

# Accurate relativistic *ab initio* study of interstellar forbidden lines of singly ionized Zinc using the coupled cluster approach

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In this work, the *ab initio* calculations have been carried out to study the transition probabilities corresponding to the forbidden transitions of astrophysically important electromagnetic transitions in the singly ionized zinc, Zn II. Many important electron correlations are considered to all-orders using the relativistic coupled-cluster theory. Calculated ionization potentials are compared with the experimental values, wherever available. To our knowledge, oscillator strengths of the magnetic dipole and electric quadrupole transitions are estimated for the first time. The transitions span in the range of ultraviolet, visible, and near infrared regions and are crucial for the astrophysical observations.

## I. INTRODUCTION

With the advancement of satellite based observations, we can get the information about the abundance of elements in the interstellar space which provides a probe of the nature and composition of the interstellar medium. The data obtained with the Goddard High Resolution Spectrograph (GHRS), the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) and other satellites based on the spectroscopic facilities exhibit very high signal-to-noise ratios and allow routine measurements of very weak lines (e.g. forbidden lines) with attainable accuracy.

Generally allowed electric dipole transitions (E1) are important because of their strengths and easily accessible for the incoming observations. However, forbidden transitions, like electric quadrupole (E2) and magnetic dipole transitions (M1), have also great importance in the astrophysics even though they are weak, because they carry valuable informations like thermal doppler effects of heavenly bodies. The forbidden lines provide important clues in other areas of astrophysics, because of the long lifetime of the upper state against radiative decay. These lines are particularly sensitive to the collisional de-excitation and serve as indicators of electron density and temperature,  $N_e$  and  $T_e$ , in the emission region. Determination of  $N_e$  and  $T_e$  from the forbidden line intensities was discussed originally for the general case by Seaton [1] and Seaton and Oster-

brock [2]. A number of such transitions have been observed in the ultraviolet spectrum of the solar corona. Forbidden atomic emission lines are commonly observed in quasars with an intensity often comparable to accompanying ‘allowed transition’ [3]. Moreover, gaseous nebulae exhibit in their spectra forbidden transition lines of low excitation energy. Many astrophysical phenomena like coronal heating, evolution of chemical composition in stellar envelopes, determination of the chemistry in the planetary nebulae precursor’s envelope are believed to be explained largely by these forbidden lines. In laboratory tokamak plasmas and in various astronomical objects, suitably chosen these forbidden lines serve as a basis for reliable electron density and temperature diagnostics [4].

Zn has been identified in Be stars [5] and experimental data for absorption lines from the ground level are also available. Sneden et al. [6] had studied the abundance of Zinc (Zn) as a function of metallicity for a number of metal poor stars. Zn is closely tracking iron in abundance for most stars. There are peculiar stars for which Zn is either scarce (if not non-existing) or over abundant [7]. An UV-atlas with line identifications [8] is now available for the HgMn star  $\chi$ -Lupi [9], which has been studied extensively. The signature of singly ionized zinc (Zn II) are almost undetectable in these stars, apart from the interstellar medium (ISM). Zn II relatively undepleted in the diffuse interstellar medium, and hence may be used to infer the amount of H in sightline. The lines of Zn II have been observed in the interstellar absorption spectrum towards  $\zeta$  Ophiuchi [10]. The analysis data of Zn II spectrum from GHRS on the HST are done by Savage et al. [11] in determining the depletion of Zn II. Allowed transitions and corresponding oscillator strengths of this ion have been studied by atomic physicists, both experimentalists and theorists [12], but there has been no work towards the ‘forbidden transition’ of Zn II till date in our best of knowledge, which are very important in astronomy.

Here, we have employed the relativistic coupled cluster method with single and double excitations (RCCSD) for determining the ‘forbidden transition’ amplitudes. This is one of the most powerful highly correlated approaches due to its all order behavior for the correlation operator [13]. The Fock-space multi-reference coupled cluster (FSMRCC) theory for one electron attachment process used here has been described elsewhere [13, 14, 15, 16]. We provide a brief review of this method. The theory for a single valence system is based on the concept of common vacuum for both the closed shell  $N$  and open shell  $N\pm 1$  electron systems, which allows us to formulate a direct method for energy differences. Also, the holes and particles are defined with respect to the common vacuum for both the electron systems. Model space of a  $(n,m)$  Fock-space contains determinants with  $n$  holes and  $m$  particles distributed within a set of what are termed as *active* orbitals. For

example, in this present article, we are dealing with (0,1) Fock-space which is a complete model space (CMS) by construction and is given by

$$|\Psi_\mu^{(0,1)}\rangle = \sum_i C_{i\mu} |\Phi_i^{(0,1)}\rangle \quad (1.1)$$

where  $C_{i\mu}$ 's are the coefficients of  $\Psi_\mu^{(0,1)}$  and  $\Phi_i^{(0,1)}$ 's are the model space configurations. The dynamical electron correlation effects are introduced through the *valence-universal* wave-operator  $\Omega$  [13, 14]

$$\Omega = \{\exp(\tilde{S})\} \quad (1.2)$$

where

$$\tilde{S} = \sum_{k=0}^m \sum_{l=0}^n S^{(k,l)} = S^{(0,0)} + S^{(0,1)} + S^{(1,0)} + \dots \quad (1.3)$$

At this juncture, it is convenient to single out the core-cluster amplitudes  $S^{(0,0)}$  and call them  $T$ . The rest of the cluster amplitudes will henceforth be called  $S$ . Since  $\Omega$  is in normal order, we can rewrite Eq.(1.2) as

$$\Omega = \exp(T)\{\exp(S)\} \quad (1.4)$$

In this work, single  $(T_1, S_1)$  and double excitations  $(T_2, S_2)$  are considered for  $T$  and  $S$  clusters operator. Wavefunction of the system with single valence orbital  $v$ , therefore, yields the form

$$|\Psi_v\rangle = \Omega_v |\Phi_{DF}\rangle = e^{T_1+T_2} \{1 + S_{1v} + S_{2v}\} |\Phi_{DF}\rangle. \quad (1.5)$$

Triple excitations are included in the open shell RCCSD amplitude which correspond to the correlation to the valence orbitals, by an approximation that is similar in spirit to CCSD(T) [17]. The approximate valence triple excitation amplitudes are given by

$$S_{abk}^{(0,1)pqr} = \frac{\overbrace{\{VT_2\}_{abk}^{pqr}} + \overbrace{\{VS^{(0,1)}_2\}_{abk}^{pqr}}}{\varepsilon_a + \varepsilon_b + \varepsilon_k - \varepsilon_p - \varepsilon_q - \varepsilon_r}, \quad (1.6)$$

where  $S_{abk}^{(0,1)pqr}$  are the amplitudes corresponding to the simultaneous excitations of orbitals  $a, b, k$  to  $p, q, r$ , respectively;  $\overbrace{VT_2}$  and  $\overbrace{VS^{(0,1)}_2}$  are the connected composites involving  $V$  and  $T$ , and  $V$  and  $S^{(0,1)}$ , respectively, where  $V$  is the two electron Coulomb integral and  $\varepsilon$ 's are the orbital energies.

The the transition element due to any operator  $D$  can be expressed, in the RCCSD method, as

$$\begin{aligned} D_{fi} &= \frac{\langle \Psi_f | D | \Psi_i \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \Psi_f | \Psi_f \rangle \langle \Psi_i | \Psi_i \rangle}} \\ &= \frac{\langle \Phi_f | \{1 + S_f^\dagger\} e^{T^\dagger} D e^T \{1 + S_i\} | \Phi_i \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \Phi_f | \{1 + S_f^\dagger\} e^{T^\dagger} e^T \{1 + S_f\} | \Phi_f \rangle \langle \Phi_i | \{1 + S_i^\dagger\} e^{T^\dagger} e^T \{1 + S_i\} | \Phi_i \rangle}} \end{aligned} \quad (1.7)$$

The one-electron reduced matrix elements of M1 and E2 operators are given by [18].

$$\langle k_f || q_m^{(M1)} || k_i \rangle = \langle \kappa_f || C_m^{(1)} || \kappa_i \rangle \frac{6}{\alpha k} \frac{\kappa_i + \kappa_f}{2} \left[ \int dr j_1(kr) (P_f(r) Q_i(r) + Q_f(r) P_i(r)) \right] \quad (1.8)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \langle k_f || q_m^{(E2)} || k_i \rangle &= \langle \kappa_f || C_m^{(2)} || \kappa_i \rangle \frac{15}{k^2} \\ &\times \left[ \int dr j_2(kr) (P_f(r) P_i(r) + Q_f(r) Q_i(r)) + j_3(kr) \left( \frac{\kappa_f - \kappa_i}{3} \right) (P_f(r) Q_i(r) + Q_f(r) P_i(r)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (P_f(r) Q_i(r) - Q_f(r) P_i(r)) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (1.9)$$

respectively. Here,  $j_i$  and  $\kappa_i = \pm \left( j_i + \frac{1}{2} \right)$  are the total angular momentum and relativistic angular momentum quantum numbers, respectively, of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  electron orbital. The quantity  $C_m^{(l)}$  is the Racah tensor and  $j_l(kr)$  is the spherical Bessel function of order  $l$ .  $P_{ki}$  and  $Q_{ki}$  are the large and small radial components of the Dirac wavefunctions.

The emission transition probabilities (in  $\text{sec}^{-1}$ ) for the E2 and M1 channels from states  $f$  to  $i$  are given by

$$A_{i,f}^{E2} = \frac{1.11995 \times 10^{18}}{\lambda^5 (2j_f + 1)} S^{E2}, \quad (1.10)$$

$$A_{i,f}^{M1} = \frac{2.69735 \times 10^{13}}{\lambda^3 (2j_f + 1)} S^{M1}, \quad (1.11)$$

where  $S = |\langle \Psi_f | D | \Psi_i \rangle|^2$  is the transition strength for the operator  $D$  (in a.u.) and  $\lambda$  (in  $\text{\AA}$ ) is the corresponding transition wavelength.

## II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

We calculate the DF wavefunctions  $|\Phi_{DF}\rangle$  using the Gaussian-type orbitals (GTO) as given in [25] using the basis functions of the form

$$F_{i,k}^{L/S}(r) = C_N^{L/S} r^k e^{-\alpha_i r^2} \quad (2.1)$$

with  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$  for s, p, d, f ..... type orbital symmetries respectively. The radial functions ‘ $F^L$ ’ and ‘ $F^S$ ’, represent the basis functions correspond to large and small components of the Dirac orbitals.  $C_N^{L/S}$  are the normalization constants which depend on the exponents. The universal even tempering condition has been applied to the exponents ; i.e., for each symmetry exponents are assigned as

$$\alpha_i = \alpha_0 \beta^{i-1} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (2.2)$$

where N is the number of basis functions for the specific symmetry. In this calculation, we have used  $\alpha_0 = 0.00831$  and  $\beta = 2.99$ . The number of basis functions used in the present calculation is 32, 32, 30, 25, 20 for  $l = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$  symmetries, respectively.

Number of DF orbitals for different symmetries used in the RCCSD calculations are based on convergent criteria of core correlation energy for which it satisfies numerical completeness. There are only 11, 10, 10, 7 and 5 active orbitals including all core electrons are considered in the CCSD(T) calculations for  $l = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$  symmetries, respectively. We first calculate  $T$  amplitudes using the RCCSD equations of closed shell system (Zn II) and then solve the  $S$  amplitudes from the open shell equation for this single valence states of Zn II.

In Table I, we present the ionisation energy and fine structure splittings and their comparison with the NIST [26] results. Our calculated ionisation energies are in excellent agreement with the NIST values. The present study uses Dirac Hartee-Fock (DHF) orbitals to form the slater determinants to represent different atomic states and includes the effects of Coulomb correlation using a fully *ab initio* all-order many-body RCCSD method.

The oscillator strengths for transitions between different energy states depend linearly on energy, and quadratically on the matrix elements as shown in Eq. (7). This shows the necessity to calculate transition matrix elements appropriately.

In table III, we have given the *ab initio* transition probabilities ( $A_{fi}$  value) for the ‘ground to excited’ and ‘excited to excited’ states transitions, which are also astrophysically important. Strong transition probabilities have been observed for many E2 transitions.

<sup>a</sup>Laser-produced plasma [12]

<sup>b</sup>LIF [27]

<sup>c</sup>LIF + Hollow cathode lamp [28]

<sup>d</sup>Phase shift [29]

<sup>e</sup>Beam foil [30]

<sup>f</sup>Relativistic many-body perturbation [31]

TABLE I: Ionization Potentials(IPs) and fine structure (FS) splittings (in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of Zn II and their comparison with NIST values. The percentage of differences of our calculated IP results compared to NIST results are shown in parenthesis on the side of CCSD(T) IP results.

States	IP		FS	
	CCSD(T)	NIST	CCSD(T)	NIST
$4s_{1/2}$	000.00	000.00	000.00	000.00
$4p_{1/2}$	48557.23	48481.00		
$4p_{3/2}$	49422.75	49355.04	865.52	874.04
$5s_{1/2}$	88379.53	88437.15		
$4d_{3/2}$	96781.13	96909.74		
$4d_{5/2}$	96830.94	96960.40	49.81	50.66
$5p_{1/2}$	101329.53	101365.93		
$5p_{3/2}$	101623.61	101611.43	294.08	245.50
$6s_{1/2}$	114617.73	114498.02		
$4f_{5/2}$	117026.80	117263.40		
$4f_{7/2}$	117026.39	117264.00	0.41	0.60
$5d_{3/2}$	118112.35	117969.32		
$5d_{5/2}$	118140.33	117993.61	27.98	24.29
$6p_{1/2}$	119848.71	119888.51		
$6p_{3/2}$	119944.98	119959.34	96.27	70.83

<sup>g</sup>MCDF + Core polarization [32]

<sup>h</sup>RHF + Core polarization [33]

<sup>i</sup>Coulomb approximation [34]

<sup>j</sup>Relativistic Supersymmetry Quantum Defect Theory [35]

<sup>k</sup>One electron approx. with core polarisation [36]

<sup>l</sup>WKB(sinusoidaloscillation) [37]

<sup>m</sup>CI + Core polarization [38]

<sup>n</sup>One electron approx model potential [39]

<sup>o</sup>HF [40]

<sup>p</sup>NIST [26]

<sup>q</sup>Beam foil [41]

<sup>r</sup>Beam foil [42]

<sup>s</sup>Beam foil [43]

TABLE II: Oscillator strength corresponding to allowed transitions among different low-lying states of Zn II.

State	Experiment	Other theories	This work
$4s_{1/2} \rightarrow 4p_{1/2}$	0.249(50), <sup>a</sup> 0.249(29), <sup>b</sup> 0.256(26), <sup>c</sup> 0.209(18), <sup>d</sup> 0.306(58), <sup>e</sup> 0.246, <sup>p</sup>	0.317, <sup>a</sup> 0.291, <sup>b</sup> 0.290, <sup>e</sup> 0.260, <sup>f</sup> 0.2526, <sup>g</sup> 0.238, <sup>h</sup> 0.2965, <sup>i</sup> 0.2521, <sup>j</sup> 0.2, <sup>k</sup> 0.2856, <sup>l</sup> 0.262, <sup>m</sup> 0.268, <sup>n</sup>	0.2621
$4s_{1/2} \rightarrow 4p_{3/2}$	0.467(93), <sup>a</sup> 0.48(55), <sup>b</sup> 0.488(49), <sup>c</sup> 0.513(60), <sup>q</sup> 0.606(53), <sup>d</sup> 0.62(6) <sup>r</sup> 0.590(84), <sup>e</sup> 0.406(41), <sup>s</sup> 0.501, <sup>p</sup>	0.642, <sup>a</sup> 0.586, <sup>b</sup> 0.615, <sup>e</sup> 0.515, <sup>f</sup> 0.5159, <sup>g</sup> 0.487, <sup>h</sup> 0.6046, <sup>i</sup> 0.5187, <sup>j</sup> 0.476, <sup>o</sup> 0.41, <sup>k</sup> 0.5821, <sup>l</sup> 0.537, <sup>m</sup> 0.552, <sup>n</sup>	0.535
$4p_{1/2} \rightarrow 4d_{3/2}$	0.543(70), <sup>a</sup> 0.588, <sup>p</sup>	0.951, <sup>a</sup> 0.78489, <sup>g</sup> 0.789, <sup>h</sup> 0.8477, <sup>i</sup>	0.8218
$4p_{3/2} \rightarrow 4d_{3/2}$	0.087(11), <sup>a</sup>	0.0935, <sup>a</sup> 0.07952, <sup>g</sup> 0.0799, <sup>h</sup> 0.08593, <sup>i</sup>	0.0868
$4p_{3/2} \rightarrow 4d_{5/2}$	0.69(14), <sup>a</sup> 0.684(57), <sup>b</sup> 0.704(75), <sup>q</sup> 0.258(47), <sup>d</sup> 0.555, <sup>p</sup>	0.843, <sup>a</sup> 0.757, <sup>b</sup> 0.71483, <sup>g</sup> 0.718, <sup>h</sup> 0.7721, <sup>i</sup> 0.67, <sup>o</sup>	0.7823
$4d_{3/2} \rightarrow 4f_{5/2}$	0.99(20), <sup>a</sup> 0.868, <sup>p</sup>	1.08, <sup>a</sup> 1.057, <sup>i</sup>	1.086
$4d_{5/2} \rightarrow 4f_{7/2}$	1.32(26), <sup>a</sup>	1.02, <sup>a</sup> 1.009, <sup>i</sup>	1.131
$5p_{1/2} \rightarrow 5d_{3/2}$	0.82(0.16), <sup>a</sup>	0.826, <sup>a</sup> 0.9428, <sup>i</sup>	0.9541
$5p_{3/2} \rightarrow 5d_{3/2}$	0.0240(48), <sup>a</sup>	0.0787, <sup>a</sup> 0.09629, <sup>i</sup>	0.0949
$5p_{3/2} \rightarrow 5d_{5/2}$	0.52(10), <sup>a</sup>	0.708, <sup>a</sup> 0.8633, <sup>i</sup>	0.5706

### III. CONCLUSION

The continuing developments in astrophysical and astronomical observations demand accurate theoretical transitions data to determine stellar chemical composition. Highly correlated relativistic coupled cluster theory has been employed to study the oscillator strengths of the astrophysically important forbidden transitions, Magnetic dipole and electric quadrupole transition amplitudes among the bound states of Zn II are important for astronomical observations and plasma researches. To our knowledge these are the first calculations of oscillator strengths for the forbidden transitions of Zn II. All the transitions are in the ultraviolet, visible or near infrared regions. This work will motivate astronomers to observe these lines of Zn II to predict the abundances of these species in

astronomical bodies and experimentalists to verify our results.

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TABLE III: Transition wavelengths and transition probabilities of Zn II.

Terms	$\lambda_{CCSD}(\text{\AA})$	$A_{fi}$ -value E2	$A_{fi}$ -value M1
$4d_{3/2} \rightarrow 4d_{5/2}$	2007588.68	2.3078E-12	1.326E-06
$\rightarrow 5d_{3/2}$	4687.96	4.7206E+01	5.6123E-01
$\rightarrow 5d_{5/2}$	4681.82	1.4785E+01	3.4344E-04
$\rightarrow 4s_{1/2}$	1031.88	2.1426E+04	
$\rightarrow 5s_{1/2}$	11902.49	2.4488	
$\rightarrow 6s_{1/2}$	5606.44	3.2714E+01	
$4d_{5/2} \rightarrow 5d_{3/2}$	4698.93	2.2248E+01	4.0621E-04
$\rightarrow 5d_{5/2}$	4692.76	5.3873E+01	2.9588
$\rightarrow 4s_{1/2}$	1032.72	3.1598E+04	
$\rightarrow 5s_{1/2}$	11832.34	3.7945	
$\rightarrow 6s_{1/2}$	5612.14	4.9539E+01	
$5d_{3/2} \rightarrow 5d_{5/2}$	3573623.79	2.4516E-12	2.3577E-07
$\rightarrow 4s_{1/2}$	846.65	4.4728E+03	
$\rightarrow 5s_{1/2}$	3363.28	6.8785E+02	
$\rightarrow 6s_{1/2}$	28615.41	5.1564E-01	
$5d_{5/2} \rightarrow 4s_{1/2}$	846.45	6.5596E+03	
$\rightarrow 5s_{1/2}$	3360.12	1.0266E+03	
$\rightarrow 6s_{1/2}$	28388.95	8.0749E-01	
$4p_{1/2} \rightarrow 4p_{3/2}$	115537.36	1.3904E-06	5.8297E-03
$\rightarrow 5p_{1/2}$	1894.93		3.6309
$\rightarrow 5p_{3/2}$	1884.43	5.6262E+02	9.8766E-02
$\rightarrow 6p_{1/2}$	1402.69		1.6186
$\rightarrow 6p_{3/2}$	1400.80	1.5624E+02	5.4193E-02
$\rightarrow 4f_{5/2}$	1460.51	3.3301E+03	
$4p_{3/2} \rightarrow 5p_{1/2}$	1926.53	1.1498E+03	2.8073E-01
$\rightarrow 5p_{3/2}$	1915.67	4.8138E+02	6.4942E+01
$\rightarrow 6p_{1/2}$	1419.93	2.9788E+02	9.9683E-02
$\rightarrow 6p_{3/2}$	1417.99	1.1143E+02	3.1170E+01
$\rightarrow 4f_{5/2}$	1479.20	9.6132E+02	
$\rightarrow 4f_{7/2}$	1479.21	4.3255E+03	
$5p_{1/2} \rightarrow 5p_{3/2}$	340039.01	1.8059E-07	2.2860E-04
$\rightarrow 6p_{1/2}$	5399.81		1.1853E-01
$\rightarrow 6p_{3/2}$	5371.88	5.6369E+01	2.3181E-03
$\rightarrow 4f_{5/2}$	6370.53	9.7419E+01	

TABLE IV: Continuation from table III

Terms	$\lambda_{CCSD}(\text{\AA})$	$A_{fi}$ -value E2	$A_{fi}$ -value M1
$5p_{3/2} \rightarrow 6p_{1/2}$	5486.96	1.1319E+02	1.5547E-02
$\rightarrow 6p_{3/2}$	5448.11	4.6981E+01	2.2892
$\rightarrow 4f_{5/2}$	6492.16	2.5774E+01	
$\rightarrow 4f_{7/2}$	6492.33	1.1596E+02	
$6p_{1/2} \rightarrow 6p_{3/2}$	1038663.19	7.3181E-09	8.0184E-06
$\rightarrow 4f_{5/2}$	35437.11	2.8051E-02	
$6p_{3/2} \rightarrow 4f_{5/2}$	34267.93	9.3366E-03	
$\rightarrow 4f_{7/2}$	34263.15	4.2045E-02	
$4s_{1/2} \rightarrow 5s_{1/2}$	1131.48		1.2592E+02
$\rightarrow 6s_{1/2}$	872.46		4.9760E+01
$5s_{1/2} \rightarrow 6s_{1/2}$	3811.23		2.6961