Cosmological shocks and magnetic fields in galaxy clusters

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in collaboration with

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Outline

1. Probing accretion shocks
   - Introduction
   - A puzzling radio galaxy
   - Perseus accretion shock
2. Magnetic draping
   - Introduction
   - MHD Simulations
   - Astrophysical insight
3. Spiral galaxies
   - Polarized radio ridges
   - Galaxy draping
   - Implications

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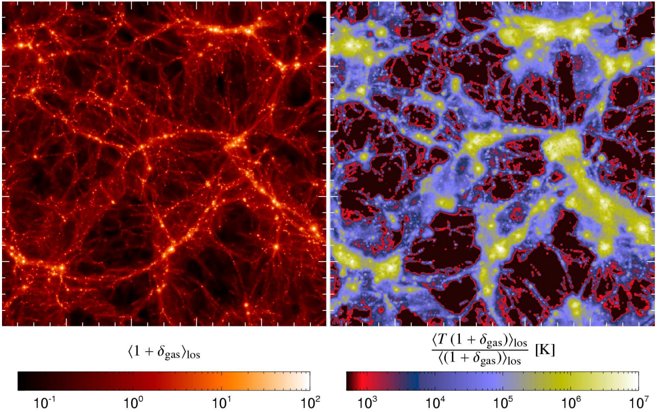
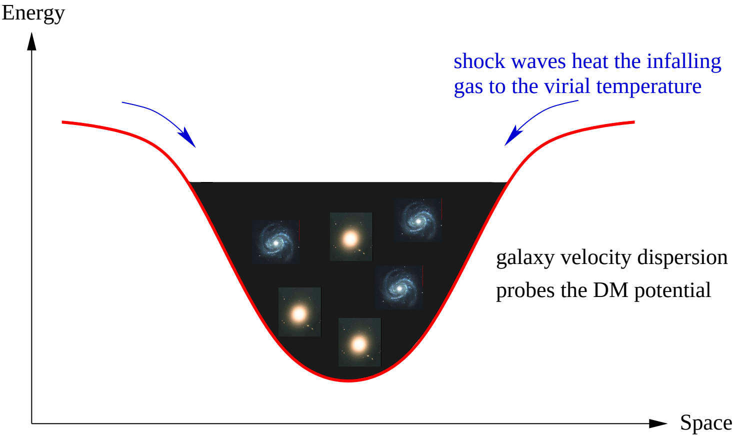
The structure of our Universe



The "cosmic web" today. *Left:* the projected gas density in a cosmological simulation. *Right:* gravitationally heated intracluster medium through cosmological shock waves (C.P. et al. 2006).

A theorist's perspective of a galaxy cluster . . .

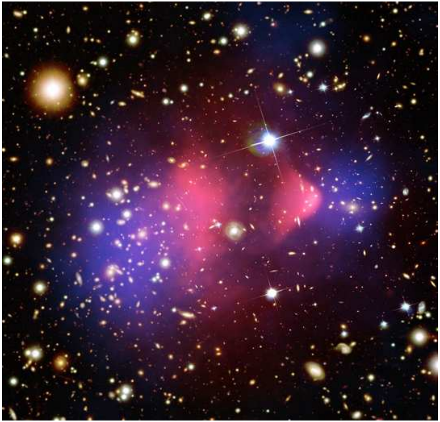
Galaxy clusters are dynamically evolving dark matter potential wells:



shock waves heat the infalling gas to the virial temperature

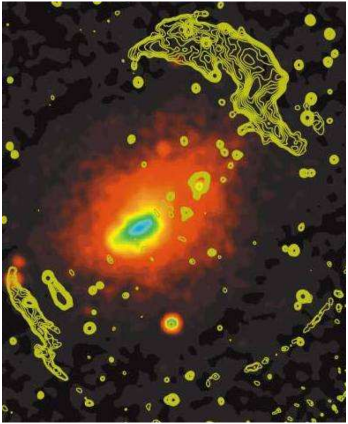
galaxy velocity dispersion probes the DM potential

. . . and how the observer's Universe looks like



1E 0657-56 ("Bullet cluster")

(X-ray: NASA/CXC/CfA/M.Markevitch et al.; Optical: NASA/STScI; Magellan/U.Arizona/D.Clowe et al.; Lensing: NASA/STScI; ESO WFI; Magellan/U.Arizona/D.Clowe et al.)



Abell 3667

(radio: Johnston-Hollitt. X-ray: ROSAT/PSPC.)

Wish list for shocks

What we would like to measure and hope to infer:

- jump conditions: shock strength
- upstream properties: infalling WHIM
- post- and pre-shock conditions: geometry, obliquity
- shock curvature: vorticity and B field generation
- post-shock turbulence: power spectrum, non-thermal pressure support
- …

X-rays give limited insight → new complementary tools!

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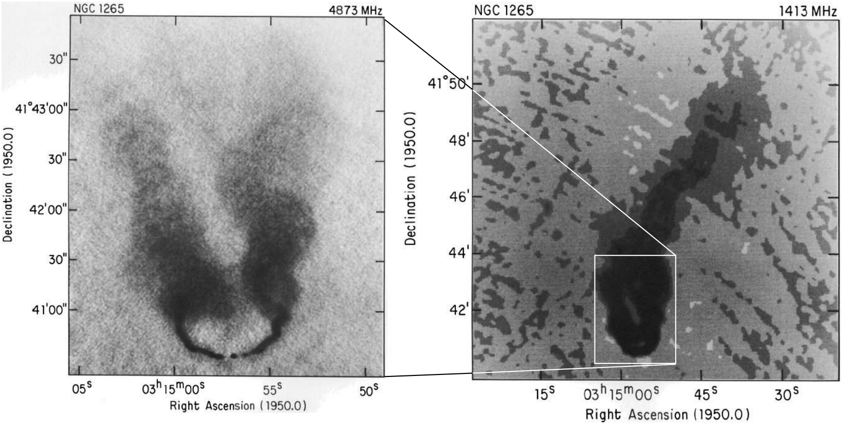
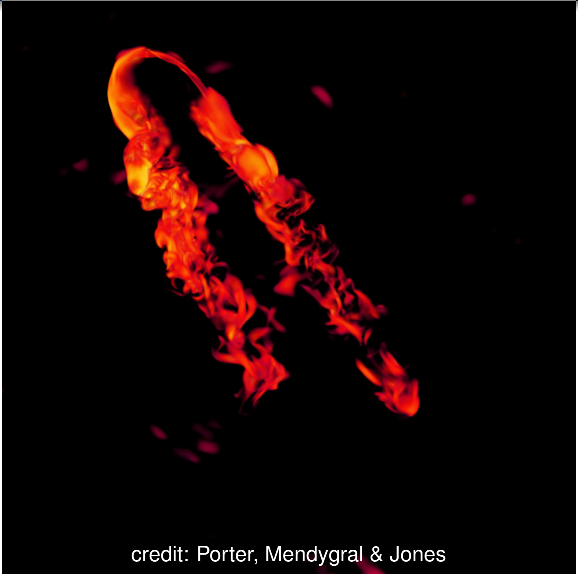
Total synchrotron intensity of NGC 1265



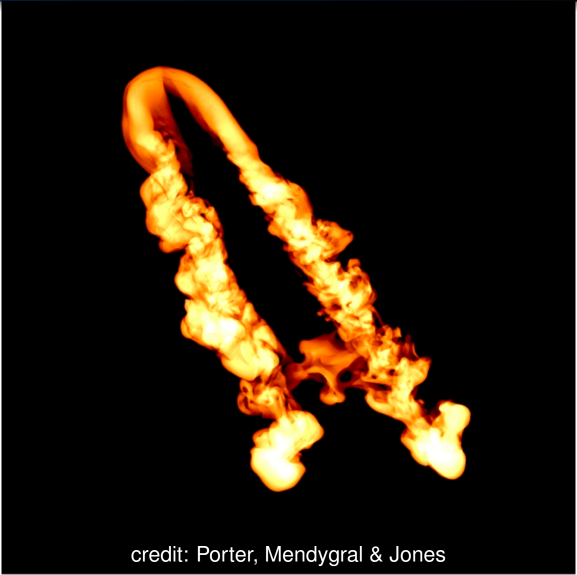
O'Dea & Owen (1986): 4.9 GHz *(left)* and 1.4 GHz *(right)*

Bipolar AGN jets in an ICM wind: magnetic field



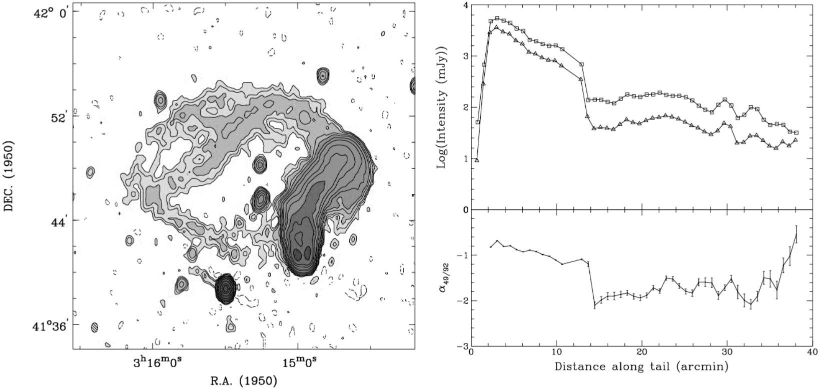
credit: Porter, Mendygral & Jones

Bipolar AGN jets in an ICM wind: synthetic radio



credit: Porter, Mendygral & Jones

Radio properties of NGC 1265



Sijbring & de Bruyn (1998), *left:* radio intensity $I_{600\,\mathrm{MHz}}$; *right:* variations of $I_{600\,\mathrm{MHz}}$ *(triangles)*, $I_{150\,\mathrm{MHz}}$ *(squares)* and spectral index *(bottom)* along the tail

Previous models of NGC 1265 and why they fail

1. chance superposition of several independent head-tail galaxies
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→ *wind needs special alignment with LOS, fine-tuned re-acceleration that balances electron cooling and avoids fanning out the well-confined radio emission along the arc*

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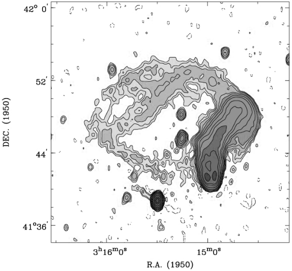
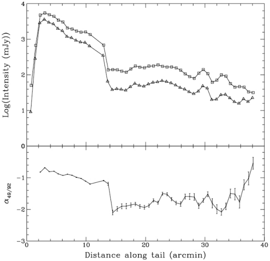
4. 'radio tail' outlines ballistic orbit of NGC 1265
   → *requires dark object with* $M \gtrsim M_{\mathrm{NGC\ 1265}} \simeq 3 \times 10^{12} M_{\odot}$ *orbiting the galaxy, no explanation of change of orbit and same challenges regarding electron cooling and re-acceleration*

Requirements for any model of NGC 1265



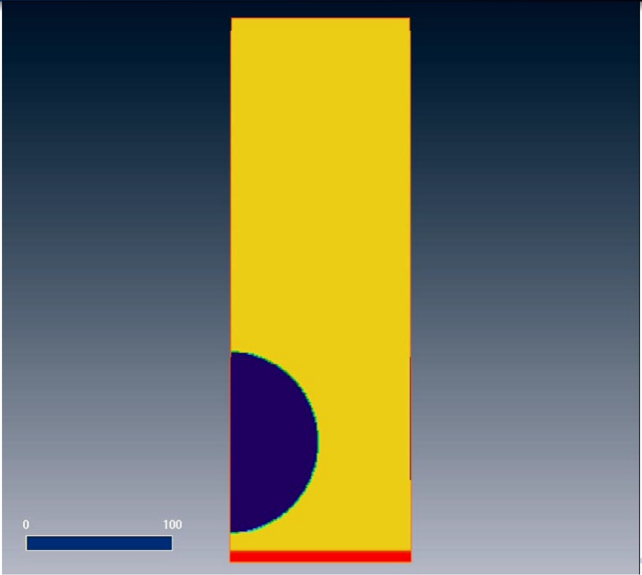


- bright narrow angle tail radio jet: synchrotron cooling
- transition region: change of winding direction and sharp drop in S_ν and α
- coherent properties along the dim radio ring, confined morphology

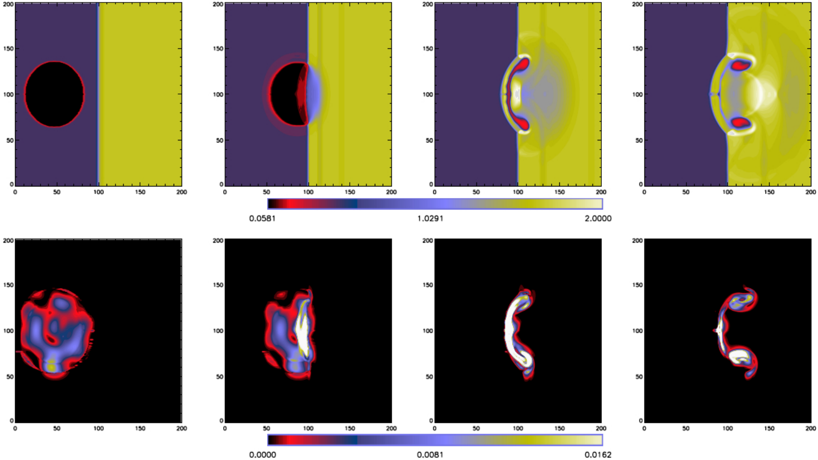
→ *we are looking at 2 electron populations in projection possibly suggesting 2 different epochs of feedback:*

→ active jet + detached radio bubble that recently got energized coherently across 300 kpc → shock?

Shock overruns an aged radio bubble (C.P. & Jones 2011)

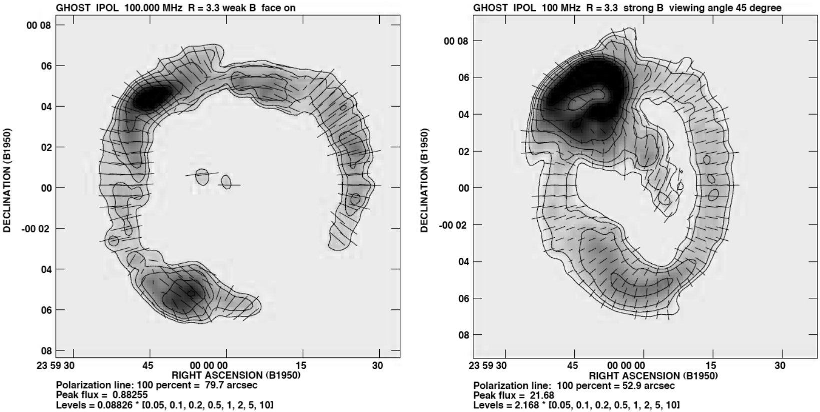


Bubble transformation to vortex ring



Enßlin & Brüggen (2002): gas density *(top)* and magnetic energy density *(bottom)*

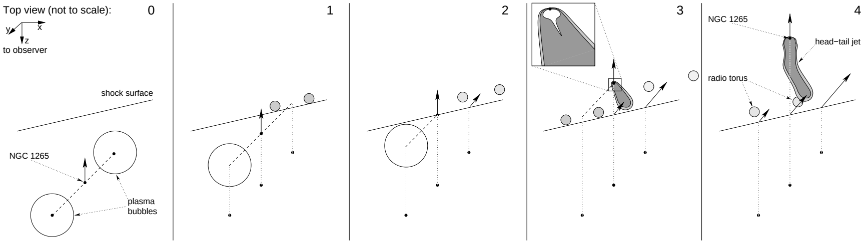
Synthetic radio emission of shock-transformed bubble



Enßlin & Brüggen (2002): total 100 MHz intensity and polarization E-vectors, strong shock/weak *B (left)* and strong shock/strong *B* model *(right)*

Cartoon of the time evolution of NGC 1265

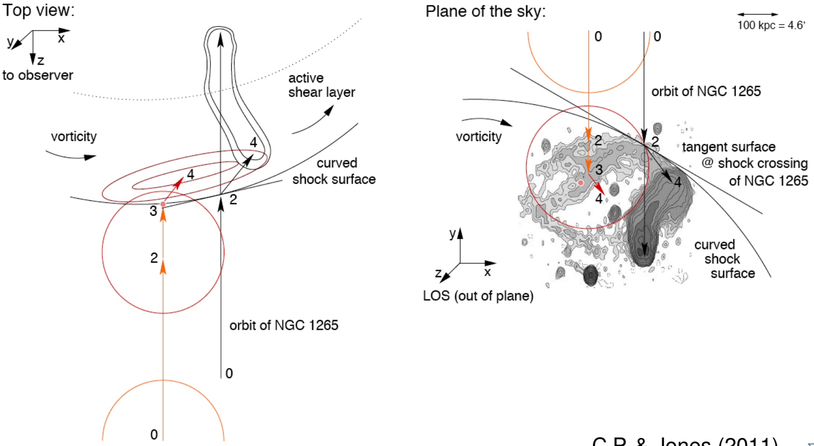
C.P. & Jones (2011):



NGC 1265 as a perfect probe of a shock

- **idea:**
  - galaxy velocity not affected by shock $\rightarrow$ pre-shock conditions
  - tail & torus as tracers of the post-shock flow
- **assumptions:**
  - shock surface $\parallel$ gravitational equipotential surface of Perseus
  - recent jet launched shortly after shock crossing
- **method:**
  - extrapolating position and velocity back in time
  - employing conservation laws at oblique shock
  - iterate until convergence

Derived geometry for NGC 1265



C.P. & Jones (2011)

Shock strength and jump conditions

- shock compresses relativistic bubble adiabatically: $P_2/P_1 = C^{4/3}$
- bubble compression factor:

$$C = \frac{V_\text{bubble}}{V_\text{torus}} = \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi R^3}{2\pi^2 R r_\text{min}^2} = \frac{2}{3\pi}\left(\frac{R}{r_\text{min}}\right)^2 \simeq 10$$

- assuming pressure equilibrium → shock jumps:

$$\frac{P_2}{P_1} \simeq 21.5, \quad \frac{\rho_2}{\rho_1} \simeq 3.4, \quad \frac{T_2}{T_1} \simeq 6.3, \quad \text{and } \mathcal{M} \simeq 4.2$$

C.P. & Jones (2011)

Perseus accretion shock and WHIM properties

- jet has low Faraday RM → NGC 1265 on near side of Perseus
  NGC 1265 redshifted w/r to Perseus → infalling system
  → shock likely the accretion shock
- extrapolating X-ray n- and T-profiles to R_{200} & shock jumps:
  → upper limits on infalling warm-hot intergalactic medium

$$\begin{aligned} kT_1 &\lesssim 0.4\,\mathrm{keV} \\ n_1 &\lesssim 5\times10^{-5}\,\mathrm{cm}^{-3} \\ P_1 &\lesssim 3.6\times10^{-14}\,\mathrm{erg\,cm}^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

C.P. & Jones (2011)

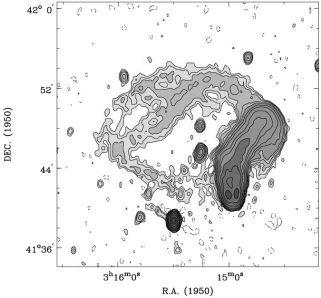
Shear flows and shock curvature

- ellipticity of radio torus (magnitude and orientation) & bending direction of tail
  → excludes projection effects
  → evidence for post-shock shear flow
- shock curvature injects vorticity that shears the gas westwards:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{\rm shear}}{\varepsilon_{\rm th,2}} = \frac{\mu m_{\rm p} v_\perp^2}{3kT_2} \simeq 0.14,$$

with $kT_2 \simeq 2.4\,\mathrm{keV}$ and $v_\perp \simeq 400\,\mathrm{km/s}$.

C.P. & Jones (2011)



Sijbring & de Bruyn (1998)

Conclusions on radio galaxies as probes of shocks

- consistent 3D model of NGC 1265
- prediction of a very interesting source class for LOFAR
- radio galaxies as perfect probes of pre- and post-shock flows:
  - hydrodynamic jumps and Mach numbers
  - statistical properties of the infalling WHIM (+ X-rays)
  - estimating the curvature radius of shocks and induced shear flows

→ implications for intra-cluster turbulence as well as generation and amplification of large-scale magnetic fields!

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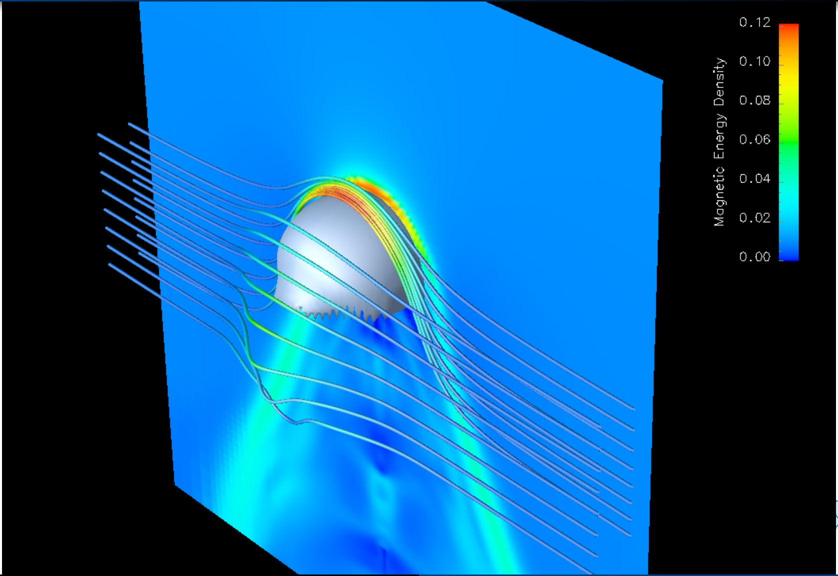
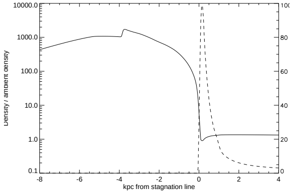
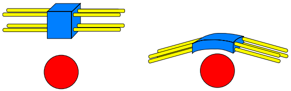
What is magnetic draping?



What is magnetic draping?

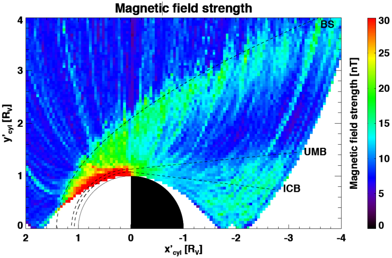
- Is magnetic draping (MD) similar to ram pressure compression?
  → no density enhancement for MD
    - analytical solution of MD for incompressible flow
    - ideal MHD simulations *(right)*
- Is magnetic flux still frozen into the plasma?
  yes, but plasma can also move along field lines while field lines get stuck at obstacle





Applications of magnetic draping

- solar system: plasma physics
- hydrodynamic stability of radio bubbles
  (Dursi 2007, Ruszkowski+2007)
- sharpness (T_e, n_e) of cold fronts: without B, smoothed out by diffusion and heat conduction on $\gtrsim 10^8$ yrs
  (Lyutikov 2004, Dursi+2008)

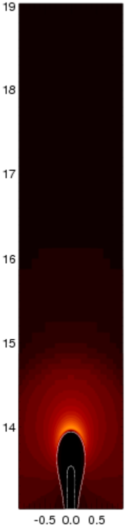


Guicking et al. (2010): magnetic draping around Venus

- magnetic draping on spiral galaxies: method for detecting the orientation of cluster fields (C.P.+2010)

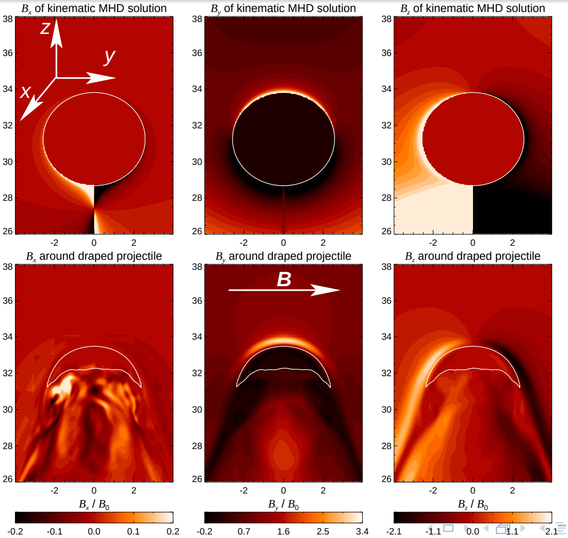
Magnetic draping in 2D

Sometimes,
2D just isn't
enough . . .



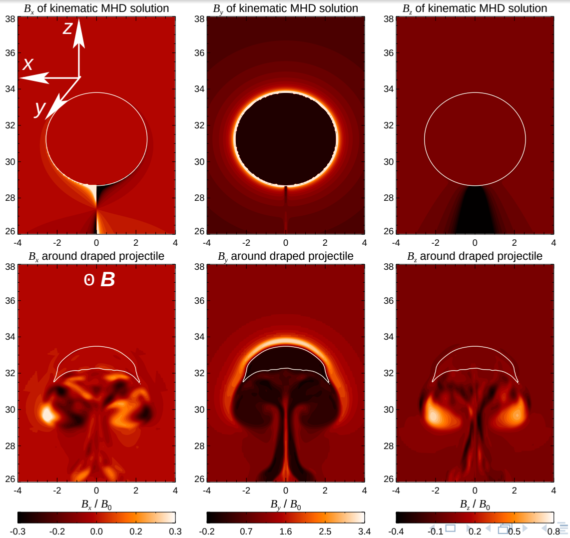
MHD solution: kinematic approx. vs. AMR simulation

B_x, B_y, B_z in the plane of the initial B-field

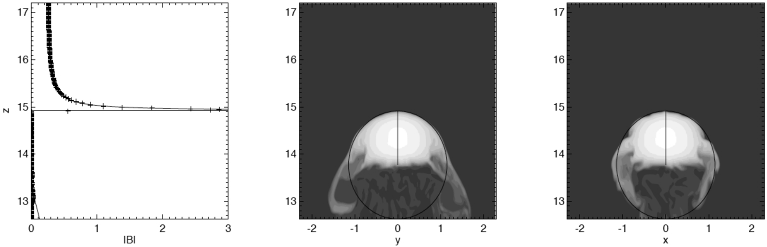


MHD solution: kinematic approx. vs. AMR simulation

B_x, B_y, B_z in the plane perpendicular to the initial B-field



Thickness of the draping sheath – simulations

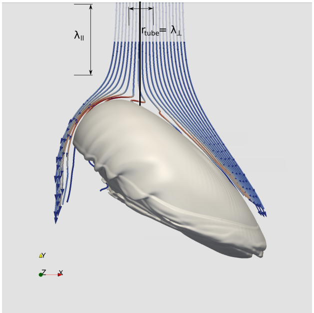


amplified draping field $B = \frac{B_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{R^3}{r^3}}}$, $\quad l_{\mathrm{drape}} \simeq \frac{R}{12\mathcal{M}_\mathrm{A}^2} \simeq (10 - 100)$ pc

left: fitting peak position and a fall-off radius of the theory prediction; *right:* density cut-planes; circle shows radius and position given by the fit to the magnetic field structure, left;

→ astonishing agreement of curvature radius at the working surface with potential flow predictions!

Streamlines in the rest frame of the galaxy



- Stokes function $p(s,\theta) = \sqrt{3sR}\,\sin\theta$ → critical impact parameter for $\theta = \pi/2$, $s = l_{\rm drape}$: $p_{\rm cr} = R/(2\mathcal{M}_A)$
- only those streamlines initially in a narrow tube of radius $p_{\rm cr} \simeq R/20 \simeq 1$ kpc from the stagnation line become part of the magnetic draping layer (color coded) → constraints on λ_B
- the streamlines that do not intersect the tube get deflected away from the galaxy, become never part of the drape and eventually get accelerated (Bernoulli effect)
- note the kink feature in some draping-layer field lines due to back reaction as the solution changes from the hydrodynamic potential flow solution to that in the draped layer

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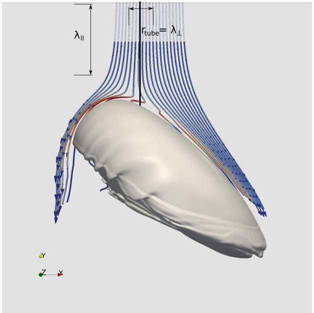

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Conditions for magnetic draping

- ambient plasma sufficiently ionized such that flux freezing condition applies
- super-Alfvénic motion of a cloud through a weakly magnetized plasma: $\mathcal{M}_A^2 = \beta\gamma\mathcal{M}^2/2 > 1$
- magnetic coherence across the “cylinder of influence”:

$$\frac{\lambda_B}{R} \gtrsim \frac{1}{\mathcal{M}_A} \sim 0.1 \times \left(\frac{\beta}{100}\right)^{-1/2} \quad \text{for sonic motions,}$$

Here R denotes the curvature radius of the working surface at the stagnation line.

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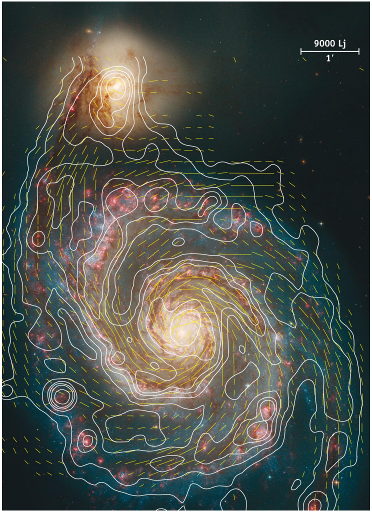
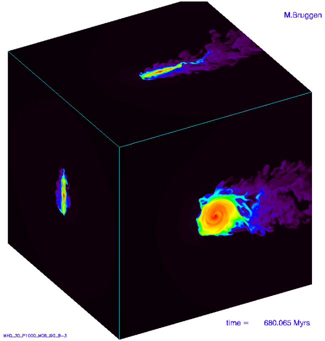
Polarized synchrotron emission in a field spiral: M51



MPIfR Bonn and Hubble Heritage Team

- grand design ‘whirlpool galaxy’ (M51): optical star light superposed on radio contours
- polarized radio intensity follows the spiral pattern and is strongest in between the spiral arms
- the polarization ‘B-vectors’ are aligned with the spiral structure

Ram-pressure stripping of cluster spirals

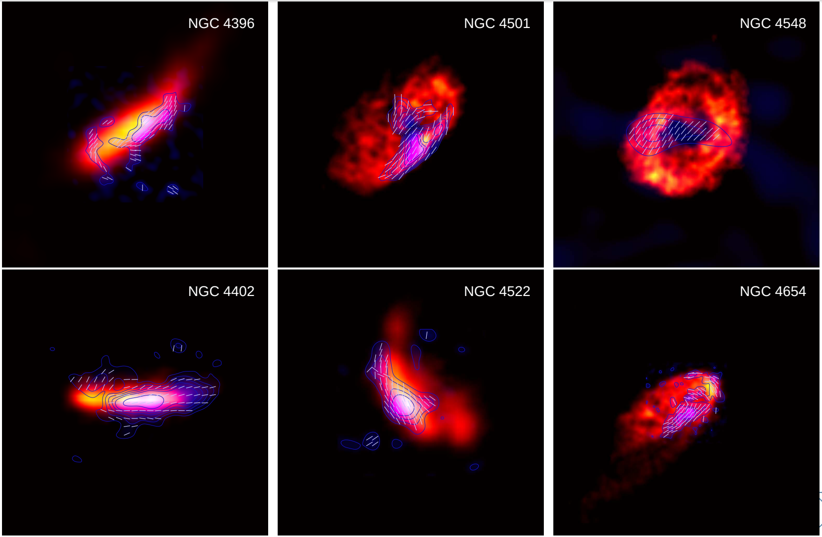


Brueggen (2008)

- 3D simulations show that the ram-pressure wind quickly strips the low-density gas in between spiral arms (Tonnesen & Bryan 2010)
- being flux-frozen into this dilute plasma, the large scale magnetic field will also be stripped

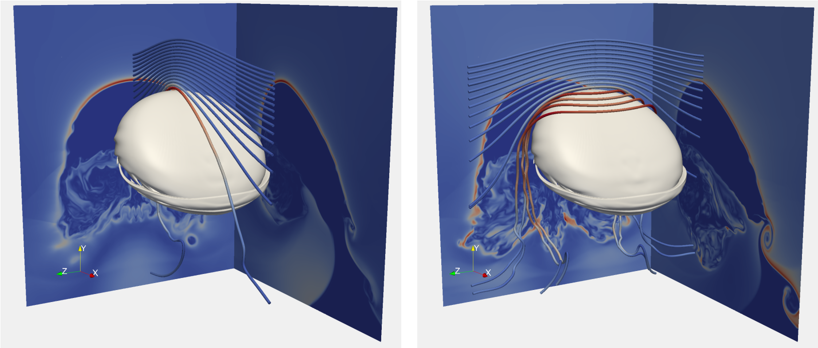
→ resulting radio emission should be unpolarized

Polarized synchrotron ridges in Virgo spirals



Vollmer et al. (2007): 6 cm PI (contours) + B-vectors; Chung et al. (2009): HI (red)

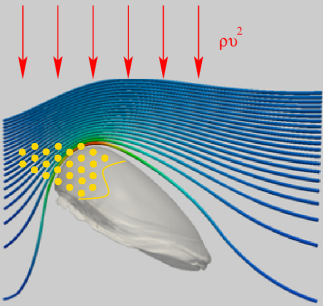
Magnetic draping around a spiral galaxy



Athena simulations of spiral galaxies interacting with a uniform cluster magnetic field. There is a sheath of strong field draped around the leading edge (shown in red).

C.P. & Dursi, 2010, Nature Phys.

Magnetic draping around a spiral galaxy – physics



- the galactic ISM is pushed back by the ram pressure wind $\sim \rho\upsilon^2$
- the stars are largely unaffected and lead the gas
- the draping sheath is formed at the contact of galaxy/cluster wind
- as stars become SN, their remnants accelerate CRes that populate the field lines in the draping layer

- CRes are transported diffusively (along field lines) and advectively as field lines slip over the galaxy
- CRes emit radio synchrotron radiation in the draped region, tracing out the field lines there → coherent polarized emission at the galaxies' leading edges

Modeling the electron population

- cooling time scale of synchrotron emitting electrons (CRe):

$$\begin{aligned}\nu_{\rm sync} &= \frac{3eB}{2\pi\, m_{\rm e} c}\,\gamma^2 \simeq 5\ \mathrm{GHz}\left(\frac{B}{7\,\mu\mathrm{G}}\right)\left(\frac{\gamma}{10^4}\right)^2,\\ \tau_{\rm sync} &= \frac{E}{\dot{E}} = \frac{6\pi m_{\rm e} c}{\sigma_{\rm T} B^2 \gamma} = 5\times 10^7\ \mathrm{yr}\left(\frac{\gamma}{10^4}\right)^{-1}\left(\frac{B}{7\,\mu\mathrm{G}}\right)^{-2}\end{aligned}$$

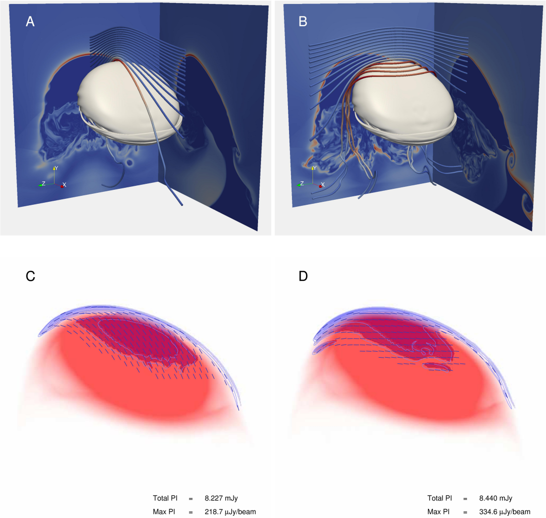
- typical SN rates imply a homogeneous CRe distribution (WMAP)
- FIR-radio correlation of Virgo spirals show comparable values to the solar circle: take MW CRe distribution inside our galaxies,

$$n_{\rm cre} = C_0\, e^{-(R-R_\odot)/h_R}\, e^{-|z|/h_z}$$

  with normalization $C_0 \simeq 10^{-4}\,\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ as well as scale heights $h_R \simeq 8\,\mathrm{kpc}$ and $h_z \simeq 1\,\mathrm{kpc}$, normalized at Solar position
- truncate at contact of ISM-ICM, attach exp. CRe distribution $\perp$ to contact surface with $h_\perp \simeq 150$ pc (max. radius of Sedov phase)

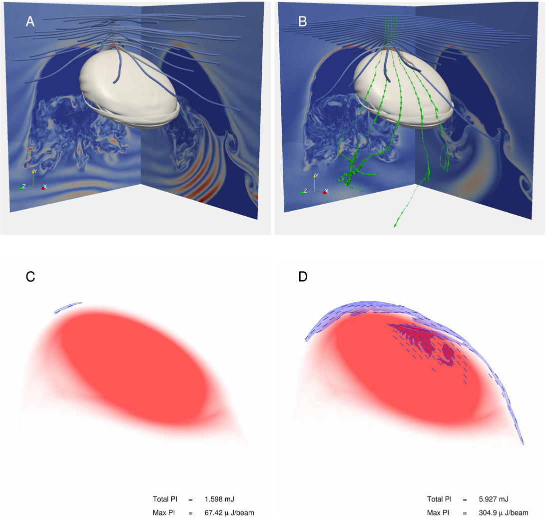
Magnetic draping and polarized synchrotron emission

Synchrotron B-vectors reflect the upstream orientation of cluster magnetic fields

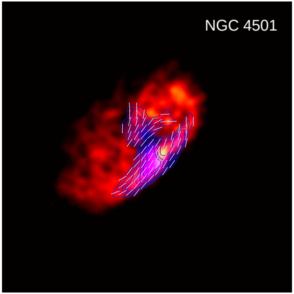


Magnetic draping of a helical B-field

(Non-)observation of polarization twist constrains magnetic coherence length



Magnetic coherence scale estimate by radio ridges

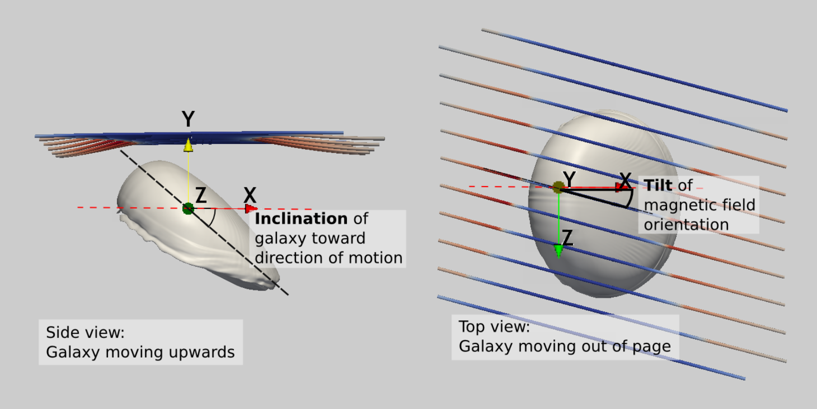


- observed polarised draping emission → field coherence length λ_B is at least galaxy-sized
- if $\lambda_B \sim 2R_\text{gal}$, then the change of orientation of field vectors imprint as a change of the polarisation vectors along the vertical direction of the ridge showing a ‘polarisation-twist’
- the reduced speed of the boundary flow means that a small L_drape corresponds to a larger length scale of the unperturbed magnetic field ahead of the galaxy NGC 4501

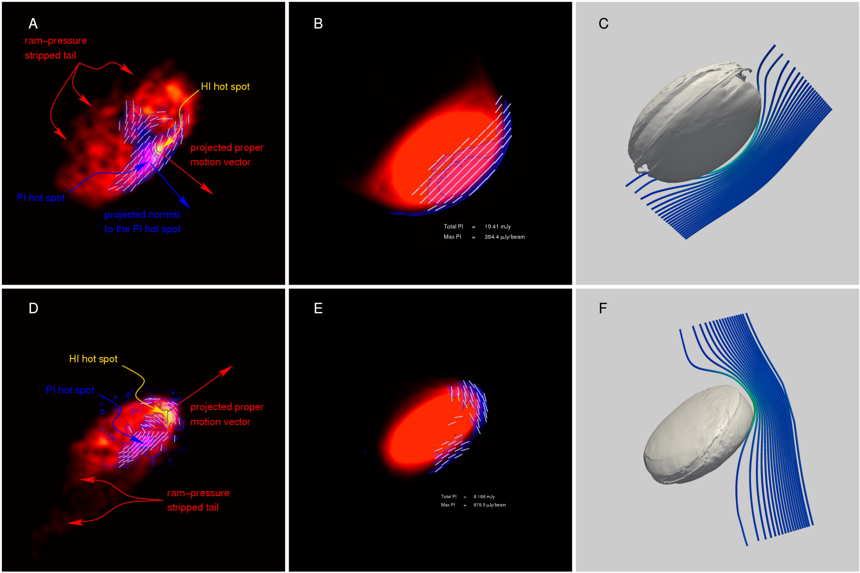
$$L_\text{coh} \simeq \eta L_\text{drape} v_\text{gal}/v_\text{drape} = \eta \tau_\text{syn} v_\text{gal} > 100\,\text{kpc},$$

with $\tau_\text{syn} \simeq 5 \times 10^7$ yr, $v_\text{gal} \simeq 1000\,\text{km/s}$, and a geometric factor $\eta \simeq 2$

Varying galaxy inclination and magnetic tilt

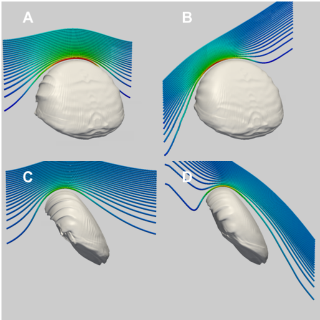


Observations versus simulations



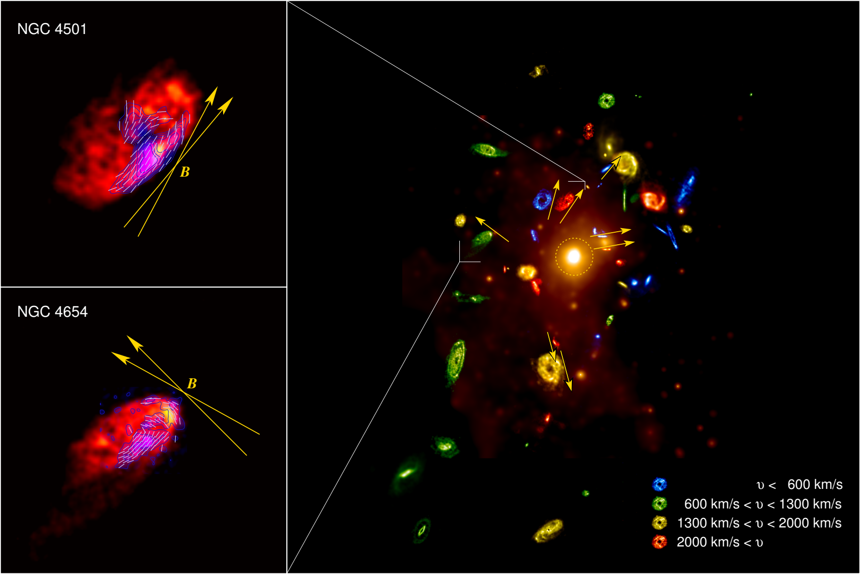
Biases in inferring the field orientation

- uncertainties in estimating the 3D velocity: v_r, ram-pressure stripped gas visible in HI morphology → $\hat{\boldsymbol{v}}_\mathrm{t}$
- *direction-of-motion asymmetry:* magnetic field components in the direction of motion bias the location of $B_{\mathrm{max,\ drape}}$ (figure to the right): draping is absent if $\boldsymbol{B} \parallel \boldsymbol{v}_\mathrm{gal}$



- *geometric bias:* polarized synchrotron emission only sensitive to traverse magnetic field B_t ($\perp$ to LOS) → maximum polarised intensity may bias the location of $B_{\mathrm{max,\ drape}}$ towards the location in the drape with large B_t

Mapping out the magnetic field in Virgo



Discussion of radial field geometry

- The alignment of the field in the plane of the sky is significantly more radial than expected from random chance. Considering the sum of deviations from radial alignment gives a chance coincidence of less than 1.7% ($\sim 2.2\,\sigma$).
- For the three nearby galaxy pairs in the data set, all have very similar field orientations.

→ Which effect causes this field geometry?

Radial infall? (Ruszkowski+2010)

Magneto-thermal instability? (Parrish+2007, C.P.+2010)

Magneto-thermal instability: the idea

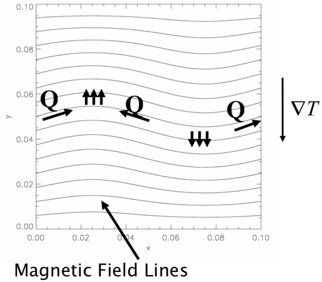


Figure from I. Parrish

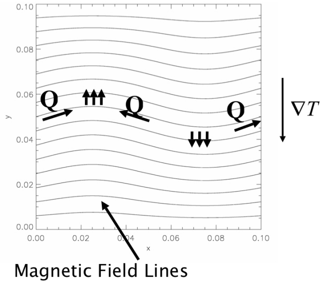
Convective stability in a gravitational field:

- Classical Schwarzschild criterion: $\frac{\mathrm{d}S}{\mathrm{d}z} > 0$
- long MFP, Balbus criterion: $\frac{\mathrm{d}T}{\mathrm{d}z} > 0$
- new instability causes field lines to reorient radially → efficient thermal conduction radially

The non-linear behavior of the MTI (Parrish & Stone 2007).

- Adiabatic boundary conditions for $T(r)$: the instability can exhaust the source of free energy → isothermal profile
- Fixed boundary conditions for $T(r)$: field lines stay preferentially radially aligned (35 deg mean deviation from radial)

Magneto-thermal instability: the idea



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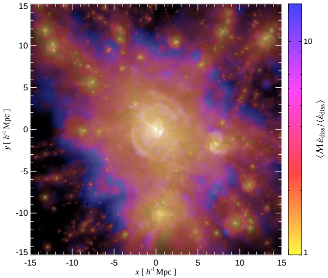
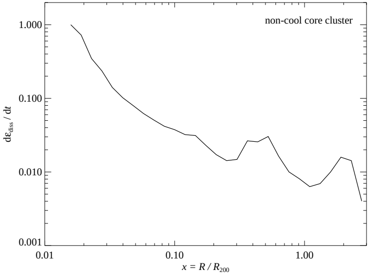
Gravitational shock wave heating

Observed temperature profile in clusters is decreasing outwards
→ heat also flows outwards along the radial magnetic field.

How is the temperature profile maintained? → gravitational heating

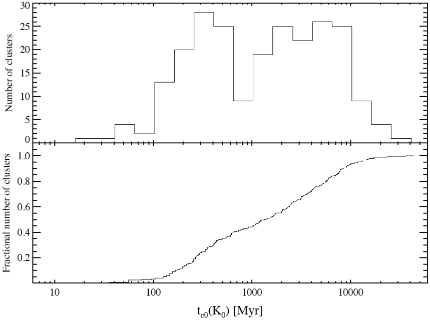


shock strengths weighted by dissipated energy



energy flux through shock surface $\dot{E}_\mathrm{diss}/R^2 \sim \rho\upsilon^3$
→ increase towards the center

Implications for galaxy clusters (probing cosmology)



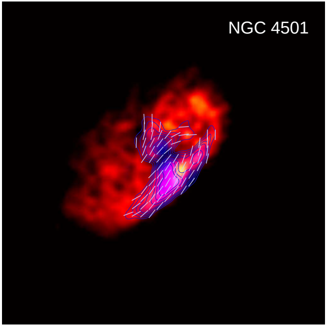
Cavagnolo et al. (2009)

- *How are galaxy clusters thermally stabilized?*
  → radial magnetic field in non-cool core clusters implies efficient thermal conduction that stabilizes these systems against entering a cooling catastrophe
  → thermal history + clusters as cosmological probes
- current cosmological cluster simulations fail to reproduce these clusters
  → magnetic fields + anisotropic conduction

Speculation: evolutionary sequence of galaxy clusters

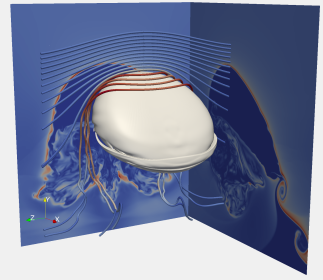
- After a merging event of a non-cool core cluster, the injected turbulence decays on an eddy turnover time $\tau_\mathrm{eddy} \simeq L_\mathrm{eddy}/\upsilon_\mathrm{turb} \sim 300\,\mathrm{kpc}/(300\,\mathrm{km/s}) \sim 1$ Gyr.
- The magneto-thermal instability grows on a similar timescale of less than 1 Gyr and the magnetic field becomes radially oriented.
- The efficient thermal conduction stabilizes this cluster until a cooling instability in the center may cause the cluster to enter a cooling core state – similar to Virgo now – and requires possibly self-regularized heating by a super-massive black hole to be stabilized.

Conclusions on magnetic draping around galaxies



- draping of cluster magnetic fields naturally explains polarization ridges at Virgo spirals

Conclusions on magnetic draping around galaxies



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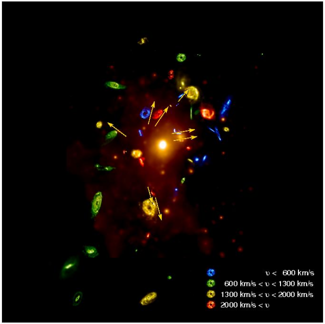

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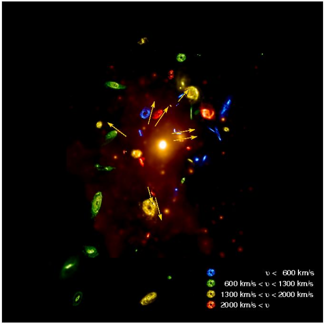
- application to the Virgo cluster shows that the magnetic field is preferentially aligned radially

Conclusions on magnetic draping around galaxies



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- this represents a new tool for measuring the in situ 3D orientation and coherence scale of cluster magnetic fields
- application to the Virgo cluster shows that the magnetic field is preferentially aligned radially

- this finding implies efficient thermal conduction across clusters that stabilizes these non-cool core systems
- important implications for thermal cluster history → galaxy cluster cosmology

Literature for the talk

- Pfrommer & Jones, 2011, ApJ, 730, 22,
  Radio Galaxy NGC 1265 unveils the Accretion Shock onto the Perseus Galaxy Cluster
- Pfrommer & Dursi, 2010, Nature Phys., 6, 520,
  Detecting the orientation of magnetic fields in galaxy clusters
- Dursi & Pfrommer, 2008, ApJ, 677, 993,
  Draping of cluster magnetic fields over bullets and bubbles - morphology and dynamic effects