

# General-relativistic (GR) magneto-hydrodynamical (MHD) simulations

Raphaël Mignon-Risse<sup>1,2</sup>

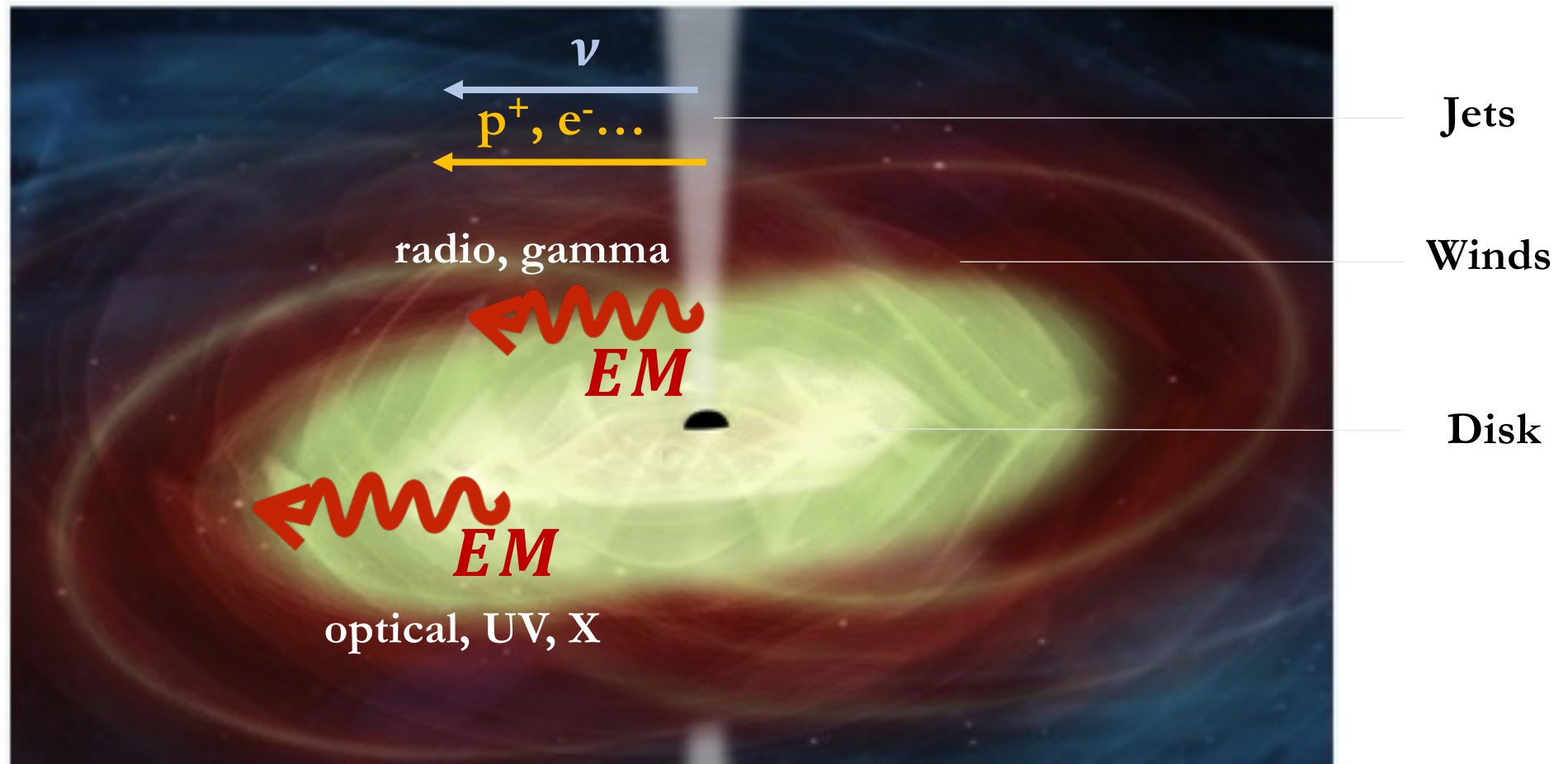
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# The multi-messenger view of black holes



Impact of the BH of any of these structures and on their interplay, dynamics, variability  
→ GR

Objective of this talk:

give you the relevant informations for those  
willing to start using/collaborating on GRMHD simulations

# What does a GRMHD code do? example with GR-AMRVAC

- Assume a given black hole spacetime metric: « Schwarzschild » / « Kerr »
- In General Relativity, spacetime is 4D : go to 3+1 D
- Solve local conservation of the stress-energy tensor and matter current density:

1. Mass, momentum (, energy) conservation with additional terms from the metric
2. Same form as in classical hydrodynamics !

- What is GRMHD used for?

**General-relativistic Simulations of Four States of Accretion onto Millisecond Pulsars**

**First M87 Event Horizon Telescope Results. VIII. Magnetic Field Structure near The Event Horizon**

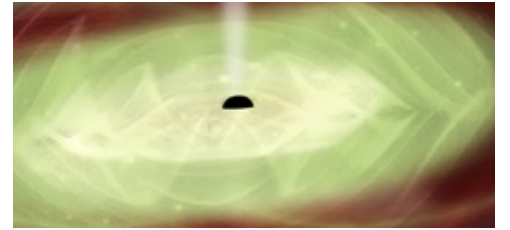
**Disk Tearing Leads to Low and High Frequency Quasi Periodic Oscillations in a GRMHD Simulation of a Thin Accretion Disk**

**Jet Launching in Resistive GR-MHD Black Hole-Accretion Disk Systems** **Beamed Emission from a Neutron-star ULX in a GRRMHD Simulation**

RELATIVISTIC DYNAMICS AND MASS EXCHANGE IN BINARY BLACK HOLE MINI-DISKS

...

# MHD is an approximation

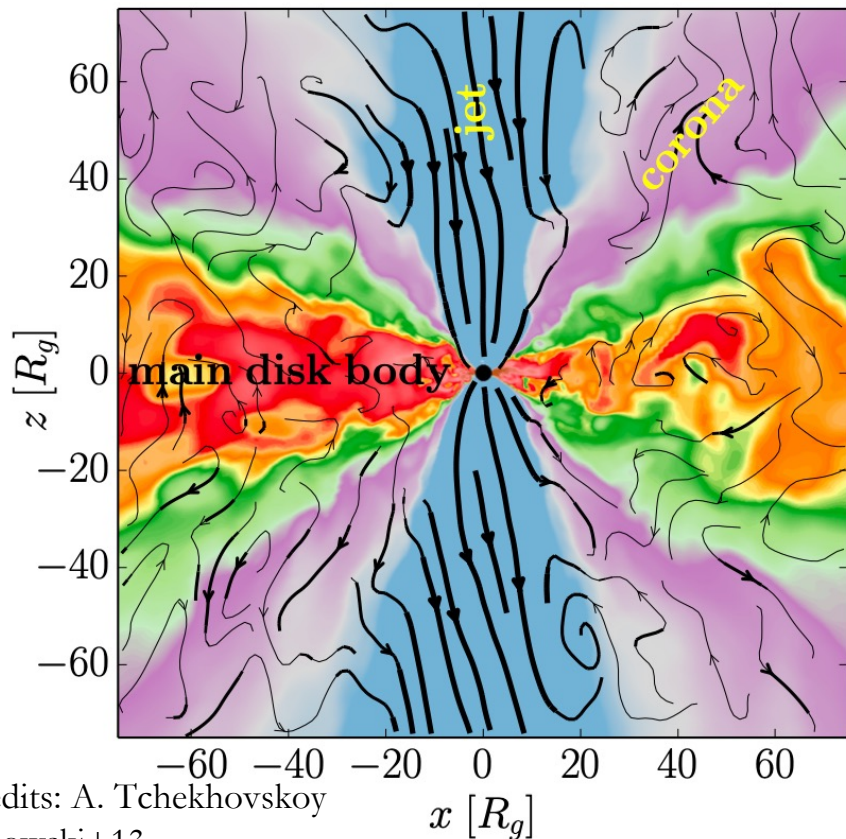


- Standard approach to the BH accretion problem
- **Fluid approach:**
  - macroscopic behaviour : distances  $\gtrsim R_S = 2 \frac{GM}{c^2} \approx 3 \frac{M}{M_\odot} \text{ km}$ , timescales  $\gtrsim R_S/c$ ,
  - maxwellian distribution of particles (= thermal equilibrium ← high collision rate)
- **One-fluid model:**
  - If jet: composition (lepton pairs or hadrons) has no impact on the dynamics
- **ideal MHD:**
  - perfect coupling between fluid and magnetic fields
  - assume the plasma is fully ionized
  - reconnection only occurs through numerical errors

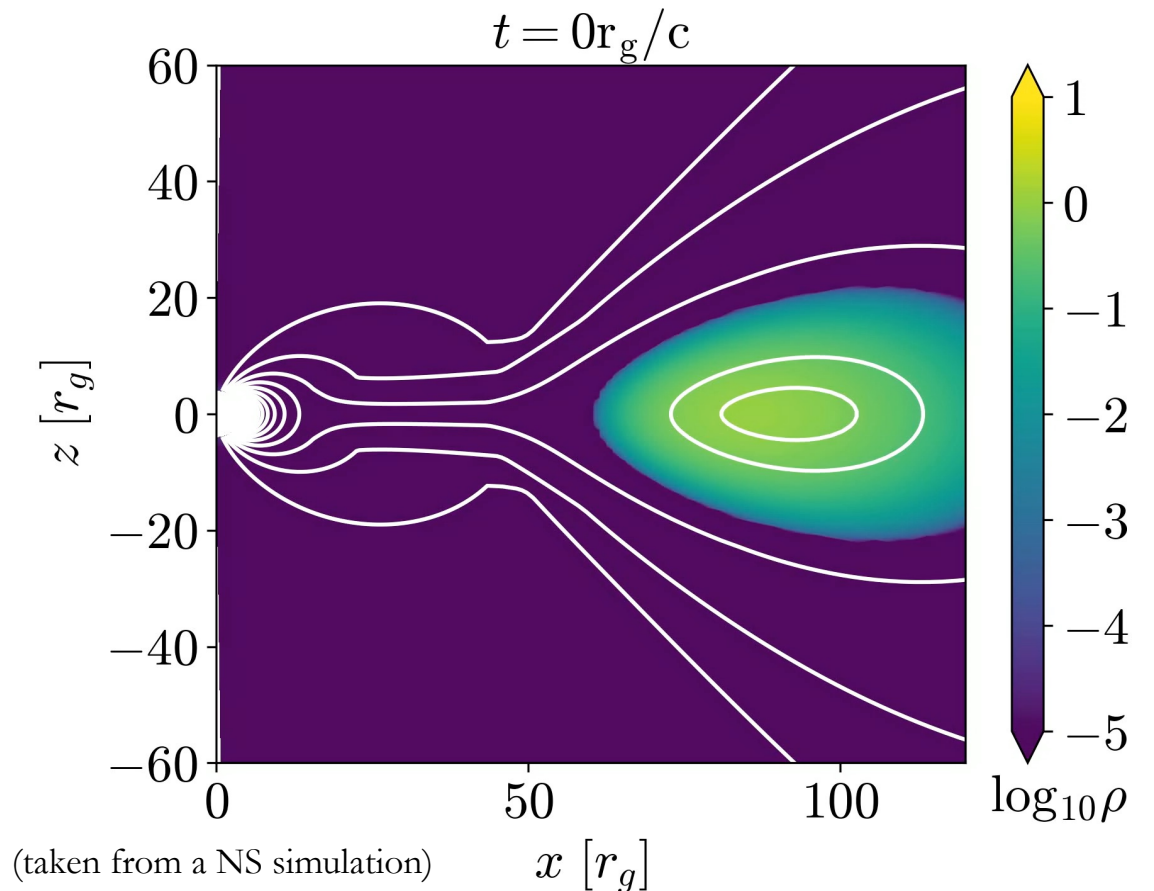


# A standard setup: an MRI-unstable torus

- Initial torus in hydrostatic equilibrium, unstable to the magneto-rotational instability (Balbus & Hawley, 1991):
  - angular momentum transport via Maxwell ( $\tau$ ) and Reynolds' stress
- **Only** exact & analytical setup for 3D GR simulations (Fishbone & Moncrief 1976)
- (constant angular momentum) torus  $\neq$  equilibrium structure or a realistic disk /!\

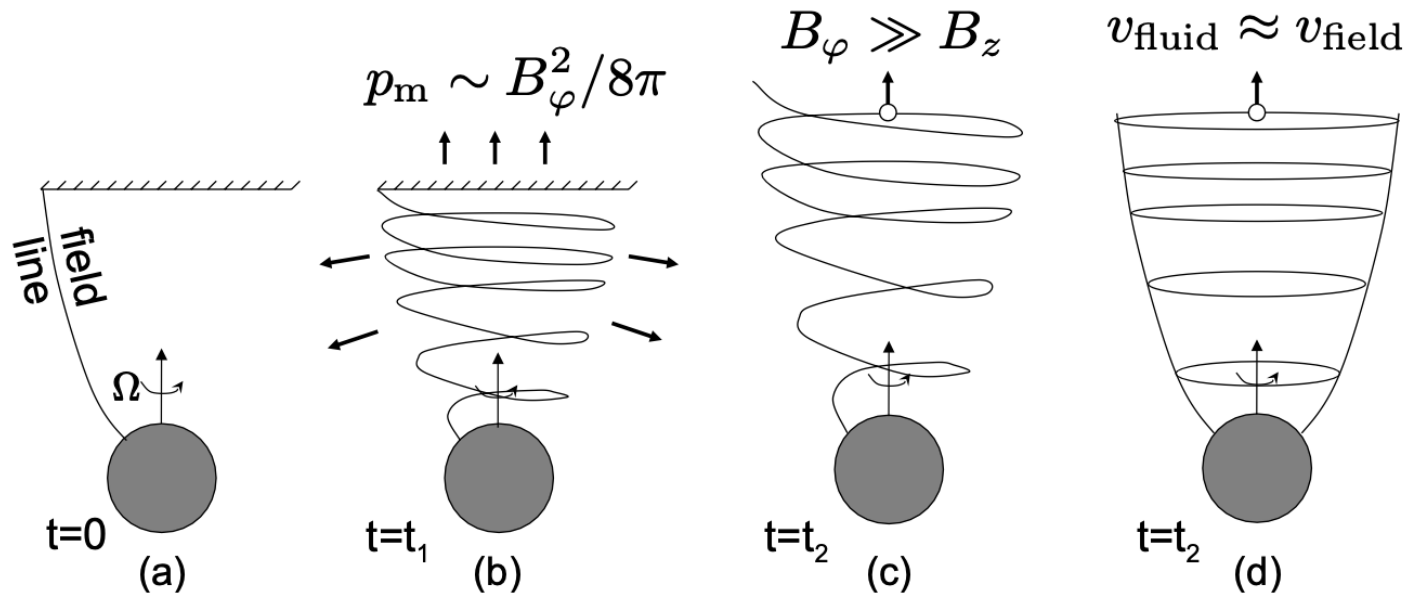
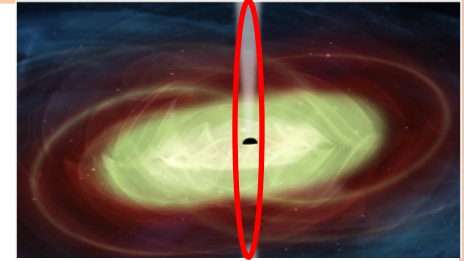


Credits: A. Tchekhovskoy  
Sadowski+13



# The Blandford-Znajek mechanism

- Only outflow mechanism proper to black holes
- Spinning black holes drag in rotation their spacetime and the magnetic field along with it



Credits: Tchekhovskoy+12

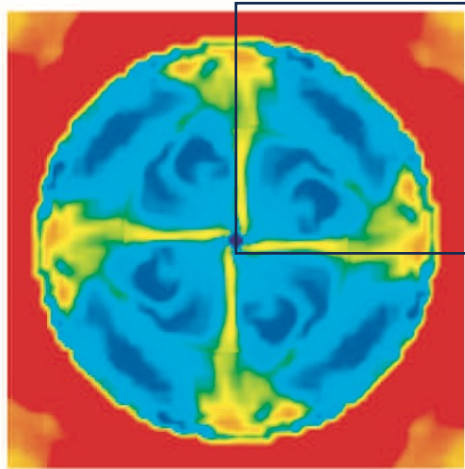
$$P_{\text{jet}} \approx 2.5 \left( \frac{a_*}{1 + \sqrt{1 - a_*^2}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_{\text{MAD}}} \right)^2 \dot{M}_{\text{BH}} c^2$$

e.g. Yuan & Narayan 2014

- Maximal for highly-spinning BHs and high magnetic flux threading the BH horizon
- $P_{\text{jet}}$  can exceed  $\dot{M}_{\text{BH}} c^2$ ? Energy extraction from BH (Penrose 1969)

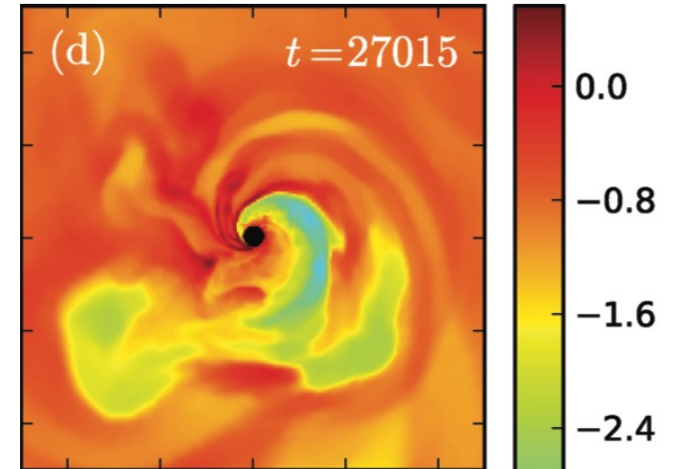
# Magnetically-arrested disks (« MAD »)

- High magnetic flux advected to the BH horizon and stops accretion (→ MAD, Igumenshchev+03)



Igumenshchev+03: 3D MHD  
(periodic boundaries azimuthally)

Tchekhovskoy+11: 3D GRMHD  
with HARM



- Accretion occurs via interchange/Rayleigh-Taylor instabilities
- Renewed interest (e.g. Tchekhovskoy+12) because of jet launching

$$P_{\text{jet}} \approx 2.5 \left( \frac{a_*}{1 + \sqrt{1 - a_*^2}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_{\text{MAD}}} \right)^2 \dot{M}_{\text{BH}} c^2$$

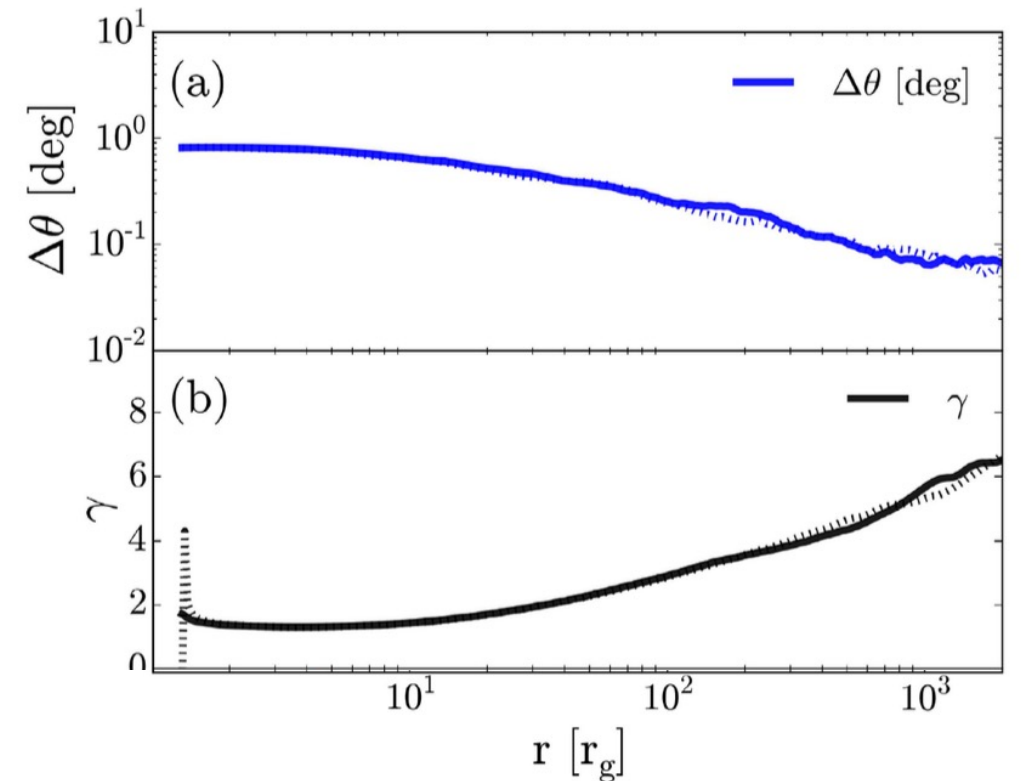
Implications for the jet:

- $P_{\text{jet}} \propto \dot{M}_{\text{BH}} c^2$ , independent on the initial magnetic flux in MAD state because flux saturates



# Outcomes of interest

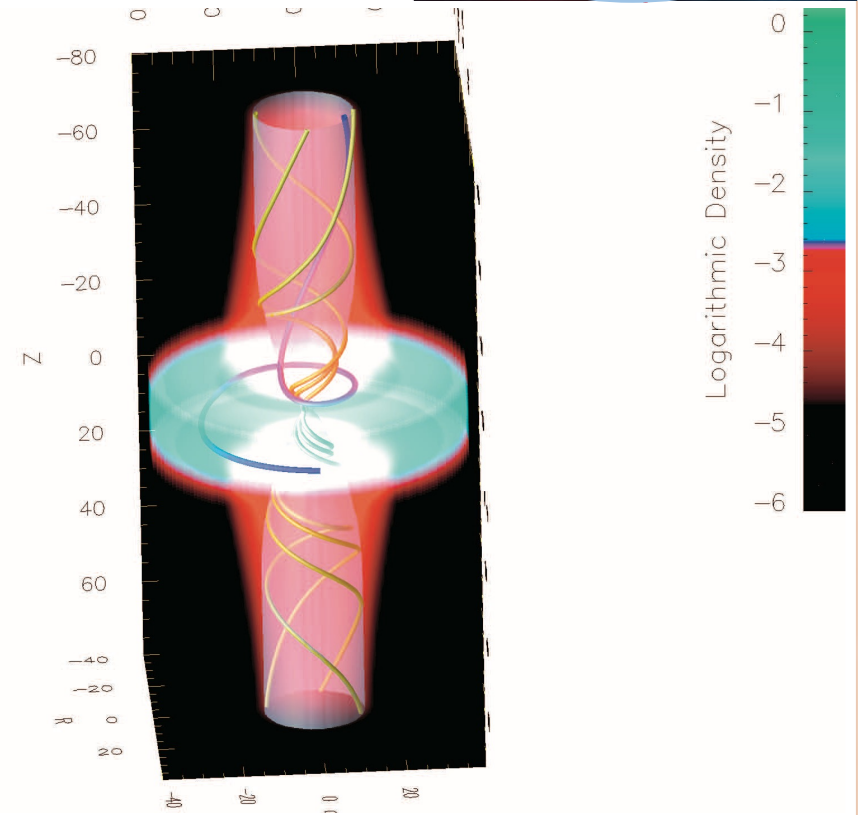
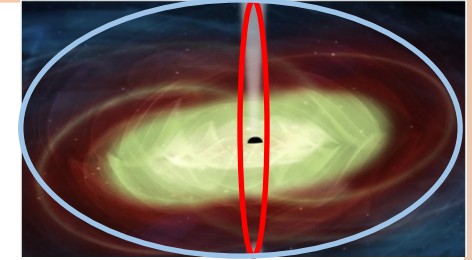
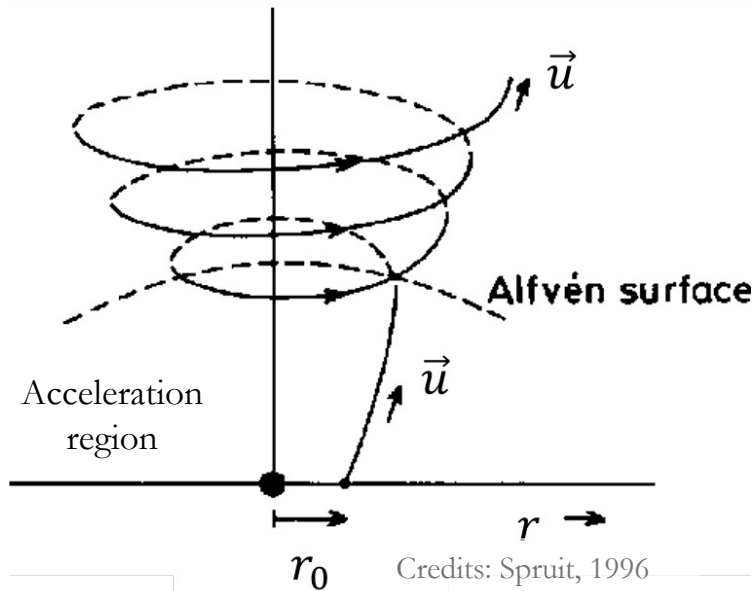
- Parabolic jet shape (e.g. Nakamura+18)
- Opening angle & collimation
  - jet collimated by disk wind (e.g. Liska+20)
- Lorentz factor  $\Gamma \gtrsim 10$  reached but:
  - $\Gamma$  depends on the mass load  $\dot{M}_{\text{jet}}$  :  $P_{\text{jet}} \approx \Gamma \dot{M}_{\text{jet}} c^2$
  - No pair creation and density too low in the jet  $\rightarrow$  artificial density floor
    - Maximal  $\Gamma$  reached depends on this density floor
- B field strength: normalized to the thermal pressure via the plasma  $\beta$  variable



Liska+20: 3D GRMHD with H-AMR  
initial purely toroidal B

# Other outflows are disk-based

- Magneto-centrifugal mechanism (Blandford & Payne 1982): « bead on a wire »



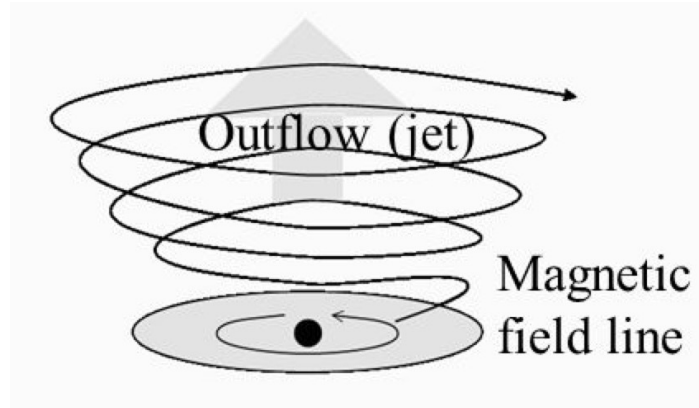
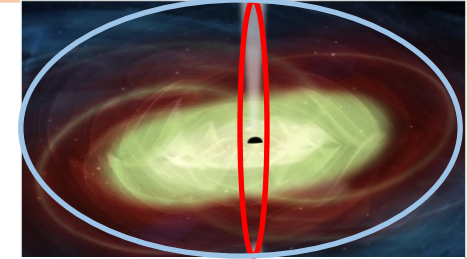
Casse & Keppens 2004: no GR, with a previous version of MPI-AMRVAC

- collimation from toroidal component of B
- Lorentz factor  $\Gamma \sim$  a few (e.g. Porth & Fendt 2010: RMHD with PLUTO)
- Can collimate the BZ jet
- Presence in GRMHD simulations: Dihingia+21 with BHAC, but see Qiang+18 with rHARM)

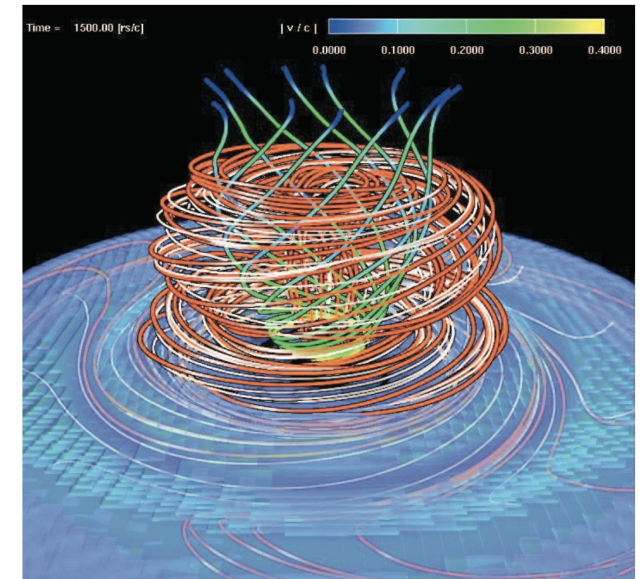
# Other outflows are disk-based

- Magnetic tower flow (Shibata & Uchia 1985, 1986, Lynden-Bell, 1997, 2003, Kato+04...)

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}}_{\text{Lorentz force}} = \underbrace{\kappa \frac{B^2}{\mu_0}}_{\text{magnetic tension}} - \underbrace{\nabla_{\perp} \left( \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0} \right)}_{\text{magnetic pressure}}$$



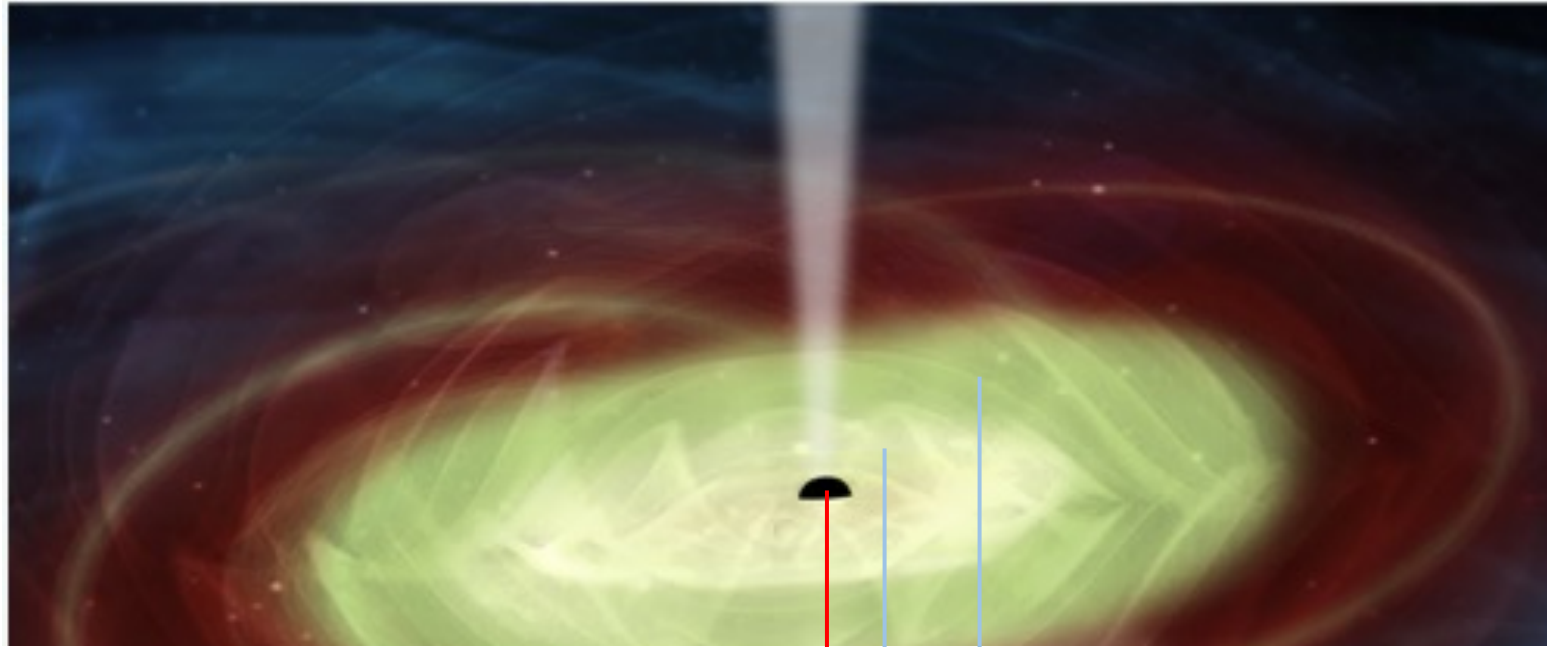
Credits: Spruit, 1996



Kato+04  
MHD+pseudo-Newtonian potential

- collimation from external (ambient) pressure
  - Maximal velocity  $\sim 0.2c$
  - Can collimate the BZ jet
- Others: thermal/radiative outflows: driven by thermal pressure gradients or radiative pressure

# Recap: outflows from black holes



Blandford-Znajek jet

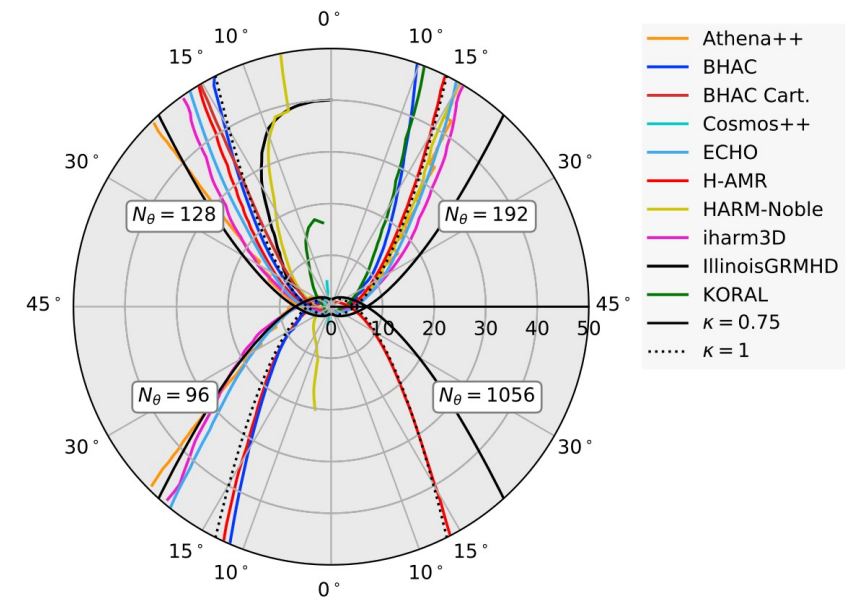
Blandford & Payne jet/wind

Winds: magnetic, radiative or thermal pressure-driven

- Co-existence and even interplay (collimation?)
- Except for BZ, mechanisms plausibly **universal**: X-ray binaries (e.g. Liu+22), protostellar disks (e.g. Mignon-Risse+21)...

# The landscape of codes

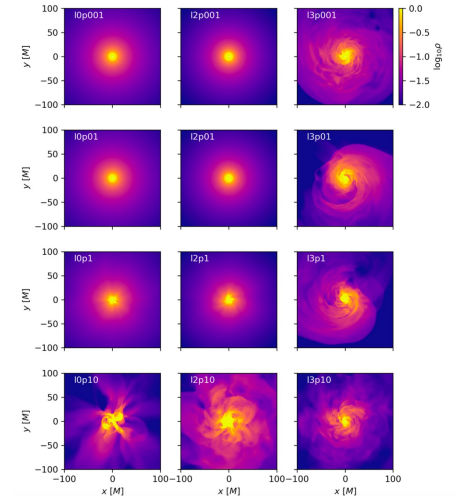
- Non-exhaustive list of widely used codes:
  - Athena++ (Stone+08)
  - BHAC (Porth+17), GR-AMRVAC (Casse+17), based on MPI-AMRVAC (Keppens+12)
  - Cosmos++ (Anninos+05, Fragile+12,+14)
  - ECHO (Londrillo & Del Zanna, 2000, 2004)
  - H-AMR, HARM (Gammie+03, Noble+06,+09), cuHARM (Bégué+23)
  - IllinoisGRMHD (Etienne+15)
  - KORAL (Sadowski+13,+14)
- C/Fortran, adaptive-mesh refinement and same numerical methods
- Tested codes (9) agree on the BH-torus problem  
→ EHT code comparison, see Porth+19:
- Computing resources: ~~laptop~~ local/(inter)national clusters
- Comment on open-access:
  - public versions often lagging the latest developments
  - various branches of the code, corresponding to various developers/teams
  - **steep** learning curve. Contact the authors or us (APC: P. Varniere, F. Casse, RMR)





# Limitations from...

- Initial conditions:
  - out of (magnetic) equilibrium
  - disconnected from large scales (some efforts in this direction: Olivares+23)
    - what consequences for the magnetic flux??
  - limited mass reservoir → limits the maximal duration of the simulation



Olivares+23: GRHD with BHAC

- Physics: knowledge on the accretion/ejection processes:
  - SANE (Standard And Normal Evolution): BH magnetosphere has no impact on the accretion
  - MAD (Magnetically Arrested Disk): magnetic flux accumulation forms a magnetic barrier
  - ADAF (Advection-Dominated Accretion Flow), RIAF (Radiatively Inefficient Accretion Flow), CDAF (Convection-...), ADIOS (Adiabatic Inflow-Outflow Solution)...
  - Angular momentum transport: MRI? something else? (e.g. outflows)

# Limitations from...

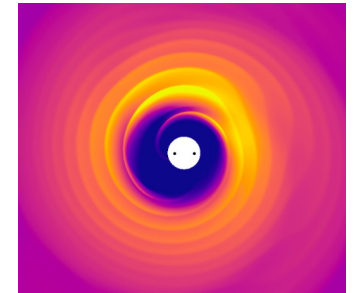
- Background metric: no self-gravity
- In general, stationary metric: no motion of the compact object nor spin precession  
But gravitational wave source  $\Leftrightarrow$  dynamical spacetime  
Exceptions: HARM (Noble+12), GR-AMRVAC (Casse+17, Mignon-Risse+22), IllinoisGRMHD (Etienne+15)

**Explaining temporal variations in the jet position angle of the blazar OJ 287 using its binary black hole central engine model**

Dey+21

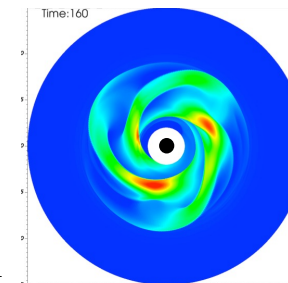
**Neutrino Emissions of TXS 0506+056 caused by a Supermassive Binary Black Hole Inspiral?**

Jaroschewski+23



Mignon-Risse+23

- Fluid properties in fluid frame  $\neq$  emission seen from Earth  
→ need GR ray-tracing step  
Ex.: BOTHROS (e.g. D'Ascoli+18), BHOSS (e.g. Olivares+20), GYOTO (Vincent+11, e.g. Varniere+18, Mignon-Risse+21...)

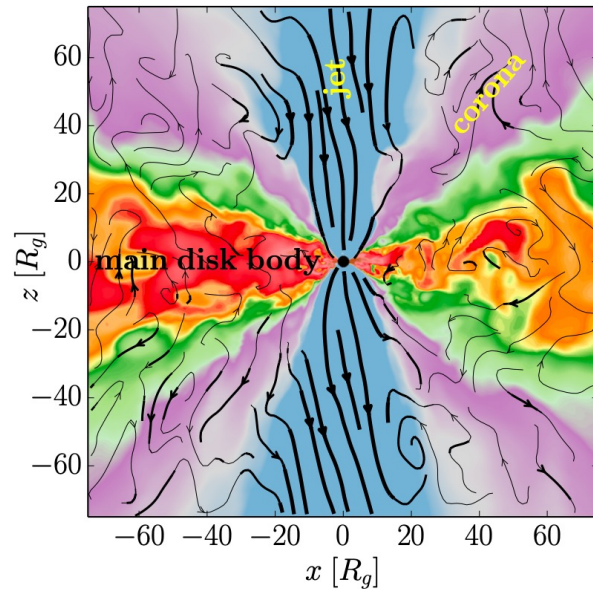


Mignon-Risse+21



# Beyond... single fluid approaches: hybrid « force-free »

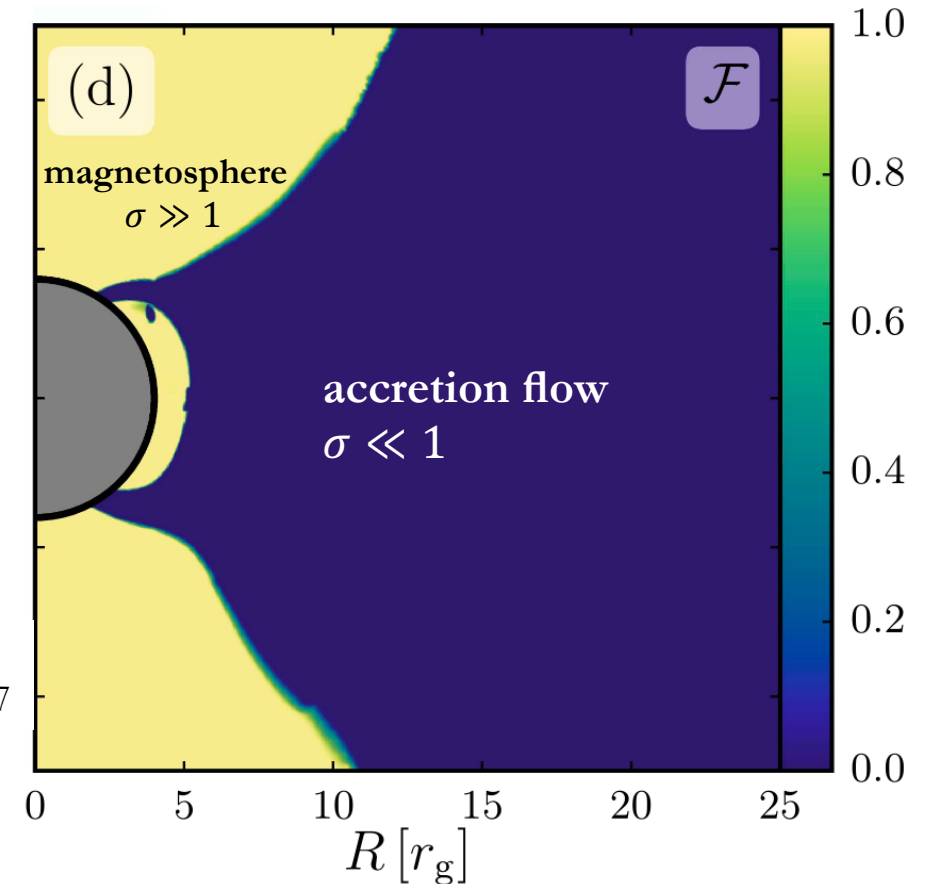
- At high magnetization, small errors in the magnetic fields yield large errors/crashing for the fluid dynamics
  - Pb in BH magnetospheres
  - Alternative: **couple the MHD to a « force-free » approach** designed for highly magnetized regions with  $\sigma \gg 1$



Credits: A. Tchekhovskoy  
Sadowski+13

For neutron stars :

- Parfrey & Tchekhovskoy 2017 in HARM
- Das+22 in BHAC



Parfrey &  
Tchekhosvkoy 2017

# Beyond... fluid approaches: kinetic methods

- Spatial scales: BH horizon  $R_S \approx 3 \times 10^9 \frac{M}{10^6 M_\odot} \text{ m}$   
Accretion disk  $\sim 100 - 1000 R_S$
- Timescales:  $R_S/c \sim 10\text{s}$
- Spatial scale: skin depth  $\lambda_e = c/\omega_e \sim 300\text{m}$
- Timescale: electron plasma frequency  $\omega_e$   
 $\rightarrow \tau \sim 1/\omega_e \sim 10^{-6} \left( \frac{n_e}{10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right) \text{ s}$

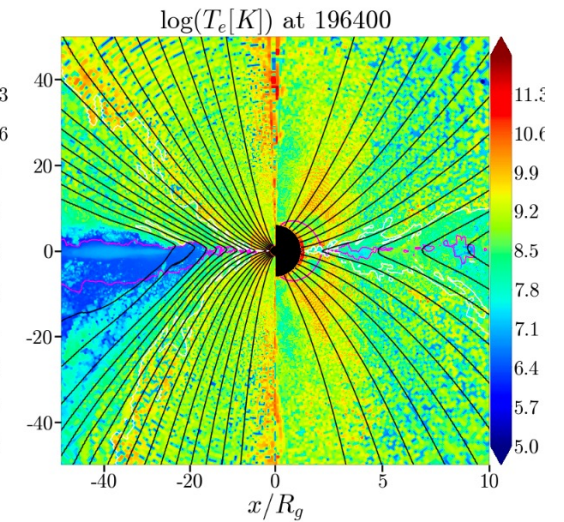
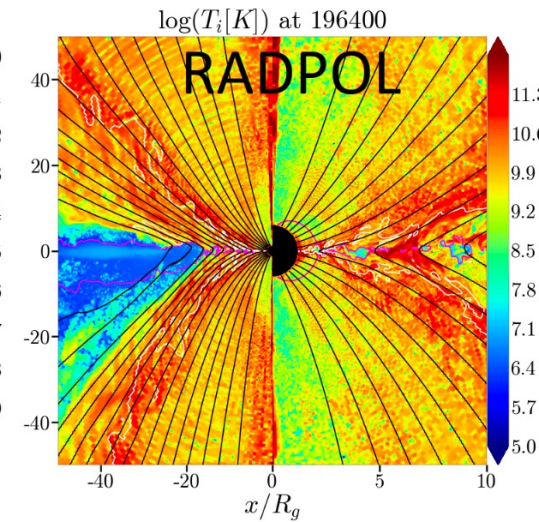
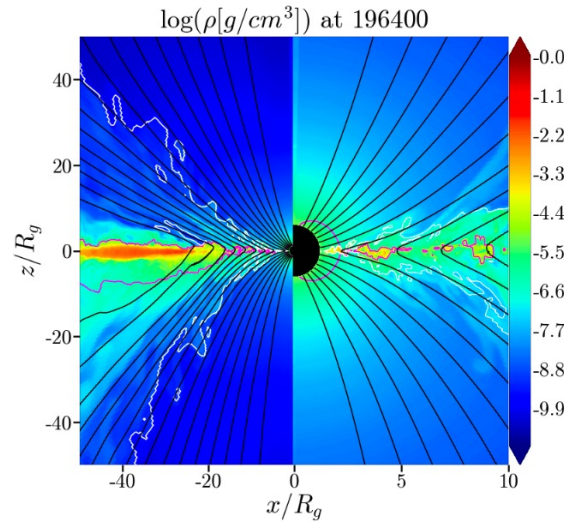
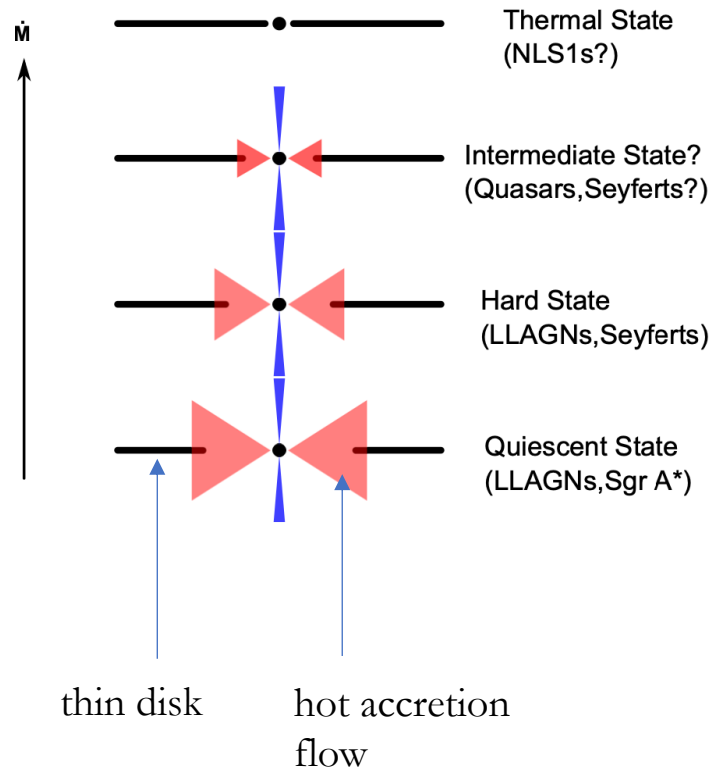


- MHD-PIC methods:
    - Confine the kinetic model to some regions (Daldorff+14)
    - For (Cosmic ray) particle acceleration in shocks (Bai+15 in Athena)
  - Particle-in-[MHD]-Cells (Casse+18, Van Marle+18 in MPI-**AMRVAC**)
    - Interplay between thermal plasma and **supra-thermal** particles (cosmic rays)
- ☐ Only classical so far, not relativistic yet



# Beyond... GRMHD: GR-R-MHD

- Rare examples of GR R MHD (e.g. KORAL: Sadowski+13, ATHENA++: White+23, cuHARM: D. Bégué's talk)
- Note: « on-the-fly » radiative transport problem often simplified to be tractable → fluid descriptions
- 10-30 times more computationally expensive (Dexter+21) >> days



Liska+22: two-temperature GR-R-MHD



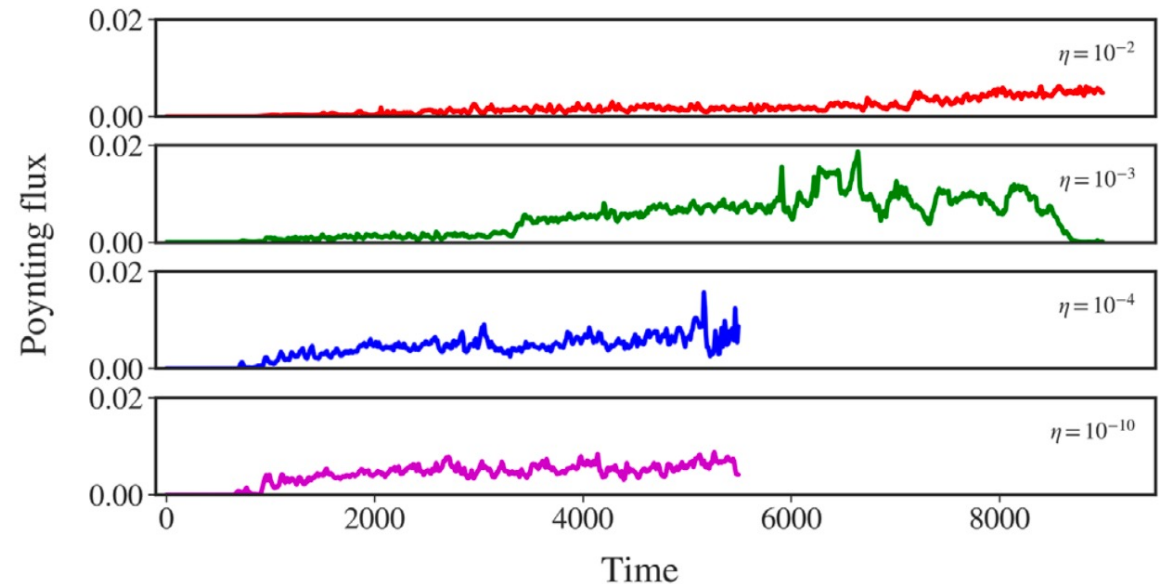
# Beyond... ideal MHD: resistivity, diffusion

- Resistive effects allow:
  - the flow to be accreted through the field lines
  - disk matter to be loaded onto the jet
  - fields line to reconnect (and to control this!) and more generally the field topology to evolve

- Ohm's law:  $\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} = \eta \mathbf{J}$   $\eta(r, \theta) = \eta_0 \exp \left[ -2 \left( \frac{\alpha}{\alpha_\eta} \right)^2 \right]$

- Resistivity implemented in a few codes:
  - ECHO (Bucciantini & Del Zanna, 2014),
  - HARM (Qian+18), BHAC (Ripperda+19)...

- Complex interplay of magnetic reconnection (↘), Ohmic heating (↗), magnetic diffusion (↗) (Vourellis+19)



# Conclusions

- BH jet launching from **BZ mechanism**, currently favored to explain radio-loud AGNs, widely studied
- **Limited variety of initial conditions**, mostly corresponding to « hot accretion flows » (Yuan & Narayan 2014) rather than historically-standard thin disks (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973)
- **GRMHD codes are numerous, mature, similar** → they qualitatively agree on the BH accretion problem
  - but steep learning curve
- Keep in mind the (**MHD**) **approximations**
  - **or go beyond** : GR-**R**-MHD, resistive MHD, coupling to force-free or PIC...
  - is GR/R needed for your problem?

# Some references

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# References of the works mentioned on slide 4

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<https://doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/aa9c85>



## General-relativistic Simulations of Four States of Accretion onto Millisecond Pulsars

Kyle Parfrey<sup>1,2,5</sup> and Alexander Tchekhovskoy<sup>1,2,3,4,6</sup>

MNRAS **000**, 1–14 (2022)

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<https://doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/abe4de>



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## First M87 Event Horizon Telescope Results. VIII. Magnetic Field Structure near The Event Horizon

The Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration  
(See the end matter for the full list of authors.)

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<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/aabd36>



## Jet Launching in Resistive GR-MHD Black Hole–Accretion Disk Systems

Qian Qian (钱前)<sup>1</sup>, Christian Fendt<sup>1</sup>, and Christos Vourellis<sup>1</sup>

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## Beamed Emission from a Neutron-star ULX in a GRRMHD Simulation

David Abarca<sup>1</sup>, Kyle Parfrey<sup>2</sup>, and Włodek Kluźniak<sup>1</sup>

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 838:42 (20pp), 2017 March 20  
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<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/aa63f3>



## Relativistic Dynamics and Mass Exchange in Binary Black Hole Mini-disks

Dennis B. Bowen<sup>1</sup>, Manuela Campanelli<sup>1</sup>, Julian H. Krolik<sup>2</sup>, Vassilios Mewes<sup>1</sup>, and Scott C. Noble<sup>3</sup>





# Beyond... fluid approaches: kinetic methods

- MHD-PIC method: (Daldorff+14, Makwana+17)
  - MHD gives initial and boundary conditions to plasma ; MHD updated based on PIC variables
- MHD-PIC method for (Cosmic ray) particle acceleration in shocks (Bai+15 in Athena)
  - CRs: Lagrangian particles obeying the Lorentz force; momentum + energy feedback onto fluid
  - Ions+electrons = « thermal » fluid
- Particle-in-[MHD]-Cells (Casse+18, Van Marle+18 in MPI-AMRVAC)
  - Interplay between thermal plasma and **supra-thermal** particles (cosmic rays)

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \mathbf{v} \otimes \mathbf{v} - \frac{\mathbf{B} \otimes \mathbf{B}}{4\pi} + P_{\text{tot}} \mathbf{1}_3 \right) = - \underline{\mathbf{F}_{\text{part}}}$$

$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left( (e + P_{\text{tot}}) \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{E} - \mathbf{E}_0) \times \frac{\mathbf{B}}{4\pi} \right) = - \underline{\mathbf{u}_{\text{part}} \cdot \mathbf{F}_{\text{part}}}$$

$$c \mathbf{E} = -((1 - R) \mathbf{v} + \underline{R \mathbf{u}_{\text{part}}}) \times \mathbf{B}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{p}_j}{\partial t} = q_j \left( \mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{u}_j}{c} \times \mathbf{B} \right) \quad \text{Casse+18}$$

- Can be applied to scales  $\gg$  microscopic (PIC scales)
- ☐ Only classical so far, not relativistic yet