Cosmic ray feedback and magnetic dynamos in galaxy formation

Christoph Pfrommer¹

in collaboration with

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Cosmic rays in galaxies Galactic magnetic dynamo Puzzles in galaxy formation Cosmic rays and waves Cosmic ray transport

Puzzles in galaxy formation



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Stellar feedback



supernova Cassiopeia A

X-ray: NASA/CXC/SAO; Optical: NASA/STScl; Infrared: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Steward/Krause • galactic supernova remnants drive shock waves, turbulence, accelerate electrons + protons, amplify magnetic fields



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Stellar feedback through galactic winds



super wind in M82 NASA/JPL-Caltech/STScI/CXC/UofA

- galactic supernova remnants drive shock waves, turbulence, accelerate electrons + protons, amplify magnetic fields
- star formation and supernovae drive gas out of galaxies by galactic super winds



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Stellar feedback through galactic winds



super wind in M82 NASA/JPL-Caltech/STScI/CXC/UofA

- galactic supernova remnants drive shock waves, turbulence, accelerate electrons + protons, amplify magnetic fields
- star formation and supernovae drive gas out of galaxies by galactic super winds
- critical for understanding the physics of galaxy formation
 → may explain puzzle of low star conversion efficiency in dwarf galaxies



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Stellar feedback: processes



super wind in M82 NASA/JPL-Caltech/STScI/CXC/UofA

- thermal pressure provided by supernovae or active galactic nuclei?
- radiation pressure and photoionization by massive stars and quasars?
- pressure of cosmic rays (CRs) that are accelerated at supernova shocks?



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Galactic cosmic ray spectrum



- spans more than 33 decades in flux and 12 decades in energy
- "knee" indicates characteristic maximum energy of galactic accelerators
- CRs beyond the "ankle" have extra-galactic origin



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Galactic cosmic ray spectrum



- spans more than 33 decades in flux and 12 decades in energy
- "knee" indicates characteristic maximum energy of galactic accelerators
- CRs beyond the "ankle" have extra-galactic origin
- energy density of cosmic rays, magnetic fields, and turbulence in the interstellar gas all similar ⇒ important feedback agent



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Review on cosmic ray feedback

Astron Astrophys Rev (2023) 31:4 https://doi.org/10.1007/s00159-023-00149-2

REVIEW ARTICLE



Cosmic ray feedback in galaxies and galaxy clusters

A pedagogical introduction and a topical review of the acceleration, transport, observables, and dynamical impact of cosmic rays

Mateusz Ruszkowski^{1,3} · Christoph Pfrommer²



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Cosmic ray transport: an extreme multi-scale problem





Milky Way-like galaxy:

gyro-orbit of GeV CR:

$$r_{\rm gal} \sim 10^4 \ {
m pc} \qquad r_{\rm cr} = rac{p_{\perp}}{e \, B_{\rm uG}} \sim 10^{-6} \ {
m pc} \sim rac{1}{4} \, {
m AU}$$

\Rightarrow need to develop a fluid theory for a collisionless, non-Maxwellian component!

Zweibel (2017), Jiang & Oh (2018), Thomas & CP (2019)

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Interactions of CRs and magnetic fields

Cosmic ray



sketch: Jacob & CP

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Interactions of CRs and magnetic fields



sketch: Jacob & CP

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Interactions of CRs and magnetic fields



• electric fields vanish in the Alfvén wave frame: $abla imes {m E} = -rac{1}{c} rac{\partial {m B}}{\partial t}$



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- electric fields vanish in the Alfvén wave frame: $abla imes {m E} = -rac{1}{c} rac{\partial {m B}}{\partial t}$
- work out Lorentz forces on CRs in wave frame: $F_{L} = q \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}}{C}$



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Interactions of CRs and magnetic fields



- electric fields vanish in the Alfvén wave frame: $\nabla \times E = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial B}{\partial t}$
- work out Lorentz forces on CRs in wave frame: $F_{L} = q \frac{V \times B}{C}$
- Lorentz force depends on relative phase of CR gyro orbit and wave:
 - sketch: decelerating Lorentz force along CR orbit $\rightarrow \rho_{\parallel}$ decreases
 - phase shift by 180°: accelerating Lorentz force $ightarrow p_{\parallel}$ increases



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Interactions of CRs and magnetic fields



sketch: Jacob & CP

 only electric fields can provide work on charged particles and change their energy



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Interactions of CRs and magnetic fields



sketch: Jacob & CP

- only electric fields can provide work on charged particles and change their energy
- in Alfvén wave frame, where E = 0, CR energy is conserved: $p^2 = p_{\parallel}^2 + p_{\perp}^2 = \text{const. so that decreasing } p_{\parallel} \text{ causes } p_{\perp} \text{ to increase}$



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Interactions of CRs and magnetic fields



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• this increases the CR pitch angle cosine $\mu = \cos \theta = \frac{B}{|B|} \cdot \frac{p}{|D|}$



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Interactions of CRs and magnetic fields



sketch: Jacob & CP

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• CRs resonantly interact with Alfvén waves so that the wavelength equals the gyro-radius:

$$L_{\parallel} = r_{\rm g} = \frac{p_{\perp}c}{qB}$$

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Interactions of CRs and magnetic fields



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• gyro resonance: $\omega - k_{\parallel} v_{\parallel} = n\Omega = n \frac{qB}{\gamma m_{l} c}$

Doppler-shifted MHD frequency is a multiple n of the CR gyrofrequency



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Interactions of CRs and magnetic fields



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Cosmic ray streaming and diffusion

- CR streaming instability: Kulsrud & Pearce 1969
 - if v_{cr} > v_a, CR flux excites and amplifies an Alfvén wave field in resonance with the gyroradii of CRs
 - scattering off of this wave field limits the (GeV) CRs' bulk speed ~ v_a
 - wave damping: transfer of CR energy and momentum to the thermal gas





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Cosmic ray streaming and diffusion

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 \rightarrow CRs exert pressure on thermal gas via scattering on Alfvén waves



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Cosmic ray streaming and diffusion

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 \rightarrow CRs exert pressure on thermal gas via scattering on Alfvén waves

weak wave damping: strong coupling \rightarrow CR stream with waves strong wave damping: less waves to scatter \rightarrow CR diffusion prevails



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Modes of CR propagation





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Modes of CR propagation



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Modes of CR propagation



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Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factors

Cosmic ray transport in galaxies



- CR transport in galaxies demands modeling non-linear Landau damping (in warm/hot phase) and ion-neutral damping (in disk)
- this requires resolving the multi-phase structure of the ISM
- development of CRISP framework (Cosmic Rays and InterStellar Physics, Thomas+ 2024)



Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factors

Multi-phase ISM modeling

CRISP framework

CR G ISM

Thomas, CP, Pakmor (2024)

Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factors

Multi-phase ISM modeling

CRISP framework



CR





Full $H - H_2 - He$ chemistry sets ionization degree

First ionization stages of C - O - Si low temperature cooling

Photoelectric heating by dust

Thomas, CP, Pakmor (2024)

Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factors

Multi-phase ISM modeling







Improved SNe treatment (manifestly isotropic) and stellar winds

FUV NUV OPT radiation fields (reverse ray tracing)

absorbed by dust — impacting 📙 Chemistry

Metal enrichment

Thomas, CP, Pakmor (2024)

Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factors

Multi-phase ISM modeling



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Multi-phase ISM modeling



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Multi-phase ISM modeling

Cosmic rays barely affect the ISM because ion-neutral damping erases Alfvén waves



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Simulated Milky Way: surface density

Cosmic rays drive galactic winds, ram pressure propells mainly galactic fountains



Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factors

Simulated Milky Way: surface density

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Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factors

Simulated Milky Way: temperature

Galactic winds without cosmic rays are much hotter



Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factors

Simulated Milky Way: temperature

Galactic winds without cosmic rays are much hotter



Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factors

Multi-phase ISM modeling

Cosmic rays make galactic winds much denser

CRMHD



Thomas, CP, Pakmor (2024)

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5 kpc

MHD

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Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factor

Cosmic ray driven wind: mechanism



 CR pressure gradient dominates over thermal and ram pressure gradient and drives outflow:

$$| \boldsymbol{\nabla} \boldsymbol{P}_{\mathsf{cr}} + \boldsymbol{\nabla} \boldsymbol{P}_{\mathsf{th}} | >
ho | \boldsymbol{\nabla} \Phi$$

Multi-phase ISM Cosmic ray driven winds Mass and energy loading factors

Mass and energy loading factors



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Mass and energy loading factors



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation Conclusions

Origin and growth of magnetic fields

The general picture:

• **Origin.** Magnetic fields are generated by 1. electric currents sourced by a phase transition in the early universe or 2. by the Biermann battery



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Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR-radio correlation Conclusions

Origin and growth of magnetic fields

The general picture:

- **Origin.** Magnetic fields are generated by 1. electric currents sourced by a phase transition in the early universe or 2. by the Biermann battery
- Growth. A small-scale (fluctuating) dynamo is an MHD process, in which the kinetic (turbulent) energy is converted into magnetic energy: the mechanism relies on magnetic fields to become stronger when the field lines are stretched



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR-radio correlation Conclusions

Origin and growth of magnetic fields

The general picture:

- **Origin.** Magnetic fields are generated by 1. electric currents sourced by a phase transition in the early universe or 2. by the Biermann battery
- Growth. A small-scale (fluctuating) dynamo is an MHD process, in which the kinetic (turbulent) energy is converted into magnetic energy: the mechanism relies on magnetic fields to become stronger when the field lines are stretched
- Saturation. Field growth stops at a sizeable fraction of the turbulent energy when magnetic forces become strong enough to resist the stretching and folding motions





Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation Conclusions

Galactic magnetic dynamo



CP, Werhahn, Pakmor, Girichidis, Simpson (2022)

Simulating radio synchrotron emission in star-forming galaxies: small-scale magnetic dynamo and the origin of the far-infrared-radio correlation

MHD + cosmic ray advection + diffusion: $\{10^{10}, 10^{11}, 3 \times 10^{11}, 10^{12}\} M_{\odot}$



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR-radio correlation

Time evolution of SFR and energy densities



- cosmic ray (CR) pressure feedback suppresses SFR more in smaller galaxies
- energy budget in disks is dominated by CR pressure
- magnetic growth faster in Milky Way galaxies than in dwarfs



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation

Identifying different growth phases



• 1st phase: adiabatic growth with $B \propto \rho^{2/3}$ (isotropic collapse)



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation Conclusions

Identifying different growth phases



- 1st phase: adiabatic growth with $B \propto \rho^{2/3}$ (isotropic collapse)
- 2^{nd} phase: additional growth at high density ρ with small dynamical times $t_{dyn} \sim (G\rho)^{-1/2}$



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation Conclusions

Identifying different growth phases



- 1st phase: adiabatic growth with $B \propto \rho^{2/3}$ (isotropic collapse)
- 2^{nd} phase: additional growth at high density ρ with small dynamical times $t_{dyn} \sim (G\rho)^{-1/2}$
- 3rd phase: growth migrates to lower ρ on larger scales $\propto \rho^{-1/3}$



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation

Studying growth rate with numerical resolution



CP+ (2022)

 faster magnetic growth in higher resolution simulations and larger halos, numerical convergence for N ≥ 10⁶



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation

Studying growth rate with numerical resolution



- faster magnetic growth in higher resolution simulations and larger halos, numerical convergence for N ≥ 10⁶
- 1st phase: adiabatic growth (independent of resolution)



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation

Studying growth rate with numerical resolution



- faster magnetic growth in higher resolution simulations and larger halos, numerical convergence for N ≥ 10⁶
- 1st phase: adiabatic growth (independent of resolution)
- 2nd phase: small-scale dynamo with resolution-dep. growth rate

$$\Gamma = \frac{\mathscr{Y}}{\mathscr{L}} \operatorname{Re}_{\operatorname{num}}^{1/2}, \quad \operatorname{Re}_{\operatorname{num}} = \frac{\mathscr{L}\mathscr{Y}}{\nu_{\operatorname{num}}} = \frac{3\mathscr{L}\mathscr{Y}}{d_{\operatorname{cell}}\nu_{\operatorname{th}}}$$



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation

Exponential field growth in kinematic regime



 corrugated accretion shock dissipates kinetic energy from gravitational infall, injects vorticity that decays into turbulence, and drives a small-scale dynamo



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation Conclusions

Dynamo saturation on small scales while λ_B increases



 supersonic velocity shear between the rotationally supported cool disk and hotter CGM: excitation of Kelvin-Helmholtz body modes that interact and drive a small-scale dynamo



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation Conclusions

Kinetic and magnetic power spectra

Fluctuating small-scale dynamo in different analysis regions



- $E_B(k)$ superposition of form factor and turbulent spectrum
- pure turbulent spectrum outside steep central B profile



Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR-radio correlation

Non-thermal emission in star-forming galaxies

• previous theoretical modeling:

- one-zone steady-state models (Lacki+ 2010, 2011, Yoast-Hull+ 2013)
- 1D transport models (Heesen+ 2016)
- static Milky Way models (Strong & Moskalenko 1998, Evoli+ 2008, Kissmann 2014)



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Non-thermal emission in star-forming galaxies

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our theoretical modeling:

- run MHD-CR simulations of galaxies at different halos masses and SFRs
- model steady-state CRs: protons, primary and secondary electrons
- model all radiative processes from radio to gamma rays
- gamma rays: understand pion decay and leptonic inverse Compton emission
- radio: understand magnetic dynamo, primary and secondary electrons



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Steady-state cosmic ray spectra

• solve the steady-state equation in every cell for each CR population:

$$rac{\mathsf{N}(\mathsf{E})}{ au_{
m esc}} - rac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\mathsf{E}}\left[\mathsf{N}(\mathsf{E})\mathsf{b}(\mathsf{E})
ight] = \mathsf{Q}(\mathsf{E})$$

- protons: Coulomb, hadronic and escape losses (re-normalized to ε_{cr})
- electrons: Coulomb, bremsstr., IC, synchrotron and escape losses
 - primaries (re-normalized using K_{ep} = 0.02)
 - secondaries



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Steady-state cosmic ray spectra

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- protons: Coulomb, hadronic and escape losses (re-normalized to ε_{cr})
- electrons: Coulomb, bremsstr., IC, synchrotron and escape losses
 - primaries (re-normalized using K_{ep} = 0.02)
 - secondaries
- steady state assumption is fulfilled in disk and in regions dominating the non-thermal emission but not at low densities, at SNRs and in outflows



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Cosmic rays and magnetic dynamos in galaxies

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Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR-radio correlation

Simulated radio emission: $10^{12} \, M_{\odot}$ halo



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Simulated radio emission: 10¹¹ M_o halo



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Turbulent small-scale dynamo FIR–radio correlation

Far infra-red - radio correlation

Universal conversion: star formation \rightarrow cosmic rays \rightarrow radio



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Conclusions for cosmic ray physics in galaxies

CR feedback in galaxy formation:

- CR feedback barely impacts ISM or star formation because of strong ion-neutral damping in disk, which weakens CR coupling
- CR feedback drives powerful galactic winds
- CR feedback increases mass and energy loading factors by 4



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Conclusions for cosmic ray physics in galaxies

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Galactic magnetic dynamo and radio emission:

- gravitational collapse drives fluctuating small-scale dynamo \Rightarrow magnetic field growth
- magnetic fields saturate close to equipartition in Milky Way centers and sub-equipartition at larger radii and in dwarfs
- global $L_{\text{FIR}} L_{\text{radio}}$ reproduced for galaxies with saturated magnetic fields, scatter due to viewing angle and CR transport



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PICOGAL: From Flasma Kinetics to COsmological GALaxy Formation



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Cosmic rays and magnetic dynamos in galaxies

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Literature for the talk – 1

CR hydrodynamics and CR transport:

- Pfrommer, Pakmor, Schaal, Simpson, Springel, *Simulating cosmic ray physics on a moving mesh*, 2017, MNRAS, 465, 4500.
- Thomas & Pfrommer, Cosmic-ray hydrodynamics: Alfvén-wave regulated transport of cosmic rays, 2019, MNRAS, 485, 2977.
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Literature for the talk -2

Galactic magnetic dynamo and radio emission:

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