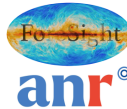


Generative models and component separations for physical fields with Scattering Transforms

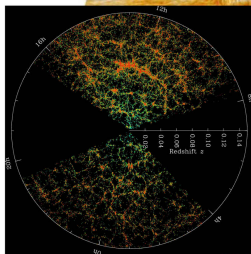
Erwan Allys - ENS, Paris
(Physics laboratory and Center for data science)

Journées de l'Action Spécifique Numérique
December 15th 2025



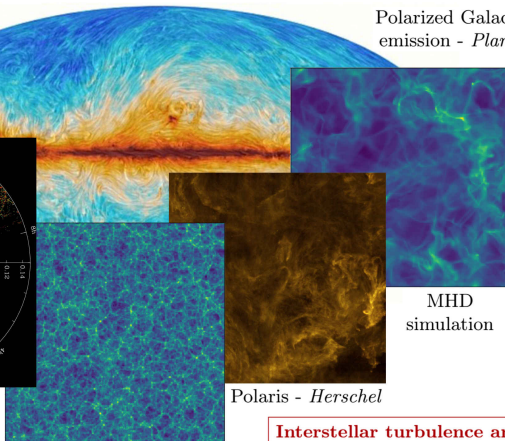
CMB B-modes and
Galactic foregrounds

Polarized Galactic
emission - *Planck*



LSS survey - *SDSS*

Testing the
cosmological model



MHD
simulation

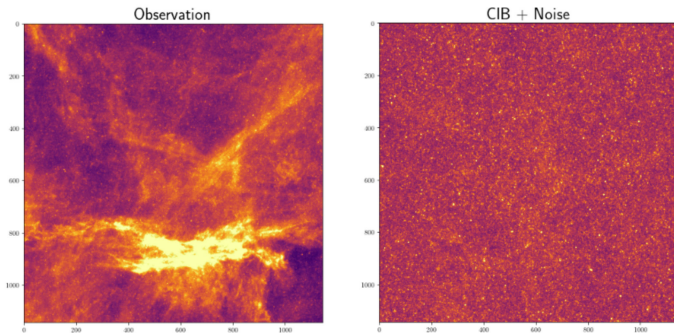
Polaris - *Herschel*

LSS simulation - *Quijote*

Interstellar turbulence and
galactic cycle of matter

- Common difficulty: non-linearity \Rightarrow non-Gaussian structures
- Sometimes no model and limited data regime...
- How to still leverage these structures for scientific objectives?

Example: CIB/Galactic dust emission



- **Galactic dust emission and Cosmic Infrared Background (CIB)**
 - ▶ Thermal dust emission in the interstellar medium
 - ▶ Same emission from Milky Way and other galaxies
 - ▶ Cosmic background dominates a smaller scales

→ **Characterization of Galactic dust on those scales?**
→ **Challenge of low-data regime + lack of prior model**

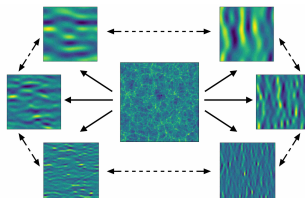
Outline

- 1 Scattering Transforms and generative models
- 2 Component separation and modeling from the data

Scattering transform (ST) statistics

- **Scattering transform statistics** (Mallat+, 2010+)

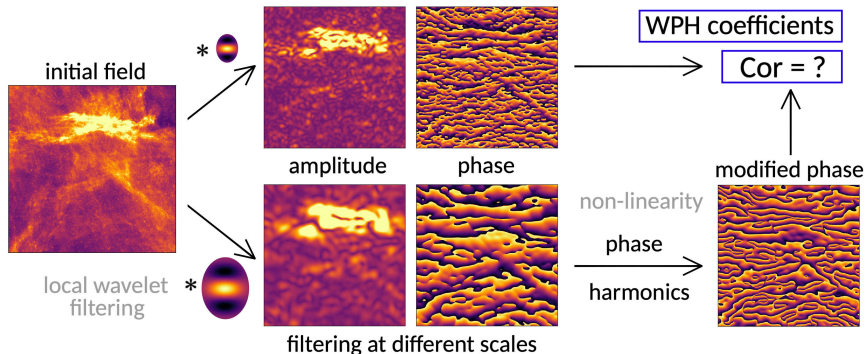
- ▶ Initially developed in data science
 - suited for non-linear/non-Gaussian processes
- ▶ Inspired from neural networks
 - efficient characterization and reduced variance
- ▶ Do not need any training stage
 - explicit mathematical form and interpretability



- Wavelet filters separating the different scales
- Coupling between scales with non-linearities

Scattering Transform (ST) statistics

- Wavelet Phase Harmonics and phase alignment (EA+20)



- 1 coeff / pair of scales / type of interaction
- Can be extended to cross-statistics between maps

Scattering Transform (ST) statistics

- A family of statistics

- ▶ Different generations of statistics
 - Wavelet Scattering Transforms (WST) *(EA+19)*
 - Wavelet Phase Harmonics (WPH) *(EA+20)*
 - Scattering covariances/spectra *(Cheng+23)*
- ▶ All share the same framework

Scattering Transform (ST) statistics

- A family of statistics

- ▶ Different generations of statistics
 - Wavelet Scattering Transforms (WST) *(EA+19)*
 - Wavelet Phase Harmonics (WPH) *(EA+20)*
 - Scattering covariances/spectra *(Cheng+23)*
- ▶ All share the same framework

- Characterization and parameter inference

- ▶ Interstellar medium *(EA+19, Regaldo+20, Saydjari+20, Lei+22)*
- ▶ Weak lensing *(Cheng+20, 21, 24)*
- ▶ Large scale structures *(EA+20, Eickenberg+22, Valogiannis+22a, 22b)*
- ▶ 21cm epoch of reionization *(Greig+22, Hothi+23)*
- ▶ ...

- Very informative (sometimes on par with CNN!)
 - Wide range of applicability (generic, training-less)

Generative models from Scattering transforms

- Generative model from ST statistics (*Bruna, Mallat, 19*)

- ▶ From the ST statistics $\Phi(s)$ of data s
- ▶ Maximum entropy model under ST constraints
- ▶ Quantitative non-Gaussian modeling of *physical processes*

$$p(s) \longrightarrow s_0 \longrightarrow \phi(s_0) \longrightarrow p_{\phi(s_0)}^{\text{m.e.}}(\tilde{s}) \longrightarrow \tilde{s}$$

Generative models from Scattering transforms

- Generative model from ST statistics (*Bruna, Mallat, 19*)

- ▶ From the ST statistics $\Phi(s)$ of data s
- ▶ Maximum entropy model under ST constraints
- ▶ Quantitative non-Gaussian modeling of *physical processes*

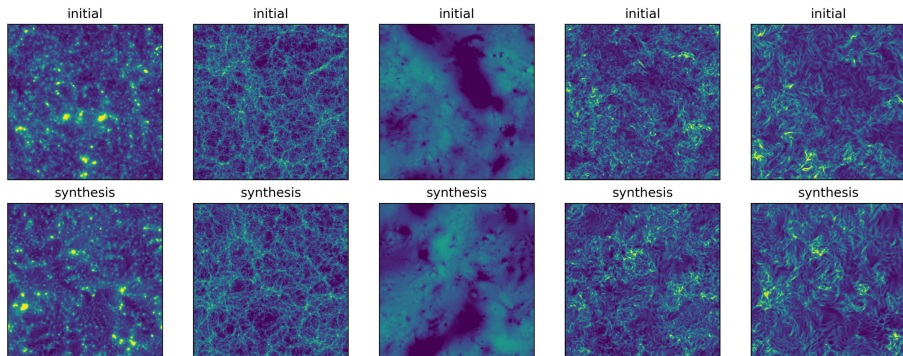
$$p(s) \longrightarrow s_0 \longrightarrow \phi(s_0) \longrightarrow p_{\phi(s_0)}^{\text{m.e.}}(\tilde{s}) \longrightarrow \tilde{s}$$

- Practical implementation (microcanonical)

- ▶ Constraints $\Phi(s)$ from a (set of) data s
- ▶ Sampled with a gradient-descent algorithm
 - from a white noise realization
 - Pixel-space optim. of \tilde{s} such that $\Phi(\tilde{s}) \simeq \Phi(s)$

Generative models from Scattering transforms

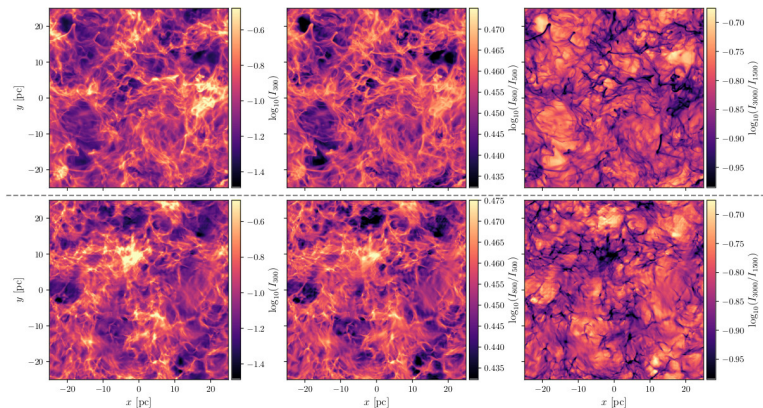
- Generative model from a single image (*Cheng+24*)
 - ▶ Scattering spectra + physical dimensionality reduction



- Realistic NG models from a few hundreds coefficients!
- Usual (NG) statistics very well reproduced (up to 1-10 %)

Generative models from Scattering transforms

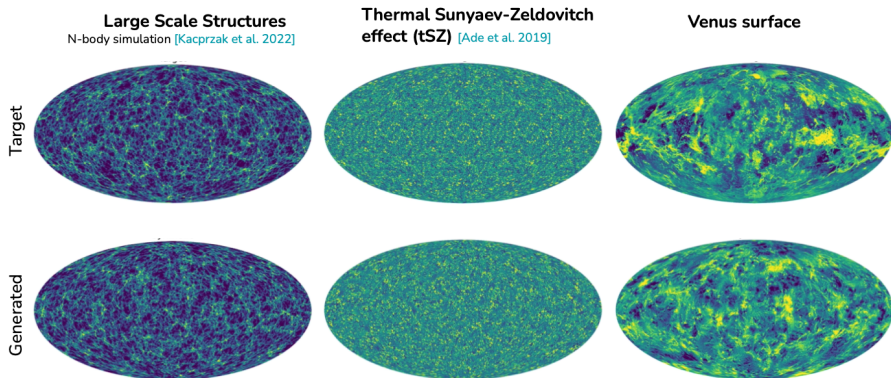
- Multi-frequency dust emission models (*Regaldo+22*)
 - Cross-WPH, simulated dust intensity, 300/500/800/1500/3000GHz



→ Extension to cross-statistics beyond linear correlation

Generative models from Scattering transforms

- Scattering transform on the sphere (*Mousset+24*)

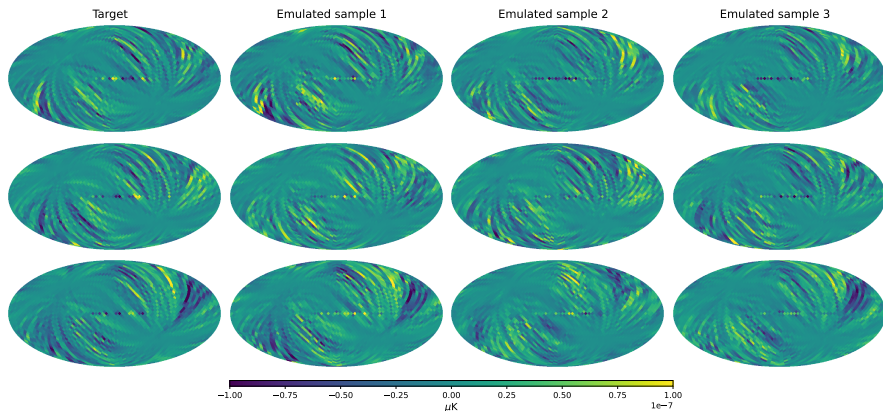


→ Extension possible to different types of data
→ 1D, 3D, 2+1D data... (*Morel+25, Hothi+25*)

Generative models from Scattering transforms

- Inhomogeneous processes on the sphere (*Campeti+25*)

- Full-sky CMB instrumental systematics



→ Extension (partially) possible to non-homogeneous data

Application of ST generative models

- Modeling a known physical process

- ▶ At least one sample of the process of interest
- ▶ Interest in having many realizations:
 - data augmentation e.g. for machine learning
 - bootstrapping for various statistical estimations
- ▶ ST models are not perfect 1-to-1 replacement

(Jeffrey+, 22)

Application of ST generative models

- Modeling a known physical process

- ▶ At least one sample of the process of interest
- ▶ Interest in having many realizations:
 - data augmentation e.g. for machine learning
 - bootstrapping for various statistical estimations
- ▶ ST models are not perfect 1-to-1 replacement

(Jeffrey+, 22)

- Low dim. parametric models of physical fields

- ▶ Parameters are the ST coefficients
- ▶ As parameter space for inverse problems
 - Allow to work without physically-driven models
- ▶ As latent space for machine-learning tasks
 - Modeling of component from unlabeled mixture

→ see S. Pierre's talk

Application of ST generative models

- Modeling a known physical process

- ▶ At least one sample of the process of interest
- ▶ Interest in having many realizations:
 - data augmentation e.g. for machine learning
 - bootstrapping for various statistical estimations
- ▶ ST models are not perfect 1-to-1 replacement

(Jeffrey+, 22)

- Low dim. parametric models of physical fields

- ▶ Parameters are the ST coefficients
- ▶ As parameter space for inverse problems
 - Allow to work without physically-driven models
- ▶ As latent space for machine-learning tasks
 - Modeling of component from unlabeled mixture

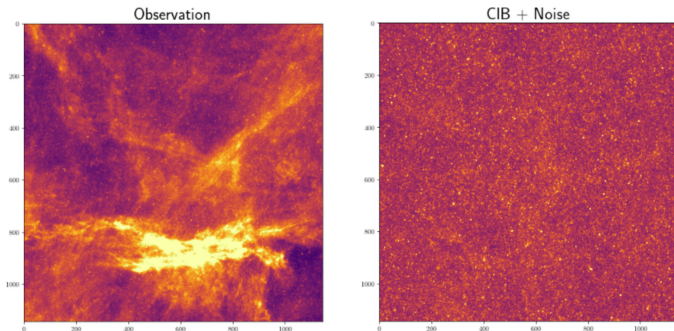
→ see S. Pierre's talk

→ Lot of new possibilities in low-data regimes
or without prior models

Outline

- 1 Scattering Transforms and generative models
- 2 Component separation and modeling from the data

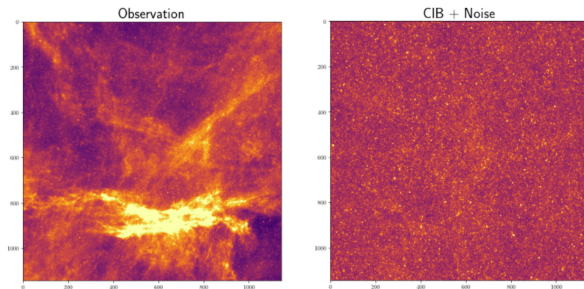
Separating CIB and Galactic dust emission



- **Galactic dust emission and Cosmic Infrared Background (CIB)**
 - ▶ Thermal dust emission in the interstellar medium
 - ▶ Same emission from Milky Way and other galaxies
 - ▶ Cosmic background dominates a smaller scales

→ **Characterization of Galactic dust on those scales?**
→ **Challenge of low-data regime + lack of prior model**

Separating CIB and Galactic dust emission



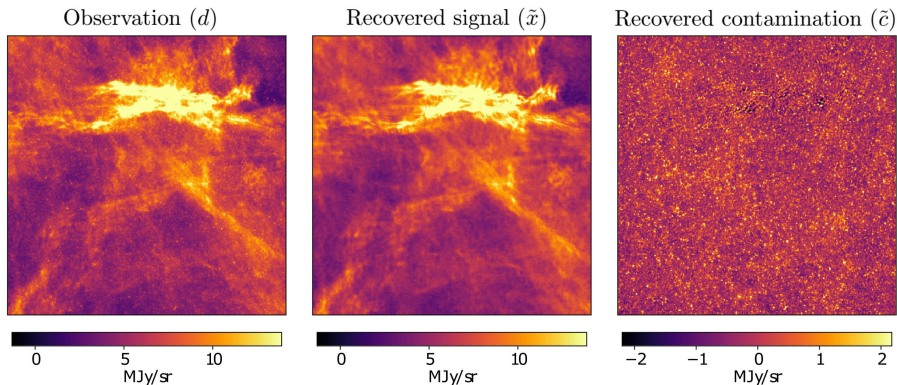
• Dust emission/Cosmic Infrared Background (Auclair+, 24)

- ▶ $d = s + c$, s thermal dust emission, c CIB
- ▶ CIB model from separate observation (cosmological \Rightarrow homogeneous)
- ▶ Gradient descent under two constraints, using a ST-model for $\{c_i\}_i$

$$\langle \Phi(\tilde{s} + c_i) \rangle_i \simeq \Phi(d), \quad \Phi(\tilde{c}) = \Phi(c)$$

Separating CIB and Galactic dust emission

- Recovered components (Auclair+24)



- Statistical component separation solely from obs. data
- Thermal dust is statistically recovered up to the beam

A general framework for component separation

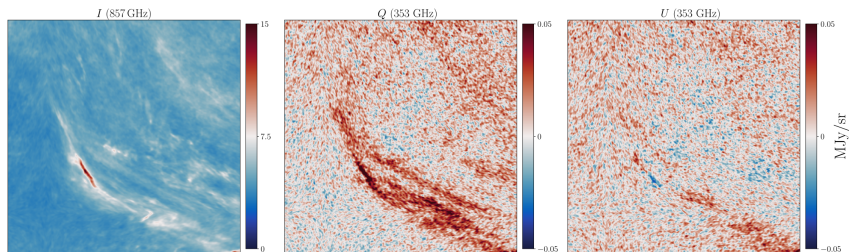
- Constraints from ST statistics
 - ▶ Constraints written directly from available data
 - ▶ Can rely on ancillary data with cross-statistics
 - ▶ Complete knowledge of all components not needed

A general framework for component separation

- **Constraints from ST statistics**
 - ▶ Constraints written directly from available data
 - ▶ Can rely on ancillary data with cross-statistics
 - ▶ Complete knowledge of all components not needed
- **Optimization scheme**
 - ▶ Sampling e.g. with gradient descent in pixel space
 - ▶ Degrees of freedom can be adapted
 - ▶ Complementary weighting schemes for the losses

→ Versatile framework for component separation
→ Can include various statistical constraints

Application to polarized Galactic dust foregrounds



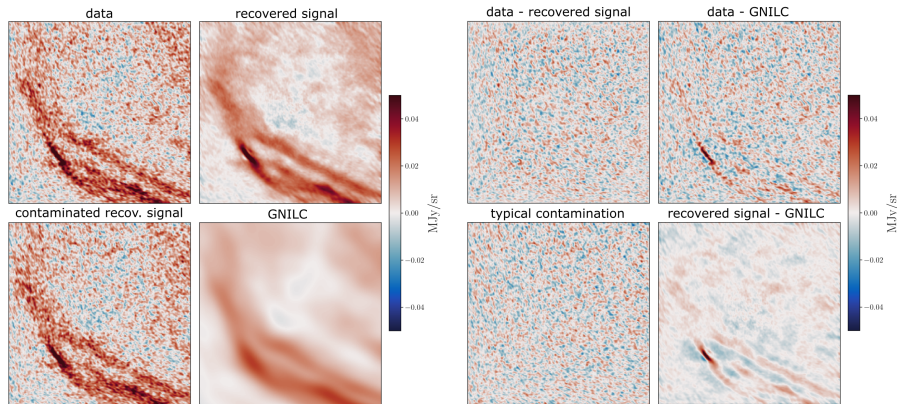
- Application on polarized Planck data (Tsouros+, in prep.)

- ▶ Improvement from **Régaldou+21** and **Delouis+22**
- ▶ Dust Q/U emission at 353 GHz + noise + CMB
- ▶ 7 constraints including correlation with total intensity (857 GHz)

→ Generate new Q/U dust map directly from the data?
→ No prior model for the polarized dust emission

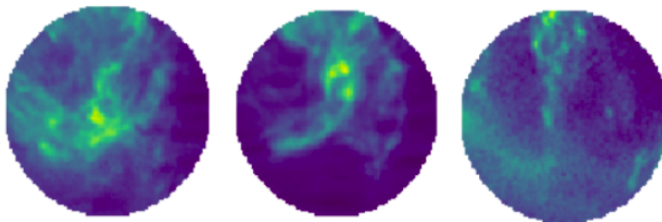
Application to polarized Galactic dust foregrounds

- Application on polarized Planck data (Tsouros+, in prep.)



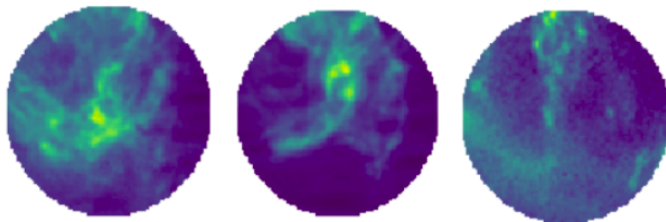
- Maps that pass all compatibility tests with the data
 - To be extended full-sky and multi-frequency
 - see S. Pierre's talk for a full Bayesian framework!

Unsupervised separation of H I data



- **H I observations of the interstellar medium**
 - ▶ Warm (WNM) and Cold (CNM) Neutral Media
 - ▶ Two phases with different spectral/spatial properties

Unsupervised separation of HI data

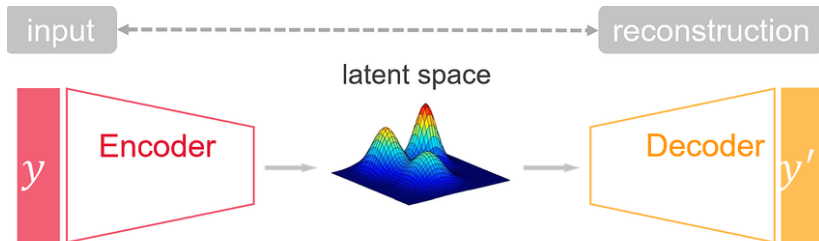


- **HI observations of the interstellar medium**
 - ▶ Warm (WNM) and Cold (CNM) Neutral Media
 - ▶ Two phases with different spectral/spatial properties
- **Modeling Galactic WNM/CNM directly from the data?**
 - ▶ GALFA-HI in 3 km/s bins (treated as 2D maps)
 - ▶ High-latitude + $|v| < 40$ km/s, 4' angular resolution
 - ▶ $\sim 36k \ 256^2$ patches with CNM, WNM, noise

→ First step with only spatial morphology
→ Lack of prior model + interface with Machine Learning

Unsupervised separation of HI data

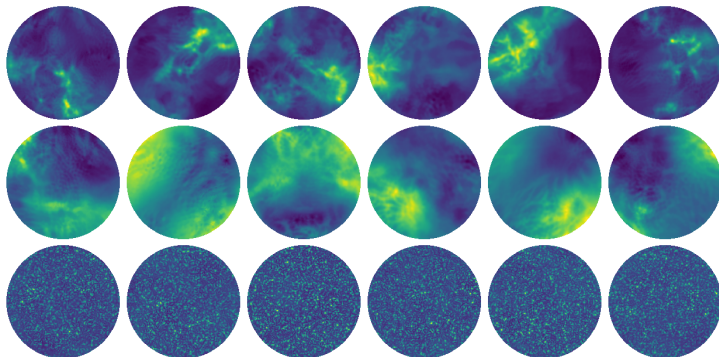
- **Variational Auto-Encoder (VAE) in ST space (Siahkoohi+, 23)**
 - ▶ Learn the identity in ST space over the dataset
 - ▶ Gaussian mixture model in latent space
 - one Gaussian per component (hyperparameter)



- **Unsupervised learning of components in ST space**
- **ST model for each component after training**

Unsupervised separation of H_I data

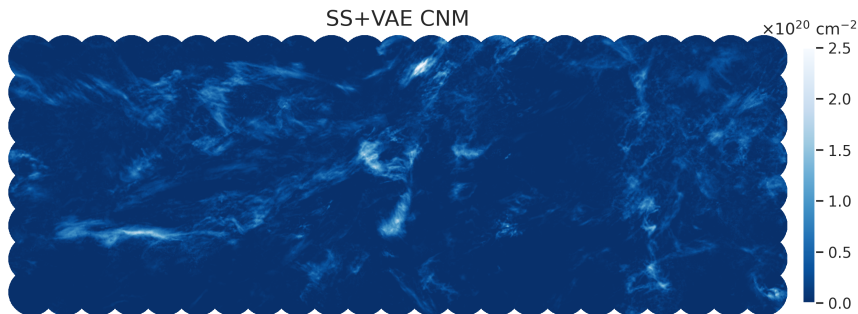
- Application to GALFA-H_I data (Lei, Clark+, 2025)
 - ▶ Unsupervised identification of 3 components



→ WNM/CNM/noise well modeled!
→ Interfacing ST models with other ML algorithms

Application to CNM mapping

- Component separation from learned models (Lei, Clark+, 2025)
 - ▶ ST-based component separation (other could be used)
 - ▶ 19°x51° footprint, LOS-integrated CNM column density



- Phase separation directly from the data (preliminary!)
- From spatial structure only, spectral information next

Conclusion

- **Scattering Transforms**
 - Efficient non-Gaussian statistics inspired from neural network
 - Characterize interaction between scales in non-linear processes
- **New tools for (astro-)physics**
 - Modeling and component separations
 - Ability to work with a very limited amount of data
 - Ability to work without prior data model
- **Applications to come are very exciting!**
 - Versatile and powerful tools: happy to discuss :-)
 - We are developing a versatile library: stay tuned!

Thanks for your attention!