

P150a The magnetic field strength and energy balance of OMC 1

Kate Pattle (University of Central Lancashire; JSPS Short-Term Fellow at NAOJ)

We present a Chandrasekhar-Fermi analysis of the OMC 1 region of the Orion A filament, using polarimetric data taken with POL-2 on the JCMT as part of the BISTRO (B-Fields in Star-Forming Region Observations) survey and archival SCUBA-2 and HARP data. We estimate a plane-of-sky magnetic field strength in OMC 1 of $B = 6.6 \pm 4.7$ mG (where $\delta B_{pos} = \pm 4.7$ mG represents a predominantly systematic uncertainty), using a novel method analogous to unsharp masking to account for the large-scale variation in magnetic field direction across the region. We find that OMC 1 is in approximate equipartition between gravitational and magnetic energy, with both terms having an energy density $\sim 10^{-7}$ J m⁻³. We demonstrate that these energy densities are comparable to the energy density in the explosive Orion BN/KL outflow, suggesting that the outflow may have sufficient energy to significantly alter the global energy balance of OMC 1. However, we find that neither the local Alfvén velocity nor the velocity of the super-Alfvénic outflow ejecta is sufficiently large for the BN/KL outflow to have caused large-scale distortion of the local magnetic field in the ~ 500 -year lifetime of the outflow. Hence, we propose that the hour-glass magnetic field morphology in OMC 1 is caused by the distortion of an initially cylindrically-symmetric magnetic field by the gravitational fragmentation of the filament and/or the gravitational interaction of the BN/KL and S clumps. We find that OMC 1 is currently in or near magnetically-supported equilibrium, and that the current large-scale morphology of the BN/KL outflow is regulated by the geometry of the magnetic field in OMC 1, and not vice versa.