

Pathways of metal flows in the Milky Way as traced by ^{26}Al

We studied the distribution and kinematics of metal flows in the Milky Way with INTEGRAL observations of the 1.8 MeV radioactive decay line of ^{26}Al and hydrodynamic simulations. The gamma rays pinpoint the flows of freshly produced metals from massive stars about 1 Myr (decay time) after ejection. We find in concordance from simulations and observations that ^{26}Al is mostly ejected into big bubbles and superbubbles that connect to the Galactic halo. A significant fraction of ^{26}Al is in the hot gas phase. Mixing between hot and cold gas can be observed in the nearby ScoCen superbubble, which has a clear ^{26}Al detection. Overall, a picture emerges where the complex Galactic ecosystem channels fresh metals along various pathways from the nearest star-forming cloud out to the Galaxy halo.

Length of presentation requested

Oral presentation: 17 min + 3 min questions

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Interstellar Medium

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