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# COCONUT

## for global coronal modelling

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CURRENT SPACE WEATHER

[Expert Service Centres](#) / [ESC Heliospheric Weather](#) / [kul-cmpa-federated](#) /

SPACE WEATHER AT ESA

SERVICE DOMAINS

EXPERT SERVICE CENTRES

ESC Solar Weather

ESC Heliospheric Weather

ESC Space Radiation

ESC Ionospheric Weather

ESC Geomagnetic Conditions

OTHER RESOURCES

CONTACT

REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION



## Federated products from the Centre for mathematical Plasma-Astrophysics (KUL)

Virtual Space Weather Modelling Centre

HISTORY

NEW RUN

### Welcome to the VSWMC

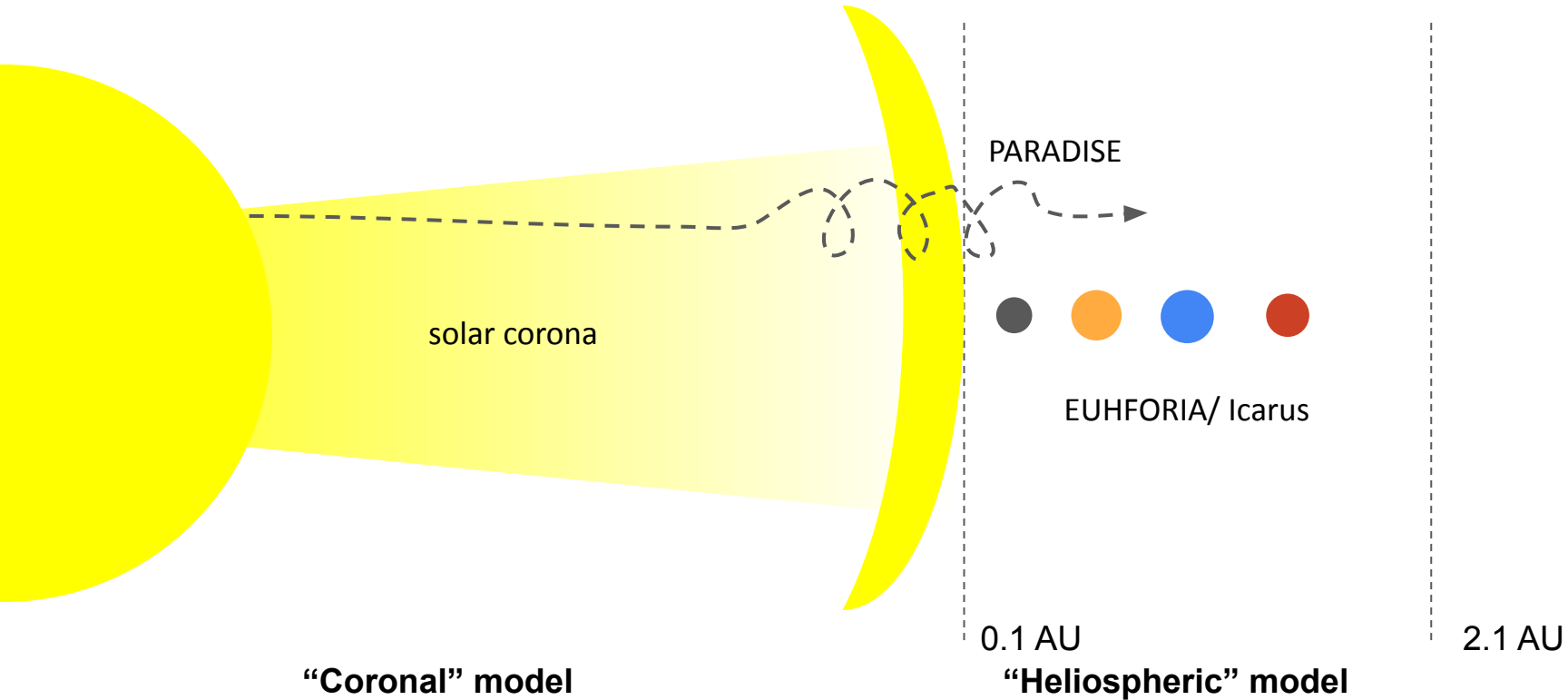
The Virtual Space Weather Modelling Centre (VSWMC) is a full scale, open end-to-end (meaning from the Sun to the Earth) space weather modelling, enabling to combine (*couple*) various space weather models in an integrated tool, with the models located either locally or geographically distributed. Hence, the VSWMC brings together models for different components of the space weather in an integrated environment that enables to run them and to couple them.



[About VSWMC](#)

[Full-size](#)

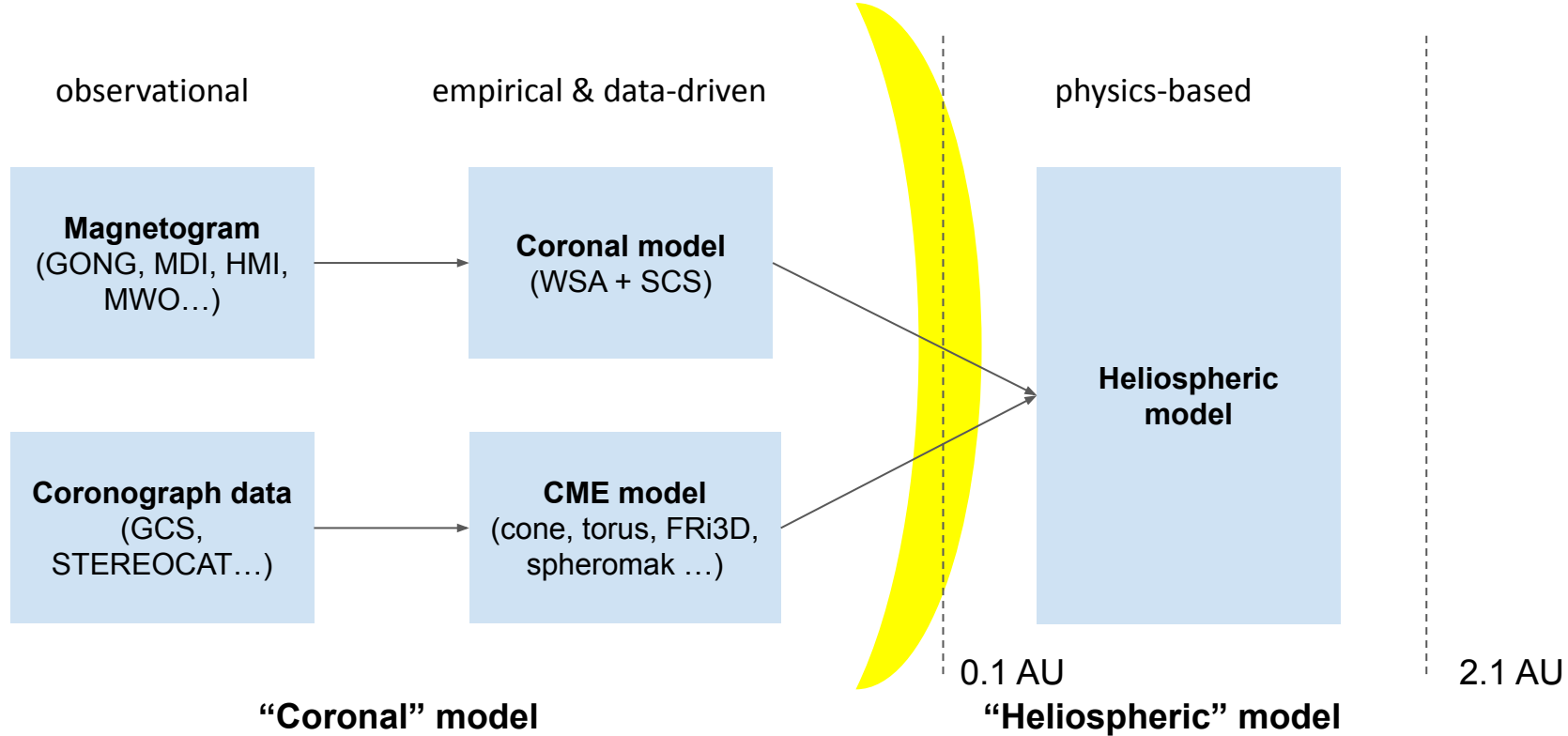
# VSWMC & EUHFORIA (Pomoell & Poedts 2018)



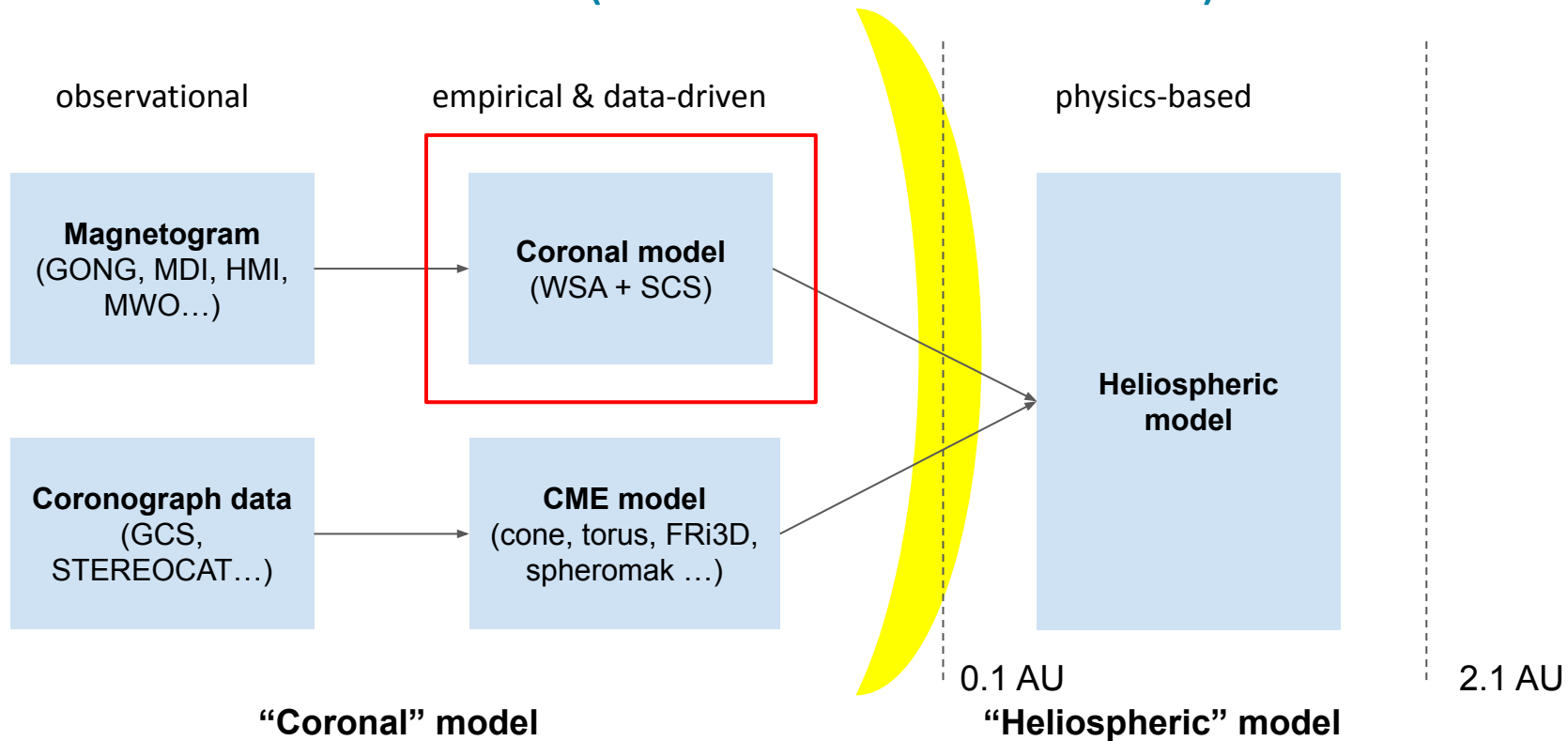
**"Coronal" model**

**"Heliospheric" model**

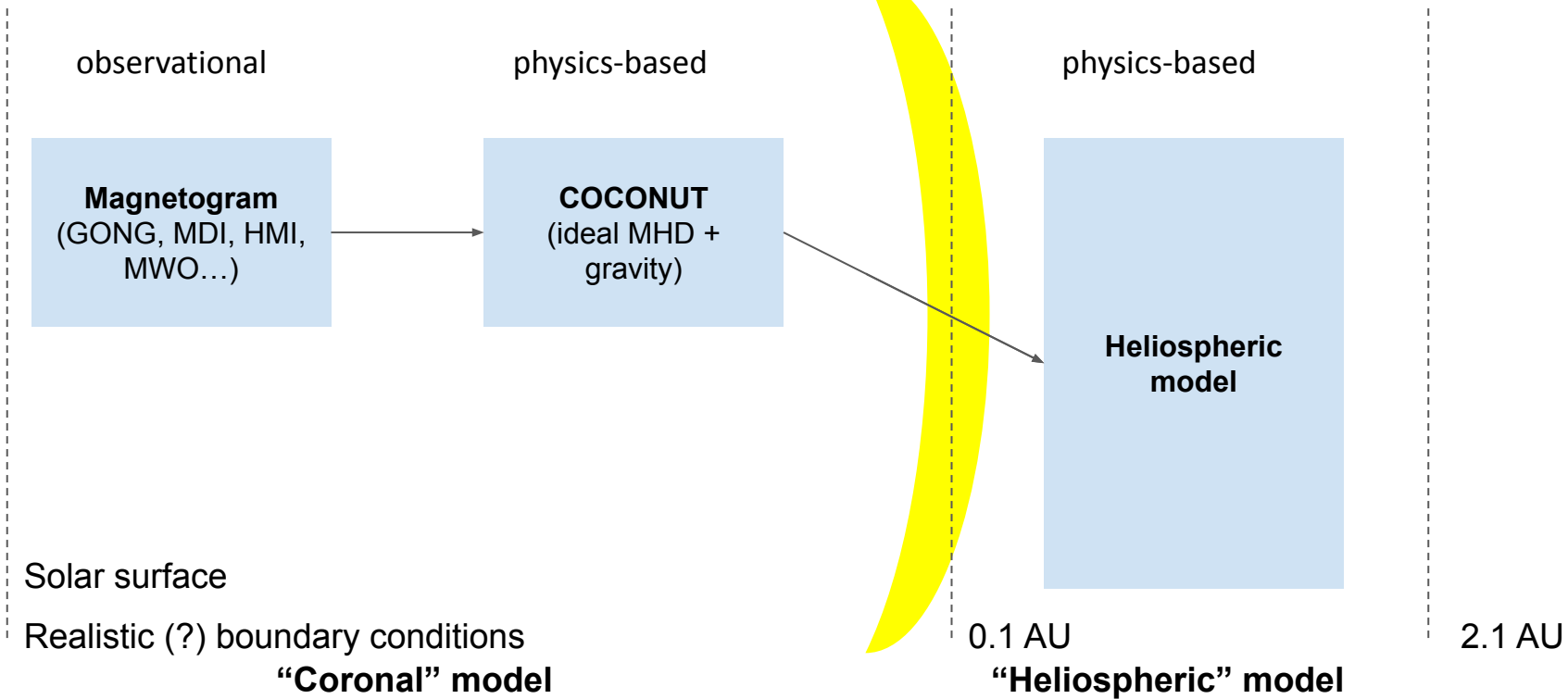
# VSWMC & EUHFORIA (Pomoell & Poedts 2018)



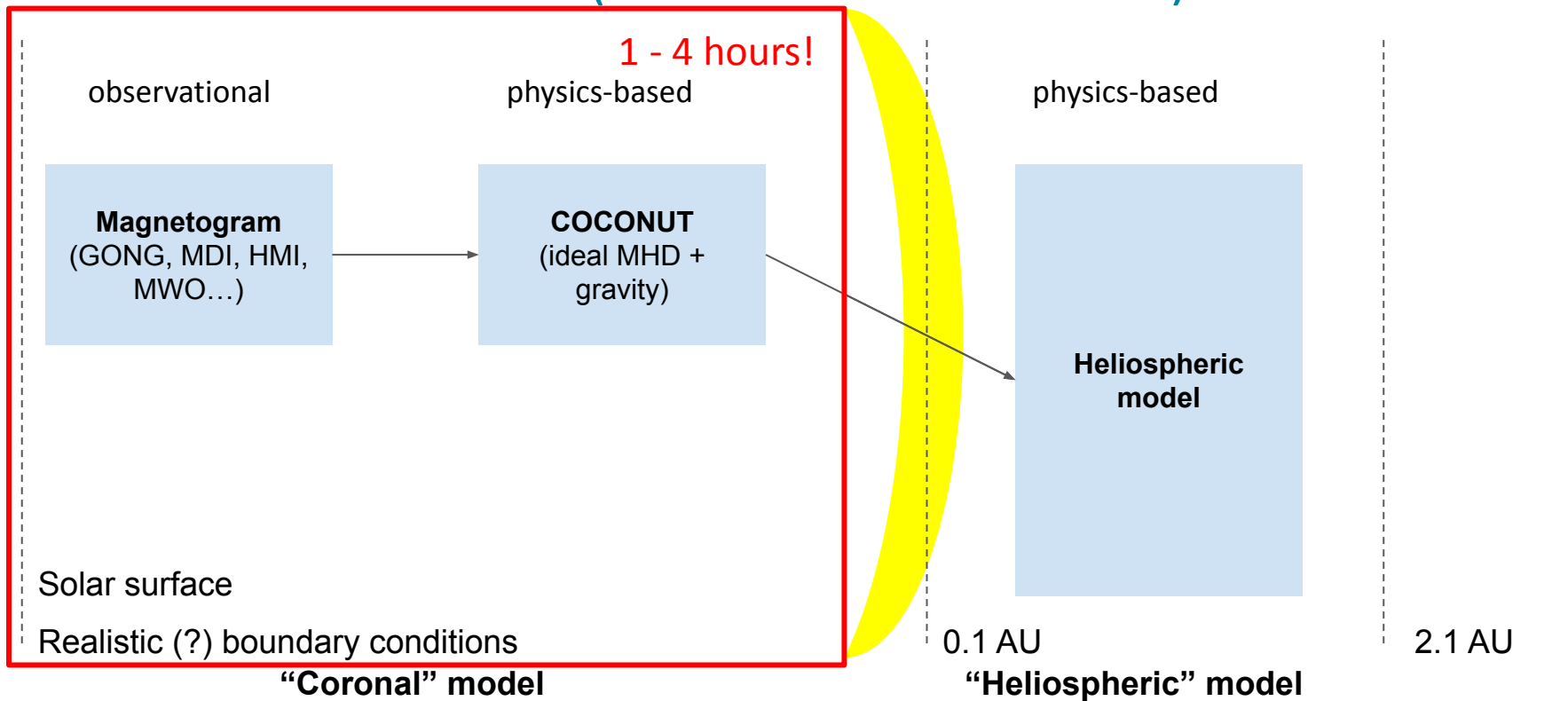
# VSWMC & EUHFORIA (Pomoell & Poedts 2018)



# VSWMC & EUHFORIA (Pomoell & Poedts 2018)

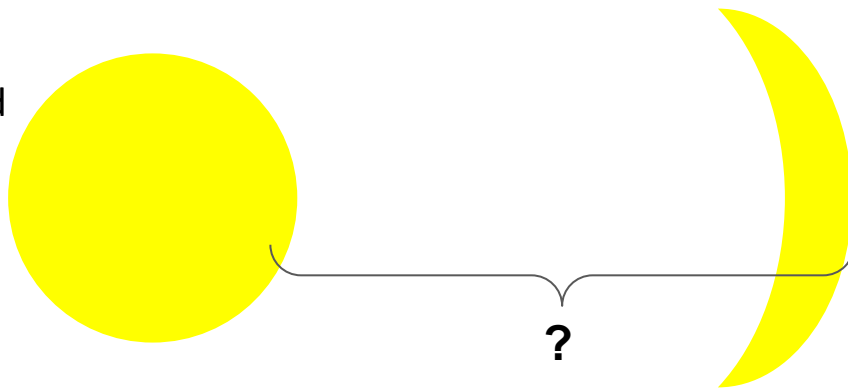


# VSWMC & EUHFORIA (Pomoell & Poedts 2018)



# COOLFluid CFD framework (Lani & Quintino 2003)

- C++ based multiphysics platform for fluid dynamics simulations, heavily parallelized
- COCONUT: ideal MHD + gravity
- Different than most state-of-art solvers:
  - Unstructured grid  
→ enables advanced grid refinement techniques
  - Implicit scheme  
→ CFL of up to several thousands  
→ fast convergence



<https://github.com/andrealani/COOLFluid/wiki>

contact: andrea.lani@kuleuven.be



# COCONUT: current state (verification)

Dipole

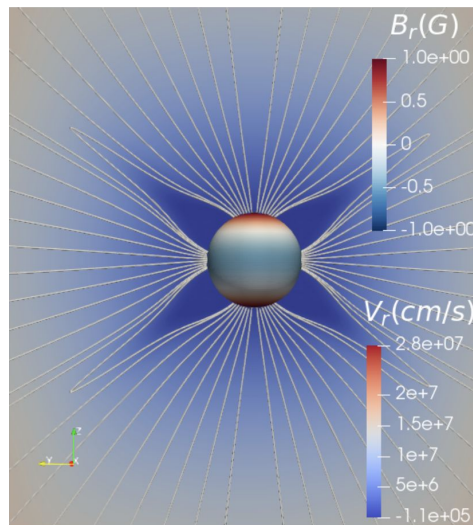
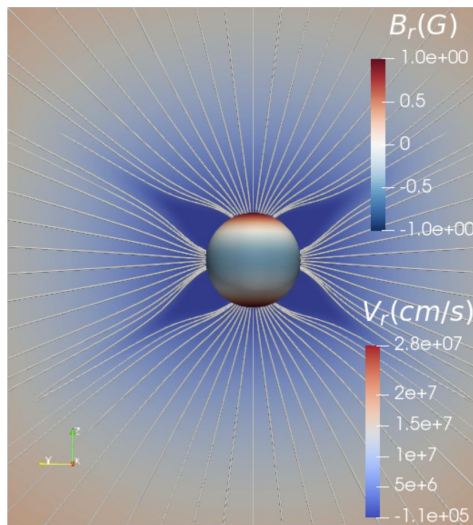
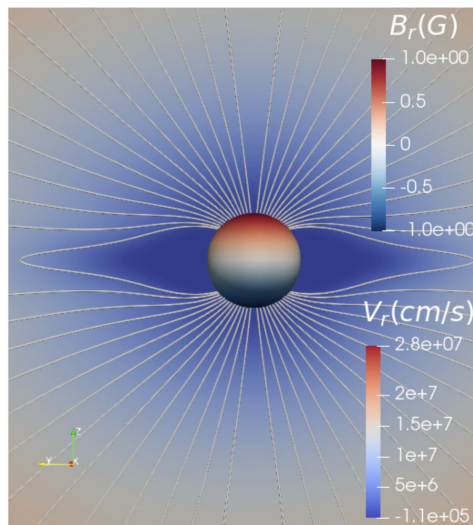
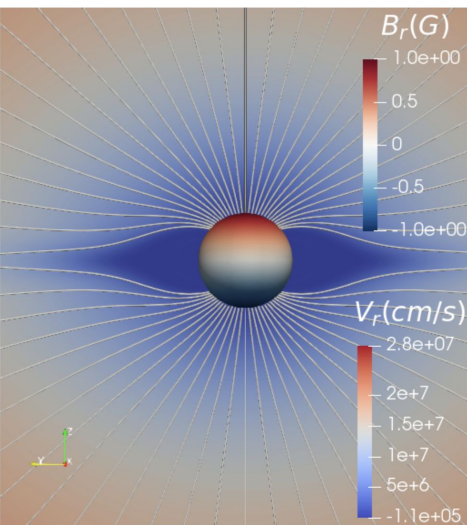
Quadrupole

COCONUT

Wind-Predict

COCONUT

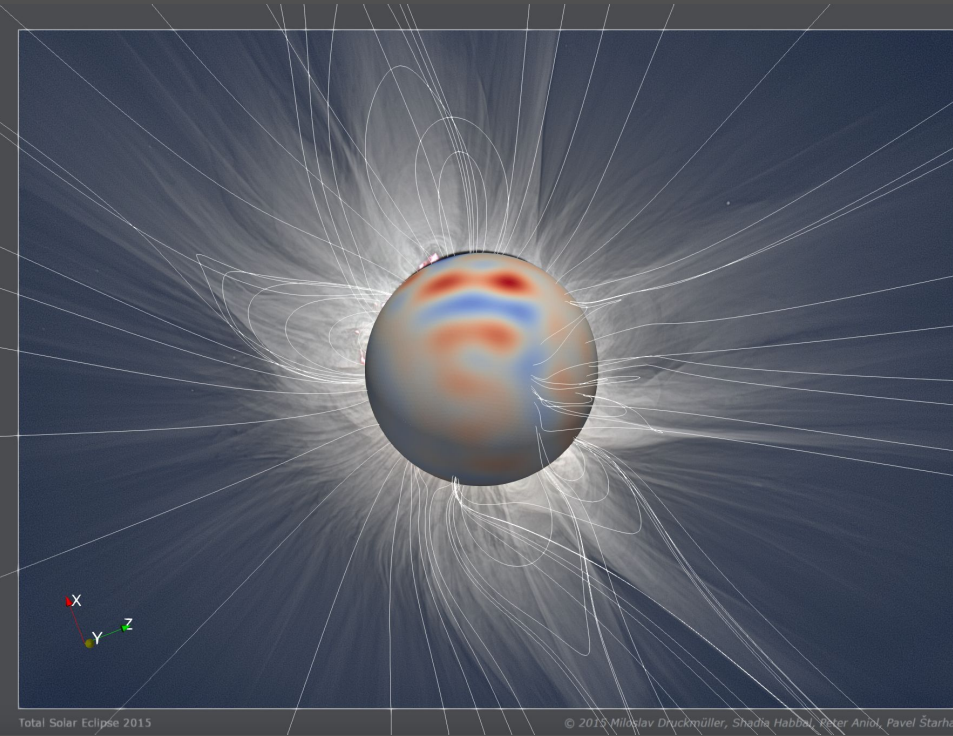
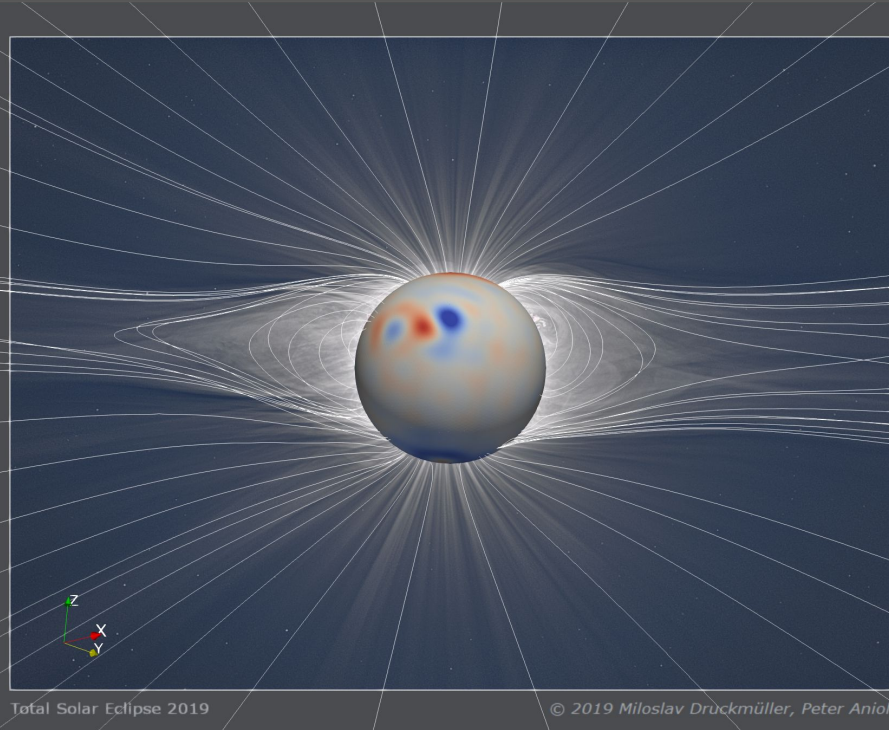
Wind-Predict



[Perri & Leitner et al., 2022]

# COCONUT: current state (results)

[Kuzma et al., 2023]



# COCONUT: current state (performance)

- up to 35x speedup for data-driven simulations compared to state-of-art

Code	Case	Number of elements	Number of processors	Highest CFL	Iterations	Time (minutes)
COCONUT	Dipole	332 800	84	5000	137	5.6
Wind-Predict	Dipole	320 000	84	0.3	80445	15.0
COCONUT	Quadrupole	332 800	84	300	290	11.9
Wind-Predict	Quadrupole	320 000	84	0.3	94310	17.0
COCONUT	GONG ( $\ell_{\max} = 15$ )	$1.9 \cdot 10^6$	196	2000	1397	87.5
Wind-Predict	GONG ( $\ell_{\max} = 15$ )	$2.0 \cdot 10^6$	196	0.3	163768	960
COCONUT	GONG ( $\ell_{\max} = 30$ )	$1.9 \cdot 10^6$	196	2000	1528	86.8
Wind-Predict	GONG ( $\ell_{\max} = 30$ )	$2.0 \cdot 10^6$	196	0.3	607988	3040

[Perri & Leitner et al., 2022]

# COCONUT: formulation

- Primitive variables:  $\rho$ ,  $V_x$ ,  $V_y$ ,  $V_z$ ,  $B_x$ ,  $B_y$ ,  $B_z$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $P$
- Ideal MHD equations:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{V}) = 0,$$

$$\frac{d(\rho \vec{V})}{dt} + \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \vec{V} \otimes \vec{V} + \mathbf{I} \left( P + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) - \frac{\vec{B} \otimes \vec{B}}{4\pi} \right) = \rho \vec{g},$$

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt} + \nabla \times \left( -\frac{\vec{V} \times \vec{B}}{c} \right) = \vec{0},$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left[ \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + P \right) \vec{V} - \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{V} \times \vec{B}) \times \vec{B} \right] = \rho \vec{g} \cdot \vec{V}.$$

$\vec{B}$	magnetic field
$\vec{V}$	velocity
$\rho$	density
$t$	time
$\mathcal{E}$	internal energy
$\vec{g}$	gravity
$P$	pressure

# COCONUT: formulation

- Primitive variables  $\rho, V_x, V_y, V_z, B_x, B_y, B_z, \phi, P$  BC prescription
- Ideal MHD equations:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{V}) = 0,$$

$$\frac{d(\rho \vec{V})}{dt} + \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \vec{V} \otimes \vec{V} + \mathbf{I} \left( P + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) - \frac{\vec{B} \otimes \vec{B}}{4\pi} \right) = \rho \vec{g},$$

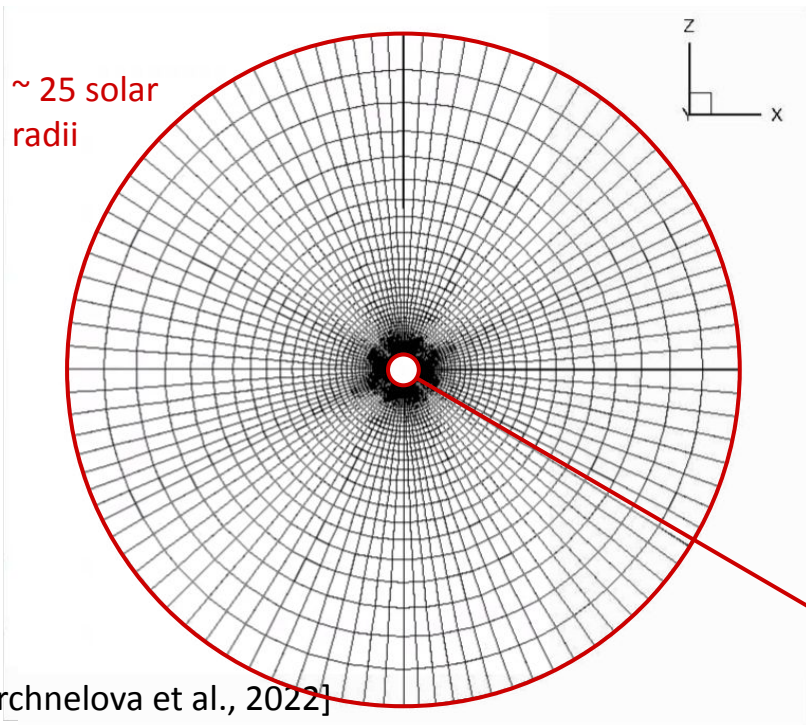
$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt} + \nabla \times \left( -\frac{\vec{V} \times \vec{B}}{c} \right) = \vec{0},$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left[ \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + P \right) \vec{V} - \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{V} \times \vec{B}) \times \vec{B} \right] = \rho \vec{g} \cdot \vec{V}.$$

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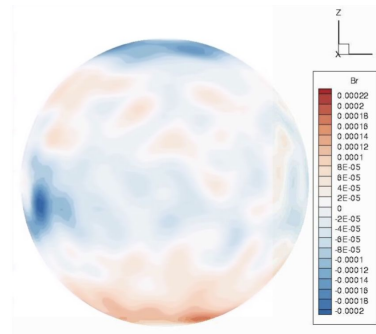


# COCONUT: BC prescriptions



- we extend to  $> 21$  solar radii and assume “lower corona” at the inner boundary
  - this will be changed in the future iteration in which the transition region will be included

- we prescribe a magnetic field on the surface based on the observed solar magnetograms



~ 1 solar radius, ~  $1.67 \times 10^{-13}$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>, ~  $1.5 \times 10^6$  K

# COCONUT: formulation

- Primitive variables:  $\rho$ ,  $V_x$ ,  $V_y$ ,  $V_z$ ,  $B_x$ ,  $B_y$ ,  $B_z$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $P$

- Ideal MHD equations:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \boxed{\nabla \cdot} \rho \vec{V} = 0, \quad \text{discretisation, scheme, limiting}$$

$$\frac{d(\rho \vec{V})}{dt} + \boxed{\nabla \cdot} \left( \rho \vec{V} \otimes \vec{V} + \mathbf{I} \left( P + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) - \frac{\vec{B} \otimes \vec{B}}{4\pi} \right) = \rho \vec{g},$$

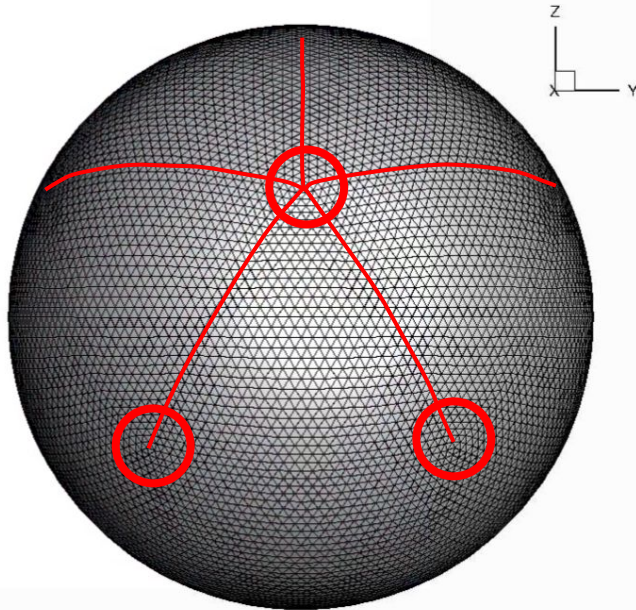
$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt} + \boxed{\nabla \times} \left( -\frac{\vec{V} \times \vec{B}}{c} \right) = \vec{0},$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) + \boxed{\nabla \cdot} \left[ \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + P \right) \vec{V} - \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{V} \times \vec{B}) \times \vec{B} \right] = \rho \vec{g} \cdot \vec{V}.$$

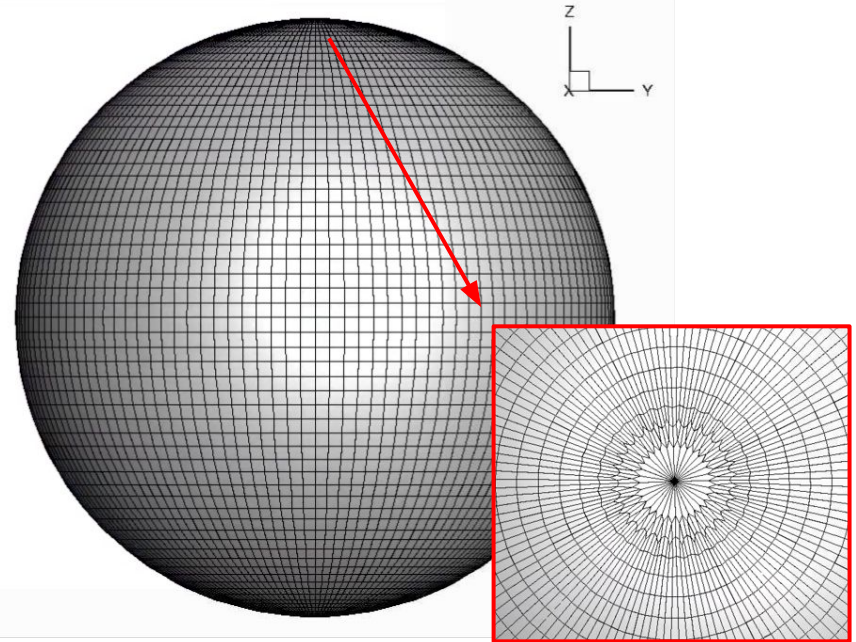
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# COCONUT: discretisation

Icosaheric topology, prisms



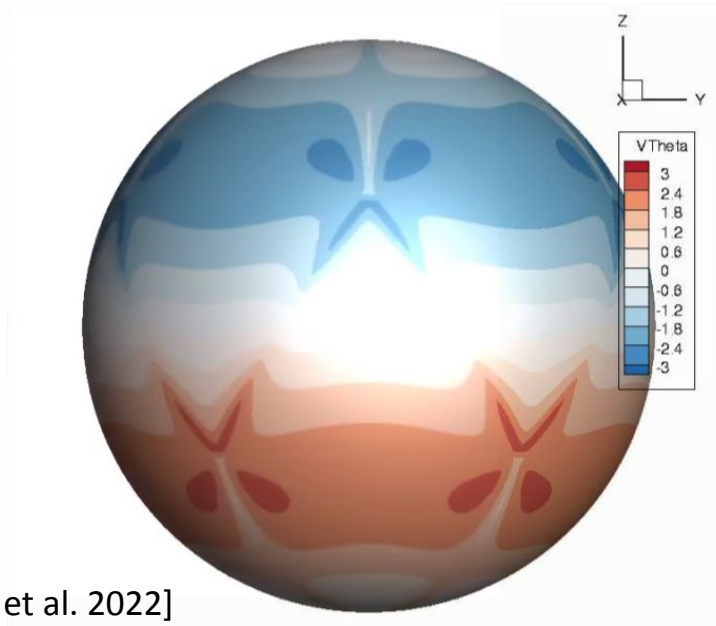
UV-mapped topology, hexahedrons



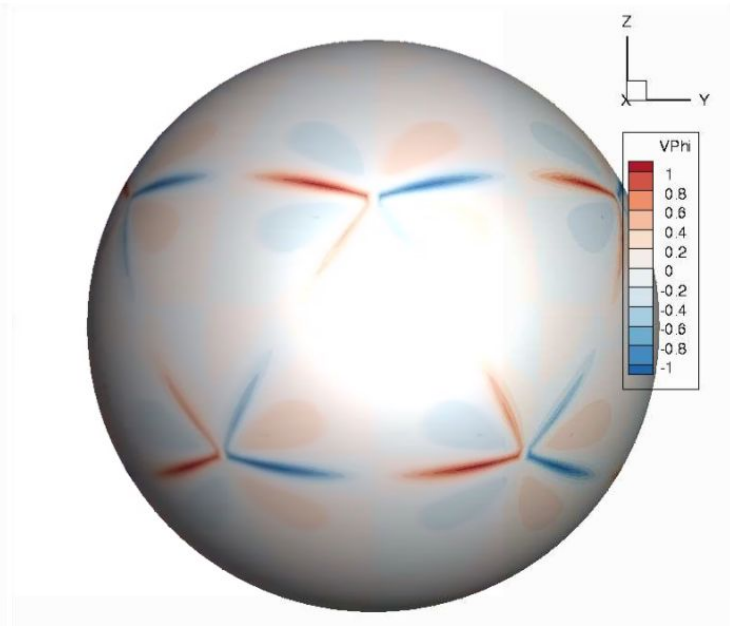


# COCONUT: discretisation

Azimuthal velocity component



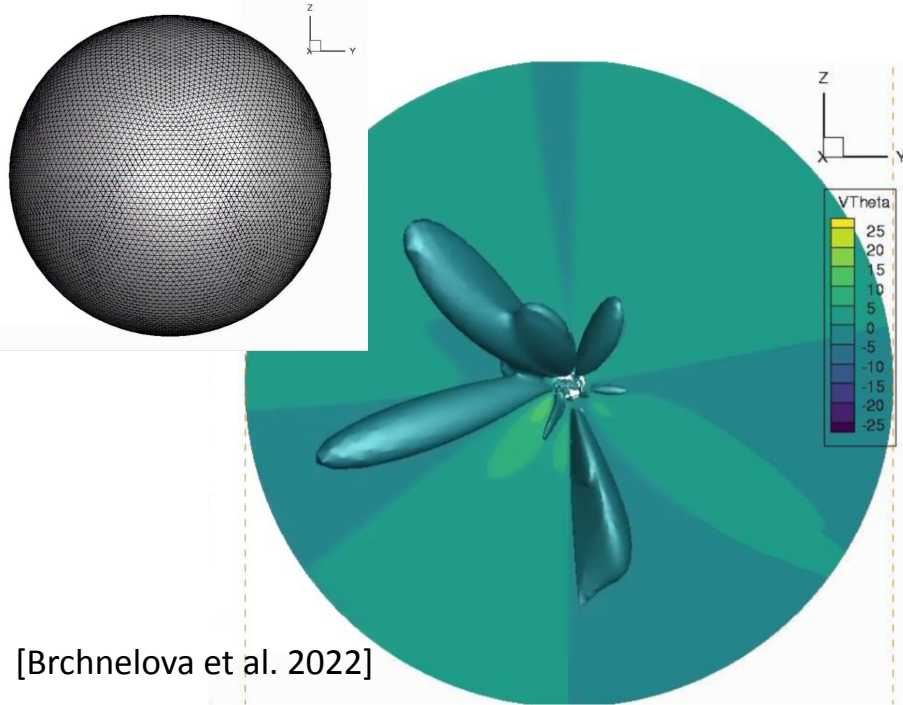
Poloidal velocity component



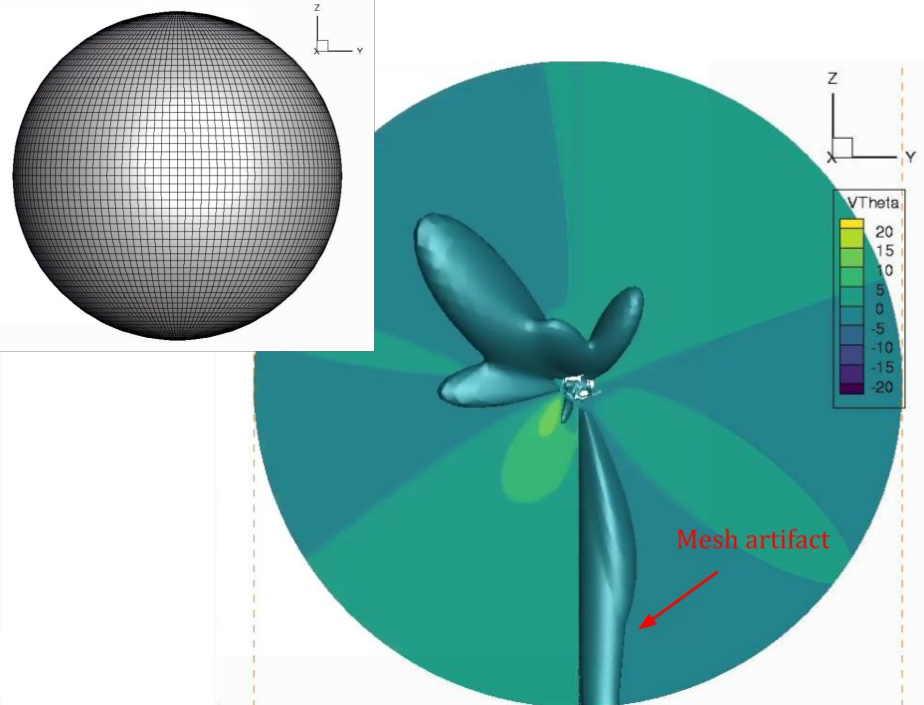
[Brchnelova et al. 2022]

# COCONUT: discretisation

Icospheric topology, prisms



UV-mapped topology, hexahedrons



[Brchnelova et al. 2022]

# COCONUT: formulation

- Primitive variables:  $\rho$ ,  $V_x$ ,  $V_y$ ,  $V_z$ ,  $B_x$ ,  $B_y$ ,  $B_z$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $P$
- Ideal MHD equations:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{V}) = 0, \quad \text{magnetic map type}$$

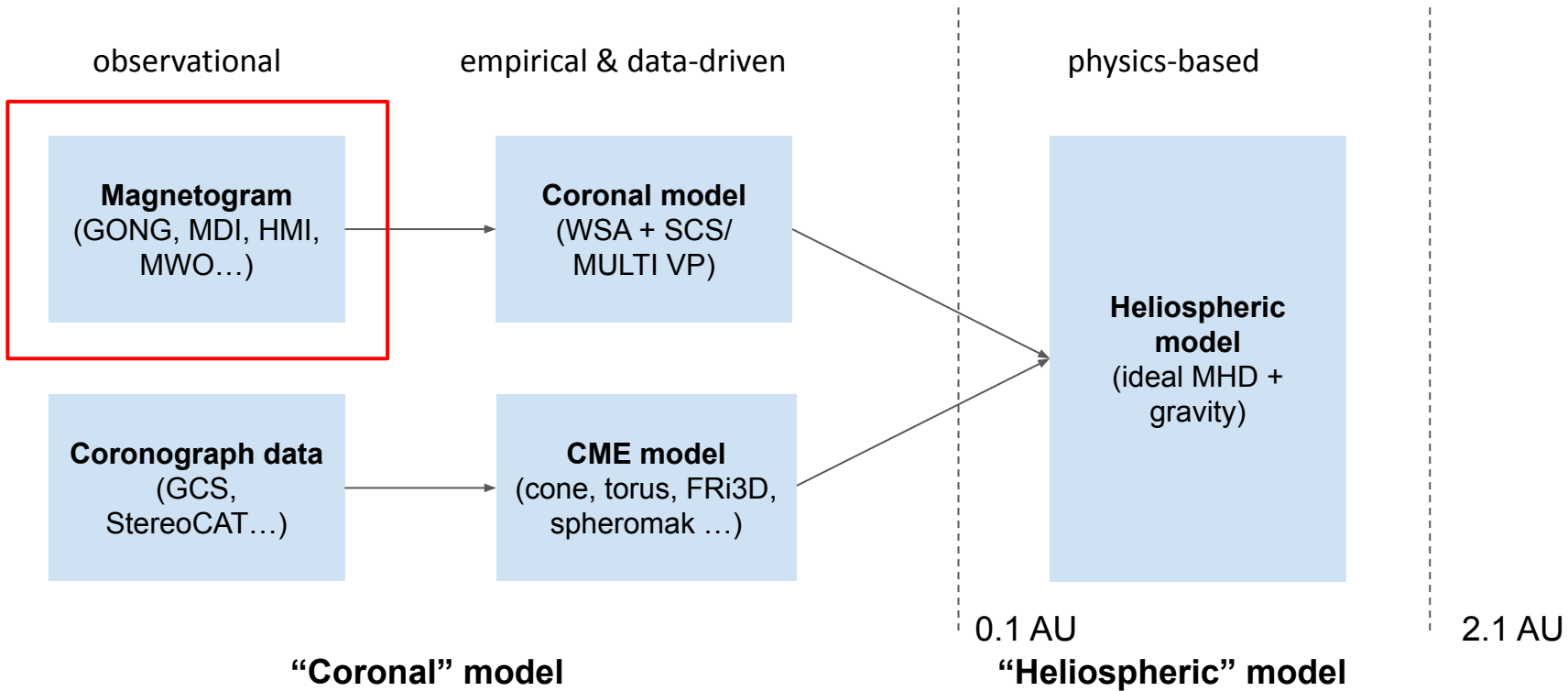
$$\frac{d(\rho \vec{V})}{dt} + \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \vec{V} \otimes \vec{V} + \mathbf{I} \left( P + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) - \frac{\vec{B} \otimes \vec{B}}{4\pi} \right) = \rho \vec{g},$$

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt} + \nabla \times \left( -\frac{\vec{V} \times \vec{B}}{c} \right) = \vec{0},$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left[ \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + P \right) \vec{V} - \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{V} \times \vec{B}) \times \vec{B} \right] = \rho \vec{g} \cdot \vec{V}.$$

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$\rho$	density
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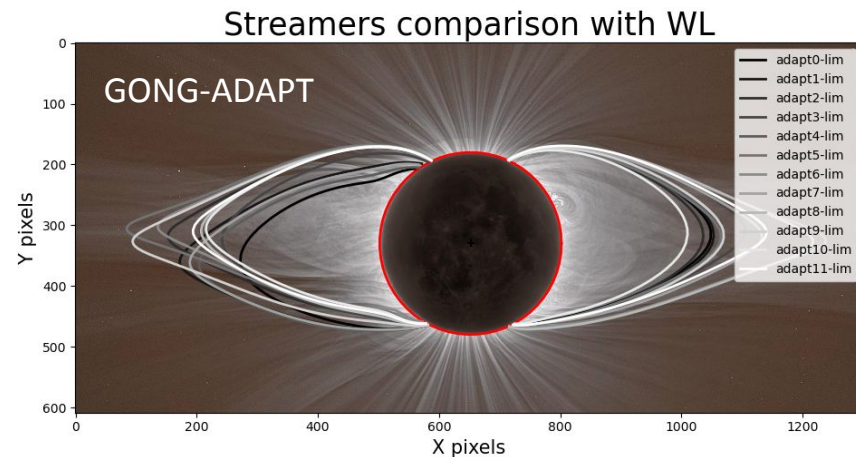
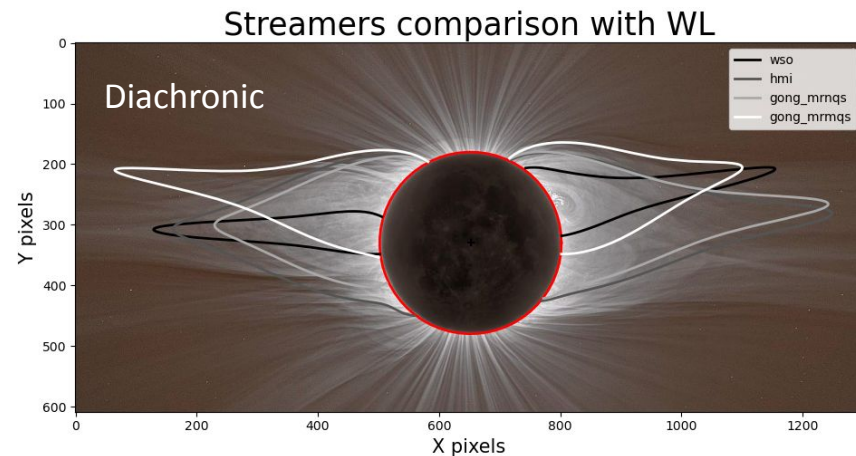
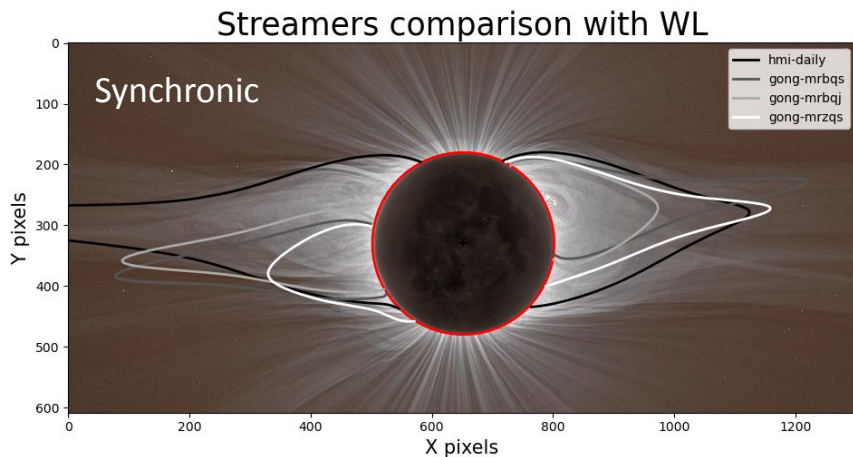
# VSWMC & EUHFORIA (Pomoell & Poedts 2018)



# COCONUT: magnetic maps

- Features vary depending on the type of the magnetogram used: [barbara.perri@kuleuven.be](mailto:barbara.perri@kuleuven.be)

[Perri et al. 2023]



# COCONUT: formulation

- Primitive variables:  $\rho$ ,  $V_x$ ,  $V_y$ ,  $V_z$ ,  $B_x$ ,  $B_y$ ,  $B_z$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $P$
- Ideal MHD equations:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{V}) = 0,$$

$$\frac{d(\rho \vec{V})}{dt} + \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \vec{V} \otimes \vec{V} + \mathbf{I} \left( P + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) - \frac{\vec{B} \otimes \vec{B}}{4\pi} \right) = \rho \vec{g},$$

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt} + \nabla \times \left( -\frac{\vec{V} \times \vec{B}}{c} \right) = \vec{0},$$

$\vec{B}$	magnetic field
$\vec{V}$	velocity
$\rho$	density
$t$	time
$\varepsilon$	internal energy
$\vec{g}$	gravity
$P$	pressure

heating, radiation, conduction

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \varepsilon + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left[ \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \varepsilon + P \right) \vec{V} - \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{V} \times \vec{B}) \times \vec{B} \right] = \rho \vec{g} \cdot \vec{V} \quad \boxed{+ ?}$$

# COCONUT: source terms

- Additional source terms:
  - **heating**
  - **radiation**
  - **conductivity**

# COCONUT: source terms

- Additional source terms:
  - **heating** (Reville et al. 2020, Downs et al. 2010)

$$Q_h = \boxed{H} B | \quad Q_h = \boxed{H_0} \exp [-(r - R_\odot)/\lambda] \quad Q_h = \boxed{F_h}/H \left(\frac{R_\odot}{r}\right)^2 \exp\left(-\frac{r - R_\odot}{H}\right)$$
$$H_{ch} = \boxed{H_0} \cdot |\mathbf{B}| \cdot e^{-\frac{r - R_s}{\lambda}}$$

- **radiation**
  
  
- **conductivity**



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- **radiation** (Rosner et al. 1978)

$$Q_r = -n_e n_p \Lambda(T)$$

- **conductivity**

# COCONUT: source terms

- Additional source terms:
  - **heating** (Reville et al. 2020, Downs et al. 2010)

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$$H_{ch} = H_0 \cdot |\mathbf{B}| \cdot e^{-\frac{r - R_s}{\lambda}}$$

- **radiation** (Rosner et al. 1978)

$$Q_r = -n_e n_p \Lambda(T)$$

- **conductivity**
- less than 10Rsun:

$$\mathbf{q} = -\kappa_{\parallel} \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \nabla T$$

more than 10Rsun:

$$\mathbf{q} = \alpha n_e k T \mathbf{v}$$

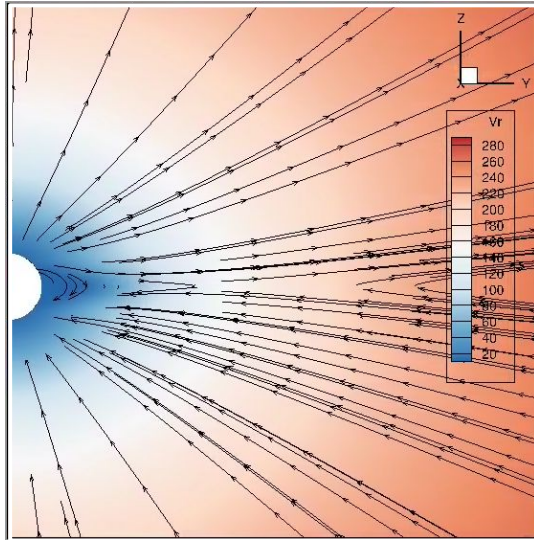
$$\alpha = M_e^{-0.2112} \quad M_e \leq 0.0249$$

$$\alpha = 0.436 M_e^{-0.436} \quad 0.0249 < M_e \leq 0.3146$$

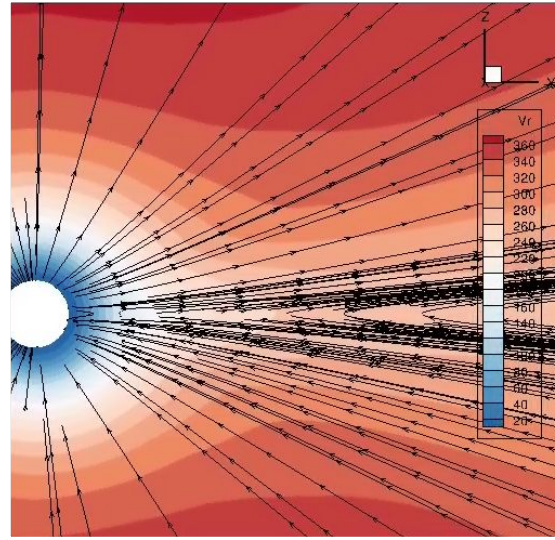
$$\alpha = 0.035 M_e^{-2.617} \quad M_e > 0.3146$$

# COCONUT: source terms

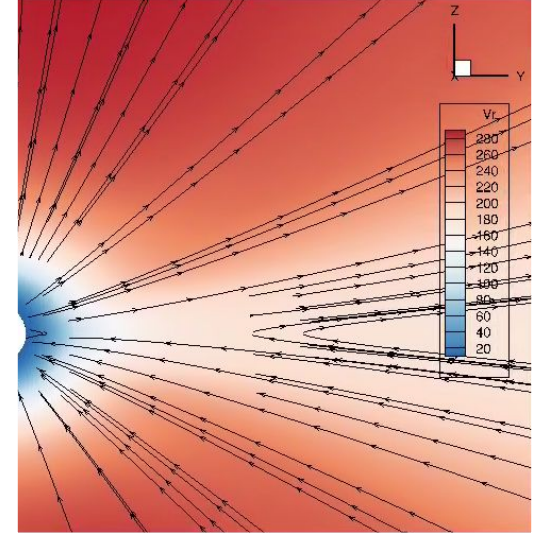
- Radiation, conductivity and heating terms: [tinatin.baratashvili@kuleuven.be](mailto:tinatin.baratashvili@kuleuven.be)



polytropic



heating + radiative losses



heating + radiation + conduction

# COCONUT: formulation

- Primitive variables:  $\rho$ ,  $V_x$ ,  $V_y$ ,  $V_z$ ,  $B_x$ ,  $B_y$ ,  $B_z$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $P$
- Ideal MHD equations:

time-dependent evolution  $\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{V}) = 0,$

$$\frac{d(\rho \vec{V})}{dt} + \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \vec{V} \otimes \vec{V} + \mathbf{I} \left( P + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) - \frac{\vec{B} \otimes \vec{B}}{4\pi} \right) = \rho \vec{g},$$

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt} + \nabla \times \left( -\frac{\vec{V} \times \vec{B}}{c} \right) = \vec{0},$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left[ \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + P \right) \vec{V} - \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{V} \times \vec{B}) \times \vec{B} \right] = \rho \vec{g} \cdot \vec{V}$$

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# VSWMC & EUHFORIA (Pomoell & Poedts 2018)

observational

empirical & data-driven

physics-based

**Magnetogram**  
(GONG, MDI, HMI,  
MWO...)

**Coronal model**  
(WSA + SCS/  
MULTI VP)

**Coronagraph data**  
(GCS,  
StereoCAT...)

**CME model**  
(Cone, torus,  
spheromak ...)

**Heliospheric model**  
(ideal MHD +  
gravity)

0.1 AU

2.1 AU

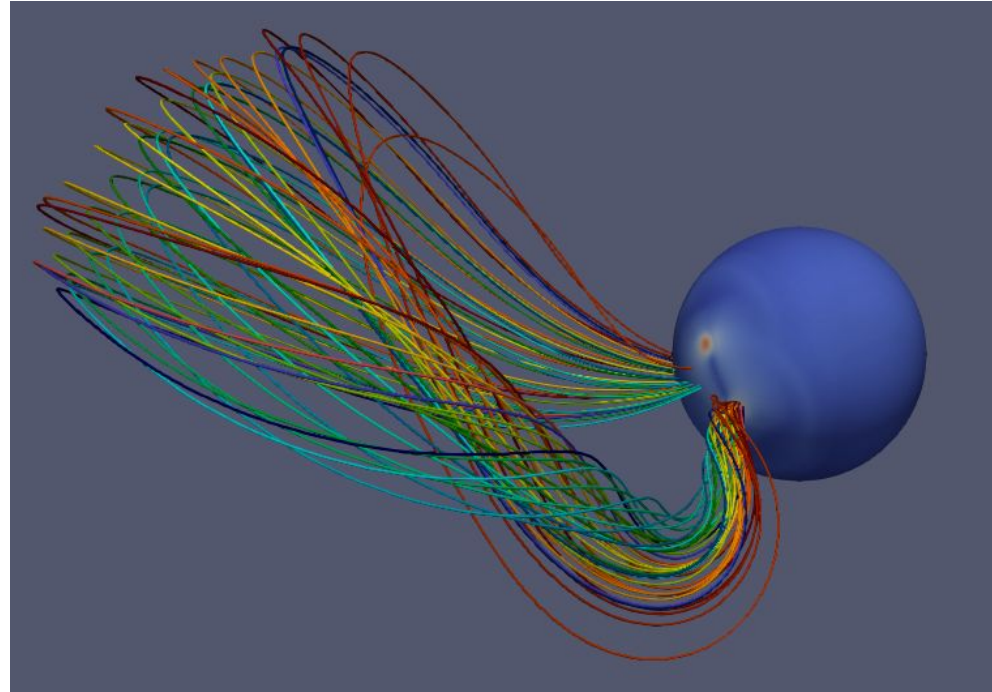
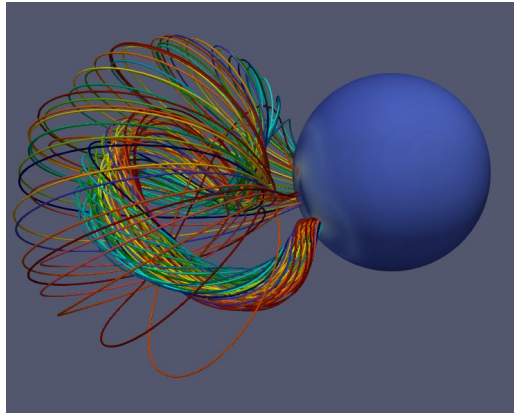
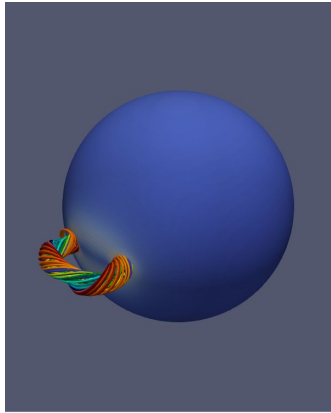
“Coronal” model

“Heliospheric” model

# COCONUT: time dependence for flux rope insertion

- To simulate coronal mass ejections
- Flux rope insertion and propagation:

[luis.linan@kuleuven.be](mailto:luis.linan@kuleuven.be)





# COCONUT: validation

- Primitive variables:  $\rho$ ,  $V_x$ ,  $V_y$ ,  $V_z$ ,  $B_x$ ,  $B_y$ ,  $B_z$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $P$
- Ideal MHD equations:

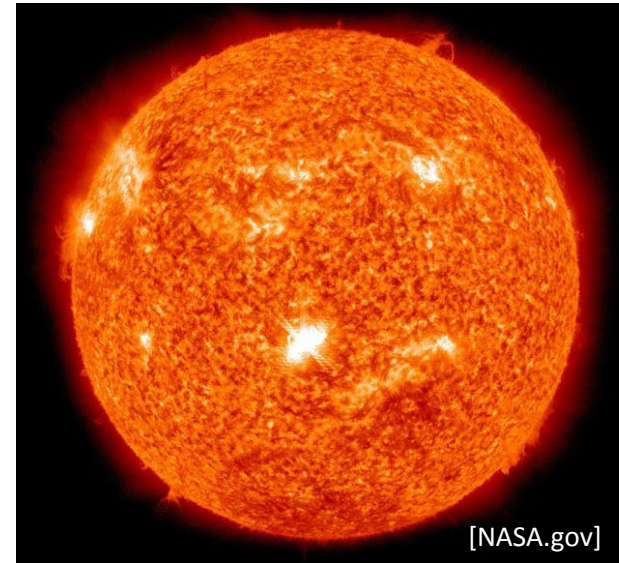
$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{V}) = 0,$$

$$\frac{d(\rho \vec{V})}{dt} + \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \vec{V} \otimes \vec{V} + \mathbf{I} \left( P + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) - \frac{\vec{B} \otimes \vec{B}}{4\pi} \right) = \rho \vec{g},$$

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{d\vec{B}}{dt} + \nabla \times \left( -\frac{\vec{V} \times \vec{B}}{c} \right) = \vec{0},$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + \frac{\vec{B}^2}{8\pi} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left[ \left( \rho \frac{\vec{V}^2}{2} + \rho \mathcal{E} + P \right) \vec{V} - \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{V} \times \vec{B}) \times \vec{B} \right] = \rho \vec{g} \cdot \vec{V}.$$

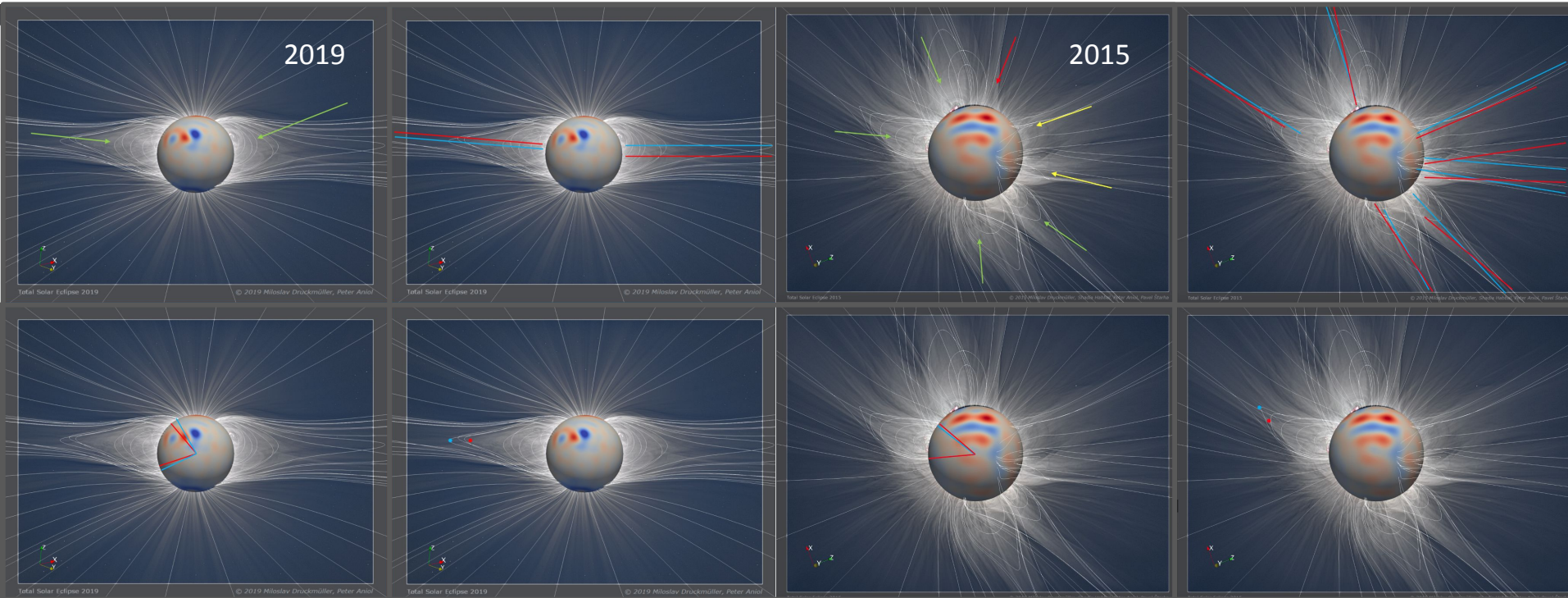
vs



$\vec{B}$	magnetic field
$\vec{V}$	velocity
$\rho$	density
$t$	time
$\mathcal{E}$	internal energy
$\vec{g}$	gravity
$P$	pressure

# COCONUT: validation

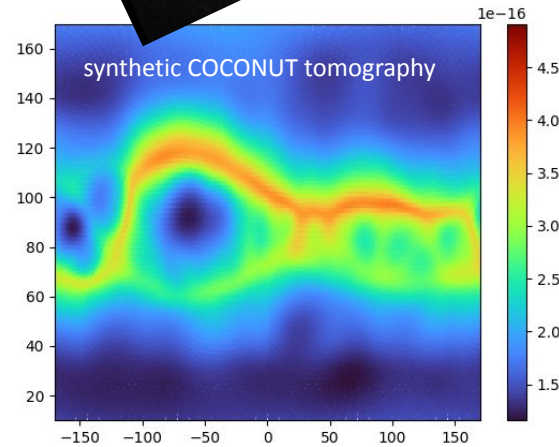
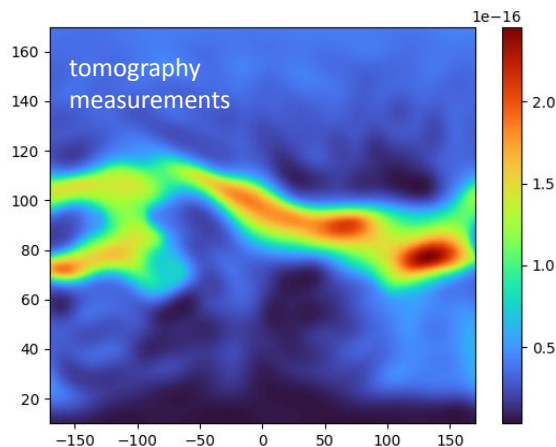
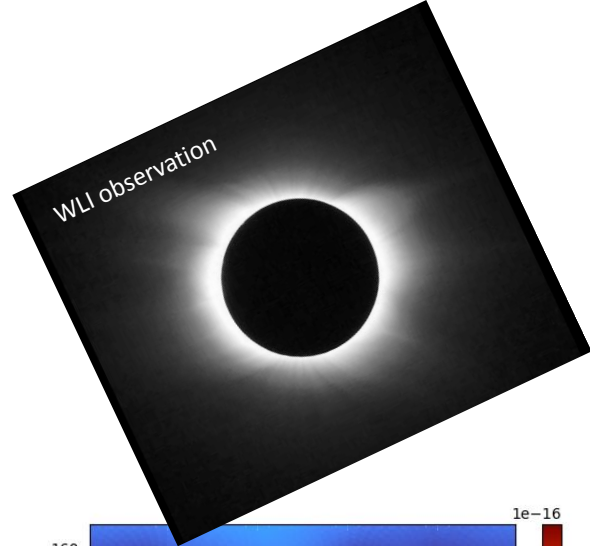
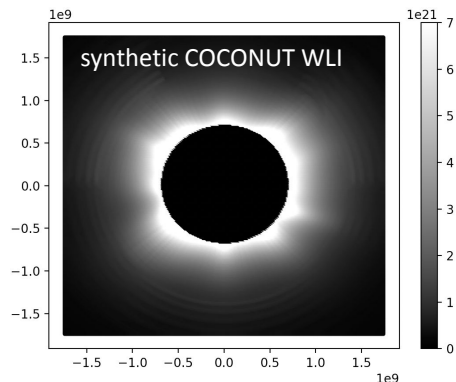
[Kuzma et al., 2023]





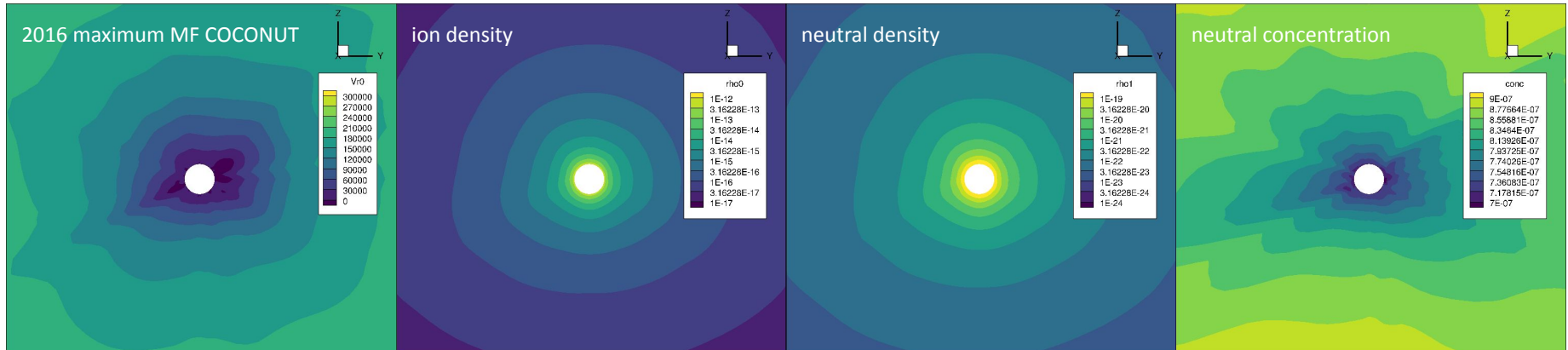
# COCONUT: validation

- B-field comparison:
  - relies on very approximate physics
  - mostly qualitative
- WLI: not so easy
- Limited to the regions very close to the Sun (2-3 solar radii)  
→ use of tomography



# COCONUT: extension to lower layers

- eventual goal to extend to the transition region and chromosphere
  - there, the effects of neutrals must be considered
- development of a multi-fluid ion-neutral version



# COCONUT: conclusions

- A promising coronal model which agrees generally well with observations
- Robust & fast enough for space weather forecasting
  
- Ongoing development:
  - CME (flux rope) time-dependent modelling
  - Inclusion of more realistic physics
  - Extension to multi-fluid modelling
  - Improvement of validation methods
  
- Open source!

**KU LEUVEN**

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**Thank you for your  
attention!**

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