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A comparison of Lyman continuum of population synthesis models and their difference in emission lines of galaxies

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Stellar population synthesis models are a standard tool for extragalactic studies. There are several models and a comparison in their NIR predictions had been discussed. On the other hand, a comparison in Lyman continuum ($\lambda < 912 \text{ \AA}$) is relatively rare, while the Lyman continuum is very important since it has a direct connection to emission lines of galaxies. The Lyman continuum emissivity of galaxies is also a key quantity controlling the cosmic reionization at $z > 6$. Here, we present such a comparison. We focus on three quantities describing the Lyman continuum: hydrogen ionizing photon rate, Q_{HI} , helium singly ionizing photon rate, Q_{HeI} , and helium doubly ionizing photon rate, Q_{HeII} . We find that the ratio of $Q_{\text{HI}}/Q_{\text{HeI}}$ is stable within about 0.1-dex among the population synthesis models, which we compared, as a function of age and metallicity. On the other hand, the ratio of $Q_{\text{HI}}/Q_{\text{HeII}}$ shows 2 orders of magnitudes or more difference among the models for metallicity larger than 1/10 Solar value. As a result, ratios of higher ionization emission lines, especially He II lines, to hydrogen lines like $\text{H}\beta$ vary a few orders of magnitudes among the models for that metallicity. Another interesting finding is a factor of 2 enhancement of Q_{HI} in recent models including massive binary population or stellar rotation relative to other classical models. This enhancement, for example, linearly affects the $\text{H}\alpha$ emissivity which is thought as the best star formation tracer. If this is the case, we should revisit a concordance among $\text{H}\alpha$, UV, and IR star formation rates of galaxies obtained with a dust attenuation recipe.