

D. ATOMIC DATA OF IMPORTANCE
FOR ULTRAVIOLET AND X-RAY ASTRONOMY

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INTRODUCTION

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Ultimately, our knowledge of astrophysics is a projection of our knowledge of physics as established in the laboratory. Hence, there has always been a need for a close association between astrophysics and physics and the one has often stimulated the other. This need is particularly great when new developments occur in astronomy and is very well illustrated by the areas opened up by the use of space vehicles where the requirement for more and better atomic data has been continuously highlighted by the new observations. Indeed, future advances may often lie as much in the laboratory or the computer as they do in the space vehicle. It is for this reason that this Joint Discussion has been arranged with the aim of establishing the important requirements of ultraviolet and X-ray astronomy, of reviewing the state of knowledge of the relevant atomic data, and from the interplay perhaps to guide and stimulate future developments.