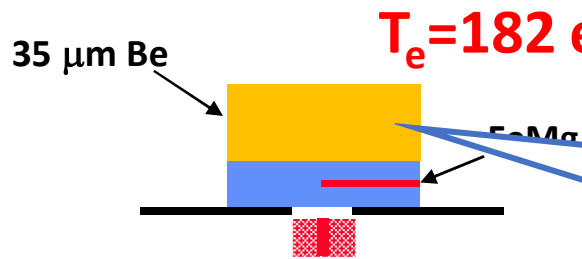
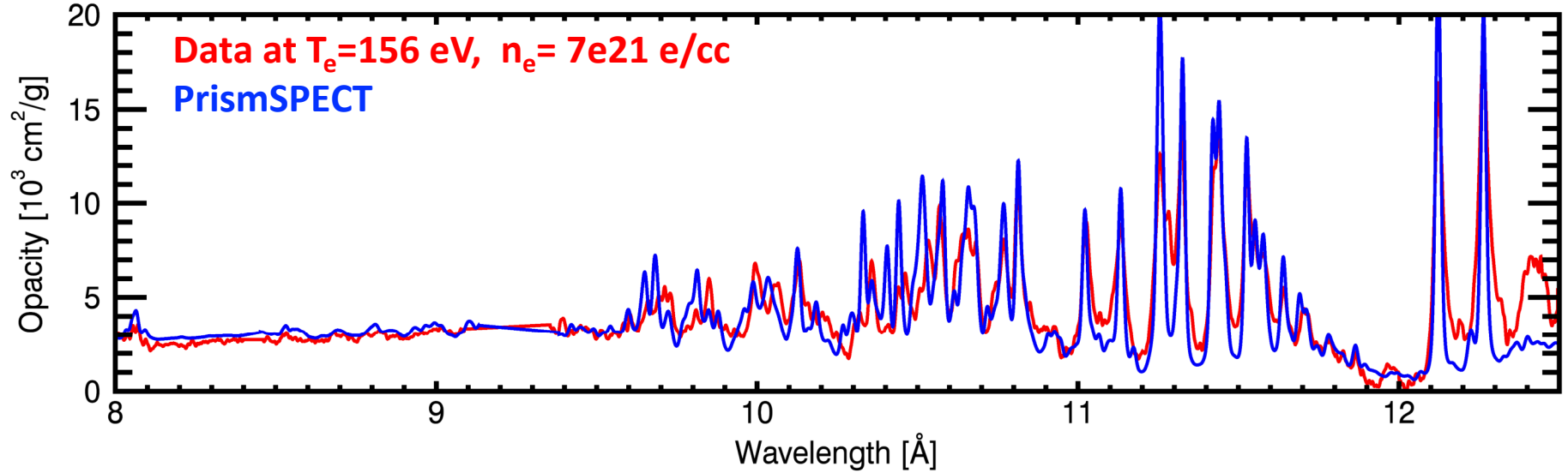
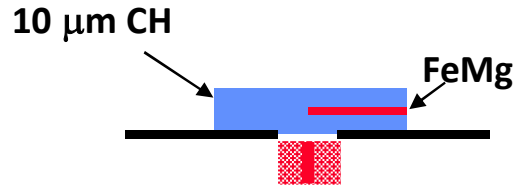
Modeled opacity agrees well with the Z iron data at lower temperature T_e and density n_e than solar interior

Convection Zone Base: $T_e=185$ eV, $n_e = 90e21$ e/cc



Extra mass on the top helps to increase both T_e and n_e

Convection Zone Base: $T_e=185$ eV, $n_e = 90e21$ e/cc



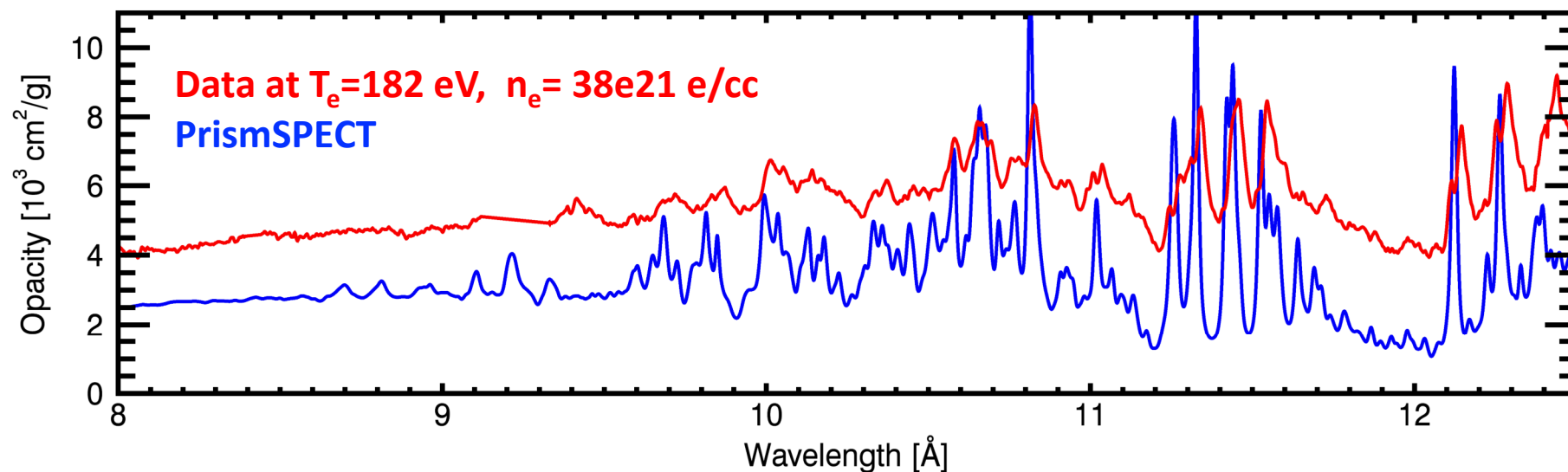
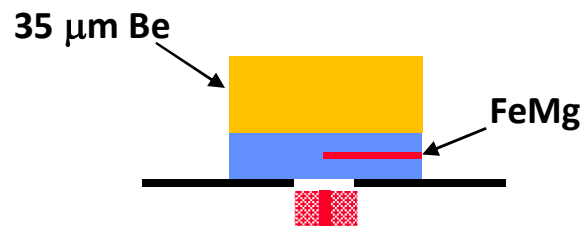
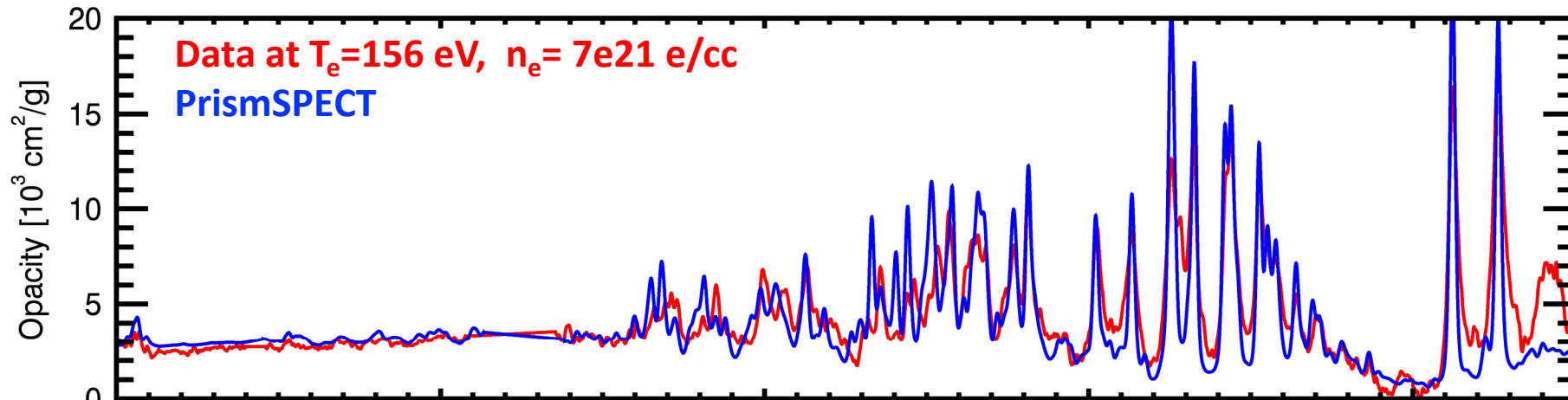
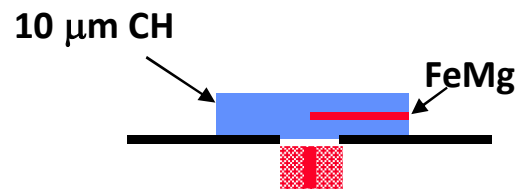
$T_e=182$ eV, $n_e=38e21$ e/cc

Slows down sample expansion \rightarrow Higher n_e

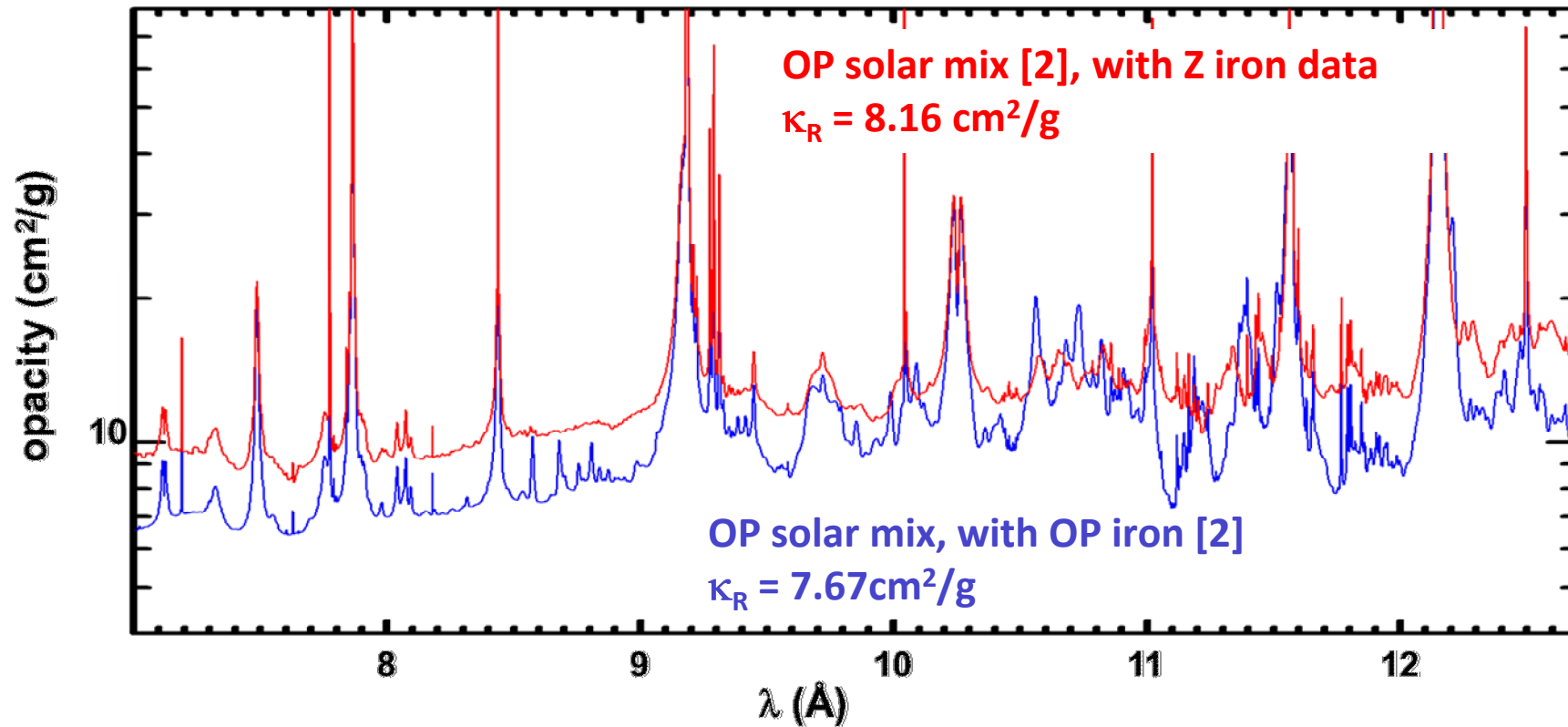
Slows down upward sample motion \rightarrow Higher T_e

Modeled opacity shows disturbing disagreement as T_e and n_e approach to solar interior conditions

Convection Zone Base: $T_e=185$ eV, $n_e = 90e21$ e/cc

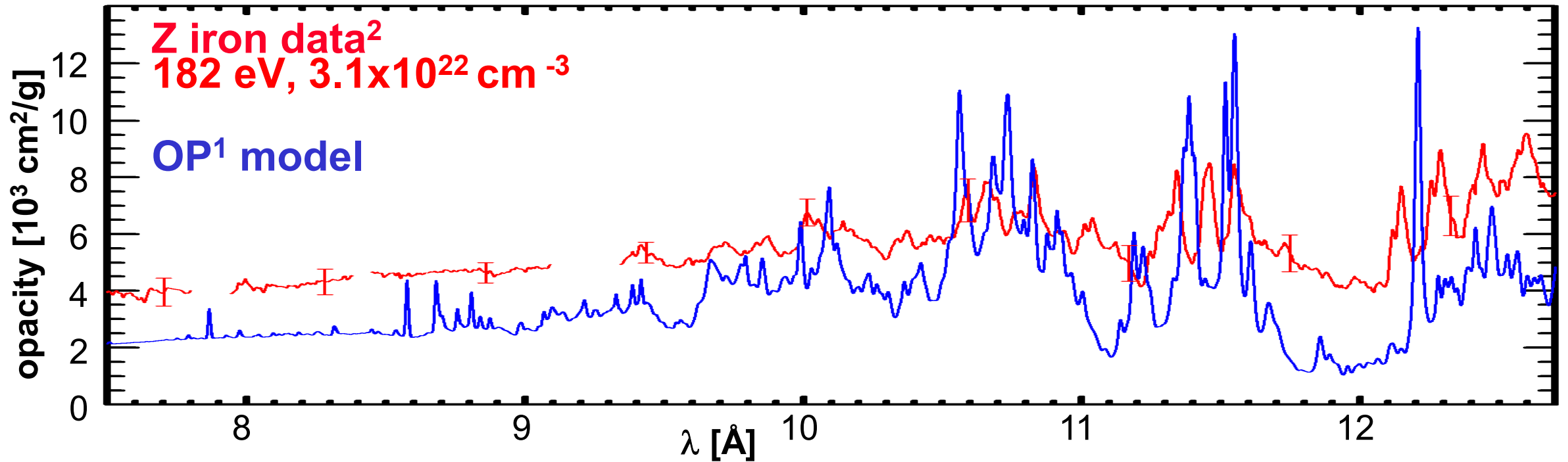


A solar mixture plasma using Z iron data has $\sim 7\%$ higher Rosseland mean opacity than using OP iron^[1]



- A 7% Rosseland increase partially resolves the solar problem
- But the measured iron opacity by itself cannot account for the entire discrepancy
- We need to extend our measurement in spectral range, elements, and conditions

Reported opacity discrepancy is disturbing and deserves further scrutiny



Inaccuracy in theory?
Flaws in experiment?

No systematic error has been found that explains the model-data discrepancies

Random error:

→ Average over many spectra from multiple experiments

Systematic error evaluation:

→ Evaluated with experiments and simulations

- Plasma condition diagnostic errors
- Sample areal density errors
- Transmission errors
- Spatial non-uniformities
- Temporal non-uniformities
- Departures from LTE
- Fe self emission
- Tamper self emission
- Extraneous background
- Sample contamination
- Tamper transmission difference

} Either increase or decrease

} Artificially decrease measured opacity

} Artificially increase measured opacity

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Condition diagnostics uncertainty:

- Nagayama et al, Phys Plasma (2014)
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Rest supported by various measurements

Calculated Fe opacity at solar interior condition disagrees with data; Various investigations provide clues for the discrepancy

- We found 30–400% disagreement between modeled and measured Fe opacity at solar interior conditions

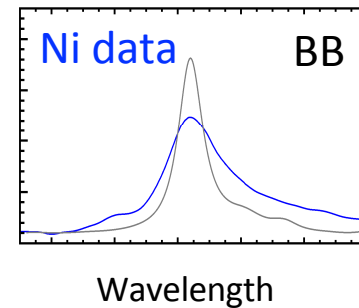
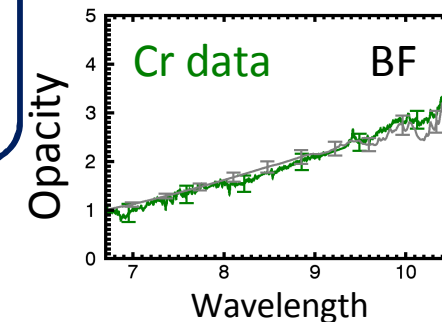
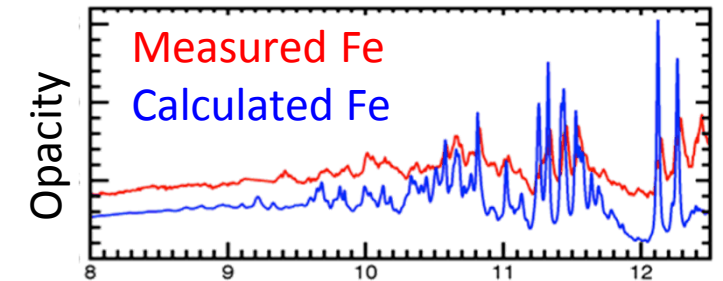
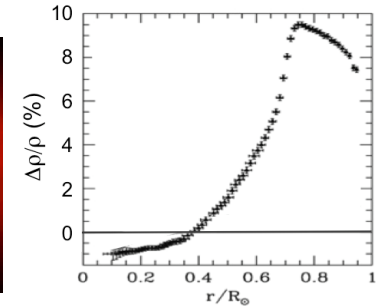
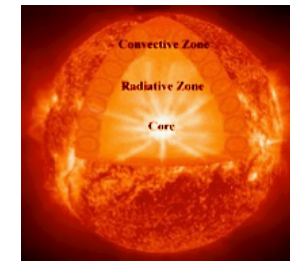
→ Partially resolves solar problem, but the source of discrepancy needs to be identified

- Cr, Fe, and Ni opacities measured at multiple electron temperatures (T_e) and electron densities (n_e)

- Opacity valley disagreement found on Cr and Fe, but not Ni
- Calculated line-broadening is too narrow
- Element dependence on bound-free (BF) agreement is puzzling

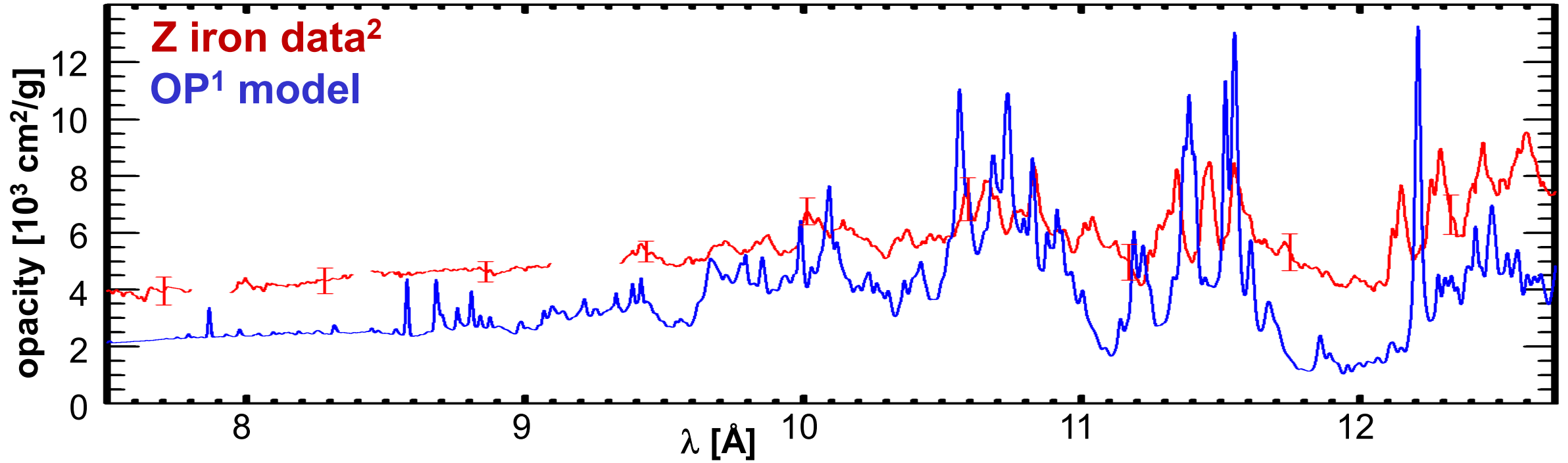
- Missing physics in opacity theory:

- Two-photon opacity may be important



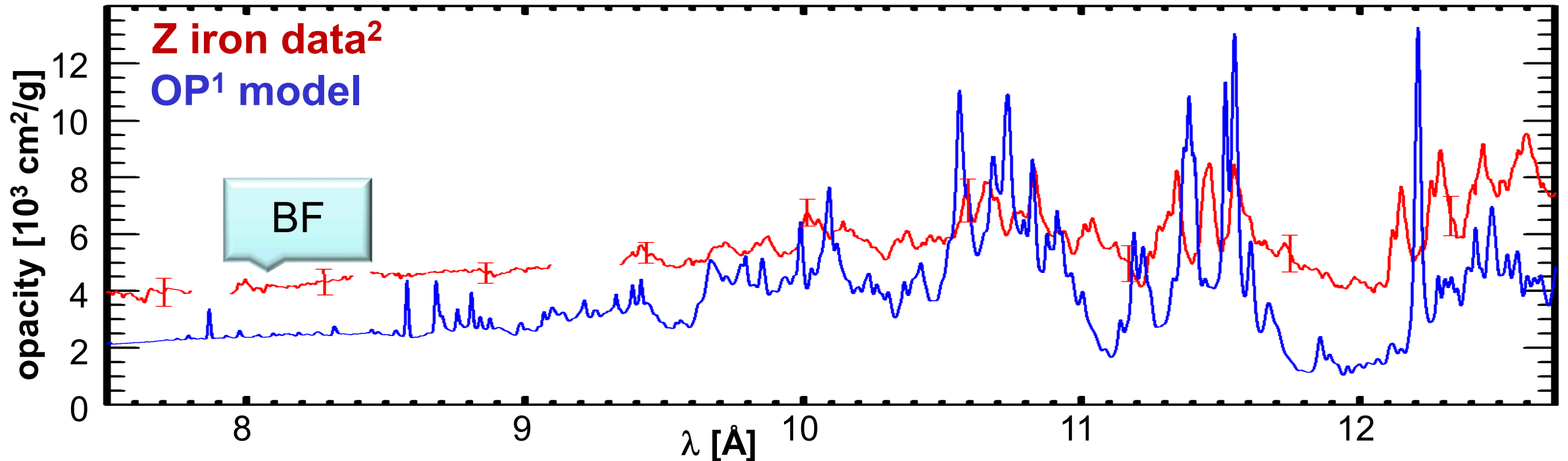
Working towards completing the systematic study to resolve the discrepancy

Opacity disagreement is disturbing and most likely caused by multiple sources



*ATOMIC, OPAS, SCO-RCG, SCRAM, and TOPAZ show much better agreement in line locations

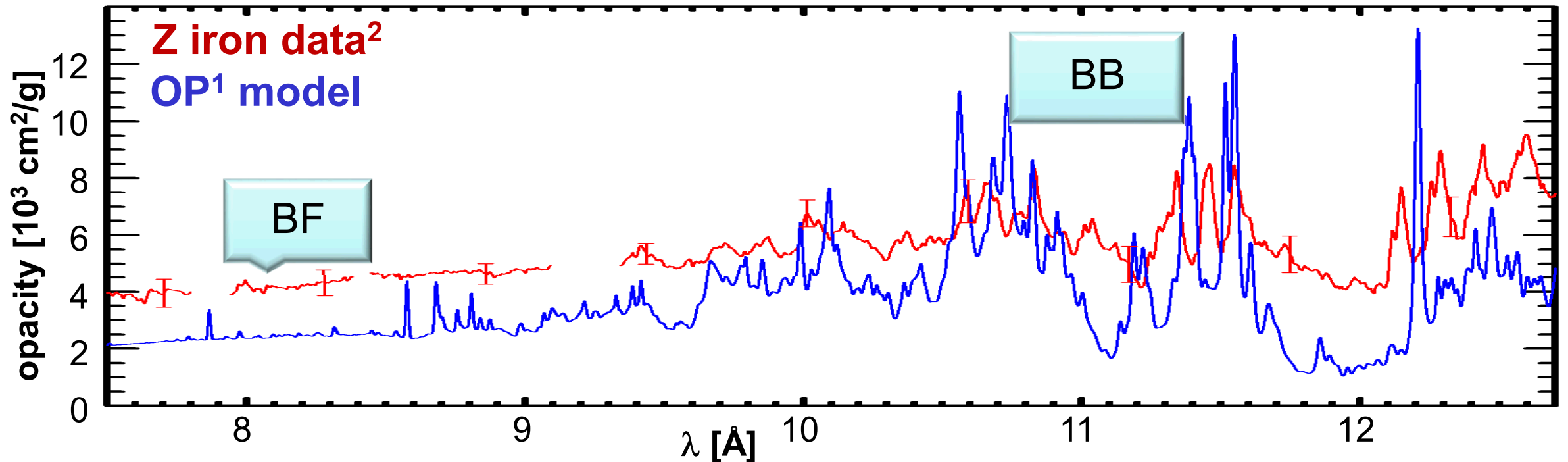
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BF: bound-free/quasi-continuum:

- Bound-free (b-f) cross-section?
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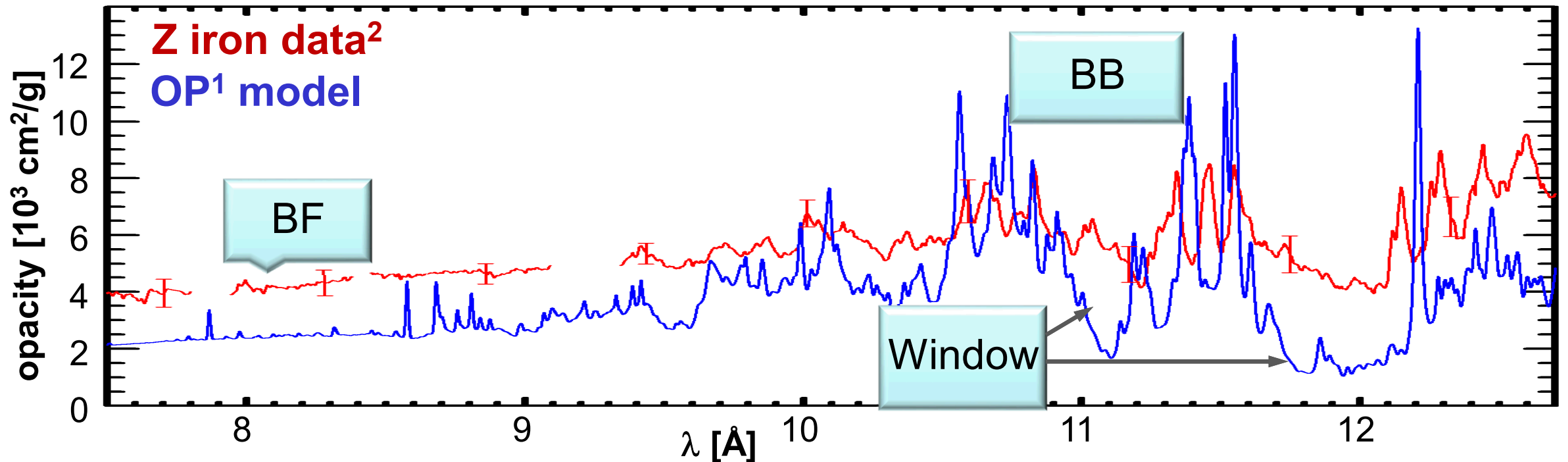
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BB: bound-bound line features*

- Line location → Atomic structure
- Strength → Oscillator strength?
Population?
- Line width → Line shape?
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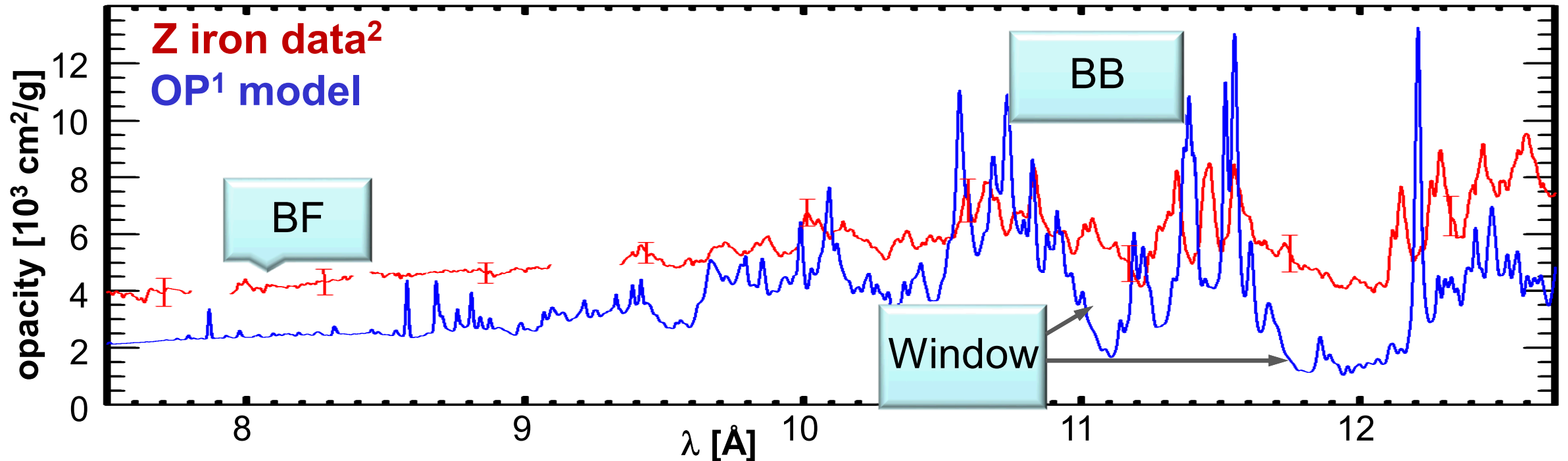
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Questioning theory comes down to **atomic data**, population kinetics, density effects, or missing physics



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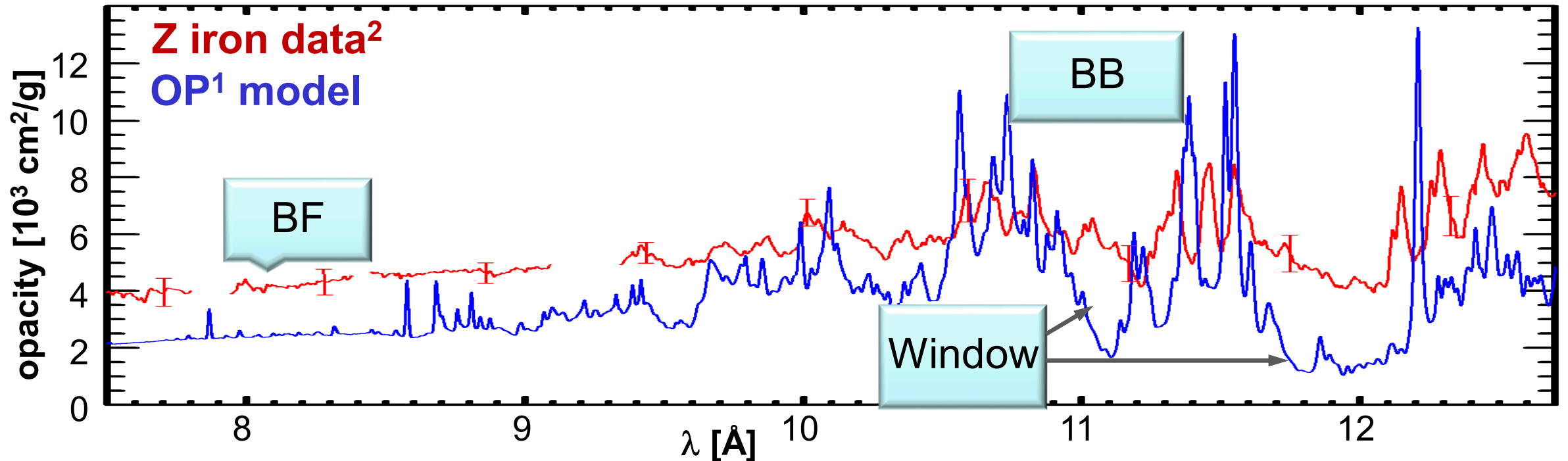
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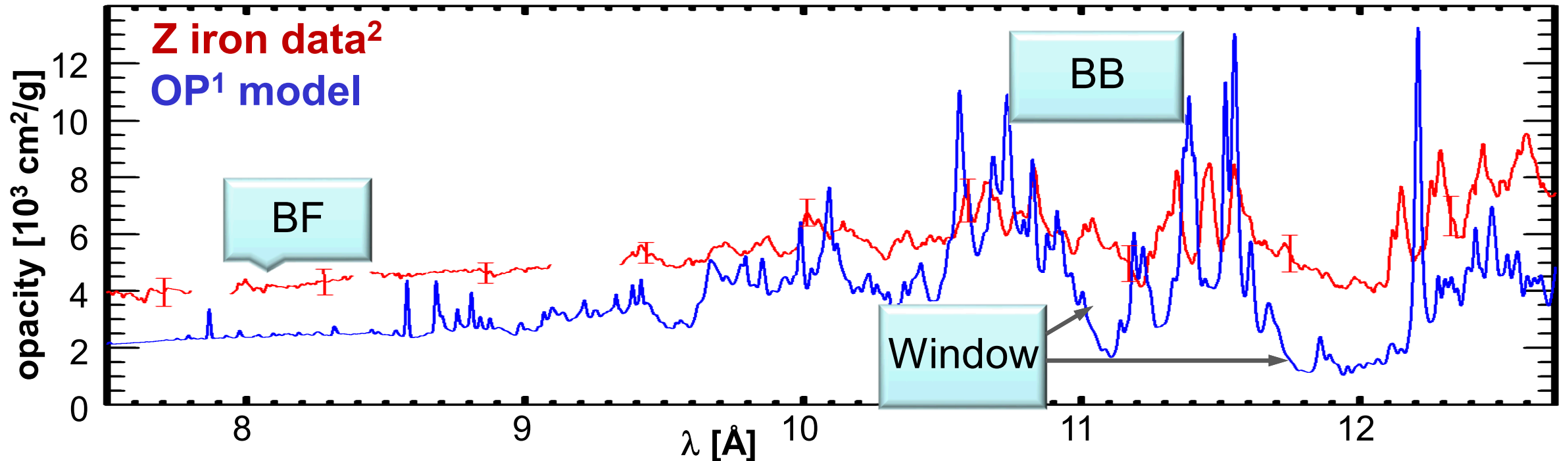
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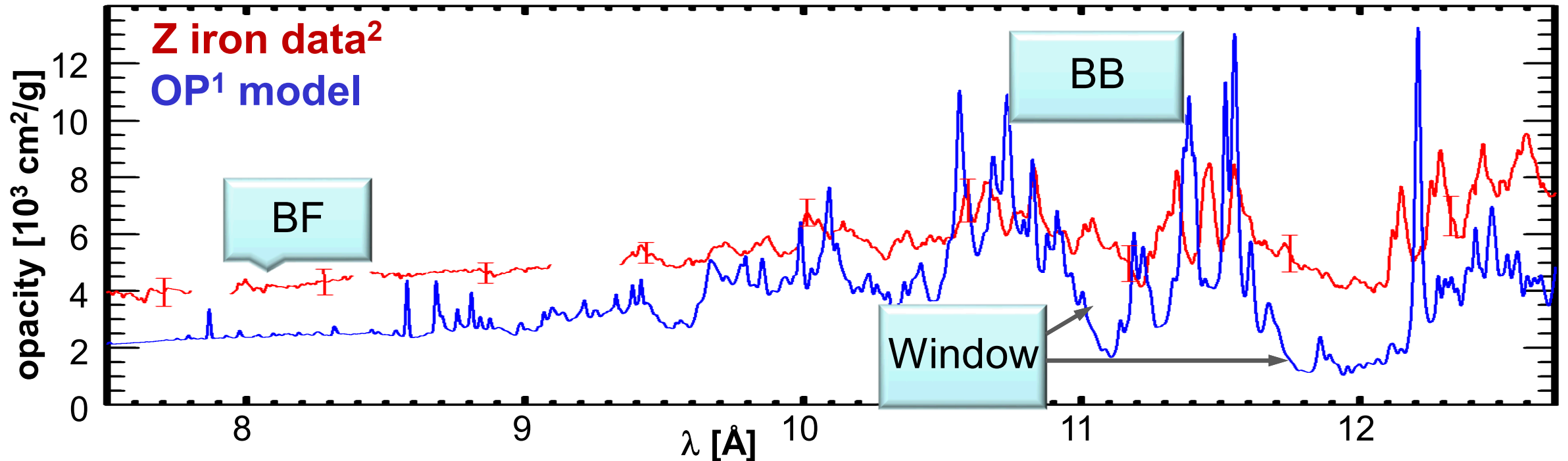
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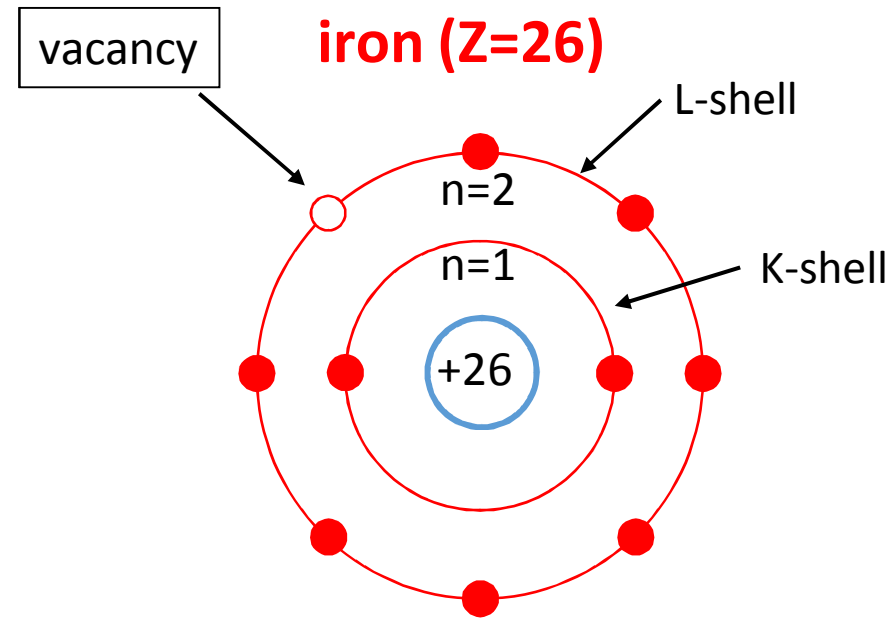
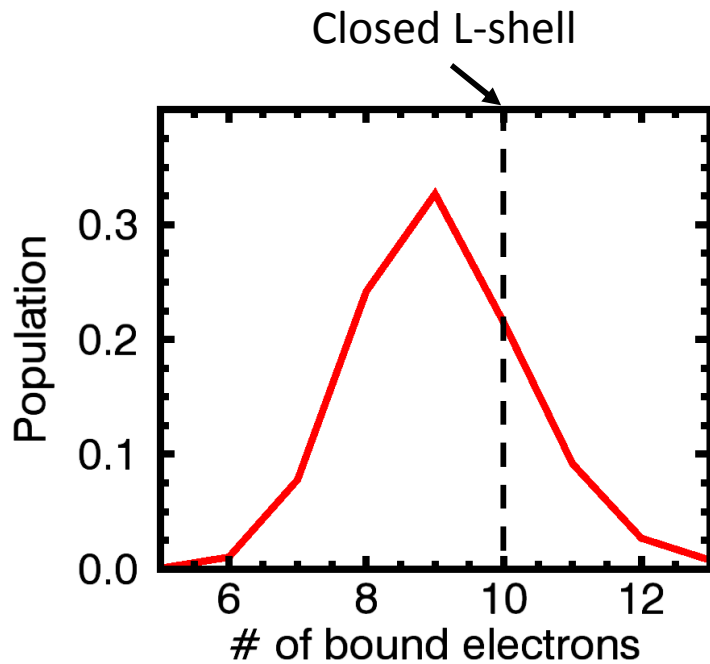
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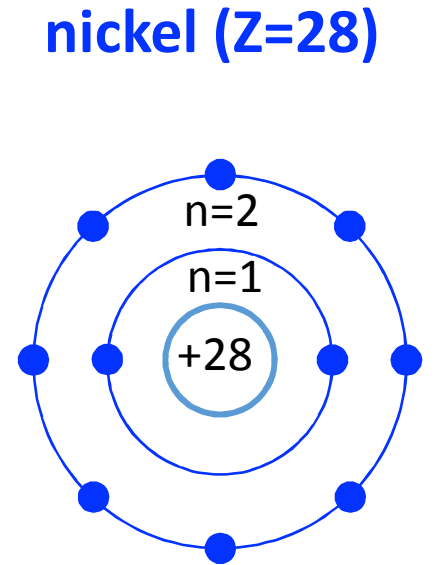
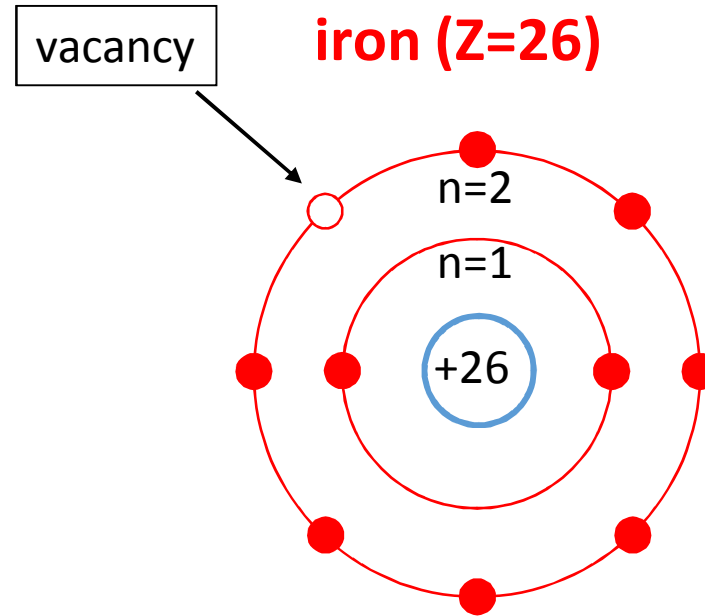
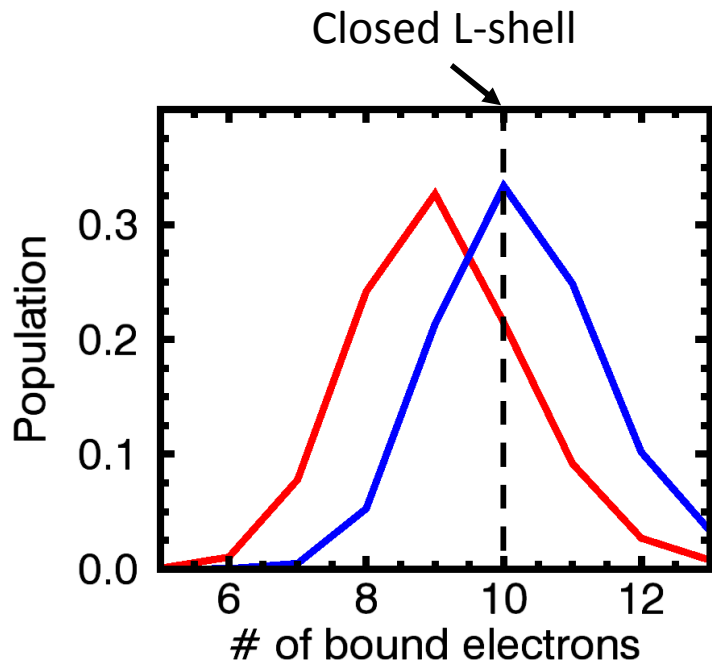
The same platform drives different elements to similar conditions, leading to different charge state distributions



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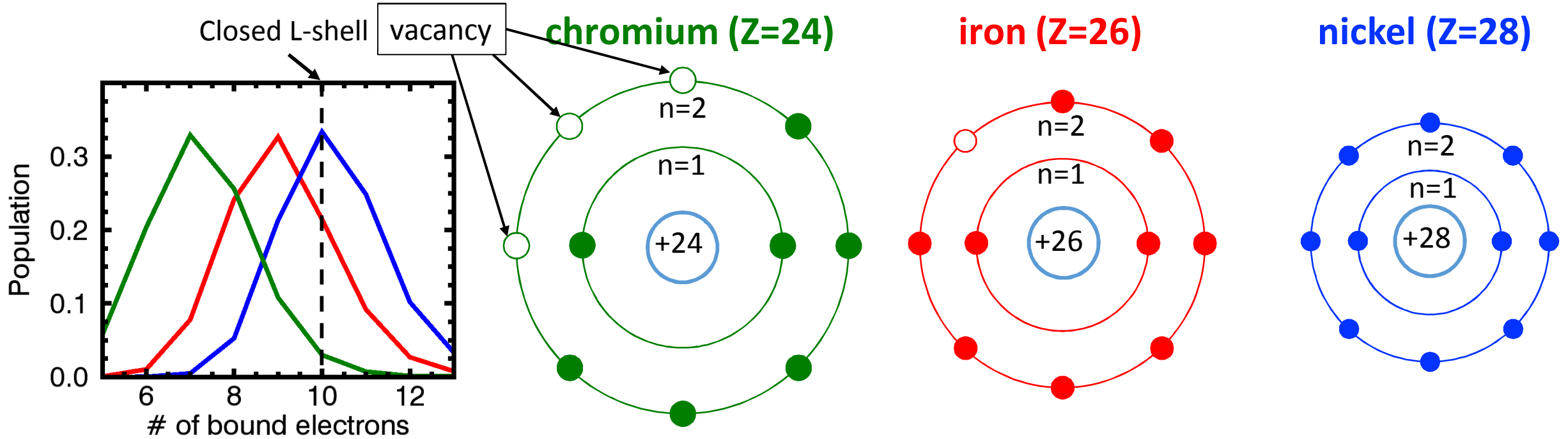
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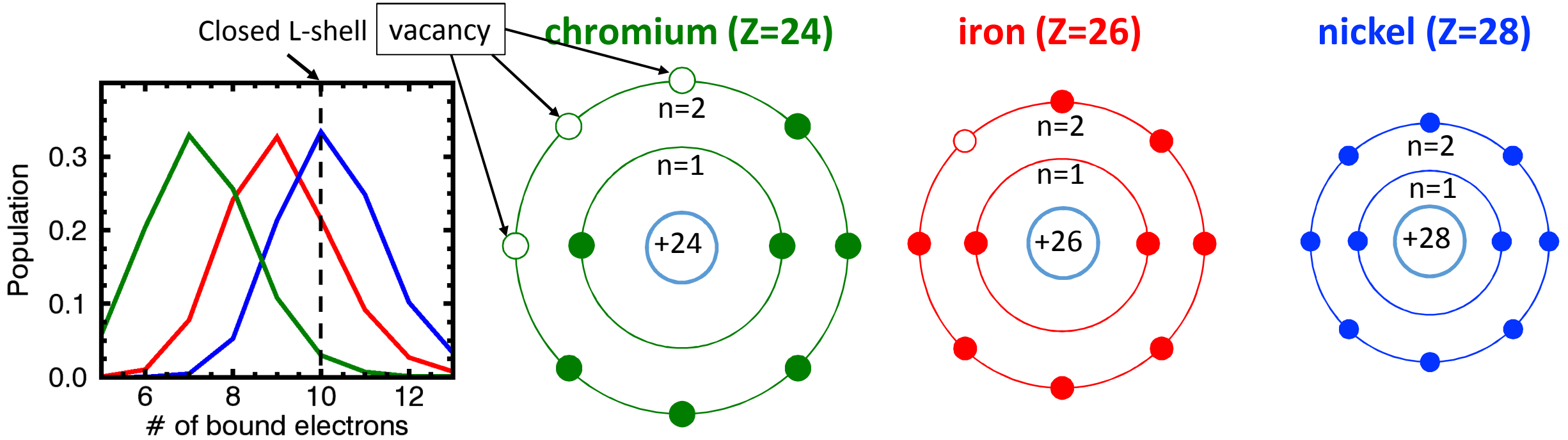
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Experiments with different elements are a rich source of opacity model tests as well as experiment-platform test



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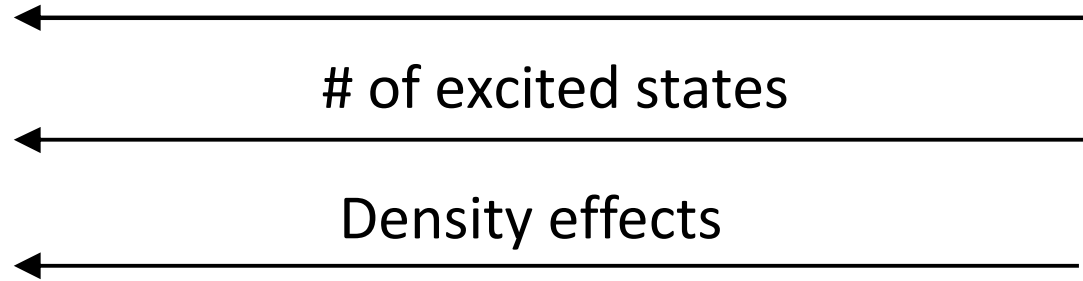
More

L-shell vacancies

of excited states

Density effects

Less



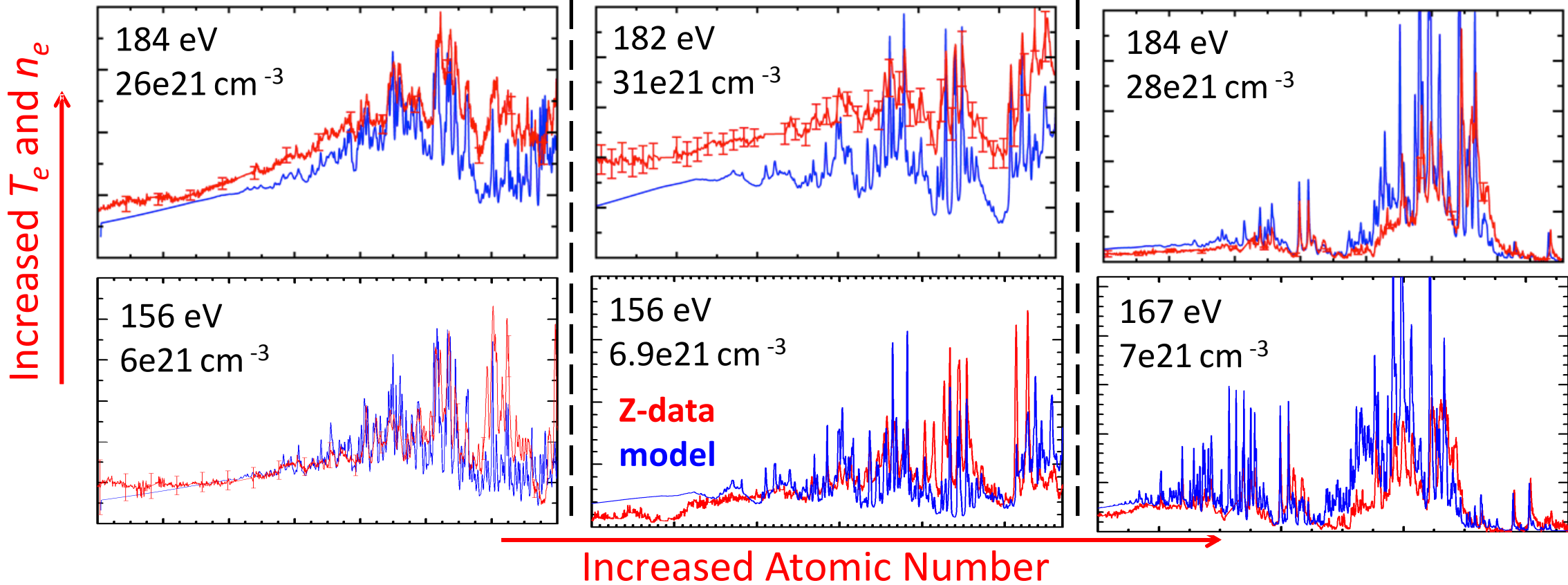
We will untangle the complex opacity issues through precise measurements across a range of T_e , n_e , and Z

fewer L-shell vacancies, smaller # of excited states, less Stark broadening

Chromium (More open L-shell)

Iron (open L-shell)

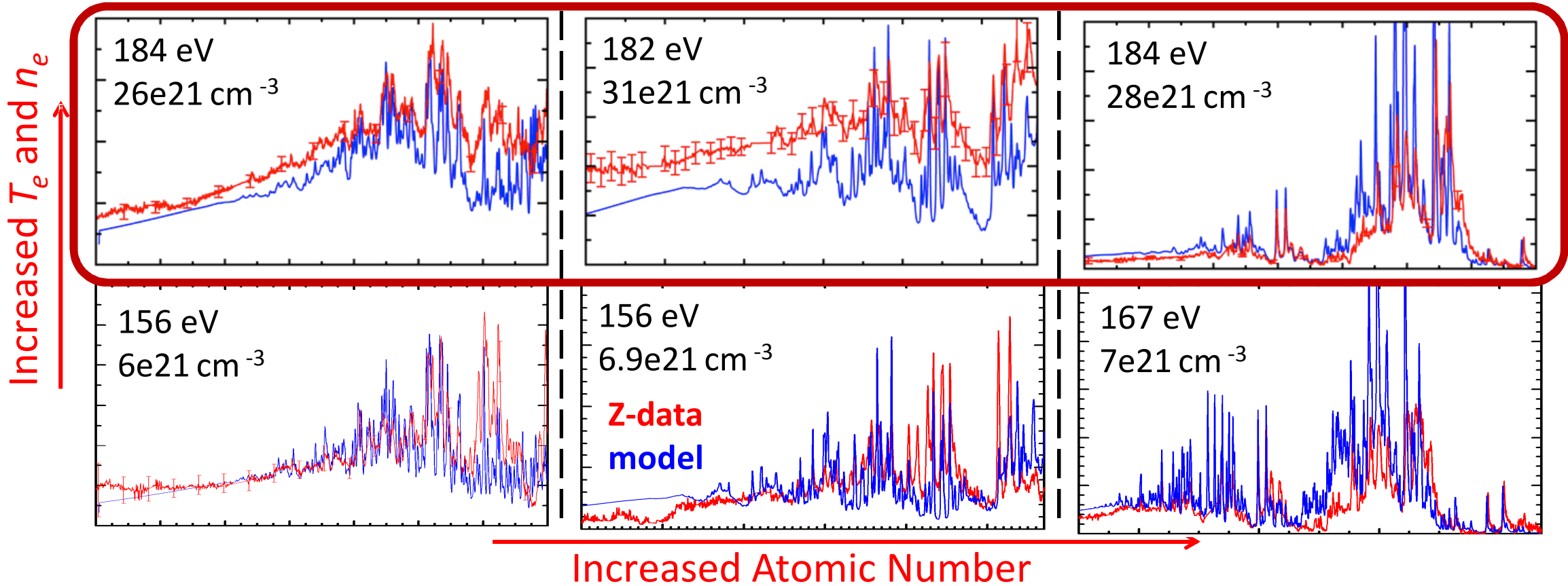
Nickel (closed L-shell)



We will untangle the complex opacity issues through precise measurements across a range of T_e , n_e , and Z

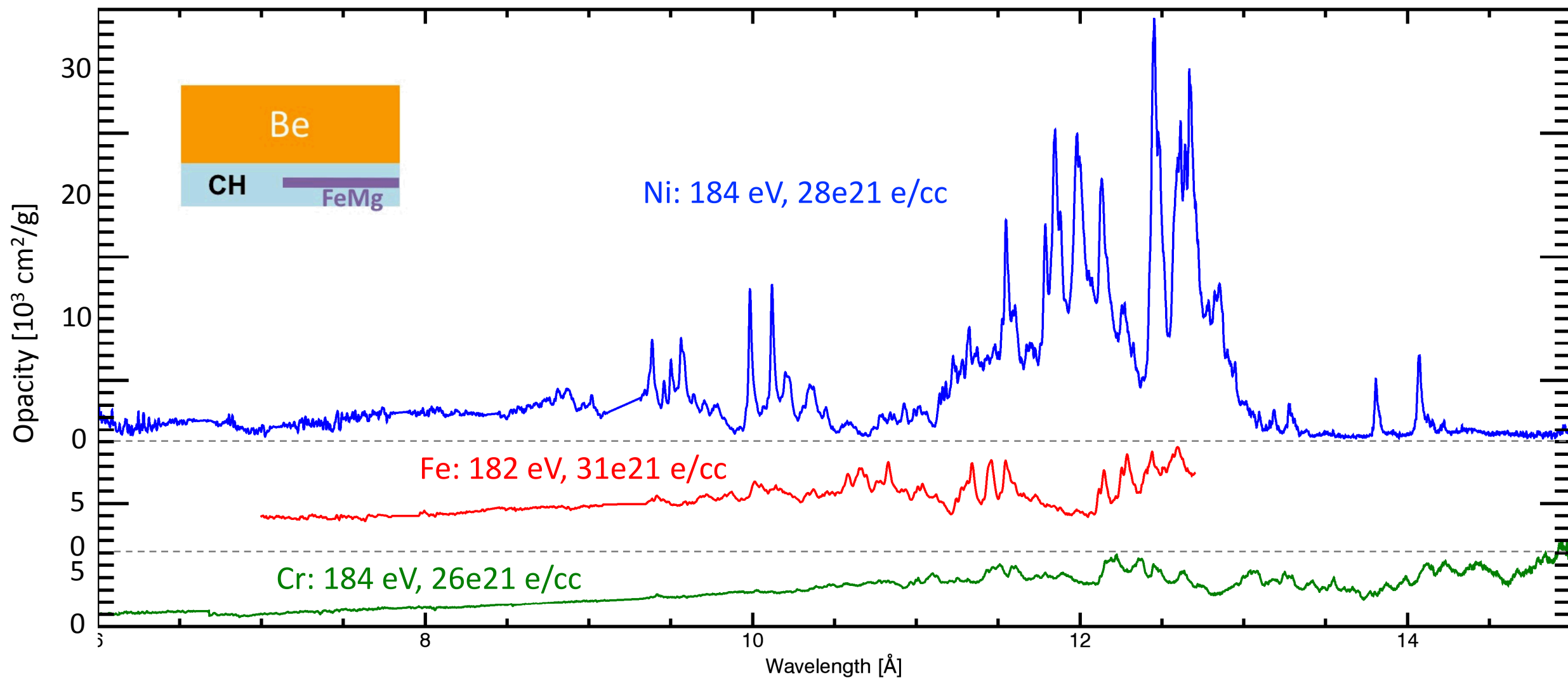
fewer L-shell vacancies, smaller # of excited states, less Stark broadening

Chromium (More open L-shell) Iron (open L-shell) Nickel (closed L-shell)

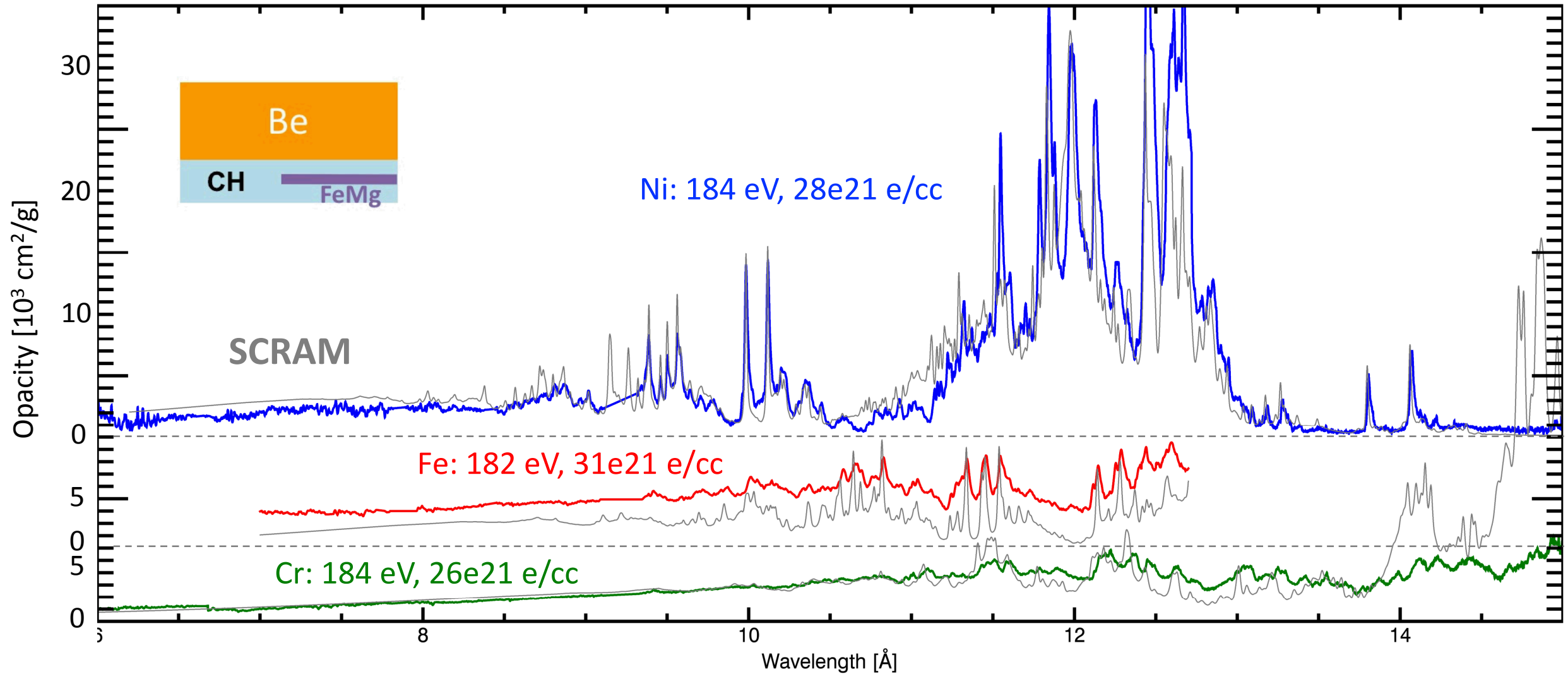


Fe, Cr, and Ni opacities are measured with the same platform:

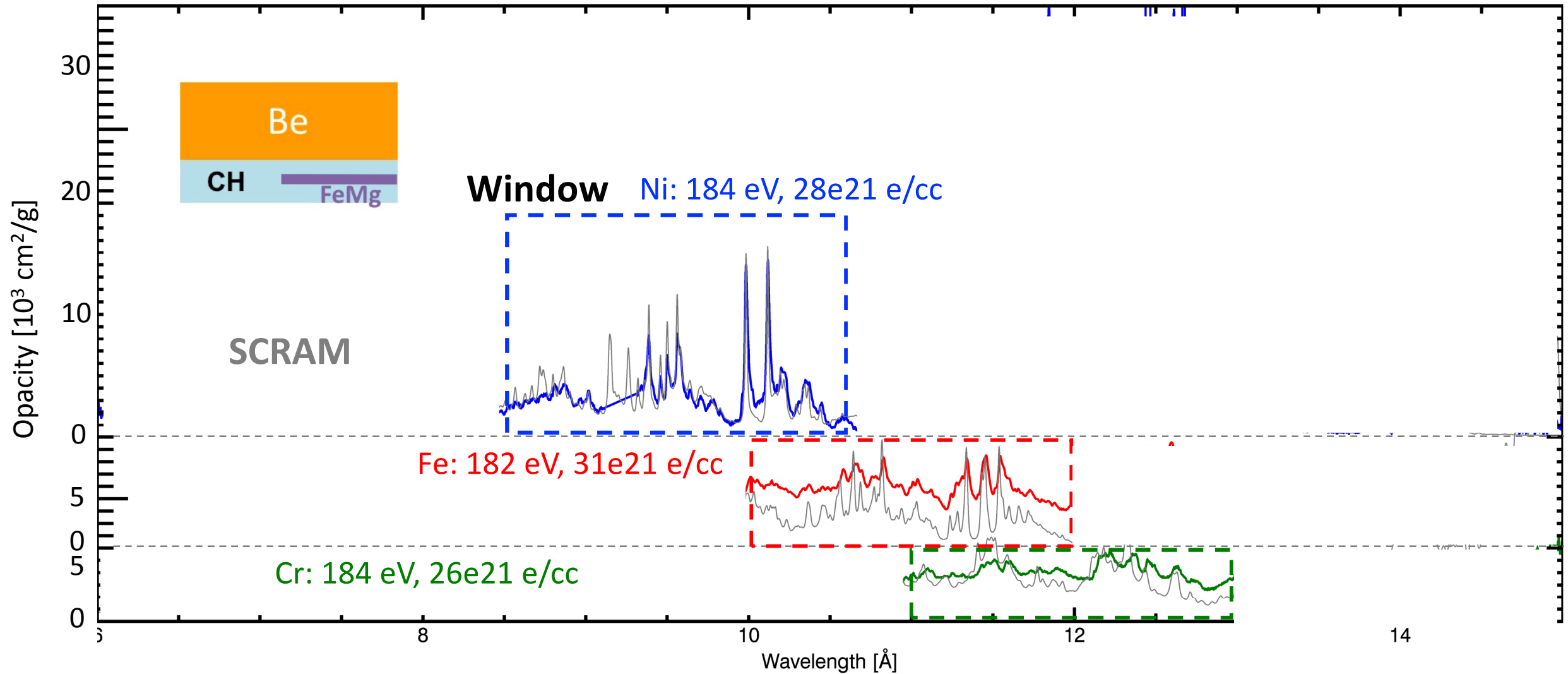
$T_e \approx 180$ eV and $n_e \approx 30e21$ e/cc



Observing model-data discrepancy trend would help narrow down hypothesis for discrepancy

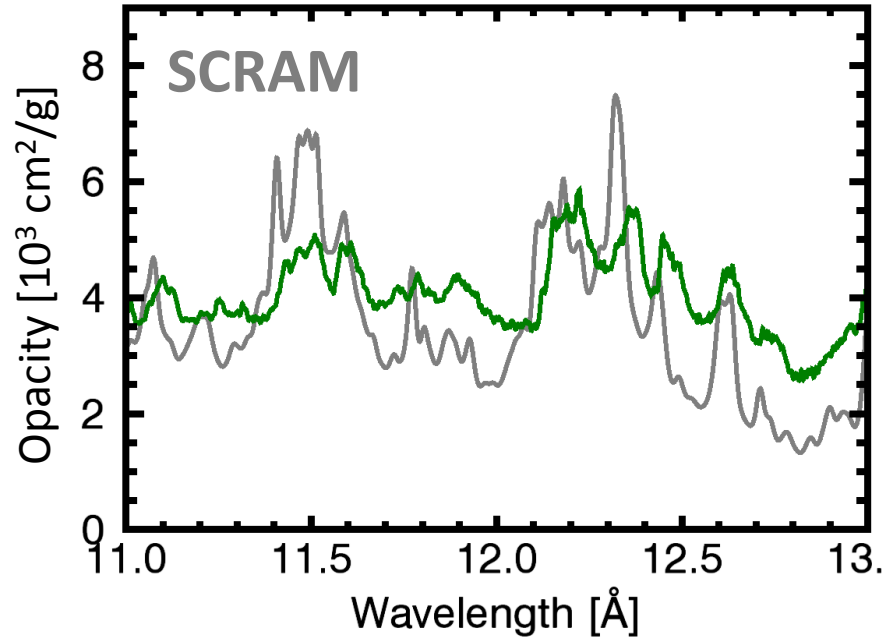


Observing model-data discrepancy trend would help narrow down hypothesis for discrepancy

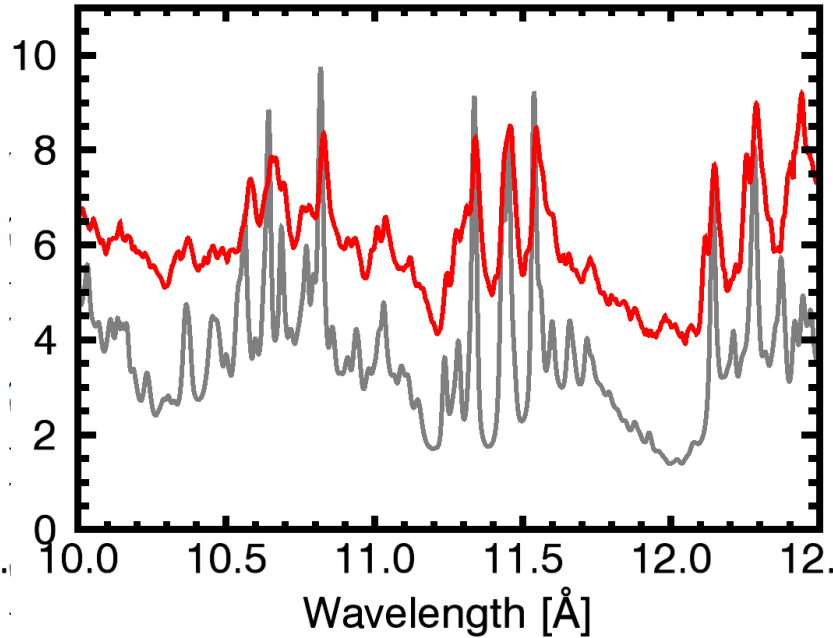


Window: Filled window observed from Cr and Fe, but not Ni

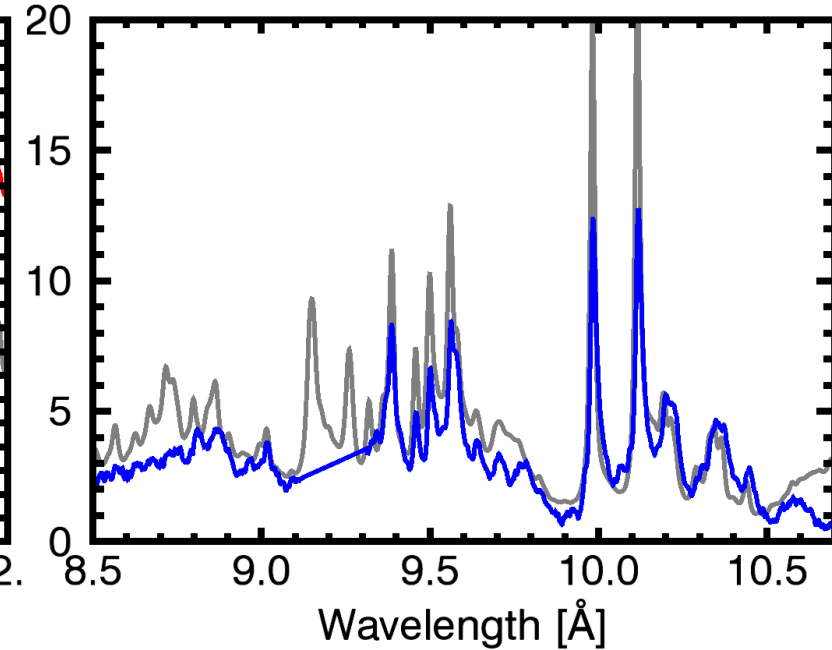
Cr data: 184 eV, 26e21 e/cc



Fe data: 182 eV, 31e21 e/cc

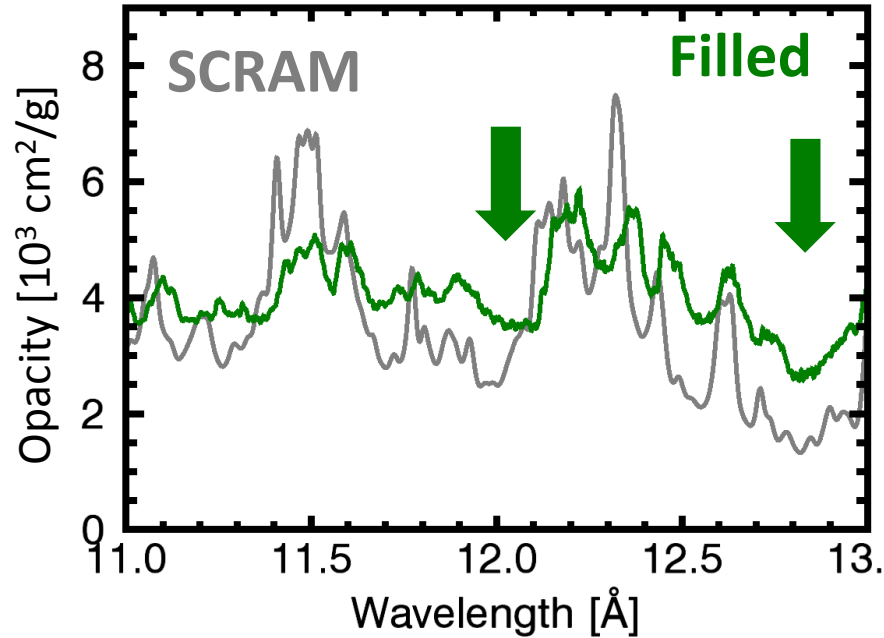


Ni data: 184 eV, 28e21 e/cc

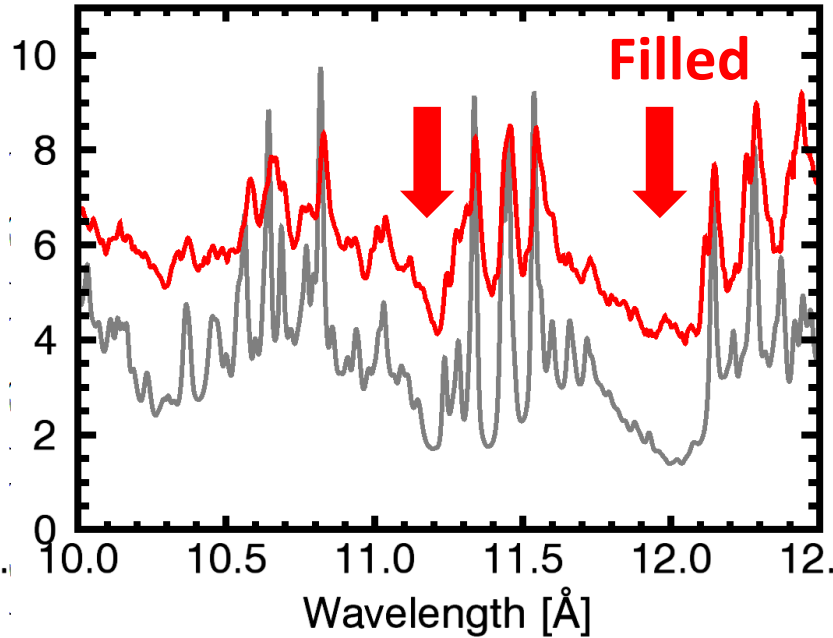


Window: Filled window observed from Cr and Fe, but not Ni

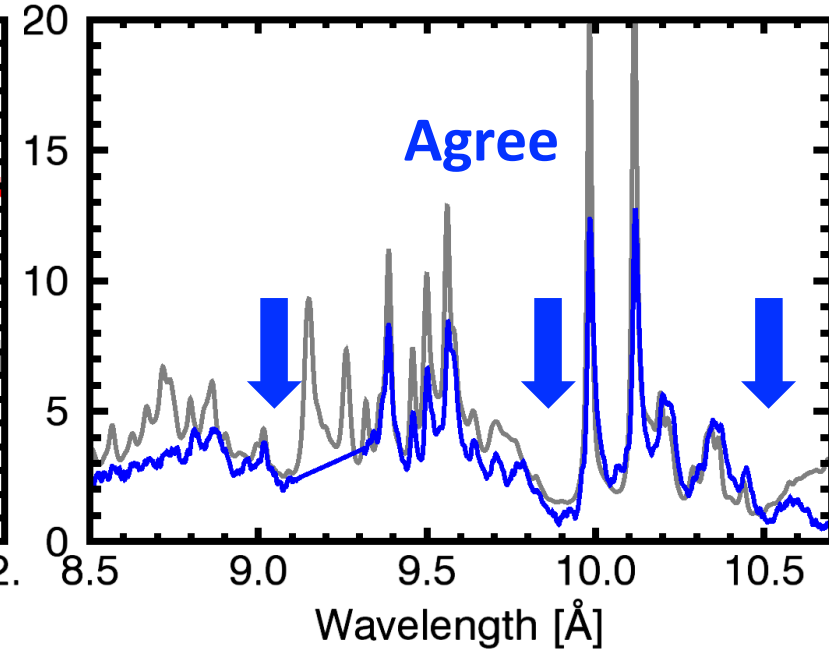
Cr data: 184 eV, 26e21 e/cc



Fe data: 182 eV, 31e21 e/cc



Ni data: 184 eV, 28e21 e/cc

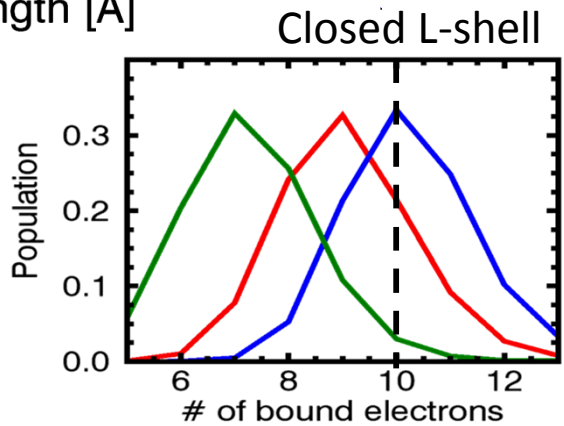
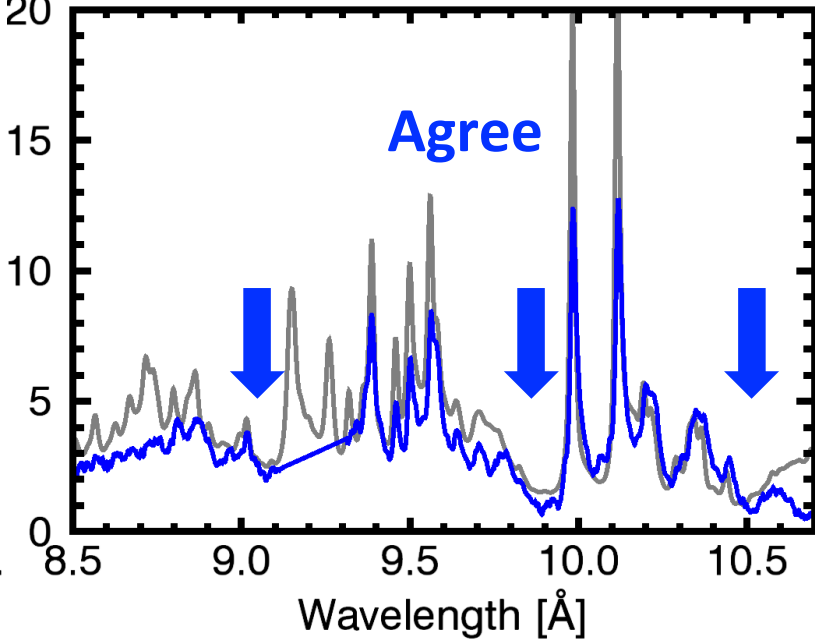
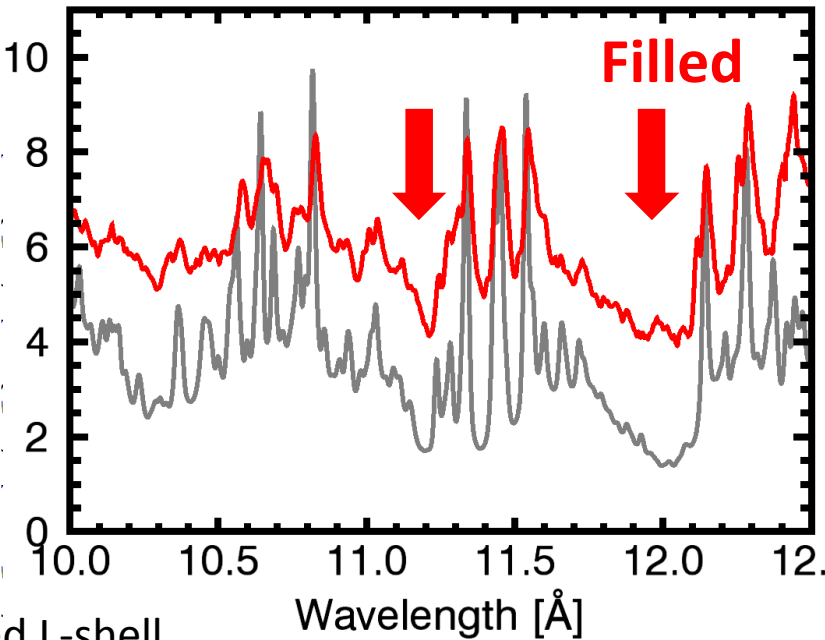
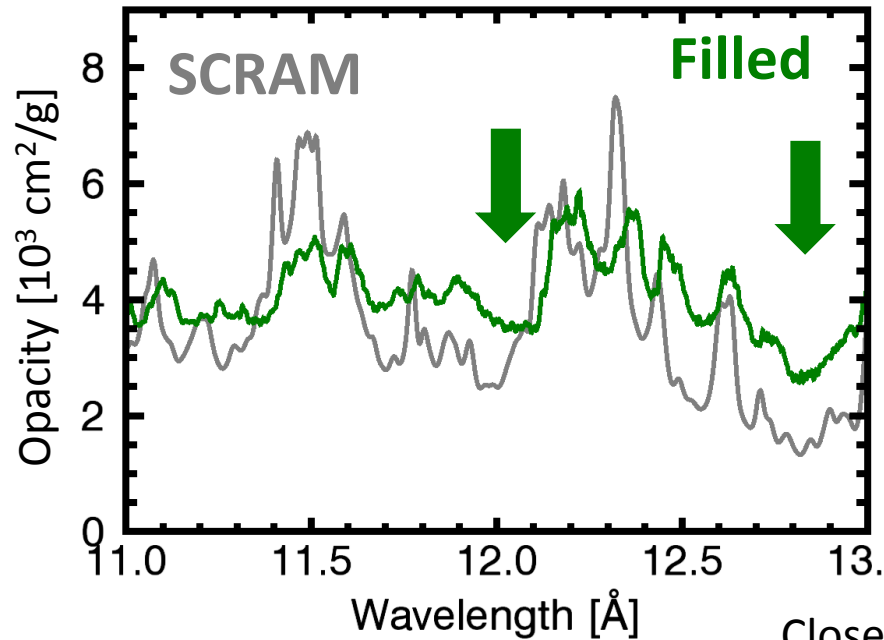


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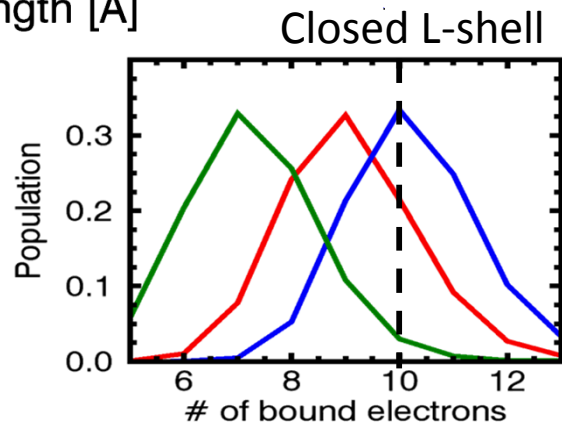
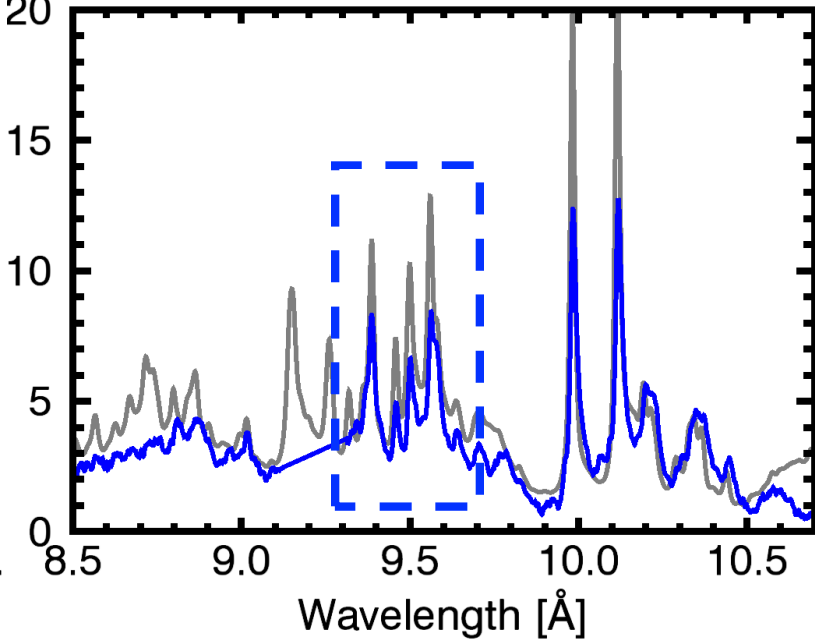
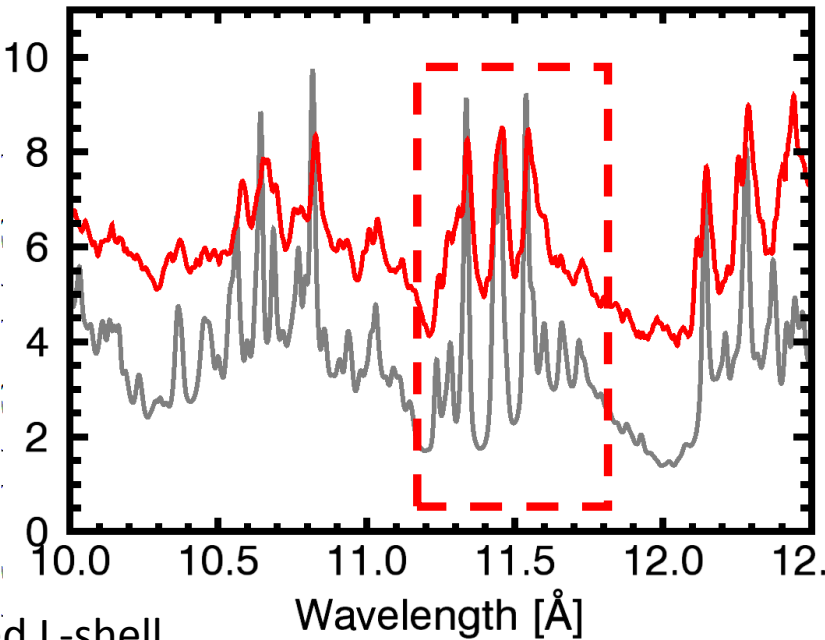
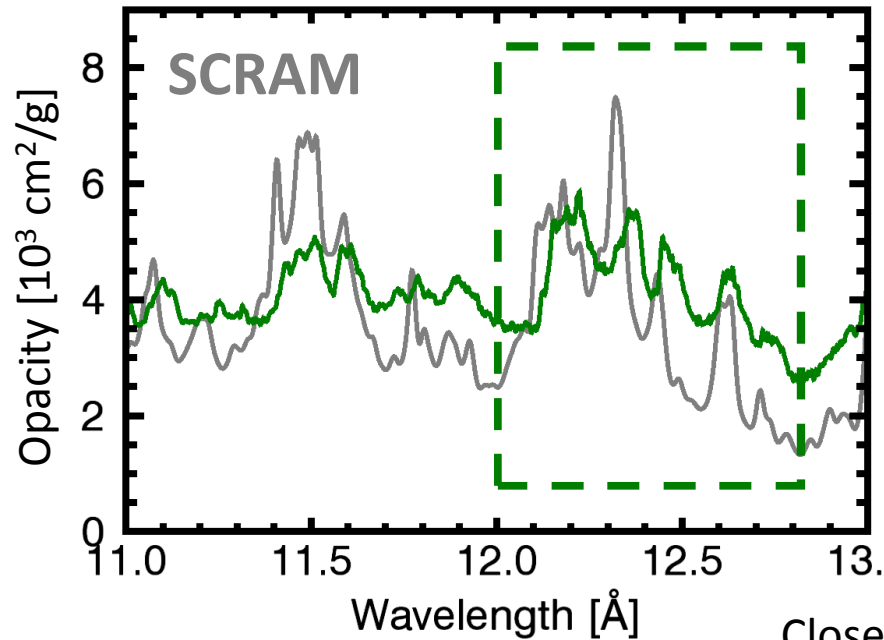
Matching opacity window is challenging in open L-shell?

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Cr data: 184 eV, 26e21 e/cc

Fe data: 182 eV, 31e21 e/cc

Ni data: 184 eV, 28e21 e/cc



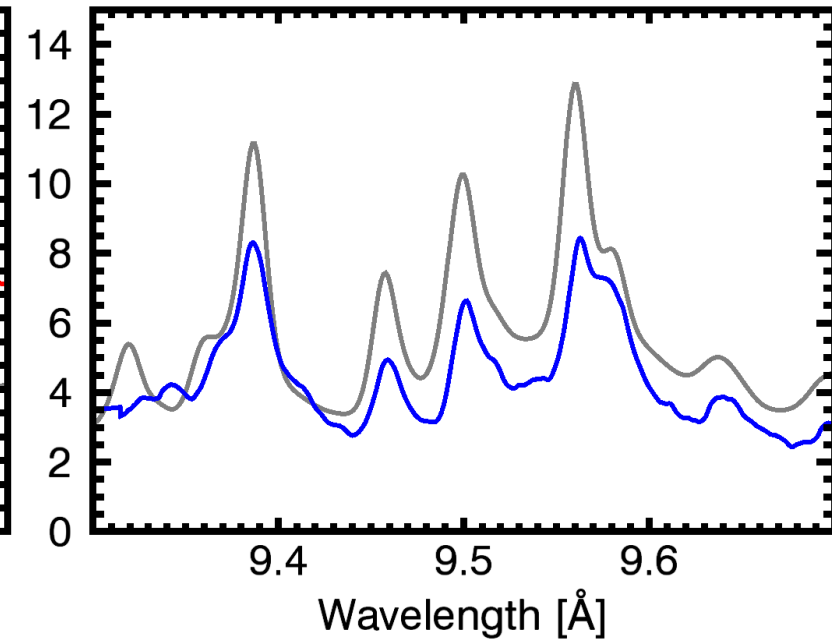
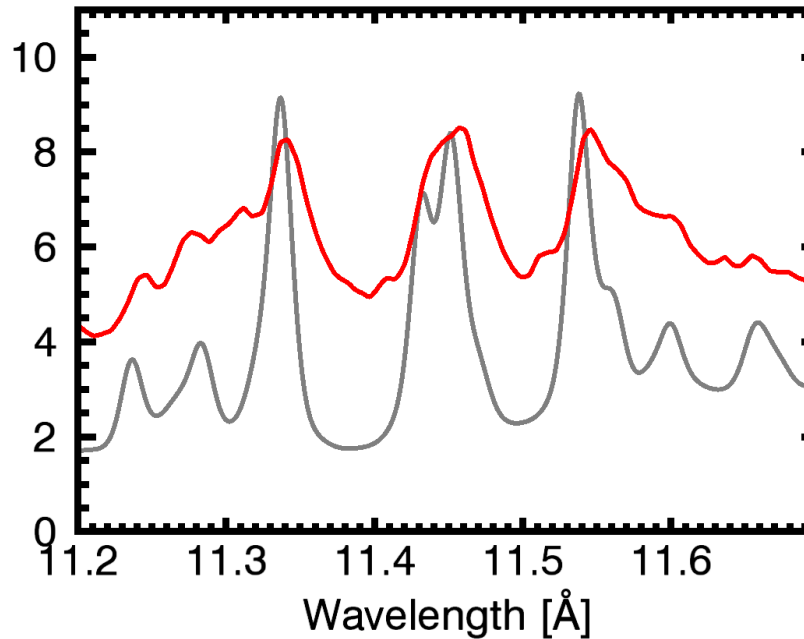
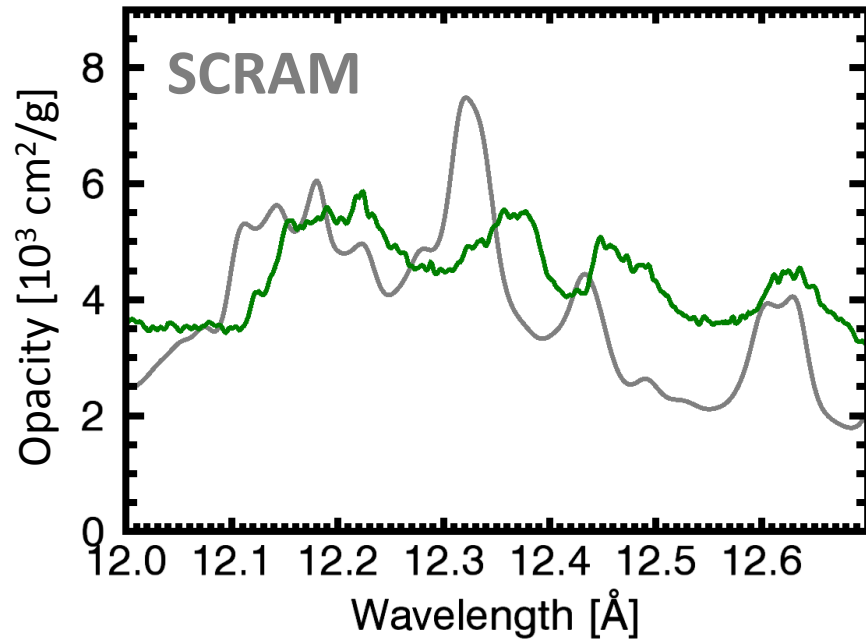
Matching opacity window is challenging in open L-shell?

BB: Broader line and weak peak-to-valley contrast are confirmed from Cr, Fe, and Ni

Cr data: 184 eV, 26e21 e/cc

Fe data: 182 eV, 31e21 e/cc

Ni data: 184 eV, 28e21 e/cc



$$\kappa_{\nu} \propto n_l f_{lu} \phi(\nu)$$

n_l ... lower state population
 f_{lu} ... oscillator strength
 $\phi(\nu)$... line shape

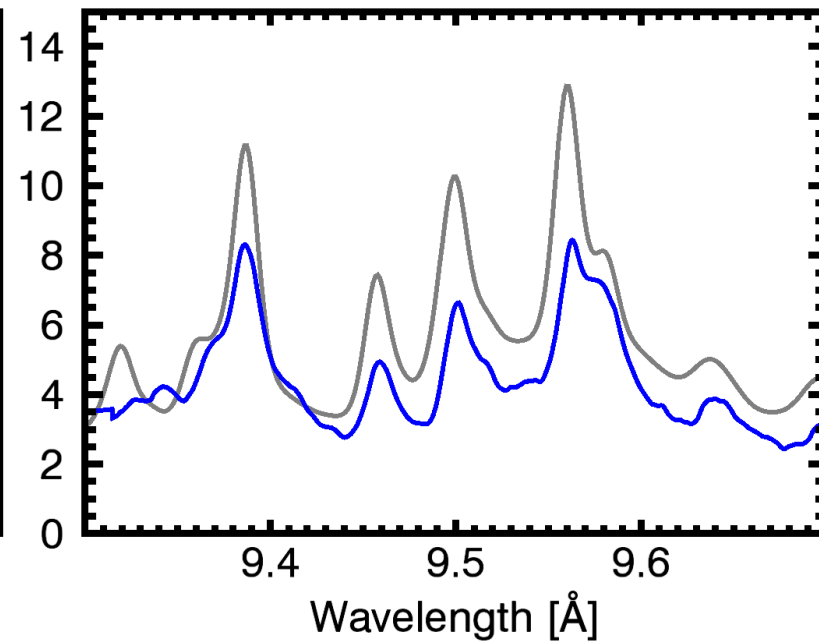
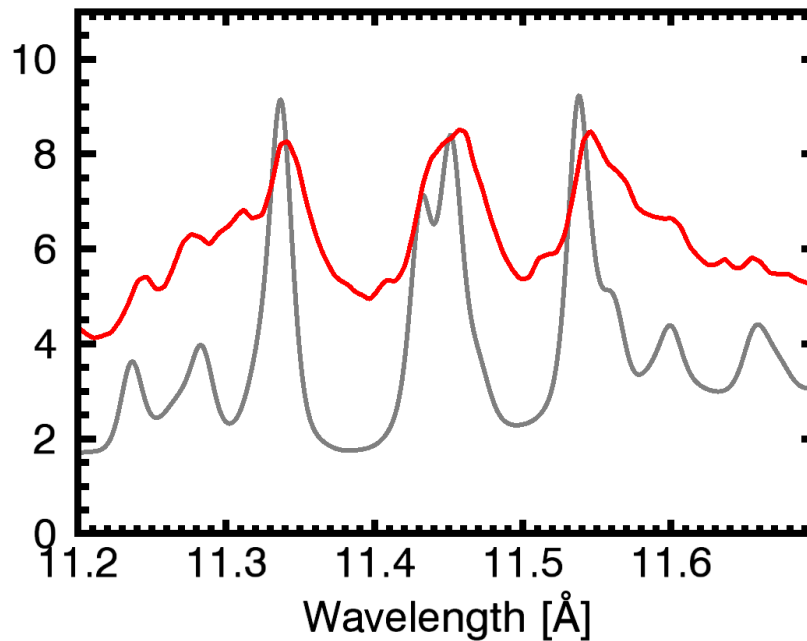
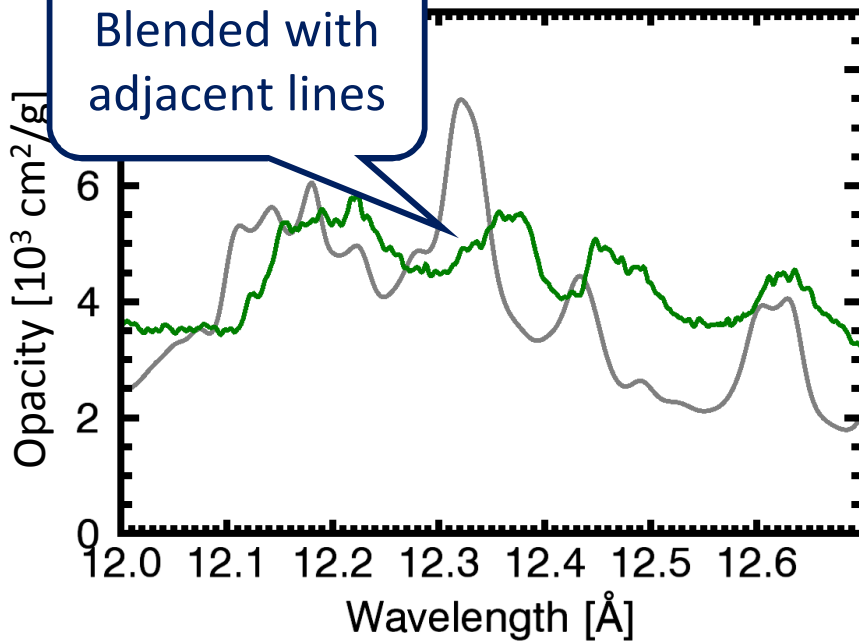
} Opacity integrated under line shape

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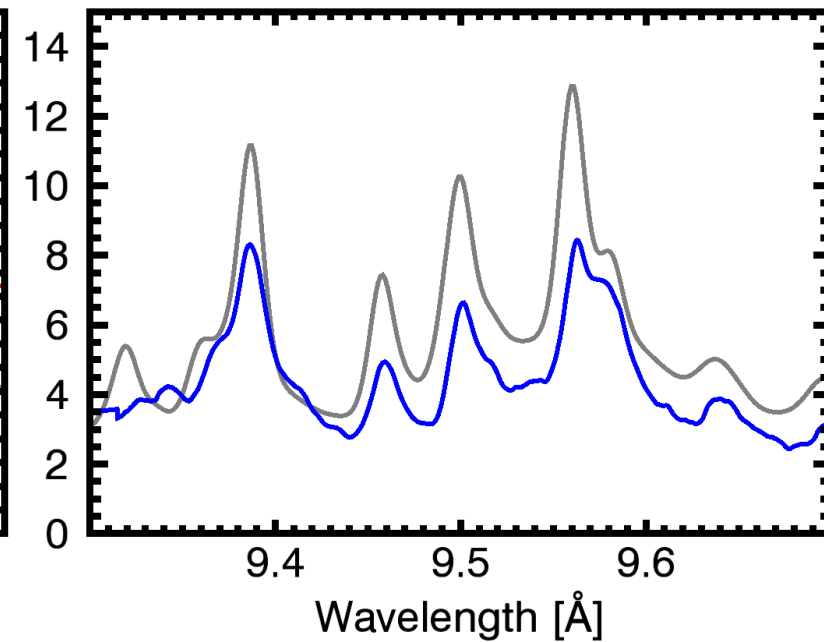
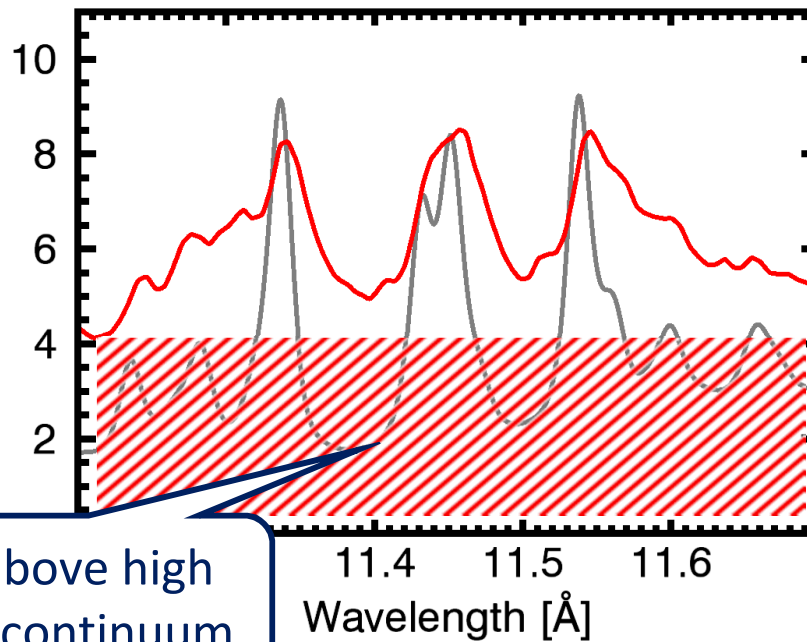
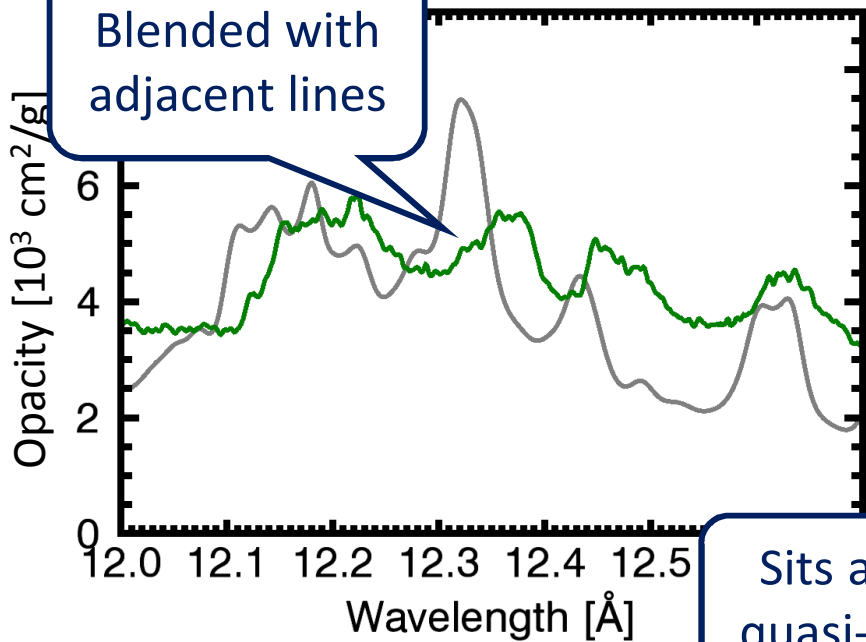
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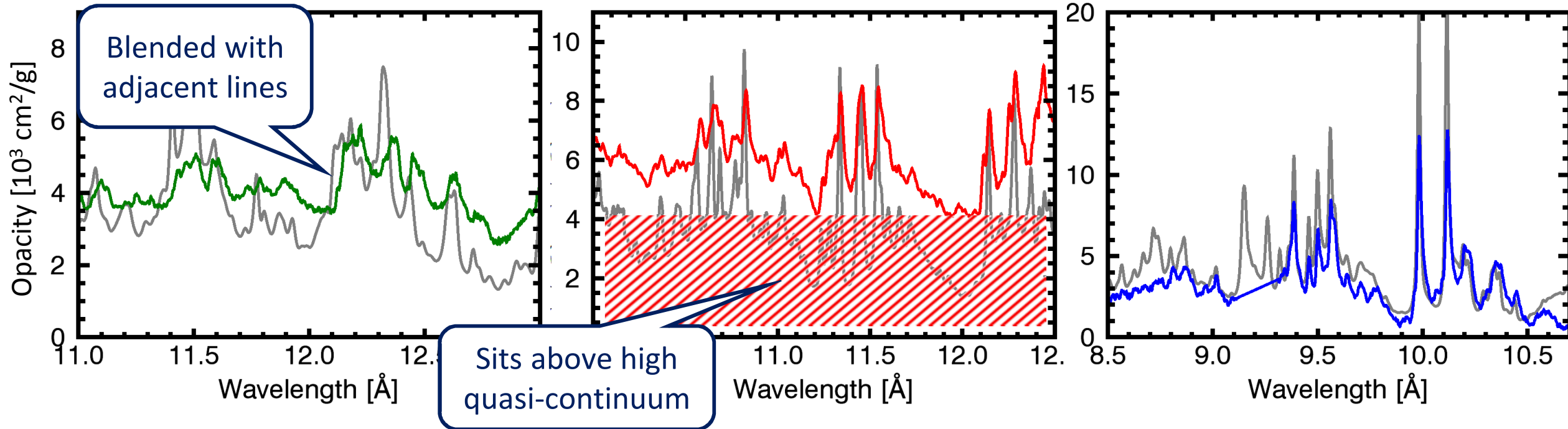
} Opacity integrated under line shape

Checking line-broadening model accuracy is challenging due to line-blending and high continuum

Cr data: 184 eV, 26e21 e/cc

Fe data: 182 eV, 31e21 e/cc

Ni data: 184 eV, 28e21 e/cc



$$\kappa_{\nu} \propto n_l f_{lu} \phi(\nu)$$

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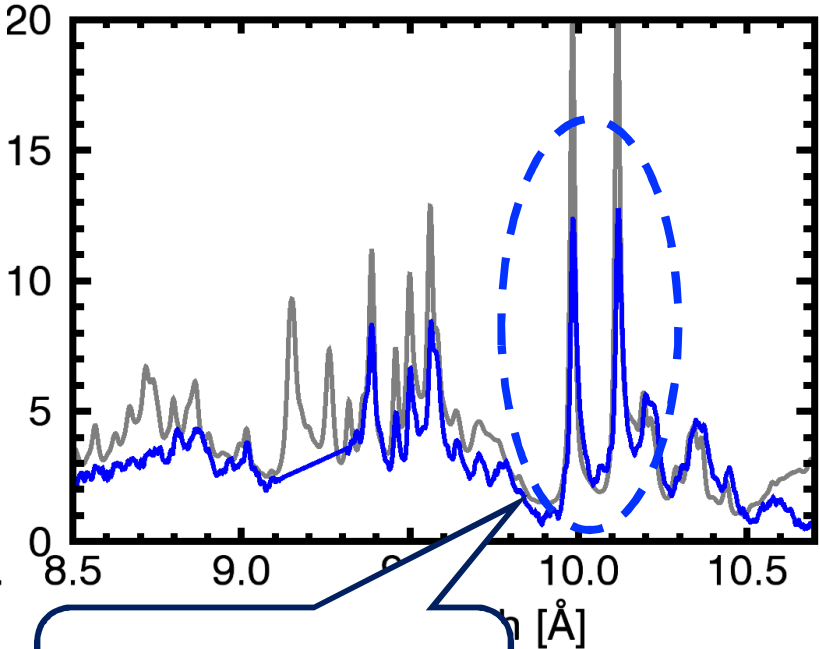
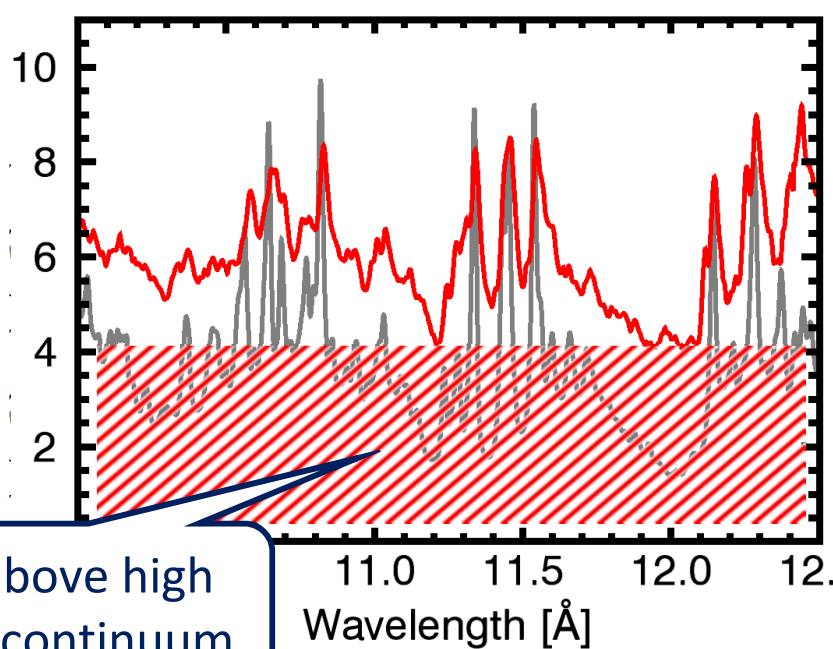
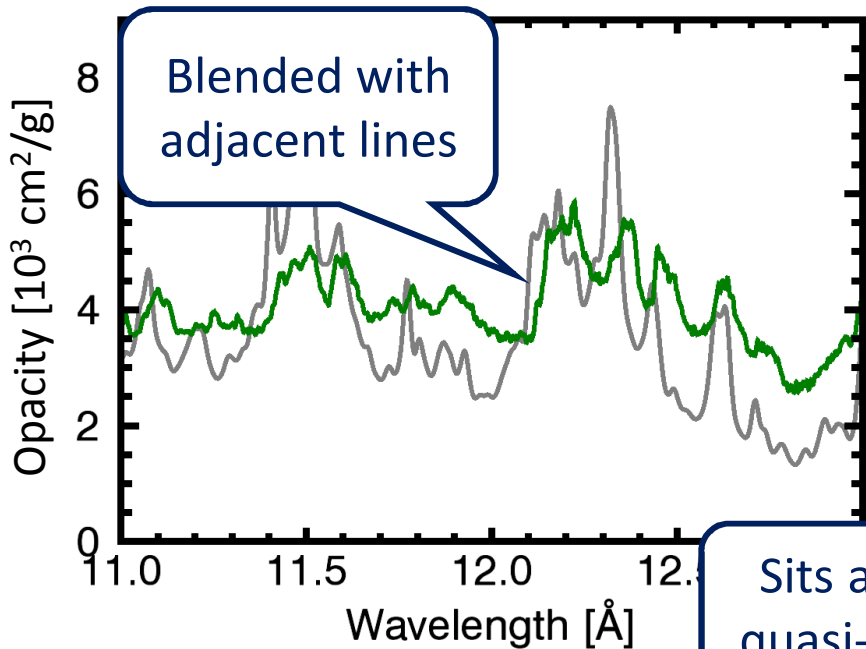
} Opacity integrated under line shape

We use a $n=2 \rightarrow 4$ lines from Ne-like Ni to assess the accuracy of calculated line shape

Cr data: 184 eV, 26e21 e/cc

Fe data: 182 eV, 31e21 e/cc

Ni data: 184 eV, 28e21 e/cc



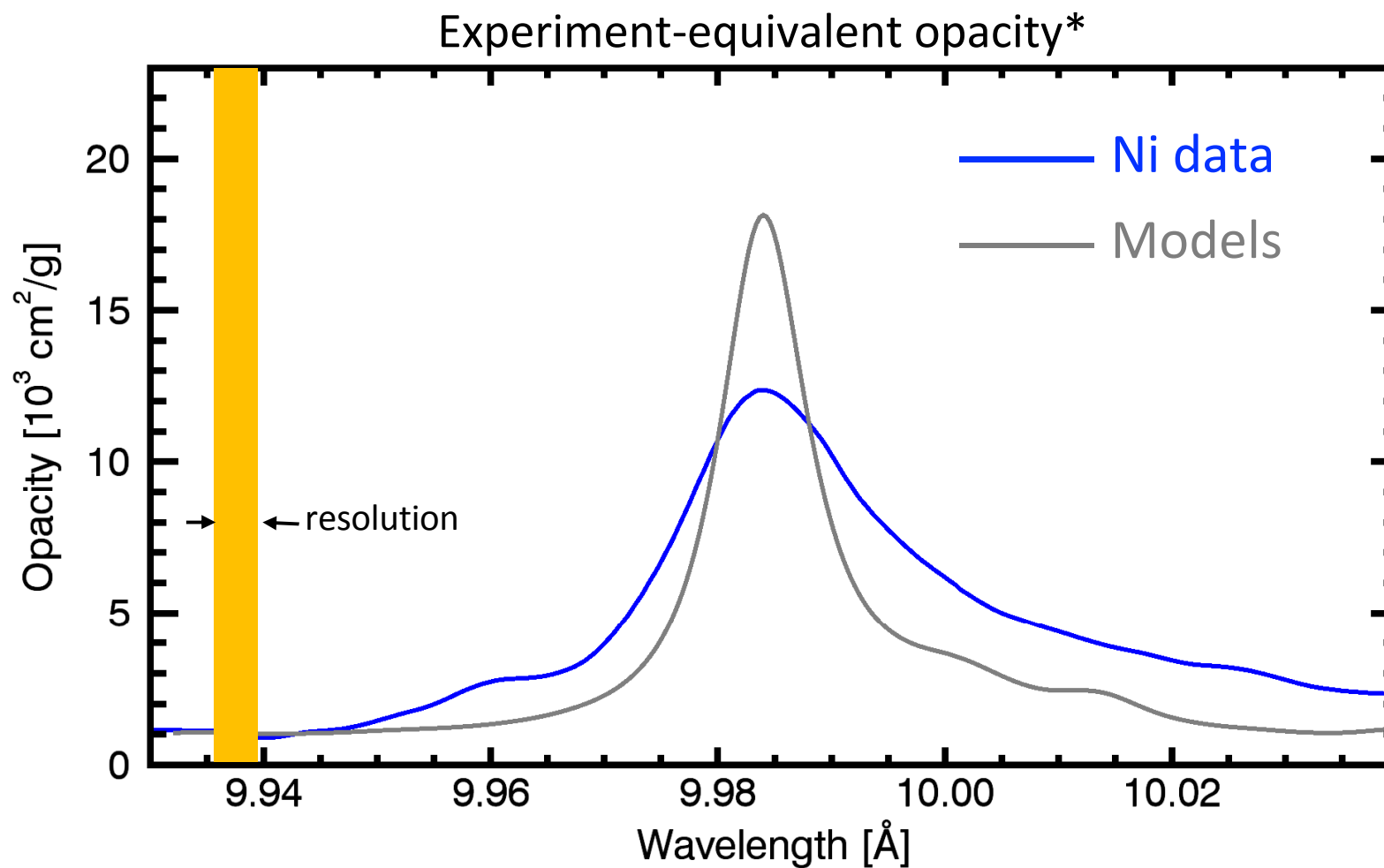
$$\kappa_\nu \propto n_l f_{lu} \phi(\nu)$$

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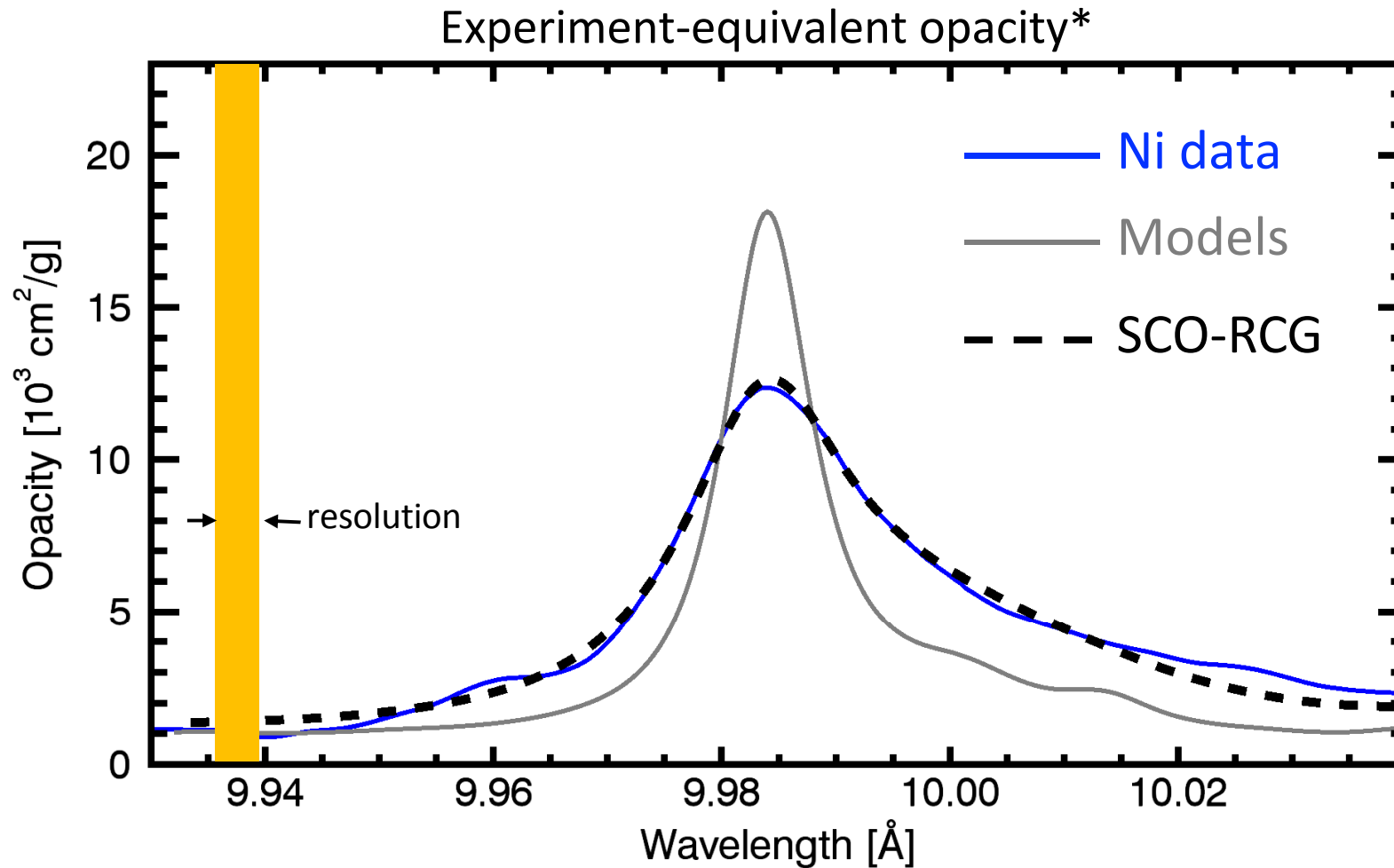
- Isolated
- Low continuum

integrated under line shape

Most models predicted much narrower lines than measured

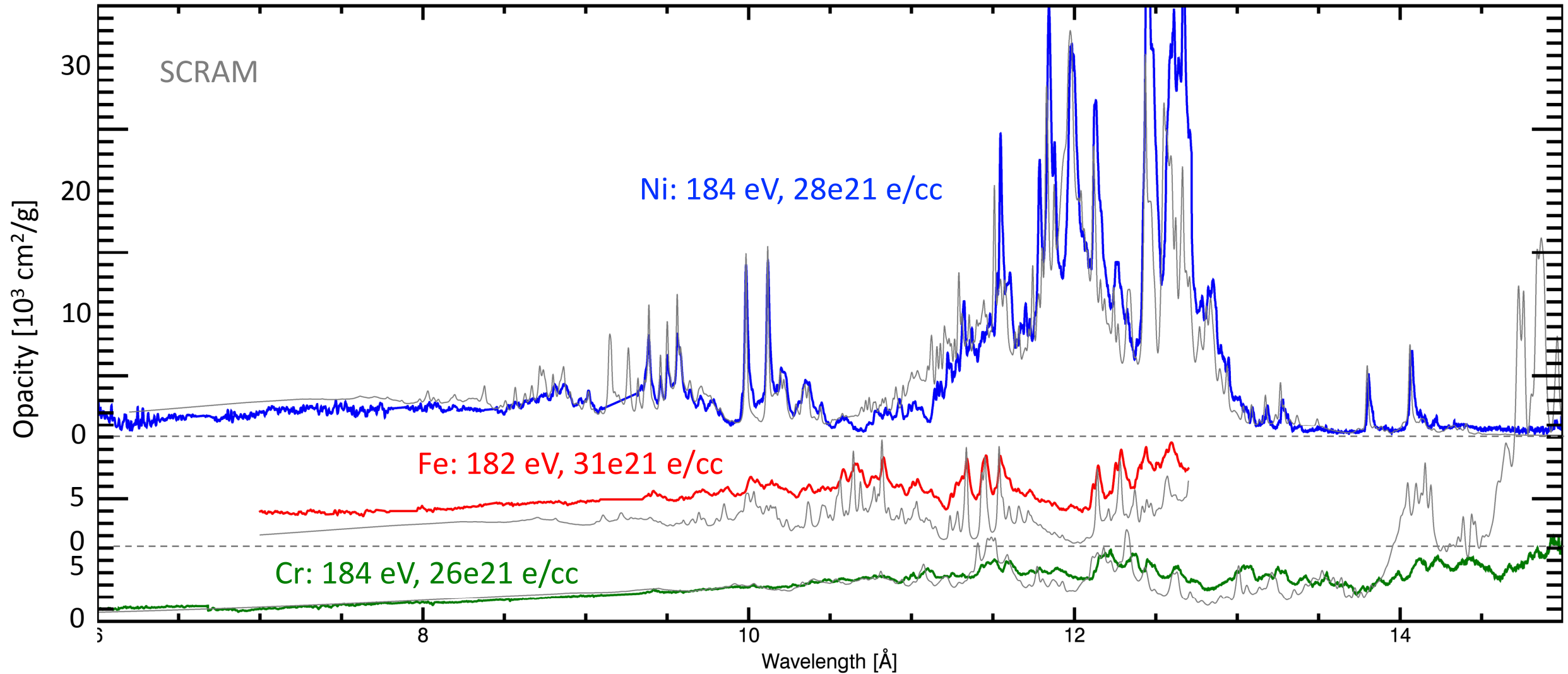


Most models predicted much narrower lines than measured; Only one model reproduced measured line shape

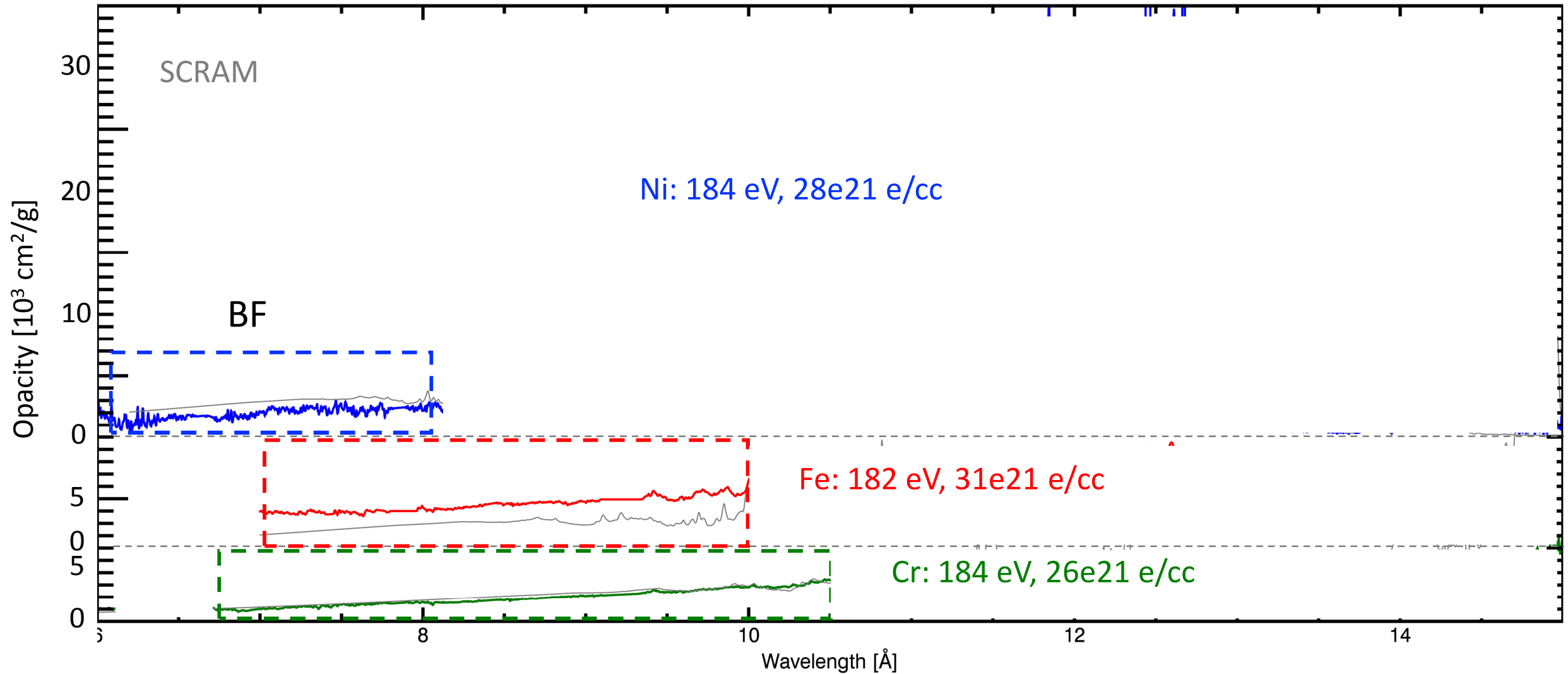


Accuracy of L-shell line-shape calculation needs to be improved

Observing model-data discrepancy trend would help narrow down hypothesis for discrepancy

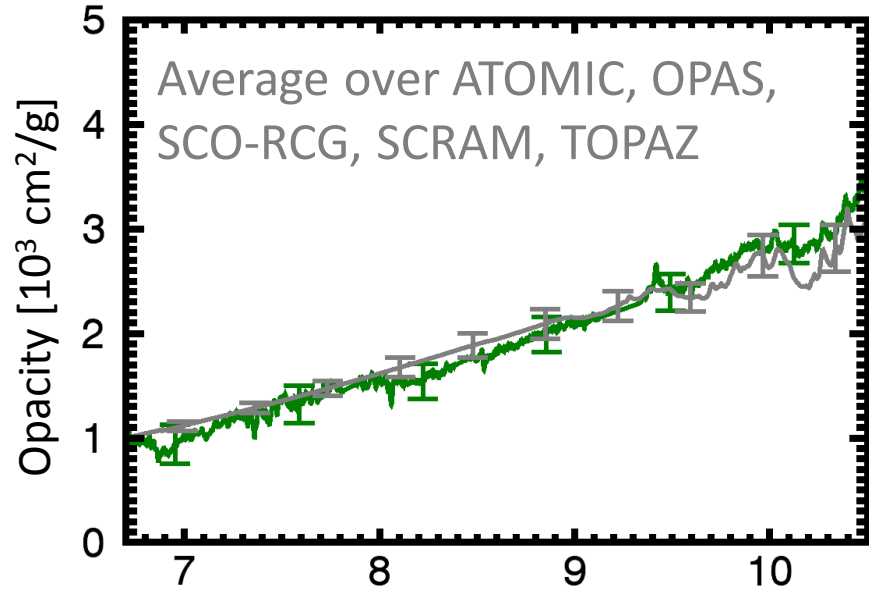


Observing model-data discrepancy trend would help narrow down hypothesis for discrepancy

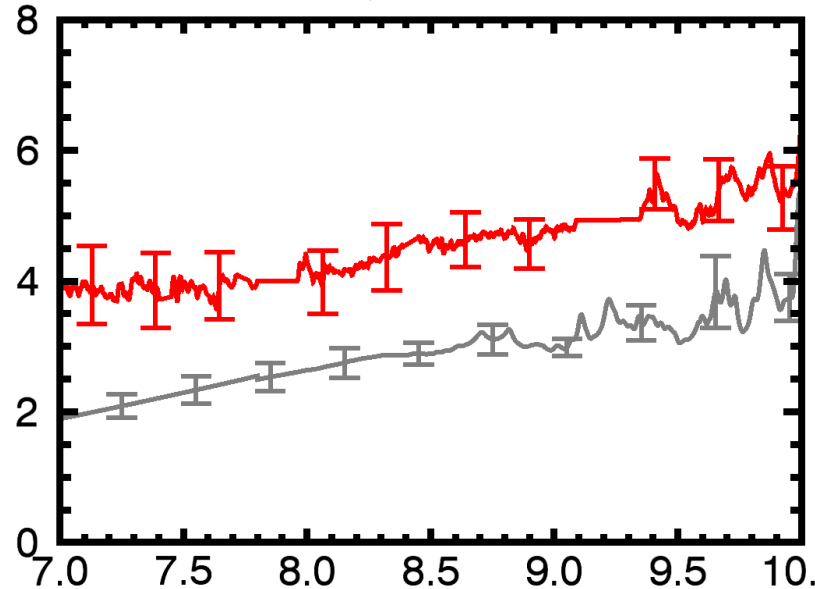


BF: Significantly higher BF is observed only from Fe (preliminary)

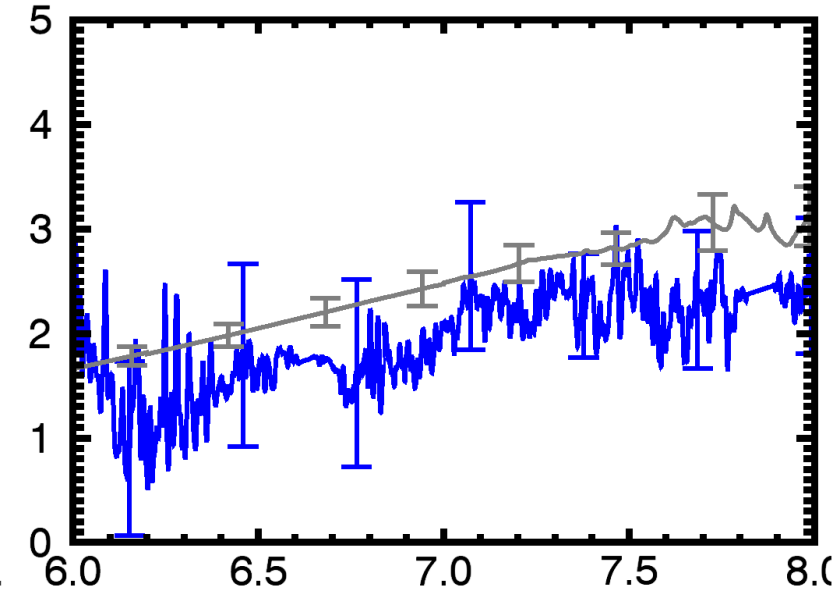
Cr: 184 eV, 26e21 e/cc



Fe: 182 eV, 31e21 e/cc



Ni: 184 eV, 28e21 e/cc



- Results shown here are averages over multiple experiments
- Fe at 195 eV and 40e21 e/cc also shows higher bf → What's so special about Fe?
- **Hypothesis 1: Fe measurement was flawed after all the checks we did**
- **Hypothesis 2: Missing physics explains this complex BF issue**

Calculated Fe opacity at solar interior condition disagrees with data; Various investigations provide clues for the discrepancy

- We found 30–400% disagreement between modeled and measured Fe opacity at solar interior conditions

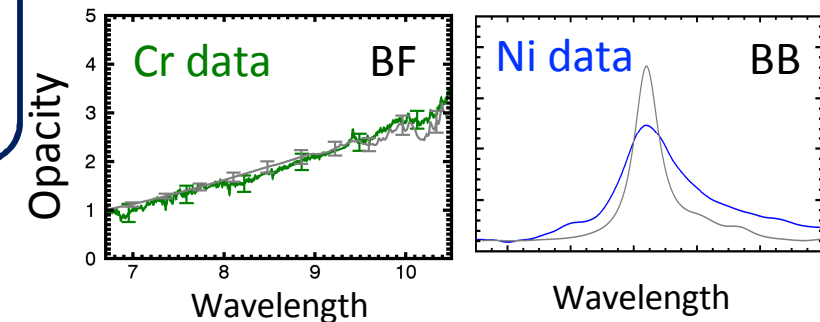
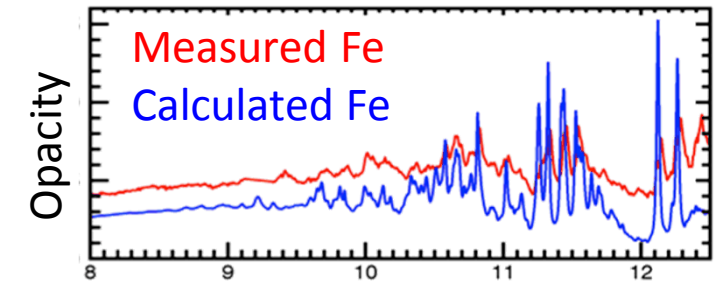
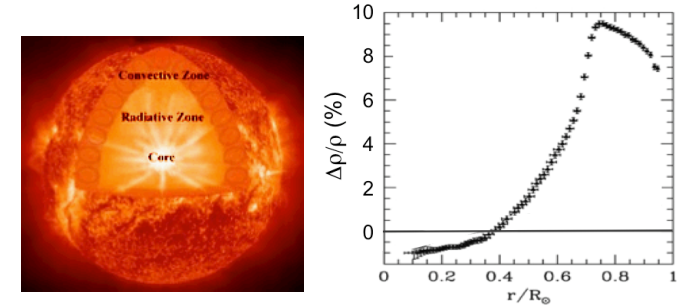
→ Partially resolves solar problem, but the source of discrepancy needs to be identified

- Cr, Fe, and Ni opacities measured at multiple electron temperatures (T_e) and electron densities (n_e)

- Opacity valley disagreement found on Cr and Fe, but not Ni
- Calculated line-broadening is too narrow
- Element dependence on bound-free (BF) agreement is puzzling

- Missing physics in opacity theory:

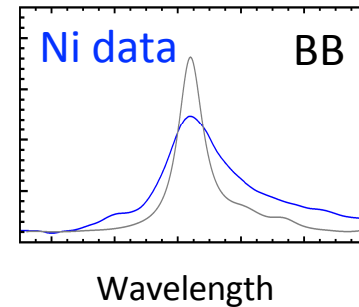
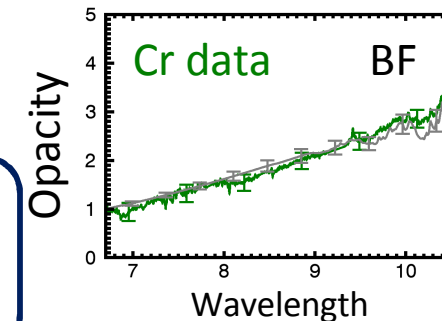
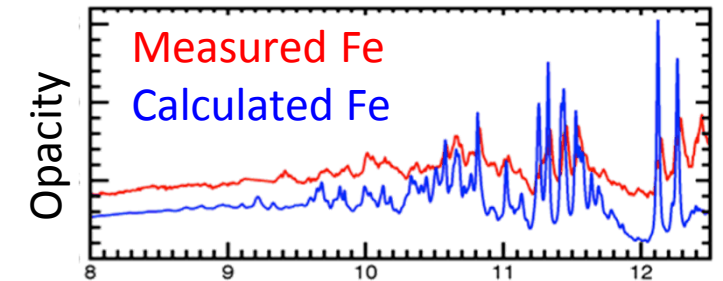
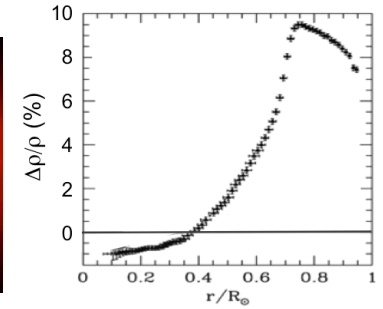
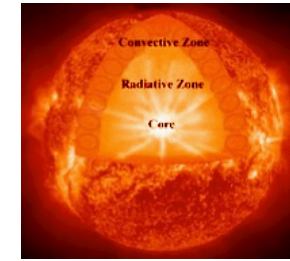
- Two-photon opacity may be important



Working towards completing the systematic study to resolve the discrepancy

Calculated Fe opacity at solar interior condition disagrees with data; Various investigations provide clues for the discrepancy

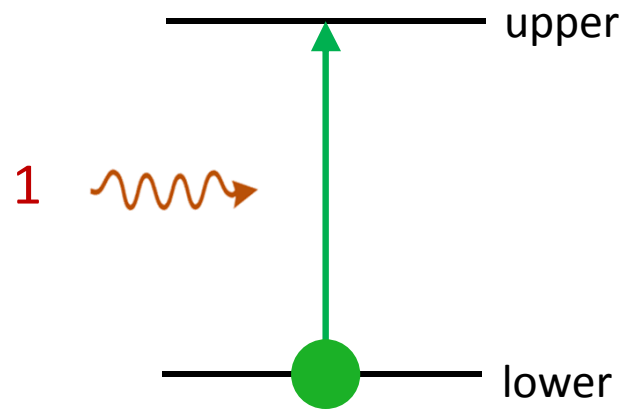
- We found 30–400% disagreement between modeled and measured Fe opacity at solar interior conditions
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 - Element dependence on bound-free (BF) agreement is puzzling
- **Missing physics in opacity theory:**
 - Two-photon opacity may be important



Working towards completing the systematic study to resolve the discrepancy

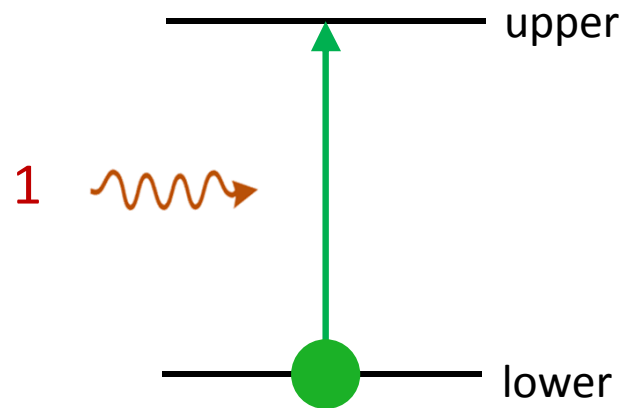
Opacity by two-photon processes are neglected from existing opacity models

one-photon processes

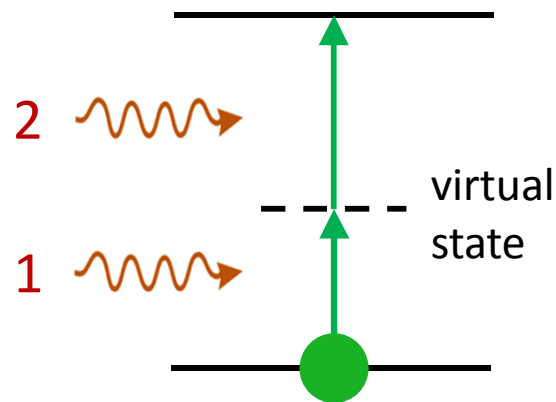


Opacity by two-photon processes are neglected from existing opacity models

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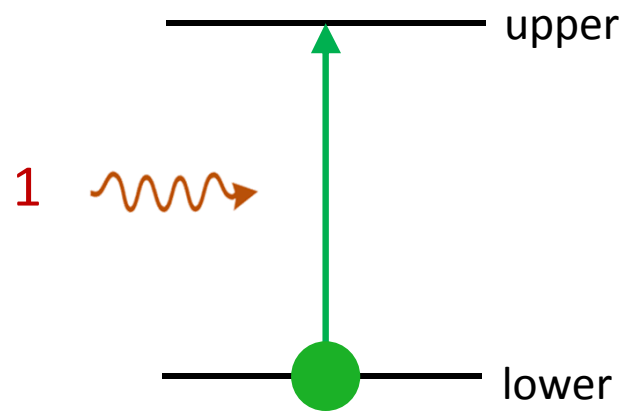


two-photon processes through a virtual state

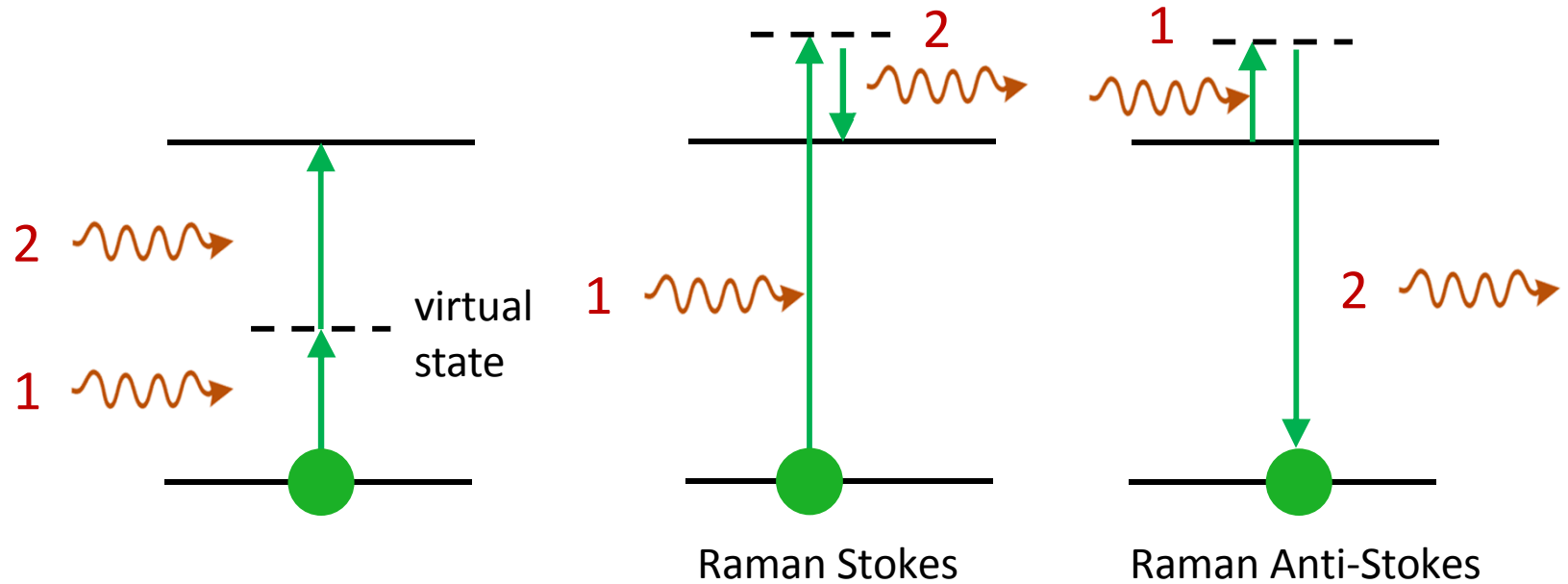


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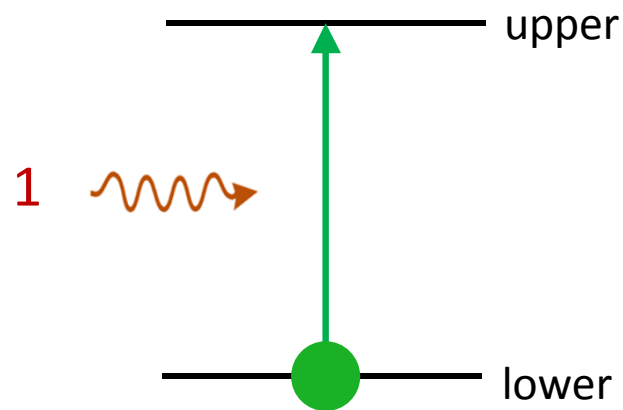


two-photon processes through a virtual state

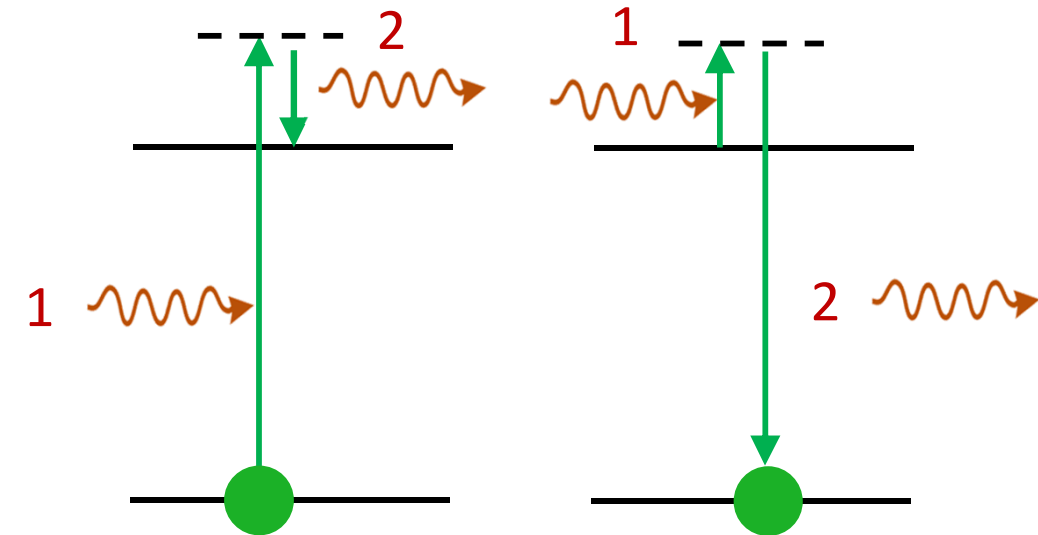
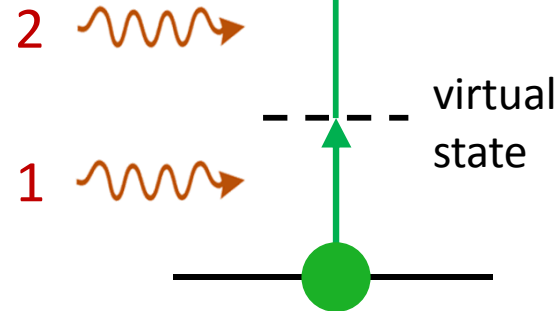


Opacity by two-photon processes are neglected from existing opacity models

one-photon processes



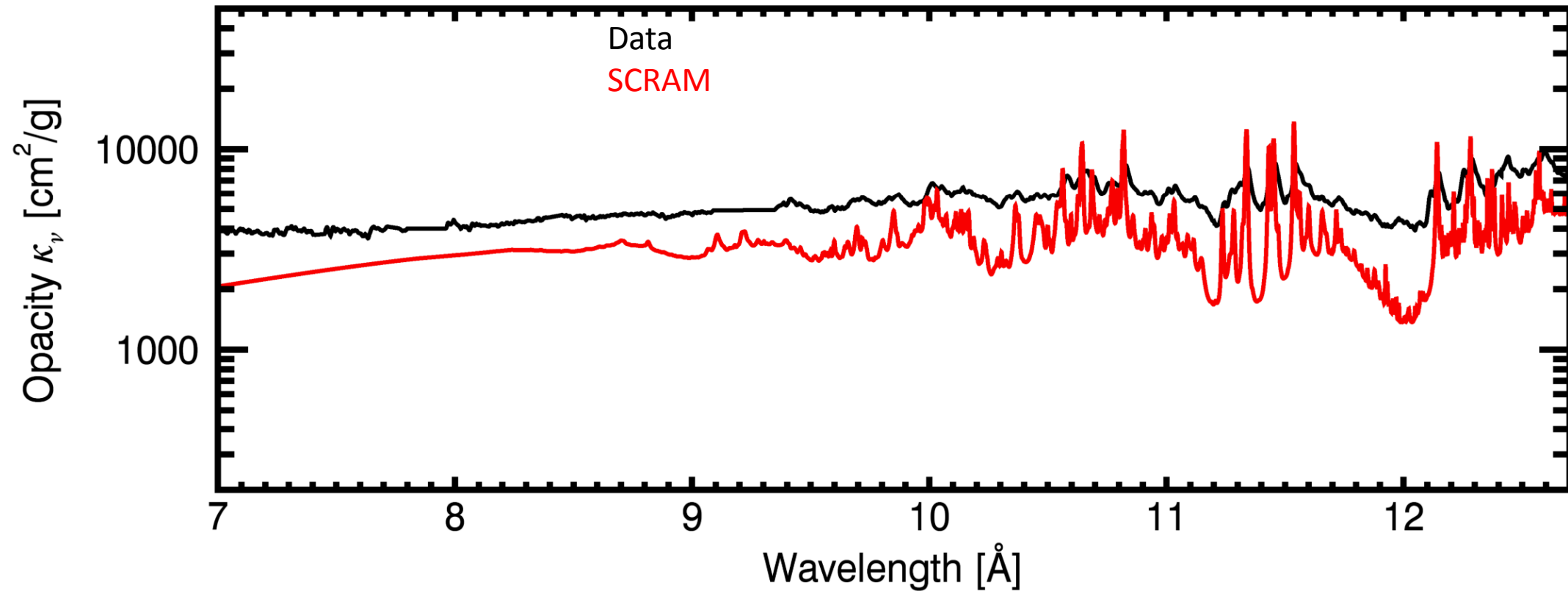
two-photon processes through a virtual state



- Two-photon process cross-section $\sim n^8$
 - Virtual state has short life-time \rightarrow Bright radiation field
- } Z opacity experiments have both

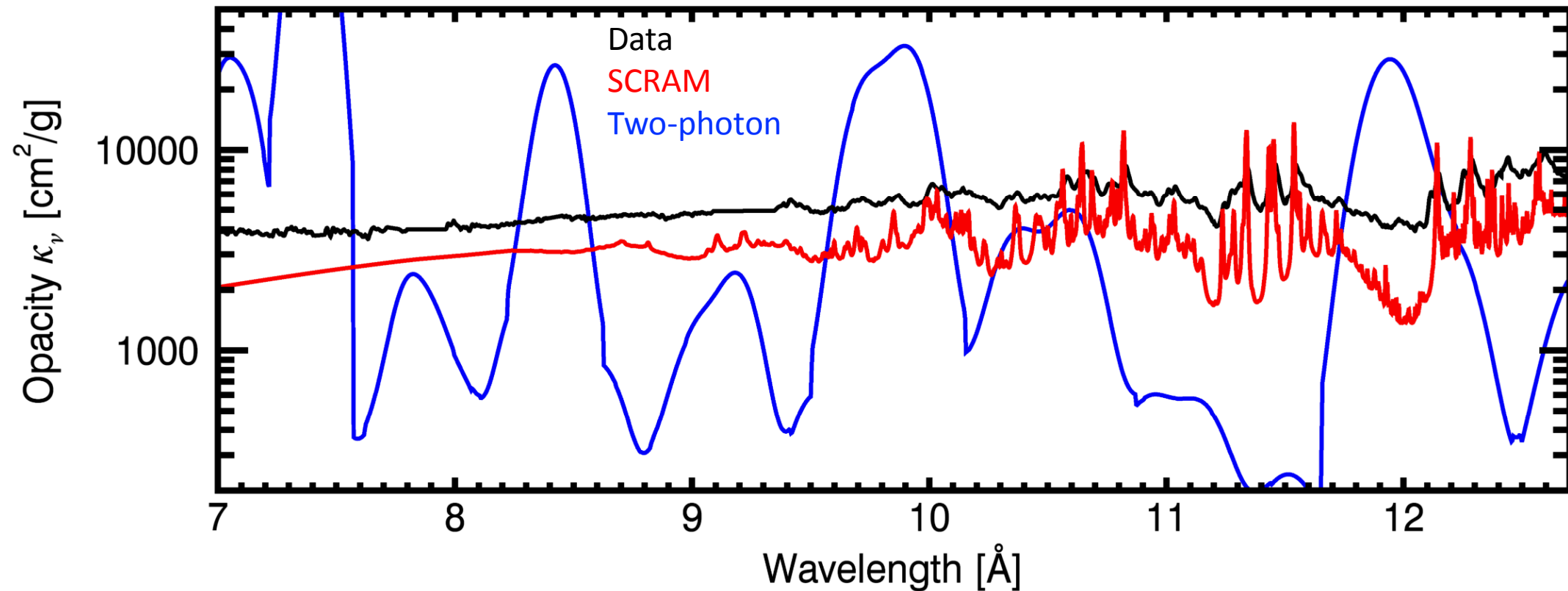
Two-photon opacity can be important for Fe L-shell opacity under strong radiation field

Two-photon processes may be important



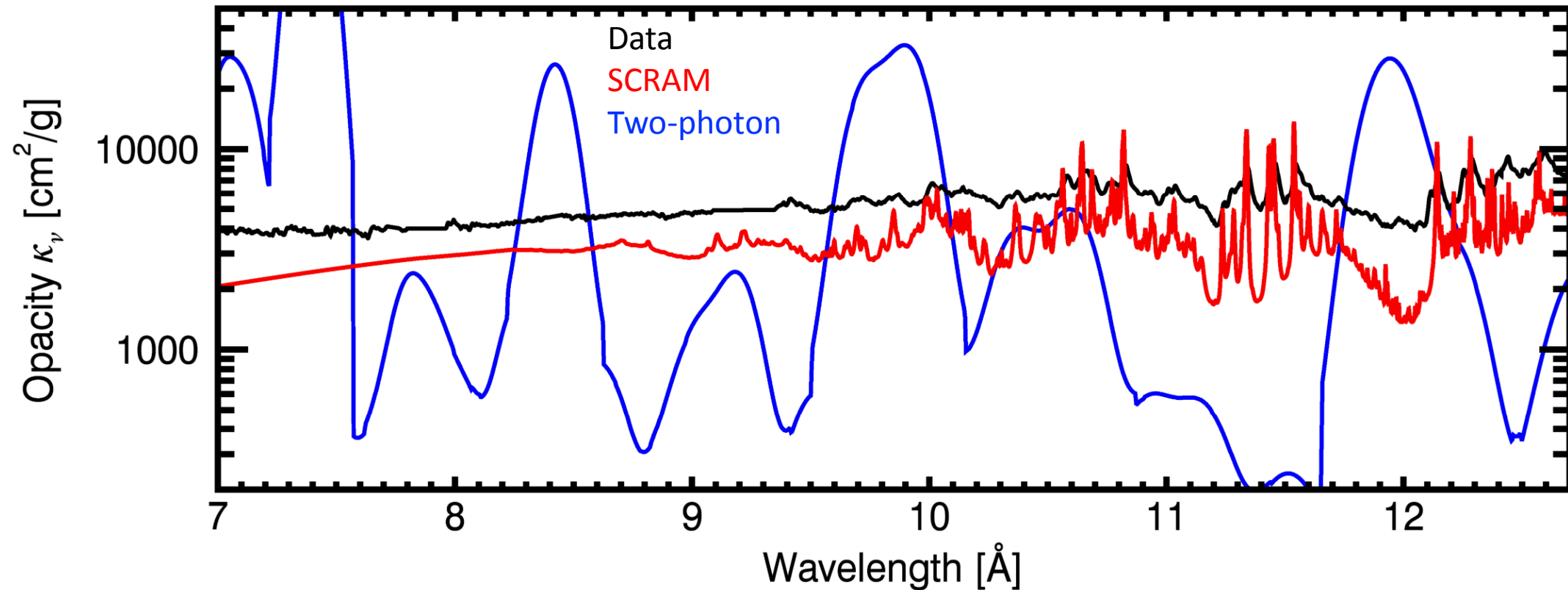
- First-principal method with simple atomic model
- Two-photon opacity more important than believed

Two-photon processes may be important



- First-principal method with simple atomic model
- Two-photon opacity more important than believed

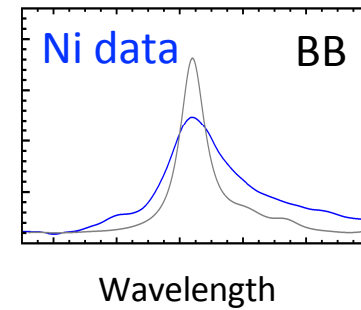
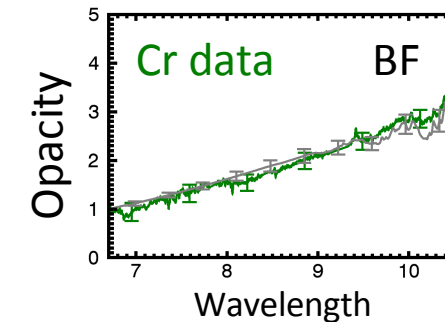
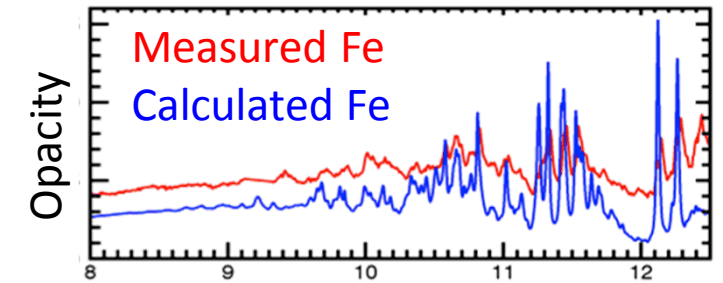
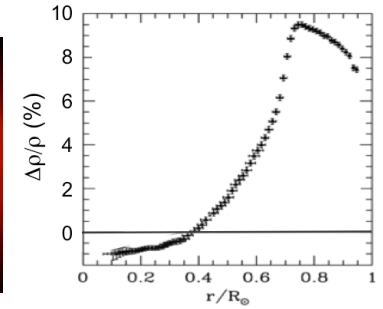
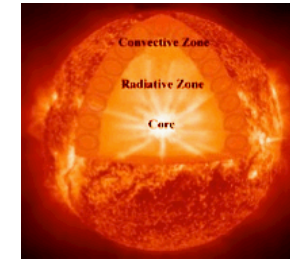
Two-photon processes may be important, but the calculation needs to be refined with a more detailed atomic model



- First-principal method with simple atomic model
- Two-photon opacity more important than believed

Calculated Fe opacity at solar interior condition disagrees with data; Various investigations provide clues for the discrepancy

- We found 30–400% disagreement between modeled and measured Fe opacity at solar interior conditions
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Working towards completing the systematic study to resolve the discrepancy