

# Interpreting Spectra of High- and Intermediate-Mass Stars

“Chp. 2”

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Austin College

*Sacramento Mountain Spectroscopy Workshop*  
22 February, 2019

# Scope

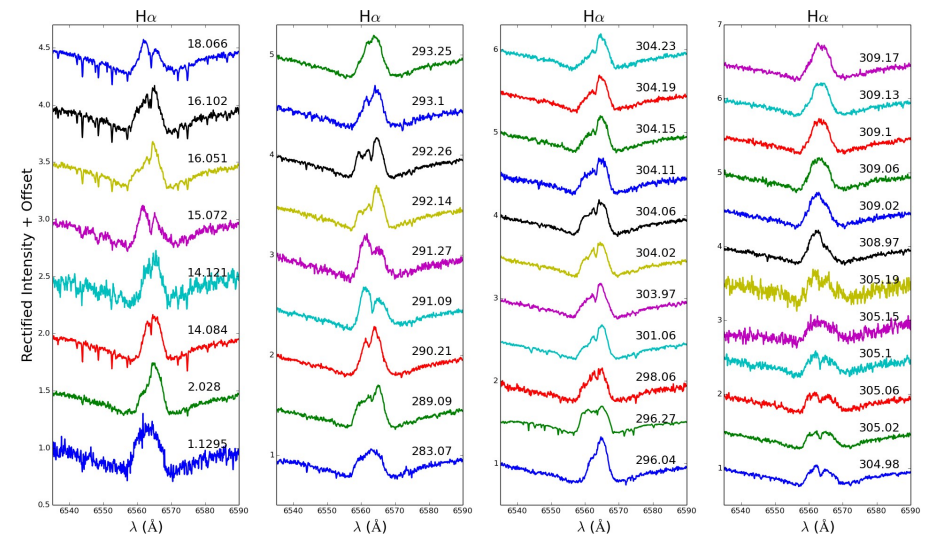
1. Physical Properties of Intermediate- and High-Mass Stars

2. Observable Properties of B-type and Emission-Line B-type (Be) Stellar Spectra

3. Emission *versus* Absorption: A Qualitative Look

4. Emission *versus* Absorption: A Physical Approach

5. Studying Rapid Spectroscopic Variability



# 1. Physical Properties of Intermediate- and High-Mass Stars

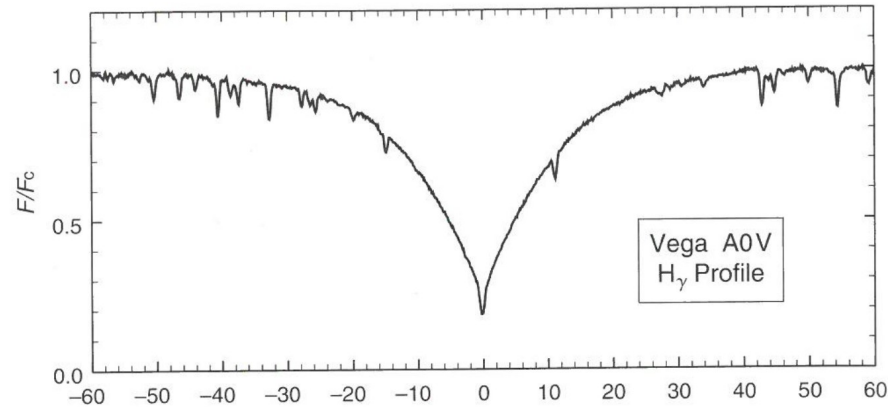
A2 V - B3 V: Intermediate - Mass Stars

Spec Type	Mass ( $M_{\text{sol}}$ )	Radius ( $R_{\text{sol}}$ )	$T_{\text{eff}}$ (K)
A2	2.2	1.75	8,900
B3	6.3	3.5	16,500

Data from: David Gray's *The Observation and Analysis of Stellar Photospheres*  
Richard Gray & Christopher Corbally's *Stellar Spectral Classification*

Photospherically:

- Strong Hydrogen absorption lines
  - weakening with increasing temperature (max. near A1-2)
- Strengthening Helium absorption lines
  - maximum near B3



Gray, Fig. 11.5

# 1. Physical Properties of Intermediate- and High-Mass Stars

B2 V and Above: High-Mass Stars

Spec Type	Mass ( $M_{\text{sol}}$ )	Radius ( $R_{\text{sol}}$ )	$T_{\text{eff}}$ (K)
B2	8.3	4.7	19,500
O9	20?	9	32,882

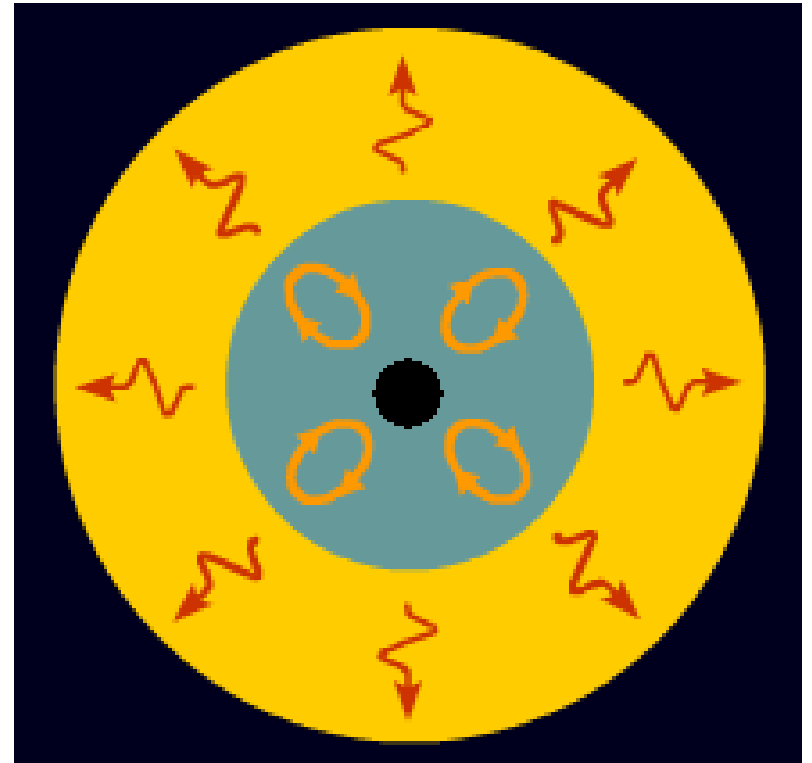
Data from: David Gray's *The Observation and Analysis of Stellar Photospheres*  
Richard Gray & Christopher Corbally's *Stellar Spectral Classification*

Photospherically:

- Weaker H lines
- He ionization layer is near or at the surface

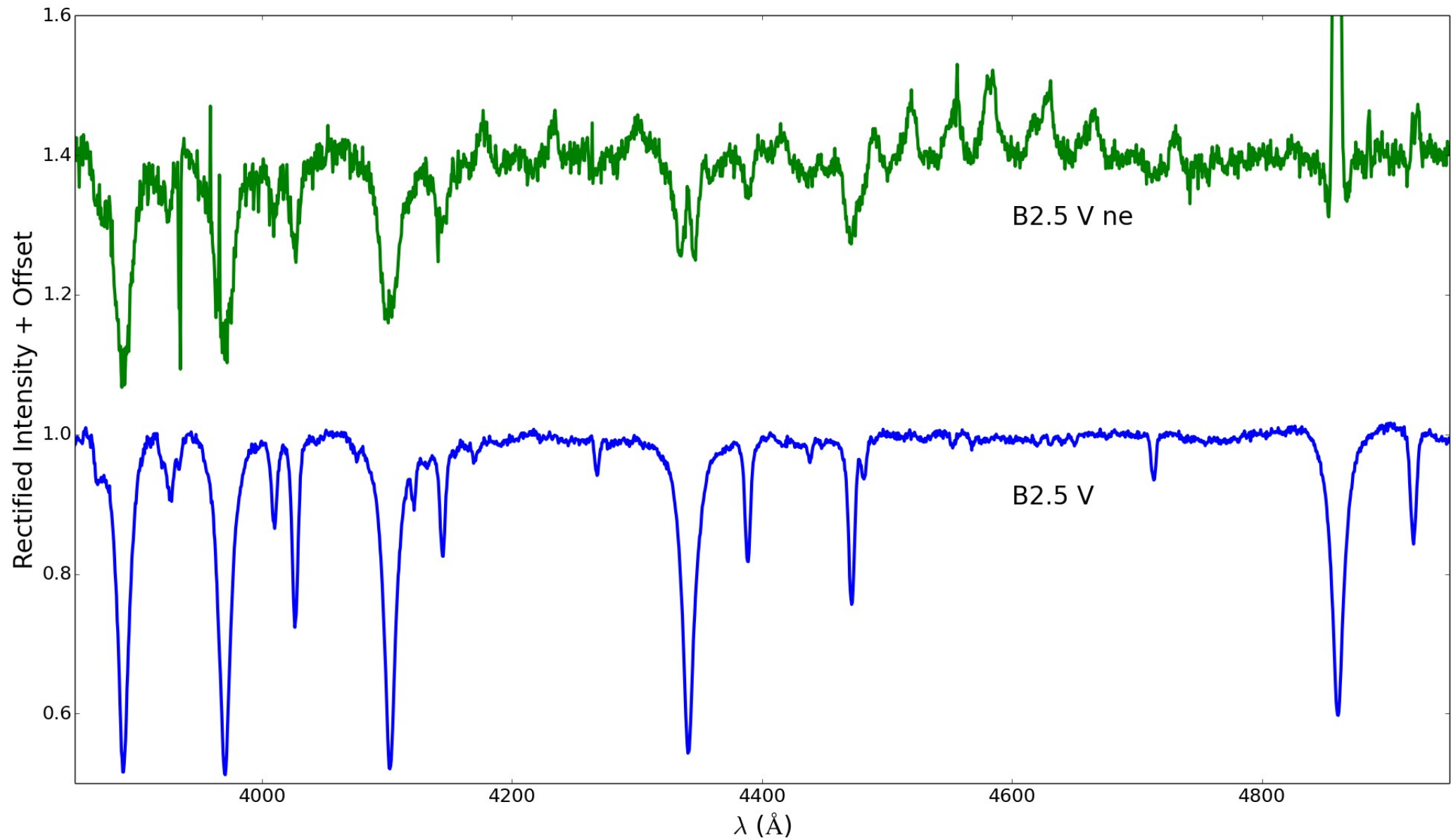
NOT Considering O8 and above:

- Convective interior, puffer stars

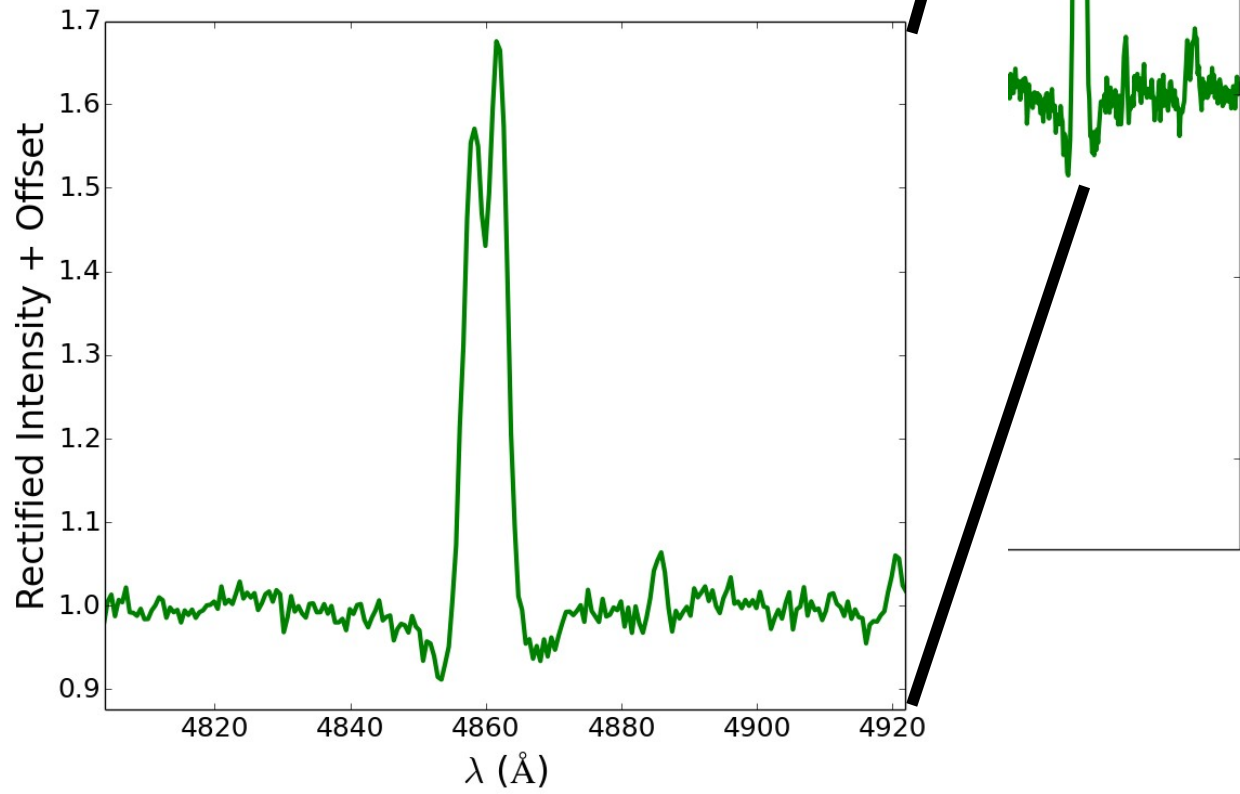
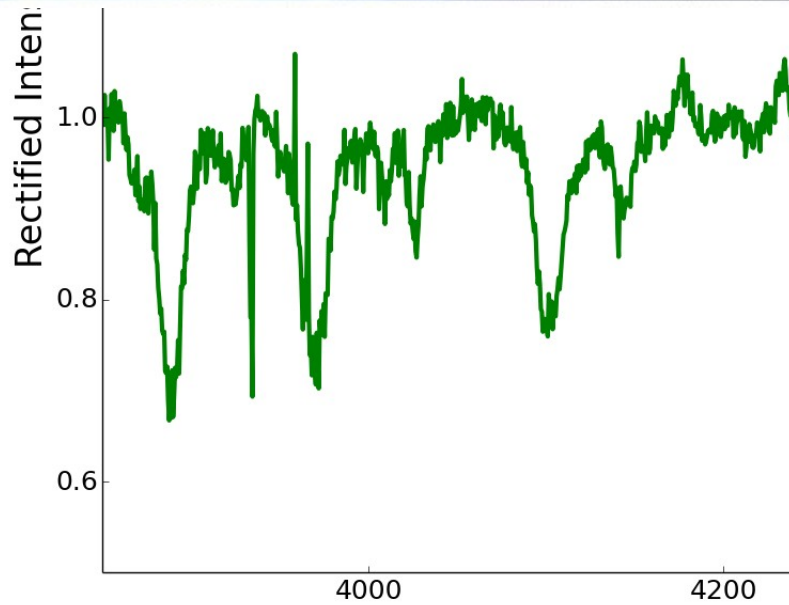
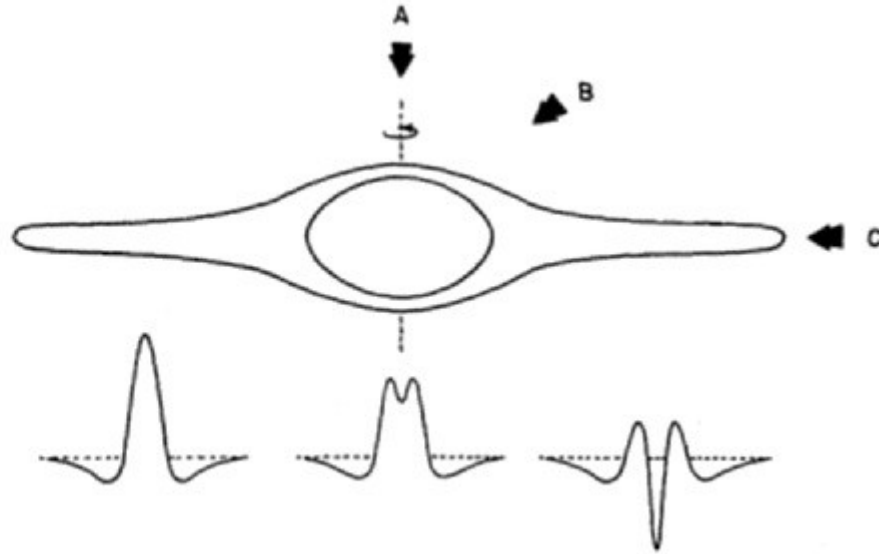
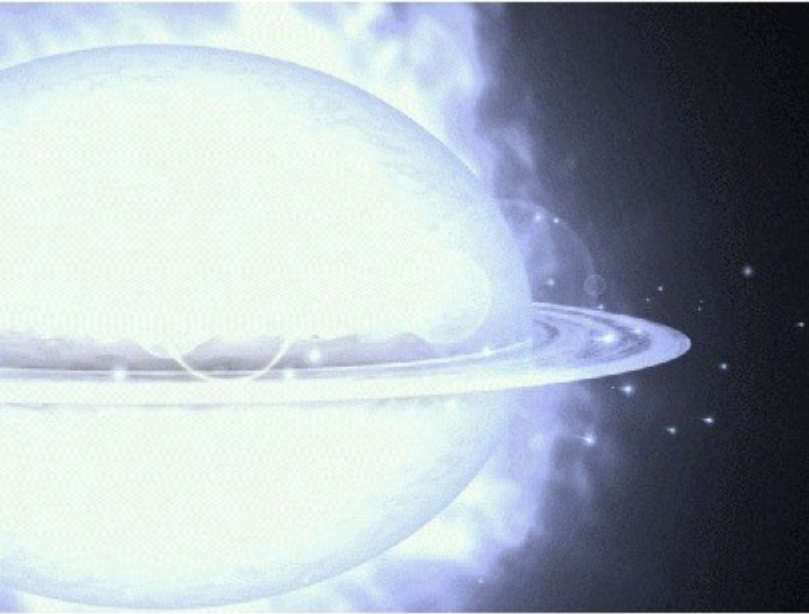


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## 2. Observable Properties of B-type and Be Stars

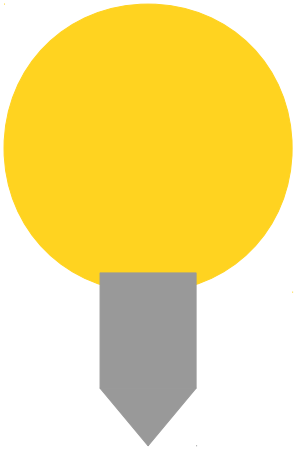


## 2. Observable Properties of B-type and Be Stars

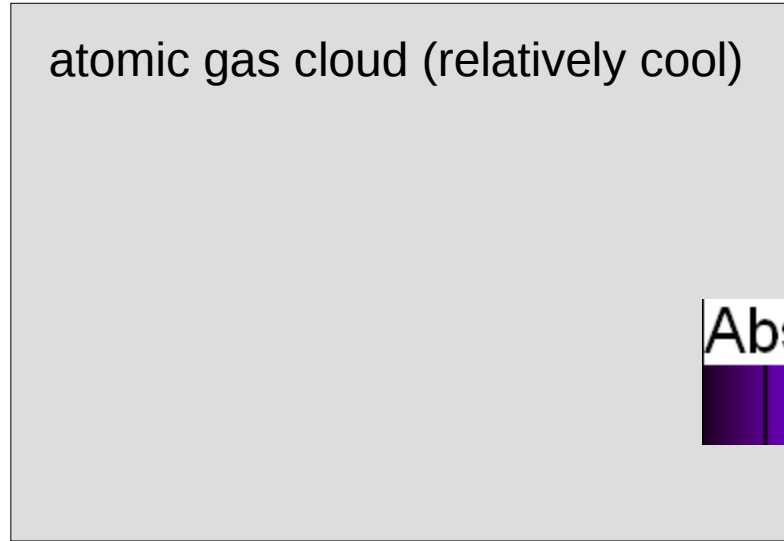


### 3. Emission versus Absorption: A Qualitative Look

light source  
(relatively hot)



atomic gas cloud (relatively cool)



Absorption Lines



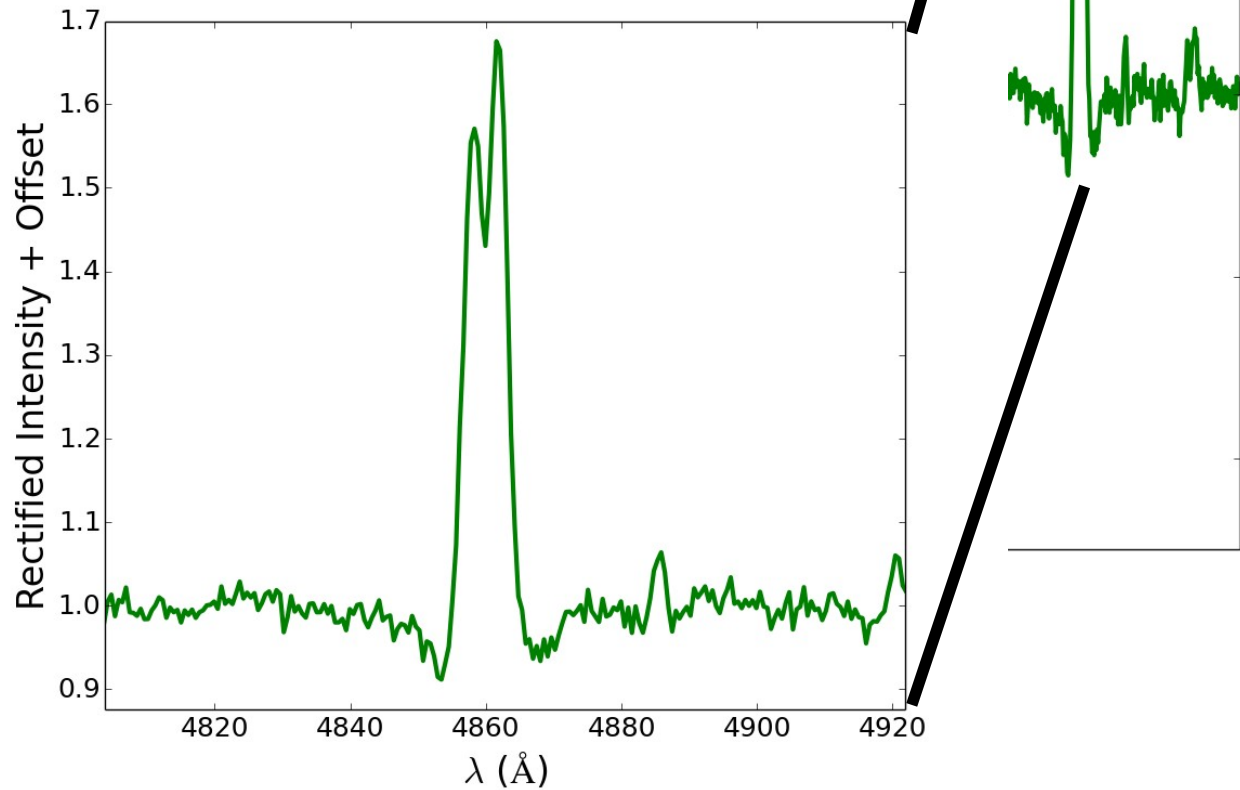
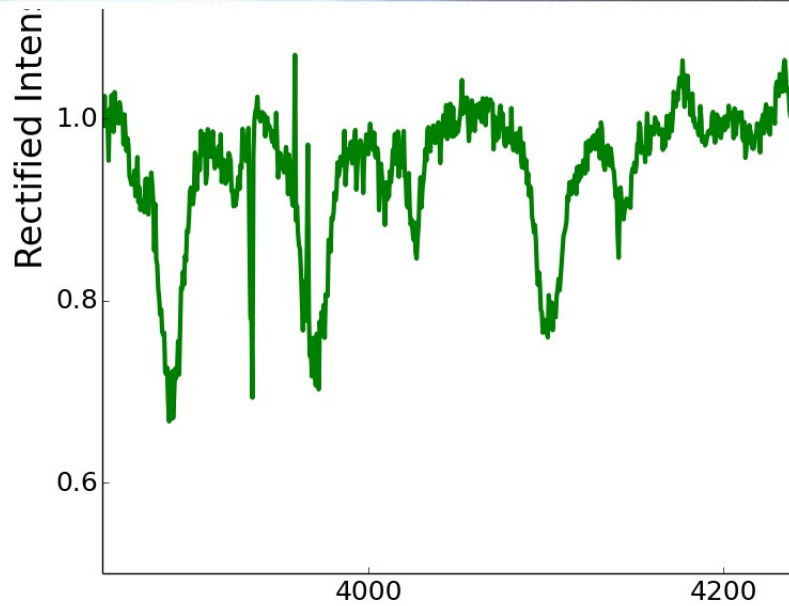
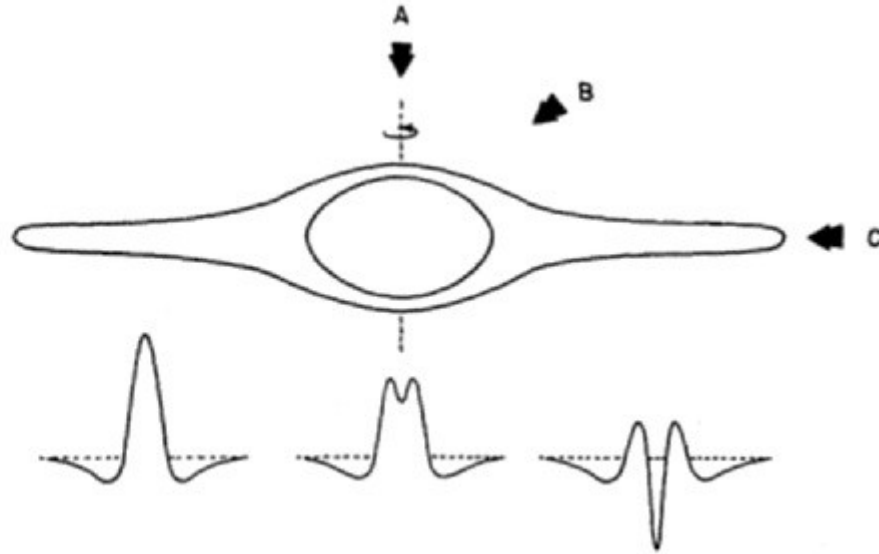
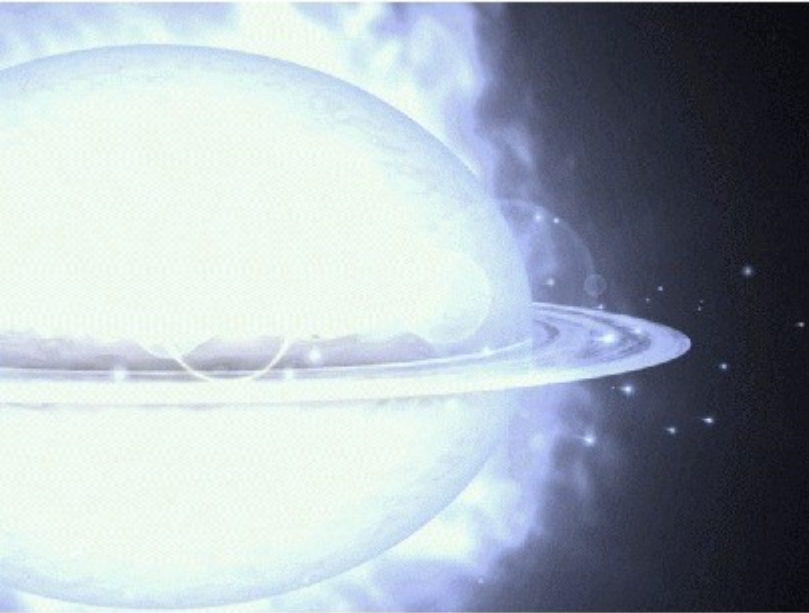
Continuous Spectrum



Emission Lines

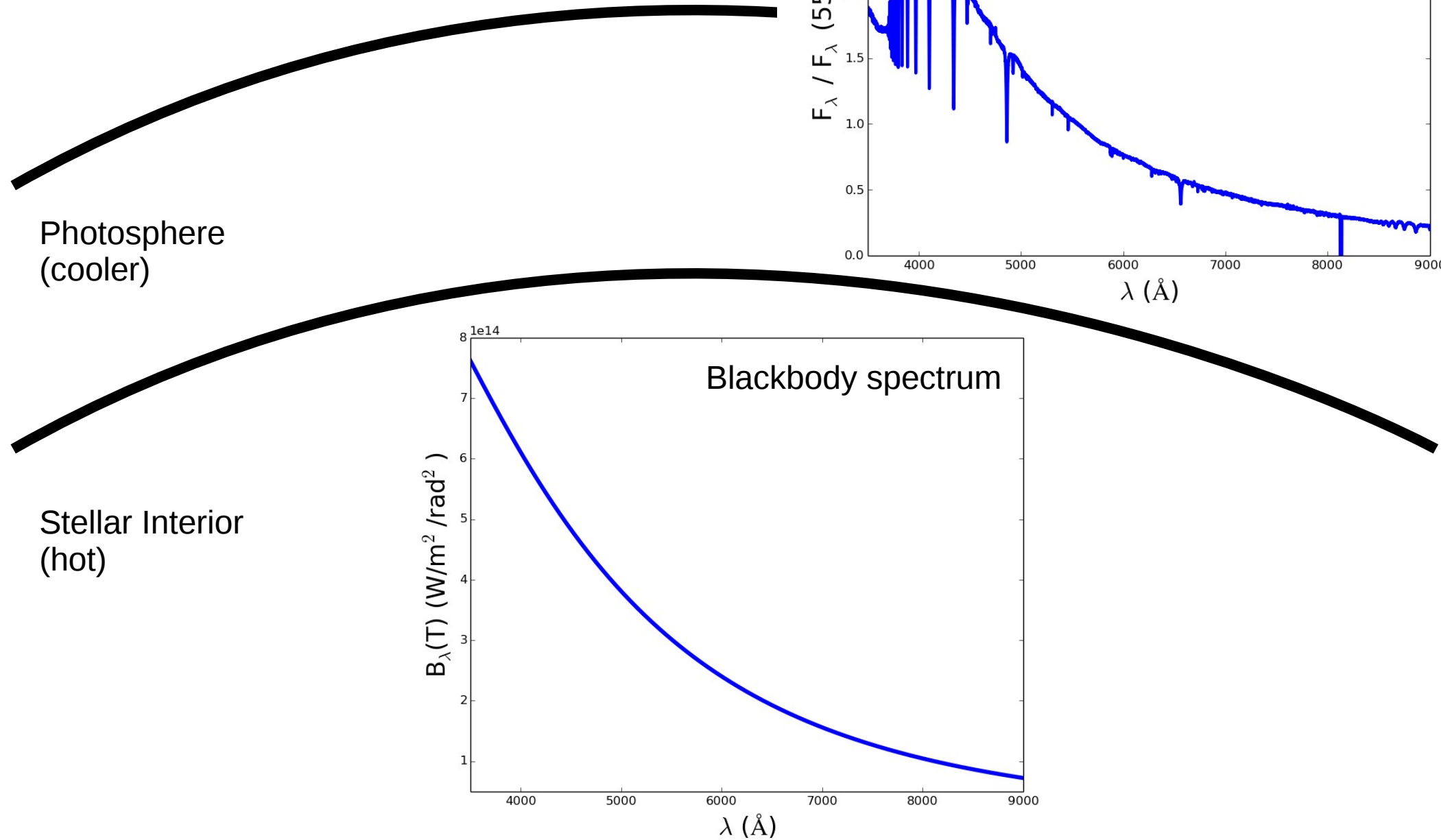


### 3. Emission versus Absorption: A Qualitative Look



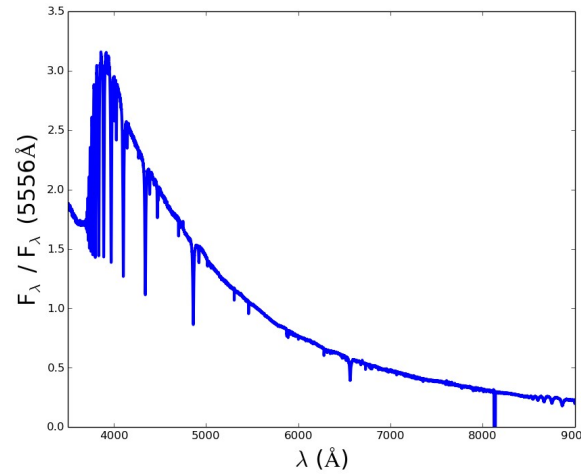


# 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach



# 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach

(4) Light comes out



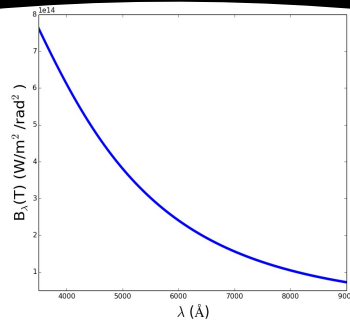
density  $\rho(r)$ ,  
temperature  $T$ ,  
composition

(3) Re-emits light,  $j_\lambda$

(2) Absorbs light,  $\kappa_\lambda$

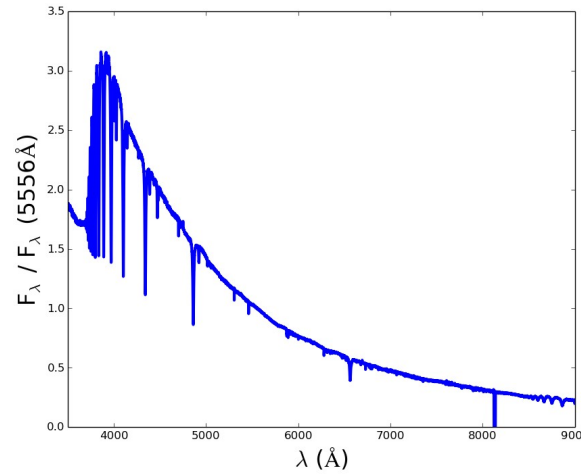
(1)  $I_\lambda(T)$  comes in

Photosphere



# 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach

$$(4) I_{\lambda} = I_{\lambda}^0 + \Delta I_{\lambda}^{absorbed} + \Delta I_{\lambda}^{emitted}$$



density  $\rho(r)$ ,  
temperature  $T$ ,  
composition

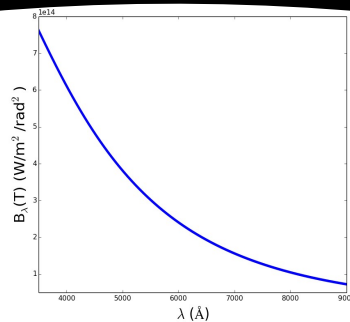
$$(3) \Delta I_{\lambda}^{emitted} = j_{\lambda} \rho \Delta r$$

$$(2) \Delta I_{\lambda}^{absorbed} = -\kappa_{\lambda} \rho I_{\lambda}^0 \Delta r$$

$$(1) I_{\lambda}^0$$

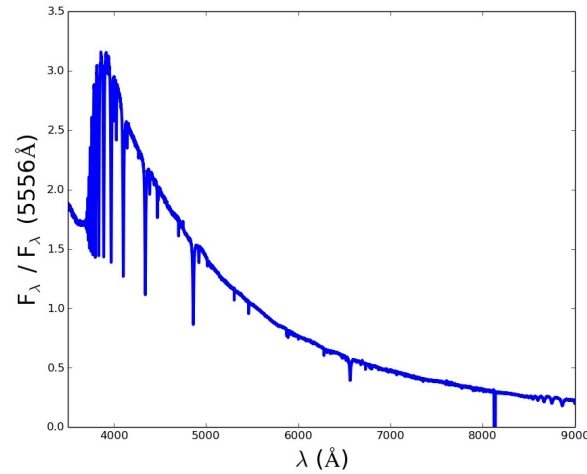
$\Delta r$

Photosphere



# 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach

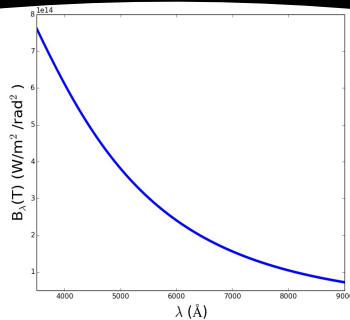
$$I_{\lambda} = I_{\lambda}^0 + \Delta I_{\lambda}^{\text{absorbed}} + \Delta I_{\lambda}^{\text{emitted}}$$



$$S_{\lambda} = \frac{j_{\lambda}}{K_{\lambda}}$$

$$\Delta \tau_{\lambda} = K_{\lambda} \rho \Delta r$$

Photosphere



## 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach

$$I_{\lambda} = I_{\lambda}^0 e^{-\tau_{\lambda}} + S_{\lambda} (1 - e^{-\tau_{\lambda}})$$

(final intensity)

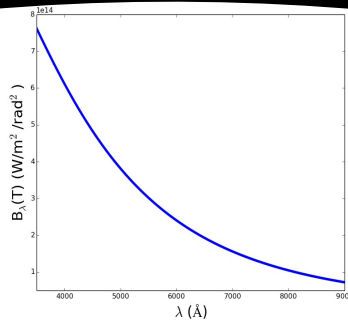
(light taken out)

(light added by the cloud)

$$S_{\lambda} = \frac{j_{\lambda}}{\kappa_{\lambda}}$$

$$\Delta \tau_{\lambda} = \kappa_{\lambda} \rho \Delta r$$

Photosphere



## 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach

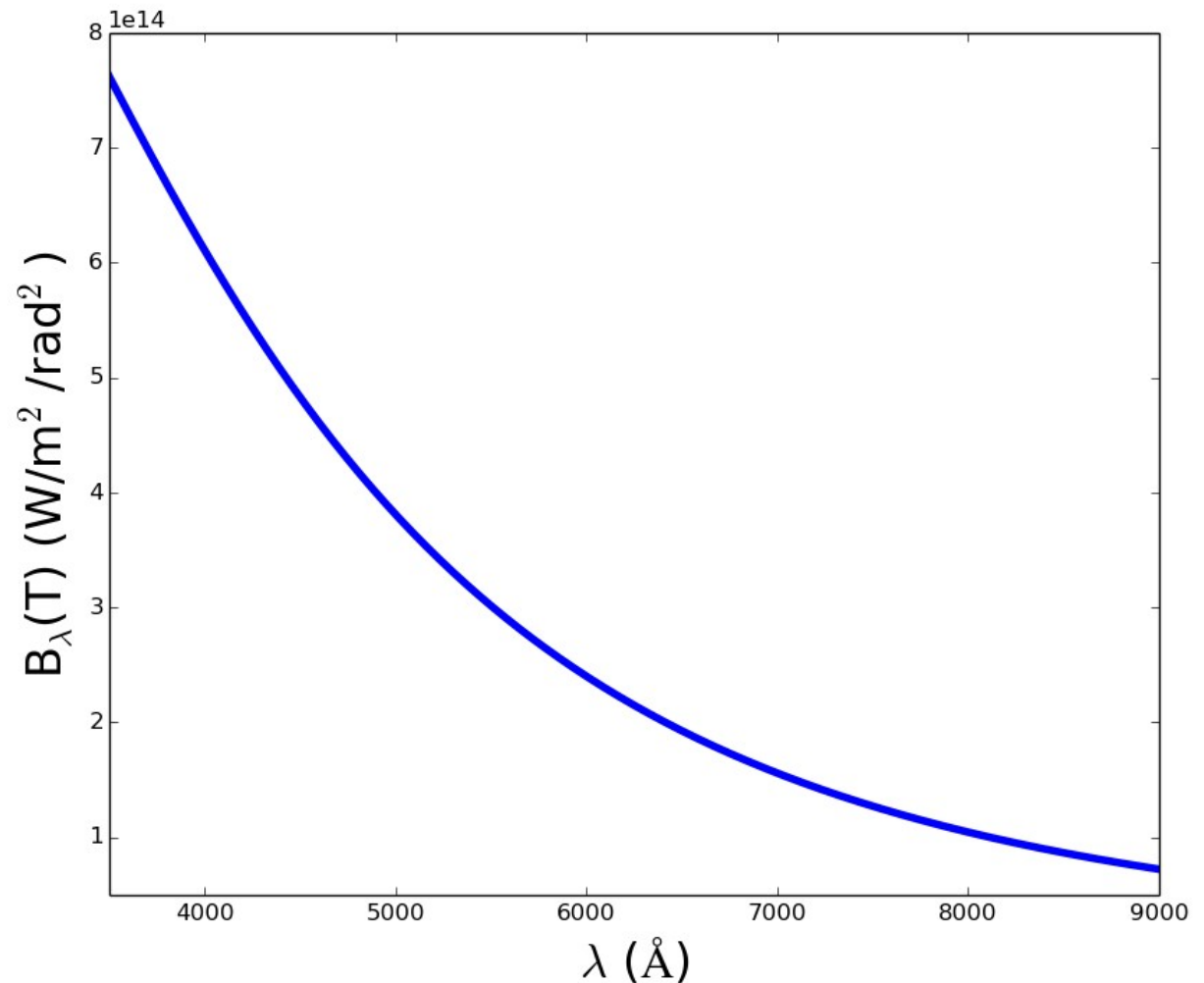
$$I_{\lambda} = I_{\lambda}^0 e^{-\tau_{\lambda}} + S_{\lambda} (1 - e^{-\tau_{\lambda}})$$

**Limit A. The cloud layer is optically thick**

$$\tau_{\lambda} \rightarrow \infty$$

$$e^{-\tau_{\lambda}} \rightarrow 0$$

$$I_{\lambda} \rightarrow S_{\lambda}$$



#### 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach

$$I_{\lambda} = I_{\lambda}^0 e^{-\tau_{\lambda}} + S_{\lambda} (1 - e^{-\tau_{\lambda}})$$

**Limit B. The cloud layer is optically thin**

$$e^{-\tau_{\lambda}} \rightarrow 1 - \tau_{\lambda}$$

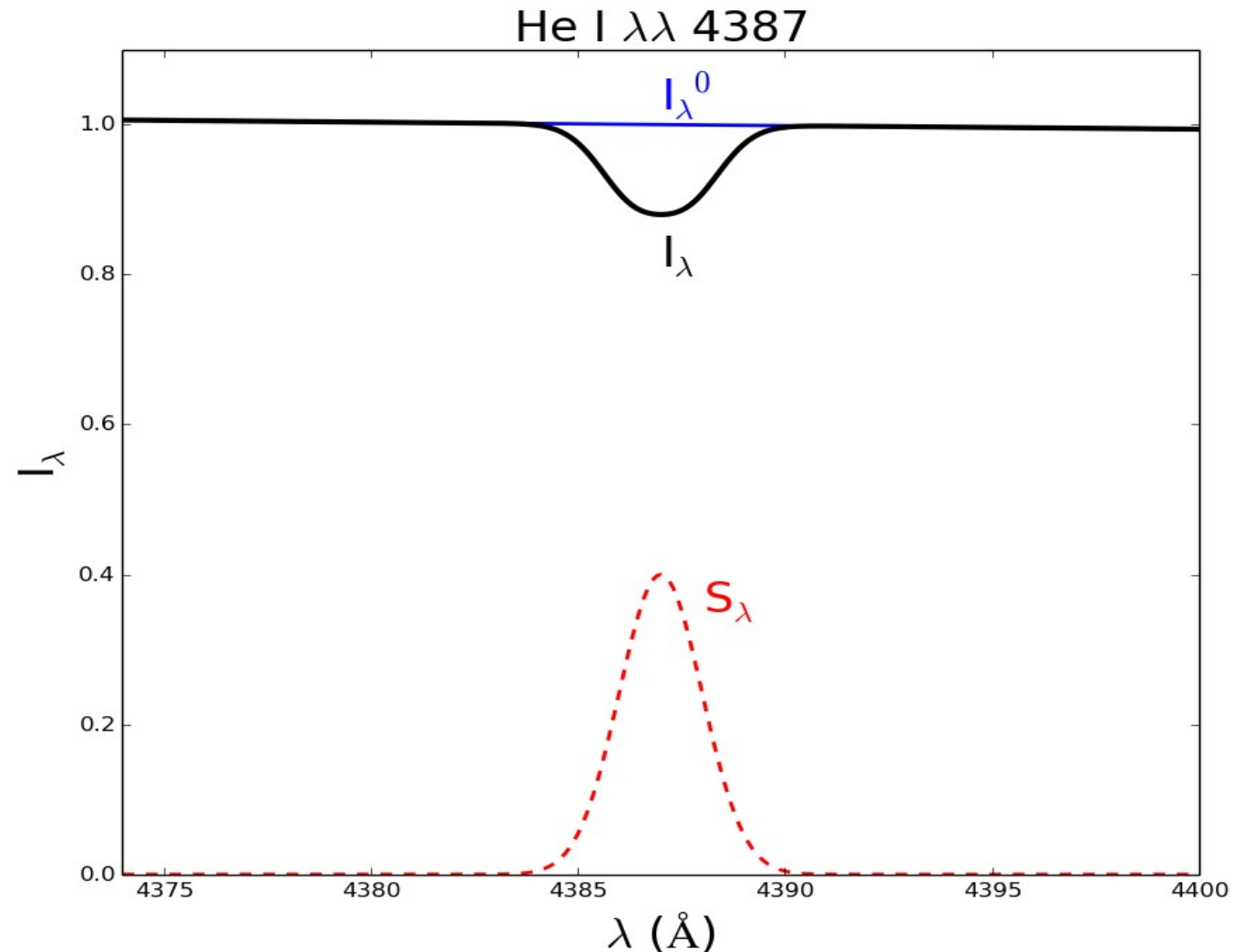
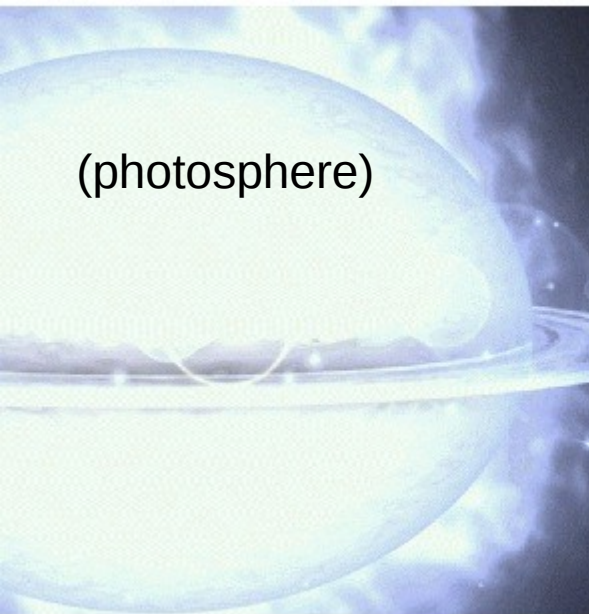
$$I_{\lambda} = I_{\lambda}^0 + [S_{\lambda} - I_{\lambda}^0] \tau_{\lambda}$$

## 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach

$$I_{\lambda} = I_{\lambda}^0 + [S_{\lambda} - I_{\lambda}^0] \tau_{\lambda}$$

**Limit B. The cloud layer is optically thin**

**Case I.  $I_{\lambda}^0 > S_{\lambda}$**



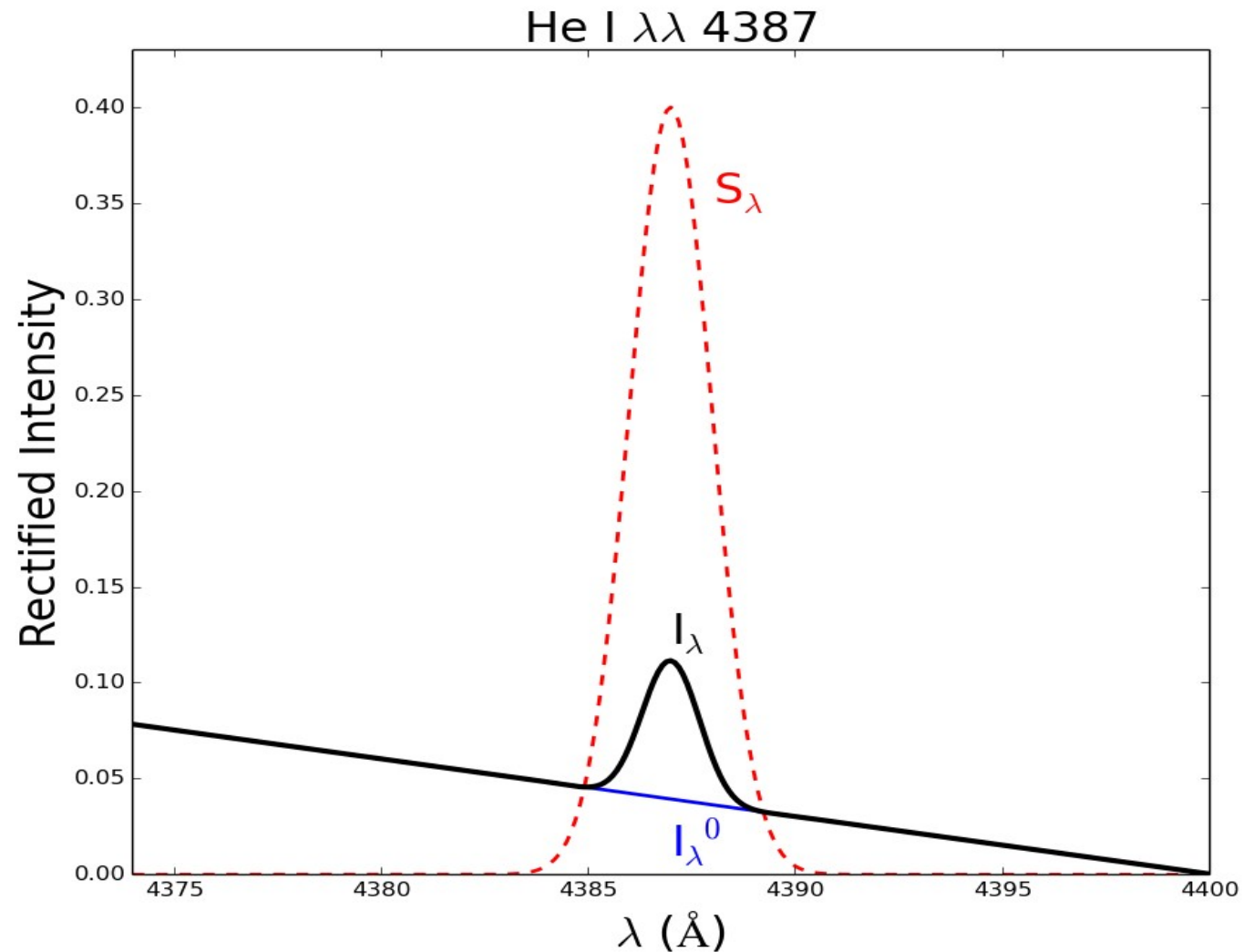
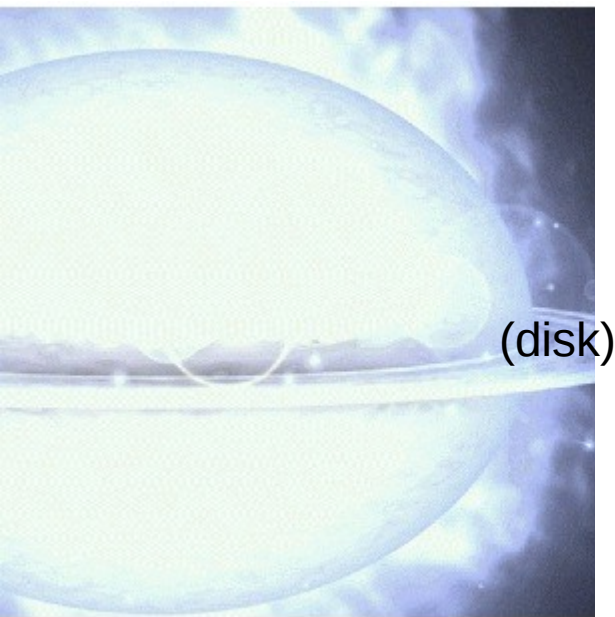


## 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach

$$I_{\lambda} = I_{\lambda}^0 + [S_{\lambda} - I_{\lambda}^0] \tau_{\lambda}$$

Limit B. The cloud layer is optically thin

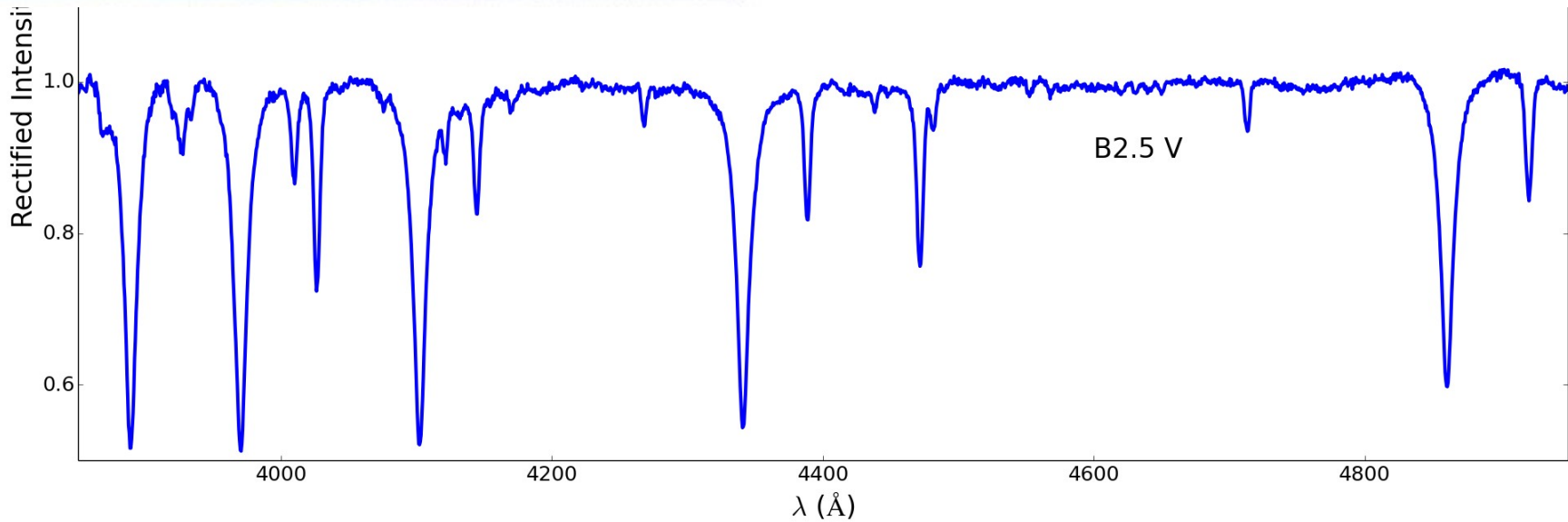
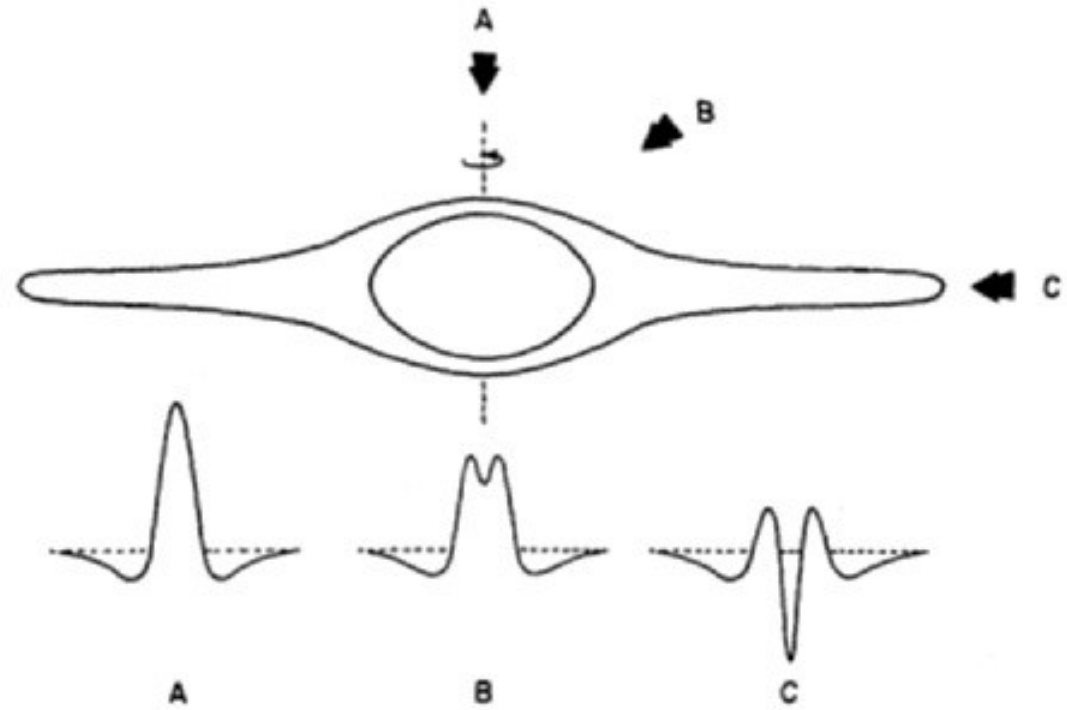
Case II.  $I_{\lambda}^0 < S_{\lambda}$



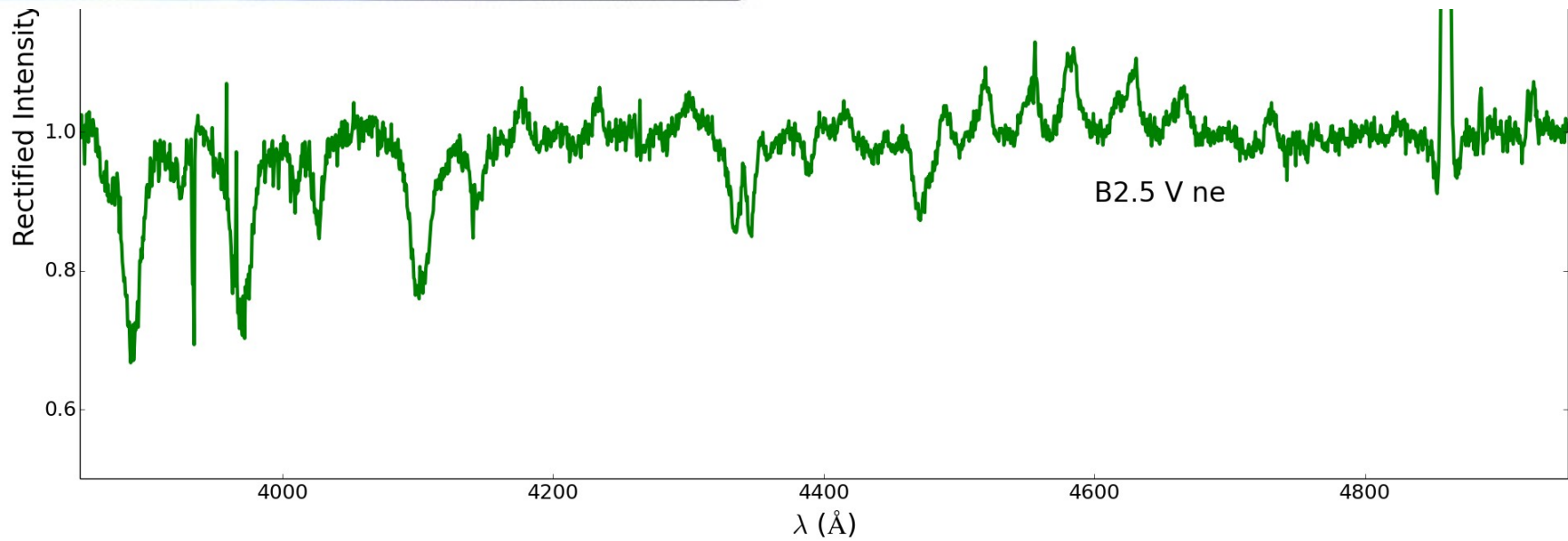
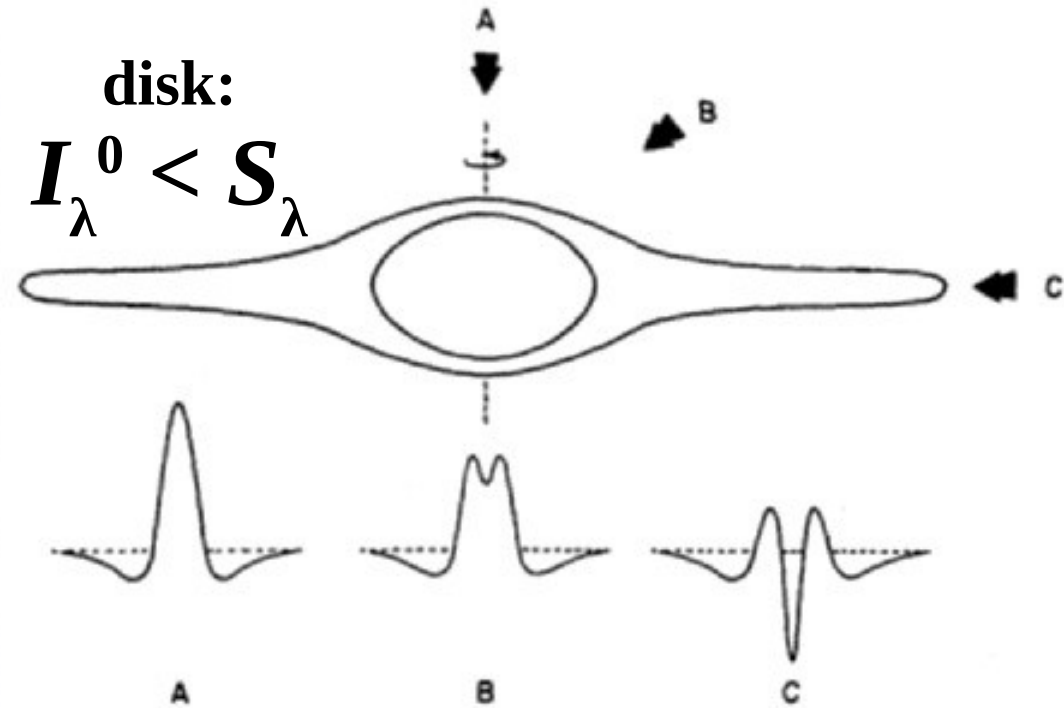
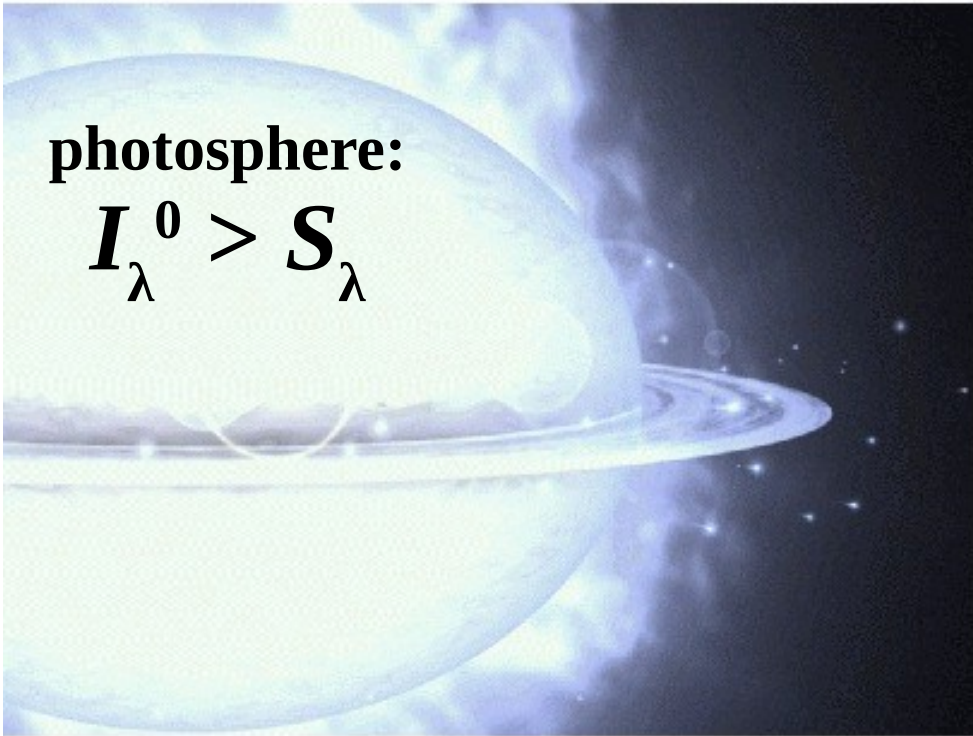
# 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach

photosphere:

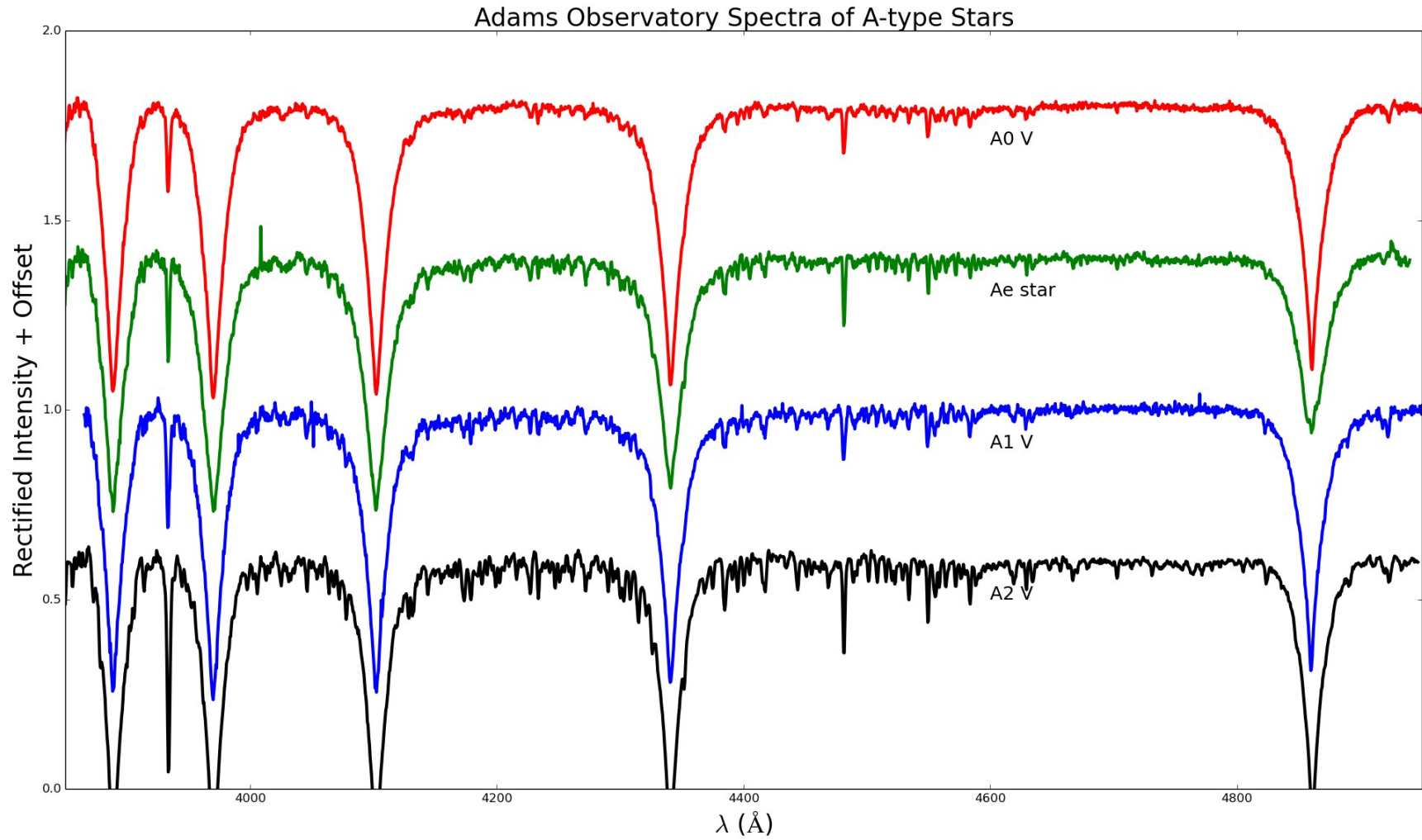
$$I_{\lambda}^0 > S_{\lambda}$$



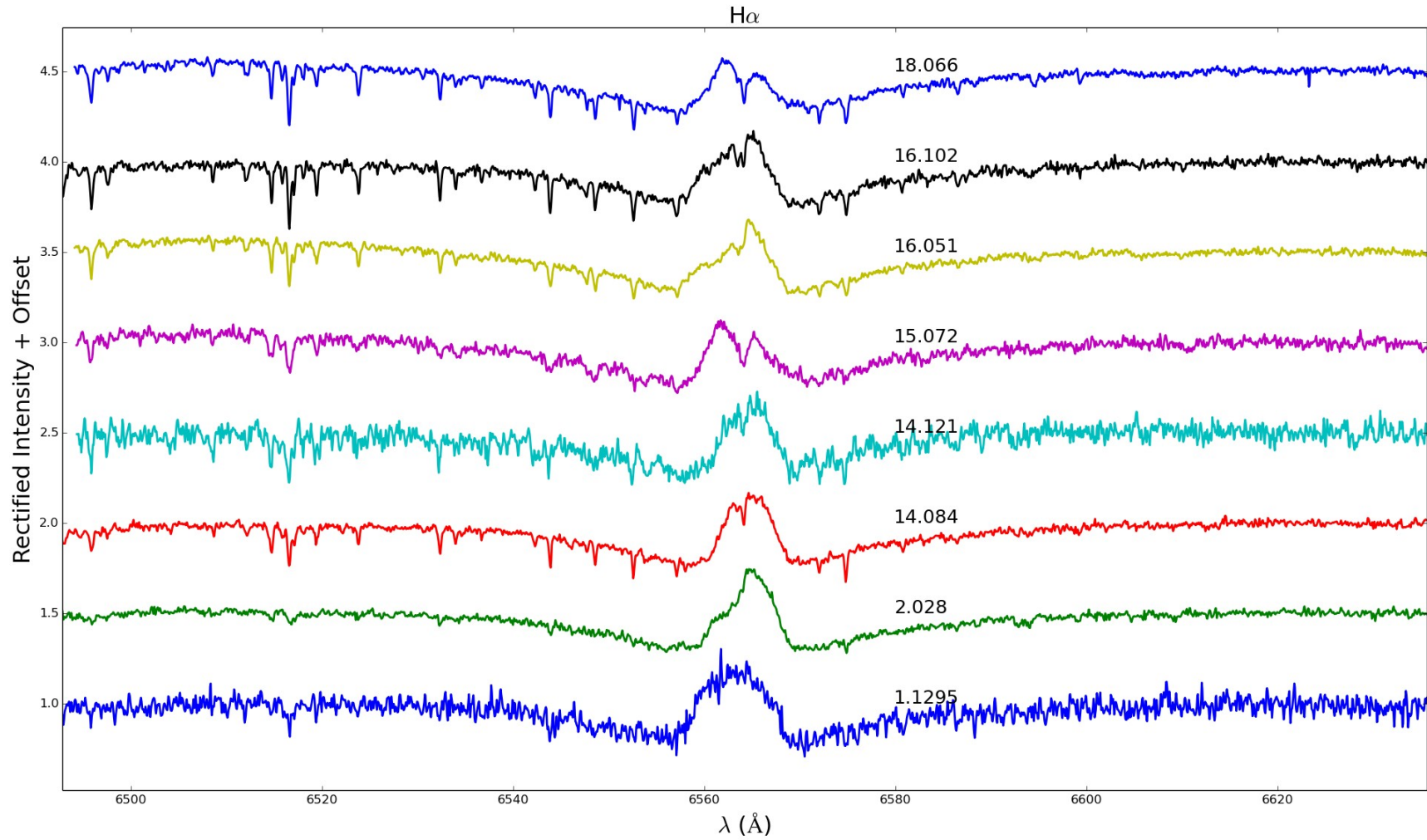
# 4. Emission versus Absorption: A Physical Approach



# 5. Studying Rapid Spectroscopic Variability



# 5. Studying Rapid Spectroscopic Variability



# 5. Studying Rapid Spectroscopic Variability

## HD 63021: An Ae Star with X-Ray Flux

David G. Whelan<sup>1</sup> , Jon Labadie-Bartz<sup>2</sup> , S. Drew Chojnowski<sup>3</sup> , James Dahlen<sup>4</sup>, and Ken Hudson<sup>5</sup>

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## 1. Spectroscopic Variability

Balmer and Fe II (42) multiplet emission were discovered in a spectrum of HD 63021 on 10 April (UTC), 2018. Subsequent observations revealed variability in both photospheric absorption lines and Balmer line emission.

Figure [1\(a\)](#) shows H $\alpha$  observations over the course of 18 nights. The emission morphology changes on a nightly basis; additional spectra not exhibited show that emission changes perceptibly on the scale of hours.

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[3. Discussion and Future Work](#)

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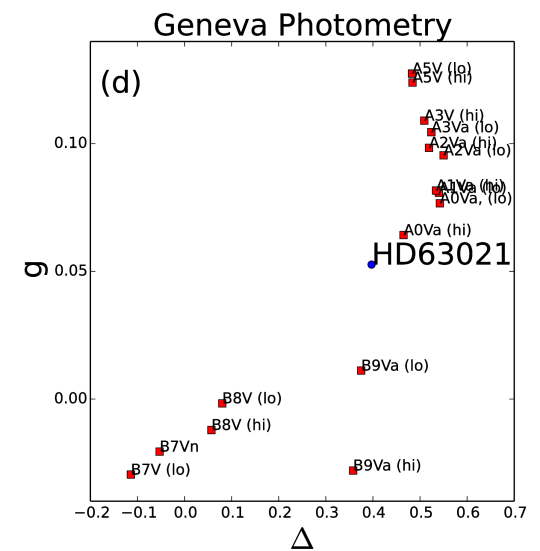
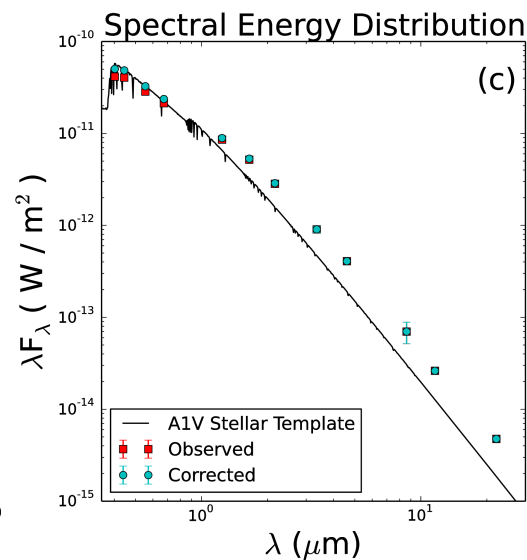
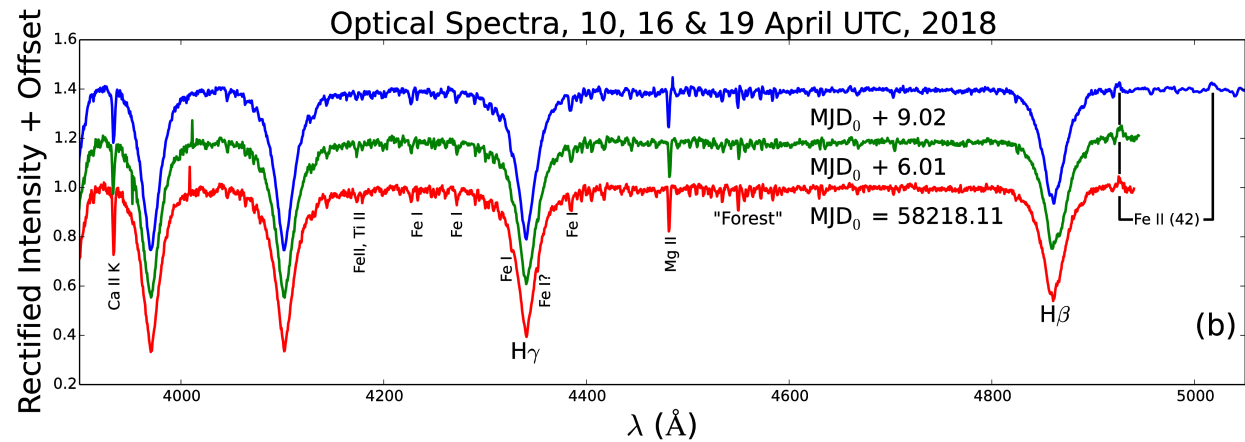
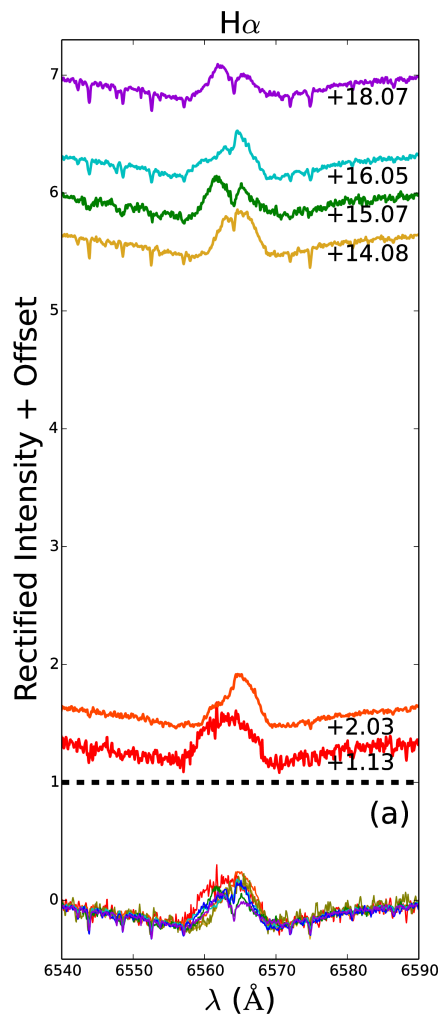
# 5. Studying Rapid Spectroscopic Variability

## RNAAS RESEARCH NOTES OF THE AAS

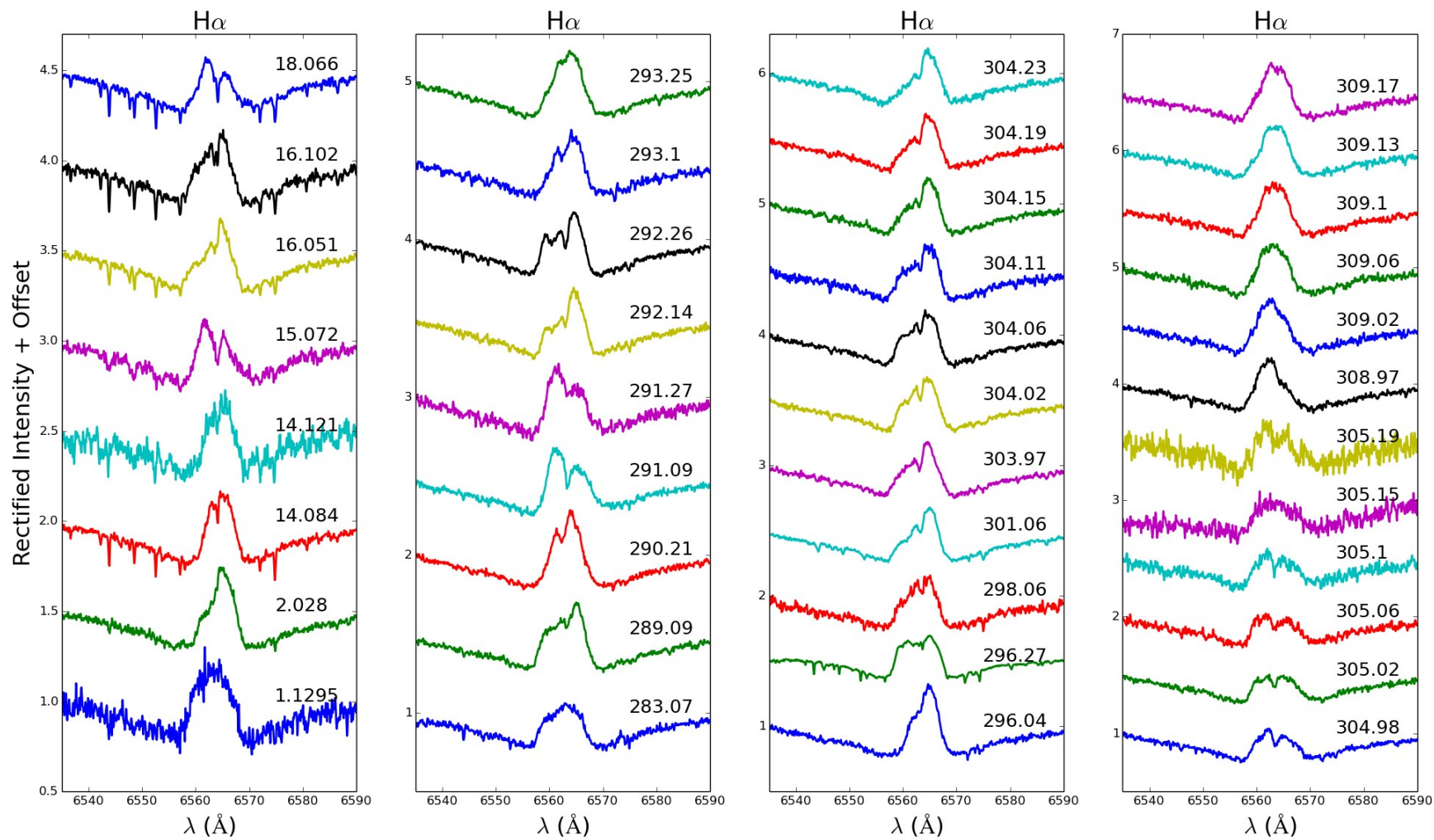
### HD 63021: An Ae Star with X-Ray Flux

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# 5. Studying Rapid Spectroscopic Variability





# In Conclusion

1. Physical Properties of Intermediate- and High-Mass Stars
  - a. Mass, Radius, Temperature
  - b. Photospheric Absorption Lines
2. Observable Properties of B-type and Emission-Line B-type (Be) Stellar Spectra
  - a. Hydrogen Lines
  - b. Helium and Metal Lines
  - c. Emission Signatures

3. Emission *versus* Absorption: A Qualitative Look
  - a. Kirchhoff's Laws

4. Emission *versus* Absorption: A PI
  - a. Radiative Energy Transfer:  $I$
  - b. High Optical Depth Limit
  - c. Formation of Spectral Lines

5. Rapid Spectroscopic Variability
  - a. Answering New Questions...  
...together!

