Gas Removal in the Ursa Minor Galaxy: Linking Hydrodynamics and Chemical Evolution Models

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Abstract

We present results from a non-cosmological, three-dimensional hydrodynamical simulation of the gas in the dwarf spheroidal galaxy Ursa Minor. Assuming an initial baryonic-to-dark-matter ratio derived from the cosmic microwave background radiation, we evolved the galactic gas distribution over 3 Gyr, taking into account the effects of the types Ia and II supernovae. For the first time, we used in our simulation the instantaneous supernovae rates derived from a chemical evolution model applied to spectroscopic observational data of Ursa Minor. We show that the amount of gas that is lost in this process is variable with time and radius, being the highest rates observed during the initial 600 Myr in our simulation. Our results indicate that types Ia and II supernovae must be essential drivers of the gas loss in Ursa Minor galaxy (and probably in other similar dwarf galaxies), but it is ultimately the combination of galactic winds powered by these supernovae and environmental effects (e.g., ram-pressure stripping) that results in the complete removal of the gas content.

Key words: galaxies: dwarf – galaxies: evolution – galaxies: individual (Ursa Minor) – galaxies: ISM – hydrodynamics – methods: numerical

1. Introduction

A puzzling feature of all dwarf spheroidal galaxies (dSph) of the Local Group is the lack of neutral gas, at least in their central regions (Mateo 1998; Grecevich & Putman 2009 and references therein). Ursa Minor, as all other classical dSphs, is an example of a galaxy that does not exhibit a gaseous component. Grecevich & Putman (2009) examined the environment and H I content of all Local Group dwarf galaxies using HIPASS (Barnes et al. 2001) and LAB (Kalberla et al. 2005) data. They did not detected any sign of neutral gas in Ursa Minor, confirming the findings of previous works (Knapp et al. 1978; Willman et al. 2005; Belokurov et al. 2007; Simon & Geha 2007). These authors reached no clear conclusion on which would be the dominant physical process responsible for the disappearance of the interstellar gas, even though external mechanisms, such as ram-pressure and tidal stripping are favored (see also Emerick et al. 2016 and references therein). On the other hand, internal processes such as galactic winds triggered by supernovae (SNe) explosions should also be taken into account.

Recently, Ruiz et al. (2013) and Caproni et al. (2015) investigated, through 3D-hydrodynamical simulations, the role played by SNe feedback in the gas removal of dSphs and concluded that its effect depends on the SNe rate among other features (see also Emerick et al. 2016 for less massive galaxies). In such simulations, SNe occurrence is typically set numerically by a specific law (either random or deterministic), without any observational constraint. The SNe rate, however, is crucial, since it defines how much energy will be injected in the ISM and how this energy will be released, if at a constant rate through time (as in Caproni et al. 2015) or constrained, e.g., by a Schmidt Law (Schmidt 1963), as in Ruiz et al. (2013).

In this work, we provide the first 3D-hydrodynamical simulations linked to observationally constrained chemical evolution models of a galaxy. In particular, the simulations are run with the SNe (types II and Ia) rates derived by a chemical evolution model that reproduces very well several observational constraints (\(\alpha/\text{Fe}, \text{[Eu/Fe]}, \text{[Ba/Fe]}\) ratios, the present day gas mass, stellar metallicity distribution) of the dSph galaxy Ursa Minor (Lanfranchi & Matteucci 2004, 2007). By doing that, it is assured that the SN rate is independently constrained, and therefore being more robust than other methods typically adopted in the literature.

2. Numerical Setup and Initial Conditions

We used the numerical code PLUTO\(^3\) (Mignone et al. 2007) to solve the classical hydrodynamic differential equations

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

\[
\frac{\partial (\rho v)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho vv + P I) = -\rho \nabla \Phi, \tag{2}
\]

\[
\frac{\partial E}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot [(E + P)v] = F_c - \rho v \cdot \nabla \Phi, \tag{3}
\]

where \(\rho\) is the mass density, \(v = (u, v, w)^T\) is the fluid velocity in Cartesian coordinates, \(P\) is the thermal pressure, \(I\) is the identity tensor of rank 3, and \(E\) is the total energy density

\[
E = \rho e + \frac{\rho |v|^2}{2}, \tag{4}
\]

where \(\rho e\) is the internal density energy. In this work, we adopted the ideal equation of state \(P = (\Gamma - 1) \rho e\), where \(\Gamma\) is the adiabatic index of the plasma, assumed as 5/3. This choice implies to a sound speed of the plasma, \(c_s\), defined as \(c_s = \sqrt{\Gamma P/\rho}\).

\(^3\) http://plutocode.ph.unito.it/
The quantity $F_c$ in Equation (3) is the cooling function

$$F_c = \frac{\partial P}{\partial t} = - \left( \frac{\Gamma - 1}{\rho} \right) \Lambda(T),$$

(5)

where $n$ is the number density of the gas, and $\Lambda(T)$, obtained from the interpolation of the precomputed tables provided by Wiersma et al. (2009). To compute the values of $\Lambda(T)$, we follow Caproni et al. (2015), adopting $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] \sim -2.13$, the median metallicity of Ursa Minor (Kirby et al. 2011).

We used in our simulation the same initial gas density and pressure profiles of the models Mgh19SN1 and Mgh19SN10 found in Caproni et al. (2015). They were fully determined imposing hydrostatic equilibrium between an initial, isothermal gas with sound speed, $c_s$, of 11.5 km s$^{-1}$, and a cored, static dark-matter (DM) gravitational potential, $\Phi_h$ (Binney & Tremaine 1987; Mac Low & Ferrara 1999):

$$\Phi_h(\xi) = v_c^2 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \ln(1 + \xi^2) + \frac{\arctan \xi}{\xi} \right],$$

(6)

generated by an isothermal, spherically symmetric DM mass density profile with a characteristic radius, $r_0$, equals to 300 pc. In Equation (6), $\xi = r/r_0$, $r$ is the radial galactocentric distance, and $v_c$ is the maximum circular velocity due to the DM gravitational potential, assumed to be equal to 21.1 km s$^{-1}$ (in agreement with Strigari et al. 2007).

We show in Figure 1 the initial spatial distribution of the number density, temperature, and radial velocity, $v_{\text{rad}}$, on xy plane at $z = 0$. The last quantity is defined as (Caproni et al. 2015):

$$v_{\text{rad}} = \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{r},$$

(7)

where $\hat{r} = r/|r|$ is the unit position vector. This initial setup implies an initial gas mass of about $2.94 \times 10^8 M_\odot$ and a DM halo mass of $1.51 \times 10^9 M_\odot$.

3. Results

As in Caproni et al. (2015), the Cartesian grid of the computational domain is assumed to be invariant in time, which means the effects of cosmological expansion in our simulations were neglected. We simulated a cubic region of 3 kpc $\times$ 3 kpc $\times$ 3 kpc ($\sim 1.6 R_h$, the tidal radius of Ursa Minor; Irwin & Hatzidimitriou 1995), in which a grid with 256 points in each Cartesian direction was adopted. It translates to a numerical resolution of $\sim 11.72$ pc per cell. Equations (1)–(6) were evolved over 3 Gyr (the estimated duration of the star-formation episodes in Ursa Minor; Carrera et al. 2002; Dolphin 2002) through supercomputer Alphacrucis$^4$ and using the message passing interface (MPI) library for parallelization.$^5$

The calculation of the numerical fluxes through adjacent cell interfaces were performed from the Advection Upstream Splitting Method (AUSM$^+$; Liou 1996, 2006). The temporal evolution of $\rho$, $\rho v$, and $E$ were done via the third-order Runge–Kutta method, while a piecewise total variation diminishing (TVD) linear interpolation was applied to reconstruct the primitive variables in each time step of our simulation. A closed boundary condition was assumed in the hydrodynamic calculations to minimize spurious mass fluxes into the computational domain (see Appendix A for further details).

Using a novel approach, we constrained the type Ia and II supernovae (SNe Ia and SNe II) rates in our simulation to those found by Lanfranchi & Matteucci (2007). We show in Figure 2 these supernova rates that allow the chemical evolution model to produce $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$, $[\text{Eu}/\text{Fe}]$, and $[\text{Ba}/\text{Fe}]$ ratios, a stellar metallicity distribution function, and a present day gas mass in very good agreement with observations. We implemented the sum of SNe Ia and SNe II (green dashed line in Figure 2) in our simulation with a spatial distribution of energy injection modeled as

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$^4$ Cluster SGI Altix ICE 8400. Further information on the Alphacrucis cluster at https://lai.lag.usp.br.

$^5$ A total of about $2.03 \times 10^8$ processor hours were necessary to run the the simulation discussed in this work.
follows. For the initial 1.8 Gyr of evolution, SNe II occur at higher rates compared with the SNe Ia (Figure 2), which leads us to adopt the prescription given by Caproni et al. (2015; denser regions are prone to harbor an SN II event). After 1.8 Gyr, when SNe Ia becomes dominant, the choice of SN sites becomes completely random, since the stars responsible for that type of explosion have a very long timescale (up to some gigayears), probably occurring far away from the sites where they were formed. The small deviation between theoretical and numerical SNe rates (∼20 SNe Myr⁻¹) seen between ∼0.9 and 1 Gyr in the same figure is due to a small interpolation issue in the numerical implementation of the total SNe rates in our code. Following Fragile et al. (2004) and Caproni et al. (2015), the elected SN site receives the injection of 10⁷ erg into an approximately spherical volume with a two-cell radius, ∼23.4 pc for the numerical resolution of our simulation (see Appendix B for the possible consequences of this particular choice on the SN feedback).

The dynamical impact of the implementation of SNe on the interstellar gas is noticeable. SNe perturb the initial spherically symmetric gas density distribution, as can be seen in Figure 3, driving a galactic wind responsible for removing gas from Ursa Minor. Complex structures are created by multiple interactions of the SN remnants, showing the coexistence of inflow and outflow motions (bluer and redder structures seen, respectively, in the radial velocity plot in Figure 3).

The successive nonlinear interactions of the SN winds push gas outward, spreading it to the outskirts of the galaxy. The total mass of the gas in the ISM of Ursa Minor, normalized by its initial value, as a function of time is displayed in Figure 4. The relative masses shown in this figure were obtained from the integration of the gas-mass density within galactocentric radii of 300, 600, 950, and 1500 pc.

An inspection of Figure 4 reveals a mass loss that varies in time, as well as in galactic radius during 3 Gyr of evolution. The more accentuated losses occurred approximately in the first 600 Myr for all radii. After this epoch, gas losses slowed down substantially. This behavior agrees with the type II SN rate adopted in this work, which peaks roughly around 400 Myr. In terms of radius, the central region of Ursa Minor (r < 300 pc) lost most of its gas, as high as 90% of the initial mass between 500 and 600 Myr. The gas mass decreased in ∼80% at the same period for the volume delimited by a radius of 600 pc. Inside the adopted tidal radius of Ursa Minor, 950 pc, SNe removed a fraction of ∼60% in gas.

We found a higher gas loss rate in comparison with the models Mgh19SN1 and Mgh19SN10 of Caproni et al. (2015) e.g., a factor of ∼2.3 in the case of model Mgh19SN10—the one that has the highest gas loss rate), in which the initial gas configuration is the same as that adopted in this work. It is a straightforward consequence of a total number of SNe in our simulation larger than those assumed in Caproni et al. (2015).

At the end of our simulation, the gas temperature is between 10⁴ and 10⁵ K, with very low cooling rates because of low gas density. About 90% of the gas inside the computational domain has a number density between 0.1 and 1.0 cm⁻³. At these physical conditions, it is expected that hydrogen atoms are fully ionized. Assuming a gas composed of pure hydrogen, we obtain a H II mass of ∼4.17 × 10⁶ M⊙ inside 600 pc and after 3 Gyr of evolution. This is roughly two orders of magnitude higher than the upper limit of ∼10⁵ M⊙ for H II mass at the present time determined by Gallagher et al. (2003).

The resulting gas mass higher than the inferred value through observations is similar to those found by Caproni et al. (2015) but using time-constant (type II) SN rates. They pointed out a possible additional external mechanism to reconcile the final gas mass derived from their hydrodynamical simulations and that inferred observationally, such as tidal stripping (e.g., Blitz & Robishaw 2000; Read et al. 2006b) and ram-pressure stripping (e.g., Gunn & Gott 1972; Mayer et al. 2006; McConnachie et al. 2007). Another possibility is whether cosmic rays or radiative heating of the local ISM increase the gas temperature. Thermal galactic winds have been shown to be responsible for relatively

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8 The majority of stars in Ursa Minor have been detected inside a galactocentric radius of 600 pc (e.g., Irwin & Hatzidimitriou 1995).
9 Models Mgh19SN1 and Mgh19SN10 adopted, respectively, constant SN rates of 1 SN Myr⁻¹ and 10 SN Myr⁻¹.
Figure 1 by a factor of 2.5.

1 Gyr of evolution. Note the extreme values of the color bar scales differ from feedback (Lanfranchi & Matteucci 2004) between 1.8 and 3 Gyr. We obtained mass fractions of $\sim0.37$ and $\sim0.22$ inside 950 pc and 600 pc, respectively. It corresponds to a decrement of less than 2% in relation to the respective values at 3 Gyr, insufficient to substantially reduce the remaining gas mass in the end of our present simulation.

An additional possibility to minimize the differences in the gas masses is decreasing the initial gas mass in the simulation, as raised by Caproni et al. (2015). They showed that a decrement of about a factor of four in the gas-to-DM mass ratio increased the fractional gas loss by a factor of $\sim1.5$. Even though a decrease of the initial gas mass by this factor can reduce the differences between numerical and observational results, it seems insufficient to reconcile the final remaining mass in our simulation with the upper limit for the H II mass in Ursa Minor nowadays.

4. Discussion

For the initial thermodynamical conditions of the gas and SN rate history assumed in this work, our numerical results indicate that SN feedback plays an important role in the gas loss, removing $\sim60\%$ of the original gas content inside the tidal radius of Ursa Minor. However, SN feedback was not able to completely remove the baryonic matter from Ursa Minor. This finding strengthens the results of previous works on gas losses in dwarf galaxies. Using analytic arguments and cosmological hydrodynamical simulations, Read et al. (2006a) found that SN feedback is important for dwarf galaxies to keep gas hot and spread, not necessarily for ejecting all the gas to intergalactic medium (IGM). Mac Low & Ferrara (1999) derived a relationship between the mass of gas and the mechanical luminosity associated with SN feedback. For a gas mass between $\sim9 \times 10^6$ and $3 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$, and mechanical luminosities between $\sim10^{38}$ and $10^{40}$ erg s$^{-1}$ (extreme values found in our simulation), the blowout case is expected, allowing partial removal of the gas by SN feedback (see Figure 1 in Mac Low & Ferrara 1999).

From a reanalysis of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey Data Release 8, Geha et al. (2012) found no star-forming dwarf galaxies with stellar masses between $10^7$ and $10^9 M_{\odot}$ at distances larger than about 1.5 Mpc from the host (massive) galaxy. They also showed that the fraction of star-forming quenched dwarf galaxies increases strongly with decreasing distance from a massive host galaxy (see their Figure 6). These findings imply that those field dwarf galaxies could not stop their star formation by themselves (in the sense of a passive evolution converting gas into stars), needing some extra mechanism (probably ram-pressure and tidal stripping effects) to remove gas. In this context, Ursa Minor can be classified as a non-field, quenched galaxy nowadays, since it is located at a heliocentric distance of about 64 kpc (Irwin & Hatzidimitriou 1995), it is not currently forming stars (e.g., Dolphin 2002; Lanfranchi & Matteucci 2004), and it is a gas depleted system (e.g., Gruelich & Putman 2009; Spekkens et al. 2014). However, it is important to emphasize that Ursa Minor has an inferred stellar mass of about $8 \times 10^5 M_{\odot}$ (Dekel & Woo 2003; Orban et al. 2008), roughly an order of magnitude below the stellar mass range in which the results in Geha et al. (2012) are strictly valid.

Using a statistical approach to study the DM subhaloes produced in the Via Lactea II cosmological simulation (Diemand et al. 2008), Rocha et al. (2012) estimated the individual infall...
times of the Milky Way dwarf satellites. Defining infall time as
the look-back time since the DM subhalo last crossed inward
through the virial radius of the main DM halo, Rocha et al. (2012)
found that it must have happened \(\sim 8-11\) Gyr ago in the case of
Ursa Minor. Similar to the other classical dSph galaxies, this infall
time coincides roughly with the end of star-formation activity in
Ursa Minor (see Figure 7 in Rocha et al. 2012). It suggests the
motion of Ursa Minor into the gaseous halo of Milky Way could
have removed gas from this satellite.

How do our results relate to these previous works? Our HD
simulation showed that the adoption of type Ia and II SN rates
derived from chemical evolution model by Lanfranchi &
Matteucci (2007) produced strong SN feedback during the first
600 Myr of evolution. At this time, Ursa Minor still had not
crossed the virial radius of the Milky Way considering the infall
time estimated by Rocha et al. (2012). Note that \(\sim 60\%\) of the
initial gas mass inside the tidal radius was pushed outward by
those SNe (see Figure 4), decreasing substantially the average
density of the gas. After 600 Myr, the type Ia and II SN rates are
already decreasing in time (see Figure 2), so that SN feedback is
not able to remove much more gas, just keeping it spread and
heated (as found in Read et al. 2006a). As the gas is more sparse
than its initial configuration, the efficiency of ram-pressure
stripping in removing gas is substantially increased. As SN
feedback removes more than half of the gas after only 600 Myr,
the ram-pressure mechanism can act efficiently upon Ursa Minor,
blowing away the remaining gas during the rest of Ursa Minor’s
life, transforming this galaxy into a quenched system (in
agreement with Geha et al. 2012). This possibility might reconcile
the amount of bounded gas in our simulation with the current
upper limit derived observationally by Gallagher et al. (2003). An
additional simulation incorporating the ram-pressure stripping
mechanism should be pursued to corroborate this scenario.

5. Conclusions

Adopting a novel approach, in which instantaneous rates of the
types II and Ia SN were constrained to the chemical evolution
model by Lanfranchi & Matteucci (2004), we performed a three-
dimensional hydrodynamical simulation of the gas in the
dSph galaxy Ursa Minor over 3 Gyr of evolution. Our main
results are summarized as follows.

1. Mass loss is not constant in time, as well as per galactic
radius, in agreement with Caproni et al. (2015).

2. The more pronounced losses occurred approximately in
the first 600 Myr for all radii, in which type II SN rate
adopted in this work reaches its maximum. The central
region of Ursa Minor \((r \leq 300 \text{ pc})\) lost the largest amount
of gas (\(\sim 90\%\) of the initial mass) in the same interval.

3. After 3 Gyr of evolution, the remaining mass in gas inside
300 pc from the galaxy center is only \(\sim 15\%\) of its original
value. For \(r \leq 600 \text{ pc}\), \(\sim 24\%\) of the initial mass still
remains, increasing to \(\sim 39\%\) inside the tidal radius of Ursa
Minor. Note that our closed boundary conditions tend to
retain gas inside the computational domain. In addition,
over cooling issues concerning the injection of SN energy
into cells with number densities larger than \(1 \text{ cm}^{-3}\)
decreases the dynamical impact of SNe to drive gas
outward (see Appendices A and B, respectively). These
facts imply that our estimates of gas-mass losses presented
in Figure 4 are slightly underestimated, reinforcing the
importance of the SN mechanical feedback on the gas
removal in objects similar to the Ursa Minor galaxy. These
findings indicate that type II and Ia SNe explosions are
probably one of the main mechanisms behind the gas losses
in Ursa Minor, as well in other similar dwarf galaxies.

4. Gallagher et al. (2003) derived an upper limit of \(\sim 10^4 \text{ M}_\odot\)
for H II mass in Ursa Minor at the present time, which is
roughly two orders of magnitude lower than the mass left
inside a galactocentric radius of 600 pc at the end of our
simulation. The decrease of the initial gas mass and/or the
extrapolation of the effects of type Ia SNe for more
than 10 Gyr of evolution could diminish the discrepancy
between the remaining mass in our simulation and the
nowadays inferred upper limit of H II mass. However,
additional external mechanisms, such as tidal and/or ram-
pressure stripping, must play a role in the gas loss history
of Ursa Minor.

5. Our numerical simulation shows that SN feedback was able
to push more than half of the initial amount of gas to outer
radii during the first 600 Myr of evolution. This means SNe
driven galactic winds lowered the average gas densities
very early in the evolutionary history of the Ursa Minor
galaxy, which is crucial to make environmental effects
(e.g., ram-pressure stripping) very effective at removing this gas upon infall. We believe this scenario may also reconcile the two orders of magnitude disagreement between the final gas mass found in our simulation and the current upper limit for H II mass in Ursa Minor. Thus, our simulation suggests types Ia and II SN feedback is an essential player behind gas loss in Ursa Minor (and probably in other similar dwarf galaxies), but it is ultimately the combination of galactic winds powered by SNe and subsequent environmental effects that seems to remove all of the gas.

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**Appendix A**

**Boundary Conditions and Their Influence on the Gas-mass Loss**

In our simulation, we used closed boundary conditions, which means imposing a zero-value for the velocity component perpendicular to the computational frontiers, $v_\perp$, and zero-gradient for the other velocity components as well for pressure and mass density quantities. The standard open boundary condition (zero-gradient for all primitive variables) was found to be inappropriate for our numerical studies since it introduced too much spurious mass into the computational domain after 3 Gyr of passive evolution ($\sim 10^{13} M_\odot$) inside a spherical radius of 950 pc, against $\sim 10^9 M_\odot$ using our closed boundary condition; Caproni et al. 2015).

Although our closed boundary condition minimizes spurious gas accretion, it can induce reverse shocks when the gas pushed by SN blasts reaches the computational frontiers, which could decrease the SN-driven gas losses. The SN-feedback-driven winds reach the edge of our simulation box for the first time after an elapsed time of about 125 Myr, and with subsonic speeds of $\sim 2$ km s$^{-1}$. To estimate the impact of the boundary condition on mass-loss rates, we calculated the gas fraction that must have been lost comparing the gas velocity in the adjacent cells at the boundaries with escape velocity, $v_{\text{esc}}$ defined as (Binney & Tremaine 1987)

$$v_{\text{esc}} = \sqrt{2\phi_0(x)},$$

where $\phi_0 = r_h/f_0 = 49.96$ for our simulation, and $r_h$ is the radius of the DM halo.

If the conditions $v_\perp > v_{\text{esc}}$ and $v \cdot \hat{r} > 0$ are simultaneously satisfied in a given adjacent cell at the computational frontiers, the gas inside it is considered unbounded to the DM halo, implying that it will not fall back into the galaxy.

Let $f_{\text{esc}}(t_i)$ be the number of unbounded cells at a time $t_i$, divided by the total number of adjacent cells to the boundaries. We can estimate the fraction of gas that must be lost due to the escape velocity condition, $f_{\text{esc},\text{lost}}$ at a time $t_i$ through

$$f_{\text{esc},\text{lost}}(t_i) = f_{\text{esc}}(t_i) + f_{\text{esc},\text{lost}}(t_{i-1})[1 - f_{\text{esc}}(t_i)],$$

where $t_i > t_{i-1}$, $f_{\text{esc},\text{lost}}(t_{i-1}) = 1 - M_\odot(t_{i-1})/M_\odot(0)$, and $M_\odot(t)$ is the instantaneous total mass of gas inside the whole computational domain.

We show in Figure 5 the time behavior of $f_{\text{esc},\text{lost}}$ during 3 Gyr of evolution (red dashed line). The same figure also displays the instantaneous normalized mass-loss fraction derived from our numerical simulation considering the whole computational domain (black solid line). Comparing both curves, we note that $f_{\text{esc},\text{lost}}$ predicts gas losses higher than those found in our simulation (a factor of about 2.5 at 3 Gyr), suggesting that our closed boundary conditions tend to retain gas inside the computational domain. These results imply that our estimates of gas losses presented in Figure 4 are slightly underestimated, reinforcing the important role of the SN mechanical feedback on the gas removal in objects similar to the Ursa Minor galaxy.

**Appendix B**

**Time Evolution of a Supernova Remnant: Numerical Tests**

We present in this section validation tests concerning the time evolution of an isolated supernova remnant, during 0.25 Myr,
through a homogeneous ISM with an isothermal temperature of $10^5$ K. We run HD simulations for three different ISM number densities typically found in our simulation for the Ursa Minor galaxy: 0.1, 1.0, and 10.0 cm$^{-3}$. The spatial resolution adopted in those tests was $\sim$11.72 pc per numerical cell, the same numerical resolution of our simulation presented in this paper, and 3.0 pc per

Figure 6. Time evolution of the SNR radius (left panels) and velocity (right panels) for two different numerical resolutions: 3.0 pc per cell (black circles) and 11.71875 pc per cell (blue circles). From top to bottom, ISM density is increased by a factor of 10 from 0.1 to 10.0 cm$^{-3}$. Red dashed lines represent predictions from the analytical model by Cioffi et al. (1988). Dotted horizontal and vertical lines mark, respectively, approximated transition radii and transition epochs for the different main phases of an SNR (blast wave, Sedov–Taylor, snowplow, and merge) based on Cioffi et al. (1988).
cell. It allowed us to check the influence of numerical resolution on the shock evolution driven by a supernova. Those validation tests are compared to the analytical model by Ciofﬁet al. (1988), as can be seen in Figure 6.

The injection of SN energy occurs at \( t = 0 \) and at the center of the computational domain, following the prescription adopted in Fragile et al. (2004) and Caproni et al. (2015), as well as in this present paper: injection of \( 10^{51} \) erg into an approximately spherical volume with a two-cell radius (6 pc for simulations with resolution of 3 pc per cell and ~23.4 pc for a resolution of ~11.72 pc). This increment in pressure produces an initial supersonic expanding shock with an instantaneous radius, \( R_{SNR} \), and speed, \( v_{SNR} \).

For \( n \lesssim 1 \, \text{cm}^{-3} \), Figure 6 shows that \( R_{SNR} \) is compatible with the analytical model by Ciofﬁ et al. (1988) in the snowplow phase (\( t \gtrsim 0.1 \, \text{Myr} \) for \( n \sim 0.1 \, \text{cm}^{-3} \) and \( t \gtrsim 0.02 \, \text{Myr} \) for \( n \sim 1.0 \, \text{cm}^{-3} \)), independent of the numerical resolution adopted in those tests. The same conclusion is valid for \( v_{SNR} \). On the other hand, only the high-resolution test (3 pc per cell) produces \( R_{SNR} \) and \( v_{SNR} \) compatible with theoretical expectations for \( n = 10.0 \, \text{cm}^{-3} \). Indeed, no shock is detected in the snowplow phase for a resolution of ~11.72 pc, indicating possible overcooling issues in this case (e.g., Creasey et al. 2011; Simpson et al. 2015). This implies that the kinetic energy/momentum transferred to the shocked ISM is lower than what would be expected, weakening the kinetic feedback from a supernova for \( n > 1 \, \text{cm}^{-3} \) and for a resolution of ~11.72 pc per cell in our main numerical simulation.

We also checked the influence of injecting SN energy into a two-cells spherical region. With this objective, we run two additional simulations considering an injection radius of one numerical cell, \( n = 0.1 \, \text{cm}^{-3} \), and numerical resolutions of 3 and ~11.72 pc per cell. The results are shown in Figure 7. We can realize that injecting SN energy into one cell radius increases systematically \( R_{SNR} \) and \( v_{SNR} \) in comparison with the two-cells radius case. As in Caproni et al. (2015), we decided to inject SN energy into a spherical radius of two cells, avoiding overestimations of the kinetic SN feedback in our HD simulations.

Figure 7. Time evolution of the SNR radius (left panels) and velocity (right panels) for a number density of 0.1 cm\(^{-3}\) and two different numerical resolutions: 3.0 pc per cell (top panels) and 11.71875 pc per cell (bottom panels). Green and black circles refer, respectively, to SN energy injection radii of one and two numerical cells. Red dashed lines represent predictions from the analytical model by Ciofﬁ et al. (1988). Dotted horizontal and vertical lines mark, respectively, approximated transition radii and transition epochs for the different main phases of an SNR (blast wave, Sedov–Taylor, snowplow, and merge) based on Ciofﬁ et al. (1988).
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