



MHD Instabilities and its impact on the emission signatures of AGN jets

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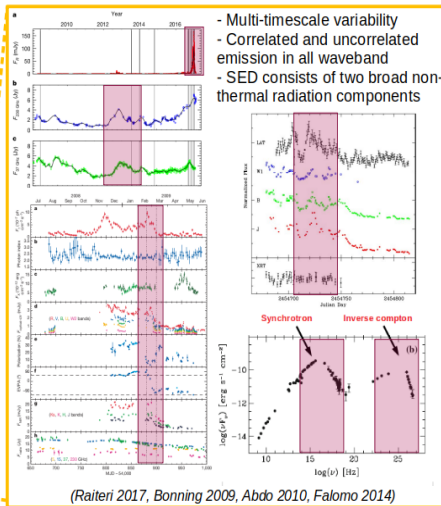
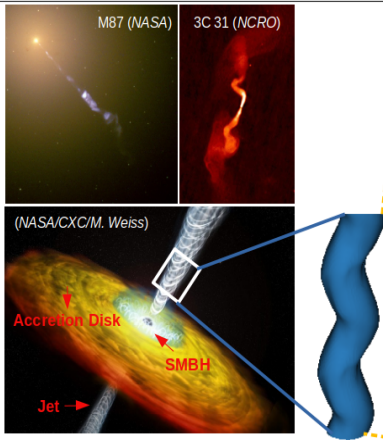
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Discipline of Astronomy, Astrophysics and Space Engineering, IIT Indore

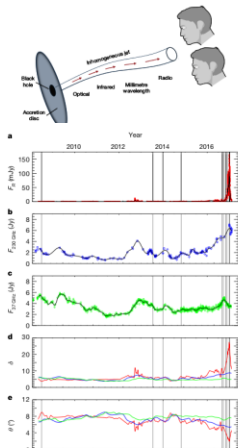
Collaborators: Bhargav Vaidya, Nikhil Borse, Gianluigi Bodo, Dipanjan Mukherjee, Paola Rossi, Andrea Mignone

AGN jets & Instabilities?

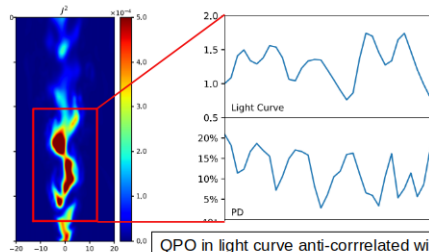
- Relativistic collimated outflow of plasma
- Formation and collimation involves MHD processes



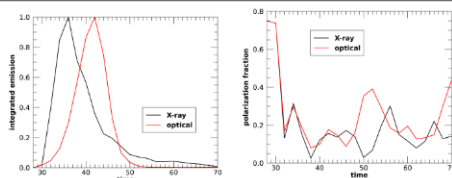
Kink instability & Variability



Long term variability of Blazars as explained by a twisted inhomogeneous jet (Raiteri 2017)



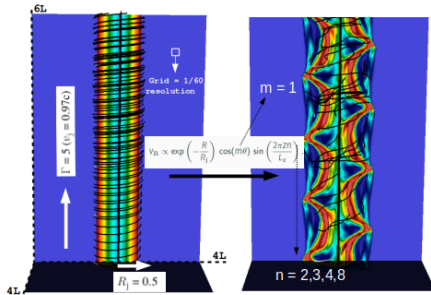
QPO in light curve anti-correlated with the polarisation degree (Dong 2020)



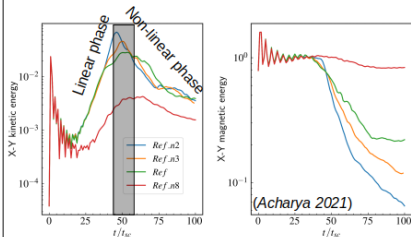
synchrotron polarization signatures of particles accelerated by the kink instability (Bodo 2021)

Numerical setup & Dynamics

- RMHD module of PLUTO code (*Mignone 2007*)
- Toroidal + poloidal magnetic field (*Mizuno 2011*)
- Decreasing pitch profile
- Defining $t_{sc} = 0.32$ years



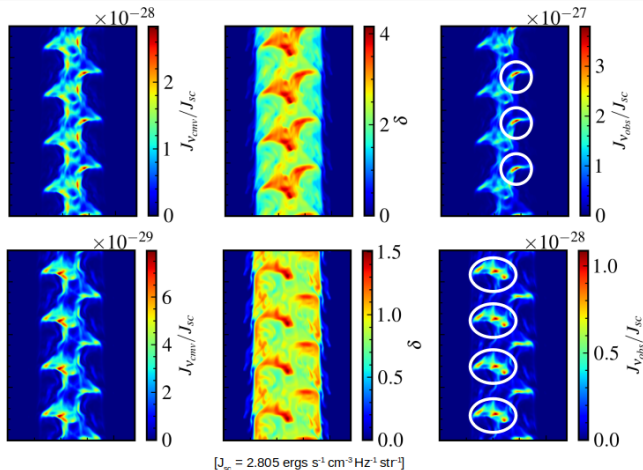
- Maximum growth rate of 0.096 is obtained for $n = 1$ (plot not shown here)
- Value obtained from simulation matches with analytical calculation
- Analytically max. Growth rate for $n = 1$ is 0.18



Runs ID	Ref_n2	Ref_n3	Ref	Ref_n8
η_{gr}	0.08	0.044	0.033	0.006
η_{diss}	0.054	0.04	0.026	0.0061

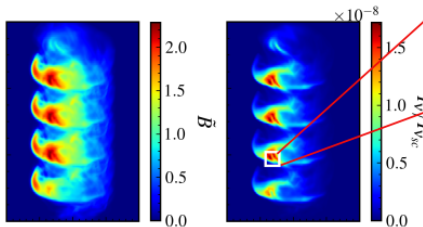
Impact of viewing angle

- Synchrotron emission in R-Band
- Static particle spectra with $p = 3$, $\gamma_{\min} = 10^2$ & $\gamma_{\max} = 10^6$
- Observing angle = 20 (top) and 45 (bottom) degrees



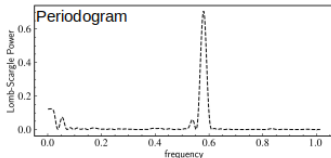
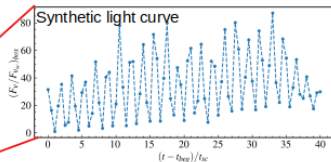
Periodic nature associated with kink

Integrated $|\mathbf{B}' \times \mathbf{n}'| \delta^2$ and intensity (I_{ν})



$[B_{sc} = 0.1 \text{ gauss}, I_{\nu sc} = 0.505 \text{ ergs s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1} \text{ str}^{-1}]$

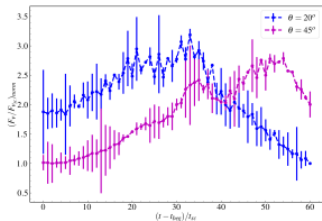
- Observing angle = 45 degree
- Combination of Doppler factor and $|\mathbf{B}' \times \mathbf{n}'|$ contribute the most to the observed synchrotron emission



Periodicity
time = $1.72 t_{sc}$

Dynamical time
taken by a single
kink to traverse the
whole column

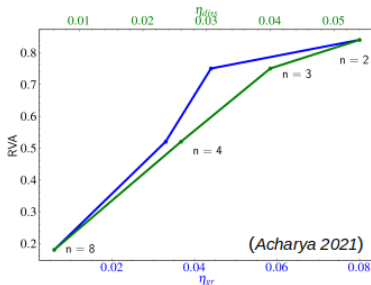
Evidence of presence of long-term variability



Quantification of variability through statistical tests

Runs ID	f_{var}	RVA
Ref_n2	0.6 ± 0.002	0.84 ± 0.26
Ref_n3	0.49 ± 0.017	0.75 ± 0.21
Ref	0.23 ± 0.01	0.52 ± 0.19
Ref_n8	-	$0.18 \pm -$

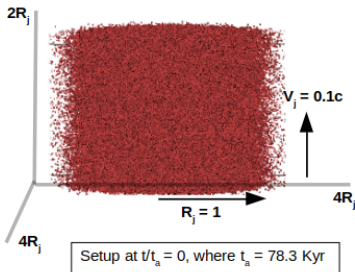
Connecting dynamics with emission features



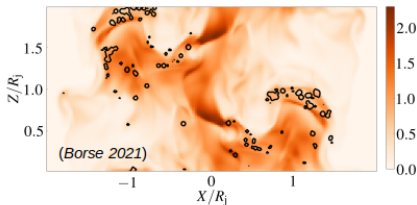
- Correlated trend between the linear growth rate and the magnetic energy dissipation rate with an observable "RVA"

Impact of KHI on the synthetic SED

- Focus is at Kpc scale
- Less magnetically dominated with purely axial magnetic field component (*Bary & Keppens 2002*)
- Prone to shear driven Kelvin-Helmholtz instability



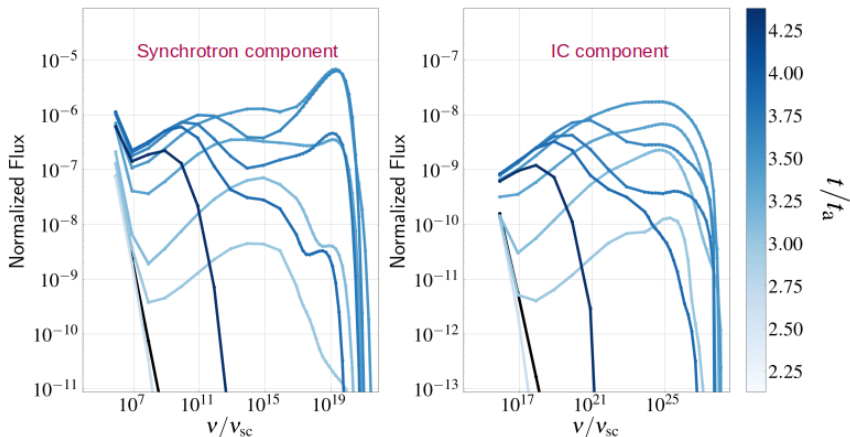
- Used hybrid macro-particle based framework in PLUTO code (*Vaidya 2018*)
- Evolving particle spectra with initial power-law spectra $p = 6$, $\gamma_{\min} = 10^2$ & $\gamma_{\max} = 10^8$
- Emission processes: Synchrotron and IC-CMB



Over plotting the X-ray emissivity contours on the jet pressure distribution

Effect of shocks

- Emergence of multiple peaks in the emission spectra after the formation of shock
- Observing angle = 20 degree



$[F_{v_{sc}} = 9.38 \times 10^{-14} \text{ ergs s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1} \text{ \& } v_{sc} = 122 \text{ Hz}]$

Summary

- Highly magnetized jets with decreasing pitch profile are prone to kink instability
- Lowest n shows the maximum growth rate
- Location of emitting region is different for different line of sight of observer, demonstrating the objective of “helical jet model”
- **Statistical estimates support the helical jet picture as a model to explain the long term flux variation for a period of ≤ 20 years.**
- Connecting dynamics with the emission features, a correlated trend between the linear growth rate and the magnetic energy dissipation rate with RVA is obtained
- At kpc scale with the only axial magnetic field, jets are prone to KHI
- Particle re-acceleration at the shock formation site leads to the emergence of a secondary population of highly energetic electrons that causes flattening of the SED