

Contribution ID: 13

Type: **not specified**

Shock Waves in Galaxy Clusters

Wednesday 13 August 2014 14:25 (25 minutes)

The intracluster medium is an extreme plasma that cannot be studied in terrestrial laboratories. Its thermal state is largely set by shocks that occur during virialisation and cluster mergers. Shocks are also a site for particle acceleration. Observations in the X-ray and radio band are beginning to tell us more about the physics of these shocks - however, the results from recent observations have raised a number of fundamental questions. I will present recent observations that challenge our current understanding of shocks in clusters. New ways of studying them are discussed.

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Session Classification: Wednesday afternoon

Track Classification: Program