SOLAR MODEL WITH CNO REVISED ABUNDANCES

J. Montalbán, A. Miglio, A. Noels, N. Grevesse, and M.P. Di Mauro

1Institut d’Astrophysique et Géophysique de l’Université de Liége, Belgium
2INAF, Osservatorio Astronomico di Catania, Italy

ABSTRACT

Recent three-dimensional, NLTE analyses of the solar spectrum have shown a significant reduction in the C, N, O and Ne abundances leading to a Z/X ratio of the order of 0.0177. We have computed solar models with this new mixture in the OPAL opacity tables. The present He abundance we find seems rather consistent with the helio-seismic value. However, the convective envelope is too shallow, and diffusion, even if it reduces the discrepancy, is not able to give the current value. We present some numerical experiments consisting in changing the diffusion velocities and/or the value of opacity at the base of the convective envelope.

Key words: Sun: abundances, modelling, interior.

1. MODELLING THE SUN

The whole set of models presented here has been produced using the stellar structure and evolution code CLES (Code Liégeois d’Evolution Stellaire): OPAL01 EOS; OPAL96 opacity tables plus Alexander & Ferguson (1994) at $T < 6000$ K; nuclear reaction rates from Caughlan & Fowler (1988); MLT convection treatment; microscopic diffusion of all the elements using the subroutine by Thoul et al. (1994); atmospheric boundary conditions given by Kurucz (1998) at $T = T_{\text{eff}}$. We have used the revised O (Asplund et al. 2004a) C, N and Ne abundances (Asplund et al. 2004b) (MIX2). EOS and opacity tables have been constructed with this mixture. The calibrated model (model S2, see table 1) is very different from the one (model S1) obtained with the Grevesse & Noels (1993) mixture (MIX1) with regards to the distribution of the sound speed as can be seen in Fig. 1a.

We have tried different numerical experiments in order to reduce this discrepancy:

- The OPAL opacity near the base of the convective zone has been increased in three different ways. In models labeled Seaton (model O1), the differences between the revised OP and OPAL opacities (Seaton & Badnell 2004) near $2.10^6$ K are taken into account (Fig. 2, solid line). Models labeled Bahcall 1 and Bahcall 2 are constructed according to the suggestion from Bahcall et al. (2004) (Fig. 2, long dashed-dashed and dashed lines). Figure 1b shows that the best agreement is obtained with Bahcall 1 (model O2) which means an increase of 14% in the opacity at the base of the convective envelope. This model is still far from the S1 model (dotted line in Fig. 1b).
- The diffusion velocities have been increased by factors 1.5 and 2. Figure 1c shows that a better sound speed distribution can be reached either by multiplying by a factor 2 the diffusion velocities (model D1) or by multiplying them by 1.5 and increasing the Z/X ratio by 10% (model D4) which is the precision range for this ratio for the Sun.
- Figures 1b and 1c suggest that the best agreement is reached by increasing both the opacity at the base of the convective envelope and the diffusion velocities. Figure 1d shows the effect of an increase of $\sim 7\%$ in the opacity (solid line and dashed line in Fig. 2) and an increase in the diffusion velocities by $50\%$ (models D2 and D3). Both results are much better than those obtained by only increasing the opacity by $14\%$.

We have checked that the new $^{14}\text{N}(p, \gamma)^{15}\text{O}$ astrophysical S-factor (Formicola, A. & LUNA 2004) has no effect on the solar calibration.

2. CONCLUSION

The numerical experiments presented here suggest that, in order to reduce the discrepancy between the squared

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1At the time of this meeting, the authors kindly warned us about the fact that in an updated version of that paper the value 7% has been corrected and substituted by 21%.
Figure 1. Effects of changes in chemical composition, opacity and diffusion velocities on the error in the squared sound speed.
Table 1. Schematic description of the calibrated models according to their chemical composition, opacity, diffusion. The last two columns give the bottom of the convective zone and the He abundance at the surface.

| Model | Mixture       | Opacity          | Diffusion        | $R_{cz}$ | $Y_s$ |
|-------|---------------|------------------|------------------|----------|-------|
| S1    | GN93          | OPAL T           | (Thoul et al. 94)| 0.714    | 0.246 |
| S2    | Asplund et al. 04 | OPAL T           | T                | 0.727    | 0.243 |
| O1    | Asplund et al. 04 | OPAL+Seaton T    | T                | 0.723    | 0.248 |
| O2    | Asplund et al. 04 | OPAL+Bahcall 1   | T                | 0.718    | 0.249 |
| D1    | Asplund et al. 04 | OPAL+Seaton T    | T × 2            | 0.714    | 0.226 |
| D2    | Asplund et al. 04 | OPAL+Seaton T    | T × 1.5          | 0.717    | 0.239 |
| D3    | Asplund et al. 04 | OPAL+Bahcall 2   | T × 1.5          | 0.715    | 0.239 |
| D4    | $Z/X = (Z/X)_{04} × 1.1$ | OPAL T | T × 1.5 | 0.717    | 0.241 |

Figure 2. Increases of the opacity (in %) used in our computations.

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