Challenges of Using Galaxy Clusters with Cool Cores for Precision Cosmology

Jack O. Burns

Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy University of Colorado, Boulder

Collaborators: Eric Hallman & Brennan Gantner, University of Colorado Patrick Motl, LSU Michael Norman, University of California, San Diego

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(adapted from A. Fabian)

Cooling Core vs Non-Cooling Core Clusters



Simple Cooling Flow Model

- Assumes an isolated, spherical cluster in quasi-hydrostatic equilibrium.
- Central gas thermally cools from T_{virial} at constant pressure driving a subsonic accretion flow onto the central galaxy.
- Expect mass accretion rates of hundreds of solar masses per year.

Why "Cooling Flows" Don't Work

- End-products of presumed 100 M_{\odot} /yr infall are not seen:
 - Star-formation <1000 times of expected rate
 - Little or no HI
 - Molecules like CO not detected in abundance or over extended volume
- Central temperatures observed to be not less than ~0.3•T_{virial}.
- Simple model does not account for on-going accretion/mergers from supercluster environment, producing turbulent, shock-filled ICM => such clusters may be far from dynamical equilibrium.
- Does not explain why only 49% of clusters from the HIFLUGCS sample (Chen et al. 2006) have cool cores.



Adaptive Mesh Refinement (AMR) Simulations of Cluster Formation and Evolution

Enzo (e.g., O'Shea et al. 2006, http://cosmos.ucsd.edu/enzo)





•ACDM Cosmology with $O_m = 0.3$, $O_b = 0.026$, $O_A = 0.7$, h = 0.7, and $s_8 = 0.9$. • Hydro + N-body code uses AMR to achieve high resolution (2.0 to 15.6 h⁻¹ kpc) in

dense regions.

- Simulation volume is 256 h⁻¹ Mpc on a side, use 7 to 9 levels of refinement with cluster subvolumes => 1500 clusters with >10¹⁴ M_{\odot} for z < 1.
- Mass resolution is $10^{10} \text{ h}^{-1} \text{ M}_{\odot}$ (Dark Matter).
- Baryon physics includes thermal cooling, star formation, supernova (Type II) feedback, and AGN heating (in progress).



Cool cores initially grow slowly

Evolution of a Non-Cool Core Galaxy Cluster



Non-cool cores suffer major mergers



Synthetic X-ray Images for Numerical Cool Core Clusters

Synthetic X-ray Images for Numerical Non-cool Core Clusters



X-ray Images of Abell Clusters



← 0.5r₂₀₀

Synthetic X-ray Surface Brightness Profiles for Numerical Clusters



- Cool core clusters are fit poorly by beta models $(S_x = S_0 [1 + (r/r_c)^2]^{1/2-3\beta})$ between r_{500} and r_{200} .
- Non-cool core clusters are fit very well to beta-models.
- Mass in CC clusters overestimated by 3-5x.





Beta-model fits To Abell Clusters

Observations currently do not extend far enough from the cluster core to see deviations from simple Beta model in outer part of CC cluster!



=>Simulations predict more cold gas outside the cores in cool core clusters than in non-cool core clusters.







Comparison of Simulated CC & NCC Clusters

- NCC baryon properties approximate that of adiabatic gas.
- In contrast, CC cluster gas show strong nonadiabatic transition in thermodynamic properties where X-ray observations are typically made.

Conclusions

- Cool core clusters are complicated, generally nonequilibrium systems where nongravitational physics is important.
- Our simulations suggest that *Non-cool core* (NCC) clusters suffer early major mergers when embryonic cool cores are destroyed. *Cool core* (CC) clusters grow more slowly without early major mergers.
- X-ray surface brightness profiles for NCC clusters are well fit by single ß-models whereas the outer emission for CC clusters is biased low compared to ß-models (resulting in masses and densities too high by factors of 3-5).
- CC clusters have roughly 40% more cool gas beyond the cores than do NCC clusters.
- These X-ray properties are produced by non-adiabatic transition region between cool core and outer cluster.

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