The Interstellar Environment of our Galaxy Katia M. Ferrièrè Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées, 14 av. Ed. Belin, 31400 Toulouse, Franceferriere@ast.obs-mip.fr

abstract We review the current knowledge and understanding of the interstellar medium of our galaxy. We first present each of the three basic constituents – ordinary matter, cosmic rays, and magnetic fields – of the interstellar medium, laying emphasis on their physical and chemical properties inferred from a broad range of observations. We then position the different interstellar constituents, both with respect to each other and with respect to stars, within the general galactic ecosystem.
Typical CO spectrum

$l = 20.7^\circ, b = 0^\circ$
Velocity: 50.30 km/s