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(Received - July 16, 1996)

NIFS-436

Aug. 1996

RESEARCH REPORT NIFS Series

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**Observations and modelling of line intensity ratios of OV
multiplet lines for $2s3s\ ^3S_1 - 2s3p\ ^3P_J$.**

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(August 26, 1996)

Abstract

Line intensity ratios of OV multiplet lines for the $2s3s\ ^3S_1 - 2s3p\ ^3P_J$ ($J=2,1,0$) transitions are studied using a collisional radiative model and the results are compared with measurements from the reversed field pinch experiments Extrap T1 and T2 at KTH. The measured line intensity ratios deviate from the predictions from the model and the possible causes for the discrepancy are discussed with regard to errors in rate coefficients and non quasi steady state.

Keywords;

O V ion, line intensity ratio, multiplet lines, collisional radiative model

1. INTRODUCTION

The triplet lines $2s3s\ ^3S_1 - 2s3p\ ^3P_{2,1,0}$ of Be-like OV ions are frequently used in plasma diagnostics since the line intensities are strong and the wavelengths are in the UV - visible range (2781.04 Å, 2787.03 Å and 2789.86 Å). The lines are often used for ion temperature measurements through measurements of the Doppler broadened line profiles. However, also the line intensity ratios are of diagnostic interest since they are temperature and density sensitive in regions of interest for plasma diagnostics. It has previously been observed that these line ratios do not agree with those predicted by the statistical weights of the J states in the multiplet. Furthermore, measurements of lifetimes (Engström et al 1981) have shown that the multiplet lines show different lifetimes due to a J-selective transition in the multiplet. We have constructed a collisional radiative model for OV with fine structure levels and studied the line intensity ratios for density and temperature diagnostics (Kato et al, 1990). In this paper the calculated electron density and temperature dependences of the line ratios of these multiplet lines are compared with measurements from the Extrap T1 and T2 RFP experiments.

Be-like ions have the metastable state $2s2p\ ^3P_{2,1,0}^0$. Since the radiative decay rate is zero for the level $2s2p\ ^3P_0^0$, the population density of the metastable state is not negligible even at low electron densities. Consequently, the population of the excited states are affected by the metastable state also at low plasma densities. For example, excitation from the metastable state $2s2p\ ^3P_0^0$ contributes 50 percent to the population of $2s3p\ ^3P_0^0$ in the low density limit.

The OV multiplet is an interesting example for testing atomic data in a collisional radiative model since several plasma laboratory experiments at different conditions and with different time scales have shown the line ratios to deviate from the values expected from Boltzmann distributions including transition rates and statistical weights. In particular, laboratory experiments with very different time scales are of interest since these observations could give information on which processes are important for the population and decay of the states involved. The existence of metastable states is of interest since these states are

populated in the plasma and their influence on the line intensities is important when modelling the radiation processes from the plasma. Recently, experiments from a small tokamak (Kallstenius, 1994) have shown the same non-statistical multiplet line intensity ratios and these deviations were interpreted as caused by polarisation effects.

2. ATOMIC DATA

The energies for the 20 fine structure levels in the $n=2$ and 3 ($2s^2$, $2s2p$, $2p^2$, $2s3s$, $2s3p$, $2s3d$) configurations of OV are taken from Moore (1980). Fig. 1 shows a level diagram of the levels included in the calculations. The data for transition probabilities between $n=2$ and $n=3$ levels are taken from Hibbert (1980). The electron excitation rate coefficients are taken from the fitted data in the analytical formula given by Kato et al (1990) which are based on the data by Berrington (1987). We also include the excitation by protons with data from Doyle et al(1987) for the fine structure transitions within the triplet $2s2p$ $^3P^o$ and $2p^2$ 3P levels. Proton excitation is important in high temperature ($T_e \geq 100$ eV) and low density ($n_e \leq 10^{12}$ cm $^{-3}$) plasmas (Kato et al, 1990).

Recently, Csanak et al (1996) calculated the excitation cross sections by the distorted wave method for the transitions $2s^2$ - $2s2p$, $2p^2$, $2s3s$, $2s2p$ - $2s3p$ and $2s3s$ - $2s3d$, $2s3p$ for magnetic sublevels. We have compared these data with those of Kato et al (1990). The comparison of the excitation rate coefficients is shown in Fig.2. The data by Csanak et al (1996) are sometimes lower than those of Kato et al (1990). The differences at low temperatures might be due to resonances which are not taken into account in the data by Csanak et al (1996). However, for the rate coefficients with values larger than 10^{-10} cm 3 s $^{-1}$ the agreement is within 20 percent.

3. COLLISIONAL RADIATIVE MODEL OF OV WITH FINE STRUCTURE LEVELS

The 20 fine structure levels of $2s^2$, $2s2p$, $2p^2$, $2s3s$, $2s3p$, $2s3d$ are included in our model (see Fig.1). The temperature and density dependences for some line intensity ratios of OV are given in Kato et al (1990).

a) Metastable state $2s2p \ ^3P_J$

Be-like ions have the metastable state $2s2p \ ^3P_J^0$. The transition probability A_r for radiative decay from the metastable state to the ground state $2s^2(^1S)$ is very small: $A_r(2 \ ^3P_1^0 - 2 \ ^1S_0) = 2.17 \times 10^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$, $A_r(2 \ ^3P_2^0 - 2 \ ^1S_0) = 2.16 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $A_r(2 \ ^3P_0^0 - 2 \ ^1S_0) = 0 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (Hibbert, 1990). Since the value $A_r(2 \ ^3P_0^0 - 2 \ ^1S_0) = 0$, the population of the $2s2p \ ^3P_0^0$ is not zero even in the low density limit. Therefore the population of the excited states is affected by the metastable state even in low density plasmas. Excitation from the metastable state $2s2p \ ^3P_0^0$ contributes 50 percent to the population of the $2s3p \ ^3P_0^0$ state in the low density limit. Population of the $2s2p \ ^3P_2^0$ and $2s2p \ ^3P_1^0$ states begins to affect the $2s3p \ ^3P_0^0$ state at densities of 10^5 and 10^{10} cm^{-3} , respectively. The excitation from $2p^2 \ ^3P_J$ and the cascade from $2s3d \ ^3D_J$ become dominant for the population of $2s3p \ ^3P_J^0$ from 10^{15} and 10^{16} cm^{-3} , respectively. The deexcitation from $2s2p \ ^1P^0$ to $2s2p \ ^3P_J^0$ becomes effective for $n_e \geq 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

Our model in this paper includes all the fine structure levels (LSJ levels) up to $n = 3$ (fine structure model). However, generally the population densities are obtained by taking into account LS levels such as $2s2p \ ^3P$ as a single level and taking the average transition probability for the three fine structure levels $J = 0,1,2$. We call this case a combined level model here. The results of the calculated population with the fine structure level model and the combined level model, respectively, are different due to the different values of the radiative transition probabilities, A_r , in the case of the fine structure model and the combined

level model. Therefore, we would like to point out that the population of the $2s2p\ ^3P$ by the combined level model and by the sum of the fine structure model $\sum_J n(2s2p\ ^3P_J)$ are not the same.

The reduced population densities $n(i)/[n(1)g(i)]$ for the $2s2p\ ^3P_J^0$ are shown in Fig. 3(a) where $n(i)$ and $g(i)$ are the population density and the statistical weight of the excited state i . The reduced population density of $2s2p\ ^3P_J^0$ and of $2p^2\ ^3P_J$ in Fig. 3(a) have the same value for different J values for $n_e \geq 10^{12}\ \text{cm}^{-3}$; the population densities with different J in the same configuration $2s2p\ ^3P$ or $2p^2\ ^3P$ reach the ratio of the statistical weight. In Fig.3 (b) $n(i)/n(1)/g(i)/n_e$, which is the reduced population density divided by the electron density n_e for $2s3p\ ^3P_J^0$, is shown. The population densities of $2s3p\ ^3P_J^0$ are not in the statistical ratios as shown in Fig.3 (b). The population density ratios reach the statistical ratio for $n_e \geq 10^{15}\ \text{cm}^{-3}$ for $T_e = 30\ \text{eV}$. However in the case of $T_e = 100\ \text{eV}$, the population ratio changes at around $10^{14}\ \text{cm}^{-3}$; the reduced population density of $2s3p\ ^3P_0^0$ is the largest among the levels of the $2s3p$ configuration for $n_e \leq 10^{14}\ \text{cm}^{-3}$ whereas the $2s3p\ ^3P_2^0$ is the largest for $n_e \geq 10^{14}\ \text{cm}^{-3}$. This might be due to the excitation from $2s3p\ ^3P_J$ to $2s3d\ ^3D_J$. The excitation rate coefficients from $2s3p\ ^3P_0$ are larger than those from $2s3p\ ^3P_2$ by 50 percent at 30 eV and 80 percent at 100 eV. For $n_e = 10^{17} - 10^{18}$, the reduced population density of $2s3p\ ^3P_0$ again becomes the most abundant. The population density ratios reach the statistical ratio for $n_e \geq 10^{18}\ \text{cm}^{-3}$. This is due to the excitation rate coefficients between the fine structure levels in $2s3p\ ^3P_J$. The maximum deviation from the statistical ratio at $n_e \geq 10^{14}$ is 15 percent at $n_e = 10^{17}$ for $T_e = 100\ \text{eV}$.

b). Line intensity ratios

The calculated normalized line intensities divided by n_e for the multiplet lines $I = n(i)A_r(i \rightarrow j)/\sum n(i)n_e$ are shown in Figs. 4 (a) and (b) as a function of the T_e and n_e , respectively. As seen in Fig. 4, the temperature dependence is a sensitive function of n_e , an

effect which becomes strong at temperatures higher than 100 eV. The density dependence is not so strong below $T_e = 100$ eV. The normalized line intensities decrease rapidly for $n_e \geq 10^{14}$ cm $^{-3}$ which means that the population of the 2s3p levels reaches a nearly constant value for increasing n_e . The calculated line intensity ratios are shown in Fig. 5 as a function of electron densities for $T_e = 30$ eV and 100 eV. The solid lines indicate the results with the excitation data given in Kato et al (1990) and the dotted ones with the data by Csanak et al (1996). The difference is small, to within a few percent. The temperature dependences of the intensity ratios are weak as shown in Fig. 6. As we have seen in Fig. 5, the line intensity ratios between 2s3s 3S_1 - 2s3p $^3P_{2,1,0}^0$ transitions do not follow what could be expected from the statistical weights of the levels at densities below $n_e \leq 10^{18}$ cm $^{-3}$.

4. EXPERIMENTAL OBSERVATIONS

The spectral line intensities of the multiplets 2s3s 3S_1 - 2s3p $^3P_J^0$, 2781.04Å(J=2), 2787.03Å(J=1), 2789.86Å(J=0) have been measured from the Extrap T1 and T2 reversed field pinch experiments at KTH. The Extrap-T1 experiment (Mazur et al, 1994) is a small-size toroidal plasma with a major radius of 0.5 m and a minor radius of 0.057 m and is equipped with a stainless-steel vacuum liner. Typical discharge times are between 400 — 700 μ s with $n_e = 0.5 - 1.5 \cdot 10^{14}$ cm $^{-3}$ and $T_e = 150 - 275$ eV. The discharges were normally performed using hydrogen as filling gas, and oxygen was the most common impurity with concentrations of several percent. The Extrap-T2 reversed-field pinch (Brunsell et al, 1995) is a larger toroidal device (major radius 1.5 m, minor radius 0.19 m) with carbon tiles as plasma facing surface. Discharge times up to 15 ms are obtained with $n_e = 0.2 - 1.0 \cdot 10^{14}$ cm $^{-3}$, $T_e = 50 - 200$ eV. The ion temperatures are found to be approximately equal to the electron temperatures. The OV multiplet studied here was the brightest one in the visible and near-UV wavelength region in both devices during the central and hottest period of the discharges. A typical spectrum of the OV multiplet is shown in Fig. 7. The light was

collected with a single line-of-sight along a diameter in a poloidal plane of the torus using a 600 μm diameter quartz fiber. A 1-m focal length Czerny-Turner monochromator equipped with a 2400 1/mm grating and a gateable, 1024 pixel intensified multichannel detector was used (gated typically for 30 - 100 μs).

The spectra were fitted with a nonlinear least square fitting routine (Hörning et al, 1995). The high line intensities resulted in very good fits giving small error bars to the fits. To investigate the error due to count statistics, OV spectra were simulated with the typical noise characteristics of the detector and for different intensities of the lines (Hörning et al, 1995). For the typical multiplet line intensities of $1-2 \times 10^4$ counts this resulted in line ratio errors of 2-3 percent for the two line ratios considered here.

The spread of the fitted line ratios for the data sets of 75 similar plasma discharges from the EXTRAP-T2 are shown in Fig. 8. The double standard deviation of the mean ($2\sigma_\mu$) obtained are 0.014, 0.062 respectively. This means an error in the line ratio measurements for one data point of 0.5 - 1 percent.

To be able to conclude that the observed line ratios are free from systematic errors the following three checks were made:

i) The spectral region around the multiplet was searched for other known impurities. No lines, forming multiplets which should have a strong component blended with any of the OV lines were found. This method can be used assuming the J substates of a state being populated according to its statistical weight factors. Then the resulting line intensities of a multiplet can be estimated, knowing only the intensity of a single member line. Blending with metal lines could be a problem in the Extrap-T1, but they were normally weak, and absent in Extrap-T2.

ii) The variation of the sensitivity of the system over the three OV lines (spanning 8 \AA) could have some impact on the measurement. No calibration lamp with known spectral radiance around 2785 \AA was available. However, studying the continuum light (radiative recombination radiation) in the initial plasma breakdown phase, no strong sensitivity deviations was seen over the detector channel range. Above 3000 \AA , using a tungsten calibration

lamp, the variation of sensitivity was negligible over the part of the photodiode array onto which the OV lines were focussed. Variations of the attenuation of the port window at the experiment, the fiber and lenses used should be very small over only 10 Å but, if significant, give an opposite effect than the one we see namely that the lowest wavelength line is too strong (attenuation increases with decreasing wavelength).

iii) The electron density and temperature varies along the line-of-sight in a pinch plasma, as does the density and emissivity distributions of ions. These variations are, however, not large enough to have a significant influence on the result, because the OV ions are not supposed to be abundant in the cooler and less dense edge region of the plasma where the gradients of T_e and n_e might be large.

The peak value of the electron temperature T_e is about 100 - 300 eV and the electron density is about 5×10^{13} - 10^{14} cm⁻³. The observed mean ratios of $I(J=2)/I(J=0)$ and $I(J=1)/I(J=0)$ are 5.75 ± 0.15 and 2.95 ± 0.10 , respectively as seen from Fig. 8.

It should also be remarked that this RFP experiment is not sensitive to any possible polarisation effects since the single line-of-sight crosses through the plasma with the direction of the magnetic field varying strongly along the line-of-sight and the electron velocity distribution is expected to be isotropic.

5. COMPARISON WITH MEASUREMENTS

The observed line intensity ratios are consistent with the predictions only if the OV lines are emitted from a plasma of $T_e = 200$ eV and $n_e \geq 10^{15}$ cm⁻³ as shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

The problem is that this high electron density is needed to bring consistency with theoretical predictions and measurements and such high electron densities are inconsistent with other measurements of the electron density in the plasma. It should also be noted that the small errors in the line ratio measurements, as discussed previously, should make the measurements sensitive enough to see the variations predicted by the model. However, the

discrepancy with the theoretical prediction in the line ratio measurement is well beyond the statistical experimental error and indicates a systematic difference of too small line ratio values predicted from the model.

As is seen from Fig. 5, the measured intensity ratio of $I(J=2)/I(J'=0)$ is larger than the theoretical calculation for the relevant plasma parameters ($T_e \sim 250$ eV, $n_e \sim 7 \cdot 10^{13}$ cm $^{-3}$) by 12 percent whereas the experimental error is 2-3 percent. However, the calculated ratio of $I(J=1)/I(J'=0)$ is almost in the experimental error. This indicates that the measured intensity $I(J=2)$ is significantly larger than the results from the calculation compared to those of $I(J=1)$ and $I(J=0)$.

6. DISCUSSION

The measurements do not agree with the theoretical calculations. We consider here the contribution of ionisation and recombination. The effect of ionisation from the excited state on the intensity ratios is smaller than 5 percent, although the effect on the population density is much larger than 5 percent. This effect for the higher levels is effective at lower temperatures since the ionisation potential is lower for the higher levels. We assume the density of the Li-like and B-like ions to be the same as the Be-like ions to see the effect. It should also be emphasized that this assumption is supported by line intensity measurements in the VUV region of the oxygen lines.

a) Inner sub-shell ionisation

From the ground state of B-like ions $2s^2 2p \ ^2P$ the metastable state $2s2p \ ^3P^0$ of Be-like ions is easily produced via inner sub-shell ionisation processes. We have previously studied the effect of ionisation in Kato et al (1990). This effect is larger for the triplet lines than for the singlet lines. When the population of the metastable state is increased through inner

sub-shell ionisation, the excitation rate to the $2s3p\ ^3P^0$ will increase. We have included inner sub-shell ionisation from B-like ground state to the $2s2p\ ^3P^0$ levels. The rate coefficients are assumed according to the statistical weights of the final states. This assumption is considered to be reasonable from the data by Sampson and Zhang (1988) for the inner shell ionisation process from Li-like to He-like ions, such as $1s^22s + e \rightarrow 1s2s + 2e$, if the population density of the ground doublet state of B-like ions ($2s^22p\ ^2P_{1/2,3/2}$) is populated according to the statistical ratio. The population densities are increased effectively for $T_e \geq 100$ eV but the line ratios are not changed.

b) Electron recombination

When the lines are emitted near the edge of the plasma where the electron temperature is low recombination might be important. The total recombination rate coefficient at 30 eV is 2×10^{-11} cm^3s^{-1} . The effective emission rate coefficient for electron excitation of the weakest multiplet line at $n_e = 10^{14}$ cm^{-3} is 5×10^{-11} and 1×10^{-10} cm^3s^{-1} for 30 eV and 100 eV, respectively. The partial recombination rate coefficients to the $2s3p\ ^3P^0$ levels are estimated to be of the order of 10^{-16} cm^3s^{-1} which is very small and the major part of the recombination comes through cascade from higher levels. Therefore, we have to know the density effect of the dielectronic recombination rate around 10^{14} cm^{-3} . The thermal limit at $T_e = 30 - 100$ eV and $n_e = 10^{13} - 10^{14}$ cm^{-3} is about $n = 8 - 11$. The recombination rate is estimated to be only 2 - 5 percent for this plasma condition. Then the recombination rate is about $(4-10) \times 10^{-13}$ cm^3s^{-1} . This value is small compared to the excitation rate coefficient. Therefore, it is necessary to include a density of Li-like ions about 100 times that of the Be-like ions which is not realistic. Furthermore, since the recombination rates are so small the time for this process is too long in the RFP plasma discharges with densities $10^{13} - 10^{14}$ cm^{-3} and particle confinement times of 20 - 40 μs (typical values for the EXTRAP-T1 plasma). This even further emphasizes that the ionisation processes are completely dominating the

population of the levels involved in the observed transitions.

c) Proton collisions

We have included proton excitation between fine structure levels in the $2s2p$ state as well as in the $2p^2$ state but not in the $2s3p$ state. In order to see the effect of the proton collisions, we have added the proton excitation for $2s3p\ ^3P^0$ levels assuming the same excitation rate coefficients for $2s2p\ ^3P^0$. But this effect is small and no difference was found. In Fig. 5 the line ratio of $I(J=2)/I(J'=0)$ and $I(J=1)/I(J'=0)$ increases for $n_e \geq 10^{14}\ \text{cm}^{-3}$. The reason for this increase could be due to the competition between the radiative decay from $2s3p\ ^3P$ and collisions from $2s3p\ ^3P^0$. The reduced population density $n(i)/g(i)$ of $2s3p\ ^3P_2^0$ is larger than those of $J=0$ and 1 in the density region of $10^{14} - 10^{16}\ \text{cm}^{-3}$ at $T_e = 100\ \text{eV}$.

d) Cascade from $2s3d\ ^3D$

The cascade contribution from $2s3d\ ^3D$ to $2s3p\ ^3P^0$ state becomes important for $n_e \geq 10^{14}\ \text{cm}^{-3}$ in our calculation. However, if the population of the $2s3d\ ^3D_J$ state is according to the statistical ratio, the population of the $2s3p\ ^3P^0$ is also in the statistical ratio. We can not reproduce the line ratio $I(J=2)/I(J'=0)$ greater than 5 through cascades. But the important factor is the competition between the collisional process and the radiative process. We have decreased the rate coefficients from $2s2p\ ^3P$ to $2s3p\ ^3P$ by 20 percent. The ratios are very sensitive to these rate coefficients. However, we can not reproduce the ratio larger than 5 by decreasing the rate coefficients.

e) Non quasi steady state effect

In laboratory plasmas, such as in the divertor plasmas, the plasma is not ionisation

equilibrium but generally in an ionising state due to the diffusion and recycling. In order to know the line intensities in such ionising plasmas, we generally solve the time dependent rate equations of the ions taking into account the ionisation and recombination between the ground states and after that we calculate the line intensities corresponding to the abundance of each ion; this is called the quasi steady state assumption. In our calculation we assumed a quasi steady state $dn(i)/dt = 0$ for the population of the plasma. However, the metastable state $2s3p\ ^3P$ has a long decay time and remains in the plasma and we have to solve the time dependent rate equations for the population of the metastable states relative to the ground state (Kato et al 1996). Therefore, this effect will change the population of $2s3p\ ^3P_J$ which is mainly produced by excitation from $2s2p\ ^3P_J$.

7. CONCLUSIONS

We have discussed the possible origin of the disagreement between the measurements and the theoretical calculations for the OV multiplet. We can exclude any influence of electron recombination and proton collisions while the rate coefficients might still be in error. We conclude, however, that the most probable sources are the assumption of the quasi steady state and the error of the rate coefficients. The non quasi steady state requires a time dependent rate equation including the metastable states. These results are of significance for the general application of steady state collisional radiative models.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research has been supported by the European Communities under an association contract between EURATOM and the Swedish Natural Science Research Council (NFR). Support from the Göran Gustafsson Foundation is also gratefully acknowledged. We would also like to thank Prof. T. Fujimoto and Prof. J. Dubau for useful comments and discussions

and the Los Alamos group (Drs. G. Csanak, R. Clark and J. Abdallah) for communicating their data prior to publication.

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Figure Captions

Fig. 1. Level diagram of the levels included in the calculation. On the bars are printed the number of the type of the configuration and within parenthesis the number of fine structure levels (in total 20). The transition studied is shown with a dashed line.

Fig. 2. Comparison of excitation rate coefficients (F) from Kato et al (1990) and Csanak et al (1996) a) shows $F(2s2p\ ^3P_0^0 - 2s3p\ ^3P_0^0)$, b) $F(2s2p\ ^3P_0^0 - 2s3p\ ^3P_1^0)$, c) $F(2s2p\ ^3P_0^0 - 2s3p\ ^3P_2^0)$ and d) $F(2s2p\ ^3P_1^0 - 2s3p\ ^3P_0^0)$.

Fig. 3. Reduced population density of OV ions at $T_e = 30$ eV.

a) $n(i)/n(1)/g(i)$ where $n(i)$ and $g(i)$ is the population density and the statistical weight of level i .

b) $n(i)/n(1)/g(i)/n_e$ for the level $2s3p\ ^3P_{2,1,0}^0$

Fig. 4. The multiplet line intensities for OV as a function of

a) the electron temperature, T_e and b) the electron density, n_e

Fig. 5. The line intensity ratios of $I(2781(J=2))/I(2789(J=0))$ and $I(2787(J=1))/I(2789(J=0))$. Observed values are shown by arrows.

Fig. 6. The line intensity ratios as a function of the electron temperature T_e .

Fig. 7. A spectrum with fit of the OV multiplet obtained from Extrap-T2 (Shot# 1499).

Fig. 8. The spread of the measured line intensity ratios for a data set of 75 similar discharges in EXTRAP. The vertical arrows show the ratios computed theoretically from the typical plasma operating point $T_e = 250$ eV, $n_e = 7.10^{13}$ cm⁻¹³. The horizontal bars to the right of the histogram represents the fit error due to count statistics.

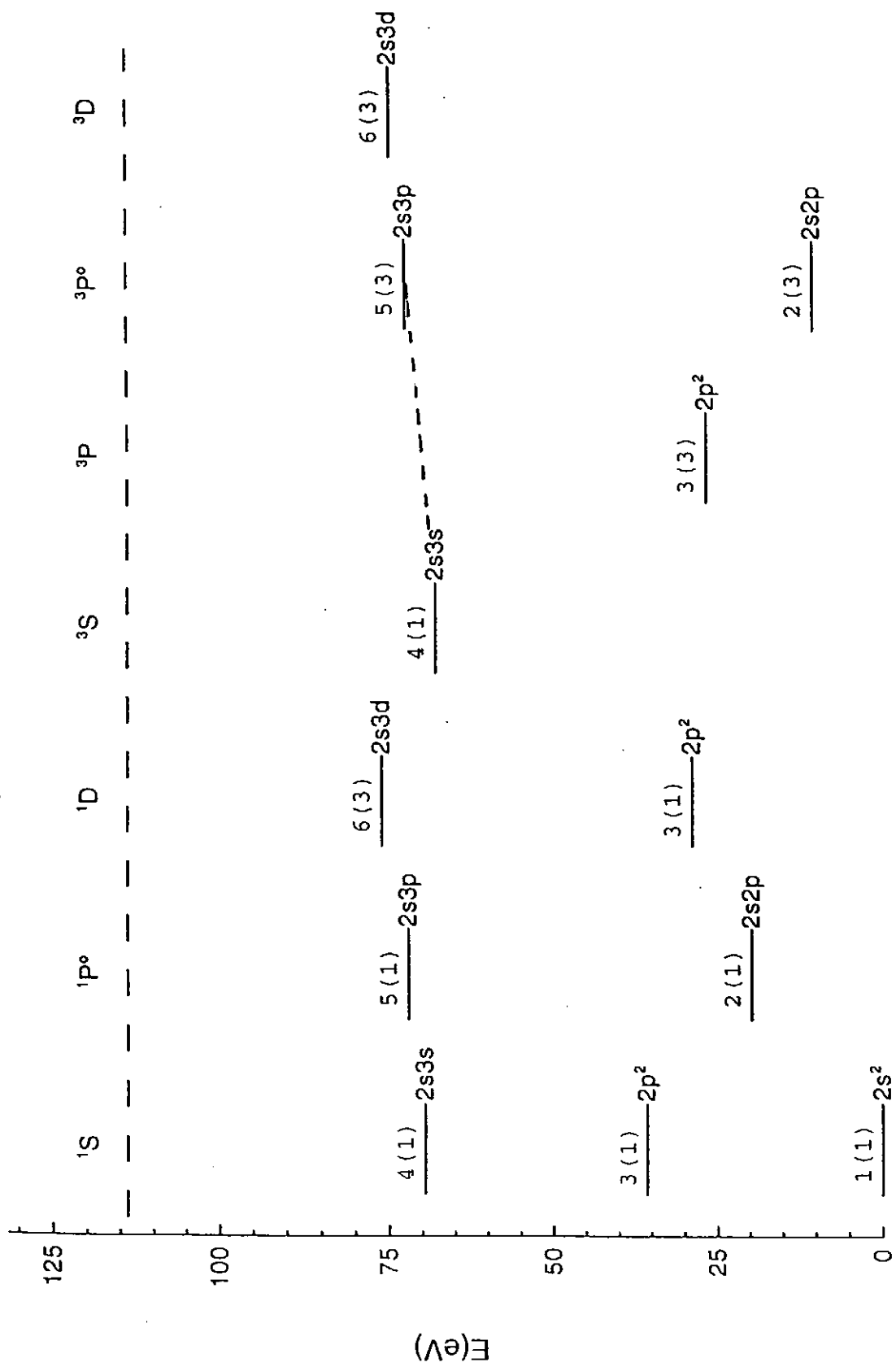


Fig.1

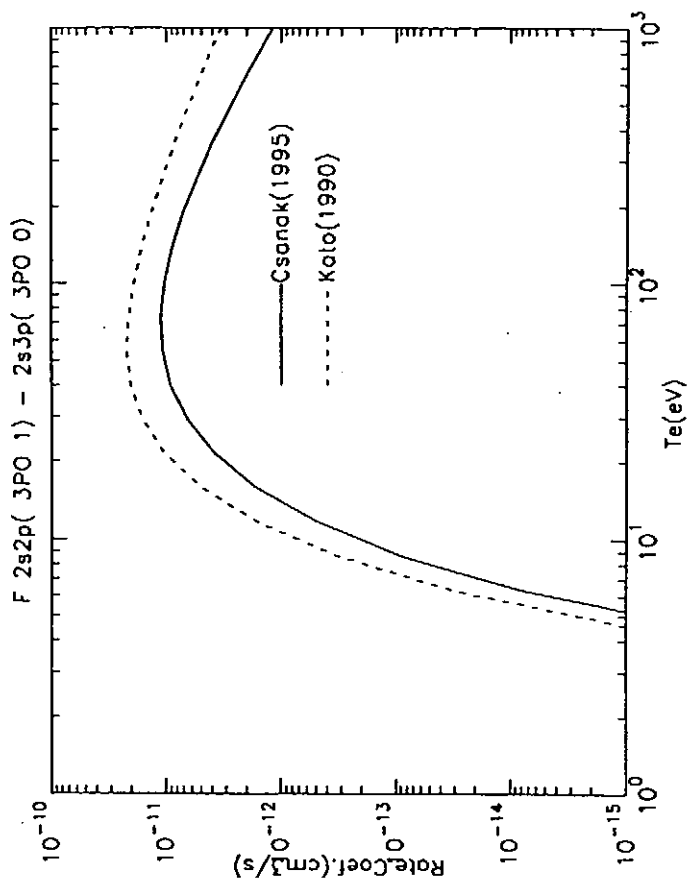
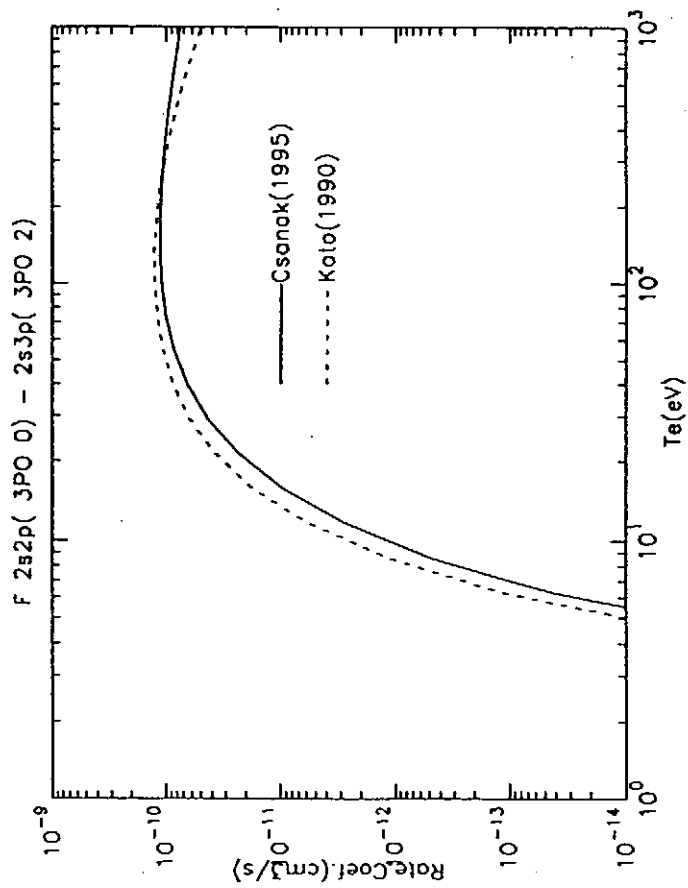
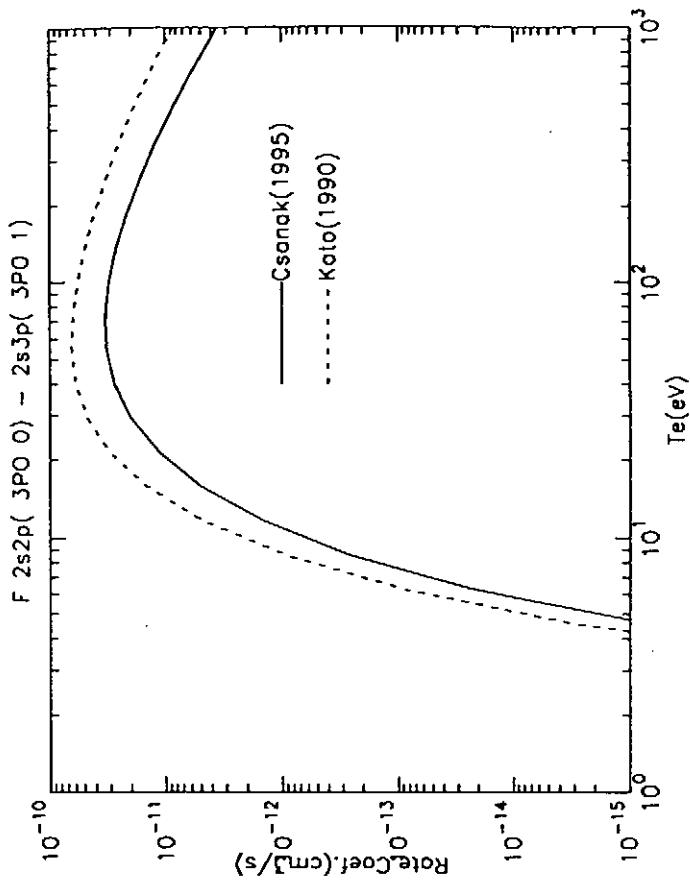
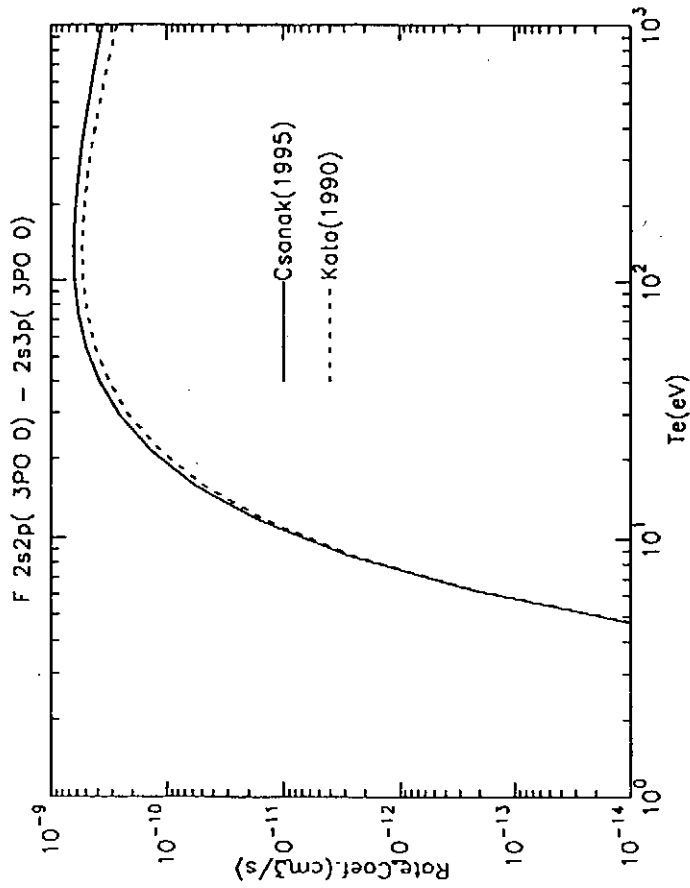


Fig.2

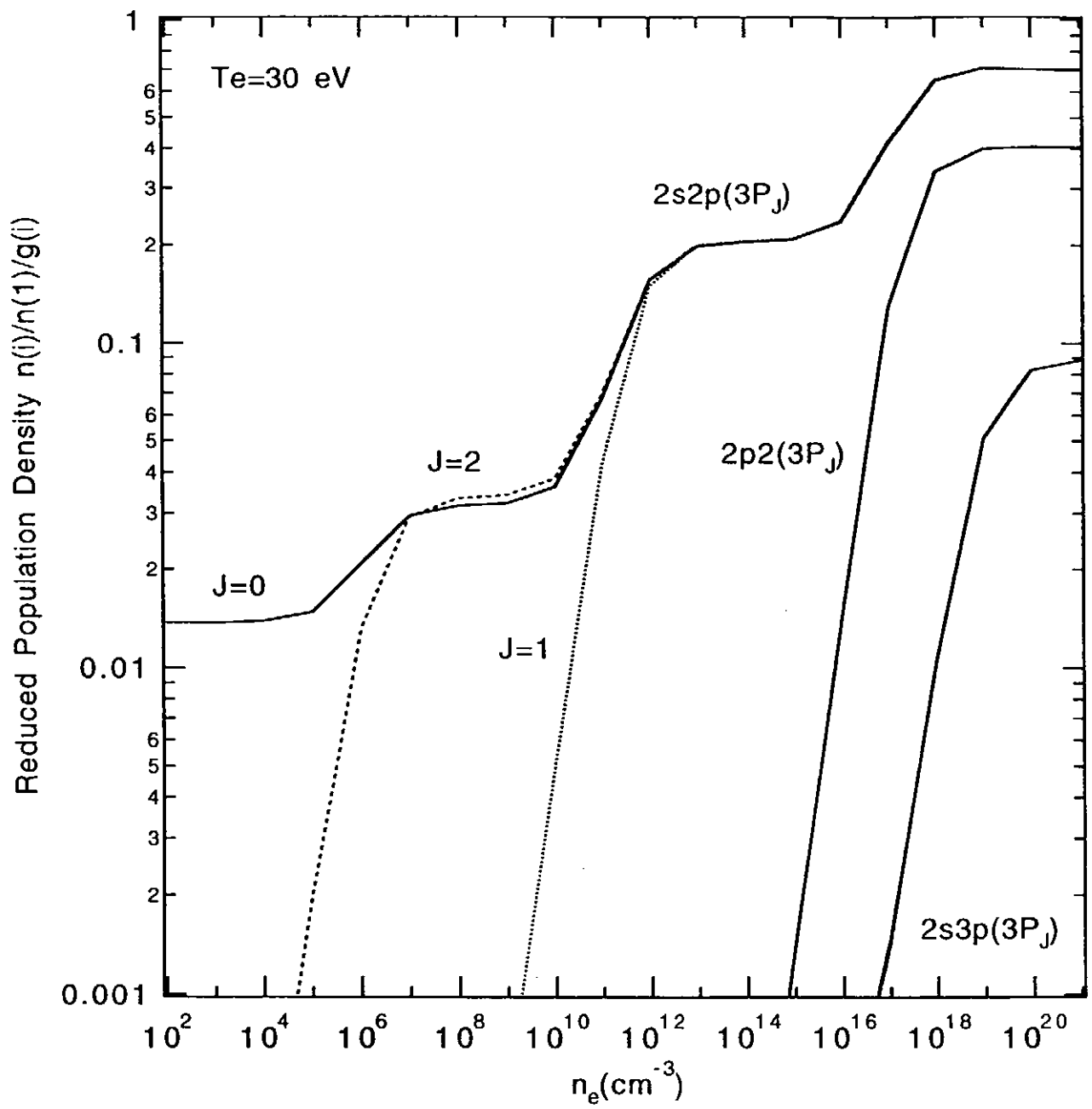


Fig.3(a)

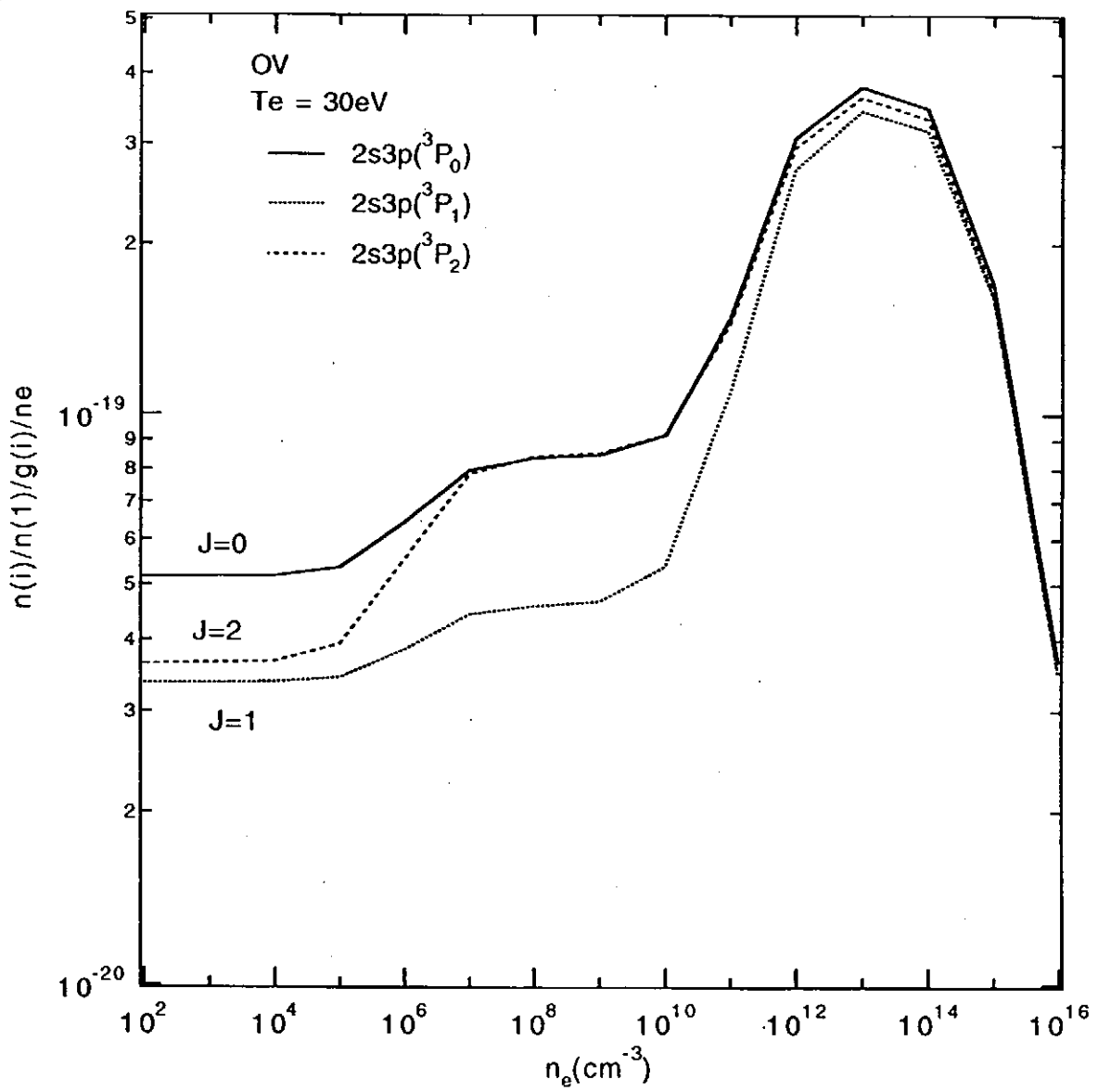


Fig.3(b)

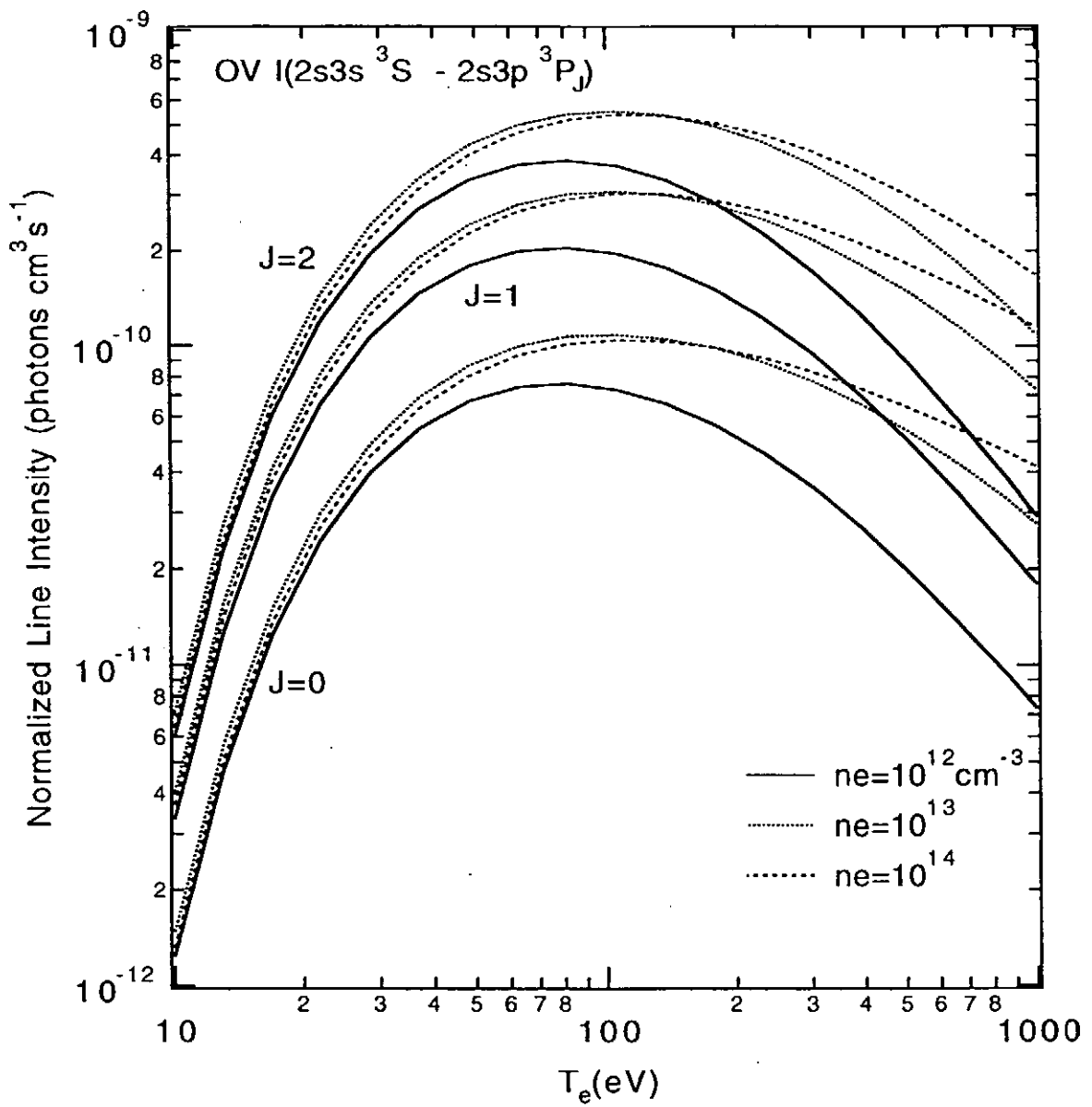


Fig.4(a)

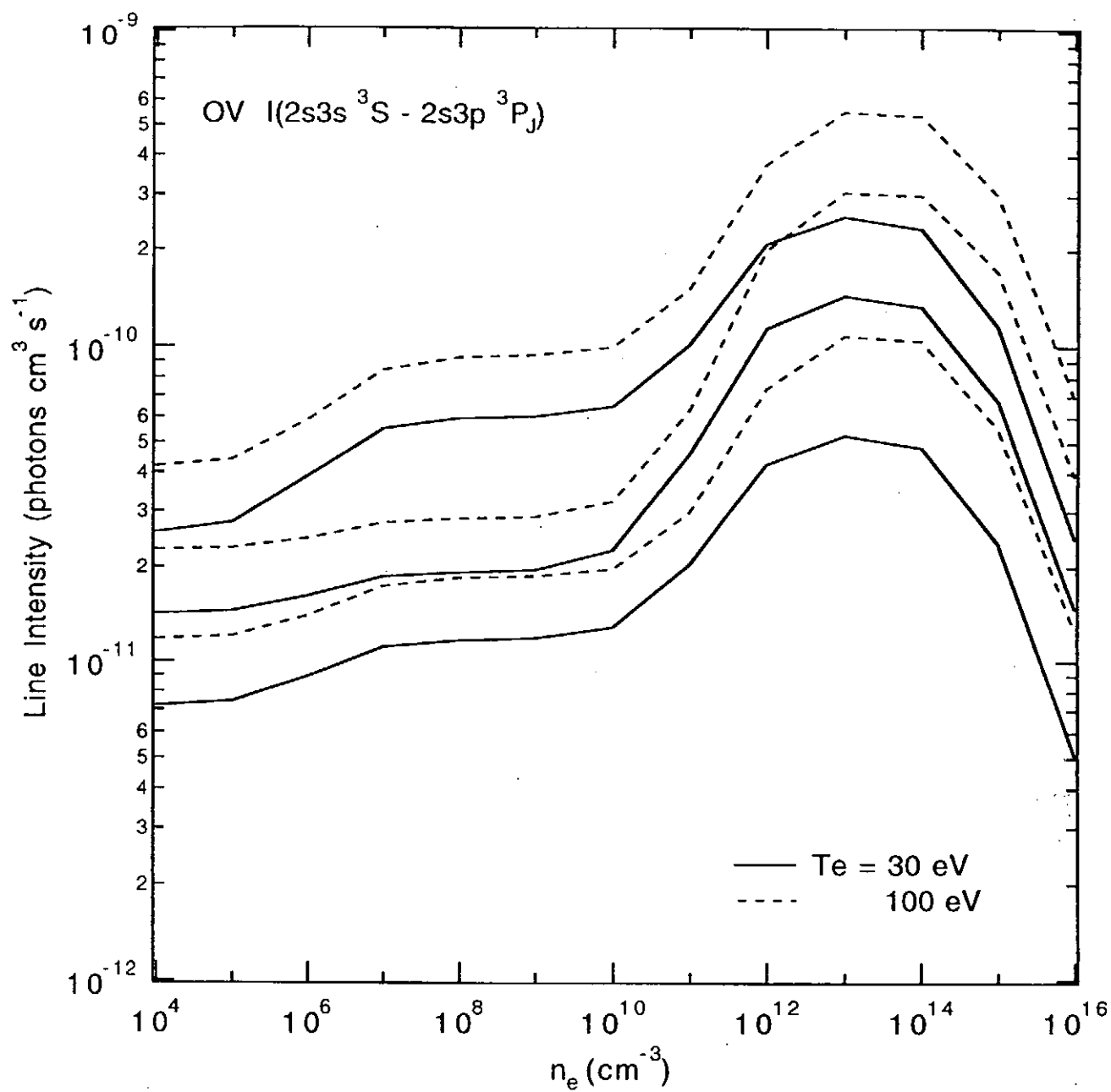


Fig.4(b)

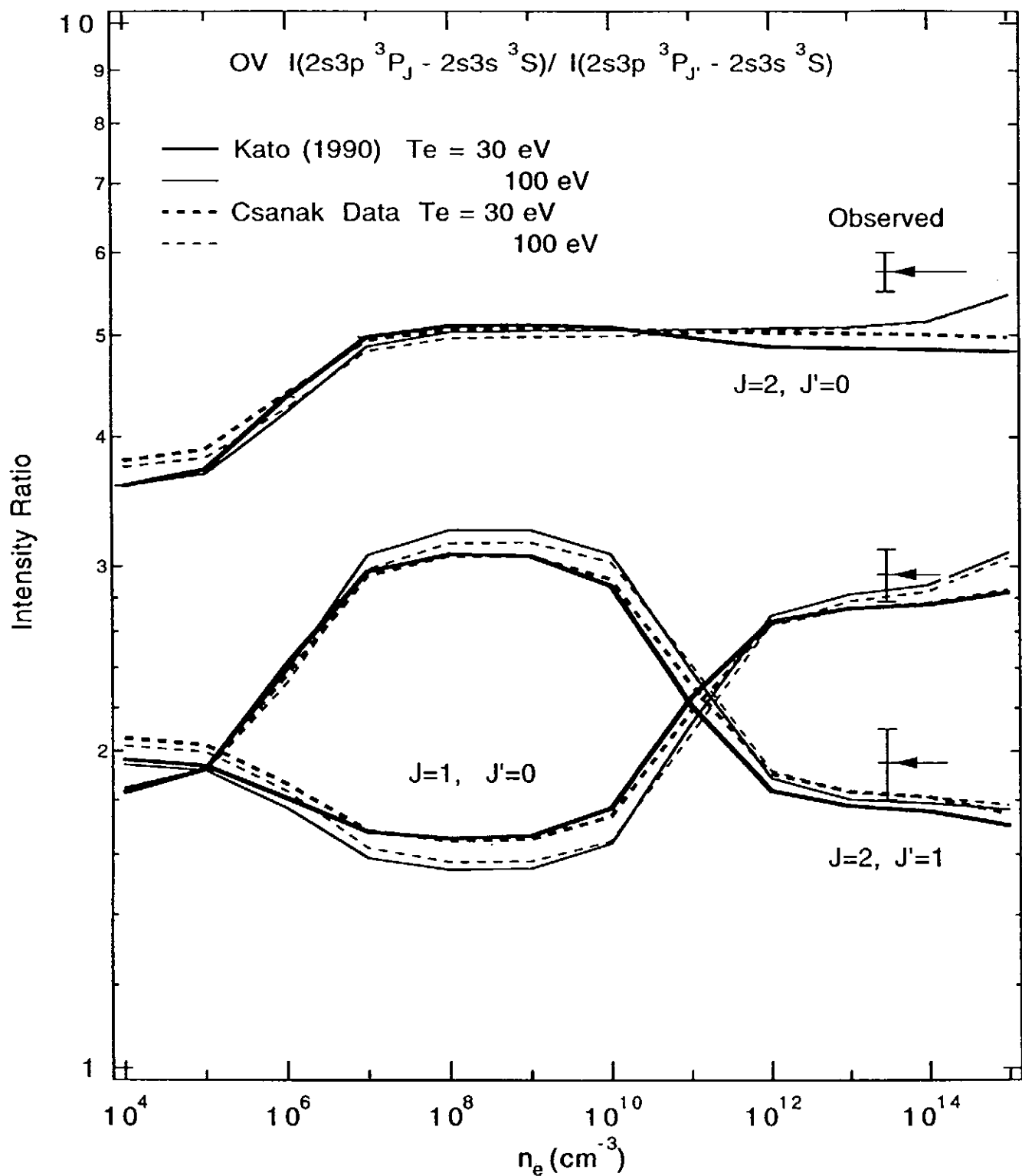


Fig.5

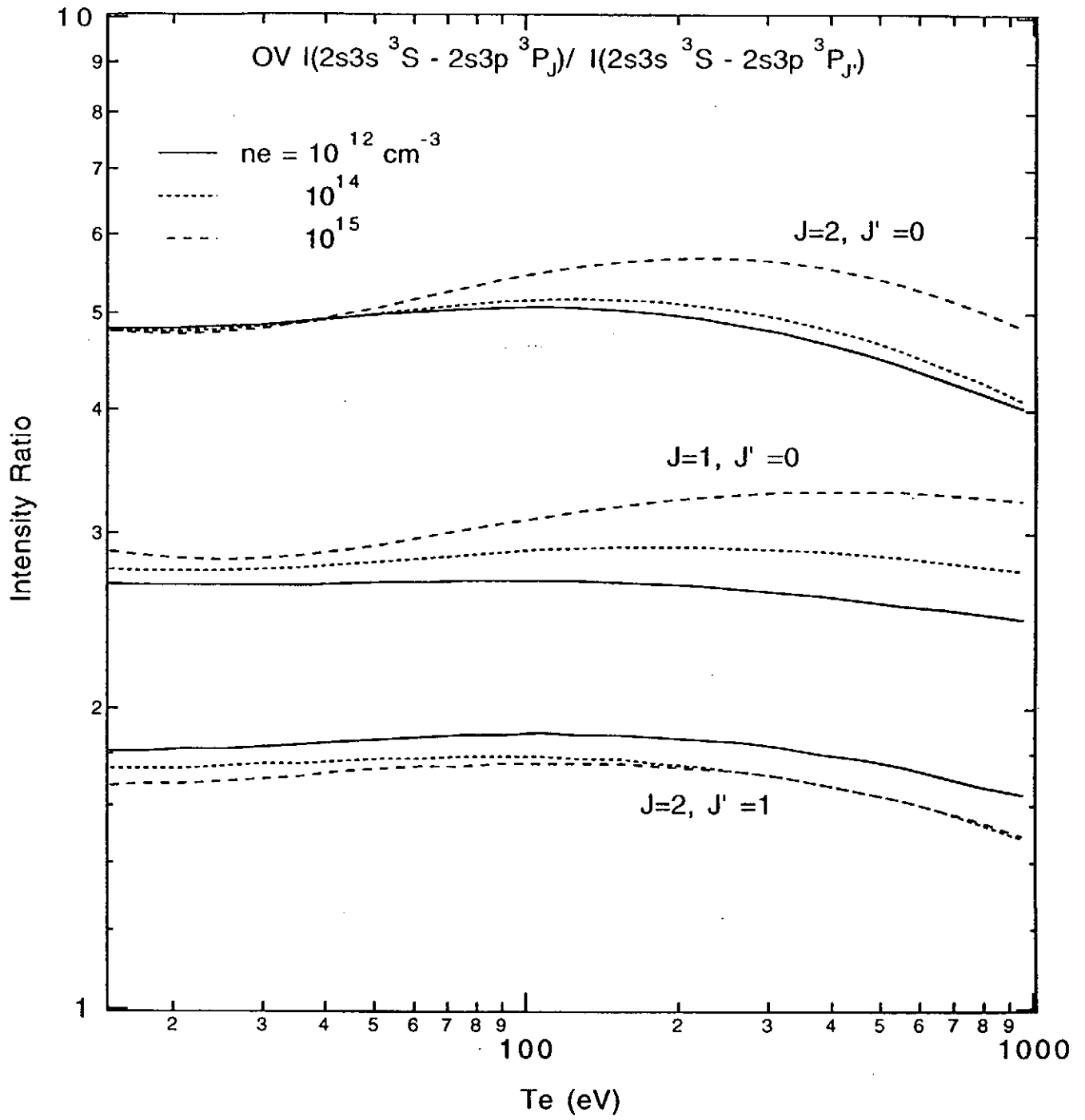


Fig.6

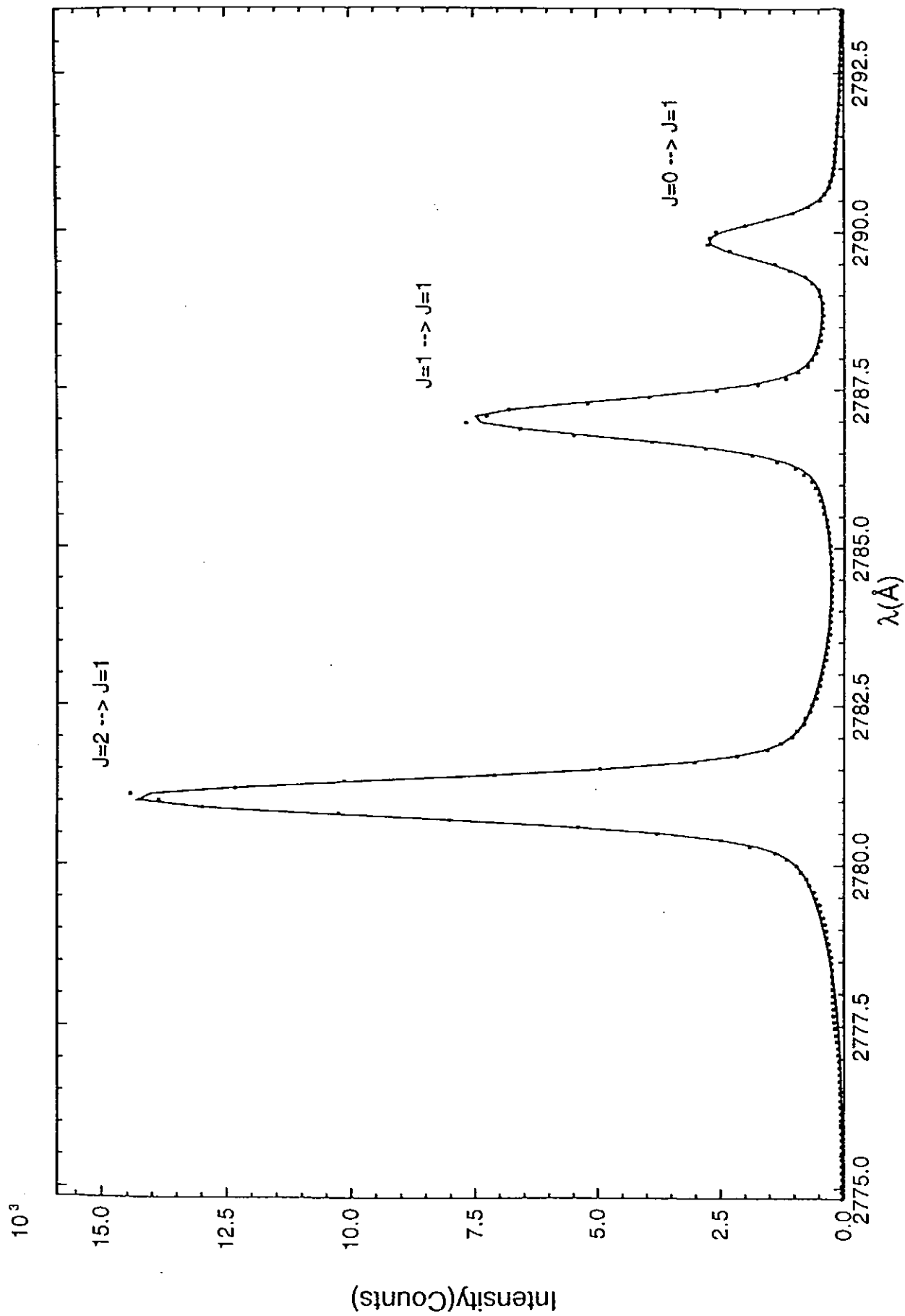


Fig.7

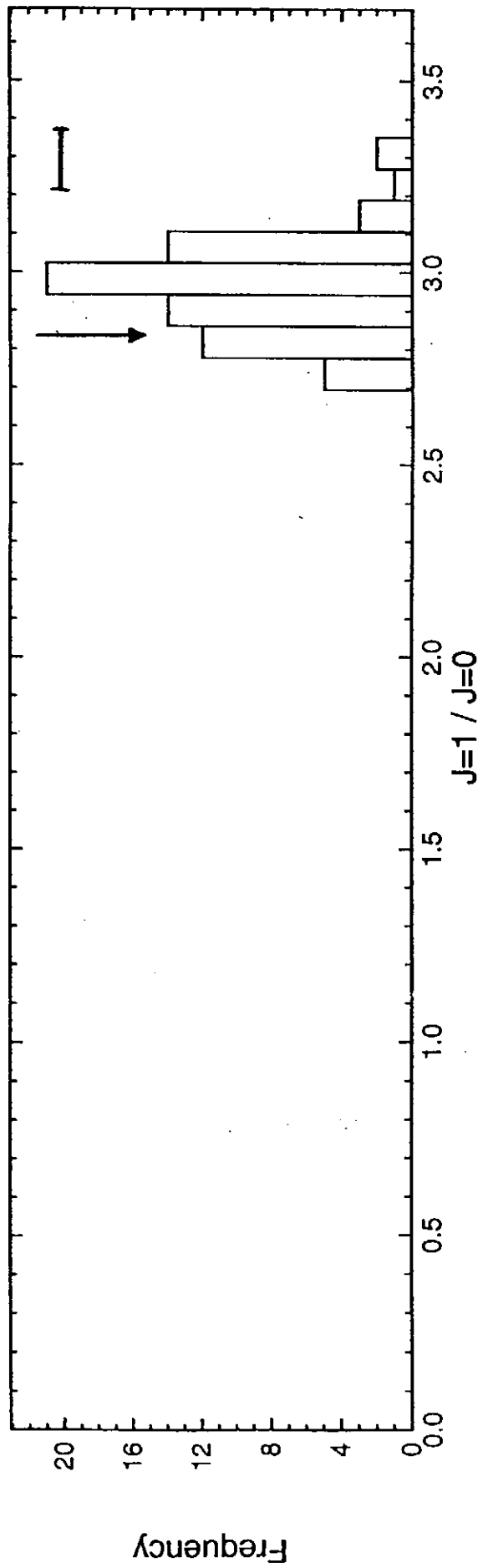
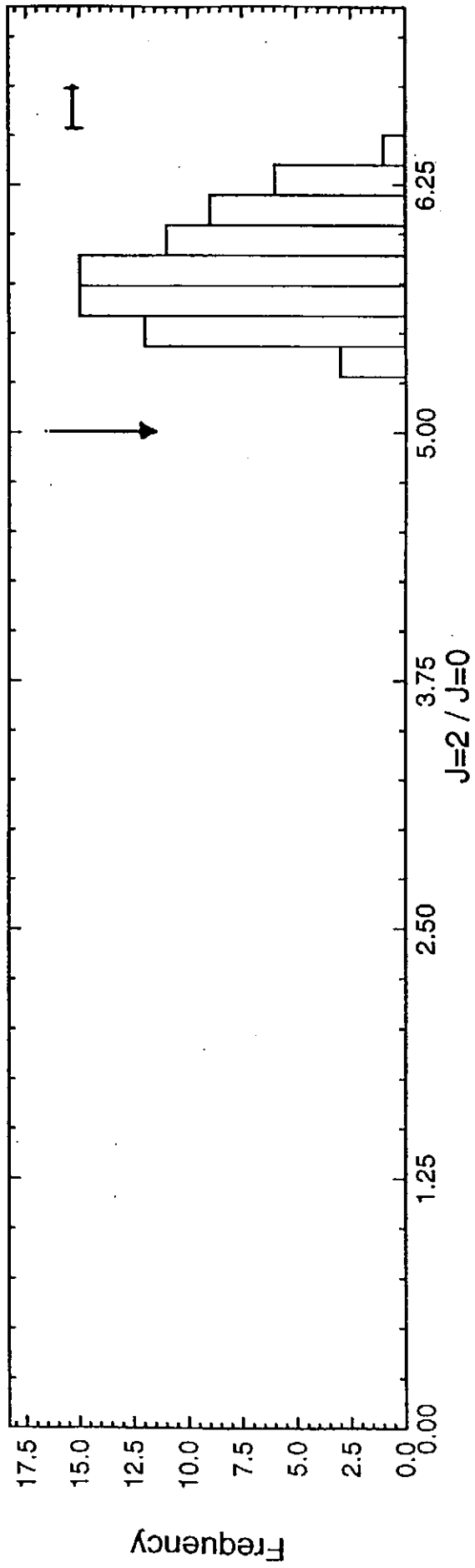


Fig.8

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