Radiative Processes

Defining the radiation field (specific intensity, moments, fluxes) Equation of radiative transfer; emission, absorption, & the source function Formal solution for the radiation field; analytic solutions in optically thin & thick cases Mean opacities: qualitative survey of opacity sources vs. wavelength & temperature Local thermodynamic equilibrium; gray atmosphere; limb darkening Beyond the gray atmosphere: non-LTE scattering; non-plane-parallel geometries Basics of spectral line formation & broadening; absorption vs. emission spectra Spectral line equivalent widths & the curve of growth; going beyond the two-level atom Ionization & recombination processes; Saha vs. nebular vs. coronal limits Application: planetary atmospheres: radiative equilibrium & greenhouse effect Application: irradiated bodies with chemistry: comet sublimation & the snow line Application: H II regions and Strömgren spheres