

FUSE far-ultraviolet spectroscopy of Wolf-Rayet stars

Allan J. Willis¹, Paul A. Crowther¹, John B. Hutchings²,
Alexander W. Fullerton², Kenneth R. Brownsberger³,
Derck L. Massa^{4,5}, and Nolan R. Walborn⁶

¹*Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London,
Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, UK*

²*Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria,
PO Box 3055, Victoria, BC V8W 3P6, Canada*

³*Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy, University of Colorado,
Campus Box 389, Boulder, CO 80309, USA*

⁴*Stinger and Ghaffarian Technologies, Inc.,
7701 Greenbelt Road, Suite 400, Greenbelt, MD 20770, USA*

⁵*Laboratory for Astronomy and Solar Physics,
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center,
Code 681.0, Greenbelt, MD 20771, USA*

⁶*Space Telescope Science Institute,
3700 San Martin Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA*

Abstract. An overview of a new far-ultraviolet spectral atlas of Wolf-Rayet stars in the Galaxy and the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds is presented.

1. Introduction

The *FUSE* satellite has secured far-ultraviolet (912 - 1200 Å) spectroscopy at high resolution ($R = 25\,000$) of a large sample of Wolf-Rayet stars in the Galaxy and, in particular, in the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds. The survey includes most subtypes in both the WN and WC sequences. This contribution presents an overview of these new, unique spectra. It highlights the wide range of IP and EP transitions that are available in the *FUSE* wavelength range, especially in C, N, O, He, Si, S and P ions, for subsequent detailed atmospheric and wind analyses. In particular, the *FUSE* data, coupled with *IUE*, *HST* and optical-IR spectra, provide a superb dataset, with which to investigate the wind velocity laws and chemical composition of individual stars as a function of WR class and subtype, and intercompare objects in the different galaxies. Compared to *IUE* and *HST*, the *FUSE* spectroscopy covers a much wider range of chemical species additional to C, N and He, including a wider range of I.P. transitions, from N II (IP = 30 eV) to O VI (IP = 138 eV). Our new *FUSE* data cover twelve single WR stars in the Galaxy and eleven single WR stars in the LMC and SMC.

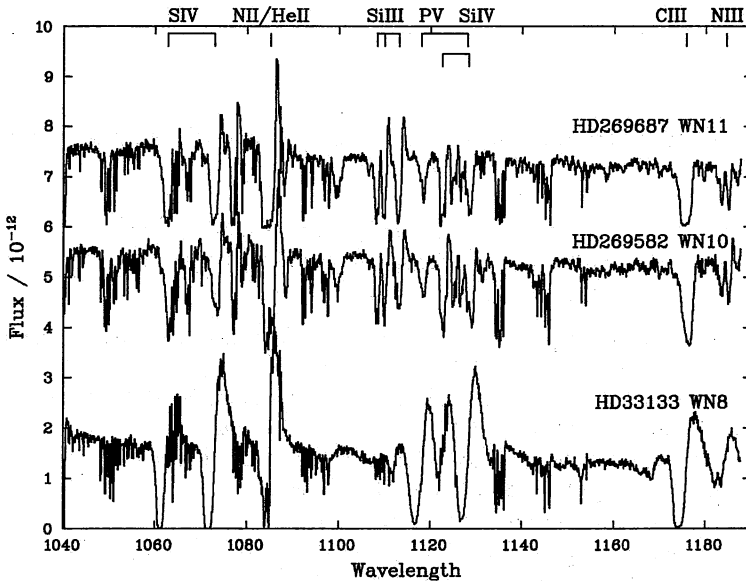


Figure 1. *FUSE* spectra of three late-type WN stars in the LMC.

2. Far-UV spectral morphology

Figure 1 illustrates the quality of the new *FUSE* spectra, showing a montage of late-type WN spectra in LMC stars, covering the wavelength range 1040 - 1190 Å. Our complete atlas shows the following far-UV spectral morphology.

At WN4-5 the dominant wind lines (P-Cyg profiles) are P v λ 1118,1128, O vi λ 1031,1037 and S vi λ 933,944. At WN6, P v, O vi and S vi are still present, but S iv λ 1062,1072 P-Cyg lines become prominent, with C iii λ 977,1175 and N iii λ 991 showing well developed P-Cyg profiles. At WN8, Si iv λ 1122,1128 become strong P-Cyg profiles, with C iii, N iii, S iv and P v still prominent. O vi and S vi are present but weak. WN10 and WN11 stars are exemplified by pronounced P-Cyg profiles in Si iii λ 1108,1110,1113, with N ii λ 1085 replacing He ii λ 1085 as a P-Cyg transition.

In the WC stars, C iii λ 1175 P-Cyg profiles dominate throughout the WC sequence, reaching peak strength at WC7/WC8. C iv λ 948,1108 emissions are seen from WC4 to WC9, with O vi λ 1032,1037 and S vi P-Cyg profiles strong wind features at WC4, WC5 and WC6, but weaker at WC7-8, probably replaced by C ii λ 1036 at WC9. C iii λ 977 is a prominent P-Cyg feature throughout the WC sequence, with N iii λ 991 absent, as expected. P v and S iv P-Cyg profiles are evident from WC4-8; Si iv clear at WC7-WC9, with Si iii only present at WC9.

A complete far-UV spectral Atlas of these new WR spectra will shortly be submitted for publication in ApJ.