

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

Taisuke Nagayama



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# 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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**Nuclear Research Center Negev, Israel**

# Systematic study of L-shell opacities with refined analysis validates experiment reliability and suggest necessary model refinements

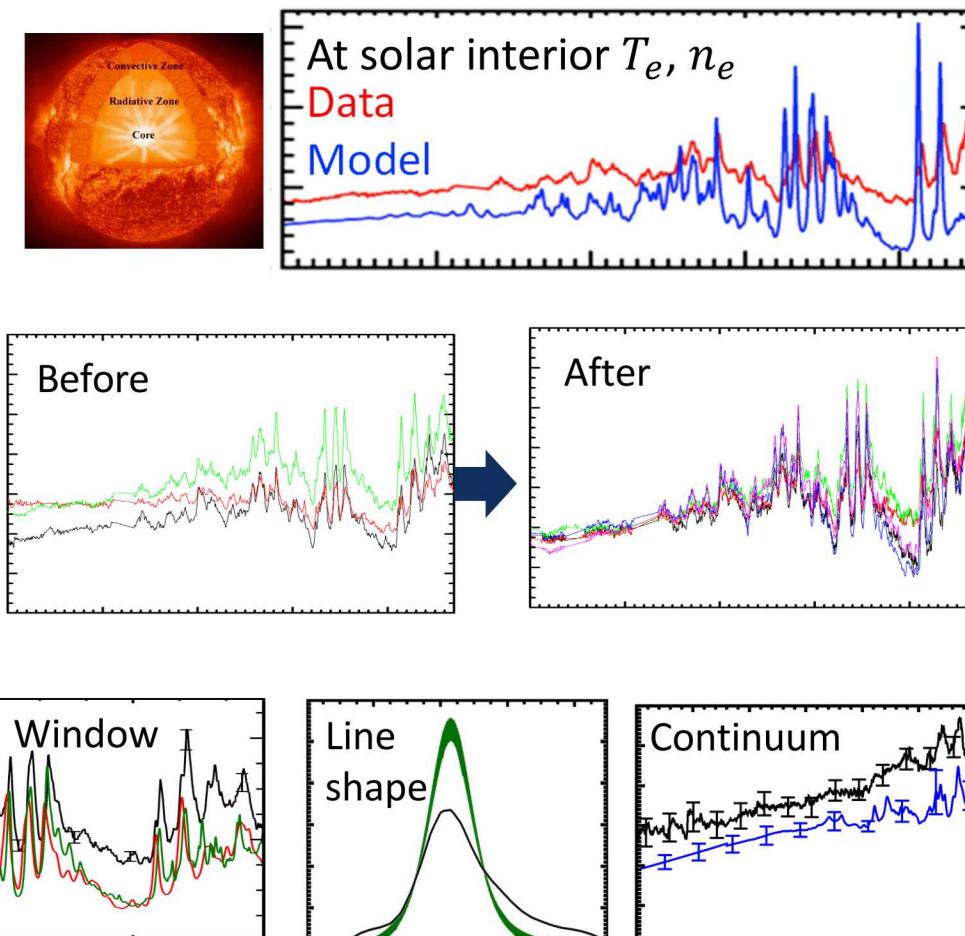
- Fe L-shell opacity is measured at solar interior conditions and revealed severe model-data discrepancy

→ Is opacity theory wrong? Is experiment flawed?

- Refined analysis improved shot-to-shot reproducibility, demonstrating opacity experiment reliability

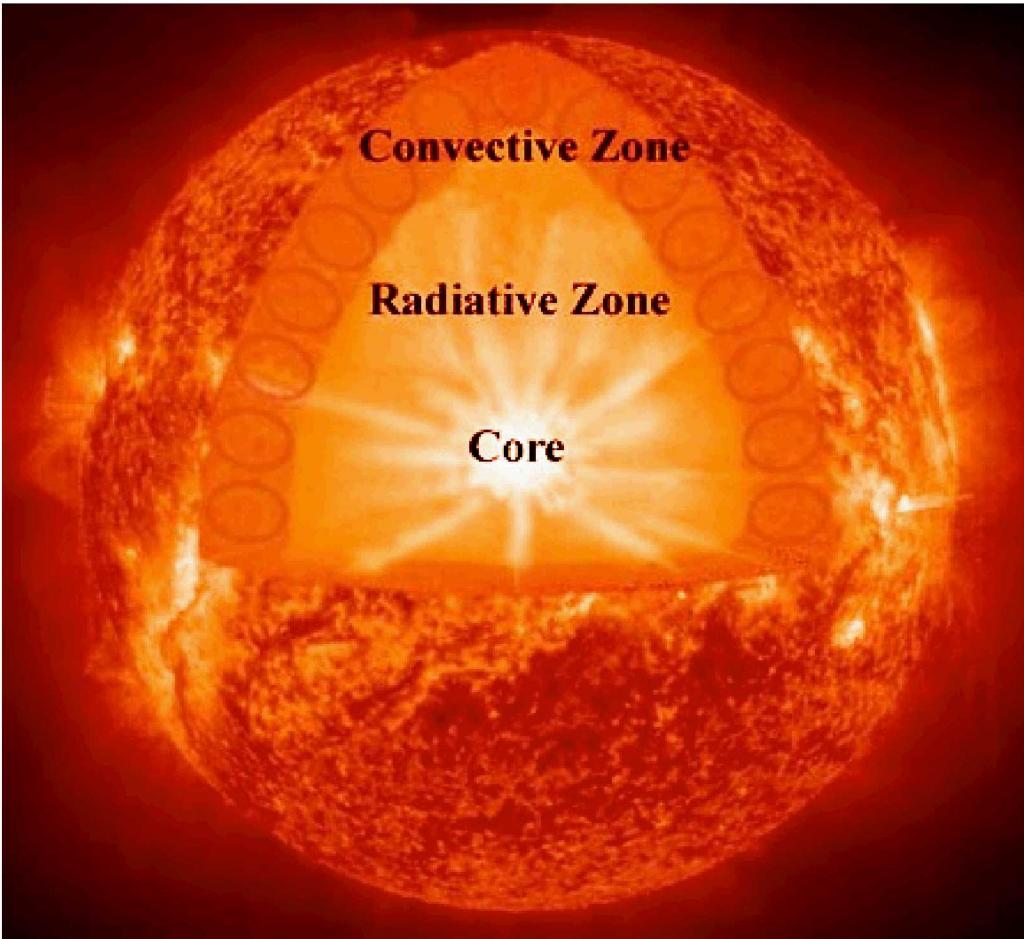
- Systematic measurement of Cr, Fe, and Ni opacities suggests model refinements in three areas

- Window: Challenge associated with open L-shell config.
- BB: Inaccurate treatment of density effects
- Continuum: Peculiar dependence on atomic number

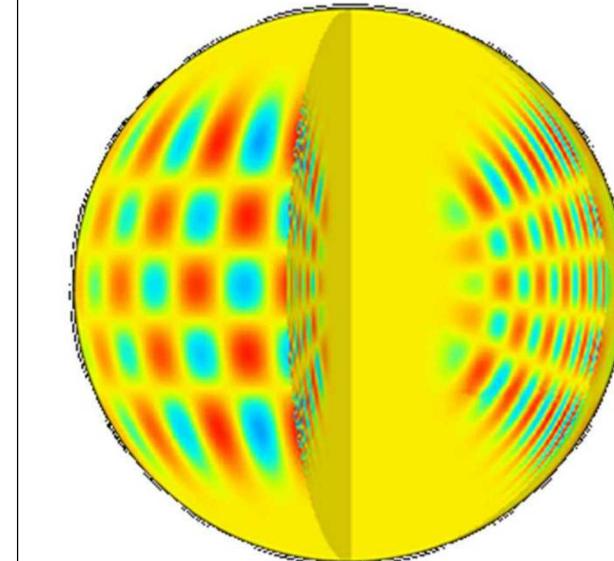


High reproducibility qualifies SNL to be a unique HED-opacity-benchmark facility

# Modeled solar structure disagrees with observations

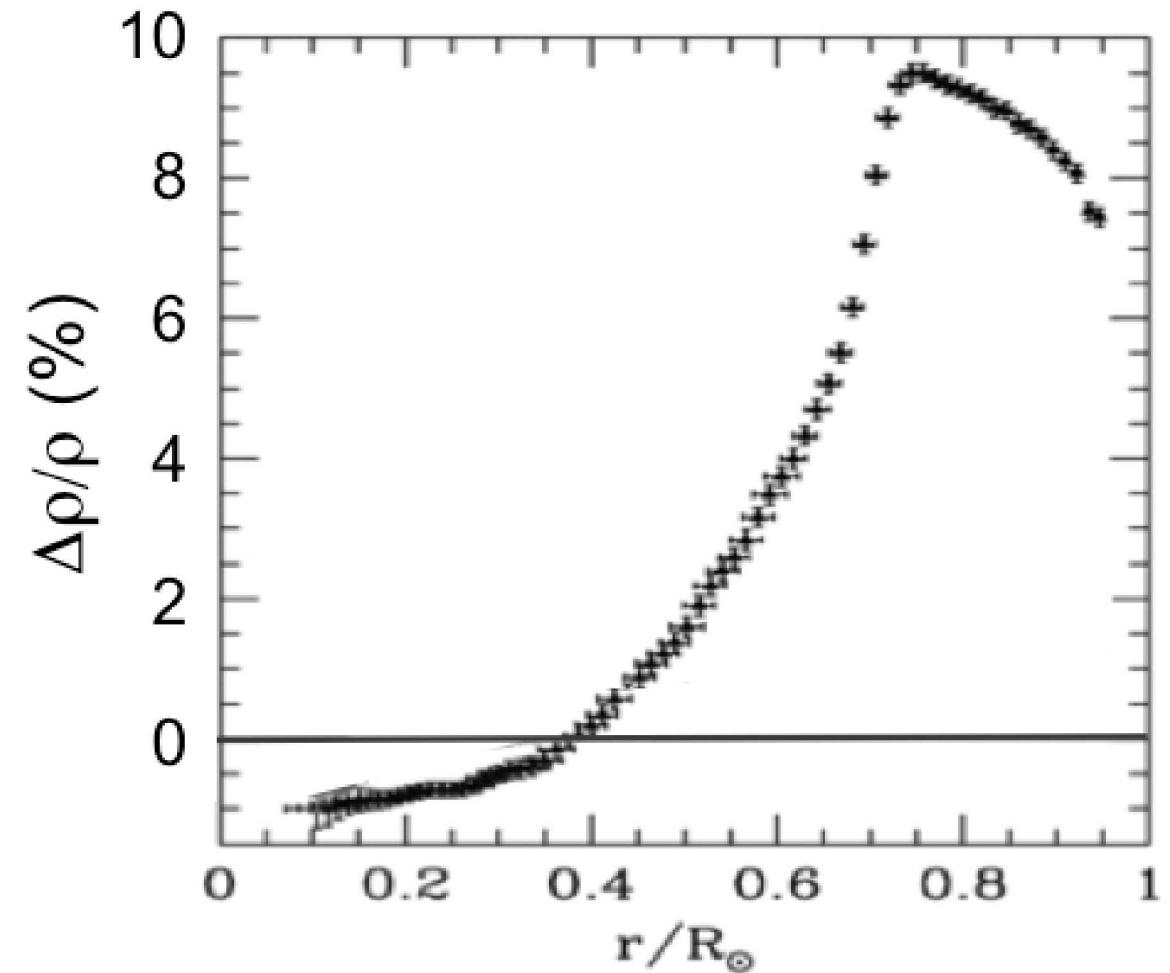
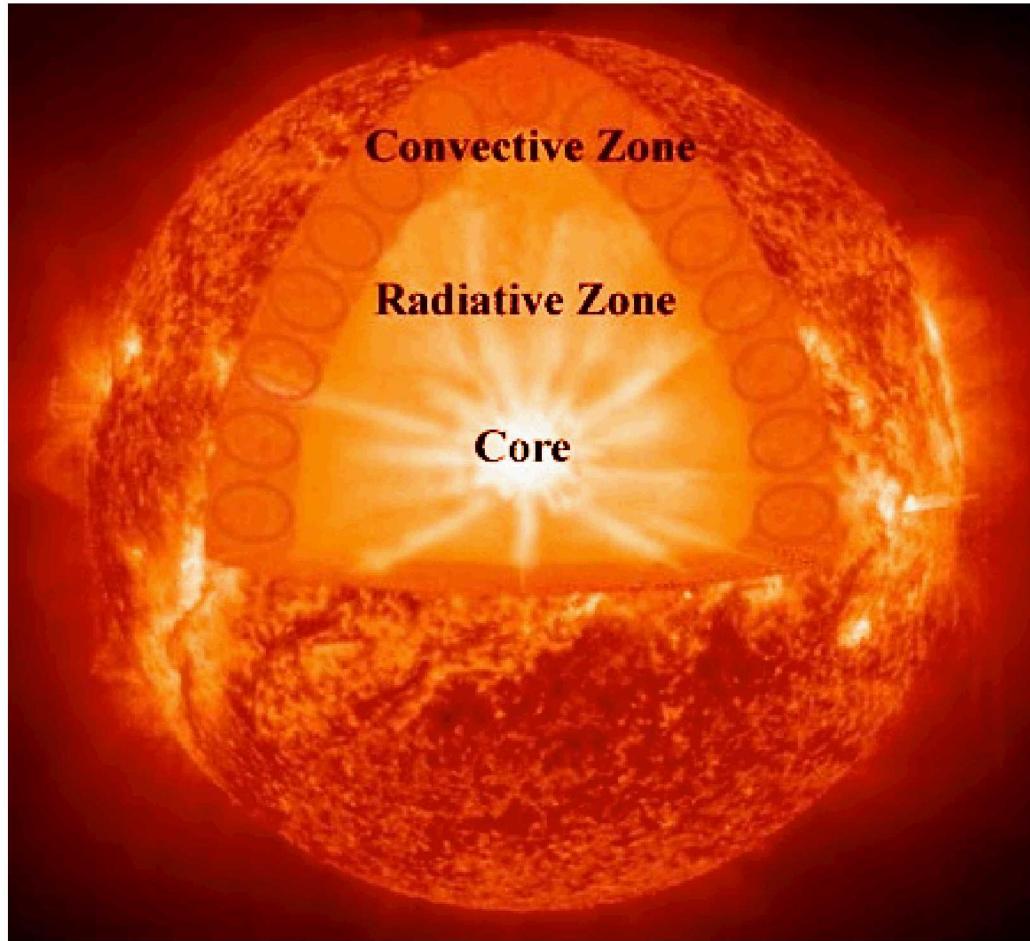


- Simulation: Standard solar model  
Inputs:
  - Abundance
  - EOS
  - Opacity
  - Etc.
- Measurements: Helioseismology

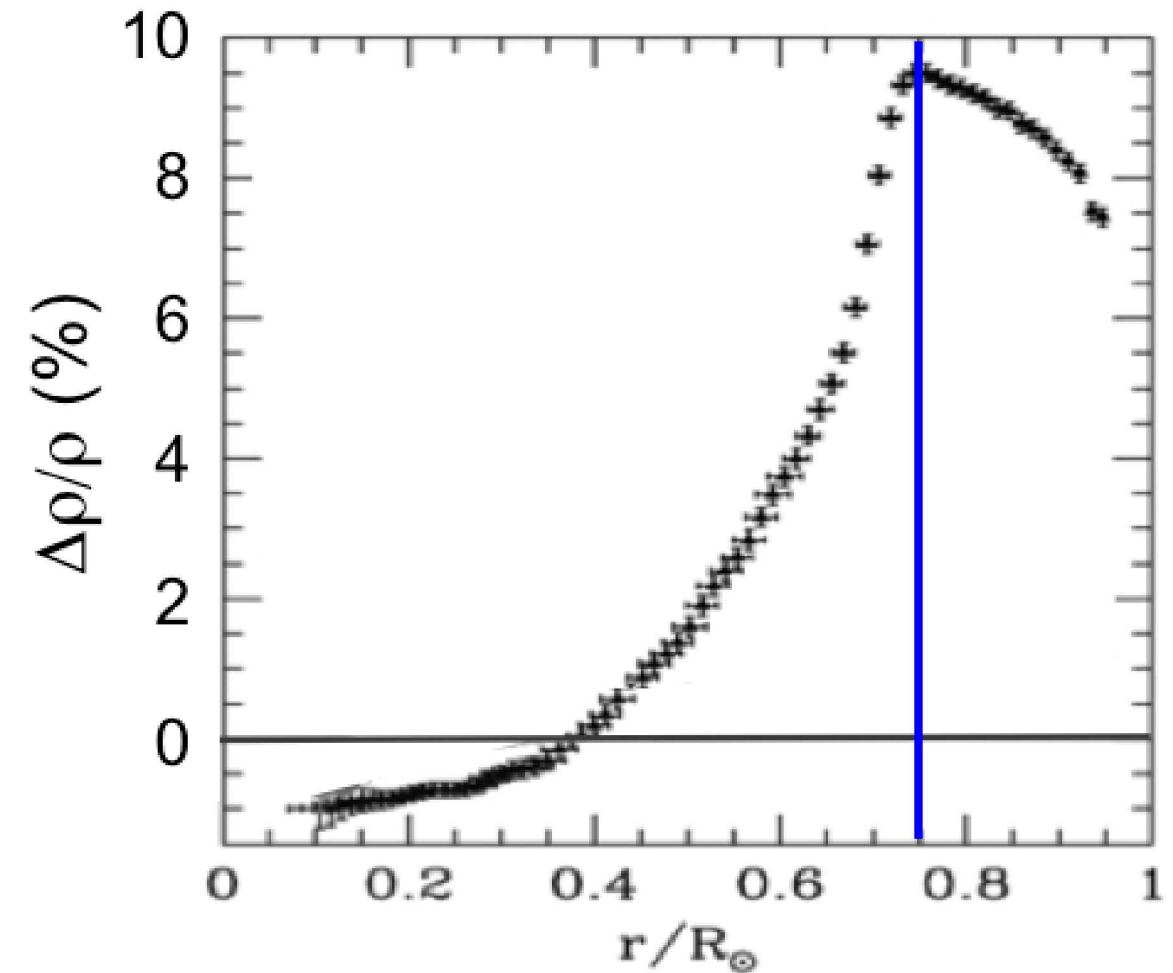
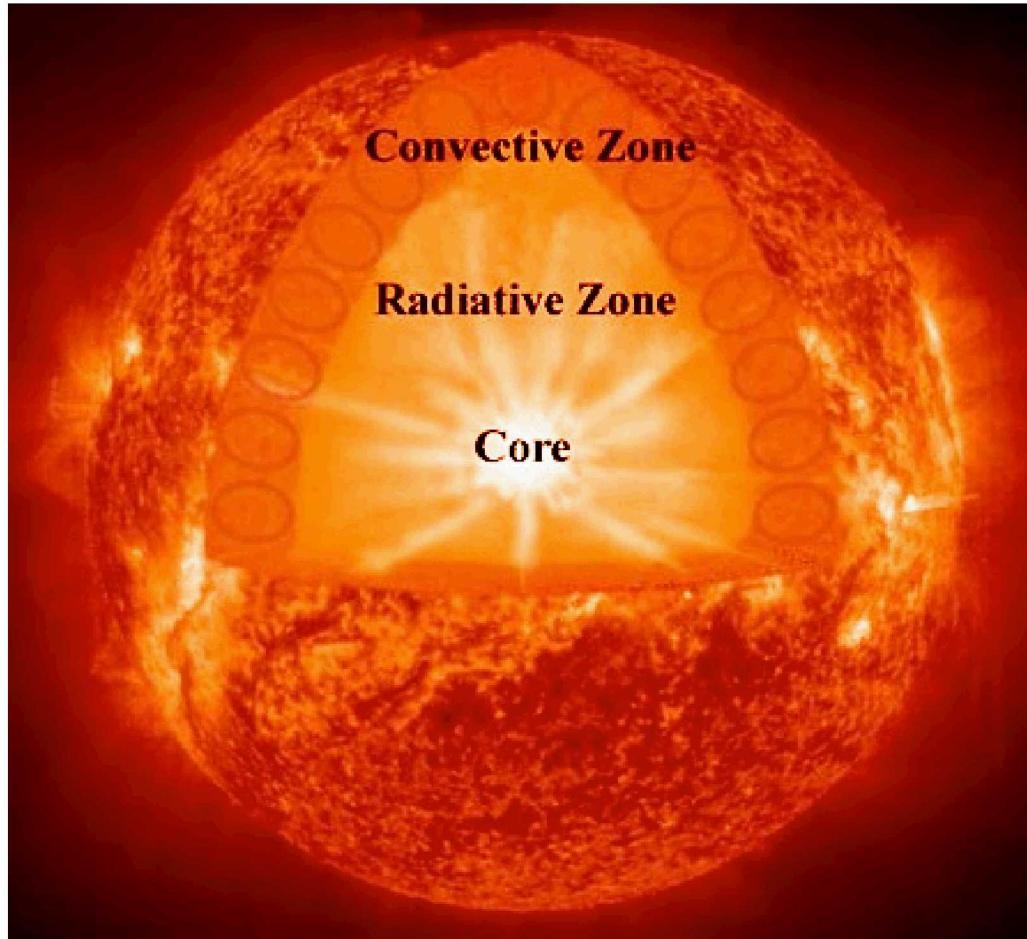


Analysis of 2D-resolved pulsation reveals the solar structure

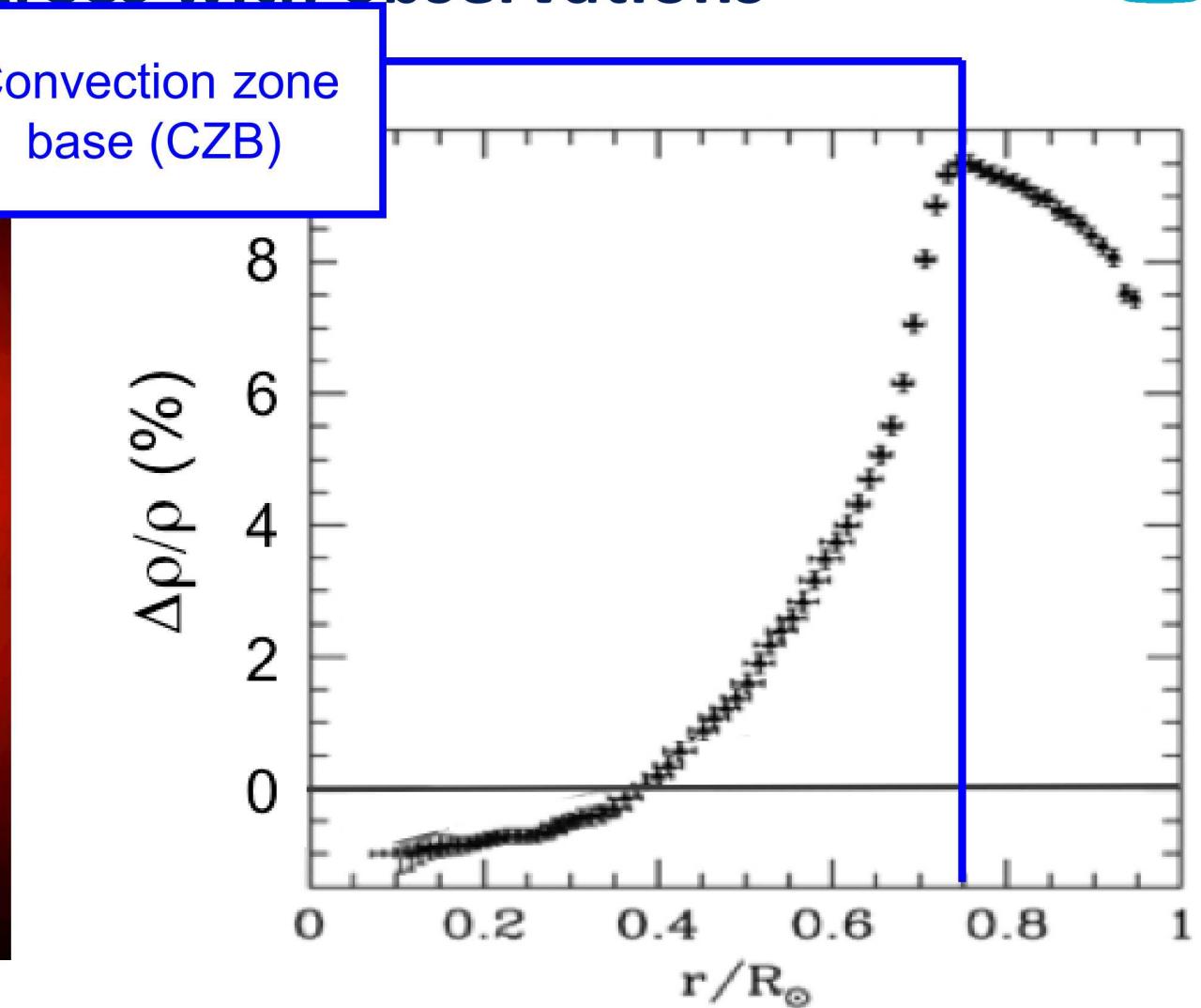
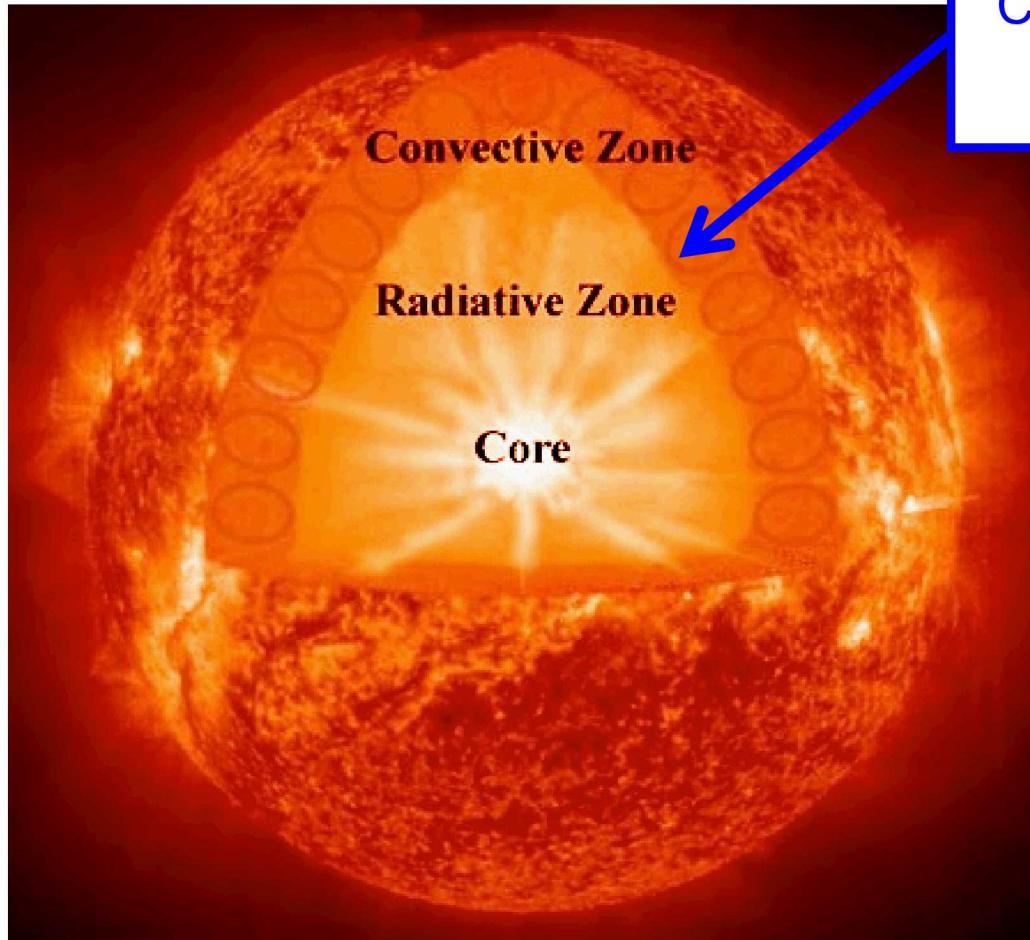
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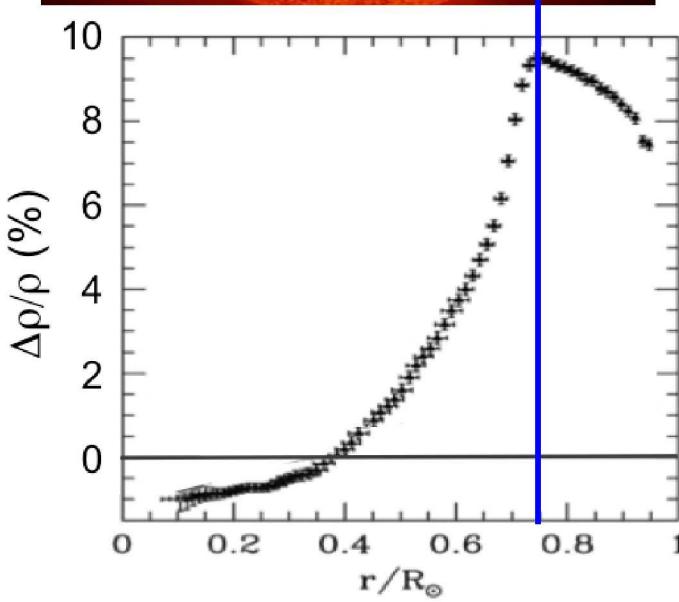
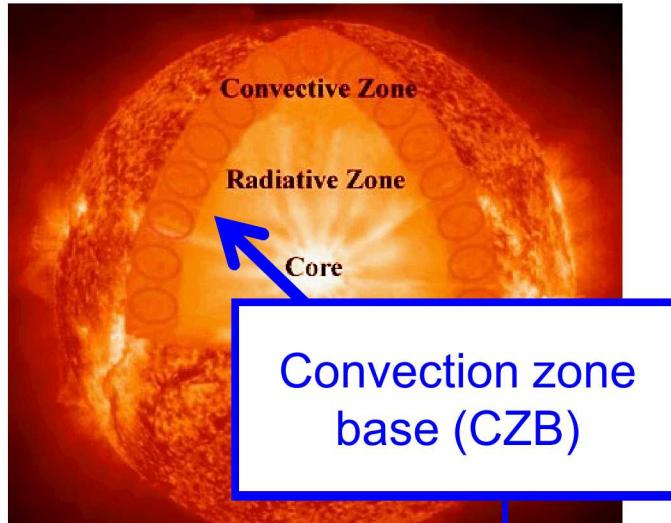
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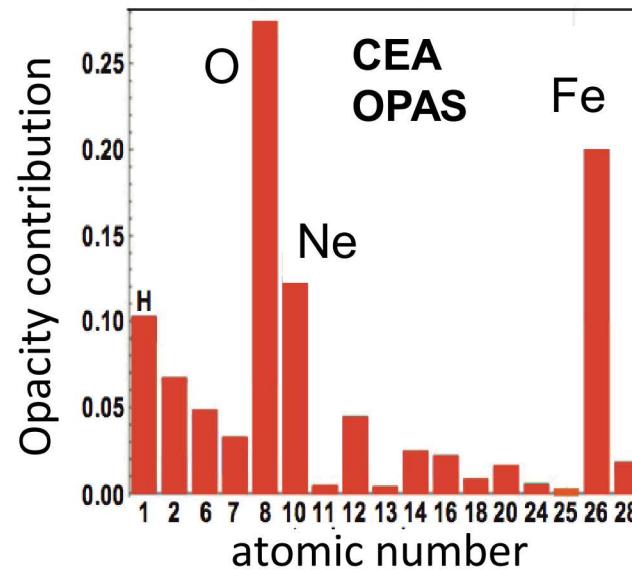
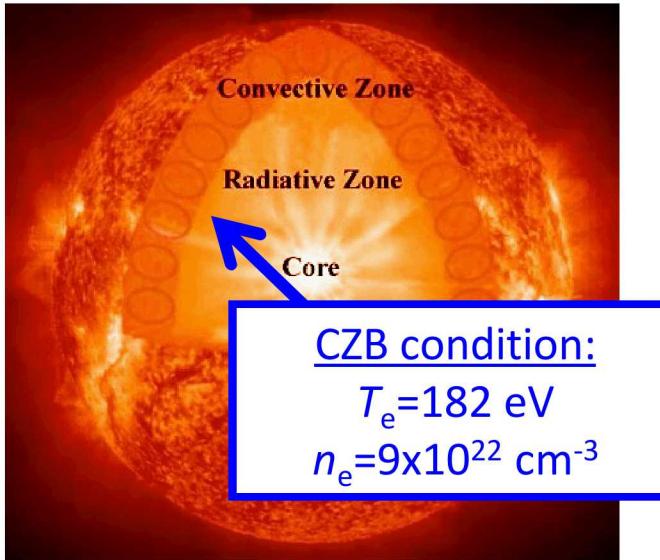
# 17% mean-opacity increase in the solar model is needed to resolve this discrepancy



## Opacity: $\kappa_v$

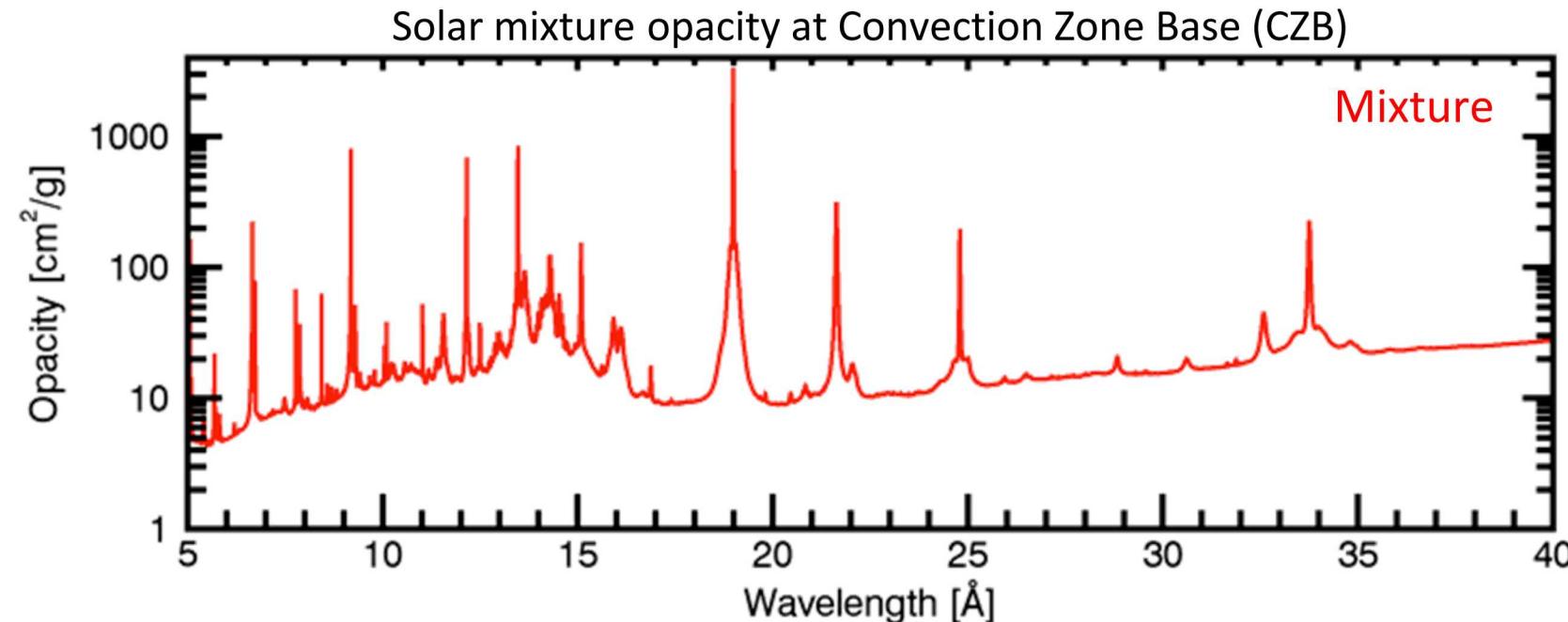
- Quantifies radiation absorption
- $\kappa_v(T_e, n_e)$  ... input for solar models
- Opacity models have never been tested

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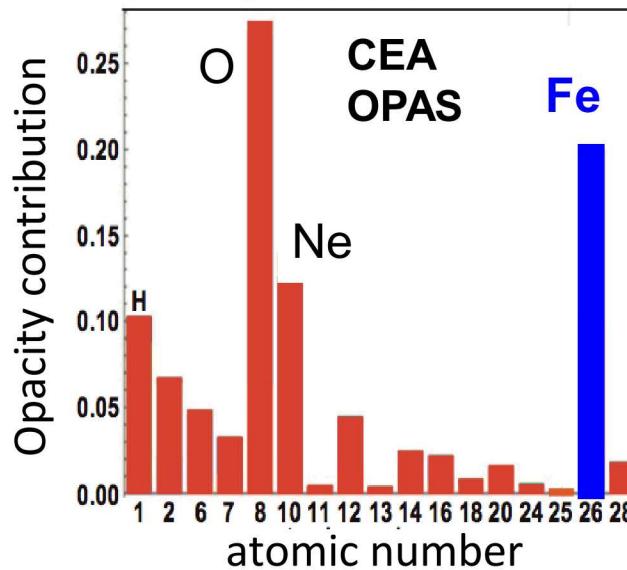
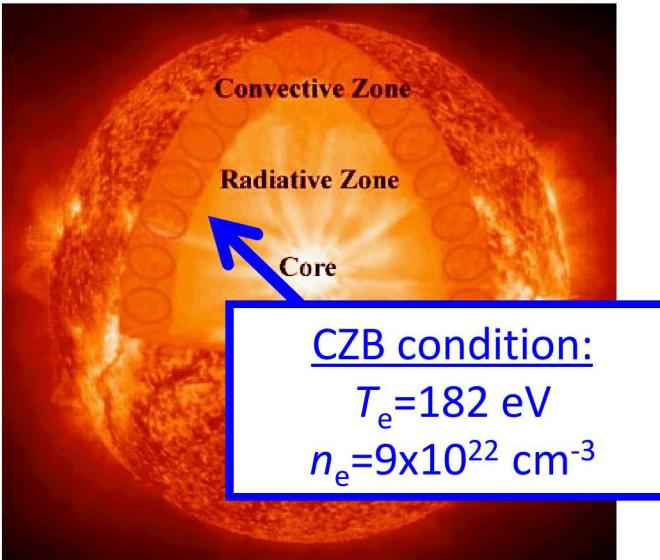


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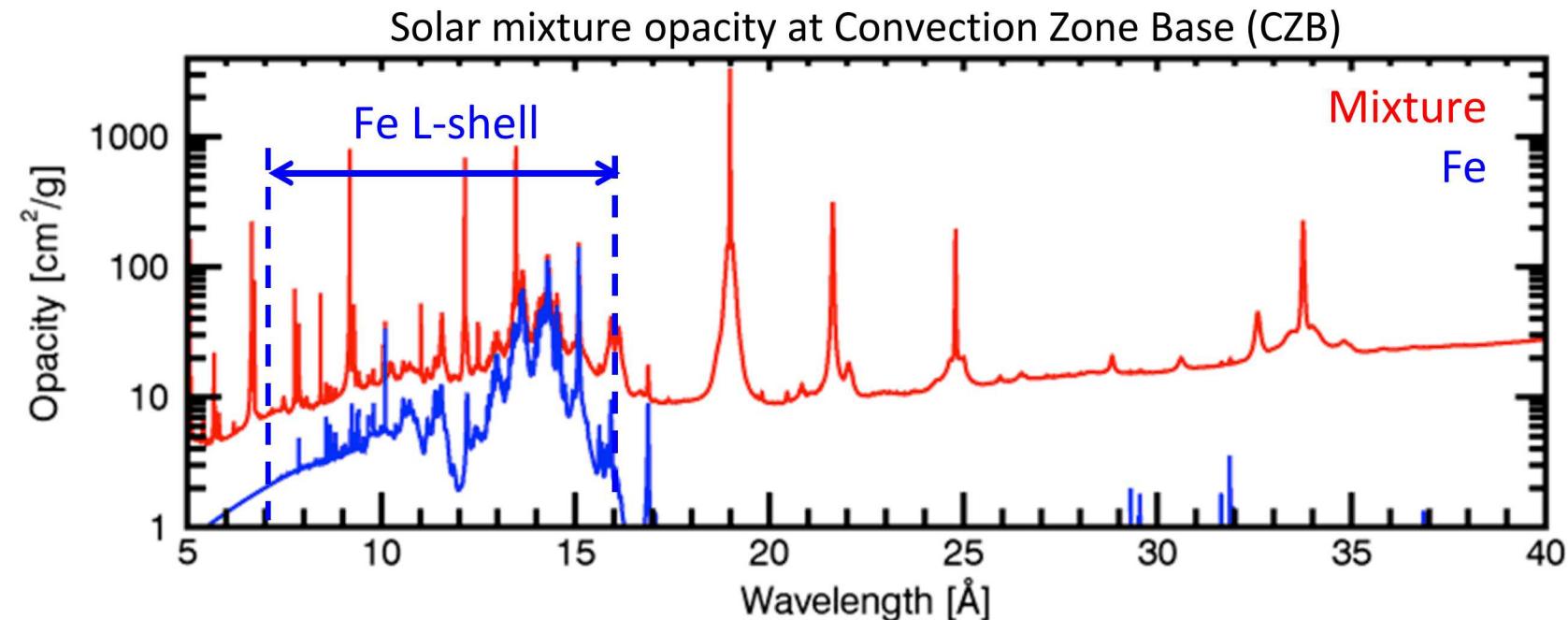


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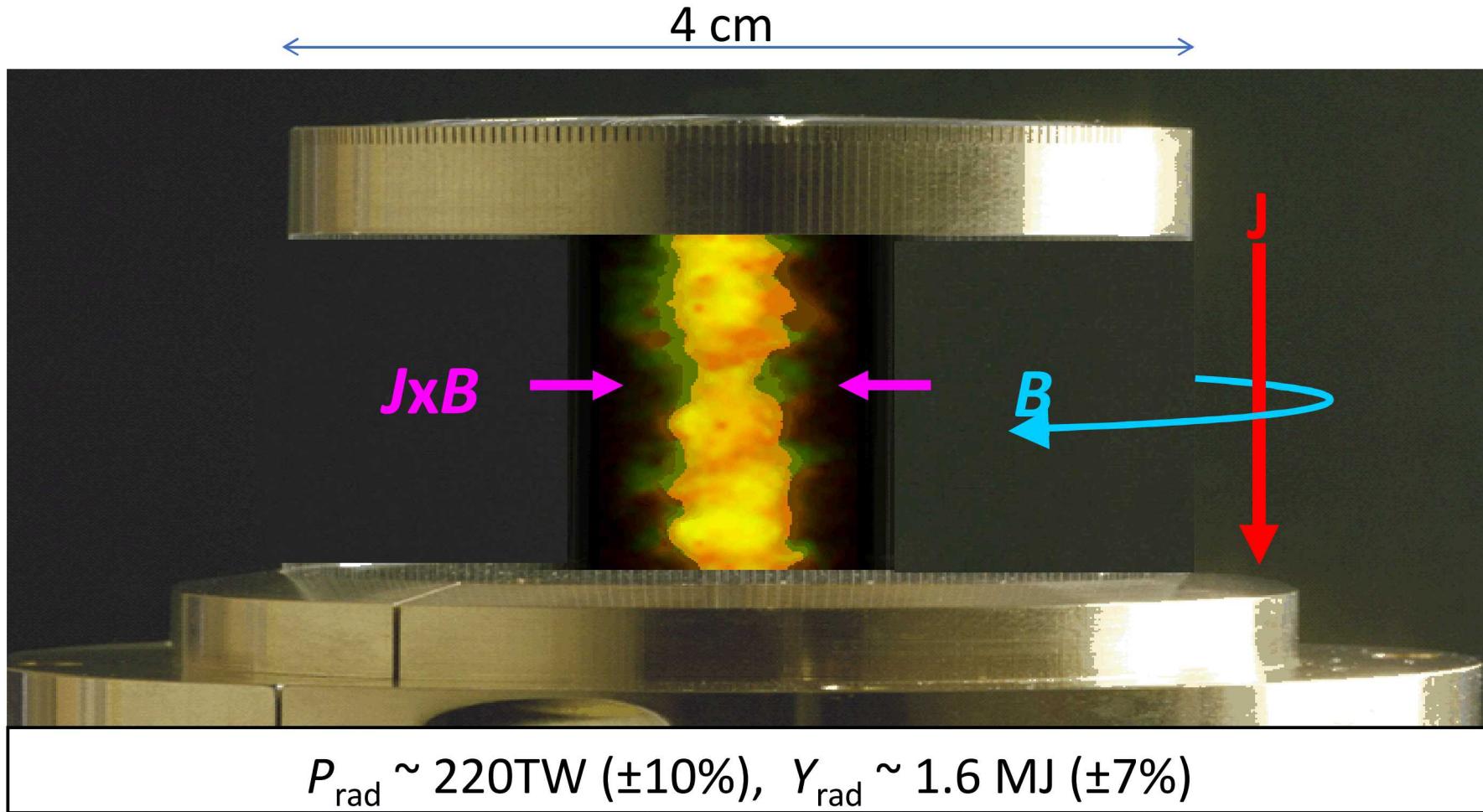
- Quantifies radiation absorption
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Fe is a likely suspect:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest contribution
- Most difficult to model



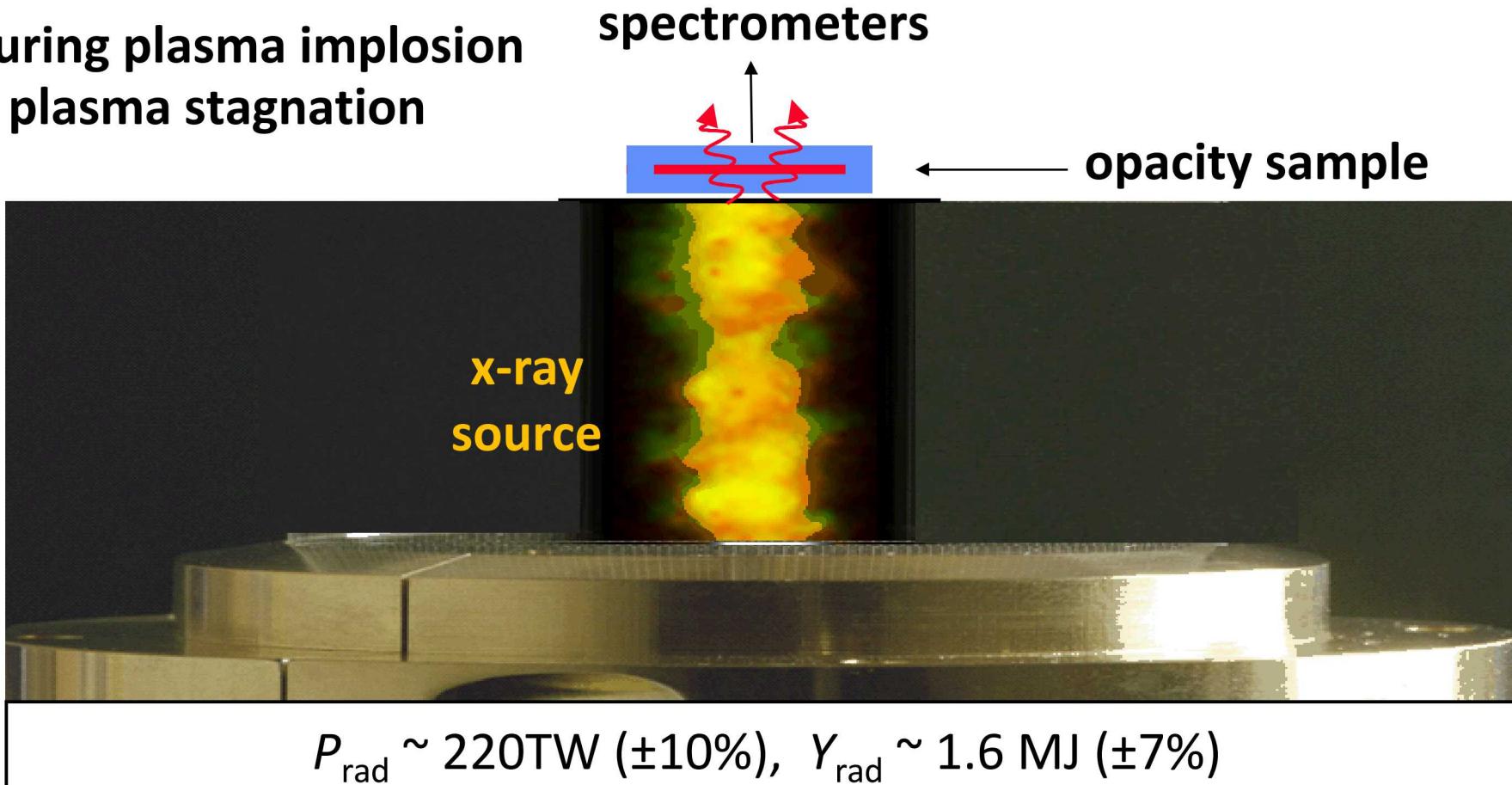
# The Z machine uses 27 million Amperes to create x-rays



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

## Sample is:

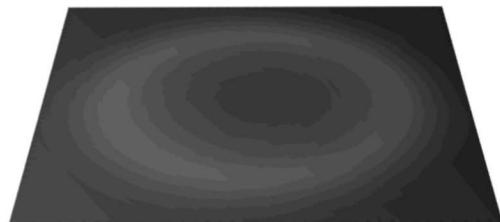
- Heated during plasma implosion
- Backlit at plasma stagnation



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

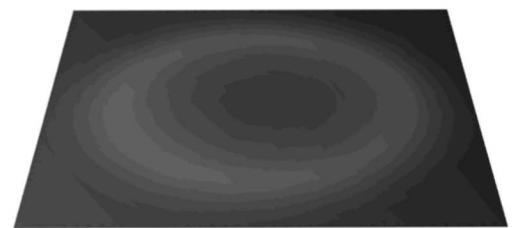
## Requirements

- Uniform heating
- Mitigating self emission
- Condition measurements



Z-pinch radiation source

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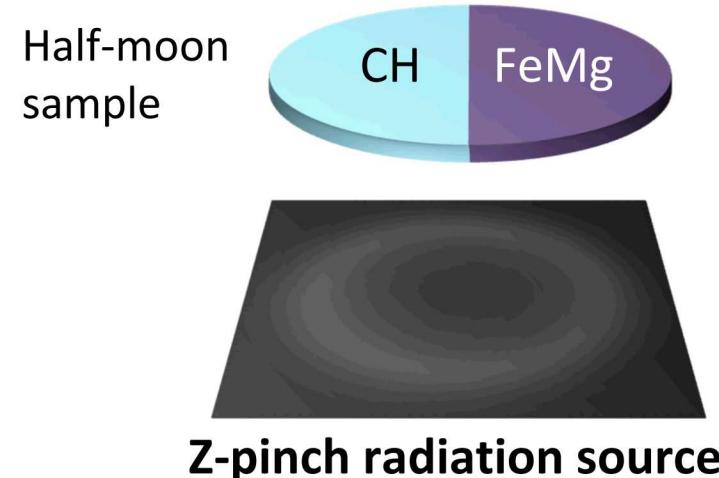


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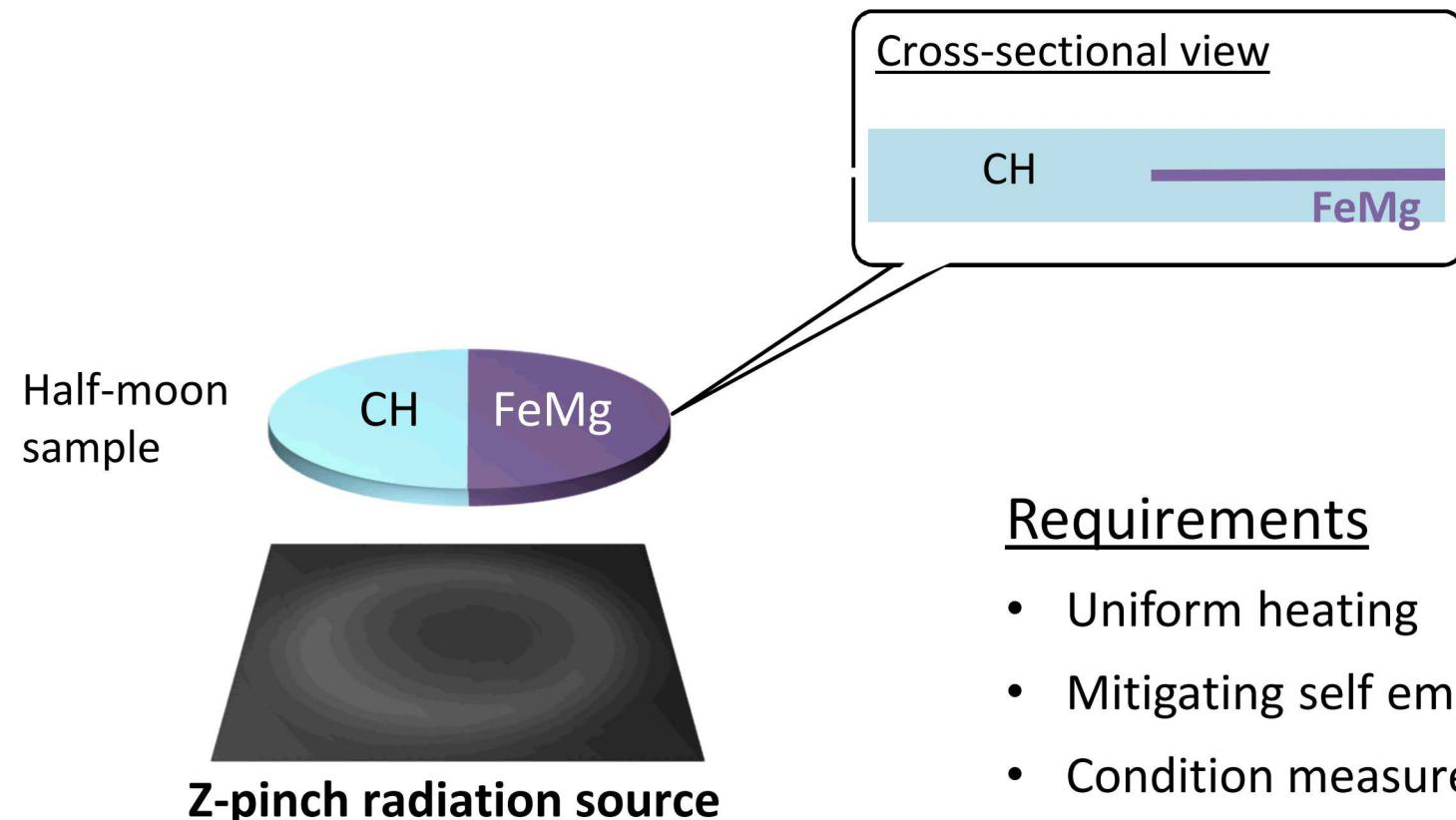
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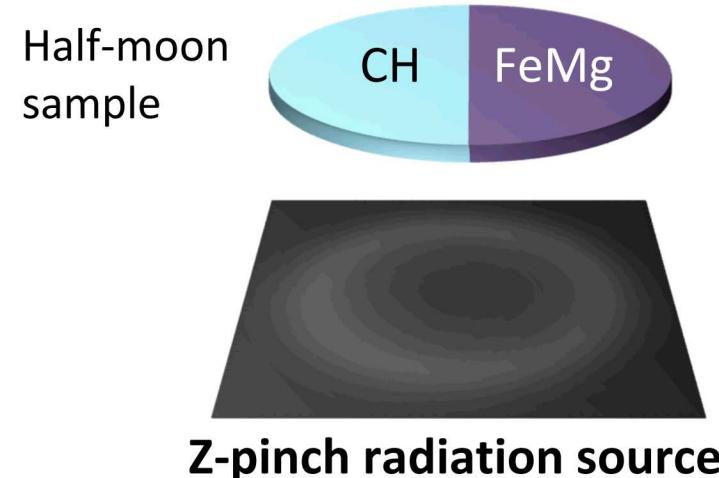
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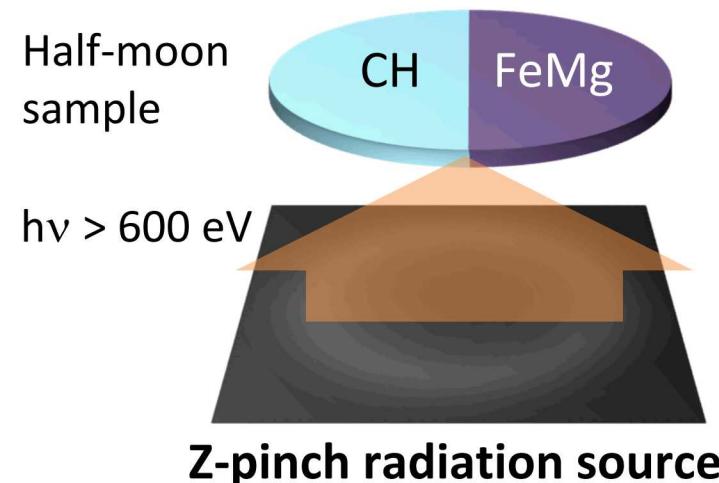
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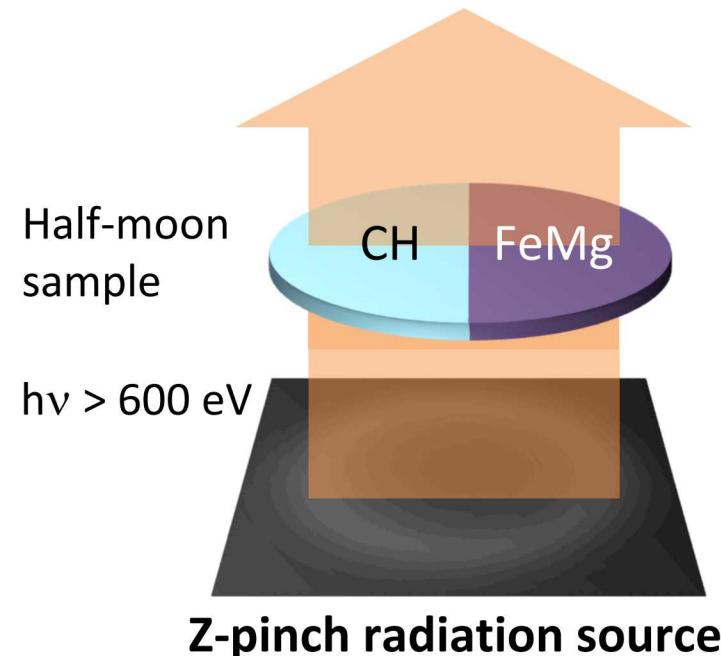
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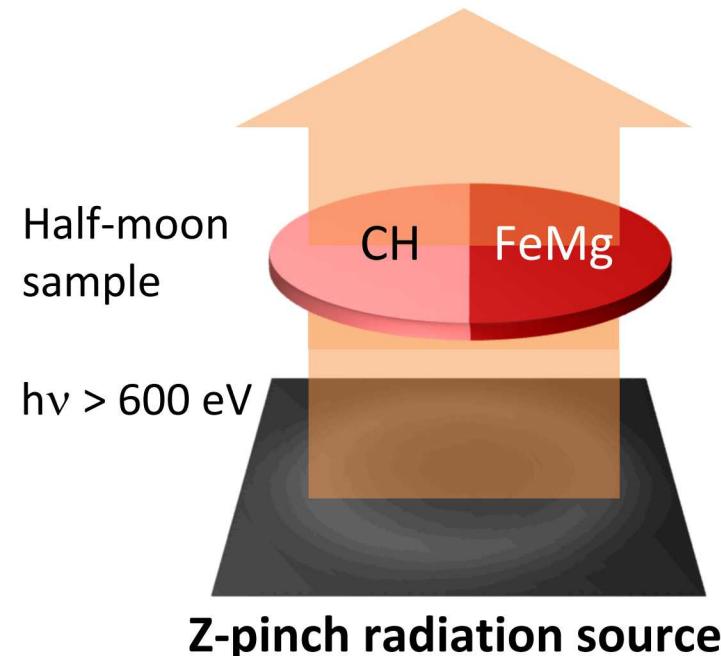
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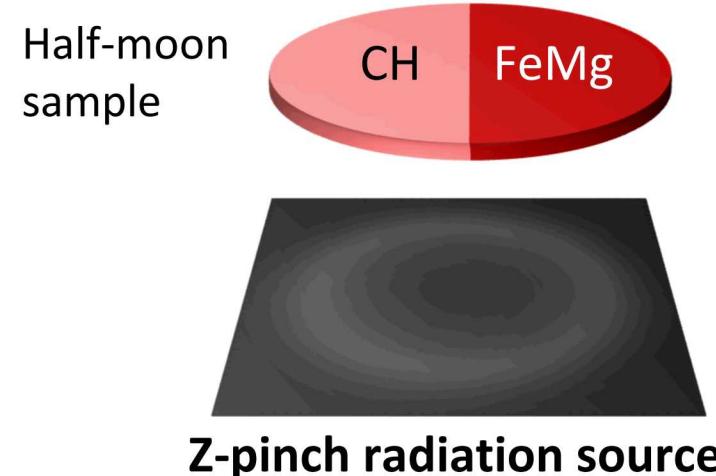
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## SNL Z satisfies:

- Volumetric heating

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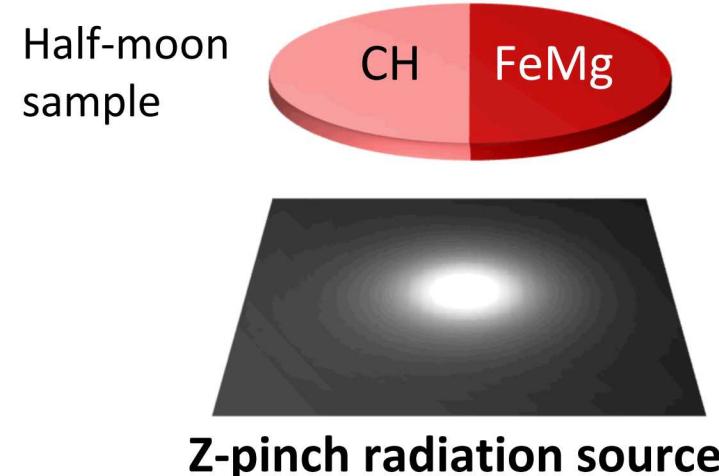
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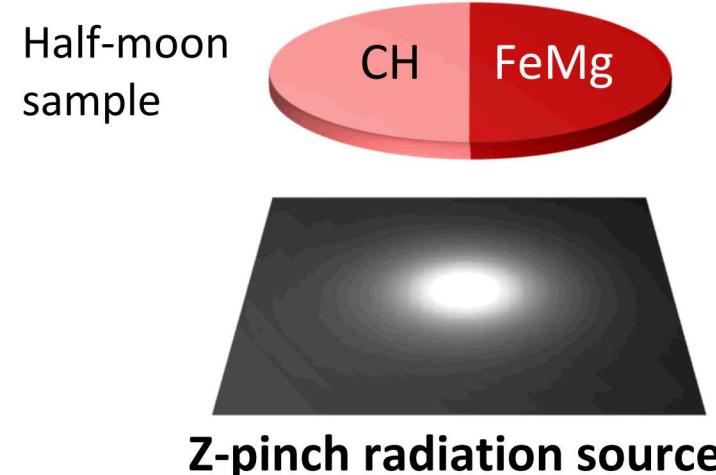
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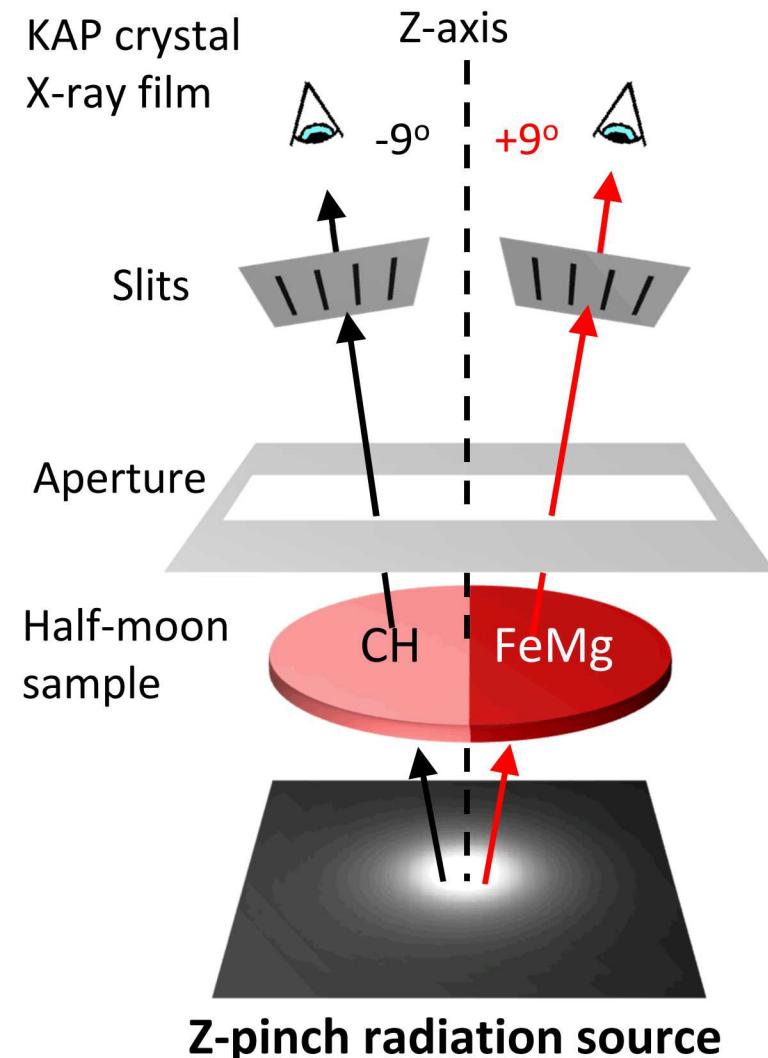
## Requirements

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- Condition measurements

## SNL Z satisfies:

- Volumetric heating
- 350 eV Planckian backlight

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



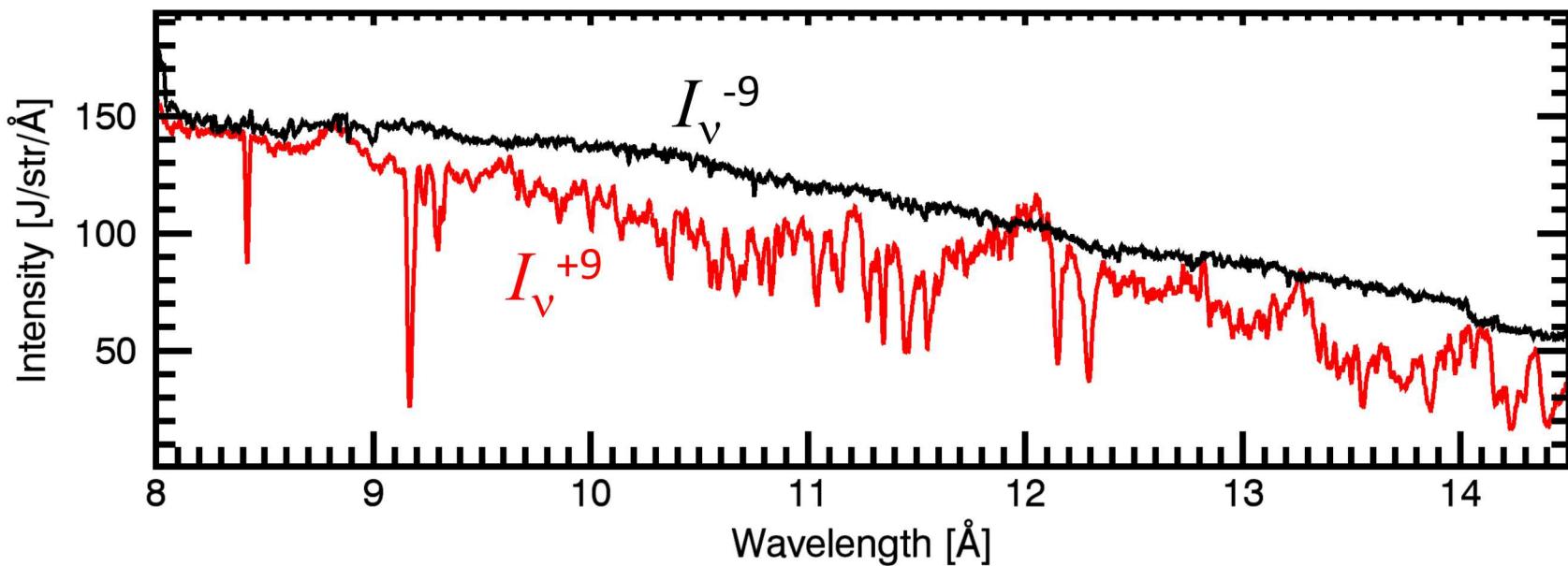
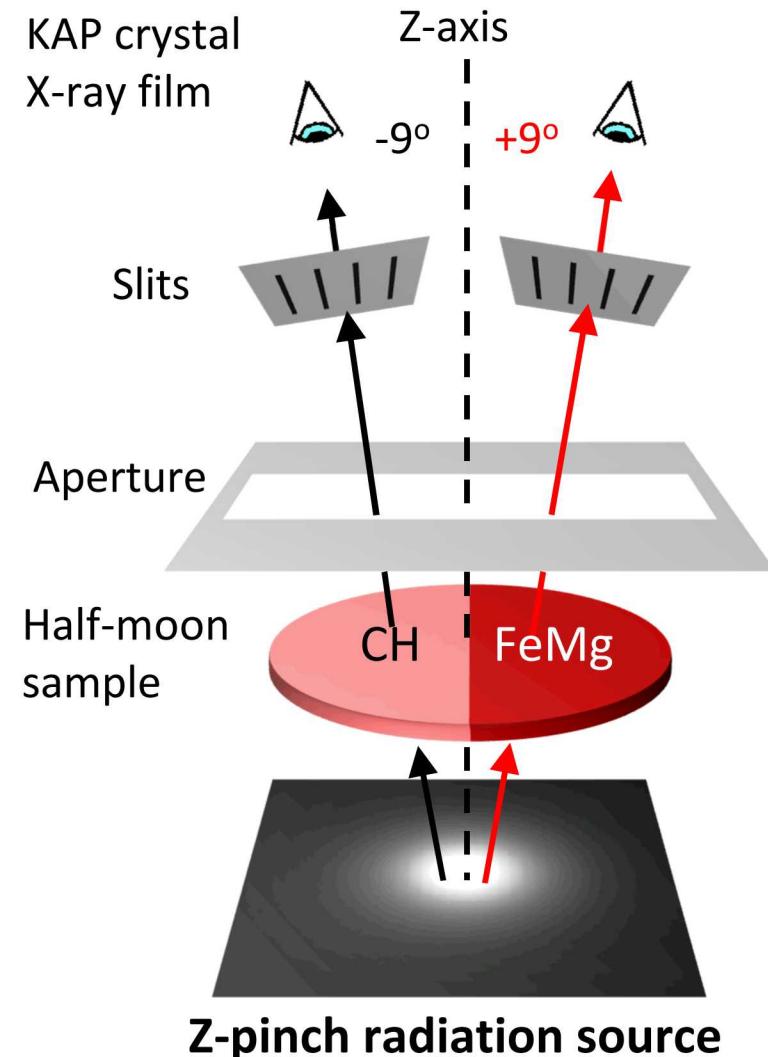
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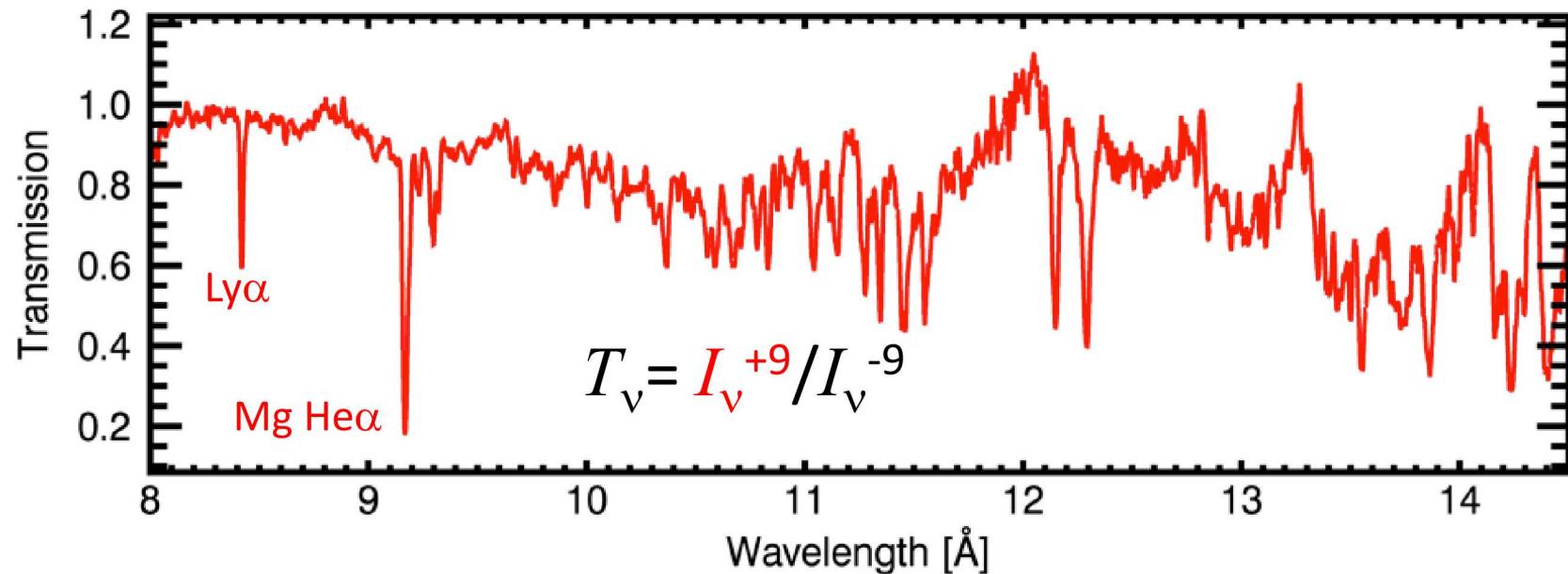
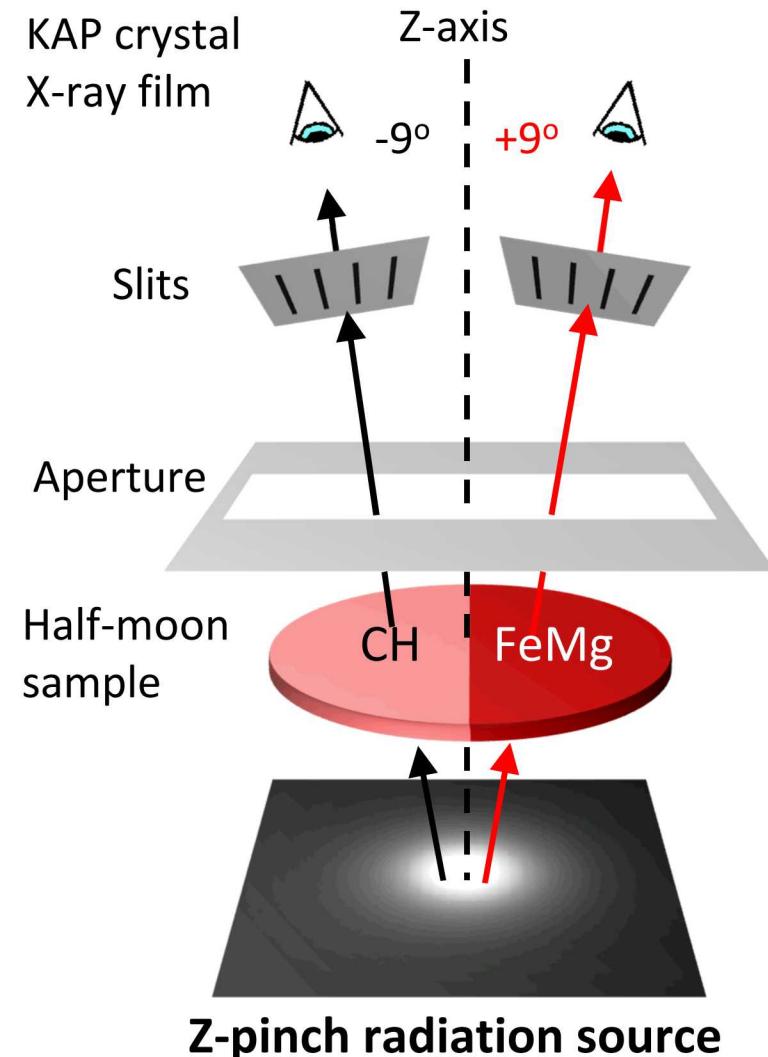
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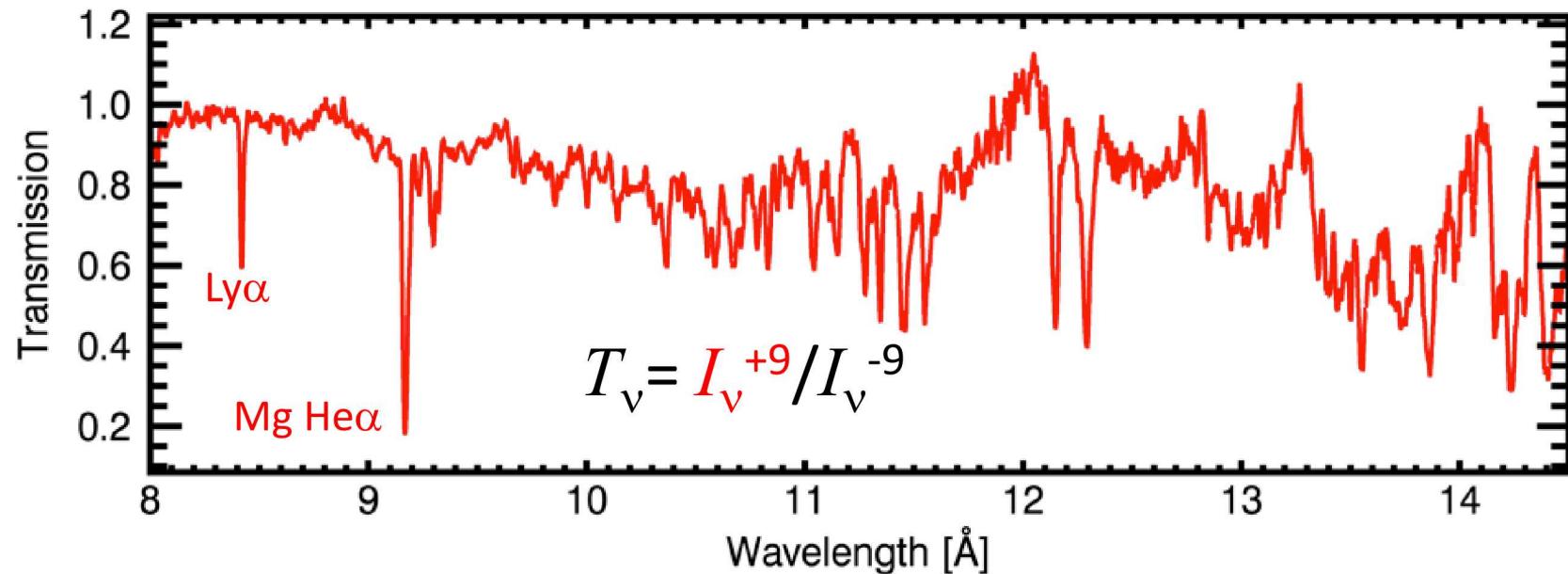
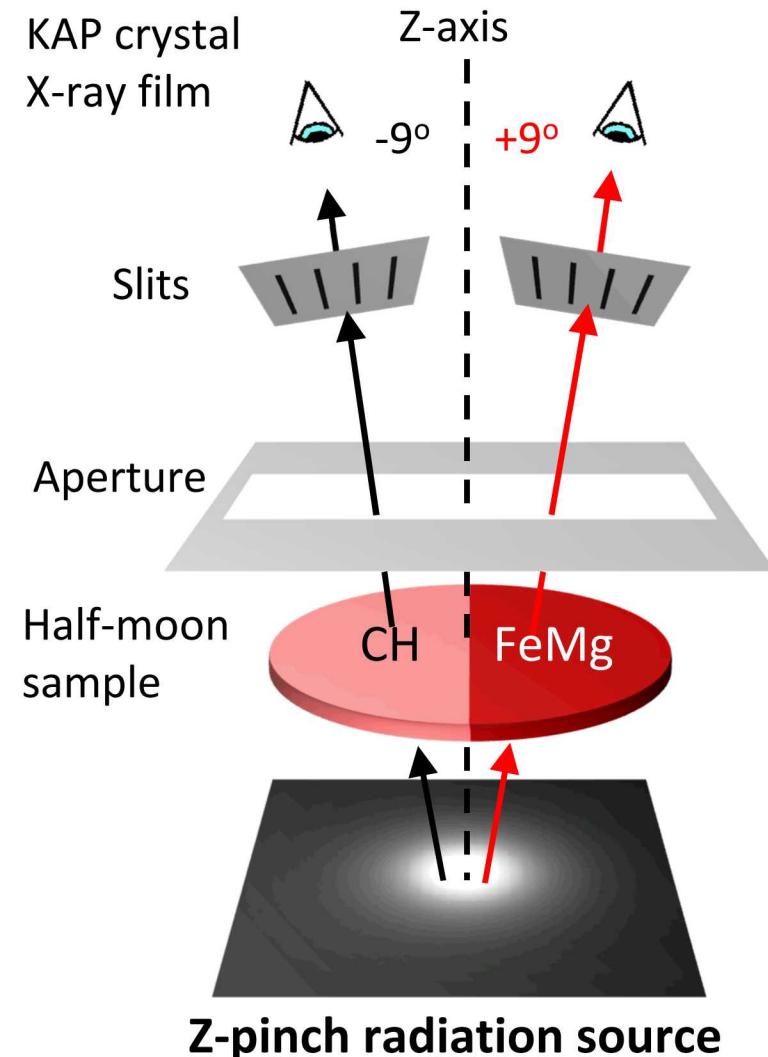
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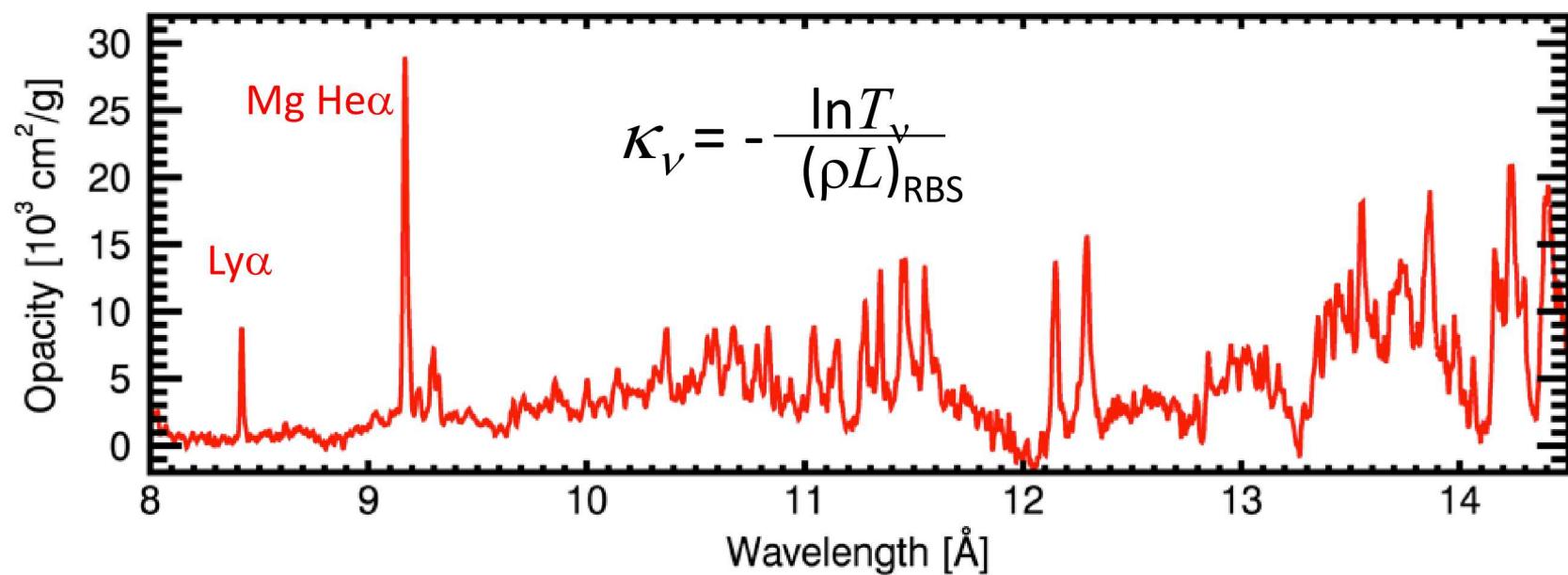
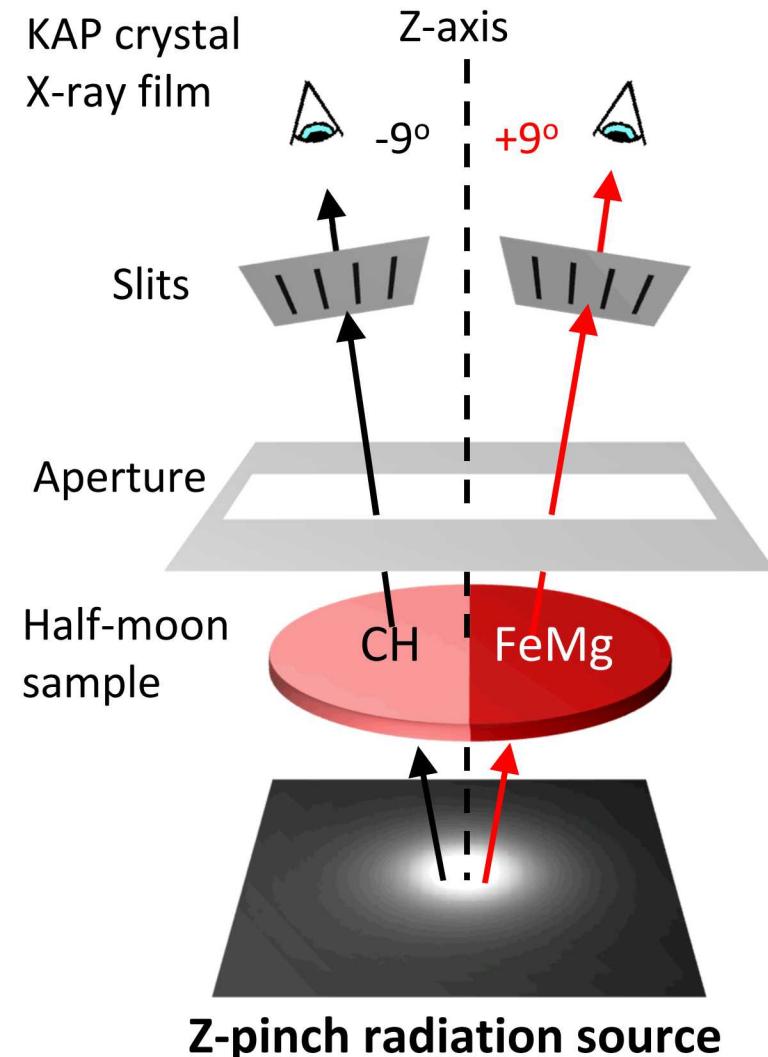
## Requirements

- Uniform heating → Volumetric heating
- Mitigating self emission → 350 eV Planckian backlight
- Condition measurements → Mg K-shell spectroscopy

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- Mg K-shell spectroscopy

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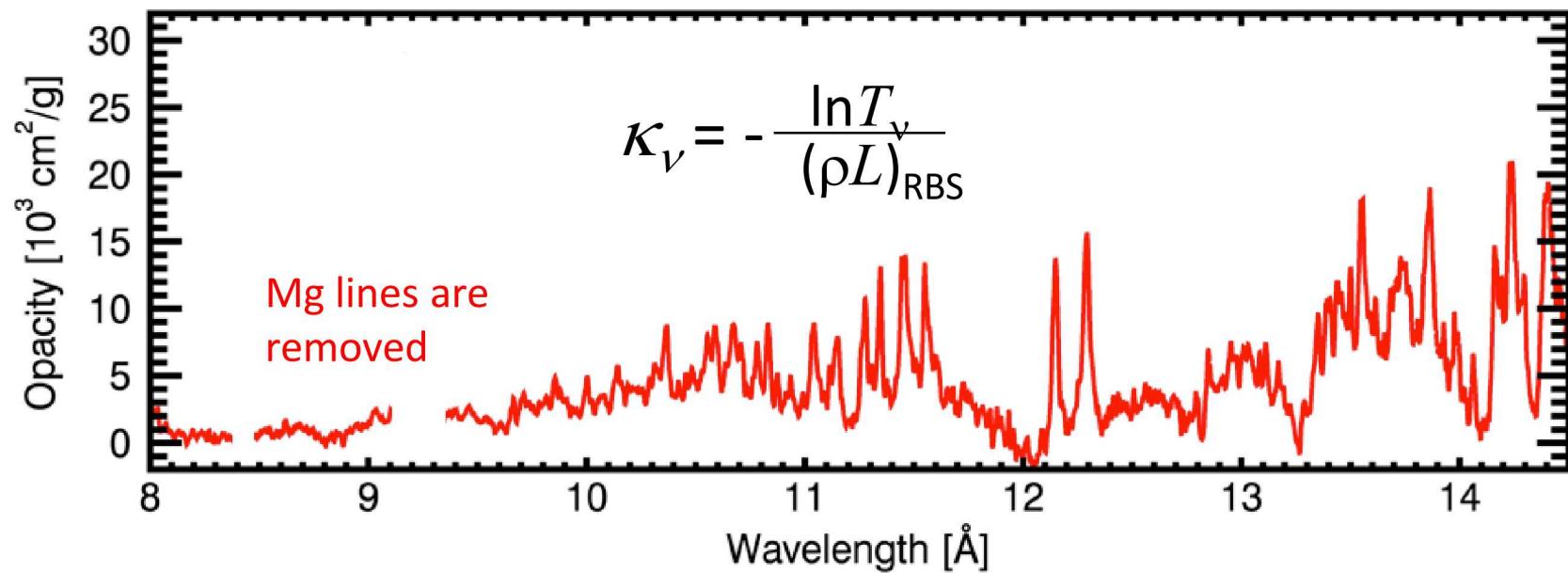
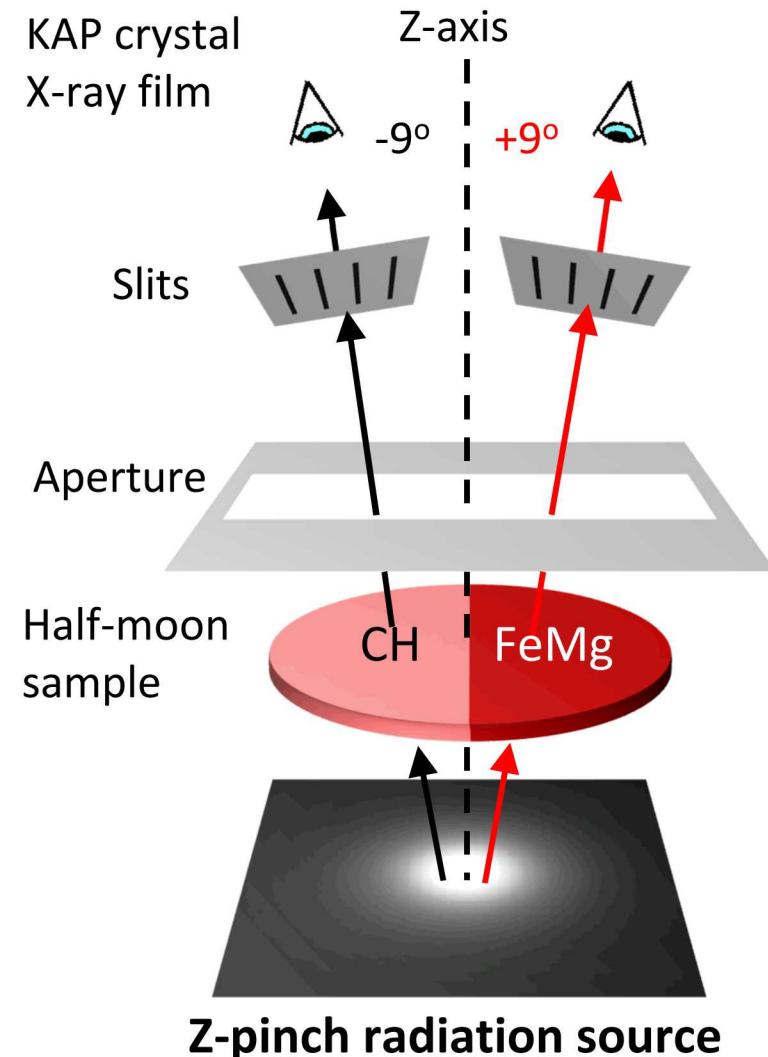


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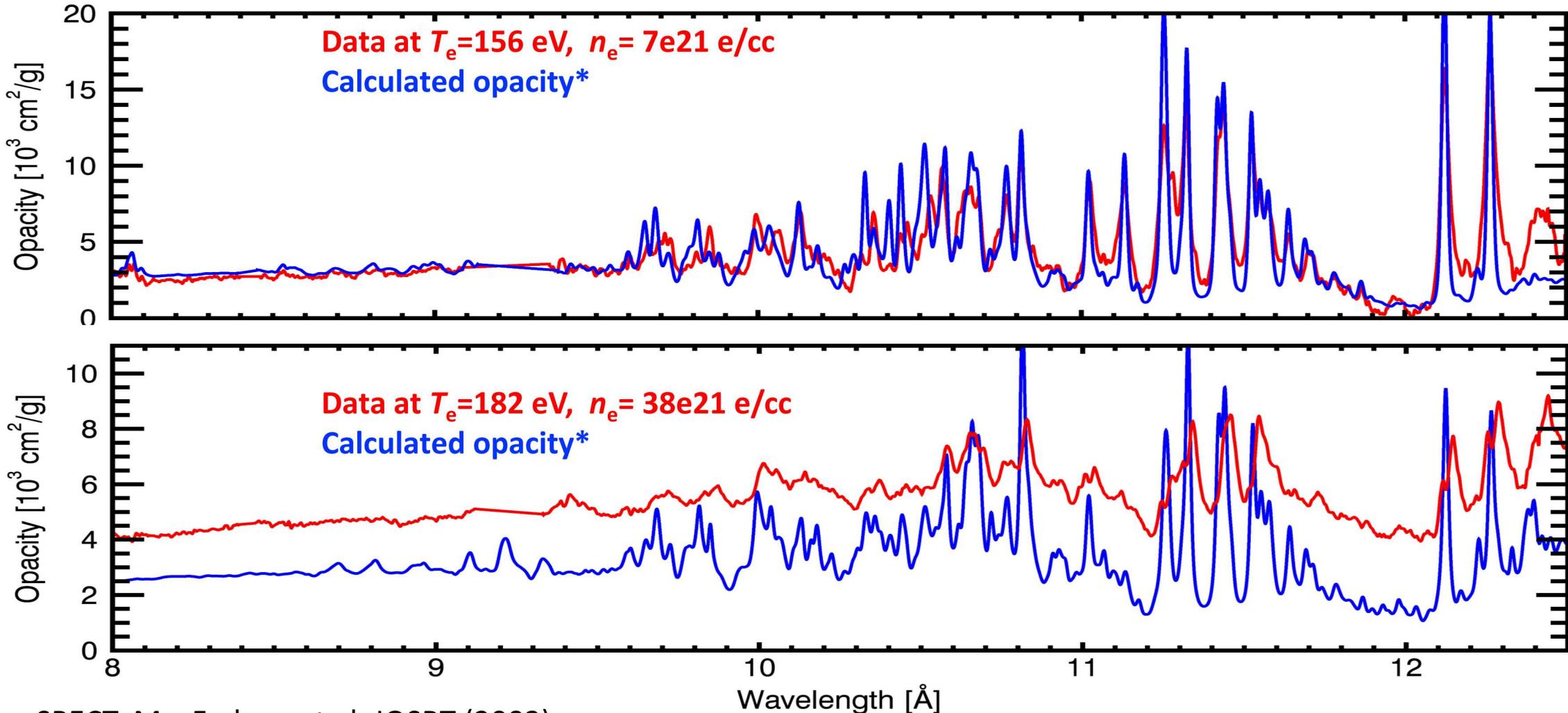
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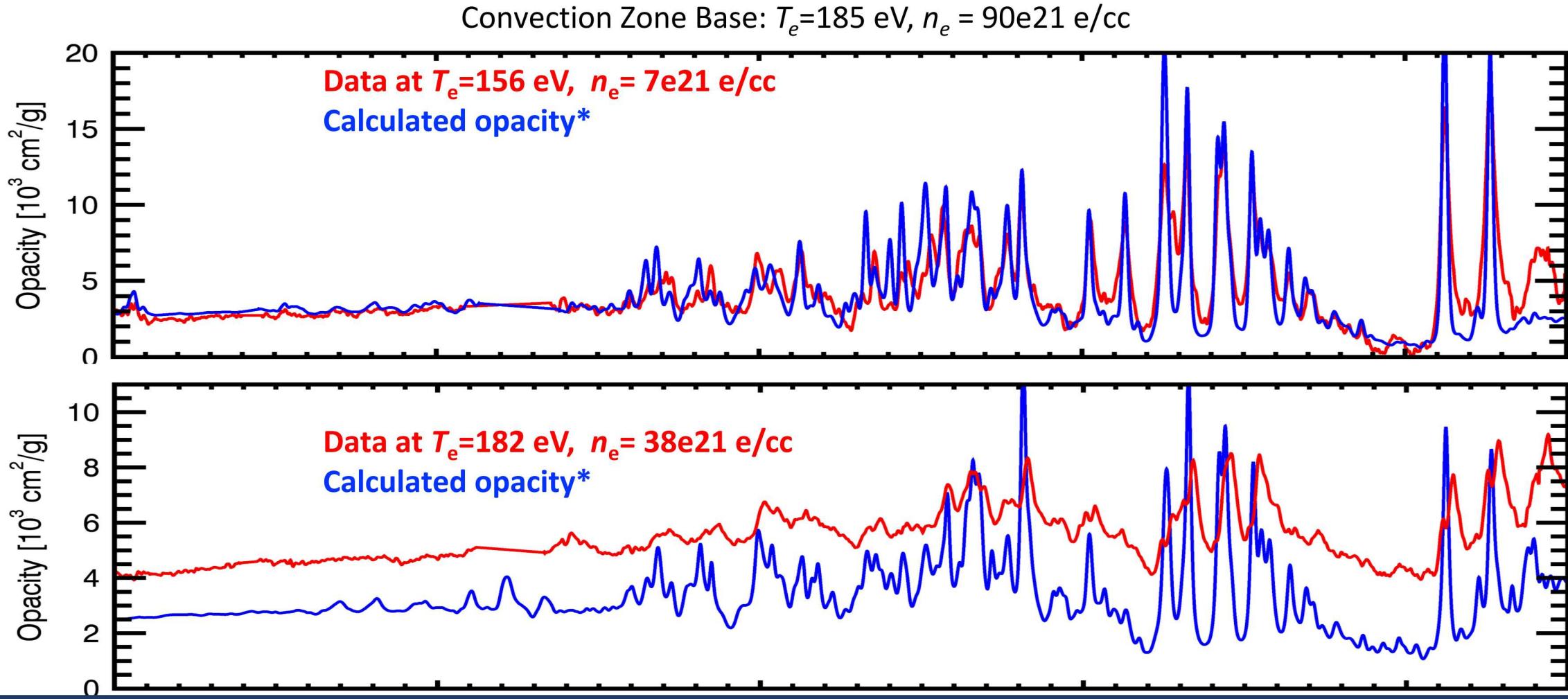
# Modeled opacity shows severe disagreement as $T_e$ and $n_e$ approach solar interior conditions

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



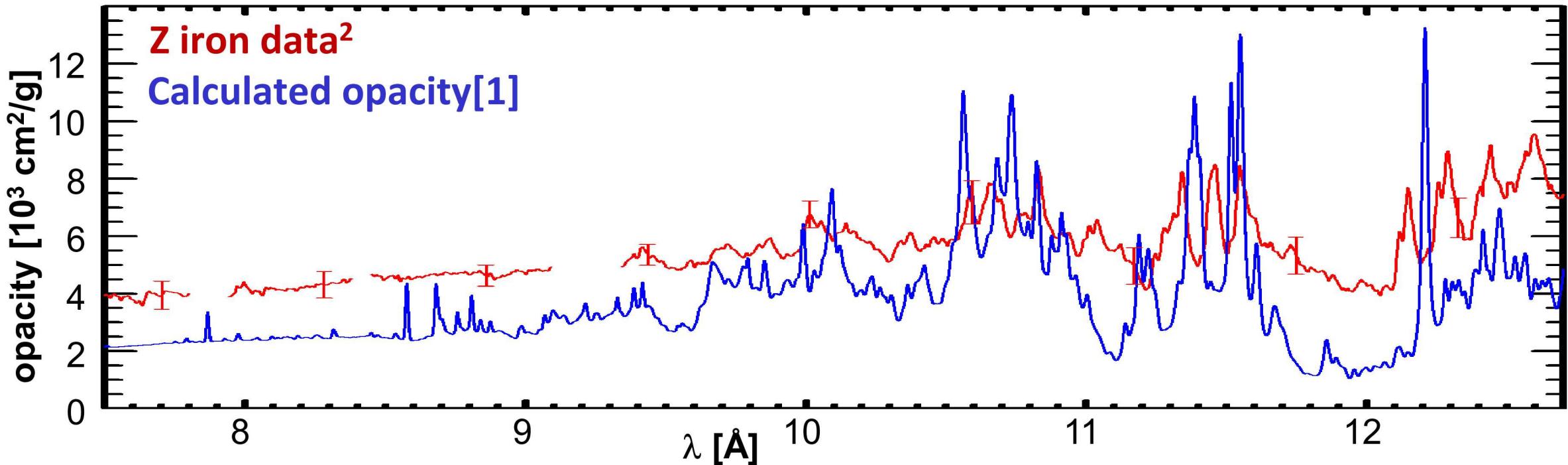
\* PrismSPECT: MacFarlane et al, JQSRT (2003)

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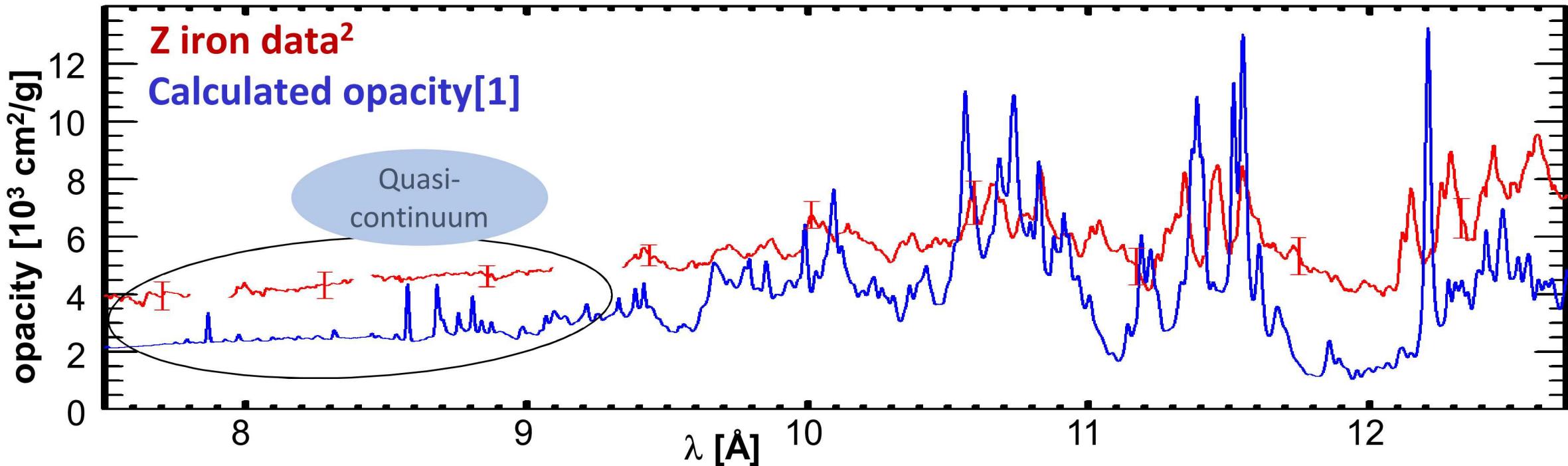


\* If measured Fe opacity is correct, it would increase the solar mean opacity by  $\sim 7\%$ .

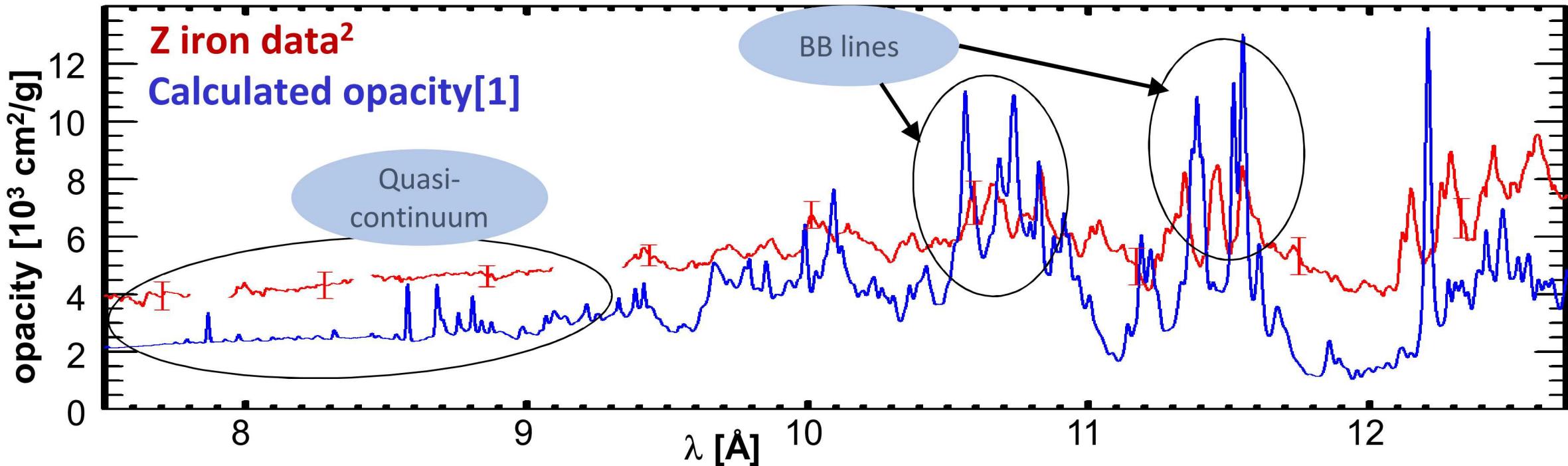
# Reported opacity discrepancy is complex and deserves further scrutiny



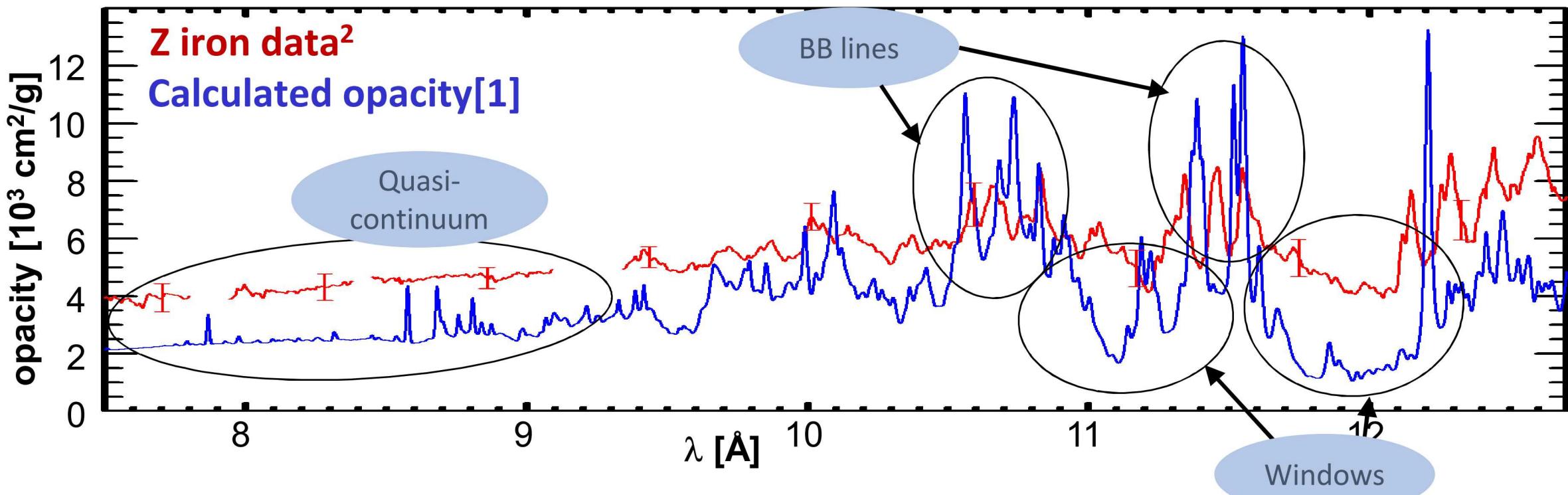
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Is opacity theory inaccurate?  
Is opacity experiment flawed?

# 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  $T_e$  and  $n_e$  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

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Random error:

→ Average over many spectra from multiple experiments

Systematic error evaluation:

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## Experimental evidence

- Plasma  $T_e$  and  $n_e$  errors →  $\pm 4\%$  and  $\pm 25\%$ , respectively [1]
- Sample areal density errors → RBS measurements agree with Mg spectroscopy
- Transmission errors → Transmission analysis on null shot shows  $\pm 5\%$
- Spatial non-uniformities → Al and Mg spectroscopy
- Temporal non-uniformities → Backlight radiation lasts 3ns
- Departures from LTE
- Fe self emission → Measurement do not show Fe self-emission
- Tamper self emission →
- Extraneous background → Quantified amount do not explain the discrepancy
- Sample contamination → RBS measurements show no contamination
- Tamper transmission difference

# 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  $T_e$  and  $n_e$  errors —————→ Suggested  $n_e$  error did not explain the discrepancy

• 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

## Numerical evidence

Nagayama et al, *High Energ Dens Phys* (2016)

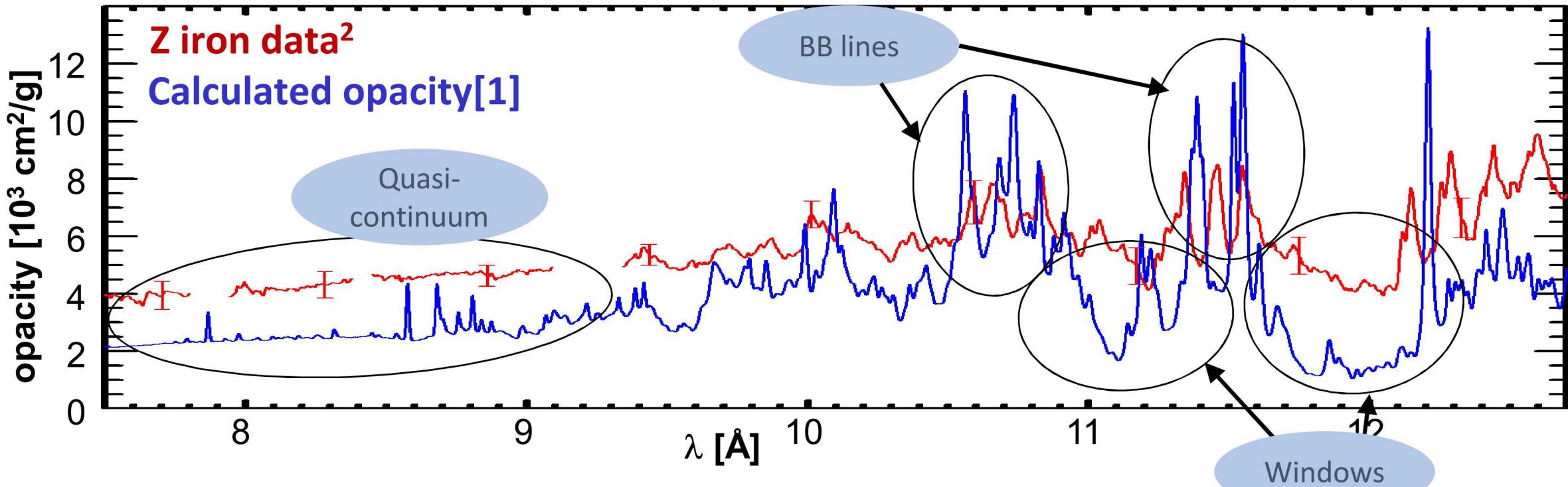
Iglesias et al, *High Energ Dens Phys* (2016)

Simulation found they were negligible

Nagayama et al, *Phys Rev E* **93**, 023202 (2016)

Nagayama et al, *Phys Rev E* **95**, 063206 (2017)

# Reported opacity discrepancy is complex and deserves further scrutiny



Is opacity theory inaccurate?  
Is opacity experiment flawed?

Discrepancy is further scrutinized by i) refining analysis method and ii)  
systematically measuring opacity of Cr, Fe, and Ni

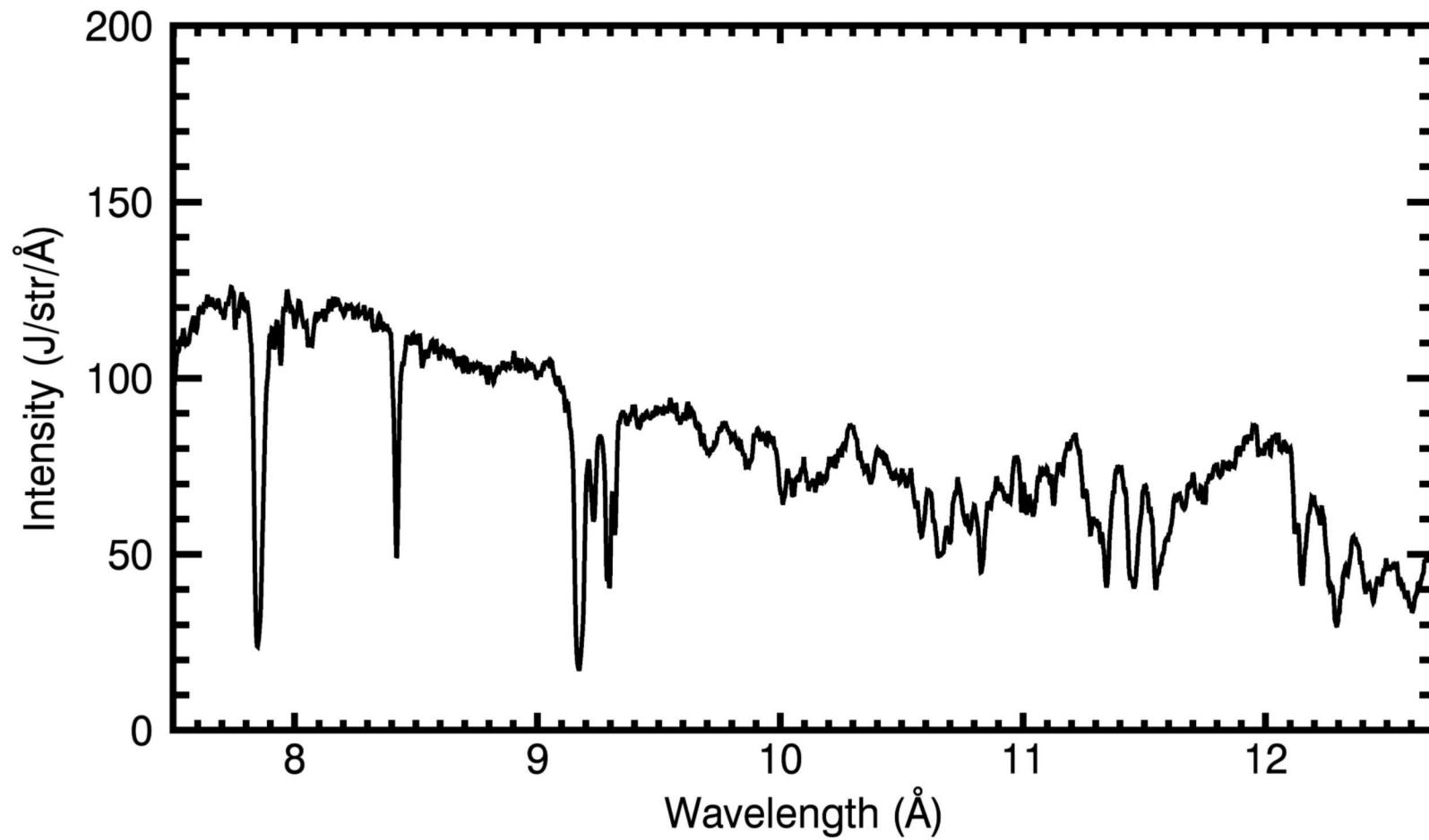
# Transmission error is dominated by error in *unattenuated* spectrum



$$\kappa \propto \ln T$$

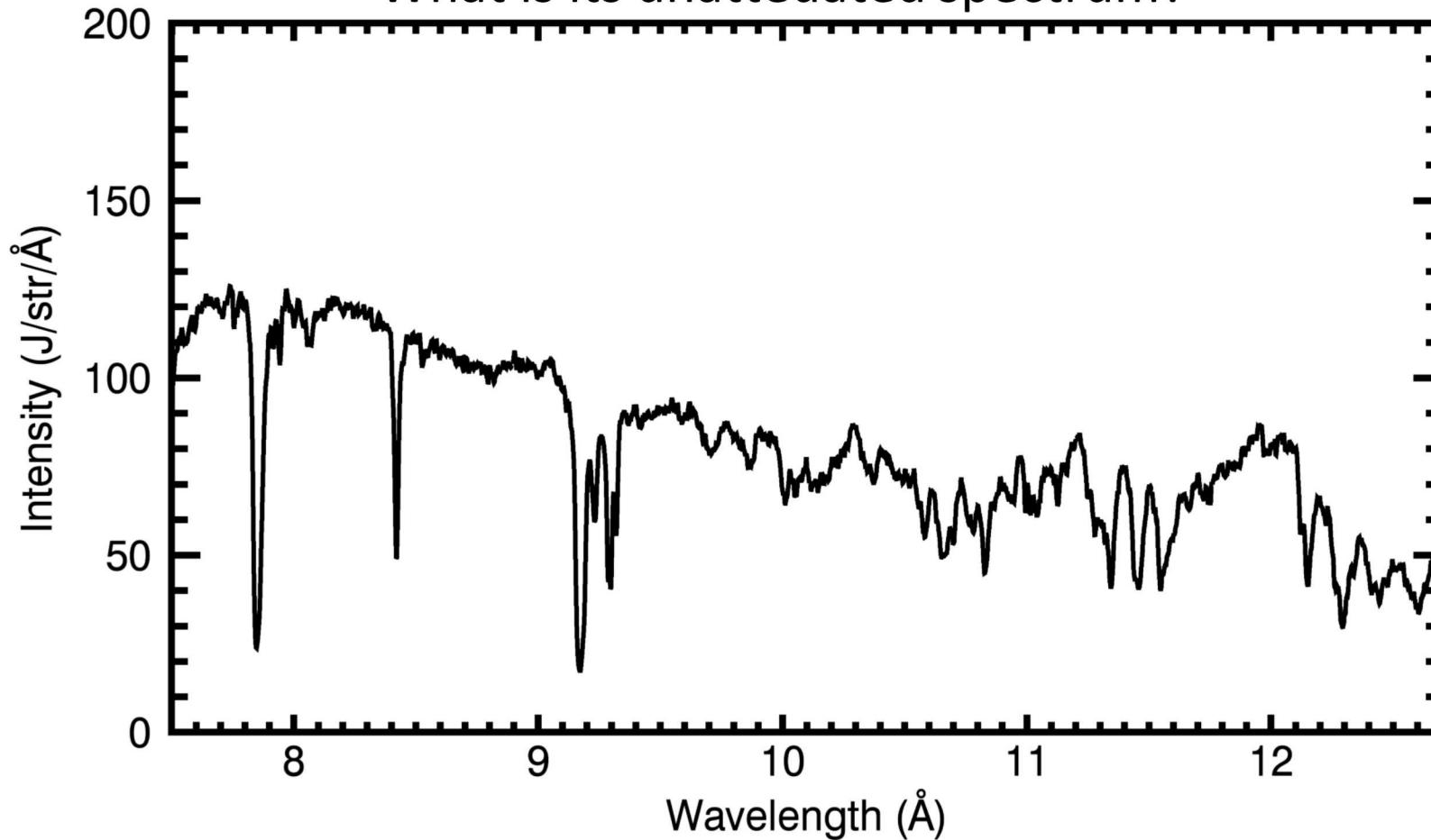
**10% opacity accuracy requires 2% transmission accuracy**  
**→ Opacity error is dominated by transmission error**

# Transmission error is dominated by error in *unattenuated* spectrum



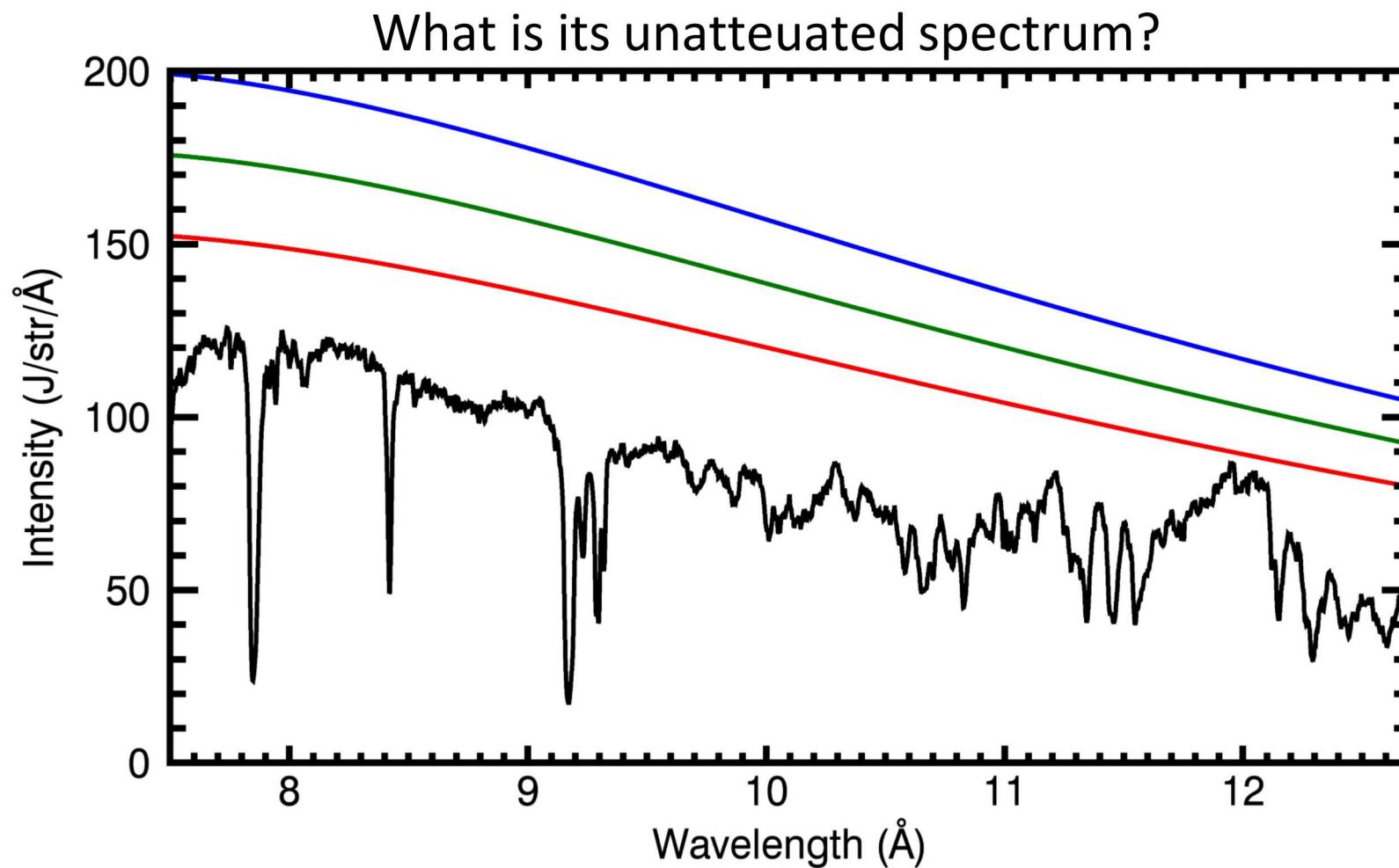
# Transmission error is dominated by error in *unattenuated* spectrum

What is its unattenuated spectrum?



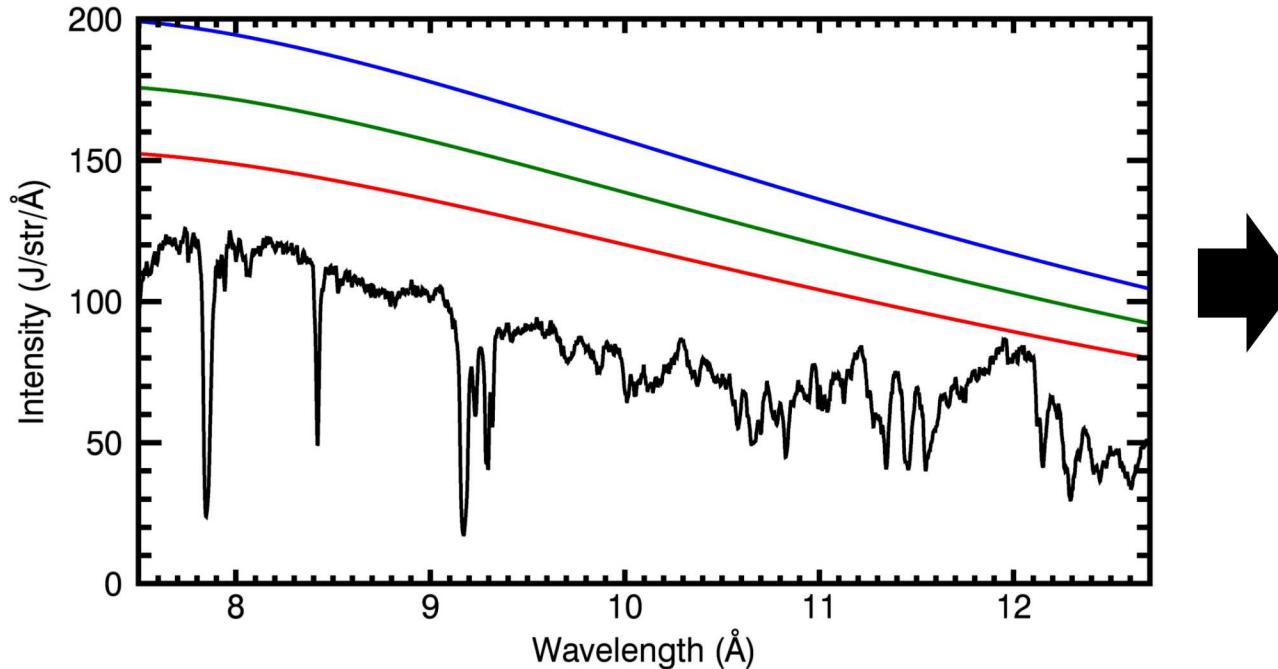
Unattenuated spectrum  $\equiv$  If you did not have FeMg, what would you have measured?

# Transmission error is dominated by error in *unattenuated* spectrum



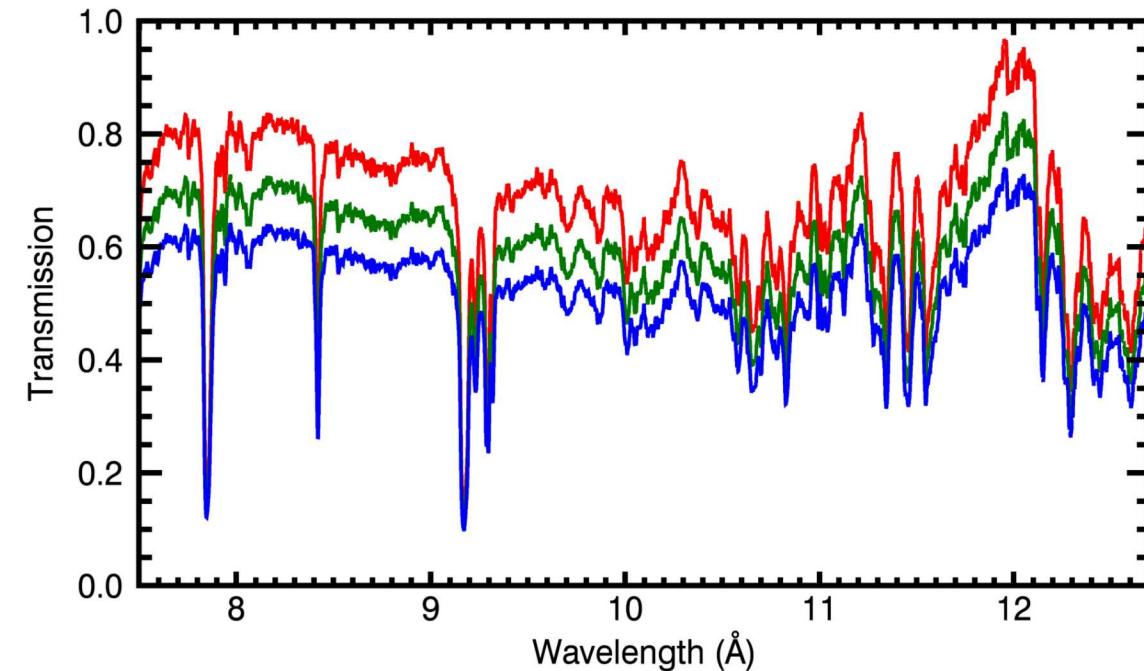
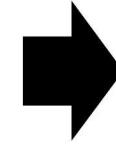
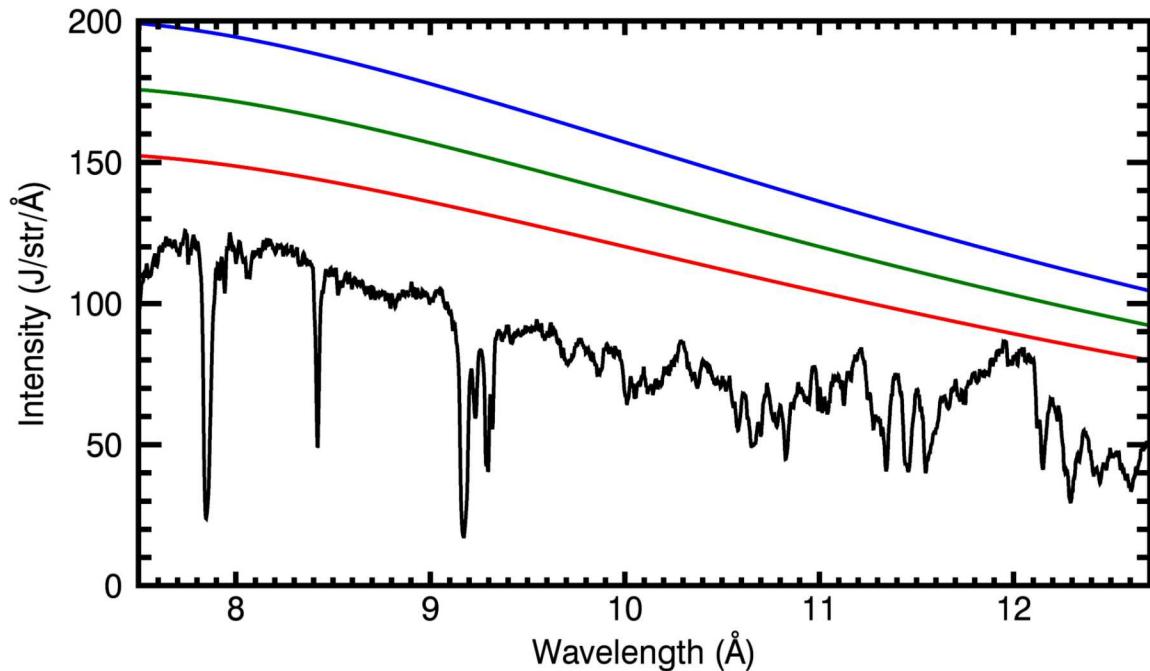
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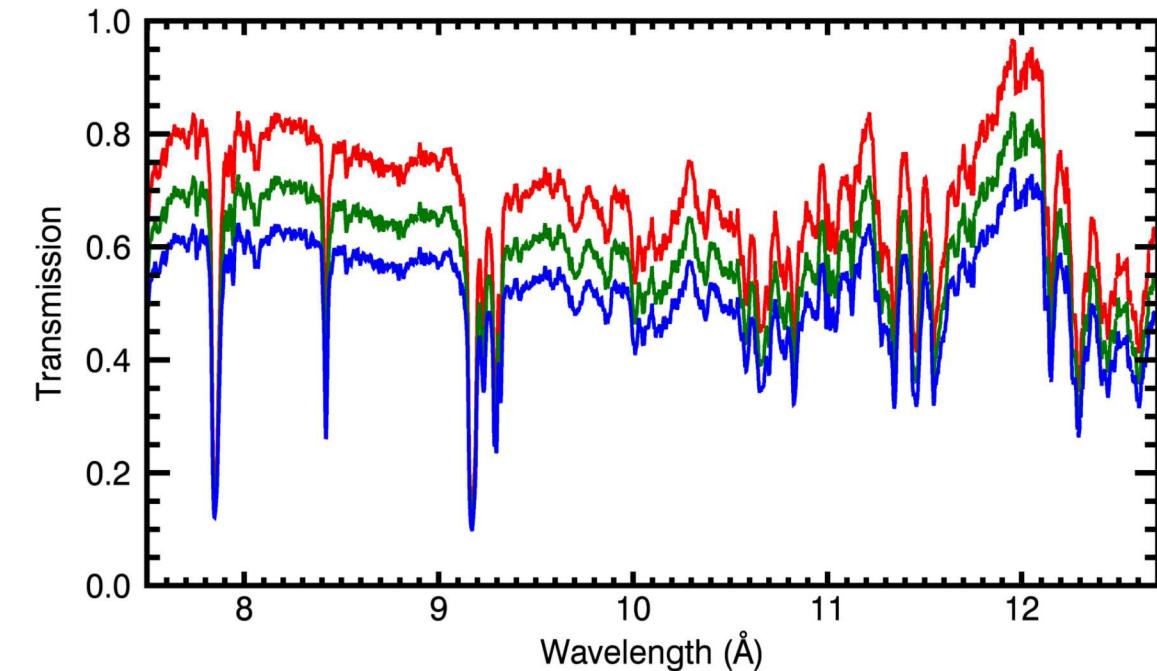
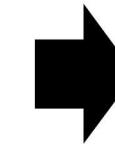
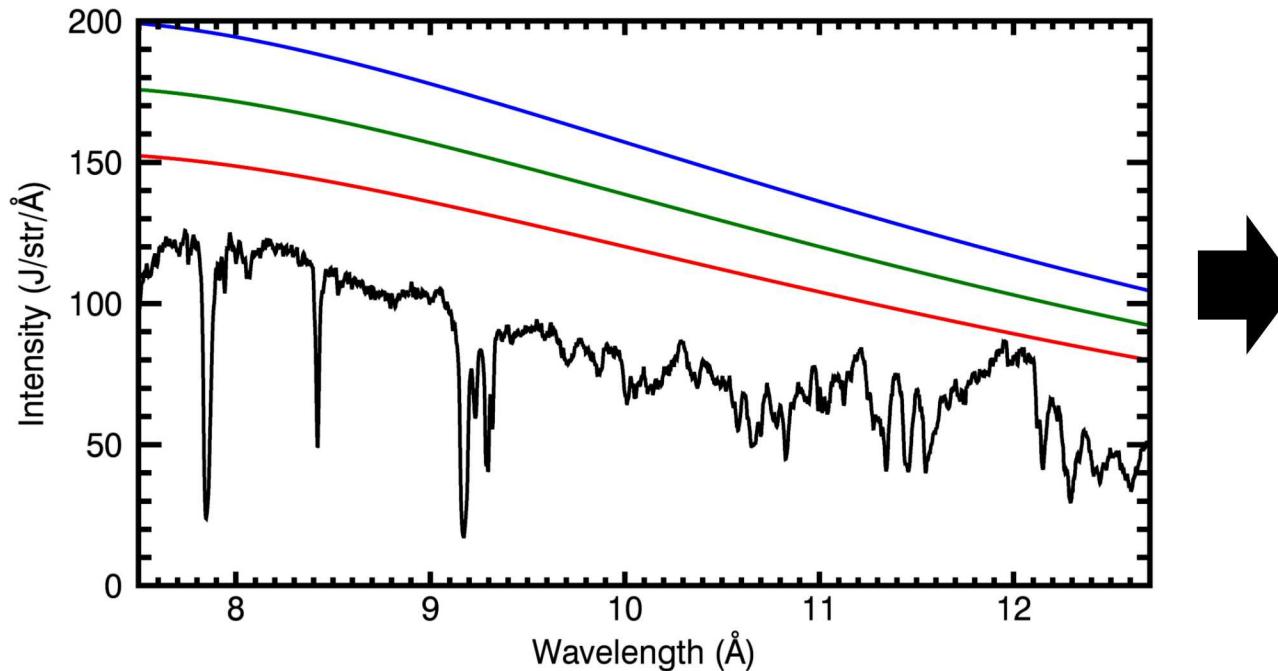
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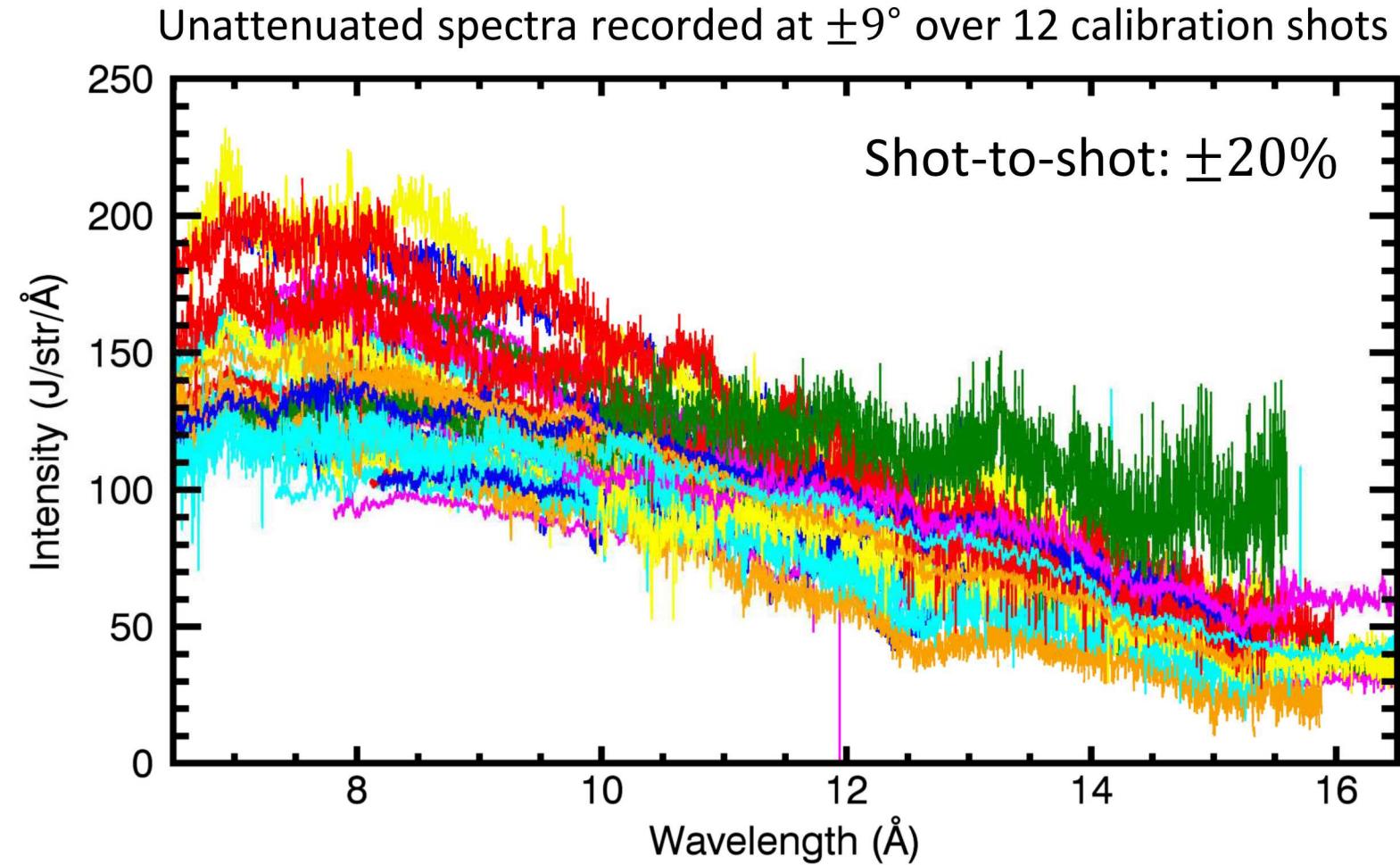
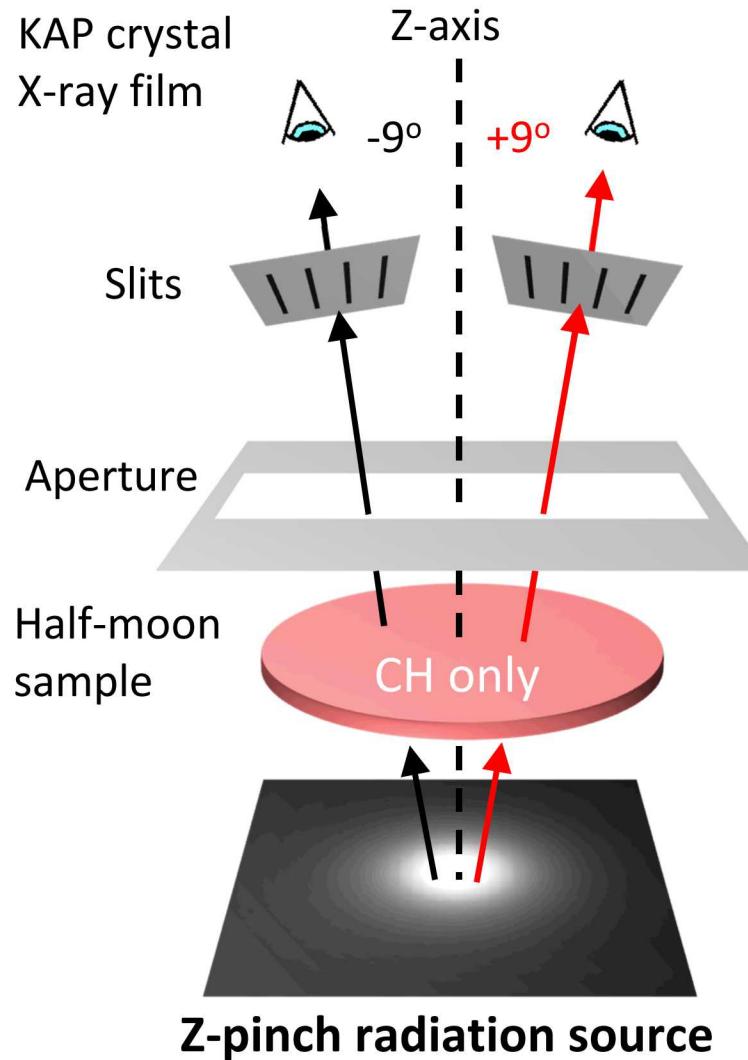
# Transmission error is dominated by error in *unattenuated* spectrum



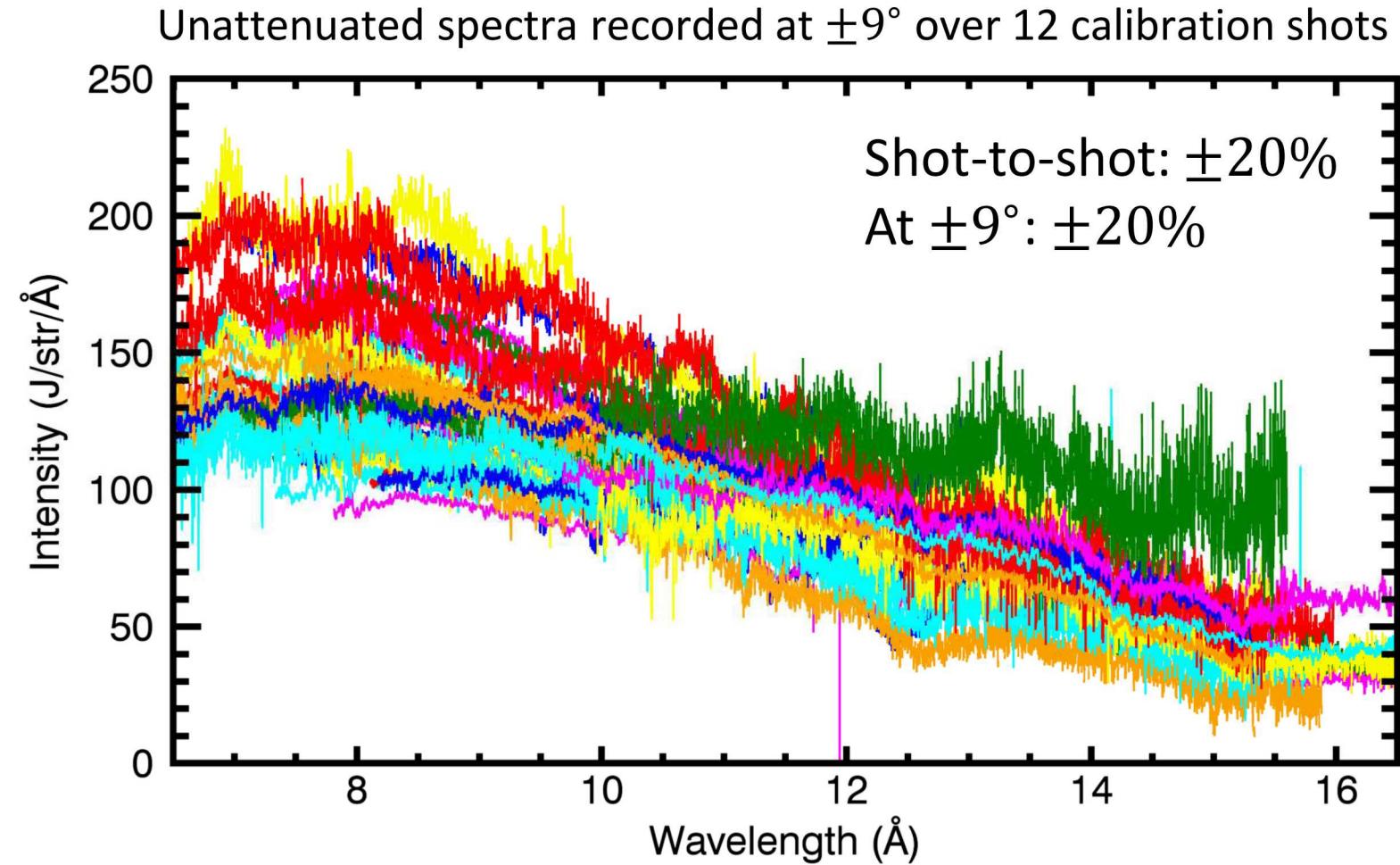
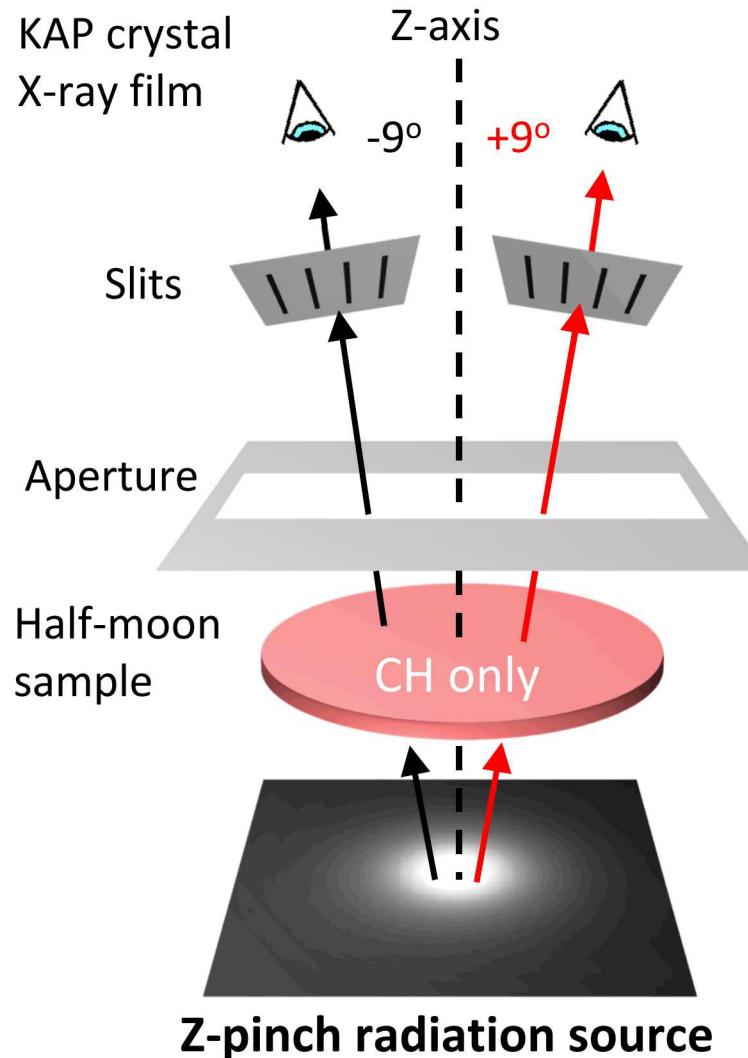
Unattenuated spectrum  $\equiv$  If you did not have FeMg, what would you have measured?

- Advantage: what we care is relative accuracy
- Challenge: it's impossible to answer this perfectly  
→ We have to rely on reproducibility

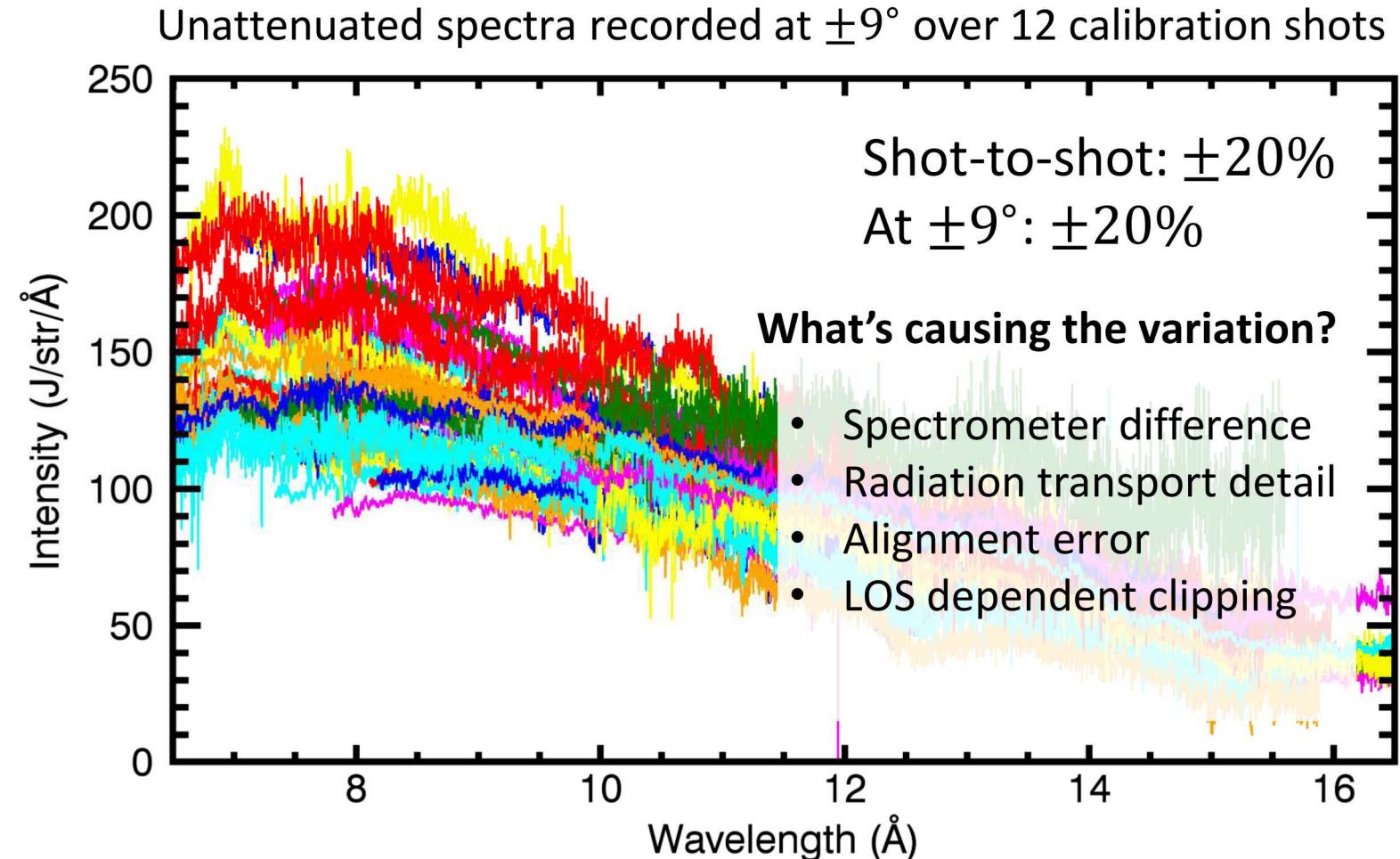
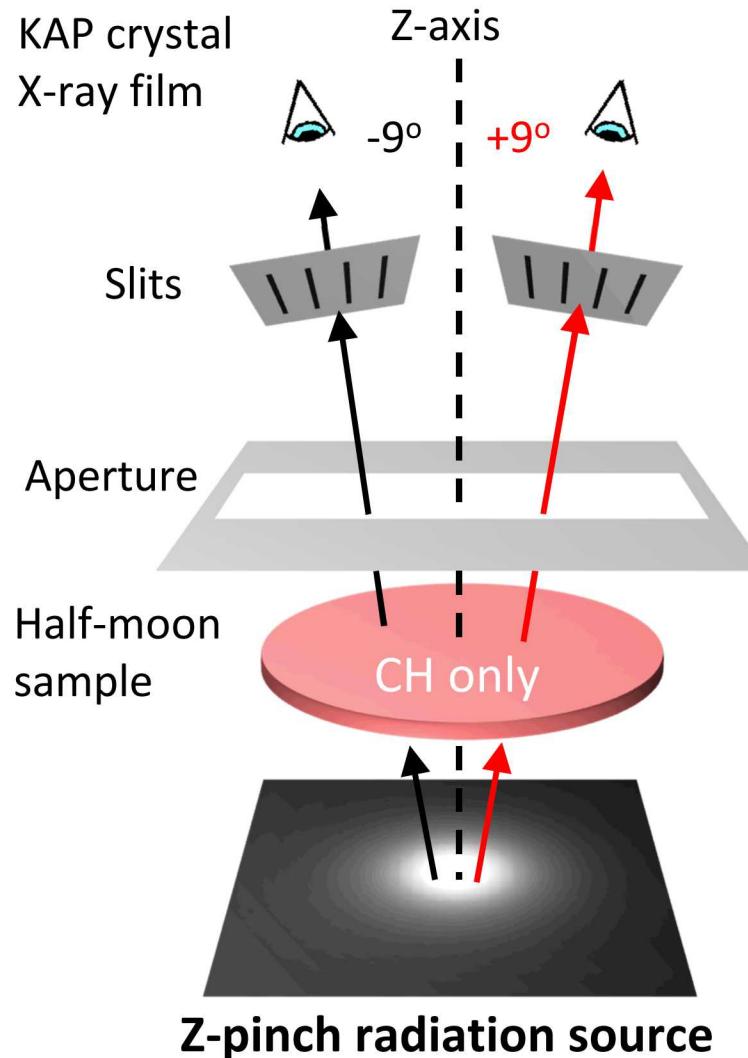
# We have various ways to approximate the unattenuated spectrum within 20%



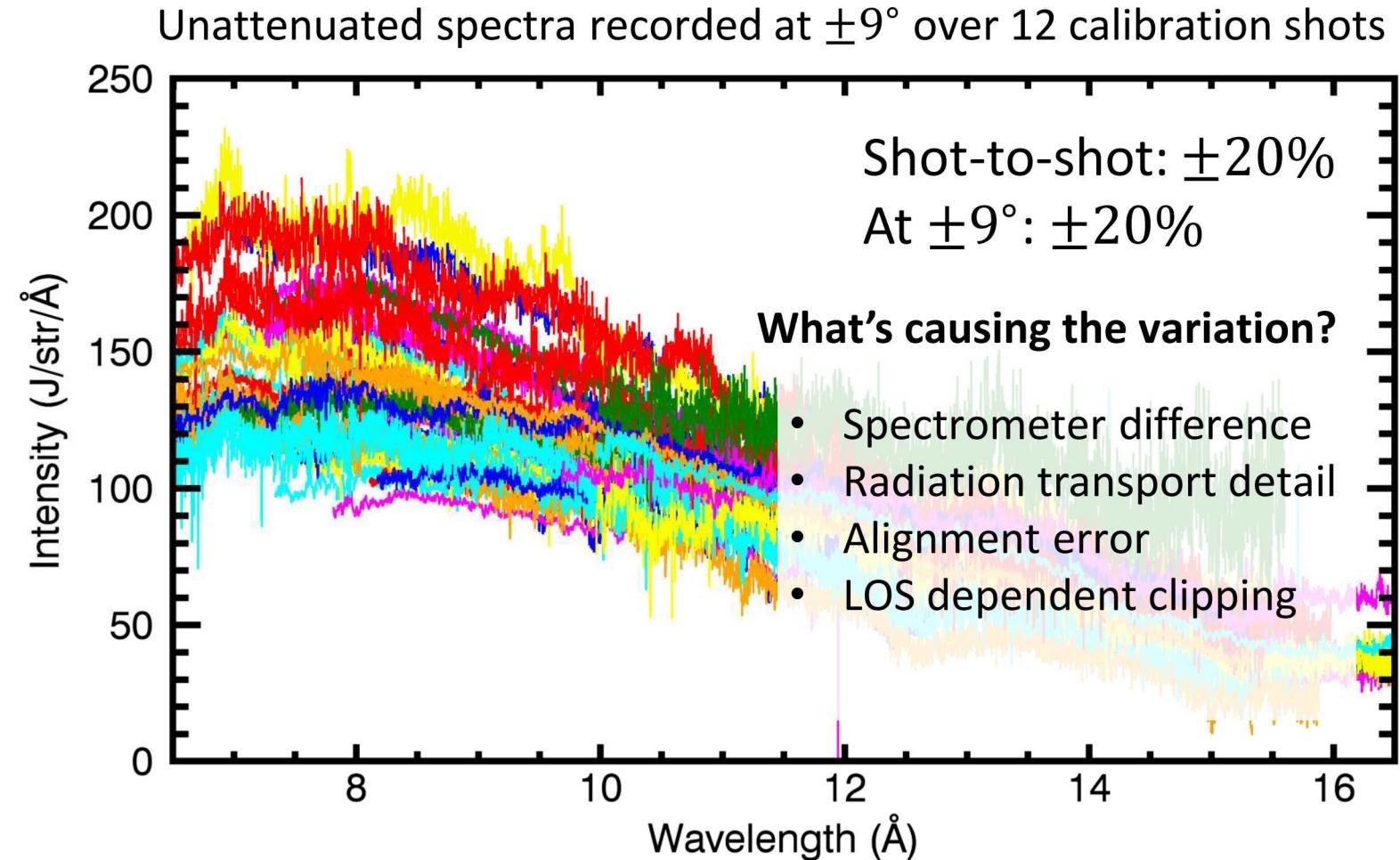
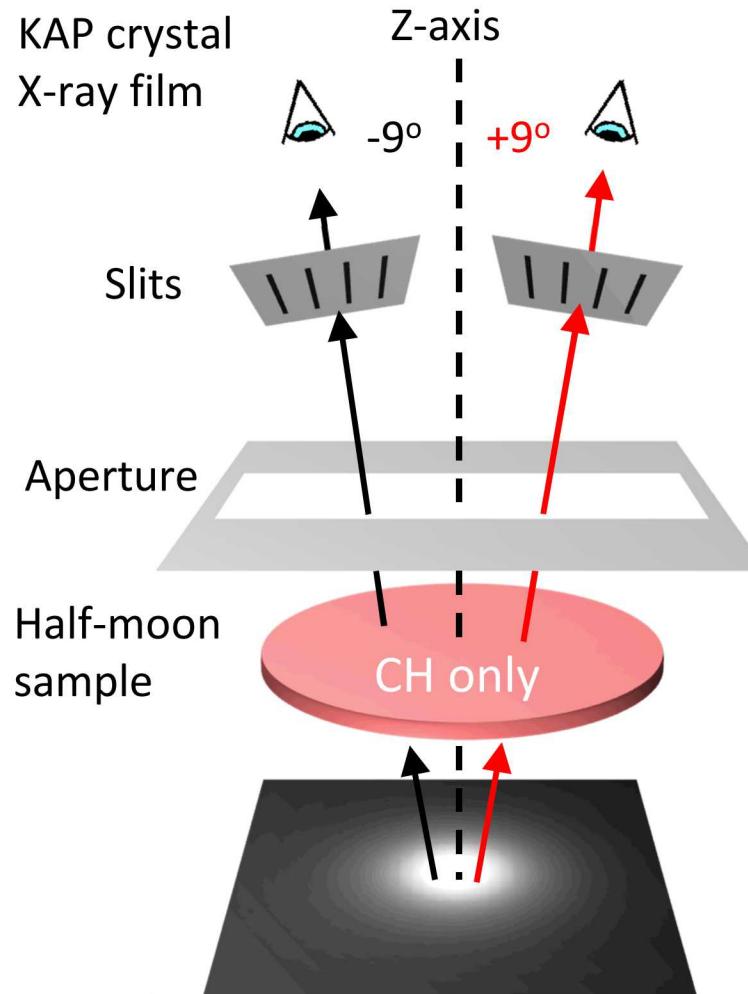
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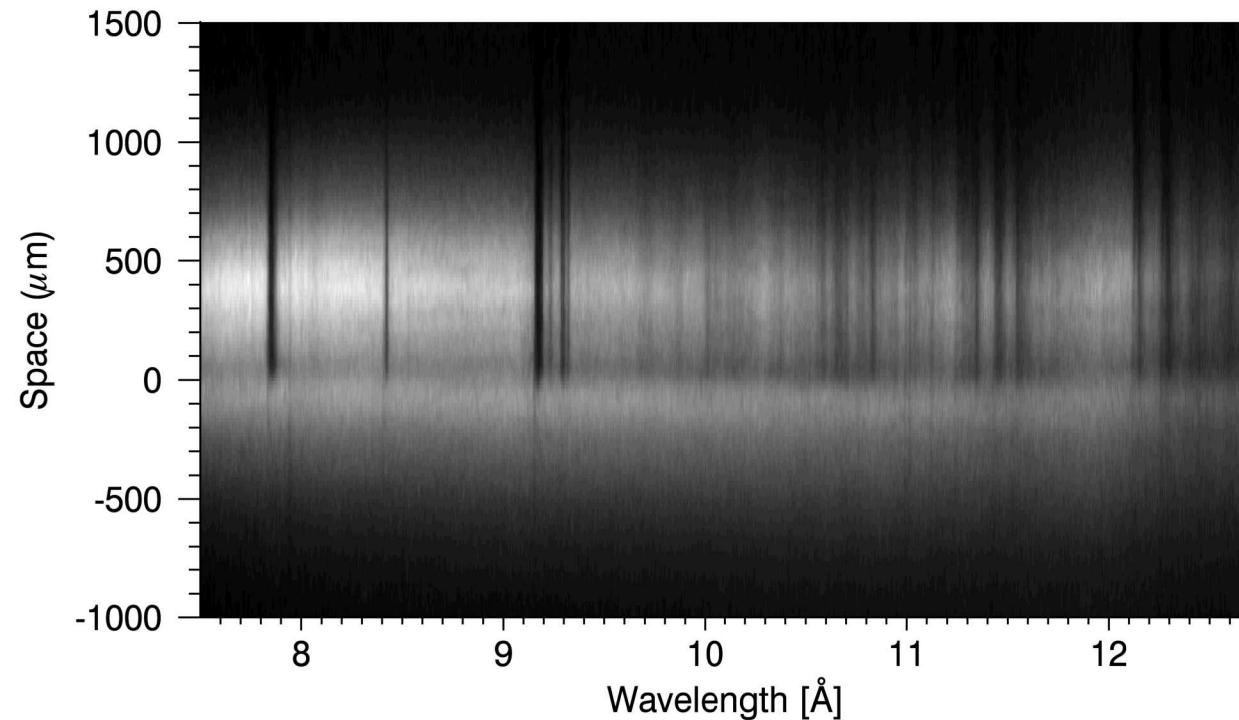


Single shot transmission error is reduced to  $\sim 10\%$  by averaging multiple methods

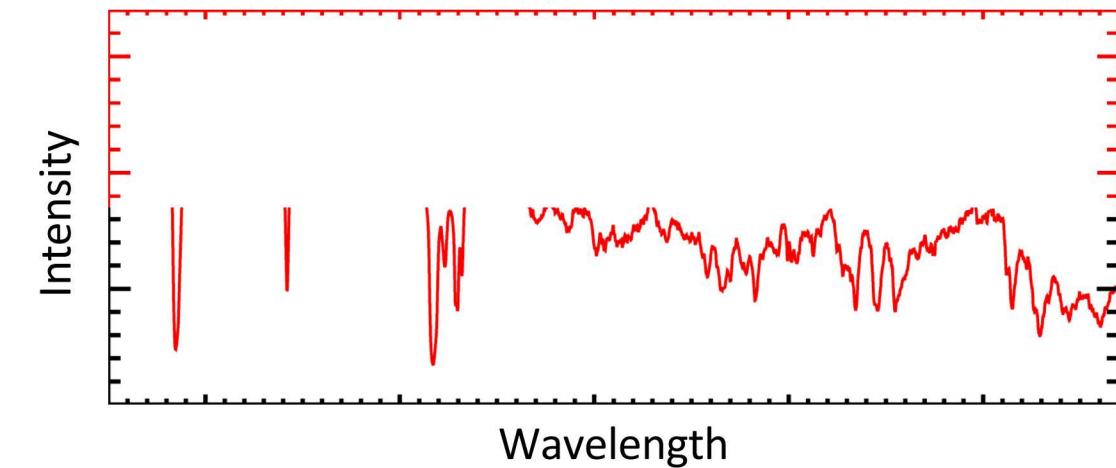
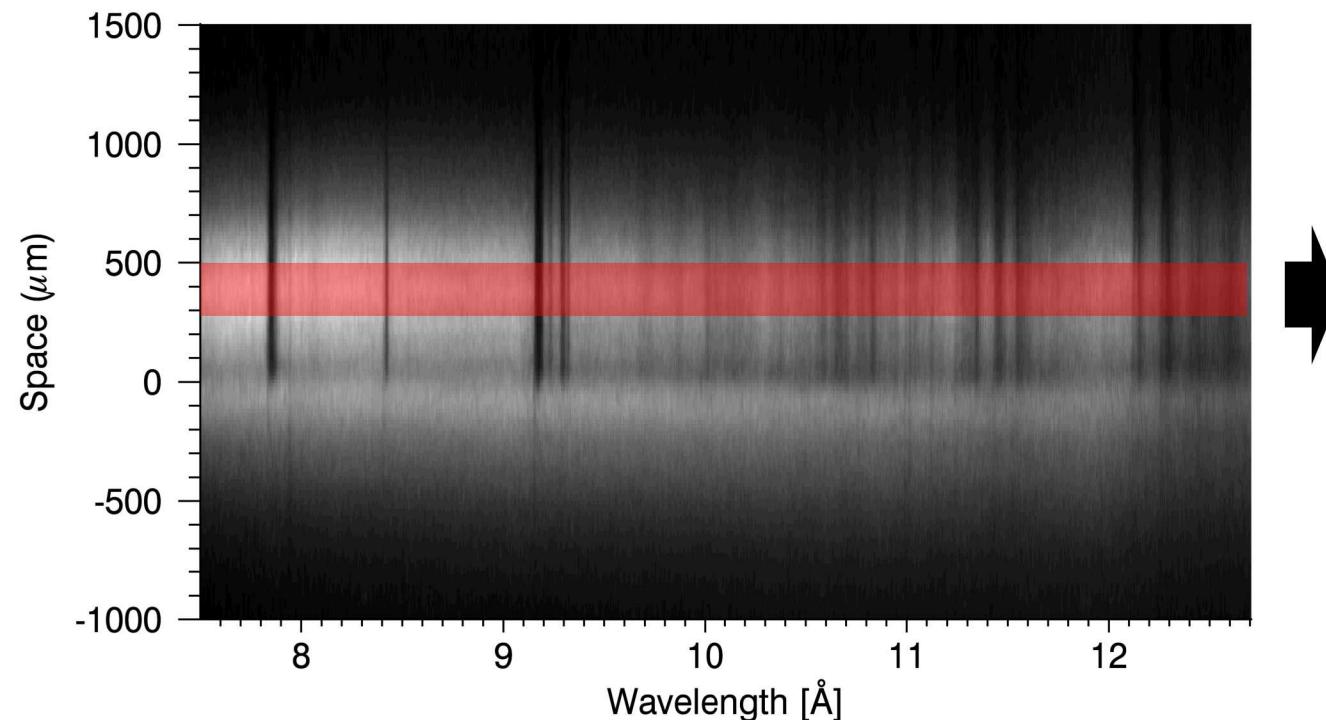
Paradigm shift:

Spatial shape is more constraining

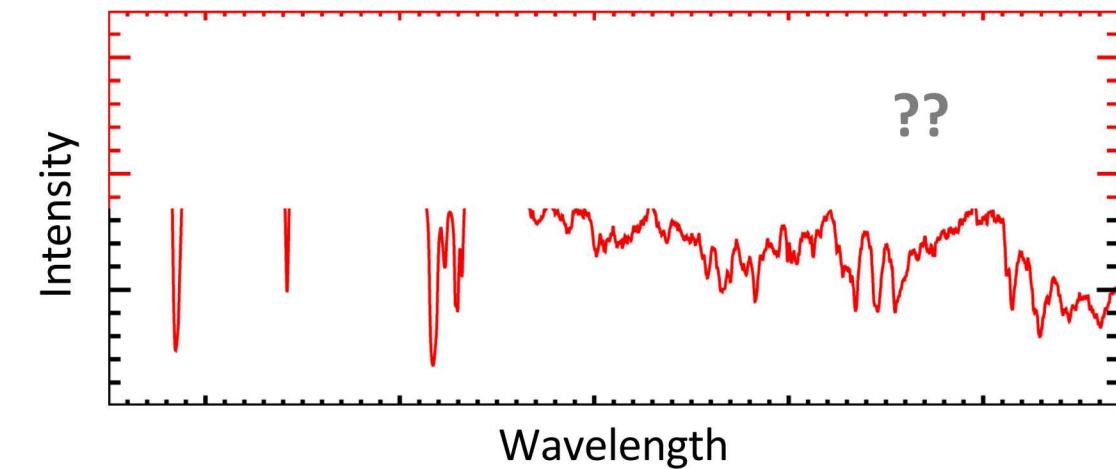
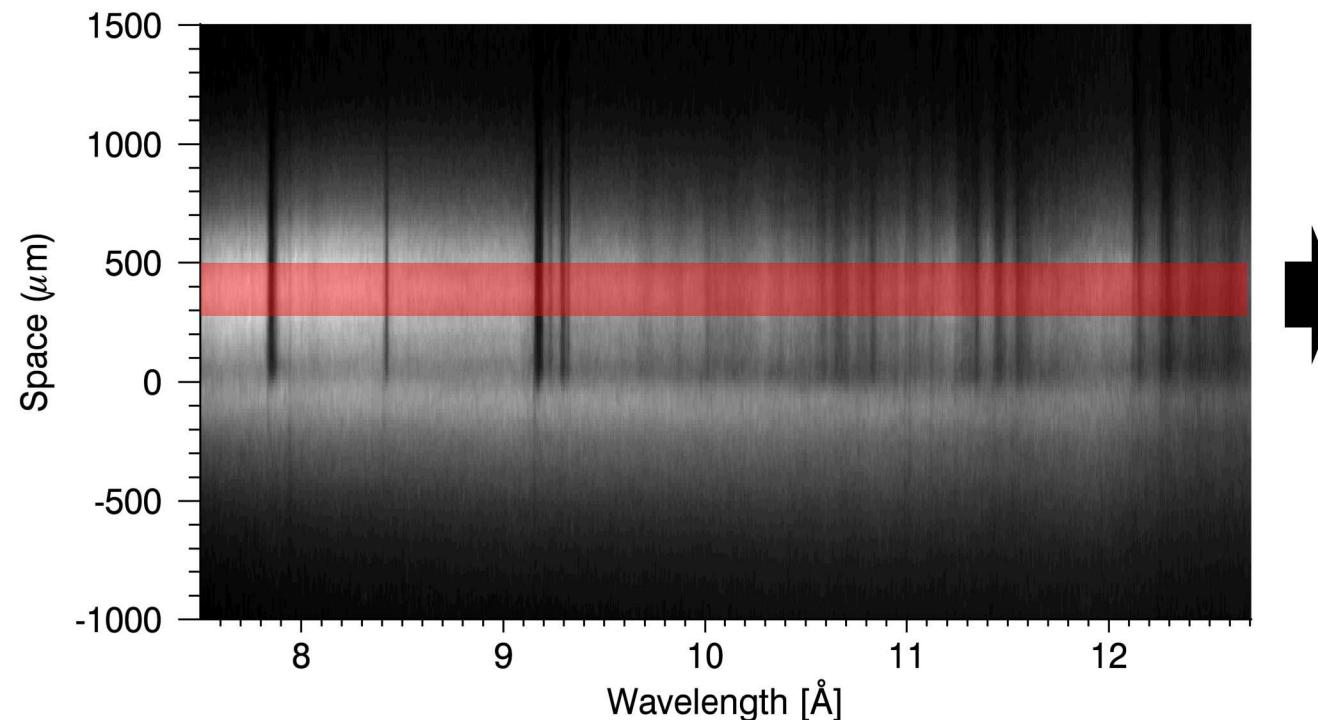
**The data is resolved not only spectrally but also spatially;  
spatial profile provides more constraints**



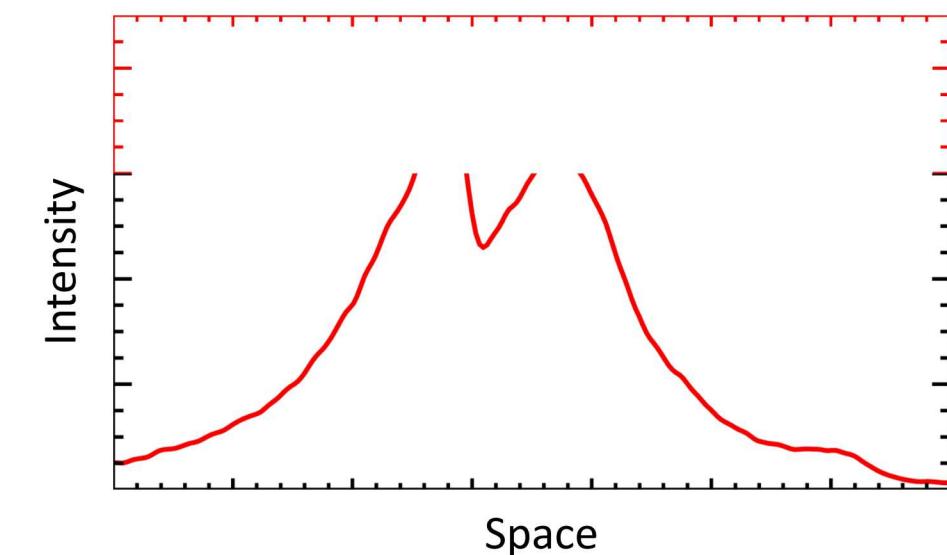
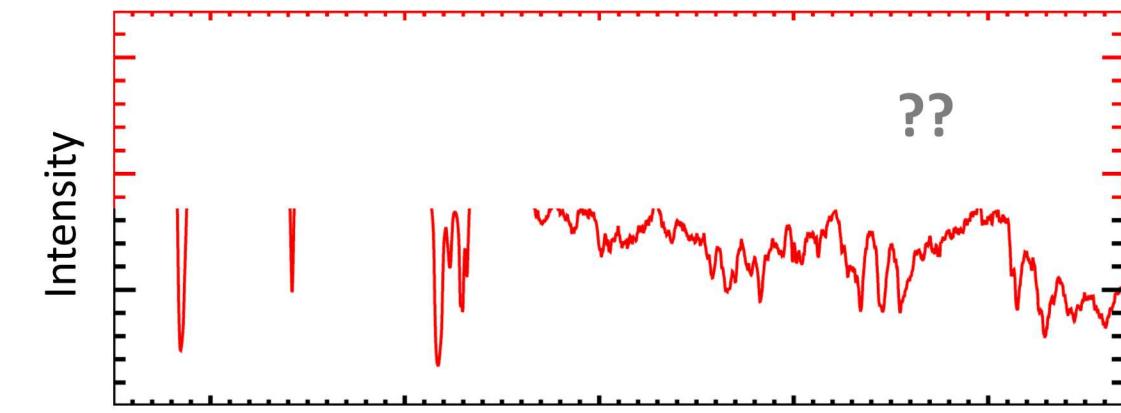
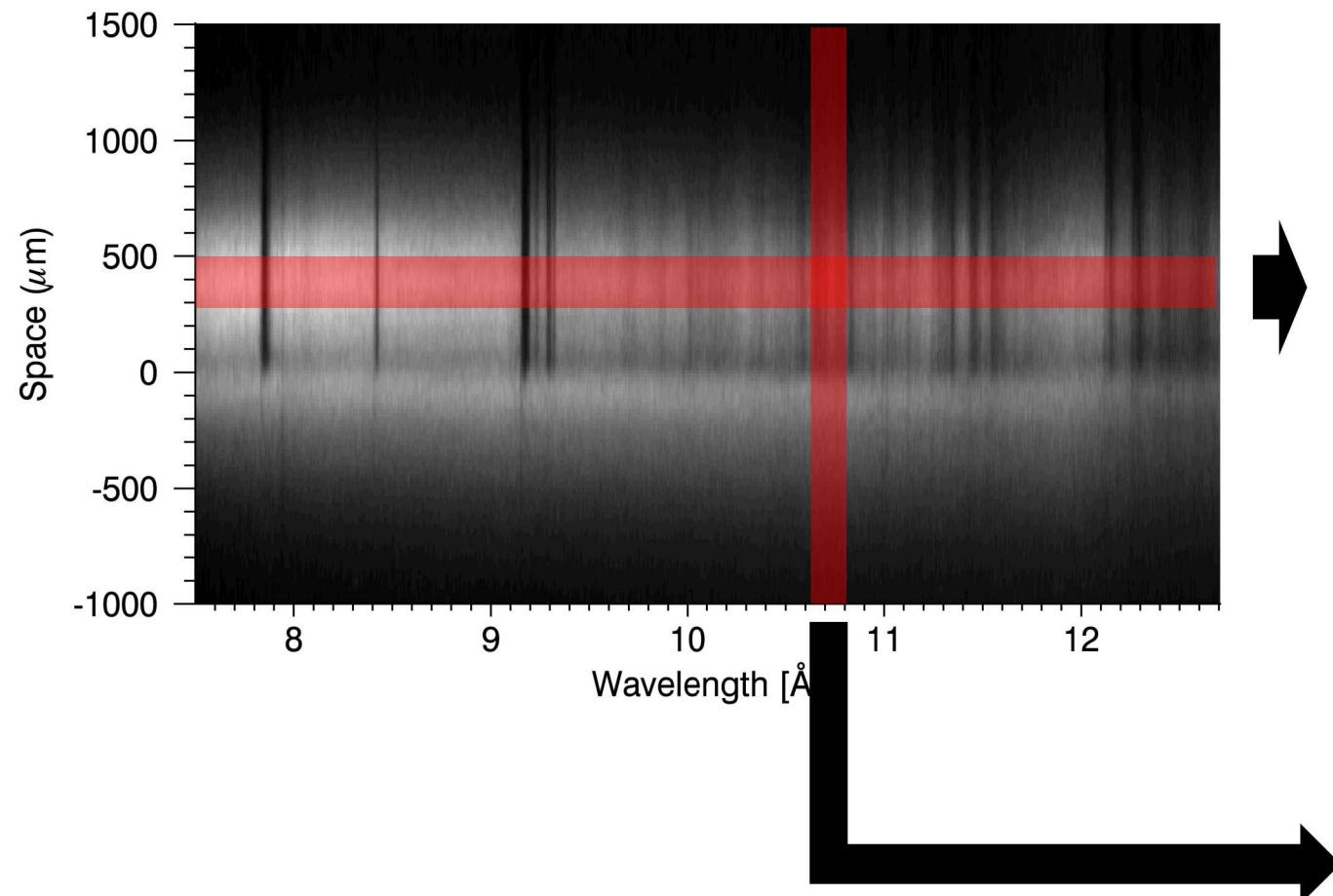
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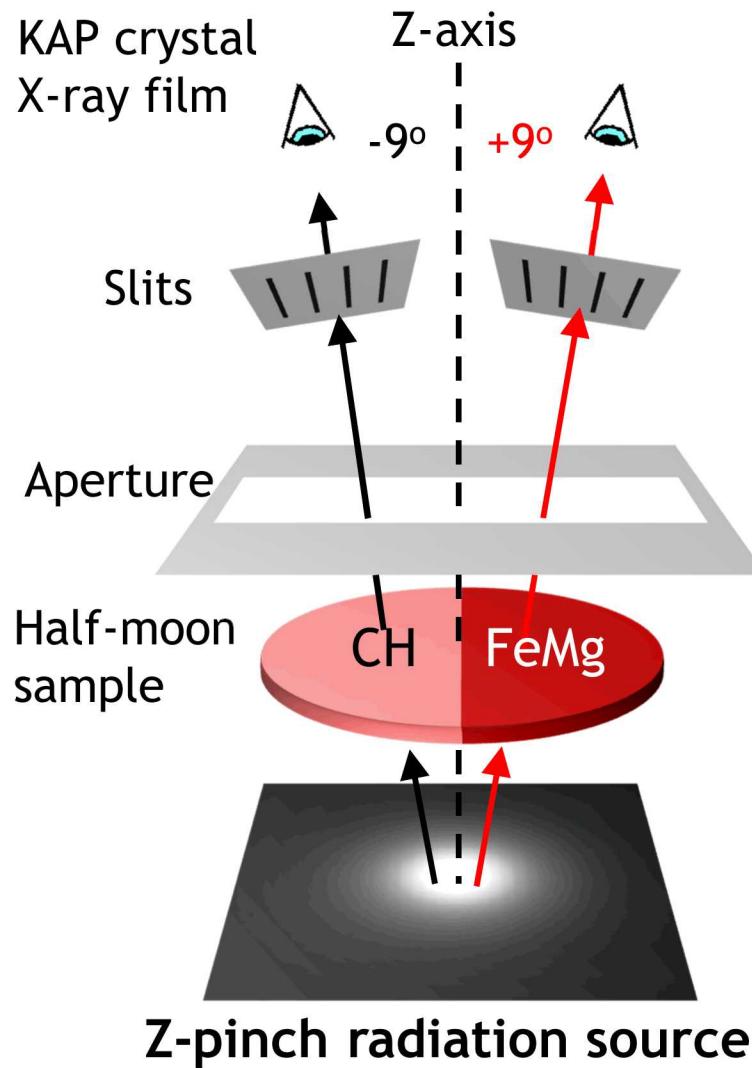
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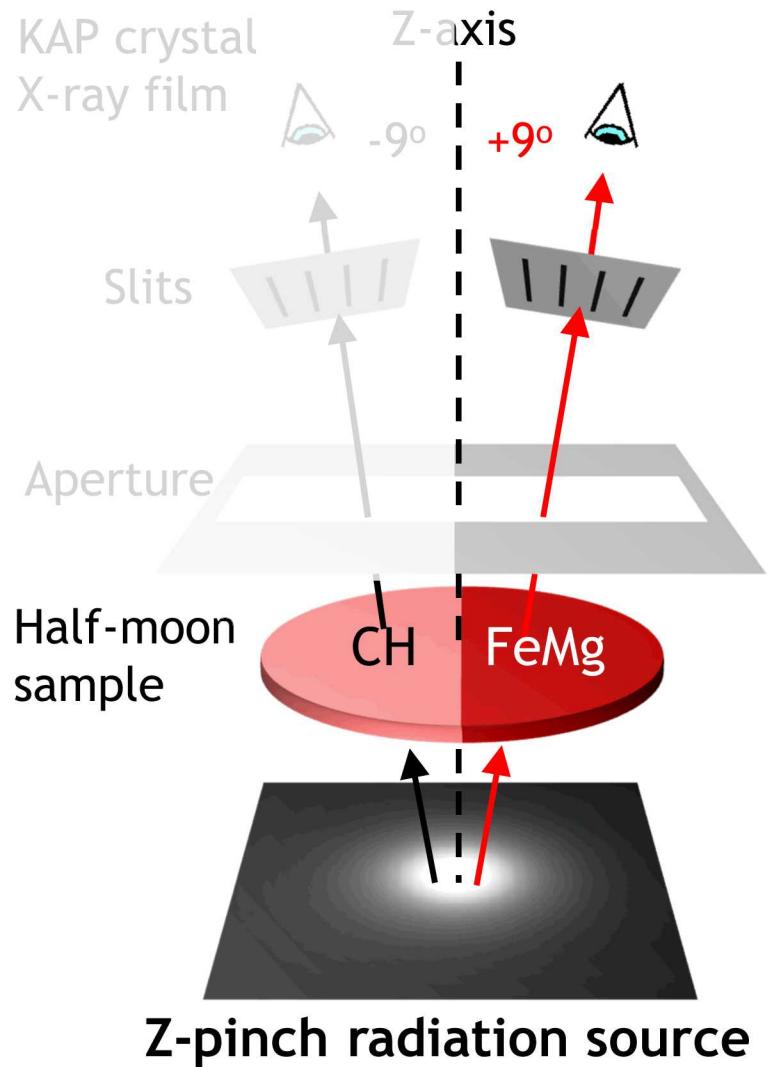
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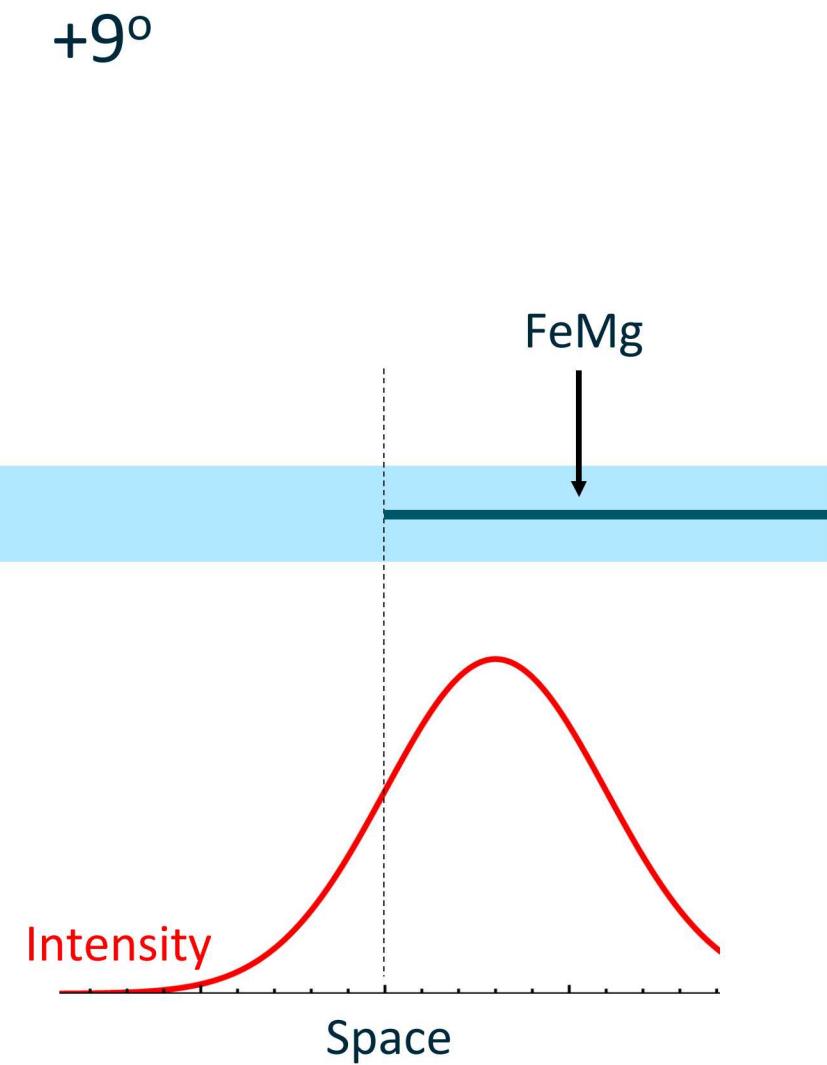
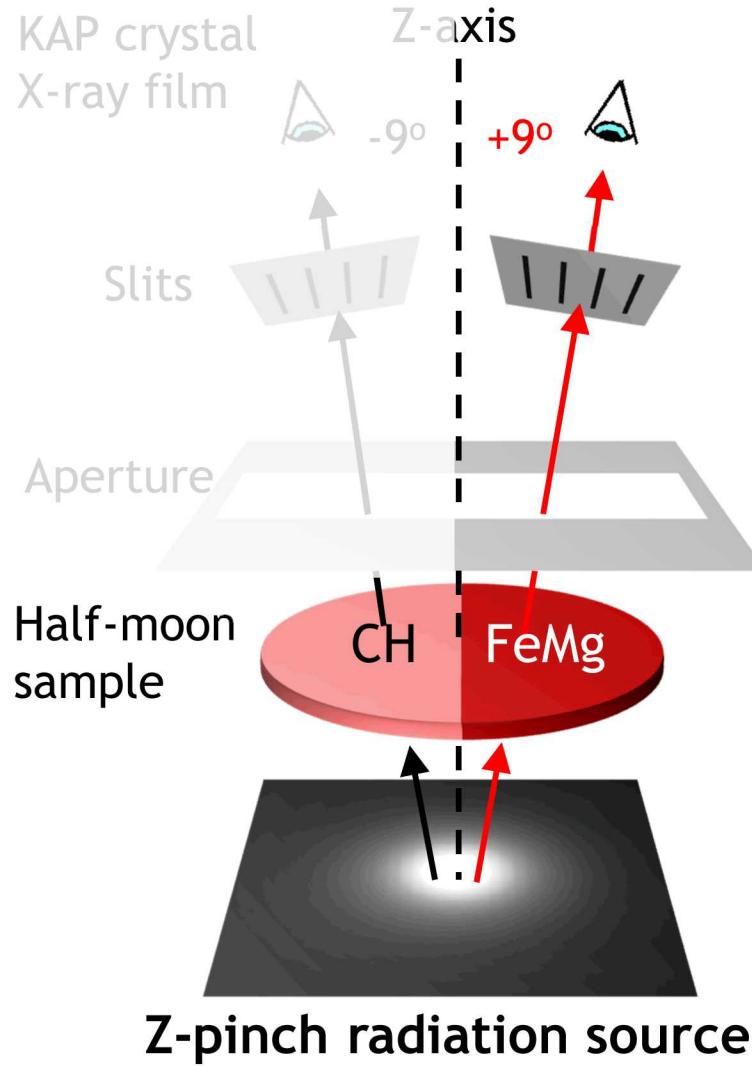
# Observing finite-area backlighter through half-moon sample at $\pm 9^\circ$ produces complicated spatial shape



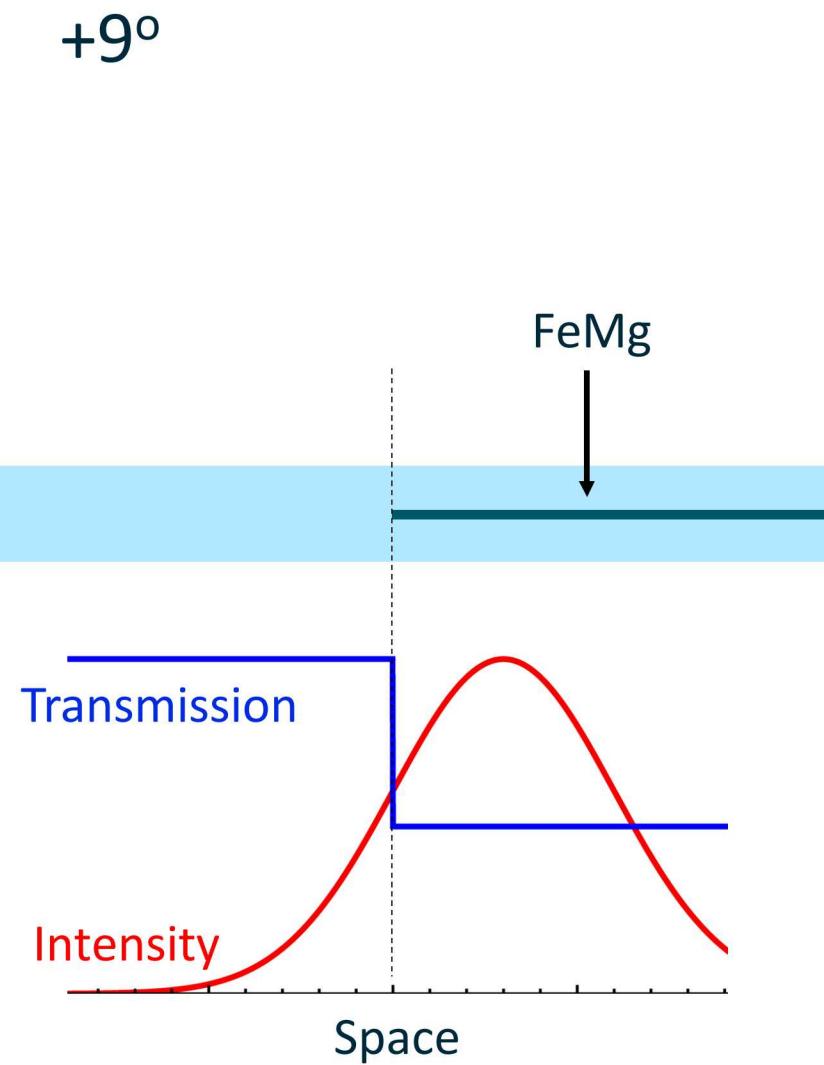
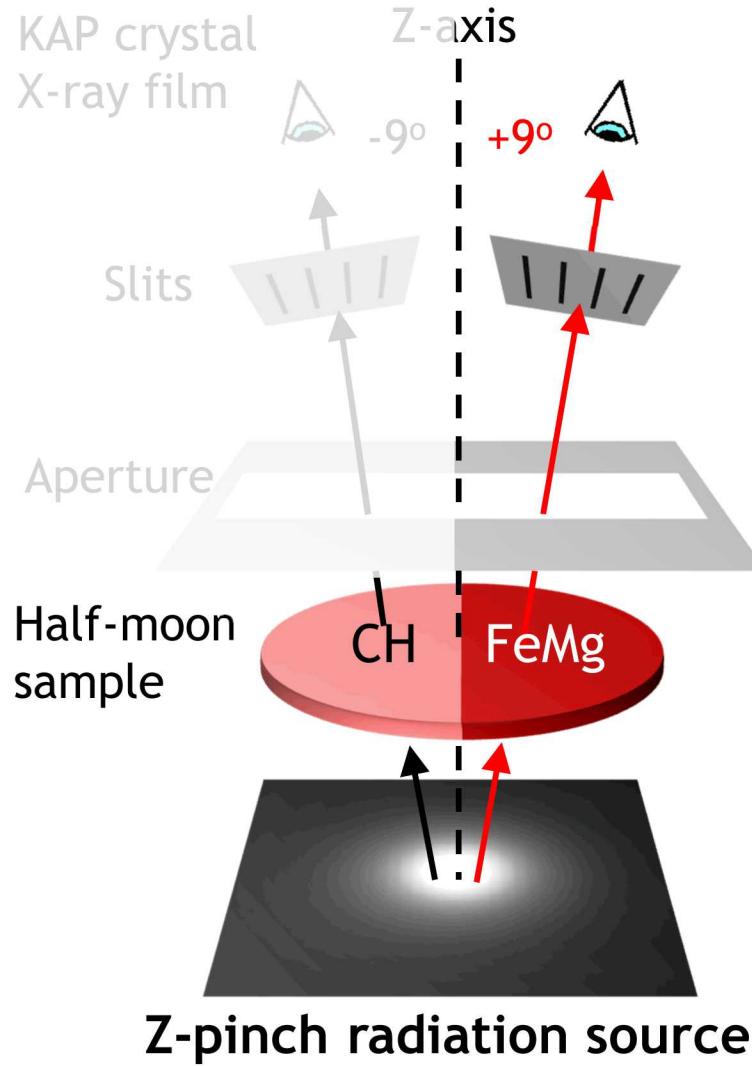
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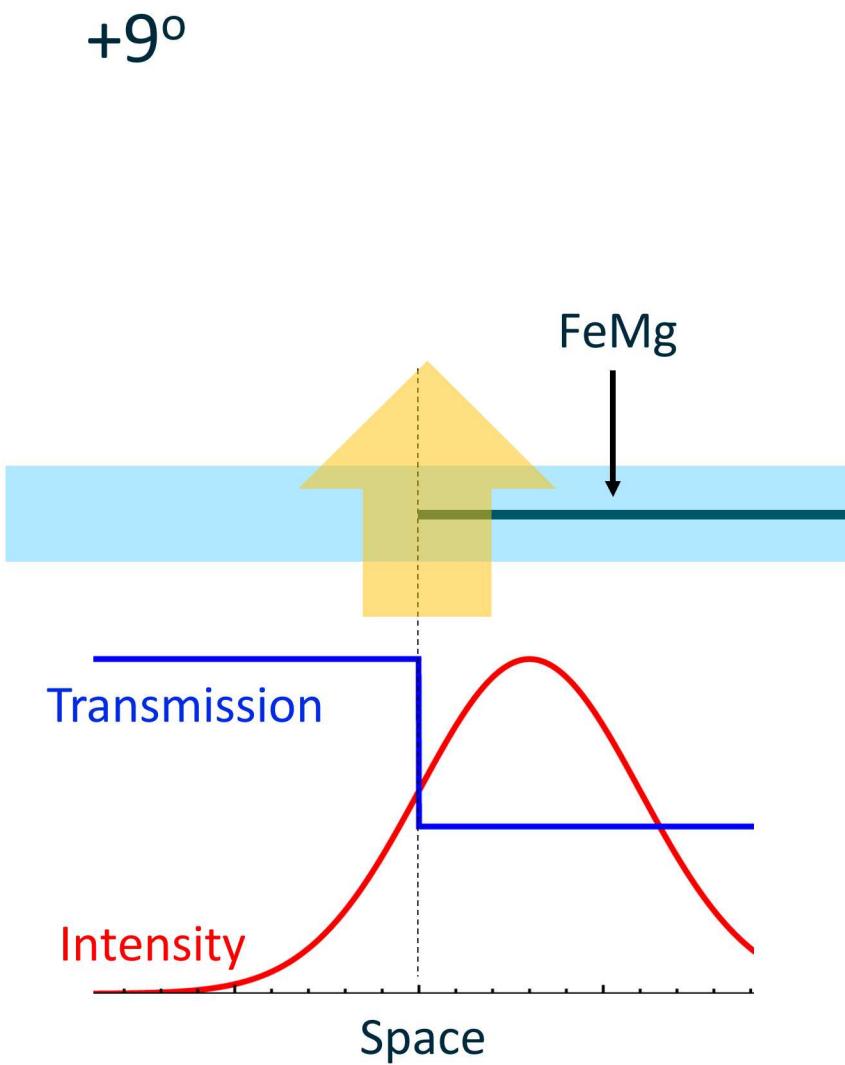
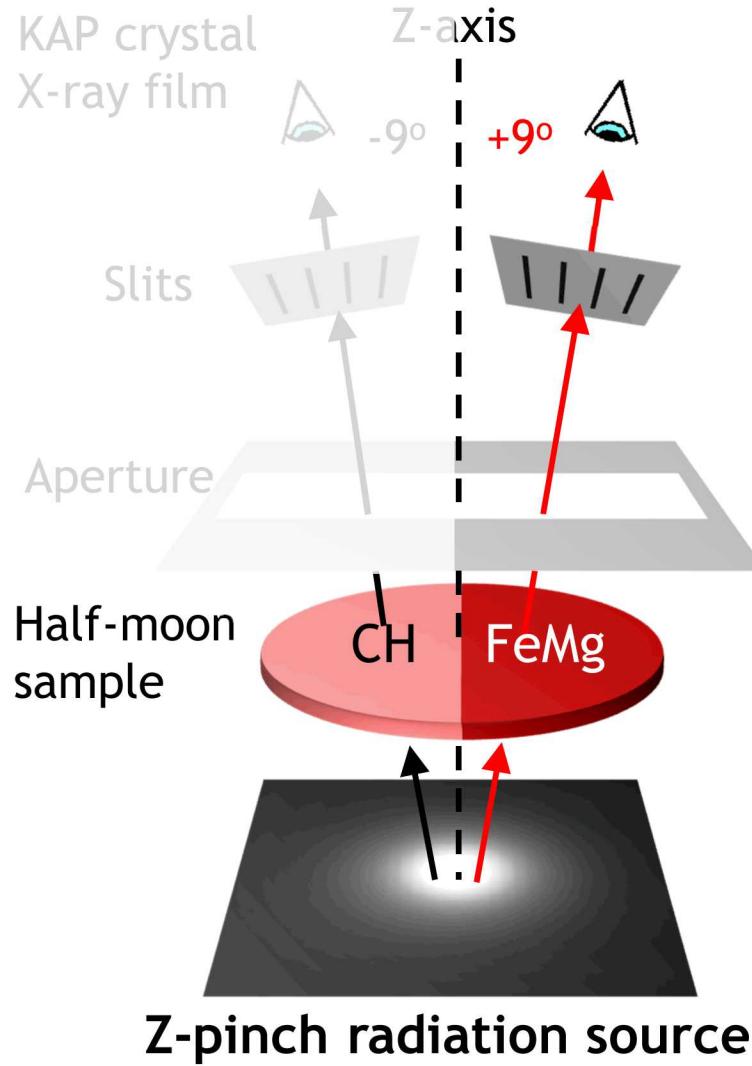
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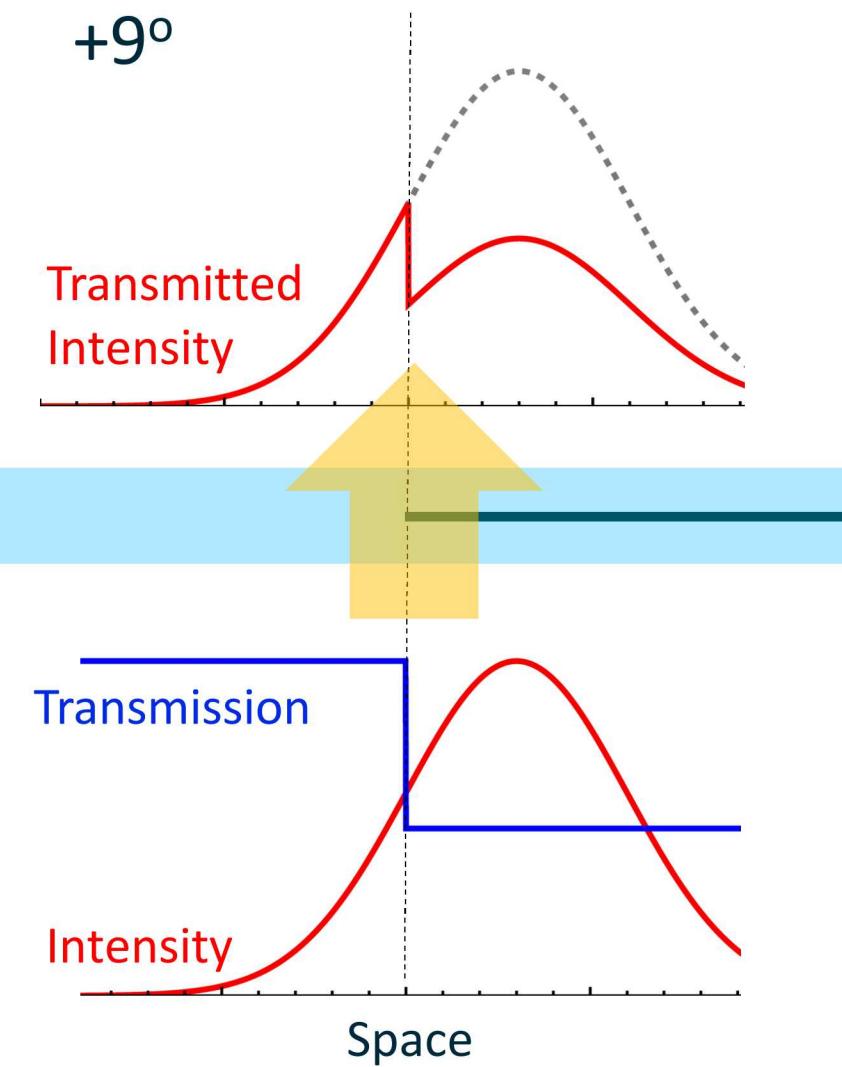
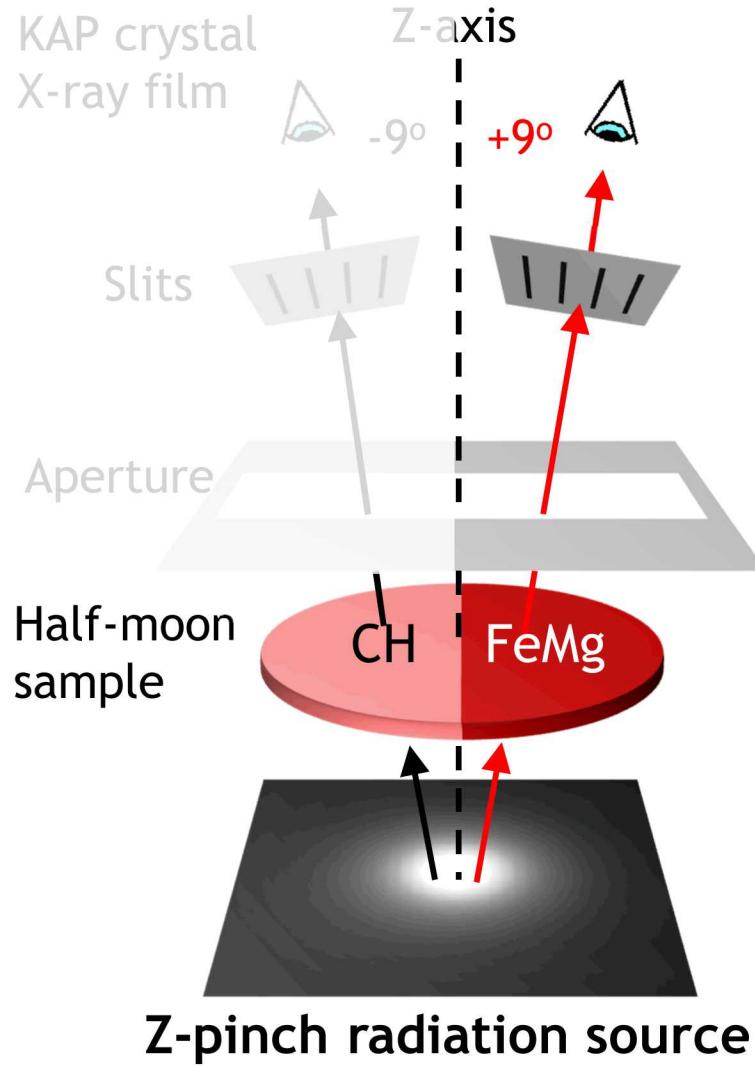
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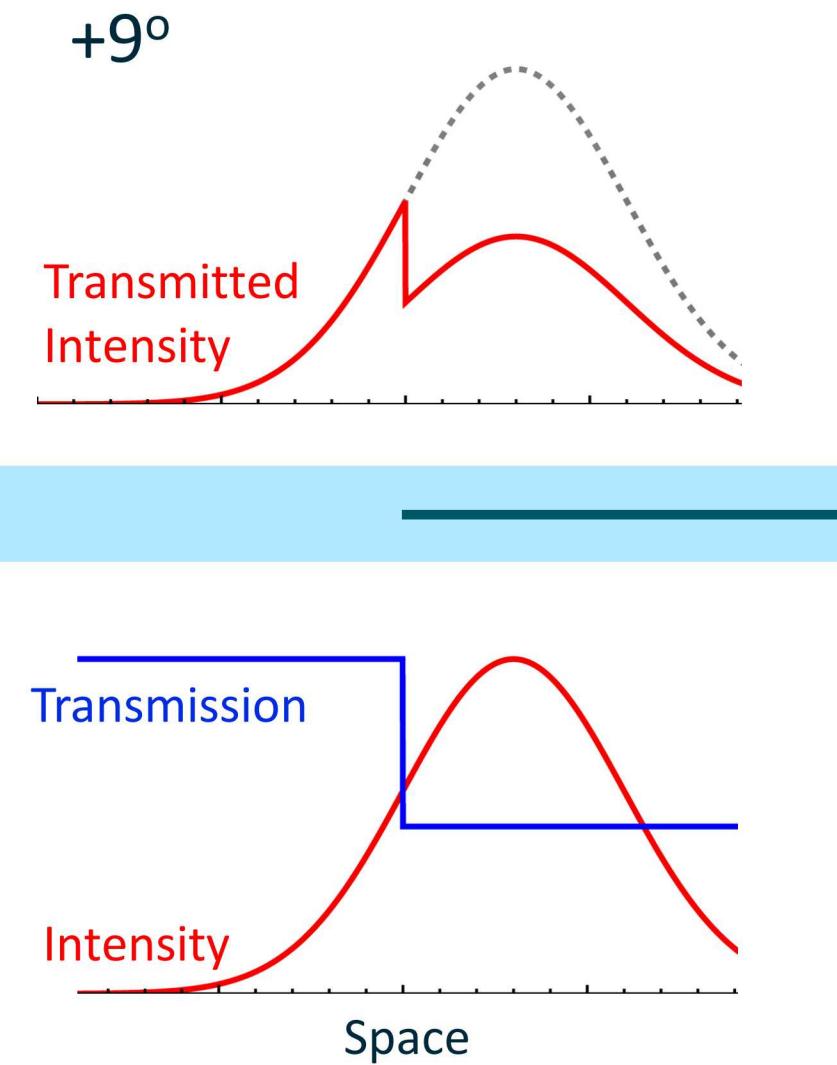
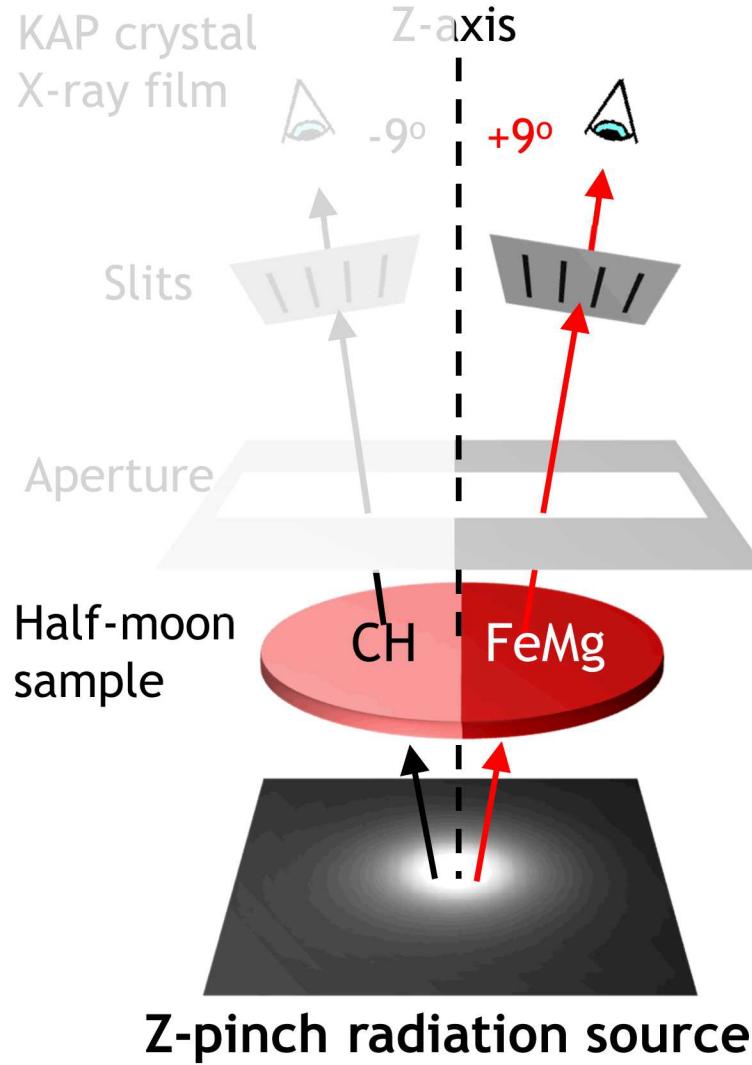
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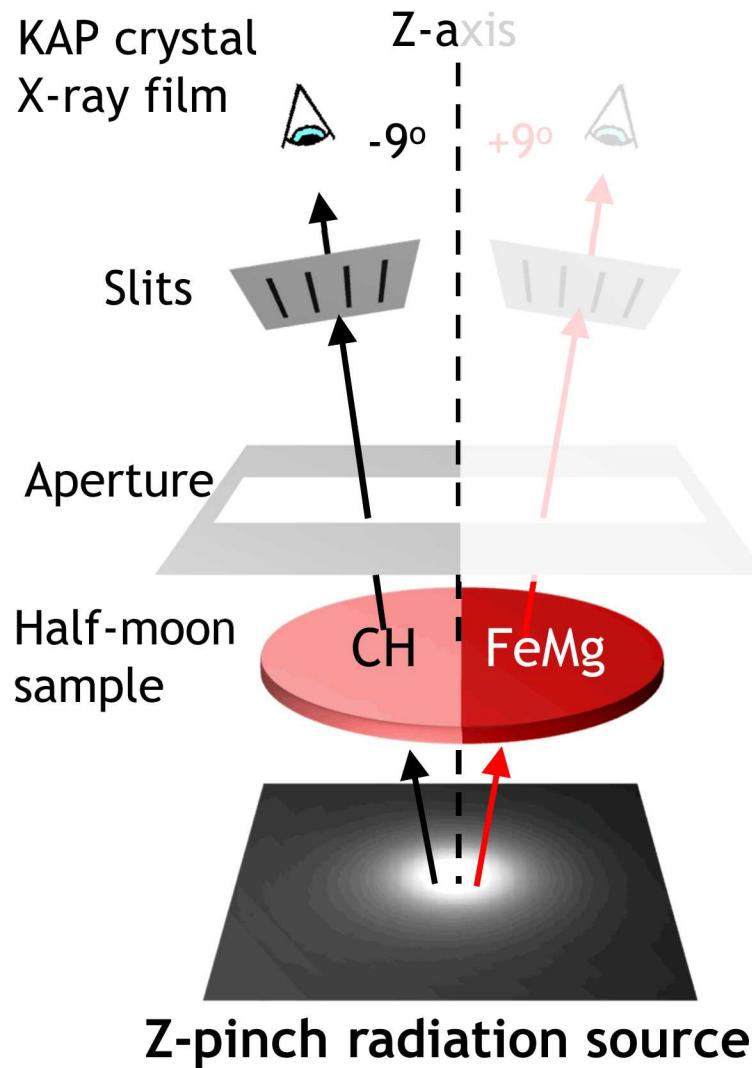
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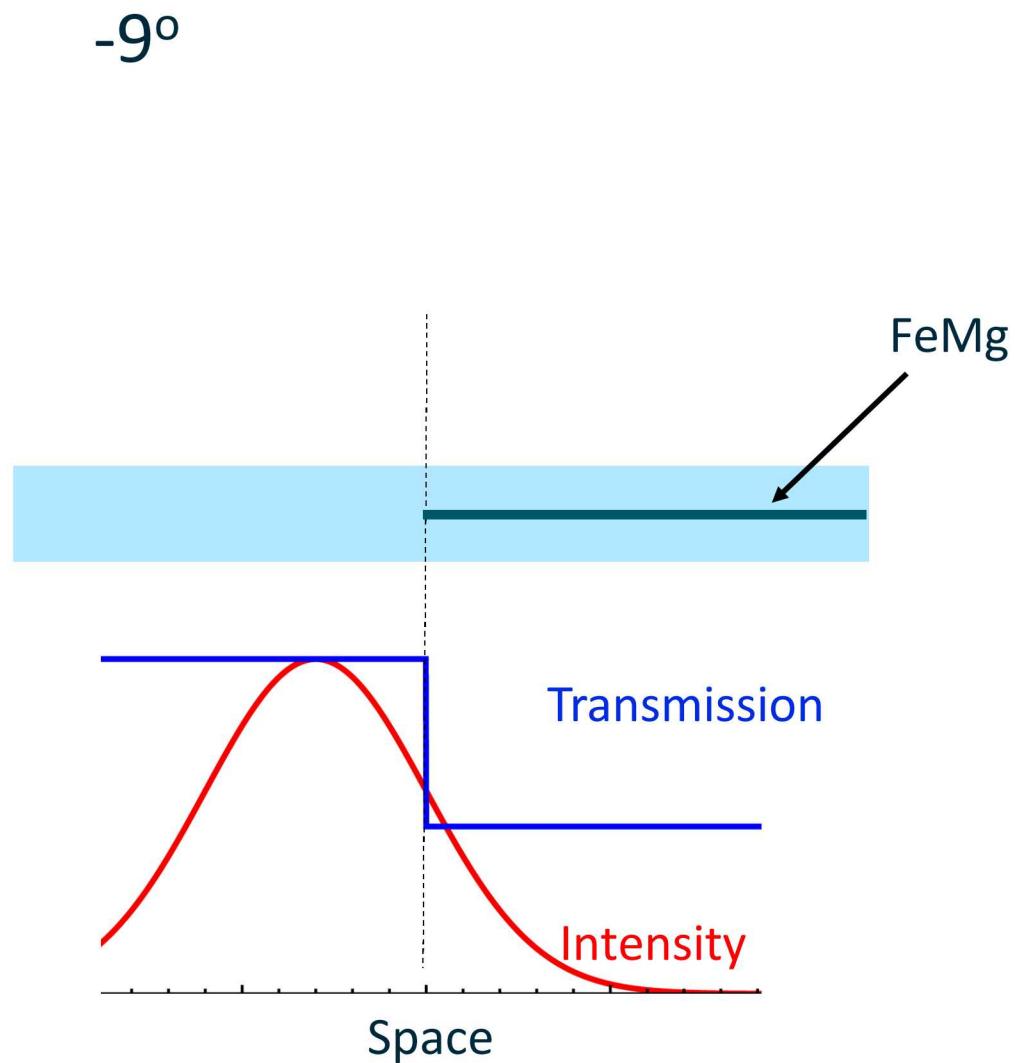
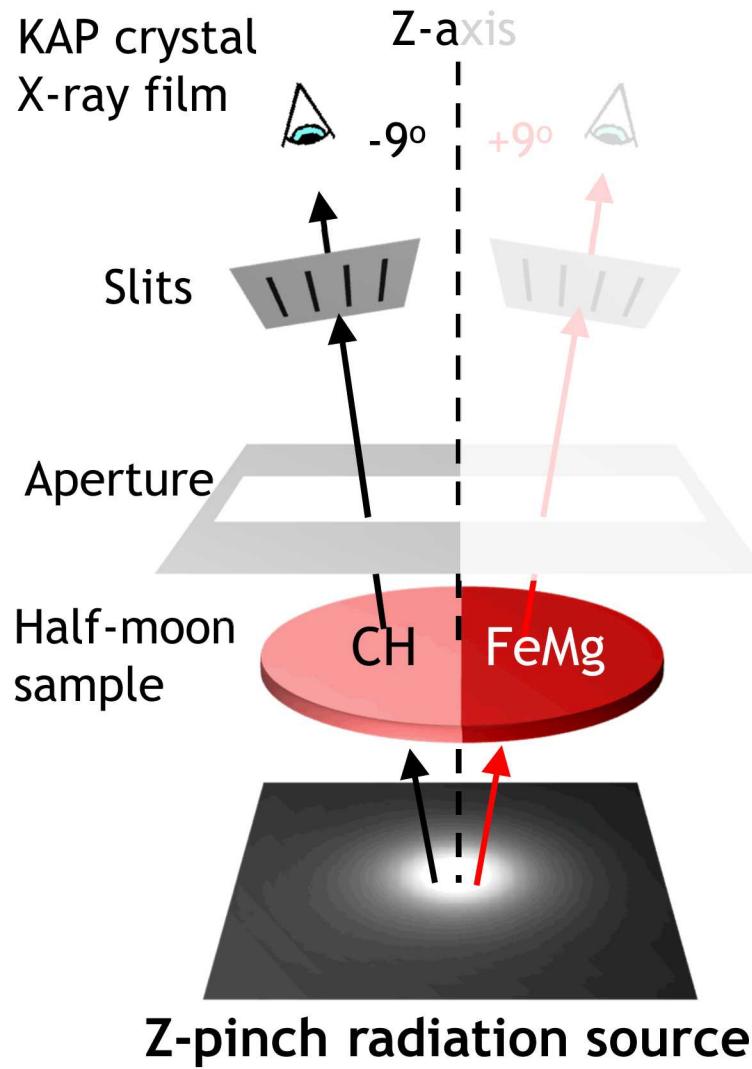
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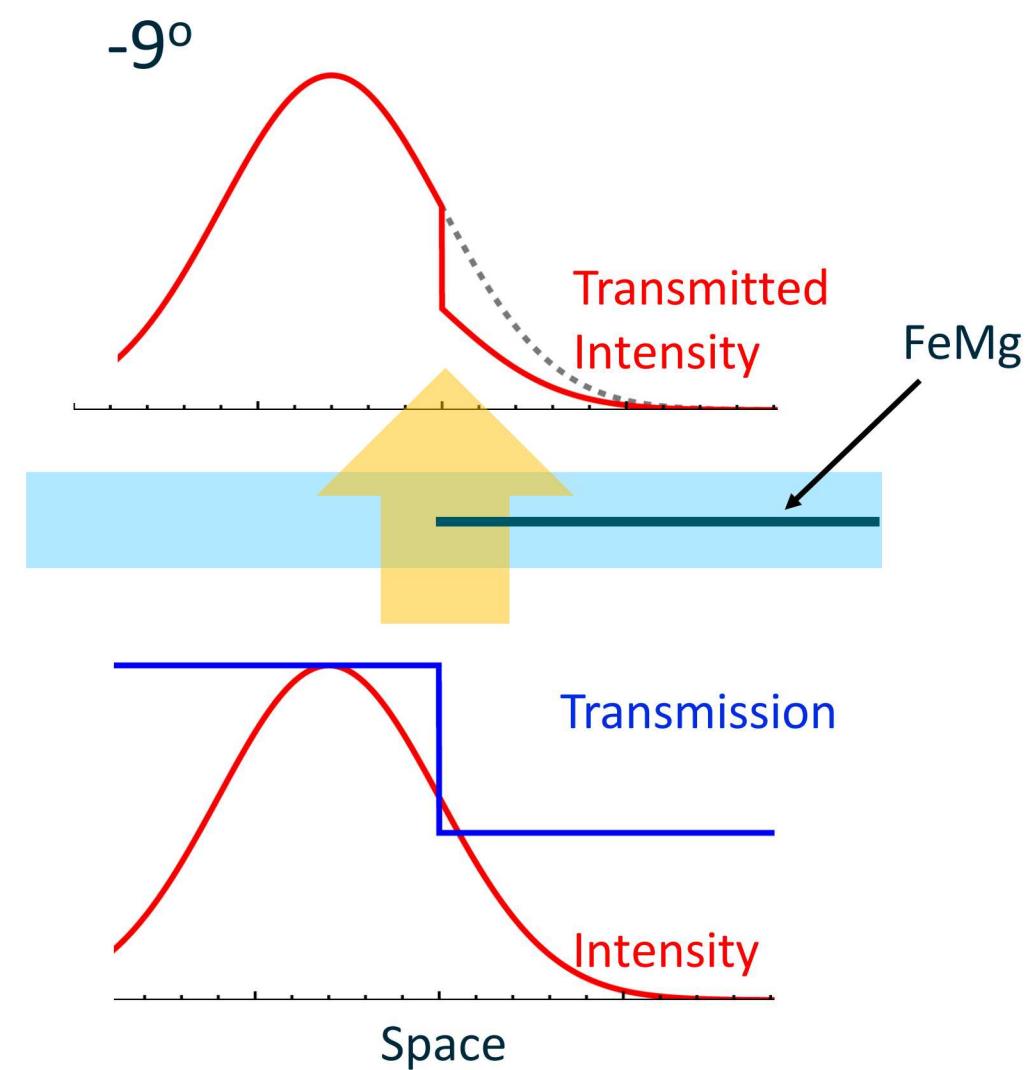
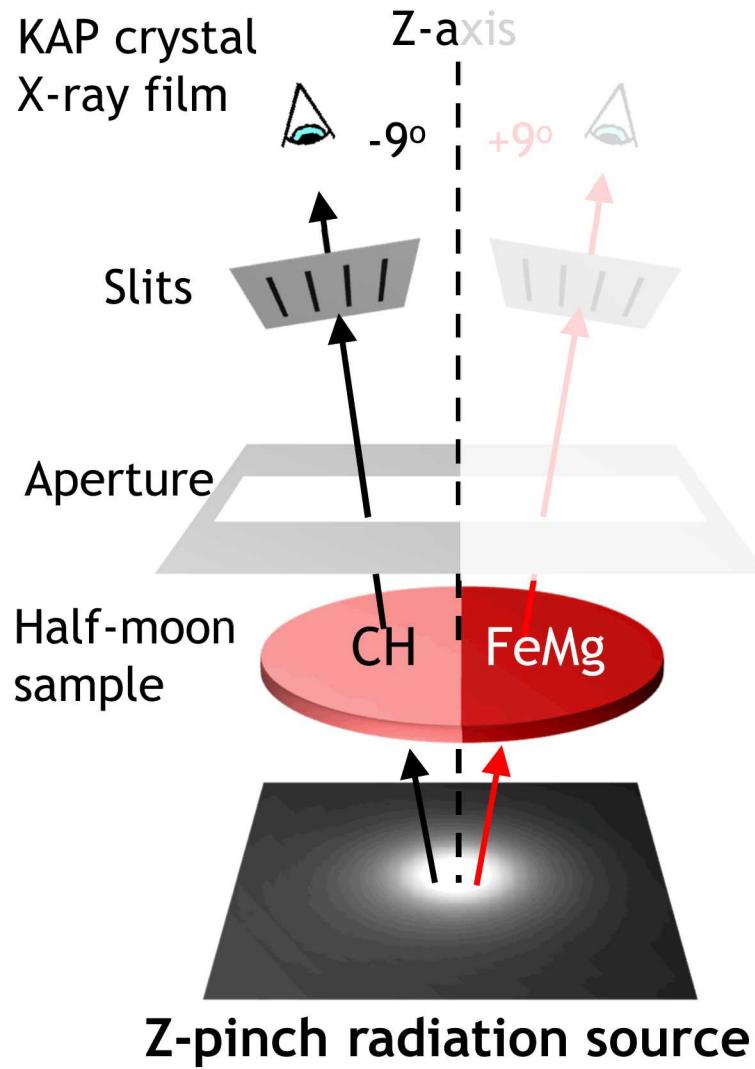
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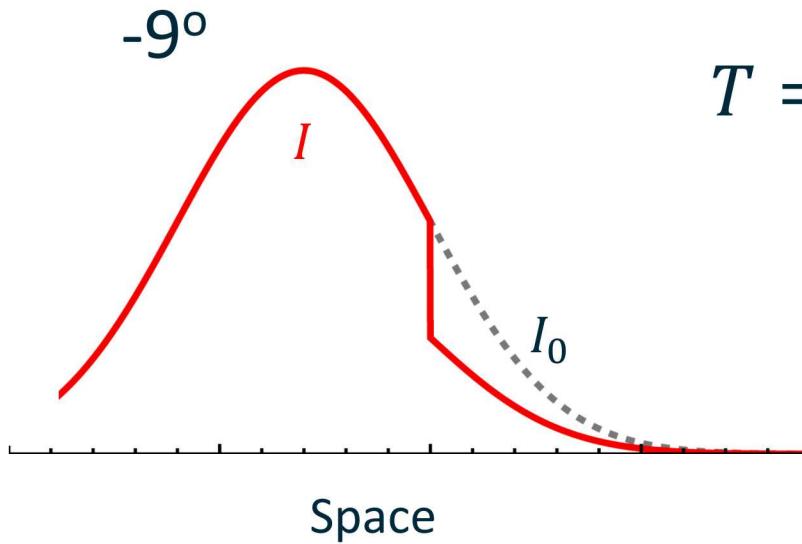
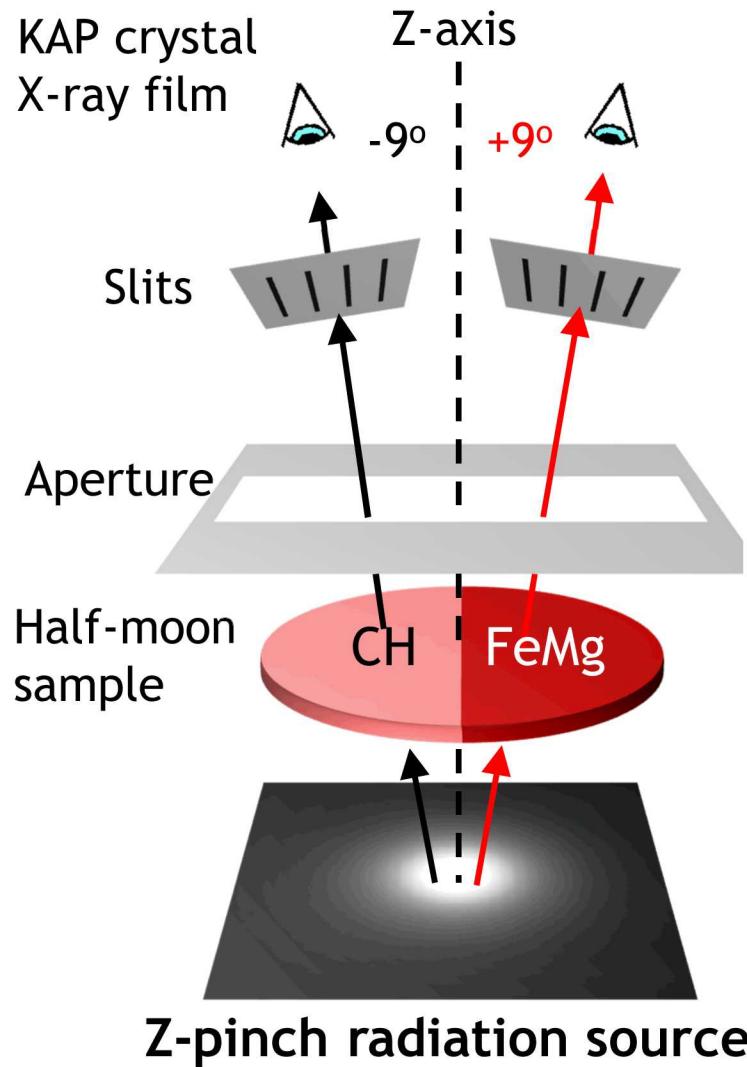
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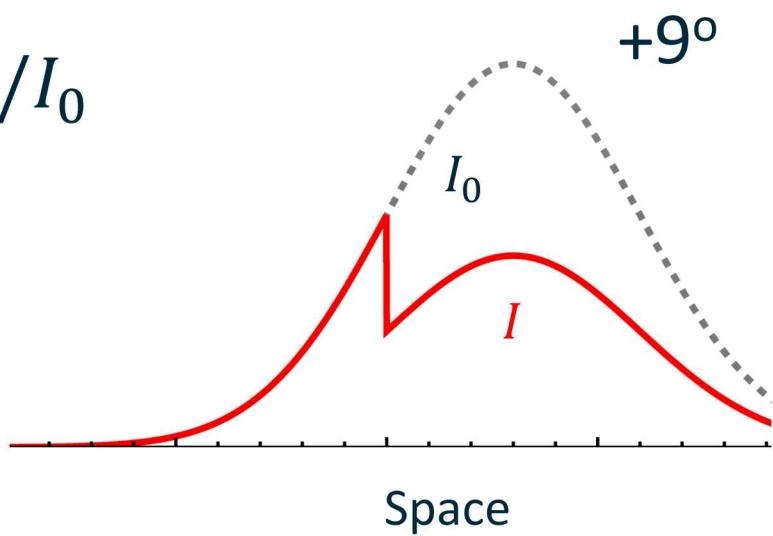
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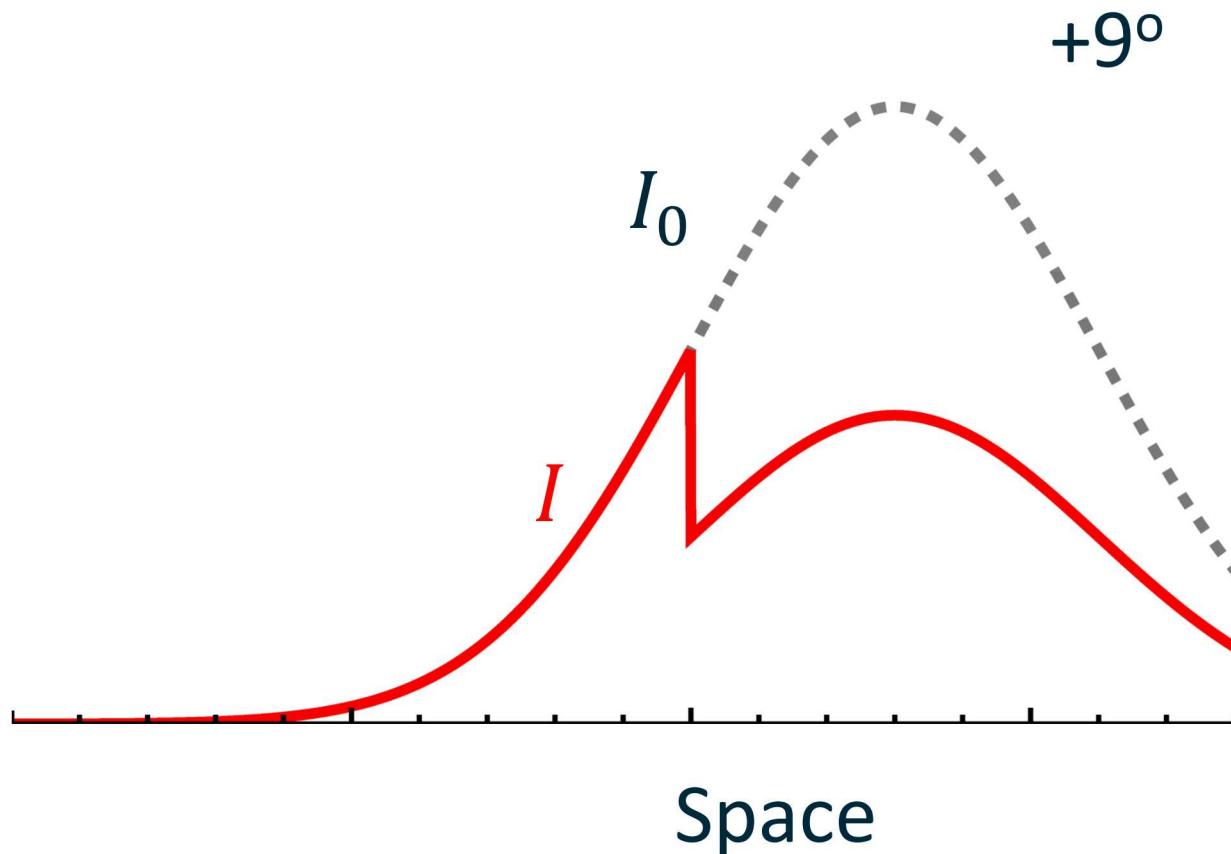
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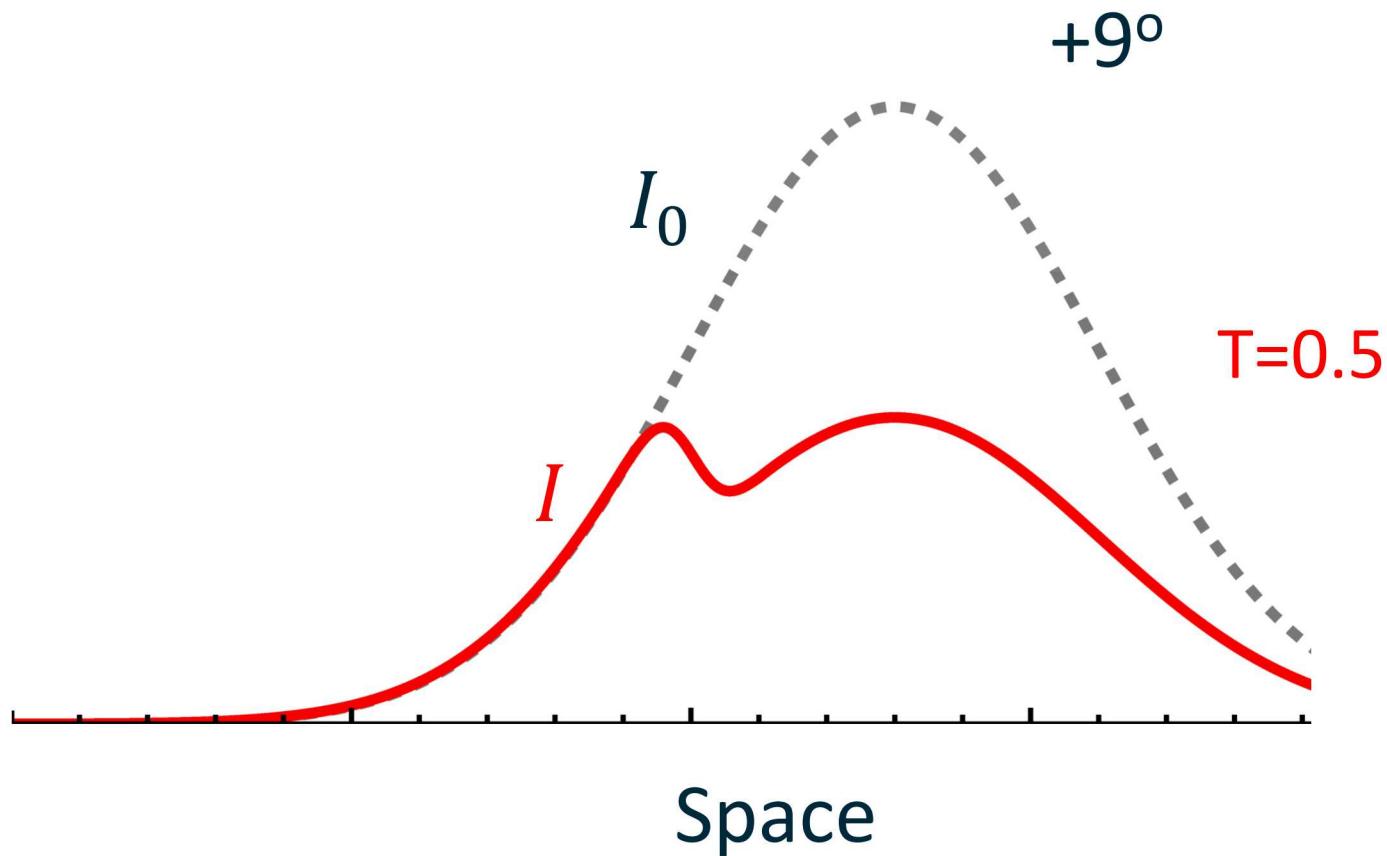
$$T = I/I_0$$



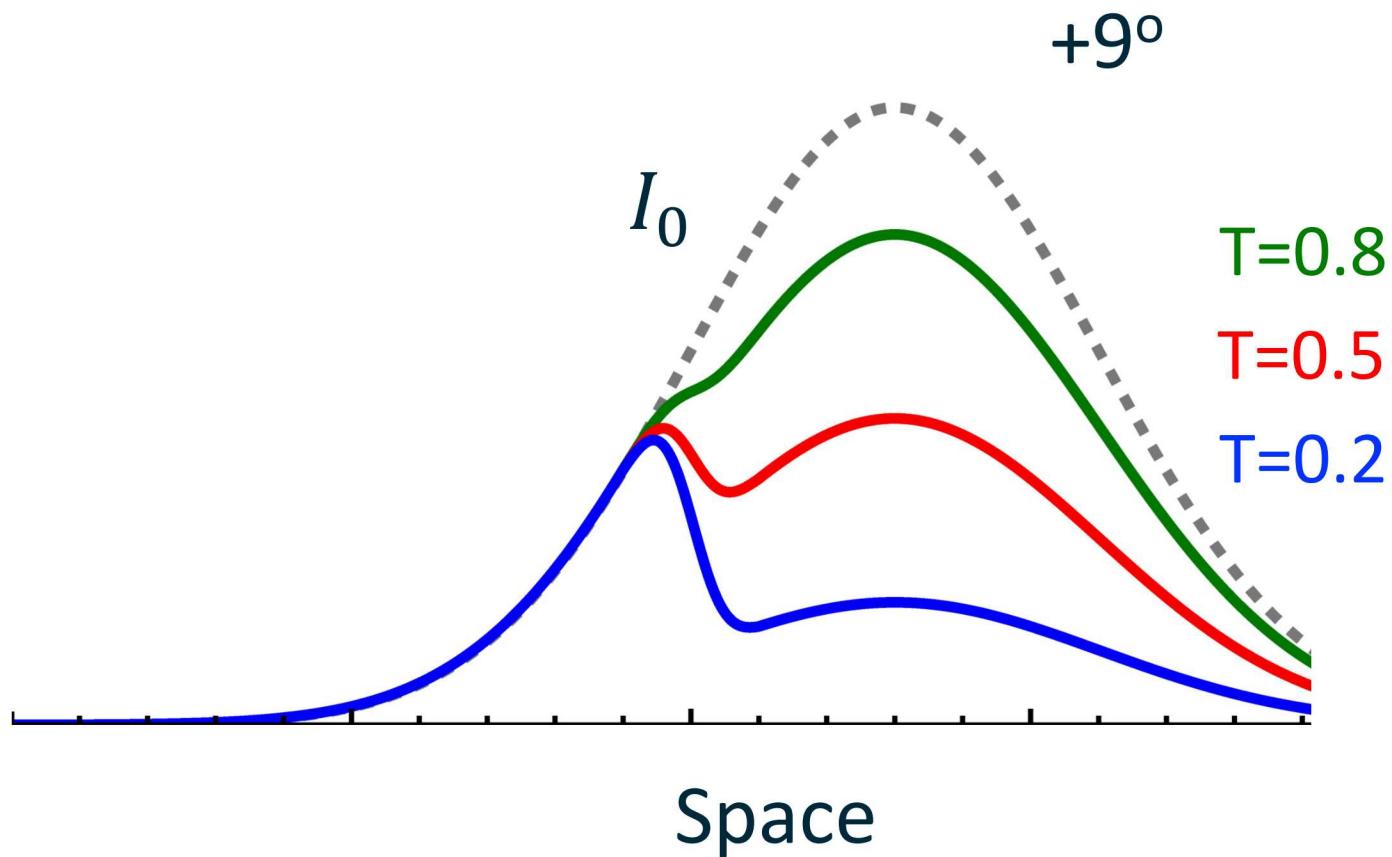
# Advantage 1: Level of transmission is imprinted on spatial profile itself



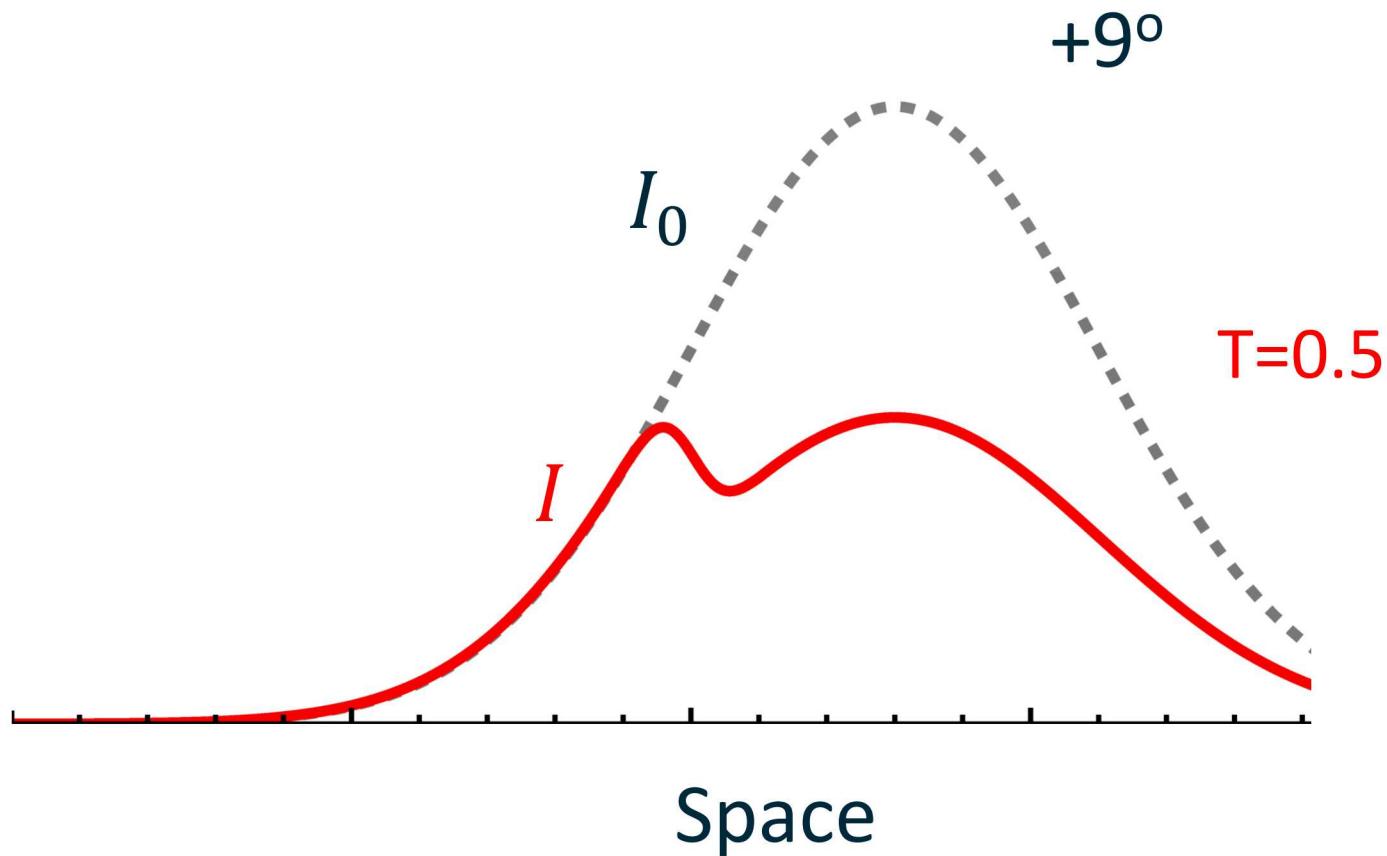
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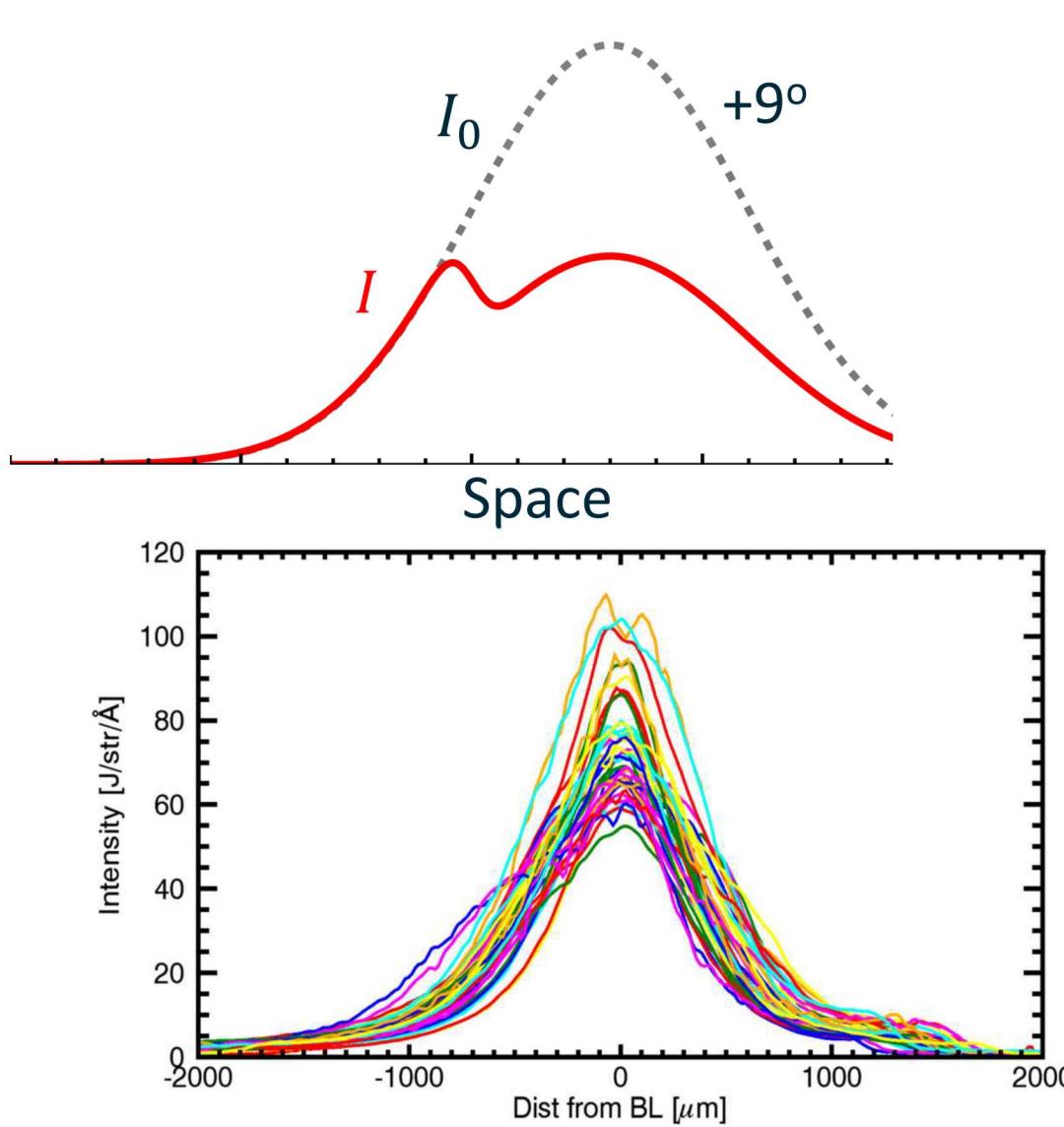
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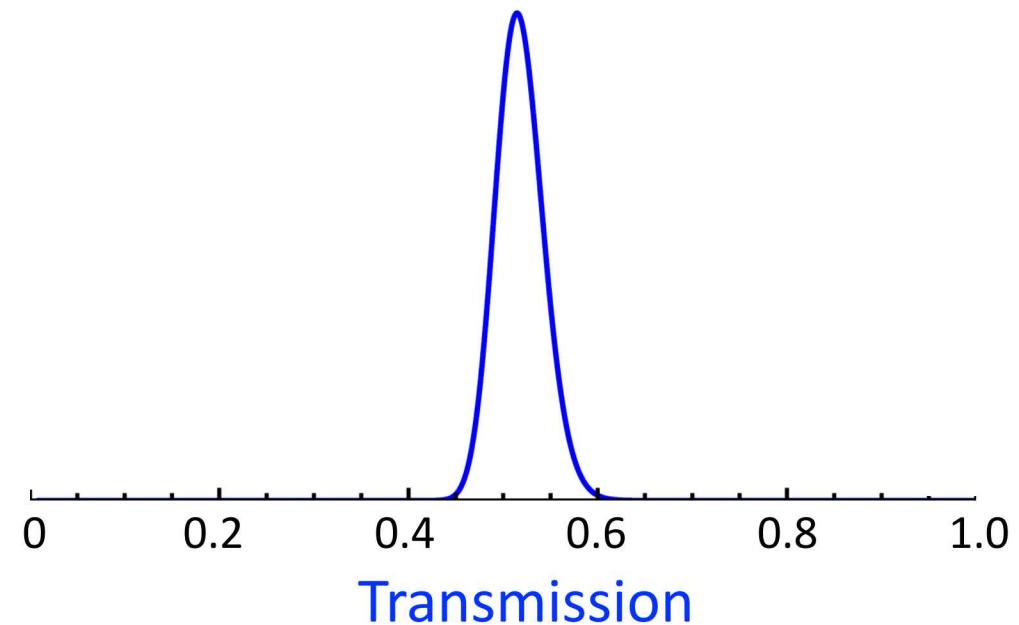
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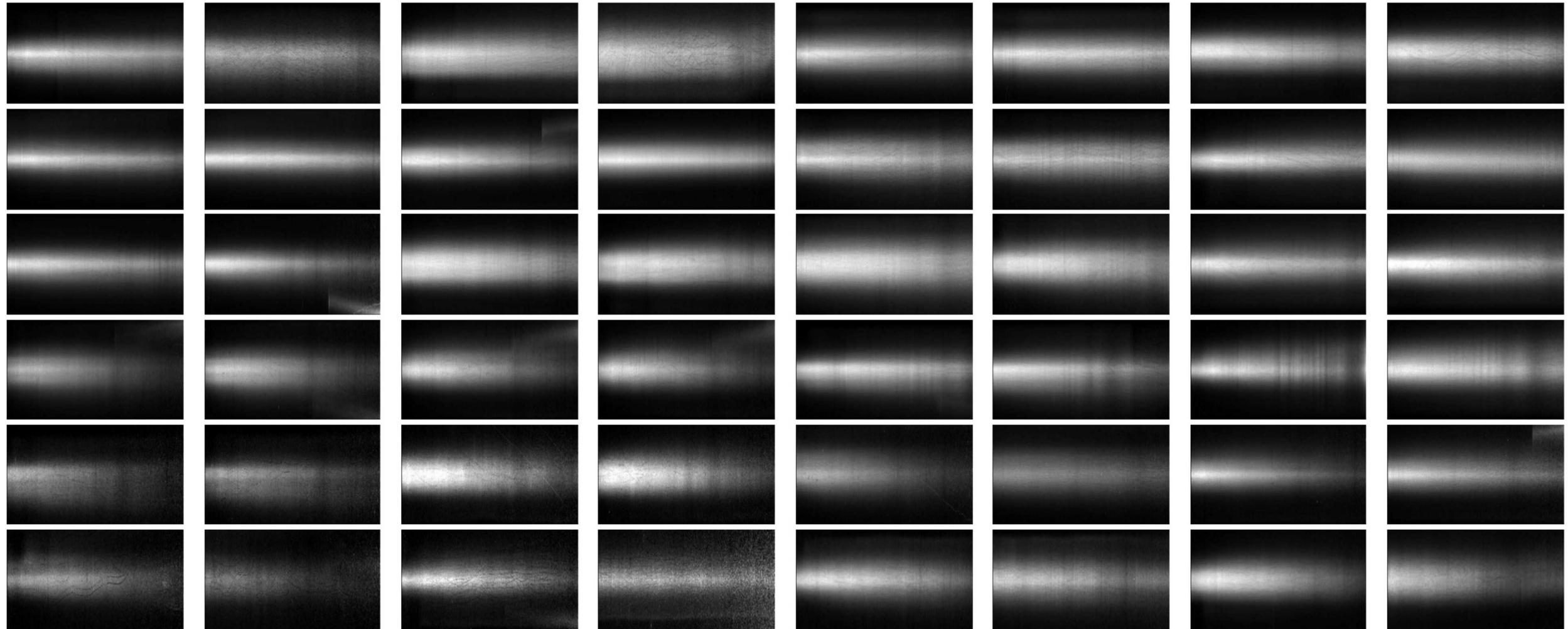
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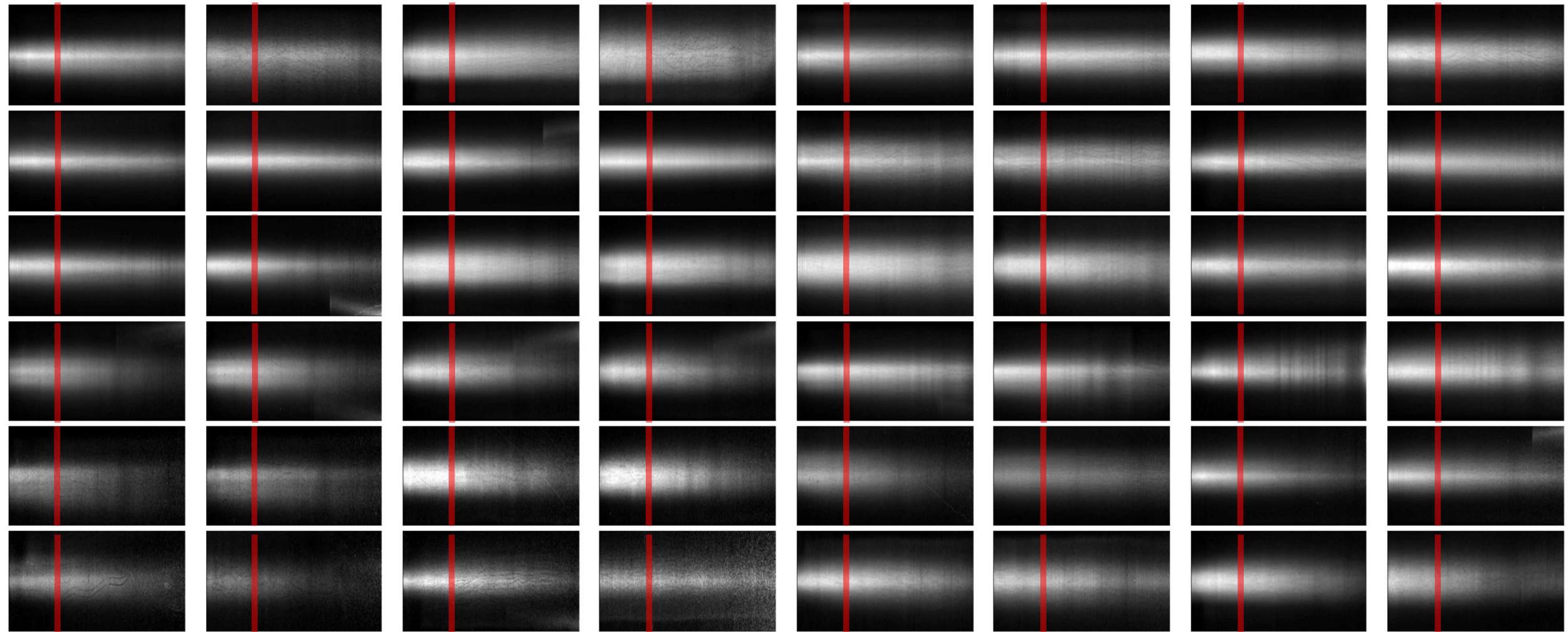
Probability distribution



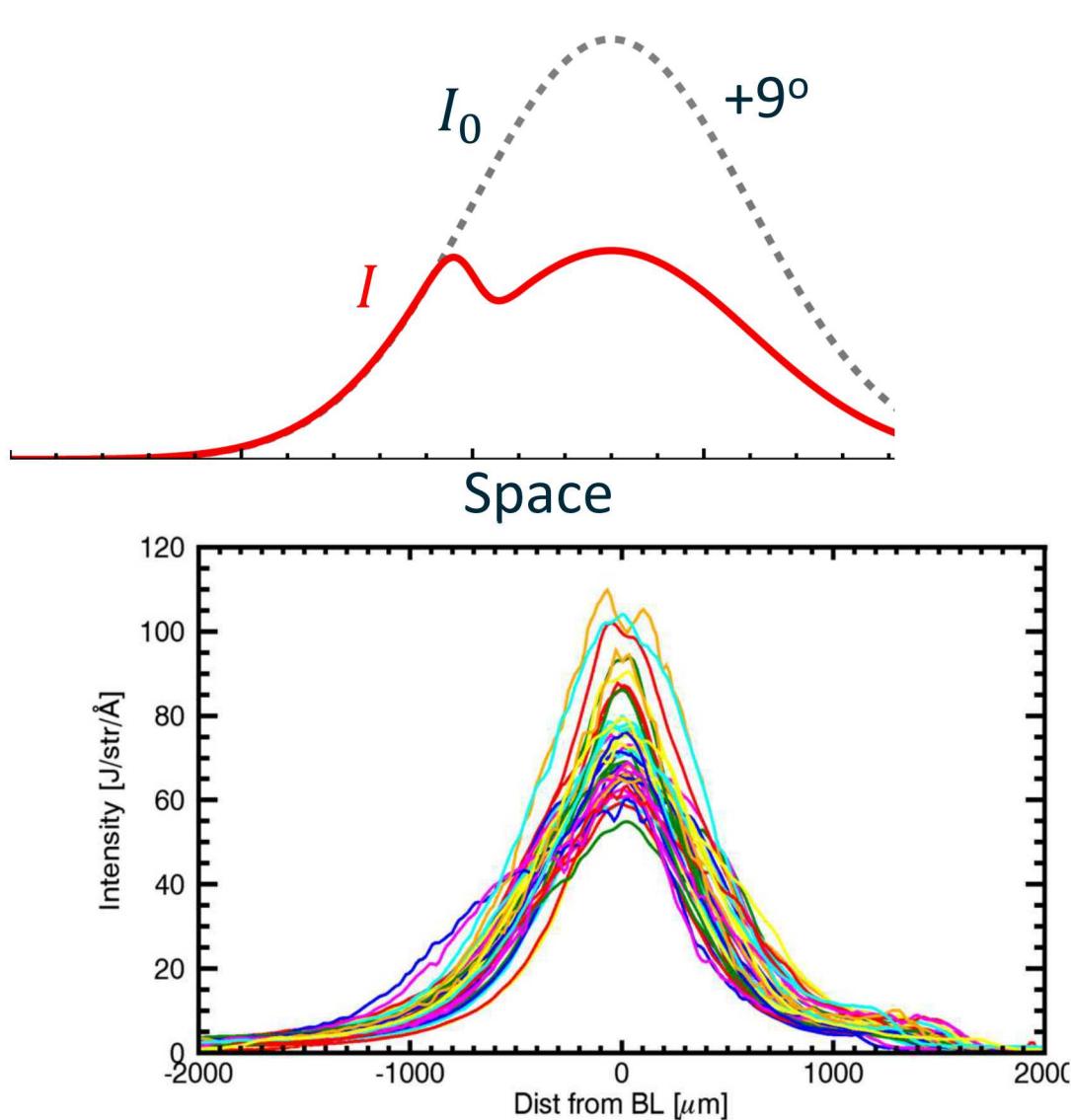
We can study reproducibility of spatial shape and brightness from our calibration shots



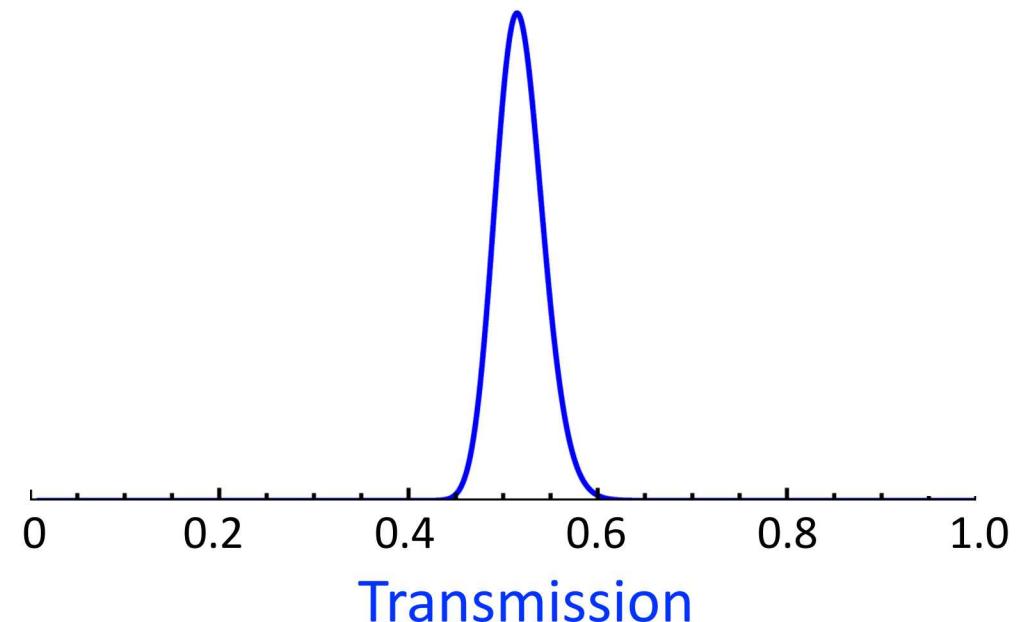
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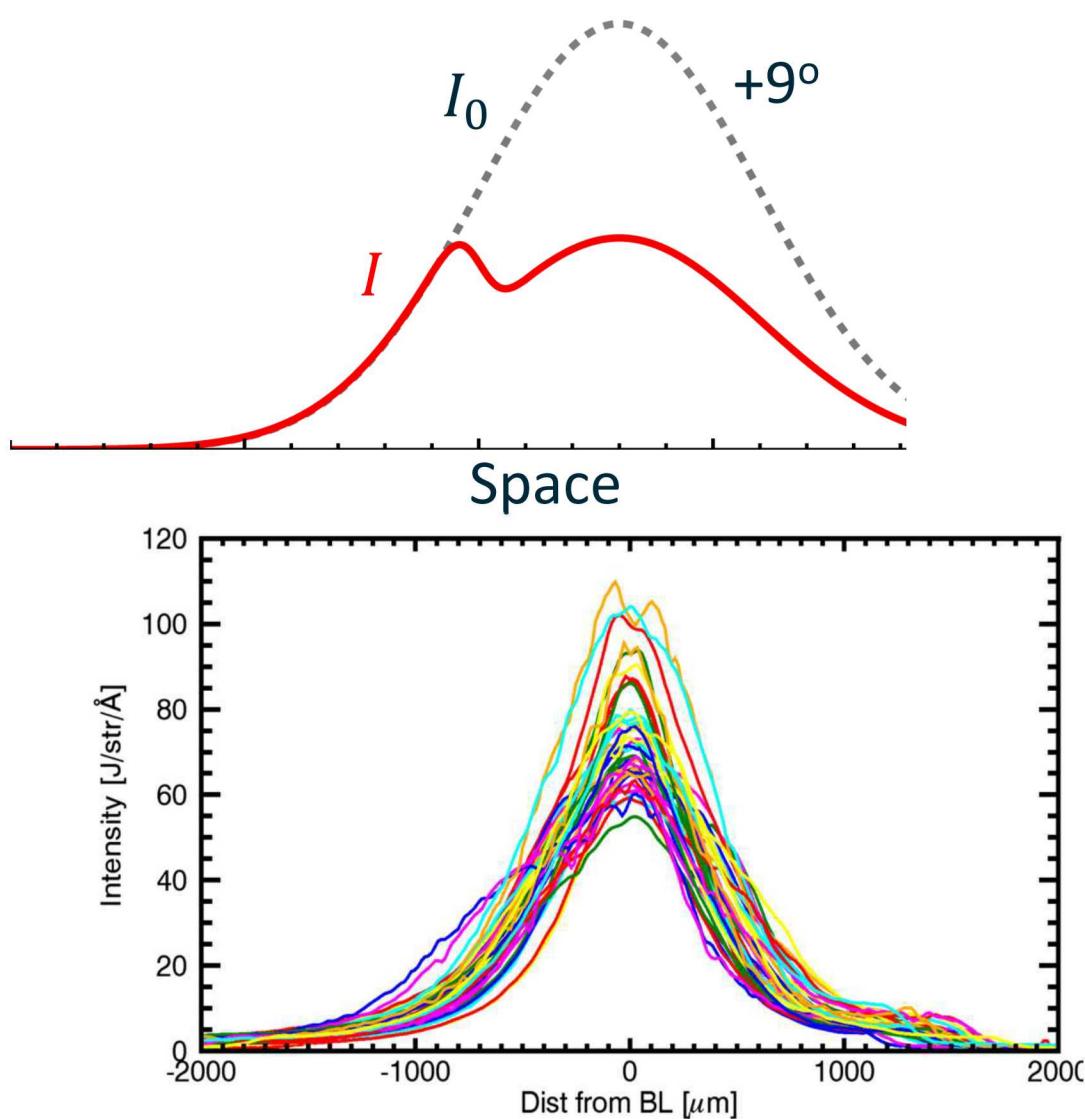


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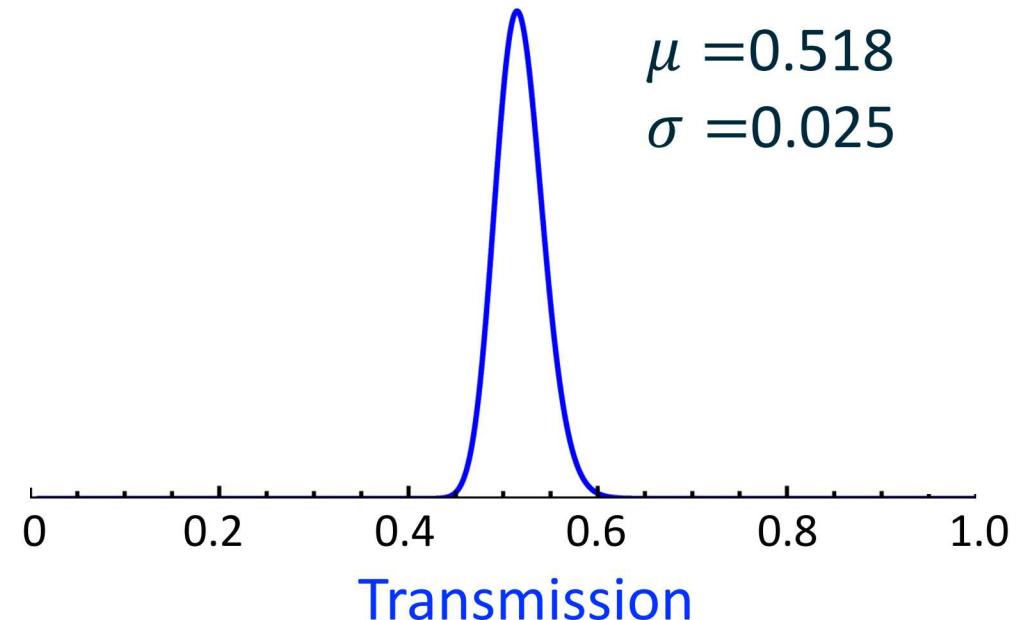


Transmission PDF\* is analytically derived from attenuated profile and calibration shot statistics

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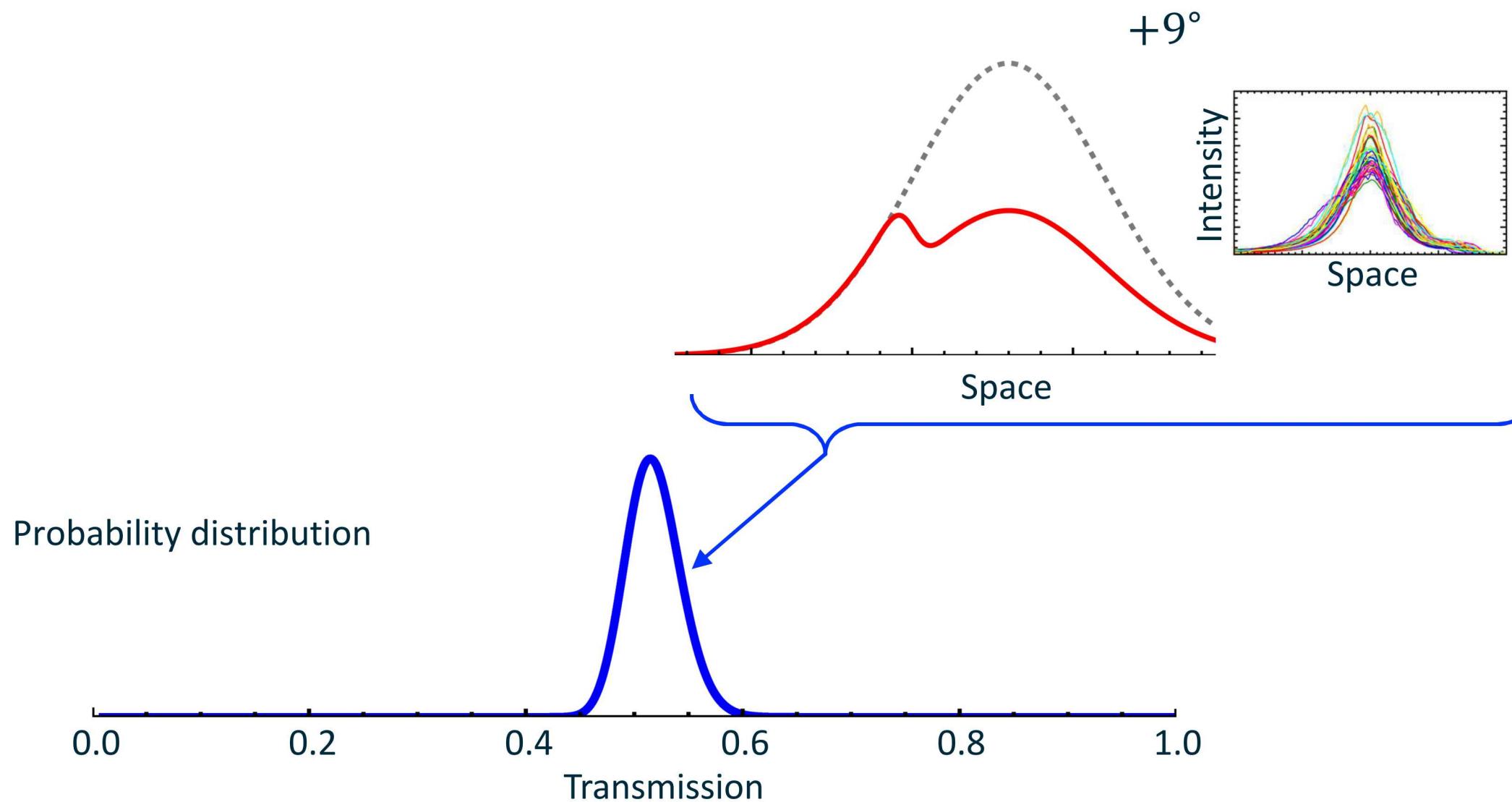


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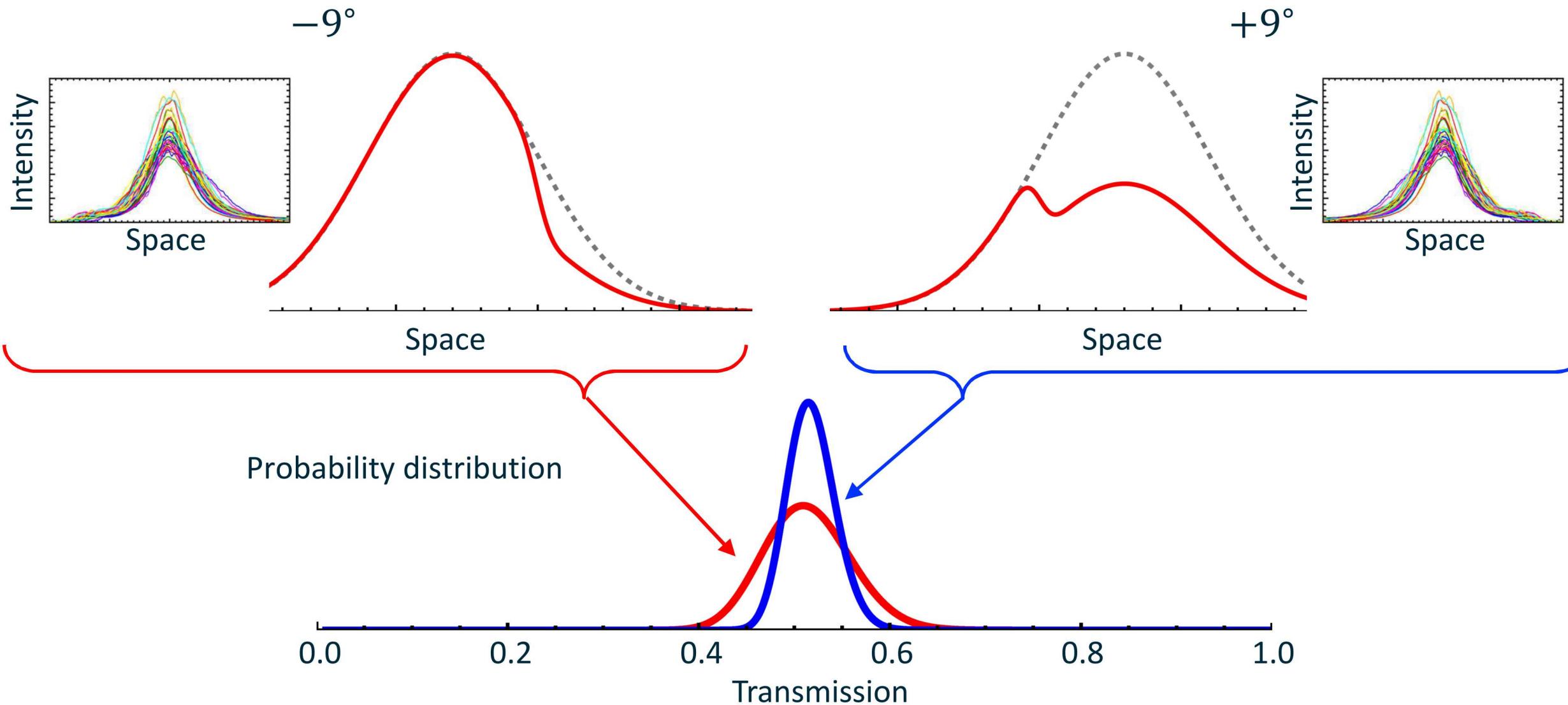


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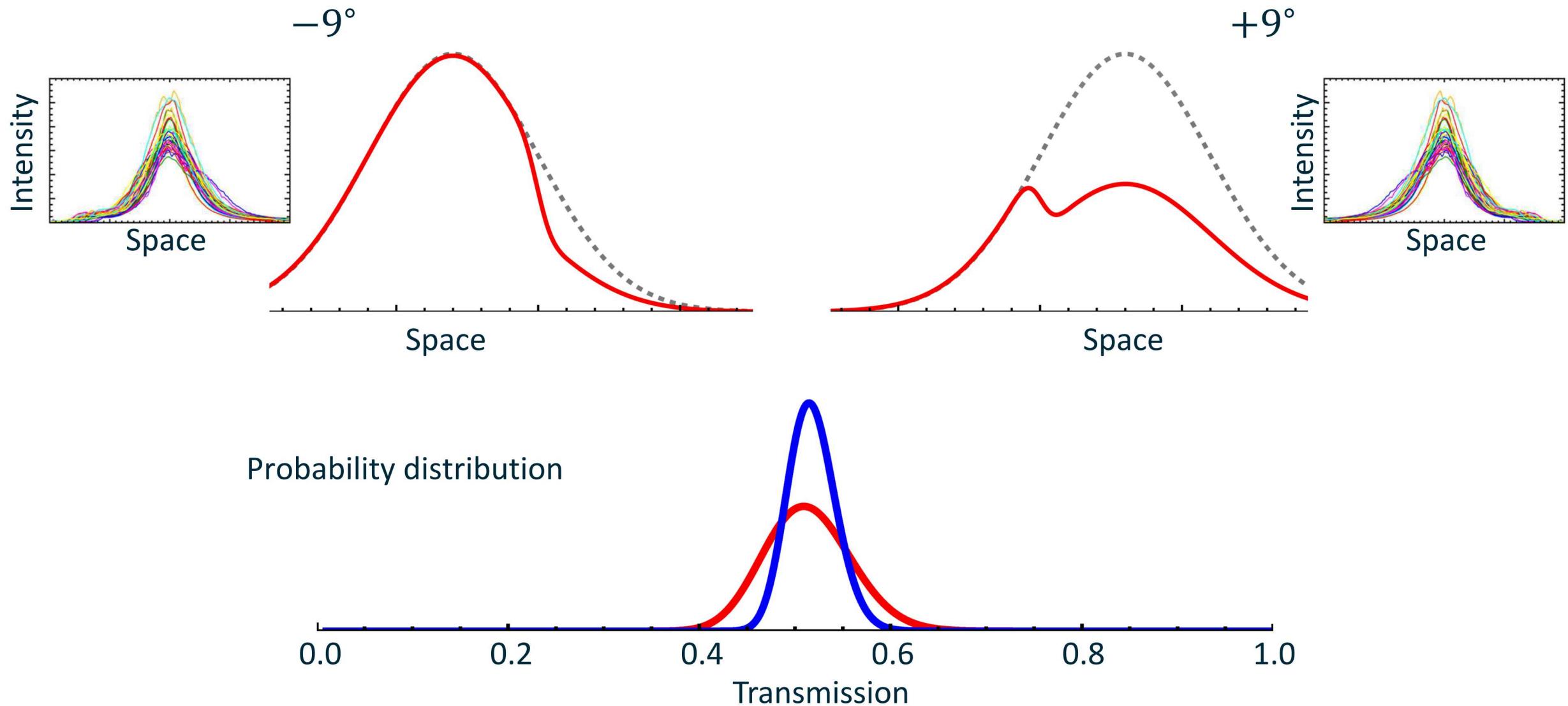
Advantage 2: Transmission is analyzed for  $\pm 9^\circ$  data independently on a equal footing



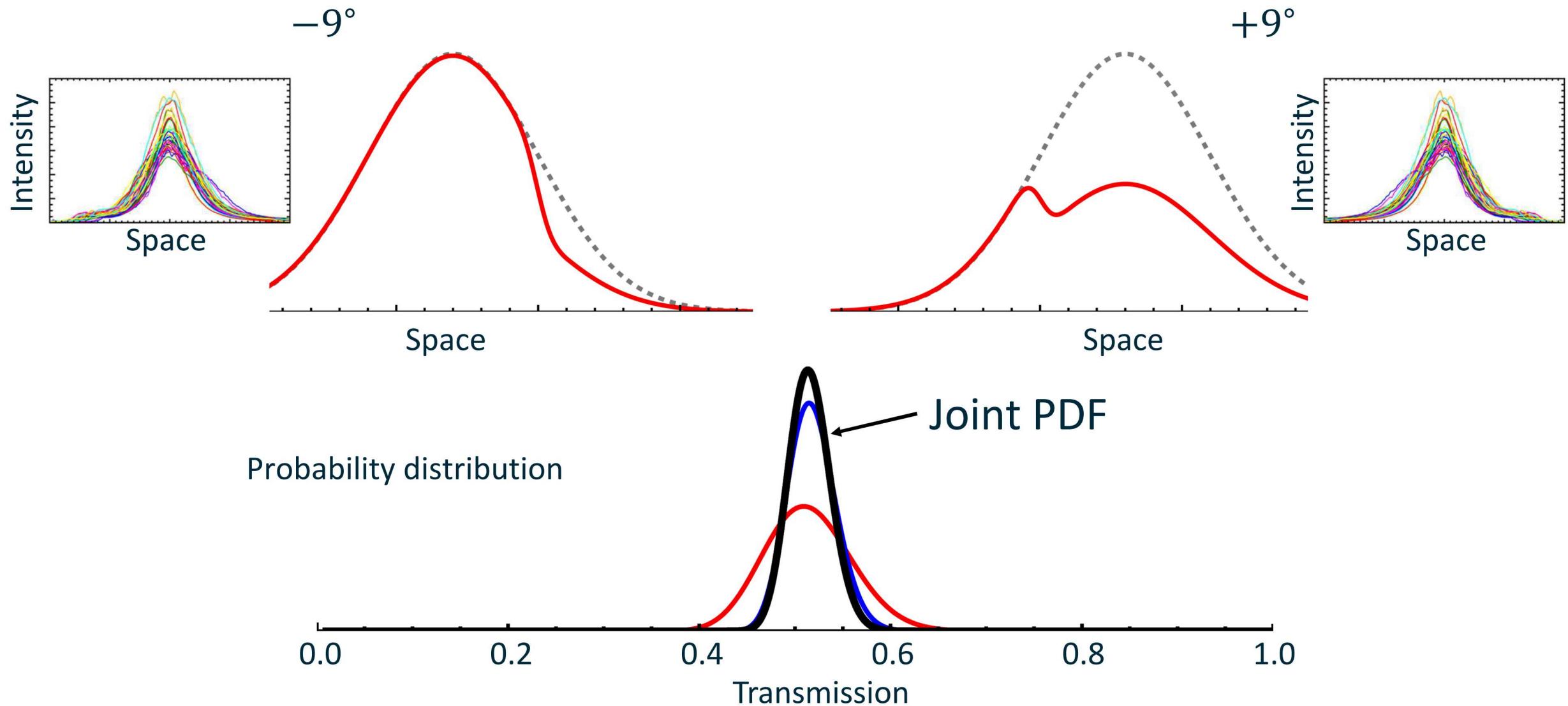
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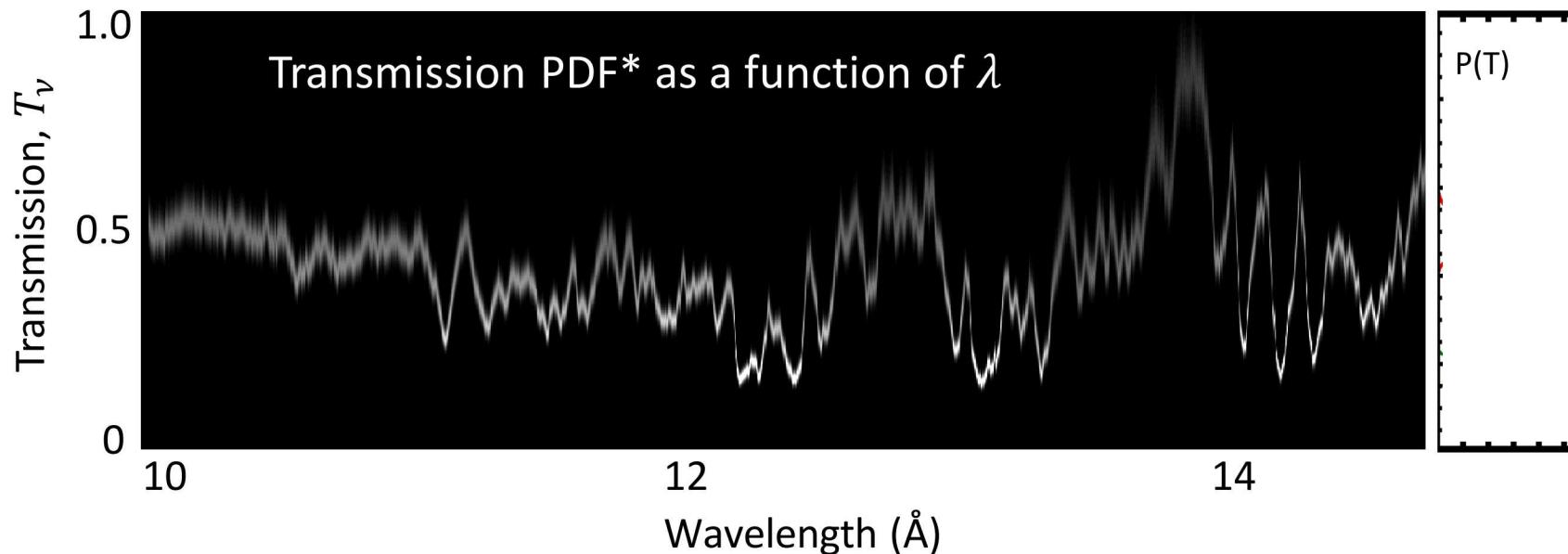
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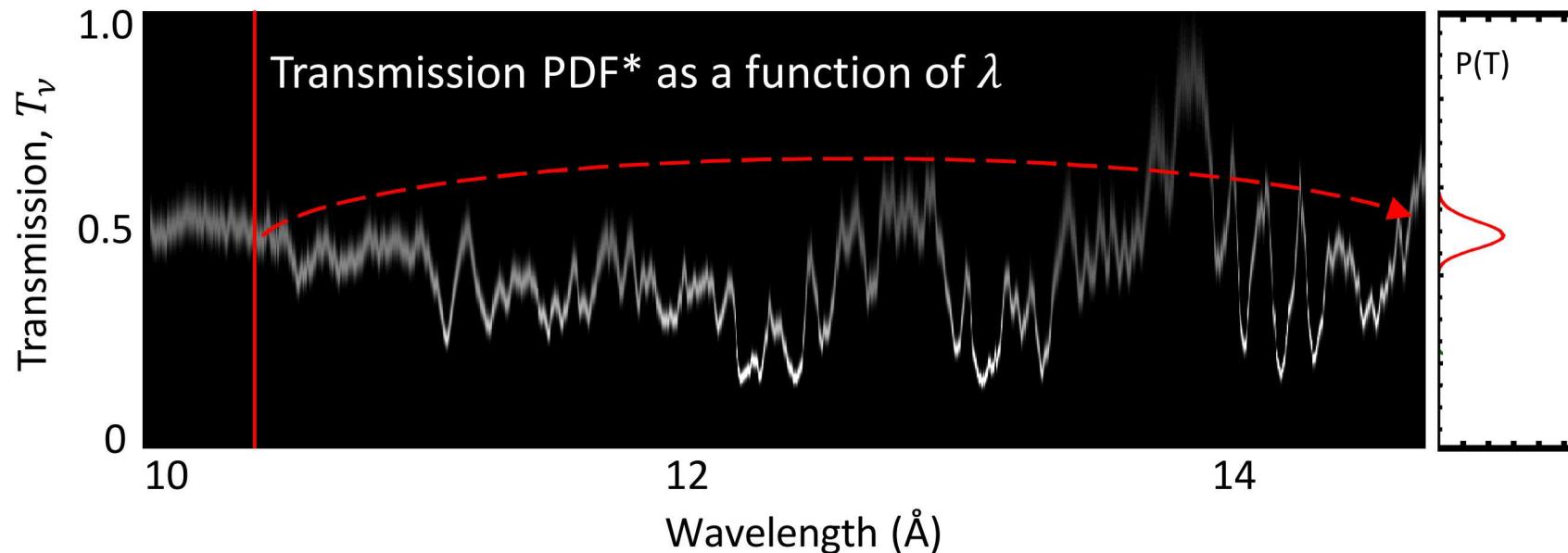
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## Advantage 3: Transmission of each wavelength is analyzed independently

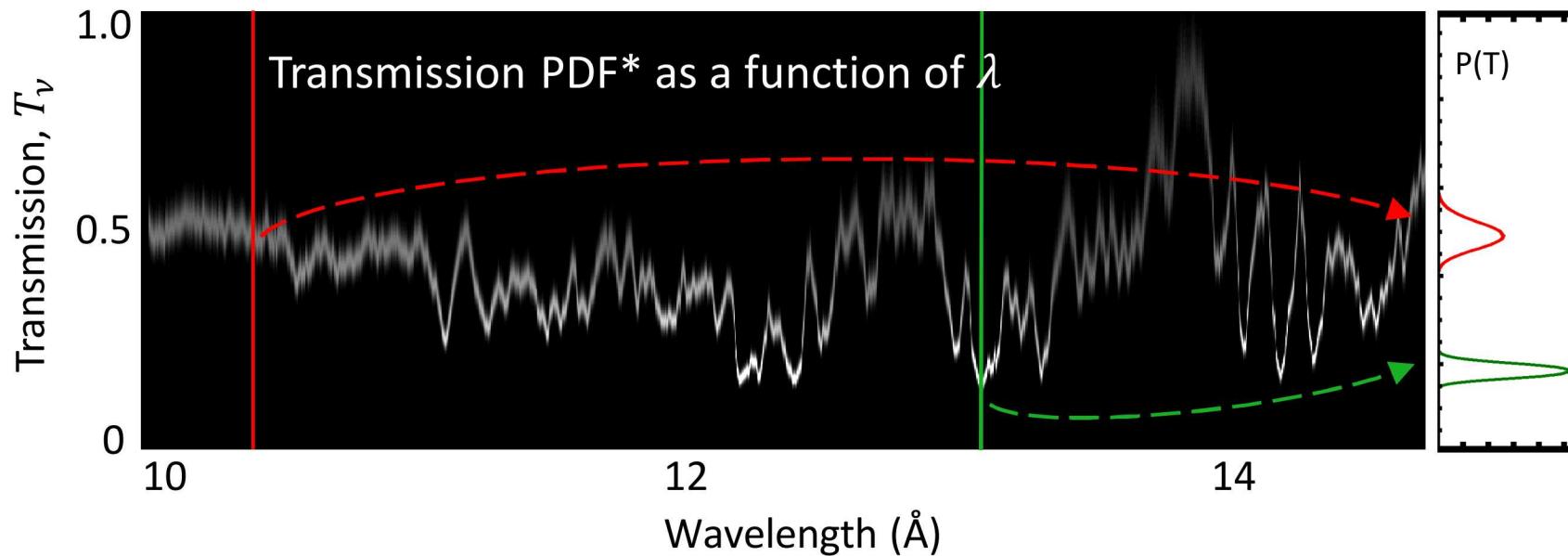


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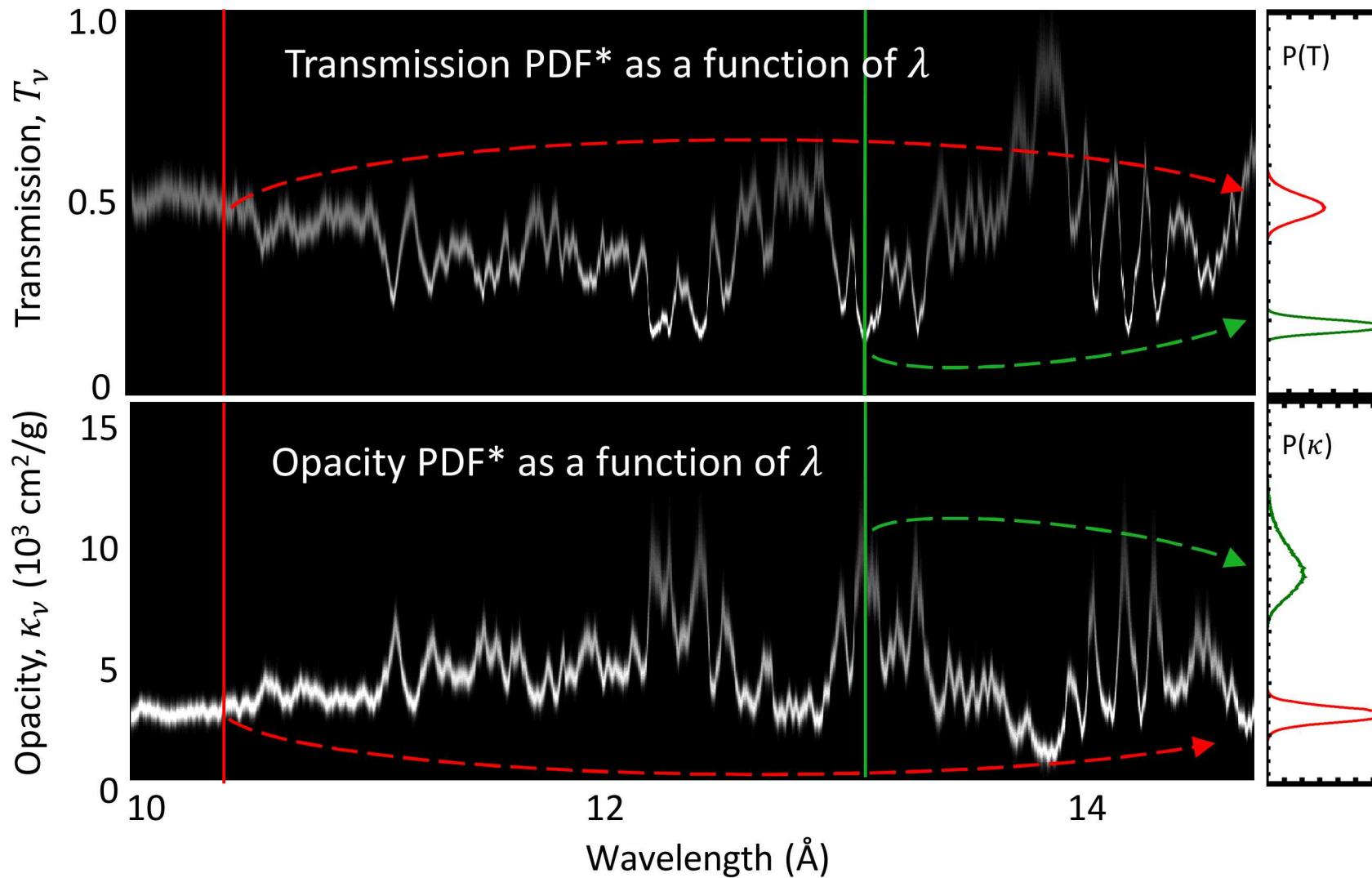
\*PDF = Probability distribution function

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# Transmission PDF is converted to opacity PDF using Monte-Carlo technique, propagating various uncertainties

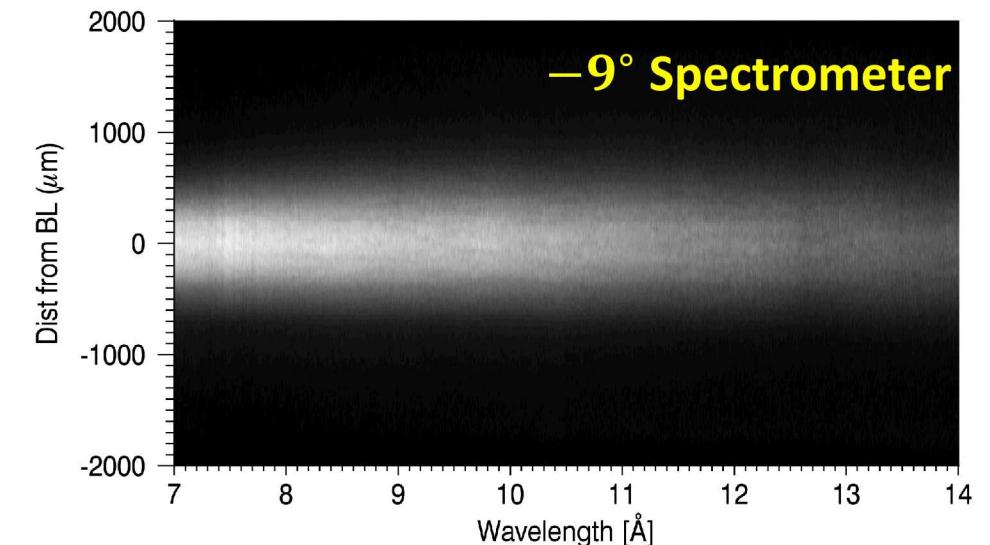
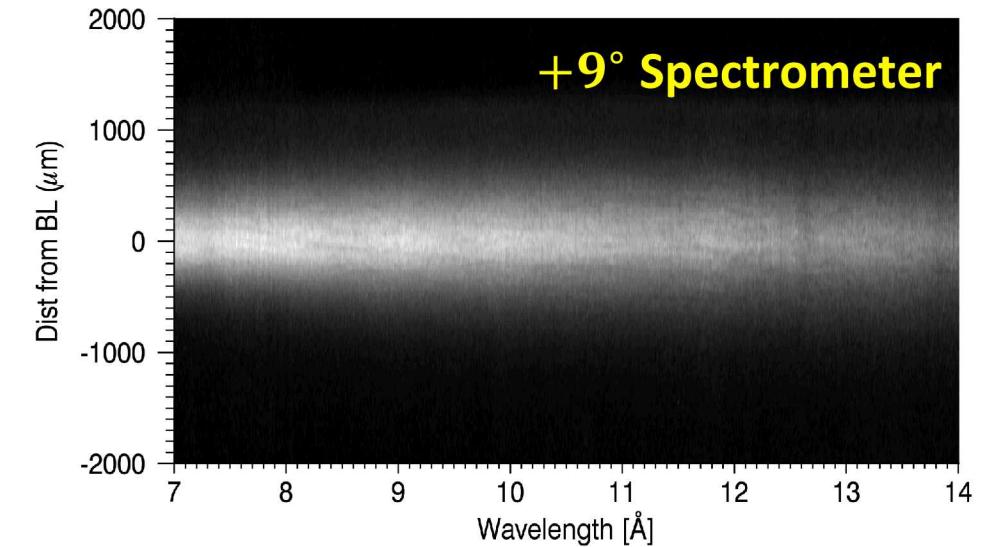
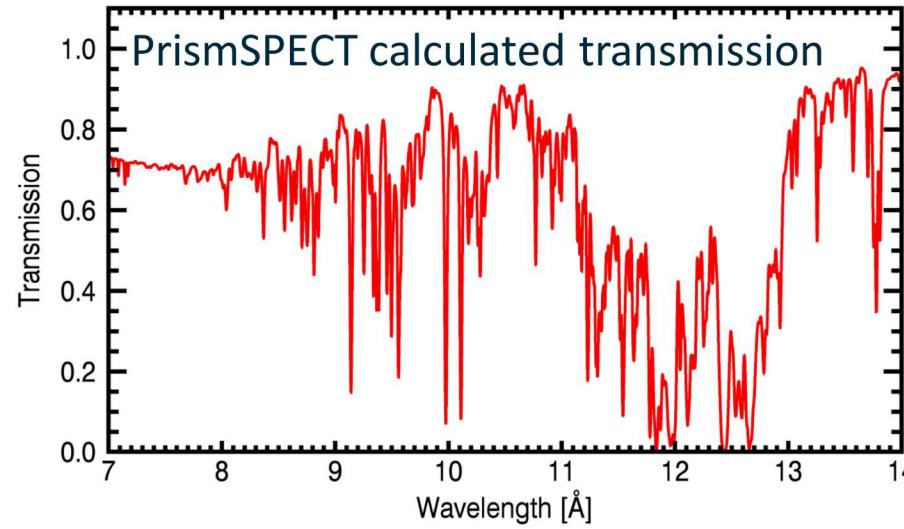


Monte-Carlo to propagate errors:

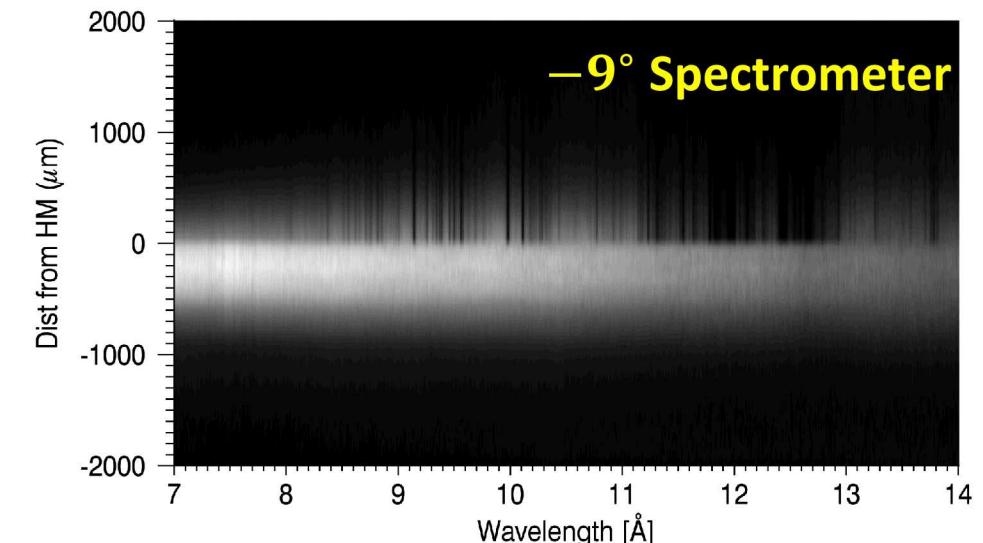
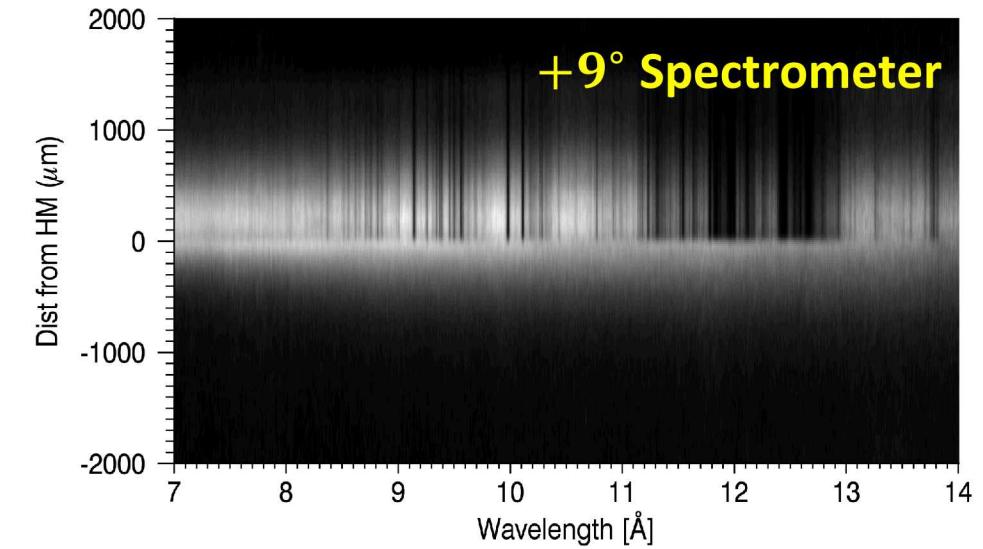
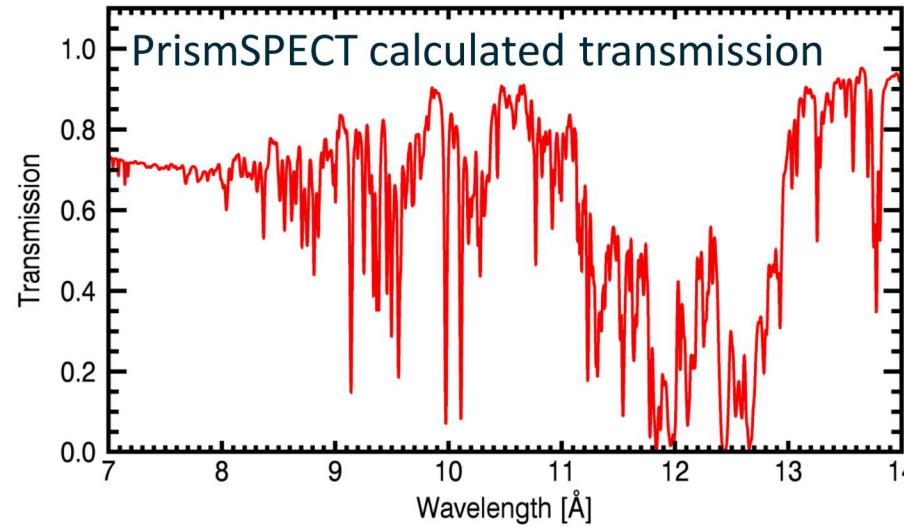
- Transmission error
- Background subtraction error
- Areal density error

How do we know if the method is accurate?

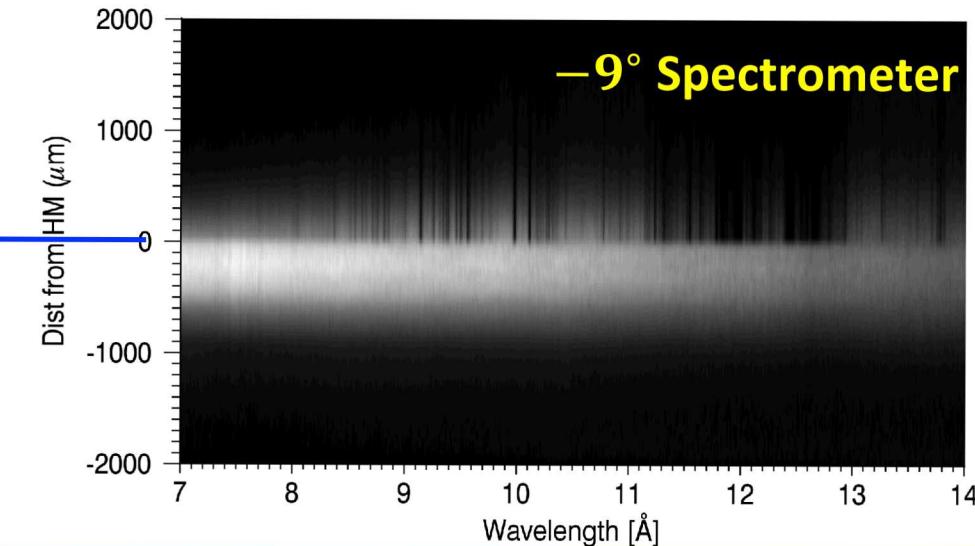
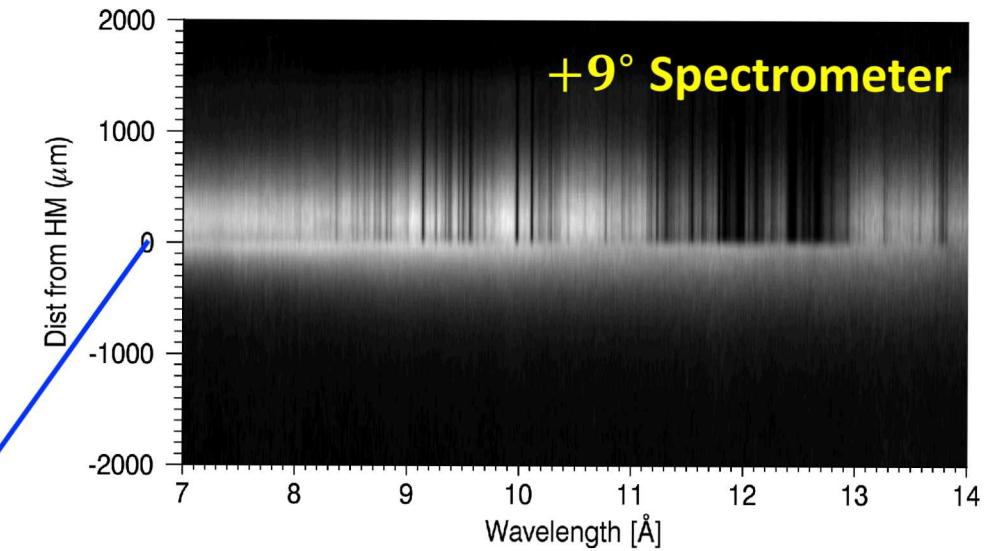
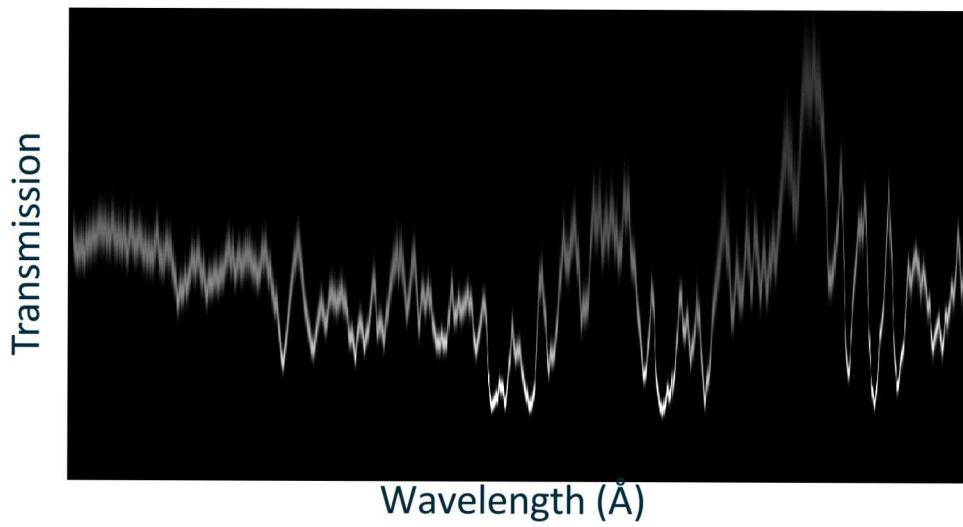
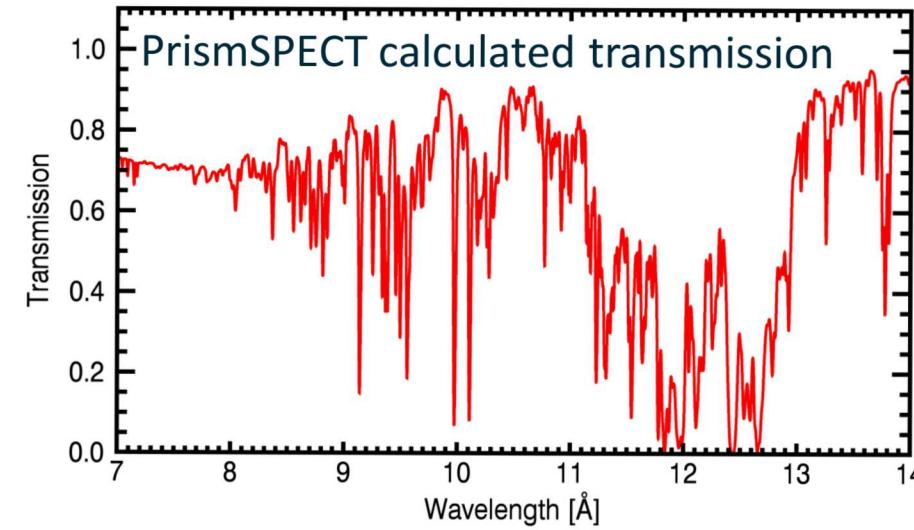
# Synthetic data is created by multiplying calibration-shot data by calculated transmission



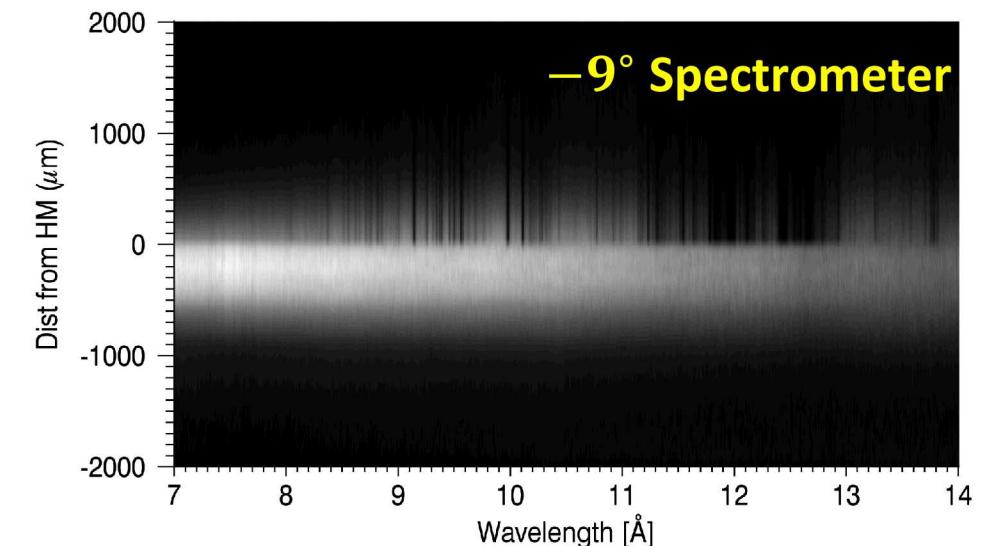
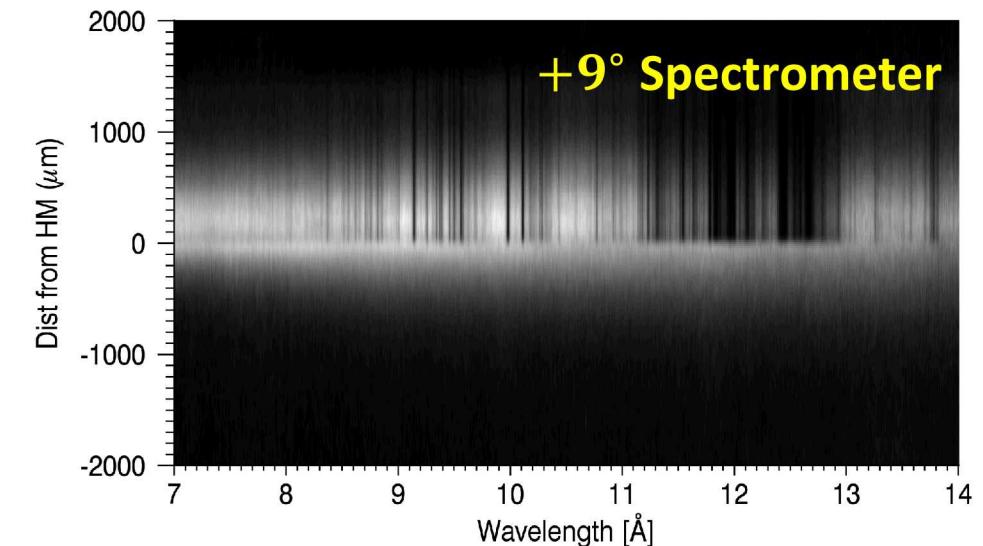
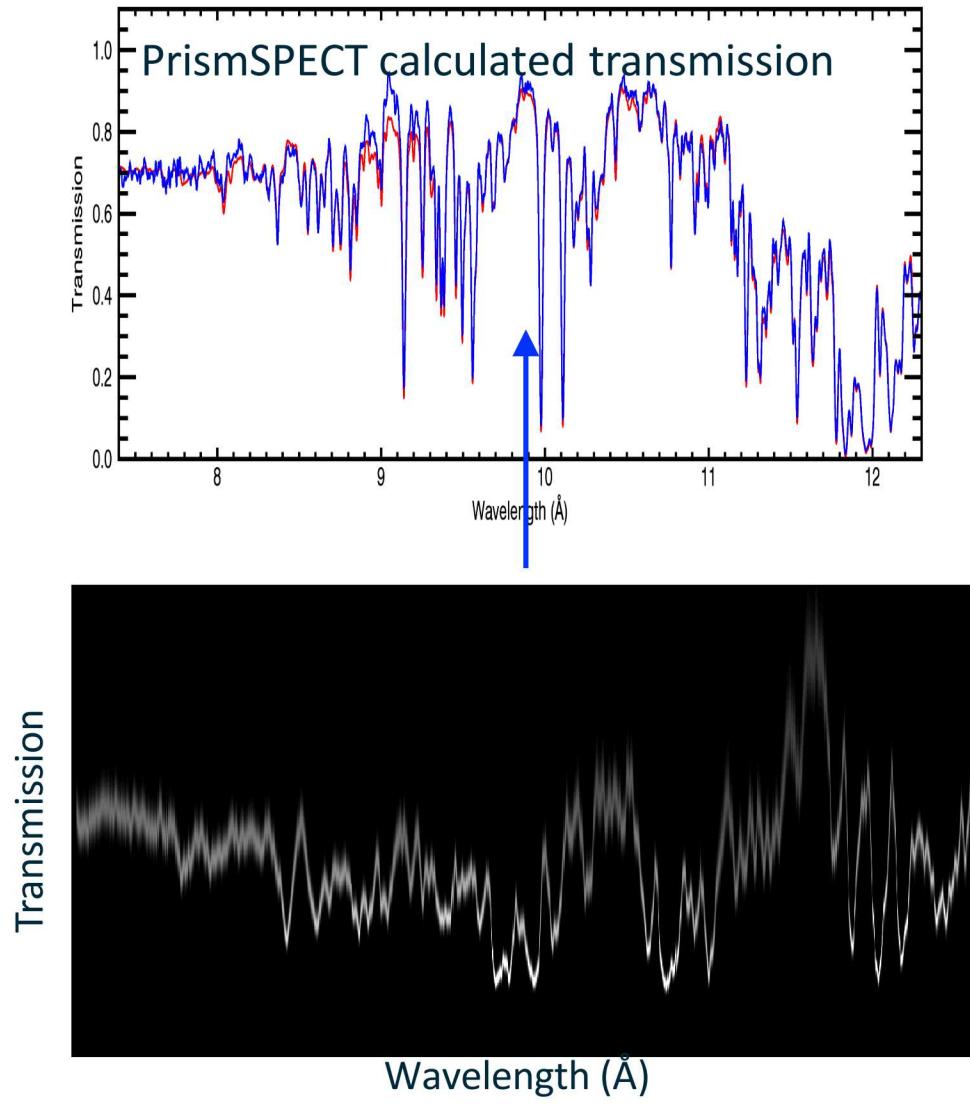
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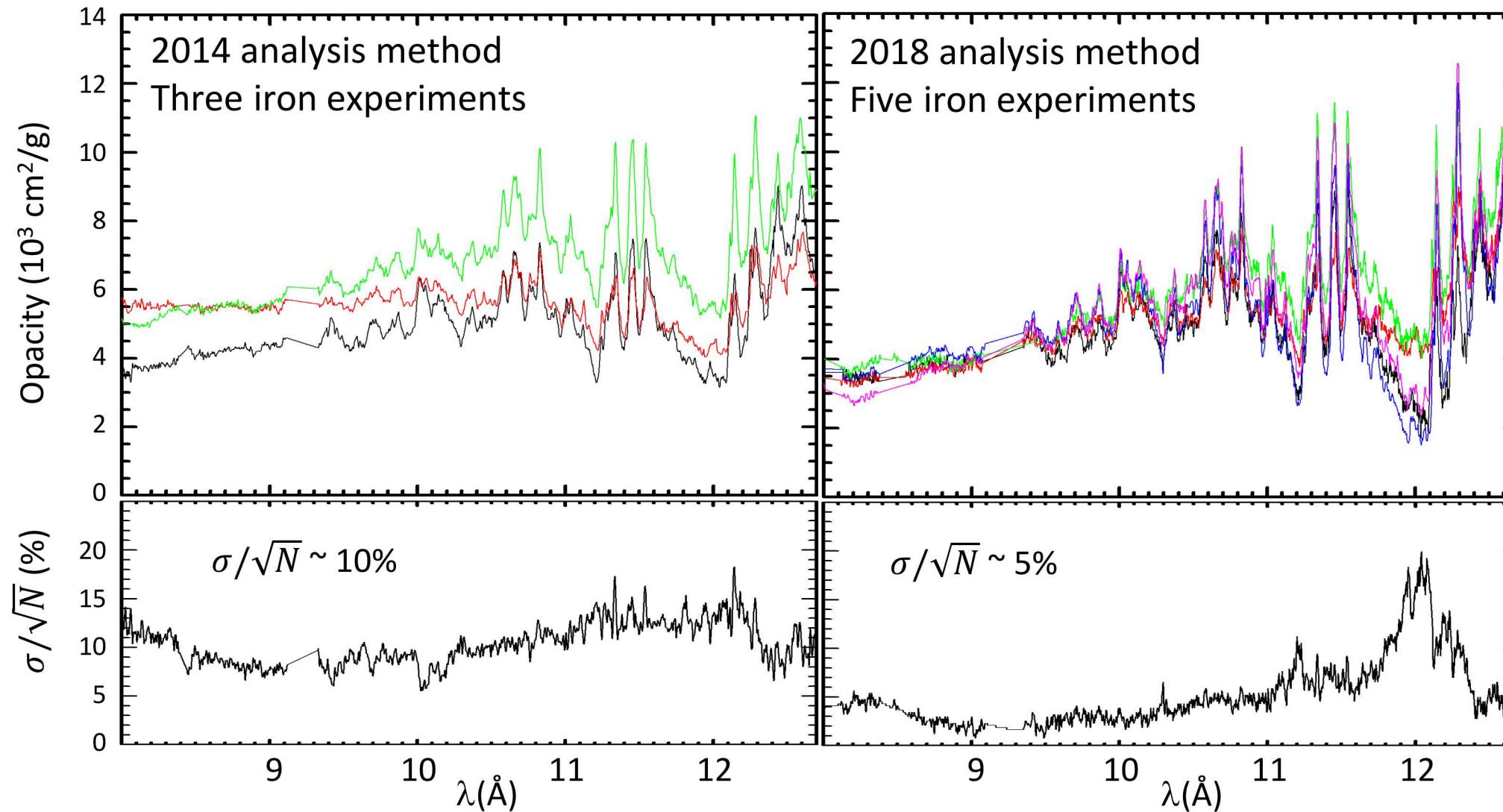
Attenuated spatial profiles are analyzed to produce transmission PDF as a function of  $\lambda$



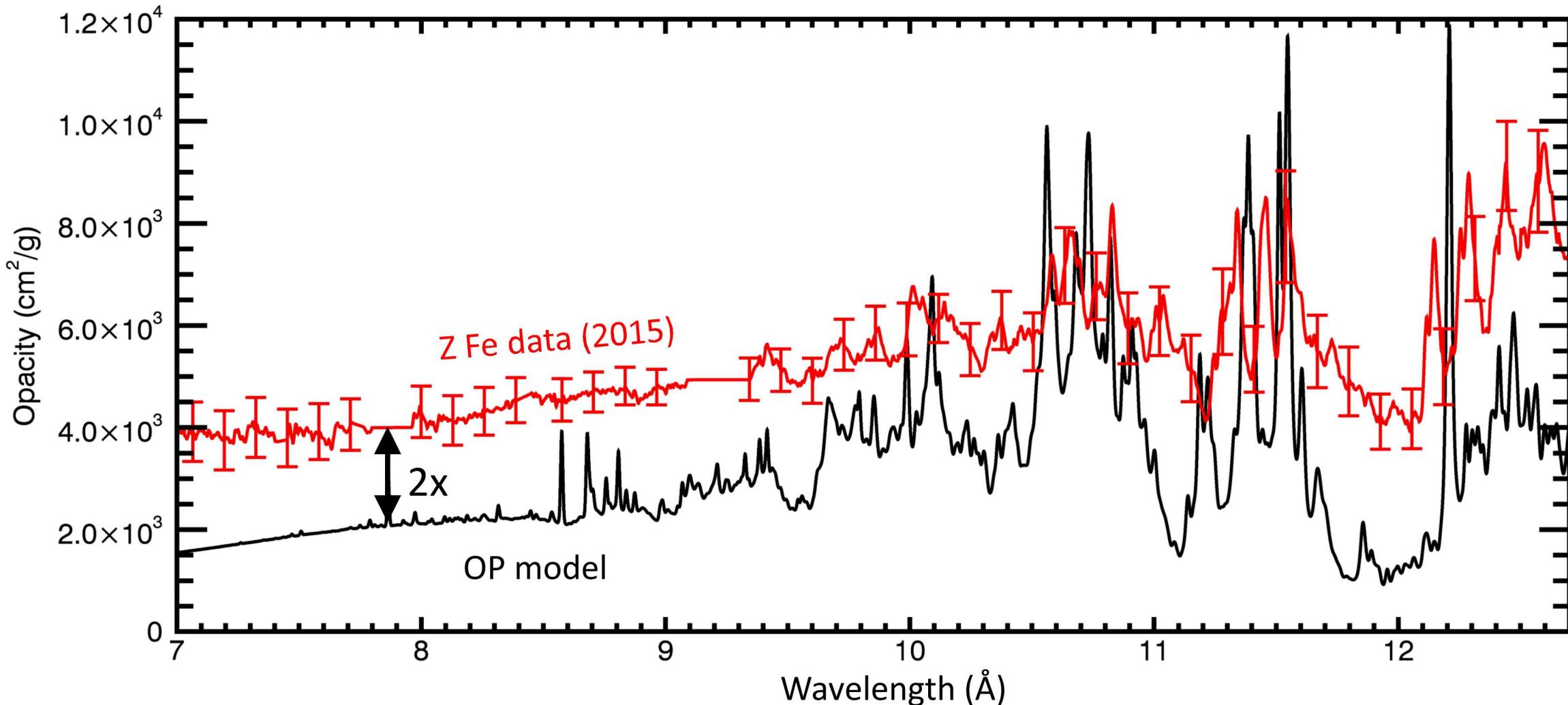
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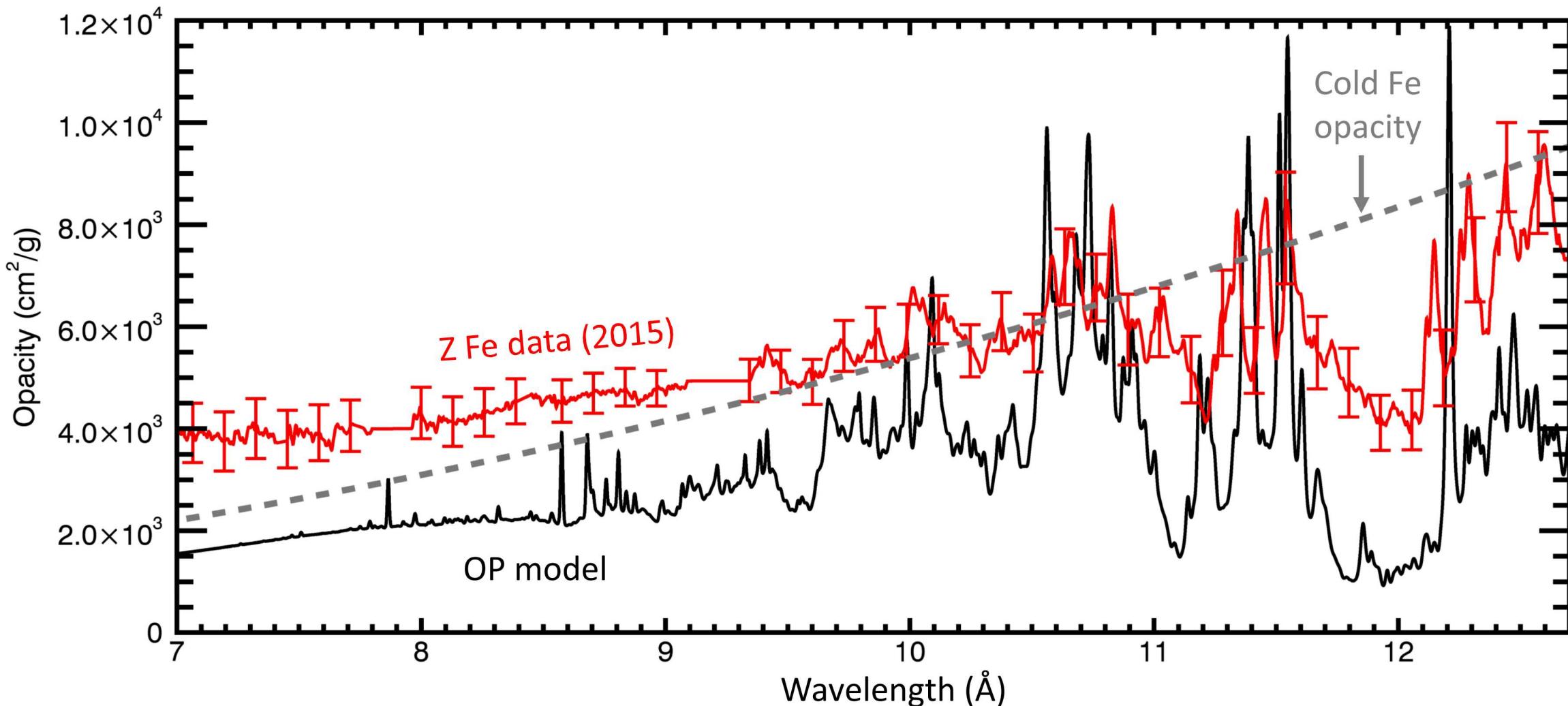
# Both refined analysis and more experiments helped to improve shot-to-shot agreement on Anchor2 Fe



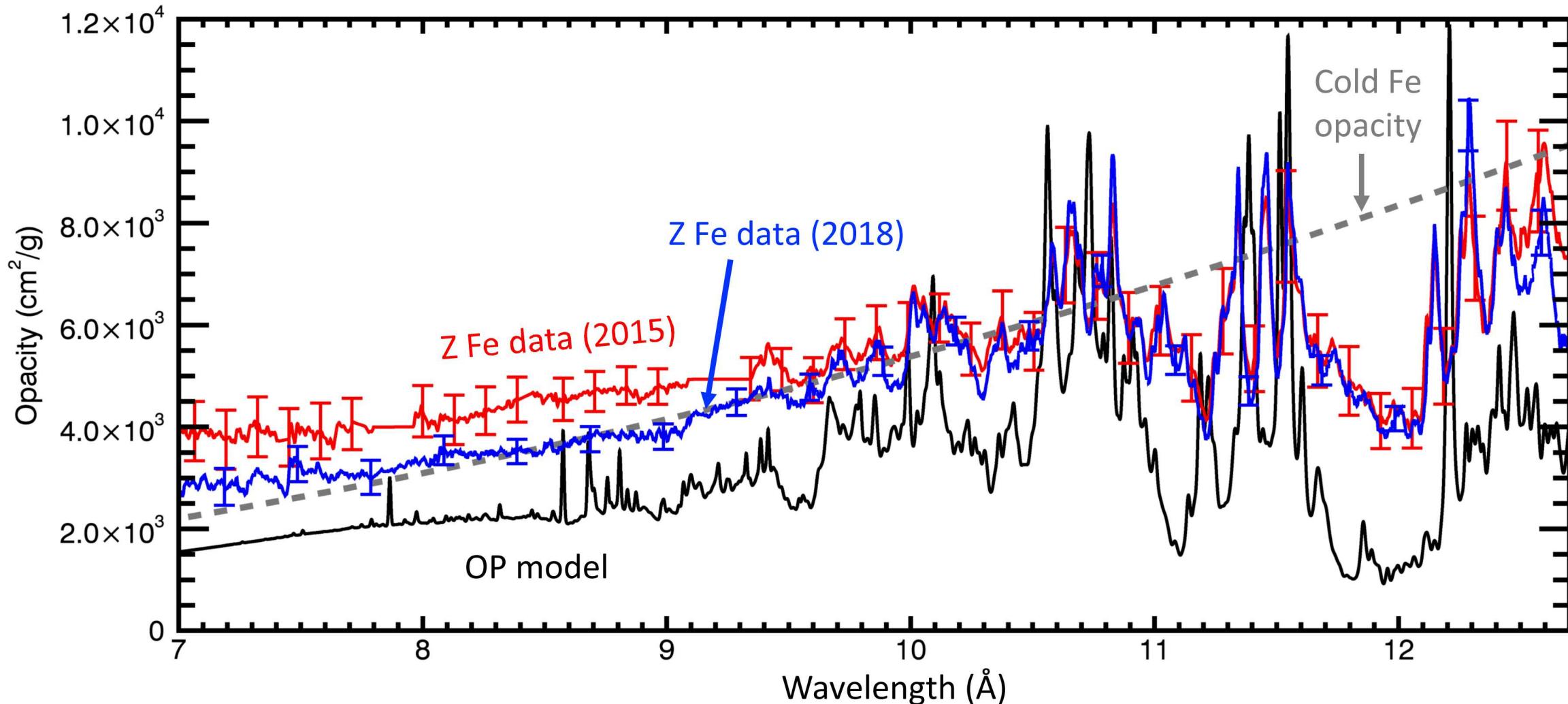
# Analysis from 2015 showed 2x higher quasi-continuum opacity than astrophysical opacity-model prediction



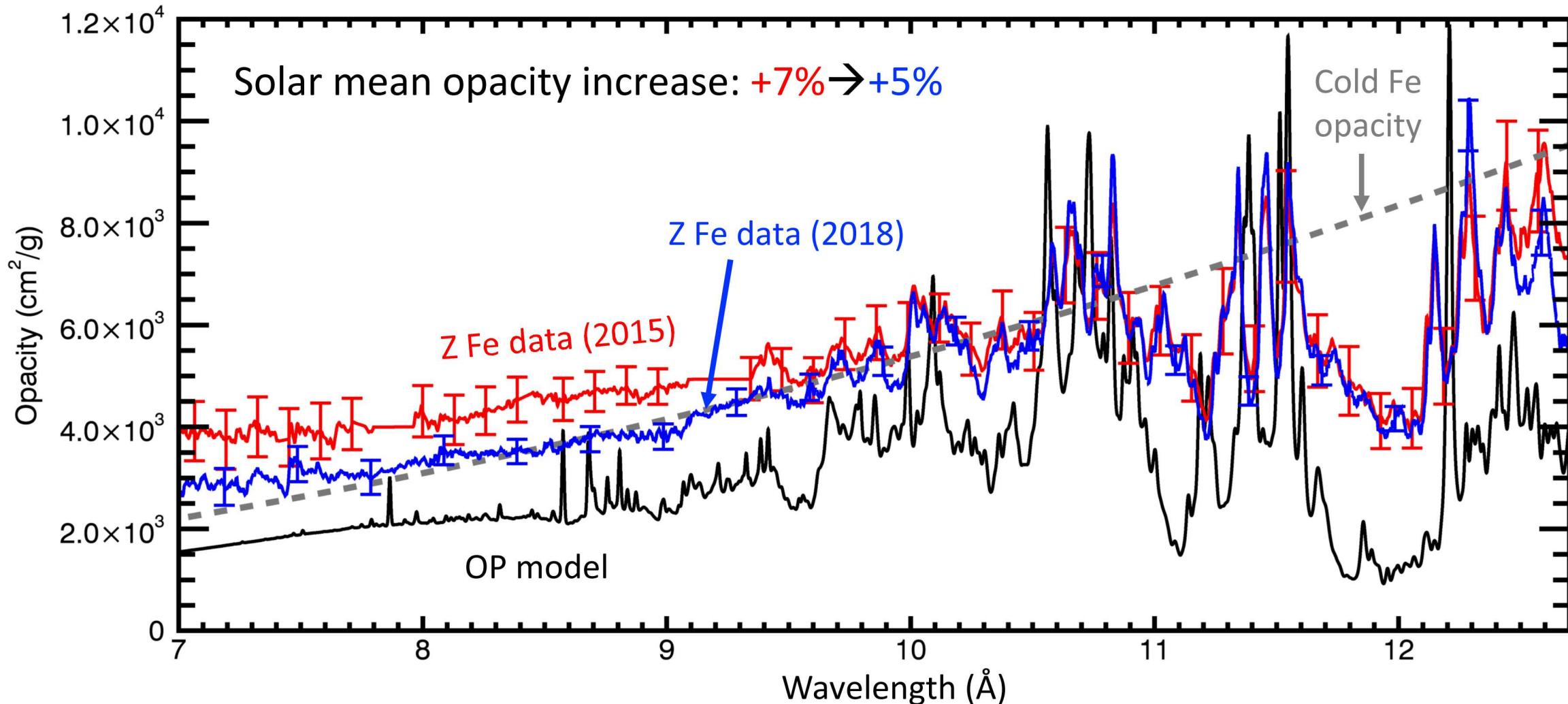
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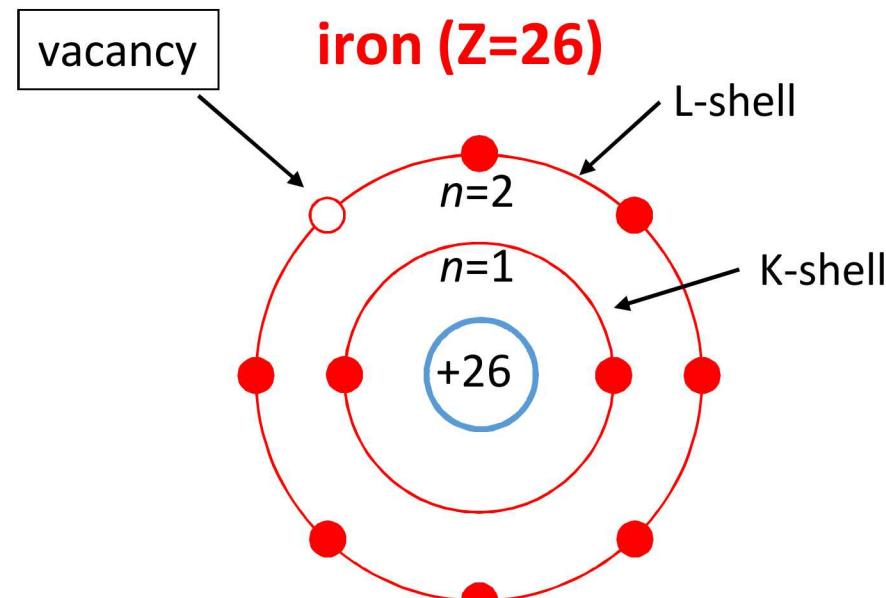
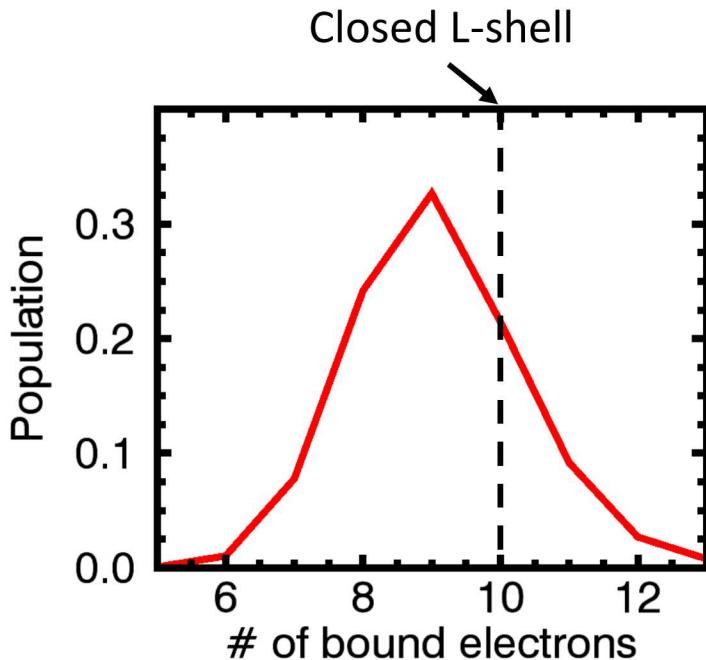
# New analysis reduced the quasi-continuum disagreement from 2.0x to 1.6x, approaching to cold Fe opacity limit



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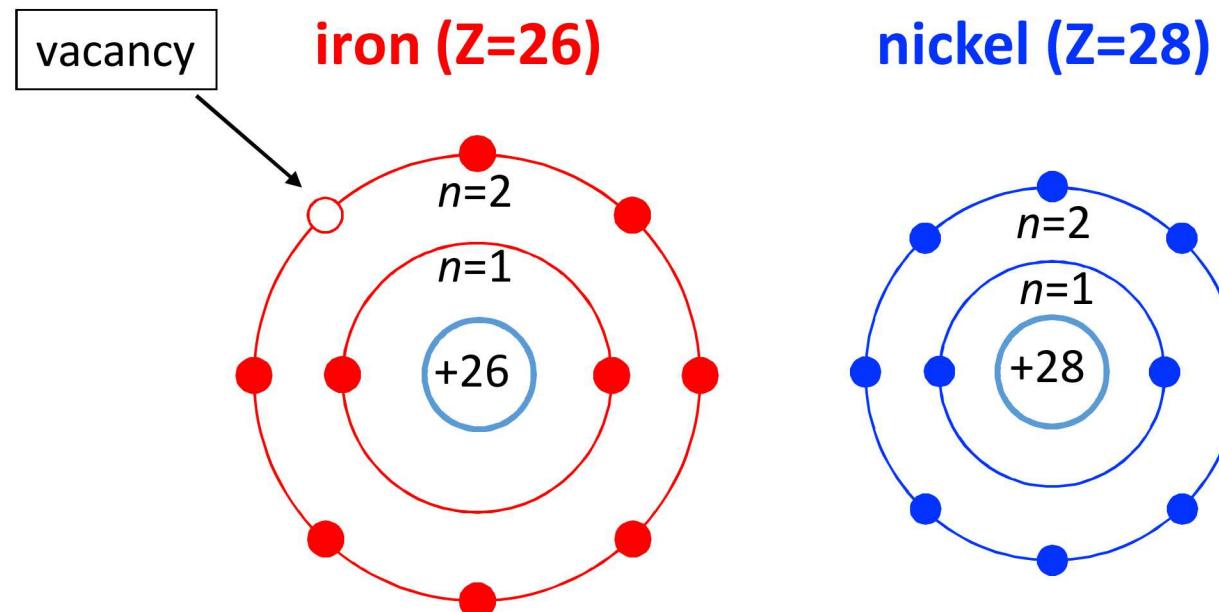
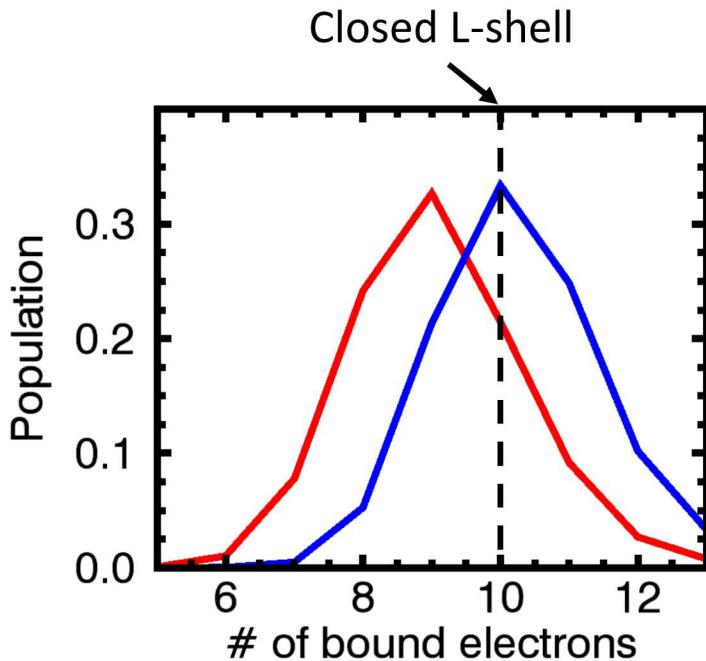
# Different elements interact with plasma differently, providing unprecedented constraints for testing theory and experiments



## Questioning Theory:

- Atomic data?
- Population?
- Density effects?
- Missing physics?

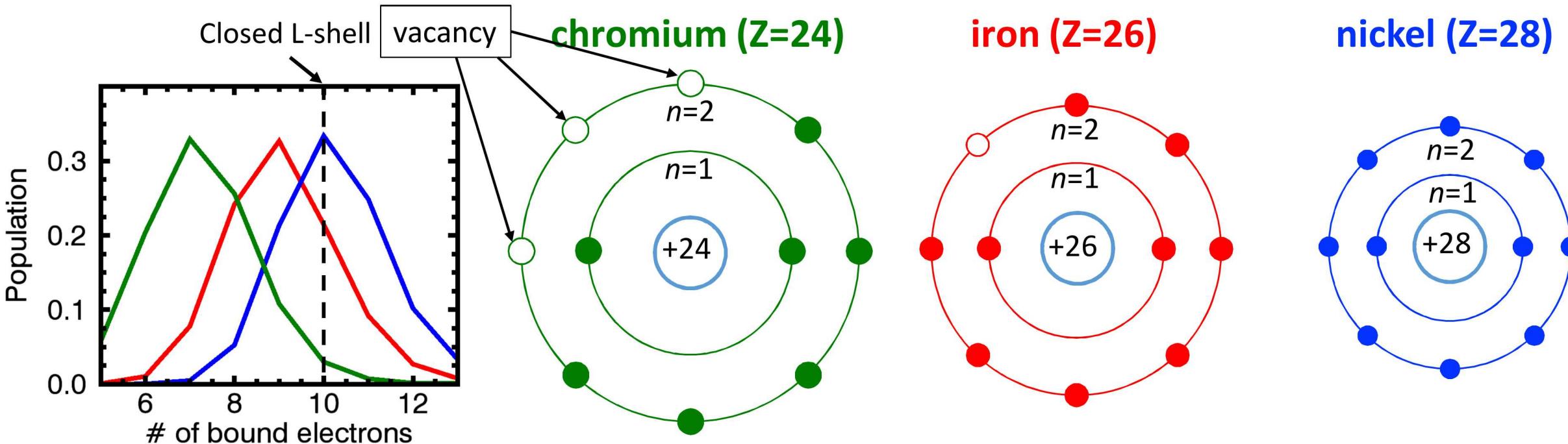
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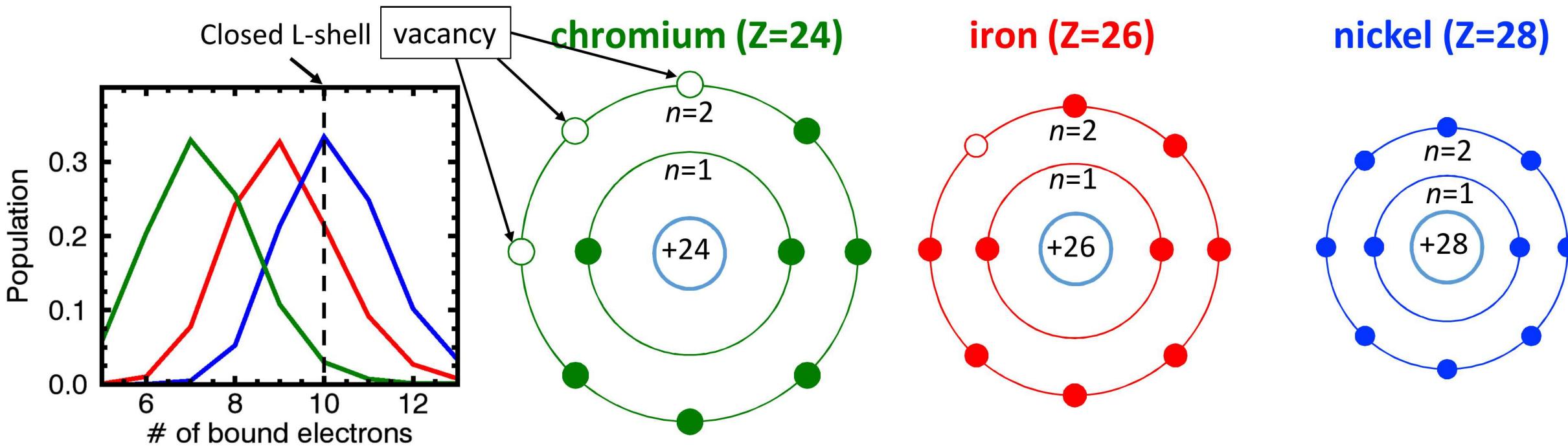
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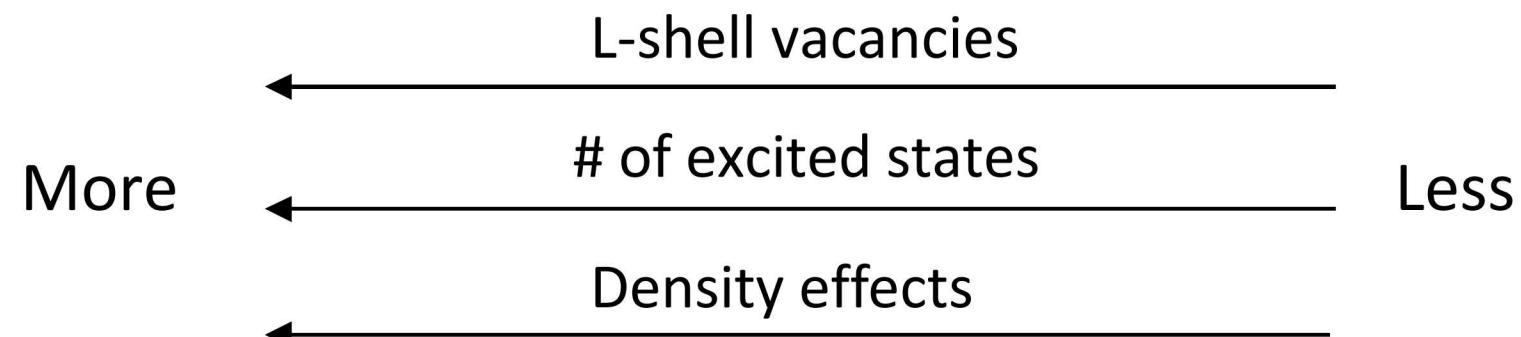
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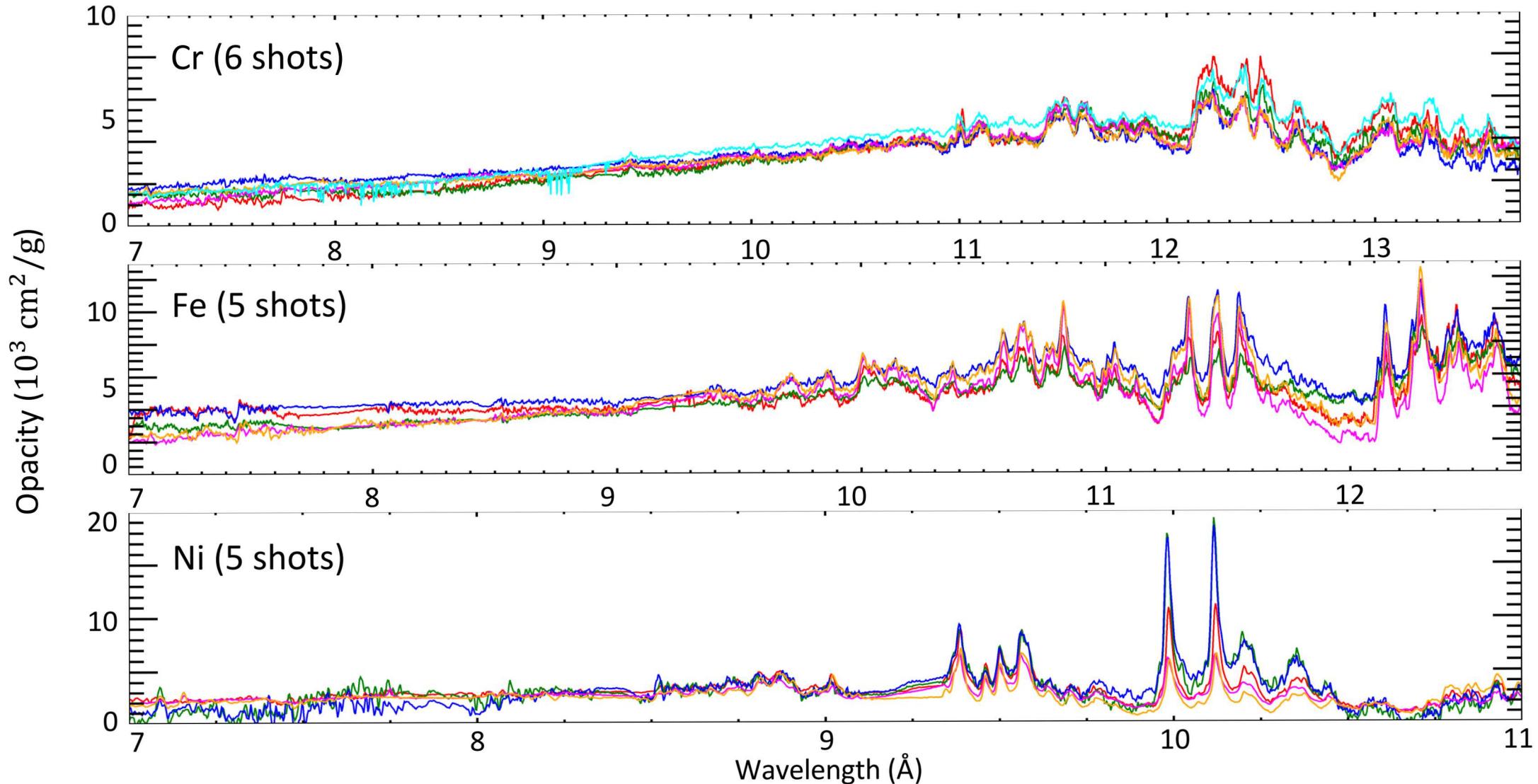


## Questioning Theory:

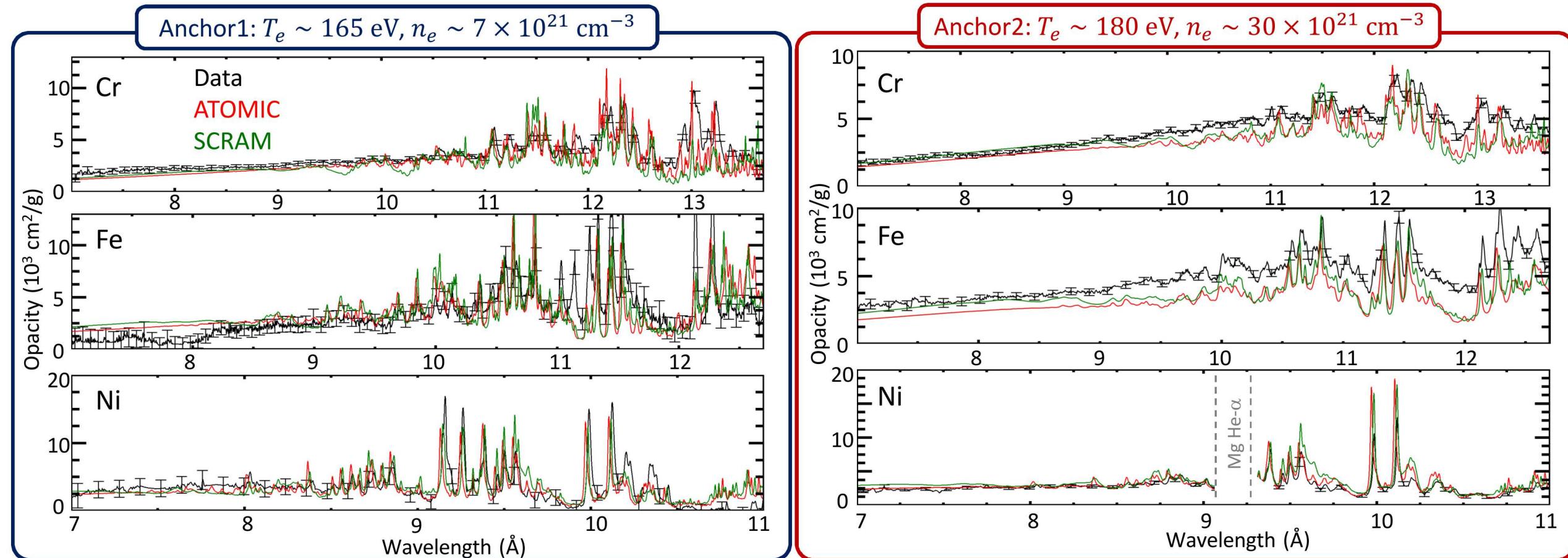
- Atomic data?
- Population?
- Density effects?
- Missing physics?



# Excellent reproducibility is confirmed from all three elements, demonstrating experiment/analysis reliability



# First systematic study of high-temperature L-shell opacities were performed for Cr, Fe, and Ni at two conditions

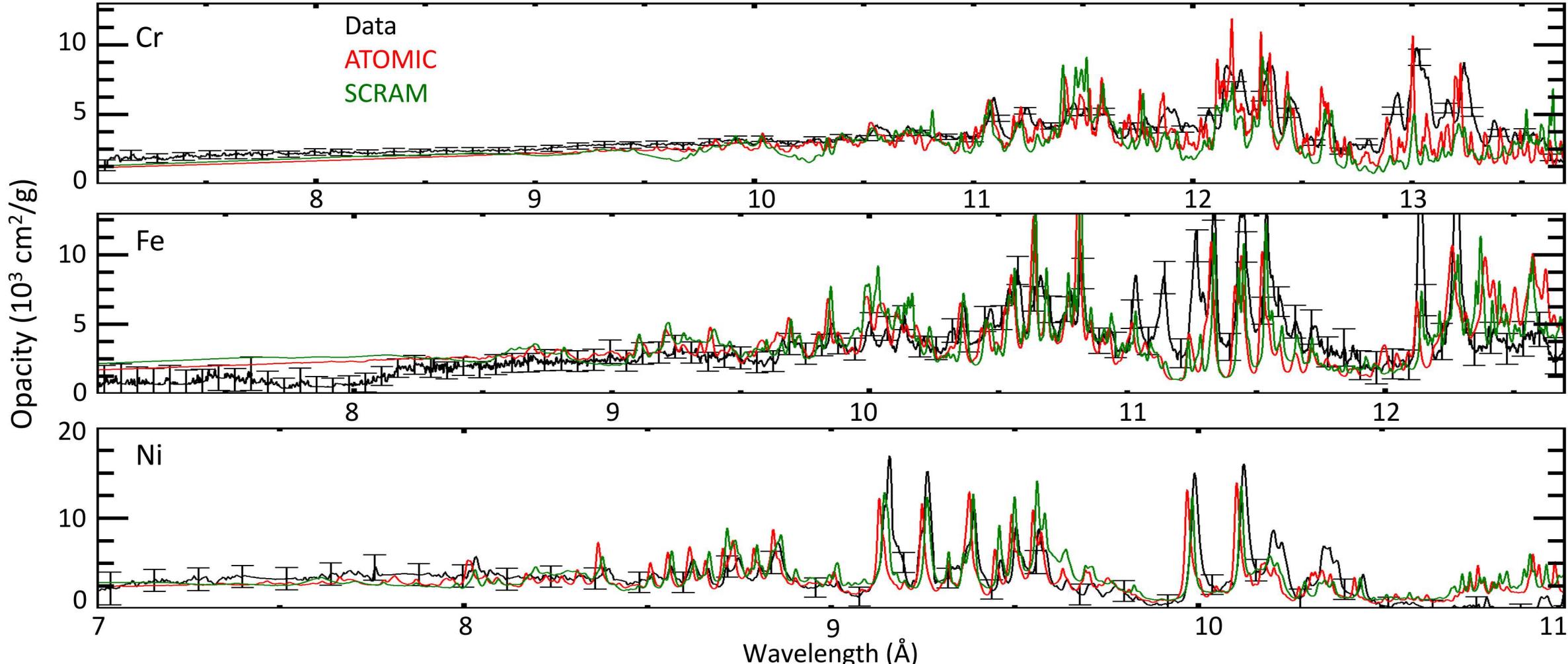


- Opacities are measured at  $T_e > 150$  eV
- $T_e$  and  $n_e$  are diagnosed independently
- Reproducibility is confirmed

Systematically performed for Cr, Fe, Ni at two conditions

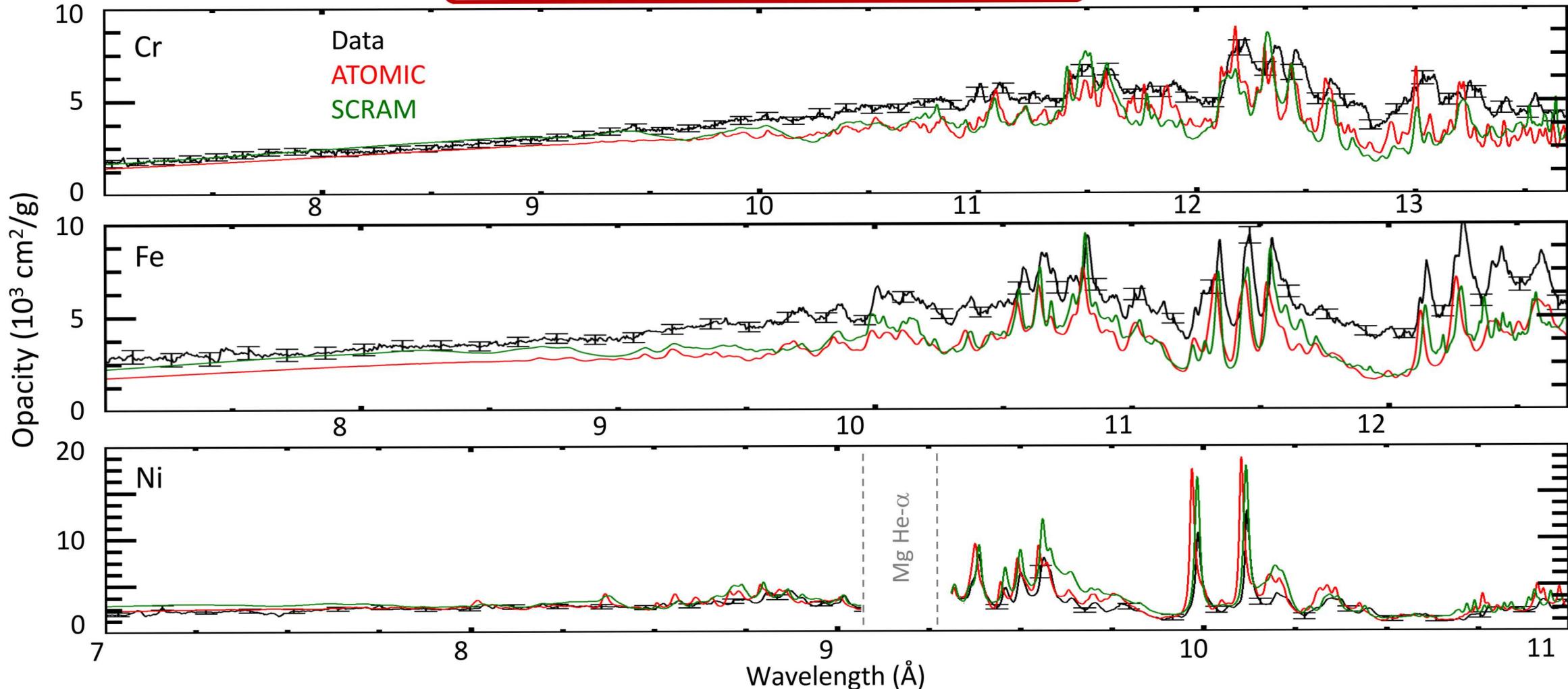
# Anchor1: Modeled and measured opacities agree reasonably well at lower temperature and density

$T_e \sim 165 \text{ eV}, n_e \sim 7 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

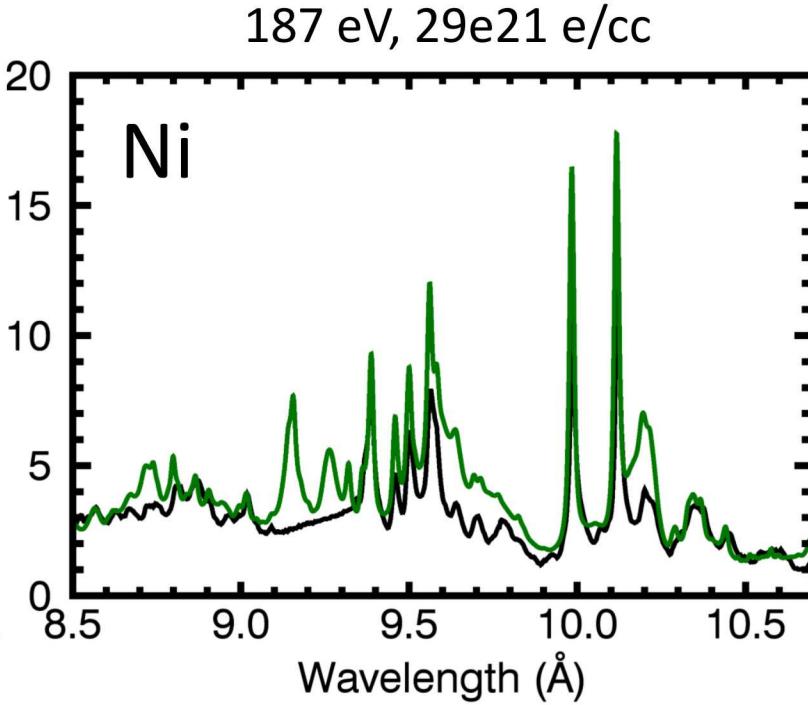
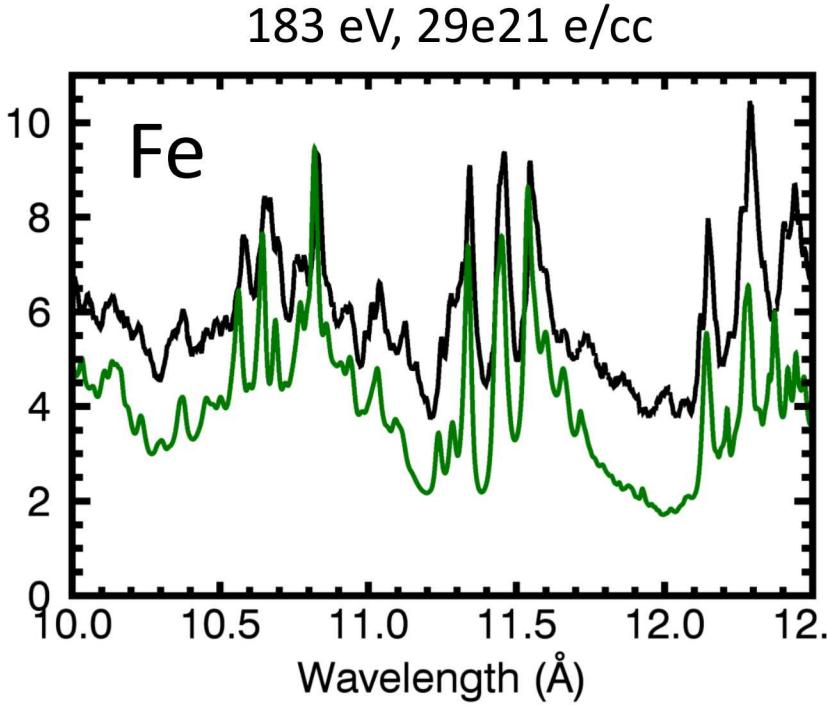
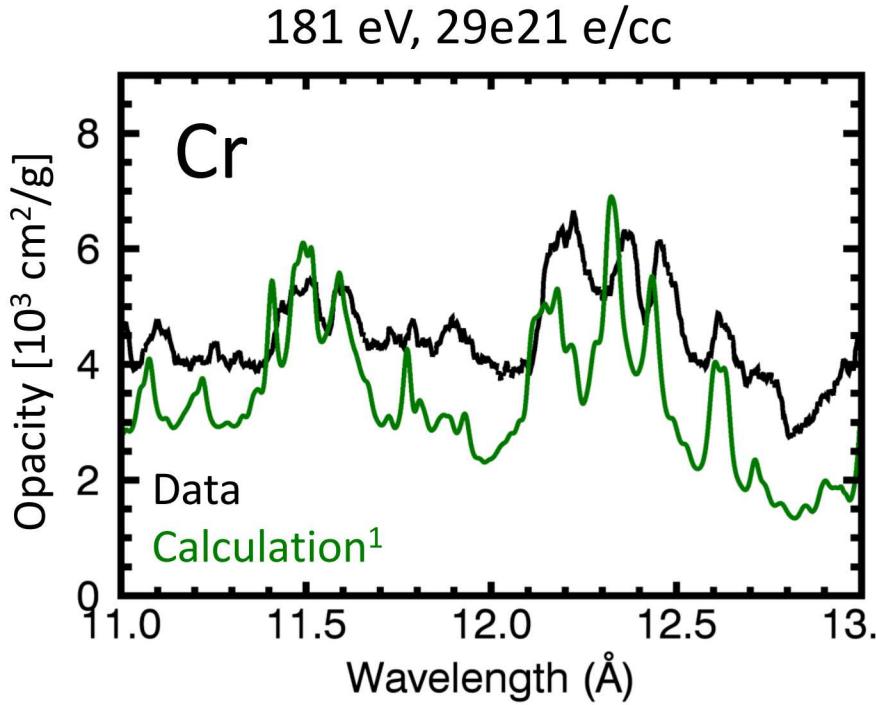


# Anchor2: Interesting element-dependent disagreement appears as approaching to stellar interior conditions

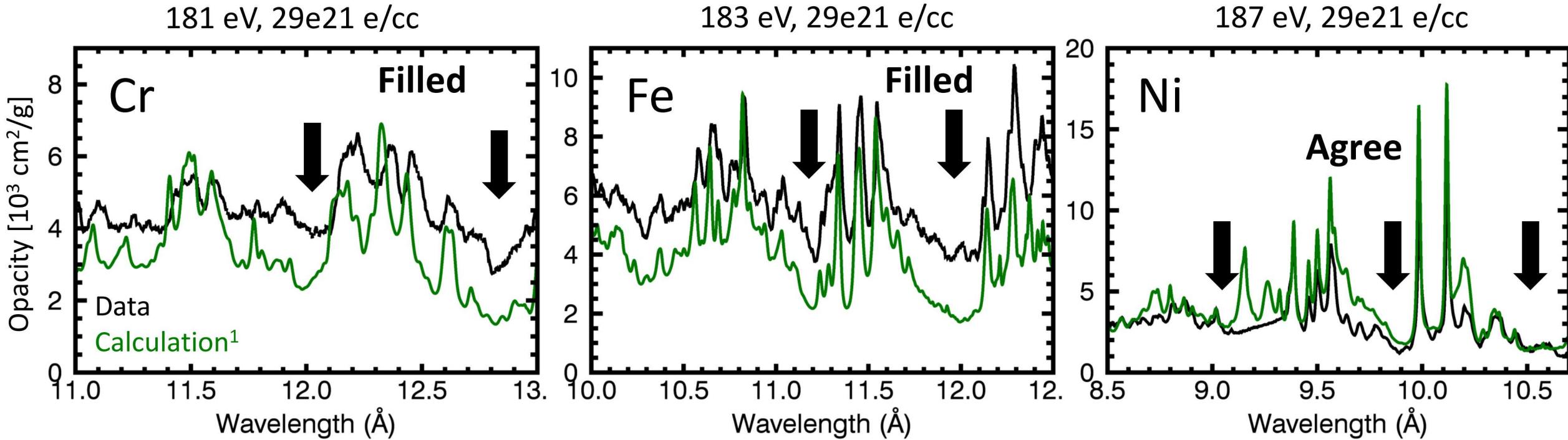
$T_e \sim 180 \text{ eV}, n_e \sim 30 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-3}$



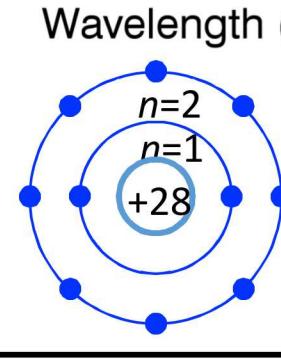
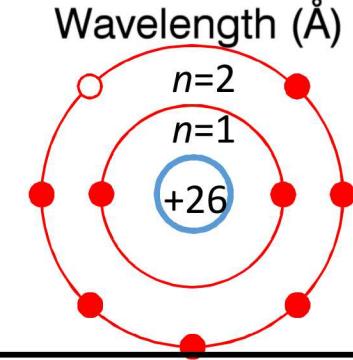
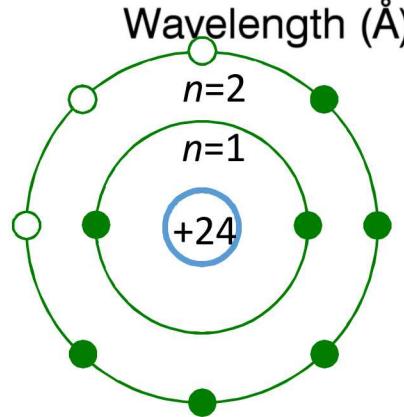
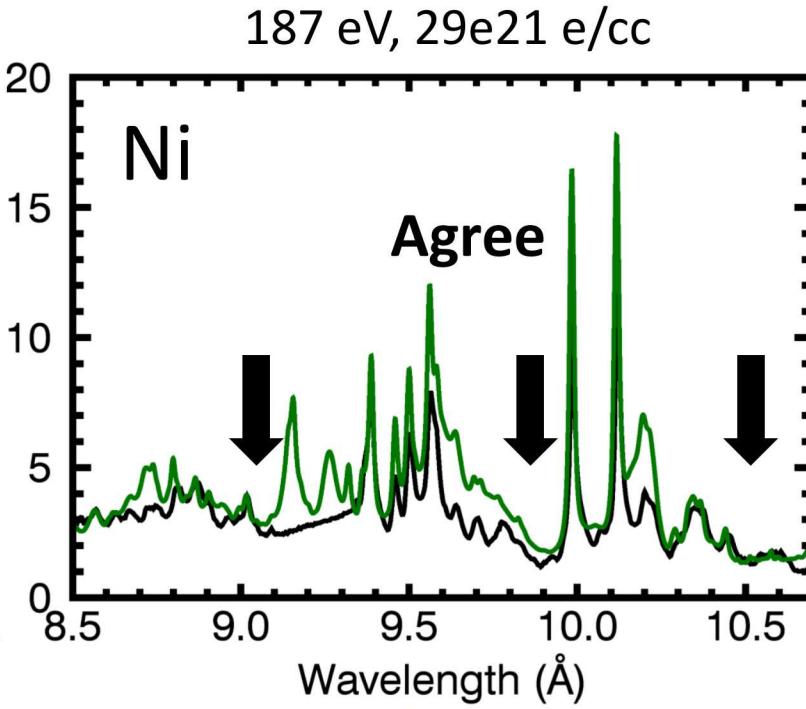
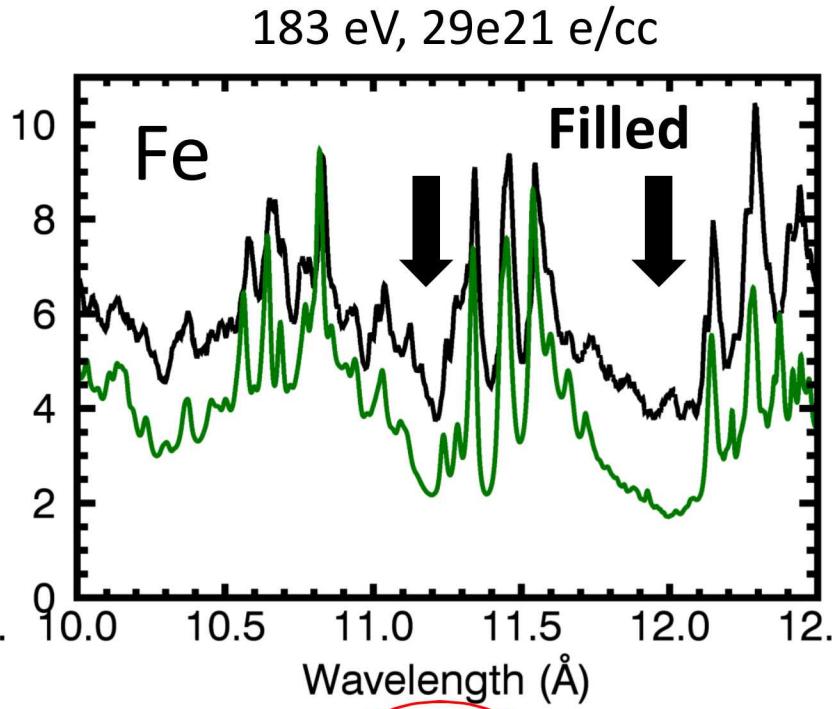
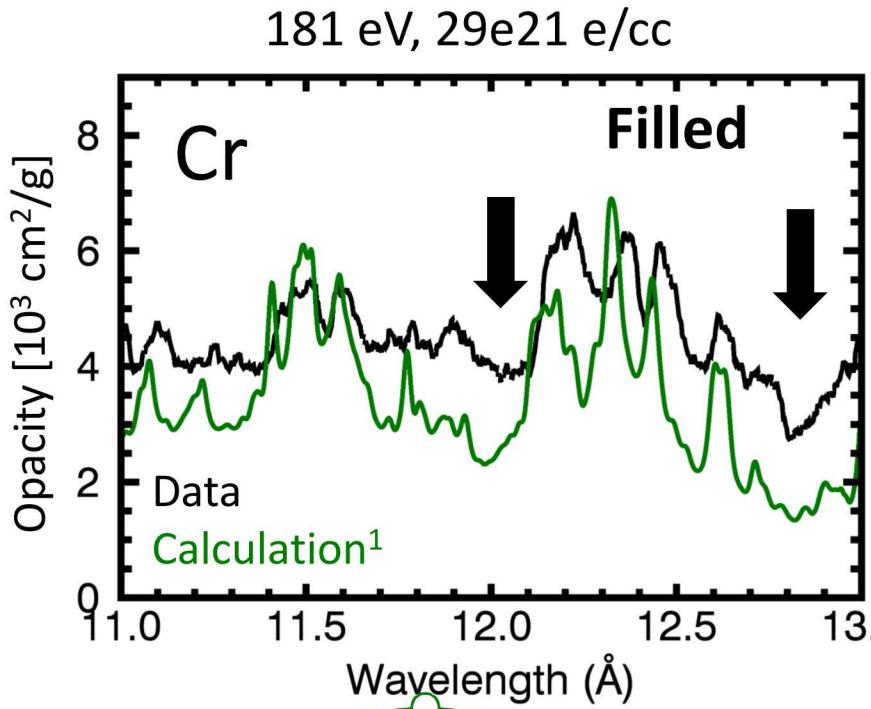
# Window: Filled window observed from Cr and Fe, but not Ni



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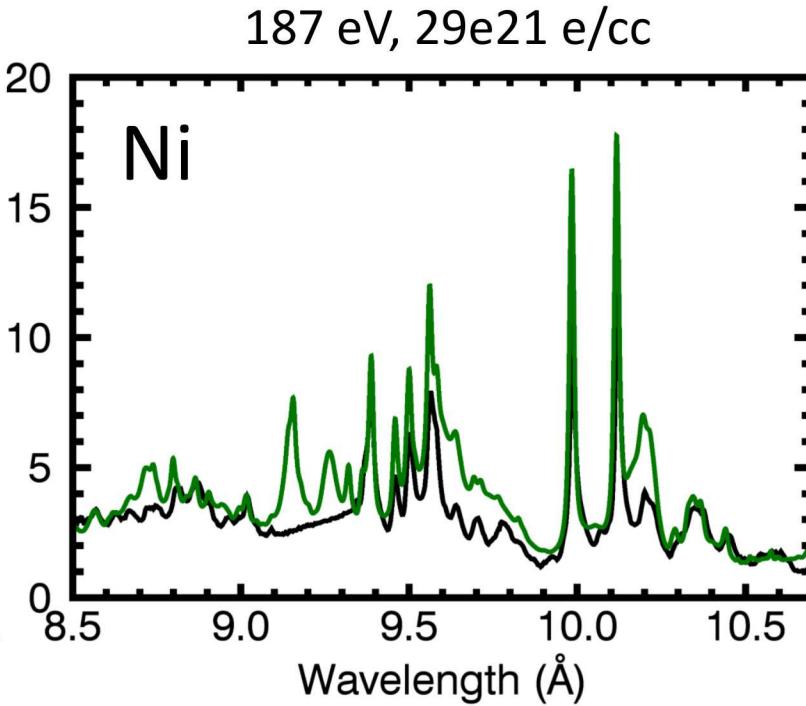
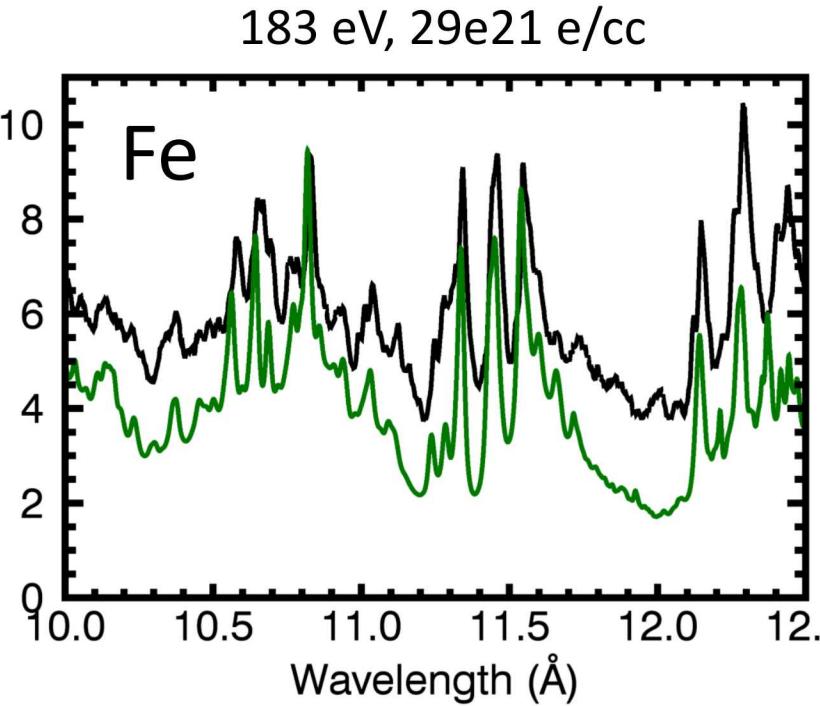
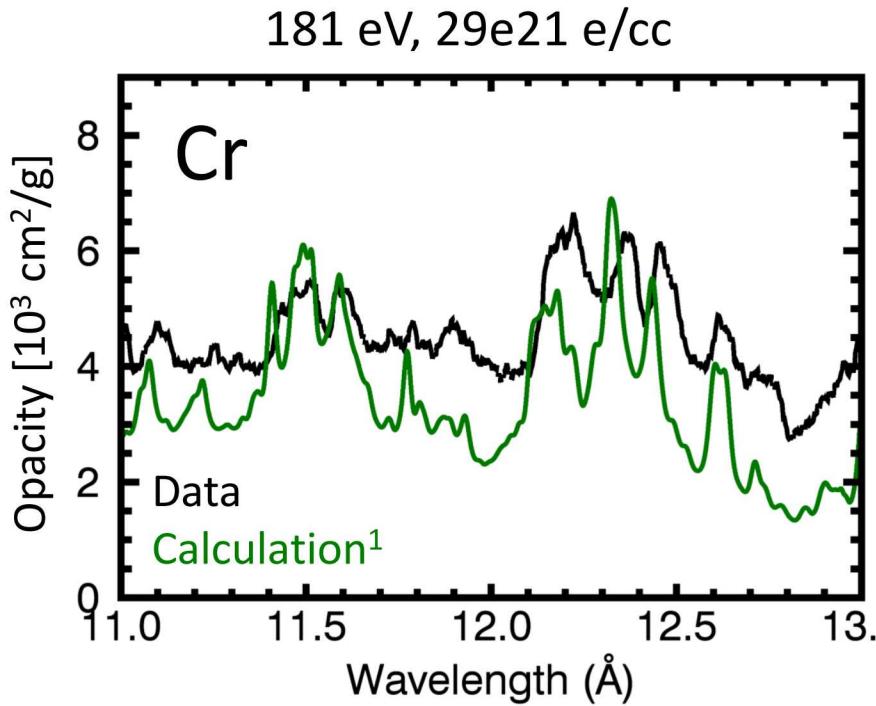


# Window: Filled window observed from Cr and Fe, but not Ni

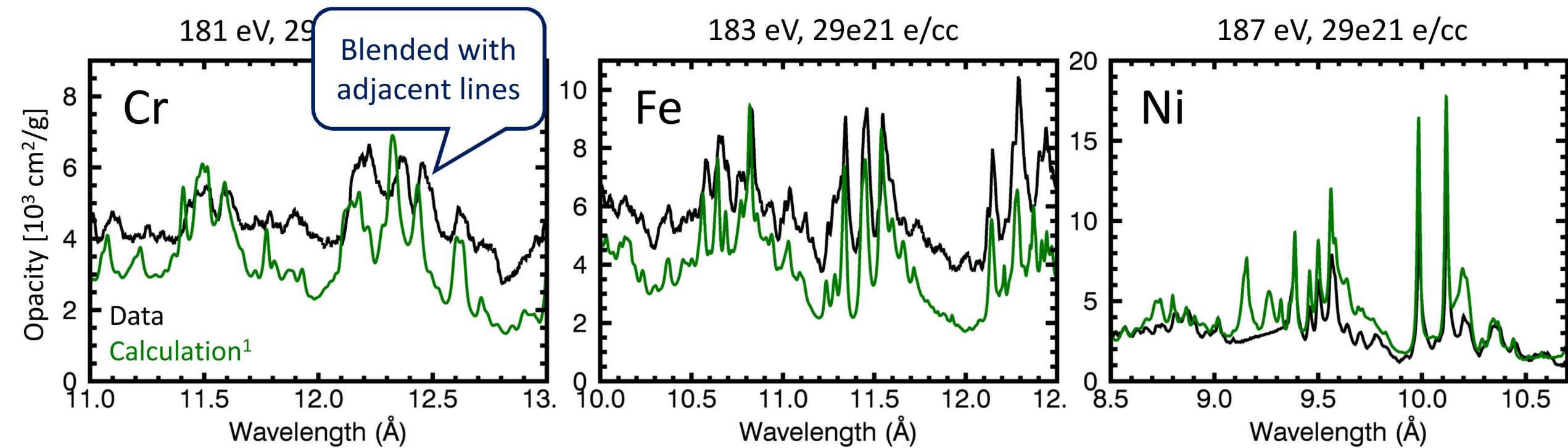


Hypothesis: Challenge associated with open L-shell configuration

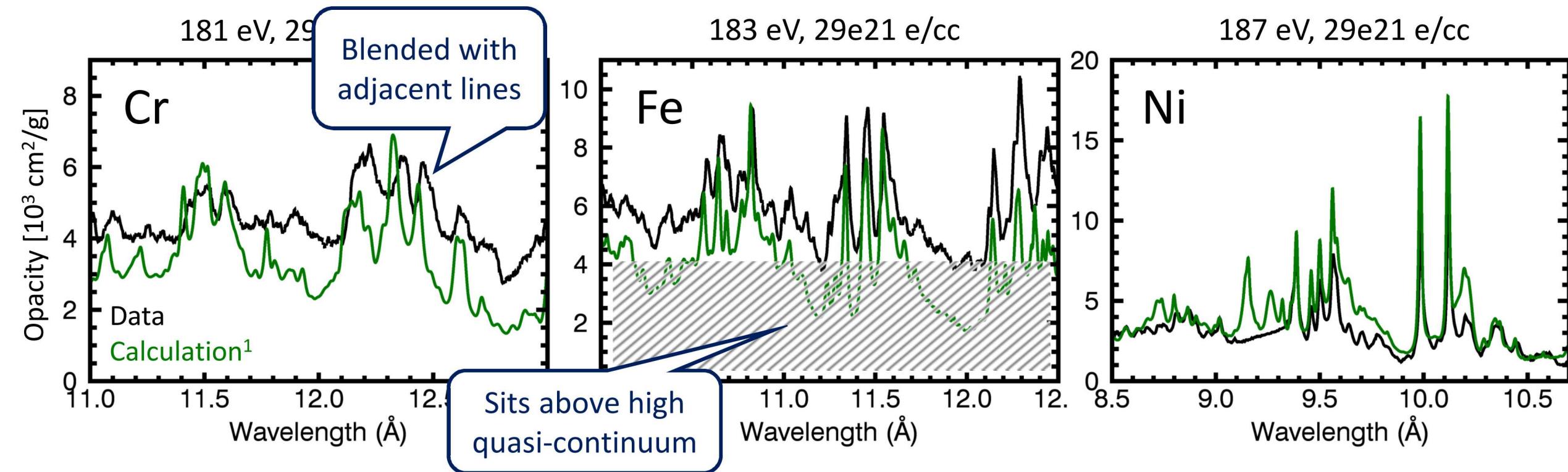
# Can we check accuracy of modeled line shapes?



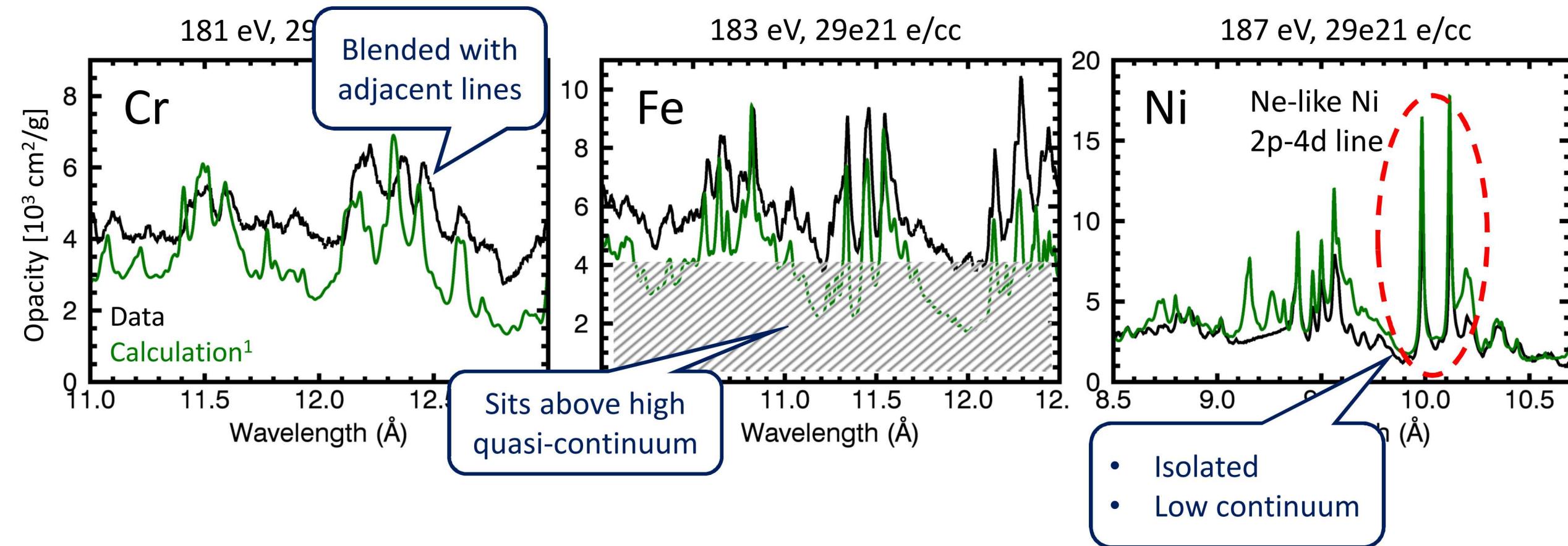
# Can we check accuracy of modeled line shapes?



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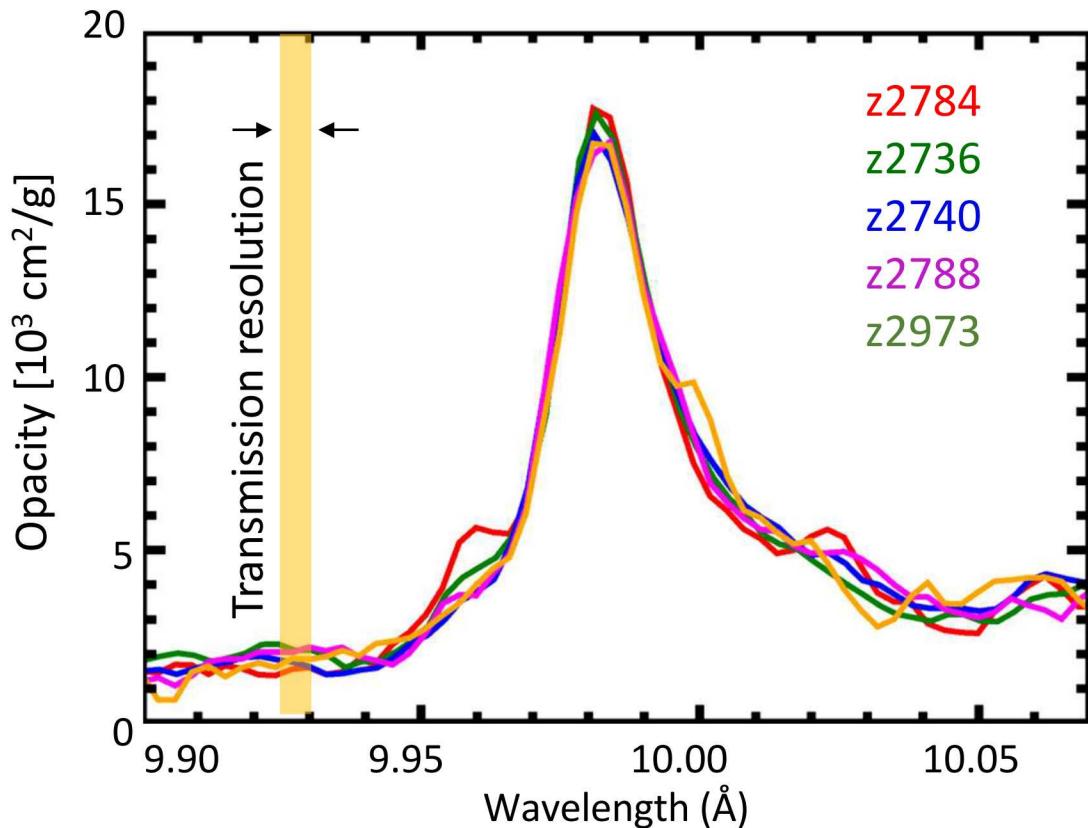


# Can we check accuracy of modeled line shapes?



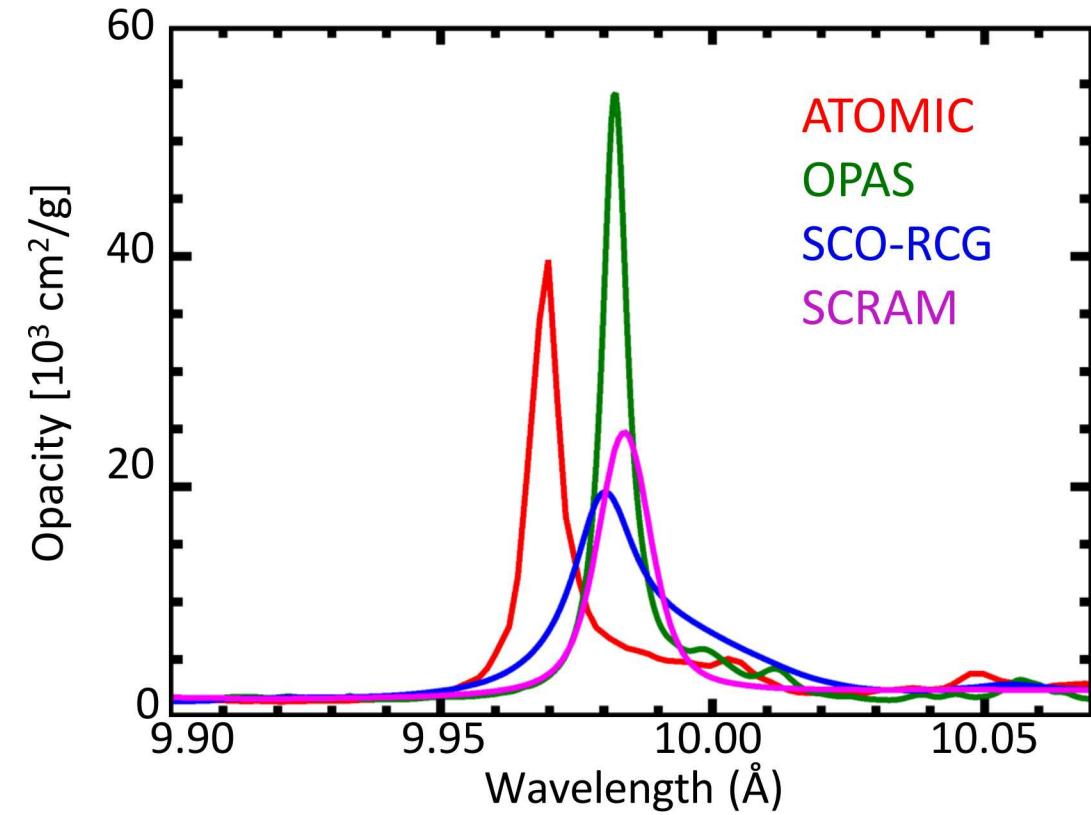
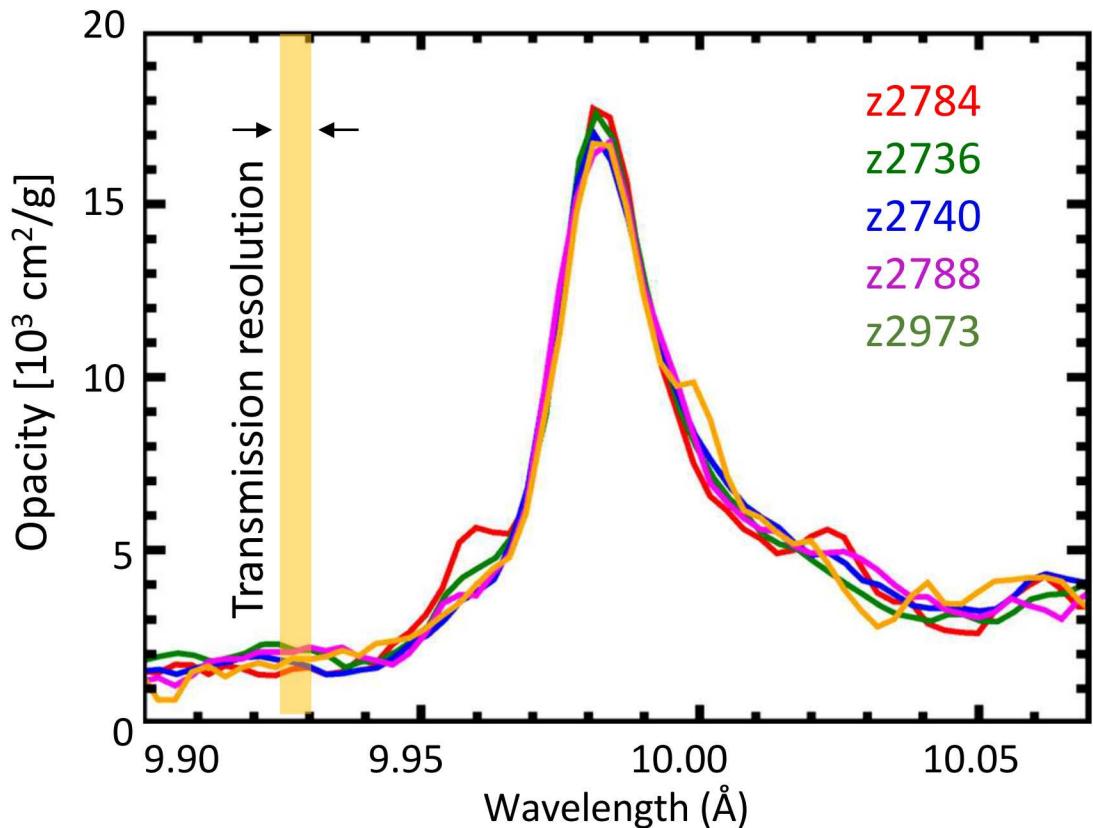
We use  $n=2 \rightarrow 4$  lines from Ne-like Ni to assess the accuracy of calculated line shape

# Line-shape of Ne-like Ni 2p-4d is accurately measured and appropriate to test approximations used in models

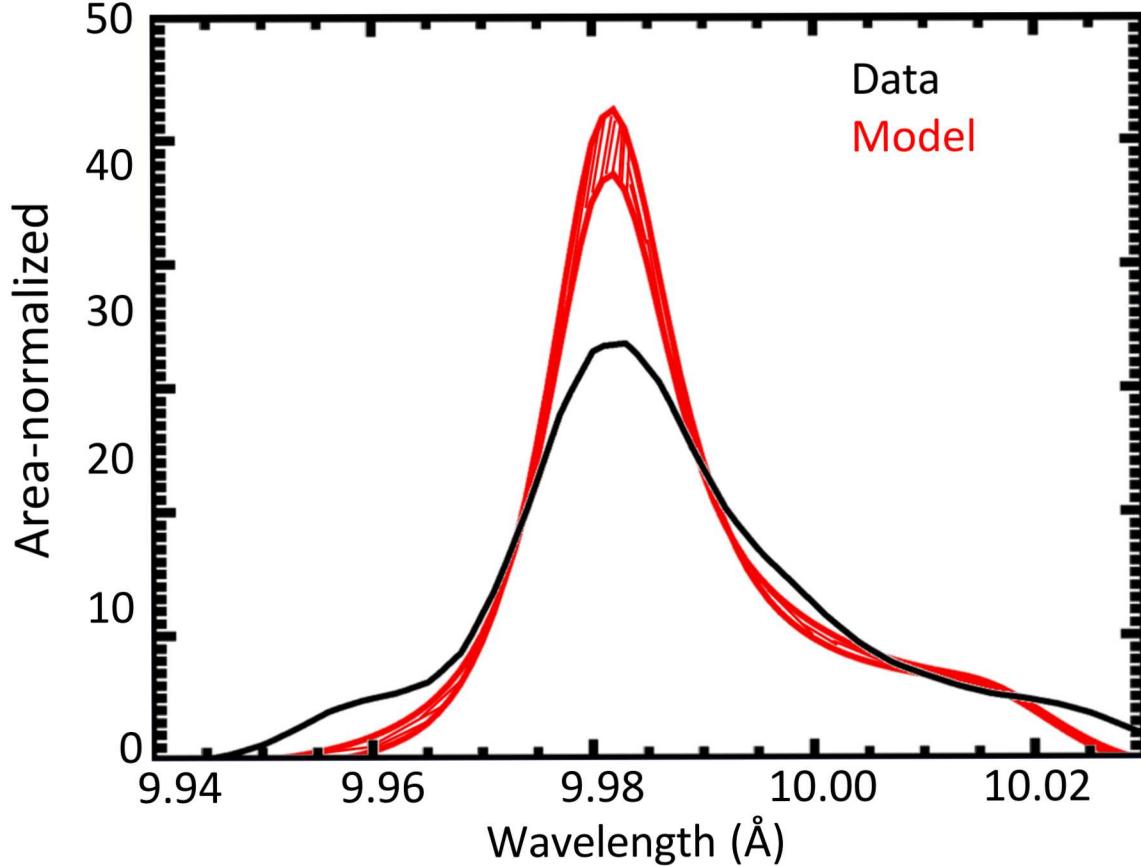


- This line-shape is reproduced by five experiments
- Model employs simple approximations for L-shell line shapes, which are not tested.

# Line-shape of Ne-like Ni 2p-4d is accurately measured and appropriate to test approximations used in models

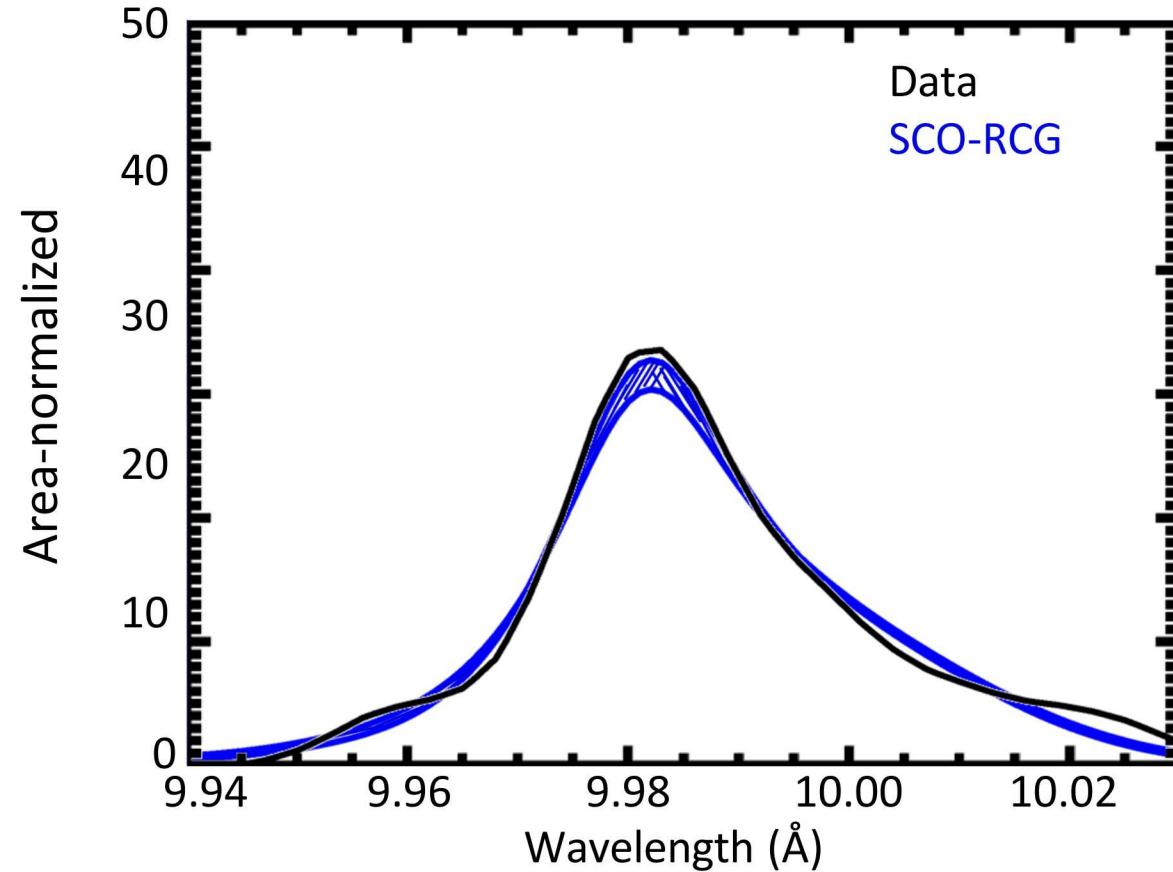
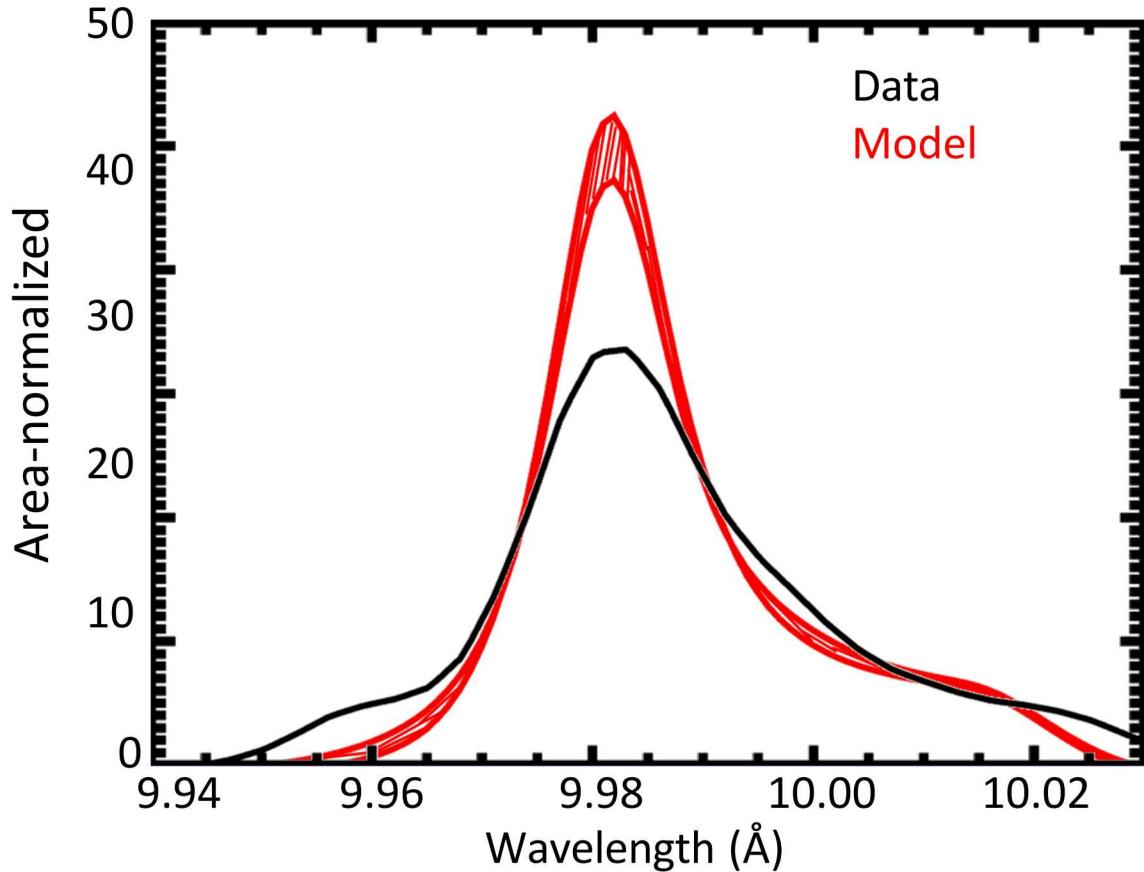


# Most models underestimate the L-shell line widths



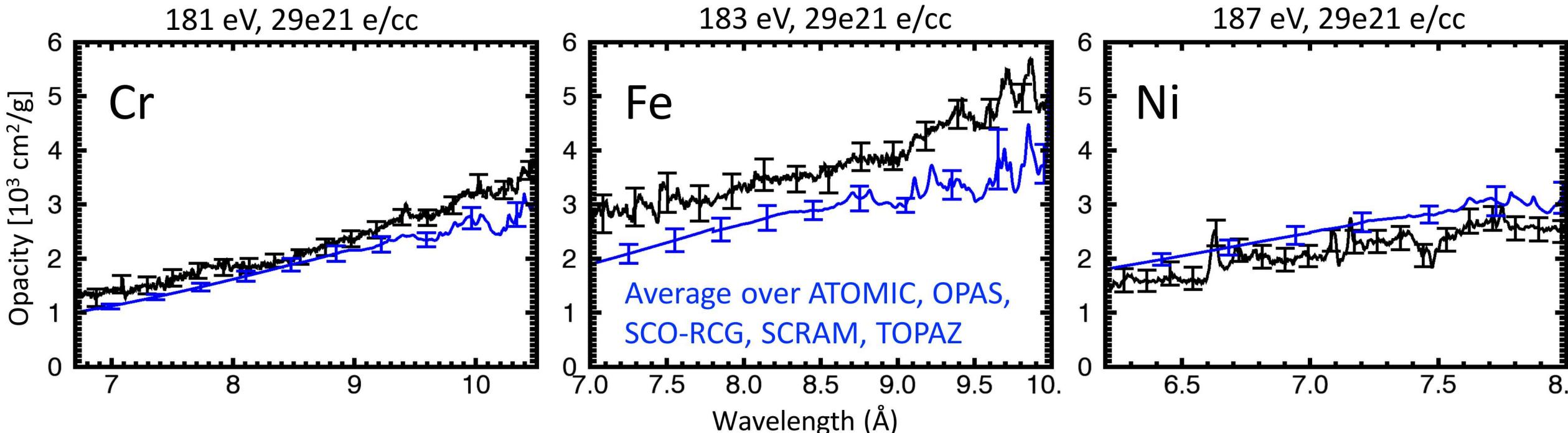
Models need to refine treatment of atomic interaction with plasma and excited states.

# French CEA code, SCO-RCG, predicted the measured L-shell line width reasonably well



Models need to refine treatment of atomic interaction with plasma and excited states.

# Refined analysis on Fe does not fully remove the reported quasi-continuum disagreement



- Reanalysis on Fe reduced data/<model> from 1.6 to 1.3
- Excellent reproducibility in all three elements suggests the differences are real

Any hypothesis has to explain not only why it enhances Fe opacity but also why it does not affect Cr and Ni opacities

# Systematic study of L-shell opacities with refined analysis validates experiment reliability and suggest necessary model refinements

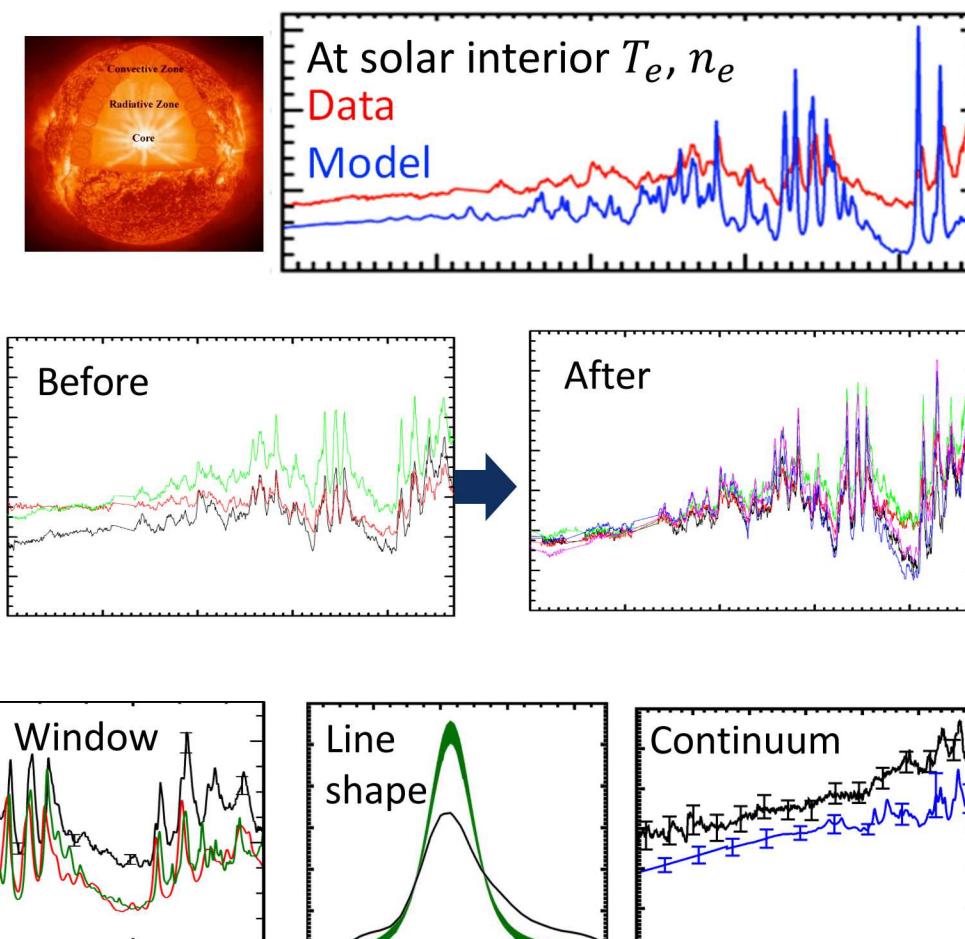
- Fe L-shell opacity is measured at solar interior conditions and revealed severe model-data discrepancy

→ Is opacity theory wrong? Is experiment flawed?

- Refined analysis improved shot-to-shot reproducibility, demonstrating opacity experiment reliability

- Systematic measurement of Cr, Fe, and Ni opacities suggests model refinements in three areas

- Window: Challenge associated with open L-shell config.
- BB: Inaccurate treatment of density effects
- Continuum: Peculiar dependence on atomic number



High reproducibility qualifies SNL to be a unique HED-opacity-benchmark facility