Balloon-Borne Observations of Cosmic Magnetism

Giles Novak, Northwestern University



2012 target: Vela C (ESA/Herschel map)

The Milky Way







Near-IR image; Sword of Orion

Note: Orion Nebula Orion Nebula Cluster Trapezium (bright white spot)

Sword of Orion One of the best-known nebulae in the sky, easily visible to the naked eye from nearly everywhere in the world

stages of star formation (picture from Shu, Adams, & Lizano 1987)







extreme-ultraviolet picture of Sun







optical polarization of starlight



optical polarization of starlight



(Hiltner 1949, Hall 1949, Mathewson & Ford 1970)



spinning grains acquire a net alignment whereby longer axes are aligned $\perp B$

the Earth's atmosphere blocks most wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation



P=0.1



simulated cloud

3-dimensional simulation of magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) turbulence;

this map assumes **strong** B-field

Ostriker, Stone, & Gammie (2001)

P=0.1



simulated cloud

this map assumes weak B-field

Ostriker, Stone, & Gammie (2001)



winter-over scientist Greg Griffin filling SPARO

<u>Submillimeter</u> <u>Polarimeter for</u> <u>Antarctic</u> <u>Remote</u> <u>Observations</u>



















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Jill Prince NASA – Langley

Women in Aerospace Achievement Award - 2010

SPARO B-vectors on mid-IR map (MSX mission)



Balloon-borne Large-Aperture Submm Telescope

BLAST : 266 pixels 3 colors

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BLAST results : ApJ (14 papers), Nature, Physics Today, Colbert Rept.

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BLAST Deep and Wide Fields ... 100's of protogalaxies detected

hazards of astrophysical ballooning



dragged across ~hundred km of ice after parachute fails to release following 2006 observations. At left: 2010: scattered sunlight melts IR blocking filter after telescope spins out of control during ascent

Below: 2006: telescope

- BLAST-TNG (stands for "the next generation")
- ~2300 MKID detectors (cooled to 0.3 °K)
- primary mirror: carbon fiber reinforced polymer; Vanguard Space Technologies;



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Giles Novak, Northwestern University (2012 B-field map removed from posted presentation, but should be available on-line soon)

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