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Atomic data from the IRON project. II. Effective collision strengths for infrared transitions in carbon-like ions

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Abstract. — We present new calculations of cross-sections for the electron impact excitation of carbon-like ions from N II to S XI, paying particular attention to the infrared transitions between the $2p^2$ 3P J=0,1,2 ground state fine-structure levels. We also give rate coefficients, assuming a Maxwellian electron velocity distribution, in the form of effective collision strengths for these transitions up to an electron temperature of 10^5 K. We also give results for transitions involving the other $2p^2$ terms (1D and 1S) as well as the $2s2p^3$ (5S) term. The present results are in excellent agreement with a number of similar calculations available in the literature but are more comprehensive in scope.

Key words: atomic — atomic processes data

1. Introduction

The spectra of many types of gaseous nebulae are dominated by the presence of emission lines, many of them due to forbidden or semi-forbidden transitions of metal ions. In order to model such plasmas, one needs to know the relevant atomic data namely, radiative transition probabilities and electron impact excitation cross-sections. Naturally, lines in the visible part of the spectrum have received the most attention, however following the success of recent satellite-borne ultraviolet (UV) telescopes [such as the International Ultraviolet Explorer, considerable attention has also been given to lines in the near-UV. By contrast, lines lying in the infrared (IR) have been comparatively neglected, to date these observations being limited to balloon or rocket flights and upper atmosphere aeroplane flights. These IR lines, arising mainly from transitions between fine structure levels of ground state terms, are important as they are the dominant cooling mechanism for many astrophysical plasmas. This observational imbalance is to be redressed in the coming years due to the forthcoming launch of IR dedicated satellite-borne telescopes such as the Infrared Space Observatory (ISO) or the Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTF). Thus it is to be expected that many infrared lines previously overlooked will then be detected, indeed estimates have already been made of line strengths for some of these lines, see for example Spinoglio & Malkan (1992) and Voit

(1992). Therefore, an international collaborative project has been initiated, called the Iron Project (see Hummer et al. 1993, hereafter Paper I), the first stage of which is to calculate in a systematic way, new electron impact excitation rates with particular emphasis on these IR transitions. [The second, and more ambitious stage, is to calculate new data for ions of iron.]

This paper reports on the results for electron impact excitation rate coefficients (actually effective collision strengths) for transitions between the $2p^2$ ³P J=0,1,2fine structure levels of ions in the carbon iso-electronic sequence (ions with six electrons) from NII (nuclear charge z=7) to S XI (z=16). A complete list of the wavelengths for these IR transitions is given in Table 1. As a corollary to this work, we also give results for transitions involving the other 2p² terms (¹D and ¹S) plus the 2s2p³ ⁵S term since a number of these transitions are important diagnostics for astrophysical plasmas in the visible and ultraviolet spectral regions. Previous work on the carbon sequence ions is extensive, Hebb & Menzel (1940) performed the first calculation for OIII while Blaha (1969) and Saraph et al. (1969) computed early estimates of cross-sections for iso-electronic sequences, including the Csequence. More recent close-coupling calculations for ions of this sequence, in which the effect of resonances are included, have been performed mainly by two groups at University College London (see Eissner & Seaton (1972,1974), Jackson (1973), Saraph & Seaton (1974), Giles (1979) and

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Giles et al. (1979)) and the Queen's University of Belfast (see Baluja, Burke & Kingston (1980), Aggarwal et al. (1982,1983a,1983b, 1984) and Johnson et al. (1987). However, while this work provides excellent data for a number of ions, notably CI, OIII, Nev, Mg VII and Si IX, other ions have been comparatively neglected.

Table 1. Wavelengths (in μ m) of the infrared transitions for carbon sequence ions taken from the compilations of Wiese et al. (1966,1969) except that the values for S XI are estimated from the energy levels given by Martin et al. (1990)

Ion	${}^{3}P_{0}$ - ${}^{3}P_{1}$	${}^{3}P_{0}$ - ${}^{3}P_{2}$	${}^{3}P_{1}$ - ${}^{3}P_{2}$
NII	203.6	76.14	121.6
OIII	88.16	32.59	51.6
FIV	44.39	16.30	25.75
Ne v	24.15	8.99	14.32
Na vi	14.32	5.3807	8.6183
Mg VII	8.8707	3.4016	5.5173
Al viii	5.7456	2.2516	3.7027
Si IX	3.8600	1.5476	2.5833
Рx	2.9491	1.1652	1.9263
Sxi	1.9201	0.8072	1.3927

2. New calculations

We have used the revised versions of the RMATRX codes as described by Berrington et al. (1987), the target wavefunctions being generated by the general configuration interaction code CIV3 (Hibbert 1975). The same procedure was followed here as was used by Burke et al. (1989) for O III and Lennon & Burke (1991) for Ne v where further details may be found. [In fact the results given here for these two ions are a repeat of these previous calculations, though using a new asymptotic code, which we give for completeness.] All twelve target states belonging to the 2s²2p², 2s2p³ and 2p⁴ configurations were included in the target, and for the scattering calculation the diagonal elements of the Hamiltonian matrix were adjusted so as to obtain excitation thresholds in agreement with experiment. All partial waves with $L \leq 4$ were included which should be sufficient to ensure convergence for the transitions of interest, except perhaps for the ¹D-¹S transition where there is a small contribution from higher partial waves, see the discussion of Eissner & Seaton (1974) or Aggarwal (1984) for example. We employed an energy mesh similar to that used by Burke et al. (1989) and finestructure collision strengths were computed using STGFJ. A more complete discussion of the methods used may be found in Paper I. Assuming a Maxwellian distribution of electron velocities, these data were then used to calculate effective collision strengths according to the linear interpolation scheme described by Burgess & Tully (1992). Note that formally in calculating an excitation rate one must extrapolate the calculated cross-section to infinity. In the present work however, for all transitions under consideration, collision strengths were calculated to sufficiently high energy to ensure that the extrapolated contribution from higher energies to the numerical integration was negligible, even at the highest electron temperature considered. In all cases this contribution was less than 1% of the final result.

3. Results

The effective collision strengths are tabulated in Tables 2 through 11 and for illustrative purposes we show the behaviour of the results for the 3P_0 - 3P_1 transition as a function of electron temperature in Figs. 1 and 2. In these tables we have not explicitly given values for the fine structure transitions between the ³P ground state and the ¹D, ¹S and ⁵S states as these may be derived from the total effective collision strength using the formula,

$$\Upsilon(^3 P_{J'} - ^S L_J) = \frac{2J' + 1}{9} \Upsilon(^3 P - ^S L_J)$$
 (1)

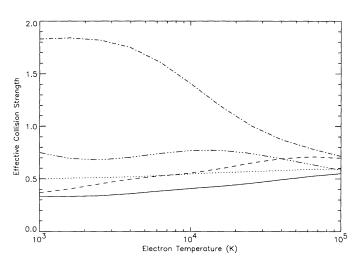


Fig. 1. Effective collision strengths for the 3P_0 - 3P_1 transition for N II (solid line), O III (dotted line), F IV (dashed line), Ne V (dash-dotted line) and Na VI (dash-dot-dotted line)

where J' is the J-value of the ${}^{3}P$ level of interest and ^SL_J is one of ¹D, ¹S or ⁵S. Note that the effective collision strength $(\Upsilon(i,j))$ for a transition from level i to level j is related to the excitation rate coefficient $(\alpha(i, j))$ through,

$$\alpha(i,j) = \frac{8.63 \ 10^{-6}}{g_i T^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{E_{ij}}{kT}\right) \Upsilon(i,j) \text{ cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$$
 (2)

where E_{ij} is the energy difference between levels i and j, g_i is the statistical weight of level i, T is the electron temperature and k is Boltzmann's constant. The de-excitation

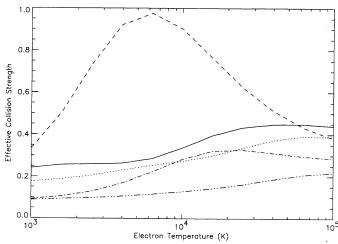


Fig. 2. Effective collision strengths for the ${}^{3}P_{0}$ - ${}^{3}P_{1}$ transition for Mg VII (solid line), Al VIII (dotted line), Si IX (dashed line), P X (dash-dotted line) and S XI (dash-dot-dotted line)

rate coefficient is then given by,

$$\alpha(j,i) = \frac{8.63 \ 10^{-6}}{g_j T^{1/2}} \Upsilon(i,j) \ \text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}.$$
 (3)

The enhancement of the effective collision strengths at low temperatures for Nev and SiIX is due to the influence of resonances, as discussed by Lennon & Burke (1991), Aggarwal (1983a) and Aggarwal (1983b). The accuracy of the results for these two ions depends crucially on the reliability of the calculated positions of the autoionizing states which give rise to these resonances. As has already been pointed out in the references above, this is difficult to quantify as there are as yet no experimental energy levels available for these states. It would be useful however if better theoretical energies were to be computed for these levels to help resolve this question. Nevertheless, we note that the present results agree very well those of Aggarwal (1983a, 1983b) and further, that the results for O III and Mg VII are also in excellent agreement with similar calculations performed by Aggarwal et al. (1982) and Aggarwal (1984). Comparable calculations for the infared transitions of the remaining ions considered here have not yet been performed, however we have no reason to suppose that these results are any less reliable.

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0.1748

1.6532

1.9080

0.4702

0.6948 0.6803 0.7052

.7075

1.9550

0.4828

0.5294

0.1738 0.1727

1.5870

1.9840

0.4899 0.5140

1.5182 1.4505

 $\begin{array}{c} 2.0840 \\ 2.1330 \\ 2.1020 \end{array}$

0.2943 0.2925 0.3009 0.2410 0.2876

0.7461

0.6954

1.3232

.3417

1.7180 1.5890

0.4246 0.3995

Table 7. Effective collision strengths for Mg VII

0.1498

1.3602 1.3466

1.9950

1.8530

1.3947

0.5082 0.4807 0.4504

0.5214

0.7422 0.7697 0.7725 0.7428 0.6922 0.6372 0.5825

0.1157

0.4538

0.1718 0.1720 0.1746 0.1789 0.1823 0.1815

0.3483

0.5838 0.6886 0.7449

0.1887

Table 5. Effective collision strengths for Nev

Table 2. Effective collision strengths for N II

3P.1S0	0.3155	0.2967	0.2765	0.2597	0.2491	0.2457	0.2486	0.2538	0.2564	0.2538	0.2452
$^{3}P^{-1}D_{2}$	1.7871	2,0001	2.1171	2.1442	2.1153	2.0863	2.1118	2.1761	2,2105	2.1748	2.0668
3P1-3P2	9.5510	9.4880	8.9840	8.1330	7.0380	5.8320	4.6750	3.7220	3.0490	2.5970	2.2540
3P0-3P2	3.2280	3.1950	2.9820	2.6430	2.2350	1.8100	1.4160	1.0960	0.8709	0.7205	0.6098
$^{5}P_{0}$ $^{-5}P_{1}$	1.8300	1.8400	1.8200	1.7500	1.6080	1.4080	1.1920	1.0060	0.8752	0.7879	0.7157
$\log T(K)$	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	8.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.6	8 4	5.0
20	_	-							10	-	
¹ D ₂ - ¹	1.164(1.126(1.0710	0.9998	0.9176	0.8338	0.760	0.7097	0.682	0.6686	0.6571
³ P- ⁵ S ₂	1.1971	1.1958	1.1940	1.1913	1.1883	1.1903	1.2050	1.2248	1.2299	1.2071	1.1545
*P-1S0	0.2813	0.2821	0.2833	0.2853	0.2884	0.2931	0.2999	0.3099	0.3240	0.3396	0.3524
*P-'D2	2.4841	2.4963	2.5163	2.5469	2.5884	2.6409	2.7000	2.7663	2.8444	2.9235	2.9668
3P1-3P2	0.8978	0.9092	0.9307	0.9753	1.0410	1.1200	1.2130	1.3160	1.4050	1.4580	1.4730
*P0- *P2	0.2142	0.2194	0.2256	0.2351	0.2499	0.2720	0.3012	0.3316	0.3524	0.3572	0.3494
*P0-*P1	0.3336	0.3333	0.3394	0.3581	0.3837	0.4076	0.4293	0.4566	0.4910	0.5238	0.5499
(F											
	"P0- "P2 "P1- "P2 "P-1D2 "P-1S0 "	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$				

0.6878

0.7299

0.6103

1.2803 1.4258 1.3933 1.2871

0.6251 0.5774

0.6767 0.7354

0.3435

0.2806

0.5658 0.9418

0.7148

1.1764 1.0638 0.9343

0.6621

Table 6. Effective collision strengths for Navi

ransition ³P-¹D₂

1.7356

Table 3. Effective collision strengths for O III

		[-]	[ransition]				
3P0-3P1	$^3P_0-^3P_2$	$^{3}P_{1}$ - $^{3}P_{2}$	$^3P.^1D_2$	$^{3}P_{-}^{1}S_{0}$	3P-6S2	$^{1}D_{2}$ - $^{1}S_{0}$	log T(K)
0.4975	0.2455	1.1730	2.2233	0.2754	0.9760	0.4241	3.0
0.5066	0.2493	1.1930	2.1888	0.2738	0.9673	0.4268	3.2
0.5115	0.2509	1.2030	2.1416	0.2713	0.9712	0.4357	3.4
0.5180	0.2541	1.2180	2.1117	0.2693	1.0224	0.4652	3.6
0.5296	0.2609	1.2480	2.1578	0.2747	1.1196	0.5232	3.8
0.5454	0.2713	1.2910	2.2892	0.2925	1.2074	0.5815	4.0
0.5590	0.2832	1.3350	2.4497	0.3174	1.2574	0.6100	4.2
0.5678	0.2955	1.3730	2.5851	0.3405	1.2720	0.609.0	4.4
0.5788	0.3101	1.4190	2.6730	0.3563	1.2451	0.5971	4.6
0.5918	0.3254	1.4680	2.7019	0.3621	1.1704	0.5865	4.8
0.5938	0.3314	1.4820	2.6594	0.3571	1.0600	0.5725	2.0

Table 4. Effective collision strengths for FIV

				Fransition			
log T(K)	$^3\mathbf{P}_0\mathbf{^-3P}_1$	3P0-3P2	3P1-3P2	$^{3}P^{-1}D_{2}$	3P-1S0	3P-6S2	$^{1}D_{2}$ - $^{1}S_{0}$
3.0	0.2414	0.1787	0.7038	0.7362	0.1998	0.8217	0.3201
3.2	0.2565	0.1795	0.7245	0.7344	0.2150	0.9880	0.4201
3.4	0.2597	0.1690	0.7049	0.7496	0.2225	1.0484	0.5110
3.6	0.2633	0.1688	0.7086	0.7776	0.2162	0.9827	0.5417
3.8	0.2858	0.2115	0.8298	0.8135	0.2006	0.8426	0.5099
4.0	0.3366	0.3005	1.0790	0.8567	0.1849	0.6970	0.4461
4.2	0.3952	0.3879	1.3240	0.9105	0.1753	0.5973	0.3902
4.4	0.4333	0.4303	1.4460	0.9739	0.1705	0.5560	0.3735
4.6	0.4476	0.4307	1.4560	1.0330	0.1670	0.5506	0.3859
4.8	0.4488	0.4132	1.4200	1.0670	0.1627	0.5474	0.3965
5.0	0.4396	0.3873	1.3570	1.0651	0.1564	0.5211	0.3901

	D_2 - 1S_0	.2977	3024	0.3054	.3081	0.3128	.3245	.3461	.3782	.4240	.4745	.5050
	³ P- ⁵ S ₂ ¹]	0.9493 0.	0.9583 0.	_		0.9430 0						0.9277 0
	$^{3}P^{-1}S_{0}$	0.2907	0.2956	0.3000	0.3078	0.3189	0.3296	0.3357	0.3357	0.3312	0.3228	0.3094
ransition	$^{3}P.^{1}D_{2}$	2.5218	2.5073	2.5559	2.6392	2.7069	2.7338	2.7201	2.6763	2.6139	2.5344	2.4159
T	3P_1 - 3P_2	0.7778	0.8638	0.9901	1.1310	1.2490	1.3490	1.4760	1.6380	1.7920	1.8860	1.8790
	$^3\mathrm{P}_0$ - $^3\mathrm{P}_2$	0.1413	0.1596	0.1895	0.2277	0.2630	0.2922	0.3251	0.3677	0.4128	0.4455	0.4508
	3P0-3P1	0.3687	0.4047	0.4518	0.4959	0.5268	0.5536	0.5962	0.6494	0.6920	0.7108	0.6977
	log T(K)	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.0

Table 10. Effective collision strengths for P x

0.0895 0.0894

0.1942 0.2163 0.2204 0.2252

0.0906

0.1131

0.2472 0.2829 0.3177 0.3489

0.1814

0.3460 0.3296

Table 8. Effective collision strengths for AlvIII

			L	[ransition								[ransition]		
log T(K)	Jdr-Jdr	3P0-3P2	3P1-3P2	*P-1D2	3P.1S0	3P-6S2	$^{1}D_{2}$ $^{-1}S_{0}$	$\log T(K)$	$^{5}\mathbf{P}_{0}\mathbf{-}^{5}\mathbf{P}_{1}$	$^{5}P_{0}$	$^{5}P_{1}$ - $^{5}P_{2}$	$^{3}P^{-1}D_{2}$	$^{3}P^{-1}S_{0}$	r
3.0	0.1756	0.0714	0.3787	2.3957	0.0921	0.1552	0.9172	3.0	0.0918	0.0398	0.2042	0.4961	0.0721)
3.2	0.1880	0.0780	0.4088	2.3562	0.1002	0.1540	1.0600	3.2	0.1058	0.0546	0.2551	0.5023	0.0716	_
3.4	0.2053	0.0869	0.4503	2.2370	0.1043	0.1565	1.1130	3.4	0.1287	0.0959	0.3764	0.5130	0.0717	_
3.6	0.2303	0.0997	0.5102	2.0213	0.1059	0.1773	1.0610	3.6	0.1675	0.1708	0.5907	0.5289	0.0743	_
3.8	0.2538	0.1130	0.5693	1.7733	0.1064	0.2401	0.9461	3.8	0.2226	0.2551	0.8348	0.5577	0.0808	_
4.0	0.2735	0.1255	0.6220	1.5566	0.1067	0.3367	0.8047	4.0	0.2828	0.3163	1.0190	0.5950	0.0883	_
4.2	0.2994	0.1462	0.6995	1.3854	0.1066	0.4258	0.6548	4.2	0.3219	0.3339	1.0820	0.6221	0.0922	_
4.4	0.3365	0.1839	0.8269	1.2519	0.1070	0.4800	0.5142	4.4	0.3273	0.3125	1.0310	0.6336	0.0919	
4.6	0.3726	0.2280	0.9648	1.1437	0.1083	0.5025	0.4018	4.6	0.3121	0.2762	0.9347	0.6354	0.0897	
4.8	0.3912	0.2585	1.0500	1.0532	0.1098	0.5007	0.3301	4.8	0.2962	0.2470	0.8576	0.6278	0.0872	
5.0	0.3887	0.2679	1.0620	0.9751	0.1100	0.4734	0.2923	2.0	0.2855	0.2290	0.8114	0.6097	0.0848	

Table 9. Effective collision strengths for Si IX

	3P.1S	0.0548	0.0545	0.0554	0.0586	0.0628	0.0651	0.0647	0.0628	0.0609	0.0599	0.0594
ransition	*P.TD2	0.4282	0.4430	0.4536	0.4744	0.5195	0.5740	0.6122	0.6210	0.6042	0.5748	0.5423
L	3P1-3P2	0.2112	0.2248	0.2342	0.2472	0.2662	0.2917	0.3319	0.3929	0.4746	0.5525	0.5957
	3P0-3P2	0.0455	0.0484	0.0501	0.0519	0.0544	0.0591	0.0691	0.0864	0.1110	0.1354	0.1500
	Pp3P1	0.0879	0.0936	0.0980	0.1052	0.1157	0.1279	0.1429	0.1621	0.1858	0.2072	0.2180
	log T(K)	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.0
	$\mathcal{S}_{z^{-1}} \mathcal{S}_0$	0634	0631	0631	0637	0663	0721	0795	0680	1063	0.1312	1548
	$^{3}P_{-}^{5}S_{2}$										0.3288 0.	
	$^{5}\mathbf{P}_{1}\mathbf{S}_{0}$	0.0818	0.0811	0.0807	0.0803	0.0802	0.0809	0.0845	0.0910	0.0971	0.1006	0.1008
[ransition	$^3\mathrm{P.^1D}_2$	0.5939	0.5944	0.6156	0.6523	0.6828	0.6921	0.6858	0.6771	0.6736	0.6740	0.6701
	$^{3}P_{1}$ $^{3}P_{2}$	0.9757	1.4240	2.0500	2.5660	2.7120	2.4980	2.1070	1.7180	1.4100	1.1920	1.0460
	\$P_0-\$P_1 \$P_0-\$P_2 \$P_1-\$P_2	0.2480	0.3556	0.5145	0.6529	0.6974	0.6452	0.5441	0.4440	0.3663	0.3118	0.2748
	. P1	346	034	335	509	754	016	989	243	127	334	805

0.4093

0.4562

0.6931

log T(K) 3.0