Structure of the Polaris flare revealed by SPIRE

Marc-Antoine Miville-Deschênes (IAS, Orsay, France)

on behalf of the SAG 4 "Evolution of Interstellar Dust"

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Outline

- Structure of the ISM and the Polaris flare
- How well does SPIRE restore diffuse emission ?
- Power spectrum analysis

Background and goal

- What governs the structure of the ISM ? direct impact on the CMF and IMF.
 - Complex physics : turbulence, magnetic field, thermal instability
 - Need for direct comparison with numerical simulations
 - Importance of the density field (compare to the velocity field)
 - Power spectrum of column density --> power spec. of the 3D density field
- Need for a careful selection of fields and emission tracers
- Goal : use of long wavelength dust emission of cirrus clouds to study the 3D structure of the diffuse ISM.
 - uniformely heated by the ISRF : no local source of UV photons
 - extinction low enough to neglect radiative transfer
 - dust temperature rather uniform : dust emission is a good tracer of the total column density
 - traces all phases (atomic, molecular)

View of the Polaris flare with IRAS



- R : 100 micron,
 - G:60 micron,
 - B: 12+25 micron
- Dense cirrus cloud
 - 150 pc
 - significant CO emission
 - several proto-stellar cores but no star formed
- Ideal target to study the early phases of star formation
 - formation of molecular clouds
 - role of dust
 - structure of the ISM

...and here comes Herschel-SPIRE



























IRAS (100 micron) - SPIRE correlation @ 5arcmin



observations)

1000

 $T = 14.5 \pm 1.6 K$ $\beta = 2.3 \pm 0.6$

SPIRE-SPIRE correlation extremely tight

• Variations around the correlation much

stronger than the noise levels

How well does SPIRE map diffuse emission ?

- R : 350 micron
- G : 250 micron
- B : IRAS (IRIS) 100 micron
- Dust properties variations
- Large scale systematic effect due to residual 1/f noise



How well does SPIRE map diffuse emission ?

- Clear difference at large scales between IRAS and SPIRE
- Comparison with Planck at 350 and 500 micron would allow to confirm this result.
- Probably room for improvement on the removal of the 1/f noise (thermistor correlation)



Tentative restoration of the large scale emission

Spire 250 micron + IRIS 100



Power spectrum of the 250 micron Polaris map



SPIRE beam power spectrum



Black : beam measured on Neptune

Power spectrum modelling



 $P(k) = \phi(k) [A_0 k^{\gamma} + S_0] + N(k)$

Power spectrum modelling : Gaussian PSF



$$P(k) = \phi(k) [A_0 k^{\gamma} + S_0] + N(k)$$

- Gaussian beam is a bad approximation for power spectrum analysis
- The use of the measured beam is crucial : secondary lobes impact on the power estimate at arcmin scales

What is the density power spectrum of diffuse ISM ?

- A power spectrum of -2.7 is very different than subsonic, compressible turbulence (-3.7).
- Supersonic and/or magnetic turbulence can produce flatter (~ -3) density spectrum without a strong modification of the velocity spectrum
- **Thermal instability** : the local production of stable cold structure modifies dramatically the density structure of the flow.
 - The many narrow features on top of a smooth broad line is the sign of cold, spatially disconnected structures moving in the same velocity field as the warm gas.
 - The warm and cold phases probably do not have the same power spectrum.
- Detailed comparison with gas phase (21 cm, CO), polarization (Planck) and numerical simulations is needed.



A 21cm spectrum of the Polaris flare cirrus Miville-Deschenes et al. (in prep.)

21 cm observations of Polaris

- Green Bank
 Telescope
 (9' this figure)
- DRAO (1 arcmin)





Illustrative comparison with MHD simulations

• Preliminary study of MHD simulations including the HI thermal instability (collaboration with Hennebelle & Audit).



Conclusion

- First time the diffuse ISM is uniformly sampled from 0.01 to 8 pc : SPIRE provides an ideal opportunity to study the ISM structure which sets the initial conditions of the star formation
- Global understanding of the power spectrum features
 - SPIRE does not recover large scale diffuse emission perfectly yet but the quality of the data processing is excellent at such an early stage
 - SPIRE beam is significantly different than a Gaussian
 - Power spectrum slope (-2.7) seen in CO and 100 micron at large scales extends down to 30 arcsec (0.02 pc).
 - Marginal detection of the CIBA, in accordance with expectations
- Comparison with numerical simulations and 21 cm observations is ongoing : preliminary results shows the importance of the magnetic field

Velocity: 5.13 km/s



Velocity: 7.61 km/s



Filamentary structure of the diffuse HI: magnetic turbulence ?

21 cm observations (DRAO) Velocity channels only 2.6 km/s apart

Martin et al. (in preparation)

SPIRE-SPIRE correlation at 5 arcmin





- Total(Beam)/total(Gaussian)
 - 250 micron : 1.35
 - 350 micron : 1.31
 - 500 micron : 1.25



