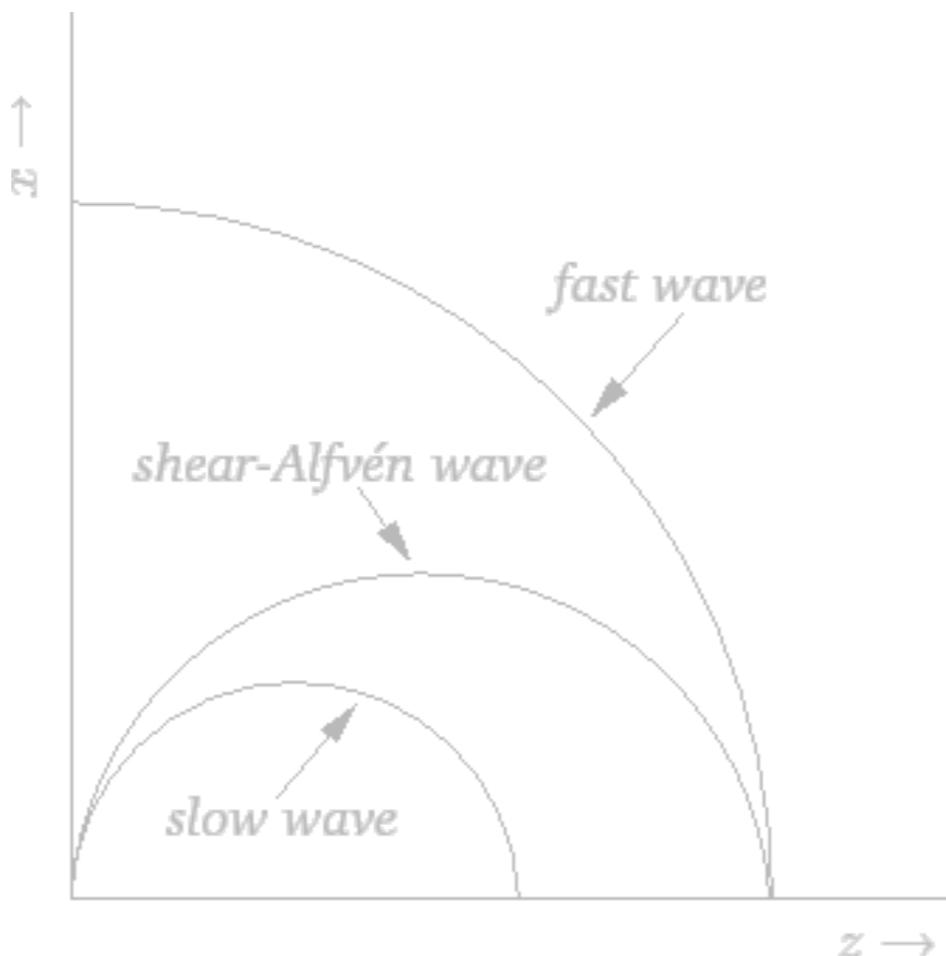


# How to Write a 1-D MHD Code using Finite Difference?



## Outline

- **MHD equations in different forms**
- **1-D MHD equations and normalization**
- **Wave solutions**
- **Finite difference (revisited)**
- **Time stepping methods**
- **Initial and Boundary Conditions**
- **Put everything together**
- **Once through the mhd.m code**

# Differential Equations in Space Plasmas

## Fluid Description

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(n_\alpha) + \nabla \cdot (n_\alpha \mathbf{u}_\alpha) = S_\alpha$$

Mass  
conservation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(n_\alpha \mathbf{u}_\alpha) + \nabla \cdot (n_\alpha \mathbf{u}_\alpha \mathbf{u}_\alpha + \mathbf{P}_\alpha) - \frac{n_\alpha q_\alpha}{m_\alpha} (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u}_\alpha \times \mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{R}_\alpha$$

Momentum  
conservation

$$\frac{\partial p_\alpha}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}_\alpha \cdot \nabla p_\alpha + \gamma p_\alpha \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_\alpha = Q_\alpha$$

Thermal  
Dynamics

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial \mathbf{t}} + \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$$

Maxwell's  
equation

$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$  : time derivative

$\nabla$  : spatial derivative

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{\mathbf{y}} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

So the first key element of computation space plasma physics is to approximate these derivatives

## Kinetic Description

Boltzmann  
equation

$$\frac{\partial f_s}{\partial t} + \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \cdot (\mathbf{v} f_s) + \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} \cdot (\mathbf{F}_s f_s) = \left( \frac{\delta f_s}{\partial t} \right)_c$$

$$\mathbf{F}_s = q_s/m_s(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$$

Lorentz Force

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial \mathbf{t}} + \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$$

Maxwell's  
equations

$$\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} - \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = -\mu_0 \sum_s q_s \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} v f_s d^3 v$$

## Particle Description

$$m_s n_s \frac{d \mathbf{v}_s}{dt} = q n_s (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v}_s \times \mathbf{B})$$

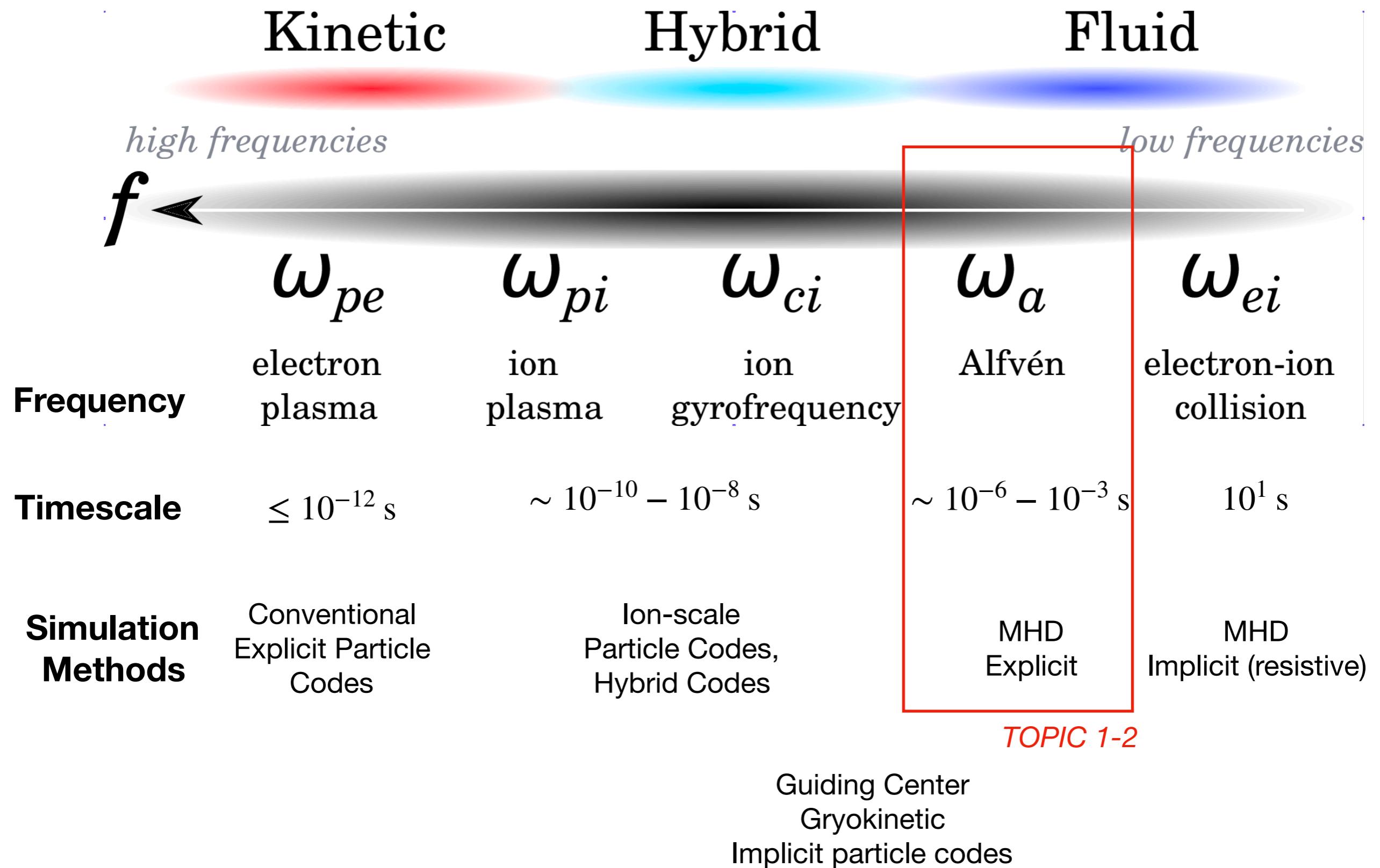
Equation of motion

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial \mathbf{t}} + \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = 0$$

Maxwell's  
equations

$$\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} - \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = -\mu_0 \sum_s q_s n_s \mathbf{v}_s$$

# Spectrum of Simulating Space Plasmas



# What is MHD

Magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) is the study of the interaction between **magnetic fields** and moving, conducting **fluids**.

**MHD = Magnetic field + Hydrodynamics**

Maxwell's  
equations

Fluid  
Dynamics

## Who cares about MHD?

MHD

Engineering

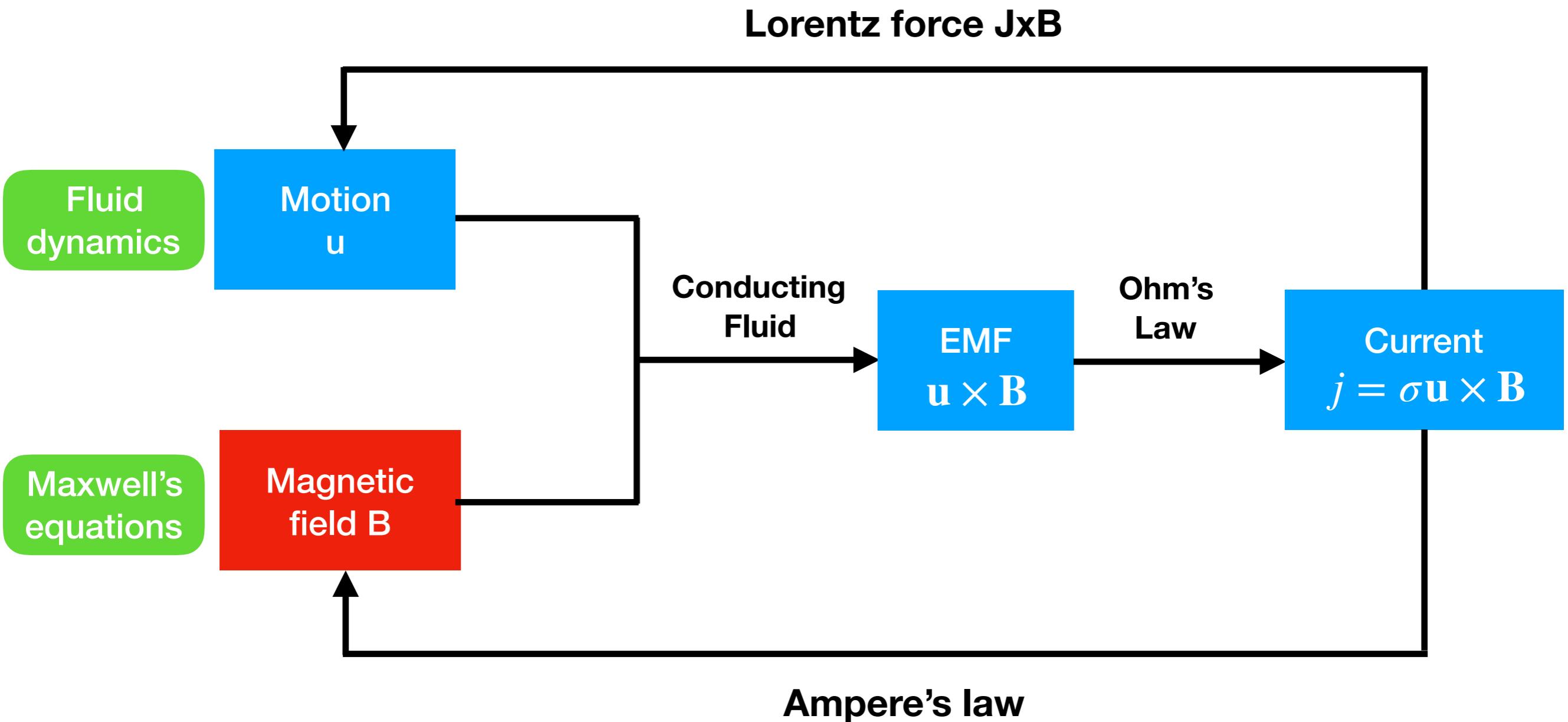
Liquid Matel  
engineering pump

Science

Fusion plasma  
Space physics  
Astrophysics

# What is MHD?

Dynamics in MHD: coupling between conducting fluid and magnetic field



The nature of MHD: conservation laws

# Mathematical Forms of the MHD equations

## Primitive form

### Fluid Equations

Mass Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\rho + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \rho + \rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

Velocity Equation

$$\rho \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla p - \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} = 0$$

pressure Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}p + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla p + \gamma p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

### Maxwell's Equations

Faraday

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = - \nabla \times \mathbf{E}$$

Ampere

$$\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$$

Ignore  $d\mathbf{B}/dt$

Ohm

$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} = 0$$

Ignore non-ideal terms

If using the **convective (total) derivative**

$$\frac{D}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

the primitive form of the MHD equations is written in a very compact form:

### Fluid Equations

Mass Equation

$$\frac{D}{Dt}\rho = -\rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

Compression

Velocity Equation

$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = -\nabla p + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$$

Acceleration

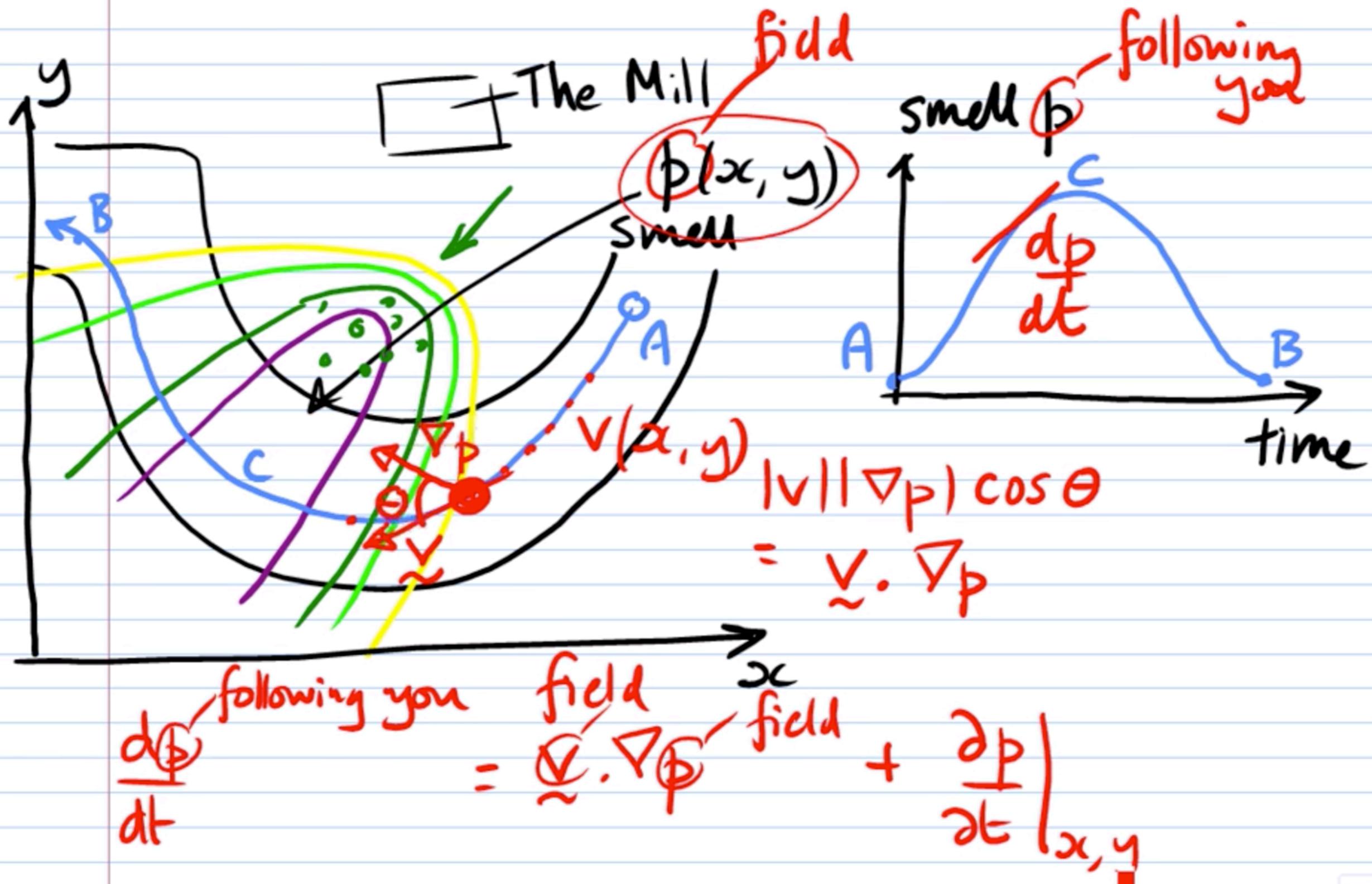
pressure Equation

$$\frac{D}{Dt}p = -\gamma p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

Adiabatic heating

Total derivative form of the single-fluid, ideal MHD equations solve for mass, velocity and pressure (or temperature etc)

# The Convective Derivative $\frac{D}{Dt}$



# Mathematical Forms of the MHD equations

## Conservation form

### Fluid Equations

Mass conservation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho\mathbf{u}) = 0$$

Momentum conservation

$$\frac{\partial\rho\mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left[ \rho\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{I}(p + \frac{1}{2}B^2) - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{B} \right] = 0$$

Energy conservation

$$\frac{\partial\mathcal{E}_T}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left[ (\mathcal{E} + p_{tot})\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{B}\mathbf{B} \right] = 0$$

The conservation form of the single-fluid, ideal MHD equations solve for **mass, momentum and total energy**

Conservation laws

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\dots) + \nabla \cdot (\dots) = 0$$

### Maxwell's Equations

Faraday

$$\frac{\partial\mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E} \quad \xrightarrow{\nabla \times (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{B}) = \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{AB} - \mathbf{BA})} \quad \frac{\partial\mathbf{B}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{uB} - \mathbf{Bu}) = 0$$

Ampere

$$\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \quad \text{Ignore } dB/dt$$

Ohm

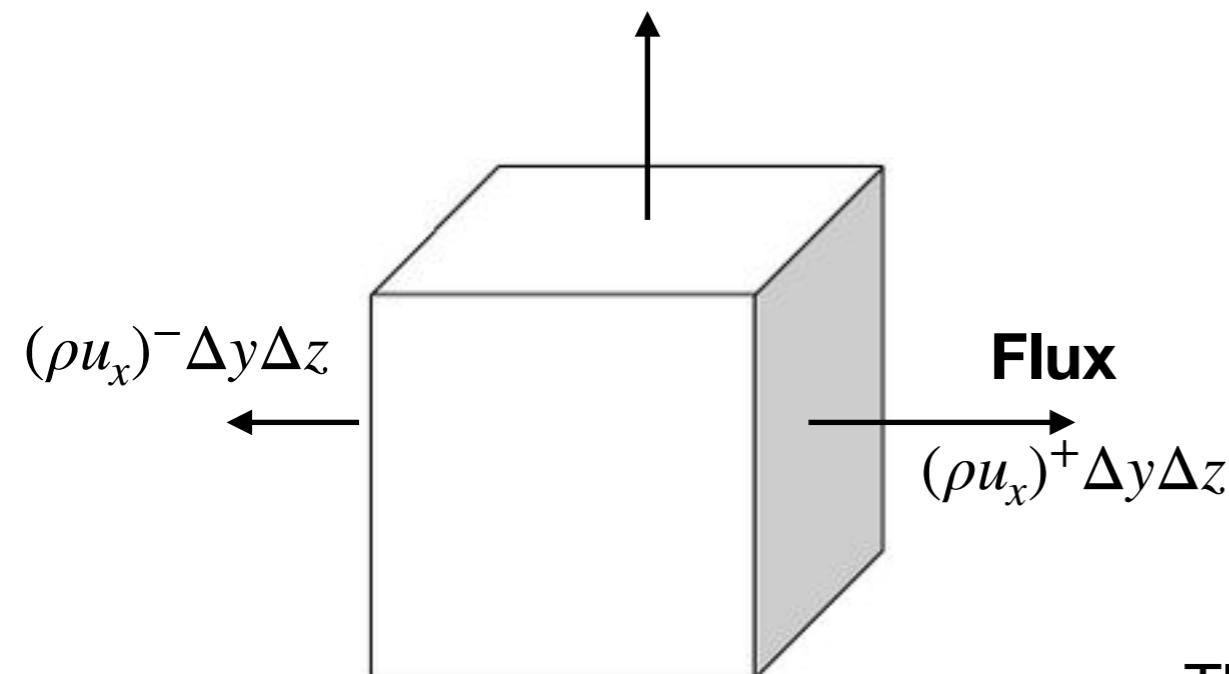
$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} = 0 \quad \text{Ignore non-ideal terms}$$

Magnetic flux conservation

This is why MHD = conservation laws!

# Conservation laws

**Flux**



A general conservation law goes as

$$\text{Changes in Mass} = \sum_{\text{Flux}} (\text{in} - \text{out}) + P - L$$

Mass Flux through interface

Local Production and lost

The integral form is written as

$$Vol = \Delta x \Delta y \Delta z$$

$$\frac{1}{V} \oint \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot d\mathbf{S} \Big|_{x-dir}$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\frac{(\rho u_x)^+ \Delta y \Delta z - (\rho u_x)^- \Delta y \Delta z}{\Delta x \Delta y \Delta z}$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\frac{(\rho u_x)^+ - (\rho u_x)^-}{\Delta x} \longrightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho u_x$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_V \rho dV = - \oint \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

$$\downarrow \quad \quad \quad \downarrow \frac{1}{V}$$

$$V \cdot \frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial t} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \rho u_x + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho u_y + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \rho u_z$$

Differential form

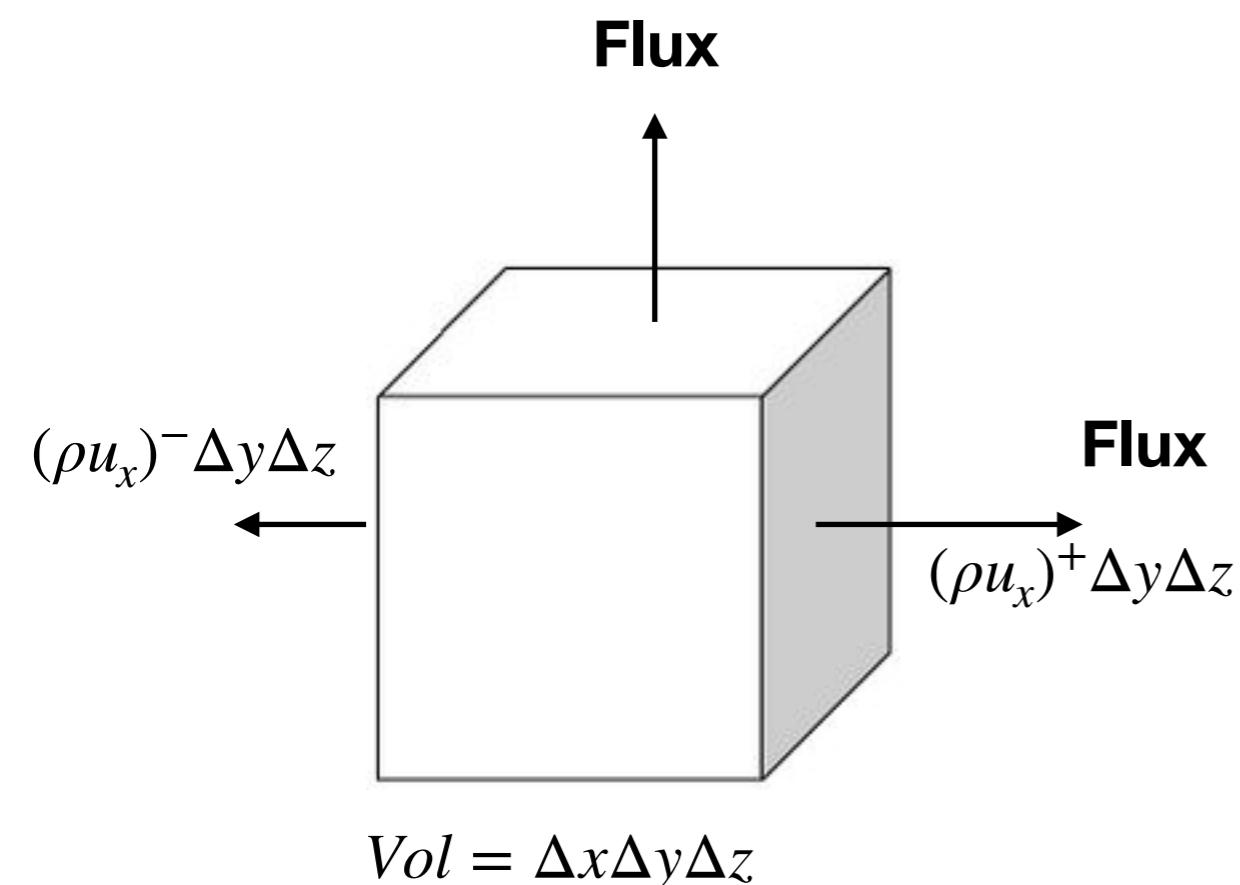
$$\frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial t} = - \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u})$$

# Conservation form of differential equations

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\dots) + \nabla \cdot (\dots) = 0$$

Conservation law

The use of such a form of the equations is that one can obtain *local and global conservation laws* and *jump conditions* from them. Moreover, powerful numerical algorithms exist for the solution of such equations.



For example mass conservation:

$$\rho \mathbf{u} \sim \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3} \cdot \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} = \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial t} = - \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u})$$

Changes in  
mass density

Mass fluxes through  
volume interface

# Summary of the ideal MHD equations

## Primitive Equations

*TOPIC 1-2*

Mass  
Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\rho + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \rho + \rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

Velocity  
Equation

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla p - \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} = 0$$

pressure  
Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}p + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla p + \gamma p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

## Maxwell's Equations

Faraday

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = - \nabla \times \mathbf{E}$$

Ampere

$$\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$$

Ohm

$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} = 0$$

and

## Conservative Equations

*TOPIC 3*

Mass  
conservation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = 0$$

Momentum  
conservation

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left[ \rho \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{I} \left( p + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{B}^2 \right) - \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B} \right] = 0$$

Energy  
conservation

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}_T}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left[ (\mathcal{E} + p_{tot}) \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B} \right] = 0$$

- **Physically**, the primitive and conservative forms of the MHD equations are *equivalent*.
- **Numerically**, the primitive and conservative forms of the MHD equations are ***NOT*** equivalent.

# The MHD equations to solve

## Unit Systems

### SI Units

Mass Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho = - \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u}$$

Velocity Equation

$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = - \nabla p + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$$

Pressure Equation

$$p = p_g \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^\gamma$$

Faraday's Law

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = - \nabla \times \mathbf{E}$$

Ohm's Law

$$\mathbf{E} = - \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}$$

Ampere's Law

$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$$

### CGS Units

Mass Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho = - \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u}$$

Velocity Equation

$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = - \nabla p + \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$$

Pressure Equation

$$p = p_g \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^\gamma$$

Faraday's Law

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = - c \nabla \times \mathbf{E}$$

Ohm's Law

$$\mathbf{E} = - \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}$$

Ampere's Law

$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{c}{4\pi} \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$$

Depending on the choice of the unit systems, there are different physical constants floating around - awkward

# Normalize the MHD equations

**Rule #1: Always normalize your equations**

We will use the **normalized** MHD equations in the following lectures and codes for HW

Why normalization? Makes your code broadly applicable - adapt to different systems

How to normalize? Define some characteristic parameters

Let's start with the mass equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho = - \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u} \xrightarrow[\mathbf{u} = U_0 \tilde{\mathbf{u}}]{\rho = \rho_0 \tilde{\rho}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho_0 \tilde{\rho}) = - \nabla \cdot (\rho_0 \tilde{\rho} \cdot U_0 \tilde{\mathbf{u}})$$

Here  $\rho_0$  and  $U_0$  are some characteristic density and velocity of a system

We also need to normalize the space and time (the derivatives):  $t = T_0 \tilde{t}$        $\mathbf{x} = L_0 \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{T_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} \quad \nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \frac{1}{L_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{x}}} \equiv \frac{1}{L_0} \tilde{\nabla}$$

Now the mass equation becomes:

$$\frac{1}{T_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} (\rho_0 \tilde{\rho}) = - \frac{1}{L_0} \tilde{\nabla} \cdot (\rho_0 \tilde{\rho} \cdot u_0 \tilde{\mathbf{u}}) \xrightarrow{\text{Normalization Relation}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} (\tilde{\rho}) = - \frac{T_0 U_0}{L_0} \tilde{\nabla} \cdot (\tilde{\rho} \tilde{\mathbf{u}})$$

$\frac{T_0 U_0}{L_0} = 1$       Dimensionless Mass Equation

# Normalize the MHD equations

Now look at the velocity equation

$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = -\nabla p + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{J} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \mathbf{B}} \rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = -\nabla p + \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{B}$$

$\underline{\mathbf{J}}$

We can work out the normalization relations for  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $p$

$$\frac{\rho = \rho_0 \tilde{\rho}}{p = P_0 \tilde{p}} \quad \frac{\mathbf{u} = U_0 \tilde{\mathbf{u}}}{\mathbf{B} = B_0 \tilde{\mathbf{B}}} \quad \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{T_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}}}{\nabla = \frac{1}{L_0} \tilde{\nabla}} \rightarrow \frac{\rho_0 U_0 \tilde{\rho}}{T_0} \frac{D\tilde{\mathbf{u}}}{D\tilde{t}} = -\frac{P_0}{L_0} \tilde{\nabla} \tilde{p} + \frac{B_0^2}{\mu_0 L_0} \tilde{\nabla} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$$

Since  $\frac{T_0 U_0}{L_0} = 1$   $\rightarrow$   $\left( \frac{\rho_0 U_0^2}{L_0} \right) \tilde{\rho} \frac{D\tilde{\mathbf{u}}}{D\tilde{t}} = -\left( \frac{P_0}{L_0} \right) \tilde{\nabla} \tilde{p} + \left( \frac{B_0^2}{\mu_0 L_0} \right) \tilde{\nabla} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$

To make the constants go away, we need:  $P_0 = \rho_0 U_0^2$   $B_0 = \sqrt{\mu_0 \rho_0 U_0^2}$

The latter equation means:  $U_0 = \frac{B_0}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \rho_0}} = V_{A0}$   $\rightarrow$  **Characteristic  $U_0$  is the Alfvén speed!**

Now the velocity equation becomes:

$$\tilde{\rho} \frac{D\tilde{\mathbf{u}}}{D\tilde{t}} = -\tilde{\nabla} \tilde{p} + \tilde{\nabla} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$$

Dimensionless Velocity  
Equation

# The Convective Derivative term

$$\frac{D}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \quad \begin{array}{c} \rho = \rho_0 \tilde{\rho} \\ \mathbf{u} = U_0 \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \end{array} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{T_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{1}{T_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} + \frac{U_0}{L_0} \hat{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \tilde{\nabla}$$
$$\nabla = \frac{1}{L_0} \tilde{\nabla}$$

Since  $\frac{T_0 U_0}{L_0} = 1 \longrightarrow \frac{U_0}{L_0} = \frac{1}{T_0}$

The normalization for the convective derivative term goes like

$$\frac{D}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{T_0} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} + \cdot \cdot \tilde{\nabla} \right) \equiv \boxed{\frac{1}{T_0} \frac{D}{D\tilde{t}}}$$

This is why the convective derivative was treated like partial derivative in the normalization process

# Normalize the MHD equations

We still need an equation for the pressure (thermal dynamics)

Assume adiabaticity:  $p \propto \rho^\gamma$  (Adiabatic gas law, from statistical mechanics)

We have

$$p = p_g \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^\gamma \longrightarrow p = p_g \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^\gamma \longrightarrow \boxed{p = p_g \tilde{\rho}^\gamma}$$

With normalized rho

$p_g$  Pressure corresponds to  $\rho_0$

The pressure normalization has an interesting physical definition:

$$p = p_g \tilde{\rho}^\gamma \xrightarrow[U_0 = \frac{B_0}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \rho_0}}]{p = P_0 \tilde{p} = \rho_0 U_0^2 = \frac{B_0^2}{\mu_0}} \tilde{p} = \frac{p_g}{B_0^2 / \mu_0} \tilde{\rho}^\gamma \longrightarrow \tilde{p} = \frac{p_g}{2P_B} \tilde{\rho}^\gamma \longrightarrow \boxed{\tilde{p} = \frac{\beta}{2} \tilde{\rho}^\gamma}$$

Dimensionless Pressure Equation

Recall the definition of magnetic pressures and plasma beta:

$$P_B = \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0} \qquad \beta = \frac{p_{gas}}{p_B}$$

# Normalize the Maxwell's equations

The normalization of the Maxwell's equations are quite straightforward

Let's start with the Ohm's law

$$\mathbf{E} = -\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{u} = U_0 \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \\ \mathbf{B} = B_0 \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \\ \mathbf{E} = E_0 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \end{array}} E_0 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = -U_0 B_0 \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \xrightarrow{E_0 = U_0 B_0} \tilde{\mathbf{E}} = -\tilde{\mathbf{u}} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$$

Normalization Relation

Dimensionless Ohm's Law

Now combine with the Faraday's law:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E} \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{B} = B_0 \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \\ \mathbf{E} = U_0 B_0 \tilde{\mathbf{E}} \end{array}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{T_0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} \xrightarrow{\nabla = \frac{1}{L_0} \tilde{\nabla}} \frac{B_0}{T_0} \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial \tilde{t}} = -\frac{U_0 B_0}{L_0} \tilde{\nabla} \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

$\frac{T_0 U_0}{L_0} = 1$

Ampere's law is also straightforward:

$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \longrightarrow J_0 \tilde{\mathbf{J}} = \frac{B_0}{\mu_0 L_0} \tilde{\nabla} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$$

This was already included in the velocity equation!

$$J_0 = \frac{B_0}{\mu_0 L_0}$$

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial \tilde{t}} = -\tilde{\nabla} \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

Dimensionless Faraday's Law

$$\tilde{\mathbf{J}} = \tilde{\nabla} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$$

Dimensionless Ampere's Law

# The full set of Normalized MHD equations

## Dimensionless Equations

Mass Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} \tilde{\rho} = - \tilde{\nabla} \cdot (\tilde{\rho} \tilde{\mathbf{u}})$$

Velocity Equation

$$\tilde{\rho} \frac{D\tilde{\mathbf{u}}}{D\tilde{t}} = - \tilde{\nabla} \tilde{p} + \tilde{\mathbf{J}} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$$

Pressure Equation

$$\tilde{p} = \frac{\beta}{2} \tilde{\rho}^\gamma$$

Faraday's Law

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial \tilde{t}} = - \tilde{\nabla} \times \tilde{\mathbf{E}}$$

Ohm's Law

$$\tilde{\mathbf{E}} = - \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$$

Ampere's Law

$$\tilde{\mathbf{J}} = \tilde{\nabla} \times \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$$

## Normalization Relations

$$L_0 = T_0 U_0$$

$$U_0 = B_0 / \sqrt{\mu_0 \rho_0}$$

$$E_0 = U_0 B_0$$

$$J_0 = \frac{B_0}{\mu_0 L_0}$$

## Interpretations:

- this set of normalized equation is called “dimensionless”, e.g.,  $u = 1$  means the magnitude of the velocity is one Alfvén speed  
- very convenient in understanding the solutions
- We ignore the ***tilde*** in the following analysis and use the following set of MHD equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho &= - \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u} \\ \rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} &= - \nabla p + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} \\ p &= \frac{\beta_0}{2} \rho^\gamma \\ \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} &= - \nabla \times \mathbf{E} \\ \mathbf{E} &= - \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{J} &= \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \end{aligned}$$

Dimensionless  
Ideal MHD  
equations

This is the set of  
equations solved  
in mhd.m

# The $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$ force term

The plasma velocity is influenced by the magnetic field through the Lorentz force:

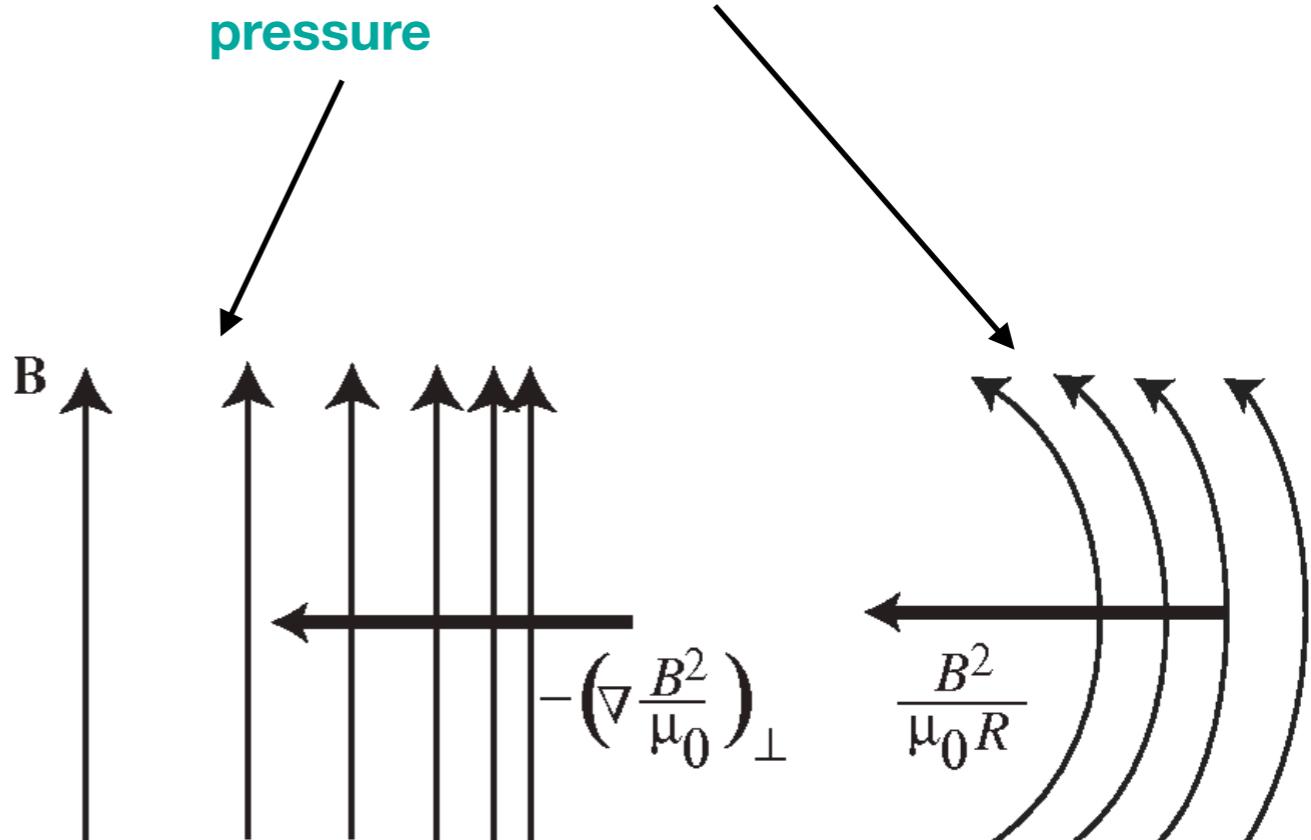
$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = -\nabla p + \boxed{\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}}$$

$$\frac{-\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}}{\text{Lorentz Force}} = \mathbf{B} \times \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{A} \times \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \nabla \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{A} - \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}) - \mathbf{B}\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} \\ \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}) = \nabla \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \nabla \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{A} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} \equiv 0 \end{array}} \nabla \left( \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{B}^2 \right) - \frac{(\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B}}{\text{Magnetic Tension}} = \nabla \cdot \left( \mathbf{I} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{B}^2 - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{B} \right) \quad \boxed{\text{Maxwell Stress Tensor}}$$

If  $\text{div } \mathbf{B}$  isn't zero,  
the Lorentz force  
becomes:

$$= \nabla \cdot \left( \mathbf{I} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{B}^2 - \mathbf{B}\mathbf{B} \right) - \frac{\mathbf{B}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B})}{\text{Unphysical Parallel Acceleration}}$$

This is why  $\text{div } \mathbf{B} = 0$  is crucial in MHD!



**Magnetic pressure**

**Magnetic Tension**

# 1-D MHD equations

If only consider **variations** in the x-direction

The mass equation becomes:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho = - \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u} \quad \xrightarrow[\mathbf{u} = u_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + u_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + u_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}]{\nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}}} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho = - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \rho (u_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + u_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + u_z \hat{\mathbf{z}})$$

$$\xrightarrow{} \boxed{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho = - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\rho u_x)} \quad \boxed{1\text{-D Mass equation}}$$

The velocity equation is slightly more complicated:

$$\rho \frac{D \mathbf{u}}{Dt} = - \nabla p + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} \quad \xrightarrow{\frac{D}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}} \quad \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \right) \mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{\rho} (- \nabla p + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B})$$

$$\xrightarrow[\mathbf{u} = u_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + u_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + u_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}]{\nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}}} \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + u_x \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{We get three equations for the velocity}} \quad \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial t} + u_x \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + (J_y B_z - J_z B_y)$$

$$\frac{\partial u_y}{\partial t} + u_x \frac{\partial u_y}{\partial x} = + (J_z B_x - J_x B_z)$$

$$\frac{\partial u_z}{\partial t} + u_x \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial x} = + (J_x B_y - J_y B_x)$$

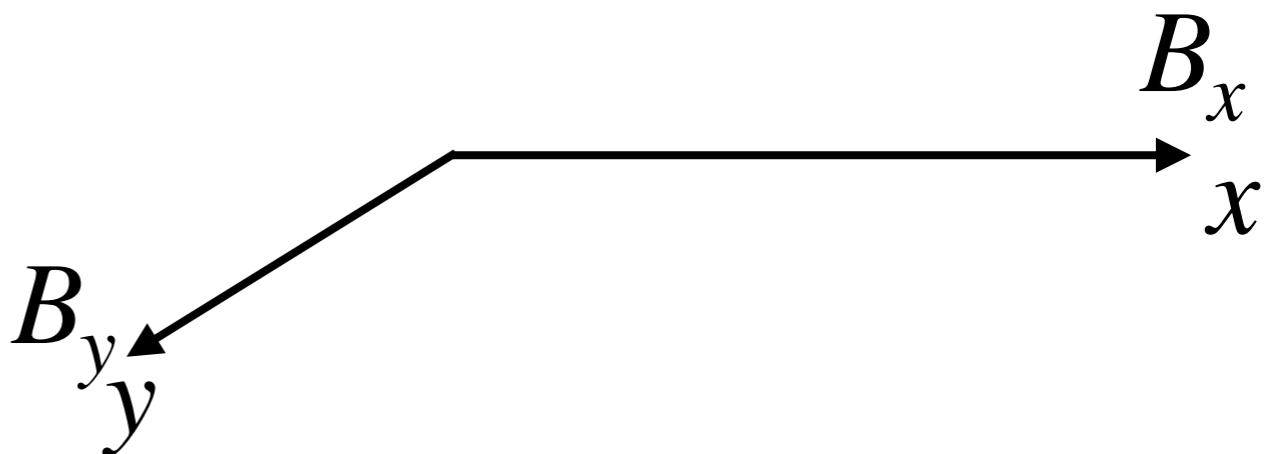
# 1-D MHD equations

Ampere's law in 1-D becomes:

$$\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \xrightarrow{\substack{\nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}} \\ \mathbf{B} = B_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + B_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}}} \mathbf{J} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}} \times (B_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + B_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}) \xrightarrow{} \mathbf{J} = \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{z}} - \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{y}}$$

Since we're only looking at 1-D variations

So without losing generality, we are limiting the components of B field to be only  $B_x$  and  $B_y$



Thus the Ampere's law gives only one component of the current  $J_z$ :

$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{z}} - \frac{\partial B_z}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{y}} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{B} = B_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_y \hat{\mathbf{y}}} \mathbf{J} = \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{z}} \equiv J_z \hat{\mathbf{z}} \xrightarrow{} J_z = \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x}$$

Now the  $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$  term in the momentum equation only has two components

1-D Ampere's Law

$$\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} = J_z \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times (B_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_y \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = J_z B_x \hat{\mathbf{y}} - J_z B_y \hat{\mathbf{x}}$$

# 1-D MHD equations

With the definition of  $\mathbf{J}$  and  $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$ :

$$\mathbf{J} = \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{z}} \equiv J_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

$$\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} = J_z \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times (B_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_y \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = J_z B_x \hat{\mathbf{y}} - J_z B_y \hat{\mathbf{x}}$$

Revisit the velocity equations:

1-D Velocity  
equation (x-dir)

**x-dir**

$$\frac{\partial u_x}{\partial t} + u_x \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + (J_y B_z - J_z B_y)/\rho \quad \xrightarrow{J_y \equiv 0} \quad \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial t} = -u_x \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} \left( -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x} - J_z B_y \right)$$

**y-dir**

$$\frac{\partial u_y}{\partial t} + u_x \frac{\partial u_y}{\partial x} = + (J_z B_x - J_x B_z)/\rho \quad \xrightarrow{J_x \equiv 0} \quad \frac{\partial u_y}{\partial t} = -u_x \frac{\partial u_y}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} J_z B_{x0} \quad \text{Why?}$$

**z-dir**

$$\frac{\partial u_z}{\partial t} + u_x \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial x} = + (J_x B_y - J_y B_x)/\rho \quad \xrightarrow{J_x \equiv 0 \quad J_y \equiv 0} \quad \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial t} + u_x \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \xrightarrow{} u_z = \text{const}$$

z-dir is not needed!

Magnetic divergence must vanish:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot (B_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_y \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial x} \equiv 0 \quad \xrightarrow{} \quad B_x = \text{const} \equiv B_{x0} \quad \text{Constraint of } B_x$$

# 1-D MHD equations

Now the ones left are the 1-D Ohm's law (trivial):

E-field only has z-component!

$$\mathbf{E} = -\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{u} = u_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + u_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} \\ \mathbf{B} = B_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} \end{array}} \mathbf{E} = -(u_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + u_y \hat{\mathbf{y}}) \times (B_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_y \hat{\mathbf{y}}) \longrightarrow \boxed{E_z = -u_x B_y + u_y B_{x0}}$$

1-D Ohm's Law  
(z-dir)

And the Faraday's law:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E} \xrightarrow{\begin{array}{l} \nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}} \\ \mathbf{B} = B_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} \\ \mathbf{E} = E_z \hat{\mathbf{z}} \end{array}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (B_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + B_y \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{x}} \times E_z \hat{\mathbf{z}} \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}} = -\hat{\mathbf{y}}$$

$B_x \equiv B_{x0} = \text{const}$

No equation needed for Bx!

only the y-component is needed:

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial B_y}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial x}}$$

1-D Faraday's Law

And the ideal gas law (no derivatives):

$$\boxed{p = \frac{\beta_0}{2} \rho^\gamma}$$

Ideal Gas Law

# 1-D MHD equations

Put the equations together:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho = - \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u}$$

$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = - \nabla p + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$$

$$p = \frac{\beta_0}{2} \rho^\gamma$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = - \nabla \times \mathbf{E}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = - \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}$$

$$\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho = - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\rho u_x)$$

$$\frac{\partial u_x}{\partial t} = - u_x \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} \left( - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} - J_z B_y \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial u_y}{\partial t} = - u_x \frac{\partial u_y}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} J_z B_{x0}$$

$$p = \frac{\beta_0}{2} \rho^\gamma$$

$$\frac{\partial B_y}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial x}$$

$$E_z = - u_x B_y + u_y B_{x0}$$

$$J_z = \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x}$$

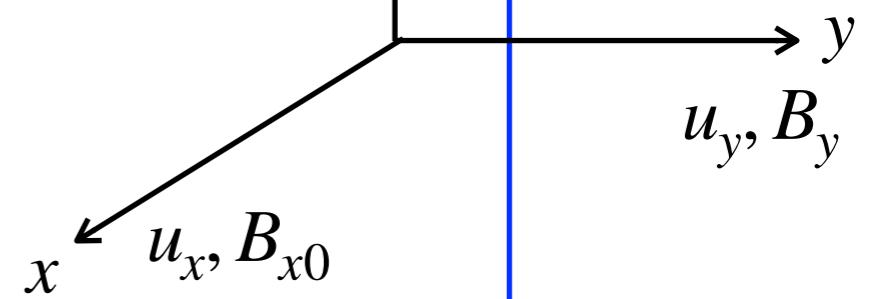
**Plasma variables –**  
 $\rho, u_x, u_y, p$

**Field variables**

$B_y, E_z, J_z$

$E_z, J_z$

Velocity and Field  
components in 1-D  
MHD equations



# Waves in the 1-D MHD equations

First, for a linear polarized traveling wave, assume all perturbed terms vary with x and t like

$$\sim e^{i(kx - \omega t)}$$

The spatial and time derivatives become simply algebra calculations:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} = ik$     $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = -i\omega$

Now let's linearize the MHD equations and see what's the relationship between omega and k

Assuming  $\rho = \rho_0$ ,  $u_x = 0$ ,  $u_y = \delta u_y$   $B_y = \delta B_y$

$$\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \longrightarrow J_z = \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} \longrightarrow \delta J_z = ik\delta B_y$$

$$\mathbf{E} = -\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} \longrightarrow E_z = -u_x B_y + u_y B_{x0} \longrightarrow \delta E_z = \delta u_y B_0$$

$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = -\nabla p + \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} \longrightarrow -i\omega\rho_0\delta u_y = \delta J_z B_0$$

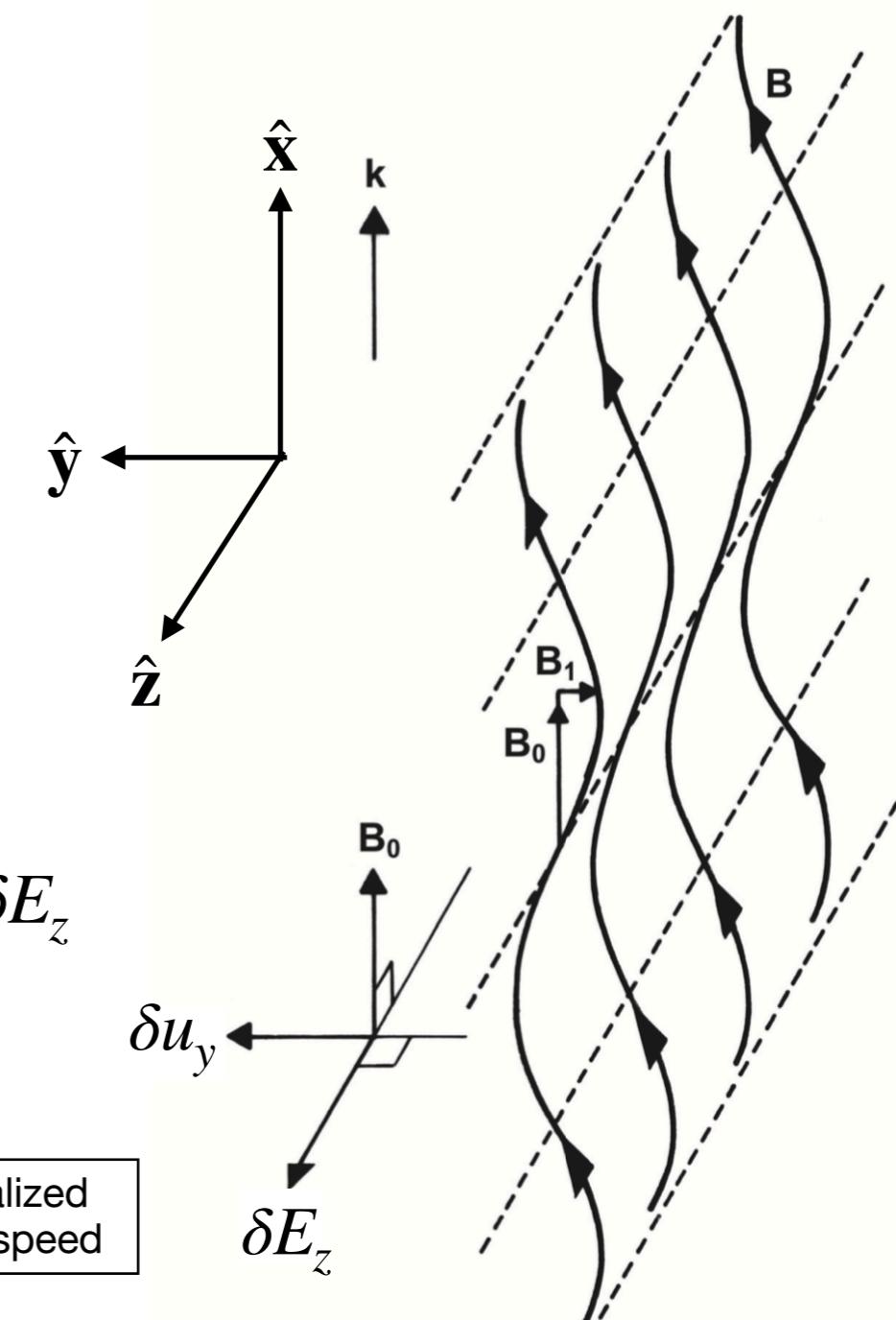
$$\frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} \approx \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t}$$

$p \approx 0$   
Cold plasma Approximation  
Linearize

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E} \longrightarrow -i\omega\delta B_y = ik\delta E_z$$

$$\boxed{\left(\frac{\omega}{k}\right)^2 = \frac{B_0^2}{\rho_0} = 1}$$

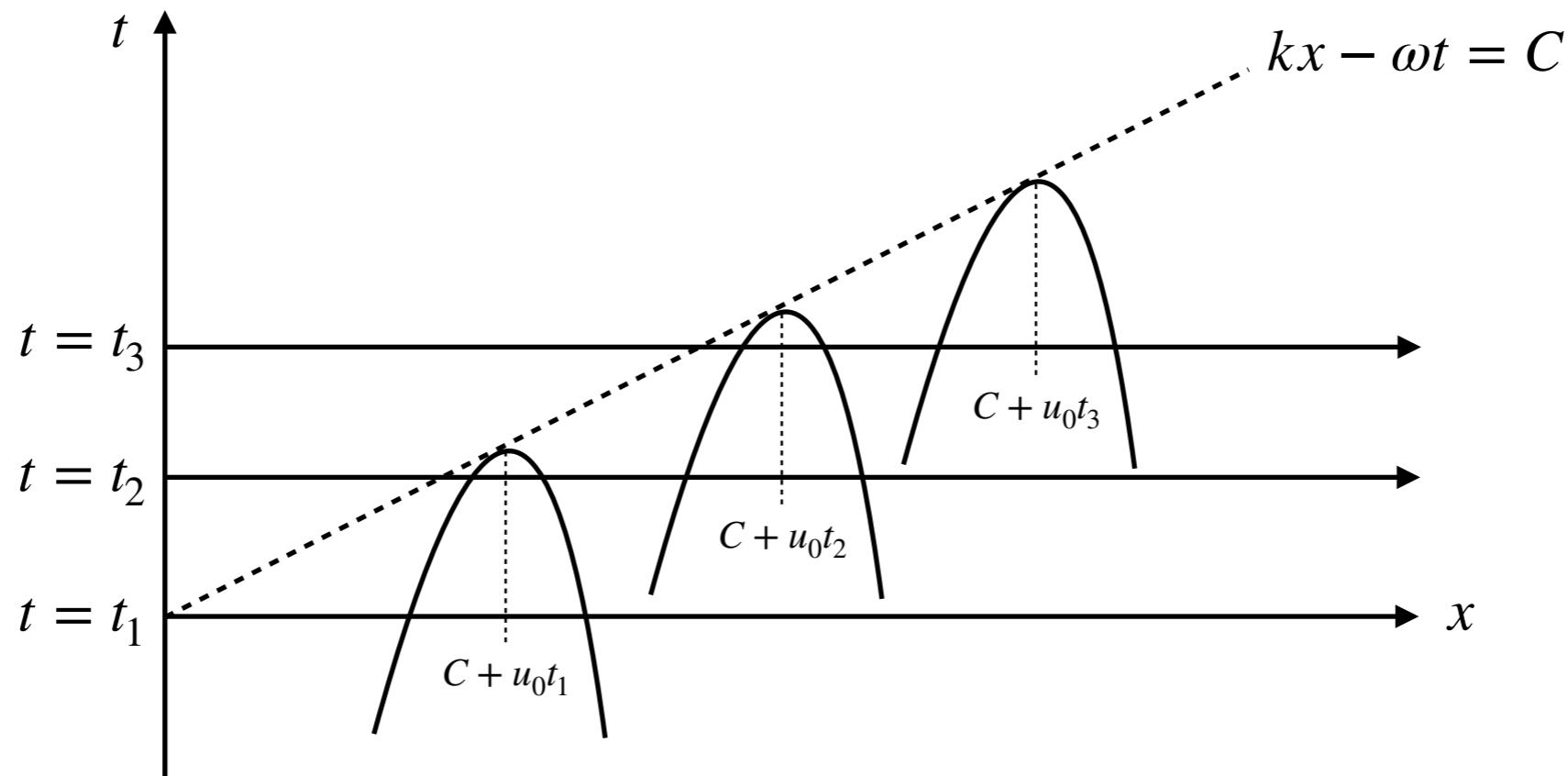
Normalized Alfvén speed



# Traveling versus Standing Waves

In the Alfvén wave solution, note that  $\frac{\omega}{k} = \pm 1$

- If  $k > 0$ , we get a wave traveling the  $+x$  direction - easy to see that from the phase of the wave:  $(kx - \omega t)$  needs to keep constant
- If  $k < 0$ , we get a wave traveling the  $-x$  direction



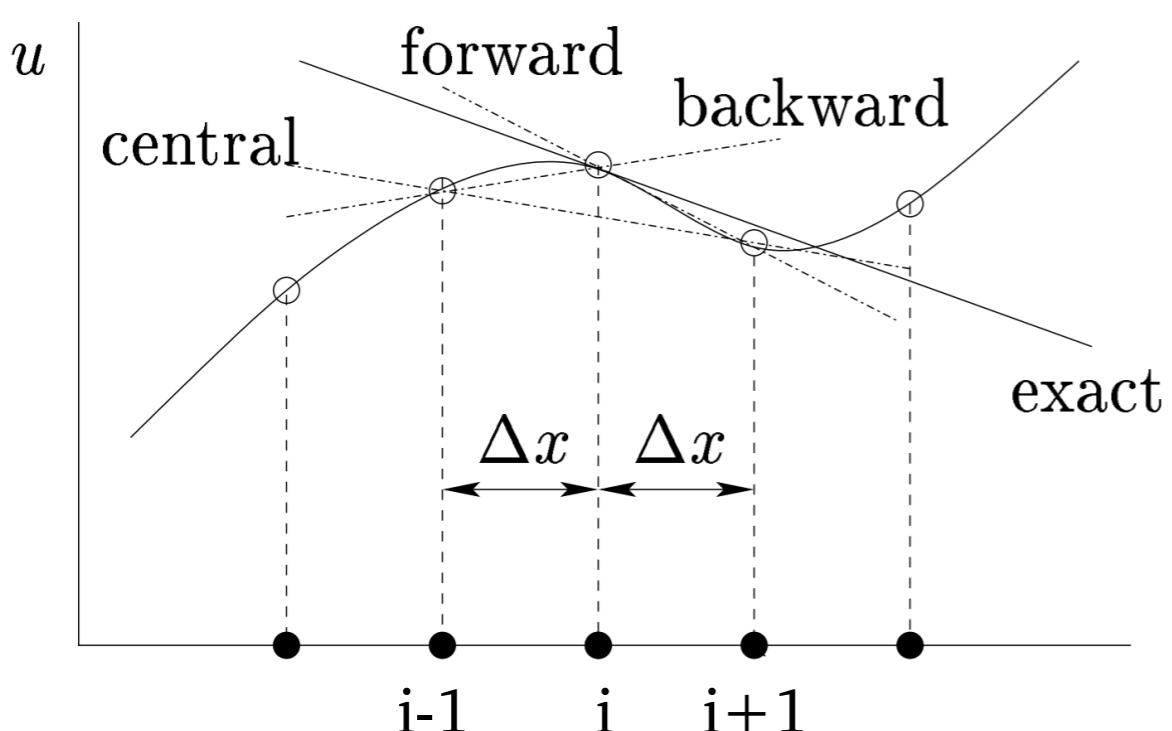
To keep  $kx - \omega t$  constant:  $kx - \omega t = \text{const}$   $\longrightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{\omega}{k} = \pm 1$

Wave traveling in both directions!

# How to approximate partial derivatives

We've already learned the finite difference method

Geometric interpretation



$$\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)_i \approx \frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{\Delta x} \quad \text{Forward difference}$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)_i \approx \frac{u_i - u_{i-1}}{\Delta x} \quad \text{Backward difference}$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)_i \approx \frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2\Delta x} \quad \text{Central difference}$$

This is based on the Taylor series expansion

$$u(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x - x_i)^n}{n!} \left( \frac{\partial^n u}{\partial x^n} \right)_i$$

Let's try two expansions around  $x_i$

$$\text{T1: } u_{i+1} = u_i + \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)_i + \frac{1}{6} \Delta x^3 \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right)_i + \dots$$

$$\text{T2: } u_{i-1} = u_i - \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)_i - \frac{1}{6} \Delta x^3 \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right)_i + \dots$$

# Numerical differentiation

## Truncation errors

Using the Taylor series expansion, we can evaluate the accuracy of the finite difference

$$\text{T1: } u_{i+1} = u_i + \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)_i + \frac{1}{6} \Delta x^3 \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right)_i + \dots$$
$$\Rightarrow \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i = \frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{\Delta x} - \frac{1}{2} \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)_i - \frac{1}{6} \Delta x^2 \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right)_i + \dots$$

---

Forward difference approximation

Truncation Error, leading term  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta x)$

Using T2, we can get the backward difference approximation of the first-derivative

$$\Rightarrow \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i = \frac{u_i - u_{i-1}}{\Delta x} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)_i - \frac{1}{6} \Delta x^2 \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right)_i + \dots$$

---

Backward difference approximation

Truncation Error, leading term  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta x)$

# Numerical differentiation

## Truncation errors - central difference

Using the Taylor series expansion, we can evaluate the accuracy of the finite difference

$$\text{T1: } u_{i+1} = u_i + \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)_i + \frac{1}{6} \Delta x^3 \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right)_i + \dots$$

$$\text{T2: } u_{i-1} = u_i - \Delta x \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i + \frac{1}{2} \Delta x^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)_i - \frac{1}{6} \Delta x^3 \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right)_i + \dots$$

T1 - T2:

$$\Rightarrow \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_i = \frac{u_{i+1} - u_{i-1}}{2\Delta x} - \frac{1}{6} \Delta x^2 \left( \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} \right)_i + \dots$$

Central  
difference  
approximation

---

Truncation Error, leading term  $\mathcal{O}(\Delta x^2)$

Definition of leading truncation error term:

$$\epsilon_\tau = \alpha_m (\Delta x)^m + \alpha_{m+1} (\Delta x)^{m+1} + \dots \approx \alpha_m (\Delta x)^m \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(\Delta x^m)$$

# Recall the Linear Advection Equation

$$\left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \right)_i \approx \frac{u_{i+1} - u_i}{\Delta x}$$

Forward difference

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} + u_0 \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 0$$

Forward  
difference

Forward  
difference

**Euler Time-Stepping**

$$\left. \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} \right|_{t=t_n} = \frac{Q_i^{n+1} - Q_i^n}{\Delta t} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t)$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial Q}{\partial t} \right|_{x=x_i} = \frac{Q_{i+1}^n - Q_i^n}{\Delta x} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x)$$

Combine the two numerical derivatives

$$\frac{Q_i^{n+1} - Q_i^n}{\Delta t} = u_0 \frac{Q_{i+1}^n - Q_i^n}{\Delta x} + \mathcal{O}(\Delta x) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t)$$

Forward Euler method

$$Q_i^{n+1} \approx Q_i^n + \frac{u_0 \Delta t}{\Delta x} (Q_{i+1}^n - Q_i^n)$$

Values on step n (known)

If we know all the Q values at time  $t = t_n$ , then we can calculate the Q values at  $t = t_{n+1}$ . This is known as an explicit scheme of first-order accuracy

Can we do this to our MHD equations?

# A First-Order Scheme

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho = - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\rho u_x)$$

$$\frac{\partial u_x}{\partial t} = - u_x \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} \left( - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} - J_z B_y \right)$$

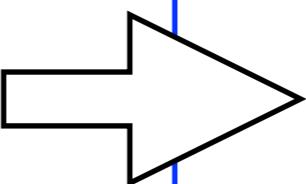
$$\frac{\partial u_y}{\partial t} = - u_x \frac{\partial u_y}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} J_z B_{x0}$$

$$\frac{\partial B_y}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial E_z}{\partial x}$$

$$E_z = - u_x B_y + u_y B_{x0}$$

$$J_z = \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x}$$

$$p = \frac{\beta_0}{2} \rho^\gamma$$



$$\rho_i^{n+1} \approx \rho_i^n + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (u_{x,i+1}^n \rho_{i+1}^n - u_{x,i}^n \rho_i^n)$$

$$u_{x,i}^{n+1} \approx u_{x,i}^n - u_{x,i} \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (u_{x,i+1}^n - u_{x,i}^n)$$

$$+ \frac{\Delta t}{\rho_i^n} \left[ \frac{1}{\Delta x} (p_{i+1}^n - p_i) - J_{z,i}^n B_{y,i}^n \right]$$

$$u_{y,i}^{n+1} \approx u_{y,i}^n - u_{x,i} \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (u_{y,i+1}^n - u_{y,i}^n) + \frac{\Delta t}{\rho_i^n} J_{z,i}^n B_{x0}$$

$$B_y^{n+1} \approx B_y^n + \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} (E_{z,i+1}^n - E_{z,i}^n)$$

$$E_{z,i}^n = - u_{x,i}^n B_{y,i}^n + u_{y,i}^n B_{x0}$$

$$J_{z,i}^n = \frac{1}{\Delta x} (B_{y,i+1}^n - B_{y,i}^n)$$

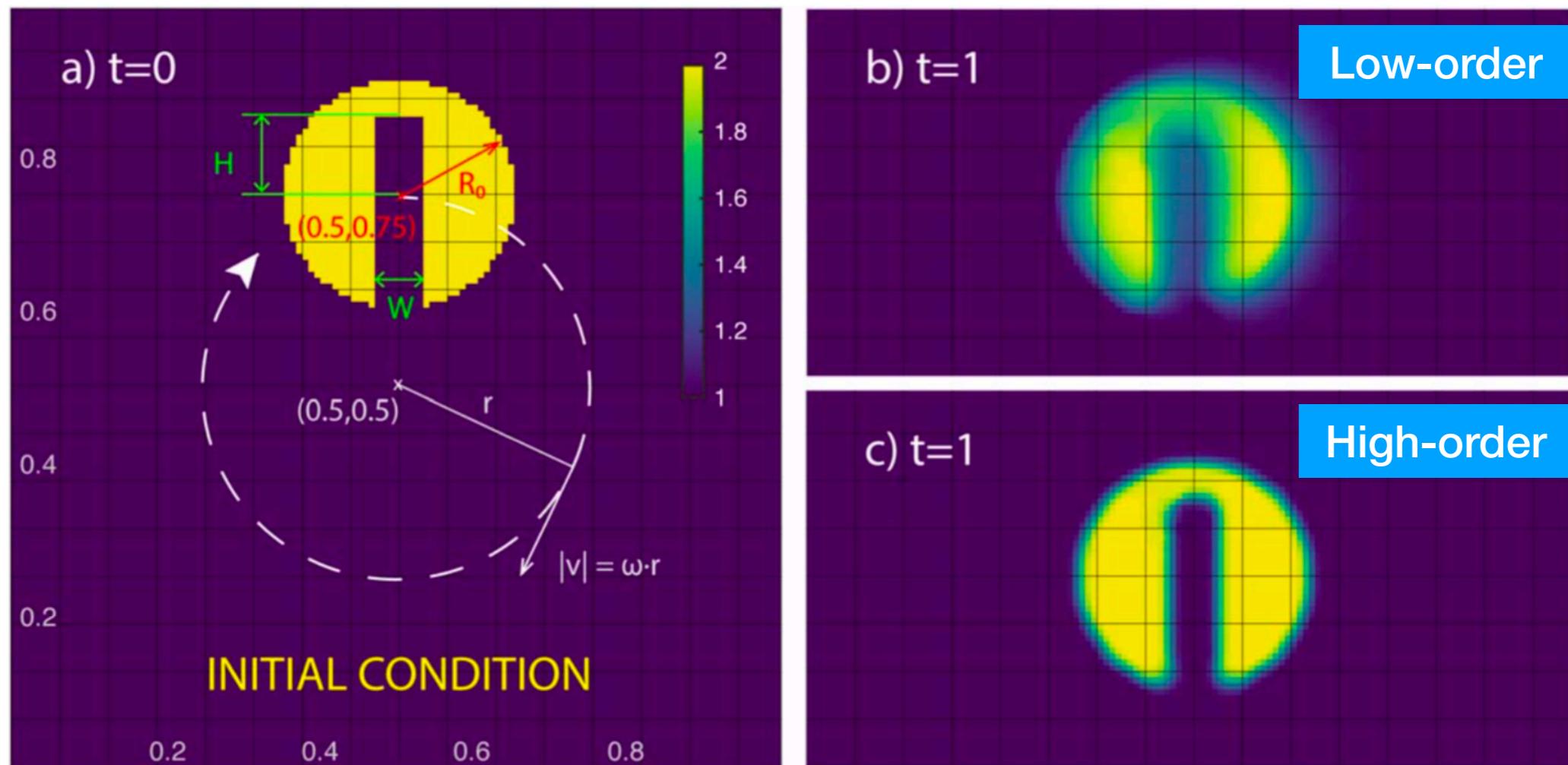
$$p_{z,i}^n = \frac{\beta_0}{2} (\rho_i^n)^\gamma$$

# Why not using First-order schemes

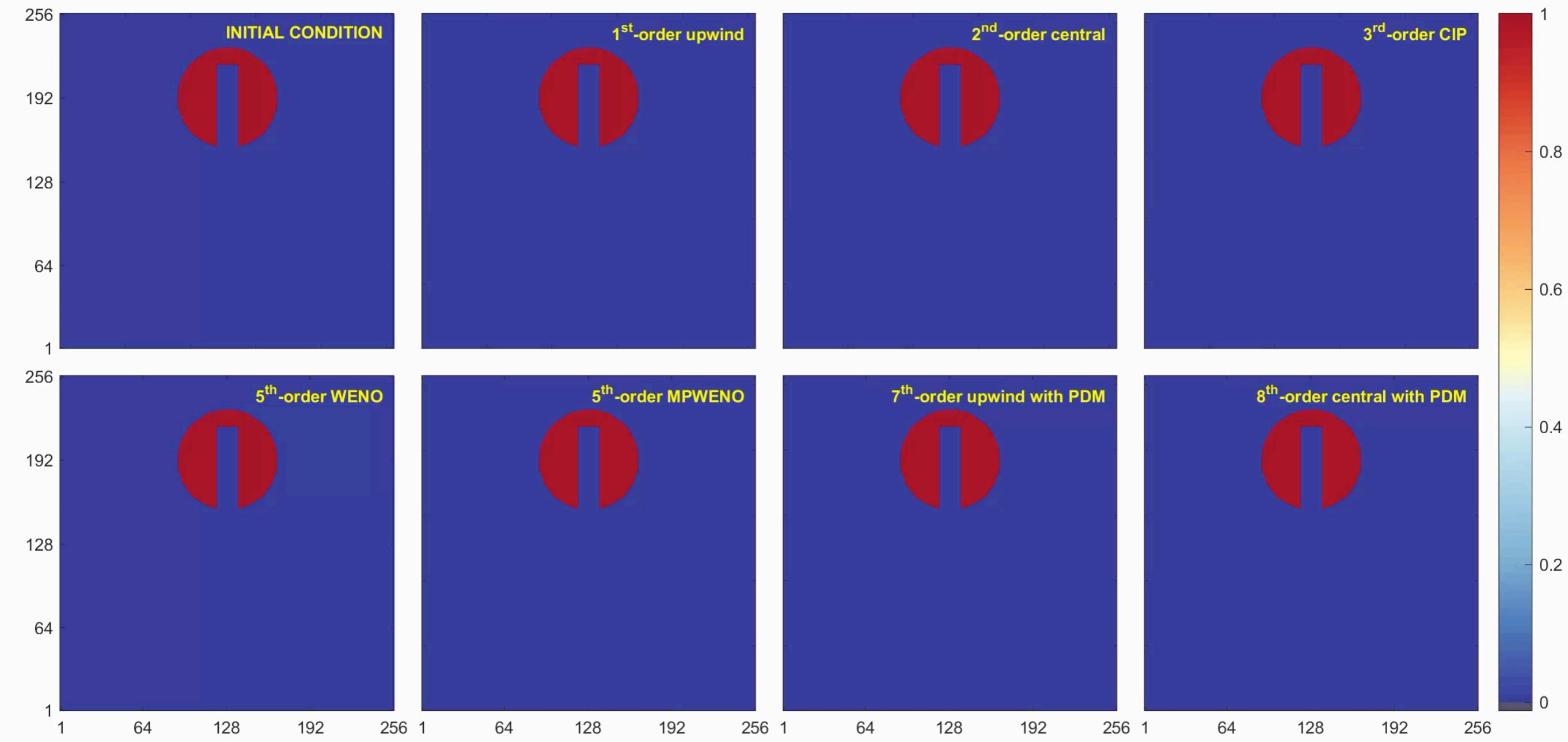
- ⊕ **Pros:**
- Simple, straightforward to implement

- Usually quite stable

- ⊖ **Cons:**
- Not accurate - only first order approximations
  - Converges at a very slow rate - linearly with grid size



# Advection w/ different schemes



*Movie credit: ZZ Li, Earth and Space Sciences@USTC*