

Ger de Bruyn's legacy work on the Perseus cluster

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IAUS Perseus in Sicily

Prof. Ger de Bruyn 1948 – 2017





Current

- Interstellar scintillation and the local ISM: AGN, Pulsars, GRB's, (any) transients, ...
- Galactic synchrotron foreground polarimetry
- Active Galactic Nuclei: nuclear variability, double-double radio galaxies and recurrent activity
- Clusters of galaxies (diffuse emission)
- High redshift HI: damped Ly- α absorbers, Epoch of Reionization (LOFAR)

Past

- Radio emission from young (extragalactic) SNR
- Optical spectrophotometric monitoring of Seyfert galaxies
- Radio gravitational lensing
- Surveys of the sky, e.g. WENSS/WISH



Technical / radio interferometry

- synthesis array calibration (WSRT, LOFAR, SKA)
- extreme dynamic range issues (> 10⁶ : 1)
- radio polarization methods (RM-synthesis)



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Well-being of others





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Gisler & Miley (1979) 610 MHz; 1,000:1





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)



A new reduction procedure is described to correct data obtained by the Westerbork Synthesis Radio Telescope. The technique allows very high dynamic range mapping of strong radio sources by also using redundant interferometers. The performance is illustrated with 6-cm and 21-cm continuum maps of 3C84, which have a dynamic range of about 10,000:1.



Fig. 2 The convolved 21-cm map of August 1980 superimposed on a deep optical photograph⁶. North is up and east to the left; the area shown measures 16.5 × 18 arc FWHM) can be judged from the appearance of the point source in the upper-right quadrant. A point source of flux density 13.2 Jy has been subtracted at the position of the cross centred on NGC1275. The displayed contour levels are -5, 0 (2.5) 10 (5) 40, 60, 80, 160, 320 and 640 mJy per beam; the peak brightness is at 2,060 mJy per beam. The true zero level varies slightly across the map but lies at about -2.5 mJy in the inner 10 arc min of the map.



0301+411 (1989)

AST(RON







Figure 3: Contour map of the radio source 0309+411obtained with the WSRT at 608 MHz. Contour levels are $5.9 \times (-1.2, -0.6, 0.6, 0.1, 2, 1.8, 2.4, 3, 3.6, 4.2, 4.8, 5.4, 6.0)$ and $5.9 \times (9, 12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48)$ mJy/beam. The factor 5.9 corrects for the primary beam attenuation. The peak flux density of the source is 380 mJy. The coordinates are relative to the core.

NGC 1265, IC 310 (49 and 92 cm) *sijbring* (1997) AST(RON





Fig. 3. a (upper) Total intensity distribution of 1C 310 at 92 cm uncorrected for primary beam response. The contour levels are -0.8(dinhed), 0.8, 1.5, 2.5, 5, 8, 15, 2.5, 50, 80 and 150 mJyheam. The grayvalach have the same intensity levels. The primary beam response is 0.70, b (lower) Same as a ut 92 cm. The contour levels are -2.5(dinhed), 2.5, 1.0, 20, 40, 80, 106 and 320 mJyheam. The presentation of the same intensity levels. The primary beam response is 0.970, b (lower) Same as a ut 92 cm. The contour levels are -2.5(hardhod, 2.5, 1.0), 20, 40, 80, 106 and 320 mJyheam. The presentation of the same intensity levels. The primary beam response is 0.970. The beamizes are indicated by the shaded [lipses in the lower left context.

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Ger de Bruyn's Perseus

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3. Short title (10 words maximum) of proposed programme Nature of the polarized diffuse emission in the Perseus cluster

4. Abstract (Concise summary of the proposal)

We propose a new deep radio continuum study of the Perseus cluster at 21cm. The main science driver is the nature of the diffuse polarized emission, first discovered in 1995. If, as we suspect, the emission is due to Thomson scattering of the central radio source by the hot diffuse gas in the cluster we can study the latter distribution, providing an X-ray independent handle on the baryonic mass in the cluster. Using the Rotation Measure of the polarized emission we can also derive the strength and topology of the large scale cluster magnetic field. The observations will complement new high quality 80-100 cm observations obtained in Dec 2002.



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In 1995 the cluster was re-observed in 21cm continuum radiation by de Bruyn in an attempt to image the polarized emission in the cluster. The results of this 6x12h 21cm continuum observation using the 8x5 Mhz DCB in 1995 are shown in Figure 1abcd. The peak flux divided by the rms noise in clean areas is more than 1 million to 1 (de Bruyn, 1996, High Sensitivity Radio Astronomy Workshop, Jodrell Bank, Ed. N. Jackson, CUP). The noise level in these images is about 25 microJy/beam and revealed in the Stokes V image. This is not the place to discuss the origin of the various artefacts in the Stokes Q and U images. Suffice it to say that there is no doubt that there is wide-spread diffuse polarized emission approximately centered on 3C84 and extending over at least 30', predominantly in the SW-NE direction.

Stokes IQUV 21 cm (1995 unpublished)





FIG. 3.— From top left clockwise: Stokes I, Q, U and V. These are 21 cm WSRT observations of Perseus by de Bruyn (unpublished, see also: de Bruyn (1996a)). The scale of the I images differs slightly from that of the polarized images. The Q and U images show diffuse linearly polarized emission in the central parts of the cluster. An RM study of this emission may reveal its origin.

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Perseus 1,000,000:1





Plot file version 2 created 27-SEP-2002 17:53:30



"The description of the analysis plan "de Bruyn will reduce the data in Newstar" is unsatisfactory for such a significant request of 156 hrs."





Thomson scattering





Thomson scattering







NETHERLANDS FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY

NOTE 655

RM-synthesis via wide-band low-frequency polarimetry

MAART 1996

BY A.G. de Bruyn

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Ger de Bruyn's Perseus

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RM synthesis 1996



Future applications

We expect the new tool to be particularly powerful in the study of weakly polarized extended sources, such as giant radio galaxies where the RM's are known to be small. Small changes in the RM across the surface of extended sources should be easily traceable, especially if these RMs are showing some spatial coherence.

The wideband spectrometer (the DZB) currently being built for the WSRT makes it possible to search for and study weakly polarized structure over a much wider range of *RM*. The sidelobe levels in the RMTF that occur with an 8-channel system will be much reduced when 128 frequency channels can be used to cover a wide (80 MHz) low frequency band.

Very small variations in RM can be expected to occur close to the core of AGN when polarized structure moves relative to a foreground Faraday screen. With a sensitivity of 0.1 rad/m² extremely sensitive measurements of the ionized gas around polarized radio sources can be made. If several sources with a well-determined RM are found whin the synthesized field of view the fundamental limit imposed by the uncertainty of the ionospheric RM can be avoided by the study of *differential* RM variations. The diffuse galactic background emission, which is highly polarized at low frequencies, and has a typical RM of $\approx 5-10$ rad/m², may well be useful as a non-variable RM reference.

The range in RM where the RM-synthesis technique will be a useful tool depends on frequency. At 1400 MHz, and a bandwidth of 160 MHz, this range begins at a few hundred rad/m². A practical limit, in real radio sources, will occur when depolarization due to fine-scale structure in RMwithin the beam, i.e. beam-depolarization, begins to dominate over bandwidth-depolarization.

A final intriguing possibility opened up by low frequency wide-band polarimetry is the study of the Faraday rotating material *within* radio sources. The Fourier-relationship between the complex polarization and the 'Faraday depth' suggests that observations over a large range in frequency may be used to derive information about the spatial disposition of the emitting and depolarizing material.

$RM = -30 rad/m^{2}$





$RM = -27 \text{ rad/m}^{2}$




$RM = -24 \text{ rad/m}^{2}$





$RM = -21 rad/m^2$





$RM = -18 \text{ rad/m}^{2}$





$RM = -15 rad/m^2$





$RM = -12 rad/m^2$





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$RM = -9 rad/m^2$





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$RM = -6 rad/m^2$





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$RM = -3 rad/m^2$





$RM = 0 rad/m^2$





$RM = 3 rad/m^2$





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$RM = 6 rad/m^2$





$RM = 9 rad/m^2$





$RM = 12 rad/m^2$





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$RM = 15 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 18 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

$RM = 21 rad/m^2$





$RM = 24 rad/m^2$





$RM = 27 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 30 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 33 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 36 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 39 rad/m^2$





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$RM = 42 rad/m^2$





$RM = 45 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

$RM = 48 rad/m^2$





$RM = 51 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

$RM = 54 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 57 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

$RM = 60 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 63 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 66 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 69 rad/m^2$





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$RM = 72 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 75 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

$RM = 78 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 81 \text{ rad/m}^2$




$RM = 84 rad/m^2$





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$RM = 87 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 90 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

$RM = 93 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

$RM = 96 \text{ rad/m}^2$





$RM = 99 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

$RM = 102 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

RM = 105 rad/m²





$RM = 108 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

$RM = 111 rad/m^2$





M.A. Brentjens (ASTRON)

$RM = 114 \text{ rad/m}^2$





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RM = 117 rad/m²





Charlottesville poster (2003)



Diffuse Radio Emission From the Perseus Cluster

M.A. Brentjens and A.G. de Bruyn

Introduction and simulations



 $I_{e} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F_{e}(\mathbf{r}) n_{e}(\mathbf{r}) \frac{d\sigma}{dT} dn, \quad (1)$



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WSRT Polarization imaging and RM synthesis











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[4] L. G. Sighting. A sails continuum and HI for study of the Penerss size. In: *Ph.D. Theori, Gromingen University*, 1993.

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WSRT Polarization imaging and RM synthesis

The highly polarized signal resulting from Thomson scattered emission will be added to, and confused by, any polarized diffuse emission from the cluster itself. The inner parts of clusters ($\theta < 10^{\circ}$) are depolarized by the combined effects of the very high RM, its small scale structure and beam and depth depolarization effects. There is, however, also woak 92 cm diffuse emission in the region bounded by NGC 1275, NGC 1265 and IC 310, where depolarization effects are expected to be significantly smaller.

Our Galaxy interferes with this polarized emission in two ways. First, it Faraday-rotates any extragalactic polarized signal from the Perseus cluster, and second, it adds its own often strongly polarized emission.

Previous 21 cm observations of the Perseus cluster have shown faint (about 30 μ /Jy37° beam) but highly structured polarized emission spread over about 30° diameter and approximately centered at 3C 84 / NGC 1275. The improved sensitivity and new wide bandwidth correlator at the WSRT should allow us to characterize this emission and through its RM distribution ascertain its origin.

In order to disentangle the Faraday rotation and foreground emission effects we have acquired new low frequency observations with the WSRT in December 2002. We obtained a total of 6×12 hours spanning 70 MHz total bandwidth divided in 512 channels, ranging from 315 to 385 MHz. The new wideband data allows a sensitive search in 'Rd-space' arcoss field of view (about 3 dsgrees), hence extending well beyond the Perseus cluster. It should therefore allow us to separate cluster and foreground contributions. Images in RM space are coherently summed Q and U images for a range of acceptable RM values. We expect the polarization sensitivity to be better than 100 $\mu J/\chi'$ beam. We hope to acquire new 21 cm observations next winter.

Shown below are pairs of Q and U images (hor.) for RMs of 50 and 60 rad m^{-2} (vert).





First results suggest that we have detected polarized emission from both the Perseus cluster and the Galactic foreground. The detected polarized emission is at a level of 0.5 to 1 mJy/2' beam.

The Westerbork Synthesis Radio Telescone is operated by the ASTRON (Netherlands Foundation for Research in Astronomy) with support from the Netherlands Foundation for Science and Science



RM: -1.920000e+02





RM: -1.890000e+02





RM: -1.860000e+02





RM: -1.830000e+02





RM: -1.800000e+02





RM: -1.770000e+02





RM: -1.740000e+02





RM: -1.710000e+02





RM: -1.680000e+02





RM: -1.650000e+02





RM: -1.620000e+02





RM: -1.590000e+02





RM: -1.560000e+02





RM: -1.530000e+02





RM: -1.500000e+02





RM: -1.470000e+02





RM: -1.440000e+02





RM: -1.410000e+02





RM: -1.380000e+02





RM: -1.350000e+02





RM: -1.320000e+02





RM: -1.290000e+02




RM: -1.260000e+02





RM: -1.230000e+02





RM: -1.200000e+02





RM: -1.170000e+02





RM: -1.140000e+02





RM: -1.110000e+02





RM: -1.080000e+02





RM: -1.050000e+02





RM: -1.020000e+02





RM: -9.900000e+01





RM: -9.600000e+01





RM: -9.300000e+01





RM: -9.000000e+01





RM: -8.700000e+01





RM: -8.400000e+01





RM: -8.100000e+01





RM: -7.800000e+01





RM: -7.500000e+01





RM: -7.200000e+01





RM: -6.900000e+01





RM: -6.600000e+01





RM: -6.300000e+01





RM: -6.000000e+01





RM: -5.700000e+01





RM: -5.400000e+01





RM: -5.100000e+01





RM: -4.800000e+01





RM: -4.500000e+01





RM: -4.200000e+01





RM: -3.900000e+01





RM: -3.600000e+01





RM: -3.300000e+01





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RM: -2.700000e+01





RM: -2.400000e+01





RM: -2.100000e+01




RM: -1.800000e+01





RM: -1.500000e+01





RM: -1.200000e+01





RM: -9.000000e+00





RM: -6.000000e+00





RM: -3.000000e+00





RM: 0.000000e+00





RM: 3.000000e+00





RM: 6.000000e+00





RM: 9.000000e+00





RM: 1.200000e+01





RM: 1.500000e+01





RM: 1.800000e+01





RM: 2.100000e+01





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RM: 1.890000e+02





RM: 1.920000e+02





Existing, but unpublished/(un?)processed data

- WSRT at 150 MHz (Low Frequency Frontends / LFFEs 2005
- WSRT at L-band 2004 6x 12h
- WSRT at L-band (MFFE test with Tom Oosterloo, see Morganti)
- LOFAR (nov 2013)
