Non-equilibrium chemistry and cooling in the diffuse interstellar medium – I. Optically thin regime

A. J. Richings, J. Schaye and B. D. Oppenheimer

1Leiden Observatory, Leiden University, PO Box 9513, NL-2300 RA Leiden, the Netherlands
2Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy, Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences, University of Colorado, 389 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309, USA

Accepted 2014 March 13. Received 2014 March 12; in original form 2014 January 19

ABSTRACT

An accurate treatment of the multiphase interstellar medium (ISM) in hydrodynamic galaxy simulations requires that we follow not only the thermal evolution of the gas, but also the evolution of its chemical state, including its molecular chemistry, without assuming chemical (including ionization) equilibrium. We present a reaction network that can be used to solve for this thermo-chemical evolution. Our model follows the evolution of all ionization states of the 11 elements that dominate the cooling rate, along with important molecules such as H$_2$ and CO, and the intermediate molecular species that are involved in their formation (20 molecules in total). We include chemical reactions on dust grains, thermal processes involving dust, cosmic ray ionization and heating and photochemical reactions. We focus on conditions typical for the diffuse ISM, with densities of $10^{-2}$ cm$^{-3}$ $\lesssim n_H \lesssim 10^4$ cm$^{-3}$ and temperatures of $10^2$ K $\lesssim T \lesssim 10^4$ K, and we consider a range of radiation fields, including no UV radiation. In this paper, we consider only gas that is optically thin, while paper II considers gas that becomes shielded from the radiation field. We verify the accuracy of our model by comparing chemical abundances and cooling functions in chemical equilibrium with the photoionization code CLOUDY. We identify the major coolants in diffuse interstellar gas to be C II, Si II and Fe II, along with O I and H$_2$ at densities $n_H \gtrsim 10^2$ cm$^{-3}$. Finally, we investigate the impact of non-equilibrium chemistry on the cooling functions of isochorically or isobarically cooling gas. We find that, at $T < 10^4$ K, recombination lags increase the electron abundance above its equilibrium value at a given temperature, which can enhance the cooling rate by up to two orders of magnitude. The cooling gas also shows lower H$_2$ abundances than in equilibrium, by up to an order of magnitude.

Key words: astrochemistry – plasmas – ISM: atoms – ISM: molecules – galaxies: formation – cosmology: theory.

1 INTRODUCTION

Understanding the chemical evolution of the interstellar medium (ISM) is imperative for the accurate modelling of the radiative cooling rate of interstellar gas, and hence for the dynamics of the ISM. However, a full treatment of the ISM chemistry can involve hundreds of chemical species and thousands of reactions (e.g. the UMIST data base for astrochemistry; Le Teuff, Millar & Marwick 2000) and the computational cost of such a complex treatment renders it impractical for use within large-scale 3D hydrodynamical simulations of galaxy formation. This problem is further compounded by the fact that chemical rate equations are typically stiff and so must be integrated implicitly, with a computational cost that scales with the cube of the number of species involved.

To avoid these issues, existing cosmological hydrodynamical simulations typically make use of simplifying assumptions to model the gas cooling rate. For example, the cosmological simulations run as part of the OverWhelmingly Large Simulations project (OWLS; Schaye et al. 2010) use pre-computed cooling functions tabulated by temperature, density and abundances of individual elements, which were calculated using CLOUDY (Ferland et al. 1998, 2013) assuming ionization equilibrium in the presence of the UV background (UVB) of Haardt & Madau (2001, see Wiersma, Schaye & Smith 2009). However, such an approach has a number of disadvantages. First, it assumes that the gas is in ionization equilibrium, which may not be valid when the cooling or dynamical time-scale of the gas is shorter than its chemical time-scale (e.g. Kafatos 1973; Gnat & Sternberg 2007; Oppenheimer & Schaye 2013a; Vasiliev 2013) or in the...
presence of a time variable radiation field (e.g. Oppenheimer & Schaye 2013b). Secondly, one needs to rely on simple assumptions about the UV radiation field that is present. For example, many authors tabulate the cooling rate assuming that the gas is in collisional ionization equilibrium i.e. they neglect the UV radiation altogether (e.g. Cox & Tucker 1969; Sutherland & Dopita 1993; Smith, Sigurdsson & Abel 2008). Other studies such as Wiersma et al. (2009) assume the presence of a uniform UVB, thus neglecting local sources as well as shielding effects. De Rijk et al. (2013) account for the self-shielding of gas by exponentially suppressing the hydrogen ionizing part of the UVB spectrum at high HI densities above a threshold $n_{H_1} = 0.007 \, \text{cm}^{-3}$, while Vogelsberger et al. (2013) use the fitting function of Rahmati et al. (2013) for the hydrogen ionization rate as a function of density. Such simplifying assumptions are used because correctly accounting for the UV radiation field would require additional dimensions in the pre-computed tables of cooling rates, and reproducing the spectral shape of the radiation potentially requires tabulating in many frequency bins, which would greatly increase the size of the tables (although a recent study by Gnedin & Hollon 2012 suggests that this can be achieved with just three or four frequency bins).

An alternative approach is to solve the ISM chemistry within hydrodynamical simulations using a greatly simplified reaction network that captures the most important features of the chemical evolution while avoiding the complexity of more complete networks. Such a model was used by Glover & Jappsen (2007) to investigate low-metallicity gas, and Glover et al. (2010) used a similar model including the CO chemistry to study the formation of molecular clouds in the turbulent ISM. Grassi et al. (2011) have developed a model of the ISM that they implemented in numerical simulations by first evaluating their model on a large grid of input parameters and then using this to train an artificial neural network to behave like their gas model, and Grassi et al. (2014) present a package for embedding chemistry in hydrodynamical simulations. There are also methods to optimize a chemical network by selecting only the species and/or reactions from the network that are relevant to the particular physical conditions that one is interested in (e.g. Tupper 2002; Wiebe, Semenov & Henning 2003; Grassi et al. 2012).

We present a new chemical and thermal model of the ISM that covers a wide range of physical conditions, and is accurate for temperatures $10^2 \lesssim T \lesssim 10^4 \, \text{K}$ and densities $n_H \lesssim 10^4 \, \text{cm}^{-3}$. At higher densities and lower temperatures additional molecular species not included in our model may become important. We intend to apply this model to hydrodynamic galaxy simulations in which it is important that we are able to resolve the Jeans mass of the gas. Colder gas has a smaller Jeans mass ($M_J \propto T^{3/2}$), making it difficult to resolve gas at very low temperatures. We therefore choose not to consider gas below $10^2 \, \text{K}$, which approximately corresponds to the smallest Jeans mass that can be resolved in current simulations of galaxy formation.

We are primarily interested in the regime of the diffuse ISM, with typical densities of $10^{-2} \lesssim n_H \lesssim 10^3 \, \text{cm}^{-3}$ and temperatures of $10^2 \lesssim T \lesssim 10^4 \, \text{K}$. Our model enables us to calculate the radiative cooling rate in the diffuse ISM without assuming ionization or chemical equilibrium. Additionally, we will also be able to study the formation of some of the simplest molecules in the ISM, particularly H$_2$ and CO. Molecular hydrogen is known to be an important coolant below $10^4 \, \text{K}$ in primordial (e.g. Saslaw & Zipoy 1967; Peebles & Dicke 1968; Lepp & Shull 1984; Puy et al. 1993) but low-metallicity gas (e.g. Omukai et al. 2005; Santoro & Shull 2006; Jappsen et al. 2007).

By following the evolution of the CO abundance in our model, we will be able to simulate mock observations of CO emission, which will help us to compare our simulations to observations. This will also allow us to investigate how the $X_{CO}$ factor, which relates the observable CO emission to the abundance of molecular hydrogen, evolves in our simulations. Additionally, cooling from heavy molecular species such as CO, H$_2$O and OH, which are all included in our network, can also contribute to the cooling rate of diffuse interstellar gas (e.g. Neufeld & Kaufman 1993; Neufeld, Lepp & Melnick 1995).

Beyond this regime of the diffuse ISM, we are also interested in gas that is at higher temperatures, above $10^4 \, \text{K}$, and/or at lower densities, below $10^{-2} \, \text{cm}^{-3}$. For such gas, we include the species and reactions from the chemical model of Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a) for metal-enriched gas in the intergalactic medium (IGM), which includes higher ionization states. This enables us to self-consistently follow the full chemical evolution of gas as it coolest from the IGM and the circumgalactic medium (CGM) on to the ISM, and also to accurately model interstellar gas that is irradiated by a strong UV radiation field from local sources.

In this paper, we shall focus on photoionized gas in the optically thin regime. The chemistry and cooling properties of shielded gas, in which the incident radiation field becomes attenuated by dust and by the gas itself, will be important for the cold phase of the ISM, in particular for molecular clouds. We will present results for such shielded conditions, along with the methods that we use to calculate the attenuation of the photochemical reactions by dust and gas, in a companion paper to this work (hereafter paper II).

Throughout this paper, we use the default solar abundances used by CLOUDY, version 13.01 (see for example table 1 in Wiersma et al. 2009). In particular, we take the solar metallicity to be $Z_{\odot} = 0.0129$. This paper is organized as follows. In Sections 2 and 3, we describe the details of our chemical and thermal models, respectively (readers who are not interested in the details of our methods may skip these two sections). In Section 4, we compare the abundances and cooling functions predicted by our model in chemical equilibrium with CLOUDY to confirm its validity in the range of physical conditions that we are interested in, and we highlight the most important processes and the dominant coolants in this regime. In Section 5, we investigate what impact non-equilibrium chemistry can have on the cooling of interstellar gas, and we discuss our results and conclusions in Section 6.

2 THE CHEMICAL MODEL

To reproduce the gas cooling rate in the diffuse ISM, we will need to ensure that we include all of the most important coolants for the range of physical conditions that we are interested in. In non-prrimordial gas, the cooling rate below $10^4 \, \text{K}$ is typically dominated by fine structure line emission from metals (e.g. Maio et al. 2007). Glover & Jappsen (2007) considered the contribution of various neutral and singly ionized metal species to the cooling rate at temperatures $50 \, \text{K} < T < 10^4 \, \text{K}$ and densities $10^{-3} < n < 10^2 \, \text{cm}^{-3}$ at a metallicity of 0.1 $Z_{\odot}$. They identified the most important coolants to be C I, C II, O I and Si II, contributing at least 25 per cent to the cooling rate somewhere within these ranges, in addition to inverse Compton cooling (at high redshift) and Ly$\alpha$ cooling. They also included cooling from molecular hydrogen, which dominates below $10^4 \, \text{K}$ in primordial gas and remains important in low-metallicity gas. We therefore take the reaction network used by Glover & Jappsen (2007) as the basis for our chemical model, supplemented with additional reactions for the primordial chemistry, and more recent rate coefficients for some existing reactions, taken from Glover & Abel (2008) and others. Glover & Jappsen (2007) follow 18 chemical species including the coolants described above and those
species that have a significant impact on their abundances. They also include cooling from the HD molecule, which can become important in primordial and very low metallicity gas at low temperatures \( T < 200 \text{ K} \) and densities \( n_\text{H} > 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3} \) (Ferland et al. 2000; Omukai et al. 2005; Glover, Savin & Jappsen 2006). However, as we are interested in the diffuse ISM rather than dense molecular clouds, we do not explore temperatures below \( 10^2 \text{ K} \), nor do we consider densities above \( 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-3} \). We therefore decide to neglect HD cooling, which allows us to remove the deuterium chemistry from the reaction network.

In addition to tracking the coolants described above, we are also interested in following the abundance of CO in our model. Modelling the CO chemistry can become very complicated as a large number of intermediate molecular species are involved in its formation and destruction. Glover & Clark (2012) compare a number of simplified models that aim to approximate the CO chemistry in giant molecular clouds. We include the molecular CO network of Glover et al. (2010) (the most complex model considered by Glover & Clark 2012, although still a significant simplification compared to the full UMIST data base), with some modifications as described in Section 2.5. We demonstrate in Section 4.2 that this model produces equilibrium CO fractions that are in good agreement with those calculated using version 13.01 of CLOUDY (Ferland et al. 2013) in the physical regimes that we are interested in here, i.e. those relevant to the diffuse ISM. We also include cooling from the molecular species CO, H2O and OH in our thermal model.

Finally, we extend our chemical network to include the higher ionization states that are relevant in the CGM, the warm and hot ISM, and in regions with a strong interstellar radiation field (ISRF). We combine the chemical reactions involving molecules and low-ionization states described above with the model of Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a), which includes all ionization states of the 11 elements\(^2\) tabulated by Wiersma et al. (2009) and used in the cosmological simulations of the OWLS project (Schaye et al. 2010). Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a) have tabulated the temperature dependence of the rate coefficients for collisional ionization, radiative and di-electronic recombination and charge transfer reactions, based on the rates used by CLOUDY, which we make use of in our model, although we recalculate the photoionization rates (including Auger ionization) so that we can apply this model to any general UV radiation field, rather than just the extragalactic UVB models used by Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a); see Section 2.2. Also, while Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a) only include the charge transfer ionization and recombination of metals by hydrogen and helium, we supplemented these with a small number of charge transfer reactions between metal species, which we take from the UMIST data base.

We now have a chemical model that follows 157 species. These are the molecules \( \text{H}_2, \text{H}_3^+, \text{H}_4^+, \text{OH}, \text{H}_2\text{O}, \text{C}_2, \text{O}_2, \text{HCO}^+, \text{CH}, \text{CH}_2, \text{CH}_3, \text{CO}, \text{CH}^+, \text{CH}_2^+, \text{OH}^+, \text{H}_2\text{O}^+, \text{H}_2\text{O}^+, \text{CO}^+, \text{HOC}^+ \) and \( \text{O}_2^+ \), along with electrons and all ionizations states of \( \text{H}, \text{He}, \text{C}, \text{N}, \text{O}, \text{Ne}, \text{Si}, \text{Mg}, \text{S}, \text{Ca} \) and \( \text{Fe} \) (including \( \text{H}^+, \text{C}^- \) and \( \text{O}^- \)). The 907 reactions included in our model are summarized in Table B1 in Appendix B. We describe some of these reactions, and the rates that we use for them, in more detail in Sections 2.2–2.5 below.

To confirm the validity of our chemical model, we compare it to the photoionization code CLOUDY, version 13.01\(^3\) (Ferland et al. 2013), which simulates the ionization and molecular state of gas in chemical (including ionization) equilibrium, along with the thermal state and the level populations of each species, and hence predicts the spectrum of the gas. CLOUDY uses a more extensive chemical network than our model, including all ionization states of the 30 lightest elements, and a molecular network that incorporates 83 molecules. CLOUDY includes a detailed treatment of the microphysical processes involved with molecular hydrogen, including the level populations of 1893 rovibrational states (for details of the microphysics of the \( \text{H}_2 \) molecule implemented in CLOUDY, see Shaw et al. 2005). CLOUDY also follows the radiative transfer of radiation through the gas, although we only consider optically thin gas in this paper, so we compare one-zone calculations in CLOUDY to our model in chemical equilibrium. CLOUDY is applicable to a wide range of physical conditions, e.g. densities up to \( n_\text{H} \sim 10^{15} \text{ cm}^{-3} \) and temperatures up to \( \sim 10^{10} \text{ K} \). See Röllig et al. (2007) for a comparison of several PDR codes, including CLOUDY.

### 2.1 Numerical implementation

We follow the non-equilibrium abundances of the chemical species in our network by integrating the rate equations from the initial conditions using the backward difference formula method and Newton iteration, implemented in CVODE (a part of the SUNDIALS\(^4\) suite of non-linear differential/algebraic equation solvers). We use a relative tolerance of \( 10^{-6} \) and an absolute tolerance of \( 10^{-13} \). The abundances are also subject to the following constraint equations:

\[
x_e = \sum_{i,a} n_{ix} x_i - \sum_j x_j, \tag{2.1}
\]

\[
x_0 = x_i, n = \sum_{i,a} n_{ix} x_i - x_i - \sum_{n \text{ mol}} x_{i,n} x_{\text{mol}}, \tag{2.2}
\]

where \( x_{i,n} \text{ mol} \) is the number of atoms of element \( i \) in molecule \( n \) and the abundance \( x_{i,n} \) of ion species \( i^m \) is defined with respect to the total number density of hydrogen, \( n_{\text{H}_2} \), i.e. \( x_{i,n} \equiv n_{i,n} / n_{\text{H}_2} \). Be aware that these abundances are number fractions, not mass fractions. Glover & Jappsen (2007) use these constraint equations to reduce the number of rate equations that need to be integrated. However, following Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a), we track all of the species from their rate equations and use the above constraint equations as an independent check on the accuracy of the CVODE solver. If the sum of species of a given element differs from its constraint by more than 1 per cent, then these abundances are renormalized by multiplying the abundances of each species by the ratio of their constraint to their sum. Similarly, if the electron abundance differs from the sum of charged species as given in equation (2.1), then it is also renormalized.

### 2.2 Photochemical reactions

#### 2.2.1 Photoionization

The optically thin photoionization rate \( \Gamma \) for an incident spectrum with an intensity per unit solid angle per unit frequency \( J_\nu \) is given by the equation:

\[
\Gamma_\text{thin} = \int_{v_\text{th}}^{\infty} 4\pi J_\nu \sigma_\nu \text{d}v, \tag{2.3}
\]

where \( v_\text{th} \) is the ionization threshold frequency of the ion.

Equation (2.3) does not include the effect of secondary ionizations, which can be significant if the ionizing radiation is dominated by

\(^2\)H, He, C, N, O, Ne, Mg, Si, S, Ca and Fe.

\(^3\)http://nublado.org/

\(^4\)https://computation.llnl.gov/casc/sundials/main.html
by X-rays (e.g. Abel et al. 1997). We use the values for the number of secondary ionizations of hydrogen per primary ionization tabulated by Furlanetto & Stoever (2010) as a function of primary electron energy and ionized hydrogen fraction \(x_{\text{H}}\) (see Section 2.3) to calculate how important secondary ionizations would be for the photodissociation of hydrogen by the ISRF of Black (1987) and the redshift zero extragalactic UVB of Haardt & Madau (2001). We found that, for these two spectra, the secondary ionization rate of hydrogen was just 0.02 per cent and 0.08 per cent of the primary ionization rate, respectively, at an \(\text{H}
\) abundance \(x_{\text{H}} = 10^{-4}\), and even less at higher \(\text{H}
\) abundances. We therefore choose to neglect secondary ionizations from UV photionization in our model, although we find that we do need to consider them for cosmic rays (see Section 2.3).

We can replace the frequency dependent cross-section \(\sigma_\nu\) with an average cross-section \(\overline{\sigma_\nu}\) using the optically thin grey approximation. Then, the photoionization rate of species \(i\) is given by the equation:

\[
\Gamma_{\nu,\text{thin}} = \sigma_\nu \int_0^\infty \frac{4\pi J_\nu}{h\nu} d\nu,
\]

where

\[
\overline{\sigma_\nu} = \int_0^\infty \frac{4\pi J_\nu}{h\nu} d\nu.
\]

The integral on the right-hand side of equation (2.4) gives the number of hydrogen ionizing photons per unit area and time. Once we have specified the spectral shape of the incident UV radiation field through \(J_\nu\), we can calculate the average cross-sections \(\sigma_\nu\) using equation (2.5). We use the frequency-dependent cross-sections \(\sigma_\nu\) from Verner & Yakovlev (1995) and Verner et al. (1996), as used by CLOUDY. The number of hydrogen ionizing photons per unit area and time, which determines the intensity of the UV radiation field, is an input parameter to our model; hence, we can calculate the photoionization rates using equation (2.4).

The photoionization of inner shell electrons can lead to the ejection of multiple electrons by a single photon (Auger ionization). We therefore multiply the cross-sections calculated using equation (2.5) for each subshell of every ion by the electron vacancy distribution probabilities from Kaastra & Mewe (1993), and then sum over all subshells to obtain the Auger ionization rates for each species.

2.2.2 Photodissociation

Molecular hydrogen in the ground electronic state can be dissociated by photons in the Lyman Werner band (11.2 < \(h\nu < 13.6\) eV) via the two step Solomon process. The absorbed photon excites the \(\text{H}_2\) into an electronically and vibrationally excited state, and when it decays back to the ground electronic state there is a probability that it will dissociate. An accurate treatment of the Solomon process would require us to follow the local populations of the rovibrational states of \(\text{H}_2\), which would be computationally expensive. However, there are approximations that we can use to estimate the photodissociation rate. Abel et al. (1997) argue that photodissociation of \(\text{H}_2\) occurs mainly via absorptions in the very narrow energy band 12.24 < \(h\nu < 13.51\) eV. Therefore, if the UV spectrum is approximately constant in this range, the photodissociation rate will be proportional to the spectral intensity \(J_\nu\), evaluated at \(h\nu = 12.87\) eV (corresponding to the vibrational state \(v = 13\)). They then derive this rate to be

\[
\Gamma_{\nu,\text{thin}} = 1.38 \times 10^9 \text{ s}^{-1} \left( \frac{J_\nu(h\nu = 12.87 \text{ eV})}{\text{erg} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}} \right).
\]

This rate is also used by Glover & Jappsen (2007, their equation 49).

To investigate the accuracy of this approximation, we calculated the photodissociation rate in CLOUDY using its ‘big H2’ model for the molecular hydrogen, in which the level populations of 1893 rovibrational states of \(\text{H}_2\) are followed and dissociation from these states via the Solomon process is calculated self-consistently (see Shaw et al. 2005 for a description of how the microphysics of molecular hydrogen is implemented in CLOUDY). We considered three different UV spectra, the ISRF of Black (1987), the redshift zero extragalactic UVB of Haardt & Madau (2001) and a blackbody spectrum with a temperature \(10^5\) K, and compared the photodissociation rates estimated by equation (2.6) with those from CLOUDY for the range of densities \(n_\text{H} \leq 10^3\) cm\(^{-3}\). We found that the rates from CLOUDY were generally higher than those estimated using equation (2.6), by a factor \(\sim 2\). Furthermore, the dissociation rates calculated by CLOUDY did not scale exactly with \(J_\nu(h\nu = 12.87\) eV\)). We considered different ways to parametrize the dependence of the photodissociation rate on the UV spectrum, and we found that the most robust method was to assume that it scales with the number density of photons in the energy band 12.24 < \(h\nu < 13.51\) eV, \(n_{12.24-13.51}\) eV. We normalized this relation to the average rate calculated by CLOUDY over the density range \(1 < n_\text{H} < 10^3\) cm\(^{-3}\) in the presence of the Black (1987) ISRF. The optically thin photodissociation rate of \(\text{H}_2\) is then

\[
\Gamma_{\nu,\text{thin}} = 7.5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ s}^{-1} \left( \frac{n_{12.24-13.51\text{ eV}}}{2.256 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right).
\]

There remains a dependence of the photodissociation rate on the density that we are unable to capture in this approximation, as we do not follow the level populations of the rovibrational states of \(\text{H}_2\). This introduces errors of up to \(\sim 25\) per cent over the density range \(1 < n_\text{H} < 10^4\) cm\(^{-3}\).

For the molecular species from the CO network, we use the photoionization and photodissociation rates given by van Dishoeck, Jonkheid & van Hemert (2006) and Visser, van Dishoeck & Black (2009) where available, or Glover et al. (2010) otherwise, as calculated for the ISRF of Draine (1978). This radiation field has a field strength \(G_0 = 1.7\), where the dimensionless parameter \(G_0\) is defined as the ratio of the energy density in the UV radiation field in the energy range 6 to 13.6 eV with respect to the Habing (1968) field:

\[
G_0 = \frac{n_{6-13.6 \text{ eV}}}{5.29 \times 10^{-14} \text{ erg cm}^{-3}}.
\]

We assume that the photoionization and photodissociation rates of these molecular species are proportional to \(G_0\), so we multiply these rates calculated for the Draine (1978) ISRF by \(G_0/1.7\).

The above photochemical rates are valid in the optically thin regime. In paper II, we will consider the impact of shielding on these rates.
ionization rates are not included in this database, they obtain the cosmic ray ionization rate with respect to \( \xi_i \), using the method from Langer (1978), who use the following equation from Silk (1970):

\[
\xi_i = \xi_i \left( \frac{X_H}{X_i} \right) \xi_{H_i}, \quad (2.9)
\]

where \( \xi_i \) is the effective number of electrons in the outer shell and \( X_H \) and \( X_i \) are the ionization energies of hydrogen and the ion species \( i \) respectively. \( \xi_i \) can be calculated using the equations in Lotz (1967):

\[
\xi_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{2} \xi_j}{\sum_{j=1}^{2} \xi_j / \chi_j}, \quad (2.10)
\]

where the summation is over the two outermost (sub-) shells, with \( \xi_j \) electrons and ionization potential \( \chi_j \). \( \xi \) is a weighted average of these ionization potentials, given by

\[
\ln \chi = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{2} \xi_j \ln \chi_j}{\sum_{j=1}^{2} \xi_j}. \quad (2.11)
\]

Many of the species that we have added from the model of Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a) are not included in the UMIST database, so for these we also use the above equations to calculate their cosmic ray ionization rates in terms of \( \xi_{H_i} \). We note that cosmic ray ionization is only important for species in low-ionization states, as the ionization rates calculated above become very small for higher ionization states.

In addition to the primary ionizations described above, the highly energetic ejected electrons can ionize further atoms. Furlanetto & Stoever (2010) used Monte Carlo simulations to calculate the fraction of the primary electron energy \( E \) that is deposited as heat, in collisional ionization of \( H, He_i \), and in collisional excitation of \( H \). They tabulate these energy deposition fractions as functions of \( E \) and of the ionization fraction, \( \chi_i = \chi_{H_i} \). We therefore calculate the ionization rates of \( H \) and \( He_i \) due to secondary ionizations by interpolating the tables of Furlanetto & Stoever (2010) as a function of the ionized hydrogen fraction \( \chi_{H_i} \). For the primary electron energy, we take a typical mean value \( E = 35 \) eV (Spitzer 1978; Wolfire et al. 1995). At this energy, the secondary ionization rate of \( He_i \) is zero, as it is below the \( He_i \) ionization energy of 54.4 eV.

Note that this introduces a dependence on the ionization fraction, as Coulomb interactions can reduce the energy of the primary electron if the electron abundance is high, thereby reducing the number of secondary ionizations. If we only include primary ionizations, then we miss this dependence, which we find does have a small but noticeable effect on the ionization balance at low densities and low ionization fractions.

We were unable to find equivalent calculations for the secondary ionization rates of metal species in the literature, so we only include primary cosmic ray ionizations for these species.

Glover et al. (2010) also include a number of ionization and dissociation reactions of molecules from cosmic ray induced UV emission, which we have also included in our model. These are summarized in Table B1 in Appendix B, and are labelled as ‘Y$_{cr}$’.

### 2.4 Dust grain physics

Our model includes a number of reactions that occur on the surface of dust grains. The most important of these is the formation of molecular hydrogen on dust, which typically dominates over the gas phase reactions except in dust free or very low metallicity environments. For this reaction, we use the rate from Cazaux & Tielens (2002), as given by their equation 18:

\[
R_{H_2} = \frac{1}{2} n_{H_2} \nu_{H_2} n_d \sigma_d \epsilon_{H_2}(T_{dust}) S_{H_2}(T_{dust}, T_{dust}) \text{ cm}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}, \quad (2.12)
\]

where \( n_{H_2} \) is the number density of neutral hydrogen, \( \nu_{H_2} \) is the thermal velocity of the gas at temperature \( T_{dust} \) and \( n_d \sigma_d \) is the total cross-sectional area of dust grains per unit volume. Following Krumholz, Leroy & McKee (2011), we use a cross-sectional area of \( 10^{-21} Z/Z_C \) cm$^2$ per H nucleus, which is intermediate between the values from the models of Weingartner & Draine (2001a) for the Milky Way (with a ratio of visual extinction to reddening \( R_e \) = 3.1 or 5.5), the Large Magellanic Cloud and the Small Magellanic Cloud, and assumes that the dust content of the gas scales linearly with metallicity. The dimensionless recombination efficiency \( \epsilon_{H_2}(T_{dust}) \) is given in equation 13 of Cazaux & Tielens (2002). For the dimensionless sticking probability, \( S_{H_2}(T_{dust}, T_{dust}) \), we use equation 3.7 from Hollenbach & McKee (1979).

Equation (2.12) depends on the temperatures of both the gas and the dust, so we need to make an assumption about the dust temperature. Glover & Clark (2012) calculate the dust temperature by assuming that it is in thermal equilibrium and then solving the thermal balance equation for the dust grains (their equation A2). However, we find that for the physical conditions that we are interested in, i.e. those relevant to the diffuse ISM, the molecular hydrogen abundance is insensitive to the temperature of the dust (see Appendix A). Therefore, to reduce the computational cost of our model, we shall simply assume a constant dust temperature of 10 K.

Following Glover & Jappsen (2007), we include the recombination of \( H_\perp, He_\perp, C_\perp, O_\perp \) and \( Si_\perp \) on dust grains, along with \( Fe_\perp, Mg_\perp, S_\perp, Ca_\perp \) and \( Ca_\perp \), which were not present in the model of Glover & Jappsen (2007). We use the rate coefficients quoted in table 3 of their paper, where present, which are based on calculations by Hollenbach & McKee (1979) and Weingartner & Draine (2000b). For the reactions not included in Glover & Jappsen (2007), we take the rate coefficients directly from Weingartner & Draine (2000b). These reactions are typically one or two orders of magnitude smaller than the radiative recombination rates, although the two can become comparable at temperatures above a few thousand kelvin.

There are several additional dust grain processes that we do not currently include in our model. In particular, we do not explicitly follow the creation and destruction of dust, assuming instead that the dust-to-gas ratio simply scales linearly with the metallicity. More importantly for the gas cooling rates, we also do not model the depletion of metal atoms on to dust grains. This can reduce the gas phase abundances of metals by factors of a few. For example, Jenkins (2009) investigates the variation in the depletion factors (i.e. the fraction of a species remaining in the gas phase) of metals along different sight lines in the local ISM. The depletion factors of carbon and oxygen that they find are typically \( \sim 0.6–0.8 \) and \( \sim 0.6–1.0 \), respectively, while heavily depleted elements such as iron can have depletion factors below 1 percent. Thus, the rates of metal line cooling, particularly from iron, could be significantly affected by depletion on to dust grains.

Since these depletion factors are highly uncertain, we do not include them in our model, and we aim to address these issues in a future work. However, in Fig. 1 we illustrate the impact that metal depletion on to dust grains could potentially have on the
cooling function of interstellar gas. We show the cooling rates of gas at a density $n_\text{H} = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the presence of the redshift zero Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UVB, plotted as a function of temperature. These were calculated using our model with element abundances at solar metallicity (solid curves), and with the solar abundances of C, N, O, Mg, Si and Fe reduced by the depletion factors given in column seven of table 4 in Jenkins (2009, dot–dashed curves). We see that, in this example, cooling from C II, Si II and Fe II are important to balance the heating from the photoionization of H II. However, these elements can be strongly depleted, particularly Si and Fe. Therefore, when we include the depletion factors of Jenkins (2009), the thermal equilibrium temperature, at which the total cooling and heating rates are equal, increases from $T_\text{eq} \sim 800$ to 5600 K.

### 2.5 CO model

We base our model for CO chemistry on the reaction network of Glover et al. (2010), as we find that this is able to reproduce the molecular fraction of CO in the diffuse ISM fairly well, as predicted by CLOUDY, without requiring the full complexity of more complete networks (see Section 4.2). For the photochemical reaction rates, they assume the ISRF of Draine (1978), with a radiation field strength (see equation 2.8) of $G_0 = 1.7$ in units of the Habing (1968) field. To generalize these rates to any UV radiation field, we multiply them by $G_0/1.7$.

Our comparisons with CLOUDY showed that it is necessary to include four additional reactions in our network (reactions 111, 283, 303 and 304 in Table B1) that were not included in the model of Glover et al. (2010). We also updated the rates for a small number of reactions in Glover et al. (2010) to improve agreement with CLOUDY, and we updated some of the photodissociation rates using the values from van Dishoeck et al. (2006) and Visser et al. (2009); see Appendix B.

### Table 1. Summary of included thermal processes.

| Process                               | References |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| **Cooling processes**                 |            |
| H excitation                          | 1          |
| He excitation                         | 1          |
| H$^+$ excitation                      | 1          |
| H collisional ionization               | 1          |
| He collisional ionization              | 1          |
| H$^+$ collisional ionization           | 1          |
| H$^+$ recombination                    | 1          |
| H$^+$ recombination$^a$                | 1          |
| He$^{+}$ recombination$^a$             | 1          |
| Grain–surface recombination           | 2, 3       |
| Inverse Compton cooling from the CMB  | 2, 4       |
| Bremsstrahlung                        | 1          |
| Metal line cooling                    | 1, 2       |
| H$^+_2$ rovibrational cooling         | 5          |
| H$_2$ collisional dissociation         | 2, 6       |
| CO rovibrational cooling              | 7, 8, 9    |
| H$_2$O rovibrational cooling          | 7, 8, 9    |
| OH rotational cooling                 | 10         |
| **Heating processes**                 |            |
| Photoheating                          | 11, 12     |
| Cosmic ray heating$^b$                | 2, 13      |
| Dust photoelectric effect             | 14         |
| H$_2$ photodissociation               | 2, 15      |
| H$^+_2$ UV pumping                    | 2, 16      |
| H$_2$ formation; gas phase            | 2, 17, 18  |
| H$_2$ formation; dust grains          | 2, 10      |

$^a$ Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a); $^b$ Glover & Abel (2008);
$^c$ Assuming 20 eV deposited as heat into the gas per primary ionization (Goldsmith & Langer 1978).

3 THERMAL PROCESSES

Once we have calculated the abundance of each species, we can evaluate its contribution to the net cooling rate. The processes that we include in our model are summarized in Table 1, and some of these are discussed in more detail below.

3.1 Metal line cooling

Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a) have tabulated the radiative cooling rates from the nine metal species that we include in our model (see Section 2), along with hydrogen and helium, as a function of temperature using CLOUDY (they use version 10.00 in their paper, but they have since updated these tables using version 13.01 of CLOUDY$^5$). See their section 2.2 for more details of their method. We use these tabulated cooling rates for most of these species. However, they note that these rates assume that the radiative cooling

$^5$ These updated tables can be found on the website: http://noneq.strw.leidenuniv.nl.
is dominated by electron–ion collisions and that this assumption can break down at temperatures $T \lesssim 10^3$ K for some species, for example $\text{O I}$.

We indeed find that their tabulated cooling rates for $\text{O I}$ and $\text{C I}$ are unable to reproduce $\text{CLOUDY}$’s cooling curves at low temperatures, so for these two species we calculate the radiative cooling rates following the same method as Glover & Jappsen (2007). They consider only the three lowest fine-structure energy levels of each species, although for $\text{C I}$ we found it necessary to extend their method to include the nine lowest energy levels, using transition probabilities from the NIST Atomic Spectra Database version 5.0 (Kramida et al. 2013) and effective collision strengths from Péquignot & Aldrovandi (1976) and Dunseath et al. (1997). We tabulate these cooling rates in 55 temperature bins from $10$ to $10^4$ K and 30 bins each in $\text{H I}$, $\text{H II}$ and electron densities from $10^{-8}$ to $10^7$ cm$^{-3}$. By tabulating in four dimensions in this way, we are able to follow the radiative cooling rates of these species in regimes that are dominated by collisions with $\text{H I}$ or $\text{H II}$, as well as when electron–ion collisions dominate. We use these new cooling rates for $\text{O I}$ and $\text{C I}$ at temperatures below $10^3$ K, and revert back to the cooling rates tabulated by Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a) at higher temperatures.

We also find that for some low-ionization metal species there was an extra density dependence in the cooling rates that was not captured in the tables of Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a), most notably for $\text{C II}$, $\text{N II}$, $\text{Si II}$ and $\text{Fe II}$. This led to the cooling rates from these species being overestimated by up to an order of magnitude at the highest densities that we consider here ($n_\text{e} \sim 10^4$ cm$^{-3}$, much higher than those considered by Oppenheimer & Schaye 2013a) compared to those calculated by $\text{CLOUDY}$. For these four species, we therefore used the CHIANTI data base version 7.1 (Dere et al. 1997; Landi et al. 2013) to calculate line emissivities and hence cooling rates per ion, which we tabulate as functions of temperature in 80 bins from $10$ to $10^5$ K and electron density in 130 bins from $10^{-8}$ to $10^5$ cm$^{-3}$.

### 3.2 $\text{H}_2$ Rovibrational Cooling

Cooling from molecular hydrogen can become important in the ISM, particularly in primordial and low-metallicity gas. The primary mechanism by which $\text{H}_2$ cools the gas is transitions between its rotationally and vibrationally excited energy levels. To treat this properly, we would need to solve for the populations of these levels and hence obtain the rate at which they radiate away energy, but this can become computationally expensive due to the large number of levels involved. A number of studies have looked at this problem and have suggested analytic fits to the $\text{H}_2$ rovibrational cooling function. We have considered the analytic fits proposed by Hollenbach & McKee (1979), Galli & Palla (1998) and Glover & Abel (2008), which we compare to the cooling rates predicted by $\text{CLOUDY}$ using its ‘big H2’ model to accurately follow all of the rotational and vibrational energy levels of the $\text{H}_2$ molecule. We also considered using the Hollenbach & McKee (1979) cooling function but using the collisional rates from Draine et al. (1983). These cooling functions typically express the $\text{H}_2$ cooling in terms of temperature and the densities of $\text{H I}$ and $\text{H}_2$, although Glover & Abel (2008) also include its dependence upon the densities of $\text{H II}$, $\text{He I}$ and electrons, which arises from the collisional excitation of molecular hydrogen by these species. When calculating these cooling rates we have used the abundances calculated by $\text{CLOUDY}$ to compute the collisional excitation rates, so that any discrepancies are due to differences in the analytic fits to the cooling function rather than to differences in the solution of the chemical model. These comparisons are shown in Fig. 2.

We see that the cooling function from Glover & Abel (2008) shows the closest agreement with the cooling rates computed by $\text{CLOUDY}$, so we shall use this in our model. For the low density limit of the cooling function, we use equation 40 from Glover & Abel (2008) with the fitting coefficients listed in their table 8, for a fixed ratio of ortho- to para-$\text{H}_2$ of 3:1. This is then combined with the local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE) cooling rate using their equation 39 to obtain the final $\text{H}_2$ cooling function. We calculate the LTE cooling rate using the radiative de-excitation rates of the rovibrational transitions in the ground electronic state taken from Wolniewicz, Simbotin & Dalgarno (1998).

### 3.3 CO, $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and OH Cooling

We include cooling from CO and $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ molecules using the same prescriptions as Glover et al. (2010) (see their section 2.3.2). Glover et al. (2010) base these prescriptions on the cooling rates calculated by Neufeld & Kaufman (1993) and Neufeld et al. (1995) but extend their treatment to account for collisions with electrons and atomic hydrogen, in addition to molecular hydrogen. Following Glover et al. (2010), we make use of the tabulated fit parameters given in Neufeld & Kaufman (1993) and Neufeld et al. (1995), which are given as functions of temperature and the effective column density per unit velocity, $\bar{N}_m$. If the gas flow has no special symmetry and if the large velocity gradient approximation is valid, then (Neufeld & Kaufman 1993)

$$\bar{N}_m = \frac{n_m}{|\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}|}.$$  

---

6 http://physics.nist.gov/asd
7 http://www.chiantidatabase.org/chianti.html

**Figure 2.** Comparison of various approximations for the $\text{H}_2$ cooling rate: Hollenbach & McKee (1979, HM79; solid red curve), Hollenbach & McKee (1979) with the collisional excitation rates from Draine, Roberge & Dalgarno (1983, dot–dashed red curve), Galli & Palla (1998, GP98; solid yellow curve) and Glover & Abel (2008, GA08; solid blue curve). These are compared to the $\text{H}_2$ cooling rates calculated by $\text{CLOUDY}$ (dashed black curve), which follows the level populations of several thousand rovibrational levels. The rovibrational cooling rate per $\text{H}_2$ molecule is plotted as a function of temperature, calculated in the absence of UV at various densities. We see that overall the GA08 cooling function gives the best match to the $\text{CLOUDY}$ cooling rates, so we shall use the GA08 cooling rates in our model.
where \( n_m \) is the number density of species \( m \) and \( \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \) is the divergence of the velocity field. For static gas, this is equivalent to

\[
\dot{N}_{m} = \frac{N_m}{\sigma},
\]

(3.2)

where \( N_m \) is the column density of species \( m \) and \( \sigma \) is the thermal velocity dispersion:

\[
\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{3k_B T}{\mu m_p}}.
\]

(3.3)

We use the static gas case in this work. However, when we use this in a hydrodynamic simulation, we could drop this assumption and calculate \( \dot{N}_{m} \) directly from equation (3.1). We also include rotational cooling from the OH molecule using the ‘universal’ cooling function for molecules with dipole moments from Hollenbach & McKee (1979, their equations 6.21 and 6.22), using the molecular cooling parameters for OH summarized in their table 3. This function gives the cooling rate from OH in terms of the temperature and density along with the OH column density and dust extinction of the gas cell.

### 3.4 Photoheating

We include the photoheating of \( \text{H} \), \( \text{He} \), \( \text{HII} \) and all metal atoms and ions in our model. The optically thin photoheating rate per unit volume from the photoionization of species \( i \) is \( \dot{E}_{i,\text{thin}} \), where

\[
\dot{E}_{i,\text{thin}} = \int_{\nu_{i,\text{th}}}^{\infty} \frac{4\pi L_{\nu,i}\sigma_{\nu,i}}{h\nu}(h\nu - h\nu_{i,\text{th}})\,d\nu.
\]

(3.4)

We can express this as

\[
\dot{E}_{i,\text{thin}} = \Gamma_{i,\text{thin}}(\epsilon_{i,\text{thin}}),
\]

(3.5)

where \( \Gamma_{i,\text{thin}} \) is the photoionization rate of species \( i \), given by equation (2.4), and \( \epsilon_{i,\text{thin}} \) is the average excess energy of ionizing photons:

\[
\langle \epsilon_{i,\text{thin}} \rangle = \frac{\int_{\nu_{i,\text{th}}}^{\infty} \frac{4\pi L_{\nu,i}\sigma_{\nu,i}}{h\nu}(h\nu - h\nu_{i,\text{th}})\,d\nu}{\int_{\nu_{i,\text{th}}}^{\infty} \frac{4\pi L_{\nu,i}\sigma_{\nu,i}}{h\nu}\,d\nu}.
\]

(3.6)

For each species, \( \langle \epsilon_{i,\text{thin}} \rangle \) is calculated for the given incident UV spectrum \( J_{\nu} \), using the frequency-dependent cross-sections from Verner & Yakovlev (1995) and Verner et al. (1996), and is then provided to our model as an input parameter.

Note that Glover & Jappsen (2007) include an efficiency factor in equation (3.4) for the fraction of the excess photon energy that is converted into heat (as calculated using the results of e.g. Shull & van Steenberg 1985 or Dalgarno, Yan & Liu 1999). This factor accounts for the fact that the electrons released by photoionization reactions can cause secondary ionizations/excitations of \( \text{H} \) and \( \text{He} \). The energy used in these secondary reactions will subsequently be radiated away and thus does not contribute to heating the gas. However, as explained in Section 2.2, we do not need to include the effects of secondary ionization, as they only enhance the primary photoionization rate by less than 0.1 per cent for the UV radiation fields that we consider here and are thus unimportant. We therefore take this efficiency factor to be equal to 1 in equation (3.4).

The above equations are applicable to the optically thin regime. In paper II, we will consider the effect of shielding on the photoheating rates.

### 3.5 Photoelectric heating

Another potentially important source of heating is photoelectric emission from dust grains. When a UV photon is absorbed by a dust grain it can release an electron, and the excess energy absorbed by the electron is quickly thermalized, thereby heating the gas. The photoelectric heating rate is given by (Bakes & Tielens 1994; Wolfire et al. 1995)

\[
\Gamma = 1.0 \times 10^{-24} \epsilon G_0 \text{erg cm}^{-3} \text{s}^{-1},
\]

(3.7)

where \( G_0 \) is the UV radiation field in units of the Habing (1968) field (see equation 2.8) and the heating efficiency \( \epsilon \) is given by the following analytic fit for gas temperatures up to \( 10^4 \) K:

\[
\begin{align*}
\epsilon &= \frac{4.9 \times 10^{-2}}{1.0 + ((G_0 T^{0.5}/n_e)/(1925 \text{K}^{0.5} \text{cm}^3))^{0.77}} \\
&+ \frac{3.7 \times 10^{-2}(T/10^4 \text{K})^{0.7}}{1.0 + ((G_0 T^{0.5}/n_e)/(5000 \text{K}^{0.5} \text{cm}^3))}.
\end{align*}
\]

(3.8)

### 4 Equilibrium Chemistry and Cooling in the ISM

While our chemical model is primarily focused on the non-equilibrium evolution of chemistry and gas cooling in the ISM, it is important that we confirm the validity of our model by comparing its results in chemical equilibrium with those from existing codes, in particular to test whether we have missed any important reactions in our chemical network. We therefore calculated the equilibrium ionization balance and cooling rates from our model as a function of temperature from 10 to \( 2 \times 10^4 \) K. We are primarily interested in the temperature range \( 10^2 \leq T \leq 10^4 \) K, corresponding to the transition from a warm to a cold phase in the ISM, but we also look at how our model behaves outside this regime. Abundances and cooling rates were calculated at a range of fixed densities relevant to the diffuse ISM, from \( 10^{-2} \) to \( 10^4 \) cm\(^{-3} \), for various metallicities and using four different assumptions for the UV radiation field: the ISRF of Black (1987), both by itself and also multiplied by a factor of 10; the extragalactic UVB of Haardt & Madau (2001) and in the absence of UV radiation (i.e. fully shielded gas). The calculations were started from fully neutral and atomic initial conditions and evolved until they reached chemical equilibrium. The examples including a UV radiation field were assumed to be optically thin, i.e. with no intervening column density to shield the gas. We will consider the effect of shielding in paper II. We used the default solar metal abundances from CLOUDY (as used by e.g. Wiersma et al. 2009; Oppenheimer & Schaye 2013a), and we used a hydrogen cosmic ray ionization rate of \( \zeta_\text{H} = 2.5 \times 10^{-17} \text{s}^{-1} \) (Williams et al. 1998).

We compared the predicted equilibrium ionization fractions and cooling rates from our model to those calculated using version 13.01 of CLOUDY (Feerland et al. 2013). In most of the CLOUDY runs, the dust temperature was calculated self-consistently assuming thermal balance. However, in the absence of a UV radiation field we found it necessary to fix the dust temperature in CLOUDY at 10 K, as used in our model, to prevent unrealistically low dust temperatures. This problem arose because our CLOUDY calculations considered an optically thin parcel of gas in which the dust is also optically thin to its own infrared radiation, so in the absence of UV radiation there is very little heating of the dust grains. We generally find that our network agrees well with CLOUDY, as we shall demonstrate in the next section. We also use these results to identify which are the most important coolants in the ISM in the various physical regimes.
explored here. More plots of our results from these tests can be found on our website.\(^8\)

### 4.1 Dominant coolants

In Fig. 3, we show the equilibrium ionization fractions (left-hand panels) and cooling functions (right-hand panels) as a function of temperature at a density \(n_T = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}\) for the four different UV radiation fields we consider here. We show temperatures ranging from 10 to \(2 \times 10^4 \text{ K}\), but have greyed out the region \(T < 100 \text{ K}\) as this lies outside the range of temperatures that we are primarily interested in.

The top row was calculated in the presence of the Black (1987) ISRF multiplied by a factor of 10, which represents the UV radiation field one might find within a strongly star-forming galaxy. The dominant coolants in this case are, going from high to low temperatures, \(\text{O}^\text{III}, \text{S}^\text{III}, \text{Si}^\text{II}\) and \(\text{C}^\text{II}\), while strong photoheating, primarily from hydrogen, balances the cooling at a thermal equilibrium temperature \(T_{\text{eq}} \sim 5000 \text{ K}\).

The second row shows the results for the Black (1987) ISRF, which is more typical of the local solar neighbourhood. \(\text{Fe}^\text{II}\) contributes significantly to the cooling here, while the more highly ionized species (e.g. \(\text{O}^\text{III}\) and \(\text{S}^\text{III}\)) become less important. Despite the weaker photoheating, the equilibrium temperature is still close to \(5000 \text{ K}\), as the metal line cooling is also lower.

The results in the third row were calculated in the presence of the Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UVB at redshift zero, in which the flux of hydrogen-ionizing photons is approximately three orders of magnitude lower than the Black (1987) field. In this example, we find that the cooling is now dominated by \(\text{Fe}^\text{II}, \text{Si}^\text{II}\) and \(\text{C}^\text{II}\), and the lower photoheating rate now balances the metal line cooling at \(T_{\text{eq}} \sim 800 \text{ K}\).

Finally, in the bottom row of Fig. 3 we show the equilibrium state of gas in the absence of UV radiation. The dominant coolant here is molecular hydrogen, although there is still a significant contribution from some metal species, most notably \(\text{Si}^\text{II}, \text{O}^\text{I}\) and \(\text{C}^\text{I}\). Without UV radiation to provide photoheating, the main source of heating comes from cosmic rays, resulting in an equilibrium temperature \(T_{\text{eq}} \sim 100 \text{ K}\).

In Table 2, we summarize the species that contribute at least 5 percent to the total equilibrium cooling rate in the temperature range \(10^2 \text{ K} \leq T \leq 10^4 \text{ K}\) for solar metallicity and a density \(n_T = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}\), in the presence of the four UV radiation fields considered in Fig. 3. For each species, we give the minimum and maximum temperatures, \(T_{\text{min}}\) and \(T_{\text{max}}\), for which that species contributes at least 5 percent to the total equilibrium cooling rate, the temperature at which the relative contribution of that species to the total equilibrium cooling rate is highest, \(T_{\text{peak}}(\text{tot})\), and the relative contribution of that species to \(T_{\text{peak}}(\text{tot})\). More tables of dominant coolants for different metallicities and densities, and extending to higher temperatures up to \(10^9 \text{ K}\), can be found on our website.

Bertone, Aguirre & Schaye (2013) have also investigated the dominant cooling channels in the Universe, although they focus on diffuse gas on cosmological scales, typically with lower densities \((n_{\text{tot}} < 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3})\) than we have considered. The species that they found most important at these lower densities, in the presence of the Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UVB, were \(\text{O}^\text{III}, \text{C}^\text{II}, \text{C}^\text{III}, \text{Si}^\text{II}, \text{Si}^\text{III}, \text{Fe}^\text{II}\) and \(\text{S}^\text{III}\).

Comparing our equilibrium abundances and cooling functions (solid lines) to CLOUDY (dashed lines) in Fig. 3, we find that they are in good agreement. Below 100 K the agreement between our model and CLOUDY tends to be poorer for all UV radiation fields, but most noticeably in the absence of UV. This is partly because we include fewer molecular species in our network than CLOUDY does. However, we see in Fig. 3 that many species are still in good agreement at these low temperatures.

Fig. 3 only shows our results for a density \(n_T = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}\), but we also considered densities in the range \(10^2 \leq n_T \leq 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}\). At lower densities photoionizations and cosmic ray ionizations become relatively more important, as they scale linearly with density while two-body collisional processes scale with the density squared. In the presence of a strong UV radiation field, higher ionization species such as \(\text{S}^\text{IV}\) and \(\text{Fe}^\text{VI}\) contribute significantly to the cooling function in these cases, although heating is also relatively stronger. Conversely, at higher densities the importance of the UV radiation and cosmic rays becomes relatively weaker, with the cooling dominated by low-ionization state species such as \(\text{O}^\text{I}, \text{Si}^\text{II}\) and \(\text{Fe}^\text{II}\), along with molecular hydrogen. More plots comparing the ionization fractions and cooling functions from our model and from CLOUDY can be found on our website.

### 4.2 Molecular abundances

In this section, we test the accuracy of our molecular network by comparing the equilibrium abundances of \(\text{H}_2\) and \(\text{CO}\) calculated using our model to those from CLOUDY. In Fig. 4, we plot the molecular fraction of \(\text{H}_2\) as a function of temperature in the presence of the extragalactic UVB of Haardt & Madau (2001, top four panels) and in the absence of UV radiation (bottom four panels) for three different metallicities (different colours) and for four different densities (different panels).

In the presence of the Haardt & Madau (2001) UVB, our molecular fractions at solar and 10 percent solar metallicity match those from CLOUDY well. However, we tend to predict somewhat smaller molecular fractions in primordial gas than CLOUDY. This is due to uncertainties in the reaction rate of the associative detachment of \(\text{H}_2^+\), which is the primary formation mechanism of \(\text{H}_2\) at these densities when there is no dust present. Glover et al. (2006) have demonstrated how uncertainties in this reaction rate can lead to significant uncertainties in the abundance of molecular hydrogen. We have used the rate from Bruhns et al. (2010), as given in the UMIST data base, which was measured over a temperature range \(30 < T < 3000 \text{ K}\) and is in much better agreement with theoretical calculations than earlier experimental measurements such as Schmeltekopf, Fehsenfeld & Ferguson (1967), Fehsenfeld, Howard & Ferguson (1973) and Martinez et al. (2009). However, CLOUDY uses the rate coefficients from Launay et al. (1991).

In the absence of UV radiation, our molecular fractions follow similar trends with temperature as those from CLOUDY, although we generally tend to produce higher \(\text{H}_2\) abundances for \(T \lesssim 10^3 \text{ K}\). This is primarily due to different dissociation rates of \(\text{H}_2\) by cosmic rays used in CLOUDY compared to our model. In particular, CLOUDY includes the cosmic ray induced photodissociation of \(\text{H}_2\), which is an order of magnitude higher than the cosmic ray dissociation that we include in our model based on the rates in the UMIST data base.

We find similar trends in the presence of stronger UV radiation fields, although the \(\text{H}_2\) abundances are small in these examples, so we do not show them here.

In Fig. 5, we show the molecular fraction of \(\text{CO}\) as a function of temperature at solar metallicity for four different densities (different

---

\(^8\) http://noneqism.strw.leidenuniv.nl
Figure 3. Comparison of the equilibrium ionization fractions (left) and cooling functions (right) predicted by our model (solid lines) and CLOUDY (dashed lines), plotted against temperature. These were calculated at solar metallicity and a density $n_H = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ for four different UV radiation fields: the Black (1987) interstellar radiation field (ISRF) multiplied by a factor 10 (ISRF10; top), the Black (1987) ISRF (ISRF; second row), the redshift zero Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UV background (UVB; third row) and in the absence of UV radiation (None; bottom). In each row, we show only those species that contribute at least 20 per cent to the cooling rate anywhere in the temperature range $10^2 \text{ K} < T < 10^4 \text{ K}$. The panels in the right-hand column show the cooling rates from individual species along with the net cooling rate (total cooling minus heating). The shaded grey region highlights temperatures below 100 K that are outside the range of temperatures that we are primarily interested in, but we include this regime here for completeness.
Table 2. Summary of species that contribute at least 5 per cent to the total equilibrium cooling rate in the temperature range $10^2 \leq T \leq 10^4$ K at solar metallicity and a density $n_H = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, in the presence of four different UV radiation fields: the Black (1987) interstellar radiation field (ISRF) multiplied by a factor 10 ($\text{ISRF10}$), the Black (1987) ISRF ($\text{ISRF}$), the redshift zero Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UV background ($\text{UVB}$) and in the absence of UV radiation (None). The four sections in the table correspond to the four rows of Fig. 3.

| Species | $\log T_{\text{min}}$ | $\log T_{\text{max}}$ | $\log T_{\text{peak}}$ | Peak |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------|
|        | ISRF10                | ISRF                   | UVB                    | None |
| C$^+$   | 2.0                   | 3.1                    | 2.0                    | 44.3 |
| H$^+$   | 2.0                   | 4.0                    | 2.0                    | 17.9 |
| N$^+$   | 2.0                   | 2.5                    | 2.0                    | 15.8 |
| Si$^+$  | 2.0                   | 3.7                    | 2.5                    | 32.9 |
| S$^+$   | 2.1                   | 4.0                    | 3.3                    | 27.2 |
| O$^+$   | 3.9                   | 4.0                    | 4.0                    | 7.5  |
| O$^+$   | 2.0                   | 4.0                    | 4.0                    | 35.7 |
|        | ISRF                  |                        |                        |      |
| C$^+$   | 2.0                   | 3.9                    | 2.0                    | 61.8 |
| N$^+$   | 2.0                   | 4.0                    | 2.0                    | 13.4 |
| Si$^+$  | 2.0                   | 4.0                    | 2.7                    | 42.4 |
| Fe$^+$  | 2.4                   | 4.0                    | 3.7                    | 23.9 |
| H$^+$   | 2.0                   | 4.0                    | 3.7                    | 15.7 |
| Si$^+$  | 2.5                   | 4.0                    | 3.7                    | 14.1 |
| O$^+$   | 3.8                   | 4.0                    | 4.0                    | 22.4 |
| S$^+$   | 3.8                   | 4.0                    | 4.0                    | 9.2  |
|        | UVB                   |                        |                        |      |
| C$^+$   | 2.0                   | 3.9                    | 2.0                    | 72.5 |
| Si$^+$  | 2.0                   | 4.0                    | 2.7                    | 54.9 |
| Fe$^+$  | 2.3                   | 4.0                    | 3.7                    | 47.7 |
| Ca$^+$  | 3.8                   | 4.0                    | 3.9                    | 7.7  |
| S$^+$   | 3.7                   | 4.0                    | 3.9                    | 12.5 |
| H$^+$   | 3.9                   | 4.0                    | 4.0                    | 18.5 |
| Mg$^+$  | 3.9                   | 4.0                    | 4.0                    | 8.4  |
|        | None                  |                        |                        |      |
| C      | 2.0                   | 4.0                    | 2.0                    | 60.6 |
| Si      | 2.0                   | 3.5                    | 2.3                    | 15.4 |
| H$_2$  | 2.0                   | 4.0                    | 3.7                    | 70.2 |
| O      | 2.0                   | 4.0                    | 3.9                    | 30.7 |
| Fe      | 3.2                   | 4.0                    | 4.0                    | 19.0 |
| H$_1$  | 3.9                   | 4.0                    | 4.0                    | 16.9 |

$^a$Minimum temperature at which the species contributes at least 5 per cent to the total equilibrium cooling rate.

$^b$Maximum temperature at which the species contributes at least 5 per cent to the total equilibrium cooling rate.

$^c$Temperature at which the relative contribution of the species to the total equilibrium cooling rate is highest.

$^d$Relative contribution of the species to the total equilibrium cooling rate at $T_{\text{peak}}$.

panels) and four different UV radiation fields (different colours). We see that in the presence of the two strongest UV radiation fields considered here the CO fraction (i.e. the fraction of carbon that is in CO) remains low ($<10^{-4}$) even at the highest density shown in Fig. 5 ($n_{\text{H}_2} = 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$). In the presence of the Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UVB, the CO fraction reaches unity at $n_{\text{H}_2} \sim 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ for temperatures $10^2 \leq T \leq 10^4$ K, while in the absence of UV the CO fraction is close to 1 at these temperatures down to even lower densities, $n_{\text{H}_2} \sim 10^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

The CO fractions predicted by our model agree well with CLOUDY, except at a density $n_{\text{H}_2} \sim 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and temperatures above a few thousand kelvin where we predict a lower CO abundance than CLOUDY. However, since it is unlikely that gas at such high densities would maintain temperatures of a few thousand kelvin, this is not a problem for us.

### 4.3 Impact of cosmic rays on ionization balance and cooling

Once the gas becomes shielded from the UV radiation field, its ionization balance is typically dominated by cosmic ray ionization at low temperatures. However, the cosmic ray ionization rate in the ISM is highly uncertain. By modelling the chemistry of 23 low-mass molecular cores to reproduce observed molecular ion abundances, Williams et al. (1998) infer a cosmic ray ionization rate for $\text{H}_2$ of $\zeta_{\text{HI}} = 5 \times 10^{-17} \text{ s}^{-1}$, corresponding to an $\text{H}_i$ ionization rate from...
cosmic rays of $\zeta_{\text{HI}} = 2.5 \times 10^{-17} \text{s}^{-1}$ (this is the default value that we use in our models). However, other authors have measured very different values for the galactic cosmic ray background. For example, Indriolo et al. (2007) use observations of $\text{H}_2^+$ absorption along twenty galactic sight lines to obtain a cosmic ray ionization rate $\zeta_{\text{HI}} = 2 \times 10^{-16} \text{s}^{-1}$, while McCall et al. (2003) derive an even higher value of $\zeta_{\text{HI}} = 1.2 \times 10^{-15} \text{s}^{-1}$ based on laboratory measurements and $\text{H}_2^+$ observations towards C Persei. Furthermore, the cosmic ray ionization rate may also depend on the galactic environment, for example Suchkov, Allen & Heckman (1993) estimate a much higher density of cosmic rays in the starburst galaxy M82.

Fig. 6 shows the impact of increasing or decreasing our default cosmic ray ionization rate by a factor of 10 on the ionization balance and cooling function of fully shielded gas at solar metallicity and a density $n_{\text{HI}} = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. In the left-hand panels, we see that the ionization fractions of singly ionized helium, carbon and oxygen as well as hydrogen, and hence the electron abundance, change dramatically as we vary the cosmic ray ionization rate, confirming that, for our default value and higher, cosmic rays do indeed dominate the ionization balance in this fully shielded regime. In the right-hand panels, we see that the cooling function is also significantly affected, as cosmic rays are the primary source of heating in fully shielded gas at these temperatures and densities, so increasing the cosmic ray ionization rate by a factor of 10 above our default value increases the thermal equilibrium temperature from around 100 to 300 K. Furthermore, when we decrease it by a factor of 10 below our default value, we find that the cooling rate from molecular hydrogen increases and more strongly dominates the cooling function.

5 COOLING IN NON-EQUILIBRIUM INTERSTELLAR GAS

The cooling functions presented in the previous section were calculated in chemical equilibrium. We now investigate what impact non-equilibrium chemistry can have on the cooling rates of interstellar gas. We consider solar metallicity gas that is cooling either isochorically or isobarically in the presence of the Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UVB for different densities. Isochoric cooling is relevant to applications in hydrodynamic simulations, in which cooling over individual hydrodynamic timesteps is typically done at fixed density. Isochoric cooling is also relevant for rapidly cooling gas where the cooling time is shorter than the dynamical or sound crossing times for self-gravitating or externally confined gas, respectively. Isobaric cooling is relevant more generally in interstellar gas as the different phases of the ISM are usually in pressure equilibrium, so a parcel of gas that is not subject to heating events such as shocks or stellar feedback would tend to cool at constant pressure.

We start these calculations from chemical equilibrium and consider two different initial temperatures. Starting from $T = 10^4 \text{ K}$ corresponds to gas that is cooling from the warm phase of the ISM to the cold phase, while starting from $T = 10^5 \text{ K}$ corresponds to gas that has been strongly heated, for example by a supernova event, and is subsequently cooling back towards the cold phase of the ISM. We compare the resulting net radiative cooling rates of the gas with the equilibrium cooling functions in Sections 5.1 and 5.2 below.

5.1 Cooling from $T = 10^4 \text{ K}$

The non-equilibrium cooling functions starting from $T = 10^4 \text{ K}$ are compared with their corresponding equilibrium cooling functions in the top-left panel of Fig. 7, while the remaining panels compare the abundances of $H_2$, $C_2$ and electrons. We see that the non-equilibrium gas tends to have higher net cooling rates than in equilibrium. This is because the electron density is decreasing as the gas cools, but it takes a finite time for the electrons to recombine with ions. Thus, if the recombination time is long compared to the cooling time, there will be a recombination lag that results in a higher electron density at a given temperature than we would expect in equilibrium, which is what we see in the bottom-right panel of Fig. 7. This recombination lag enhances the radiative cooling rate, which is typically driven by electron-ion collisions. Furthermore, the photoheating rate depends on the neutral fraction, so the recombination lag will also suppress the photoheating of the gas.

One exception to the above trend can be seen in isochorically cooling gas at a density $n_{\text{HI}} = 10^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ (the blue dashed curves in Fig. 7). In this example, the cooling rate around a temperature $T \sim 4000 \text{ K}$ is slightly lower than in equilibrium. At this temperature, the contribution to the equilibrium net cooling rate from molecular hydrogen is comparable to that from $\text{Si}^+ + \text{Fe}^+$, the other dominant coolants. However, the formation time for molecular hydrogen is long compared to the cooling time-scale here, which results in a lower $H_2$ abundance, as can be seen in the top-right panel. Hence, its contribution to the cooling rate is suppressed in the non-equilibrium cooling function.

The non-equilibrium cooling functions are generally able to cool to lower temperatures than their corresponding equilibrium cooling functions. For example, in the isochoric cooling functions at a density $n_{\text{HI}} = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ (blue solid curves in the top-left panel of Fig. 7), the equilibrium net cooling rate becomes negative (net heating) at $T \sim 850 \text{ K}$, whereas the isochorically cooling gas cools to $T \sim 700 \text{ K}$. Thus, non-equilibrium effects enable an isochorically or isobarically cooling gas to cool below the thermal equilibrium temperature, before heating back up towards its final thermal and chemical equilibrium. In Fig. 7, we only plot the non-equilibrium rates and abundances down to the temperature at which the gas begins to heat up again.
**Figure 6.** Comparison of the equilibrium ionization fractions (left) and cooling functions (right) for three different values of the cosmic ray ionization rate of hydrogen: $2.5 \times 10^{-16} \text{s}^{-1}$ (top row), $2.5 \times 10^{-17} \text{s}^{-1}$ (middle row) and $2.5 \times 10^{-18} \text{s}^{-1}$ (bottom row). These were calculated using our chemical model at solar metallicity and a density $n_H = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the absence of UV radiation. The shaded grey region highlights temperatures below 100 K that are outside the range of temperatures that we are primarily interested in, but we include this regime here for completeness. The cosmic ray ionization rate, which is uncertain and may vary with environment, has a significant effect on the abundances and cooling of self-shielded gas.

Furthermore, for some species, such as C II, the abundances in the examples presented here tend to remain close to equilibrium. For other species, such as H$_2$, the abundances in isochorically or isobarically cooling gas can differ by up to an order of magnitude from their equilibrium values.

To illustrate the density dependence of the non-equilibrium effects on the cooling rate, we show in Fig. 8 the ratio of the non-equilibrium cooling rate of gas cooling isochorically from chemical equilibrium at $10^4$ K to the cooling rate in chemical equilibrium, plotted against temperature and density. These were calculated for solar metallicity in the presence of the redshift zero Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UVB (more examples can be found on our website). Blue regions in this plot indicate where the non-equilibrium effects suppress the cooling rate, while red and yellow regions indicate where they enhance the cooling rate. The black region shows where the equilibrium net cooling rate is negative (i.e. there is net heating). The white curve shows the minimum temperature to which the isochorically cooling gas is able to cool before there is net heating in the non-equilibrium cooling function. We see that the gas is generally able to cool below the thermal equilibrium temperature.
non-equilibrium cooling functions (top-left panel) and abundances of H$_2$ (top right), C$_\text{II}$ (bottom left) and electrons (bottom right) in gas cooling isochorically or isobarically from $10^4$ K, compared to their values in chemical equilibrium. These were calculated using our chemical model in the presence of the redshift zero Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UVB at solar metallicity and densities at $T = 10^4$ K of $n_\text{H}(10^4 \text{ K}) = 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ (solid lines) and $n_\text{H}(10^4 \text{ K}) = 10^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ (dashed lines).

For most densities in Fig. 8, the enhancement of the cooling rate in non-equilibrium compared to the equilibrium cooling rate increases smoothly from the initial temperature of $10^4$ K down to the thermal equilibrium temperature. This enhancement can reach up to a factor $\sim 10$. However, at high densities ($n_\text{H} \gtrsim 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$), the cooling rate in non-equilibrium is suppressed at temperatures around a few thousand kelvin. This corresponds to the region where molecular hydrogen dominates the cooling rate. This figure highlights in which regions of the density–temperature plane these two opposing non-equilibrium effects are important.

5.2 Cooling from $T = 10^6$ K

In the top-left panel of Fig. 9, we compare the non-equilibrium cooling functions starting from $T = 10^6$ K to their corresponding equilibrium cooling functions, while the abundances of H$_2$, C$_\text{II}$ and electrons are shown in the remaining panels. At high temperatures ($> 10^6$ K), we find that non-equilibrium effects tend to decrease the net cooling rates. This agrees with what Oppenheimer & Schaye (2013a) found for gas typical of the IGM, and is caused by the recombination lag allowing species in higher ionization states to persist down to lower temperatures. The electronic transitions in these high-ionization states are more energetic compared to those in the lower ionization states, and thus they are more difficult to excite at these lower temperatures. Hence, the cooling rates from these more highly ionized species are smaller, and thus, the net cooling rate is suppressed with respect to the cooling rate in chemical equilibrium.

Once the gas temperature drops below $10^4$ K, the non-equilibrium cooling rates generally become higher than the equilibrium cooling functions, similar to the trends we saw in Fig. 7. The most significant differences that we see compared to the previous figure are for gas at a density $n_\text{H} = 10^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. In this example, the isochoric non-equilibrium cooling curve in Fig. 9 shows significantly higher cooling rates than in Fig. 7. This is because recombination lags induced as the gas cooled from $10^6$ to $10^4$ K still persist and thus the electron density is even higher, as can be seen in the bottom-right panel of Fig. 9, which further enhances the metal line cooling. The isobarically cooling gas at $n_\text{H} = 10^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ also shows an enhanced net cooling rate just below $10^4$ K compared to Fig. 7, for the same reason. However, below $T \sim 2000$ K the cooling rate drops below the corresponding isobaric equilibrium cooling function. This is because the cooling is dominated by H$_2$ here, which is suppressed in the non-equilibrium cooling curve due to the long formation timescale of molecular hydrogen, as can be seen from the top-right panel.
As Fig. 8, but for gas cooling isochorically from 10^4 K. The non-equilibrium rate above 10^4 K is generally suppressed compared to the equilibrium cooling rate, whereas below 10^4 K the enhancement of the cooling rate in non-equilibrium can exceed two orders of magnitude and is thus even greater than that we found for gas cooling from 10^4 K in Fig. 8.

In the bottom-left panel of Fig. 9, the non-equilibrium abundances of C II remain very close to their equilibrium values down to the peak at T \sim 2 \times 10^3 K. However, below this temperature the C II abundance of the cooling gas tends to fall below the equilibrium abundance, by up to an order of magnitude. We saw in Fig. 7 that C II exhibited only a small recombination lag when the gas starts cooling from 10^4 K, which indicates that it has a relatively short recombination time compared to, for example, H I. Furthermore, the bottom-right panel of Fig. 9 demonstrates that the electron abundance below 10^4 K is even higher in this example than in gas that starts cooling from 10^4 K, due to recombination lags of other species that persist from higher temperatures. This suggests that, as the gas cools, the C II rapidly recombines to a lower abundance than in equilibrium due to the enhanced electron abundance.

In Fig. 10, we show the ratio of the non-equilibrium cooling rate of gas cooling isochorically from chemical equilibrium at 10^4 K to the cooling rate in chemical equilibrium, plotted against temperature and density, for solar metallicity gas in the presence of the Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UVB. At temperatures T > 10^4 K, we see that the non-equilibrium cooling rate is suppressed compared to the equilibrium cooling rate, for the reasons discussed above. This suppression becomes approximately independent of density for n_H \gtrsim 0.1 cm^{-3}. Below 10^4 K, the non-equilibrium cooling rate is enhanced due to the higher electron abundance caused by recombination lags. This enhancement is even greater than we saw in Fig. 8 for gas that starts cooling from 10^4 K, with an increase in the non-equilibrium cooling rate of up to a factor \sim 100 compared to in equilibrium. Furthermore, this enhancement outweighs the suppression of the non-equilibrium cooling rate at n_H \gtrsim 10^2 cm^{-3} and temperatures around a few thousand kelvin that is caused by the long formation time-scale of molecular hydrogen.

### 6 CONCLUSIONS

We have presented a model to follow the non-equilibrium thermal and chemical evolution of interstellar gas that is designed to be incorporated into hydrodynamic simulations of galaxy formation. Our chemical network includes 157 species: the molecules H_2, H_3^+, H^+, OH, H_2O, C_2, O_2, HCO^+, CH, CH_2, CH_3^+, CO, CH^+, CH_2^+, OH^+, H_2O^+, H_3O^+, CO^+, HO^+ and O^2+, along with electrons and all ionizations states of the 11 elements that dominate gas cooling (H, He, C, N, O, Ne, Mg, Si, S, Ca and Fe). Our model includes chemical reactions on dust grains, most importantly H_2 formation, and thermal processes involving dust, such as photoelectric heating (but not yet thermal dust emission). We also include photochemical reactions and cosmic ray ionizations, along with their associated heating rates.

While we do not include metal depletion on dust grains in our model, as the depletion factors of metals are highly uncertain, we show that the depletion factors measured by Jenkins (2009) could potentially have a large effect on the cooling function of interstellar gas (see Fig. 1).

We have compared the equilibrium ionization balance and cooling functions predicted by our model with the photoionization code CLOUDY for a range of densities 10^{-2} \lesssim n_H \lesssim 10^3 cm^{-3}, temperatures 10 \lesssim T \lesssim 2 \times 10^4 K, metallicities 0 \lesssim Z \lesssim Z_\odot and in the presence of four UV radiation fields: the Black (1987) ISRF, 1 times this ISRF, the Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UVB and finally in the absence of UV radiation. These physical parameters include the typical conditions in the diffuse ISM that we are interested in, and also extend down to colder gas. The equilibrium abundances and cooling functions predicted by our model generally agree very well with those from CLOUDY (see Figs 3–5), and most remaining differences are due to different choices for uncertain rates. Additional figures showing all of these comparisons can be found on our website.9

In our equilibrium cooling functions, we find that the cooling rate of interstellar gas is typically dominated by C II, Si II and Fe II, with O I becoming important at high densities (n_H \gtrsim 10^3 cm^{-3}) and when the UV radiation field is weak (for example the redshift zero Haardt & Madau 2001 extragalactic UVB). We also find that at these high densities and low UV radiation, intensities molecular hydrogen dominates the cooling function, typically peaking around 1000–2000 K. See Table 2 for a summary of the dominant coolants at solar metallicity. In primordial gas, molecular hydrogen is the only significant source of cooling below T \sim 8000 K in our model.

We note that Glover & Jappsen (2007) also investigated which species contribute significantly to the cooling rate of interstellar gas in order to determine which ions to include in their chemical network. They looked at a similar range of physical parameters (although only at a metallicity of 0.1 Z_\odot). We generally agree with their conclusions, although they found that Fe II only contributed at most \sim 10–20 per cent to the cooling rate, whereas we find that it is one of the most important coolants in several cases (see for example Fig. 3).

We also calculate the non-equilibrium abundances and cooling functions of gas that is cooling isochorically or isobarically. We find that non-equilibrium chemistry tends to increase the cooling rates below 10^4 K compared to the cooling rates in chemical (including ionization) equilibrium, due to a recombination lag that results in a higher electron density at a given temperature (see Figs 7 and 8).

We find enhancements in the cooling rate of up to an order of magnitude for gas that starts cooling from 10^4 K. This enables the gas to cool below its thermal equilibrium temperature, before subsequently heating back up to thermal and chemical equilibrium.

The abundance of molecular hydrogen in isochorically or isobarically cooling gas is lower than in equilibrium, by up to an order of magnitude, due to its relatively long formation time-scale compared to the cooling time. This can reduce the cooling rate if H_2 dominates the equilibrium cooling function, i.e. for

---

9 http://noneqism.strw.leidenuniv.nl
high-density ($n_{H_{tot}} \gtrsim 10^2$ cm$^{-3}$) gas at temperatures around a few thousand kelvin.

Non-equilibrium effects above $10^4$ K generally suppress the cooling rates as higher ionization species persist to lower temperatures. Such species have lower cooling rates as their electronic transitions are more energetic and thus are more difficult to excite at these lower temperatures. Furthermore, if we consider gas that starts cooling from a temperature $10^5$ K, the resulting recombination lag results in a further enhancement of up to two orders of magnitude (see Fig. 10).

Throughout this paper, we have focused on photoionized gas in the optically thin regime, although we also considered a case without any UV radiation. However, gas that is in the cold phase of the ISM, in particular molecular clouds, will become shielded from the UV radiation field, both by dust and by the gas itself, and hence the radiation field will vary with the depth into the cloud. In paper II, we shall describe the methods that we use to calculate the attenuated photochemical rates in shielded gas and present the resulting chemistry and cooling properties under such conditions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Andreas Pawlik and Ewina van Dishoeck for useful discussions. We gratefully acknowledge support from Marie Curie Training Network CosmoComp (PITN-GA-2009-238356) and from the European Research Council under the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013)/ERC Grant agreement 278594-GasAroundGalaxies.

REFERENCES

Abel T., Anninos P., Zhang Y., Norman M. L., 1997, New Astron., 2, 181
Abel T., Bryan G. L., Norman M. L., 2002, Science, 295, 93
Adams N. G., Smith D., 1976a, J. Phys. B, 9, 1439
Adams N. G., Smith D., 1976b, Int. J. Mass Spectrom. Ion Phys., 21, 349
Adams N. G., Smith D., Grief D., 1978, Int. J. Mass Spectrom. Ion Phys., 26, 405
Adams N. G., Smith D., Paulson J. F., 1980, J. Chem. Phys., 72, 288
Adams N. G., Smith D., Millar T. J., 1984, MNRAS, 211, 857
Aldrovandi S. M. V., Piqué G., 1973, A&A, 25, 137
Alge E., Adams N. G., Smith D., 1983, J. Phys. B, 16, 1433
Andreazza C. M., Singh P. D., 1997, MNRAS, 287, 287
Anichich V. G., Huntress W. T., 1976, Chem. Phys. Lett., 40, 233
Azatyan V. V., Aleksandrovn E. N., 1975, Kinet. Cat., 16, 306
Bakes E. L. O., Tielens A. G. G. M., 1995, ApJ, 427, 822
Barinovs G., van Hemert M. C., 2006, ApJ, 636, 923
Barlow S. G., 1984, PhD thesis, Univ. Colorado
Baulch D. L. et al., 1992, J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, 21, 411
Bertone S., Aguirre A., Schaye J., 2013, MNRAS, 430, 3292
Black J. H., 1987, in Hollebache D. J., Thronson H. A., Jr, eds, Astrophysics and Space Science Library, Vol. 134, Interstellar Processes. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, p. 731
Black J. H., Dalgarno A., 1977, ApJS, 34, 405
Bruhns H., Kreckel H., Miller K. A., Urbain X., Savin D. W., 2010, Phys. Rev. A, 82, 042708
Burton M. G., Hollenbach D. J., Tielens A. G. G. M., 1990, ApJ, 365, 620
Carty D., Goddard A., Köhler S. K., Sims I. R., Smith I. W. M., 2006, J. Phys. Chem. A, 110, 3101
Carcaux S., Tielens A. G. G. M., 2002, ApJ, 575, L29

Cen R., 1992, ApJS, 78, 341
Cohen N., Westberg K. R., 1979, J. Phys. Chem., 83, 46
Cohen N., Westberg K. R., 1983, J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data, 12, 531
Cox D. P., Tucker W. H., 1969, ApJ, 157, 1157
Dalgarno A., Lepp S., 1987, in Vardy M. S., Tarafdar S. P., eds, Astrochemistry. Reidel, Dordrecht, p. 109
Dalgarno A., Du M. L., You J. H., 1990, ApJ, 349, 675
Dalgarno A., Yan M., Liu W., 1999, ApJS, 125, 237
de Jong T., 1972, A&A, 20, 263
De Rijcke S., Schroyen J., Vandenbroucke B., Jachowicz N., Decroos J., Cloeot-Osselaer A., Koleva M., 2013, MNRAS, 433, 3005
Dean A. J., Davidson D. F., Hanson R. K., 1991, J. Phys. Chem., 95, 183
Dere K. P., Landi E., Mason H. E., Monsignori Fossi B. C., Young P. R., 1997, A&A, 125, 149
Dove J. E., Rusk A. C. M., Cribb P. H., Martin P. G., 1987, ApJ, 318, 379
Draine B. T., 1978, ApJS, 36, 595
Draine B. T., Roberge W. G., Dalgarno A., 1983, ApJ, 264, 485
Dubernet M. L., Gargaud M., McCarroll R., 2008, J. Phys. Condens. Matt., 20, 373
Dunseath K. M., Fon W. C., Burke V. M., Reid R. H. G., Noble C. J., 1997, J. Phys. B., 30, 277
Fairbain A. R., 1969, Proc. Roy. Soc. A, 312, 207
Federer W., Villinger H., Howorka F., Lindinger W., Tosi P., Bassi D., Ferguson E., 1984, Phys. Rev. Lett., 52, 2084
Fehsenfeld F. C., 1976, ApJ, 209, 638
Fehsenfeld F. C., Howard C. J., Ferguson E. E., 1973, J. Chem. Phys., 58, 5841
Ferland G. J., Peterson B. M., Honecke K., Welsh W. F., Nahar S. N., 1992, ApJ, 387, 95
Ferland G. J., Korista K. T., Verner D. A., Ferguson J. W., Kingdon J. B., Verner E. M., 1998, PASP, 110, 761
Ferland G. J. et al., 2013, Rev. Mex. Astron. Astrofis., 49, 137
Field D., Adams N. G., Smith D., 1980, MNRAS, 192, 1
Flower D. R., Le Bourlot J., Pineau des Forêts G., Roueff E., 2000, MNRAS, 314, 753
Frank P., 1986, in Boofi V., Cercignani C., eds., Proc. 15th Int. Symp. 2, Rarefied Gas Dynamics. B. G. Teubner, Stuttgart, p. 422
Frank P., Just Th., 1984, in Archer R. D., Milton B. E., eds., Proc. 14th Int. Symp. Shock Tubes Waves, Sydney, p. 706
Frank P., Bhaskaran K. A., Just Th., 1988, in Sangiovanni J., ed., Symp. Int. Combust. Proc., Vol. 21, Acetylene Oxidation: The Reaction C$_2$H$_2$+O at High Temperatures. Elsevier, New York, p. 885
Furlanetto S. R., Stoever S. J., 2010, MNRAS, 404, 1869
Galli D., Palla F., 1999, A&A, 335, 403
Geppert W. D. et al., 2005, J. Phys.: Conf. Ser., 4, 26
Gerlich D., Horning S., 1992, Chem. Rev., 92, 1509
Glover S. C. O., Abel T., 2008, MNRAS, 388, 1627
Glover S. C. O., Clark P. C., 2012, MNRAS, 421, 116
Glover S. C. O., Abel T., 2008, MNRAS, 388, 1627
Glover S. C. O., Jappsen A.-K., 2007, ApJ, 666, 1
Glover S. C. O., Savin D. W., Jappsen A.-K., 2006, ApJ, 640, 553
Goldsmith P., Langer W. D., 1978, ApJ, 222, 881
Grassi T., Kritsick P., Merlin E., Buonomo U., Piovan L., Chiosi C., 2011, A&A, 533, A123
Grassi T., Bovino F., Gianturco F. A., Baiocchi P., Merlin E., 2012, MNRAS, 425, 1332
Grassi T., Bovino S., Gianturco F. A., 2013, A&A, 540, 432
Haardt F., Madau P., 2001, in Neumann D. M., Tran J. T. V., eds, XXIst Universe Observed in X-rays. Editions Frontieres, Paris, p. 64
APPENDIX A: DUST TEMPERATURE

The rate of formation of molecular hydrogen on dust grains depends on the temperature of the dust as well as the gas, so we need to make an assumption about the grain temperature. Glover & Clark (2012) calculate the dust temperature by assuming that it is in thermal equilibrium and hence solving the thermal balance equation (their equation A2), but this adds to the computational cost of the model.

To investigate the impact that dust temperature has on the molecular hydrogen abundance in our model, we plot in Fig. A1 the rate coefficient $k_{\text{dust}}$ (obtained by dividing equation 2.12 by $n_{\text{H}_2}$) as a function of the dust temperature for different gas temperatures in the regime relevant to the diffuse ISM ($10^2$–$10^4$ K). Below $T_{\text{dust}} \approx 6$ K, the rate falls very rapidly, but we would not expect to find such low dust temperatures in the diffuse ISM. At higher dust temperatures, the rate of molecular hydrogen formation on dust grains remains fairly constant up to 50 K, at which point it begins to decrease again, falling by a factor of just over 2 by $T_{\text{dust}} = 100$ K. In Fig. A2, we compare the range of dust temperatures calculated by CLOUDY using 10 grain size bins (from 0.005 to 0.25 μm, assuming the power-law size distribution of Mathis, Rumpl & Nordsieck 1977) as a function

![Figure A1](https://example.com/figure_a1.png)

**Figure A1.** Rate coefficient for the formation of molecular hydrogen on dust grains, calculated from equation (2.12), plotted against dust temperature for different gas temperatures.

![Figure A2](https://example.com/figure_a2.png)

**Figure A2.** The range of (carbonaceous) dust grain temperatures calculated by CLOUDY across the 10 grain size bins, plotted against gas temperature in the presence of the Black (1987) interstellar radiation field (red), the redshift zero Haardt & Madau (2001) extragalactic UVB (yellow) and in the absence of UV radiation (blue).
of the gas temperature, in the presence of different radiation fields. These were calculated for carbonaceous grains, but we found that the temperatures of silicate grains are similar. Even in the presence of the ISRF of Black (1987), the highest dust temperatures in CLOUDY only just reach 50 K, and even this temperature is only reached for gas temperatures near $10^4$ K, where molecular hydrogen becomes unimportant. We therefore would not expect the rate of molecular hydrogen formation on dust grains to be significantly affected by variations in the dust temperature in the range of physical conditions that we are interested in here, i.e. those relevant to the diffuse ISM.

To confirm the insensitivity to the dust temperature, we compare the molecular hydrogen fractions calculated using our model assuming different fixed dust temperatures. These are shown in Fig. A3. We find that the change in molecular hydrogen fraction as we increase the dust temperature from 10 to 50 K is indeed negligible. We therefore choose to fix the dust temperature at a constant 10 K in our model.

**APPENDIX B: CHEMICAL REACTIONS**

| Table B1 – continued |
|----------------------|
| Reaction no. | Reaction | Reference |
| 15 | $H^- + e^- \rightarrow H + e^- + e^-$ | 12 |
| 16 | $H^- + H \rightarrow H + H + e^-$ | 12 |
| 17 | $H^- + H^+ \rightarrow H^+ + e^-$ | 12 |
| 24 | $He + e^- \rightarrow He^+ + e^- + e^-$ | 12 |
| 25 | $He^+ + e^- \rightarrow He + \gamma$ | 15, 16 |
| 26 | $He^+ + H \rightarrow He + H^+$ | 17 |
| 27 | $He + H^+ \rightarrow He^+ + H$ | 18 |
| 29 | $H^- + \gamma \rightarrow H + e^-$ | 19, 20 |
| 31 | $H^+_2 + \gamma \rightarrow H + H^+$ | 21 |
| 53 | $H^+_2 + \gamma \rightarrow H + H$ | This work |
| 54 | $H^+_2 + \gamma \rightarrow H^+_2 + e^-$ | 22, 23 |
| 60 | $H + H \rightarrow H^+_2$ | 24 |
| 61 | $H^+_2 + e^- \rightarrow H$ | 25 |
| 63 | $He^+ + e^- \rightarrow He$ | 25 |
| 67 | $H + cr \rightarrow H^+ + e^-$ | 26, 27 |
| 69 | $He + cr \rightarrow He^+ + e^-$ | 27, 28 |
| 70 | $H^+_2 + cr \rightarrow H^+_2 + e^-$ | 28 |
| 83 | $H^+_2 + H^+ \rightarrow H + H + H$ | 29 |
| 84 | $H^+_2 + e^- \rightarrow H^+ + H$ | 30 |
| 85 | $H^+_2 + He^+ \rightarrow He + H + H^+$ | 31 |
| 86 | $H^+_2 + He^+ \rightarrow H^+ + He$ | 31 |
| 87 | $H^+_2 + H^+ \rightarrow H_2 + H$ | 29 |
| 88 | $H^+_2 + H \rightarrow H + H + He$ | 32 |
| 97 | $H^+_2 + H_2 \rightarrow H^+_2 + H$ | 33 |
| 100 | $CO + H^+_2 \rightarrow HCO^+ + H_2$ | 34 |
| 101 | $He^+ + CO \rightarrow C^+ + O + He$ | 35 |
| 106 | $H^+_2 + e^- \rightarrow H^+_2 + H$ | 36 |
| 107 | $HCO^+ + e^- \rightarrow CO + H + H$ | 37 |
| 108 | $H^+_3 + Fe \rightarrow Fe^+ + H^+ + H$ | 38 |
| 111 | $HCO^+ + \gamma \rightarrow CO + H^+$ | 39 |
| 112 | $H^+_2 + H \rightarrow H^+_2 + H_2$ | 40 |
| 113 | $CO + He^+ \rightarrow C + O^+ + He$ | 35 |
| 114 | $H^+_2 + e^- \rightarrow H + H + H$ | 36 |
| 115 | $H^+_2 + H^+ \rightarrow H^+_3 + \gamma$ | 41 |
| 116 | $C + O \rightarrow CO + \gamma$ | 42, 43 |
| 117 | $OH + H \rightarrow O + O + H$ | 28 |
| 118 | $HOC^+ + H_2 \rightarrow HCO^+ + H_2$ | 44 |
| 119 | $HOC^+ + CO \rightarrow HCO^+ + CO$ | 45 |
| 120 | $C + H_2 \rightarrow CH + H$ | 46 |
| 121 | $CH + H \rightarrow C + H_2$ | 47 |
| 122 | $CH + H_2 \rightarrow CH_2 + H$ | 28 |
| 123 | $CH + C \rightarrow C_2 + H$ | 48 |
| 124 | $CH + O \rightarrow CO + H$ | 49, 50 |
| 125 | $CH_2 + H \rightarrow CH_2 + H$ | 51 |
| 126 | $CH_2 + O \rightarrow CO + H + H$ | 52 |
| 127 | $CH_2 + O \rightarrow CO + H_2$ | 53 |
| 128 | $C_2 + O \rightarrow CO + C$ | 54, 55, 56 |
| 129 | $O + H_2 \rightarrow OH + H$ | 57 |
| 130 | $OH + H \rightarrow O + H_2$ | 58 |
| 131 | $OH + H_2 \rightarrow H_2O + H$ | 59 |
| 132 | $OH + C \rightarrow CO + H$ | 48 |
| 133 | $OH + O \rightarrow O_2 + H$ | 28, 56, 60 |
| 134 | $OH + OH \rightarrow H_2O + O$ | 48 |
| 135 | $H_2O + H \rightarrow H_3O + OH$ | 61 |
| 136 | $O_2 + H \rightarrow OH + O$ | 28 |
| 137 | $O_2 + H_2 \rightarrow OH + OH$ | 62 |
| 138 | $O_2 + C \rightarrow CO + O$ | 28, 48 |
Table B1 – continued

| Reaction no. | Reaction | Reference |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| 139          | CO + H → C + OH | 28        |
| 140          | C + H₂ → CH + H | 28        |
| 141          | C + H₂ → CH + H₂ | 28       |
| 142          | C + H₂ → CH₂ + H | 63       |
| 143          | CH + H → C + H₂ | 64       |
| 144          | CH₂ + H₂ → CH₃ + H | 64       |
| 145          | CH₂ + O → CO + H₂ | 65       |
| 146          | CH₂ + H₂ → CH₃ + H₂ | 28      |
| 147          | CH₂ + H → CH₂ + H₂ | 28      |
| 148          | CH₂ + H₂ → CH₃ + H₂ | 28      |
| 149          | CH₂ + O → H₂O + H | 28      |
| 150          | CH₂ + H → CH₂ + H₂ | 28      |
| 151          | CH₂ + O → H₂O⁺ + H₂ | 67      |
| 152          | C₂ + O⁺ → CO⁺ + C | 28      |
| 153          | O⁺ + H₂ → OH⁺ + H | 68, 69 |
| 154          | O + H₂ → OH⁺ + H | 28      |
| 155          | O + H⁺ → OH⁺ + H₂ | 70      |
| 156          | OH + H⁺ → H₂O⁺ + H₂ | 28     |
| 157          | OH + C⁺ → CO⁺ + H | 71     |
| 158          | OH + C⁺ → CO + H² | 71     |
| 159          | H₂O⁺ + H₂ → H₂O + H ± | 73    |
| 160          | H₂O + H₂ → H₂O₂ + H₂ | 74    |
| 161          | H₂O + C⁺ → HCO⁺ + H | 75    |
| 162          | H₂O + C⁺ → HOC⁺ + H | 75    |
| 163          | H₂O⁺ + C → HCO⁺ + H₂ | 28    |
| 164          | O₂ + C⁺ → CO₂ + O | 66    |
| 165          | O₂ + C⁺ → CO + O² | 66    |
| 166          | O₂ + CH₃⁺ → HCO⁺ + OH | 66 | 66 |
| 167          | O₂⁻ + C⁺ → CO⁺ + O | 28    |
| 168          | CO + H₂ → HCO⁺ + H₂ | 34    |
| 169          | HCO⁺ + C → CO + CH⁺ | 28    |
| 170          | HCO⁺ + H₂O → CO + H₂O⁺ | 76    |
| 171          | CH + H² → CH₂ + H | 28    |
| 172          | CH₂ + H² → CH₃ + H | 28    |
| 173          | CH₂ + He → C⁺ + He + H² | 28    |
| 174          | C₂ + He → C⁺ + C + He | 28    |
| 175          | OH + H² → OH² + H | 28    |
| 176          | OH + He → O² + H + He | 28    |
| 177          | H₂O + H₂ → H₂O² + H² | 28 |
| 178          | H₂O + He → OH + He + H² | 78    |
| 179          | H₂O + He → OH⁻ + He + H² | 78    |
| 180          | H₂O + He → H₂O² + He | 78    |
| 181          | O₂ + H⁺ → O₂⁺ + H | 77    |
| 182          | O₂ + He → O₂⁺ + He | 79    |
| 183          | O₂ + He → O²⁺ + O + He | 79    |
| 184          | O⁺ + C → O₂ + C⁺ | 28    |
| 185          | CO⁺ + H → CO + H⁺ | 80    |
| 186          | C⁺ + H⁺ → C + H | 28    |
| 187          | O⁻ + H⁺ → O + H | 28    |
| 188          | He⁺ + H⁻ → He + H | 81    |
| 189          | CH⁺ + e⁻ → C + H | 82    |
| 190          | CH₂⁺ + e⁻ → CH + H | 83    |
| 191          | CH₂⁺ + e⁻ → C + H + H | 83    |
| 192          | CH₂⁺ + e⁻ → C + H₂ | 83    |
| 193          | CH⁺ + e⁻ → CH₂ + H | 82    |
| 194          | CH⁺ + e⁻ → CH₂ + H | 82    |

Table B1 – continued

| Reaction no. | Reaction | Reference |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| 195          | CH⁺ + e⁻ → CH + H + H | 28    |
| 196          | OH⁺ + e⁻ → O + H | 82    |
| 197          | H₂O⁺ + e⁻ → O + H + H | 84    |
| 198          | H₂O⁺ + e⁻ → O + H + H | 84    |
| 199          | H₂O⁺ + e⁻ → OH + H | 84    |
| 200          | H₂O⁺ + e⁻ → H₂O + H | 85    |
| 201          | H₂O⁺ + e⁻ → OH + H₂ | 85    |
| 202          | H₂O⁺ + e⁻ → OH + H + H | 85    |
| 203          | H₂O⁺ + e⁻ → O + H + H₂ | 85    |
| 204          | O²⁺ + e⁻ → O + O | 86    |
| 205          | CO⁺ + e⁻ → C + O | 87    |
| 206          | HCO⁺ + e⁻ → OH + C | 37    |
| 207          | HOC⁺ + e⁻ → CO + H | 28    |
| 208          | H⁺ + C → CH + e⁻ | 28    |
| 209          | H⁺ + O → OH + e⁻ | 28    |
| 210          | H⁺ + OH → H₂O + e⁻ | 28    |
| 211          | C⁺ → H + CH + e⁻ | 28    |
| 212          | C⁺ + H₂ → CH₂ + e⁻ | 28    |
| 213          | C⁺ + O → CO + e⁻ | 28    |
| 214          | O⁺ + H → OH + e⁻ | 28    |
| 215          | O⁻ + H₂ → H₂O + e⁻ | 28    |
| 216          | O⁻ + C → CO + e⁻ | 28    |
| 217          | C⁺ + e⁻ → C⁺ + γ | 88    |
| 218          | C⁺ + e⁻ → C⁺ + γ | 38    |
| 219          | C⁺ + e⁻ → C⁺ + γ | 38    |
| 220          | C⁺ + e⁻ → C⁺ + γ | 89    |
| 221          | C⁺ + H → CH⁺ + γ | 90    |
| 222          | C⁺ + H₂ → CH₂⁺ + γ | 91    |
| 223          | C⁺ + O → CO⁺ + γ | 42    |
| 224          | O⁻ + e⁻ + O⁻ + γ | 28    |
| 225          | O⁻ + H → OH + γ | 28    |
| 226          | O⁻ + O₂ + γ | 38    |
| 227          | OH⁺ + H₂O → CO + H₂O⁺ | 92    |
| 228          | H⁺ + H → H₂ + H | 93, 94 |
| 229          | H⁺ + H₂ → H₂ + H₂ | 95    |
| 230          | H⁺ + H + He → H₂ + He | 96    |
| 231          | C + C + He → C₂ + He | 46, 97 |
| 232          | C + O + He → CO + He | 35, 49 |
| 233          | C⁺ + O + He → CO⁺ + He | 35    |
| 234          | C⁺ + O⁺ + He → CO⁺ + He | 35    |
| 235          | O⁻ + H + He → OH + He | 58    |
| 236          | OH⁻ + H + He → H₂O + He | 49    |
| 237          | O⁻ + O + He → O₂ + He | 51    |
| 238          | O⁻ + CH → HCO⁺ + e⁻ | 98    |
| 239          | H⁺ + γ → H₂ + H⁺ | 99    |
| 240          | H⁺ + γ → H₂⁺ + H | 99    |
| 241          | C⁺ + γ → C⁺ + e⁻ | 28    |
| 242          | CH⁺ + γ → C + H | 100   |
| 243          | CH⁺ + γ → CH⁺ + e⁻ | 21    |
| 244          | CH⁺ + γ → C + H⁺ | 100   |
| 245          | CH⁺ + γ → CH + H | 100   |
| 246          | CH⁺ + γ → CH₂⁺ + e⁻ | 28    |
| 247          | CH₂⁺ + γ → CH + H⁺ | 100   |
| 248          | CH₂⁺ + γ → CH₂⁺ + H | 28    |
| 249          | CH₂⁺ + γ → CH⁺ + H₂ | 28    |
| 250          | C₂ + γ → C + C | 100   |
| 251          | O⁻ + γ → O + e⁻ | 28    |
| Reaction no. | Reaction | Reference |
|-------------|----------|-----------|
| 252         | OH + γ → O + H | 101       |
| 253         | OH + γ → OH⁺ + e⁻ | 28         |
| 254         | OH⁻ + γ → O + H⁺ | 100        |
| 255         | H₂O + γ → OH⁺ + H | 102        |
| 256         | H₂O + γ → H₂O⁺ + e⁻ | 21         |
| 257         | H₂O⁺ + γ → H⁺ + O | 103        |
| 258         | H₂O⁺ + γ → H⁺ + OH | 103        |
| 259         | H₂O⁺ + γ → O⁺ + H₂ | 103        |
| 260         | H₂O⁺ + γ → OH⁺ + H | 103        |
| 261         | H₂O⁺ + γ → H⁺ + H₂O | 103        |
| 262         | H₂O⁺ + γ → H₂⁺ + OH | 103        |
| 263         | H₂O⁺ + γ → H₂⁺ + H | 103        |
| 264         | H₂O⁺ + γ → OH⁺ + H₂ | 103        |
| 265         | O₂ + γ → O₂⁺ + e⁻ | 100        |
| 266         | O₂ + γ → O⁺ | 100        |
| 267         | CO + γ → C + O | 104        |
| 268         | H₂ + cr → H⁺ + H + e⁻ | 28         |
| 269         | H² + cr → H⁺ + H⁺ | 28         |
| 270         | CO + cr → CO⁺ + e⁻ | 28         |
| 271         | CH + γ → C + H | 105        |
| 272         | CH⁺ + γ → C + H² | 105        |
| 273         | CH₂ + γ → CH₃⁺ + e⁻ | 28         |
| 274         | CH₂ + γ → CH₃⁺ + e⁻ | 28         |
| 275         | C₂ + γ → C + C | 105        |
| 276         | OH + γ → O + H | 105        |
| 277         | H₂O + γ → OH⁺ + H | 105        |
| 278         | O₂ + γ → O₂⁺ + e⁻ | 105        |
| 279         | CO + γ → C + O | 106        |
| 280         | CO⁺ + H₂ → HCO⁺ + H | 114        |
| 281         | CO⁺ + H₂ → HOC⁺ + H | 114        |
| 282         | C⁺ + Si → C + Si⁺ | 38         |
| 283         | Fe + C⁺ → Fe⁺ + C | 38         |
| 284         | Fe + Si⁺ → Fe⁺ + Si | 107        |
| 285         | C⁺ + Mg → C + Mg⁺ | 38         |
| 286         | N⁺ + Mg → N + Mg⁺ | 38         |
| 287         | Si⁺ + Mg → Si + Mg⁺ | 38         |
| 288         | S⁺ + Mg → S + Mg⁺ | 38         |
| 289         | C⁺ + e⁻ → C | 25         |
| 290         | O⁺ + e⁻ → O | 25         |
| 291         | Si⁺ + e⁻ → Si | 25         |
| 292         | Fe⁺ + e⁻ → Fe | 25         |
| 293         | Mg⁺ + e⁻ → Mg | 25         |
| 294         | S⁺ + e⁻ → S | 25         |
| 295         | Ca⁺ + e⁻ → Ca | 25         |
| 296         | Ca⁺ + e⁻ → Ca⁺ | 25         |
| 297         | He⁺ + e⁻ → He⁺ + e⁻ | 108        |
| 298         | He⁺ + γ → He⁺ + e⁻ | 108        |
| 299         | He⁺ + γ → He⁺ + e⁻ | 108        |
| 300         | He⁺ + He⁺ → He²⁺+ | 108        |
| 301         | He⁺ + H⁺ → He₂⁺ | 108        |
| 302         | He⁺ + Cr → He⁺ + e⁻ | 112, 113   |
| Collisions | A⁺ + e⁻ → A⁺⁺ + + e⁻ | 108        |
| Recomb/    | A⁺⁺ + γ → A⁺⁺ + γ | 108        |
| Photodiss  | A⁺⁺ + γ → A⁺⁺ + e⁻ | 108        |
| Auger      | A⁺⁺ + γ → A⁺⁺ + e⁻ | 108        |
| CTHion     | A⁺⁺ + H⁺ → A⁺⁺⁺ + + e⁻ | 108        |

a The reaction numbers match those used in the code.

b See the references for ISM chemistry and cooling: Optically thin gas.

---

This paper has been typeset from a TeX/LaTeX file prepared by the author.