

Tidal disruption of a magnetized star

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Simons Collaboration on Extreme Electrodynamics of Compact Sources



TDE prediction

- ▶ The idea of tidal disruption (Hills1975; Lidskii & Ozernoi1979)
- ▶ Conventional picture (Rees1988; Evans & Kochanek1989)
- ▶ Distribution in energy and fallback rate power law $\dot{M} \propto t^{-5/3}$ (Evans & Kochanek1989)

Tidal radius:

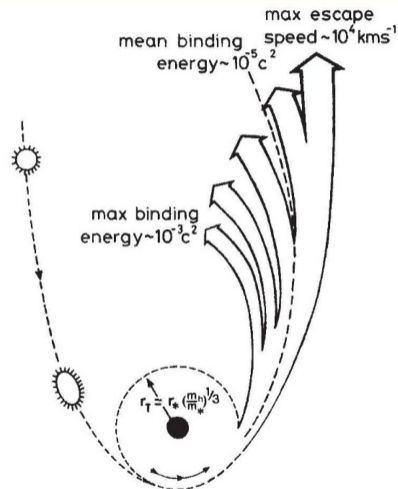
$$R_t \simeq R_* \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{M_*} \right)^{1/3}$$

Penetration parameter:

$$\beta = \frac{R_t}{R_p}$$

Elliptic orbits with

$$a \gtrsim \frac{R_t^2}{R_*} \sim R_* \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{M_*} \right)^{2/3}$$



from Rees1988)

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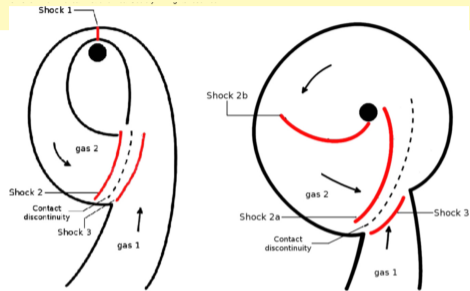
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Piran et al.2015)

Relativistic apsidal motion important for large M_{BH} , single-orbit angle (see for instance Dai et al.2015)

$$\Delta\varphi \simeq \frac{3\pi GM_{\text{BH}}}{R_p c^2}$$



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Time scales: Fly-by time \sim stellar dynamical time

$$\begin{aligned} t_* \sim t_{\text{ff}}(R_t) &\simeq 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{R_t^3}{GM_{\text{BH}}}} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{R_*^3}{GM_*}} \\ &\simeq 50 \left(\frac{R_*}{10 R_\odot} \right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{M_*}{3 M_\odot} \right)^{-1/2} \text{ h} \end{aligned}$$

Fallback time

$$t_{\text{fb}} \sim \pi \sqrt{\frac{a_{\text{min}}^3}{GM_{\text{BH}}}} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{M_*}} t_* \sim \text{months-years.}$$

Energy budget (maximal efficiency):

$$E_g \sim \frac{\overbrace{GM_* M_{\text{BH}}}^{\sim 10^{52} \text{ erg}}}{R_p} \sim \frac{GM_*^2}{R_*} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{M_*} \right)^{2/3}$$

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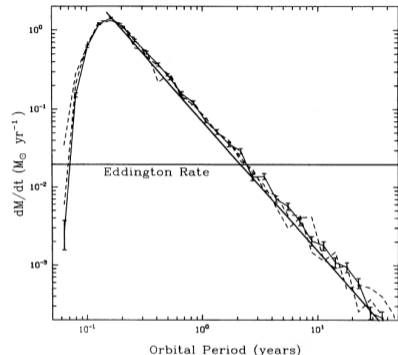
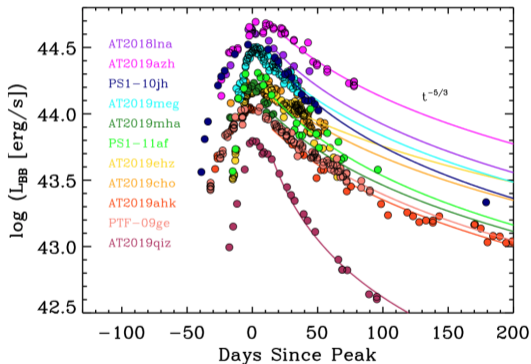


FIG. 4.—The rate at which stellar debris returns to the vicinity of the black hole vs. time. The Eddington accretion rate for a $M_{\text{BH}} = 10^6 M_{\odot}$ black hole, with radiative efficiency $\epsilon = 0.1$, is indicated. The heavy line shows the estimated infall rate given by eq. (3) in the text. The results from three different SPH simulations are shown, with particle resolutions of 10^4 , 2×10^4 , and 4×10^4 particles per star. The error bars show the level of statistical fluctuations due to binning the particles.

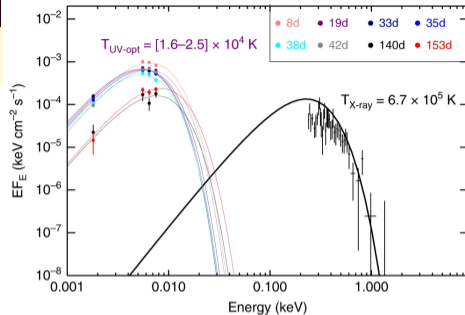
$$\dot{M}_{\text{fallback}} \propto t^{-5/3}$$

TDE observations

X-ray nuclear transients and optical/UV transients (50+ in total)



Gezari(2021)



Shu et al.2020

$$A_{UV} \sim 10^{31} L_{44}^{1/2} (T/2 \times 10^4 \text{K})^{-2} \text{cm}^2,$$

$$A_X \sim 10^{24} L_{44}^{1/2} T_6^{-2} \text{cm}^2.$$

$$\text{Compare to } \pi R_p^2 \sim 10^{26} (R_*/R_\odot)^2 (M_{BH}/10^6 M_*)^{2/3} \text{cm}^2.$$

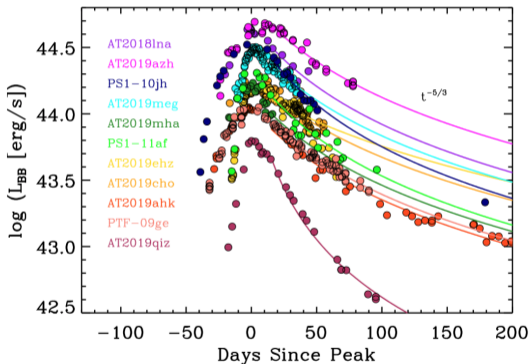
$$\text{Area within the most bound orbit} \sim 10^{24} (M_{BH}/10^6 M_*)^2 \text{cm}^2.$$

Fallback stream area

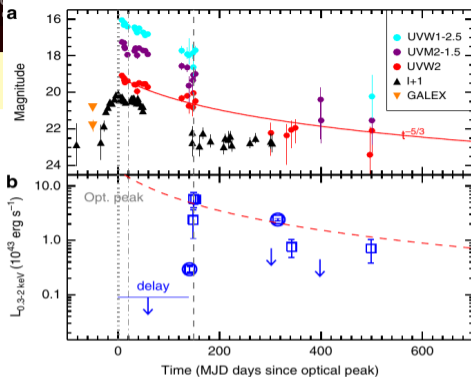
$$\lesssim \pi a^2 \sim 10^{30} (R_*/R_\odot)^2 (M_{BH}/10^6 M_*)^{4/3} \text{cm}^2$$

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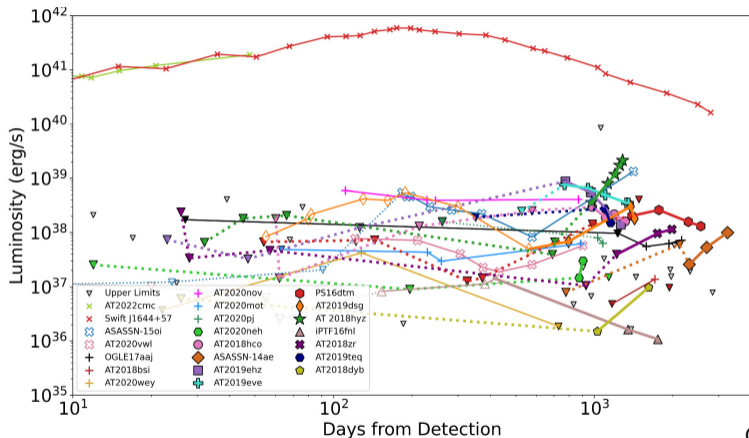
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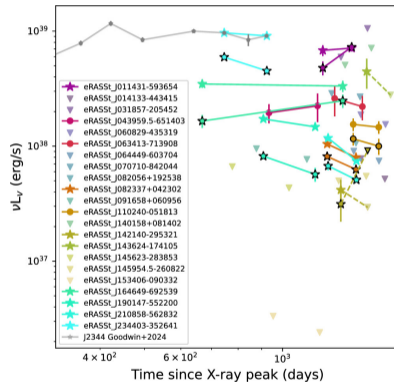
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Radio and jets

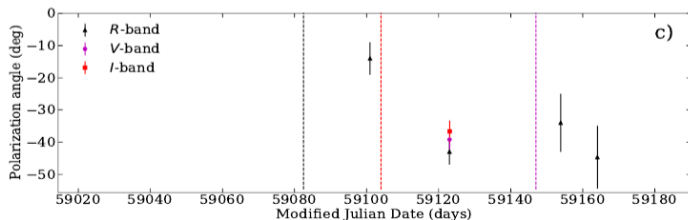
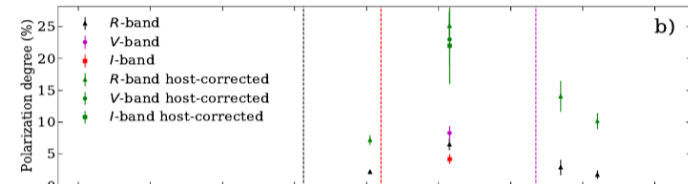
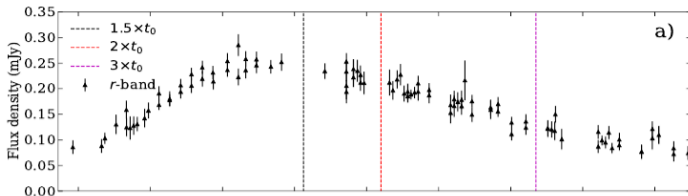


Cendes et al.2024)

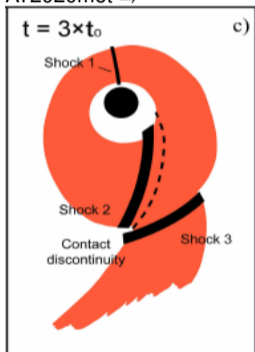


Goodwin et al.2025)

TDE observations: polarization



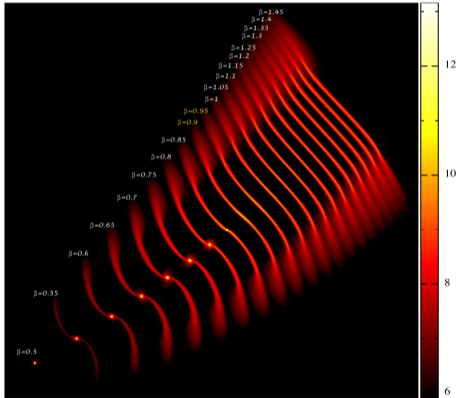
AT2020mot \Rightarrow



Liodakis et al.2023)

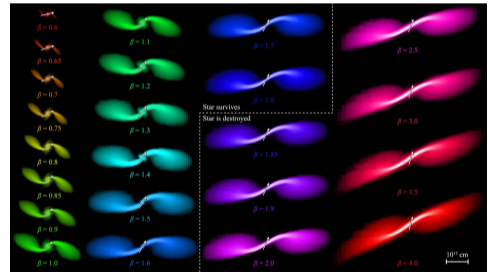


TDE simulations: early stages



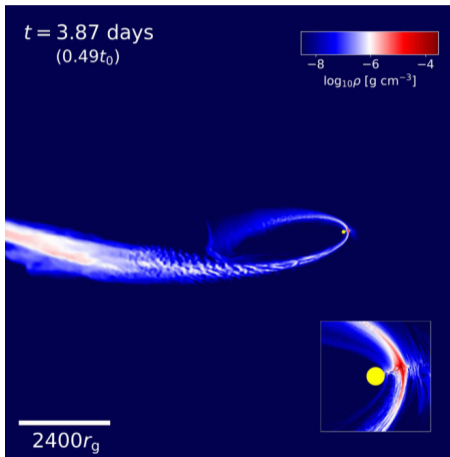
Mainetti et al.2017)

- ▶ Smooth Particle Hydrodynamics (SPH)
- ▶ star-frame mesh-based hydrodynamics

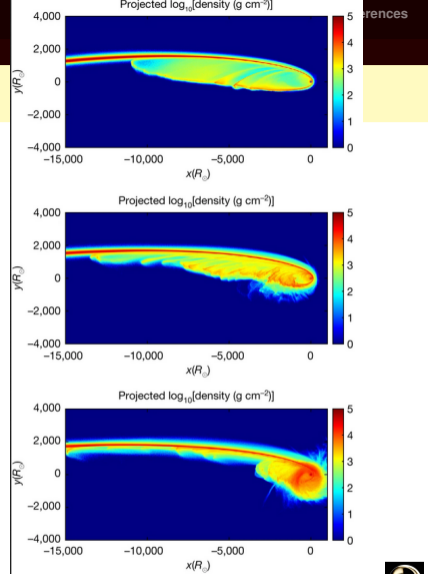


Guillochon & Ramirez-Ruiz2013)

TDE simulations: circularization

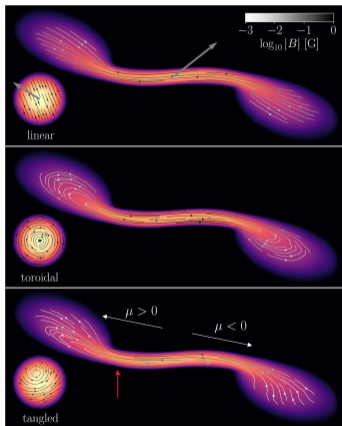


Ryu et al.2023)



Steinberg & Stone2024)

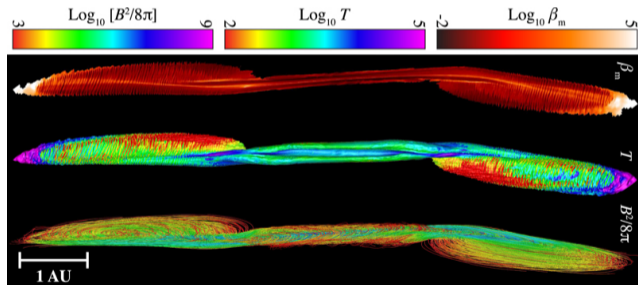
Disruption of magnetized stars



Pacuraru et al.2026)

Magnetic energy of a star

$$\sim E_M/E_G \sim \frac{B^2 R_*^4}{GM_*^2} \sim 10^{-16} \left(\frac{B}{G}\right)^2 \left(\frac{R_*}{R_\odot}\right)^4 \left(\frac{M_\odot}{M_*}\right)^2.$$



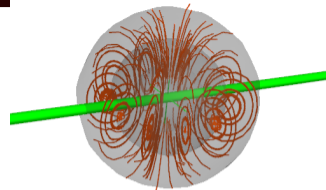
Guillochon & McCourt2017)

The role of magnetic fields:

- ▶ disc formation and angular momentum transfer
- ▶ jets
- ▶ emission mechanisms

The idea of the project:

- ▶ MHD grid-based simulation of a magnetized star,
- ▶ from the initial frozen-in field towards the fields inside the accretion disc



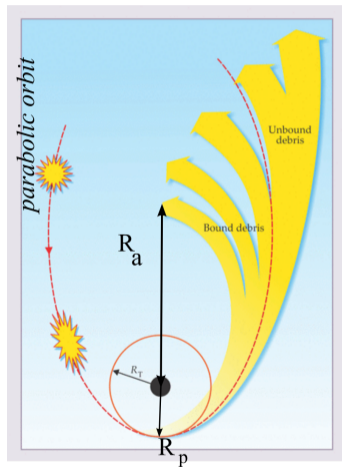
-12.1 -11.1 -10.1 -9.11 -8.11 -7.11 -6.11 -5.11

520.93d



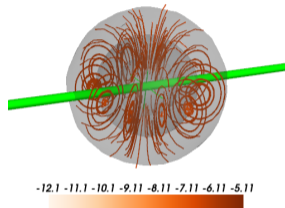
Scales and requirements

- ▶ $M_{\text{BH}} \sim 10^3..10^6 M_{\odot}$
- ▶ $M_* \sim M_{\odot}$
- ▶ $R_* \sim R_{\odot}$
- ▶ tidal disruption radius $R_t \sim (M_{\text{BH}}/M_*)^{1/3} R_* \sim 100 R_{\odot}$
- ▶ pericenter radius R_p and penetration parameter $\beta = R_t/R_p \gtrsim 1$
- ▶ $R_a \sim R_p^2/R_* \sim (M_{\text{BH}}/M_*)^{2/3} R_*/\beta^2 \sim 10^4 R_{\odot}$
- ▶ internal temperature of the star $kT_* \sim GM_*/R_*$
- ▶ Mach number of the orbital motion
 $\mathcal{M} \sim \sqrt{\beta} (M_{\text{BH}}/M_*)^{1/3} \gtrsim 100$
- ▶ density contrast $\rho_*/\rho_{\text{ISM}} \gtrsim 10^{-10}$ (maybe a lot more)
- ▶ magnetic $\beta \sim 10^{10}$ (?)



Simulation setup

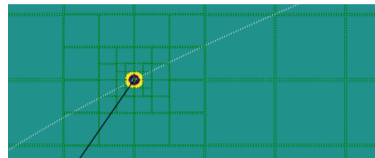
- ▶ Athena++ non-relativistic ideal MHD, EOS $\gamma = 5/3$
<https://github.com/pabolmasov/athena-remap.git>
- ▶ AMR 4 levels (16 times different resolution)
- ▶ star-centred frame, then BH frame
- ▶ initial star $R_* = 10 R_\odot$ hydrostatic $n = 5$ polytrope, $M = 3 M_\odot$
- ▶ BH mass $M = 3 \times 10^3 M_\odot$ ($\Rightarrow R_G \simeq 0.01 R_\odot$)
- ▶ “dipolar” field, $R_1 = 2 R_\odot$, $R_2 = 8 R_\odot$, minimal plasma $\beta_m = 10^3$



ID	t range, d	frame	limits, R_\odot	resolution R_\odot	self-gravity	mass boost	comment
S400	-1.8..1.0	star	400 × 400 × 400	0.2..2	✓	1	disruption stage
S1000	0.5..12	star	2000 × 2000 × 2000	1..8	✓	1	debris expansion
BH1	10..30	BH	-1000..5000 × - 3000..1000 × - 125..125	4..16	-	10^3	fallback formation
BH2	30..550	BH	-1000..5000 × - 3000..1000 × - 600..600	2.3..18	-	10^3	fallback ($t \sim 40 - 250$ d) abalone ($t \sim 60 - 300$ d) circularization ($t \sim 300$ d)
BHz	480..550	BH	-	1.2..18	-	10^3	disc zoom-in

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$$A_\varphi = \frac{\sin \theta}{2\pi R} (R_2 - R) (R - R_1),$$

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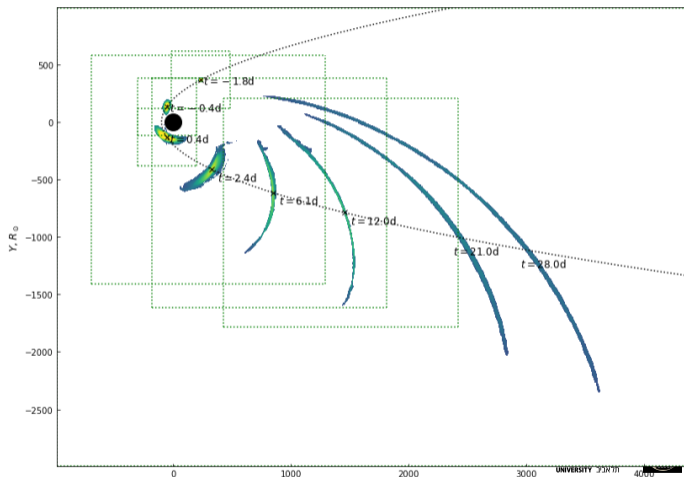
Black hole gravity (pseudo-Newtonian outside $r_0 = 10 R_\odot$)

$$g(R) = \begin{cases} \frac{GM_{\text{BH}}}{r^2} \left(\frac{1 - \frac{2GM}{r_0 c^2}}{1 - \frac{2GM}{rc^2}} \right)^2 & r > r_0 \\ \frac{GM_{\text{BH}}}{r_0^2} \frac{r}{r_0} & r < r_0, \end{cases}$$

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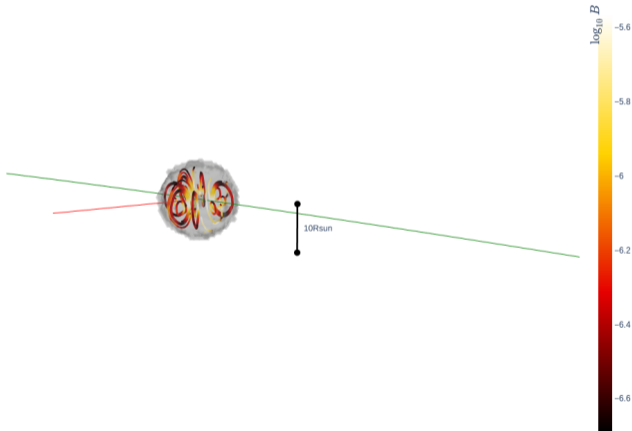
Remapping sequence

1. First simulation $400^3 R_{\odot}$, star-centred: disruption up to considerable deformation
2. Remapping to $2000^3 R_{\odot}$: up to minimal apocentre distance
3. Switching to the BH frame, self-gravity turned off: up to disc formation



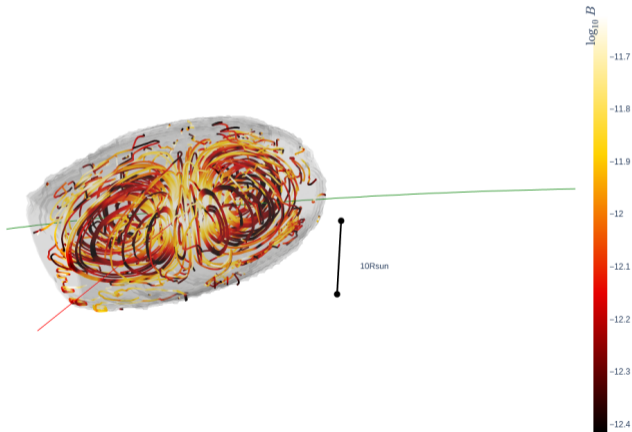
Early magnetic field evolution

0.0d



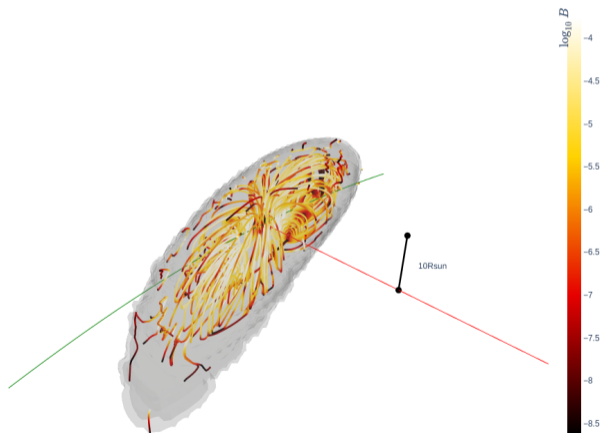
Early magnetic field evolution

1.48d



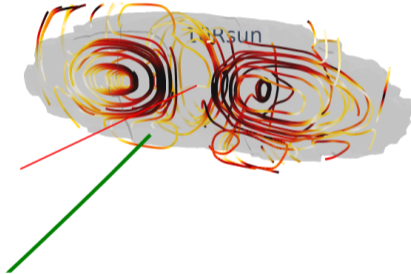
Early magnetic field evolution

1.84d

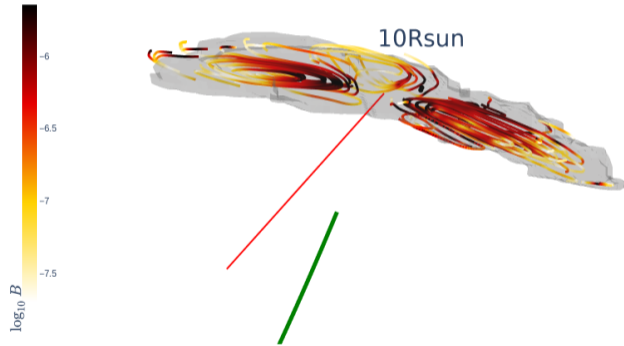


Early magnetic field evolution

$t = 4.06$



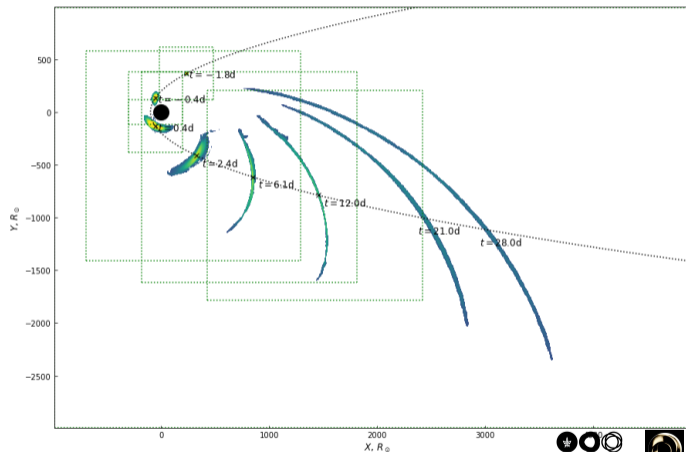
$t = 4.06$



'pancakes' (cf Coughlin et al.2016)

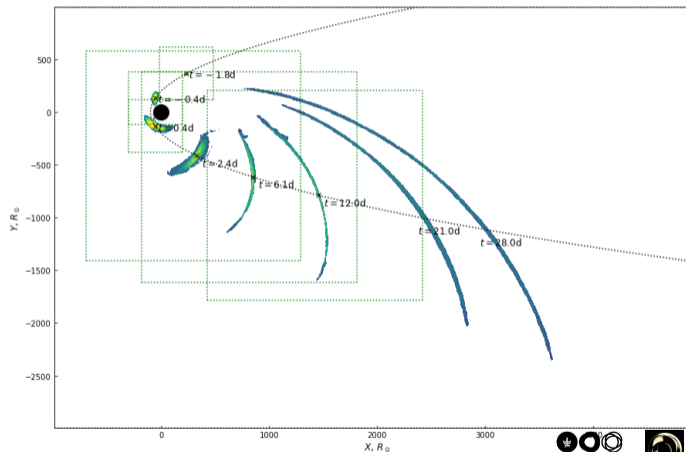
Disruption timeline

- ▶ $t \approx -1.8\text{d}$ start
- ▶ $t = 0$ pericentre
- ▶ $t \sim 30\text{d}$ fallback stream formation
- ▶ $t \sim 40 - 200\text{d}$ nozzle shock
- ▶ $t \sim 50 - 250\text{d}$ abalone
- ▶ $t \gtrsim 300\text{d}$ thick disc stage



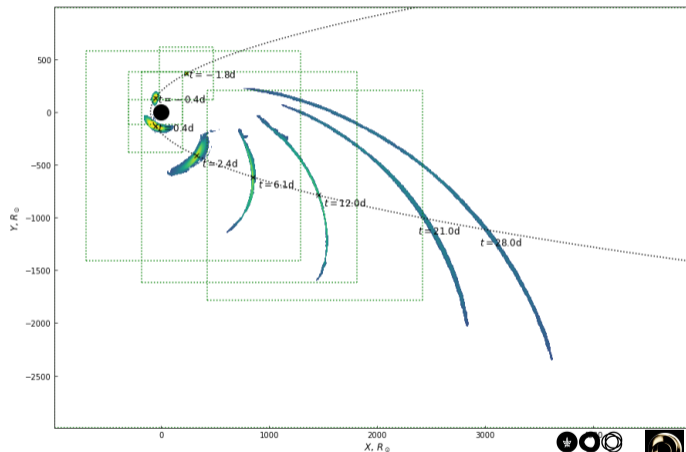
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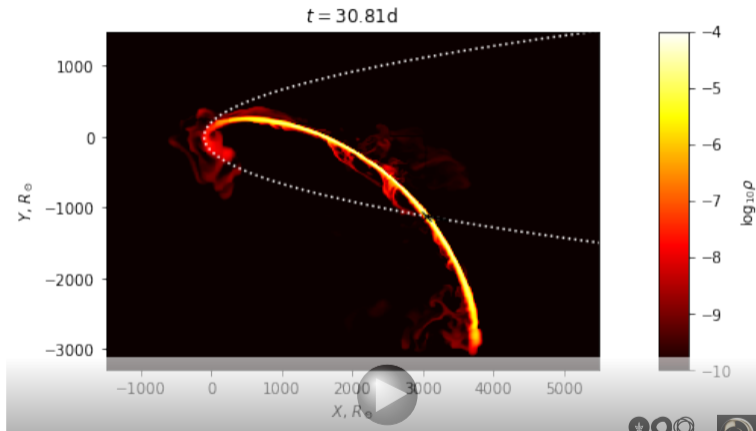
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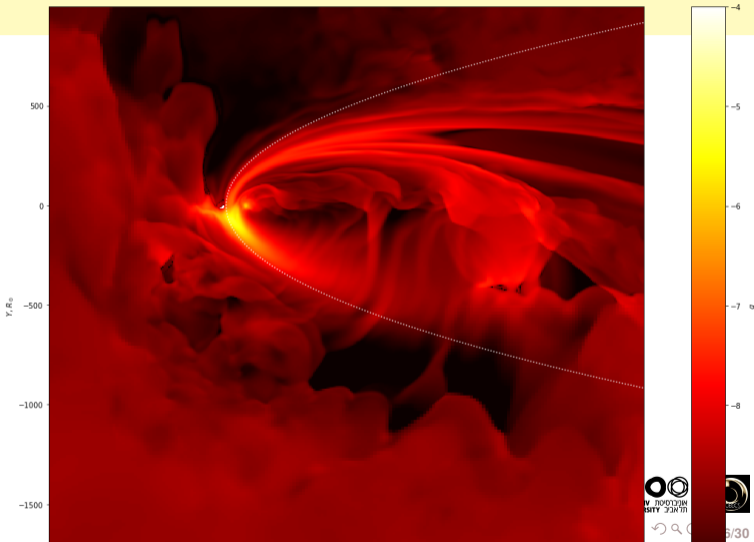
Abalone (kind of a seashell):



Disruption timeline

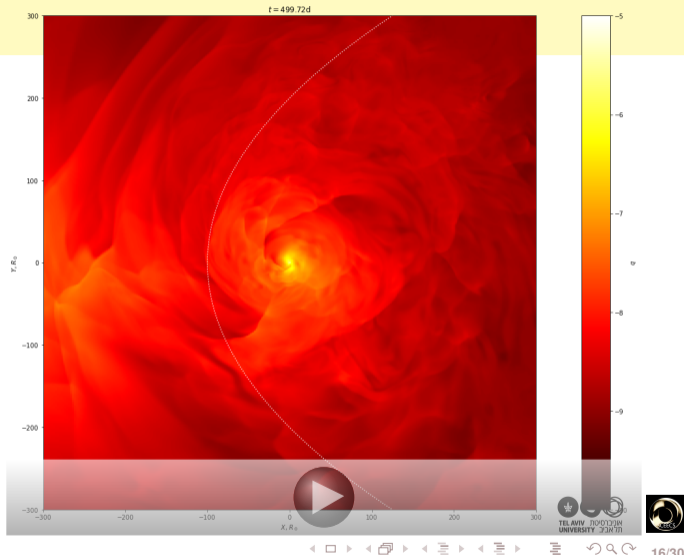
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pressure logarithm map:

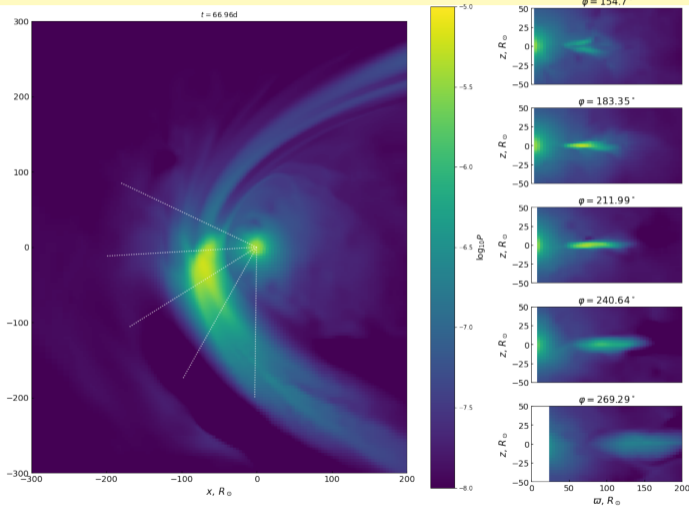


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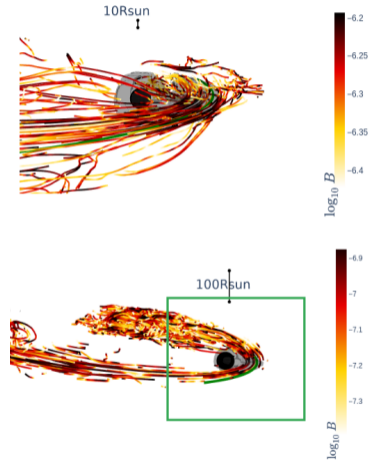
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Nozzle shock

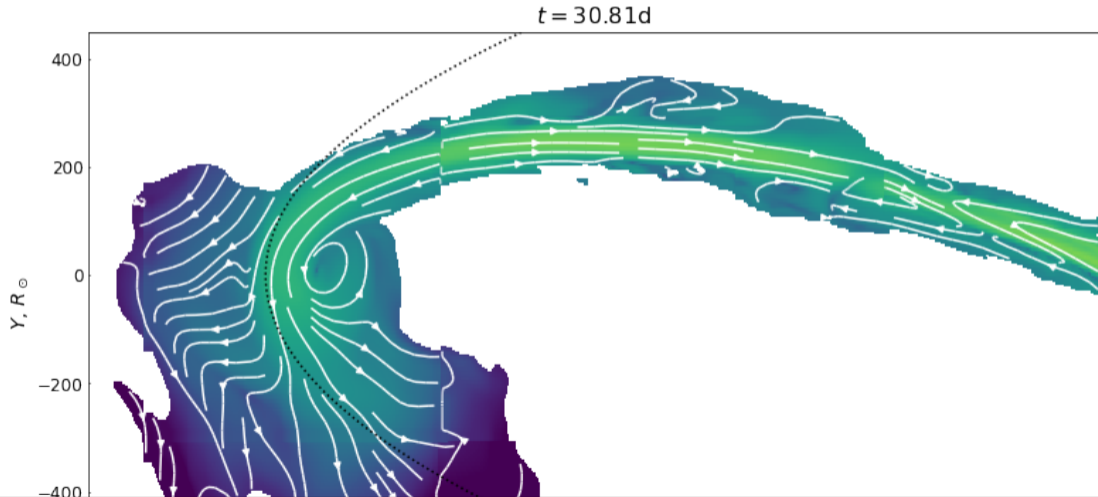


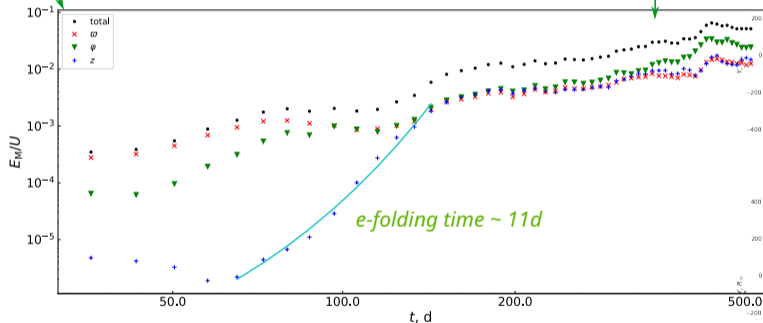
65.12 d



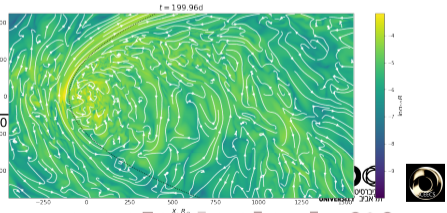
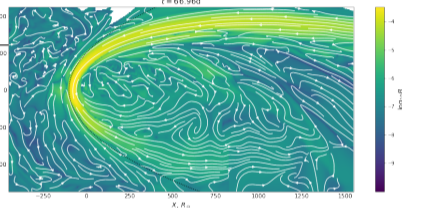
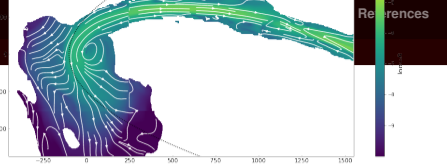
17/30

Magnetic fields in the equatorial plane



*fallback**fallback quenching*

Total magnetic energy normalized by internal energy



Vertical magnetic flux

One-sided flux:

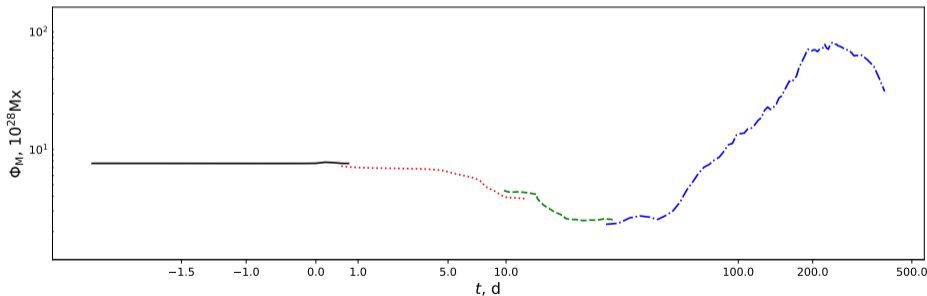
$$\Phi_M = \int_{z=0} \max(B_z, 0) dx dy.$$

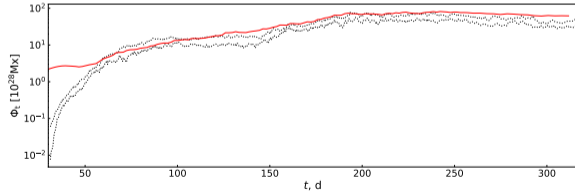
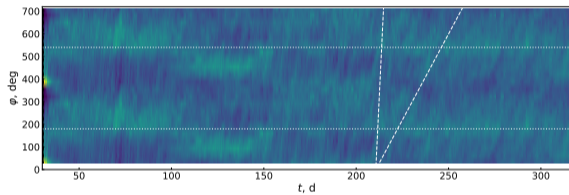
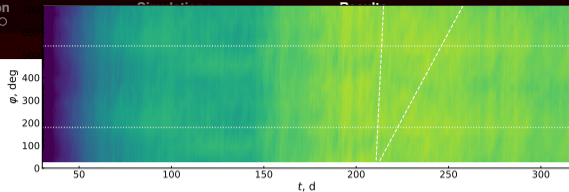
Magnetic flux required for a qualitatively different accretion regime (magnetically arrested disc)

$$B^2/8\pi \sim P_{\text{disc}} \sim \dot{M}\Omega/4\pi H$$

Initial magnetic flux of a magnetized star $\sim 10^{22} \text{ Mx}$

$$\Phi_{M, \text{Edd}} \simeq 2\pi R_{\text{in}}^2 \sqrt{8\pi P} \simeq 2(2\pi)^{3/2} R_{\text{in}} \sqrt{\frac{GM_{\text{BH}}}{\kappa}} \sim 10^{23} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^3 M_{\odot}} \right)^{3/2} \text{ Mx}.$$

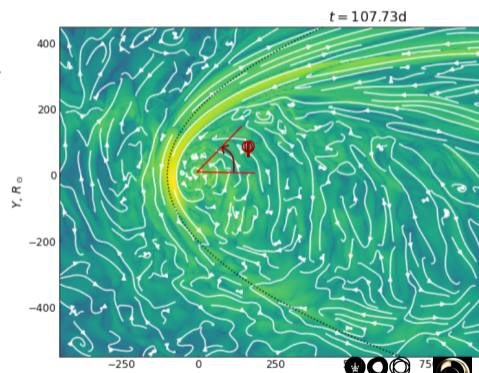




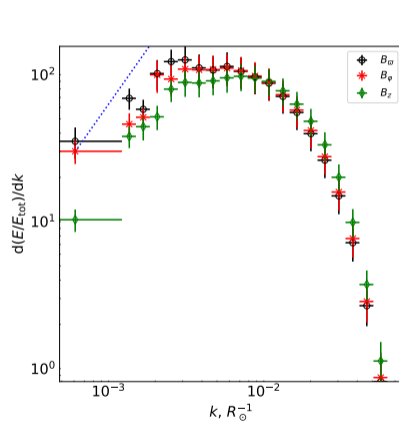
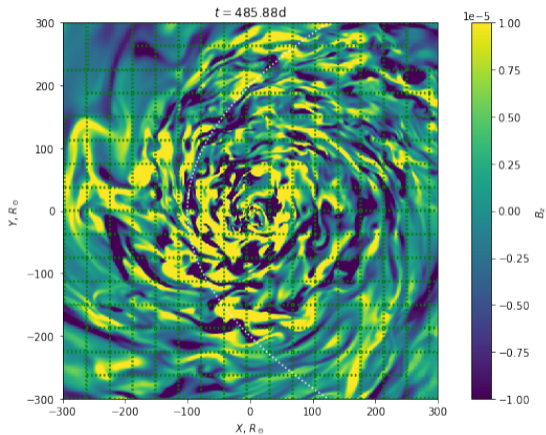
Φ_z shown in red, min and max Φ_t in black

Toroidal magnetic flux:

$$\Phi_t = \int_{\varphi=\text{const}, \varpi < \varpi_{\text{max}}} \max(B_\varphi, 0) \, dz d\varpi.$$



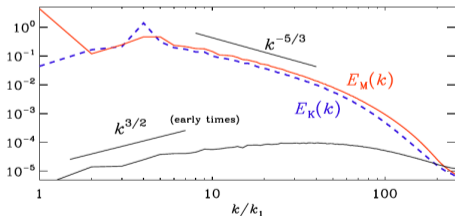
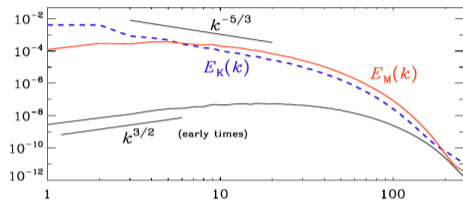
Quasi-steady-state field in the disc



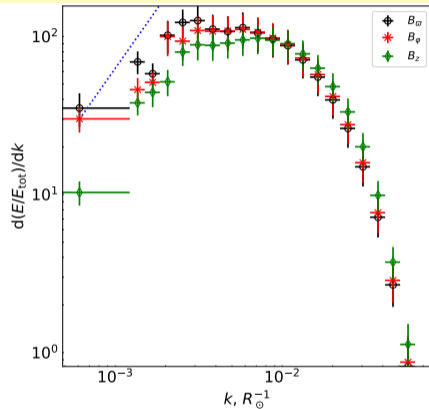
PDSs for B and v components in our simulations:

Turbulent dynamo?

PDSs for MHD turbulence



Brandenburg et al.2012)

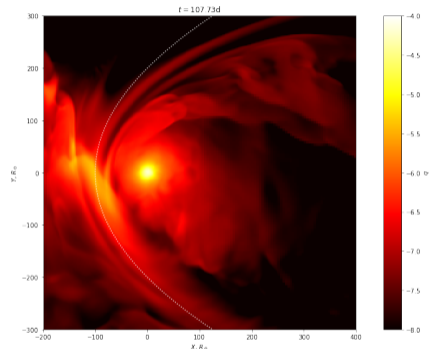
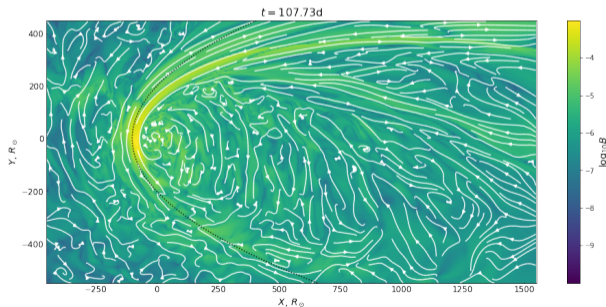


$PDS \propto k^{3/2}$ – Kazantsev's scaling
(Kazantsev1968)



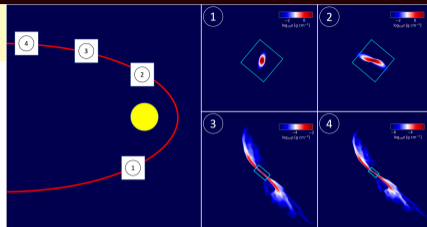
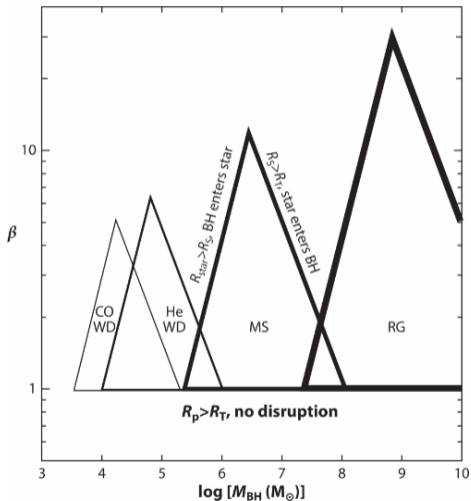
Summary

1. Slow circularization by turbulent motions
2. Vertical magnetic field generation and overall amplification associated with the nozzle shock
3. Fields amplified up to equipartition ($\beta \sim 10 - 100$)
4. Chaotic fields in the disc with a typical scale $\lesssim 0.5R_p$

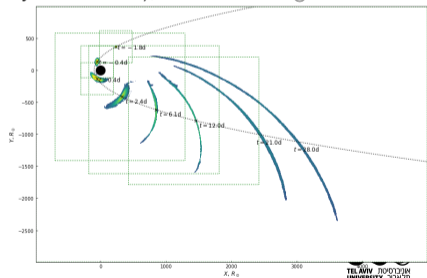


Thank you for attention!

Triangular plot

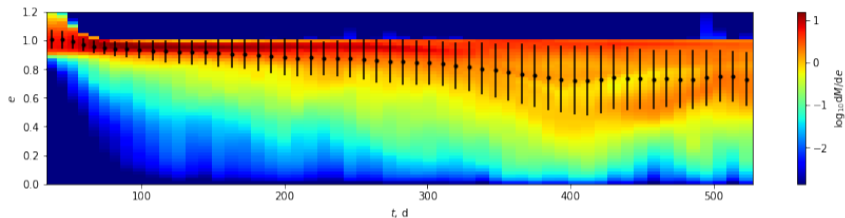


Ryu et al.2023), $M_{BH} = 10^5 M_\odot$



this work, $M_{BH} = 10^5 M_\odot$

Circularization



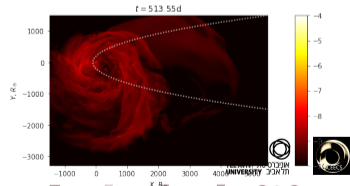
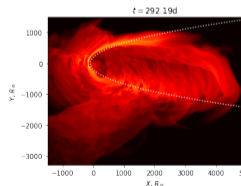
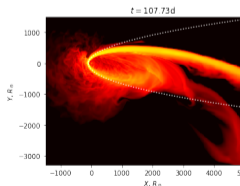
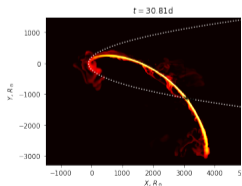
eccentricity distribution as a function of time

$$e = \sqrt{1 + \frac{2\varepsilon l^2}{G^2 M_{\text{BH}}^2}},$$

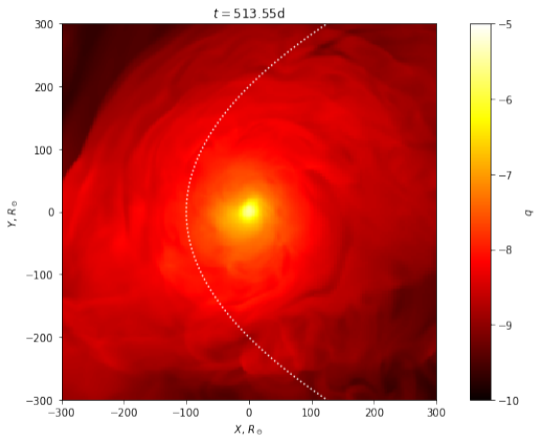
where

$$l = |\mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{v}|,$$

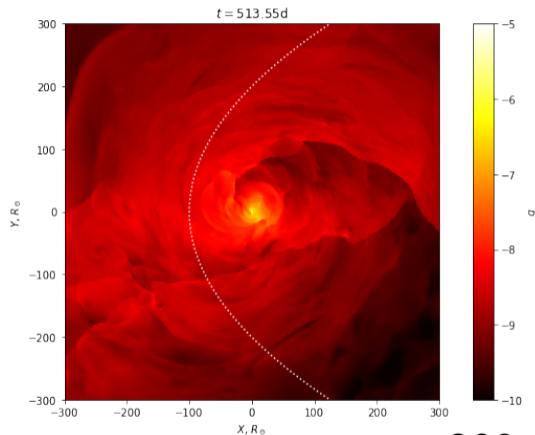
$$\varepsilon = v^2/2$$

(see for example
Andalman et al.2022)

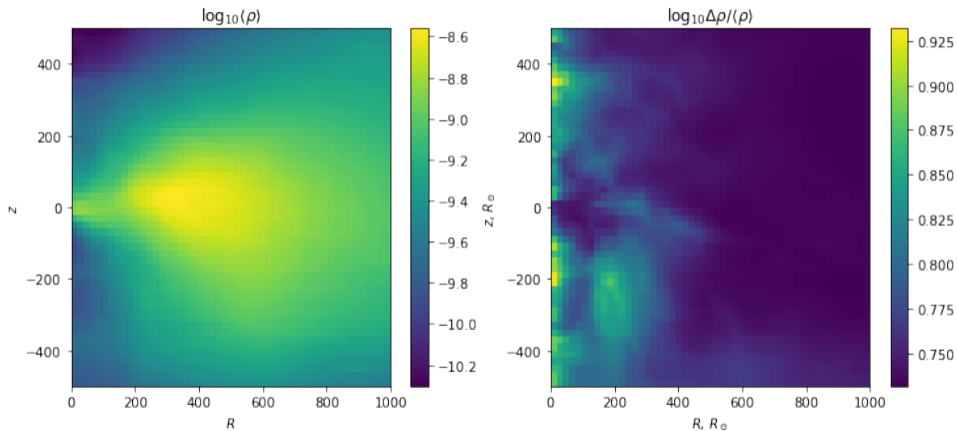
Resolution effects



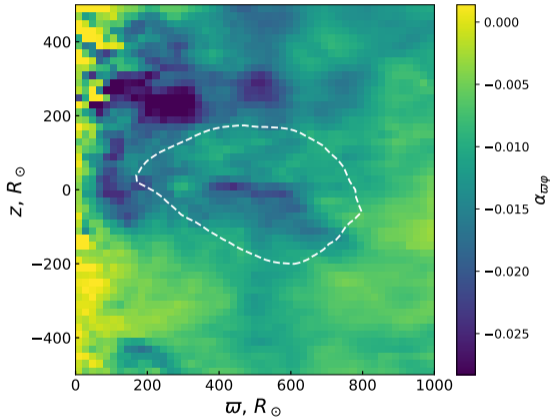
low-res ($2 R_\odot$) + $10 R_\odot$ smoothing radius for the BH potential



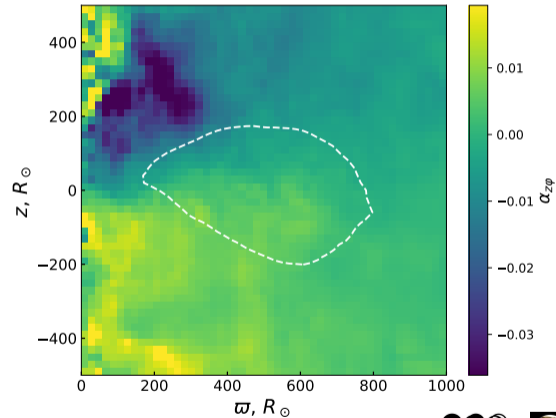
high-res ($1 R_\odot$) + $1 R_\odot$ smoothing radius for the BH potential

Thick disc ($t = 500 - 550d$)density (averaged over 30 frames and azimuth, $\text{BH}z$)

Thick disc ($t = 500 - 550d$): magnetic field tensions



effective magnetic viscosity parameter $\alpha \sim 0.02$
(Shakura & Sunyaev 1973)



angular momentum transported away from the disc

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