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The Development of a Zero-Dimensional Collisional-Radiative Model for Interpreting Plasma Emission in Low Temperature Plasmas

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Collisional-radiative models are commonly used to analyse atomic and molecular processes in low temperature plasmas by determining the distribution functions of excited states as functions of various plasma parameters. This paper outlines the improvements to a zero-dimensional collisional-radiative model, developed at Keio University, for purposes relevant to the analysis of emission measurements in low temperature hydrogen plasmas. The extension of this 0D model centres on the inclusion of additional molecular species and reactions, a calculation of emission intensity in order to directly compare with experimental work, and the addition of a simple wall model to allow for a deeper understanding of recycling of atoms and molecules in low temperature plasmas close to plasma facing components in fusion machines. Results from the improved model are then compared with both an existing CR model for benchmarking and experimental emission spectroscopy data from an inductively-coupled plasma device at the University of Liverpool. These results show how the developments to the model have increased the relevance to experimental plasmas, such as those in the power exhaust regions of fusion machines, with the ratio of the H_{β}/H_{α} line intensities outputted from the improved CR model mirroring more closely the emission measured experimentally in the ICP device.

I. INTRODUCTION

Understanding the behaviour of atoms and molecules is key to diagnosing and controlling low temperature partially ionised plasmas. To extract detailed information about the range of atomic and molecular processes in tokamak edge plasmas from diagnostic measurements, collisional-radiative (CR) models are a useful tool and can be used to predict rates of recombination, excitation, ionisation and other processes related to divertor detachment. This paper describes the development of a 0D CR model in order to provide higher functionality, increase the relevance to low temperature fusion plasmas with higher densities of molecules, and allow for an easy comparison with experimental emission measurements.

The main aims of the development of the CR model will be outlined in Section II, with the structure of the model outlined in Section III. Section IV then describes the areas of development and methodology used to expand the model. Results from benchmarking with a range of results from the Yacora 0D CR model [1] and comparisons with experimental data are discussed in Sections V and VI, before conclusions on the key results and validity of the model are outlined.

The low temperature plasmas that exist in the divertors of tokamaks have significant populations of atomic and molecular species, as well as charged particles originating from the core plasma. While atomic and molecular processes have been studied extensively in non-fusion plasma research, there is still a need to understand how these processes influence the behaviour of divertor plasmas to enable a sophisticated approach to

power exhaust control for future fusion machines.

A suite of diagnostic techniques can be utilised to investigate atoms and molecules in low temperature plasmas. One powerful, non-invasive technique, optical emission spectroscopy (OES), allows for a characterisation of the composition of a plasma via atomic and molecular emission. Atomic and molecular interactions are key to the power exhaust region of tokamaks, and these interactions result in the creation of excited species which then relax back to their ground state and emit light. This emitted light can then be collected and by analysing this light, quantitative and qualitative information about the plasma can be extracted.

Zero-dimensional collisional-radiative models are commonly utilised to provide further information about diagnostic measurements in low temperature plasmas. By combining theoretical predictions of the dominant plasma processes with experimental spectroscopy data, a deeper understanding of the plasma parameters can be gained. By correlating the population densities calculated by a collisional-radiative model with emission spectroscopy data, the electron density and temperature can be determined [2]. Therefore CR models can be utilised to provide an insight into the key processes that influence atomic and molecular species in low temperature plasmas.

The CR model developed throughout this research is a simple 0D model and so is unable to take profile effects into account unlike 2D and 3D codes of SOL/divertor plasmas, such as SOLPS [3] and EIRENE [4]. However the lower computational costs of 0D models make them a powerful tool for understanding the basic particle

balance characteristics in low temperature plasmas. From these models, predictions of the key processes that trigger detachment can be used to mitigate the extreme power loads on divertor surfaces. As a result, control of these power loads can be improved to increase confinement within tokamaks, in turn increasing the power output of future fusion reactors. Through this work, an improved, more capable collisional-radiative model was developed and benchmarked with results from an established 0D CR model with the motivation of improving the understanding of edge plasmas in tokamaks. Benchmarking with the 0D Yacora model and comparison with experimental measurements collected in an ICP plasma source show good agreement with the CR model and demonstrate the capability of this model to replicate established trends in atomic emission and therefore extract useful information from low temperature plasmas.

The processes typically included in CR models are spontaneous transitions, electron impact processes (such as excitation, ionisation and three-body recombination), photon induced processes (such as photoexcitation, photoionisation and induced radiative recombination) and processes induced by atoms (such as excitation and charge exchange). The basic structure of a CR model is the formation of a system of coupled differential equations which include all the relevant processes to calculate the densities of excited states and have the form,

$$\frac{dn_p}{dt} = \sum_{q>p} A_{qp}n_q - \sum_{q<p} A_{pq}n_p + n_e \left(\sum_{q \neq p} X_{qp}n_q - \sum_{q \neq p} X_{pq}n_p + (\alpha + \beta n_e)n_+ - S_p n_p \right) \quad (1)$$

where n_e is the electron density, A_{qp} and A_{pq} are the transition probabilities for spontaneous emission from the states q to p and p to q respectively, X_{qp} and X_{pq} are the rate coefficients for excitation or de-excitation by electron collisions from the states q to p and p to q , α and β are the rate coefficients for radiative recombination and three-body recombination of a positive ion, and n_+ is the density of that positive ion. S_p is the ionisation rate coefficient of the state p . CR models commonly assume a Maxwellian distribution for electrons, and so use rate coefficients which depend solely on temperature.

II. RESEARCH AIMS

The main objective of this research was the extension of a 0D CR model to include species and reactions relevant to low temperature hydrogen plasmas found in tokamak divertors. The original CR model source code, centred on the analysis of Tsubotani et al [5], was studied to understand the structure of the model and the range of species and reactions previously added. From

this, a useful CR model was developed by extending the existing model to enable a more realistic representation of the key processes relevant to divertor plasmas in order to interpret diagnostic measurements whilst retaining the simplicity of the original model. Three specific areas of expansion were formulated in order to develop the model and enable a comparison of the outputted results to experimental emission data.

The three areas of development were:

- To include additional molecular species and reactions
- To include a wall recycling model
- To calculate atomic emission from the outputted population densities

These aims will be detailed further in Section IV, alongside the results of the upgraded model.

III. MODEL STRUCTURE

The CR model was first created in order to study the effect of ELMs on plasma species in the Gamma-10 linear plasma device [5]. The model is written using the Fortran programming language with the aim of studying the dynamic behaviour of divertor detachment and the impacts of Molecular-Assisted Recombination on the evolution of detachment. Values of initial electron temperature, T_e , and electron density n_e are inputted, along with particle confinement times and gas temperatures. The outputs of the code are the densities of the hydrogen atom, H_2 , H_2^- and H_2^+ molecules. Through the developments outlined in this paper, H_3 and H_3^+ molecular densities and the intensities and wavelengths of the atomic Balmer lines are also outputted.

A flowchart outlining the structure of the code can be seen in Figure 1.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLLISIONAL-RADIATIVE MODEL

As outlined in Section II, the main objective of this research was to extend the 0D CR model for a comparison with experimental emission measurements. This centred on three main areas of development to adapt the model to allow for a comparison with low temperature plasmas.

A. The inclusion of molecular species

The first area of development was the inclusion of additional molecular reactions relevant to low temperature plasmas and the addition of H_3 and H_3^+

TABLE I: Reactions for hydrogen atoms and molecules previously added to the 0D collisional-radiative model. Rate coefficients taken from [7].

| No. | Reaction Name | Reaction | Rate Coefficient |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| | Vibrational excitation/de-excitation | $e + H_2(X^1\Sigma_g^+; \nu) \rightarrow H_2^- \rightarrow e + H_2(X^1\Sigma_g^+; \nu')$ $e + H_2(X^1\Sigma_g^+; \nu) \rightarrow e + H_2(B^1\Sigma_u^+, C^1\Pi_u) \rightarrow e + H_2(X^1\Sigma_g^+; \nu')$ | $R_{eV}(\nu \rightarrow \nu')$ $R_{EV}(\nu \rightarrow \nu')$ |
| 2 | Ion conversion | $H_2(\nu) + H^+ \rightarrow H_2^+ + H(1s)$ | $R_{IC}(\nu)$ |
| 3 | Dissociative attachment | $H_2(\nu) + e \rightarrow H^- + H(1s)$ | $R_{DA}(\nu)$ |
| 4 | Dissociative recombination | $H_2^+ + e \rightarrow H(1s) + H(n)$ | R_{DR} |
| 5 | Mutual neutralisation | $H^- + H^+ \rightarrow H(n=2,3) + H(1s)$ | R_{MN} |
| 6 | H_2 dissociation | $H_2(\nu) + e \rightarrow H_2(b^3\Sigma_u^+) + e \rightarrow e + H(1s) + H(1s)$ | $R_{FC}(\nu)$ |
| 7 | Electron detachment/ H^- loss | $H^- + e \rightarrow H(1s) + e + e$ | R_{ED} |
| 8 | H_2^+ dissociation | $H_2^+ + e \rightarrow H^+ + H(1s) + e$ | R_{DE} |
| 9 | H_2 ionisation | $H_2(\nu) + e \rightarrow H_2^+ + 2e$ | $R_{MI}(\nu)$ |
| 10 | Dissociative ionisation | $H_2(\nu) + e \rightarrow H_2^+(B^2\Sigma_u^+) + 2e \rightarrow H^+ + H(1s) + 2e$ $H_2(\nu) + e \rightarrow H_2^+(X^2\Sigma_g^+) + 2e \rightarrow H^+ + H(1s) + 2e$ | $R_{DI}(\nu)$ |
| 11 | H excitation | $H(p) + e \rightarrow H(q) + e \quad (p < q)$ | $C(p, q)$ |
| 12 | H de-excitation | $H(p) + e \rightarrow H(q) + e \quad (p > q)$ | $F(p, q)$ |
| 13 | H ionisation | $H(p) + e \rightarrow H^+ + 2e$ | $S(p)$ |
| 14 | Three-body recombination | $H^+ + e + e \rightarrow H(p) + e$ | $R_{TBR}(p)$ |
| 15 | Radiative recombination | $H^+ + e \rightarrow H(p) + h\nu$ | $R_{RR}(p)$ |
| 16 | Spontaneous emission | $H(q) \rightarrow H(p) + h\nu$ | $A(p, q)$ |

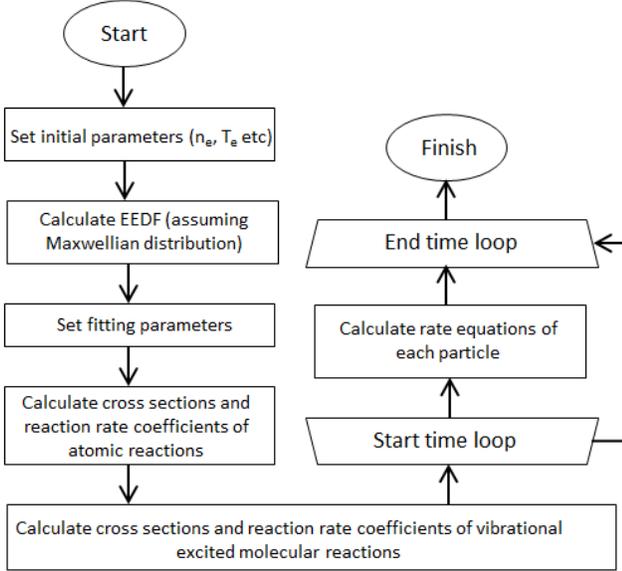


FIG. 1: Flowchart highlighting the structure of the model in order to calculate the rate equations for each species.

species to the model. The addition of these molecules was important since H_3 is known to play an important role in ionising and recombining plasmas in tokamak divertors [6].

The CR model originally included sixteen atomic

and molecular reactions, including excitation, ionisation, dissociative attachment, mutual neutralisation, among others which can be seen in Table I. Through this research, an additional nine molecular reactions were added to the model alongside the inclusion of reactions with H_3 molecules and H_3^+ ions.

The nine reactions added to the model can be seen in Table II. Reaction rates and cross-sections for all additional reactions were calculated using the Hydhel database [7] and the density of both the H_3 and H_3^+ ions were then also outputted. The inclusion of a number of molecular reactions for different species in the model was completed to allow for a more thorough comparison with the experimental spectroscopy study at the University of Liverpool in which molecular species are a focus. As molecular reactions are particularly important in detached divertor regimes [8], the inclusion of molecules in the model increases the applicability of the model to future studies of divertor plasmas.

The evolution of the density over time of the additional species can then be plotted alongside the reactions previously included in the model, shown in Figure 2. The time is set to ensure convergence of the model and the model takes approximately 3 hours to run with 10000 time steps. Initial electron temperature and density was set to 3 eV and 10^{16} m^{-3} respectively. For more information about the structure of the model, the reader is directed to [5].

TABLE II: Reactions for hydrogen atoms and molecules that were added to the 0D collisional-radiative model through the development of the code. Rate coefficients taken from [7].

| No. | Reaction Name | Reaction | Rate Coefficient |
|-----|---|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Dissociative excitation (H_2) | $H_2(\nu) + e \rightarrow H(1s) + H(2s) + e$ | $R_{H_2DE}(\nu)$ |
| 2 | Direct impact dissociation | $H_3^+ + e \rightarrow 3H(n=1)$ | R_{H_3pDID} |
| 3 | Dissociative excitation (H_3) | $H_3^+ + e \rightarrow 2H(n=1) + H^+ + e$ | R_{H_3pDE} |
| 4 | Dissociative proton transfer | $H_3^+ + H_2(\nu) \rightarrow 2H_2(\nu) + H^+$ | $R_{H_3pDPT}(\nu)$ |
| 5 | Mutual neutralisation | $H^- + H_3^+ \rightarrow H + H_3$ | R_{H_3pMN} |
| | Dissociative mutual neutralisation | $H^- + H_3^+ \rightarrow H_2(\nu) + H + H$ | $R_{H_3pDMN}(\nu)$ |
| 7 | H_3^+ formation | $H_2^+ + H_2(\nu) \rightarrow H_3^+ + H$ | $R_{H_3pF}(\nu)$ |
| 8 | Proton transfer | $H_3^+(\nu_3) + H_2(\nu_0) \rightarrow H_2(\nu'_0) + H_3^+(\nu'_3)$ | $R_{H_3pH_2PT}(\nu)$ |
| 9 | Dissociative electron capture & Fast H_2 production | $H_3^+ + H_2(\nu) \rightarrow \underline{H} + \underline{H_2}(\nu) + H_2^+$ | $R_{H_3FH_2P}(\nu)$ |

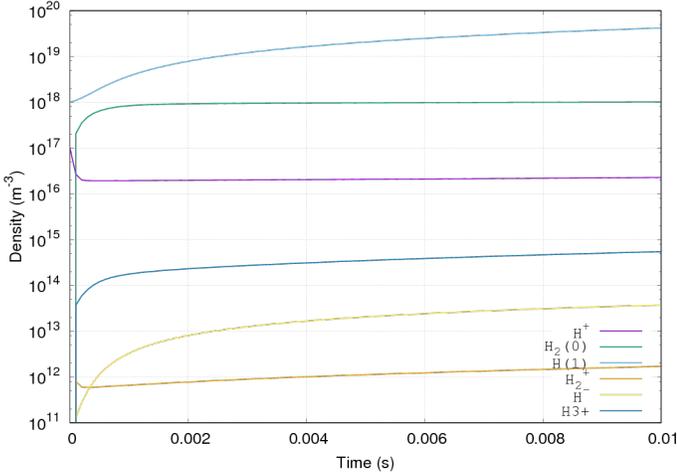


FIG. 2: Densities of all the species included in the model over time until steady-state convergence. Initial electron temperature and density was set to 3 eV and 10^{16}m^{-3} respectively.

B. Wall recycling coefficient

Initially the sole source of neutrals in the 0D model originated from a background neutral density corresponding to divertor gas puffing. A simple plasma wall recycling model was added to the CR model to implement a recycling yield as a source of neutrals and provide information about key plasma-wall interaction processes. A reflection coefficient was defined and calculated for H atoms and H_2 molecules in the ground state. No time dependence was required for the recycling coefficient since tokamak divertor plates are assumed to be saturated. This recycling flux term was added to the rate equations to include the effect of wall recycling on

the population densities.

The loss of particles is necessary to prevent particle densities from increasing indefinitely, therefore a pumping effect was incorporated into the recycling coefficient to provide a sink of particles. The structure of the wall material and the wall temperature will influence the vibrational molecular state of the recycled particle and this effect of the wall properties on the reflection coefficient should be investigated in future work.

The particle reflection coefficient, R_N , is calculated using the following equation formulated in [9],

$$R_N = \left[(1 + 3.2116\epsilon_L^{0.34334})^{1.5} + (1.3288\epsilon_L^{1.5})^{1.5} \right]^{-\frac{1}{1.5}} \quad (2)$$

where ϵ_L is equal to

$$\epsilon_L = 32.55 \frac{m_2}{m_1 + m_2} + \frac{1}{z_1 z_2 \left(z_1^{2/3} + z_2^{2/3} \right)^{1/2}} E_H \quad (3)$$

and E_H is the incident energy.

Using this reflection coefficient, the recycling rates Γ_{H_0} , for hydrogen atoms, and Γ_{H_2} , for H_2 molecules in the ground state were formulated as

$$\Gamma_{H_0} = R_N \left(\frac{n_i}{\tau_i} + \frac{n_H}{\tau_H} \right) \quad (4)$$

$$\Gamma_{H_2} = \frac{(1 - R_N)}{2} \left(\frac{n_i}{\tau_i} + \frac{n_H}{\tau_H} \right) \quad (5)$$

These rates were then included in the CR model to provide a source of reflected particles. Further research into the impact of wall materials and conditions, such as purity, roughness, defects, wall temperature and degree of excitation angle of incidence with respect to the surface

normal on the reflection coefficient should be completed in order to improve the accuracy of these recycling rate equations. However this simple wall recycling model captures the basic processes in order to improve the relevance of the model to low temperature plasmas in front of divertor surfaces.

C. Emission intensity calculation

Another key focus for the development of this model was the inclusion of a calculation of the atomic line emission for the hydrogen Balmer series. This allows for a comparison between theoretical line intensities calculated by the model with experimental emission data. Through this comparison, further information about the key atomic and molecular processes at specific densities and temperatures can be identified.

To calculate the intensity of the emission, Einstein coefficients for specific transitions and absolute densities should be known. Einstein coefficients, the transition rates per unit time for emission, are used to describe the emission of photons via electronic transitions in atoms. The Einstein A coefficients, (A_{21}), describe spontaneous emission for hydrogen transitions to the $n = 2$ state (the Balmer series) and a density and population solution was incorporated into the model to output the values for the emission intensity using the following formula [10],

$$\epsilon_{pk} = A_{pk}n_H(p) \quad (6)$$

for every H_0 state, where ϵ_{pk} is the line emission intensity for atomic hydrogen from level p to level k , A_{pk} is the Einstein A coefficient transition probability from level p to level k and $n_H(p)$ is the population density of atomic hydrogen in the electronically excited state, p .

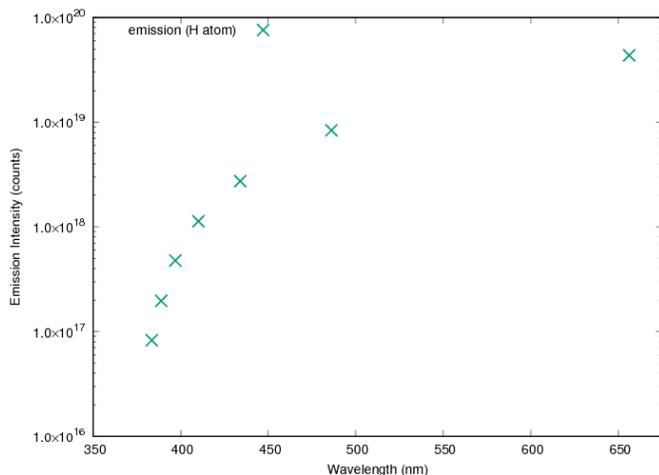


FIG. 3: Emission intensity against wavelength plot for the first 7 lines in the hydrogen Balmer series outputted by the CR model. Intensity plotted on a log scale.

Figure 3 shows an example of an emission intensity vs wavelength plot outputted by the CR model. The intensity is plotted on a log-scale so that the intensities of the higher- n Balmer lines can be seen clearly. The CR model outputs the intensity of the first 33 lines in the Balmer series but the higher n lines are omitted in this plot for simplicity. Initial electron temperature and density was set to 3 eV and 10^{16}m^{-3} respectively.

The inclusion of the emission intensity calculation in the CR model allows for a direct comparison with optical emission data collected in the University of Liverpool ICP discharge source. A comparison of the outputted emission line ratios and those observed in experimental measurements will be detailed in Section VI.

V. BENCHMARKING WITH THE YACORA CR MODEL

In order to verify the trends in emission outputted by the improved CR model, benchmarking with the Yacora model was completed.

The Yacora model is a 0D rate balance model accessible publicly online through the webpage ‘‘Yacora on the Web’’ [1] and has had considerable validation in low pressure gas discharges. Yacora is a flexible, user friendly model which includes the following species, H_2 , H , e^- , H^+ , H_2^+ and H_3^+ . However the model is not state resolved and so the vibrational states of H_2 are not included. The processes included in the Yacora model are electron impact ionisation, dissociation and dissociative recombination, volume recombination and heavy particle collisions, with the input data for the reaction cross-sections taken from the Amjuel and Hydhel databases [4]. The loss of particles as a result of diffusion to the wall is included as in [11], with the probability of recombination at the chamber wall determined by a wall recombination coefficient.

The atomic hydrogen branch of the Yacora model includes twelve reactions for H , H^+ , H^- , H_2 , H_2^+ and H_3^+ . H_3 molecules and the vibrational states of H_2 included in the CR model outlined in this paper are not included in Yacora. Although the Balmer series intensities can be calculated from the population densities outputted by Yacora through Equation 6, this is not currently a feature of the Yacora model. The CR model developed at Keio University benefits from an increased number of species and reactions, to more accurately model the low temperature plasma constituents, and a prediction of emission intensity to allow for an easy comparison with experimental measurements. The aim of this research is to increase the applicability for use in the divertor region of tokamaks, with specific physics, species and reactions added that are relevant to plasma processes in this area.

To benchmark the 0D CR model with the Yacora ‘on the web’ model, identical parameters were used as inputs to both models and the resulting emission intensities were

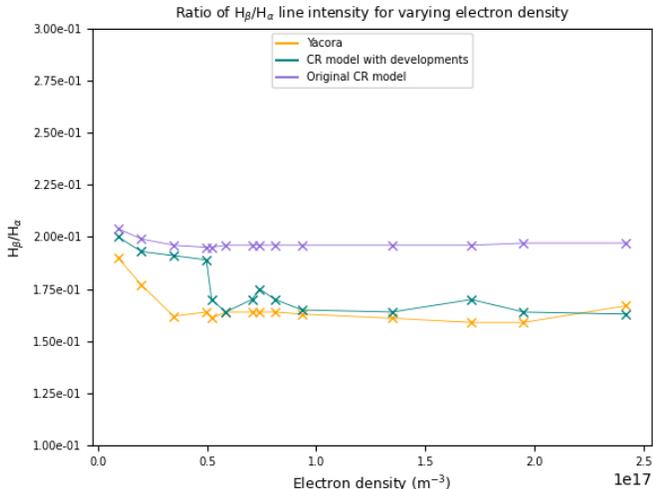


FIG. 4: Benchmarking of the ratio of the H_β to H_α intensities for varying electron density outputted by the improved CR 0D model, the original CR model and the Yacora 0D model.

then compared. The CR model calculates the absolute intensities for the Balmer line series using the outputted population densities, however the Yacora model does not. To compare the corresponding absolute intensity from the Yacora model and the CR model outlined in this paper, the H_α and H_β lines outputted by the CR model were compared with the emission intensity calculated as outlined above for the corresponding population densities outputted by Yacora. Additionally, these results were also compared with intensities calculated using the population densities from the original model before the developments outlined in this paper in order to see the effect of these areas of improvement on the emission intensities. The ratios of these Balmer lines were then compared for varying input electron density and can be seen in Figure 4.

Figure 4 shows good agreement between the outputted line intensities for the improved CR model and Yacora model. The trends in the H_β/H_α ratio for varying density are roughly constant for both the CR model and Yacora data. The outputted line ratios from the improved CR model agree with the Yacora line ratios within 10% above $5 \times 10^{16} \text{ m}^{-3}$ and so demonstrates the ability of the improved CR model to predict established trends from published work in the field. Comparing the original CR model with the CR model after development, the improved CR model mimics the trends outputted by Yacora more closely. These results imply that the developments outlined above have improved the capability of the model to replicate expected trends in emission data from preexisting collisional-radiative models.

VI. COMPARISON WITH EXPERIMENTAL DATA

After benchmarking with the Yacora model, the CR model was then compared with experimental measurements collected in the University of Liverpool ICP discharge plasma. The optical emission data was collected at 10Pa and 100W using a 13.56 MHz RF power source. For more information on these experiments and the experimental set up, the reader is referred to [12].

The ratio of the H_β and H_α emission lines from experimental measurements and both the original and improved CR model were compared to enable a validation of the model with experimental measurements. Figure 5 shows these ratios from both the CR model and from experimental results for varying values of electron density.

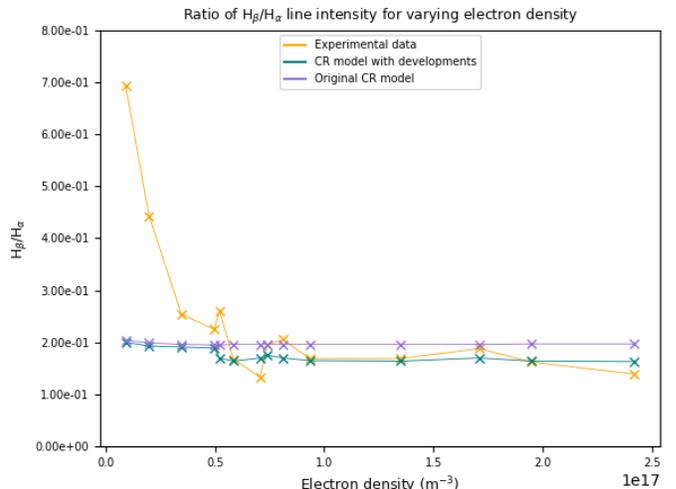


FIG. 5: Comparison of the ratio of the experimental H_β to H_α intensities for varying electron density with both the outputted CR model ratio before and after development.

At higher electron densities above $1 \times 10^{17} \text{ m}^{-3}$, the experimental ratio and the ratio given by the improved CR model agree within 15%. Conversely, the original model gives higher ratios than seen in the experimental data which implies that the improvements to the model have enabled a more accurate prediction of population densities than the original model, making it more useful for extracting information on key processes in low temperature fusion plasmas.

Below $5 \times 10^{16} \text{ m}^{-3}$ the CR model fails to predict the experimental emission intensities, even with the improvements outlined in this paper. It can be concluded that the model predicts the intensity of the Balmer emission accurately at higher electron densities, but is not valid for lower electron densities. At low electron densities, the dominant power coupling mode in the ICP discharge plasma will be capacitive. The high plasma potential sheaths and non-Maxwellian distributions in

capactively coupled plasmas do not agree with the assumptions in the CR model and so the model will not be able to accurately predict the experimental trends at low n_e conditions in the ICP chamber.

VII. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

For a deeper understanding of the mechanisms that influence divertor detachment, improved predictive models to quantify the plasma-wall interactions are desirable. Modelling of molecular emission and a comparison with experimental Fulcher band data collected would allow for an improved understanding of the key processes in tokamak divertors. The understanding gained through this work would enable the use of the Fulcher band to reliably estimate molecular density to be quantified.

Combining the 0D collisional-radiative model with a 2D plasma edge code would offer the possibility to study the atomic and molecular processes that influence detachment across the whole divertor and highlight specific regions of recombination and ionisation. The model could also be expanded further to increase its capabilities. One area for expansion of the model would be the inclusion of more molecular processes, including those for H_3^- and D , species relevant to fusion plasmas, to give a clearer picture of the key processes in the divertor region in tokamaks.

Through the use of a recycling coefficient added to the CR model, the recycling of H atoms and ground state H_2 molecules were added, however the vibrational states of H_2 are not currently included in the recycling model. The next step in expanding this wall model would be to incorporate the recycling of H_2 vibrational states and study how recycling of particles is impacted by the surface texture and temperature of the wall.

The main motivation for including emission prediction in this model was to allow for a comparison between the CR model and experimental emission data. By including an output of emission, an analysis of how the emission depends on plasma parameters can be completed. Throughout this project, an output of the Balmer series line emission was included. However, since molecular processes influence the power exhaust in tokamaks, future research should aim to include emission from molecules in the model. This will require more research into the Einstein coefficients for molecular transitions and an appropriate formula for predicting the emission in this case.

VIII. SUMMARY

In this research, the development of a 0D CR model for use in extracting information on the key atomic and molecular processes in low temperature plasmas was

described.

Nine additional molecular processes were added to the model including H_3 and H_3^+ species. The inclusion of these molecular species enables a wider understanding of the processes in low temperature plasmas to be gained.

A wall recycling model was formulated to allow for the effects of plasma-wall interactions and the recycling of molecules to be studied. Through this recycling model the recycling of H atoms and ground state H_2 molecules were included, however the vibrational states of H_2 are not yet added to the recycling model. The next step in expanding this wall model would be to incorporate the recycling of H_2 vibrational states and to investigate how this recycling coefficient is influenced by the surface texture and temperature of the wall. The TRIM database could then be utilised to adjust the recycling coefficient to include vibrational states of molecules.

The final aim of this research was to include a calculation of the atomic line emission from the outputted population densities. It was then possible to plot the Balmer series line intensities against wavelength for various input parameters. These intensities outputted from the model can then be used in plasma parameter analysis by comparing results from the model for known input parameters with emission spectra measured experimentally.

Benchmarking with the 0D Yacora model shows good agreement for the ratio of the H_β/H_α emission lines calculated from population densities outputted by both models. Comparison of the improved CR model with measurements from the Liverpool ICP source also showed that the emission predicted by the model agreed with the experimental results for conditions where the model assumptions are reasonably satisfied. From these results, it is clear that the improved CR model can be utilised effectively to provide information on the key processes in low temperature plasmas.

From the development of this collisional-radiative model, a more detailed picture can be created about the key atomic and molecular processes in low temperature plasmas. The research presented here shows the value of 0D collisional-radiative models in understanding plasma behaviour. While a complete understanding of divertor detachment requires a more sophisticated approach, of the type employed in the SOLPS and EIRENE fusion codes, a 0D model can help identify the key processes that must go into those models. To further improve this type of 0D CR model, it is necessary to include a larger number of molecular processes, so that molecular emission can also be modelled accurately.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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