

Relaxation Times of Excited States in Optically Thin
Plasmas

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Relaxation times of excited states in optically thin oxygen and hydrogen plasmas have been calculated by making two approximations to the solution of the system of master equations describing the temporal evolution of the different quantum states.

The results show a complete agreement between the two approximations for low lying excited states, while differences up to an order of magnitude are found for high lying excited states.

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