The application of Monte Carlo codes to radiative transfer problems in astrophysics has a strong history. Numerous codes that utilise this stochastic methodology have been written in the past few decades in order to model the transport of photon packets through various media. The energy to be transported throughout the region of interest is discretised into packets and the path of each packet is calculated according to the properties of the environments that it passes through during its lifetime. Collating the escaped packets at the end of the simulation produces an energy distribution.

There exist several Monte Carlo radiative transfer codes that use this technique in order to model the transfer of line emission through a nebula to produce a synthetic spectrum. There also exist a number of codes that treat the continuous emission and absorption of energy in dusty environments in order to produce and fit a spectral energy distribution (SED). Models of supernovae have been produced using both approaches and well-fitting spectra and SEDs have been generated but never, according to the best of my knowledge, has the mechanism been employed to produce sophisticated models of line profiles in expanding dusty regions. In this new code, we seek to apply the technique to an expanding dusty medium in order to consider the effects on a single emitted line profile.

Previous work by Leon Lucy has considered the problem of dust-induced asymmetric line profiles in the ejecta of supernovae and he has published results derived both analytically and using simple Monte Carlo simulations. These simulations appear to be the only published instances of a numerical approach to studying this spectral feature. The DAMOCLES code adopts the same approach as the original modelling by Leon Lucy but allows for a considerably more complex treatment of the composition, geometry and motion of the dusty medium.

Radiative transfer methods as applied to supernovae generally treat a wide wavelength range and seek to conserve the total energy. In the case of SED modelling, this is often achieved by dividing the total energy into packets of equal weight and equal energy and iteratively determining the temperature and ionization structure. In this work, the approach we adopt is somewhat simpler as only a very narrow wavelength range need be considered. Rather than seeking to conserve the total energy, we assume that any packet absorbed by dust would be re-emitted outside the wavelength range of interest and thus no longer contributes to the resulting line profile. Any absorbed packet is therefore removed from circulation. In addition to this, the absorption and scattering of radiation by dust is independent of temperature and there is therefore no need to calculate temperatures throughout the nebula. Similarly, in the case of radiative modelling of synthetic spectra of the ejecta of supernovae, approximations such as the Sobolev approximation are often employed to handle the blending of lines more efficiently. This is unnecessary here as only a single line or doublet is ever treated and a comparatively narrow wavelength range considered.

The subtleties of the problem we consider here lie in the treatment of an atmosphere expanding as fast as 10% of the speed of light. Lorentz transforms must be carefully applied in order that packets experience the appropriate degree of frequency shifting at emission and at each subsequent scattering event. In this respect, the code is analogous to Monte Carlo radiative transfer models of electron scattering published by \ref{}. Indeed, similar features are observed in the outputs of both.

Throughout this section, I will describe the principles, assumptions and techniques adopted in the production of the DAMOCLES before I move on to address the mechanics and architecture of the code itself.