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Numerical scrutiny of SNL iron opacity experiments

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The solar opacity collaboration involves universities, U.S. national labs, a private company, and the French CEA laboratory





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Numerical scrutiny verified the data interpretation of the SNL iron opacity measurements

- Solar models disagree with observations.
 → Is iron opacity underestimated?
- Fe opacity is measured at SNL Z-machine
 → Modeled opacity disagrees at solar interior conditions

- Self-emission
 Tamping material
 Time- and space-integration effects
 Wavelength [Å]
- One source of systematic uncertainty is always the data interpretation
- Forward calculation helps investigate the validity of the data interpretation

J. E. Bailey et al, Nature 517, 56 (2015).













<u>Opacity:</u> κ_v

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

S. Basu et al, Physics Reports 457, 217 (2008).





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C. Blancard et al, The Astrophysical Journal 745, 10 (2012)

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If opacity is wrong, Fe is a likely suspect:

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Let's measure Fe opacity:

- CZB conditions
- I: 8-12 Å

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Z-pinch dynamic hohlraum



















<u>Heating to uniform conditions:</u>
 ZPDH radiation



Heating to uniform conditions: **ZPDH** radiation



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J.E. Bailey et al, Physics of Plasmas 16, 058101 (2009). T. Nagayama et al, Phys Plasmas 21, 056502 (2014)

Iron opacity measurements indicate modeled iron opacity is underestimated as approaching the CZB conditions





- Solar-mixture mean opacity increase = 7%
- The discrepancy has an impact on:
 - Astrophysics
- High energy density physics
- Atomic physics

Need to make sure that the discrepancies are not caused by experimental flaws

J.E. Bailey et al., Nature 517, 56 (2014)

T. Nagayama et al, Phys Plasmas 21, 056502 (2014)

Concern 1: Plasma self-emission





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Concern 2: Tamper transmission difference





Concern 3: Time- and space-integration effects

- The data are analyzed assuming static-uniform-plasma
- What if time- and space-integration effects are not negligible?





Z-pinch dynamic hohlraum

- Concerns
 - Self-emission effects
 - Tamper effects
 - Time- and space-integration effects



t=-1.12

t=2.02

5

10

4

9



Z-pinch dynamic hohlraum

VISRAD: J.J. MacFarlane, J Quant Spectr Radiative Transfer 81, 287 (2003).





HELIOS: J. MacFarlane et al, Phys. Rev. E 72, 066403 (2005).









T. Nagayama et al, Phys Plasmas 21, 056502 (2014)





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Simulated experiments reproduced the measured conditions for eight iron opacity experiments







Measured image is the image averaged over 5 experiments





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- Data are simulated for ±9°
- Backlight radiation is shifted with respect to sample boundary
- FeMg-attenuated and -unattenuated spectra are extracted

Х Х simulated, -9° simulated, +9° Wavelength [Å] CH FeMg

The simulated data are analyzed in the same way



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- 1. Compute transmission: $T_v = I_v^{+9} / I_v^{-9}$
- 2. Infer T_e^{eff} and n_e^{eff} from Mg spectra
- 3. Model Fe transmission
- 4. Convert them to opacity
- 5. Remove Mg lines





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The observed severe discrepancies are not explained by self-emission, tamper effect, and integration effects





Simulated data include:

- FeMg emission
- Tamping material:
 - Tamper emission/absorption
 - Tamper condition difference

- Time- and space-integration effects
 - $T_e(t,z)$ and $n_e(t,z)$
 - B_v(t,x,y)
 - Radiation transport through the gradient
 - Emergent spectra integrated over time

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Concern 1: Self-emission is unimportant at λ < 12.5 Å





- Self-emission is negligible for Thin CH due to its lower T_e
- Accounting for self-emission would make the discrepancy worse

Concern 2: Tamper transmission difference effects are important for Thick CH case





Concern 3: Time- and space-integration effects on the absorption features are negligible





Investigated concerns do not explain the observed discrepancies





Self-emission effects, tamper effects, and time- and space-integration effects do not explain the observed discrepancies

List of potential systematic errors



- Raise measured opacity
 - Sample contamination \rightarrow RBS measurements, Thin CH data
 - Tamper shadowing \rightarrow CH+Be data, simulation
- Lower measured opacity \rightarrow do not explain the observed descrepancies
 - Extraneous background → Beer's law test
 - Tamper self-emission → Beer's law test, comparison of Thick CH and CH+Be, simulation
 - FeMg self-emission \rightarrow -9° data, simulation
- Random over experiments \rightarrow included in the reported uncertainties
 - Sample areal density errors \rightarrow RBS measurements, Thin CH data
 - Transmission errors \rightarrow Beer's law test, Thin CH data
 - Spatial non-uniformities \rightarrow Simulations, spectroscopic measurement
 - Temporal non-uniformities → Simulations, Thin CH data
 - Deviation from LTE \rightarrow Simulations
 - Plasma diagnostics errors → Model uncertainty investigated, modeled opacity disagree with the data at any conditions