High-frequency and intermittent Alfvénic turbulence in the solar wind

Jinsong Zhao (1), Yuriy Voitenko (2), Dejin Wu (1), Mingyang Yu (3,4)
(1) Key Laboratory of Planetary Sciences, Purple Mountain Observatory, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing 210008, China. (js_zhao@pmo.ac.cn), (2) Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence, Space Physics Division, Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, Ringlaan-3-Avenue Circulaire, B-1180 Brussels, Belgium, (3) Institute for Fusion Theory and Simulation and Department of Physics, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, China., (4) Institute for Theoretical Physics I, Ruhr University, D-44780 Bochum, Germany

Alfvénic turbulent cascade perpendicular and parallel to the background magnetic field is studied accounting for anisotropic dispersive effects and turbulent intermittency. The perpendicular dispersion and intermittency make the perpendicular-wavenumber magnetic spectra steeper and speed up production of high ion-cyclotron frequencies by the turbulent cascade. On the contrary, the parallel dispersion makes the spectra flatter and decelerate the frequency cascade above the ion-cyclotron frequency. Competition of these factors results in spectral indices distributed in the interval [-2, -3], where -2 is the index of high-frequency space-filling turbulence, and -3 is the index of low-frequency intermittent turbulence formed by tube-like fluctuations. Spectra of fully intermittent turbulence fill a narrower range of spectral indices [-7/3, -3], which almost coincides with the range of indexes measured in the solar wind. This suggests that the kinetic-scale turbulent spectra are mainly shaped by the dispersion and intermittency. A small mismatch with measured indexes of about 0.1 can be associated with damping effects not studied here.