

Propagation of Blast Waves Generated by Intense Flares

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Abstract : In this paper we discussed the propagation of blast waves generated by intense flares in stellar atmosphere. The effects due to pressure of magnetic field, self-gravitation and radiation heat flux are discussed. The numerical solutions for the flow behind the shock have been obtained in presence of self-gravitation, weak and strong magnetic field separately.

Key Words: Blast waves, intense flares, stellar atmosphere and self - gravitation.

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1. Introduction

The theory of blast waves and related flows has attracted a renewed interest in connection with astrophysical phenomenon. The blast wave conceivably driven by solar flares are observed to propagate into the interplanetary medium.[Parker¹, Hundhausen², Cox³, Dryer^{4,5}, Maxwell & Dryer⁶]. Supernova remnants of intermediate age are basically constituted by a blast flow on an interstellar scale initially driven by the supernova ejecta and interstellar gas there by heated up and compressed.

Taylor⁷, Carrus et al.⁸, Ragers⁹ and Sedov¹⁰ and Chevalier¹¹, have accumulated an extensive literature on self similar models of phenomena for the propagation of shock waves in gas dynamics and in the formation of stars and supernova explosions. Elliot¹² has discussed the explosion problem in non- gravitating and self- gravitating gaseous models. Ojha¹³ extended

the problem of Elliot taking into account the effects of magnetic field. The point explosion problem, produced on account of instantaneous release of energy in an inhomogeneous self- gravitating gaseous medium, has been studied by Ojha and Onkar¹⁴. Summers and Whitworth have discussed qualitative analysis of self- similar solution to the problem of unsteady spherical symmetric motion of self-gravitating gas. Ojha¹⁵ have considered the effect of gravitation and magnetic field both on the propagation of shock waves in a heat conducting medium and concluded that the adiabatic exponent for a heat conducting gas plays an important role on the propagation of shock waves for a self- gravitating model of stellar bodies.

Parkar constructed a blast wave model consisting of strong spherical shock wave driven out by a propelling contact surface moving into a quiet solar wind region and obtained numerical solutions by a similarity method. Here our aim is to extend the problem of the blast wave propagation produced by intense flares in stellar atmosphere including the effects of the presence of magnetic field, self- gravitation and radiation heat flux. In particular, numerical solutions have been obtained for the flow behind the shock taking into account the effects of gravitation and presence of magnetic field separately. The effect of high and low Alfven velocity have been discussed.

2. Basic Equations

The fundamental equations governing the motion of self- gravitating, radiating fluid in spherical symmetry including the effects of presence of magnetic field are¹⁴

$$(2.1) \quad \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial r} + \rho \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{2u}{r} \right) = 0$$

$$(2.2) \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial r} + \frac{h}{\rho} \frac{\partial h}{\partial r} + \frac{Gm}{r^2} = 0$$

$$(2.3) \quad \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial h}{\partial r} + h \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{hu}{r} = 0$$

$$(2.4) \quad \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial p}{\partial r} + p \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{2u}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{\partial r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (qr^2) = 0$$

$$(2.5) \quad \frac{dq}{dr} = 4\mu^* a T^4, \text{ where } \mu^* = \mu_0 \rho^{\alpha'} T^{\beta'}$$

$$(2.6) \quad \frac{\partial m}{\partial r} = 4\pi r^2 \rho$$

where $\rho, u, p, h, q, m, r, t, \gamma$ and T are the density, velocity, pressure, magnetic field, radiation, mass contained in sphere of a radius r , time and ratio of specific heats of the gas and temperature respectively. G represents the gravitational constant.

Introduce a similarity variable $\eta = \frac{r}{R(t)}$, and take the solutions of the fundamental equations in the form,

$$(2.7) \quad p = p_0 R^{-2n} f_1(\eta)$$

$$(2.8) \quad \rho = \rho_0 \phi_1(\eta)$$

$$(2.9) \quad u = R^{-n} \phi_1(\eta)$$

$$(2.10) \quad h = H_0 R^{-n} g_1(\eta)$$

$$(2.11) \quad m = m_0 R^{\frac{-4n}{3}} M_1(\eta)$$

$$(2.12) \quad q = \rho_0 R^{-3n} W_1(\eta)$$

where $f_1, \phi_1, \phi_1, g_1 M_1$ and W_1 are the functions of η only.

In view of equations (2.7-2.12), the fundamental equations (2.1) – (2.6) takes the forms

$$(2.13) \quad (\phi_1 - A\eta)\phi_1' + \phi_1(\phi_1' + \frac{2\phi_1}{\eta}) = 0$$

$$(2.14) \quad -A(n\phi_1 + \phi_1\eta) + (\phi_1\phi_1' + \frac{p_0}{\rho_0} \frac{f_1'}{\phi_1}) + \frac{H_0^2 g_1' g_1}{\rho_0 \phi_1} + \frac{Gm_0}{\eta^2} M_1 R^{\frac{2n}{3}-1} = 0$$

$$(2.15) \quad -A(\eta g_1 + n g_1) + (\phi_1 g_1 + g_1 \phi_1) + \frac{g_1 \phi_1}{\eta} = 0$$

$$(2.16) \quad -A(2n f_1 + \eta f_1) + \chi_1 \left(\frac{2\phi_1}{\eta} + \phi_1 \right) + (W_1 + \frac{2W_1}{\eta}) + \phi_1 f_1 = 0$$

$$(2.17) \quad W_1 = \frac{4\mu_0 a}{\Gamma^{(\beta+4)}} \frac{p_0^{(\beta+4)} \rho_0^{(\alpha-\beta-5)}}{R^{(2n\beta'+5n-1)}} f_1^{(\beta'+4)} \phi_1^{(\alpha-\beta'-5)}$$

$$(2.18) \quad M_1 = \frac{4\pi\rho_0}{m_0} \phi_1 \eta^2 R^{\frac{9+4n}{3}}$$

$$(2.19) \quad Gm_0 = \frac{-6}{R^{2n-1} 3\phi_1^2 \eta^2} \left(\frac{a_0^2 f_1}{\gamma} + \frac{V_H^2 g_1^2}{2} \right), \text{ where}$$

$$(2.20) \quad R^n \frac{dR}{dt} = A = \text{constant.}$$

It is clear that the solutions are compatible with the equations if $n = 3/2$, $\alpha' - \beta' - 5 = 0$ and $2n\beta' + 5n - 1 = 0$.

The equations (2.13-2.19) can be reduced to a non-dimensional form by substituting

$$(2.21) \quad f_1(\eta) = \frac{A^2}{a_0^2} f(\eta)$$

$$(2.22) \quad \phi_1(\eta) = \phi(\eta)$$

$$(2.23) \quad \phi_1(\eta) = A\phi(\eta)$$

$$(2.24) \quad W_1(\eta) = \frac{A^3}{a_0^2} W(\eta)$$

$$(2.25) \quad M_1(\eta) = A^2 M(\eta)$$

$$(2.26) \quad g_1(\eta) = \frac{A}{V_H} g(\eta)$$

where $a_0^2 = \frac{p_0}{\rho_0}$, a_0 = velocity of sound in front of the blast wave and

$$(2.27) \quad V_H^2 = \frac{H_0^2}{\rho_0}, V_H = \text{Alfven velocity.}$$

Putting (2.21-2.26) in equations (2.13) to (2.19) we have,

$$(2.28) \quad \phi'(\phi - \eta) + \phi(\phi' + \frac{2\phi}{\eta}) = 0$$

$$(2.29) \quad \phi'(\phi - \eta) - \frac{3}{2}\phi + \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{f'}{\phi} + \frac{gg'}{\phi} + \frac{GM}{\eta^2} = 0$$

$$(2.30) \quad g'(\phi - \eta) + (\phi - \frac{3}{2})g + \frac{g\phi}{\eta} = 0$$

$$(2.31) \quad 3f + \eta f' + \frac{f\phi'}{\phi}(\phi - \eta) - \phi f' - (W' + \frac{2W}{\eta}) = 0$$

$$(2.32) \quad W' = N\phi^{\frac{11}{6}}, N = \frac{A^{\frac{2}{3}}}{a_0^{\frac{3}{2}}} \frac{4a\mu_0 p_0^{\frac{11}{6}}}{\Gamma^{\frac{11}{6}}}$$

$$(2.34) \quad M' = \mu\phi\eta^2, \mu = \frac{3}{V^2}$$

$$(2.34) \quad Gm0 = \frac{-6}{\mu\phi^2\eta^2} \left(\frac{f}{\gamma} + \frac{g^2}{2} \right) .$$

3. Boundary Conditions

The shock conditions across a shock wave in presence of magnetic field and in absence of radiation heat flux are:

$$(3.1) \quad \rho(U - u) = \rho_0 U$$

$$(3.2) \quad H(U - u) = H_0 U$$

$$(3.3) \quad p + \frac{1}{2} H^2 + \rho(U - u)^2 = p_0 + \frac{1}{2} H_0^2 + \rho_0 U^2$$

$$(3.4) \quad \frac{1}{2}(U - u)^2 + \frac{\mathcal{W}}{\rho(\gamma - 1)} + \frac{H^2}{\rho} = \frac{1}{2}U^2 + \frac{\mathcal{W}_0}{\rho_0(\gamma - 1)} + \frac{H_0^2}{\rho_0}$$

where U is shock velocity and quantities with zero suffix and without suffix are the values of the quantities just ahead and just behind the shock wave.

Writing

$$(3.5) \quad \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} = \frac{1}{\beta}$$

$$(3.6) \quad u = (1 - \beta)U$$

$$(3.7) \quad H = \frac{H_0}{\beta}$$

$$(3.8) \quad p = p_0 + \rho_0(1 - \beta)U^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{H_0^2}{\beta^2} (\beta^2 - 1)$$

where

$$(3.9) \quad U^2 = 2a_0^2 \left\{ \frac{1}{\beta(\gamma + 1) - (\gamma - 1)} \right\} + V_H^2 \left\{ \frac{(1 + \beta)((\gamma + 1)\beta^2 - 2)}{\beta^3((\gamma + 1)\beta - (\gamma - 1))} \right\}$$

For strong shock,

$$(3.10) \quad \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} = \left(\frac{\gamma + 1}{\gamma - 1} \right)$$

$$(3.11) \quad \frac{u}{U} = \frac{2}{\gamma+1}$$

$$(3.12) \quad \frac{p}{p_0} = \frac{2\gamma}{\gamma+1} \frac{U^2}{a_0^2}$$

$$(3.13) \quad \frac{H}{H_0} = \left(\frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma-1} \right) U.$$

Using above similarity solutions, we have

$$(3.14) \quad \varphi(1) = \frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma-1}$$

$$(3.15) \quad \phi(1) = \frac{2}{\gamma+1}$$

$$(3.16) \quad f(1) = \frac{2\gamma}{\gamma+1}$$

$$(3.17) \quad g(1) = \frac{V_H}{A} \left(\frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma-1} \right)$$

Conclusions

Equations (2.28-2.34) with initial conditions (3.14-3.17) can be integrated numerically to study the combined effect of the presence of self gravitation, magnetic field and radiation heat flux. Here our aim is to discuss the effects of magnetic field and gravitation on the flow behind the shock wave separately.

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