

Cosmic rays in a turbulent interstellar medium: Recent progress and open questions

Philipp Mertsch

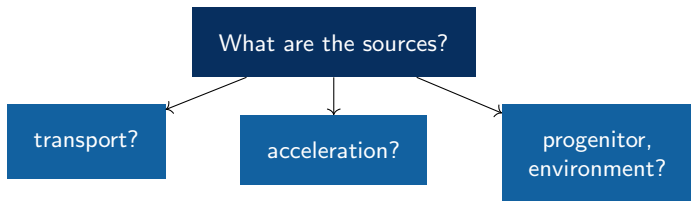
*with Marco Kuhlen, Hanno Jacobs, Minh Phan,
Georg Schwefer, Anton Stall and Christopher Wiebusch*

6th cosmic ray anisotropy workshop
16 May 2023

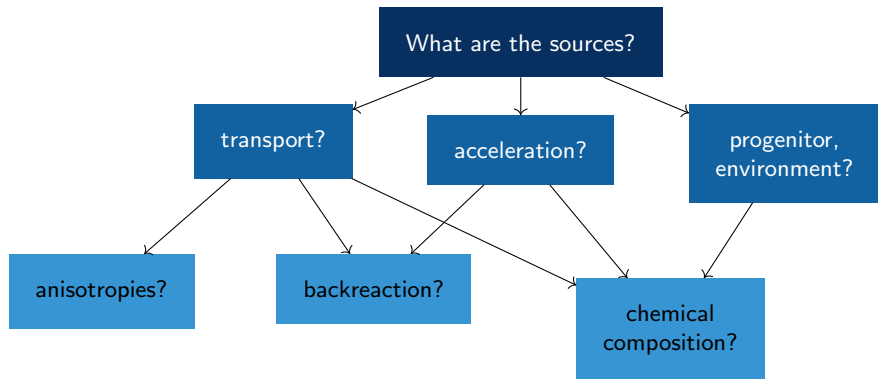
What are the sources of cosmic rays?

What are the sources?

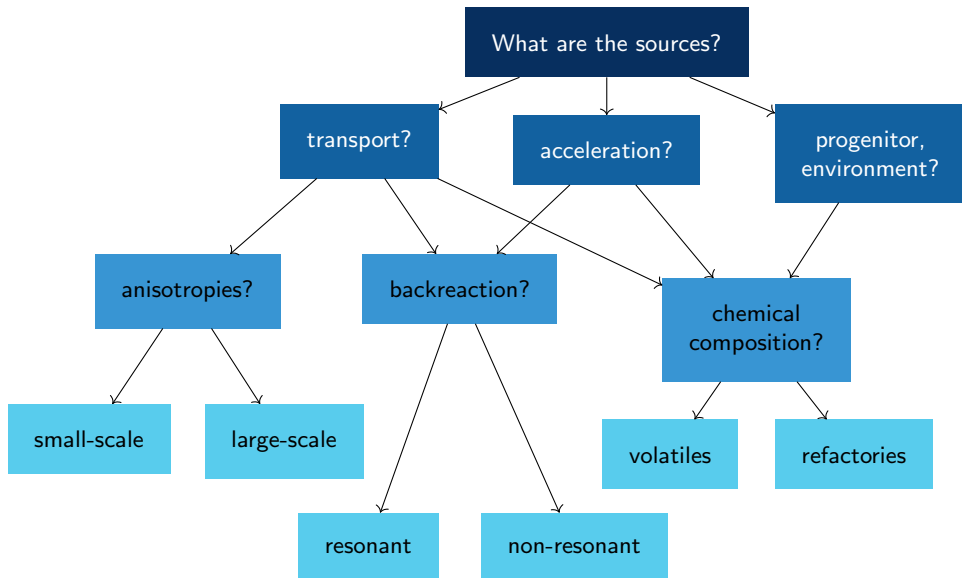
What are the sources of cosmic rays?



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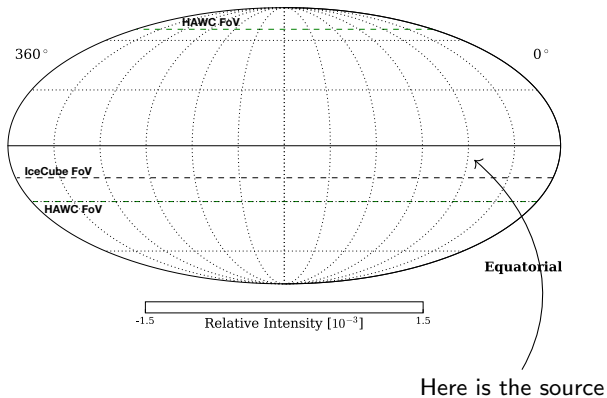


What are the sources of cosmic rays?



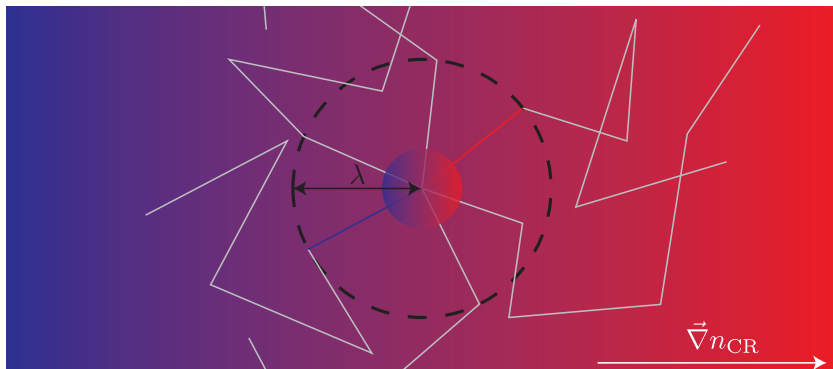
Cosmic ray dipole

Abeyssekara *et al.* (2019)



$$\psi(\mathbf{p}) = \psi_0(p)(1 + \mathbf{a} \hat{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}} + \dots) \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{a} = \frac{\lambda \nabla \psi}{\psi}$$

Cosmic ray dipole



- Amplitude:
$$a \equiv \frac{\phi_{\max} - \phi_{\min}}{\phi_{\max} + \phi_{\min}} \sim \frac{\psi(\mathbf{r} + \lambda \hat{\mathbf{a}}) - \psi(\mathbf{r} - \lambda \hat{\mathbf{a}})}{\psi(\mathbf{r} + \lambda \hat{\mathbf{a}}) + \psi(\mathbf{r} - \lambda \hat{\mathbf{a}})} = \frac{\lambda |\nabla \psi|}{\psi}$$
- Direction:
$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} \sim \nabla \psi$$

Cosmic ray dipole

Mertsch & Funk (2014); also Ahlers (2016)

Assumptions

- 1 No coherent magnetic field
- 2 No deviations from average over **B**-fields

$$\psi(\mathbf{p}) = \psi_0(p)(1 + \mathbf{a} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}} + \dots) \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{a} = \frac{\lambda \nabla \psi}{\psi}$$

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$$\psi(\mathbf{p}) = \psi_0(p)(1 + a \underbrace{\hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}}_{\mu = \cos \theta} + \dots) \quad \text{with} \quad a \simeq \frac{\lambda \hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \nabla \psi}{\psi}$$

The dipole does not point back to the source and its amplitude is reduced by the projection.

Cosmic ray dipole

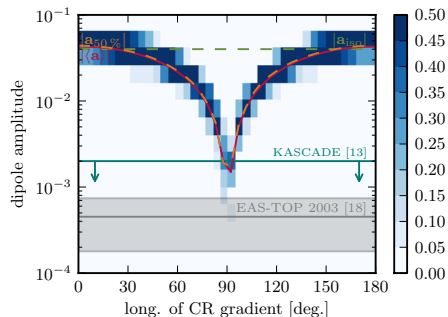
Mertsch & Funk (2014); also Ahlers (2016)

Assumptions

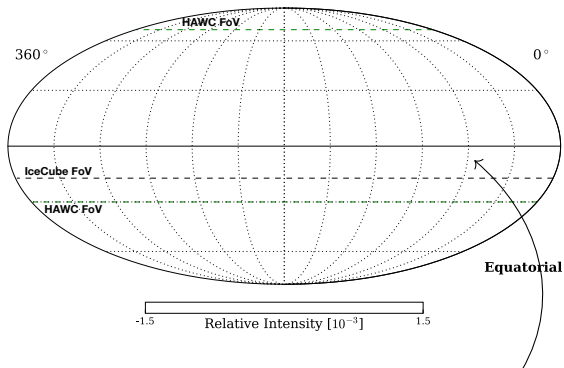
- 1 No coherent magnetic field
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$$\langle \psi(\mathbf{p}) \rangle = \psi_0(p) (1 + a \underbrace{\hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}}_{\mu = \cos \theta} + \dots) \quad \text{with} \quad a \simeq \frac{\lambda \hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \nabla \psi}{\psi}$$

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Cosmic ray dipole

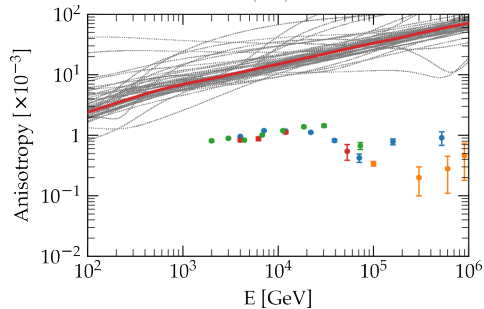
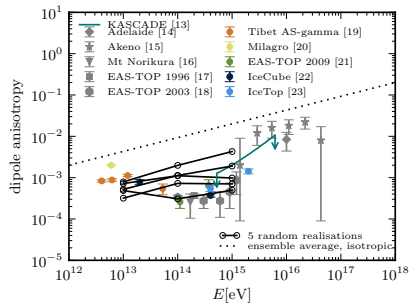
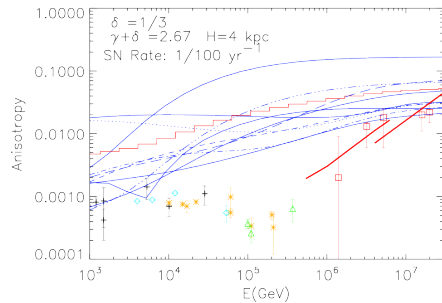
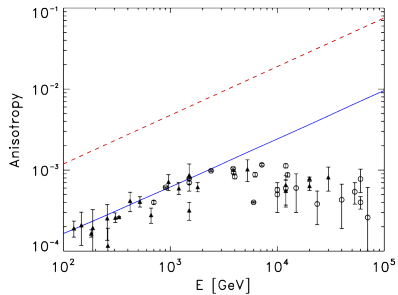


Here is the **B-field**

$$\langle \psi(\mathbf{p}) \rangle = \psi_0(p) \left(1 + a \underbrace{\hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}}_{\mu = \cos \theta} + \dots \right) \quad \text{with} \quad a \simeq \frac{\lambda \hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \nabla \psi}{\psi}$$

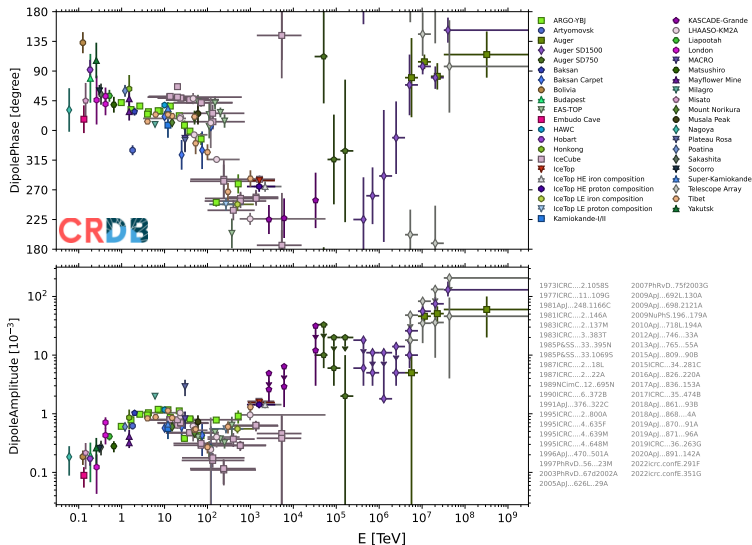
Dipole anisotropies as a constraint

Amato & Blasi (2012); Evoli *et al.* (2012); Mertsch & Funk (2014); Evoli *et al.* (2022)



Dipole data in CRDB

with M. Ahlers, H. Dembinski, D. Maurin

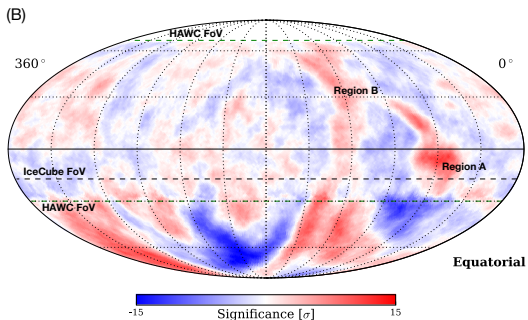
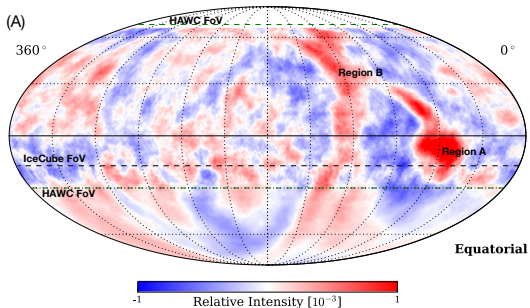


- CR database: <https://lpsc.in2p3.fr/crdb/>
- Python package crdb: <https://github.com/crdb-project>

Outline

- ① Motivation
- ② Small-scale anisotropies
- ③ Test-particle simulations
- ④ Suppressed diffusion
- ⑤ Conclusions

Small-scale anisotropies



- subtract off dipole and quadrupole
- smooth with 5° disk
- small-scale features

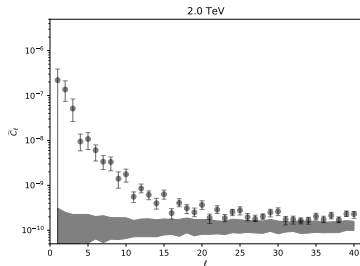
Abeysekara *et al.*, ApJ 871 (2019) 96

- Energy-dependence
- No time-dependence

Angular power spectrum

HAWC

Abeysekara *et al.*, ApJ 796
(2014) 108 Abeysekara *et al.*,
ApJ 865 (2018) 57

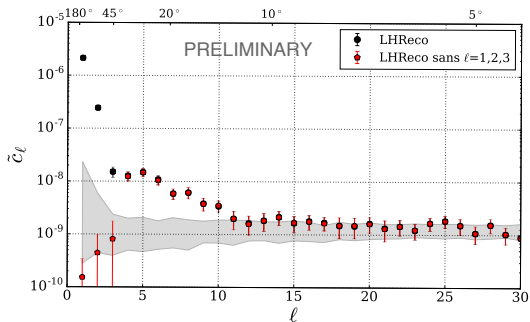


IceCube

Aartsen *et al.*, ApJ 826 (2016)
220

IceCube+HAWC

Abeysekara *et al.*, ApJ 871
(2019) 96



Diffusion approximation

Jokipii (1968)

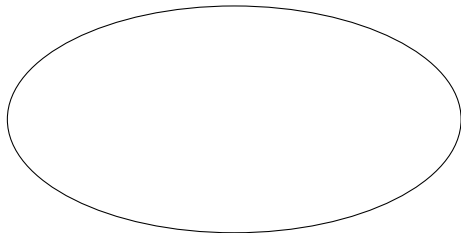
- Decompose $\langle f \rangle$ into series in pitch-angle cosine μ :

$$\langle f \rangle(p, \mu, t) = g(p, t) + h(p, \mu, t)$$

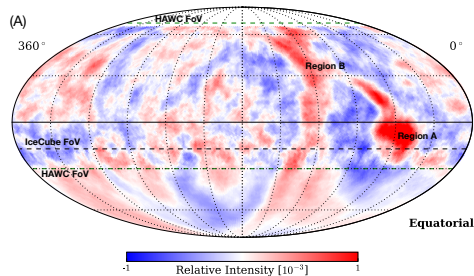
where

$$h(p, \mu, t) = -\frac{v}{2} \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \int d\mu \frac{1 - \mu^2}{D_{\mu\mu}} + \text{const.}$$

- If scattering is isotropic, $D_{\mu\mu} \propto (1 - \mu^2) \rightarrow h(\mu) \propto \mu$: dipole
- Example: Second-order quasi-linear theory Shalchi (2005)



VS



Small-scale turbulence and ensemble averaging

- In standard diffusion, compute C_ℓ from $\langle f \rangle$:

$$C_\ell^{\text{std}} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1 \int d\hat{\mathbf{p}}_2 P_\ell(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}_2) \langle f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1) \rangle \langle f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_2) \rangle$$

- However, in an individual realisation of δB , $\delta f = f - \langle f \rangle \neq 0$

$$\langle C_\ell \rangle = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1 \int d\hat{\mathbf{p}}_2 P_\ell(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}_2) \langle f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1) f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_2) \rangle$$

- If $f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1)$ and $f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_2)$ are correlated,

$$\langle f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1) f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_2) \rangle \geq \langle f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1) \rangle \langle f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_2) \rangle \quad \Rightarrow \quad \langle C_\ell \rangle \geq C_\ell^{\text{std}}$$

Source of the small scale anisotropies?

Giacinti & Sigl, PRL 109 (2012) 071101

Ahlers, PRL 112 (2014) 021101, Ahlers & Mertsch, ApJL 815 (2015) L2, Pohl & Rettig, Proc. 36th ICRC (2016) 451,

López-Barquero et al., ApJ 830 (2016) 19, López-Barquero et al. ApJ 842 (2017) 54, Mertsch & Ahlers (2019), Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

Gradient ansatz

Mertsch & Ahlers (2019), Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

- Vlasov equation:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{df}{dt} &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \dot{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} f + \frac{q\mathbf{v}}{c} \times (\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle + \delta \mathbf{B}) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} f \\ &\simeq \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \underbrace{(c\hat{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} + q(\hat{\mathbf{p}} \times \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}})}_{\mathcal{L}} f + \underbrace{(q(\hat{\mathbf{p}} \times \delta \mathbf{B}) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}})}_{\delta \mathcal{L}} f = 0\end{aligned}$$

- Gradient ansatz:

$$f(\mathbf{r}, \hat{\mathbf{p}}) = f_{\oplus}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}) + (\mathbf{r}_{\oplus} - \mathbf{r}) \cdot \mathbf{G},$$

→ Dipolar source term in the Vlasov equation:

$$\frac{\partial f_{\oplus}}{\partial t} + \underbrace{(q(\hat{\mathbf{p}} \times \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}})}_{\mathcal{L}'} f_{\oplus} + \underbrace{(q(\hat{\mathbf{p}} \times \delta \mathbf{B}) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}})}_{\delta \mathcal{L}} f_{\oplus} = c \hat{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{G}$$

Mixing matrices

Mertsch & Ahlers (2019), Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

- Define propagator:

$$U_{t,t_0} = \mathcal{T} \exp \left[- \int_{t_0}^t dt' (\mathcal{L}' + \delta\mathcal{L}(t')) \right]$$

- Formal solution of Vlasov equation:

$$f_{\oplus}(\mathbf{p}, t) = U_{t,t_0} f_{\oplus}(\mathbf{p}, t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t dt' U_{t,t'} c \hat{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{G}$$

→ Differential equation for $\langle C_{\ell} \rangle$,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle C_{\ell} \rangle(t) + \left(\lim_{t_0 \rightarrow t} \frac{\delta_{\ell\ell_0} - M_{\ell\ell_0}(t, t_0)}{t - t_0} \right) \langle C_{\ell_0} \rangle(t) = \frac{8\pi}{9} K |\mathbf{G}|^2 \delta_{\ell 1}$$

where

$$M_{\ell\ell_0}(t, t_0) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d\hat{\mathbf{p}}_A \int d\hat{\mathbf{p}}_B P_{\ell}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_A \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}_B) \langle U_{t,t_0}^A U_{t,t_0}^{B*} \rangle \frac{2\ell_0 + 1}{4\pi} P_{\ell_0}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_A \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}_B)$$

Ignoring correlations

Mertsch & Ahlers (2019), Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

- Without “interactions”:

$$\langle U_{t,t_0}^A U_{t,t_0}^{B*} \rangle \simeq \text{---} + \text{---} + \text{---} + \text{---}$$

- Mixing matrix diagonal:

$$M_{\ell\ell_0}(t, t_0) \sim \delta_{\ell\ell_0}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle C_\ell \rangle(t) + \left(\lim_{t_0 \rightarrow t} \frac{\delta_{\ell\ell_0} - M_{\ell\ell_0}(t, t_0)}{t - t_0} \right) \langle C_{\ell_0} \rangle(t) = \frac{8\pi}{9} K |\mathbf{G}|^2 \delta_{\ell 1},$$

→ Only dipolar anisotropy:

$$\langle C_\ell \rangle \propto \delta_{\ell 1},$$

With correlations

Mertsch & Ahlers (2019), Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

- With “interactions”

$$\langle U_{t,t_0}^A U_{t,t_0}^{B*} \rangle \simeq \text{---} + \text{---} \overset{\text{---}}{\curvearrowright} \text{---} + \text{---} \underset{\text{---}}{\curvearrowleft} \text{---} + \text{---} \text{---} \text{---}$$

- Mixing matrix **not** diagonal:

$$M_{\ell\ell_0}(t, t_0) \sim \delta_{\ell\ell_0} + \sum_{\ell_A} \kappa_{\ell_A}(t - t_0) \begin{pmatrix} \ell & \ell_A & \ell_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^2 (2\ell_0 + 1)\ell_0(\ell_0 + 1)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle C_\ell \rangle(t) + \left(\lim_{t_0 \rightarrow t} \frac{\delta_{\ell\ell_0} - M_{\ell\ell_0}(t, t_0)}{t - t_0} \right) \langle C_{\ell_0} \rangle(t) = \frac{8\pi}{9} K |\mathbf{G}|^2 \delta_{\ell 1},$$

With correlations

Mertsch & Ahlers (2019), Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

- With “interactions”

$$\langle U_{t,t_0}^A U_{t,t_0}^{B*} \rangle \simeq \text{---} + \text{---} \overset{\text{---}}{\curvearrowright} \text{---} + \text{---} \underset{\text{---}}{\curvearrowleft} \text{---} + \text{---} \overset{\text{---}}{\text{---}} \text{---}$$

- Mixing matrix **not** diagonal:

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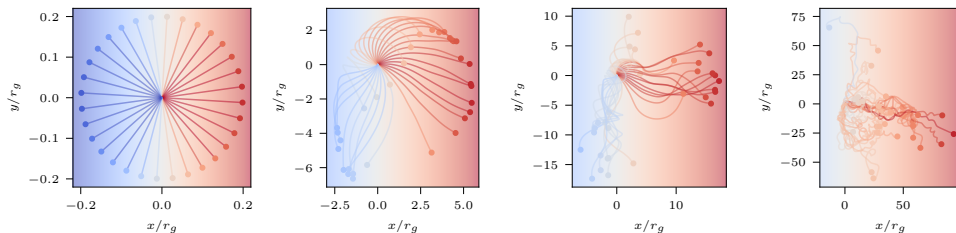
$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle C_\ell \rangle(t) + \left(\lim_{t_0 \rightarrow t} \frac{\delta_{\ell\ell_0} - M_{\ell\ell_0}(t, t_0)}{t - t_0} \right) \langle C_{\ell_0} \rangle(t) = \frac{8\pi}{9} K |\mathbf{G}|^2 \delta_{\ell 1},$$

→ Gradient source term is mixing into higher harmonics!

Test particle simulations

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

- Need to check analytical results with simulations
- Set up turbulent magnetic field on computer
- Solve the equations of motion for $\mathcal{O}(10^7)$ particles numerically

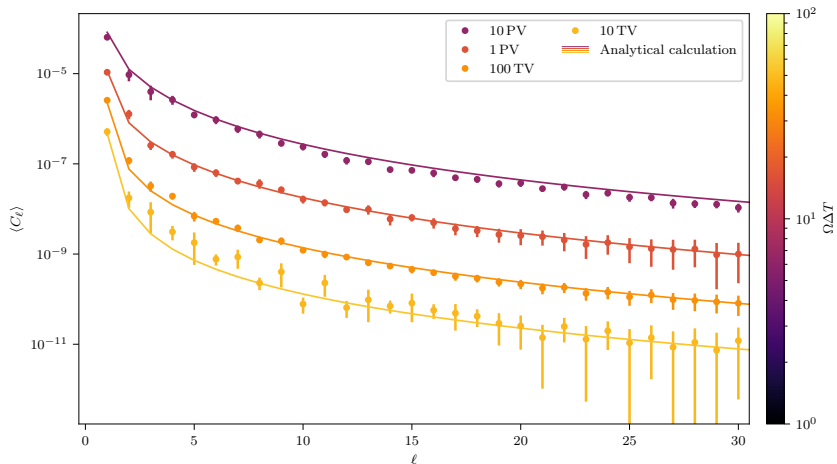


H.264 avi

- Rinse and repeat
- Compute diffusion coefficients, angular power spectra, ...

Results

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)



Results

- Numerical and analytic angular power spectra become **steeper** for smaller energies
- Observed angular power spectra become **flatter** for smaller energies

Possible reasons for different scaling

- A feature in the power spectrum
- A very small outer scale
- Slab turbulence does not describe data well
- Finite energy resolution



Outline

- ① Motivation
- ② Small-scale anisotropies
- ③ Test-particle simulations**
- ④ Suppressed diffusion
- ⑤ Conclusions

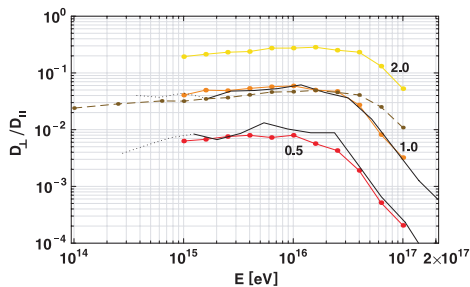
Different scaling of κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp}

- Regular and turbulent field: $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{B}_0 + \delta\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r})$
- Isotropic turbulence (!)
- Kolmogorov power spectrum with largest turbulent scale L_c

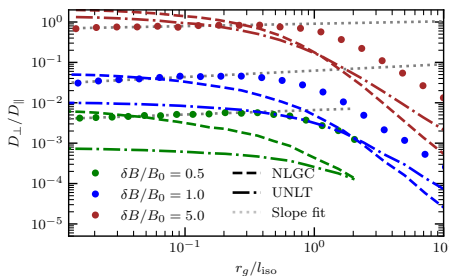
- Naive expectation:

$$\kappa_{\parallel} \sim \left(\frac{r_g}{L_c}\right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{\delta B^2}{B_0^2}\right)^{-1}$$

$$\kappa_{\perp} \sim \left(\frac{r_g}{L_c}\right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{\delta B^2}{B_0^2}\right)$$



DeMarco *et al.*
(2007)



Dundovic *et al.*
(2020)

Test particle simulations

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]; also Mertsch (2019)



Results depend on:

- 1 Set up realisation of $\delta\mathbf{B}$ on computer
- 2 Propagate a large number of particles for long times
- 3 Rinse and repeat
- 4 Running diffusion coefficients:

$$d_{\parallel}(t) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \langle (\Delta z)^2 \rangle$$

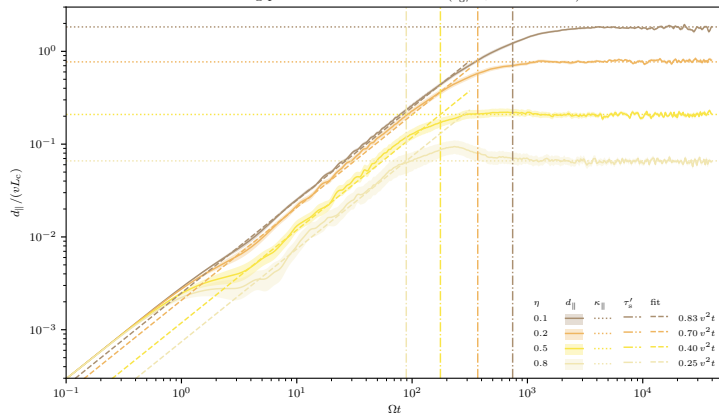
$$d_{\perp}(t) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \langle (\Delta r_{\perp})^2 \rangle$$

- Reduced time: Ωt
- Reduced rigidity: $\frac{r_g}{L_c}$
- Turbulence level: $\eta = \frac{\delta B^2}{B_0^2 + \delta B^2}$

Running parallel diffusion coefficient

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]

Running parallel diffusion coefficient ($r_g/L_c = 8.9 \times 10^{-3}$)

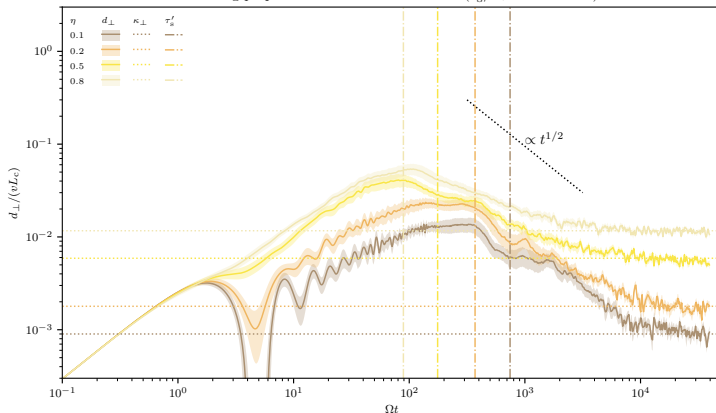


- Initially ballistic: $\langle(\Delta z)^2\rangle \propto t^2$
- Ultimately diffusive: $\langle(\Delta z)^2\rangle \propto t$
- Dependence on turbulence level
- Suppression at intermediate times

Running perpendicular diffusion coefficient

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]

Running perpendicular diffusion coefficient ($r_g/L_c = 8.9 \times 10^{-3}$)

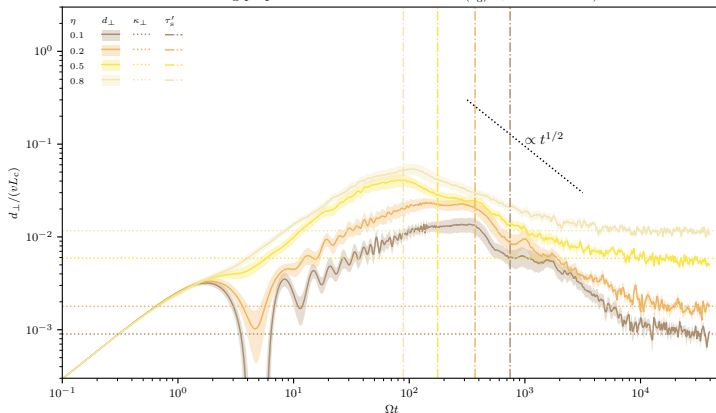


- Initially ballistic: $\langle (\Delta r_{\perp})^2 \rangle \propto t^2$
- Ultimately diffusive: $\langle (\Delta r_{\perp})^2 \rangle \propto t$
- Suppression at intermediate times
- Subdiffusion: $\langle (\Delta r_{\perp})^2 \rangle \propto t^{0.5 \dots 0.7}$

Running perpendicular diffusion coefficient

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]

Running perpendicular diffusion coefficient ($r_g/L_c = 8.9 \times 10^{-3}$)

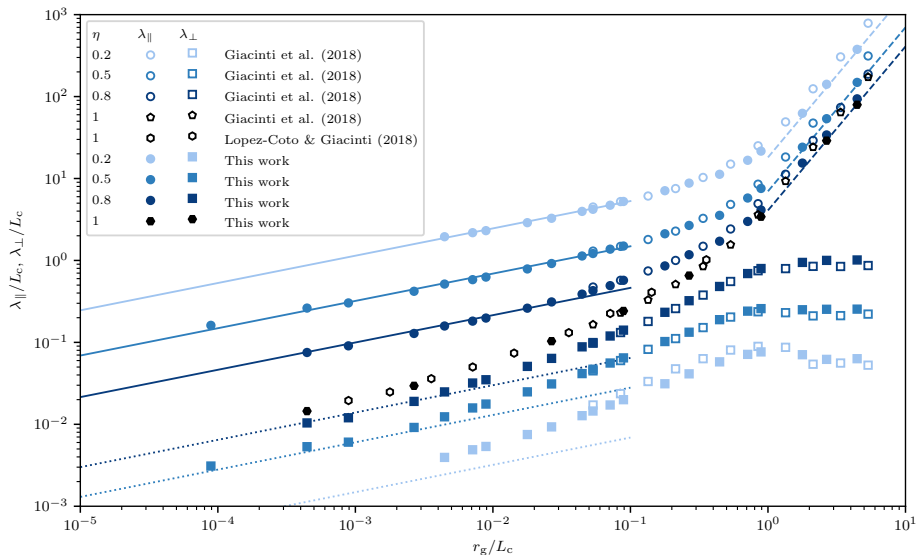


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- Ultimately diffusive: $\langle(\Delta r_{\perp})^2\rangle \propto t$
- Suppression at intermediate times
- Subdiffusion: $\langle(\Delta r_{\perp})^2\rangle \propto t^{0.5 \dots 0.7}$

Why subdiffusion?

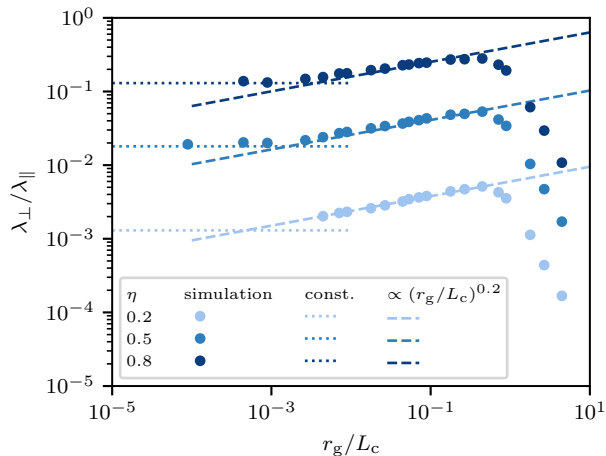
Mean-free paths

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]



Ratio of mean-free paths

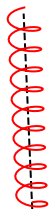
Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]



κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp} scale differently at medium rigidities,
but they scale the same at low rigidities

Perpendicular transport = particle transport along field line + transport of field line

--- field line
— particle trajectory



(a)



(b)



(c)

- (a) Straight field line and gyration
- (b) Wandering field line and gyration
- (c) Wandering field line and diffusion

Field-line diffusion coefficient

$$d_{FL}(z) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\langle(\Delta r_{\perp}^{FL})^2\rangle}{dz}$$

Perpendicular transport = particle transport along field line + transport of field line

1 Start from $d_{\text{FL}}(z) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\langle(\Delta r_{\perp}^{\text{FL}})^2\rangle}{dz}$

2 Integrate: $\langle(\Delta r_{\perp}^{\text{FL}})^2\rangle(z) = 2 \int_0^z dz' d_{\text{FL}}(z')$

3 Assume that particles follow field lines: $\langle(\Delta r_{\perp}^{\text{CR}})^2\rangle(z) = \langle(\Delta r_{\perp}^{\text{FL}})^2\rangle(z)$

4 Substitute into $d_{\perp}(t) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\langle(\Delta r_{\perp}^{\text{CR}})^2\rangle \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^{z(t)} dz' d_{\text{FL}}(z')$

5 Evaluate $z(t)$ as $\sqrt{\langle z^2 \rangle}(t) \Rightarrow d_{\perp}(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^{\sqrt{\langle z^2 \rangle}} dz' d_{\text{FL}}(z') = \frac{d_{\text{FL}}(\sqrt{\langle(\Delta z)^2\rangle})}{\sqrt{\langle(\Delta z)^2\rangle}} d_{\parallel}(t)$

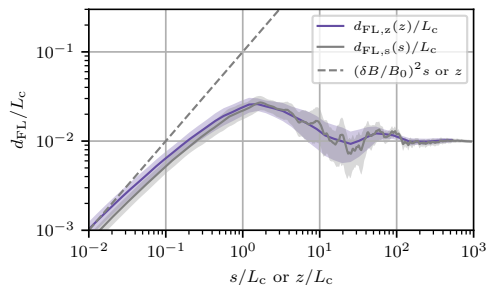
N.B.: This can also be derived from a microscopic model of particle transport.

Heuristic model

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05882]

$$d_{\perp}(t) = \frac{d_{\text{FL},z}(\sqrt{\langle(\Delta z)^2\rangle})}{\sqrt{\langle(\Delta z)^2\rangle}} d_{\parallel}(t)$$

Parametrise d_{FL} and d_{\parallel} by broken power laws

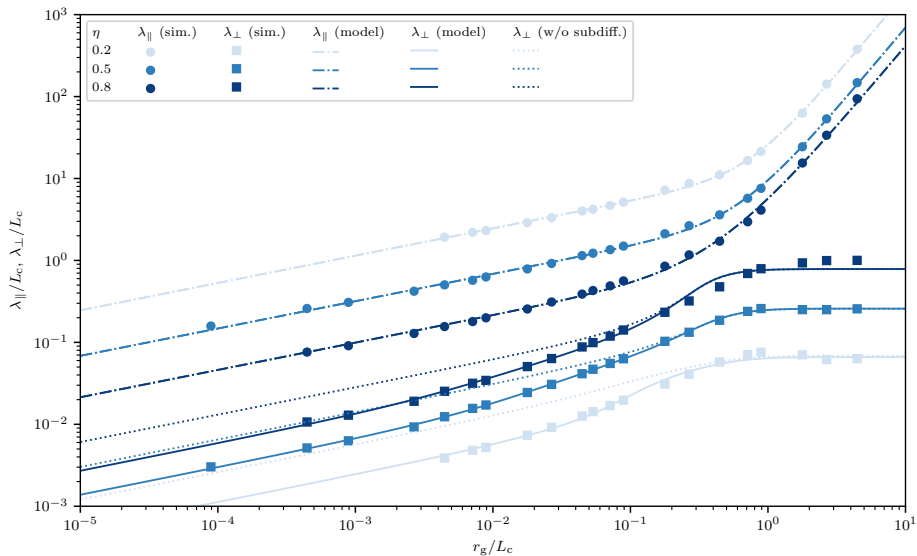


Field-line transport is subdiffusive
at intermediate distances!

See also Sonsrettee *et al.* (2016)

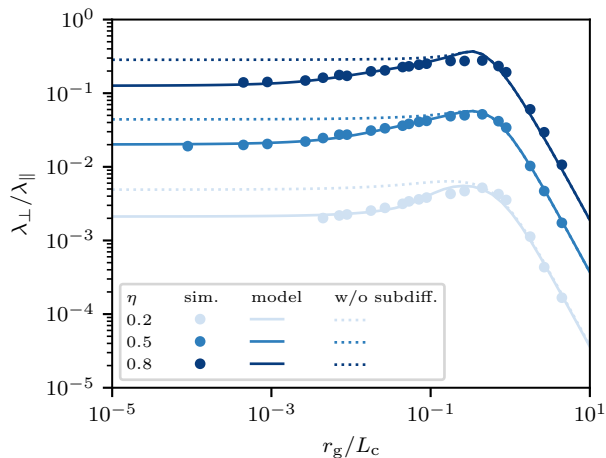
Mean-free paths

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05882]



Ratio of mean-free paths

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05882]



κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp} scale differently at medium rigidities,
but they scale the same at low rigidities

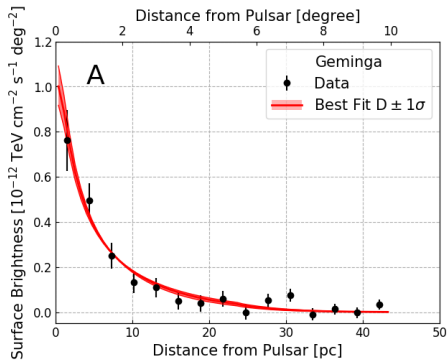
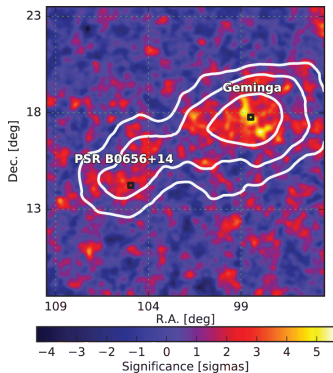
(More details → [Appendix](#))

Outline

- ① Motivation
- ② Small-scale anisotropies
- ③ Test-particle simulations
- ④ Suppressed diffusion**
- ⑤ Conclusions

Gamma-ray halos

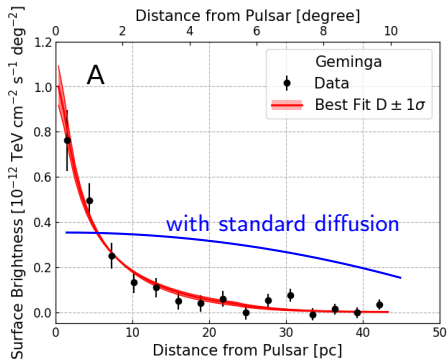
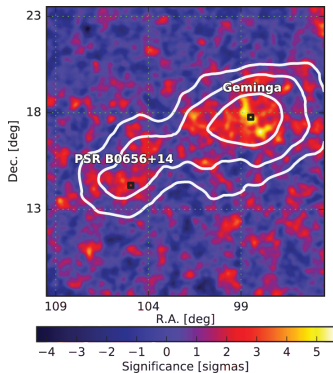
Abeyssekara *et al.* (2017)



- Gamma-ray emission around two nearby pulsars
- Emission from e^\pm much more confined than expected
- Ambient diffusion coefficient suppressed by factor ~ 100
- Also evidence of suppressed diffusion around some supernova remnants

Gamma-ray halos

Abeyssekara *et al.* (2017)

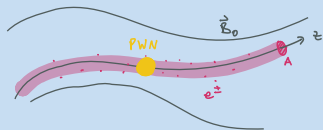


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NOT the conflict

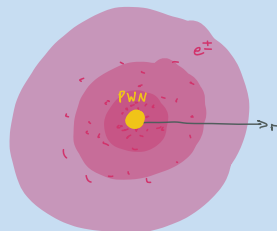
Evoli, Linden, Morlino (2018), Linden & Mukhopadhyay (2022)

1D



- Growth rate: $\Gamma_{1D} \propto \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$
- Volume occupied: $V_{1D} \sim A \langle (\Delta z)^2 \rangle^{1/2}$

3D

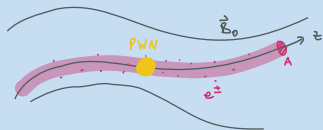


- Growth rate: $\Gamma_{3D} \propto \frac{\partial f}{\partial r}$
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NOT the conflict

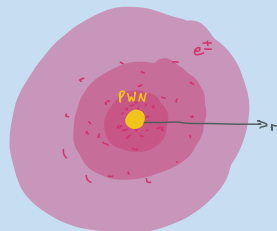
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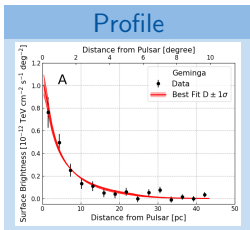


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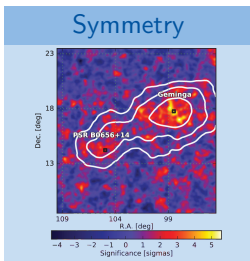
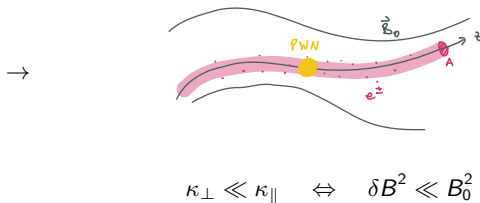
Locally, transport is **not** isotropic

See Lopez-Coto and Giacinti (2019) though

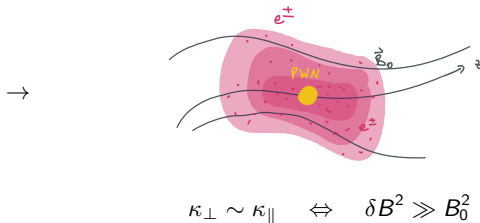
The conflict



Suppression of diffusion

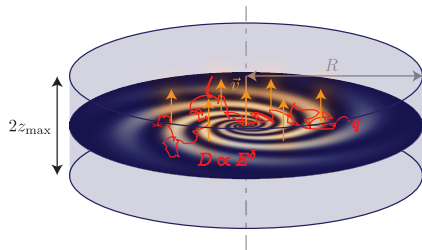


Spherical distribution



A swiss cheese Galaxy

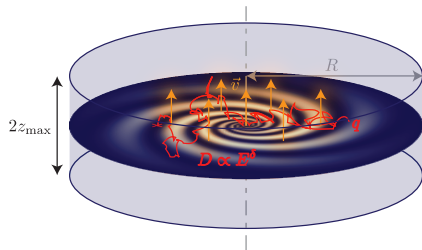
Jacobs, Mertsch, Phan, *in prep.*



- Diffusion suppressed in bubbles around sources
- Transport of cosmic rays affected on large scales?
- Different diffusion coefficient in disk and halo: $\kappa_{\text{disk}} = \alpha \kappa_{\text{halo}}$

A swiss cheese Galaxy

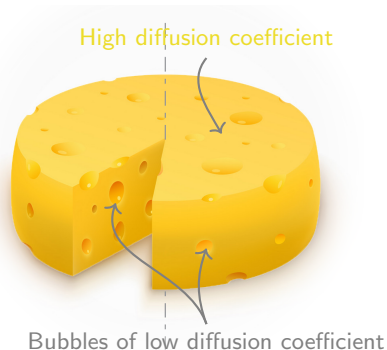
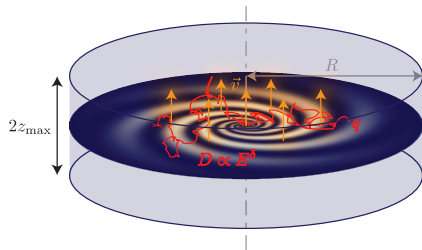
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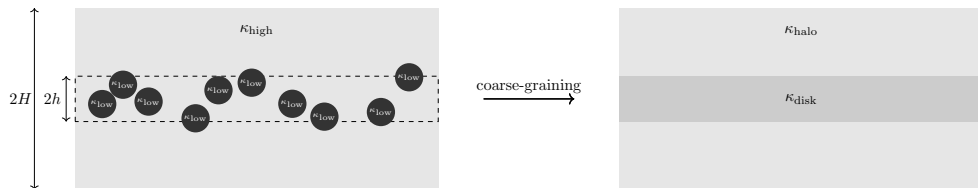
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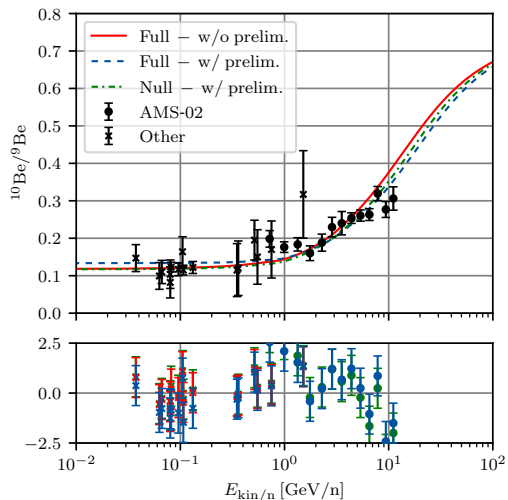
Coarse-graining

Jacobs, Mertsch, Phan, *in prep.*

- Filling fraction $f \lesssim$ (a few) % \rightarrow negligible?
 - Difficult to model numerically
- \rightarrow Adopt coarse-grained $\kappa_{\text{disk}} = \alpha \kappa_{\text{high}}$ and $\kappa_{\text{halo}} = \kappa_{\text{high}}$



- Study impact of $\alpha < 1$ on cosmic ray observables
 - The coarse-grained κ_{disk} can only depend on κ_{high} , κ_{low} and the filling fraction
- \rightarrow Can infer filling fraction from data?

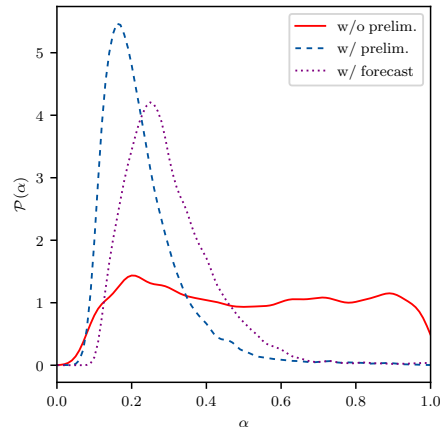
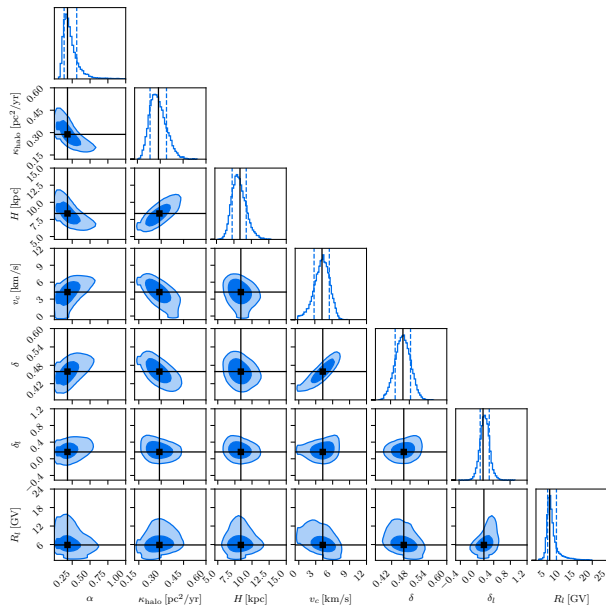


- Unstable ^{10}Be created in disk
- At high energies: essentially stable
- At low energies: decays while diffusing

If diffusion is suppressed, $\kappa_{\text{disk}} < \kappa_{\text{halo}}$,
 $^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$ is increased at low energies

Posterior distributions

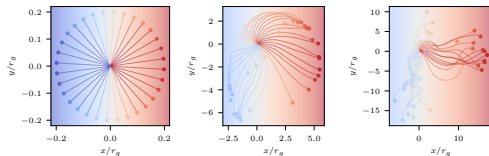
Jacobs, Mertsch, Phan, *in prep.*



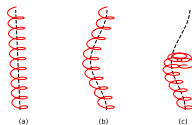
With prelim. AMS-02 data

- Best fit for $\alpha \simeq 0.2$
- $\alpha = 1$ excluded at $\sim 4\sigma$
- Implies very large filling fraction $f \sim 0.5$

Summary



Small-scale anisotropies formed in transition from ballistic to diffusive motion



Perpendicular diffusion due to parallel diffusion and field-line subdiffusion



Evidence for suppressed diffusion from $^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$