

Dynamics of gas and cosmic rays inside  
the huge radio-x-ray cavity of Cygnus a:  
similarities with the Fermi Bubbles

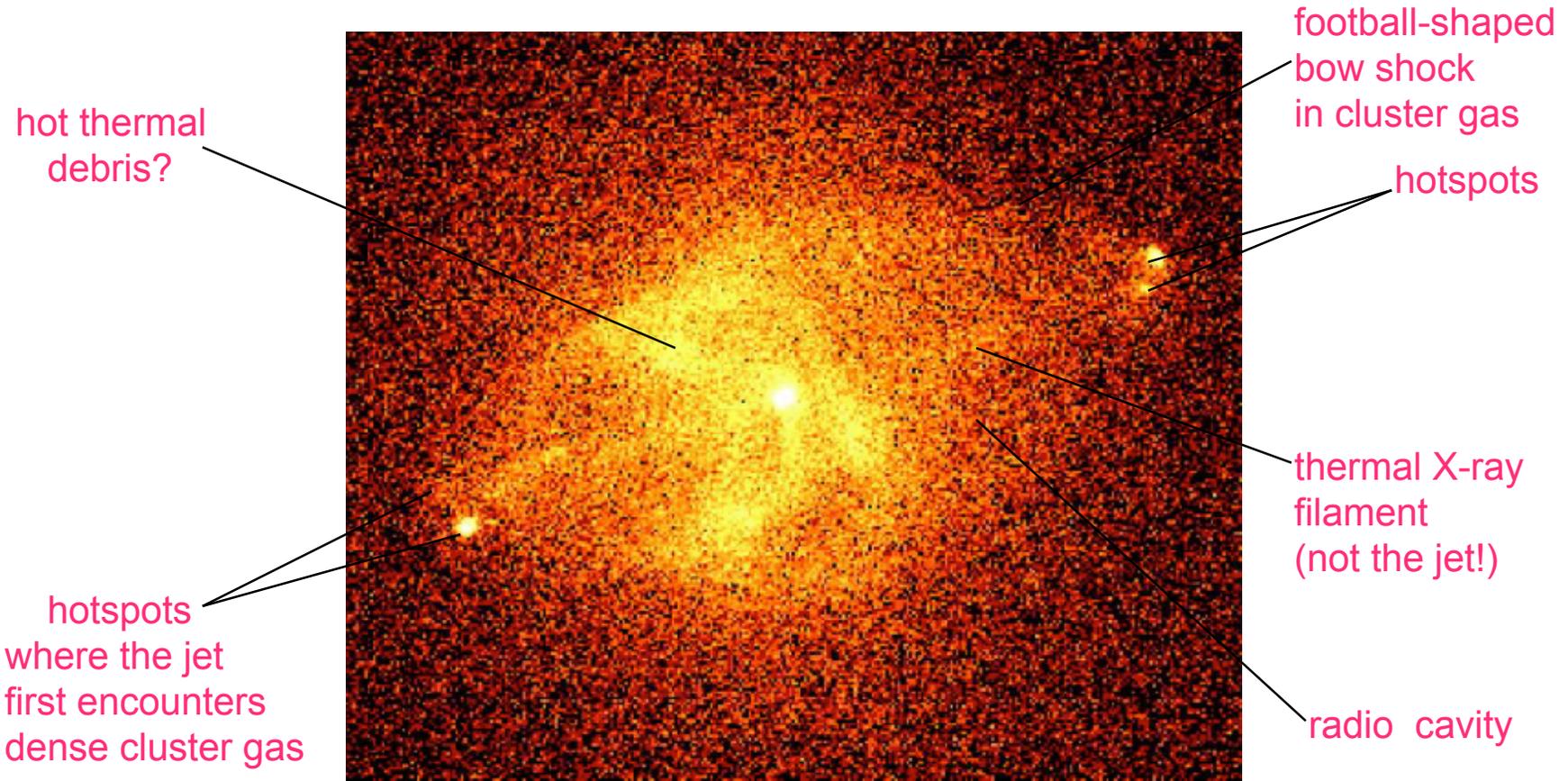
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# Chandra X-ray image of Cygnus A

60 kpc

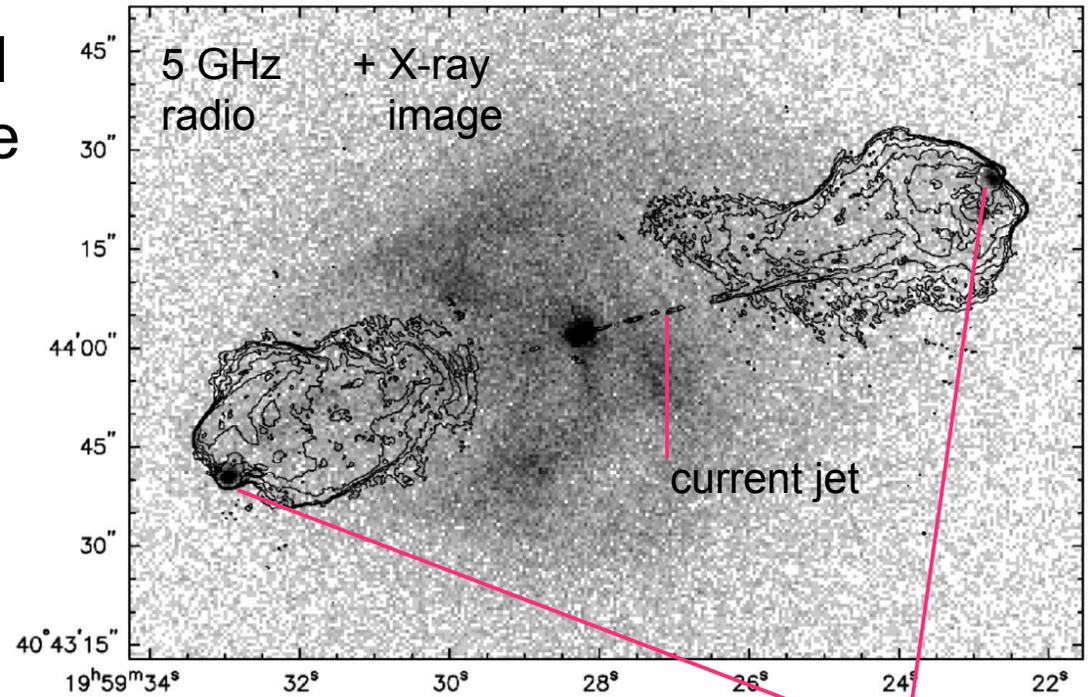


Wilson+06

located at center of cluster of mass  $\sim 10^{15} M_{\text{sun}}$

# Cygnus A is a classic FR II double lobe radio source

age of Cygnus A event is  $\sim 10^7$  yrs  
 from sync. losses  
 Mach no. of bow shock

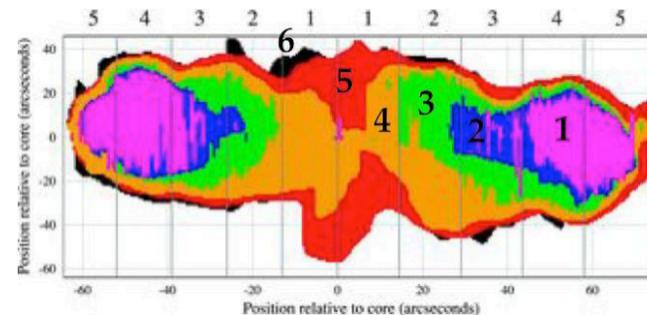


jet volume is small -- no hotspot yet

radio hotspots

high energy CRes  
 emit at high- $\nu$   
 closer to hotspot

- 1 15 GHz
- 2 8
- 3 5
- 4 1.34
- 5 0.33
- 6 0.15

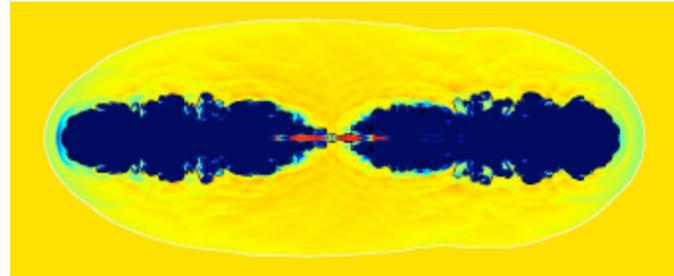


6 radio images super-imposed

well-ordered radio electron ages

# three most recent jet-driven FR II lobe calculations

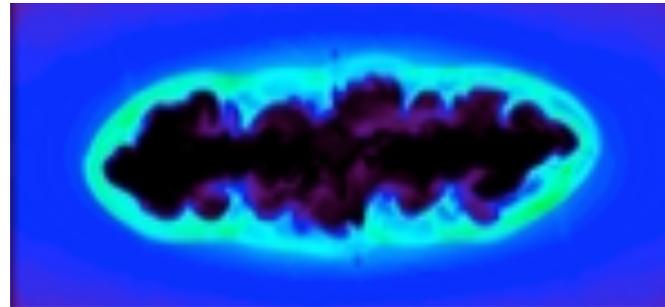
2D hydro



2013

radio cavities are dynamically chaotic

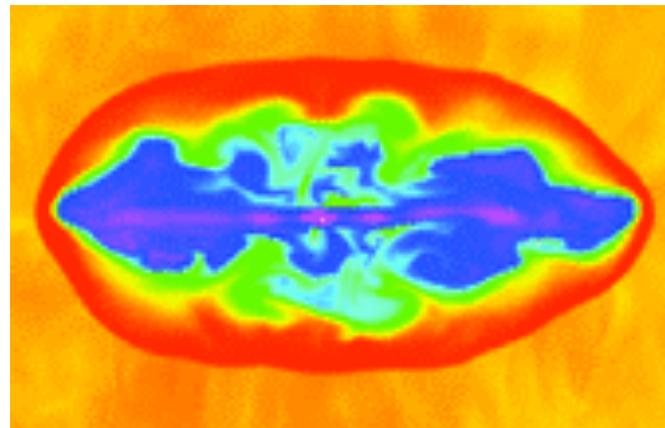
3D MHD



2011

radio electron ages will be mixed

3D MHD



2011

it's time for a more realistic computation!

# 2D axisymmetric computations with a relativistic component

gas:  $P = (\gamma - 1)e \quad \gamma = 5/3$

CRs:  $P_c = (\gamma_c - 1)e_c \quad \gamma_c = 4/3$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\rho \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \right) = -\nabla(P + P_c) - \rho \nabla \Phi$$

viscous force

$$+ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{\Pi} + \frac{1}{4\pi} (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{B}$$

ignore Lorentz force:  
observe  $B^2/8\pi \ll e_c$

ignore radiation losses:  
small during  $t_{\text{age}} \sim 10^7$  yrs

thermal energy  
density

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}e = -P(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) - \mathcal{L}_{\text{rad}} + \mathbf{\Pi} : \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

viscous dissipation

CR energy  
density\*

$$\frac{\partial e_c}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}e_c = -P_c(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) + \nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla e_c)$$

ignore CR diffusion:  
small during  $t_{\text{age}}$   
if  $\kappa \sim 10^{28} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$   
as in Milky Way  
also: no age mixing

passive frozen-in  
field

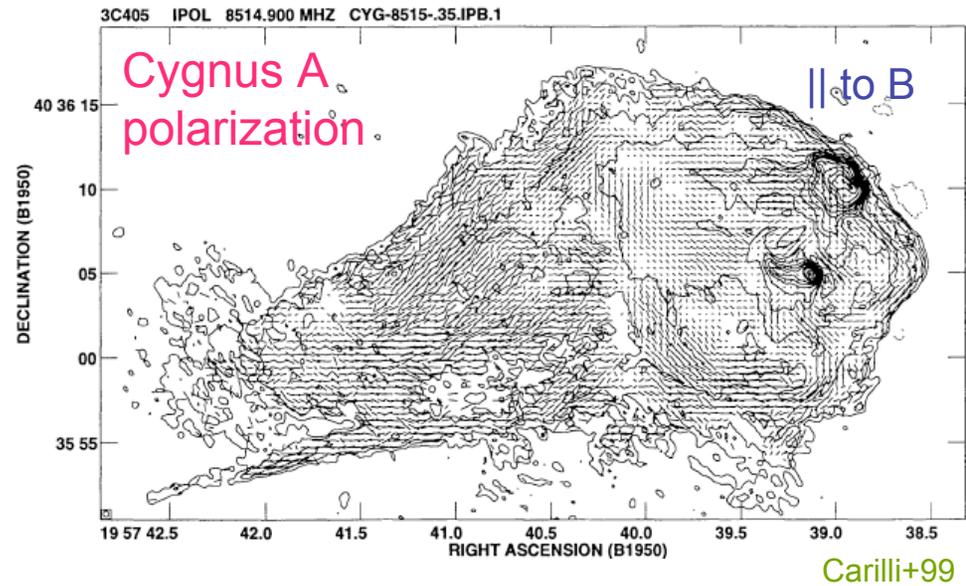
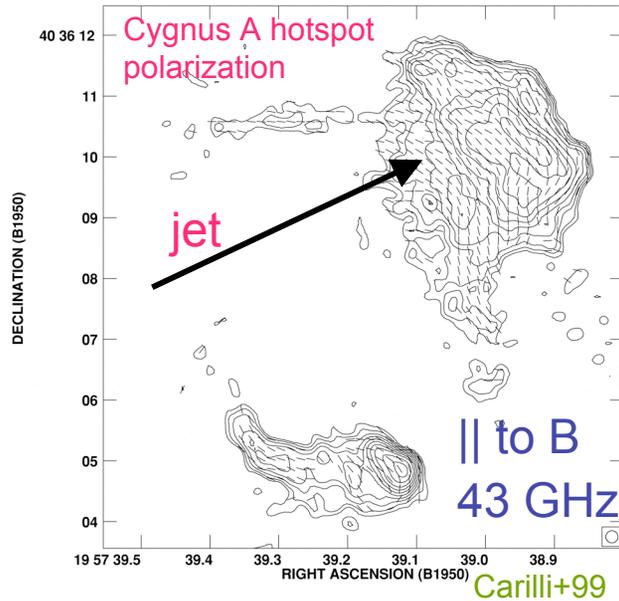
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}) \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

\*expect  $P_c > P$

# radio polarization observations

hotspot field is largely ~ toroidal

but non-toroidal fields appear downstream



assume a purely toroidal field

poloidal fields cannot be used in moving hotspot sources without violating  $\text{div}B=0$  – true for all common MHD codes

assume a hotspot-driven flow: jet is not explicitly computed

this is OK since:

jet occupies a negligible volume

hotspots are brighter than jets:  $e_c$  & B are well observed

in hotspot-driven flows:

all plasma, CRs & field in cavity come from the hotspot

at each time step moving hotspot is injected with

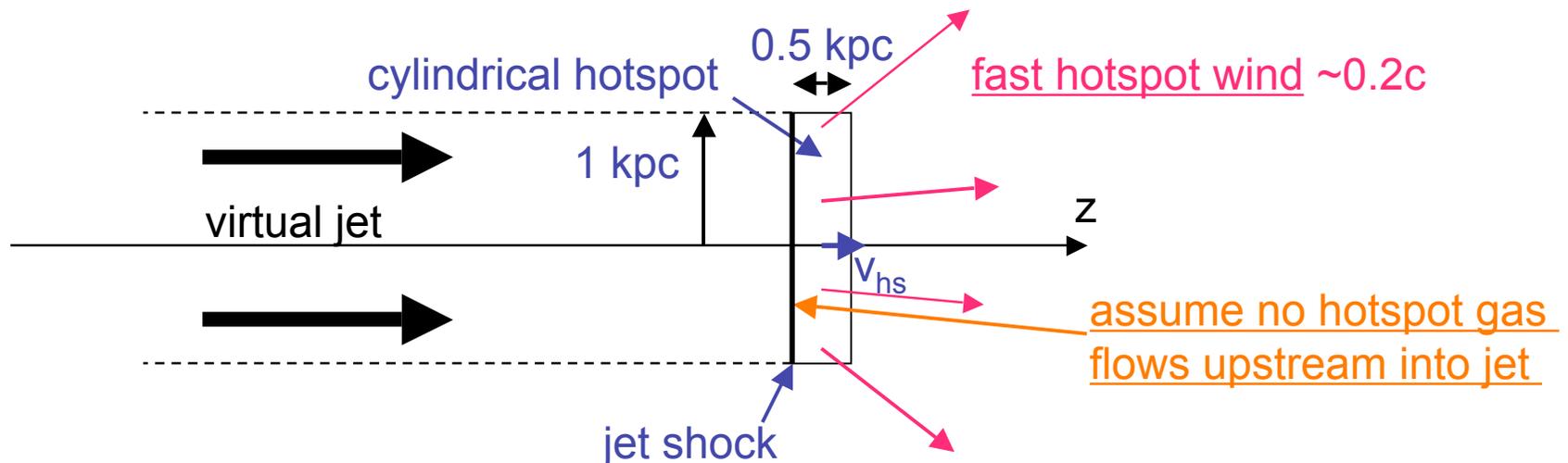
(1)  $10^{46}$  erg/s of relativistic CRs to fill Cygnus A radio cavity volume in  $10^7$  yrs

(2)  $1 M_{\text{sun}}/\text{year}$  of non-relativistic gas with  $v_{\text{hs}}$  -- for B to freeze onto

(3) toroidal hotspot field is reset to observed value:  $B_{\text{hs}} \sim 200 \mu\text{G}$

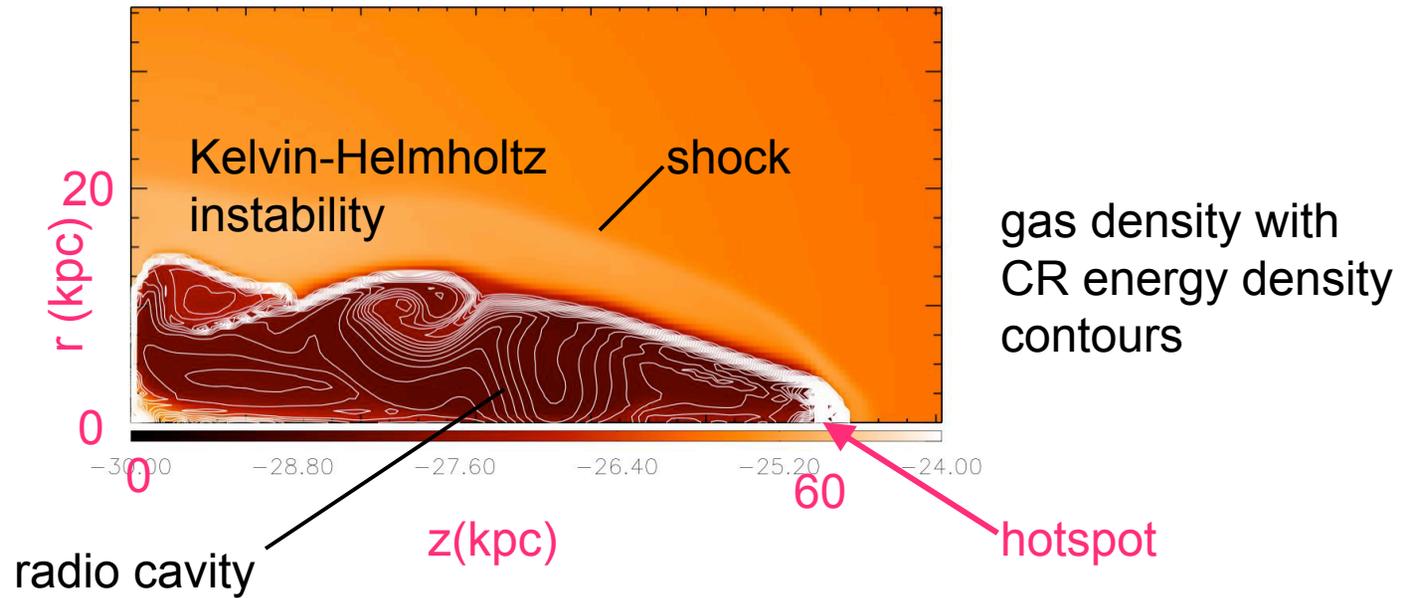
hotspot source zones move on the grid at constant velocity along z-axis:

$$v_{\text{hs}} = 60\text{kpc}/10^7\text{yrs} = 5800 \text{ km/s}$$

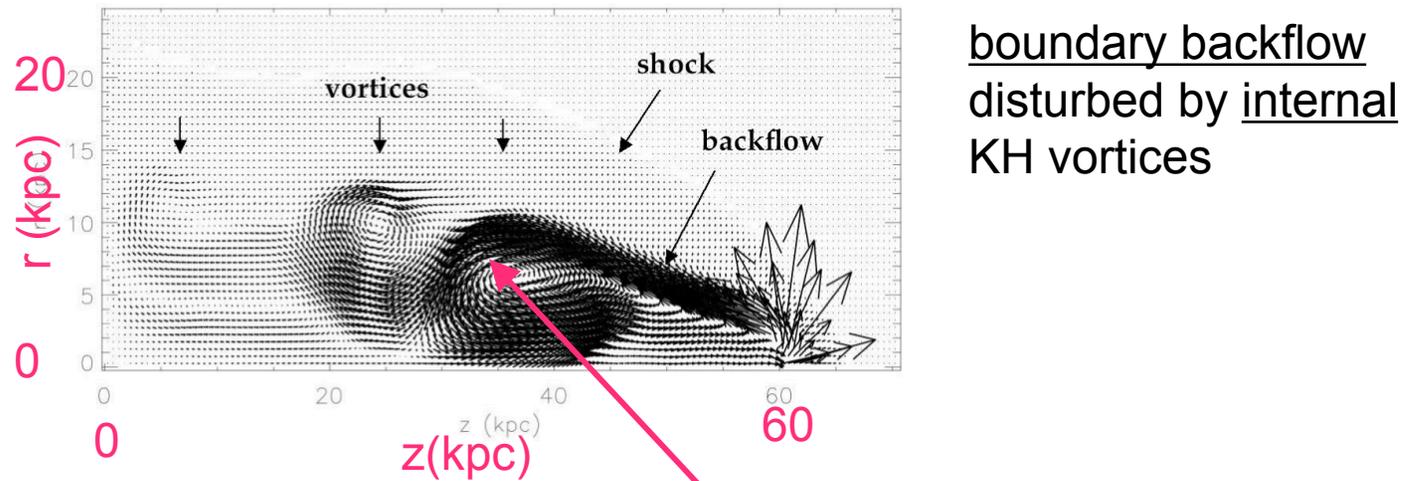


after  $10^7$  yrs:

density

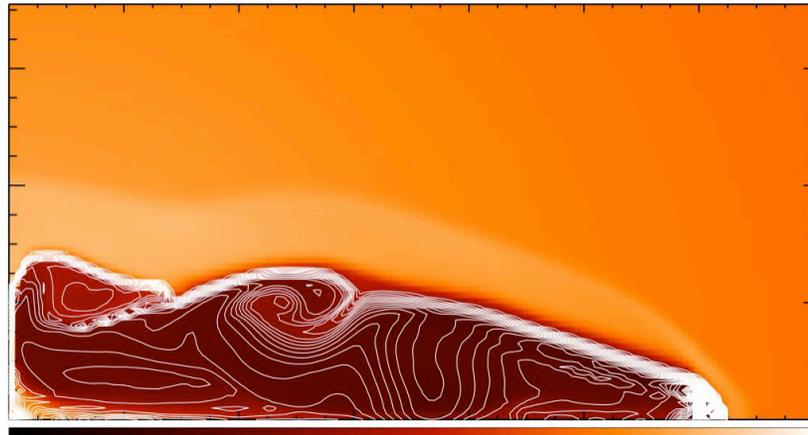


velocity

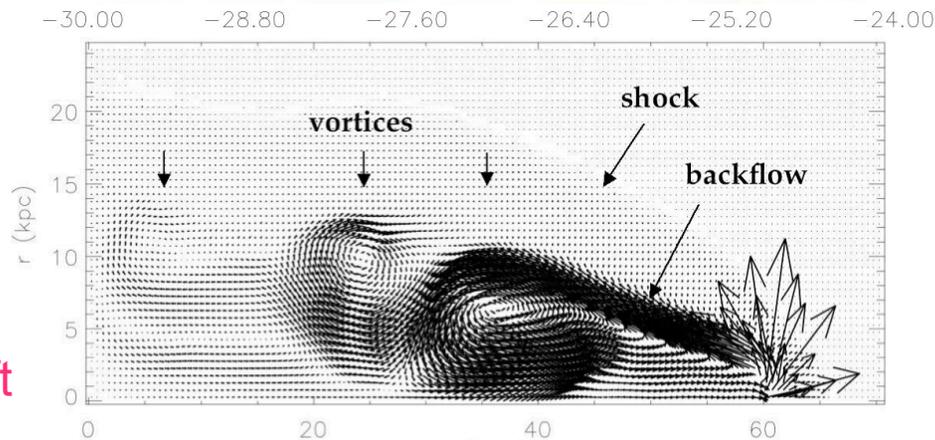


Kelvin Helmholtz instability first occurs **inside** cavity, **not** at cavity boundary

density

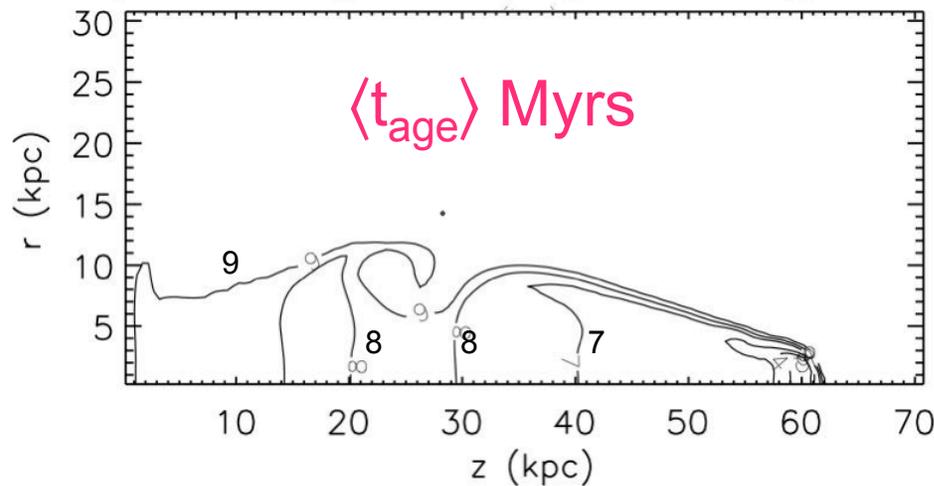


velocity



advect time CRs left  
hotspot  $t_{hs}$

projected  
CR age  $10 - t_{hs}$   
weighted  
along  $l_{os}$   
by synchrotron  
emission

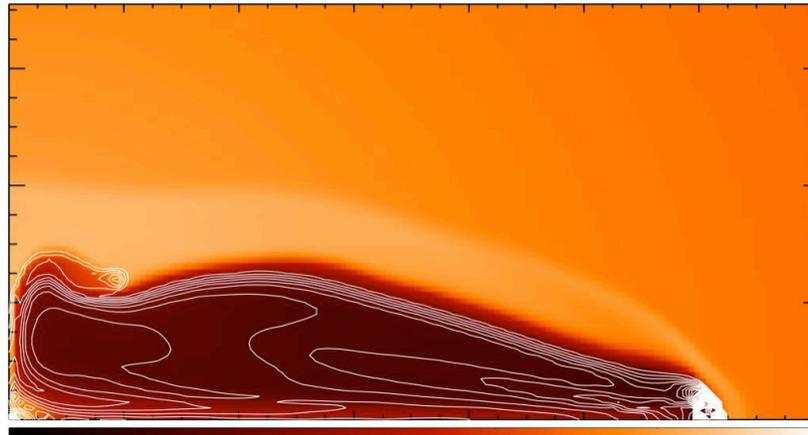


projected sync. age  
is not monotonic  
as in Cygnus A

Must stop KH  
with (huge) B  
or viscosity...

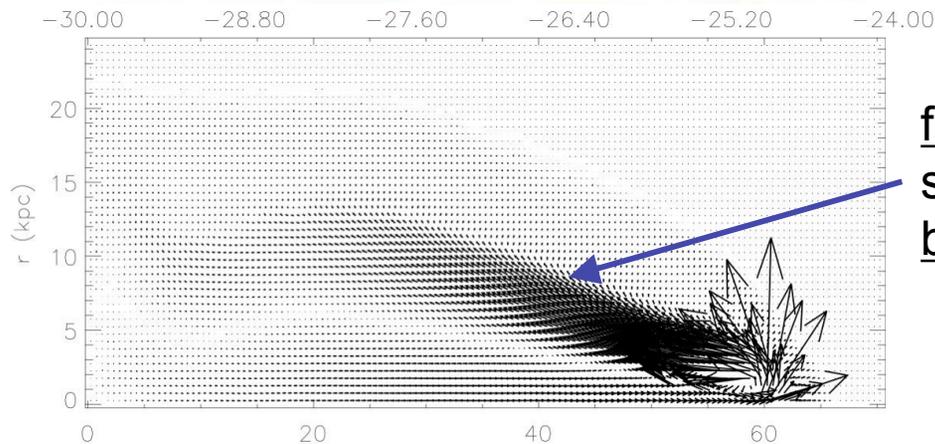
Repeat with viscosity  
 $t = 10^7$  yrs

density



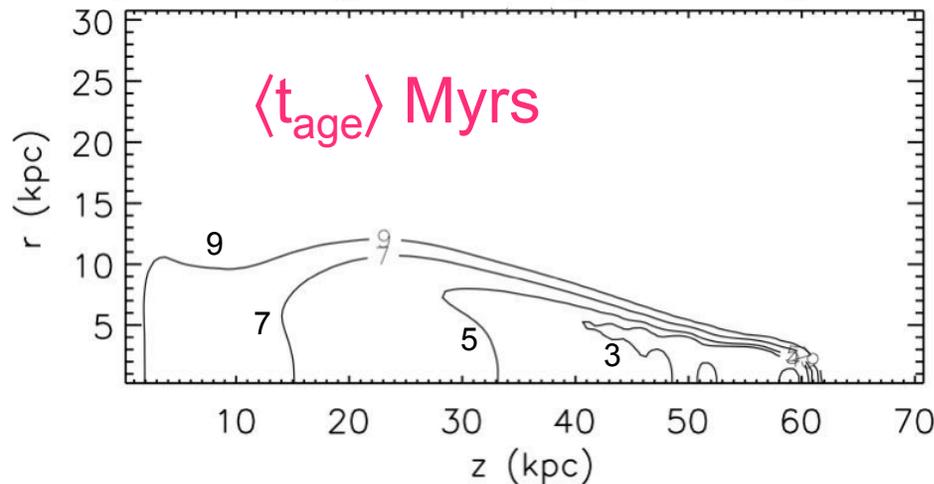
KH is suppressed  
with small viscosity  
 $\mu = 30 \text{ gm}/(\text{cm s})$

velocity



first computation of smooth boundary backflow!

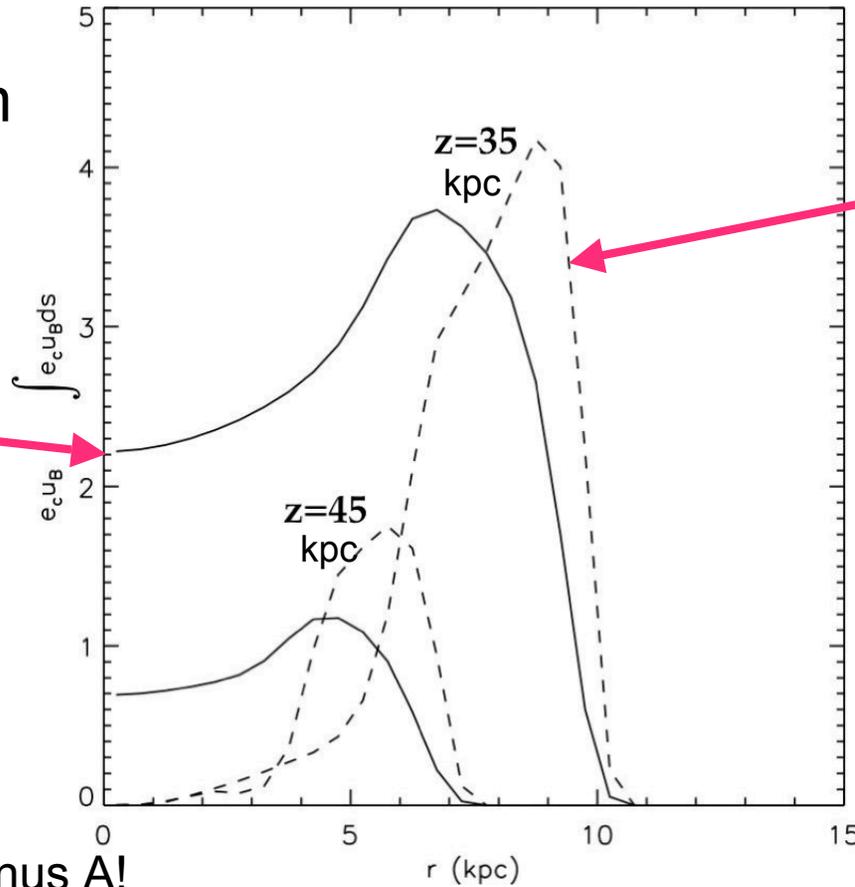
projected  
CR age  $10 - t_{\text{hs}}$   
weighted  
along  $l_{\text{os}}$   
by synchrotron  
emission



now CR age varies  
monotonically  
as in Cygnus A

synchrotron emission from computed boundary backflow

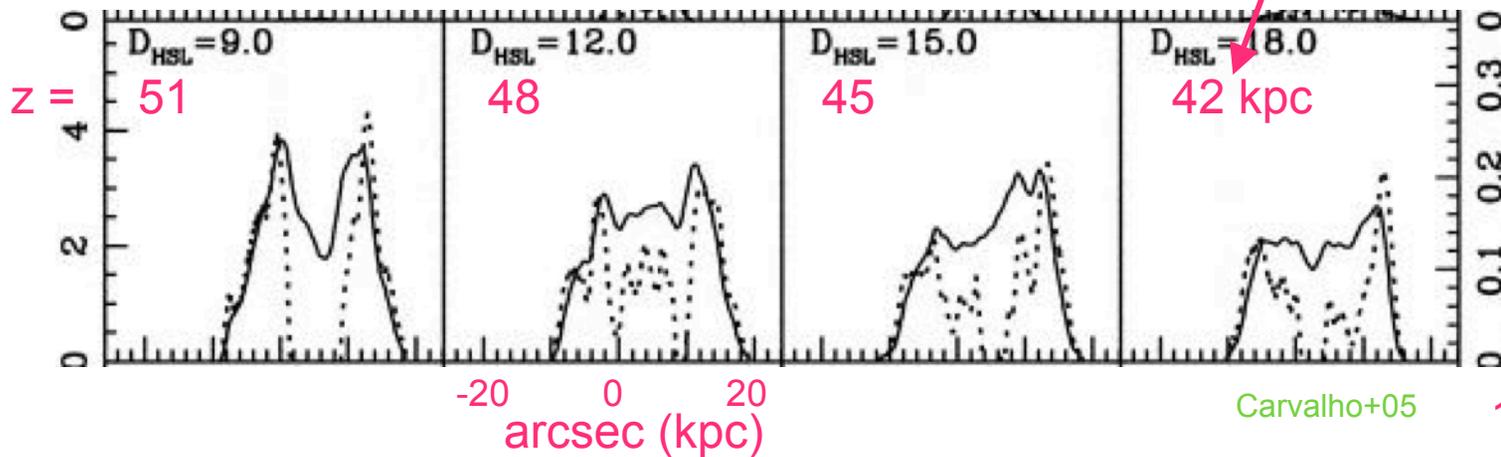
sync. surface brightness  
 $\int e_c u_B ds$



$e_c u_B$  (proxy for sync. emissivity) peaks at radio lobe boundary

$$u_B = \frac{B^2}{8\pi}$$

is observed in Cygnus A!



Carvalho+05

1.3GHz

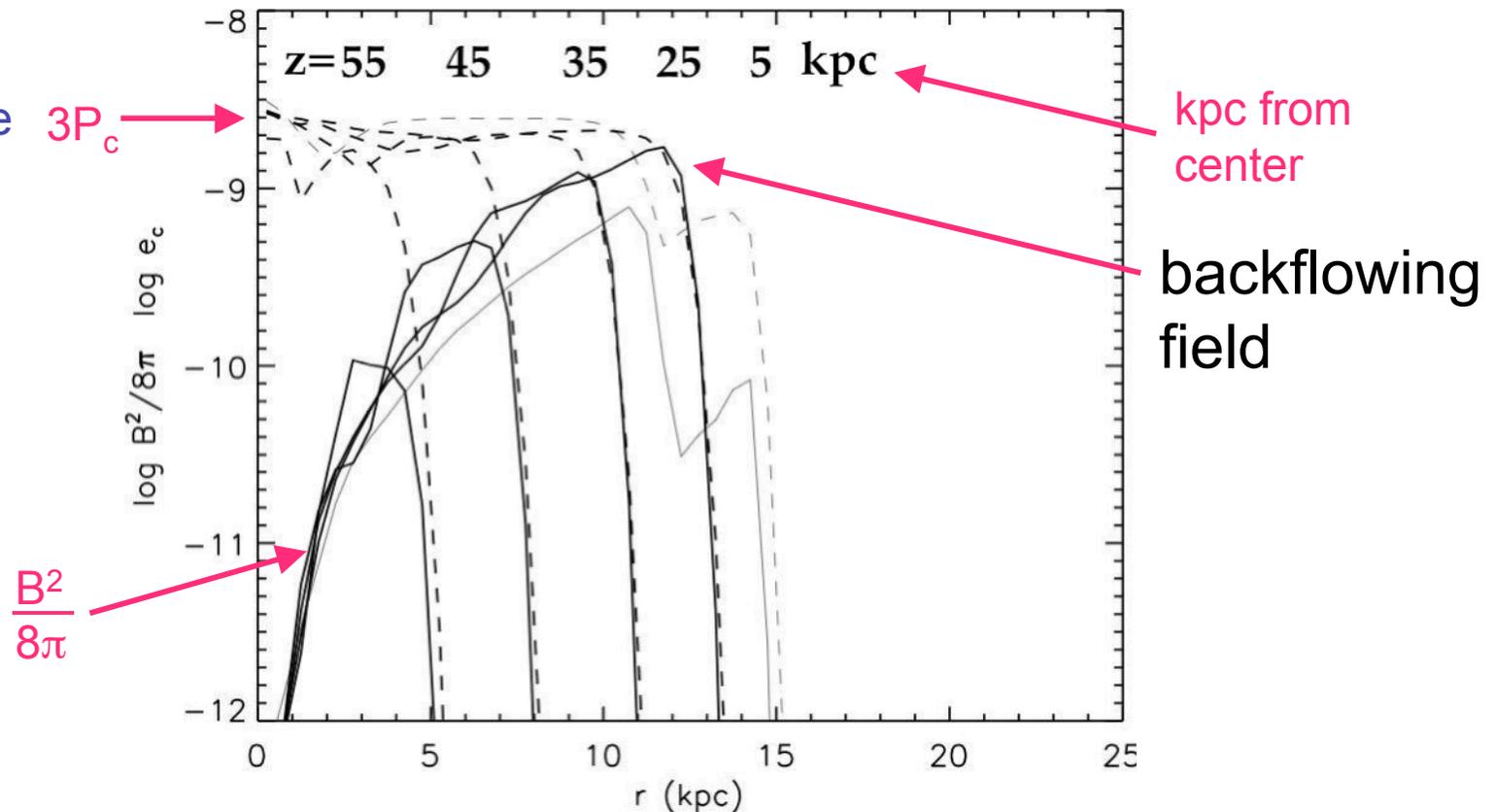
radio emission from active FR II radio lobes  
along boundary backflow is very limb-brightened

similar to  $\gamma$ -ray IC emission in the Fermi bubbles

for first time: can connect observed  $B_{hs}$  and  $B_{backflow}$

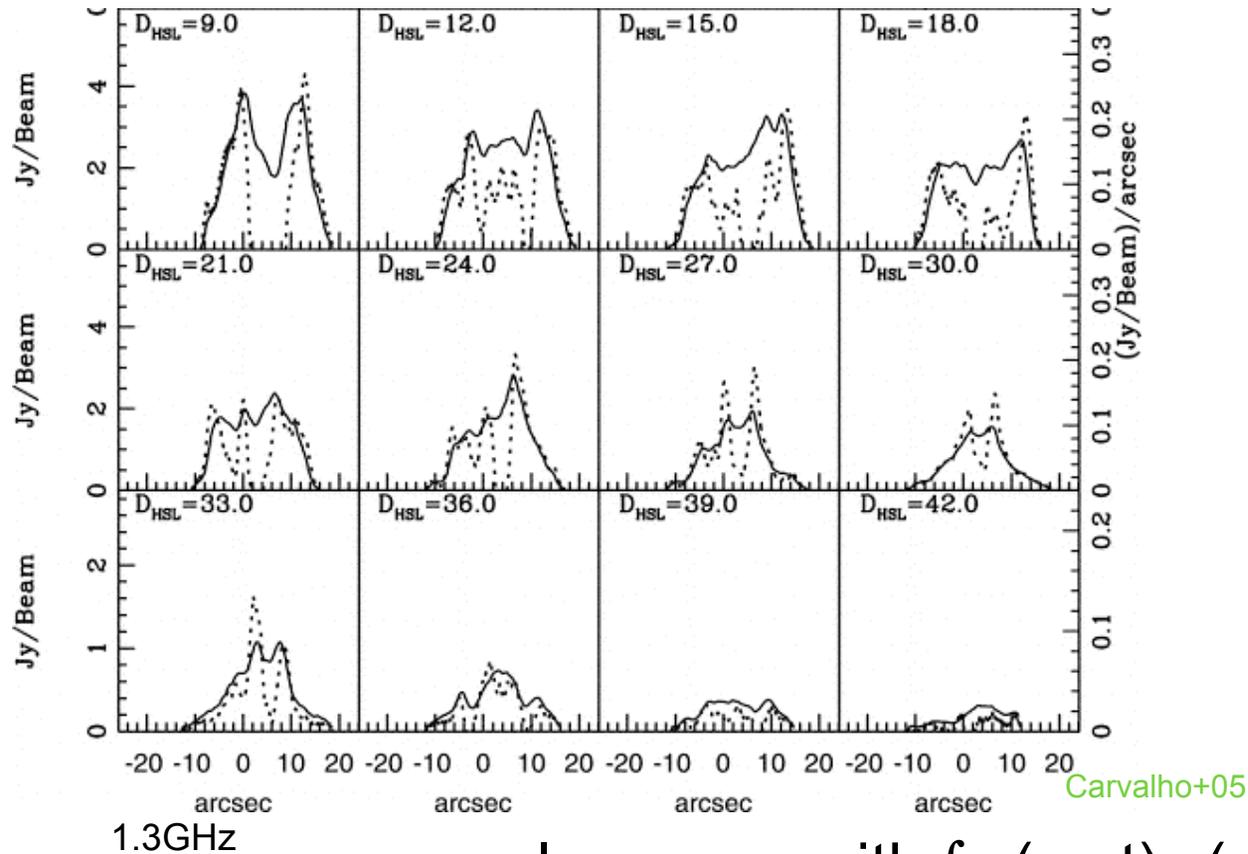
a toroidal field increases in decelerating flow  $u_z \perp B$

radio lobe  
CR pressure  
is nearly  
uniform



backflowing toroidal magnetic field is  $\sim 20X$  too large and  
the computed radio emissivity  $e_c u_B$  increases along  
decelerating boundary backflow

but observed radio emissivity  $e_c u_B$  in Cygnus A decreases along boundary backflow



possible solutions:

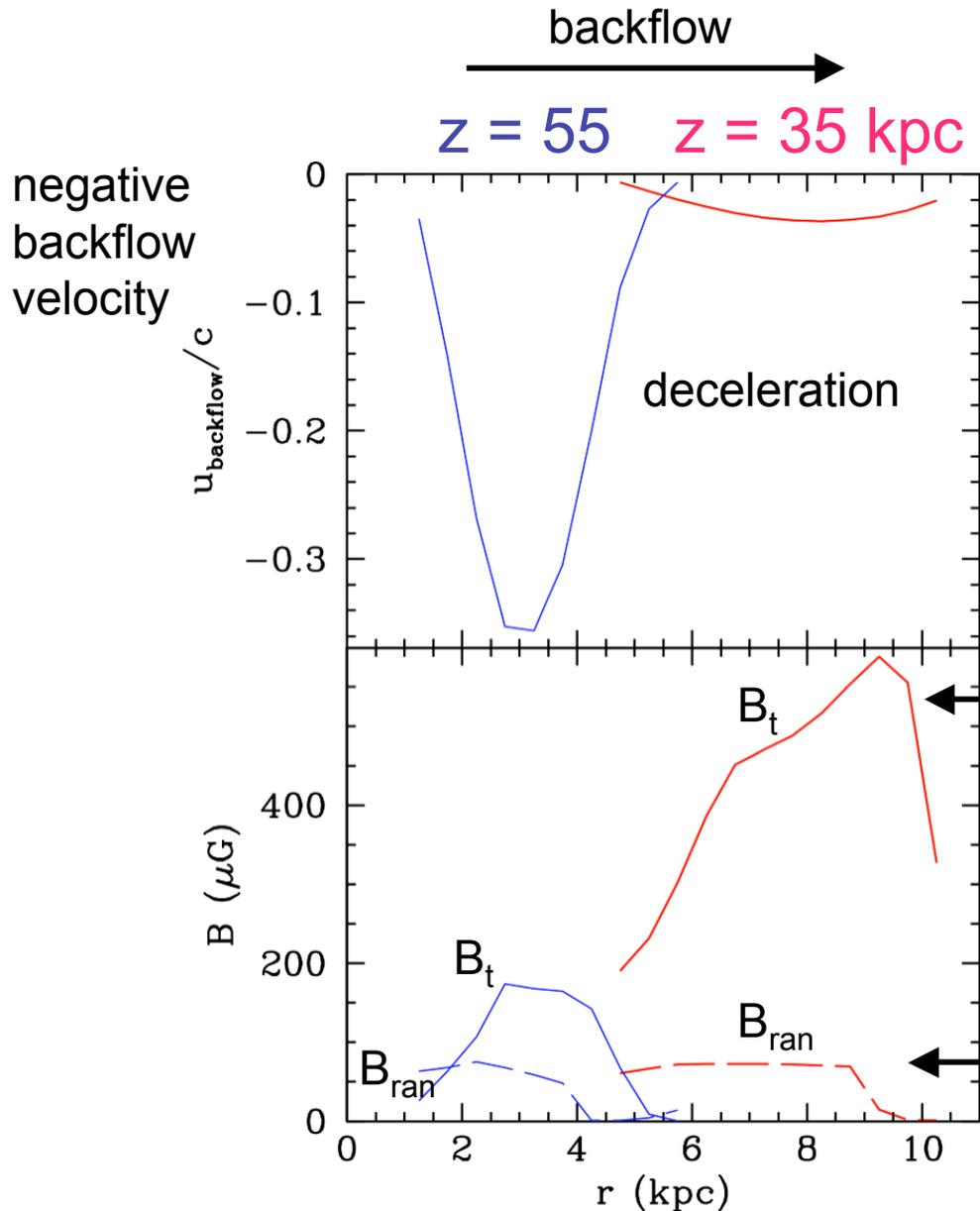
- replace  $e_c u_B$  with  $\int n(\gamma, \mathbf{r}, t) \varepsilon(\gamma, u_B) d\gamma$
- include CRe diffusion
- B(t) from hotspot may decay?
- B field may be disordered

if B field is randomized along the backflow:

$$B_{\text{ran}} = B_{\text{hs}} (\rho / \rho_{\text{hs}})^{2/3}$$

(flux-conserving)

$\rho_{\text{hs}}(t)$  is known  
at retarded time



frozen-in toroidal field becomes much too large

assume  $B_{\text{hs}} = 200 \mu\text{G}$   
for both fields (too large?)

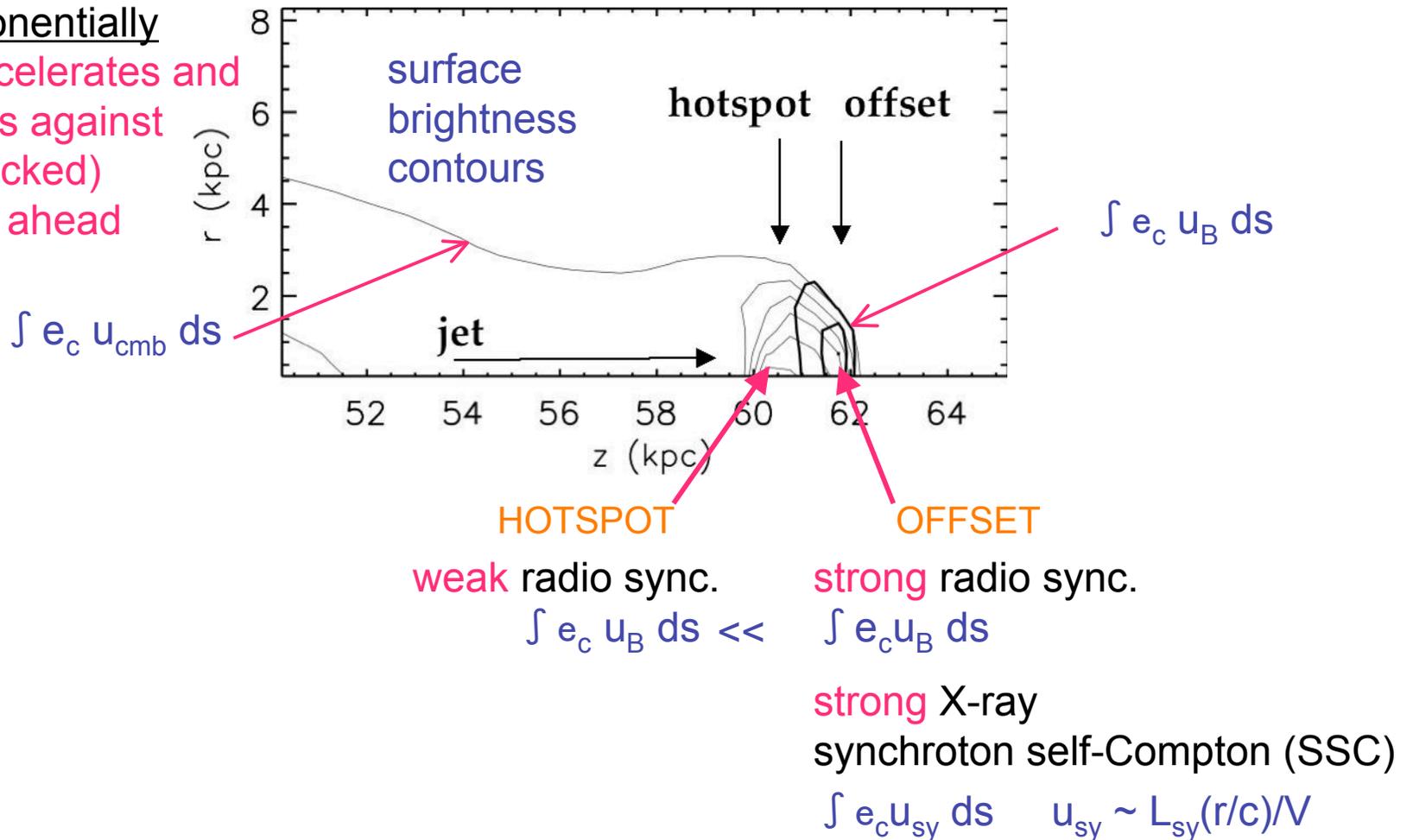
a random  $\sim 70 \mu\text{G}$  field may be consistent with observed hs and lobe fields

## non-thermal radio and X-ray emission near hotspot

B in hotspot wind

grows exponentially

as wind decelerates and  
compresses against  
dense (shocked)  
cluster gas ahead



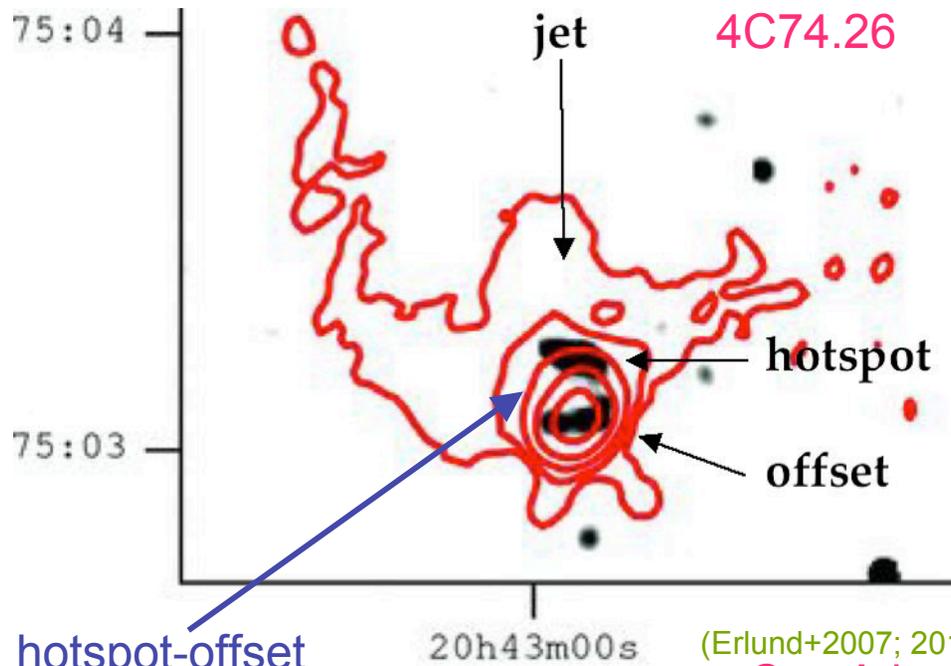
the brightest radio & X-ray emission is

not from the hotspot

but from the arc-shaped **offset** compression  $\sim 1.5$  kpc ahead

# compare the incredibly powerful FR II hotspot in 4C74.26

500 kpc from its cluster center can observe both hotspot and offset



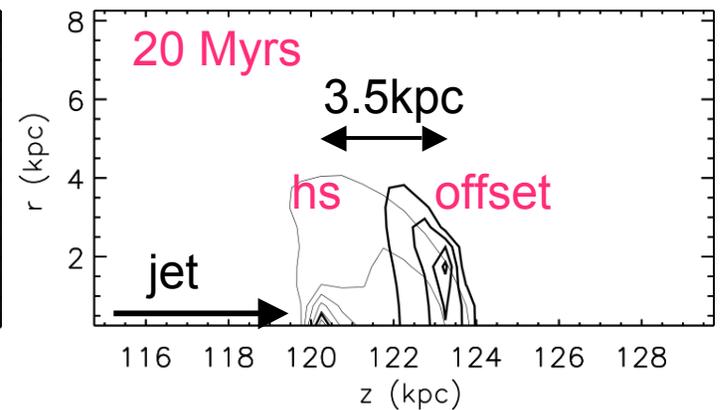
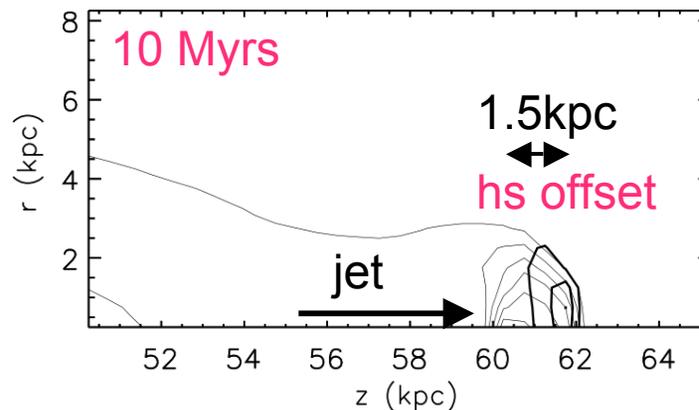
Red contours: radio observations 1.4GHz  
 Grey scale: X-ray image

X-ray sync. emission from hotspot?

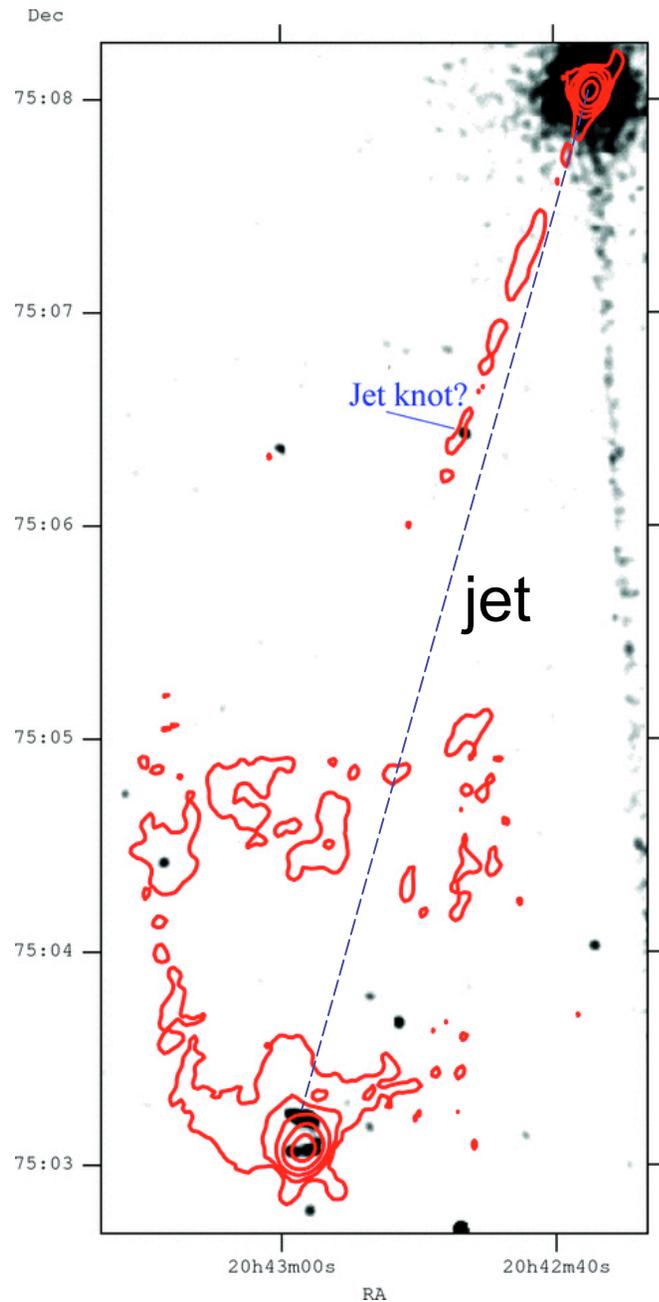
radio sync. & X-ray SSC  
 from arc-shaped offset

hotspot-offset  
 is 19 kpc!

Cyg A hs-offset increases as cluster  $\rho$  decreases:



hotspot elongated  
perpendicular  
to jet



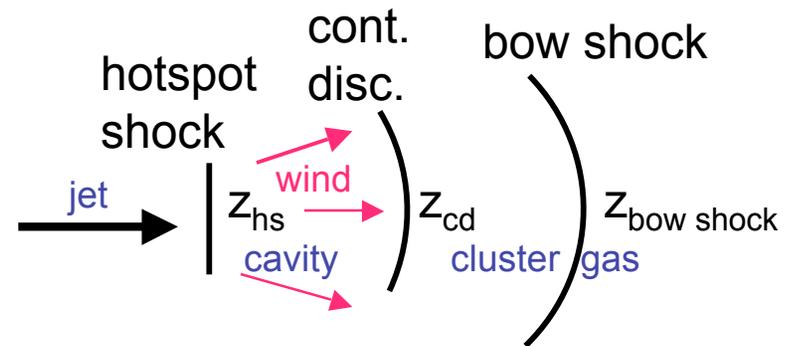
tilted offset X-ray  
and radio emission  
indicates inclination  
of local cavity wall

# subsonic communication determines hotspot-offset distance

consider 1D flow along jet direction

Mach number in frame of cavity-cluster contact discontinuity  $u_z(z_{cd})$

$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{u_z(z) - u_z(z_{cd})}{c_s} < 1$$



is **subsonic** between the hotspot shock and cluster gas bow shock.

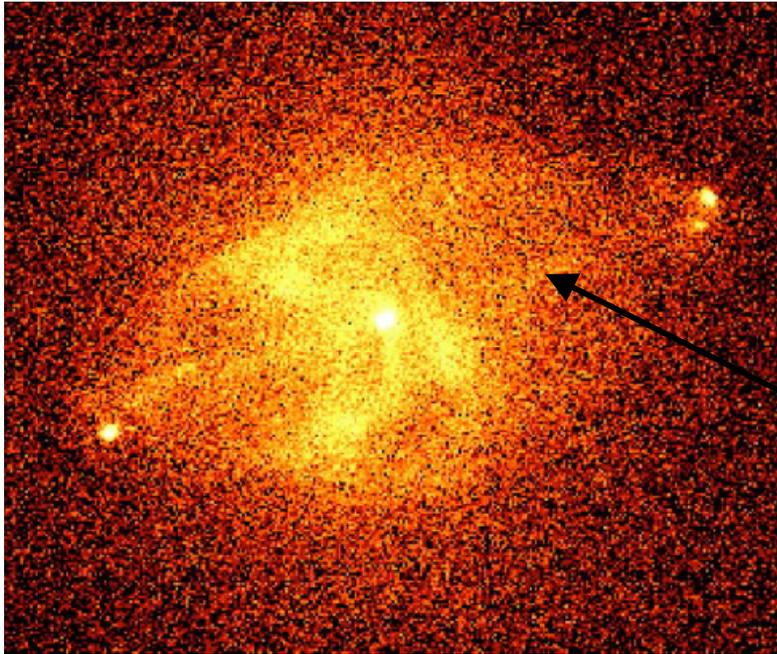
in our calculation the hotspot is required to move at constant velocity, but

- **in reality** the hotspot shock can **back off** from the cavity boundary until the recoil momentum of the hotspot wind balances the jet momentum

# Possible explanation of multiple hotspots (common in FRIIs)

## multiple hotspots:

jets must relocate abruptly in  $\sim 10^5$  yrs  
jet fragments still activate visible hotspots



thermal X-ray filaments lie exactly  
along the same symmetry axis  
as the non-thermal jet

low-momentum jets may be deflected  
by scattering off density inhomogeneities  
in the thermal filaments



## some conclusions of hotspot-driven FR II evolution:

- KH instabilities inside the radio lobe must be damped  
to reproduce smooth radial variation of radio electron ages  
viscous damping more likely than magnetic damping?
- radio synchrotron emission occurs in a narrow boundary backflow.  
sync. emission in active radio lobes is hollow – as observed
- the bright radio-X-ray “hotspots” in Cygnus A  
are offset ahead of the true post-shock hotspot  
brightest radio sync. and X-ray SSC emission  
comes from compression of the hotspot wind
- the observed hotspot magnetic field, if toroidal,  
evolves into lobe fields much larger than observed  
lobe B may be random -- replace  $e_c u_B$  with  $\int n(\gamma, \mathbf{r}, t) \varepsilon(\gamma, u_B) d\gamma$  --  
include CRe diffusion -- B(t) from hotspot may decay
- computed flow is subsonic between jet shock and cluster bow shock,  
allowing the hotspot-offset distance to adjust to the jet momentum
- multiple hotspots commonly observed in FR II sources  
may result from occasional deflections of low momentum jets  
by thermal filaments that also lie along the jet axis