Propagation of shocks through cepheid envelopes

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A Cepheid is a supergiant variable star positioned in the instability band of the HR diagram. Spectroscopic and interferometric observations show that longperiod cepheids exhibit asymmetries in the P Cygni-type profiles around the H alpha line ([4]). Indeed, one can observed an absorption and an emission component, redshifted or blueshifted depending on the pulsation phase. These asymmetries might be explained by strong shocks propagating in the envelope because of the photosphere pulsation ([1], [2]).

The aim of our work is to use the radiation hydrodynamics code HADES ([3]) to carry out simulations of shocks in cepheid envelopes according to the scenarios proposed by astronomers. An observable around the H alpha line is then reconstructed from hydrodynamic quantities resulting from numerical simulations in order to compare our results with observations.

References :

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