

# Parallel Asynchronous Simulations of High-Speed Magnetized Plasma Flows

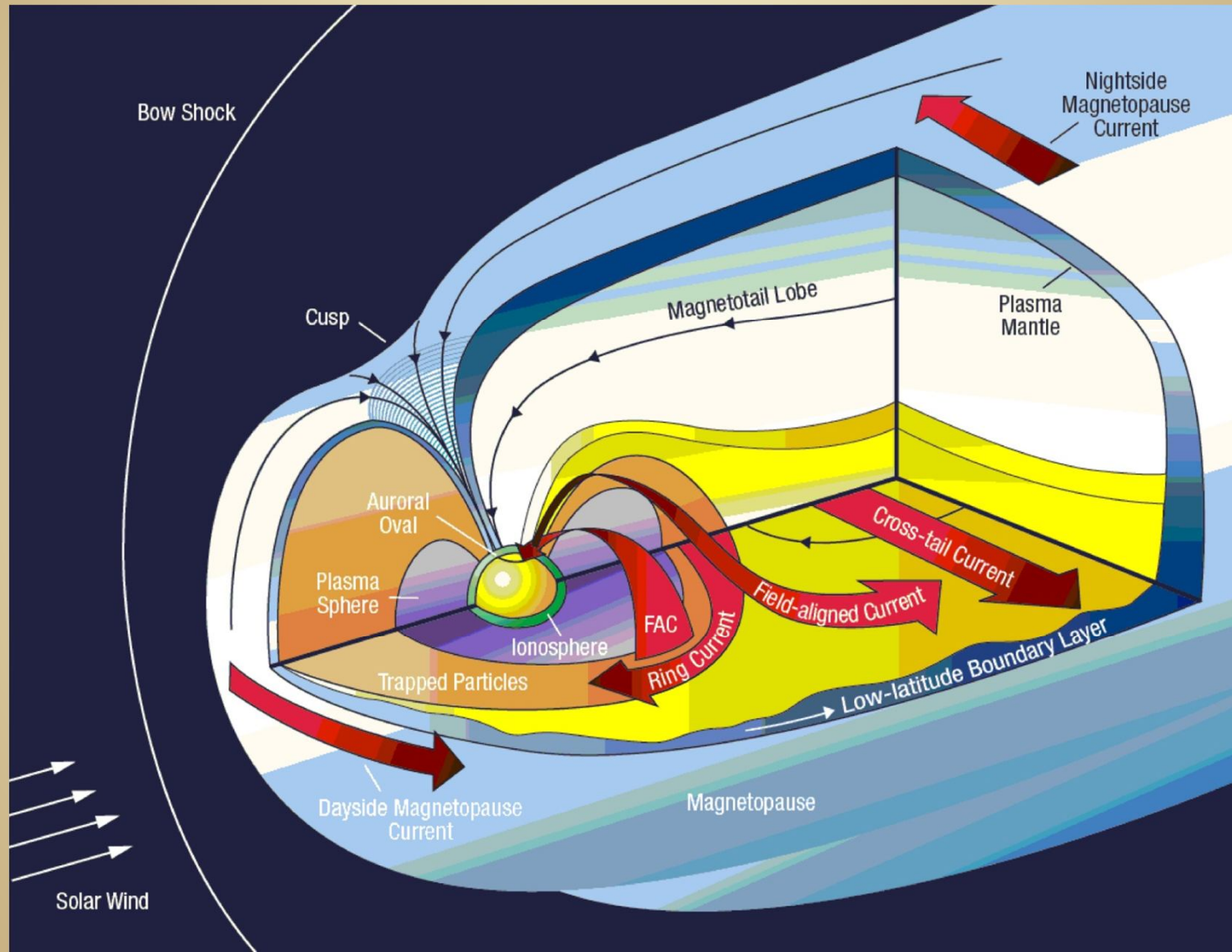
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ASTRONUM-2013, July 1-5, 2013, Biarritz, France

# Motivation

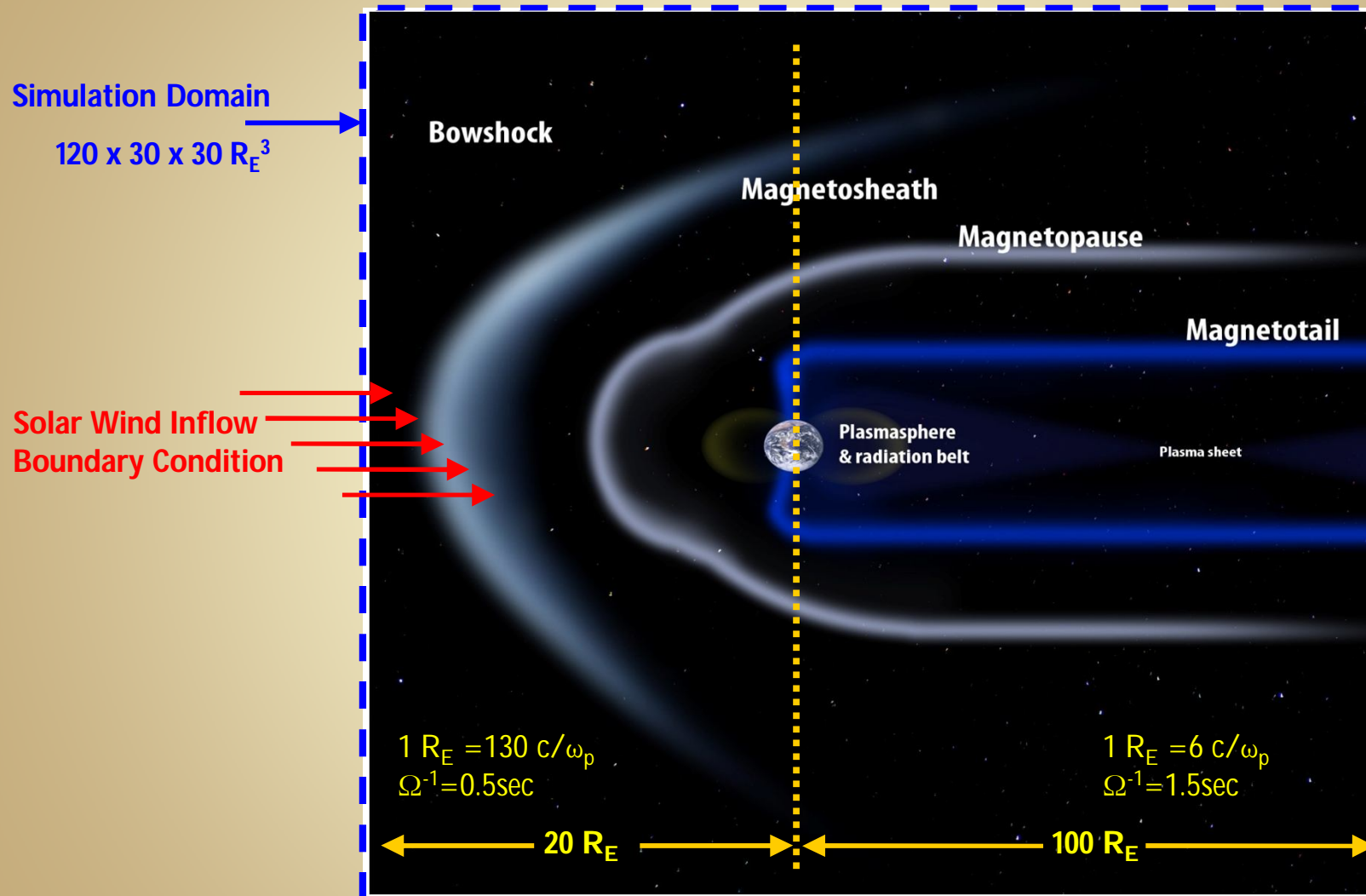
# Global Magnetospheric Simulations



# Importance of Ion Kinetic Effects

- Bowshock/foreshock physics
- Magnetosheath turbulence
- Ionospheric outflow
- Effect of  $O^+$  in magnetotail
- Ring currents
- Turbulence in the magnetotail
- Transport /formation of boundaries

# Numerology & the Computational Challenge



# Challenges in Kinetic Simulations

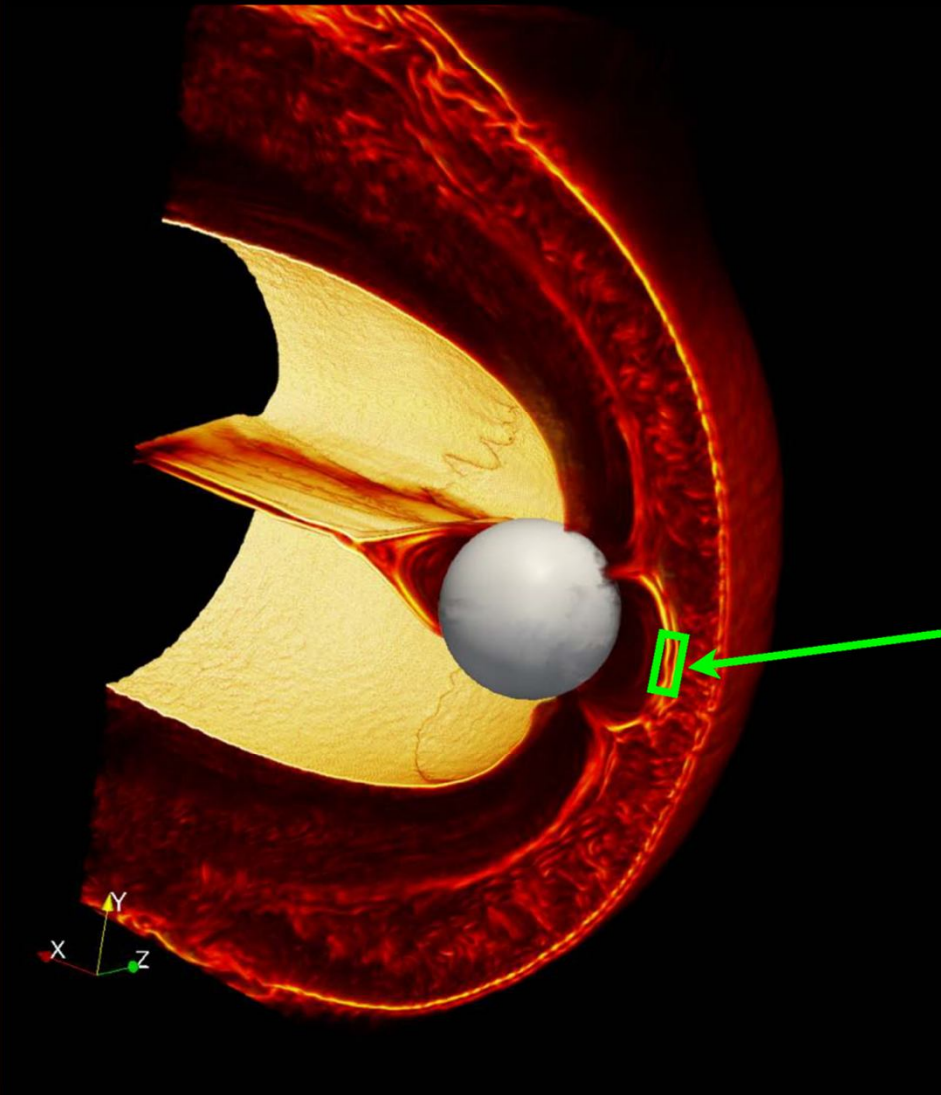
## Magnetosphere is a Multiscale Coupled System:

- Spatial scales vary from centimeters to 200 R<sub>E</sub> (span of 10<sup>11</sup> spatial scales!)
- Temporal scales vary from less than milliseconds to days (span of 10<sup>8</sup> temporal scales!)
- Electron physics: e.g., controls reconnection rate
- Ion physics: e.g., accounts for formation of boundaries, transport, energization
- Dynamic M-I coupling: still **missing** in kinetic simulations

➤ Requires **yottaflops** (10<sup>24</sup>) and beyond

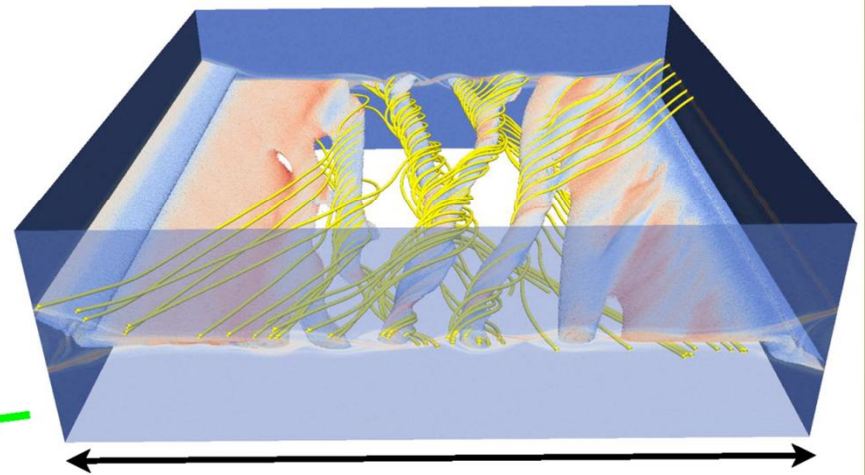
# What simulations are feasible at the petascale?

Hybrid  $\sim 10^{10}$  cells  $\sim 10^{12}$  ions



## Fully Kinetic

$\sim 10^{10}$  cells  $\sim 10^{12}$  particles



$\sim 100d_i \sim R_E$

3D  $\rightarrow m_i/m_e = 100 - 400$

2D  $\rightarrow m_i/m_e = 400 - 1836$

**Breakthrough Technology:**  
**Discrete-Event Simulation (DES)**



# Time-Accurate Simulation

Q: Can we advance solution in time asynchronously in accordance with locally varying time scales?

- **Time-Driven (Stepped) Simulation (TDS)**
  - ✓ stability issues (for  $dt > CFL$ )
  - ✓ diffusion/dispersion issues (for  $dt \ll CFL$ )
  - ✓ inactive regions are still time-stepped
  - ✓ local time stepping has synchronization issues
- **Discrete-Event Simulation (DES)**
  - ✓ updates are driven by physical changes ( $= >$  speedup)
  - ✓ changes are always limited ( $= >$  accuracy/stability)
  - ✓ arbitrary grids may be considered
  - ✓ adaptive synchronization via event preemption

# Change-Event ( $\Delta f$ ) vs Time-Step ( $\Delta t$ )

Generalized  
equation:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = R(t, f)$$

Cells have different  
“trajectories”



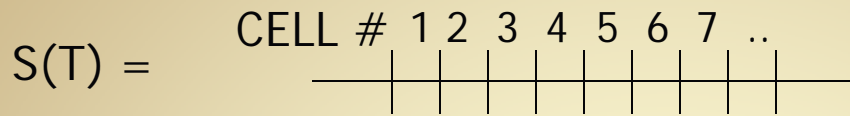
Event  
scheduling:

$$\Delta t = \frac{\Delta f}{\left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right|}$$

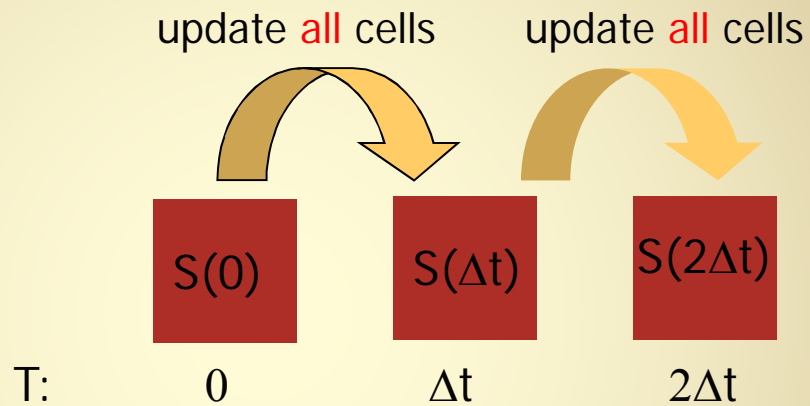
Cells have different  $\Delta t$ 's

**Events are desynchronized by  $\Delta f$ !**

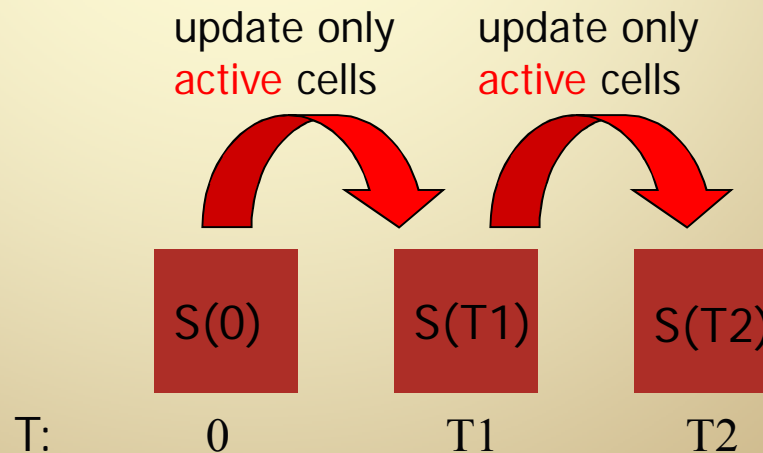
# DES vs Time Stepping



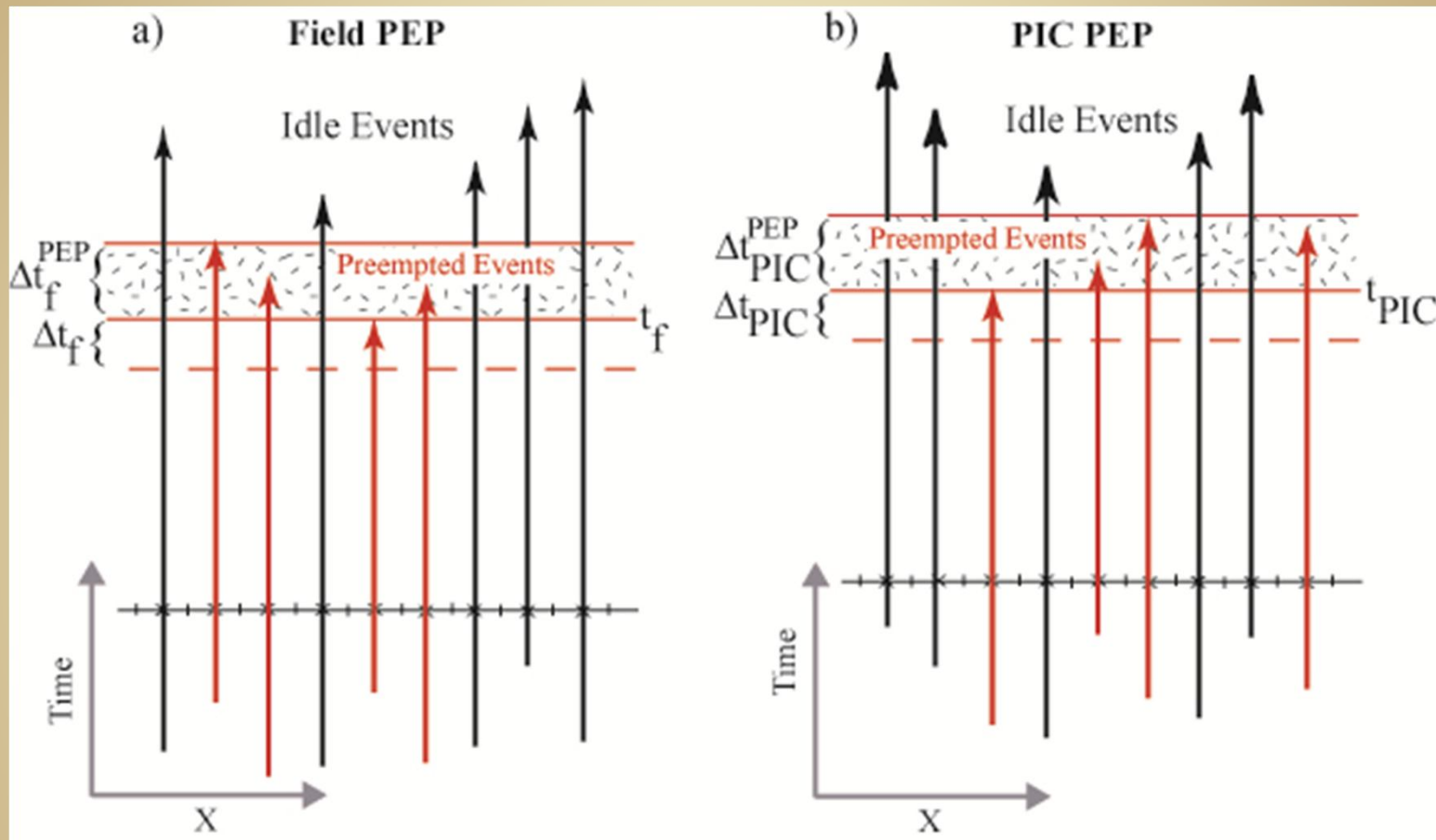
Time-driven simulation  
updates the entire system



Event-driven simulation  
updates active cells only



# DES via Preemptive Event Processing (PEP)



1. For  $\mathbf{df/dt} = \mathbf{R}$  schedule events: for each "state" predict  $\Delta t$  based on its trajectory,  $f(t)$  and accuracy threshold,  $\Delta f$ .
2. Update  $\rightarrow$  synchronize  $\rightarrow$  [preempt?]  $\rightarrow$  reschedule events.

# Hybrid DES Code HYPERS (JCP, 2012)

$$0 = \frac{4\pi}{c} (\mathbf{j}_i + \mathbf{j}_e) - \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$$

$$0 = en_e \left[ \mathbf{E} - \eta (\mathbf{j}_i + \mathbf{j}_e) \right] - \frac{\mathbf{j}_e \times \mathbf{B}}{c} + \nabla p_e$$

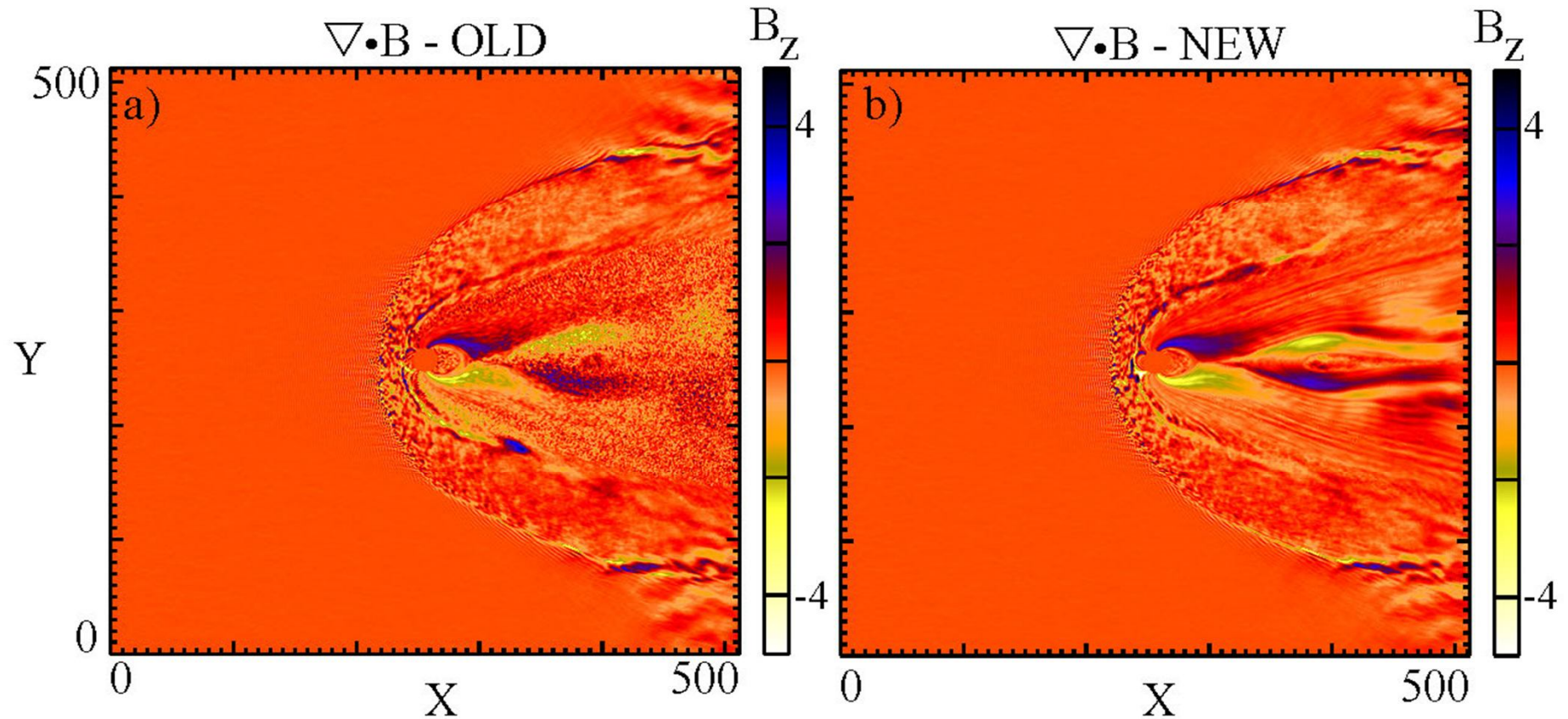
$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E}$$

$$en_e = q_i n_i, \mathbf{j}_e = -en_e \mathbf{v}_e$$

$$p_e = n_e T_e \sim n_e^\gamma$$

**divB=0 is asynchronously preserved (2013)**

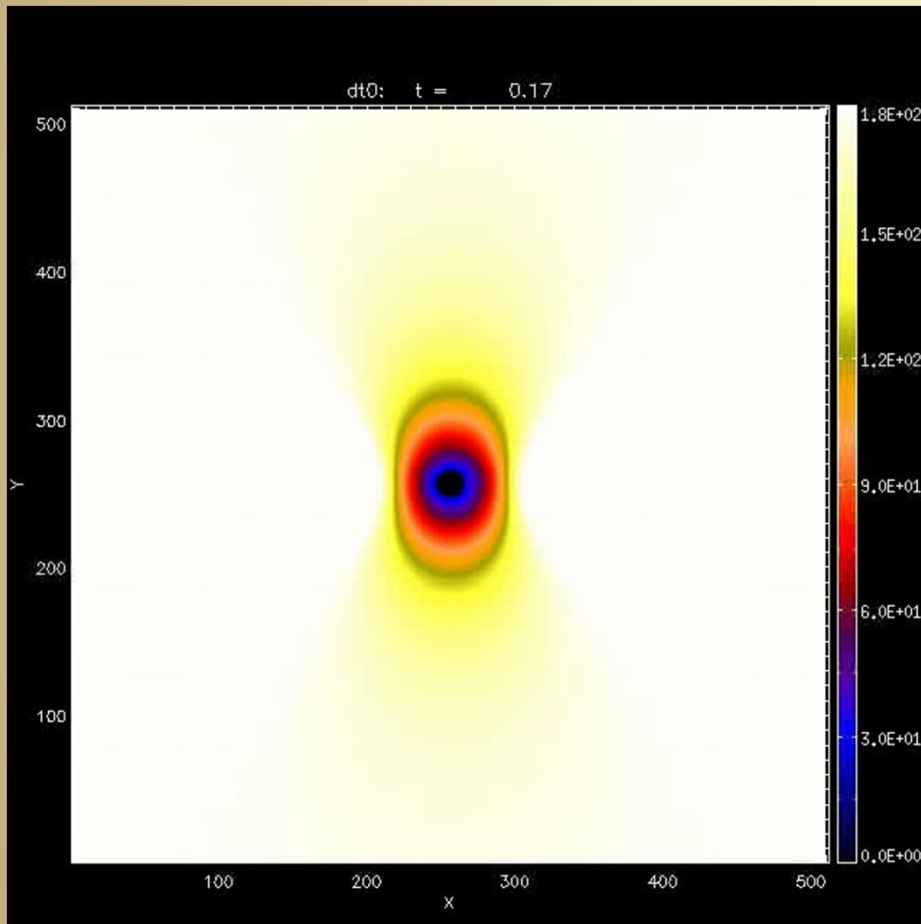
# Algorithm improvement (2013)



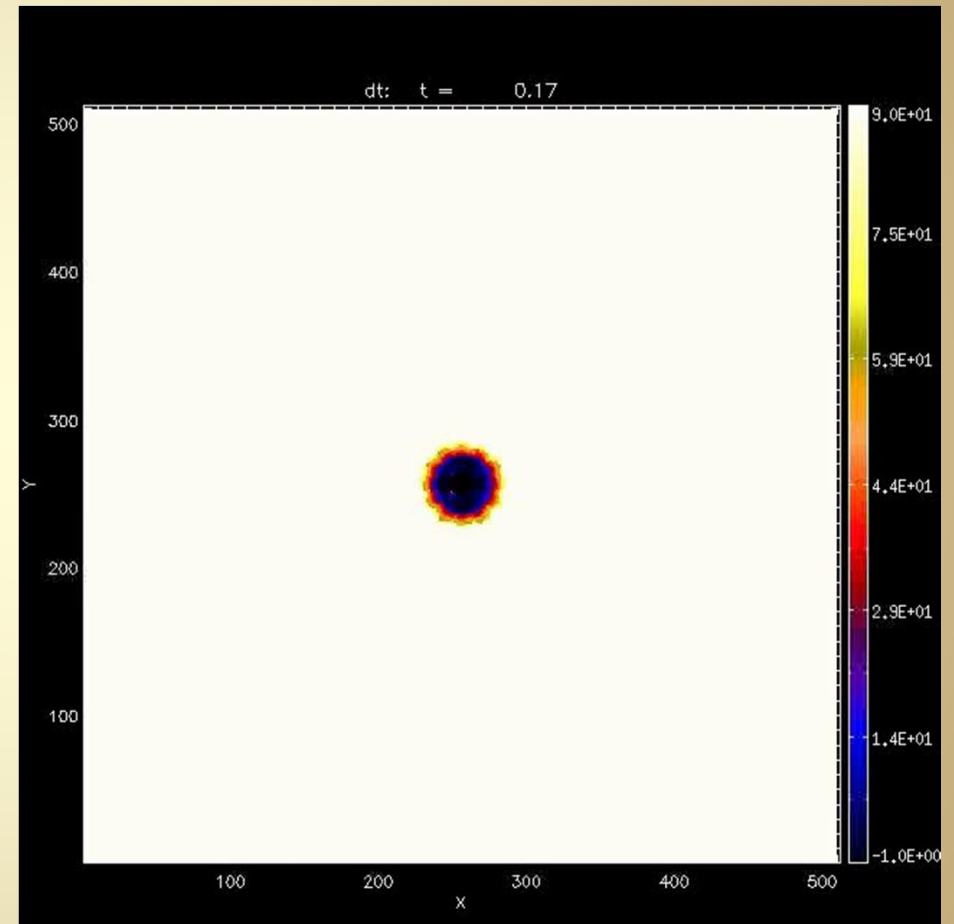
**Very large threshold:  $\Delta B=0.5$**

# Self-Adaptive Dynamics in DES

PIC  $\Delta t$



Field  $\Delta t$

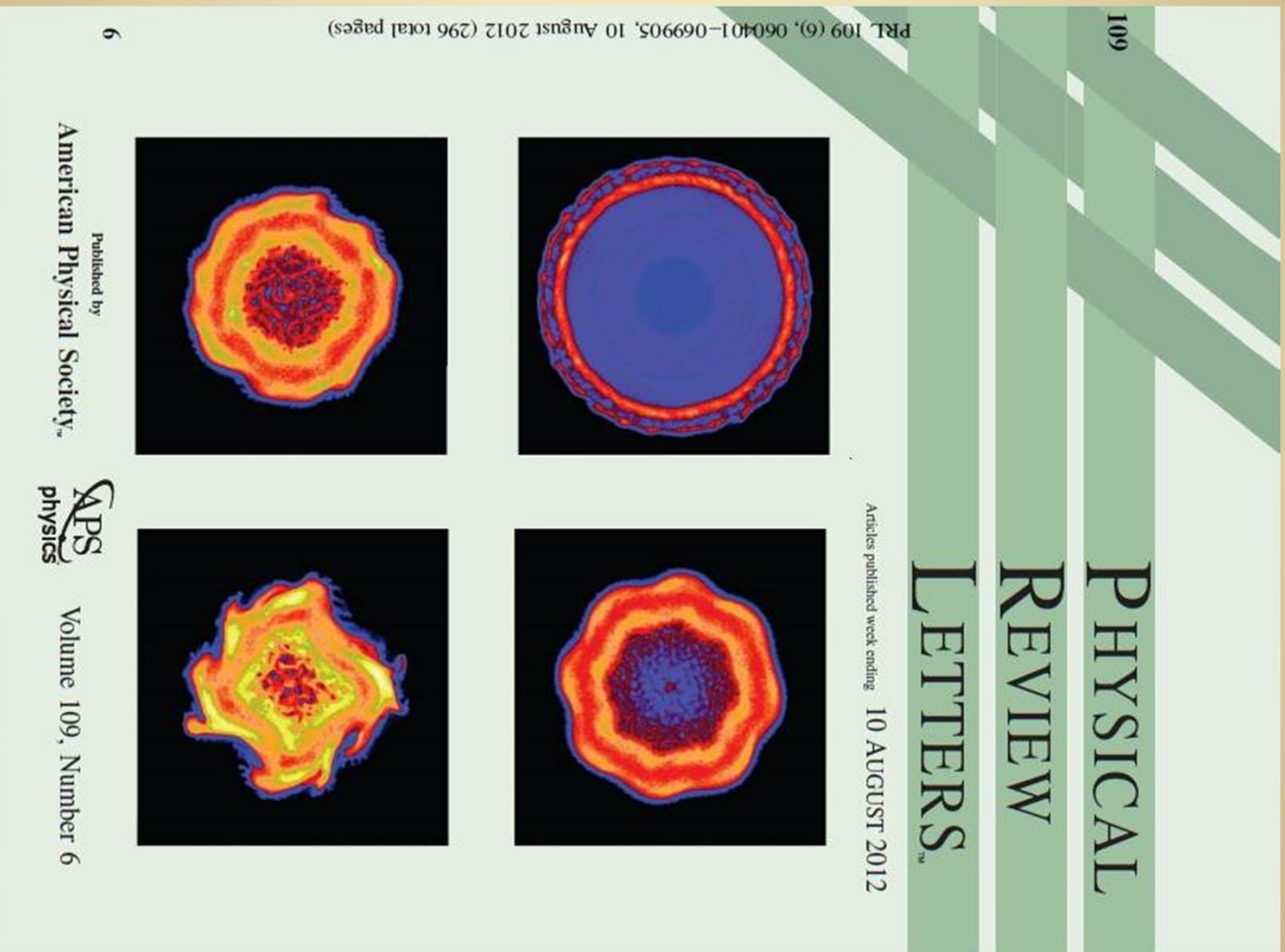


**The only code in the world that can do it!**

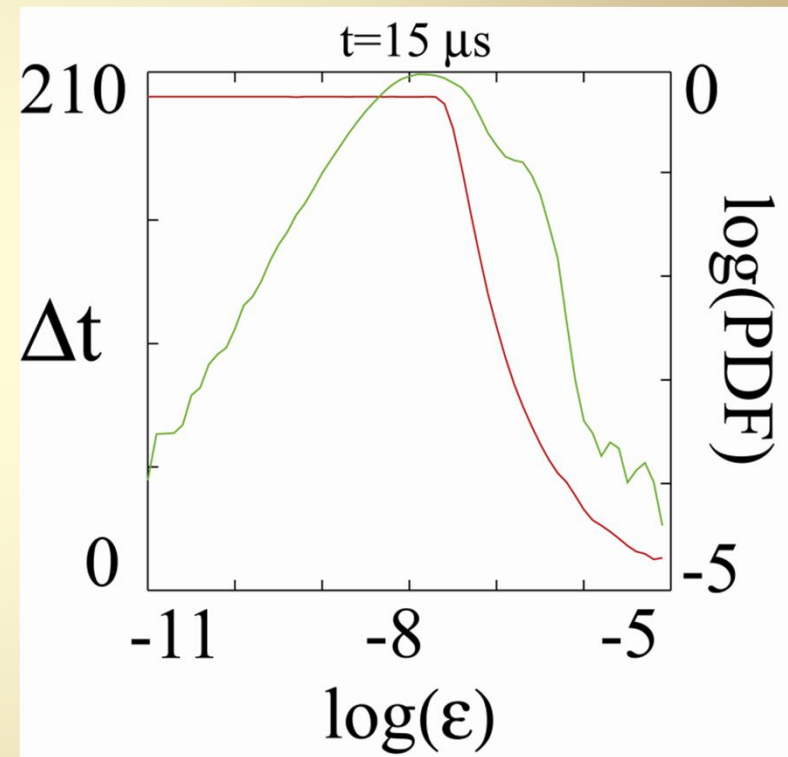
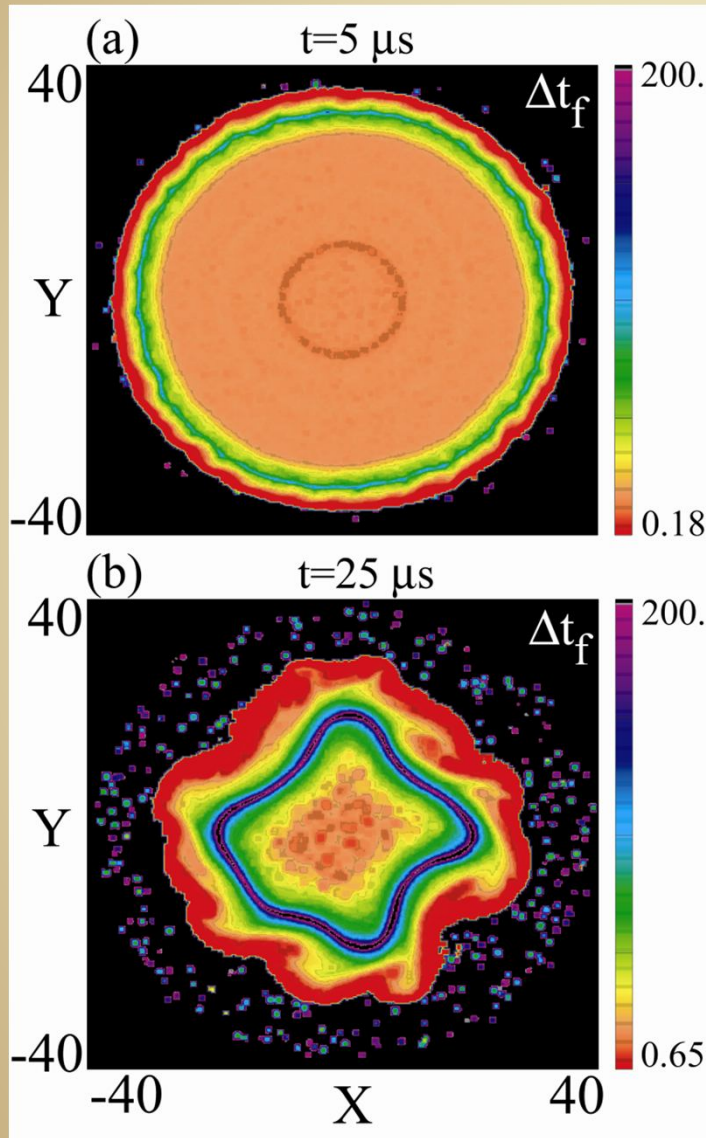
# Laboratory Plasmas



# Reverse $\theta$ -Pinch Discharge

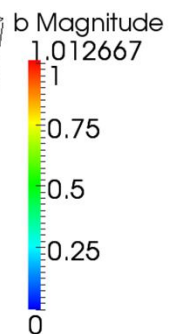
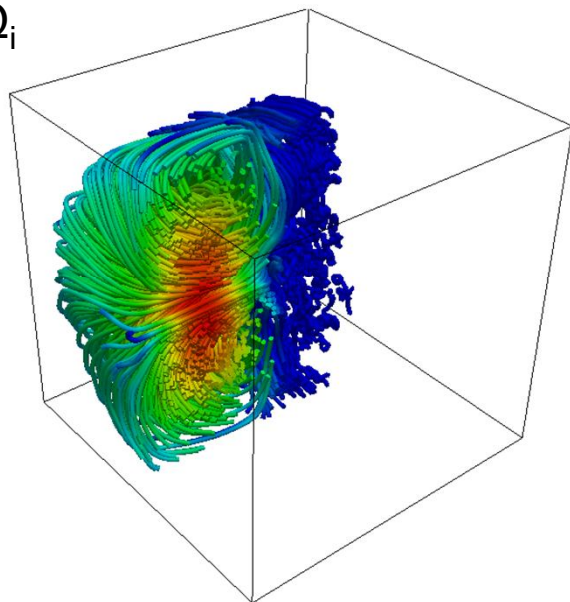


# Field-Reversed $\theta$ -Pinch (PRL 2012)

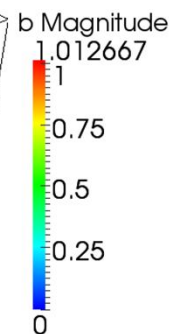
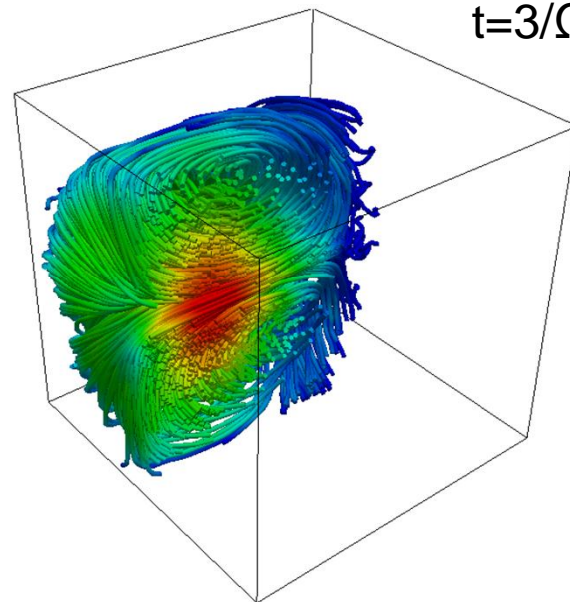


# Spheromak Expansion: B-field

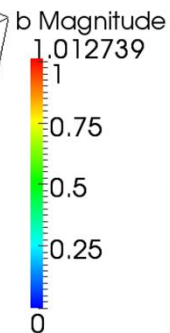
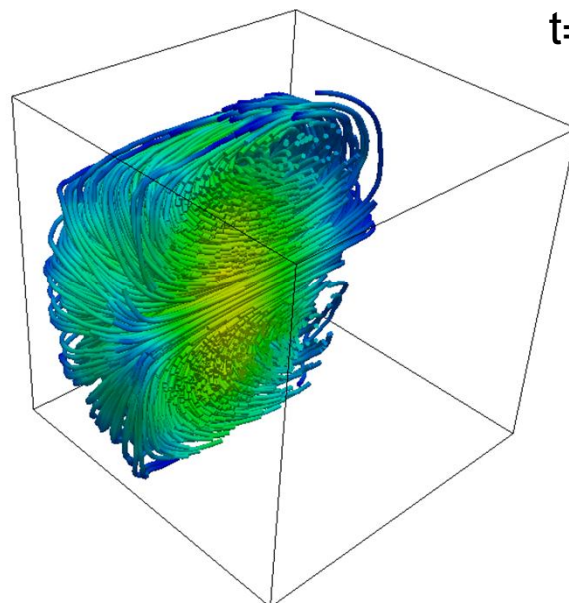
$t=1/\Omega_i$



$t=3/\Omega_i$

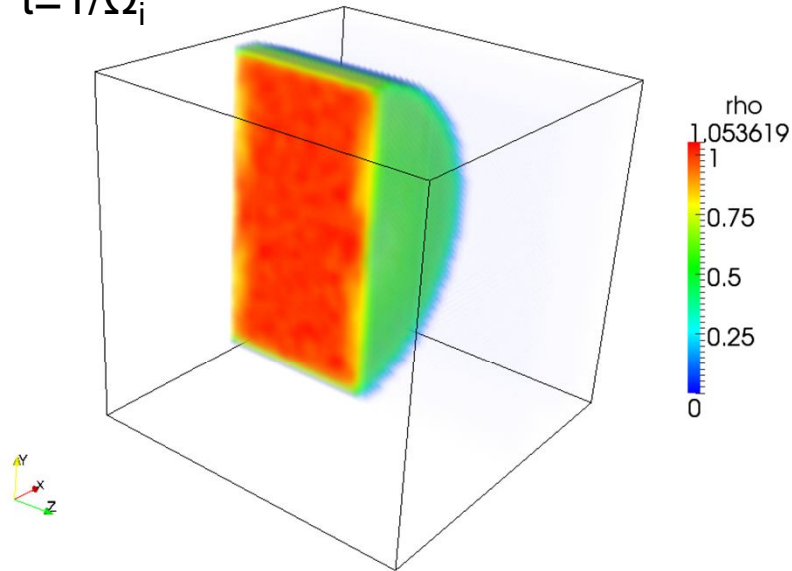


$t=7/\Omega_i$

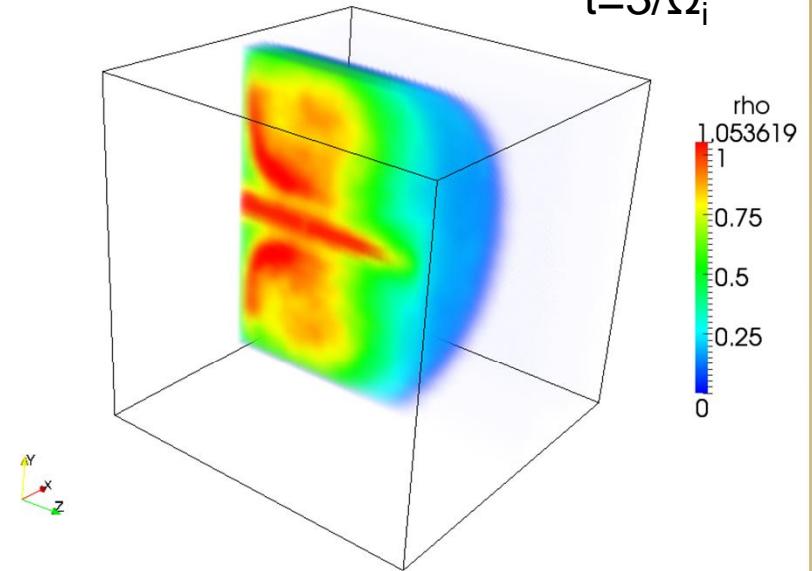


# Spheromak Expansion: Density

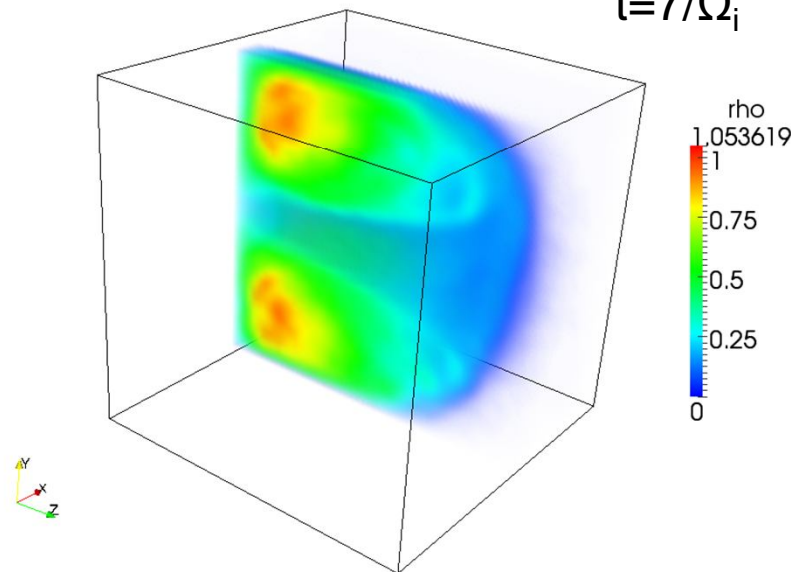
$t=1/\Omega_i$



$t=3/\Omega_i$

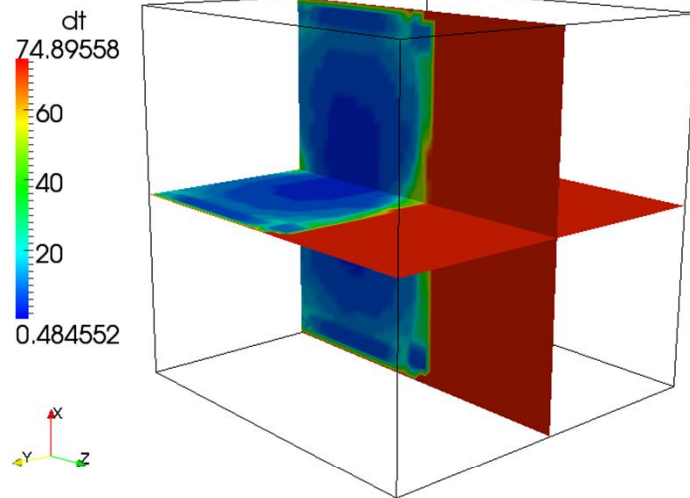


$t=7/\Omega_i$

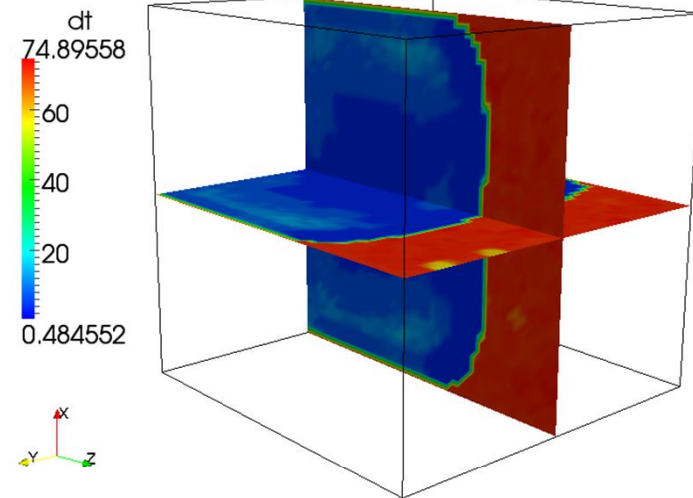


# Spheromak Expansion: Field-dt

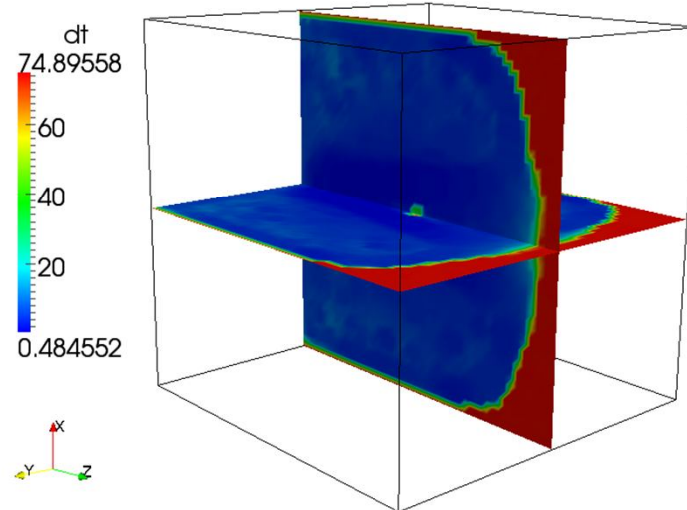
$t=1/\Omega_i$



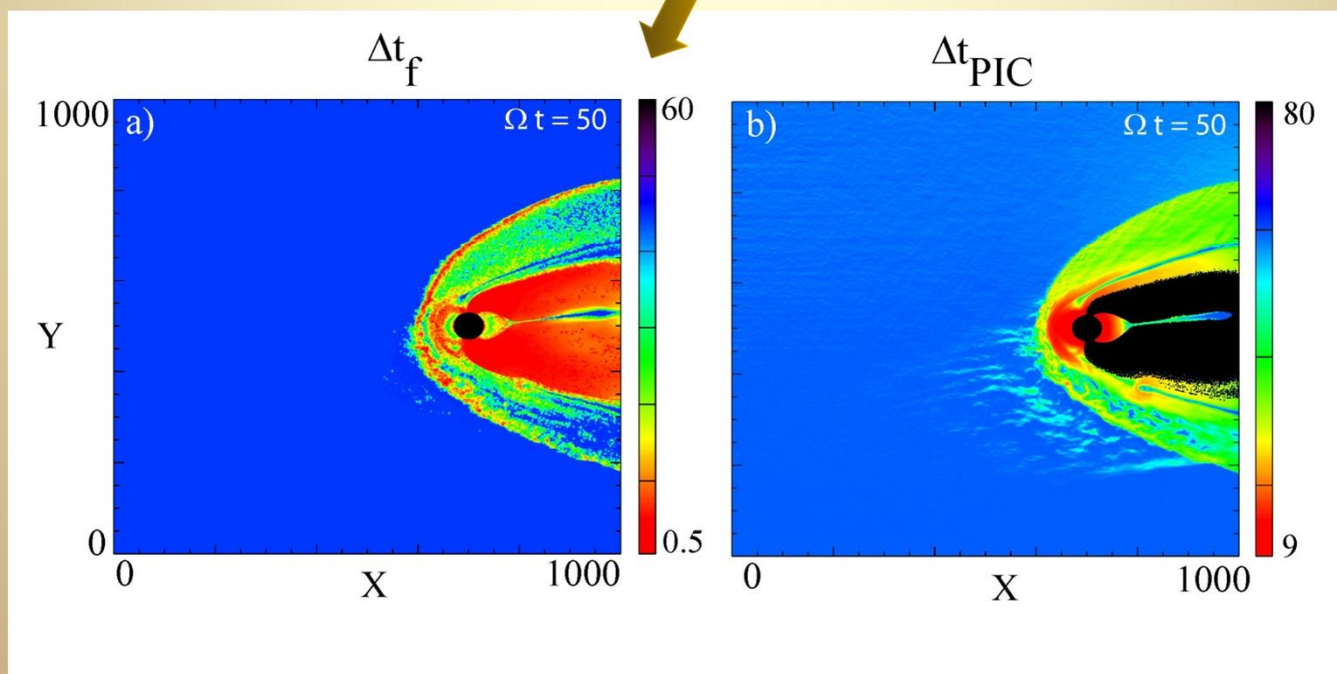
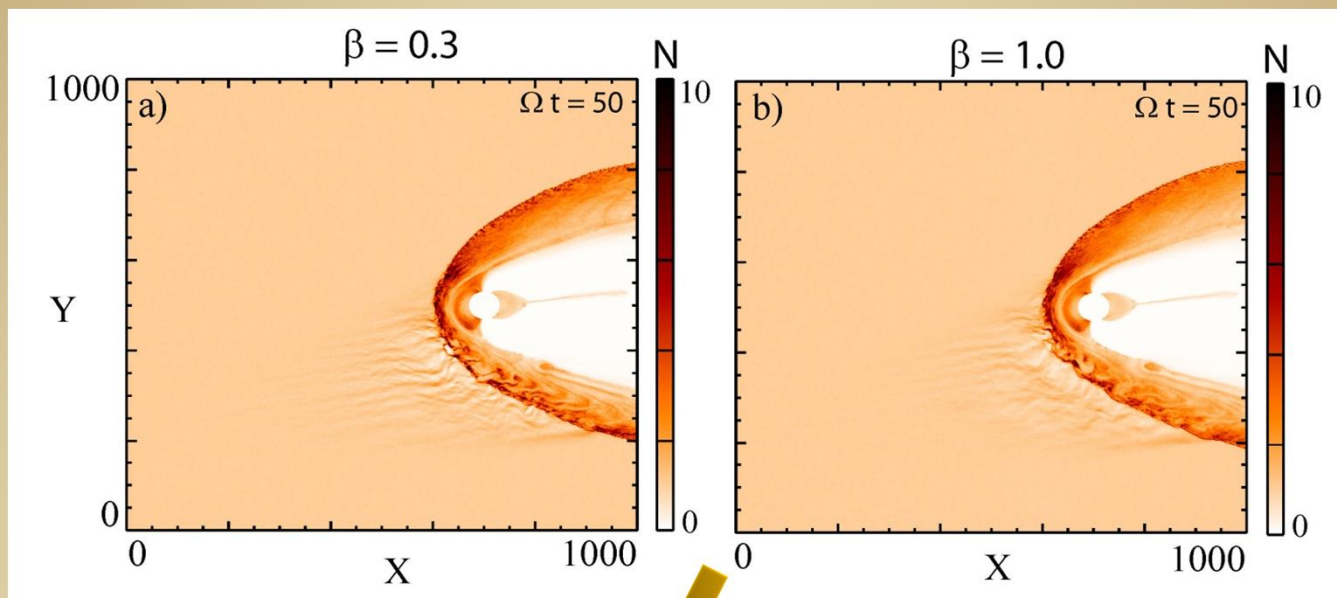
$t=3/\Omega_i$



$t=7/\Omega_i$



# Quasi-Parallel Shocks (2D)

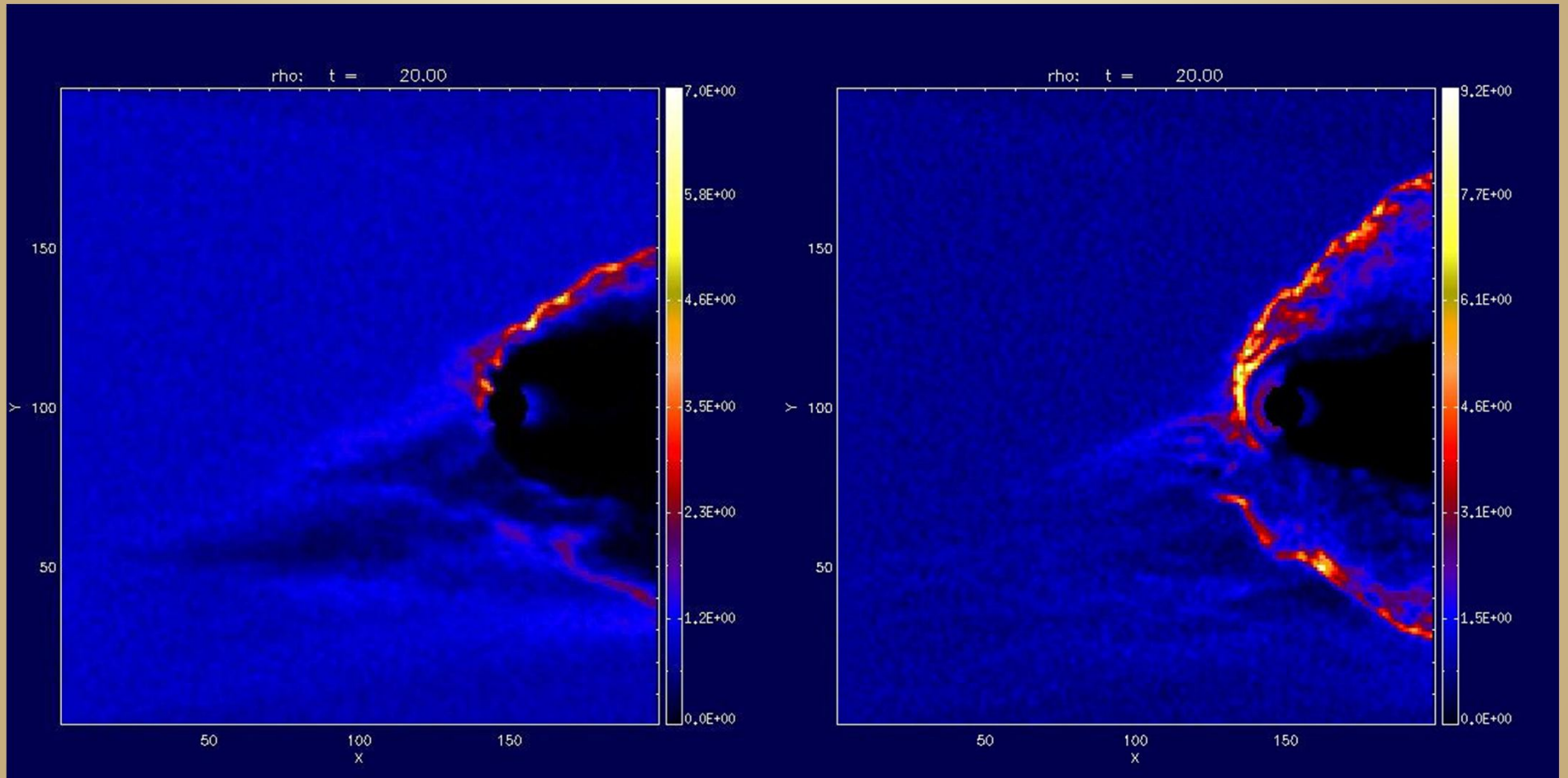


# Quasi-Parallel Shocks (3D – just a few days ago!)

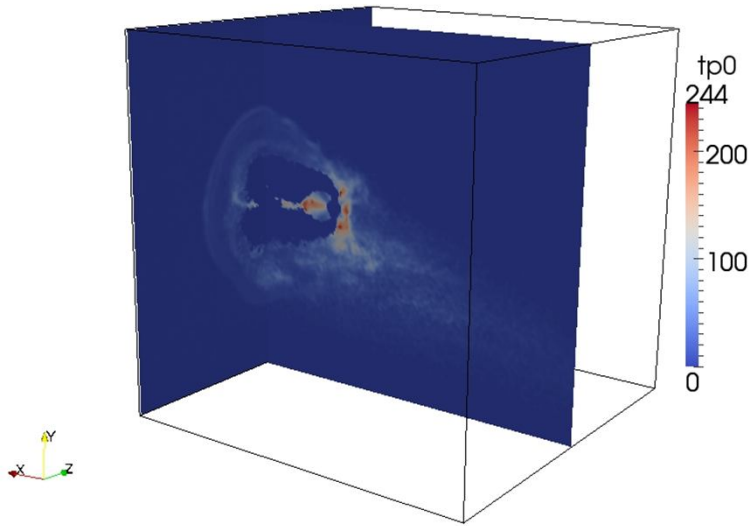


# 3D

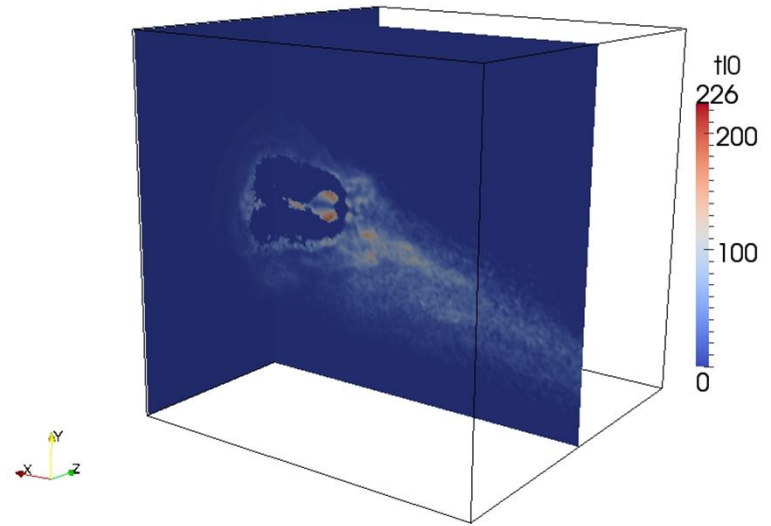
# 2D



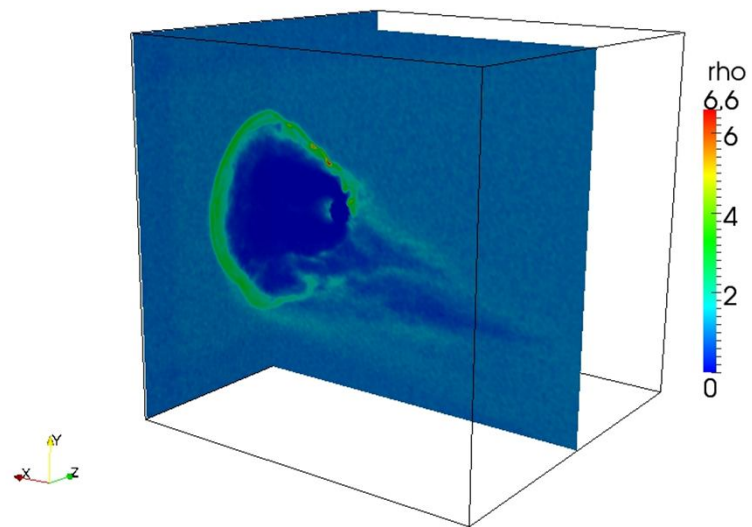
$T_{\text{perp}}$



$T_{\text{par}}$

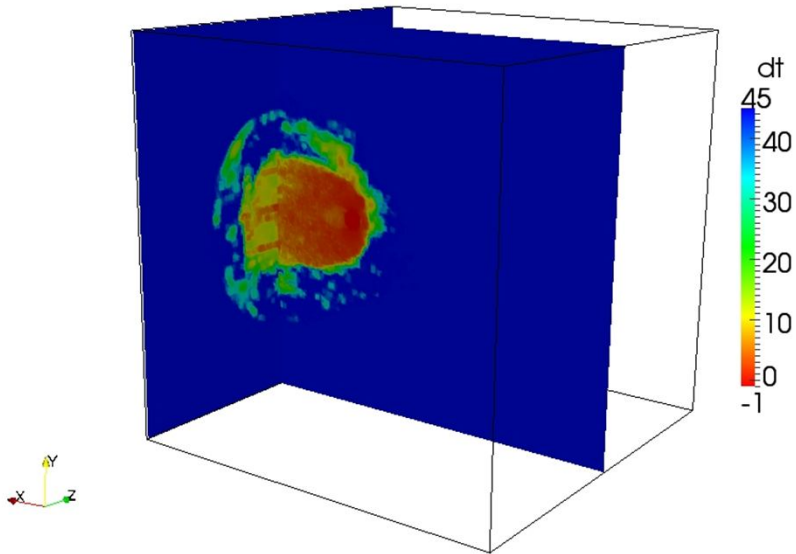


Density

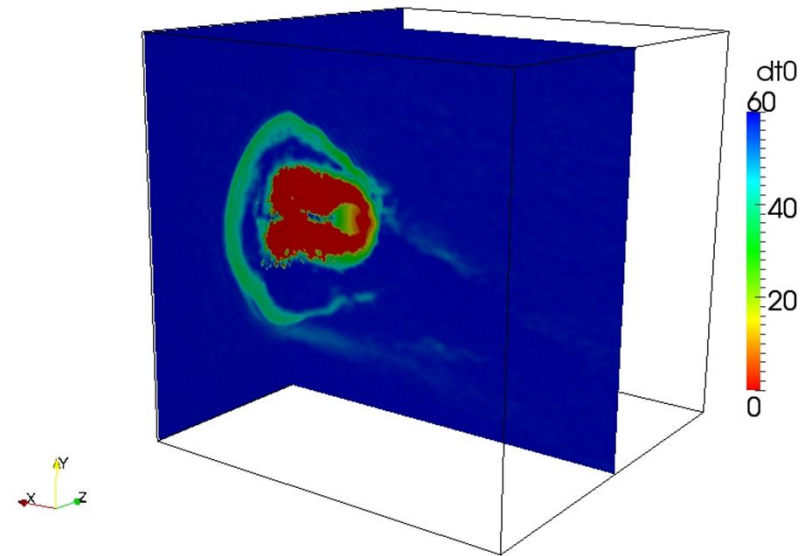


# Dynamic load balancing is coming soon

Field  $\Delta t$

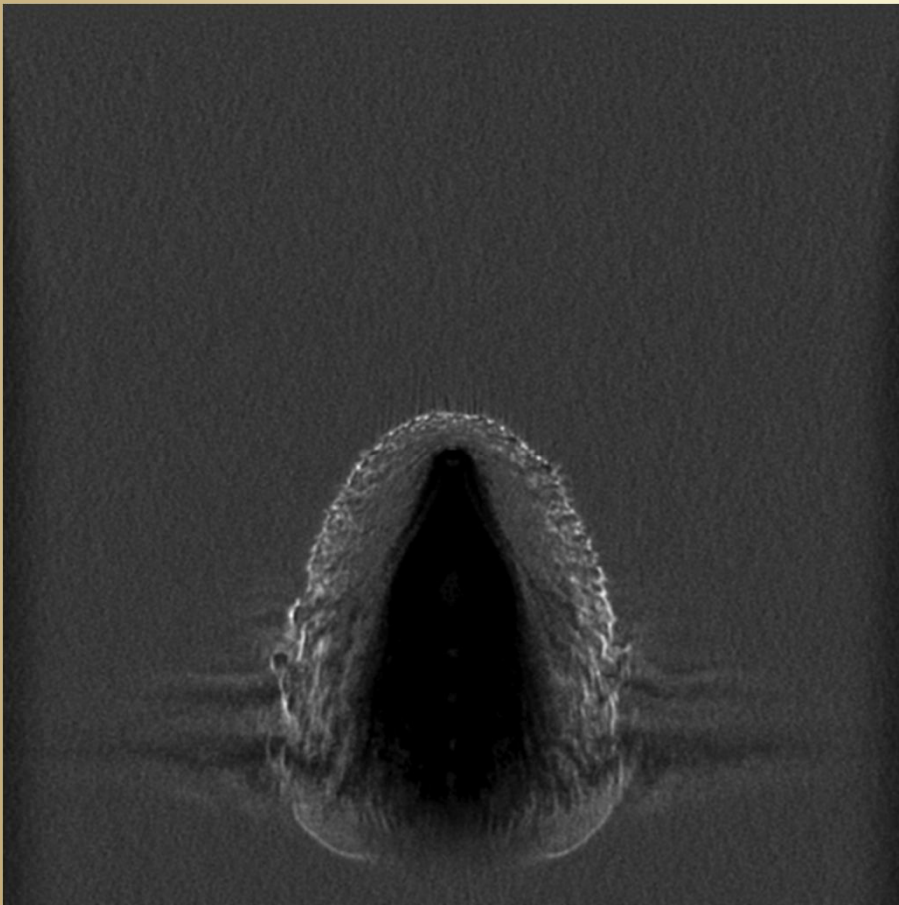


PIC  $\Delta t$

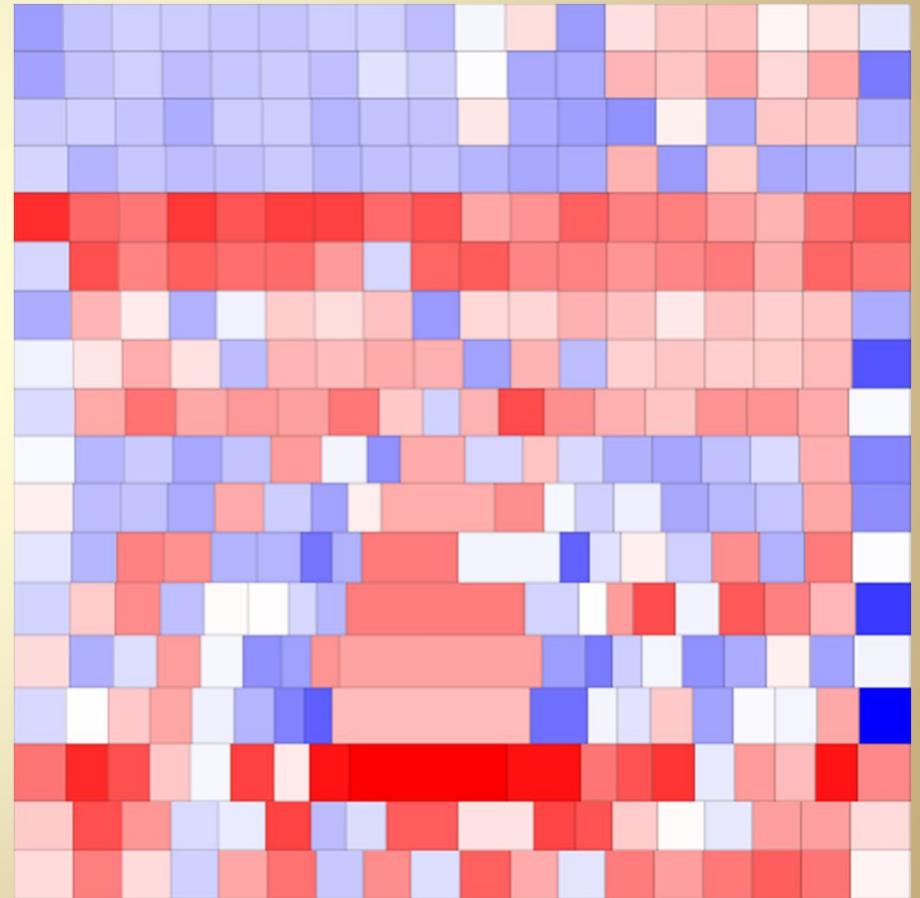


# Load balancing Example (18x18 CPUs)

Load



Load imbalance

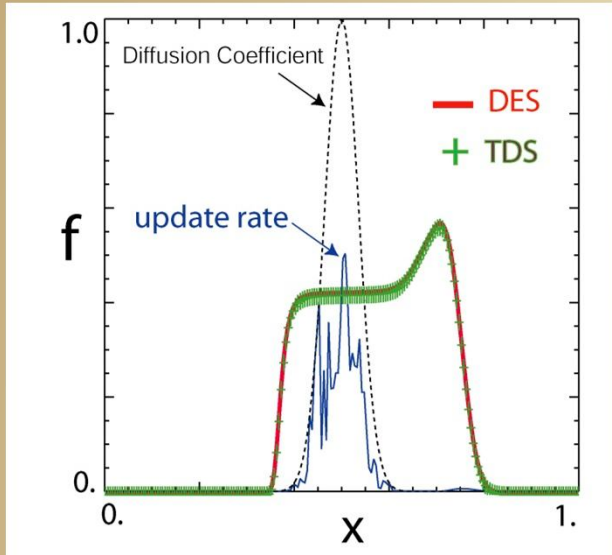


# Summary

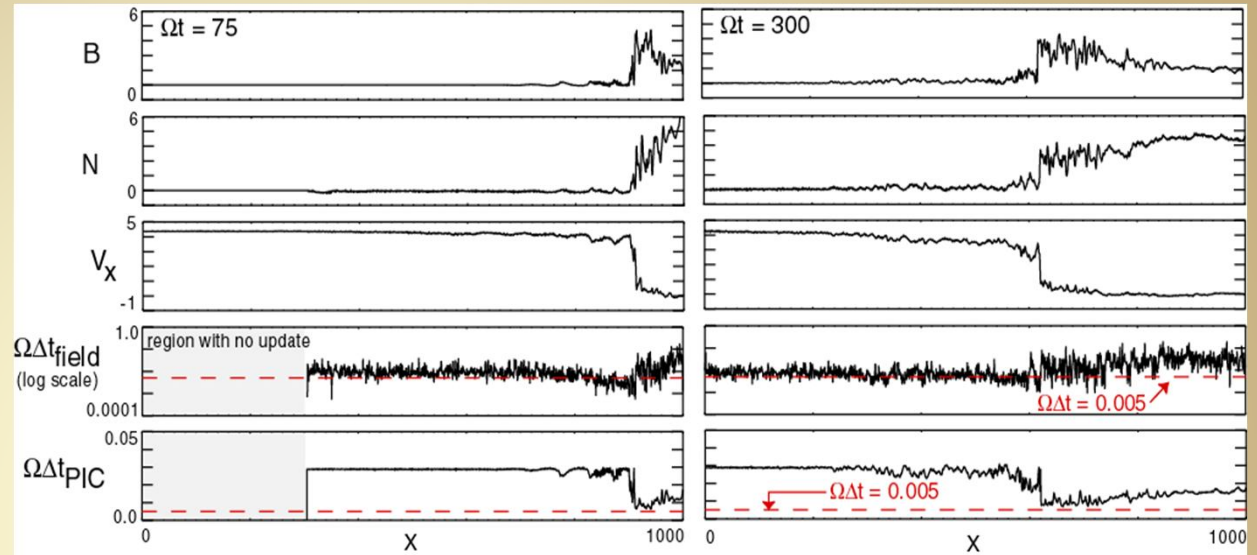
- ▶ **Hybrid simulations** are revealing new features of the solar wind interaction with the magnetosphere and laboratory plasmas.
- ▶ **Disparate time scales** in global 3D simulations can be addressed with DES. First parallel 3D DES runs have just been performed on 200 cpus.
- ▶ **DES** makes possible new advances in global hybrid simulations by enabling: (i) model coupling (e.g., I-M), (ii) new electron physics (e.g., X-Hybrid).
- ▶ DES can be applied to **MHD, CFD, PIC** (turbulence, unstructured grids, higher-order methods, etc).

# ASTRONUM 2006-2013

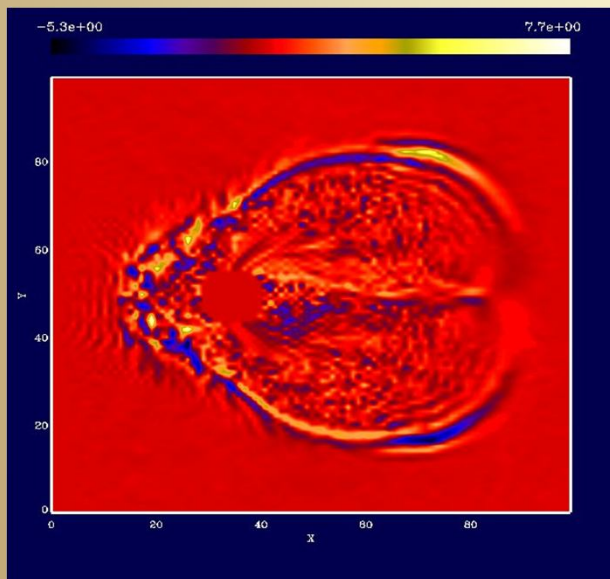
2006: 1D PDEs



2008: 1D Hybrid



2010: 2D Hybrid (serial)



2013: 2D/3D HYPERS (parallel)

