

RADIATION-ACCELERATED IONS IN HOT STAR WINDS: HEATING AND “TURBULENCE” EFFECTS

E.YA. VILKOVISKIJ

*V.G. Fessenkov Astrophysical Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, 480068
Almaty, Observatory AFI, Kazakhstan*

In the papers by Vilkoviskij (1981), Vilkoviskij and Tambovtzeva (1988) and Springmann and Pauldrach (1992) it was shown that ions can reach velocities $v_i \geq \bar{v}_{Tp}$ ($\bar{v}_{Tp} = (2kT/m_p)^{1/2}$) relative to the wind plasma when the radiation pressure force exceeds the protons frictional force. The condition for this transition can be estimated as

$$v_7 \geq 0.7 \dot{M}_6 z_i^2 / (R_1^2 T_4 \phi(\lambda_i T_*)) \quad , \quad (1)$$

where v_7 is the wind velocity in units of 10^7 cm/s, $\dot{M}_6 = dM/dt$ the stellar mass-loss rate in units of $10^{-6} M_\odot/\text{yr}$, z_i the ion charge, $R_1 = R_*/(10R_\odot)$, $\phi(\lambda_i T_*) = f_i \lambda_5^{-3} / e^{14.4/(\lambda_5 T_4) - 1}$, $\lambda_5 = \lambda_i / 10^3 \text{\AA}$ and $T_4 = T_e / 10^4 \text{K}$. The ion distribution function consists of two parts: the part DF_1 approximates the “shifted Maxwell” distribution, and the non-Maxwellian part DF_2 is for “runaway” particles:

$$DF(v_i) = (1 - q_2)DF_{1i} + q_2DF_{2i} \quad , \quad (2)$$

where $q_2 > 0$ when condition (1) is fulfilled. The specific heat power, divided by N_p^2 is

$$H = N_i / N_p^2 \int_0^\infty v_i DF(v_i) F_{ip} dv_i \quad , \quad (3)$$

where N_i and N_p are the ion and proton densities and F_{ip} is the frictional force. If the “runaway condition” (1) is not fulfilled, the mean velocity of ions relative to the wind plasma \bar{v}_i is less than \bar{v}_{Tp} , but it rises to about the electron thermal velocity $\bar{v}_{ep} \sim 43\bar{v}_{Tp}$ in the opposite case.

So we can estimate

$$H = H^m (\bar{v}_i / v_{Tp} (1 - q_2) + 43q_2) \quad , \quad (4)$$

where $H^m \cong \pi e^4 z_i^2 N_i (N_p k T_p)^{-1} \ln \Lambda v_{Tp} = (N_i)$

which is $\sim 2 \cdot 10^{-22} z_i^2 T_p^{-1/2} (n_i / 10^{-4}) \text{erg cm}^3/\text{s}$, where $n_i = N_i / N_p$.

Model calculations show that for the O- and early B-type stars this “kinetic heat” is sufficient for heating of the wind to a temperature $T_e \sim 10^5$ K at $R \geq 2R_*$ and to $T_e \geq 10^6$ K at $R \geq 100R_*$, and the ion’s velocity distribution can manifest itself as “turbulence” in spectral lines.

So the physical picture including kinetic heat resembles the empirical “warm wind” model, and moreover, it predicts an outer hot corona at $R \geq R_k \sim 100R_*$. The X-ray luminosity of the corona is $L_x = 4\pi \int_{R_k}^{\infty} \epsilon_X R^2 dR$. With $\dot{M} = 4\pi\rho v r^2$, $\epsilon_X \cong 2 \cdot 10^{-27} N_e^2 T_e^{1/2}$ erg/cm³s, we have

$$L_x \cong 5 \cdot 10^{32} T_{e7}^{1/2} \dot{M}_6^2 / (R_1 v_8^2 (r_k/100)) \text{ erg/s} , \quad (5)$$

where R_1 is the stellar radius in units of $10 R_{\odot}$, $r_k = R_k/R_*$, $T_{e7} = T_e/10^7$ K and v_8 is the wind velocity in units of 10^3 km/s at R_k .

We can predict the wide dispersion of X-ray luminosities as due to the dispersion in stellar parameters, and the X-ray variability (with a characteristic time scale of several hours to days) as due to stellar wind variability.

References

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