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# **3D** MHD simulations and synthetic radio emission from an oblique rotating magnetic massive star

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#### ABSTRACT

We have performed 3D isothermal MHD simulation of a magnetic rotating massive star with a non-zero dipole obliquity and predicted the radio/sub-mm observable light curves and continuum spectra for a frequency range compatible with ALMA. From these results we also compare the model input mass-loss to that calculated from the synthetic thermal emission. Spherical and cylindrical symmetry is broken due to the obliquity of the stellar magnetic dipole resulting in an inclination and phase dependence of both the spectral flux and inferred mass-loss rate, providing testable predictions of variability for oblique rotator. Both quantities vary by factors between 2 and 3 over a full rotational period of the star, demonstrating that the role of rotation as critical in understanding the emission. This illustrates the divergence from a symmetric wind, resulting in a two-armed spiral structure indicative of an oblique magnetic rotator. We show that a constant spectral index,  $\alpha$ , model agrees well with our numerical prediction for a spherical wind for  $\nu < 10^3$  GHz; however it is unable to capture the behaviour of emission at  $\nu > 10^3$  GHz. As such we caution the use of such constant  $\alpha$  models for predicting emission from non-spherical winds such as those which form around magnetic massive stars.

**Key words:** stars: massive – stars: mass-loss – stars: winds, outflows – radio continuum: stars.

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Magnetism in massive stars has gained significant attention in recent decades due to the unexpected number of these stars that display global, dynamically significant, magnetic fields (Petit et al. 2013; Wade et al. 2013, 2015, 2016). They are unexpected since massive stars have their convective zones beneath a radiative outer envelope, inhibiting the dynamo action thought responsible for generating stellar magnetic fields (see Walder, Folini & Meynet 2012, for a recent review). Cantiello et al. (2009) report theoretical results which indicate the coupling of subsurface convection with wind clumping and emergence of magnetic field on the surface of O- and B-type stars. This picture has proved too simplistic for explaining the approximately 10 per cent of Galactic O- and Btype stars with detectable magnetic fields (Wade et al. 2013). The MiMeS project (Magnetism in Massive Stars) has done considerable work advancing our understanding of these stars both from an observational and theoretical stand point (Wade et al. 2016). Now the BinaMIcs project (Magnetism in Massive Stars and Binarity and Magnetic Interactions) is illustrating that massive star magnetism occurs in binary systems as well (Alecian et al. 2015), with  $\varepsilon$ Lupi the first discovered magnetic massive binary where both the primary and secondary possess detectable magnetic fields (Shultz et al. 2015). Theoretical and numerical studies are required to help understand the wealth of observational data coming from these projects.

Analytic and semi-analytic modelling of the inner magnetospheres of massive stars has been conducted by Townsend & Owocki (2005) and Townsend, Owocki & Ud-Doula (2007) producing the Rigidly Rotating Magnetosphere model (RRM) and Owocki et al. (2016) producing the Analytic Dynamical Magnetosphere model (ADM). Both models are designed to overcome the limitations of direct numerical simulations and to provide insight without the computationally intensive treatment of full MHD. These analytic models capture the suspension of material on magnetospheric field lines and while successful at reproducing observable emission in X-rays and H $\alpha$ , they are unable to describe the free streaming wind or magnetically perturbed material at large radii. As such they are unsuitable for predicting radio/sub-mm emission.

ud-Doula & Owocki (2002) first studied the role of large-scale cylindrically symmetric magnetic fields in shaping the dynamics and structure of massive star winds using 2D isothermal magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) simulations. Results showed coherent

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disc structures forming in the magnetic equator as outflowing wind material are channelled by the magnetic field lines forming a standing shock. This model was improved upon with adiabatic physics by ud-Doula, Owocki & Townsend (2008, 2009) and ultimately 3D simulations of the star  $\theta^1$  Ori C, incorporating optically thin cooling by ud-Doula et al. (2013). More recently, 2D simulations investigating the incompatibility of large-scale stellar magnetic fields and the circumstellar disc found around classical Be stars have been conducted by ud-Doula, Owocki & Kee (2018) demonstrating that large-scale fields of the order of ~100 G will disrupt any Keplerian disc close to the star. Magnetic fields of this order in massive stars are mostly undetected and the majority of the MIMES sample possesses fields of greater strength than this (Petit et al. 2013).

The work presented here builds on the earlier work by extending the studied wind region out beyond the stellar magnetosphere to regions where the dynamic influence of the magnetic field has diminished. More crucially we also allow magnetic obliquity of the dipole, resulting in non-spherical and non-cylindrical symmetric wind evolution. We achieve this through the use of direct numerical MHD simulations. We analyse the resulting wind structure in the context of diagnosis methods developed by ud-Doula & Owocki (2002), ud-Doula et al. (2008, 2009, 2013), Petit et al. (2013), quantify the departure from spherical symmetry over time and radial distance and finally calculate the synthetic radio light curves and continuum spectra, placing the results into what is observably possible with current technologies such as the JVLA and ALMA.

#### 1.1 O-star thermal radio emission

Radio emission from massive stars has historically been the subject of considerable interest (Braes, Habing & Schoenmaker 1972; Wright et al. 1974; Cohen, Kuhi & Barlow 1975; Panagia & Felli 1975; Wright & Barlow 1975, hereafter WB75) as the observed emission from Plank blackbody curve calculations deviate from what is expected (WB75). This additional emission is due to free– free interactions in the wind. The emission is known as thermal as the wind temperature is high enough to ionize the species.

Early analytical modelling of the winds of massive stars and the calculation of radio emission from the symbiotic nova V1016 Cyg were accomplished by Seaquist & Gregory (1973). The model they developed was based on the assumptions of a uniform, spherically symmetric outflow at constant temperature. The resulting spectral flux density as a function of frequency takes the form  $S_{\nu} \propto \nu^{\alpha}$ , where the spectral index,  $\alpha$ , lies between  $-0.1 \leq \alpha \leq +2$ .

Refinement of the model by WB75 leads to a spectral index of  $\alpha = 0.6$  at radio and infrared wavelengths. The relationship between  $S_{\nu}$  and  $\alpha$  arises due to the optical depth of the circumstellar material possessing a different value depending on the frequency of the emission; hence for higher frequencies, emission originates from deeper within the gas and therefore a greater extent of gas contributes to the emission at that frequency, leading to this positive gradient. This concept will be covered in subsequent sections.

The precise dependence of the spectral flux on  $\nu$  allows for calculating the rate at which the star is losing mass through its wind. As such, thermal radio observations provide an important window onto stellar evolution and the impact which the star has on the interstellar medium.

In Daley-Yates, Stevens & Crossland (2016) we conducted a theoretical study of the thermal radio/sub-mm emission from a range of representative non-magnetized O-stars, with an emphasis on modulation of the continuum spectra by wind acceleration close

to the stellar surface, observably accessible thanks to the sub-mm bands of ALMA. We continue this theme by applying the same analysis to the winds of magnetic massive stars.

At higher than radio/sub-mm frequencies, the observational consequences of magnetically confined winds have been considered by Shenar et al. (2017). They conclude that, due to the magnetic field of the star, wind material builds up leading to a density enhancement, observations of which can be exploited to determine mass-loss rates of both magnetic and non-magnetic massive stars.

#### 2 MODELLING

The model outlined here follows closely the methods used by ud-Doula & Owocki (2002) and specifically ud-Doula et al. (2013) who performed the first 3D numerical modelling of magnetized O-star winds by simulating the star  $\theta^1$  Ori C under the adiabatic regime with optically thin radiative cooling. We deviate from this treatment by restricting our models to isothermal behaviour. The additional complication of the oblique magnetic dipole warrants this simplification as the numerical influence of the polar axis singularity becomes non-negligible (this issue will be discussed in Section 2.5.3). The following section details the calculations and numerical schemes used to perform this simulation.

#### 2.1 Magnetohydrodynamics

The winds of massive stars are accelerated to supersonic speeds within a fraction of a stellar radius, making them ideally suited to modelling via the equations of MHD:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho v) = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{v}}{\partial t} + (\boldsymbol{v} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{v} + \frac{1}{4\pi\rho} \boldsymbol{B} \times (\nabla \times \boldsymbol{B}) + \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p = \boldsymbol{g} + \boldsymbol{g}_{\mathrm{L}} + \boldsymbol{F}_{\mathrm{co}} (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{B}}{\partial t} + \nabla \times (\boldsymbol{B} \times \boldsymbol{v}) = 0, \tag{3}$$

where  $\rho$ , v, B, p, g and  $F_{co}$  are the density, velocity, magnetic field, pressure, acceleration due to gravity and acceleration due to the co-moving frame, respectively. The additional acceleration term,  $g_L$ , describes the acceleration due to line absorption (see Section 2.1.1).  $F_{co}$  is the sum of both the centrifugal and Coriolis forces:  $F_{co} = F_{centrifugal} + F_{coriolis}$  which are

$$F_{\text{centrifugal}} = -\left[\mathbf{\Omega}_{\text{fr}} \times (\mathbf{\Omega}_{\text{fr}} \times \mathbf{R})\right]$$
(4)

and

$$\boldsymbol{F}_{\text{coriolis}} = -2\left(\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{\text{fr}} \times \boldsymbol{v}\right). \tag{5}$$

Here  $\Omega_{\rm fr}$  is the angular frequency of the rotating frame with *r* the radial distance vector.

As the simulation is isothermal, we close equations (1)–(3) using the relation:

$$p = \rho c_{\rm iso}^2,\tag{6}$$

in which  $c_{\rm iso}$  is the isothermal sound speed, given by  $c_{\rm iso}^2 = 2k_{\rm B}T/m_{\rm p}$ , where  $k_{\rm B}$  is the Boltzmann constant,  $T_{\rm eff}$  the stellar surface effective temperature and  $m_{\rm p}$  the proton mass.

Name	Parameter	Value
Initial mass-loss	$\dot{M}_{B=0}$	$10^{-7} { m M}_{\odot} { m yr}^{-1}$
Stellar radius	$R_*$	$9 R_{\odot}$
Stellar mass	$M_*$	$26 \ \mathrm{M}_{\odot}$
Distance to observer	D	0.5 kpc
Effective temperature	$T_{\rm eff}$	36 300 K
Luminosity	$\log_{10}(L_*/L_{\odot})$	5.06
Eddington factor	$\Gamma_{\rm Edd}$	0.11
Q-factor	$\overline{Q}$	700
Escape velocity	$v_{ m esc}$	$1000 {\rm ~km~s^{-1}}$
Terminal velocity	$v_{\infty}$	$1228 \text{ km s}^{-1}$
Rotational velocity	$v_{\rm rot}$	$82 \text{ km s}^{-1}$
Keplerian orbital speed	$v_{\rm orb}$	$751 \text{ km s}^{-1}$
Rotational rate	ω	$0.2 \omega_{\rm crit}$
CAK exponent	α	0.6
Velocity law	β	0.8
Magnetic field	ζ	$30^{\circ}$
inclination		
Rotation parameter	W	0.11
Confinement	$\eta_*$	20.0
parameter		
Kepler radius	$R_{ m K}$	$4.56 R_{*}$
Alfvén radius	$R_{\rm A}$	3.98 R <sub>*</sub>

#### 2.1.1 Radiative driving

The winds of massive stars are accelerated by scattering of the stellar radiation in absorption lines of elements within the wind; as such they are known as line-driven winds. The theory of line driving was first established in a seminal paper by Castor, Abbott & Klein (1975, hereafter CAK). The principle result is the description of an expanding wind whose acceleration is governed by the local density and, under the approximation made by Sobolev (1960), the velocity gradient and is given by:

$$g_L = \frac{f_{\rm D}}{(1-\alpha)} \frac{\kappa_e L_* \overline{Q}}{4\pi r^2 c} \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\nu}/\mathrm{d}r}{\rho c \overline{Q} \kappa_{\rm e}}\right)^{\alpha},\tag{7}$$

where  $L_*$  is the stellar luminosity, *c* the speed of light,  $\kappa_e$  the electron scattering opacity,  $\alpha$  the CAK exponent and  $\boldsymbol{v}$  and  $\rho$  have the above meanings. All the parameters of equation (7) are derivable from observations except for  $\overline{Q}$  for which Gayley (1995) computed a value of  $\sim 10^3$  for a range of stellar parameters. The above variables are detailed in Table 1.

Finally  $f_D$  is the finite disc correction factor, which accounts for the finite size of the stellar disc close to the star and is given by:

$$f_{\rm D} = 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2r^2} \left( 1 - \frac{v_r}{\frac{\mathrm{d}v_r}{\mathrm{d}r}r} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{1 - \alpha}{2r^2} \left( 1 - \frac{v_r}{\frac{\mathrm{d}v_r}{\mathrm{d}r}r} \right) \right) \tag{8}$$

(Stan Owocki, private communication), where  $dv_r/dr$  is the gradient of the radial component of velocity in the radial direction, non-radial acceleration is neglected here.

Non-radial contributions to the radiative acceleration become important when considering fast rotating stars (Gayley & Owocki 2000). As the rotational confinement parameter W is relatively modest as 11 per cent of the critical value, we consider non-radial acceleration as negligible. For more complete considerations of nonradial radiative driving see the recent works by Pittard (2009), Kee, Owocki & Sundqvist (2016), Sundqvist, Owocki & Puls (2018) and Owocki & Sundqvist (2018).

Equation (7) is applied on the right-hand side of equation (2) as a source term alongside gravitational and rotational source terms.

#### 2.2 Stellar parameters

For the simulated star, we take parameters from Daley-Yates et al. (2016), whose stellar models are derived from the data of Krtička (2014). We use model S3 from the former work and summarize the parameters in Table 1.

The mass-loss rate,  $\dot{M}_{B=0}$ , refers to the mass-loss rate of a star with the same parameters but with no magnetic field and is calculated, according to Owocki & ud Doula (2004), in the following manner:

$$\dot{M}_{B=0} = \frac{L_*}{c^2} \left(\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}\right) \left(\frac{\overline{Q}\Gamma_{\rm e}}{1-\Gamma_{\rm e}}\right)^{\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}} (1+\alpha)^{-1/\alpha}, \qquad (9)$$

where  $L_*$ , c,  $\alpha$  and  $\overline{Q}$  have their previous meanings and  $\Gamma_e$  is the Eddington parameter.

We use  $\dot{M}_{B=0}$  to specify the initial conditions of the density profile via the expression

$$\rho = \frac{\dot{M}_{B=0}}{4\pi r^2 v(r)} \tag{10}$$

where the velocity profile is

$$v(r) = v_{\infty} (1 - R_*/r)^{\beta}, \tag{11}$$

with  $\beta$  determining the steepness of the velocity profile and  $v_{\infty}$  is the wind terminal velocity. The mass-loss from the star in the simulation deviates from this idealized value due to confinement by the magnetic field, and the actual mass-loss rate is measured from the simulation results.

Instead of specifying the equatorial field strength directly, we specify the dimensionless magnetic field confinement parameter to have a value  $\eta_* = 20$ , resulting in an equatorial magnetic field,  $B_{eq} = 324$  G (see equation 12). This value was chosen as a balance between what is numerically feasible and physically representative, based on data from the MIMES project (Petit et al. 2013; Wade et al. 2016). The value is similar in magnitude to the O-type stars HD 108 and NU Ori and the B-type stars HD 66665 and  $\sigma$  Lup.

Larger equatorial magnetic field strengths lead to more restrictive numerical time-steps. As such,  $\eta_* = 20$  produces the desired behaviour, in perturbing the stellar wind to form an excretion disc but allows for the simulation to be run in a feasible time-span.

The angle of magnetic field obliquity,  $\zeta$ , is constrained by the presence of the polar boundaries at  $\theta = 0$  and  $\theta = \pi$ . This issue will be discussed in more depth in Section 2.5.3; however it is necessary to state here that the boundary restricts the obliquity of the dipole and that greater obliquity leads to enhanced numerical effects at the aforementioned boundaries. The chosen value of  $\zeta = 30^{\circ}$  reflects this issue and was deemed a significant enough obliquity to promote the desired perturbation to the stellar wind, yet small such that numerical effects are kept to a negligible level.

The remaining parameters in Table 1 are used to calculate equation (7) and to parametrize the simulation code units. For example, in the results in Section 3, distances are given in stellar radii.

#### 2.3 Magnetosphere characterization

Petit et al. (2013) present a scheme which characterizes the global behaviour of a massive star magnetosphere as a function of several dimensional quantities developed by ud-Doula & Owocki (2002) and ud-Doula et al. (2008). These quantities are the wind magnetic

confinement parameter,

$$\eta_* \equiv \frac{B_{\rm eq}^2 R_*^2}{\dot{M}_{B=0} v_\infty},$$
(12)

and the ratio of the rotational speed  $v_{\rm rot}$  to the Keplerian orbital speed  $v_{\rm orb},$ 

$$W \equiv \frac{v_{\rm rot}}{v_{\rm orb}} = \frac{\omega R_*}{\sqrt{GM_*/R_*}}.$$
(13)

In the above expressions,  $B_{\rm eq}$  is the equatorial magnetic field strength,  $R_*$  is the stellar radius,  $\dot{M}_{B=0}$  is the stellar mass-loss rate in the presence of no magnetic field and  $v_{\infty}$  is the wind terminal velocity.  $\omega$ , G and  $M_*$  are the angular rotational frequency, gravitational constant and stellar mass, respectively. The Kepler and Alfvén radii are then calculated from

$$R_{\rm K} = W^{-2/3} \left[ R_* \right] \tag{14}$$

and

$$R_{\rm A} = 0.3 + (\eta_* + 0.25)^{1/4} [R_*].$$
(15)

See Petit et al. (2013) for a detailed discussion of these expressions.

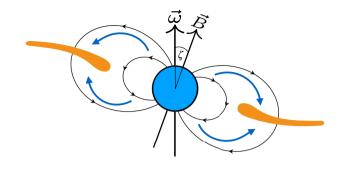
When calculating  $R_A$  using equation (15), a value of 2.43  $R_*$  was found; this however is an underestimate when compared to that found from the simulation results, 3.98  $R_*$ . To be consistent with our analysis, when using  $R_A$ , we will use the simulated value rather than the prediction. The simulated value is quoted in Table 1.

The case when  $\eta_* > >1$  represents a strongly confined wind where the magnetic pressure dominates and conversely when  $\eta_* <$ <1 the field is weak and the wind ram pressure dominates. For the rotational parameter, W = 1 represents the critical stellar breakup rotational speed, where the gravitational acceleration equals the rotational acceleration at the stellar equator. Together the above two parameters characterize the dynamics of material suspended in the stellar magnetosphere.

Petit et al. (2013) divided massive star magnetospheres into two distinct categories: dynamical and centrifugal. The division is determined by the relative values of the Kepler and Alfvén radii. For a star with  $R_{\rm K} > R_{\rm A}$ , its magnetosphere is defined as dynamical and wind material confined on closed magnetic field lines experiences an unstable equilibrium and consequently there is continuous motion of material as field lines are loaded and emptied. However, for a star with  $R_{\rm K} < R_{\rm A}$ , there exists a region between the two radii in which material experiences a stable equilibrium between gravity, magnetic tension and centrifugal acceleration, below  $R_{\rm K}$  behaviour is still dynamical, as  $R_{\rm K} > R_{\rm A}$ . Under this framework, the star in our simulation has a dynamical magnetosphere. See Table 1 for the values of  $\eta_*$ ,  $W, R_{\rm K}$  and  $R_{\rm A}$ .

Out beyond both  $R_{\rm K}$  and  $R_{\rm A}$  material undergoes a net outward acceleration as  $g_{\rm L}$  exceeds all other inward acceleration. As this material has already undergone confinement and perturbation away from its initial spherical surface velocity, an excretion disc-like structure develops whose outward path intersects with the apex of the closed magnetic field lines. The net effect is to produce a standing excretion disk-like shock structure with a topology intimately linked to the magnetic field topology. This excretion disc-like structure appears as a spiral when viewed in 2D. Fig. 1 illustrates this interplay between outward flow of the wind and its confinement by the dipole magnetosphere. As can be seen in profile in Fig. 1, for an oblique dipole, the shock structure forms a contorted disc.

The following section explains the procedure for calculating the synthetic thermal radio emission from the structure described above.



**Figure 1.** Cartoon diagram illustrating the magnetic field topology and confinement of the stellar wind. The blue circle at the centre is the star, annotated are the magnetic field lines with their vector direction and the dipole obliquity,  $\zeta = 30^{\circ}$ . The blue arrows indicate the path material travels along as the wind interacts with the magnetic field. The orange tear-drop like shapes represent the shocked wind material.

#### 2.4 Synthetic radio/sub-mm emission

The numerical procedure for calculating synthetic radio emission follows the one we developed in Daley-Yates et al. (2016). For the present study it will suffice to cover the equations directly used in the calculation and we direct the interested reader to the aforementioned paper for a full description of the theory.

Recently, Ó Fionnagáin et al. (2018) and Kavanagh et al. (2019) have employed a very similar method for calculating radio emission but for the case of solar mass stars.

The specific intensity of radio emission for each column along the line of sight from the observer through the simulation domain is given by:

$$I_{\nu}(y,z) = B_{\nu}(T) \int_{0}^{\tau_{\max}(y,z)} \exp(-\tau(x,y,z)) d\tau,$$
 (16)

where  $B_{\nu}(T)$  is the Planck function at frequency  $\nu$ , *T* the temperature,  $\tau$  the optical depth and  $\tau_{max}$  the maximum optical depth along the observer's line of sight. Equation (16) is integrated to give

$$I_{\nu}(y, z) = B_{\nu}(T)[1 - \exp(-\tau_{\max}(y, z))], \qquad (17)$$

where

$$\tau_{\max}(y,z) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \gamma K_{\nu}(T_{\text{eff}}) n_{i}^{2}(x, y, z) \mathrm{d}x.$$
(18)

 $n_i$  is the ion number density and  $\gamma$  is the ratio of the electron and ion number densities,  $\gamma = 1.01$ , under the assumption of solar metallicity. The final variable in equation (18) is

$$K_{\nu}(T_{\rm eff}) = 0.0178 \frac{Z^2 g_{\rm ff}}{T_{\rm eff}^{3/2} \nu^2},\tag{19}$$

which relates the temperature,  $T_{\rm eff}$ , metallicity, Z, observing frequency,  $\nu$  and  $g_{\rm ff}$ , which is the free–free Gaunt factor, given by:

$$g_{\rm ff} = 9.77 + 1.27 \log_{10} \left( \frac{T_{\rm eff}^{3/2}}{\nu Z} \right), \tag{20}$$

in which the symbols have their above-given meaning (Stevens 1995; van Hoof et al. 2014; Daley-Yates et al. 2016). Finally, the total spectral flux emitted at a frequency,  $\nu$ , is then the integral of

$$S_{\nu} = \frac{1}{D^2} \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} I_{\nu}(y, z) dy dz,$$
 (21)

with *D* the distance between the observer and the star, kept at a constant value of 0.5 kpc throughout the calculations, and  $I_{\nu}$  given by equation (17).

Equations (17), (18) and (21) are the primary expressions used for calculating the synthetic radio emission, the results of which are presented in Section 3.4.

It is possible to determine the mass-loss rate,  $\dot{M}_*$ , from the freefree radio emission of massive stars. In a seminal paper, WB75 construct a framework for predicting the spectral flux,  $S_v$  as a function of  $\dot{M}_*$ . Their equation (equation (8) of WB75) can therefore be algebraically manipulated to give  $\dot{M}_*$  in terms of the stellar properties, listed in Table 1, and  $S_v$ . The exact expression is given by Bieging, Abbott & Churchwell (1989) as:

$$\dot{M}_{\rm obs} = \frac{3.01 \times 10^{-6} \mu}{Z(\gamma g_{\rm ff} \nu)^{1/2}} v_{\infty} S_{\nu}^{3/4} D^{3/2} {\rm M}_{\odot} {\rm yr}^{-1}, \qquad (22)$$

where  $\mu$  is the mean atomic weight,  $v_{\infty}$  is in km s<sup>-1</sup> and D is in kpc. The remaining variables are in cgs units.

#### 2.5 Simulation

The MHD equations (1)–(3) were solved using the publicly available code PLUTO (version 4.2) (Mignone et al. 2007).

The chosen algorithm was fully unsplit and second-order accurate in space and time, using linear reconstruction, Runge–Kutta timestepping and employed the HLL Riemann solver. The extended GLM divergence cleaning algorithm was used to ensure the  $\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{B} =$ 0 condition.

#### 2.5.1 Numerical grid

The numerical grid in our simulation covered a physical extent of  $r \in \{1, 40\} R_*, \theta \in \{0, \pi\}$  rad and  $\phi \in \{0, 2\pi\}$  rad. This provided a computational region extending from the stellar surface to the outer wind, far beyond the magnetospheric radius, thus facilitating the capture of low-frequency radio emission generated by the extended wind.

The simulations were performed using a stretched rectilinear spherical polar grid in which the physical volume was discretized with 300 cells in *r*, 120 cells in  $\theta$  and 240 cells in  $\phi$ . This leads to a cell size in the *r* direction which stretched from  $\Delta r_1 \approx 0.0007 R_*$  to  $\Delta r_{300} \approx 0.93 R_*$  with a constant stretching factor of 1.0243. Both the  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  directions have equal spacing of  $\Delta \theta_j = \Delta \phi_k \approx 0.026$  rad. The stretching regime in the radial direction is required to resolve the sonic point of the wind, which for our simulated star lies at 1.0018  $R_*$ .

#### 2.5.2 Initial conditions

The initial conditions of the simulations were specified using the density and velocity profile [equations (10) and (11)].

The magnetic field was initialized as a perfect dipole, centred at the origin and rotated about the *y*-axis, in the *xz*-plane. This configuration then relaxes to quasi-steady state as the simulation evolves.

#### 2.5.3 Boundary conditions

The outer radial boundary of the simulation is set to outflow. The inner radial boundary is set such that the star is continually feeding material to the wind and therefore replenishing material in the simulation. As the wind is accelerated to supersonic radial speeds within a fraction of a stellar radii, and as the line driving is dependent on the velocity gradient (equation 7), the evolution of the entire simulation is a boundary value problem which is sensitively dependent on the lower radial boundary conditions. To account for this sensitivity we used the boundary conditions of ud-Doula & Owocki (2002) and ud-Doula et al. (2013). The density is specified via equation (11), replacing the velocity profile with a ratio linked to the sound speed;  $\rho = \dot{M}/4\pi R_*^2(c_{\rm iso}/\xi)$  where  $\xi$  is a factor parametrized to give a stable material inflow at the boundary and is typically  $5 < \xi < 30$ . Values of  $\xi$  outside this range can result in oscillations of the solution at the boundary.

The velocity in the lower radial boundary is specified by linearly extrapolating back from the first two computational cells above the boundary, allowing the flow into the computational active zone to adjust to the conditions of the wind and permitting material to also re-enter the stellar surface as magnetically confined material follows field lines back to the stellar surface. Specifying the boundary in this manner also allows the mass loading of the wind to self consistently adapt to the rotation of the star. Large rotational velocities can impact the mass-loss of a star. This is due to the effective gravity at the rotational equator being reduced relative to the poles, leading to material being lifted from the surface more easily.

The boundary of the lower and upper azimuthal directions is made reciprocal such that material can move freely around the star. The upper and lower boundaries of the polar direction was set to reflective so as not to act as a sink for material. This final boundary condition is non-physical and a reflective polar boundary can lead to spurious heating along the polar axis. There are several methods designed to overcome this numerical difficulty. One such method is known as  $\pi$ -boundary conditions in which the fluid quantities are translated  $\pi$  around the axis and vector values transformed such that material effectively passes over the pole. This method is implemented in the public codes ATHENA+ + (White, Stone & Gammie 2016) and MPI-AMRVAC (Xia et al. 2018). PLUTO does not provide this functionality however. Another means of avoiding the spurious heating is to average fluid quantities over the poles and effectively smooth over the anomalies.

As the current study aim is to quantify the thermal radio emission and as this emission is weakly dependent on the gas temperature  $(\propto T^{0.11})$ , we have chosen to run the simulation under an isothermal equation of state. This effectively side steps the issue of polar boundary heating, as the temperature is constant at  $T_{\rm eff}$  and not evolved with time. The extent to which the boundary impacts the density, velocity and magnetic profiles is discussed in Section 3.2.

The isothermal assumption forces us to neglect behaviour due to both shock heating and radiative cooling. Both of which have been shown to play a role in the wind dynamics (ud-Doula et al. 2008, 2013). As such, this is a limitation of the present study and fully adiabatic simulations with cooling physics are the aim of future studies.

#### 2.5.4 Steady-state criteria

The simulation were deemed to have reached steady state after a simulation time of 1 Ms or approximately 20 stellar rotations. This time frame allows material to relax from the initial spherical

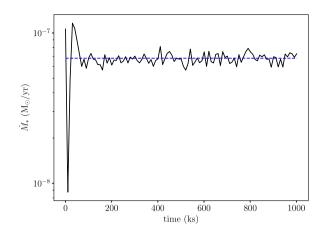


Figure 2. Evolution of the mass-loss over the course of the simulation. The mass flux from the star is initially  $\sim 10^{-7}\,M_\odot~yr^{-1}$  and relaxes to an average value of 6.8  $\times~10^{-8}\,M_\odot~yr^{-1}$  (indicated by the blue dashed line) after  $\sim 100\,ks$  where it remains for the rest of the simulation.

symmetry to the confined configuration. Any excess material is also blown off to the outer boundary within this time frame.

Once the 1 Ms had been reached, we ran the simulation for a further two rotations with fine time spaced sampling. This allowed for high temporal resolution for the synthetic radio light-curve calculations in Section 3.4.2.

#### **3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The following subsections layout the simulation results, starting with the global simulation properties and profiles for the three primary fluid quantities:  $\rho$ , |v| and |B|. We will then quantify the extent to which the wind has deviated from spherical symmetry and finally examine both the synthetic radio light curves and the radio/sub-mm spectrum.

#### 3.1 Global properties

Next we will cover the issue of convergence and ascertain whether quasi-steady state has been reached.

#### 3.1.1 Mass and angular momentum flux

Fig. 2 shows the evolution of the mass-loss,  $\dot{M}_*$ . The initial mass loss,  $\sim 10^{-7} \,\mathrm{M}_\odot \,\mathrm{yr}^{-1}$ , undergoes a drastic reduction and oscillation as the spherical wind reacts to the presence of the magnetic field. This initial phase then stabilizes to an average mass-loss of  $6.8 \times 10^{-8} \,\mathrm{M}_\odot \,\mathrm{yr}^{-1}$  after  $\sim 100 \,\mathrm{ks}$ .

There is still an oscillation amplitude of  $\sim 1.5$  per cent about this average value due to motion of material suspended on closed field lines within the inner magnetosphere. As magnetic tension, gravity, centrifugal and radiative acceleration balance in unstable equilibrium, material can either leave or re-enter the stellar surface, resulting in the  $\dot{M}_*$  oscillations.

To gain a clearer picture of the steady-state wind and to benchmark the magnetized wind against a simpler, purely hydrodynamic wind, we calculate the mass-loss and angular momentum flux as a function of  $\theta$ , for successive radial distances. For both quantities, this is done by calculating the point values at every cell at a given radius and then multiply by the area of the sphere at that radius, effectively making each value correspond to an isolated, independent measure of the global mass-loss rate, or angular momentum flux. As we shall see below, both rotation and magnetic confinement break the symmetry of the wind and show two distinct modes: the free streaming wind and a magnetically confined disc region. The two expressions are, for the mass-loss rate,

$$\dot{M}_*(r,\theta) = 2\pi r^2 v_r(r,\theta)\rho(r,\theta),\tag{23}$$

and for the angular momentum,

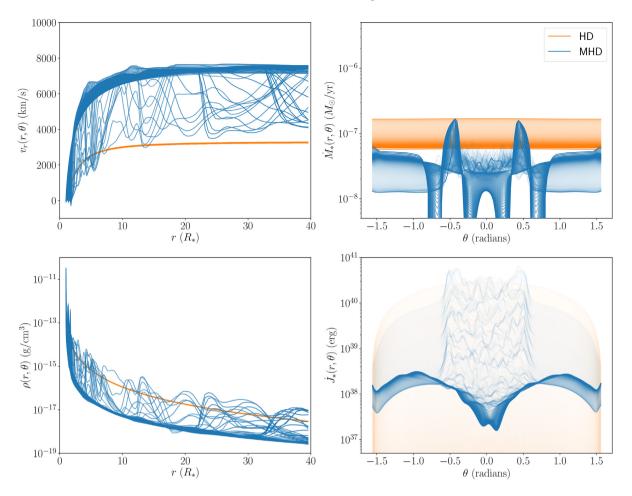
$$\dot{J}_{*}(r,\theta) = 2\pi r^{2} r_{\rm cy}(r,\theta) \bigg( v_{\phi}(r,\theta) v_{r}(r,\theta) \rho(r,\theta) - \frac{B_{\phi}(r,\theta) B_{r}(r,\theta)}{4\pi} \bigg),$$
(24)

where  $r_{cy}(r, \theta)$  is the cylindrical radial distance from the z-axis (Vidotto et al. 2014; Usmanov et al. 2018). These quantities, together with the radial velocity and density profiles, are plotted in Fig. 3 at 1000 ks. The MHD results (blue curves) are plotted alongside the results for a non-magnetized HD version of the simulation (orange curves) for comparison and to highlight the departure from spherical symmetry. The mass-loss rate displays an overall reduction, with the majority of material confined to flow in the region  $-0.6 < \theta < 0.6$  rad either side of the rotational equator. This is consistent with what is expected due to magnetic confinement of the wind material and the moderate extent of the dipole obliquity. Broadening of this region would occur if the obliquity angle were to be increased, and vice versa if reduced. The angular momentum loss rates follow a similar confinement pattern; however J is reduced to a less degree and in the equatorial region undergoes an increase with respect to the non-magnetized case. Both the mass and angular momentum loss in the right hand column of Fig. 3 show that our model is capable of obtaining a smooth solution when the magnetic field does not perturb the wind and that there is significant departure from this smooth solution when wind is magnetized.

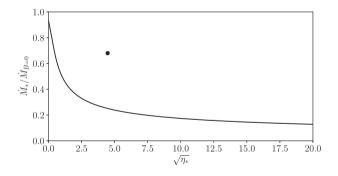
The radial profiles in the left-hand column show the largest departure from the non-magnetized solution. While the density (lower left panel) displays a profile that is consistent with the massloss rate result, reduced for all distances and latitudes, the radial velocity is remarkable as  $v_{\infty}$  is more than twice the value of the non-magnetized case at all latitudes. When compared to  $v_{\rm esc}$  it is expected that  $v_{\infty} \sim 3v_{\rm esc}$ ; however we find that when the wind is magnetized,  $v_{\infty} = 7v_{\rm esc}$ , a significant increase. A  $v_{\infty}$  of this order was communicated by Friend & MacGregor (1984), who attributed an increased  $v_{\infty}$  to the deposition of momentum into the wind through magnetic and centrifugal forces. However, their analysis neglected the finite disc correction factor (equation 8), which leads to more modest increases in  $v_{\infty}$  when accounted for. The increase in  $v_{\infty}$  we observe in our magnetized simulation is larger than the generally excepted value of  $\sim 3v_{\rm esc}$  (ud-Doula & Owocki 2002; Owocki & ud Doula 2004); however as our nonmagnetized simulation reproduces this value and that the only difference is the presence of the magnetic field, we can conclude that the radiative driving is behaving as intended and make the assumption that a combination of both magnetic and centrifugal action are responsible for the increased  $v_{\infty}$ .

#### 3.1.2 Magnetic field wind modulation

ud-Doula et al. (2008) derived an expression describing the manner in which  $\dot{M}_{B=0}$  is modulated by  $\eta_*$  and W (see equation 24 and Fig. 8



**Figure 3.** Comparison between MHD and HD models. Left column, radial velocity and density as a function of radial distance from the stellar surface; each curve represents a different value of  $\theta$  with the opacity of each curve denoting its distance from the rotational equator  $\theta = 0$ , fainter curves being further from the equator, both plots are at  $\phi = 0$ . Right column, mass-loss rate and angular momentum flux as a function of  $\theta$ , each line represents a different value of r with the opacity increasing with distance from the stellar surface, the quantities are averaged in the azimuthal direction. The broad region of enhanced mass-loss and angular momentum flux in the rotational equator is indicative of the excretion disc, highlighting the channelling of material by the magnetic field.



**Figure 4.** Dependence of the mass-loss  $\dot{M}_*$  on the confinement parameter  $\eta_*$  for W = 0.11. The black dot indicates the measured mass-loss reduction from the simulations as the ratio of the initial and averaged quasi-steady-state mass-losses and has a value  $\dot{M}_*/\dot{M}_{*,B=0} = 0.68$ .

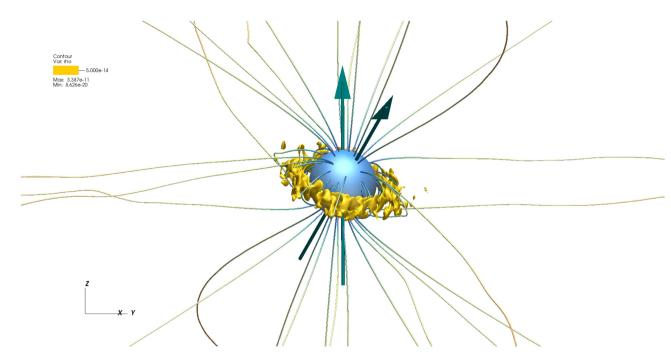
of the aforementioned paper) for a 2D axisymmetric wind. We plot this function for the stellar parameters in Table 1 and a range of  $\eta_*$ values in Fig. 4. The curve in this figure represents the prediction of ud-Doula et al. (2008) and the black dot, the measurement directly from our simulation and has a value of  $\dot{M}_*/\dot{M}_{*,B=0} = 0.68$ . This result is in contrast to the predicted value of  $\dot{M}_*/\dot{M}_{*,B=0} = 0.25$ being approximately 2.7 times larger. This means that the mass-loss of our simulated star retains much of the equivalent non-magnetic value and is larger than predicted by ud-Doula et al. (2008).

Our simulated star has non-aligned magnetic and rotational equators; this could potentially lead to a reversal of the effect of  $\dot{M}_*$  reduction induced by the magnetic field. As this simulation is restricted to a single set of stellar parameters, we leave the effect of dipole obliquity on stellar mass-loss to a future parameter study.

As the mass-loss rate evolution in Fig. 2 attests, the simulation has reached quasi-steady state by t = 1 Ms; the profiles in the following section are therefore taken at this time point.

#### 3.2 Wind structure

3D representations of the star and inner magnetosphere showing the stellar surface, magnetic field lines and isodensity surface are given in Fig. 5. Two arrows indicate the rotation axis (vertical arrow) and the magnetic axis (oblique arrow). The yellow isodensity contour illustrates the confinement of material in the closed field region.



**Figure 5.** 3D representation of the simulation domain for the immediate surroundings of the star. The blue sphere at the centre indicates the stellar surface, the streamlines are the magnetic field, coloured by the log of the magnetic field magnitude and the yellow contour is an isodensity surface of  $5 \times 10^{-14}$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>. While the value of this contour is somewhat arbitrary, it aids in illustrating the confinement of the stellar wind and the departure from spherical symmetry due to the magnetic field. The two arrows indicate the rotational axis (vertical arrow) and the magnetic dipole vector (oblique arrow).

The radial extent of this region and the closure latitude are related through the following equation:

at the origin and the wind extends from the surface at  $r = 1 R_*$  to  $r = 40 R_*$  where it leaves the simulation domain.

$$\sin(\theta_{\rm c}) = \sqrt{R_*/R_{\rm c}},\tag{25}$$

where  $R_c$  is the radial distance from the centre of the star to the apex of the longest closed field line and  $\theta_c$  the co-latitudinal coordinate at which the field line makes contact with the stellar surface. The subscript *c* stands for closure (ud-Doula et al. 2008). Vidotto, Jardine & Helling (2011) use a similar expression to estimate the latitude of cyclotron emission from an exoplanetary atmosphere using the Notation  $R_M$  indicating the radius of the magnetosphere. As massive stars are the topic of the present study we use the notation of ud-Doula et al. (2008). As an estimate for  $R_c$ , we use the mean Alfvén radius calculated from our simulation results,  $R_A =$  $3.98 R_*$ , which leads to a closure latitude  $\theta_c = \pm 30.1^\circ$ . This analysis neglects deformation of the closed field lines by either rotation or wind ram pressure. By visual inspection of Fig. 5, there is qualitative agreement between the prediction of  $R_c \sim 3 R_*$  and  $\theta_c \sim \pm 30^\circ$  and our simulation results.

Another feature shown in Fig. 5 is the break of symmetry about the rotational axis due to the obliquity of the dipole. ud-Doula et al. (2013) observed symmetry breaking in the excretion disc; however as their simulation included no dipole obliquity, this breakdown of symmetry is due to the interplay between rotation and optically thin radiative losses. This final effect is not present in the current study and any rotational asymmetry is therefore due to the magnetic field topology.

Figs 6–8 show multiple slices through the computational domain in the *xy*-, *xz*- and *yz*-planes for  $\rho$ , |v| and |B|, respectively, for both the extended and inner wind regions. In each plot the star is centred

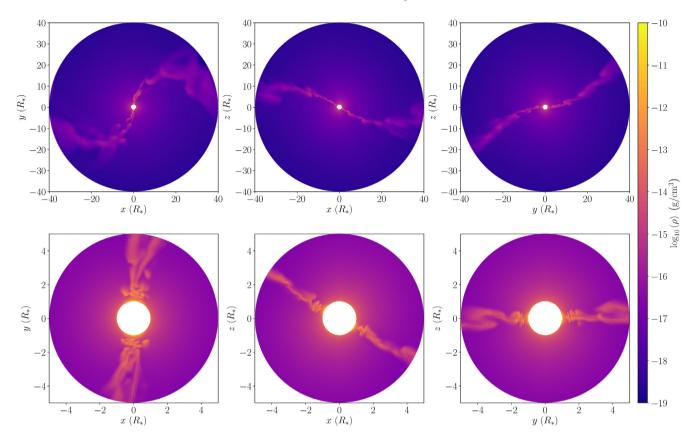
#### 3.2.1 Density

The 2D density profiles in Fig. 6 further emphasize the sharp departure from both the initial spherical wind and the cylindrical symmetry seen in the aligned dipole case. In the central column, in which we look down the *y*-axis, the magnetic field obliquity is clearly visible as the arms of the excretion disc are off-set from the equatorial plane by  $30^{\circ}$ , the same off-set as the magnetic field dipole vector. The panel on the left looks down the rotational axis and shows a slice along the rotational equator. As the magnetic equator is off-set from this, the slice cuts through the excretion disc, which appears as a contorted S shape. All panels clearly show the rotational equator, which expands radially to form an extended excretion disc. As the rotation of the star processes, this disc is then contorted.

#### 3.2.2 Velocity field

For the velocity profile in Fig. 7, there is a clear contrast between the free streaming and the slower moving disc material with a difference in velocity magnitude of the order of  $\sim 2000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . However, the entire simulation is supersonic, with the sonic point virtually indistinguishable from the stellar surface.

A faint but important numerical feature, visible in the central column on the velocity profiles, is a discontinuity across the polar axes. Both plots show a non-physical jump in values due



**Figure 6.** Slice plots of the global quasi-steady-state density structure at 1 Ms. The star is situated in the centre with the confined material appearing as a curved 'S' shape. This is due to the disc-like structure intersecting the plain of the slice. Each plot shows a slice in a different coordinate plane, from left to right is the; xy-, xz- and yz-plane. All three columns exhibit the contortion of the expanding excretion disc due to the action of rotation. Top: the full simulation domain. Bottom: close-up of the density structure of the inner  $5R_*$  of the simulation. The density structure clearly shows the confinement of material in the magnetic equator, off-set from the rotational equator.

to the latitudinal boundary conditions. However, this discontinuity in the velocity has not propagated into the extended wind and therefore we assume there is negligible impact on the wind evolution.

Preliminary adiabatic simulations showed that this polar axis discontinuity results in spurious heating along the pole. As the simulation evolved, this numerical thermal perturbation begins to impact all fluid quantities. This is the primary reason for choosing an isothermal model in which the energy and therefore temperature are constant.

The velocity profile, according to the prediction of CAK theory, should reach a terminal velocity of approximately  $v_{\infty} = 3000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . This is not, however, what is observed in the simulation, with the extended velocity profile reaching  $v_{\infty} \approx 8000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . This is approximately thrice that predicted by CAK theory; this feature has been discussed at length in Section 3.1.1. The isothermal nature of the model imposes several restrictions on the physics involved in the radiative driving. Line acceleration is quenched in regions where the gas temperature exceeds  $\sim 10^6 \,\mathrm{K}$  as the line transitions in which the stellar flux is scattered are no longer available due to virtually full ionization (Pittard 2009). Temperatures of this magnitude have been modelled in 3D simulation of magnetic O-star winds, where gas is shock heated in the disc (ud-Doula et al. 2013). The isothermal condition used in our simulation prevents this shock heating and the temperature is restricted to the stellar effective temperature, well below the ionization cut-off. Wind speeds seen in our simulations may

be due to this limitation. However, as the radio/sub-mm emission is primarily a function of the density field, we conclude that the velocity fields departure from what is expected has a negligible impact on the results.

#### 3.2.3 Magnetic field

The final set of profiles, displayed in Fig. 8, depicts the magnetic field in the three axes planes. The central plane clearly shows the obliquity of the dipole with the largest values indicating the two magnetic poles, off set from the rotational poles by  $\zeta = 30^{\circ}$ . This magnetic polar field is 648 G, twice the equatorial value. The magnetic field decays smoothly from the surface to the extended wind everywhere except for the excretion disc, where the current sheet has formed. Within the Alfvén radius, close to the star, the magnetic field controls the flow dynamics; however for the vast majority of the extended wind the ram pressure,  $\rho v^2$ , dominates.

#### 3.3 Spherical nature of the wind

At this point we shall discuss the extent to which the wind has deviated from its initial spherical symmetry.

As the calculation of thermal radio emission is a function of the maximum optical depth along the line of sight and this in turn is a function of the column density, the wind density structure entirely determines both the magnitude and rotational modulation

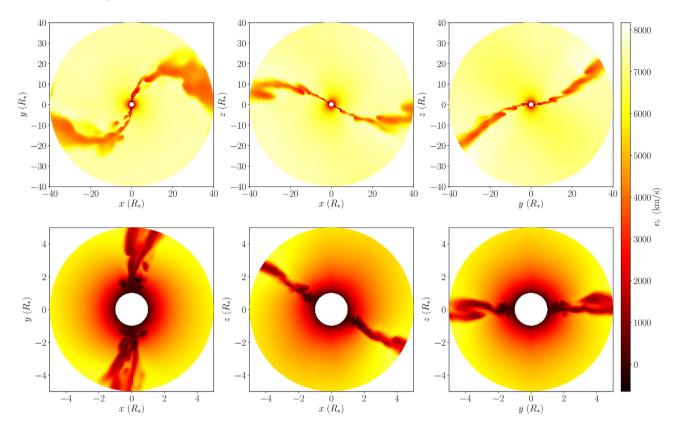


Figure 7. Same as Fig. 6 but for the velocity magnitude profile. The top row shows the extended wind with a clear contrast between the free streaming and the slower moving disc material. The bottom row shows the inner wind velocity. The sonic point is reached within a fraction of a stellar radius. The polar axis is visible as a discontinuity in values in the central panel of the bottom row. This jump has however had a negligible impact on the extended wind, as can be seen in the cosponsoring panel of the top row. Beyond  $\sim 5R_*$ , the wind has reached the terminal velocity. The profile in all three panels exhibits a value approximately twice that expected for the terminal velocity (see Section 3.1.1 for discussion of this).

of the observed spectral flux. Wind clumping, collimation and disc structures will all impact the degree to which emission can escape the system and reach the observer.

In the case of a purely spherical wind, there is an effective minimum radius around the star at which emission from the wind at larger radii can escape to the observer, and emission from within the effective radius cannot. The optical depths' dependence on the density means that emission from the inner wind is effectively (from the point of view of the observer) obscured by the extended wind at larger radii. This effective radius is thus the radio photosphere of the star. For a clumped, magnetically confined or otherwise nonspherical wind, this photosphere is not spherical and emission escapes from varying radii. As such, quantifying the winds' departure from spherical symmetry is an important step in placing the radio emission in context.

This is accomplished by following the approach of ud-Doula et al. (2008), who devised an expression to quantify the radial distribution of material in the magnetosphere. By integrating the product  $r^2 \rho(r, \theta, \phi, t) \sin(\theta)$  over the two angular coordinates,  $\theta$  and  $\phi$ , one is left with the global density structure stratified in the radial direction. This radial mass distribution is given by the following expression:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}m\left(r,t\right)}{\mathrm{d}r} = r^2 \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \rho\left(r,\theta,\phi,t\right) \sin(\theta) \mathrm{d}\theta \mathrm{d}\phi.$$
(26)

Motivated by the need to capture the behaviour of material in the case of an aligned dipole, ud-Doula et al. (2008) chose to limit the integration over  $\theta$  to a small angular region centred

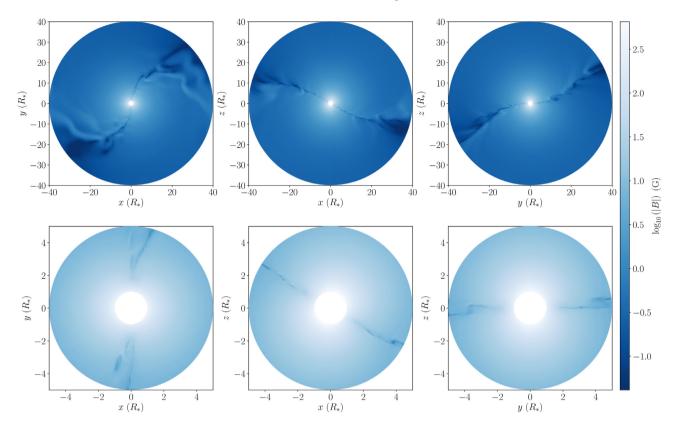
about the equator. In this study, the behaviour is not constrained to the rotational equator so we integrate over the full range of  $\theta$ .

Equation (26) is plotted in Fig. 9 over the entire radial range of the simulation and for a limited region of the inner  $6R_*$ . The first ~ 100 ks of the evolution of dm(r, t)/dr is a striking illustration of the blow-off of the initial conditions, where a fan of higher density material tracks outwards from the surface to the boundary. For t > 100 ks the global radial motion of material is approximately constant with only small perturbations, as clumps of material concentrate in the closed magnetosphere, breakout and track outwards leading to radial lines in dm/dr.

Both the Kepler and Alfvén surfaces are indicated in the figure and there is little change in dm/dr across either. This is consistent with the dynamical magnetospheric behaviour described in Section 2.3.

As a consequence of the magnetic confinement and the reduction in the mass-loss rate, the stellar wind is overall much less dense than for a corresponding non-magnetized stellar wind (this is consistent with Fig. 3.) and emission from deeper in the wind, closer to the stellar surface will be able to escape. However, as the total wind material is reduced, the total spectral flux,  $S_v$ , will also be reduced; resulting in a fainter signal reaching the observer. Additional free– free absorption along the line of sight may also contribute to the reduction in observable emission.

To further quantify the departure from spherical symmetry, we now detail the formalism of a dimensionless measure used to indicate the overall spherical nature of the wind.



**Figure 8.** Same as Fig. 6 but for the  $\log_{10}(|B|)$ . The central column shows a slice looking down the *y*-axis which is the axis about which the dipole field is rotated; the maximum field magnitude is located on the stellar surface at both magnetic poles. This value is 648 G, twice the equatorial value. Examining the top row, it can be seen that the magnetic field decays smoothly from the surface to the extended wind everywhere except for the excretion disc, where the current sheet is several orders of magnitude lower than in the free streaming wind.

For a given radius there exists a spherical shell, *S*, of width *dr*. To quantify the spherical distribution of material within this shell we adopt the following procedure. Each density value within the shell,  $\rho(\theta, \phi)$ , is normalized by the maximum density,  $\rho_{max}(\theta, \phi)$ , in the shell; these normalized density values are then summed over the spherical shell for all vales of  $\theta$  and  $\phi$ . Finally this summation is divided by the total number of sample points within the shell giving the average normalized density in the shell. The final expression,

$$Q_{\rm sph}(r,t) = \frac{1}{N_S} \sum_{\theta} \sum_{\phi} \frac{\rho(\theta,\phi)}{\rho_{\rm max}(\theta,\phi)},$$
(27)

gives the spherical quality factor,  $Q_{sph}$  (not to be confused with the Q-factor,  $\overline{Q}$ , in equation 7), within the range  $0 < Q_{sph} < 1$  and is a measure of the departure of the density distribution from a spherical wind within shell *S* at radius *r* and time *t*. A value of 1 indicates a spherically symmetric wind while a value of 0 indicates a complete departure from spherical symmetry, a disc structure akin to a delta function. This is un-physical and in reality Q would be asymptotic to 0 but never reach it.

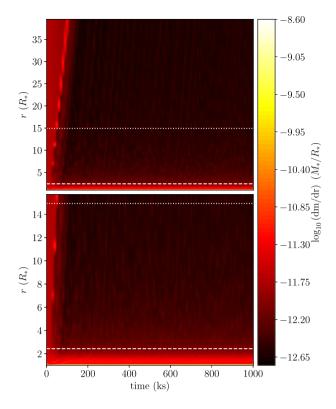
By computing  $Q_{sph}$  for every radial shell and for every time point, it is then possible to calculate both the time average,  $\langle Q_{sph} \rangle_r$ , for every radial point and the radial averaged,  $\langle Q_{sph} \rangle_r$ , for every time point. These two quantities are plotted in Fig. 10. Each data point in the top plot represents the  $\langle Q_{sph} \rangle_r$  for the entire simulation volume as a function of time and every data point in the bottom plot represents the  $\langle Q_{sph} \rangle_r$  across every time point in the simulation as a function of radius. From Fig. 10, we can see that, for all time after the initial ~ 100 ks,  $\langle Q_{sph} \rangle_r$  remains constant at 0.055 (consistent with the results in Figs 3 and 9). However, the radial profile of the time average indicates an increase in  $\langle Q_{sph} \rangle_t$  towards larger radii to a value of 0.104. This is consistent with a broadening out of the excretion disc as it expands radially.

Temperature is constant in the simulation; however as the disc is denser than its surroundings there is still a pressure gradient leading to an expansion, this together with rotation and diverging magnetic field lines spreads material out at larger radii. For an adiabatic model, this expansion will be made more acute as a temperature would also enhance the broadening and lead to a greater  $\langle Q_{sph} \rangle_t$  at larger radii than seen here.

The results for both dm(r, t)/dr and  $\langle Q_{sph} \rangle$  indicate a wind which has undergone rapid departure from spherical symmetry, with a decrease in the overall wind mass from the initial condition leading to lowered column density along the observer's view compared to the same wind without the action of a magnetic field. With this in mind, we now turn to the results of the synthetic radio emission.

#### 3.4 Radio/sub-mm emission

We divide the radio emission results into first a discussion of the emission volume structure as it appears from the radio intensity calculation of equation (17), together with its dependence on observing frequency, inclination and rotational phase. Secondly, the total spectral flux density,  $S_{\nu}$ , is calculated to give radio light curves for two full stellar rotations, at three discreet frequencies over



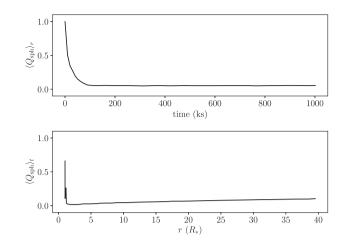
**Figure 9.** Radial mass distribution for the total simulation (top panel) and the inner  $16R_*$  (bottom panel). The blow-off of the initial conditions can be seen in the left of the top panel, where a fan of material tracks outwards in the first ~ 200 s. Beyond this point the global radial motion of material is approximately constant with small perturbations resulting in lines tracking outward from the stellar surface coursed by clumps which form in the inner magnetosphere. In both panels the Alfvén (dashed line) and Kepler (dotted line) radii are marked.

a range of phases and inclinations. We then calculate the continuum emission over the frequency range  $10 < \nu < 10^4$  GHz at constant inclination and phase. This range is chosen as it spans the observing bands of the ALMA which cover the frequency range 84–950 GHz (Band 3–Band 10) and beyond into infrared wavelengths. Currently this range is covered by SOFIA (Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy); however its sensitivity may be insufficient for all but the brightest O-stars.

For both the light curves and continuum spectra, we calculate ratio of the mass-loss derived from the synthetic radio calculations to that measured directly in the simulation,  $\dot{M}_{\rm obs}/\dot{M}_{\rm sim}$ , allowing us to compare what would be inferred, via radio observation, to the actual mass-loss rate of the simulated star.

#### 3.4.1 Wind structure in emission

To illustrate the concept of optical depth and dependence of observational results on the chosen observing frequency, we plot in Fig. 11 the intensity of radio emission,  $I_{\nu}$ , at a phase of 30° and inclination of 216° for three dex in observing frequency,  $\nu$ : 10 GHz, 100 GHz and 1000 GHz. From left to right, the figure shows increasing fidelity in the inner region close to the star, where the density profile has its largest values. Higher frequencies thus penetrate further into the wind. Only the highest observing frequency of 1000 GHz is able to penetrate the wind down to approximately the stellar surface (see Daley-Yates et al. 2016 for a



**Figure 10.** Average spherical quality factor,  $\langle Q_{sph} \rangle$ , averaged over both time (top) and space (bottom). Both plots show a rapid departure from spherical symmetry within the first 100 s. While the time average falls to 0.055 and remains approximately constant, the spatial average initially decreases and then linearly increases out to  $40 R_*$  where it reaches a value of 0.104, meaning that the inner wind is less spherical than the outer.

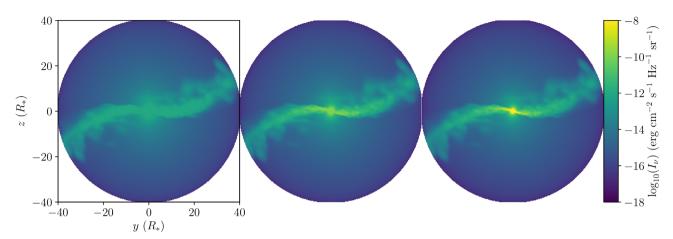
discussion on the frequency dependence of the radio photosphere radius). If  $\nu$  is increased beyond 1000 GHz, emission from the stellar surface black body radiation will begin to dominate; we will discuss this further in Section 3.4.3.

To gain an appreciation of the rotational modulation and dependence on observer inclination of the intensity map,  $I_{\nu}$ , we limit the parameter space to a single observing frequency of 900 GHz; chosen as it provides the highest fidelity images, probing deeper into the wind, while still within ALMA frequency band 10. Fig. 12 shows time series snapshots for  $I_{\nu}$ . Rows 1–9 show the rotational phase at equidistant intervals of  $4\pi/9$  rad across the full two rotations and the four columns show, from left to right, inclination values of  $0^{\circ}$ ,  $30^{\circ}$ ,  $60^{\circ}$  and  $90^{\circ}$ .

The second column, inclination of  $30^\circ$ , shows the greatest degree of variability with the disc presenting both its edge and face to the observer. Looking down the rotational axis, inclination of  $90^\circ$ , the disc exhibits the smallest degree of variability, always showing the same disc extent. However, a face on disc presents the largest ratio of visible surface area to volume for an observer; resulting in the greatest total emission.

For all phases and inclinations, the central star is clearly visible, in contrast to the left image of Fig. 11, calculated at 10 GHz, where the star is obscured by the extended wind and emission from the centre is of the same order of the surrounding disc. As Fig. 12 is calculated at 900 GHz, we can conclude that this frequency is sufficient to probe the range of densities, and therefore optical depths, occurring in the simulation.

A final noteworthy result of the rotation and inclination calculation is the apparent difference of the rotational period between the first column of Fig. 12 and the other three. For this first column, rows 1, 5 and 9 show the same image, while rows 3 and 7 show the same image but inverted about the *z*-axis. This inversion is evident from the simulation results, as the intensity map effectively shows a resolved source. However, an earth-bound observer sees the total flux,  $S_{\nu}$ , which is the integration of  $I_{\nu}$  over both *y* and *z*. Such inversions of the source are not captured by the total flux and may lead to false predictions of the rotational period, as shown in the following section.



**Figure 11.** Intensity of radio emission for an observing inclination of  $30^{\circ}$ , phase  $216^{\circ}$  and observing frequencies of 10 GHz (left), 100 GHz (middle) and 1000 GHz (right). The figure illustrates the additional resolution gained by observing at higher frequencies, as the panel, from left to right, shows a progressively sharper central star.

#### 3.4.2 Radio light curves

We now turn to the time dependence of  $S_{\nu}$ . Fig. 13 shows this dependency for the rotational phases and inclination of Fig. 12 for observing frequencies of 250 GHz (Band 6) and 650 GHz (Band 9) in addition to 900 GHz (Band 10).

As already apparent in the intensity maps,  $I_{\nu}(y, z)$ , of the previous section, for an inclination of 90° there is virtually no variability. This is in marked contrast to the curves of the three other inclinations which all show rotational modulation between factors of approximately 1.5 and 2.

One would expect the greatest degree of modulation for the  $30^{\circ}$  inclination, as this equals the obliquity of the dipole field and therefore the normal to the disc should coincide with the observers line of sight periodically through the rotation. This is indeed what we see in Fig. 13. However, it is the  $60^{\circ}$  inclination which results in the largest maximum emission. this is the result of a combination of magnetic tension and disc warping leading to the largest observed surface area for this inclination, at phases 0, 1 and 2.

For an inclination of  $0^\circ$ , the light curve exhibits two distinct minima and maxima per rotational cycle (a total of four distinct minima and maxima are present in the light curve as two rotational cycles are shown.). This is in contrast to  $30^\circ$  and  $60^\circ$  inclinations which only show one distinct minima and maxima per rotational cycle (two in total over the hole light curve of two rotations). Therefore, the top row does indeed show an apparent rotation rate for the star which is twice the actual (if we take the time between peaks as the apparent rotation period), as predicted in the previous section.

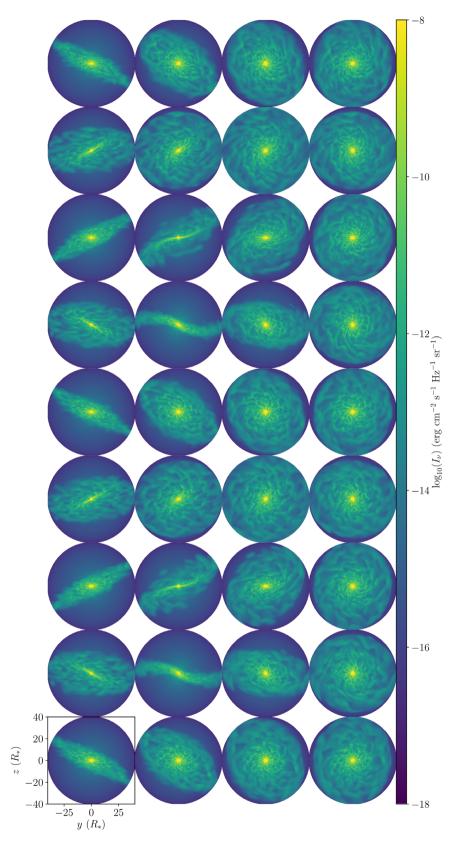
The different behaviour of all light curves across all inclination and phases illustrates the sensitive dependence upon the magnetic field that the radio emission from the inner and extended wind has. Understanding observing inclination, rotational phase and obliquity are therefore critical for placing observed  $S_{\nu}$  in context.

In Section 2.4, we detailed the method for estimating stellar wind mass-loss rates from the observed spectral flux,  $S_v$ . The right column of Fig. 13 shows the mass-loss rate inferred from the synthetic radio observations via equation (22),  $\dot{M}_{obs}$ , normalized to the average simulation mass-loss rate,  $\dot{M}_{sim}$ . As  $\dot{M}_{sim}$  is measured directly in our simulation, the resulting reduction in the wind mass and spherical nature due to magnetic confinement should be apparent and allow us to self-consistently assess the discrepancy between  $\dot{M}_{sim}$  and

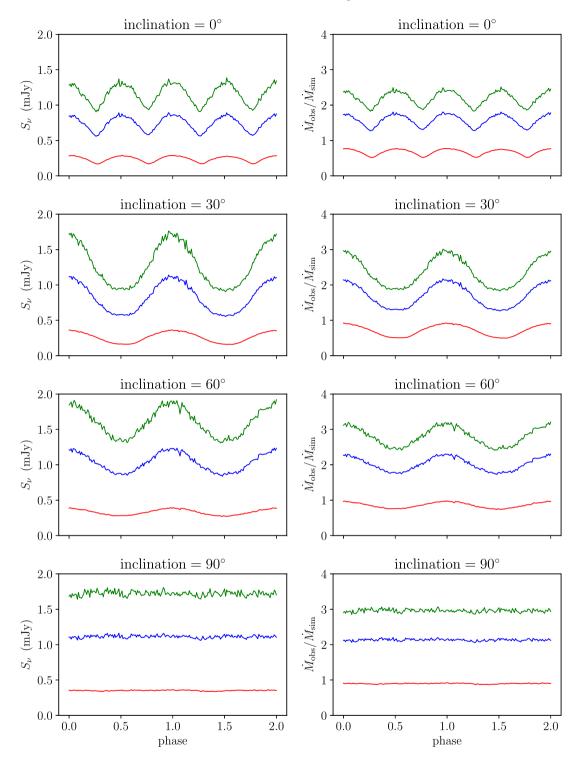
the inferred mass-loss from the synthetic radio emission,  $\dot{M}_{\rm obs}$ . Thus  $\dot{M}_{\rm obs}/\dot{M}_{\rm sim} = 1$  corresponds to the situation where the inferred observed mass-loss from the synthetic radio emission is equal to the mass-loss measured directly in the simulation.

All frequencies and observing inclinations show modulation of  $\dot{M}_{obs}$  except for the 90° inclination which shows flat predictions at all phases and frequencies consistent with the flat radio curves. These flat predictions still depart from  $\dot{M}_{sim}$  however, with higher frequencies overestimating the mass-loss rate. This becomes more acute as the observing frequency increases, with 900 GHz leading to the largest overestimate. Rotation at 900 GHz and inclination of 30° show the largest degree of modulation, constant with the corresponding  $S_{\nu}$ . As the mass-loss calculation, equation (22), has a functional dependence on the spectral flux of  $\dot{M}_* \propto S_{\nu}^{3/4}$ , we can expect for a doubling of  $S_{\nu}$  to result in a 1.68 increase in  $\dot{M}_*$ , which is approximately what we see for the light curves in the left-hand column of Fig. 13.

For the signature of magnetic confinement on the rotational modulation and therefore the radio emission and predicted massloss to diminish, the wind would have to return to a spherical expansion. For our simulation, this will happen at large radii (and therefore at low observing frequencies). From the lower plot of Fig. 10, we can see that  $\langle Q_{\rm sph} \rangle_t$  has increased to 0.1 between the initial confinement, close to the star, and the outer simulation boundary. The physical distance required for  $\langle Q_{\rm sph} \rangle_t \rightarrow 1$  is not covered in this work; however, it seems likely that this would happen at radii where the contribution to the spectral flux occurs at frequencies  $\langle \langle 1 \text{GHz} \rangle$ . Once  $\langle Q_{\text{sph}} \rangle_t = 1$ , modulation of the radio emission would no longer happen. However, at this radii, the density of the wind would be so low that any contribution to the spectral flux may not be detectable. Additionally, the wind density would be insufficient to prevent rotationally modulated emission from closer to the star escaping to the observer. At these radii, the majority of the wind gas may have recombined and no longer be emitting; however as we do not calculate the radii at which  $\langle Q_{\rm sph} \rangle_t = 1$ , we cannot assert this and can only state that it will occur at radii much greater than that studied here  $(40R_*)$ . From these arguments we can conclude that, for the star simulated at the observing frequencies studied here, the extended wind of the star cannot prevent emission escaping the inner wind and reaching an observer.



**Figure 12.** Intensity of radio emission for rotational phase and observing inclination; all plots are generated at 900 GHz. Each column represents observing inclinations of  $0^{\circ}$  (viewing along equator),  $30^{\circ}$ ,  $60^{\circ}$  and  $90^{\circ}$  (viewing down the polar axes) from left to right, respectively. Each row is snap shots of the radio intensity for increasing phase from 0 to  $4\pi$  rad (two full rotations), equally spaced by  $4\pi/9$  rad. The second column on the left experiences the greatest degree of variability in the disc while the right most column experiences the least, presenting the same disc surface area to the observer over the 2 complete rotations.



**Figure 13.** Left column: radio light curves over two rotations for the four observing inclinations, top to bottom:  $0^{\circ}$  (viewing along equator),  $30^{\circ}$ ,  $60^{\circ}$  and  $90^{\circ}$  (viewing down the polar axes). Each inclination shows the result for the three observing frequencies: 250 GHz (red), 650 GHz (blue) and 900 GHz (green). What is immediately apparent is the lack of variability for all three frequencies in the  $90^{\circ}$  inclination plot. This is due to the excretion disc presenting the same surface area to the observer over the two complete rotations. For an inclination of  $0^{\circ}$ , the light curve exhibits four distinct and maxima, in contrast to  $30^{\circ}$  and  $60^{\circ}$  inclinations which only show two distinct minima and maxima. Right column: rotational modulation of the inferred mass-loss from the synthetic radio light curves. All frequencies and observing inclinations of  $30^{\circ}$  show the largest degree of modulation. Each observing frequency results in a different inferred mass-loss due to the dependence of mass-loss on the spectral flux.

The noise seen in both the radio light curves and the corresponding mass-loss curves is due to the numerical details of the radio calculation, which involves interpolation from spherical to Cartesian coordinate systems. By doing so, resolution is reduced close to the stellar surface where high-frequency ( $\sim 10^3$  GHz) emission originates from. Lower frequency ( $\sim 10$  GHz) emission originates from the outer wind where resolution is not reduced (for a spherical grid, the cell size increases with radius). This explains the lack of numerical noise in the 250 GHz curves.

#### 3.4.3 Continuum spectrum

The radio continuum for our simulated star, along with two comparative models, is plotted in the left panel of Fig. 14. These comparative models are the WB75 model (black dots) discussed in Section 2.4 as well as the numerical results of the theory laid out in Section 2.4, applied to the non-magnetic HD simulation (green curve). The stellar black-body radiation is also indicated (black dashes). The MHD wind result shows a clear departure from both the HD and WB75 models for  $\nu < 10^3$  GHz. At  $\nu > 10^3$  GHz, both the HD and the MHD curves converge to the black body radiation indicative of the optically thin regime of the stellar surface. This limit is not observed by the WB75 model as its theoretical basis ignores the presence of the stellar surface and the acceleration region where the density profile departs from a  $1/r^2$  dependence (see Daley-Yates et al. (2016) for an in-depth discussion). This highlights the WB75 models applicability to the extended wind region, where a spherical wind will have a flat velocity profile (equal to  $v_{\infty}$ ) and also its inability to capture the emission behaviour at high frequency. The authors clearly stated the limitations of their model at high frequency.

Using an order of magnitude arguments, we can determine the approximate limiting frequency of the WB75 model. This can be done by calculating a characteristic radio photosphere, introduced in Section 3.3, which represents the minimum distance from the stellar surface which emission can escape from. The following analysis applies to a spherically symmetric wind only. For an in depth discussion of the effective radius see the original WB75 paper and Daley-Yates et al. (2016) for a more recent account. The effective radius,  $R_{\rm eff}$ , is calculated using equation (11) of WB75 and the stellar parameters used in this study as input (see Table 1).  $R_{\rm eff}$  was calculated for three observing frequencies, 1 GHZ, 10 GHz and 100 GHz with the results summarized in Table 2.

The outer boundary of the simulation lies at 40  $R_*$ , slightly larger than the effective radius of the star at 1 GHz. This means that activity from the inner magnetosphere is effectively obscured by the extended wind. Only when the star is observed at frequencies above 10 GHz does emission from the inner magnetosphere become appreciable. This is born out in Fig. 14 where we see significant deviation from the WB75 model at observing frequencies >100*GHz*. The WB75 model is the basis for the mass-loss prediction of equation (22); its limitations will therefore affect any mass-loss predictions based on the spectral flux via this expression.

The corresponding normalized mass-loss prediction  $\dot{M}_{\rm obs}/\dot{M}_{\rm sim}$ for the continuum spectra is displayed in the right panel of Fig. 14. All models show a dependence on  $\nu$  with a two orders of magnitude variance. The HD model agrees with the WB75 model in the midfrequency range  $10^2 < \nu < 10^4$  GHz, which corresponds to a constant gradient for the spectral flux (a spectral index of  $\alpha = 0.6$ ), but departs either side of this range. For the MHD model, except for agreement with the HD model at high frequency  $\nu > 10^3$  GHz, there is approximately an order of magnitude reduction in  $\dot{M}_{\rm obs}/\dot{M}_{\rm sim}$  across all frequencies.

Recently, Ramiaramanantsoa et al. (2017) communicated observations of the O4I(n)fp star  $\zeta$  Puppis with the BRITE-Constellation nanosatellies. They detected one single periodic, non-sinusoidal component of the emission, which they attributed to the presence of bright surface features. Separate simultaneous spectroscopic observations led them to infer the action of corotating interaction regions (CIRs). While no surface spots are present in our simulation, the modelling of  $\zeta$  Puppis by Ramiaramanantsoa et al. (2017) to explain the BRITE-Constellation observations results in spiral structures of a similar nature to those in Fig. 6. We do not make direct comparisons to the models of Ramiaramanantsoa et al. (2017), since  $\zeta$  Puppis and our model star are very different. However, we highlight the similarity in the features and that, following further analysis of the synthetic observables at BRITE-Constellation frequencies, magnetical activity may provide a compelling explanation for the origin of CIRs in the magnetic massive star population.

JVLA observations by Kurapati et al. (2016) of seven O-type and 11 B-type stars resulted in the detection of two O-type and two B-type stars. These four stars were all detected at 10 GHz while only one was detected at 2.3 GHz. The lack of detection at this higher frequency is attributed to thermal free–free absorption in the extended wind. In the context of our results, this free–free absorption would need to occur at radii not captured by our simulation or the winds of the observed stars would need to be much denser. As discussed above, our simulations suggest this is unlikely. Mass-loss rates and therefore wind densities of the stars observed may also be lower than that used in our simulation, resulting in lower fluxes. Another possible explanation for the lack of detection is that the magnetic confinement of the stellar wind has, in the manner of our synthetic radio results, reduced the spectral flux possibly below the sensitivity of the JVLA.

Kurapati et al. (2016) report that their theoretical,  $\dot{M}_{\rm th}$ , and observationally inferred,  $\dot{M}_{\rm ob}$ , mass-loss rates may vary by a factor of 3, as the  $\dot{M}_{\rm th}$  are based on the models of Vink, de Koter & Lamers (2000) which assume smooth spherical symmetry and no magnetic confinement. This is indeed the order of variability seen in our synthetic light curves and continuum emission, where we see deviation by a factor of 3 for the magnetic wind compared to the spherical wind.

Our results agree with the results of Kurapati et al. (2016) to within the uncertainty stated for their  $\dot{M}_{\rm th}$ . However, we draw attention to the fact that magnetic confinement of the wind introduces a dependency of the emission on not only the density profile but also the observing inclination and phase, as both spherical and cylindrical symmetry of the wind have been broken.

#### **4 CONCLUSIONS**

We have performed 3D isothermal MHD simulations of a magnetic rotating massive star with a non-zero dipole obliquity and predicted the synthetic radio/sub-mm observable light curves and continuum spectra for a frequency range compatible with ALMA. From these results we also compare the simulation mass-loss rate to the inferred observed mass-loss rate calculated from the synthetic spectral flux.

Despite the lack of shock heating and cooling physics imposed by the isothermal assumption, spherical and cylindrical symmetry is broken due to the obliquity of the stellar magnetic dipole resulting in an inclination and phase dependence of both the synthetic spectral flux and corresponding inferred mass-loss rate. Both quantities vary

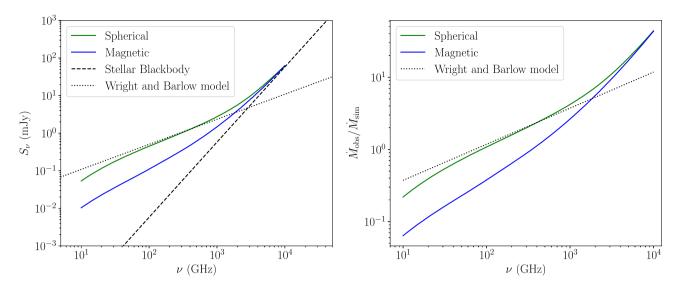


Figure 14. Left: radio/sub-mm spectrum for three models of emission: numerical spherically symmetric (green curve), numerical magnetic (blue curve) and analytic WB75 model (black dotted line). The stellar surface black-body curve is also shown (black dashed line). Both numerical models converge with the surface black-body at  $\nu > 10^4$  GHz while the WB75 model does not. Right: Corresponding mass-loss predictions for the three emission models using equation (22).

 
 Table 2. Comparison of characteristic radius for the effective radiophotosphere.

Observing frequency	$R_{\rm eff}  [{ m R}_{\odot}]$	$R_{\rm eff} [R_*]$
1 GHz	317	35
10 GHz	63	7
100 GHz	13	1.4

by factors between 2 and 3 over a full rotational period of the star, illustrating the divergence from a symmetric wind.

We also show that radio emission with a constant spectral index agrees well with our numerical prediction for a spherical wind at  $\nu < 10^3$  GHz; however it is unable to capture the behaviour of emission at  $\nu > 10^3$  GHz. As such we caution the use of such constant spectral index models for predicting emission from non-spherical winds such as those which form around magnetic massive stars. Our results further show that sub-mm frequencies of  $10^2$  GHz and greater are required to probe the inner winds of massive magnetic stars. Such frequencies, at the sensitivity required for detection, are only available via the ALMA observatory at the present time.

We have also demonstrated that predicting mass-loss rates via observed radio/sub-mm emission is sensitively dependent not only on the observing inclination but also on the rotational phase. As the magnetic field fundamentally changes the stellar wind structure and the mass-loss rate calculation is also dependent on the density structure, any mass-loss rate prediction is a function of the wind magnetic field vital for accurately assessing mass-loss rates from massive magnetic stars. The method for predicting  $\dot{M}_*$ , derived from the theory in WB75, is not directly capable of achieving this. Indeed we find that at an observing frequency of 900 GHz,  $\dot{M}_{sim}$  is overestimated by up to a factor of 3, a situation further clouded by the addition of the phase and inclination dependence mentioned above.

As this is the first 3D MHD simulation of a massive star wind incorporating an oblique dipole, there is a large parameter and

physical space left to study. Future work will extend the current model to adiabatic physics, allowing for shock heating and optically thin cooling of the gas. Both of these physical mechanisms are important for the generation of higher energy emission such as X-ray and H $\alpha$ .

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