The *Fermi* Bubbles – Possible Nearby Laboratory for AGN Jet Activity

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Yang et al., 2012, ApJ, 761, 185 (astro-ph//1207.4185) Yang et al., 2013, MNRAS, 436, 2734 (astro-ph//1307.3551)



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Paul Ricker

Gamma-ray bubbles by Fermi (Su 2010)



Gamma-ray bubbles by Fermi (Su 2010)



Credit: NASA/DOE/Fermi LAT/D. Finkbeiner et al.

Microwave haze by WMAP & Planck

(Finkbeiner 2004, Dobler 2008; Planck Collaboration 2012)



Polarized lobes at 2.3 GHz by S-PASS (Carretti 2013)



A schematic view



AGN jet-inflated bubbles?



Forming Fermi bubbles by CR jets



- 2D, hydro simulations including *CR pressure*, advection and diffusion
- Plausible to form bubbles within 2-3 Myr
- Axial ratio reproduced
- Large-scale instabilities
- Edge-darkened surface brightness
 - => Viscosity may be at work

Projected CR energy density



With viscosity



Our Simulations



Miller+ 2013

Intrinsic CR properties (Yang+12)

- 1. Hard spectrum
- 2. Smooth surface
- 3. Flat intensity
- 4. Sharp edges



Slice of CR energy density



Magnetic draping



Intrinsic CR properties (Yang+12)

Magnetic draping effect

Sharp edges





Intrinsic CR properties (Yang+12)

Sharp edges



Edges are much smoother *if* diffusion were isotropic



Q: Can we explain the gamma-ray, microwave, and polarization observations by leptonic AGN jets? (Yang+13)



Gamma-ray spectrum



Assuming CRe + GALPROP's ISRF

Microwave spectrum



Assuming CRe & B(bubble)~B(ambient)?

-> Bubble field is mixed in and amplified by ISM turbulence

Polarization fraction & Sky-projected B fields



Ordered fields due to magnetic draping

Consistent with larger extension of the 2.3 GHz polarized lobes

Rotation measure



Summary of the AGN jet scenario

- Morphology
- Flat intensity
- Hard spectrum *due to short formation time*
- Sharp edges by draping + anisotropic diffusion
- Microwave haze given turbulence-amplified B
- S-PASS polarized lobes
- ✓ Enhanced RM around bubbles predicted

Implication for bubble composition

- Required CRe only ~ 3e-4 of simulated CRs
- Bubble pressure dominated by CRp or thermal gas

Future Prospects

Modeling CR spectrum

-> Spatially uniform hard spectrum with high-E cutoff ?!

FLASH now equipped with CR adv. diff. streaming. spectral evolution!