

## [OI] 6300Å emission as a probe of external photoevaporation of protoplanetary discs

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# [O I] 6300Å emission as a probe of external photoevaporation of protoplanetary discs

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#### **ABSTRACT**

We study the utility of the [O I] 6300Å forbidden line for identifying and interpreting externally driven photoevaporative winds in different environments and at a range of distances. Thermally excited [O I] 6300Å is a well known tracer of inner disc winds, so any external contribution needs to be distinguishable. In external winds, the line is not thermally excited and instead results from the dissociation of OH and we study how the line luminosity resulting from that process scales with the disc/environmental parameters. We find that the line luminosity increases dramatically with FUV radiation field strength above around 5000  $G_0$ . The predicted luminosities from our models are consistent with measurements of the line luminosity of proplyds in the Orion Nebula Cluster. The high luminosity in strong UV environments alone may act as a diagnostic, but a rise in the [OI]-to-accretion luminosity ratio is predicted to better separate the two contributions. This could provide a means of identifying external photoevaporation in distant clusters where the proplyd morphology of evaporating discs cannot be spatially resolved.

**Key words:** accretion, accretion discs – circumstellar matter – protoplanetary discs – hydrodynamics – planets and satellites: formation – photodissociation region (PDR)

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

It is now widely established that planets are formed from circumstellar "protoplanetary" discs of material surrounding young stars (e.g. Keppler et al. 2018; Pinte et al. 2018; Teague et al. 2019; Armitage 2018). The evolution of these discs is mainly regulated by a combination of accretion and mass loss due to winds (e.g., Ercolano & Pascucci 2017; Pascucci et al. 2022, for recent reviews). These winds can be internal, originating from the inner disc and associated with the host star, or external and driven by external radiation fields.

Internal winds can be driven by irradiation and heating of the disc by the host star in a process called internal photoevaporation (Gorti & Hollenbach 2009; Owen et al. 2010, 2011, 2012; Gorti et al. 2015; Wölfer et al. 2019; Picogna et al. 2019, 2021). Internal winds can also be driven magnetohydrodynamically, through the magnetorotational instability (MRI Balbus & Hawley 1991; Suzuki & Inutsuka 2009; Suzuki et al. 2016) or magnetocentrifugal winds (Pudritz et al. 2007; Turner et al. 2014; Bai et al. 2016; Gressel et al. 2020). Characterising how these winds operate and their relative impacts on the disc evolution is a key goal at present, in particular because internal winds (particularly internal MHD winds) could be important for extracting angular momentum from the disc, which could facilitate accretion even if the disc is low turbulence/low

viscosity (e.g. Cui & Bai 2021; Tabone et al. 2022; Hasegawa et al. 2022).

Given the above there has been a dedicated effort to probe inner winds, to identify the driving mechanisms and characterise the mass loss and angular momentum extraction. However, a possible inner wind is only directly identified in a handful of cases to date (e.g. Klaassen et al. 2013; Bjerkeli et al. 2016; Tabone et al. 2020; Booth et al. 2021; Valegård et al. 2022). Much more often the wind has to be identified through spatially unresolved spectral lines, such as the [NeII] 12.81  $\mu$ m and [O I] 6300Å forbidden lines of neon and oxygen (e.g. Alexander 2008; Pascucci et al. 2011; Natta et al. 2014; Simon et al. 2016; Banzatti et al. 2019; Ballabio et al. 2020).

External winds are significantly different to internal winds. To our knowledge they are driven only by irradiation, and are hence referred to as external photoevaporative winds (for a recent review see Winter & Haworth 2022). The sources of the external irradiation are other members of the star forming cluster, particularly OB stars which dominate UV production in a cluster (e.g. Dale 2015). External photoevaporation strips material from the outer disc, where there is a large mass reservoir that is least weakly bound to the central star (Hollenbach et al. 1994; Johnstone et al. 1998; Richling & Yorke 2000; Adams et al. 2004; Facchini et al. 2016; Haworth et al. 2018b). This can lead to large mass loss rates and hence rapid depletion and truncation of a disc, ultimately resulting in a lower disc lifetime (McCaughrean & O'Dell 1996; Henney & O'Dell 1999;

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Guarcello et al. 2016; Haworth et al. 2018a; Concha-Ramírez et al. 2019; Winter et al. 2020; Sellek et al. 2020; Qiao et al. 2022).

External photoevaporation is theoretically thought to be important for the evolution of a large fraction (Winter et al. 2020) of discs in massive stellar clusters, however this needs to be observationally verified (note that the majority of discs studied at high resolution are relatively nearby, in sparse stellar groups with only weak ambient UV fields, e.g. ALMA Partnership et al. 2015; Andrews et al. 2018; Winter et al. 2020; Öberg et al. 2021). The easiest externally photoevaporating discs to detect are the ones in nearby, high UV environments such as the Orion Nebula Cluster (ONC), where the wind is so strong that the disc/wind takes on a spatially resolvable cometary appearance referred to as a proplyd (e.g. O'Dell 1998; Henney & O'Dell 1999; Kim et al. 2016; Haworth et al. 2021). Proplyds evolve very quickly due to the extreme photoevaporation (Henney & O'Dell 1999) so only a handful of the most recently introduced discs to the high UV environment are caught in the act of undergoing external photoevaporation at any given time (Winter et al. 2019). So although proplyds tell us that external photoevaporation definitely happens, and the timescale for external photoevaporation of proplyds is sufficiently short to tell us that proplyds must be continually being introduced into the high UV region, the prevalence of external photoevaporation in massive stellar clusters is still difficult to precisely determine observationally. A key issue with the study of external photoevaporation in high UV environments is that proplyds cannot be spatially resolved in distant clusters. We therefore require the means of identifying and diagnosing external photoevaporation without relying on detecting a cometary morphology.

Another aspect to the challenge of observationally determining the importance of external photoevaporation is to verifying over what range of UV field strengths external photoevaporation is actually effective. Most proplyds are found in strong UV environments in close proximity (within ~ 0.1 pc) of O stars (Henney & O'Dell 1999; Haworth et al. 2021) where the UV field is in the range  $10^5 - 10^7 G_0^{-1}$ . However Kim et al. (2016) found proplyds in NGC 1977 in the vicinity of the B1 star 42 Ori, in a UV environment that was estimated to be  $\sim 3000\,G_0$ . However the proplyd stars were all very low mass at  $\leq 0.4\,M_{\odot}$  (meaning that the disc is easily unbound Haworth et al. 2022b) and it is unknown if higher (solar) mass stars would also appear as proplyds in such an environment. Furthermore, as the UV field drops further, but is still predicted to lead to significant mass loss (Haworth et al. 2018b; Winter et al. 2020) even discs around low mass stars with winds may cease exhibiting a cometary appearance. How then, do we detect externally photoevaporating discs in common intermediate UV environments? To achieve this we require predictions and understanding of observational tracers.

Haworth & Owen (2020) explored the utility of CI for probing winds in intermediate UV environments based on models by Haworth & Clarke (2019). CI traces a layer outside of the CO dissociation front at a scale and speed where the wind can be both spectrally and spatially resolved with ALMA, resulting in unambiguous signatures of a wind that also yield diagnostics of the wind speed and temperature. This is yet to be observationally verified, however. An initial exploration with APEX was undertaken in August/September 2021, searching for CI towards the proplyds in NGC1977 but obtaining no detections. This was found to be because the stars there

are low mass (most  $\leq 0.2\,M_\odot$ ) and their discs are in the final stages of clearing with only  $\sim 0.5\,M_{jup}$  discs and  $\sim 10\,kyr$  remaining lifetimes (Haworth et al. 2022a). The future of CI observations of winds therefore requires deeper observations of known evaporating discs (to test predictions based on the models and these non-detections), as well as searches for wind signatures at larger distances from the main UV sources in non-proplyds where the masses are higher.

Given the above challenges regarding discovering proplyds in distant regions and weaker UV environments, it is also prudent to explore as many other diagnostics and identifiers of external photoevaporation as possible. Here we aim to understand the observational characteristics of the oxygen [O<sub>I</sub>] 6300Å line, which is observed in emission towards proplyds (Bally et al. 1998). As we will discuss further below, Störzer & Hollenbach (1999) explained observations of this line associated with ONC proplyds as a result of OH dissociation near the H-H<sub>2</sub> transition, but studied just a single system. Prior to this work, there are no predictions about how the amount of [OI] emission scales with the irradiation environment. Furthermore, for distant targets the [O I] line will be spatially unresolved, so we need to determine how to distinguish between the emission from internal and external winds (Natta et al. 2014). Spatially unresolved [O I] line emission has already possibly identified an externally photoeyaporating disc in the inner part of the  $\sigma$  Ori cluster (Rigliaco et al. 2009; Natta et al. 2014) which does suggest that spatially unresolved [O I] could have utility as a wider identifier of external photoevaporation. However first we need to determine and understand the variation of the line strength as a function of environment, and how it might be distinguished from internal winds. That is the goal of this paper.

## 2 THE ORIGIN OF [O I] 6300Å EMISSION IN EXTERNAL PHOTOEVAPORATIVE WINDS FROM OH PHOTODISSOCIATION

In the case of internal photoevaporative winds [O I] 6300Å is produced by collisional excitation with, for example, hydrogen atoms or electrons (e.g. Hartigan et al. 1995; Natta et al. 2014). In the case of external photoevaporation the wind is driven by FUV radiation, and at only tens to a few thousand Kelvin is insufficiently hot to thermally excite the [O I]. However, the production of [O I] 6300Å emission can occur non-thermally as a result of OH photodissociation (e.g. Störzer & Hollenbach 1998, introduced a simple model for this to predict the emission from Orion Nebula Cluster proplyds). When this dissociation takes place some fraction of the resulting oxygen atoms are in an excitation state that leads to the production of [O<sub>I</sub>] 6300Å photons. The OH dissociation front is anticipated to be close to the H-H<sub>2</sub> transition (the molecular hydrogen dissociation front) since OH itself is formed by the reaction O  $+ H_2 \rightarrow OH + H$  and so won't reside further out in the wind. [O I] 6300Å emission is therefore expected to trace the important H-H<sub>2</sub> transition part of the flow.

In order for [O I] emission to result from the dissociation of OH, OH needs to not have reacted out by some other pathway. We hence require that the dissociation rate be faster than other chemical reaction pathways that could remove OH. The key reactions, equations that characterise their rates and relevant rate constants are summarised in Table 1. Included are the rate coefficients from Tielens & Hollenbach (1985), used by Störzer & Hollenbach (1998), as well as the UMIST rate coefficients (McElroy et al. 2013), which are used by the TORUS-3DPDR code employed in this paper (see section 3 and Bisbas et al. 2015; Harries et al. 2019).

The photodissociation rate per unit volume is parameterised

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  G<sub>0</sub> is the unit of the Habing radiation field (Habing 1968). 1 G<sub>0</sub> is  $1.6 \times 10^{-3}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> over the wavelength range 912-2400Å, which is the value that Habing (1968) measured in the solar neighbourhood.

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by

Reaction	UMIST	network	ζ	Tielens & Hollenbach (1985)		T <sub>min</sub> [K]	T <sub>max</sub> [K]	Rate	
coefficients	а	b	c	а	b	c			equation
OH FORMATION									
${\rm O} + {\rm H}_2 \rightarrow {\rm OH} + {\rm H}$	$3.14 \times 10^{-13}$	2.7	3150	$9\times10^{-12}$	1.0	4500	_	-	$an^2X(O)X(H_2)\left(\frac{T}{300}\right)^b\exp\left(\frac{c}{T}\right)$
OH DESTRUCTION									
				Pho	todisso	ciation			
$OH + \nu \rightarrow O + H$	$3.5 \times 10^{-10}$	_	1.7	$2.2 \times 10^{-10}$	_	2	_	_	$anX(OH)F_{FUV}\exp(-cA_V)$
	Other reactions								
$\mathrm{OH} + \mathrm{C}^+ \to \mathrm{CO}^+ + \mathrm{H}$	$7.7\times10^{-10}$	_	_	$7.7\times10^{-10}$	-	-	10	41000	$an^2X(OH)X(C^+)\left(\frac{T}{300}\right)^{1.25}$
$\mathrm{OH} + \mathrm{H} \to \mathrm{O} + \mathrm{H}_2$	$6.99\times10^{-14}$	2.8	1950.	$4.2\times10^{-12}$	1.0	3500	300	2500	$an^2X(OH)X(H)\left(\frac{T}{300}\right)^b \exp\left(\frac{c}{T}\right)$
$\mathrm{OH} + \mathrm{H_2} \rightarrow \mathrm{H_2O} + \mathrm{H}$	$2.05\times10^{-12}$	1.52	1736.	$3.6\times10^{-11}$	1.0	2600	-	-	$an^2X(OH)X(H_2)\left(\frac{T}{300}\right)^b \exp\left(\frac{c}{T}\right)$
$\mathrm{OH} + \mathrm{O} \to \mathrm{H} + \mathrm{O}_2$	$4.3\times10^{-11}$	-0.5	30.0	$4\times 10^{-10}$	1.0	600	_	-	$an^2X(OH)X(O)\left(\frac{T}{300}\right)^b \exp\left(\frac{c}{T}\right)$
$OH + OH \rightarrow H_2O + O$	$1.65 \times 10^{-12}$	1.14	50.0	$10^{-11}$	1.0	550	_	_	$an^2X(OH)X(OH)\left(\frac{T}{300}\right)^b \exp\left(\frac{c}{T}\right)$

Table 1. A summary of the key reactions that result in the the removal of OH. The top-most reaction is the photodissociation reaction that leads to the [O I] emission that is the focus of this paper. The other reactions would remove OH by other means and hence suppress [O1] emission. The code used for disc photoevaporation models in this paper, TORUS-3DPDR, is using a reduced version of the UMIST network (with coefficients in columns 2-4). In columns 5-7 we include the rate coefficients from Tielens & Hollenbach (1985), which were used in Störzer & Hollenbach (1998). Tmin and Tmax denote temperature constraints on whether the reaction can take place, and the final column shows the rate equation, which the prior coefficients feed into.

$$R_{phot} = nX(OH)aF_{FUV} \exp(-cA_V) \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$$
 (1

which intuitively falls off exponentially with increasing extinction  $A_V$ , and where n is the number density, X(OH) is the abundance of OH,  $F_{\text{FUV}}$  is the FUV radiation field strength in Habing units and a and c are process-specific constants.

Similarly, for the reaction rate per unit volume for some 2species (A and B) reaction in a medium of number density n and temperature T is

$$R_{reac} = n^2 X(A) X(B) a \left(\frac{T}{300}\right)^b \exp\left(\frac{c}{T}\right) \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$$
 (2)

which contains a third rate constant b.

In any given portion of the disc/wind we therefore require  $R_{phot} > R_{reac}$  for OH to be dissociated more quickly than it is reacted out and hence to lead to the production of [O I] 6300Å emission. In their work, trying to understand [O I] emission from proplyds, Störzer & Hollenbach (1998) approached this considering reactions of OH with C<sup>+</sup>, H and H<sub>2</sub>, and by assuming that in the wind near the H-H<sub>2</sub> transition the hydrogen is all atomic and that the abundance of  $C^+$  is  $3 \times 10^{-4}$ . Applying rate coefficients from Tielens & Hollenbach (1985) permitted them to derive three criteria that must be satisfied for OH removal by photodissociation and hence [O<sub>I</sub>] emission to result

- $F_{\text{FUV}} \ge 10^{-3} n$ ,  $F_{\text{FUV}} \ge 10^{-4} T \exp(-3500/T) n$ ,  $n < n_{\text{cr}} \simeq 7 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ .

In this paper we will be postprocessing grid-based photodissociation-dynamics simulations which include the density and temperature structure in addition to abundances (detailed further in section 3). We therefore will not employ these Störzer & Hollenbach (1998) constraints, and rather permit [O<sub>I</sub>] emission on a cell-by-cell basis wherever the OH dissociation rate is faster than any other chemical pathways according to the UMIST coefficients and expressions in table 1.

We compared the photodissociation and reaction rates as a function of extinction and temperature respectively for the Tielens & Hollenbach (1985) (used by Störzer & Hollenbach 1998) and more recent UMIST coefficients (used here). The photodissociation rates are very similar. The reaction with the fastest rate is with C<sup>+</sup> (assuming C<sup>+</sup> is abundant), which has identical rates in Tielens & Hollenbach (1985) and UMIST. The main differences arise in the reactions between OH and O or another OH. However, these are not dominant at the  $\sim 30-3000 \, K$  anticipated for the FUV heated wind. We therefore do not expect major differences between our work and Störzer & Hollenbach (1998) based on updated rate constants.

#### 3 THEORETICAL ESTIMATES OF THE [O I] EMISSION

#### 3.1 Numerical method

#### Radiation hydrodynamic models

External photoevaporative winds are predominantly driven by FUV irradiation, which heats the disc/wind through photodissociation region (PDR) microphysics. Solving this numerically is computationally expensive due to the need to solve 3D line cooling. 1D models have provided a way to explore external photoevaporation in different scenarios (Adams et al. 2004; Facchini et al. 2016; Haworth et al. 2018b) and have been demonstrated to do a good job of estimating mass loss rates compared to vastly more expensive 2D models (Haworth & Clarke 2019). We therefore take an initial exploration of the anticipated scaling of the [O<sub>I</sub>] 6300Å emission as a function of star/disc/UV parameters using 1D models.

The 1D models that we run are very similar to those in the FRIED grid of mass loss rates Haworth et al. (2018b) and so we only give a brief overview here. In these models the steady state wind structure is solved for when a fixed disc boundary condition is irradiated by a fixed external UV source. The opacity in the wind accounts for the fact that only small dust grains are entrained in the wind and that therefore the dust-to-gas ratio is low in the wind if grain growth has occurred (Facchini et al. 2016). We run our own

models rather than utilise the underlying models from FRIED so that we can explore a bespoke parameter space (e.g. up to higher UV fields). We also explore the impact of varying the Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) abundance in our models, since photoelectric heating by PAHs is the dominant heating mechanism in the FUV-irradiated PDR of an external wind, but have a poorly constrained abundance (in FRIED the PAH-to-dust mass ratio was assumed to be one tenth of that in the interstellar medium). Note that only small grains are entrained in the photoevaporative wind, so if grain growth has occurred in the disc (which happens fast, Birnstiel et al. 2018) the dust abundance in external photoevaporative winds is expected to be depleted (Facchini et al. 2016; Owen & Altaf 2021). Motivated by Facchini et al. (2016) these models therefore have a dust-to-gas mass ratio of  $3\times 10^{-4}$ .

### 3.1.2 Estimating the [O 1] 6300Å line luminosity due to external photoevaporation

Once the flow structure in the 1D dynamical models is solved for, we estimate the  $[O\,i]$  6300Å line intensity contribution from external wind as follows. Note that we are not including any contribution from internal winds and will discuss that further in 3.2 and 3.5.

We integrate from the disc outer edge to the outer extent of the simulation domain. In any given cell we first determine whether the local OH will be photodissociated or instead react out by some other pathway using the criteria discussed in section 2. That is, we require the photodissociation rate (equation 1) to be greater than the other possible reaction rates. If this is not the case then that cell's contribution to the line intensity is zero. Otherwise, the emission from cell i of width  $\Delta R$  is added to the total line intensity as

$$I_i = I_{i-1} + j_{\nu} \Delta R \tag{3}$$

where  $j_{\nu}$  is the line emission coefficient, integrated over the entire line

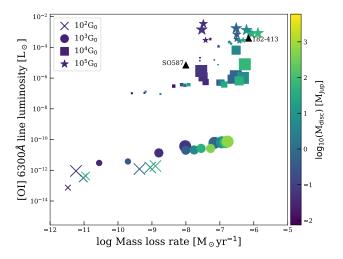
$$j_{V} = \frac{1}{4\pi} h \nu_0 n_u A_{ul} \tag{4}$$

where  $v_0$  is the rest frequency of the line,  $n_u$  is the number density of particles in the upper excited state of the transition (and hence available to de-excite and emit),  $A_{ul}$  is the Einstein A coefficient for the transition (obtained from the LAMDA database Schöier et al. 2005). Line absorption is not a significant effect for forbidden lines (one of the characteristics that makes them efficient cooling mechanisms) because of the low absorption cross section (due to the low oscillator strength of the transition), so we do not undertake full velocity dependent line transfer. Since only small grains are entrained (Facchini et al. 2016) the dust-to-gas mass ratio in the external photoevaporative wind is also highly depleted (easily by at around 2 orders of magnitude), especially if grain growth and radial drift has occurred in the disc. We therefore also neglect the dust opacity, though including silicate grain opacities at the expected abundances makes a negligible difference to the emergent intensity.

The number of particles in the upper state of the transition  $n_u$  is estimated using a similar approach to Störzer & Hollenbach (1998), which assumes equilibrium between dissociation pumping and radiative decay. The state is populated when OH molecules are photodissociated, so it is not viable to take an approach such as using the Boltzmann distribution. The number density of particles in the upper state in a given cell is then

$$n_{u} = \frac{1}{A_{ul}} n(\text{OH}) R_{\text{OH},0} F_{\text{FUV}} f$$
 (5)

where n(OH) is the number density of OH molecules,  $R_{OH,0}$  the



**Figure 1.** Predicted 1D model [O I] 6300Å line luminosities in the case of a  $0.6\,M_\odot$  star. The mass loss rates are due to external photoevaporation. Crosses, circles, squares and stars correspond to UV fields of  $10^2$ ,  $10^3$ ,  $10^4$  and  $10^5 G_0$  respectively. The symbol sizes scale with the disc radius, including 10, 20, 40, 60, and 80 au. The colour scale represents the disc mass. By far the dominant factor setting the line luminosity is the UV field strength. The black triangles are the candidate evaporating system SO587 in  $\sigma$  Ori (Rigliaco et al. 2009) and the ONC proplyd 182-413 (Störzer & Hollenbach 1998; Bally et al. 1998).

photodissociation rate of OH under an FUV radiation field of 1  $G_0$ ,  $F_{\rm FUV}$  the FUV field strength in the cell in units of  $G_0$  and f the fraction of OH photodissociation events that will go on to result in the emission of a [O I] 6300Å photon (we assume f = 0.5).

The above integration determines the 1D line intensity  $I_{\nu}$ . Which is converted into a line luminosity via

$$L_{[\text{OI}]} = 4\pi^2 R_d^2 I_{\nu} \tag{6}$$

where  $R_d$  is the disc radius. That is, we are assuming that the emission comes from a surface of order the disc size.

We wish to emphasise that here we are calculating the expected contribution of the external photoevaporative wind to the [OI] 6300Å line luminosity. Additional contributions from internal winds/magnetospheric accretion or outflows/jets are ignored (the latter of which can be distinguished in practice based on the high velocity). This means that our models would likely be lower limits on the actual [OI] luminosity, especially in low UV environments.

#### 3.2 Scaling of the line luminosity

We begin by using the large grid of 1D external photoevaporation models to study the general scaling of the [OI] intensity/flux as a function of the star/disc/UV field parameters.

Figure 1 shows the line luminosity for a grid of models around  $0.6\,M_\odot$  stars. The crosses, circles, square and star symbols correspond to discs irradiated by  $10^2, 10^3, 10^4$  and  $10^5G_0$  UV fields respectively. The colour scale represents different disc masses and the symbol sizes scale with the disc radius (included are models of radius 10, 20, 40, 60 and 80 au). The main implication of Figure 1 is that the [O I] 6300Å line luminosity is predominantly sensitive to the external UV field strength and very insensitive to the disc mass and radius. Furthermore the line intensity undergoes a massive increase of four orders of magnitude from  $10^3\,G_0$  to  $10^4\,G_0$ .

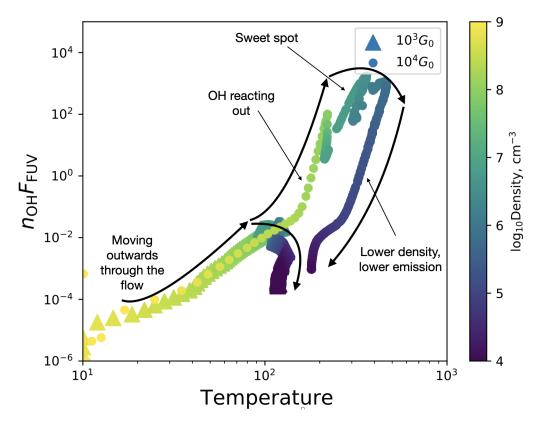


Figure 2. The parameter that controls the [O I] emission measure as a function of the local temperature, with the density represented by the colour scale. The large triangles are a  $10^3G_0$  environment and circles  $10^4G_0$  environment. Denser parts of the flow at temperatures above  $200\,K$  are key to bright [O I] emission, which are only reached beyond  $10^3G_0$ . This is a comparison of a  $0.6\,M_\odot$  star, with  $\Sigma_{1\alpha\mu}=10\,g\,cm^{-2}$  and a disc radius of  $80\,au$ .

There are three main factors that control the [O I] 6300Å line luminosity behaviour

- (i) A linear scaling of the emission coefficient with the local FUV radiation field strength (equation 5).
- (ii) A linear scaling of the emission coefficient with the OH abundance.
- (iii) Suppression of [O<sub>I</sub>] 6300Å emission due to OH reacting out by other pathways.

The sharp increase in luminosity above a few thousand G<sub>0</sub> is contributed to by all three. However, the key factor is that the quantity  $n_{\text{OH}}F_{\text{FUV}}$  is largest for when the density and temperature are  $n \sim 10^5 - 10^7 \,\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$  and  $> 200 \,\mathrm{K}$  respectively. A density of  $n \sim 10^5 - 10^7 \,\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$  at lower temperatures has OH removed by chemical reactions, as does temperatures > 200 K and higher densities than  $n \sim 10^7\,\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ . Figure 2 illustrates the product of the OH number density (cm<sup>-3</sup>) and local FUV field strength (G<sub>0</sub>) as a function of temperature in two of the 1D models. Both models are a  $0.6\,M_\odot$  star, with  $\Sigma_{1au}=10\,\mathrm{g\,cm^{-2}}$  and a disc radius of 80 au. The large triangles are a  $10^3\,G_0$  environment and the circles a  $10^4\,G_0$ environment (note that the  $F_{\rm FUV}$  in value is the attenuated value of that environmental FUV field at any given point). In both cases the densest (yellow) material is near the base of the flow. Being cold and dense, OH simply reacts out quickly into other species. Proceeding further out into the flow it becomes warmer, slightly less dense, and the FUV radiation field strength increases. The key distinction between the  $10^3$  and  $10^4 G_0$  cases is the steep rise in emission above T~ 200 K because the latter results in a warmer, denser more strongly irradiated flow. Further out still in the wind, the flow density drops to lower values where the emission is simply weaker due to the density being lower.

Our discussion so far has focused on 1D external photoevaporation simulations, which obviously are of limited geometrical accuracy. Higher dimensional models are possible but are computationally expensive. To gauge the expected implications of using a 1D geometry in our analysis we compared with 4 new 2D-axisymmetric models, similar to those of Haworth & Clarke (2019). These are irradiated by an isotropic bath of FUV radiation. Our new calculations are at higher resolution than those of Haworth & Clarke (2019) and consider a wider range of UV fields. The density and temperature structure of these models is given in the upper two sets of panels in Figure 3. The third panels of Figure 3 show the OH abundance and contours of the H-H<sub>2</sub> transition. The lower panels show the volume weighted [OI] 6300Å emission map.

Above  $500\,G_0$ , as the UV field increases the H-H $_2$  transition pushes closer to the disc and the flow gets denser and warmer. We integrated the emission using the axisymmetry of the simulation and find that the [OI]  $6300\mbox{\normalfont\AA}$  emission is typically one order of magnitude higher than the estimates from analogous 1D models. We hence proceed with the expectation that the 1D models that we are focusing on provide conservative line luminosity estimates.

#### 3.3 Comparing with ONC proplyd luminosities

Before applying our theoretical results to problems such as identifying external photoevaporation in distant regions or weak UV fields, we compare with the [OI]  $6300\text{\AA}$  luminosities of known proplyds in the ONC. Making this comparison is somewhat challenging, in part

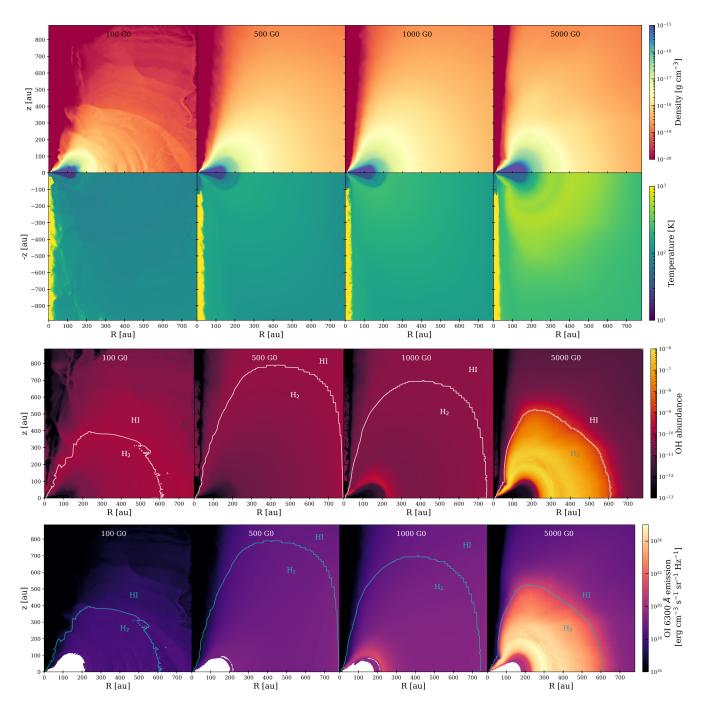


Figure 3. Top: Density and temperature distributions of a 100 au disc around a 1  $M_{\odot}$  star, subject to different FUV fields. Middle: Distribution of OH abundance in our model, for different FUV field strengths. The white contour highlights the H-H<sub>2</sub> transition. Note that the H-H<sub>2</sub> transition in the 100  $G_0$  case being at smaller radii compared to other cases due to the diffuse nature of the wind. Bottom: Volume weighted emission map of the [O I] 6300 Å line for different FUV field strengths. Again, the teal contour highlights the H-H<sub>2</sub> transition. The white region indicates where the [O I] is not produced due to OH reacting out by some other pathways rather than photodissociation, i.e.  $R_{phot} < R_{reac}$ .

because very few values are quoted in the literature (e.g. 182-413 Störzer & Hollenbach 1998; Bally et al. 1998) and also because the line can originate from both the PDR (included in our models) and the ionisation front (not included in our models).

We therefore combined HST F631N ([O I] 6300Å and continuum), F547M (continuum) and F656N ( $H\alpha$ ) data (O'Dell, private comm., but see e.g. O'Dell 1998, 2001) of 22 proplyds in the ONC to

distinguish the different components. By assuming that the [O I]/H $\alpha$  ratio in the ionization front is the same as in the background nebula, we are able to use a scaled version of the H $\alpha$  image to fit and remove the contribution of the ionization front to the [O I] emission. The continuum F547M filter is used to estimate the contribution of the proplyd's central star to the F631N filter, which is also subtracted to leave a residual [O I] profile, which should primarily arise in

the neutral evaporation flow from the proplyd disc. Resulting profiles are shown in Figure 4, while the PDR [O I] 6300Å luminosity components for the proplyds are summarised in Table 2.

Figure 5 shows the proplyds and  $\sigma$  Ori line luminosities as a function of FUV field strength, compared with our model estimates for discs with radii of 20, 50 and 100 au. The proplyd data points are colour coded by the approximate radius of [OI] emission, which is an upper limit to the disc radius. We are not trying to model specific systems here, but note that the models predictions are broadly consistent with observations for disc radii  $\leq$  50 au. Our radius estimates are approximate upper limits, but we also note that Boyden & Eisner (2020) found CO radii that are typically around 50 au in the ONC at distances larger than the proplyds we consider here, so again consistent with the small radii expected from our models.

Most of the proplyds have higher [OI] 6300Å luminosities than the  $\sigma$  Ori discs (typically by an order of magnitude). The  $\sigma$  Ori discs have stronger [OI] 6300Å luminosities than our model at low UV field strengths because the origin of the line in those systems is the internal wind, which we do not include in our model. We note that SO587 had been proposed as an externally photoevaporating disc based on its relatively high [OI] luminosity (Rigliaco et al. 2009). Our more extended disc models (~100 au) are compatible with this interpretation.

Overall our models predict that in high UV environments the [OI] 6300Å luminosities are substantially higher than those typically seen from internal photoevaporation alone and this is supported by our measured values for the ONC proplyds.

#### 3.4 The effect of PAH abundance on the line luminosity

Delocalised electrons in PAHs are easily liberated, making them potentially the most significant contributor to the heating rate in PDRs and hence possibly the most important heating mechanism for external photoevaporation (Facchini et al. 2016). Their abundance plays a key role in setting the flow density, temperature and ultimately the mass loss rate (Haworth et al. in preparation). Given the sensitivity of [OI] 6300Å to the density and temperature discussed in 3.2 that PAH abundance is therefore also likely to affect that line luminosity.

Considering a 100 au disc model around a 1  $M_{\odot}$  star, we look at the effects of varying the PAH abundance on the [O I] line luminosity. The parameter  $f_{\rm PAH}$  within TORUS-3DPDR external photoevaporation calculations regulates the PAH-to-dust ratio relative to the ISM, meaning that  $f_{\rm PAH}=0.1$  corresponds to 10 per cent of the canonical PAH-to-dust ratio in the ISM. Note that the dust-to-gas ratio in the disc can also be (and is, in external photoevaporation calculations) depleted separately, which will further act to reduce the PAH-to-gas ratio. The canonical FRIED grid abundance is about 1/330 of the ISM PAH-to-gas ratio ( $f_{PAH}=0.1$ , dust to gas mass ratio of  $3\times10^{-4}$ ). Vicente et al. (2013) measured a depletion of the PAH-to-gas ratio in the proplyd HST 10 (OW94 182-413) of a factor 50, so the FRIED calculations are thought to be conservative.

Figure 6 again shows the predicted [O I] 6300Å line luminosity as a function of the ambient UV field strength, but for different values of  $f_{PAH}$ . At UV field strengths in the range  $10^3-10^5 \rm G_0$ , the reduced heating at low  $f_{PAH}$  values results in lower mass loss rates and a cooler wind, whereas in Figure 2 we saw that dense, warm flows are required for strong [OI] emission. The [O I] 6300Å line luminosity is therefore lower over that FUV field strength range for lower  $f_{PAH}$ . Note that at very high UV field strengths  $> 10^5 \rm G_0$  the UV field is sufficiently high that the behaviour is independent of the PAH abundance.

The final point worth noting is that if SO587 really is externally photoevaporating (Rigliaco et al. 2009)  $f_{PAH} > 0.5$  are required to be compatible with that interpretation. Note that this is plausible though given that for an  $f_{PAH}$  of 0.1 the PAH-to-gas ratio is over a factor 6 lower than that inferred for 182-413 by Vicente et al. (2013), as discussed above.

### 3.5 Scaling of the [O I] luminosity with accretion luminosity in different UV environments

Our models predict a strong increase in the [O I] 6300Å line luminosity as a function of the FUV field strength. However, there is also a known correlation between the [O I] 6300Å line luminosity and accretion luminosity, driven by the fact that higher accretion leads to stronger internal photoevaporative winds. For example, in an X-Shooter survey of T Tauri stars in Lupus, Chameleon and  $\sigma$  Orionis Nisini et al. (2018) find

$$\log_{10}\left(\frac{L_{\text{[OI]}}}{L_{\odot}}\right) = 0.6\log_{10}\left(\frac{L_{\text{acc}}}{L_{\odot}}\right) - 4.1\tag{7}$$

for the low velocity component of the line, with a spread of about 1.6 dex. However for external photoevaporation there should be no direct correlation between the accretion luminosity and the [O I] 6300Å line luminosity, which could provide a diagnostic for external photoevaporation in distant high UV environments. This is subject to some caveats; i) that there may be an indirect weaker correlation because truncation of the disc by external photoevaporation results in a shorter viscous timescale and hence possible enhanced accretion and ii) external photoevaporation depletes the disc mass which may lead to lower accretion rates.

To make a first exploration of the viability of the [O I] 6300Å line as a diagnostic of external photoevaporation in distant high UV environments, we randomly sample accretion luminosities in different UV environments based on the models here and the observations of Natta et al. (2014). We assume that the accretion luminosities are distributed as a Gaussian of the form

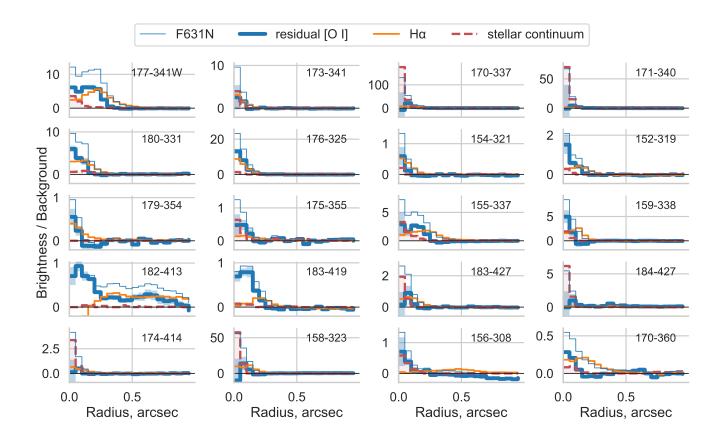
$$P(L_{\rm acc}) \propto \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}(\log_{10}(L_{\rm acc}) - 2)^2\right] \tag{8}$$

i.e. a Gaussian with standard deviation in  $\log_{10}(L_{acc})$  of 1 centred on  $\log_{10}(L_{acc}) = -2$ . That randomly sampled accretion luminosity then corresponds to a [O I] 6300Å luminosity following equation 7, where we include a random modification to the logarithmic [O I] luminosities of  $\pm 0.8$  to account for the spread in the Nisini et al. (2018) data. For each sampled point we then select a random ambient FUV radiation field strength from  $1-10^6$  G<sub>0</sub> and introduce an additional [O I] luminosity component based on our models of external photoevaporation in different environments. Specifically we approximate the models varying with FUV field strength as

$$\log_{10}\left(\frac{L_{\mathrm{[OI]}}}{L_{\odot}}\right) = \begin{cases} -7.4 - 0.35 \log_{10}\left(\frac{F_{\mathrm{FUV}}}{10^{5}\,\mathrm{G}_{0}}\right) + \\ + \log_{10}\left(\left[\frac{F_{\mathrm{FUV}}}{10^{5}\,\mathrm{G}_{0}}\right]^{2}\right), & \text{if } F_{\mathrm{FUV}} \leq 10^{3}\,\mathrm{G}_{0} \\ -3.2 + 2.25 \log_{10}\left(\frac{F_{\mathrm{FUV}}}{10^{5}\,\mathrm{G}_{0}}\right), & \text{if } F_{\mathrm{FUV}} > 10^{3}\,\mathrm{G}_{0} \\ & F_{\mathrm{FUV}} \leq 10^{4}\,\mathrm{G}_{0} \\ -0.25 + 5.2 \log_{10}\left(\frac{F_{\mathrm{FUV}}}{10^{5}\,\mathrm{G}_{0}}\right), & \text{if } F_{\mathrm{FUV}} > 10^{4}\,\mathrm{G}_{0} \end{cases}$$

with a random spread of  $\pm 2$  dex. The fit has been performed using the mpfit python module. The spread corresponds to the error on

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**Figure 4.** [O I] PDR emission from HST imaging of Orion proplyds. Thin blue lines show the brightness profiles in the F631N filter averaged over the hemisphere of the proplyd that faces the ionizing star. Heavy blue lines show the residual [O I] emission after subtracting the contributions from the ionization front (modeled by scaling the H $\alpha$  profile, orange line) and the proplyd's central star (red-dashed line). Blue shading indicates uncertainties in the residual profile.

the fit calculated as the  $\chi^2$ . The resulting ratio of [O I] luminosities to accretion luminosities for a distribution of 1000 randomly sampled discs is shown in Figure 7. Below  $10^4 \, \text{G}_0$  the [O I] luminosity is dominated by emission from the inner disc that scales with the accretion luminosity following Nisini et al. (2018). At stronger FUV fields, however, there is a significant rise in [O I]-to-accretion luminosities owing to the additional external component.

Accretion rate estimates exist for the Sigma Orionis discs by Natta et al. (2014), however the ONC proplyds for which we measure the [O I] luminosity do not yet have accretion rate estimates (the proplyd accretion rate estimates from Manara et al. 2012, do not overlap with our sample). We are hence limited in our ability to test this prediction on local sources (though we reiterate that in 3.3 we have demonstrated that the prediction of high [O I] luminosity is borne out in ONC proplyds).

Nonetheless, the proplyd 182-413 has a strong [OI] 6300Å line luminosity that is spatially resolved and clearly associated with the external photoevaporative wind, in a relatively strong UV environment. This would make it an ideal test of the line-to-accretion luminosity diagnostic. Unfortunately there are no accretion rate measurements for the object. To enable us to make a basic, approximate estimate of this ratio we place constraints on the stellar mass and consider the range of plausible accretion rates for a star of such a mass. The stellar mass is estimated using the K-band magnitude and J-K colour, coupled with UKIDSS magnitudes predicted from Baraffe et al. (2015). 182-413 has a K band magnitude of 13.31 and

a J-K colour of 2, which for a reddening factor  $R_V=5.5$  (Fang et al. 2021) results in a K band magnitude of approximately 12.31 (see Figure 2 of Haworth et al. 2022b, for the reddening vector). The K band magnitude is a strong function of stellar mass at low stellar masses, meaning it can be used to make approximate constraints on the stellar mass as being  $0.18\text{-}0.28~\mathrm{M}_\odot$ . We then use the correlations in Nisini et al. (2018) between [O I] luminosity and both stellar mass and accretion luminosity, to find an rough estimate of the accretion luminosity for 182-413. Figure 7 shows the line-to-accretion luminosity ratio for 182-413, which lies well within the spread of our predictions.

The power that this diagnostic would have over simply searching for [O I] luminosities that are unusually high is that it unambiguously distinguishes bright internal contributions associated with high accretion and external contributions to the line luminosity. The exciting potential utility of this new diagnostic would be the ability to identify external photoevaporation in distant high UV environments where proplyds cannot be spatially resolved.

#### 4 DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Impact of EUV radiation

The external photoevaporative mass loss rate from sub-critical discs (disc radius less than the gravitational radius) is dominated by FUV radiation. Although it doesn't alter the mass loss rate, ionising EUV

Proplyd Name	Projected $\theta^1$ C Separation ["]	PDR [O I] 6300Å Luminosity [ $10^{-4}L_{\odot}$ ]	Estimated External FUV [10 <sup>6</sup> G <sub>0</sub> ]	Estimated Disc Radius [au]
177-341W	25.433	1.466 <sup>+0.194</sup> <sub>-0.195</sub>	0.96	56.3
173-341	22.345	$0.0875^{+0.0566}_{-0.0528}$	1.24	17.7
170-337	15.998	$1.307^{+1.623}_{-1.133}$	2.43	40.4
171-340	18.873	$0.2923^{+0.9277}_{-0.2207}$	1.74	39.2
180-331	24.697	$0.3079^{+0.0717}_{-0.0656}$	1.02	26.6
176-325	16.343	$0.6304^{+0.0802}_{-0.0802}$	2.33	17.6
161-328	7.564	$0.0151^{+0.0191}_{-0.0086}$	10.8	10.0
158-327	10.711	$0.1867^{+0.4129}_{-0.1335}$	5.42	40.9
154-321	16.701	$0.0478^{+0.0323}_{-0.0323}$	2.23	13.5
152-319	19.243	$0.1661^{+0.0488}_{-0.0483}$	1.68	22.3
179-354	37.697	$0.0218^{+0.0090}_{-0.0090}$	0.44	15.9
175-355	35.724	$0.0311^{+0.0129}_{-0.0129}$	0.49	20.0
155-337	20.310	$1.110^{+0.3180}_{-0.2973}$	1.51	45.1
159-338	17.298	$0.3035^{+0.1129}_{-0.1129}$	2.08	15.1
182-413	56.782	$0.6795^{+0.2478}_{-0.2425}$	0.19	109.1
183-419	62.198	$0.1209^{+0.0226}_{-0.0193}$	0.16	39.2
183-427	69.641	$0.0589^{+0.0427}_{-0.0315}$	0.13	30.4
184-427	69.706	$0.1580^{+0.1960}_{-0.1167}$	0.13	87.6
174-414	52.634	$0.0270^{+0.0313}_{-0.0114}$	0.22	25.8
158-323	9.476	$3.186^{+3.231}_{-2.063}$	6.92	35.8
156-308	19.462	$0.1093^{+0.0605}_{-0.0566}$	1.64	25.7
170-360	37.327	$0.0226^{+0.0038}_{-0.0038}$	0.45	21.3

**Table 2.** The [OI] 6300Å line luminosity in the PDR component of ONC proplyds. We also include the projected separation from  $\theta^1$ C and the corresponding FUV field incident upon the proplyds assuming the projected separation is the true separation and geometric dilution of the FUV radiation field.

photons establish an ionisation front downstream in the wind which affects the morphology and the observable characteristics near to the ionisation front. Our calculations are FUV-only, but we gauge the approximate location of the ionisation front assuming ionisation equilibrium and exclude [OI] emission beyond that point.

The disc is irradiated by an ionising flux  $n_{i,0}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. The number of ionising photons required to keep a cell of width  $\Delta R$  with  $n_H$  hydrogen nuclei ionised is

$$n_i = n_H^2 \alpha_B \Delta R \tag{10}$$

where  $\alpha_B$  is the case B hydrogen recombination coefficient ( $\alpha_B \approx 2.7 \times 10^{-13} {\rm cm}^3 {\rm s}^{-1}$ ). We integrate equation 10 on a cell-by-cell basis until the sum of ionising photons required to maintain ionisation equals  $n_{i,0}$ . If we remove all the emission in the portion of the grid that would be ionised we find that the EUV has a negligible impact on the [OI] emission from our models.

## 4.2 The possible utility of [O I] 6300Å for diagnosing external photoevaporation in unresolved systems

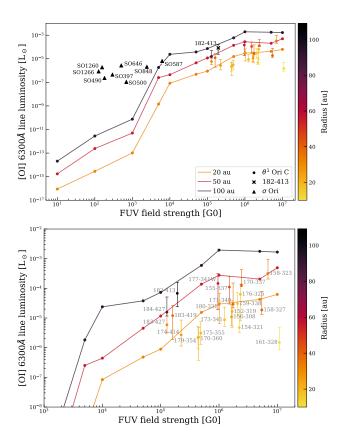
A key implication of Figures 5, 6 and 7 is that the [OI] brightness increases above typical levels for internal disc winds above  $\sim 10^4~\rm G_0$ . Our  $10^5~\rm G_0$  environment models are sufficiently bright that the level of sensitivity in Natta et al. (2014) (who used data from Alcalá et al. 2011; Rigliaco et al. 2012) would in principle be sufficient to detect [OI] from them in distant star forming regions like Carina (which is at 2.3kpc, Smith 2006). For example, the faintest source in Natta et al. (2014) detected with X-Shooter has a flux of  $\sim 3 \times 10^{-17} \rm erg~cm^{-2}~s^{-1}$ . A typical disc in our model

set in a  $10^5~G_0$  field at 2.3 kpc is predicted to have a [O I] flux of around  $3\times 10^{-15} erg~cm^{-2}~s^{-1}$ , so should be detectable. However there may be significant technical challenges associated with the subtraction of the background nebula and overcrowding. If those can be circumvented, bright [O I] lines (brighter than the threshold expected for the flux to be dominated by the disc or an inner wind) associated with YSOs could provide evidence for external photoevaporation in distant star forming regions and could possibly be achieved with X-Shooter.

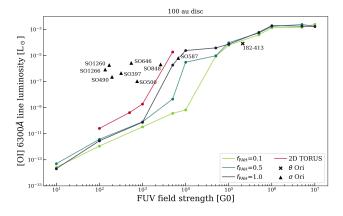
## 4.3 Directly separating the [O I] 6300Å emission contributions from internal and external winds

In 3.5 we considered the total [O I] 6300Å line luminosity from both internal and external photoevaporative winds. Here we briefly discuss distinguishing those internal and external line contributions directly in observations of any given system.

The PDR components of external photoevaporative winds are relatively slow, with temperatures of hundreds to a few thousand Kelvin and flow velocity of around a few km s $^{-1}$ . These external winds are predominantly launched from the disc outer edge, although there are components that are launched from the disc surface layers towards the outer part of the disc (Haworth & Clarke 2019). This results in narrow line profiles, though these do broaden slightly at high FUV field strengths, as illustrated in Figure 8. Conversely internal photoevaporation winds have flow speeds  $\gtrsim 10\,\mathrm{km\,s^{-1}}$  which are launched with a geometry that is more perpendicular (though not perfectly perpendicular) to the disc surface (e.g. Banzatti et al. 2019; Ballabio et al. 2020).



**Figure 5.** Model and observed [OI] 6300Å line luminosities. The lower panel is the same, but with focusing on the dynamic range spanned by the observations. In each panel the triangles are  $\sigma$  ori data from Natta et al. (2014). The other points are our estimates for the PDR in ONC proplyds. The models are for discs of 100, 50 and 20au. With a few exceptions, the ONC proplyds have higher [OI] 6300Å luminosities than the discs in  $\sigma$  ori, consistent with our models for  $\sim$  20 – 50 au discs.



**Figure 6.** [O I] 6300 Å total luminosity of discs as a function of the FUV field strength. Green points and lines are the 1D FRIED models for a 100 au disc with different PAH fractions. Black triangles represent the observed [O I] 6300 Å line luminosities and FUV field that the disc would be exposed to if its true separation from the closest O star were the same as the projected separation (Natta et al. 2014). The data include the candidate evaporating system SO587 in  $\sigma$  Ori (Rigliaco et al. 2009) and the ONC proplyd 182-413 (Störzer & Hollenbach 1998; Bally et al. 1998).

The implications of the flow speeds and geometries of internal and external winds, combined with the fact that the internal wind is brighter in [O I] 6300Å up to  $\sim 10^4\,G_0$  is that for the majority of viewing angles we do not expect to spectrally discern the inner and outer contributions to the line flux. The external contribution will be dominated by the brighter, broader internal emission. In very high UV environments it might be possible to discern a central narrow line with broad wings. However, to spectrally distinguish internal and external winds with [OI] the most likely possibility is for near edge-on discs, since in that case the internal wind is broadly perpendicular to the line of sight, whereas the external is predominantly along the line of sight.

Overall then we generally expect that observationally distinguishing internal and external winds in [O I] 6300Å requires both spatially and spectrally resolving the disc/wind. Unfortunately though this is beyond current observational capabilities. The ANDES (once called HIRES) spectrograph on the in-development European-Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) offers high spectral and spatial resolution that may possibly achieve this (Maiolino et al. 2013; Marconi et al. 2016).

Another possibility is the use of spectro-astrometry, in which the orientation of the spectral slit is adjusted on the target to constrain the orientation and launching region of the wind. For example Whelan et al. (2021) used this to find evidence for inner MHD driven winds in two T Tauri stars, ruling out the winds as photoevaporative in origin based on the flow profile. Given the very different orientation of internal and external photoevaporative winds it is conceivable that it could be a powerful tool for spectrally distinguishing internal and external photoevaporative winds with current instrumentation. However, it is beyond the scope of this work to assess the feasibility of this here using synthetic spectro-astrometry.

#### 5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

We determine the observational characteristics of the [O I] 6300Å line as a tracer of external photoevaporation. This line is also widely used as a diagnostic of internal winds (e.g. Natta et al. 2014). It is also known to be associated with spatially resolved, spectrally unresolved emission from proplyds in high UV environments (Bally et al. 1998) and was explained theoretically in terms of OH dissociation for Orion Nebula Cluster proplyds by Störzer & Hollenbach (1998). Here we greatly expand upon the calculations of Störzer & Hollenbach (1998) to consider a wide range of UV field strengths based on PDR-dynamical simulations of external photoevaporation. Our goal is to understand what further utility there is in the [O I] 6300Å line as a diagnostic of external photoevaporation. We draw the following main conclusions from this work.

1) The [O I]  $6300\text{\AA}$  line luminosity is predicted to be a strong function of the FUV radiation field strength and begins undergoing a dramatic increase above around  $5000~G_0$ . The [OI]  $6300\text{\AA}$  emission is a result of photodissociation of OH and depends on the product of the OH number density and FUV radiation field strength. This is maximal for warm dense flows which require strong FUV radiation fields.

2) The increase in [O I] 6300Å line luminosity predicted by our models is consistent with the luminosities of ONC proplyds, which are markedly brighter in the line than discs in  $\sigma$  Ori. Our models are also consistent with the prior suggestion that the system SO587 in  $\sigma$  Orionis is externally photoevaporating if the disc is

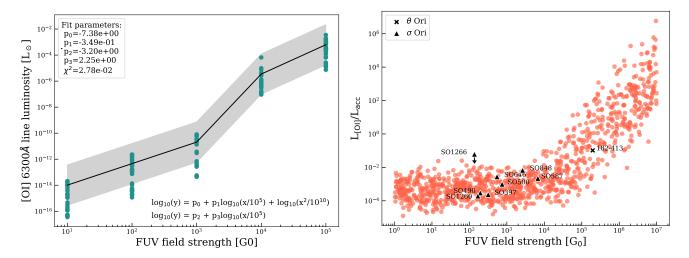
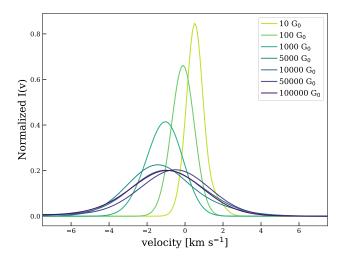


Figure 7. Left: Predicted 1D model [O I] 6300 line luminosities. The spread at each value of the FUV field strength stems from variations in the disc mass/radius. The black line is the fit to the models represented by the equation in implicit form. The error on the fit, calculated as the  $\chi^2$ , is highlighted by the grey band. Right: Modelled ratio of the total [O I] 6300Å LVC line luminosity to accretion luminosity. Up to around  $10^4$  G<sub>0</sub> the [O I] line is dominated by inner emission, which correlates with the accretion luminosity (the distribution here is based on Nisini et al. 2018). Above around  $10^4$  G<sub>0</sub> the [O I] contribution from external photoevaporation becomes significant, which does not correlate (or at least does not correlate so strongly) with the accretion luminosity. The black triangles indicate data in  $\sigma$  Ori taken from the literature (Natta et al. 2014; Rigliaco et al. 2012). The ONC proplyds in which we have detected [O I] emission do not have accretion luminosity estimates, however for illustrative purposes we show the location of 182-413 assuming an accretion luminosity from the Nisini et al. (2018) scalings for the stellar mass of the object.



**Figure 8.** Theoretical line profiles for the [O<sub>1</sub>] 6300Å emission line, calculated from our 1D models at different FUV field strengths. Each line has been normalised to the total integral of the line. Note that this is the radial component of the velocity (i.e. not including the azimuthal), which is typically low compared to the velocity of internal winds.

~ 100 au.

3) We predict that the ratio of the [O I] 6300Å line luminosity to accretion luminosity can help identify external photoevaporative winds in distant clusters where proplyds cannot be resolved. This ratio is relatively flat (with some scatter) in low-intermediate UV environments. Above  $\sim 10^4~G_0$  though, this ratio is anticipated to increase substantially according to our models. Unfortunately a lack of ONC proplyd accretion rates means that this prediction is not yet tested (though we note that the [OI] luminosities themselves

are consistsent with the ONC proplyds). Although this has no major impact in sites such as the ONC, it could help to address a long standing issue in that we are unable to identify external photoevaporation in distant high UV environments where cometary proplyds are difficult to resolve.

4) The [O I] 6300Å line luminosity and ratio relative to the accretion luminosity provides a means of identifying external photoevaporation in distant clusters. However, for any given system it is difficult to directly observe the internal and external components. This is because the low velocity of external photoevaporative winds compared to internal winds means that it is difficult to spectrally distinguish the two without spatially resolving the system. Spatially resolving the inner and outer winds (e.g. with E-ELT ANDES), or perhaps using spectro-astrometry (to be determined in future work) are required to probe the external photoevaporative [O I] line profile when the internal wind dominates the spectrum in spatially unresolved observations.

#### DATA AVAILABILITY

The models used in this paper will be made available upon reasonable request to the authors.

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