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# cOsmic Rays, triggers of preblotic chemistry in the interstellar medium

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# GOAL

To reach a comprehensive understanding of the impact of cosmic rays on the interstellar environment at large, including diffuse clouds, dense cores, protostellar discs, and protoplanetary habitats, to make a major advance on both the observational and theoretical side.



### PUBLICATIONS 16 papers + 1 book chapter (5 as first author, 2 as second author, 5 as third author)

Stellar energetic particle ionization in protoplanetary disks around T Tauri stars (Rab+ 2017 A&A); The onset of energetic particle irradiation in Class 0 protostars (Favre+ 2017 A&A); Protostars as cosmic-ray factories (Padovani+ 2017 Mem. S.A.It.); Resolving the polarized dust emission of the disk around the massive star powering the HH 80-81 radio jet (Girart+ 2018 ApJ); Cosmic-ray ionisation in circumstellar discs (Padovani+ 2018 A&A); Magnetic Mirroring and Focusing of Cosmic Rays (Silsbee+ 2018 ApJ); Magnetic field in a young circumbinary disk (Alves+ 2018 A&A); Protonated CO<sub>2</sub> in massive star-forming clumps (Fontani+ 2018 A&A); ALMA observations of polarized emission toward the CW Tau and DG Tau protoplanetary disks (Bacciotti+ 2018 ApJ); Production of atomic hydrogen by cosmic rays in dark clouds (Padovani+ 2018 A&A); Synchrotron emission in molecular cloud cores: the SKA view (Padovani+ 2018 A&A); The challenges of modelling microphysics: ambipolar diffusion, chemistry, and cosmic rays in MHD shocks (Grassi+ 2019 MNRAS) Protostellar Outflows at the EarliesT Stages (POETS). II. A possible radio synchrotron jet associated with the EGO G035.02+0.35 (Sanna+ 2019 A&A); The central 1000 AU of a pre-stellar core revealed with ALMA. I. 1.3 mm continuum observations (Caselli+ 2019 A&A); ALMA resolves the hourglass magnetic field in G31.41+0.31 (Beltrán+ 2019 A&A); Non-thermal emission from cosmic rays accelerated in HII regions (Padovani+ 2019 A&A); The physical and chemical structure of Sagittarius B2 V. Non-thermal emission in the envelope of Sgr B2 (Meng+ 2019 A&A). Book chapter: Impact of low-energy cosmic rays on star formation (Padovani+ 2019 - Space Science Series of ISSI, Springer)

### Publicly available on-line tool: http://synchrotron-hiiregions.herokuapp.com

Interstellar cosmic rays (effects on physics and chemistry of molecular clouds at different scales) Cosmic rays locally accelerated in protostars and HII regions Magnetic fields and polarisation (modelling and observations)



# **COSMIC RAYS IN GALACTIC STAR FORMATION**

### chemistry of molecular clouds

Caselli & Ceccarelli (2012) **Padovani**+ (2009,2011) Indriolo+ (2012,2015) **Padovani**+ (2013,2018a)

### gas temperature

Glassgold & Langer (1973) Cravens & Dalgarno (1978) Dalgarno+ (1999) Glassgold+ (2012) Galli & Padovani (2015)

### protostars as cosmic-ray sources

Araudo+ (2007) Bosch-Ramon+ (2010) Munar-Adrover+ (2011) **Padovani**+ (2015,2016,2017) atomic hydrogen in dark clouds Li & Goldsmith (2003) Goldsmith+ (2005, 2007) Padovani+ (2018b)

### (production of light elements, gamma-ray emission...)

### collapse timescale

Nakano+ (2002) **Padovani**+ (2013,2014)

### dust grain charge

Prasad & Tarafdar (1983) Cecchi-Pestellini & Aiello (1992) Shen+ (2004) Ivlev, Padovani+ (2015)

### **COSMIC RAYS E<10 GeV**

# synchrotron emission in star forming regions (SKA)

Dickinson+ (2015) Padovani+ (2018c) **Padovani**+ (2019)

photodissociation region (PDR)





**DNA nucleotides** 







Padovani+ (2009, 2011, 2013a, 2013b) Padovani+ (2018a)

# **COSMIC-RAY PROPAGATION:** FROM LARGE TO SMALL SCALES



## THE PROBLEM OF THE COLLAPSE TIMESCALE

free-fall time: 
$$t_{\rm ff} = \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{32G\mu m_p n}} \simeq \frac{4 \times 10^7}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Mass of the Milky Way:  $M_{\rm MW} \simeq 10^9 M_{\odot}$  then the star formation rate is  ${\rm SFR} = M_{\rm MW}/t_{\rm ff} \simeq 200 M_{\odot} {\rm yr}^{-1}$ 

BUT, from observations: SFR  $\simeq 3 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ 

On the scale of prestellar cores, turbulent motions and thermal pressure are negligible.

### MAGNETIC FIELD IS THE SOLUTION!

### yr typically n $\gtrsim 50$ cm<sup>-3</sup>, then $t_{\rm ff} \lesssim 5 \times 10^6$ yr

# THE PROBLEM OF THE COLLAPSE TIMESCALE

### Molecular cloud scale





### adapted from Machida+ (2007)





 ions and electrons are frozen into magnetic field; neutrals drift reaching the central part of the core.

### A frictional force couples charged particles and neutrals









10<sup>.</sup>2

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A frictional force couples charged particles and neutrals

1. typical "hourglass" shape of the magnetic field configuration (polarised thermal dust emission observations)











 ions and electrons are frozen into magnetic field;

 neutrals drift reaching the central part -2.0of the core.

> A frictional force couples charged particles and neutrals

-0.5

1.5 -

1.0 E

beam

1. typical "hourglass" shape of the magnetic field configuration (polarised thermal dust emission observations)











ions and electrons are frozen into magnetic field; neutrals drift reaching the central part of the core.

A frictional force couples charged particles and neutrals

2. magnetic tension prevents the distortion of the field lines, so the collapse of neutrals slows down because of collisions with charges (i.e. the collapse is braked).







The efficiency of the collapse braking depends on the degree of coupling between gas and the magnetic field, i.e. on the ionisation fraction:  $x = n_{\rho}/n$  $CR + H_2 \rightarrow CR + H_2^+ + e$ H<sub>2</sub> recombination H<sub>2</sub> ionisation  $\zeta n = k n_e n_i \simeq k n_e^2 = k x_e^2 n^2$  $x \propto \sqrt{\zeta/n}$  $\zeta(N) \propto j_{\rm CR}(E,N) \sigma_{\rm ion}(E) dE$ 



# **COSMIC-RAY INTERACTION WITH THE INTERSTELLAR MEDIUM**

Energy loss function

L(E) = -



 $\frac{1 \, \mathrm{d}E}{n \, \mathrm{d}x} = \frac{1 \, \mathrm{d}E}{n\beta c \, \mathrm{d}t}$ 

### pion production

# PROTONS



### inverse Compton

# ELECTRONS



COSMIC-RAY PROPAGATION INSIDE A MOLECULAR CLOUD  $j(E_0, N = 0) = j^{\text{IS}}(E_0) \longrightarrow j(E, N)$ 

Continuous Slowing-Down Approximation

1. straight-line propagation;

2. ΔE≪E.  $L(E) = -\frac{1}{n}\frac{\mathrm{d}E}{\mathrm{d}x} = -\frac{\mathrm{d}E}{\mathrm{d}N}$  $N = \int_{E}^{E_0} \frac{\mathrm{d}E}{L(E)}$  $\frac{\mathrm{d}E}{L(E)} = \frac{\mathrm{d}E_0}{L(E_0)}$  $j(E, N) = j^{IS}(E_0) \frac{dE}{dE_0} = j^{IS}(E_0) \frac{L(E_0)}{L(E)}$ 



### $j(E, N) dE = j^{IS}(E_0) dE_0$

# 





# **ASSUMPTIONS ON INTERSTELLAR COSMIC-RAY SPECTRA**



 $\zeta(N) \propto j(E, N)\sigma(E) dE$ 



# **COSMIC-RAY IONISATION IN CIRCUMSTELLAR DISCS**



### **COSMIC-RAY IONISATION IN CIRCUMSTELLAR DISCS** 10-14.

 $10^{26}$ 



# At high column densities, the ionisation rate becomes so low that gas decouples from magnetic fields and the collapse can proceed.







SYNCHROTRON EMISSION IN MOLECULAR CLOUDS (STARLESS CORES, **PROTOSTELLAR JETS, AND HILREGIONS)** 

Padovani+ (2018c, 2019)

### INFERRING THE STRENGTH AND THE MORPHOLOGY OF MAGNETIC FIELDS IN A STAR-FORMING REGION

- Zeeman splitting of hyperfine molecular transitions (e.g. Crutcher+ 1996);
- optical and near-infrared polarisation of starlight (e.g. Alves+ 2008,2011);
- polarisation of sub-millimetre thermal dust emission (e.g. Girart+ 2009; Alves+ 2018);
- maser emission polarisation (e.g. Vlemmings+ 2011);
- Goldreich-Kylafis effect (Goldreich & Kylafis 1981);
- Faraday rotation (e.g. Wolleben & Reich 2004).

### HOW TO INFER THE MAGNETIC FIELD STRENGTH IN A STAR-FORMING REGION

### An additional method

via synchrotron radiation produced by relativistic electrons braked by the cloud's magnetic fields (e.g. Brown & Marscher 1977)

> technique so far quite disregarded because: (i) poor knowledge of the IS flux of CR electrons; (ii) limited sensitivity of current radiotelescopes.

### Voyager spacecrafts + SKA = the turning point

### ... when past meets future!

# SYNCHROTRON EMISSION IN MOLECULAR CLOUDS



specific emissivity specific intensity (brightness)

 $S_{\nu} = \frac{\pi}{4 \ln 2} I_{\nu} \theta_b^2 \qquad I_{\nu} = \epsilon_{\nu} \, \mathrm{d}\ell$ 

 $\epsilon_{\nu}(r) = \int_{m_e c^2}^{\infty} \frac{j_e(E, r)}{v_e(E)} P_{\nu}^{\text{em}}(E, r) \, \mathrm{d}E$ 

 $P_{\nu}^{\text{em}}(E,r) = \frac{\sqrt{3}e^3}{m_e c^2} B_{\perp}(r) F \left[ \frac{\nu}{\nu_c(B_{\perp},E)} \right]$ 



### Total power per unit frequency

### flux density



### see e.g. Longair (2011), Padovani+ (2018c)



# SYNCHROTRON EMISSION IN MOLECULAR CLOUDS



specific emissivity specific intensity (brightness)





flux density

see e.g. Longair (2011), Padovani+ (2018c)





# SYNCHROTRON EMISSION IN MOLECULAR CLOUD CORES: THE SKA VIEW

### softened power-law density profile (Tafalla+ 2002)

$$n(r) = \frac{n_0}{1 + (r/r_0)^{\alpha}}$$

magnetic field strength profile (Crutcher 2012)

 $B(n) = B_0 \left(\frac{n}{n_0}\right)^{\kappa}$ 

FeSt 1-457, a.k.a. core109 [Pipe Nebula]
• density (Juárez+ 2017)
• B≈132 µG (Kandori+ 2017)

Barnard 68 (B68)
• density (Galli+ 2002)
• B<sub>pos</sub>≈20 μG (Kandori+ 2009)



# SYNCHROTRON EMISSION IN MOLECULAR CLOUD CORES: THE SKA VIEW



• molecular cloud cores with flattened density profile show higher flux density ( $B \propto n^k$ , k=0.55-0.65); • S<sub>v</sub> is not set by the maximum value of B, but rather by the its integrated value along the line of sight; • SKA will be able to detect synchrotron emission from starless cores (e.g. B68 and FeSt 1-457) in the range  $v \in [60, 218]$  MHz with S/N=2-23 in one hour of integration.





# SYNCHROTRON EMISSION IN PROTOSTELLAR JETS



Beltrán+ (2016)

For high-mass protostellar jets see e.g. Araudo+ (2007), Bosch-Ramon+ (2010), Munar-Adrover+ (2011)



### For a recent review, see Anglada+ (2018)



# SYNCHROTRON EMISSION IN PROTOSTELLAR JETS



Carrasco-González+ (2013)

but protostars are embedded in molecular clouds, where the interstellar flux of cosmic rays is strongly attenuated...

Rodríguez-Kamenetzky+ (2017)

# **PROTOSTELLAR JETS AS PARTICLE ACCELERATORS**



Model described in Padovani+ (2015, 2016)

## **PROTOSTELLAR JETS AS PARTICLE ACCELERATORS**



negative spectral index of the flux density  ${\sf S}_{\sf v} \propto 
u^lpha$ 

### LOCALLY ACCELERATED ELECTRONS!

Model described in Padovani+ (2015, 2016)

First-order Fermi acceleration (or Diffusive Shock Acceleration)



# **COSMIC-RAY ACCELERATION SITES**



expanding shock





## **COSMIC-RAY ACCELERATION SITES**





model Padovani+ (2019)



## **COSMIC-RAY ACCELERATION SITES**



fit to observations Meng+ (2019)

model Padovani+ (2019)



# **STELLAR PARTICLES : A NEW RESEARCH FIELD**

### **Effect of stellar CRs from TT stars on PPDs**



**Stellar CRs propagating in TT winds** 





**Effect of Stellar CRs from M-dwarfs on Earth-like exoplanetary atmospheres** 



