

# Magnetic Reconnection

Will Fox

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

... reconnecting to my SULI roots...

...and subsequent diffusion through plasma physics ...

NUF student



High-school  
Physics and  
math in Nepal

PhD student



MIT



UNH  
Space Science Center

Research Scientist



Undergrad thesis at PPPL

2001

2002

2002-2009

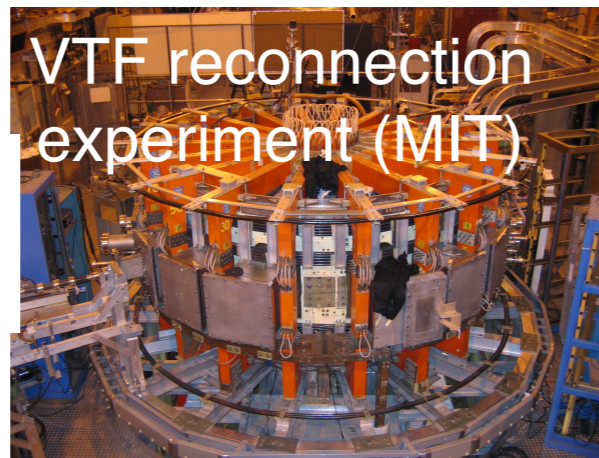
2009-2013

2013 - now

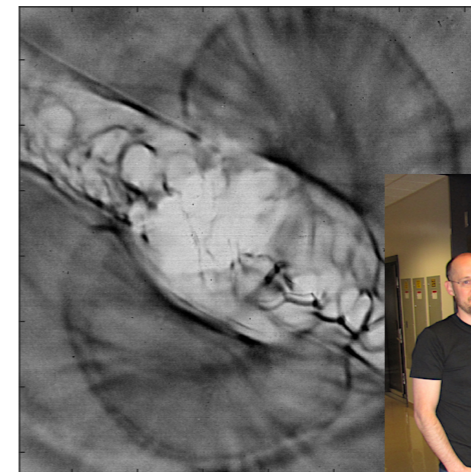
INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS PUBLISHING and INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
Nucl. Fusion 42 (2002) 1124-1133

NUCLEAR FUSION  
PII: S0029-5515(02)38137-7

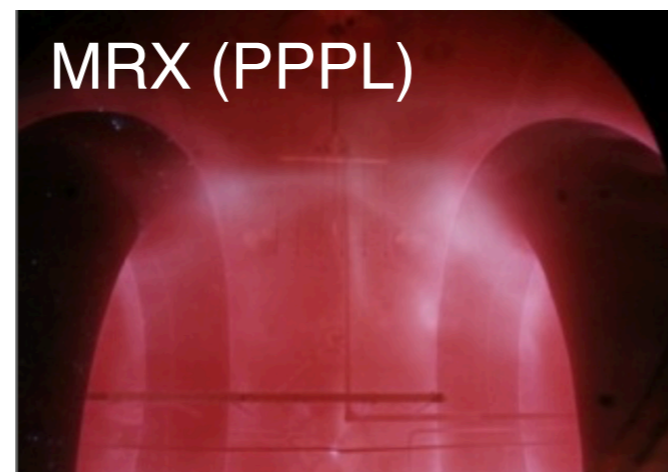
**Analysis of current drive using MSE  
polarimetry without equilibrium  
reconstruction**



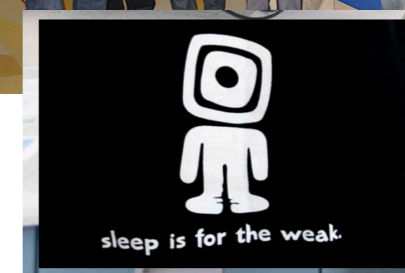
VTF reconnection  
experiment (MIT)



Expts at NIF and  
OMEGA



MRX (PPPL)



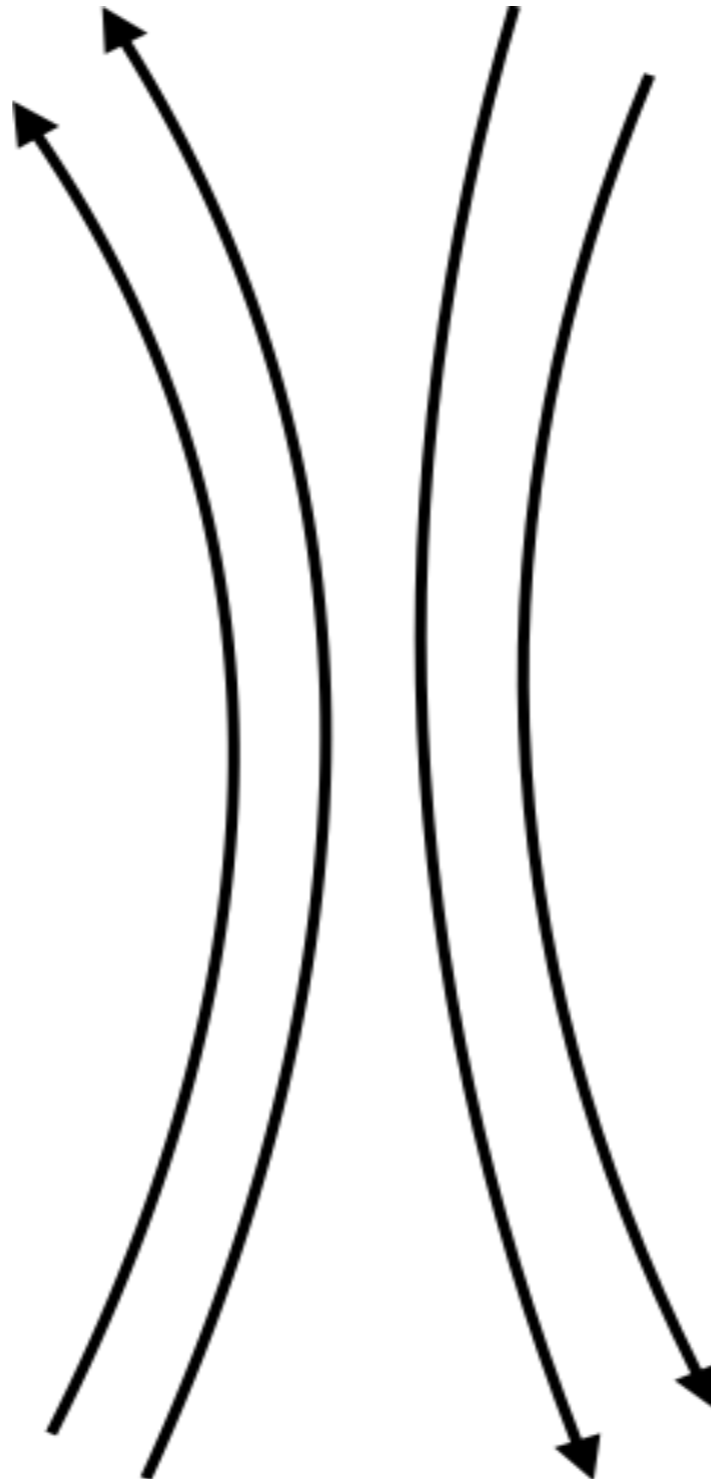
sleep is for the weak

# Key Points to Take Away

- **Magnetic reconnection** is a ubiquitous plasma process to explain dynamic and explosive plasma events from astrophysics to the laboratory
- All about energy conversion in plasma: re-arrangement of magnetic field leads to conversion of magnetic energy to plasma energy (kinetic flows + heat + accelerated particles)
- The problem is nearly as old as plasma physics, but continues to provide challenges:
  - **2-D (and likely 3-D)**: complex geometry
  - **Multi-scale**: it connects plasma behavior from global to kinetic (single-particle) scales
  - **Explosive** and non-steady

# Fundamental Picture

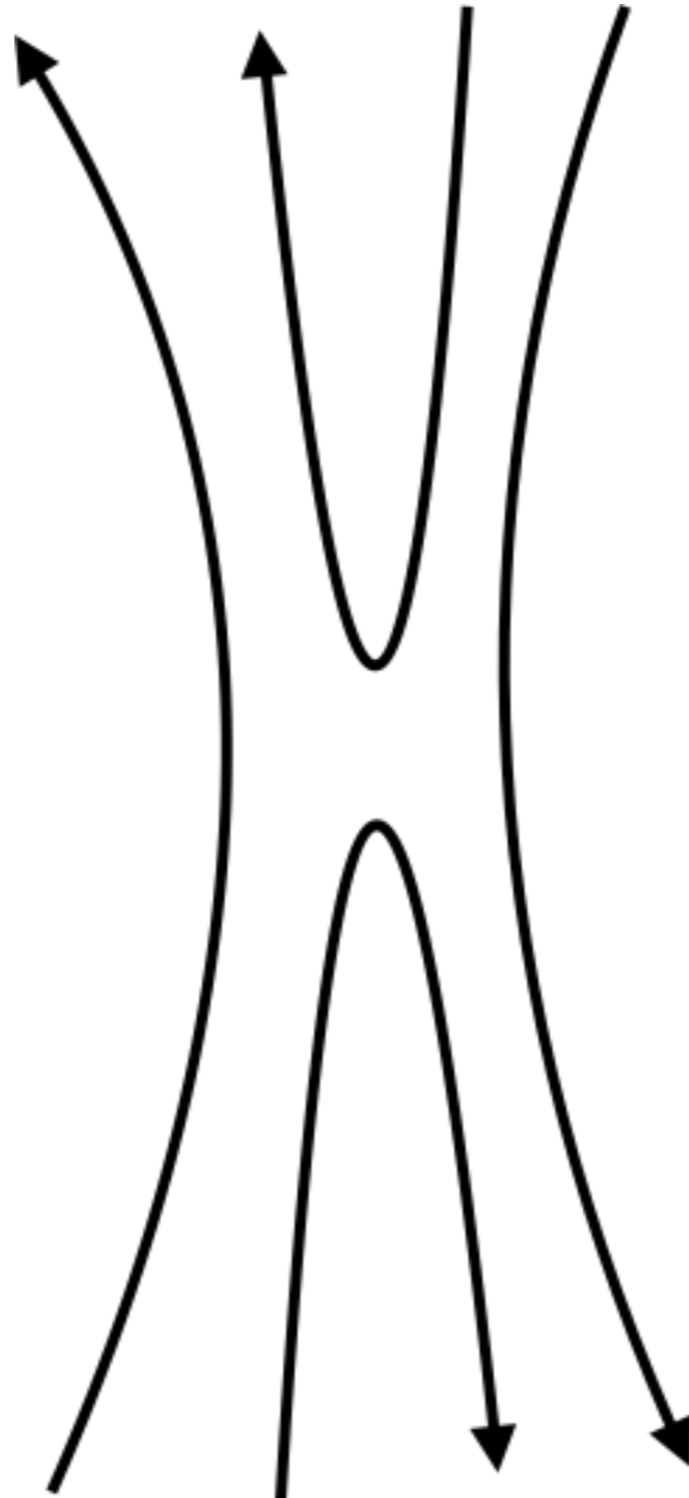
Magnetic fields in plasma store energy and have a tension force



Before reconnection

# Fundamental Picture

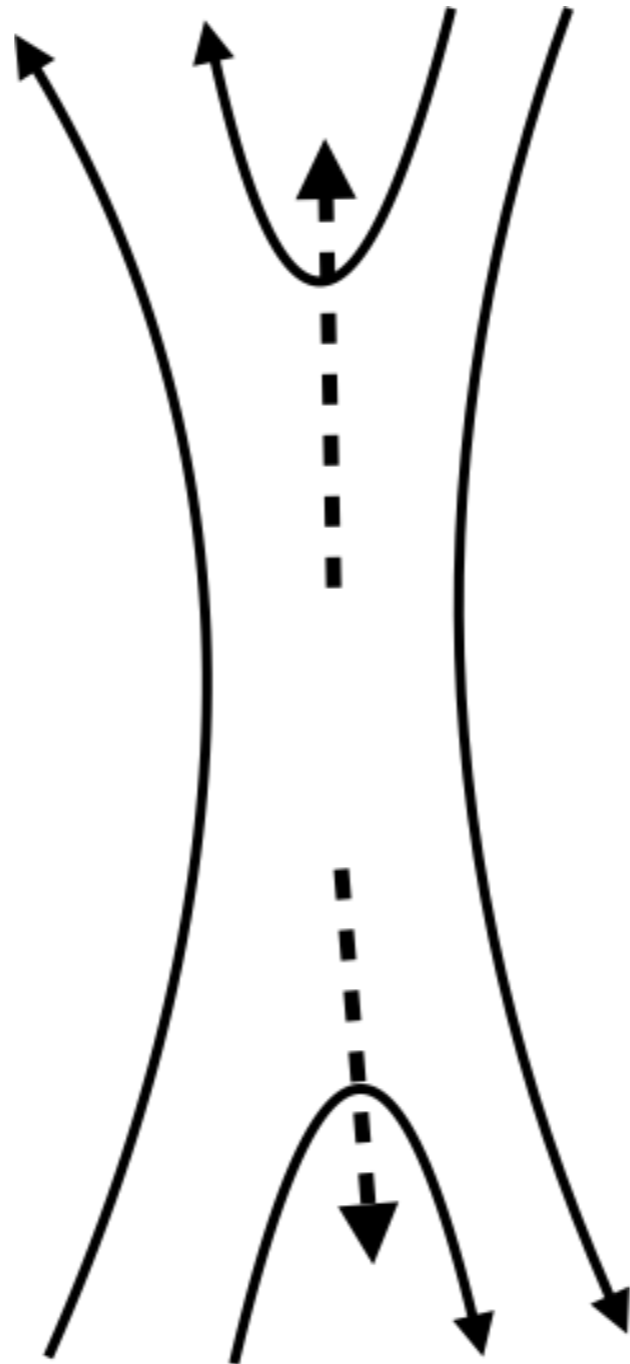
Energy can be released through topology change: magnetic reconnection



Field lines break and reconnect

# Fundamental Picture

Energy can be released through topology change: Magnetic Reconnection



Tension force slings  
plasma out.

$B^2$  energy converted to  
heat and flows

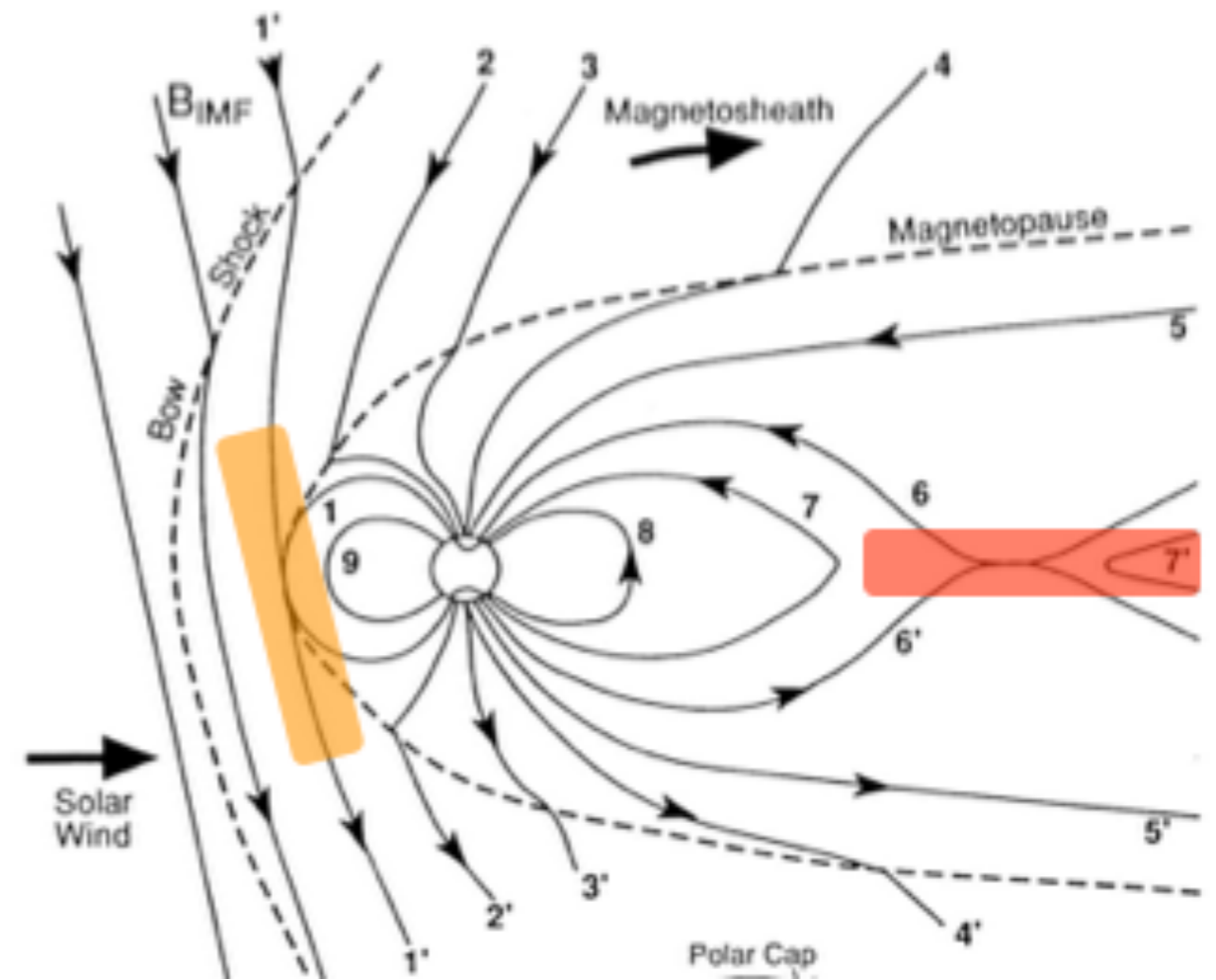
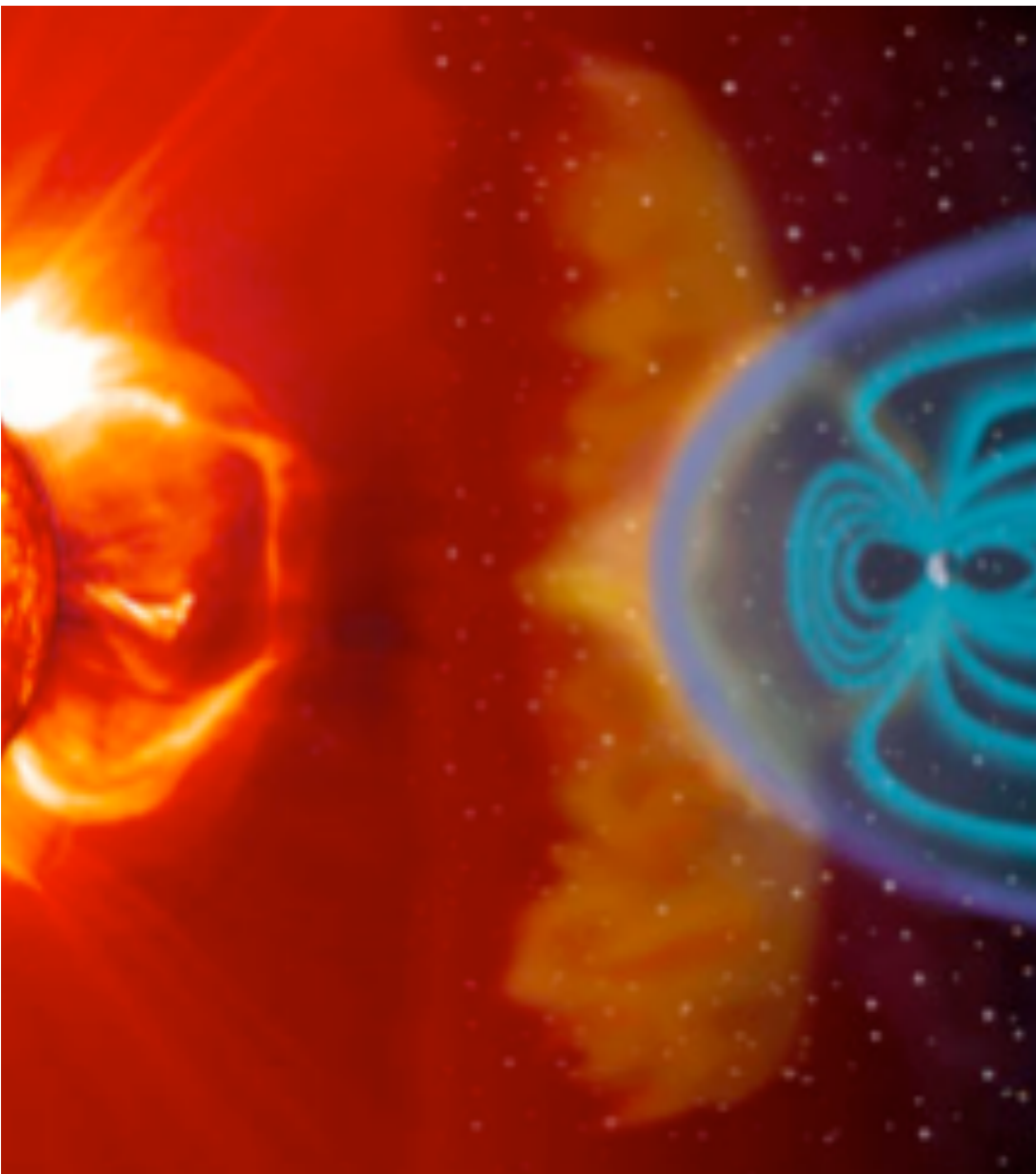
# Outline

- Reconnection in space and laboratory plasmas
- Reconnection Fundamentals - Current sheets and Sweet-Parker model
- Extensions
  - Two-fluid speed-up of reconnection
  - Plasmoid instabilities
- Frontier of reconnection

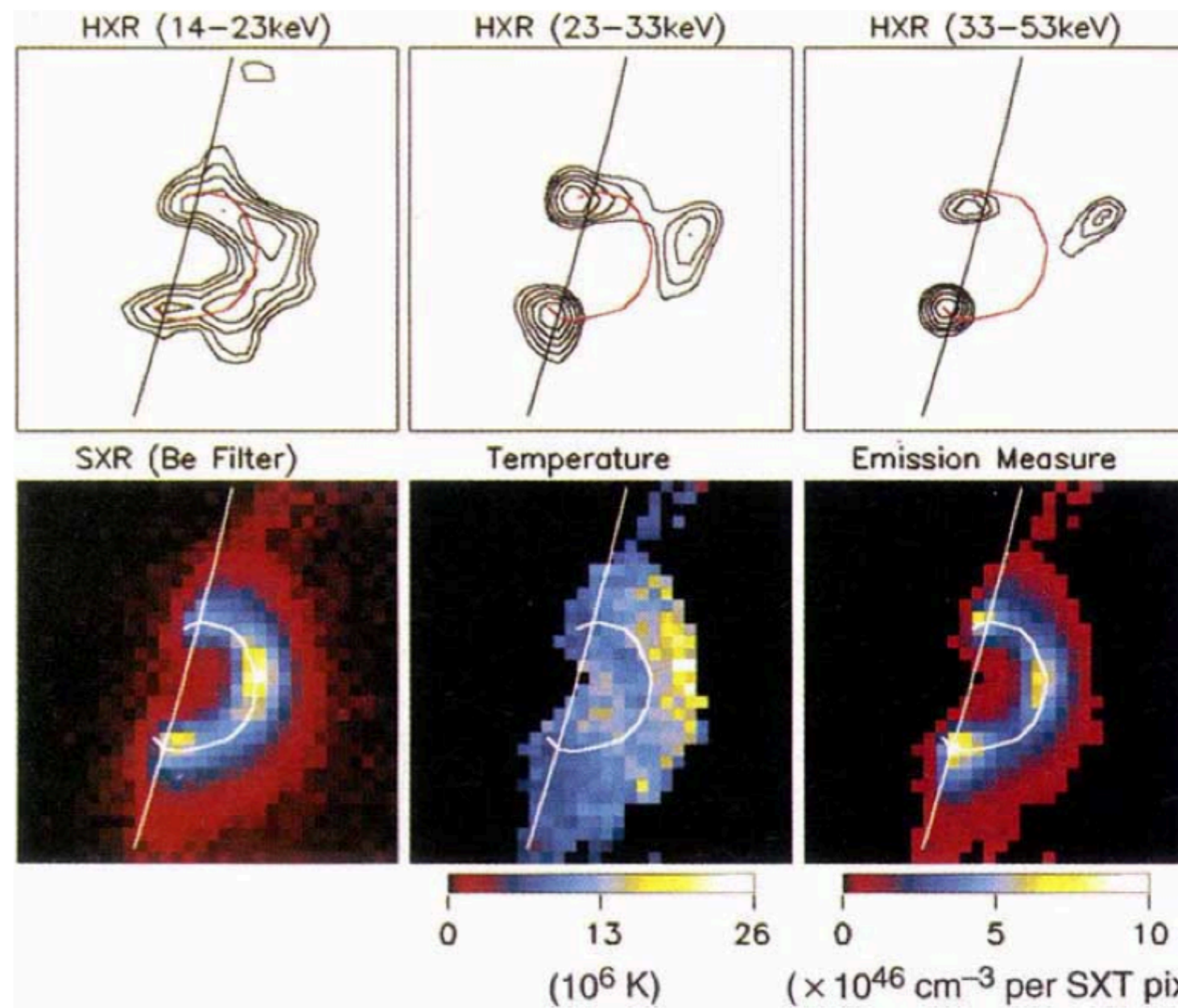
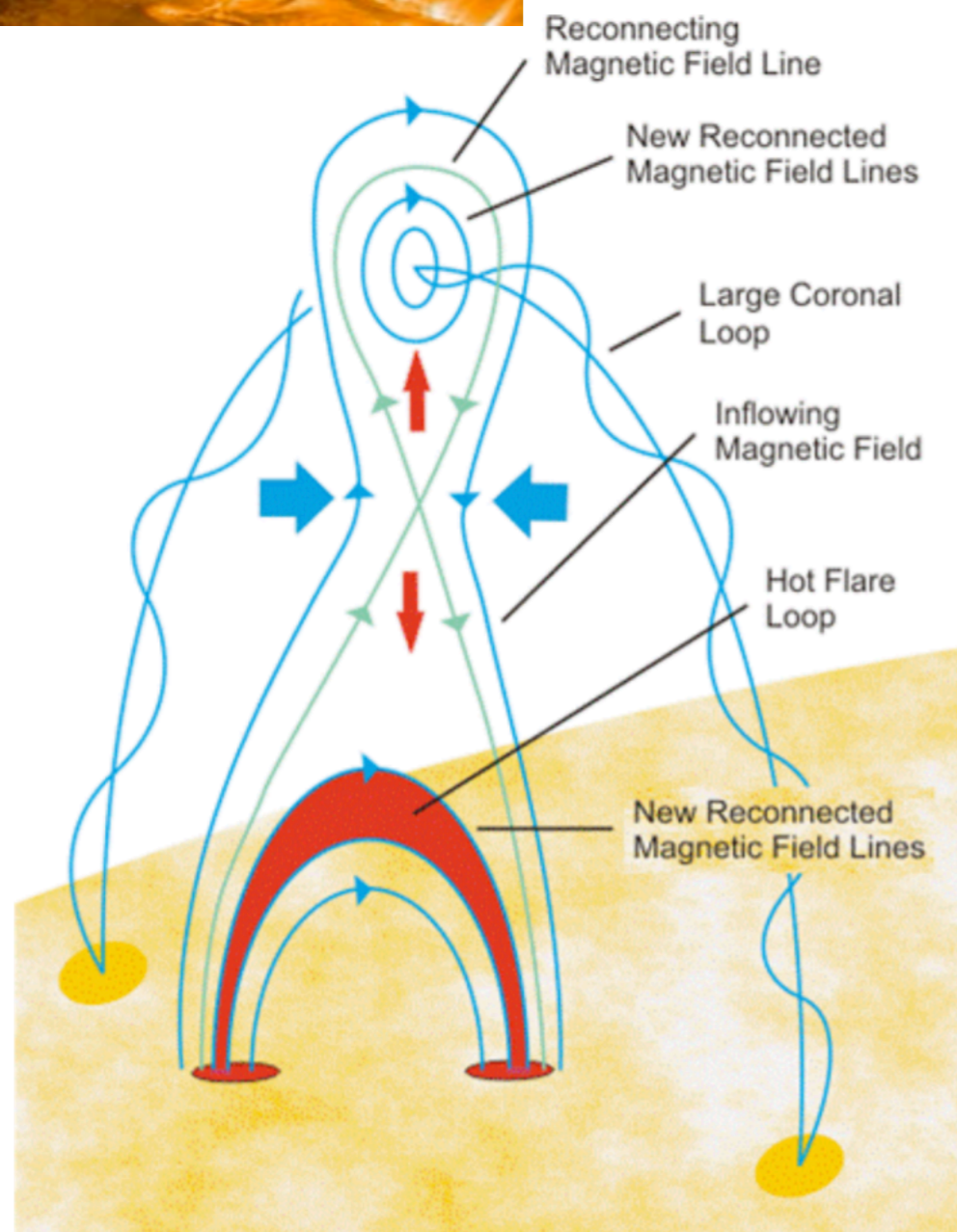
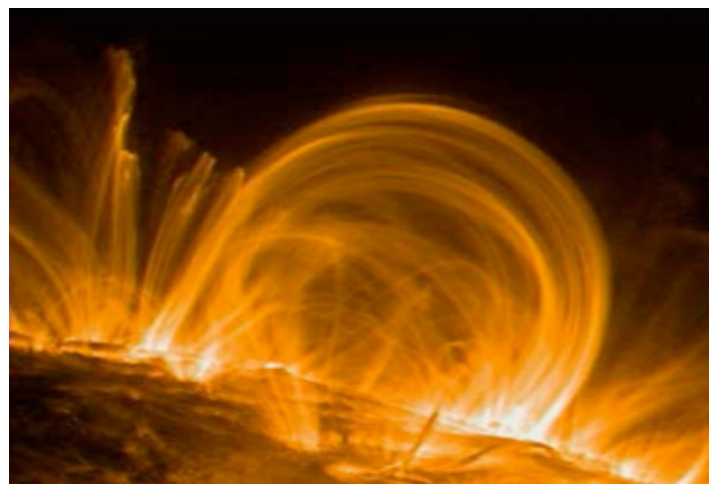
# **A tour through explosive reconnection in plasmas**



# Magnetic reconnection in solar-wind-magnetosphere interaction

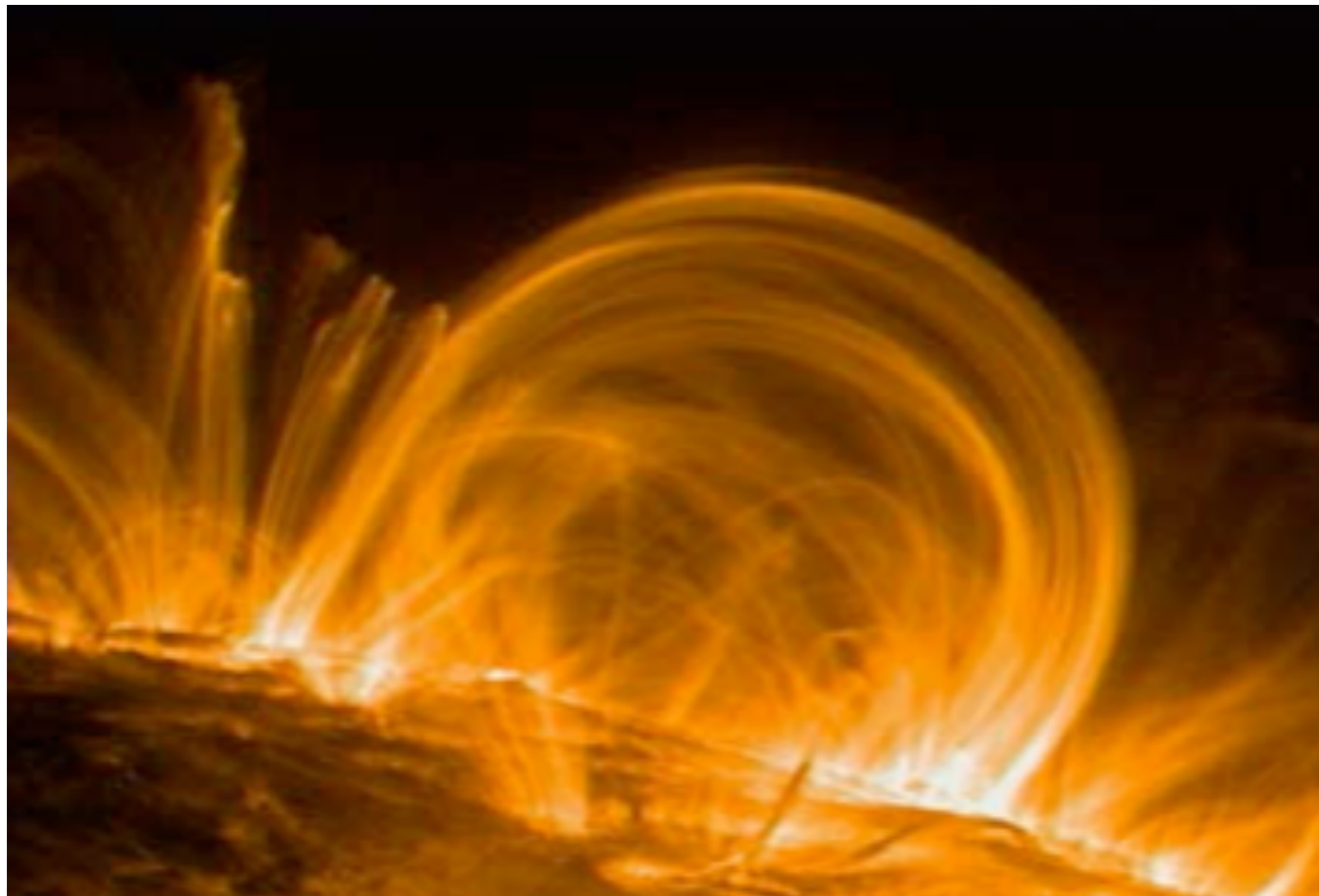


# Solar flares: “loop-top” x-ray source supports reconnection picture

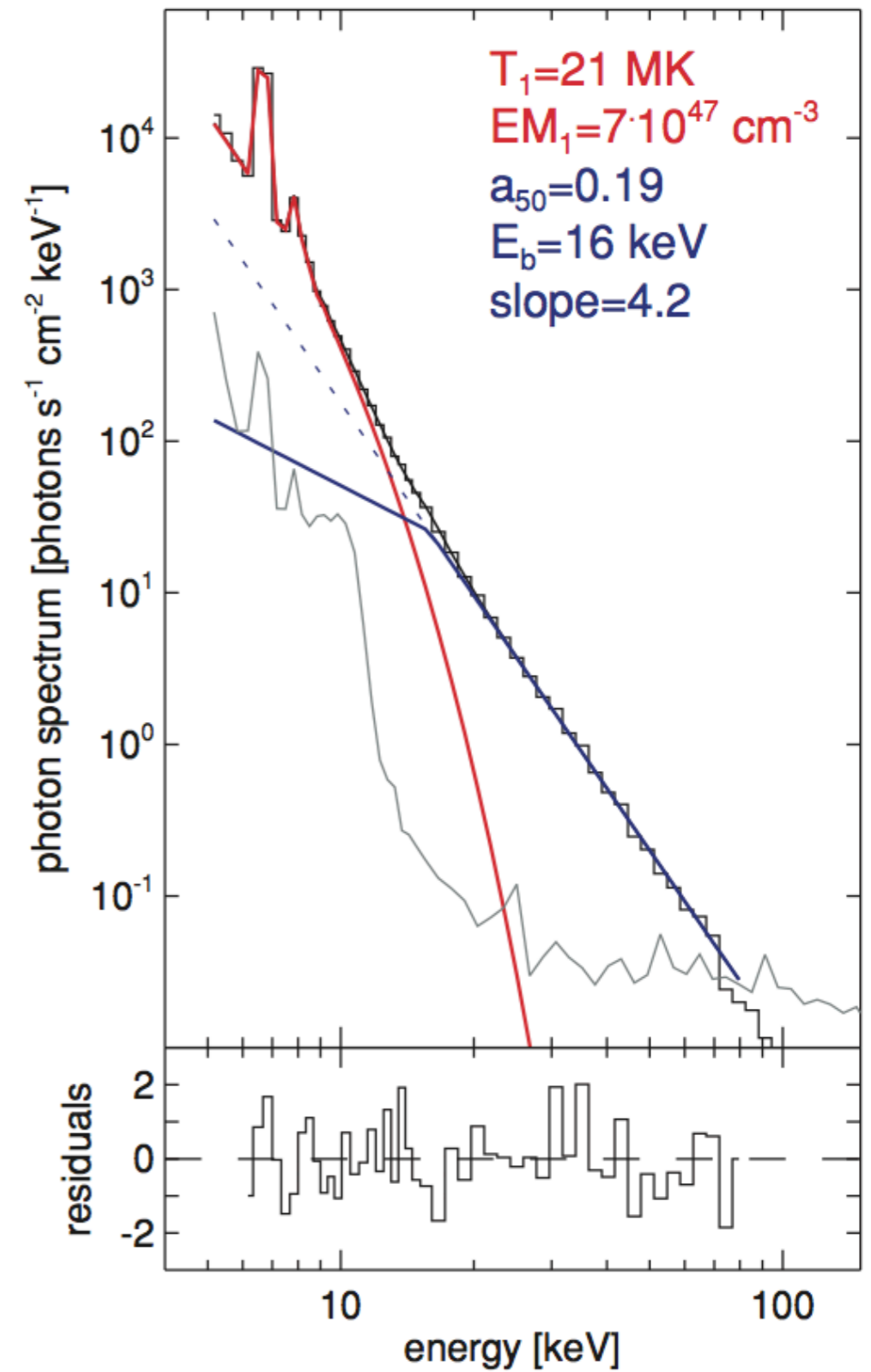


Masuda, Nature 1994

# Significant particle acceleration in stellar flares

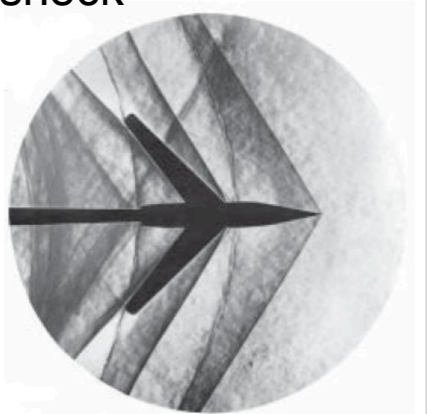


X-ray spectrum  
Krucker (2010)

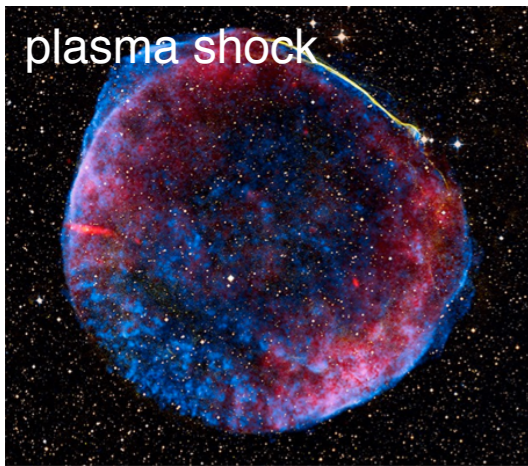


# Cosmic particle acceleration by reconnection embedded within collisionless shocks

gas shock

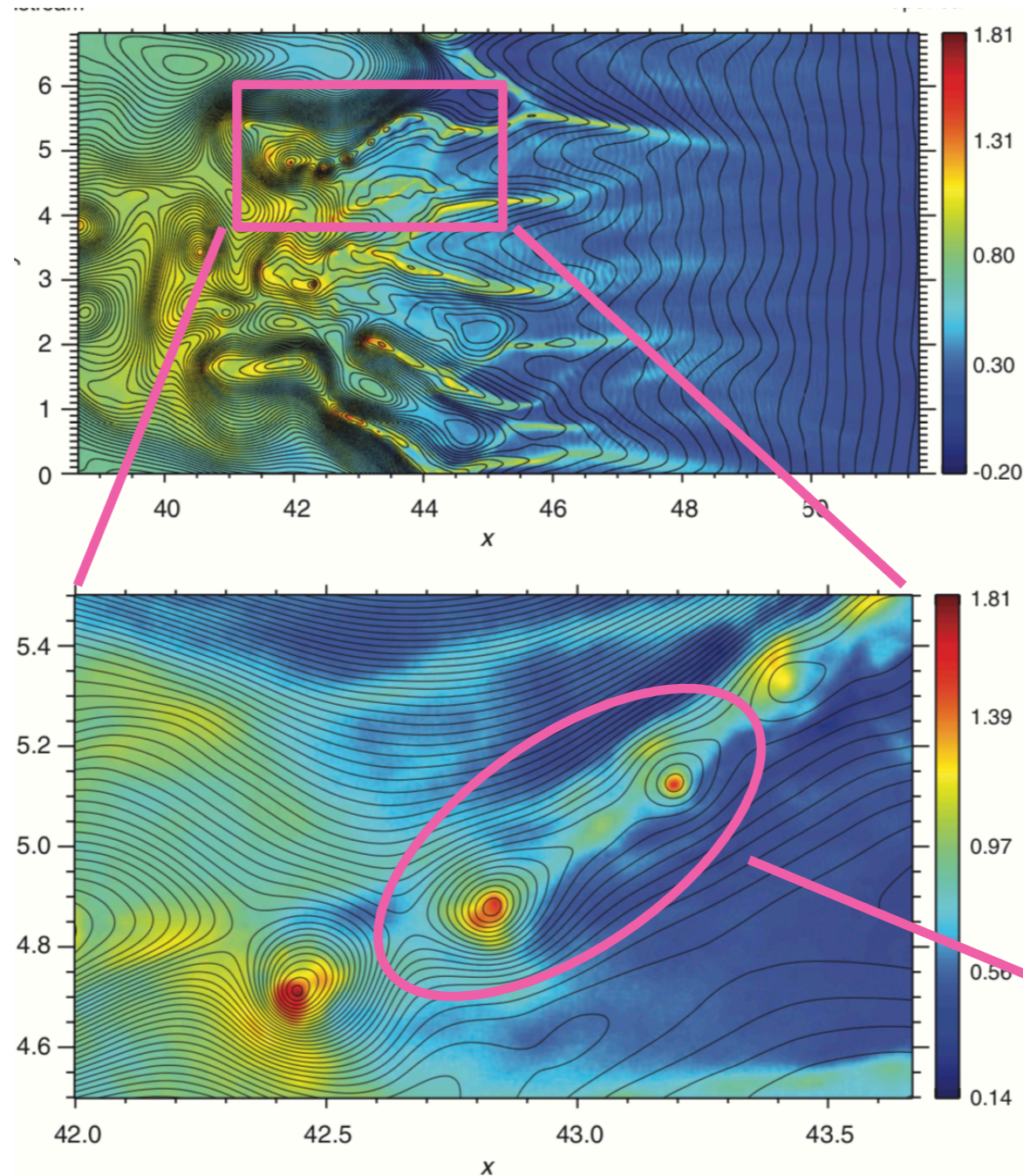


plasma shock



SNR1006

Collisionless SNR shocks shown to be the sites of cosmic ray acceleration. [Ackerman Science 2013]

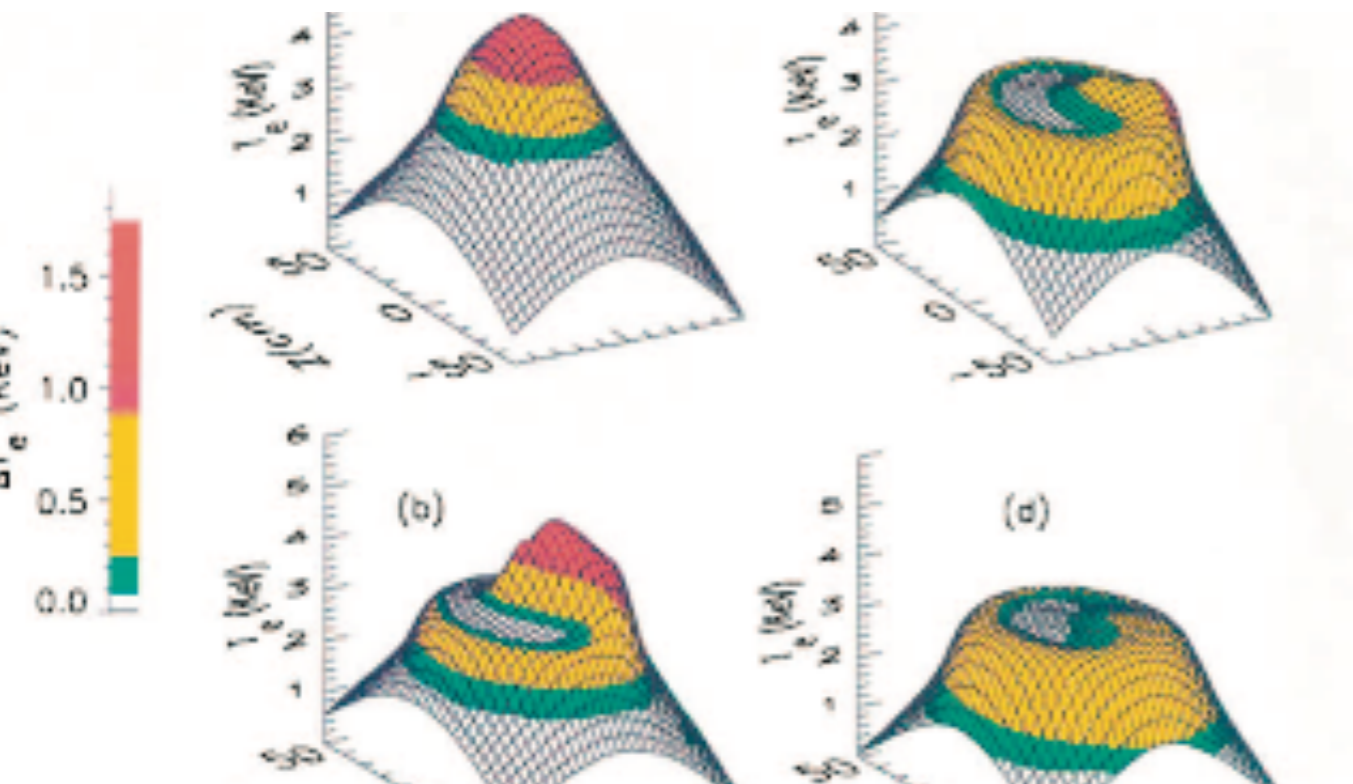
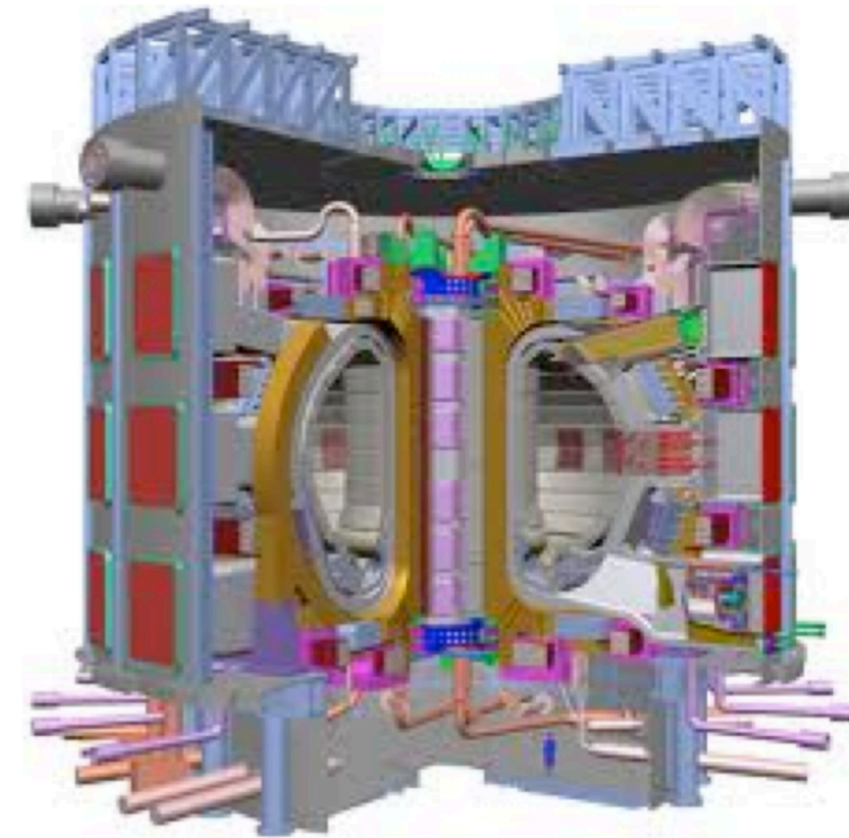


**Reconnection current sheet**

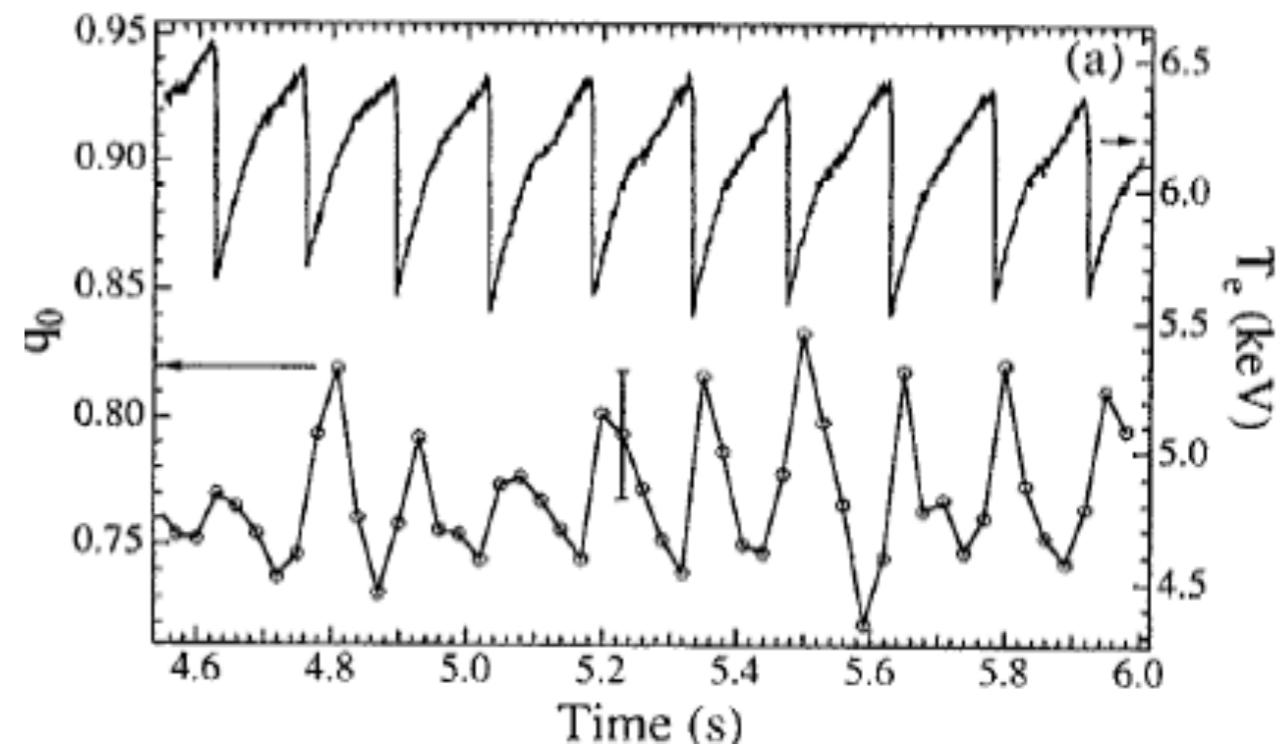
**Matsumoto, Science (2015)**

# “Sawtooth events” reconfigure central fields in fusion devices and lead to fast energy loss

Tomography of temperature profile



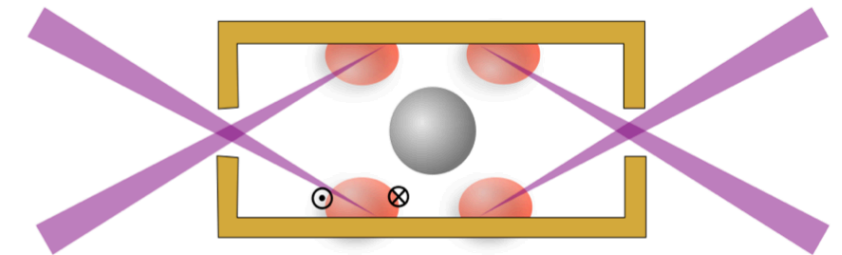
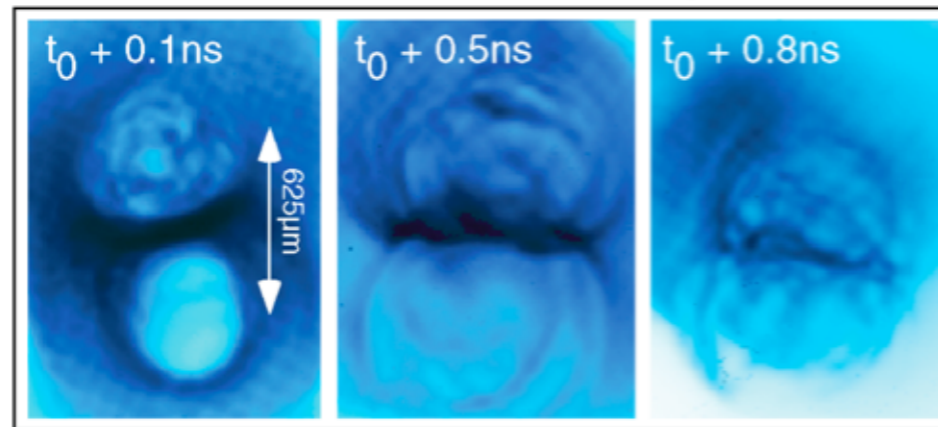
Central temperature crashes



Yamada PoP (1994)

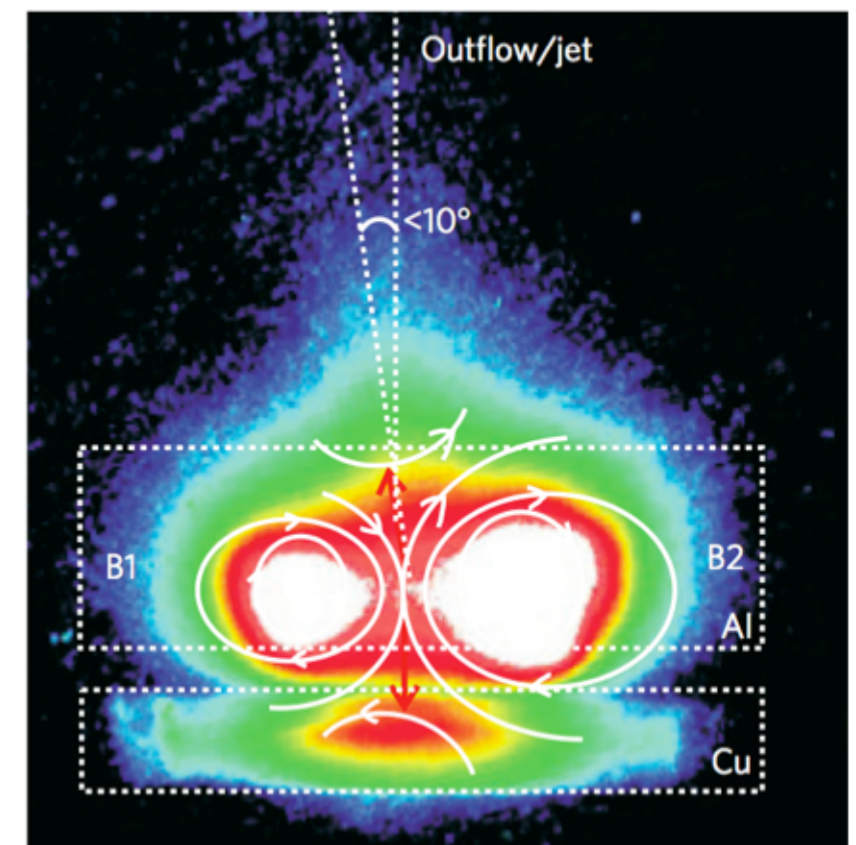
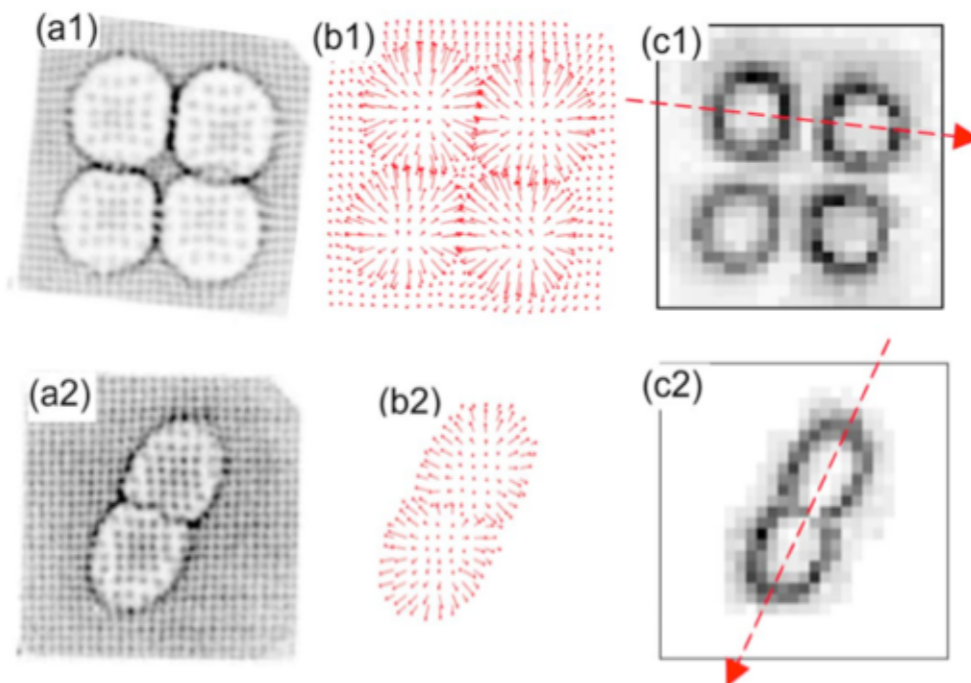
# Reconnection observed in laser-driven plasma experiments

Rutherford [Nilson, *et al* PRL 2006, PoP 2008, Willingale *et al* PoP 2010]



Shenguang [Zhong *et al* Nature Phys 2010]

Omega: [C.K. Li, *et al* PRL 2007]



# Reconnection fundamentals

- flux-freezing
- Sweet-Parker reconnection

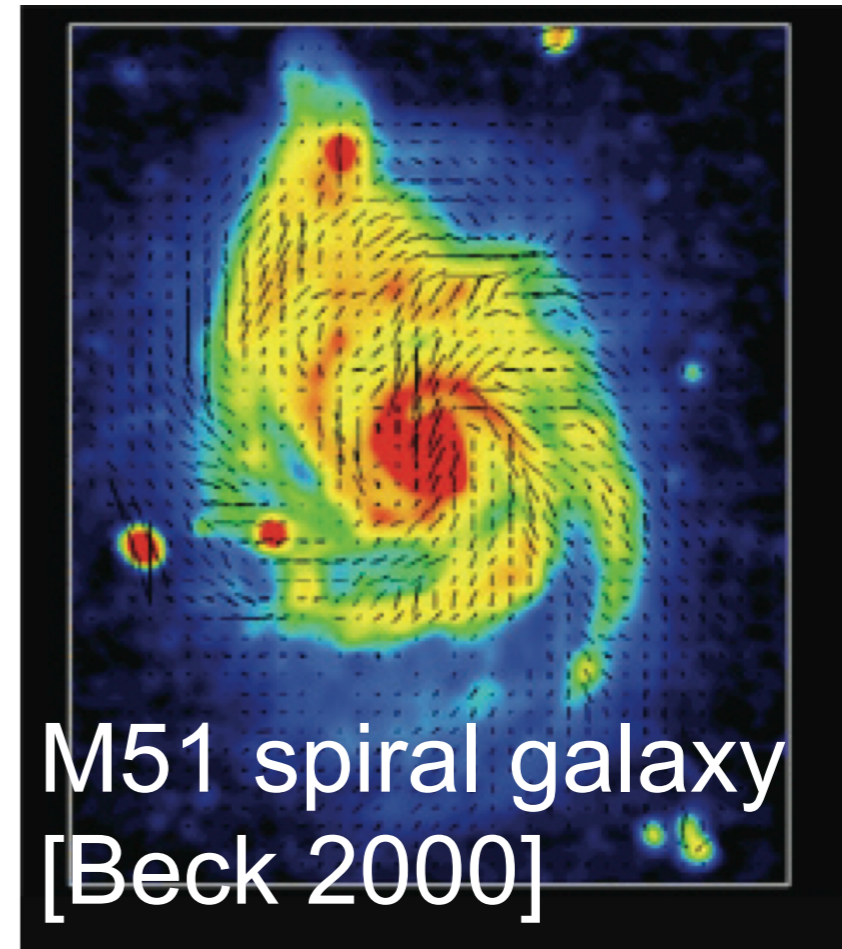
# MHD equations

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u} &= 0 & \mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}}{c} &= \eta \mathbf{j} \\ \rho \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \right) \mathbf{u} &= \frac{\mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B}}{c} - \nabla p & \nabla \times \mathbf{B} &= \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{j} \\ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{p}{\rho^{5/3}} \right) &= 0 & \nabla \times \mathbf{E} &= -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}\end{aligned}$$

- No intrinsic spatial or temporal scales: all kinetic physics has disappeared. Valid when collisions dominate.
- Very useful set of equations: very often yield key physical insight, even if not rigorously valid for the particular plasma under consideration.

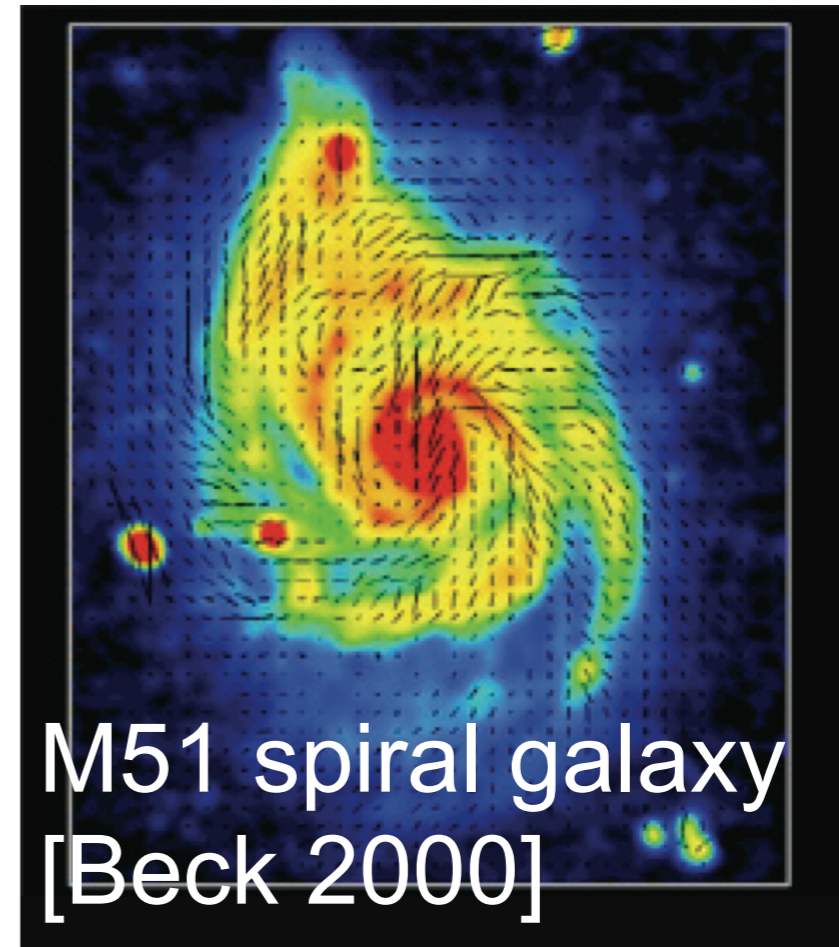


# ...To see the universe in a cup of coffee...



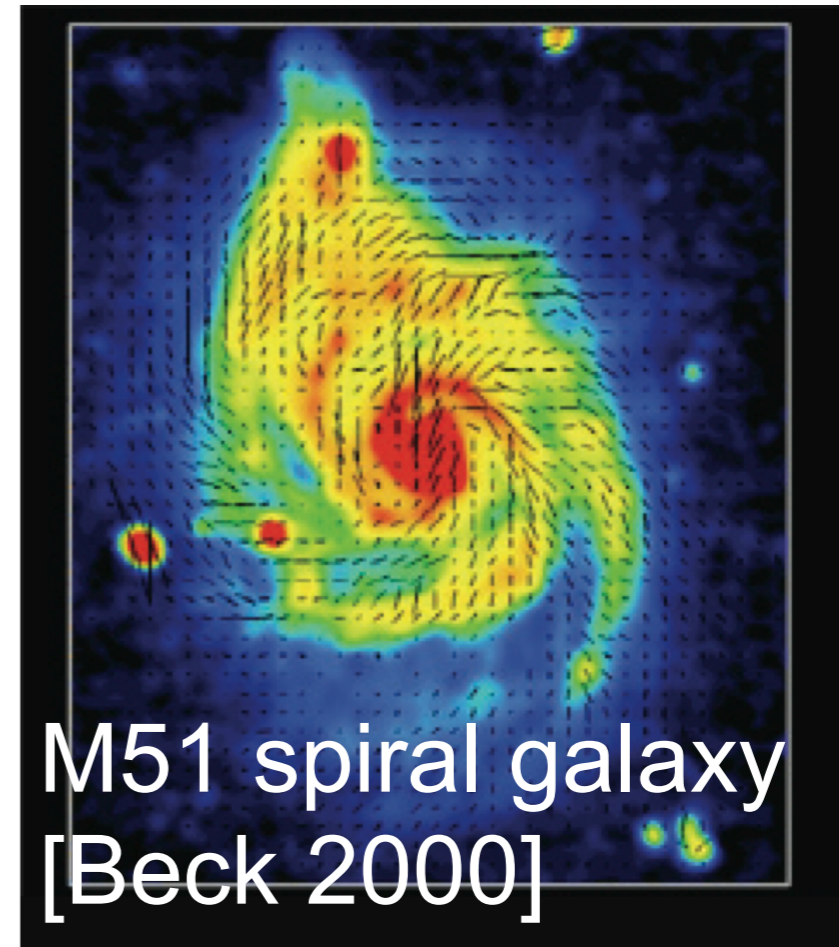
- We can rephrase it like a plasma physicist: “the fundamental MHD equations are *scale invariant*”

# ...To see the universe in a cup of coffee...



- We can rephrase it like a plasma physicist: “the fundamental MHD equations are *scale invariant*”
  - *Similar phenomenon occur in the laboratory and cosmos*
  - *Laboratory experiments can study cosmic behavior!*

# ...To see the universe in a cup of coffee...



- We can rephrase it like a plasma physicist: the fundamental MHD equations are *scale invariant*
- (In reality: real plasmas can have viscosity, resistivity, and two-fluid plasma effect, finite Larmor radius, ion skin depth, transport processes, ...)
  - More precisely, MHD is a limit of sufficient *scale separation* ( $S \sim LV_A/\eta$ ,  $Re \sim LV/\nu$ ,  $L/\rho$ )
  - (This will come back!)

# Frozen flux constraint

Magnetic flux through a surface  $S$ , defined by a closed contour  $C$ :

$$\Psi = \int_S \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

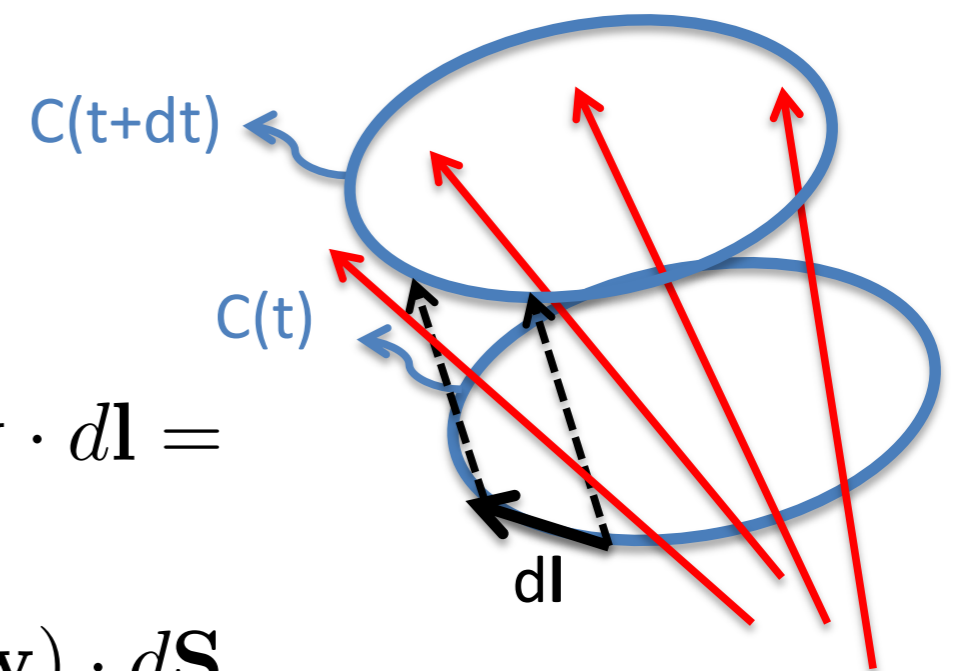
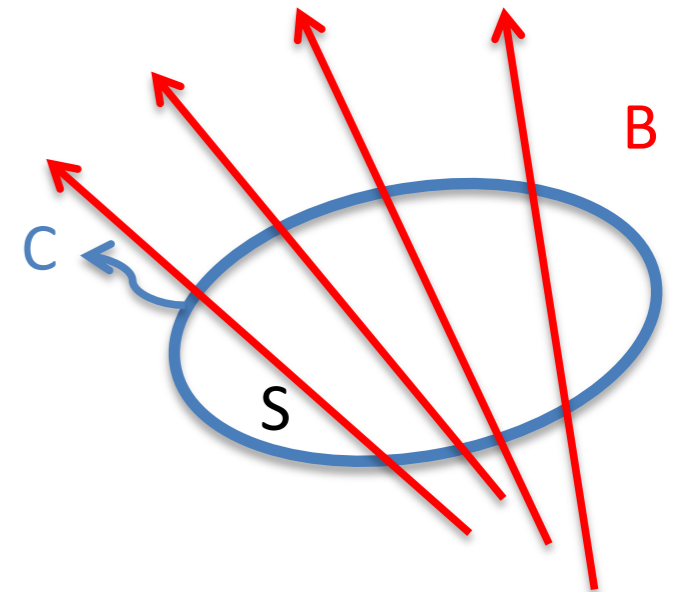
How does  $\Psi$  change in time?

1. the magnetic field itself can change:

$$\left( \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} \right)_1 = \int_S \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = -c \int_S \nabla \times \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

2. the surface moves with velocity  $\mathbf{w}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} \right)_2 &= \int_C \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{w} \times d\mathbf{l} = \int_C \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{w} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \\ &= \int_S \nabla \times (\mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{w}) \cdot d\mathbf{S} \end{aligned}$$



# Frozen flux constraint (cont'd)

Combine the two contributions to get:

$$\frac{d\Psi}{dt} = - \int_S \nabla \times (c\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

*Up to here, no plasma physics involved – this is a completely general result*

# Frozen flux constraint (cont'd)

Combine the two contributions to get:

$$\frac{d\Psi}{dt} = - \int_S \nabla \times (c\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

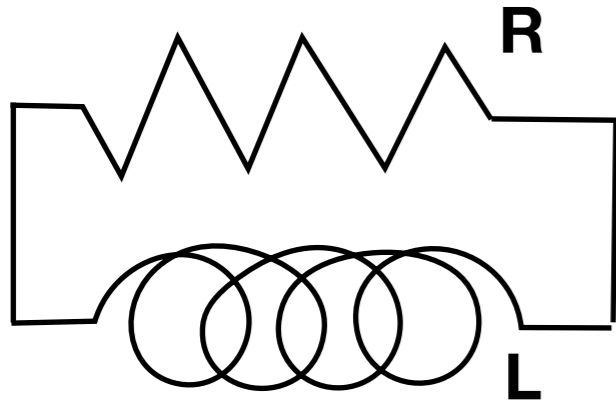
Recognize that  $\mathbf{w}$  is an arbitrary velocity. Let me chose it to be the plasma velocity:  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u}$ , and recall Ohm's law:

$$\mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c}\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} = \eta\mathbf{j}$$

Neglect collisions (RHS)  $\rightarrow$  *ideal Ohm's law*

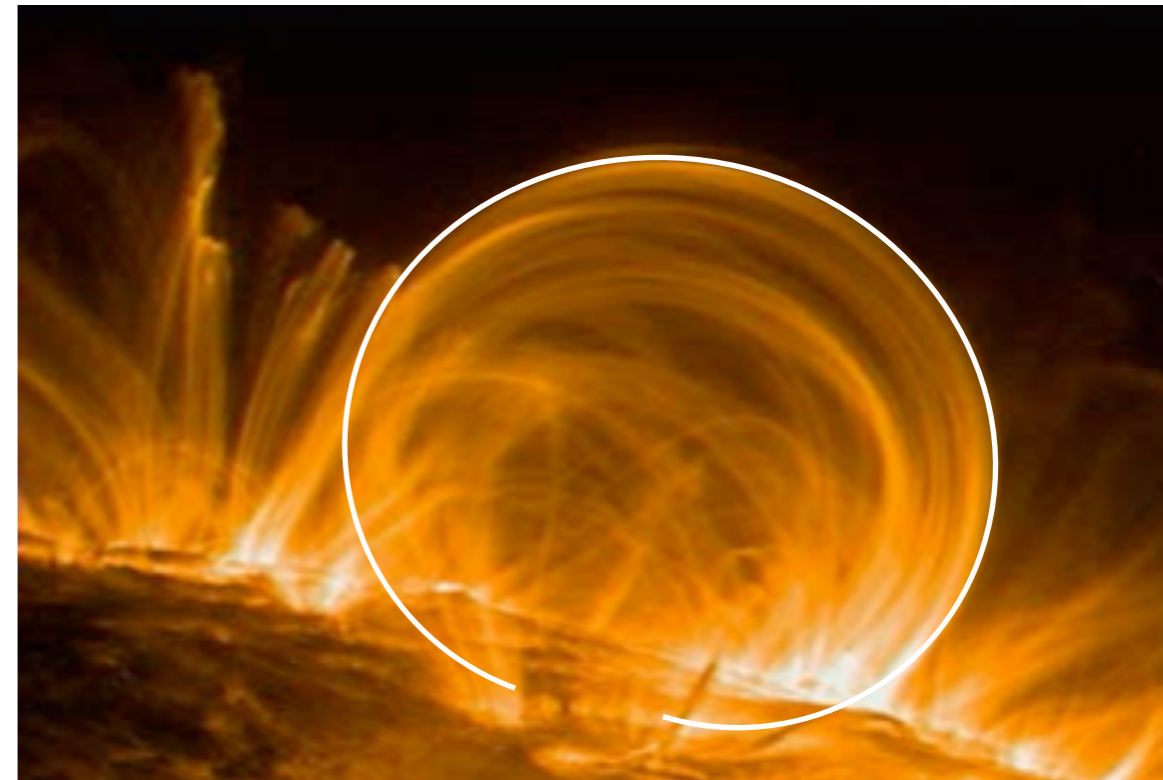
$$\frac{d\Psi}{dt} = 0$$

# Simple Resistive Dissipation of Magnetic Field in 1-D Is Extremely Slow



1-D magnetic diffusion is analogous to inductive decay

$$\tau_{\text{diff}} = \frac{\mu_0 a^2}{\eta}$$



Resistive diffusion time:

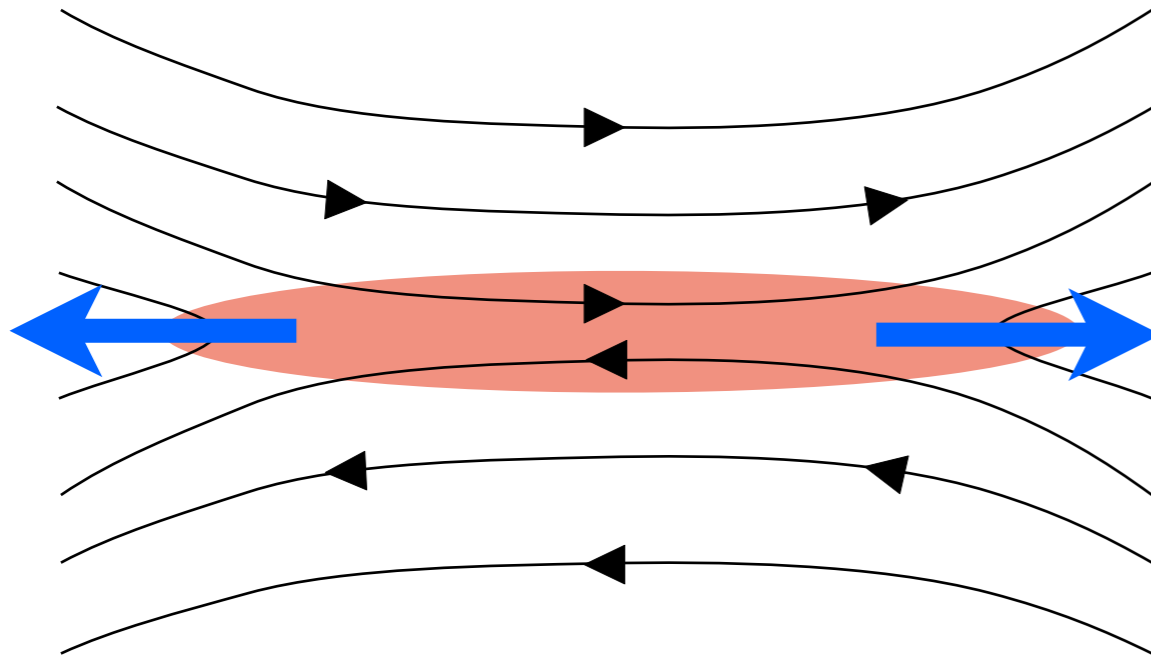
$L=10,000\text{km}$        $\tau_{\text{diff}} \sim 3 \text{ Myr!}$

$T_e=100\text{eV}$       vs flare time: minutes to hours

**How to make it faster?**

# Sweet-Parker model of reconnection

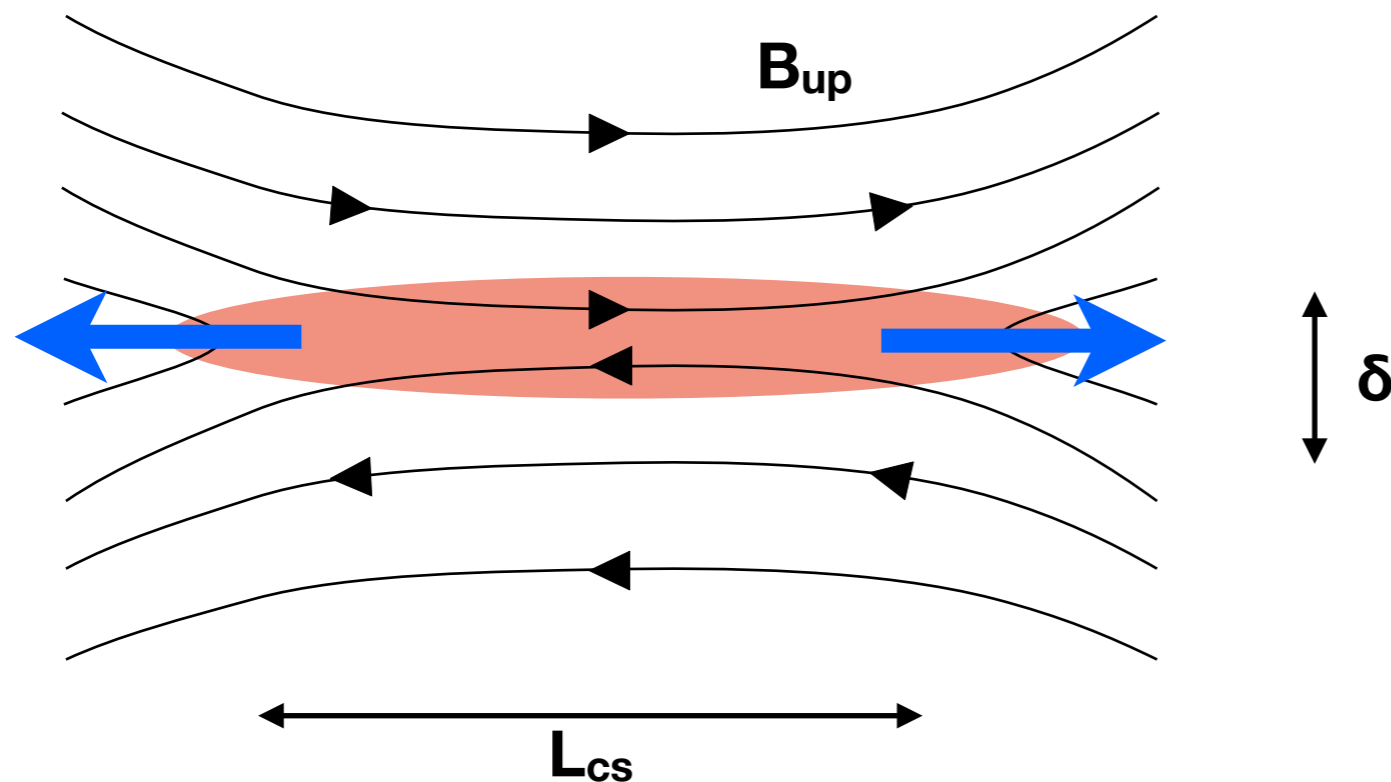
- Key insights
  - Reconnection through a narrow current sheet - much faster than global resistive decay
  - Coupling of reconnection to outflow jets





# Sweet-Parker model of reconnection

- Key insights
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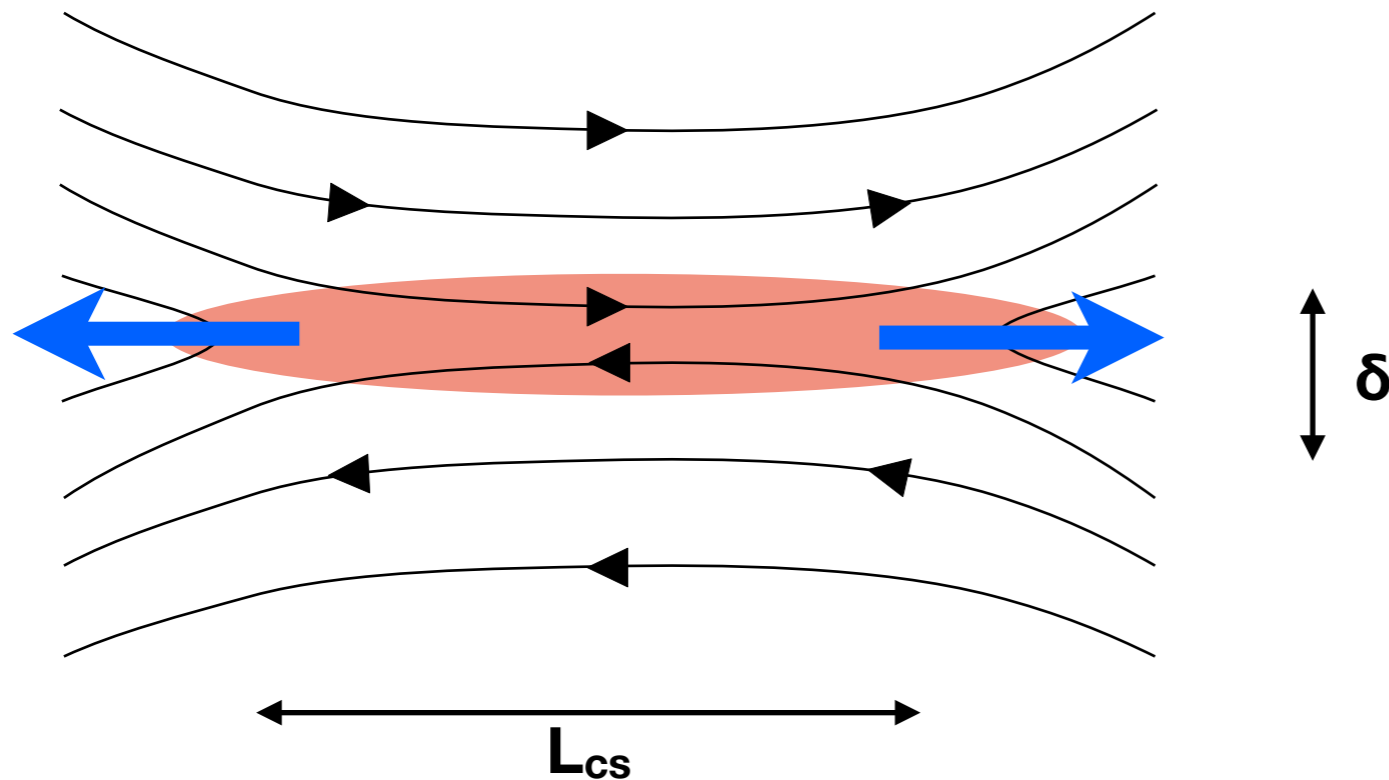
$$V_A = B_{up} / (\mu_0 n_0 m_i)^{1/2}$$

Typical upstream magnetic field  $B_{up}$ , density  $n_0$ , resistivity  $\eta$

Lundquist number  $S = L V_A / \eta$ .

$S$  can be very large in cosmic plasmas. Solar flare  $S \sim 10^{12}$ !

# Sweet-Parker model of reconnection



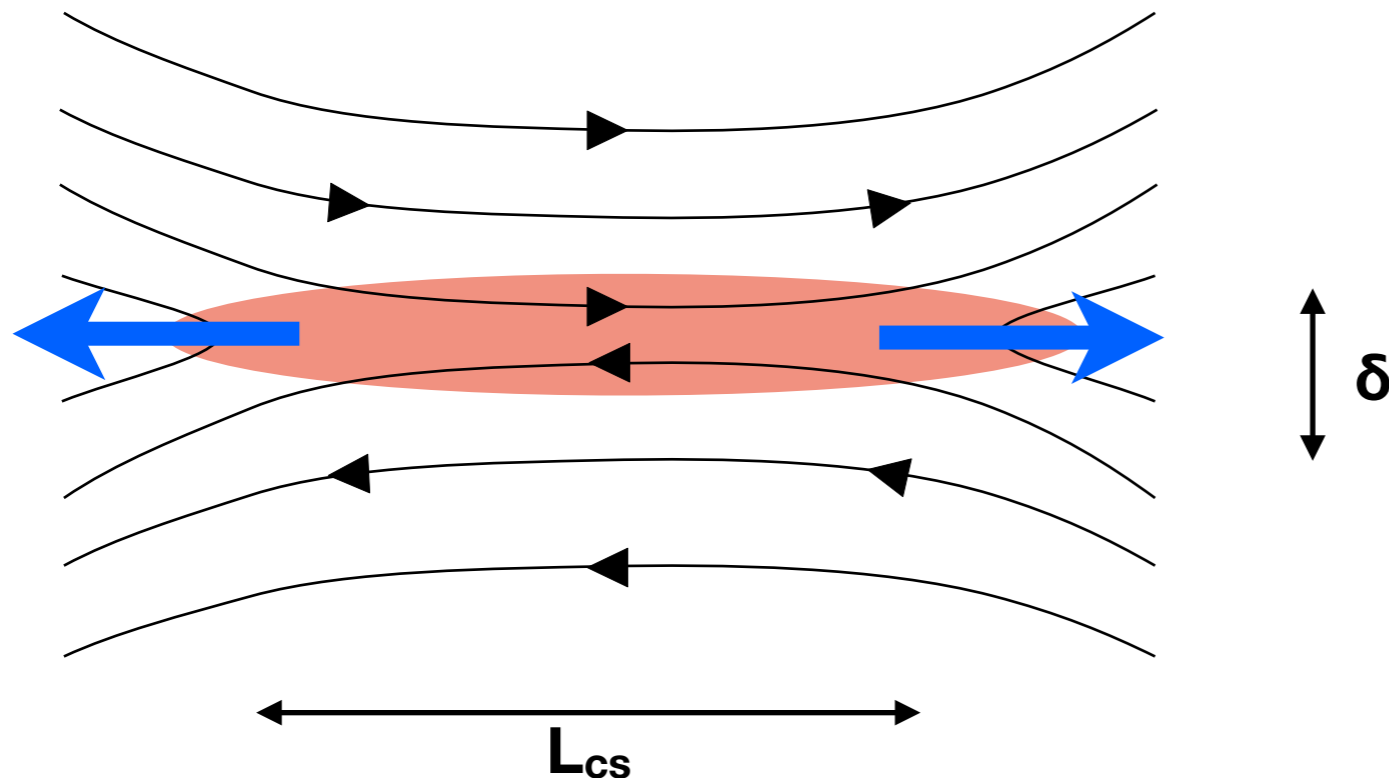
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Ingredients:

1) Mass balance and steady state:  $\delta V_{out} \sim L V_{in}$

# Sweet-Parker model of reconnection



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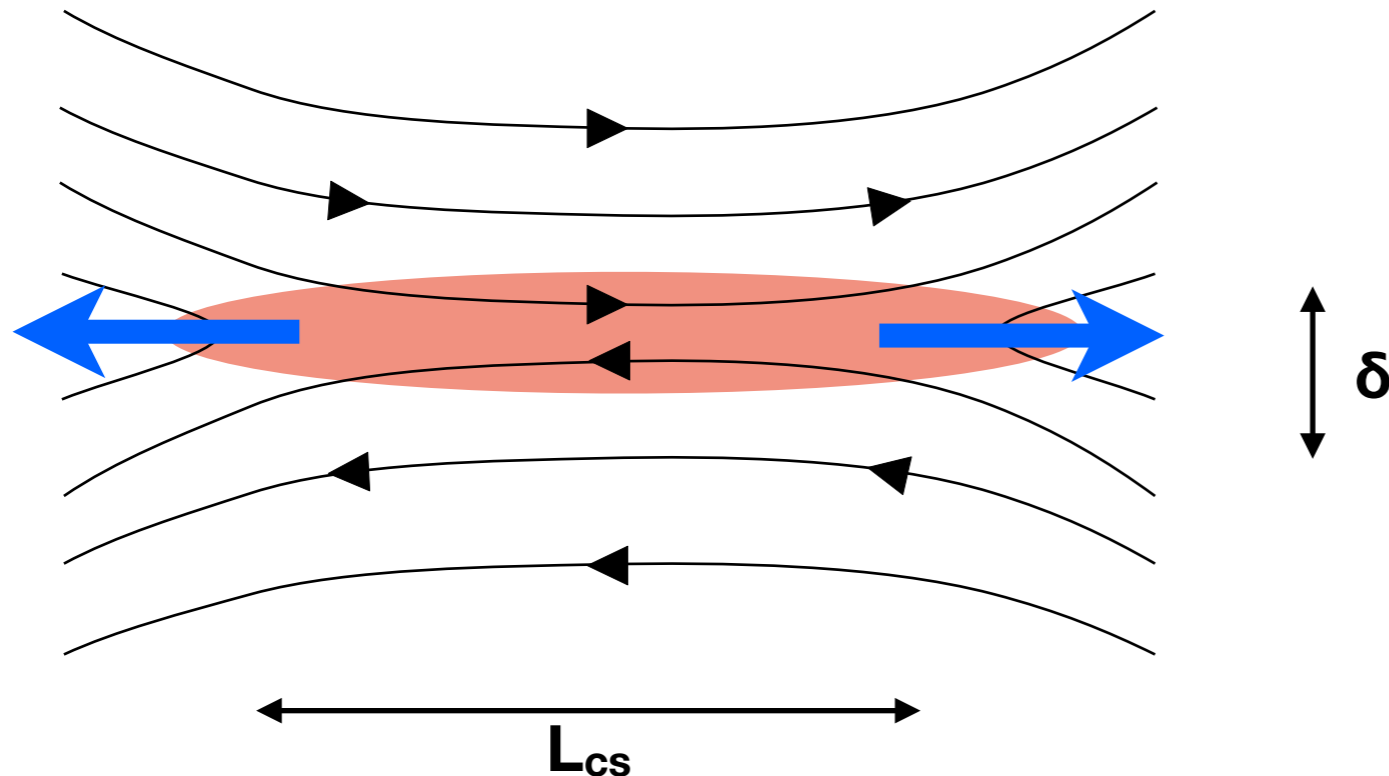
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2) Energy conversion to drive outflow:  $nm V_{out}^2 \sim B_{up}^2 / \mu_0$ . So  **$V_{out} = V_A$**

# Sweet-Parker model of reconnection



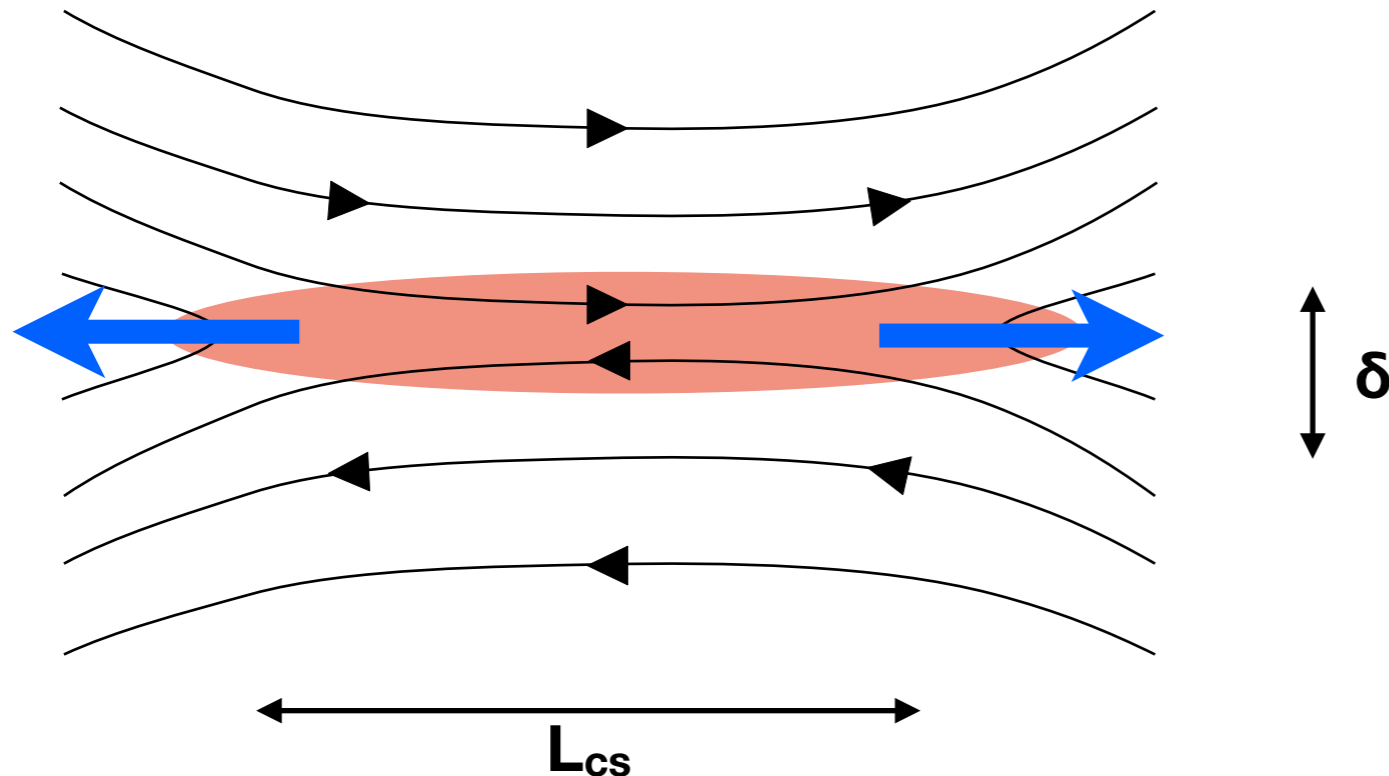
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- 3) Reconnection through thin current sheet (flux balance):
  - $E = V_{in} B_{up} = \eta J$

# Sweet-Parker model of reconnection



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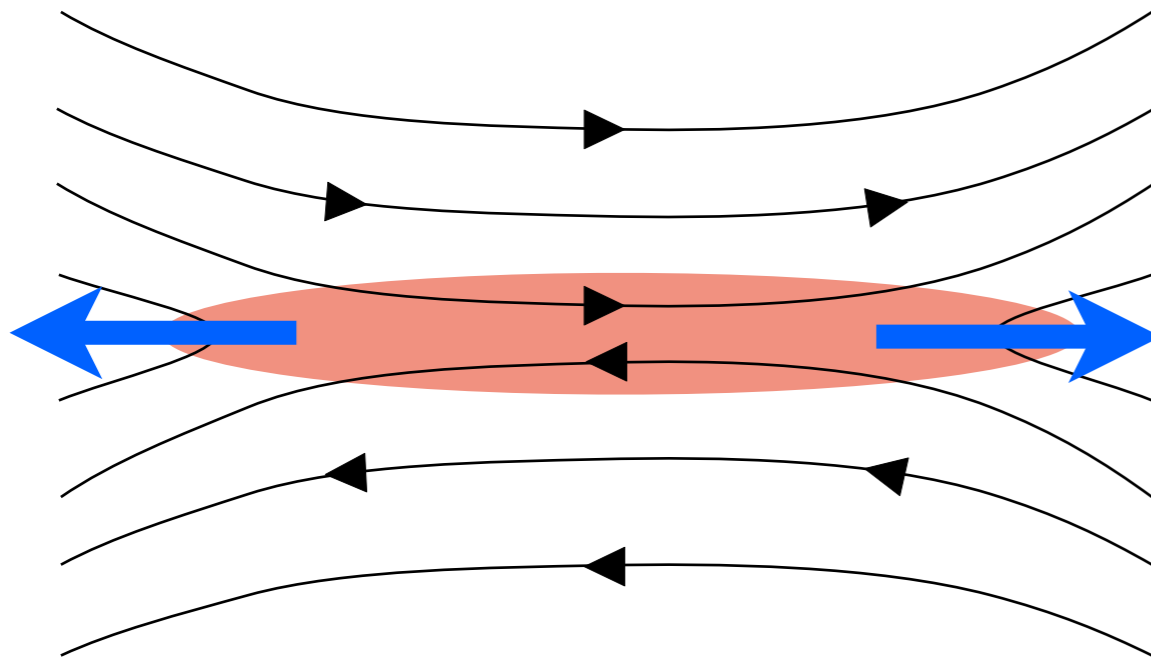
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# Sweet-Parker model of reconnection

- Key insights

- Good geometry, but very narrow CS due to low resistivity.



$$V_{in}/V_{out} = \delta/L$$

$$V_{in} \sim \eta/\mu_0\delta$$

$$\rho V_{out}^2 \sim B^2/\mu_0$$

Slow inflow and therefore rate

$$V_{in} \sim V_A/S^{1/2}$$

Very extended current sheet

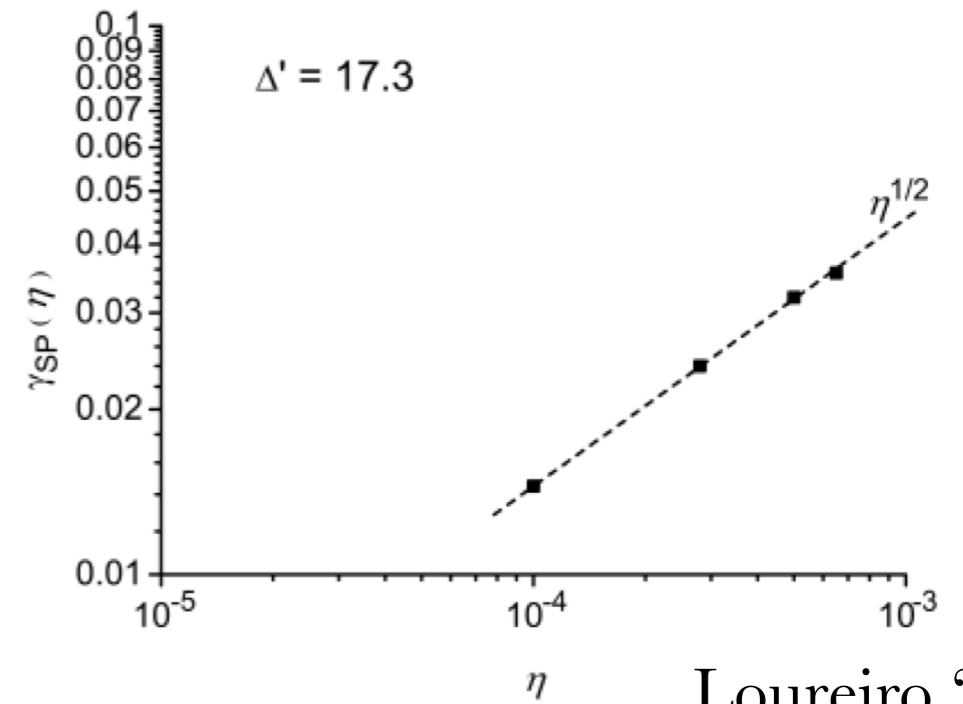
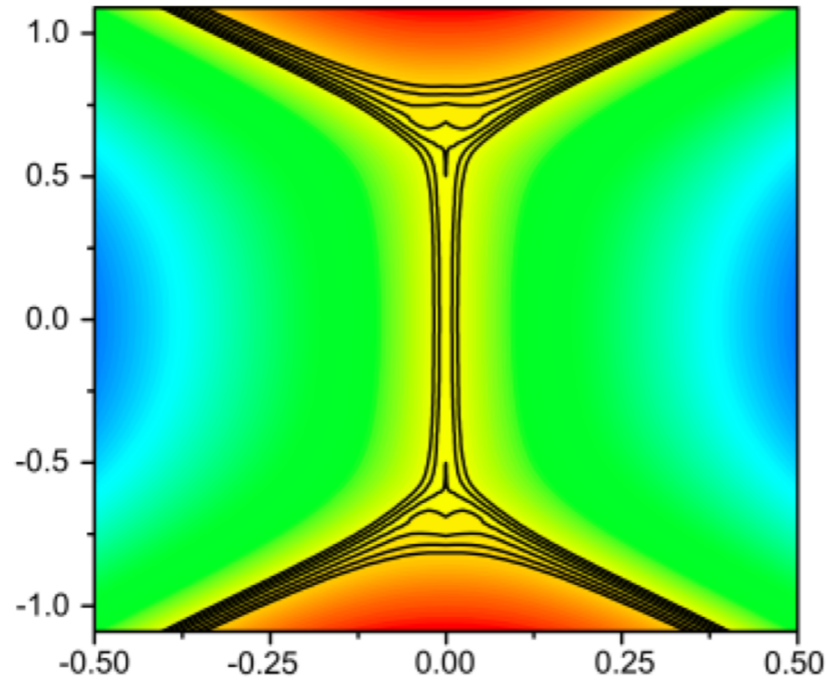
$$L/\delta \sim S^{1/2}$$

**Solar flare  $S \sim 10^{12}$**

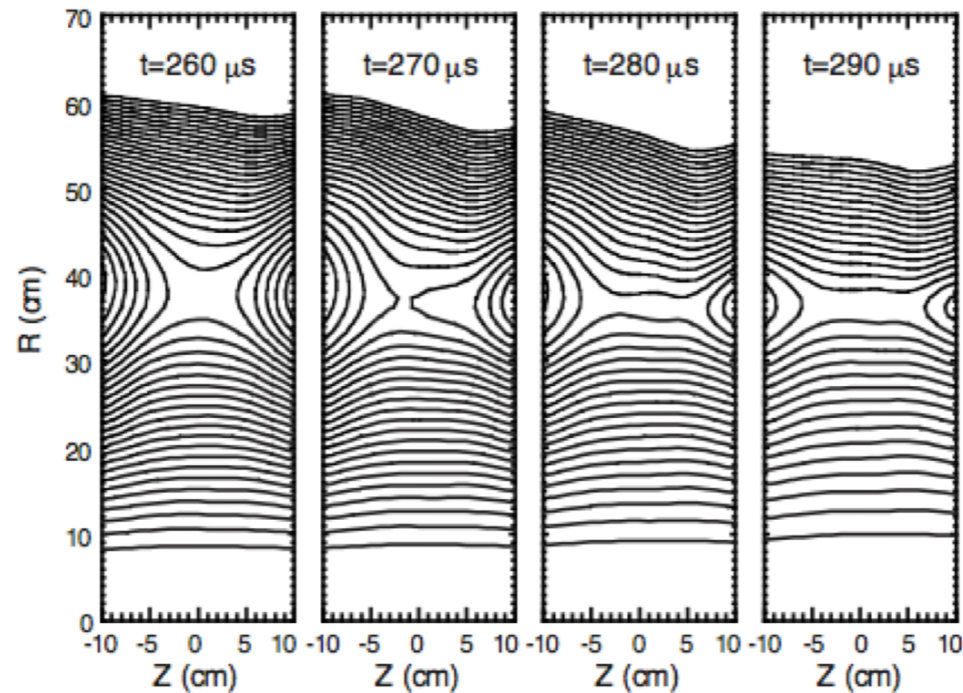
**SP time  $\sim$  weeks...**

# Is the Sweet-Parker model right?

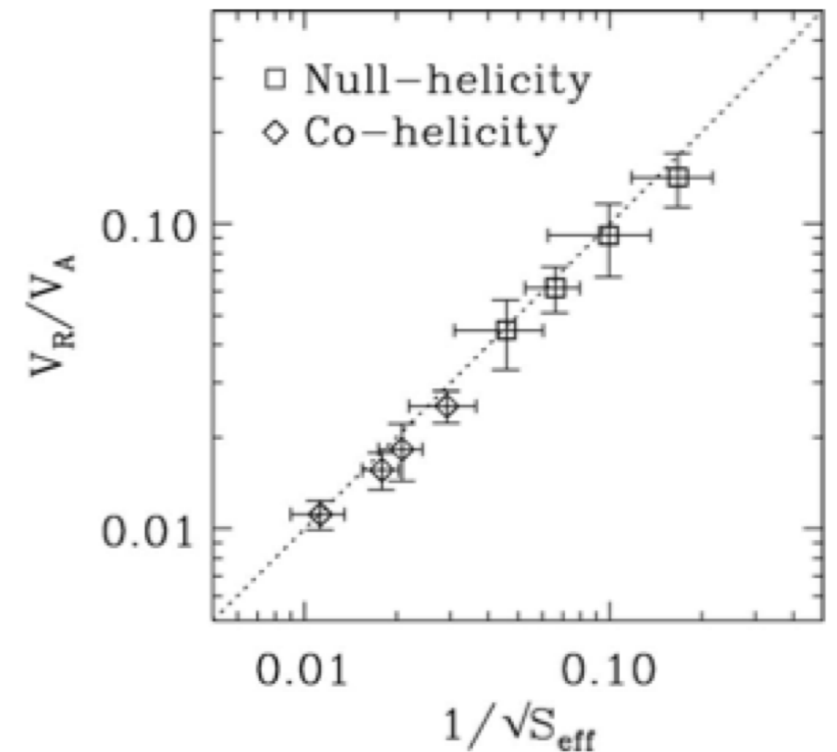
It seemed so!  
For a long time,  
numerical  
simulations  
systematically  
confirmed the  
SP model, as  
did dedicated  
experiments.



Loureiro '05



Ji '99, Yamada '00



- What does Sweet-Parker get right?
  - Coupling of global geometry to narrow current sheet
  - Drives a reconnection outflow,
  - Satisfies constraints such as mass and energy conservation
  
- What could it get wrong? **Current sheet** physics
  - Do we need physics beyond resistive MHD? Two-fluid and Kinetic effects?
  - Is the current sheet really laminar?
  
- The frontier links these questions and particle acceleration



# Two-fluid and kinetic effects

# Let's expand our horizons - *Generalized Ohm's law*

$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} = \eta \mathbf{J} + \frac{1}{ne} \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{1}{ne} \nabla p_e - \frac{1}{ne} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\pi}_e - \frac{1}{n} \langle \tilde{n} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \rangle + \dots$$

Two-fluid effects

$$L / (d_i, \rho_i)$$

$$d_i = c / \omega_{pi}$$

Resistive diffusion

(parameterized by  
 $S = \mu_0 L V_A / \eta$ )

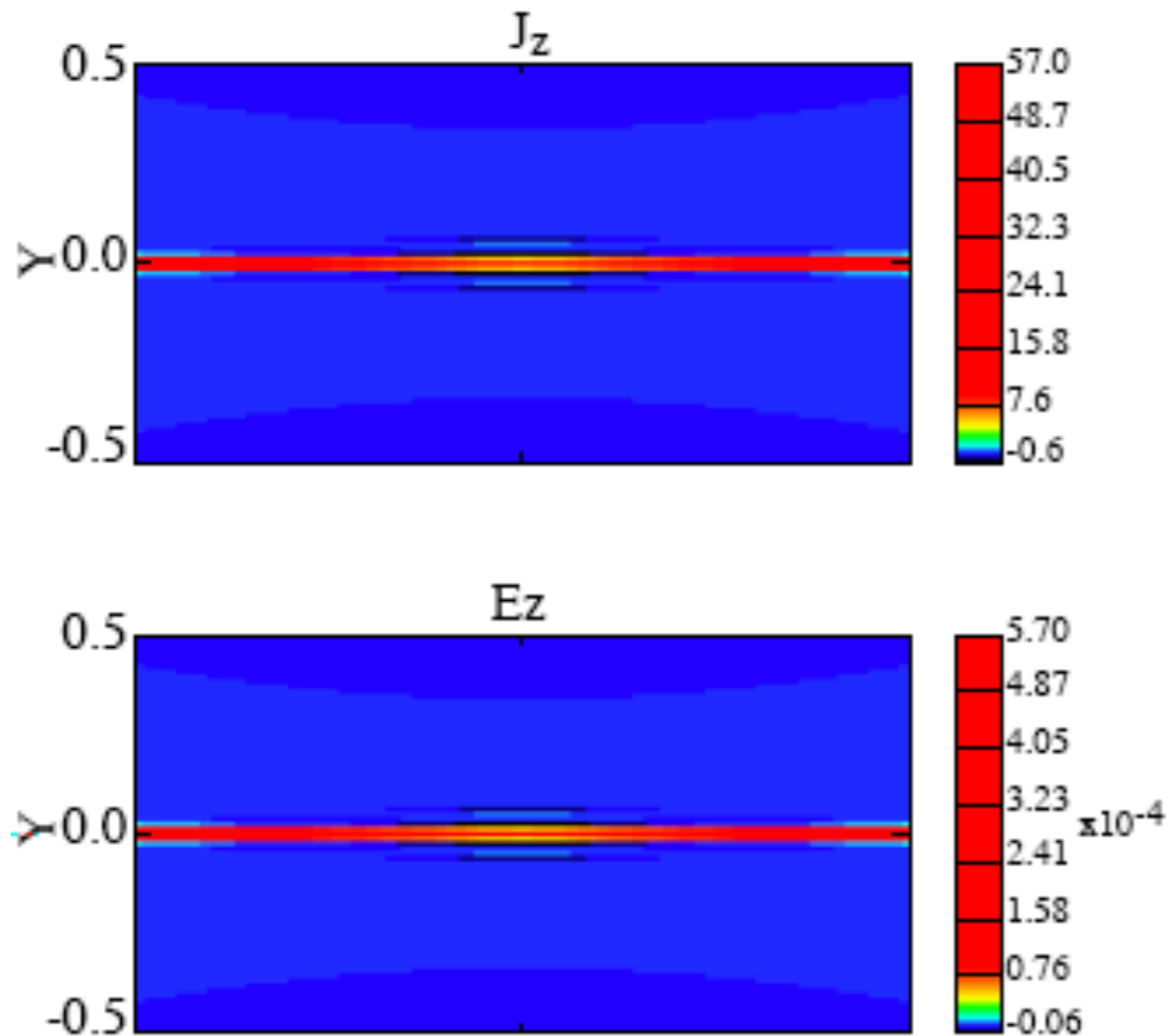
Pressure tensor  
(observed in particle  
simulations)

Fluctuations:  
"anomalous  
resistivity" and  
viscosity  
(3-D effects)

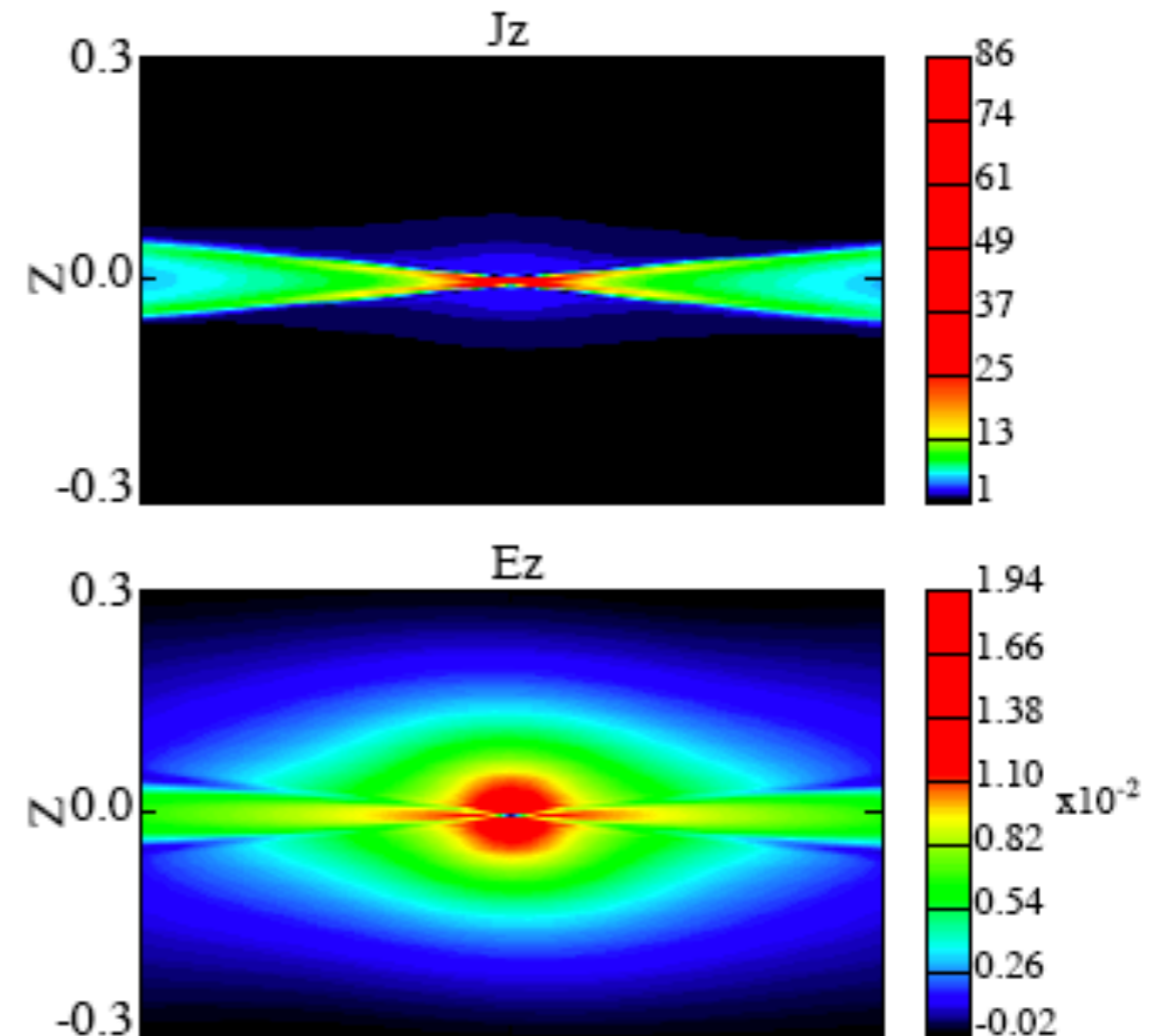
**(G.O.L. = momentum equation for electrons)**

Including the Hall effect in simulations has been shown to “open” the geometry of the reconnection layer and boost reconnection rate to  $E \sim 0.1 BV_A$

**no-Hall  
(pure resistive)**



**With Hall**

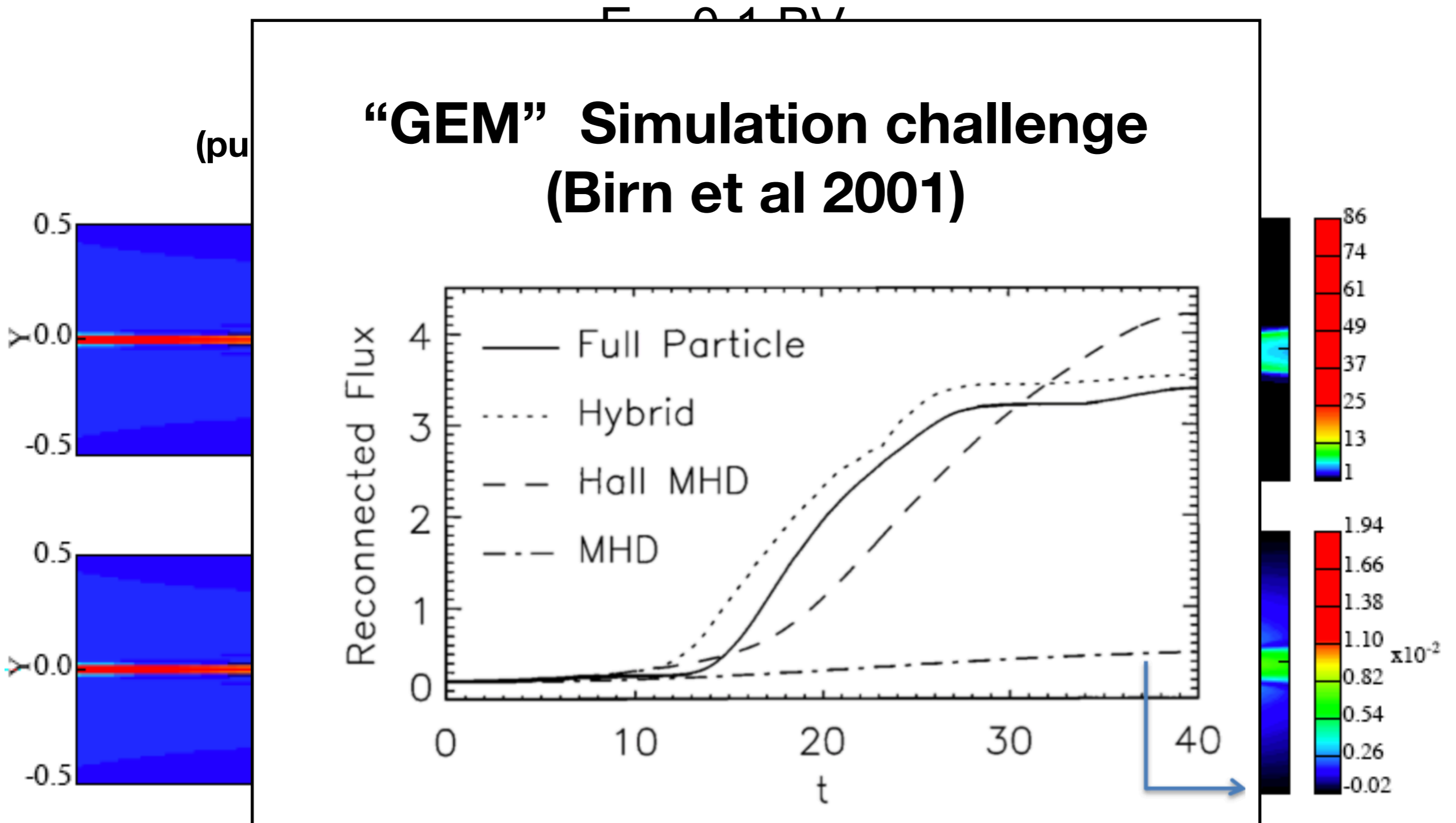


- **Hall effects create X-shaped reconnection layer**

Ma and Bhattacharjee, GRL 1996

**Note: analogous analytic “Sweet-Parker” model with two-fluid effects is still an open problem!**

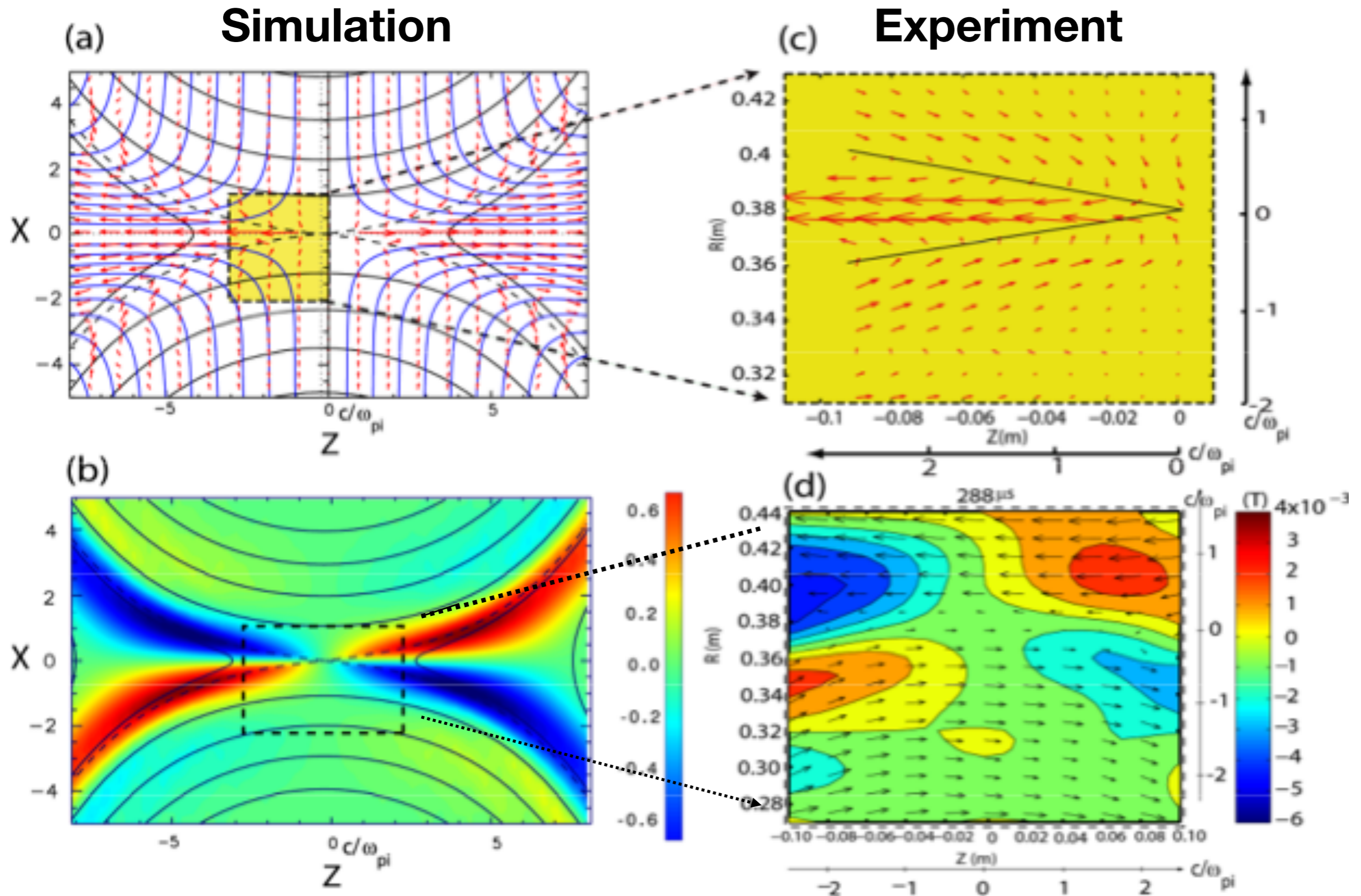
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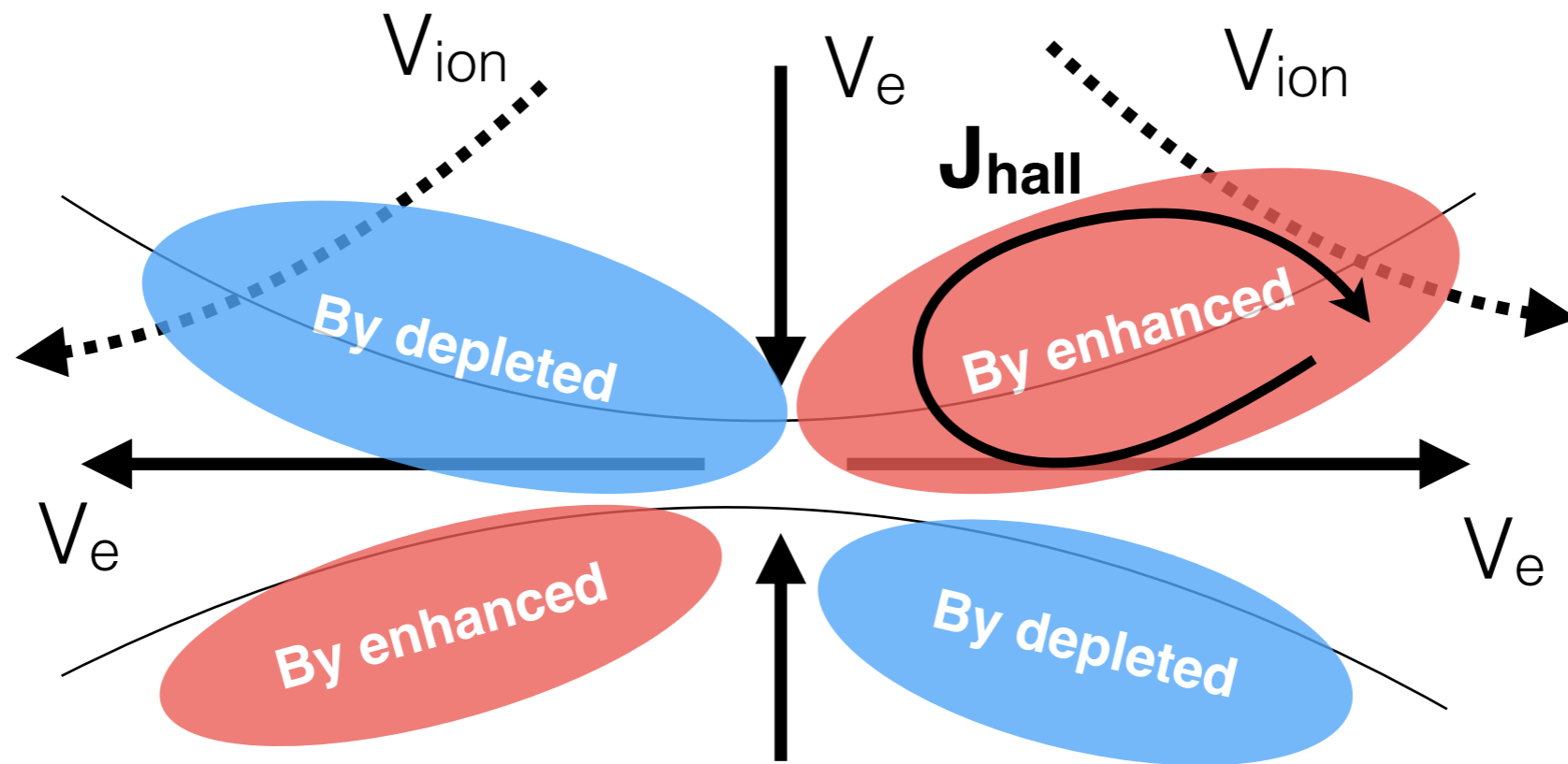
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# Reconnection rate increase by two-fluid effects “Hall-fields” have been clearly observed on MRX



# How do the Hall-fields arise?



1. Two-fluid reconnection: **e- and ion take different paths through reconnection layer.**
2. They create in-plane current loops: "Hall currents"

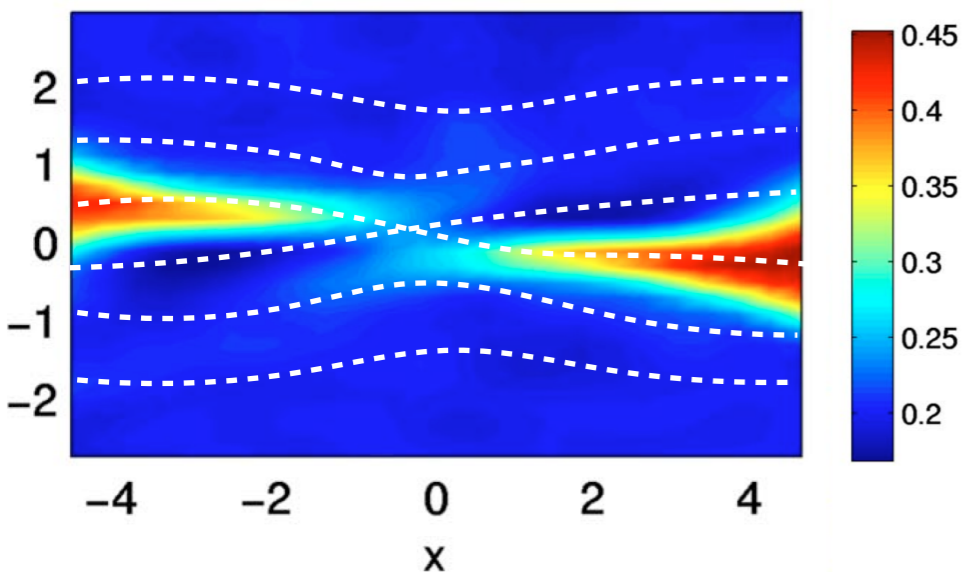
# Recent: Two-Fluid effect *with guide field*: *Electron pressure* variations also arise in reconnection layer and balance parallel electric fields

Theory prediction:

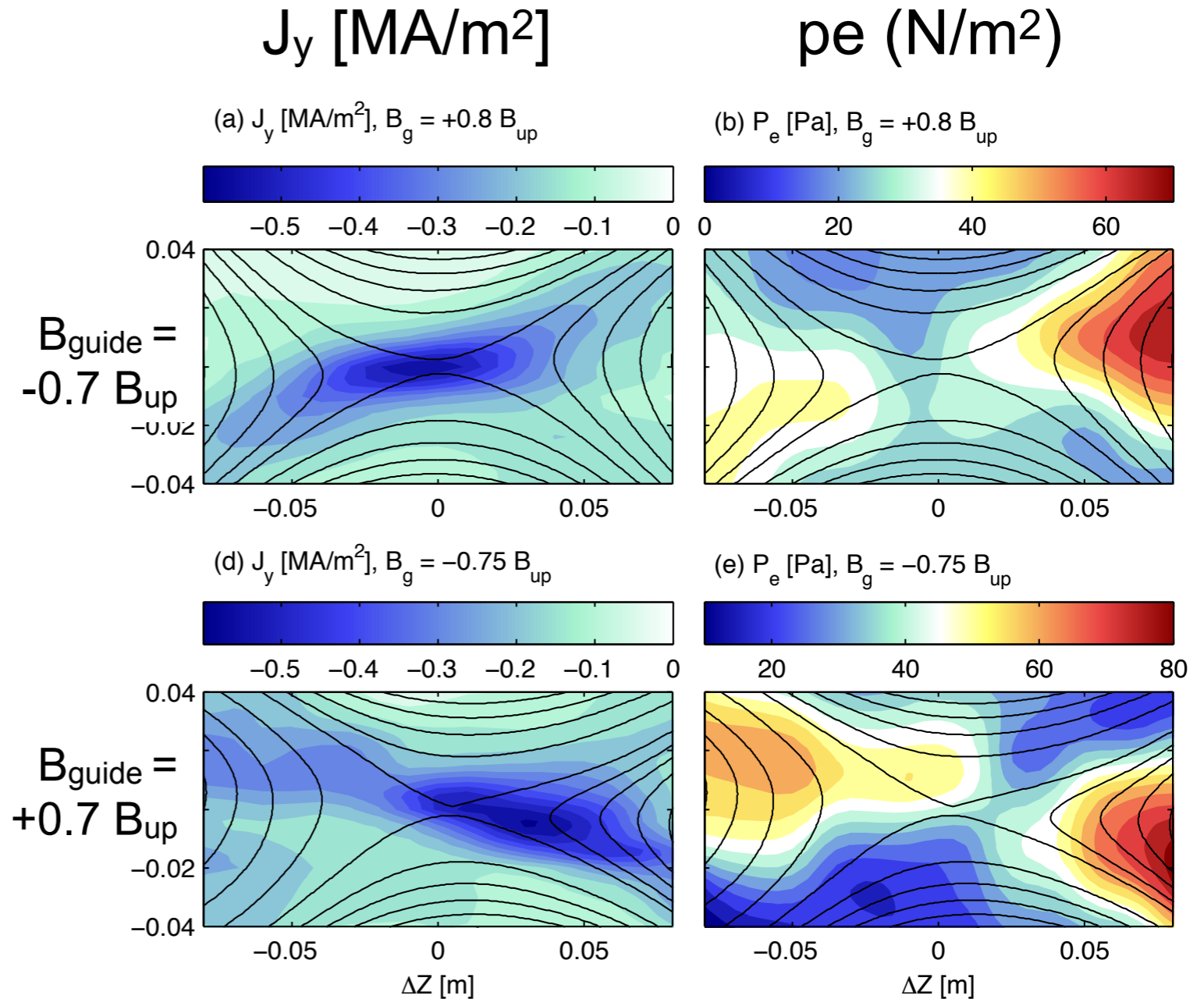
*In-plane*  $p_e$  gradients arise in recon layer and balance parallel electric field in Generalized Ohm's law:

$$\underline{E_{||}} + \boxed{(1/ne) \nabla_{||} p_e} = \eta \underline{J_{||}} +$$

quadrupolar  $n_e$   
 from particle simulation [Ricci 2004]



Experiment:



# Let's expand our horizons - Generalized Ohm's law

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$$L / (d_i, \rho_i)$$

$$d_i = c / \omega_{pi}$$

Resistive diffusion

(parameterized by  
 $S = \mu_0 L V_A / \eta$ )

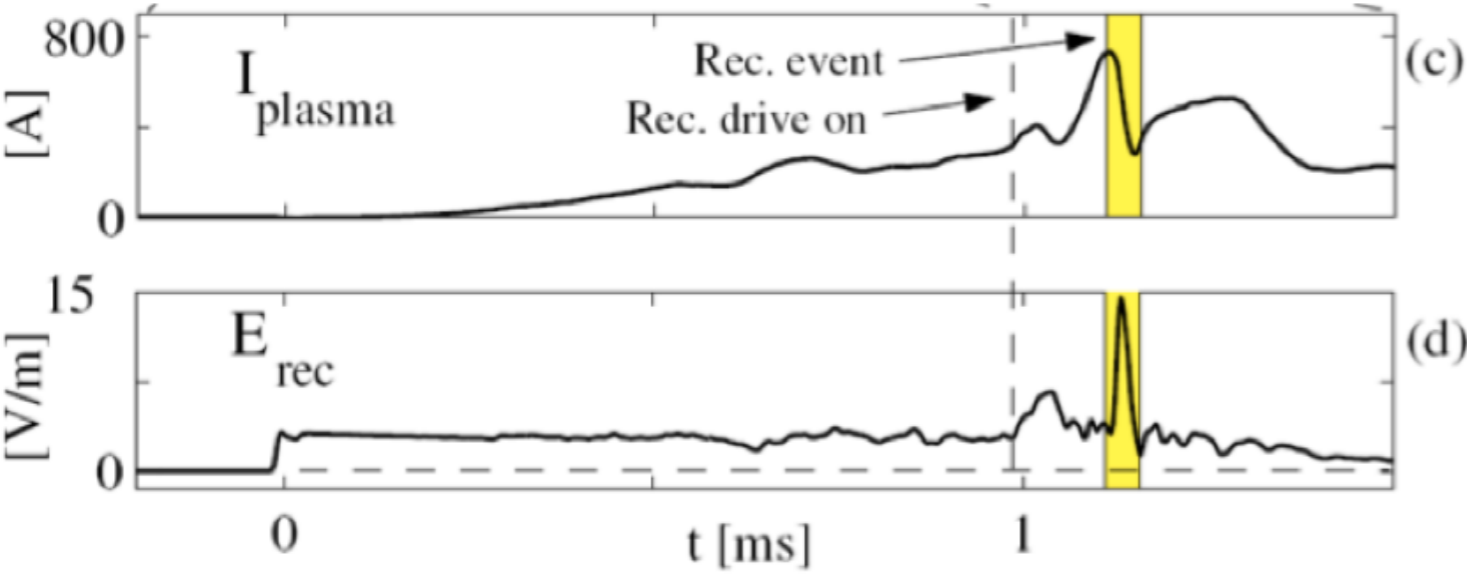
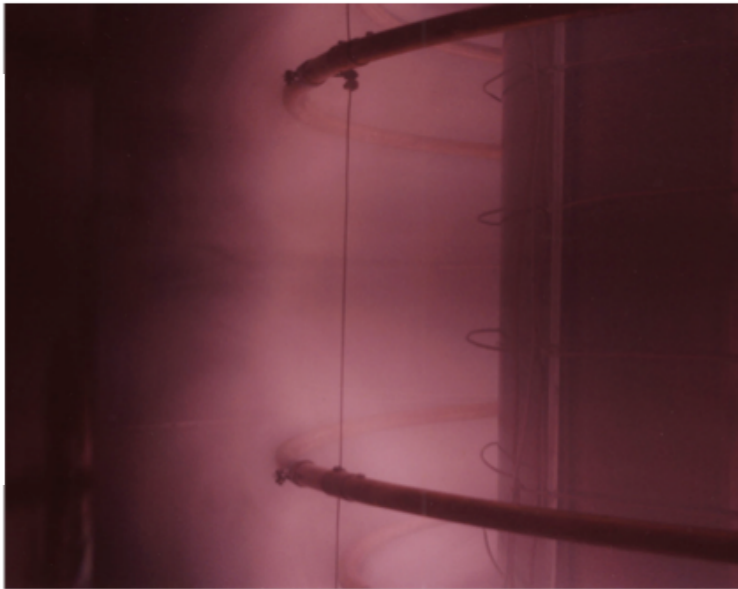
Pressure tensor  
(observed in particle  
simulations)

Fluctuations:  
"anomalous  
resistivity" and  
viscosity  
(3-D effects)

**(GOL = momentum equation for electrons)**

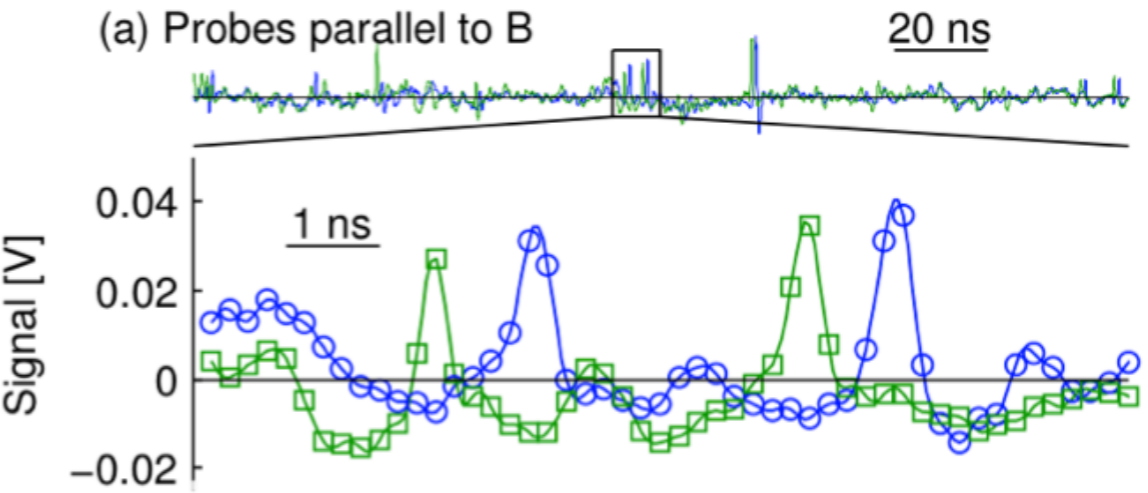


# Strong electrostatic waves can be driven during reconnection.



Spontaneous onset of reconnection events  
 [J. Egedal et al PRL 2007, N. Katz et al PRL 2010]

Turbulence in reconnection region discrete positive potential spikes  
 [Fox, et al PRL 2008]



WFox Caltech 2013

It remains to be shown that they can control reconnection (large  $E_{eff}$ )  
 See also: Carter et al PRL 2001, Ji PRL 2008, many others

# Plasmoid instabilities

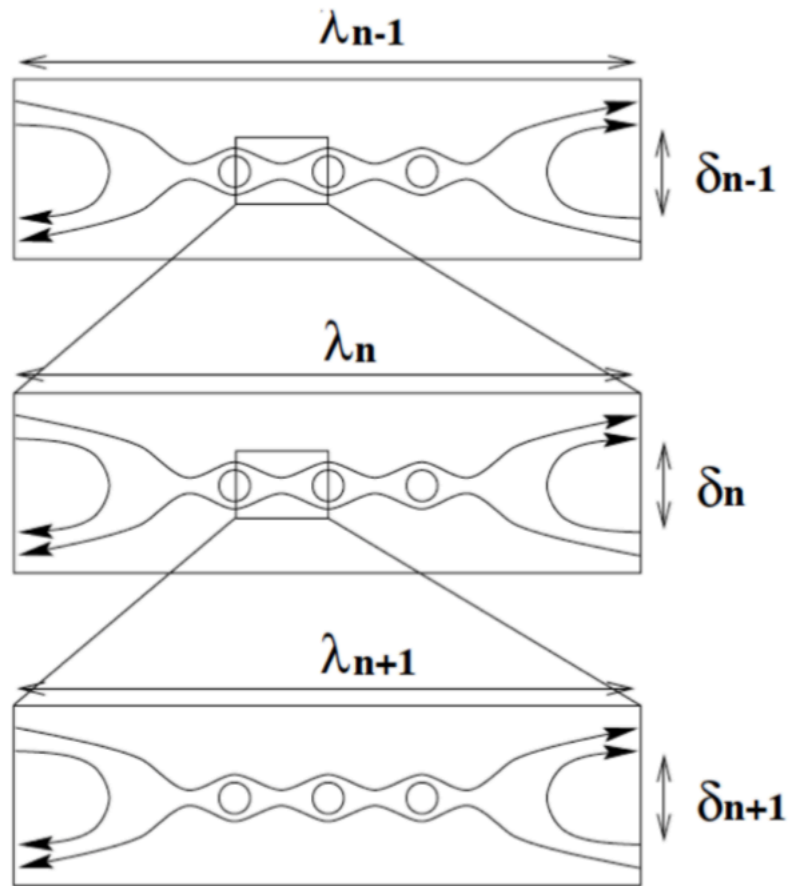
# Plasmoid instabilities

- Two fluid effects seem to account for fast reconnection at small system size ( $L/d_i, L/\rho_i < 10$ )
- However, many astrophysical systems are much larger than this.
- Possible solution: the plasmoid instability of thin current sheets.

# Recent (2D) Simulations with Large S show violent breakup of the current sheet into plasmoid structures

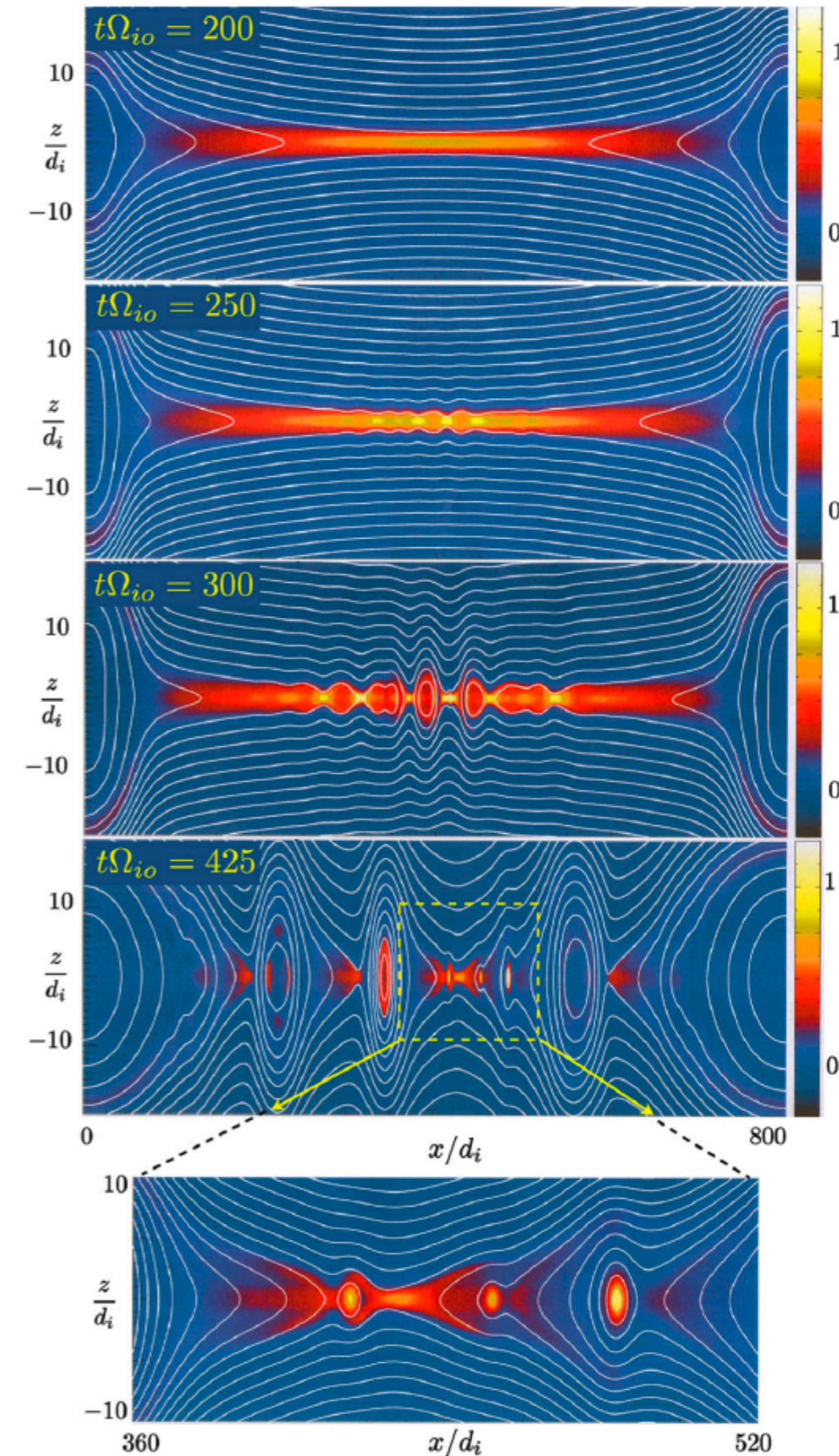
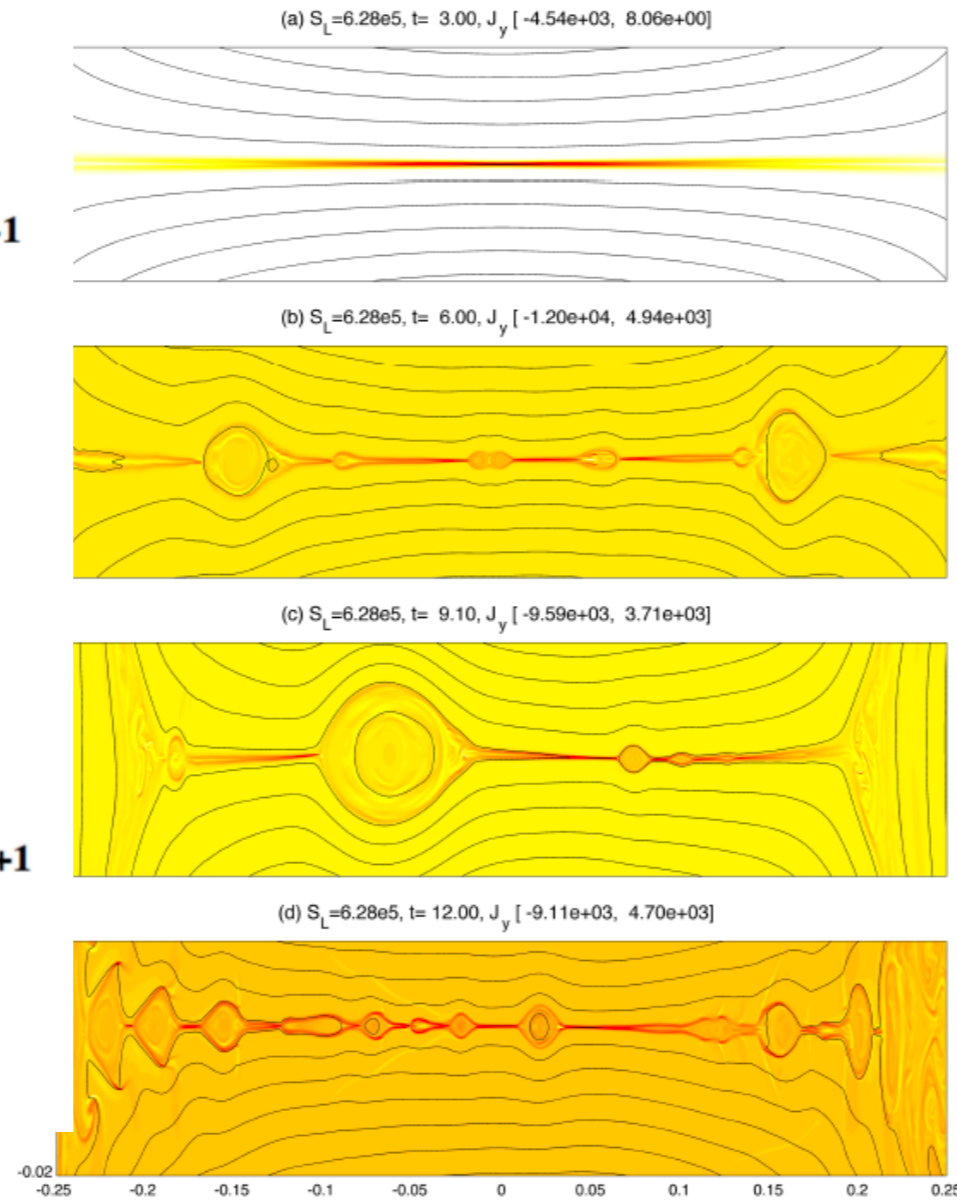
Daughton et al. (2009): PIC

Shibata and Tanuma (2001)



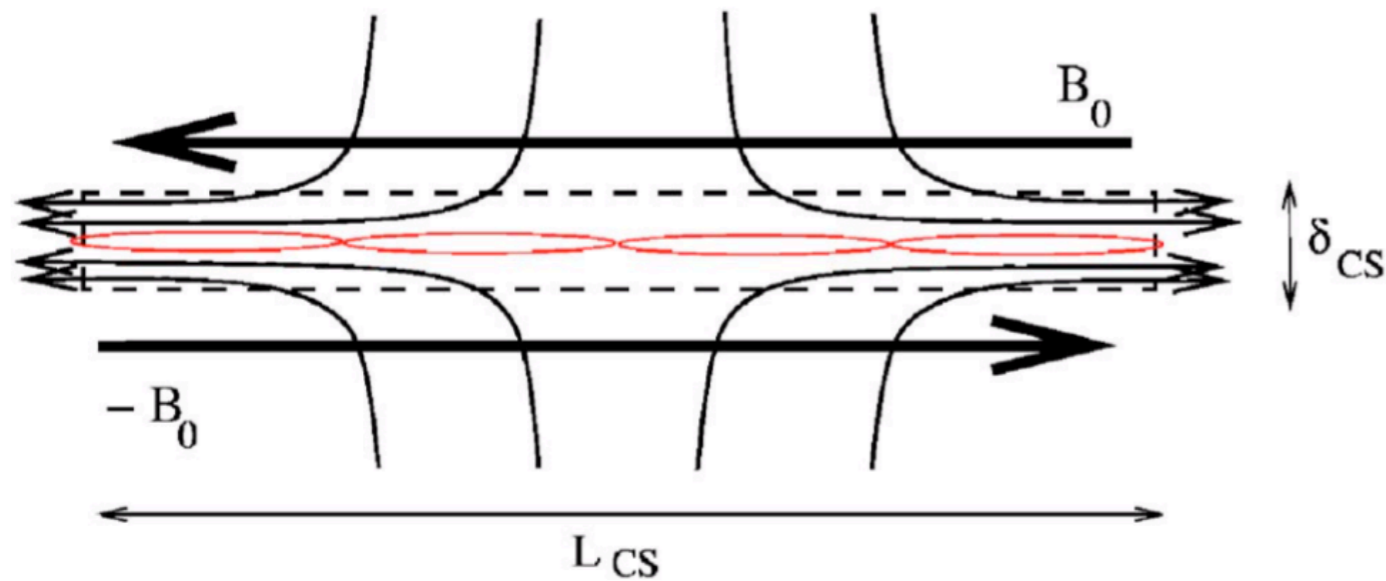
(Shibata & Tanuma '01)

Bhattacharjee et al. (2009):MHD



See: Loureiro PRL 2005, Uzdensky PRL 2010

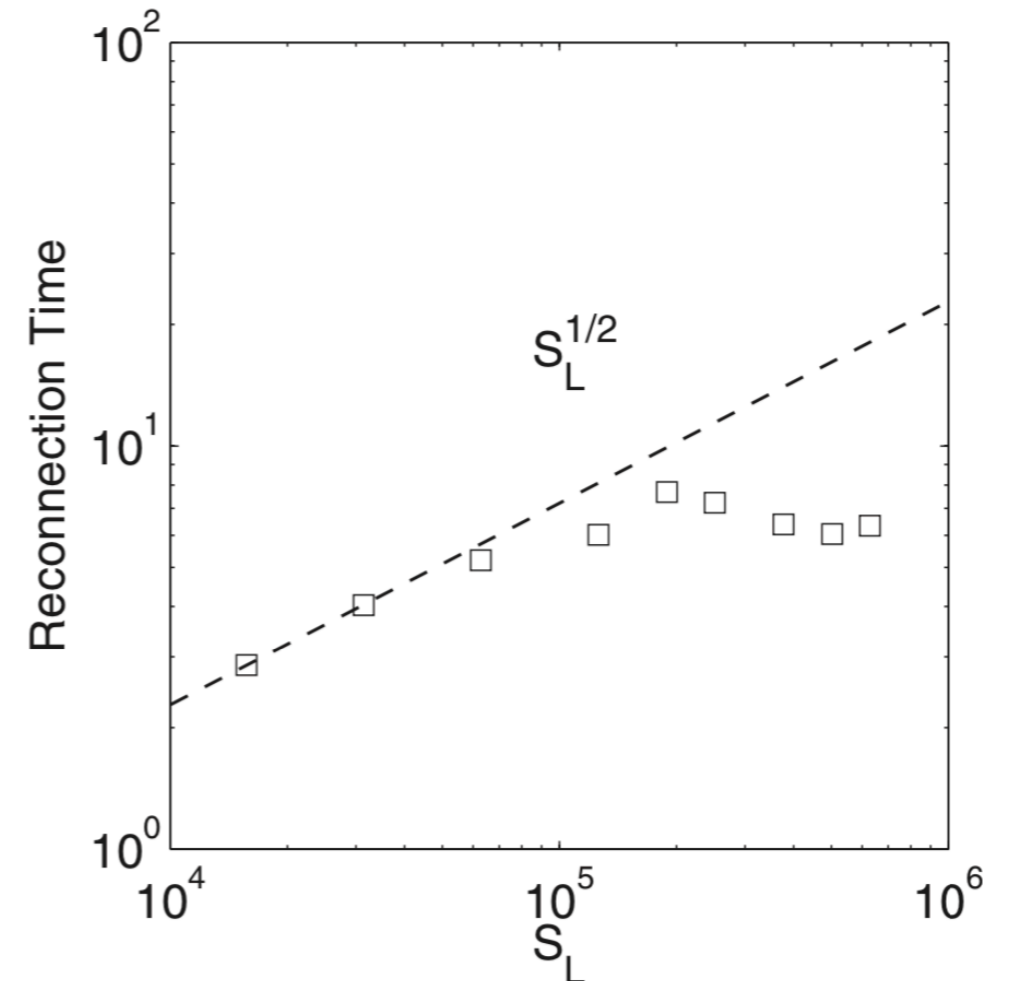
# Instability is super-Alfvenic and leads to resistivity-independent reconnection rates



$$\gamma_{max} \sim S^{1/4} L / V_A$$

Loureiro 2007, Bhattacharjee 2009

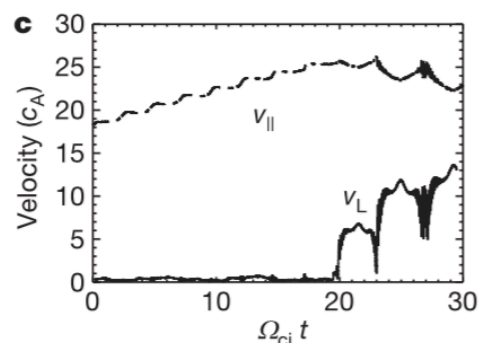
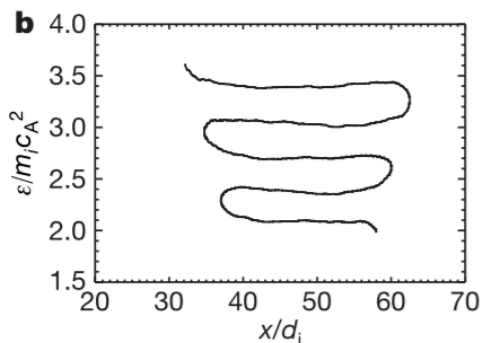
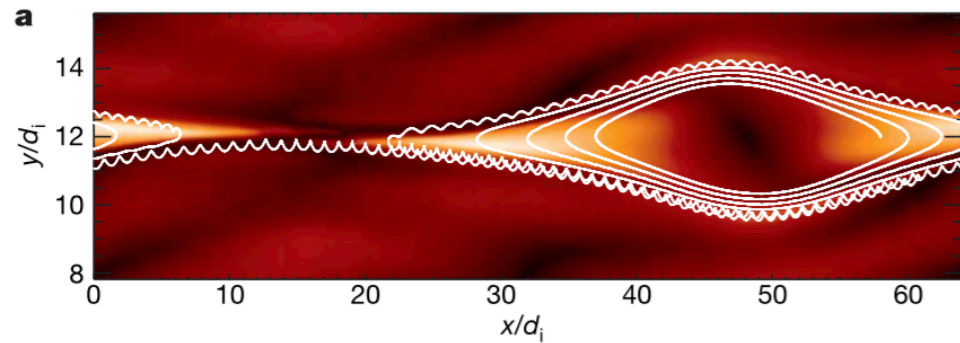
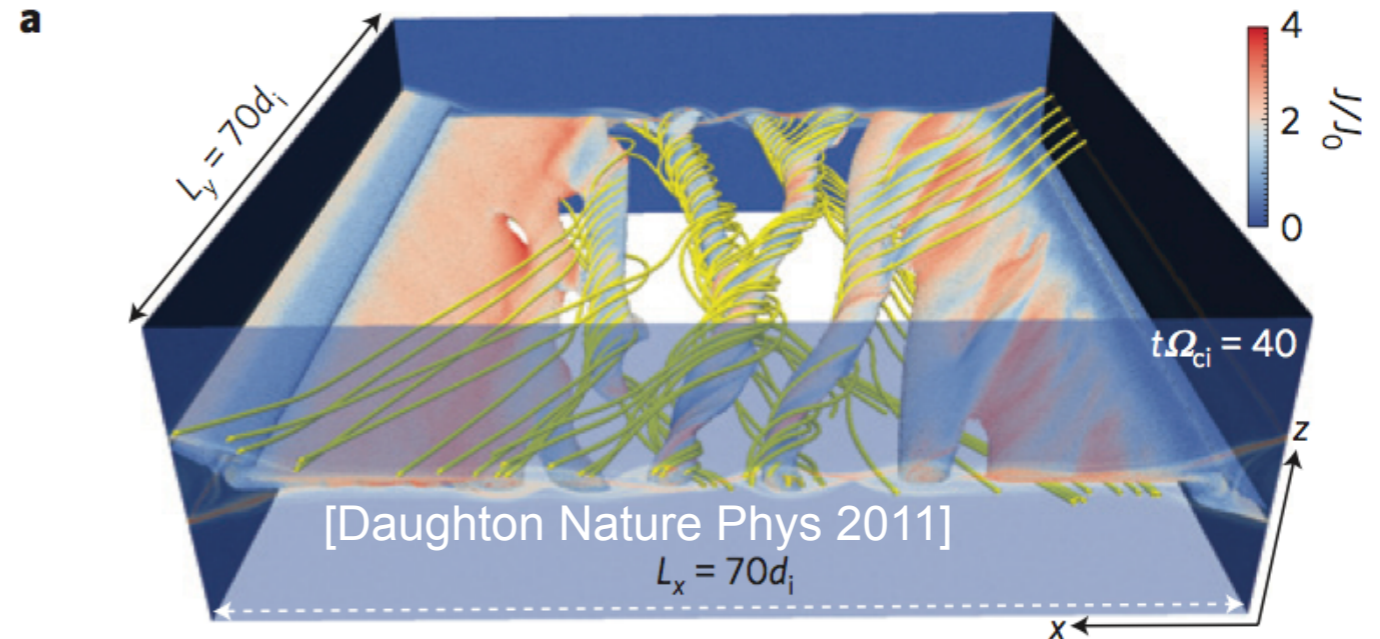
Bhattacharjee PoP (2009)



- Compared to Sweet-Parker: plasmoid chains relieves “mass-throttling” of long current sheet.
  - Rate  $\sim \delta_{crit} / L_{crit}$  instead of  $\delta_{SP} / L_{CS}$  (see Uzdensky 2010)
  - Can drive current sheets at kinetic scales

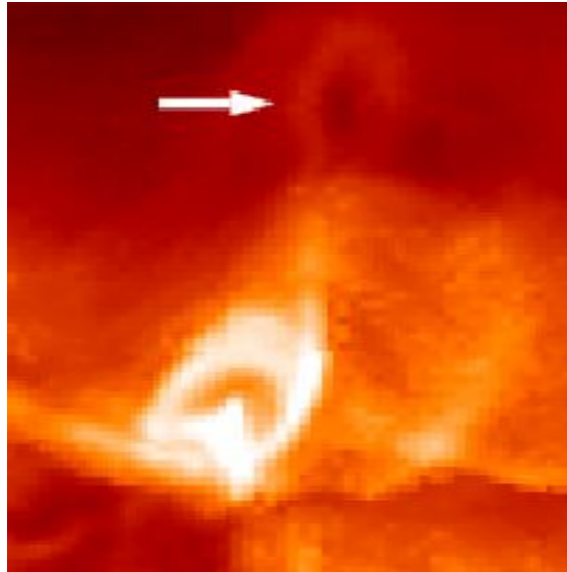
# Frontier questions for reconnection experiments

- Study “Multiple island” reconnection aka “Plasmoids” and turbulent reconnection [Loureiro 2007, Bhattacharjee 2009]
  - turbulence predicted to enhance reconnection and energy conversion rate

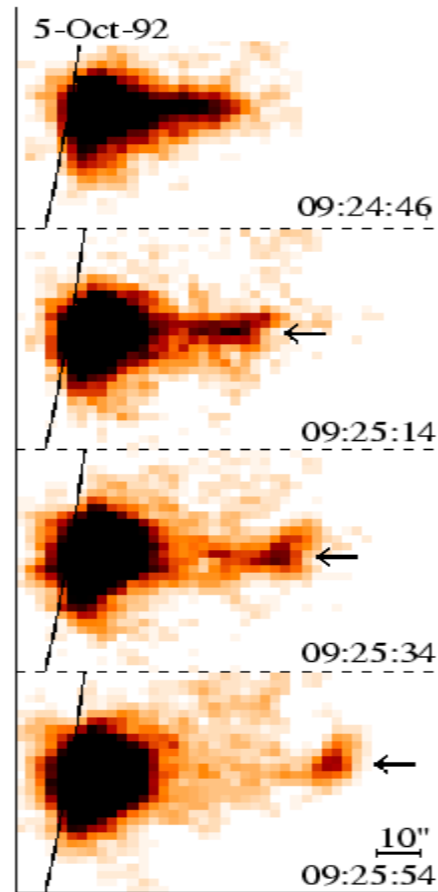


- Particle acceleration by reconnection, efficient generation of power-law tail populations (e.g. solar flares). Proposed mechanisms:
  - direct acceleration along x-lines [e.g. Hoshino 2001]
  - “Fermi” acceleration by interaction of particles with islands *in multiple island regime*. [Drake et al Nature 2006]

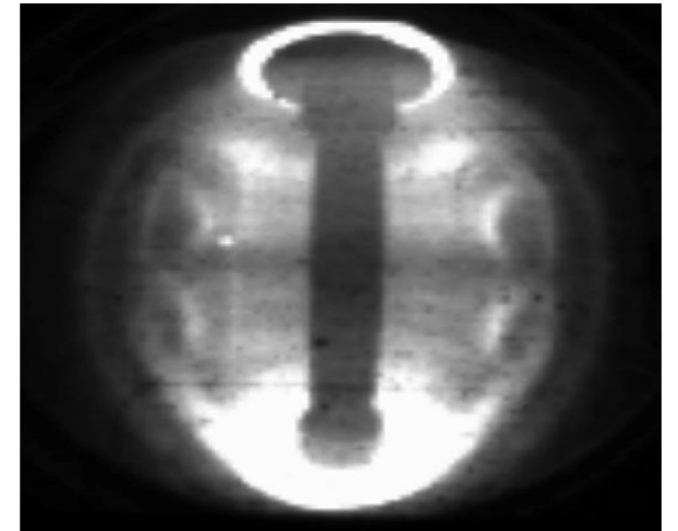
# Plasmoid reconnection has begun to be observed and studied in the laboratory and solar observations



Hudson (1994);  
Magara+ (1997)

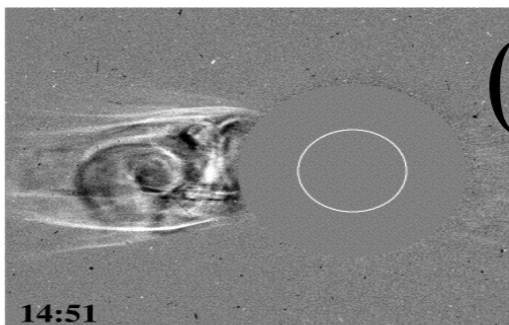


Laser plasma  
(Dong+,  
2012)

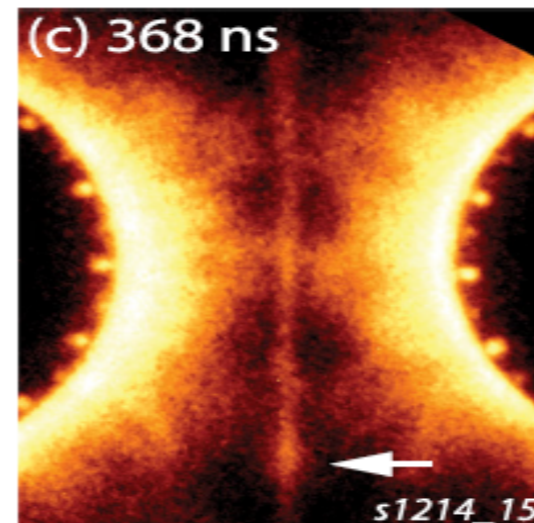


Tokamak  
plasma  
(Ebrahimi &  
Raman, 2015)

Ohyama & Shibata  
(1998)



Dere+  
(1999)

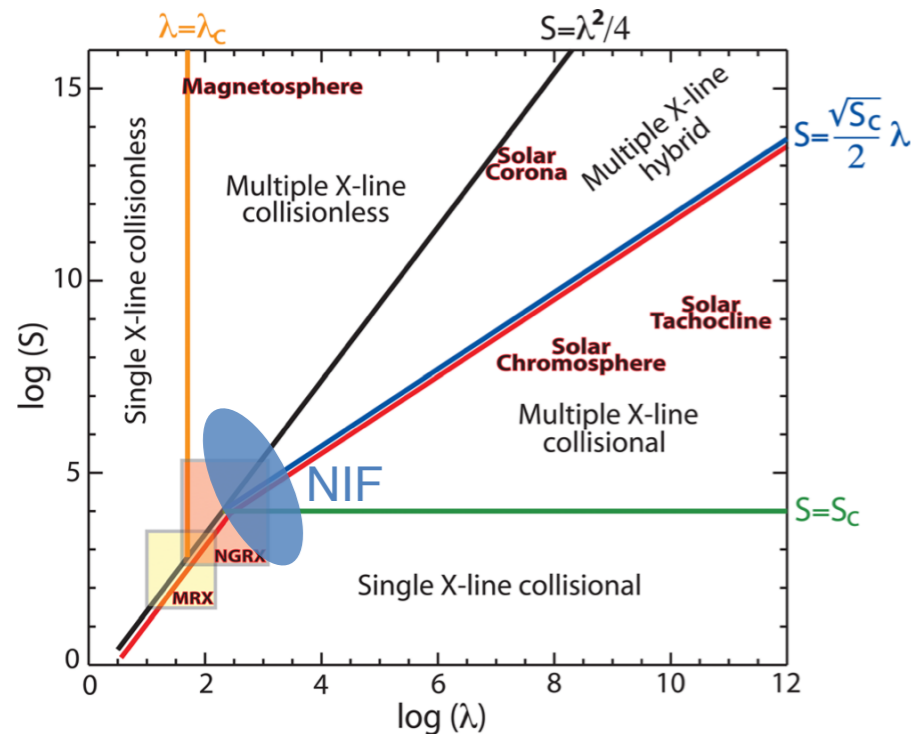


Z-pinch  
plasma  
(Hare+,  
2017)

# Experimental Frontiers



# A frontier is to observe reconnection physics at large system size and low dissipation



Reconnection regimes parameterized by:

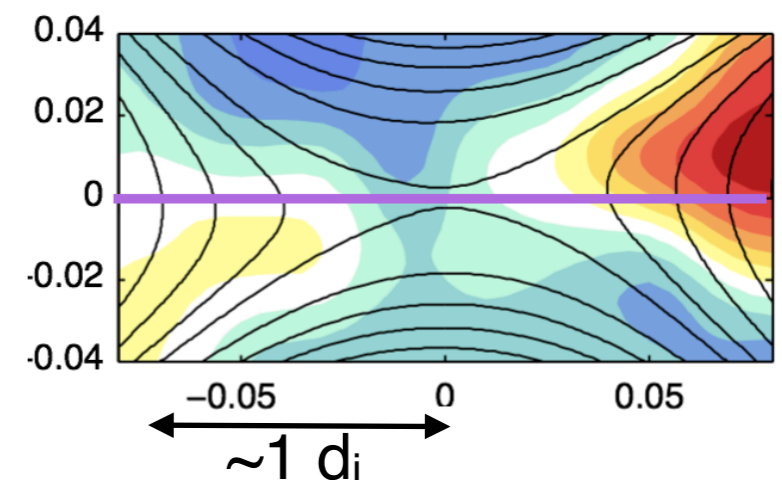
- **Dissipation:** “Lundquist number”  $S = \mu_0 L V_A / \eta$ . *Resistive plasma, collisionless, or in-between?*
- **System size:**  $\lambda = L/d_i$
- Plasmoid/turbulent regime at simultaneous large  $S$  and  $L$
- requires energy!  $E \sim nTL^3 \sim S^{0.25} (\lambda_{mfp}/L)^{0.25} (L/d_i)^3$

Proposed “Phase diagram” for reconnection (Ji and Daughton PoP 2010)

## How about competing experiments?:

- **discharge lab experiments** (e.g. MRX, TREX): Very detailed measurements, but limited system size ( $L/d_i \sim$  few). Isolated plasmoids observed
- **Pulsed power** (Hare et al 2017) - plasmoids observed
- **solar observation:** global evolution observed, but limited by remote-sensing nature
- **spacecraft:** fully kinetic data, but limited by single-spacecraft nature of data

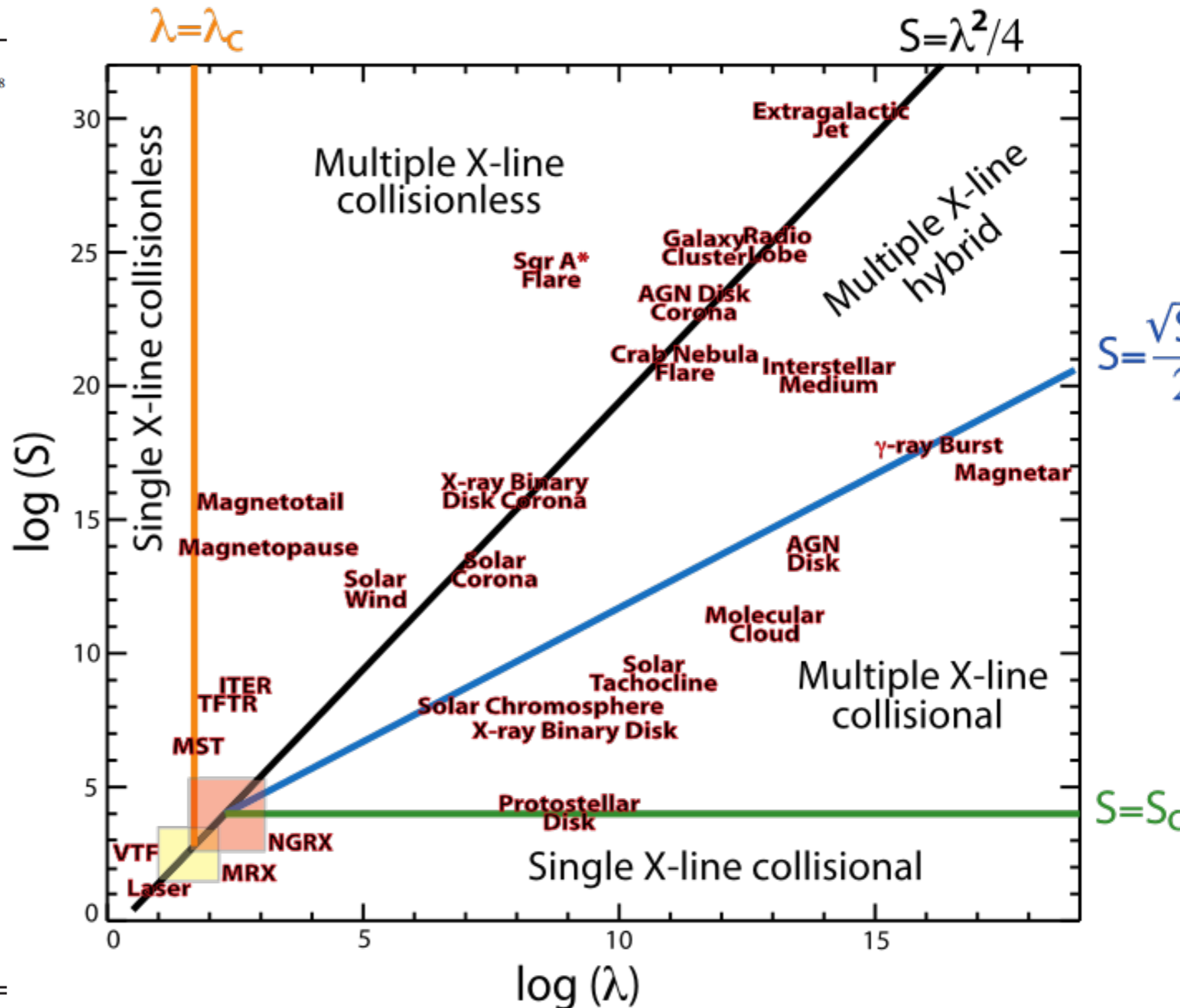
e.g. MRX observations: “zoom-in” to see details of how electron pressure structure enables fast reconnection (W. Fox+ PRL 2017)



Goal for experiments is to study reconnection deep in plasmoid regime

# Goal for new FLARE experiment at PPPL (PI: H.Ji) is to study plasmoid physics initiated at MHD scale

Location	Plasma	Size (m)	$T_e$ (eV)	$n_e$ ( $m^{-3}$ )
Lab	MRX <sup>75</sup>	0.8	10	$1 \times 10^{19}$
	VTF <sup>14</sup>	0.4	25	$1.5 \times 10^{18}$
	Laser plasma <sup>76</sup>	$2 \times 10^{-4}$	$10^3$	$5 \times 10^{25}$
	MST <sup>77</sup>	1.0	$1.3 \times 10^3$	$9 \times 10^{18}$
	TFTR <sup>78</sup>	0.9	$1.3 \times 10^4$	$1 \times 10^{20}$
	ITER <sup>79</sup>	4	$2 \times 10^4$	$1 \times 10^{20}$
	NGRX <sup>80</sup>	1.6	25	$1 \times 10^{19}$
Solar system	Magnetopause <sup>81</sup>	$6 \times 10^7$	300	$1 \times 10^7$
	Magnetotail <sup>81</sup>	$6 \times 10^8$	600	$3 \times 10^5$
	Solar wind <sup>81</sup>	$2 \times 10^{10}$	10	$7 \times 10^6$
	Solar corona <sup>81</sup>	$1 \times 10^7$	200	$1 \times 10^{15}$
	Solar chromosphere <sup>82</sup>	$1 \times 10^7$	0.5	$1 \times 10^{17}$
	Solar tachocline <sup>83,84</sup>	$1 \times 10^7$	200	$1 \times 10^{29}$
Galaxy	Protostellar disks <sup>85</sup>	$9 \times 10^9$	$3 \times 10^{-2}$	$6 \times 10^8$
	X-ray binary disks <sup>86,87</sup>	$4 \times 10^4$	75	$1 \times 10^{27}$
	X-ray binary disk coronae <sup>88</sup>	$3 \times 10^4$	$5 \times 10^5$	$1 \times 10^{24}$
	Crab nebula flares <sup>89-91</sup>	$1 \times 10^{14}$	130	$10^6$
	Gamma ray bursts <sup>92</sup>	$10^4$	$3 \times 10^5$	$2 \times 10^{35}$
	Magnetar flares <sup>92,93</sup>	$10^4$	$5 \times 10^5$	$10^{41}$
	Sgr A* flares <sup>94,95</sup>	$2 \times 10^{11}$	$7 \times 10^6$	$10^{13}$
	Molecular clouds <sup>96,97</sup>	$3 \times 10^{16}$	$10^{-3}$	$10^9$
	Interstellar media <sup>96,97</sup>	$5 \times 10^{19}$	1	$10^5$
	AGN disks <sup>86,87,98</sup>	$2 \times 10^{11}$	24	$8 \times 10^{23}$
Extra-galactic	AGN disk coronae <sup>88</sup>	$3 \times 10^{11}$	$5 \times 10^5$	$1 \times 10^{17}$
	Radio lobes <sup>69</sup>	$3 \times 10^{19}$	100	1
	Extragalactic jets <sup>99</sup>	$3 \times 10^{19}$	$10^4$	$3 \times 10^1$
	Galaxy clusters <sup>100</sup>	$6 \times 10^{18}$	$5 \times 10^3$	$4 \times 10^4$



# FLARE was successfully constructed and generated first plasmas



Plan: Move FLARE to PPPL over the summer and get it setup with Stage-3 capabilities within ~1.5 years for research operation as a collaborative user facility.

# Laser facilities produce highly useful and interesting plasmas for laboratory astrophysics

## TOPICS

- magnetic reconnection
- collisionless shocks
- collisionless plasmas, kinetic instabilities
- magnetized flows, magnetized shocks
- self-generated magnetic fields, dynamos
- ....

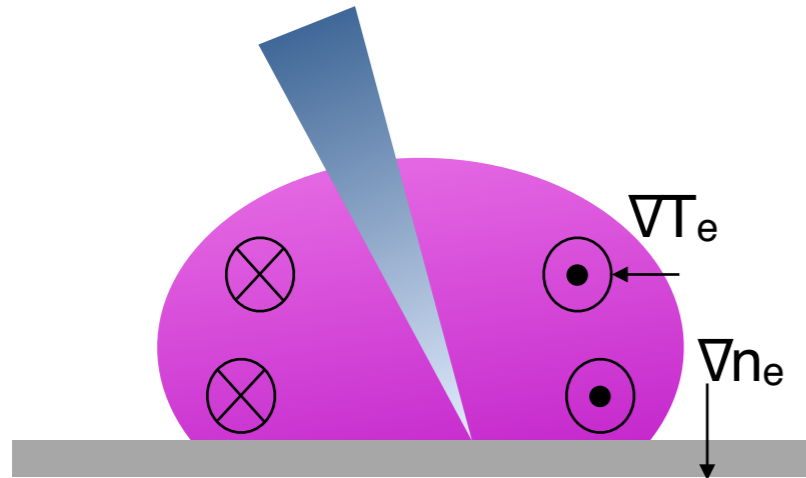
## DESIRED PROPERTIES

- large Energy translates to large density  $n$ , temperature  $T$ , and size  $L^3$
- high magnetic Reynold's number  $R_M \sim L T^2 =$  low dissipation
- scale separation  $L / d_i$  large, e.g. fully formed shocks; turbulent "plasmoid" regime for reconnection; kinetic plasma turbulence
- long mean-free path:  $L_{mfp} \sim T^2/n$  for collisionless plasma behavior,
- $V \sim C_s$ : supersonic flows and shocks

## Complementarity to other approaches:

- discharge lab experiments (e.g. MRX, TREX): Very detailed measurements, but limited system size ( $L/d_i \sim \text{few}$ ), so far
- solar observation: global evolution observed, but limited by remote-sensing nature
- spacecraft: fully kinetic data, but limited by single-spacecraft nature of data

# Magnetic fields for reconnection are generated in expanding plasmas by Biermann battery effect

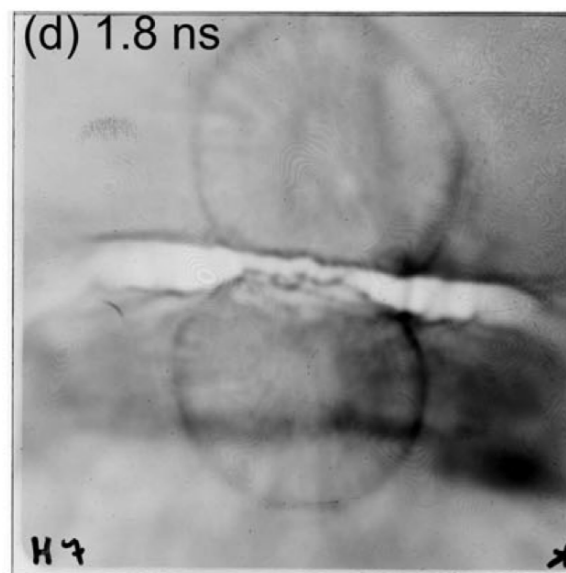


$$\left(\frac{\partial B}{\partial t}\right)_{\text{Biermann}} = \frac{1}{ne} \nabla n_e \times \nabla T_e$$

- Laser-plasmas ~50 T w/ long-pulse lasers [Yates PRL 1982]
- In astrophysics, e.g. primordial seed fields at  $\sim 10^{-20}$  G [Kulsrud ApJ 1997]

## Collision of two plumes drives magnetic reconnection between the opposing magnetic fields

### Experiment

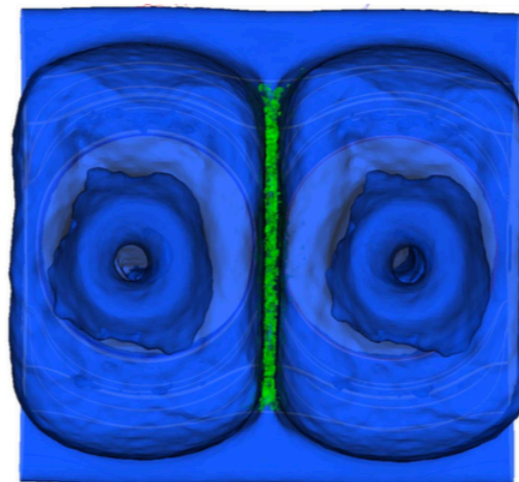


Rosenberg PRL 2015

See also: Nilson+ 2006, C.K.Li+ 2007, Jhong+ 2012, Fiksel+ 2014

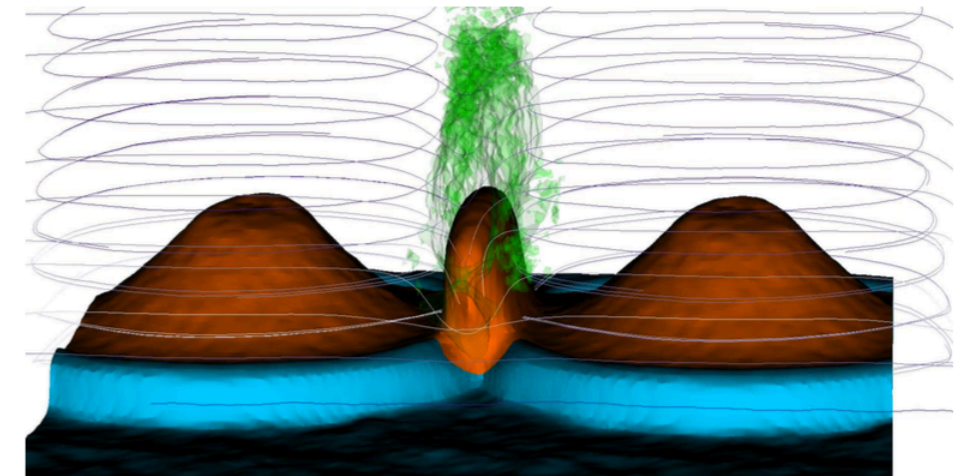
### Simulation

a) Top-down View



Magnetic energy,  $j \cdot E$

b) Side-on view

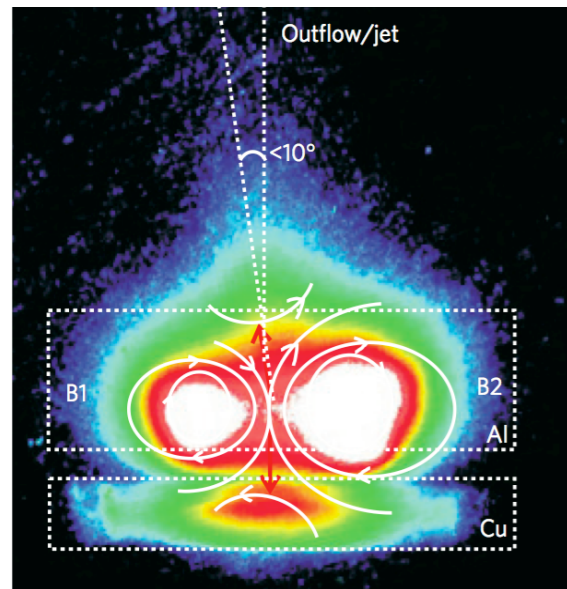


Plasma pressure,  $j \cdot E$ , field lines

[J. Matteucci\*, WF, A. Bhattacharjee, et al, PRL (2018)]

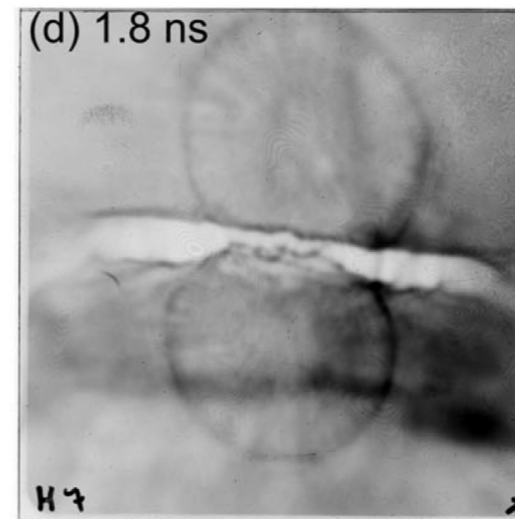
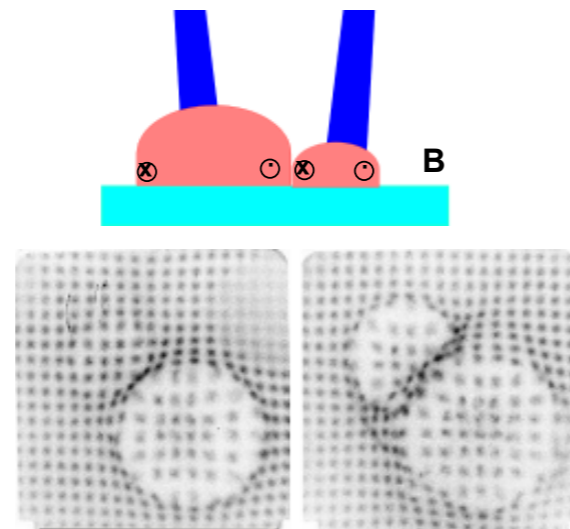
See also: Fox+ PRL 2011, 2012, S. Lu+ NJP 2015, Totorica+ PRL 2016

# Laboratory reconnection experiments in laser plasmas provides another way to collide magnetized plasmas for reconnection and particle acceleration



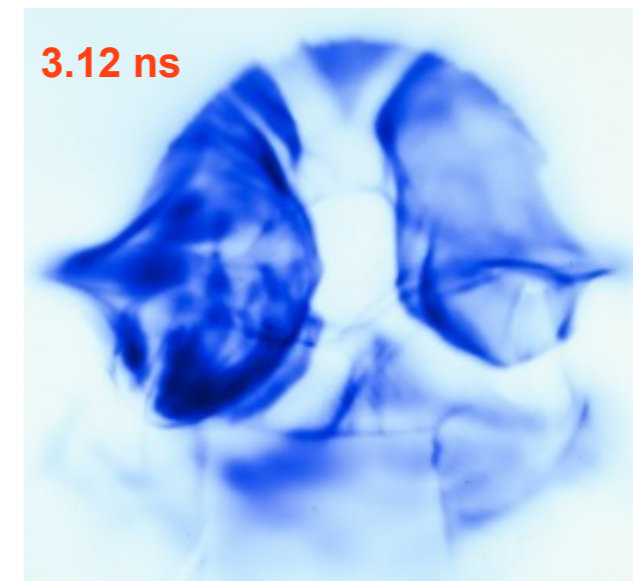
outflow jets and particle energization (Zhong *et al* Nature Phys 2010, Dong *et al* PRL 2012)

Reconnection between asymmetric plasmas (M. Rosenberg, C.K. Li, W. Fox, *et al* Nature Comms 2014)



Stagnation of reconnection (M. Rosenberg, CK Li, WF, PRL 2015)

Reconnection between externally-magnetized plasmas (G. Fiksel, WF, AB, *et al* PRL 2014)

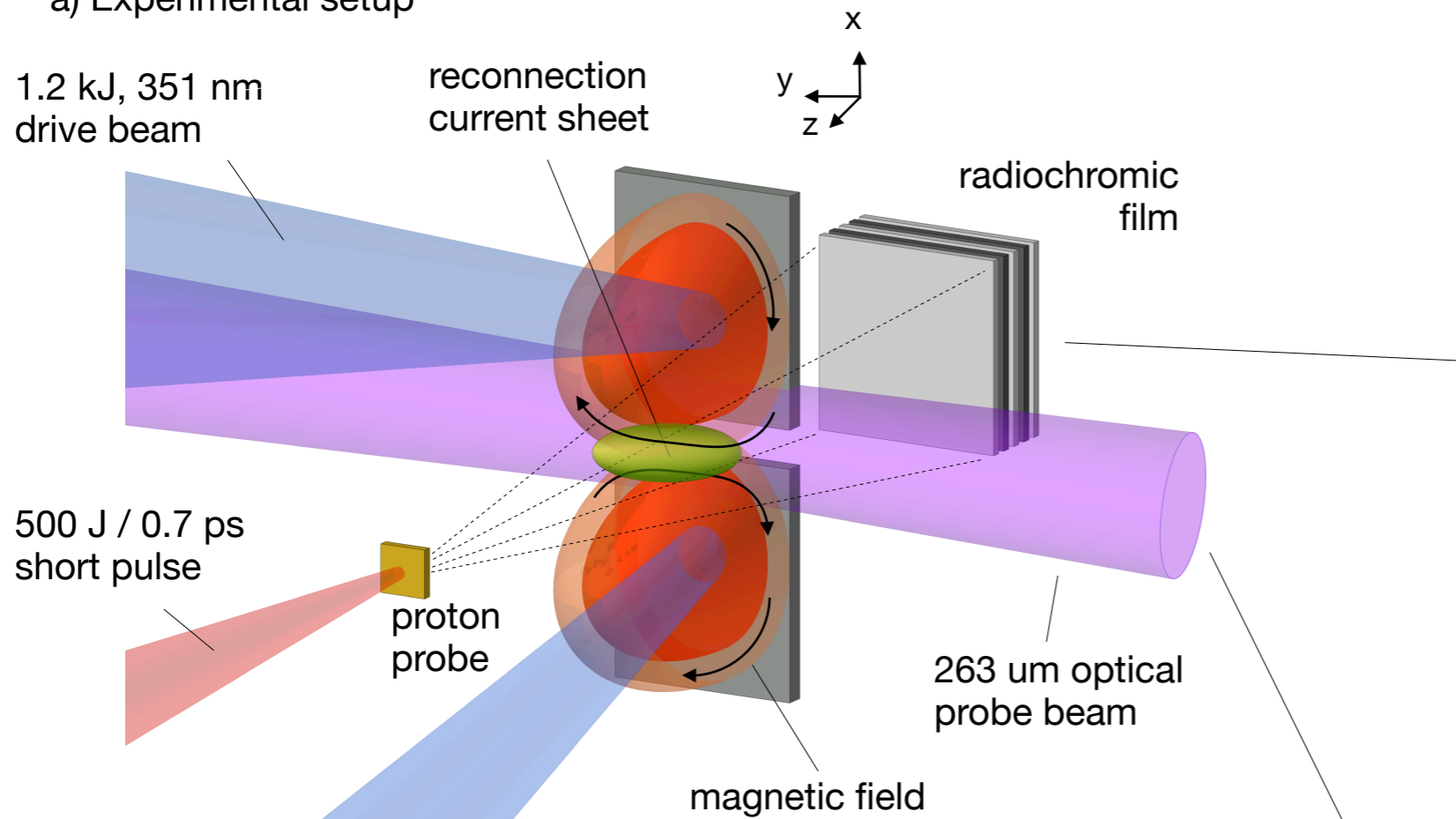


Experiment	Te	Separation	L/di (at $n_e \sim 10^{20}$ )	Lundquist number S
Vulcan (Nilson 2006)	1 keV	0.4 mm	$\sim 10$ (at $10^{19}$ )	$\sim 150$
SG-II (Zhong 2012)	1 keV	0.4 mm	$\sim 30$	$\sim 500$
OMEGA (Rosenberg)	1 keV	1.5 mm	$\sim 80$	$\sim 3000$
NIF	$\sim 3$ keV	6 mm (length)	$\sim 300$	$\sim 60000$

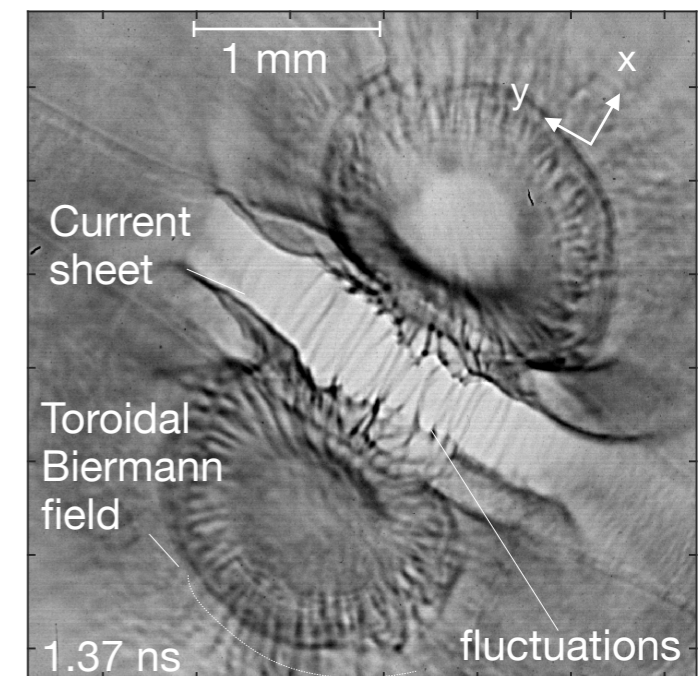
Early 2-D simulations showed that the very fast reconnection in these experiments could be mediated by flux pileup and plasmoid instability (WF, AB, *et al* PRL 2011, PoP 2012)

# Proton and optical probes show development of current sheet

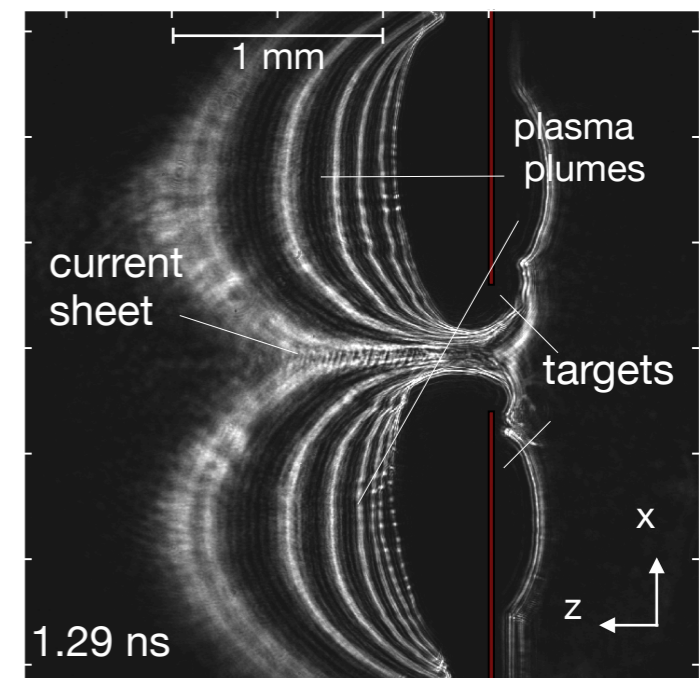
a) Experimental setup



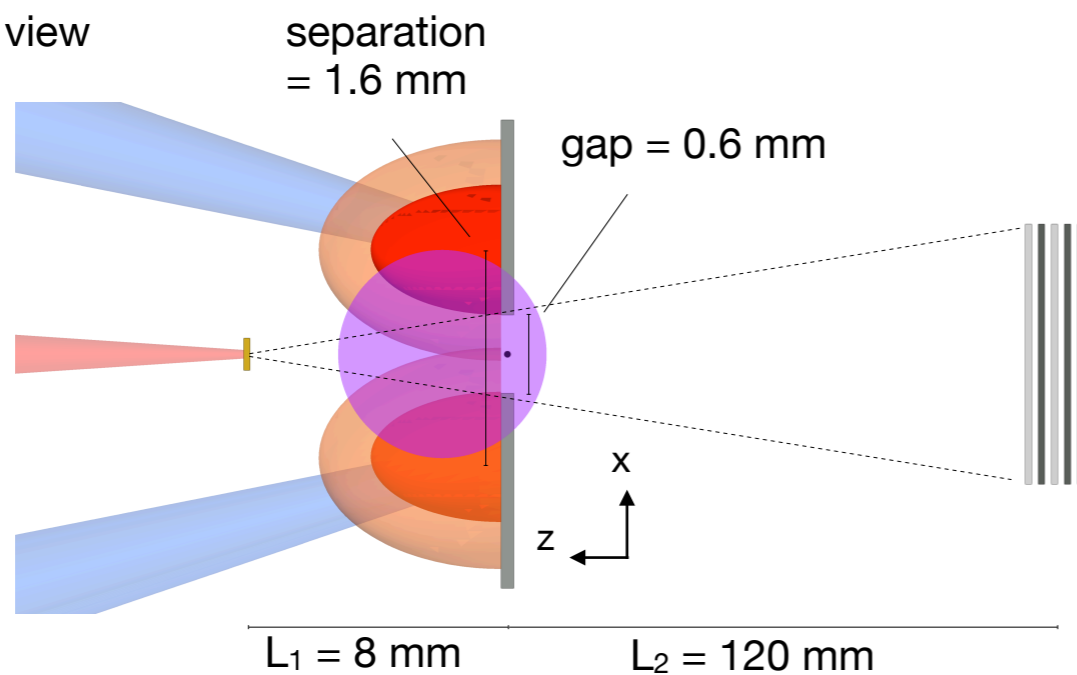
Face-on proton radiography



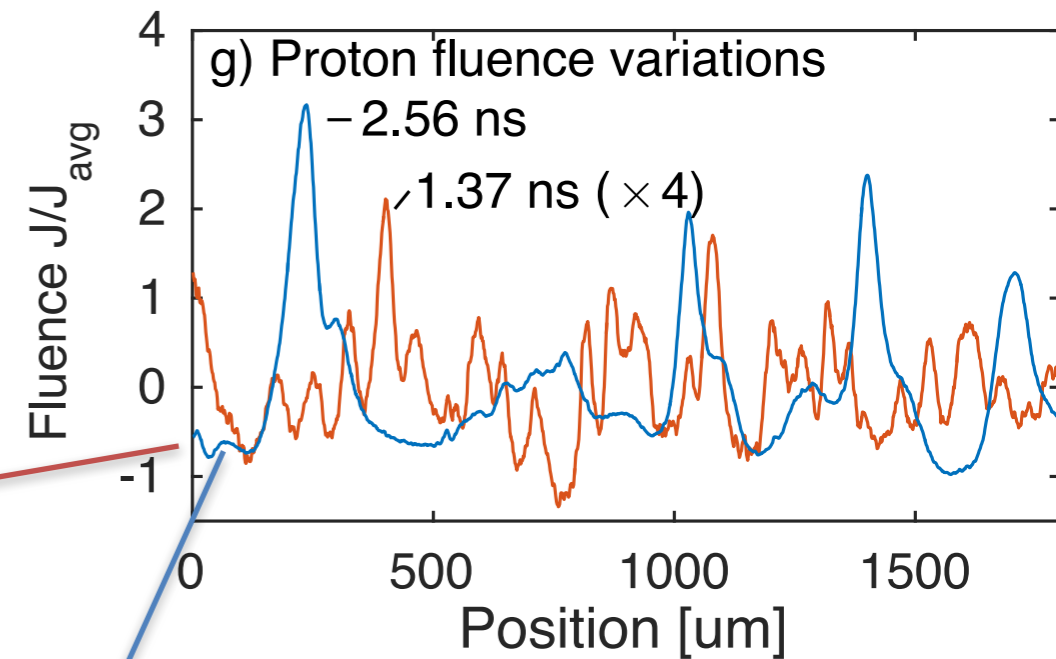
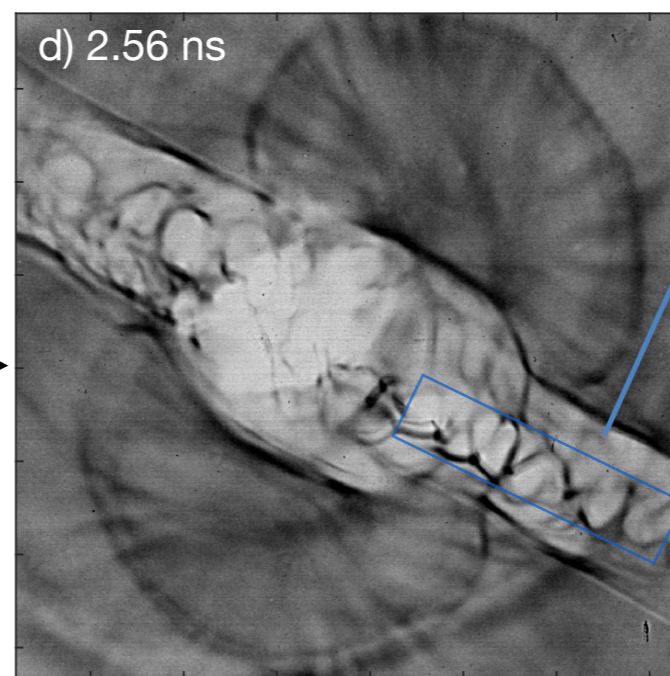
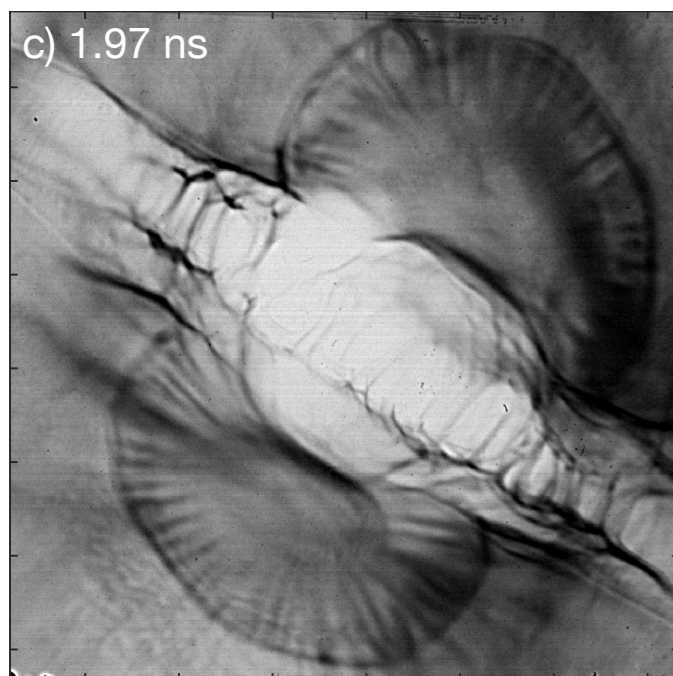
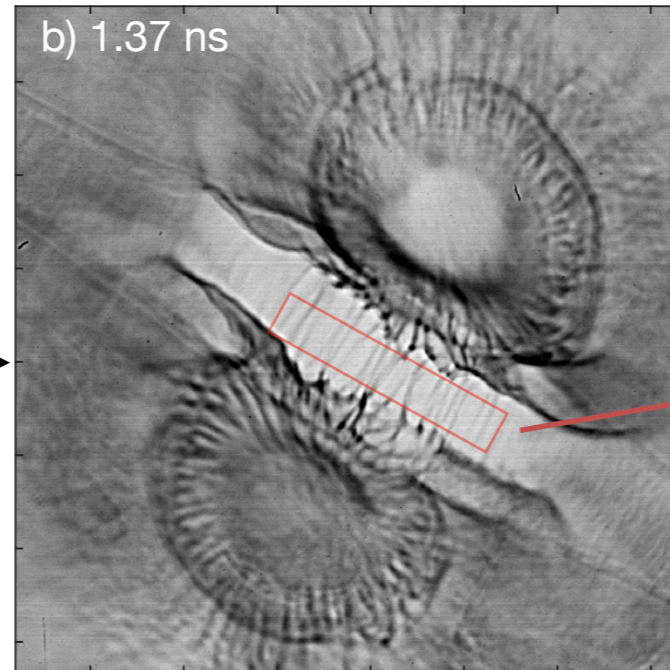
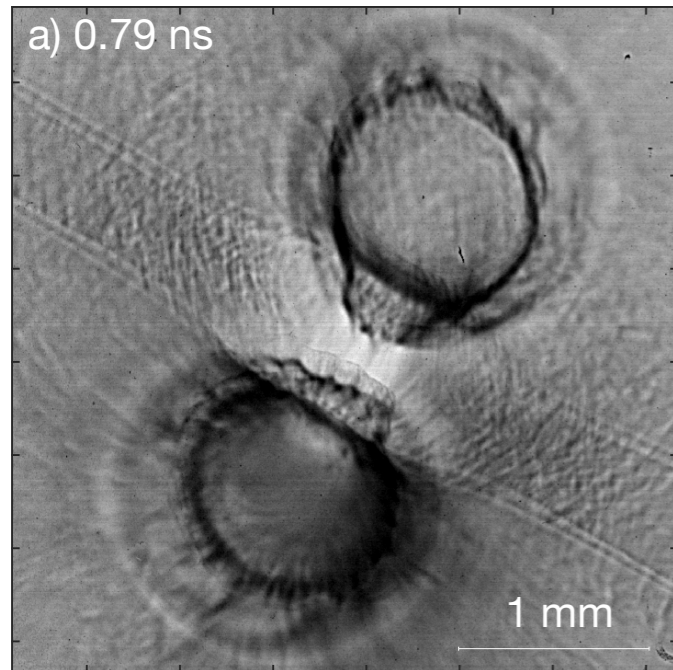
Optical refractometry  
AFR: light/dark bands related to contours of  $|\nabla n_e|$



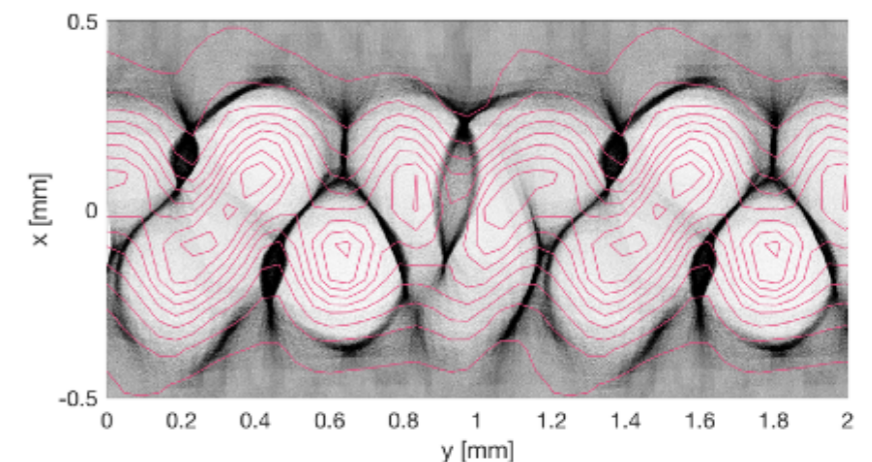
b) Side view



# Proton radiography sequence shows the development of structures in current sheet

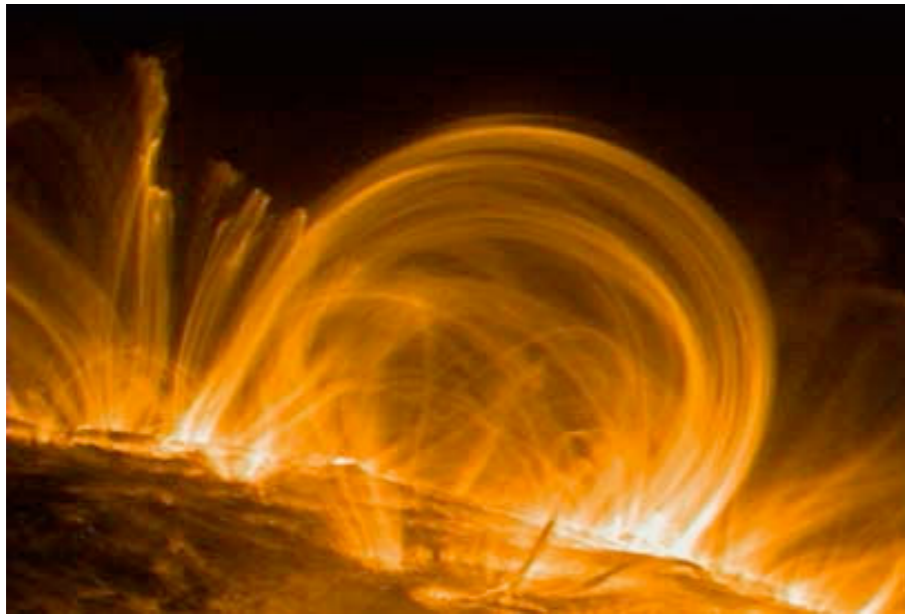


Synthetic radiography from simulations:  
closed-cellular proton features reflect  
magnetic islands structure and reconnection  
into plasmoids

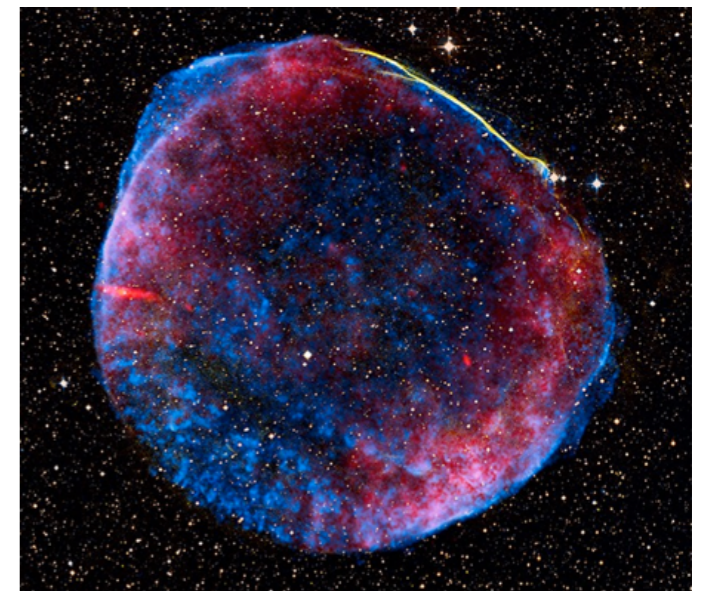
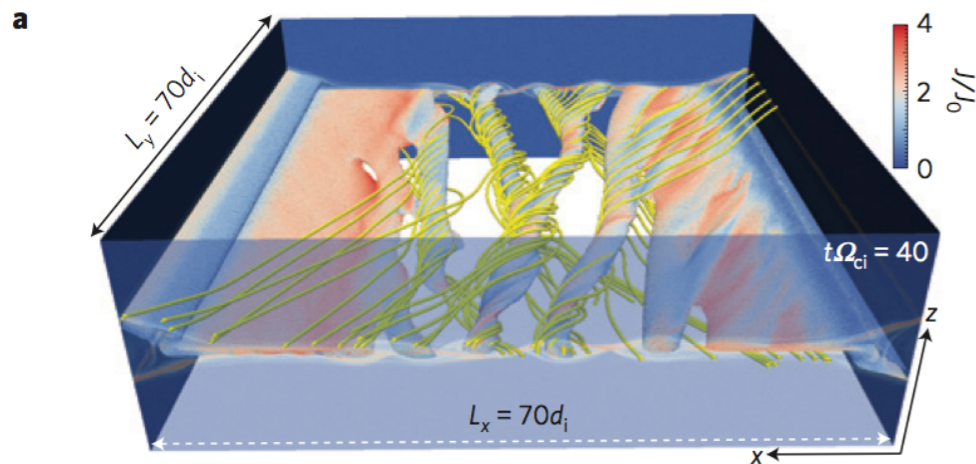




# Summary



- **Magnetic reconnection forces us to contemplate the full range of plasma physics**
  - **Coupling of global and local (kinetic), turbulence. Instabilities. Energy conversion**



- I hope this has energized you (but not shocked you!)
- Work hard and soak in your SULI experience. Have a good summer!