# Tracing cold gas with the largest bound atoms in space

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### Cold clouds and interstellar recycling



Galactic Science with the SKA & Its Pathfinders, 2014

Moriarty-Schieven

## Carbon Radio Recombination Lines

2 flavors: discrete (HII regions) and diffuse. Ionization potential of carbon  $11.2~{\rm eV}.$ 









#### The line of sight towards Cassiopeia A



#### The line of sight towards Cassiopeia A







The lines get broadened by collisions with electrons and the presence of a radiation field.

 $\begin{array}{l} \Delta v \propto T_{rad} n^{5.8} + n_e T_e n^{\gamma_c} \text{,} \\ 4.28 \leq \gamma_c \leq 5.48 \end{array}$ 









Parameter	unit	$-47~{\rm km~s^{-1}}$	$-38 \mathrm{~km~s^{-1}}$
$T_{R,100}$	[K]	$1400 \ (1351 \pm 83)$ 85 + 5	$\frac{1600}{85} (1507 \pm 128)$
n <sub>e</sub>	$[\mathrm{cm}^{-3}]$	$0.040 \pm 0.005$	$0.040 \pm 0.005$
$L_{CII}$ EM <sub>CII</sub>	[pc] $[cm^{-6} pc]$	$35.3 \pm 1.2 \ 0.056 \pm 0.014$	$\begin{array}{c} 18.6 \pm 1.6 \\ 0.030 \pm 0.008 \end{array}$
N <sub>CII</sub> N <sub>11</sub>	$[cm^{-2}]$	$(4.4 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{18}$ $(3.1 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{22}$	$(2.3 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{18}$ $(1.6 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{22}$
n <sub>H</sub>	$[\mathrm{cm}^{-3}]$	$(3.1 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-286} \pm 36^{-10}$	$(1.0 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-286} \pm 36^{-10}$
${ m p_{thermal}/k} \ { m p_{turbulent}/k}$	$[{ m K~cm^{-3}}]$ $[{ m K~cm^{-3}}]$	$(2.4 \pm 0.5)  imes 10^4 \ (1.9 \pm 0.1)  imes 10^5$	$(2.4 \pm 0.5) \times 10^4$ $(7.6 \pm 1.0) \times 10^5$
${ m p_{magnetic}/k}\ \zeta_{ m H}$	$[{ m K~cm^{-3}}]$ $[{ m s^{-1}}]$	${\begin{array}{c} (1.8 - 4.5)  imes 10^4 \ (0.3 \pm 0.05)  imes 10^{-17} \end{array}}$	_

Oonk et al. 2016

Oonk et al. 2016











 $C(n)\alpha/[CII]$  is a powerful thermostat for  $n \gtrsim 450$ .

Ratio between lines in emission and absorption constrains  $n_e$  for a given temperature.







Orion



In combination with: GBT L-band, SOFIA [CII], CO(2-1) and more.



## CRRL survey



# Summary

- Low frequency CRRLs are a powerful probe of the ISM physical conditions.
- The combination of SOFIA and CRRLs will enable us to study the gas heating and cooling.
- LOFAR surveys of CRRLs:
  - Medium resolution survey: probing the  $\gtrsim 10'$  scales.
  - Pinhole survey: probing scales  $\leq 10'$ .
  - Extragalactic survey: unlocking the CRRL universe. (Morabito, Emig, Toribio)

