

The SKA : a unique instrument to study the interstellar medium

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and the french ISM SKA community (40 scientists from 12 institutes)



the interstellar medium in galaxies









the interstellar medium in galaxies



Scientific goal

- Cycle of star formation in galaxies
- Growth of solids in space
- Evolution of molecular complexity

Processes

- Hydrodynamics
- Magnetic field
- Gravity
- Heating and cooling
- Stellar feedback
- Chemistry
- Cosmic rays

Dust

- Tools
 - Multi-wavelength observations
 - Numerical simulations
 - Models
 - Laboratory experiments
 - Data science



Why is SKA unique for ISM studies ?

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- Frequency coverage : a wealth of diagnostics
 - 21cm, OH, RRLs (H, He, C), free-free, synchrotron, dust continuum, anomalous microwave emission, molecular lines (COMs)
 - Innovative magnetic field diagnostics: Zeeman, Faraday tomography
 - Hyperspectral data over large areas
- Angular resolution
 - Small-scale structures : disks, filaments, shocks, dissipation
 - Astrophysics of galaxies like for the Milky Way
 - Distance determination (parallax) and proper motion in dense regions
- Mapping speed : multi-scale physics, connection with the environments
- Sensitivity : Galactic halo, external galaxies, small-scale features, HI absorption, pulsars, faint line emission...

HI in galaxies



0.0

0.2

0.4

0.6

Galactocentric Radius [r₂₅]

0.8

1.0

1.2

5

10

R_{gal} [kpc]

20

0

Disk-halo circulation and Galactic accretion



- Origin of neutral gas in the halo?
 - gas stripped from satellite galaxies
 - thermal instability of the coronal gas
 - Galactic fountain
 - Residu of Galaxy formation
- What is the infall rate ?
 - Need the infall of ~1 solar mass/year for several Giga year to sustain star formation
- What is the metallicity of the infalling material ?
- In which phase is the gas?
- SKA will reveal the faint HI gas falling on nearby galaxies

Disk-halo circulation and Galactic accretion



Herschel (250 micron) + WISE (12 micron) : 15 arcsec res. Miville-Deschênes et al. (2017)

GALFA-HI ; Peek et al. (2011)

Region towards

(l,b) = (157, -22.8)

 $40^{\circ} \times 20^{\circ}$ in size.

RGB : -41.6, -39.4, -37.2 km/s



phase transition in the diffuse ISM

How cold-dense structures form from the warm and diffuse phase ?



SKA will provide hyperspectral 21cm and RRLs data combined with absorption measurements allowing the mapping of the structure formation process

Interstellar turbulence

Importance of turbulence

- sets how matter is organized
- sets the efficiency of star formation
- sets the mass distribution of stars
- Interstellar turbulence is complex
 - compressible
 - multi-phase
 - supersonic or sonic
 - magnetic

• The questions are

- What are the properties of interstellar turbulence in each phase ?
- How does turbulent energy dissipate ?

What SKA will bring

- Multi-scale and multi-phase (ionized and neutral cold/warm) description of turbulence
- Study of the dissipation process (density and velocity fluctuations at 10s AU scales)



- CFHT Megacam g band
- resolution : 1.3"
- fov : 1 square deg.
- P(k) ~ k^-2.9
- Miville-Deschenes+ 2016





Structure and evolution of the magnetic field through ISM phases

5 (J2000)

Surprising result on the structure of the Galactic magnetic field

 Spatial correlation of magnetic field structures seen in Faraday depth (ionized gas) and dust polarization (neutral gas) in a diffuse region at high Galactic latitude

The unique contribution of SKA

- Survey of large areas with a large frequency coverage will allow us to map the 3D structure of the magnetic field using Faraday tomography.
- SKA will enable direct measures of the magnetic field strength using the Zeeman effect of H and C Radio Recombination Lines
- Dispersion measures and Faraday rotation measures on pulsars will also allow for the 3D mapping of the interstellar magnetic field



Jelic et al. (2015), Zaroubi et al. (2015)

Supernova remnant : Cassiopeia A - VLA

Stellar feedback : supernovae, winds and outflows

SKA will allow us to

- constrain shock structures
- study magnetic field amplification
- study cosmic ray composition, acceleration and propagation mechanisms
- measure energy and momentum injected in the ISM (RRL)
- discover a large number of new SNRs, crucial to identify gammaray sources
- Results will bring essential new constraints for our understanding of the global ISM cycle

Dust in protoplanetary disk



Dust in protoplanetary disk



Conclusion

- A large range of diagnostics at high resolution and high sensitivity
 - 21cm, OH, RRLs (H, He, C), freefree, synchrotron, dust emission, molecular lines (COMs)
 - Innovative magnetic field diagnostics: Zeeman, Faraday tomography
 - Hyperspectral data over large areas
 - Distance and proper motion determination

Strong ISM community in France

- Large range of expertise covering data analysis, models, numerical simulations and laboratory experiments
- Interested by many SKA topics (11 chapters in the french white book)
- Potentially the most active ISM community in SKA

- A large range of ISM scientific topics
 - Cosmic magnetism
 - Turbulent cascade
 - Phase transitions and structure formation
 - Galactic halo and infall
 - Stellar feedback : supernovae, outflows
 - Star formation : disks, dust growth and molecular complexity

A strong interest by the french ISM community

- 1) The nearby interstellar medium
- 2) Interstellar turbulence
- 3) The formation of cold atomic structures
- 4) Molecular complexity in cold cores and hot corinos
- 5) Interstellar dust
- 6) Faraday tomography

- 7) Magnetic fields in star forming regions : Zeeman effect and RRLs
- 8) Jets, outflows and young stellar objects
- 9) Supernova remnants
- 10) Pulsar census and probe of the interstellar medium
- 11) Distance determination

Contributions by 40 scientists from 12 institutes :

- SAp, IPAG, IRAP, LUMP, IAS, Strasbourg, LPC2E, LERMA, LAB, GEPI, IRAM, OCA

Editors

- Katia Ferrière (IRAP)
- Marta Alvès (IRAP)
- Ludovic Montier (IRAP)
- M-A Miville-Deschênes (IAS)