Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Astronomy in the news?

NASA satellite to crash Friday.

Fall Equinox Friday, September 23 at 4:05 a.m. CDT

International Space Station graphic – find it?

Pic of the day: Pleiades, the Seven Sisters, bright young "open" star cluster.

Goal

To understand how jets may trigger a core –collapse supernova explosion

How to define a particular direction in space?

Rotation - rotation axis.

How to make a jet? Some variation on squeeze and squirt (toothpaste mechanism)

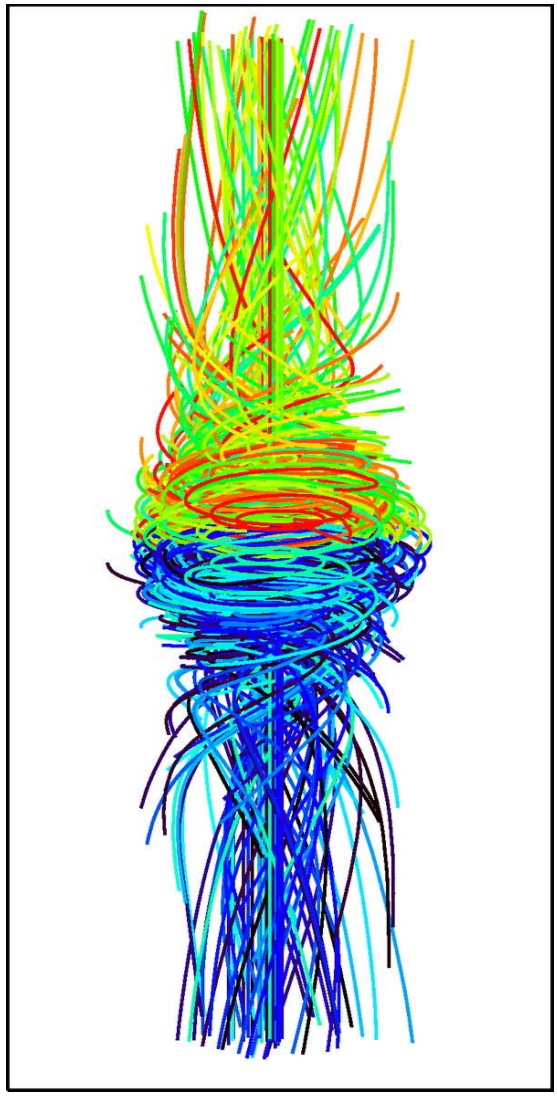
Rotate magnetic neutron star, amplify the magnetic field, eject mass if field is strong enough.

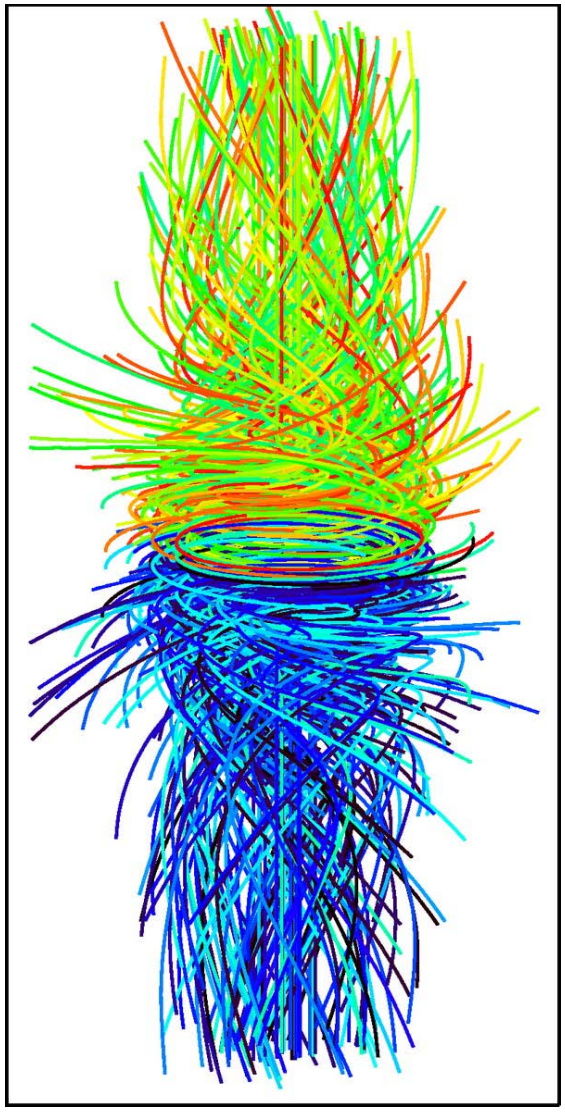
Magnetic lines of force, locus of equal field strength, act somewhat like rubber bands, they are elastic and tend to rebound if deformed and can be twisted and coiled.

Twisted magnetic fields have tension along them and exert pressure sideways and along the lines of force.

Rubber band - twist moves along the rubber band.

Twisted magnetic field lines of force making a magnetic jet during core collapse – A. Burrows et al.





What jets do -

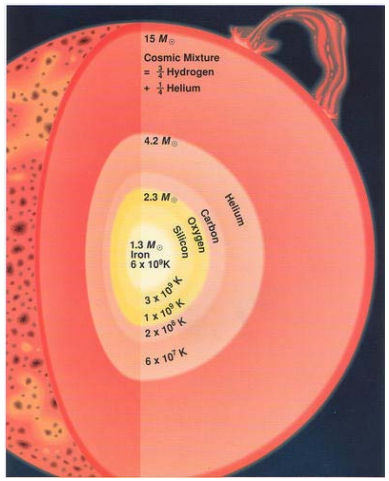
Bagel and breadstick, jet/torus shape “natural.”

Strong enough jet can explode the star, but neutrinos also play a role - complicated problem!

Account qualitatively for out-of-round shapes.

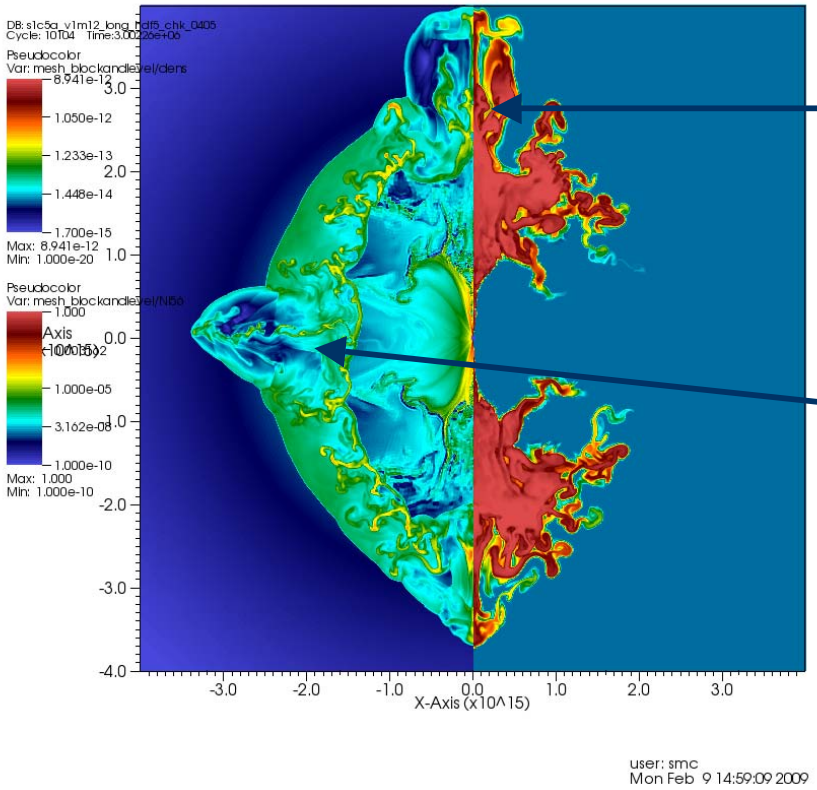
Test for shape (jet/torus), prediction of different elements exploded in different directions.

Initially spherical model,



Spherical Explosion
hydrogen, helium, oxygen, silicon, calcium, and iron would be exploded in all directions

Jet-induced Explosion axis/torus structure



Jet
iron,
O
bread
stick

Torus
He
bagel

One Minute Exam

Why do astronomers think that jets may be involved in the core collapse explosion of massive stars?:

 Iron makes jets

 Jets make iron and oxygen

 Cassiopeia A has a collapsed object in the center of the explosion

 All core collapse supernovae are out of round

Bagel and Breadstick Halloween costume, 2008,

Marquette University, Milwaukee

Back to physics of Type Ia Supernovae - exploding white dwarfs

Chapter 6, Section 6 in Cosmic Catastrophes

Background in Chapters 3, 4, 5.

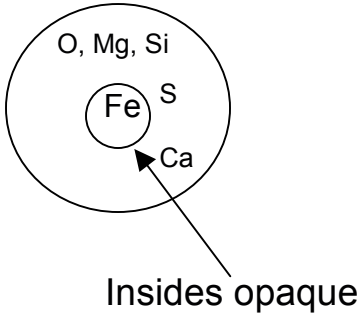
Goal

To understand the process of thermonuclear explosion in a white dwarf to make a Type Ia supernova.

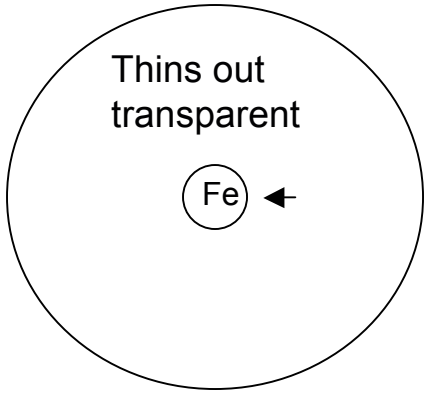
Type II (Ib, Ic) energy from falling, gravity, Type Ia energy from thermonuclear explosion.

For core collapse, iron is produce BEFORE the explosion in the progenitor star and triggers collapse, for thermonuclear explosion of carbon and oxygen, iron us produce DURING the explosion.

Type Ia - see O, Mg, Si, S, Ca early on, iron later => ***iron is inside***



Near maximum light



Weeks after maximum

Discussion point:

What is the difference between a fire and a bomb?

Models based on Chandrasekhar-mass 1.4 solar mass C/O white dwarfs give observed composition structure!

Large quantum pressure deep inside the white dwarf -- high density and temperature overcome charge repulsion - very unregulated - ignite Carbon ⇒ runaway ⇒total explosion, no neutron star or black hole.

Models give thorough burning to iron on inside (important detail later), only partial burning of C and O leaving O, Mg, Si, S, Ca in outer layers.

Two stages to explosion:
Deflagration - slower than speed of sound, like a flame

Detonation - supersonic shockwave, faster than the speed of sound - like a stick of dynamite

All data, UV, optical, IR, X-ray are consistent with this picture