

ISO SPECTROSCOPY OF GALACTIC HII REGIONS

Pierre Cox¹

¹*Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale, Bât. 121, Université de Paris XI, F-91405 Orsay, France*

This paper will summarise the data which have been obtained from an ISO spectroscopy program devoted to the study of compact HII regions in our Galaxy. The spectra are very rich and display all the major infrared atomic fine structure lines and H recombination lines as well as a series of dust features. The sources span a range in galactocentric distances (D_G) from 0 to 15 kpc. Work is currently underway to obtain reliable corrections for attenuation of the Ne, Ar, and Si line fluxes. We will present first results on the abundance gradient of Ne/H and Ar/H as well as on the excitation gradients ArIII/ArII, NeIII/NeII, and SiIV/SiIII. Optical data have shown that Ne/O is constant thus Ne/H is expected to reflect the behavior of O/H with D_G .

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