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Non-solar chemical composition in the multiphase hot halo of Milky Way

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Introduction

The halo of Milky Way is known to be hot, extended, massive and anisotropic [1, 2, 3]. The halo is pictured as an isothermal sphere at $T = 10^{6.3}$ K, the virial temperature (fig. 1), and is assumed to have solar chemical composition. Shallow observations are unable to probe any finer thermal and chemical information.

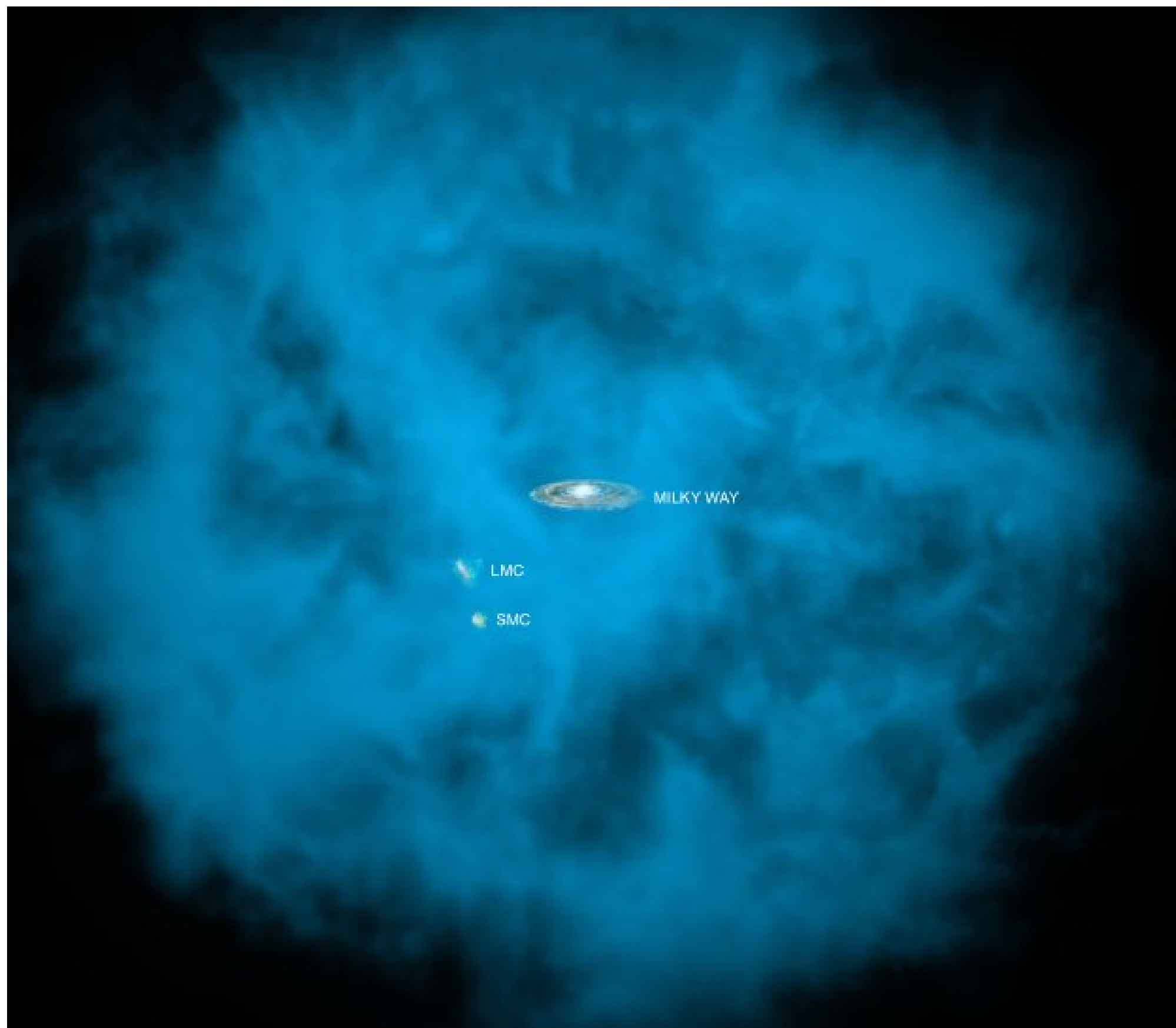


Figure 1: Hot gaseous halo of Milky Way [1] (https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/chandra/multimedia/hot_gas_halo.html)

Objective

Characterize the hot ($> 10^6$ K) halo of Milky Way using Ms long imaging spectra in emission and grating spectra in absorption

Summary

- There are 3–4 discrete phases at $10^{5.8}$ K $< T \leq 10^{7.4}$ K coexisting in the halo of Milky Way [5].
- The abundance ratios in the hot halo of Milky Way are non-solar. This gives important insights into the chemical evolution of the Galaxy [4].
- The mass of the multiple temperature components and the non-solar chemical composition have great implications for missing baryons and missing metals.

Future directions

Our Chandra archival proposal to extend this study along many sightlines has been accepted

Acknowledgements

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References

- [1] Gupta, A., Mathur, S. et al., 2012, APJL, 756, 8
- [2] Gupta, A., Mathur, S. et al., 2014, Ap&SS, 352, 775
- [3] Gupta, A., Mathur, S. & Krongold, Y., 2017, ApJ, 836, 243
- [4] Das, S., Mathur, S. et al. 2019, ApJL, 882, L23
- [5] Das, S., Mathur, S. et al. 2019, ApJ, in press

Result-I: The hot halo of Milky Way is NOT a single phase [5]

We analyze deep ($t_{exp} = 1.85$ Ms) *XMM-Newton* spectra toward and around the blazar 1ES 1553+113 probing the hot Milky Way halo in absorption and emission with unprecedented sensitivity.

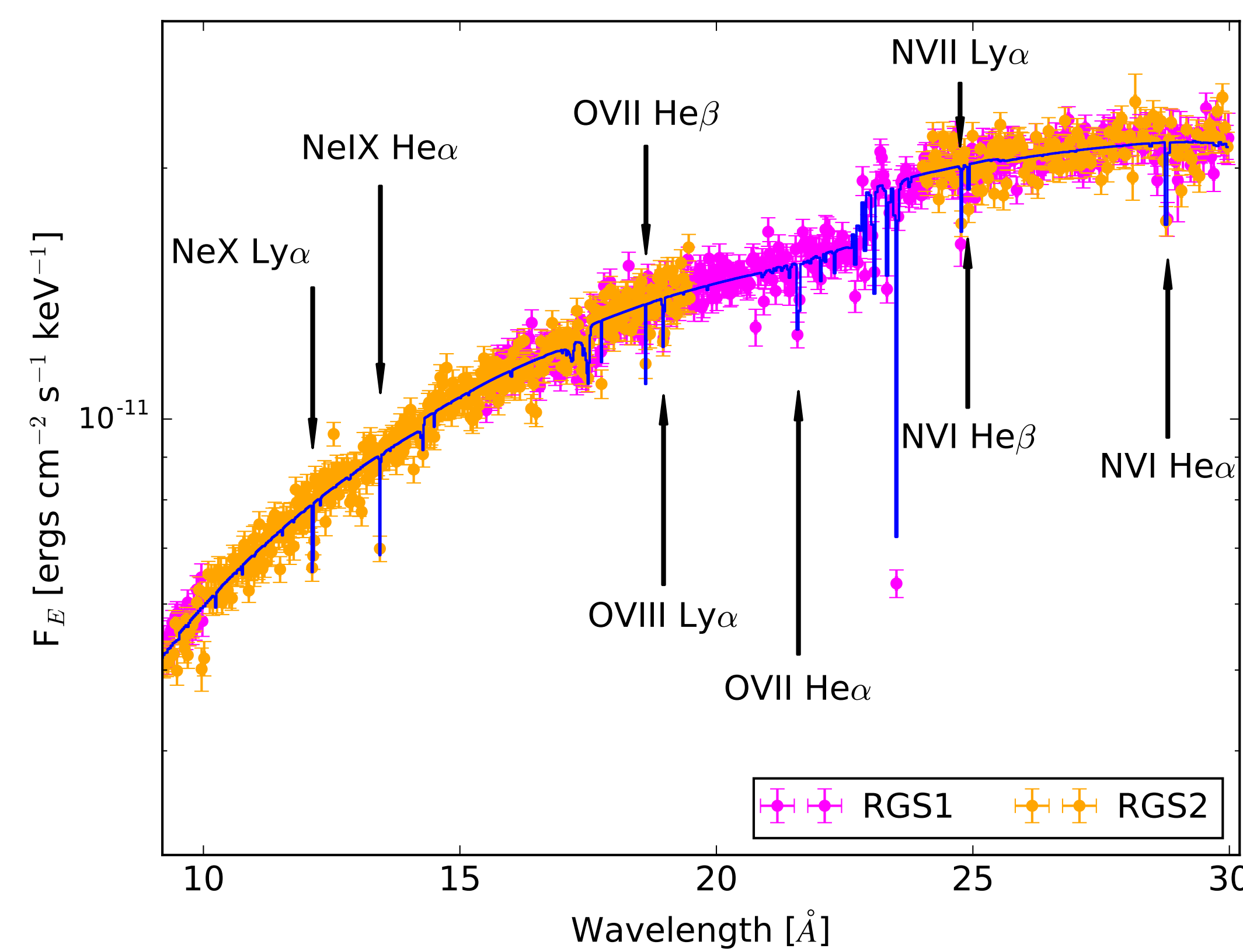


Figure 2: The unfolded spectra of 1ES 1553+113 with the absorption features from the Milky Way halo, and the best-fit model with **two halo components**: $T=10^{6.07-6.13}$ K and $T=10^{6.96-7.15}$ K.

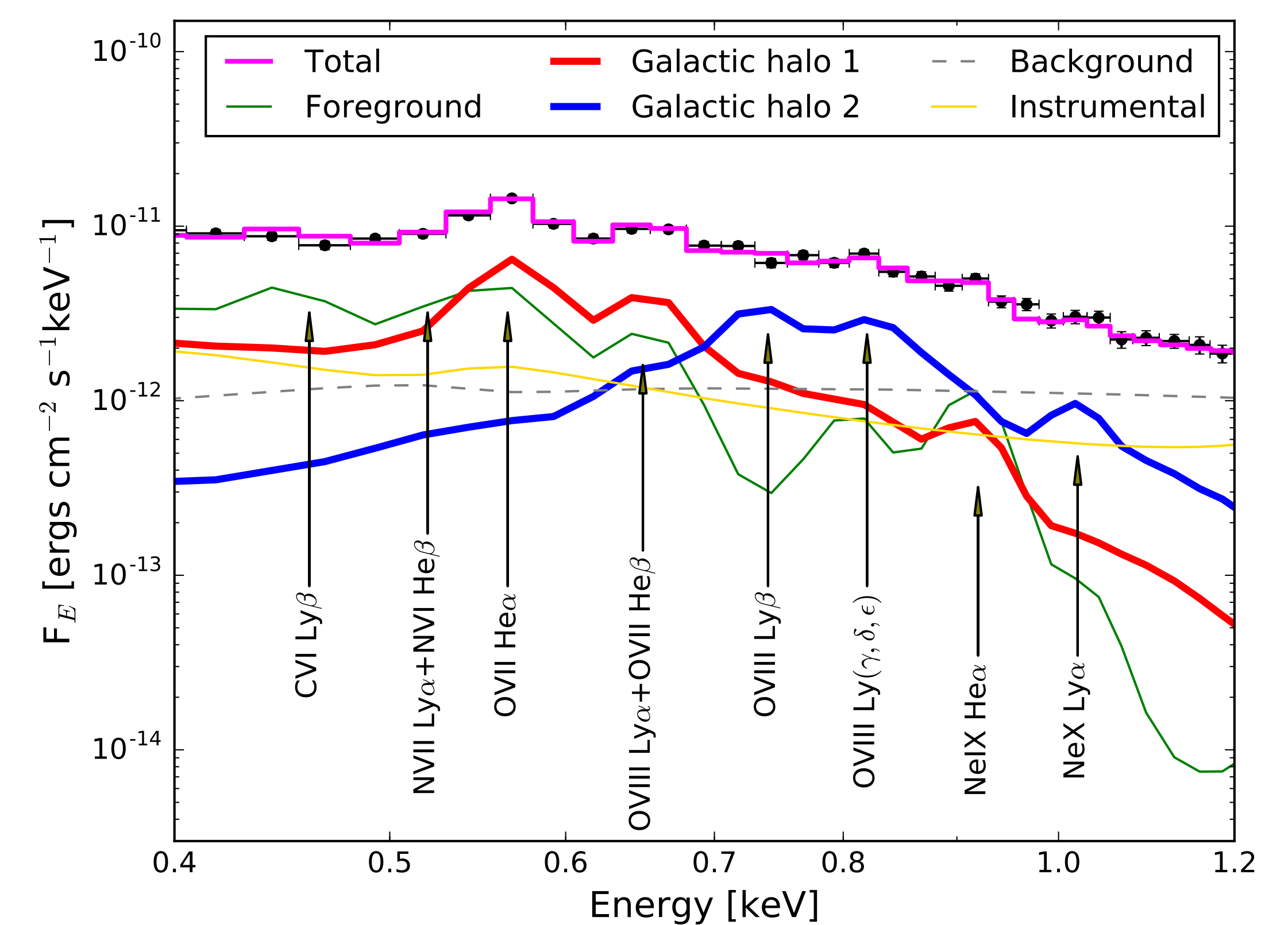


Figure 3: The emission spectra around the sightline toward 1ES 1553+113, and the best-fit model with **two halo components**: $T=10^{6.25-6.42}$ K and $T=10^{6.68-6.92}$ K.

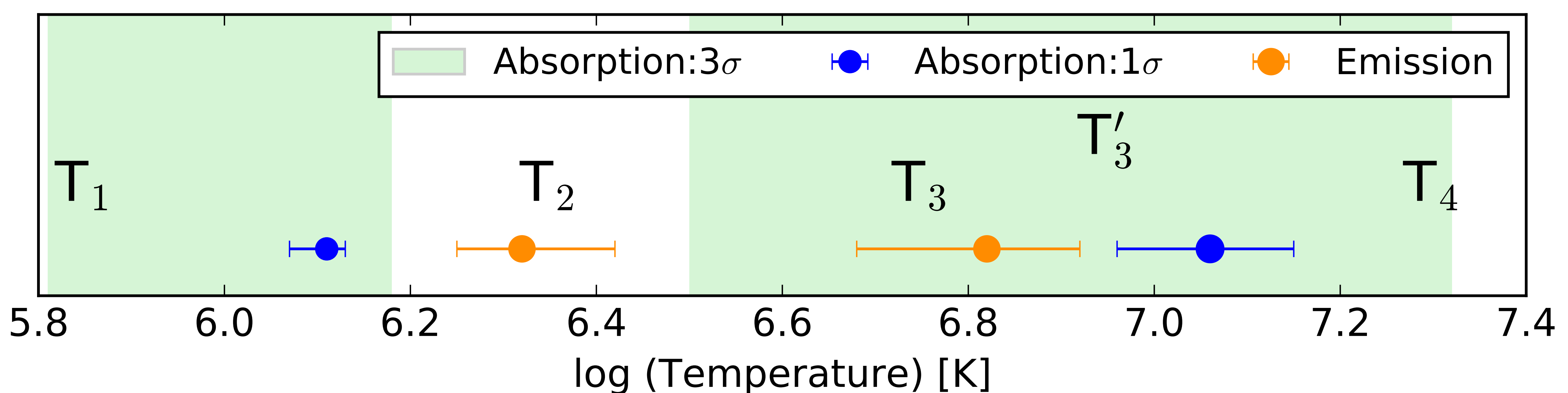


Figure 4: Multiple temperature components in the hot halo of Milky Way [5]

Result-II: The abundance ratios in the hot halo are NOT solar [4]

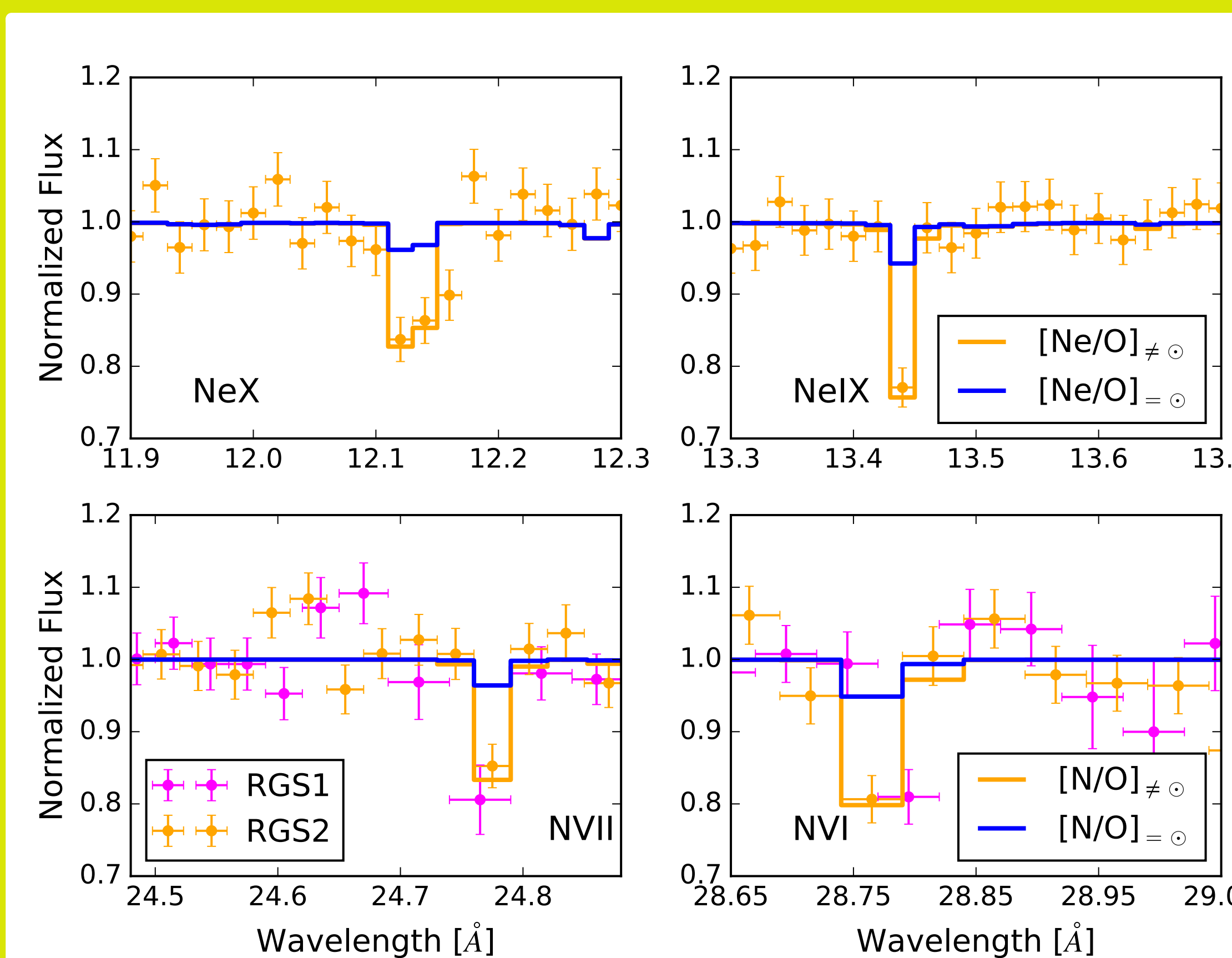


Figure 5: The absorption lines of the detected neon and nitrogen lines for the best-fit non-solar (yellow lines) vs. solar (blue lines) abundance ratios relative to oxygen.

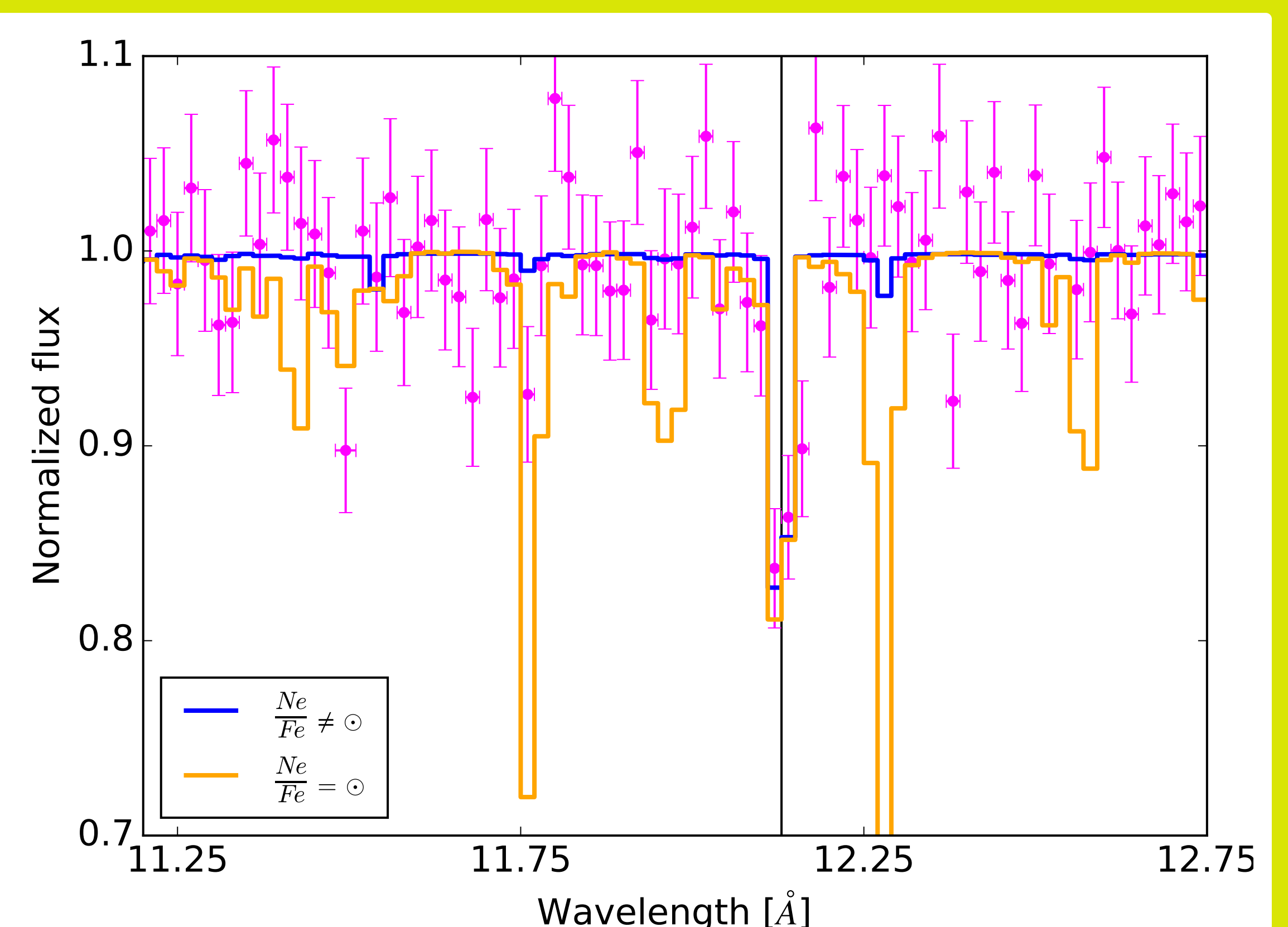


Figure 6: The absorption profile for the solar $[Ne/Fe]$ (yellow lines) vs. the best-fit non-solar $[Ne/Fe]$ (blue lines). The vertical black line at 12.13 Å corresponds to NeX Ly- α line.

- $[Ne/O]$ and $[N/O]$ are super-solar, and $[Ne/Fe]$ is super-solar: $[Ne/Fe] = 1.6^{+1.2}_{-0.4}$
- $[Ne/N]$ is solar: $[Ne/O]=[N/O]=0.7^{+1.6}_{-0.2}$ ($>99.73\%$ confidence).
- $[O/Fe] = 0.9^{+0.7}_{-0.3}$ ($>99.73\%$ confidence). This implies a) Type-II Supernovae enrichment, b) AGB stars enrichment, c) oxygen's efficient enhancement, and possible depletion of iron onto interstellar and/or circumgalactic dust.