

Pulsar magnetospheres and pulsar winds

V.S. Beskin

*Lebedev Physical Institute
Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology*



6 unpublished papers

VB, A.A.Philippov. "On the mean profiles of radio pulsars I: Theory of the propagation effects". MNRAS, **425**, 814-840 (2012)

VB, Ya.N.Istomin, A.A.Philippov, Radio pulsars: the search for truth. Physics Uspekhi, **56**, 164 (2014)

Ya. N.Istomin, A.A.Philippov, VB, On the collective curvature radiation. MNRAS, **422**, 23 (2014)

V.V.Prokofev, L.I.Arzamasskiy, VB. On the primary beam deceleration in the pulsar wind. MNRAS, **453**, 3540 (2015)

- [1] P.Jaroenjittichai, A.A.Philippov, VB, M.Kramer. On the mean profiles of radio pulsars II: Identifying the mode
- [2] VB, H.L.Hakobyan. On the mean profiles of radio pulsars III: New effects and reanalysis of individual pulsars
- [3] L.I.Arzamasskiy, VB, S.T.Derry. On the statistics of interpulse radio pulsars
- [4] L.I.Arzamasskiy, VB, V.V.Prokofev. On the internal structure of the current sheet in the pulsar wind
- [5] VB, A.V.Chernoglazov, N.Zakamska. On the deceleration of relativistic jets in active galactic nuclei I: Radiation drag
- [6] VB, E.E.Nokhrina. On the deceleration of relativistic jets in active galactic nuclei II: Particle loading

11 published papers (radio pulsars)

VB, A.A.Philippov. "On the mean profiles of radio pulsars I: Theory of the propagation effects". MNRAS, **425**, 814-840 (2012)

VB, Ya.N.Istomin, A.A.Philippov, Radio pulsars: the search for truth. Physics Uspekhi, **56**, 164 (2014)

Ya. N.Istomin, A.A.Philippov, VB, On the collective curvature radiation. MNRAS, **422**, 23 (2014)

V.V.Prokofev, L.I.Arzamasskiy, VB. On the primary beam deceleration in the pulsar wind. MNRAS, **453**, 3540 (2015)

- [1] G.Li, A.Spitkovsky, A.Tchekhovskoy, ApJ, **746**, 12 (2012)
- [2] G.Li, A.Spitkovsky, A.Tchekhovskoy, ApJ, **746**, L24 (2012)
- [3] A.Tchekhovskoy, A.Spitkovsky, J.G.Li, MNRAS, **435**, L1 (2013)
- [4] A.Philippov, A.Spitkovsky, ApJ, **785**, L33 (2014)
- [5] A.Philippov, A.Tchekhovskoy, J.C.Li, MNRAS, **441**, 1879 (2014)
- [6] B.Cerutti, A.Philippov, K.Parfrey, A.Spitkovsky, MNRAS, **448**, 606 (2015)
- [7] A.A.Philippov, A.Spitkovsky, B.Cerutti, ApJ, 801, L19 (2015)
- [8] L.Arzamasskiy, A.Philippov, A.Tchekhovsky, MNRAS, **453**, 3540 (2015)
- [9] A.Philippov, B.Cerutti, A.Tchekhovskoy, A.Spitkovsky, ApJ, **815**, L19 (2015)
- [10] B.Cerutti, A.Philippov, A.Spitkovsky, MNRAS, **457**, 2401 (2016)
- [11] A.Tchekhovskoy, A.Philippov, A.Spitkovsky, MNRAS, **457**, 3384 (2016)

Several gaps

There are several gaps in radio pulsars:

Several gaps

There are several gaps in radio pulsars:

- inner gap

Several gaps

There are several gaps in radio pulsars:

- inner gap,
- outer gap

Several gaps

There are several gaps in radio pulsars:

- inner gap,
- outer gap,
- slot gap

Several gaps

There are several gaps in radio pulsars:

- inner gap,
- outer gap,
- slot gap,
- and the gap between observers and theoreticians.

Several gaps

There are several gaps in radio pulsars:

- inner gap,
- outer gap,
- slot gap,
- and the gap between observers and theoreticians.

The last problem is the most serious one.

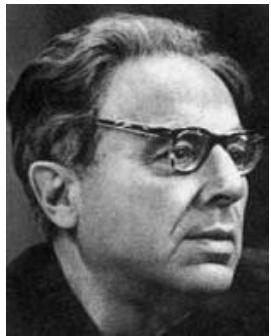
A Problem

- Theoreticians (in general) do not formulate predictions which can be checked.
- Observers (in general) do not produce test measurements.

The reason – there is NO pure experiment.

Let us return to the very ground...

- What we know definitely?
- Are we sure?



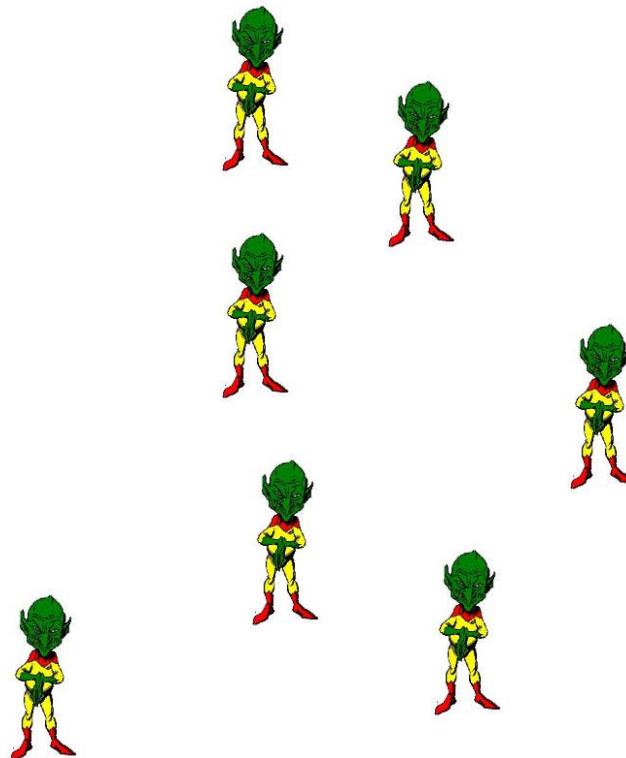
I.S.Shklovsky
(1916-1985)



V.L.Ginzburg
(1916-2009)

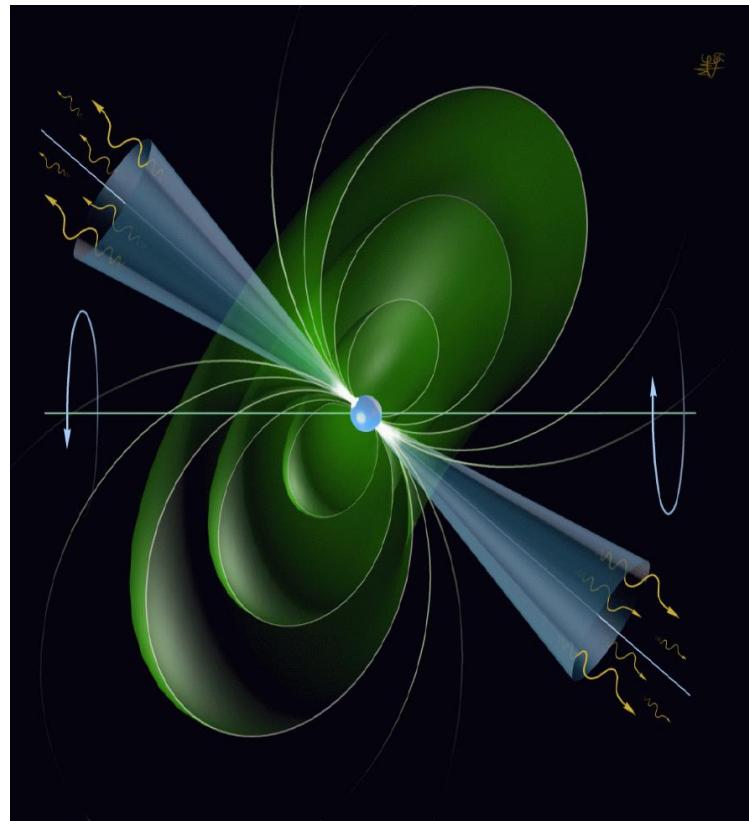


Ya.B.Zeldovich
(1914-1987)



Radio pulsars – rotating solitary* neutron stars

- Mass $M \sim 1.4 M_{\odot}$
- Radius $R \sim (10-15) \text{ km}$
- Rotation period $P \sim 1 \text{ s}$
- Magnetic field $B_0 \sim 10^{12} \text{ G}$
- Radio luminosity $L_r \sim 10^{28} \text{ erg/s } (\sim 10^{-4} - 10^{-6})$
- Coherent mechanism: $T \sim 10^{28} \text{ K } (\sim 10^{40} ???)$



Everything is clear?

- Mechanism of the coherent radio emission.
- NS works as PSR for both orientation of Ω and m , or for only one (which?)
- Neutron star radius R ?
- $B \sim 10^{12}$ G?
Up to $B \sim 10^{15}$ G for magnetars?
- Electron-positron plasma?
- Current or magneto-dipole?
- Inner gap – how it works?
- Outer gap – does it exist?

Everything is clear?

- Mechanism of the coherent radio emission.
- We see NS as source for both precession and m , or for only one? (which?)
- Neutron star radius R ?
- $B \sim 10^{12}$ G?
Up to $B \sim 10^{15}$ G for magnetars?
- Electron-positron plasma?
- Current or magnetic neto-dipole?
- Inner gap – how it works?
- Outer gap – does it exist?

Pulsar chronology

- Ancient world (... – 1967)
 - Hellas (1967 – 1973)
 - Rome (1973 – 1983)
 - Dark ages (1983 – 1999)
 - Renaissance (1999 – 2006)
 - Industrial revolution (2006 – 2012)
 - Modern time (2012 – ...)

Hellas (1967 – 1973)

- Key electrodynamical idea
- Goldreich-Julian charge density
- Michel magnetization parameter
(maximum bulk Lorentz-factor)
- Sturrock (multiplicity parameter)
 $\gamma + B \rightarrow e^+ + e^- + B$
- Radhakrishnan-Cooke RVM ('hollow cone' model)

$$\rho_{\text{GJ}} = -\frac{\Omega \cdot \mathbf{B}}{2\pi c}$$

$$\sigma = \frac{\Omega^2 \Psi_{\text{tot}}}{8\pi^2 c^2 \mu \eta}$$
$$\lambda = \frac{n^{(\text{lab})}}{n_{\text{GJ}}}$$

Hellas (1967 – 1973)

- Key electrodynamical idea
- Goldreich-Julian charge density

$$\rho_{\text{GJ}} = -\frac{\Omega \cdot \mathbf{B}}{2\pi c}$$

and current density (!)

$$j_{\text{GJ}} = \rho_{\text{GJ}} c$$

- Michel magnetization parameter
(maximum bulk Lorentz-factor)
- Sturrock (multiplicity parameter)



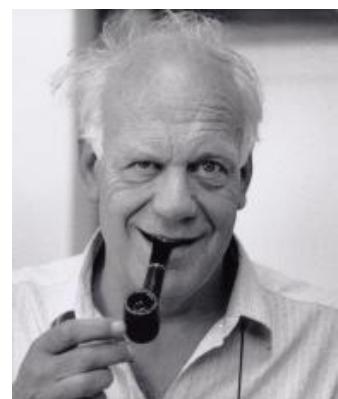
$$\sigma = \frac{\Omega^2 \Psi_{\text{tot}}}{8\pi^2 c^2 \mu \eta}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{n^{(\text{lab})}}{n_{\text{GJ}}}$$

- Radhakrishnan-Cooke RVM ('hollow cone')

The key electrodynamic idea

(N.S.Kardashev, 1964; F.Pacini, 1967)



Magneto-dipole (vacuum) radiation

$$W_{\text{tot}} = -J_r \Omega \dot{\Omega} \approx \frac{1}{6} \frac{B_0^2 \Omega^4 R^6}{c^3} \sin^2 \chi$$

$$W_{\text{tot}} \sim 10^{32} \text{ erg/s}$$

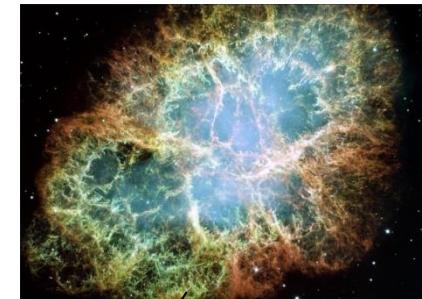
In reality is it not so (magnetosphere is filled with plasma),
but is enough for evaluation

The key electrodynamic idea

The moment of the truth – Crab pulsar

$$P = 0.033 \text{ s},$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = 4 \cdot 10^{-13}$$



Full energy loss $W_{\text{tot}} = -I_r \Omega d\Omega/dt \sim 5 \cdot 10^{38} \text{ erg/s}$

The life time $\tau = P/(dP/dt) \sim 1000 \text{ years}$

Detection of optical pulsations

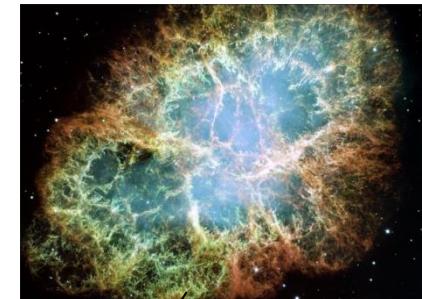


The key electrodynamic idea

The moment of the truth – Crab pulsar

$$P = 0.034 \text{ s},$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = 4 \cdot 10^{-13}$$



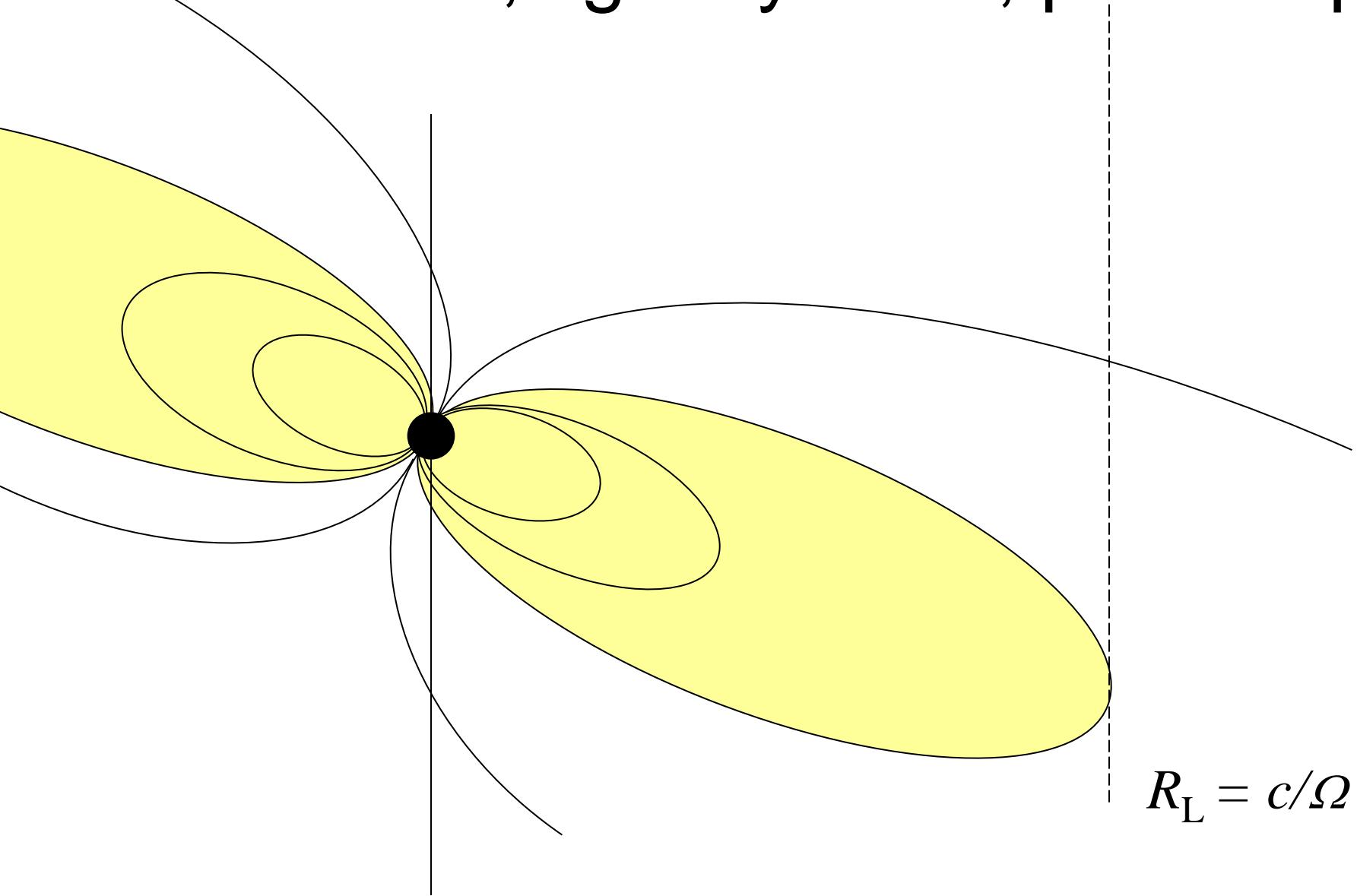
Full energy loss $W_{\text{tot}} = -I_r \Omega d\Omega/dt \sim 5 \cdot 10^{38} \text{ erg/s}$

The life time $\tau = P/(dP/dt) \sim 1000 \text{ years}$

Detection of optical pulsations

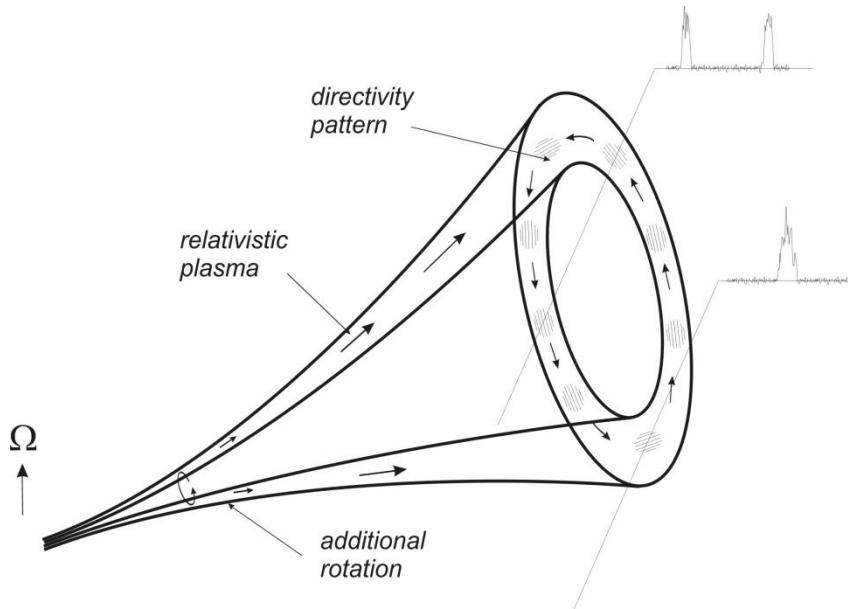


Corotation, light cylinder, polar cap

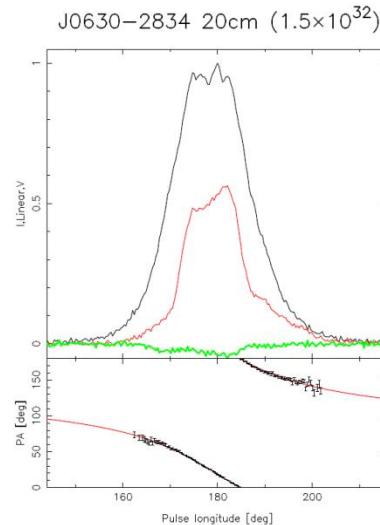
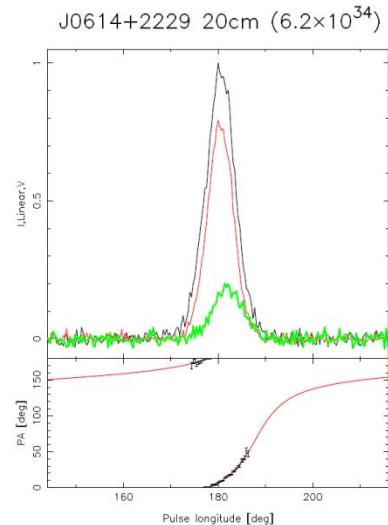
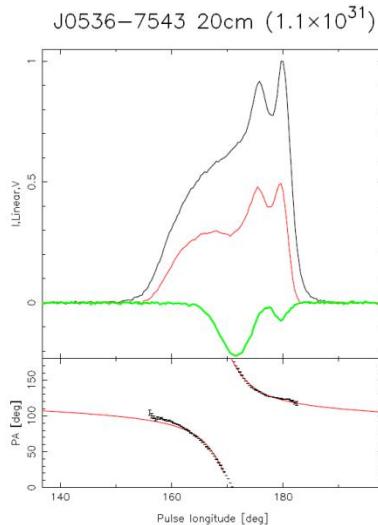


$$R_L = c/\Omega$$

“Hollow cone” model



$$p.a. = \arctan \left(\frac{\sin \chi \sin \varphi}{\sin \xi \sin \chi - \sin \xi \cos \chi \cos \varphi} \right)$$



Hellas (1967 – 1973)

Main results

- Stability of pulsation – neutron star rotation
- Energy source – kinetic energy of rotation
- Mechanism of energy loss – electrodynamics
- Pair creation is the key process
- RVM (“hollow-cone” model)

Open question

How does it work.

Rome (1973 – 1983)

- Mestel equation
- Pulsar equation + first analytical solutions
- Ruderman-Sutherland gap (no injection from the surface)
- Arons gap (free escape)
- BGI – full screening of the magneto-dipole radiation
- BGI – possibility of a domain with $E > B$

Force-free approximation

One can neglect energy of particles

$$\frac{1}{c} \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B} + \rho_e \mathbf{E} = 0.$$

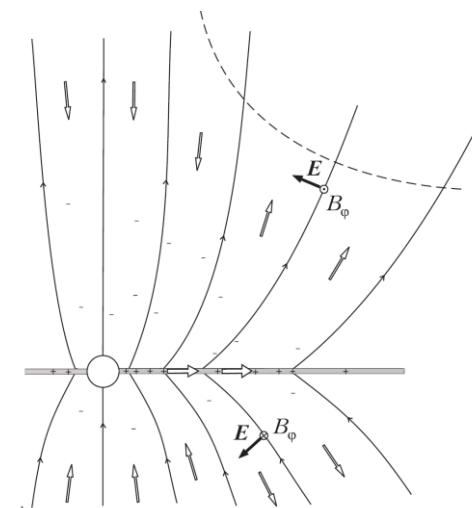
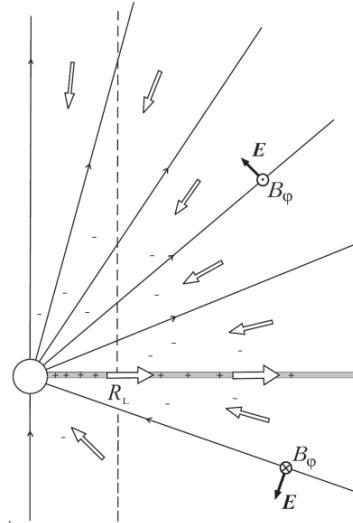
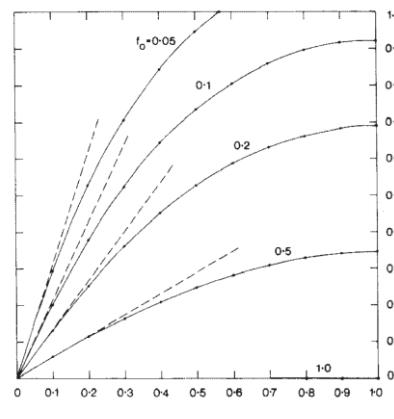
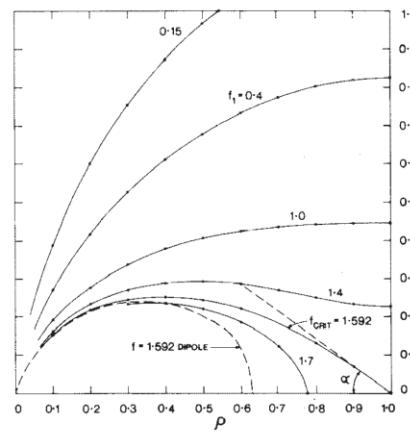
Pulsar equation

$$-\left(1 - \frac{\Omega_F^2 \varpi^2}{c^2}\right) \nabla^2 \Psi + \frac{2}{\varpi} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial \varpi} - \frac{16\pi^2}{c^2} I \frac{dI}{d\Psi} + \frac{\varpi^2}{c^2} (\nabla \Psi)^2 \Omega_F \frac{d\Omega_F}{d\Psi} = 0$$

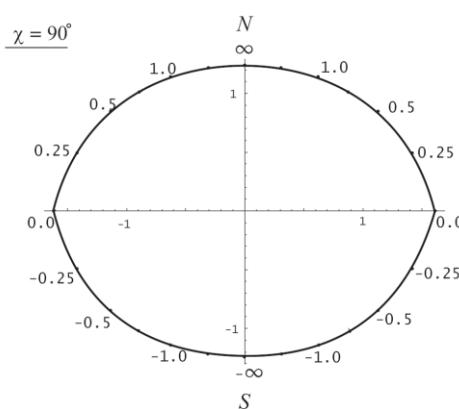
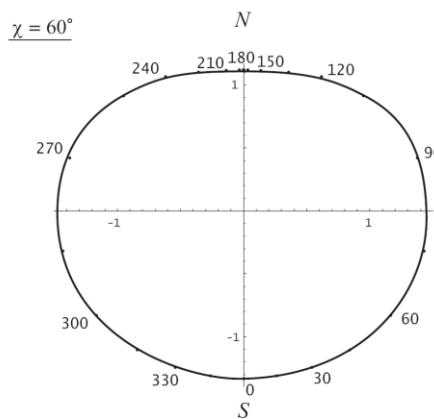
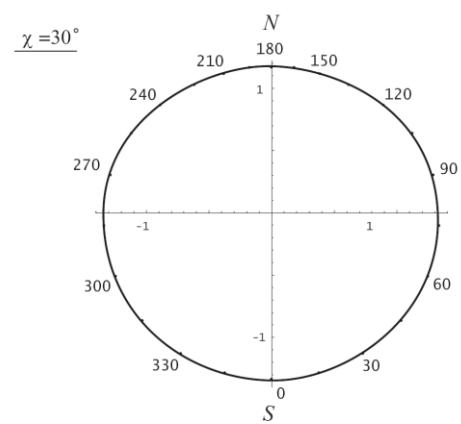
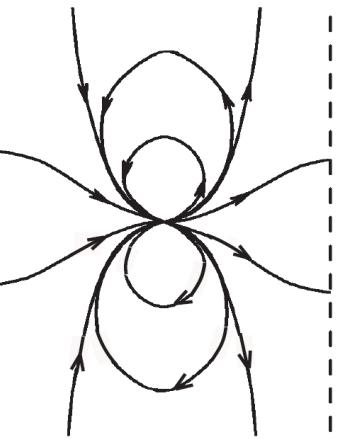
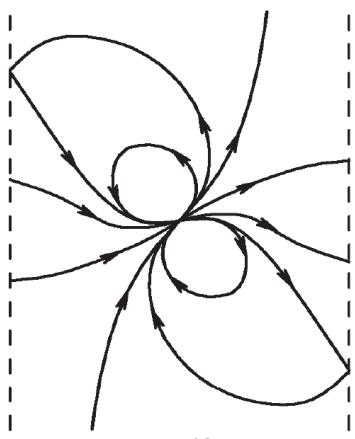
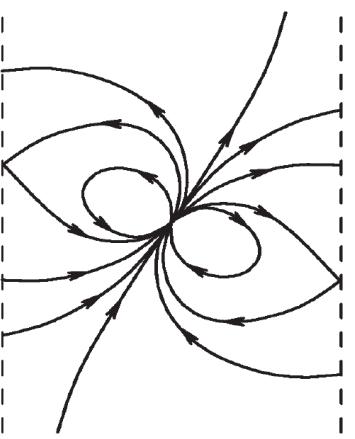
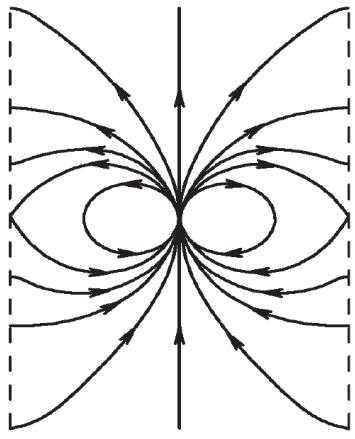
(Michel 1973, Mestel 1993, Scharlemann & Wagoner 1973,
Okamoto 1974, Mestel & Wang 1979)

First solutions

$$-\left(1 - \frac{\Omega_F^2 \varpi^2}{c^2}\right) \nabla^2 \Psi + \frac{2}{\varpi} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial \varpi} - \frac{16\pi^2}{c^2} I \frac{dI}{d\Psi} + \frac{\varpi^2}{c^2} (\nabla \Psi)^2 \Omega_F \frac{d\Omega_F}{d\Psi} = 0$$



Incline rotator, $I = 0$

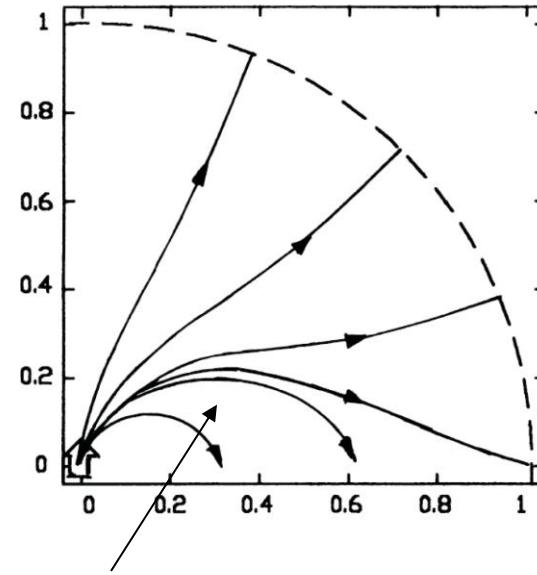
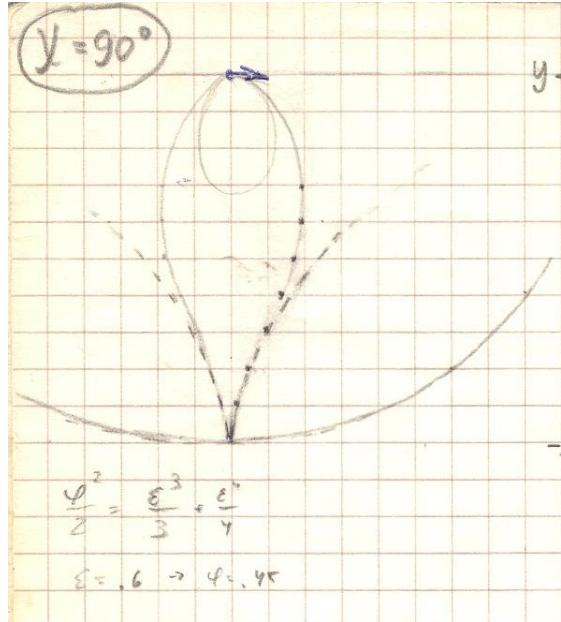


VB, A.V.Gurevich & Ya.N.Istomin JETP, **85**, 235 (1983)

Orthogonal Rotator, $I = 0$

VB, A.V.Gurevich, Ya.N.Istomin, JETP, **58**, 235 (1983)

L.Mestel, P.Panagi, S.Shibata, MNRAS, **309**, 388 (1999)



Equatorial plane

No energy flux through the light cylinder

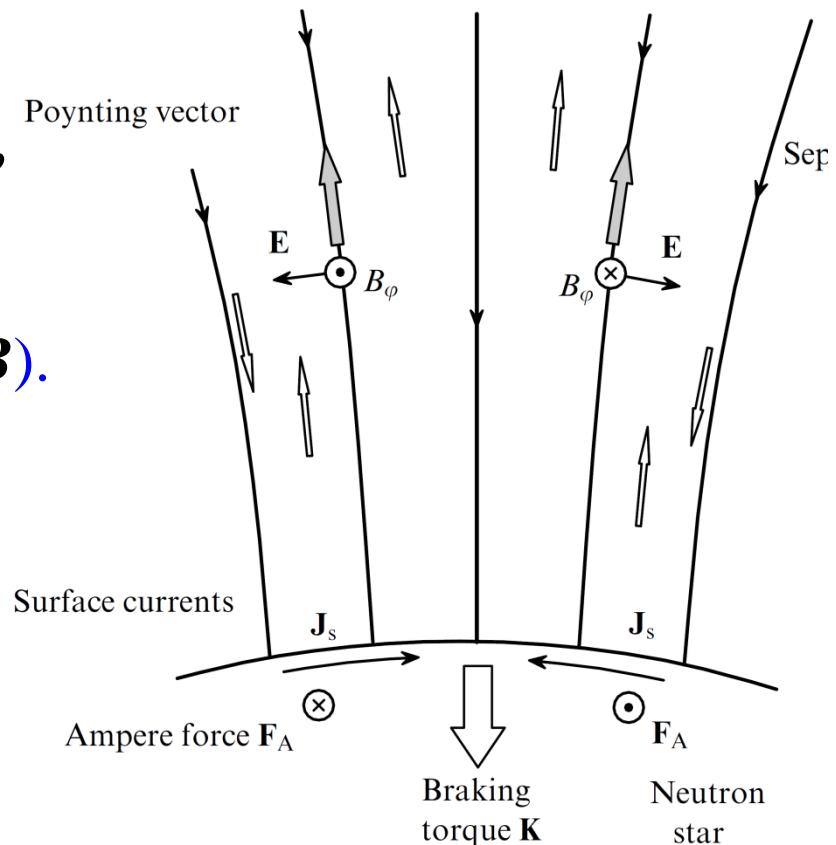
$$B_\varphi \propto (1 - x_r^2)^2$$

Current losses

For current loss mechanism is necessary to have

- Plasma in the magnetosphere,
- regular poloidal magnetic field,
- rotation (inductive electric field E ,
EMF δU),
- longitudinal current I
(toroidal magnetic field B).

$$W_{\text{tot}} = I \delta U$$



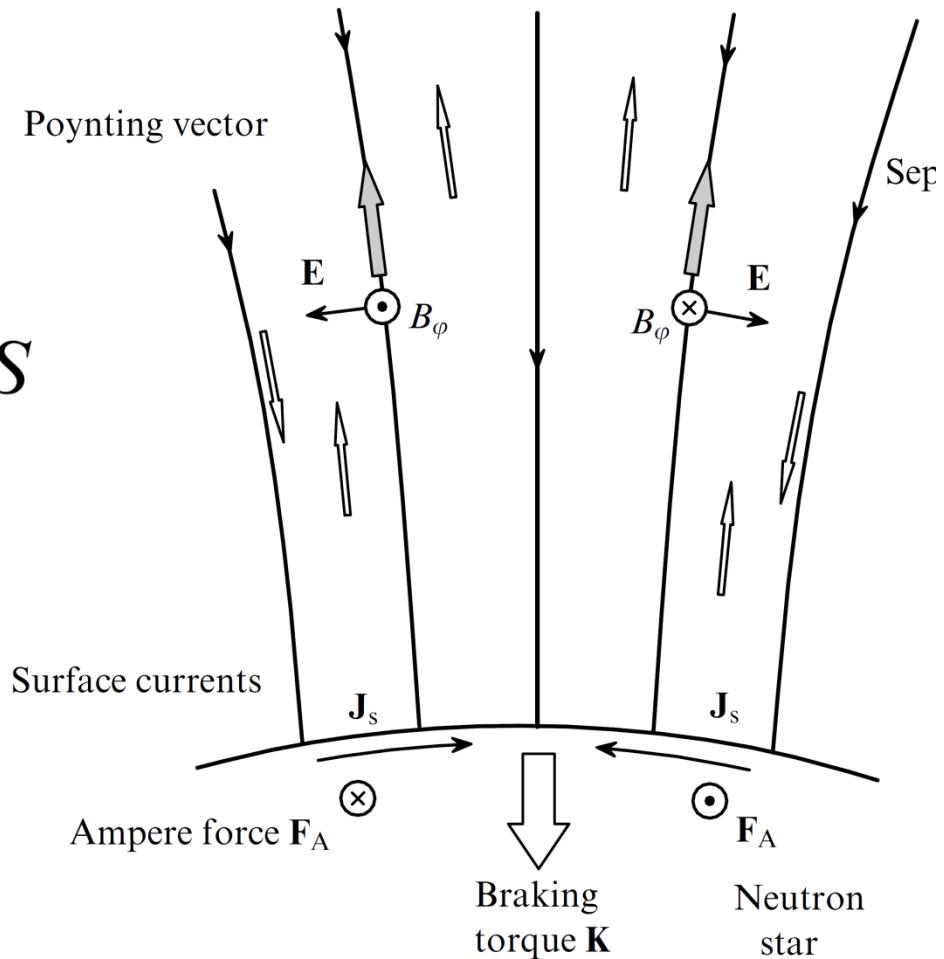
Current losses

$$W_{\text{tot}} = -\Omega \cdot \mathbf{K}$$

$$\mathbf{K} = \frac{1}{c} \int [\mathbf{r} \times [\mathbf{J}_s \times \mathbf{B}]] dS$$

$$\nabla_2 \mathbf{J}_s = j_n$$

$$\mathbf{J}_s = \frac{I}{2\pi R \sin \theta} \mathbf{e}_\theta$$



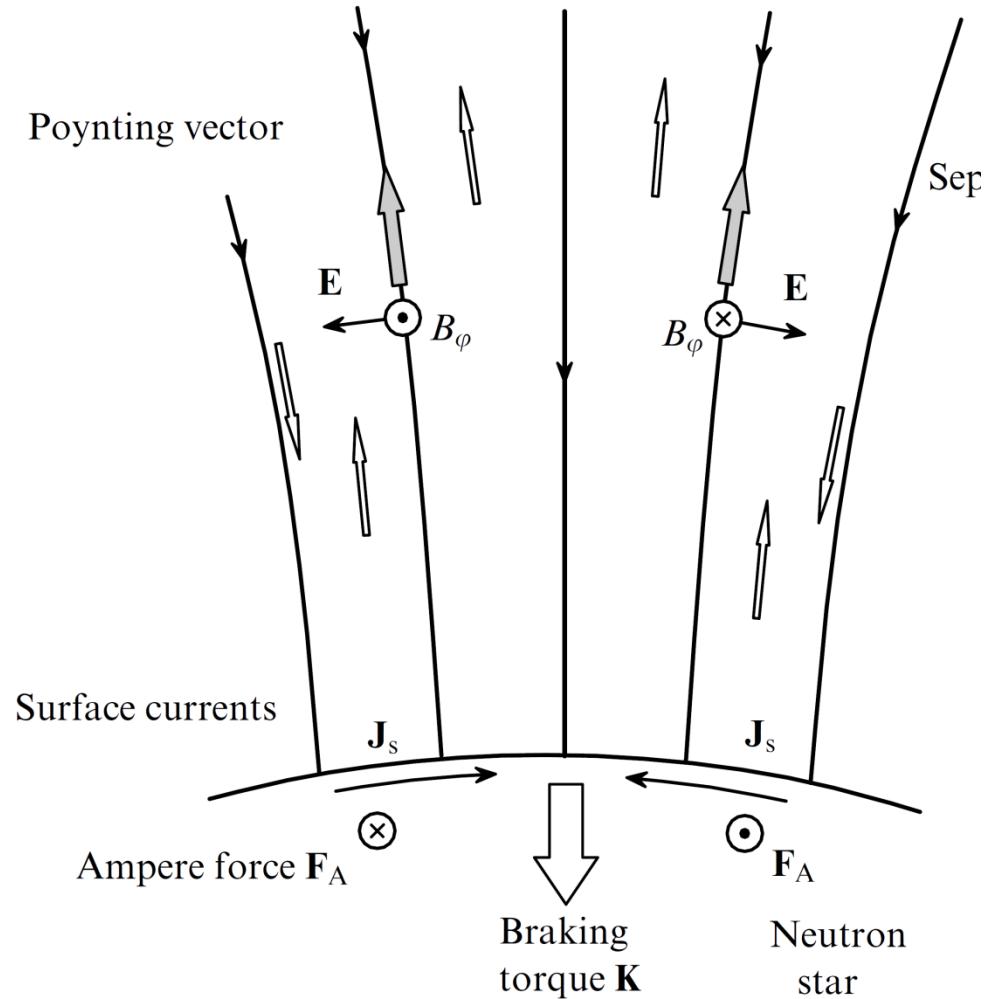
Current losses

$$W_{\text{tot}} = c_{\parallel} \frac{B_0^2 \Omega^4 R^6}{c^3} i_0$$

$$i_0 = j_{\parallel} / j_{\text{GJ}}$$

$$W_{\text{tot}}^{(\text{BGI})} \approx i_s^A \frac{B_0^2 \Omega^4 R^6}{c^2} \cos^2 \chi$$

for GJ current (BGI)



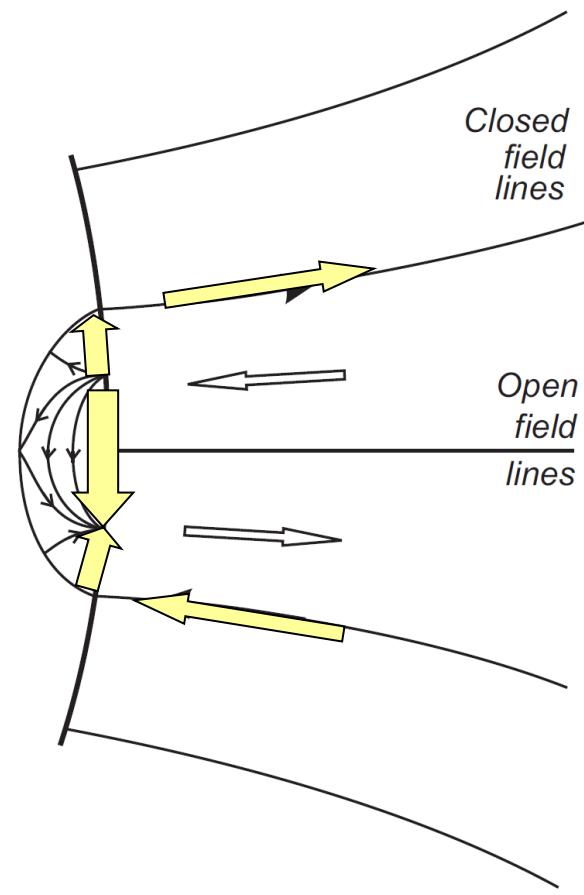
Orthogonal rotator

VB, A.V.Gurevich, Ya.N.Istomin JETP 58, 235 (1983)

$$j_{\text{GJ}} \approx \frac{\Omega B}{2\pi} \cos \theta$$

$$\mathbf{K} = \frac{1}{c} \int [\mathbf{r} \times [\mathbf{J}_s \times \mathbf{B}]] dS \quad \begin{matrix} \Omega \uparrow \\ m \end{matrix}$$

$$W_{\text{tot}} = c_{\perp} \frac{B_0^2 \Omega^4 R^6}{c^3} \left(\frac{\Omega R}{c} \right) i_A$$



Our predictions

VB, Ya.N.Istomin, A.V.Gurevich (1983, 1993)

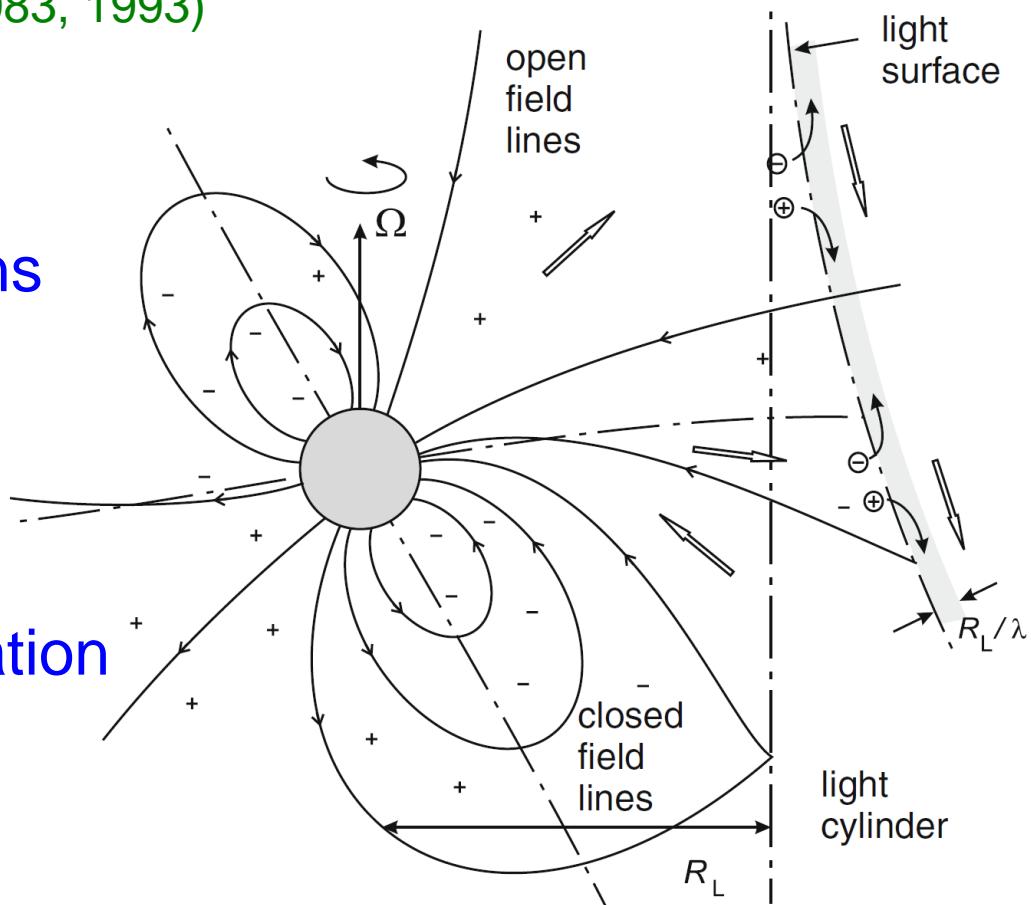
VB, R.R.Rafikov (2000)

If there are some restrictions
on the longitudinal current

- narrow sheet $\Delta r \sim R_L/\lambda$
- effective particle acceleration up to $\Gamma \sim \sigma_M$ (10^6 for Crab)
- transverse displacement

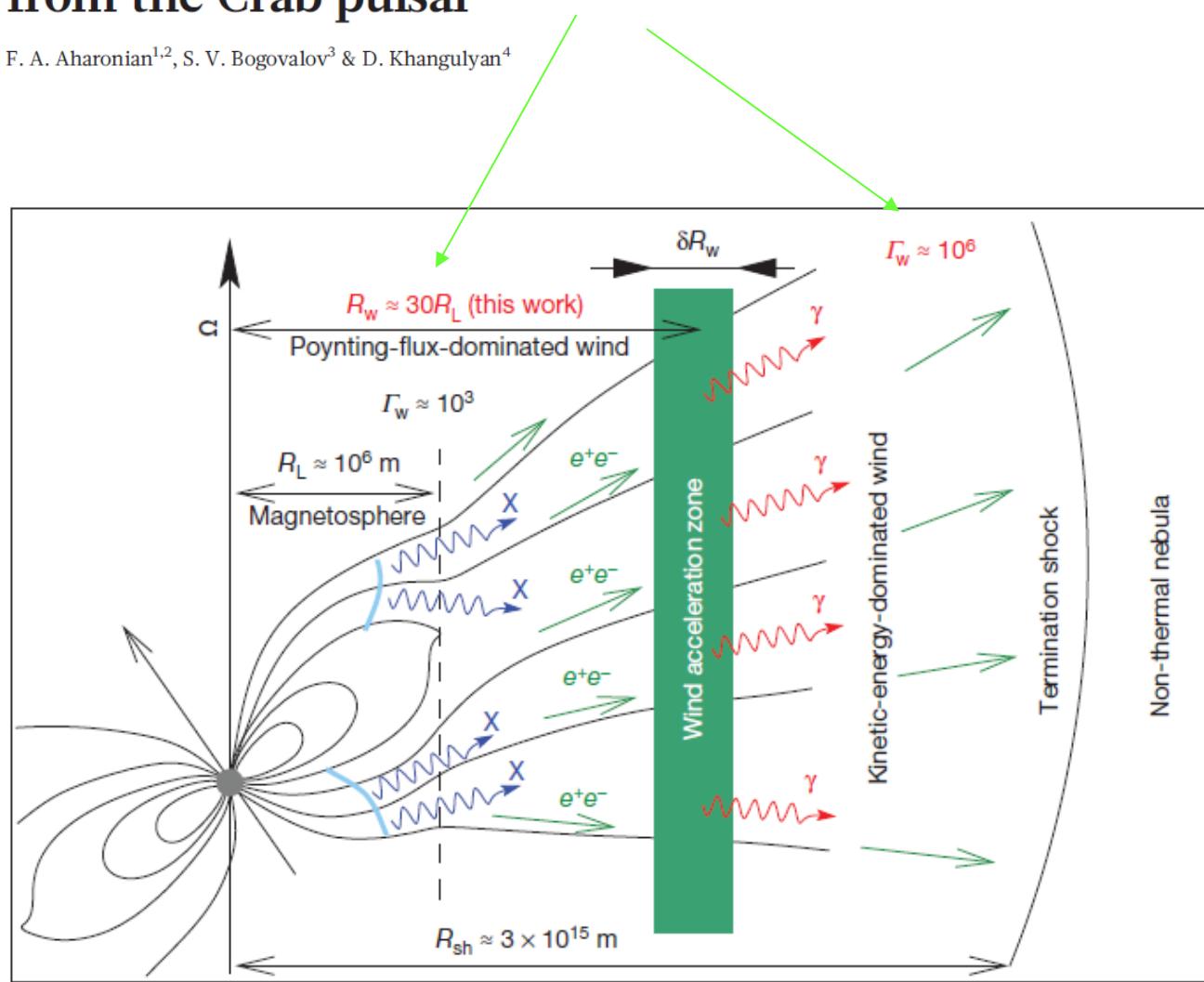
$$\Delta r \sim R_L/\lambda$$

- Stop point!

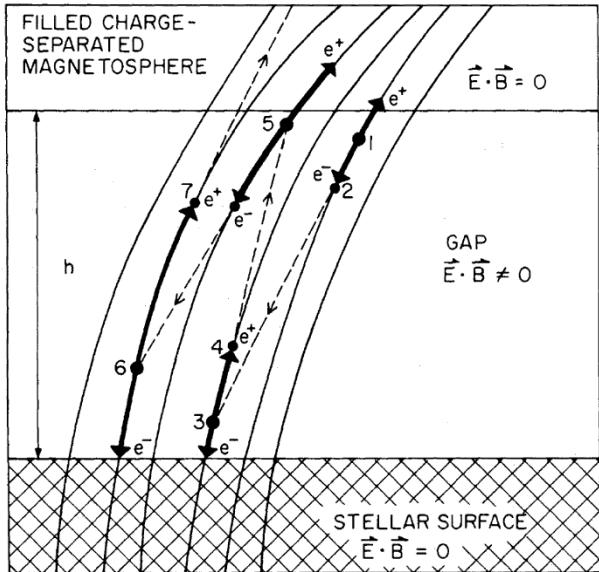


Abrupt acceleration of a ‘cold’ ultrarelativistic wind from the Crab pulsar

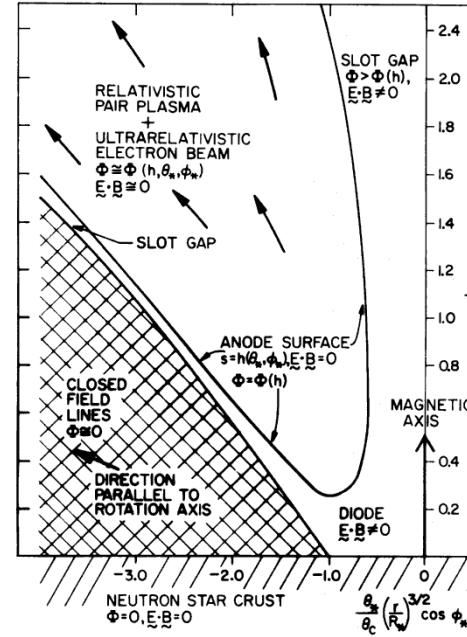
F. A. Aharonian^{1,2}, S. V. Bogovalov³ & D. Khangulyan⁴



Inner gap

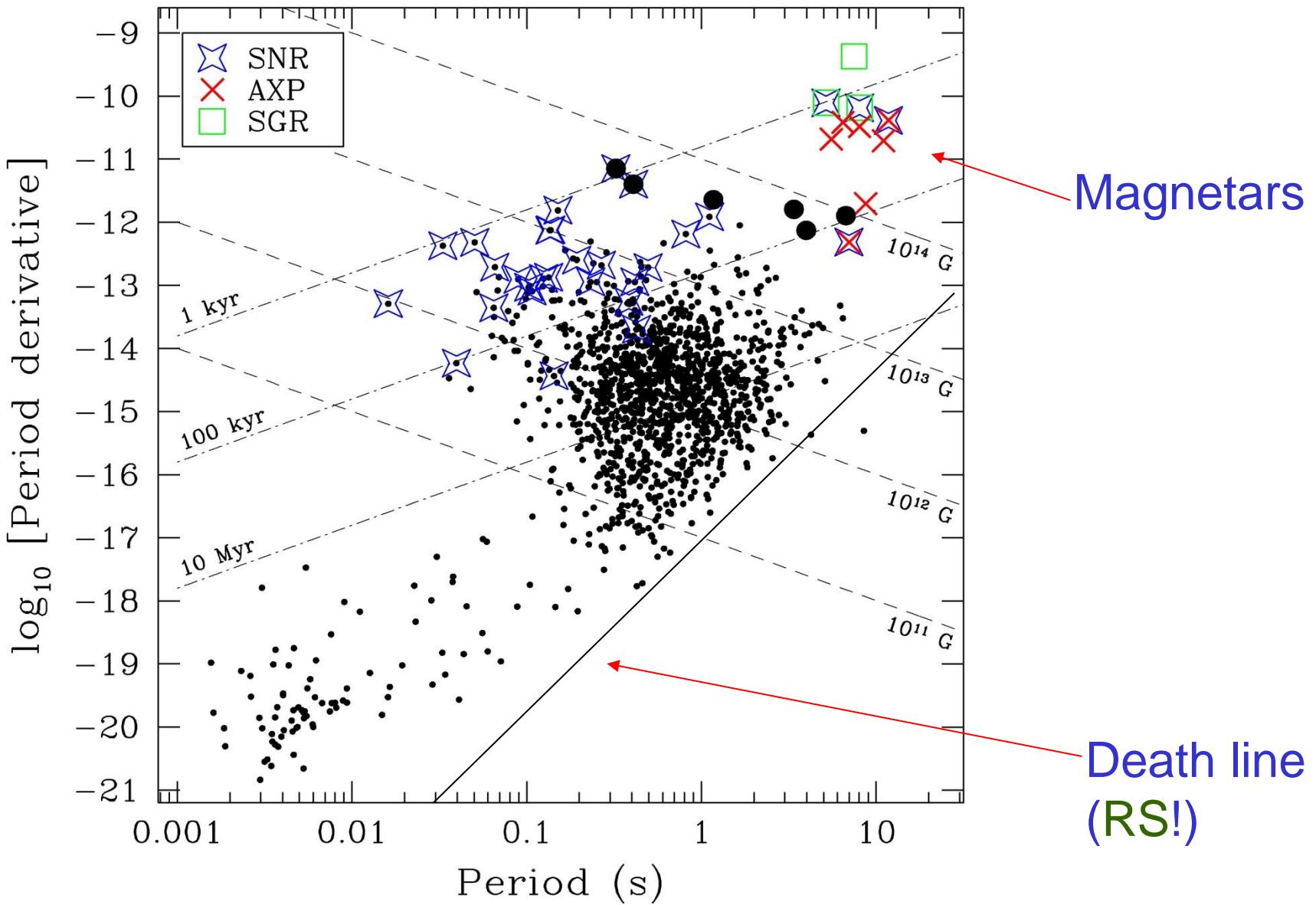


Ruderman & Sutherland (1975)
Eidman et al (1975)



Arons et al (1977-1981)
Mestel et al

PPdot – death line



Rome (1973 – 1983)

Main results

- Neutron star is a radio pulsar if there is secondary electron-positron plasma generation near magnetic poles
- Arons model forever
- Main properties of the pulsar magnetosphere
- No magneto-dipole radiation

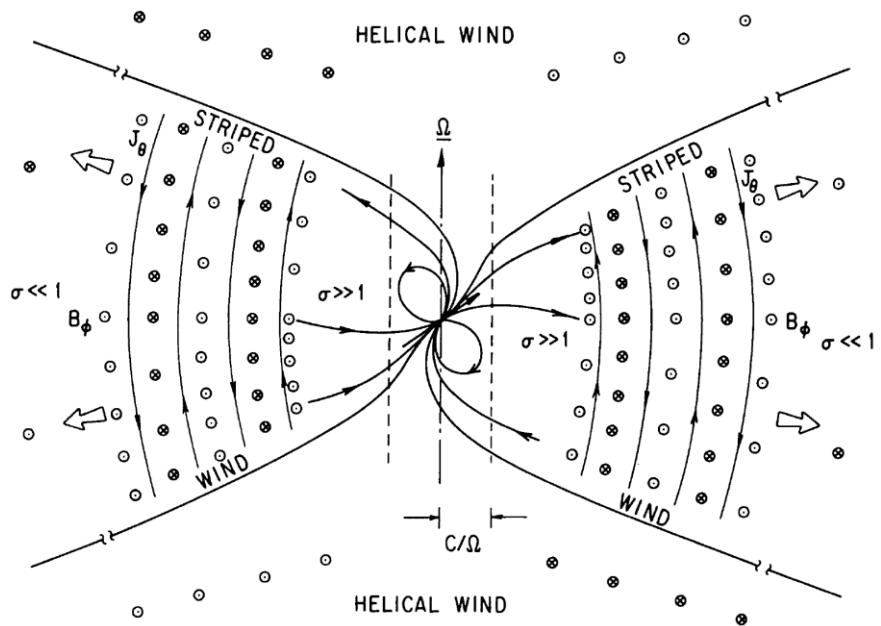
Problems

- Death line corresponds to RS model (shifted dipole? $n > 2?$)
- No self-consistent solution for the wind
- Alignment/counter-alignment

Dark ages (1983 – 1999)

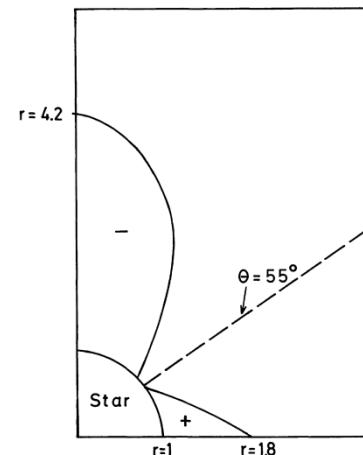
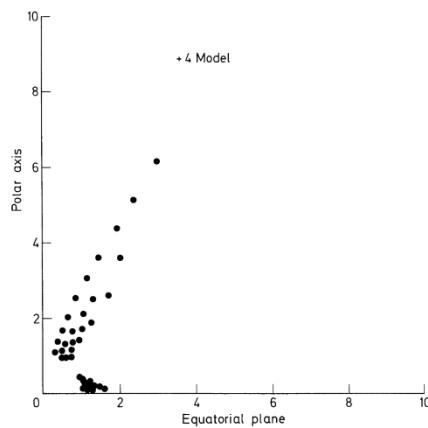
- Kennel-Coroniti wind interaction with nebula
- Coroniti-Michel striped wind
- Michel dome
- GR effects are important (VB, Muslimov-Tsygan)

Coroniti-Michel stripped wind

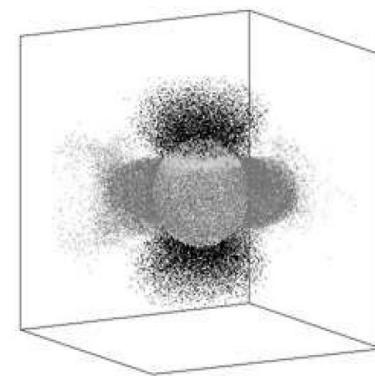
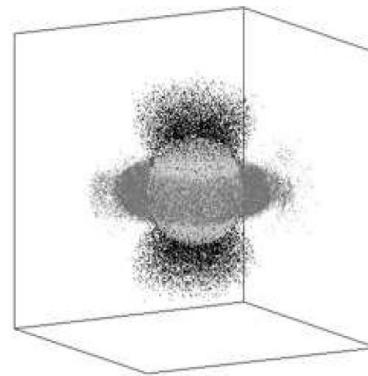
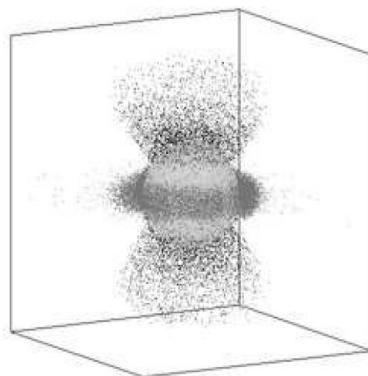
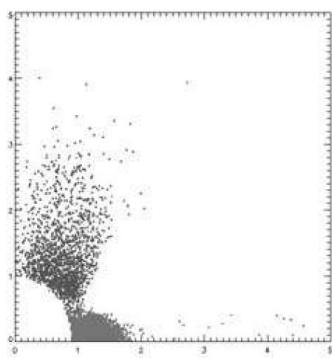


Dome

+4 Model



J.Krause-Polstorff, F.C.Michel, A&A **144**, 72 (1985)



J.Arons, A.Spitkovsky (2002)

Dark ages (1983 – 1999)

Main results

- No results for pulsar magnetosphere
- Important steps in understanding the pulsar wind

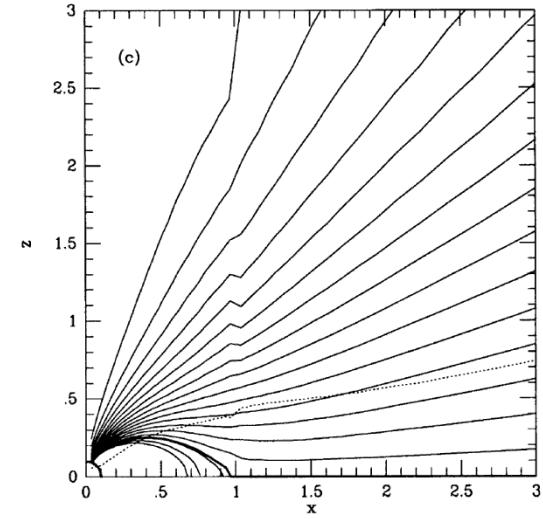
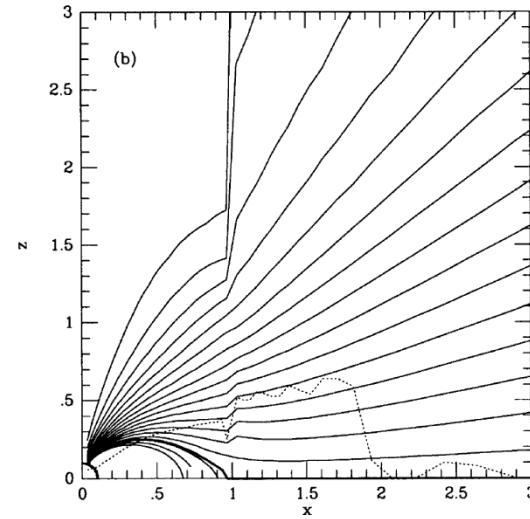
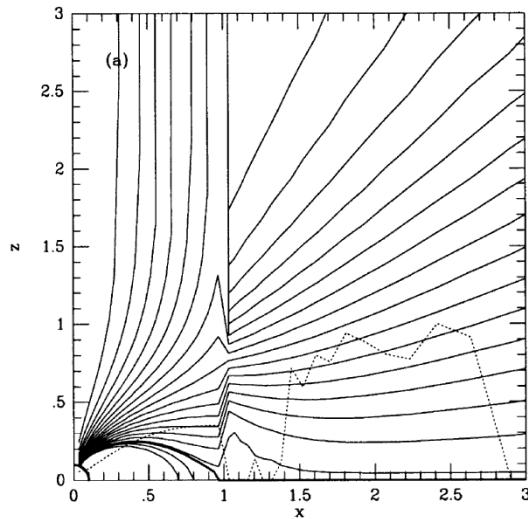
Problems

- Ineffective particle acceleration (sigma-problem)

$$\Gamma \sim \sigma^{1/3}$$

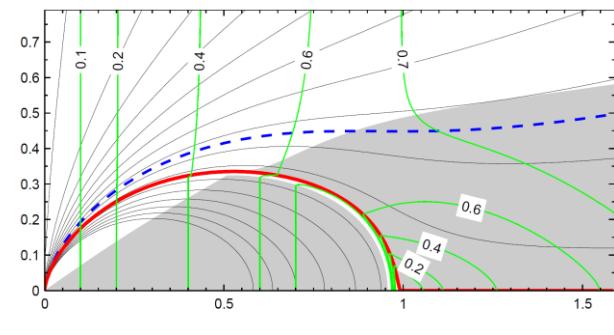
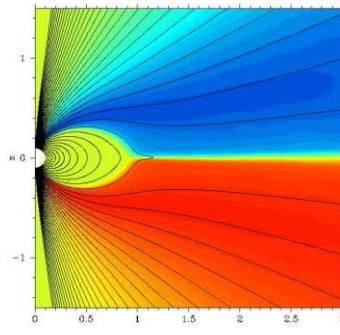
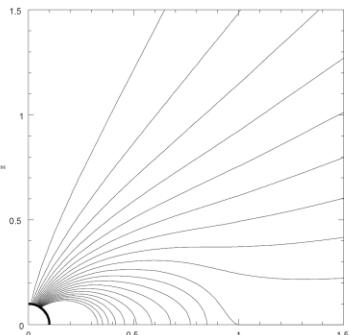
Renaissance (1999 – 2006)

- Contopoulos-Kazanas-Fendt numerical solution of pulsar equation (axisymmetric): disk, not GJ current
- Numerous confirmations
- Bogovalov force-free striped wind analytically
- Lyubarsky-Kirk striped wind reconnection



I.Contopoulos, D.Kazanas & Ch.Fendt, ApJ, 511, 351 (1999)

$$-\left(1 - \frac{\Omega_F^2 \varpi^2}{c^2}\right) \nabla^2 \Psi + \frac{2}{\varpi} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial \varpi} - \frac{16\pi^2}{c^2} I \frac{dI}{d\Psi} + \frac{\varpi^2}{c^2} (\nabla \Psi)^2 \Omega_F \frac{d\Omega_F}{d\Psi} = 0$$

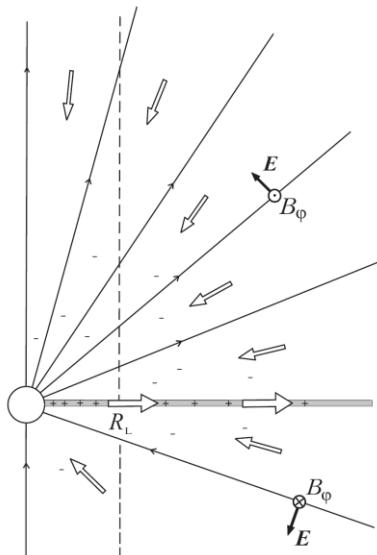


A.Gruzinov (2005)

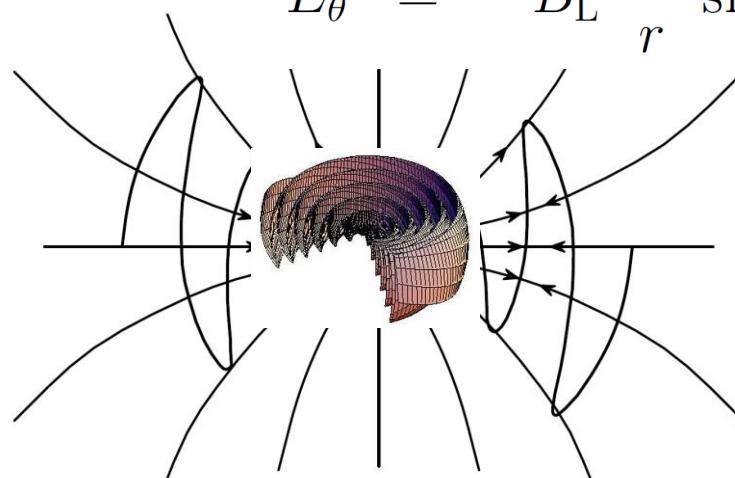
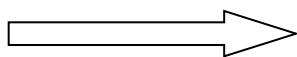
S.Komissarov (2005)

A.Timokhin (2005)

Analytical striped wind



F.C.Michel (1973)

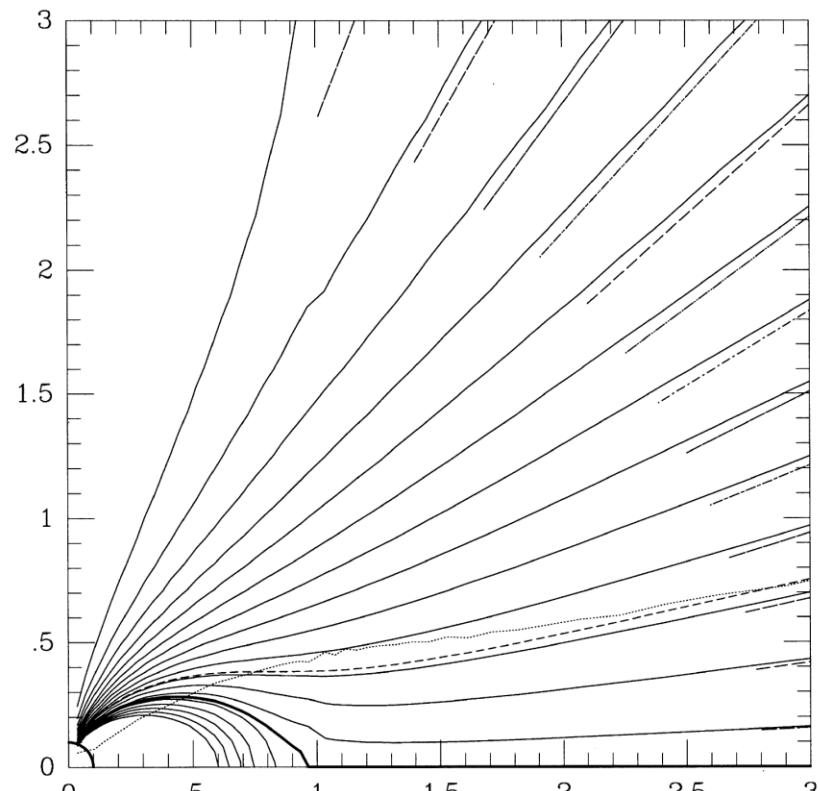


S.V.Bogovalov (1999)

$$\Phi = \cos \theta \cos \chi - \sin \theta \sin \chi \cos [\varphi - \Omega (t - r/c)]$$

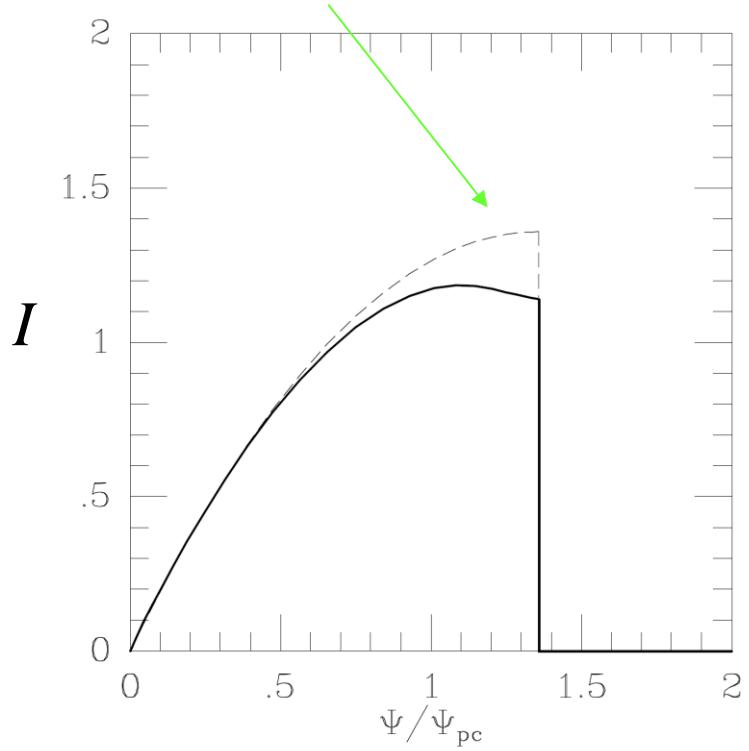
$$S \propto \sin^2 \theta$$

A Problem

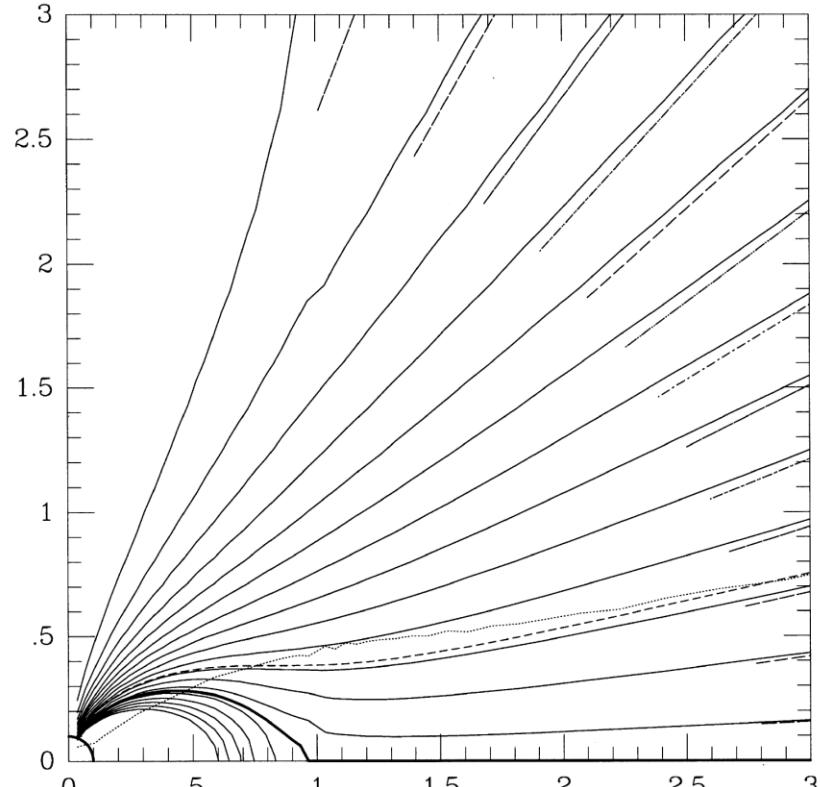


I.Contopoulos, D.Kazanas & Ch.Fendt,
ApJ, 511, 351 (1999)

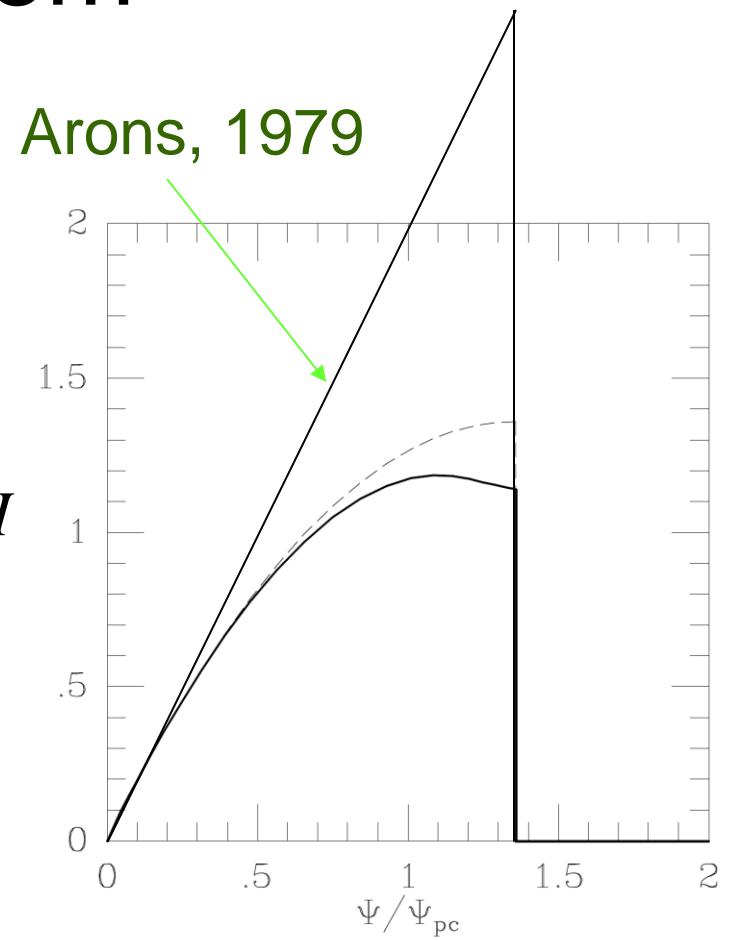
Michel, 1973



A Problem



I. Contopoulos, D. Kazanas & Ch. Fendt,
ApJ, 511, 351 (1999)



Renaissance (1999 – 2006)

Main results

- There is universal axisymmetric solution (with definite charge and current density!)
- Equatorial current sheet, split-monopole, Y-point
- No magneto-dipole energy losses (both, in analytical and numerical solutions)

Problems

- Arons model and universal solution are in disagreement
- How to support the current (Mestel & Shibata, Beloborodov)?

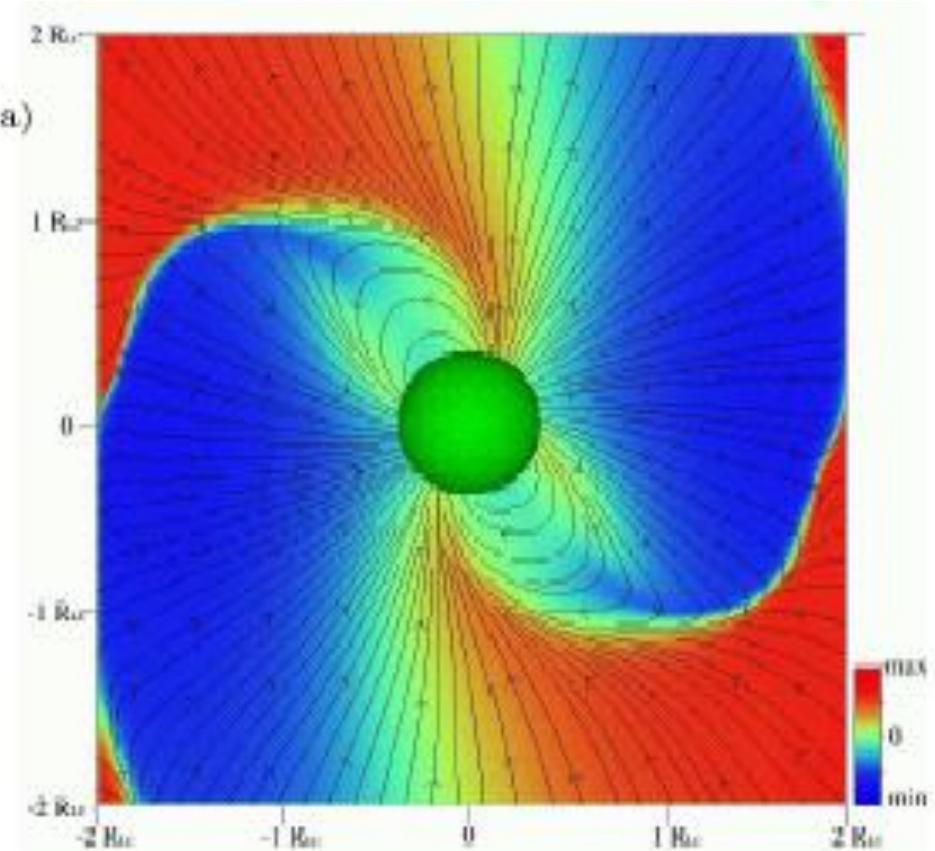
Industrial revolution (2006 – 2012)

- Spitkovsky force-free inclined
- Princeton team MHD inclined
- First PIC inner gap simulations (Timokhin)

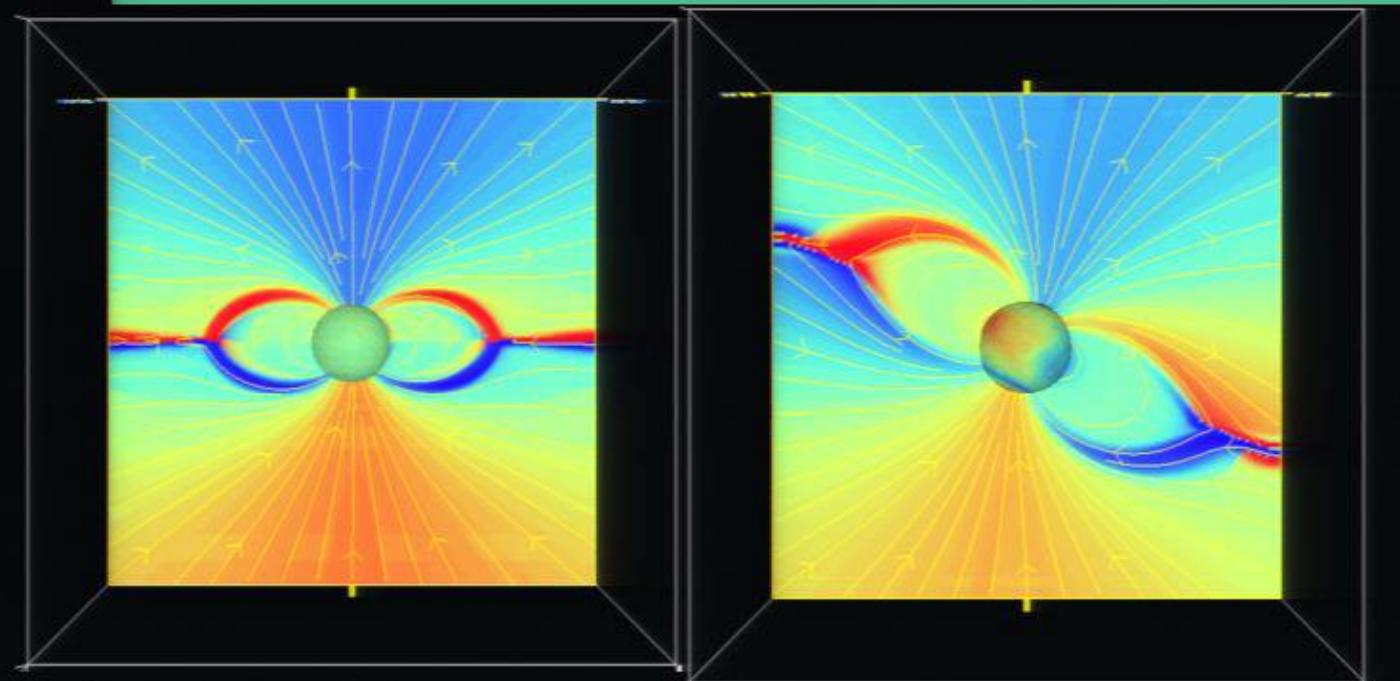
Inclined rotator

A.Spitkovsky, ApJ Lett., **648**, L51 (2006)

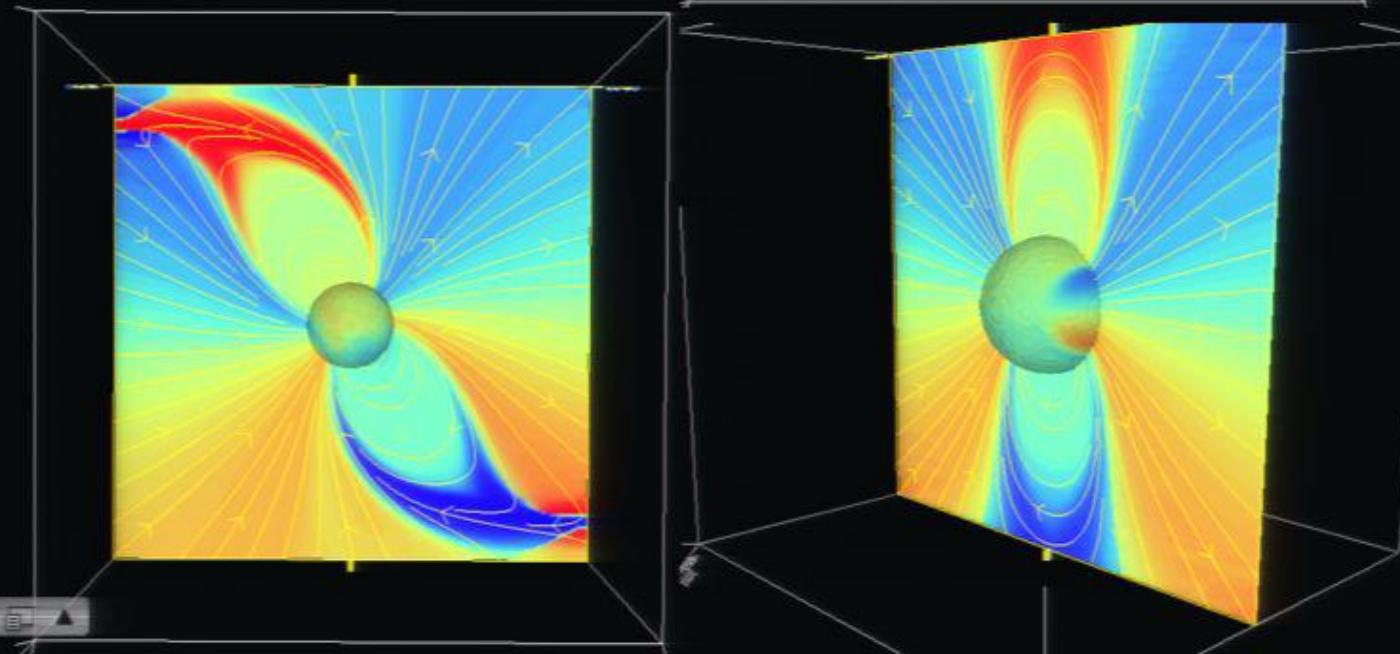
$$W_{\text{tot}}^{(\text{MHD})} \approx \frac{1}{4} \frac{B_0^2 \Omega^4 R^6}{c^2} (1 + \sin^2 \chi)$$



Magnetospheric currents



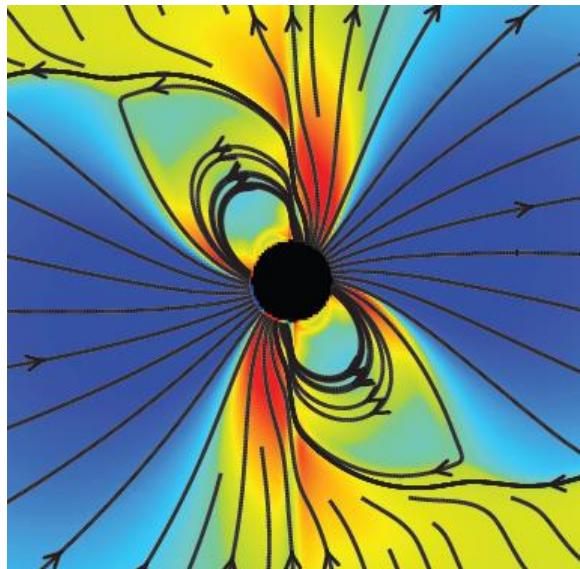
Oppositely flowing currents can occupy the same open flux tube. Does this have any observational implications?



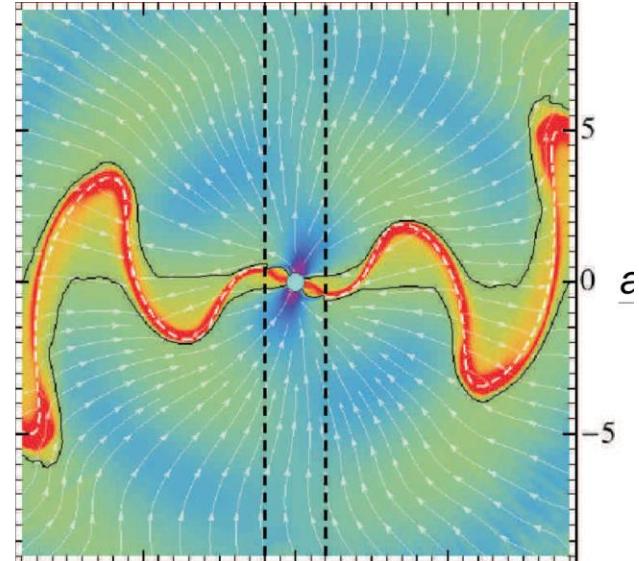
There is always a null-current field line in the open zone.



Inclined rotator

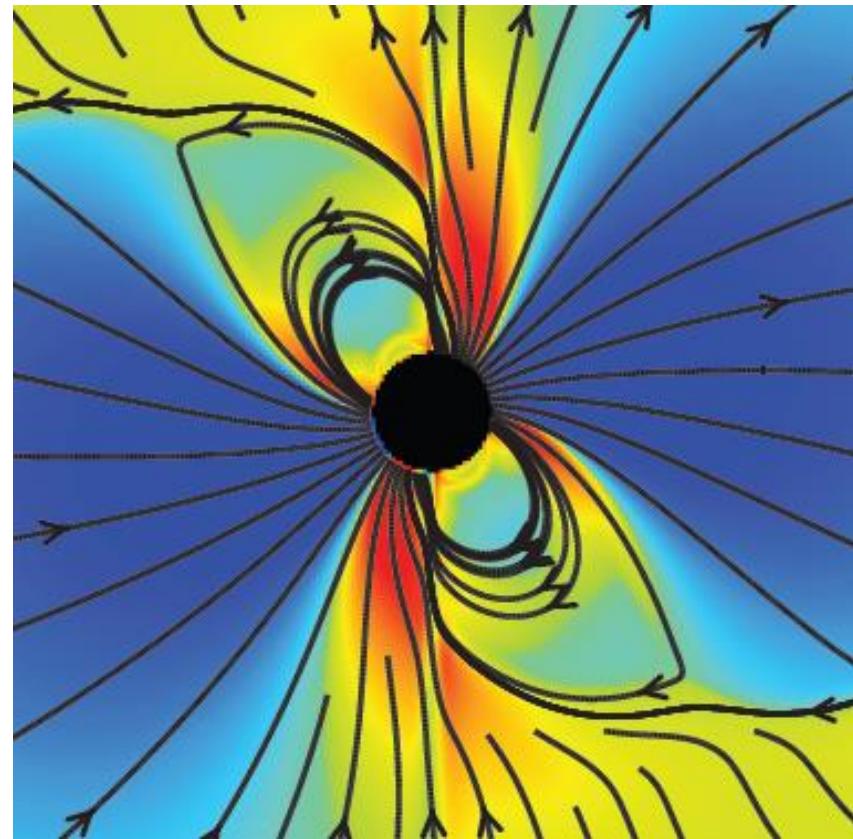
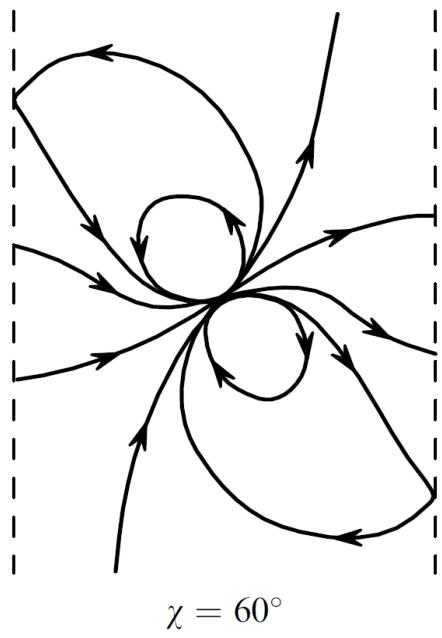


A.Tchekhovskoy,
A.Spitkovsky, J.Li,
MNRAS, 431, 1 (2013)



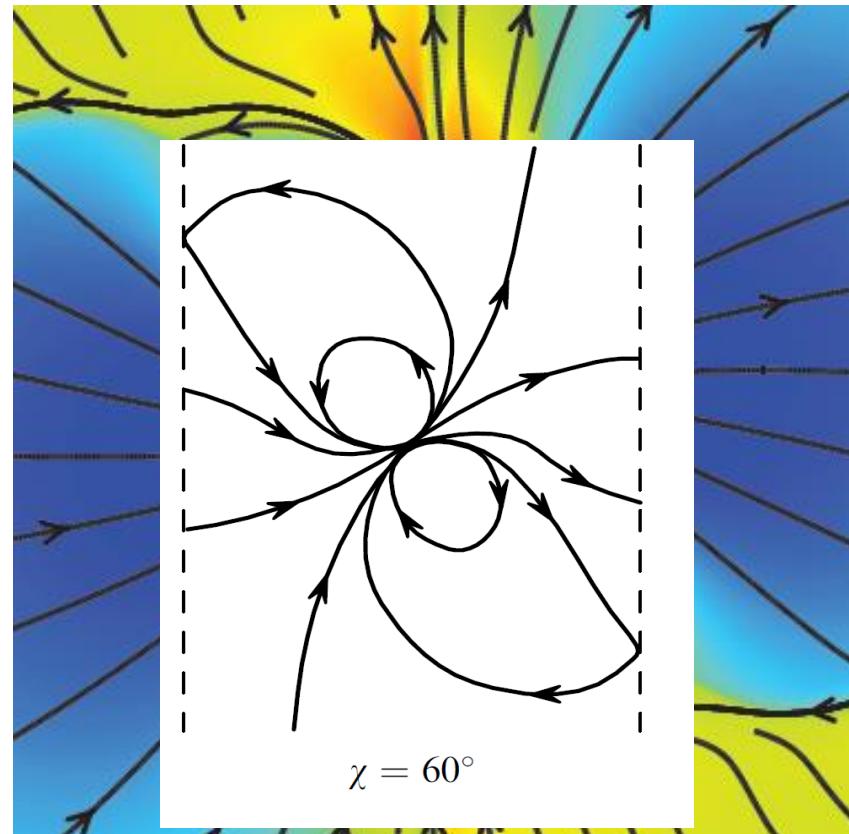
I.Contopoulos et al

Inclined Rotator



A.Tchekhovskoy,
A.Spitkovsky, J.Li,
MNRAS, 431, 1 (2013)

Inclined Rotator



A.Tchekhovskoy,
A.Spitkovsky, J.Li,
MNRAS, **431**, 1 (2013)

Polar cap area

VB, A.V.Gurevich, Ya.N.Istomin,
Physics of the pulsar magnetosphere
(1993)

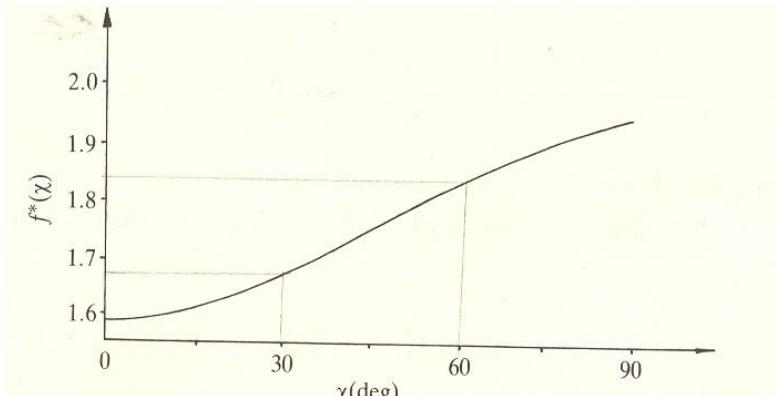


Fig. 4.12. Dependence of the parameter $f^*(\chi)$ on the angle χ .

A.Tchekhovskoy, A.Philippov,
A.Spitkovsky, MNRAS, **457**,
3384 (2016)

$$\Phi_{\text{open}} \propto (1 + 0.2 \sin^2 \chi)$$

10% accuracy!

Wind

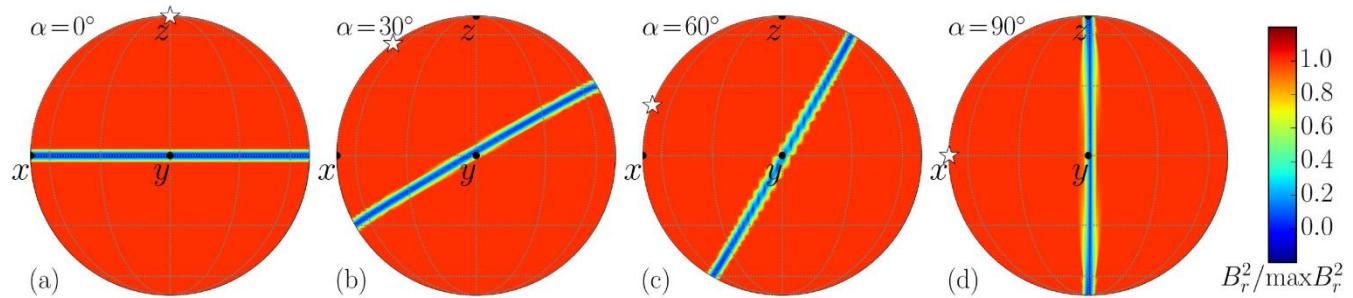
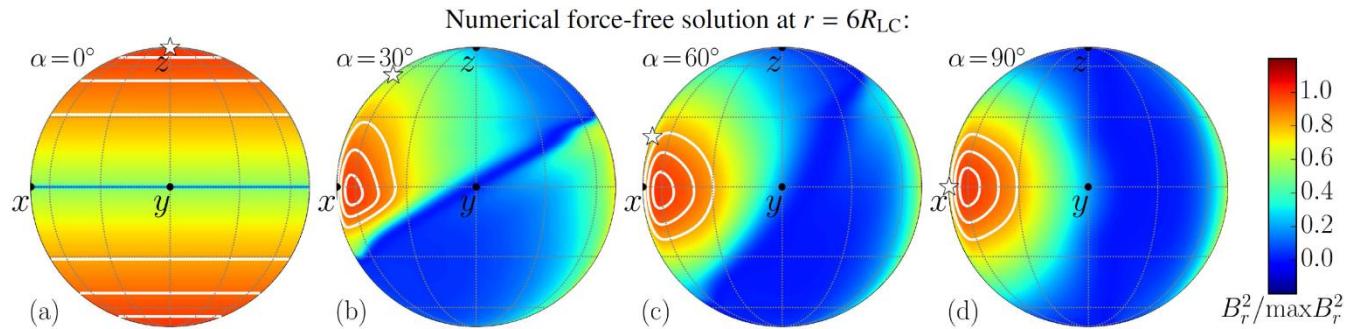
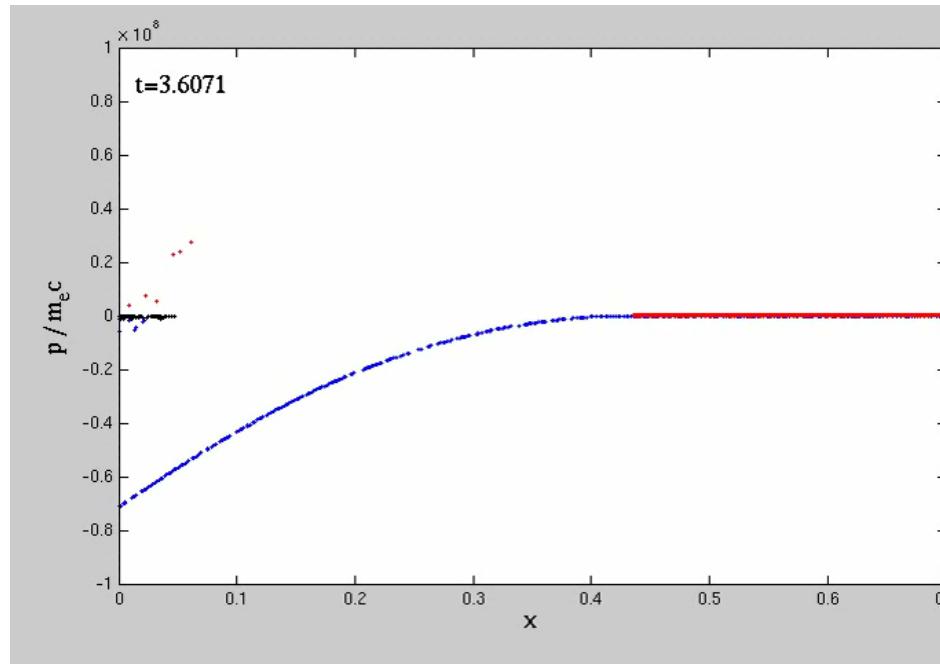


Figure 12. Colour-coded surface distribution of B_r^2 in the split-monopole solution (Bogovalov 1999). The current sheet, in which the radial magnetic field vanishes, describes the orientation of the current sheet in the numerical force-free solutions shown in Fig. 6.



A.Tchekhovskoy, A.Philippov, A.Spitkovsky MNRAS, 457, 3384 (2015)

Back to RS



Industrial revolution (2006 – 2012)

Main results

- There is universal inclined solution (with definite charge and current density!)
- No disagreement with the current model (but no confirmation!)
- No Michel-Bogovalov homogeneous wind
- Alignment for universal solution
- Back to Ruderman-Sutherland model (but time-dependent!)

Problems

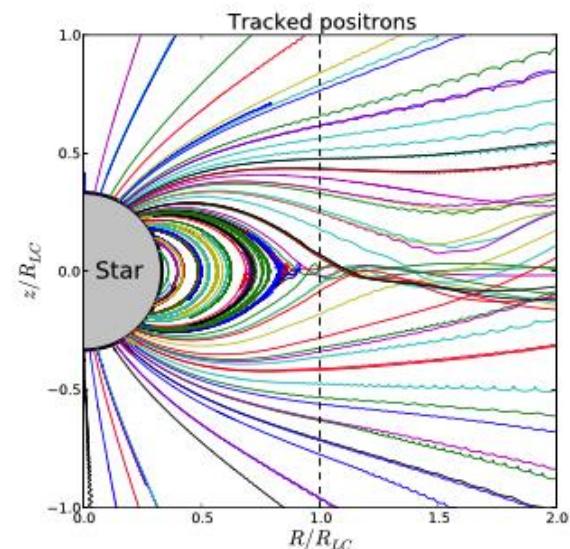
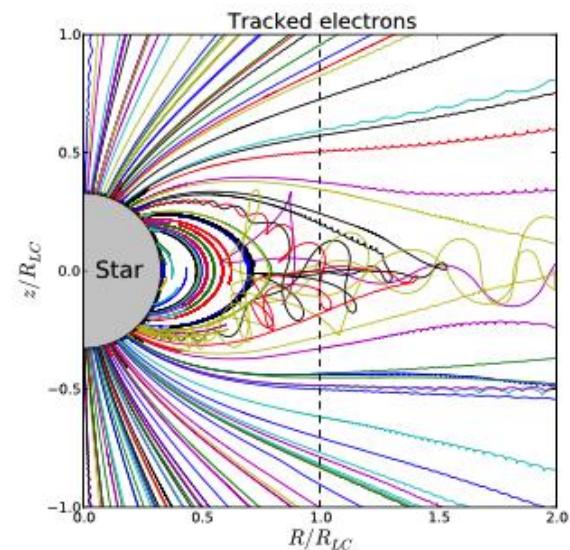
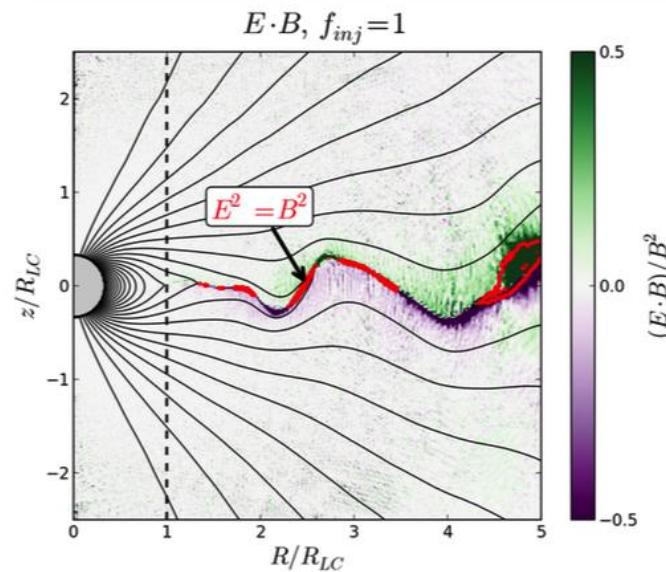
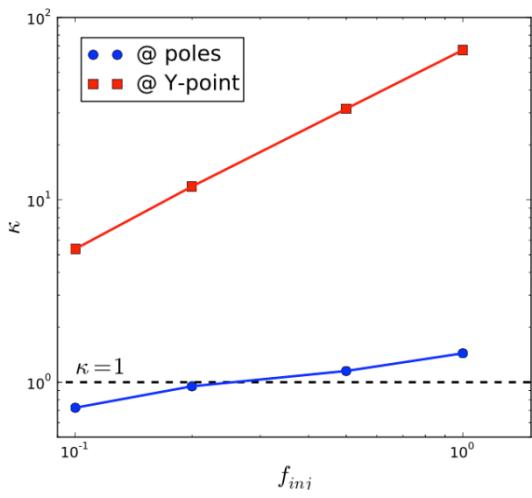
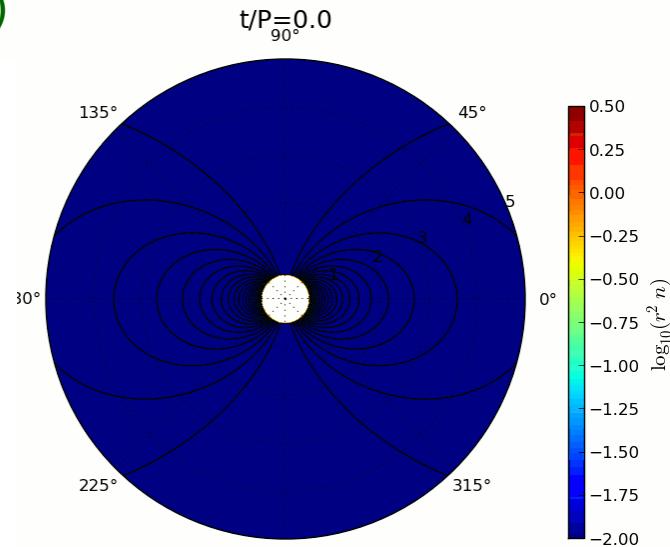
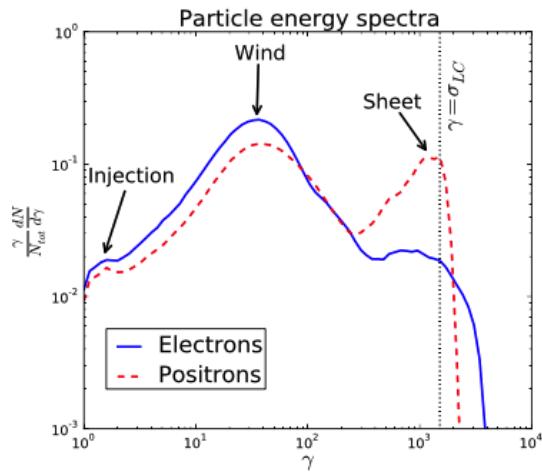
- Sparking if there is not enough plasma

Modern time (2012 – ...)

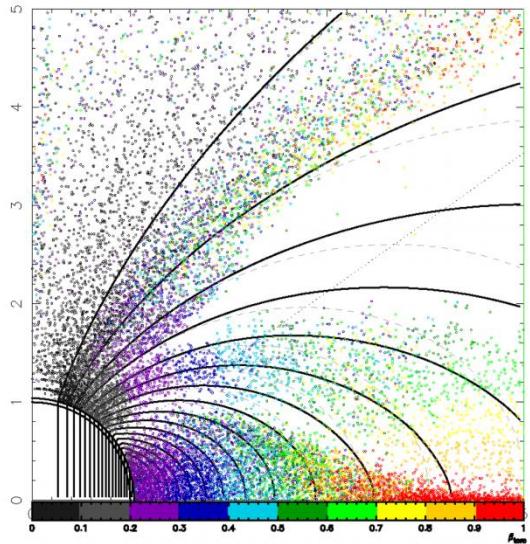
- PIC axysymmetric
- PIC inclined
- PIC reconnection

Particle in cell (PIC)

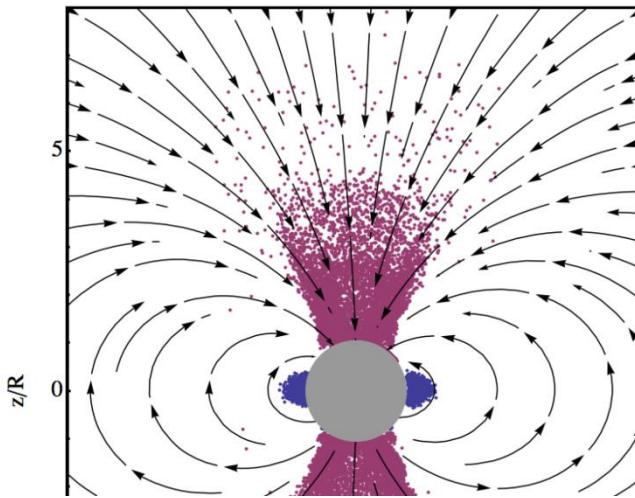
Cerutti B., A.Philippov, Parfrey K., Spitkovsky A.
 MNRAS, 448, 606 (2015)



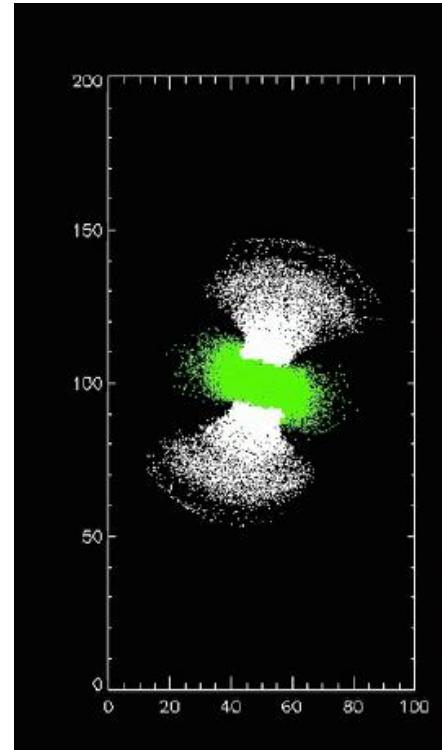
Dome



S.Yuki, S.Shibata
PASJ, **64**, 9 (2012)



A.Philippov, A.Spitkovsky
ApJ, **785**, L33 (2014)



Modern time (2012 – ...)

Main results

- Particle acceleration up to $\Gamma \sim \sigma_M$ outside the light cylinder
- Dome for small inclination
- GR effects help to produce relativistic wind

Problems

- It is necessary to create pairs OUTside the light cylinder
- No pure experiment

No pure experiment (braking index)

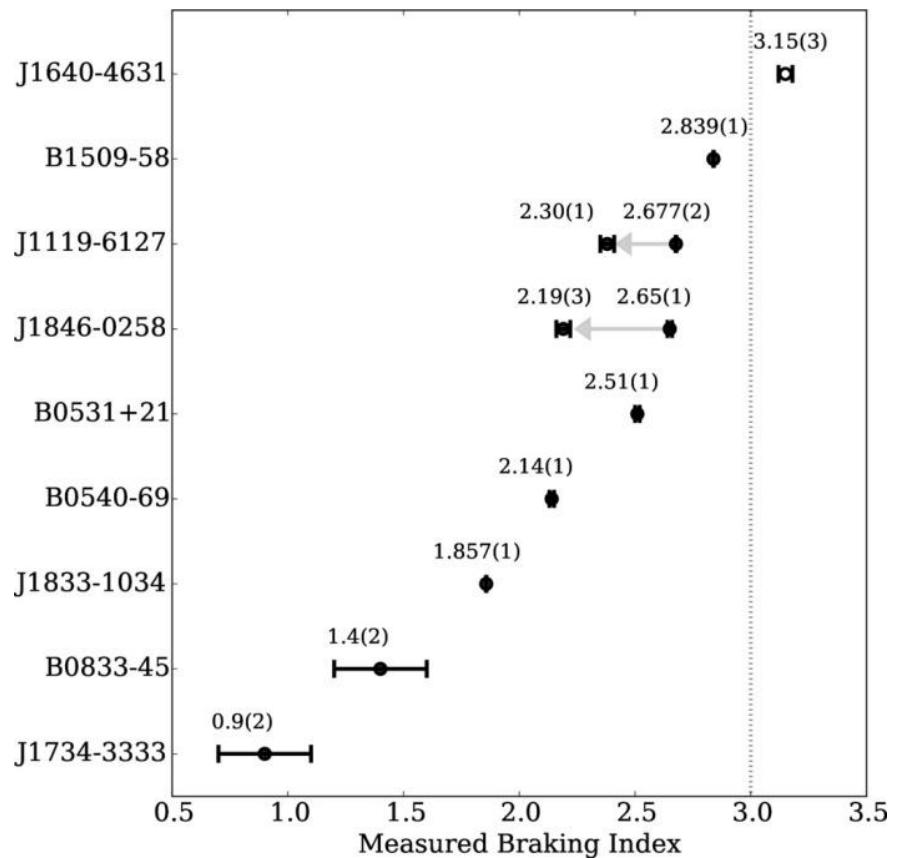
$$n_{\text{br}} = \frac{\ddot{\Omega}\Omega}{\dot{\Omega}^2}$$

$$n_{\text{br}}^{\text{VAC}} = 3 + 2 \tan^{-2} \chi \geq 3$$

$$n_{\text{br}}^{\text{MHD}} = 3 + 2 \frac{\sin^2 \chi \cos^2 \chi}{(1 + \sin^2 \chi)^2}$$

$$3 \leq n_{\text{br}}^{\text{MHD}} \leq 3.25$$

$$n_{\text{br}} = 1.93 + 1.5 \tan^2 \chi$$

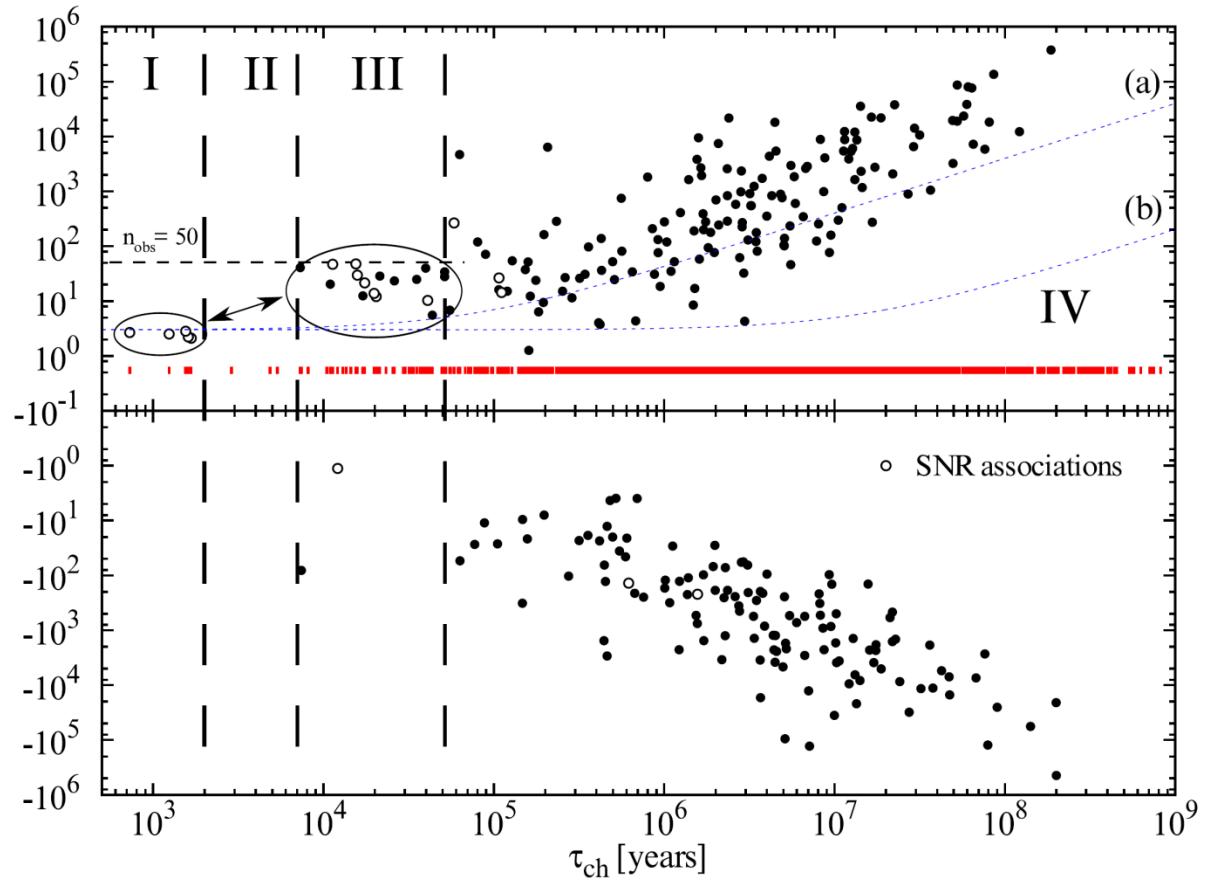


R.F.Archibald et al, ApJ, 819, L16 (2016)

No pure experiment (braking index)

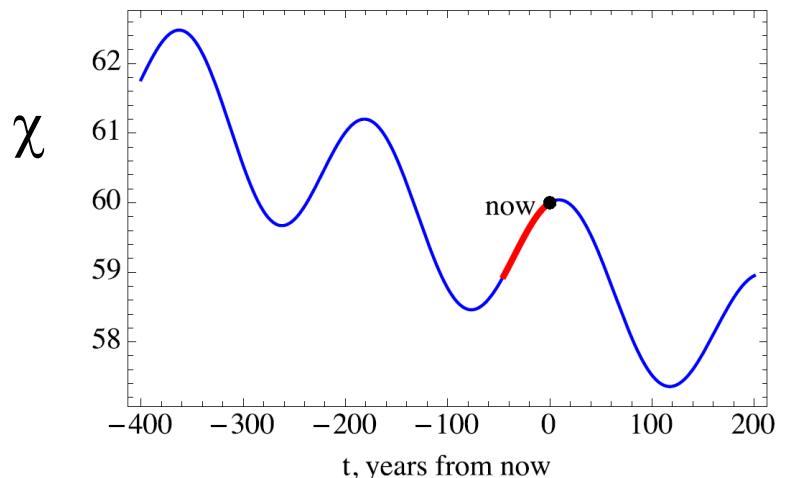
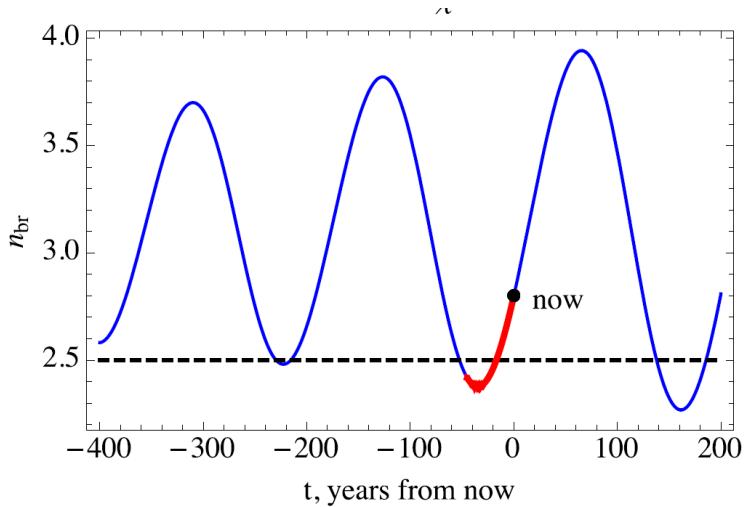
$$n_{\text{br}} = \frac{\ddot{\Omega}\Omega}{\dot{\Omega}^2}$$

Observed braking index n_{obs}



No pure experiment (braking index)

$$n_{\text{br}} = \frac{\ddot{\Omega}\Omega}{\dot{\Omega}^2}$$



Current losses

$$\begin{aligned} I_r \dot{\Omega} &= K_{\parallel}^A + [K_{\perp}^A - K_{\parallel}^A] \sin^2 \chi, \\ I_r \Omega \dot{\chi} &= [K_{\perp}^A - K_{\parallel}^A] \sin \chi \cos \chi. \end{aligned}$$

- One-to-one correspondence
 - χ evolves to 90 deg. if $W_{\text{tot}}(0) > W_{\text{tot}}(90)$, $n_{\text{br}} < 3$
 - χ evolves to 0 deg. if $W_{\text{tot}}(0) < W_{\text{tot}}(90)$, $n_{\text{br}} > 3$
- For BGI $i_A \sim 1$
- For Michel-Bogovalov $[K_{\perp}^{(A)} - K_{\parallel}^{(A)}] = 0$
- For Spitkovsky et al low the asymmetrical current is to be (much) larger than GJ one

$$i_A > (\Omega R/c)^{-1}$$

Conclusion

Wait a minute...

