



**ISYA 2024 – THE INTERSTELLAR MEDIUM (ISM):
LECTURE 1.
An Overview of the ISM & the Way We Study It**

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CEA Paris-Saclay, France

September 23, 2024

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1 OVERVIEW: WHAT IS THE ISM?

- Composition, physical properties, characteristic regions
- The Milky Way and the diversity of external galaxies
- Recommended bibliography and outline of the course

Outline of the Lecture

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- Before the XXth Century
- From astronomy to astrophysics
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- The microphysical components of the ISM
- The challenges of studying macroscopic regions
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PARSEC SCALE (*e.g.* Horsehead nebula)



Observatory: Euclid (visible range).

Credit: ESA/Euclid/Euclid Consortium/NASA.

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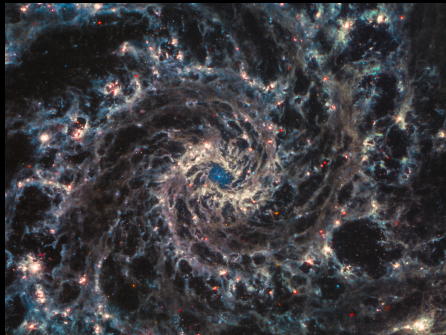
PARSEC SCALE (*e.g.* Horsehead nebula)



Observatory: Euclid (visible range).

Credit: ESA/Euclid/Euclid Consortium/NASA.

KILOPARSEC SCALE (*e.g.* NGC 628)



Observatory: JWST (mid-infrared range).

Credit: Williams et al. 2022.

Overview | Inventory of ISM's Microphysical Constituents

BARYONIC MATTER

BARYONIC MATTER

Atoms



Including fully ionized nuclei & free e^- .

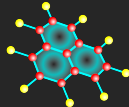
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Molecules



Free-flying or frozen on grains.

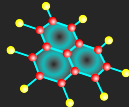
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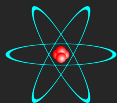
Dust grains



Small solids with radii $\gtrsim 3 \text{ \AA}$ and $\lesssim 0.3 \mu\text{m}$.

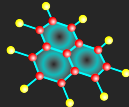
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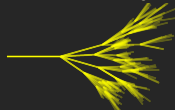
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Cosmic rays



Relativistic nuclei & e^- ($10^6 - 10^{20} \text{ eV}$).

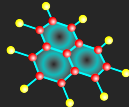
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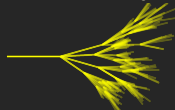
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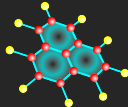
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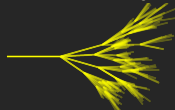
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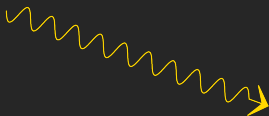
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PERMEATED BY FIELDS

Electromagnetic



From γ -rays to decametric.

Overview | Inventory of ISM's Microphysical Constituents

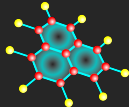
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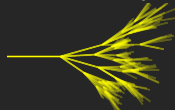
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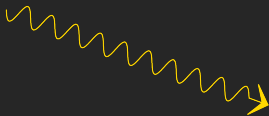
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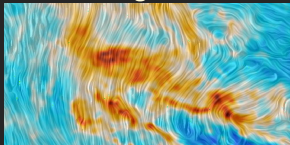
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Magnetic



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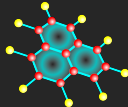
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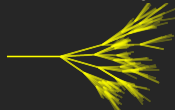
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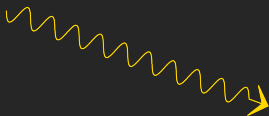
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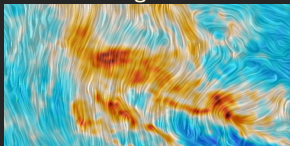
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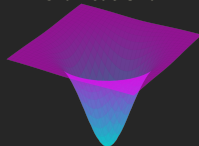
From γ -rays to decametric.

Magnetic



\Rightarrow MHD required.

Gravitational



Including dark matter particles.

Overview | A Gallery of Macroscopic Regions of the ISM

TYPICAL INTERSTELLAR REGIONS

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Cirrus clouds



Credit: J.-C. Cuillandre.

Observatory: CFHT / Mega-
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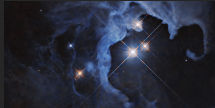
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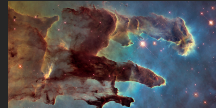
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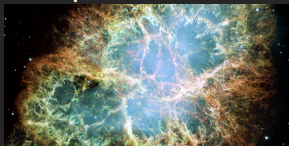
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CIRCUMSTELLAR REGIONS

Supernova remnants



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CIRCUMSTELLAR REGIONS

Supernova remnants



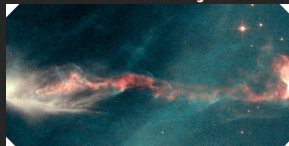
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Planetary nebulae



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Protostellar objects



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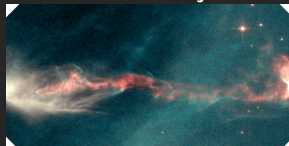
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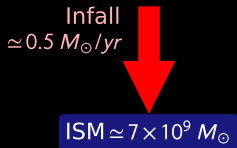
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⇒ at the interface with the ISM.

Infall
 $\simeq 0.5 M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$

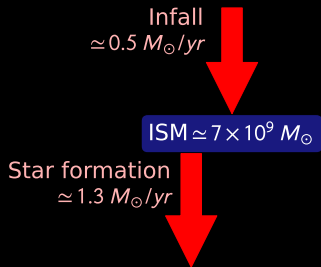


(Adapted from Draine 2011, Chap. 1)



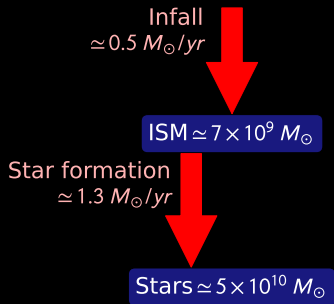
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Overview | Composition of the ISM of the Milky Way



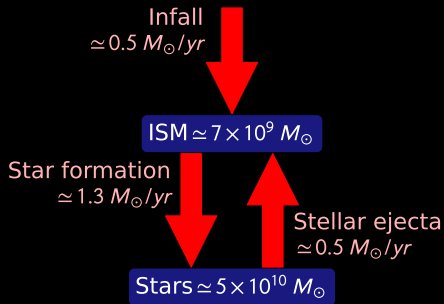
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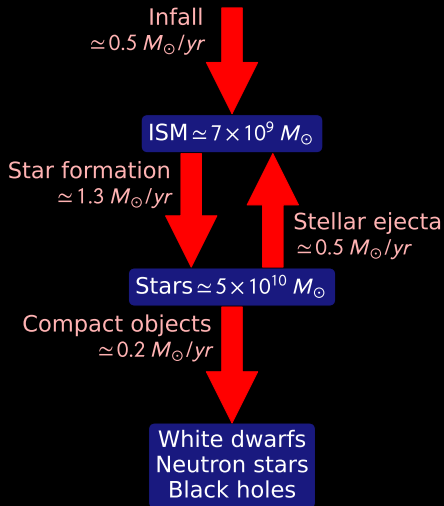
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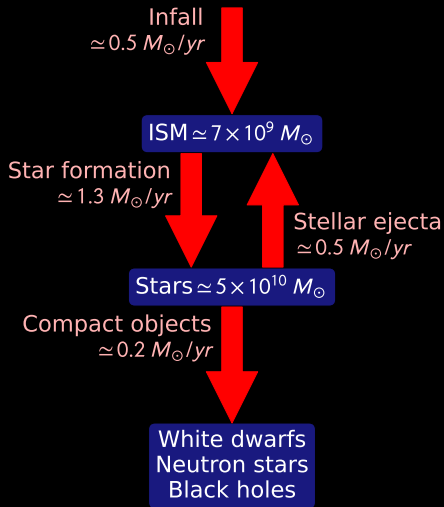
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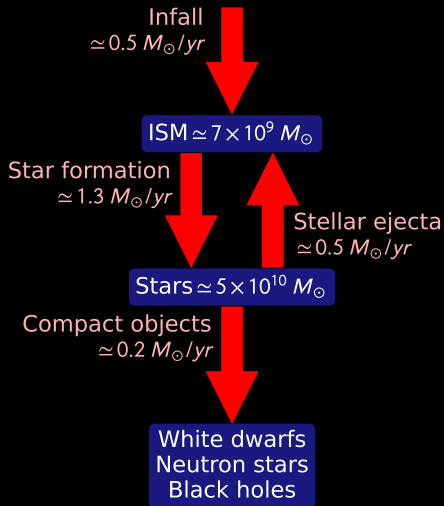
Overview | Composition of the ISM of the Milky Way



⇒ ISM-to-star mass ratio $\simeq 14\%$.

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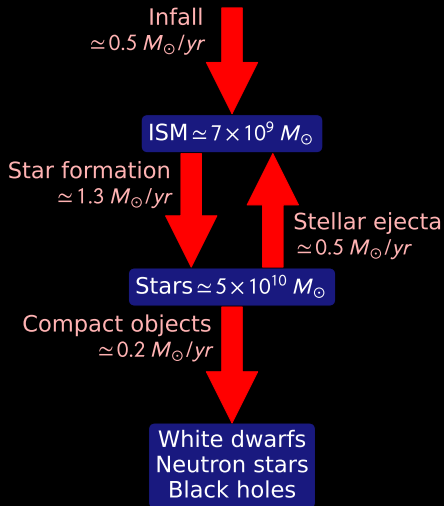


Gas associated with different states of H

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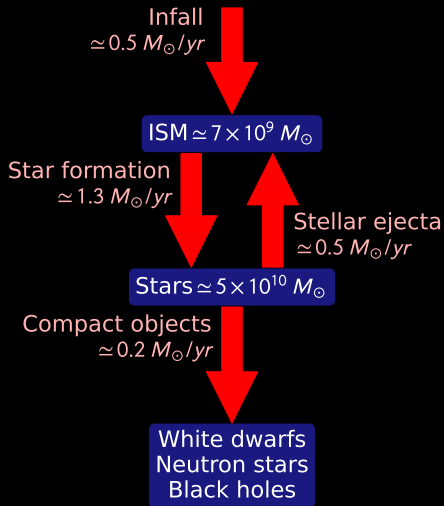
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H^+	$1.5 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$	23 %
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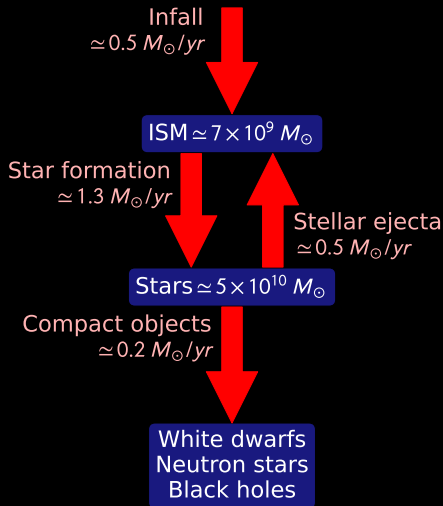
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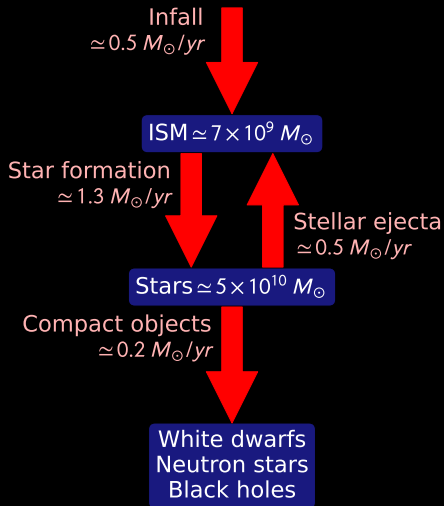
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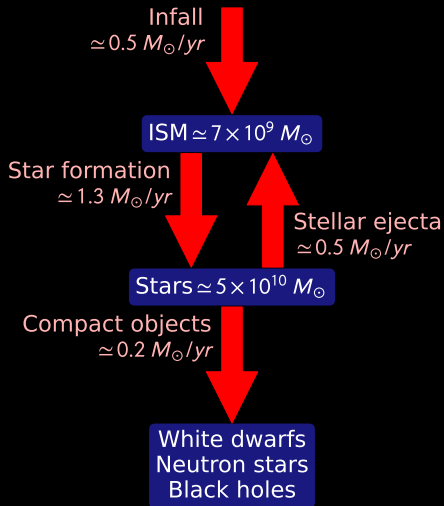
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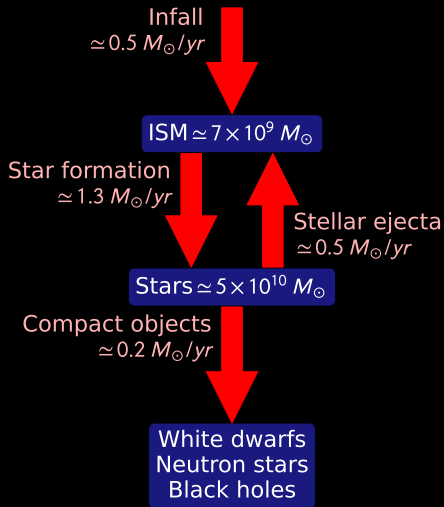
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Element mass fractions (Asplund et al. 2009)

\Rightarrow ISM-to-star mass ratio $\approx 14\%$.

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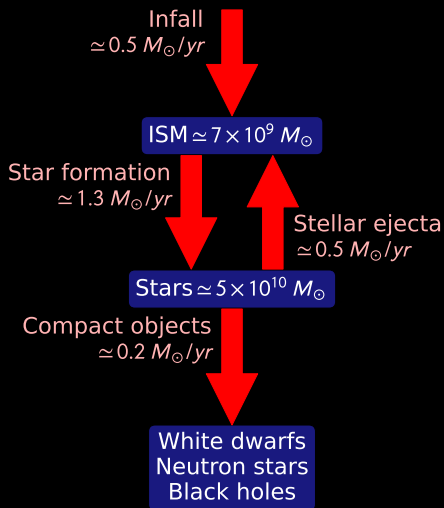
Element mass fractions (Asplund et al. 2009)

$$X_{\odot} \equiv \frac{M_{\text{H}}}{M_{\text{gas}}} \approx 73.8 \%$$

⇒ ISM-to-star mass ratio $\approx 14 \%$.

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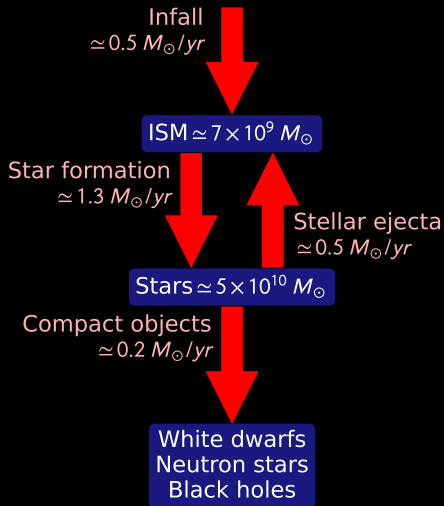
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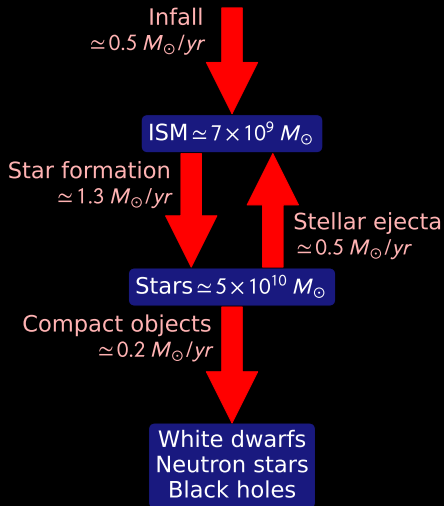
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→ Most He formed during primordial nucleosynthesis.

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Total gas	$6.7 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$	100 %

Element mass fractions (Asplund et al. 2009)

$$X_{\odot} \equiv \frac{M_H}{M_{\text{gas}}} \simeq 73.8 \%$$

$$Y_{\odot} \equiv \frac{M_{\text{He}}}{M_{\text{gas}}} \simeq 24.9 \%$$

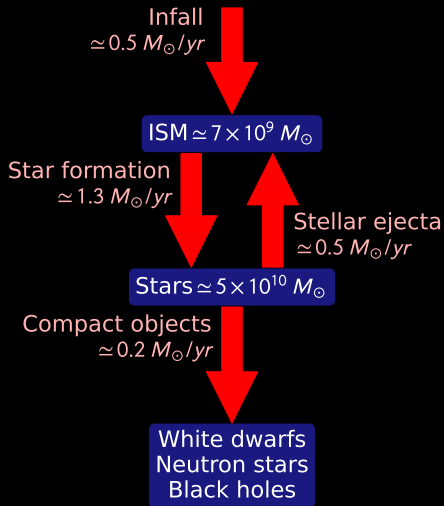
$$Z_{\odot} \equiv \frac{M_{>\text{He}}}{M_{\text{gas}}} \simeq 1.3 \%$$

→ Most He formed during primordial nucleosynthesis.

⇒ ISM-to-star mass ratio $\simeq 14 \%$.

(Adapted from Draine 2011, Chap. 1)

Overview | Composition of the ISM of the Milky Way



Gas associated with different states of H

H^+	$1.5 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$	23 %
H^0	$4 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$	60 %
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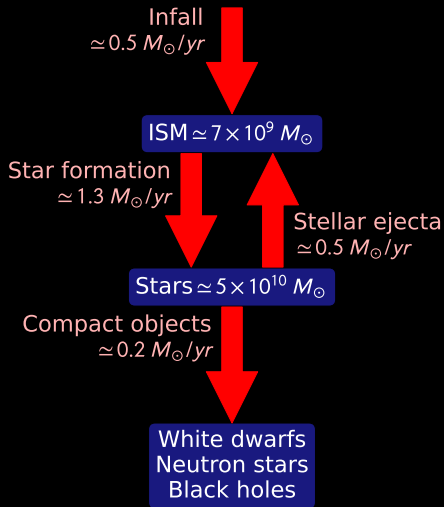
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(*metallicity*) → large variations among galaxy types.

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Element mass fractions (Asplund et al. 2009)

$$X_{\odot} \equiv \frac{M_{\text{H}}}{M_{\text{gas}}} \approx 73.8\% \quad X_{\odot} + Y_{\odot} + Z_{\odot} = 1$$

$$Y_{\odot} \equiv \frac{M_{\text{He}}}{M_{\text{gas}}} \approx 24.9\%$$

→ Most He formed during primordial nucleosynthesis.

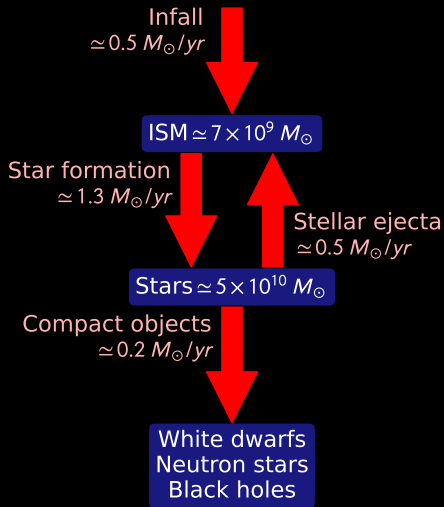
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(Adapted from Draine 2011, Chap. 1)

Overview | Composition of the ISM of the Milky Way



\Rightarrow ISM-to-star mass ratio $\simeq 14\%$.

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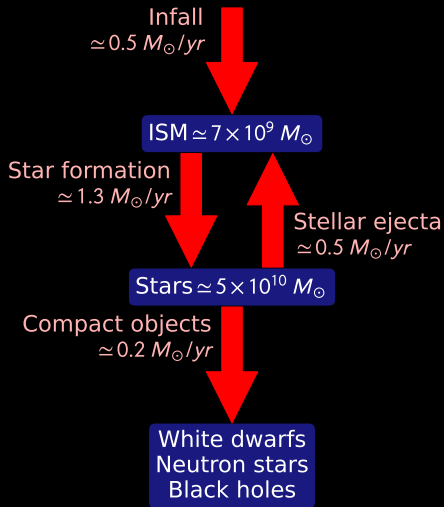
\rightarrow Most He formed during primordial nucleosynthesis.

$$Z_{\odot} \equiv \frac{M_{>\text{He}}}{M_{\text{gas}}} \simeq 1.3\%$$

(metallicity) \rightarrow large variations among galaxy types.

Dust mass fractions (Galliano 2022)

Overview | Composition of the ISM of the Milky Way



\Rightarrow ISM-to-star mass ratio $\simeq 14\%$.

(Adapted from Draine 2011, Chap. 1)

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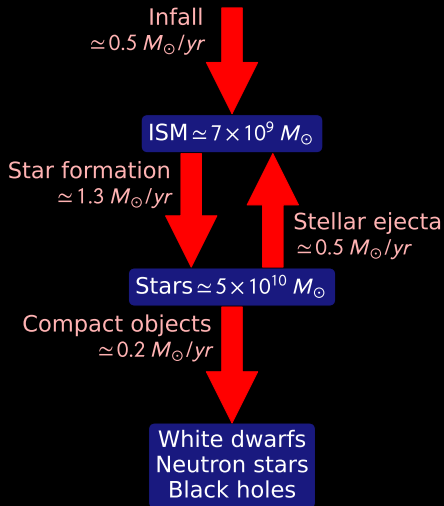
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Dust mass fractions (Galliano 2022)

$$Z_{\text{dust}} \equiv \frac{M_{\text{dust}}}{M_{\text{gas}}} \simeq 1/150$$

Overview | Composition of the ISM of the Milky Way



\Rightarrow ISM-to-star mass ratio $\simeq 14\%$.

(Adapted from Draine 2011, Chap. 1)

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Dust mass fractions (Galliano 2022)

$$Z_{\text{dust}} \equiv \frac{M_{\text{dust}}}{M_{\text{gas}}} \simeq 1/150 \quad DM \equiv \frac{M_{\text{dust}}}{M_{>\text{He}}} \simeq 1/2$$

Dust extinction



Credit: Barnard 68 (dark nebula); FORS Team, 8.2-meter VLT Antu, ESO.

Dust extinction



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⇒ Dust extinguishes starlight, mainly from the UV to the mid-IR.

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Extinction in magnitude

Overview | Dust Extinction & Hydrogen Column Density

Dust extinction



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Extinction in magnitude



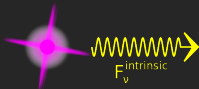
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Overview | Dust Extinction & Hydrogen Column Density

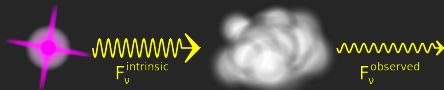
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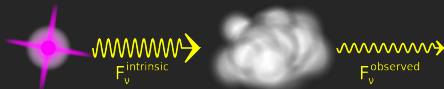
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Credit: Barnard 68 (dark nebula); FORS Team, 8.2-meter VLT Antu, ESO.

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Extinction in magnitude



$$A(\lambda) \equiv m_{\text{observed}}(\lambda) - m_{\text{intrinsic}}(\lambda)$$

Overview | Dust Extinction & Hydrogen Column Density

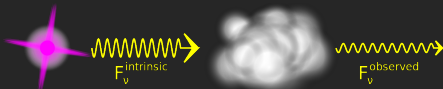
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Credit: Barnard 68 (dark nebula); FORS Team, 8.2-meter VLT Antu, ESO.

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Extinction in magnitude



$$\begin{aligned} A(\lambda) &\equiv m_{\text{observed}}(\lambda) - m_{\text{intrinsic}}(\lambda) \\ &= 2.5 \log \left(\frac{F_{\nu}^{\text{intrinsic}}(\lambda)}{F_{\nu}^{\text{observed}}(\lambda)} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Overview | Dust Extinction & Hydrogen Column Density

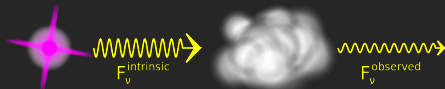
Dust extinction



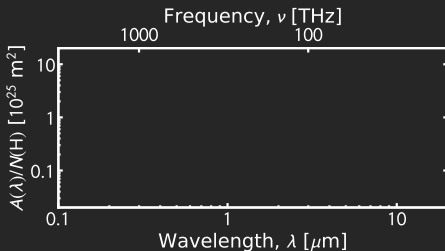
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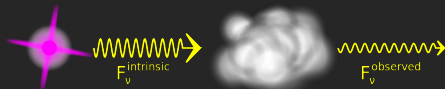
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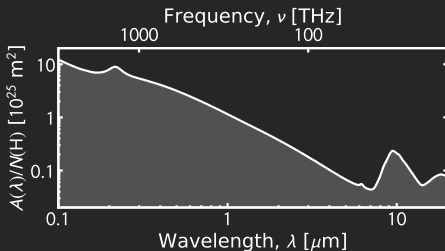
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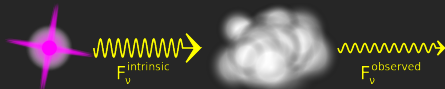
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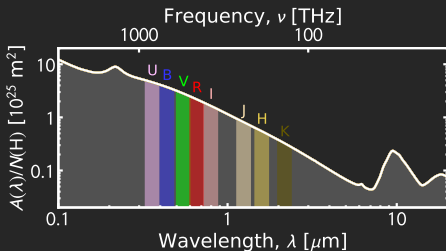
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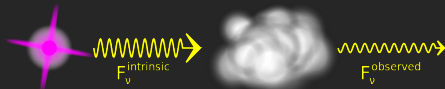
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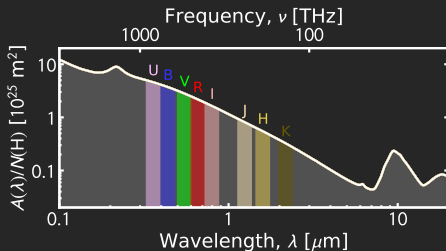
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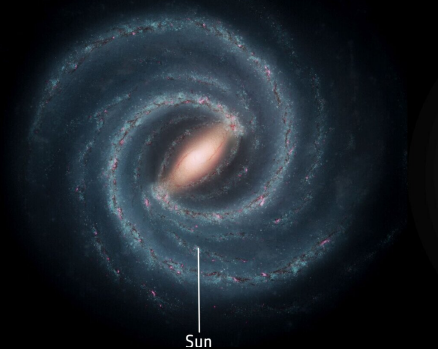
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$$\frac{N(\text{H I})}{A(V)} \simeq 2.8 \times 10^{25} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ mag}^{-1}$$

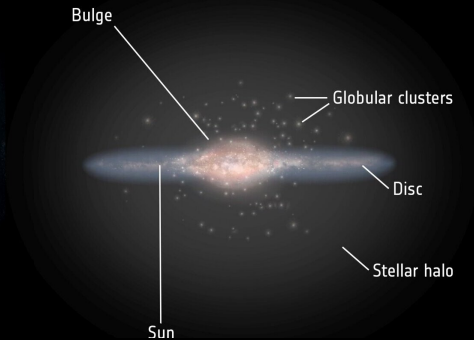
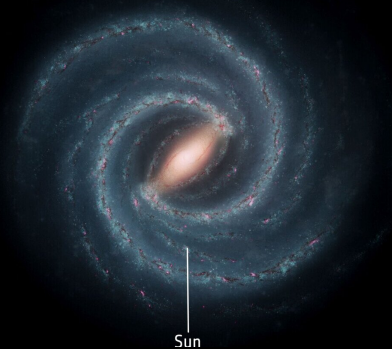
Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way

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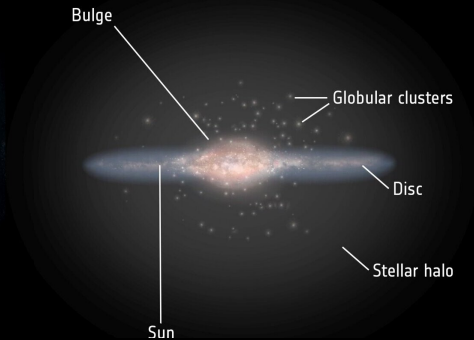
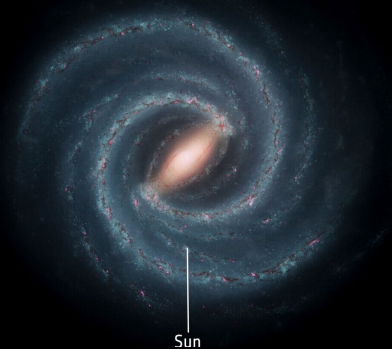
Credit: artist view; NASA/JPL-Caltech; right: ESA; layout: ESA/ATG medialab.

Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way



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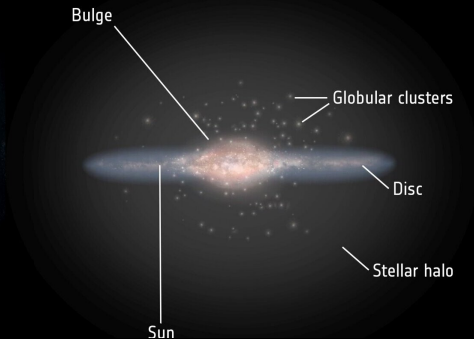
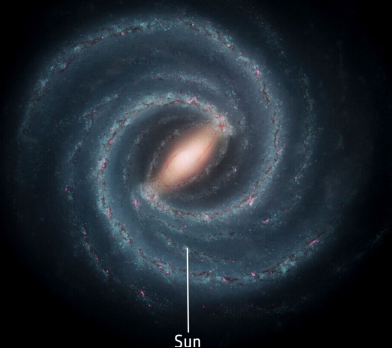
Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way



Credit: artist view; NASA/JPL-Caltech; right: ESA; layout: ESA/ATG medialab.

Quantitative information

Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way

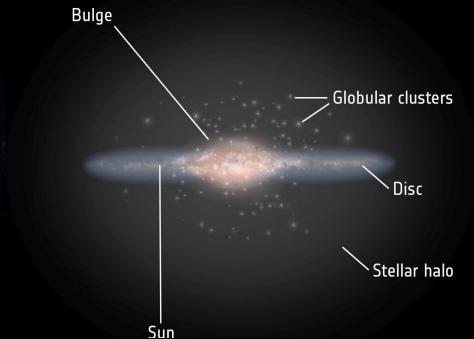
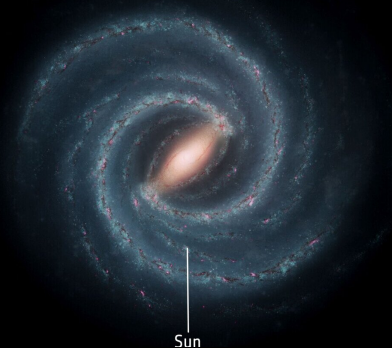


Credit: artist view; NASA/JPL-Caltech; right: ESA; layout: ESA/ATG medialab.

Quantitative information

Full diameter: $D_{25} \simeq 27$ kpc.

Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way



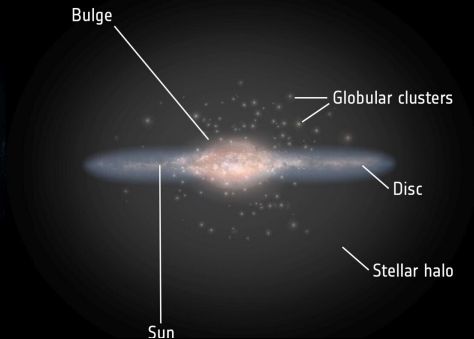
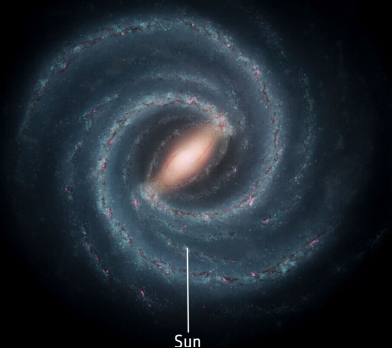
Credit: artist view; NASA/JPL-Caltech; right: ESA; layout: ESA/ATG medialab.

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Full diameter: $D_{25} \simeq 27$ kpc.

Position of the Sun: $R_{\odot} \simeq 8.5$ kpc.

Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way



Credit: artist view; NASA/JPL-Caltech; right: ESA; layout: ESA/ATG medialab.

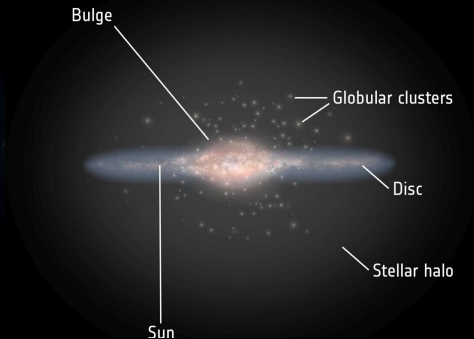
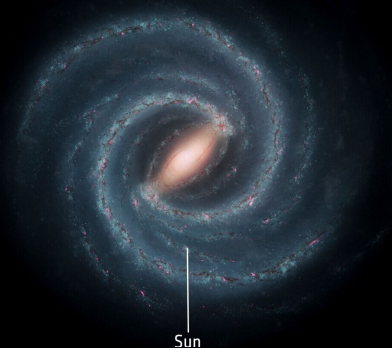
Quantitative information

Full diameter: $D_{25} \simeq 27$ kpc.

Position of the Sun: $R_{\odot} \simeq 8.5$ kpc.

Disk thickness: $h \simeq 500$ pc (at 1/2 radius).

Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way



Credit: artist view; NASA/JPL-Caltech; right: ESA; layout: ESA/ATG medialab.

Quantitative information

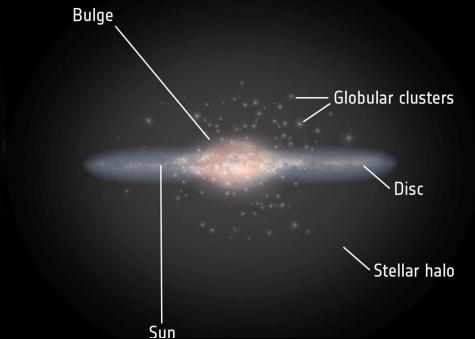
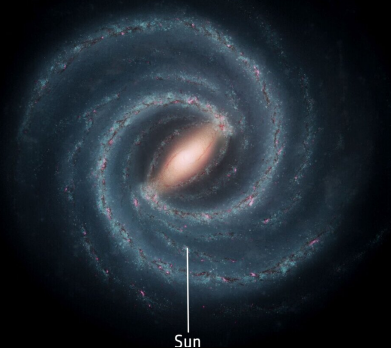
Full diameter: $D_{25} \simeq 27$ kpc.

Position of the Sun: $R_{\odot} \simeq 8.5$ kpc.

Disk thickness: $h \simeq 500$ pc (at 1/2 radius).

→ most of the ISM is in the disk.

Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way



Credit: artist view; NASA/JPL-Caltech; right: ESA; layout: ESA/ATG medialab.

Quantitative information

Full diameter: $D_{25} \simeq 27$ kpc.

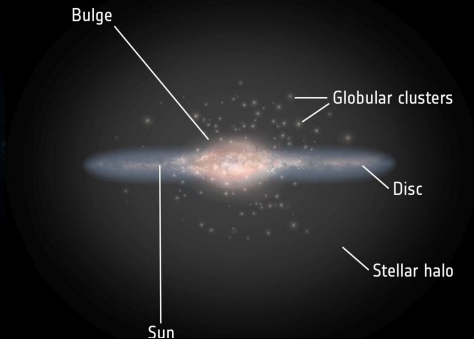
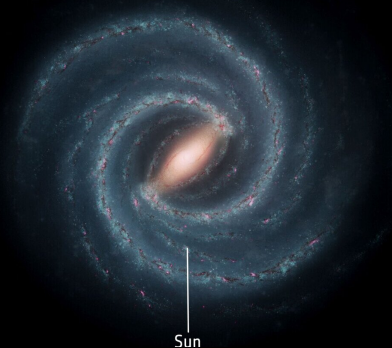
Position of the Sun: $R_{\odot} \simeq 8.5$ kpc.

Disk thickness: $h \simeq 500$ pc (at 1/2 radius).

→ most of the ISM is in the disk.

Mean distance between stars: $d_{\star} \simeq 1$ pc.

Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way



Credit: artist view; NASA/JPL-Caltech; right: ESA; layout: ESA/ATG medialab.

Quantitative information

Full diameter: $D_{25} \simeq 27$ kpc.

Position of the Sun: $R_{\odot} \simeq 8.5$ kpc.

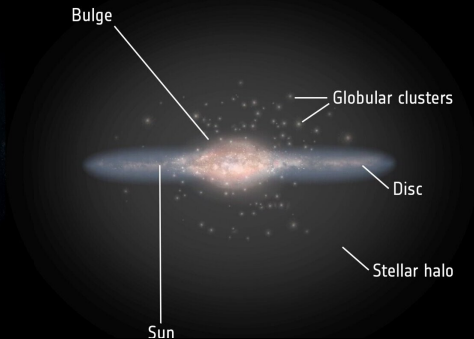
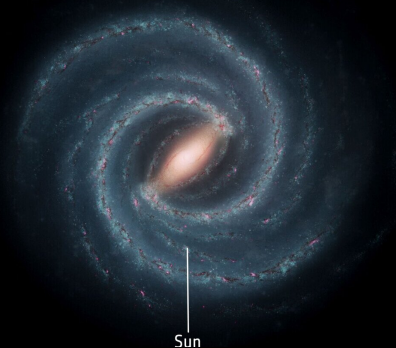
Disk thickness: $h \simeq 500$ pc (at 1/2 radius).

→ most of the ISM is in the disk.

Mean distance between stars: $d_{\star} \simeq 1$ pc.

Mean ISM density: $n_{\text{H}} \simeq 0.3 \text{ H/cm}^3$

Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way



Credit: artist view; NASA/JPL-Caltech; right: ESA; layout: ESA/ATG medialab.

Quantitative information

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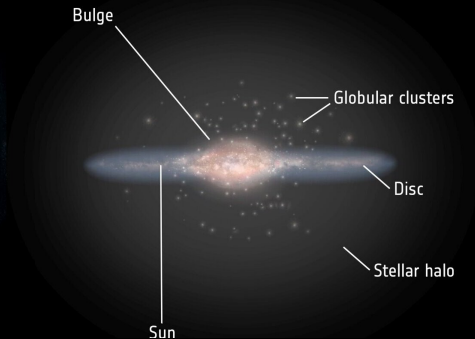
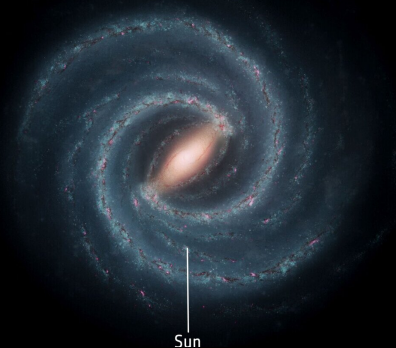
→ most of the ISM is in the disk.

Mean distance between stars: $d_{\star} \simeq 1$ pc.

Mean ISM density: $n_{\text{H}} \simeq 0.3 \text{ H/cm}^3$

- Man-made ultra-high vacuum $\simeq 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

Overview | Morphology of the Milky Way



Credit: artist view; NASA/JPL-Caltech; right: ESA; layout: ESA/ATG medialab.

Quantitative information

Full diameter: $D_{25} \simeq 27$ kpc.

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→ most of the ISM is in the disk.

Mean distance between stars: $d_{\star} \simeq 1$ pc.

Mean ISM density: $n_{\text{H}} \simeq 0.3 \text{ H/cm}^3$

- Man-made ultra-high vacuum $\simeq 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$.
- Air density $\simeq 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

Overview | The ISM is Far from Thermal Equilibrium

Mean collision time between two H atoms

Mean collision time between two H atoms

Let's assume that the ISM is only made of H atoms, with $n_{\text{H}} = 0.3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ & $T = 1000 \text{ K}$.

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Collision cross-section between two H atoms, with

$$r_{\text{H}} = 0.5 \text{ \AA}:$$

Overview | The ISM is Far from Thermal Equilibrium

Mean collision time between two H atoms

Let's assume that the ISM is only made of H atoms, with $n_H = 0.3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ & $T = 1000 \text{ K}$.

Collision cross-section between two H atoms, with
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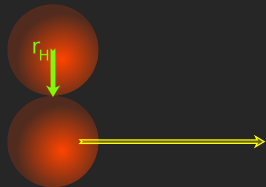


Overview | The ISM is Far from Thermal Equilibrium

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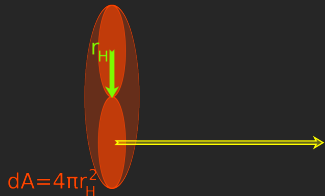


Overview | The ISM is Far from Thermal Equilibrium

Mean collision time between two H atoms

Let's assume that the ISM is only made of H atoms, with $n_H = 0.3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ & $T = 1000 \text{ K}$.

Collision cross-section between two H atoms, with $r_H = 0.5 \text{ \AA}$:

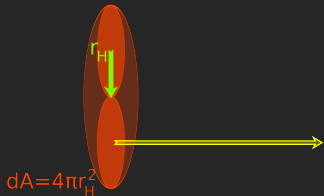


Overview | The ISM is Far from Thermal Equilibrium

Mean collision time between two H atoms

Let's assume that the ISM is only made of H atoms, with $n_H = 0.3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ & $T = 1000 \text{ K}$.

Collision cross-section between two H atoms, with
 $r_H = 0.5 \text{ \AA}$: $\sigma_H \equiv \pi(2r_H)^2$.



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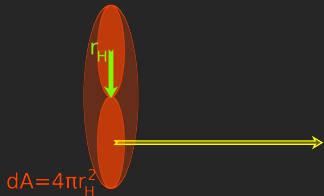
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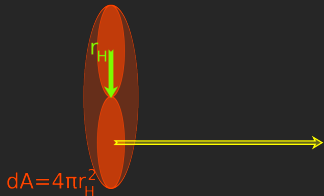
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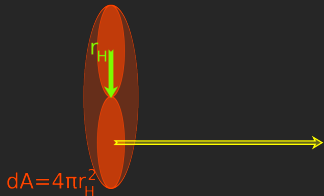
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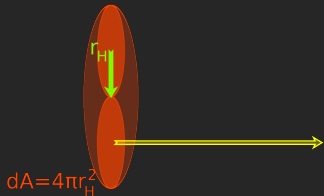
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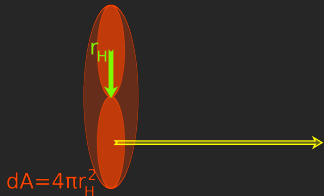
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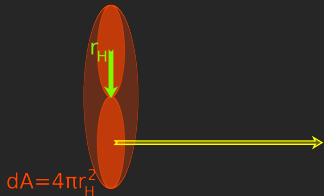
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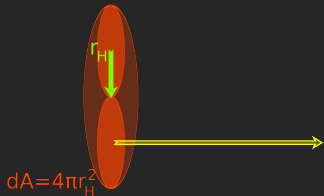
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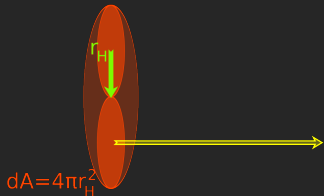
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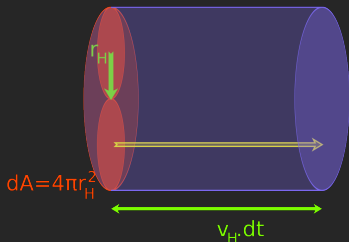
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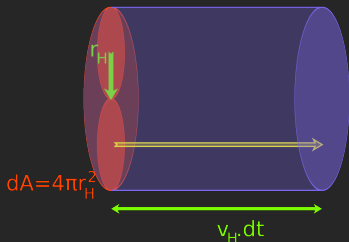
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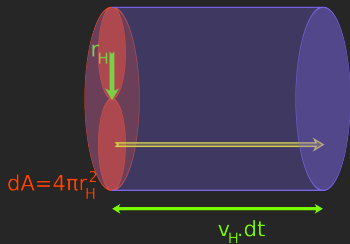
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Overview | The ISM is Far from Thermal Equilibrium

Mean collision time between two H atoms

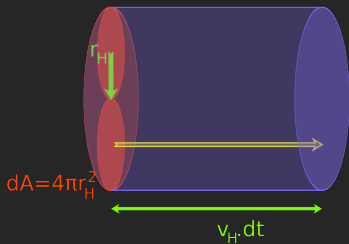
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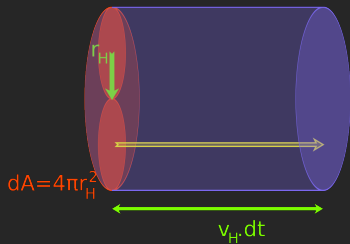
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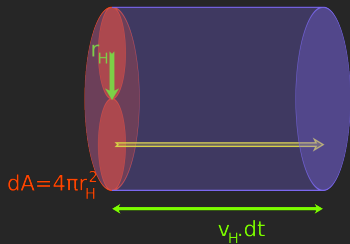
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Conditions for Local Thermal Equilibrium (LTE)

Overview | The ISM is Far from Thermal Equilibrium

Mean collision time between two H atoms

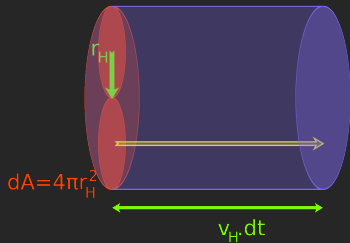
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Conditions for Local Thermal Equilibrium (LTE)

Spontaneous transition rate for the first levels of H:

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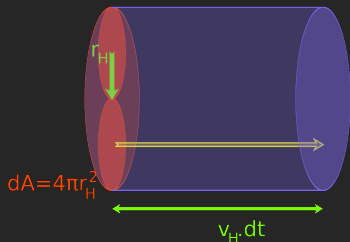
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Conditions for Local Thermal Equilibrium (LTE)

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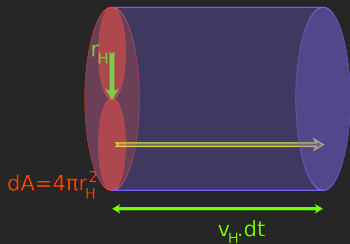
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Conditions for Local Thermal Equilibrium (LTE)

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$$\tau_{\text{cool}} = \frac{1}{A \text{ (Einstein coefficient)}} \simeq 10^{-8} - 10^{-5} \text{ s}$$

Overview | The ISM is Far from Thermal Equilibrium

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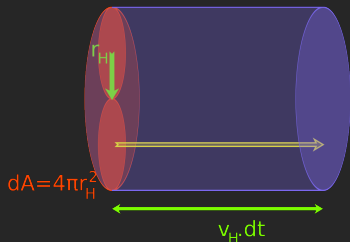
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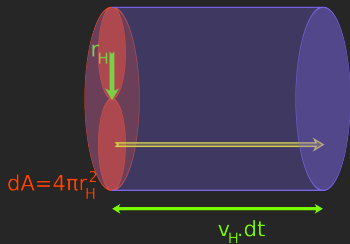
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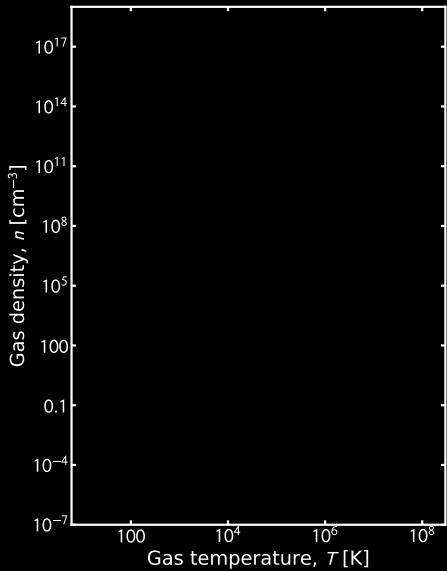
$$\tau_{\text{cool}} = \frac{1}{A \text{ (Einstein coefficient)}} \simeq 10^{-8} - 10^{-5} \text{ s}$$

$$\Rightarrow \tau_{\text{cool}} \ll \tau_{\text{coll}}$$

$\Rightarrow T$ is not sufficient to describe the physical state of the ISM (species are usually in their ground state).

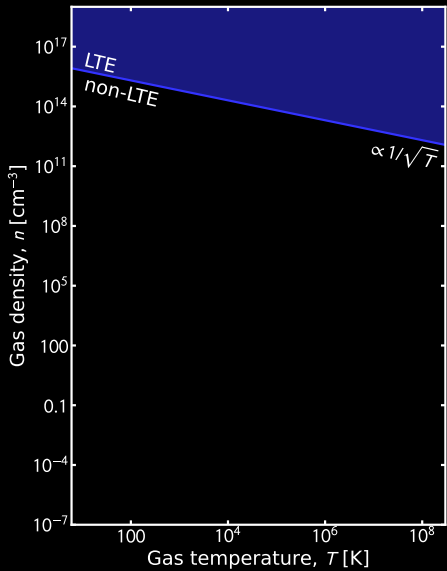
Overview | Density & Temperature Range of the ISM

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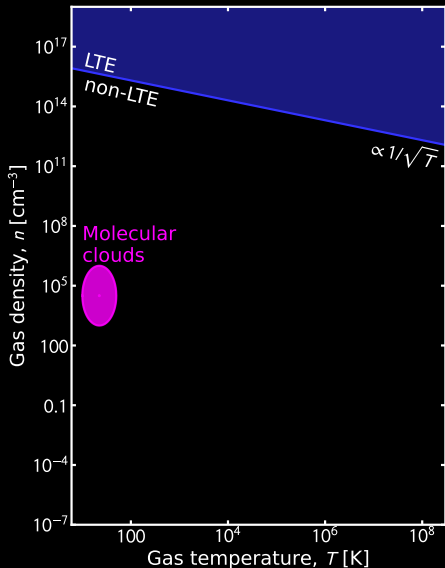
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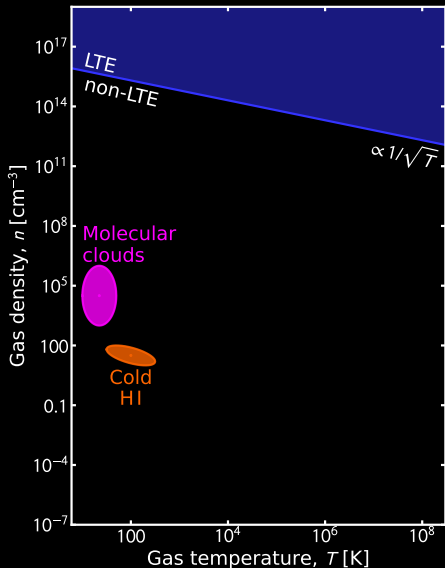
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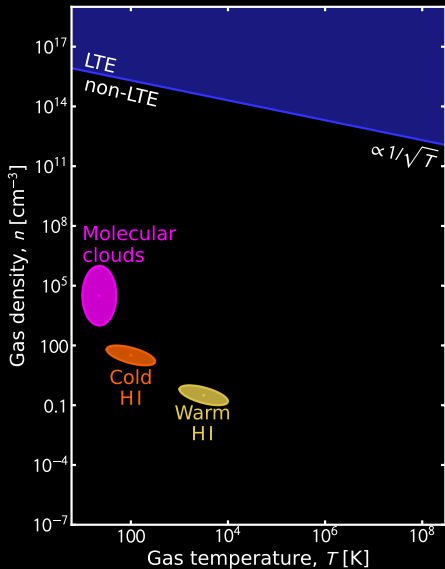
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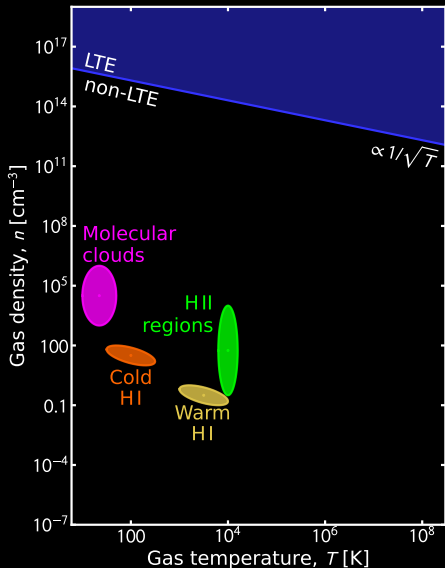
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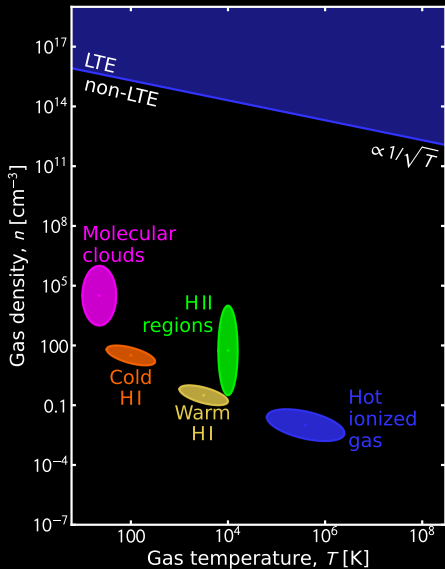
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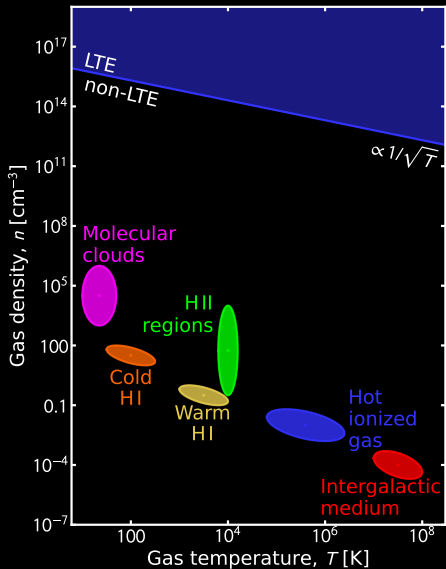
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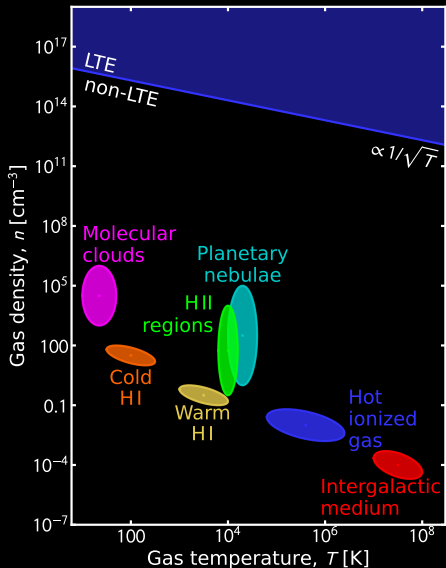
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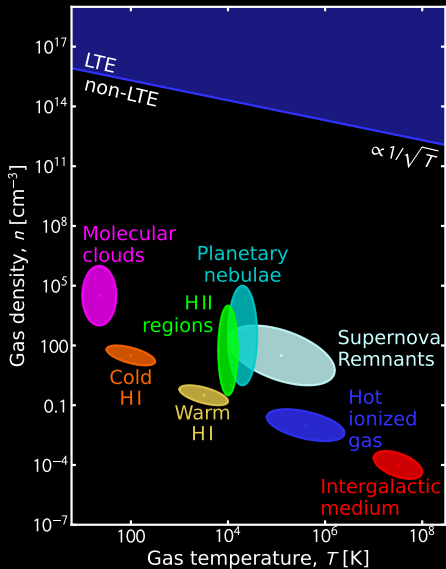
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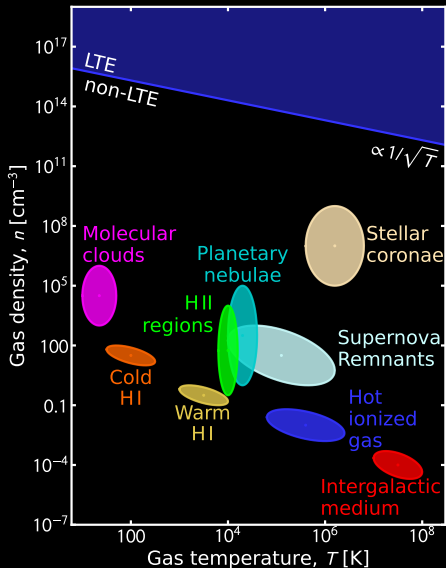
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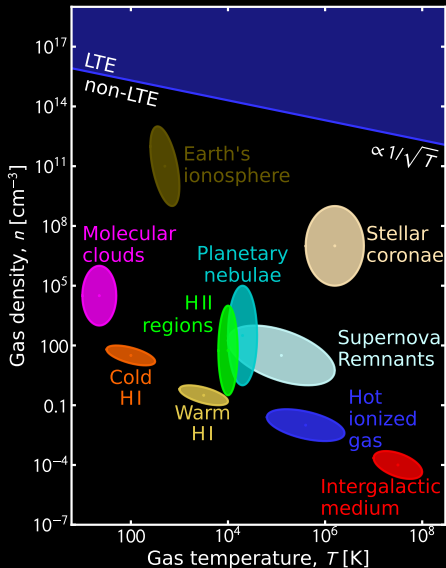
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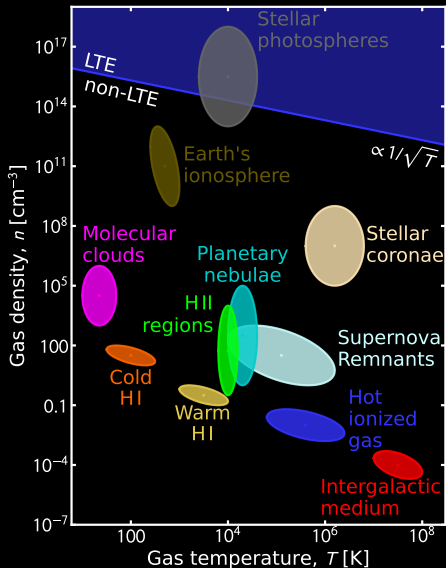
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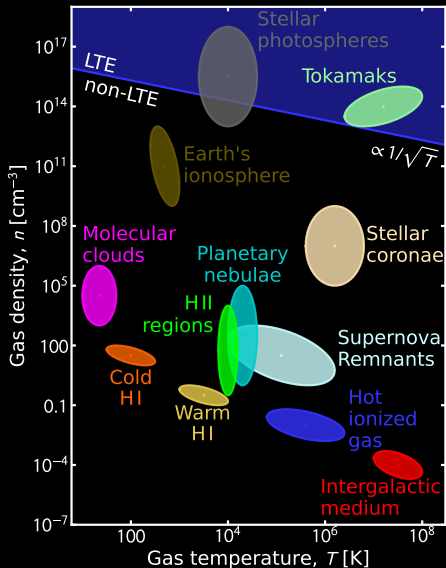
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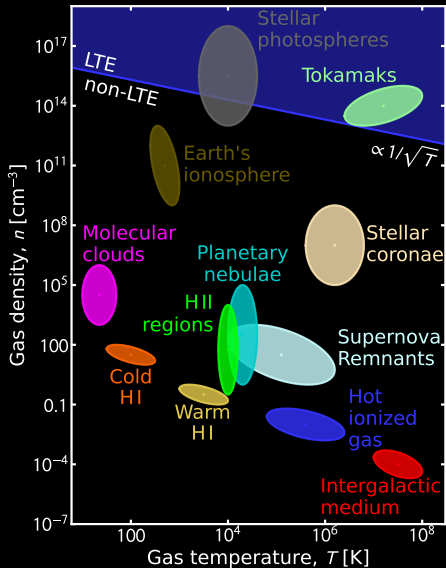
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Overview | Density & Temperature Range of the ISM



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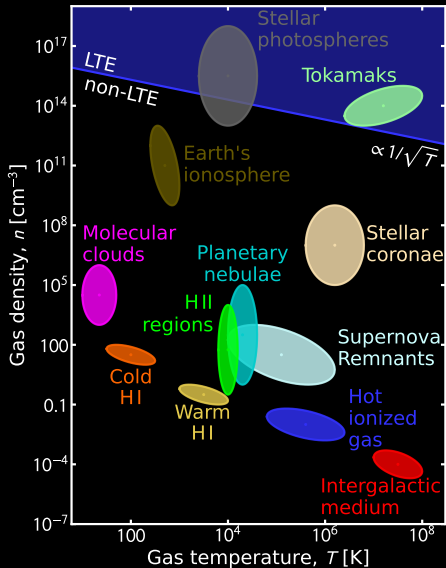
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Velocity distribution in the ISM

Overview | Density & Temperature Range of the ISM

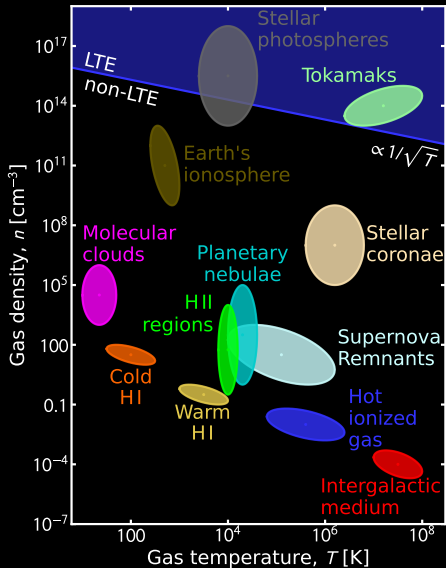


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Velocity distribution in the ISM

- Typical scale of interstellar clouds: $L_{\text{ISM}} \simeq 1 \text{ pc}$

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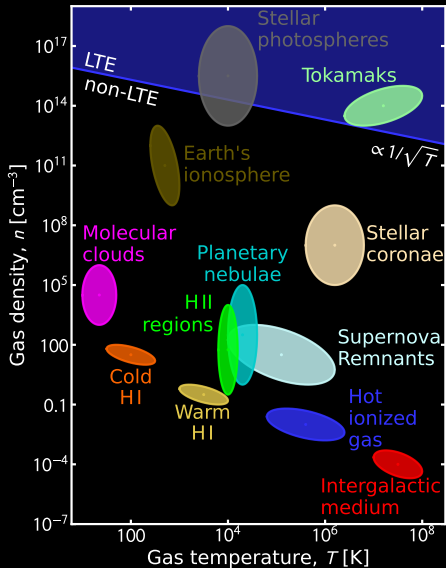


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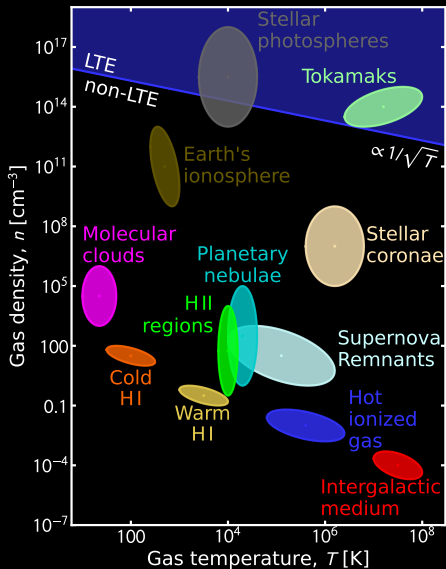


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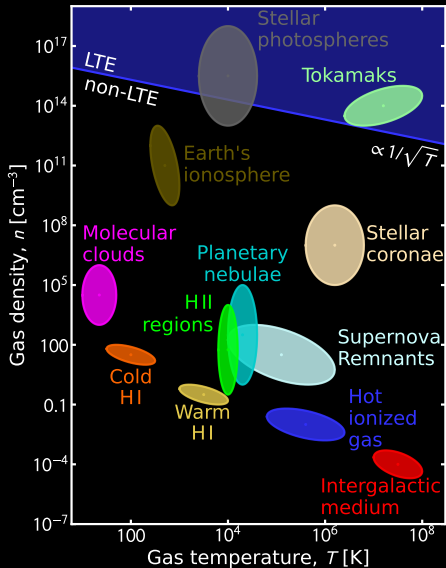


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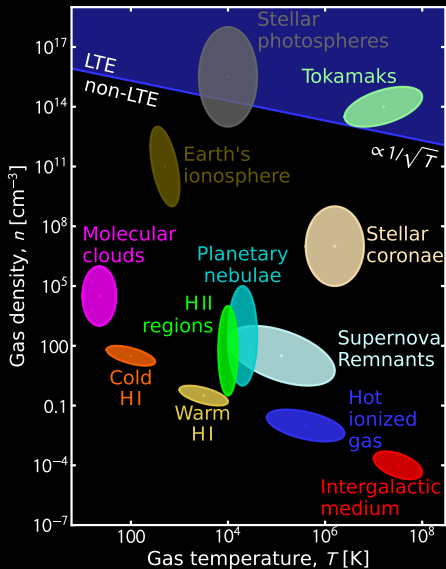


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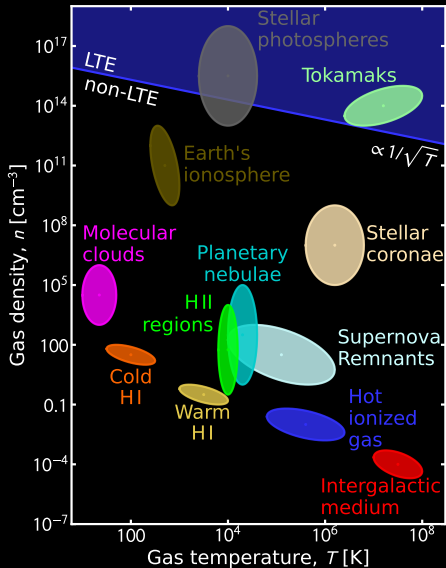


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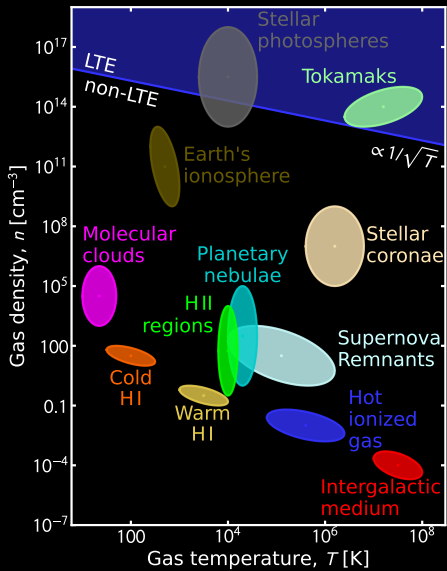
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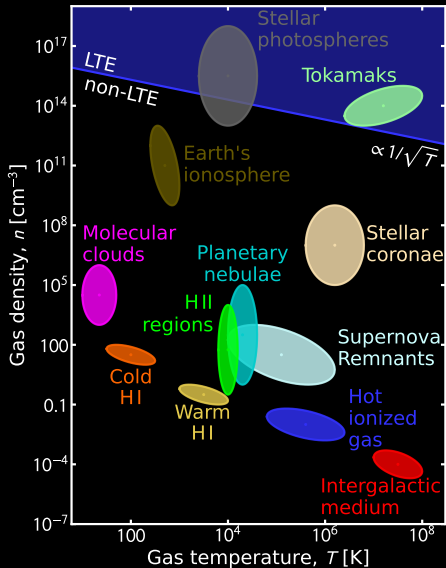
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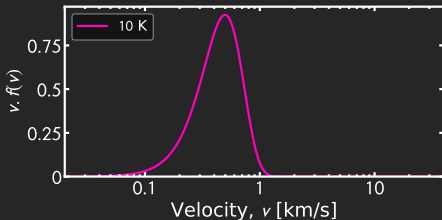
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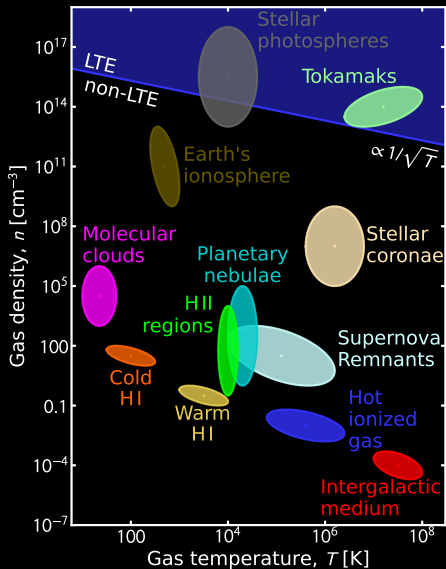
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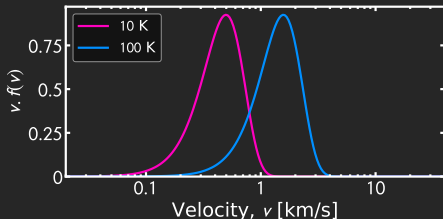
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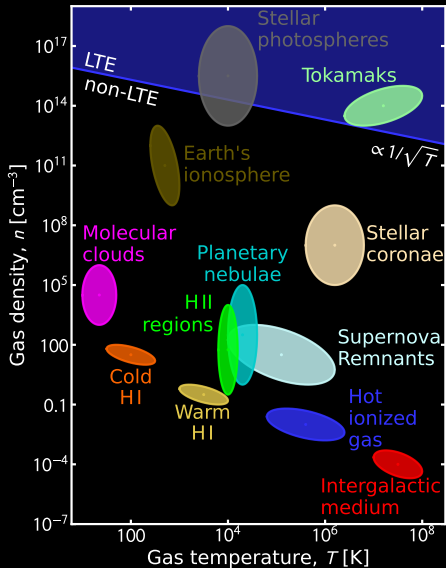
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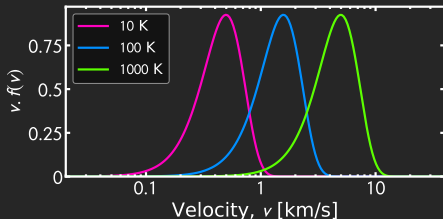
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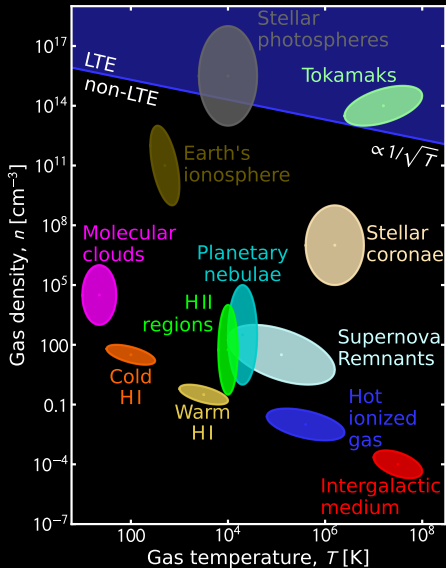
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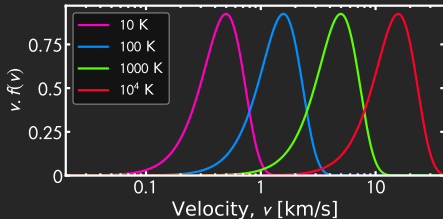
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Radiative power injection		
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(Tielens 2005, Chap. 1)

Overview | Energetics of the ISM of the Milky Way

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Overview | Energetics of the ISM of the Milky Way

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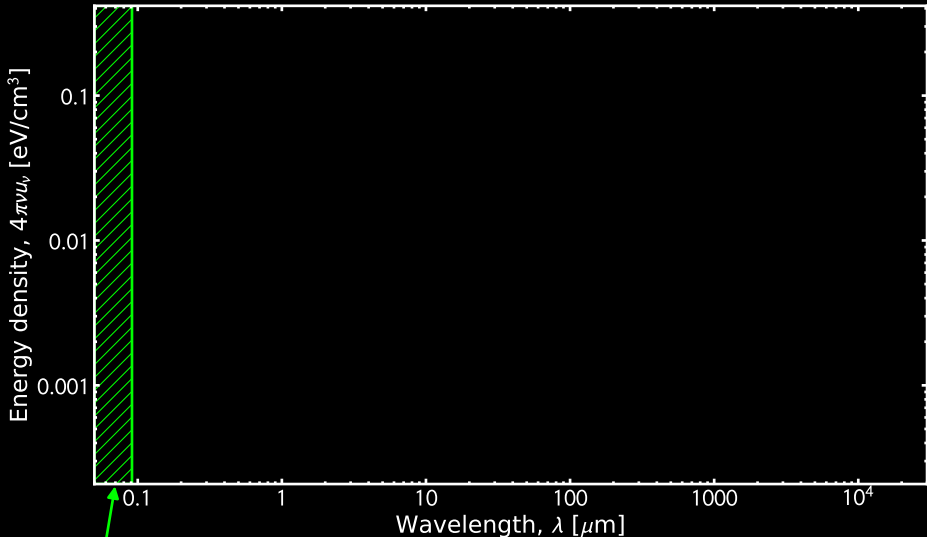
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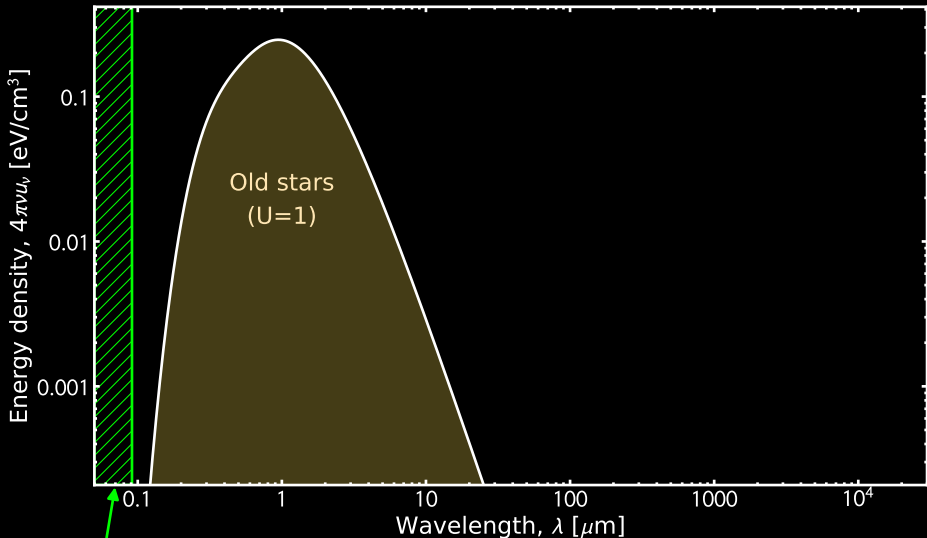
$$U_{\text{th}} \simeq U_{\text{turb}} \simeq U_{\text{magn}} \simeq U_{\text{CMB}} \simeq U_{\star} \simeq U_{\text{CR}} \simeq 0.3 \text{ eV/cm}^3$$

Overview | Interstellar Radiation Fields



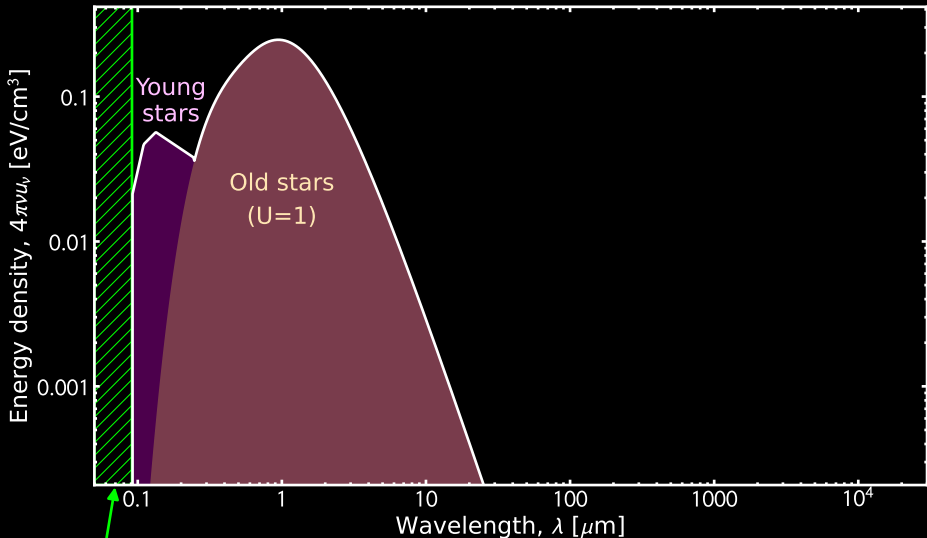
Ionizing photons

(Mathis et al. 1983)



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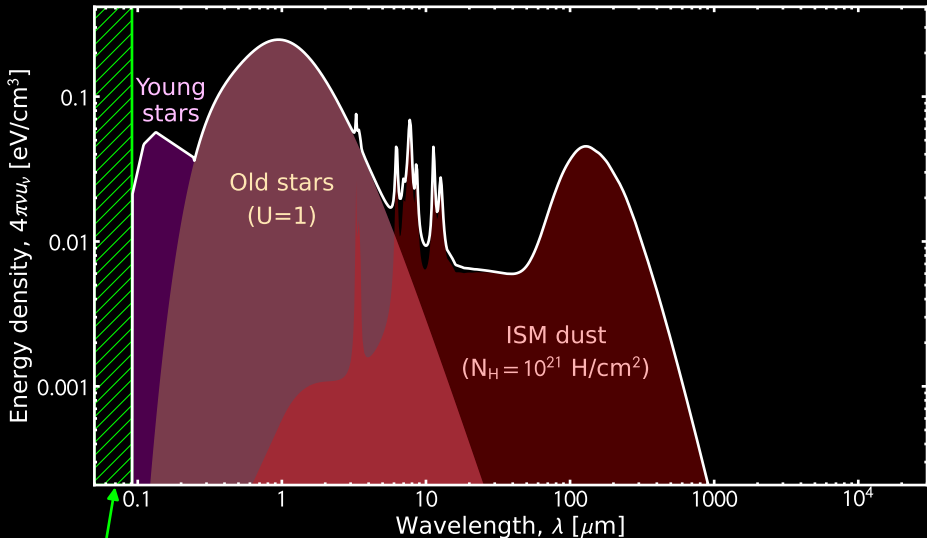
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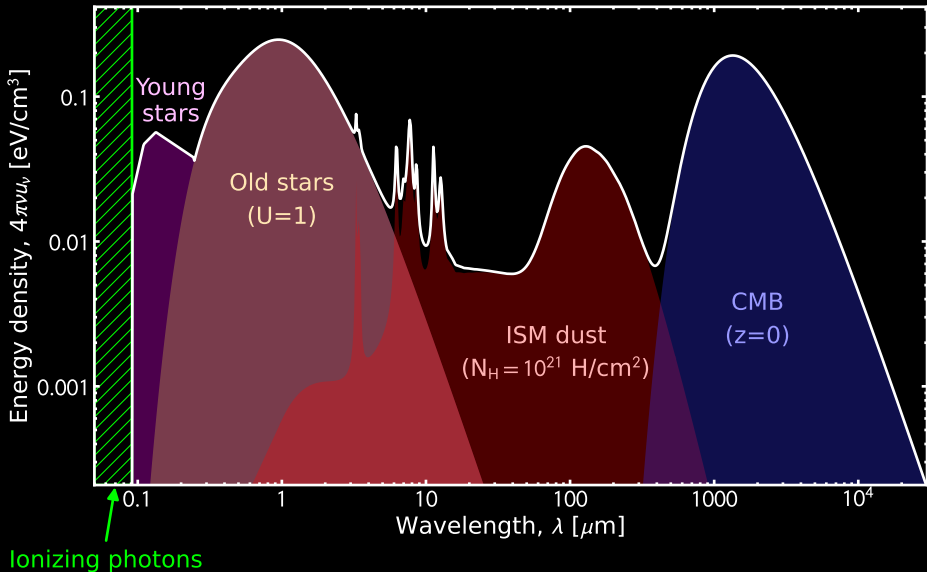
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Overview | Interstellar Radiation Fields



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Overview | The ISM of External Galaxies

Terminology

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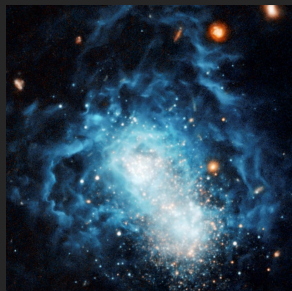
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Dwarf / Irregular



Credit: I Zw 18 (Aloisi et al., 2007).

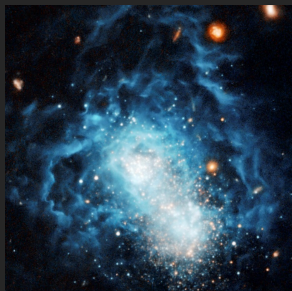
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Metallicity: low ($\lesssim 1/50 Z_{\odot}$).

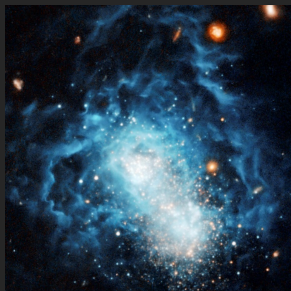
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“The Galaxy” = the Milky Way.

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Dwarf / Irregular



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Metallicity: low ($\lesssim 1/50 Z_{\odot}$).

Gas fraction: high ($\gtrsim 95\%$).

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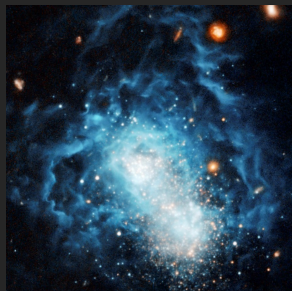
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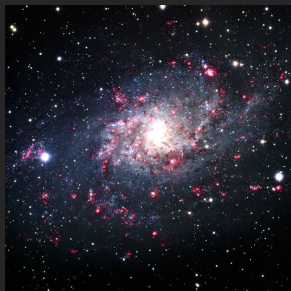
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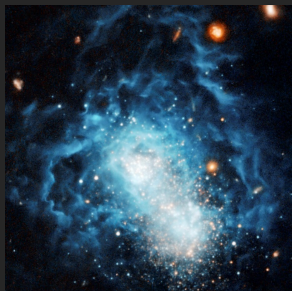
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Overview | The ISM of External Galaxies

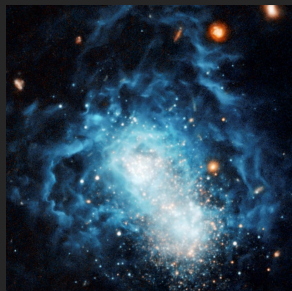
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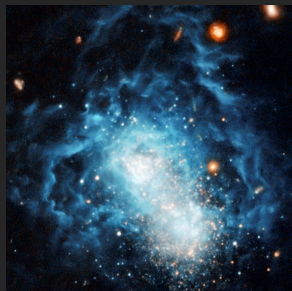
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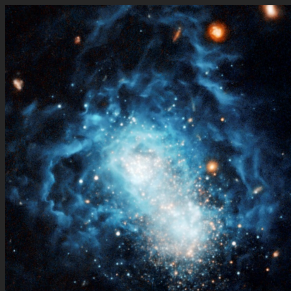
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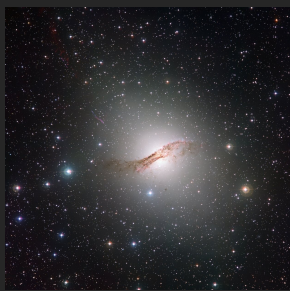
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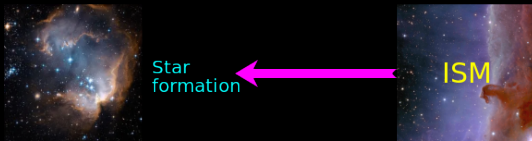
Metallicity: high ($\gtrsim Z_{\odot}$).
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Overview | Why Is It Important to Understand the ISM?

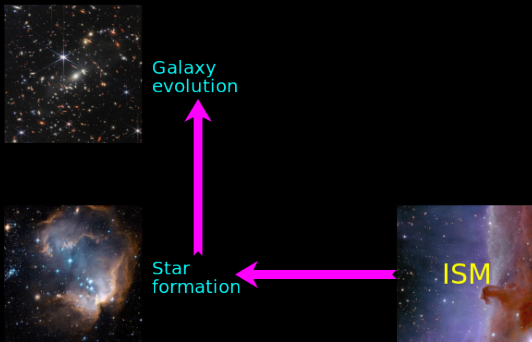
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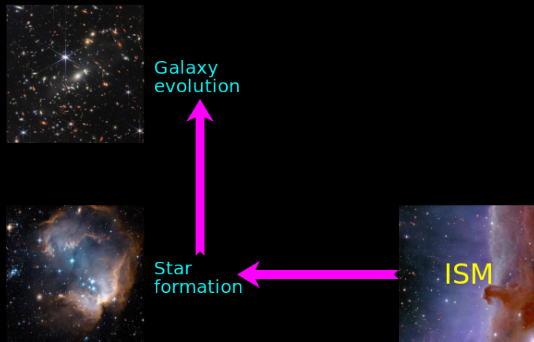
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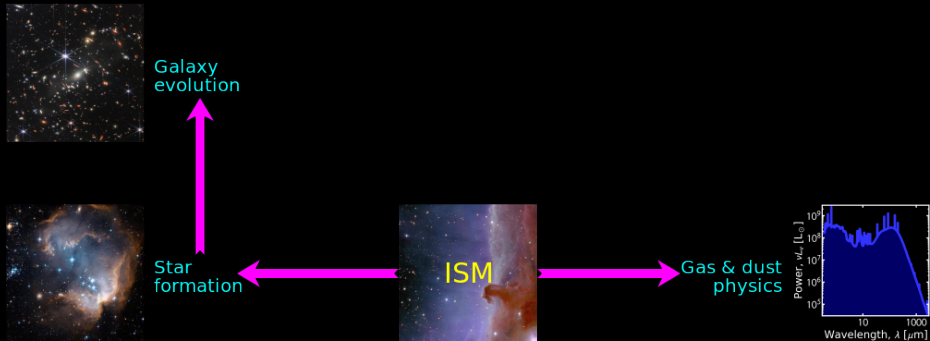
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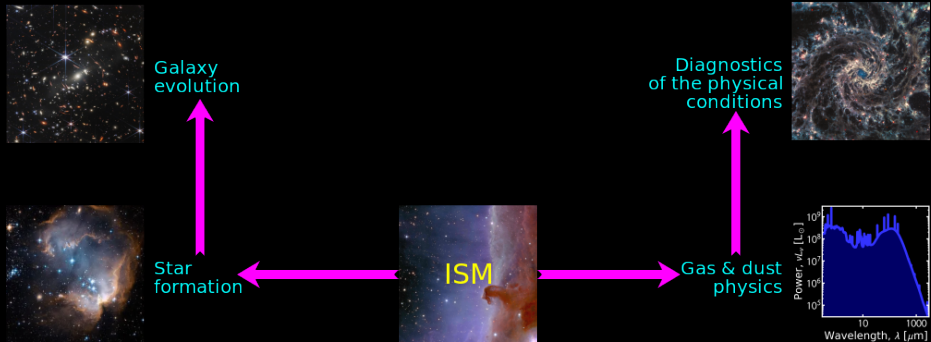
ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE



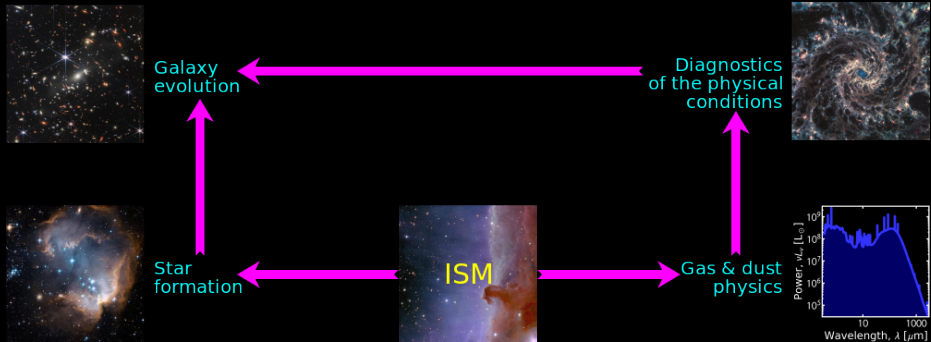
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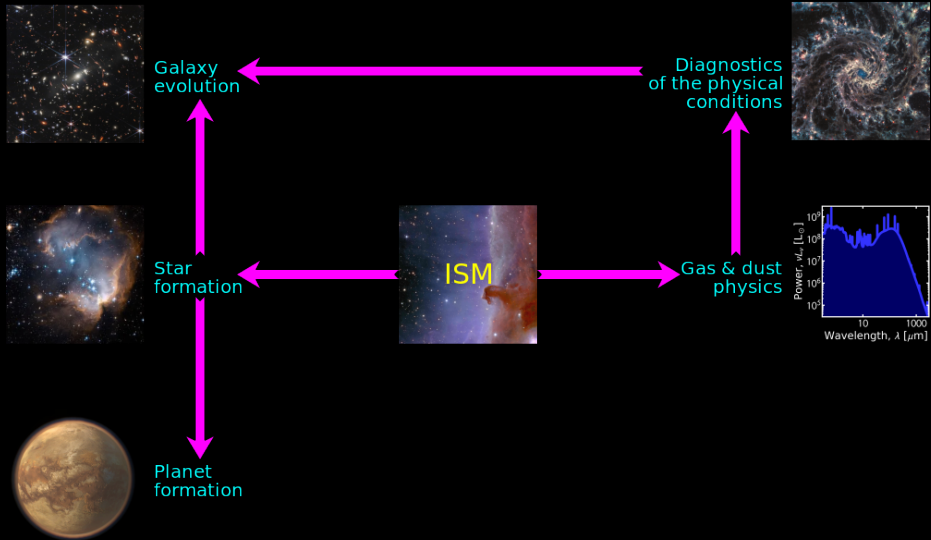
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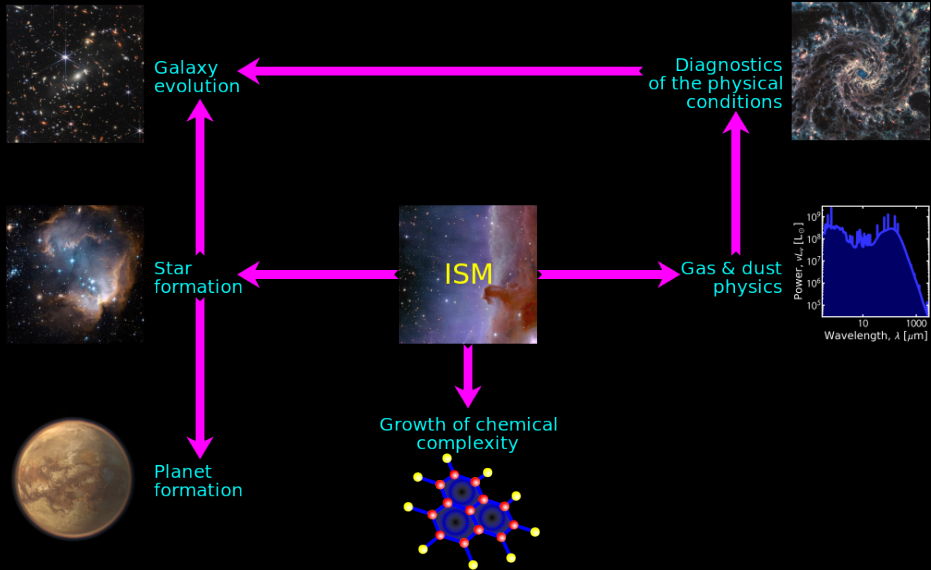
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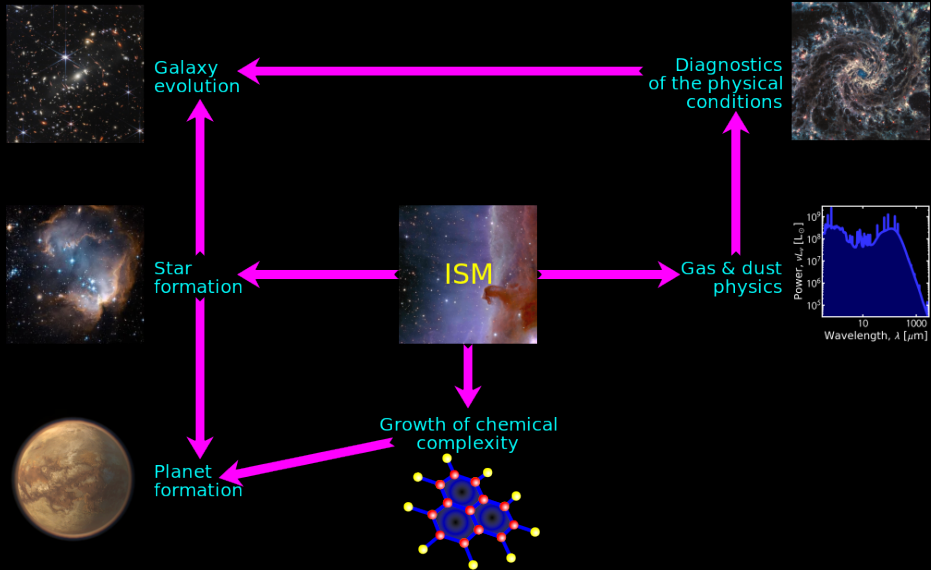
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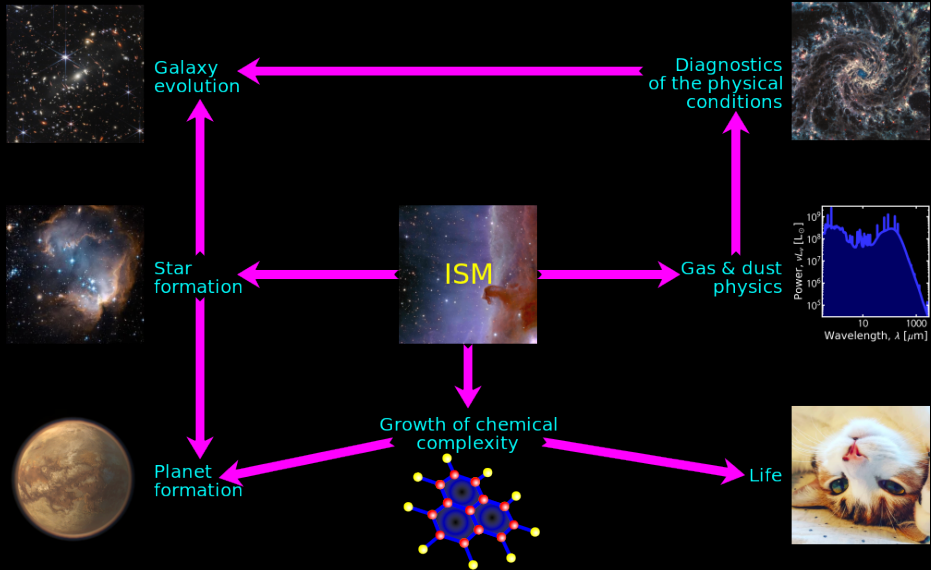
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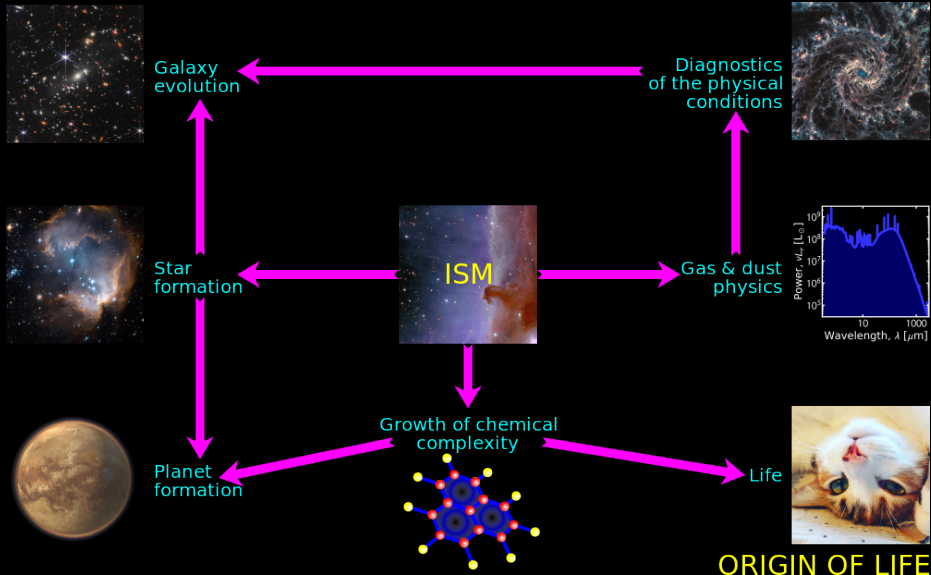
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Scientific Perspective

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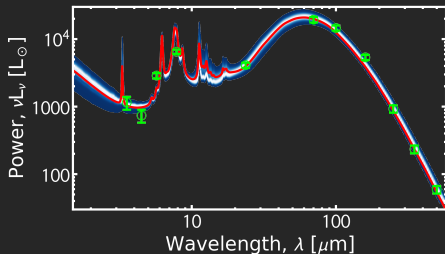
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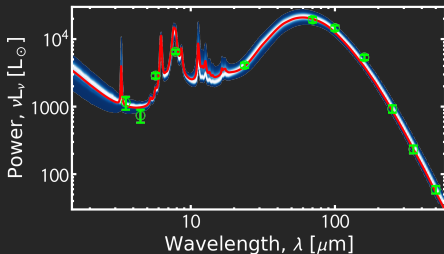
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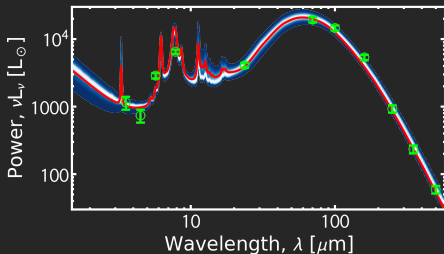
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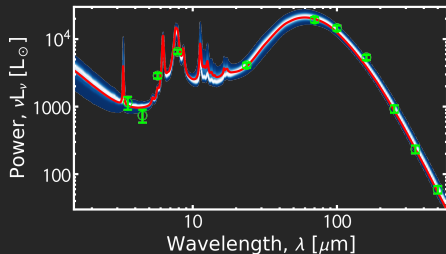
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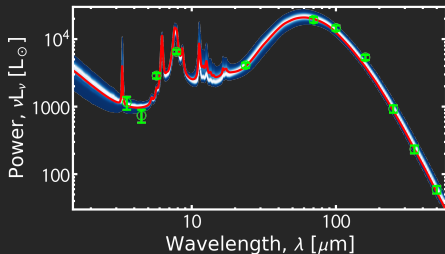
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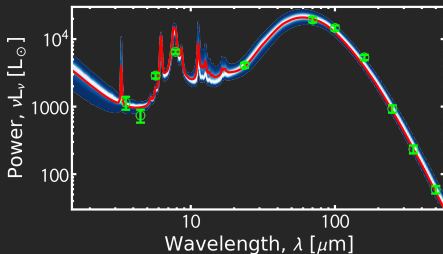


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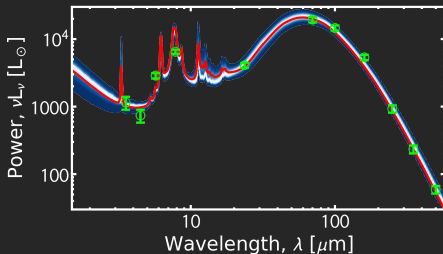


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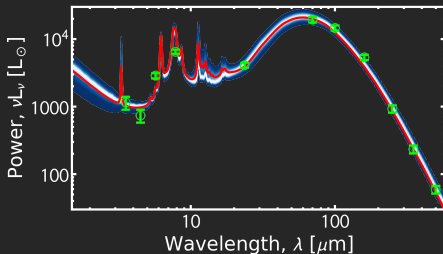


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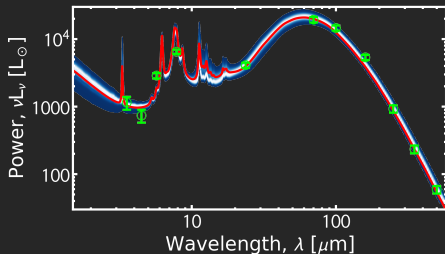


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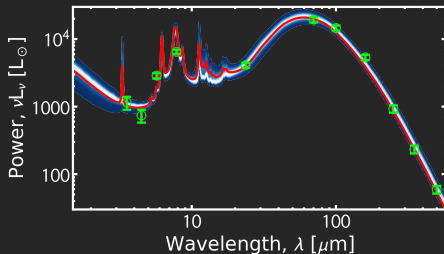
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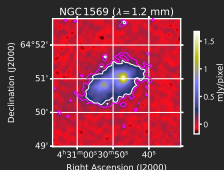
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- 2 A Brief History of ISM studies.
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Textbooks about the ISM

- “*The Physics and Chemistry of the Interstellar Medium*”, by A. G. G. M. Tielens, 2005, Cambridge University Press.
- “*Physics of the Interstellar and Intergalactic Medium*”, by B. T. Draine, 2011, Princeton University Press.
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- “**Astrophysics of gaseous nebulae and active galactic nuclei**” by D. E. Osterbrock & G. J. Ferland, 2006, University Science Books.
- “**Radiative processes in astrophysics**”, by G. B. Rybicky & A. P. Lightman, 1979, Wiley.
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Open Reviews about the Phases of the ISM

- *“The Three-Phase Interstellar Medium Revisited”*, by D. P. Cox, 2005, ARA&A.
- *“The HI distribution of the Milky Way”*, by P. M. W. Kalberla & K. Jürgen, 2009, ARA&A.
- *“Molecular clouds in the Milky Way”*, by M. Heyer & T. M. Dame, 2015, ARA&A.
- *“Physical processes in the interstellar medium”*, by R. S. Klessen & S. C. O. Glover, 2016, Saas-Fee Advanced Course.

Open Reviews about Dust

- *"Interstellar dust grains"*, by B. T. Draine, 2003, ARA&A.
- *"The interstellar dust properties of nearby galaxies"*, by F. Galliano, M. Galametz & A. P. Jones, 2018, ARA&A.
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Open Reviews about PDRs

- *"Dense photodissociation regions (PDRs)"*, by A. G. G. M. Tielens & D. J. Hollenbach, 1997, ARA&A.
- *"Photodissociation and X-Ray-Dominated Regions"*, by M. Wolfire, L. Vallini & M. Chevance, 2022, ARA&A.

Overview | Recommended Videography



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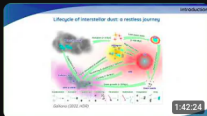
Populaires

Les plus anciennes



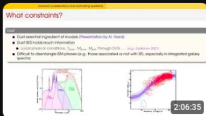
GISM2 #14: Daniel Dale

57 vues · il y a 8 mois



GISM2 #5: Nathalie Ysard

53 vues · il y a 8 mois



GISM2 #6: Vianney Lebouteiller

40 vues · il y a 8 mois



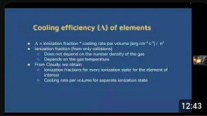
GISM2 #15: Julia Roman-Duval

40 vues · il y a 8 mois



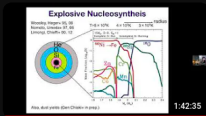
GISM2 #20: Round Table 3 on Observations

20 vues · il y a 8 mois



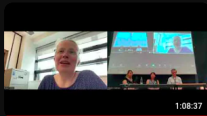
GISM2 #23: Hands-on project #3

23 vues · il y a 8 mois



GISM2 #8: Chiaki Kobayashi

63 vues · il y a 8 mois



GISM2 #12: Round Table 2 on Simulations

16 vues · il y a 8 mois

Overview | Recommended Videography



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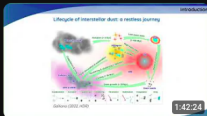
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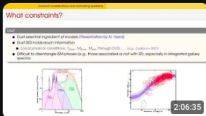
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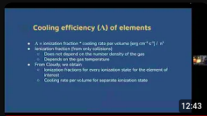
GISM2 #15: Julia Roman-Duval

40 vues · il y a 8 mois



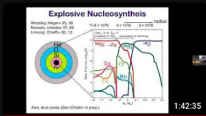
GISM2 #20: Round Table 3 on Observations

20 vues · il y a 8 mois



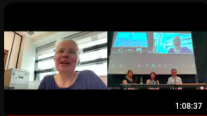
GISM2 #23: Hands-on project #3

23 vues · il y a 8 mois



GISM2 #8: Chiaki Kobayashi

63 vues · il y a 8 mois



GISM2 #12: Round Table 2 on Simulations

16 vues · il y a 8 mois

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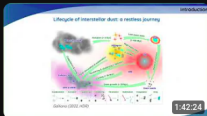
Populaires

Les plus anciennes



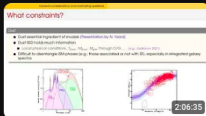
GISM2 #14: Daniel Dale

57 vues · il y a 8 mois



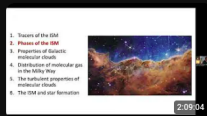
GISM2 #5: Nathalie Ysard

53 vues · il y a 8 mois



GISM2 #6: Vianney Lebouteiller

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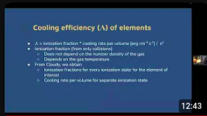
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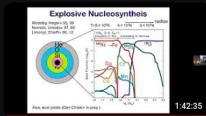
GISM2 #20: Round Table 3 on Observations

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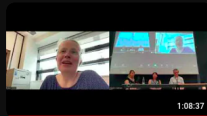
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Outline of the Lecture

1 OVERVIEW: WHAT IS THE ISM?

- Composition, physical properties, characteristic regions
- The Milky Way and the diversity of external galaxies
- Recommended bibliography and outline of the course

2 A BRIEF HISTORY OF STUDIES OF THE ISM

- Before the XXth Century
- From astronomy to astrophysics
- The modern era

3 METHODOLOGY: HOW DO WE STUDY INTERSTELLAR MEDIA?

- The microphysical components of the ISM
- The challenges of studying macroscopic regions
- The Sociology of ISMology

4 CONCLUSION

- Take-away points
- References

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Naked eye observations (Antiquity – Middle Age)

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- M 31 (Andromeda galaxy);
- The Magellanic Clouds (dwarf galaxies).



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History | The Contributions of William HERSCHEL



William HERSCHEL



  (1738–1822)



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Credit: Gábor Tóth.



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History | XIXth Century – The Beginning of Astrophotography

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 - Reflection nebulae:** continuous spectrum (reflected starlight).

History | Early XXth Century – Some Nebulae are Galaxies

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Cepheid stars: pulsating stars with a period-luminosity relation.


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Discovery of the relation: by Leavitt & Pickering (1912) using 25 Cepheids in the *Small Magellanic Cloud* (SMC).

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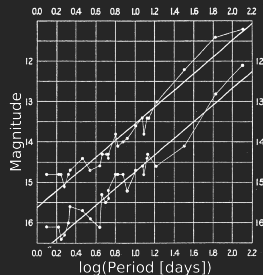
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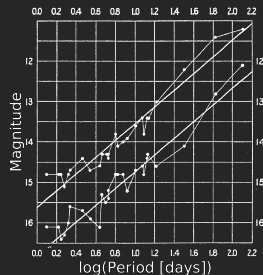


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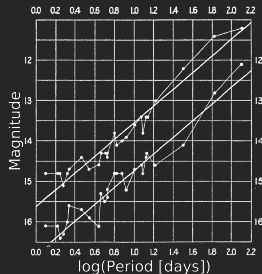


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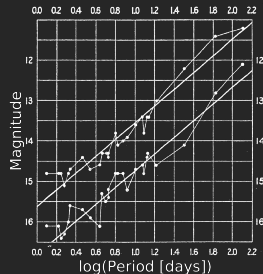


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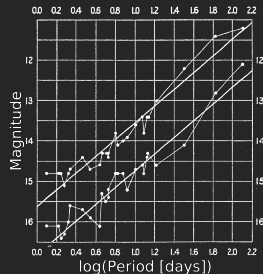


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History | Early XXth Century – Some Nebulae are Galaxies

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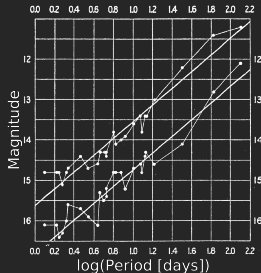


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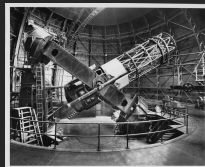


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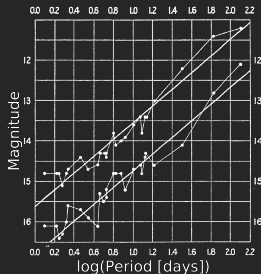


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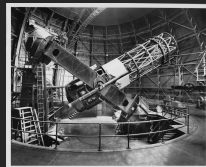


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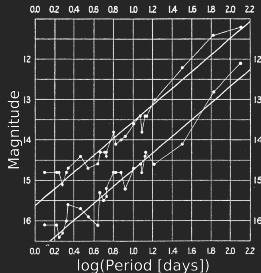


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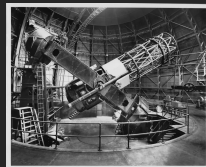


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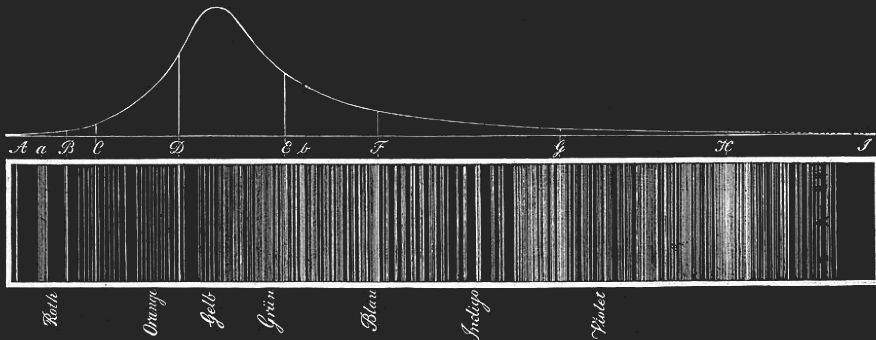
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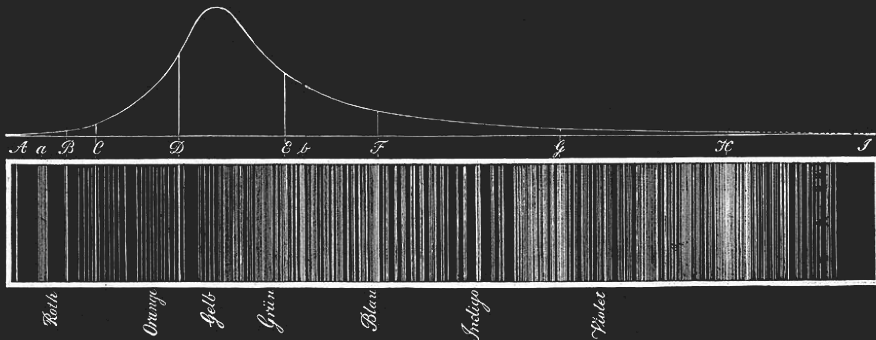
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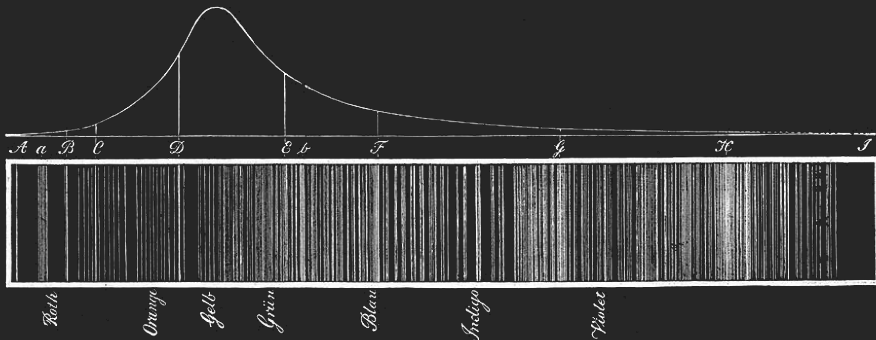
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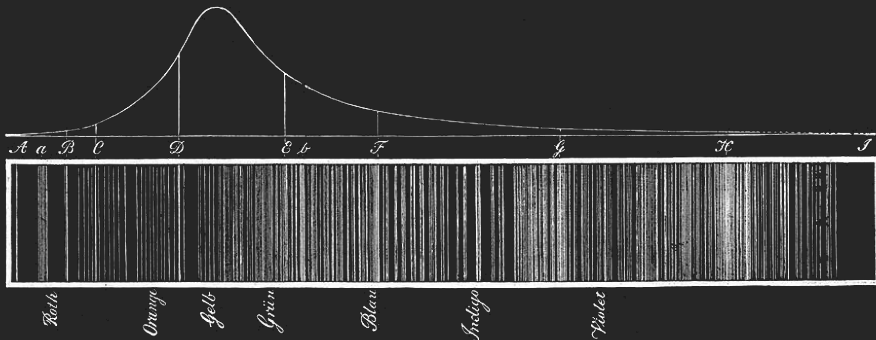


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- ⇒ measuring their abundance (Payne, 1925), temperature, density, charge + kinematics, magnetic field.

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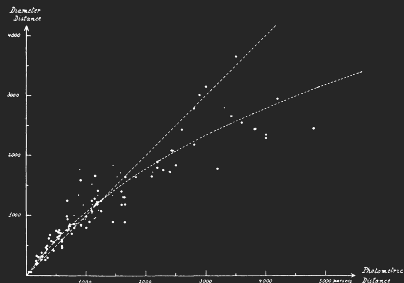
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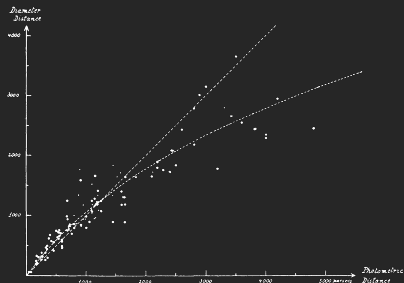
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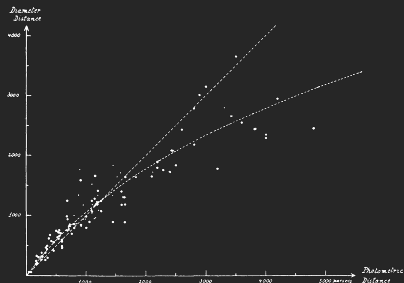
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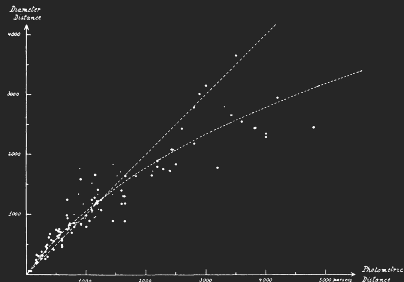
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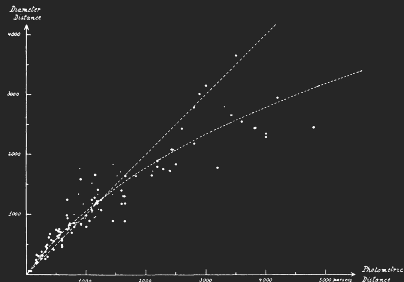
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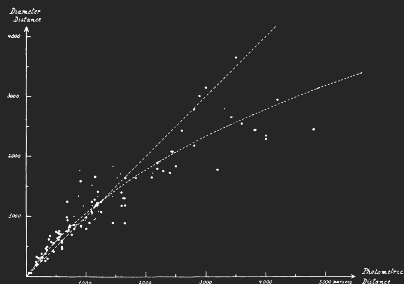
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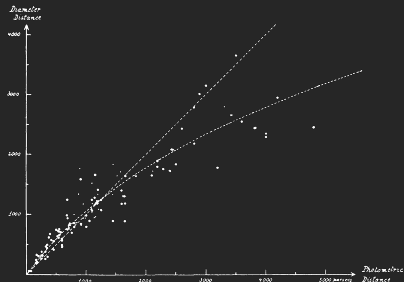
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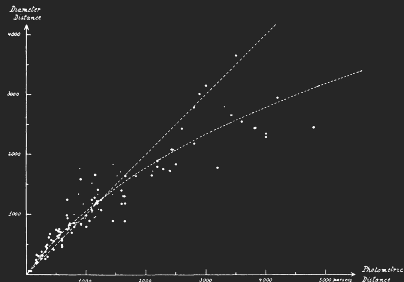
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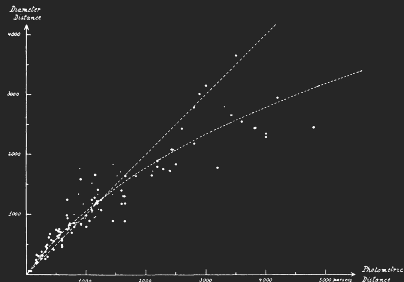
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History | The Modern Era – Technological Opportunities

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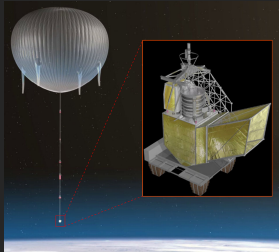
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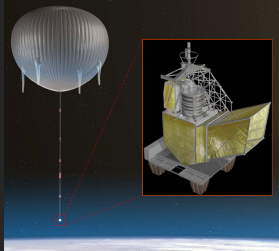
History | Circumventing the Atmospheric Absorption

Balloons & rockets



Credit: PILOT (Bernard et al., 2016).

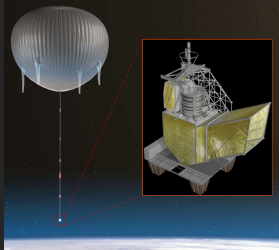
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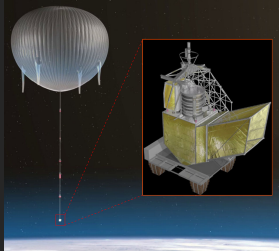
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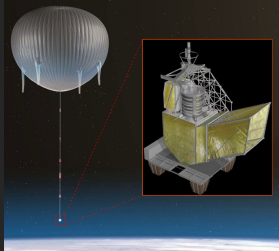


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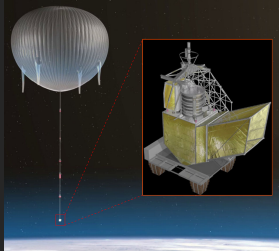
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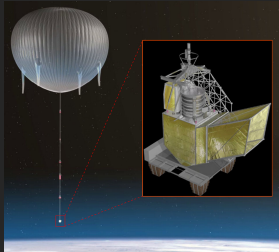
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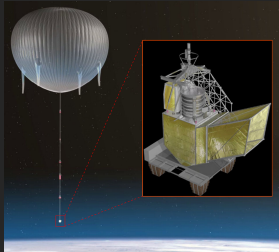
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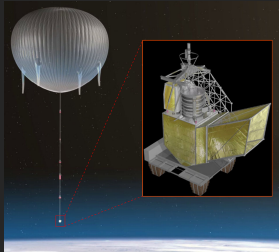
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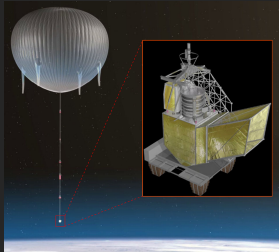
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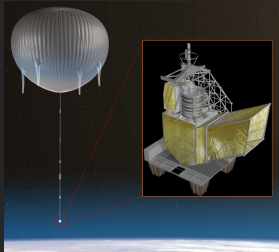
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Balloons & rockets



Credit: PILOT (Bernard et al., 2016).

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1966: a balloon sent by the Goddard Institute mapped the sky at $\lambda = 100 \mu\text{m}$ (Walker, 2000).

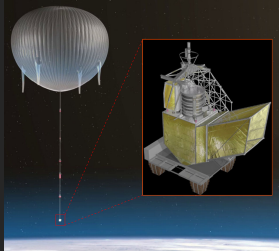
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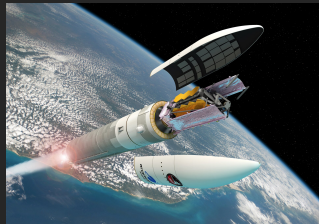
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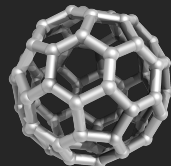
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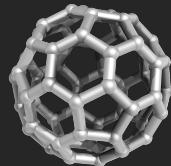
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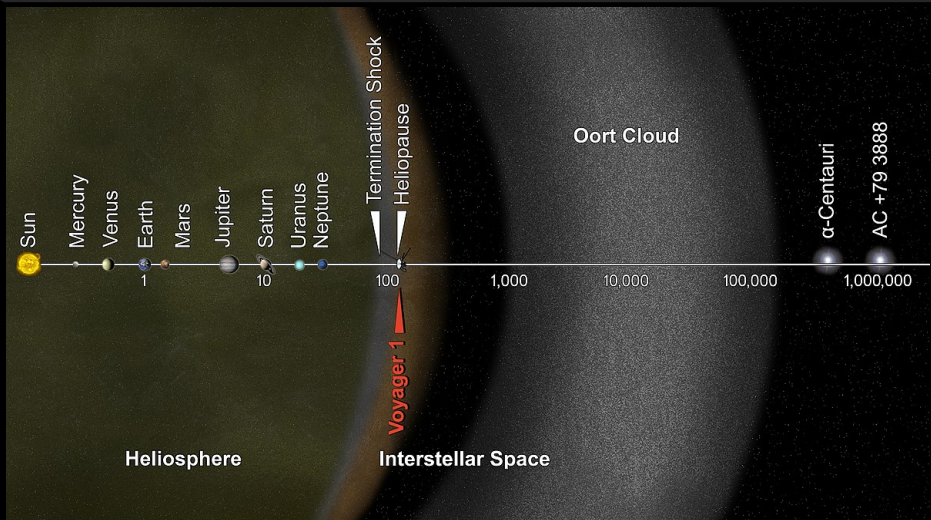
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History | Man-Made Artefacts in the ISM

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Credit: artist concept, NASA / JPL – Caltech

Outline of the Lecture

1 OVERVIEW: WHAT IS THE ISM?

- Composition, physical properties, characteristic regions
- The Milky Way and the diversity of external galaxies
- Recommended bibliography and outline of the course

2 A BRIEF HISTORY OF STUDIES OF THE ISM

- Before the XXth Century
- From astronomy to astrophysics
- The modern era

3 METHODOLOGY: HOW DO WE STUDY INTERSTELLAR MEDIA?

- The microphysical components of the ISM
- The challenges of studying macroscopic regions
- The Sociology of ISMology

4 CONCLUSION

- Take-away points
- References

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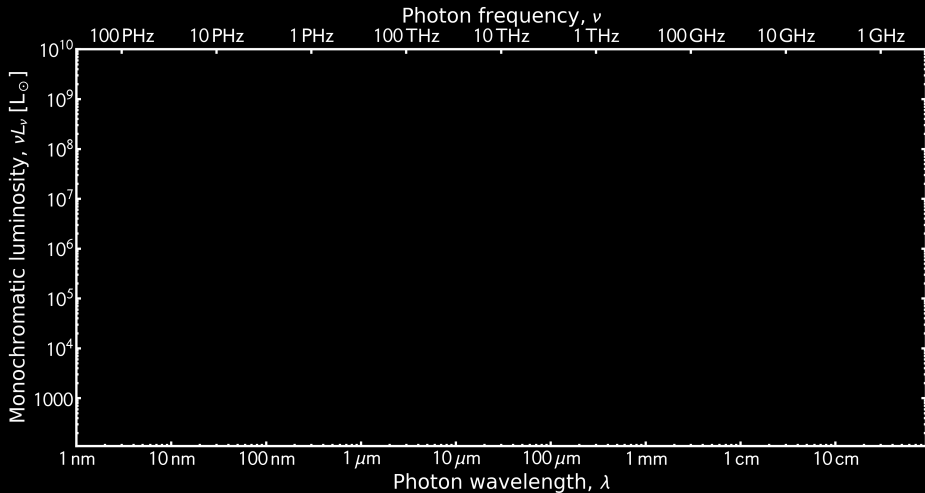
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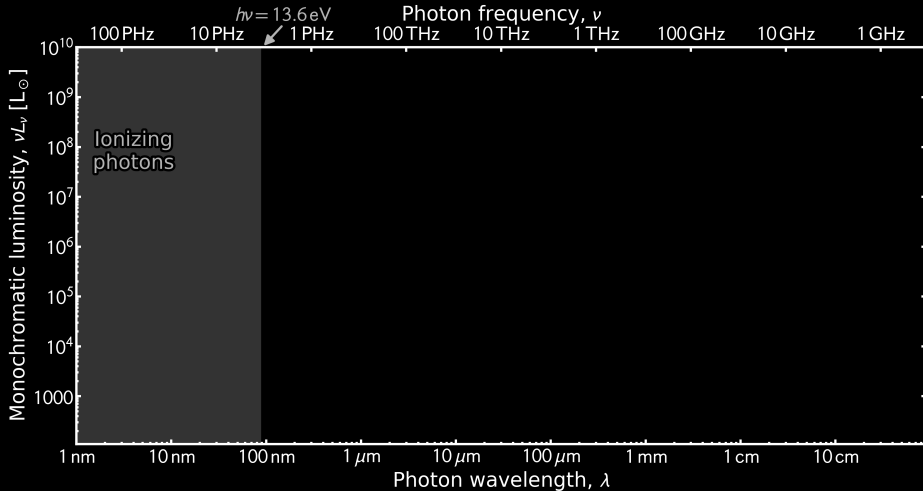
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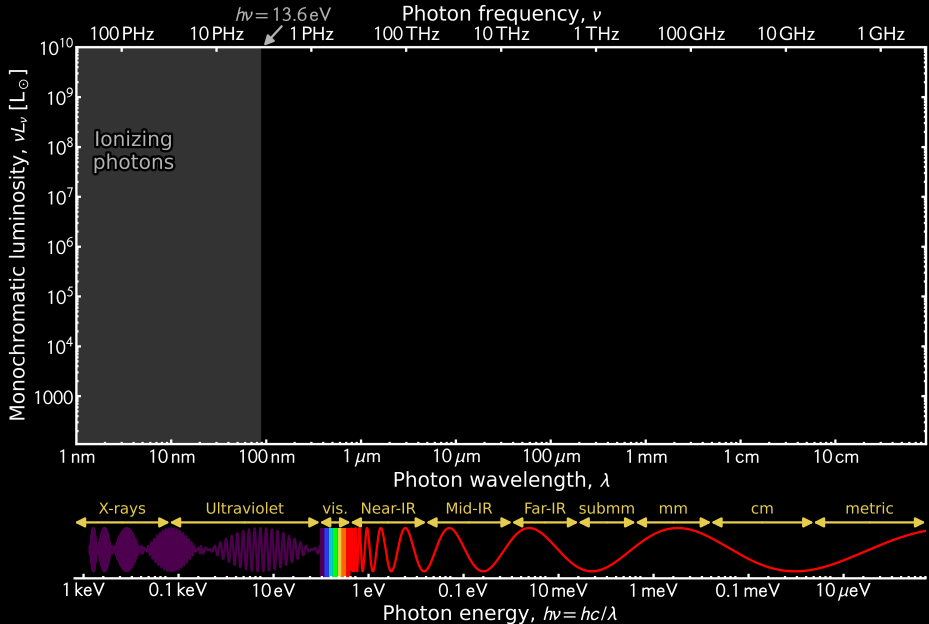
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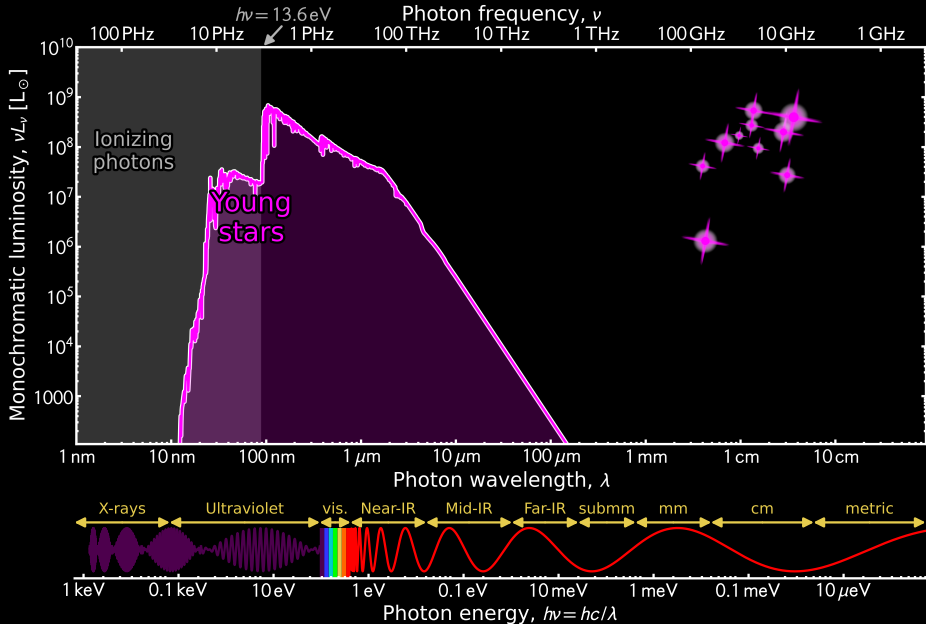
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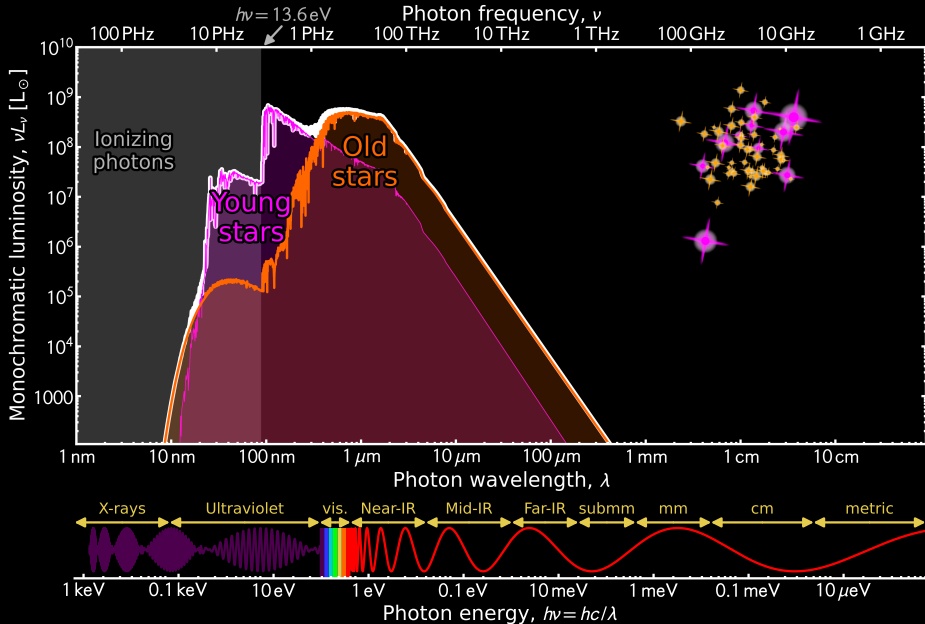
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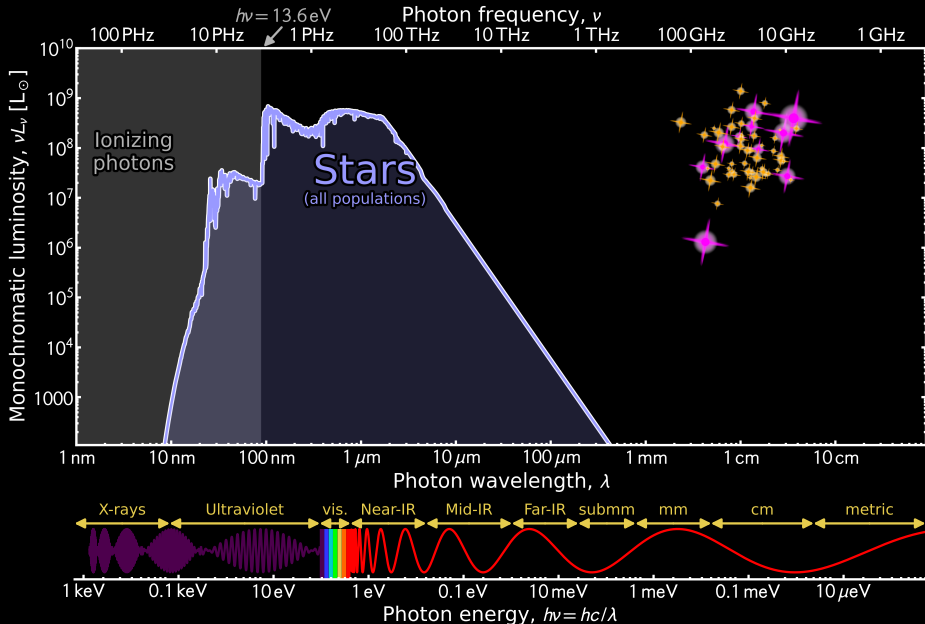
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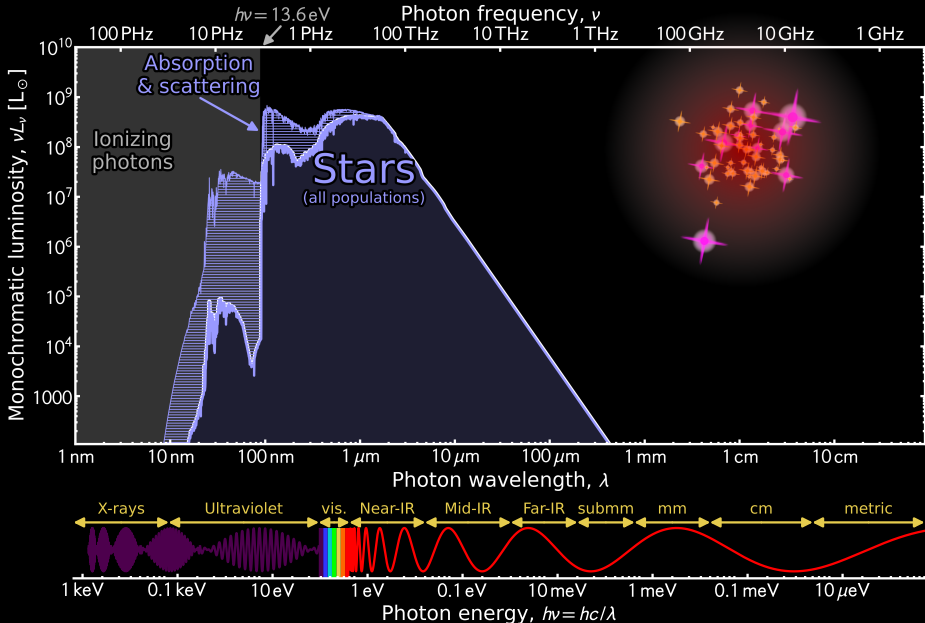
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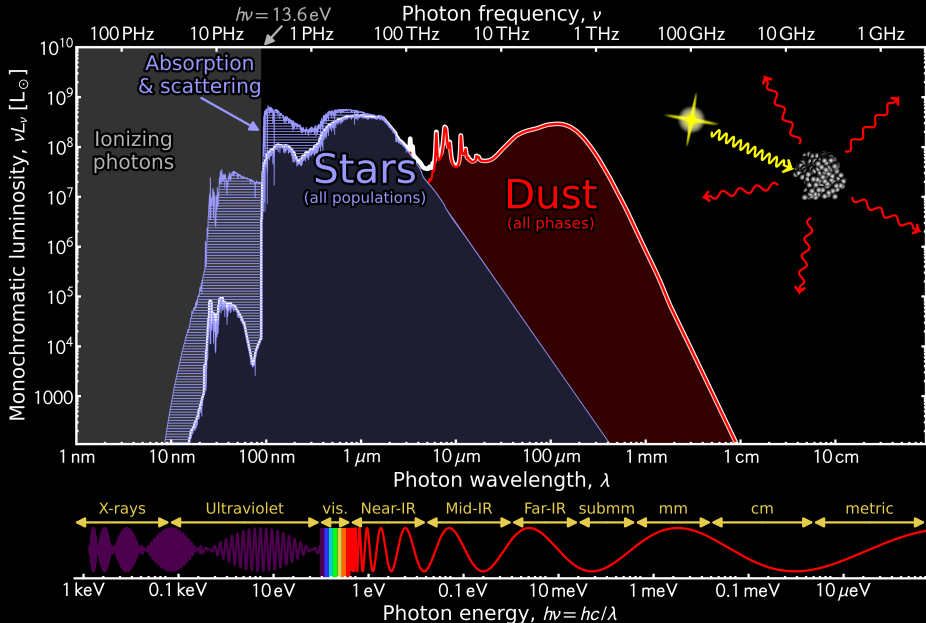
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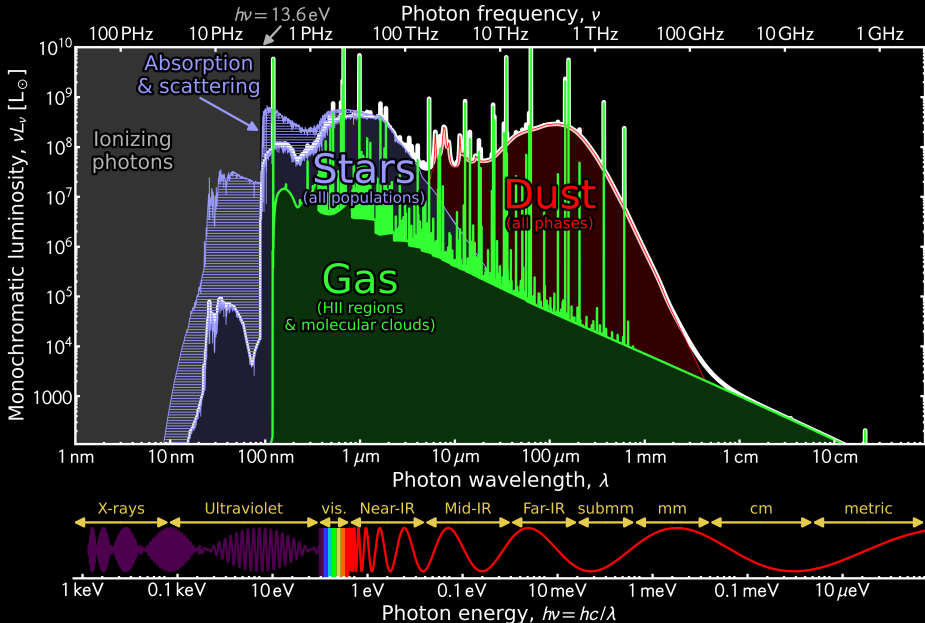
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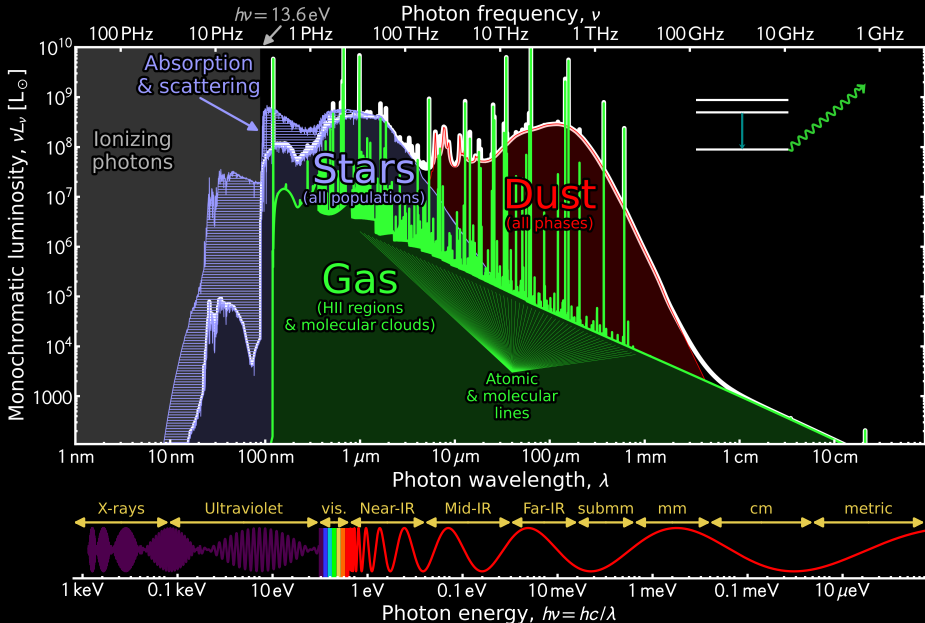
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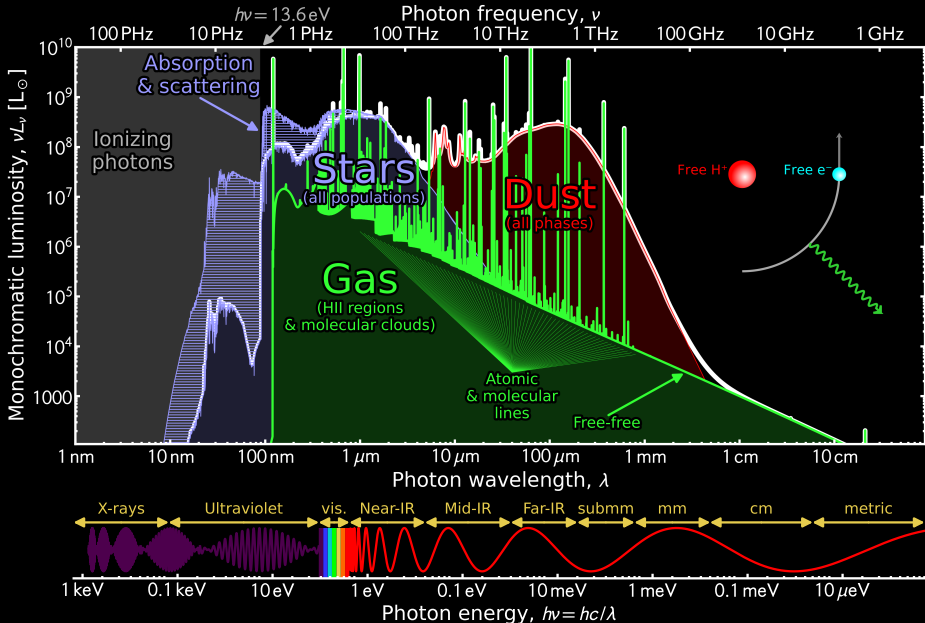
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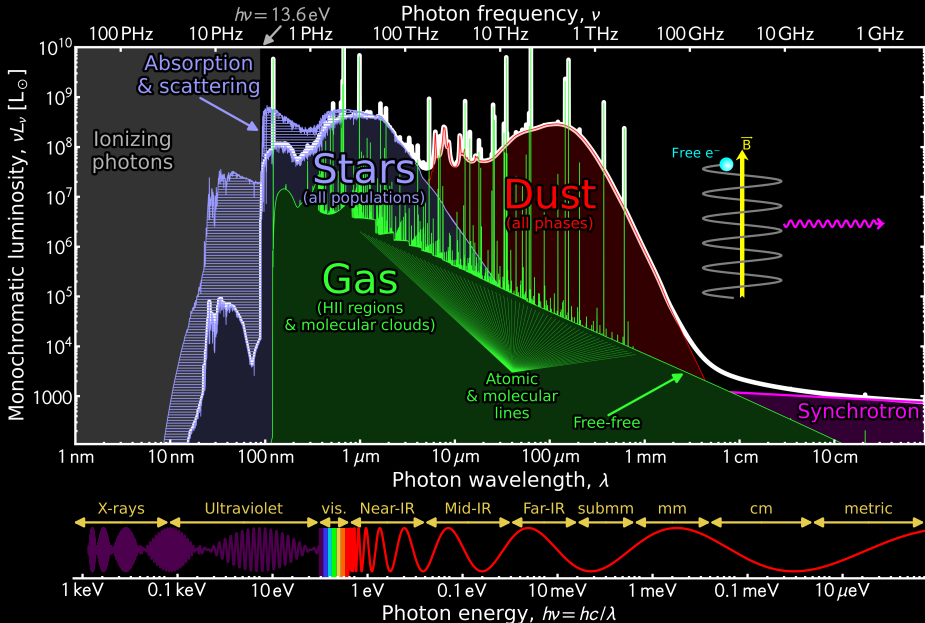
Methods | The Electromagnetic Spectrum of a Gas-Rich Galaxy



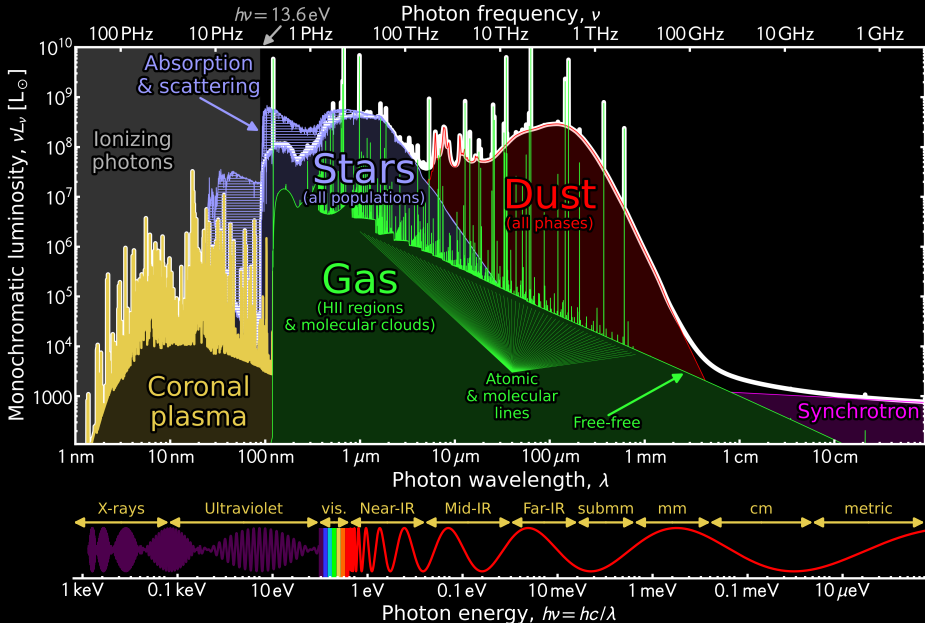
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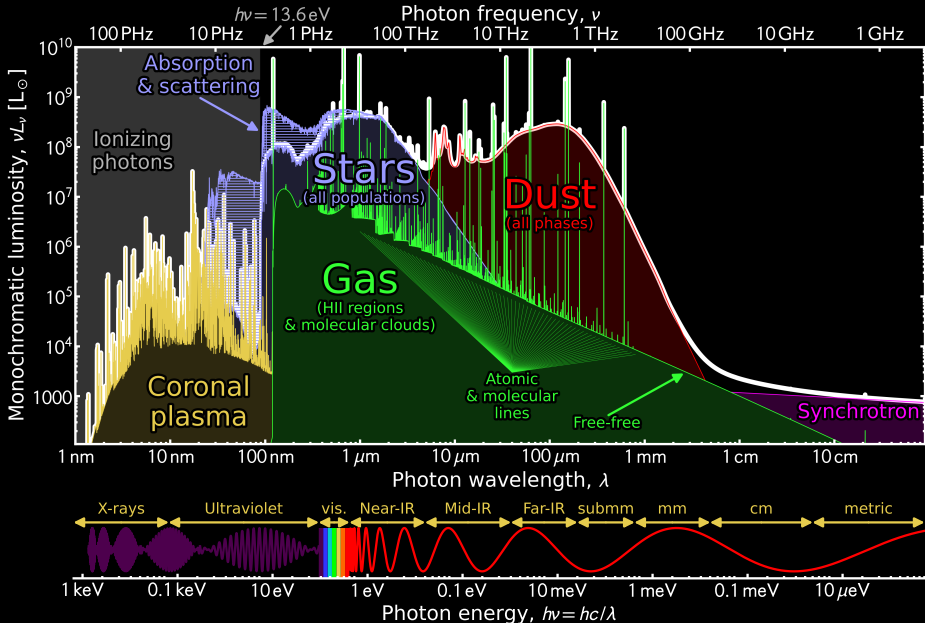
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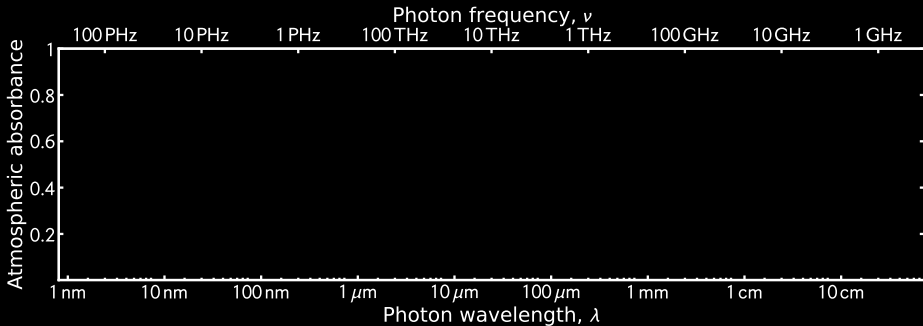
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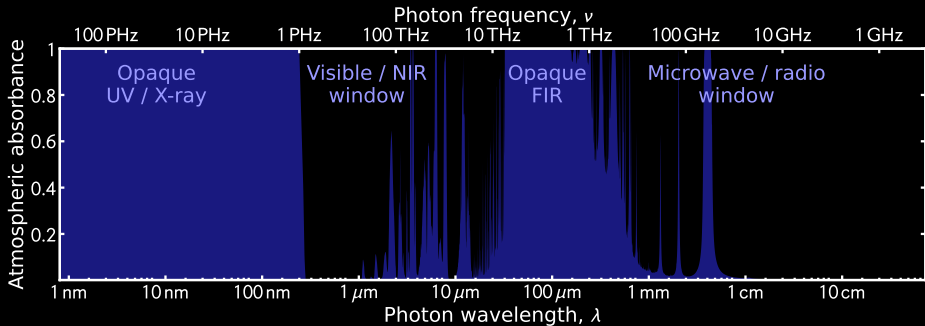
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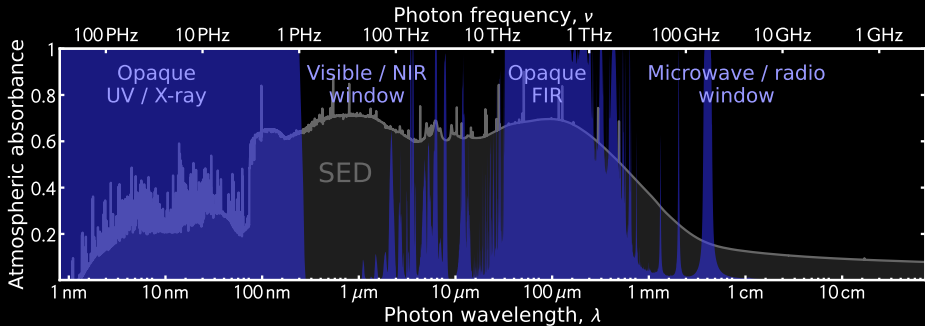
Methods | The Limitations due to the Atmosphere of Earth



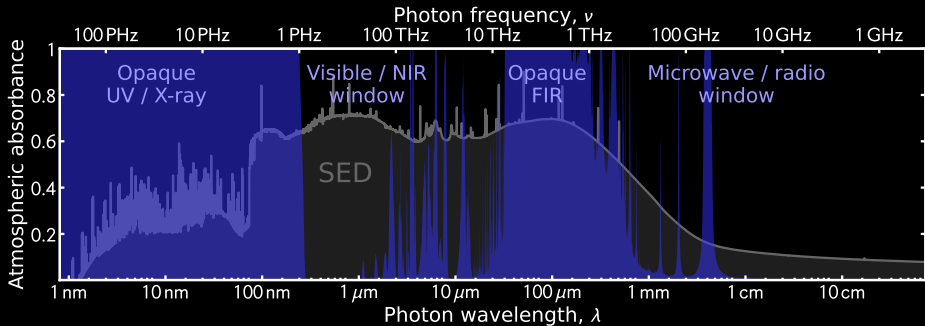
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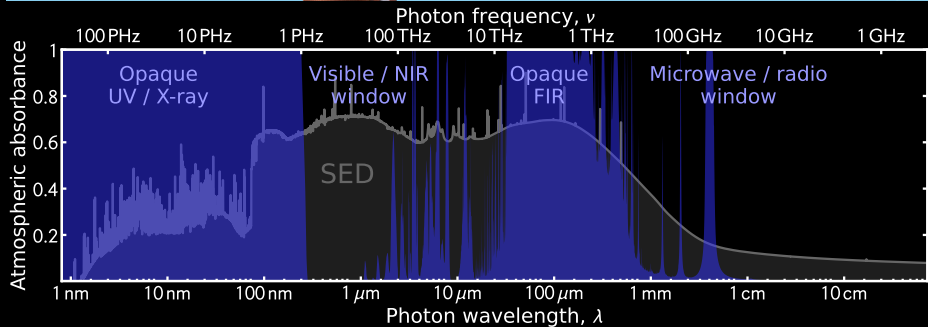
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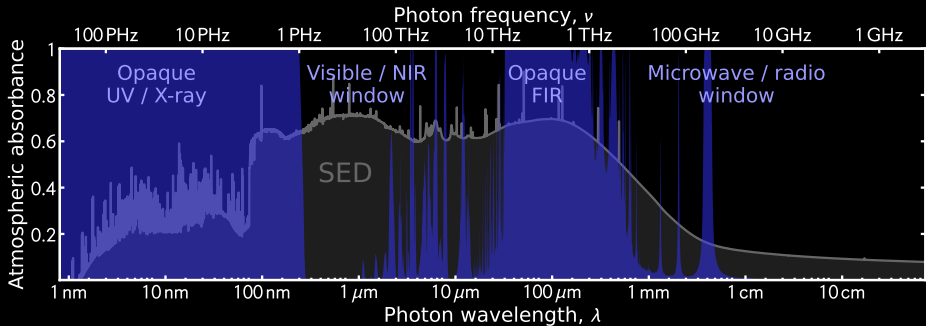
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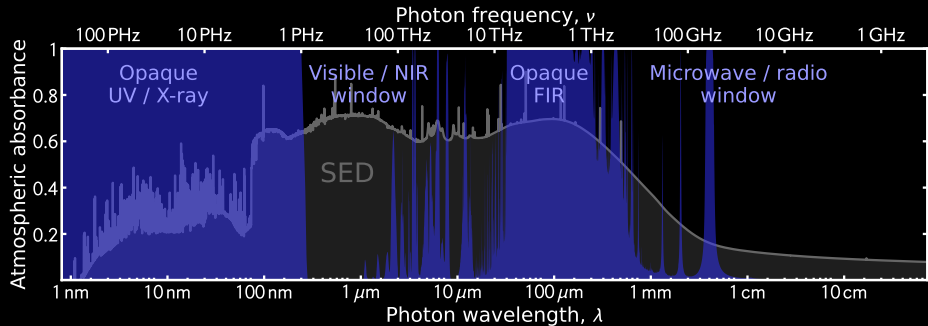
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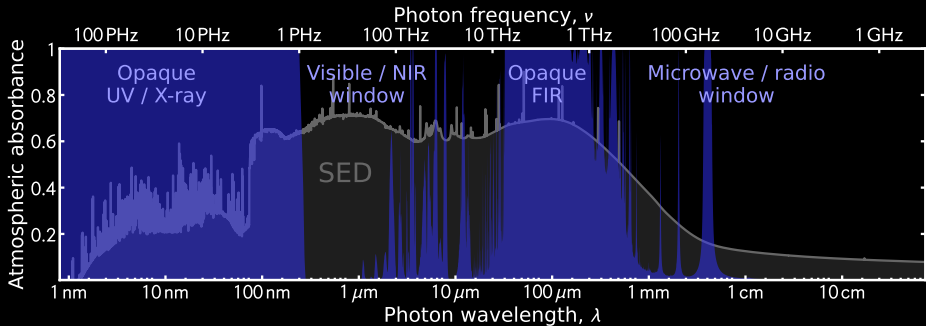
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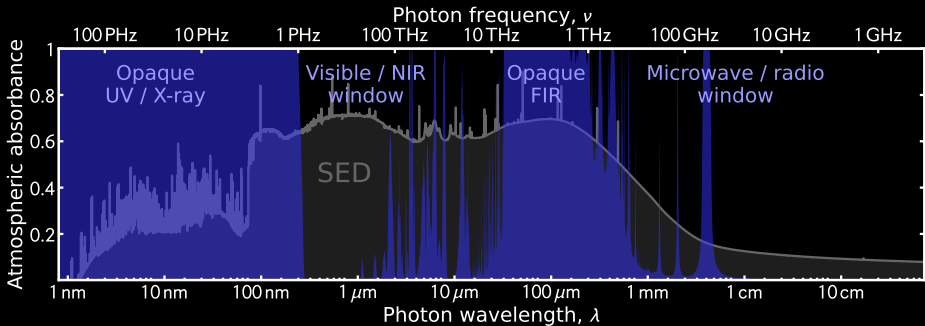
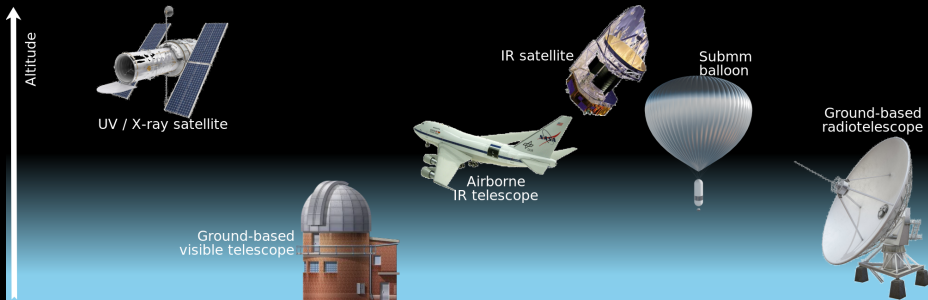
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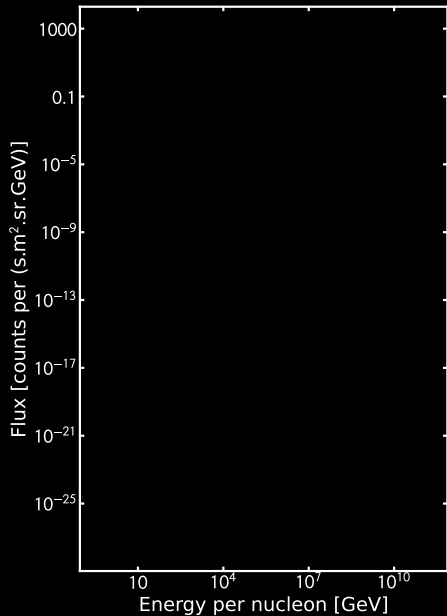


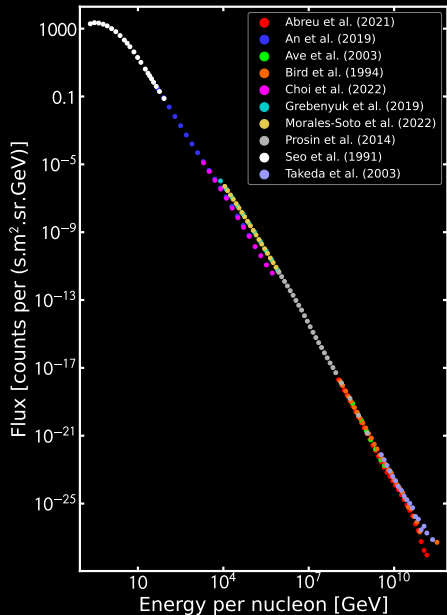
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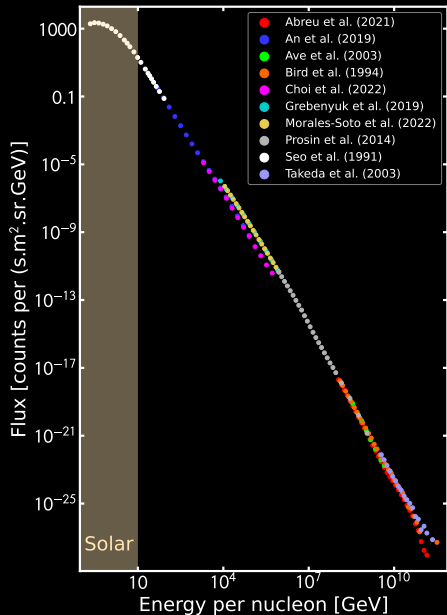


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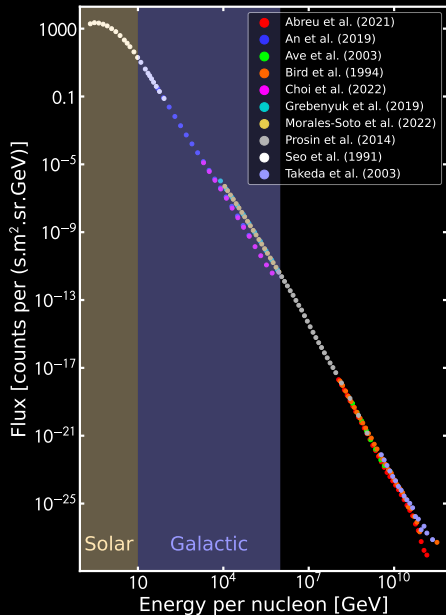




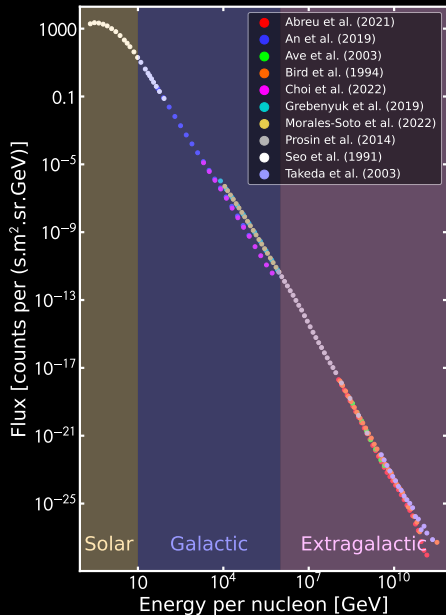




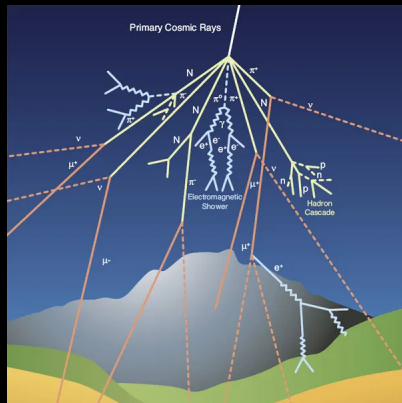
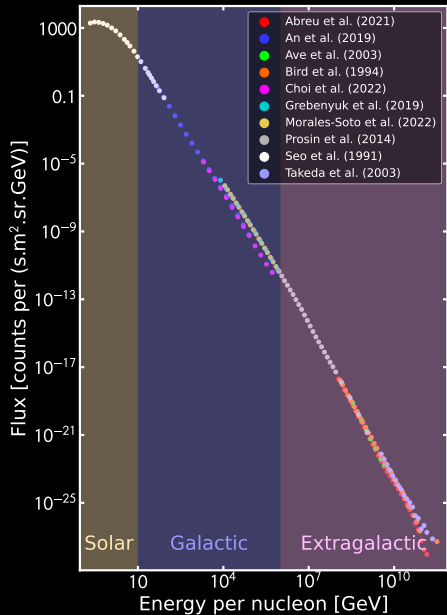
Methods | Cosmic Rays (CRs) in the Interstellar Medium



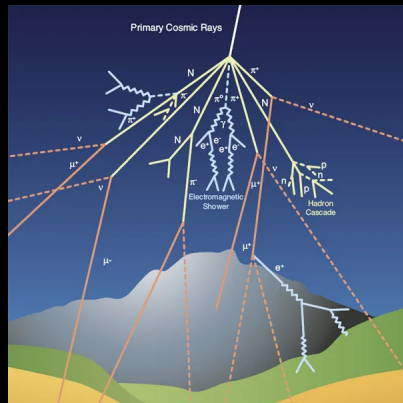
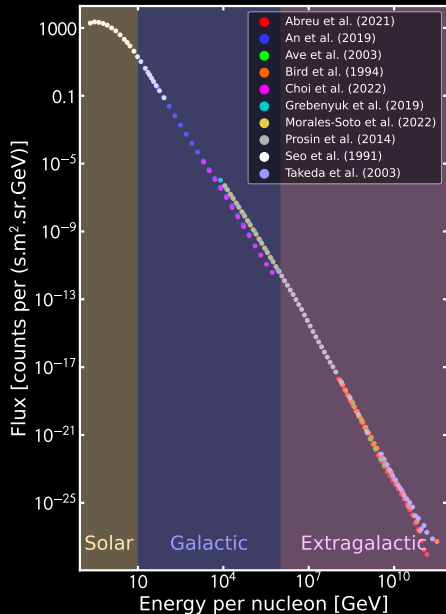
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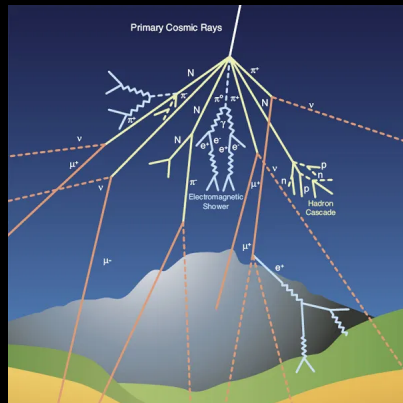
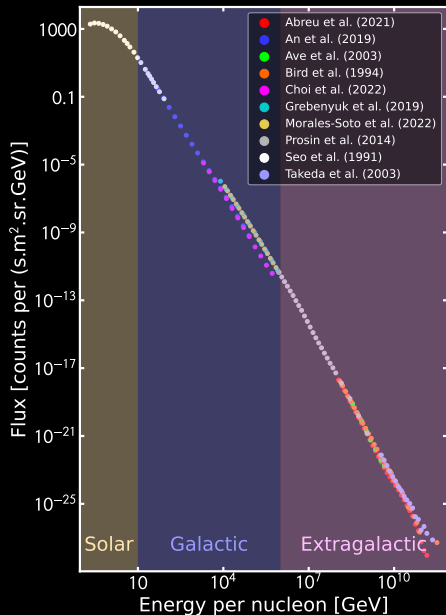


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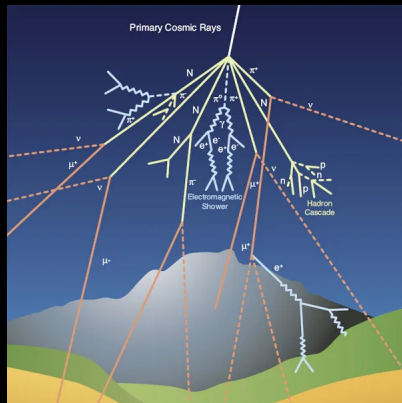
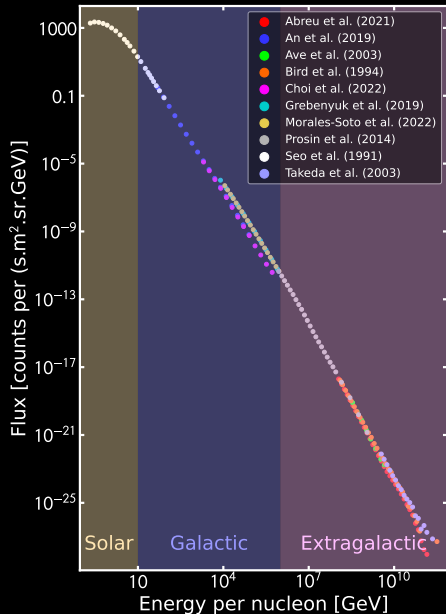
The Relevance of Cosmic Rays for the ISM

Methods | Cosmic Rays (CRs) in the Interstellar Medium



The Relevance of Cosmic Rays for the ISM
Pressure:

Methods | Cosmic Rays (CRs) in the Interstellar Medium

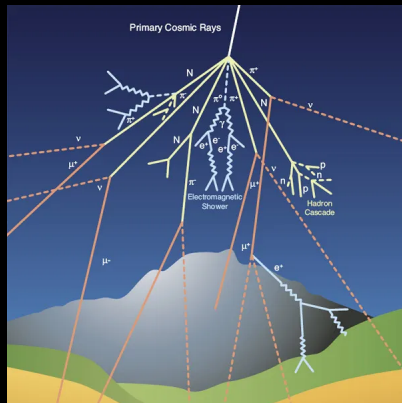
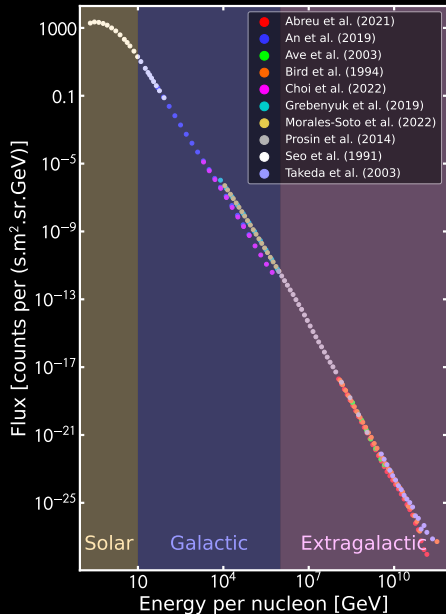


The Relevance of Cosmic Rays for the ISM

Pressure:

$$\approx 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$$

Methods | Cosmic Rays (CRs) in the Interstellar Medium

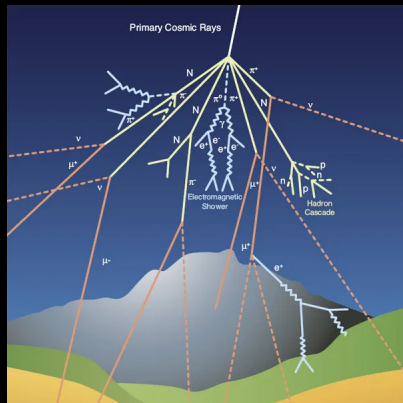
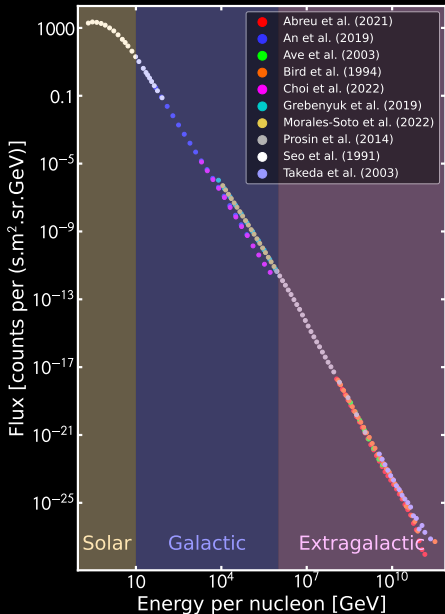


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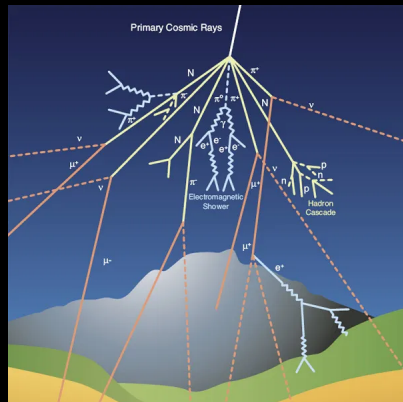
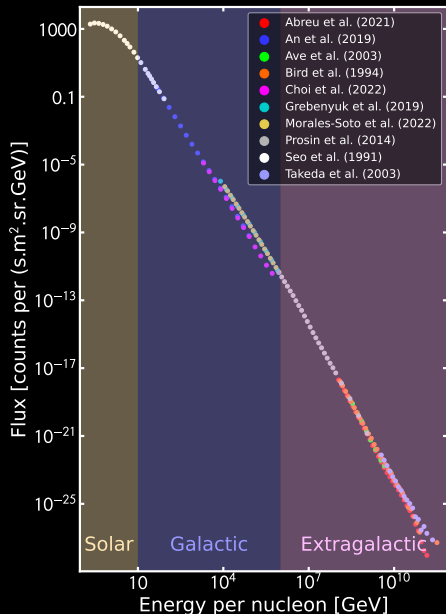


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The Relevance of Cosmic Rays for the ISM

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 $\approx 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ large, non-thermal

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Chemistry: ionizing molecules, processing grains.

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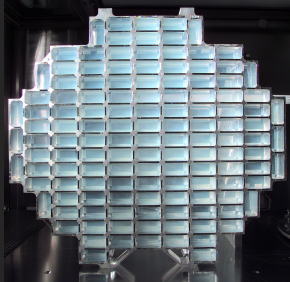
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Aerogel honeycomb matrix

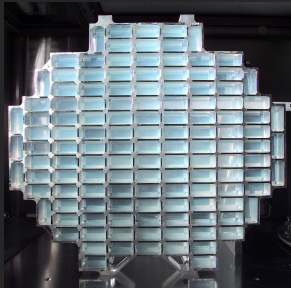


Credit: Stardust, NASA / JPL.

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Aerogel dust track



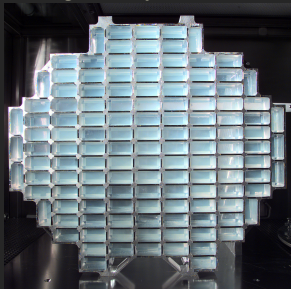
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Methods | Collecting Interstellar Grains in the Solar System

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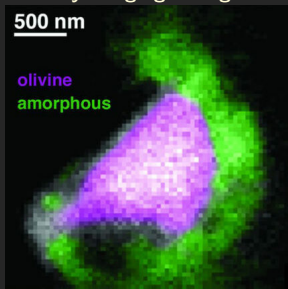
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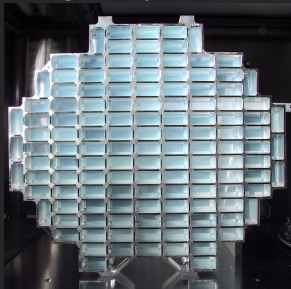
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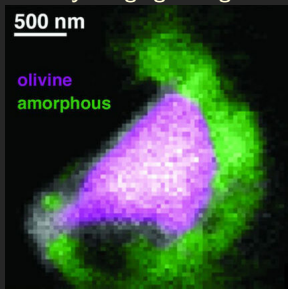
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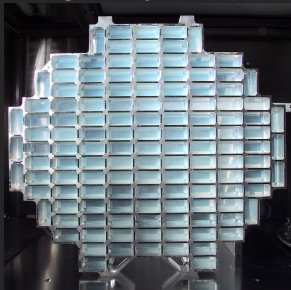
Interstellar grains locked in meteorites

Methods | Collecting Interstellar Grains in the Solar System

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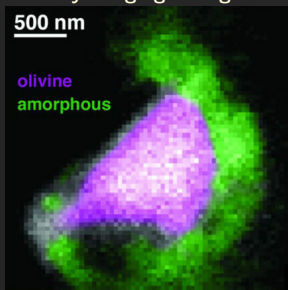
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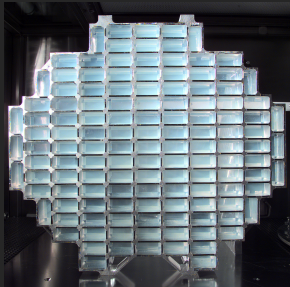
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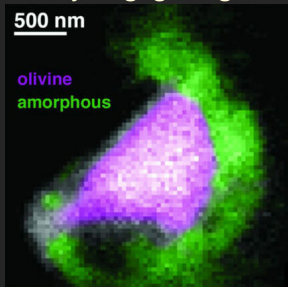
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Aerogel dust track



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Interstellar grains locked in meteorites

- Primitive meteorites contain pre-Solar grains \Rightarrow of interstellar origin.
- \Rightarrow Possibility to identify and study them (e.g. Hoppe & Zinner 2000).

Methods | Collecting Interstellar Grains on Earth



Credit: collecting micrometeorites in Antarctica (Dome C, 2002; CNRS).

ISM targets are usually diffuse & extended

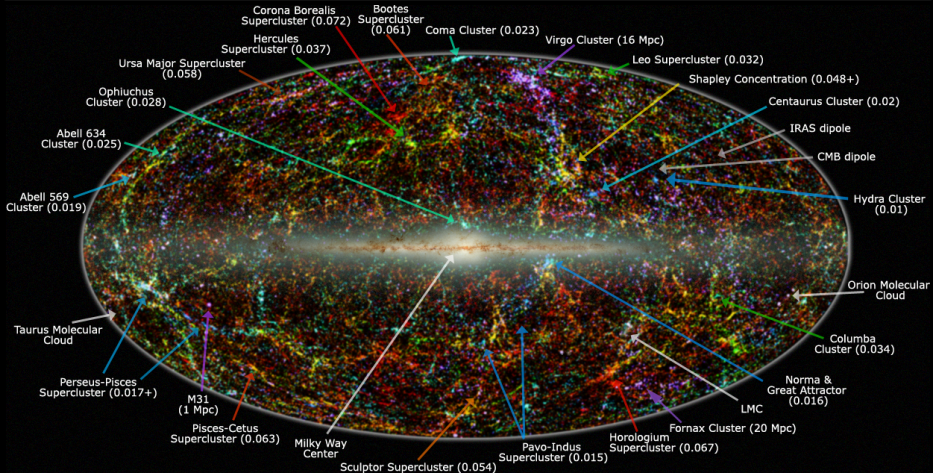
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Methods | The Challenges of Studying Extended Regions

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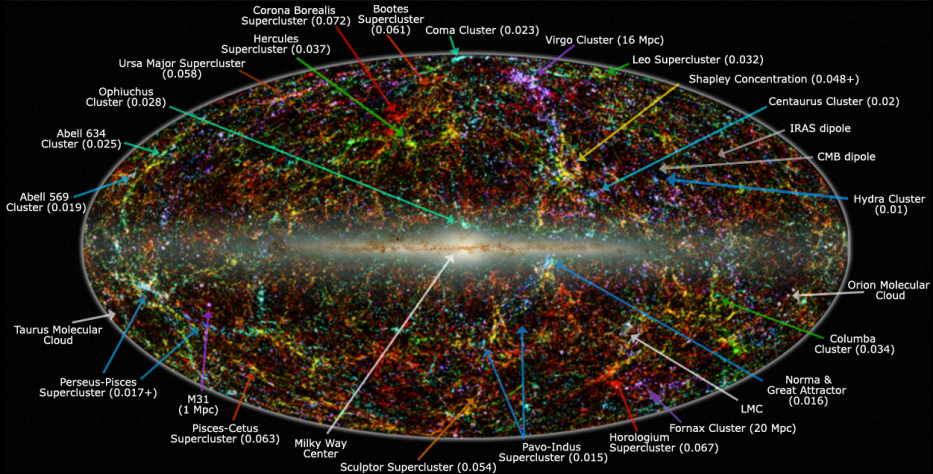


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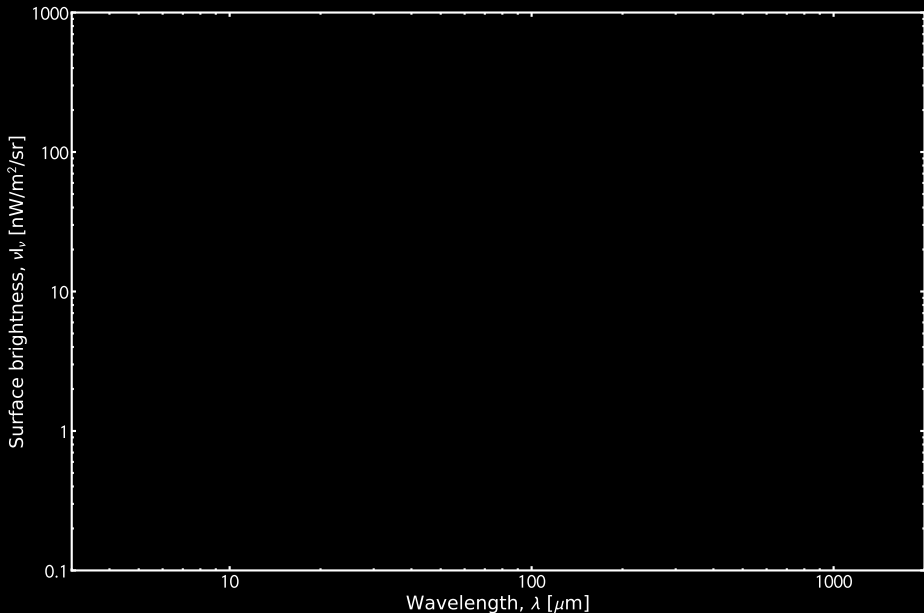
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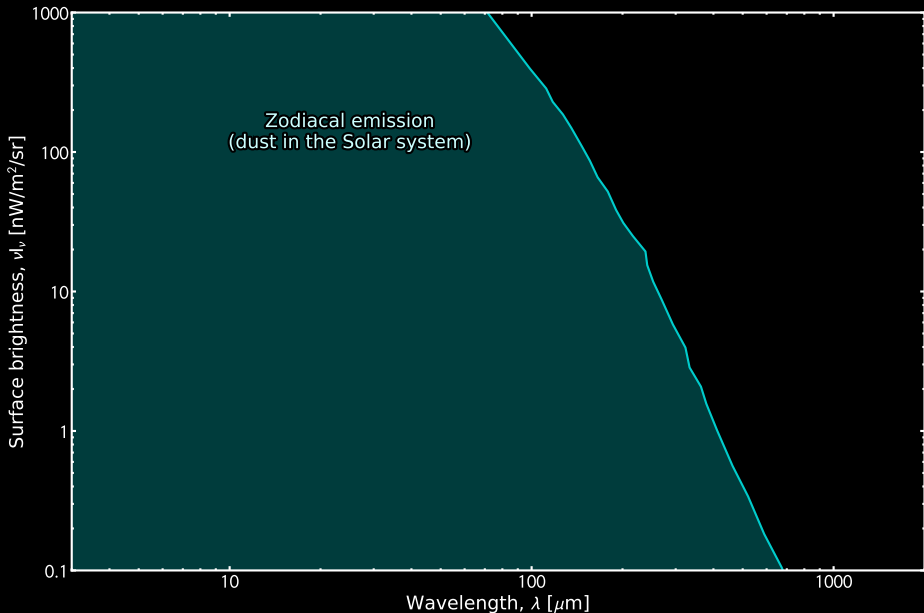
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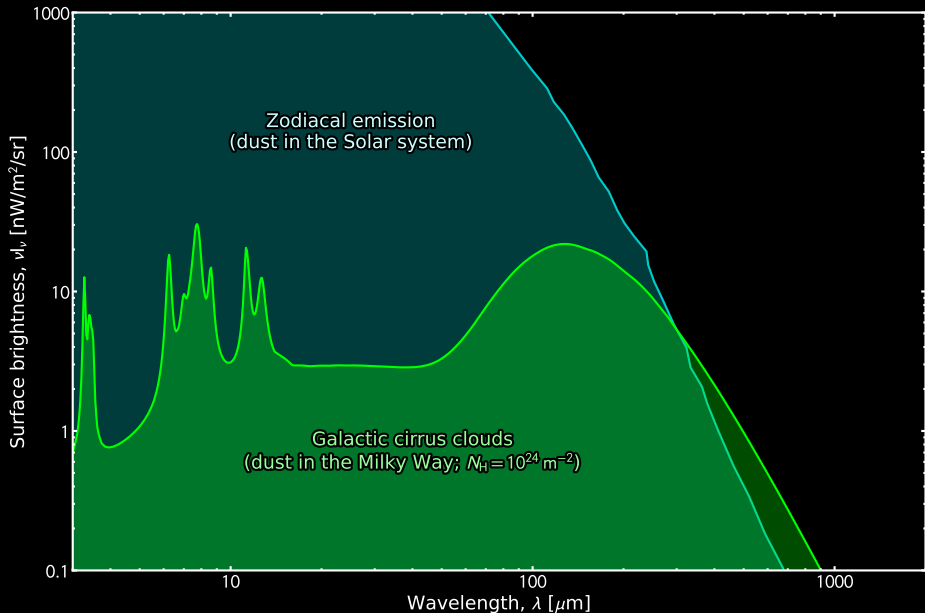
- ISM pervades everything \Rightarrow large fraction of the sky & low-surface brightness.
- \Rightarrow need sophisticated methods to isolate it from the rest.



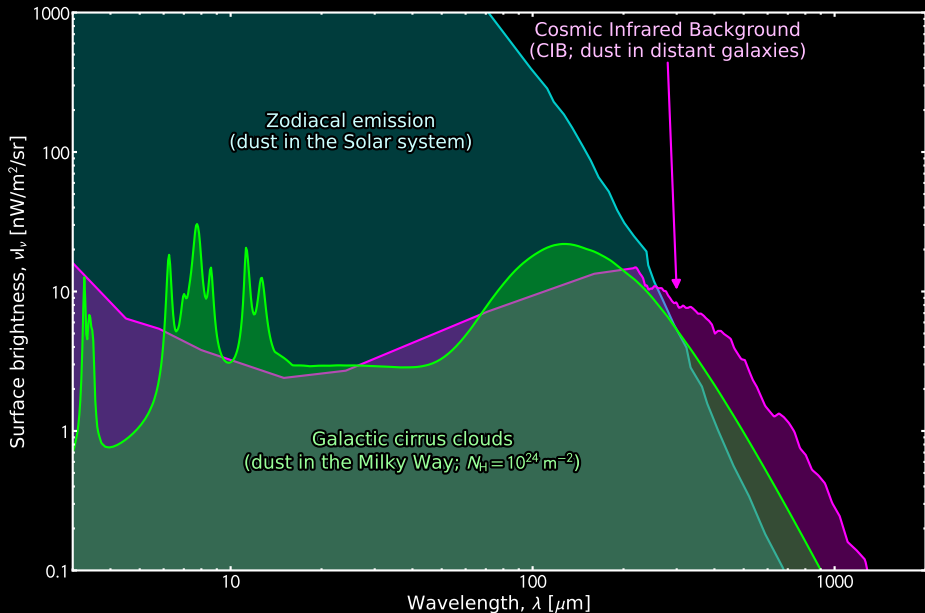
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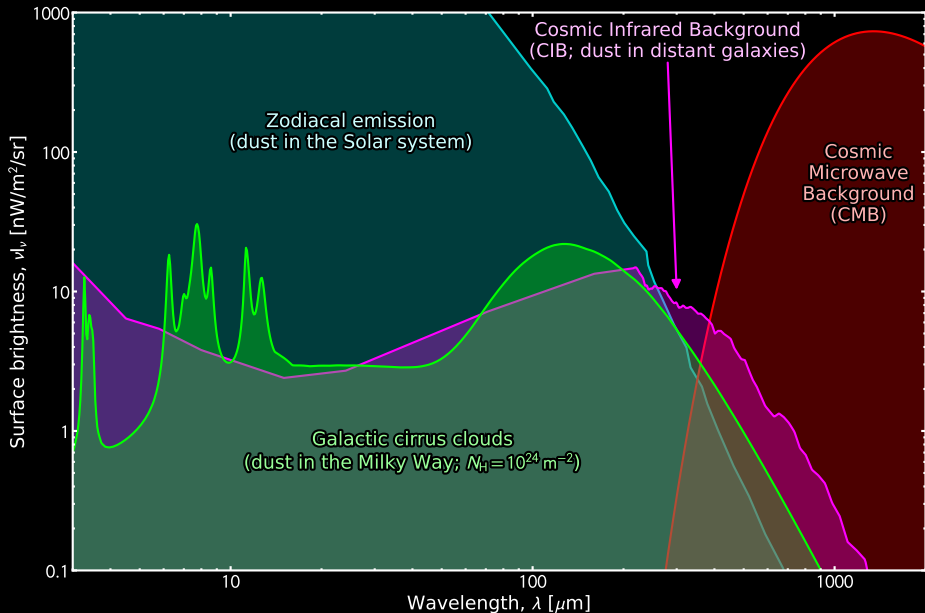




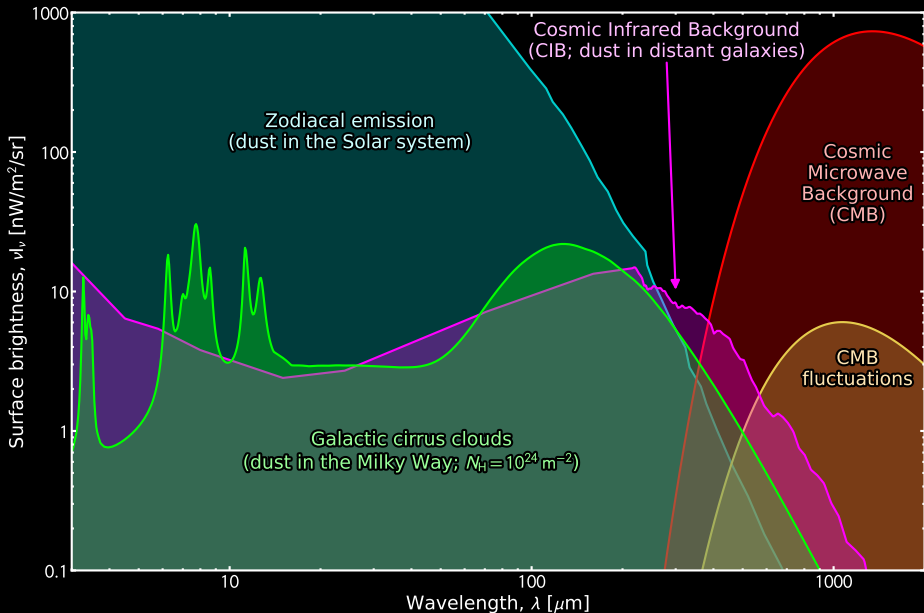
Methods | Spectral Confusion with Backgrounds & Foregrounds



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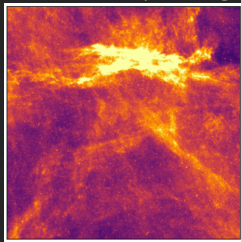
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Herschel 250 μm image



Credit: separation of a high-Galactic-latitude field using *wavelet phase harmonics* (Auclair et al., 2024).

Methods | The Delicate Decomposition of Diffuse Data

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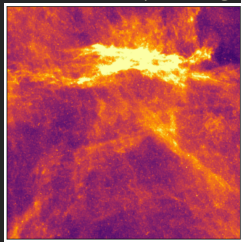
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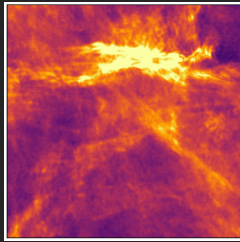
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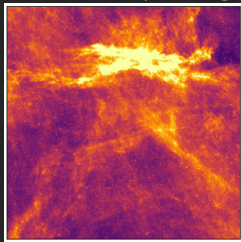
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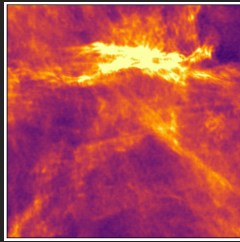
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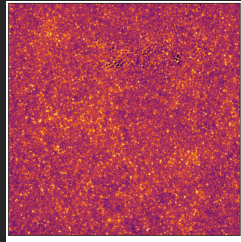
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Residual contamination



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Theory & Simulations



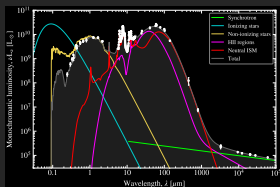
Analytical theory & numerical simulations.

Theory & Simulations



Analytical theory & numerical simulations.

Models



Accurate comparison of theory & observations.

Theory & Simulations



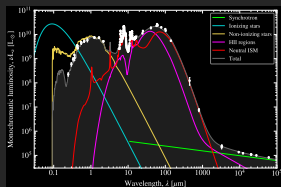
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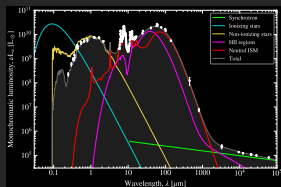
Analytical theory & numerical simulations.

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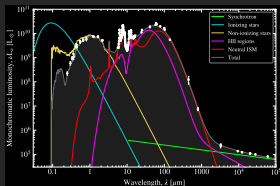
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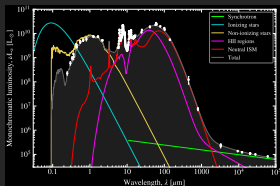
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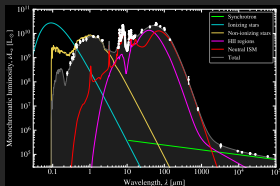
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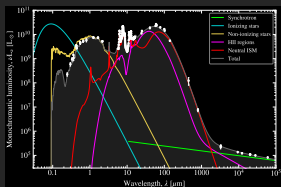
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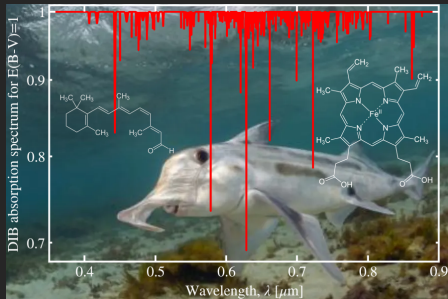
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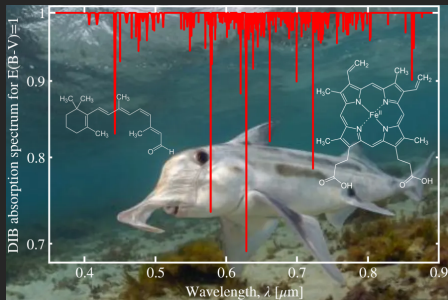
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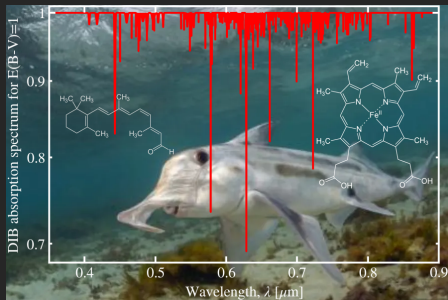
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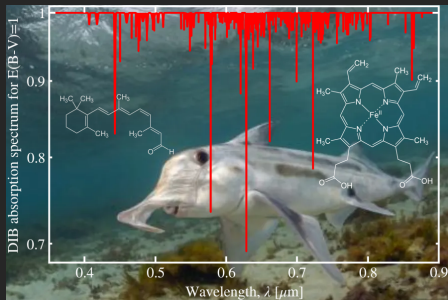
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ISM \Rightarrow the most beautiful images.

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Outline of the Lecture

1 OVERVIEW: WHAT IS THE ISM?

- Composition, physical properties, characteristic regions
- The Milky Way and the diversity of external galaxies
- Recommended bibliography and outline of the course

2 A BRIEF HISTORY OF STUDIES OF THE ISM

- Before the XXth Century
- From astronomy to astrophysics
- The modern era

3 METHODOLOGY: HOW DO WE STUDY INTERSTELLAR MEDIA?

- The microphysical components of the ISM
- The challenges of studying macroscopic regions
- The Sociology of ISMology

4 CONCLUSION

- Take-away points
- References

Conclusion | Take-Away Points

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- 2 Due to the diffuse nature of the ISM's emission, confusion is a major limitation.
- 3 Working on the ISM can imply a wide range of approaches & some inter-disciplinarity.

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