



University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 23.08.10



Modelling the Magnetised ICM: From Microscale Physics to What Matters to Astronomers

Alex Schekochihin (*Oxford*)

Matt Kunz (*Oxford*)

Steve Cowley (*CCFE*)

François Rincon (*Toulouse*)

Mark Rosin (*Cambridge*)

Schekochihin *et al.*, *ApJ* **629**, 139 (2005)

Schekochihin & Cowley, *Phys. Plasmas* **13**, 056501 (2006)

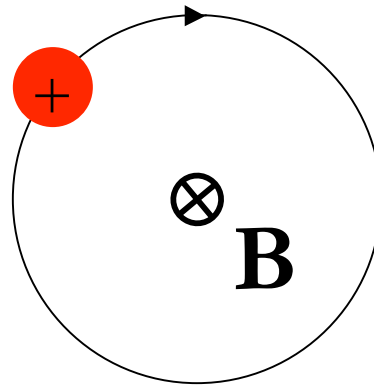
Schekochihin *et al.*, *PRL* **100**, 081301 (2008)

Schekochihin *et al.*, *MNRAS* **405**, 291 (2010)

Rosin *et al.*, *MNRAS*, submitted; arXiv:1002.4017

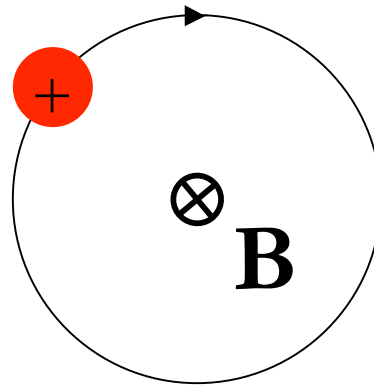
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$$B = 1 \mu\text{G}$$
$$T = 1 \text{ keV}$$



$$\rho_i = \frac{v_{\text{th}i}}{\Omega_i} = \frac{c\sqrt{2Tm_i}}{eB} = 4.6 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}$$

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$$\rho_i = \frac{v_{\text{th}i}}{\Omega_i} = \frac{c\sqrt{2Tm_i}}{eB} = 4.6 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}$$
$$= \mathbf{1.5 \text{ nanoparsec}}$$



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Nanoastrophysics of Galaxy Clusters

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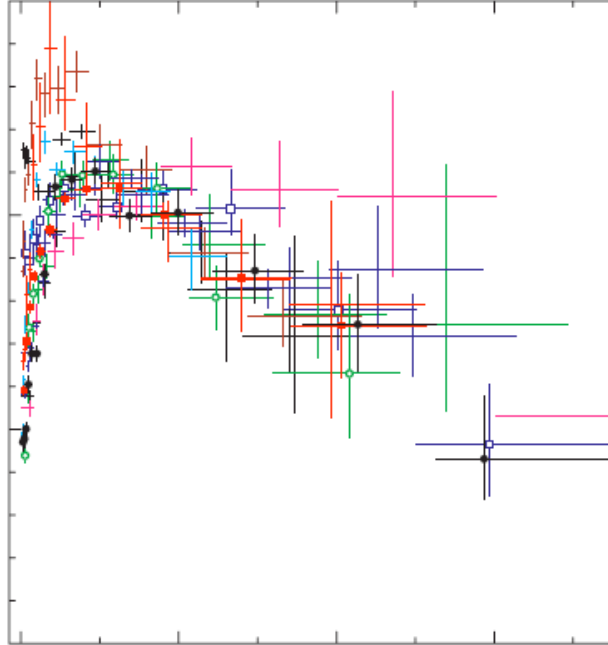
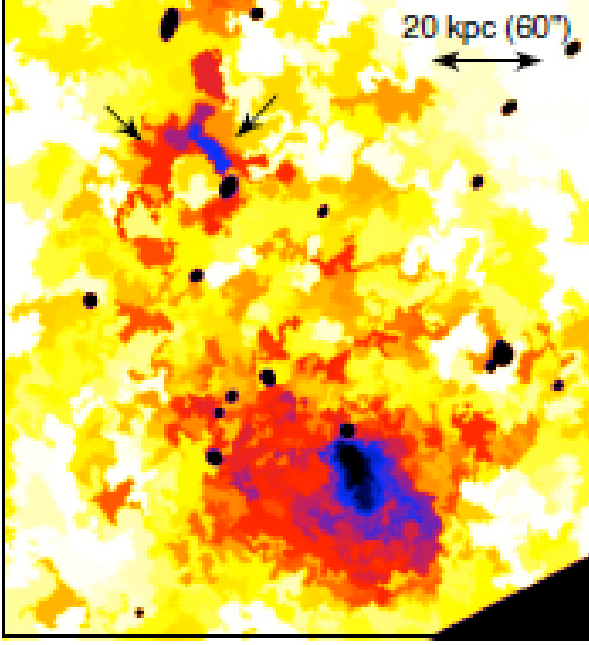
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ICM Dynamics: A 3-Scale Problem

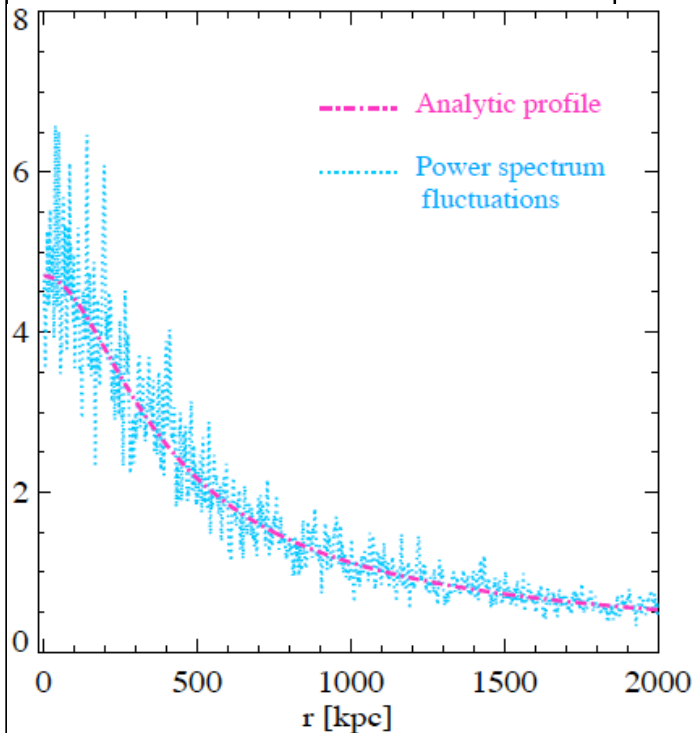
GLOBAL (profiles, transport)	TURBULENCE (+ dynamo, fluid instabilities, etc.)	PLASMA (micro- instabilities)
100 kpc	1–10 kpc	<i>a few times ρ_i</i> 10^4 – 10^6 km (1-100 npc)
1 Gyr	10 Myr	<i>a fraction of Ω_i</i> 10 hours

ICM Dynamics: A 3-Scale Problem

GLOBAL (profiles, transport)	TURBULENCE (+ dynamo, fluid instabilities, etc.)	PLASMA (micro- instabilities)
 <p>A plot showing scaled profiles of ICM density and temperature. The x-axis ranges from 0 to 0.8, and the y-axis ranges from 0 to 1.0. Multiple data series are shown with different colors and symbols, each with error bars. The profiles generally decrease as the x-axis value increases.</p>	 <p>A temperature map of the A262 galaxy cluster. The map shows a complex, multi-colored structure with a central blue region and a surrounding yellow and orange region. A scale bar indicates 20 kpc (60").</p>	<p><i>a few times ρ_i</i></p> <p>$10^4 - 10^6$ km</p> <p>(1-100 npc)</p>
<p>[Scaled profiles₁₈₀, Vikhlinin et al. 2005]</p>	<p>[A262, temperature map, Sanders et al. 2009]</p>	<p><i>a fraction of Ω_i</i></p> <p>10 hours</p>

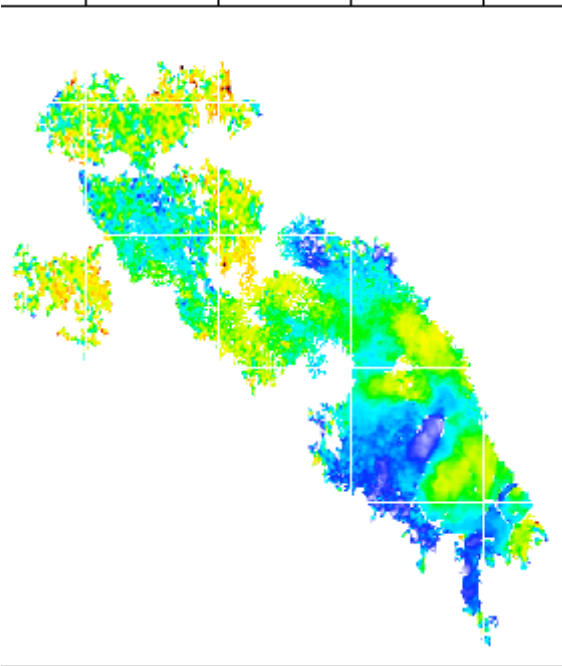
ICM Dynamics: A 3-Scale Problem

GLOBAL
(profiles,
transport)



[Magnetic field in Coma,
Bonafede et al. 2010]

TURBULENCE
(+ dynamo, fluid
instabilities, etc.)



[RM map, Hydra A,
Vogt & Enßlin 2005]

PLASMA
(micro-
instabilities)

a few times ρ_i
 $10^4 - 10^6$ km
(1-100 npc)

a fraction of Ω_i
10 hours

Plasma Microinstabilities: Origin

First adiabatic invariant $\mu = \frac{mv_{\perp}^2}{2B}$ conserved provided $\Omega_i > \nu_{ii}$
holds already for $B > 10^{-18}$ G

$$\tau_{ii} \sim 23 \text{ kyr} \left(\frac{T_{\text{keV}}^{3/2}}{n_i \ln \Lambda} \right) \gg \tau_{ci} \sim 14 \text{ min} \left(\frac{1}{B_{\mu\text{G}}} \right)$$

$$\lambda_{mfp} \sim 7 \text{ pc} \left(\frac{T_{\text{keV}}^2}{n_i \ln \Lambda} \right) \gg \rho_i \sim 6 R_{\oplus} \left(\frac{T_{\text{keV}}^{1/2}}{B_{\mu\text{G}}} \right)$$

Plasma Microinstabilities: Origin

First adiabatic invariant $\mu = \frac{mv_{\perp}^2}{2B}$ conserved provided $\Omega_i > \nu_{ii}$
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Changes in field strength \Leftrightarrow pressure anisotropy

$$\sum_{\text{particles}} \mu = \frac{p_{\perp}}{B} = \text{const}$$

Plasma Microinstabilities: Origin

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holds already for $B > 10^{-18}$ G

Changes in field strength \Leftrightarrow pressure anisotropy

$$\frac{1}{p_{\perp}} \frac{dp_{\perp}}{dt} \sim \frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} - \nu_{ii} \frac{p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel}}{p_{\perp}}$$

change in B drives anisotropy
anisotropy relaxed by collisions

Plasma Microinstabilities: Origin

First adiabatic invariant $\mu = \frac{mv_{\perp}^2}{2B}$ conserved provided $\Omega_i > \nu_{ii}$
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Changes in field strength \Leftrightarrow pressure anisotropy

$$\frac{d\Delta}{dt} \sim \frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} - \nu_{ii} \Delta$$

$$\Delta \equiv \frac{p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel}}{p_{\perp}}$$

ignore evolution of p_{\parallel} anisotropy drives anisotropy relaxed by collisions

Plasma Microinstabilities: Origin

First adiabatic invariant $\mu = \frac{mv_{\perp}^2}{2B}$ conserved provided $\Omega_i > \nu_{ii}$
 holds already for $B > 10^{-18}$ G

Changes in field strength \Leftrightarrow pressure anisotropy

$$\frac{d\Delta}{dt} \sim \frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} - \nu_{ii} \Delta \quad \longrightarrow \quad \Delta \sim \frac{1}{\nu_{ii}} \frac{d \ln B}{dt} = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u}}{\nu_{ii}}$$

ignore evolution of p_{\parallel} change in B drives anisotropy anisotropy relaxed by collisions

because $\frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u}$

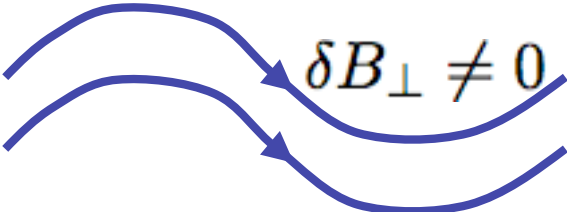
Plasma Microinstabilities: Taxonomy

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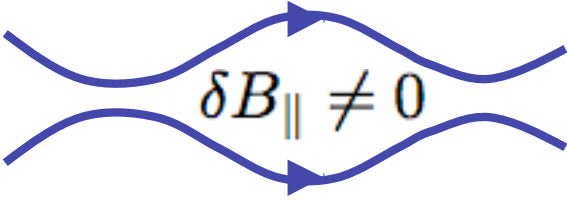
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Magnetic field **decreases**: $\Delta < 0$

FIREHOSE: $\omega^2 = \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 v_{thi}^2}{2} \left(\Delta + \frac{2}{\beta_i} \right)$

 destabilised Alfvén wave

Magnetic field **increases**: $\Delta > 0$

MIRROR: $\gamma = \frac{|k_{\parallel}| v_{thi}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\Delta - \frac{1}{\beta_i} \right)$

 resonant instability

Plasma Microinstabilities: Where and When?

Typical structure of magnetic fields
generated by turbulence
(MHD simulations with $Pm \gg 1$
by A. B. Iskakov & AAS)
for details see
Schekochihin *et al.* 2004,
ApJ **612**, 276



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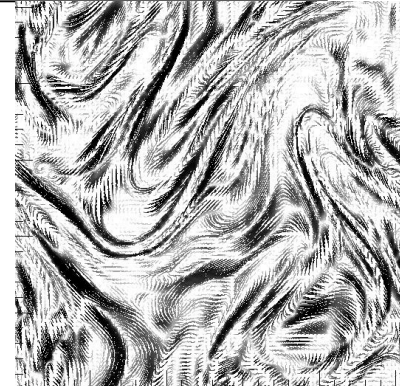
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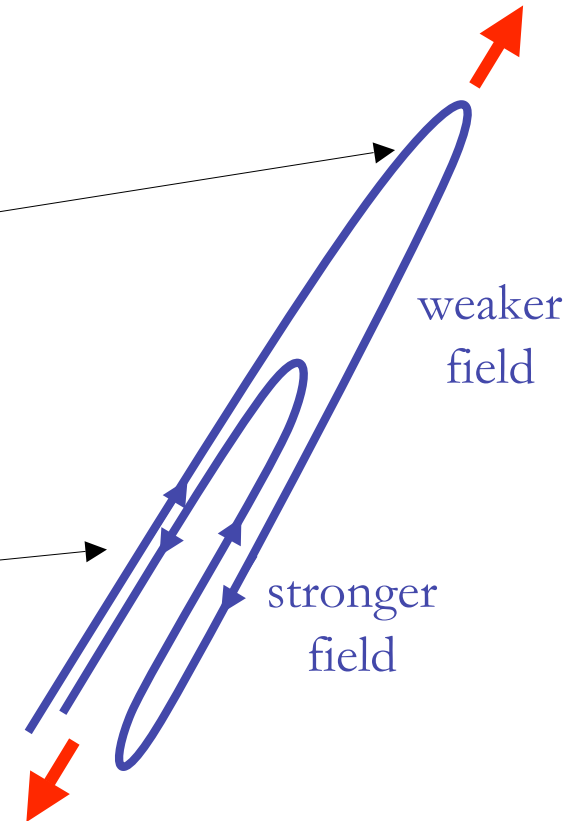


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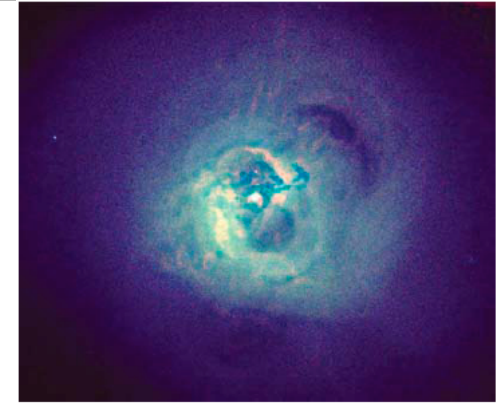
[Schekochihin *et al.*, *ApJ* **629**, 139 (2005)]

Plasma Microinstabilities in the ICM

For typical cluster parameters,

$$\Delta \sim 0.005 \left(\frac{n_e}{0.01 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{T_i}{1 \text{ keV}} \right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{\tau_{\text{turb}}}{10 \text{ Myr}} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\frac{2}{\beta} = 0.005 \left(\frac{B}{1 \mu\text{G}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{n_e}{0.01 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{T_i}{1 \text{ keV}} \right)^{-1}$$



Magnetic field decreases: $\Delta < 0$

Small, fast and furious...

$$\text{FIREHOSE: } \omega^2 = \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 v_{\text{th}i}^2}{2} \left(\Delta + \frac{2}{\beta_i} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} \gamma_{\text{peak}}^{\perp} \sim |\Delta|^{1/2} \Omega_i \sim 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \quad k_{\parallel} \rho_i \sim 1 \\ \gamma_{\text{peak}}^{\parallel} \sim |\Delta| \Omega_i \sim 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1} \quad k_{\parallel} \rho_i \sim |\Delta|^{1/2} \end{array}$$

Magnetic field increases: $\Delta > 0$

$$\text{MIRROR: } \gamma = \frac{|k_{\parallel}| v_{\text{th}i}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\Delta - \frac{1}{\beta_i} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} \gamma_{\text{peak}} \sim \Delta^2 \Omega_i \sim 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1} \quad k_{\parallel} \rho_i \sim \Delta \\ k_{\perp} \rho_i \sim \Delta^{1/2} \end{array}$$

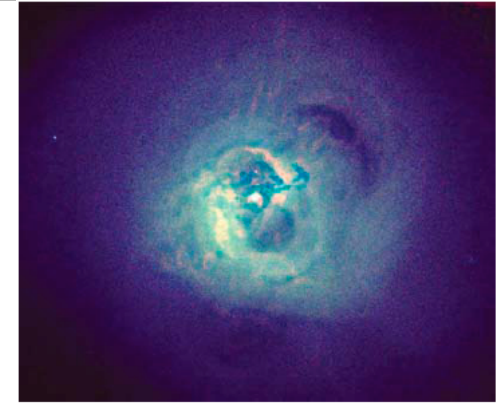
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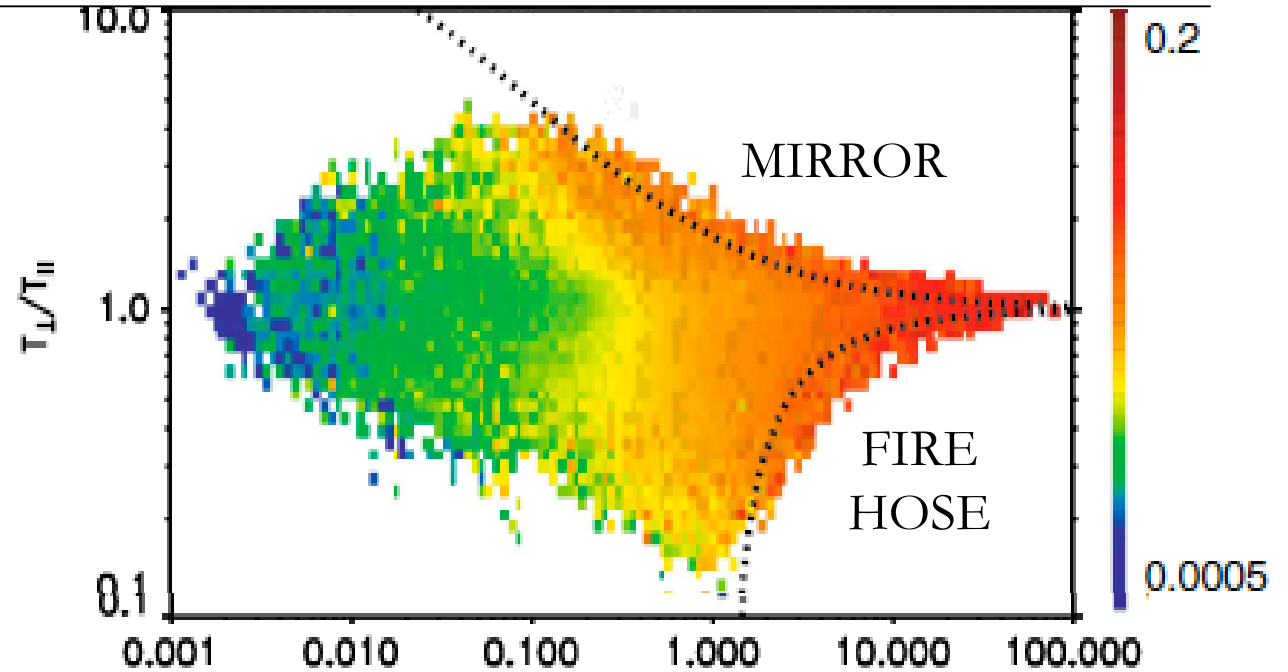
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Magnetic field increases: $\Delta > 0$

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Is ICM in the marginal state with respect to plasma microinstabilities?

Solar Wind: Laboratory for Nanoastrophysics



Magnetic field decreases: $\Delta < 0$

[Bale *et al.*, PRL 2009]

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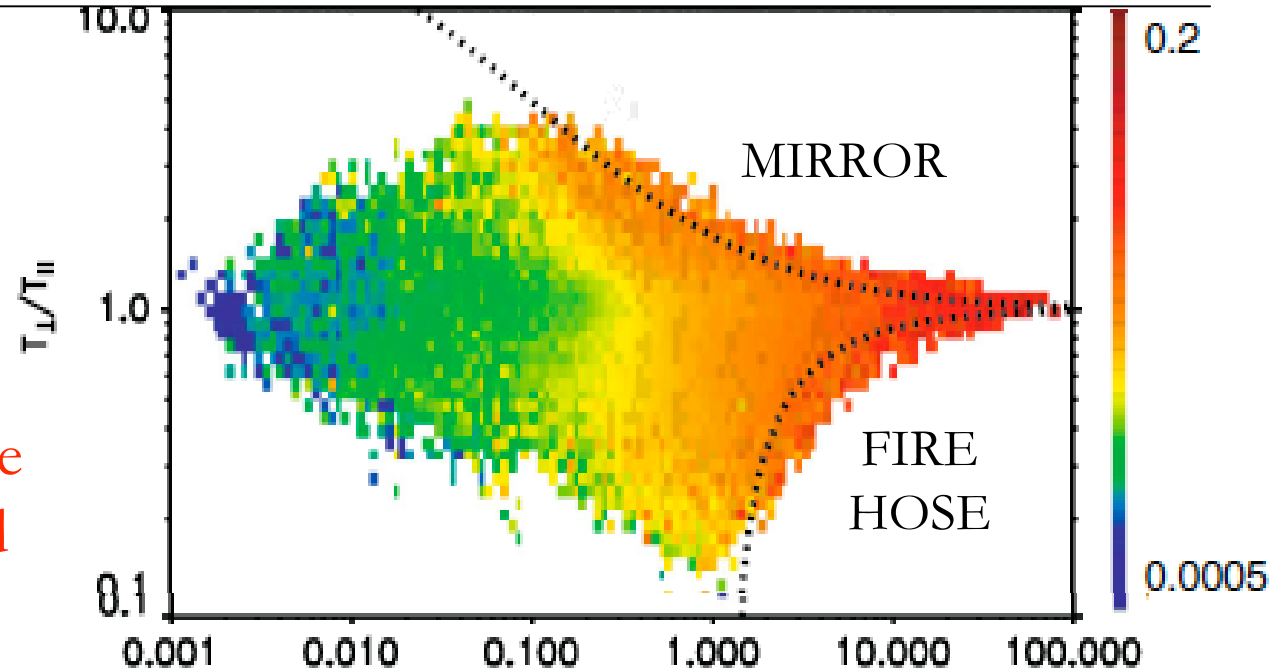
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[Schekochihin *et al.*, *ApJ* **629**, 139 (2005)]

A Microphysical Dilemma

How is this achieved?

- Enhanced particles scattering isotropises pressure AND/OR
- Magnetic field structure and evolution modified to offset change



Magnetic field decreases: $\Delta < 0$

[Bale *et al.*, PRL 2009]

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Is ICM in the marginal state with respect to plasma microinstabilities?

[Schekochihin *et al.*, *ApJ* **629**, 139 (2005)]

Nonlinear Firehose

Principle of nonlinear evolution:

firehose fluctuations (growing, fast, microscale) cancel on average the change in the mean field (decreasing, slow, macroscale) to keep anisotropy at marginal level

$$\Delta \sim \frac{1}{\nu_{ii}} \frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} \sim \frac{1}{\nu_{ii}} \left(\underbrace{- \left| \frac{d \ln B_0}{dt} \right|}_{\substack{\text{macroscale} \\ \text{field}}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \frac{|\overline{\delta \mathbf{B}_\perp|^2}}{B_0^2}}_{\substack{\text{microscale} \\ \text{fluctuations}}} \right) \rightarrow -\frac{2}{\beta_i}$$

Magnetic field decreases: $\Delta < 0$

Schekochihin *et al.*, *PRL* **100**, 081301 (2008)

Rosin *et al.*, arXiv:1002.4017 (2010)

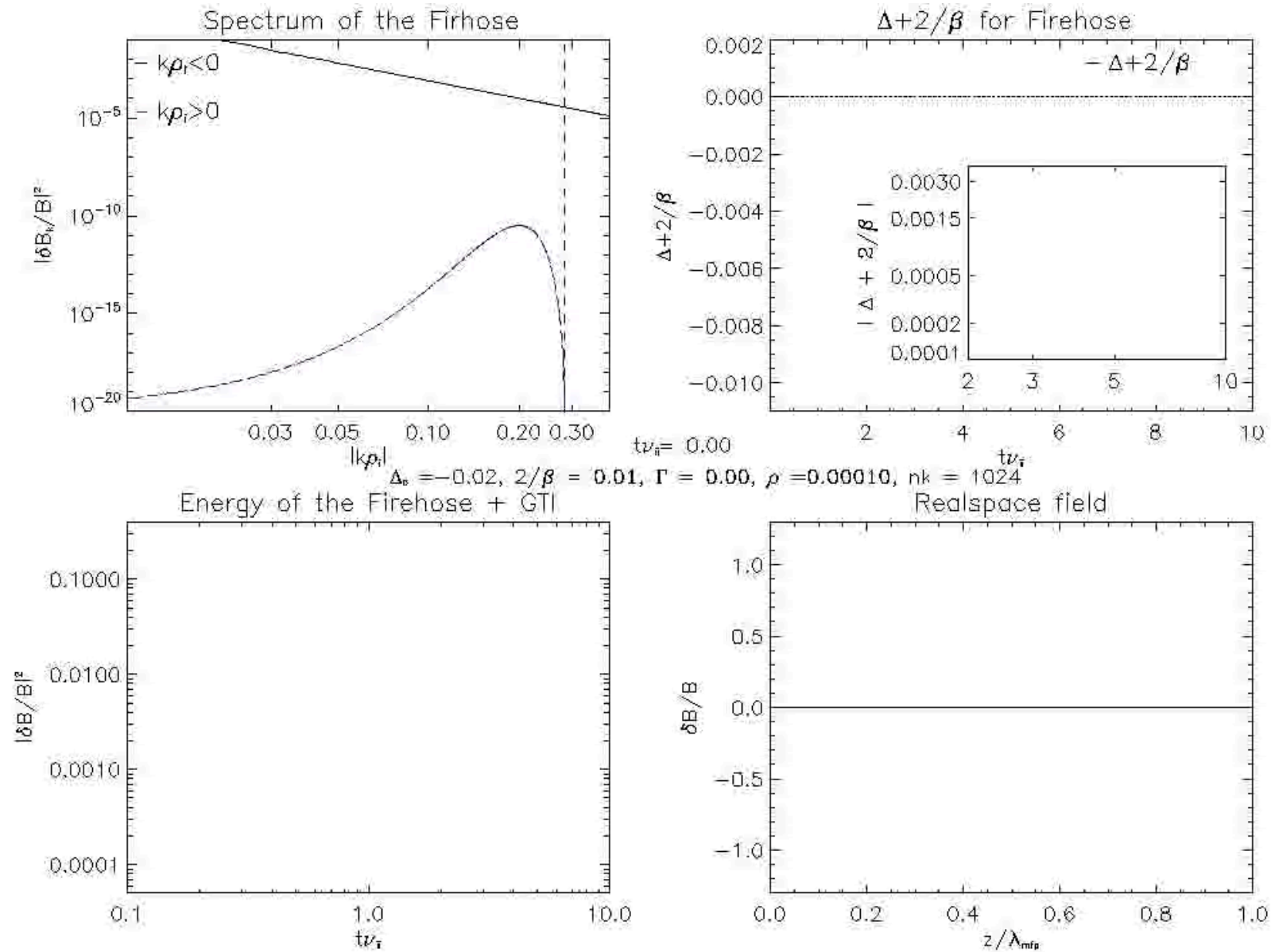
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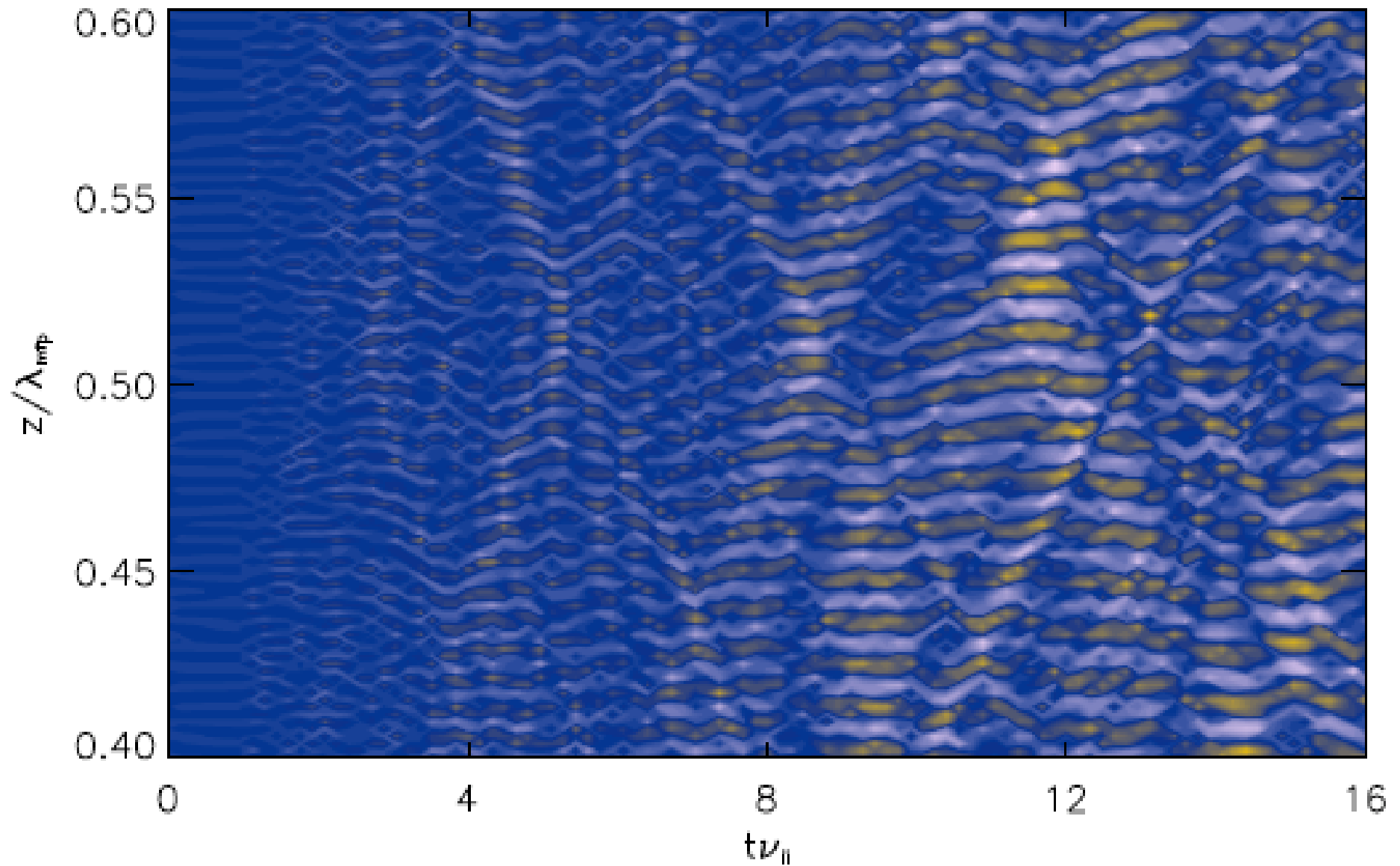
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Nonlinear Firehose



[Rosin *et al.*, arXiv:1002.4017 (2010)]

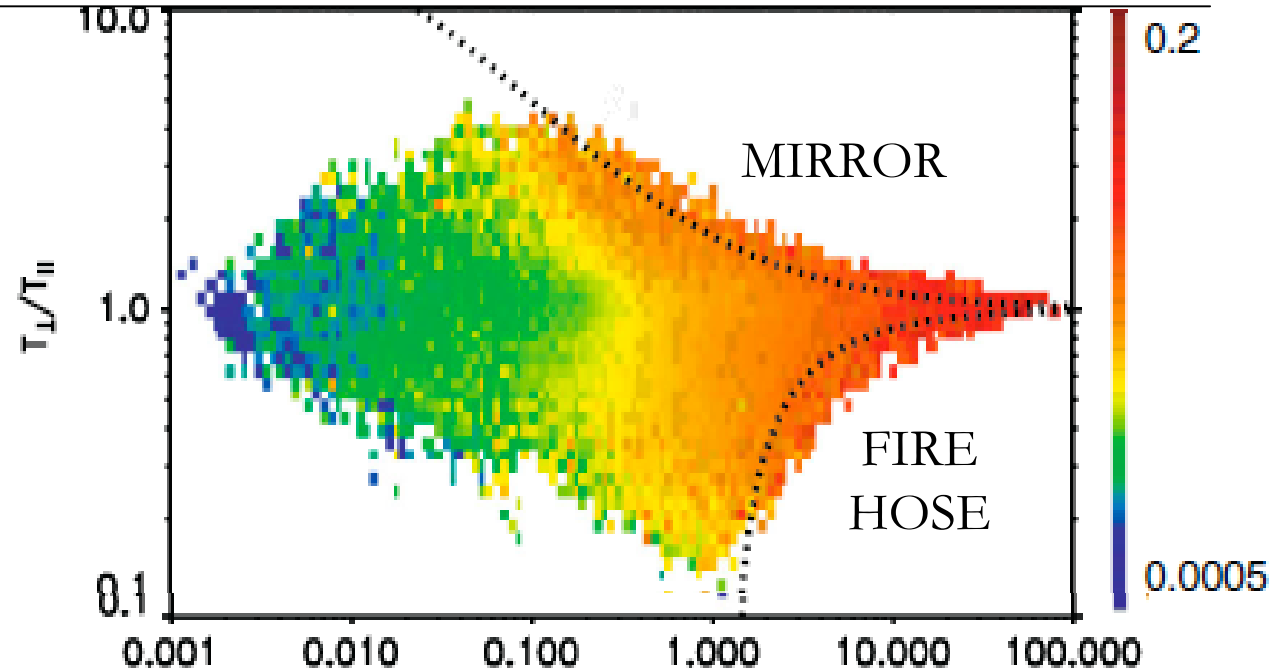
Nonlinear Firehose



[Rosin *et al.*, arXiv:1002.4017 (2010)]

A Macrophysical Fudge: Marginal ICM

Despite progress,
 a complete *ab initio*
 microphysical theory
 of transport
 is still a matter
 of current work
 and much difficulty



Magnetic field decreases: $\Delta < 0$

$$\text{FIREHOSE: } \omega^2 = \frac{k_{\parallel}^2 v_{thi}^2}{2} \left(\Delta + \frac{2}{\beta_i} \right)$$

Magnetic field increases: $\Delta > 0$

$$\text{MIRROR: } \gamma = \frac{|k_{\parallel}| v_{thi}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\Delta - \frac{1}{\beta_i} \right)$$

[Bale *et al.*, PRL 2009]

To leapfrog having to do
 an honest microphysical job,
 simply assume closure (fudge)

$$\Delta = \frac{2\xi}{\beta_i}, \quad \xi \in [-1, 0.5]$$

[Kunz *et al.*, arXiv:1003.2719]

More Microphysics...

If one does microphysical theory (linear and nonlinear) carefully,
there is always a chance of finding new things....

MRI, MVI, MTI, HBI...

So, for the aficionados of three-letter instabilities, I give you

GTI

(The GyroThermal Instability)

Gyrothermal Instability: Equations

- Keep the gyroviscous terms in the “Braginskii” stress (this is valid even without collisions and is necessary to get the fastest growing mode for the firehose)
- Keep pressure anisotropies and **parallel ion heat fluxes**

$$mn \frac{du}{dt} = -\nabla \left(p_{\perp} + \frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left[bb \left(p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel} + \frac{B^2}{4\pi} \right) - \mathbf{G} \right]$$

$$\mathbf{G} = \frac{1}{4\Omega} [\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{S} \cdot (\mathbf{I} + 3bb) - (\mathbf{I} + 3bb) \cdot \mathbf{S} \times \mathbf{b}] + \frac{1}{\Omega} [\mathbf{b} (\boldsymbol{\sigma} \times \mathbf{b}) + (\boldsymbol{\sigma} \times \mathbf{b}) \mathbf{b}]$$

$$\mathbf{S} = (p_{\perp} \nabla u + \nabla q_{\perp}) + (p_{\perp} \nabla u + \nabla q_{\perp})^T$$

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel}) \left(\frac{d\mathbf{b}}{dt} + \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla u \right) + (3q_{\perp} - q_{\parallel}) \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{b}$$

- Consider just $k_{\perp} = 0$.
(Alfvénically polarised parallel-propagating modes – they decouple and can be calculated without knowing pressures or heat fluxes)

Gyrothermal Instability: Linear Theory

Instability criterion:

$$\Lambda \equiv \Gamma_T^2 - \frac{(1 - \delta)^2}{2} \left(\Delta + \frac{2}{\beta} \right) > 0$$

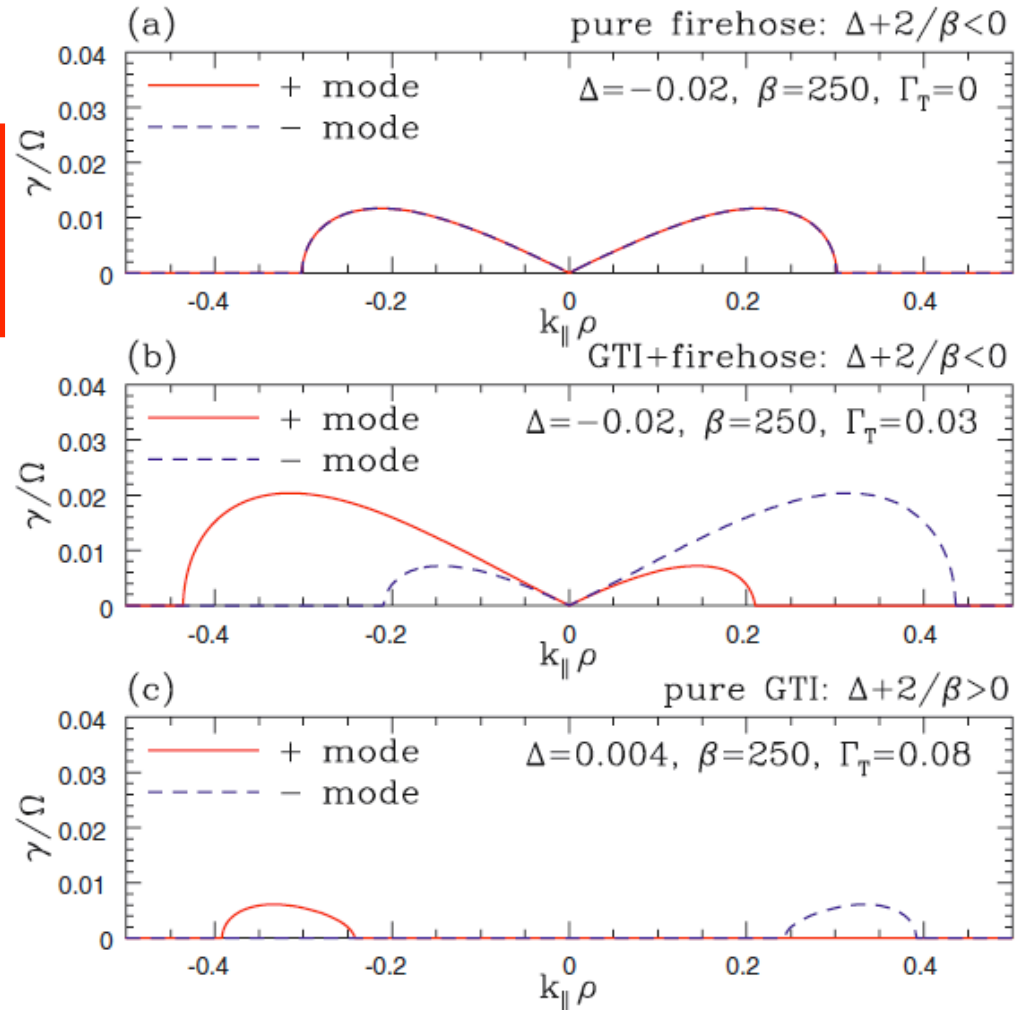
$$\Delta = \frac{p_{\perp i} - p_{\parallel i} + p_{\perp e} - p_{\parallel e}}{p_{\parallel i}}$$

$$\delta = \frac{p_{\perp i} - p_{\parallel i} - (p_{\perp e} - p_{\parallel e})}{p_{\parallel i}} - \frac{2}{\beta}$$

$$\Gamma_T = \frac{2q_{\perp i} - q_{\parallel i}}{p_{\parallel i} v_{\text{th}}}$$

In the collisional limit,

$$q_{\perp} = \frac{1}{3} q_{\parallel} = -\frac{1}{2} n \frac{v_{\text{th}}^2}{v} \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla T$$



Gyrothermal Instability: Linear Theory

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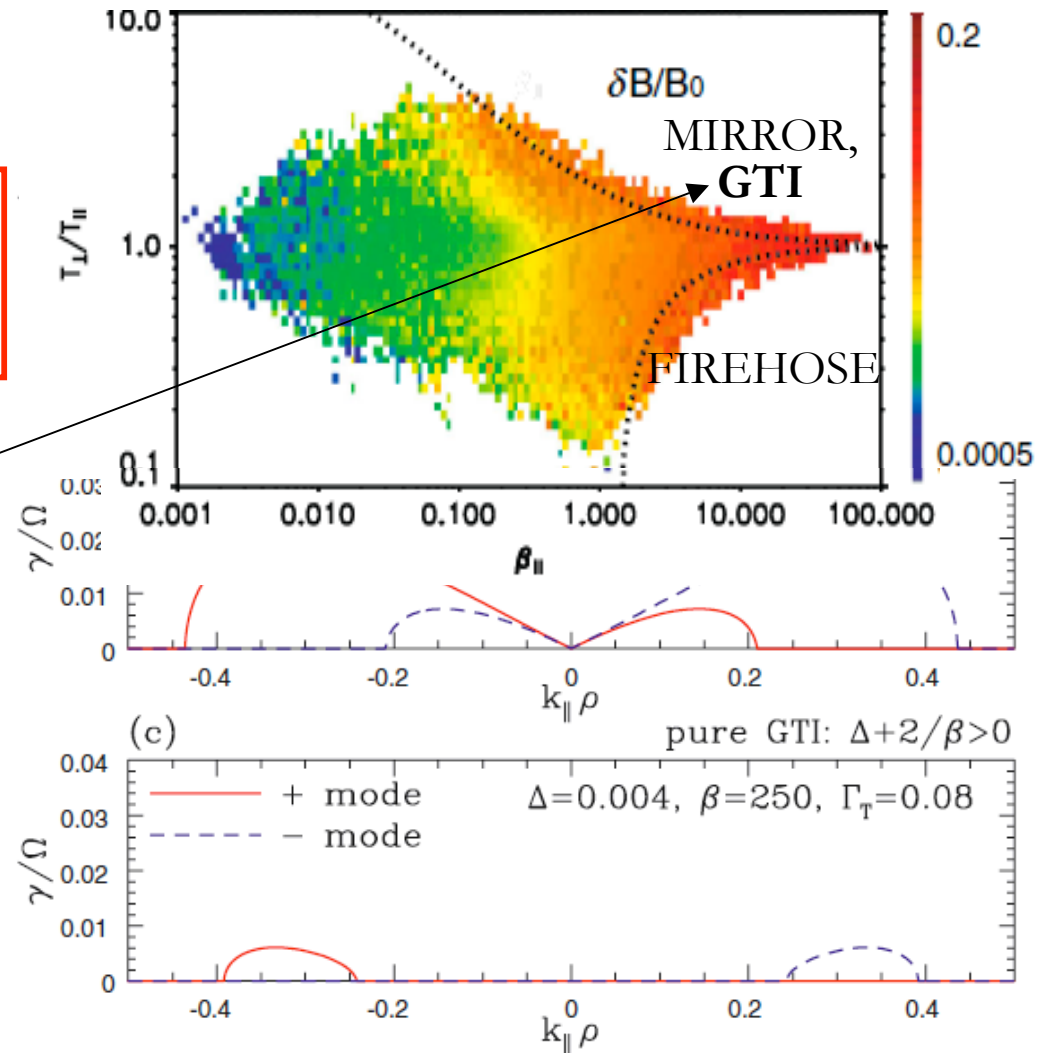
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So, Alfvénically polarised perturbations can be unstable at $\Delta > 0$!

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Gyrothermal Instability: Nonlinear Theory

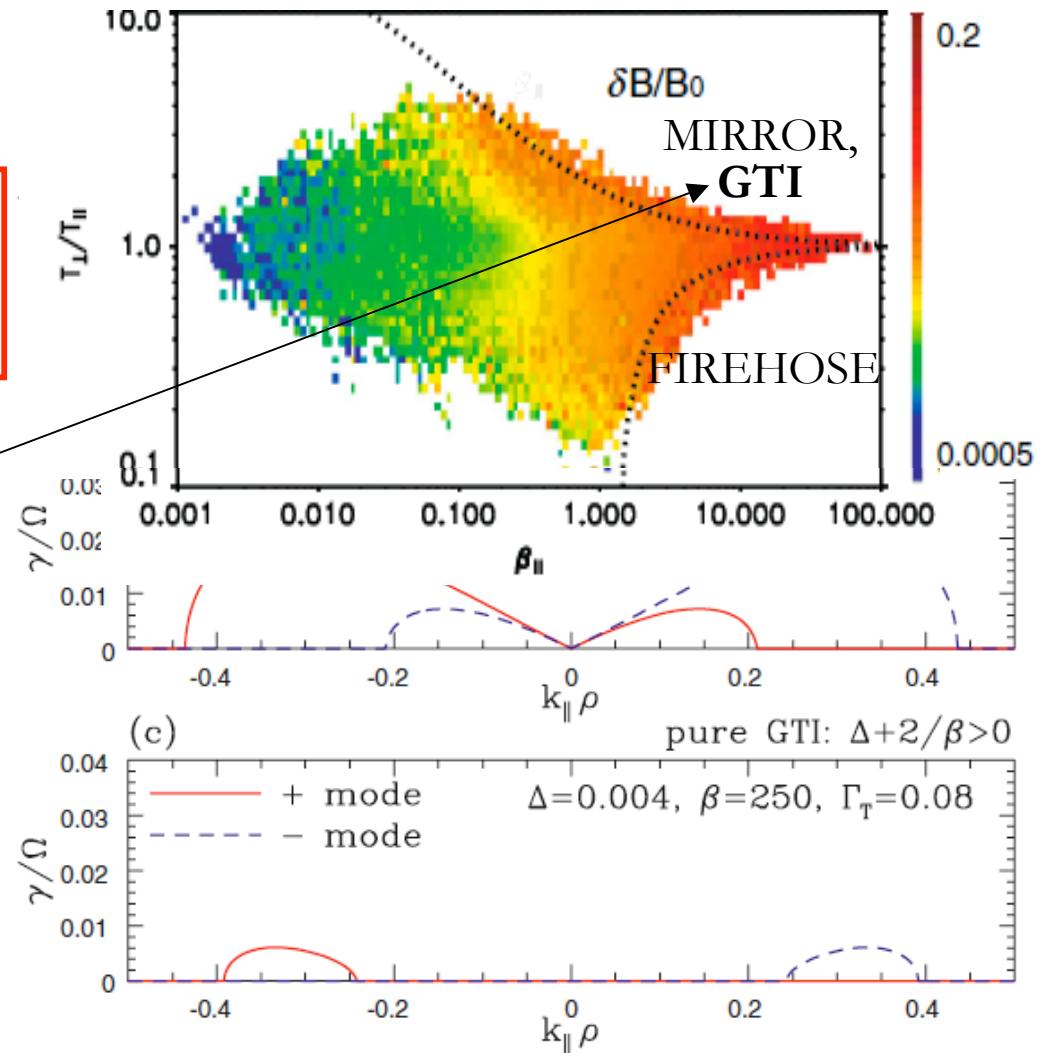
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GTI saturates by the same mechanism as the firehose: magnetic fluctuations adjusting (increasing) Δ

[It might actually destabilise mirror — no idea what then]



Gyrothermal Instability: Nonlinear Theory

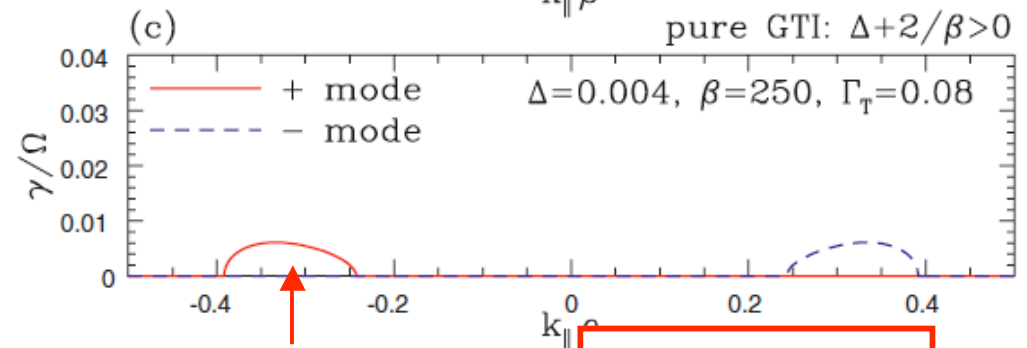
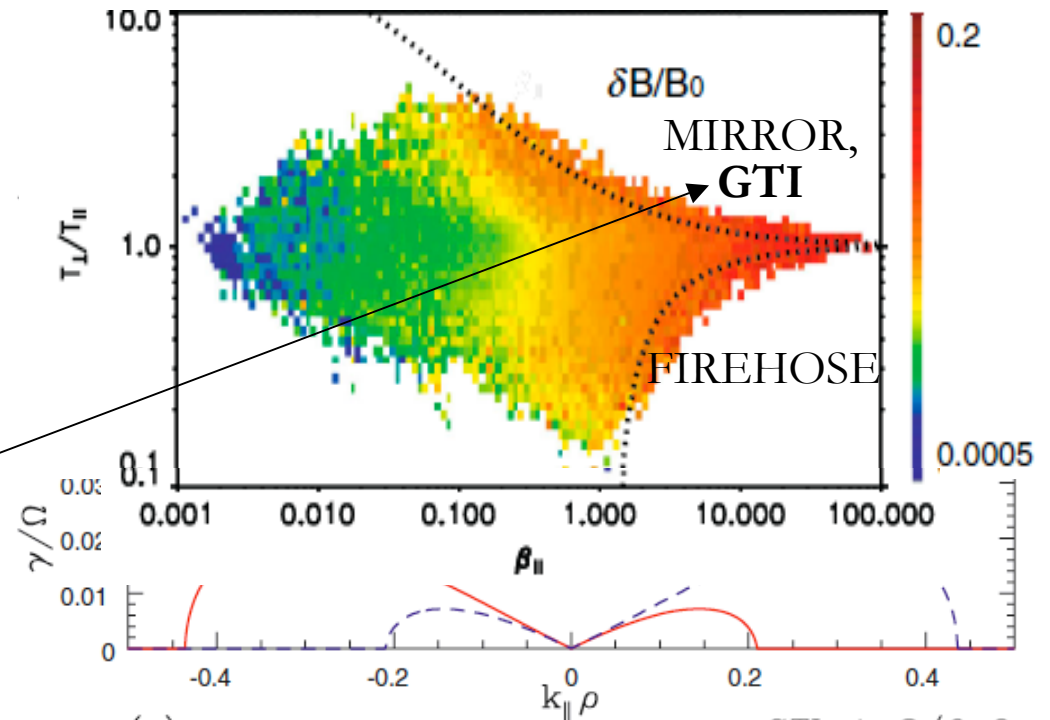
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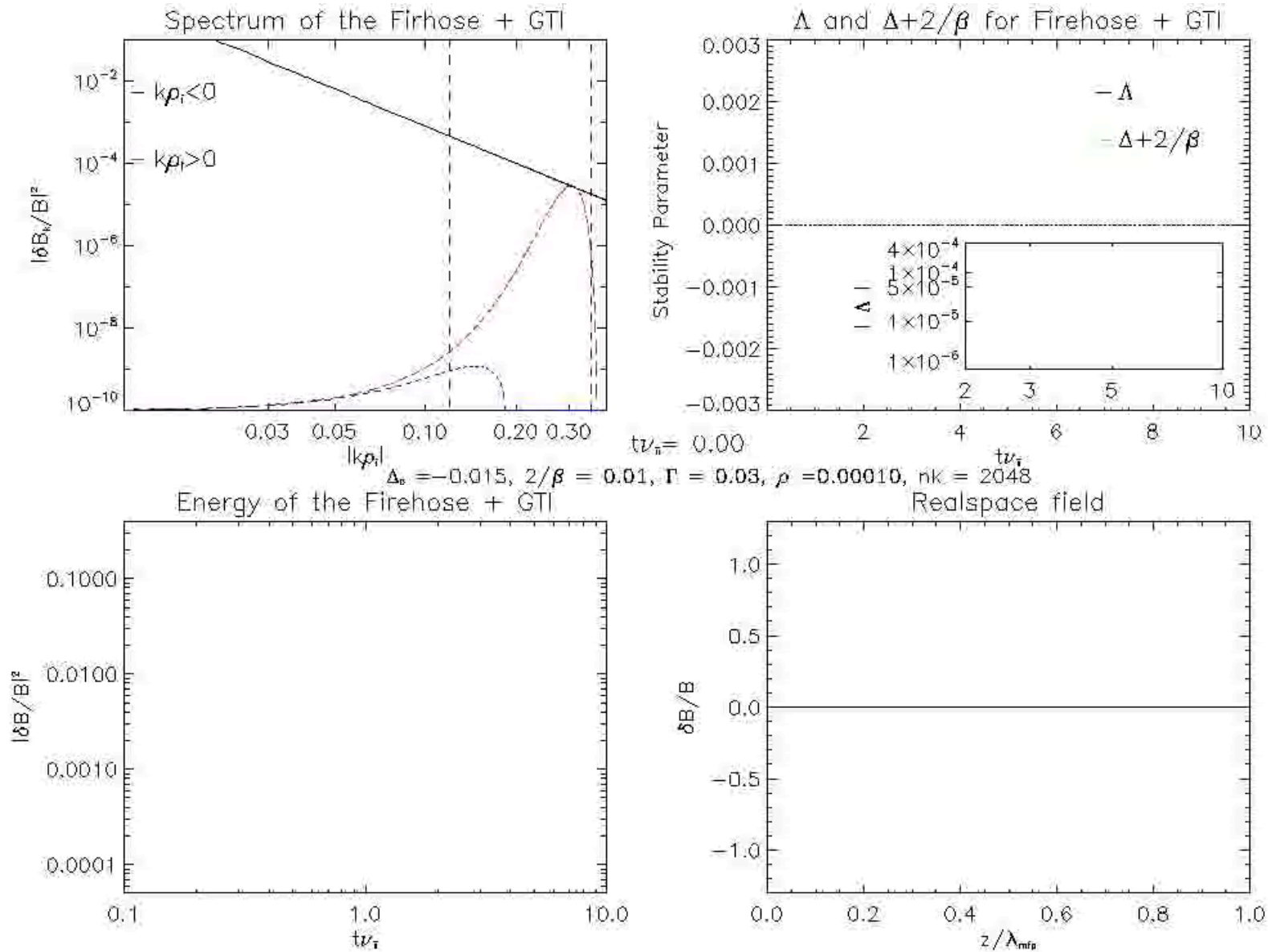
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Preferred scale in marginal state:

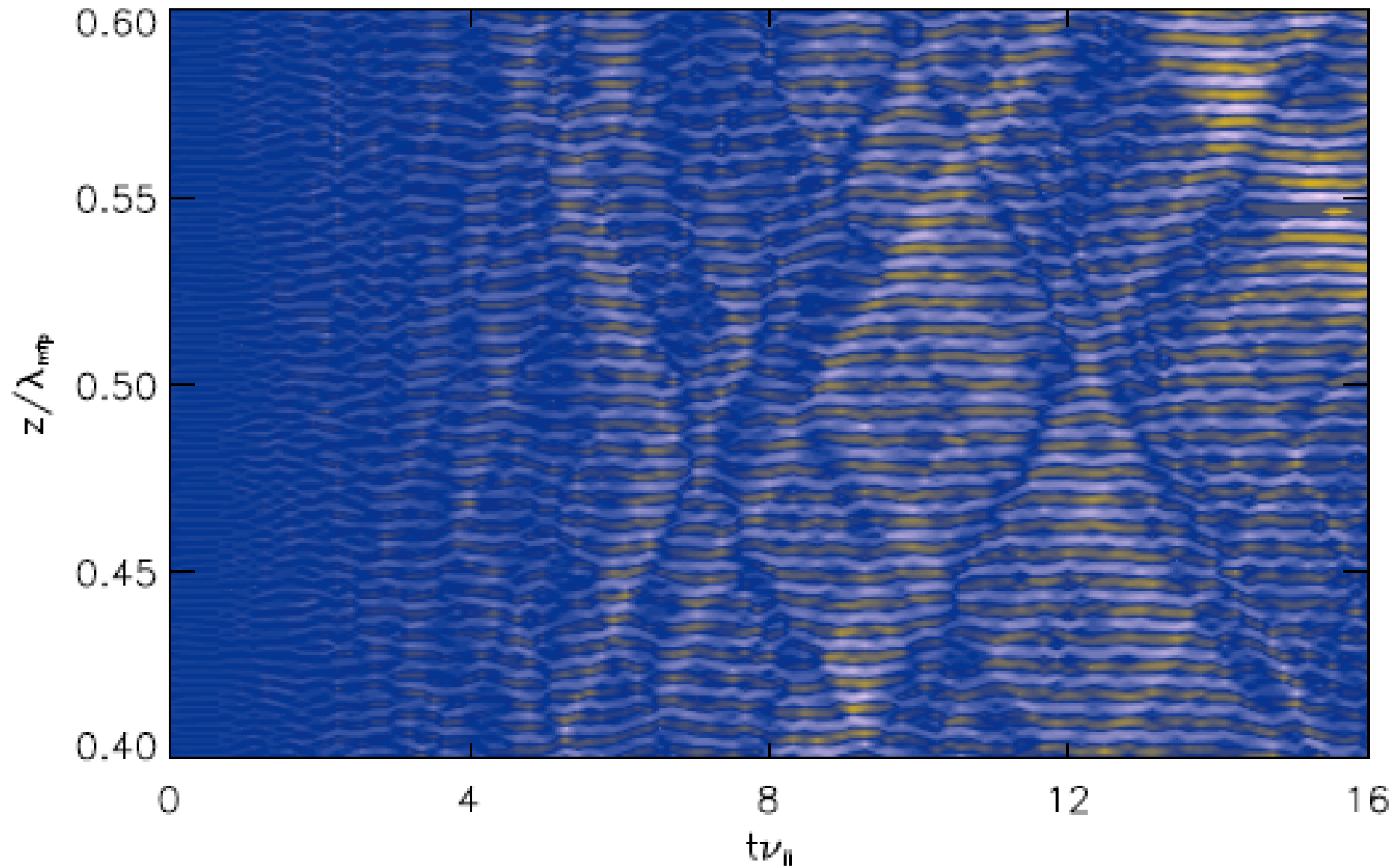
$$k_{\parallel} \rho_i \sim \frac{\lambda_{\text{mfp}}}{l_T}$$

Nonlinear GTI

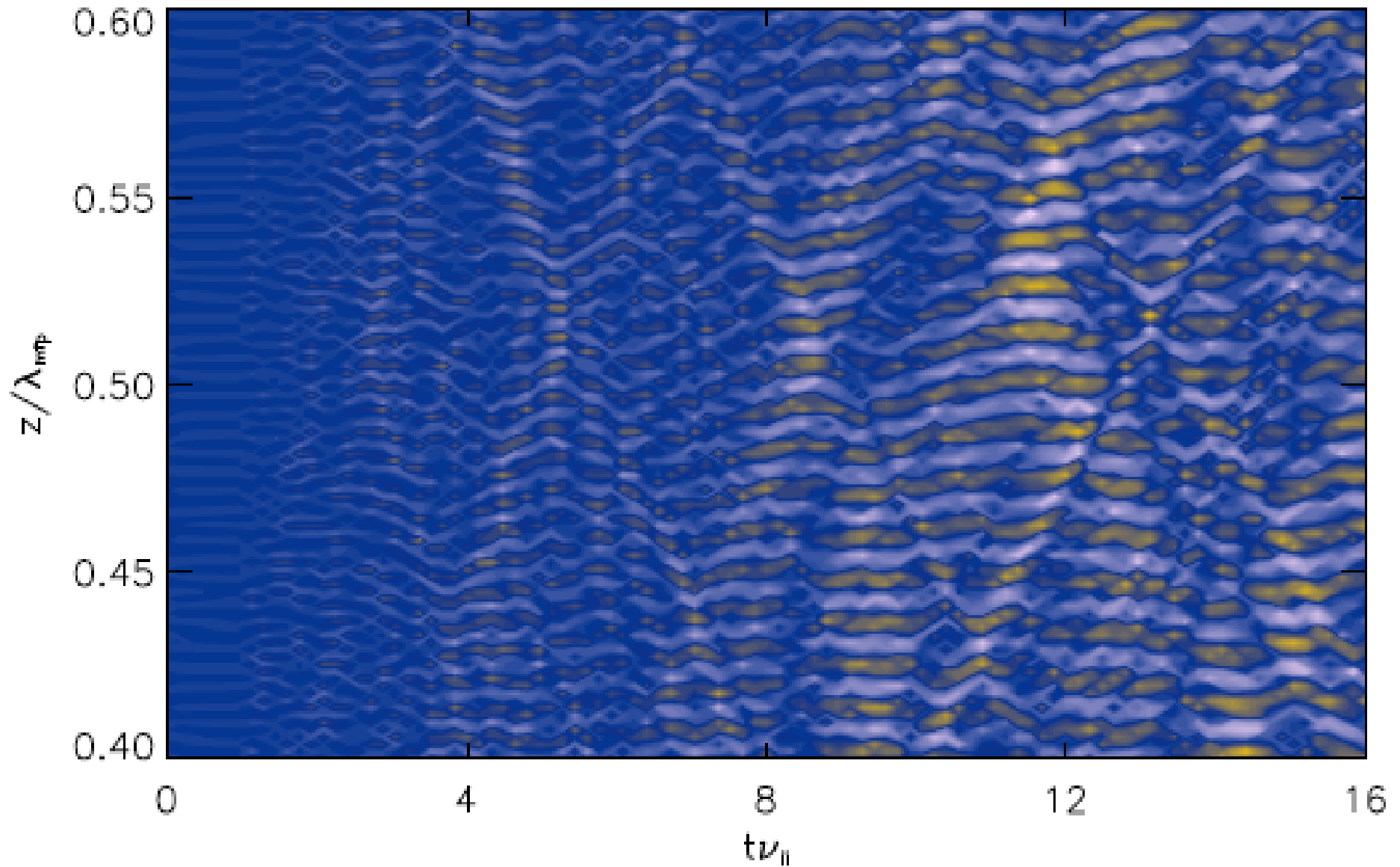


[Rosin *et al.*, arXiv:1002.4017 (2010)]

Nonlinear GTI



[Recall: Nonlinear Firehose]



[Rosin *et al.*, arXiv:1002.4017 (2010)]

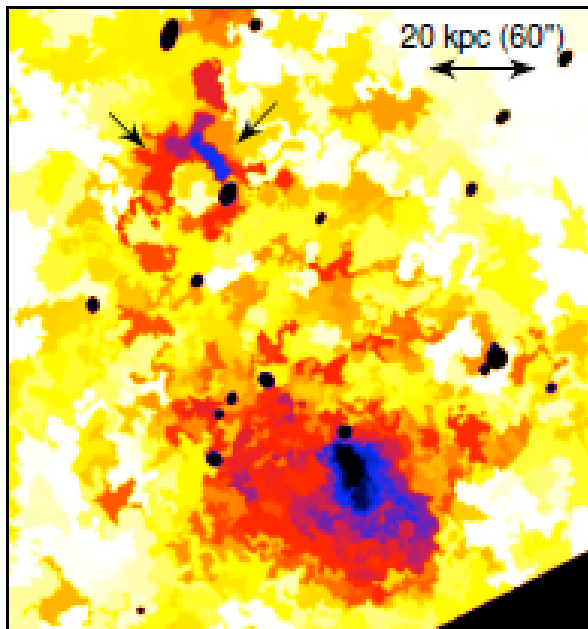
GTI in ICM?

Theoretical condition for GTI marginal stability $\Gamma_T^2 \lesssim 2/\beta$
translates into this: for the temperature scale $l_T^{-1} = b \cdot \nabla \ln T$

$$l_T \gtrsim 0.3 \left(\frac{n_e}{0.01 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1/2} \left(\frac{T_i}{1 \text{ keV}} \right)^{5/2} \left(\frac{B}{1 \mu\text{G}} \right)^{-1} \text{ kpc.}$$

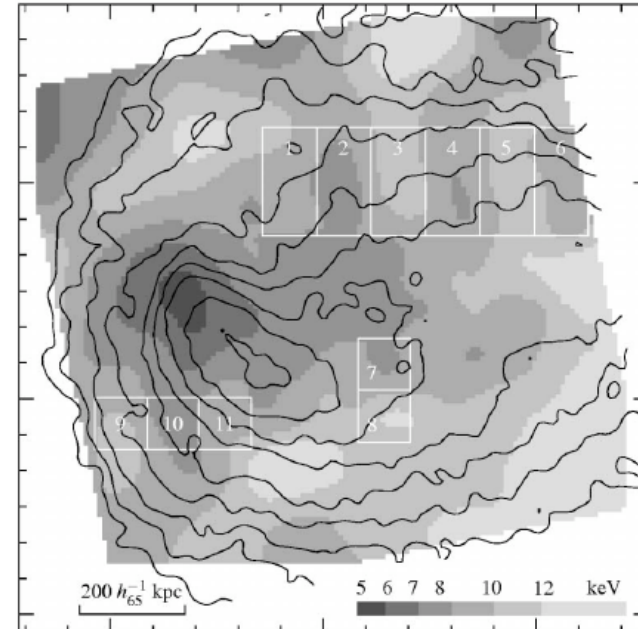
[Schekochihin *et al.*, *MNRAS* **405**, 291 (2010)]

CORES: $\sim 1\text{-}10$ kpc



A262, Sanders *et al.* (2010)

BULK: ~ 100 kpc



A754, Markevitch *et al.* (2003)

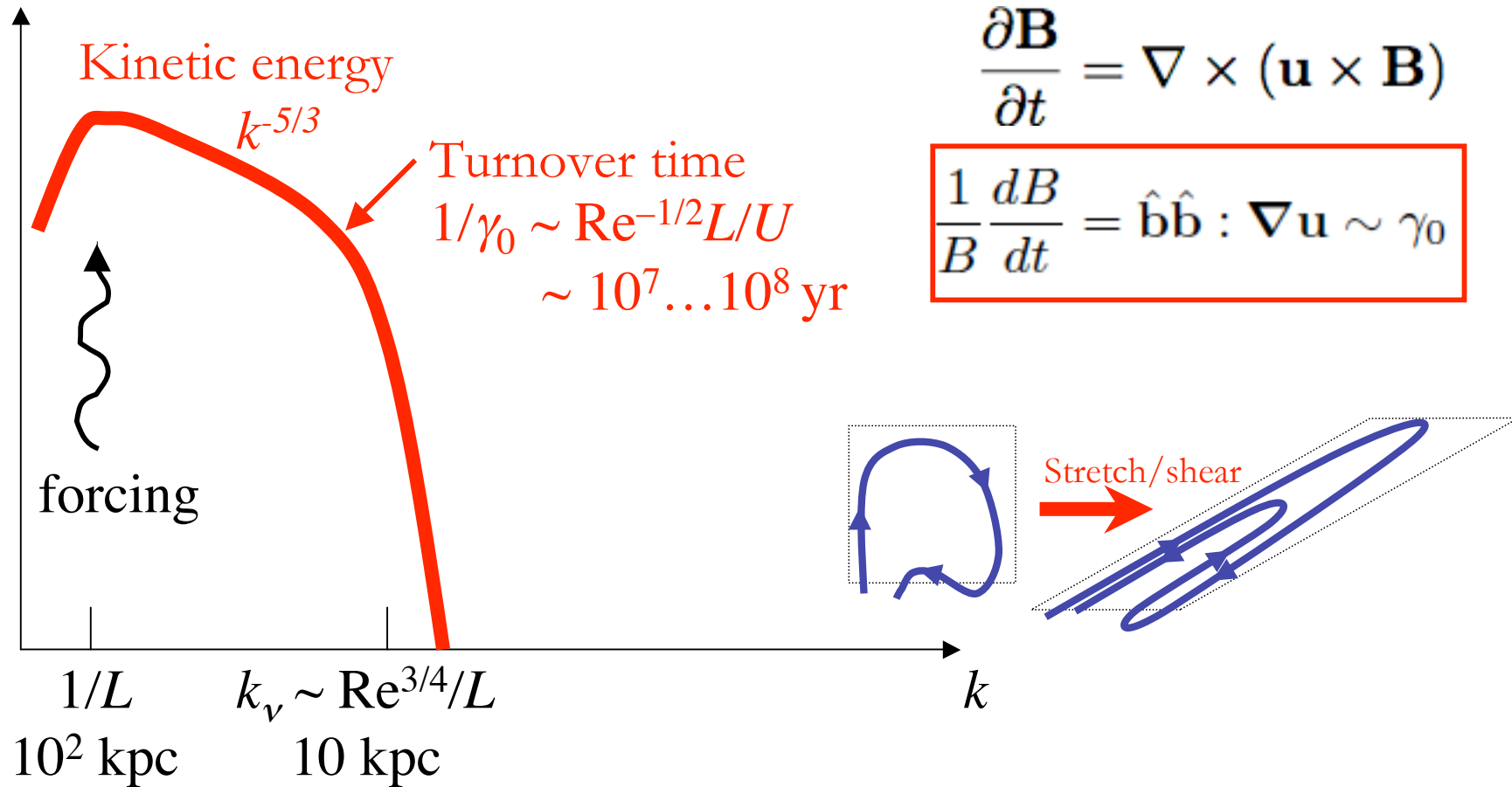
Important for:

- General understanding of magnetogenesis (nice word!)
- Making sense of the size and structure of observed magnetic fields
 - Now that we know magnetic field (via β_j) is likely to set the dissipation rate in the ICM, we also need it to calculate macro-scale dynamics (see M. Kunz's talk)

But

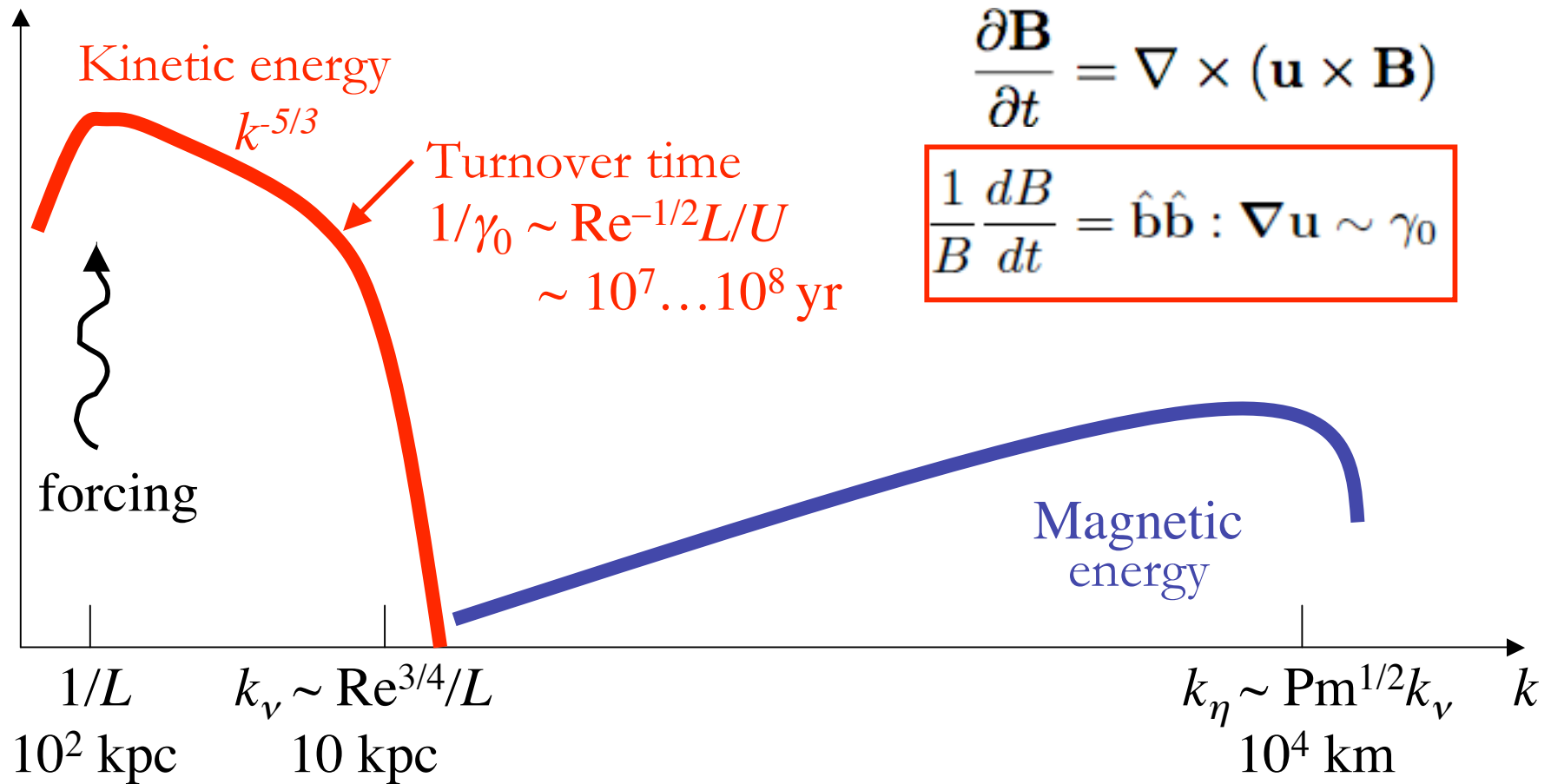
this is a complicated and very embarrassing subject...

Fluctuation Dynamo in MHD



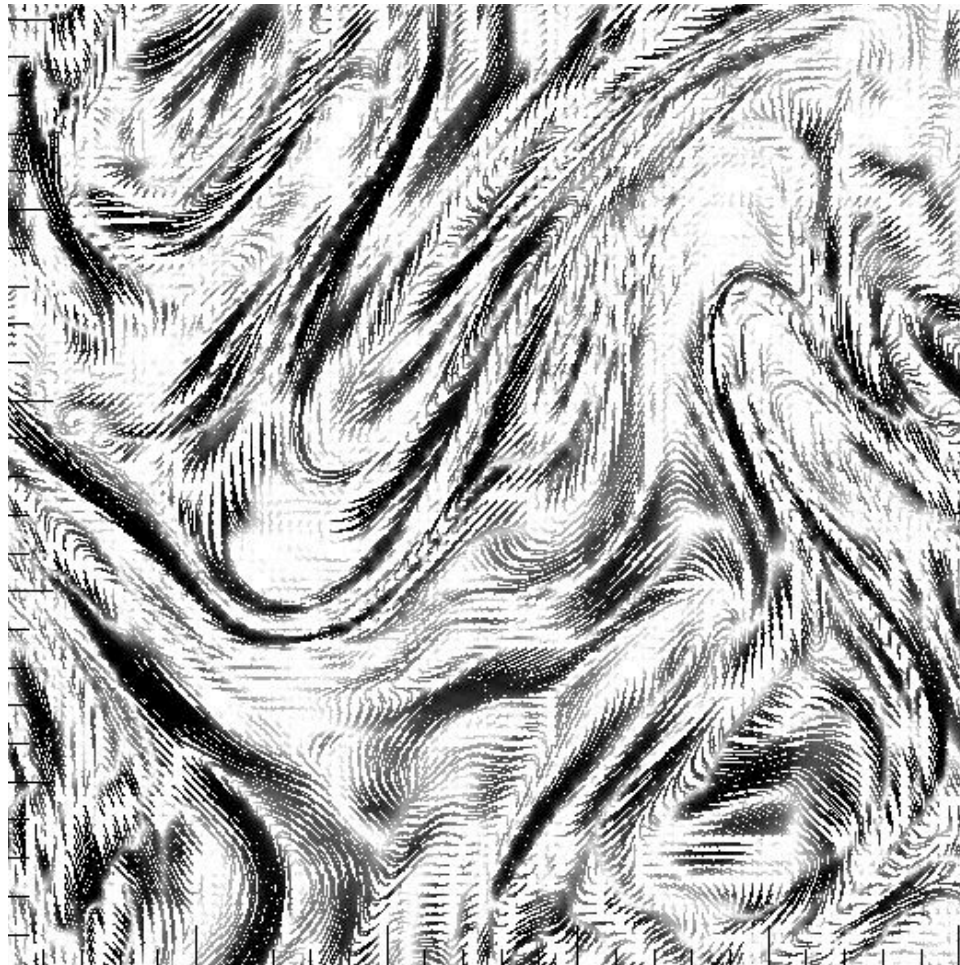
[chatty historical review for bed-time reading:
 Schekochihin & Cowley, astro-ph/0507686]

Fluctuation Dynamo in MHD



The field grows at the resistive scale and, as far as we know, saturates with energy at the smallest scales available to it. All simulations will likely have magnetic field at the Nyquist scale.

Fluctuation Dynamo in MHD



$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B})$$

$$\frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} \sim \gamma_0$$

Magnetic
energy

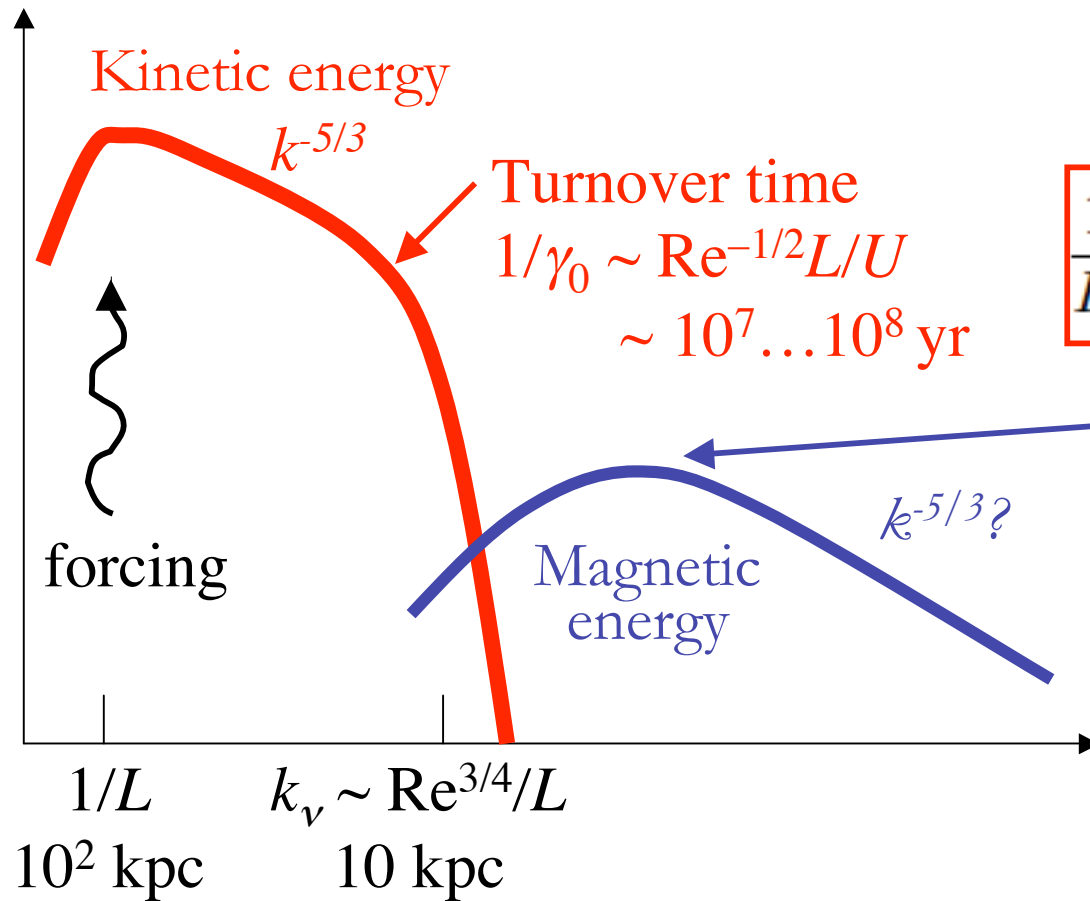
$$k_\eta \sim \text{Pm}^{1/2} k_\nu$$

10^4 km

k

The field grows at the resistive scale and, as far as we know, saturates with energy at the smallest scales available to it (“folds”). All simulations will likely have magnetic field at the Nyquist scale.

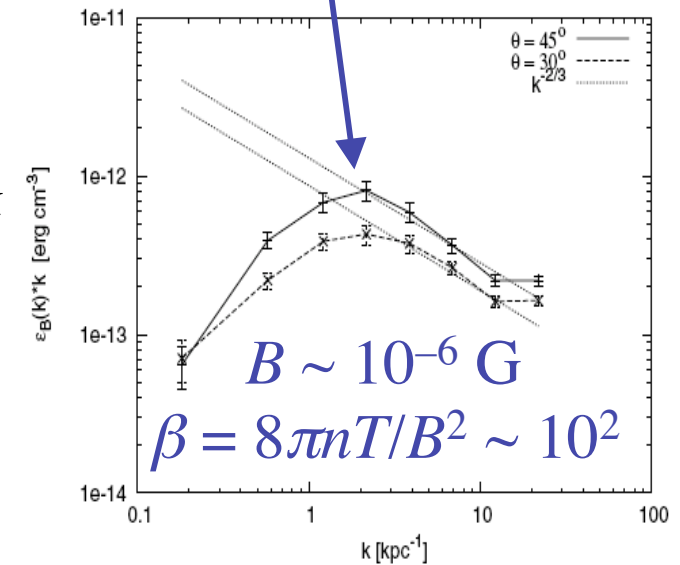
Fluctuation Dynamo in the ICM



$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B})$$

$$\frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} \sim \gamma_0$$

What determines this scale is unclear



In contrast, observationally, while folded fields are seen, the reversal scale is not that small...

Fluctuation Dynamo in the ICM

Nobody knows how fluctuation dynamo works in a weakly collisional plasma — and numerics can't answer this because we can't do a kinetic simulation of dynamo (HUGE computing resources required for that).

However, on general grounds, **it must work somehow**: indeed, anywhere we look (ISM, ICM, old clusters, young clusters, cool-core clusters, unrelaxed clusters, etc.), we find $\sim 1\text{-}10 \mu\text{G}$ fields, or, more importantly,

$$\frac{B^2}{8\pi} \sim \frac{\rho u^2}{2}$$

In MHD numerical simulations, there can be a factor < 1 , which, however, seems to increase with magnetic Prandtl number
[Schekochihin *et al.*, *ApJ* **612**, 276 (2004)]

Fluctuation Dynamo in the ICM

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$$\frac{B^2}{8\pi} \sim \frac{\rho u^2}{2}$$

It is easy to argue hand-wavingly that this will happen FAST:

$$\frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} \sim \nu_{ii} \Delta \sim \frac{\nu_{ii}}{\beta_i} \propto B^2$$

So, **explosive growth**? (If true, no need to count e -folding times!)


We still have no idea what sets the field's scale...

Conclusion

For astronomers:

- See Matt Kunz's talk on the cooling flow regulation

For theoreticians:

- Microscale instabilities determine transport, heating, etc.
Ab initio theory still incomplete (and painful, but interesting) 
- Assuming **pressure anisotropies are pinned at marginal values** is supported by SW data and gives reasonable results for ICM
- Special cases that we have worked out suggest this happens via field modification, not enhanced particle scattering (but who knows)
- New instabilities lurking: GTI...
(could set the temperature fluctuation scale in ICM?)
- Magnetogenesis/ICM dynamo is a great open problem

Further reading:

- Schekochihin *et al.*, MNRAS **405**, 291(2010)
- Rosin *et al.*, MNRAS, submitted; arXiv:1002.4017