

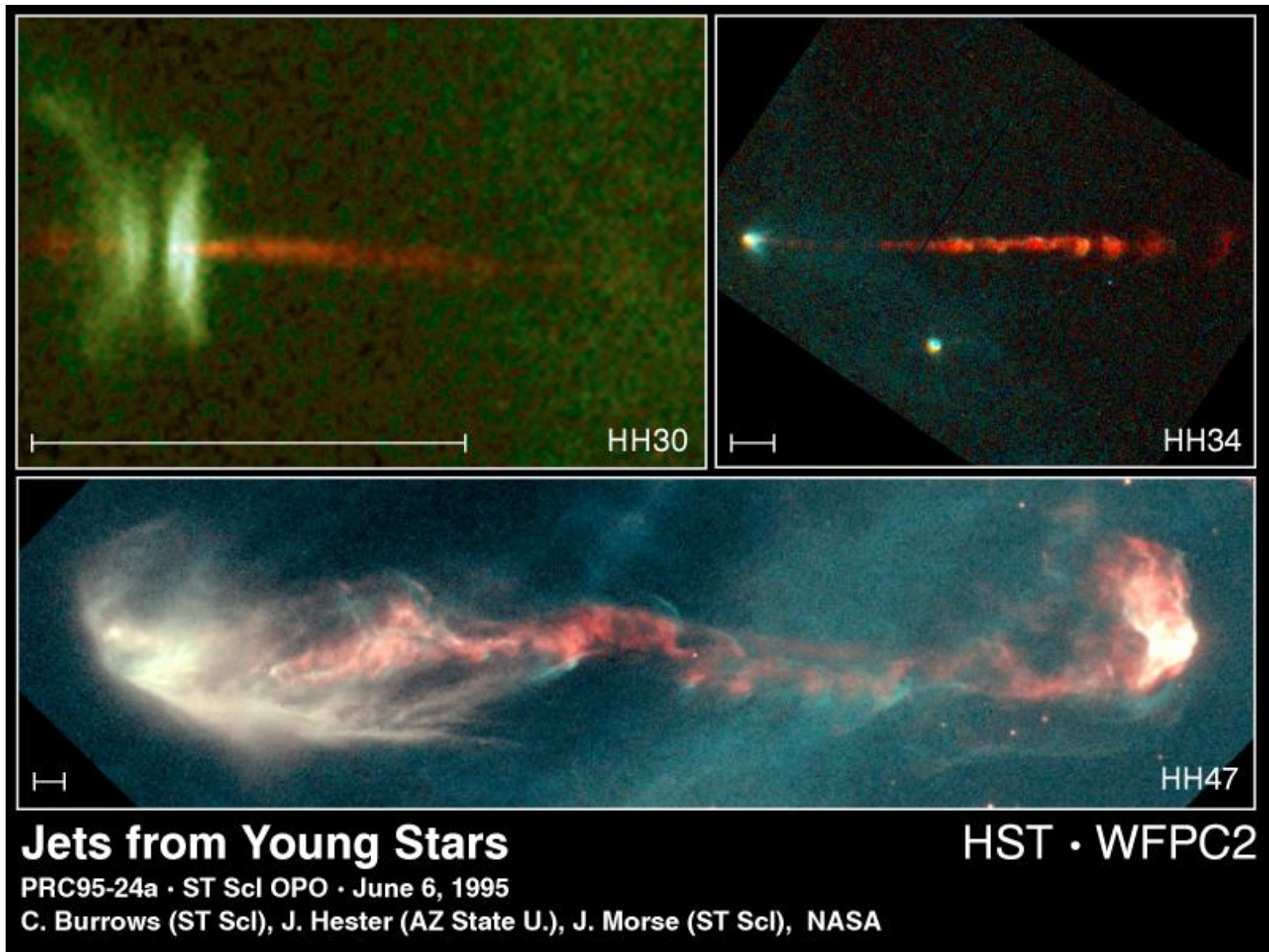
Magnetized Relativistic Astrophysical Plasma Jets: Dynamics and Stability

Nektarios Vlahakis
University of Athens

Outline

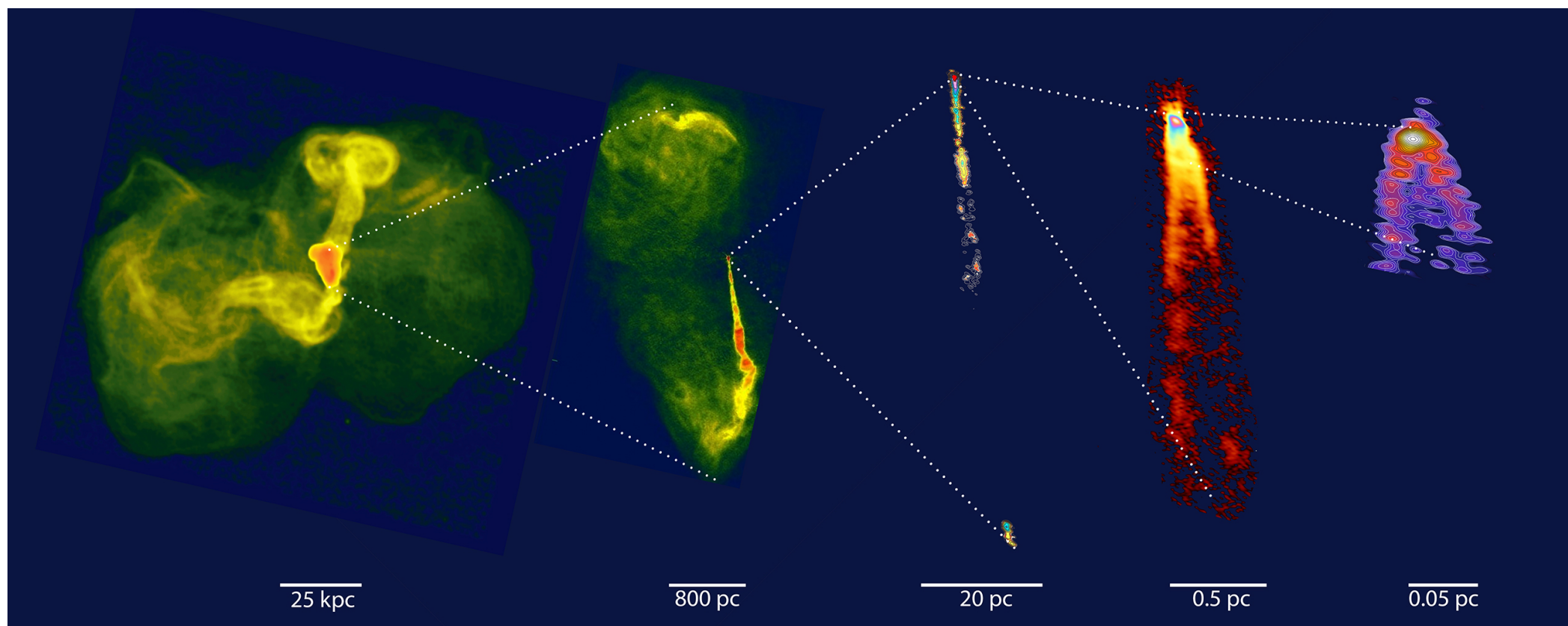
- introduction (observed jet characteristics)
- magnetohydrodynamics (collimation-acceleration)
- linear jet stability (resulting growth rates)

Examples of astrophysical jets



(scale = 1000 AU, $V_{\infty} = \text{a few } 100 \text{ km/s}$)

The jet from the M87 galaxy



(from Blandford+2018)

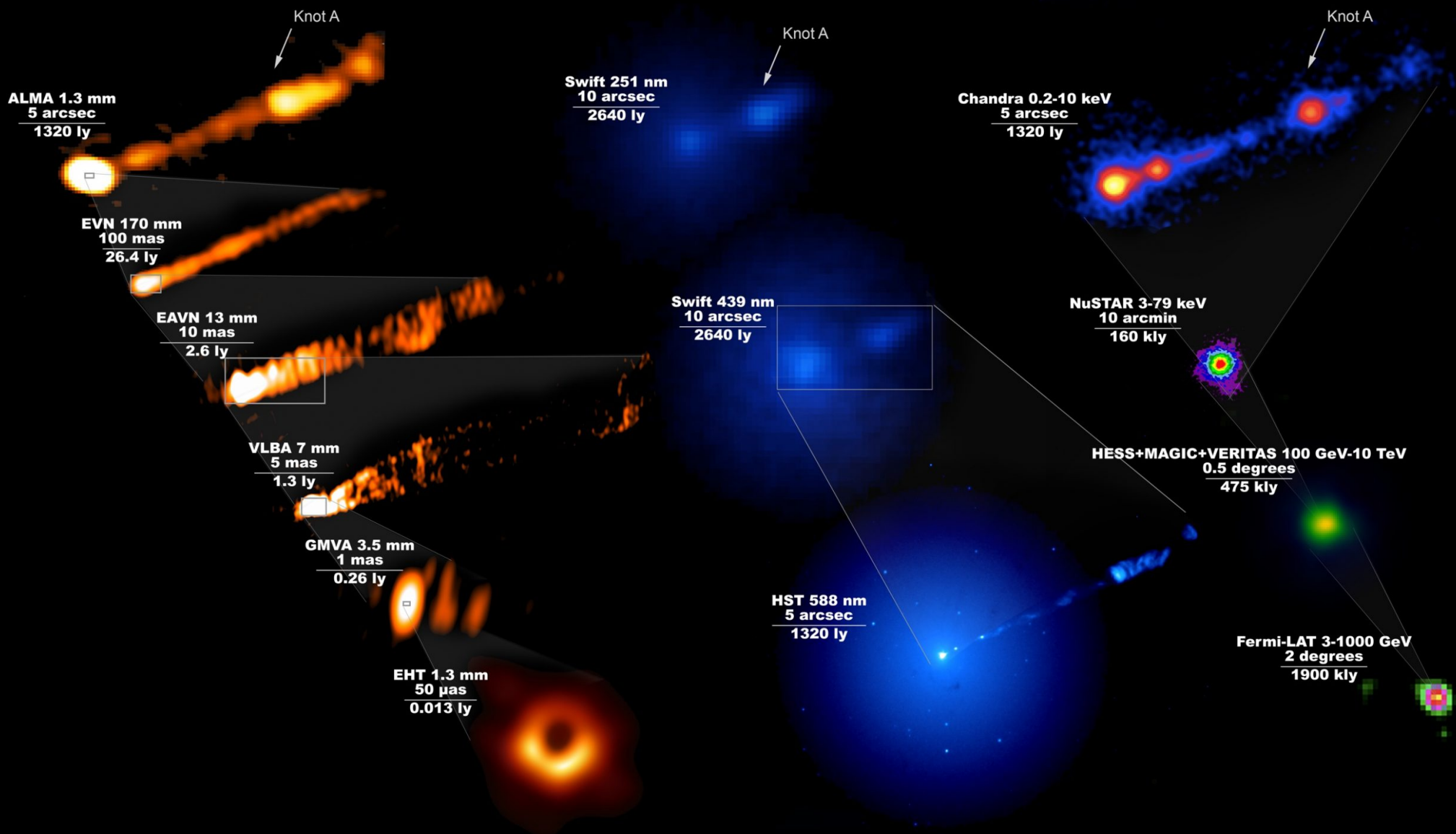
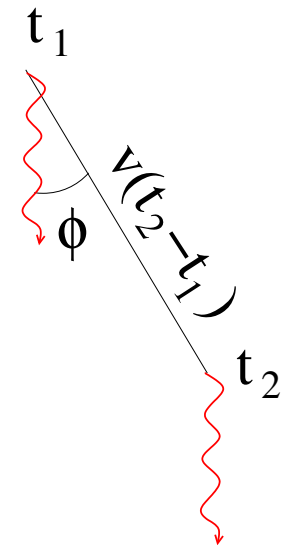
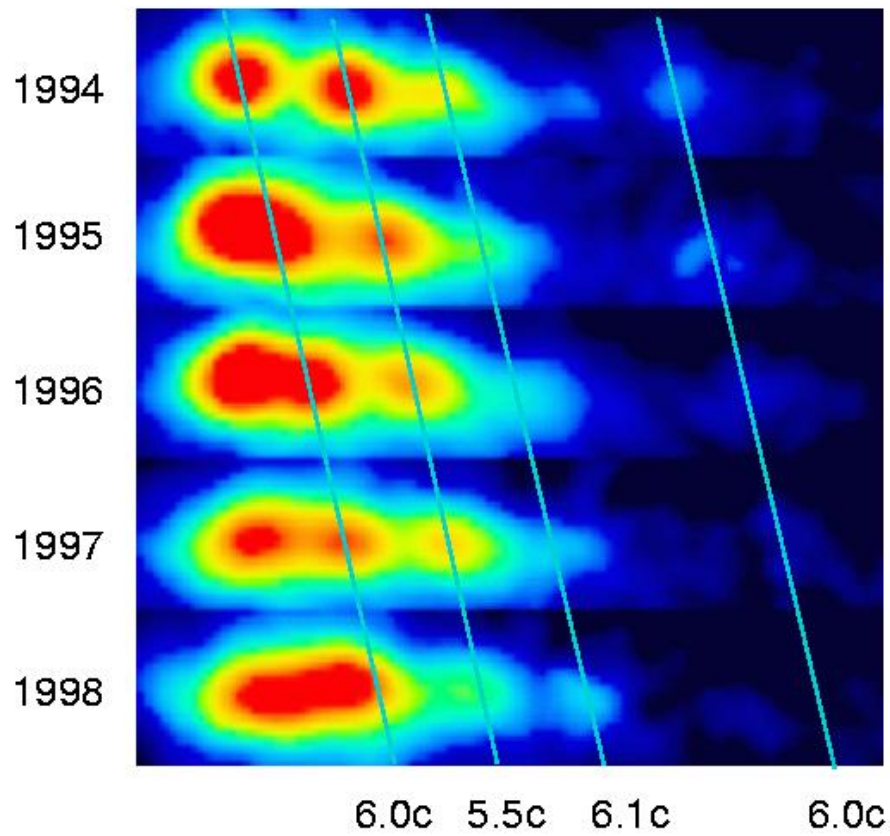
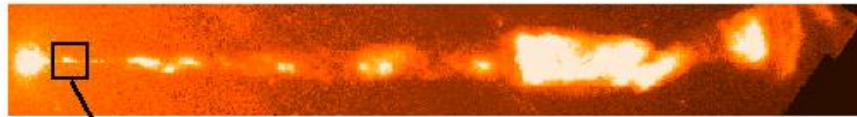


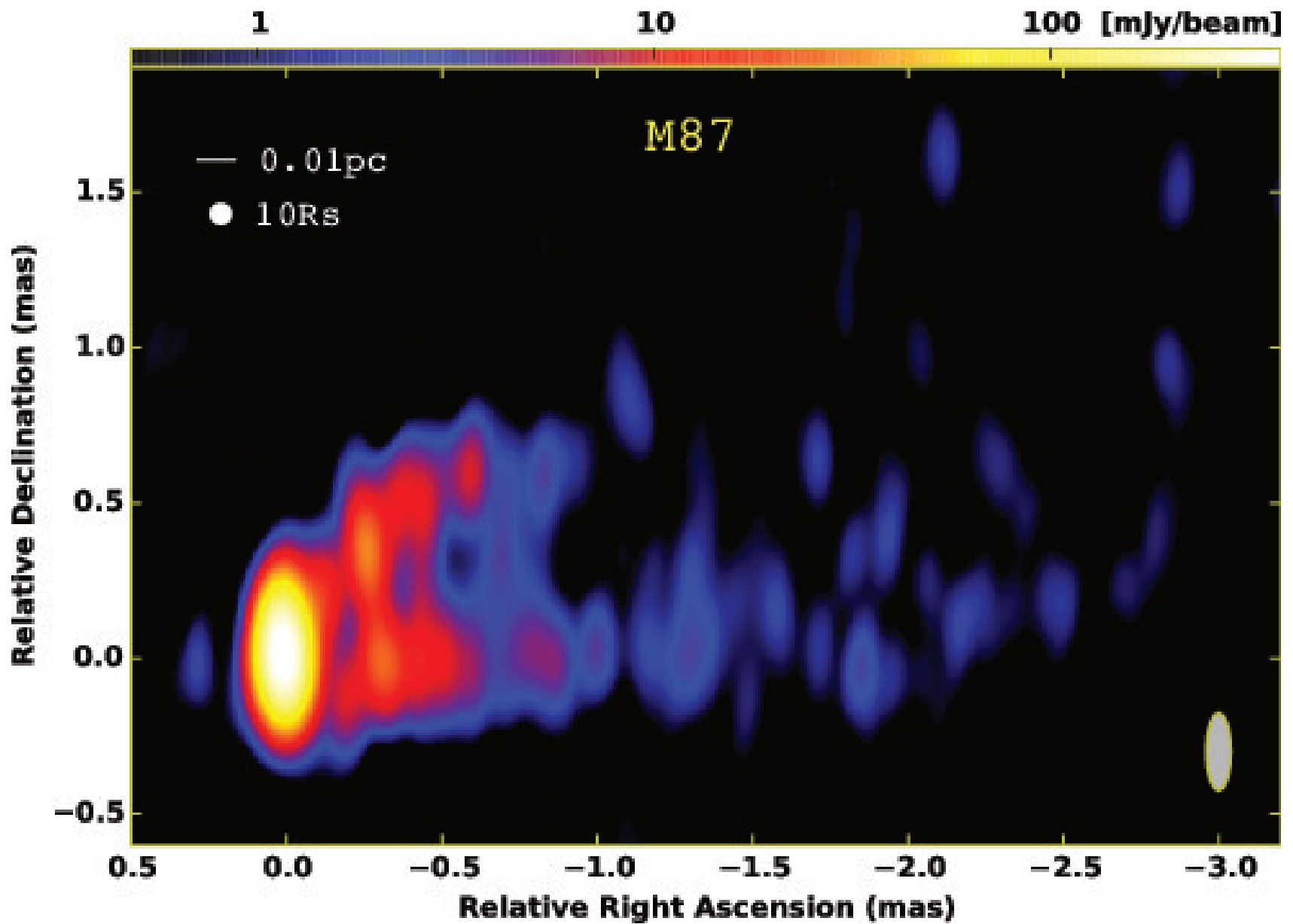
Image Credit: The EHT Multi-wavelength Science Working Group; the EHT Collaboration; ALMA (ESO/NAOJ/NRAO); the EVN; the EAVN Collaboration; VLBA (NRAO); the GMVA; the Hubble Space Telescope; the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory; the Chandra X-ray Observatory; the Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array; the Fermi-LAT Collaboration; the H.E.S.S. collaboration; the MAGIC collaboration; the VERITAS collaboration; NASA and ESA. Composition by J. C. Algaba

Jet speed

Superluminal Motion in the M87 Jet



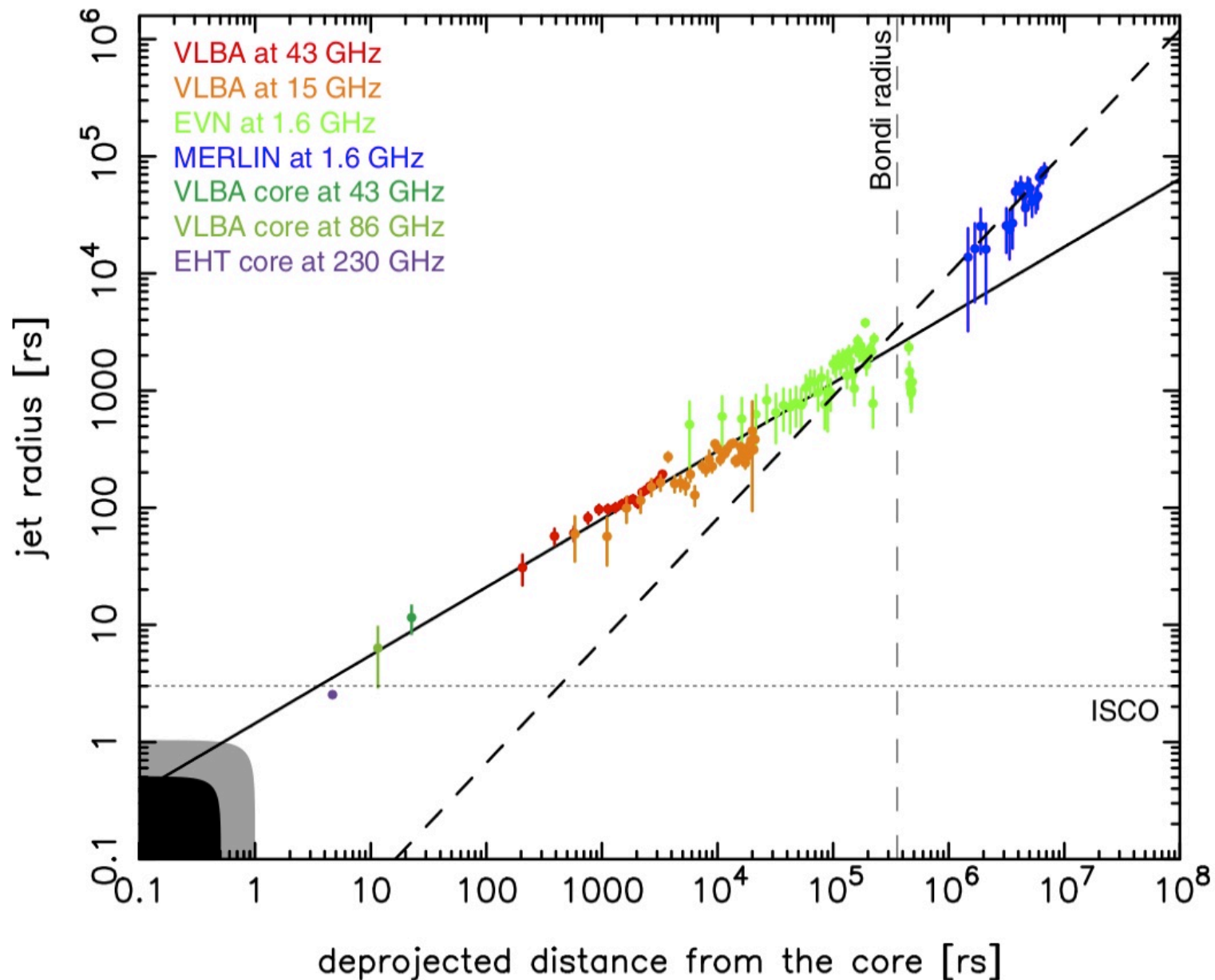
$$\gamma_{\infty} \sim 10$$



(Hada et al 2016)

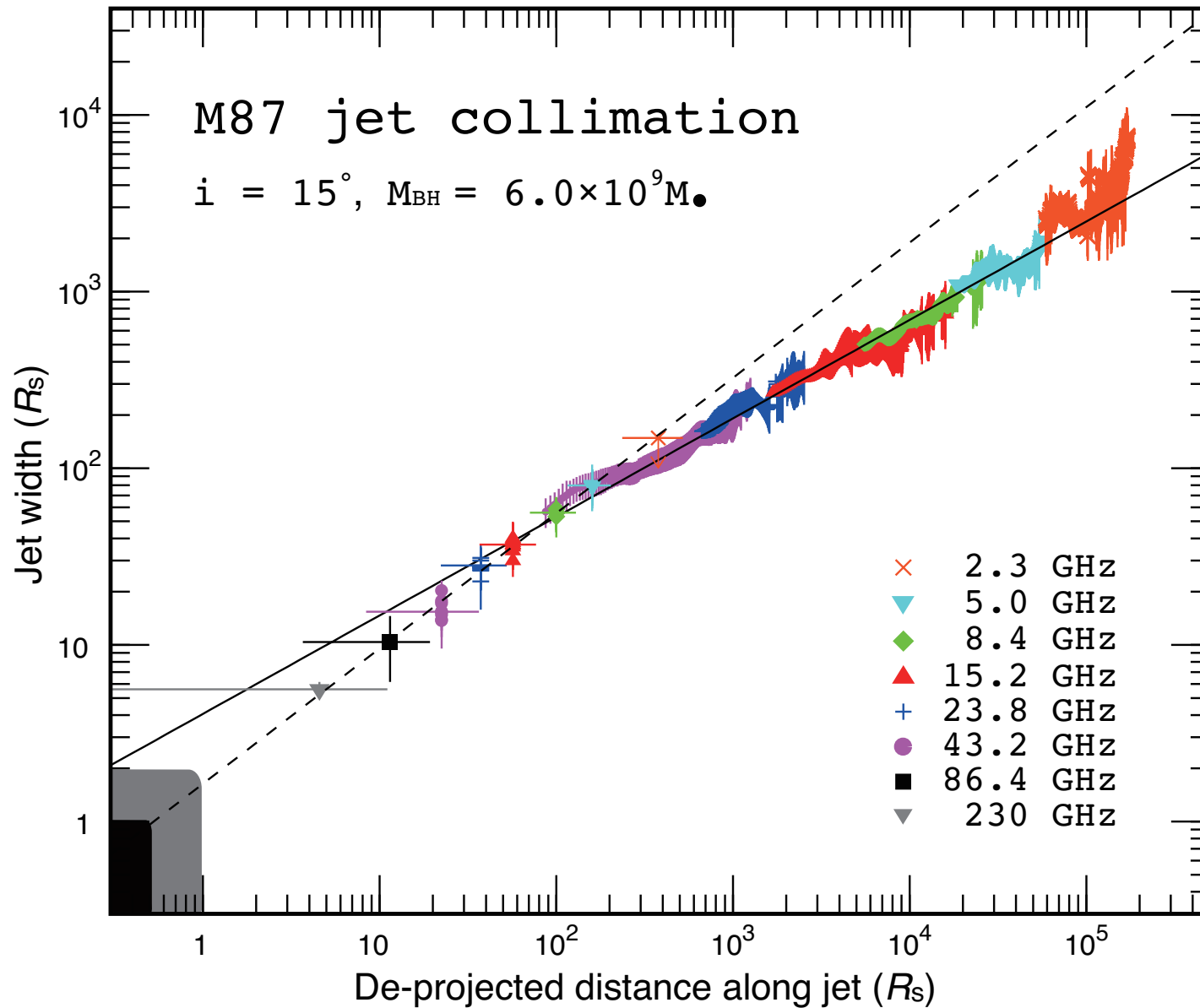
collimation at ~ 100 Schwarzschild radii

The jet shape (Nakamura & Asada 2013)



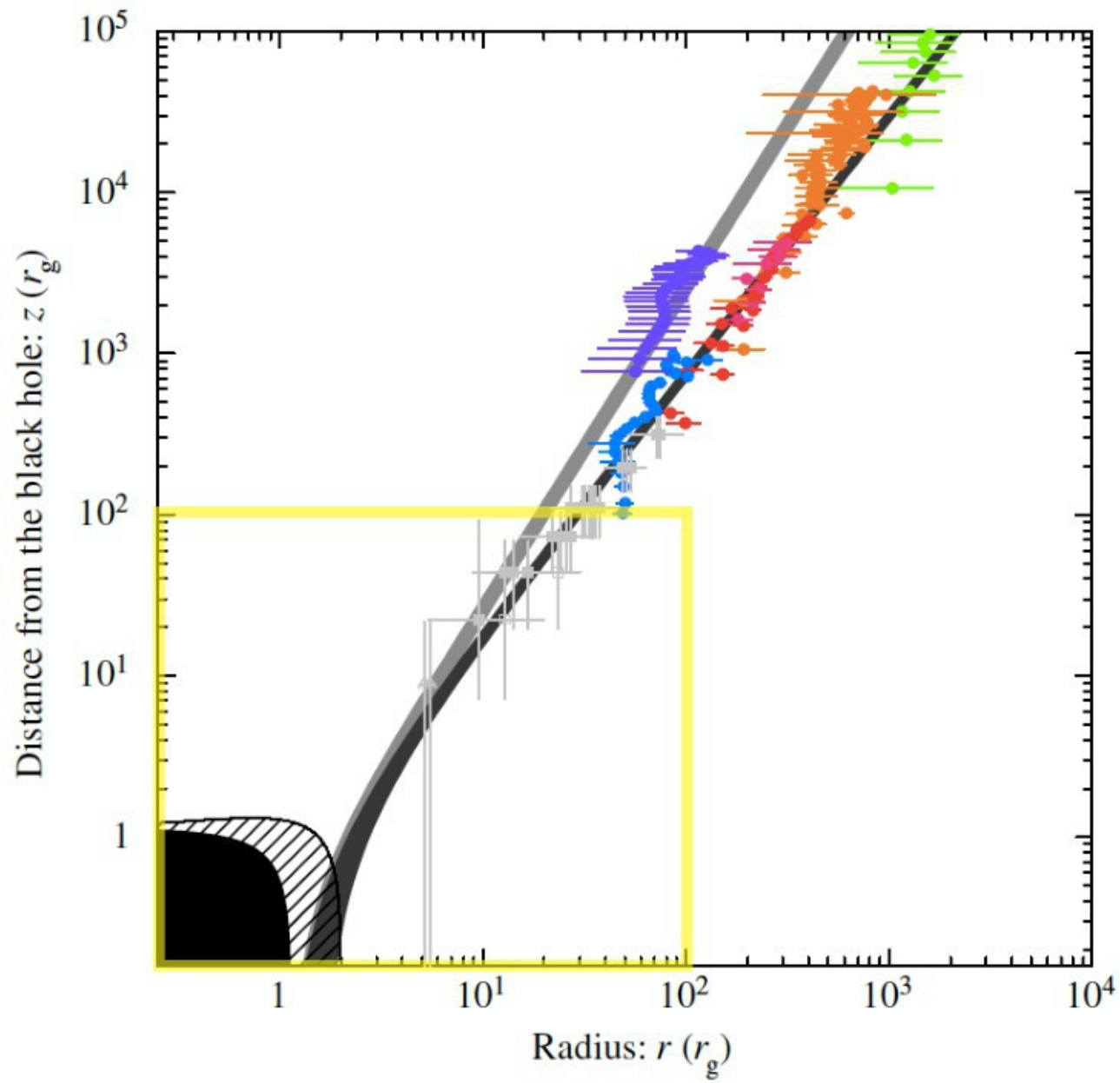
Parabolic up to the Bondi radius, then radial

(Hada+2013)

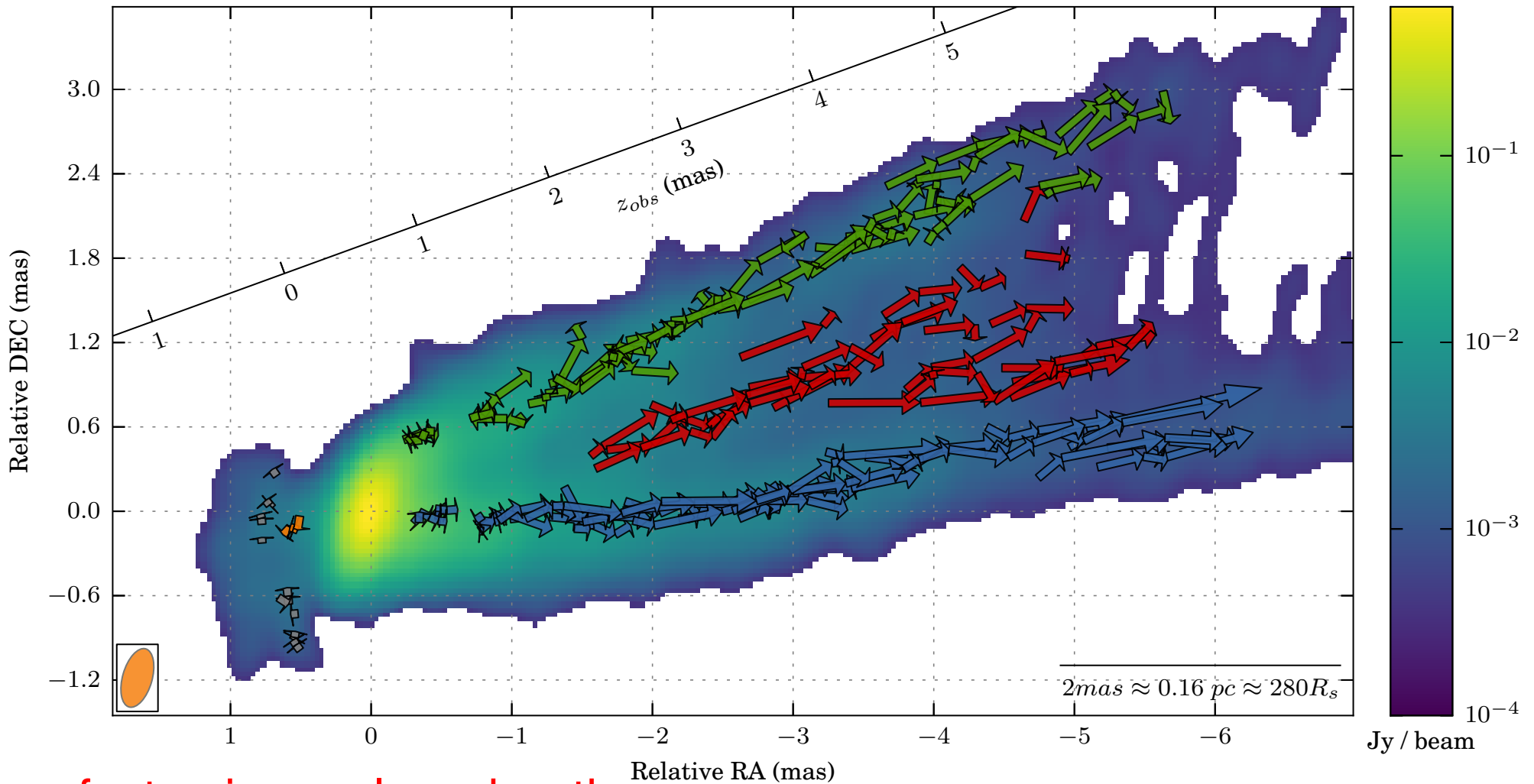


jet from the disk or the black hole?

(Asada+2017)

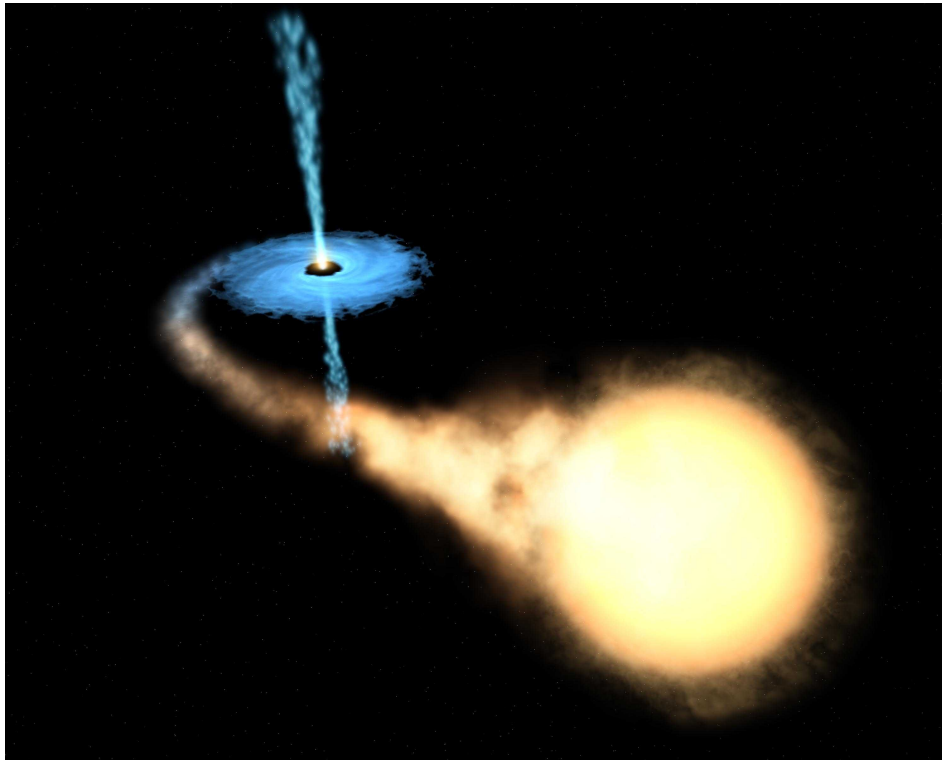


Transverse profile (Mertens+2016)



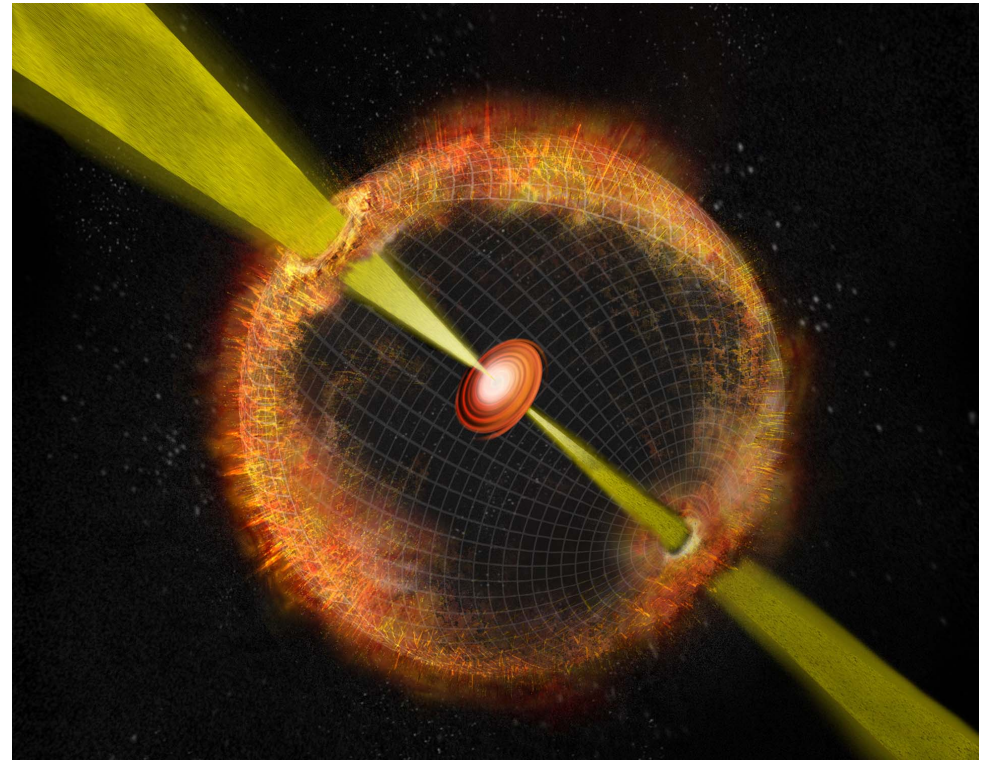
- **fast spine – slow sheath**
- they manage to observe sheath rotation:
the value favors disk-driven (and not BH-driven) jet
- the spine?

X-ray binaries



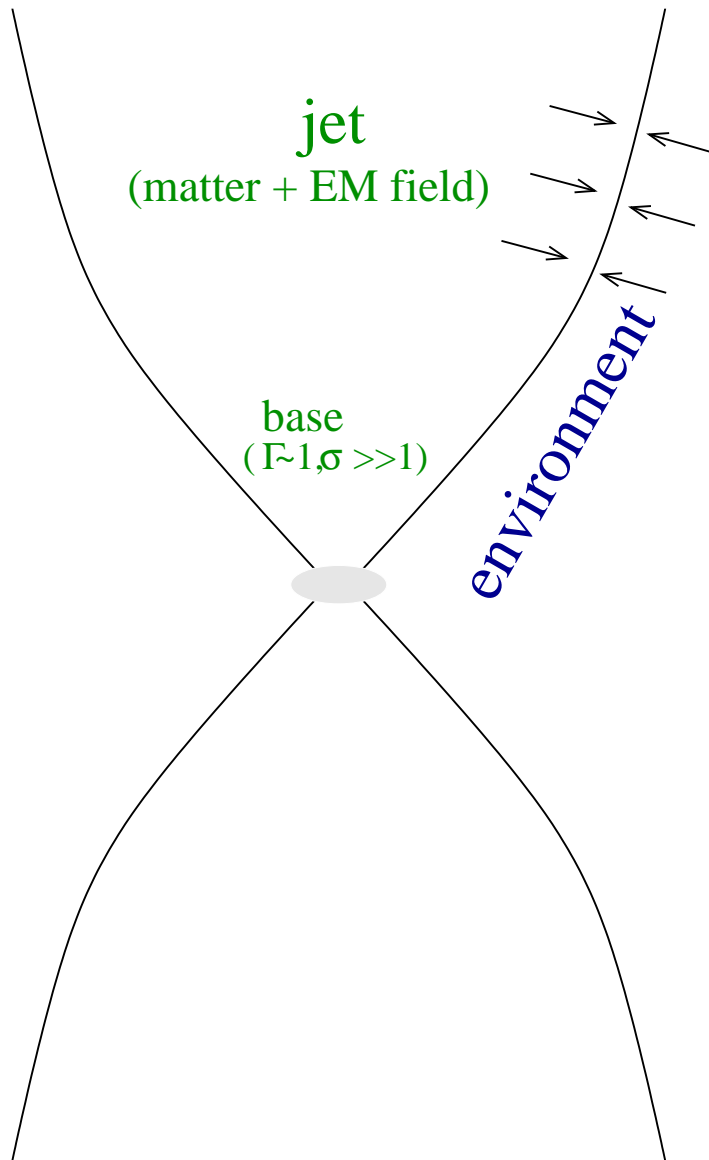
mildly relativistic

γ -ray bursts



$\gamma =$ a few 100

Basic questions



- source of matter/energy?
- bulk acceleration?
- collimation?
- interaction with environment?

Theoretical modeling

☞ if energy source = thermal energy:

thermal acceleration is an efficient mechanism

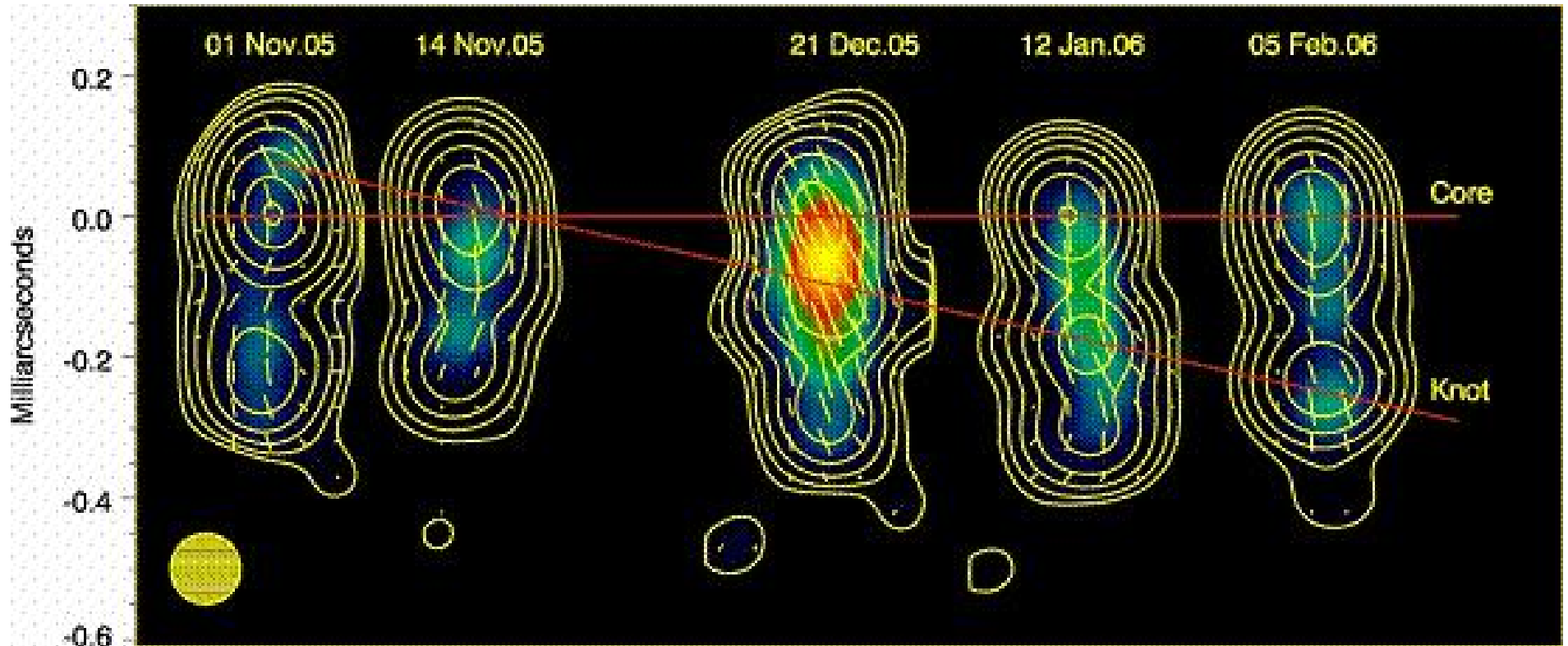
gives terminal speed $\frac{m_p V_\infty^2}{2} \sim k_B T_i$ for YSO jets

or terminal Lorentz factors $\gamma_\infty m_p c^2 \sim k_B T_i$ for relativistic jets

in both cases needs high initial temperatures T_i to explain the observed motions

☞ magnetic acceleration more likely

Polarization

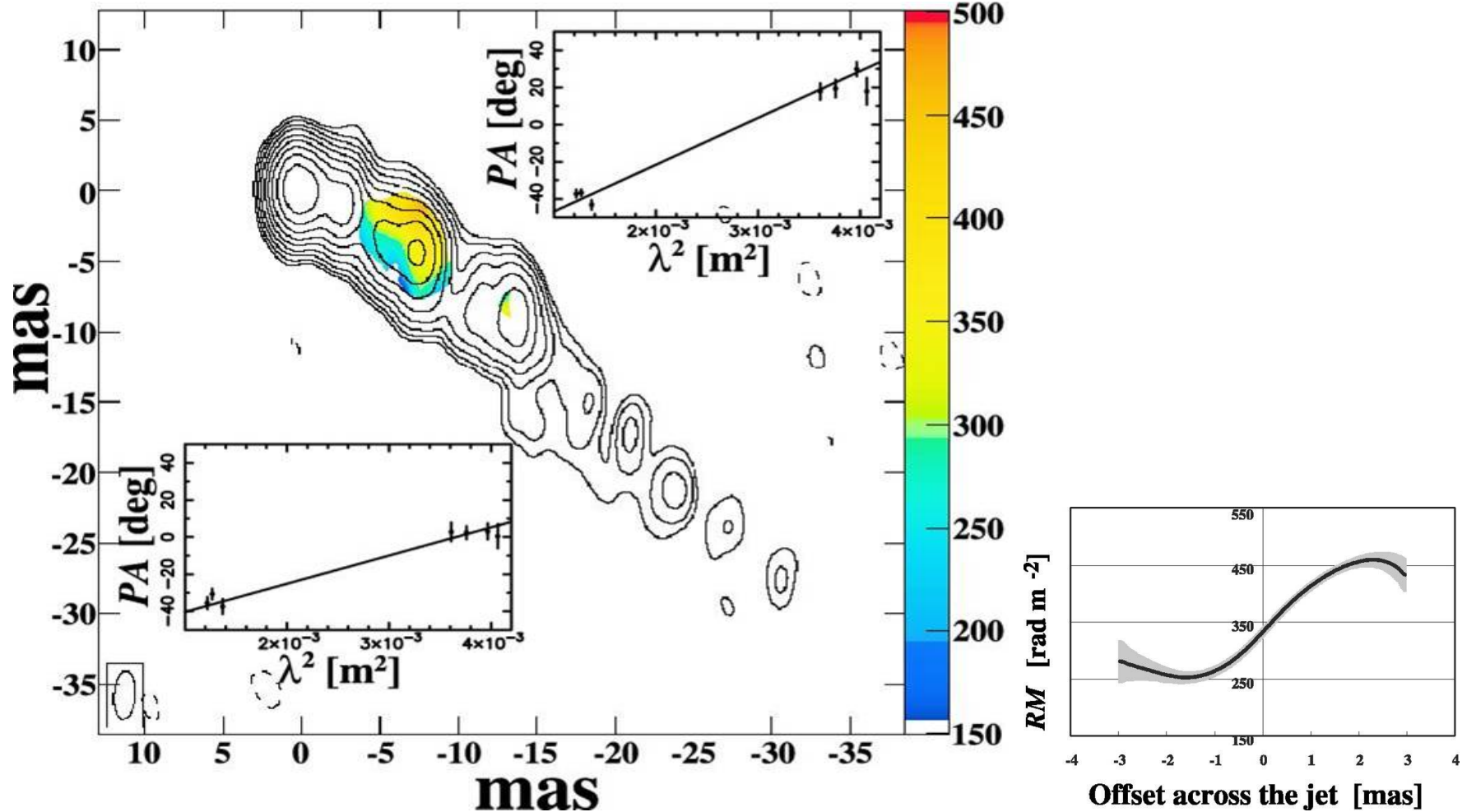


(Marscher et al 2008, Nature)

observed $E_{\text{rad}} \perp B_{\perp \text{los}}$

(modified by Faraday rotation and relativistic effects)

Faraday RM gradients across the jet



(Asada et al)

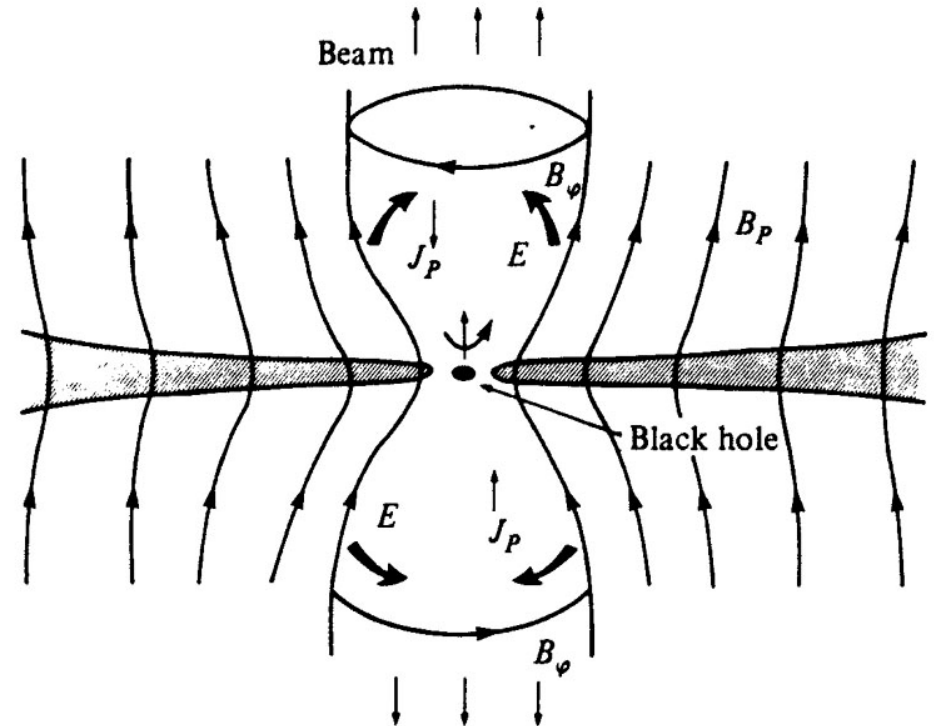
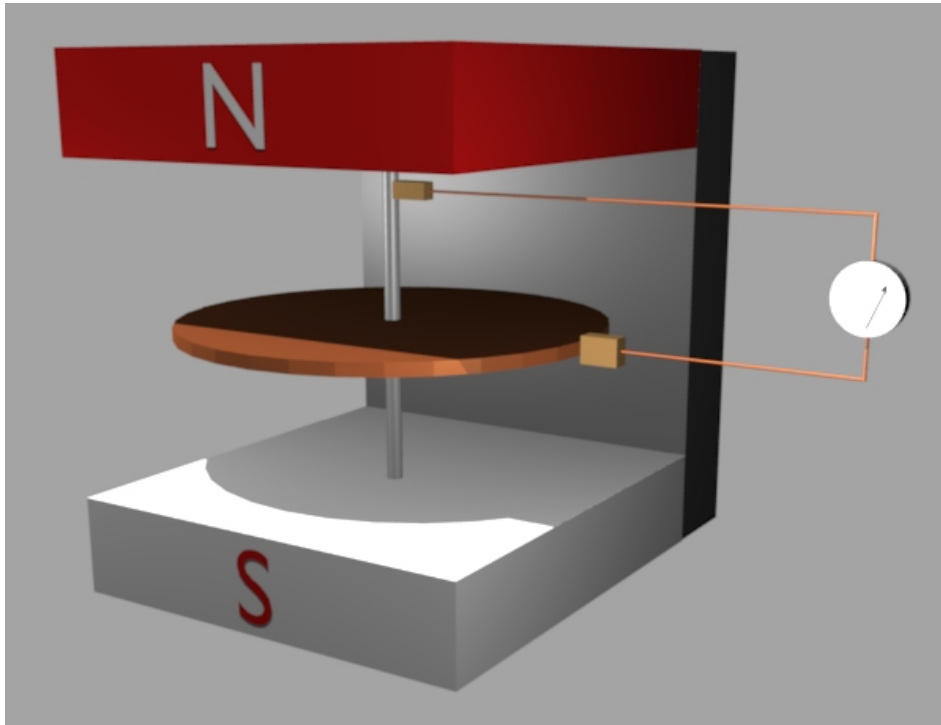
helical field surrounding the emitting region (Gabuzda)

Role of magnetic field

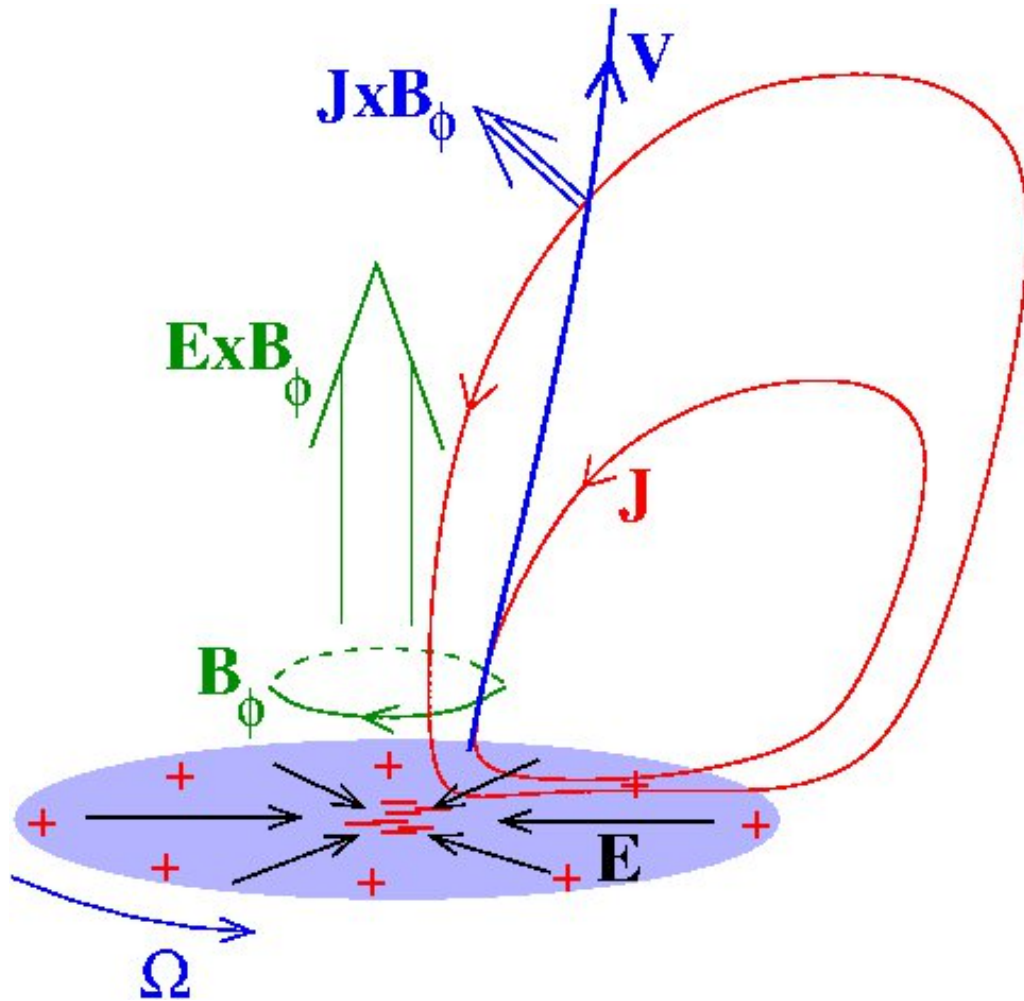
- ★ extract energy (Poynting flux)
- ★ extract angular momentum
- ★ transfer energy and angular momentum to matter
- ★ explain relatively large-scale acceleration
- ★ self-collimation
- ★ synchrotron emission
- ★ polarization and Faraday RM maps

How MHD acceleration works

A unipolar inductor (Faraday disk)



magnetic field + rotation



current $\leftrightarrow B_\phi$
 Poynting flux $\frac{c}{4\pi}EB_\phi$
 is extracted (angular momentum as well)

The Faraday disk could be the rotating accretion disk, or the frame dragging if energy is extracted from the ergosphere of a rotating black hole (Blandford & Znajek mechanism)

The ideal MHD equations

Maxwell:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0 = \nabla \times \mathbf{E} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{c \partial t}, \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{c \partial t} + \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{4\pi}{c} J^0$$

Ohm: $\mathbf{E} = -\frac{\mathbf{V}}{c} \times \mathbf{B}$

mass conservation (continuity):

$$\frac{d(\gamma \rho_0)}{dt} + \gamma \rho_0 \nabla \cdot \mathbf{V} = 0, \quad \text{where} \quad \frac{d}{dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla$$

energy $U_\mu T^{\mu\nu}_{,\nu} = 0$ (or specific entropy conservation, or first law for thermodynamics):

$$\frac{d(P/\rho_0^\Gamma)}{dt} = 0$$

momentum $T^{\nu i}_{,\nu} = 0$: $\gamma \rho_0 \frac{d(\xi \gamma \mathbf{V})}{dt} = -\nabla P + \frac{J^0 \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}}{c}$

magnetic acceleration

- simplified momentum equation along the flow

$$\gamma\rho_0 \frac{d(\gamma V)}{dt} = -\frac{B_\phi}{4\pi\varpi} \frac{\partial(\varpi B_\phi)}{\partial\ell} = \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} \text{ force}$$

(ϖ = cylindrical distance, ℓ = arclength along flow)

- simplified Ferraro's law (ignore V_ϕ – small compared to $\varpi\Omega$)

$$V_\phi = \varpi\Omega + VB_\phi/B_p \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad B_\phi \approx -\frac{\varpi\Omega B_p}{V} \quad \text{“Parker spiral”}$$

- combine the two, use the mass-to-magnetic flux $\Psi_A = \frac{4\pi\gamma\rho_0 V}{B_p}$

(constant due to flux-freezing)

$$m \frac{d(\gamma V)}{dt} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial\ell} \left(\frac{S}{V} \right), \quad m = \frac{\Psi_A}{A\Omega^2}, \quad S = \frac{\varpi^2 B_p}{A}$$

(A is the magnetic flux – integral)

toy model

$$m \frac{d(\gamma V)}{dt} = - \frac{\partial}{\partial \ell} \left(\frac{S}{V} \right)$$

motion of a mass $m = \frac{\Psi_A}{A\Omega^2}$ in a velocity-dependent potential $\frac{S}{V}$

corresponding energy integral = Bernoulli $\gamma mc^2 + \frac{S}{V} = E$

The equation of particle motion can be written as a de-Laval nozzle equation

$$\frac{dV}{d\ell} = \frac{\frac{dS}{d\ell}}{E - \gamma^3 mc^2}$$

bunching function $S = \varpi^2 B_p / A$

using the definition of A ,

$$S = \frac{2\pi\varpi^2 B_p}{\int \mathbf{B}_p \cdot d\mathbf{a}}$$

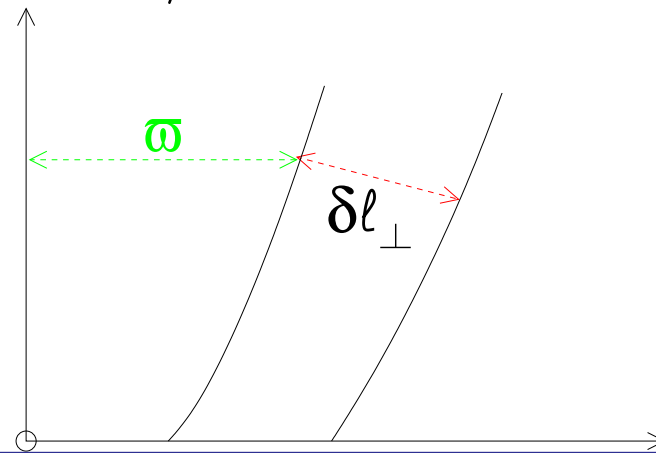
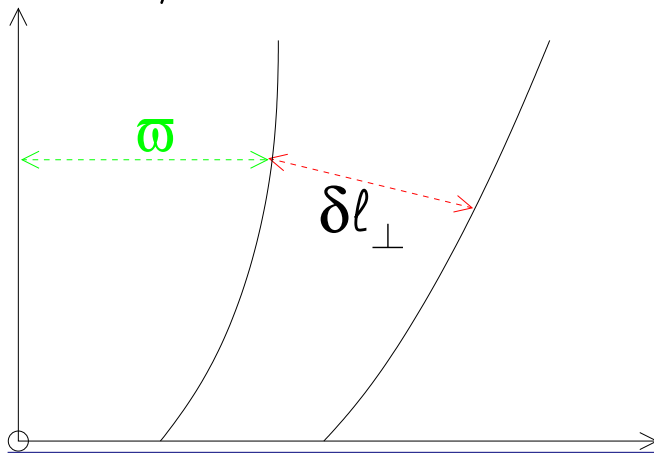
thus S measures the ratio of the local over the mean poloidal magnetic field

it measures how bunched are the fieldlines at a given point

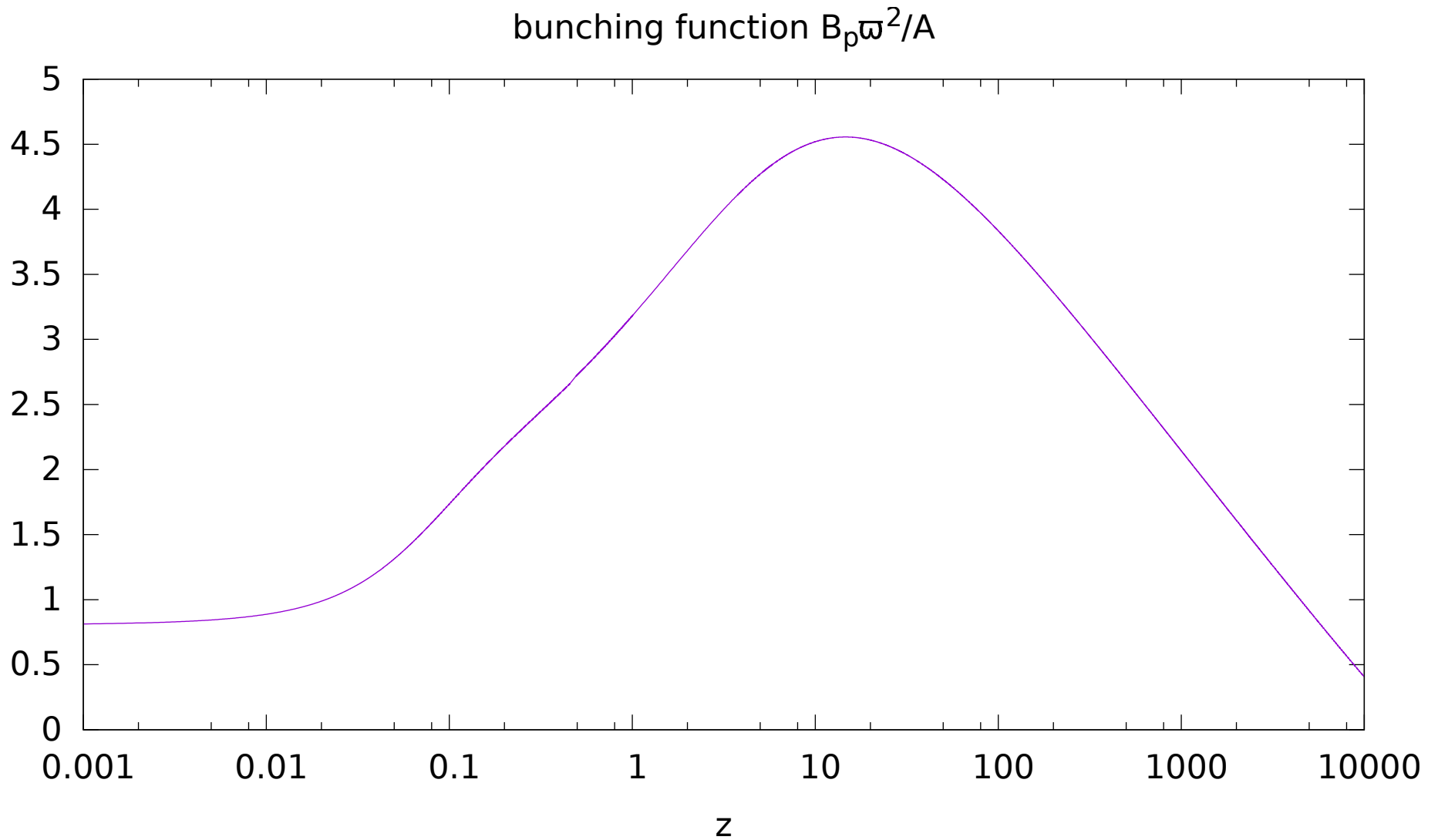
its variation along the flow measures the expansion of the flow,

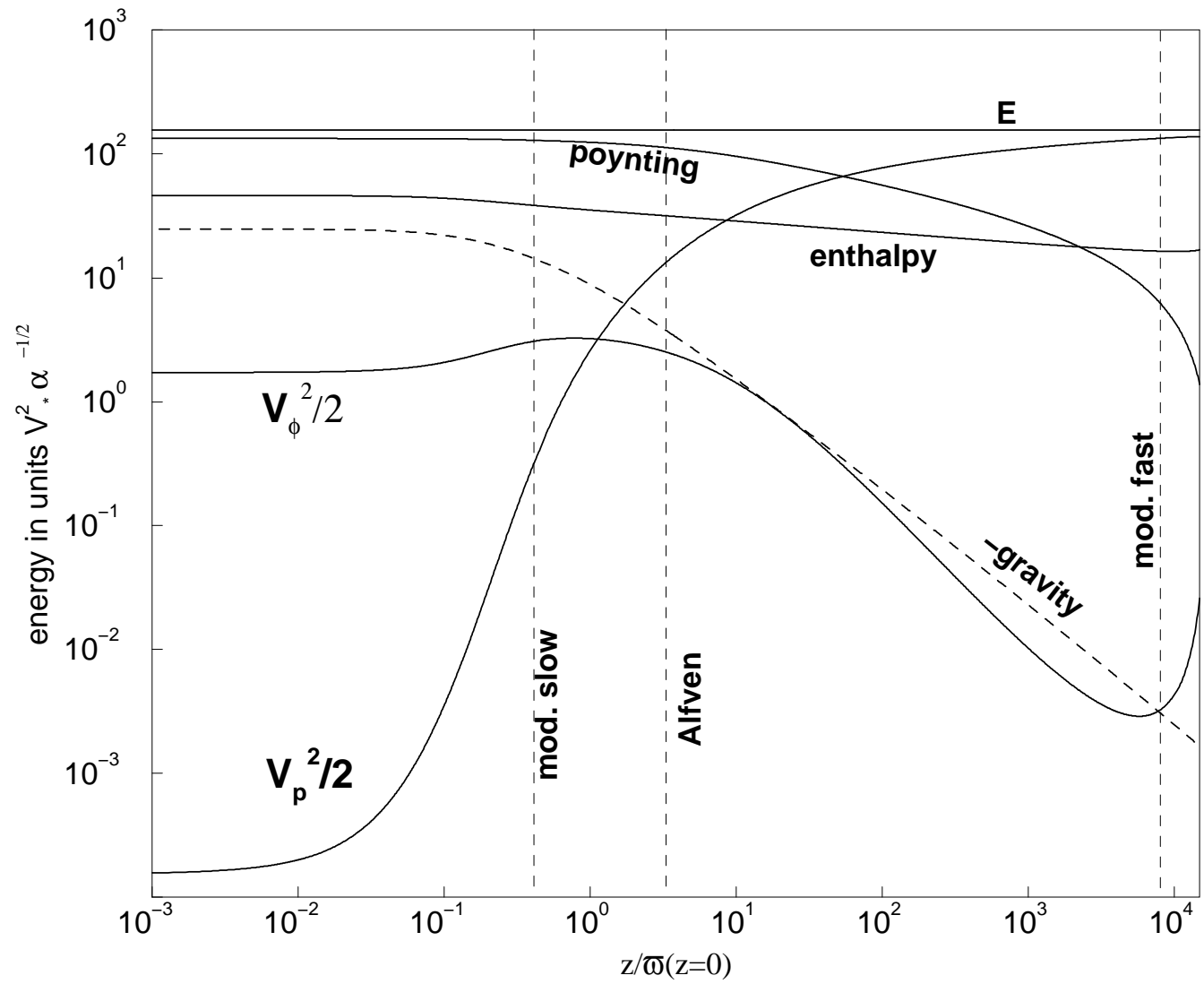
$$S \propto \underbrace{B_p 2\pi\varpi \delta l_{\perp}}_{\delta A} \frac{\varpi}{\delta l_{\perp}} \propto \frac{\varpi}{\delta l_{\perp}}$$

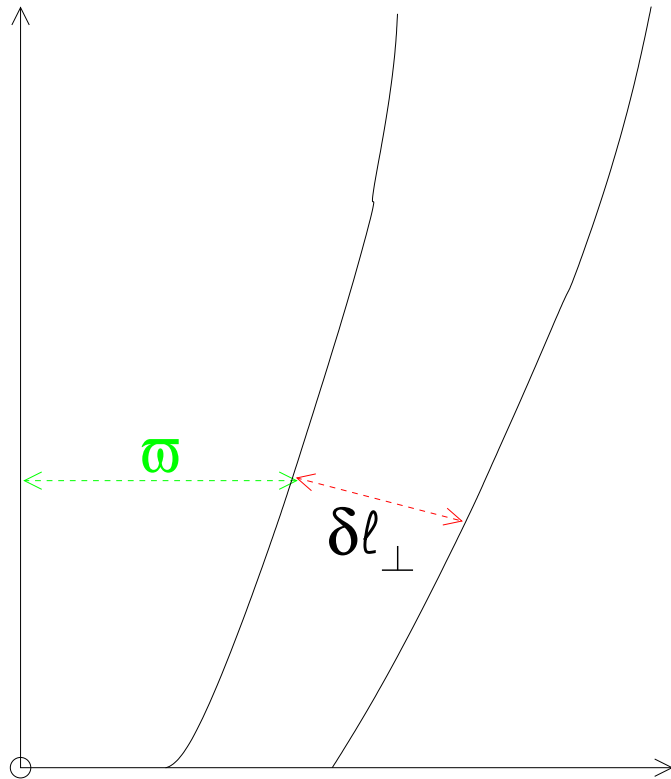
if $\delta l_{\perp} / \varpi$ increases, S decreases if $\delta l_{\perp} / \varpi$ decreases, S increases



Vlahakis+2000 nonrelativistic solution







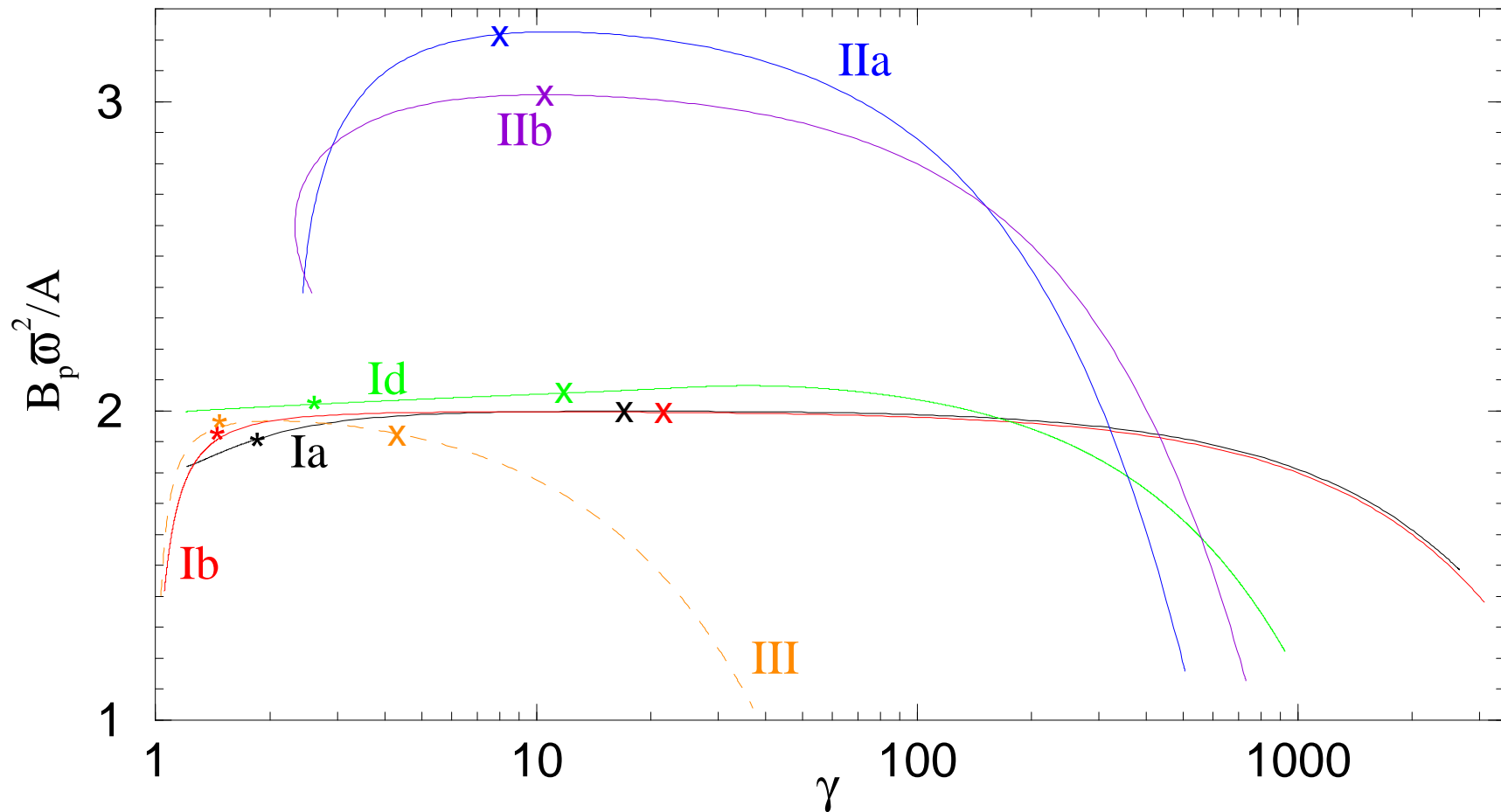
first S increases then decreases
(differential collimation)

$S_{\infty} \sim 1$ so the Bernoulli integral
gives the value of V_{∞}

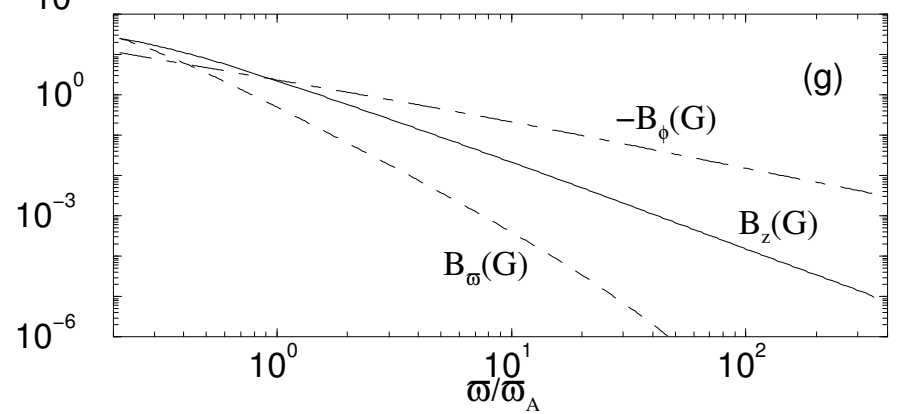
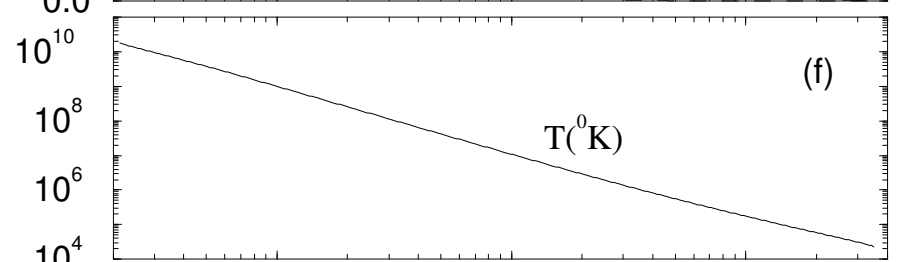
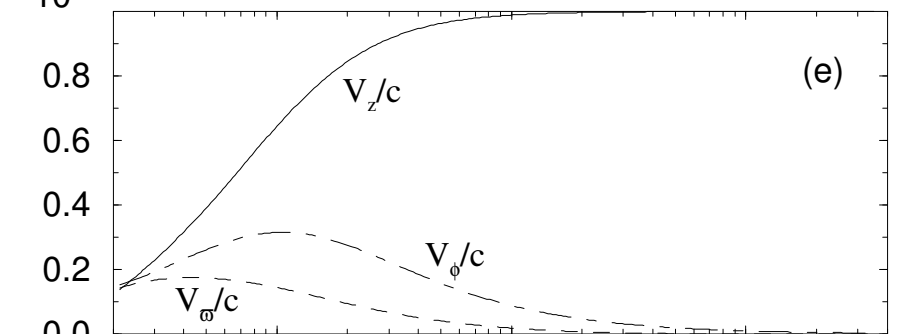
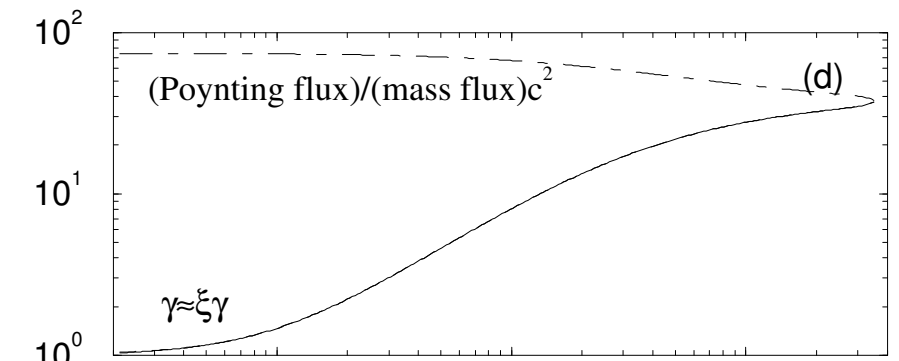
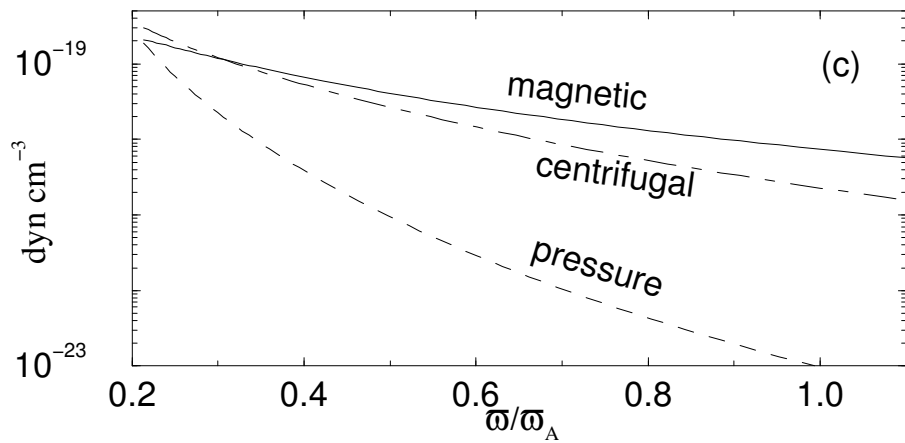
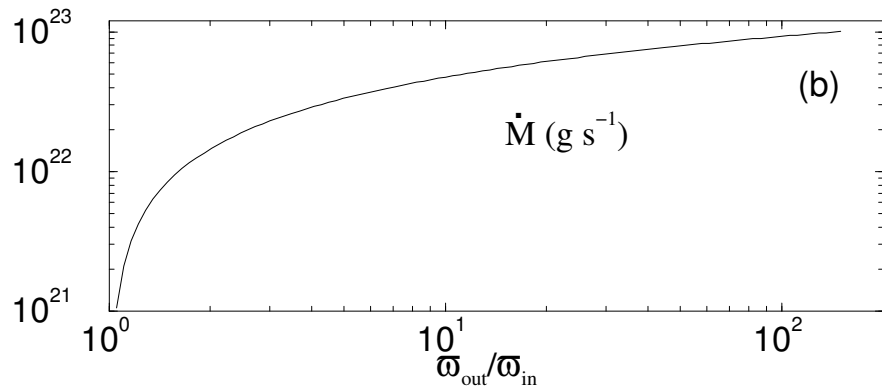
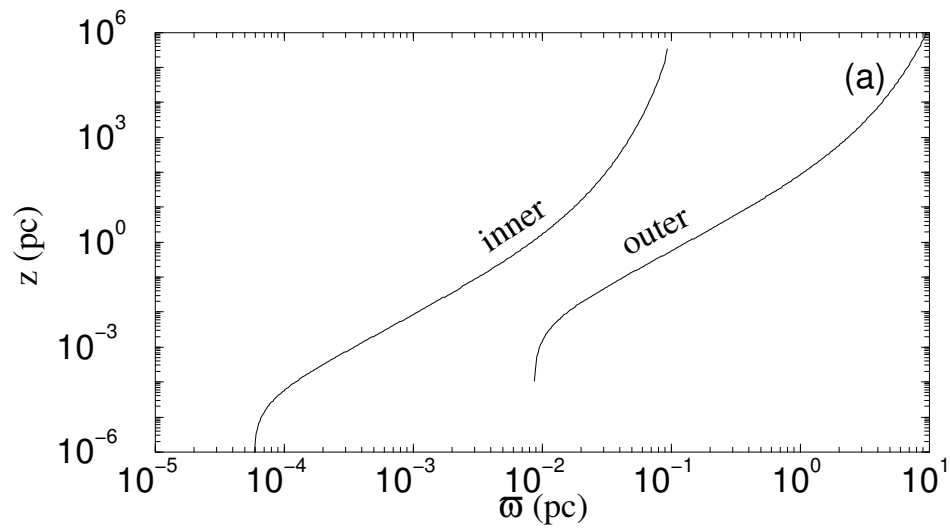
higher S_{\max} \rightarrow higher
acceleration efficiency

in V00 $S_{\max} \approx 4.5$ and
acceleration efficiency $\gtrsim 90\%$

Vlahakis & Königl 2003, 2004 relativistic solutions



acceleration efficiency $\gtrsim 50\%$



Simulations of special relativistic jets (e.g. Komissarov+2009)

energy flux ratios:

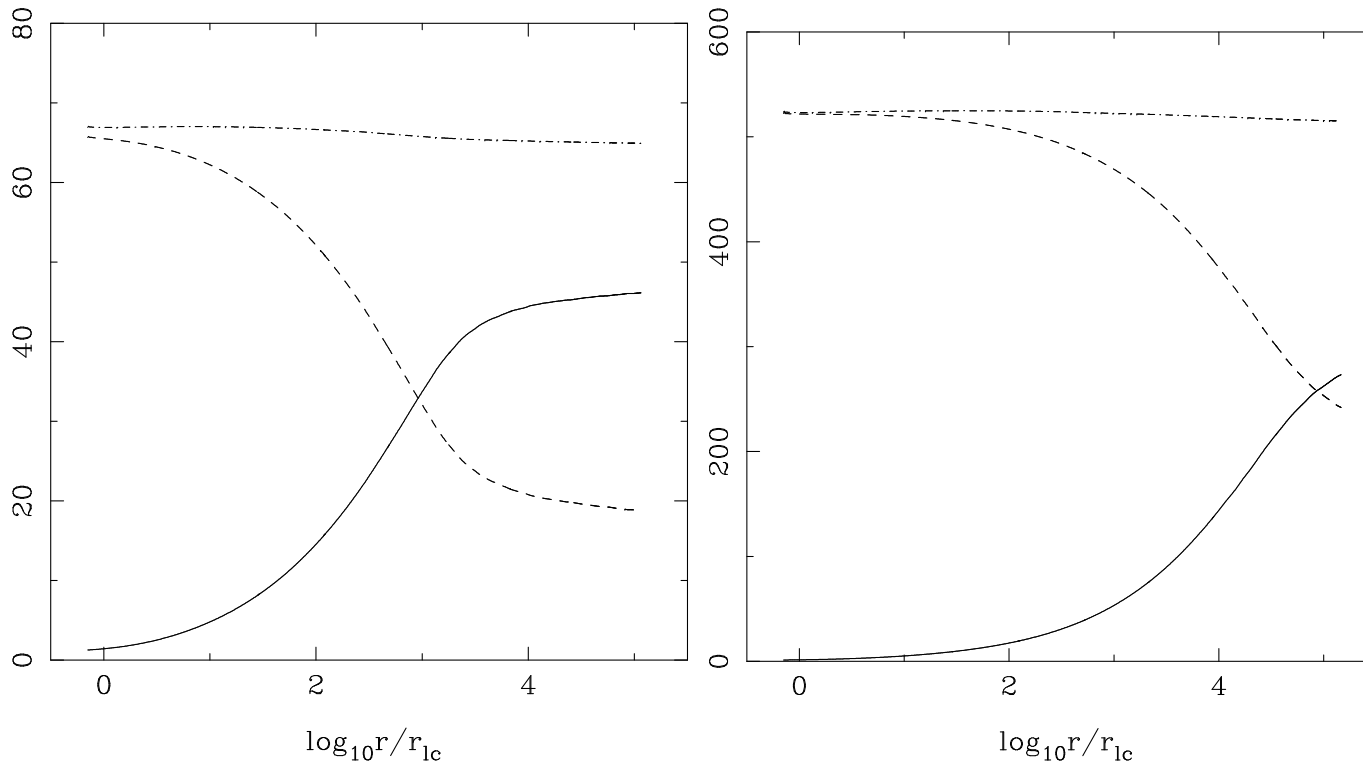
$$\gamma = \frac{\text{kinetic}}{\text{rest mass}}$$

$$\gamma\sigma = \frac{\text{Poynting}}{\text{rest mass}}$$

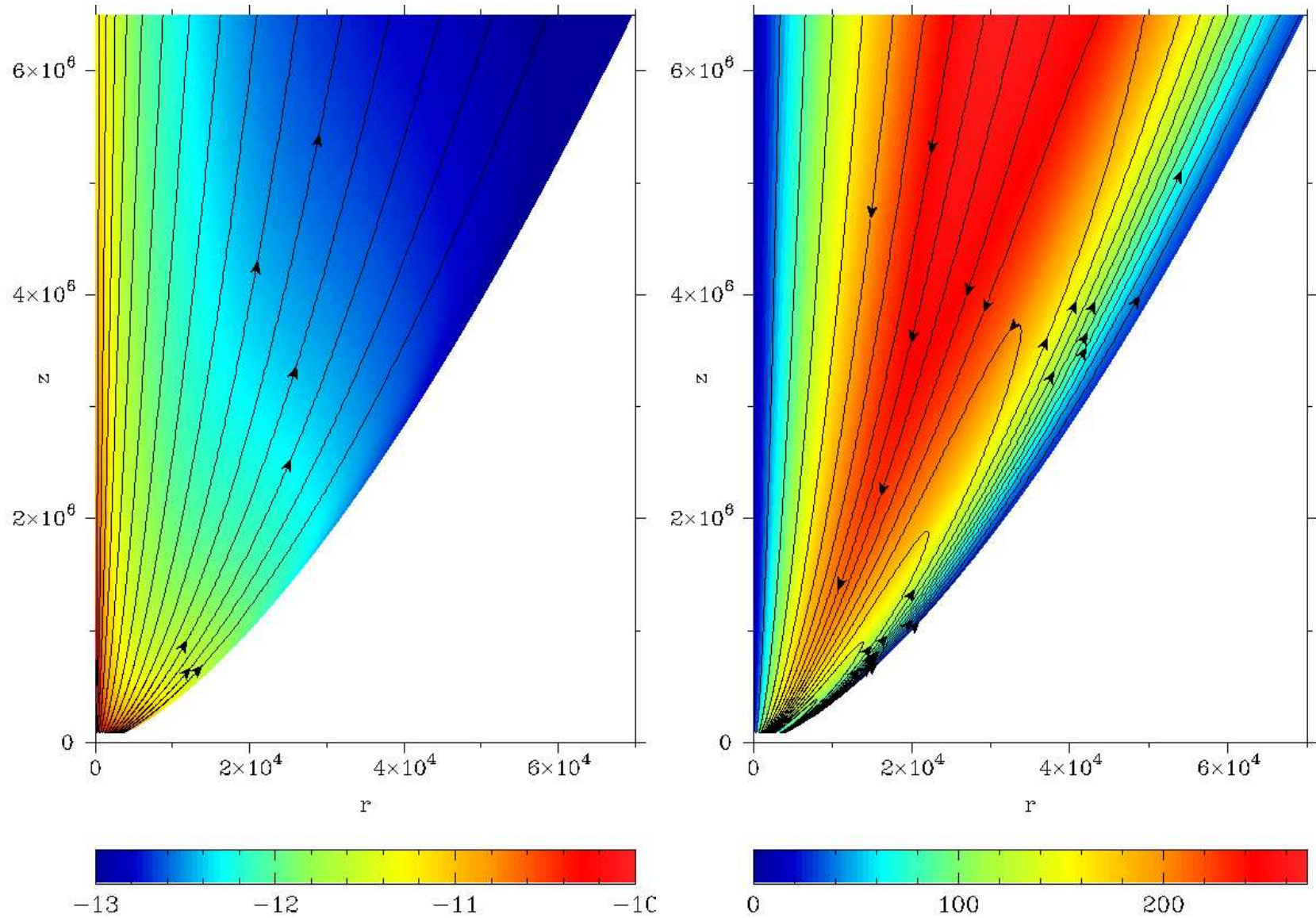
$$(\sigma = \frac{\text{Poynting}}{\text{kinetic}})$$

$$\mu = \gamma + \gamma\sigma$$

γ (increasing),
 $\gamma\sigma$ (decreasing),
 and μ (constant)

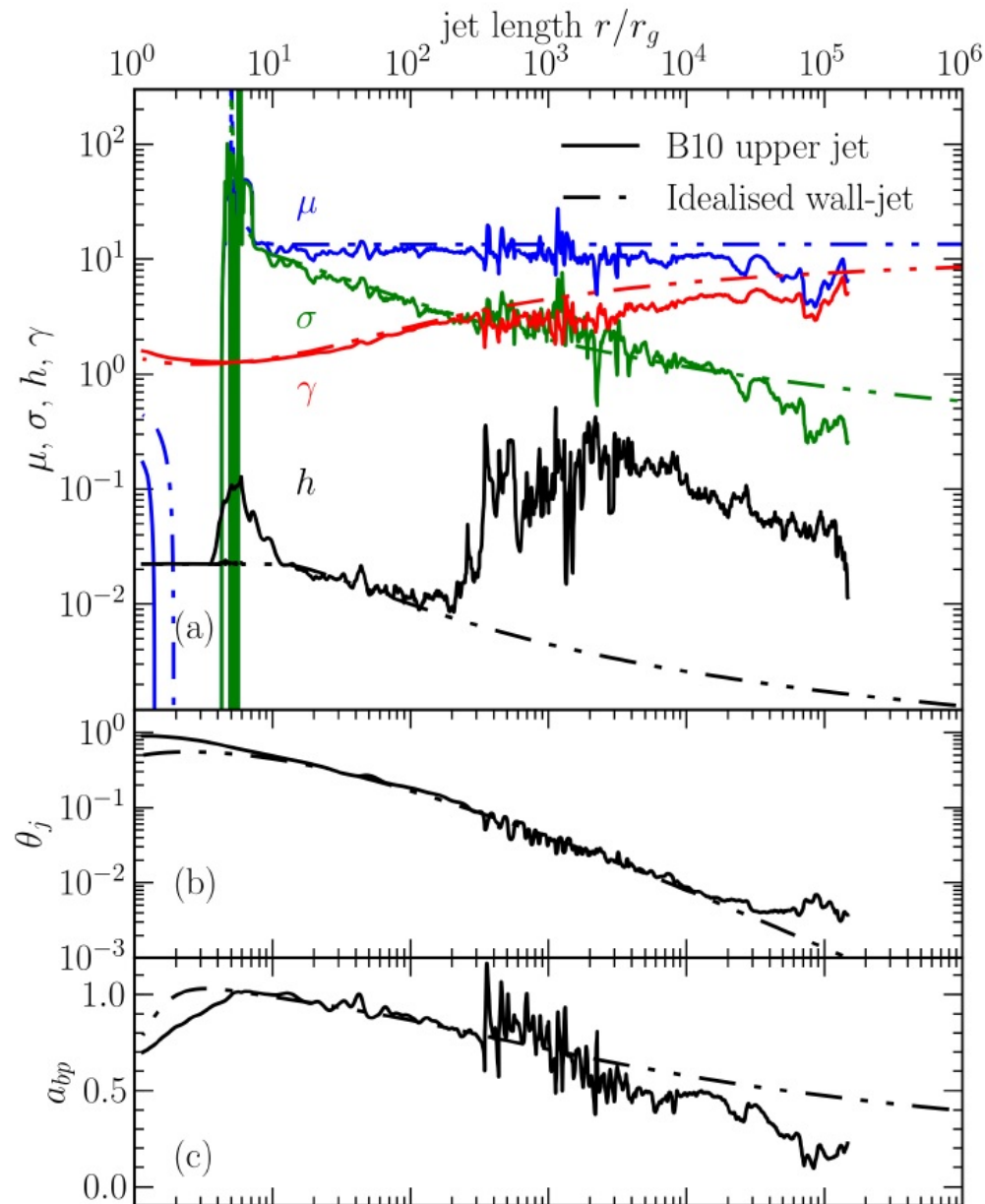


efficiency > 50%



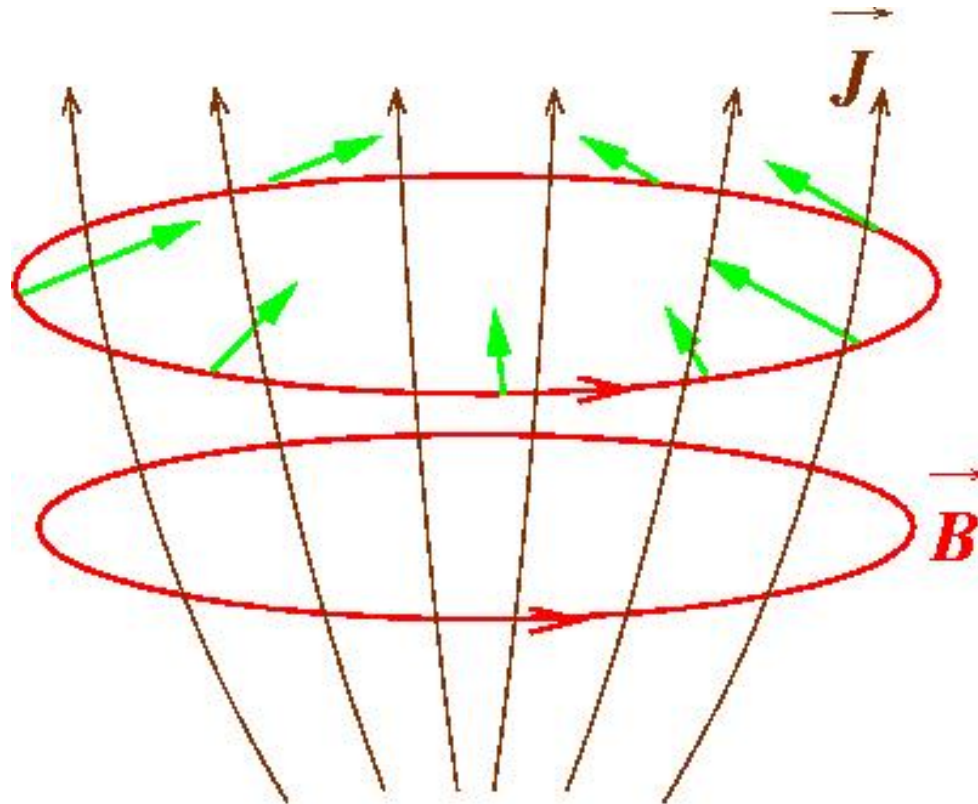
left: density/field lines, right: Lorentz factor/current lines (jet shape $z \propto r^{1.5}$)

Even in general relativistic MHD jet simulations (Chatterjee+2019 - review Mizuno 2022)



Basic questions: collimation

hoop-stress:



+ electric force

degree of collimation ?

Role of environment?

☞ transfield component of the momentum equation for relativistic jets simplifies to $\mathcal{R} \approx \gamma^2 \varpi$

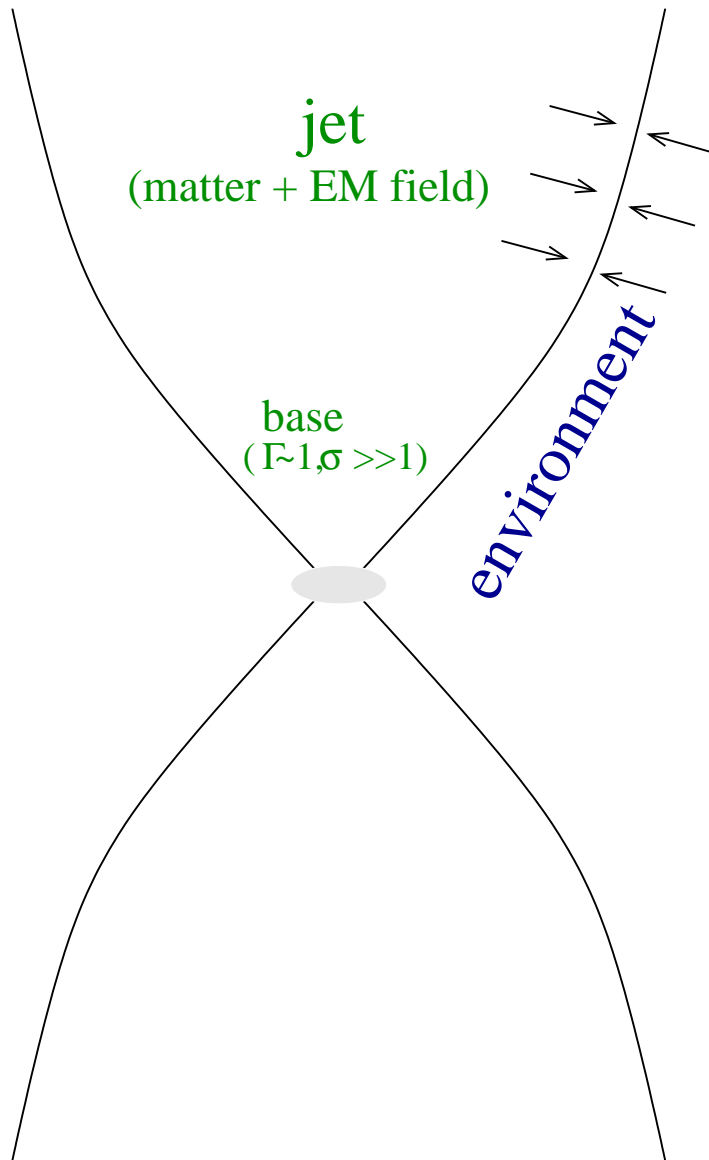
since $\mathcal{R}^{-1} \approx -\frac{d^2 \varpi}{dz^2} \approx \frac{\varpi}{z^2}$ it gives **power-law** $\gamma \approx z/\varpi$
(for parabolic shapes $z \propto \varpi^a$, γ is a power of ϖ)

☞ role of external pressure

$$p_{\text{ext}} = B_{\text{co}}^2 / 8\pi \simeq (B^{\hat{\phi}})^2 / 8\pi \gamma^2 \propto 1/\varpi^2 \gamma^2$$

- if the pressure drops slower than z^{-2} then
 - ★ **shape more collimated than $z \propto \varpi^2$**
 - ★ **linear acceleration $\gamma \propto \varpi$**
- if the pressure drops as z^{-2} then
 - ★ **parabolic shape $z \propto \varpi^a$ with $1 < a \leq 2$**
 - ★ **first $\gamma \propto \varpi$ and then power-law acceleration**
 $\gamma \sim z/\varpi \propto \varpi^{a-1}$
- if pressure drops faster than z^{-2} then
 - ★ **conical shape**
 - ★ **linear acceleration $\gamma \propto \varpi$ (small efficiency)**

Basic questions

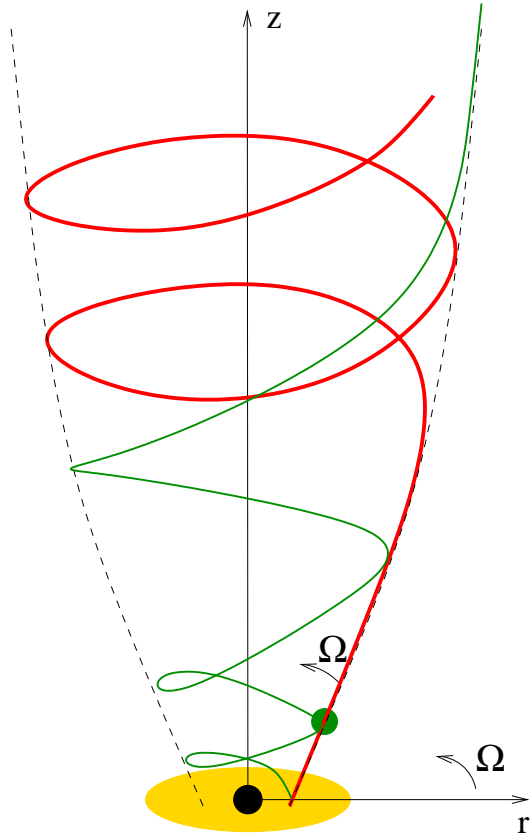


- source of matter/energy?
disk or central object,
rotation+magnetic field
- bulk acceleration ✓
- collimation ✓
- interaction with environment?
 P_{ext} is important especially in
relativistic jets

2nd level of understanding

- ☞ distribution of B in the source? (advection vs diffusion, instabilities in disks?)
- ☞ details of jet physics near rotating black holes (pair creation in stagnation surface) – energy extraction from the black hole?
- ☞ nonthermal radiation – particle acceleration
shocks or reconnection ? connection with instabilities ?
- ☞ polarization maps and comparison with observations
- ☞ detailed study of the interaction with environment (Riemann problem – shock and rarefaction waves)
- ☞ jet stability (Kelvin-Helmholtz? current driven?)

Magnetohydrodynamics



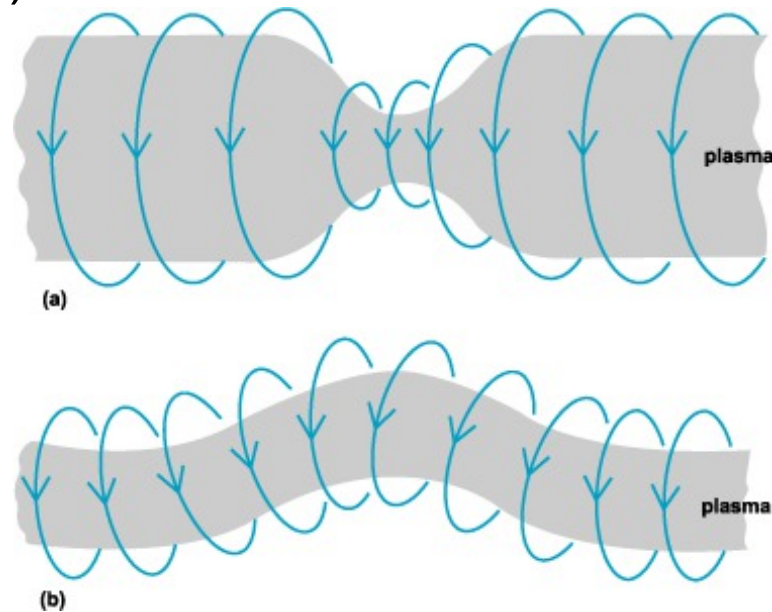
For a rotating BH-jet

$$\frac{|B_\phi|}{B_z} \approx 150 \left(\frac{r_j}{10^{16} \text{cm}} \right) \left(\frac{\varpi_{\text{LC}}}{4GM/c^2} \right) \left(\frac{M}{10^8 M_\odot} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\text{For a disk-jet } \frac{|B_\phi|}{B_z} \approx 20 \left(\frac{r_j}{10^{16} \text{cm}} \right) \left(\frac{r_0}{10GM/c^2} \right)^{-3/2} \left(\frac{M}{10^8 M_\odot} \right)^{-1}$$

- successfully explain the main characteristics
- At small distances $V_\phi \gg V_p$, $|B_\phi| \ll B_p$.
At large distances $V_\phi \ll V_p$, $|B_\phi| \gg B_p$.
- From Ferraro's law
 $V_\phi = \varpi\Omega + V B_\phi/B_p$, where Ω integral of motion = rotation at base, we get
 $-B_\phi/B_p \approx \varpi\Omega/V_p \approx \varpi/\varpi_{\text{LC}}$.

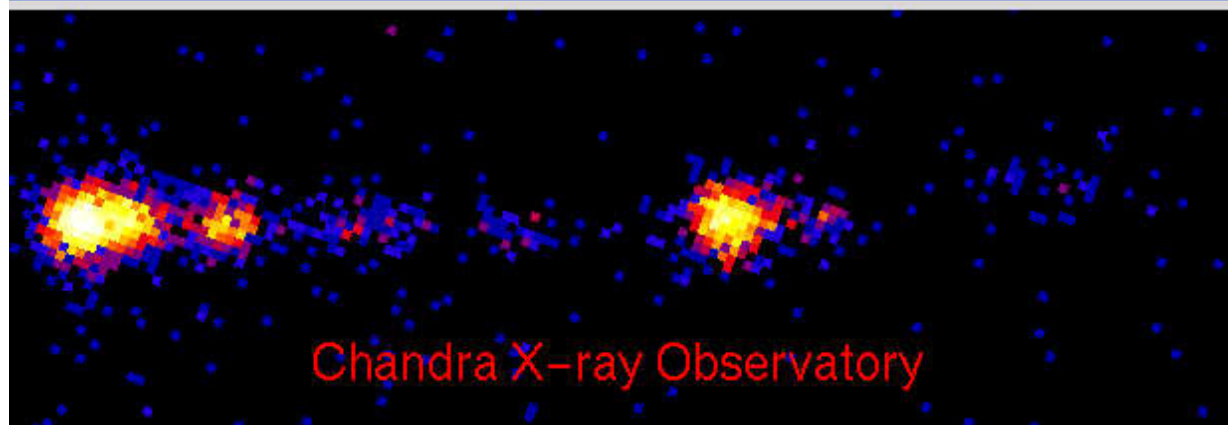
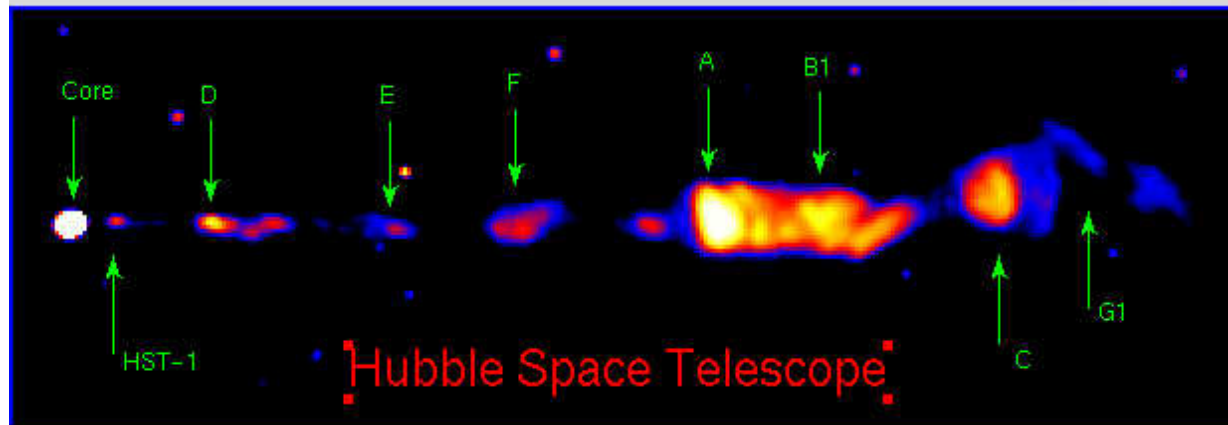
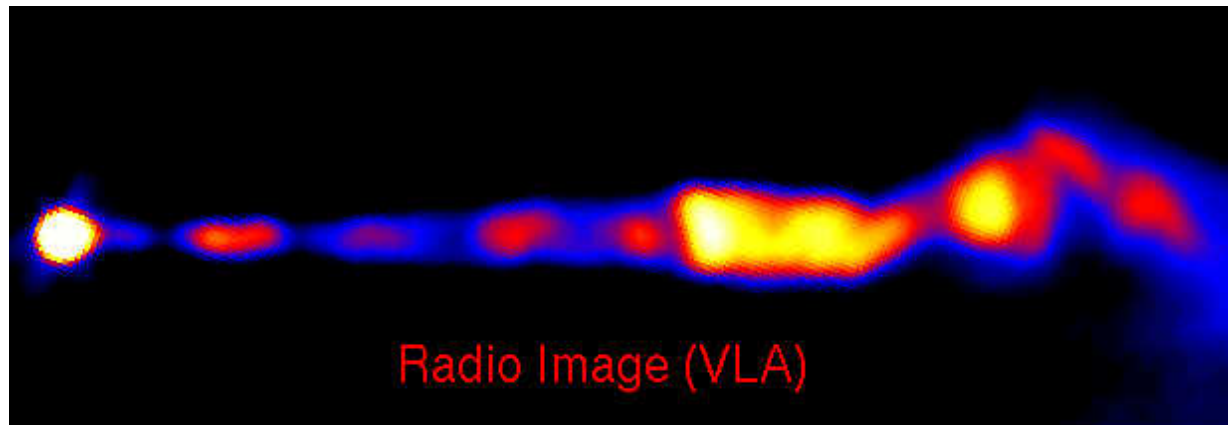
Strong B_ϕ induces current-driven instabilities
(Kruskal-Shafranov)



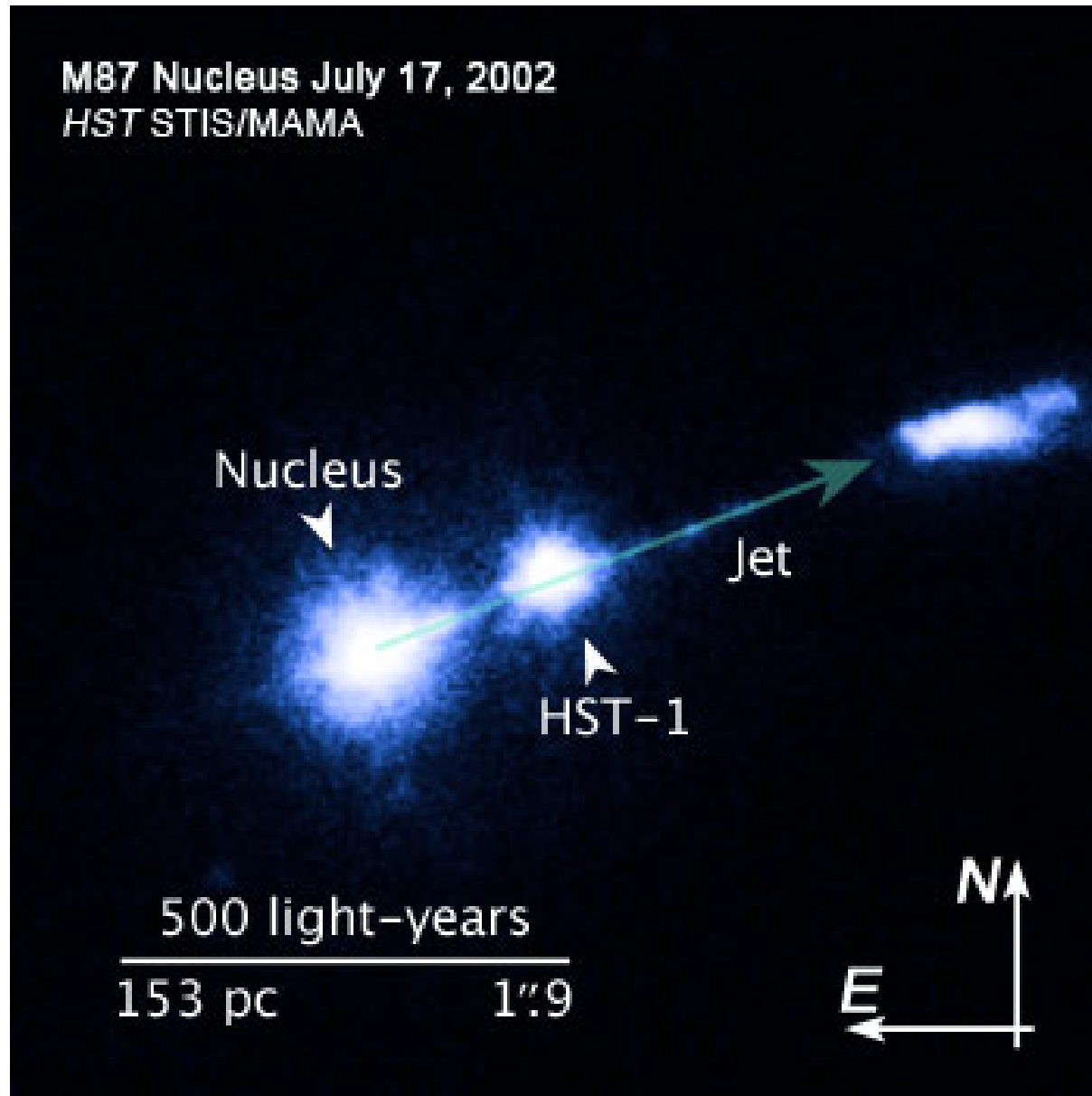
Interaction with the environment \rightarrow Kelvin-Helmholtz instabilities

Stability of axisymmetric solutions (analytical or numerical)? Role of B_z ? of inertia?

Relation with observations? (knot structure, jet bending, shocks, polarization degree, reconnection)



M87 Nucleus July 17, 2002
HST STIS/MAMA



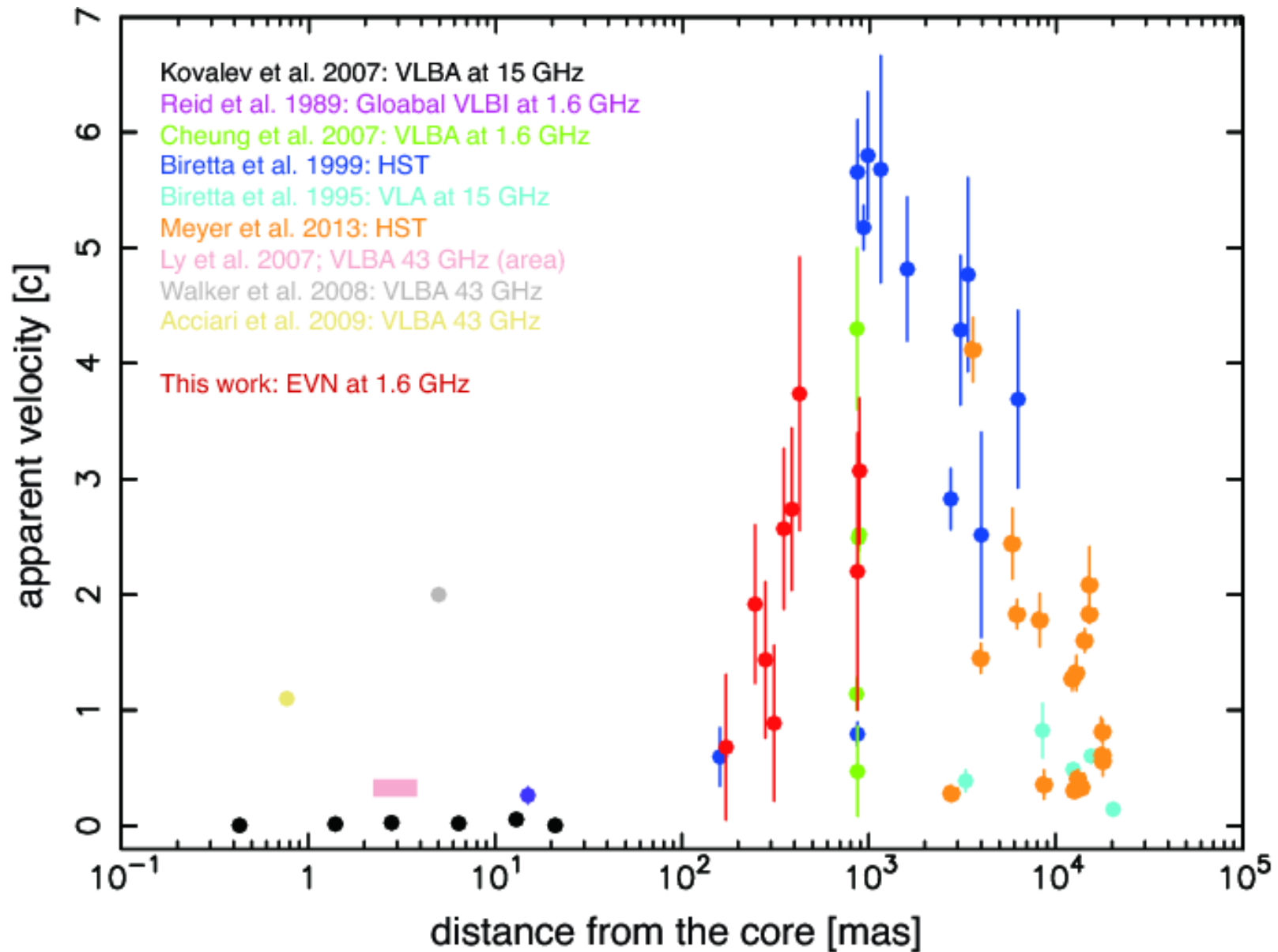
M87 Nucleus and Bright Knot in Extragalactic Jet

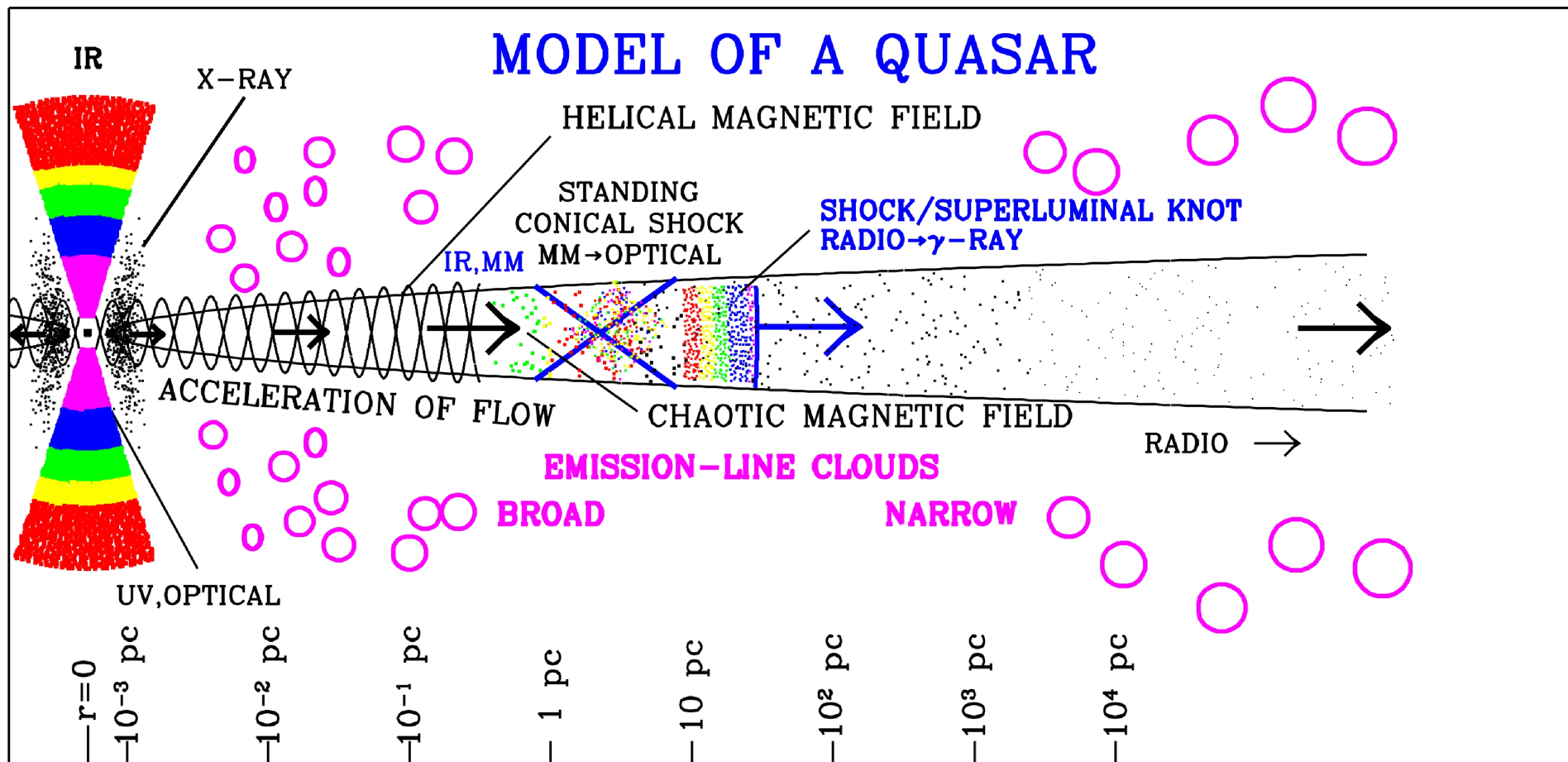
HST • STIS/MAMA • ACS/HRC



NASA, ESA, and J. Madrid (McMaster University)

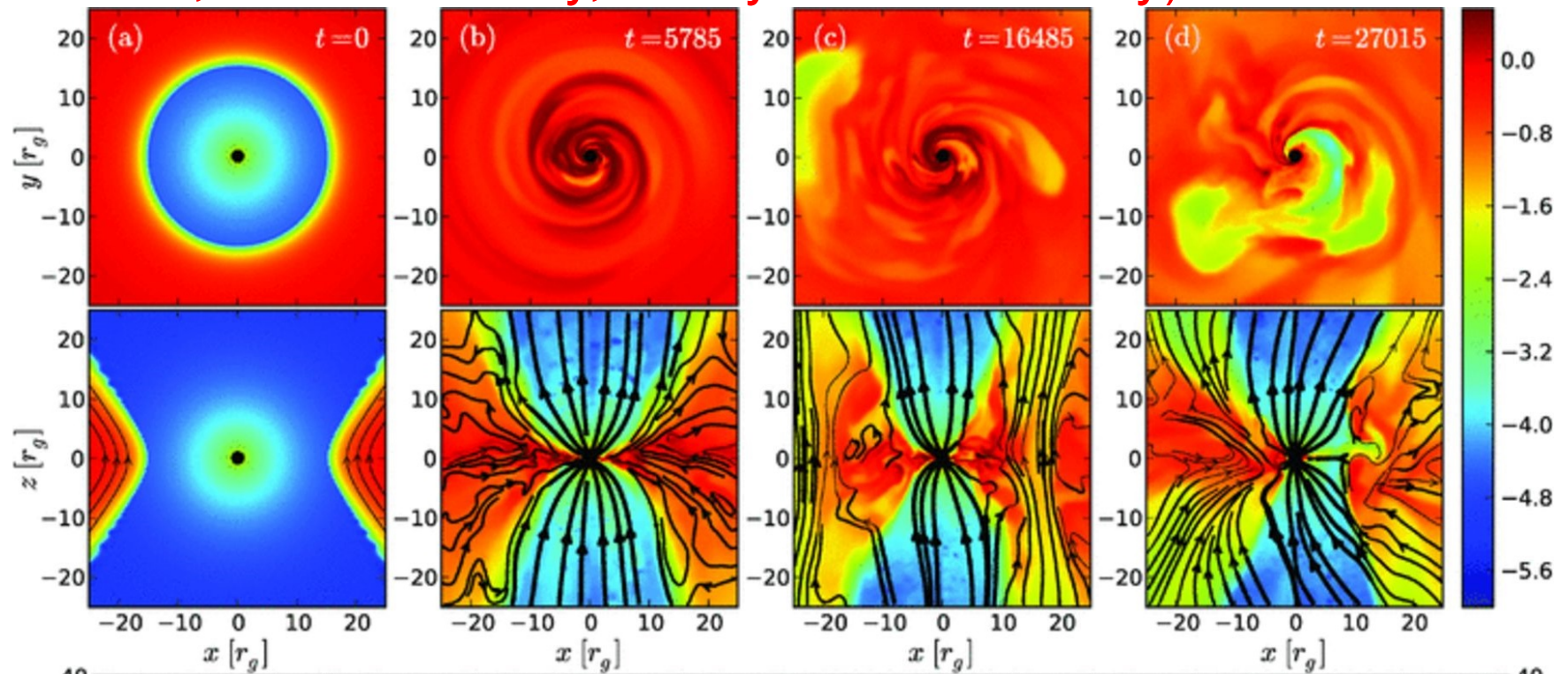
STScI-PRC08-16





Stability analysis

- Are astrophysical jets stable? (contrary to lab jets)
 - 3D relativistic MHD simulations hard to cover the full jet range (formation and propagation zone + environment)
- interesting results for the jet-formation region (McKinney & Blandford, Tchekhovskoy, Narayan & McKinney)



Linear Stability Analysis

Unperturbed flow: Cylindrical jet

helical, axisymmetric, cylindrically symmetric and steady flow

$$\mathbf{V}_0 = V_{0z}(\varpi)\hat{z} + V_{0\phi}(\varpi)\hat{\phi},$$

$$\mathbf{B}_0 = B_{0z}(\varpi)\hat{z} + B_{0\phi}(\varpi)\hat{\phi}, \quad \mathbf{E}_0 = -\frac{\mathbf{V}_0 \times \mathbf{B}_0}{c},$$

$$\rho_{00} = \rho_{00}(\varpi), \quad \xi_0 = \xi_0(\varpi),$$

$$\Pi_0 = \frac{\Gamma - 1}{\Gamma} (\xi_0 - 1) \rho_{00} c^2 + \frac{B_0^2 - E_0^2}{8\pi}.$$

Equilibrium condition

$$\frac{B_{0\phi}^2 - E_0^2}{4\pi\varpi} - \xi_0 \rho_{00} \frac{\gamma_0^2 V_{0\phi}^2}{\varpi} + \frac{d\Pi_0}{d\varpi} = 0.$$

Linearized equations

$$Q(\varpi, z, \phi, t) = Q_0(\varpi) + Q_1(\varpi) \exp [i(m\phi + kz - \omega t)]$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 10 \times 12 \text{ array} \\ \text{function of } \varpi, \omega, k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_1 \\ \rho_{01} \\ B_{1z} \\ B_{1\phi} \\ iB_{1\varpi} \\ \xi_1 \\ V_{1z} \\ V_{1\phi} \\ d(i\varpi V_{1\varpi})/d\varpi \\ d\Pi_1/d\varpi \\ i\varpi V_{1\varpi} \\ \Pi_1 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

reduces to (4 equations in real space)

$$\frac{d}{d\varpi} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{\mathcal{D}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{F}_{11} & \mathcal{F}_{12} \\ \mathcal{F}_{21} & \mathcal{F}_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} = 0,$$

where the (complex) unknowns are

$$y_1 = i \frac{\varpi V_{1\varpi}}{\omega_0}, \quad y_2 = \Pi_1 + \frac{y_1}{\varpi} \frac{d\Pi_0}{d\varpi}$$

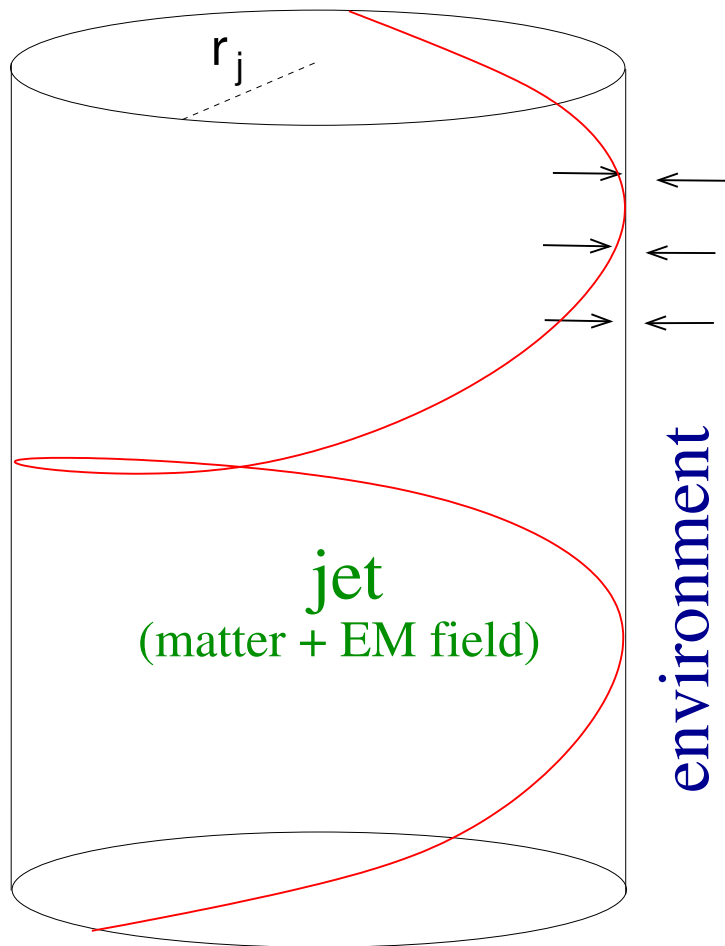
(\mathcal{D} , \mathcal{F}_{ij} are determinants of 10×10 arrays).

Equivalently

$$y_2'' + \left[\frac{\mathcal{F}_{11} + \mathcal{F}_{22}}{\mathcal{D}} + \frac{\mathcal{F}_{21}}{\mathcal{D}} \left(\frac{\mathcal{D}}{\mathcal{F}_{21}} \right)' \right] y_2' + \left[\frac{\mathcal{F}_{11}\mathcal{F}_{22} - \mathcal{F}_{12}\mathcal{F}_{21}}{\mathcal{D}^2} + \frac{\mathcal{F}_{21}}{\mathcal{D}} \left(\frac{\mathcal{F}_{22}}{\mathcal{F}_{21}} \right)' \right] y_2 = 0,$$

which for uniform flows with $V_{0\phi} = 0$, $B_{0\phi} = 0$, reduces to Bessel.

Eigenvalue problem



- solve the problem inside the jet (attention to regularity condition on the axis)

- similarly in the environment (solution vanishes at ∞)

- Match the solutions at r_j :

$$[[y_1]] = 0, [[y_2]] = 0 \longrightarrow$$

dispersion relation

- ★ spatial approach: $\omega = \Re\omega$ and

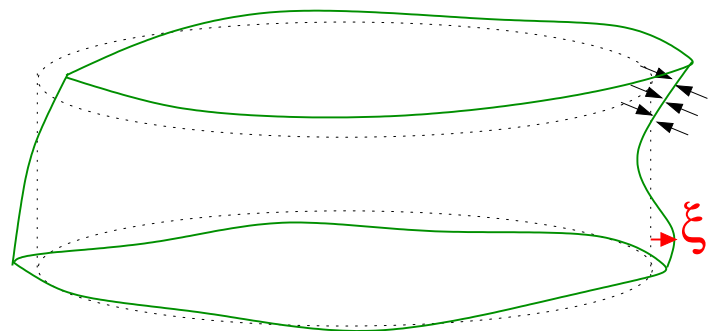
$$\Re k = \Re k(\omega), \Im k = \Im k(\omega)$$

$$Q = Q_0(\varpi) + Q_1(\varpi) e^{-\Im k z} e^{i(m\phi + \Re k z - \omega t)}$$

- ★ temporal approach: $k = \Re k$ and

$$\Re \omega = \Re \omega(k), \Im \omega = \Im \omega(k)$$

$$Q = Q_0(\varpi) + Q_1(\varpi) e^{\Im \omega t} e^{i(m\phi + k z - \Re \omega t)}$$



Sinnis & Vlahakis in preparation

temporal analysis of a cold, nonrotating jet

- γ_0, ρ_{00} constants

- $B_{0z} = \frac{B_0}{1 + (\varpi/\varpi_0)^2}, \quad B_{0\phi} = B_{0z} \frac{\varpi}{\varpi_0},$

- ϖ_0 controls $\frac{B_\phi}{B_z}$ and B_0 the magnetization $\sigma = \frac{B_\phi^2/\gamma^2}{4\pi\rho_0}$

- external medium: uniform, static, unmagnetized
density ratio η (external over axial)

(We also solved for cold, uniformly magnetized environments.)

- pressure equilibrium at jet surface

What to expect

nonrelativistic linear studies predict growth rates (in comoving frame) $\Gamma_{\text{co}} \sim \frac{v_A}{10\varpi_0}$ (Appl et al)

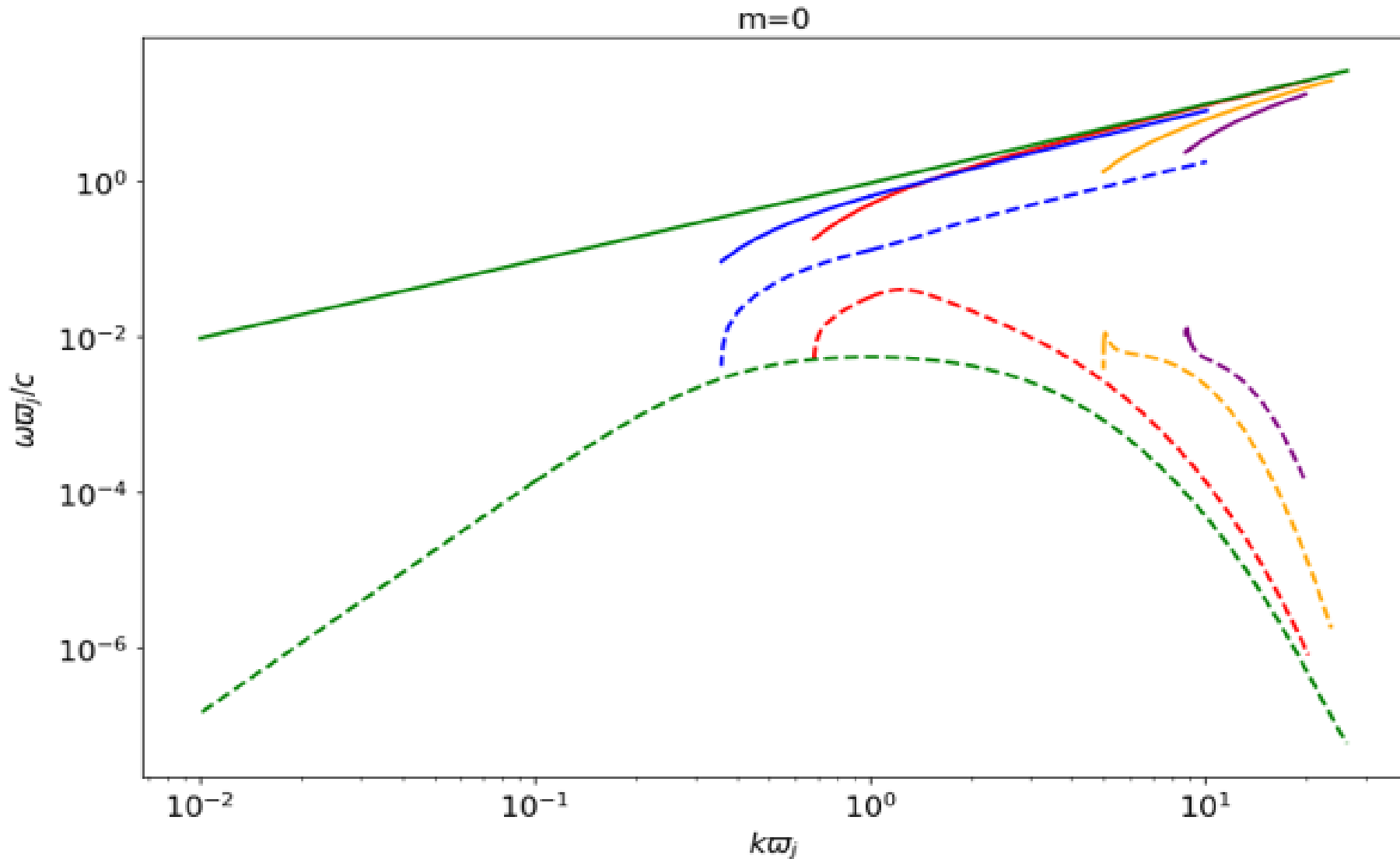
in the lab frame $\Gamma = \frac{\Gamma_{\text{co}}}{\langle \gamma \rangle}$

for typical values $v_A = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma+1}} \sim 1$, $\varpi_0 \sim 0.1\varpi_j$, $\langle \gamma \rangle \sim 5$
the growth rate is $\sim 0.2c/\varpi_j$

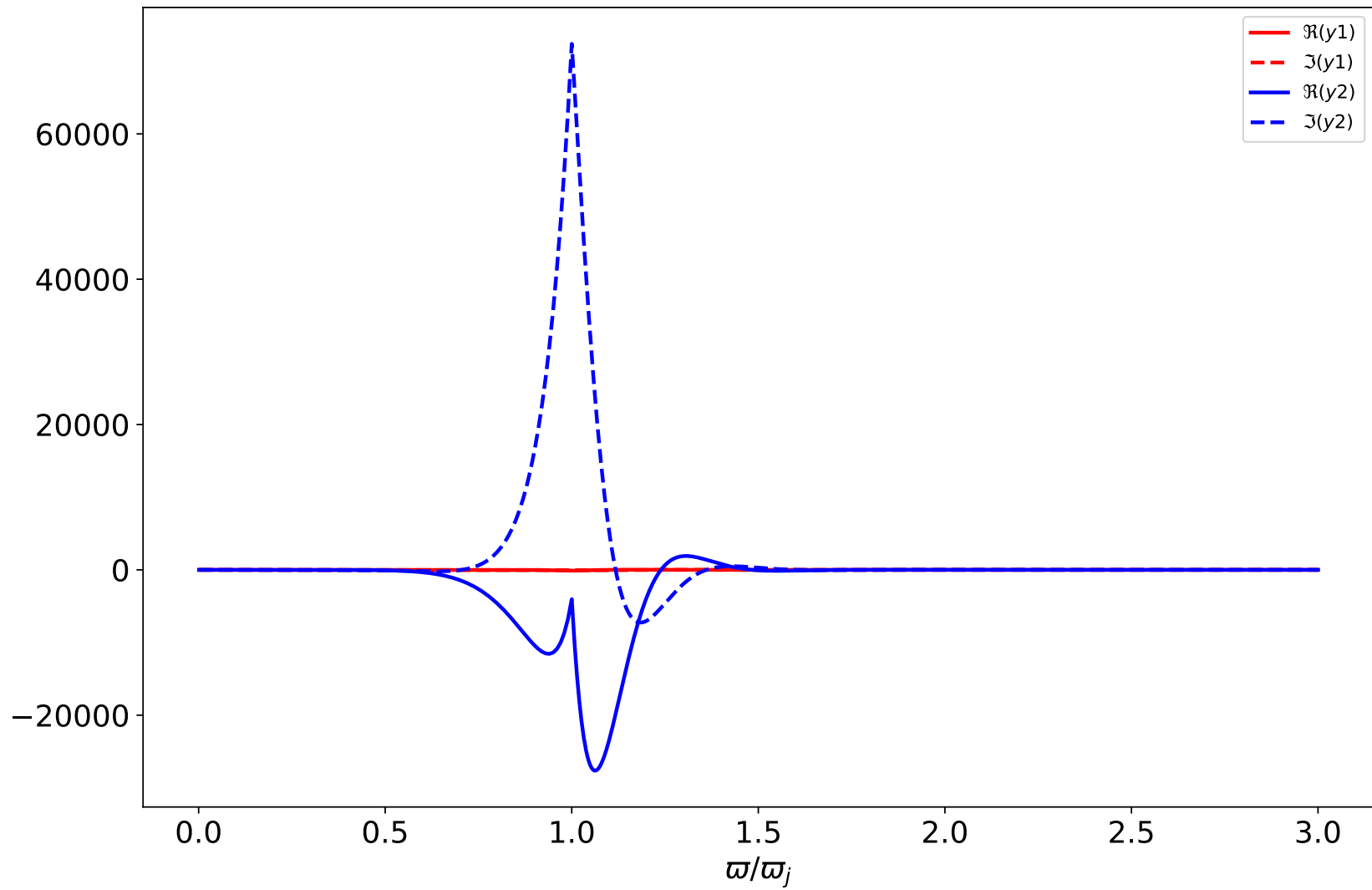
typical growth times $\sim 5\varpi_j/c$

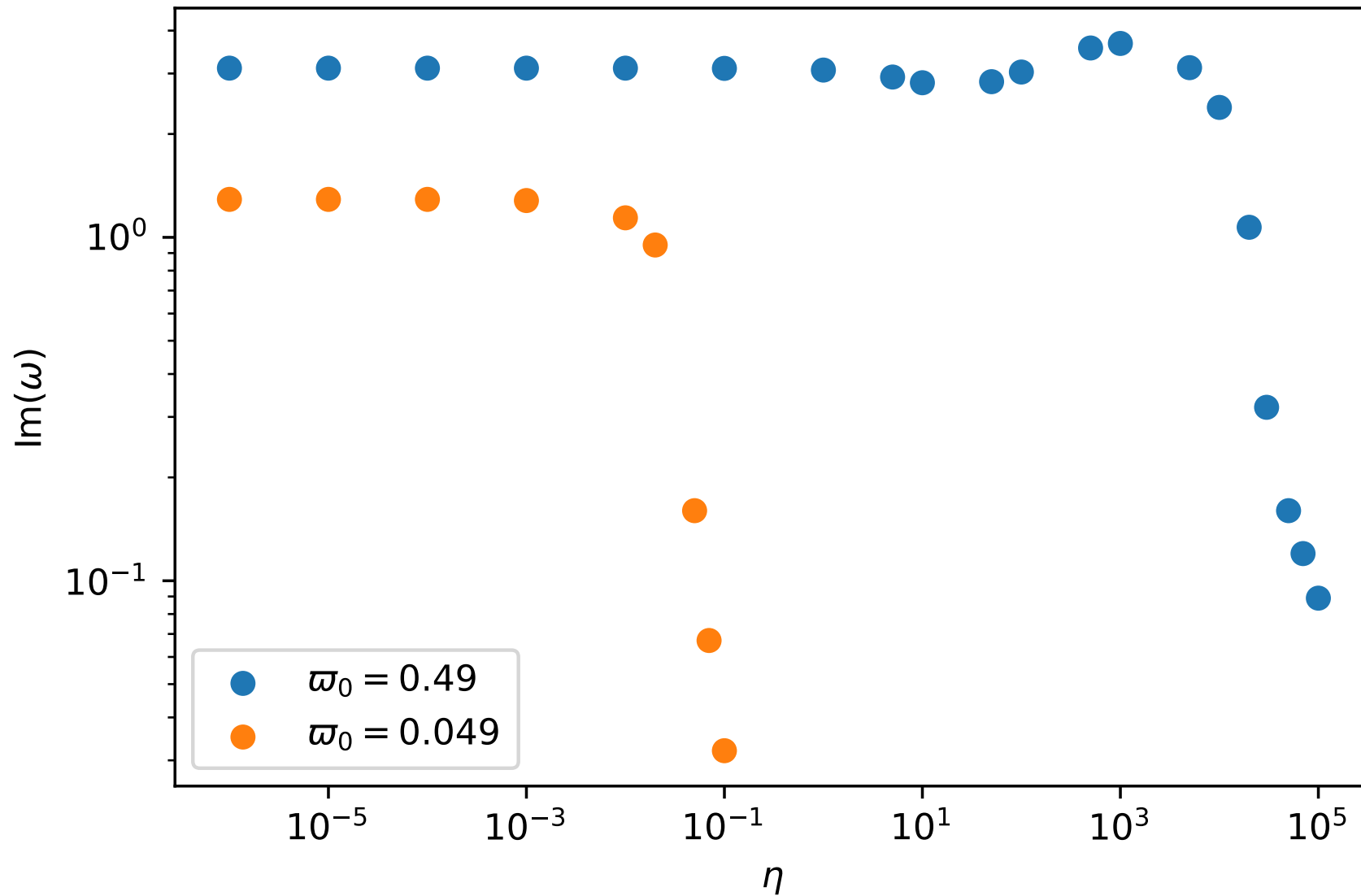
nonlinear effects become important after a few $10\varpi_j$

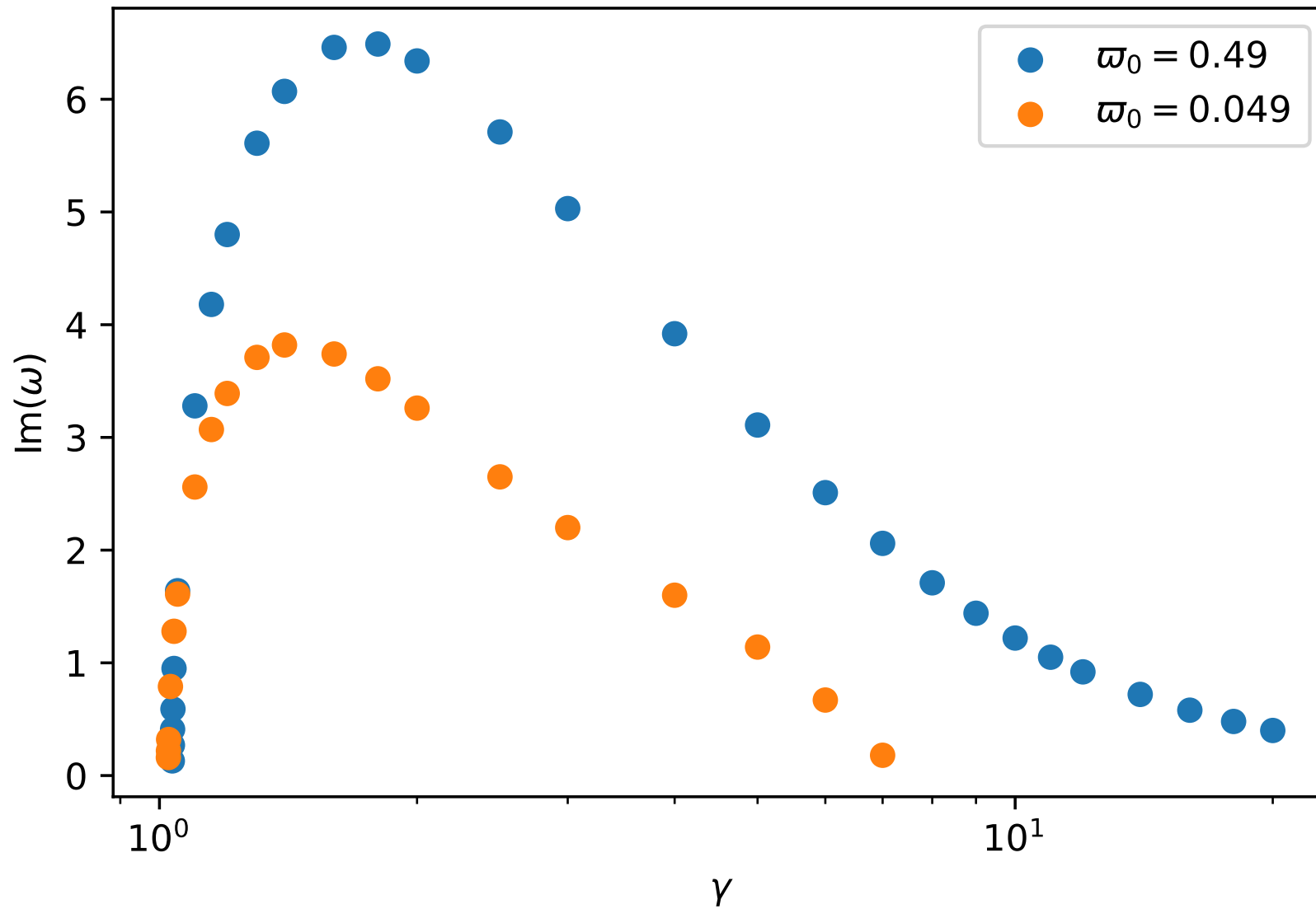
Results (Re=solid, Im=dashed)

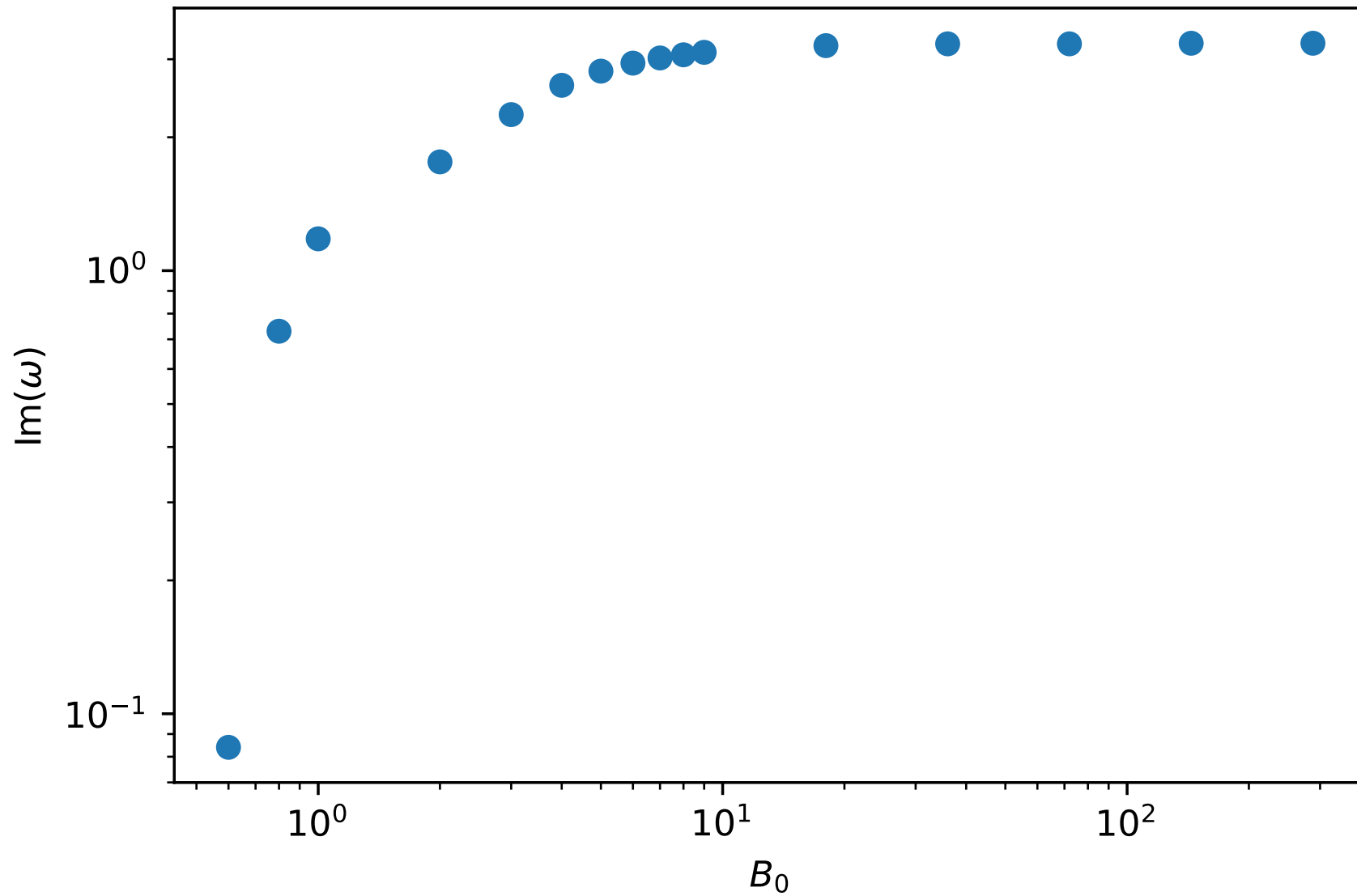


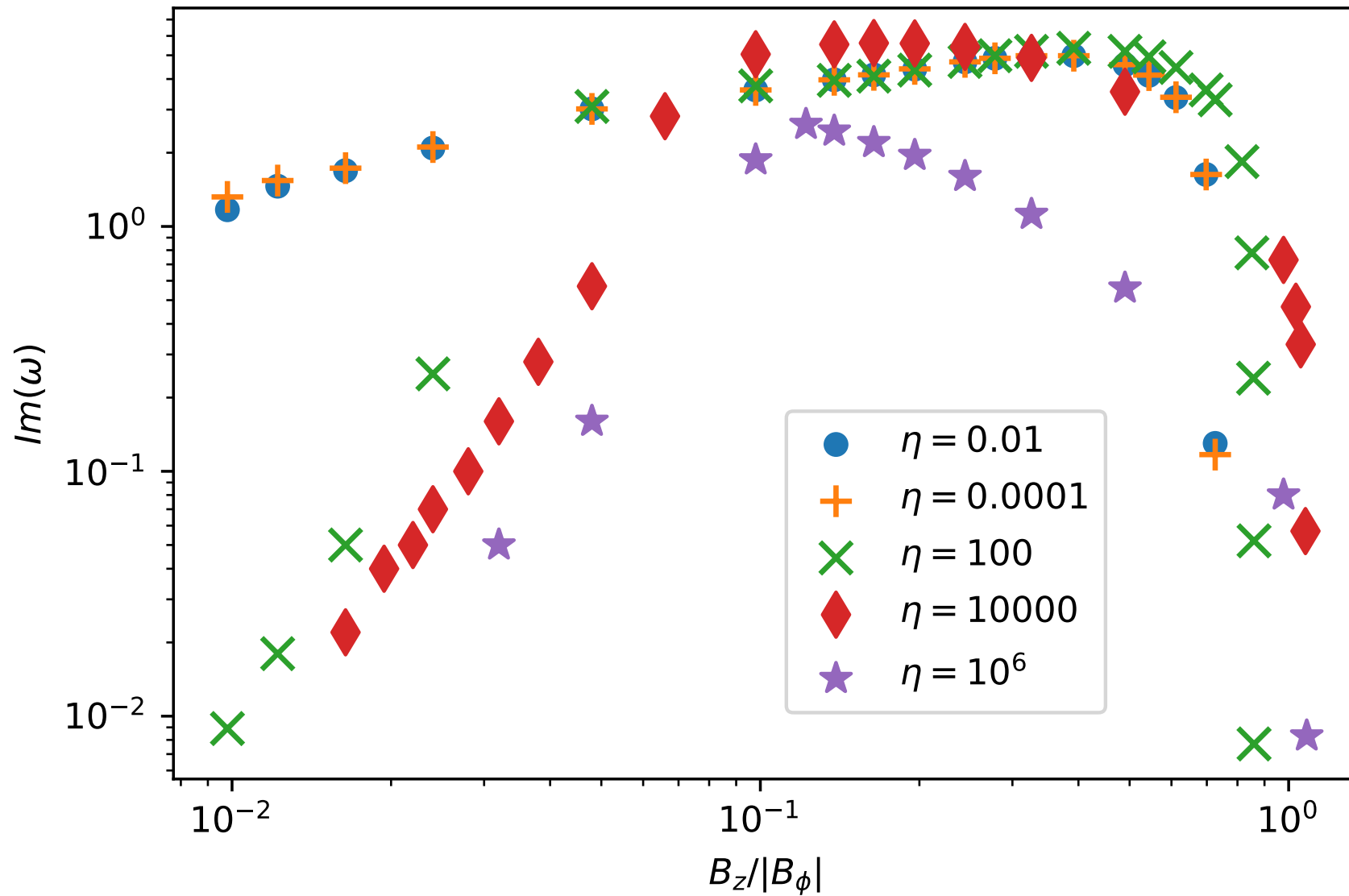
A hyper-unstable mode appears!











Summary

- ★ magnetic field + rotation \rightarrow Poynting flux extraction
- ★ the **collimation-acceleration mechanism** is very efficient – provides a viable explanation for the bulk acceleration in all jets (relativistic or not)
- ★ acceleration efficiency $\gtrsim 50\%$
- ★ environment significantly affects jet dynamics in the acceleration-collimation zone (jet-shape, spatial scale of γ)

- ★ typical instability growth length = a few tens ϖ_j
volume or surface instabilities
- ★ a **hyper-unstable surface mode** tends to appear for heavy jets with mildly relativistic speeds, high magnetizations, only for $B_z < |B_\phi|$
- ★ interesting to analyze the nonlinear evolution via simulations (preliminary results show that the jet relaxes to a new quasi-steady-state)

Thank you for your attention