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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ATOMIC HISTORY IN TIME-DEPENDENT
SIMULATIONS OF THE INTERSTELLAR GAS

THERMAL + DYNAMICAL EVOLUTION OF THE ISM

Parallel AMR

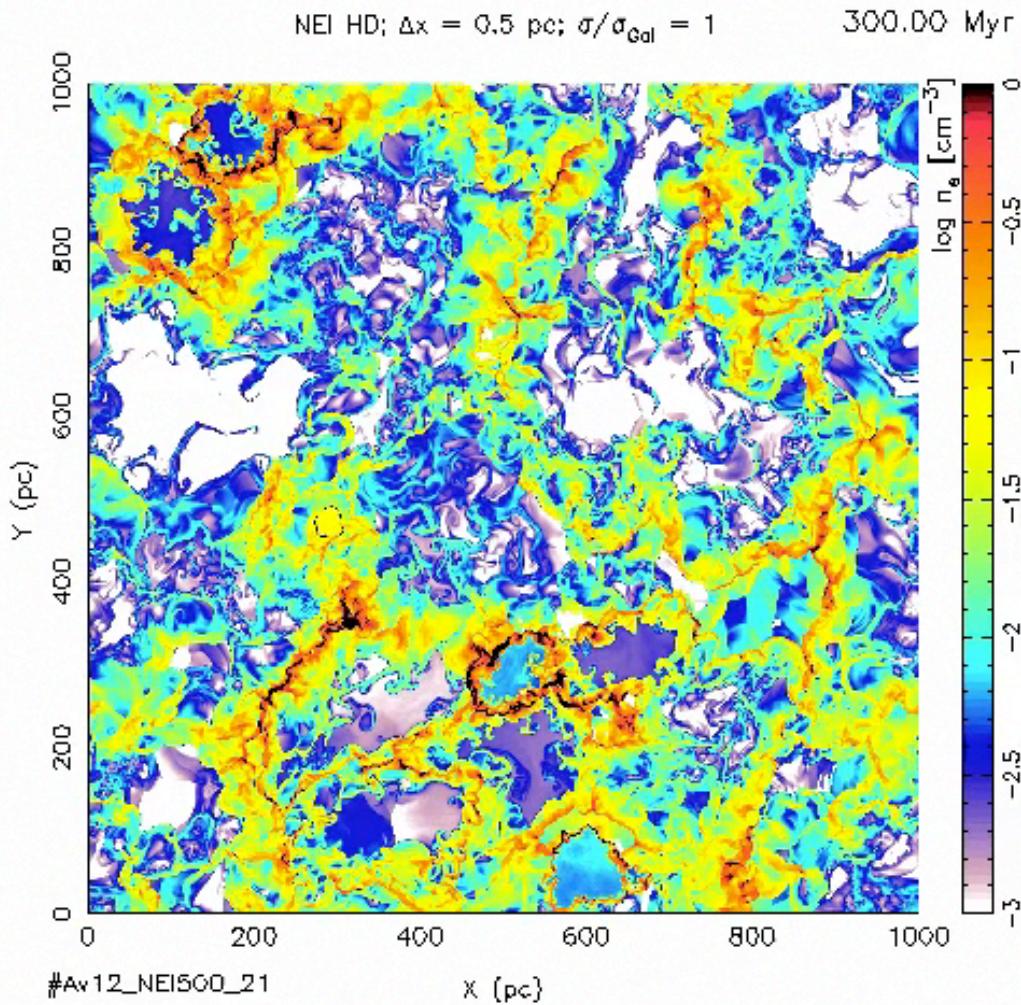
Coarse resolution = 8 pc

Higher resolution = 0.5 pc

Effective grids of 2000^3 cells

Evolution time = 500 Myr

Cut through the Galactic midplane



→ Ionizing

→ Recombining

→ Cooling

→ Turbulent mixing

→ Conductive interfaces

→ Particles acceleration (DSA)

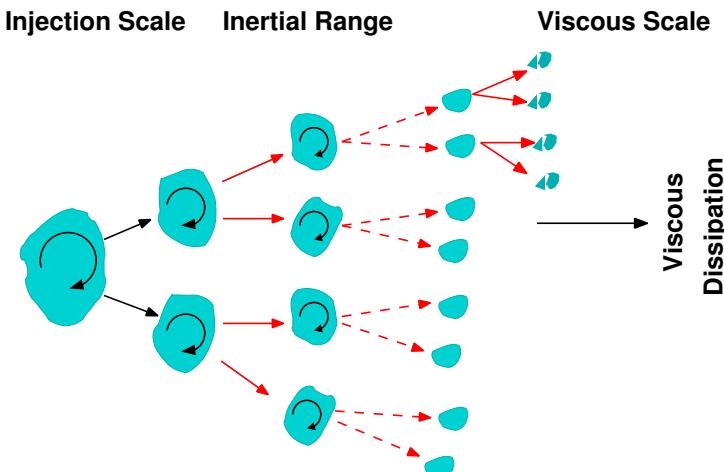
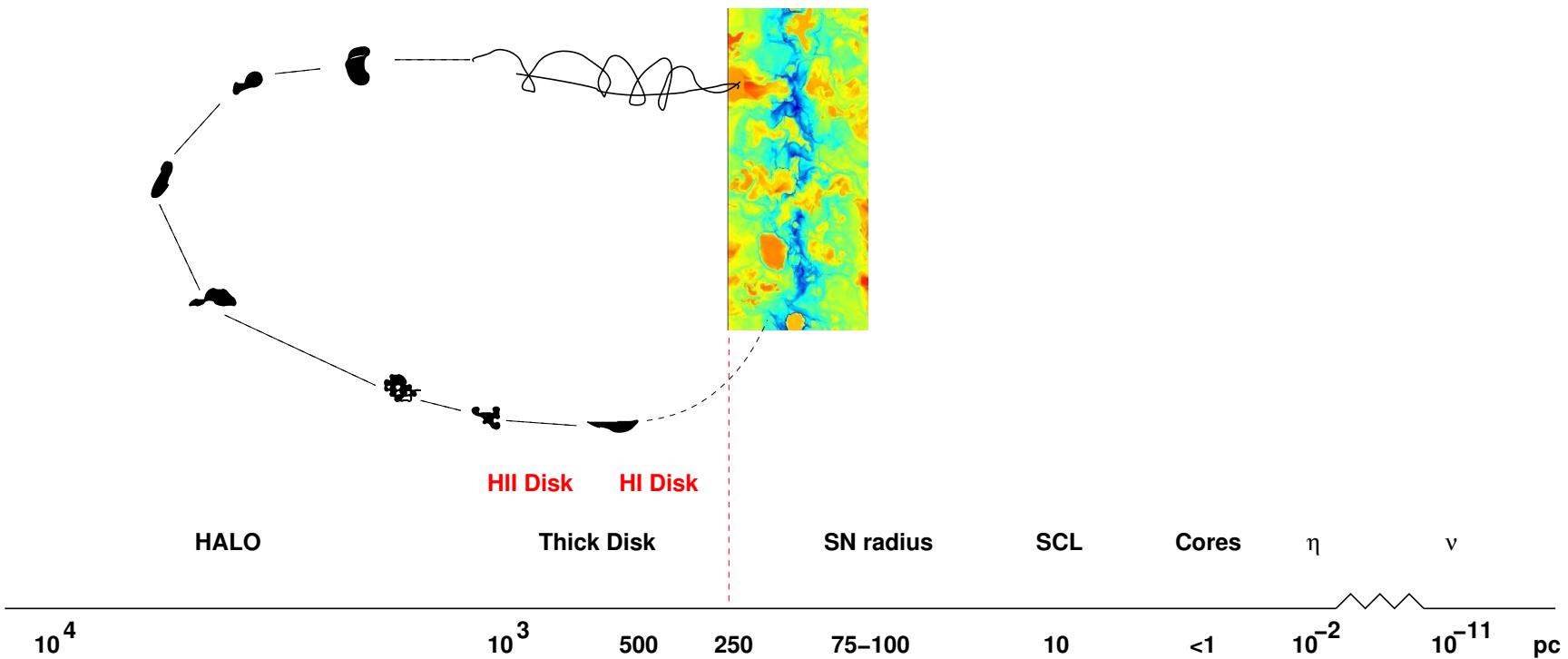
← FREE ELECTRONS DISTRIBUTION

→ Non-equilibrium plasmas

→ Thermal + Non-thermal

→ Feedback

LARGE RANGE OF SCALES TO CONSIDER



Thermal
translational
energy

Energy stored in (or delivered)
from high ionization stages

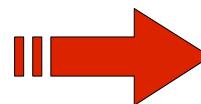
Energy stored in (or delivered)
from excited states

$$\rho e = \frac{3}{2}(n_{tot} + n_e)k_B T + \sum_Z \sum_{z=1}^Z n_{z,z} \left(\sum_{l=0}^{z-1} \Phi_{Z,l} \right) + \sum_Z \sum_{z=1}^Z \left[\sum_{j=n_o+1} n_{z,z,j} (\Delta E_{j,n_o})_{z,z} \right]$$



Total energy loss (gain) is not synchronized with equivalent decrease (increase) of temperature.

$$P - \rho \left(\sum_{Z,z} \frac{n_{Z,z}}{\rho} + \frac{n_e}{\rho} \right) k_B T = 0$$



Feed into the momentum
equation

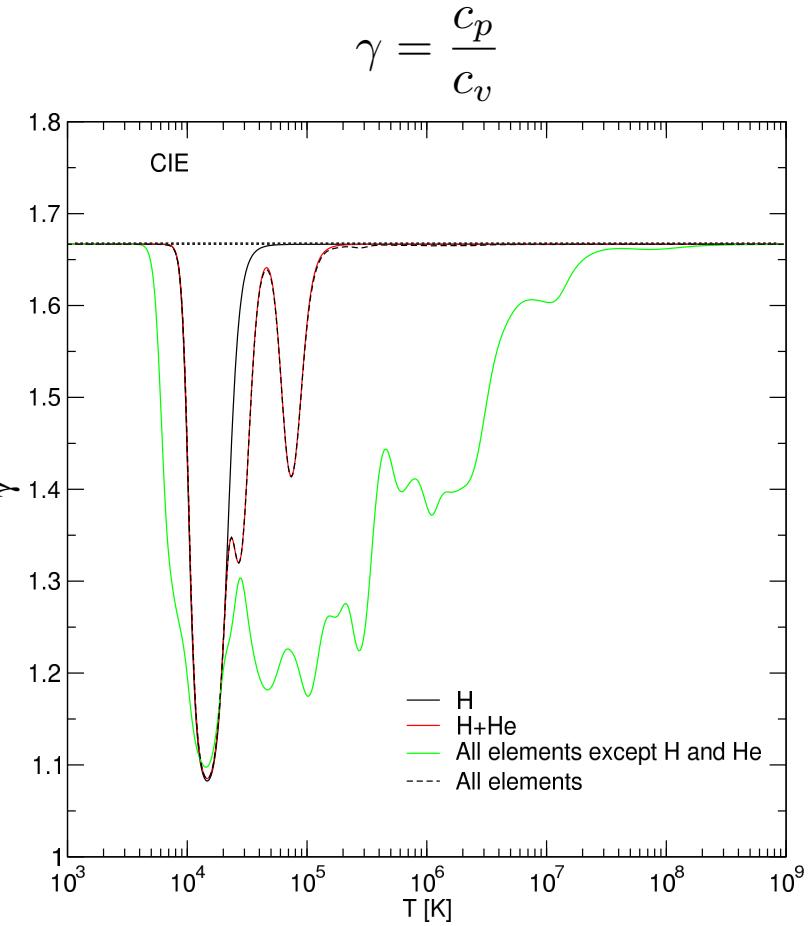
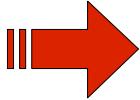
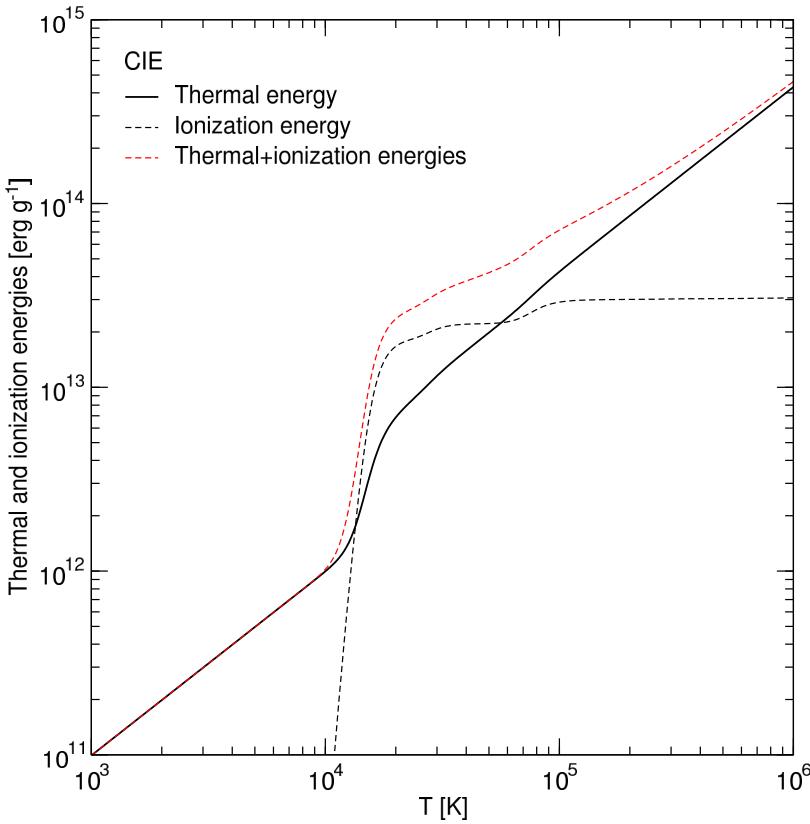
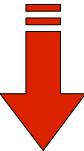
Affects the dynamics

$$\frac{\partial \rho \vec{v}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v} \vec{v} + P_{th}) = -\rho g + S_{\rho \vec{v}}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho e}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot [(\rho e + P_{th}) \vec{v}] = \rho \vec{v} \cdot \vec{g} + \nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla T) + \Gamma_{SN} + \mathcal{H} - n_e n_H \Lambda(T)$$

INTERNAL ENERGY & ADIABATIC PARAMETER

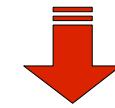
$$\rho u = \frac{3}{2}(n_{tot} + n_e)k_B T + \sum_Z \sum_{z=1}^Z n_{Z,z} \left(\sum_{l=0}^{z-1} \Phi_{Z,l} \right) + \sum_Z \sum_{z=1}^Z \left[\sum_{j=n_o+1} n_{Z,z,j} (\Delta E_{j,n_o})_{Z,z} \right]$$



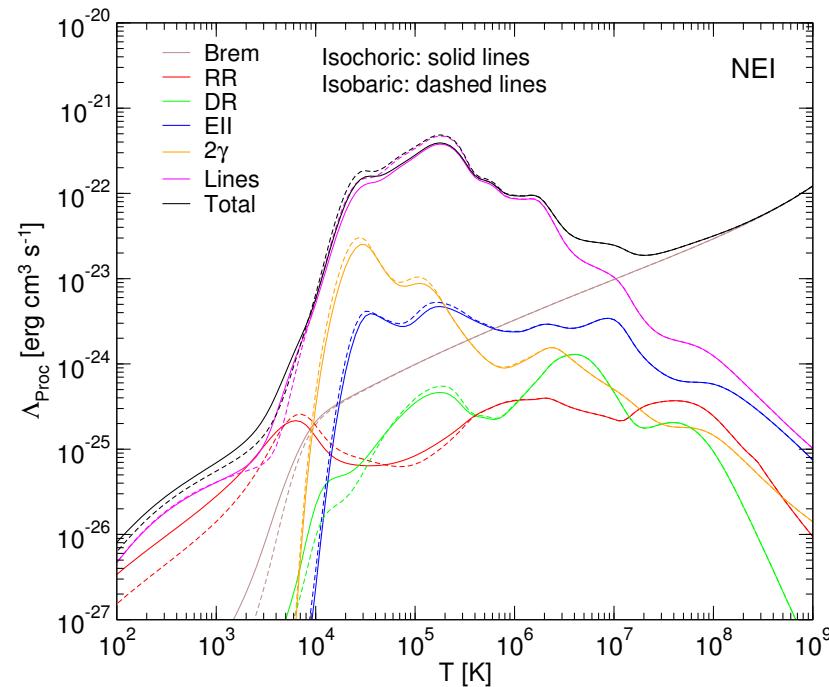
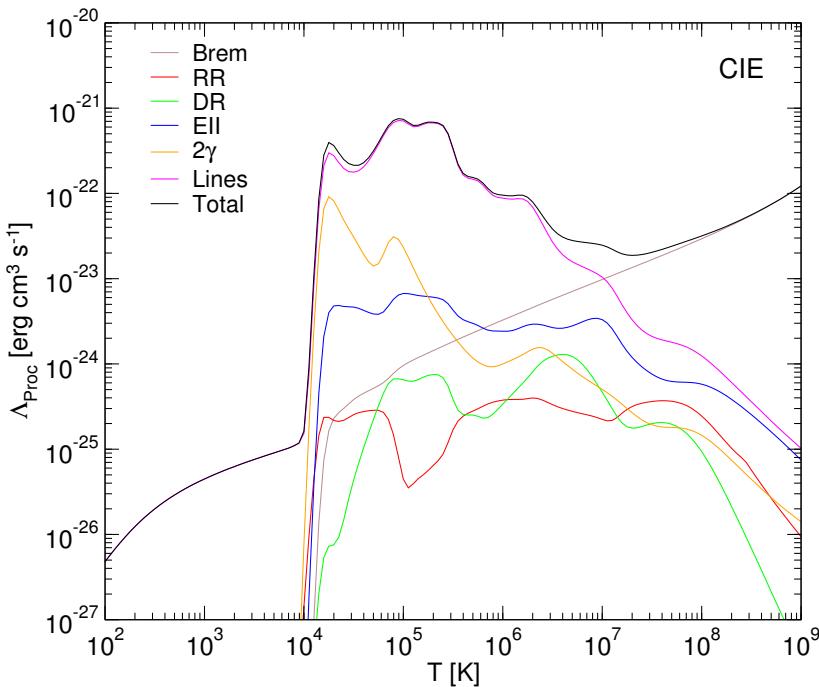
SIMULATIONS OF THE ISM WITH FIXED COOLING

- Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution
- Temperature equilibration ions and electrons
- Include a fixed cooling function (of a gas parcel) 
- Adiabatic parameter constant (5/3)
- Internal energy includes only the thermal component
- Neglect the feedback of dynamics

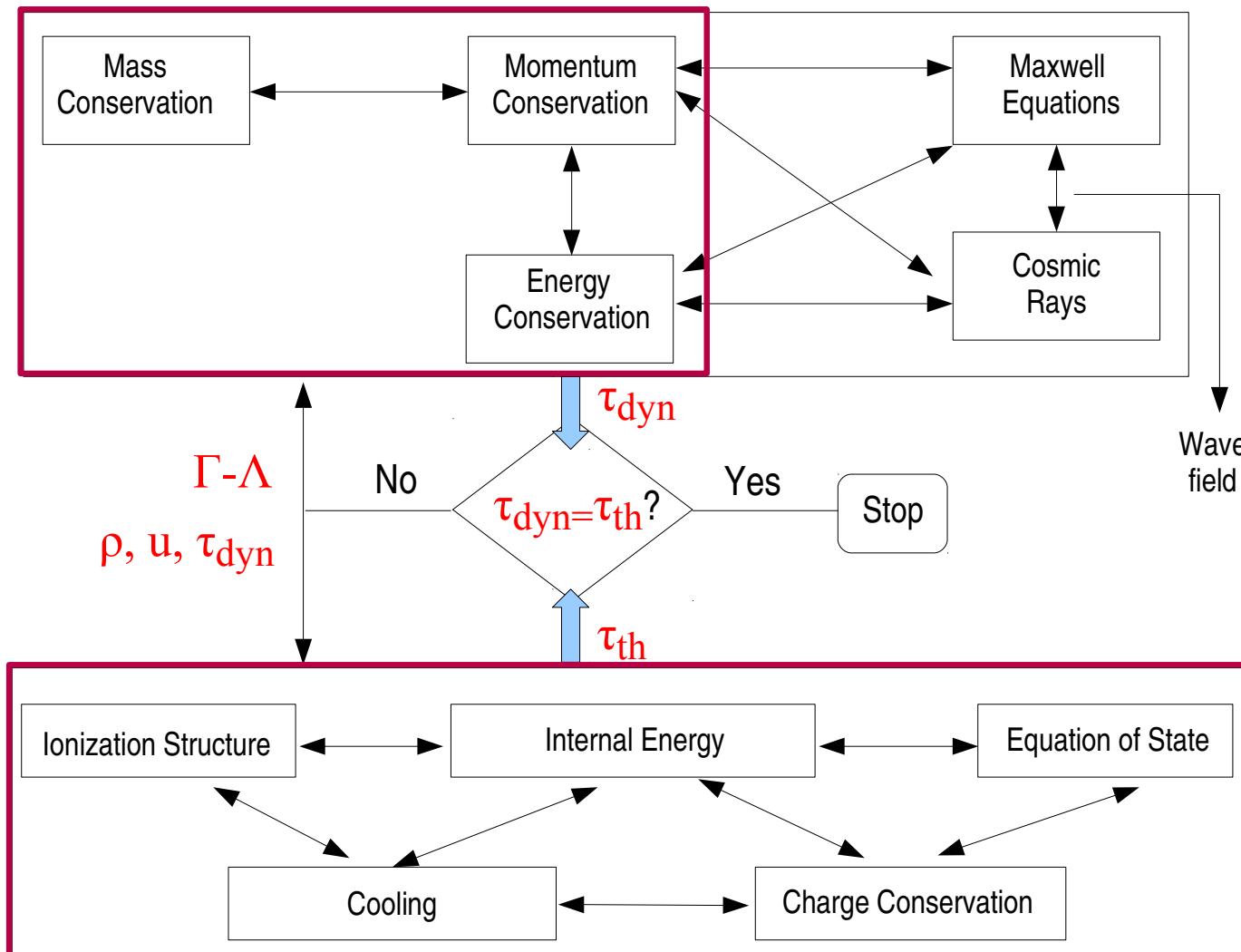
All fluid elements
have the same
atomic history



Not correct



THERMAL + DYNAMICAL SIMULATIONS OF THE ISM



$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = S_\rho$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho X_{Z,z}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho X_{Z,z} \vec{v}) = \rho S_{Z,z}$$

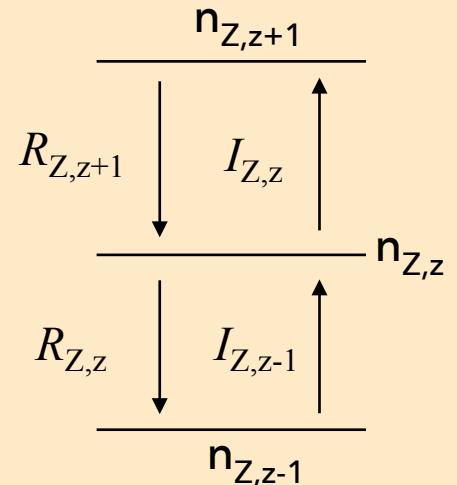
IONIZATION STRUCTURE + LEVEL POPULATIONS

$$\frac{d n_{Z,z}}{dt} = I_{Z,z-1} n_{Z,z-1} - (I_{Z,z} + R_{Z,z}) n_{Z,z} + R_{Z,z+1} n_{Z,z+1}$$

$$R_{Z,z} = n_e \left(\alpha_{Z,z}^{rr} + \alpha_{Z,z}^{dr} \right) + \sum_{\tilde{Z}, \tilde{z}} \alpha_{\tilde{Z}, \tilde{z}}^{ce} \tilde{n}_{\tilde{Z}, \tilde{z}}$$

$$I_{Z,z} = \zeta_{Z,z} + n_e \left(C_{Z,z}^{eii} + C_{Z,z}^{ea} \right) + \sum_{\tilde{Z}, \tilde{z}} C_{\tilde{Z}, \tilde{z}}^{ce} \tilde{n}_{\tilde{Z}, \tilde{z}}$$

$$\zeta_{Z,z} = \zeta_{Z,z}^{ph} + \zeta_{Z,z}^c + \zeta_{Z,z}^{pe}$$



$$\frac{d n_{Z,z,j}}{dt} = \sum_{m < j} Exc_{m \rightarrow j} + \sum_{n > j} Dexc_{n \rightarrow j} - \sum_{j > m} Dexc_{j \rightarrow m} - \sum_{j < n} Exc_{j \rightarrow n}$$

$$\frac{d n_{Z,z,j}}{dt} = \sum_{m < j} C_{mj}^{e,X} n_X n_{Z,z,m} + \sum_{n > j} \left(C_{nj}^{d,X} n_X + A_{nj} \right) n_{Z,z,n}$$

$$- \sum_{j > m} \left(C_{jm}^{d,X} n_X + A_{jm} \right) n_{Z,z,j} - \sum_{j < n} C_{jn}^{e,X} n_X n_{Z,z,j}$$

- Non-equilibrium ionization: H, He, C, N, O, Ne, Mg, Si, S, Ar, Fe + H, C, O chemistry
- 70-level ions
- Abundances (solar and pre-solar)
- Equal and/or different temperature for electrons and ions
- Thermal and non-thermal particle distributions (e.g., kappa, n, cosmic rays)

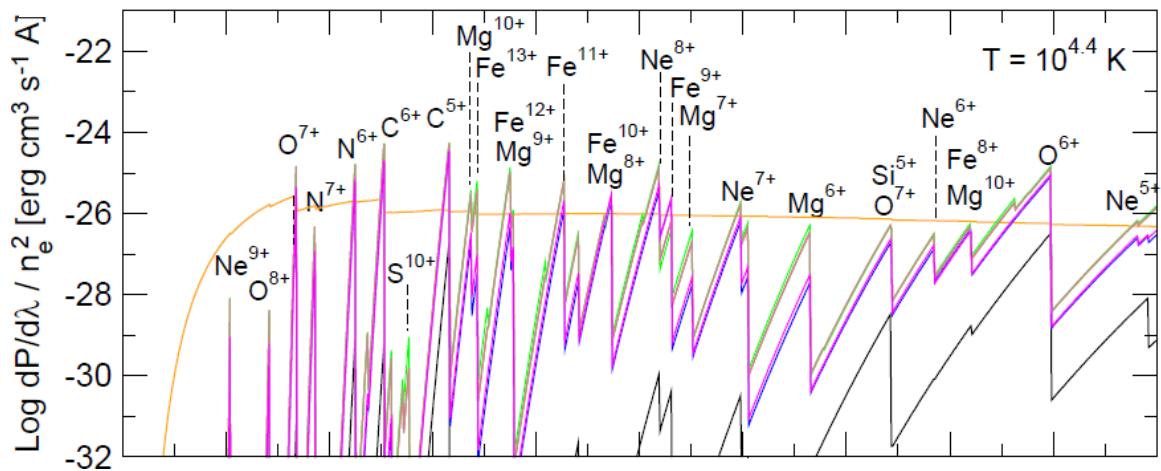
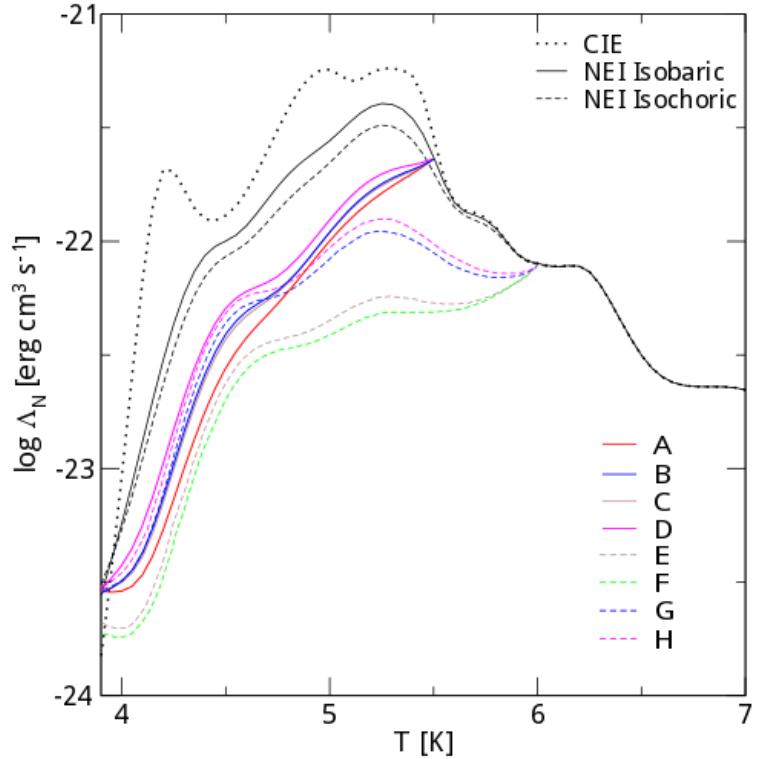
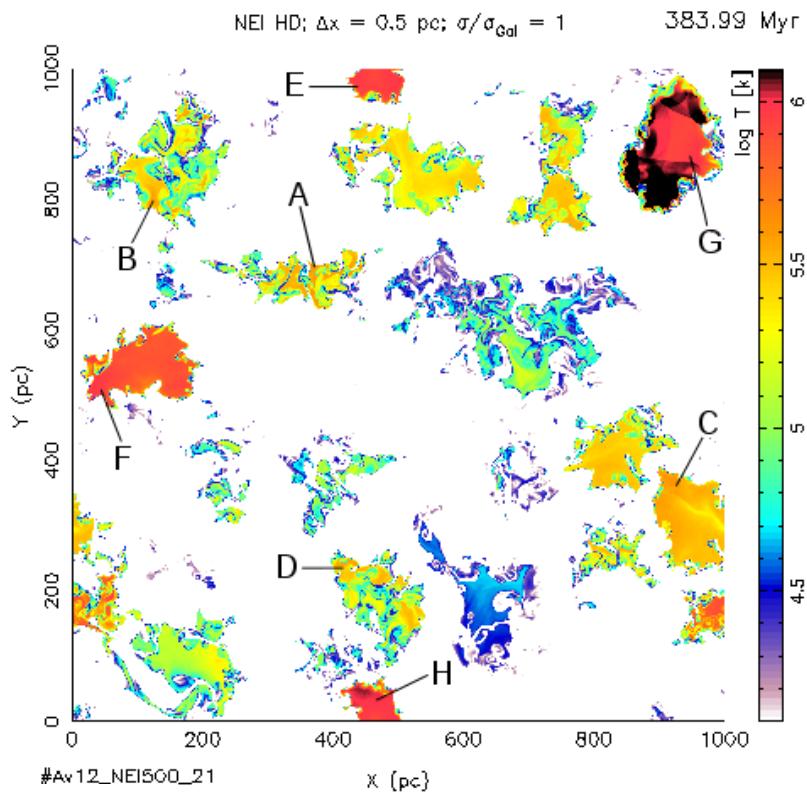
- Electron impact ionization (total and shell), inner-shell excitation auto-ionization
- Radiative (RR) and dielectronic (DR) recombination followed by cascades
- Charge-transfer reactions
- Photoionisation + Auger photoelectrons + Secondaries
- Continuum (bremsstrahlung, free-bound, two-photon)
- Line (permitted, semi-forbidden, forbidden) emission

- Rates calculated from cross sections on the fly
- Excitation/deexcitation rates calculated from collision strengths (R-Matrix calculations)
- Calculations are made in accelerators/coprocessors while CPUs are idle for 10^{-5} s
- Parallel computing - dynamical model in CPUs + thermal model in GPUs/Xeon Phi

- 3D multi-fluid HD or MHD evolution over 500 Myr
- Grid: 1 kpc × 1 kpc × ± 15 kpc $\Delta x = 0.25$ pc and 0.5 pc (4000^3 cells per kpc^3)
- Density distribution from observations (Dickey & Lockman 91, Ferriere 98)
- Star Formation based on thresholds: $n > 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ & $T < 100 \text{ K}$
- Formation (5% efficiency) from core fragmentation of MCs
- IMF for stars with 7-60 solar masses (Fuchs et al. 2006)
- Trace motion of OB stars ($v_{\text{rms}} \sim 5 \text{ km/s}$) and main-sequence time evolution
- SNe types Ib+c and II: random + clustered (~60%) + yields
 - Rate: $1.9 \times 10^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (Diehl et al. 2006; Cappellaro et al. 1999)
 $26.9 \text{ Kpc}^{-2} \text{ Myr}^{-1}$ in a Galactic disk with $R=15 \text{ kpc}$
 - SNE type Ia randomly distributed with $h_z = 325 \text{ pc}$ (Freeman 1987)
 $4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (Cappellaro et al. 1999; see also Ferriere 2001)
 $5.7 \text{ Kpc}^{-2} \text{ Myr}^{-1}$ in a Galactic disk with $R=15 \text{ kpc}$

- Background heating due to diffuse UV photon field calculated from the stars
- Galactic gravitational field by stars (Kuijken & Gilmore 1989) + self gravity
- Heat conduction (Dalton & Balbus 1993)
- Magnetic field (random + mean components 6 μG)

HISTORY OF THE PLASMA

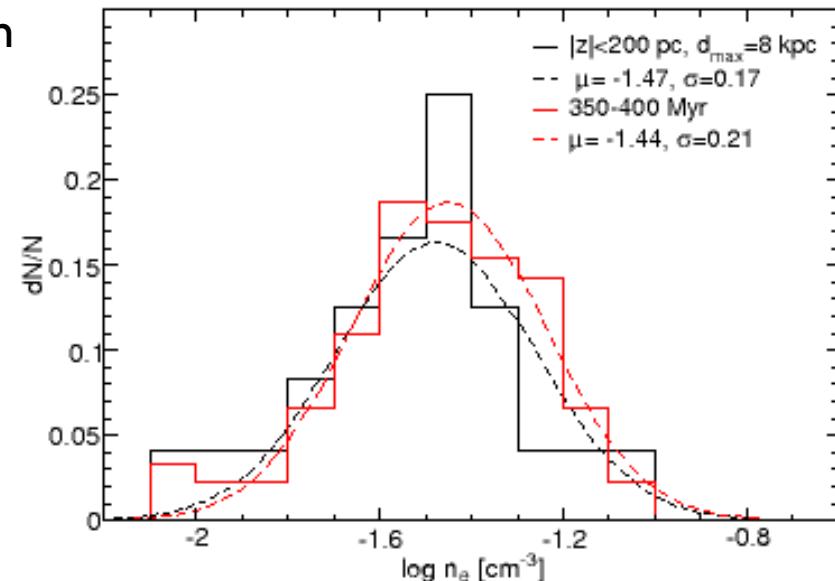


Avillez+Breitschwerdt (2012)

- Jenkins (2013): FUSE observations of UV spectra of 44 hot subdwarf stars a few hundred parsecs away from the Sun
 - ✓ Compare column densities of ArI to those of OI
 - ✓ The measured deficiency $[\text{ArI}/\text{OI}] = -0.427$ below the expectation for a fully neutral medium
 - ✓ Implies that the electron density $n_e \sim 0.04 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ if $n(\text{H}) = 0.5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

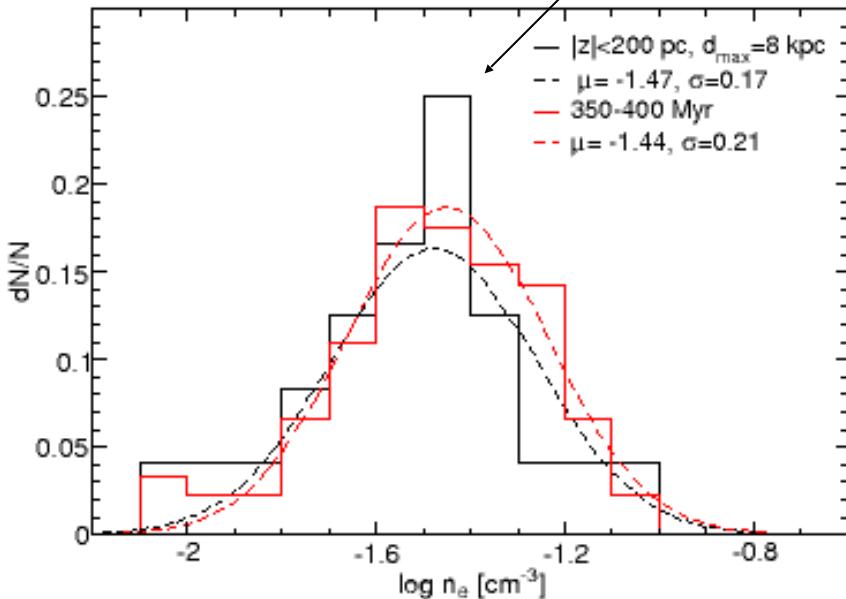
- Dispersion measurements against pulsars of known distances (Berkhuijsen+ 2008; Gaensler+ 2008; Schnitzeler 2012, see also Avillez+2012):
 - ✓ Electrons have a clumpy distribution
 - ✓ Log n_e has a Gaussian PDF
 - ✓ $n_e(z=0 \text{ pc}) = 0.02-0.04 \text{ cm}^{-3}$

$$\log \langle n_e \rangle = -1.47 \pm 0.02 \quad n_e \sim 0.033 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$



CAN WE TRUST THESE SIMULATIONS? ELECTRONS

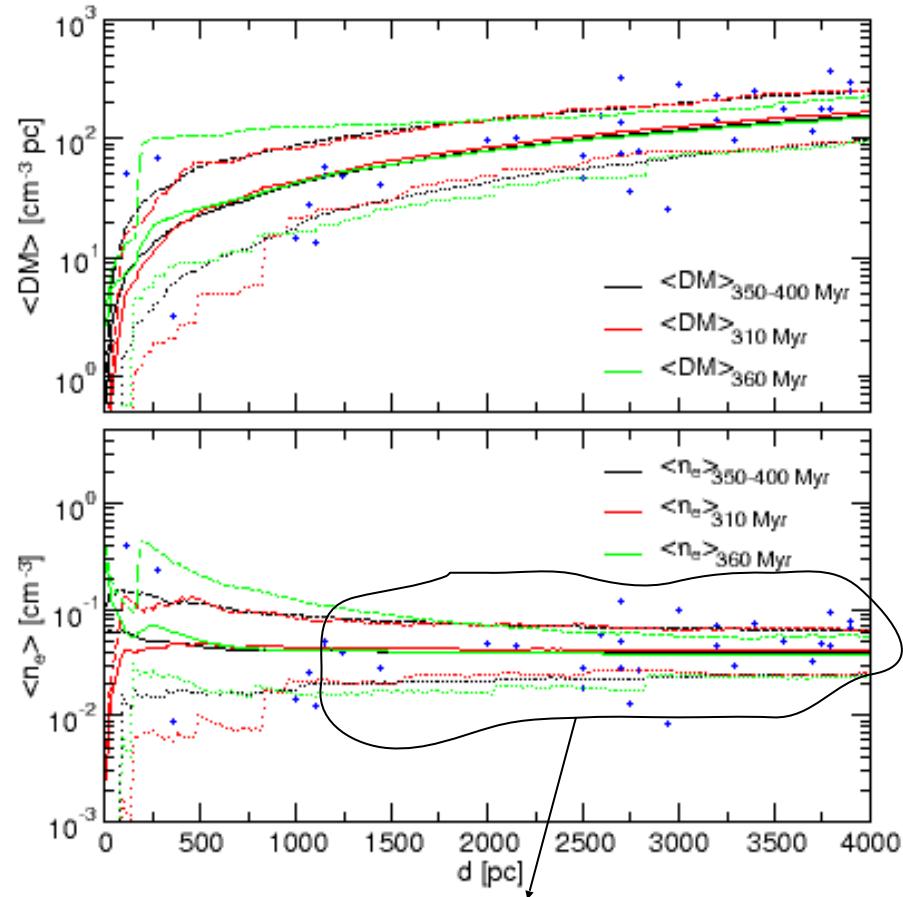
From pulsars DMs up to 8 kpc from Sun



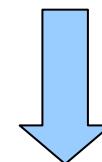
33 pulsars at $|z| < 200$ pc with reliable distance estimates.

$$\log \langle n_e \rangle = -1.47 \pm 0.02$$

$$n_e \sim 0.033 \text{ cm}^{-3}$$



Dispersion is constant with d



Electrons: clumpy distribution.

- Cooling time < Recombination time of ions
- Plasma keeps a record of its history - Need to include all the ions
- The ionization structure varies in space and time and depends on the ICs
- The cooling paths can be quite different for plasmas with the same initial temperature, but having different evolution histories;

- Full blown simulations imply ten most abundant elements (112 ions), thermal and non-thermal electron/proton distributions, large database of cross sections and collision strengths.
- CRs ISM simulations must include DSA and full calculation of ionisation, recombination and excitation/deexcitation rates using cross sections and the local electron/proton distribution function

HD/MHD/CR-MHD + ATOMIC/MOLECULAR PHYSICS



"That's all Folks!"