Invited lecture

STARK BROADENING AND WHITE DWARFS

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White dwarf and pre-white dwarf atmospheres are one of the best examples for the application of Stark broadening research results in astrophysics, due to plasma conditions very favorable for this line broadening mechanism. For example in hot hydrogen-deficient (pre-) white dwarf stars $T_{eff}=75~000~{\rm K}$ - 180 000 K and log g = 5.5-8 [cgs]. Even for much cooler DA and DB white dwarfs with typical effective temperatures of 10 000 K - 20 000 K, Stark broadening is usually the dominant broadening mechanism.

We will review the classification and evolution of white dwarfs, in particular from the point of view of the significance of Stark broadening and our work on investigation of this line broadening mechanism in atmospheres of such stars.

We will discuss also the organization and search of atomic data needed for such investigations, especially their organization in the STARK-B database (http://stark-b.obspm.fr/), and the new search facilities which will provide the collective effort to develop Virtual Atomic and Molecular Data Center (VAMDC - http://vamdc.org/, Dubernet et al., 2010).

References

Dubernet, M. L. et al.: 2010, J. Quant. Spectrosc. Radiat. Transfer, 111, 2151.