Probing Three-dimensional Magnetic Fields. III. Synchrotron Emission and Machine Learning

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Abstract

Synchrotron observation serves as a tool for studying magnetic fields in the interstellar medium and intracluster medium, yet its ability to unveil three-dimensional (3D) magnetic fields, meaning probing the field's plane-of-the-sky (POS) orientation, inclination angle relative to the line of sight, and magnetization from one observational data, remains largely underexplored. Inspired by the latest insights into anisotropic magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) turbulence, we found that synchrotron emission's intensity structures inherently reflect this anisotropy, providing crucial information to aid in 3D magnetic field studies: (i) the structure's elongation gives the magnetic field's POS orientation and (ii) the structure's anisotropy degree and topology reveal the inclination angle and magnetization. Capitalizing on this foundation, we integrate a machine learning approach—convolutional neural network (CNN)—to extract this latent information, thereby facilitating the exploration of 3D magnetic fields. The model is trained on synthetic synchrotron emission maps, derived from 3D MHD turbulence simulations encompassing a range of sub-Alfvénic to super-Alfvénic conditions. We show that the CNN is physically interpretable and the CNN is capable of obtaining the POS orientation, inclination angle, and magnetization. Additionally, we test the CNN against the noise effect and the missing low-spatial frequency. We show that this CNN-based approach maintains a high degree of robustness even when only high-spatial frequencies are maintained. This renders the method particularly suitable for application to interferometric data lacking single-dish measurements. We applied this trained CNN to the synchrotron observations of a diffuse region. The CNN-predicted POS magnetic field orientation shows a statistical agreement with that derived from synchrotron polarization.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: Interstellar magnetic fields (845); Interstellar synchrotron emission (856); Magnetohydrodynamics (1964); Convolutional neural networks (1938)

1. Introduction

Synchrotron radiation, emanating from relativistic electrons gyrating around magnetic field lines (G. B. Rybicki & A. P. Lightman 1979; J. J. Condon 1992), is a probe of magnetic fields in interstellar medium (ISM) and intracluster medium (ICM) (V. L. Ginzburg & S. I. Syrovatskii 1965; X. H. Sun et al. 2008; Planck Collaboration et al. 2016a; F. Govoni et al. 2019; Y. Hu et al. 2020, 2024b; R.-Y. Wang et al. 2020; I. Heywood et al. 2022). This radiation not only facilitates the estimation of magnetic field strengths at equipartition (R. A. Chevalier & D. Luo 1994; T. G. Arshakian et al. 2009; F. Yusef-Zadeh et al. 2022, 2024), which is pivotal for elucidating cosmic-ray acceleration mechanisms (J. R. Jokipii 1966; A. R. Bell 1978; A. M. Bykov et al. 2012; A. Bonafede et al. 2014; D. Caprioli & A. Spitkovsky 2014; S. Xu & A. Lazarian 2022; S. Xu 2022), but it also allows the determination of magnetic field orientations (R. Beck 2001, 2015; Planck Collaboration et al. 2016a; J.-F. Zhang et al. 2019a; Y. Guan et al. 2021). This is crucial for understanding different physics across scales, from large-scale galaxy clusters (F. Govoni & L. Feretti 2004; G. Brunetti & T. W. Jones 2014; C. Stuardi et al. 2021; Y. Hu et al. 2024b), galaxies (R. Beck 2001, 2015; L. N. Tram et al. 2023) to small-scale individual supernova remnants (I. S. McLean et al. 1983; L. Xiao et al. 2008, 2009; S. P. Reynolds et al. 2012). Despite its critical role, our comprehension of synchrotron radiation and the magnetic field insights it can offer is still evolving.

Extracting three-dimensional (3D) magnetic field information from synchrotron radiation poses a substantial challenge. Polarized synchrotron emission offers two-dimensional (2D) insights into the magnetic field orientation within the plane of the sky (POS; G. B. Rybicki & A. P. Lightman 1979; I. S. McLean et al. 1983; R. Beck 2001; L. Xiao et al. 2009; S. P. Reynolds et al. 2012; R. Beck 2015; Planck Collaboration et al. 2016a; J.-F. Zhang et al. 2019a; Y. Guan et al. 2021), but it cannot directly probe the POS direction and the inclination angle of the magnetic field relative to the line of sight (LOS). The scenario is further complicated by the Faraday rotation effect, which alters the intrinsic polarization angle of the emission sources (M. Haverkorn 2007; A. R. Taylor et al. 2009; N. Oppermann et al. 2012; S. Xu & B. Zhang 2016; M. Tahani et al. 2019). Consequently, not only is accurately measuring the POS magnetic field from synchrotron polarization challenging, but tracing the actual 3D magnetic field structure becomes a formidable task.

Recent advancements have unlocked the potential of using anisotropy in synchrotron radiation to trace 3D magnetic fields (i.e., determining the POS orientation, inclination angle, and magnetization simultaneously). The theory that relates the anisotropy of synchrotron radiation with the properties of magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) turbulence (P. Goldreich & S. Sridhar 1995; A. Lazarian & E. T. Vishniac 1999) was formulated in A. Lazarian & D. Pogosyan (2012). The

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anisotropy means the observed synchrotron intensity structures tend to elongate along the magnetic field lines intersecting them. The elongation therefore can be used as a probe of the magnetic field orientation. Based on this property, A. Lazarian et al. (2017) introduced the synchrotron intensity gradients (SIG) technique to trace the POS magnetic field orientation (A. Lazarian et al. 2017; Y. Hu et al. 2024b). The technique was demonstrated to be applicable (with an uncertainty of less than 8°) for application under both sub-Alfvénic and super-Alfvénic conditions, notably within galaxy clusters, as demonstrated by Y. Hu et al. (2024b). Crucially, subsequent research by Y. Hu et al. (2021a) and Y. Hu et al. (2024a) has shown that the observed anisotropy in the POS contains information on the underlying 3D magnetic field structures. This insight stems from the fact that the anisotropy, or elongation along the magnetic field line, is inherently a 3D phenomenon. Therefore, the observed POS anisotropy of synchrotron intensity structures is influenced by the projection effect, which is determined by the field's inclination angle and the magnetization[4] level of the medium.

Given these theoretical considerations, the observed structure of synchrotron emission intrinsically encompasses information pertinent to 3D magnetic fields. In this study, we propose the employment of a machine learning paradigm—specifically, convolutional neural networks (CNNs; Y. LeCun et al. 1998)—to extract spatial features within the synchrotron intensity maps, thereby facilitating the measurement of 3D magnetic fields. This includes determining the orientation of the magnetic field within the POS, ascertaining the magnetic field's inclination angle, and assessing the overall magnetization. A similar method employing CNNs for 3D magnetic field tracing has been previously proposed by Y. Hu et al. (2024a), affirming the CNN's capability to identify magnetic-field-specific spatial features from spectroscopic data, thereby yielding precise measurements in star-forming regions. The physical conditions for these regions correspond to supersonic cold gas, which contrasts subsonic warm/hot gas in typical synchrotron-emitting regions. This work aims to extend the CNN method to trace the 3D magnetic field in diffuse synchrotron-emitting regions, opening a new way of using vast data sets of diffuse synchrotron emission to get information unavailable through a traditional synchrotron data analysis.

Crucially, our approach transcends mere algorithmic application; we aim to understand which synchrotron intensity features are indicative of magnetic field properties, why these features are significant, and the fundamental physical principles they represent. This strategy not only deepens our understanding of CNN's efficacy in producing 3D magnetic field mappings but also the relation between observed synchrotron structures and magnetic field properties. For the CNN training, we utilize 3D MHD subsonic simulations that encompass a range of magnetization levels, ranging from sub-Alfvénic conditions (i.e., strong magnetic fields), through trans-Alfvénic to super-Alfvénic scenarios (i.e., weak magnetic fields). These simulations are subsequently post-processed to create synthetic synchrotron observations. The use of synthetic observations in our study is crucial due to the inherent limitations of current observational data in providing 3D magnetic field information.

Synthetic observations allow us to validate our technique under controlled conditions where the magnetic field structure is known prior.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we outline the fundamental aspects of MHD turbulence anisotropy observed in synchrotron emissions and their association with 3D magnetic field orientation and overall magnetization. Section 3 provides a description of the 3D MHD simulations and the synthetic observations utilized in this study, alongside details of our CNN model. In Section 4, we present the results of our numerical testing and observational application. Section 5 delves into discussions surrounding the uncertainties and future prospects of employing machine learning techniques for astrophysical analysis. We conclude with a summary of our findings in Section 6.

2. Theoretical Consideration

2.1. Anisotropy in MHD Turbulence

A significant advancement in our understanding of MHD turbulence was the introduction of the "critical balance" condition, equating the cascading time, $(k_\perp \delta v_l)^{-1}$, with the wave periods, $(k_\parallel v_A)^{-1}$, as proposed by P. Goldreich & S. Sridhar (1995, hereafter GS95). Here, $k_\parallel$ and $k_\perp$ denote the components of the wavevector parallel and perpendicular to the magnetic field, respectively. The term δv_l refers to the turbulent velocity at scale l, and $v_A = B/\sqrt{4\pi\rho}$ represents the Alfvén speed, where B is the magnetic field strength and ρ is the gas mass density. It is essential to note that GS95's analysis is grounded in a global reference frame, wherein the orientation of wavevectors is defined relative to the mean magnetic field.

A. Lazarian & E. T. Vishniac (1999, hereafter LV99) subsequently demonstrated that the "critical balance" condition only holds in a local reference frame, defined relative to the magnetic field intersecting an eddy at scale l. According to LV99, the process of turbulent reconnection of the magnetic field,[5] occurring within one eddy turnover time, facilitates the mixing of magnetic field lines perpendicular to the magnetic field's orientation. This mixing induces changes in fluid velocities perpendicular to the local magnetic field lines, ensuring that the motion of eddies sized $l_\perp$ and oriented perpendicular to the local magnetic field direction is dominant. This implies that the perpendicular direction constitutes the direction of minimal resistance to turbulent cascading. These unopposed by magnetic forces eddies induce the the Kolmogorov-type cascade.

Considering the critical balance condition in the local reference frame, $\delta v_{l,\perp} l_\perp^{-1} \sim v_A l_\parallel^{-1}$ and the Kolmogorov relation in the strong turbulence regime (i.e., $\delta v_{l,\perp} = \left(\frac{l_\perp}{L_{inj}}\right)^{1/3} \delta v_{inj} M_A^{1/3}$, where δv_{inj} is the injection velocity at injection scale L_{inj} and $\delta v_{l,\perp}$ is turbulent velocity along the direction perpendicular to the magnetic field at scale l), one can get the scale-dependent anisotropy scaling (LV99):

$$l_\parallel = L_{inj}\left(\frac{l_\perp}{L_{inj}}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} M_A^{-4/3}, \quad M_A \leqslant 1, \qquad (1)$$

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[4] Magnetization is defined as $1/M_A$, where M_A is the Alfvén Mach number. Large M_A suggests a relatively weak magnetic field, thereby a weak magnetization.

[5] Note that reconnection happens not just at a specific scale and phase, but everywhere the magnetic field lines get intersected. Turbulence induces fluctuations in field lines, so reconnection happens in 3D volume.

$$\delta v_{l,\perp} = \delta v_{\text{inj}} \left(\frac{l_\perp}{L_{\text{inj}}} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} M_A^{1/3}, \quad M_A \leqslant 1, \tag{2}$$

where $l_\perp$ and $l_\parallel$ represent the perpendicular and parallel scales of eddies with respect to the local magnetic field, respectively. $M_A = \delta v_{\text{inj}}/v_A$ is the Alfvén Mach number. This scaling relation has been demonstrated by numerical simulations (J. Cho & E. T. Vishniac 2000; J. Maron & P. Goldreich 2001; J. Cho & A. Lazarian 2003; G. Kowal & A. Lazarian 2010; Y. Hu et al. 2021b, 2022c, 2024c) and in situ measurements in the solar wind (X. Wang et al. 2016; L. Matteini et al. 2020; D. Duan et al. 2021; S. Zhao et al. 2024).

Equation (2) provides the scaling relation for velocity fluctuations and reveals the anisotropic nature of turbulent eddies (i.e., $l_\parallel \gg l_\perp$). In other words, the perpendicular velocity fluctuation is more significant than the parallel fluctuations at the same scale (Y. Hu et al. 2021b). The relationships for density and magnetic field fluctuations can also be derived using the linearized continuity and induction equations, considering the components as a sum of their mean and fluctuating parts: $\rho = \rho_0 + \delta\rho_l$, $\boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{v}_0 + \delta\boldsymbol{v}_l$, and $\boldsymbol{B} = \boldsymbol{B}_0 + \delta\boldsymbol{B}_l$, where ρ_0 and $\boldsymbol{B}_0$ denote the mean density and mean magnetic field strength, while the mean velocity field $\boldsymbol{v}_0 = 0$ (J. Cho & A. Lazarian 2003). The equations in Fourier space are

$$\omega\delta\rho_k = \rho_0 \boldsymbol{k} \cdot \delta\boldsymbol{v}_k, \tag{3}$$

$$\omega\delta\boldsymbol{B}_k = \boldsymbol{k} \times (\boldsymbol{B}_0 \times \delta\boldsymbol{v}_k), \tag{4}$$

in which the dispersion relation for Alfvénic turbulence is $\omega/k = v_A$. Considering the displacement vector $\boldsymbol{\xi}$, where the time derivative of $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ gives the velocity vector $\partial\boldsymbol{\xi}/\partial t = \boldsymbol{v} = v\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$, we obtain

$$\delta\rho_l = \delta v_l \frac{\rho_0}{v_A} \mathcal{F}^{-1}(|\hat{\boldsymbol{k}} \cdot \hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}|), \tag{5}$$

$$\delta B_l = \delta v_l \frac{B_0}{v_A} \mathcal{F}^{-1}(|\hat{\boldsymbol{B}}_0 \times \hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}|), \tag{6}$$

where $\hat{\boldsymbol{k}}$ and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$ represent the unit wavevector and displacement vector, respectively. $\mathcal{F}^{-1}$ denotes the inverse Fourier transform. The density and magnetic field fluctuations induced by turbulence are proportional to the velocity fluctuations and dominated by their perpendicular components.

In addition to the anisotropy, the topology of magnetic field lines is regulated by the magnetization. Within a domain of strong magnetization, magnetic field lines exhibit minimal deviation attributed to subdued fluctuations, resulting in predominantly straightened topology. In contrast, a weaker magnetic field, signified by a higher M_A, is associated with stronger orientation fluctuations in the magnetic field. This enhancement leads to field lines adopting more curved formations (K. H. Yuen & A. Lazarian 2020). Together with Equation (2), we have three important properties of MHD turbulence (Y. Hu et al. 2024a):

1. Turbulent eddies predominantly stretch along the local magnetic field (i.e., $l_\parallel \gg l_\perp$), underscoring an anisotropy in velocity, density, and magnetic field structures.
2. The degree of anisotropy, quantified as $l_\parallel/l_\perp$, is intricately linked to the magnetization, represented by M_A^{-1}.

3. Difference in magnetization manifests distinctively in the magnetic field topology.

Note that for super-Alfvénic scenarios where $M_A \gg 1$, turbulence approaches isotropy, dominated by hydrodynamic turbulence. However, turbulence cascades energy from larger injection scales down to smaller scales and progressively diminishes turbulent velocity. Assuming Kolmogorov turbulence, the magnetic field's energy approaches that of turbulence (i.e., the Alfvén Mach number becomes unity) at the transition scale l_A, which can be derived from (see A. Lazarian 2006)

$$\frac{1}{2}\rho\left(\frac{l_A}{L_{\text{inj}}}\right)^{2/3}\delta v_{\text{inj}}^2 = \frac{1}{8\pi}B^2,$$

$$l_A = L_{\text{inj}}/M_A^3, \tag{7}$$

below which the magnetic field's role becomes important and the anisotropy can be observed (see Equation (2)).

2.2. Anisotropy in Synchrotron Emission

The intrinsic relationship between synchrotron emission and the density of relativistic electrons and magnetic fields (see Equation (10)) ensures that the anisotropy and magnetic field topology are naturally encoded in the observed synchrotron intensity structure. The observed intensity $I(x, y)$ is expressed as (A. G. Pacholczyk 1970; G. B. Rybicki & A. P. Lightman 1986; H. Lee et al. 2016)

$$I(x, y) \propto \int (j_\perp + j_\parallel)dz, \tag{8}$$

where $j_\perp$ and $j_\parallel$ denote synchrotron emissivities perpendicular and parallel to the POS magnetic field, respectively. Further expansion of $j_\perp$ and $j_\parallel$ reveals the intrinsic synchrotron emission $I_i(x, y, z) = j_\perp + j_\parallel$, as follows:

$$I_i(x, y, z) \propto n_e(B_x^2 + B_y^2)B_\perp^\alpha, \tag{9}$$

where $B_\perp = \sqrt{B_x^2 + B_y^2}$ represents the magnetic field component perpendicular to the LOS, with B_x and B_y as its x and y components, respectively. n_e indicates the relativistic electron number density and α denotes synchrotron emission index.

As indicated in Equation (6), when describing the density and magnetic field as a sum of their mean and fluctuating components, their fluctuations are predominantly perpendicular to the magnetic field. The expressions in Equation (9) suggest that fluctuations in synchrotron emission intensity are determined by these in the magnetic field and density. Other constant factors are not explicitly detailed in Equation (9), as they do not alter the characteristics of these fluctuations. Consequently, the fluctuations in I_i exhibit pronounced anisotropy, showing more significant fluctuations perpendicular to the magnetic field.

This anisotropy implies that the contours of synchrotron intensity, as illustrated in Figure 1, are elongating along the magnetic fields. The elongation in the projected intensity structure unveils the orientation of the POS magnetic field, while more information is needed to infer the POS direction.

Projection effect. The observed synchrotron intensity is subject to the projection along the LOS. The projection effect changes the observed anisotropy degree, defined as $l_\parallel/l_\perp$. As shown in Figure 1, a large inclination angle of the magnetic field indicates a weak projection effect, resulting in a larger
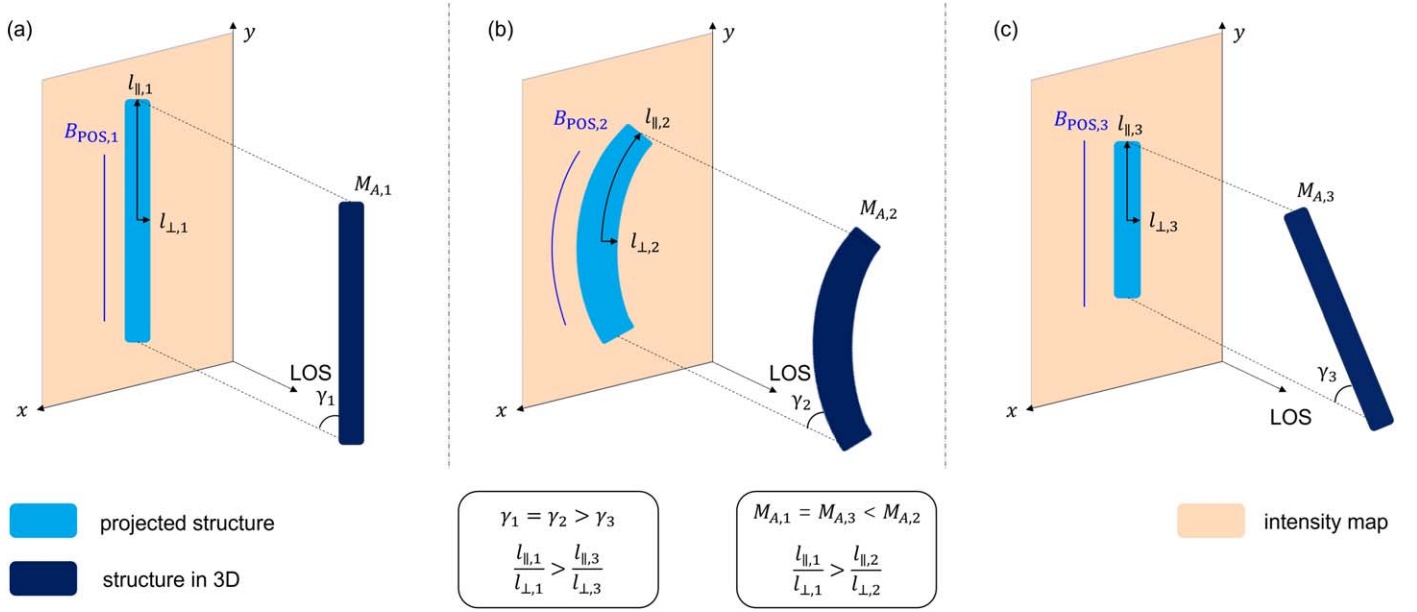
Figure 1. An Illustration of how the observed synchrotron intensity structures are regulated by the Alfvén Mach number M_A and inclination angle γ. Within all three panels, these intensity structures elongate along the POS magnetic field where $l_\parallel > l_\perp$. Structures 1 and 2, depicted in panels (a) and (b) are projected onto the POS with identical inclination angles $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2$, yet exhibit different magnetization with $M_{A,1}^{-1} > M_{A,2}^{-1}$. Notably, the anisotropy observed, represented as $l_\parallel/l_\perp$, in the weakly magnetized Structure 2 is less pronounced than in Structure 1. Structure 2 is less straightened because the weak magnetic field has more fluctuations. Comparatively, Structures 1 and 3—showcased in panels (a) and (c)—possess equivalent magnetization $M_{A,1}^{-1} = M_{A,3}^{-1}$, but divergent inclination angles with $\gamma_1 > \gamma_3$. The observed anisotropy decreases with smaller γ, though it is crucial to note that the straightness of Structure 3 remains unaffected by this projection. Modified from Y. Hu et al. (2024a).

$l_\parallel/l_\perp$ ratio. Conversely, a small inclination angle reduces the parallel scale $l_\parallel$, thus diminishing the anisotropy degree. Therefore, the observed anisotropy degree provides insights into the magnetic field's inclination angle.

Additionally, fluctuations cause the magnetic field lines to exhibit curvature, which is naturally mirrored in the elongation of synchrotron structures along these curved fields within the 3D spatial space. However, both the observed curvature of the magnetic field lines and the elongation of these structures on the POS are also influenced by the projection effect, providing further insights into the magnetic field's inclination angle.

Magnetization effect. The degree of observed anisotropy is affected not only by projection effects but also by the medium's magnetization. A higher degree of anisotropy in the intensity structure is more pronounced in environments with strong magnetization, while weaker magnetization not only reduces the anisotropy but also leads to more pronounced curvature in both the magnetic field and the corresponding intensity structure. Thus, understanding the anisotropy degree, along with the topology of the projected intensity structure, offers valuable information on both the magnetization and the inclination angle.

3. Numerical Method

3.1. CNN

3.1.1. CNN Architecture

To construct a deep neural network (Y. LeCun et al. 1998) to trace the 3D magnetic field from a synchrotron emission map, we adopt a CNN architecture similar to that used in Y. Hu et al. (2024a). The CNN architecture, as illustrated in Figure 2, consists of initial layers comprising a stack of convolutional layers followed by pooling and dropout layers. To facilitate

faster convergence during the network training process using backpropagation of the loss and enhance the learning stability, we introduce a batch normalization layer following each convolution layer. After several iterations of convolution and pooling layers, we extract a compressed image feature, which is then processed by the fully connected layers to predict the desired properties. A detailed discussion of each layer's function is given in Y. Hu et al. (2024a). Such a CNN architecture has been proven to be applicable in tracing 3D magnetic fields using spectroscopic observations. The median uncertainties are under $5°$ for both POS and inclination angles and less than 0.2 for M_A in sub-Alfvénic conditions. Compared with Y. Hu et al. (2024a), our CNN architecture uses fewer convolutional layers, accelerating the training process with less computational time.

3.1.2. Network Training

The trainable parameters within the CNN are optimized following a conventional neural network training approach, where the mean-squared error of the 3D magnetic field prediction acts as the training loss for backpropagation. This methodology is grounded in the foundational principles established by D. E. Rumelhart et al. (1986).

Random cropping. To bolster the CNN model's ability to generalize, our training strategy includes diversifying the training data set through data augmentation (D. A. van Dyk & X.-L. Meng 2001). One effective technique is random cropping (R. Takahashi et al. 2018), which involves generating smaller patches of size 22×22 cells from the input images. This approach not only expands the data set but also introduces a variety of perspectives within the data, thereby enhancing the model's exposure to different features present in the synchrotron emission maps. The size of 22×22 cells is chosen to
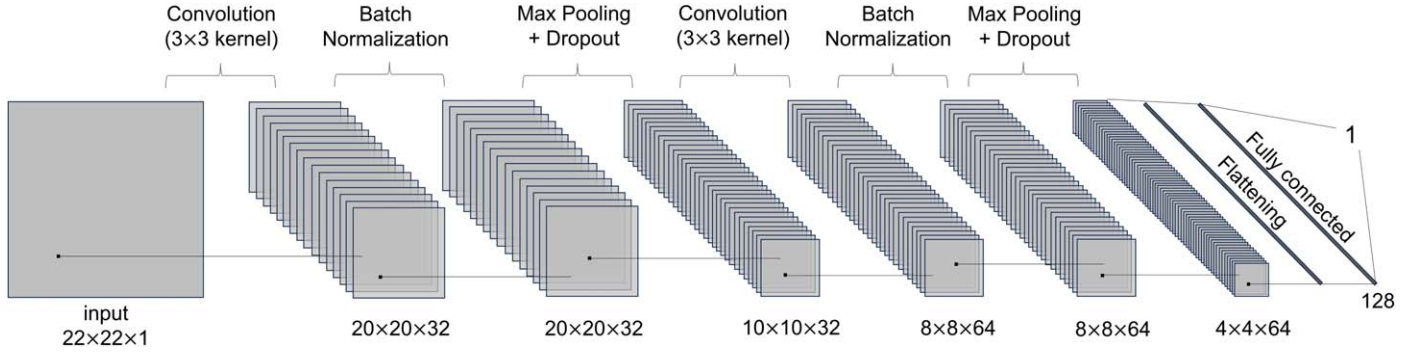
Figure 2. Architecture of the CNN model. The input image is a 22×22 cell map cropped from the synchrotron intensity map. The network outputs the prediction of the magnetic field's POS orientation angle ϕ, inclination angle γ, or the Alfvén Mach number M_A. Modified from Y. Hu et al. (2024a).

avoid numerical dissipation of turbulence and achieve a high-resolution measurement. As shown in Appendix A, the size does not affect the CNN's accuracy after sufficient training, but training large patches is more computationally expensive.

Random rotation. Additionally, images lack rotational invariance from the perspective of the computational model. Each image cell corresponds to an element in a matrix, and rotating an image alters the matrix's element arrangement, presenting the image as novel data to the model (H. Larochelle et al. 2007). This characteristic is exploited in two ways: first, by randomly rotating the 22×22 cell patches to further augment the training data set, and second, by leveraging the original, unrotated data sets for validation, simulating a prediction test scenario.

These augmentation strategies enrich the training data set with diversity and randomness (D. A. van Dyk & X.-L. Meng 2001), which are crucial for refining CNN's predictive accuracy and generalization across different physical conditions.

3.2. MHD Simulations

The MHD numerical simulations presented in this study were generated from the ZEUS-MP/3D and AthenaK codes, as detailed by J. C. Hayes et al. (2006) and J. M. Stone et al. (2020), respectively. We executed an isothermal simulation of MHD turbulence, employing the ideal MHD equations within an Eulerian framework, complemented by periodic boundary conditions. Kinetic energy injection was solenoidally applied at wavenumber 2 to emulate a Kolmogorov-like power spectrum. The turbulence was actively driven until achieving a state of statistical equilibrium. The computational domain was discretized into a 792^3 cell grid, with numerical dissipation of turbulence occurring at scales between approximately 10 and 20 cells. See Y. Hu et al. (2024c) for more details.

Initial conditions for the simulations featured a uniform density field and a magnetic field oriented along the y-axis. The simulation cubes were subsequently rotated to align the mean magnetic field inclination with respect to the LOS, or the z-axis, at angles of $90°$, $60°$, and $30°$, respectively. Characterization of the scale-free turbulence within the simulations was achieved through the sonic Mach number, $M_s = \delta v_{inj}/c_s$, and the Alfvénic Mach number, $M_A = \delta v_{inj}/v_A$. To explore various physical scenarios, the initial density and magnetic field settings were adjusted, producing a range of M_A and M_s values. The simulations are referenced throughout this paper by their designated model names or key parameters, as enumerated in Table 1.

Table 1
M_s and M_A are the Sonic Mach Number and the Alfvénic Mach Number Calculated from the Global Injection Velocity, Respectively

Run	M_s	M_A	Range of M_A^{sub}	Range of M_s^{sub}	Code
Z0	0.66	0.26	0.17–0.36	0.37–0.91	ZEUS-MP
Z1	0.62	0.50	0.26–0.75	0.37–0.89	⋯
Z2	0.61	0.79	0.38–1.00	0.38–0.82	⋯
Z3	0.59	1.02	0.42–1.37	0.37–0.80	⋯
Z4	0.58	1.21	0.49–1.55	0.38–0.82	⋯
A0	1.21	1.25	0.51–1.56	0.58–1.53	AthenaK

Note. M_A^{sub} and M_s^{sub} are determined using the local velocity dispersion calculated along each LOS in a 22×22 cells subfield.

3.3. Synthetic Synchrotron Observation

To generate a synthetic synchrotron observation from our simulations, we utilize the density field, $\rho(\boldsymbol{x})$, and the magnetic field, $\boldsymbol{B}(\boldsymbol{x})$, where $\boldsymbol{x} = (x, y, z)$ denotes the spatial coordinates. The calculation for synchrotron intensity $I(x, y)$ follows (A. G. Pacholczyk 1970; G. B. Rybicki & A. P. Lightman 1986; H. Lee et al. 2016)

$$I(x, y) = \int n_e (B_x^2 + B_y^2) B_\perp^\alpha dz, \qquad (10)$$

where $n_e = \rho(\boldsymbol{x})$ is the density of relativistic electrons. Compared with the original definition given in A. G. Pacholczyk (1970), G. B. Rybicki & A. P. Lightman (1986), and H. Lee et al. (2016), the wavelength-dependent term, as well as other constant factors, are ignored since it does not change the properties of the fluctuations in a scale-free MHD turbulence simulation.

Considering the anisotropy in synchrotron emission is relatively insensitive to the electron energy distribution's spectral index (A. Lazarian & D. Pogosyan 2012; J.-F. Zhang et al. 2019b), we assume a homogeneous and isotropic electron energy distribution $N(E)dE = N_0 E^{-p} dE$ with a spectral index $p = 3$, where N_0 is the pre-factor of the electron distribution. This assumption yields a synchrotron emission index of $\alpha = (p - 3)/4$. The magnetic field predicted from CNN using $I(x, y)$ is insensitive to Faraday rotation. We therefore did not include the Faraday rotation effect here for comparison purposes, while in real observations, polarization synchrotron emission is contaminated by Faraday rotation.
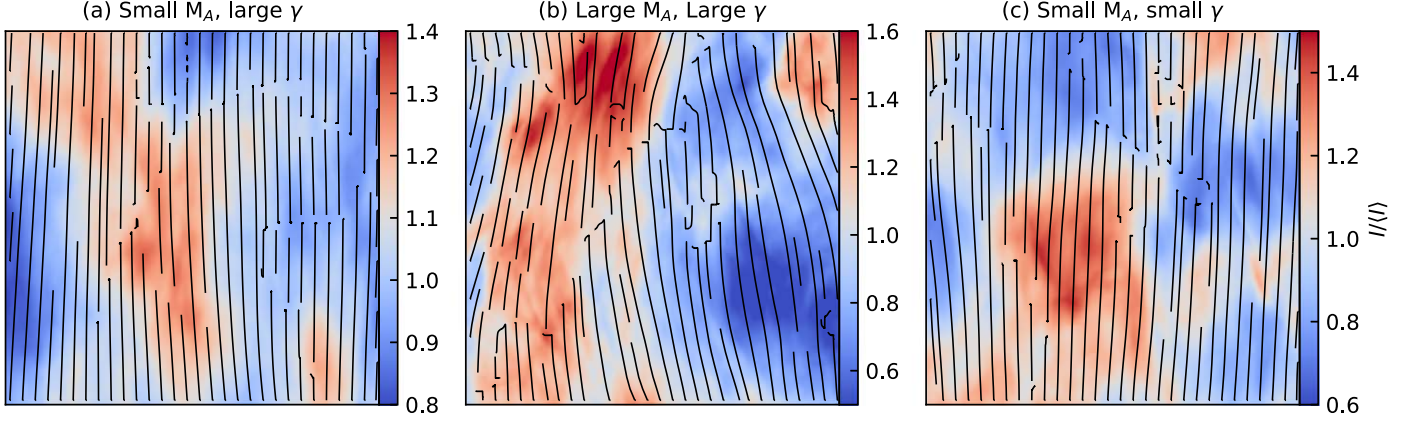
Figure 3. A numerical illustration of the anisotropy in normalized synchrotron intensity map. The black streamlines represent the POS magnetic field orientation. Panel (a) $\langle M_A \rangle = 0.26$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 0.66$, and $\langle \gamma \rangle = 90°$. Panel (b) $\langle M_A \rangle = 1.21$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 0.58$, and $\langle \gamma \rangle = 90°$. Panel (c) $\langle M_A \rangle = 0.26$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 0.66$, and $\langle \gamma \rangle = 30°$.

3.4. Training Images

Our training input is the synchrotron intensity map $I(x, y)$ generated from the ZEUS-MP/3D simulations, while the AthenaK simulation serves as a validation test. The intensity map is normalized by its maximum intensity so only morphological features in the map are the most important. The 792×792 cells $I(x, y)$ are randomly segmented into 22×22 cell subfields for input into the CNN model. For each subfield, we also generate corresponding projected maps of ϕ^{sub}, γ^{sub}, M_A^{sub}, and M_s^{sub} as per the following:

$$\phi^{\text{sub}}(x, y) = \arctan\left(\frac{\int B_y(x, y, z)\,dz}{\int B_x(x, y, z)\,dz}\right),$$

$$\gamma^{\text{sub}}(x, y) = \arccos\left(\frac{\int B_z(x, y, z)\,dz}{\int B(x, y, z)\,dz}\right),$$

$$M_A^{\text{sub}} = \frac{v_{\text{inj}}^{\text{sub}} \sqrt{4\pi \langle \rho \rangle^{\text{sub}}}}{\langle B \rangle^{\text{sub}}},$$

$$M_s^{\text{sub}} = \frac{v_{\text{inj}}^{\text{sub}}}{c_s}, \qquad (11)$$

where $B = \sqrt{B_x^2 + B_y^2 + B_z^2}$ is the total magnetic field strength, and B_x, B_y, and B_z are its x, y, and z components. $\langle \rho \rangle^{\text{sub}}$ and $\langle B \rangle^{\text{sub}}$ are the mass density and magnetic field strength averaged over the subfield, respectively. M_A^{sub} and M_s^{sub} are defined using the local velocity dispersion for each subfield (i.e., $v_{\text{inj}}^{\text{sub}}$), rather than the global turbulent injection velocity v_{inj} used to characterize the full simulation. The ranges of M_A^{sub} and M_s^{sub} averaged over the subfield in each simulation with different γ are listed in Table 1, while γ^{sub} spans from $0°$ to $90°$. These values of M_A^{sub}, M_s^{sub}, and γ^{sub} cover typical physical conditions of diffuse medium.

4. Results

4.1. Numerical Training and Tests

Figure 3 shows how the Alfvénic Mach number (M_A) and the inclination angle (γ) shape the anisotropy within synchrotron intensity maps, particularly focusing on local intensity structures. When M_A is small and γ is large, representing a strong magnetic field and insignificant projection effect, the intensity structures prominently emerge as narrow strips, aligning with the POS magnetic fields. With an increase in M_A, corresponding to a weakening in the magnetic field, both the magnetic field topology and the synchrotron intensity structures exhibit increased curvature.

On the other hand, small γ suggests a magnetic field orientation closer to the LOS, diminishing the observed anisotropy due to projection effects. Consequently, the elongation along the POS magnetic field becomes less distinct, indicating a reduced anisotropic degree. Thus, the characteristics of anisotropic elongation, curvature, and degree within the intensity structures offer insights into the magnetic fields' POS orientation, inclination angle, and magnetization (M_A^{-1}), respectively.

Figure 4 offers a visual comparison between the actual 3D magnetic fields from a simulation characterized by $\langle M_A \rangle = 0.79$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 0.61$, and $\langle \gamma \rangle = 60°$, and those predicted by a trained CNN model. In this figure, the orientation of the POS magnetic field, represented by the position angle (ϕ), and γ, are visualized, with the projected M_A values depicted through color coding. A significant observation from this comparison is the congruence in the orientations of the actual and CNN-predicted 3D magnetic fields. The predicted M_A values, however, are observed to be marginally higher by approximately 0.1–0.2—compared to the actual simulation values.

Figure 5 presents 2D histograms of the CNN predictions—ϕ^{CNN}, γ^{CNN}, and M_A^{CNN}-against the actual values from two distinct test simulations, Z2 ($\langle M_A \rangle = 0.79$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 0.61$) and A0 ($\langle M_A \rangle = 1.25$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 1.21$). It is noteworthy that these simulations were generated using different numerical codes: Z2 by ZEUS-MP/3D (J. C. Hayes et al. 2006) and A0 by the AthenaK code (J. M. Stone et al. 2020). Importantly, simulation A0, characterized by a higher Mach number than those included in the CNN training data set, was not utilized during the training phase. Despite the inherent differences in the numerical simulations and the turbulence conditions they represent, the histograms reveal a statistical concordance between the CNN predictions and the actual simulation values. The proximity of the data points to the one-to-one reference line indicates a strong agreement between predicted and true values, highlighting the CNN model's accuracy, albeit with some scatter that reflects deviations from the actual values.
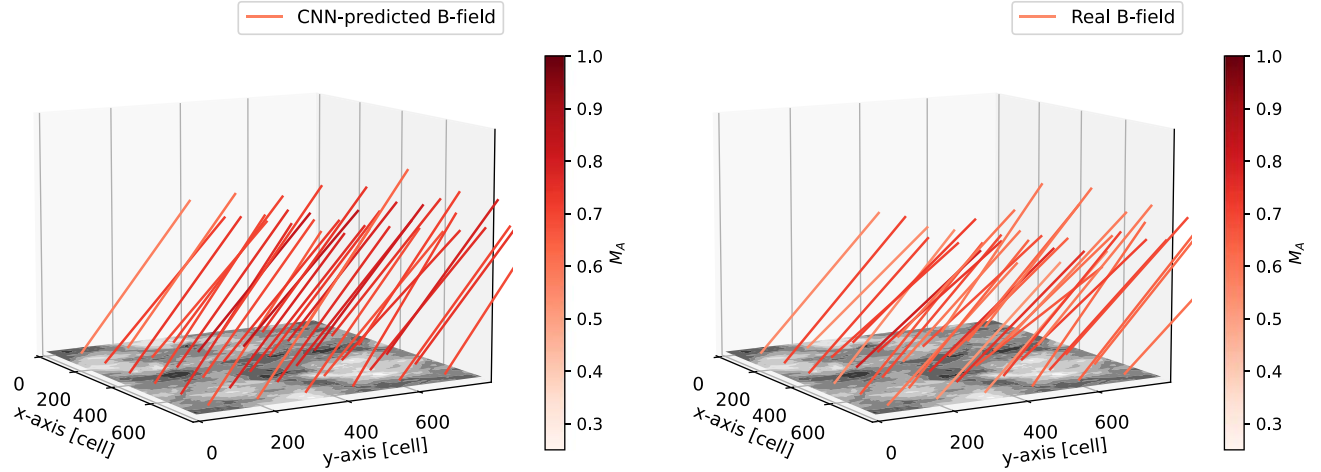
Figure 4. A comparison of the CNN-predicted 3D magnetic fields using the simulation $\langle M_A \rangle = 0.79$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 0.61$, and $\langle \gamma \rangle = 60°$. Each magnetic field segment is constructed by the POS magnetic field's position angle (i.e., ϕ) and the inclination angle γ. Note that the magnetic field obtained is the projection along the LOS and averaged over 132×132 pixels for visualization purposes. The third axis of the LOS is only for 3D visualization purposes and does not provide distance information here. The total intensity map I is placed on the POS, i.e., the x–y plane.

4.2. Noise Effect

Noise is an inherent challenge in observation that can potentially influence CNN predictions. To evaluate this effect comprehensively, we introduce Gaussian noise into the synchrotron intensity maps used for training the CNN model. The amplitude of this noise varies, representing 10%, 50%, and 100% of the mean intensity of the maps, corresponding to signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) of 10, 2, and 1, respectively. This allows us to train the CNN model across a range of noise levels.

Figure 6 presents box plots that illustrate the deviations between the CNN-predicted values and the actual 3D magnetic field using simulation A0 ($\langle M_A \rangle = 1.25$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 1.21$, $\langle \gamma \rangle = 60°$) as a case study. We quantify these deviations by calculating the absolute differences in the magnetic field's position angle ($|\phi^{CNN} - \phi|$), inclination angle ($|\gamma^{CNN} - \gamma|$), and Alfvén Mach number ($|M_A^{CNN} - M_A|$), represented as σ_ϕ, σ_γ, and σ_{M_A}, respectively.

In noise-free conditions (see Figures 5 and 6), the median values of σ_{M_A}, σ_γ, and σ_ϕ are approximately 0.2, 5°, and 4°. Upon introducing noise to the simulation, uncertainties increase, with the median value of σ_{M_A} rising to about 0.4, and median σ_γ and σ_ϕ extending to the range of 8°–10°. Remarkably, these uncertainties remain consistent across different SNRs of 10, 2, and 1, underscoring the CNN model's ability to extract magnetic field information amidst varying levels of noise.

4.3. Removing Low-spatial-frequency Components

Traditional magnetic field mapping via polarimetry necessitates a comprehensive range of spatial frequencies, incorporating both the high-spatial-frequency data from interferometers and the low-spatial-frequency data from single-dish observations. However, recent studies (A. Lazarian et al. 2020; Y. Hu & A. Lazarian 2024) have illuminated that the anisotropy inherent in MHD turbulence and synchrotron emission is more pronounced at higher spatial frequencies. This suggests that the CNN approach could effectively obtain the POS orientation, inclination angle, and magnetization using exclusively high-spatial-frequency data. To examine this proposition, we applied

a k-space filter to synchrotron intensity maps before CNN training, involving (i) performing a fast Fourier transform (FFT) on a 2D map; (ii) filtering out the intensity values at specified wavenumbers k to highlight high-spatial frequencies; and (iii) applying an inverse FFT to transform the filtered map back to the spatial domain.

Figure 7 presents box plots showing the deviations-σ_{M_A}, σ_γ, and σ_ϕ, resulting from the removal of low-spatial-frequency components in the synchrotron intensity maps. Across different scenarios of wavenumber removal ($k < 10$, $k < 20$, and $k < 30$), the median values of σ_{M_A}, σ_γ, and σ_ϕ exhibit some variability but generally maintain stability within <0.4, $<10°$, and $<10°$, respectively. This underscores the CNN method's robustness in probing 3D magnetic fields, even without the contribution of low-spatial frequencies-highlighting its particular suitability for processing interferometric data devoid of single-dish measurements.

4.4. Observational Application

For our observational tests, we selected a diffuse emission region from the Sino-German $\lambda 6$ cm polarization survey (X. Y. Gao et al. 2010). This region, situated away from the Galactic plane, minimizes the complexity arising from the LOS projection of multiple components. It also avoids energetic sources such as supernova remnants, which could significantly alter the properties of the surrounding gas. The synchrotron intensity data has a beam resolution of 9.'5 and an rms noise level of 0.5–0.7 mK in brightness temperature T_B, while the noise level for polarized intensity is 0.3–0.5 mK in T_B.

As shown in Figure 8, there is consistency between the POS magnetic field orientations predicted by the CNN and those derived from synchrotron polarization, though misalignment is evident in the northeast clump. This clump is associated with the H II complex SH-236, where radiation and stellar winds from young stars may compress the surrounding gas and alter its physical properties. Currently, our CNN model does not account for the impacts of stellar winds and radiation, which could explain the inaccurate predictions observed in this region. Additionally, Faraday rotation is not corrected for the
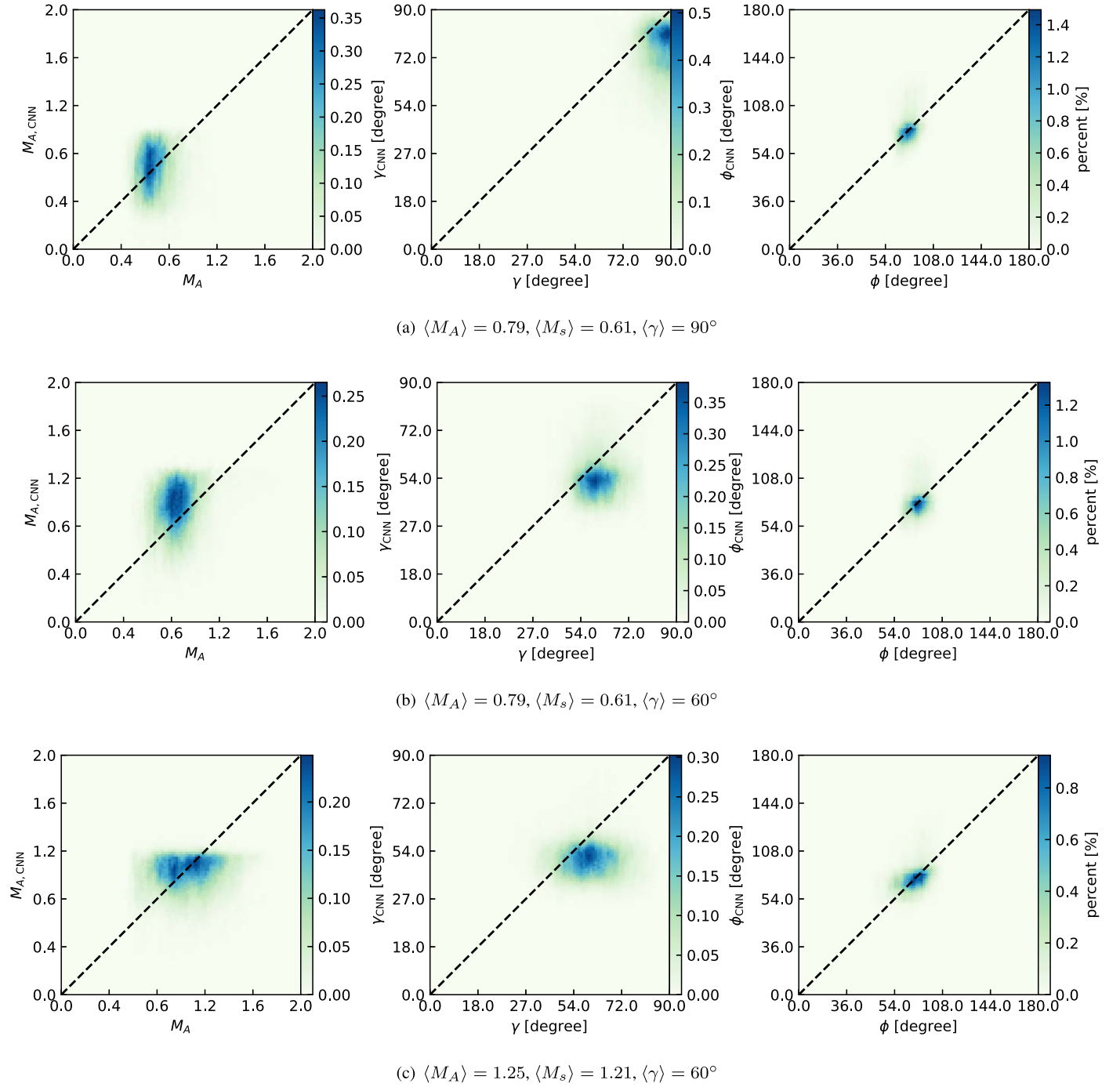
(a) $\langle M_A \rangle = 0.79$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 0.61$, $\langle \gamma \rangle = 90°$

(b) $\langle M_A \rangle = 0.79$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 0.61$, $\langle \gamma \rangle = 60°$

(c) $\langle M_A \rangle = 1.25$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 1.21$, $\langle \gamma \rangle = 60°$

Figure 5. 2D histograms of the CNN predictions, i.e., ϕ^{CNN} (right), γ^{CNN} (middle), and $M_{\mathrm{A}}^{\mathrm{CNN}}$ (left) and the corresponding actual values in simulation. The dashed reference line represents the ideal scenario, where the predicted values and actual values match perfectly.

synchrotron polarization data, which might introduce further uncertainties.

A significant advantage of our CNN approach over traditional polarization methods is its capability to probe the inclination angle γ and magnetization M_{A}. The CNN-predicted γ and M_{A} maps are shown in Figure B1. These predictions are summarized in histograms in Figure 9. According to the histograms, the median γ and M_{A} are estimated at $\approx 40°$ and ≈ 0.82, respectively. According to our study of the uncertainties (see Figure 6), there could be $5°–10°$ uncertainty in the predicted median γ and 0.2–0.4 uncertainty in the predicted median M_{A}.

5. Discussion

5.1. Comparison with Earlier Studies

Exploring 3D magnetic fields within the ISM using CNNs is rapidly progressing. An initiative by Y. Hu et al. (2024a) showcased the use of a CNN model to trace the 3D magnetic field structure in molecular clouds. This achievement was facilitated by CNN's application to thin velocity channel maps (A. Lazarian & D. Pogosyan 2000; Y. Hu et al. 2023) derived from spectroscopic data.

Building on this CNN approach, our study extends the application of CNN to synchrotron emission, aiming to trace
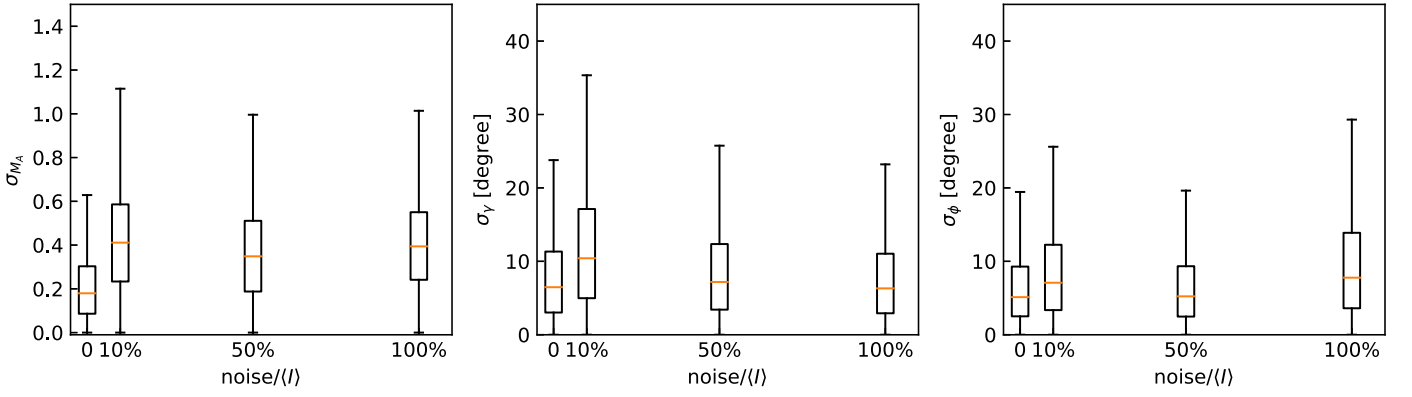
Figure 6. Box plots of difference in CNN-predicted ϕ^{CNN} (right), γ^{CNN} (middle), and $M_{\mathrm{A}}^{\mathrm{CNN}}$ (left) and the actual values in the simulation A0 ($\langle M_{\mathrm{A}} \rangle = 1.25$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 1.21$, $\langle \gamma \rangle = 60°$) with Gaussian noise introduced. The upper and lower black lines represent the deviation's maximum and minimum, respectively. The box gives ranges of the first (lower) and third quartiles (upper) and the orange line represents the median value. The amplitude of the noise varies from 10%, 50%, to 100% of the mean intensity of the maps, corresponding to SNRs of 10, 2, and 1, respectively.
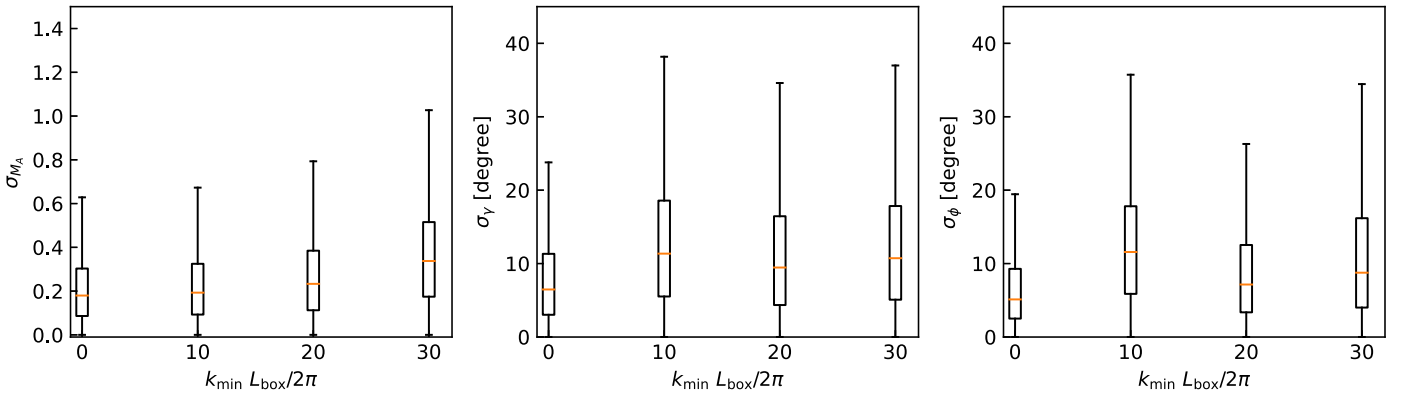
Figure 7. Box plots of difference in CNN-predicted ϕ^{CNN} (right), γ^{CNN} (middle), and $M_{\mathrm{A}}^{\mathrm{CNN}}$ (left) and the actual values in the simulation A0 ($\langle M_{\mathrm{A}} \rangle = 1.25$, $\langle M_s \rangle = 1.21$, $\langle \gamma \rangle = 60°$) when spat. The upper and lower black lines represent the deviation's maximum and minimum, respectively. The box gives ranges of the first (lower) and third quartiles (upper) and the orange line represents the median value. k_{min} represents the minimum wavenumber remaining in the filtered synchrotron intensity map and L_{box} is the size of the simulation box.
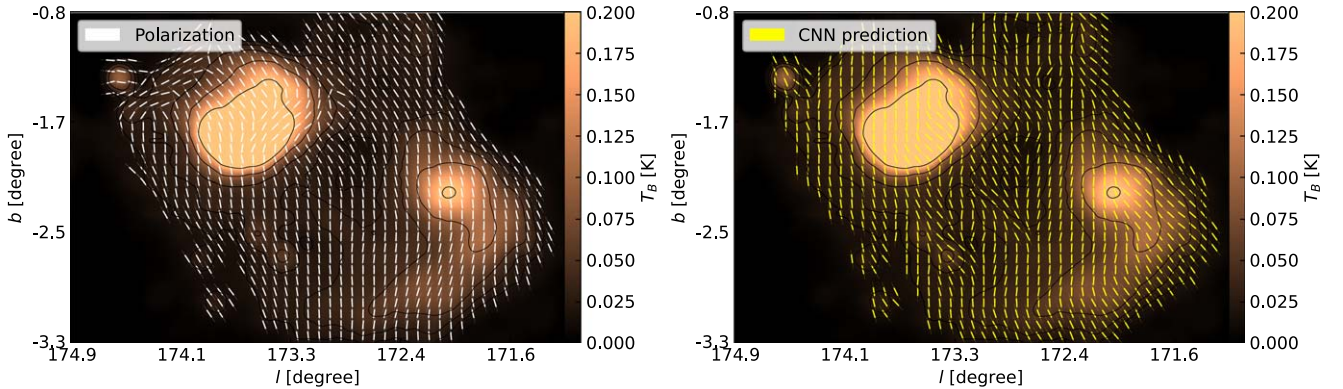
Figure 8. Comparison of the POS magnetic fields predicted by the CNN (right) using the Sino-German $\lambda 6$ cm synchrotron emission data and inferred from synchrotron polarization (left). The background image is the integrated synchrotron intensity map.

the 3D magnetic field in the warm/hot gas phase. This includes determining the orientation of the POS's magnetic field, the field's inclination angle, and the total Alfvén Mach number. As the synchrotron intensity is not subject to Faraday rotation, it does not require multiple frequency measurements to compensate for the Faraday effect. Potential applications of the CNN approach extend across a diverse range of astrophysical environments. These include studying the warm ionized phase

of the ISM, the Central Molecular Zone (CMZ), external galaxies, supernova remnants, and galaxy clusters. It can provide important information to address fundamental questions related to the origins of ultrahigh-energy cosmic rays (G. R. Farrar 2014; G. R. Farrar & M. S. Sutherland 2019), as well as issues concerning Galactic foreground polarization (E. D. Kovetz & M. Kamionkowski 2015; Planck Collaboration et al. 2016b).
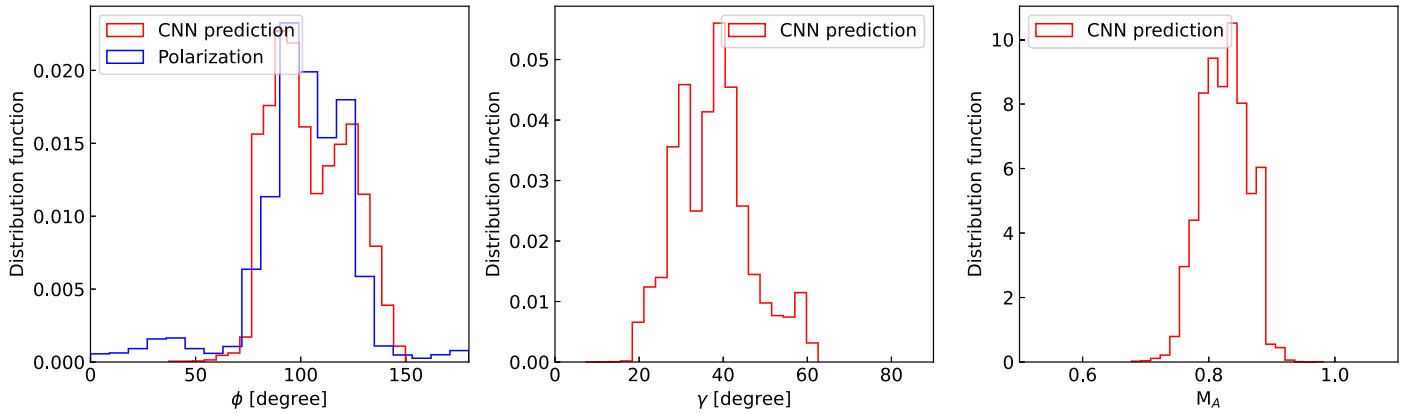
Figure 9. Histograms of CNN-predicted ϕ (left), defined north from the west, γ (middle), and M_A (right). The synchrotron polarization measured ϕ is also given for comparison.

5.2. Application to Interferometric Observations

The challenge of missing low-spatial frequency data in observations made with interferometers, due to constraints imposed by their baseline, is a notable concern in radio astronomy. Instances such as the observations by the Australia Telescope Compact Array at 1.4 GHz (B. M. Gaensler et al. 2011), which lacked single-dish measurements, and the Westerbork Synthesis Radio Telescope observations of the 3C 196 field at 350 MHz (V. Jelić et al. 2015), where single-dish measurements at the same frequency were unfeasible, underscore this issue. Additionally, data from the Low-Frequency Array also experience the loss of low-spatial frequencies (V. Jelić et al. 2014).

Notwithstanding these challenges, the absence of low-spatial frequency information does not impede the application of CNNs for probing 3D magnetic fields. This resilience stems from the CNN approach's foundation on the anisotropy inherent in MHD turbulence and synchrotron radiation, which is more conspicuous at higher spatial frequencies (A. Lazarian et al. 2020; Y. Hu & A. Lazarian 2024). As demonstrated in this study, the CNN model is adept at capturing this anisotropy, leveraging only the high-spatial-frequency data accessible from interferometric observations. This unique capability signifies a significant advantage of the CNN approach, enabling the reconstruction of 3D magnetic fields even in the absence of comprehensive spatial frequency coverage.

5.3. Synergy with Other Methods

The CNN approach has been applied to spectroscopic observations to trace the 3D magnetic fields (Y. Hu et al. 2024a). Extending CNNs to both spectroscopic and synchrotron emission data enables an in-depth analysis of the distribution and variation of 3D magnetic fields across different ISM phases. Compared to synchrotron emission, training CNNs for conditions in molecular clouds presents additional complexities due to the influence of self-gravity and outflow feedback on fluid dynamics and magnetic field structures (C. Federrath & R. S. Klessen 2012; C. L. H. Hull & Q. Zhang 2019; Y. Hu et al. 2022a, 2022b; E. Vázquez-Semadeni et al. 2024). This necessitates the use of nuanced numerical simulations of molecular clouds for CNN training.

The SIG technique (A. Lazarian et al. 2017; Y. Hu et al. 2020, 2024b) offers a parallel approach to tracing the POS

magnetic field orientation, rooted in the anisotropy of MHD turbulence evident in synchrotron emission. This anisotropy manifests in both sub-Alfvénic and super-Alfvénic turbulence, the latter resulting from the advection of turbulent flows (Y. Hu et al. 2024b). With several numerical and observational validation (A. Lazarian et al. 2017; J.-F. Zhang et al. 2019a; Y. Hu et al. 2020, 2024b), SIG serves as a valuable benchmark for assessing the efficacy of CNN-based models, particularly in scenarios where polarization data are scarce, such as radio halos in galaxy clusters.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the inclination angle predicted by the CNN model is inherently limited to the range of $[0°, 90°]$. This limitation arises because the anisotropy alone cannot definitively discern whether the magnetic field is oriented toward or away from the observer. A synergy with Faraday rotation measurements (M. Haverkorn 2007; A. R. Taylor et al. 2009; N. Oppermann et al. 2012; S. Xu & B. Zhang 2016; M. Tahani et al. 2019) offers promising avenues to resolve this degeneracy. On the other hand, the proposed CNN method is based on the dominance of MHD turbulence in synchrotron emission statistics. When other physical processes are important, including inflow and outflow, additional training data sets are required.

6. Summary

In this study, we developed and evaluated a CNN model designed to investigate 3D magnetic fields, including the orientation of the POS magnetic field, the field's inclination angle, and total magnetization, utilizing synchrotron intensity maps. Our major findings are summarized as follows:

1. We designed and implemented a CNN model capable of extracting the orientation of the POS magnetic field, the field's inclination angle, and the overall magnetization from synchrotron intensity maps.
2. Through the utilization of synthetic synchrotron maps for model training, we identified that the median uncertainties for predicting the magnetic field's position angle (ϕ) and inclination angle (γ) remained below $10°$, with the Alfvén Mach number (M_A) uncertainty staying under 0.4.
3. The model's robustness against noise was evaluated, demonstrating insensitivity to noise with adequate training, ensuring reliable performance under various observational conditions.

4. Our analyses confirmed the CNN method's applicability in tracing the POS magnetic field orientation, the field's inclination angle, and total magnetization, even in the absence of low-spatial frequencies in the synchrotron images—making it particularly adept for analyzing interferometric data that lacks single-dish measurements.

5. We tested this trained CNN model by applying it to the synchrotron observations of a diffuse region. The CNN-predicted POS magnetic field orientation shows a statistical agreement with that derived from synchrotron polarization.

6. We discussed the potential and future applications of this CNN method, particularly its utility in predicting the 3D Galactic magnetic fields, and its implications for comprehending 3D magnetic fields within the CMZ and beyond, in external galaxies.

Acknowledgments

Appendix A
Comparison of CNN's Input Patch Size

Figure A1 shows the variation in validation loss for two different input patch sizes, 22×22 cells and 44×44 cells.
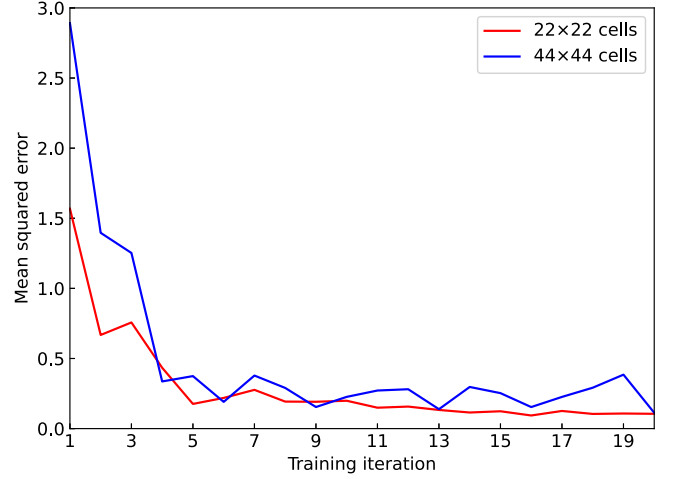

Figure A1. Evolution of CNN's validation loss, i.e., the mean-squared error. Two cases with an input patch size of 22×22 cells or 44×44 cells are tested.

The validation loss, representative of the mean-squared error between the predicted and actual 3D magnetic fields, is derived from validation data sets comprising patches randomly extracted from the Zeus series simulations (see Table 1). For each training iteration, 100,000 patches are utilized to compute the validation loss, with the loss being averaged across the magnetic field's POS angle, inclination angle, and Alfvén Mach number. We can see regardless of the input patch size, whether 22×22 or 44×44 cells, the validation loss exhibits a comparable downward trend toward a similar level after an adequate number of training iterations.

Appendix B
Maps of CNN-predicted Inclination Angle and Magnetization

The maps of CNN-predicted inclination angle γ and Alfvén Mach number M_A are shown in Figure B1. The Sino-German $\lambda 6$ cm synchrotron emission data is used. According to the histograms shown in Figure 9, the median γ and M_A are estimated at $\approx 40°$ and ≈ 0.82, respectively.
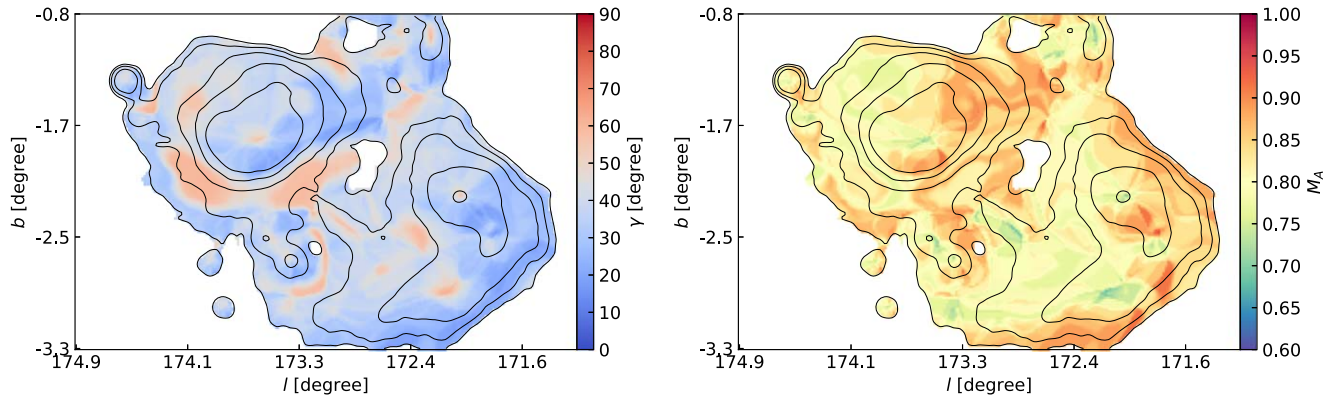
Figure B1. Maps of CNN-predicted inclination angle γ (left panel) and Alfvén Mach number M_A using the Sino-German $\lambda6$ cm synchrotron emission data. The contours represent the synchrotron intensity structures seen in Figure 8.

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