

A new survey for high velocity HI detections in the Southern Hemisphere

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Abstract. A new high-sensitivity HI survey of the southern sky was made south of Declination -25° , at the Instituto Argentino de Radioastronomía (IAR), on a half-degree grid in galactic coordinates. A total of 50980 positions were observed. One of the goals of this survey was to search for high velocity clouds (HVCs). The HI profiles have been smoothed to a velocity resolution of 8 km s^{-1} . The resulting rms noise falls in the range 0.015 to 0.020 K. We have detected 6848 high velocity (HV) components.

Key words: surveys — ISM: clouds — ISM: kinematics and dynamics — Galaxy: halo — Galaxy: kinematics and dynamics

1. Introduction

The origin of the neutral-hydrogen HVCs has been an enigma for the last 36 years. The main problem in the study of these objects are the distances: they are unknown for most of the HVCs and, therefore, few of the basic physical properties of the clouds can be determined. For a review of problems and progress, see Wakker & van Woerden (1997).

The northern sky has been surveyed several times looking for HVCs (see Table 1 in the review of Wakker & van Woerden 1997). Recently, Hartmann & Burton (1997) finished the Leiden-Dwingeloo HI survey made with a finer grid and higher velocity resolution than previous ones. This survey can be used for the creation of a catalogue for all the anomalous-velocity gas. However, for the southern sky the investigation of HVCs was restricted to the

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use of old surveys. It was first surveyed for HVCs by Mathewson et al. 1974), using the 18-m reflector at the Parkes Observatory of CSIRO (HPBW $\sim 48'$), every 2.5 to 5 degrees in declination and moderate sensitivity (typically 0.3 K). The main result of this survey was the finding of the extended HI complex known as the Magellanic Stream. Later, Bajaja et al. (1985) made a new survey using the 30-m IAR dish (HPBW $\sim 34'$), on a $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ grid and a detection limit of 0.08 – 0.10 K. As a result of these observations, a large number of small clouds was discovered. As we can see, a drawback of these surveys was the fact that the antenna beams were smaller than the observed grid spacing. More recently, Putman & Gibson (1999a, 1999b) presented the first results from their complete, fully sampled, southern sky survey for HVCs, as part of the HI Parkes All-Sky Survey ($\delta \leq 0^\circ$). As they mentioned, their initial results are revealing intricate details in the spatial structure of southern HVCs, a large population of compact HVCs, and filamentary connections between previously assumed discrete clumps. Thus, until these data become of public domain, the data available at present on HVCs are quite insufficient for statistical purposes.

We decided to use the new general HI survey from the southern hemisphere, recently completed by Arnal et al. (2000), to make a more complete and homogeneous new survey of HVCs which will provide reliable and unbiased statistical information on these enigmatic objects.

2. The data

The new general HI survey of the southern sky was performed, using the 30-m IAR dish (HPBW $\sim 30'$), at $\text{Dec} \leq -25^\circ$ on a $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ grid in galactic coordinates. The spectrometer velocity coverage was 1055 km s^{-1} centered at $V_{\text{LSR}} = 0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, a velocity resolution of 1.27 km s^{-1} , with channels separated 1.05 km s^{-1} , and a rms noise $\leq 0.07 \text{ K}$ (Arnal et al. 2000). For the final

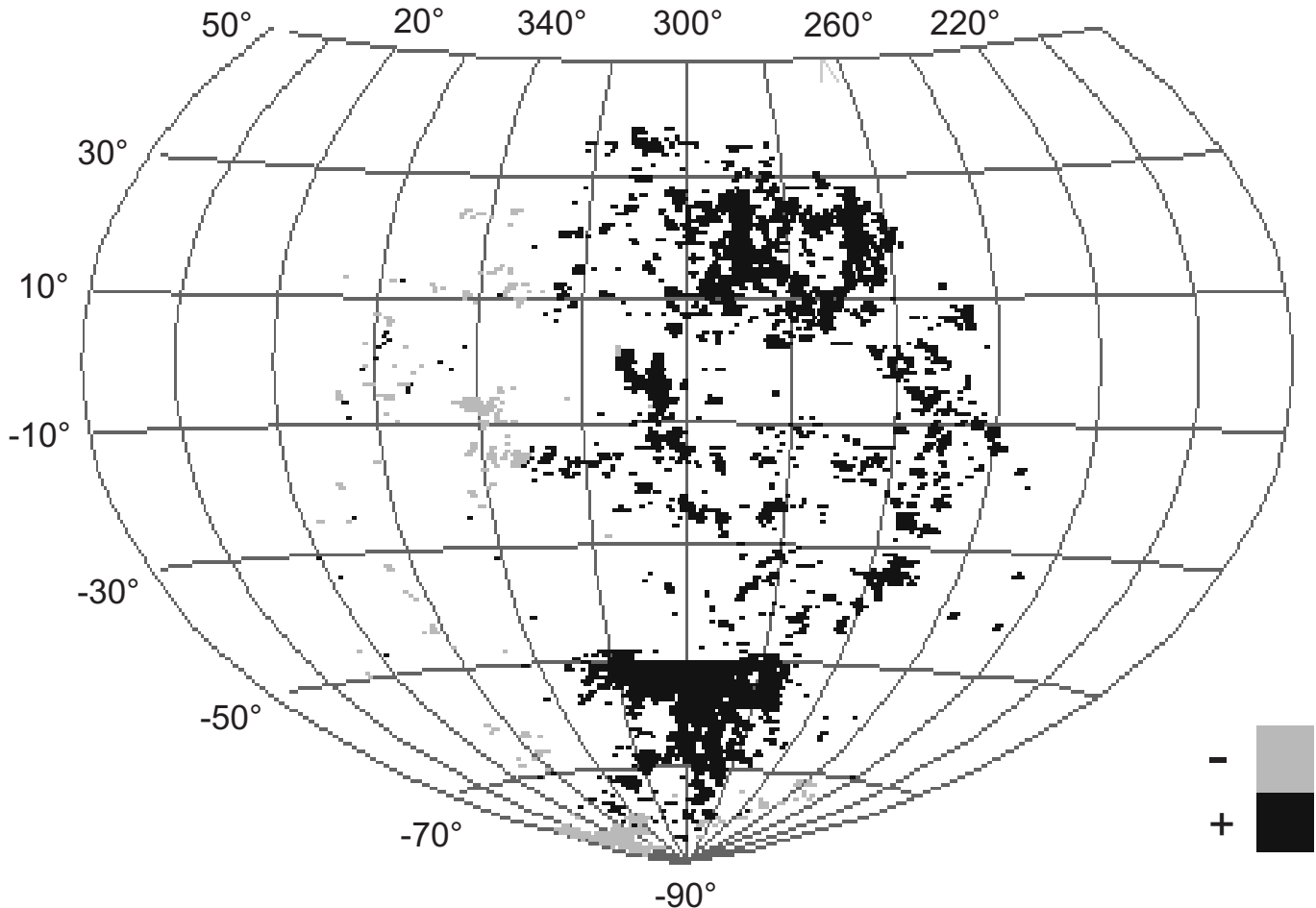


Fig. 1. Sky distribution of the 6848 HV components detected from the IAR HI survey with velocities $V_{\text{LSR}} \geq 80 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Black and grey dots are for positive and negative velocities, respectively

survey Arnal et al. adopted a velocity range of -450 to 400 km s^{-1} , with channels spaced 1.03 km s^{-1} , in order to fit the parameters of the northern HI survey (Hartmann & Burton 1997). For the search of HV detections, however, we used the original survey with an effective velocity range coverage of 900 km s^{-1} , between -450 and 450 km s^{-1} .

The individual profiles of the IAR survey were smoothed to a velocity resolution of 8 km s^{-1} in order to have a better sensitivity ($\text{rms} \sim 0.015 - 0.020 \text{ K}$). This sensitivity is comparable to that of the earlier HVC surveys (Bajaja et al. 1985; Hulsbosch & Wakker 1988), but with a finer grid and better velocity resolution. For the search, the smoothed profiles were scanned visually to detect the presence of HI components at HV. We selected all the HV components whose brightness temperatures were greater than 0.08 K and whose absolute radial velocity in the LSR system, V_{LSR} , were greater than 80 km s^{-1} . About 200 of the weakest isolated components, were reobserved in order to confirm them.

During the search of the HV material we found many HV components at low galactic latitudes. However, when we look for them in the b vs. V_{LSR} diagrams, in the latitude

Table 1. Identified galaxies

$l(^{\circ})$	$b(^{\circ})$	V_{LSR}	Name
262.10	23.07	441	NGC 3109
273.08	-70.29	364	ESO 245-5
273.28	13.78	270	LEDA0100728
299.20	-79.42	178	NGC 300
328.55	17.85	320	IC 4662
332.67	-76.74	119	NGC 55
343.92	-50.19	121	IC 5152

range $-10^{\circ} \leq b \leq 10^{\circ}$, we found that most of them were directly connected with features belonging to the galactic spiral structure at the same velocity range. They were eliminated from the final database. Gas identified as belonging to the southern galaxies listed in Table 1 was also not included in the database. These galaxies were obtained from Paturol (1996). The galaxies quoted by Côté et al. (1997) and Mateo (1998) were also checked for any matching with our detections.

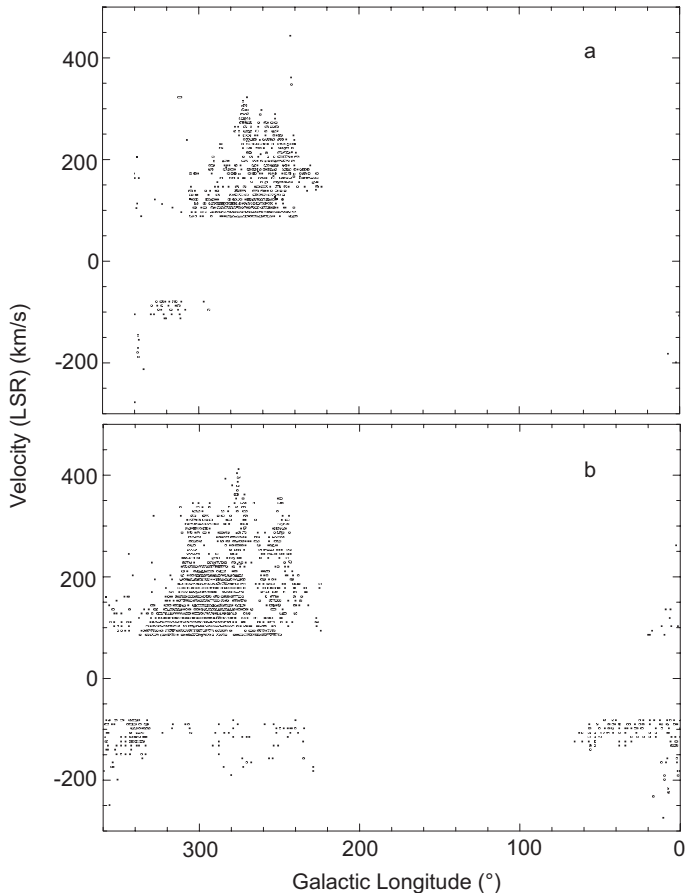


Fig. 2. LSR velocity-longitude diagrams from the IAR data for **a)** the northern and **b)** southern hemisphere

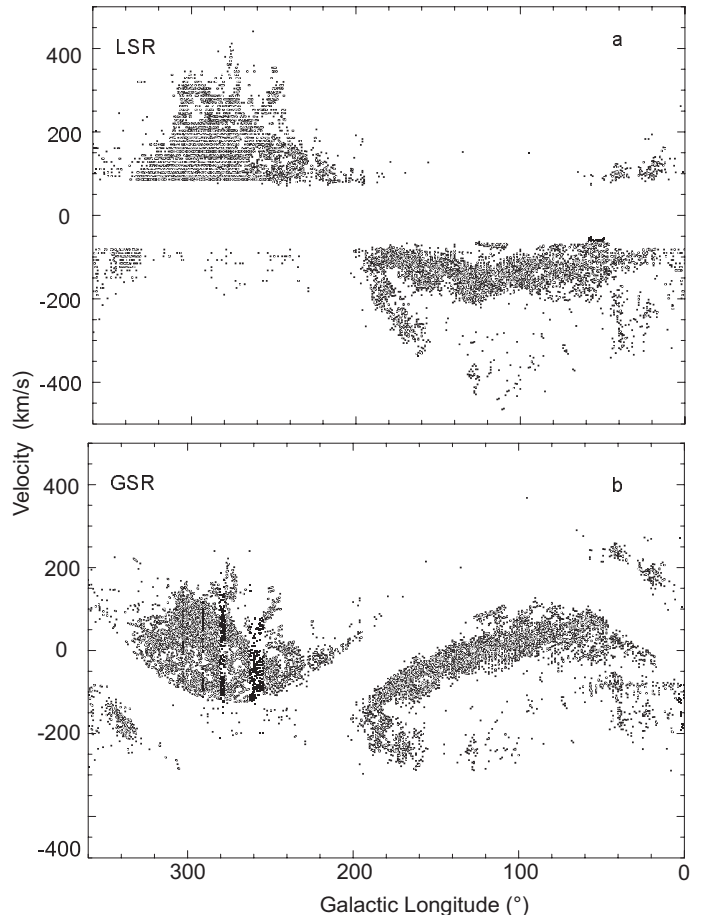


Fig. 3. **a)** LSR and **b)** GSR velocity-longitude diagrams from the IAR and Hulsbosch & Wakker's (1988) data

3. Results

The parameters of the 6848 HV components, which were considered as reliable within 4 rms noise, are given in Table 2. Due to the editorial policy of *Astronomy and Astrophysics* we publish this table, which comprises 61 printed pages, in electronic form¹. Thus, only a sample page (The first page of Table 2) is given here. The first column of this table gives the HV detection number; the galactic coordinates are given in the second and third columns; the velocities in the Local (LSR) and Galactic (GSR) standard of rest systems are given in the fourth and fifth columns (the latter velocity is defined as $V_{\text{GSR}} = V_{\text{LSR}} + 220 \sin l \cos b$). The sixth column gives the brightness temperature of the peak. Figure 1 shows the distribution of these HV components, on an Aitoff projection of galactic coordinates, making a distinction between the 6304 positive (black) and the 544 negative (grey) velocities. The cut off observed in the

¹ Table 2 (full version) is only available in electronic form at the CDS via anonymous ftp to cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr (130.79.128.5) or via <http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/Abstract.html>

figure, at latitude -50° , in the region of the Magellanic Clouds, the Bridge and their immediate surroundings, appears there because only those HV components not detected by Mathewson et al. (1974) in these structures have been included in Table 2. As is known from the work of Wannier et al. (1972) and Mathewson et al. (1974), positive velocities are prevalent in the southern sky and most of the HV components are concentrated in large clouds (Giovanelli & Haynes 1976; Cohen & Ruellas Mayorga 1980; Morras 1982; Morras & Bajaja 1983; Bajaja et al. 1989; Cavarischia & Morras 1989; etc.). However, as can be seen in the figure, many HV components with negative velocities are also present in the southern sky. Most of the new detections are associated with previously known HVC complexes, except for a few which seem to be compact and apparently isolated HVCs.

One of the most remarkable features observed in the figure seems to be the ring-like structure, centered at $l \simeq 280^\circ$; $b \simeq 20^\circ$ (Morras et al. 1999). It includes both of the most prominent and known HVCs with positive velocities in the region, i.e., HVC 267.5+21+222 (Cavarischia & Morras 1989) and HVC 287.5+22.5+240 (Morras &

Table 2. The catalogue

Number	$l(^{\circ})$	$b(^{\circ})$	V_{LSR}	V_{GSR}	T_b	Number	$l(^{\circ})$	$b(^{\circ})$	V_{LSR}	V_{GSR}	T_b
1	0.0	-86.5	-82	-82	0.65	56	37.6	-83.5	-90	-74	1.49
2	8.1	-86.5	-82	-80	0.17	57	42.3	-83.5	-98	-81	1.29
3	16.2	-86.5	-82	-78	0.16	58	47.0	-83.5	-98	-79	0.95
4	48.6	-86.5	-90	-81	0.13	59	51.7	-83.5	-90	-70	0.25
5	56.7	-86.5	-90	-78	0.12	60	56.4	-83.5	-115	-94	0.55
6	6.3	-86.0	-82	-80	0.68	61	61.1	-83.5	-124	-102	0.63
7	12.6	-86.0	-90	-86	0.71	62	65.8	-83.5	-124	-101	0.14
8	18.9	-86.0	-90	-85	0.46	63	7.6	-83.0	-90	-86	0.61
9	25.2	-86.0	-90	-83	0.41	64	11.4	-83.0	-98	-92	0.62
10	31.5	-86.0	-90	-81	0.25	65	15.2	-83.0	-98	-90	0.94
11	37.8	-86.0	-90	-80	0.29	66	19.0	-83.0	-107	-98	1.12
12	44.1	-86.0	-90	-79	0.15	67	22.8	-83.0	-90	-79	0.81
13	56.7	-86.0	-98	-85	0.18	68	26.6	-83.0	-98	-85	1.17
14	12.6	-85.5	-82	-78	0.35	69	30.4	-83.0	-98	-84	0.73
15	18.9	-85.5	-82	-76	0.46	70	34.2	-83.0	-98	-82	1.09
16	25.2	-85.5	-82	-74	0.36	71	38.0	-83.0	-98	-81	1.44
17	31.5	-85.5	-90	-80	0.21	72	41.8	-83.0	-98	-80	1.86
18	37.8	-85.5	-90	-79	0.21	73	45.6	-83.0	-107	-87	1.56
19	44.1	-85.5	-82	-70	0.18	74	49.4	-83.0	-107	-86	1.51
20	50.4	-85.5	-98	-84	0.11	75	53.2	-83.0	-107	-85	0.59
21	56.7	-85.5	-98	-83	0.16	76	57.0	-83.0	-115	-92	1.26
22	63.0	-85.5	-107	-91	0.14	77	287.8	-83.0	-149	-174	0.16
23	25.2	-85.0	-90	-81	0.30	78	287.8	-83.0	94	68	0.16
24	37.7	-85.0	-107	-95	0.11	79	291.6	-83.0	-132	-156	0.12
25	44.1	-85.0	-98	-84	0.17	80	291.6	-83.0	103	78	0.35
26	50.4	-85.0	-98	-83	0.12	81	348.6	-83.0	-82	-87	1.05
27	56.7	-85.0	-107	-90	0.20	82	352.4	-83.0	-82	-85	0.54
28	303.3	-85.0	102	85	0.15	83	356.2	-83.0	-82	-83	0.54
29	23.5	-84.5	-90	-81	0.45	84	0.0	-82.5	-82	-82	0.57
30	28.2	-84.5	-90	-80	0.99	85	3.8	-82.5	-82	-80	0.60
31	32.9	-84.5	-90	-78	0.62	86	7.6	-82.5	-90	-86	0.50
32	47.0	-84.5	-82	-66	0.21	87	11.4	-82.5	-98	-92	0.57
33	51.7	-84.5	-90	-73	0.13	88	15.2	-82.5	-107	-99	0.92
34	56.4	-84.5	-107	-89	0.18	89	19.0	-82.5	-107	-97	1.07
35	61.1	-84.5	-107	-88	0.17	90	22.8	-82.5	-115	-103	0.69
36	280.1	-84.5	-190	-210	0.11	91	26.6	-82.5	-115	-102	1.31
37	303.6	-84.5	111	93	0.15	92	30.4	-82.5	-115	-100	1.53
38	308.3	-84.5	111	94	0.34	93	34.2	-82.5	-107	-90	1.52
39	313.0	-84.5	103	87	0.15	94	38.0	-82.5	-107	-89	1.02
40	23.5	-84.0	-98	-88	1.15	95	41.8	-82.5	-107	-87	1.95
41	28.2	-84.0	-98	-87	1.70	96	45.6	-82.5	-107	-86	1.73
42	32.9	-84.0	-90	-77	1.71	97	49.4	-82.5	-107	-85	1.58
43	37.6	-84.0	-90	-75	1.00	98	53.2	-82.5	-107	-84	0.91
44	42.3	-84.0	-98	-82	0.41	99	57.0	-82.5	-107	-82	1.39
45	47.0	-84.0	-82	-65	0.30	100	287.8	-82.5	-132	-159	0.12
46	51.7	-84.0	-90	-71	0.10	101	287.8	-82.5	94	66	0.18
47	56.4	-84.0	-107	-87	0.26	102	291.6	-82.5	94	67	0.23
48	61.1	-84.0	-107	-86	0.17	103	348.6	-82.5	-82	-87	1.77
49	284.8	-84.0	-174	-196	0.34	104	352.4	-82.5	-82	-85	1.31
50	303.6	-84.0	111	91	0.24	105	356.2	-82.5	-82	-83	0.98
51	308.3	-84.0	111	92	0.35	106	0.0	-82.0	-82	-82	0.89
52	313.0	-84.0	103	86	0.18	107	3.8	-82.0	-90	-87	0.64
53	23.5	-83.5	-98	-88	1.33	108	7.6	-82.0	-90	-85	0.43
54	28.2	-83.5	-98	-86	1.09	109	11.4	-82.0	-90	-83	0.33
55	32.9	-83.5	-98	-84	1.42	110	15.2	-82.0	-107	-98	0.49

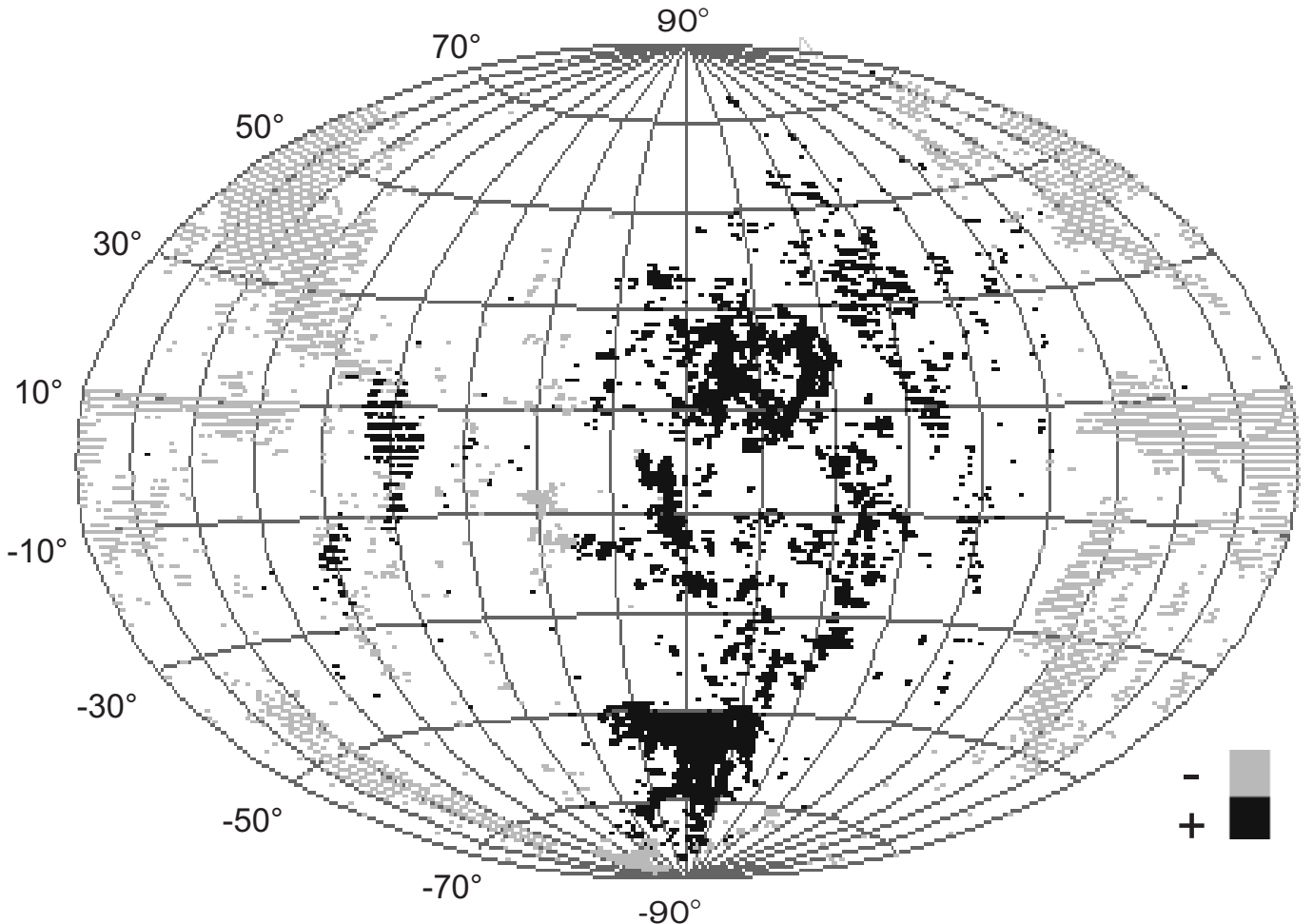


Fig. 4. Same as Fig. 1 for the whole sky from Hulsbosch & Wakker (1988) and this database

Bajaja 1983). Part of this feature can be seen in Putman & Gibson (1999a, 1999b).

The whole sample of HV components detected by us, including the Magellanic Stream (MS), are indicating that, at a level of 0.08 K, the fraction of the southern sky covered by HV gas is about 13%. This value is of the same order as the one derived by Wakker (1991), who found that at the limit of 0.05 K, 11% (18% when including the MS and the Outer Arm (OA)) of the sky is covered by gas having $|V_{\text{LSR}}| \geq 100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. As quoted by Wakker, the MS and the OA contain a substantial part of the HV gas.

The highest positive LSR velocity found in the survey is in the detection number 2820 ($V_{\text{LSR}} = 412 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) around $l \simeq 275^{\circ}5$; $b \simeq -30^{\circ}$. This detection is not isolated since there are eighteen positive detections around it in the velocity range $360 \leq V_{\text{LSR}} \leq 412 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (see Table 2). This cloud is probably related to the Magellanic System. The highest negative detected velocity is -280 km s^{-1} (number 4389, at $l = 359^{\circ}5$, $b = 0^{\circ}5$) which could have been originated in the activity of the galactic center.

Figures 2a and b show, in a similar way as in Giovanelli (1980), a plot of V_{LSR} versus galactic longitude, for the IAR data, in both galactic hemispheres. The figures show that most of the HV gas have positive velocities. They also show that the HV detections with negative velocities are predominantly in the southern galactic hemisphere. Comparing these figures with Fig. 1, it can be seen that a large percentage of the negative velocity gas belongs to the Magellanic Stream. The exceptions could be: 1) z -extensions from features connected to the galactic spiral structure which were not identified as such and, therefore, not deleted from the catalog, and 2) the HV components at low galactic longitude which were suggested as being part of the material that is falling towards the Galactic Center at distances of about 20 kpc or more (Mirabel & Morras 1984). In Figs. 3a and b we have plotted the distribution of the LSR and GSR velocities, respectively, as a function of the galactic longitude, of our and Hulsbosch & Wakker's (1988) data. Figure 3a shows that the distributions of the data points are quite different in the different parts of the sky. As was already noticed by Giovanelli (1980), the V_{LSR} diagram of HVCs visible from

the northern sky (which correspond to the galactic regions at $l \leq 210^\circ$) suggests the presence of two distinct populations of HVCs, namely, one with relatively low velocities ($-150 \leq V_{\text{LSR}} \leq -80 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) and the other one with relatively high negative values. In spite of the larger number of points available in the IAR data, no similar separation into two populations is apparent in the southern sky. The figure also shows that the highest negative velocities, in absolute values, are larger than the highest positive velocities and that both are much larger than the value of the rotational velocity currently assumed for the LSR in the Galaxy. The new IAR data confirm this asymmetry. The upper limit for the positive V_{LSR} velocities is about $+412 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ while negative velocities reach values as high as -465 km s^{-1} at $l \simeq 111^\circ$, $b \simeq -7^\circ$. Figure 3b also shows that large systematic GSR velocities occur after subtraction of the galactic rotation component.

Finally, Fig. 4 shows the spatial distribution for the whole sky of both databases in the same kind of display as in Fig. 1. A small gap is visible between the southern and northern databases, because the IAR data were taken at $\text{Dec} \leq -25^\circ$ and Hulsbosch & Wakker data at $\text{Dec} \geq -17^\circ 2$.

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