

Grad-Shafranov equation: MHD simulation of the new solution obtained from the Fadeev and Naval models

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Key Points:

- The new analytical solution has magnetic field lines with neutral points and singular points.
- This solution enter as initial condition in an MHD simulation by excluding the singular points.
- The MHD simulation shows the fast evolution of magnetic islands into current sheets.
- This is the first report shows the magnetic field polarity inversion related to analytical solution of the GS equation.
- The importance of the direction and amplitude of the magnetic field near the singular points is explained.

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Abstract

This article aims to obtain a new analytical solution of a specific form of the Grad-Shafranov (GS) equation using Walker’s formula. The new solution has magnetic field lines with X-type neutral points, magnetic islands and singular points. The singular points are located on the x-axis. The X-points and the center of the magnetic islands do not appear on the x-axis an island appears at $z > 0$ and the other two at $z < 0$. The aforementioned property allows us to use this solution as an initial condition at $t = 0$ s in an magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) numerical simulation by excluding the singular points of the solution, i.e., the x-axis, and maintaining the magnetic structure of the islands, as well as the X-type neutral points. For this, we numerically solve the equations of the classical ideal MHD in two dimensions using the Newtonian CAFE code. The code is based on high resolution shock capturing methods using the Harten-Lax-van Leer-Einfeldt (HLLC) flux formula combined with MINMOD reconstructor. The MHD simulation shows a very fast dissipation in less than one second of the magnetic islands present in the initial configuration. Almost all structures left the integration region at 13.2 s, and the magnetic field vector reverses its polarity very quickly. In addition, our simulation allows us to observe the fast temporal evolution of the magnetic islands turning into elongated current sheets. As a limitation of the model, the difficulty in relating it to a physical system because of fast temporal evolution is considered.

1 Introduction

The Grad-Shafranov (GS) equation is written in function of Cartesian coordinates in the plane as follows:

$$\frac{\partial^2 A_y}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 A_y}{\partial z^2} = -\mu_0 \frac{d}{dA_y} \left(p(A_y) + \frac{B_y^2(A_y)}{2\mu_0} \right), \quad (1)$$

where A_y is the y -component of the magnetic vector potential, μ_0 is the permeability of free space, p is the kinetic plasma pressure, and B_y is the y -component of the magnetic field (Grad & Rubin, 1958; Shafranov, 1966).

From the physical point of view, this equation characterizes a plasma as a single collisionless fluid, with high conductivity, immersed in a magnetostatic field. It is important to consider an invariant axis ($\partial/\partial y = 0$) when deducing the GS equation, which makes the geometry of the problem 2.5-D (Ojeda-González et al., 2016). The detailed development of the whole physical formulation can be found, for example, in Sonnerup et al. (2006); Ojeda-González et al. (2015); Hu (2017); Teh (2018).

The GS equation can also be written in the axially symmetric configurations in the cylindrical coordinate system (Ambrosino & Albanese, 2005). This notation is most commonly used in the application of this equation to study the confined magnetic field in a Tokamak (Atanasiu et al., 2004). In its original form, equation (1) is a second order partial differential equation that does not have an analytical solution but can be numerically solved as a Cauchy problem or an initial value problem (Sonnerup & Guo, 1996). The authors Sonnerup and Guo (1996) and Hau and Sonnerup (1999) have developed a numerical method for solving (1). The method consists of making a second order approximation in terms of a Taylor series around a generic point $x = x_0$. A rectangular grid XZ must be constructed during the development of the numerical method. This problem is very convenient because the data collected by a satellite, when it crosses a plasma structure in the interplanetary medium or in the magnetosphere, can be used as initial conditions for implementing the solution numerically.

The physical parameters of the plasma that the satellite will need to measure are the following: the speeds, density and temperature of protons and electrons. In addition, the three magnetic field components will be required. In this way, it is possible to sim-

75 ulate the plasma behavior in regions neighboring the satellite where no measurements
 76 were taken. This method is known as Grad-Shafranov reconstruction (GSR), and in the
 77 literature several successful studies can be found, for example Hu et al. (2004); Lui et
 78 al. (2008); Ojeda-González et al. (2017a).

79 There is another solution method explained by Lackner (1976); Mc Carthy (1999)
 80 that basically consists of an algorithm that makes a least squares fitting, considering only
 81 one eigenvalue as a nonlinear parameter in the GS equation numerical solution.

82 In (1), the right hand side term in the derivative argument is related to the plasma
 83 transverse pressure (P_t), where

$$84 \quad P_t(A_y(x, z)) = p(A_y(x, z)) + \frac{B_y^2(A_y(x, z))}{2\mu_0}. \quad (2)$$

85 Depending on the expression that P_t may assume, equation (1) will have an analytical
 86 solution. Several examples such as Tokamak's solution, can be found in the literature
 87 (Zheng et al., 1996; Mc Carthy, 1999; Atanasiu et al., 2004).

88 From a physical point of view, however, one must justify the choice of the math-
 89 ematical expression of P_t . Using plasma kinetic theory, Kan (1973) solved the set of Vlasov-
 90 Maxwell equations by considering a velocity distribution expression as a function of the
 91 Boltzmann factor from Maxwell-Boltzmann statistics. As a result of using the Boltzmann
 92 factor, the P_t parameter is expressed as an exponential function as follows:

$$93 \quad P_t(x, z) = P_{t_0} \exp(-2\Psi), \quad (3)$$

94 where Ψ is the normalized magnetic vector potential and P_{t_0} is the transverse pressure
 95 when $A_y = 0$ (Schindler, 2006).

96 The P_{t_0} parameter exists as a consequence of a drift velocity in the y -direction (even
 97 though A_y be zero). In the deduction of the distribution function, this drift velocity was
 98 considered by Kan (1973); Kan (1979); Yoon and Lui (2005); Ojeda-González et al. (2015).

99 The physical parameters Ψ and P_{t_0} are expressed as a function of the character-
 100 istic length scale L_0 and the magnitude of the asymptotic magnetic field strength B_0 ,
 101 where

$$102 \quad \Psi(x, z) = \frac{-2}{L_0 B_0} A_y(x, z), \quad (4)$$

103 and

$$104 \quad P_{t_0} = \frac{B_0^2}{2\mu_0}. \quad (5)$$

105 The previous expressions are replaced inside (1) to obtain a specific form of the GS
 106 equation as follows:

$$107 \quad \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial X^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \Psi}{\partial Z^2} = \exp(-2\Psi), \quad (6)$$

108 where a change of variables, $X = x/L_0$, $Z = z/L_0$, is performed to normalize x and
 109 z , transforming X and Z into dimensionless quantities. In the mathematical formula-
 110 tion adopted here, the y -component of the current density J_y is as follows:

$$111 \quad J_y(x, z) = \frac{B_0}{L_0 \mu_0} \exp(-2\Psi). \quad (7)$$

112 The mathematical expression given by (6) has the form of a Poisson's equation. In the
 113 specific case where the inhomogeneous term adopts an exponential form, however, the
 114 equation is now called the two-dimensional Liouville equation, which in its original form
 115 is written $\Phi_{xx} + \Phi_{yy} = c \exp(d\Phi)$ with c and d being real constants (Biskamp, 1986;
 116 Schindler, 2006).

117 By considering complex variables $\zeta = x + iy$ and $\bar{\zeta} = x - iy$, the problem goes to
 118 the complex plane where the equivalent function $\Phi_{\zeta\bar{\zeta}} = (c/4) \exp(d\Phi)$ must be solved
 119 as explained by Crowdy (1997). In the development of the solution presented by Stuart
 120 (1967); Biskamp (1986); Schindler (2006), the general solution of the Liouville equation
 121 has been parameterized by an analytical function, $g(\zeta) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$, where $g(\zeta)\bar{g}(\bar{\zeta}) =$
 122 $u^2(x, y) + v^2(x, y)$ and $g'(\zeta)\bar{g}'(\bar{\zeta}) = u_x^2(x, y) + u_y^2(x, y)$ with $d = -2$ e $c = 1/4$, obtain-
 123 ing the Liouville solution:

$$124 \quad \Phi(x, y) = \ln \left[\frac{1 + |g(\zeta)|^2}{2 \left| \frac{dg}{d\zeta} \right|} \right]. \quad (8)$$

125 Adapting this generic solution to the initial problem given by (6), a wide variety of gen-
 126 erating functions $g(\xi)$ (with $\xi = X + iZ$ as a dimensionless complex quantity) could
 127 be obtained, with a domain in the set of complex numbers that can offer Ψ solutions in
 128 the set of real numbers. The formula to obtain general solutions is written as follows:

$$129 \quad \Psi(X, Z) = \ln \left[\frac{1 + |g(\xi)|^2}{2|g'(\xi)|} \right], \quad (9)$$

130 with $g'(\xi) = dg(\xi)/d\xi$.

131 It is also important to note that some authors in the area of space physics (A. V. Man-
 132 ankova & Pudovkin, 1996, 1999; A. Manankova et al., 2000; A. V. Manankova, 2003; Yoon
 133 & Lui, 2005; Korovinskiy et al., 2018) called (9) Walker's formula (Walker, 1915). Fol-
 134 lowing the previous convention in the rest of this article, equation (9) will also be called
 135 Walker's formula.

136 It is worth highlighting the suggestion of Génot (2005) and rewriting (6) as

$$137 \quad \Delta\Psi = -\Delta\ln[|g'(\xi)|] + \frac{4|g'(\xi)|^2}{[1 + |g(\xi)|^2]^2}, \quad (10)$$

138 where Δ represents the Laplacian operator.

139 The importance of equation (10) is that it allows determining the singular points
 140 (X, Z) of $\Psi(X, Z)$ calculating poles and zeros of $g'(\zeta)$ (Génot, 2005). That is, singular-
 141 ities can be directly determined from Ψ or from the zeros and poles of $g'(\zeta)$ (Yoon & Lui,
 142 2005b).

143 The usefulness of having analytical solutions is that, for example, (1) does not have
 144 an analytical solution but can be numerically solved as a Cauchy problem, and the dif-
 145 ferential equation is subject to certain initial conditions (Sonnerup & Guo, 1996; Hau
 146 & Sonnerup, 1999; Hu & Sonnerup, 2001; Ojeda-González et al., 2015). In the work of Hau
 147 and Sonnerup (1999), an analytical solution of (6) proposed by Fadeev et al. (1965) was
 148 used to create a contour plot that allowed the visualization of the percentile error, use-
 149 ful in quantifying the quality during the numerical solution development. New analyt-
 150 ical solutions from (6) obtained from (9) may also be important for validating future im-
 151 provements in the numerical solution.

152 Analytical solutions are also important for understanding the coexistence between
 153 the X-type (where magnetic reconnection can happen), O-type (magnetic island), and
 154 S-type points (S for singular) which appear for example in the Kan model (Kan, 1979).
 155 Furthermore, the analytical solution was found by Laurindo-Sousa et al. (2018).

156 Another application of analytical solutions may be their use as initial conditions
 157 in magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) and electromagnetic particle in cell (PIC) simulations
 158 (Birn & Hesse, 2001). These simulations were intended to study the Hall effect on the
 159 generalized Ohm's law and the effect of resistivity on the diffusion region of electrons and
 160 ions at an X-type neutral point. For example, the Harris solution (Harris, 1962) was used
 161 as an initial condition in several articles (Birn & Hesse, 2001; Hesse et al., 2001; Otto,

162 2001; Shay et al., 2001; Ma & Bhattacharjee, 2001; Pritchett, 2001; Kuznetsova et al.,
 163 2001; Becker et al., 2001; Arzner & Scholer, 2001; J. González-Avilés & Guzmán, 2018),
 164 whose challenge was to study the two-dimensional magnetic reconnection in the envi-
 165 ronmental geospace by doing several simulations with different models, performed with
 166 the same input parameters.

167 This article aims to propose a new generating function deduced from the combi-
 168 nation of two existing functions in the literature. With the generating function in hand,
 169 Walker’s formula is used to find a new solution of $\Psi(X, Z)$. Subsequently, by entering
 170 this new solution as an initial condition in an MHD model, the plasma evolution in this
 171 magnetic configuration is studied.

172 The article has been structured in such a way as to propose an explicit construc-
 173 tion of all theory and arguments that will be approached that give the reader a better
 174 understanding. In Section 2, the mathematical equation of Fadeev’s solution (Fadeev et
 175 al., 1965) is presented. Section 3 presents a transformation of the original solution pro-
 176 posed by Laurindo-Sousa et al. (2018). Section 4 provides a new solution as a result of
 177 merging the solutions presented in Sections 2 and 3. Section 5 compares the three afore-
 178 mentioned analytical solutions. In Section 6, the behavior of the new solution has been
 179 studied when it is inserted as an initial condition to an MHD model. In Section 7, we
 180 discuss the results, and Section 8 shows the summary and conclusions of the article.

181 2 Fadeev Solution

182 One of the best known and most used solutions in the literature was proposed by
 183 Fadeev in 1965 (Fadeev et al., 1965). Considered a generating function

$$184 \quad g(\xi) = f_p + \sqrt{(1 + f_p^2)} \exp(ib\xi), \quad (11)$$

185 it obtains the following solution:

$$186 \quad \Psi(X, Z) = \ln \left[f_p \cos(bX) + \sqrt{1 + f_p^2} \cosh(bZ) \right], \quad (12)$$

187 where b is a scale parameter. The $f_p \in \mathbb{R}$ parameter has the ability to change the size
 188 of the magnetic islands observed in the solution graph. Equation (12) has no singular
 189 points; this facilitates its usefulness in numerical models by supplying the input param-
 190 eters (Hau & Sonnerup, 1999; Ojeda-González et al., 2016).

191 3 NAVAL solution

192 For the NAVAL¹ solution proposed by Laurindo-Sousa et al. (2018), which trans-
 193 forms the generating function by using a hyperbolic sine ($g(\xi) = \sinh(ib\xi)$) instead of
 194 hyperbolic cosine, the solution is given by

$$195 \quad \Psi(X, Z) = \ln \frac{\cosh^2(bZ) + \sin^2(bX)}{2b\sqrt{\cosh^2(bZ) - \sin^2(bX)}}. \quad (13)$$

196 The imaginary unit i in the argument of the hyperbolic sine has been used to rotate the
 197 solution to an angle of $\pi/2$.

198 Equation (13) has X-type neutral points, magnetic islands and singular points, re-
 199 spectively. Another solution with similar characteristics regarding the existence of X-
 200 points and singular points was proposed by Kan in 1973 (Kan, 1973) and which has been

¹ Nilson-Arian-Virginia-Alan-Lucas

201 extensively studied by many authors who also include magnetic islands (A. V. Manankova
 202 & Pudovkin, 1996, 1999; A. Manankova et al., 2000; A. V. Manankova, 2003; Yoon &
 203 Lui, 2005; Korovinskiy et al., 2018).

204 **4 Proposed solution**

205 One of the aims of this paper is to obtain a new analytical solution by combining
 206 the generating functions of Fadeev and NAVAL. The idea is to replace the NAVAL gen-
 207 erating function instead of the exponential function of Fadeev's generating function, re-
 208 sulting in

$$209 \quad g(\xi) = f_p + \sqrt{1 + f_p^2} \sinh(ib\xi). \quad (14)$$

210 With the generating function defined, the modulus of the function (14) and first
 211 derivative are calculated as follows:

$$212 \quad |g(\xi)|^2 = f_p^2 - 2f_p \sqrt{1 + f_p^2} \cos(bX) \sinh(bZ) + (1 + f_p^2) [-\cos^2(bX) + \cosh^2(bZ)], \quad (15)$$

213 and

$$214 \quad |g'(\xi)| = \sqrt{(1 + f_p^2)b^2 [\cosh^2(bZ) - \sin^2(bX)]}. \quad (16)$$

215 Therefore, by replacing (16) and (15) in Walker's formula (9) and developing some
 216 algebraic steps, the new solution is

$$217 \quad \Psi(X, Z) = \ln \left(\frac{(1 + f_p^2)(\cosh^2(bZ) + \sin^2(bX)) - 2f_p \sqrt{1 + f_p^2} \cos(bX) \sinh(bZ)}{2b \sqrt{(1 + f_p^2)(\cosh^2(bZ) - \sin^2(bX))}} \right). \quad (17)$$

218 By setting $f_p = 0$, the NAVAL solution (13) is recovered.

219 Using Génov's method cited in the introduction of this article, it is found that (17)
 220 has singular points. Génov found a simple method for locating singularities without nec-
 221 essarily solving the equation: without having to calculate derivatives and creating all al-
 222 gebraic manipulations. To do so, singularities can be determined only by

$$223 \quad |g'(\xi)| = 0. \quad (18)$$

224 The first derivative of the generating function (14) is $g'(\xi) = ib \sqrt{1 + f_p^2} \cos(b\xi)$,
 225 and by considering (18), the following expression is found:

$$226 \quad |g'(\xi)| = b \sqrt{(1 + f_p^2) \cos(b\xi) \cos(b\bar{\xi})} = 0. \quad (19)$$

227 Note that (19) must be zero, but b and $(1 + f_p^2)$ are not null. Therefore as it is a
 228 product, $\cos(b\xi)$ or $\cos(b\bar{\xi})$ must be null. Singularity points should appear where the co-
 229 sine nulls: the real part of $b\xi$ must equal to $\frac{\pi}{2} + k\pi$, where $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and π is given in ra-
 230 dians.

231 **5 Relationship between the aforementioned solutions**

232 Figure 1 shows the stream plot of the magnetic field vector at xz-plane superim-
 233 posed on a background density plot of J_y . The three panels show the following solutions:
 234 (a) Fadeev (as in (12)), (b) NAVAL (as in (13)), and (c) our proposal (as in (17)).

235 Panel (a) is characterized by having an X-type neutral point at the origin of the
 236 coordinate system, and in nearby $x > 0$ there is a magnetic island, then an X-point,
 237 again an island and so on. This setting repeats itself periodically to infinity. For $x <$

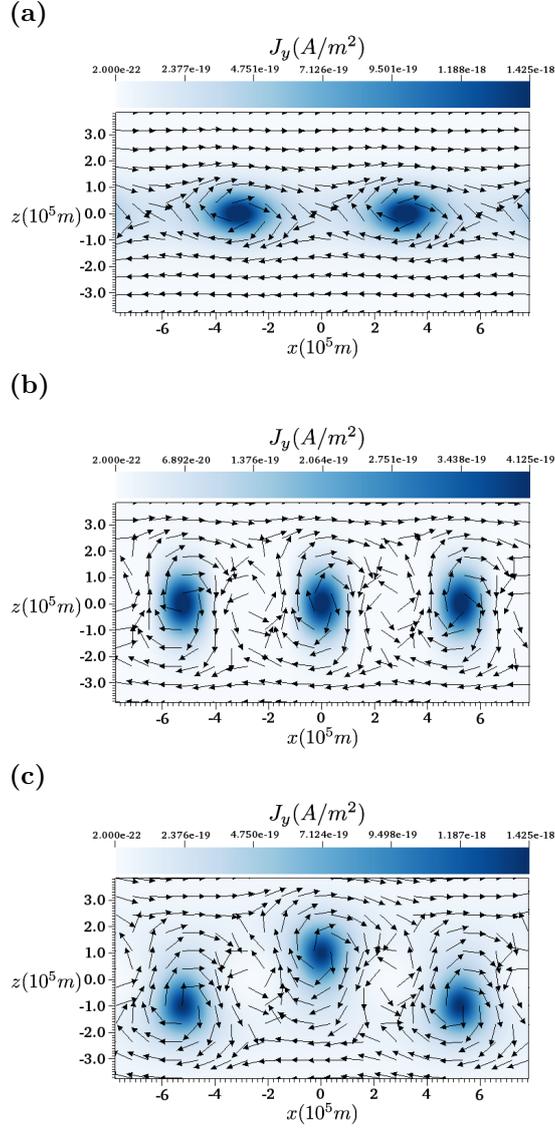


Figure 1. Stream plot of the magnetic field vector $\vec{B}_{xz} = B_x \hat{i} + B_z \hat{k}$ as a function of x and z , superimposed on a background density plot of the scalar field J_y . Panel (a) shows Fadeev's solution from (12). Two magnetic islands are observed and one X-point. Panel (b) shows the NAVAL solution from (13). Panel (c) shows the proposed solution from (17). In both panels (b) and (c), three magnetic islands are observed, as well as two singular points and four X-points, respectively.

238 0, the setting is exactly the same: there is a symmetry of the solution with respect to
 239 the z-axis. The direction of magnetic field rotation in the magnetic islands is clockwise.
 240 In panel (b), three O-type points appear on the x-axis, and two S-type singular points
 241 are observed between them. There are also four X-type neutral points at the top and
 242 bottom of the singular points. Panel (c) shows a configuration similar to panel (b); how-
 243 ever, in this case, the center of the magnetic islands does not appear on the x-axis. An
 244 island appears at $z > 0$ and the other two at $z < 0$, respectively. Another important
 245 detail shown in panels (b) and (c) is the direction of the magnetic field rotation in the
 246 magnetic islands (clockwise) relative to the singular points (counterclockwise). The ma-
 247 jor advantage of the new solution compared with the NAVAL solution is the displace-
 248 ment of the center of the x-axis magnetic islands. This allows us to use this solution in
 249 a numerical simulation by excluding the singular points of the solution, i.e., the x-axis,
 250 and maintaining the magnetic structure of the islands, as well as the X-type neutral points.

251 At the moment, no real physical system has been found in which magnetic config-
 252 urations exist, as shown in Figures 1b and 1c. Therefore, the importance of this study
 253 is the mathematical proposal of this new solution and our curiosity about how it evolves
 254 in an MHD model as presented in the next section. The motivation for studying the tem-
 255 poral evolution of this system is that the initial configuration (as in Figure 1c) shows a
 256 complex structure where magnetic islands and X-type neutral points are present. Re-
 257 garding the new solution, there are four questions that will be answered in the next sec-
 258 tions: (i) How will this configuration evolve in a numerical and dynamic environment?
 259 (ii) Will this configuration be temporally stable enough to be observed in any real phys-
 260 ical system? (iii) As with the Harris and Fadeev model, can this model be used to study
 261 a two-dimensional magnetic reconnection and current sheets? (iv) In addition, how im-
 262 portant are the singular points in this model?

263 6 MHD simulation

264 In this section, we mention the system of equations and the numerical methods used
 265 to perform the simulation of the initial conditions defined in terms of (17). We numer-
 266 ically solve the equations of classical ideal MHD in two dimensions using the Newtonian
 267 CAFE code (J. J. González-Avilés et al., 2015; J. González-Avilés & Guzmán, 2018). In
 268 particular, the ideal MHD equations are solved on a single uniform cell-centered grid us-
 269 ing the method of lines with a third-order Runge-Kutta time integrator. In order to use
 270 the method of lines, the MHD equations are discretized using a finite volume approx-
 271 imation with high resolution shock capturing methods. For this, we first reconstruct the
 272 variables at cell interfaces using the MINMOD limiter (Harten et al., 1997). On the other
 273 hand, the numerical fluxes are built with the Harten-Lax-van Leer-Einfeldt (HLLC) ap-
 274 proximate Riemann solver formula (Harten et al., 1983; Einfeldt, 1988).

275 The numerical evolution of initial data involving Maxwell equations leads to the
 276 violation of the divergence free constraint equation, developing as a consequence unphys-
 277 ical results like the presence of a magnetic net charge. Among the several methods avail-
 278 able for controlling the growth of the constraint violation (Tóth, 2000), in our simula-
 279 tion we use the extended generalized lagrange multiplier (EGLM) method (Dedner et
 280 al., 2002).

281 6.1 Initial conditions

282 The MHD equations are solved as an initial value problem. For this reason we de-
 283 fine the set of initial conditions corresponding to the variables derived from (17). Fol-
 284 lowing Ojeda-González et al. (2015), the expressions for the magnetic field components

285 B_x , B_y , and B_z in terms of Ψ are

$$286 \quad B_x = B_0 \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial Z}, \quad (20)$$

$$287 \quad B_y = B_0 \sqrt{\frac{\exp(-2\Psi)}{3}}, \quad (21)$$

$$288 \quad B_z = -B_0 \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial X}. \quad (22)$$

289 The plasma pressure is also defined in terms of Ψ as follows:

$$290 \quad p = \frac{B_0^2}{3\mu_0} \exp(-2\Psi). \quad (23)$$

291 For this simulation, the mass density ρ is obtained through the equation of state
292 of an ideal gas:

$$293 \quad p = \frac{k_B \rho T}{\bar{m}}, \quad (24)$$

294 where k_B is Boltzmann's constant, T is the temperature, \bar{m} is the mean particle mass
295 defined in terms of the mean atomic weight μ through $\mu = \bar{m}/m_p$, where m_p is the proton's
296 mass. For this article, we fixed the value of temperature to $T = 10^7$ K, which is
297 a typical value of the magnetospheric conditions. In addition $\mu = 0.6$, this is a value for
298 a fully ionized plasma. Therefore, mass density is defined as follows:

$$299 \quad \rho = \frac{\bar{m} p}{k_B T} = \frac{\bar{m} B_0^2}{3 k_B T \mu_0} \exp(-2\Psi). \quad (25)$$

300 In this case we consider at initial time the velocity components v_x , v_y and v_z equal
301 to zero.

302 To perform the numerical simulation, the set of MHD equations are rescaled i.e.,
303 the equations become dimensionless, which helps to avoid the appearance of dominant
304 numerical factors during the solution. In this article, we follow the conventions used in
305 J. J. González-Avilés and Guzmán (2015) and fix the scale factors to the typical values
306 observed in regions of the magnetospheric current sheet, i.e., the length-scale $L_0 = 10^5$
307 m, the plasma density $\rho_0 = 8.360 \times 10^{-22}$ g/m³ and the magnetic field scale $B_0 = 4.915 \times$
308 10^{-8} T (Kan, 1973). With the previous values, the unit of time is fixed in terms of Alfvén
309 speed ($v_0 = v_{A,0} = \frac{B_0}{\sqrt{\mu_0 \rho_0}} = 1.5 \times 10^6$ m/s), which implies $t_0 = L_0/v_0 = 0.066$ s. The
310 factor $p_0 = \rho v_0^2 = 1.9 \times 10^{-9}$ Pa, and it is used to normalize the initial condition for gas
311 pressure.

312 6.2 MHD results

313 In this section, we analyze the results of the numerical simulations. In particular
314 we show the results of the evolution of the initial conditions defined in the previous section.
315 To perform the numerical simulation of the proposed solution given by the configuration
316 described in panel (c) of Figure 1, we separate the full domain into two parts:
317 i) ($z > 0$), $x \in [-8.0, 8.0]$ and $z \in [0.1, 8.1]$, ii) ($z < 0$), $x \in [-8.0, 8.0]$ and $z \in [-8.1, 0.1]$.
318 The separation is done to avoid the singularity in zero of the magnetic field components
319 B_x (equation (20)) and B_z (equation (22)).

320 For the first part of the domain ($z > 0$), we perform the simulation of i) that we
321 cover with 200×100 cells. We use a constant Courant factor CFL=0.001, and impose open
322 boundary conditions on all sides.

323 In Figure 2, we show snapshots of the y -component of the current density J_y with
324 magnetic field vectors at different times. For example, at the initial time we can see a

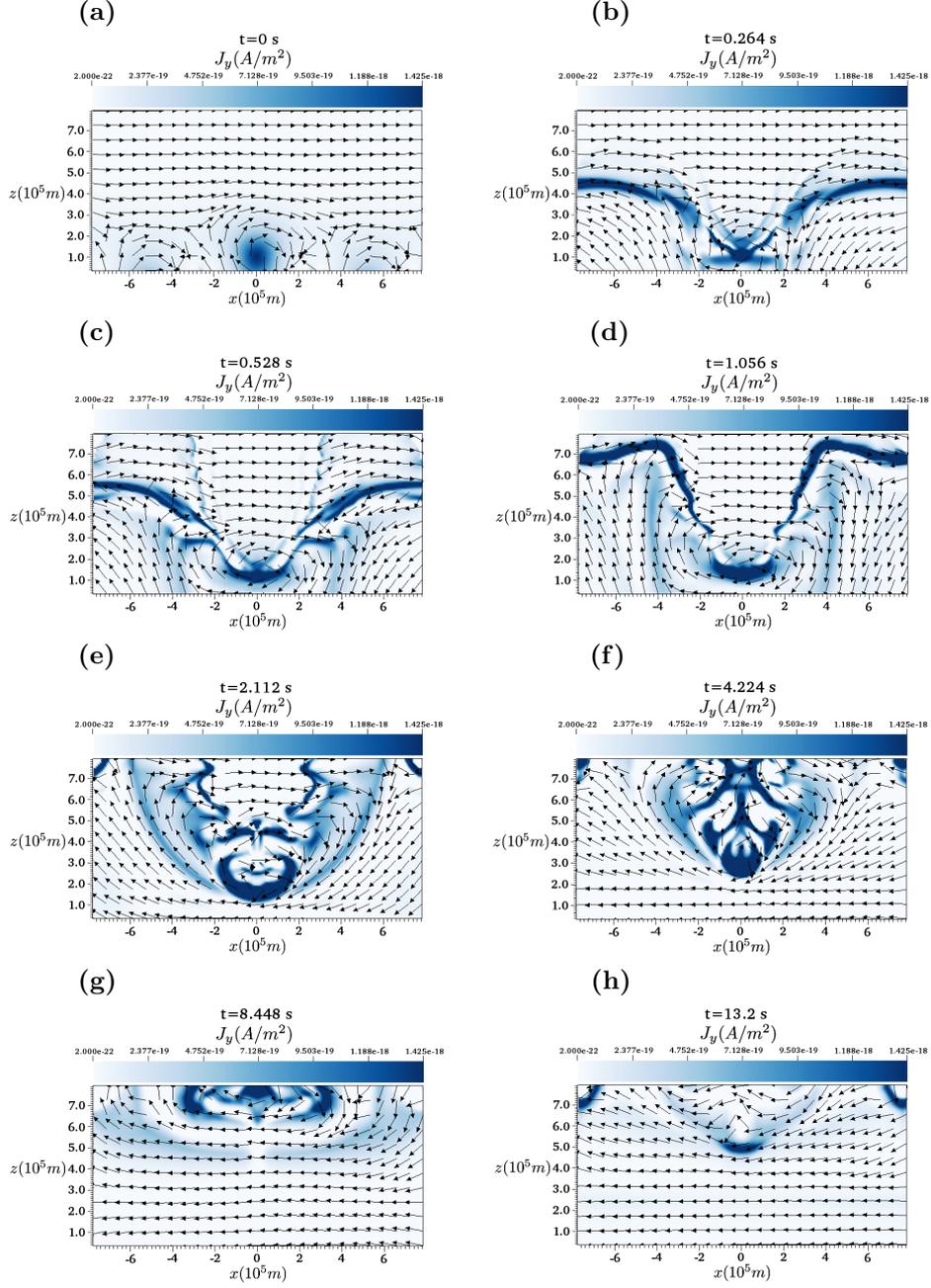


Figure 2. Snapshots of the evolution of the y -component of the current density J_y (A/m²) with the magnetic vector field for the case of the positive domain $z > 0$ at different times.

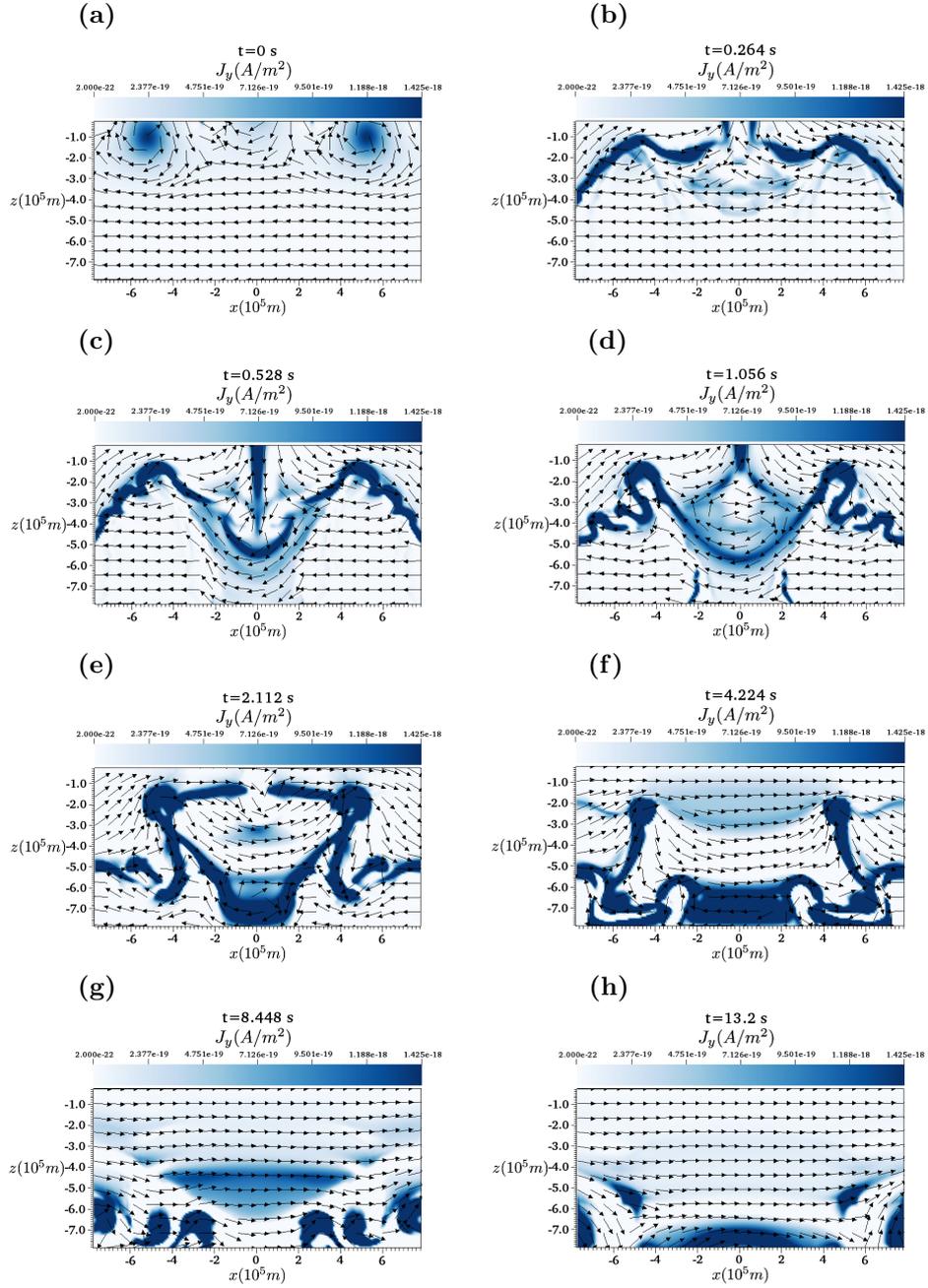


Figure 3. Snapshots of the evolution of the y -component of the current density J_y (A/m^2) with magnetic vector field for the case of the negative domain $z < 0$ at different times.

325 magnetic island exactly at in the middle of the domain in the x -axis. In addition, we
 326 can identify two X-type neutral points at the top of the singularity. At times $t = 0.264$
 327 s and $t = 0.528$ s, we can appreciate the fast evolution of the system, especially near the
 328 neutral points, which produce structures of high current density. At time $t = 1.056$ s,
 329 we can see that the structures of the high current reach the top of the domain. At times
 330 $t = 2.112$ s and $t = 4.224$ s, we can identify the formation of a symmetric structure, which
 331 is caused by the evolution of the two X-type points. At time $t = 8.448$ s, we can see that
 332 the structure practically disappears at the top of the domain. Finally, at time $t = 13.200$
 333 s, we can see that the polarity of the magnetic field is completely reversed, which may
 334 be due to the evolution of the two X-type neutral points.

335 For the second part of the domain ($z < 0$), we perform the simulation with ii) that
 336 we cover with 200×100 cells. We also use a constant Courant factor $CFL = 0.001$ and im-
 337 pose open boundary conditions in all sides.

338 The results of this case are shown in Figure 3. For example, at the initial time, we
 339 can see two magnetic islands and X-type neutral points at the bottom of the singular
 340 points. At times $t = 0.264$ s and $t = 0.528$ s, we can see the fast evolution of the sys-
 341 tem, especially near the neutral points, which produce two structures of high current den-
 342 sity that extended up to the middle of the domain. At time $t = 1.056$ s, we can see that
 343 the two high current structures show fluctuations. At time $t = 2.112$ s, we identify a high
 344 current structure that reaches the bottom of the domain. In addition, we notice the preva-
 345 lence of the two initial high current structures forming a symmetric configuration near
 346 the initial position of the X-type points. In addition, at this time, we can observe that
 347 the polarity of the magnetic field starts to invert. At time $t = 4.224$ s, we can see that
 348 the previous structure begins to dissipate. Finally, at the times $t = 8.448$ s and $t = 13.200$
 349 s, the high current structures reach the bottom of the domain. In addition, in the same
 350 way as in the previous case, we can also observe that the polarity of the magnetic field
 351 was completely reversed.

352 7 Discussion

353 The specific form of the GS equation and its solution physically represents a mag-
 354 netostatic problem. This could lead to the idea that the solution would be in magneto-
 355 static equilibrium when set to evolve in a numerical and dynamic environment. Figures
 356 2b and 3b, however, show very fast dissipation in less than one second of the magnetic
 357 islands of the initial configuration. Almost all structures left the integration region at
 358 13.200 s. In addition, the magnetic field vector reverses its polarity very quickly. Con-
 359 sequently, if this structure exists in a real physical system, we barely have enough data
 360 to observe its evolution.

361 At the initial configuration, the structure found in the magnetic island is proba-
 362 bly the signature of a twisted flux tube (Dasso et al., 2005; Démoulin & Dasso, 2009).
 363 Therefore, the model shows a fast way of transforming a flux-rope into an elongated cur-
 364 rent sheet, and the latter is the only structure, specifically a sample of it, which could
 365 be locally observed in any real physical system throughout its temporal evolution. By
 366 definition, a two-dimensional current sheet is related to a tangential discontinuity at a
 367 non-propagating boundary between two plasmas (Parnell, 2000). Current sheets have
 368 been found in the solar atmosphere, in the interplanetary medium, in the magnetosphere,
 369 as well as in comets (Yoon & Lui, 2005).

370 What makes this model important is the spatial location of the X-type neutral points,
 371 magnetic islands and singular points, respectively. The initial configuration is important
 372 because as shown in Figure 1c, the currents are well concentrated on the three magnetic
 373 islands, the two singular points are on the line $z = 0$, and the four X-type neutral points
 374 are localized between the islands and the singular points, far from the x -axis. Similarly

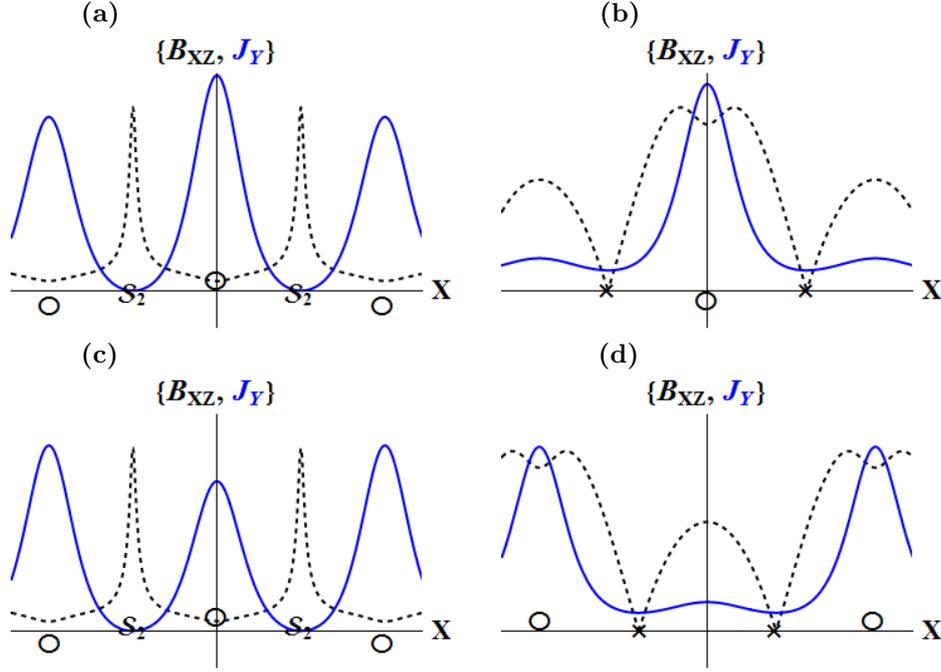


Figure 4. The physical behavior of the magnetic field (black dashed lines) and the current density (blue thin lines). Their respective point types (X- O- and S-types) are also shown. The left panels (a and c) correspond to the solutions behaviors for $z = \pm 0.1$ and the right panels (b and d) for $z = \pm 1.8$.

375 to Fadeev's model (Figure 1a), this configuration will be repeated periodically from mi-
 376 nus infinity to plus infinity on the x-axis.

377 Fadeev's model in an MHD simulation shows that initially the only place where
 378 particles could diffuse is the X-type point through magnetic reconnection (Makwana et
 379 al., 2018). On the other hand, excluding the x-axis from our model, in each region ($z <$
 380 0 and $z > 0$) there are two X-points instead of one. The aforementioned is one of the
 381 first facts that helps us to understand why our model is evolving so rapidly in the MHD
 382 environment because in a diffusion process two X-points are more efficient than one.

383 A second fact that helps us to understand the rapid evolution of the model is the
 384 magnetic field near the singular points. Figure 4 shows a schematic representation of the
 385 magnetic field magnitude (black dashed lines) and current density (blue thin lines) af-
 386 ter making four horizontal cuts in Figure 1c as follows: (a) $z = 0.1$; (b) $z = 0.8$; (c)
 387 $z = -0.1$; and (d) $z = -0.8$. The location of each point type (X-, O-, and S-types)
 388 is also shown. All panels show the maximum of J_y at O-type points and the null magnetic
 389 field at X-type points. Panels (a) and (c) show two amplitude peaks of the magnetic field
 390 near the singular points. The Figure 1c shows that the direction of the magnetic field
 391 within the islands is clockwise, while within the singular points the direction is the op-
 392 posite. Therefore, this field will force a rapid evolution of the system to the opposite bound-
 393 ary. The interaction with the initially opposite field will force the creation of an elon-
 394 gated current sheet. Panels (b) and (d) show two X-points each. The two X-points on
 395 panel (d) are closer to the origin than the X-points on panel (b). Panel (b) shows the
 396 presence of a magnetic island, while panel (d) shows two.

397 In summary, the direction and amplitude of the magnetic field near the singular
 398 points and the existence of the X-points are the main cause forcing the model to have

399 a fast diffusion. The magnetic islands disappear quickly, forming elongated current sheets
400 that will leave the integration grid domain.

401 8 Summary and Conclusions

402 In this work, we introduce a new solution of the special form of the Grad-Shafranov
403 equation (Grad & Rubin, 1958; Shafranov, 1966) using a combination of Fadeev (Fadeev
404 et al., 1965) and NAVAL solutions (Laurindo-Sousa et al., 2018). The proposed solution
405 defined in (17) shows singularity points where the cosine is zero. In particular, the two
406 singular points are on the $z = 0$ and the four X-type neutral points are in between the
407 islands and the singular points. The solutions are repeated periodically from minus in-
408 finity to plus infinity on the x-axis.

409 In addition, we used an MHD code (Newtonian CAFE) to study the time evolu-
410 tion of the proposed solution. We use the equation (17) to construct the initial condi-
411 tions for a 2D MHD domain with open boundaries. The results of numerical simulations
412 indicate that the evolution of the proposed solution shows increases in current density
413 near the X-type points. An interesting property of the system is that it reverses the po-
414 larity of the magnetic field, which may be due to the direction as well as amplitude peaks
415 of the magnetic field near the singular points, and the presence of X-type neutral points.

416 The main results of this article can be summarized as below.

417 (i) The generating functions of Fadeev and NAVAL have been grouped in a new way to
418 obtain another solution given by (17).

419 (ii) The characteristics of the new solution have been described in detail, such as
420 the location and the importance of the X-, O- and S-types points.

421 (iii) The singular points of the new solution have been excluded from the integra-
422 tion grid domain to perform an MHD simulation of the dynamic evolution of the initial
423 condition defined in terms of (17).

424 (iv) In the MHD simulation it has been possible to observe the fast evolution of
425 magnetic islands into current sheets;

426 (v) The importance of the strong magnetic field at the edge of the singular points
427 has also been explained for understanding the polarity inversion and the fast evolution
428 of the model.

429 (vi) As a limitation linked to the magnetic morphology of the new solution in a nu-
430 meric and dynamic environment, the difficulty in finding a real physical system because
431 of its fast temporal evolution is considered.

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Fig1a.

$$J_y (A/m^2)$$

2.000e-22

2.377e-19

4.751e-19

7.126e-19

9.501e-19

1.188e-18

1.425e-18

$z(10^5 m)$

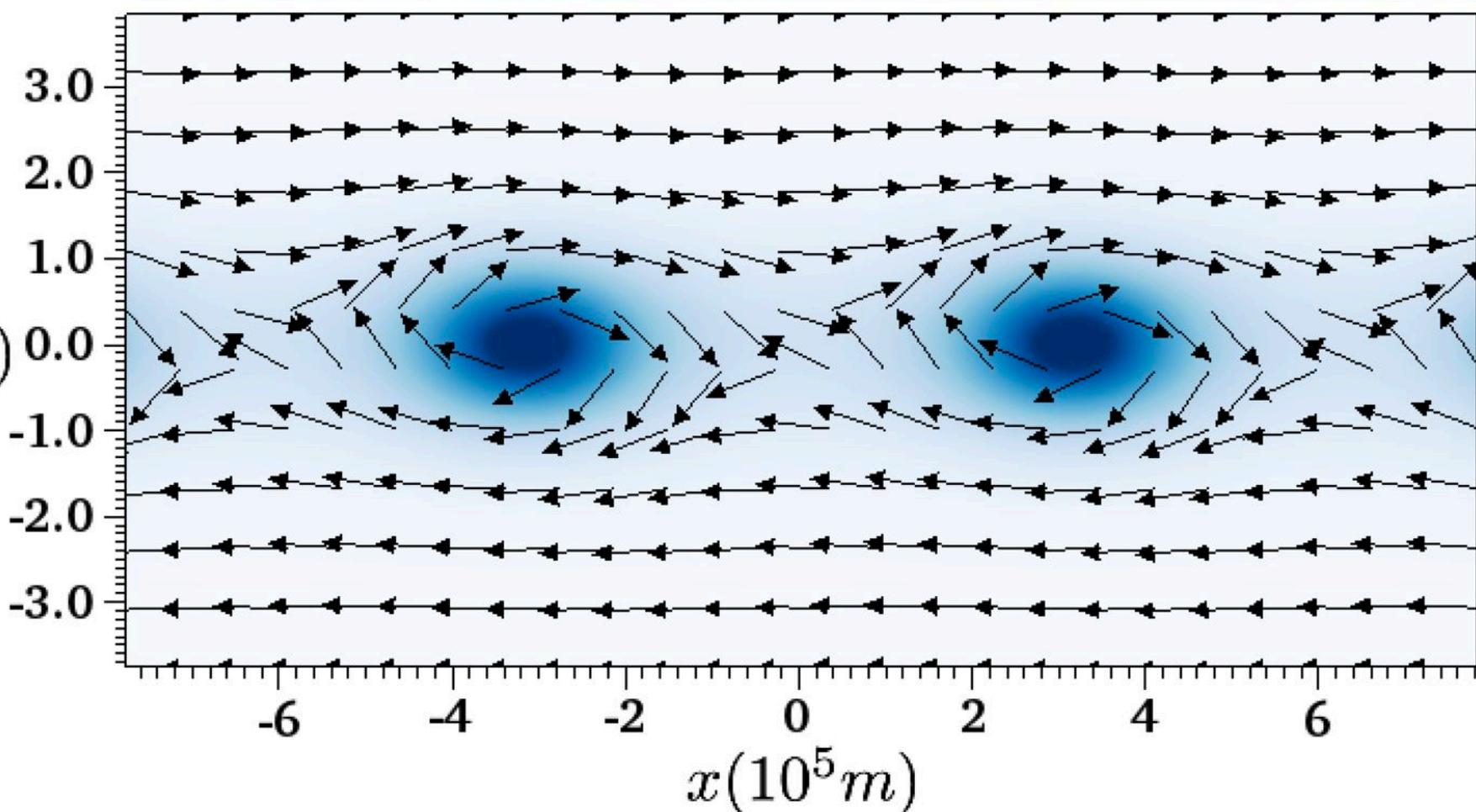


Fig1b.

$$J_y (A/m^2)$$

2.000e-22

6.892e-20

1.376e-19

2.064e-19

2.751e-19

3.438e-19

4.125e-19

$z(10^5 m)$

3.0

2.0

1.0

0.0

-1.0

-2.0

-3.0

-6

-4

-2

0

2

4

6

$x(10^5 m)$

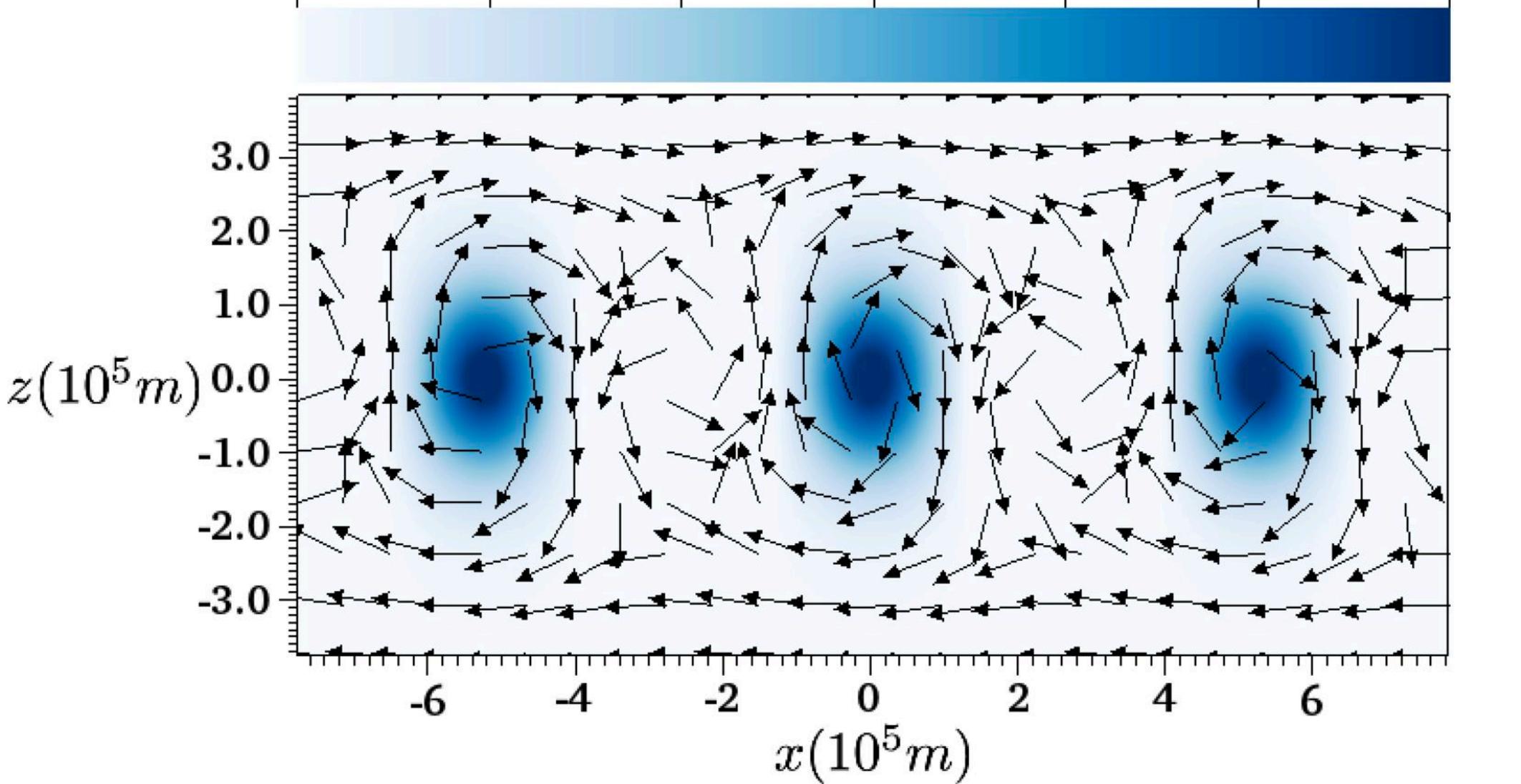


Fig1c.

$$J_y (A/m^2)$$

2.000e-22

2.376e-19

4.750e-19

7.124e-19

9.498e-19

1.187e-18

1.425e-18

$z(10^5 m)$

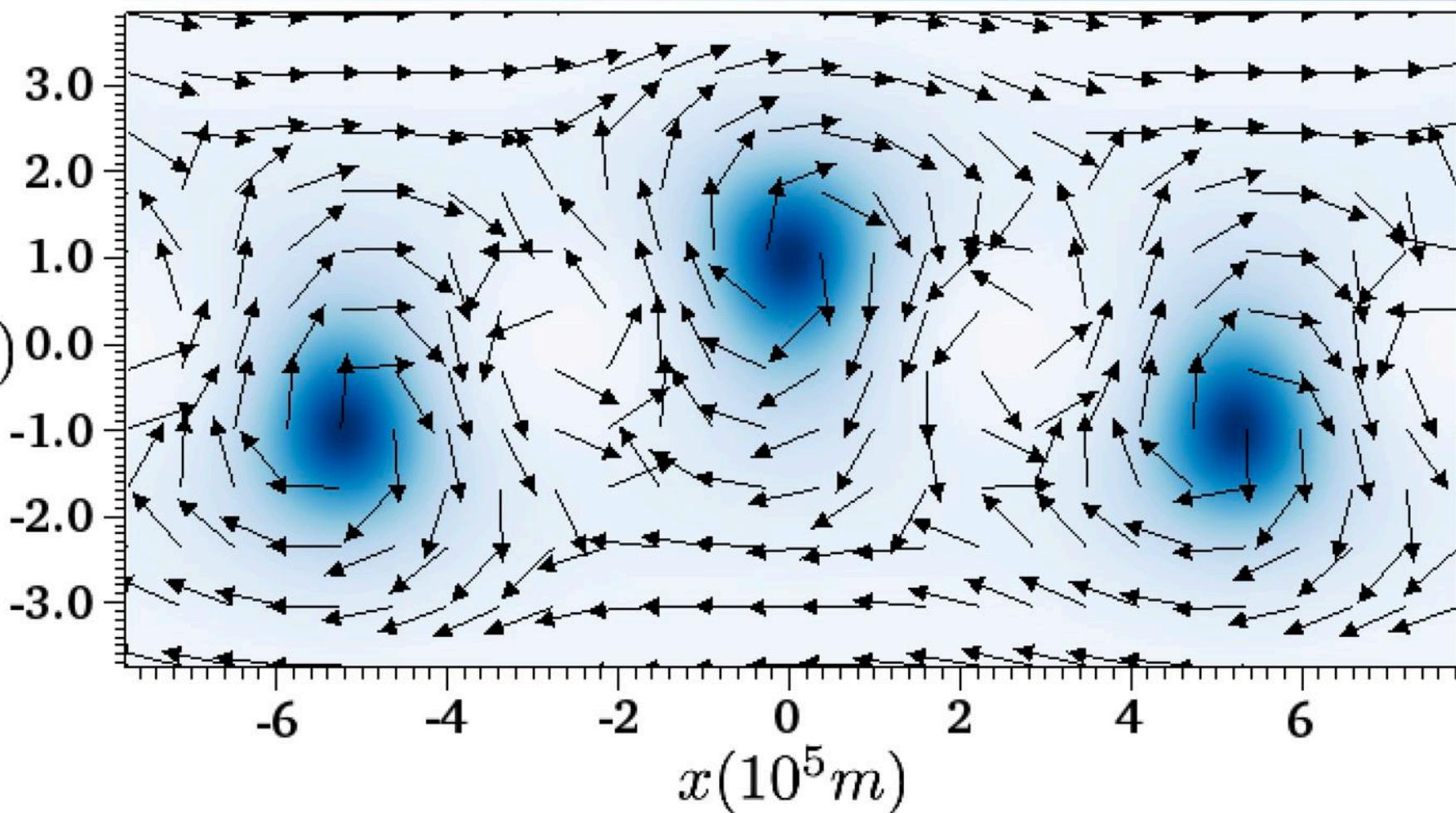


Fig2a.

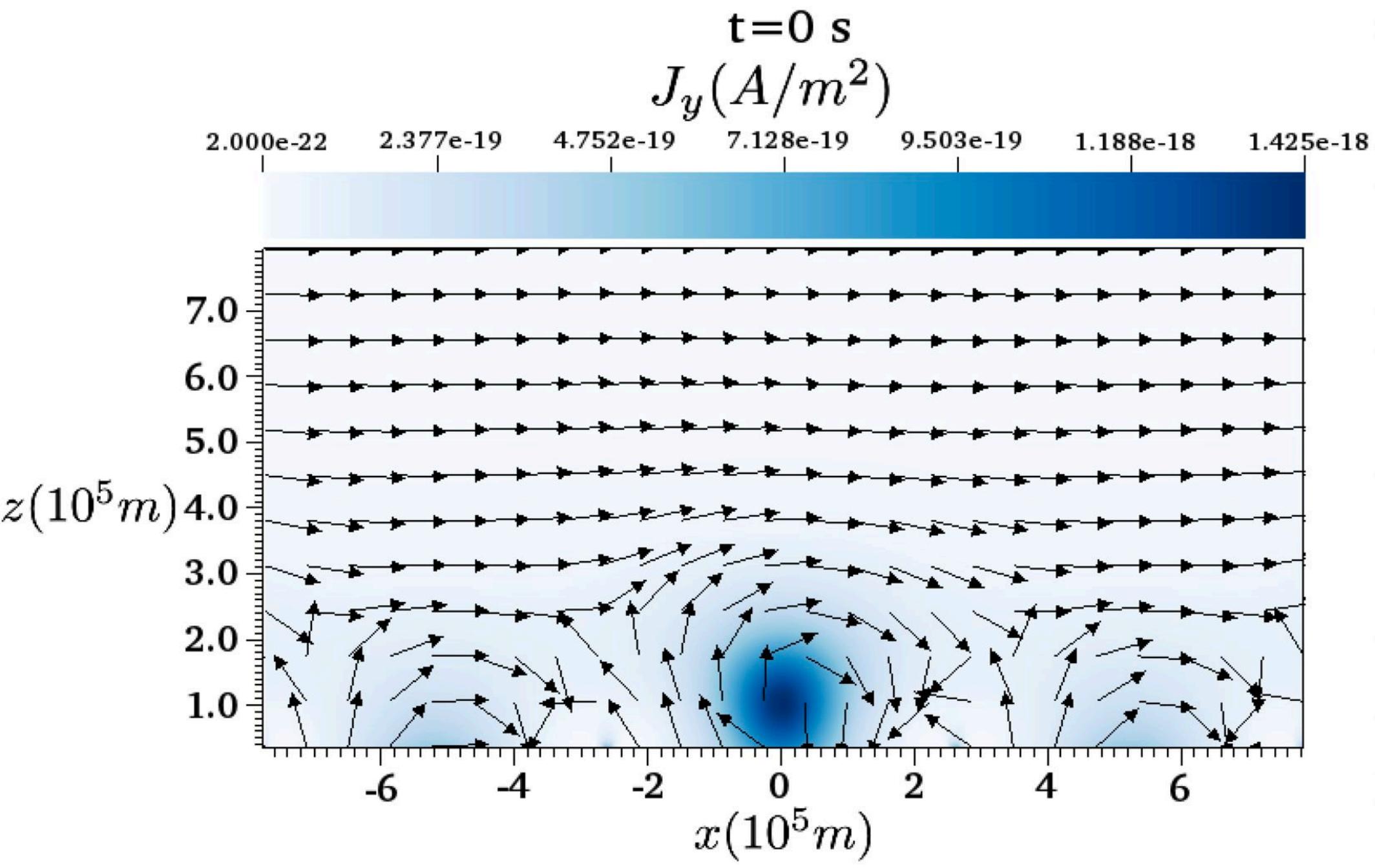


Fig2b.

$t=0.264\text{ s}$

$J_y(A/m^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.752e-19 7.128e-19 9.503e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

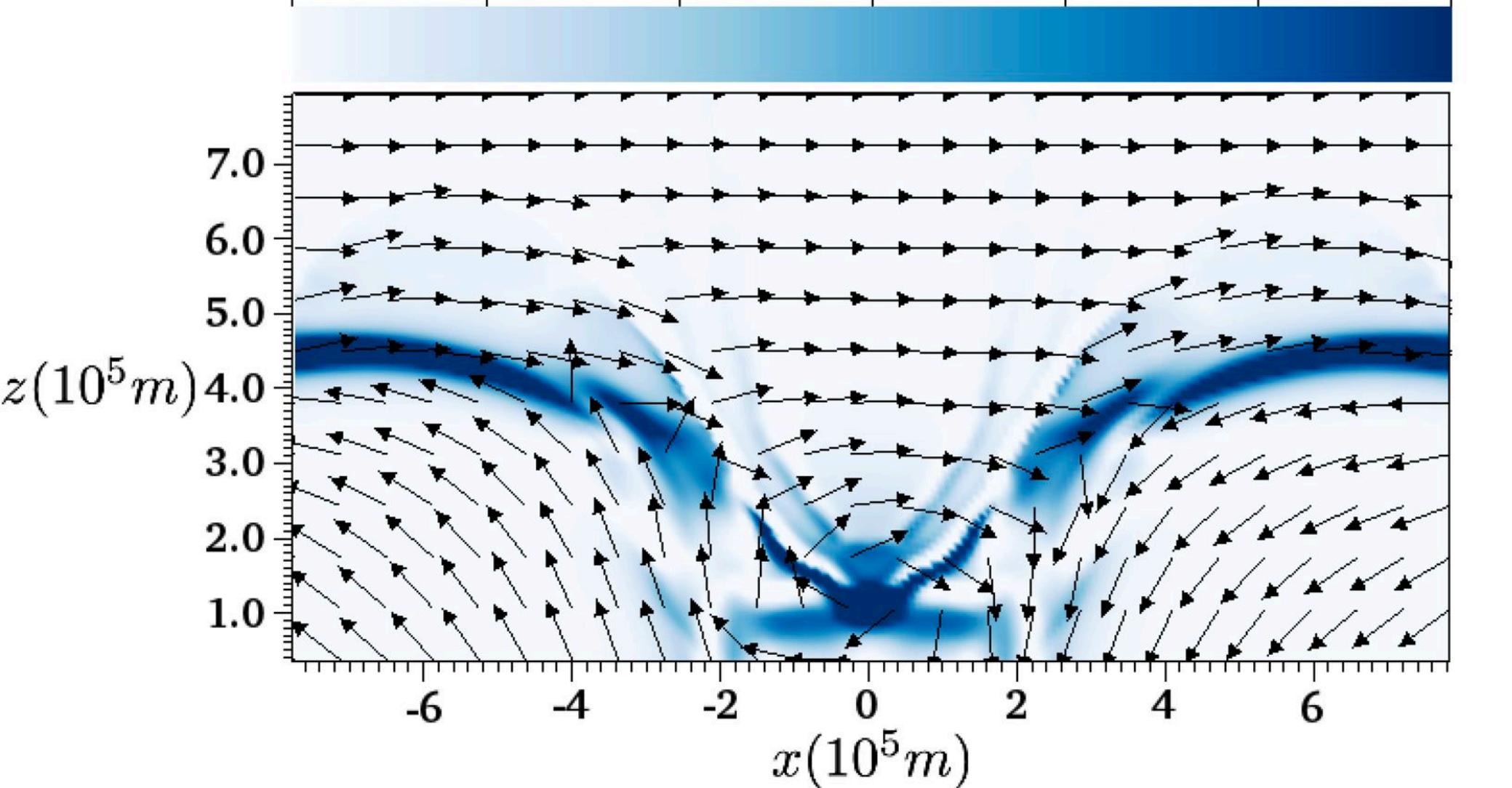


Fig2c.

$t=0.528 \text{ s}$

$J_y (A/m^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.752e-19 7.128e-19 9.503e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

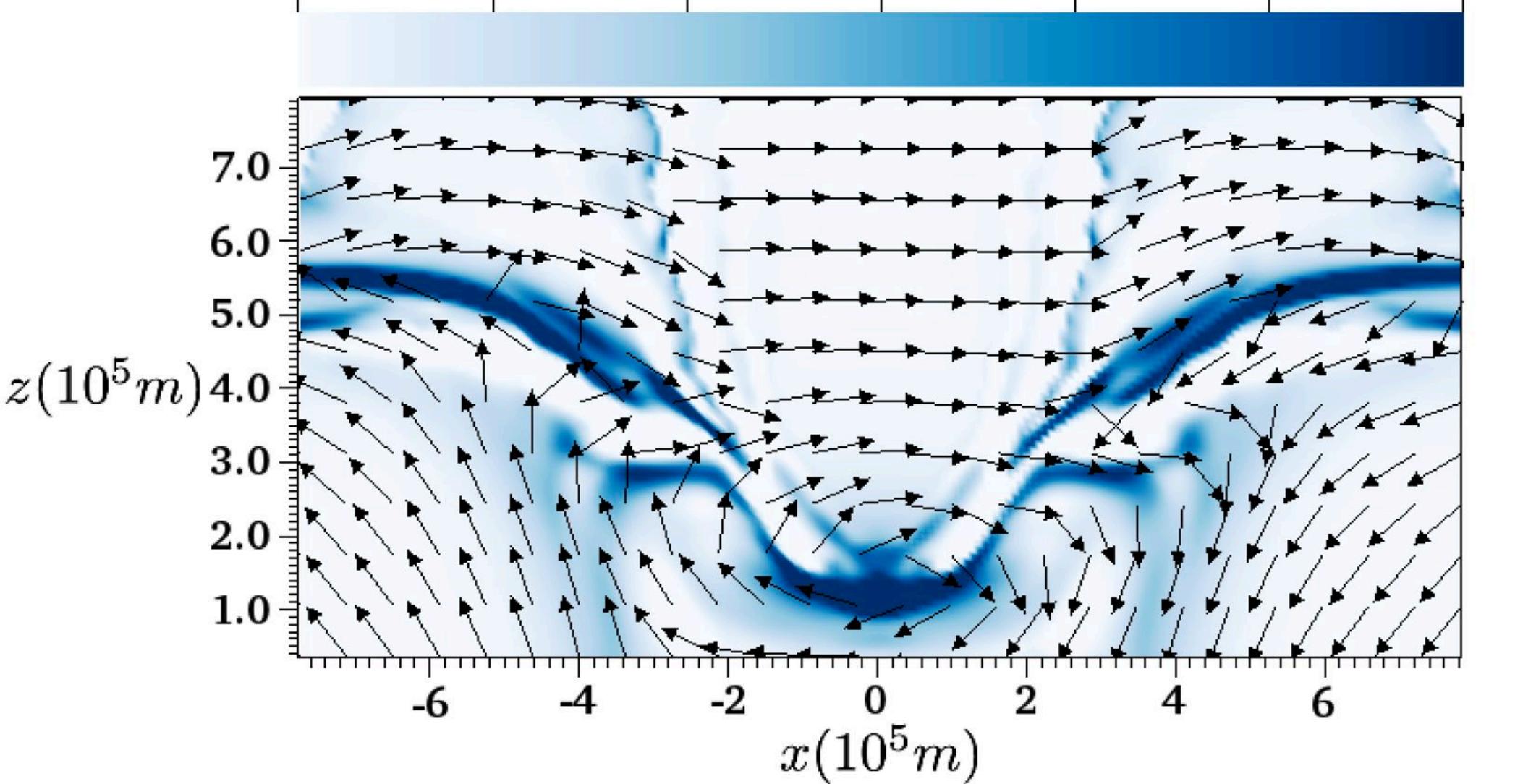


Fig2d.

$t=1.056\text{ s}$
 $J_y(\text{A}/\text{m}^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.752e-19 7.128e-19 9.503e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

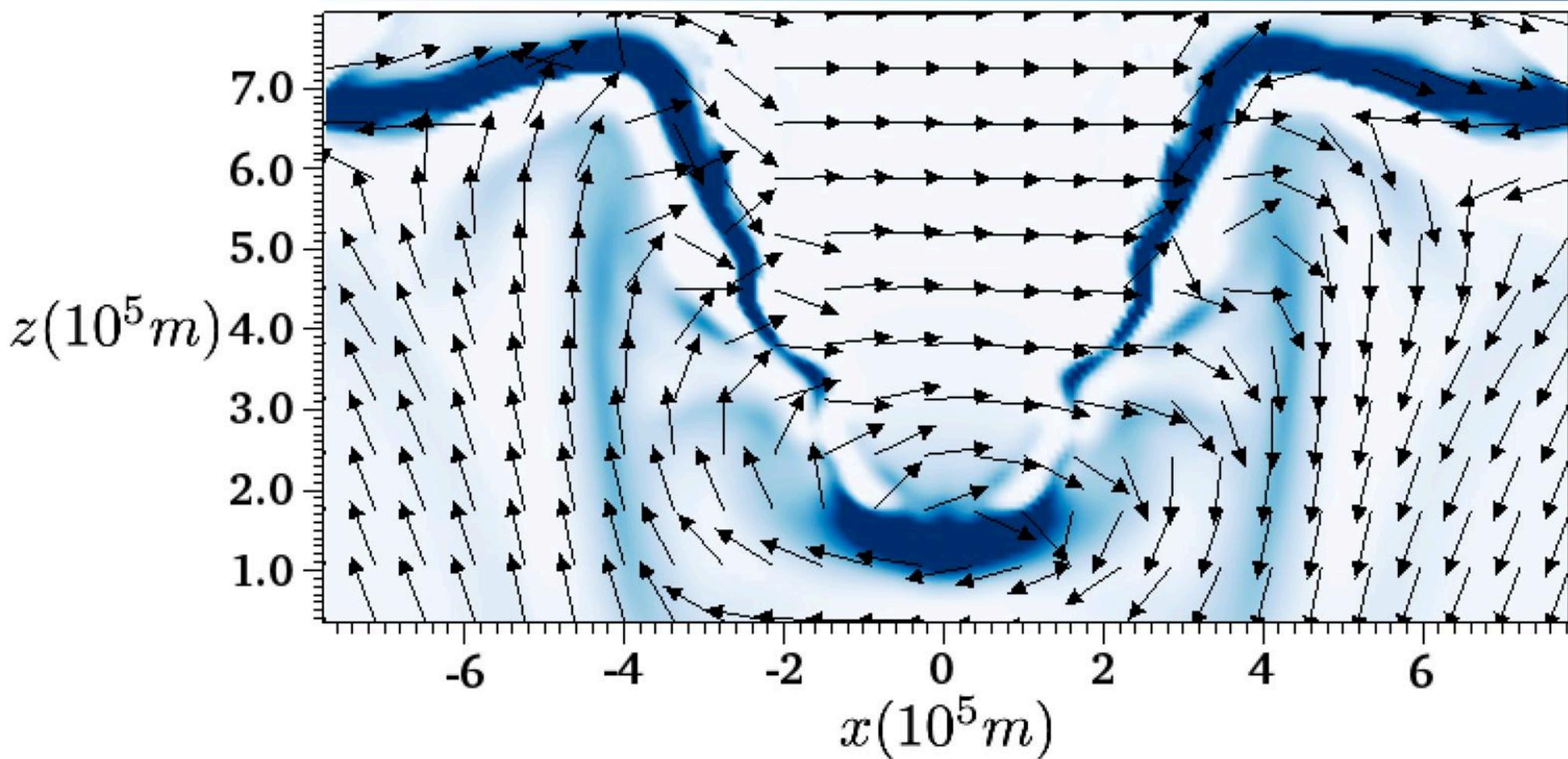


Fig2e.

$t = 2.112 \text{ s}$
 $J_y (\text{A}/\text{m}^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.752e-19 7.128e-19 9.503e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

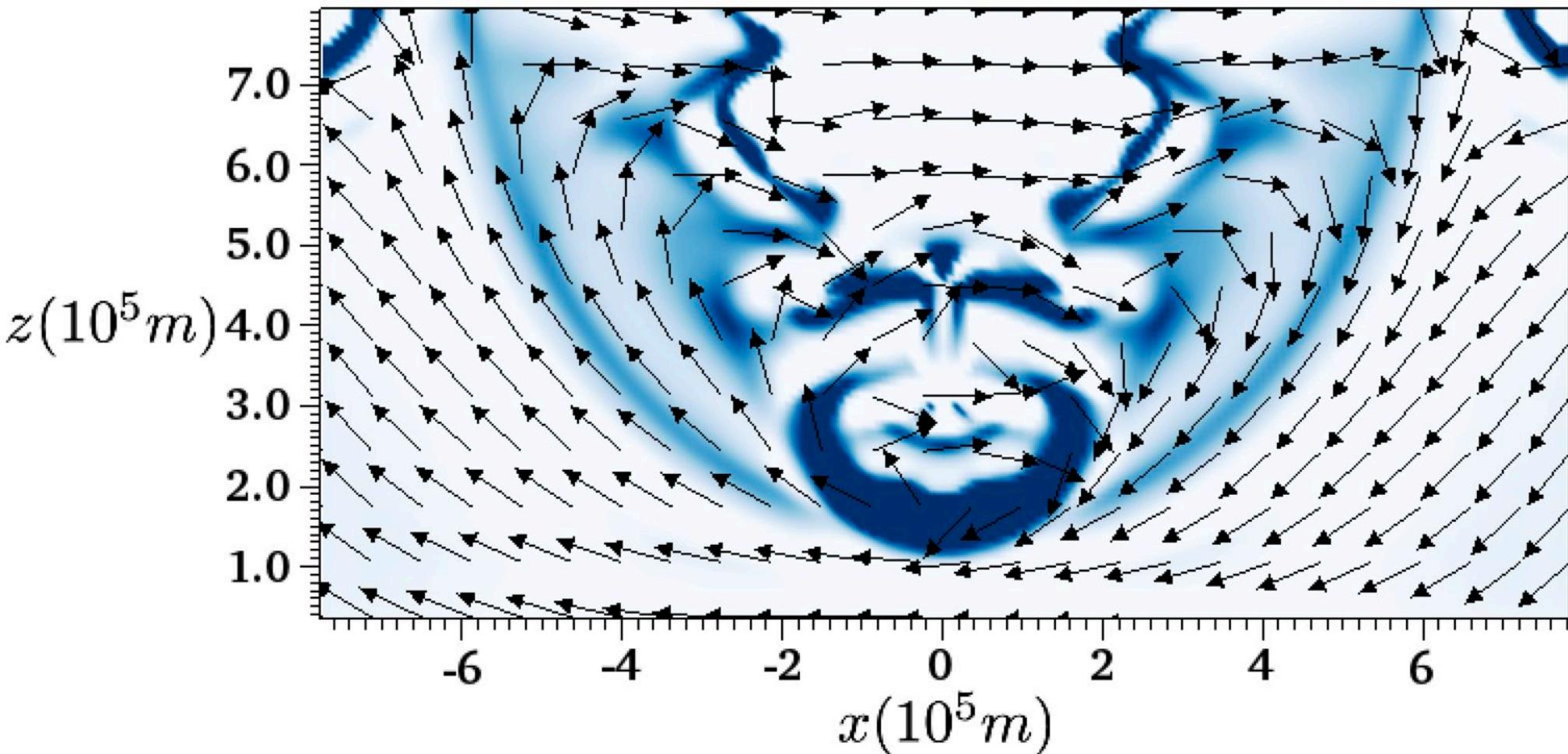


Fig2f.

$t = 4.224 \text{ s}$
 $J_y (\text{A}/\text{m}^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.752e-19 7.128e-19 9.503e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

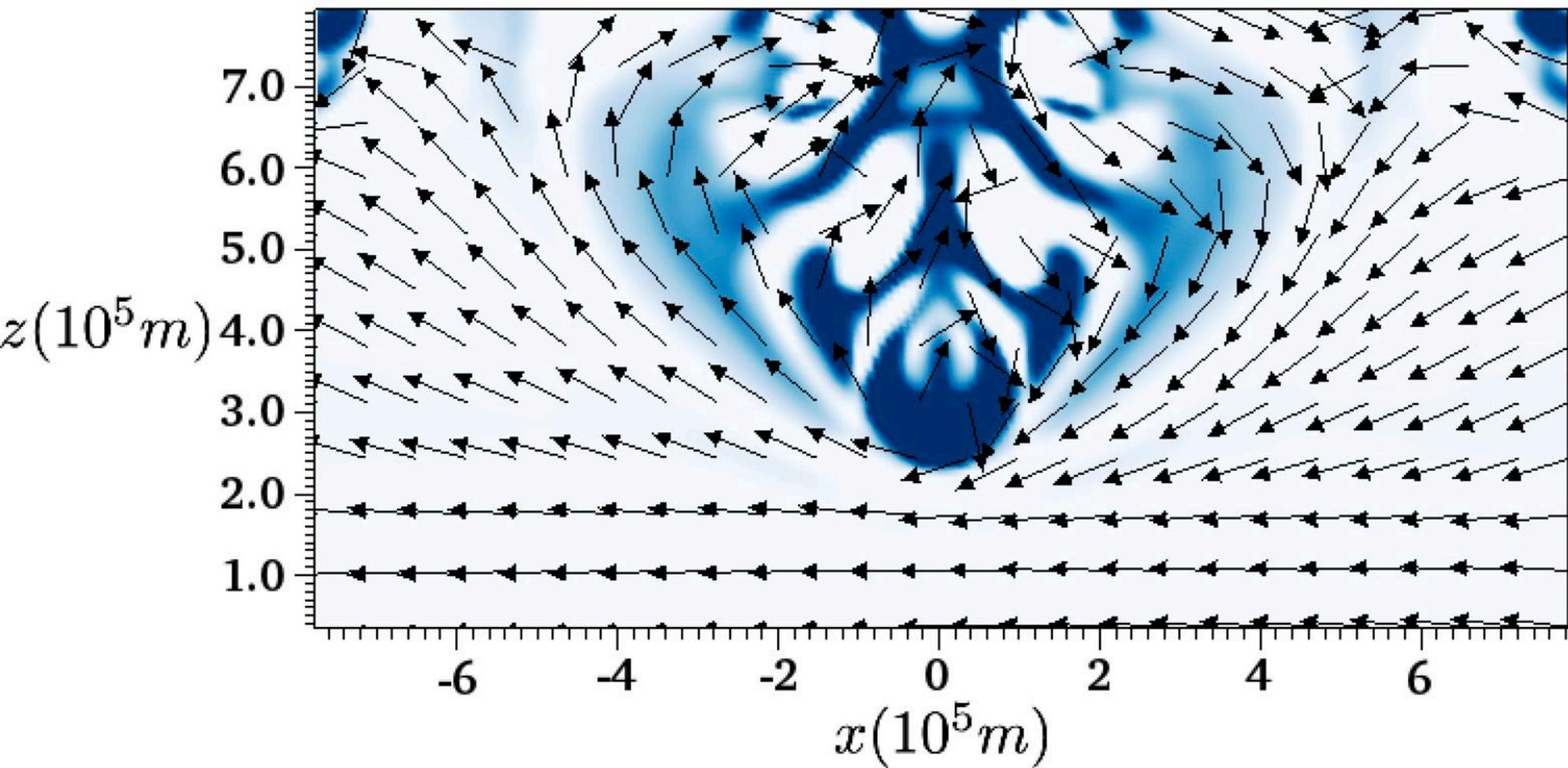


Fig2g.

$t=8.448 \text{ s}$

$J_y (A/m^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.752e-19 7.128e-19 9.503e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

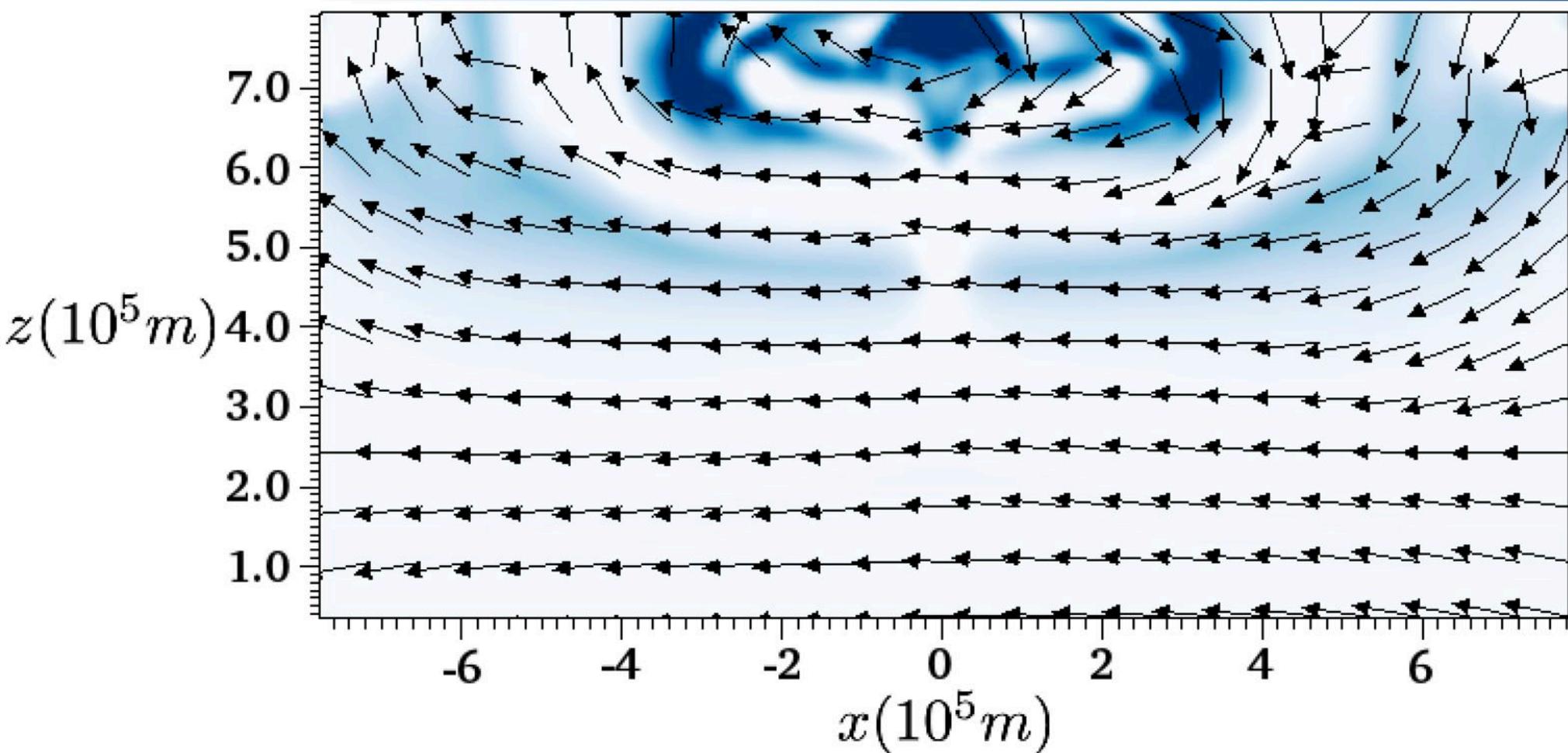


Fig2h.

$t = 13.2 \text{ s}$

$J_y (\text{A/m}^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.752e-19 7.128e-19 9.503e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

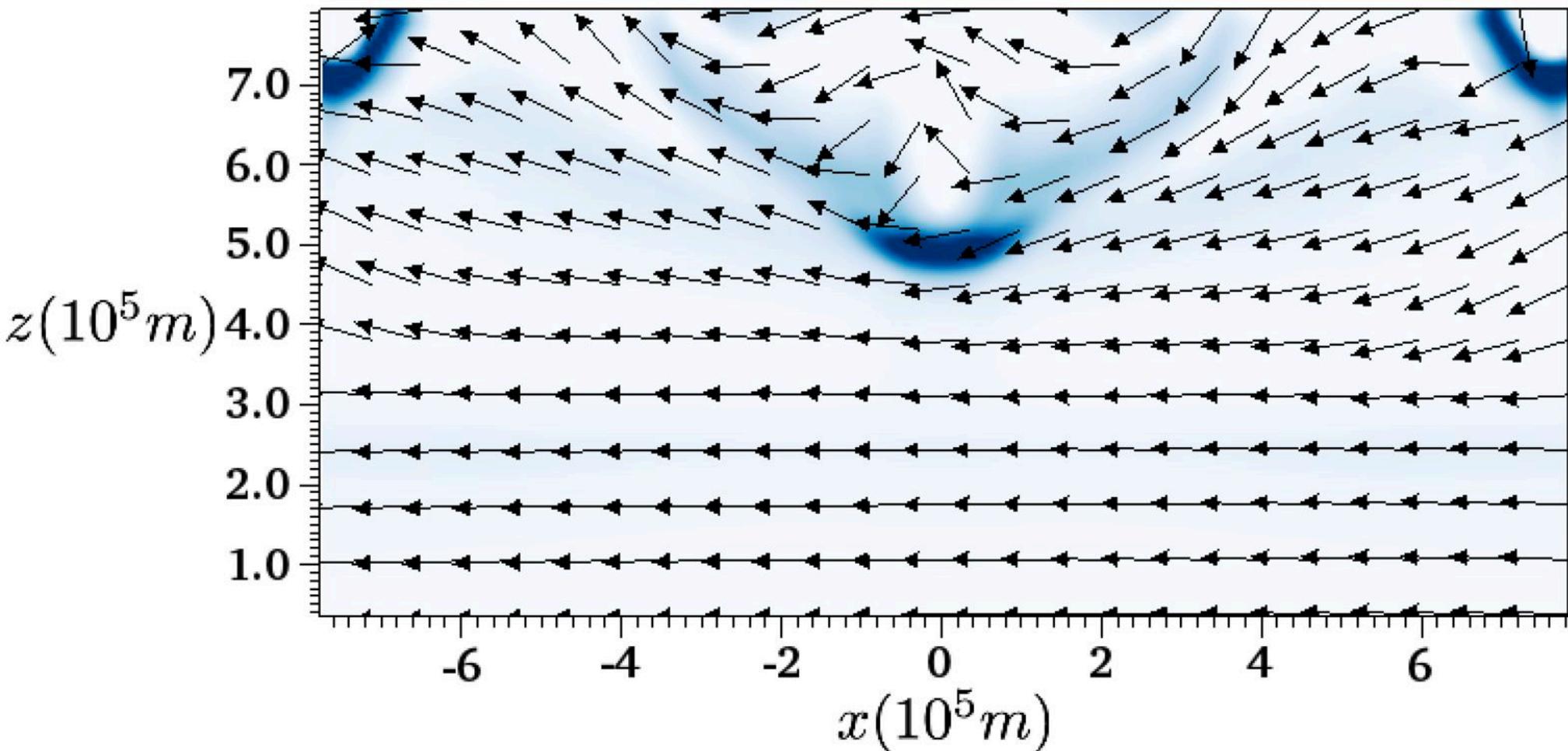


Fig3a.

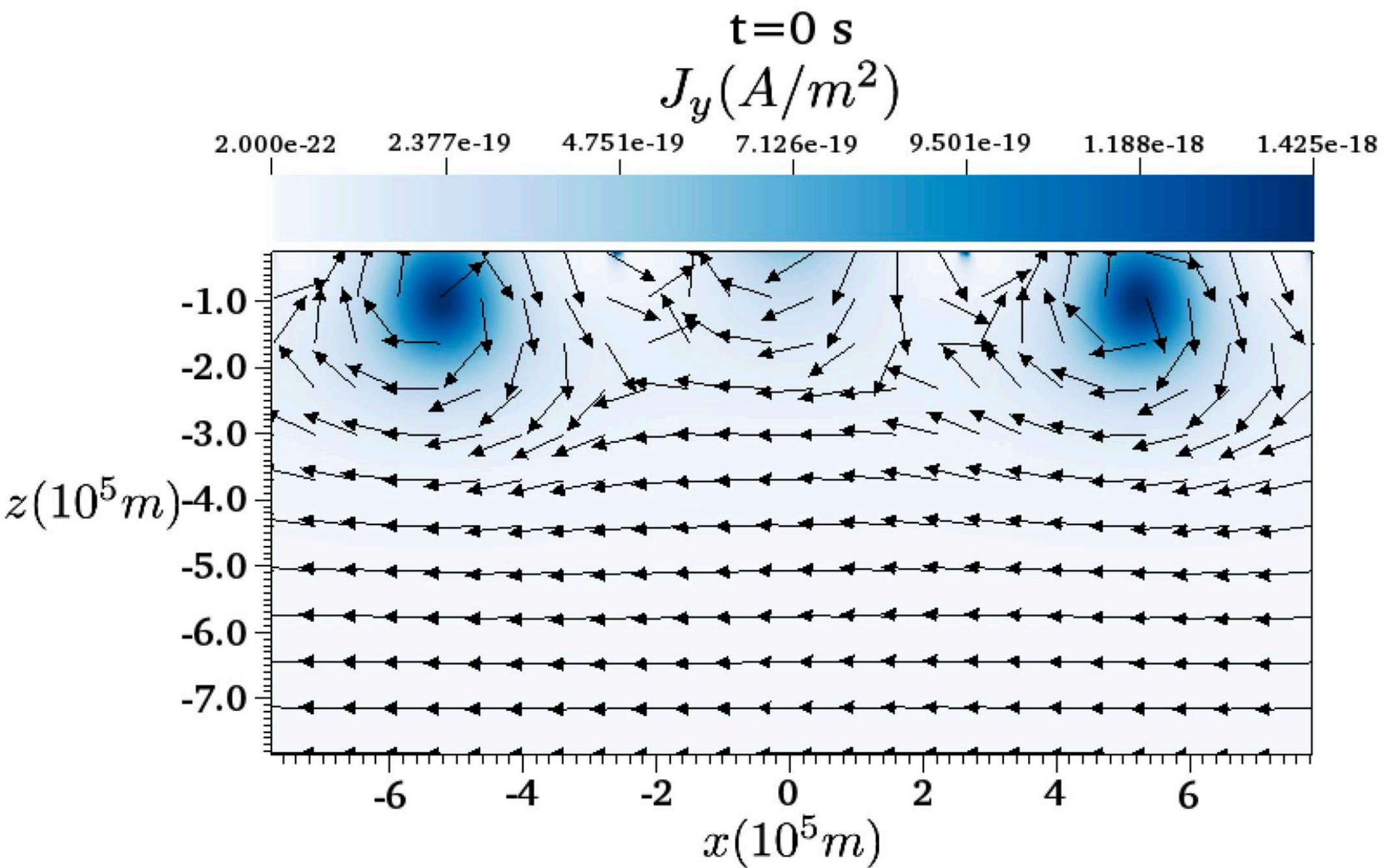


Fig3b.

$t=0.264\text{ s}$

$J_y(A/m^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.751e-19 7.126e-19 9.501e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

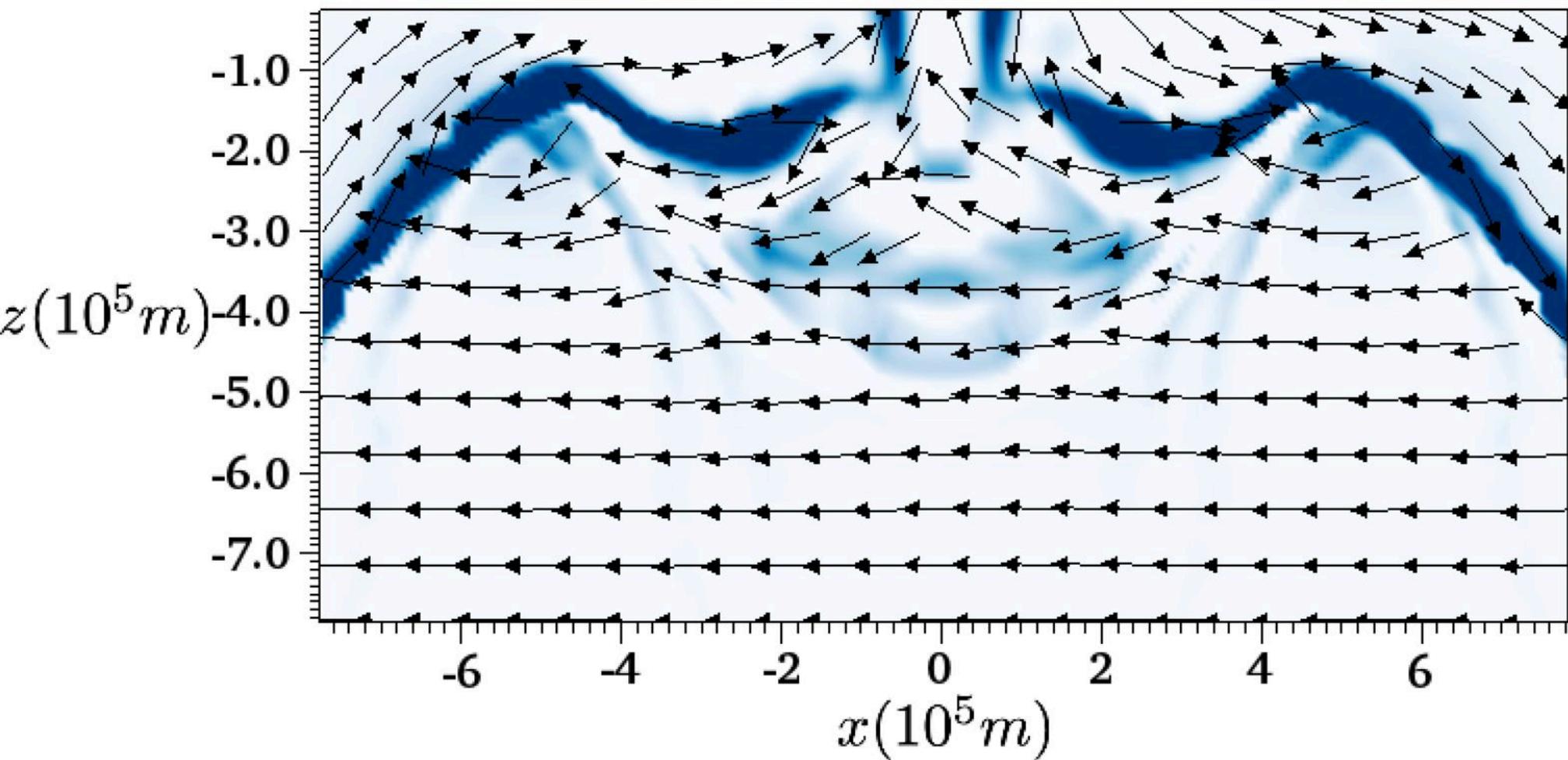


Fig3c.

$t=0.528\text{ s}$

$J_y(\text{A}/\text{m}^2)$

$2.000\text{e-}22$

$2.377\text{e-}19$

$4.751\text{e-}19$

$7.126\text{e-}19$

$9.501\text{e-}19$

$1.188\text{e-}18$

$1.425\text{e-}18$

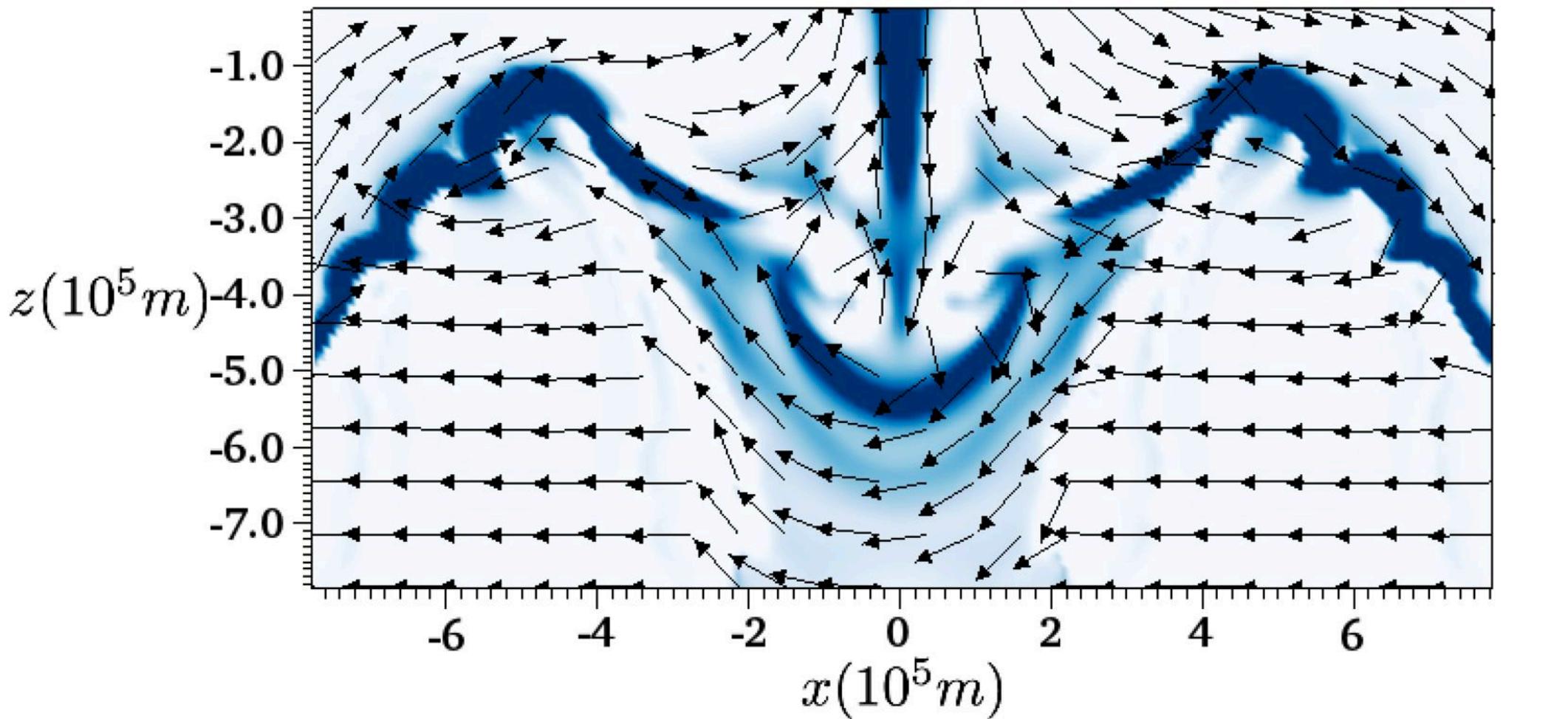


Fig3d.

$t=1.056\text{ s}$
 $J_y(\text{A}/\text{m}^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.751e-19 7.126e-19 9.501e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

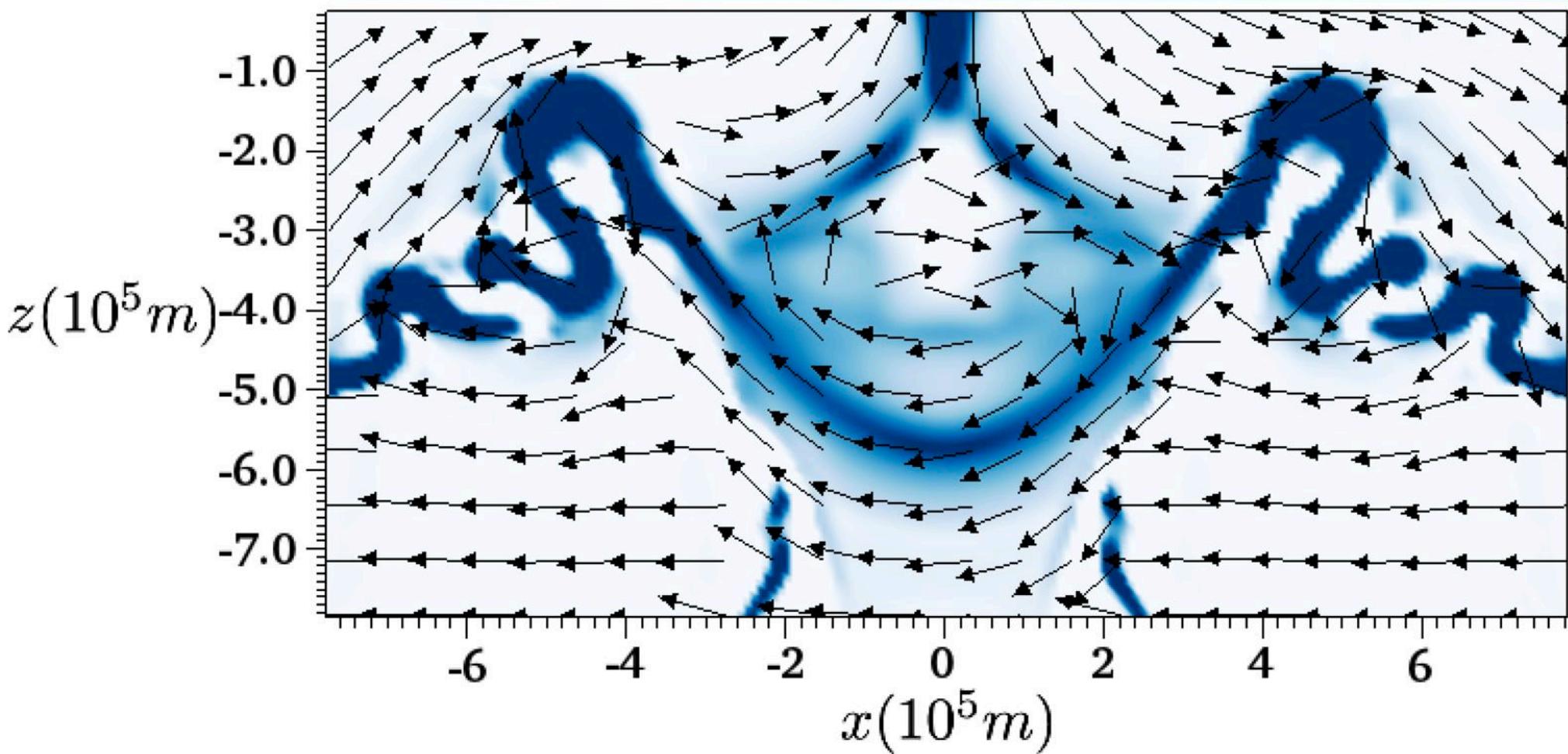


Fig3e.

$t = 2.112 \text{ s}$

$J_y (\text{A}/\text{m}^2)$

$2.000\text{e-}22$

$2.377\text{e-}19$

$4.751\text{e-}19$

$7.126\text{e-}19$

$9.501\text{e-}19$

$1.188\text{e-}18$

$1.425\text{e-}18$

$z(10^5 m)$

-1.0

-2.0

-3.0

-4.0

-5.0

-6.0

-7.0

-6

-4

-2

$x(10^5 m)$

2

4

6

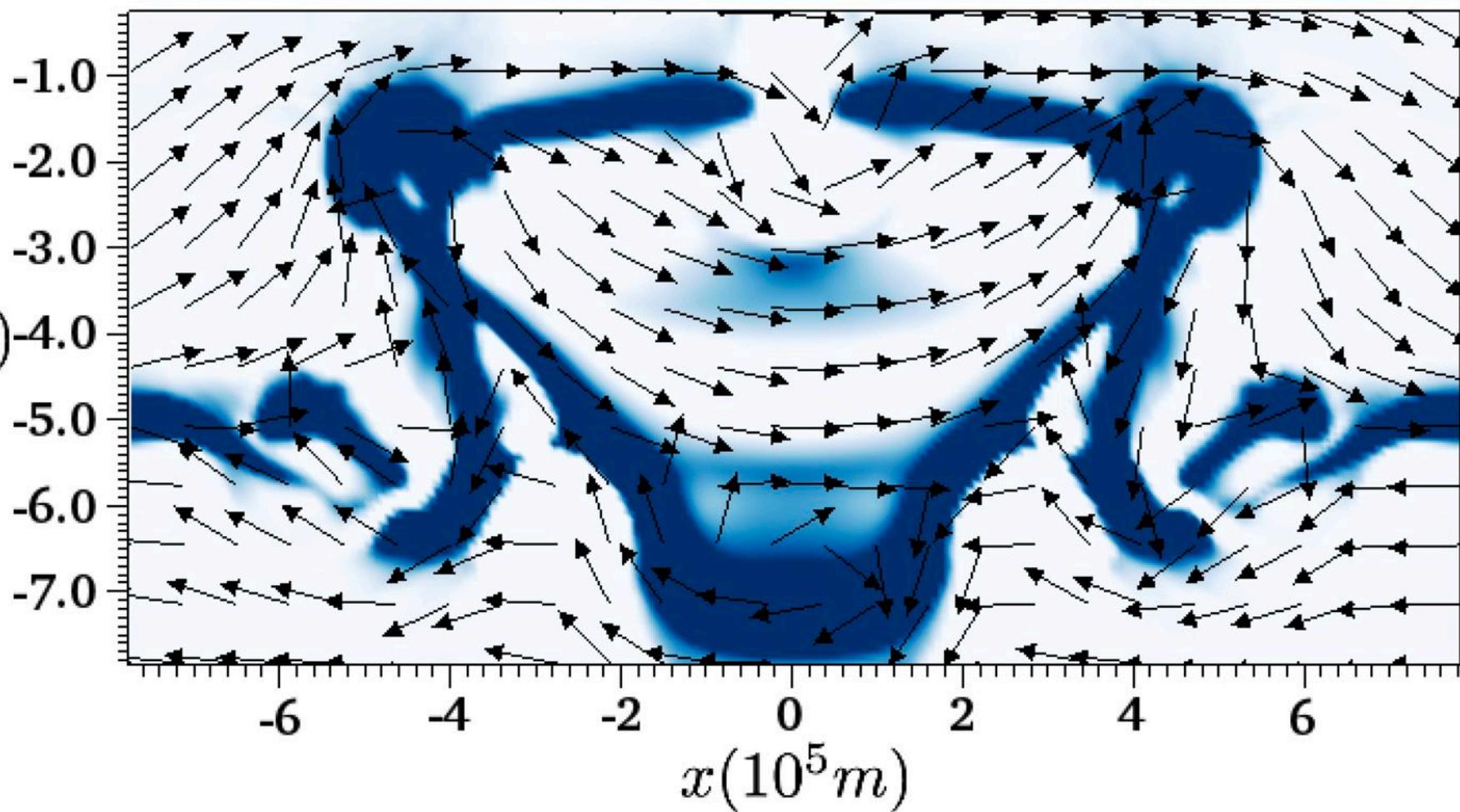


Fig3f.

$t=4.224\text{ s}$

$J_y(A/m^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.751e-19 7.126e-19 9.501e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

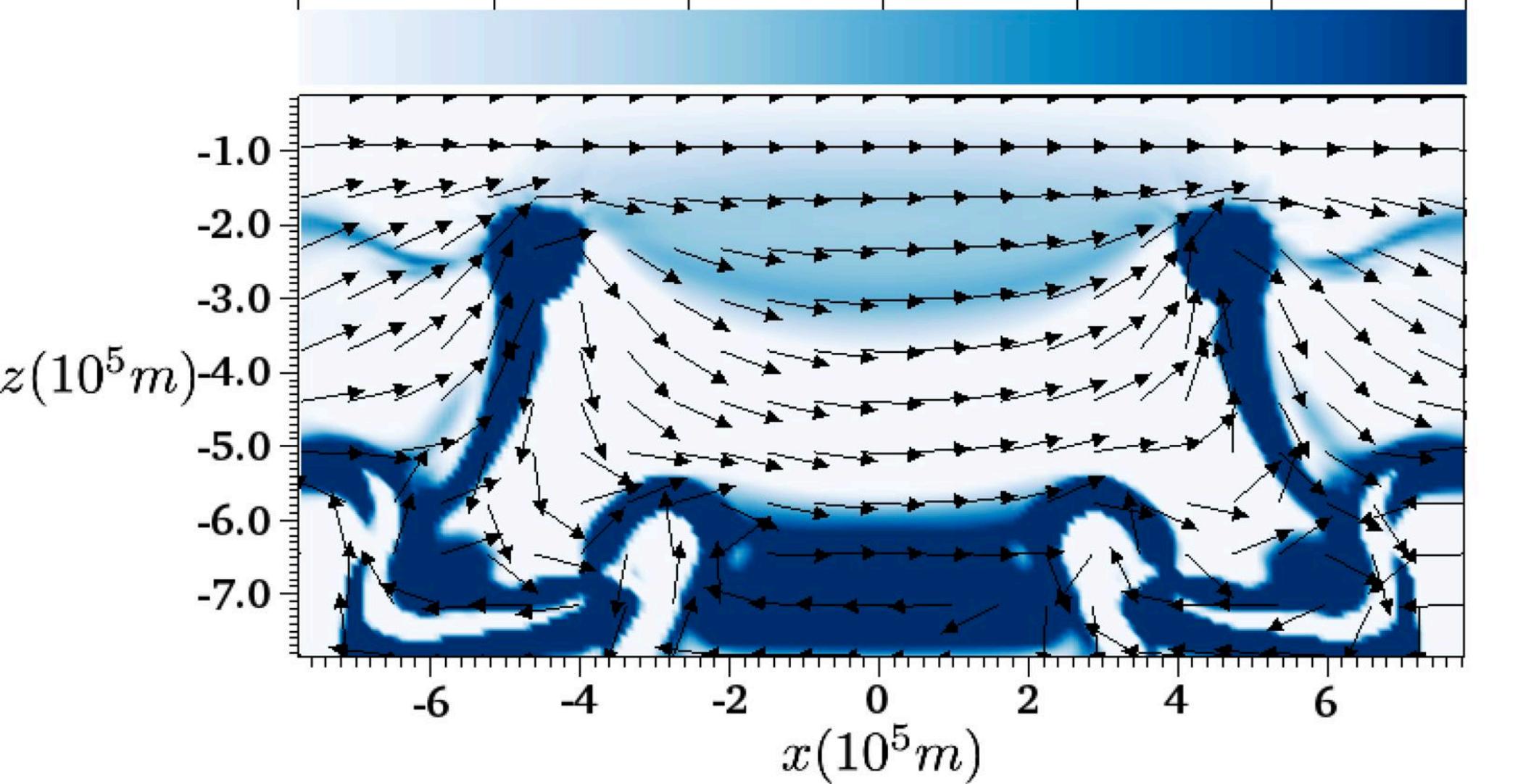


Fig3g.

$t=8.448\text{ s}$

$J_y(A/m^2)$

$2.000\text{e-}22$

$2.377\text{e-}19$

$4.751\text{e-}19$

$7.126\text{e-}19$

$9.501\text{e-}19$

$1.188\text{e-}18$

$1.425\text{e-}18$

$z(10^5 m)$

-1.0

-2.0

-3.0

-4.0

-5.0

-6.0

-7.0

-6

-4

-2

0

2

4

6

$x(10^5 m)$

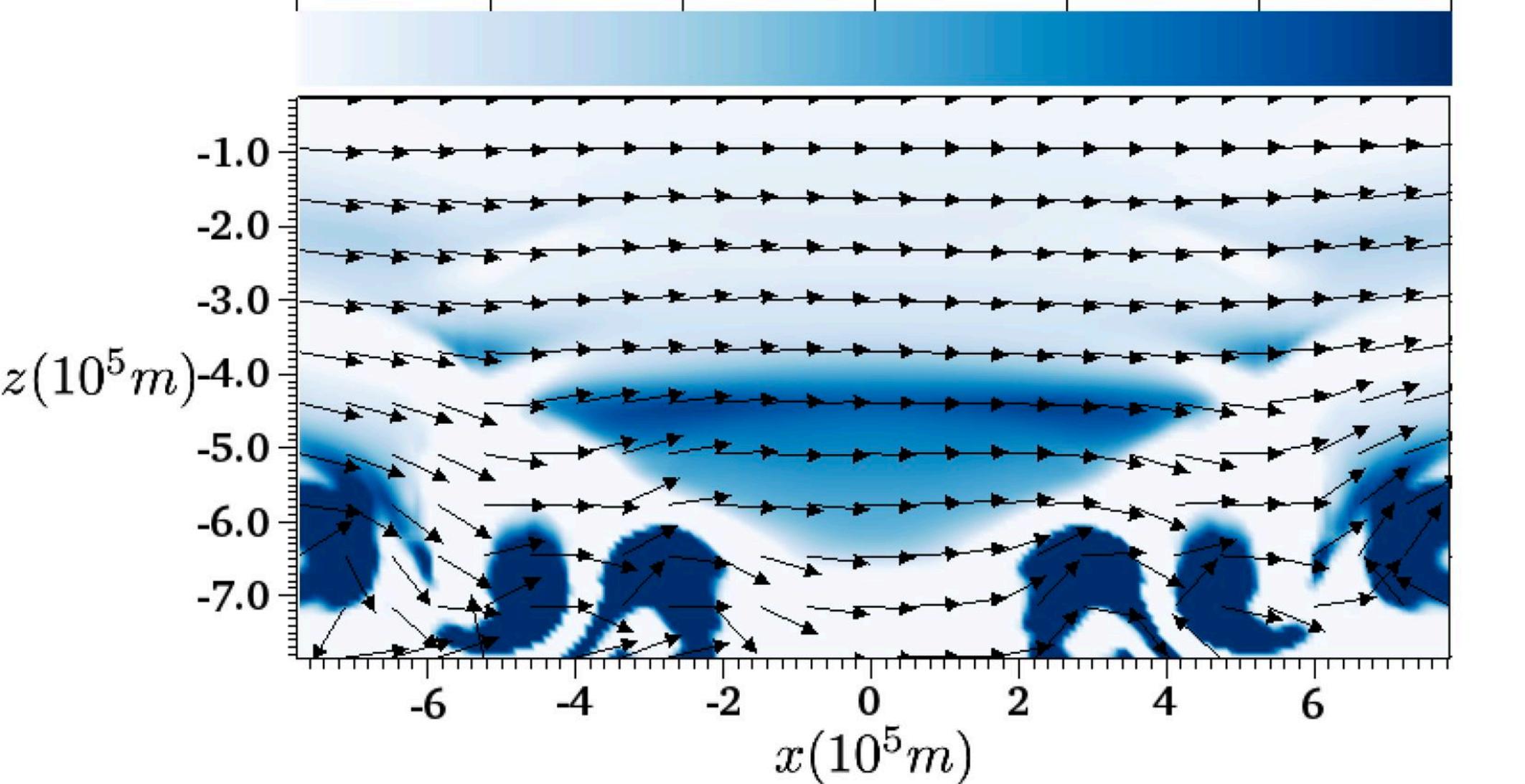


Fig3h.

$t = 13.2 \text{ s}$
 $J_y (\text{A}/\text{m}^2)$

2.000e-22 2.377e-19 4.751e-19 7.126e-19 9.501e-19 1.188e-18 1.425e-18

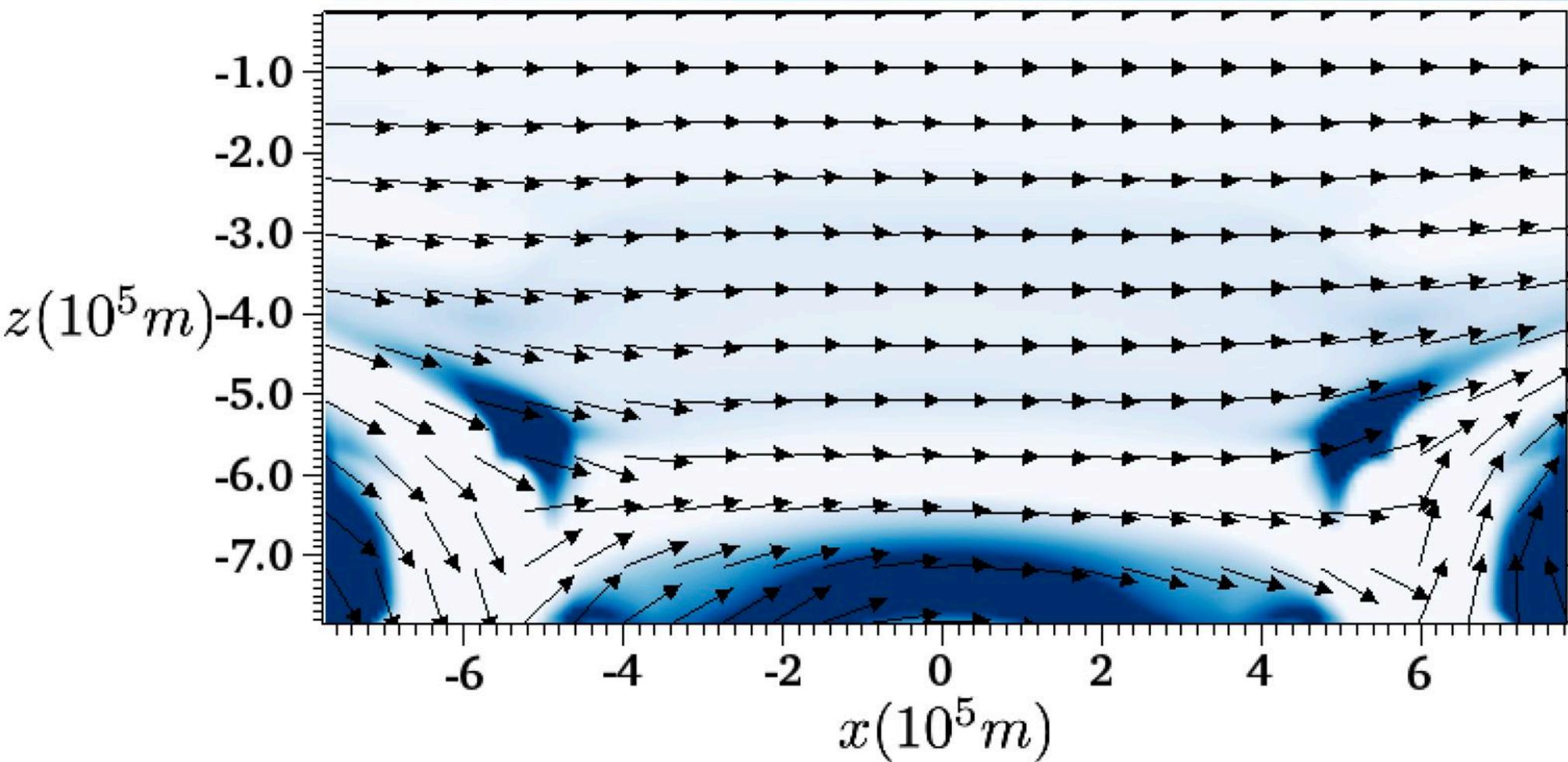


Fig4a.

$\{B_{xz}, J_Y\}$

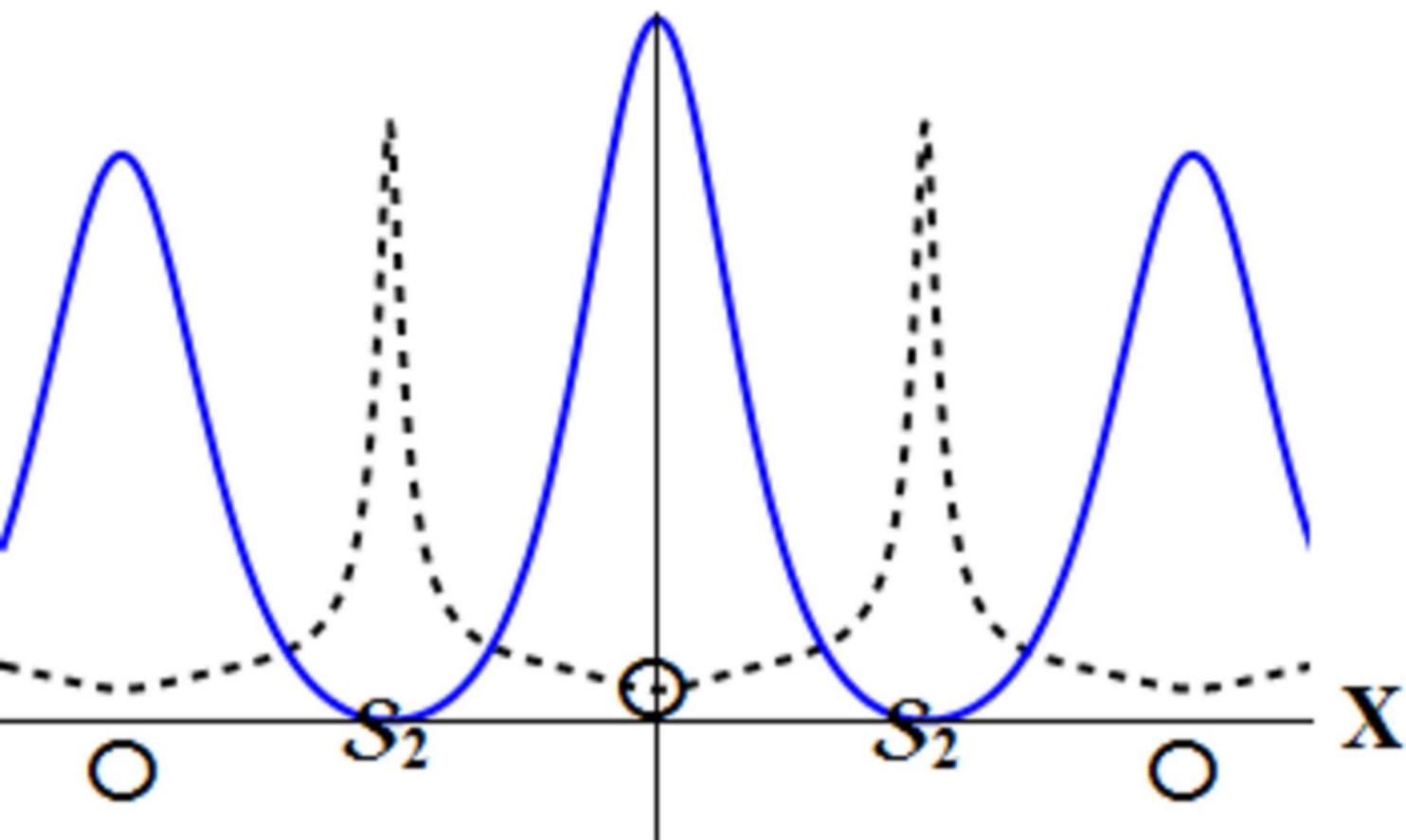


Fig4b.

$\{B_{XZ}, J_Y\}$

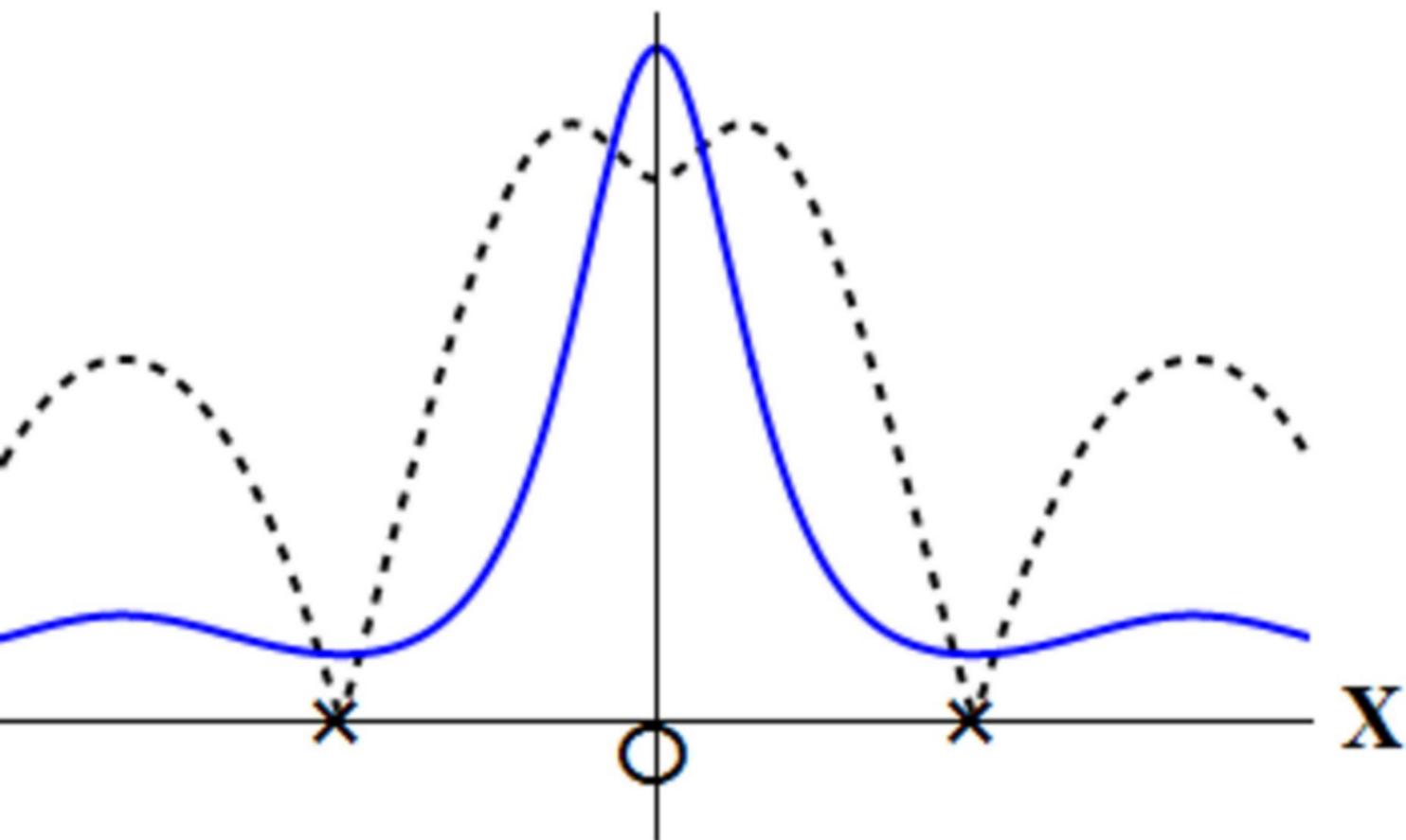


Fig4c.

$\{B_{XZ}, J_Y\}$

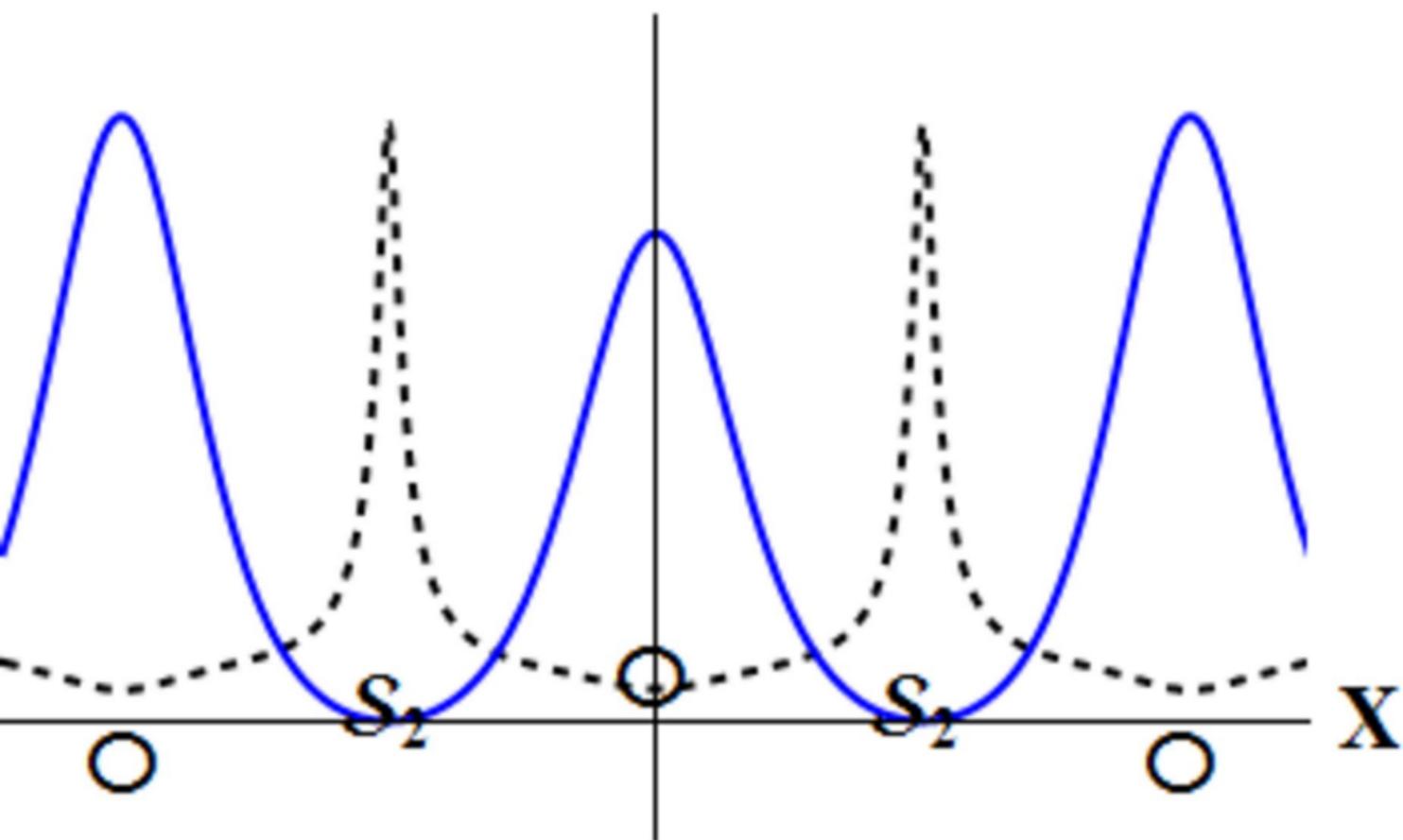


Fig4d.

$\{B_{xz}, J_Y\}$

