

The 9th Non-LTE Code Comparison Workshop

November 30 – December 4, 2015

Paris, France

Submission of Calculations

This document is intended to define the particulars of the workshop submissions. In the sections below we will define the case problems, the comparison quantities which we require and the detailed format of the data files that we will be expecting. The problems are completely defined by a specification of the *electron temperature* and *electron density*. The goal is to compare the kinetic codes and therefore the problems are ‘zero-dimensional’, i.e., there are no consideration of plasma non-uniformity, boundary effects, or heavy-particle interactions.

The webpage of the meeting is at <http://nlte.nist.gov/NLTE9>. The submission files are to be uploaded to <ftp.nist.gov>, cd incoming. To reduce the server load and accelerate the upload, it would be most convenient if the contributor(s) created an archive file containing all the individual result files. Submissions employing any modern data compression techniques (e.g., zip/gzip/bzip2/arj/lha/rar) along with the Unix tar archiving utility will be accepted. The submission files should have the name of the codes and the contributor as the parts of the file names (e.g., nomad_ralchenko_case1.tgz). Also, please inform Yuri Ralchenko (email: yuri.ralchenko@nist.gov) when new files are uploaded.

Timeline:

1. **November 15 – submission deadline**
2. November 25 – online database available
3. November 30 – workshop opens
4. December 4 – workshop adjourns

I. STATEMENT OF CASES

For this workshop we have selected iron as the element of interest. The results are requested on a grid of electron temperatures and electron densities. In the following, temperatures are given in eV, particle densities in cm^{-3} , time in seconds.

The following problems have been established for the cases:

Element	Case ID	Number of cases	Parameter	Grid		
Iron	Fe	63	T_e	30, 60, 120, 200, 400, 700, 1000, 2000, 4000		
			N_e	$10^{14}, 10^{19}, 10^{22}, 10^{24}$		
			T_{rad}	0, 250 (for 10^{19} only)		
			Length (cm)	0, 0.1 (for 10^{19} only)		
			Emission spectra	Range (Å)	Resolution (Å)	# of points
			Spectrum 1	10-18	$\Delta\lambda = 0.002$	4001
			Spectrum 2	1.5-2	$\Delta\lambda = 0.0002$	2501

The grid of plasma temperatures and densities is given in the table. If your calculation requires an ion temperature, then you should assume it is identical to the electron temperature. **The radiation field should be reduced by the dilution factor of 0.02. The spectra calculation (see details below) can be ignored for the two lowest temperatures.**

Also we ask the participants to fit the experimental spectra (available on the website) obtained from laser-produced and magnetic fusion plasmas. These spectra cover the region of He-like lines and their satellites between approximately 1.85 Å and 1.95 Å.

We are also considering a mini-test case including only $1s^2$, $1s2l$, $2l2l'$ states in Fe XXV, $1s$ and $2l$ states in Fe XXVI, and bare ion. The atomic data and details will be provided later.

Each calculation will be referenced by a case name, which is to be given in the submission data file (as described further below). The case name is constructed by appending a suffix to the Case_ID shown in the preceding table. The suffix consists of four digits. The first digit corresponds to the electron temperature, second to the electron density, third to the radiation

temperatures, and fourth to the plasma size. Thus, the case with $T_e = 1000$ eV, $N_e = 10^{19}$ cm⁻³, no radiation field, and 0.1 cm plasma size will be referred to as **Fe7212**. The comparison cases for the experimental spectra will be referred to as **FeL1**, **FeL2** and **FeL3** for the laser-produced plasmas and **FeT1** for the tokamak spectra.

The quantities to be computed for each case are described below.

The submissions file should be named as `<case>.<contributor_name>.<code_name>`, so that Dr. A. Einstein's calculations with his code GToE for one of the cases would be in the file `fe2311.einstein.gtoe` (case insensitive).

II. SUBMISSION FILE DESCRIPTION

We are asking for a fairly large amount of information. To simplify the specification for the contributors we have adopted a keyword approach within the submissions file. In this approach, all quantities are space delimited. In Section V, we give a schematic of the file format. For clarity we will use the `courier` font to indicate the keywords (the actual submissions should be unformatted plain ASCII text). The user-supplied data that are problem-dependent are indicated by a **bold-face** parameter name in brackets (e.g., `<pop_frac>`). We anticipate that not all information will be provided by every user. However, since the information is space delimited, and not fixed in a particular column, then *some* value must be given for each field. The best default value is to put a zero. The longer records, such as the `ion` and `elev` lines, may continue over several lines at the contributor's discretion. Do not break a line in the middle of a keyword or a number. Blank lines may be used anywhere within the file to make the text more readable. While some of the names we use suggest integer quantities, please use decimal values if appropriate to your calculation. For floating point numbers, an `e11.4` format is generally adequate although for level energies a high accuracy may be necessary. The exact definitions of the quantities requested, including units, are given in Section V.

The submissions file is structured in 5 sections. These sections are identified by keywords. In some cases, an integer follows the section keyword to indicate the number of records which follow for that section. Some codes will not be able to provide information for every section. Thus, an entire section may be omitted. If all information is provided, then there will be a certain amount of redundancy. This redundancy is intentional and has at least two uses. First, it can be used to detect errors in the file formatting. Second, it is often possible to compute overall quantities more accurately internal to the kinetics code than by post-processing the results.

The *initial section* provides general problem identification information. This section begins with the keyword `data`.

The *second section* gives overall quantities describing the plasma population and energy distribution. This section is signaled by the keyword `summary_quantities`. Note there are no spaces in the keywords.

The *third section* gives information by ionization stage. This section is signaled by the keyword `ion_stages`. Within this section, information for each ionization stage begins with the keyword `ion`. As mentioned above, multiple lines may be used if desired (we intentionally used multiple lines in the schematic file listing below to improve its readability). Important note: we use `<Nbound>`, the number of bound electrons, *not* the ion stage charge, to label the ion stages.

The *fourth section* gives information by energy level (keyword `energy_levels`). Since many codes employ some form of continuum lowering and/or moving calculational windows, we require that energy level definitions be provided for every case. The shell occupation numbers (`<occk>`, `<occl>` etc.) as defined for each `elev` record will be

used to compare codes for the cross-over from a ladder-like de-excitation regime to one which is in Saha-Boltzmann equilibrium with the continuum.

Finally, the *fifth section* contains calculated spectral characteristics.

A relational database tool will be used to manage the data during the course of the workshop.

If necessary, additional clarification regarding the submission format will be provided at the Workshop's web site.

III. SUBMISSION FILE FORMAT

The text that follows is a schematic of a submissions file:

data	<user comment... >
case	<case_id>
code	<name>
atom	<name> <Znuc>
calctime	<CPU> <human>
summary_quantities	
plasma	<Te> <Ne>
time	<time>
zbar	<zbar>
m2	<2nd central moment>
m3	<3rd central moment>
eint	<internal_energy>
deintdt	<dE _{int} /dT _e >
pfn	<partition_fn>
nmax_eff	<n_value>
ploss	<P _{bb} > <P _{bf} > <P _{ff} > <P _{total} >
ion_stages	
ion	<count>
	<N _{bound} > <pop_frac> <nouter>
	<S _{tot} > <f _{Scoll} > <f _{Sphoto} > <f _{Sauto} >
	<α _{tot} > <f _{αcoll} > <f _{αphoto} > <f _{αauto} >
...	
ion	<N _{bound} > <pop_frac> <nouter>
	<S _{tot} > <f _{Scoll} > <f _{Sphoto} > <f _{Sauto} >
	<α _{tot} > <f _{αcoll} > <f _{αphoto} > <f _{αauto} >
energy_levels	
elev	<count>
	<N _{bound} > <level> <stwt> <energy> <population>
	<Γ _{tot} > <f _{Γcollbb} > <f _{Γphotobb} > <f _{Γcollbi} > <f _{Γphotobi} > <f _{Γauto} >
	<Θ _{tot} > <f _{Θcollbb} > <f _{Θphotobb} > <f _{Θcollbi} > <f _{Θphotobi} > <f _{Θauto} >
	<occK> <occL> <occM> ... <nouter>
...	
elev	<N _{bound} > <level> <stwt> <energy> <population>
	<Γ _{tot} > <f _{Γcollbb} > <f _{Γphotobb} > <f _{Γcollbi} > <f _{Γphotobi} > <f _{Γauto} >
	<Θ _{tot} > <f _{Θcollbb} > <f _{Θphotobb} > <f _{Θcollbi} > <f _{Θphotobi} > <f _{Θauto} >
	<occK> <occL> <occM> ... <nouter>
...	
...	

The energy levels are to be provided for all steady state cases.

Spectrum Output

For the cases where we request spectra, the spectral information will be given in this same text file, following the information above. The spectrum will be in the format:

spectrum1	<case>	<count ₁ >		
<wavelength1>	<ε _{bb1} >	<ε _{bf1} >	<ε _{ff1} >	<ε _{tot1} >
<wavelength2>	<ε _{bb2} >	<ε _{bf2} >	<ε _{ff2} >	<ε _{tot2} >
.....				
<wavelengthN>	<ε _{bbN} >	<ε _{bfN} >	<ε _{ffN} >	<ε _{totN} >
spectrum2	<case>	<count ₂ >		
<wavelength1>	<ε _{bb1} >	<ε _{bf1} >	<ε _{ff1} >	<ε _{tot1} >
<wavelength2>	<ε _{bb2} >	<ε _{bf2} >	<ε _{ff2} >	<ε _{tot2} >
.....				
<wavelengthN>	<ε _{bbN} >	<ε _{bfN} >	<ε _{ffN} >	<ε _{totN} >

where wavelengths are in Å, and spectra ε for bound-bound (bb), bound-free (bf), and free-free (ff) transitions are explained later.

IV. DEFINITIONS OF REQUESTED QUANTITIES

Before proceeding to a detailed description of the requested quantities, we would like to comment on the ion density. In absence of heavy-particle interactions, the influence of ion density would mostly be exposed through the ionization potential lowering. To provide a description of N_i , for all cases the electron and ion densities are to be related via the plasma neutrality condition, i.e., $N_i = N_e/Z$.

In *section 1*, the identification section, the following quantities are requested:

data	Calculation identifier and user comment line. Comment should be limited to this one line only and should include the contributor's name, institution, the version of the code, and the date at which calculation was run. This can be invaluable in maintaining order in large number of submissions.
case	All calculations will have a case identification of the form Fe1211 or the like (see Section I). These identifiers are assigned in the section below where the specific calculations are called out.
code	An identifier for each contributor's code which may be chosen by the contributors. For convenience in post-processing and tabulation the names should not be excessively long. The names will be used in all tables and graphs of comparisons, and must be the same from case to case.
atom	Identifies the atom under study. The field <name> is a convenience for the contributor. In many cases, calculations are driven by atomic data found in a file. The file <name> may be used to specify that name. The field <Znuc> is the nuclear charge of the atom.
calctime	Provides information on the CPU time (computer) and total time (human) spent on calculation of this particular case.

In *section 2*, the `summary_quantities` section, the following items are requested:

plasma	This record specifies the plasma conditions used in this calculation. The electron temperature is in units of eV. The electron density is in units of cm ⁻³ .
time	A value (e.g., zero) for steady-state cases.
zbar	Average charge of the plasma.
m2	Second central moment of the charge state distribution.
m3	Third central moment of the charge state distribution.

eint	Specific internal energy of the atom.
pfm	Partition function of the atom.
nmax_eff	For this calculation, the principal quantum number of the outermost electron in any bound state. We will be interested in sensitivity of comparison quantities to the highest bound states accounted for by the model. This quantity will also be used as a measure of continuum lowering.
ploss	The radiative power losses: bound-bound, bound-free, free-free, and total. Units: erg/sec/cm ³ .

The **central moments** are defined as:

$$m_N = \sum_j y_j (q_j - \bar{Z})^N,$$

where y_j is the fractional population of ion stage j , q_j is the ion charge, and \bar{Z} is the average charge.

The **specific internal energy** is the sum of level populations, n_j , multiplied by their energy value, E_j , divided by the total ion density N_i :

$$E_{\text{int}} = \sum_j \frac{E_j n_j}{N_i}.$$

The energy reference is the ground state of the neutral atom. We recognize that a kinetics model may not include all ionization stages of the atom – the ground state of the most neutral ion is the most reasonable substitute. For intercomparisons, this quantity will likely need zero point shifts. Units are eV/atom.

The **specific heat** is the derivative with respect to electron temperature of the specific internal energy of the atom. Units are eV/atom/eV. If computed by finite difference, the step size is to be chosen by the contributor.

The **partition function** is defined as the classical partition function:

$$Q = \sum_j g_j \exp(-E_j/T_e),$$

where g_j is the statistical weight of level j and E_j is the energy of the level, with respect to the ground state of the most neutral ion.

The total **power loss** is the most important quantity, so that if one has difficulties separating different contributions, then it would suffice to have zeros in fields other than $\langle \mathbf{P}_{\text{total}} \rangle$.

Note that many of the "thermodynamic" quantities are intentionally sensitive to continuum lowering models. Quantities possibly affected are `<eint>` and `<pfn>`. If your continuum lowering model alters the energy levels or statistical weights, please include these effects in the appropriate "thermodynamic" quantities.

High-lying bound states can be included in the population kinetics in a variety of ways. The field `nmax_eff` is intended to give information on the highest-lying bound state, which is affecting the calculation of the populations. It is thus an "effective" principal quantum number. If a code includes a level, which accounts for more than one n value, then for this field we recommend giving the *largest* value that is being modeled.

In *section 3*, the `ion_stages` section, the following quantities are requested:

- `<Nbound>` The number of bound electrons in this ionization stage.
- `<pop_frac>` The fraction of atoms in this ionization stage. Sum over all ions should be normalized to unity.
- `<nouter>` The principal quantum number of the outermost electron for any state in this ion stage.
- `<Stot>` The total (effective) ionization rate out of this ion stage, averaged over all initial states in this ion stage (weighted by the fractional populations of the initial states), and summed over all final states. This quantity is further summed over all ionization processes.
- `<fScoll>` The fractional contribution of electron collisional ionization processes to `<Stot>`.
- `<fSphoto>` The fractional contribution of photo-ionization processes to `<Stot>`.
- `<fSauto>` The fractional contribution of auto-ionization processes to `<Stot>`.
- `<αtot>` The total (effective) recombination rate out of this ion stage, averaged over all initial states in this ion stage (weighted by the fractional populations of the initial states), and summed over all final states. This quantity is further summed over all recombination processes.
- `<fαcoll>` The fractional contribution of three-body recombination to the total `<αtot>`.
- `<fαphoto>` The fractional contribution of radiative-recombination to the total `<αtot>`.
- `<fαauto>` The fractional contribution of dielectronic capture processes to the total `<αtot>`.

We note that the total effective ionization and recombination rates are rates, and not rate coefficients. It is also important to be precise about the direction of these total rates. `<Stot>` is the total effective rate out of the indicated ion into the more ionized ion. Similarly, `<αtot>` is the total effective rate out of the indicated ion into the less ionized ion.

The definitions of `Stot` and `αtot` are best clarified through an example. Consider a three-ion stage problem consisting of levels in Li-like, He-like, and H-like ions. For the He-like ion, `Stot` is the

sum of all ionization rates *out* of He-like, weighted by the appropriate He-like initial state populations, and summed over all final states in the H-like ion. The averaging over initial states is completed by dividing the above sum by the total population of the He-like ion. α_{tot} for the He-like ion is the sum of all recombination rates out of He-like, weighted by the appropriate He-like initial state populations, and summed over all final states in the Li-like ion. The averaging over initial states is completed by dividing the above sum by the total population of the He-like ion. With these definitions, we can define a set of ionization rate equations. In the case of the He-like ion, we write:

$$\frac{dn(\text{He})}{dt} = \alpha_{\text{tot}}(\text{H})n(\text{H}) - [\alpha_{\text{tot}}(\text{He}) + S_{\text{tot}}(\text{He})]n(\text{He}) + S_{\text{tot}}(\text{Li})n(\text{Li}).$$

Units of $\langle S_{\text{tot}} \rangle$ and $\langle \alpha_{\text{tot}} \rangle$ are 1/sec.

In *section 4*, the `energy_levels` section, the following quantities are requested:

- <Nbound>** Identifies the ionization stage to which this energy level belongs. As always, this quantity is the number of bound electrons in the level.
- <level>** A sequential level number within this ionization stage. This index begins at 1 within each ionization stage for use as a label in model comparisons. The ground state of each ion stage will be identified by locating the state of lowest energy within the ion stage.
- <stwt>** The statistical weight of this energy level.
- <energy>** The energy of the level relative to the overall model. Ionization potentials will be obtained by subtraction of successive ground state energies. Units are in eV. The overall energy reference is the ground state of the most neutral ion in the problem.
- <population>** The **normalized** ion density of this level. *Sum of all level populations over all ions is unity.*
- < Γ_{tot} >** The **total population flux out** of this level. This definition is different from the previous workshops. Units are 1/sec.
- < $f_{\Gamma_{\text{collBB}}}$ >** The *fractional* contribution of electron collision excitation/de-excitation processes to $\langle \Gamma_{\text{tot}} \rangle$.
- < $f_{\Gamma_{\text{photoBB}}}$ >** The *fractional* contribution of bound-bound radiation processes to $\langle \Gamma_{\text{tot}} \rangle$.
- < $f_{\Gamma_{\text{collBF}}}$ >** The *fractional* contribution of electron collision ionization-recombination processes to $\langle \Gamma_{\text{tot}} \rangle$.
- < $f_{\Gamma_{\text{photoBF}}}$ >** The *fractional* contribution of photo-ionization-recombination to $\langle \Gamma_{\text{tot}} \rangle$.
- < $f_{\Gamma_{\text{auto}}}$ >** The *fractional* contribution of auto-ionization/dielectronic recombination processes to $\langle \Gamma_{\text{tot}} \rangle$.

<Θ _{tot} >	The total population flux into this level. For steady-state condition <Θ _{tot} > = -<Γ _{tot} >. Units are 1/sec.
<f_Θ _{collBB} >	The <i>fractional</i> contribution of electron collision excitation/de-excitation processes to <Θ _{tot} >.
<f_Θ _{photoBB} >	The <i>fractional</i> contribution of bound-bound radiation processes to <Θ _{tot} >.
<f_Θ _{collBF} >	The <i>fractional</i> contribution of electron collision ionization-recombination processes to <Θ _{tot} >.
<f_Θ _{photoBF} >	The <i>fractional</i> contribution of photo-ionization-recombination to <Θ _{tot} >.
<f_Θ _{auto} >	The <i>fractional</i> contribution of auto-ionization/dielectronic recombination processes to <Θ _{tot} >.
<occK>	Occupation number: for this energy level, the number of electrons in the K shell. Users of configuration interaction codes might wish to use the dominant configuration to assign this value.
<occL>	The number of electrons in the L shell.
...	
<nouter>	The principal quantum number of the outermost electron in that energy level.

Parameter Γ describes all processes originating from a particular level while Θ describes all processes ending on this level. The population flux is defined as a product of the population by the corresponding rate, so that, for instance, the total Θ for a level i is:

$$\Theta_i = \sum_j POP_j \times R_{ij} ,$$

where POP_j is the population of level j and R_{ij} is the rate of a physical process originating in level j and ending in level i (e.g., probability for a radiative transition from the upper level j into the lower level i). Note that at the previous workshops, we were asking for rates rather than population fluxes.

The shell occupation numbers (<occK>, <occL>, etc.) could be variable in number for each code, plasma condition, and energy level. Contributors are not constrained on this point: they may specify as many shells as necessary, and as relevant to their calculational approach. The final entry for this energy level record should be the principal quantum number of the outermost electron in that level. In the case of highly-excited levels, the shell occupation numbers may be simplified by only specifying the core, <Nbound>-1, electrons. In this case the field <nouter> will be used to set the location of the remaining electron. We will be using the values given in this section to compute some of the quantities given in section 2 for consistency checks.

In *section 5*, the `spectrum` section, the data requested are summarized below:

Fe

x-axis: wavelength (in Å),
 spectrum units: erg/s/cm³/Å;

The spectrum for the present optically thin cases is requested per unit volume. The required data are bound-bound $\langle \epsilon_{bb} \rangle$, free-bound $\langle \epsilon_{fb} \rangle$, free-free $\langle \epsilon_{ff} \rangle$ and total $\langle \epsilon_{tot} \rangle$ spectra. The field `<count>` specifies the number of (*wavelength, spectra*) rows which follow.

The line broadening should be natural+Doppler for the tabulated four-digit cases. However, for comparisons with the experimental spectra you can use any appropriate broadening.

Example of a spectrum file:

```

...
spectrum2 Fe7111 2501
1.5000 1.000e-15 1.000e-16 2.500e-15 3.600e-15
1.5002 2.000e-15 2.000e-16 5.000e-15 7.200e-15
...
... 1.000e-16 2.500e-15 3.600e-15 ... 2.0000 1.000e-15

```