Cosmic rays in a turbulent interstellar medium: Recent progress and open questions

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Cosmic rays diffuse through the Galaxy

1. Anisotropies



- Sources distributed in disk
- Yet, small anisotropy observed

 \rightarrow Cosmic rays change direction



Cosmic rays and turbulence



Credit: Noun Project; Ehtisham Abid; Syahrul Hidayatullah; Purwanto; Victoruler

Parallel transport

• Magnetic field: $\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle + \delta \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \text{phase-space density: } \langle f \rangle + \delta f$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial \langle f \rangle}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} \langle f \rangle = \int_{0}^{t} \mathrm{d}t \left\langle (\mathbf{v} \times \delta \mathbf{B}) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} \left[(\mathbf{v} \times \delta \mathbf{B}) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} \langle f \rangle \right]_{\mathbf{r}(t')} \right\rangle$$

Unperturbed trajectory $\mathbf{r}(t)$ characterised by pitch-angle cosine $\mu \equiv \cos \alpha$



$$\Rightarrow \text{ Pitch-angle scattering } \frac{\partial \langle f \rangle}{\partial t} + \nu \mu \frac{\partial \langle f \rangle}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} D_{\mu\mu} \frac{\partial \langle f \rangle}{\partial \mu} \quad \text{with} \quad D_{\mu\mu} \sim \left(\frac{\delta B^2}{B_0^2}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{r_g}{L_c}\right)^{q-2} \Omega_g$$
$$\Rightarrow \text{ For isotropic phase-space density } \bar{f}: \frac{\partial \bar{f}}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \kappa_{\parallel} \frac{\partial \bar{f}}{\partial z} = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \kappa_{\parallel} = \int_{-1}^{1} d\mu \frac{(1-\mu^2)^2}{D_{\mu\mu}}$$

Perpendicular transport





- (a) Straight field line and gyration
- (b) Wandering field line and gyration
- (c) Wandering field line and diffusion



$$d_{\mathsf{FL}}(z) = rac{1}{2} rac{\mathrm{d}\langle (\Delta r_{\perp}^{\mathsf{FL}})^2
angle}{\mathrm{d}z}$$

Observational anomalies

- Small-scale anisotropies
- Breaks in diffusion coefficient
- Local suppression of diffusion

Theoretical anomalies

- Different scaling of κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp}
- Effect of anisotropic turbulence

Observational anomalies

- Small-scale anisotropies
- Breaks in diffusion coefficient
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Theoretical anomalies

- Different scaling of κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp}
- Effect of anisotropic turbulence

Outline

Introduction

2 Small-scale anisotropies

 $\textcircled{\textbf{3} Different scaling of } \kappa_{\parallel} \text{ and } \kappa_{\perp}$

O Suppressed diffusion

6 Summary

Small-scale anisotropies

Abeysekara et al., ApJ 796 (2014) 108 Aartsen et al., ApJ 826 (2016) 220; Abeysekara et al., ApJ 865 (2018) 57; Abeysekara et al., ApJ 871 (2019) 96



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Vlasov equation

Frisch (1968), Pelletier (1977)

• Liouville equation:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}f}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \dot{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} f + \dot{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} f = \mathbf{0}$$

• Lorentz force:



• Vlasov equation:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \dot{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{r}} f + \frac{q}{c} \mathbf{v} \times \left(\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle + \delta \mathbf{B} \right) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} f = 0$$

• Ignoring the gradient:

$$\frac{\partial f_{\oplus}}{\partial t} + \underbrace{\left(\frac{q}{c}(\mathbf{v} \times \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}}\right)}_{\mathcal{L}_{0}} f_{\oplus} + \underbrace{\left(\frac{q}{c}(\mathbf{v} \times \delta \mathbf{B}) \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{p}}\right)}_{\delta \mathcal{L}} f_{\oplus} = 0$$

QM analogy

• Liouville's theorem:

 $\partial_t f + \mathcal{L}_0 f(t) = -\delta \mathcal{L}(t) f(t)$ $\imath \hbar \partial_t |\psi(t)\rangle - H_0 |\psi(t)\rangle = -H_1(t) |\psi(t)\rangle$

• Formally solved as

$$f(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{p},t) = U_{t,t_0}f(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{p},t_0) \qquad \qquad |\psi(t)\rangle = U(t,t_0)|\psi(t_0)\rangle$$

• With time evolution operator:

$$U_{t,t_0} = \mathcal{T} \exp\left[-\int_{t_0}^t \mathrm{d}t' \left(\mathcal{L}_0 + \delta\mathcal{L}(t')\right)\right] = U_{t,t_0}^{(0)} \mathcal{T} \exp\left[-\int_{t_0}^t \mathrm{d}t' \underbrace{\left(U_{t',t_0}^{(0)}\right)^{-1} \delta\mathcal{L}(t') U_{t',t_0}^{(0)}}_{\sim \text{interaction picture Hamiltonian}}\right]$$

-

and free propagator:

$$U_{t,t_0}^{(0)} = \exp\left[-\mathcal{L}_0(t-t_0)\right] \qquad \qquad U^{(0)}(t,t_0) = \exp\left[-iH_0(t-t_0)/\hbar\right]$$

-

Perturbative expansion

Frisch (1968), Pelletier (1977)

• Series expansion:

$$U_{t,t_0} = U_{t,t_0}^{(0)} + \sum_{n \ge 1} (-1)^n \int_{t_0}^t dt_n \int_{t_0}^{t_n} dt_{n-1} \dots \int_{t_0}^{t_2} dt_1 U_{t,t_n}^{(0)} \delta \mathcal{L}(t_n) U_{t_n,t_{n-1}}^{(0)} \delta \mathcal{L}(t_{n-1}) \dots \delta \mathcal{L}(t_1) U_{t_1,t_0}^{(0)}$$

- But can only make predictions for ensemble-averaged quantities, e.g. $\langle U_{t,t_0}^{(0)} \rangle$
- \rightarrow Correlation functions, e.g. $\langle \delta \mathcal{L}(t_2) \delta \mathcal{L}(t_1) \rangle \rightarrow \langle \delta \mathbf{B}(t_2) \delta \mathbf{B}(t_1) \rangle$
- Diagrammatic representation:

Double propagator

Mertsch & Ahlers (2019)

For $\langle f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1)f(\hat{\mathbf{p}}_2)\rangle$ we need correlated evolution of two particles:



Formulate differential equation of $\langle C_\ell(t) \rangle$ and solve for steady-state

Test particle simulations

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

- Need to check analytical results with simulations
- Set up turbulent magnetic field on computer
- Solve the equations of motion for $\mathcal{O}(10^7)$ particles numerically





- Rinse and repeat
- Compute diffusion coefficients, angular power spectra, ...

Results

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)



When applying to observational data:

- Independent measurement of scattering time
- Constraints on details of magnetised turbulence

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Outline

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3 Different scaling of κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp}

O Suppressed diffusion

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Different scaling of κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp}

- Regular and turbulent field: $\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{B}_0 + \delta \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r})$
- Isotropic turbulence (!)
- Kolmogorov power spectrum with largest turbulent scale L_c

• Naive expectation:

$$\begin{split} \kappa_{\parallel} &\sim \left(\frac{r_g}{L_c}\right) \quad \left(\frac{\partial B}{B_0^2}\right) \\ \kappa_{\perp} &\sim \left(\frac{r_g}{L_c}\right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{\delta B^2}{B_0^2}\right) \end{split}$$

 $(-)^{1/3} (S P^2)^{-1}$



Test particle simulations

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]; also Mertsch (2019)



- **1** Set up realisation of $\delta \mathbf{B}$ on computer
- 2 Propagate a large number of particles for long times
- 8 Rinse and repeat
- 4 Running diffusion coefficients:

$$egin{aligned} d_{\parallel}(t) &\equiv rac{1}{2}rac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\langle (\Delta z)^2
angle \ d_{\perp}(t) &\equiv rac{1}{2}rac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\langle (\Delta r_{\perp})^2
angle \end{aligned}$$

Results depend on:

• Reduced time:
$$\Omega t$$

• Reduced rigidity: $\frac{r_{\rm g}}{L_{\rm c}}$
• Turbulence level: $\eta = \frac{\delta B^2}{B_0^2 + \delta B^2}$

Running parallel diffusion coefficient

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]



- Initially ballistic: $\langle (\Delta z)^2
 angle \propto t^2$
- Ultimately diffusive: $\langle (\Delta z)^2
 angle \propto t$
- Dependence on turbulence level
- Suppression at intermediate times

Running perpendicular diffusion coefficient

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]



• Initially ballistic: $\langle (\Delta r_{\perp})^2
angle \propto t^2$

- Ultimately diffusive: $\langle (\Delta r_{\perp})^2 \rangle \propto t$
- Suppression at intermediate times

• Subdiffusion: $\langle (\Delta r_{\perp})^2
angle \propto t^{0.5...0.7}$

Running perpendicular diffusion coefficient

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• Ultimately diffusive: $\langle (\Delta r_{\perp})^2 \rangle \propto t$

• Subdiffusion: $\langle (\Delta r_{\perp})^2
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Why subdiffusion?

Mean-free paths

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]



Heuristic model

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05882]

• Assumption:

Perpendicular transport = particle transport along field line + transport of field line

 \rightarrow Perpendicular diffusion coefficient:

$$d_{\perp}(t) = rac{d_{ extsf{FL}}(\sqrt{\langle (\Delta z)^2
angle})}{\sqrt{\langle (\Delta z)^2
angle}} d_{\parallel}(t)$$

• Parametrise d_{FL} and d_{\parallel} by heuristic models



Mean-free paths

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05882]



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Gamma-ray halos

Abeysekara et al. (2017)



- Gamma-ray emission around two nearby pulsars
- Emission from e^{\pm} much more confined than expected
- $\rightarrow\,$ Ambient diffusion coefficient suppressed by factor ~ 100
- Also evidence of suppressed diffusion around some supernova remnants

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A swiss cheese Galaxy

Jacobs, Mertsch, Phan, arXiv:2305.10337



- Diffusion suppressed in bubbles around sources
- \rightarrow Transport of cosmic rays affected on large scales?
- Different diffusion coefficient in disk and halo: $\kappa_{disk} = \alpha \kappa_{halo}$

A swiss cheese Galaxy

Jacobs, Mertsch, Phan, arXiv:2305.10337





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Jacobs, Mertsch, Phan (2023)

- Filling fraction f ≤ (a few) % → negligible?
- Difficult to model numerically
- $\rightarrow\,$ Adopt course-grainined $\kappa_{\rm disk}=\alpha\kappa_{\rm high}$ and $\kappa_{\rm halo}=\kappa_{\rm high}$



- Study impact of $\alpha < 1$ on cosmic ray observables
- The coarse-grained $\kappa_{\rm disk}$ can only depend on $\kappa_{\rm high}$, $\kappa_{\rm low}$ and the filling fraction
- $\rightarrow\,$ Can infer filling fraction from data?

$^{10}\mathrm{Be}/^{9}\mathrm{Be}$

Jacobs, Mertsch, Phan, in prep.



- \bullet Unstable $^{10}\mathrm{Be}$ created in disk
- At high energies: essentially stable
- At low energies: decays while diffusing

If diffusion is suppressed, $\kappa_{\rm disk} < \kappa_{\rm halo},$ $^{10}{\rm Be}/^{9}{\rm Be}$ is increased at low energies

Posterior distributions

Jacobs, Mertsch, Phan (2023)





With prelim. AMS-02 data

- Best fit for $\alpha\simeq$ 0.2
- lpha=1 excluded at $\sim 4\sigma$
- Implies very large filling fraction $f \sim 0.5$

Cross-section

Jacobs, Mertsch, Phan, in prep.



With alternative cross-sections

- OPT22 has weaker energy-dependence
- ightarrow Marginal preference for lpha < 1
- \rightarrow Need better cross-section data!



Summary



 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Small-scale anisotropies} \\ \rightarrow \mbox{ Transition from ballistic to diffusive motion} \end{array}$



Different scaling of κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp} \rightarrow Subdiffusion in field line transport



Suppressed diffusion \rightarrow Can be investigated with $^{10}\text{Be}/^{9}\text{Be}$

Outline

6 Backup slides

- Anisotropy
- Small-scale anisotropies
- \blacksquare Different scaling of κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp}
- Suppressed diffusion

Anisotropy

Between a few GeV and a PeV: $a = O(10^{-4} \dots 10^{-3})$



- Sources are discrete
- If CRs were travelling balistically, would expect $\mathcal{O}(1)$ anisotropy
- See, e.g., electro-magnetic radiation



- CRs are distributed very isotropically
- $\rightarrow\,$ Need to isotropise CRs
- (Coulomb) collisions with interstellar matter too infrequent

Anisotropy

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- Sources are discrete
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- CRs are distributed very isotropically
- $\rightarrow\,$ Need to isotropise CRs
- (Coulomb) collisions with interstellar matter too infrequent
- Scattering of charged particles with turbulent magnetic field isotropises particle directions
- $\rightarrow\,$ Particles perform a random walk in space:

 $\langle (\Delta r)^2 \rangle \propto \Delta t$

• The constant of proportionality is called the diffusion coefficient κ

Mixing matrices

Mertsch & Ahlers (2019), Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

• Define propagator:

$$U_{t,t_0} = \mathcal{T} \exp \left[- \int_{t_0}^t \mathrm{d}t' \left(\mathcal{L}' + \delta \mathcal{L}(t')
ight)
ight]$$

Formal solution of Vlasov equation:

$$f_{\oplus}(\mathbf{p},t) = U_{t,t_0}f_{\oplus}(\mathbf{p},t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t \mathrm{d}t' U_{t,t'} c\, \hat{\mathbf{p}}\cdot \mathbf{G}$$

$$\rightarrow$$
 Differential equation for $\langle C_\ell \rangle$

$$\begin{split} \boxed{\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\langle C_{\ell}\rangle(t) + \left(\lim_{t_0 \to t} \frac{\delta_{\ell\ell_0} - M_{\ell\ell_0}(t, t_0)}{t - t_0}\right)}{\mathrm{mixing}\ \ell_0 \to \ell} \langle C_{\ell_0}\rangle(t) = \boxed{\frac{8\pi}{9}K|\mathbf{G}|^2\delta_{\ell_1}} \\ \frac{\mathrm{mixing}\ \ell_0 \to \ell}{\mathrm{M}_{\ell\ell_0}(t, t_0) = \frac{1}{4\pi}\int \mathrm{d}\mathbf{\hat{p}}_A \int \mathrm{d}\mathbf{\hat{p}}_B \mathrm{P}_{\ell}(\mathbf{\hat{p}}_A \cdot \mathbf{\hat{p}}_B) \langle U_{t,t_0}^A U_{t,t_0}^{B*} \rangle \frac{2\ell_0 + 1}{4\pi} \mathrm{P}_{\ell_0}(\mathbf{\hat{p}}_A \cdot \mathbf{\hat{p}}_B)} \end{split}$$

where

Ignoring correlations

Mertsch & Ahlers (2019), Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

• Without "interactions":

$$\langle U^A_{t,t_0} U^{B*}_{t,t_0} \rangle \quad \simeq \quad \underbrace{-}_{} + \underbrace{-}_{} \underbrace{-}_{} + \underbrace{-}_{} \underbrace{-}_{} + \underbrace{-}_{} \underbrace{-}_{} + \underbrace{-}_{} \underbrace{-}_{} \underbrace{-}_{} + \underbrace{-}_{} \underbrace{-}_$$

• Mixing matrix diagonal:

 $M_{\ell\ell_0}(t,t_0)\sim \delta_{\ell\ell_0}$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \langle C_{\ell} \rangle(t) + \left(\lim_{t_0 \to t} \frac{\delta_{\ell \ell_0} - M_{\ell \ell_0}(t, t_0)}{t - t_0} \right) \langle C_{\ell_0} \rangle(t) = \frac{8\pi}{9} \mathcal{K} |\mathbf{G}|^2 \delta_{\ell 1} \,,$$

 \rightarrow Only dipolar anisotropy:

 $\langle C_\ell \rangle \propto \delta_{\ell 1} \,,$

With correlations

Mertsch & Ahlers (2019), Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

• With "interactions"

• Mixing matrix **not** diagonal:

$$M_{\ell\ell_0}(t,t_0) \sim \, \delta_{\ell\ell_0} + \sum_{\ell_A} \kappa_{\ell_A}(t-t_0) \left(egin{array}{cc} \ell & \ell_A & \ell_0 \ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}
ight)^2 (2\ell_0+1)\ell_0(\ell_0+1)$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \langle C_{\ell} \rangle(t) + \left(\lim_{t_0 \to t} \frac{\delta_{\ell \ell_0} - M_{\ell \ell_0}(t, t_0)}{t - t_0} \right) \langle C_{\ell_0} \rangle(t) = \frac{8\pi}{9} K |\mathbf{G}|^2 \delta_{\ell 1} \,,$$

With correlations

Mertsch & Ahlers (2019), Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022)

• With "interactions"

• Mixing matrix **not** diagonal:

$$M_{\ell\ell_0}(t,t_0)\sim\,\delta_{\ell\ell_0}+\sum_{\ell_A}\kappa_{\ell_A}(t-t_0) \left(egin{array}{ccc} \ell & \ell_A & \ell_0 \ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}
ight)^2(2\ell_0+1)\ell_0(\ell_0+1)$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \langle C_\ell \rangle(t) + \left(\lim_{t_0 \to t} \frac{\delta_{\ell \ell_0} - M_{\ell \ell_0}(t, t_0)}{t - t_0} \right) \langle C_{\ell_0} \rangle(t) = \frac{8\pi}{9} K |\mathbf{G}|^2 \delta_{\ell 1} \,,$$

 $\rightarrow\,$ Gradient source term is mixing into higher harmonics!

Results

- Expect scaling $\Omega \Delta T \propto (\Omega \tau_s)^{1/3}$ \rightarrow Confirmed by numerical simulations
- Observations of small scale anisotropies can constrain $\Omega \tau_s$
 - \rightarrow Constraints on the turbulent magnetic field!



- Numerical and analytic angular power spectra become steeper for smaller energies
- Observed angular power spectra become flatter for smaller energies

Possible reasons for different scaling

- A feature in the power spectrum
- A very small outer scale
- Slab turbulence does not describe data well
- Finite energy resolution

Ratio of mean-free paths

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05881]



 κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp} scale differently at medium rigidites, but they scale the same at low rigidities

Heuristic model

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05882]

 $\label{eq:perpendicular transport} \mbox{ Perpendicular transport = particle transport along field line + transport of field line }$

Start from
$$d_{FL}(z) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d\langle (\Delta r_{\perp}^{FL})^2 \rangle}{dz}$$
Integrate: $\langle (\Delta r_{\perp}^{FL})^2 \rangle(z) = 2 \int_0^z dz' d_{FL}(z')$
Assume that particles follow field lines: $\langle (\Delta r_{\perp}^{CR})^2 \rangle(z) = \langle (\Delta r_{\perp}^{FL})^2 \rangle(z)$
Subsitute into $d_{\perp}(t) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left(\langle (\Delta r_{\perp}^{CR})^2 \rangle \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^{z(t)} dz' d_{FL}(z')$
Evaluate $z(t)$ as $\sqrt{\langle z^2 \rangle(t)} \Rightarrow d_{\perp}(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^{\sqrt{\langle z^2 \rangle}} dz' d_{FL}(z') = \frac{d_{FL}(\sqrt{\langle (\Delta z)^2 \rangle})}{\sqrt{\langle (\Delta z)^2 \rangle}} d_{\parallel}(t)$

N.B.: This can also be derived from a microscopic model of particle transport.

Heuristic model

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05882]

$$d_{\perp}(t) = rac{d_{\mathsf{FL}}(\sqrt{\langle (\Delta z)^2
angle})}{\sqrt{\langle (\Delta z)^2
angle}} d_{\parallel}(t)$$

Parametrise d_{FL} and d_{\parallel} by broken power laws



Field-line transport is subdiffusive at intermediate distances!

See also Sonsrettee et al. (2016)

Ratio of mean-free paths

Kuhlen, Mertsch, Phan (2022) [arXiv:2211.05882]



 κ_{\parallel} and κ_{\perp} scale differently at medium rigidites, but they scale the same at low rigidities

(More details \rightarrow Appendix)

NOT the conflict

Evoli, Linden, Morlino (2018), Linden & Mukhopadhyay (2022)



- Growth rate: $\Gamma_{1D} \propto \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$
- Volume occupied: $V_{1D} \sim A \left< (\Delta z)^2 \right>^{1/2}$



NOT the conflict

Evoli, Linden, Morlino (2018), Linden & Mukhopadhyay (2022)



- Growth rate: $\Gamma_{1D} \propto \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$
- Volume occupied: $V_{1D} \sim A \left< (\Delta z)^2 \right>^{1/2}$



Locally, transport is not isotropic

See Lopez-Coto and Giacinti (2019) though

The conflict



 \rightarrow

 \rightarrow

Suppression of diffusion



 $\kappa_{\perp} \ll \kappa_{\parallel} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \delta B^2 \ll B_0^2$

Spherical distribution



