

**Table 1: Components of the interstellar medium**<sup>[2]</sup>

<b>Component</b>	<b>Fractional Volume</b>	<b>Scale Height (pc)</b>	<b>Temperature (K)</b>	<b>Density (atoms/cm<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>State of hydrogen</b>	<b>Primary observational techniques</b>
Molecular clouds	< 1%	70	10–20	$10^2$ – $10^6$	molecular	Radio and infrared molecular emission and absorption lines
Cold Neutral Medium (CNM)	1–5%	100–300	50–100	20–50	neutral atomic	H I 21 cm line absorption
Warm Neutral Medium (WNM)	10–20%	300–400	6000–10000	0.2–0.5	neutral atomic	H I 21 cm line emission
Warm Ionized Medium (WIM)	20–50%	1000	8000	0.2–0.5	ionized	H $\alpha$ emission and pulsar dispersion
H II regions	< 1%	70	8000	$10^2$ – $10^4$	ionized	H $\alpha$ emission and pulsar dispersion
Coronal gas Hot Ionized Medium (HIM)	30–70%	1000–3000	$10^6$ – $10^7$	$10^{-4}$ – $10^{-2}$	ionized (metals also highly ionized)	X-ray emission; absorption lines of highly ionized metals, primarily in the ultraviolet