Using polarized radio emission to understand the dynamics of the NGC 741 galaxy group

Abstract

While AGN and mergers are thought to play important roles in group and cluster evolution, their effects in galaxy groups are poorly understood. We propose to observe the NGC~741 group, which hosts both an old central radio galaxy and a spectacular infalling head-tail source. Strongly-bent jets and a 110~kpc radio tail suggest that NGC~742 is moving supersonically, undergoing stripping and driving shock heating, while the group-dominant galaxy NGC~741 possesses a single faint relic lobe. We propose MeerKAT L-band full-polarization observations of the group with the goals of 1) determining the effect of the bow shock on the intra-group medium (IGM), 2) understanding the complex structure of the head-tail source and the IGM gas motions which have shaped it, and 3) constraining the age of the relic radio lobe.