

# Relativistic Jets at the Braking Point

A composite image of a galaxy with a prominent red jet and a blue core, set against a starry background. The jet is a bright, reddish-orange structure extending from the core towards the upper right. The core is a bright blue point source. The background is filled with numerous blue and white stars of varying sizes and colors.

Physical Properties of FR1 Jets  
from the VLA and Chandra

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# Colleagues

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Bill Cotton (NRAO)

X-ray imaging:

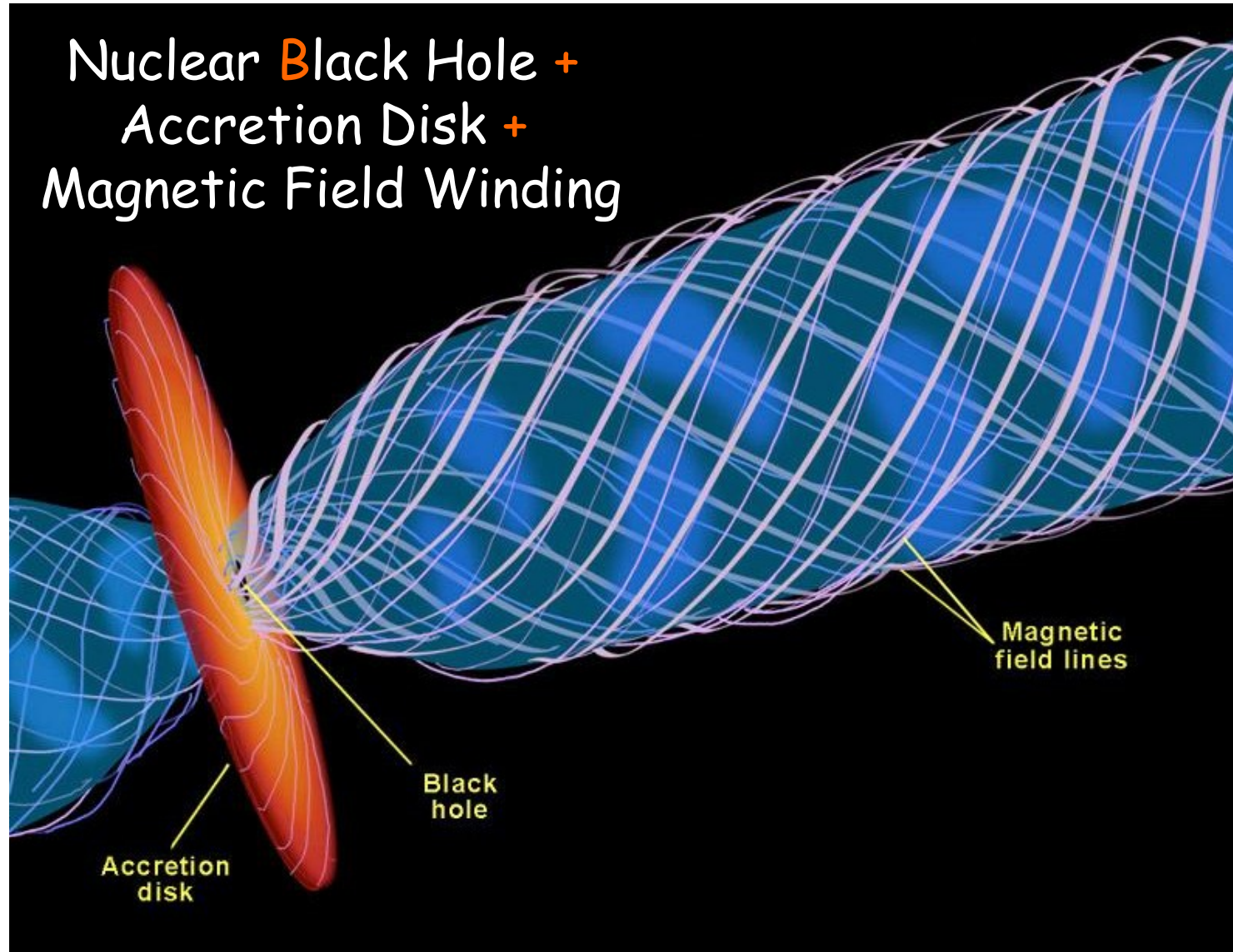
Judith Croston (U.Herts)  
Martin Hardcastle (U.Herts)  
Mark Birkinshaw (Bristol)  
Diana Worrall (Bristol)

# Outline

- FR1 and FR2 jets - the questions
- Why decelerating-jet models for FR1 jets?
- FR1 jet kinematics
- FR1 jet field configurations
- FR1 jet mass fluxes and entrainment
- Adiabats and particle acceleration
- Implications for FR2 jets
  
- What next?

# AGN Jet Engine: B++

Nuclear **B** Black Hole +  
Accretion Disk +  
Magnetic Field Winding



# Fanaroff/Riley Types

- Original distinction: radio morphology

source **edge-darkened** (Type 1)

VS

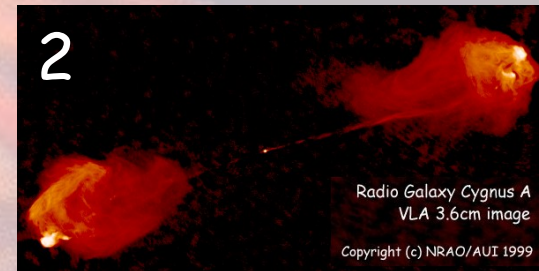
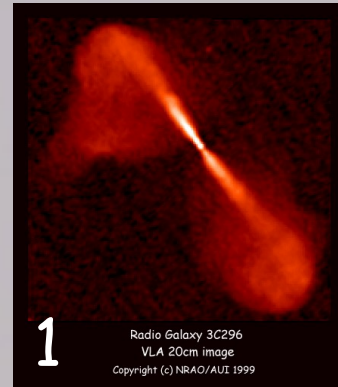
source **edge-brightened** (Type 2)

Fanaroff and Riley, MNRAS 167, 31P (1974)

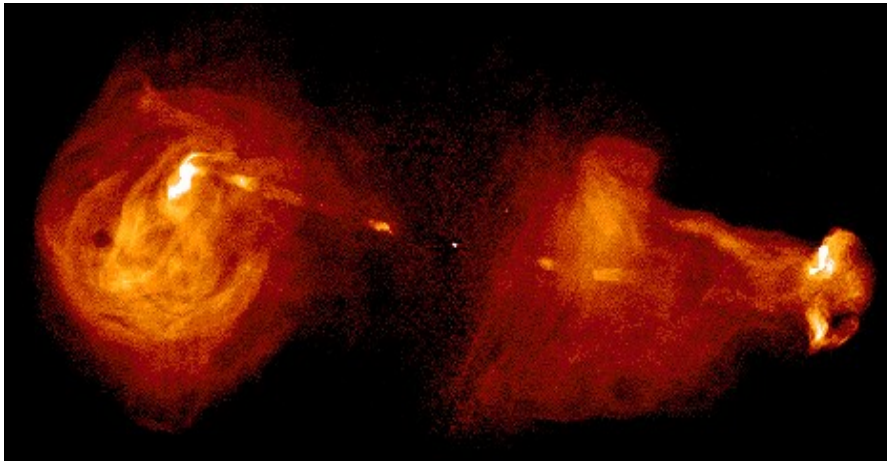
- Correlation with **radio power**
- Later: types correlate with two radio jet "flavors":

collimation	(1:wide, 2:narrow),
symmetry	(1: more symmetric),
prominence	(1: more prominent),
apparent B field	(1: parallel → perp, 2: parallel to jet axis)

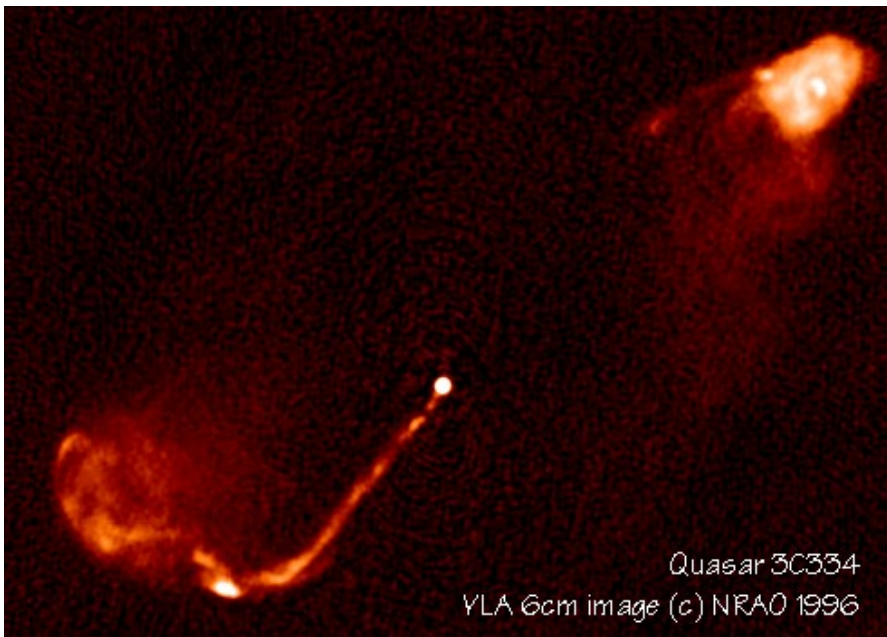
Bridle, AJ 89, 979 (1984)



# Strong Flavor Jets (FR2) → LOBES



Narrow jets in powerful sources propagate **supersonically** to “hot spot” working surfaces where they decelerate and deflect, forming large “lobes” and “cocoon”



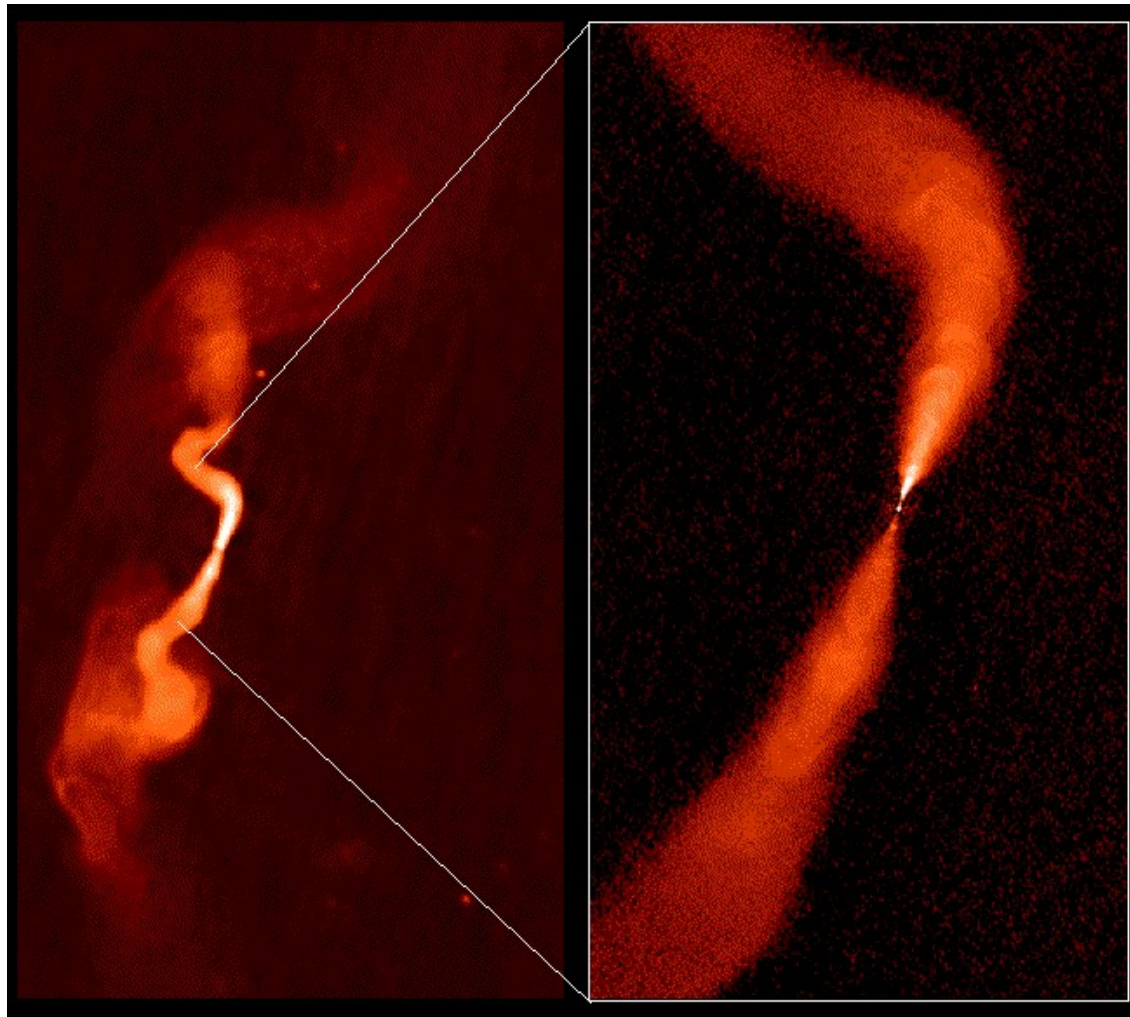
“One-sided” jets but **two-sided lobes** → FR2 jets stay at least **mildly relativistic** until final deceleration?

# Weak Flavor Jets (FR1) → PLUMES

initially “one-sided” jets symmetrize

300 kpc field, 1.9 kpc FWHM

40 kpc field, 85 pc FWHM

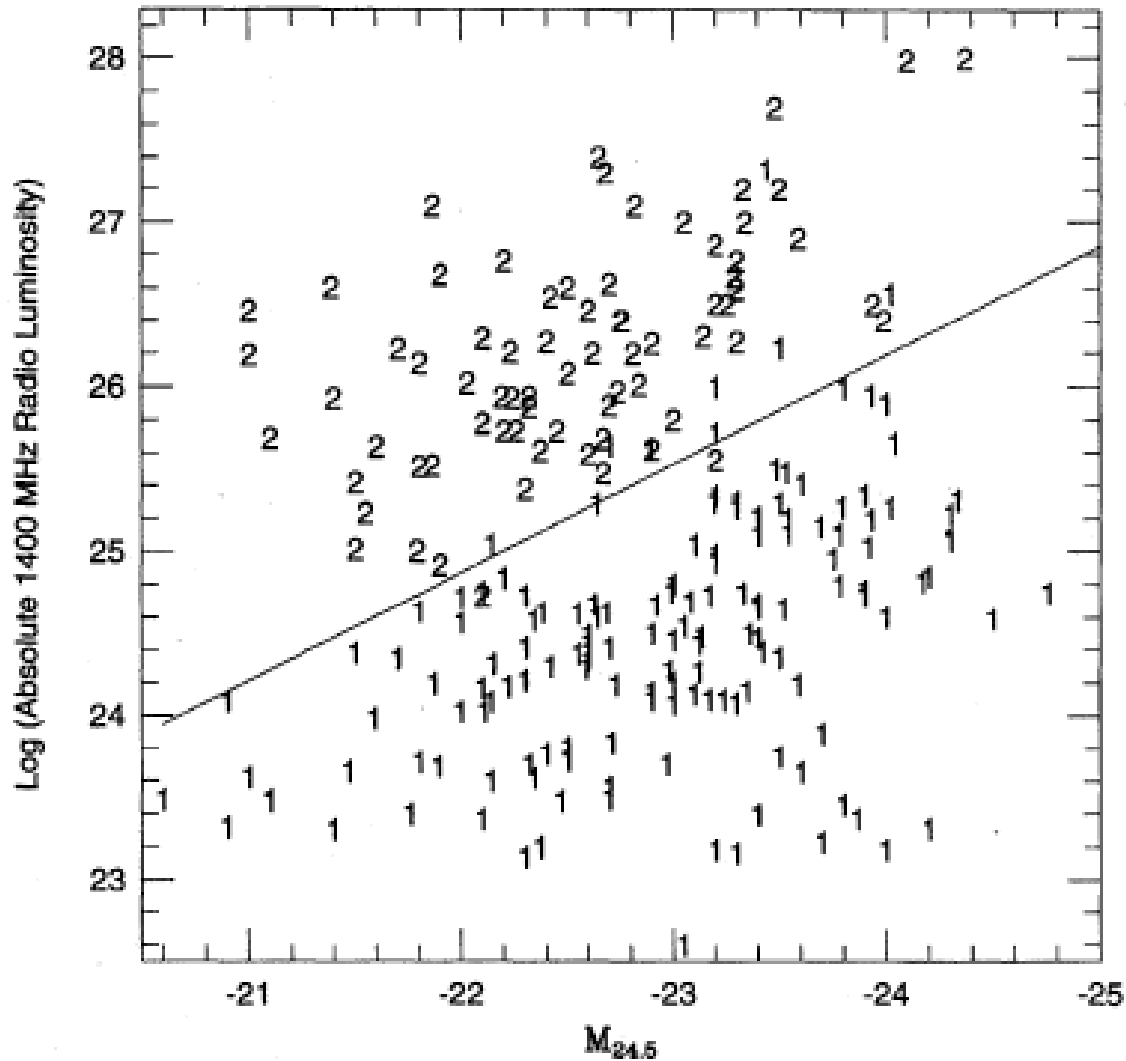


**3C31**  
**1.4**  
**GHz**

**3C31**  
**8.4**  
**GHz**

# FR1/2 division: power+environment

1.4 GHz  
power



Ledlow &  
Owen (1996)

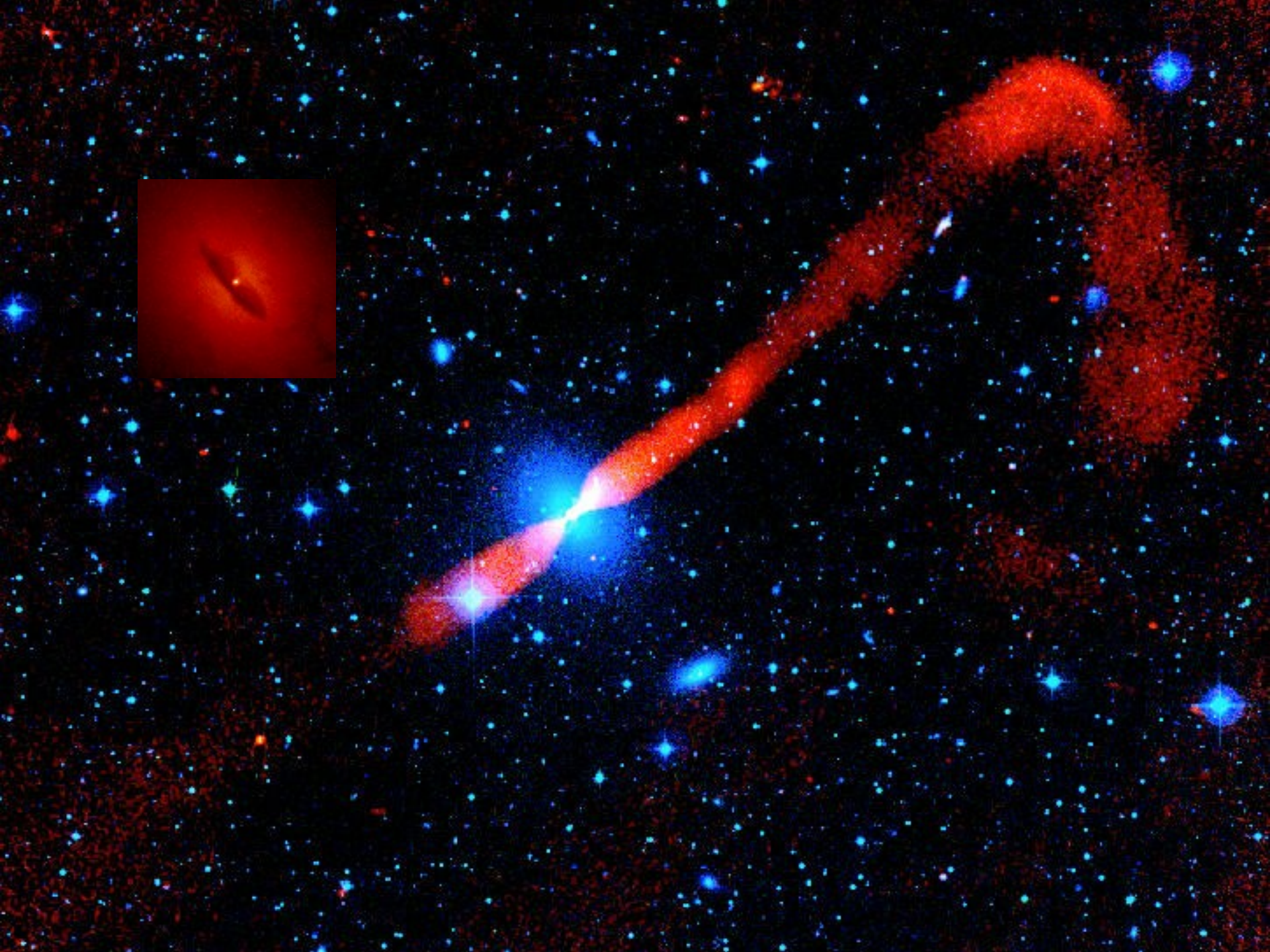
Optical luminosity (mass) of host galaxy



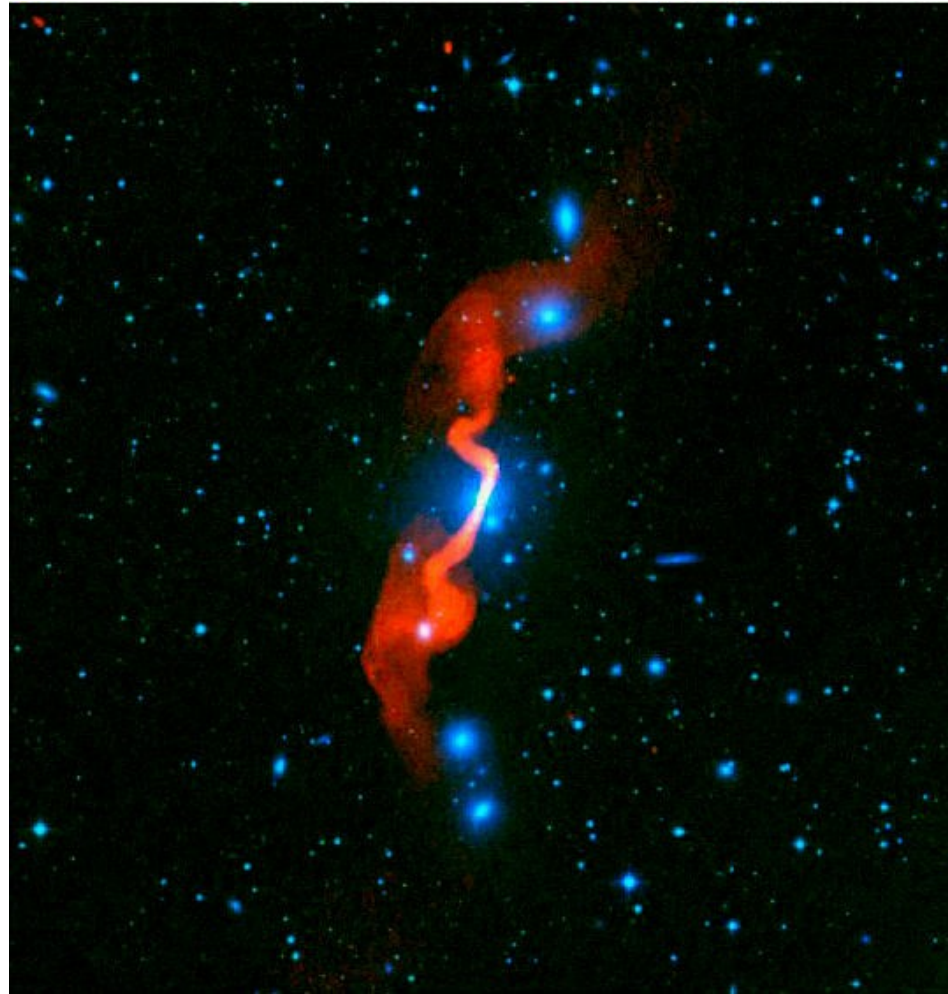
# FR1 example: NGC315



WSRT 50cm image - one  
degree field

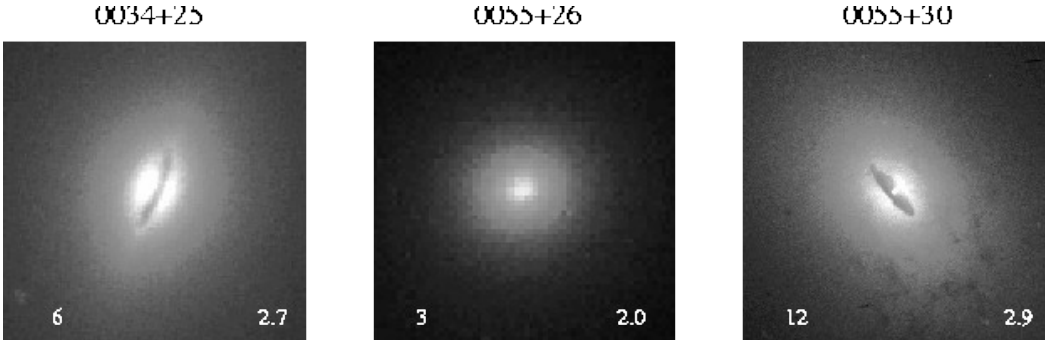


# FR1 example 3C31=NGC383



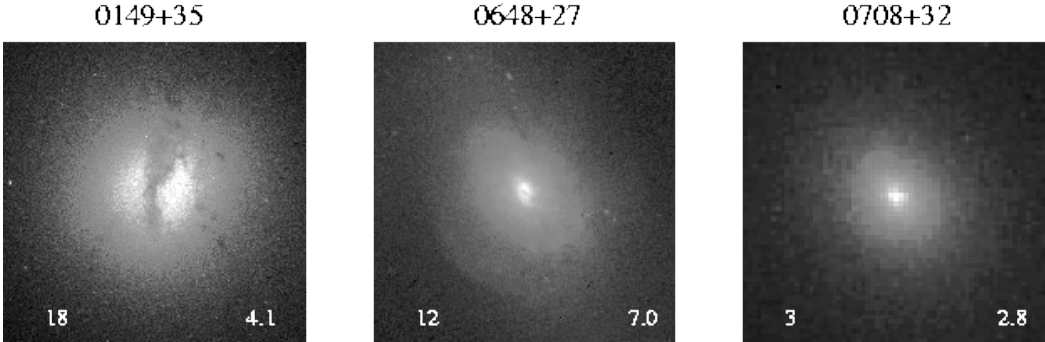
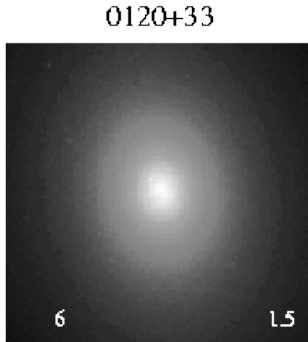
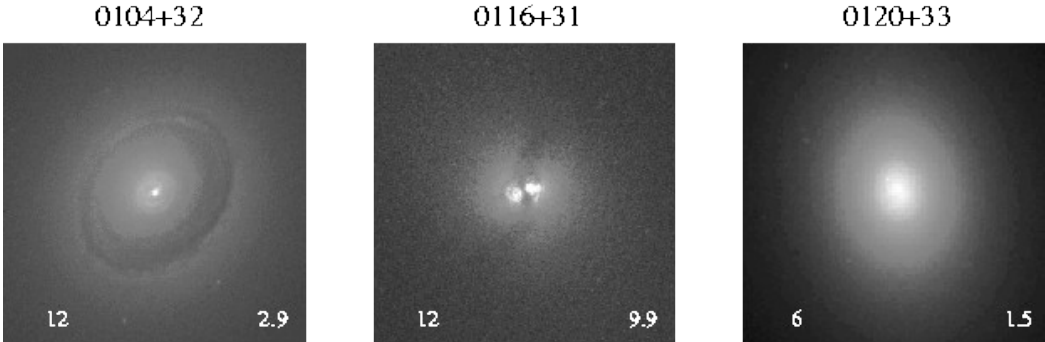
Red: VLA radio image  
Blue: Optical image

# Kpc-scale dust is common in nearby radio galaxies



←NGC 315

3C 31 =  
NGC383  
→



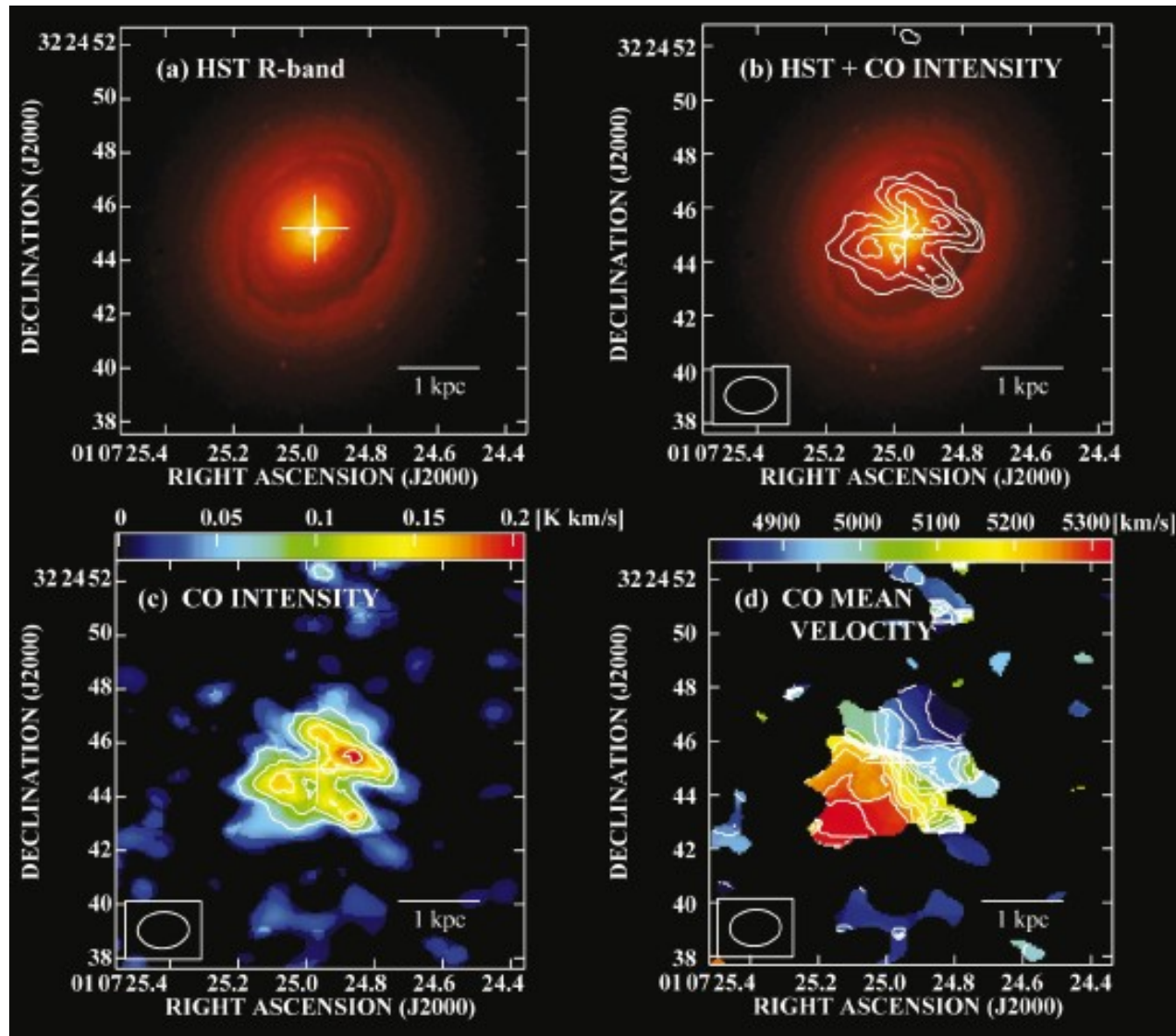
HST/WFPC2  
imaging

Capetti  
et al., A&A  
362, 871 (2000)

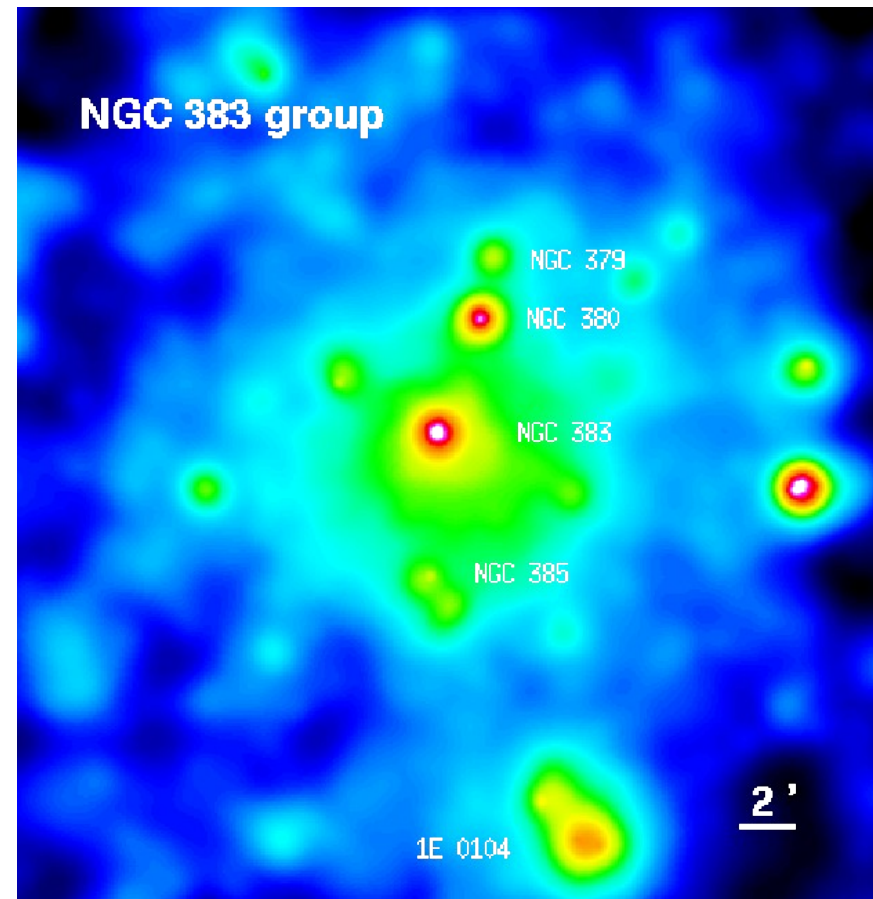
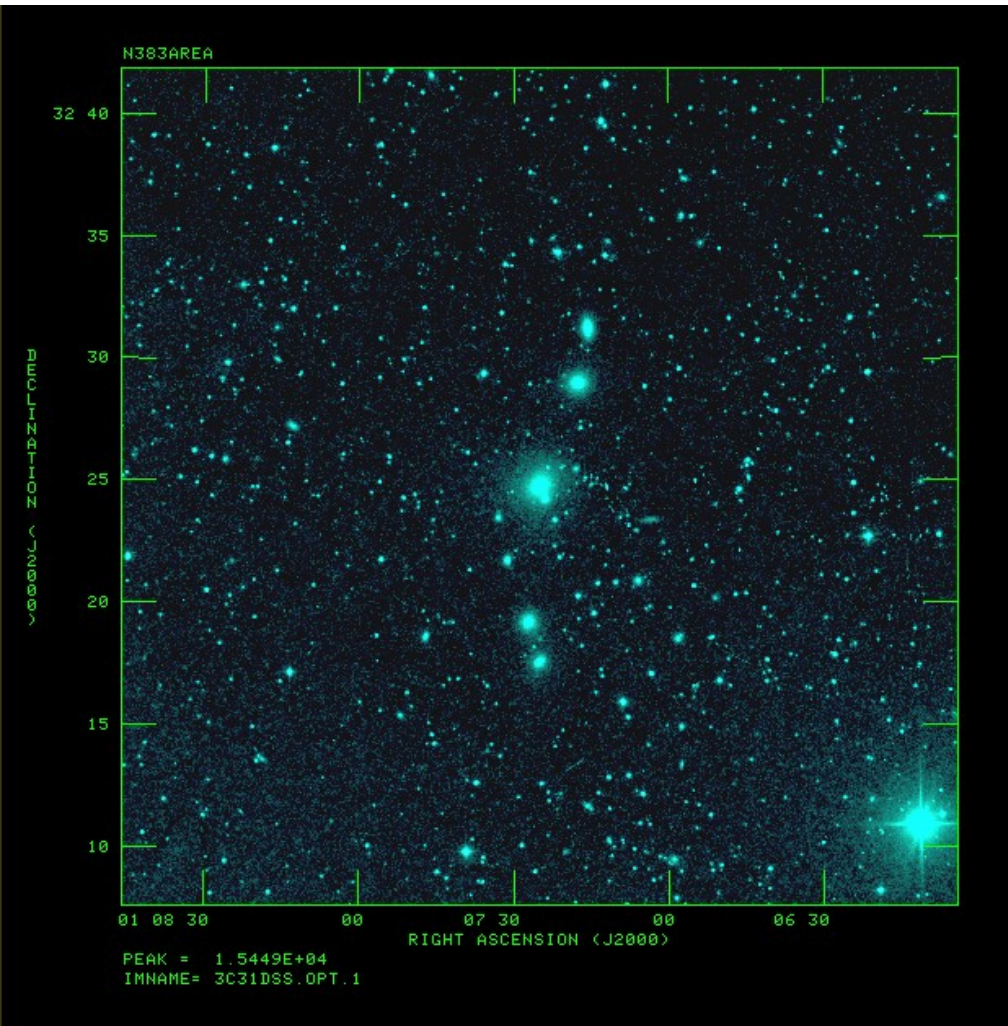
# NGC3833 Dust/CO

- major axis of dust "disk" about 2.5 kpc
- CO emission  $\rightarrow$   $\sim 10^9$  solar masses of molecular gas within 1 kpc

[Okuda et al. ApJ 620, 673, 2005]



# NGC383 Group-Scale Gas $1.7 \times 10^7$ K atmosphere



ROSAT PSPC image  
Komossa and Bohringer A&A, 344, 755 (1999)

# FR1 jets relativistic on pc scales ...

- Direct detection of superluminal motion in some FR1 sources (VLBI)
- Relativistic potential well → expect bulk-relativistic outflow
- Unified models → parent population of BL Lac objects (intrinsically low-power blazars) with multiple bulk-relativistic jet signatures:
  - High brightness temperatures
  - Rapid variability
  - Variable  $\gamma$ -ray emission

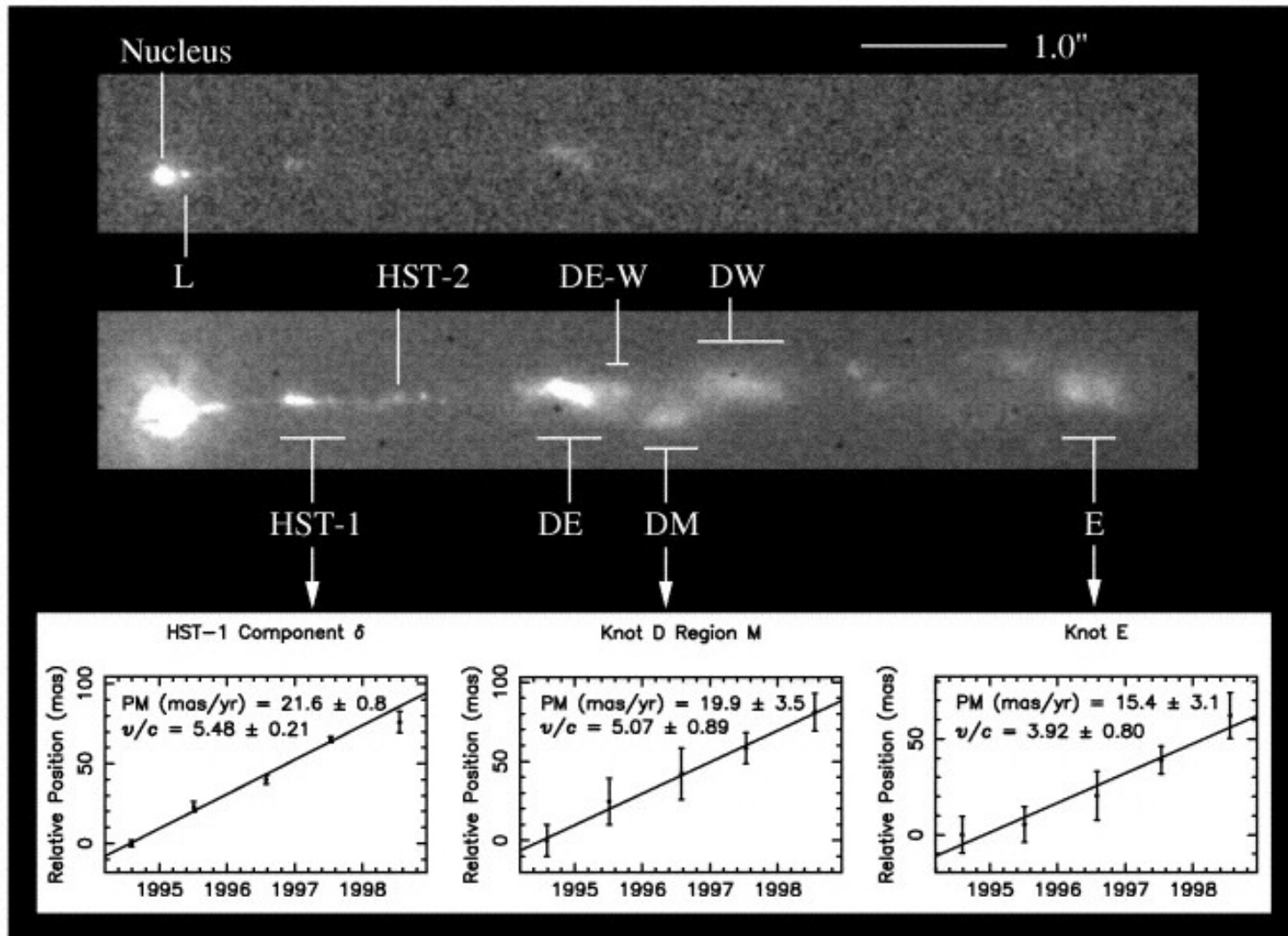
## ... and remain fast on 1-kpc scales

- Proper motions in nearby galaxies:  
superluminal (M87);  $0.5c$  (Cen A)
- Kpc-scale jet sidedness correlates with other indicators of bulk relativistic motion:
  - With fractional flux density in flat-spectrum radio "core"
  - With Faraday RM/depolarization asymmetry, apparently brighter jet base is on nearer (less rotated/depolarized) side of source if asymmetry large

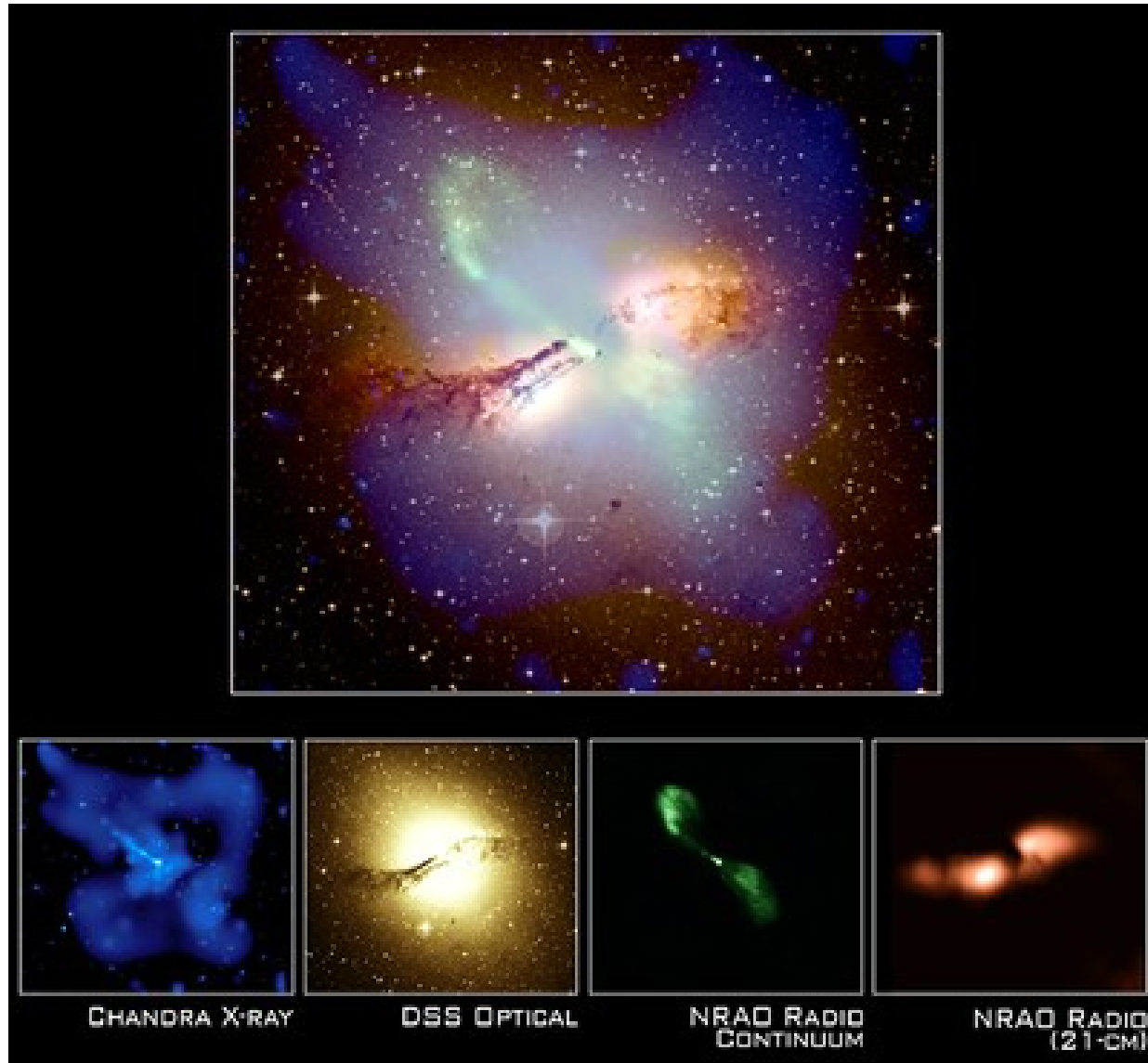


# Superluminal motion on kpc scale

M87 (Biretta, Zhou & Owen 1995)



# Cen A - nearest radio galaxy



# Cen A - proper motions on 100-pc scale

Knot motions at up to  $0.5c$  between 1991 and 2002

VLA 8.4 GHz, Hardcastle et al. ApJ 593, 169 (2003)



# Velocity evolution in FR1/2 jets?

- Both types start "fast" on sub-kpc scales ...
- FR1 jets **decelerate** → slow, subsonic plumes FR2 jets **stay fast**, supersonic → hot spots
- Kinematics - where and how rapid is the deceleration?
- Dynamics - what and where are the **interactions** that decelerate FR1 jets?
- What can FR1 jet deceleration (braking) tell us about jet propagation within the host galaxy?

# Modeling FR1 jet deceleration

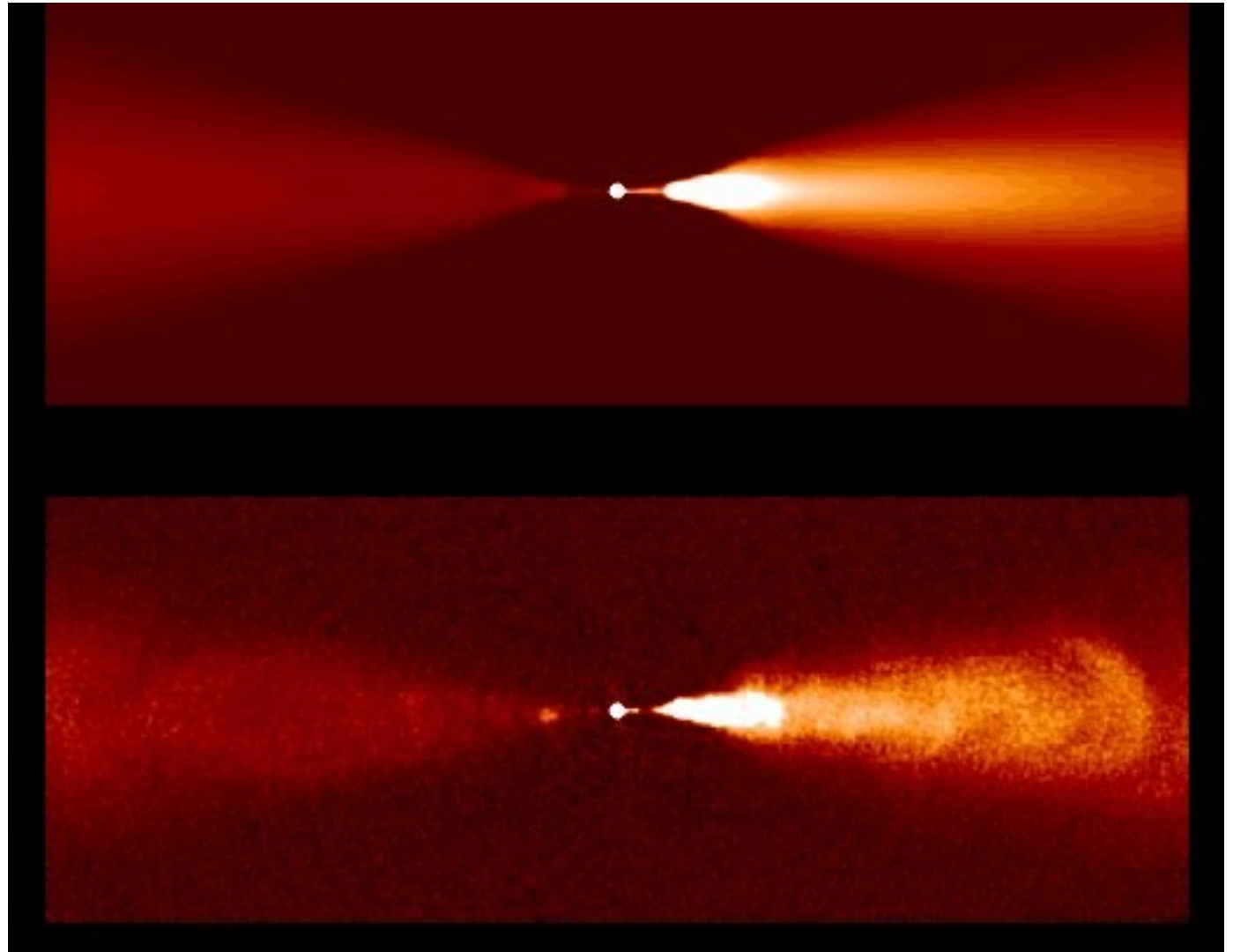
- Assume intrinsically **symmetrical, axisymmetric, decelerating relativistic flows** with specified B-fields.  
[How much of what we see in jet structures, symmetries, can be accounted for this way?]
- Derive best-fit functional forms for **3-D velocity, emissivity and B-field geometry**.  
[Fit "free models" to deep, high-resolution VLA images in total and linear polarized emission]
- Use **conservation of mass, momentum and energy** to infer variations of pressure, density, entrainment rate and Mach number in jets. [Get ambient gas density, pressure from X-ray data on galaxy, group atmospheres]
- Compare with **adiabatic models** to identify where jet emissivity variations require B-field amplification or relativistic particle injection/acceleration [compare with high-resolution images at short wavelengths.]

# Relativistic jet modeling - Stokes I

Predicted  
radio  
intensity  
from  
slowing  
relativistic  
twin-jet

Observed  
VLA data  
for 3C31

NB "free-fit"  
model, no jet  
physics!

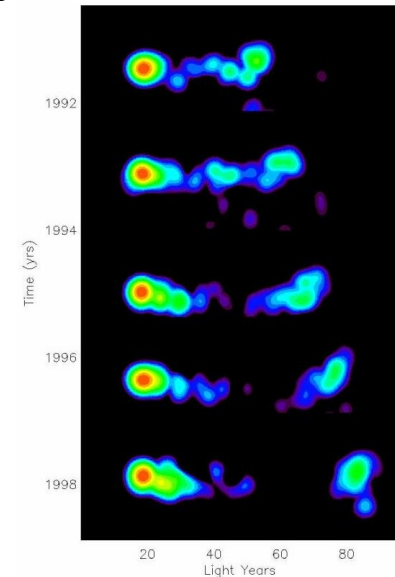


# Angle/velocity degeneracy

Intensity Asymmetry: 
$$\frac{I_j}{I_{cj}} = \left( \frac{1 + \beta \cos \theta}{1 - \beta \cos \theta} \right)^{2+\alpha}$$

VLB jets - we can use **superluminal motions** to solve for **velocity** and **angle** for given I asymmetry, assuming relation between pattern and flow speed.

Cannot use on kpc scales, but there is another way!



## Relativistic Aberration

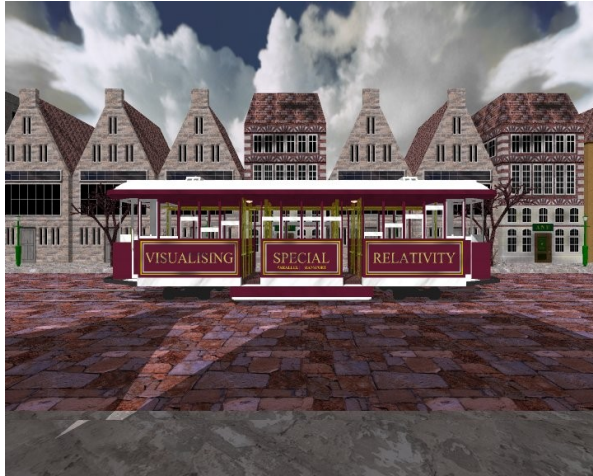
between jet rest frame (') and observed frame:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta'_j &= [\Gamma(1 - \beta \cos \theta)]^{-1} \sin \theta && \text{(main jet),} \\ \sin \theta'_{cj} &= [\Gamma(1 + \beta \cos \theta)]^{-1} \sin \theta && \text{(counter-jet).} \end{aligned}$$

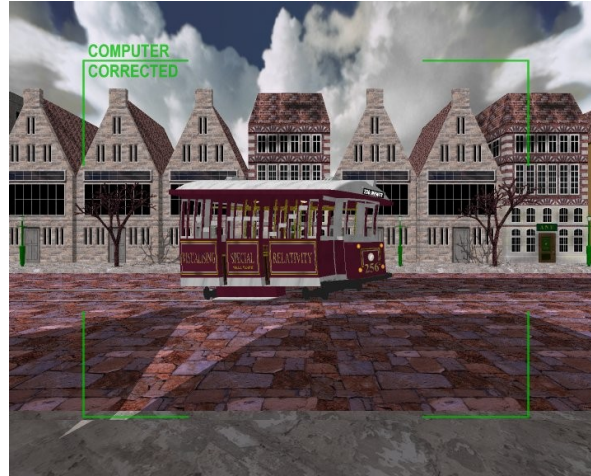
Aberration modifies **polarization** produced by **given B-field** in jets. Well-resolved polarimetry and B-field model can be used to **break degeneracy** by fitting jet/cjet asymmetries in Stokes Q and U.

Details of model fitting: Laing and Bridle, *MNRAS* **336**, 328 (2002)

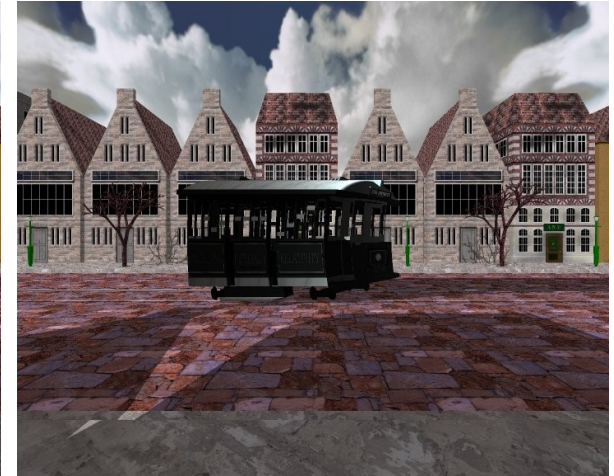
# Moving objects appear rotated



Static tram



Effects of aberration



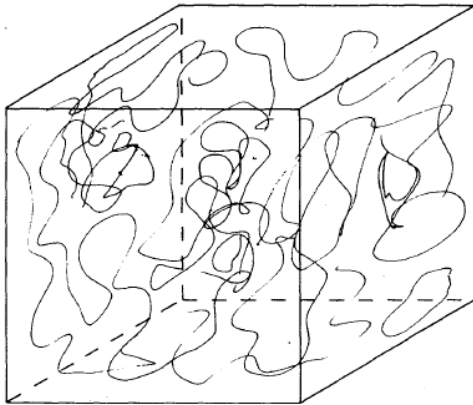
Aberration + Doppler

Rotation can be understood as an effect of relativistic aberration, or as a combination of Lorentz contraction and light-travel time (Terrell 1959; Penrose 1959)

“Visualising Special Relativity” (ANU Dept of Physics)  
velocity  $0.866c$



# Example - Synchrotron emission from a 2D random field sheet



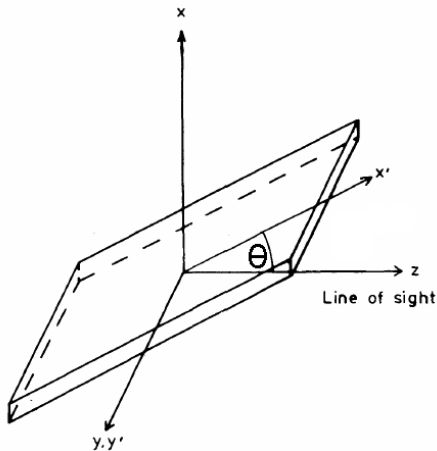
(a)

Before Compression



(b)

After Compression



→

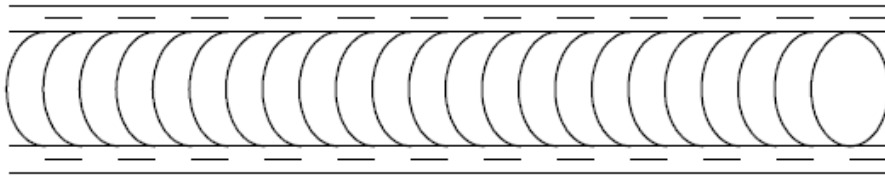
$$I = C(1 + \sin^2 \theta)$$

$$Q = \frac{3}{4} C \cos^2 \theta$$

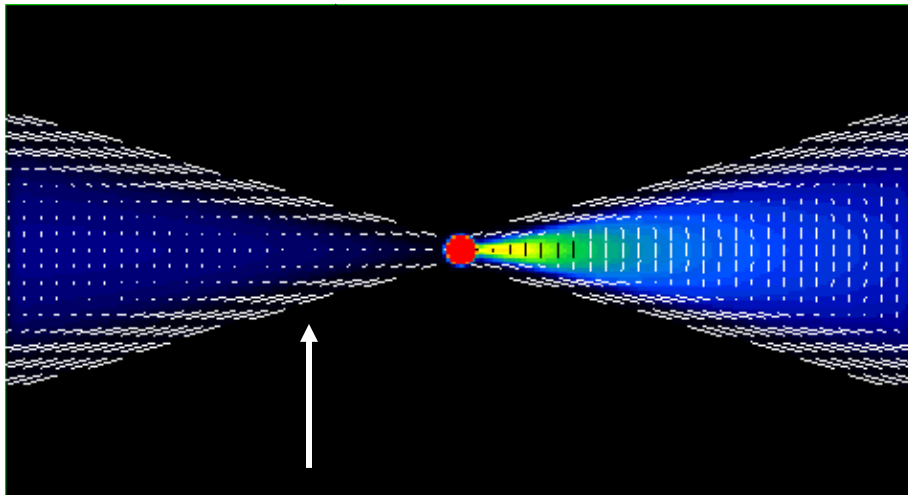
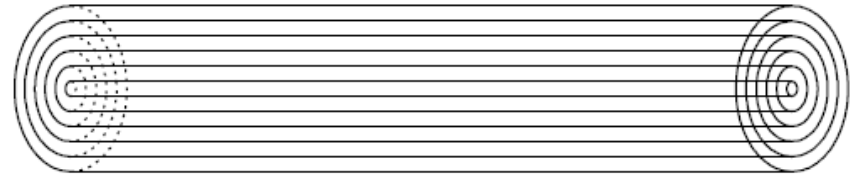
for sp.index 1

# Field Sheet Geometries and Jet Polarization Asymmetries

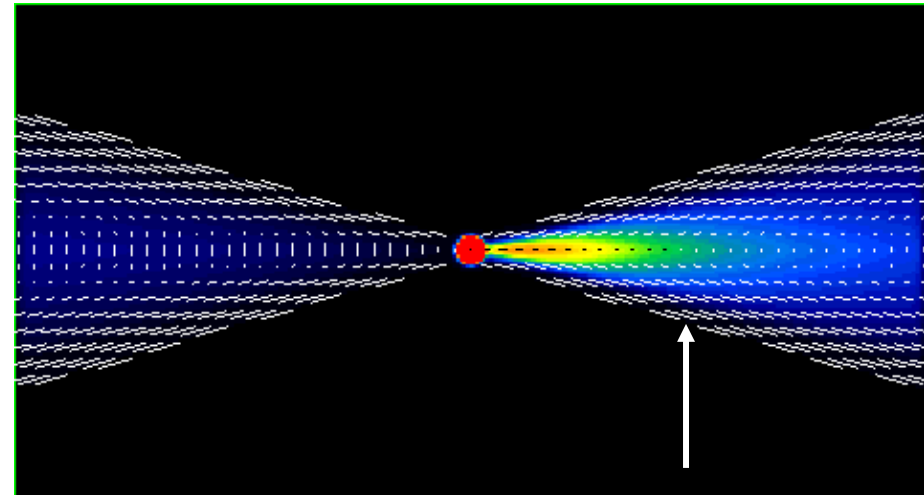
2D sheets perpendicular to jet axis  
+ longitudinal-field shear layer



2D field sheets wrapped around jet axis  
no radial, but toroidal + longitudinal cpts



Apparent field transition in counter jet  
**NOT observed**



Field transition in main jet  
**IS observed**

Model: decelerating relativistic jet with transverse velocity gradients

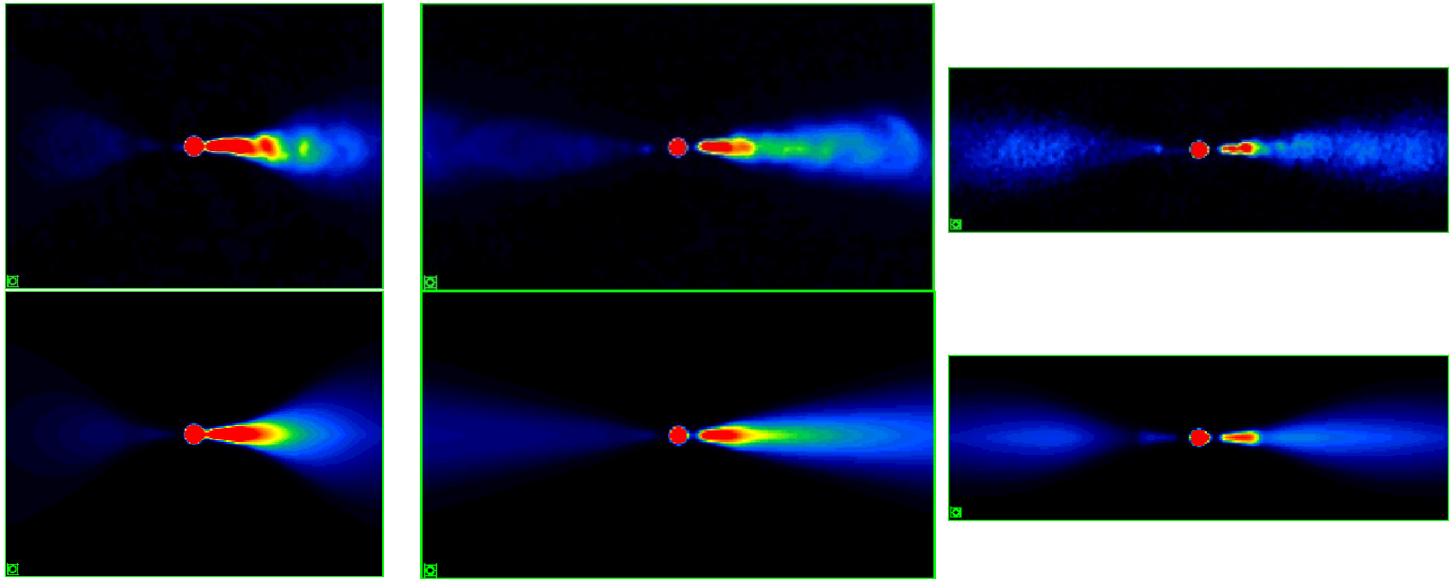
# What goes INTO our models

- Observed jet geometry (given, not dynamical)
- VLA Stokes I,Q,U imaging at 1000's of pixels/jet
- Initial guesses for functional forms of:
  - ▼ Intrinsic emissivity (free power law or adiabats)
  - ▼ Velocity fields (longitudinal and transverse)
  - ▼ B-field component probability densities (free/adiabats) resembling wrapped-sheet configuration, varied to get fit
- Line of sight integrator for Stokes I,Q,U with relativistic beaming/aberration in actual field geometries
- I,Q,U chi-squared minimizer around initial guesses

# What comes OUT of our models

- Best fits, error ranges for:
  1. Velocity field
  2. Inclination of jets to line of sight
  3. Magnetic field organization (orderliness)
  4. Emissivity variation along/across jets
- Goodness of fit measures
- Model images

# Total intensity fitting



$\theta$

38°

52°

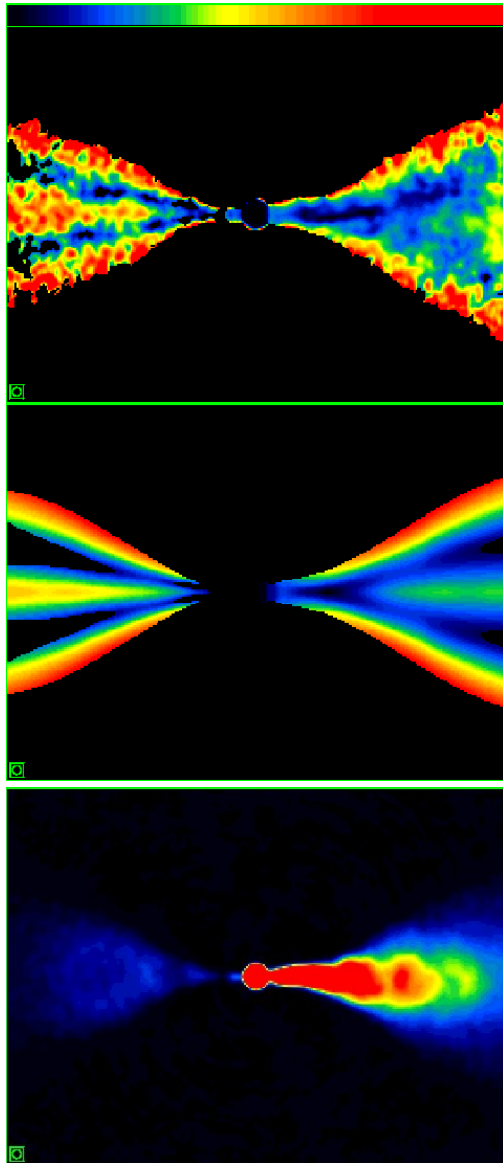
64°

NGC 315

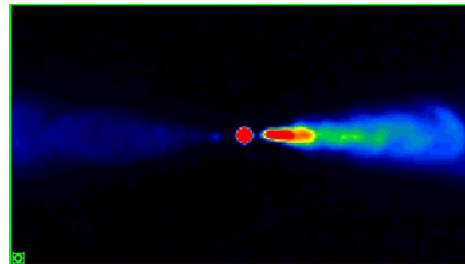
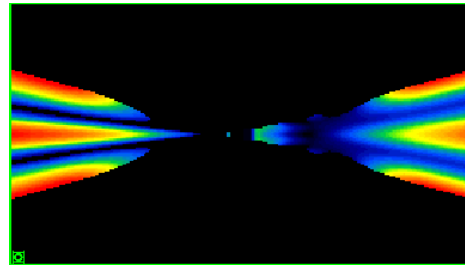
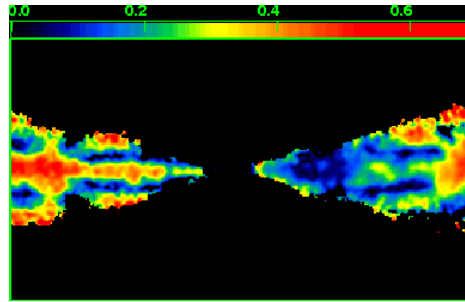
3C 31

B2 0326+39

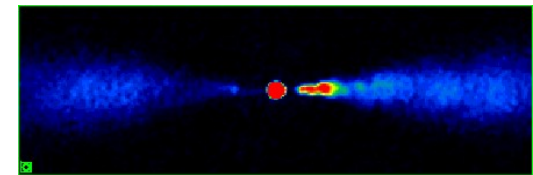
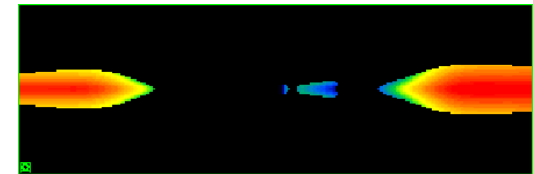
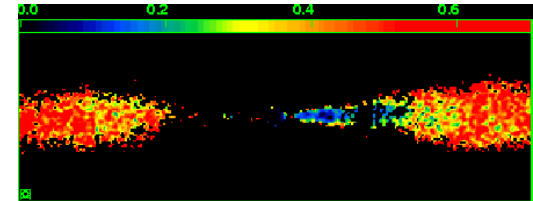
# % linear polarization



$\theta$  38° (NGC315)

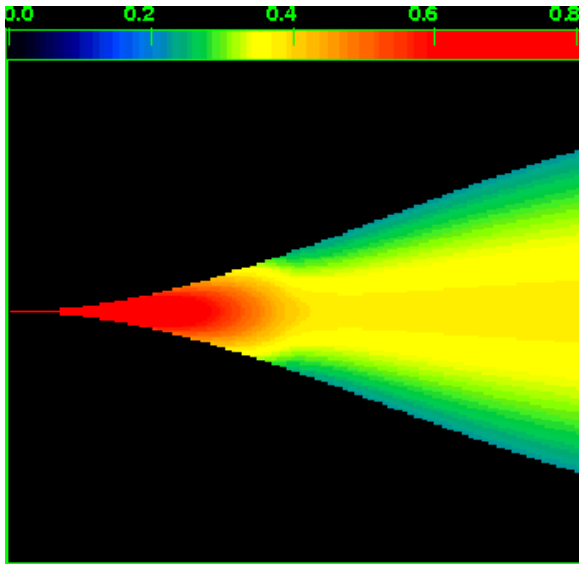


52° (3C31)



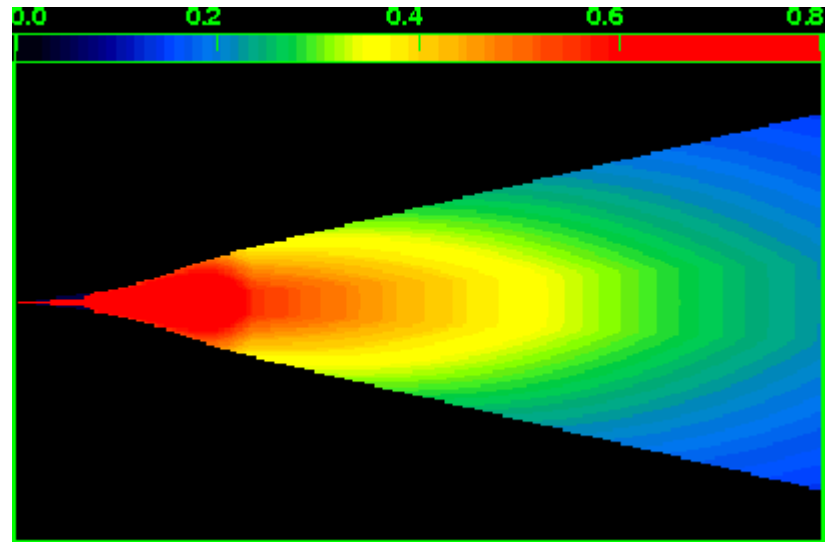
64° (B20326+39)

# Modeled FR1 jet velocity fields



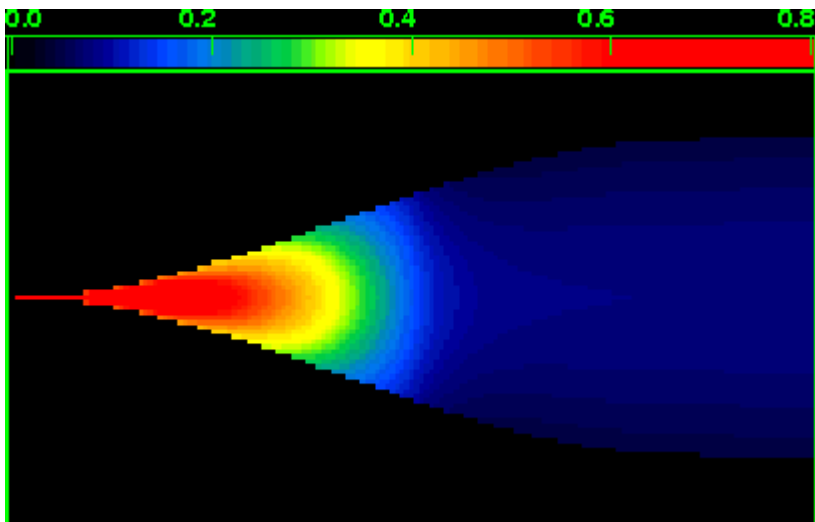
NGC 315

Canvin, Laing, Bridle & Cotton MNRAS **363**, 1223 (2005)



3C 31

Laing & Bridle, MNRAS **326**, 338 (2002)

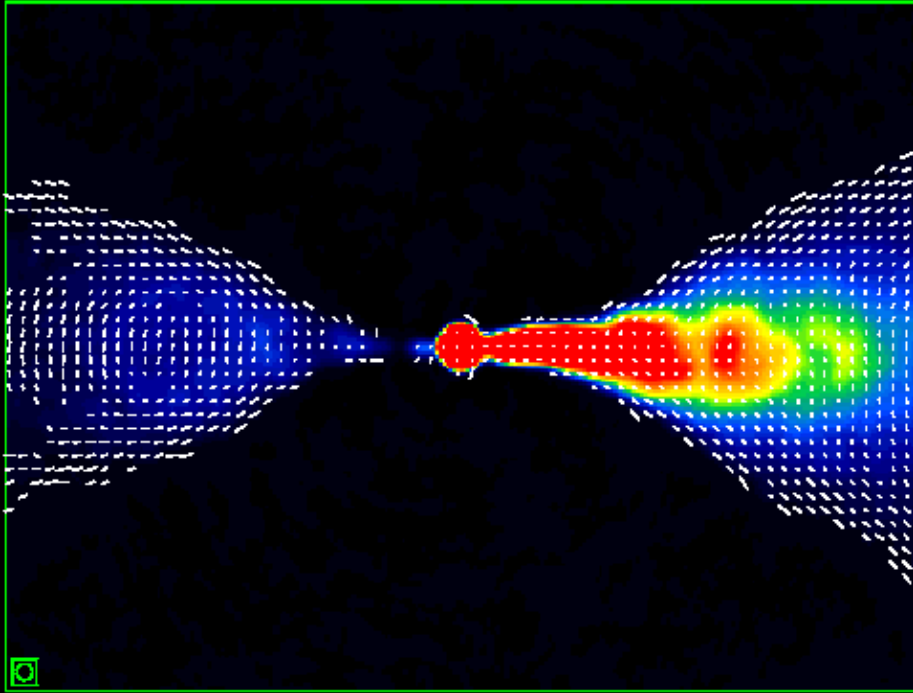


B2 0326+39

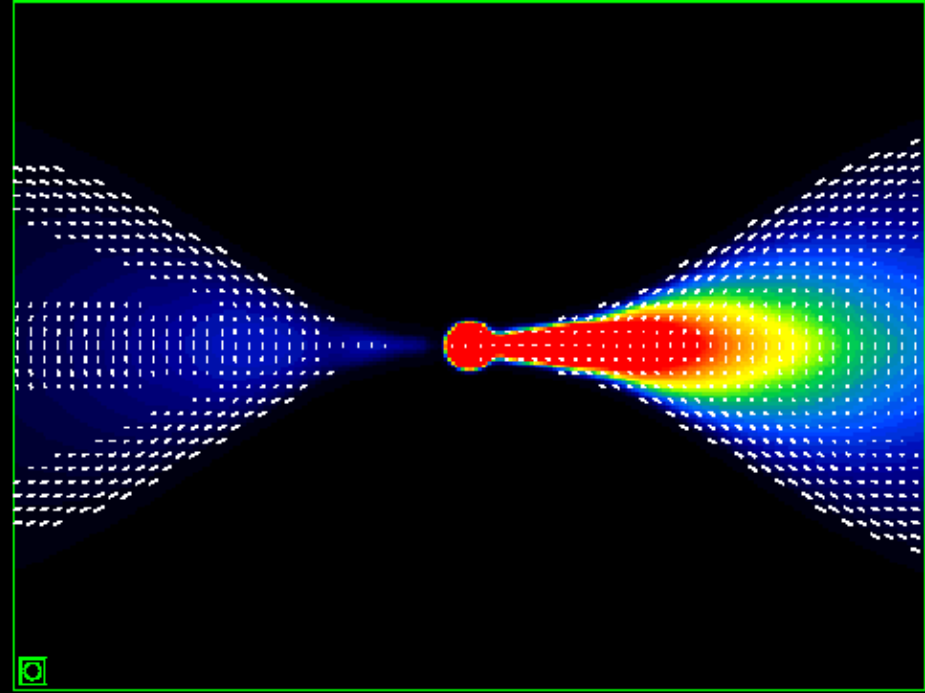
Canvin & Laing, MNRAS **350**, 1342 (2004)

Typical ratio of edge to  
on-axis velocity  $\approx 0.7$

# Apparent B-field fitting: NGC315



Data

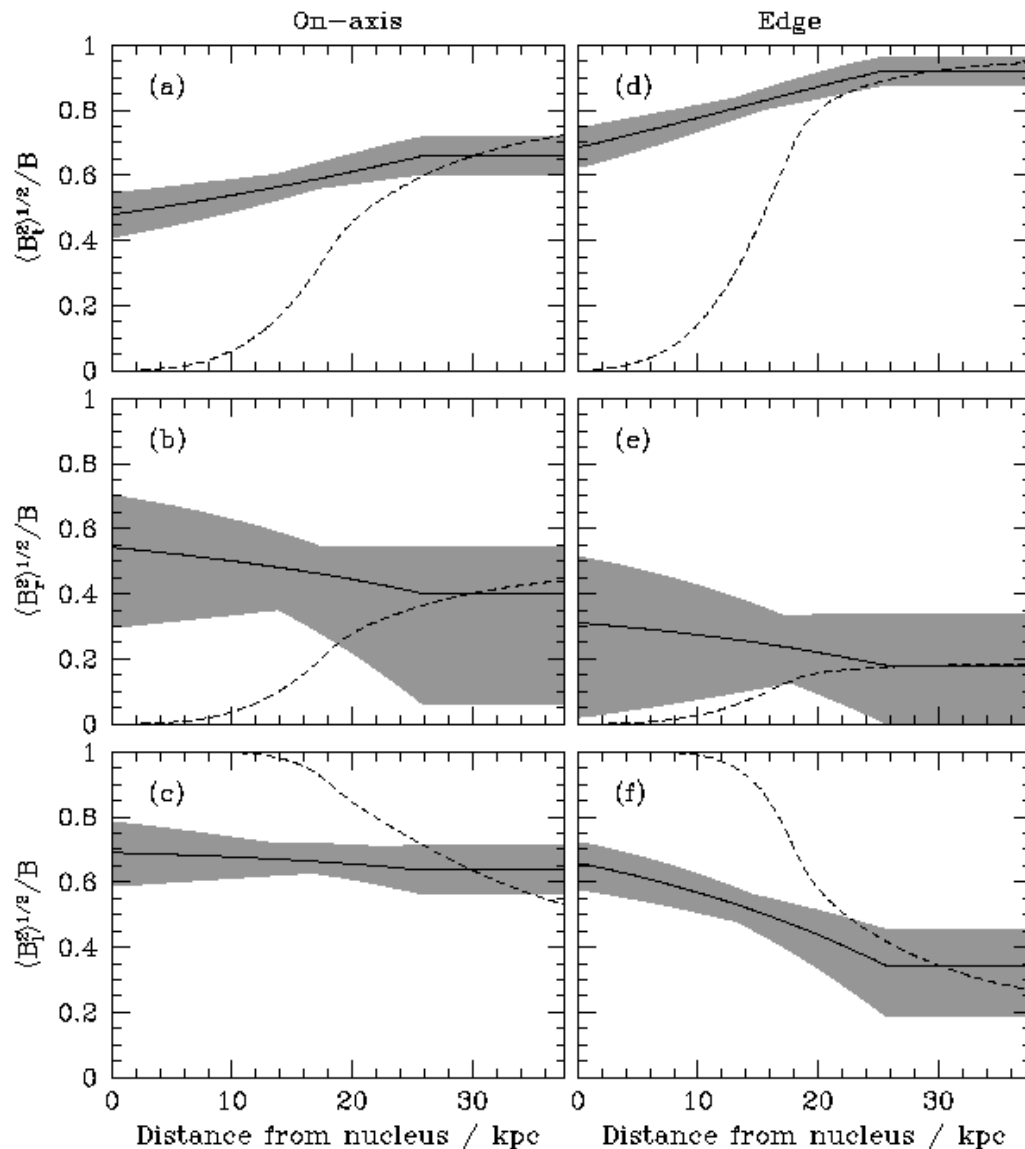


Model

vector length measures % poln



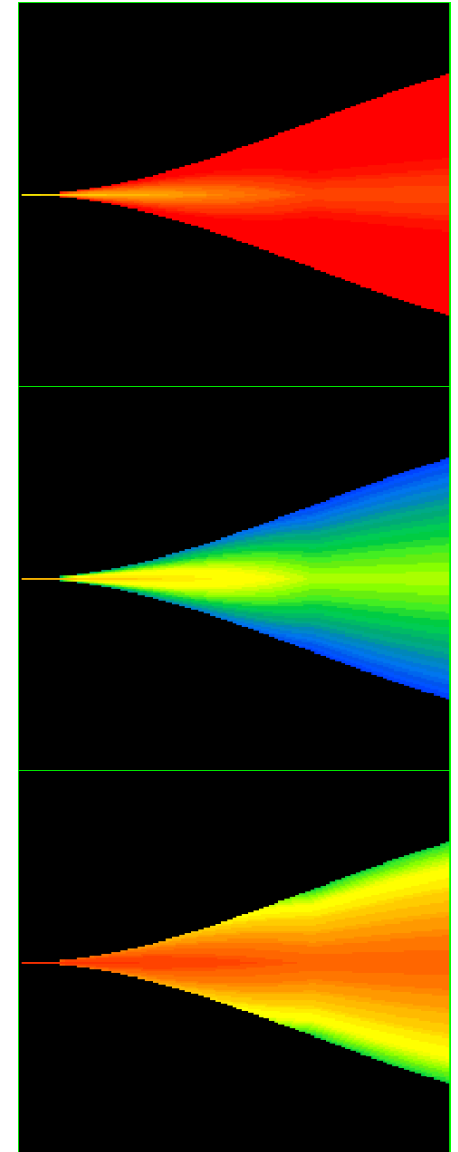
# B-Field Component Evolution: NGC315



Toroidal

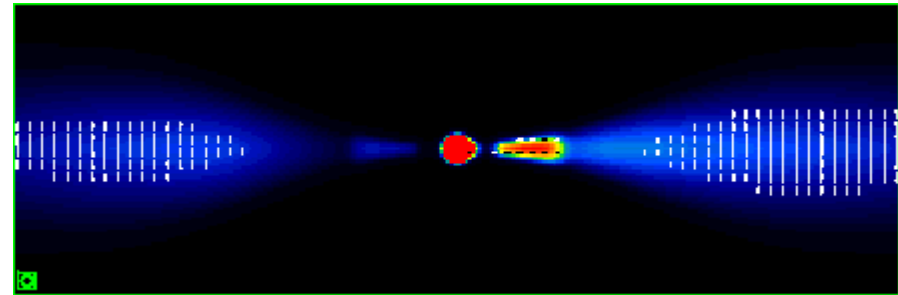
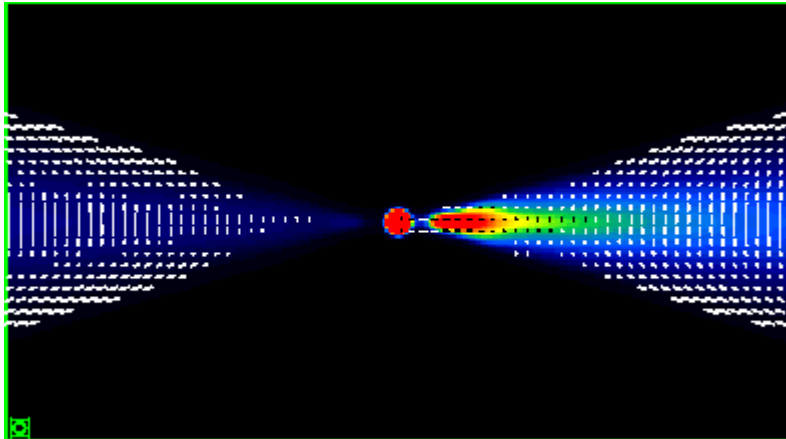
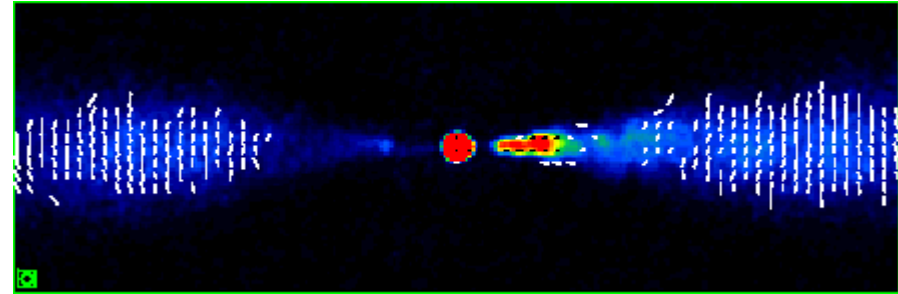
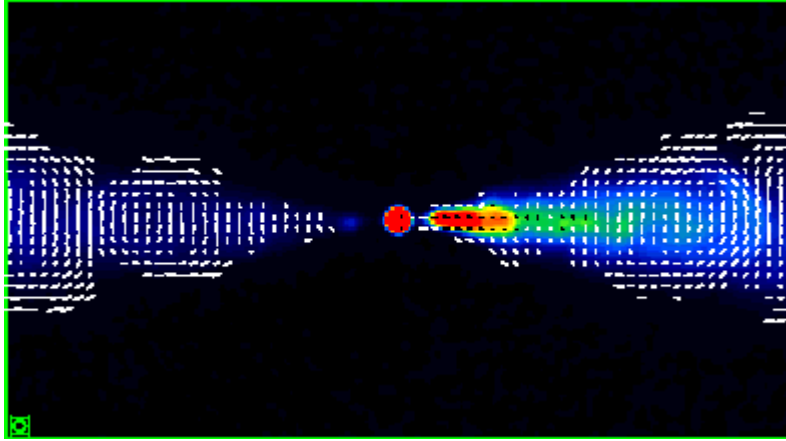
Radial

Longitudinal



solid line – model fit, dashed line - frozen-in

# Apparent B-field fitting: 3C31, B2 0326+39



$\theta = 52^\circ$

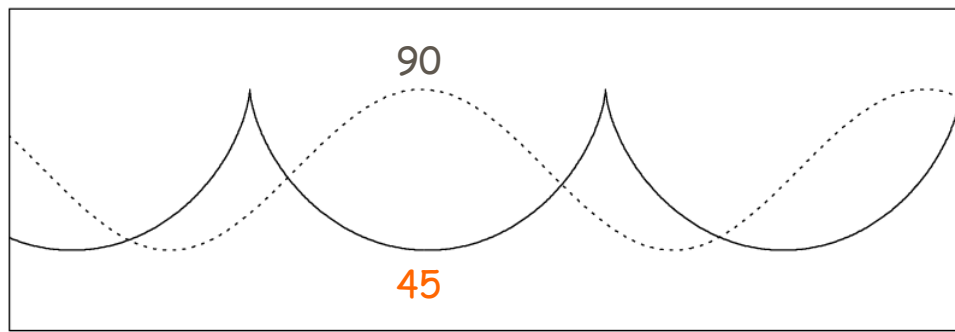
$64^\circ$

# FR1 Jet B-field conclusions

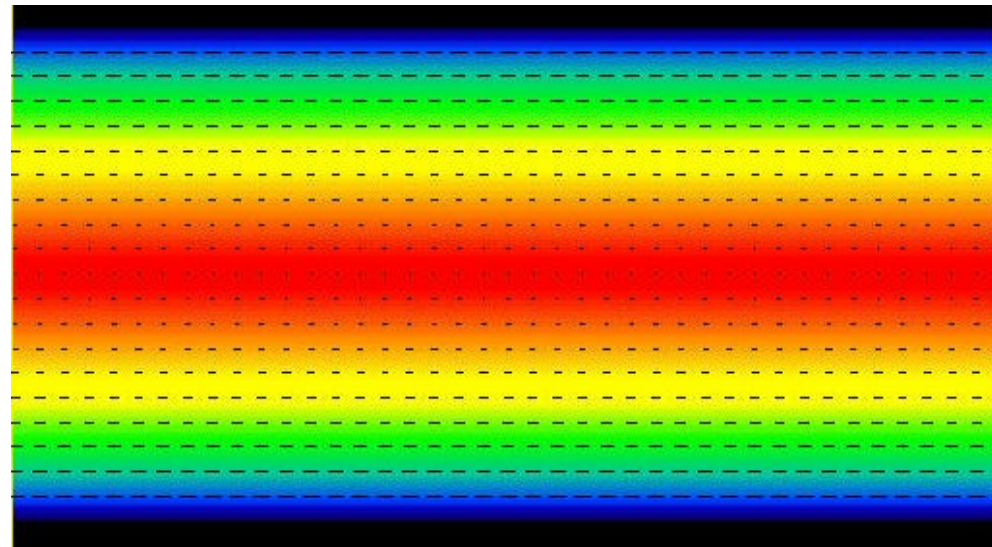
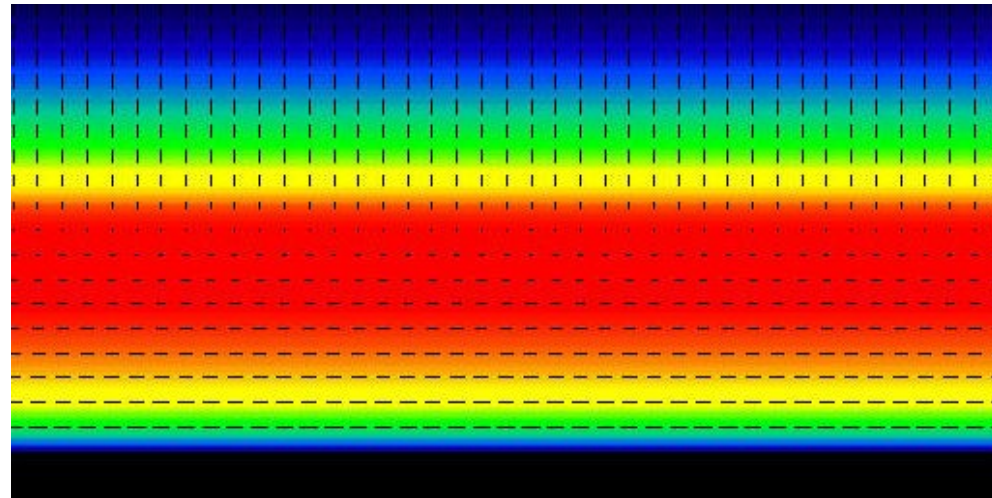
- Models with pure transverse (i.e. radial+toroidal) field spine surrounded by pure longitudinal-field sheath predict B-field transition seen closer to nucleus in the approaching jet  
- **not observed!**
- Fitted field always primarily toroidal + longitudinal, with **smaller radial components** (as if velocity shear suppresses) evolving from mostly longitudinal close in towards mostly-toroidal further out, ~ equal at flare.
- Toroidal component *could* be ordered, provided the longitudinal field component has *many reversals* (unlike large-scale helical field)

# N.B. Why not vector-ordered fields?

- Fields are **not** vector-ordered helices.
- Nor should we expect them to be:  
poloidal flux  $\propto r^{-2}$ ;  
transverse flux  $\propto (\Gamma\beta r)^{-1}$
- We do NOT see large-scale helical-field signatures  
- no transverse intensity asymmetries correlated with polarization structure asymmetries
- RM gradient "evidence" for helical fields specious?  
(but that's another story!)



# Emission From Pure Helical Magnetic Fields



# Jet Dynamics - Entrainment

**CONCLUDE:** Modeling well-resolved VLA intensity and polarization data can be used to show **how** FR1 jets decelerate on kpc scales

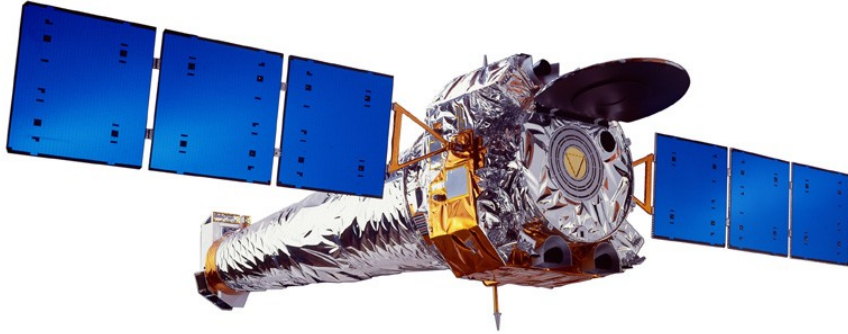


but it does not say **why**  
... radio data alone give jet **kinematics**, not **dynamics** ...

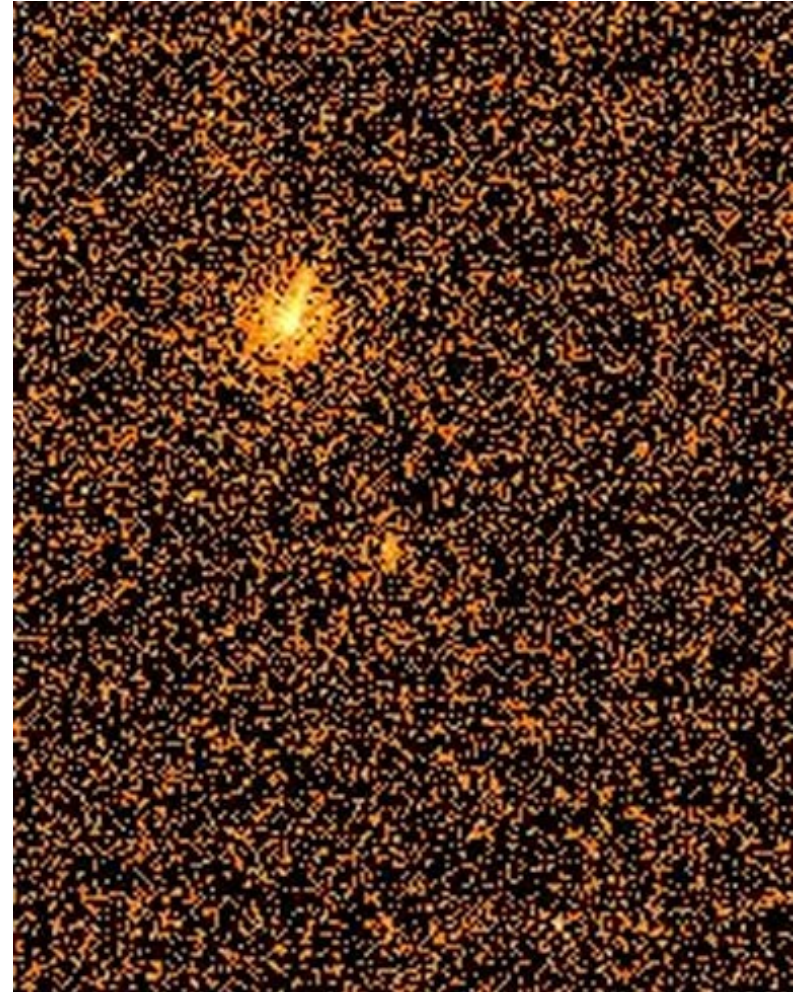
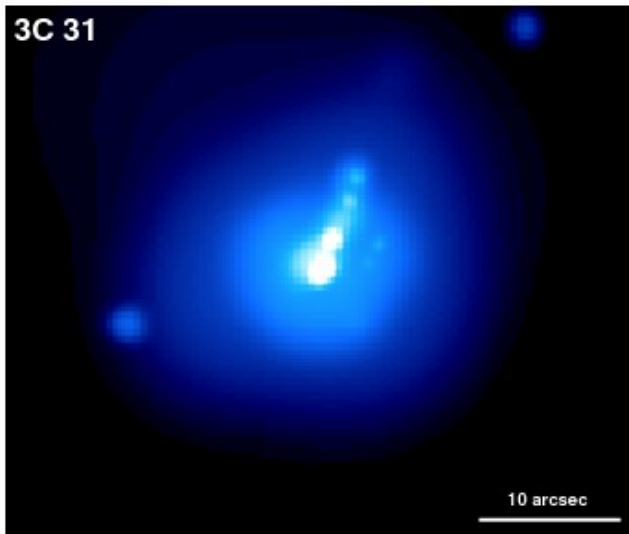


Extra step: X-ray data on gaseous environs of jets  
Chandra/ROSAT/XMM

# Chandra X-ray images of NGC383



Detect gas through which jets travel **while decelerating** (also enhanced X-rays on jet path):



0.5 to 7 keV Chandra image  
Hardcastle et al. MNRAS 334, 182 (2002)

# Conservation Law Analysis

- Energy Flux conserved

$$\Phi = [(\Gamma^2 - \Gamma)\rho c^2 + 4\Gamma^2 p]\beta c A$$

- Momentum Flux conserved (buoyancy effect included)

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi = & [\Gamma^2 \beta^2 (\rho c^2 + 4p) + p - p_{\text{ext}}] A \\ & + \int_{r_1}^r A \frac{dp_{\text{ext}}}{dr} \left[ 1 - \frac{\Gamma^2 (\rho c^2 + 4p)}{c^2 (1 + \beta^2) \rho_{\text{ext}}} \right] dr, \end{aligned}$$

- Find solutions for jet pressure, density variation with given energy, momentum fluxes constrained by known external pressure and density from X-ray data. Assume  $p \rightarrow p_{\text{ext}}$  in outer jet and Energy Flux = (Momentum Flux  $\times c$ ) on small scales  
[Laing and Bridle MNRAS, 336, 1161 (2002)]



# Mass Loading (1)

**Injection** by stellar winds within volume swept by jet flow

Komissarov (1994)  
MNRAS 269, 394

Bowman, Leahy & Komissarov (1996)  
MNRAS 279, 899

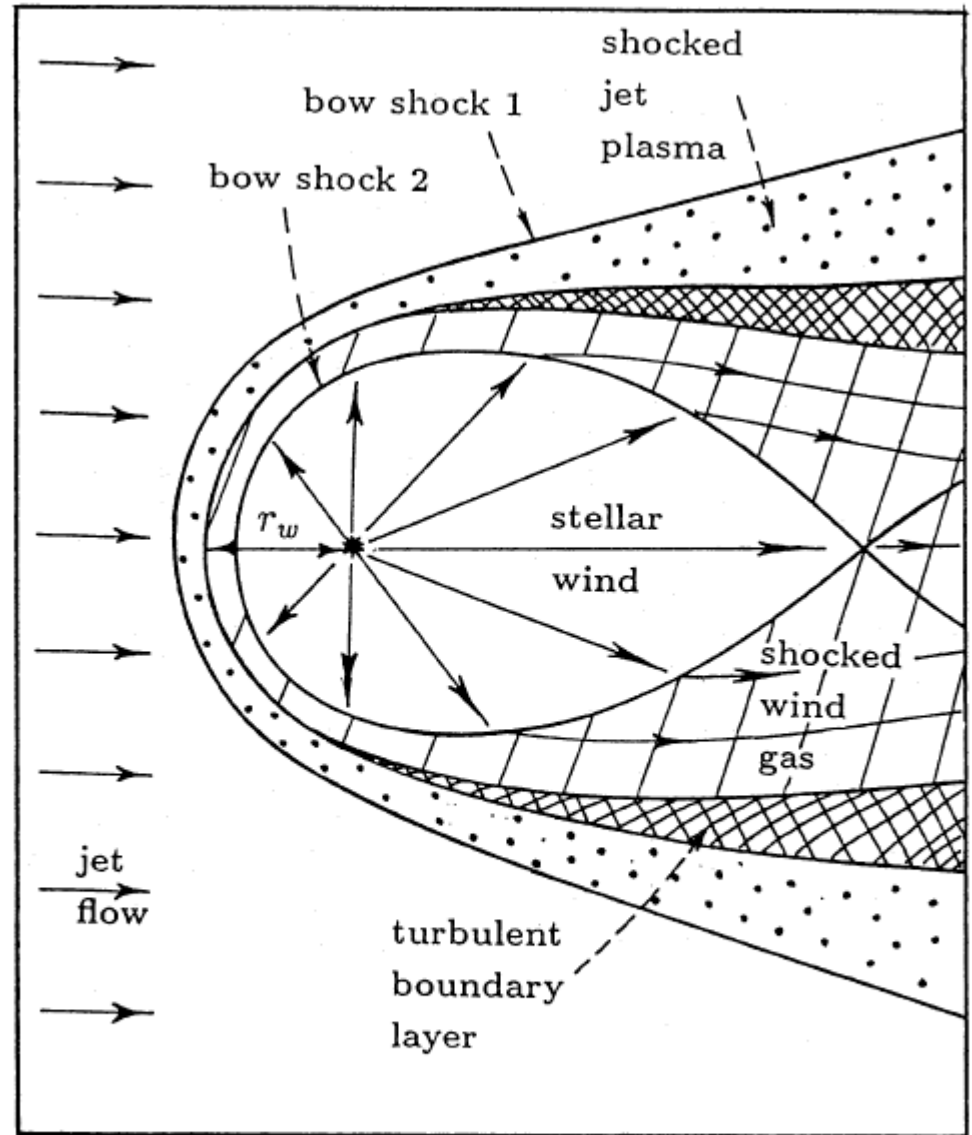
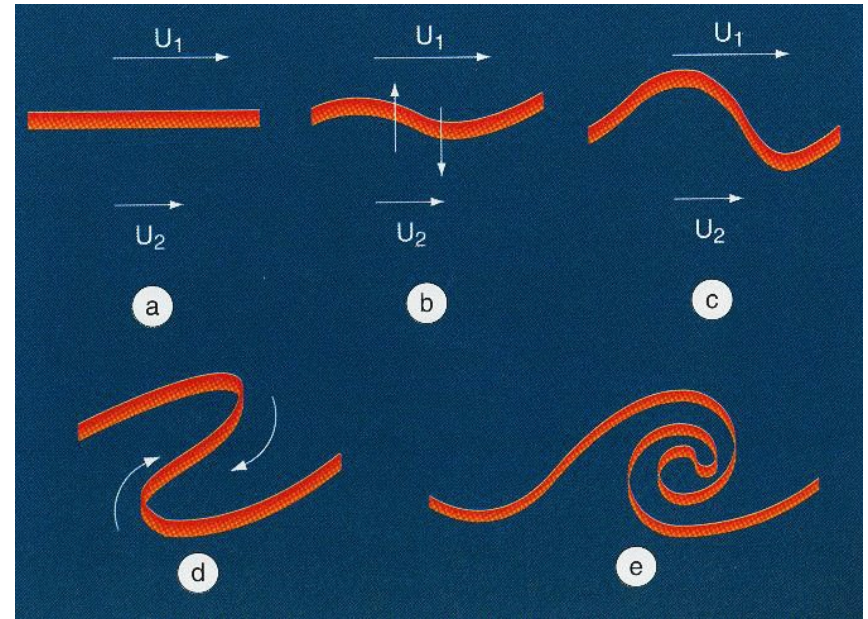
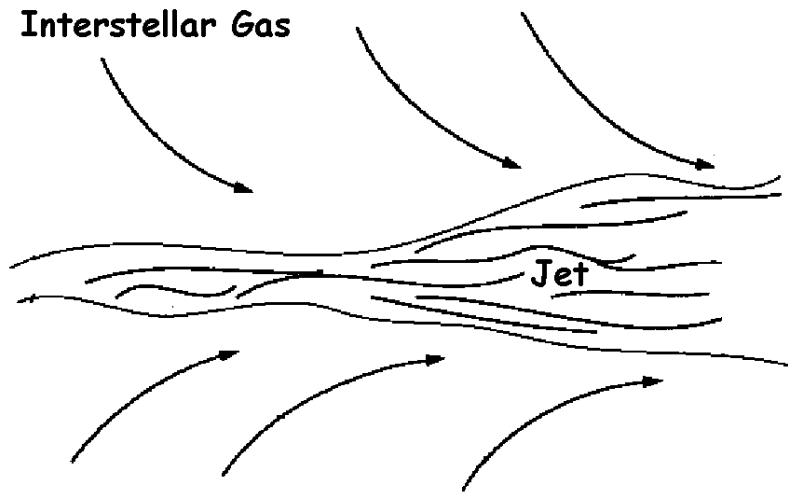


Figure 1. The interaction between the jet and the stellar wind. Because both the flows are supersonic, a double-bow-shock configuration is formed.

# Mass Loading (2)

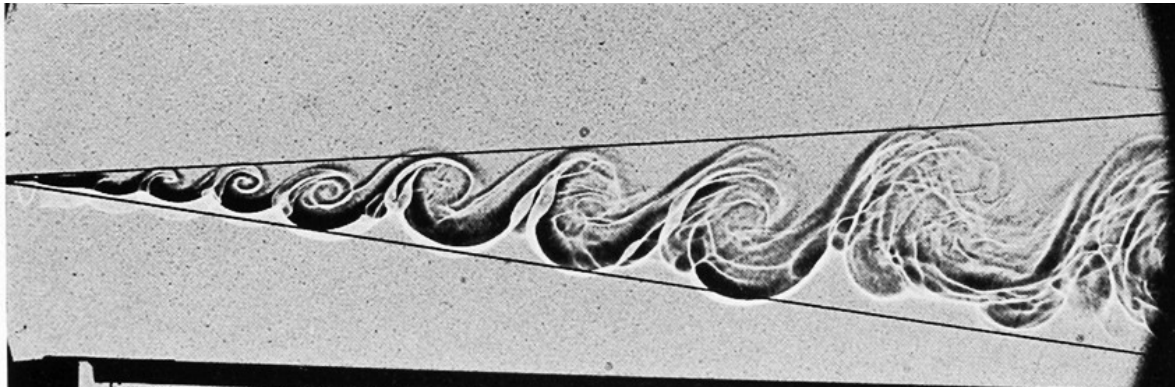


**Ingestion** of ambient galactic ISM by eddies in the turbulent boundary layer of jet (K-H instability)  
(De Young 1996)

# Mixing Layers in Lab Jets

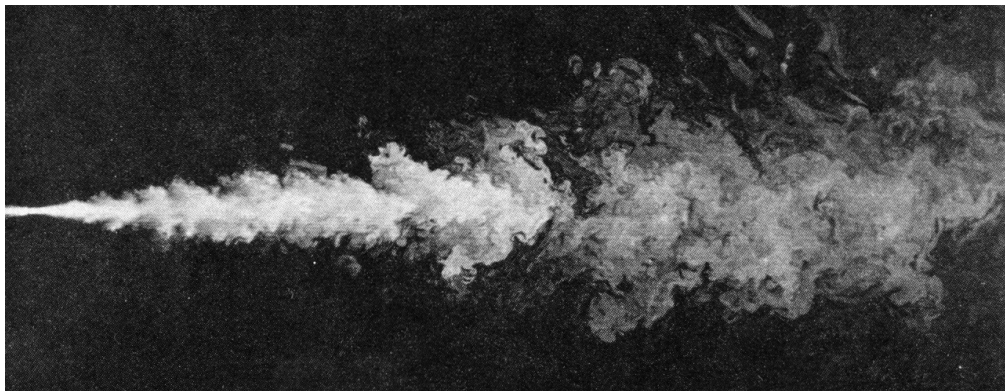
(N.B. non-relativistic, non-magnetic!)

- Thickness grows with distance/time



$$\tan \phi = C (\rho_L / \rho_H)^\alpha (v_{REL})^{-\beta}$$

- Layer can grow to fill jet



# Relativistic Jet Boundary Layers

3-D RHD: Aloy et al. ApJ, 523, L125 (1999)

- note RMHD effects depend on toroidal/poloidal field configs

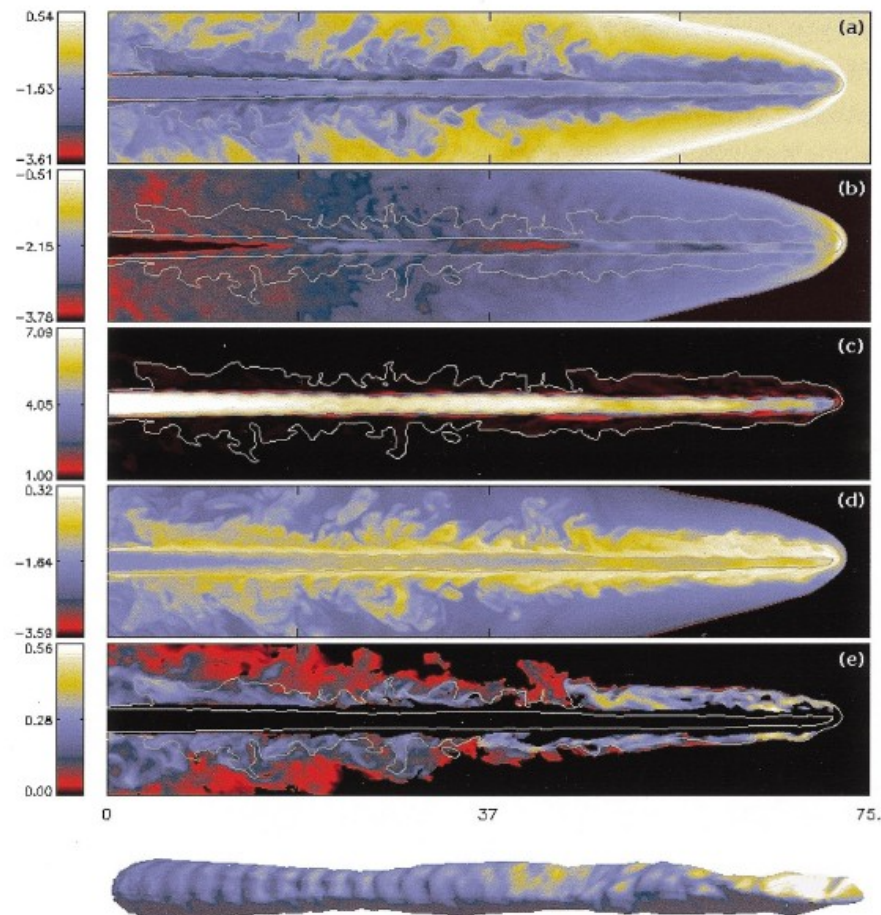
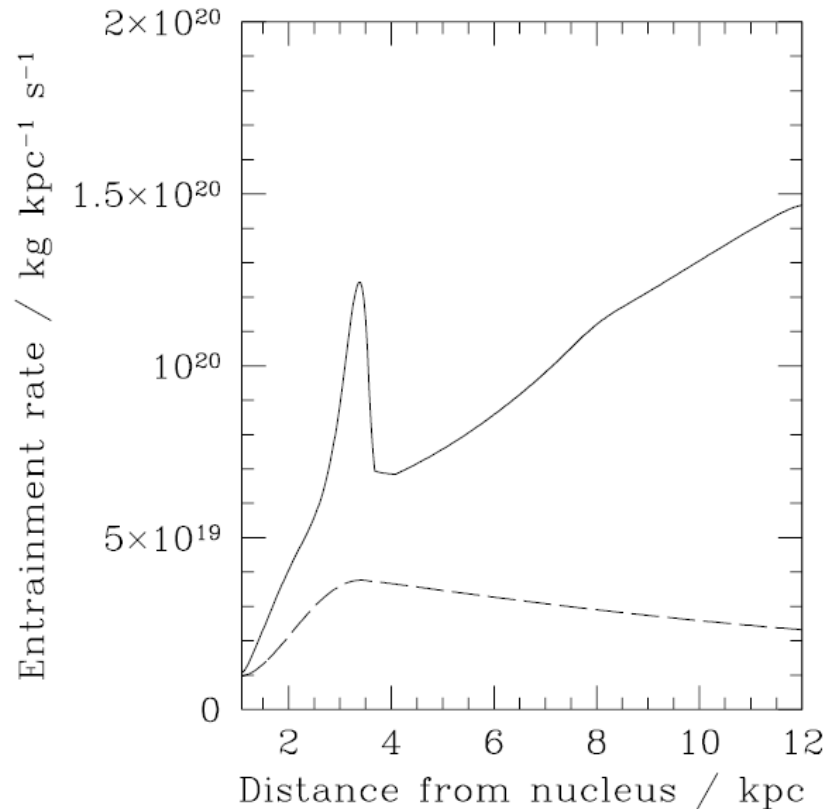


FIG. 1.—(a) The rest-mass density, (b) pressure, (c) flow Lorentz factor, (d) specific internal energy, and (e) backflow velocity distributions of the model discussed in the text in the plane  $y = 0$  at the end of the simulation. The white contour levels appearing in each frame correspond to values of  $f = 0.95$  (inner contour; representative of the beam) and  $0.05$  (representative of the cocoon/shocked external medium interface). The bottom panel displays the isosurface of  $f = 0.95$ .

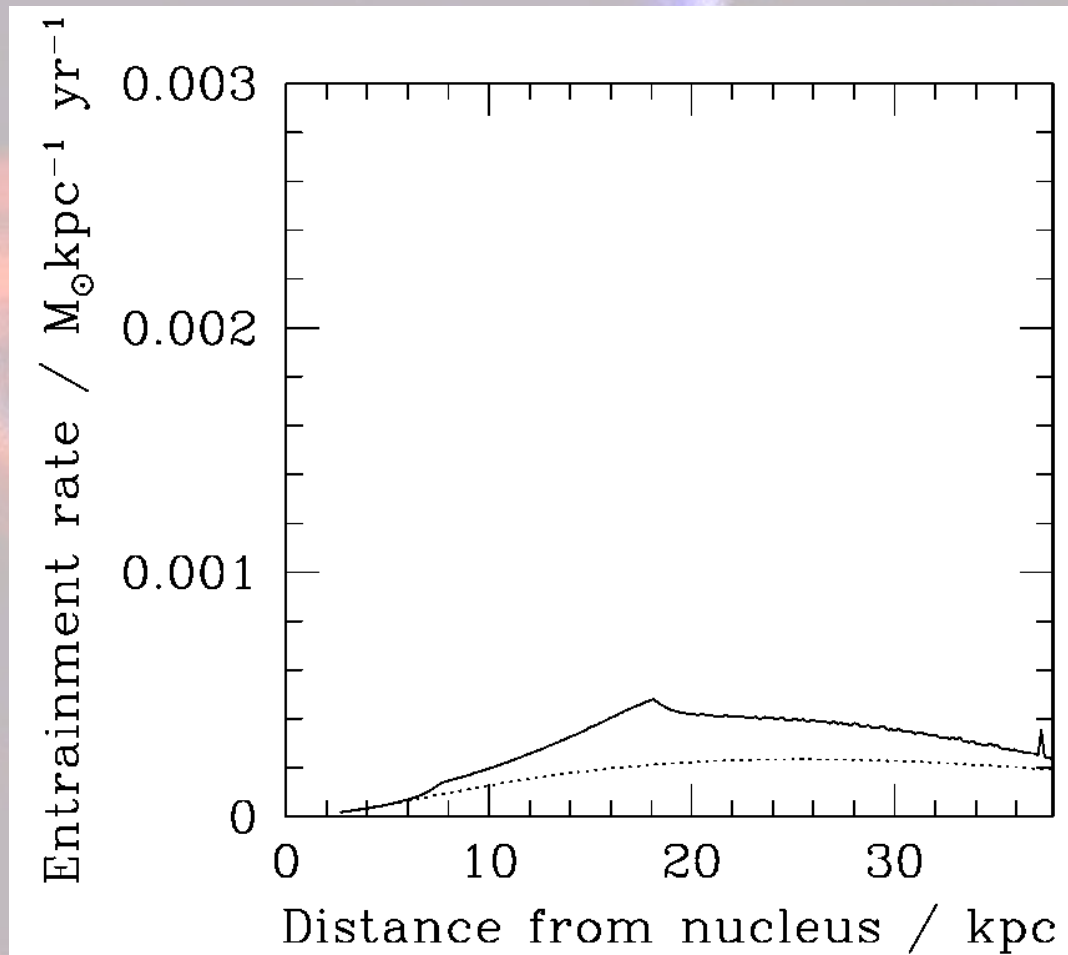
# Entrainment Rate into 3C31 Jet



**Figure 11.** The estimated internal mass input rate from stars (long dashes) superimposed on the entrainment rate required by the reference model (full line).

consistent with light (e.g. electron-positron) jet that is mass-loaded by stellar injection in first kpc, then decelerates rapidly by ingestion of ISM across jet boundary  
Laing and Bridle MNRAS 336, 1161 (2002)

# Entrainment Rate into NGC315 Jet



consistent with light jet that is mass-loaded by stellar injection

Laing, Canvin and Bridle in preparation (2006)

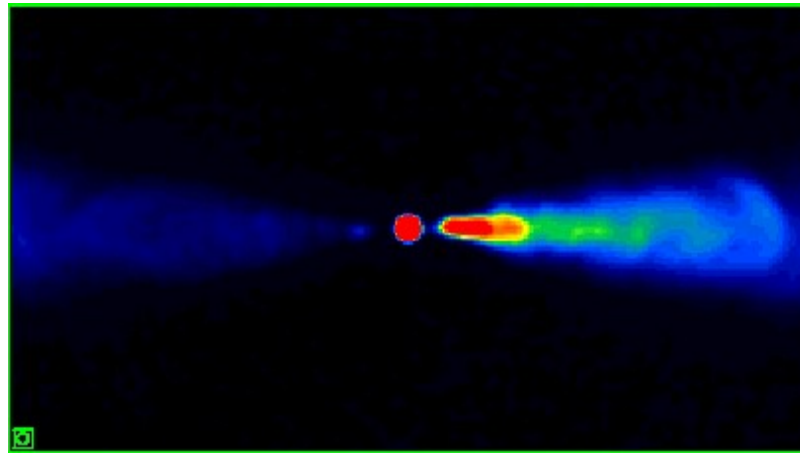
# Adiabatic Jet Assumptions

- Energies of particles scale as  $V^{-1/3}$
- No diffusion
- Particle momentum distribution remains isotropic
- B-field behaves as if passively convected with flow
- Synchrotron and inverse Compton losses negligible

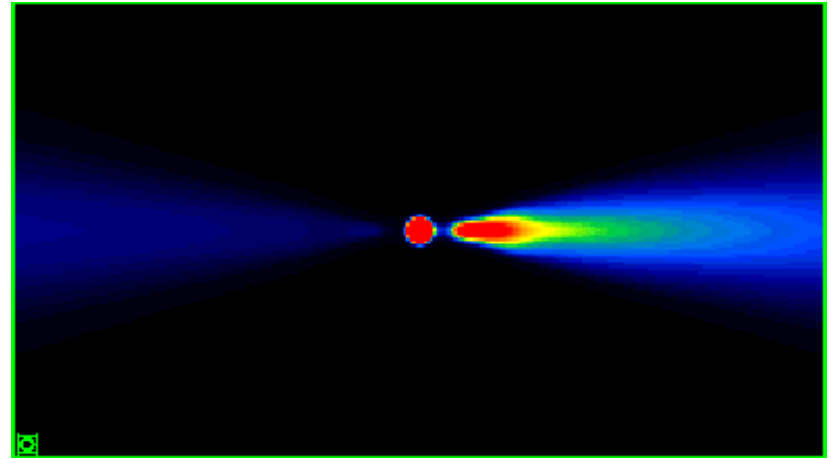
With these assumptions, parameters at any jet cross-section given a model velocity field, determine those everywhere

# Adiabatic deceleration?

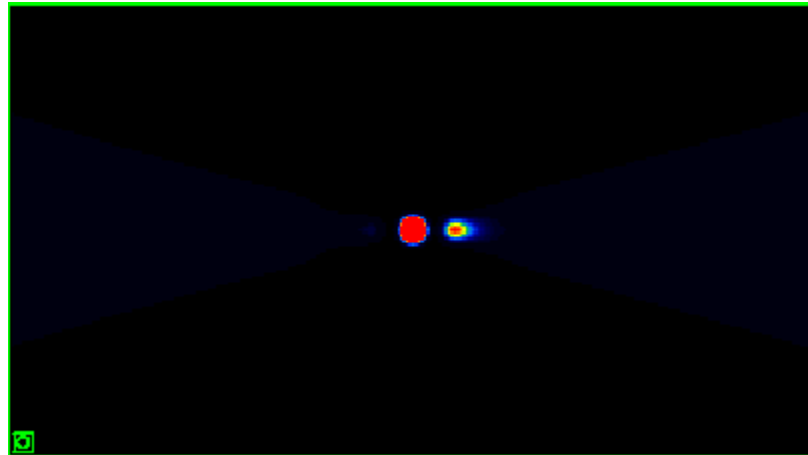
Laing and Bridle MNRAS 348, 1459 (2004)



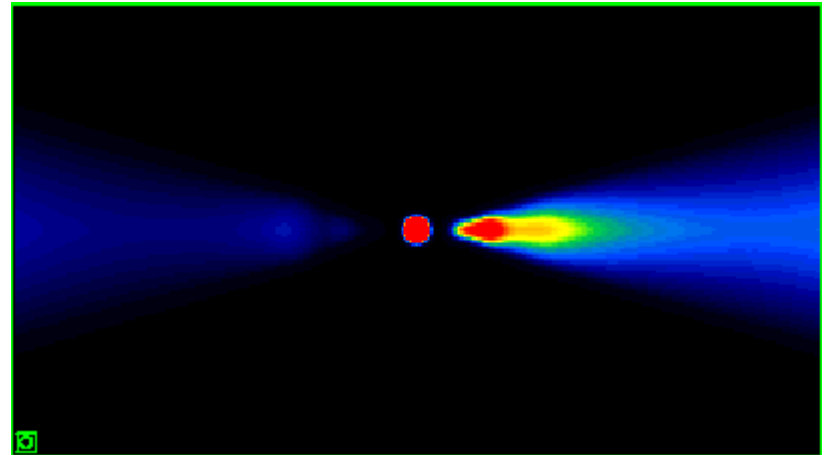
3C 31 observed



“Free” model fit



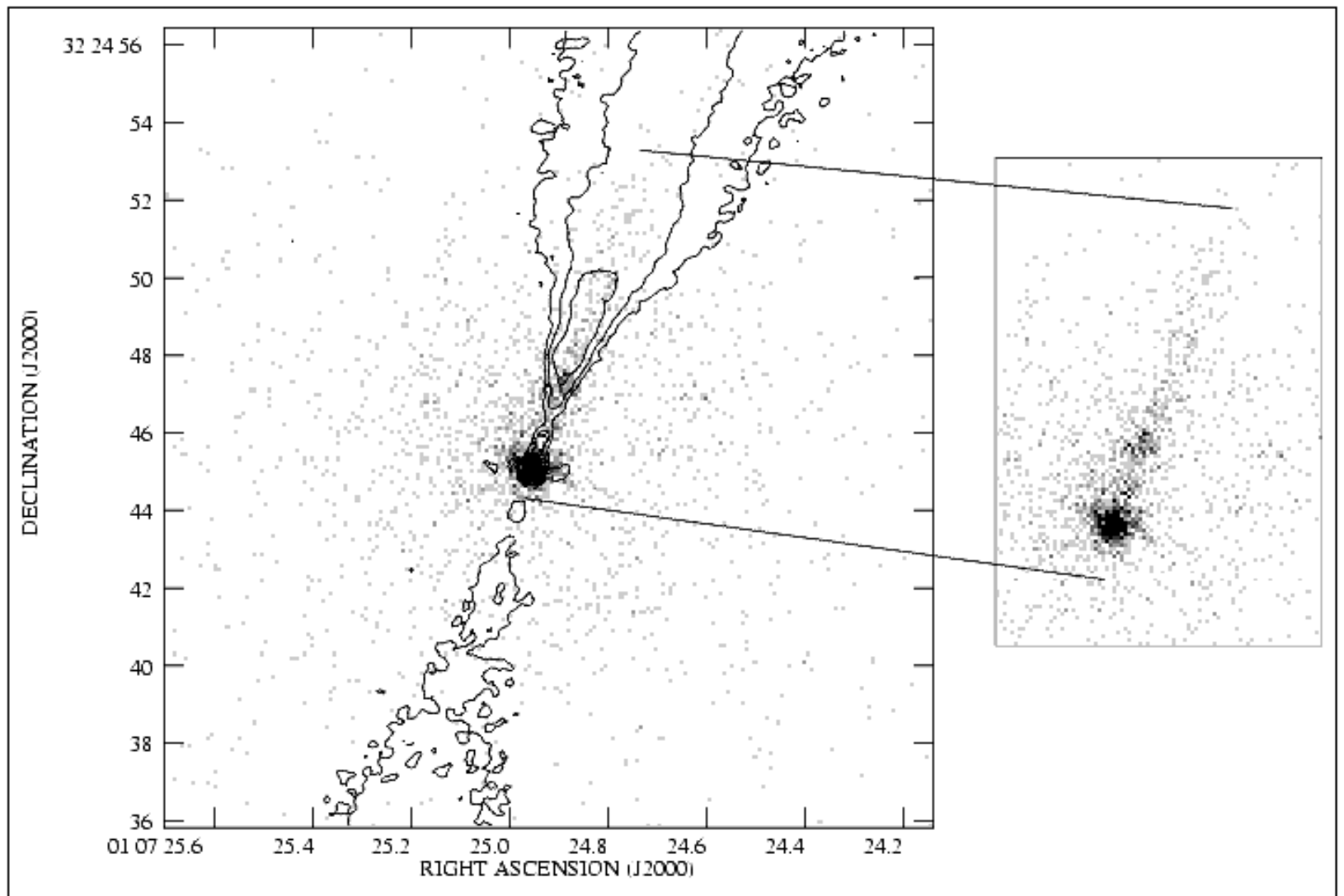
Adiabatic jet with velocity and initial conditions in free model



Adiabatic + distributed rel. particle injection



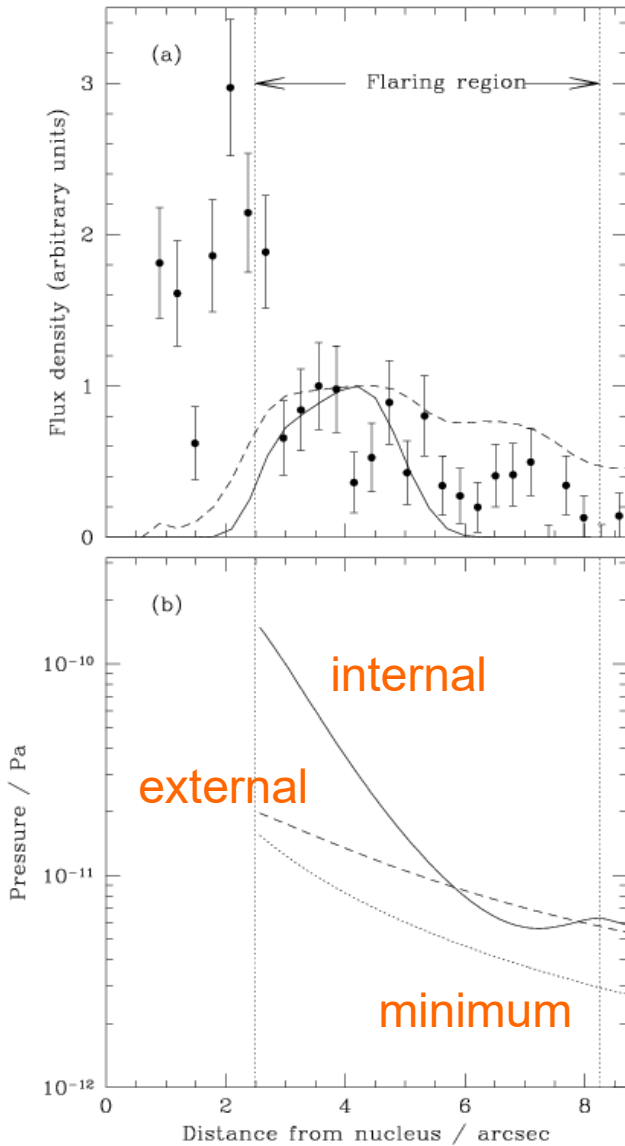
# 3C31 radio and X-ray superposed



8.4 GHz VLA

0.5 to 7 keV Chandra

# Where are particles injected?



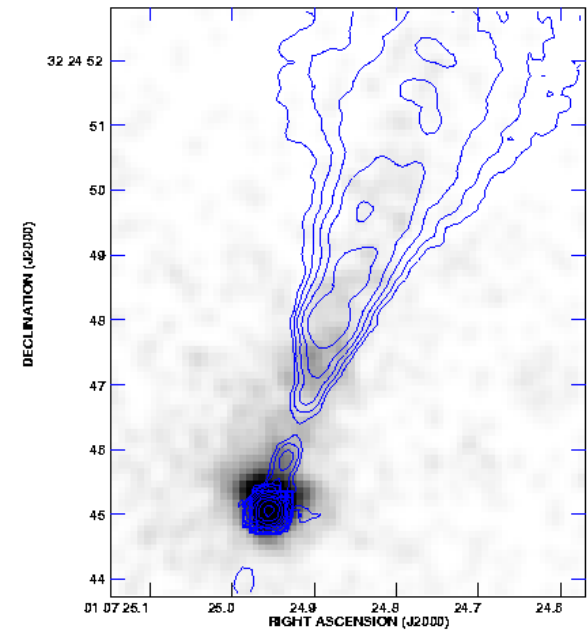
Points – X-ray

Full line - particle injection function required by fit

Dashed - radio

Pressures from conservation-law analysis

Laing and Bridle MNRAS 336, 1161 (2002)



# Family resemblances in FR1 jets

- Jets at  $<1$  kpc have  $v > 0.8c$ , slow expansion rate
- Jets decelerate rapidly to  $0.1$  to  $0.4c$  in region of fast lateral expansion (flaring)
- Slower velocities on jet boundaries than on jet axis (transverse velocity shear)
- Jet B-field evolves from predominantly longitudinal close to nucleus to predominantly toroidal further out; radial component generally small (suppressed by velocity shear?)
- Jets intrinsically center-brightened
- Particle injection in flaring region, quasi-adiabatic evolution further out

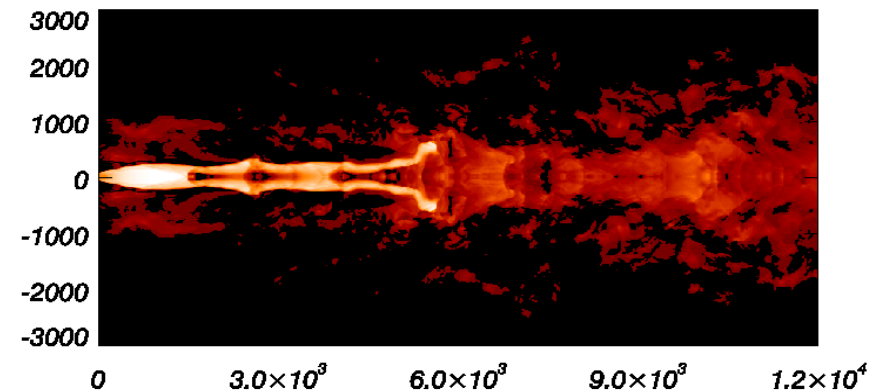
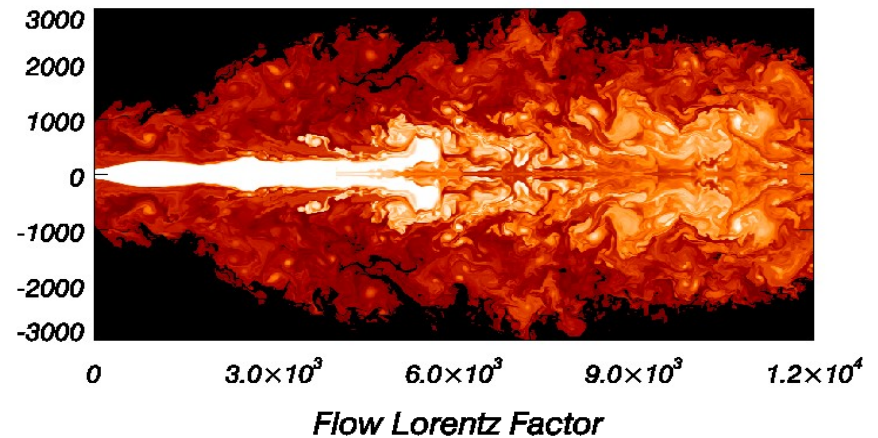
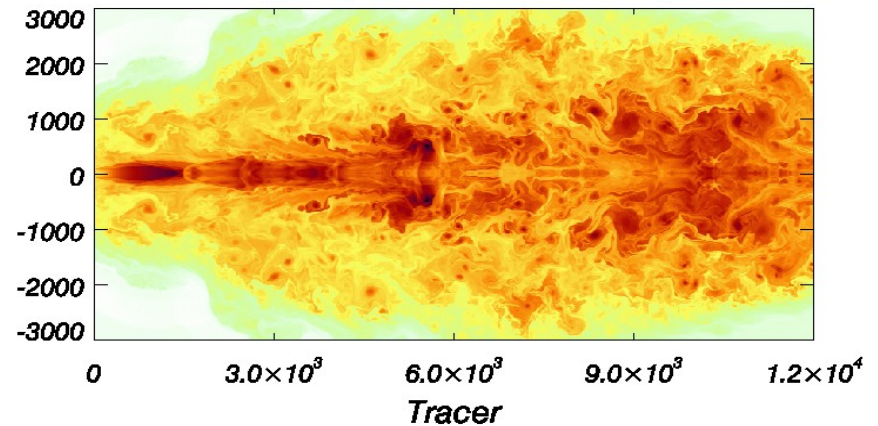
# Input to guide R(M)HD Jet Simulations

e.g. Perucho  
(Michigan  
Relativistic Jets  
Conference  
Dec 2005)

2D attempt to  
reproduce 3C31  
dynamics deduced  
from VLA/Chandra  
data

Time = 7257463.9 years

Log Proper Rest-Mass Density

















# M87

