

The Kelvin Helmholtz Instability (KHI)



The *KHI* occurs in fluids whenever there is a gradient/jump of velocity



The *KHI* well known since ~ 150 years



Its connection with astrophysics dates back only to middle '70s (Radio Galaxies)



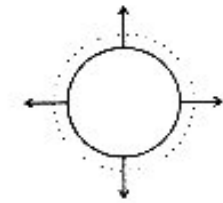
In these last decades *KHI* attracted a lot of interest in different astronomical scenarios

Linear Analysis of the KHI

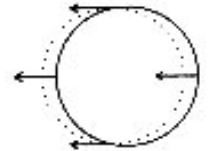
Equilibrium: a jet of radius a moving in the z direction
Perturbed with disturbances sinusoidal with t and
along z and ϕ directions:

$$f(r) \exp [i(kz + n\phi - \omega t)] \quad (\text{normal modes})$$

k : Longitudinal wavenumber

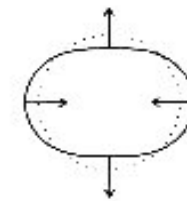


$n = 0$

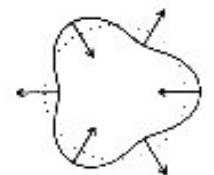


$n = 1$

n : Azimuthal wavenumber



$n = 2$



$n = 3$

$f(r)$: $J_n(r)$, $H_n^o(r)$

WHICH KIND OF ANALYSIS ?

Temporal: k real, ω complex: $t_i = 2\pi / \text{Im}(\omega)$

Spatial: ω real, k complex: $l_i = 2\pi / \text{Im}(k)$

Temporal \leftrightarrow *Spatial*: $l_i = t_i / v_g$, $v_g = d \text{Re}(\omega) / d k$

\rightarrow *Dispersion relation*: $\mathcal{D}(\Phi ; M, ka, v, \dots) = 0$

Nondimensional variables

$$\Phi = \omega / ks, \quad M = v / s, \quad v = \rho_{jet} / \rho_{ext}$$

Linear KHI for adiabatic and HD jet

Two kinds of unstable perturbations

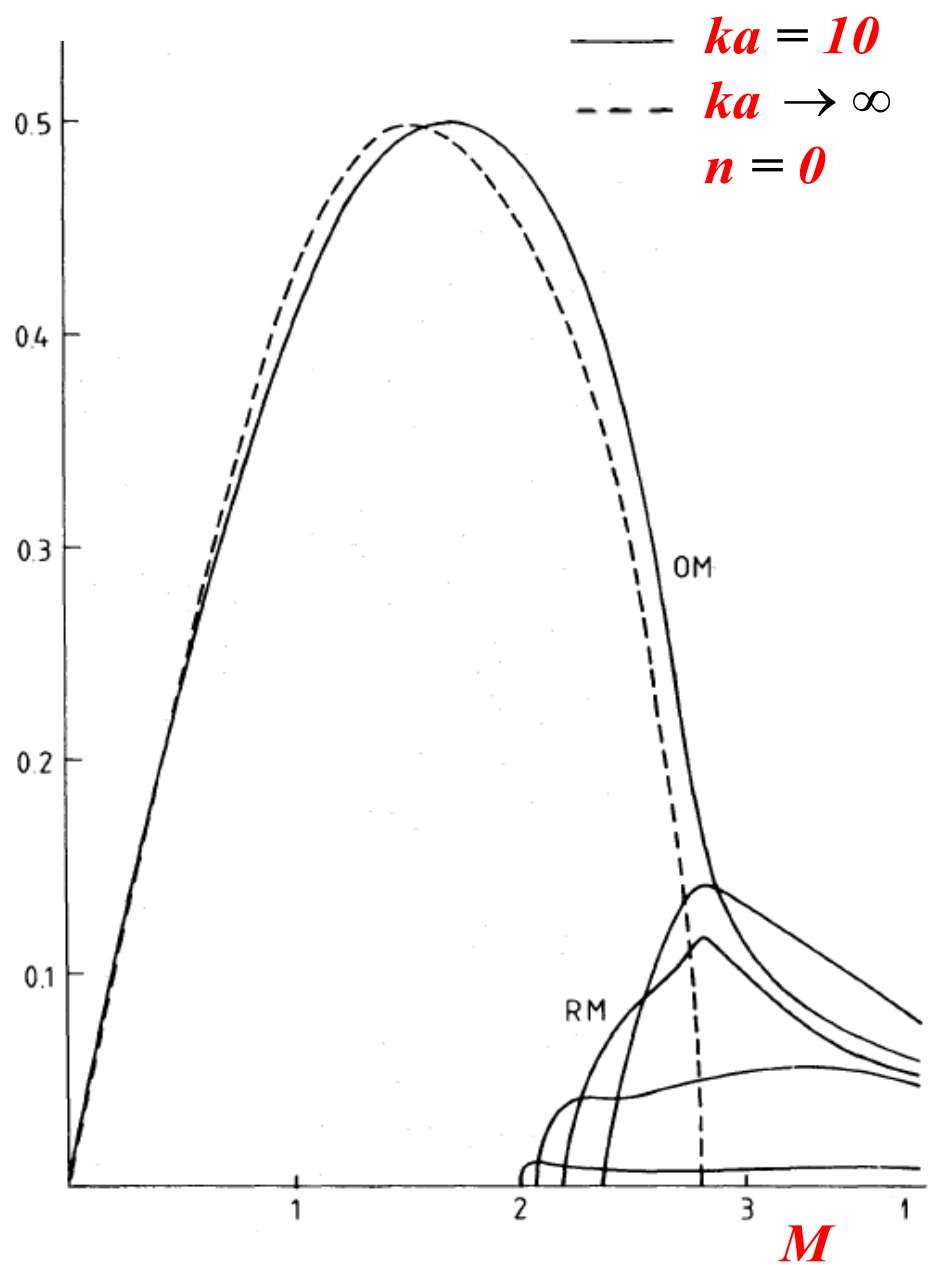
1 - Ordinary (surface) modes ('Historical' KHI):

- Oscillations of the interface
- Stable only for $ka \rightarrow \infty$ and $M \geq 2.8$

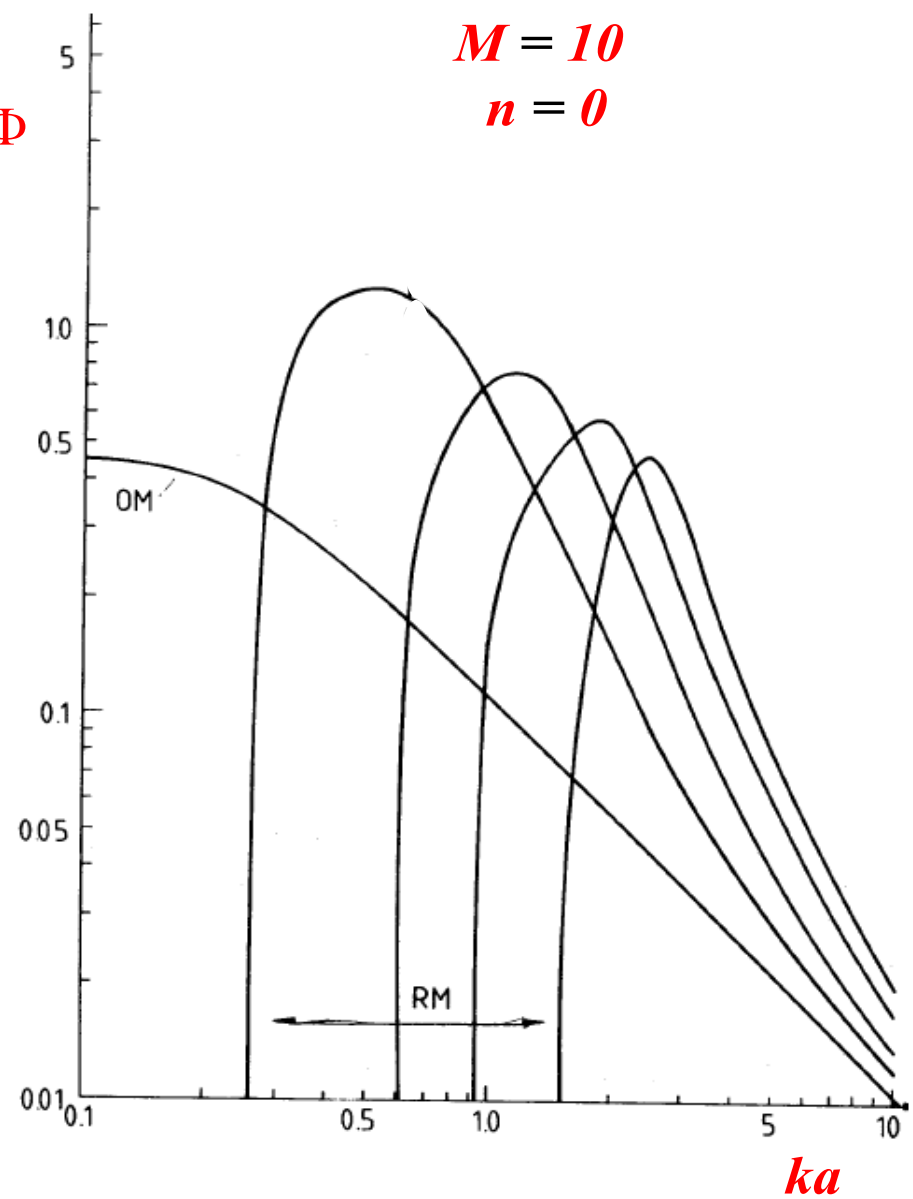
2 - Reflected (body) modes:

- *Acoustic perturb.* propagating inside and outside the jet
- Are found for $M > 2$ (depending on ka)
- Their onset related to the *over-reflection* of *sound waves* at the jet boundary

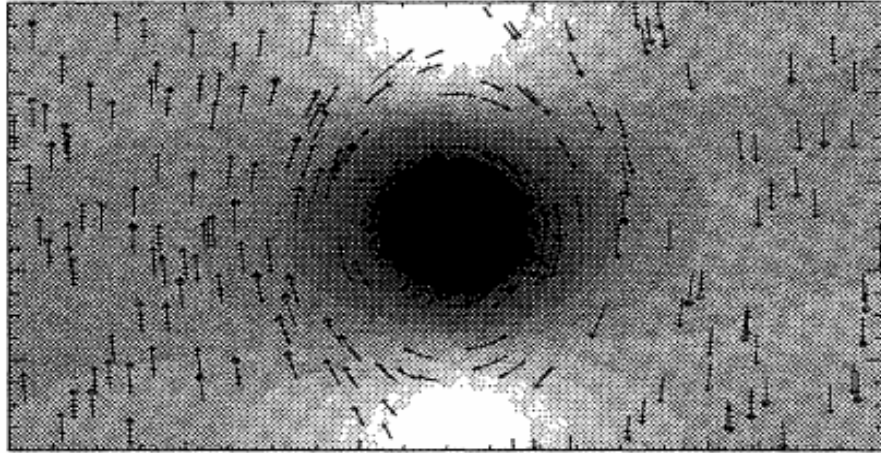
$\text{Im } \Phi$



$\text{Im } \Phi$



*Different evolution expected
for ordinary and reflected modes*



Ordinary

Steady vortex (cat's eye)



Reflected

Acoustic waves moving
away from the trans. layer
waves → *shocks*

Non linear Analysis of the KHI

- Equilibrium: *A jet moving through the environment*
- At $t = 0$ unstable modes are switched on:

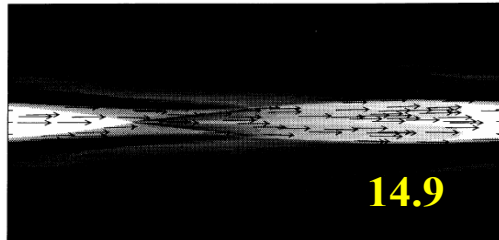
Temporal: A spectrum of ka assumed all along the flow
Section of an infinite jet (period. b.c.)
Long temporal evolutions

Spatial: With a spectrum of Φ you perturb one side of the jet
Free b.c. on the other side
Evolution of structures
advected along the flow

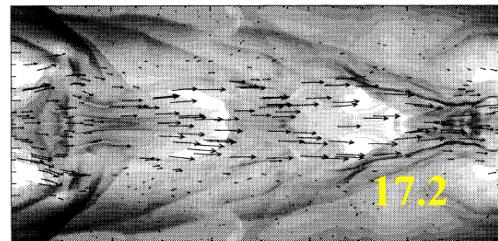
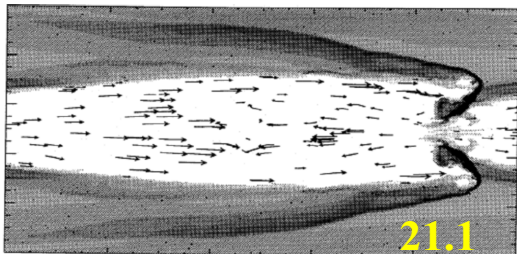
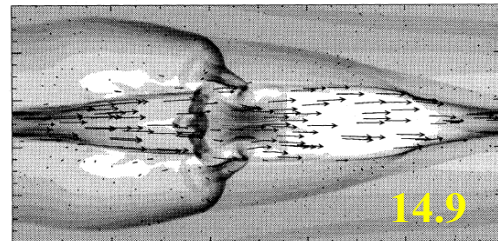
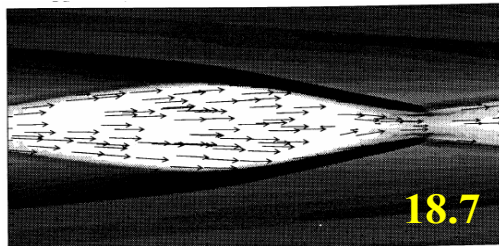
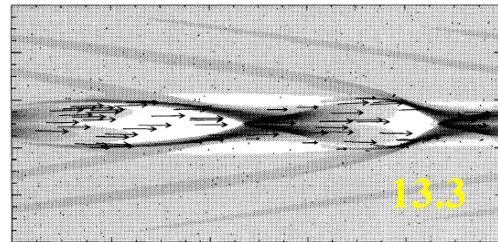
2 - D / cyl.

$M = 20$

$\nu = 0.3$



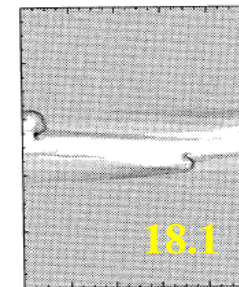
$\nu = 3$



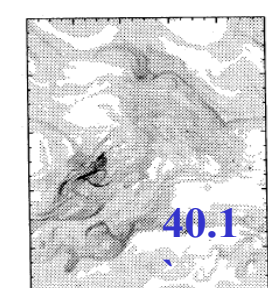
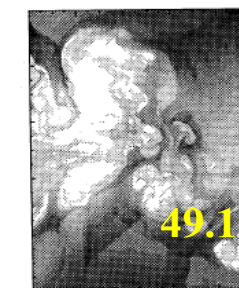
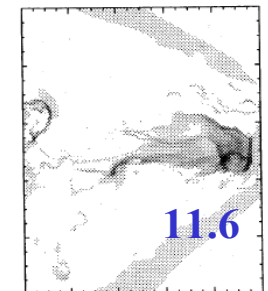
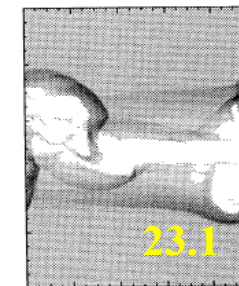
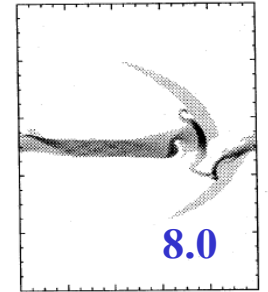
2 - D / slab

$M = 10$

$\nu = 0.1$



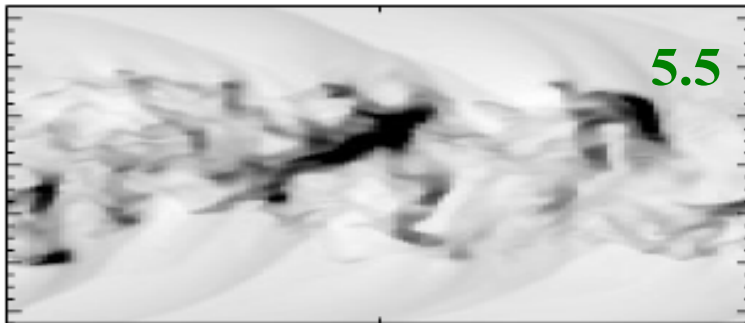
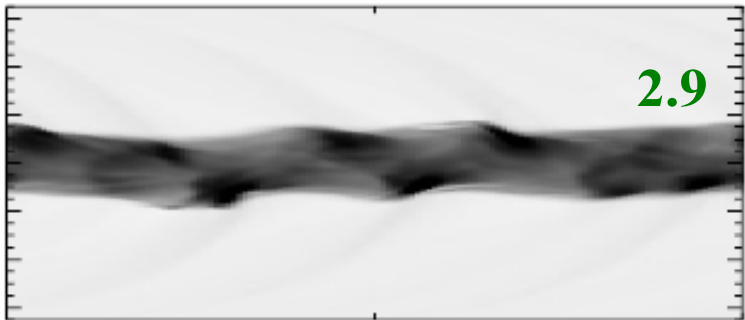
$\nu = 10$



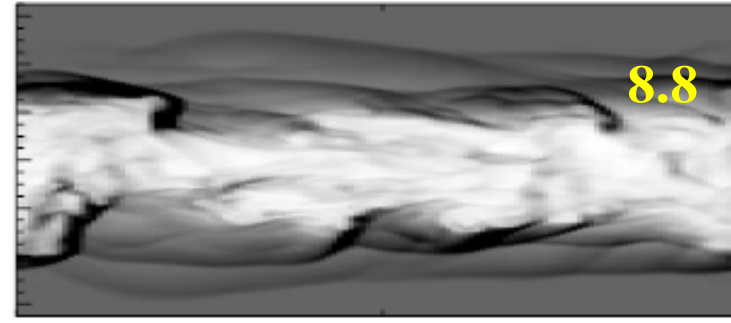
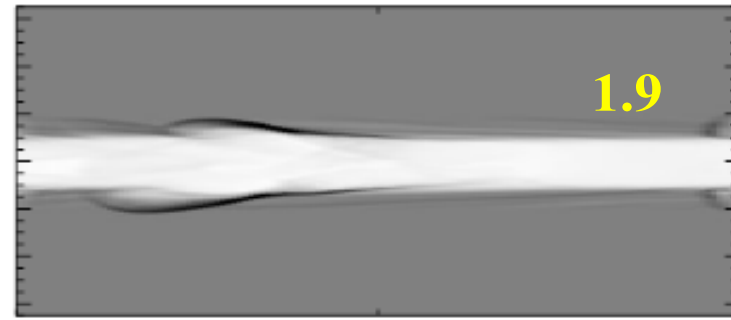
Evolution of a 3-D supersonic jet

$M = 10$

$\nu = 10$

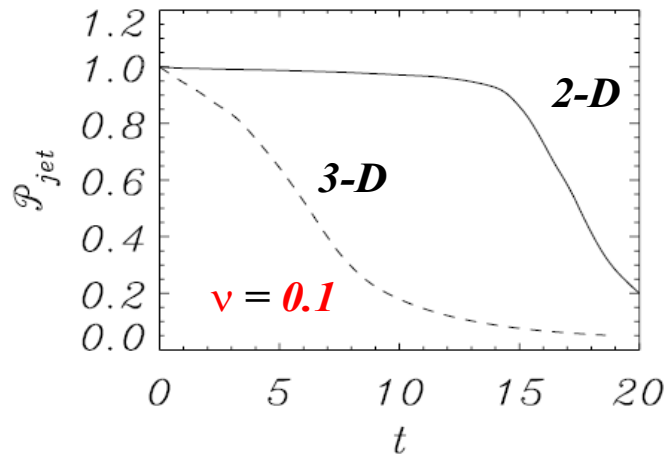


$\nu = 0.1$

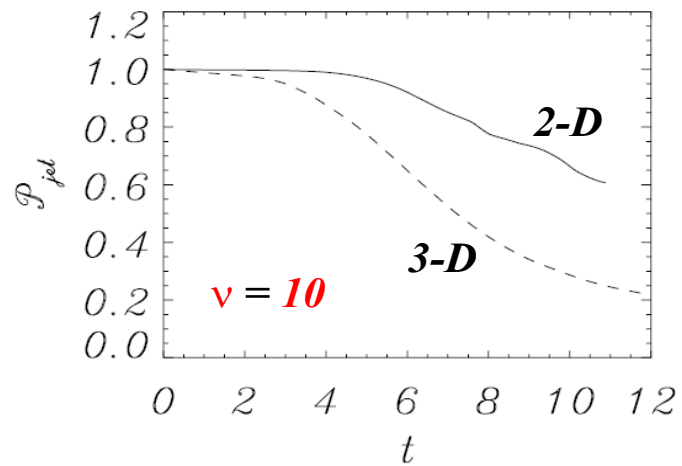
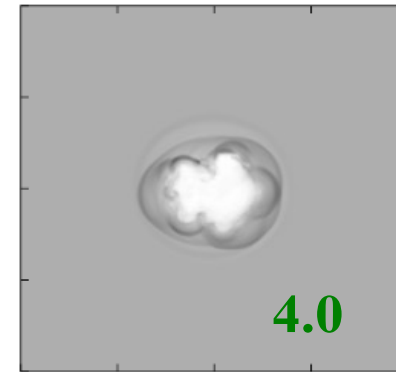


2-D vs 3-D $M = 10$

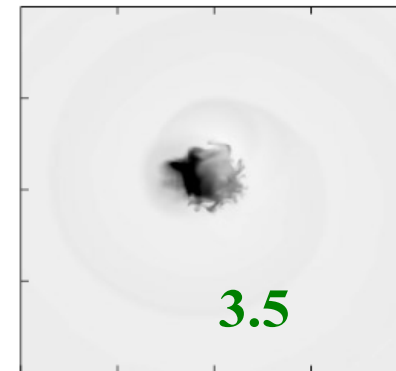
Momentum \mathcal{P}_{jet}



$\nu = 0.1$



$\nu = 10$

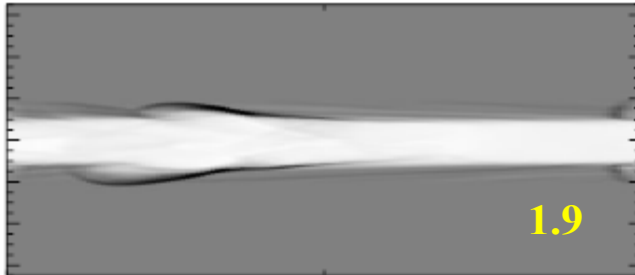
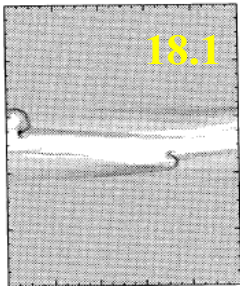


3-D vs 2-D $M = 10, \nu = 0.1$

2-D/s

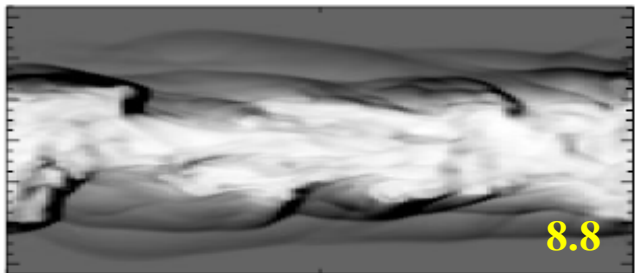
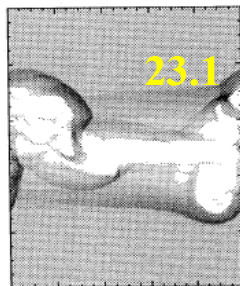
3-D

Similar asympt. configurations but
3-D jets evolve much faster than 2-D jets



Shocks are *weaker* and the post shock material is *cooler*

Mixing and momentum deposition *are enhanced*

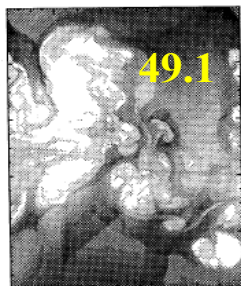


Large scale configur.: The *helical mode* prevails at the beginning

but

Rapid development of *small scale structures*:

- i) *unstable $n > 1$* modes (first)
- ii) *cascade* to small scales eddies via *non linear turbulent processes* (later)



KHI vs *Astrophysical Jets*

Do jet survive against the KHI ?????

More ‘*astrophysical*’ ingredients must be considered:

- *Radiative losses*

- *Magnetic field **B***

(- Relativistic regime)

Radiative Losses: KHI and thermal instabilities

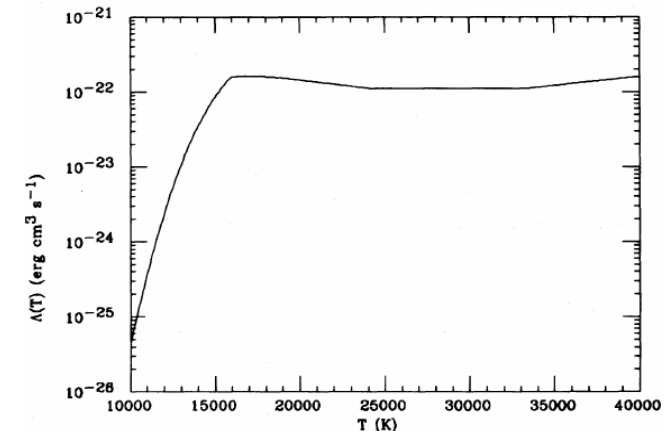
Relevant if $\tau = t_{cool}/t_{dyn} \leq 1$, $t_{cool} \approx P/\mathcal{L}$
 $\mathcal{L} = n^2 \Lambda(T)$

We can express $\Lambda(T) \propto T^\alpha$ where the value of α
depends on T

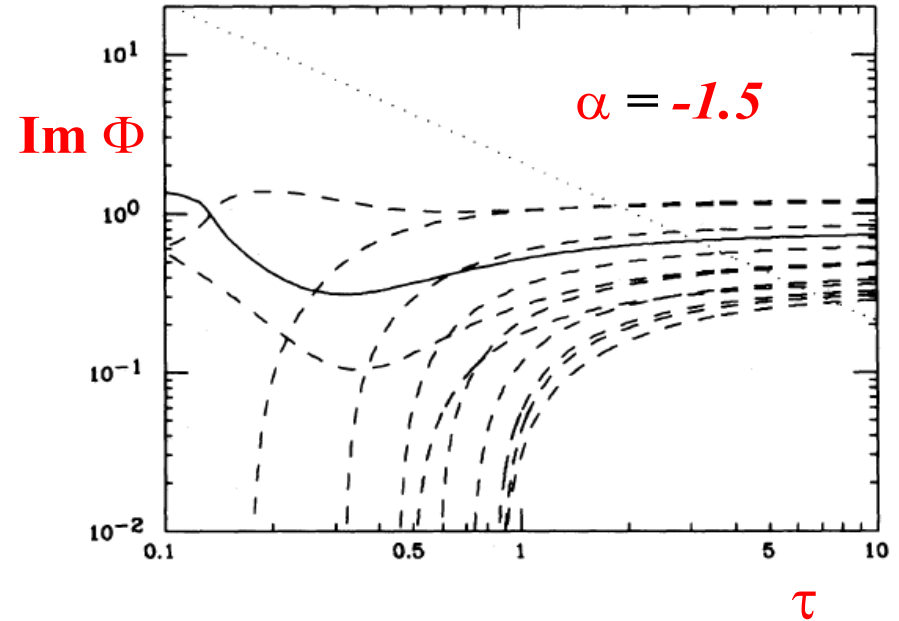
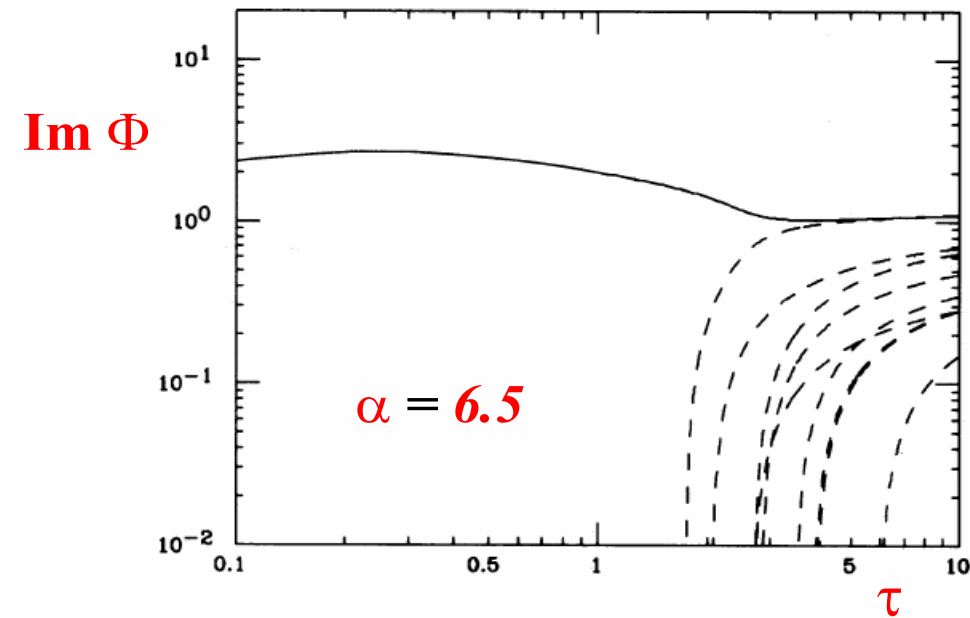
For an *optically thin plasma*

$$\alpha = 6.5 \quad T \leq 15.000 \text{ K}$$

$$\alpha = -1.5 \quad 15.000 \text{ K} \leq T \leq 25.000 \text{ K}$$



$$M = 10, \quad ka = 5$$



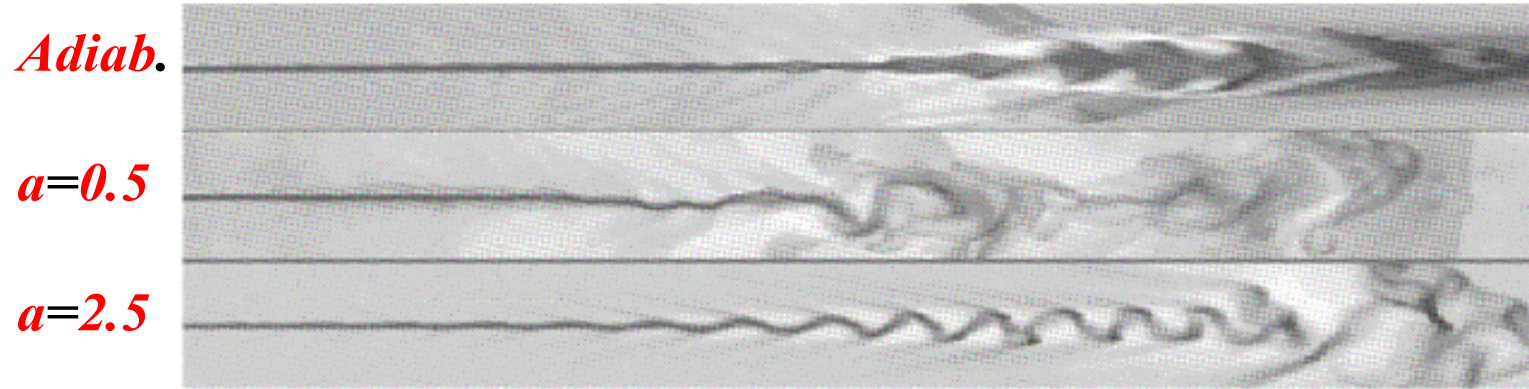
Ordinary modes slightly affected

Reflected modes tend to be stabilized

Possible onset of the *classical thermal instab.*

Different values of α ?

Non linear evolution: Which $\Lambda(T)$?



Simulations of 3-D radiative jet:

Λ : *Lines emission* (reson., forb.) from **9** elem. (sol. ab.),
included the ionization level of **H**

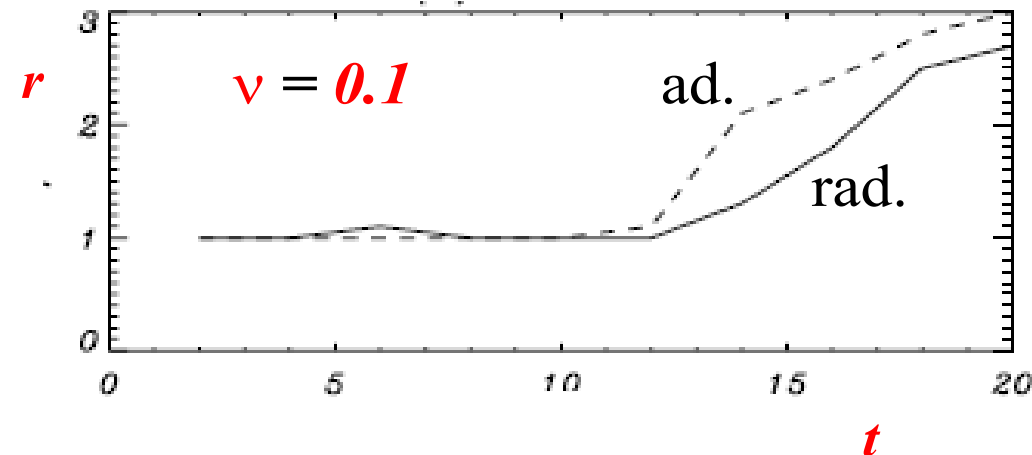
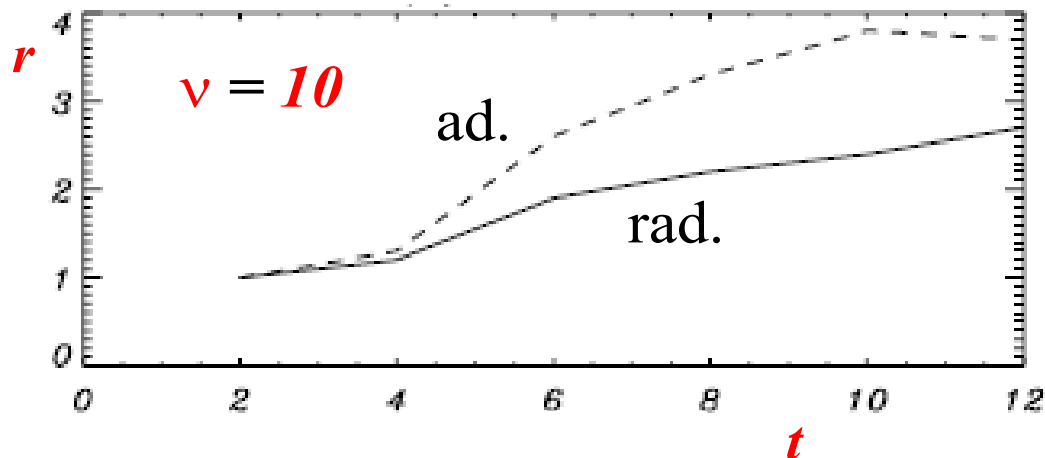
Parameters: **$M = 10$** , **$T_o = 10.000$** K, **$n_o = 100$** cm⁻³

Radiation *delays* the effect of *KHI*, mainly in *dense jets*

Lower temperature in the post-shock region

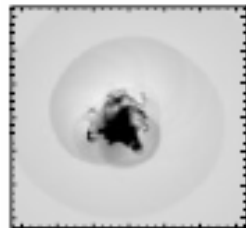
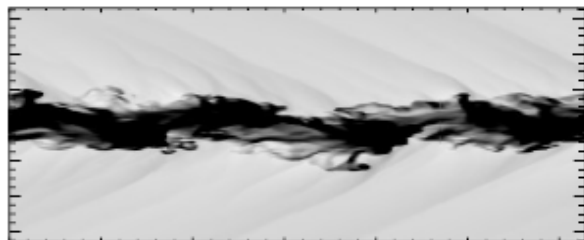
- *Smaller entrainment and momentum deposition*
- *Disruption of jet delayed*
- *No thermal instability*

Evolution of the jet radius



$$\nu = 10$$

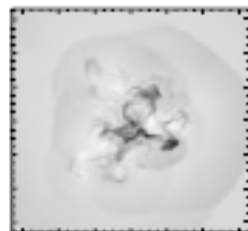
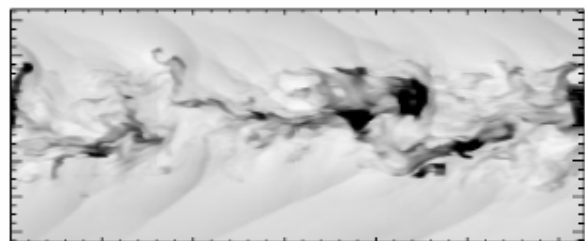
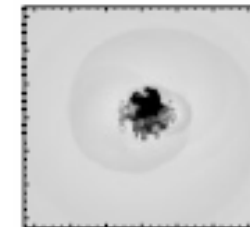
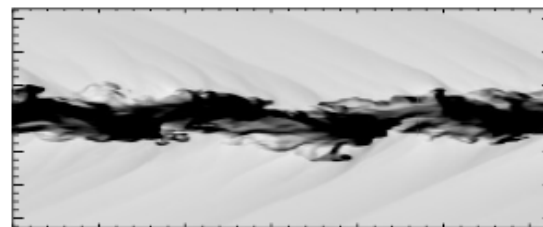
Adiabatic



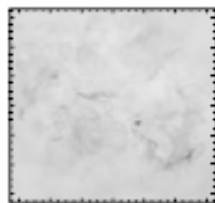
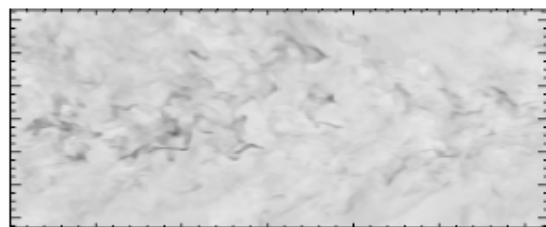
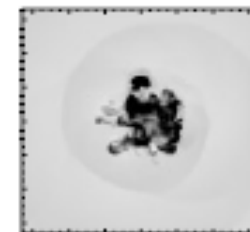
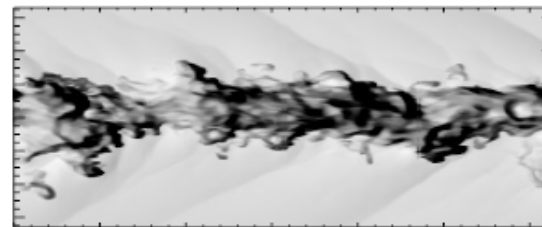
t

4

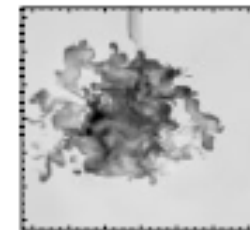
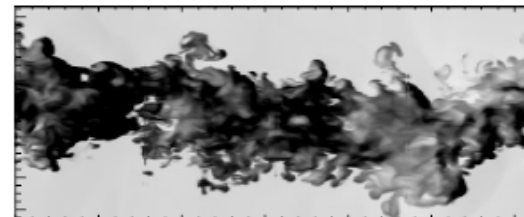
Radiative



6



12

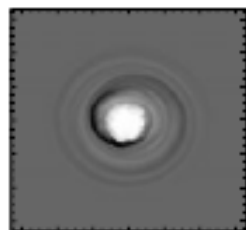
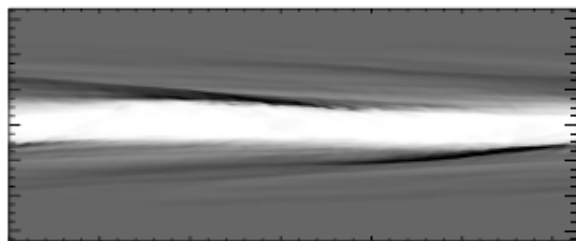


$$\nu = 0.1$$

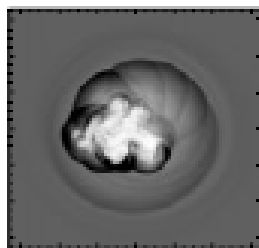
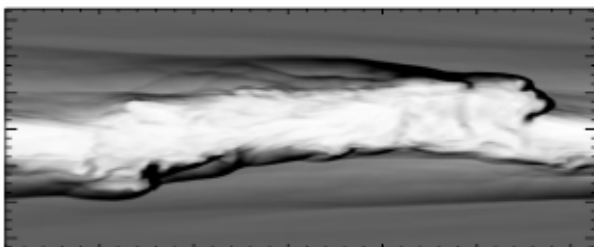
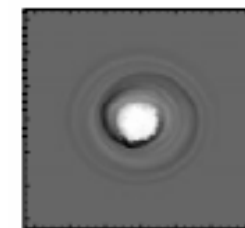
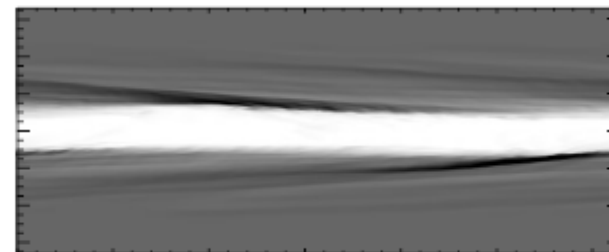
Adiabatic

t

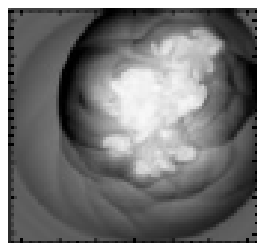
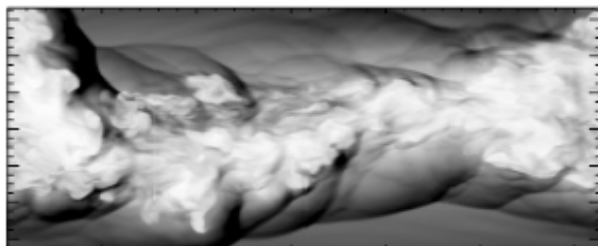
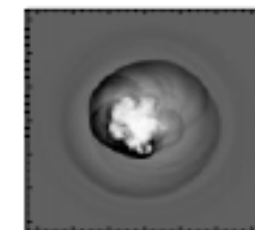
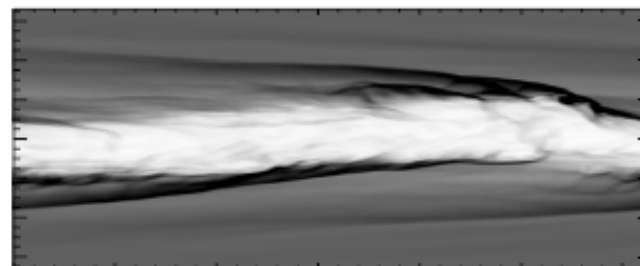
Radiative



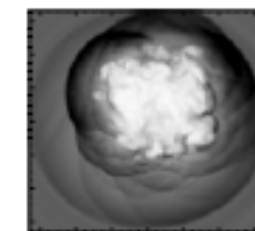
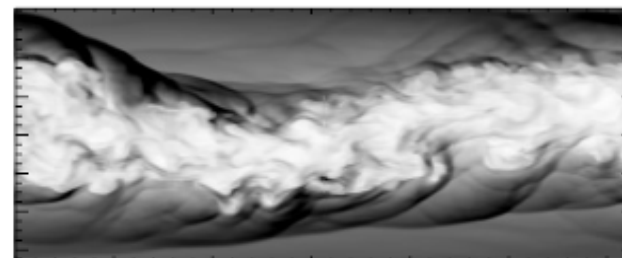
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12



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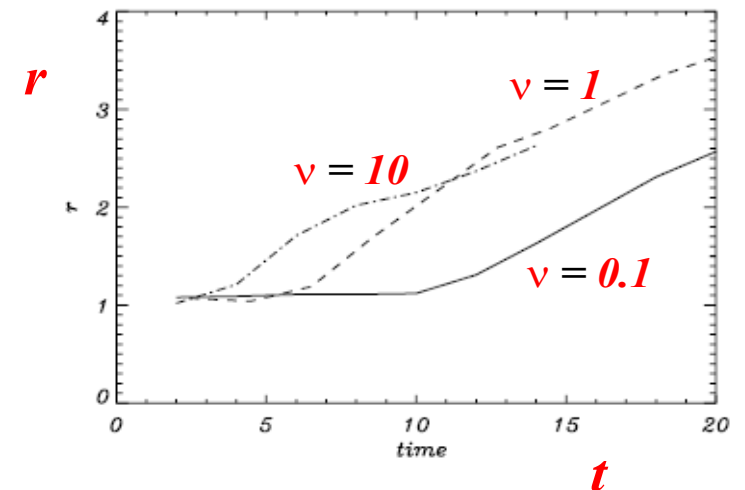
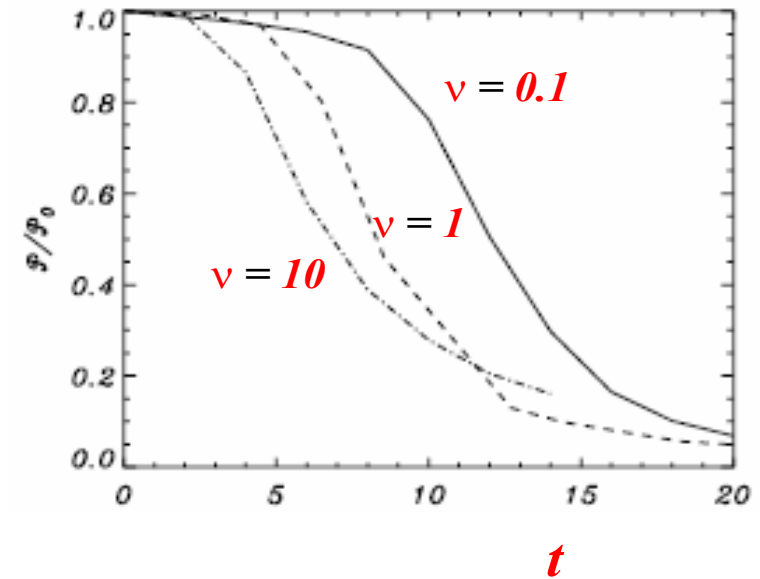


Interaction with the environment

- The momentum is transferred to the environment. within $t \sim 20$
- The jet radius increases linearly

$$v_{exp} \sim 0.15 s$$

$$d_{\perp} = v_{exp} t = 4.5 \times 10^{17} s_6 t_5 \text{ cm}$$



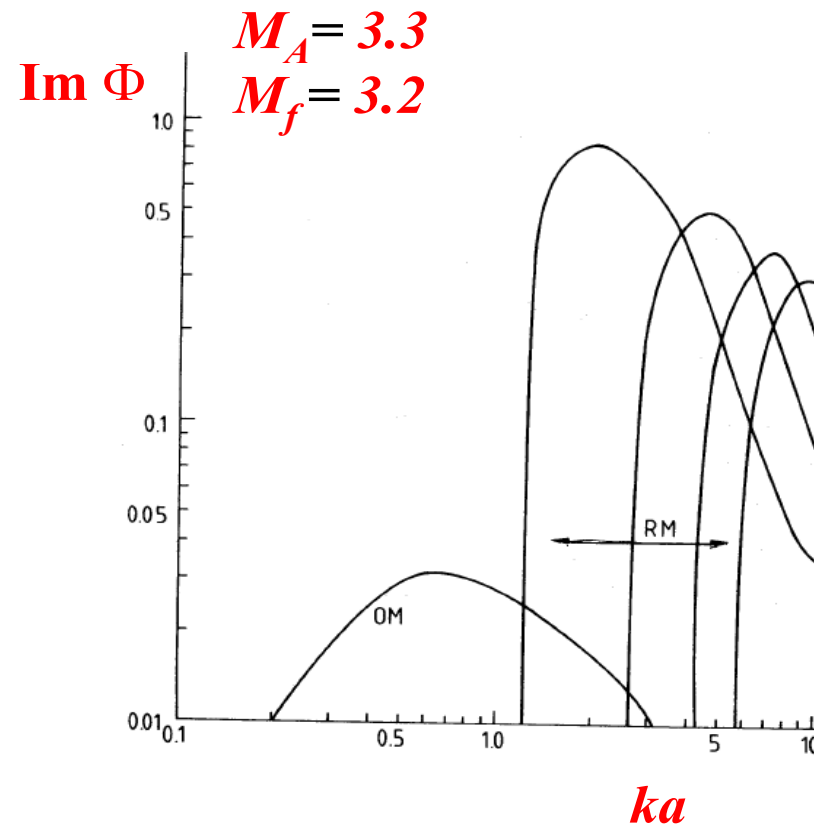
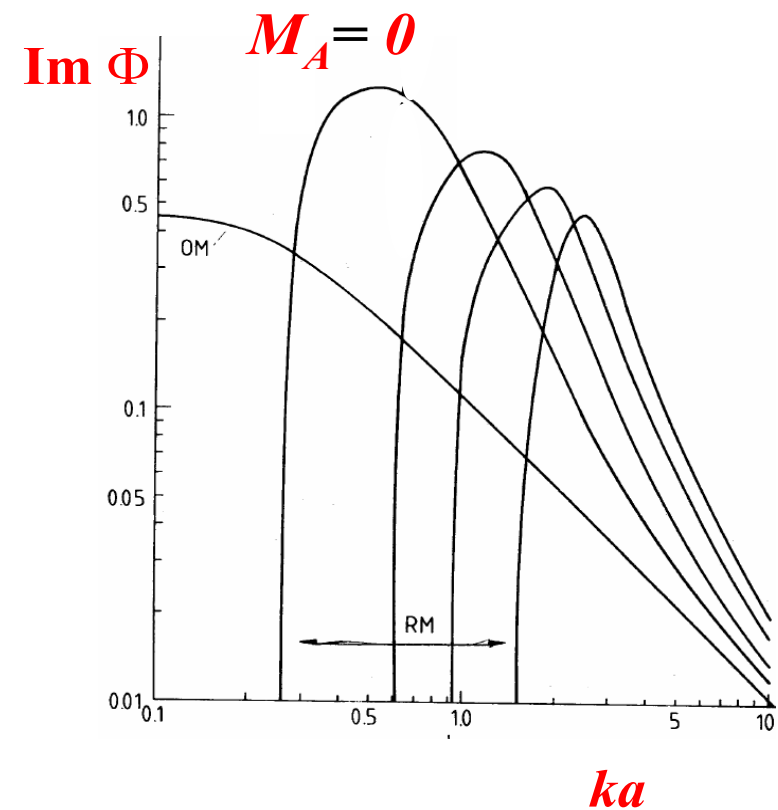
Linear KHI and magnetized jets: $B \parallel v$

Unstable modes damped:

RM: shifted to $ka \gg 1$

OM: unstable for $M_A < 0.5 - 1$

$M=10, n=0$



Linear KHI and magnetized jets: $B_\phi \neq 0 \rightarrow CDI$

Which equilibrium for B ?

a - $rB_z / B_\phi = cst$

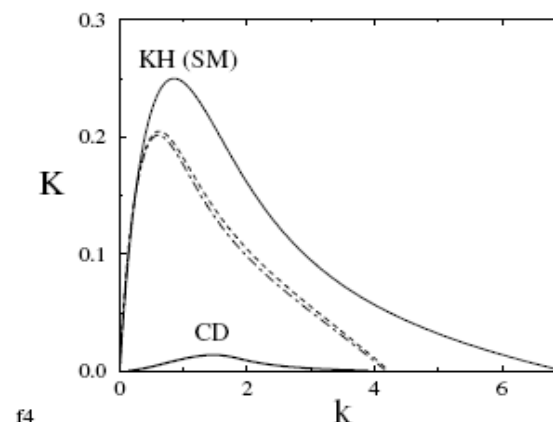
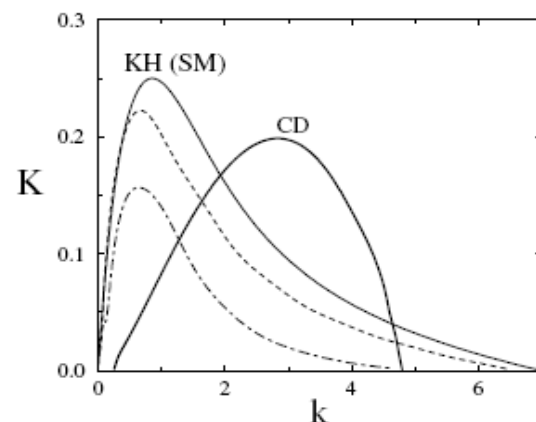
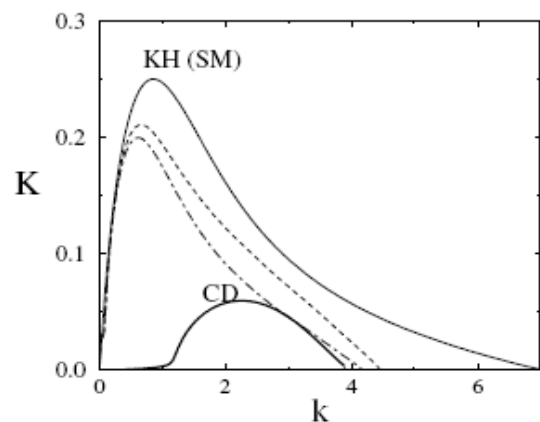
b - $B_z = cst$

c - $B_\phi = 0, r > a$

a

b

c

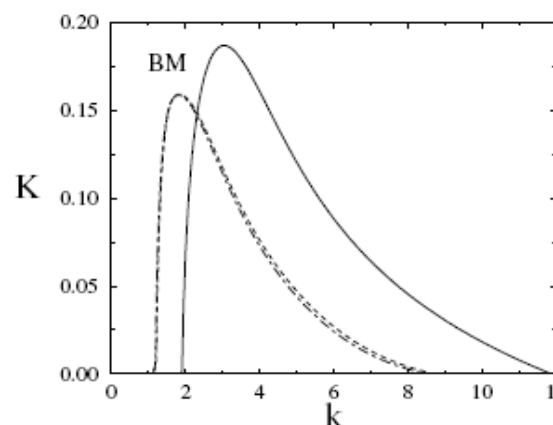
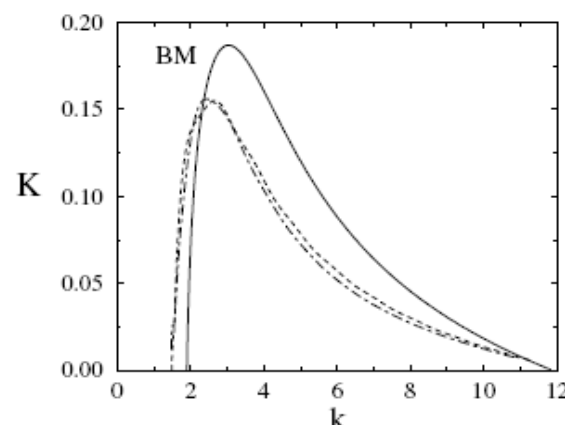
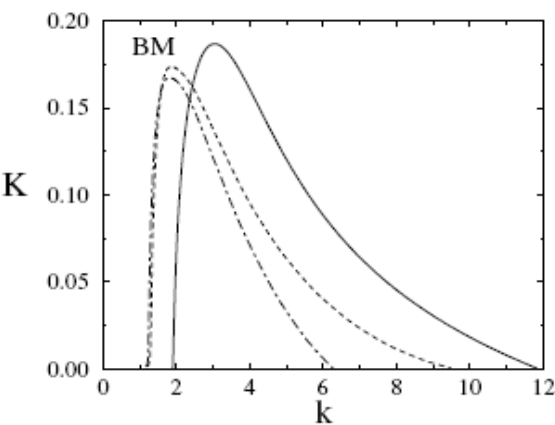


$M_f = 3$

$V_A/s = 1$

$M = M_A = 4.2$

$|n| = 1$

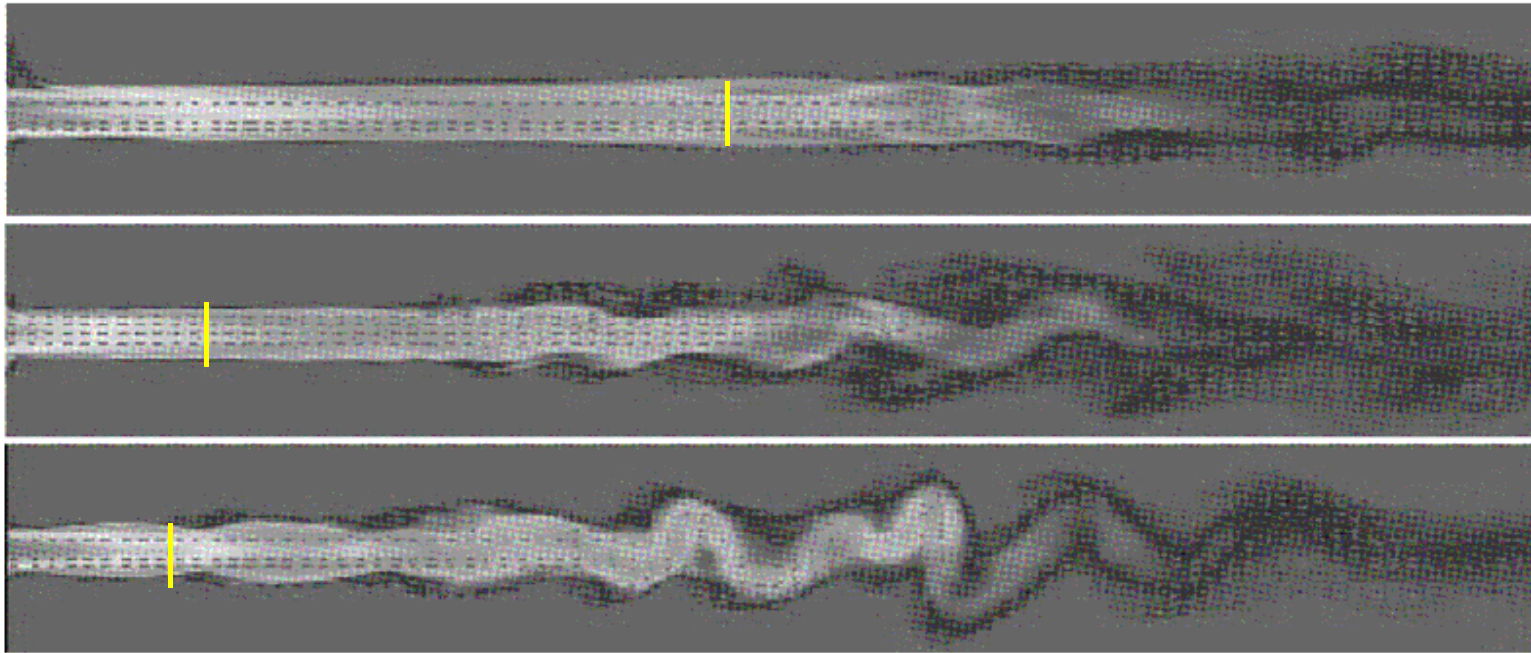


- Splitting of modes with $n = 1$ and $n = -1$
- The *KHI* tends to be damped for $B_\phi \neq 0$
- This trend seems to be quite independent on the initial equilibrium
- The damping is stronger for $V_A/s \gg 1$
- The onset of the *CDI* critically depends on the equilibrium
- Sometimes the *CDI* can prevail over the *KHI*

Nonlinear evolution of magnetized *KHI*

Spatial analysis of a transalfvenic, slowly expanding jet

$M \sim 1 - 1.8$, $M_f \sim 0.6$, $M_A \sim 0.7 - 0.9$



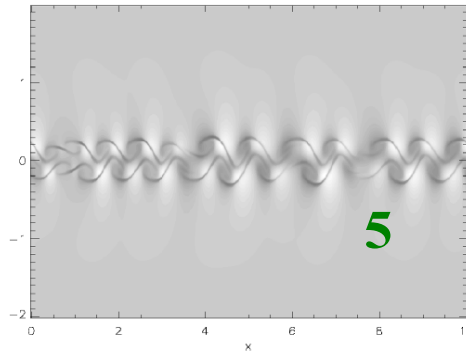
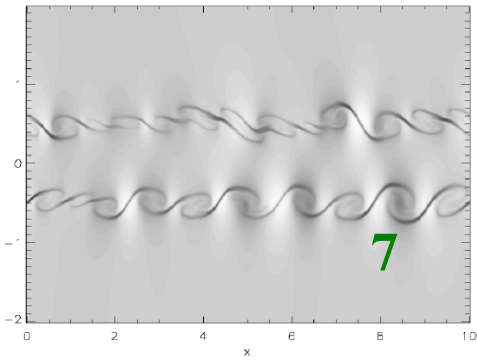
$B_\phi = 0$

“

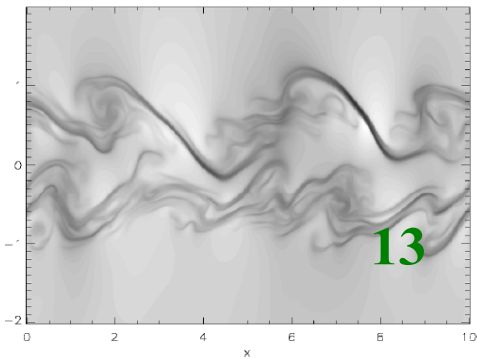
$B_\phi \neq 0$

Non linear evolution: $B_\phi = 0$, 2-D

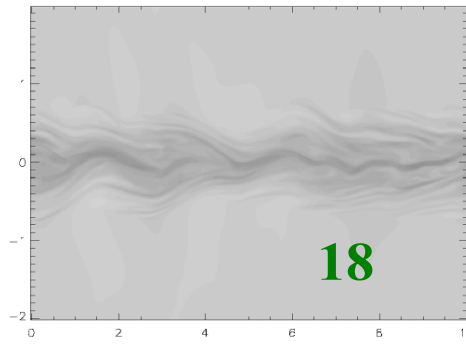
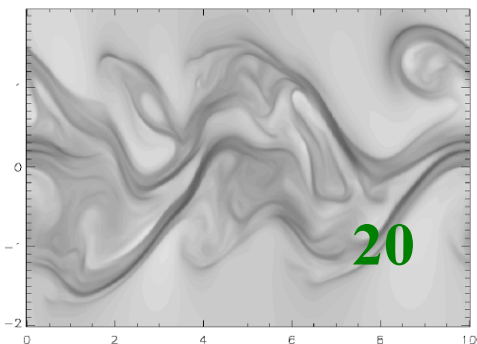
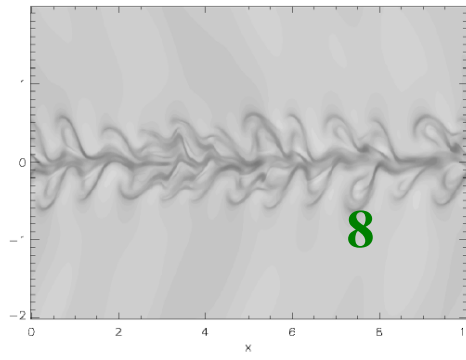
$$M \sim M_f \sim 1, M_A = 7, V_A/s \ll 1$$



I



II



The slab evolution strongly depends on:

$$a / d_{tr}$$

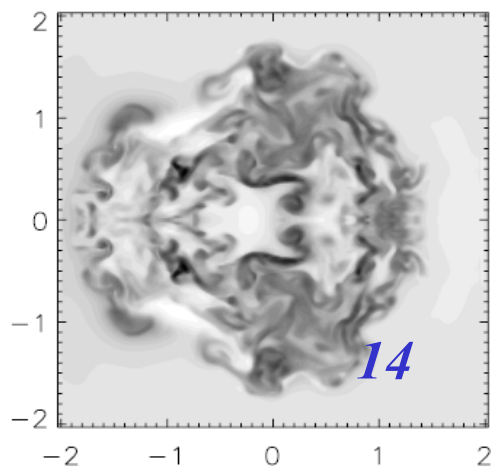
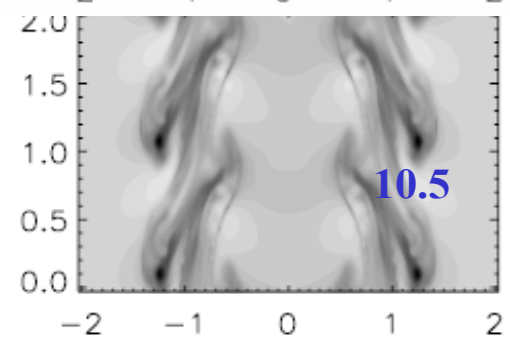
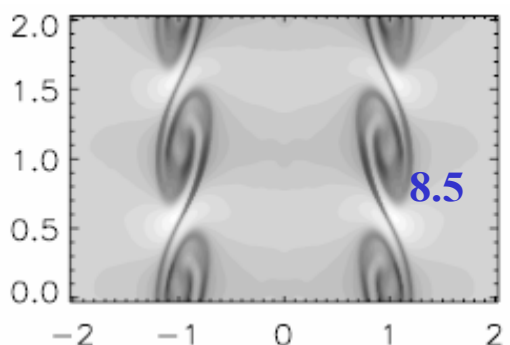
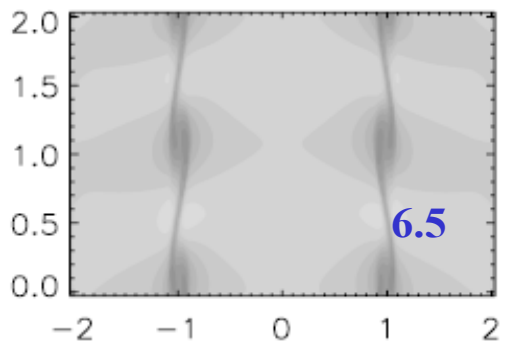
$$I - a / d_{tr} \gg 1$$

$$II - a / d_{tr} \sim 1$$

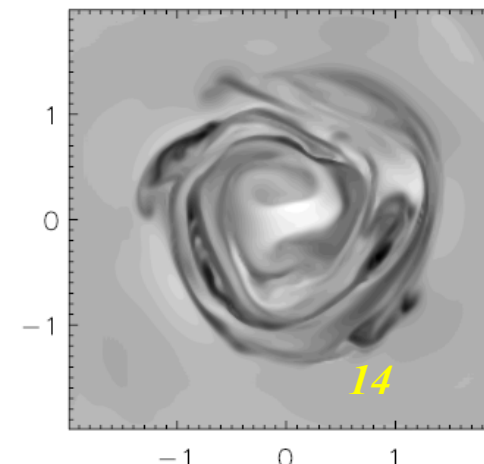
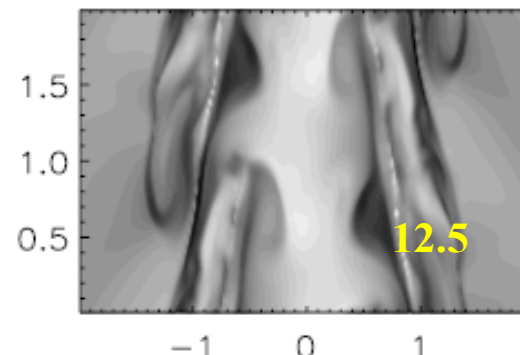
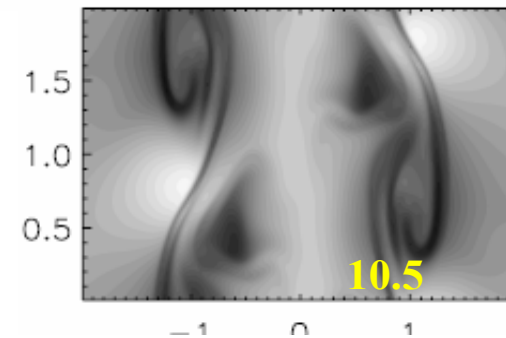
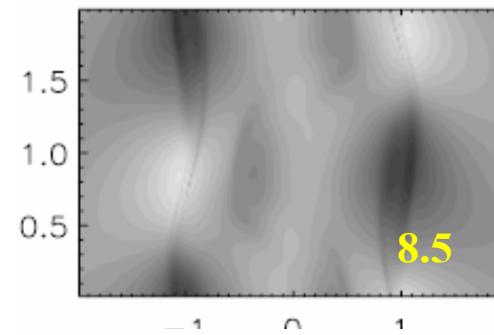
Non linear evolution: 3 - D

$M = 1.3$, $M_f = 1.24$, $M_A = 0.6$, $V_A/s \sim 0.5$, $B_z = cst$

$B_\phi = 0$



$B_\phi \neq 0$ (CDI)



Non linear evolution 3-D (ctd)

3-D jet with *longitudinal magnetic* field *evolves more rapidly*

A *toroidal magnetic field* may have a *stabilizing effect* on the development of turbulence

Apparently this is due to the onset of the *CDI* that *increases* B_ϕ on the boundary

hoop stress counteracts the KHI

Summary

*Do supersonic jets survive against **KHI** ?*

$$t_{cr} = 350 a_{16} s_6^{-1} \text{ yrs}$$

Radiation + magnetic fields ~ Yes

***KHI** plays a main role in the interaction between the jet and the environment:*

Momentum, energy deposition

Entrainment, Mixing

Shocks, heating of the gas

(periodic knots ?)

.....

What next ? **3-D** supersonic jets (*body modes*)
+ *helical fields* (equilibrium **B**)
+ *radiative losses* (cooling function)

3-D Shock evolution

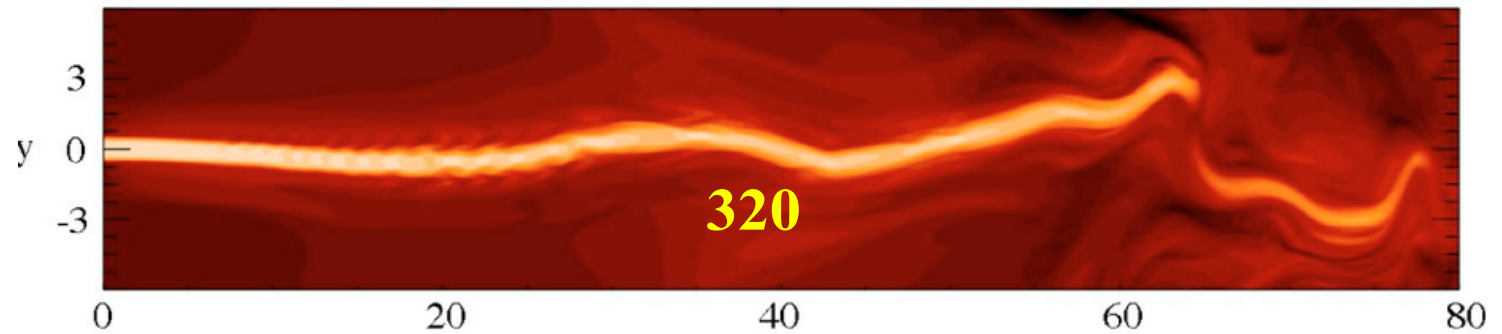
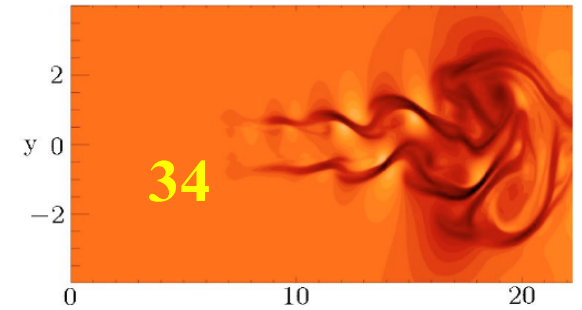
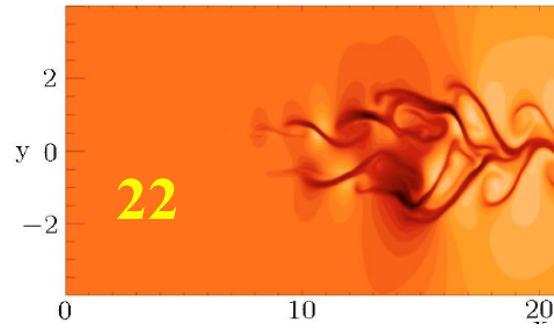
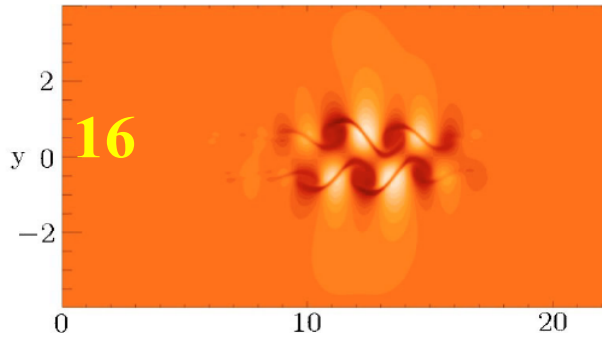
Transition layer, resistivity

Warnings: **2 - D** vs **3 - D** simulations

Temporal vs *spatial* simulations

Non linear spatial evolution: $B_\phi = 0$, 2-D

$M = 1, M_f = 0.99, V_A/s = 0.14$



References:

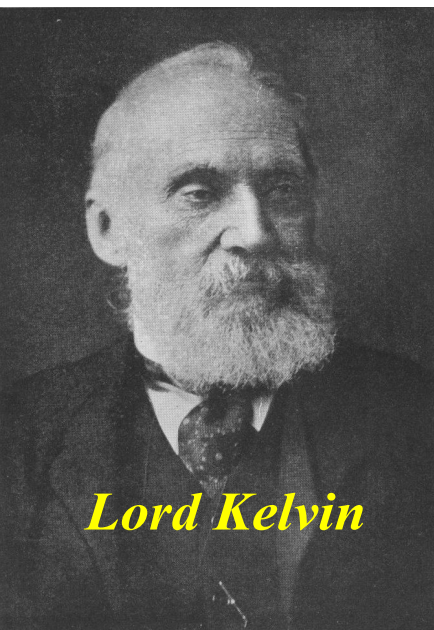
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Hardee et al. (Al., Usa)

*Appl, Baty, Keppens et al. (Heidelberg,
Strasbourg, Leuven)*

Bodo, Massaglia et al. (Torino)

.....



Lord Kelvin

Thank You

very much !



*Hermann
von Helmholtz*

