

# Solar wind – magnetosphere coupling: small scales and large scales dynamics

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**Part I: How do we observe space plasmas ?**

**Part II: Turbulence properties at the MHD scales**

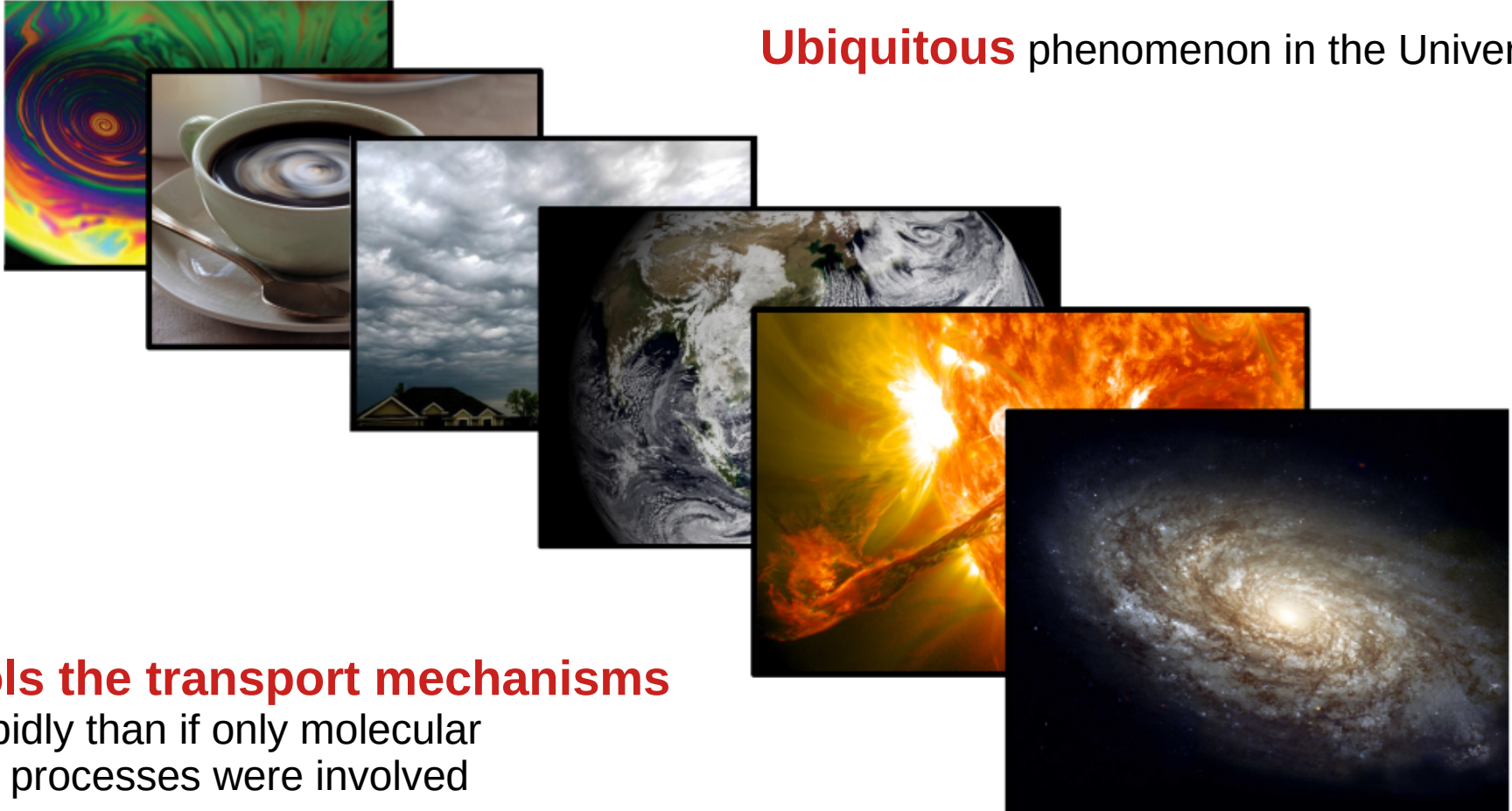
**Part III: Planetary ionospheres - Saturn**

**Part II:**  
**Turbulence properties at the  
MHD scales**

# Turbulence overview

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**Ubiquitous** phenomenon in the Universe



**Controls the transport mechanisms**

more rapidly than if only molecular diffusion processes were involved



# How it all started...



Leonardo da Vinci  
(1452 - 1519)

# How it all started...

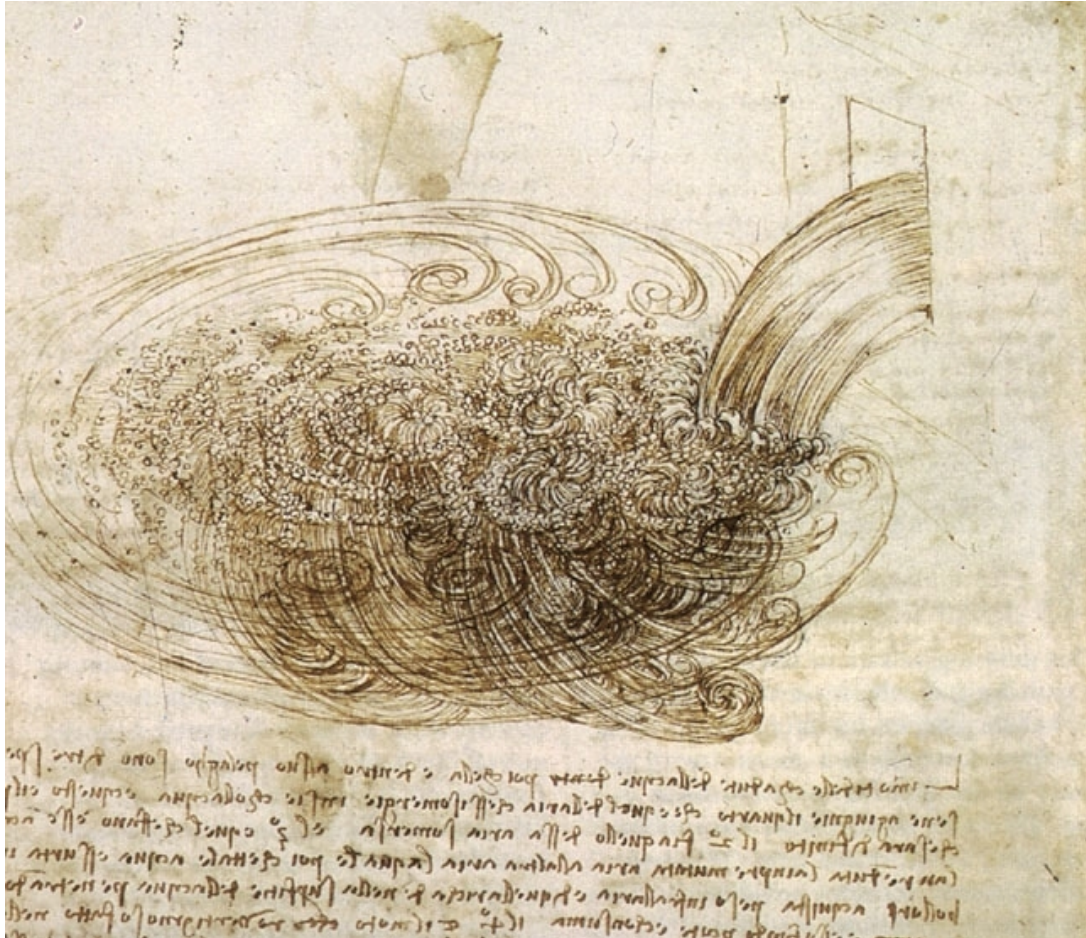


*“Observe the motion of the surface of the water which resembles that of hair, and has two motions, of which one goes on with the flow of the surface, the other forms the lines of the eddies; thus the water forms eddying whirlpools one part of which are due to the impetus of the principal current and the other to the incidental motion and return flow.”*

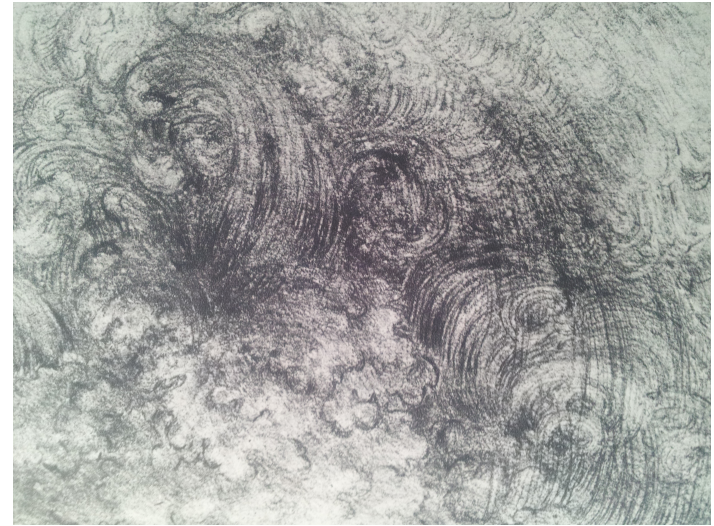
P. 389 of Leonardo's manuscripts, the Codice Atlantico



# How it all started...



A mean, laminar flow that breaks up into a disordered eddy-like motions → it doesn't stay stable.





# Eddy-like motion is universal



*The Starry Night*, June 1889, V. Van Gogh

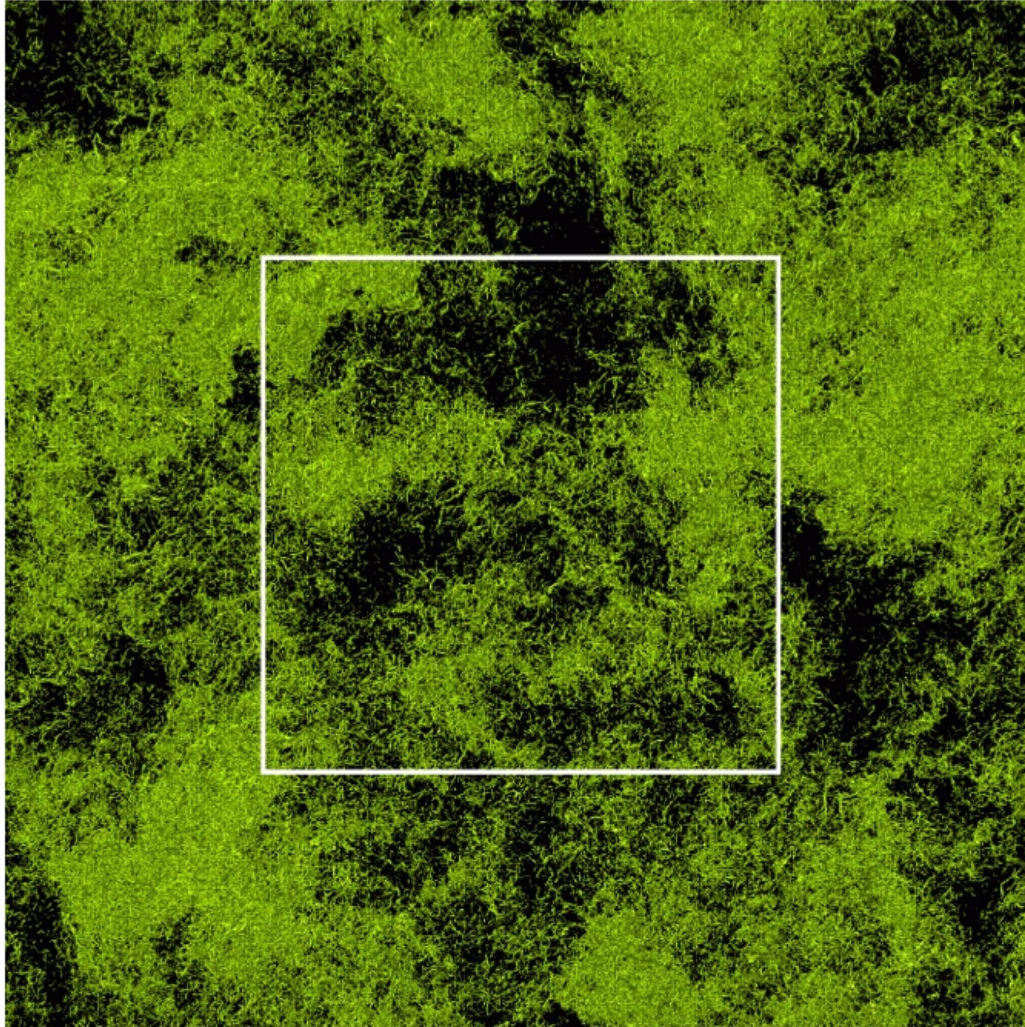
A mean, laminar flow that breaks up into a disordered eddy-like motions → it doesn't stay stable.





# Turbulence is a multiscale disorder

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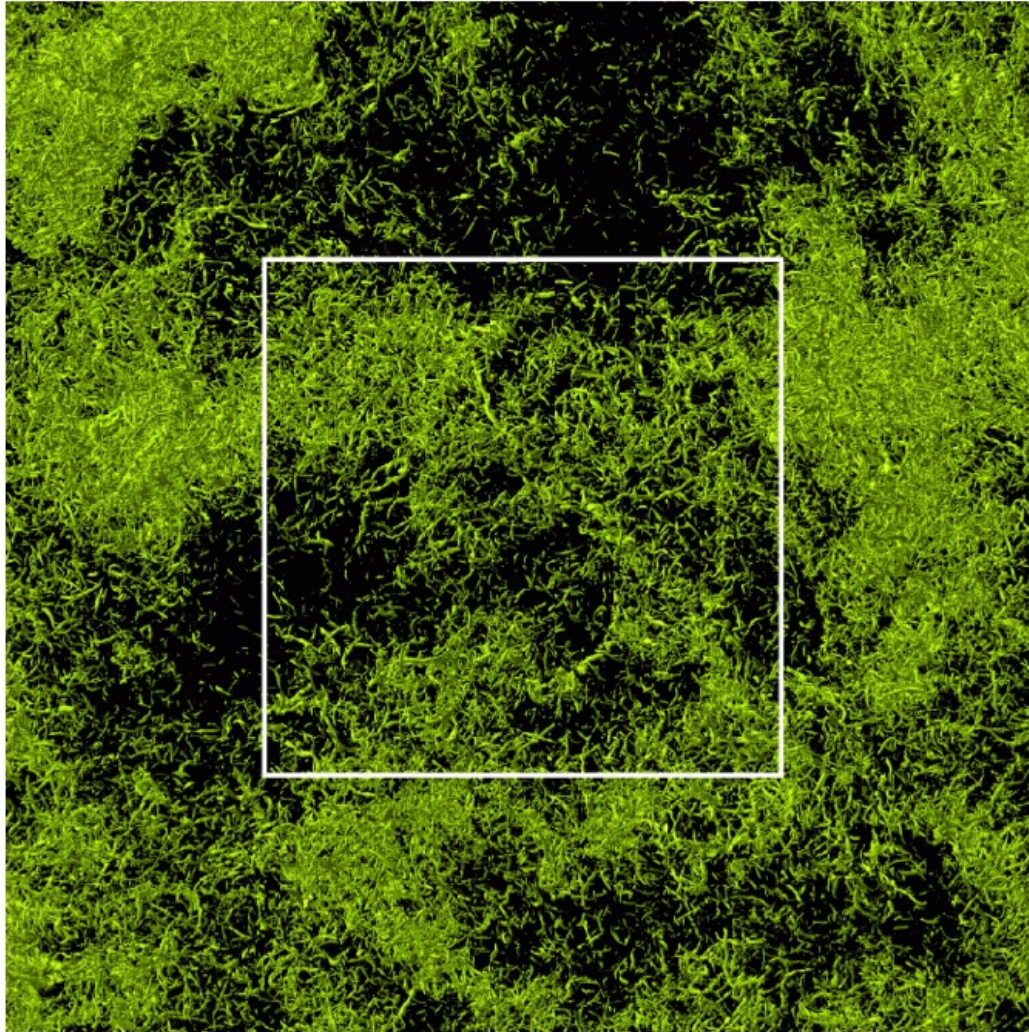


Earth simulator,  
4096<sup>3</sup>, isovorticity  
Surfaces, Y. Kaneda



# Turbulence is a multiscale disorder

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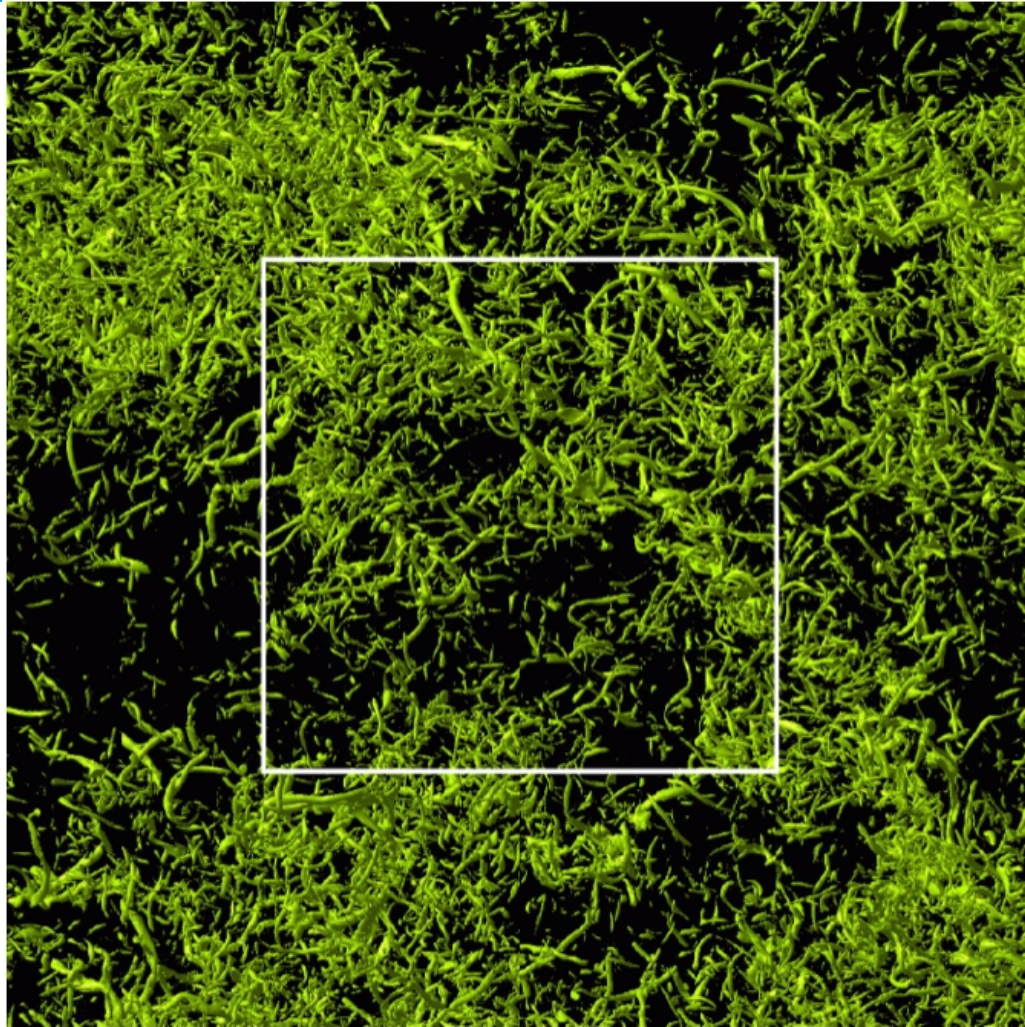


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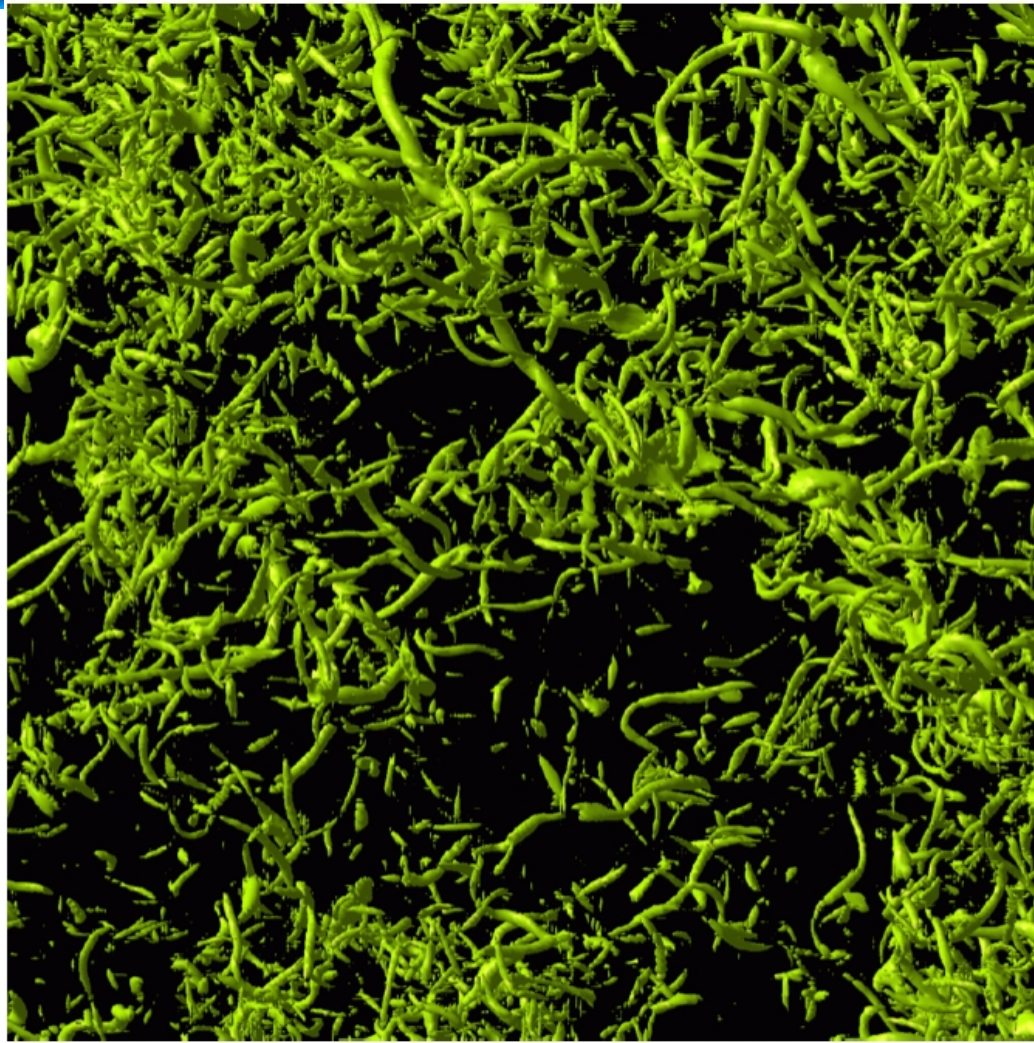
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Earth simulator,  
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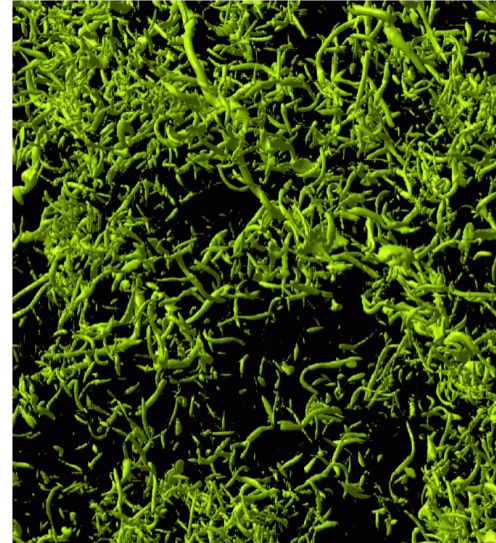
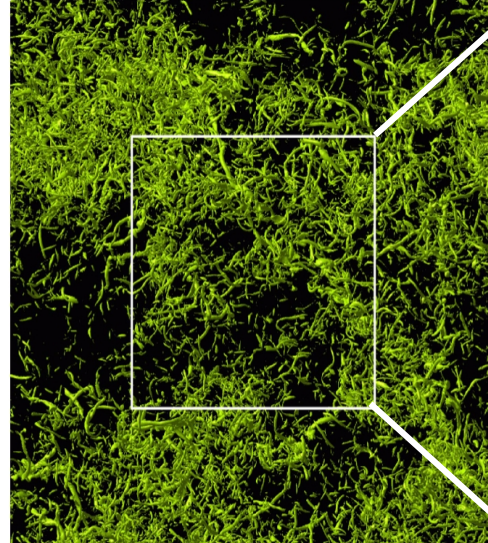
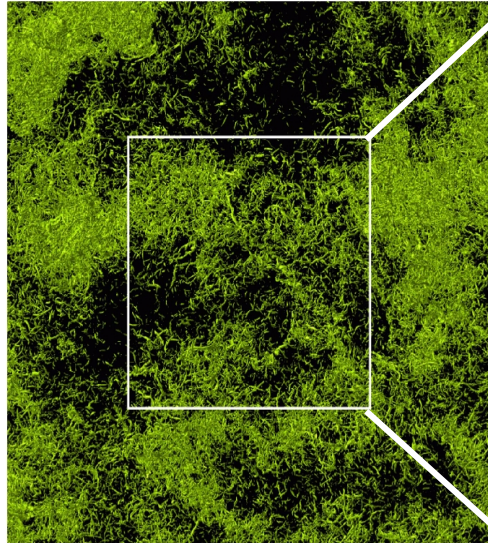
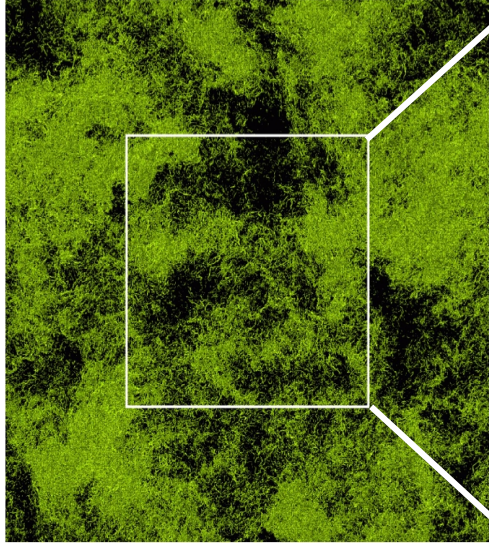


Earth simulator,  
4096<sup>3</sup>, isovorticity  
Surfaces, Y. Kaneda

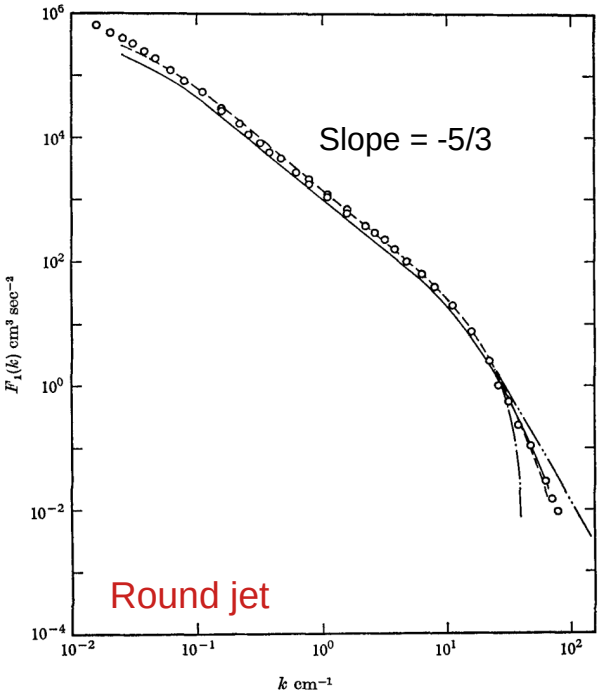


# Turbulence is a multiscale disorder

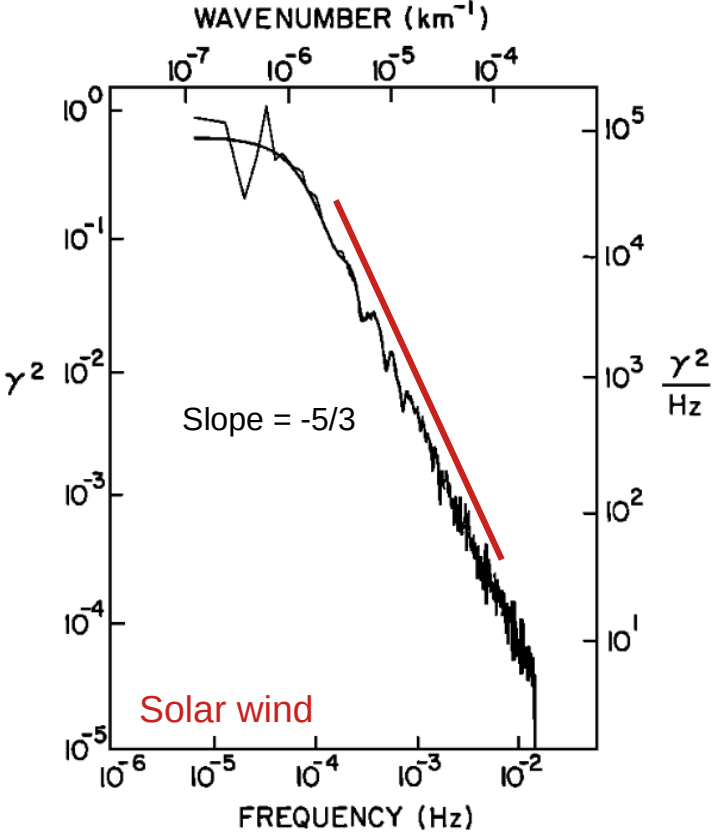
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# Universal Kolmogorov power law of -5/3

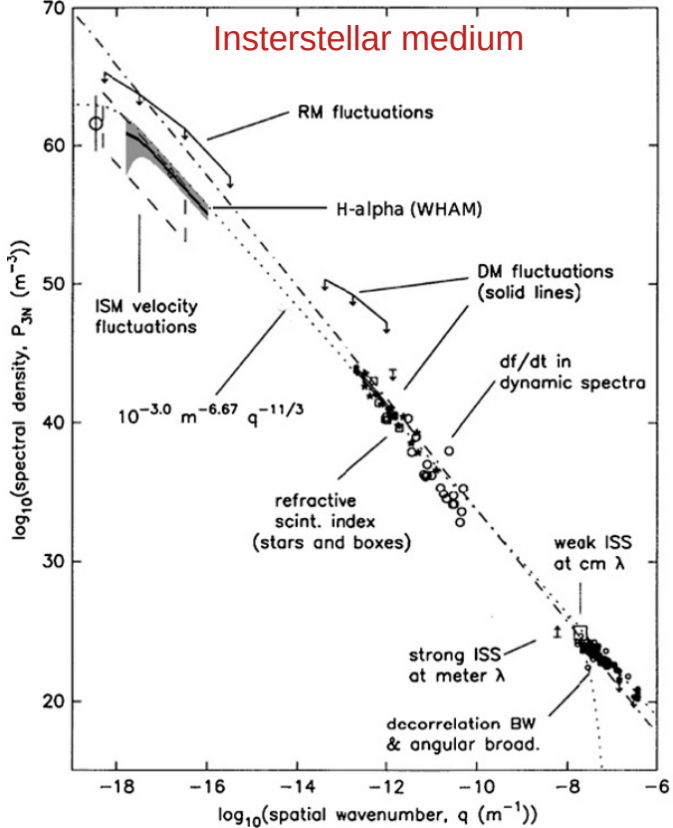


Gibson et al, 1962



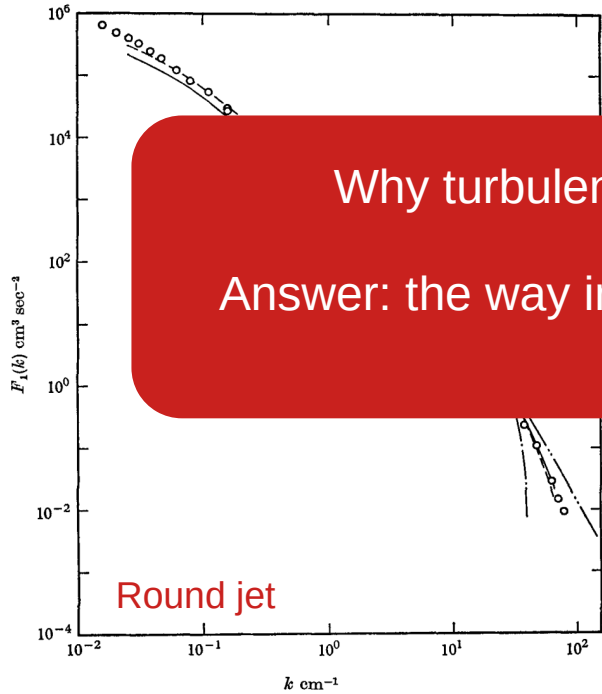
Matthaeus & Goldstein, JGR, 1982

## Great Power Law in the Sky

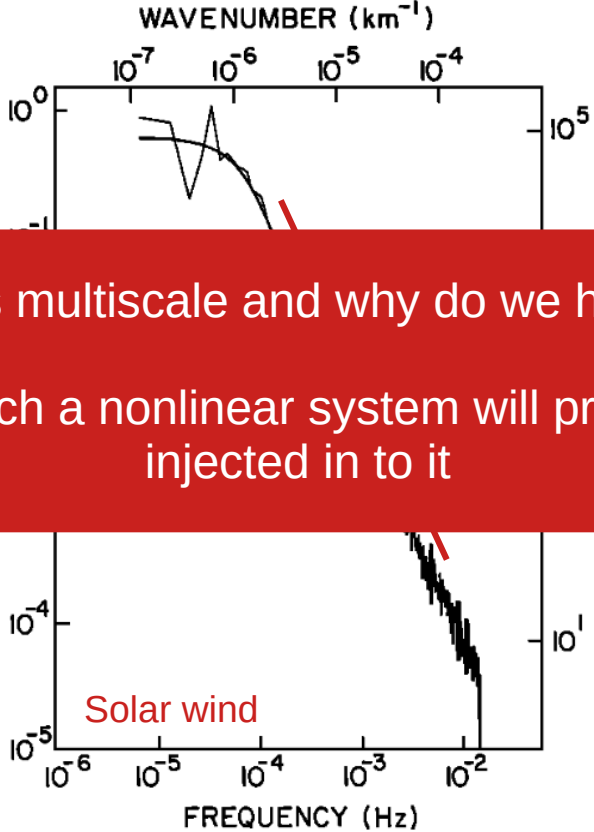


Armstrong et al., ApJ, 1995

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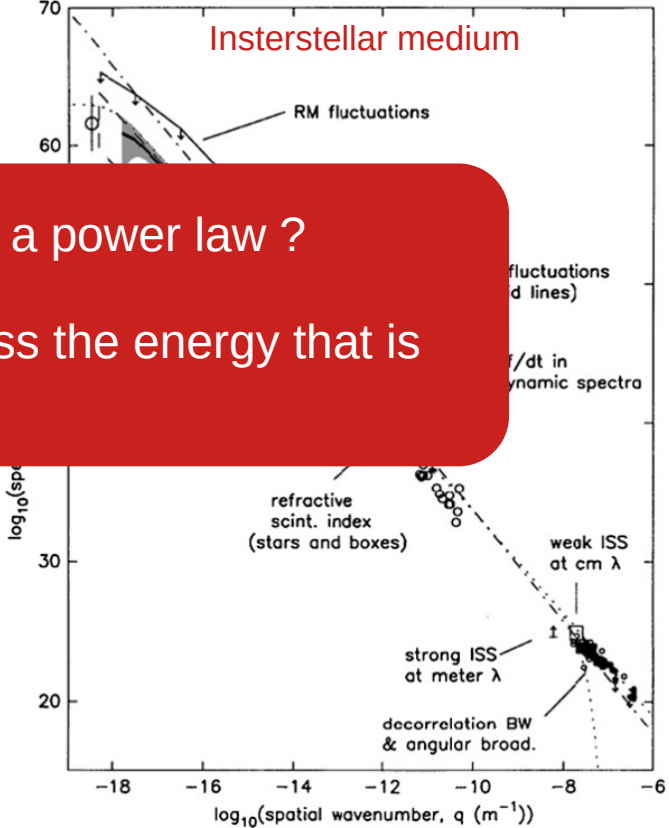


Gibson et al, 1962



Matthaeus & Goldstein, JGR, 1982

## Great Power Law in the Sky



Armstrong et al., ApJ, 1995

Why turbulence is multiscale and why do we have a power law ?  
 Answer: the way in which a nonlinear system will process the energy that is injected in to it

# Turbulence in neutral fluid - Hydrodynamics

Motion is described by the **Navier-Stokes equation** (momentum equation for a moving incompressible fluid)

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = -\nabla P + \nu \nabla^2 (\mathbf{u}) + F$$

Rate of change of velocity of a fluid

Moving fluid element advect each other

Pressure gradient

Viscosity (dissipation)

External force (injection of energy)

**Kinetic energy of the system:**

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{r}}{V} \rho |\mathbf{u}|^2$$



**The rate of change of the kinetic energy:**

$$\frac{d\epsilon}{dt} = \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{r}}{V} \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{f} - \nu \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{r}}{V} \rho |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2 = P_{inj} - P_{diss}$$

Steady state  $\frac{d\epsilon}{dt} = 0 \rightarrow P_{inj} = P_{diss}$

$$P_{inj} \approx \frac{\rho u^3}{L}$$

$$P_{dissip} \approx \frac{\rho \nu u^2}{L^2}$$

Where U and L are respectively a "typical" (average) velocity and scale (wavelength,  $2\pi/k$ ) of the flow, and  $\nu$  is the kinematic viscosity of the flow.

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Rate of change of velocity of a fluid      Moving fluid element advect each other      Pressure gradient      Viscosity (dissipation)      External force (injection of energy)

**A necessary condition for turbulence: large Reynolds number!**

$$P_{inj} \approx \frac{\rho u^3}{L}$$

$$P_{dissip} \approx \frac{\rho \nu u^2}{L^2}$$



$$\frac{P_{inj}}{P_{dissip}} \approx \frac{uL}{\nu} = Re \gg 1$$

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**There is an imbalance between the injection and the dissipation and Nature has to correct for it!**



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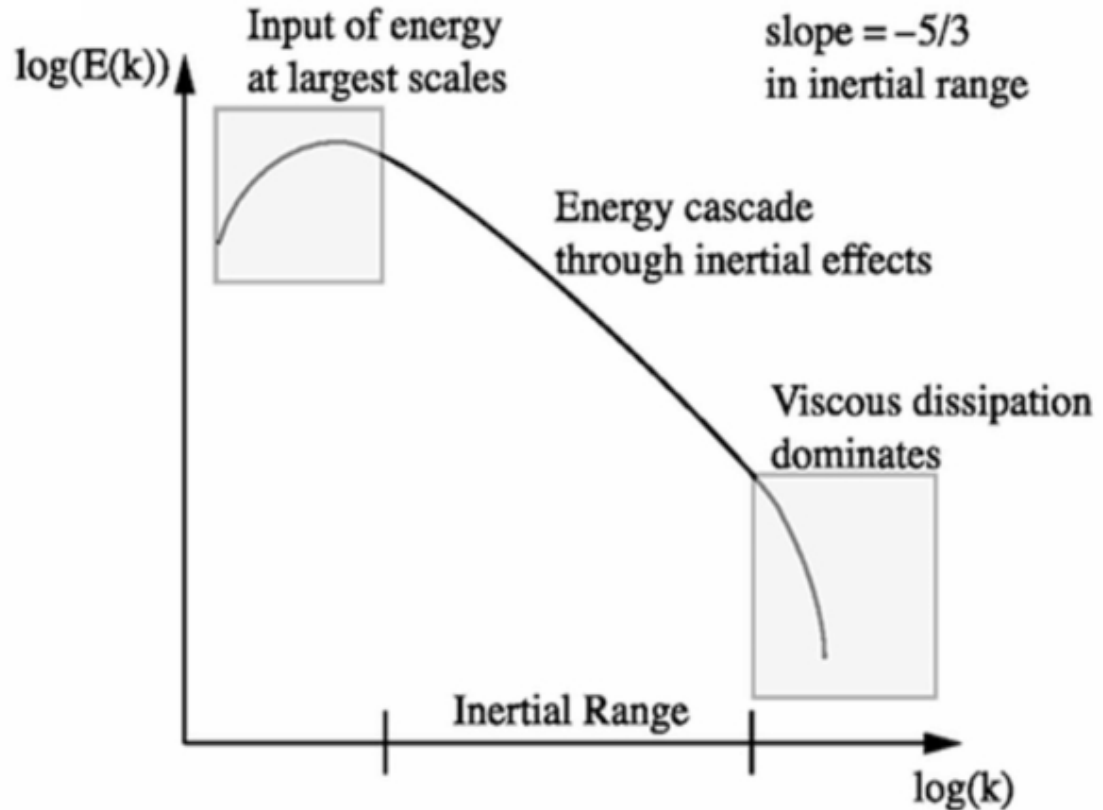
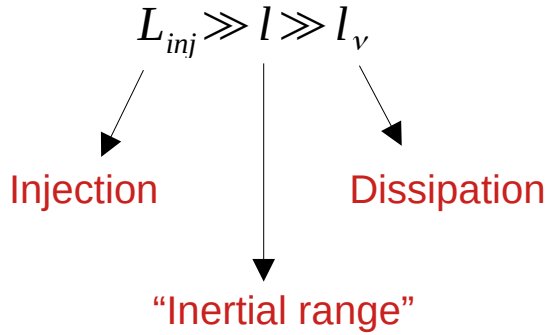
$$\frac{P_{inj}}{P_{dissip}} \approx \frac{uL}{\nu} = Re \gg 1$$



**The way to make dissipation large by making the scales Smaller (→ large  $k$ )**

# Kolmogorov spectrum and turbulence cascade

Kolmogorov's theory describes how energy is transferred from larger to smaller eddies.

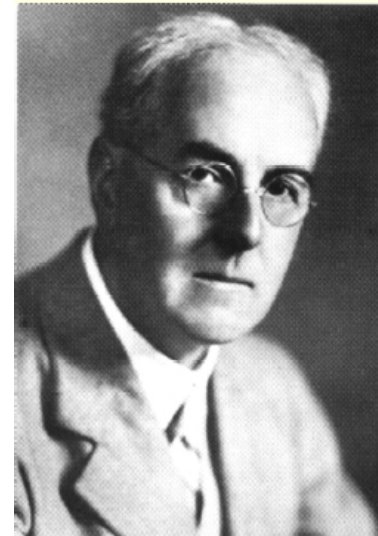
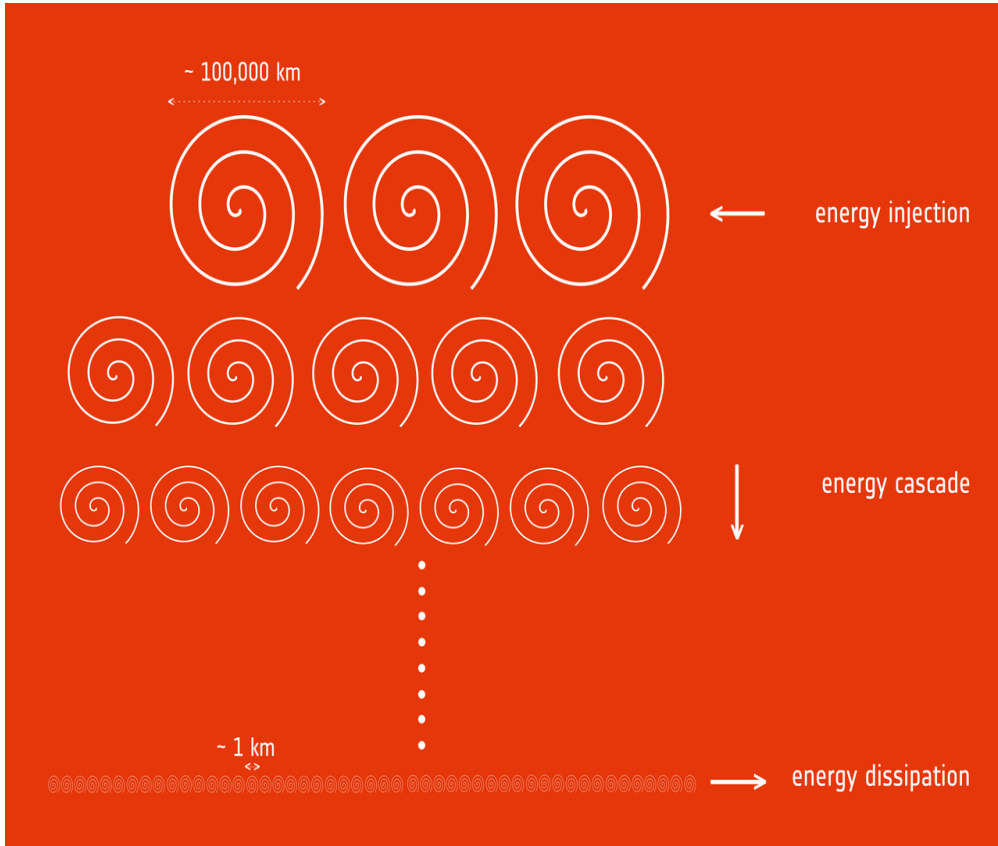




# Phenomenological approach: Richardson picture

Lewis Fry Richardson (“Weather Prediction by Numerical Process.” Cambridge University Press, 1922) summarized this in the following often cited verse:

*Big whirls have little whirls  
Which feed on their velocity;  
And little whirls have lesser whirls, And  
so on to viscosity  
in the molecular sense*



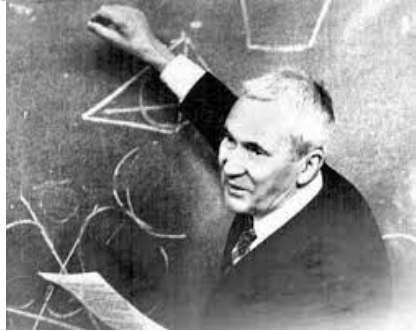
L. F. Richardson  
(181 - 1953)

# Exact law for incompressible HD turbulence

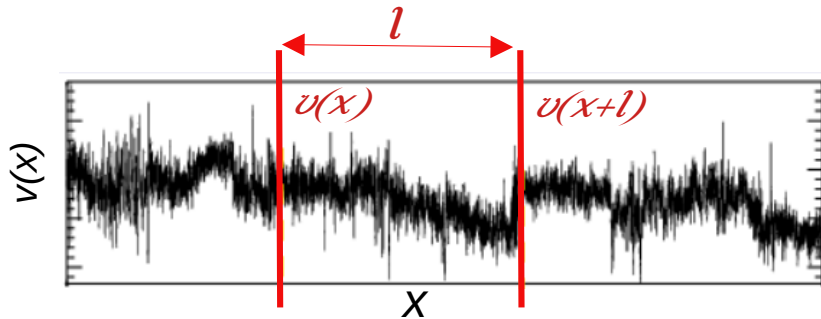
The first exact law of a **fully developed incompressible turbulence** was derived by Kolmogorov in 1941 [Kolmogorov, 1941], known as the **4/5 law**.

The local structure of turbulence in incompressible viscous fluid for very large Reynolds numbers†

BY A. N. KOLMOGOROV



A. N. Kolmogorov  
(1903–1987)



## Hypothesis:

- *Universality (no special systems)*
- *Homogeneity (no special locations)*
- *Isotropy (no special directions)*
- *Locality in scale space (no special scales)*

$$-\frac{4}{5}\varepsilon l = \langle (\delta v_l)^3 \rangle$$

$\varepsilon$  is the **energy cascade (dissipation) rate**

$$\delta v_l(t) = v_l(x + l) - v_l(x)$$

the velocity increments at scale  $l$

$$E_k \sim v_l^2 k^{-1} \sim (\varepsilon k^{-1})^{2/3} k^{-1} \sim \varepsilon^{2/3} k^{-5/3}$$

# Turbulence in plasmas

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On sufficiently large scales, we can treat the plasma as a fluid → **Magnetohydrodynamics**

**Low frequencies and large scales (hypothesis in MHD)**

$$\partial_t \approx 1/\tau \ll \omega_{ci}, \omega_{pe}$$

$$\partial_x \approx 1/L \ll \rho_{Li}, \lambda_{De}$$

**Consequence of the slow variations:**

- 1) Quasi-neutrality →  $n_+q_+ + n_-q_- \sim 0 \rightarrow n_+ \sim n_- \sim n$
- 2) zero current →  $n_+q_+v_+ + n_-q_-v_- \sim 0 \rightarrow v_+ \sim v_- \sim v$

**Key difference to neutral fluids:**

→ Presence of a magnetic field → Breaks isotropy

# Incompressible magnetohydrodynamics (MHD)

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\nabla p + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0.$$

Magnetic tension

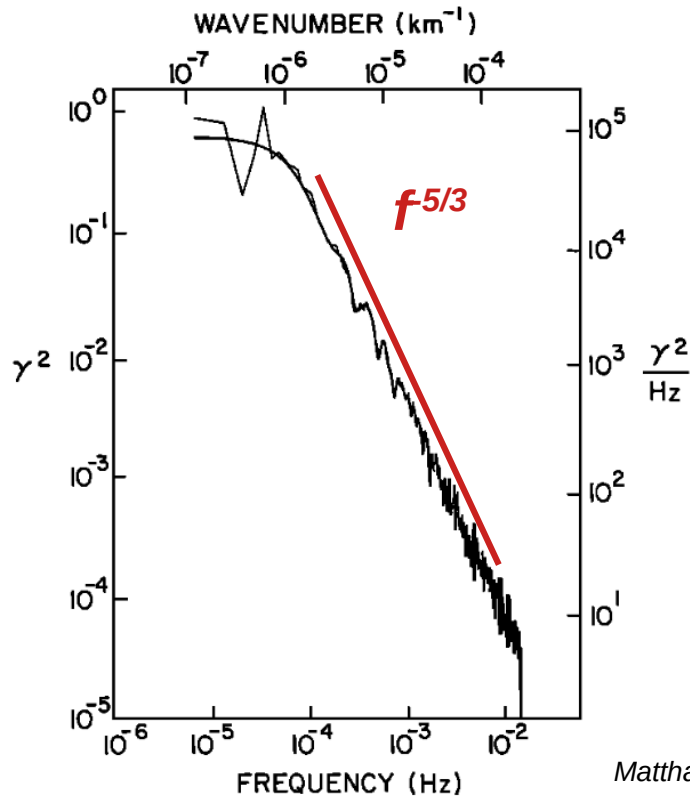
The ideal (resistivity = 0) version of the induction equation.

*“Fluid elements that lie on a field line initially will remain on this field line”* → the magnetic field moves with the flow.

→ The total magnetic field can be split into two parts:  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_0 + \delta \mathbf{B}$  (mean + fluctuations).

# Incompressible magnetohydrodynamics (MHD)

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{z}^\pm}{\partial t} \mp (\mathbf{v}_A \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{z}^\pm + (\mathbf{z}^\mp \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{z}^\pm = -\nabla P_{\text{tot}}^* + \nu^\pm \nabla^2 \mathbf{z}^\pm + \nu^\mp \nabla^2 \mathbf{z}^\mp + \mathbf{F}^\pm$$



Elsasser variables:

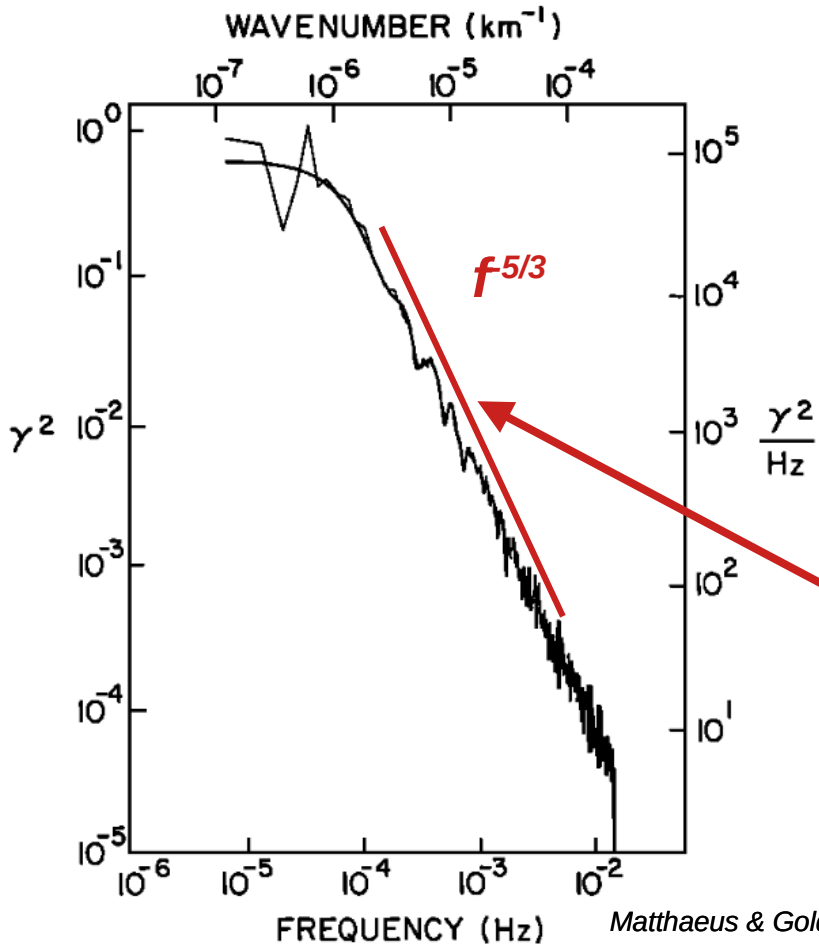
$$\mathbf{z}^\pm = \mathbf{v} \pm \frac{\mathbf{B}}{\sqrt{4\pi\rho_0}} = \mathbf{v} \pm \mathbf{v}_A$$

$$-\frac{4}{3}\varepsilon^\pm \ell = \langle (\delta \mathbf{z}^\pm \cdot \delta \mathbf{z}^\pm) \delta z_\ell^\mp \rangle$$

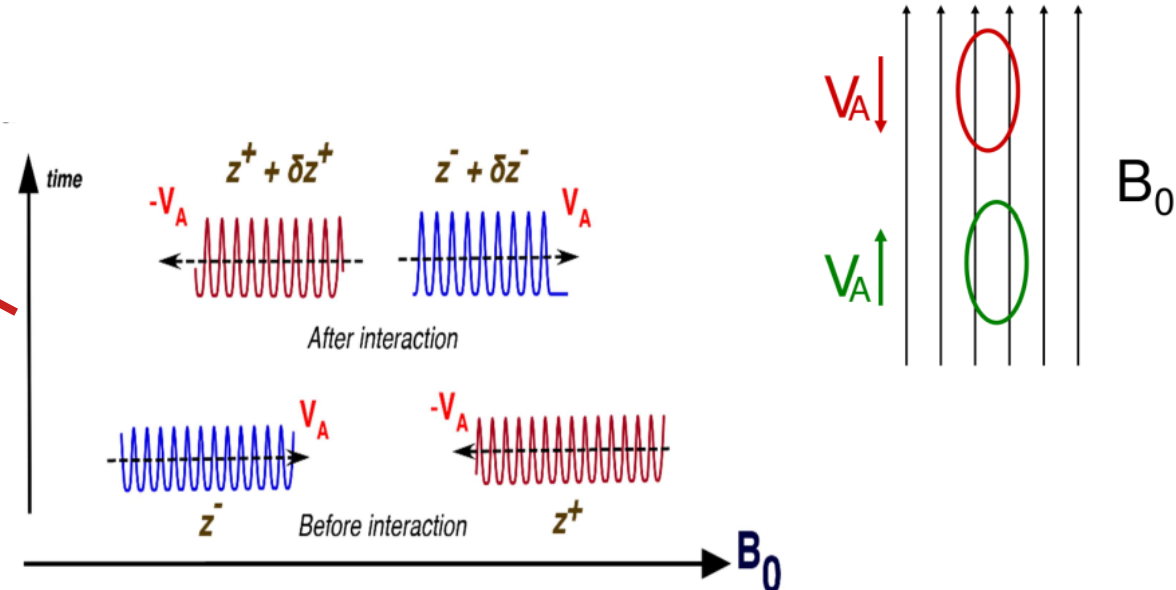
*Politano & Pouquet, PRE, 1998*

*Matthaeus & Goldstein, JGR, 1982*

# Incompressible magnetohydrodynamics (MHD)



In order to have a better understanding of the multi-scale dynamics in a magnetized fluid, Iroshnikov [1964] and Kraichnan [1965] proposed independently a physical image of MHD turbulence known as the "**IK phenomenology**" based on the nonlinear interactions (collisions) between counter-propagating wavepackets moving at the Alfvén speed.



# Exact law for compressible isothermal MHD

$$-\frac{4}{3}\varepsilon_C \ell = F_{1C} + F_{2C} + Q_{SC} + Q_{SH} + Q_{M\beta},$$

Nonflux terms

$$F_{1C} \equiv \langle [(\delta(\rho\mathbf{u}) \cdot \delta\mathbf{u} + \delta(\rho\mathbf{u}_A) \cdot \delta\mathbf{u}_A)]\delta\mathbf{u} - [\delta(\rho\mathbf{u}) \cdot \delta\mathbf{u}_A + \delta\mathbf{u} \cdot \delta(\rho\mathbf{u}_A)]\delta\mathbf{u}_A \rangle$$

$$F_{2C} \equiv 2\langle \delta\rho\delta e\delta\mathbf{u} \rangle,$$

Compressible generalization of the Incompressible flux term (Monin & Yaglom 1975)

New purely compressible term

$$S_C = \langle [R'_E - \frac{1}{2}(R'_B + R_B)](\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) + [R_E - \frac{1}{2}(R_B + R'_B)](\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{u}') + \langle [(R_H - R'_H) - \bar{\rho}(\mathbf{u}' \cdot \mathbf{u}_A)](\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_A) + [(R'_H - R_H) - \bar{\rho}(\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}'_A)](\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{u}'_A) \rangle \rangle$$

$$S_H = \langle (\frac{P'_M - P'}{2} - E')(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) + (\frac{P_M - P}{2} - E)(\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{u}') + \langle H'(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_A) + H(\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{u}'_A) \rangle + \frac{1}{2}\langle (e' + \frac{u_A'^2}{2})[\nabla \cdot (\rho\mathbf{u})] + (e + \frac{u_A^2}{2})[\nabla' \cdot (\rho'\mathbf{u}')] \rangle \rangle,$$

$$M = -\frac{1}{2}\langle \beta^{-1'} \nabla' \cdot (e'\rho\mathbf{u}) + \beta^{-1} \nabla \cdot (e\rho'\mathbf{u}') \rangle.$$

**Compressible exact law**  $-\frac{4}{3}\varepsilon_C \ell = F_{1C} + F_{2C},$

**Incompressible exact law (Politano & Pouquet 1998)**  $-\frac{4}{3}\varepsilon_I \ell = F_I, \quad F_I = \rho_0 \langle [(\delta\mathbf{u})^2 + (\delta\mathbf{B})^2]\delta\mathbf{u} - 2(\delta\mathbf{u} \cdot \delta\mathbf{B})\delta\mathbf{B} \rangle$

Andrés & Sahraoui, PRE, 2017  
Banerjee & Galtier PRE, 2013



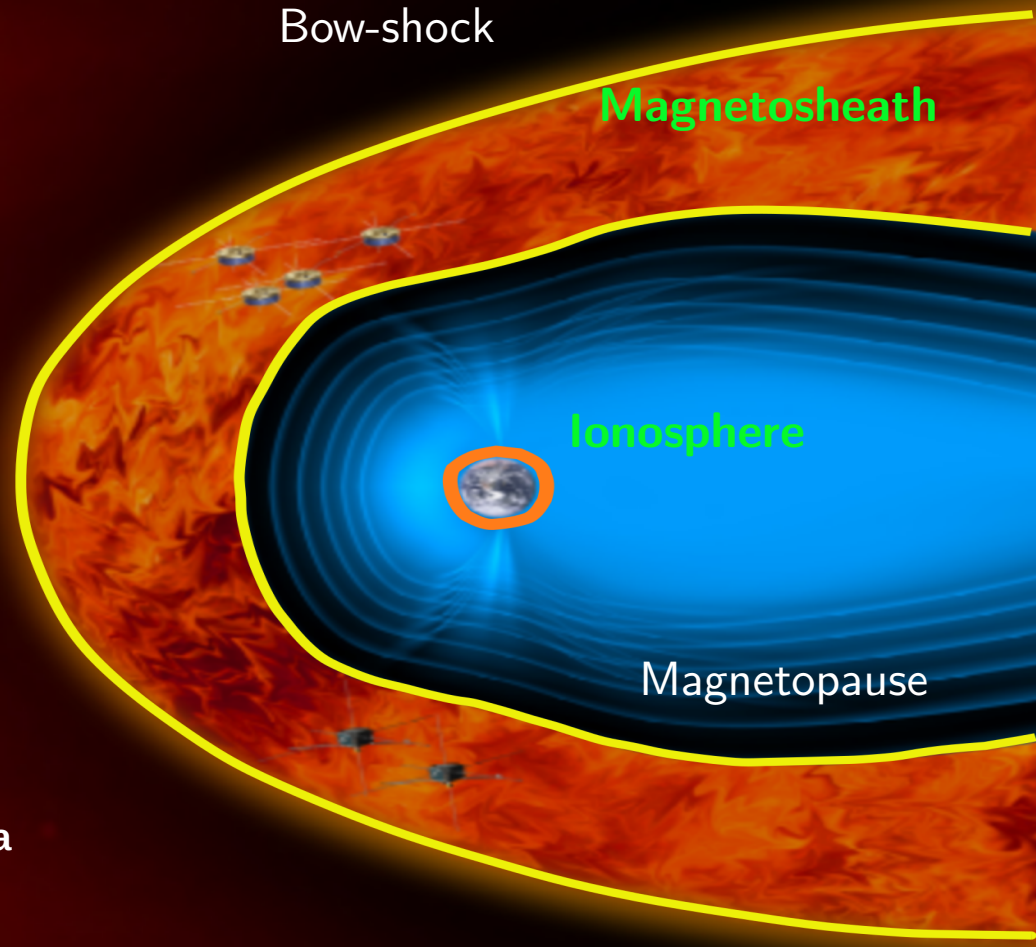
# Solar wind – magnetosphere coupling

## Turbulence

Key ingredient for a more efficient energy and matter transport  
→ Heating and acceleration

## Solar wind

- Collisionless plasma
- 96% of  $H^+$
- $V \sim 400 \text{ km/s}$  to  $800 \text{ km/s}$
- $N \sim 5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ,  $T \sim 50 \text{ eV}$
- Variety of parameters at different locations
- **The only collisionless plasma we can sample directly**

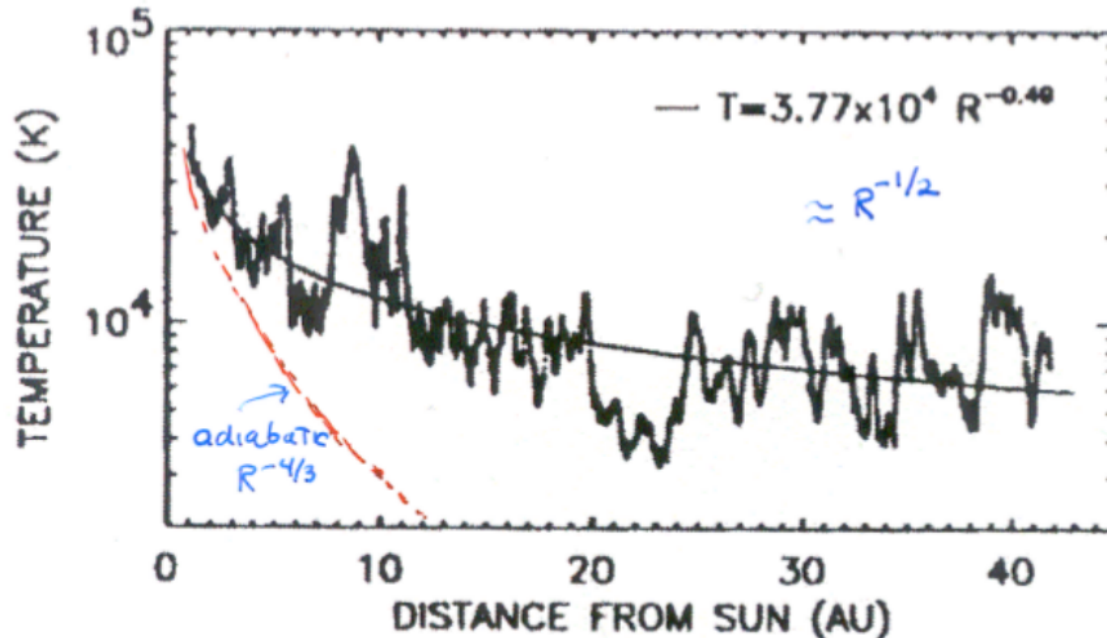




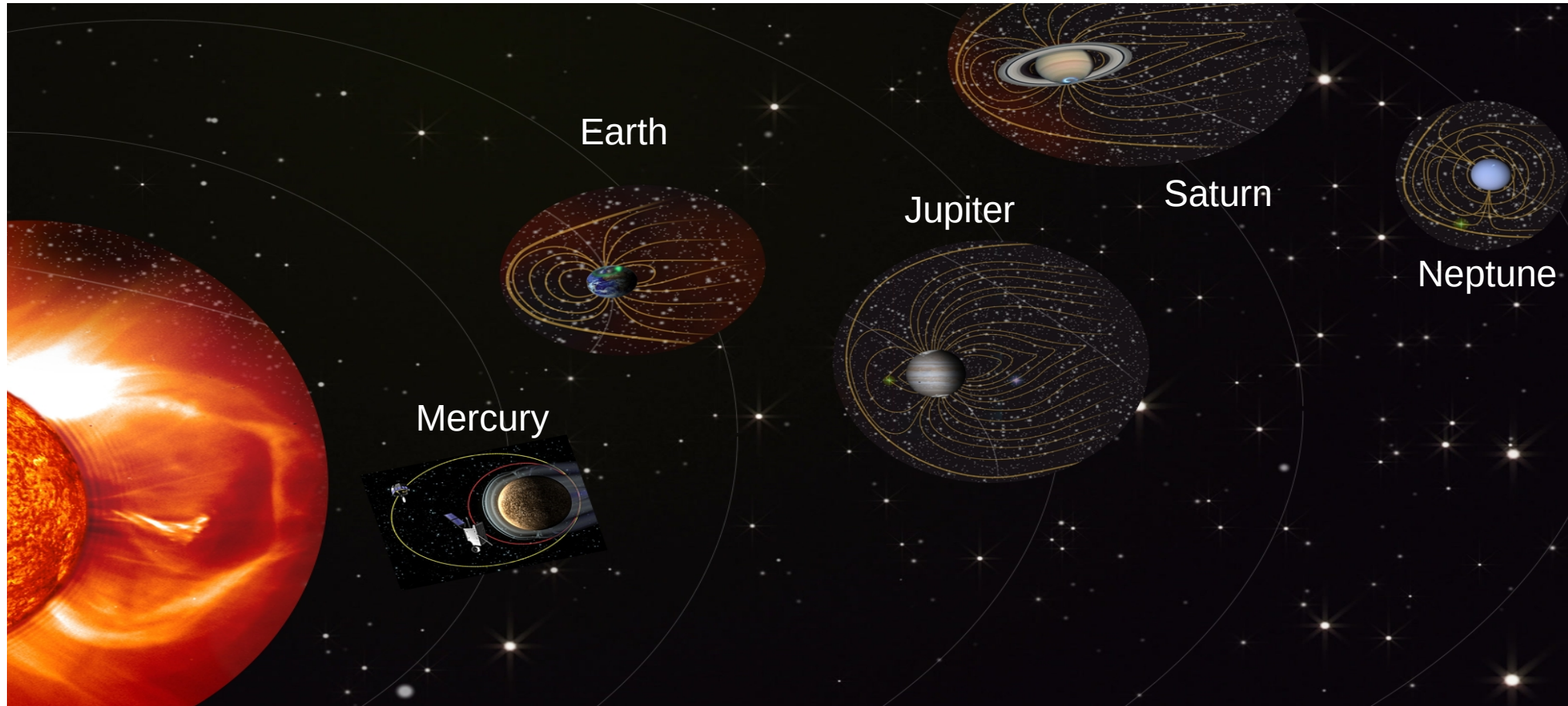
# Anomalous heating of the solar wind

The solar wind plasma is known to cool down more slowly than expected from an a spherical adiabatic expansion model → **A source of local heating is needed!**

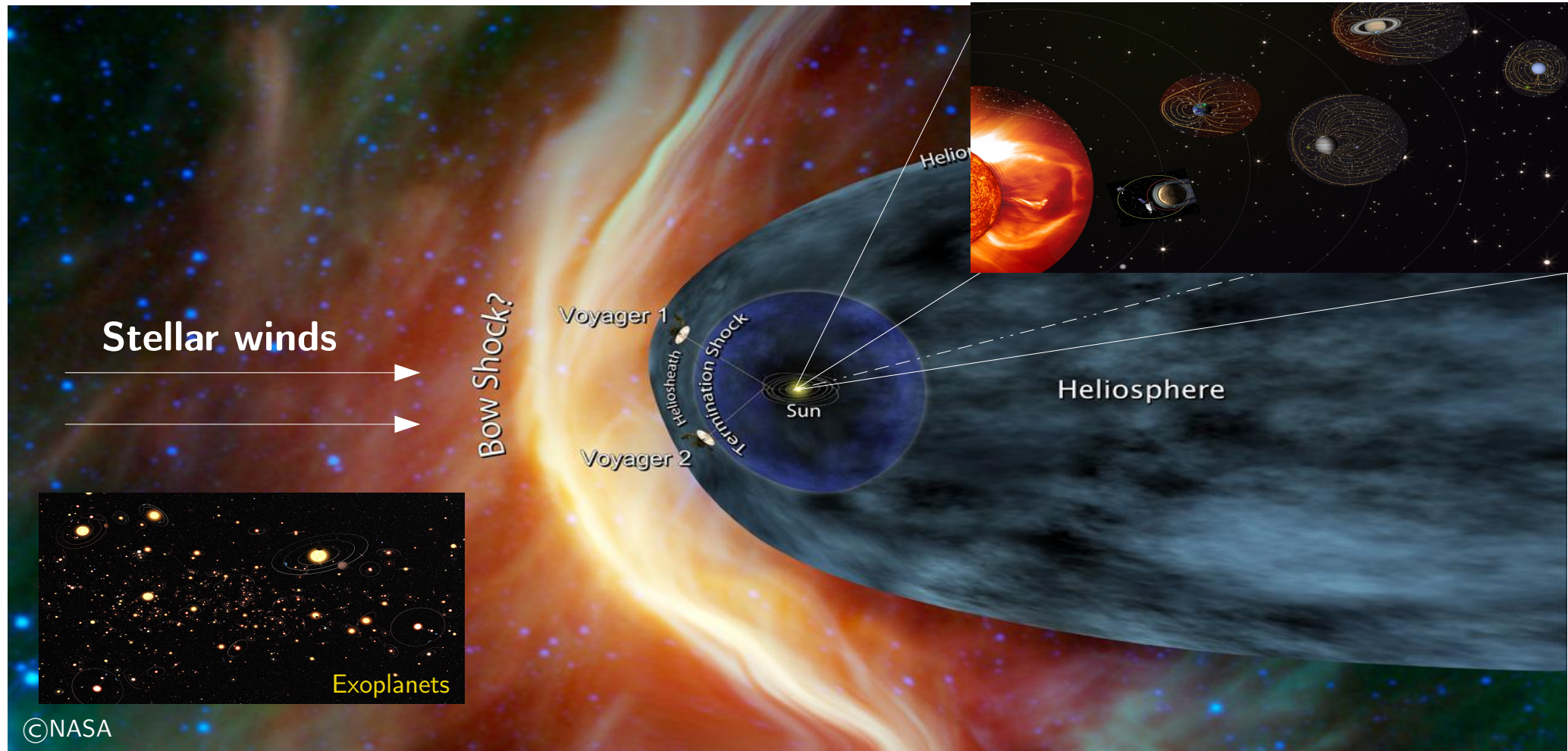
**Energy dissipation rate needs to be measured!**



# Analogous to other planetary magnetospheres



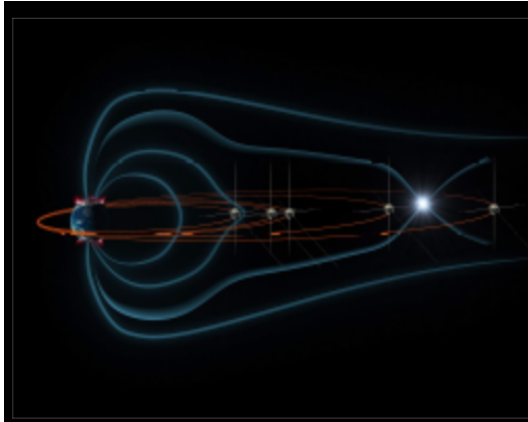
# ...and to the Heliosphere & beyond...



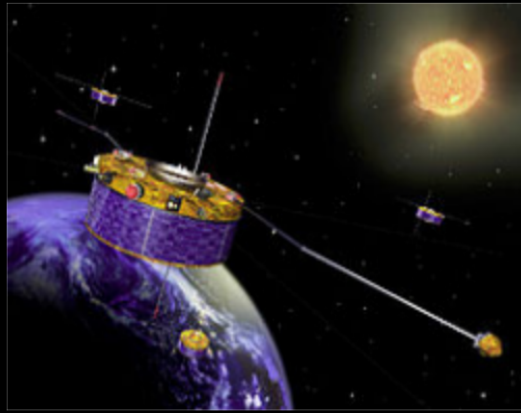


# In-situ fields and particles spacecraft data

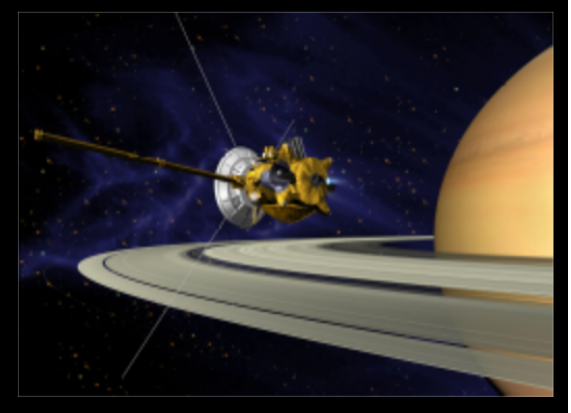
**Themis/Artemis (1AU)**  
NASA



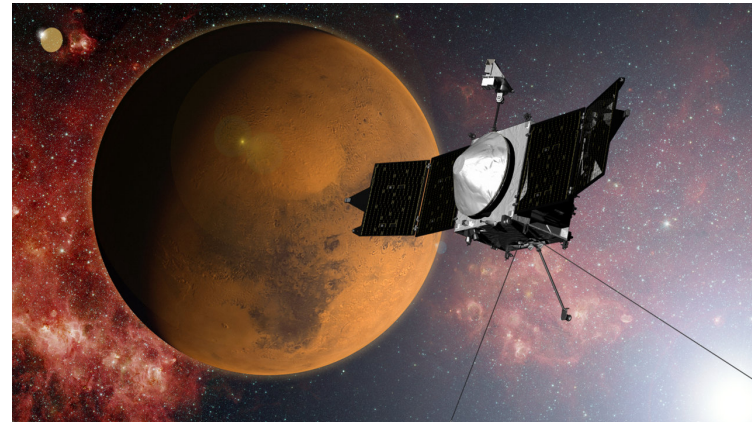
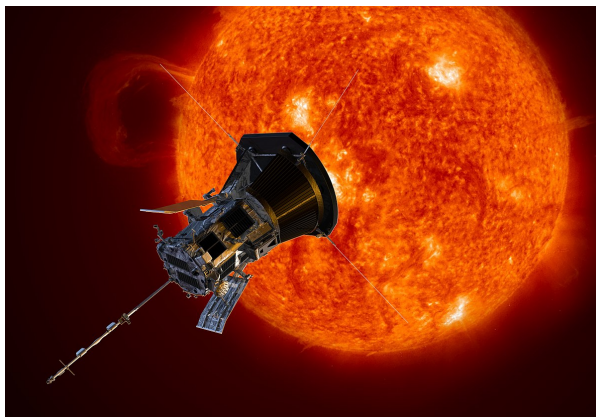
**Cluster (1AU)**  
ESA



**Cassini/Huygens (10 AU)**  
ESA/NASA/ASI

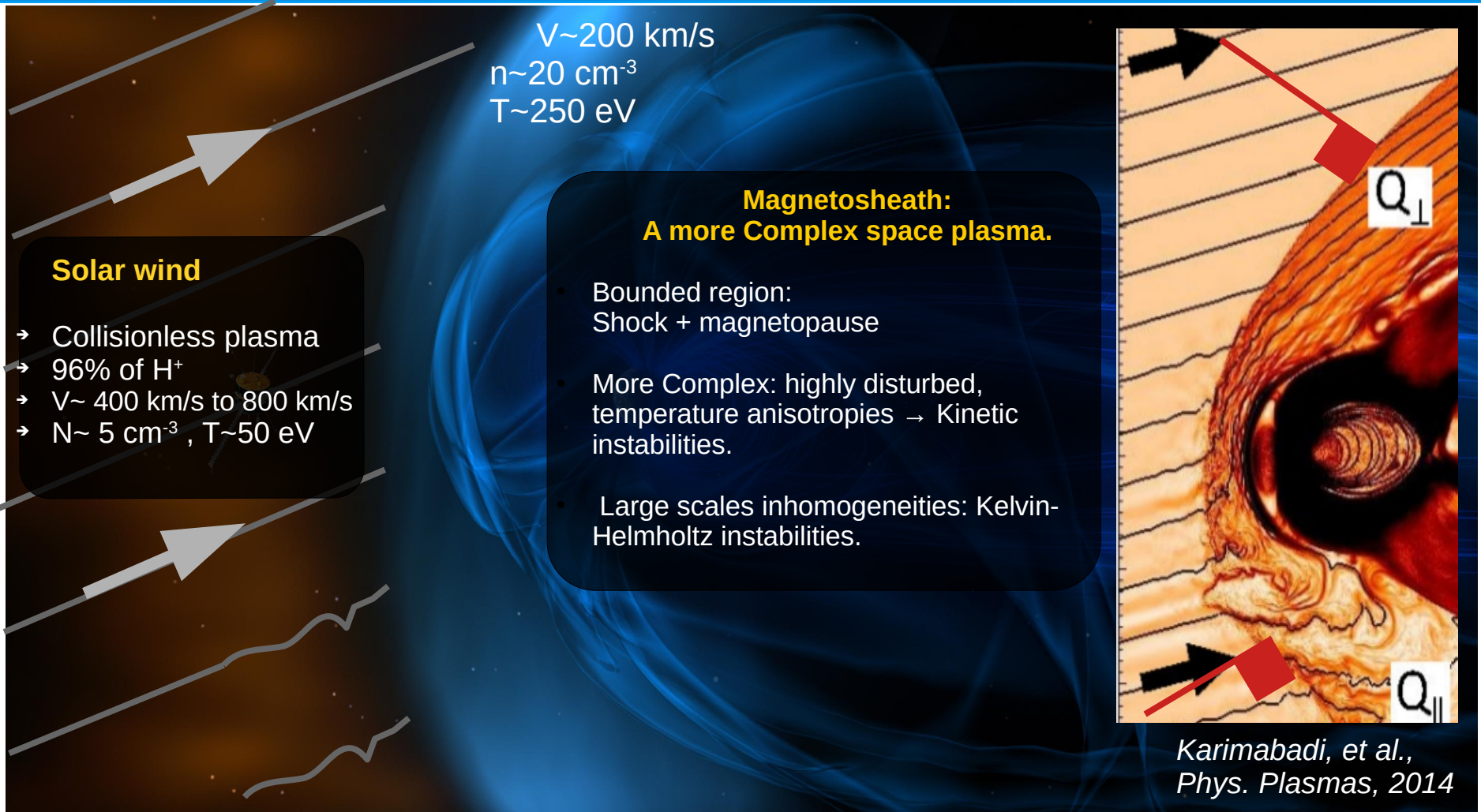


**PSP (0.2 AU)**  
NASA



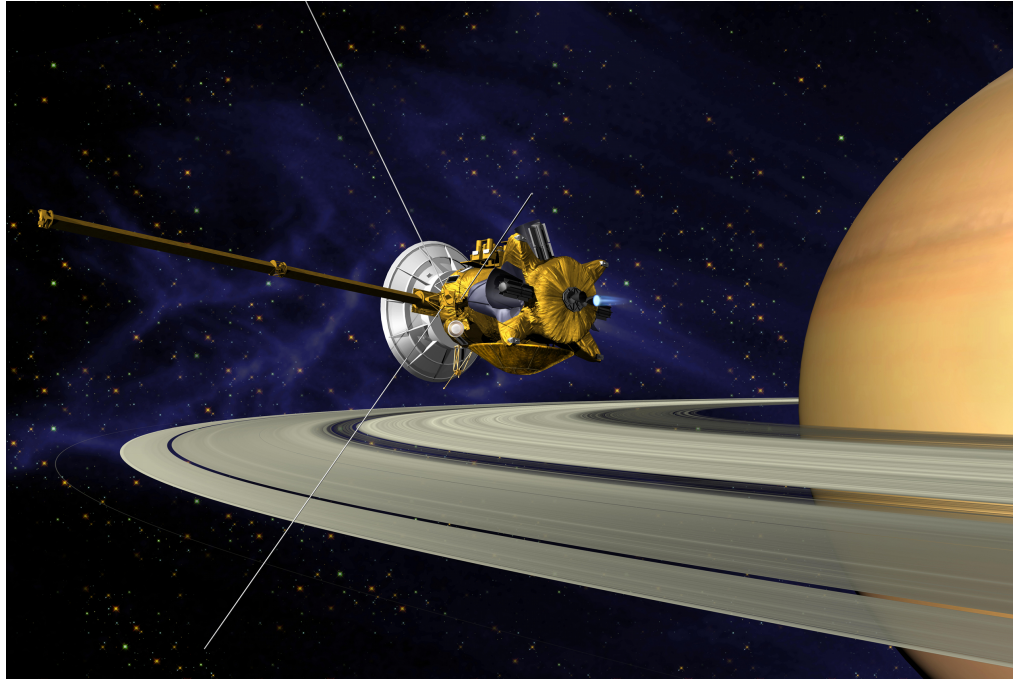
**MAVEN (1.5 AU)**  
NASA

# Solar wind and planetary magnetosheaths



# Spectral properties of turbulence

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Launched: 1997

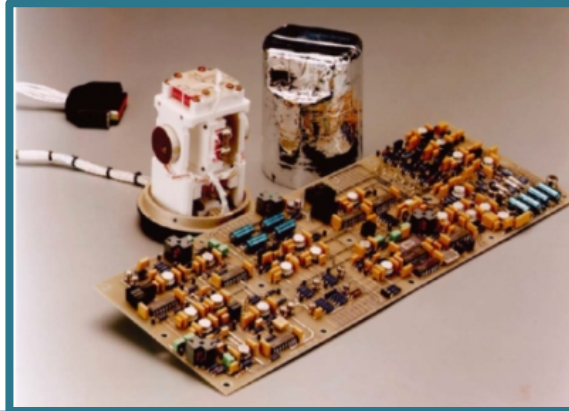
End: 2017

Goal: Explore Saturn and its plasma environment.



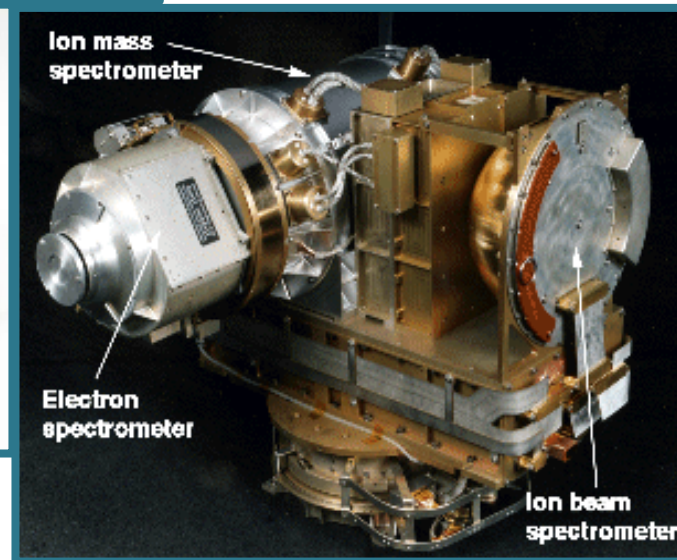
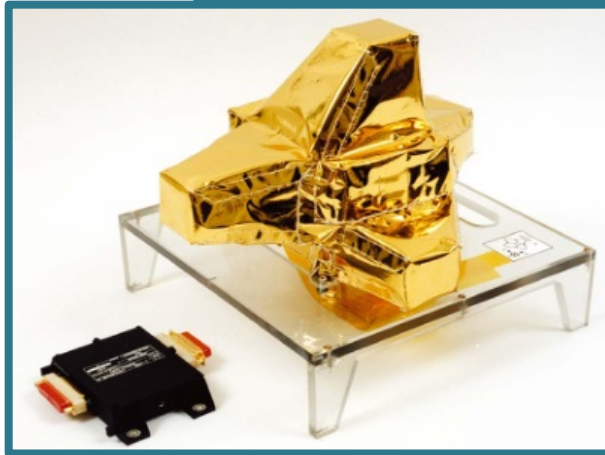
# Cassini in situ fields and particles data

**MAG:** Low frequency measurements  
[DC-1Hz]



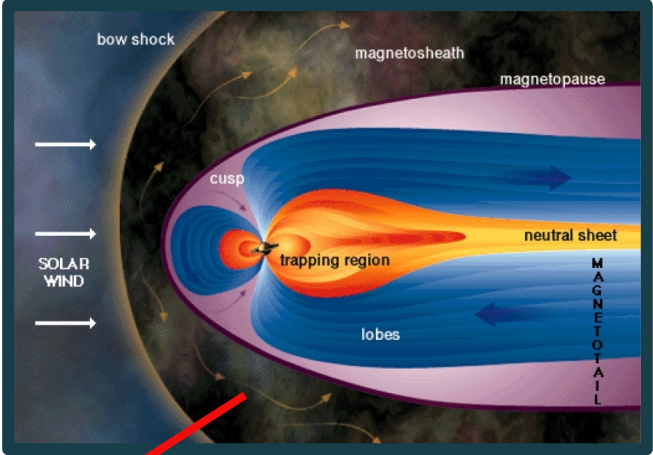
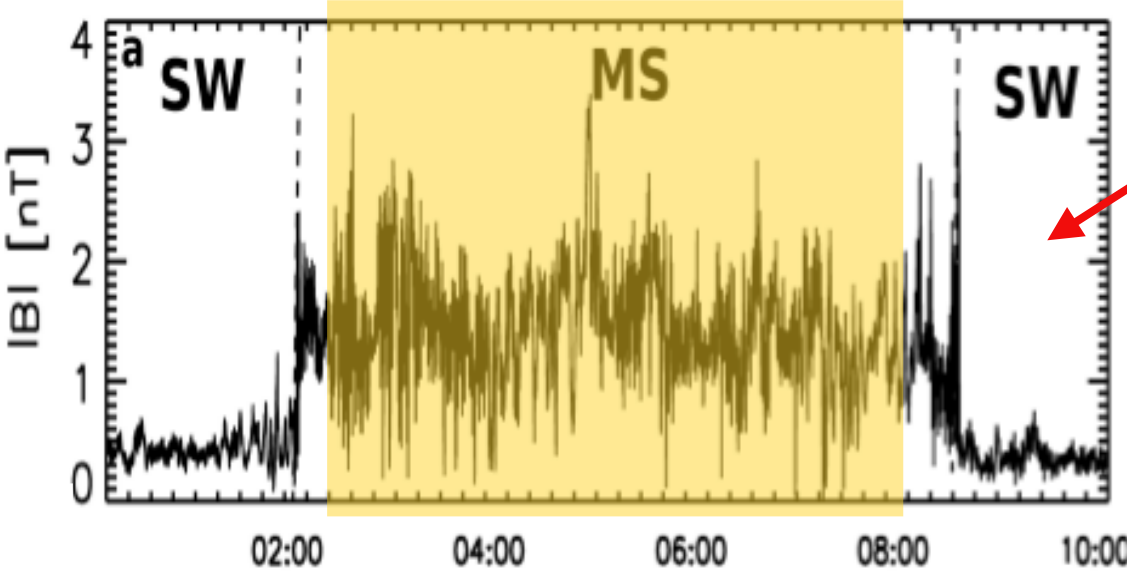
**CAPS:** Cassini Plasma Spectrometer  
VDF of ions and electrons:  
 $n, V, T$

**Search Coils:**  
High frequency magnetic field fluctuations  
[1Hz-20KHz]



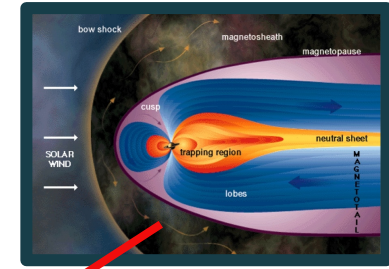
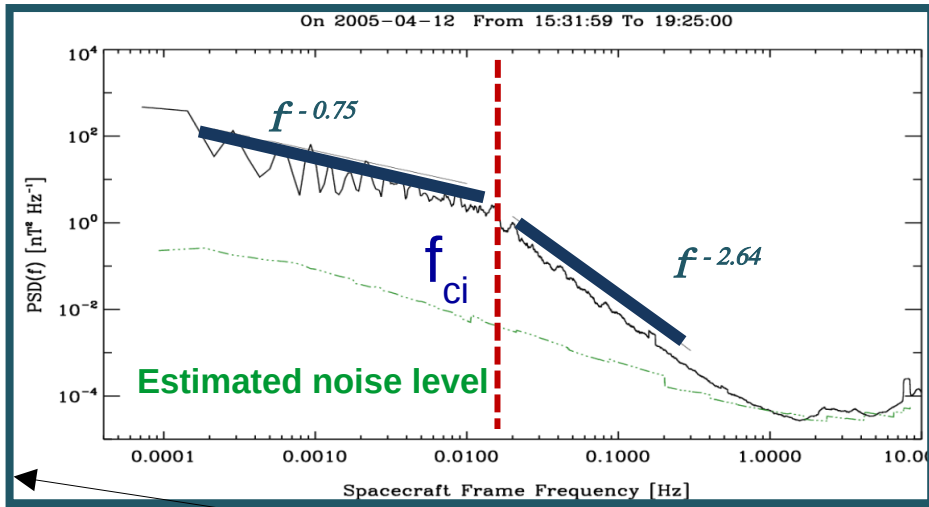
# Example of magnetic energy spectrum

Quasi-perpendicular bow-shock

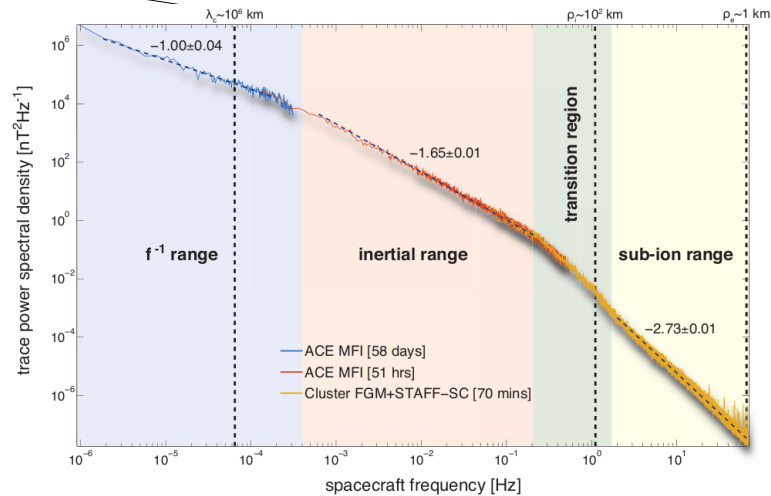
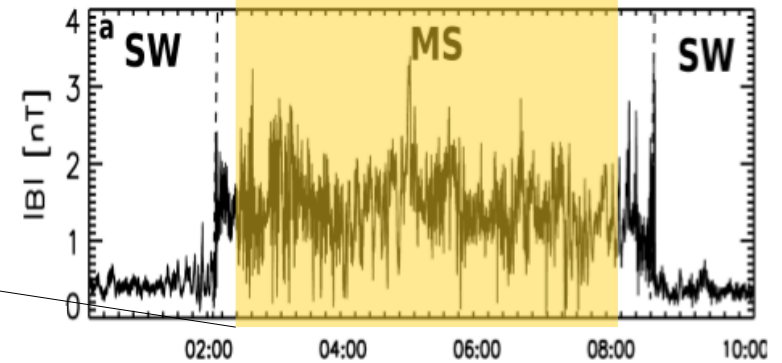




# Example of magnetic energy spectrum



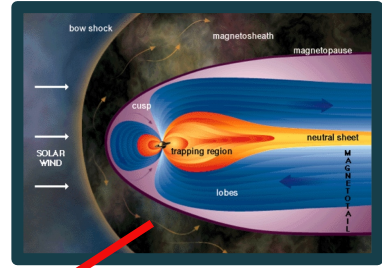
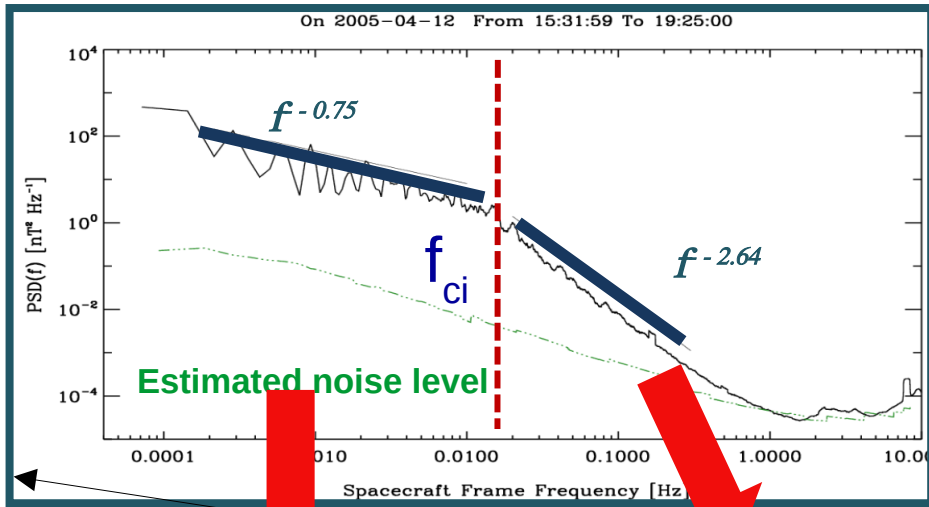
Quasi-perpendicular bow-shock



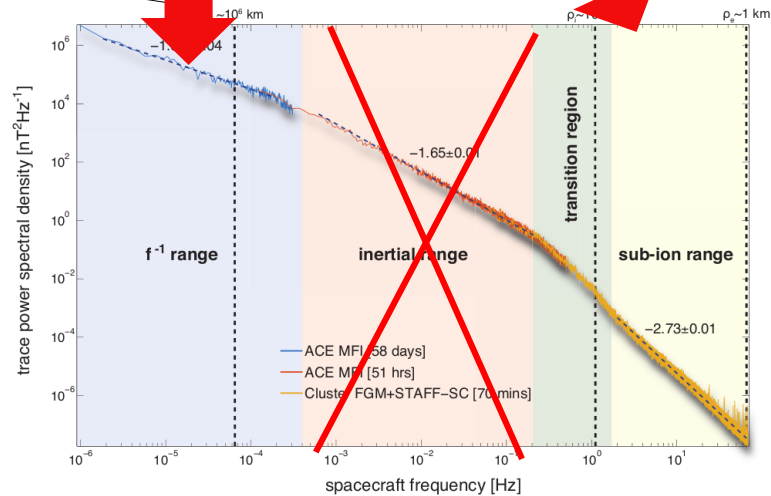
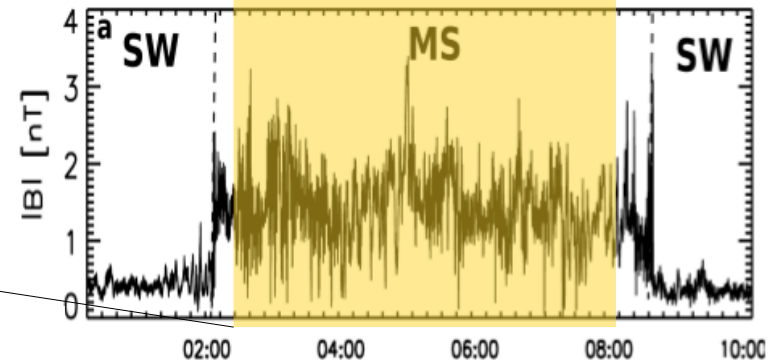
Kiyani et al., ApJI, 2015

Hadid et al., ApJI, 2015

# Example of magnetic energy spectrum



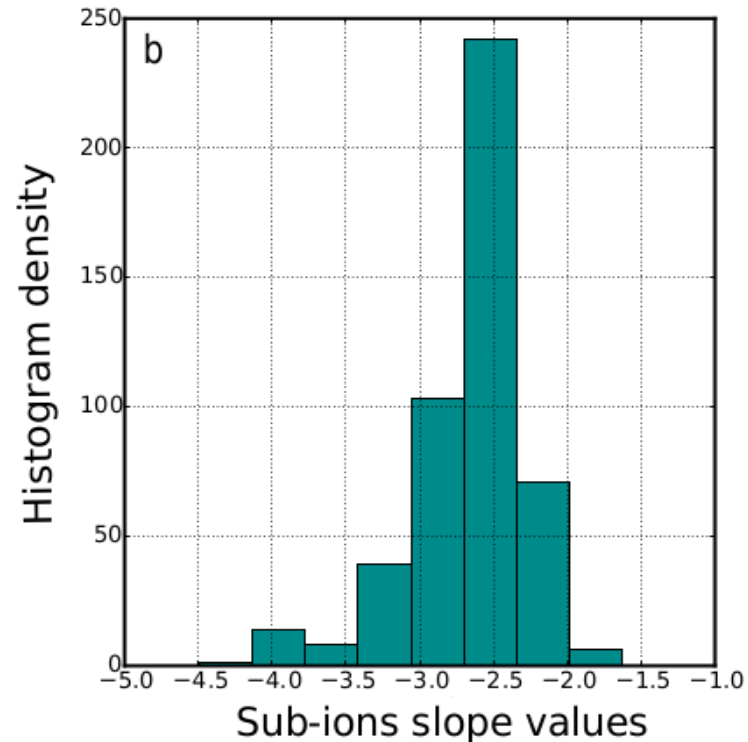
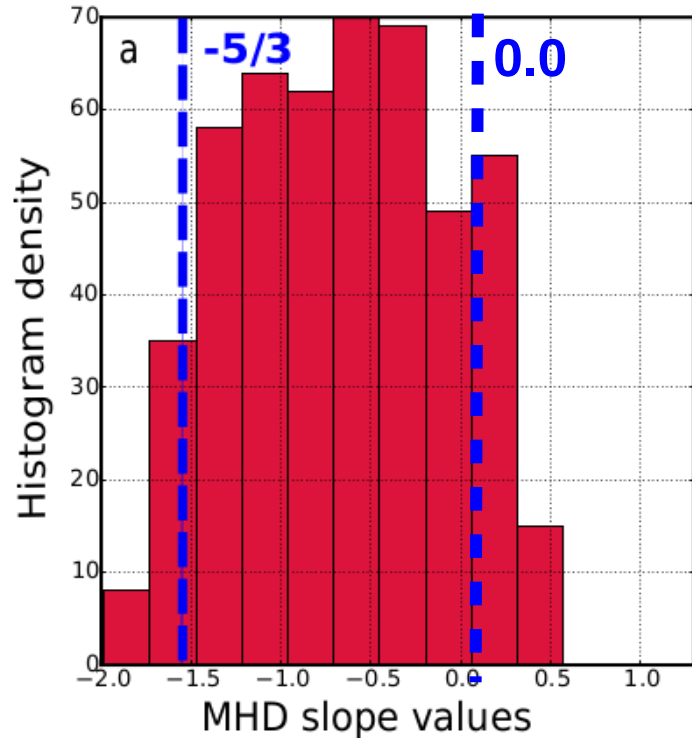
Quasi-perpendicular bow-shock



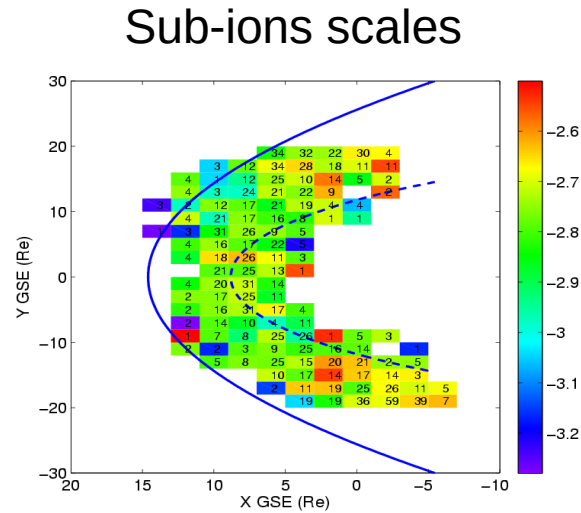
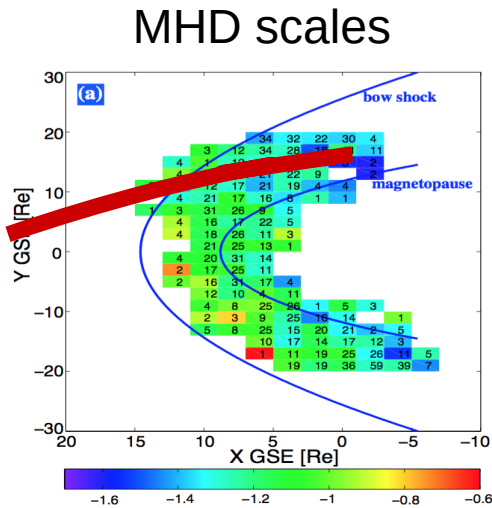
**A fundamental difference with the SW:**  
Absence of the 5/3 Kolmogorov law

# Slope distribution in Saturn's magnetosheath

Statistical study: 400 time intervals (2h each) between 2004-2014

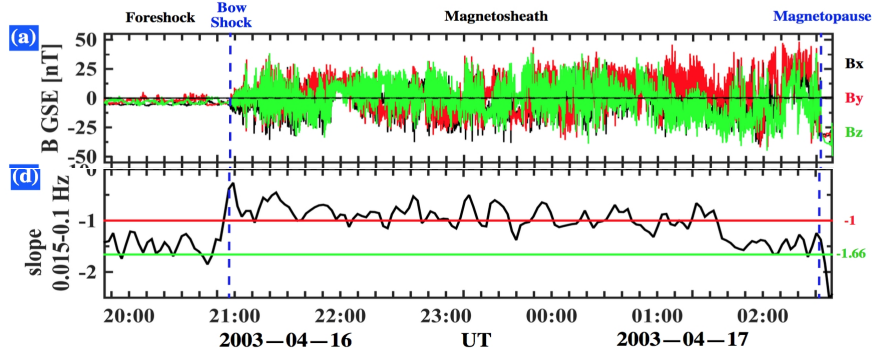


# Slope distribution in the magnetosheath of Earth



**MHD scales:**  
Dependence on the location  
within the  
Magnetosheath

**Sub-ion scales:**  
No dependence on the  
location within the  
magnetosheath

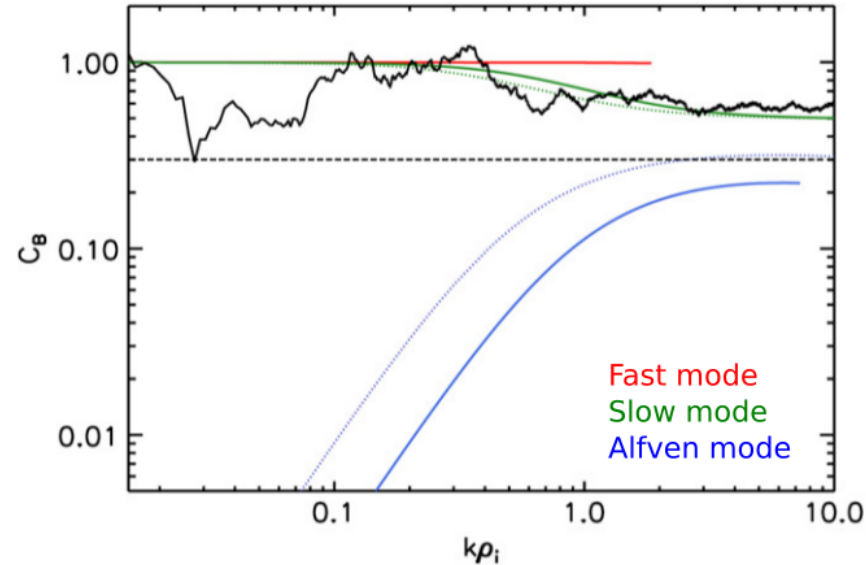


Local slope variation at MHD scales:  
solar wind → bow shock → magnetopause.

*S. Huang et al., ApJ, 2017*

# Nature of the fluctuations at the MHD scales

## Magnetosheath Cassini Data



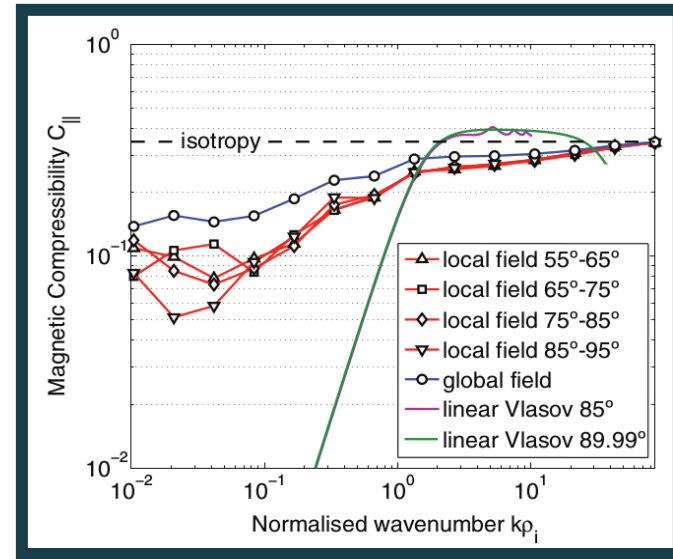
Highly compressible  
turbulence at MHD  
scales.

## Theoretical Magnetic compressibilities

$$C_{\parallel} = \delta B_{\parallel}^2 / \delta B^2$$

Lacombe & Belmont, *Adv. Space Res.*, 1995  
Gary & Smith, *JGR*, 2009

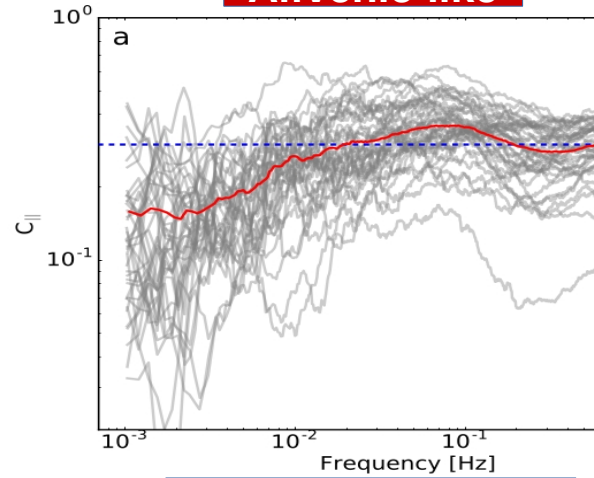
## Solar Wind Cluster Data



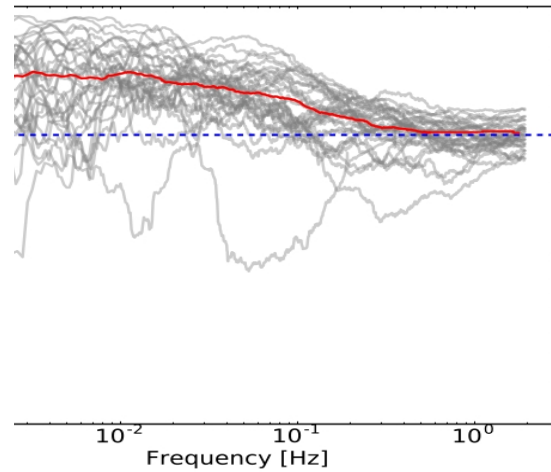
Kiyani et al.  
*ApJ*, 2013

# Nature of the fluctuations at the MHD scales

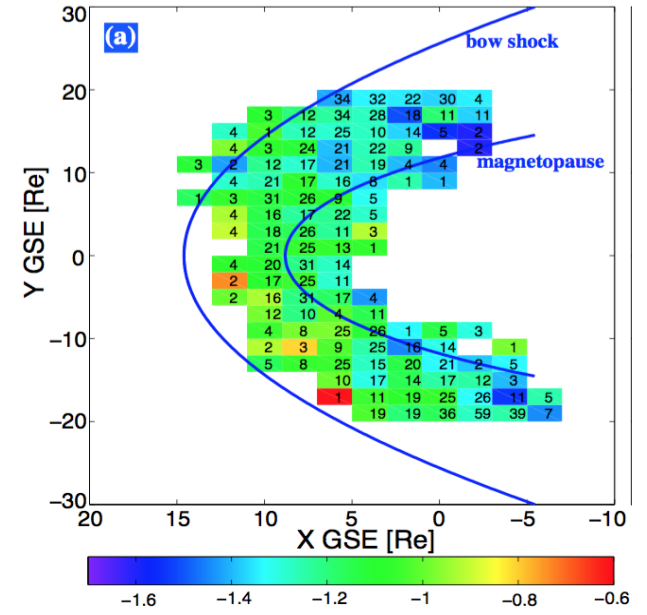
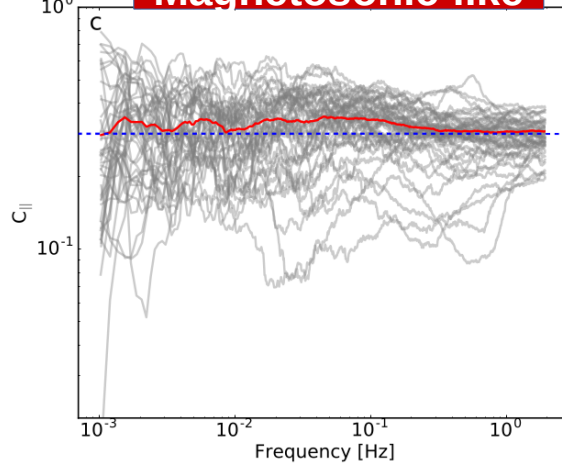
**Alfvénic-like**



**Magnetosonic-like**



**Magnetosonic-like**



**Dominance of the magnetosonic-like modes at the MHD scales**

# Estimation of the energy/dissipation rate

Exact law for incompressible MHD (PP98) [Politano & Pouquet, *PRE*, 1998]

$$\mathbf{z}^{\pm} = \mathbf{v} \pm \frac{\mathbf{B}}{\sqrt{4\pi\rho_0}}$$

$$\left\langle (\delta\mathbf{z}^{\pm})^2 \delta z_{l^{\mp}} \right\rangle = -\frac{4}{3} \varepsilon^{\pm} l$$

Incompressible  
cascade/heating rate

Exact law for compressible MHD [Andrés & Sahraoui, *PRE*, 2017, Banerjee & Galtier, *PRE*, 2013]

Compressible  
cascade/heating rate

$$\frac{4}{3} \varepsilon_C l = F_{1C} + F_{2C} + Q_{SC} + Q_{SH} + Q_{M\beta},$$

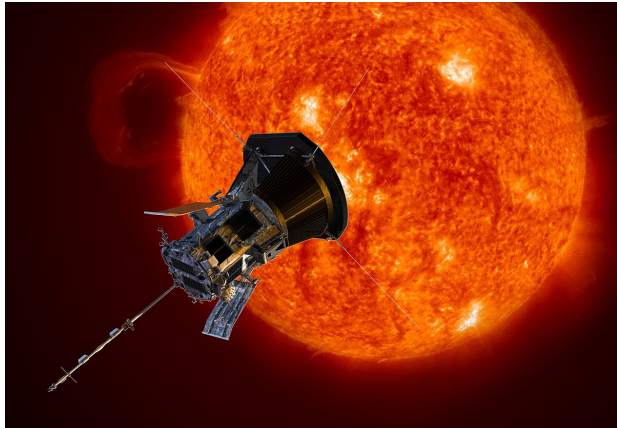
$$F_{1C} \equiv \langle [(\delta(\rho\mathbf{u}) \cdot \delta\mathbf{u} + \delta(\rho\mathbf{u}_A) \cdot \delta\mathbf{u}_A)] \delta\mathbf{u} - [\delta(\rho\mathbf{u}) \cdot \delta\mathbf{u}_A + \delta\mathbf{u} \cdot \delta(\rho\mathbf{u}_A)] \delta\mathbf{u}_A \rangle$$

$$F_{2C} \equiv 2\langle \delta\rho\delta e\delta\mathbf{u} \rangle.$$



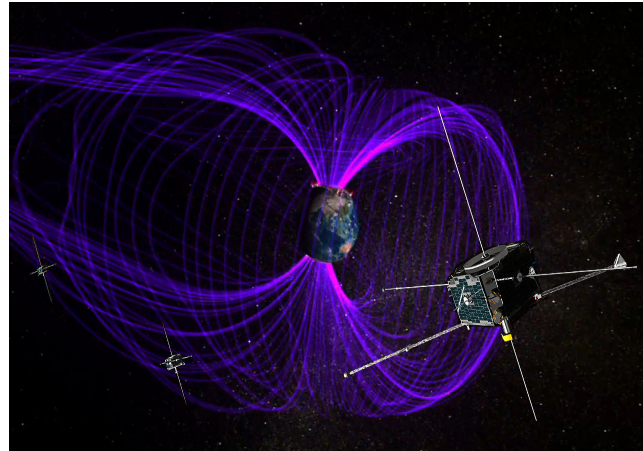
# Estimation of the energy/dissipation rate

PSP



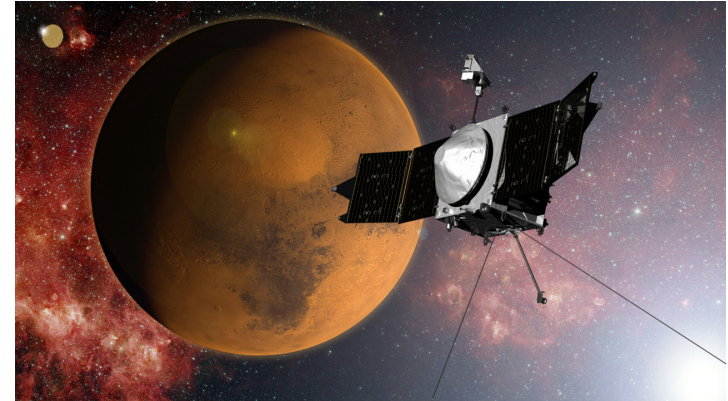
Sun (~ 0.2 A.U.)

THEMIS



Earth (~ 1 A.U.)

MAVEN

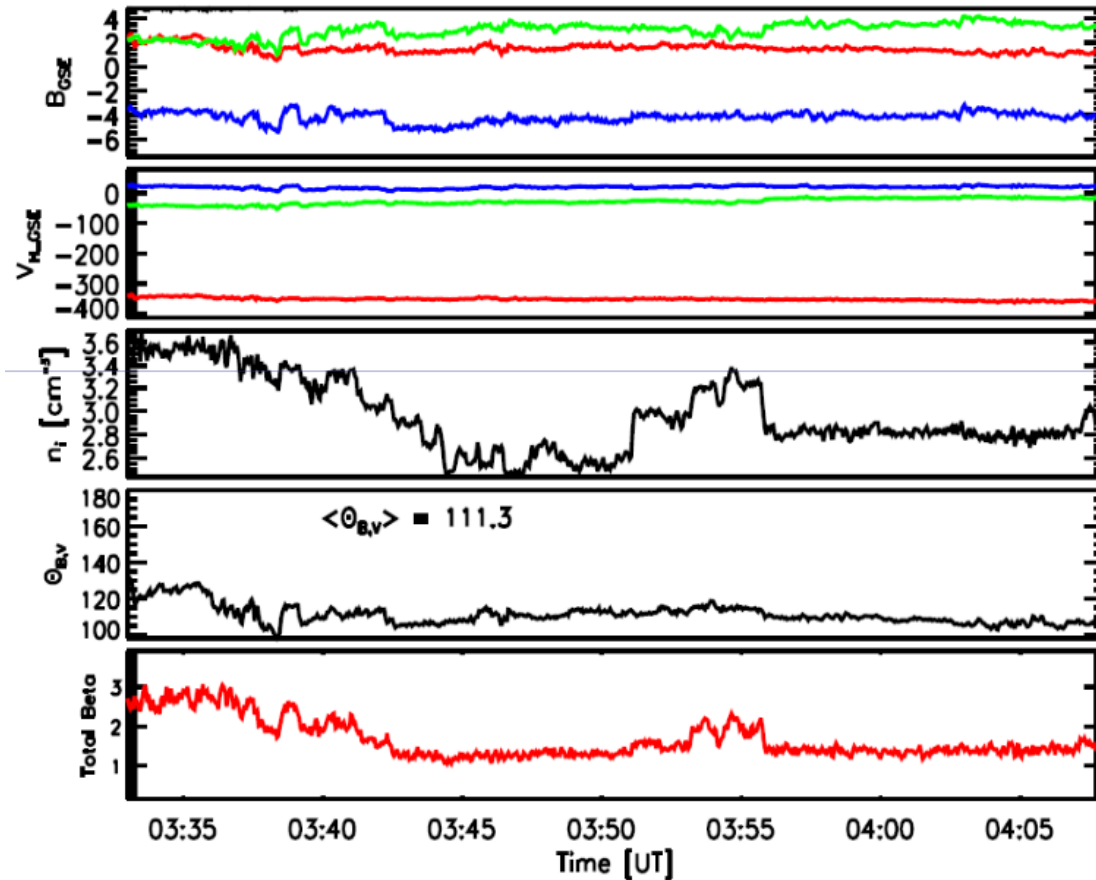


Mars (~ 1.5 A.U.)

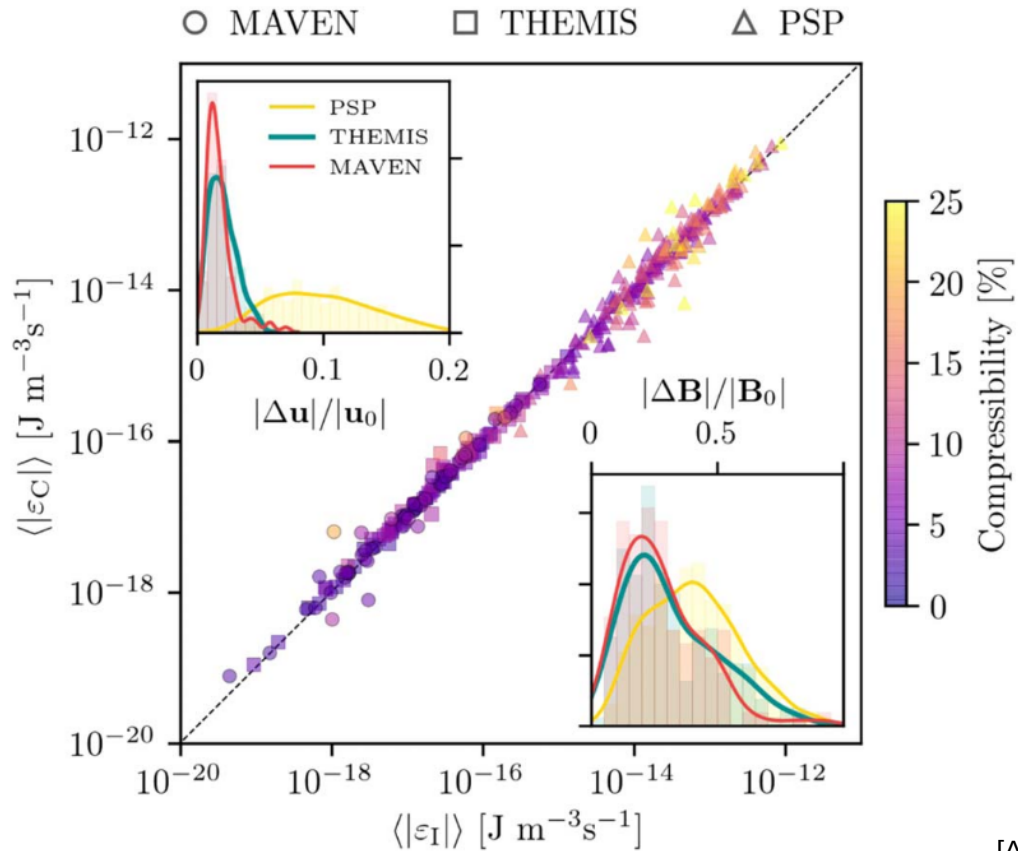


# Estimation of the energy/dissipation rate

2009-11-20 03:33- 04:08



# Radial evolution of the compressible $\varepsilon$ in the SW



The density, velocity, and magnetic fluctuations increase as we approach the Sun (e.g., Bruno & Carbone 2005; Matthaeus & Velli 2011).

Moderate increases of the total compressible cascades with respect to the incompressible cascades (Banerjee et al. 2016, Hadid et al. 2017; Andrés et al. 2019; Huang & Sahraoui 2019).

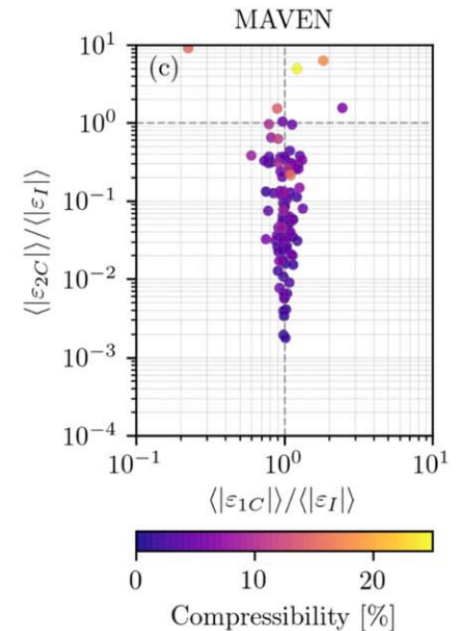
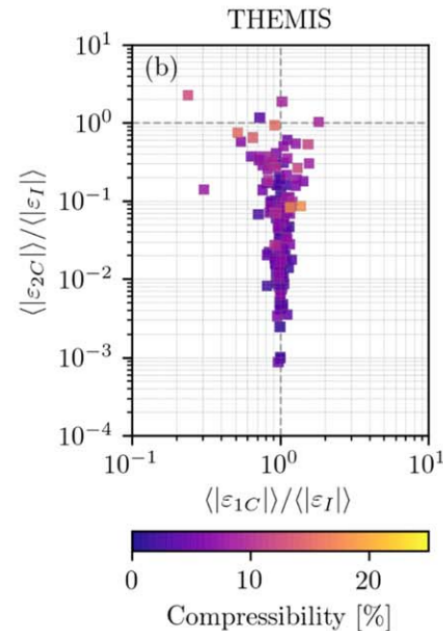
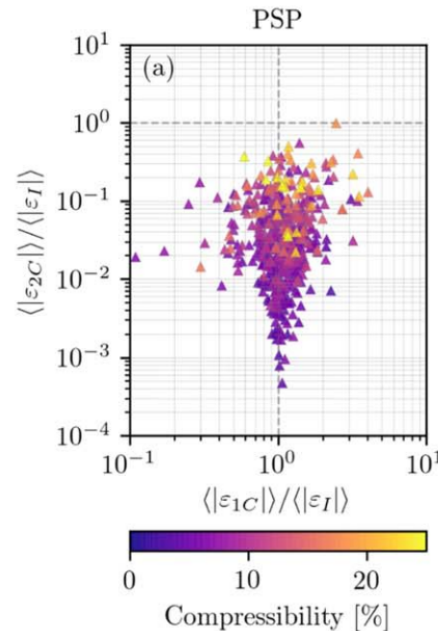
# Contribution of the different terms

$$\mathbf{F}_{1C} \equiv \langle [(\delta(\rho\mathbf{u}) \cdot \delta\mathbf{u} + \delta(\rho\mathbf{u}_A) \cdot \delta\mathbf{u}_A)\delta\mathbf{u} - [\delta(\rho\mathbf{u}) \cdot \delta\mathbf{u}_A + \delta\mathbf{u} \cdot \delta(\rho\mathbf{u}_A)]\delta\mathbf{u}_A] \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{2C} \equiv 2\langle \delta\rho\delta e\delta\mathbf{u} \rangle,$$

$$\mathbf{F}_I = \rho_0\langle [(\delta\mathbf{u})^2 + (\delta\mathbf{B})^2]\delta\mathbf{u} - 2(\delta\mathbf{u} \cdot \delta\mathbf{B})\delta\mathbf{B} \rangle$$

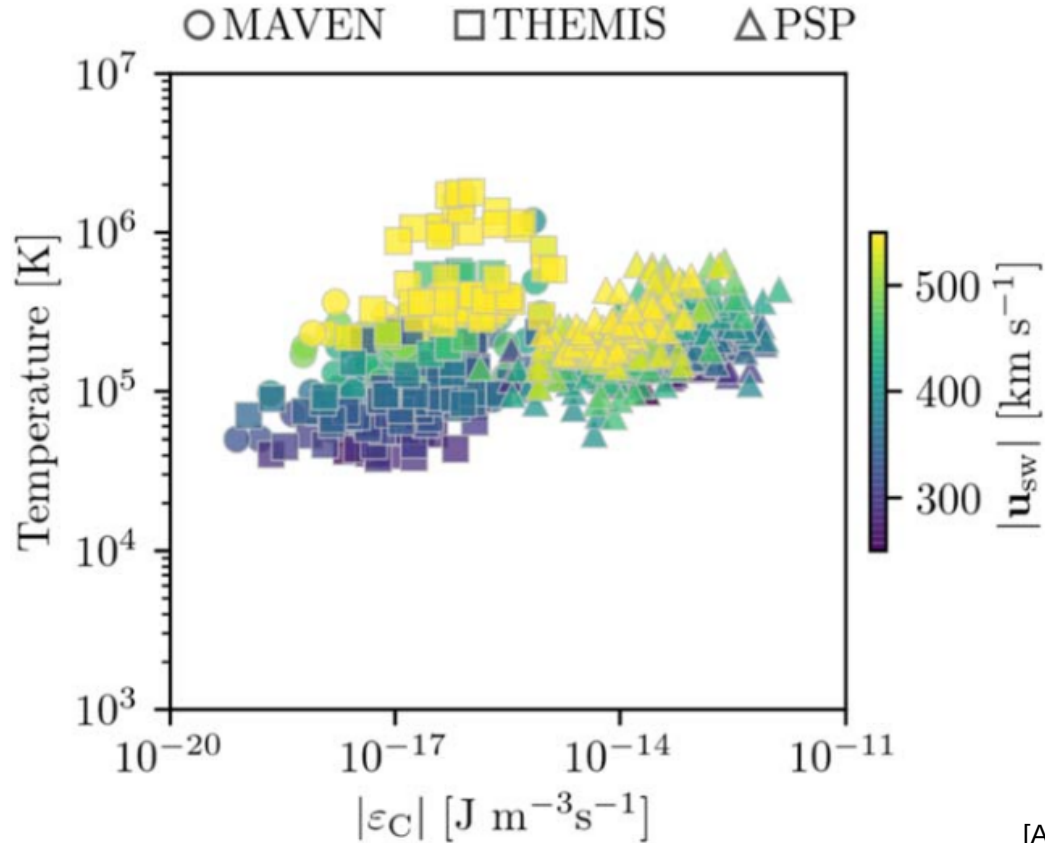
[Andrés+, ApJ, 2021]



Density fluctuations are small ( $\approx 5\%$ )  $\rightarrow$  the compressible Yaglom-like component,  $\varepsilon_{1C}$ , coincides with the incompressible component,  $\varepsilon_I$ , while the compressible term,  $\varepsilon_{2C}$ , is negligible.

Density fluctuations increase (up to 25%)  $\rightarrow$  the dominant component is given by a competition between  $\varepsilon_{1C}$  and  $\varepsilon_{2C}$ .

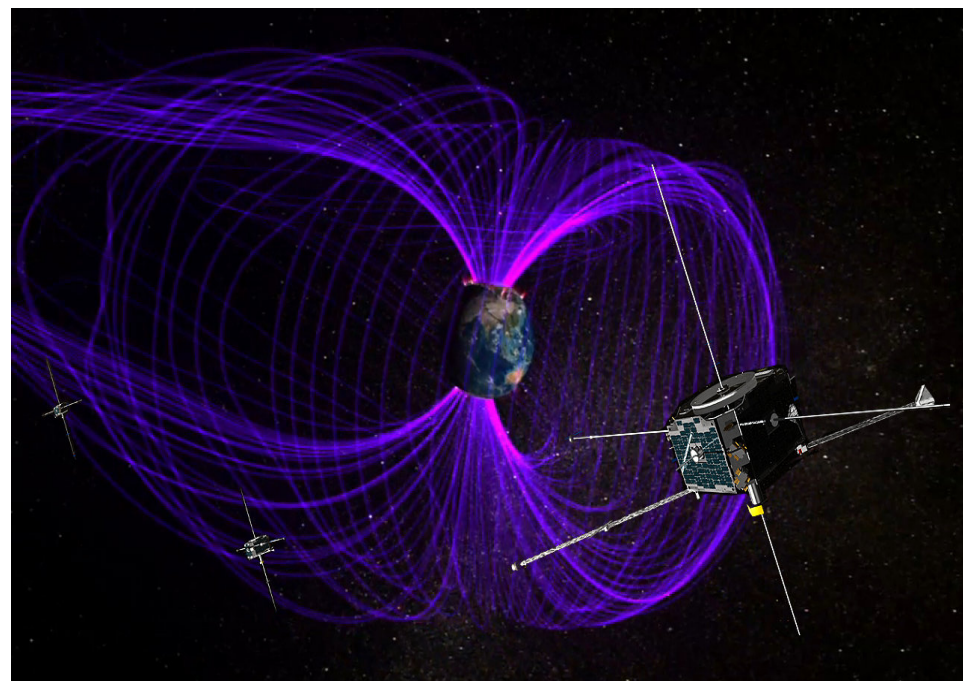
# Relation between $\varepsilon$ and the temperature



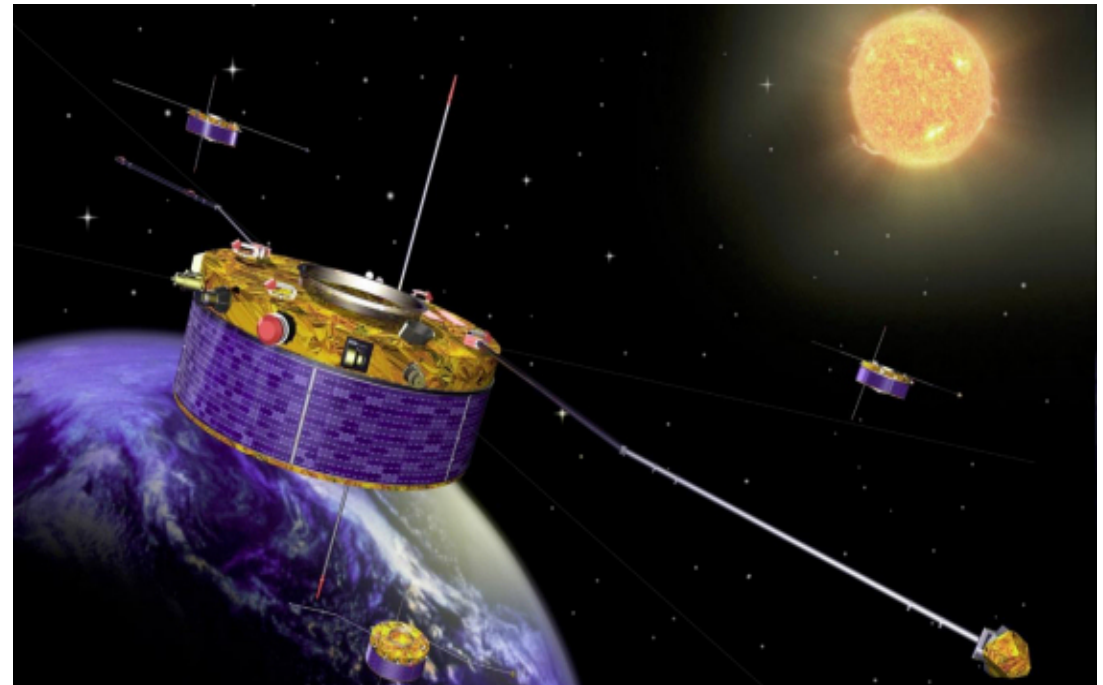
A clear correlation between the solar-wind temperature and the compressible energy cascade rate:  
→ the larger the cascade rate, the higher the temperature.

# How about the magnetosheath ?

Magnetosheath of Earth (2 years of Cluster + THEMIS data)



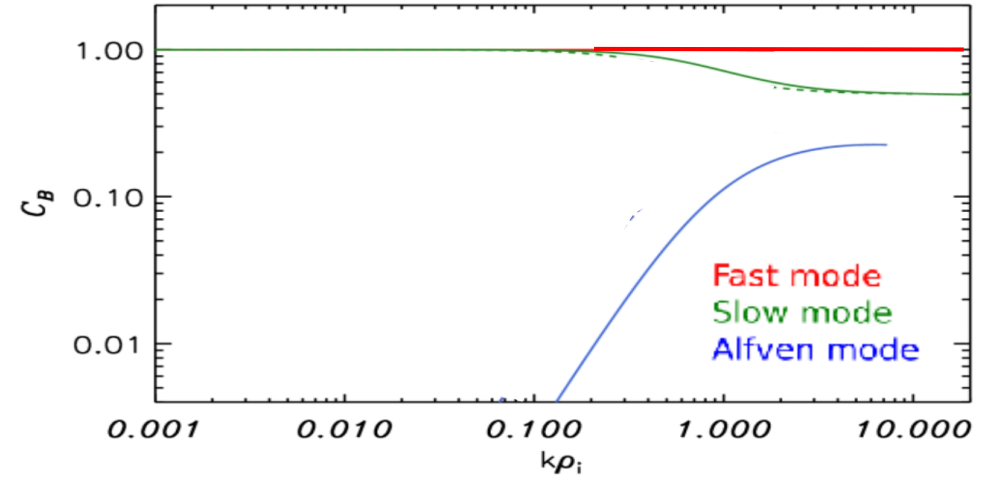
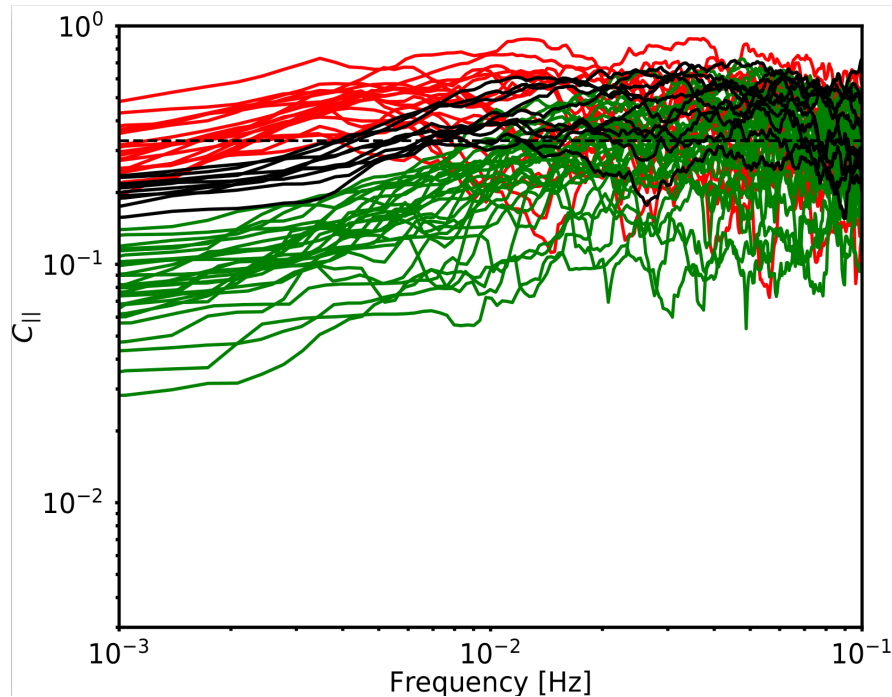
©NASA



©ESA

# Magnetosheath of Earth

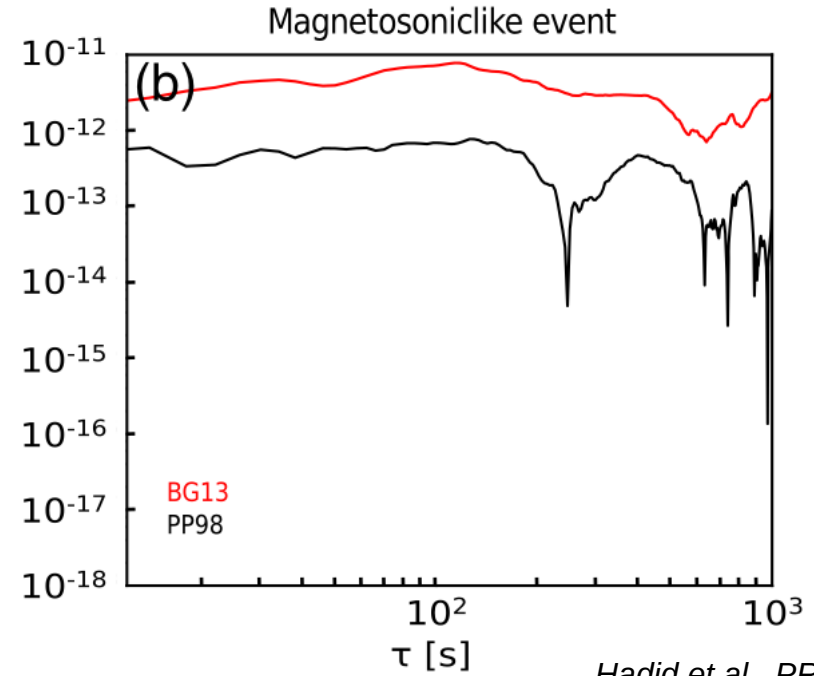
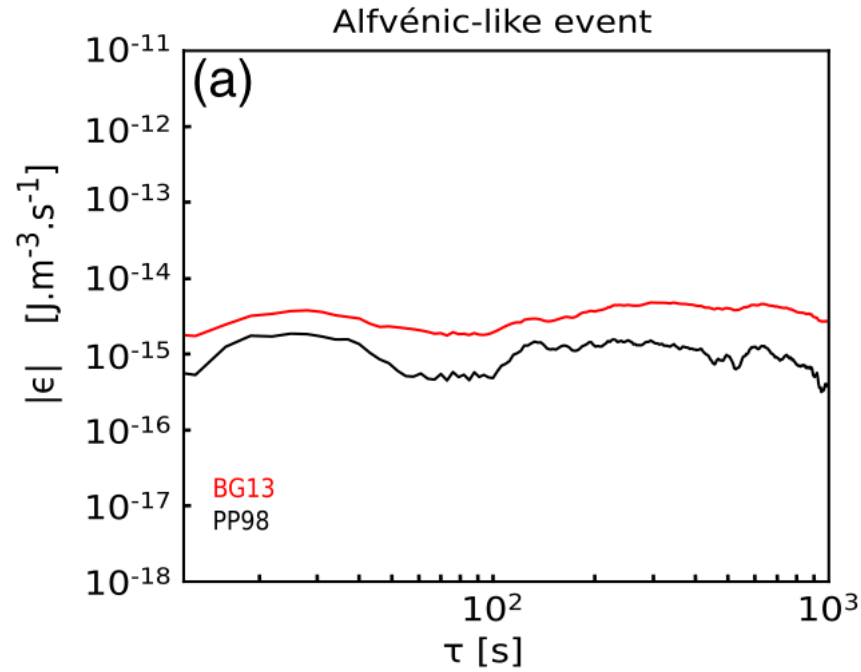
- Presence of the inertial range
- Uniformity of the plasma beta
- Stationnarity of the velocity field
- Uniformity of the energy cascade rate
- Magnetic compressibility



$$C_{\parallel} = \delta B_{\parallel}^2 / \delta B^2$$

Distinguish between **Alfvenic-like** ( $\langle C_{\parallel} \rangle < 0.2$ ) and **magnetosonic like** ( $\langle C_{\parallel} \rangle > 0.3$ ) fluctuations

# Magnetosheath of Earth

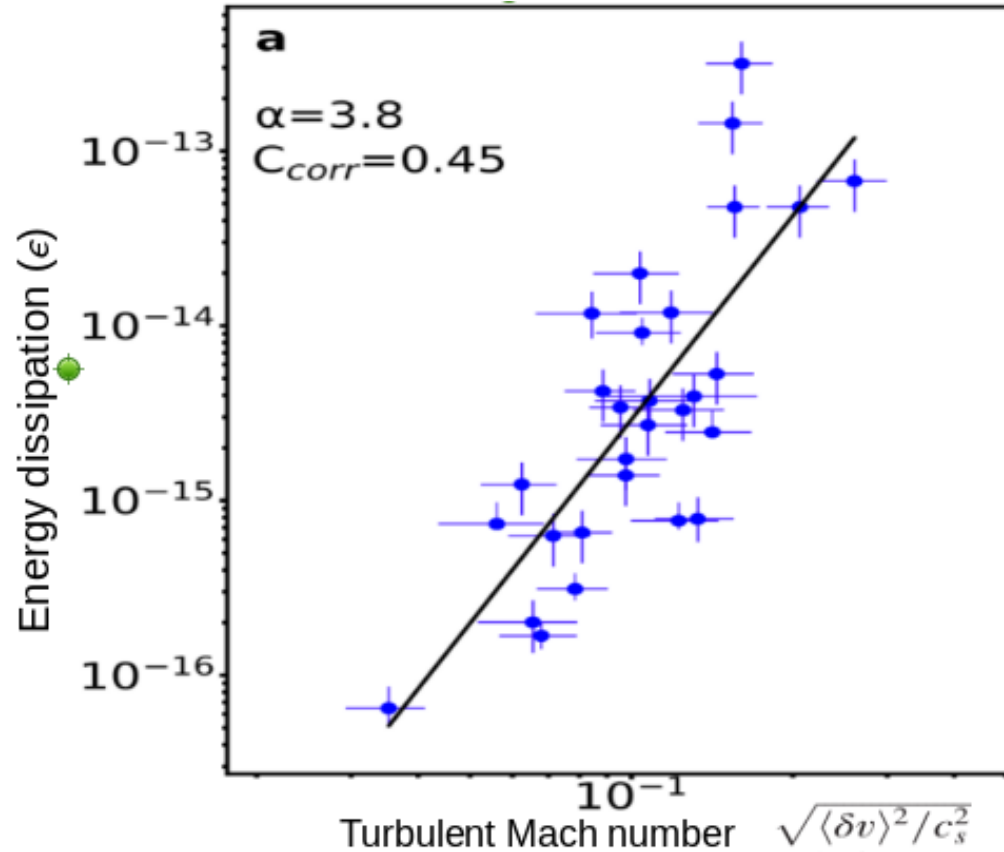


*Hadid et al., PRL, 2018*

Compressibility amplifies  $> \times 100$  !  
New empirical law relating  $\epsilon$  to the turbulent Mach number  $\rightarrow$  application for interstellar medium

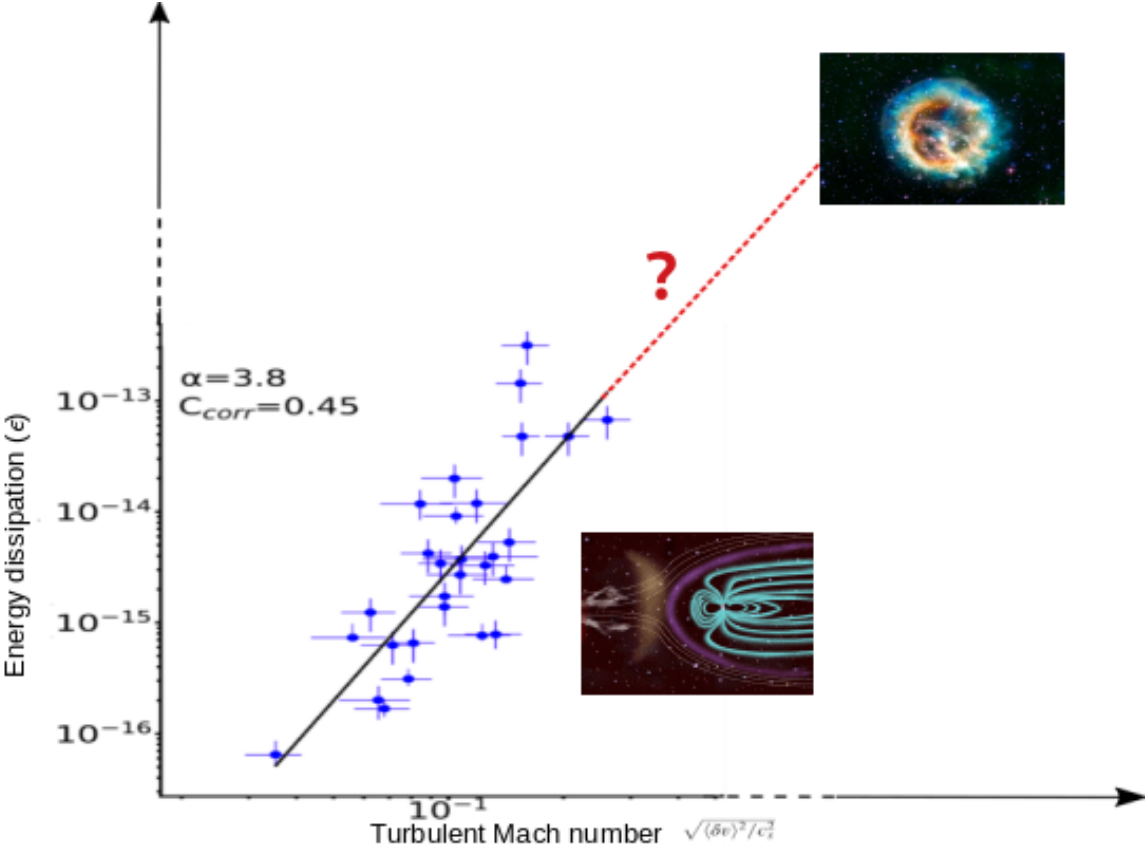


# Energy cascade rate vs. turbulent Mach number



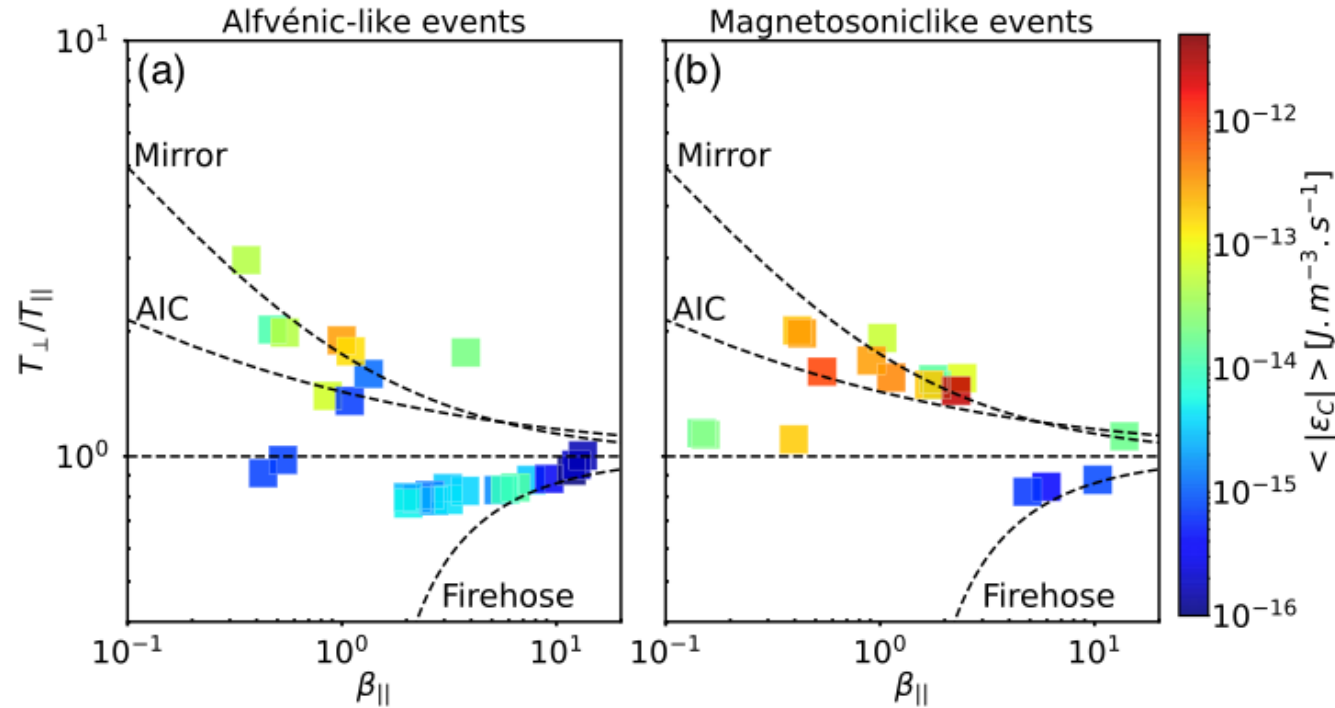
*Hadid et al., PRL, 2018*

# Energy cascade rate vs. turbulent Mach number



Hadid et al., PRL, 2018

# Role of the kinetic instabilities



Alfvénic-like events: large fraction of low  $\langle |\epsilon_c| \rangle$  lie around the stability condition  
Magnetosonic-like events: the highest  $\langle |\epsilon_c| \rangle$  lie around the mirror instability  $\rightarrow$  energy injection through the mirror instability which enhances the energy cascade rate (similar to the solar wind observations [Osman+ PRL, 2013]).

# Interpreting spacecraft measurements

---

**Taylor hypothesis:** consists in assuming that the measurements taken on board the spacecraft correspond to one-dimensional spatial sample.

The general formula relating the frequency of the wave (or any other characteristic time scale if it is turbulence) in the plasma rest frame  $\omega$  to the measured one onboard the spacecraft  $\omega_{sc}$  is given by:

$$\omega_{sc} = \omega + kV \cos \Theta_{\mathbf{kV}}$$

If the phase speed of the wave is negligible w.r.t the flow speed (i.e.,  $V_\phi = \omega/k \ll V$ ), then the Taylor frozen-in-flow assumption should be valid  $\rightarrow$

$$\omega_{sc} \sim kV \cos \Theta_{\mathbf{kV}}$$

## **The solar wind:**

At MHD scales since  $V_\phi \equiv V_A \sim 50 \text{ km/s} \sim V/10 \rightarrow$  Taylor hypothesis almost always valid

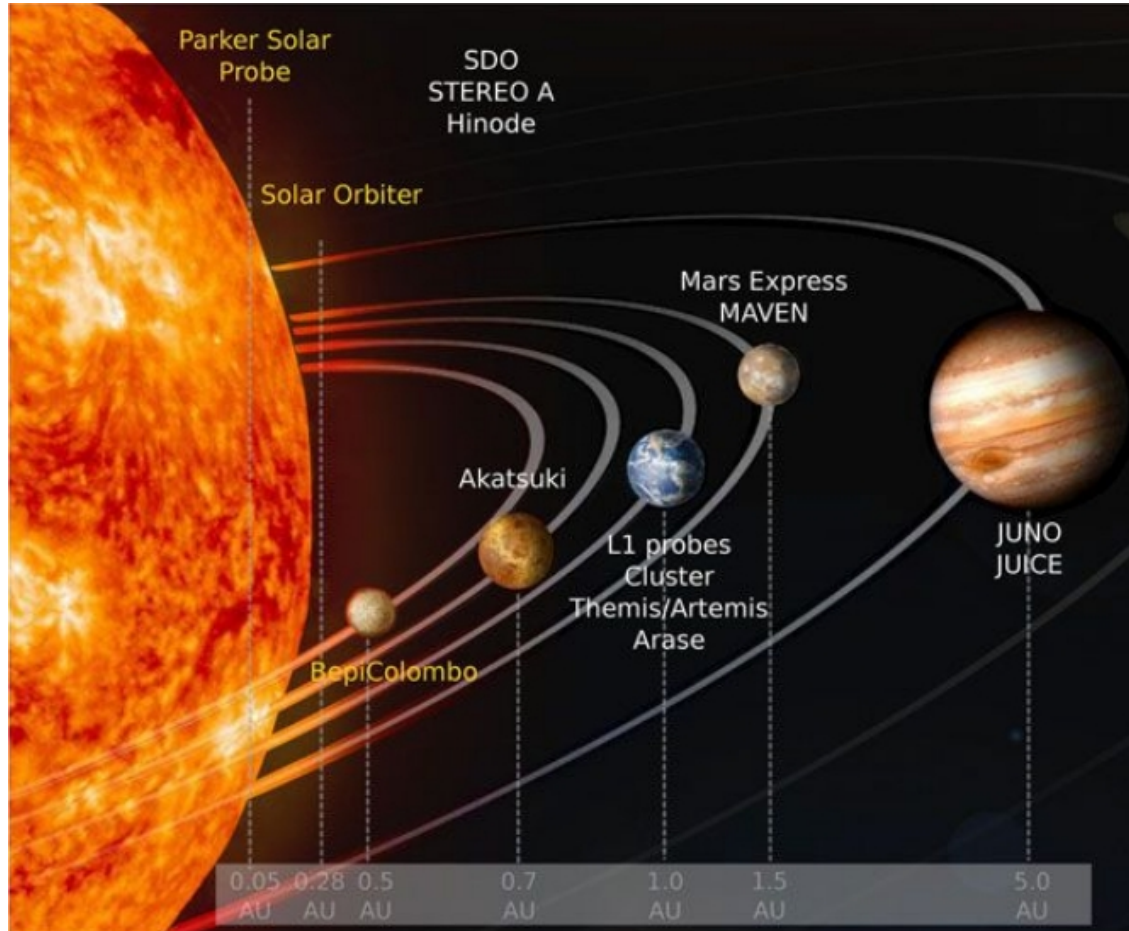
## **Magnetosheath:**

The Taylor hypothesis **is thought** to be violated since  $V_\phi \sim V_A \sim C_s \sim 100 - 200 \text{ km/s}$  where  $V_A$  and  $C_s$  represent respectively the Alfvén and the sound speeds considered to be the typical phase speed of the fluctuations. It is valid in at least two conditions (strongly anisotropic turbulence and stationary fluctuations)



# PSP – SO -BC coordinated observations

Excellent opportunity to perform multi-point, multi-instrument synergic studies of heliospheric phenomena



Velli et al., *ApJ*, 2020  
Hadid et al., *Frontiers*, 2021  
Alberti et al., *ApJ*, 2021  
Telloni et al., *ApJ*, 2022

**End of Part II**