

Creation and destruction of magnetic fields

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Magnetic fields in the Universe

- Earth
 - Magnetic field present for $\sim 3.5 \cdot 10^9$ years, much longer than Ohmic decay time ($\sim 10^4$ years)
 - Strong variability on shorter time scales (10^3 years)
- Mercury, Ganymede, (Io), Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune have large scale fields
- Sun
 - Magnetic fields from smallest observable scales to size of sun
 - 11 year cycle of large scale field ([Movie](#))
 - Ohmic decay time $\sim 10^9$ years (in absence of turbulence)
- Other stars
 - Stars with outer convection zone: similar to sun
 - Stars with outer radiation zone: most likely primordial fields
- Galaxies
 - Field structure coupled to observed matter distribution (e.g. spirals)
 - Only dynamo that is directly observable

Scope of this lecture

- Processes of magnetic field generation and destruction in turbulent plasma flows
- Introduction to general concepts of dynamo theory (this is not a lecture about the solar dynamo!)
- Outline
 - MHD, induction equation
 - Some general remarks and definitions regarding dynamos
 - Large scale dynamos (mean field theory)
 - Kinematic theory
 - Characterization of possible dynamos
 - Non-kinematic effects
 - 3D simulations

MHD equations

The full set of MHD equations combines the induction equation with the Navier-Stokes equations including the Lorentz-force:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} &= -\nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) \\ \rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} &= -\rho(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} - \nabla p + \rho \mathbf{g} + \frac{1}{\mu_0} (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{B} + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} \\ \rho \frac{\partial e}{\partial t} &= -\rho(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) e - p \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} + \nabla \cdot (\kappa \nabla T) + Q_\nu + Q_\eta \\ \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} &= \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} - \eta \nabla \times \mathbf{B})\end{aligned}$$

Assumptions:

- Validity of continuum approximation (enough particles to define averages)
- Non-relativistic motions, low frequencies
- Strong collisional coupling: validity of single fluid approximations, isotropic (scalar) gas pressure

Viscous stress tensor τ

$$\begin{aligned}\Lambda_{ik} &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} + \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i} \right) \\ \tau_{ik} &= 2\rho\nu \left(\Lambda_{ik} - \frac{1}{3}\delta_{ik} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \right) \\ Q_\nu &= \tau_{ik} \Lambda_{ik} ,\end{aligned}$$

Ohmic dissipation Q_η

$$Q_\eta = \frac{\eta}{\mu_0} (\nabla \times \mathbf{B})^2 .$$

Equation of state

$$p = \frac{\rho e}{\gamma - 1} .$$

ν , η and κ : viscosity, magnetic diffusivity and thermal conductivity
 μ_0 denotes the permeability of vacuum

Kinematic approach

- Solving the 3D MHD equations is not always feasible
- Semi-analytical approach preferred for understanding fundamental properties of dynamos
- Evaluate turbulent induction effects based on induction equation for a given velocity field
 - Velocity field assumed to be given as 'background' turbulence, Lorentz-force feedback neglected (sufficiently weak magnetic field)
 - What correlations of a turbulent velocity field are required for dynamo (large scale) action?
 - Theory of onset of dynamo action, but not for non-linear saturation
- More detailed discussion of induction equation

Ohm's law

Equation of motion for drift velocity \mathbf{v}_d of electrons

$$n_e m_e \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}_d}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathbf{v}_d}{\tau_{ei}} \right) = n_e q_e (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v}_d \times \mathbf{B}) - \nabla p_e$$

τ_{ei} : collision time between electrons and ions

n_e : electron density

q_e : electron charge

m_e : electron mass

p_e : electron pressure

With the electric current: $\mathbf{j} = n_e q_e \mathbf{v}_d$ this gives the generalized Ohm's law:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{j}}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathbf{j}}{\tau_{ei}} = \frac{n_e q_e^2}{m_e} \mathbf{E} + \frac{q_e}{m_e} \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{q_e}{m_e} \nabla p_e$$

Simplifications:

- $\tau_{ei} \omega_L \ll 1$, $\omega_L = eB/m_e$: Larmor frequency
- neglect ∇p_e
- low frequencies (no plasma oscillations)

Simplified Ohm's law

$$\mathbf{j} = \sigma \mathbf{E}$$

with the plasma conductivity

$$\sigma = \frac{\tau_{ei} n_e q_e^2}{m_e}$$

The Ohm's law we derived so far is only valid in the co-moving frame of the plasma. Under the assumption of non-relativistic motions this transforms in the laboratory frame to

$$\mathbf{j} = \sigma (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$$

Induction equation*

Using Ampere's law $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \mathbf{j}$ yields for the electric field in the laboratory frame

$$\mathbf{E} = -\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} + \frac{1}{\mu_0 \sigma} \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$$

leading to the induction equation

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} - \eta \nabla \times \mathbf{B})$$

with the magnetic diffusivity

$$\eta = \frac{1}{\mu_0 \sigma} .$$

Advection, diffusion, magnetic Reynolds number

L : typical length scale U : typical velocity scale L/U : time unit

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times \left(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{1}{R_m} \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \right)$$

with the magnetic Reynolds number

$$R_m = \frac{UL}{\eta} .$$

$R_m \ll 1$: diffusion dominated regime

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \eta \Delta \mathbf{B} .$$

Only decaying solutions with decay (diffusion) time scale

$$\tau_d \sim \frac{L^2}{\eta}$$

$R_m \gg 1$ advection dominated regime (ideal MHD)

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$$

Equivalent expression

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B} + (\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{B} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$$

- advection of magnetic field
- amplification by shear (stretching of field lines)
- amplification through compression

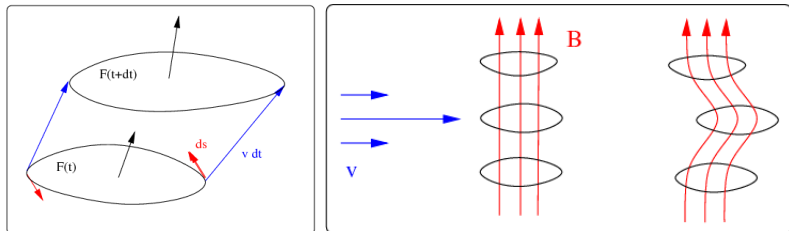
Advection, diffusion, magnetic Reynolds number

Object	$\eta[\text{m}^2/\text{s}]$	$L[\text{m}]$	$U[\text{m}/\text{s}]$	R_m	τ_d
earth (outer core)	2	10^6	10^{-3}	300	10^4 years
sun (plasma conductivity)	1	10^8	100	10^{10}	10^9 years
sun (turbulent conductivity)	10^8	10^8	100	100	3 years
liquid sodium lab experiment	0.1	1	10	100	10 s

Alfven's theorem

Let Φ be the magnetic flux through a surface F with the property that its boundary ∂F is moving with the fluid:

$$\Phi = \int_F \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{f} \longrightarrow \frac{d\Phi}{dt} = 0$$



- Flux is 'frozen' into the fluid
- Field lines 'move' with plasma

Dynamos: Motivation

- For $\mathbf{v} = 0$ magnetic field decays on timescale $\tau_d \sim L^2/\eta$
- Earth and other planets:
 - Evidence for magnetic field on earth for $3.5 \cdot 10^9$ years while $\tau_d \sim 10^4$ years
 - Permanent rock magnetism not possible since $T > T_{\text{Curie}}$ and field highly variable \rightarrow field must be maintained by active process
- Sun and other stars:
 - Evidence for solar magnetic field for $\sim 300\,000$ years (^{10}Be)
 - Most solar-like stars show magnetic activity independent of age
 - Indirect evidence for stellar magnetic fields over life time of stars
 - But $\tau_d \sim 10^9$ years!
 - Primordial field could have survived in radiative interior of sun, but convection zone has much shorter diffusion time scale ~ 10 years (turbulent diffusivity)

Mathematical definition of dynamo

S bounded volume with the surface ∂S , \mathbf{B} maintained by currents contained within S , $B \sim r^{-3}$ asymptotically,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} &= \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} - \eta \nabla \times \mathbf{B}) && \text{in } S \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{B} &= 0 && \text{outside } S \\ [\mathbf{B}] &= 0 && \text{across } \partial S \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{v} = 0$ outside S , $\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$ on ∂S and

$$E_{\text{kin}} = \int_S \frac{1}{2} \rho \mathbf{v}^2 dV \leq E_{\text{max}} \quad \forall t$$

\mathbf{v} is a dynamo if an initial condition $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_0$ exists so that

$$E_{\text{mag}} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\mu_0} \mathbf{B}^2 dV \geq E_{\text{min}} \quad \forall t$$

Large scale/small scale dynamos

Decompose the magnetic field into large scale part and small scale part (energy carrying scale of turbulence) $\mathbf{B} = \overline{\mathbf{B}} + \mathbf{B}'$:

$$E_{\text{mag}} = \int \frac{1}{2\mu_0} \overline{\mathbf{B}}^2 dV + \int \frac{1}{2\mu_0} \overline{\mathbf{B}'^2} dV .$$

- Small scale dynamo: $\overline{\mathbf{B}}^2 \ll \overline{\mathbf{B}'^2}$
- Large scale dynamo: $\overline{\mathbf{B}}^2 \geq \overline{\mathbf{B}'^2}$

Almost all turbulent (chaotic) velocity fields are small scale dynamos for sufficiently large R_m , large scale dynamos require additional large scale symmetries (see second half of this lecture)

What means large/small in practice (Sun)?

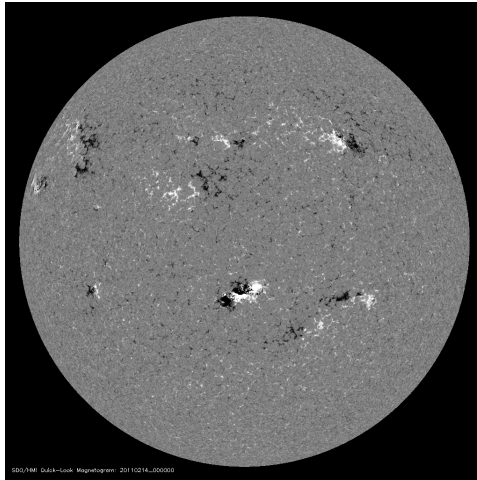


Figure: Full disk magnetogram SDO/HMI

What means large/small in practice (Sun)?

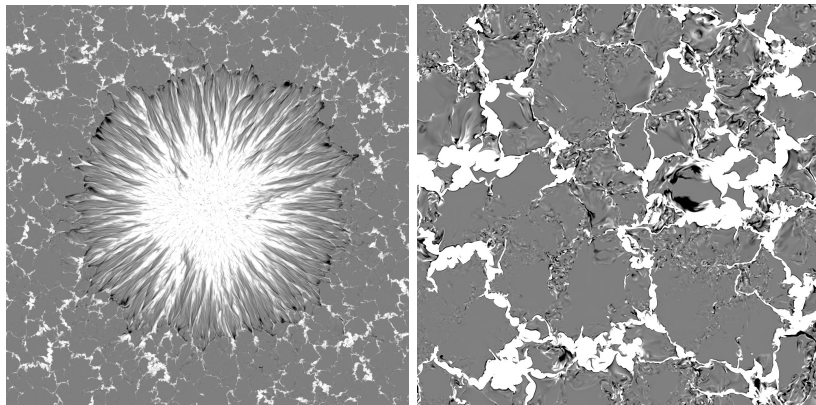
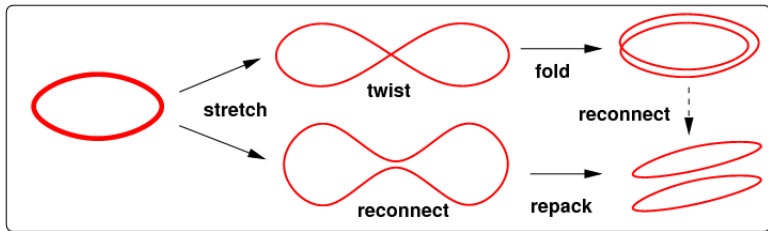


Figure: Numerical sunspot simulation. Dimensions: Left 50x50 Mm, Right: 12.5x12.5 Mm

Large scale/small scale dynamos



- Amplification through field line stretching
- Twist-fold required to repack field into original volume
- Magnetic diffusivity allows for change of topology

Influence of magnetic diffusivity on growth rate

- **Fast dynamo:** growth rate independent of R_m
(stretch-twist-fold mechanism)
- **Slow dynamo:** growth rate limited by resistivity
(stretch-reconnect-repack)

- Fast dynamos relevant for most astrophysical objects since $R_m \gg 1$
- Dynamos including (resistive) reconnection steps can be fast provided the reconnection is fast

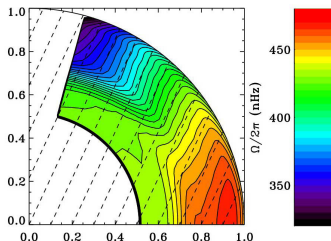
Differential rotation and meridional flow

Induction effects of axisymmetric flows on axisymmetric field:

$$\mathbf{B} = B\mathbf{e}_\phi + \nabla \times (A\mathbf{e}_\phi)$$

$$\mathbf{v} = v_r\mathbf{e}_r + v_\theta\mathbf{e}_\theta + \Omega r \sin\theta\mathbf{e}_\phi$$

Differential rotation most dominant shear flow in stellar convection zones:



Meridional flow by-product of DR, observed as poleward surface flow in case of the sun

Differential rotation and meridional flow

Spherical geometry:

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r v_r B) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (v_\theta B) \right) =$$

$$r \sin \theta \mathbf{v}_p \cdot \nabla \Omega + \eta \left(\Delta - \frac{1}{(r \sin \theta)^2} \right) B$$

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \mathbf{v}_p \cdot \nabla (r \sin \theta A) = \eta \left(\Delta - \frac{1}{(r \sin \theta)^2} \right) A$$

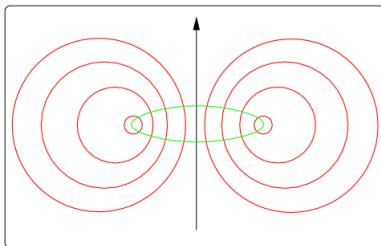
- **Meridional flow:** Independent advection of poloidal and toroidal field
- **Differential rotation:** Source for toroidal field (if poloidal field not zero)
- **Diffusion:** Sink for poloidal and toroidal field
- No term capable of maintaining poloidal field against Ohmic decay!

Differential rotation and meridional flow

- Weak poloidal seed field can lead to significant field amplification
 - No source term for poloidal field
 - Decay of poloidal field on resistive time scale
 - Ultimate decay of toroidal field
 - Not a dynamo!
 - What is needed?
-
- Source for poloidal field

Cowling's anti-dynamo theorem

A stationary axisymmetric magnetic field with currents limited to a finite volume in space cannot be maintained by a velocity field with finite amplitude.



Ohm's law of the form $\mathbf{j} = \sigma \mathbf{E}$ only decaying solutions, focus here on $\mathbf{j} = \sigma(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$.

On O-type neutral line \mathbf{B}_p is zero, but $\mu_0 \mathbf{j}_t = \nabla \times \mathbf{B}_p$ has finite value, but cannot be maintained by $(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})_t = (\mathbf{v}_p \times \mathbf{B}_p)$.

Some history:

- 1919 Sir Joseph Larmor: Solar magnetic field maintained by motions of conducting fluid?
- 1937 Cowling's anti-dynamo theorem and many others
- 1955 Parker: decomposition of field in axisymmetric and non-axisymmetric parts, average over induction effects of non-axisymmetric field
- 1964 Braginskii, Steenbeck, Krause: Mathematical framework of mean field theory developed
- last 2 decades 3D dynamo simulations

Reynolds rules

We need to define an averaging procedure to define the mean and the fluctuating field.

For any function f and g decomposed as $f = \bar{f} + f'$ and $g = \bar{g} + g'$ we require that the Reynolds rules apply

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{\bar{f}} &= \bar{f} \longrightarrow \overline{f'} = 0 \\ \overline{f + g} &= \bar{f} + \bar{g} \\ \overline{f\bar{g}} &= \bar{f}\bar{g} \longrightarrow \overline{f'g} = 0 \\ \overline{\partial f / \partial x_i} &= \partial \bar{f} / \partial x_i \\ \overline{\partial f / \partial t} &= \partial \bar{f} / \partial t .\end{aligned}$$

Examples:

- Longitudinal average (mean = axisymmetric component)
- Ensemble average (mean = average over several realizations of chaotic system)

Meanfield induction equation

Average of induction equation:

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times \left(\overline{\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}'} + \bar{\mathbf{v}} \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} - \eta \nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} \right)$$

New term resulting from small scale effects:

$$\bar{\mathcal{E}} = \overline{\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}'}$$

Fluctuating part of induction equation:

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \eta \Delta \right) \mathbf{B}' - \nabla \times (\bar{\mathbf{v}} \times \mathbf{B}') = \nabla \times \left(\mathbf{v}' \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}' - \overline{\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}'} \right)$$

Kinematic approach: \mathbf{v}' assumed to be given

- Solve for \mathbf{B}' , compute $\overline{\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}'}$ and solve for $\bar{\mathbf{B}}$
- Term $\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}' - \overline{\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}'}$ leading to higher order correlations (closure problem)

Mean field expansion of turbulent induction effects

Exact expressions for $\overline{\mathcal{E}}$ exist only under strong simplifying assumptions (see homework assignment).

In general $\overline{\mathcal{E}}$ is a linear functional of $\overline{\mathbf{B}}$:

$$\overline{\mathcal{E}}_i(\mathbf{x}, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d^3x' \int_{-\infty}^t dt' \mathcal{K}_{ij}(\mathbf{x}, t, \mathbf{x}', t') \overline{B}_j(\mathbf{x}', t').$$

Can be simplified if a sufficient **scale separation** is present:

- $l_c \ll L$
- $\tau_c \ll \tau_L$

Leading terms of expansion:

$$\overline{\mathcal{E}}_i = a_{ij} \overline{B}_j + b_{ijk} \frac{\partial \overline{B}_j}{\partial x_k}$$

In stellar convection zones scale separation also only marginally justified (continuous turbulence spectrum)!

Symmetry constraints

Decomposing a_{ij} and $\partial\bar{B}_j/\partial x_k$ into symmetric and antisymmetric components:

$$a_{ij} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}(a_{ij} + a_{ji})}_{\alpha_{ij}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}(a_{ij} - a_{ji})}_{-\varepsilon_{ijk}\gamma_k}$$
$$\frac{\partial\bar{B}_j}{\partial x_k} = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial\bar{B}_j}{\partial x_k} + \frac{\partial\bar{B}_k}{\partial x_j}\right) + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial\bar{B}_j}{\partial x_k} - \frac{\partial\bar{B}_k}{\partial x_j}\right)}_{-\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{jkl}(\nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{B}})_l}$$

Leads to:

$$\bar{\mathcal{E}}_i = \alpha_{ik}\bar{B}_k + \varepsilon_{ijk}\gamma_j\bar{B}_k - \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}b_{ijk}\varepsilon_{jkl}}_{\beta_{il} - \varepsilon_{ilm}\delta_m}(\nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{B}})_l + \dots$$

Symmetry constraints

Overall result:

$$\bar{\mathcal{E}} = \alpha \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \boldsymbol{\gamma} \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} - \beta \nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} - \boldsymbol{\delta} \times (\nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{B}}) + \dots$$

With:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{ij} &= \frac{1}{2} (a_{ij} + a_{ji}) , & \gamma_i &= -\frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{ijk} a_{jk} \\ \beta_{ij} &= \frac{1}{4} (\varepsilon_{ikl} b_{jkl} + \varepsilon_{jkl} b_{ikl}) , & \delta_i &= \frac{1}{4} (b_{jji} - b_{jij}) \end{aligned}$$

Symmetry constraints

α , β , γ and δ depend on large scale symmetries of the system defining the symmetry properties of the turbulence (e.g. rotation and stratification). Additional to that the expansion

$$\bar{\mathcal{E}} = \alpha \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \gamma \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} - \beta \nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} - \delta \times \nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \dots$$

is a relation between polar and axial vectors:

- $\bar{\mathcal{E}}$: polar vector, independent from handedness of coordinate system
- \mathbf{B} : axial vector, involves handedness of coordinate system in definition (curl operator, cross product)

Handedness of coordinate system pure convention (contains no physics), consistency requires:

- α , δ : pseudo tensor
- β , γ : true tensors

Symmetry constraints

Turbulence with rotation and stratification

- true tensors: δ_{ij} , g_i , $g_i g_j$, $\Omega_i \Omega_j$, $\Omega_i \varepsilon_{ijk}$
- pseudo tensors: ε_{ijk} , Ω_i , $\Omega_i g_j$, $g_i \varepsilon_{ijk}$

Symmetry constraints allow only certain combinations:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{ij} &= \alpha_0(\mathbf{g} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Omega})\delta_{ij} + \alpha_1(g_i \Omega_j + g_j \Omega_i) , & \gamma_i &= \gamma_0 g_i + \gamma_1 \varepsilon_{ijk} g_j \Omega_k \\ \beta_{ij} &= \beta_0 \delta_{ij} + \beta_1 g_i g_j + \beta_2 \Omega_i \Omega_j , & \delta_i &= \delta_0 \Omega_i\end{aligned}$$

The scalars $\alpha_0 \dots \delta_0$ depend on quantities of the turbulence such as rms velocity and correlation times scale.

- isotropic turbulence: only β
- + stratification: $\beta + \gamma$
- + rotation: $\beta + \delta$
- + stratification + rotation: α can exist

Simplified expressions

Assuming $|\mathbf{B}'| \ll |\bar{\mathbf{B}}|$ in derivation + additional simplification for (quasi) isotropic, non-mirror symmetric, (weakly) inhomogeneous turbulence (see homework assignment):

$$\overline{v_i' v_j'} \sim \delta_{ij}, \quad \alpha_{ij} = \alpha \delta_{ij}, \quad \beta_{ij} = \eta_t \delta_{ij}$$

Leads to:

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times [\alpha \bar{\mathbf{B}} + (\bar{\mathbf{v}} + \boldsymbol{\gamma}) \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} - (\eta + \eta_t) \nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{B}}]$$

with the scalar quantities

$$\alpha = -\frac{1}{3} \tau_c \overline{\mathbf{v}' \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}')}, \quad \eta_t = \frac{1}{3} \tau_c \overline{\mathbf{v}'^2}$$

and vector

$$\boldsymbol{\gamma} = -\frac{1}{6} \tau_c \nabla \overline{\mathbf{v}'^2} = -\frac{1}{2} \nabla \eta_t$$

Expressions are independent of η (in this approximation), indicating fast dynamo action!

Turbulent diffusivity - destruction of magnetic field

Turbulent diffusivity dominant dissipation process for large scale field in case of large R_m :

$$\eta_t = \frac{1}{3} \tau_c \overline{\mathbf{v}'^2} \sim L v_{\text{rms}} \sim R_m \eta \gg \eta$$

- Formally η_t comes from advection term (transport term, non-dissipative)
- Turbulent cascade transporting magnetic energy from the large scale L to the micro scale l_m (advection + reconnection)

$$\eta \mathbf{j}_m^2 \sim \eta_t \mathbf{j}^2 \longrightarrow \frac{B_m}{l_m} \sim \sqrt{R_m} \frac{\overline{B}}{L}$$

Important: The large scale determines the energy dissipation rate, l adjusts to allow for the dissipation on the microscale.

Present for isotropic homogeneous turbulence

Turbulent diamagnetism, turbulent pumping

Expulsion of flux from regions with larger turbulence intensity
'diamagnetism'

$$\gamma = -\frac{1}{2}\nabla\eta_t$$

Turbulent pumping (stratified convection):

$$\gamma = -\frac{1}{6}\tau_c\nabla\overline{\mathbf{v}'^2}$$

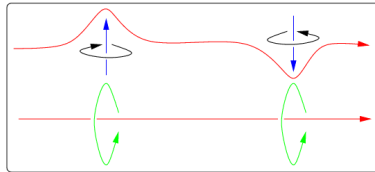
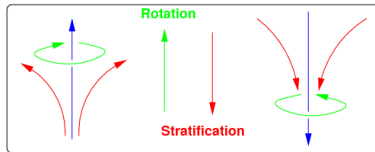
- Upflows expand, downflows converge
- Stronger velocity and smaller filling factor of downflows
- Mean induction effect of up- and downflow regions does not cancel
- Downward transport found in numerical simulations

Requires inhomogeneity (stratification)

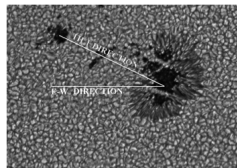
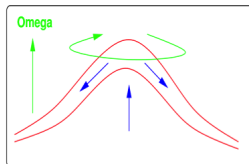
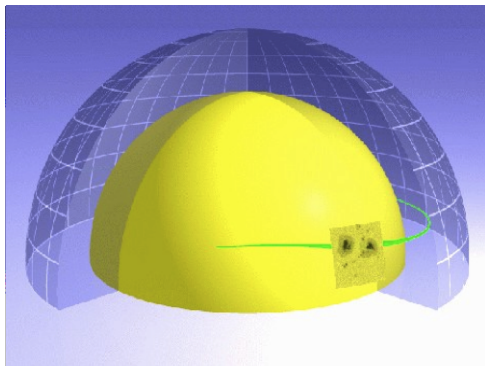
Kinematic α -effect

$$\alpha = -\frac{1}{3}\tau_c \overline{\mathbf{v}' \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}')} \quad H_k = \overline{\mathbf{v}' \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}')} \quad \text{kinetic helicity}$$

Requires rotation + additional preferred direction (stratification)



Babcock-Leighton α -effect



- Similar to kinetic α -effect, but driven by magnetic buoyancy
- Leading polarities have larger probability to reconnect across equator with counterpart on other hemisphere
- Polarity of hemisphere = polarity of following sunspots

What is needed to circumvent Cowling's theorem?

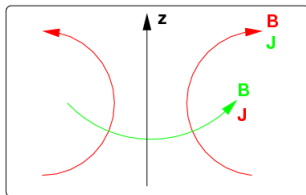
- Crucial for Cowling's theorem: Impossibility to drive a current parallel to magnetic field
- Cowling's theorem does not apply to mean field if a mean current can flow parallel to the mean field (since total field non-axisymmetric this is not a contradiction!)

$$\bar{\mathbf{j}} = \tilde{\sigma} (\bar{\mathbf{E}} + \bar{\mathbf{v}} \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \boldsymbol{\gamma} \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \alpha \bar{\mathbf{B}})$$

$\tilde{\sigma}$ contains contributions from η , β and δ .

Ways to circumvent Cowling:

- α -effect
- anisotropic conductivity (off diagonal elements + δ -effect)



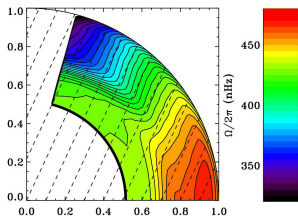
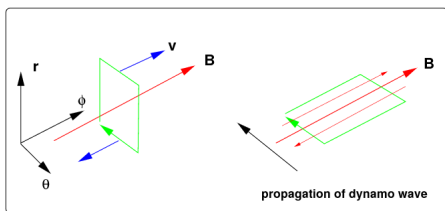
Induction of field parallel to current (producing helical field!)

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\alpha \bar{\mathbf{B}}) = \alpha \mu_0 \bar{\mathbf{j}}$$

Dynamo cycle:

$$\mathbf{B}_t \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbf{B}_p \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbf{B}_t$$

- Poloidal and toroidal field of similar strength
- In general stationary solutions



Dynamo cycle:

$$\mathbf{B}_t \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbf{B}_p \xrightarrow{\Omega} \mathbf{B}_t$$

- Toroidal field much stronger than poloidal field
- In general traveling (along lines of constant Ω) and periodic solutions

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r}(rv_r B) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(v_\theta B) \right) = r \sin \theta \mathbf{v}_p \cdot \nabla \Omega$$

$$+ \eta \left(\Delta - \frac{1}{(r \sin \theta)^2} \right) B$$

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \mathbf{v}_p \cdot \nabla (r \sin \theta A) = \alpha B + \eta \left(\Delta - \frac{1}{(r \sin \theta)^2} \right) A$$

- Dimensionless measure for strength of Ω - and α -effect

$$D_\Omega = \frac{R^2 \Delta \Omega}{\eta t} \quad D_\alpha = \frac{R \alpha}{\eta t}$$

- Dynamo excited if **dynamo number**

$$D = D_\Omega D_\alpha > D_{crit}$$

$\alpha\Omega$ -dynamo without meridional flow

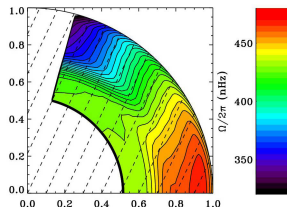
$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = r \sin \theta \mathbf{B}_p \cdot \nabla \Omega + \eta \left(\Delta - \frac{1}{(r \sin \theta)^2} \right) B$$
$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = \alpha B + \eta \left(\Delta - \frac{1}{(r \sin \theta)^2} \right) A$$

- Cyclic behavior:

$$P \propto (\alpha |\nabla \Omega|)^{-1/2}$$

- Propagation of magnetic field along contourlines of Ω “dynamo-wave”
- Direction of propagation “Parker-Yoshimura-Rule”:

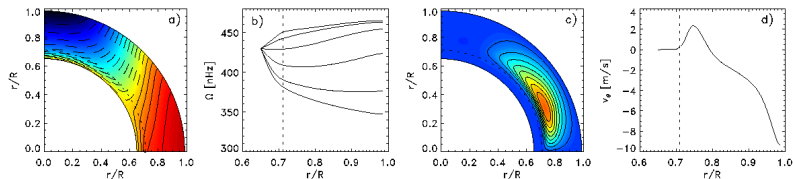
$$\mathbf{s} = \alpha \nabla \Omega \times \mathbf{e}_\phi$$



Movie: $\alpha\Omega$ -dynamo



$\alpha\Omega$ -dynamo with meridional flow



Meridional flow:

- Poleward at top of convection zone
- Equatorward at bottom of convection zone

Effect of advection:

- Equatorward propagation of activity
- Correct phase relation between poloidal and toroidal field
- Circulation time scale of flow sets dynamo period
- **Requirement:** Sufficiently low turbulent diffusivity

Movie: Flux-transport-dynamo (M. Dikpati, HAO)

Dynamios and magnetic helicity

Magnetic helicity (integral measure of field topology):

$$H_m = \int \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} dV$$

has following conservation law (no helicity fluxes across boundaries):

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} dV = -2\mu_0 \eta \int \mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{B} dV$$

Decomposition into small and large scale part:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \int \overline{\mathbf{A}} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{B}} dV &= +2 \int \overline{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{B}} dV - 2\mu_0 \eta \int \overline{\mathbf{j}} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{B}} dV \\ \frac{d}{dt} \int \overline{\mathbf{A}'} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{B}'} dV &= -2 \int \overline{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{B}} dV - 2\mu_0 \eta \int \overline{\mathbf{j}'} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{B}'} dV \end{aligned}$$

Dynamos and magnetic helicity

Dynamos have helical fields:

- α -effect induces magnetic helicity of same sign on large scale
- α -effect induces magnetic helicity of opposite sign on small scale

Asymptotic saturation (time scale $\sim R_m \tau_c$):

$$\overline{\mathbf{j}' \cdot \mathbf{B}'} = -\bar{\mathbf{j}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{B}} \longrightarrow \frac{|\bar{\mathbf{B}}|}{|\bar{\mathbf{B}}'|} \sim \sqrt{\frac{L}{l_c}}$$

$$\overline{\mathbf{j}' \cdot \mathbf{B}'} = -\frac{\alpha \bar{\mathbf{B}}^2}{\mu_0 \eta} + \frac{\eta_t}{\eta} \bar{\mathbf{j}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{B}}$$

Time scales:

- Galaxy: $\sim 10^{25}$ years ($R_m \sim 10^{18}$, $\tau_c \sim 10^7$ years)
- Sun: $\sim 10^8$ years
- Earth: $\sim 10^6$ years

Non-kinematic effects

Proper way to treat them: 3D simulations

- Still very challenging
- Has been successful for geodynamo, but not for solar dynamo

Semi-analytical treatment of Lorentz-force feedback in mean field models:

- Macroscopic feedback: Change of the mean flow (differential rotation, meridional flow) through the mean Lorentz-force

$$\bar{\mathbf{f}} = \bar{\mathbf{j}} \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \overline{\mathbf{j}' \times \mathbf{B}'}$$

- Mean field model including mean field representation of full MHD equations:
[Movie: Non-kinematic flux-transport dynamo](#)
- Microscopic feedback: Change of turbulent induction effects (e.g. α -quenching)

Feedback of Lorentz force on small scale motions:

- Intensity of turbulent motions significantly reduced if $\frac{1}{2\mu_0} B^2 > \frac{1}{2} \rho v_{rms}^2$. Typical expression used

$$\alpha = \frac{\alpha_k}{1 + \frac{\overline{\mathbf{B}}^2}{B_{eq}^2}}$$

with the **equipartition field strength** $B_{eq} = \sqrt{\mu_0 \rho} v_{rms}$

- Similar quenching also expected for turbulent diffusivity
- **Additional quenching of α due to topological constraints possible (helicity conservation)**

Controversial !

Symmetry of momentum and induction equation $\mathbf{v}' \leftrightarrow \mathbf{B}' / \sqrt{\mu_0 \rho}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\mathbf{v}'}{dt} &= \frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} (\overline{\mathbf{B}} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B}' + \dots \\ \frac{d\mathbf{B}'}{dt} &= (\overline{\mathbf{B}} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v}' + \dots \\ \overline{\mathcal{E}} &= \overline{\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}'}\end{aligned}$$

Strongly motivates magnetic term for α -effect (Pouquet et al. 1976):

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{3} \tau_c \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \overline{\mathbf{j}' \cdot \mathbf{B}'} - \overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}' \cdot \mathbf{v}'} \right)$$

- Kinetic α : $\overline{\mathbf{B}} + \mathbf{v}' \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}' \longrightarrow \overline{\mathcal{E}}$
- Magnetic α : $\overline{\mathbf{B}} + \mathbf{B}' \longrightarrow \mathbf{v}' \longrightarrow \overline{\mathcal{E}}$

Microscopic feedback

From helicity conservation one expects

$$\overline{\mathbf{j}' \cdot \mathbf{B}'} \sim -\alpha \overline{\mathbf{B}}^2$$

leading to algebraic quenching

$$\alpha = \frac{\alpha_k}{1 + g \frac{\overline{\mathbf{B}}^2}{B_{eq}^2}}$$

With the asymptotic expression (steady state)

$$\overline{\mathbf{j}' \cdot \mathbf{B}'} = -\frac{\alpha \overline{\mathbf{B}}^2}{\mu_0 \eta} + \frac{\eta_t}{\eta} \overline{\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{B}}$$

we get

$$\alpha = \frac{\alpha_k + \frac{\eta_t^2}{\eta} \frac{\mu_0 \overline{\mathbf{j} \cdot \mathbf{B}}}{B_{eq}^2}}{1 + \frac{\eta_t}{\eta} \frac{\overline{\mathbf{B}}^2}{B_{eq}^2}}$$

Microscopic feedback

Catastrophic α -quenching ($R_m \gg 1!$) in case of steady state and homogeneous $\bar{\mathbf{B}}$:

$$\alpha = \frac{\alpha_k}{1 + R_m \frac{\bar{\mathbf{B}}^2}{B_{\text{eq}}^2}}$$

If $\bar{\mathbf{j}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{B}} \neq 0$ (dynamo generated field) and η_t unquenched:

$$\alpha \approx \eta_t \mu_0 \frac{\bar{\mathbf{j}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{B}}}{\bar{\mathbf{B}}^2} \sim \frac{\eta_t}{L} \sim \frac{\eta_t}{l_c} \frac{l_c}{L} \sim \alpha_k \frac{l_c}{L}$$

- In general α -quenching dynamic process: linked to time evolution of helicity
- Boundary conditions matter: Loss of small scale current helicity can alleviate catastrophic quenching
- Catastrophic α -quenching turns large scale dynamo into slow dynamo

Why not just solving the full system to account for all non-linear effects?

- Most systems have $R_e \gg R_m \gg 1$, requiring high resolution
- Large scale dynamos evolve on time scales $\tau_c \ll t \ll \tau_\eta$, requiring long runs compared to convective turn over
- 3D simulations successful for geodynamo
 - $R_m \sim 300$: all relevant magnetic scales resolvable
 - Incompressible system
- Solar dynamo: Ingredients can be simulated
 - Compressible system: density changes by 10^6 through convection zone
 - Boundary layer effects: Tachocline, difficult to simulate (strongly subadiabatic stratification, large time scales)
 - Magnetic structures down to 1000 km most likely important
Evolve 5000^3 box over $1000 \tau_c$!
 - Small scale dynamos can be simulated (for $P_m \sim 1$)

Summarizing remarks

Destruction of magnetic field:

- Turbulent diffusivity: cascade of magnetic energy from large scale to dissipation scale (advection+reconnection)
- Enhances dissipation of large field by a factor R_m

Creation of magnetic field:

- Small scale dynamo (non-helical)
 - Amplification of field at and below energy carrying scale of turbulence
 - Stretch-twist-fold-(reconnect)
 - Produces non-helical field and does not require helical motions
 - **Current research:** behavior for $P_m \ll 1$
- Large scale dynamo (helical)
 - Amplification of field on scales larger than scale of turbulence
 - Produces helical field and does require helical motions
 - Requires rotation + additional symmetry direction
(controversial $\Omega \times J$ effect does not require helical motions)
 - **Current research:** catastrophic vs. non-catastrophic quenching