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# Simulations PIC: Applications astrophysiques et besoins

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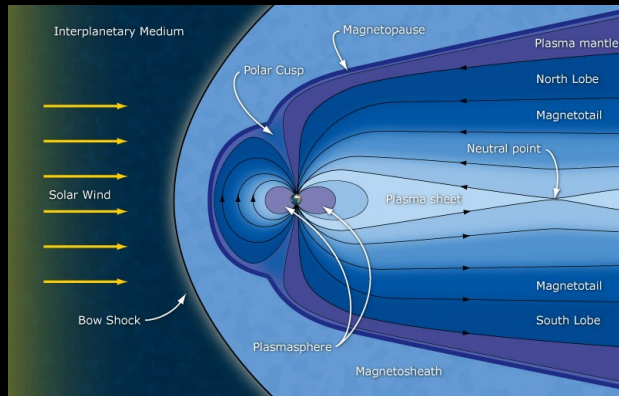
*Benoît Cerutti, IPAG  
Université Grenoble Alpes / CNRS*

# Astrophysical relevance & applications

## Collisionless environments

Solar corona & wind, heliosphere

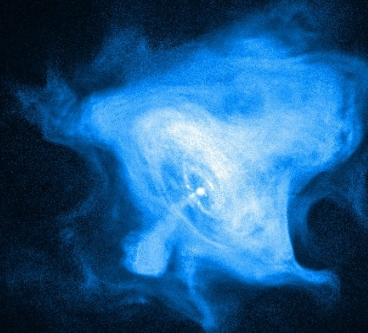
### Planetary magnetospheres



### Relativistic magnetospheres



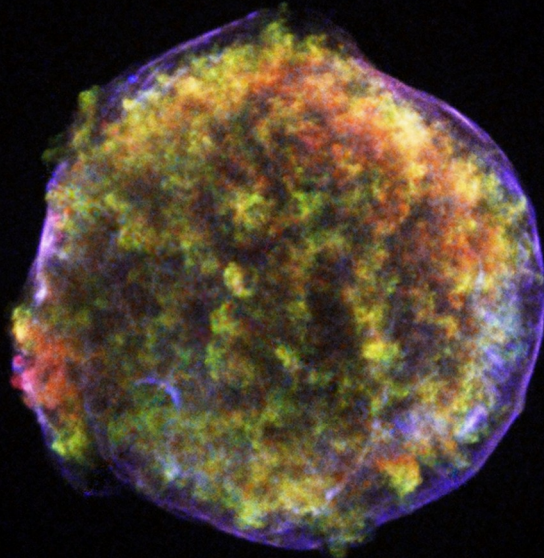
### Pulsar Wind Nebulae



### Jets



### Supernova Remnants

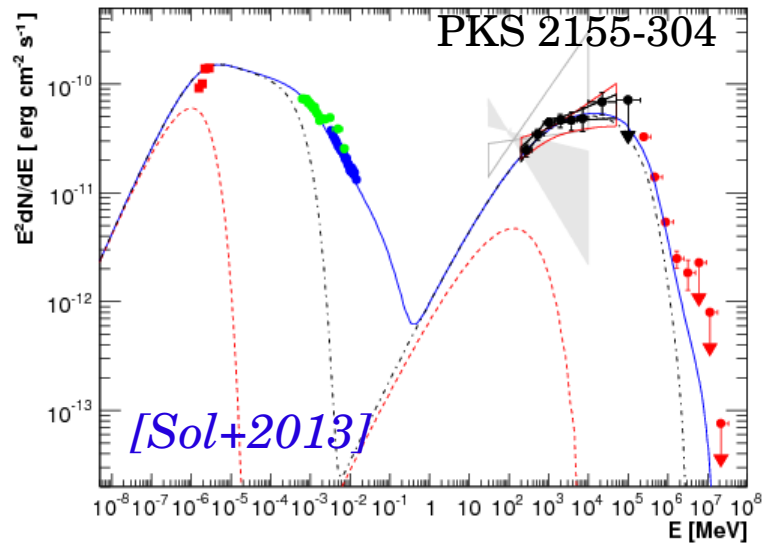


### Gamma-ray bursts Fast radio bursts

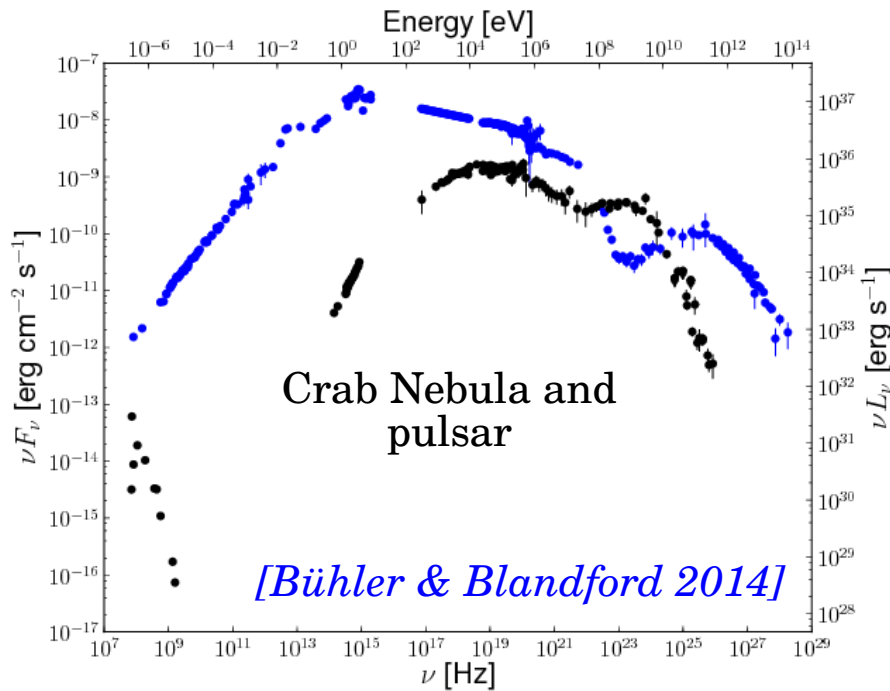


# Broad non-thermal distributions

## Blazars



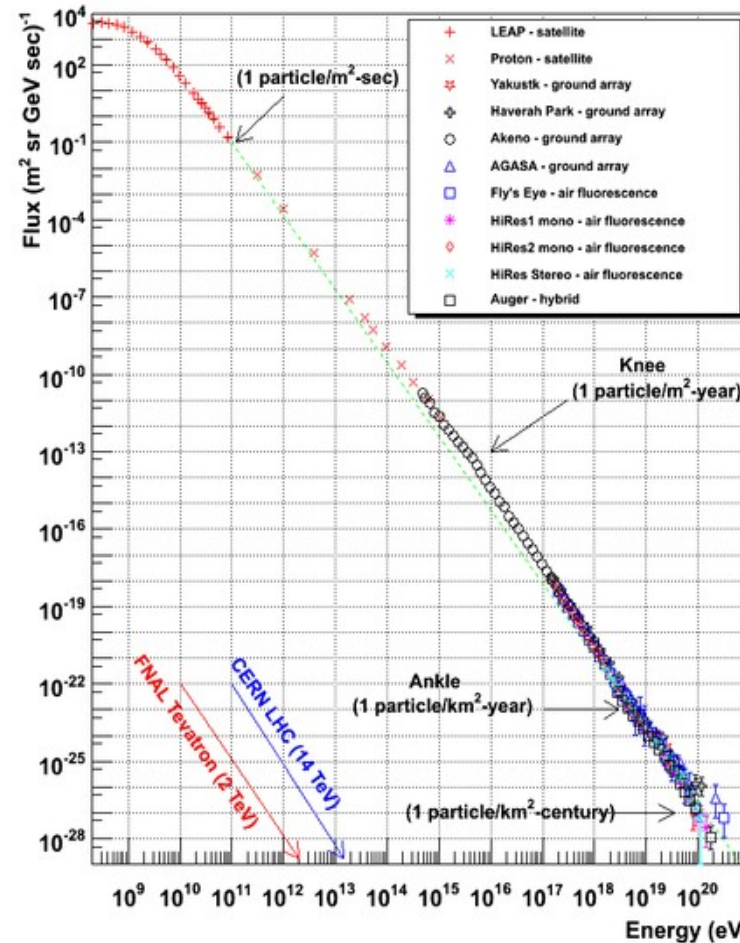
## Pulsars & Pulsar Wind Nebulae



## Challenge:

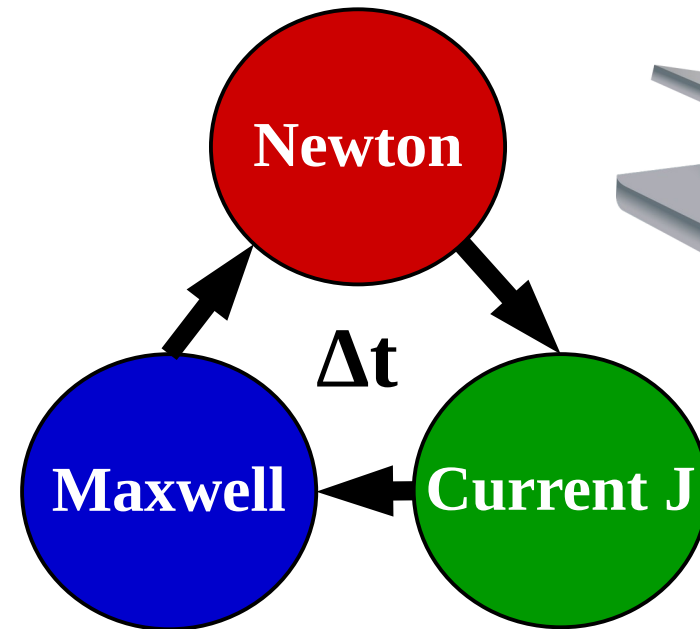
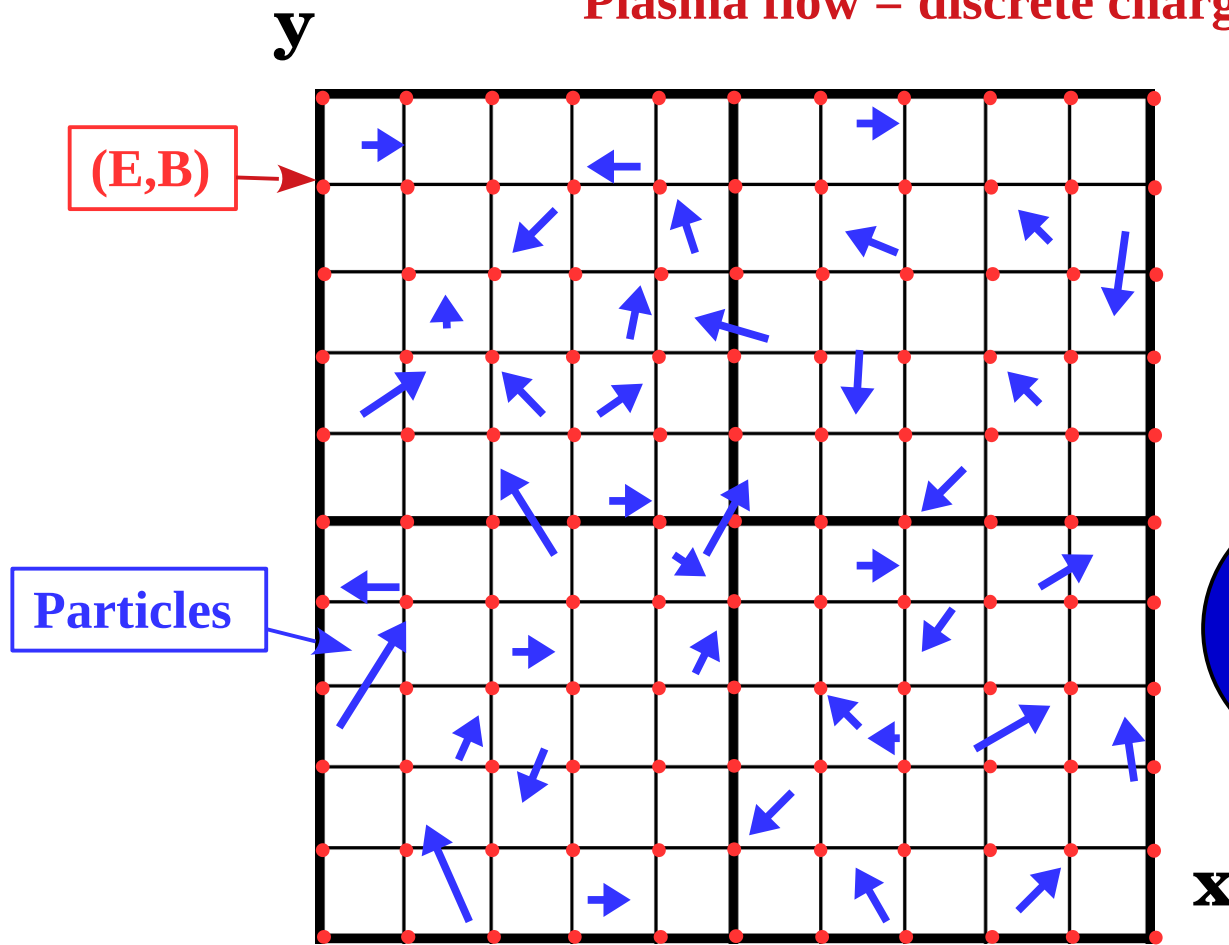
Particle acceleration at microscopic scales  $\ll$  system size

Cosmic Ray Spectra of Various Experiments



# The spirit of the particle-in-cell approach

Plasma flow = discrete charged particles



- ✓ Ab-initio modeling of plasmas, capture  $\mu$ -physics
- ✓ Particle acceleration, radiation, pair creation
- ✓ Model observables
- ✗ Computationally expensive strong need of HPC
- ✗ Short-term evolution, small scale-separation

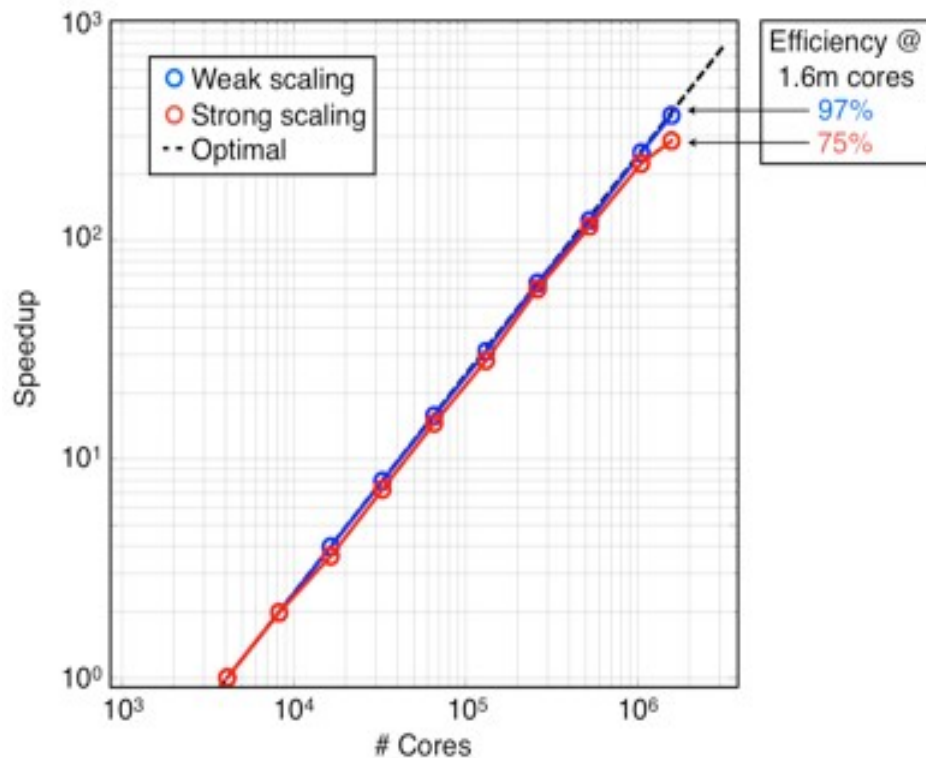
Study non-thermal particle acceleration from first principles

Numerical observatory => PIC simulations has become a real discovery tool!

# PIC codes usually scale very well

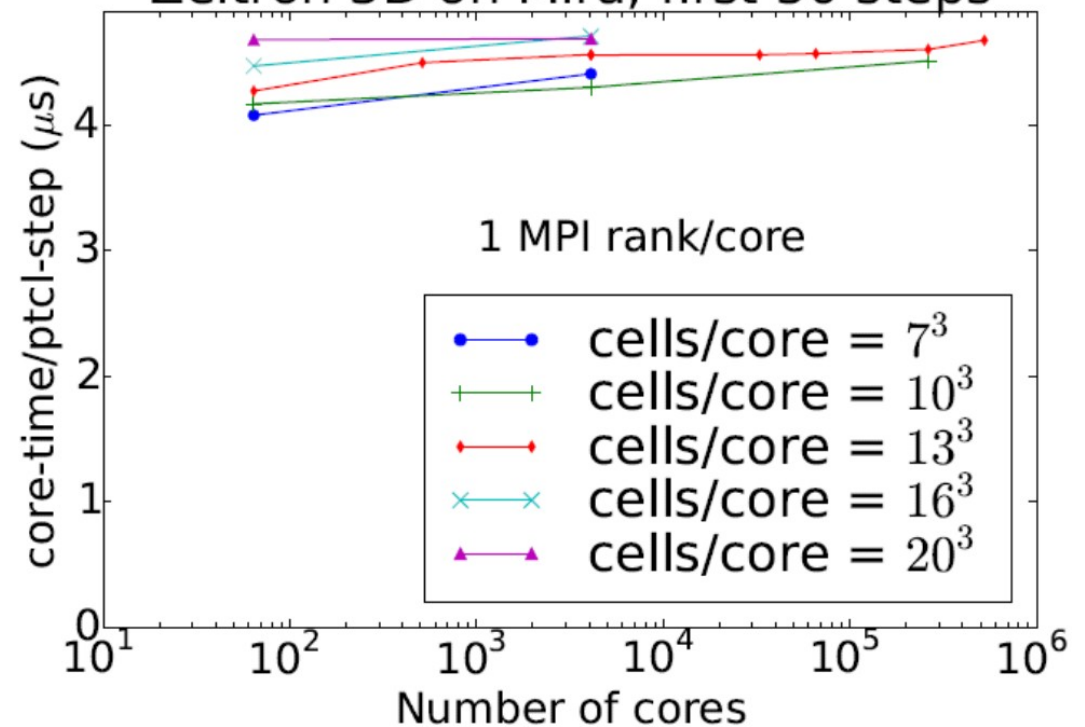
Usually **CPU-limited** rather than **memory-limited**

## OSIRIS Code



## Zeltron Code

Zeltron 3D on Mira, first 50 steps



# Particle data structure

Global CPU time & memory **dominated by the particles** evolution and data

List of particles ↓

	x	y	z	$u_x$	$u_y$	$u_z$	weight
Part 1							
Part 2							
...							
Part NP							

Memory estimate of a large PIC run:  $10^{11}$ - $10^{12}$  particles: **10-100 To**

In practice, **only a few complete snapshots** are conserved to ensure simulation restoration.

**Data reduction is performed on the fly:**

- Particle spectra
- Plasma density/ EB fields maps
- Stress-energy tensor
- Particle trajectories of a sub-sample of particles

$$\frac{dN}{dV} \approx \frac{1}{\Delta V} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{cell}} w_k$$
$$T^{\mu\nu} = \left( \rho + \frac{P}{c^2} \right) V^\mu V^\nu - P \eta^{\mu\nu}$$

...

**Manageable/shareable dataset** ... but you need to know what you are looking for ahead of time

# The Zeltron code

**URL:** <http://ipag.osug.fr/~ceruttbe/Zeltron>

Created in 2012 and Cartesian version published in 2015.  
Includes QED and General Relativistic effects since 2019 (currently private repo @ GRICAD).

The Zeltron code

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User guide

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Publications

Developers

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## The Zeltron code project

Zeltron is an explicit 3D relativistic electromagnetic [Particle-In-Cell code](#), ideally suited for modeling particle acceleration in astrophysical plasmas. The code is efficiently parallelized with the [Message Passing Interface](#), and can be run on a laptop computer or on multiple cores on current supercomputers.

The Zeltron code is freely available here, and runs on linux and OS X operating systems.

Learn more >

Download ⬇



# The astrophysical PIC community in France



Computing time (CT4)  
~ **30 Mhrs/year** (~15% CT4)

Nicolas Aunai, Roch Smet (LPP)  
Carine Briand (LESIA)  
Fabien Casse (APC)  
Andrea Ciardi (LERMA)  
Laurent Gremillet (CEA-DAM)  
Bertrand Lembège (LATMOS)  
Martin Lemoine (IAP)  
Catherine Krafft & Philippe Savoini (LPP)  
Anna Grassi & Mickael Grech (LULI)

*Codes: Smilei, Calder, MPI-AMRVAC, PHARE*

Emmanuel d'Humières (CELIA)  
*Code: Smilei*

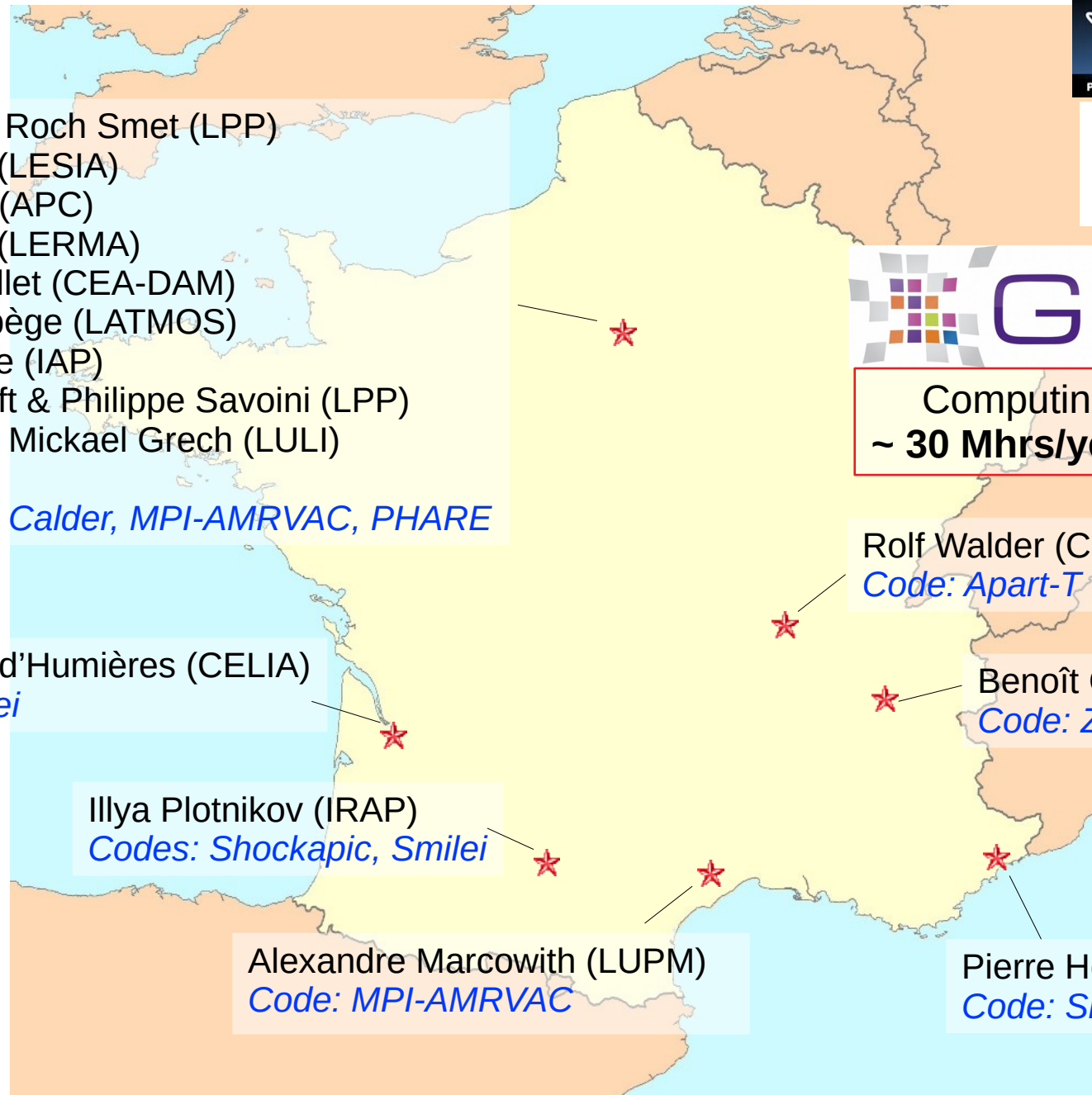
Illya Plotnikov (IRAP)  
*Codes: Shockpic, Smilei*

Alexandre Marcowith (LUPM)  
*Code: MPI-AMRVAC*

Rolf Walder (CRAL)  
*Code: Apart-T*

Benoît Cerutti (IPAG)  
*Code: Zeltron*

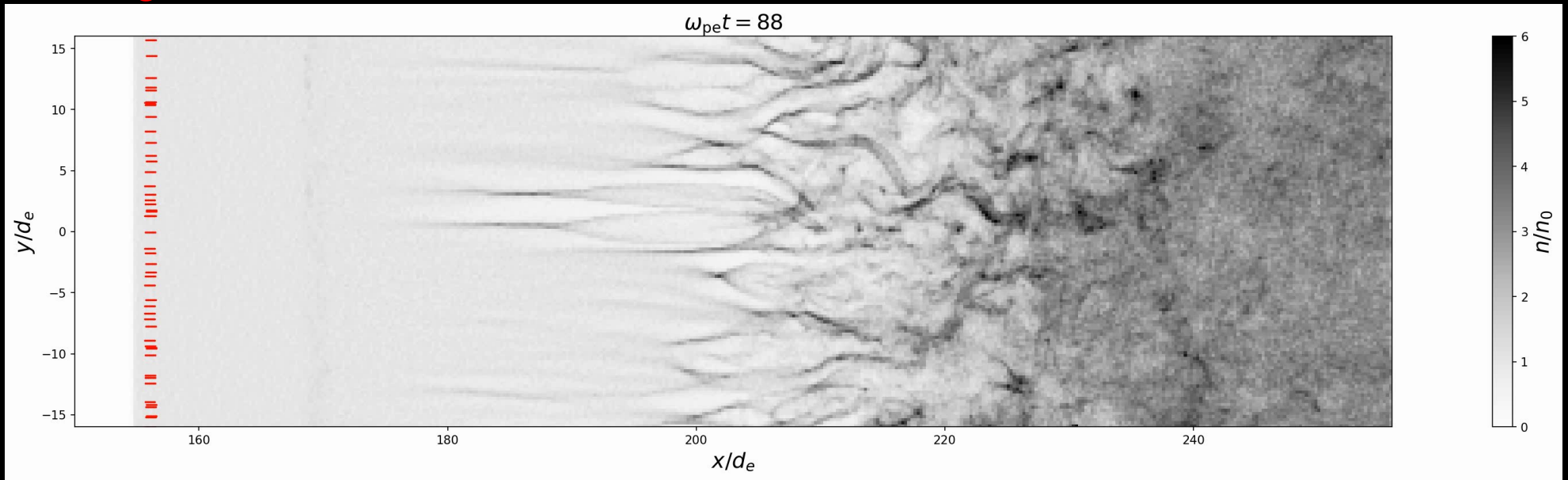
Pierre Henri (OCA-LPC2E)  
*Code: Smilei*



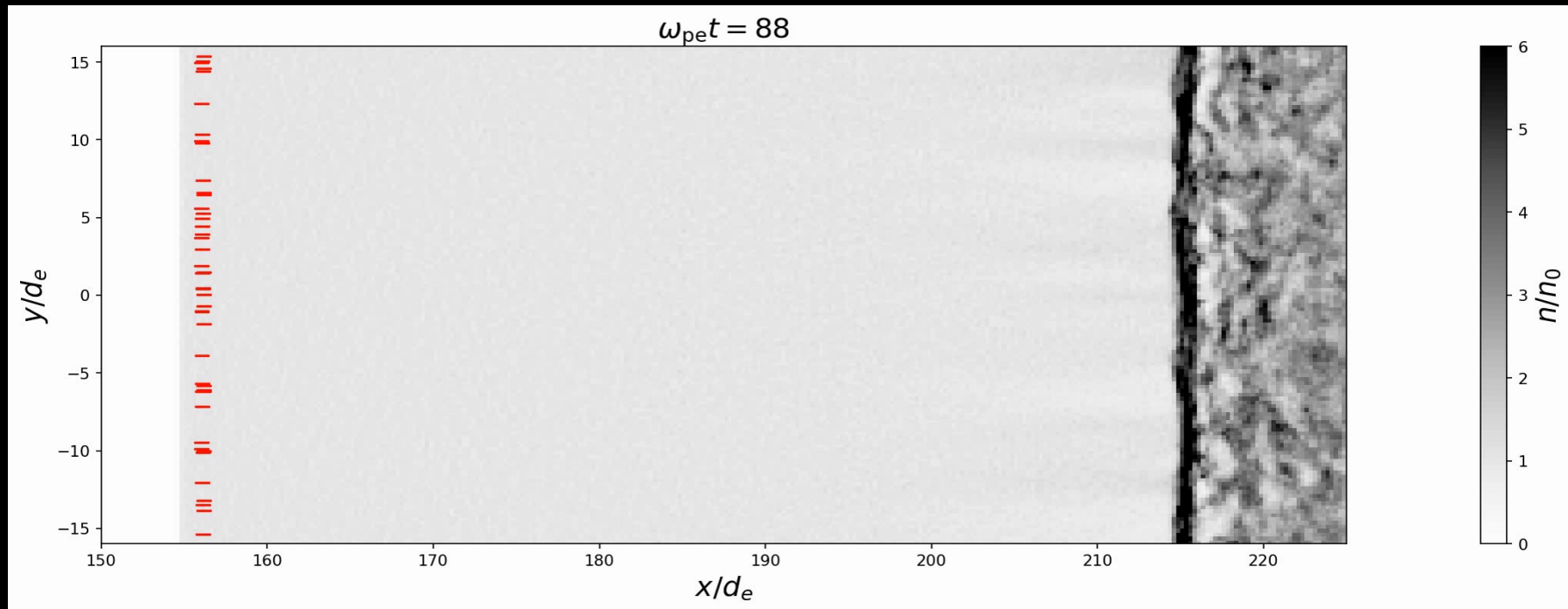


# HE astro application: relativistic shocks

Unmagnetized



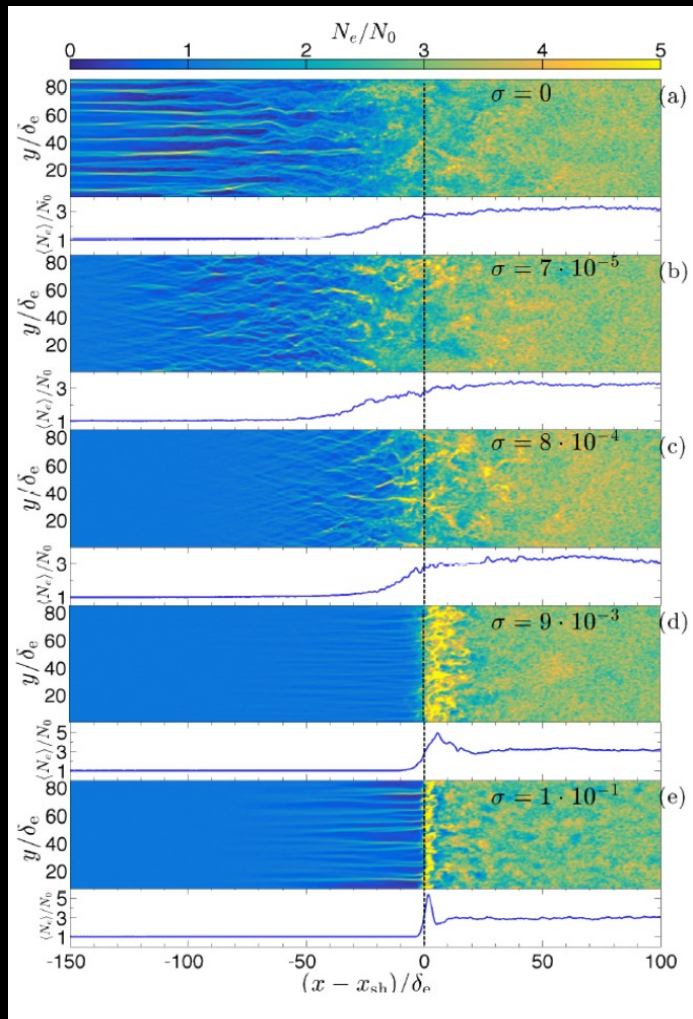
Magnetized



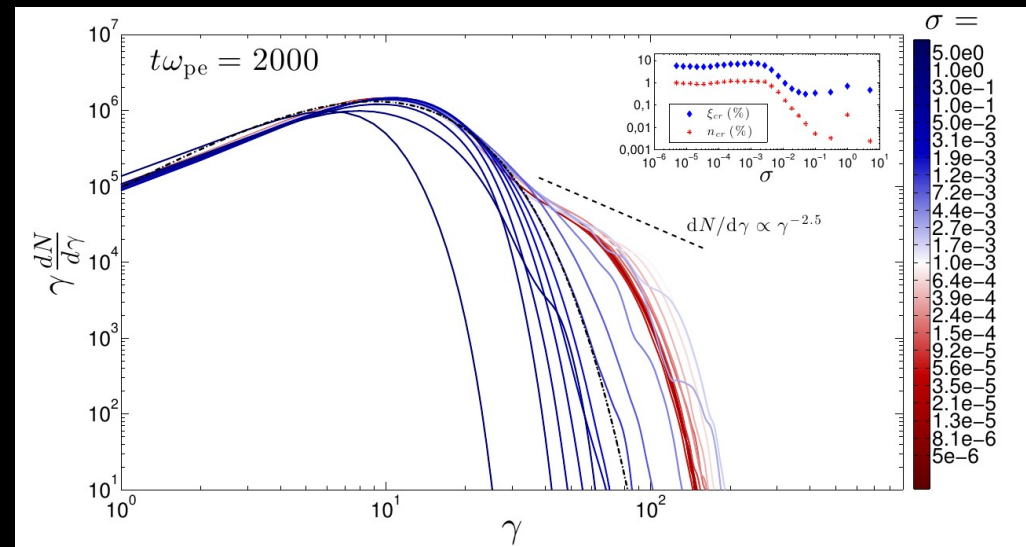
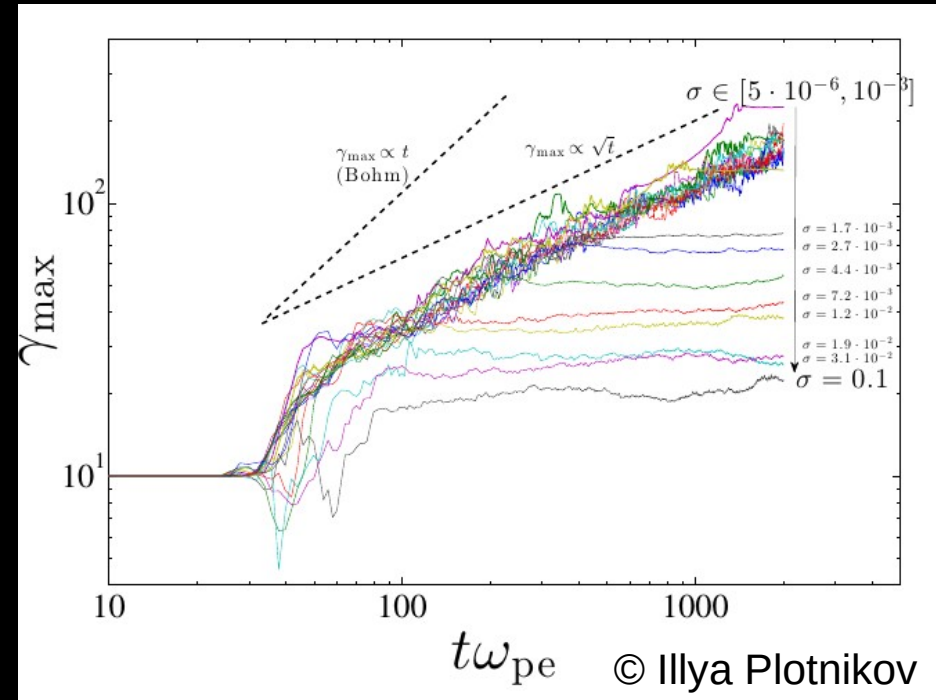
# HE astro application: relativistic shocks

e.g., Plotnikov et al. 2018  
 Lemoine et al. 2019  
 Vanthieghem et al. 2020  
 Cerutti & Giacinti 2020

## Shock structure



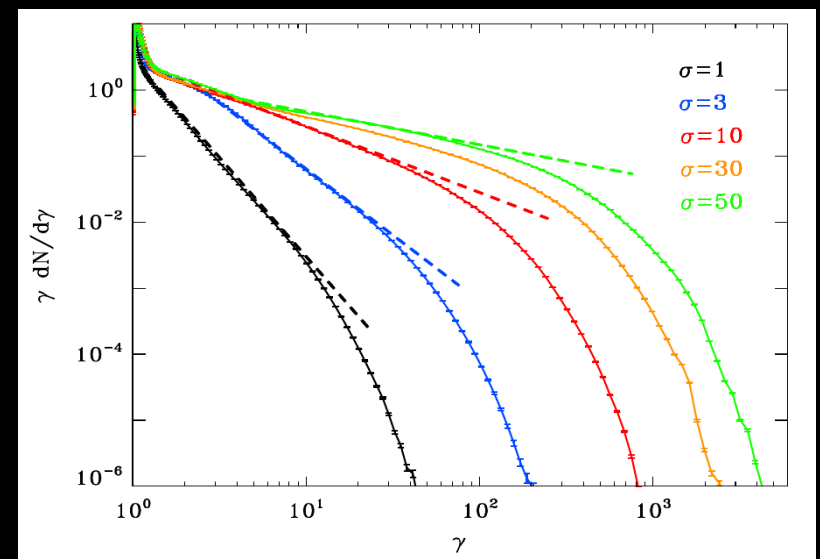
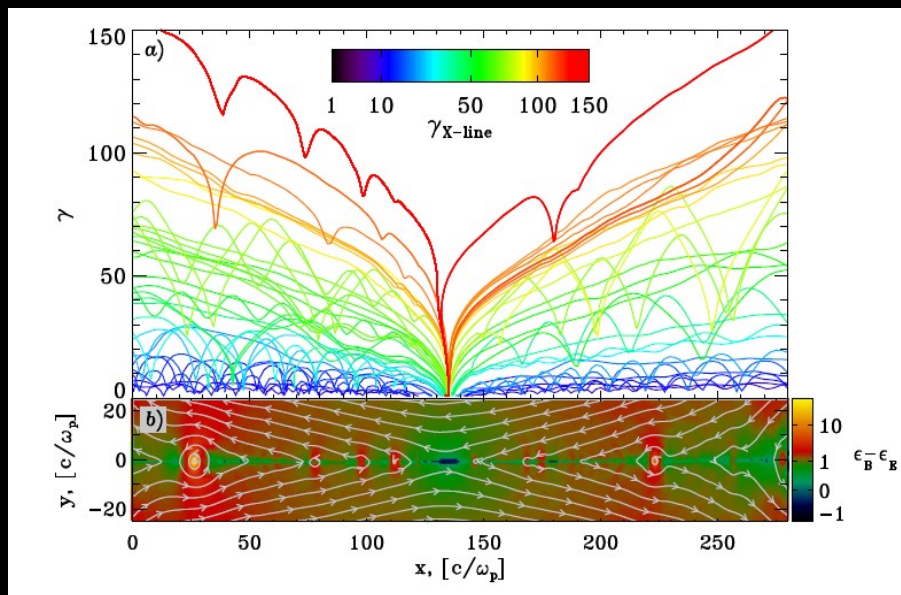
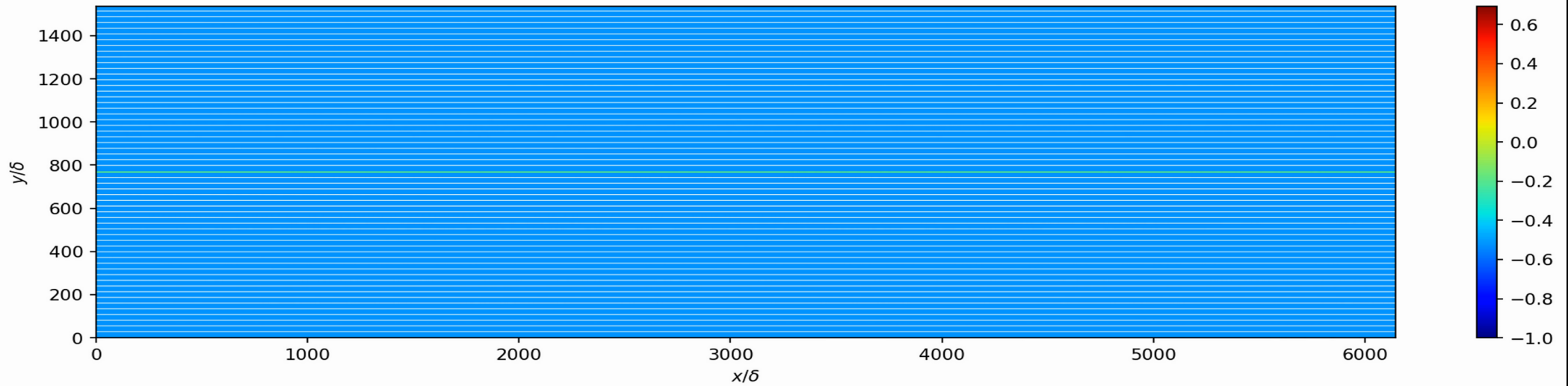
## Particle acceleration



# HE astro application: relativistic reconnection

*e.g., Cerutti et al. 2013, Melzani et al. 2014, Sironi & Spitkovsky 2014*

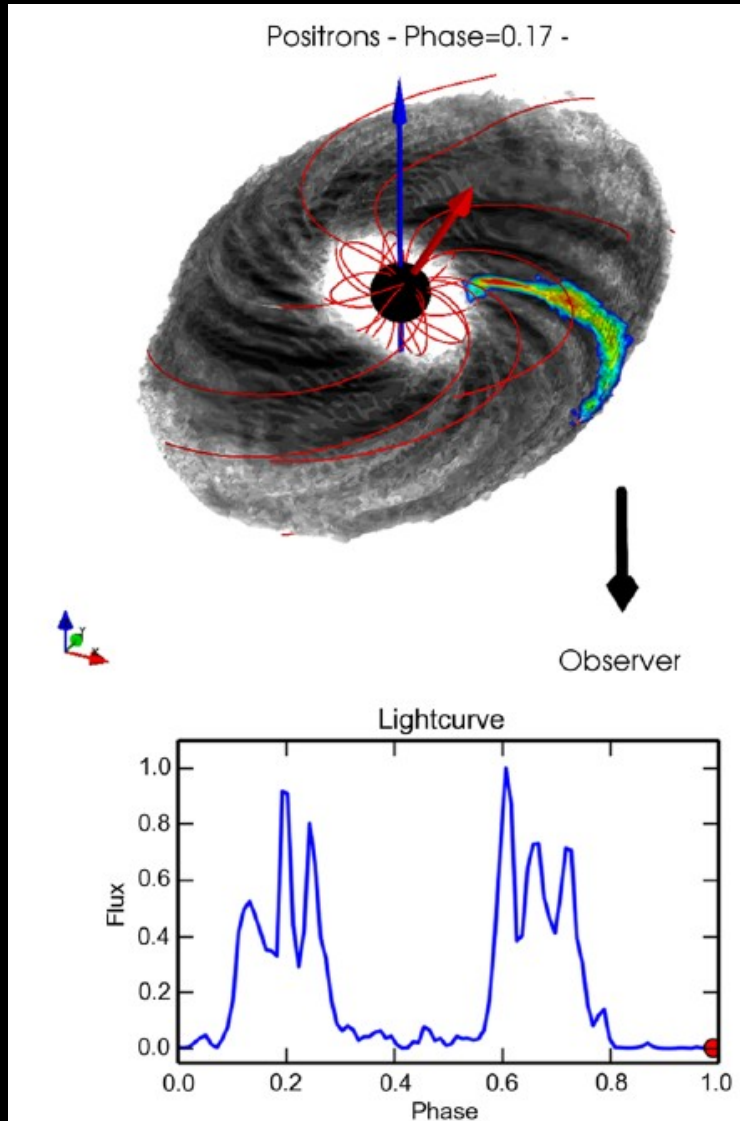
## Plasmoid-dominated reconnection



# HE astro application: relativistic magnetospheres

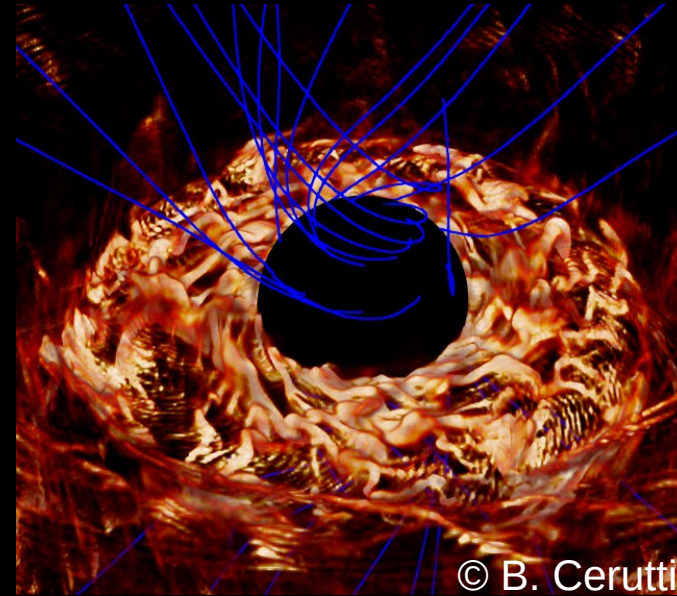
*e.g., Cerutti et al. 2016, Guépin et al. 2020, Crinquand et al. 2020*

Pulsar magnetospheres, pulse-profiles

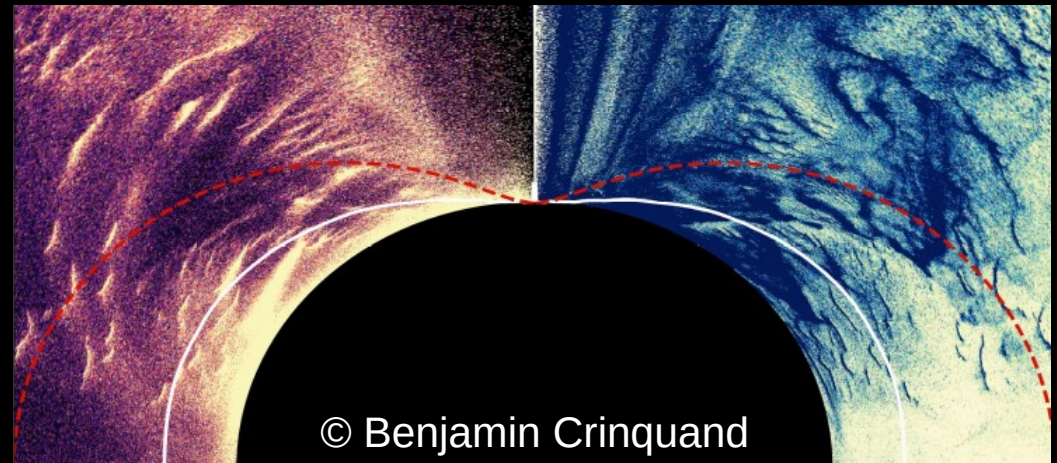


© B. Cerutti

Spinning black-hole magnetospheres



Spark-gap, pair cascades (GR+QED)



© Benjamin Crinquand

# The multi-challenges

## Multi-architecture

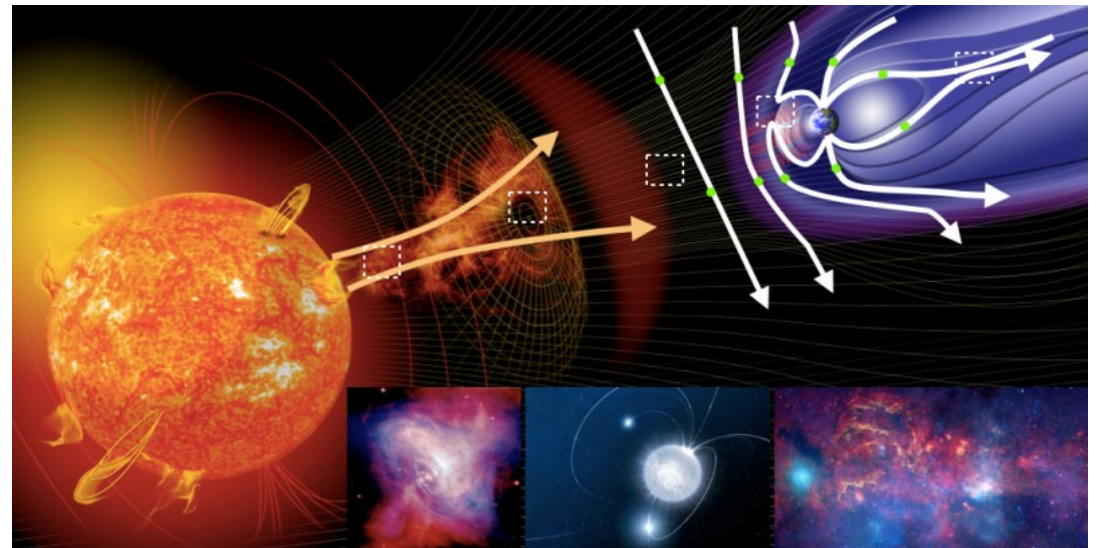
CPU, GPU, ARM  
MPI, OpenMP,  
Vectorization

## Multi-physics

QED, GR, neutrinos

## Multi-scales

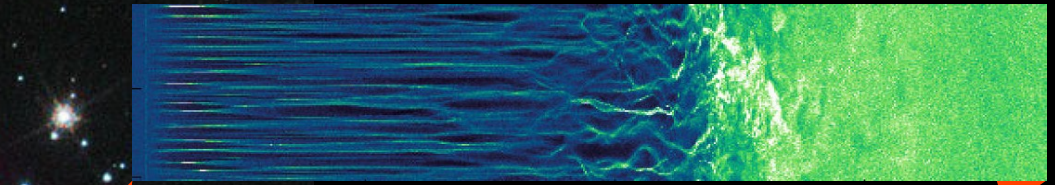
Kinetic  $\leftrightarrow$  global  
Long integration  
Hybrid codes



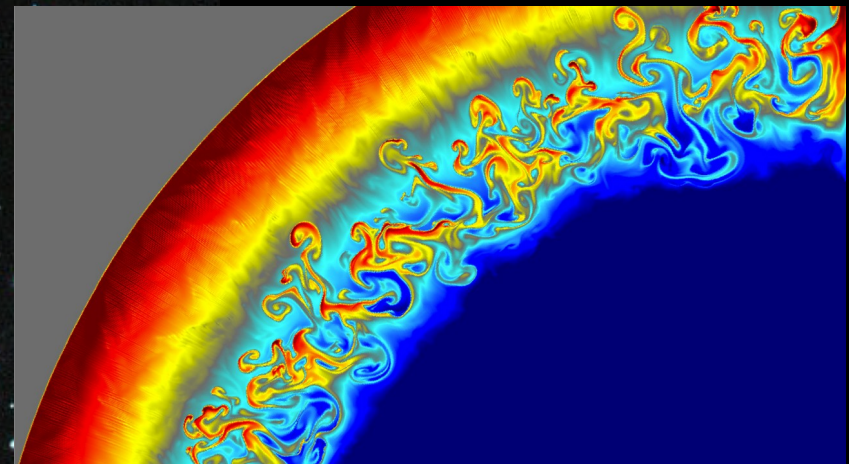
# Coupling PIC with MHD: Astro example 1

SNR shock

Local => PIC



Global => MHD

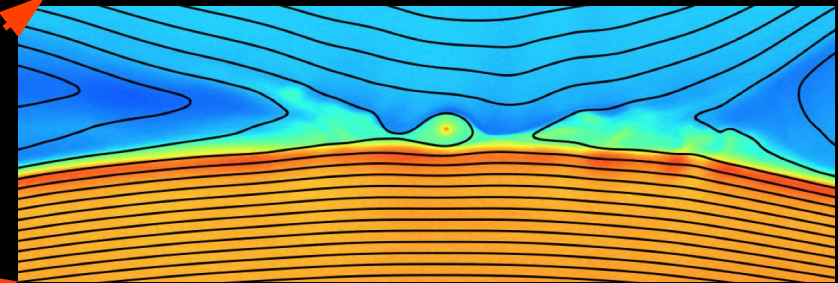


# Coupling PIC with MHD: Astro example 2

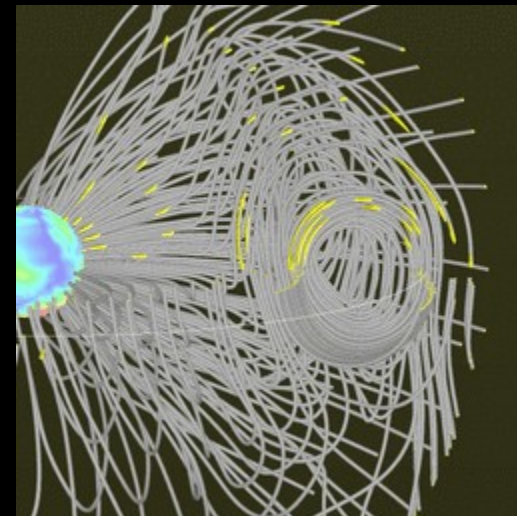
## Reconnection



Local => PIC

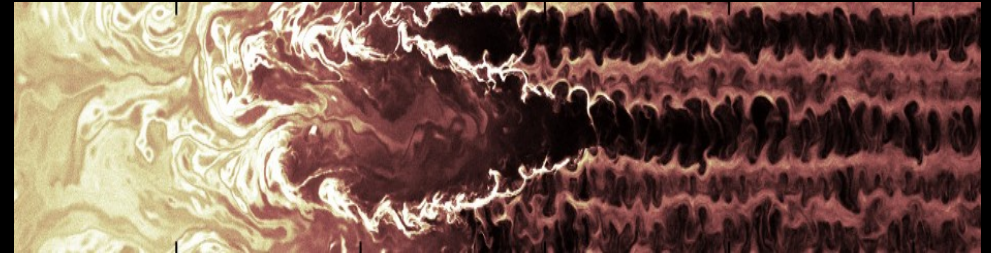
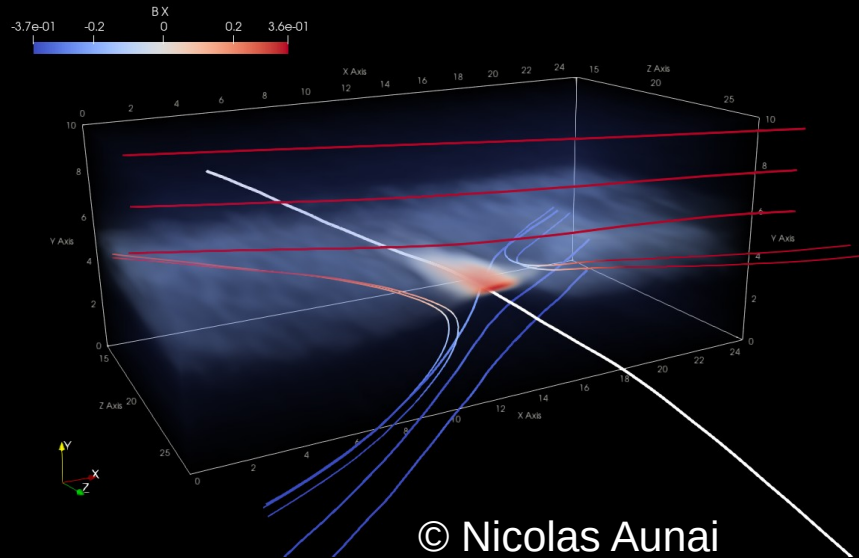


Global => MHD



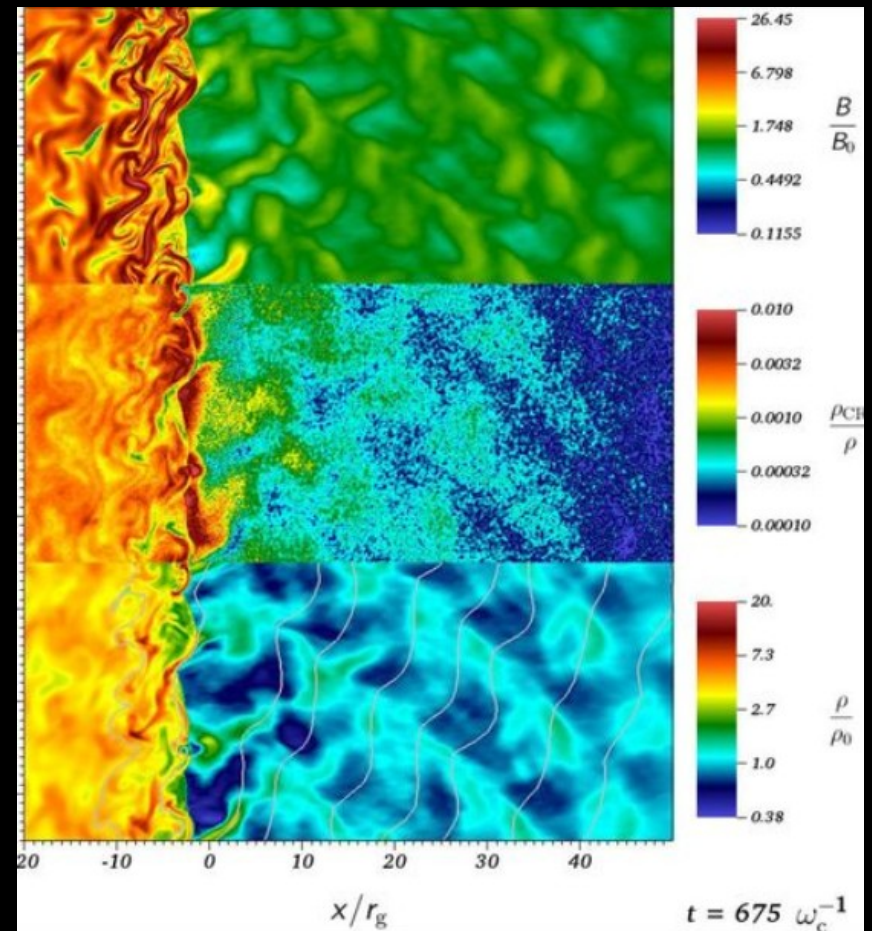
# Beyond the “full” PIC approach: hybrid schemes

**Hybrid: Kinetic ions, fluid electrons (code: PHARE with AMR)**



© Damiano Caprioli

**Hybrid: MHD+cosmic rays  
(code: MPI-AMRVAC with AMR)**





# Summary of challenges & needs

- The **raw dataset** (list of particles & fields) usually too large for long-term storage and for an easy open access. Reduced dataset easily shareable (but I've never received any request of this type).
- Address **multi-scale physics**: non-linear feedback between kinetic and the large astrophysical object scales. Numerical stability and convergence at long integration times.
- Develop **hybrid numerical approaches** (MHD, PIC, Vlasov, radiative transfer, Numerical Relativity) & **GPU acceleration**. Self-consistent and versatile coupling, AMR.