

Plasma turbulence in the interstellar medium

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Effects of radio wave propagation
 - Dispersion of pulsar signals
 - Interstellar scattering
 - Faraday rotation
- 3 Radio polarized emission
 - Synchrotron emission
 - Faraday tomography

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Observational evidence

Map of HI 21 cm emission ($\Delta\alpha \times \Delta\delta = 205^\circ \times 40^\circ$)



GALFA HI Survey (2015)

Phases of the interstellar medium

	molecular	cold atomic	warm atomic	warm ionized	hot ionized
T [K]	10 – 20	50 – 100	$10^3 - 10^4$	$\sim 10^4$	$\sim 10^6$
n_{H} [cm^{-3}]	$10^2 - 10^6$	20 – 50	0.2 – 2	0.1 – 0.5	0.003 – 0.01
$\frac{n_{\text{e}}}{n_{\text{H}}}$	$\lll 1$	$(0.3 - 1) 10^{-3}$	0.01 – 0.05	≈ 1	≈ 1.2
B [μG]	> 5	≈ 5	≈ 5	≈ 5	≈ 5

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$$P_{\text{th}} \sim P_{\text{m}} \quad \text{or} \quad \beta \equiv \frac{P_{\text{th}}}{P_{\text{m}}} \sim 1$$

☞ Thermal-magnetic equipartition

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B [μG]	> 5	≈ 5	≈ 5	≈ 5	≈ 5
L [pc]		10	30	30	100
V [km s^{-1}]		3	10	10	30
Re		4×10^{10}	10^7	5×10^7	10^2
Re_m		7×10^{14}	3×10^{18}	5×10^{18}	5×10^{22}

Interstellar turbulence

- $\text{Re} \equiv \frac{VL}{\nu} \gg 1$ & $\text{Re}_m \equiv \frac{VL}{\eta} \gg 1$

☞ Fully developed turbulence & magnetic field amplification

- $\mathcal{M}_s \equiv \frac{V}{C_s} \sim 1$ & $\mathcal{M}_A \equiv \frac{V}{V_A} \sim 1$

☞ Turbulence is trans-sonic & trans-Alfvénic

- $\beta \sim 1$ & $\mathcal{M}_s \sim 1$ & $\mathcal{M}_A \sim 1$

☞ Thermal-magnetic-turbulent equipartition

Turbulence \Rightarrow energy cascade

Sources of turbulence

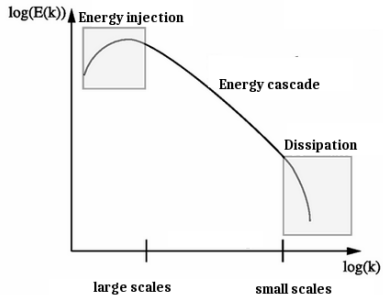
● Stellar feedback

- Supernova explosions
- Stellar winds
- Protostellar outflows
- Stellar ionizing radiation

● Galactic rotation

- Shocks at spiral arms
- Shear instability
- Magneto-rotational instability

Energy cascade



Observational diagnostics

- High-resolution spectroscopy

 $\delta \vec{v}$

- High-resolution imaging (CO, HI, H α , dust ...)

 δn

- Polarization observations (synchrotron, dust, stars ...)

 $\delta \vec{B}$

- Effects of radio wave propagation

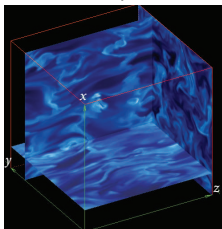
 δn_e , δB in warm ionized medium [WIM]

Observational diagnostics

- High-resolution spectroscopy

$$\delta \vec{v}$$

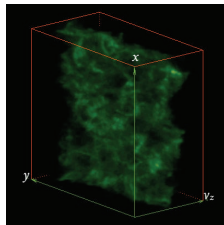
PPP space



Alejandro Esquivel, MFUVI (2017)



PPV space



Observational diagnostics

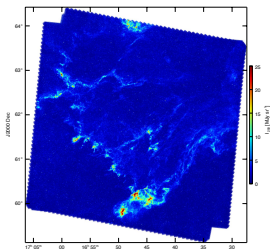
- High-resolution spectroscopy

$$\vec{v} \quad \delta\vec{v}$$

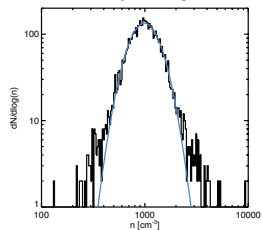
- High-resolution imaging (CO, HI, H α , dust ...)

$$\vec{v} \quad \delta n$$

Map of Draco nebula



Density histogram



Herschel-SPIRE 250 μm (Miville-Deschênes et al. 2017)



Observational diagnostics

- High-resolution spectroscopy

$$\delta \vec{v}$$

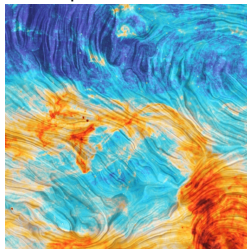
- High-resolution imaging (CO, HI, H α , dust ...)

$$\delta n$$

- Polarization observations
(synchrotron, dust, stars ...)

$$\delta \vec{B}$$

Dust polarized emission



Planck Collaboration (2015)

Observational diagnostics

- High-resolution spectroscopy

 $\delta\vec{v}$

- High-resolution imaging (CO, HI, H α , dust ...)

 δn

- Polarization observations (synchrotron, dust, stars ...)

 $\delta\vec{B}$

- Effects of radio wave propagation

 δn_e , δB in warm ionized medium [WIM]

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Radio wave propagation || \vec{B}_0

● Dispersion relation

$$\omega^2 = c^2 k^2 + \frac{\omega_e^2}{1 \pm \frac{\Omega_e}{\omega}}$$

with $\omega_e = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi n_e e^2}{m_e}}$ (plasma frequency)

$\Omega_e = \frac{-eB}{m_e c}$ (electron gyro-frequency)

In WIM: $|\Omega_e| \ll \omega_e \ll \omega$

● Refractive index

$$n^2 \equiv \frac{c^2 k^2}{\omega^2} = 1 - \frac{\omega_e^2}{\omega^2 \left(1 \pm \frac{\Omega_e}{\omega}\right)}$$

● Plasma effects

- 1st order correction $\propto \omega_e^2 \propto n_e$

- 2nd order correction $\propto \Omega_e \propto B$

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Governing equations

To 1st order in $\frac{\omega_e}{\omega}$, $\frac{\Omega_e}{\omega}$

- Dispersion relation

$$\omega^2 = c^2 k^2 + \omega_e^2 = c^2 k^2 + \frac{4\pi n_e e^2}{m_e}$$

- Group velocity

$$V_g = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k} = c \left(1 - \frac{\omega_e^2}{2\omega^2} \right) = c \left(1 - \frac{e^2}{2\pi m_e c^2} n_e \lambda^2 \right)$$

- Travel time

$$t_{\text{tr}} = \int_{\text{src}}^{\text{obs}} \frac{ds}{V_g} = \frac{L}{c} + \frac{e^2}{2\pi m_e c^3} \underbrace{\left(\int_{\text{src}}^{\text{obs}} n_e ds \right)}_{\text{DM}} \lambda^2$$

Census of Galactic pulsars

● Currently known

- Total number : 2 702
- With measured DMs : **2 607**
- With measured RMs : 1 159

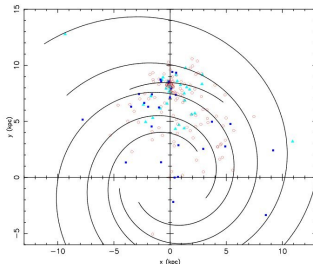
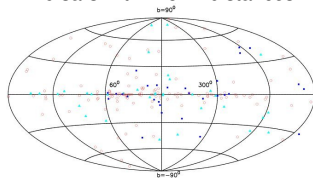
(ATNF pulsar catalogue, version 1.60, *Manchester et al. 2005⁺*)

● Expected with SKA 1

- Total number : ~ **18 000**
- Most with measured DMs & RMs
- Density in Galactic plane : ~ **6 deg⁻²**

(*Keane et al. 2015*)

Pulsars with known distances



Yao, Manchester, & Wang (2016)

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Physical picture

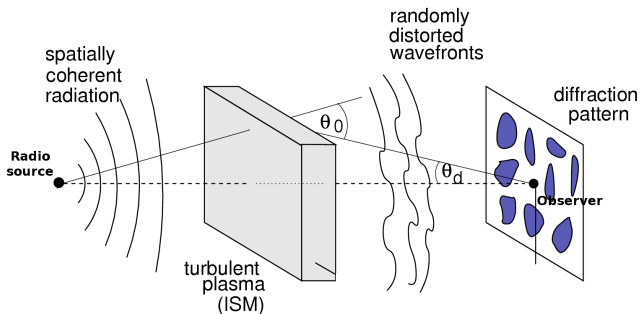


Figure credit: Lorimer & Kramer (Handbook of Pulsar Astronomy)

Governing equations

In the presence of interstellar fluctuations

- Refractive index

$$n^2 = 1 - \frac{\omega_e^2}{\omega^2} = 1 - \frac{4\pi n_e e^2}{m_e \omega^2}$$

- Phase fluctuation

$$\delta\phi = \int_{\text{src}}^{\text{obs}} \delta n k ds = \underbrace{\frac{e^2}{m_e c^2}}_{r_e} \lambda \left(\int_{\text{src}}^{\text{obs}} \delta n_e ds \right)$$

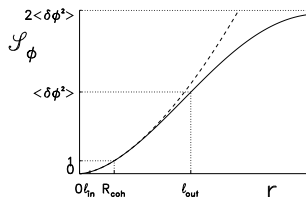
- Phase structure function

$$S_\phi(\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2) = \left\langle \left[\delta\phi(\vec{r}_1) - \delta\phi(\vec{r}_2) \right]^2 \right\rangle$$

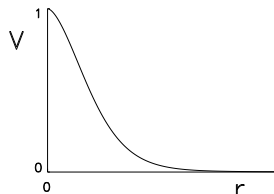
- Visibility function (measured by interferometer)

$$V(\vec{r}) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} S_\phi(\vec{r})\right)$$

Phase structure function



Visibility function



Phase structure function \rightarrow power spectrum of δn_e

- In general

$$\langle \delta n_e^2 \rangle = \int P_n(\vec{q}) d\vec{q}$$

- For isotropic turbulence

$$\langle \delta n_e^2 \rangle = \int P_n(q) 4\pi q^2 dq = \int E_n(q) dq$$

$$\Rightarrow S_\phi(r) = r_e^2 \lambda^2 \int_{\text{src}}^{\text{obs}} \left(\int \text{fc}(qr) \frac{E_n(q)}{q} dq \right) ds$$

dominated by $qr \sim 1$

- If power-law spectrum

$$E_n(q) = 4\pi C_n^2 q^{-\alpha} \quad (\text{with } 0 < \alpha < 2)$$

$$\Rightarrow S_\phi(r) = \text{fc}(\alpha) r_e^2 \lambda^2 \underbrace{\left(\int_{\text{src}}^{\text{obs}} C_n^2 ds \right)}_{\text{SM}} r^\alpha$$

Phase structure function \rightarrow power spectrum of δn_e

What have we learned ?

- Power law index

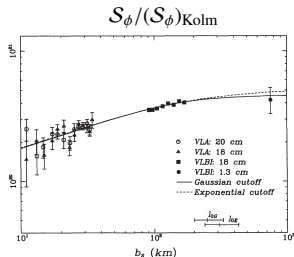
$$\alpha \approx \frac{5}{3} \Rightarrow \text{Kolmogorov turbulence}$$

- Inner scale

$$\ell_{\text{in}} \sim \begin{cases} (50 - 200) \text{ km} & (\text{Spangler \& Gwinn 1990}) \\ 300 \text{ km} & (\text{Molnar et al. 1995}) \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \ell_{\text{in}} \sim \begin{cases} \frac{V_A}{\Omega_i} & (\text{proton inertial length}) \\ r_{g,i} & (\text{proton gyro-radius}) \end{cases}$$

\triangle Only for LOS toward H II regions



Interstellar scintillations

Interstellar scintillations (ISS) = intensity fluctuations

- **Weak ISS** ($\delta I_{\text{rms}} \ll \langle I \rangle$)

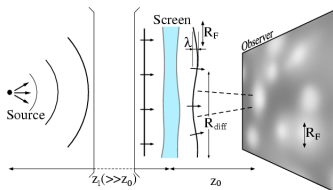


Figure Credit: *M. Moniez*

- **Diffraction**

$$R_{\text{weak}} \approx R_F \equiv \sqrt{\frac{L}{k}}$$

$$\sim 10^6 \text{ km}$$

Interstellar scintillations

Interstellar scintillations (ISS) = intensity fluctuations

- Strong ISS ($\delta I_{\text{rms}} \approx \langle I \rangle$)

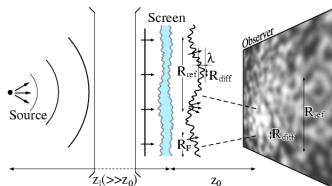


Figure Credit: M. Moniez

- Diffractive

$$R_{\text{diff}} \approx R_{\text{coh}} \rightsquigarrow S_{\phi}(R_{\text{coh}}) = 1$$

$$\sim (10^3 - 10^5) \text{ km}$$

- Refractive

$$R_{\text{ref}} \approx R_{\text{sc}} \equiv \frac{L}{k R_{\text{coh}}}$$

$$\sim (10^7 - 10^9) \text{ km}$$

Other effects of interstellar scattering

- **Angular broadening** of point sources

For strong ISS : $\Delta\theta = \frac{1}{k R_{\text{coh}}}$

- **Angular wandering**

- **Temporal broadening** of pulsar pulses

For strong ISS : $\Delta t \propto \frac{L \Delta\theta^2}{c}$

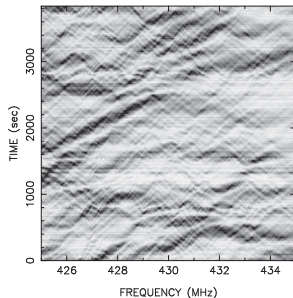
- **Fluctuations in pulse arrival times**

- **Time & frequency modulations**

in pulsar dynamic spectra

- Drifting bands
- Criss-cross patterns, periodic patterns
- Changes in frequency decorrelat^o bandwidth

Pulsar dynamic spectrum



Complete power spectrum of δn_e

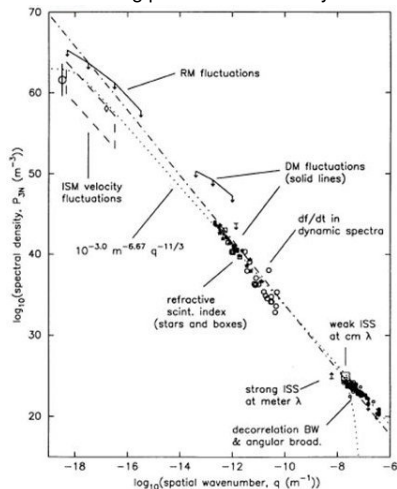
- Compilation of **interstellar scattering data**

☞ Single power law : $E_n \propto q^{-\frac{5}{3}}$ (Kolmogorov)

for $\ell \approx (10^3 \text{ km} - 10^{10} \text{ km})$

↳ 100 AU

Big power-law in the sky



Armstrong, Rickett, & Spangler (1995)

Complete power spectrum of δn_e

- Compilation of **interstellar scattering data**

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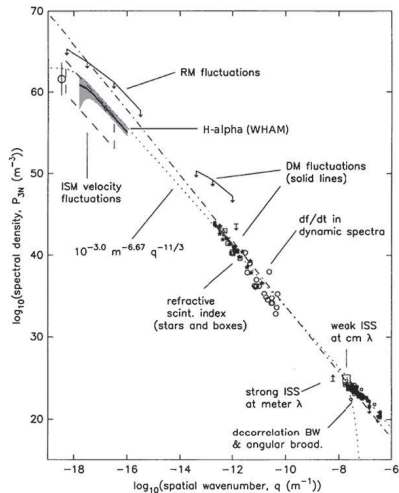
- Combined with **data at large scales**

☞ Single power law : $E_n \propto q^{-\frac{5}{3}}$ (Kolmogorov)

for $\ell \approx (10^3 \text{ km} - 10^{15} \text{ km})$

↳ 30 pc

Big power-law in the sky



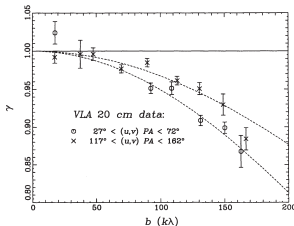
Chepurnov & Lazarian (2010)



Anisotropy of turbulence

Elongated images of strongly scattered extragalactic sources

Visibility function along major & minor axes



Molnar et al. (1995)

- ☞ Anisotropic density fluctuations
- ☞ Evidence for interstellar magnetic field

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Governing equations

To 2nd order in $\frac{\omega_e}{\omega}$, $\frac{\Omega_e}{\omega}$

- Dispersion relation

$$\omega^2 = c^2 k^2 + \omega_e^2 \mp \frac{\omega_e^2 \Omega_e}{\omega}$$

with $\omega_e = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi n_e e^2}{m_e}}$, $\Omega_e = \frac{-eB}{m_e c}$

- Phase velocity

$$V_\phi = \frac{\omega}{k} = c \left(1 + \frac{\omega_e^2}{2\omega^2} \mp \frac{\omega_e^2 \Omega_e}{2\omega^3} \right)$$

- Phase difference between R-mode & L-mode

$$\Delta\phi = \int_{\text{src}}^{\text{obs}} \frac{\Delta V_\phi}{c} k ds = \int_{\text{src}}^{\text{obs}} \frac{\omega_e^2 |\Omega_e|}{\omega^3} k ds$$

- Rotation of polarization angle

$$\Delta\psi = \frac{1}{2} \Delta\phi = \underbrace{\frac{e^3}{2\pi m_e^2 c^4} \left(\int_{\text{src}}^{\text{obs}} n_e B ds \right)}_{\text{RM}} \lambda^2$$

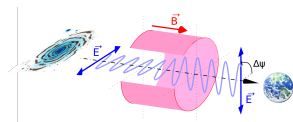


Figure Credit: Philippe Terral

Physical picture

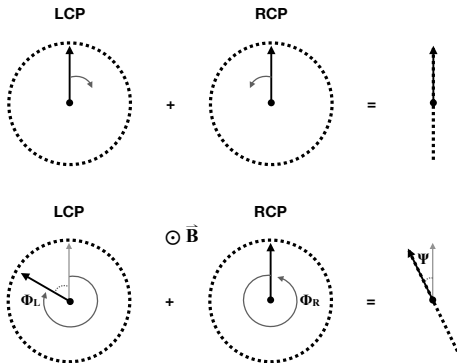


Figure credit: Jennifer West

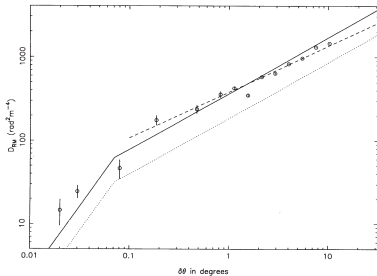
Power spectra from extragalactic RMs

Combine measured $RM = C \int n_e B_{\parallel} ds$ & $EM = \int n_e^2 ds$

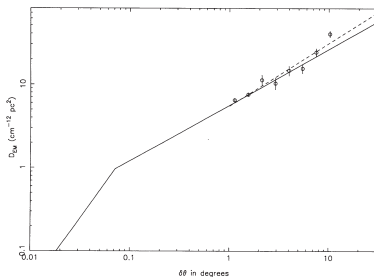
to derive power spectra of δn_e and δB separately

(Minter & Spangler 1996)

Structure function of RM



Structure function of EM



$$S_{RM}, S_{EM} \propto \begin{cases} \delta\theta^{5/3} & \text{for } \delta\theta < 0.07^\circ \\ \delta\theta^{2/3} & \text{for } \delta\theta > 0.07^\circ \end{cases}$$

Power spectra from extragalactic RMs

Combine measured $RM = C \int n_e B_{\parallel} ds$ & $EM = \int n_e^2 ds$

to derive **power spectra** of δn_e and δB separately

(Minter & Spangler 1996)

$$\mathcal{E} \quad S_{RM}, S_{EM} \propto \begin{cases} \delta\theta^{\frac{5}{3}} & \text{for } \delta\theta < 0.07^\circ \\ \delta\theta^{\frac{2}{3}} & \text{for } \delta\theta > 0.07^\circ \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow E_n, E_B \propto \begin{cases} q^{-\frac{5}{3}} & \text{for } \ell < 3.6 \text{ pc} \\ q^{-\frac{2}{3}} & \text{for } 3.6 \text{ pc} < \ell \lesssim 100 \text{ pc} \end{cases} \quad (\text{assuming } L = 2.9 \text{ kpc})$$

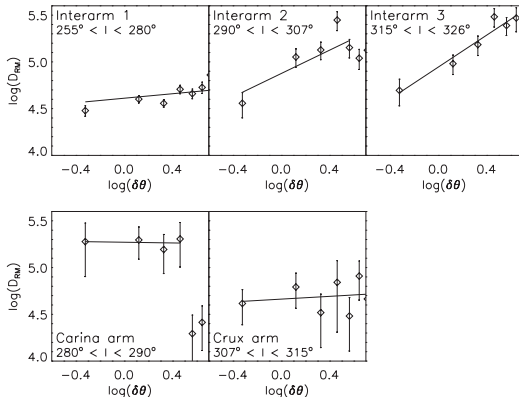
$$\delta B_{rms} \sim 1 \mu\text{G} \quad \text{for } \ell < 3.6 \text{ pc}$$

\mathcal{E} - True **MHD turbulence**

- **3D Kolmogorov** for $\ell \lesssim 4 \text{ pc}$ & **2D** for $\ell \approx (4 - 100) \text{ pc}$
- Possibly turbulent **sheets / filaments** of thickness $\sim 4 \text{ pc}$

Outer scale from extragalactic RMs

Structure function of RM



Haverkorn et al. (2008)

- ☛ In interarm regions
 - Kolmogorov for $\ell \lesssim$ a few pc
 - Flatter for $\ell \approx$ (a few – 100) pc
- $\Rightarrow \ell_{out} \sim 100$ pc

- ☛ In spiral arms
 - Kolmogorov for $\ell \lesssim$ a few pc
 - Flat for $\ell \gtrsim$ a few pc
- $\Rightarrow \ell_{out} \sim$ a few pc

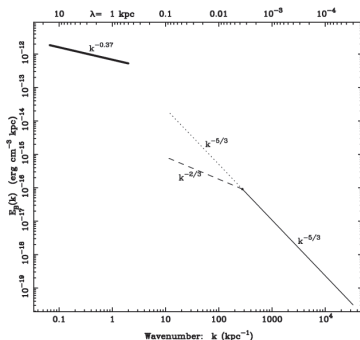
Power spectrum from Galactic pulsar RMs

Combine measured $RM = C \int_0^L n_e B_{\parallel} ds$ & $DM = \int_0^L n_e ds$ & L

to derive power spectrum of δB at large scales

(Han et al. 2004)

Magnetic energy spectrum



$$E_B \propto q^{-0.37}$$

for $\ell \approx (0.5 - 15) \text{ kpc}$

$$\delta B_{\text{rms}} \sim 6 \mu\text{G}$$

Prospects for RM grids

● Pulsars with measured DMs & RMs

* Currently : **1 159**

(ATNF pulsar catalogue, version 1.60, *Manchester et al. 2005+*)

* Expected with SKA 1 :

- Total number : ~ **18 000**

- Density in Galactic plane : ~ **6 deg⁻²**

(*Keane et al. 2015*)

● Extragalactic sources with measured RMs

* Currently : \simeq **45 000**

(*Oppermann et al. 2015 + Schnitzeler et al. 2019*)

* Expected with SKA 1 :

- Total number : ~ **$(1 - 4) \times 10^7$**

- Average density : ~ **$(300 - 1\,000) \text{ deg}^{-2}$**

(*Haverkorn et al. 2015*)

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Total & polarized intensities

$$\mathcal{E} = f(\alpha) n_{\text{CRE}} B_{\perp}^{\alpha+1} \nu^{-\alpha} \quad \& \quad \vec{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{pol}} \perp \vec{B}_{\perp}$$

- Total intensity : $I = \int \mathcal{E} ds$

☞ B_{\perp} (strength only)

- Polarized intensity : $\vec{P} = \int \vec{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{pol}} ds$

☞ $(\vec{B}_{\text{ord}})_{\perp}$ (strength & orientation)

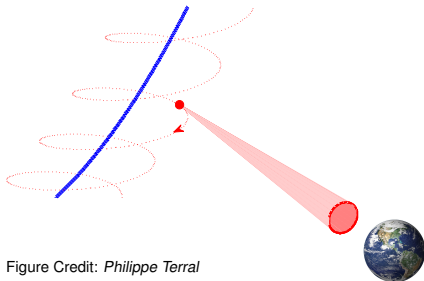


Figure Credit: *Philippe Terral*

Total & polarized intensities

$$\mathcal{E} = f(\alpha) n_{\text{CRE}} B_{\perp}^{\alpha+1} \nu^{-\alpha} \quad \& \quad \vec{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{pol}} \perp \vec{B}_{\perp}$$

- Total intensity : $I = \int \mathcal{E} ds$ $\Rightarrow B_{\perp}$ (strength only)

- Polarized intensity : $\vec{P} = \int \vec{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{pol}} ds$ $\Rightarrow (\vec{B}_{\text{ord}})_{\perp}$ (strength & orientation)

$$\hookrightarrow Q + iU = \int \mathcal{E}_{\text{pol}} e^{2i\psi} ds$$

Total & polarized intensities

$$\mathcal{E} = f(\alpha) n_{\text{CRE}} B_{\perp}^{\alpha+1} \nu^{-\alpha} \quad \& \quad \vec{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{pol}} \perp \vec{B}_{\perp}$$

- Total intensity : $I = \int \mathcal{E} ds$

☞ B_{\perp} (strength only)

- Polarized intensity : $\vec{P} = \int \vec{\mathcal{E}}_{\text{pol}} ds$

☞ $(\vec{B}_{\text{ord}})_{\perp}$ (strength & orientation)

☞ $B \sim 5 \mu\text{G}$

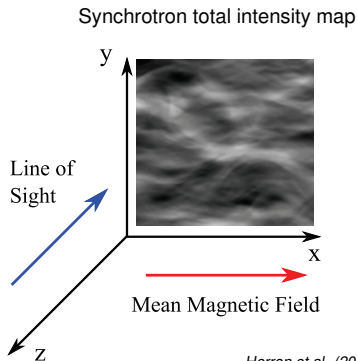
$B_{\text{ord}} \sim 3 \mu\text{G}$

$\Rightarrow \delta B_{\text{rms}} \sim 5 \mu\text{G}$

Fluctuations in *total* intensity

Theoretical developments (*Lazarian & Pogosyan 2012*)
& numerical simulations (*Herron et al. 2016*)

☞ Synchrotron intensity fluctuations are **anisotropic**, forming **filaments** $\parallel \vec{B}_\perp$

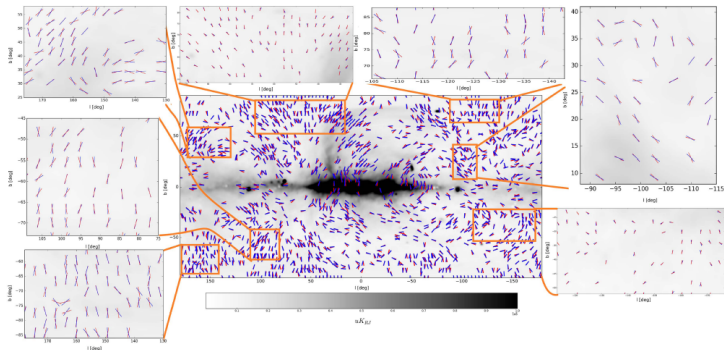


Herron et al. (2016)

Fluctuations in *total* intensity

Synchrotron **intensity gradients** \rightarrow orientation of \vec{B}_\perp

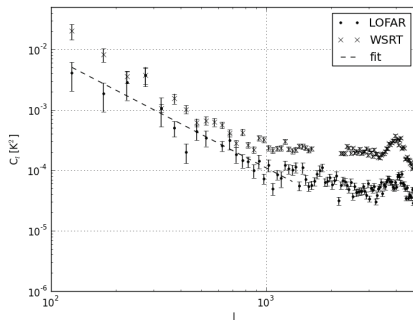
Synchrotron **intensity gradients** & **polarization vectors** (Planck)



Lazarian et al. (2017)

Synchrotron power spectrum

Angular power spectrum of synchrotron TI



Iacobelli et al. (2013)

$$C_l \propto l^{-1.84}$$

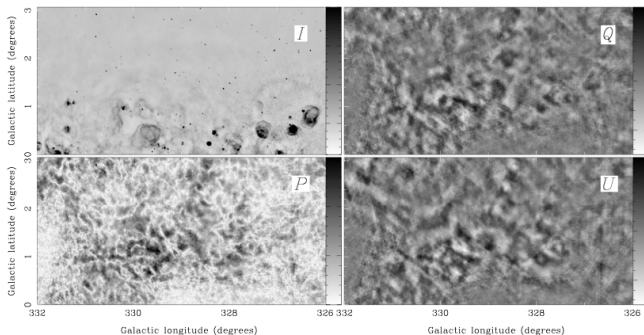
for $l \approx (100 - 1300)$
 $\delta\theta \approx (8' - 110')$

$$\Rightarrow \ell_{\text{out}} \lesssim 20 \text{ pc}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{B_{\text{ord}}}{\delta B_{\text{rms}}} \lesssim 0.3$$

Fluctuations in *polarized* intensity

Total & polarized intensities at 1.4 GHz (ATCA)



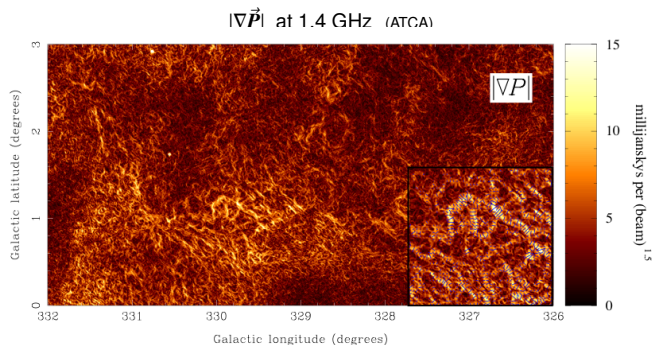
Gaensler et al. (2011)

☞ **Filamentary structures** in *P*, with no counterparts in *I*

- Arise from fluctuations in Faraday rotation
- Probe magneto-ionic turbulence in WIM

Fluctuations in *polarized* intensity

Measure synchrotron **polarization gradients**



Gaensler et al. (2011)

Compare with 3D MHD simulations

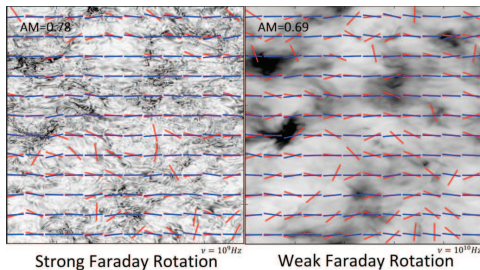
Turbulence in WIM is **subsonic** or **trans-sonic** ($\mathcal{M}_s \lesssim 2$)

(Burkhart et al. 2012)

Fluctuations in *polarized* intensity

- Synchrotron **polarization gradients** ⇨ orientation of \vec{B}_\perp
Measurements at several λ ⇨ Info on LOS distribution

Synchrotron **polarizat^o gradients** & **polarizat^o vectors** (from simulat^o)



Lazarian & Yuen (2018)

- Gradients of $\frac{dP}{d\lambda^2}$ ⇨ B_\parallel

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Effects of radio wave propagation
 - Dispersion of pulsar signals
 - Interstellar scattering
 - Faraday rotation
- 3 Radio polarized emission
 - Synchrotron emission
 - Faraday tomography

General concept

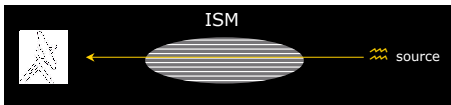
- Underlying processes
 - Galactic **synchrotron emission** : linearly polarized
 - **Faraday rotation** : λ -dependent
- General idea
 - Measure synchrotron polarized intensity at many different λ
 - Convert λ -dependence into s -dependence
- Output

Faraday cube = 3D cube of synchrotron polarized emission as $f(\alpha, \delta, \Phi)$

General method

- Faraday rotation of background source

$$\Delta\psi = \text{RM} \lambda^2 \quad \text{with} \quad \text{RM} = C \int_0^L n_e B_{\parallel} ds \quad (\text{rotation measure})$$

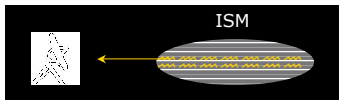


- Faraday rotation of Galactic synchrotron emission

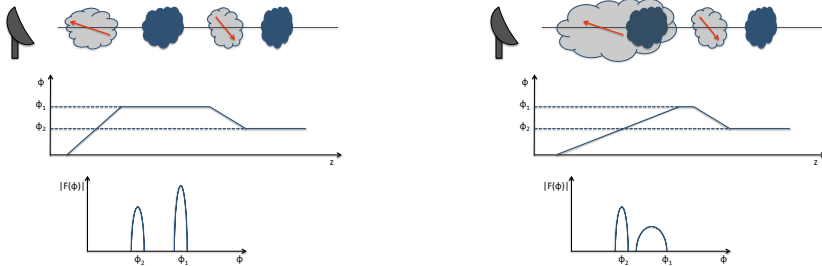
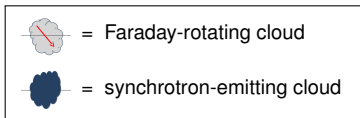
Synchrotron emission & Faraday rotation are *spatially mixed*

$$\vec{P}(\lambda^2) = \int \vec{F}(\Phi) e^{2i\Phi\lambda^2} d\Phi \quad \text{with} \quad \Phi(z) = C \int_0^z n_e B_{\parallel} ds \quad (\text{Faraday depth})$$

$$\text{Fourier transform} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \vec{F}(\Phi) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int \vec{P}(\lambda^2) e^{-2i\Phi\lambda^2} d\lambda^2$$



Faraday spectrum

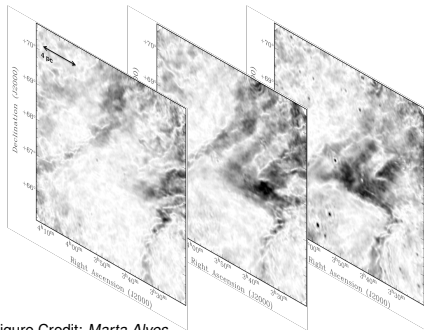
Figure Credit: *Marta Alves*

Faraday cube

For given sky area

- Derive Faraday spectrum, $\vec{F}(\Phi)$, in many directions (α, δ)
- Combine all derived Faraday spectra into Faraday cube = 3D cube of $\vec{F}(\alpha, \delta, \Phi)$

Faraday cube toward Fan region, obtained with LOFAR *(van Eck et al. 2017)*



3 slices at

$$\Phi_1 = -2.0 \text{ rad m}^{-2}$$

$$\Phi_2 = -1.5 \text{ rad m}^{-2}$$

$$\Phi_3 = -1.0 \text{ rad m}^{-2}$$

Figure Credit: Marta Alves

Expected results

- From synchrotron polarized intensity map to **Faraday cube**
 - Measure $\vec{P}(\lambda^2)$ at many different λ
 - Fourier transform $\vec{P}(\lambda^2)$ to obtain $\vec{F}(\Phi)$
- From Faraday cube to physical space
 - Uncover **synchrotron-emitting** & **Faraday-rotating** features in Faraday cube
 - Identify these features with interstellar matter structures

- For **synchrotron-emitting** regions

$$\int \vec{F}(\Phi) d\Phi \propto \vec{B}_{\perp}$$

- For **Faraday-rotating** regions

$$\Delta\Phi \propto B_{\parallel}$$

To conclude

- Effects of radio wave propagation

- ☞ Best method to probe δn_e at small scales

- Radio polarized emission

- ☞ Information on δB