The transfer eq'n: Interaction of Radiation with Matter

Photons can be absorbed, emitted, and scattered by matter matter: free electrons, atoms, molecules

Ex:

$$\frac{e^{-}}{n=2}$$

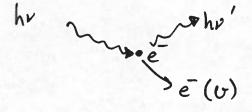
emission process denote cross section of

$$\frac{3}{3} = \infty$$

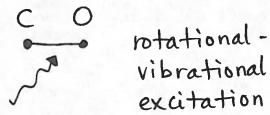
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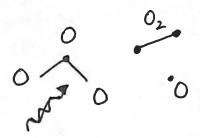
absorption process cross section X



scattering cross section T



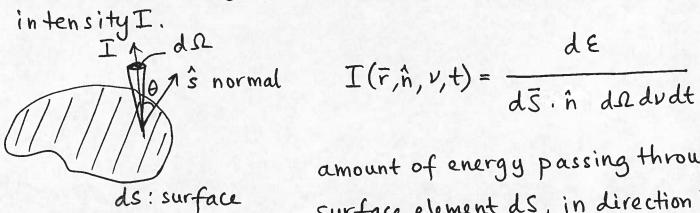
excitation



photodissociation

We have a "beam" of photons passing through matter and encountering these processes. How does the number of photons in the beam change?

How do we describe the beam"? The basic quantity used to describe radiation is the specific



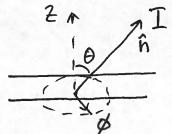
element

$$I(\bar{r},\hat{n},\nu,t) = \frac{a\epsilon}{d\bar{s}\cdot\hat{n} \,d\Omega \,d\nu \,dt}$$

amount of energy passing through surface element dS, in direction n, within a solid angle ds2, in frequency interval du, in time dt.

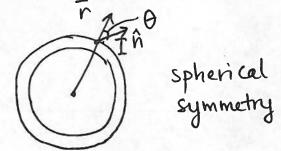
 $\hat{n} \cdot ds = ds \cos \theta$ de = I(F, n, v,t) ds cos o ds dv dt

Two very frequently used geometries: Planar + spherically symm.



surface normal s in the z direction; call k no of dependence in any variable \Rightarrow $\hat{k} \cdot \hat{n} = \cos \theta$

$$I = I \left(z, \theta, \nu, t \right)$$



 $\bar{r} = (r, \theta, \bar{p})$ location on the surface. No θ and Dependence.

But can have angle 0 betwee n and r.

 $I = I(r, \theta, \nu, t)$ often: $\mu = \cos \theta$ is used as a variable.

Boltzmann eg'n for photons

Particle distribution function $f(\bar{r}, \bar{p}, t) = \text{number density}$ in phase element $(\bar{r} + d\bar{r}), (\bar{p} + d\bar{p})$

$$(d^3r)(d^3p), \qquad (d^3r)(d^3p)$$

$$d\bar{r} = \bar{v}dt$$
 $\bar{r} \rightarrow \bar{r} + \bar{v}dt$
 $d\bar{p} = \bar{F}dt$ $\bar{p} \rightarrow \bar{p} + \bar{F}dt$

If there were no interactions btw photons and external particles (scattering, emission, absorption) phase space could be distorted but the volume unchanged. Generically, we call this the collision term.

$$\frac{Df}{Dt} = \left(\frac{Df}{Dt}\right)_{coll}$$

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$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \nabla f + F \cdot \nabla_p f = \left(\frac{Df}{Dt}\right)_{Coll}$$

for photons: V= ch

F=0 (no mass, no charge)

The coll term includes emission of, and "extinction"

$$\chi = x + \sigma$$
 absorption + scattering

(I) The emission and extinction coefficients have different units.

$$\eta(\bar{r}, \bar{n}, \nu, t) = \frac{dE}{dV d\Omega d\nu dt}$$

$$[\eta] = cm^3 sr^1 Hz^1 s^1$$

The extinction coefficient:

energy emitted frowol dV into solid angle ds within a freq. band dv in a time interval dt [along direction n]

$$I(\bar{r},\bar{n},\nu,t).\chi(\bar{r},\bar{n},\nu,t) = \frac{dE}{dV d\Omega d\nu dt}$$

removed from a beam with specific intensity I involume dV, into solid angle dI, within a freq. band dv, in a time interval dt, along direction ñ.

The extinction coefficient is the product of atomic absorption cross section (cm²) and the number density of absorbers (cm²)

$$[\chi] = cm^{-1}$$

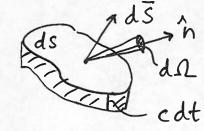
I is a measure of the distance a photon can propagate before it is removed from the beam. (mean free path)

(I) What is the relation both I and the photon distribution function f?

f is the number of photons propagating with velocity c in direction h into solid angle de per unit volume

$$I(\bar{r},\bar{n},\nu,t) = \operatorname{ch}\nu f(\bar{r},\bar{n},\nu,t)$$

$$f = \frac{dE/hv}{\hat{n}.dS cdt d\Omega dv}$$



OK, back to the Boltzmann eg'n: write in terms of specific intensity I.

$$\frac{1}{ch\nu} \left[\frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + c \, \overline{h} \cdot \overline{\nabla} \, \overline{I} \right] = \frac{\gamma - \chi \, I}{h\nu}$$

(because $\eta = \text{energy emitted}$; $\chi I = \text{energy absorbed}$, $\frac{m}{h\nu} = \text{number of photons emitted}$)

$$\Rightarrow \left[\frac{1}{c}\frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + \overline{n}.\overline{\nabla}I = \eta - \chi I\right]$$

Egin of radiative transfer.

Typical simplifications: no explicit time dependence (e.g., emitters, absorbers, or density is not changing over time) =) #=0

spherical geometry:

$$I(\bar{r},\bar{n},\nu,t) \longrightarrow I(r,\theta,\nu,t)$$

$$\overline{\nabla} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \hat{\theta}$$

$$\hat{n} = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta, 0)$$

$$\hat{n} \cdot \overline{\nabla} = \cos \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$$

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + \left[\cos \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \left(1 - \cos^2 \theta \right)^{1/2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \right] I = \eta - \chi I$$

Note: The tr. eg'n even in the spherically symm. case is a PDE, and 2 term

Planar geometry:

variables function of 2 only

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\hat{n} \cdot \overline{\nabla} = n_{z} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

$$= \cos \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

$$= \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

$$\frac{1}{c}\left(\frac{2I}{2t}\right) + \mu \frac{2I}{2z} = \eta - \chi I$$

In planar geometry (1 Cartesian dimension), this is an O.D.E.

Rewrite the transfer egin in terms of optical depth 7, which serves as a dimensionless depth variable.

In 1-D:

$$dT_{\nu} = -\chi(z, \nu) dz$$

$$T_{\nu} = \int_{\chi}^{z_{max}} \chi(z', \nu) dz' - sign conventional such that$$

$$= \int_{z}^{z_{max}} \frac{1}{\ell} dz$$

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l = mean free path

T=> the number of mean-free paths for a photon of freq.

) btw z and zmax.

Define a "source function"

$$S_{\nu} = S(z, \nu) = \frac{\gamma(z, \nu)}{\chi(z, \nu)}$$

$$\chi(z, \nu) \qquad \text{planar}$$

$$\text{Transfer eq'n becomes (time indep't, 1-D)}$$

$$\mu \frac{\partial I_{\nu}}{\partial \bar{\tau}_{\nu}} = \bar{I}_{\nu} - S_{\nu} \qquad \text{(note the - sign)}$$

To solve the rad. transfer. eq'n (an ODE, integro-differential ODE if S, has scattering, or a PDE), need to specify Boundary Conditions

How many do you need? In 1-D (spatial dimension), one needs to specify I at T=0 or T=Tmax for each μ and each ν . (ODE:

You can think of it as $\mu \times \nu$ O.D. E.s (or 10.D.E. for each (8) μ and each ν).

· for a finite slab of specified total optical depth T,

most useful to specify
$$I^-$$
 at $T=0$ and I^+ at $T=T_{\nu}$

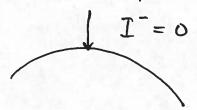
$$I(\tau_{\nu}=0,\mu,\nu)=I^{-}(\mu,\nu)$$

$$-1 \leq \mu \leq 0$$

$$I(T_{\nu} = T_{\nu}, \mu, \nu) = I^{+}(\mu, \nu)$$

 $0 \le \mu \le 1$ These determine a unique solution.

· for a semi-infinite case, e.g. a star of nearly oo optical depth



If this were truly the case, there would be no outward flux. So, in reality, you would not solve the transfer eq'n \u00e4 by \u00a4, as we wrote it, but take averages ("moments"), as we will see. That will allow us to specify a net flux.

Simple examples and the Formal Solution of the Transfer Eq'n

1) No material is present.

$$\chi_{\nu} = \eta_{\nu} = 0$$

Tr. eg'n in 1-D becomes

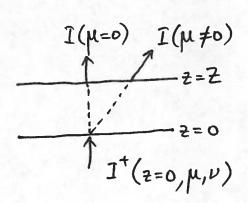
$$\frac{\partial I_{\nu}}{\partial z} = 0 \Rightarrow I_{\nu} = \text{const}.$$

Specific intensity is invariant.

2) Material emits at freq v but cannot absorb
(decay of metastable levels in low density gas, for example)

$$\mu\left(\frac{\partial I_{\nu}}{\partial z}\right) = \eta_{\nu}$$

$$I_{\nu}(\mu) = \mu^{-1} \int_{0}^{z} \eta(z,\nu) dz + I^{+}(0,\mu,\nu)$$
geometrical
pathlength factor



3) Radiation is absorbed but not emitted (e.g., a filter at a particular frequency)

$$\mu \frac{\partial I_{\nu}}{\partial z} = -\chi_{\nu} I_{\nu} \text{ with } dT_{\nu} = -\chi_{\nu} dz \qquad \forall \int \frac{I_{\nu} = ?}{\sqrt{I^{-} = 0}} T = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow I(T_{\nu}=0,\mu,\nu)=I_{\nu}^{+}(T_{\nu},\mu)e^{-(T_{\nu}/\mu)}$$

exponentially attenuated. This ties back to

the defin of optical depth as the # of mean free paths.

→ i.e., survival prob. of a photon goes down as e-T.

Note: 3 (Ire Th/h)

4) The Formal Solution

$$\mu \frac{\partial I_{\nu}}{\partial T_{\nu}} = I_{\nu} - S_{\nu}$$

$$\frac{\partial I_{\nu}}{\partial I_{\nu}} - \frac{1}{\mu} I_{\nu} = \frac{-1}{\mu} S_{\nu}$$

= 2 1 e 2/4 + I, e 2/4 -1 $= e^{-\frac{T_{\nu}}{\mu}} \left(\frac{\partial I}{\partial \tau} - \frac{1}{\mu} I_{\nu} \right)$ use integrating factor e To/ to rewrite this as

$$\frac{\partial \left[I_{\nu} e^{-T_{\nu}/\mu}\right]}{\partial T_{\nu}} = -\frac{1}{\mu} S_{\nu} e^{-T_{\nu}/\mu}$$

and integrate w.r.t.
$$T_{\nu}$$

$$I_{\nu}(T_{1},\mu) = I_{\nu}(T_{2},\mu) e^{-(T_{2}-T_{1})/\mu} + \frac{1}{\mu} \int_{T_{1}}^{T_{2}} S_{\nu}(T') e^{-(T'-T_{1})/\mu} dT'$$

if S, is known, have a complete sol'n of the tr. eq'n.

Note: S, may be coupling different \u00ea's and \u00bb's, e.g. in scattering. Then the sol'n of these coupled O. D. E.s still quite difficult (actually they become coupled integro-differential eg'ns because an integral over I appears on the R.H.S. in the Sv).

Often, we're not interested in specific intensity but averages over the specific intensity. This might be dictated by the observables (flux), utility (nearly isotropic or free-streaming I or the impossibility of specifying $I(\mu)$.

Before we average over the transfer eq'n, let's define the averages over specific intensity itself. These are called moments.

(Note: for fluids in general, these are averages over velocity. For photons, this reduces to averages over direction).

Mean Intensity - Zeroth Homent

Average of specific intensity over angles

$$\overline{J}(\overline{r},\nu,t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int I(\overline{r},\hat{n},\nu,t) d\Omega$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int I(\overline{r},\hat{n},\nu,t) \sin\theta d\theta d\phi$$

$$= -d\mu d\phi$$

in 1-D planar, no o dependence:

$$\overline{J}(z,\nu,t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\phi \int_{0}^{1} d\mu \ I(z,\mu,\nu,t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{0}^{1} I(z,\mu,\nu,t) d\mu$$
Observed accordance

in spherical geometry:

$$\overline{f}(r,\nu,t) = \frac{1}{2} \int I(r,\mu,\nu,t) d\mu$$

Mean in tensity is closely related to the energy density of radiation. What is the energy contained in volume V in radiation?

$$e = \int_{cdt} \int_{dv} ds$$

 $dE = I(\bar{r}, \hat{n}, \nu, t) dS \cos \theta d\Omega \text{ and } t$

$$-dV = cdt dS \cos\theta$$

$$\hat{n} \cdot dS$$

To find the energy in volume dV:

- integrate over all do
- integrate over dv
- integrate over v

$$d\varepsilon = I(F, \hat{n}, \nu, t) \frac{dV}{C} d\Omega d\nu$$

$$\varepsilon = \int dV \int d\Omega \int d\nu \frac{1}{c} I(\vec{r}, \hat{n}, \nu, t)$$

assuming I is independent of it within V:

$$E(\bar{r},t) = \frac{1}{c} V \int d\Omega d\nu \, I(\bar{r},\hat{n},\nu,t)$$

if we were interested in the energy density in one freq. band, we would drop the integral over v.

$$E(\bar{r}, \nu, t) = \frac{1}{c} V \int d\Omega \, I(\bar{r}, \hat{n}, \nu, t)$$

$$4\pi \, J(\bar{r}, \nu, t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \xi(\bar{r},\nu,t) = \frac{4\pi}{c} J(\bar{r},\nu,t) \cdot V$$

so the "monochromatic energy density is:

$$E_R(\bar{r}, \nu, t) = \frac{4\pi}{c} J(r, \nu, t)$$

Ex: In thermal equilibrium (which we have not defined yet), we'll see that

I is uniform (no \(\tau\) dependence)
isotropic (no \(\tau\) dependence)
time-indep't (no \(t\) dependence)

It has v dependence given by Planck

$$I_{\nu}(T) = \frac{2h\nu^{3}}{c^{2}} \left(e^{h\nu/kT} - 1 \right)^{-1} \equiv B_{\nu}(T)$$

Monochromatic energy density:

$$E_R(v) = \frac{4\pi}{c} J(\bar{r}, v, t) = \frac{4\pi}{c} B_v(\bar{r})$$

Total energy density: Sdv ER(v)

$$E = \frac{8\pi h}{c^3} \int_{0}^{\infty} (e^{h\nu/kT})^{-1} v^3 d\nu = aT^4$$
with $a = \frac{8\pi^5 k^4}{15c^3 h^3}$

Flux - First Moment

The momentum of the rad. field

Specifies the net rate of E flow through a surface in a given direction.

rate means per unit time, per unit area

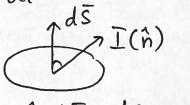
$$\overline{F}(\overline{r},\nu,t) = \frac{d\varepsilon}{ds dt d\nu} = \oint \overline{I}(\overline{r},\hat{n},\nu,t) \,\hat{n} \, d\Omega$$

$$[F] = \operatorname{erg} \operatorname{cm}^2 \operatorname{s}^{-1} \operatorname{Hz}^{-1}$$

Is this indeed the correct relation of I, to F.?

$$dE = I(\bar{r}, \hat{n}, \nu, t) dS \cos \theta d\Omega dv dt$$

$$F = \frac{d\varepsilon}{dSdvdt} = \oint I(\bar{r}, \hat{n}, v, t) \hat{n} d\Omega$$



 $\hat{n} \cdot d\bar{s} = ds \cos \theta$

Note: Eddington flux $H = \frac{1}{4\pi}F$, in analogy with J. Ex: Truly isotropic radiation field

Ex: Truly isotropic radiation field
$$I(\hat{n}) = I_0$$

Then
$$F = \int I_0 \hat{n} d\Omega = I_0 \oint \cos \theta \sin \theta d\theta d\phi$$

= $I_0 \cdot 2\pi \int \mu d\mu = 0$

That's why at very high T such as centers of stars, I is nearly but not completely isotropic (because there is a net outward flux).

Radiation Pressure Tensor - Second Moment

$$P(\bar{r}, \nu, t) = \frac{1}{c} \oint I(\bar{r}, \hat{n}, \nu, t) \, \hat{n} \, \hat{n} \, d\Omega$$

$$P_{ij}(\bar{r},\nu,t) = \frac{1}{e} \oint I(\bar{r},\hat{n},\nu,t) n_i n_j d\Omega$$

Diagonal terms Pii are related to energy density because for a fluid, they have a form

The sum of the diagonals

$$\sum P_{ii} = P_{xx} + P_{yy} + P_{zz} = \frac{1}{c} \int I(n_x^2 + n_y^2 + n_z^2) d\Omega$$

=
$$\frac{1}{c} \int I d\Omega = E(F, v, t)$$

energy density

If the radiation field is isotropic, $P_{ij} = 0$ $P_{ii} = P_{j} = P_{kk} = \frac{1}{3} E(\bar{r}, v, t)$

We rarely use Pij in its full generality. In plane-parallel or spherically symmetric case, we compute the kk or rr component (and we drop to from the definition and call it "K", as in Krr or K_{22})

Let's now look again at the transfer equation to see what simplifications we can make under what circumstances.

Radiative Transfer Eg'n in 1D (planar or spherical)

$$\mu \frac{\partial I}{\partial z} = \eta - \chi I \qquad \text{O.D.E.}$$

$$\left[\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \left(1 - \mu^2\right)^{1/2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}\right] I = \eta - \chi I \qquad P. D. E. \text{ (even in 1-D!)}$$

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + \mu \frac{\partial I}{\partial z} = \eta - \chi I \qquad P. D. E.$$

$$\frac{1}{C} \frac{\partial I(\mu,\nu)}{\partial t} + \mu \frac{\partial I(\mu,\nu)}{\partial t} = \eta - \chi I(\mu,\nu) - \sigma I(\mu,\nu) + \int P(\mu' \rightarrow \mu,\nu' \rightarrow \nu) I(\mu',\nu') d\mu' d\nu'$$
where $\sigma = \int P(\mu \rightarrow \mu', \nu \rightarrow \nu') d\mu' d\nu'$

=) integro-differential eq'n.

lo simplify, make assumptions or educated guesses about

- 1) timescales; time dependent or independent
- 2) photon mean free path
- 3 isotropy of the radiation field

I. Timescales

Compare the timescale of the propagation of radiation

te ~ /p/c /p = photon mean free path

to other times cales in the problem.

t_f ~ l/v fluid flow } timescale over which
t_I - ionization } the fluid moves; its ionization
t. Harmal state or thermal properties Change.

When te << tf, tI, tth, ignore the time dependence of the radiation field and treat the problem as quasi-static.

Exceptions:

- 1) If you need to follow the propagation of the rad. front
- 2) $\lambda_p >> \ell$ (optically thin; near boundary; free-streaming)
- 3) global coupling, time retardation is important

 Then you may not be able to ignore time dependence.

II. Remember the mean free path

$$\frac{ds}{x} = \int_{0}^{\ell} \chi_{s} ds \quad [x] = cm^{-1}$$

 $\lambda_{\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{\chi_{\nu}}$ (cm) photon m.f.p.

optical depth $T = \frac{\ell}{\lambda}$ number of interactions (on average)

optically thin coptically thick free-streaming limit diffusion limit

What happens in the diffusion limit? In random walk

$$d_{*}^{2} = Nd^{2}$$

Net displacement mean free path

Net displacement

We want
$$d_* = l$$

 $d = \lambda_{mfp}$
of interactions $N = \frac{l^2}{\lambda_{mfp}^2}$

Diffusion time:

Diffusion time:

$$t_{d} \sim \left(\frac{\ell}{\lambda_{mfp}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{\lambda_{p}}{c}\right) = \frac{\ell^{2}}{c\lambda_{mfp}} = \frac{\ell}{c} \cdot \frac{\ell}{\lambda_{mfp}} = T \cdot t_{cross}$$

$$t_{d} \approx T \cdot t_{cross}$$

$$t_{d} \approx T \cdot t_{cross}$$

Suppose
$$\frac{\lambda_P}{\ell} <<1$$
 very optically thick and $t_d << t_f$ static \Rightarrow static diffusion limit.

III. Look at isotropy of I. This is connected to, but not exclusively determined by, the mean free path.

Ex: Interior of a star

$$\frac{\lambda_{P}}{e}$$
 << 1 ; properties of the plasma (9, X, B etc) isotropic then $I(\mu) = I_{o}$

$$\overline{J} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int I \, d\mu \, d\phi = I_{o}$$

$$\overline{H} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int I \mu d\mu d\phi = 0$$

$$K_{rr} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int I \mu^2 d\mu d\phi = \frac{1}{2} \int I \mu^2 d\mu = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot I_0 = \frac{J}{3}$$

in isotropy, $K/J = \frac{1}{3}$

In reality, a small deviation from isotropy

$$I_{\nu}(T,\mu) = a_{\nu}(T) + b_{\nu}(T) \mu \qquad \text{linear in } \mu.$$

$$J = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^{1} I d\mu = a$$

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^{1} I \mu d\mu = \frac{b}{3} \qquad \text{(in the \hat{r} direction)}$$

$$K = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^{1} I \mu^{2} d\mu = \frac{a}{3}$$

=) $K = \frac{J}{3}$ but $H \neq 0$; net flux.

Ex: Free-streaming limit

$$I(\mu) = I_0 S(\mu - \mu_0)$$
 $J = \frac{1}{2} \int I_0 S(\mu - \mu_0) d\mu = \frac{I_0}{2}$
 $H = \frac{1}{2} \int I_0 \mu S(\mu - \mu_0) d\mu = \frac{\mu_0 I_0}{2}$
 $K = J$

Moments of the Transfer Eq'n and the Eddington factors

We want to solve

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + \mu \frac{\partial I}{\partial z} = \eta - \chi I \qquad (ignore \ \nu \ dependence)$$

Zeroth moment:

$$\frac{1}{2} \int \left[\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \right] d\mu = \frac{1}{2} \int \left[\eta - \chi I \right] d\mu$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \int \left[\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} \right] = \eta - \chi I$$

becomes an equation for energy density (that also involves the flux H)

First moment:

$$\frac{1}{2} \int \left[\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} \mu + \frac{\partial I}{\partial z} \mu^2 \right] d\mu = \frac{1}{2} \int \left[\eta - \chi I \right] \mu d\mu$$

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial K}{\partial z} = 0 - \chi I$$

becomes the momentum equation (that also involves K)

An approach to solving the moment eg'ns: Variable Eddington

factor:
$$f = \frac{K}{J}$$

fitting formula that goes from $\frac{1}{3} \longrightarrow 1$ Small λ_{mfp} large λ_{mfp}

(or can calculate f approximately).