

CONTENTS

I. RADIATIVE EQUILIBRIUM OF THE OUTER LAYERS	1
1. Introduction	1
2. The transfer of radiation	1
3. Eddington's treatment. The first approximation	4
3.1. The darkening of the limb	5
3.2. The equivalent mean intensity	6
4. Some radiation laws	7
4.1. The effective temperature of radiation	7
4.2. The effective temperature of the Sun	8
5. Eddington's second approximation	9
5.1. The boundary condition	9
5.2. Integral forms for $I(\tau, \theta)$ involving the source function	10
5.21. Physical interpretation of the integrals for $I(\tau, \theta)$	11
5.3. J , H , and K in the second approximation	12
5.31. The amended second approximation	13
5.32. Limb darkening	14
II. OTHER APPROXIMATE METHODS OF SOLVING THE EQUATION OF TRANSFER	16
1. Schwarzschild's approximate solution	16
1.1. Equations for the mean intensities	16
1.2. Limb darkening and the net flux	17
2. Chandrasekhar's approximations	18
2.1. Equations for the intensities, and the general solution	20
2.2. The source function in the n th approximation	22
2.21. The intensity in any direction	23
2.3. Calculation of the integration constants	25
2.4. Limb darkening in the n th approximation	25
2.5. The first approximation and higher approximations	27
III. THE INTEGRAL EQUATIONS OF RADIATIVE EQUILIBRIUM: EXACT SOLUTIONS	30
1. The integral equations of Schwarzschild and Milne	30
1.1. The asymptotic behaviour of $J(\tau)$	31
1.2. Hopf's solution by iteration	31
2. An integral equation for $q(\tau)$	34
2.1. The Liouville-Neumann solution	35
2.2. The Hopf-Bronstein boundary value $q(0) = 1/\sqrt{3}$	35
3. Exact solutions for the emergent intensity and the source function	37
3.1. Significance of the Laplace transform	37
3.2. An integral equation for the Laplace transform of the source function	38

3.3. Limit forms for $q(0)$ and $q(\infty)$	39
3.4. The Wiener-Hopf solution	40
3.41. Determination of $q(0)$ and $q(\infty)$	43
3.42. The emergent intensity $I(0, \mu)$	44
3.5. Mark's exact solution for $q(\tau)$	45
4. A comparison of solutions	48
IV. THE CONTINUOUS SPECTRUM	52
1. Monochromatic radiative transfer with the absorption coefficient a function of frequency	52
1.1. Mean coefficients of absorption—the straight mean and Rosse-land's mean	54
2. A microscopic analysis of the hypothesis of local thermodynamic equilibrium	57
3. Physical nature of the continuous absorption coefficient	60
3.1. The negative hydrogen ion	62
3.2. The mass coefficient of absorption	66
V. THE VARIATION OF ABSORPTION COEFFICIENT WITH WAVE-LENGTH IN THE SOLAR ATMOSPHERE	70
1. Limb darkening in monochromatic light	70
1.1. Milne's calculation of the darkening of the limb in a grey atmosphere	71
1.2. The blanketing effect	71
1.21. Milne's theory	72
1.22. An alternative theory	73
2. Connexion between limb darkening and the variation of absorption coefficient with wave-length	75
2.1. Lundblad's analysis	77
3. Comparison between theory and observation	78
3.1. Relative absorption coefficients k_λ/\bar{k}	78
3.11. Determination from the energy curve	78
3.12. Determination from limb darkening	79
3.13. Comparison with the coefficient of the negative hydrogen ion	81
3.14. A check on the relative coefficients	84
3.2. The temperature distribution	85
3.3. Summary	90
VI. THE PHYSICAL NATURE OF LINE ABSORPTION	91
1. Introduction	91
2. The classical oscillator	91
2.1. Absorption	92
2.2. Emission	94
3. Collision damping	97
3.1. Impact broadening	97
3.2. Phase collisions	99

CONTENTS

ix

4. The quantum atom	106
4.1. Transition coefficients	106
4.2. Oscillator strength	109
4.3. Broadened states	110
4.4. Stark effect	115
5. Excitation by collisions	116
6. Doppler effect	122
VII. THE COHERENT FORMATION OF ABSORPTION LINES	126
1. Introduction	126
2. The equation of line formation by coherent scattering	127
3. Eddington's solution for η constant	130
4. Residual intensity in an absorption line	131
4.1. The mean contour. Central intensity	131
4.2. Variation from centre to limb	133
4.3. Second approximation to the mean contour	135
5. A comparison of solutions. Errors of the approximate solutions	136
6. Line formation when η varies with depth	139
6.1. The dependence of η on physical conditions	139
6.2. Soluble cases for empirical forms	140
6.3. The treatment of arbitrary variations	141
6.31. Strömgen's solution for the emergent flux in an absorption line	142
6.32. Formulae for numerical calculation of the mean contour	145
VIII. THE FORMATION OF ABSORPTION LINES BY NON-COHE- RENT PROCESSES	151
1. The nature of non-coherent scattering	151
2. Interlocking without redistribution	152
2.1. Lines with a common upper state	152
2.2. Rosseland's theorem of cycles	157
2.3. The effect of electron capture	161
3. Redistribution in frequency	164
3.1. Effect in a single atom	164
3.2. Effects due to other atoms	168
3.3. Influence of the Doppler effect	170
4. Approximate solution of the equations	173
IX. THE PHOTOSPHERE	176
1. Introduction	176
2. Mechanical equilibrium of the photosphere	176
2.1. Radiation pressure	177
2.2. Hydrostatic equilibrium	178
3. The structure of the outer layers	179
3.1. The method of model atmospheres	180
3.2. A model for the solar atmosphere	182

4. Ionization in the photosphere	185
5. Calculation of the profiles of absorption lines. The principal lines of neutral and ionized calcium in the Sun	189
5.1. Variation of η with depth	189
5.11. Ionization	190
5.12. Damping	191
5.2. Residual intensity	195
5.3. The line profile and its equivalent width	196
5.4. Comparison of the equivalent widths of lines of neutral and ionized calcium	198
6. The curve of growth	200
X. CONVECTION	206
1. Schwarzschild's criterion for convection in a stellar atmosphere	206
2. Convection in the solar atmosphere	207
3. Adiabatic change in a dissociating gas	208
4. The convection zone	210
5. Theory of convective movement	212
6. Siedentopf's model	214
7. Numerical application of the equations	216
XI. THE SOLAR CORONA	219
1. Introduction. General description of the corona	219
2. The coronal spectrum	220
3. The nature of the corona	222
4. Distribution of electron density	223
4.1. Electron scattering in the corona	223
4.2. The intensity of coronal light, and the electron density	224
5. The high temperature of the corona	227
5.1. The effect of a high-temperature region overlying the photosphere	229
6. Ionization in the corona	231
7. Heat loss in the corona	234
7.1. Conduction	234
7.2. Loss by radiation	234
8. The corona as a source of radio noise	237
8.1. The equation of transfer for radio-frequency radiation	240
8.2. The radio-noise spectrum of the corona at the centre of the solar disk	242
9. Some unsolved problems of the corona	244
XII. THE CHROMOSPHERE	246
1. Introduction	246
2. The flash spectrum	247
3. Scale heights	249

CONTENTS

xi

4. The low chromosphere	251
4.1. Electron density	251
4.2. Temperature	252
4.3. Ionization	254
5. The high chromosphere	257
5.1. Conduction	257
5.2. Radio emission	259
6. The ultra-violet spectrum of the chromosphere	261
XIII. STARS OTHER THAN THE SUN	266
1. Review of earlier chapters	266
2. The observed characteristics of stars	268
2.1. Spectral types	268
2.2. Stellar magnitudes	270
2.3. Stellar colours	274
2.4. Effective temperatures	277
3. Theoretical work on stellar spectra	280
3.1. Maximum intensities of lines in the spectral sequence	280
3.2. Model stellar atmospheres	282
3.21. Incomplete stellar models	283
3.22. Complete stellar models	286
3.23. Determination of stellar diameters from observations of brightness	293
APPENDIX. USEFUL CONSTANTS AND FORMULAE	298
1. Physical constants	298
2. Astronomical constants	298
3. Useful relations	299
4. Physical formulae	299
4.1. Maxwellian distribution of velocities	299
4.2. Saha's formula	300
4.3. Planck's function	300
INDEX OF AUTHORS	301
INDEX OF SUBJECTS	303