

Simulations of jet - environment interactions using the PLUTO code

Dimitrios Millas ^{1,*,@}, Nektarios Vlahakis ^{1,@}, Grigorios Katsoulakos ^{1,@}

¹ : Department of Astrophysics, Astronomy & Mechanics, Faculty of Physics, University of Athens

Faculty of Physics, University of Athens, Panepistimiopolis 15784 Zografos, Athens - Greece

* : Corresponding author

Jet - environment interactions can produce interesting astrophysical phenomena that may explain features in jets such as the HST-1 in M87. Using the PLUTO code (v4.0) by A. Mignone et al., we simulate the interaction between a relativistic, magnetized, axisymmetric jet with a selection of different environments, assuming that the poloidal component of the magnetic field is negligible in large distances from the source. Two different simulations are presented: the jet interacts with either a static atmosphere (first case) or with accreting material (second case). These interactions are explored by performing magnetohydrodynamic simulations of both the jet and the static atmosphere or the Bondi accretion. A transition in the shape of the jet from parabolic to conical near the Bondi radius was observed by Asada & Nakamura in the case of M87, which may be connected to pressure variations of the accreting material outside the jet. Consequently, the second case aims to examine whether such pressure variations may be produced by Bondi accretion and thus change the shape of the jet.

Subject : : oral
Topics : : Plasmaphysics
Topics : : Astrophysics
Topics : : Numerical simulations

Accretion and Outflows throughout the scales, 1-3 October, Lyon, France

Simulations of jet - environment interactions using the PLUTO code

Dimitrios Millas

**Department of Astrophysics, Astronomy & Mechanics, University of
Athens**



IKY

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ
ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΚΡΑΤΙΚΩΝ ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΩΝ
STATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOUNDATION



Aknowledgements

- Collaborators: N. Vlahakis & G. Katsoulakos - K. Sapountzis
- T. Matsakos
- State Scholarship Foundation

Outline

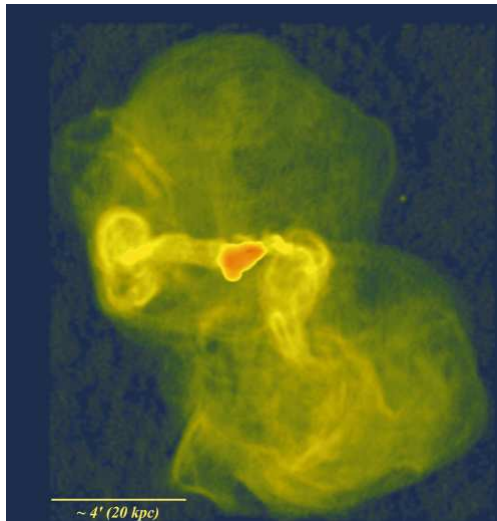
- 1 Introduction
 - A glimpse of M87

Outline

- 1 Introduction
 - A glimpse of M87
- 2 Simulations
 - Integrals
 - Acceleration
 - Jet & Bondi Accretion
 - Jet & Static Atmosphere
 - Rarefaction

Outline

- 1 Introduction
 - A glimpse of M87
- 2 Simulations
 - Integrals
 - Acceleration
 - Jet & Bondi Accretion
 - Jet & Static Atmosphere
 - Rarefaction
- 3 Conclusions & Future work



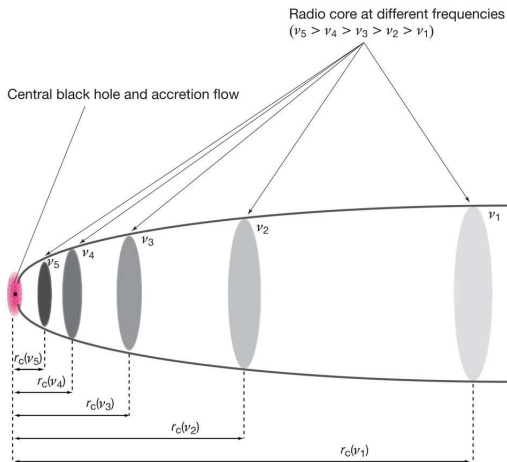
M87 at 90cm, (Owen et al. 2000)

Some values...

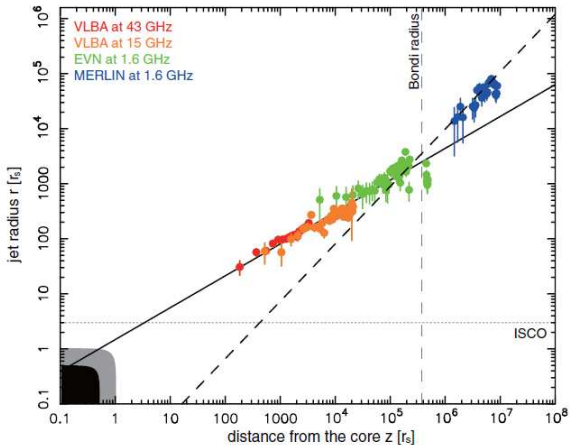
- One of the AGNs closest to Earth (16.7 Mpc)
- Mass: 3.2 to $6.6 \cdot 10^9 M_{\odot}$

Some values...

- One of the AGNs closest to Earth (16.7 Mpc)
- Mass: 3.2 to $6.6 \cdot 10^9 M_{\odot} \rightarrow 1mas = 0.081pc = 140R_S$
- Viewing angle of inner jet regions: $10^{\circ} - 19^{\circ}$ to the line of sight
- HST-1: Luminous region at ~ 0.9 arcsec from core



Core of the M87 jet with frequency (Hada et al. 2011)



Jet radius with deprojected distance from core (in Schwarzschild radii, Asada & Nakamura, 2012)

A possible explanation ?

A possible explanation ?

- The HST-1 complex is located at $\simeq 5 \cdot 10^5 R_S$ from the core

A possible explanation ?

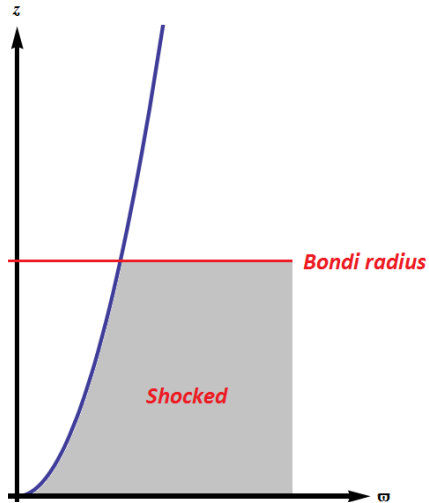
- The HST-1 complex is located at $\simeq 5 \cdot 10^5 R_G$ from the core
- This distance corresponds to the Bondi radius

A possible explanation ?

- The HST-1 complex is located at $\simeq 5 \cdot 10^5 R_G$ from the core
- This distance corresponds to the Bondi radius
- Is it possible that accreting material can cause the observed change in the shape of the jet ?

A possible explanation ?

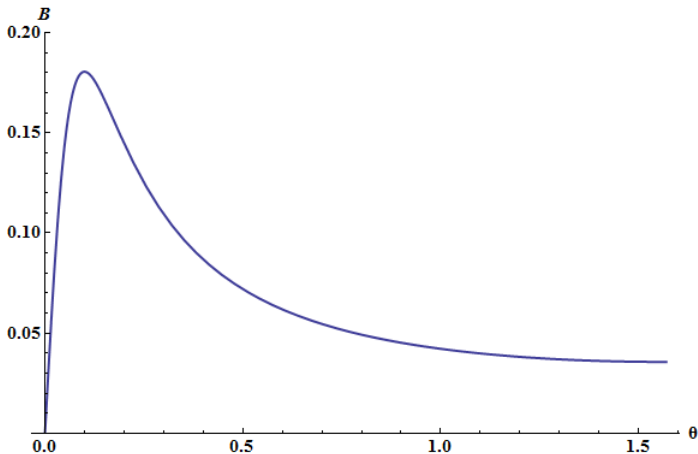
- The HST-1 complex is located at $\simeq 5 \cdot 10^5 R_G$ from the core
- This distance corresponds to the Bondi radius
- Is it possible that accreting material can cause the observed change in the shape of the jet ?
- **Simulations of both the jet and the Bondi accretion**



Setting up the jet

- Initial Lorentz factor: $\gamma = 5$
- Maximum magnetization: $\sigma = 4$
- Density: defined by $\sigma = \frac{B^2}{\gamma^2 \rho} \Big|_{\theta=\theta_1}$
- Thermal pressure: polytropic with $\Gamma = 5/3, c_s = 0.1$

Magnetic field with angle: bell-shaped $B_\phi(r, \theta) = B_o \frac{\sin\theta}{1 + \left(\frac{\sin\theta}{\sin 0.1}\right)^2} \frac{1}{r}$



Modifying the integrals

Assuming axisymmetry and time independence, we may partially integrate the ideal MHD equations:

- Mass flux to magnetic field flux ratio:

$$\Psi_A = \Psi(A) = \frac{4\pi\gamma\rho_o V_p}{B_p}$$

- Field angular velocity:

$$\Omega = \Omega(A) = \frac{V_\phi}{\varpi} - \frac{V_p}{\varpi} \frac{B_\phi}{B_p}$$

- Total specific angular momentum:

$$L = L(A) = \xi\gamma\varpi V_\phi - \frac{\varpi B_\phi}{\Psi_A}$$

- Total energy to mass flux ratio:

$$\mu = \mu(A) = \xi\gamma - \frac{\varpi\Omega B_\phi}{\Psi_A c^2}$$

- Adiatat:

$$Q = Q(A) = \frac{P}{\rho_o^\Gamma}$$

Assuming no poloidal component is used, the integrals may be expressed as:

- Specific angular momentum:

$$L = \xi \gamma r \sin(\theta) V_\phi = \xi \gamma \varpi V_\phi$$

- Angular velocity function:

$$\Phi = -\frac{B_\phi}{4\pi\gamma\rho_o c r \sin(\theta)} = -\frac{B_\phi}{4\pi\gamma\rho_o c \varpi}$$

- Total energy to mass flux ratio:

$$\mu = \xi \gamma + \frac{B_\phi^2}{4\pi\gamma\rho_o c^2}$$

Acceleration

Using the integrals:

Wind equation (velocity along a field line):

$$\frac{\mu^2 G^2 (1 - M^2 - x_A^2)^2 - x_A^2 (G^2 - M^2 - x^2)}{\xi^2 G^2 (1 - M^2 - x^2)} = 1 + \left[\frac{\sigma_M M^2 \varpi \vec{\nabla} A}{\xi x^2 A} \right]^2$$

x cylindrical radius (normalized to the light cylinder), x_A its value on Alfvén surface, $G = x/x_A$, $\sigma_M = A\Omega^2/\Psi_A c^3$

Transfield equation (shape of a field line):

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left[x^2 \left(\vec{\nabla} A \right)^2 \frac{d \ln \left(\frac{x_A}{\varpi_A} \right)}{dA} - \bar{L} A \left(1 - M^2 - x^2 \right) \right] \left(\frac{\vec{\nabla} A}{\varpi} \right) \\
 + & \left[\frac{2x_A^2}{\varpi_A^3 G} \left(\vec{\nabla} A \right)^2 + \frac{\mu^2 x_A^6 A^2}{\varpi_A^5 \sigma_M^2 M^2 G^3} \left(\frac{G^2 - M^2 - x^2}{1 - M^2 - x^2} \right)^2 \right] \hat{\omega} \cdot \vec{\nabla} A \\
 - & \frac{M^2}{2} \vec{\nabla} \left[\left(\frac{\vec{\nabla} A}{\varpi} \right)^2 \right] \cdot \vec{\nabla} A - \frac{\Gamma - 1}{\Gamma} \vec{\nabla} \left[\frac{\xi(\xi - 1)}{M^2} \frac{A^2 x_A^4}{\sigma_M^2 \varpi_A^4} \right] \cdot \vec{\nabla} A \\
 - & \frac{1}{2\varpi^2} \vec{\nabla} \left[\frac{\mu^2 A^2 x_A^6}{\sigma_M^2 \varpi_A^2} \left(\frac{1 - G^2}{1 - M^2 - x^2} \right)^2 \right] \cdot \vec{\nabla} A = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

- Steady state MHD equations after partial integration: wind & transfield
- Solutions depend on Alfvénic Mach number and magnetic flux function
- Wind equation solutions depend on the bunching function
 $S = \varpi |\nabla A| / A = \varpi^2 B_p / A$

$$\mu^2 \frac{G^2(1 - M^2 - x_A^2)^2 - x_A^2(G^2 - M^2 - x^2)}{G^2(1 - M^2 - x^2)^2} = 1 + \left(\frac{\sigma_M M^2 \varpi \nabla A}{x^2 A} \right)^2$$

Desirable form of S ?

- Using the integrals:

$$\frac{d\gamma}{dx} = \gamma^2 \sigma_M (\gamma^2 - 1)^{1/2} \frac{dS/dx}{\mu - \gamma^3}$$

For an accelerated flow:

Desirable form of S ?

- Using the integrals:

$$\frac{d\gamma}{dx} = \gamma^2 \sigma_M (\gamma^2 - 1)^{1/2} \frac{dS/dx}{\mu - \gamma^3}$$

For an accelerated flow:

- S must increase while $\gamma < \mu^{1/3}$

Desirable form of S ?

- Using the integrals:

$$\frac{d\gamma}{dx} = \gamma^2 \sigma_M (\gamma^2 - 1)^{1/2} \frac{dS/dx}{\mu - \gamma^3}$$

For an accelerated flow:

- S must increase while $\gamma < \mu^{1/3}$
- S must decrease while $\gamma > \mu^{1/3}$

Important results

In each simulation we examine:

Important results

In each simulation we examine:

- Acceleration efficiency...

Important results

In each simulation we examine:

- Acceleration efficiency...
- Bunching function...

N.Vlahakis & A. Königl 2003, C.Fendt & R.Ouyed 2004, D. Millas et. al 2014, S. S. Komissarov et al. 2009

Important results

In each simulation we examine:

- Acceleration efficiency...

- Bunching function...

N.Vlahakis & A. Königl 2003, C.Fendt & R.Ouyed 2004, D. Millas et. al 2014, S. S. Komissarov et al. 2009

- Solvability condition...

J. Heyvaerts & C. Norman 1989, T. Chiueh et. al 1991

Important results

In each simulation we examine:

- Acceleration efficiency...

- Bunching function...

N.Vlahakis & A. Königl 2003, C.Fendt & R.Ouyed 2004, D. Millas et. al 2014, S. S. Komissarov et al. 2009

- Solvability condition...

J. Heyvaerts & C. Norman 1989, T. Chiueh et. al 1991

- ...and of course the shape of the jet

Jet - Bondi accretion

Jet - Bondi accretion

- Grid: $r : 10^4 - 10^5$, $\theta : 0.001 - \pi/2$

Jet - Bondi accretion

- Grid: $r : 10^4 - 10^5$, $\theta : 0.001 - \pi/2$
- Boundary conditions:
 - $r = 10^4$: userdef
 - $r = 10^5$:
 - $\theta = 0.001$: axisymmetric
 - $\theta = \pi/2$: eqtsymmetric

Jet - Bondi accretion

- Grid: $r : 10^4 - 10^5$, $\theta : 0.001 - \pi/2$
- Boundary conditions:
 - $r = 10^4$: userdef
 - $r = 10^5$:
 - $\theta = 0.001$: axisymmetric
 - $\theta = \pi/2$: eqtsymmetric
- Equilibrium of jet magnetic pressure and env. thermal pressure for $r = 10^4$, $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}$

Jet - Bondi accretion

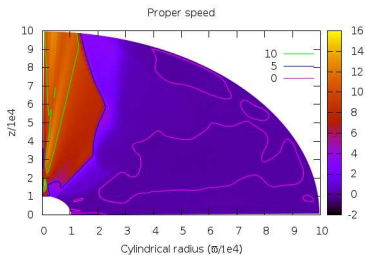
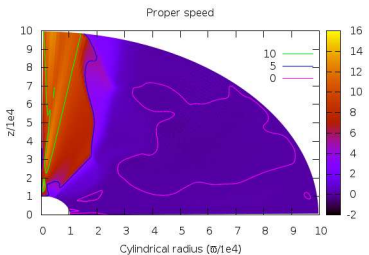
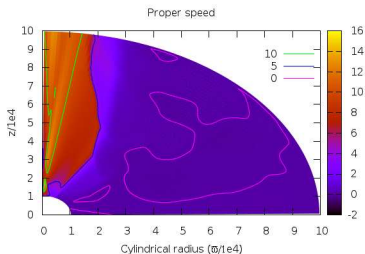
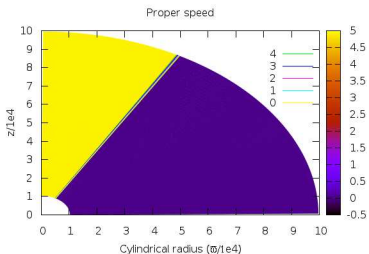
- Grid: $r : 10^4 - 10^5$, $\theta : 0.001 - \pi/2$
- Boundary conditions:
 - $r = 10^4$: userdef
 - $r = 10^5$:
 - $\theta = 0.001$: axisymmetric
 - $\theta = \pi/2$: eqtsymmetric
- Equilibrium of jet magnetic pressure and env. thermal pressure for $r = 10^4$, $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}$
- Timescales: 1 sound crossing time = 1 My (for $c_s^{env} = 10^{-3}$)

Jet - Bondi accretion

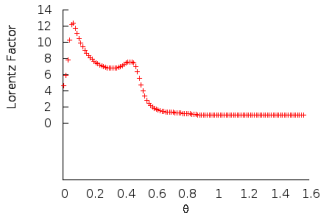
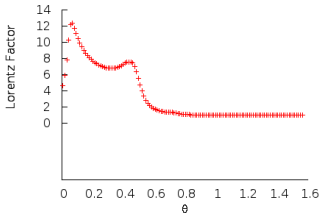
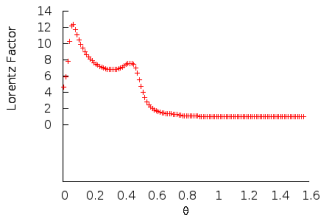
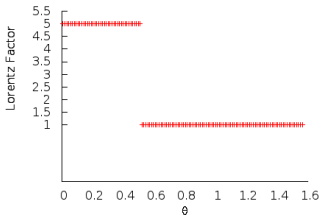
- Grid: $r : 10^4 - 10^5$, $\theta : 0.001 - \pi/2$
- Boundary conditions:
 - $r = 10^4$: userdef
 - $r = 10^5$: ?
 - $\theta = 0.001$: axisymmetric
 - $\theta = \pi/2$: eqtsymmetric
- Equilibrium of jet magnetic pressure and env. thermal pressure for $r = 10^4$, $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}$
- Timescales: 1 sound crossing time = 1 My (for $c_s^{env} = 10^{-3}$)

Jet - Bondi accretion

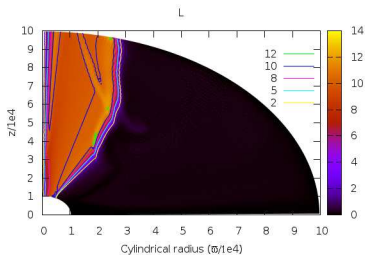
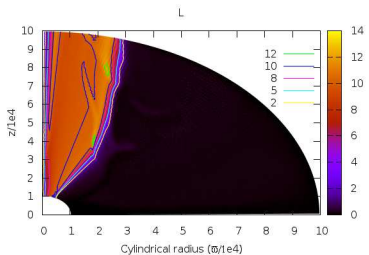
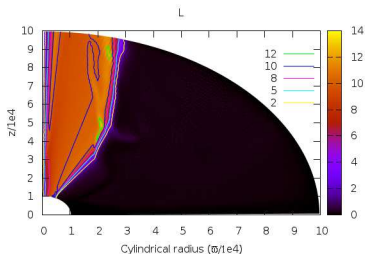
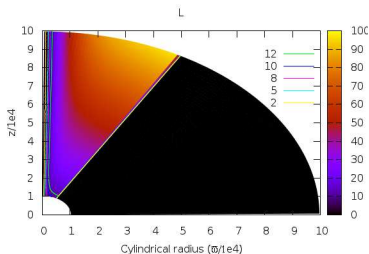
- Grid: $r : 10^4 - 10^5$, $\theta : 0.001 - \pi/2$
- Boundary conditions:
 - $r = 10^4$: userdef
 - $r = 10^5$: B_ϕ **check**
 - $\theta = 0.001$: axisymmetric
 - $\theta = \pi/2$: eqtsymmetric
- Equilibrium of jet magnetic pressure and env. thermal pressure for $r = 10^4$, $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}$
- Timescales: 1 sound crossing time = 1 My (for $c_s^{env} = 10^{-3}$)



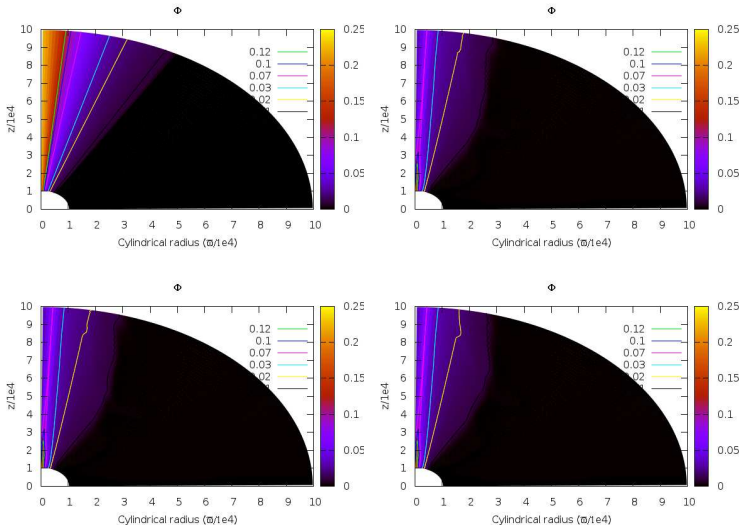
Proper speed at 0, 1, 10 and 20 sound crossing times



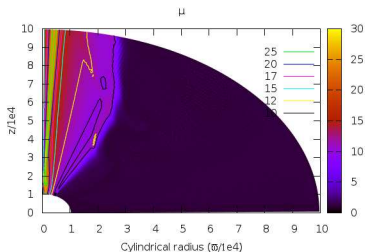
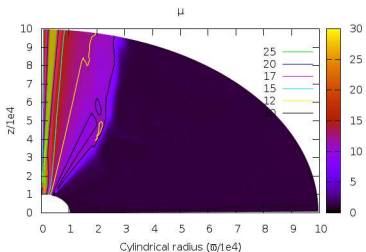
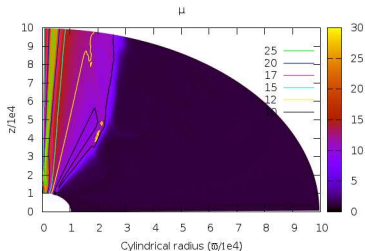
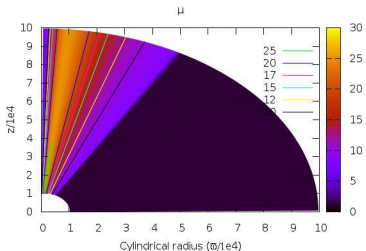
Lorentz factor with θ in 0, 1, 10 and 20 sound crossing times ($r \sim 3 \cdot 10^4$)



L integral in 0, 1, 10 and 20 sound crossing times



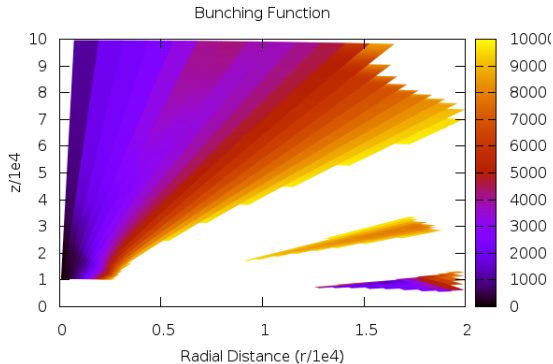
Φ integral in 0, 1, 10 and 20 sound crossing times

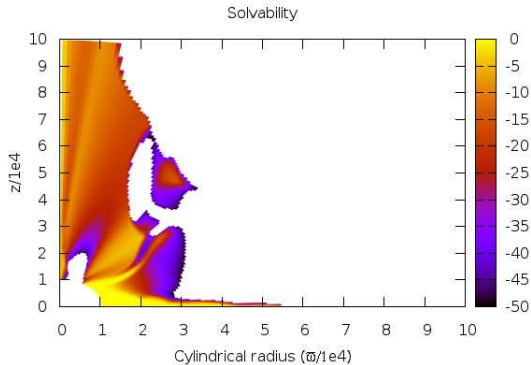


μ integral in 0, 1, 10 and 20 sound crossing times

Acceleration efficiency

- Theoretical maximum of γ : $\gamma_{max} = \gamma(\sigma + 1) = 25$
- Result: $\gamma_f = 15$
- Acceleration efficiency $\alpha \simeq 60\%$





$$\text{Solvability} \left(\frac{\varpi B_{\phi}}{\gamma} \right)$$

Simulation Results

Simulation Results

- No steady state after 20 crossing times

Simulation Results

- No steady state after 20 crossing times
- Highly perturbed interaction region

Simulation Results

- No steady state after 20 crossing times
- Highly perturbed interaction region
- Quasi-periodic behaviour, $\tau \sim 10^7$ or $\tau_y \simeq 10^5$ yrs

Simulation Results

- No steady state after 20 crossing times
- Highly perturbed interaction region
- Quasi-periodic behaviour, $\tau \sim 10^7$ or $\tau_y \simeq 10^5$ yrs
- Jet interior in agreement with other simulations & theory

Simulation Results

- No steady state after 20 crossing times
- Highly perturbed interaction region
- Quasi-periodic behaviour, $\tau \sim 10^7$ or $\tau_y \simeq 10^5$ yrs
- Jet interior in agreement with other simulations & theory
- Probable rarefaction acceleration

Problems

Problems

- The very existence of environment

Problems

- The very existence of environment
- Contrast of densities $\simeq 10^5$

Problems

- The very existence of environment
- Contrast of densities $\simeq 10^5$
- Boundary conditions for $r = 10^5$

Problems

- The very existence of environment
- Contrast of densities $\simeq 10^5$
- Boundary conditions for $r = 10^5$
- Magnetic field diffusion

Why use a static atmosphere?

Why use a static atmosphere?

- No accretion, less B-field diffusion

Why use a static atmosphere?

- No accretion, less B-field diffusion

- Easy to analyse: $\frac{dP}{dr} = -\rho \frac{GM}{r} \rightarrow$

$$\rho = \left[\rho_i^{\Gamma-1} + GM \cdot \frac{\Gamma-1}{q_0 \Gamma} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r_{in}} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{\Gamma-1}}$$

Why use a static atmosphere?

- No accretion, less B-field diffusion

- Easy to analyse: $\frac{dP}{dr} = -\rho \frac{GM}{r} \rightarrow$

$$\rho = \left[\rho_i^{\Gamma-1} + GM \cdot \frac{\Gamma-1}{q_0 \Gamma} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r_{in}} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{\Gamma-1}}$$

Why use a static atmosphere?

- No accretion, less B-field diffusion

- Easy to analyse: $\frac{dP}{dr} = -\rho \frac{GM}{r} \rightarrow$

$$\rho = \left[\rho_i^{\Gamma-1} + GM \cdot \frac{\Gamma-1}{q_0 \Gamma} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r_{in}} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{\Gamma-1}}$$

- No inequality for the upper boundary

Why use a static atmosphere?

- No accretion, less B-field diffusion

- Easy to analyse: $\frac{dP}{dr} = -\rho \frac{GM}{r} \rightarrow$

$$\rho = \left[\rho_i^{\Gamma-1} + GM \cdot \frac{\Gamma-1}{q_o \Gamma} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r_{in}} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{\Gamma-1}}$$

- No inequality for the upper boundary
- Outflow conditions may be used for $r = 10^5$

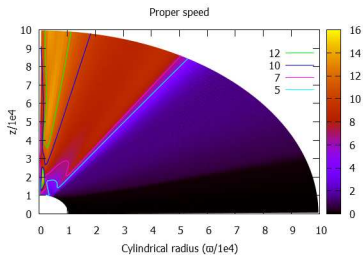
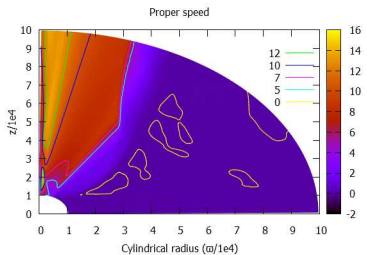
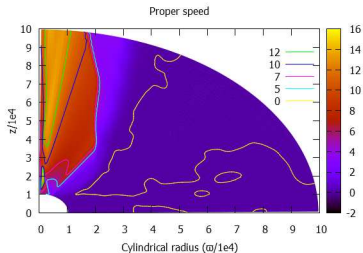
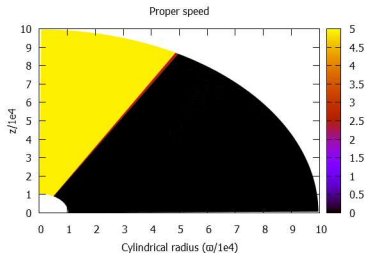
Why use a static atmosphere?

- No accretion, less B-field dissipation

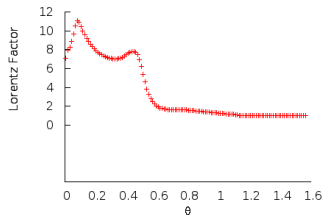
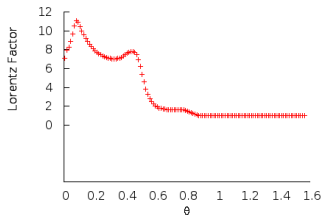
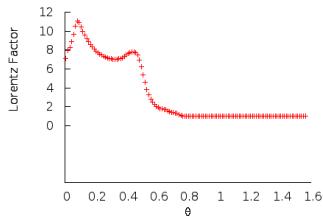
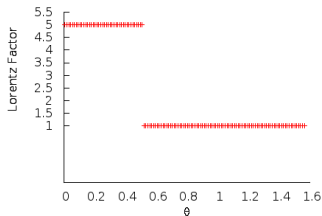
- Easy to analyse: $\frac{dP}{dr} = -\rho \frac{GM}{r} \rightarrow$
$$\rho = \left[\rho_i^{\Gamma-1} + GM \cdot \frac{\Gamma-1}{q_o \Gamma} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r_{in}} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{\Gamma-1}}$$

- No inequality for the upper boundary
- Outflow conditions may be used for $r = 10^5$

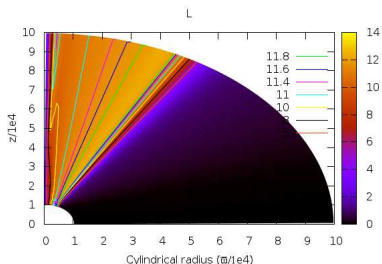
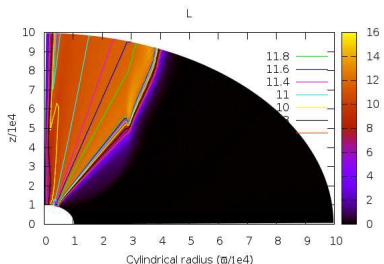
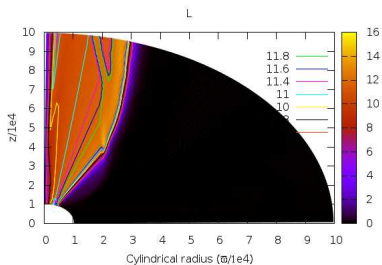
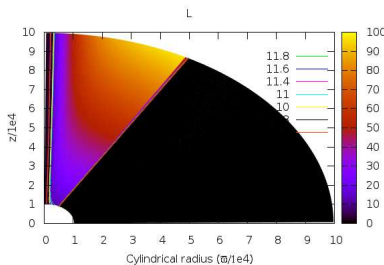
But: No shock to provide the necessary pressure gradient



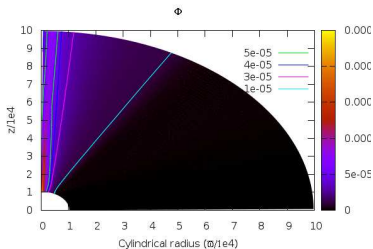
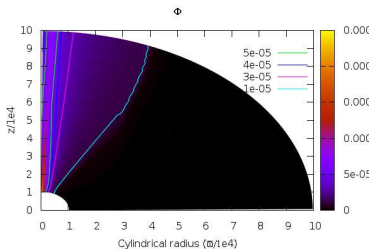
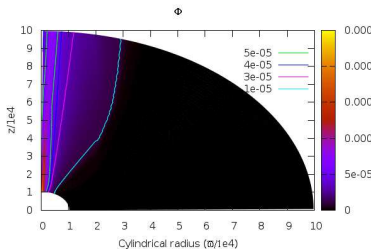
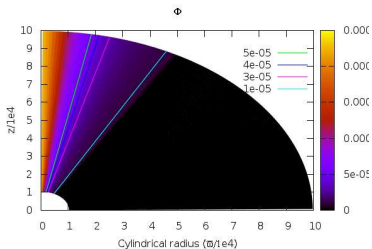
Proper speed 0, 1, 2.5 10 sound crossing times



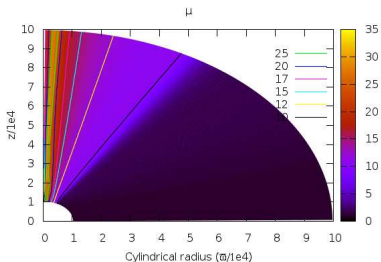
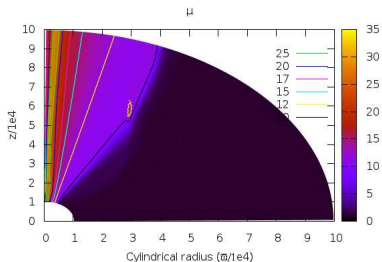
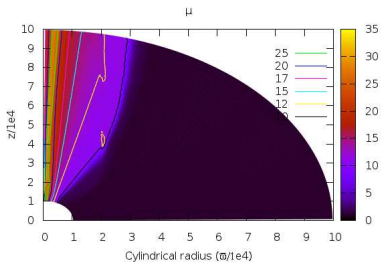
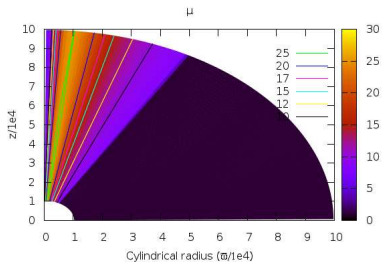
Lorentz factor to θ for 0, 1, 2.5 and 10 sound crossing times ($3 \cdot 10^4$)



L integral at 0, 1, 2.5 and 10 sound crossing times



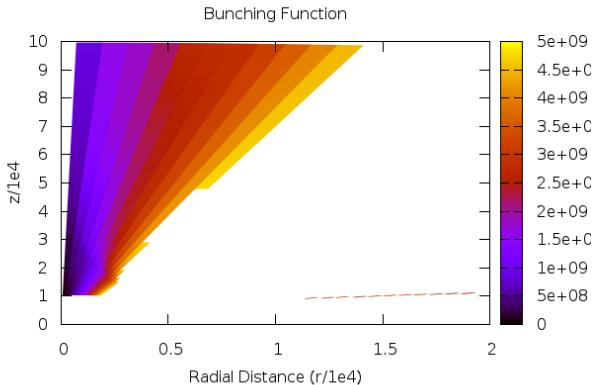
Φ integral at 0, 1, 2.5 and 10 sound crossing times

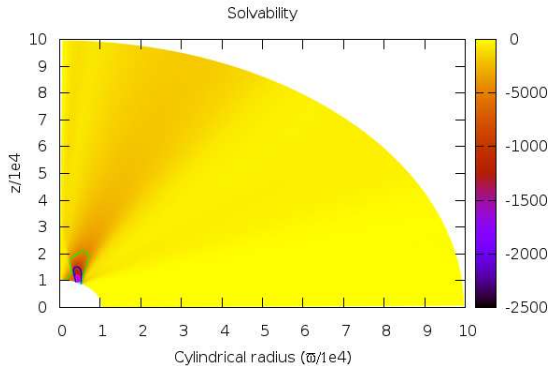


μ integral at 0, 1, 2.5 10 sound crossing times

Acceleration efficiency

- Theoretical maximum of γ : $\gamma_{max} = \gamma(\sigma + 1) = 25$
- Results: γ : $\gamma_f = 14$
- Acceleration efficiency $\alpha \simeq 56\%$





Simulation Results

Simulation Results

- Steady state after 10 crossing times

Simulation Results

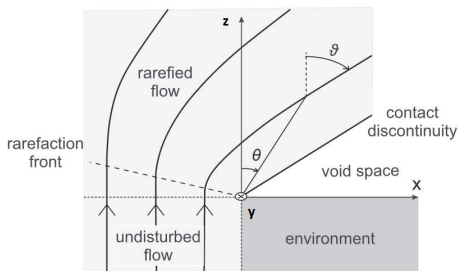
- Steady state after 10 crossing times
- Much more comprehensive results concerning the shape - no change in steady state!

Simulation Results

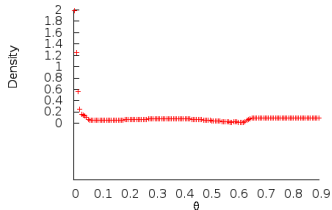
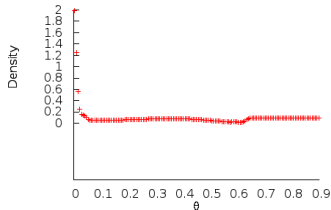
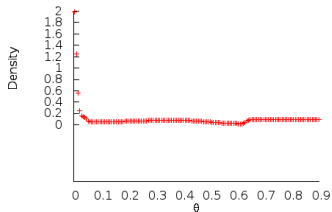
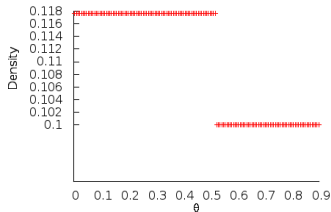
- Steady state after 10 crossing times
- Much more comprehensive results concerning the shape - no change in steady state!
- Jet interior in agreement with other simulations & theory

Simulation Results

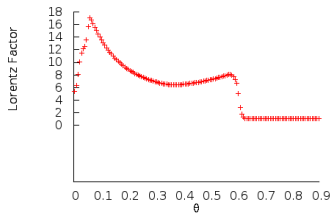
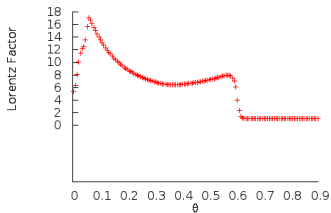
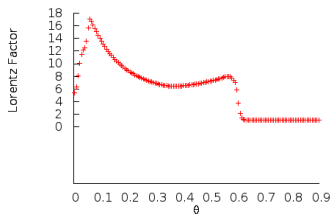
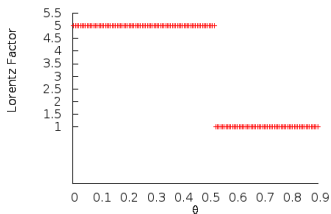
- Steady state after 10 crossing times
- Much more comprehensive results concerning the shape - no change in steady state!
- Jet interior in agreement with other simulations & theory
- Probable rarefaction acceleration even with different environment!



- Examine environment with
$$\rho_{env} = \frac{\rho_j}{10}$$
- Neglect gravity ($GM=0$)
- Maintain the same configuration for the jet



Density with θ in 0, 1, 5 and 8 light crossing times ($r \simeq 3 \cdot 10^4$)



Lorentz factor to θ in 0, 1, 5 and 8 light crossing times ($r \simeq 3 \cdot 10^4$)

Our Goal:

Our Goal:

An accreting environment with a pressure gradient, which would result in changing the shape of the jet

Our Goal:

An accreting environment with a pressure gradient, which would result in changing the shape of the jet

Our Results:

Our Goal:

An accreting environment with a pressure gradient, which would result in changing the shape of the jet

Our Results:

- Jet - environment interaction clearly affects the shape of the jet
- The Bondi accretion scenario is unclear (interacting region, boundary conditions)

Our Goal:

An accreting environment with a pressure gradient, which would result in changing the shape of the jet

Our Results:

- Jet - environment interaction clearly affects the shape of the jet
- The Bondi accretion scenario is unclear (interacting region, boundary conditions)
- In both cases, the inner jet does not change

Our Goal:

An accreting environment with a pressure gradient, which would result in changing the shape of the jet

Our Results:

- Jet - environment interaction clearly affects the shape of the jet
- The Bondi accretion scenario is unclear (interacting region, boundary conditions)
- In both cases, the inner jet does not change
- All other results (acceleration, shape) consistent with other simulations and theoretical work

Our Goal:

An accreting environment with a pressure gradient, which would result in changing the shape of the jet

Our Results:

- Jet - environment interaction clearly affects the shape of the jet
- The Bondi accretion scenario is unclear (interacting region, boundary conditions)
- In both cases, the inner jet does not change
- All other results (acceleration, shape) consistent with other simulations and theoretical work
- Both scenarios indicate a probable rarefaction acceleration in the interacting region

Future work

Future work

- Use alternative initial conditons

Future work

- Use alternative initial conditons
- Alternative way to control the boundary conditions at $r = r_{max}$
- Reduce B-field diffusion

Future work

- Use alternative initial conditons
- Alternative way to control the boundary conditions at $r = r_{max}$
- Reduce B-field diffusion
- Better insight of the interacting region