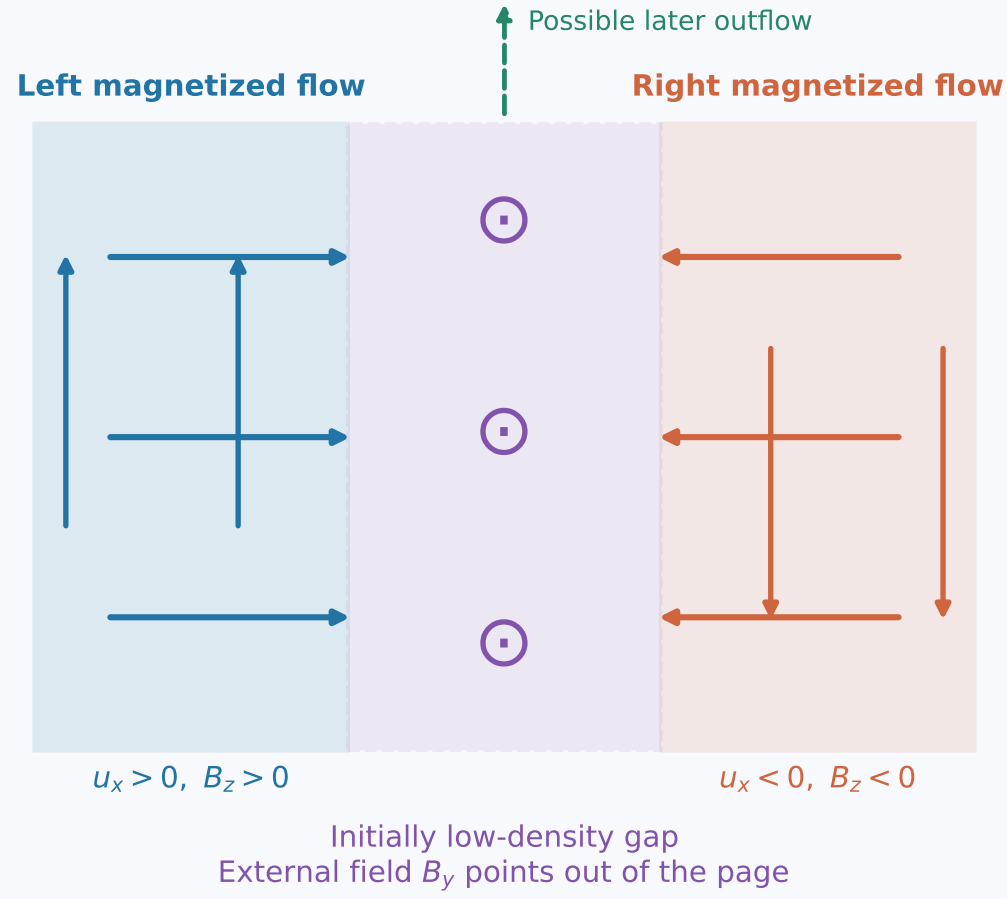


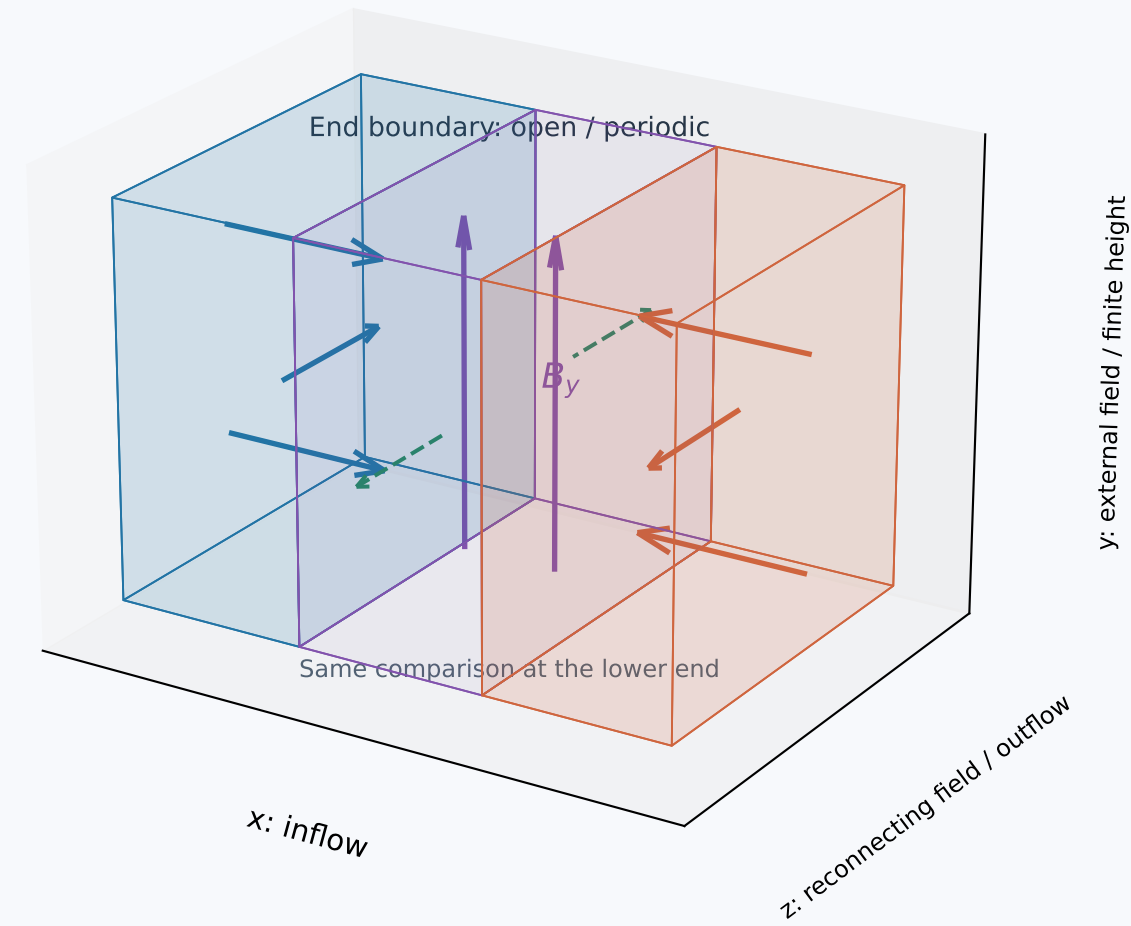
Before a reconnection layer forms: can 3D transport release the magnetic barrier?

1. Start with 2D resistive MHD

$\partial/\partial y = 0$; all three field components retained



2. Compare matched 3D boundary conditions



Identical inflow drive, resistivity, initial gap and external field. Change only the y-end boundary condition.
The current sheet must form dynamically; it is not imposed. Geometry is schematic and not to scale.