

Magnetohydrodynamics in stationary and axisymmetric spacetimes: a geometrical approach

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Relativistic MHD with exterior calculus
- 3 Stationary and axisymmetric electromagnetic fields in general relativity
- 4 Stationary and axisymmetric MHD
- 5 Some subcases of the master transfield equation
- 6 Conclusion

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Short history of general relativistic MHD

focusing on stationary and axisymmetric spacetimes

- [Lichnerowicz \(1967\)](#): formulation of GRMHD
- [Bekenstein & Oron \(1978\)](#), [Carter \(1979\)](#) : development of GRMHD for stationary and axisymmetric spacetimes
- [Mobarry & Lovelace \(1986\)](#) : Grad-Shafranov equation for Schwarzschild spacetime
- [Nitta, Takahashi & Tomimatsu \(1991\)](#), [Beskin & Pariev \(1993\)](#) : Grad-Shafranov equation for Kerr spacetime
- [Ioka & Sasaki \(2003\)](#) : Grad-Shafranov equation in the most general (i.e. *noncircular*) stationary and axisymmetric spacetimes

NB: not speaking about *numerical* GRMHD here
(see e.g. [Shibata & Sekiguchi \(2005\)](#))

Why a geometrical approach ?

- Previous studies made use of component expressions, the covariance of which is not obvious

For instance, two of main quantities introduced by Bekenstein & Oron (1978) and employed by subsequent authors are

$$\omega := -\frac{F_{01}}{F_{31}} \quad \text{and} \quad C := \frac{F_{31}}{\sqrt{-g_{\mu\nu}}}$$

- GRMHD calculations can be cumbersome by means of standard tensor calculus

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On the other side

- As well known, the electromagnetic field tensor F is fundamentally a **2-form** and Maxwell equations are most naturally expressible in terms of the **exterior derivative** operator
- The equations of perfect hydrodynamics can also be recast in terms of exterior calculus, by introducing the **fluid vorticity 2-form** (Synge 1937, Lichnerowicz 1941)
- **Cartan's exterior calculus** makes calculations easier !

Exterior calculus in one slide

- A **p -form** ($p = 0, 1, 2, \dots$) is a multilinear form (i.e. a tensor 0-times contravariant and p -times covariant: $\omega_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_p}$) that is fully *antisymmetric*
- **Index-free notation**: given a vector \vec{v} and a p -form ω , $\vec{v} \cdot \omega$ and $\omega \cdot \vec{v}$ are the $(p-1)$ -forms defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v} \cdot \omega &:= \omega(\vec{v}, \cdot, \dots, \cdot) & [(\vec{v} \cdot \omega)_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{p-1}} = v^\mu \omega_{\mu \alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{p-1}}] \\ \omega \cdot \vec{v} &:= \omega(\cdot, \dots, \cdot, \vec{v}) & [(\omega \cdot \vec{v})_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{p-1}} = \omega_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{p-1} \mu} v^\mu] \end{aligned}$$

- **Exterior derivative** : p -form $\omega \mapsto (p+1)$ -form $d\omega$ such that

$$\text{0-form} : (d\omega)_\alpha = \partial_\alpha \omega$$

$$\text{1-form} : (d\omega)_{\alpha\beta} = \partial_\alpha \omega_\beta - \partial_\beta \omega_\alpha$$

$$\text{2-form} : (d\omega)_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \partial_\alpha \omega_{\beta\gamma} + \partial_\beta \omega_{\gamma\alpha} + \partial_\gamma \omega_{\alpha\beta}$$

The exterior derivative is nilpotent: $dd\omega = 0$

- A very powerful tool : **Cartan's identity** expressing the Lie derivative of a p -form along a vector field: $\mathcal{L}_{\vec{v}} \omega = \vec{v} \cdot d\omega + d(\vec{v} \cdot \omega)$

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General framework and notations

Spacetime:

- \mathcal{M} : four-dimensional orientable real manifold
- g : Lorentzian **metric** on \mathcal{M} , $\text{sign } g = (-, +, +, +)$
- ϵ : **Levi-Civita tensor** (volume element 4-form) associated with g :
for any orthonormal basis (\vec{e}_α) ,

$$\epsilon(\vec{e}_0, \vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3) = \pm 1$$

ϵ gives rise to **Hodge duality** : p -form $\mapsto (4 - p)$ -form

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Notations:

- \vec{v} vector \implies $\boxed{\underline{v}}$ 1-form associated to \vec{v} by the metric tensor:

$$\underline{v} := g(\vec{v}, \cdot) \quad [\underline{v} = v^b] \quad [u_\alpha = g_{\alpha\mu} u^\mu]$$

- ω 1-form \implies $\boxed{\vec{\omega}}$ vector associated to ω by the metric tensor:

$$\omega =: g(\vec{\omega}, \cdot) \quad [\vec{\omega} = \omega^\sharp] \quad [\omega^\alpha = g^{\alpha\mu} \omega_\mu]$$

Maxwell equations

Electromagnetic field in \mathcal{M} : 2-form F which obeys to **Maxwell equations**:

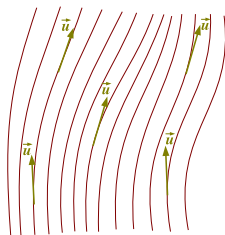
$$dF = 0$$

$$d \star F = \mu_0 \star \underline{j}$$

- dF : exterior derivative of F : $(dF)_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = \partial_\alpha F_{\beta\gamma} + \partial_\beta F_{\gamma\alpha} + \partial_\gamma F_{\alpha\beta}$
- $\star F$: Hodge dual of F : $\star F_{\alpha\beta} := \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$
- $\star \underline{j}$: 3-form Hodge-dual of the 1-form \underline{j} associated to the electric 4-current
 $\vec{j} : \star \underline{j} := \epsilon(\vec{j}, \cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$
- μ_0 : magnetic permeability of vacuum

Electric and magnetic fields in the fluid frame

Fluid : congruence of worldlines in $\mathcal{M} \implies$ 4-velocity \vec{u}



- **Electric field** in the fluid frame: 1-form $e = F \cdot \vec{u}$
- **Magnetic field** in the fluid frame: vector \vec{b} such that $\underline{b} = \vec{u} \cdot \star F$

e and \vec{b} are orthogonal to \vec{u} : $e \cdot \vec{u} = 0$ and $\underline{b} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$

$$F = \underline{u} \wedge e + \epsilon(\vec{u}, \vec{b}, \dots)$$

$$\star F = -\underline{u} \wedge \underline{b} + \epsilon(\vec{u}, \vec{e}, \dots)$$

Perfect conductor

Fluid is a perfect conductor $\iff \vec{e} = 0 \iff \boxed{F \cdot \vec{u} = 0}$

From now on, we assume that the fluid is a perfect conductor (ideal MHD)

The electromagnetic field is then entirely expressible in terms of vectors \vec{u} and \vec{b} :

$$\boxed{F = \epsilon(\vec{u}, \vec{b}, \cdot, \cdot)}$$

$$\boxed{\star F = \underline{b} \wedge \underline{u}}$$

Alfvén's theorem

Cartan's identity applied to the 2-form F :

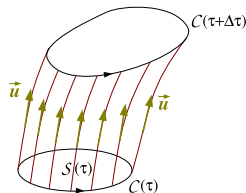
$$\mathcal{L}_{\vec{u}} F = \vec{u} \cdot dF + d(\vec{u} \cdot F)$$

Now $dF = 0$ (Maxwell eq.) and $\vec{u} \cdot F = 0$ (perfect conductor)
Hence the electromagnetic field is preserved by the flow:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\vec{u}} F = 0$$

Application:
$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \oint_{C(\tau)} A = 0$$

- τ : fluid proper time
- $C(\tau)$ = closed contour dragged along by the fluid
- A : electromagnetic 4-potential : $F = dA$



Proof:
$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \oint_{C(\tau)} A = \frac{d}{d\tau} \int_{S(\tau)} \underbrace{dA}_F = \frac{d}{d\tau} \int_{S(\tau)} F = \int_{S(\tau)} \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_{\vec{u}} F}_0 = 0$$

Non-relativistic limit: $\int_S \vec{b} \cdot d\vec{S} = \text{const} \leftarrow$ Alfvén's theorem (mag. flux freezing)

Perfect fluid

From now on, we assume that the fluid is a perfect one: its energy-momentum tensor is

$$\mathbf{T}^{\text{fluid}} = (\varepsilon + p)\underline{\mathbf{u}} \otimes \underline{\mathbf{u}} + pg$$

Simple fluid model: all thermodynamical quantities depend on

- s : entropy density in the fluid frame,
- n : baryon number density in the fluid frame

$$\text{Equation of state : } \varepsilon = \varepsilon(s, n) \implies \begin{cases} T := \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial s} & \text{temperature} \\ \mu := \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial n} & \text{baryon chemical potential} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{First law of thermodynamics } \implies p = -\varepsilon + Ts + \mu n$$

$$\implies \text{enthalpy per baryon : } h = \frac{\varepsilon + p}{n} = \mu + TS, \text{ with } S := \frac{s}{n} \text{ (entropy per baryon)}$$

Conservation of energy-momentum

Conservation law for the total energy-momentum:

$$\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{T}^{\text{fluid}} + \mathbf{T}^{\text{em}}) = 0 \quad (1)$$

- From Maxwell equations, $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}^{\text{em}} = -\mathbf{F} \cdot \vec{j}$
- Using baryon number conservation, $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}^{\text{fluid}}$ can be decomposed in two parts:

- along \vec{u} : $\vec{u} \cdot \nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}^{\text{fluid}} = -nT\vec{u} \cdot dS$

- orthogonal to \vec{u} : $\perp_u \nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}^{\text{fluid}} = n[\vec{u} \cdot d(h\underline{u}) - TdS]$

[Sygne 1937] [Lichnerowicz 1941] [Taub 1959] [Carter 1979]

$\Omega := d(h\underline{u})$ vorticity 2-form

Since $\vec{u} \cdot \mathbf{F} \cdot \vec{j} = 0$, Eq. (1) is equivalent to the system

$$\vec{u} \cdot dS = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\vec{u} \cdot d(h\underline{u}) - TdS = \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{F} \cdot \vec{j} \quad (3)$$

Eq. (3) is the **MHD-Euler equation** in *canonical form*

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Stationary and axisymmetric spacetimes

Assume that (\mathcal{M}, g) is endowed with two symmetries:

- 1 **stationarity** : \exists a group action of $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ on \mathcal{M} such that
 - the orbits are timelike curves
 - g is invariant under the $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ action :
if $\vec{\xi}$ is a generator of the group action,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}} g = 0 \quad (4)$$

- 2 **axisymmetry** : \exists a group action of $SO(2)$ on \mathcal{M} such that
 - the set of fixed points is a 2-dimensional submanifold $\Delta \subset \mathcal{M}$ (called the *rotation axis*)
 - g is invariant under the $SO(2)$ action :
if $\vec{\chi}$ is a generator of the group action,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\chi}} g = 0 \quad (5)$$

(4) and (5) are equivalent to *Killing equations*:

$$\nabla_{\alpha} \xi_{\beta} + \nabla_{\beta} \xi_{\alpha} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla_{\alpha} \chi_{\beta} + \nabla_{\beta} \chi_{\alpha} = 0$$

Stationary and axisymmetric spacetimes

No generality is lost by considering that the **stationary and axisymmetric actions commute** [Carter 1970] :

(\mathcal{M}, g) is invariant under the action of the **Abelian group** $(\mathbb{R}, +) \times \text{SO}(2)$, and not only under the actions of $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ and $\text{SO}(2)$ separately. It is equivalent to say that the Killing vectors commute:

$$[\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}] = 0$$

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$$[\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}] = 0$$

$\implies \exists$ coordinates $(x^\alpha) = (t, x^1, x^2, \varphi)$ on \mathcal{M} such that $\vec{\xi} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ and $\vec{\chi} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi}$

Within them, $g_{\alpha\beta} = g_{\alpha\beta}(x^1, x^2)$

Adapted coordinates are not unique:
$$\begin{cases} t' & = & t + F_0(x^1, x^2) \\ x'^1 & = & F_1(x^1, x^2) \\ x'^2 & = & F_2(x^1, x^2) \\ \varphi' & = & \varphi + F_3(x^1, x^2) \end{cases}$$

Stationary and axisymmetric electromagnetic field

Assume that the electromagnetic field is both stationary and axisymmetric:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}} \mathbf{F} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{L}_{\vec{\chi}} \mathbf{F} = 0 \quad (6)$$

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Cartan's identity and Maxwell eq. $\implies \mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}} F = \vec{\xi} \cdot \underbrace{dF}_0 + d(\vec{\xi} \cdot F) = d(\vec{\xi} \cdot F)$

Hence (6) is equivalent to

$$d(\vec{\xi} \cdot F) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad d(\vec{\chi} \cdot F) = 0$$

Poincaré lemma $\implies \exists$ locally two scalar fields Φ and Ψ such that

$$\boxed{\vec{\xi} \cdot F = -d\Phi} \quad \text{and} \quad \boxed{\vec{\chi} \cdot F = -d\Psi}$$

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Link with the 4-potential A : one may use the gauge freedom on A to set

$$\Phi = A \cdot \vec{\xi} = A_t \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi = A \cdot \vec{\chi} = A_\varphi$$

Symmetries of the scalar potentials

From the definitions of Φ and Ψ :

- $\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}}\Phi = \vec{\xi} \cdot d\Phi = -F(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\xi}) = 0$
- $\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\chi}}\Psi = \vec{\chi} \cdot d\Psi = -F(\vec{\chi}, \vec{\chi}) = 0$
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- $\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}}\Psi = \vec{\xi} \cdot d\Psi = -F(\vec{\chi}, \vec{\xi}) = F(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi})$

We have $d[F(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi})] = d[\vec{\xi} \cdot d\Psi] = \mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}}d\Psi - \underbrace{\vec{\xi} \cdot d^2\Psi}_0 = \mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}}(F \cdot \vec{\chi}) = 0$

Hence $F(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}) = \text{const}$

Assuming that F vanishes somewhere in \mathcal{M} (for instance at spatial infinity), we conclude that

$$F(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}) = 0$$

Then $\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}}\Phi = \mathcal{L}_{\vec{\chi}}\Phi = 0$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}}\Psi = \mathcal{L}_{\vec{\chi}}\Psi = 0$

i.e. the scalar potentials Φ and Ψ obey to the two spacetime symmetries

Most general stationary-axisymmetric electromagnetic field

$$F = d\Phi \wedge \underline{\xi}^* + d\Psi \wedge \underline{\chi}^* + \frac{I}{\sigma} \epsilon(\underline{\xi}, \underline{\chi}, \dots) \quad (7)$$

$$\star F = \epsilon(\vec{\nabla}\Phi, \underline{\xi}^*, \dots) + \epsilon(\vec{\nabla}\Psi, \underline{\chi}^*, \dots) - \frac{I}{\sigma} \underline{\xi} \wedge \underline{\chi} \quad (8)$$

with

$$\bullet \quad \underline{\xi}^* := \frac{1}{\sigma} (-X \underline{\xi} + W \underline{\chi}), \quad \underline{\chi}^* := \frac{1}{\sigma} (W \underline{\xi} + V \underline{\chi})$$

$$\bullet \quad V := -\underline{\xi} \cdot \underline{\xi}, \quad W := \underline{\xi} \cdot \underline{\chi}, \quad X := \underline{\chi} \cdot \underline{\chi}, \quad \sigma := VX + W^2$$

[Carter (1973) notations]

$$\bullet \quad I := \star F(\underline{\xi}, \underline{\chi}) \leftarrow \text{the only non-trivial scalar, apart from } F(\underline{\xi}, \underline{\chi}), \text{ one can form from } F, \underline{\xi} \text{ and } \underline{\chi}$$

$(\underline{\xi}^*, \underline{\chi}^*)$ is the dual basis of $(\underline{\xi}, \underline{\chi})$ in the 2-plane $\Pi := \text{Vect}(\underline{\xi}, \underline{\chi})$:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{\xi}^* \cdot \underline{\xi} &= 1, & \underline{\xi}^* \cdot \underline{\chi} &= 0, & \underline{\chi}^* \cdot \underline{\xi} &= 0, & \underline{\chi}^* \cdot \underline{\chi} &= 1 \\ \forall \vec{v} \in \Pi^\perp, & \quad \underline{\xi}^* \cdot \vec{v} &= 0 & \text{ and } & \underline{\chi}^* \cdot \vec{v} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Most general stationary-axisymmetric electromagnetic field

The proof

Consider the 2-form $\mathbf{H} := \mathbf{F} - d\Phi \wedge \xi^* - d\Psi \wedge \chi^*$

It satisfies

$$\mathbf{H}(\vec{\xi}, \cdot) = \underbrace{\mathbf{F}(\vec{\xi}, \cdot)}_{-d\Phi} - \underbrace{(\vec{\xi} \cdot d\Phi)}_0 \xi^* + \underbrace{(\xi^* \cdot \vec{\xi})}_1 d\Phi - \underbrace{(\vec{\xi} \cdot d\Psi)}_0 \chi^* + \underbrace{(\chi^* \cdot \vec{\xi})}_0 d\Psi = 0$$

Similarly $\mathbf{H}(\vec{\chi}, \cdot) = 0$. Hence $\mathbf{H}|_{\Pi} = 0$

On Π^\perp , $\mathbf{H}|_{\Pi^\perp}$ is a 2-form. Another 2-form on Π^\perp is $\epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \cdot, \cdot)|_{\Pi^\perp}$

Since $\dim \Pi^\perp = 2$ and $\epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \cdot, \cdot)|_{\Pi^\perp} \neq 0$, \exists a scalar field I such that

$\mathbf{H}|_{\Pi^\perp} = \frac{I}{\sigma} \epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \cdot, \cdot)|_{\Pi^\perp}$. Because both \mathbf{H} and $\epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \cdot, \cdot)$ vanish on Π , we can extend the equality to all space:

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{I}{\sigma} \epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \cdot, \cdot)$$

Thus \mathbf{F} has the form (7). Taking the Hodge dual gives the form (8) for $\star\mathbf{F}$, on which we readily check that $I = \star\mathbf{F}(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi})$, thereby completing the proof.

Example: Kerr-Newman electromagnetic field

Using Boyer-Lindquist coordinates (t, r, θ, φ) , the electromagnetic field of the Kerr-Newman solution (charged rotating black hole) is

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{\mu_0 Q}{4\pi(r^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \theta)^2} \left\{ [(r^2 - a^2 \cos^2 \theta) \mathbf{d}r - a^2 r \sin 2\theta \mathbf{d}\theta] \wedge \mathbf{d}t + [a(a^2 \cos^2 \theta - r^2) \sin^2 \theta \mathbf{d}r + ar(r^2 + a^2) \sin 2\theta \mathbf{d}\theta] \wedge \mathbf{d}\varphi \right\}$$

Q : total electric charge, $a := J/M$: reduced angular momentum

For Kerr-Newman, $\xi^* = \mathbf{d}t$ and $\chi^* = \mathbf{d}\varphi$; comparison with (7) leads to

$$\Phi = -\frac{\mu_0 Q}{4\pi} \frac{r}{r^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \theta}, \quad \Psi = \frac{\mu_0 Q}{4\pi} \frac{ar \sin^2 \theta}{r^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \theta}, \quad I = 0$$

Non-rotating limit ($a = 0$): Reissner-Nordström solution: $\Phi = -\frac{\mu_0 Q}{4\pi} \frac{1}{r}, \Psi = 0$

Maxwell equations

First Maxwell equation: $d\mathbf{F} = 0$

It is automatically satisfied by the form (7) of \mathbf{F}

Second Maxwell equation: $d \star \mathbf{F} = \mu_0 \star \underline{j}$

It gives the electric 4-current:

$$\mu_0 \underline{j} = a \underline{\xi} + b \underline{\chi} - \frac{1}{\sigma} \bar{\epsilon}(\underline{\xi}, \underline{\chi}, \nabla I, \cdot) \quad (9)$$

with

- $a := \nabla_\mu \left(\frac{X}{\sigma} \nabla^\mu \Phi - \frac{W}{\sigma} \nabla^\mu \Psi \right) + \frac{I}{\sigma^2} [-X \mathcal{C}_\xi + W \mathcal{C}_\chi]$
- $b := -\nabla_\mu \left(\frac{W}{\sigma} \nabla^\mu \Phi + \frac{V}{\sigma} \nabla^\mu \Psi \right) + \frac{I}{\sigma^2} [W \mathcal{C}_\xi + V \mathcal{C}_\chi]$
- $\mathcal{C}_\xi := \star(\underline{\xi} \wedge \underline{\chi} \wedge d\underline{\xi}) = \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \xi_\mu \chi_\nu \nabla_\rho \xi_\sigma$ (1st twist scalar)
- $\mathcal{C}_\chi := \star(\underline{\xi} \wedge \underline{\chi} \wedge d\underline{\chi}) = \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \xi_\mu \chi_\nu \nabla_\rho \chi_\sigma$ (2nd twist scalar)

Remark: \underline{j} has no meridional component (i.e. $\underline{j} \in \Pi$) $\iff dI = 0$

Simplification for circular spacetimes

Spacetime (\mathcal{M}, g) is **circular** \iff the planes Π^\perp are integrable in 2-surfaces
 $\iff \mathcal{C}_\xi = \mathcal{C}_\chi = 0$

Generalized Papapetrou theorem [Papapetrou 1966] [Kundt & Trümper 1966] [Carter 1969] :
 a stationary and axisymmetric spacetime ruled by the **Einstein equation** is circular
 iff the total energy-momentum tensor \mathbf{T} obeys to

$$\xi^\mu T_\mu^{[\alpha \xi \beta \chi \gamma]} = 0$$

$$\chi^\mu T_\mu^{[\alpha \xi \beta \chi \gamma]} = 0$$

Examples:

- **circular spacetimes**: Kerr-Newman, rotating star, magnetized rotating star with either purely poloidal magnetic field or purely toroidal magnetic field
- **non-circular spacetimes**: rotating star with meridional flow, magnetized rotating star with mixed magnetic field

In what follows, we do **not** assume that (\mathcal{M}, g) is circular

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Perfect conductor hypothesis (1/2)

$$\mathbf{F} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}} = 0$$

with the fluid 4-velocity decomposed as

$$\vec{\mathbf{u}} = \lambda(\vec{\boldsymbol{\xi}} + \Omega\vec{\boldsymbol{\chi}}) + \vec{\mathbf{w}}, \quad \vec{\mathbf{w}} \in \Pi^\perp \quad (10)$$

Ω is the rotational angular velocity and $\vec{\mathbf{w}}$ is the meridional velocity

$$\underline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}} = -1 \iff \lambda = \sqrt{\frac{1 + \underline{\mathbf{w}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{w}}}{V - 2\Omega W - \Omega^2 X}}$$

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We have

$$\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\mathbf{u}}} \Phi = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{L}_{\vec{\mathbf{u}}} \Psi = 0, \quad (11)$$

i.e. the scalar potentials Φ and Ψ are constant along the fluid lines.

Proof: $\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\mathbf{u}}} \Phi = \vec{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \mathbf{d}\Phi = -\mathbf{F}(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\mathbf{u}}) = 0$ by the perfect conductor property.

Corollary: since we had already $\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}} \Phi = \mathcal{L}_{\vec{\chi}} \Phi = 0$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\vec{\xi}} \Psi = \mathcal{L}_{\vec{\chi}} \Psi = 0$, it follows from (11) that

$$\vec{\mathbf{w}} \cdot \mathbf{d}\Phi = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{\mathbf{w}} \cdot \mathbf{d}\Psi = 0 \quad (12)$$

Perfect conductor hypothesis (2/2)

Expressing the condition $\mathbf{F} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}} = 0$ with the general form (7) of a stationary-axisymmetric electromagnetic field yields

$$\underbrace{(\xi^* \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}})}_{\lambda} d\Phi - \underbrace{(d\Phi \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}})}_0 \xi^* + \underbrace{(\chi^* \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}})}_{\lambda\Omega} d\Psi - \underbrace{(d\Psi \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}})}_0 \chi^* + \frac{I}{\sigma} \underbrace{\epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \cdot, \vec{\mathbf{u}})}_{-\epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \vec{\mathbf{w}}, \cdot)} = 0$$

Hence

$$\boxed{d\Phi = -\Omega d\Psi + \frac{I}{\sigma\lambda} \epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \vec{\mathbf{w}}, \cdot)} \quad (13)$$

Conservation of baryon number and stream function

Baryon number conservation : $\nabla \cdot (n\vec{u}) = 0 \iff \mathbf{d}(n \star \mathbf{w}) = 0$

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→ Poincaré Lemma: \exists a 2-form H such that $n \star \underline{w} = dH$

Considering the scalar field $f := H(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi})$, we get

$$df = n \epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \vec{w}, \cdot) \iff \vec{w} = -\frac{1}{\sigma n} \vec{\epsilon}(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \vec{\nabla} f, \cdot) \quad (14)$$

f is called the **(Stokes) stream function**

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It follows from (14) that

- $\vec{\xi} \cdot df = 0$ and $\vec{\chi} \cdot df = 0 \implies f$ obeys to the spacetime symmetries
- $\vec{u} \cdot df = 0 \implies f$ is constant along any fluid line

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The perfect conductivity relation (13) is writable as

$$\mathbf{d}\Phi = -\Omega \mathbf{d}\Psi + \frac{I}{\sigma n \lambda} \mathbf{d}f \quad (15)$$

Integrating the MHD-Euler equation

With the writing (10) of $\underline{\vec{u}}$, (7) of $\underline{\vec{F}}$ and (9) of $\underline{\vec{j}}$, the MHD-Euler equation

$$\underline{\vec{u}} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{d}}(h\underline{\vec{u}}) - T \underline{\mathbf{d}}S = \frac{1}{n} \underline{\vec{F}} \cdot \underline{\vec{j}}$$

can be shown to be equivalent to the system

$$\underline{\vec{w}} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{d}}(h\underline{\vec{u}} \cdot \underline{\vec{\xi}}) - \frac{1}{\mu_0 \sigma n} \epsilon(\underline{\vec{\xi}}, \underline{\vec{\chi}}, \underline{\vec{\nabla}}I, \underline{\vec{\nabla}}\Phi) = 0 \quad (16)$$

$$\underline{\vec{w}} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{d}}(h\underline{\vec{u}} \cdot \underline{\vec{\chi}}) - \frac{1}{\mu_0 \sigma n} \epsilon(\underline{\vec{\xi}}, \underline{\vec{\chi}}, \underline{\vec{\nabla}}I, \underline{\vec{\nabla}}\Psi) = 0 \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda \underline{\mathbf{d}}(h\underline{\vec{u}} \cdot \underline{\vec{\xi}}) + \lambda \Omega \underline{\mathbf{d}}(h\underline{\vec{u}} \cdot \underline{\vec{\chi}}) - \frac{1}{n} \left[q + \frac{\lambda h}{\sigma} (\mathcal{C}_{\xi} + \Omega \mathcal{C}_{\chi}) \right] \underline{\mathbf{d}}f - \frac{I}{\mu_0 \sigma n} \underline{\mathbf{d}}I \\ + \frac{\underline{\vec{\xi}}^* \cdot \underline{\vec{j}}}{n} \underline{\mathbf{d}}\Phi + \frac{\underline{\vec{\chi}}^* \cdot \underline{\vec{j}}}{n} \underline{\mathbf{d}}\Psi + T \underline{\mathbf{d}}S = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

with $q := -\nabla_{\mu} \left(\frac{h}{\sigma n} \nabla^{\mu} f \right)$

Introducing the master potential (1/2)

As a consequence of the perfect conductivity properties (12) and the baryon number conservation relation (14), one has

$$\epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \vec{\nabla}f, \vec{\nabla}\Phi) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \vec{\nabla}f, \vec{\nabla}\Psi) = 0$$

Along with Eq. (15) above, i.e.

$$d\Phi = -\Omega d\Psi + \frac{I}{\sigma n \lambda} df$$

this implies that

The gradient 1-forms $d\Phi$, $d\Psi$ and df are colinear to each other

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Standard approach in GRMHD: privilege Ψ and write $d\Phi = -\omega d\Psi$, $df = a d\Psi$

Drawback: This is degenerate if $d\Psi = 0$

Here: we follow the approach of Tkalich (1959) and Soloviev (1967) for Newtonian MHD, i.e. we introduce a **fourth potential** Υ such that

- 1 Υ obeys to both spacetime symmetries
- 2 $d\Upsilon \neq 0$
- 3 \exists three scalar fields α , β and γ such that

$$d\Phi = \alpha d\Upsilon, \quad d\Psi = \beta d\Upsilon, \quad df = \gamma d\Upsilon$$

Introducing the master potential (2/2)

$$\mathbf{d}\Phi = \alpha \mathbf{d}\Upsilon, \quad \mathbf{d}\Psi = \beta \mathbf{d}\Upsilon, \quad \mathbf{d}f = \gamma \mathbf{d}\Upsilon$$

- All potentials can be considered as functions of Υ :

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi &= \Phi(\Upsilon), & \Psi &= \Psi(\Upsilon), & f &= f(\Upsilon), \\ \alpha &= \Phi'(\Upsilon), & \beta &= \Psi'(\Upsilon), & \gamma &= f'(\Upsilon) \end{aligned}$$

Proof: $\mathbf{d}\mathbf{d}\Phi = 0 = \mathbf{d}\alpha \wedge \mathbf{d}\Upsilon \implies \alpha = \alpha(\Upsilon) \implies \Phi = \Phi(\Upsilon)$ with $\alpha = \Phi'$

- Υ is conserved along the fluid lines (since f is)
- the perfect conductor property (13) leads to the relation

$$\alpha + \Omega\beta = \frac{\gamma I}{\sigma n \lambda}$$

Integrating the first two equations of the MHD-Euler system

Expressing \vec{w} in terms of $\mathbf{d}f$ via (14) and using $\mathbf{d}f = \gamma \mathbf{d}\Upsilon$ as well as $\mathbf{d}\Phi = \alpha \mathbf{d}\Upsilon$ enables us to write the first equation of the MHD-Euler system [Eq. (16)] in the equivalent form

$$\epsilon \left(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \vec{\nabla}\Upsilon, -\gamma \vec{\nabla}(h\mathbf{u} \cdot \vec{\xi}) + \frac{\alpha}{\mu_0} \vec{\nabla}I \right) = 0$$

$\implies -\gamma h\mathbf{u} \cdot \vec{\xi} + \alpha I / \mu_0$ must be a function of Υ , $\Sigma(\Upsilon)$ say:

$$\Sigma(\Upsilon) = -\gamma h\mathbf{u} \cdot \vec{\xi} + \frac{\alpha I}{\mu_0} = \gamma \lambda h(V - W\Omega) + \frac{\alpha I}{\mu_0}$$

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Similarly, the second equation of the MHD-Euler system [Eq. (17)] is equivalent to the existence of a function $\Lambda(\Upsilon)$ such that

$$\Lambda(\Upsilon) = \gamma h\mathbf{u} \cdot \vec{\chi} - \frac{\beta I}{\mu_0} = \gamma \lambda h(W + X\Omega) - \frac{\beta I}{\mu_0}$$

Interpretation as Bernoulli-like theorems

- If the fluid motion is purely rotational, $\vec{u} = \lambda(\vec{\xi} + \Omega\vec{\chi})$ and any scalar quantity obeying to the two spacetime symmetries is conserved along the fluid lines
- If the fluid flow has some meridional component, $\vec{w} \neq 0 \iff \mathbf{d}f \neq 0$: we may choose $\Upsilon = f$; then $\gamma = 1$ and

$$\Sigma = \lambda h(V - W\Omega) + \frac{\alpha I}{\mu_0}$$

$$\Lambda = \lambda h(W + X\Omega) - \frac{\beta I}{\mu_0}$$

We recover the two streamline-constants of motion found by Bekenstein & Oron (1978) in a slightly more complicated form:

$$\Sigma = - \left(h + \frac{|b|^2}{\mu_0 n} \right) \underline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \vec{\xi} - \frac{\beta}{\mu_0} \left[\underline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \left(\vec{\xi} - \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \vec{\chi} \right) \right] (\underline{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \vec{\xi})$$

$$\Lambda = \left(h + \frac{|b|^2}{\mu_0 n} \right) \underline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \vec{\chi} + \frac{\beta}{\mu_0} \left[\underline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \left(\vec{\xi} - \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \vec{\chi} \right) \right] (\underline{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \vec{\chi})$$

Non-relativistic limit

At the Newtonian limit and in standard isotropic spherical coordinates (t, r, θ, φ) ,

$$\begin{cases} V = 1 + 2\Phi_{\text{grav}}, & W = 0 \\ X = (1 - 2\Phi_{\text{grav}})r^2 \sin^2 \theta \\ \sigma = r^2 \sin^2 \theta, \end{cases}$$

where Φ_{grav} is the Newtonian gravitational potential ($|\Phi_{\text{grav}}| \ll 1$)

Moreover, introducing the *mass density* $\rho := m_b n$ (m_b mean baryon mass) and *specific enthalpy* $H := \frac{\varepsilon_{\text{int}} + p}{\rho}$, we get $h = m_b(1 + H)$ with $H \ll 1$

Then

$$\frac{\Sigma}{m_b} - 1 = H + \Phi_{\text{grav}} + \frac{v^2}{2} + \frac{\alpha I}{\mu_0 m_b} \quad (\text{when } I = 0, \text{ classical Bernoulli theorem})$$

$$\frac{\Lambda}{m_b} = \Omega r^2 \sin^2 \theta - \frac{\beta I}{\mu_0 m_b}$$

Entropy as a function of the master potential

Equation (2) (resulting from $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T} = 0$) implies successively

$$\vec{u} \cdot dS = 0 \implies \vec{w} \cdot dS = 0 \implies \epsilon(\vec{\xi}, \vec{\chi}, \vec{\nabla} f, \vec{\nabla} S) = 0$$

If $df \neq 0$, this implies $S = S(f)$, i.e.

$$S = S(\Upsilon) \tag{19}$$

If $df = 0$ (purely rotational flow), we assume that (19) still holds

The master transfield equation

Thanks to the existence of $\Sigma(\Upsilon)$, $\Lambda(\Upsilon)$ and $S(\Upsilon)$, the remaining part of the MHD-Euler equation [Eq. (18)] can be rewritten as $\mathcal{A} \, d\Upsilon = 0$. Since $d\Upsilon \neq 0$, it is equivalent to $\mathcal{A} = 0$. Expressing \mathcal{A} , we get the **master transfield equation**:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & A \Delta^* \Upsilon + \frac{n}{h} \left[\gamma^2 \mathbf{d} \left(\frac{h}{n} \right) - \frac{1}{\mu_0} (\beta^2 \mathbf{d}V + 2\alpha\beta \mathbf{d}W - \alpha^2 \mathbf{d}X) \right] \cdot \vec{\nabla} \Upsilon \\
 & + \left\{ \gamma \gamma' - \frac{n}{\mu_0 h} [V\beta\beta' + W(\alpha'\beta + \alpha\beta') - X\alpha\alpha'] \right\} \mathbf{d}\Upsilon \cdot \vec{\nabla} \Upsilon \\
 & + \frac{\sigma n^2}{h} \left\{ \frac{\lambda}{\gamma} \left[\Omega\Lambda' - \Sigma' + \frac{I}{\mu_0} (\alpha' + \Omega\beta') + \gamma' \lambda h (V - 2W\Omega - X\Omega^2) \right] + TS' \right\} \\
 & - \gamma \lambda n (\mathcal{C}_\xi + \Omega \mathcal{C}_\chi) + \frac{In}{\mu_0 \sigma h} [(W\beta - X\alpha)\mathcal{C}_\xi + (W\alpha + V\beta)\mathcal{C}_\chi] = 0
 \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

with $A := \gamma^2 - \frac{n}{\mu_0 h} (V\beta^2 + 2W\alpha\beta - X\alpha^2)$ and $\Delta^* \Upsilon := \sigma \nabla_\mu \left(\frac{1}{\sigma} \nabla^\mu \Upsilon \right)$

Eq. (20) is called *transfield* for it expresses the component along $d\Upsilon$ of the MHD-Euler equation and $d\Upsilon$ is *transverse* to the magnetic *field* in the fluid frame \vec{b} , in the sense that $\vec{b} \cdot d\Upsilon = 0$

Poloidal wind equation

The master transfield eq. has to be supplemented by the **poloidal wind equation**, arising from the 4-velocity normalization $\underline{u} \cdot \vec{u} = -1$, with λ and Ω expressed in terms of α , β , γ , Σ , Λ and h :

$$h^2 \left(\sigma + \frac{\gamma^2}{n^2} \mathbf{d}\Upsilon \cdot \vec{\nabla}\Upsilon \right) - \frac{1}{\gamma^2} (X\Sigma^2 + 2W\Sigma\Lambda - V\Lambda^2) + \frac{n}{\mu_0 h} \frac{A + \gamma^2}{A^2 \gamma^2} [(X\alpha - W\beta)\Sigma + (V\beta + W\alpha)\Lambda]^2 = 0 \quad (21)$$

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Notice that I , λ and Ω in Eq. (20) can be expressed in terms of α , β , γ , Σ , Λ , n and h . Then

Given

- the metric (represented by V , X , W , σ and ∇),
- the EOS $h = h(n, S)$,
- the six functions $\alpha(\Upsilon)$, $\beta(\Upsilon)$, $\gamma(\Upsilon)$, $\Sigma(\Upsilon)$, $\Lambda(\Upsilon)$ and $S(\Upsilon)$,

Eqs. (20)-(21) constitute a system of 2 PDEs for the 2 unknowns (Υ, n)

Solving it provides a **complete solution of the MHD-Euler equation**

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Subcase 1 : Newtonian limit

Expression of Σ and Λ :

$$\Sigma = \gamma m_b \left(1 + H + \Phi_{\text{grav}} + \frac{v^2}{2} \right) + \frac{\alpha I}{\mu_0}$$

$$\Lambda = \gamma m_b r^2 \sin^2 \theta \Omega - \frac{\beta I}{\mu_0}$$

Master transfield equation:

$$A \Delta^* \Upsilon - \frac{\gamma^2}{n} \mathbf{dn} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \Upsilon + \left(\gamma \gamma' - \frac{n}{\mu_0 m_b} \beta \beta' \right) \mathbf{d}\Upsilon \cdot \vec{\nabla} \Upsilon$$

$$+ r^2 \sin^2 \theta \frac{n^2}{m_b} \left\{ \frac{1}{\gamma} \left[\Omega \Lambda' - \Sigma' + \frac{I}{\mu_0} (\alpha' + \Omega \beta') + \gamma' m_b \right] + TS' \right\} = 0$$

with $\Delta^* \Upsilon = \partial_r^2 \Upsilon + \frac{\sin \theta}{r^2} \partial_\theta \left(\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\theta \Upsilon \right)$

We recover the equation obtained by [Soloviev \(1967\)](#)

Subcase 2 : relativistic Grad-Shafranov equation

Assume $\mathbf{d}\Psi \neq 0$ and choose $\Upsilon = \Psi$ (i.e. $\beta = 1$).

The master transfield equation reduces then to

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(1 - \frac{V-2W\omega-X\omega^2}{M^2}\right) \Delta^* \Psi + \left[\frac{n}{h} \mathbf{d}\left(\frac{h}{n}\right) - \frac{1}{M^2} (\mathbf{d}V - 2\omega \mathbf{d}W - \omega^2 \mathbf{d}X)\right] \cdot \vec{\nabla} \Psi \\ & + \left[\frac{\omega'}{M^2} (W + X\omega) - \frac{C'}{C}\right] \mathbf{d}\Psi \cdot \vec{\nabla} \Psi \\ & + \frac{\mu_0 \sigma n}{M^2} \left\{ \lambda \left[\Omega L' - E' + \frac{I}{\mu_0} (C'(\Omega - \omega) - C\omega') \right] + TS' \right\} \\ & - \lambda n C (\mathcal{C}_\xi + \Omega \mathcal{C}_\chi) + \frac{I}{\sigma M^2} [(W + X\omega) \mathcal{C}_\xi + (V - W\omega) \mathcal{C}_\chi] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

where $C := \gamma^{-1}$, $\omega := -\alpha$, $E := \Sigma/\gamma$ and $L := \Lambda/\gamma$

This is the relativistic Grad-Shafranov equation, in the most general form (i.e. including meridional flow and for non-circular spacetimes)

Subcase 2 : relativistic Grad-Shafranov equation

History of the relativistic Grad-Shafranov equation:

- Camenzind (1987) : Minkowski spacetime
- Lovelace, Mehanian, Mobarry & Sulkanen (1986) : weak gravitational fields
- Lovelace & Mobarry (1986) : Schwarzschild spacetime
- Nitta, Takahashi & Tomimatsu (1991) : Kerr spacetime (pressureless matter)
- Beskin & Pariev (1993) : Kerr spacetime
- Ioka & Sasaki (2003) : non-circular spacetimes

Remark: Grad-Shafranov equation not fully expressed by Ioka & Sasaki (2003) + use of additional structure ((2+1)+1 formalism)

Subcase 3 : pure hydrodynamical flow

No electromagnetic field

$$\mathbf{d}\Phi = 0 \quad (\iff \alpha = 0), \quad \mathbf{d}\Psi = 0 \quad (\iff \beta = 0) \quad \text{and} \quad I = 0$$

$$\implies \Sigma = \gamma E \quad \text{with} \quad E := \lambda h(V - W\Omega) \quad \text{and} \quad \Lambda = \gamma L \quad \text{with} \quad L := \lambda h(W + X\Omega)$$

Master transfield + poloidal wind equations:

$$\begin{aligned} & \gamma^2 \Delta^* \Upsilon + \gamma^2 \frac{n}{h} \mathbf{d} \left(\frac{h}{n} \right) \cdot \vec{\nabla} \Upsilon + \gamma \gamma' \mathbf{d} \Upsilon \cdot \vec{\nabla} \Upsilon \\ & \quad + \frac{\sigma n^2}{h} [\lambda(\Omega L' - E') + TS'] - \gamma \lambda n (\mathcal{C}_\xi + \Omega \mathcal{C}_\chi) = 0 \\ & \frac{\gamma^2 h^2}{n^2} \mathbf{d} \Upsilon \cdot \vec{\nabla} \Upsilon + \sigma h^2 - X E^2 - 2WEL + VL^2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Subcase 3 : pure hydrodynamical flow

Case of purely rotational motion : $\gamma = 0$

The master transfield equation reduces to

$$\Omega L' - E' + \frac{T}{\lambda} S' = 0$$

A wide class of solutions is found by assuming

$$\Omega = \Omega(\Upsilon) \text{ and } \frac{T}{\lambda} = \bar{T}(\Upsilon) \text{ with } \bar{T}' = -\bar{T} \frac{\lambda L}{h} \Omega'$$

For $\Omega = \text{const}$, this leads to the well-known first integral of motion [$T = 0$: Boyer (1965)]

$$\frac{\mu}{\lambda} = \frac{h - TS}{\lambda} = \text{const}$$

For $\Omega \neq \text{const}$, we obtain instead

$$\ln \left(\frac{\mu}{\lambda} \right) + \int_0^\Omega \mathcal{F}(\tilde{\Omega}) d\tilde{\Omega} = \text{const}$$

with $\mathcal{F}(\Omega) = \frac{W + X\Omega}{V - 2W\Omega - X\Omega^2}$ (relativistic Poincaré-Wavre theorem)

Subcase 3 : pure hydrodynamical flow

Case of flow with meridional component : $\gamma \neq 0$

Then $\mathbf{d}f \neq 0$ and a natural choice for Υ is $\Upsilon = f$

The master transfield + poloidal wind equations reduces to

$$\Delta^* f + \frac{n}{h} \mathbf{d} \left(\frac{h}{n} \right) \cdot \vec{\nabla} f + \frac{\sigma n^2}{h} [\lambda(\Omega L' - E') + TS'] - \lambda n (\mathcal{C}_\xi + \Omega \mathcal{C}_\chi) = 0 \quad (22)$$

$$\frac{h^2}{n^2} \mathbf{d}f \cdot \vec{\nabla} f + \sigma h^2 - XE^2 - 2WEL + VL^2 = 0 \quad (23)$$

with $\Omega = \frac{VL - WE}{XE + WL}$

Given the three functions $E(f)$, $L(f)$ and $S(f)$ and the EOS

$h = h(S, n)$, $T = T(S, n)$, (22)-(23) forms a system of coupled PDE for (f, n)

At the Newtonian limit, (22) is the **Stokes equation**

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Conclusions

- Ideal GRMHD is well amenable to a treatment based on **exterior calculus**.
- This simplifies calculations with respect to the traditional tensor calculus, notably via the massive use of **Cartan's identity**.
- For stationary and axisymmetric GRMHD, we have developed a **systematic treatment** based on such an approach. This provides some insight on previously introduced quantities and leads to the formulation of **very general laws**, recovering previous ones as subcases and obtaining new ones in some specific limits.

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