Physics of ICM, Aug 23, 2010

MHD Instabilities, Overstabilities and Faraday Rotation



Tamara Bogdanović University of Maryland

Collaborators: Chris Reynolds (UMd), Steven Balbus (ENS), Richard Massey (Edinburgh)



MHD instabilities at all radii in ICM



Recently discovered MHD overstabilities

(Balbus & Reynolds 10)





Heat flux driven buoyancy overstability (HBO)

cold	
T J g J	
hot	

Heat flux driven buoyancy overstability (HBO)



(Balbus & Reynolds 10) Overstability driven by radiative cooling (RCO)



MHD instabilities/overstabilities at all radii in ICM



HBI/RCO and MTI in Virgo cluster?



(Pfrommer & Dursi 10)

(Million+ 10)

MTI in outer regions of other clusters?



Models of Faraday Rotation Measure Signature

- Modeling of RM of a cluster includes:

 (1) density distribution, (2) 3D structure of magnetic field and (3) density and fluxes of polarized background sources
- Two scenarios: field structure characterized by conduction-driven MHD instabilities and turbulent motions.
- Faraday rotation maps for Perseus-like cluster seen by an observatory with capabilities of the SKA



(TB+ 2010)

(TB+ 2010)

Simulated observations with SKA

- Key idea: Search for imprints of instabilities in dynamically relaxed cooling core clusters.
- Field geometry likely to be perturbed by AGN activity, mergers, shocks, bubbles, relics.
- eVLA will also offer improved sensitivity



100h, <mark>high</mark>



Conclusions & prospects

- MHD instabilities may be present at all radii in ICM and have a profound effect on structure of magnetic field and thermal state of clusters.
- Theory: Need for thorough understanding of plasma processes
- Computation: Understanding the relative importance of individual plasma instabilities and their connection. Modeling the interplay of AGN and MHD turbulence.
- Observations: Sensitivity of future spectro-polarimetric measurements will be sufficient to test the presence of MHD instabilities in ICM, even with modest exposures.