# Component Separation for HI Intensity Mapping with GNILC

Department of Physics and Astronomy

September 17, 2025

Supervisors: Prof. Mario Santos & Dr. Karin



## Outline

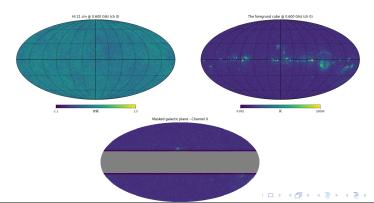
- Introduction
- Simulation Cosmological signal
- Simulation Foregrounds
- GNILC method
- Next steps

### Introduction

- We want to understand the distribution of matter in the universe
- HI line is a powerful tracer
- Challenge: Foregrounds are orders of magnitude brighter than HI signal - Foreground cleaning is essential
- ullet Goal: Recover the HI signal angular power spectrum  $C_\ell^{HI}$  after foreground removal

# Map Simulation

- We use simulations to test GNILC component separation method before real data
- They allow us to run GNILC under controlled conditions
- Simulations are represented as a 3D cube:
  - Sky position (RA, Dec) ightarrow 2D maps
  - ullet Frequency  $u 
    ightarrow ext{redshift z (line-of-sight)}$



# HI Power Spectrum

 We want to construct 2D angular power spectrum of HI intensity over some frequency

## Brightness temperature $\delta T_b(\hat{n})$

$$\delta T_b(\hat{n}) = \int dz \ W(z) \ \delta_{\rm HI}(r(z)\hat{n}, z)$$

where,

- $\delta_{HI} = \Delta \rho_{HI}/\rho_{HI}$  is the fractional HI density fluctuation and W(z) is the window function uniform in redshift z range
- ullet Taking the inverse Fourier Transform of  $\delta_{HI}$  in k-space,

$$\delta_{HI}(r,z) = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \, \delta^*(k,z) \, e^{ikr} \tag{1}$$

• With comoving position r along direction  $\hat{n}$  and redshift z



## HI Power Spectrum

- The sky appears to be a sphere We construct  $\delta T_{HI}$  in spherical Harmonics  $Y_{\ell m}$
- From equation 1, We expand the  $e^{ikr}$  using the plane-wave spherical expansion,

$$e^{ikr} = 4\pi \sum_{\ell m} i^{\ell} j_{\ell} (kr) Y_{\ell m}(k) Y_{\ell m}^{*}(r)$$
 (2)

Where,  $j_{\ell}$  is the spherical Bessel function

• Then substituting this into  $\delta T_{HI}$ ,

$$\delta T_b(\hat{n}) = 4\pi \sum_{\ell m} i^{\ell} \int dz \, W(z)$$

$$\times \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \, \delta_{\mathrm{HI}}(\mathbf{k}, z) j_{\ell}(kr(z)) \, Y_{\ell m}(\hat{\mathbf{k}}) \, Y_{\ell m}^*(\hat{n}) \quad (3)$$

# HI Power Spectrum

• Expanding the  $\delta T_{HI}$  in spherical Harmonics  $Y_{\ell m}$ ,

$$\delta T_b = \sum_{\ell m} a_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m} \tag{4}$$

• Explicitly, we can identify the harmonic coefficients  $a_{\ell m}$  from equation 3,

$$a_{\ell m} = 4\pi i^{\ell} \int dz \, W(z) \int \frac{d^{3}\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \, \hat{\delta}_{\mathrm{HI}}(\mathbf{k}, z) \, j_{\ell}(kr(z)) \, Y_{\ell m}^{*}(\hat{\mathbf{k}})$$
(5)

• Finally the angular power spectrum  $C_\ell$  can be estimated by average over m for fixed  $\ell$ 

$$C'_{\ell}s$$

$$C_{\ell} = \frac{1}{2\ell+1} \sum_{\ell m} |a_{\ell m}|^2$$



# Angular Power Spectrum $C_\ell$

- ullet From previous equation, we want to calculate  $\langle a_{\ell m} a_{\ell' m'}^* 
  angle$
- Considering the Dirac delta and the completeness relation,

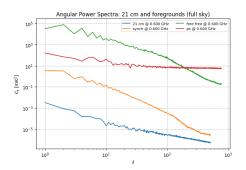
$$\langle \delta_{\mathrm{HI}}(\mathbf{k}, z) \, \delta_{\mathrm{HI}}^*(\mathbf{k}', z) \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \, \delta^3(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') \, P_{\mathrm{c}}(k), \tag{6}$$

- Intuitively, modes with k = k' are correlated; and  $k \neq k'$  their correlation vanishes
- Using equation (6) we get the exact angular power spectrum,

$$C_{\ell} = \frac{2}{\pi} \int k^2 dk \ P_c(k) \left[ \int dz \ W(z) D(z) j_{\ell}(kr(z)) \right]^2$$
 (7)

- This equation is computationally demanding (for  $\ell > 10^3$ ), in this project we compute  $C_{\ell m}$  from exact equation ( $\ell < 10^3$ )
- ullet The Limber approximation is valid for large  $(\ell=\pi/ heta)$  values

## $C_{\ell}$ from simulations



- Astrophysical components: Galactic synchrotron, Galactic free-free and extragalactic point sources
- Before testing GNILC, we add components and cosmological signal to have one single cube

## **GNILC** Method

#### **Definition**

We denote the observed sky as  $x_i(p)$  in both pixel p and frequency i space, and is the sum of HI signal  $s_i(p)$  and foreground components  $f_i(p)$ ,

$$x(p) = s(p) + f(p) \tag{8}$$

All in  $N_{ch} \times 1$  column vector

- From these sky observations x(p), with GNILC we want to decompose them using needlets (type of spherical wavelet)
- We compute the covariance matrices  $R_x = \langle x(p) \ x(p)^T \rangle$ ,

$$R(p) = R_s(p) + R_f(p)$$

• Where  $R_s(p) = \langle s(p) \ s(p)^T \rangle$  the covariance matrix of the HI signal

## **GNILC**

• For General case, the s(p), can be expressed as a linear combination of  $(N_{chan} - m)$  independent templates t,

$$s = St$$

- Where S is the mixing matrix  $N_{chan} \times (N_{chan} m)$
- We can also find  $R_s = \langle s s^T \rangle = \langle S R_t S^T \rangle$
- Using the internal Linear combination (ILC), we want to estimate s by linear operation,

$$\hat{s} = Wx \tag{9}$$

• Where, W weight matrix which Keeps the HI signal while minimizing the total variance -> Key



# Next steps:

- Computing the covariance matrices
- Construct GNILC weight matrix
- perform a 'constrained' Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

## References

- Olivari, L. C. (2018). Approach to probe the large-scale structure of the Universe.
- Olivari, L. C (2016). (GNILC) Generalized Needlet Internal Linear Combination
- De Caro, B., Carucci, et all. (2025). eGNILC approach for HI intensity mapping.
- Dai, X., Ma, Y. (2025). Expanded Generalized Needlet Internal Linear Combination (eGNILC).