

Assignment #9: due July 10

1. Shocks

- (a) From the conservation laws given in the lecture

$$\rho_1 v_1 = \rho_2 v_2 \quad (1)$$

$$\rho_1 v_1^2 + P_1 = \rho_2 v_2^2 + P_2 \quad (2)$$

$$\rho_1 h_{tot1} v_1 = \rho_2 h_{tot2} v_2 \quad (3)$$

derive the jump condition across the shock in terms of the new density contrast ρ_1/ρ_2 .

- (b) How does this relate to the density contrast predicted from shocks in molecular clouds? What does this mean for the formation of dense structures in molecular clouds?

2. Bonnor-Ebert spheres

- (a) Bonnor-Ebert spheres are hydrostatic solutions for spherical cores in pressure equilibrium with a confining medium. Describe the properties of such a core at small and large radii.
- (b) In what ways might such a core become unstable?
- (c) What are the limitations of treating real cores in molecular clouds as idealised Bonnor-Ebert spheres?