

# The Faraday Sky

## Map Making and Helicity Inference

Niels Oppermann

with H. Junklewitz, G. Robbers, T. Enßlin  
arXiv:1008.1246

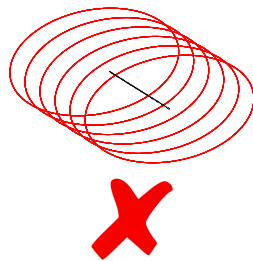
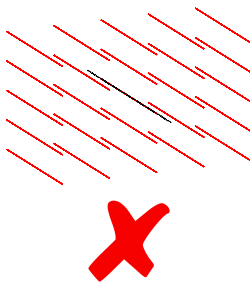
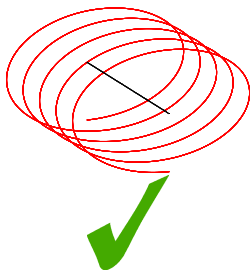
Pushchino, May 18, 2011

- 1 The LITMUS Procedure to Detect Magnetic Helicity
  - Magnetic Helicity
  - Test Cases
- 2 Reconstructing the Faraday Depth Map of the Galaxy
  - Critical Filter Formalism
  - Results
- 3 Helicity in the Milky Way?
  - Further Test Cases

**L**ocal  
**I**nference  
**T**est for  
**M**agnetic fields,  
which **U**ncovers  
helice**S**

Junklewitz & Enßlin (2010), arXiv:1008.1243

$$H = \int \vec{j} \cdot \vec{B} \, dV$$



## Synchrotron Emission

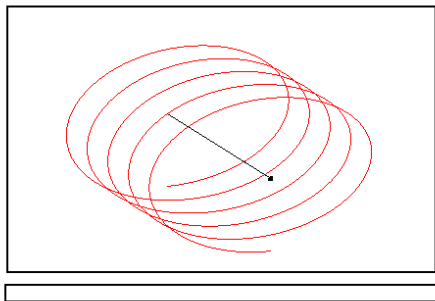
- magnetic field + charged particles
- $\vec{B}$ -component  $\perp$  LoS
- polarized  $\perp \vec{B}_\perp$

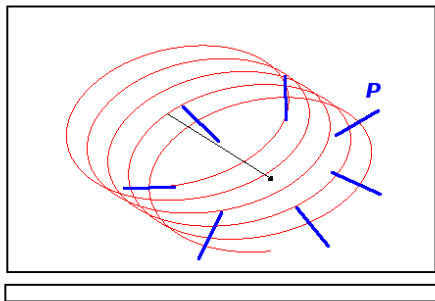
## Faraday Rotation

- magnetic field + polarized background source
- $\vec{B}$ -component  $\parallel$  LoS
- rotation of polarization plane  $\propto \lambda^2$
- $\rightarrow$  Faraday depth  $\phi = \int n_e \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{l}$

According to Henrik...

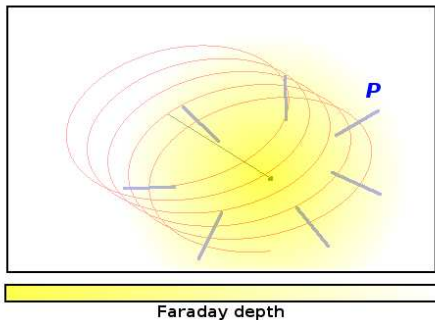
$$\langle P\phi\phi \rangle \propto \epsilon_H^2 \Rightarrow \langle GP^* \rangle \propto \left( \int_0^\infty dk \frac{\epsilon_H(k)}{k} \right)^2$$



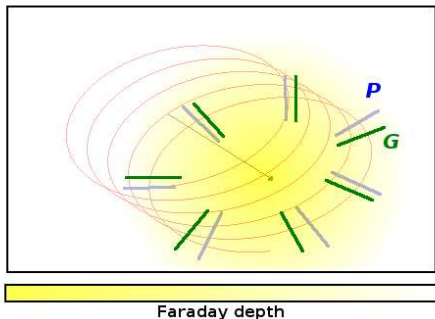


$$P = |P| e^{2i\alpha}$$





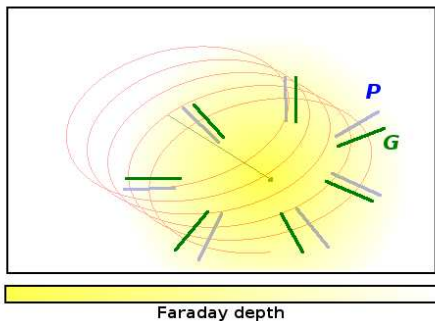
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$$P = |P| e^{2i\alpha}$$

$$G = T_2(\nabla\phi) = (\partial_x\phi + i\partial_y\phi)^2 = |G| e^{2i\gamma}$$

$$T_2: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$



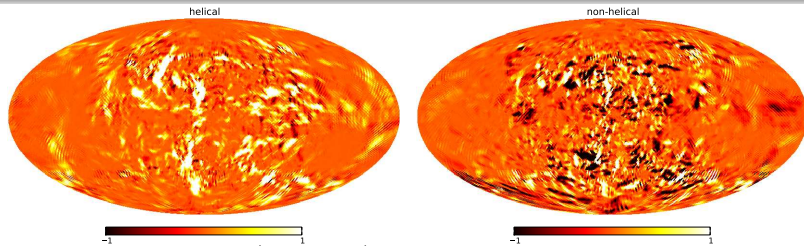
## Helicity

$$\operatorname{Re}(GP^*) > 0$$

$$P = |P| e^{2i\alpha}$$

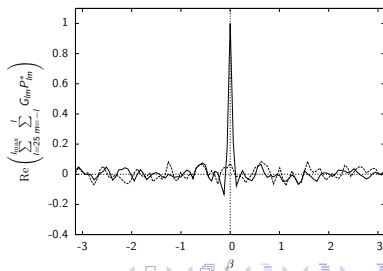
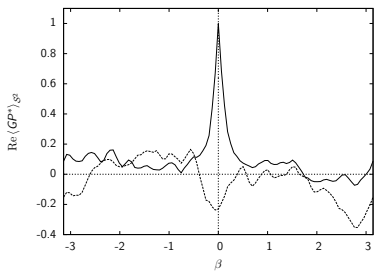
$$G = T_2(\nabla\phi) = (\partial_x\phi + i\partial_y\phi)^2 = |G| e^{2i\gamma}$$

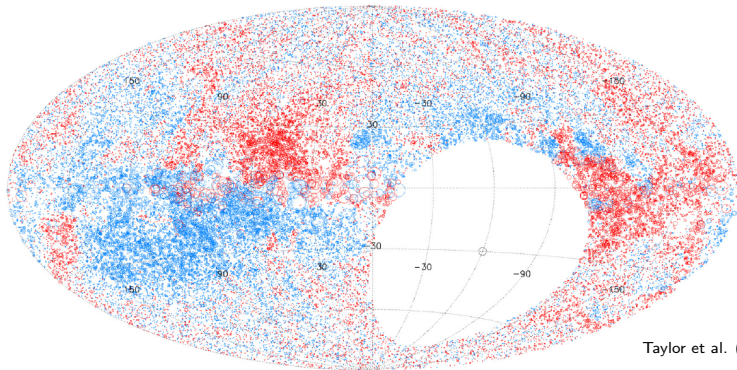
$$T_2: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$



with helicity:  $\langle \text{Re} \langle GP^* \rangle_{S^2} \rangle_{\text{samples}} = 1.0, \quad \sigma_{\text{Re} \langle GP^* \rangle_{S^2}} = 0.25$

without helicity:  $\langle \text{Re} \langle GP^* \rangle_{S^2} \rangle_{\text{samples}} = -0.27, \quad \sigma_{\text{Re} \langle GP^* \rangle_{S^2}} = 0.23$





Taylor et al. (2009)

Figure 3. Plot of 37,543 RM values over the sky north of  $\delta = -40^\circ$ . Red circles are positive rotation measure and blue circles are negative. The size of the circle scales linearly with magnitude of rotation measure.

## Wiener Filter

$$m = \int \mathcal{D}s \, s \, \mathcal{P}(s|d)$$

$$d = Rs + n$$

$$m = Dj, \text{ where } \begin{aligned} j &= R^\dagger N^{-1} d \\ D &= (S^{-1} + R^\dagger N^{-1} R)^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

## Assumptions

- signal field  $s := \frac{\phi}{\rho(\vartheta)}$ 
  - $s$  statistically homogeneous  
 $\Rightarrow S(x, y) = \langle s(x)s(y) \rangle = S(x - y)$
  - $s$  statistically isotropic  
 $\Rightarrow S(x, y) = \langle s(x)s(y) \rangle = S(|x - y|)$
- $\Rightarrow S_{(\ell, m)(\ell', m')} = \delta_{\ell\ell'} \delta_{mm'} C_\ell$
- $s$  Gaussian field

## Wiener Filter

$$m = \int \mathcal{D}s \, s \, \mathcal{P}(s|d)$$

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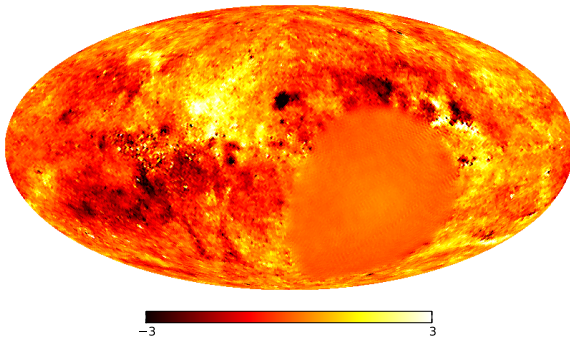
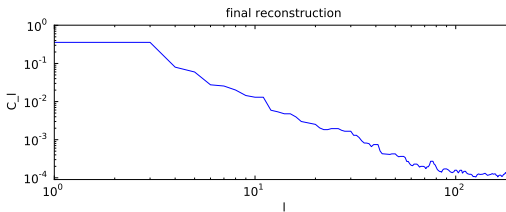
## Critical Filter

$$m = Dj$$

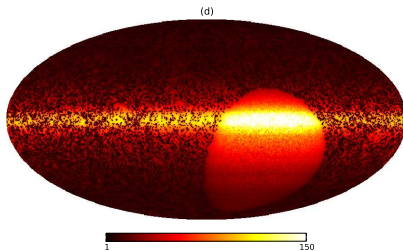
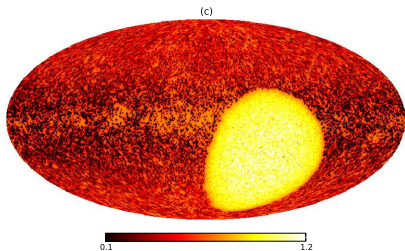
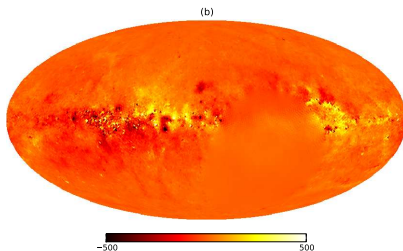
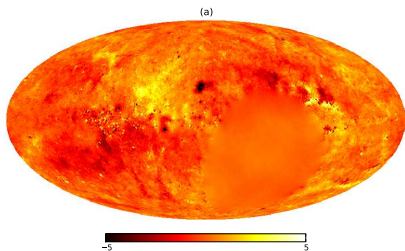
$$C_\ell = \frac{1}{2\ell + 1} \text{tr} \left( (mm^\dagger + D) P_\ell \right)$$

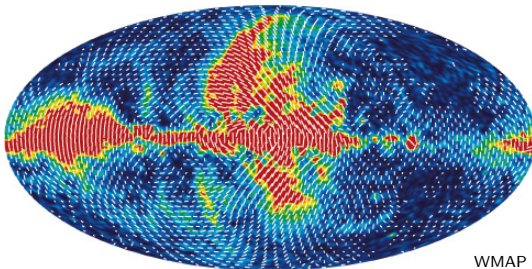
EnBlin & Frommert (2010), arXiv:1002.2928

EnBlin & Weig (2010), arXiv:1004.2868

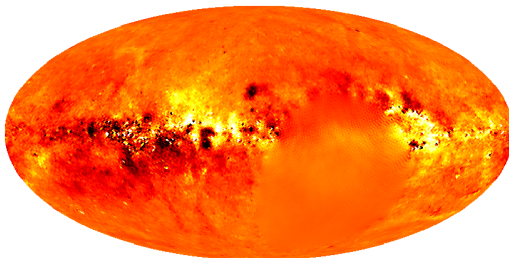


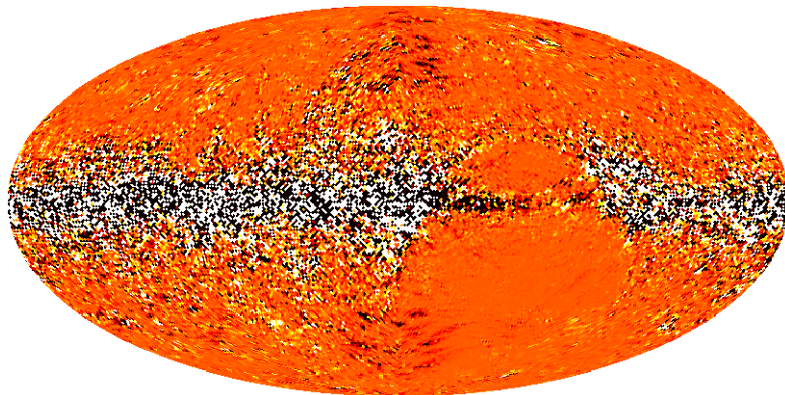




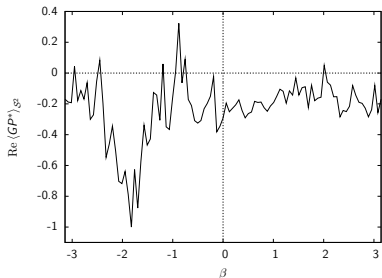


WMAP

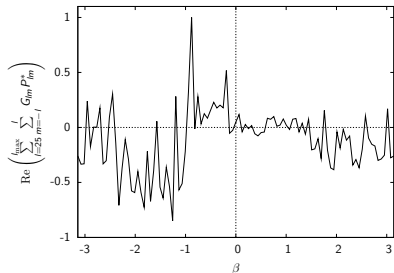




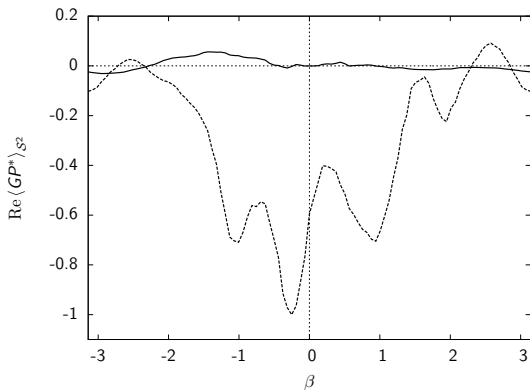
contributions of all scales



small-scale contributions



Test case with non-trivial electron densities:



## Conclusions

- *Critical Filter* works.
- *LITMUS* test works, provided the electron densities don't vary too much.
- $\Rightarrow$  *LITMUS* test does **not** work on galactic scales.

## Outlook

- Incorporate several datasets.
- Allow for uncertainty in the measurement errors.
- Increase resolution in order to detect helicity on small scales.