

Basics of MHD

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Plan

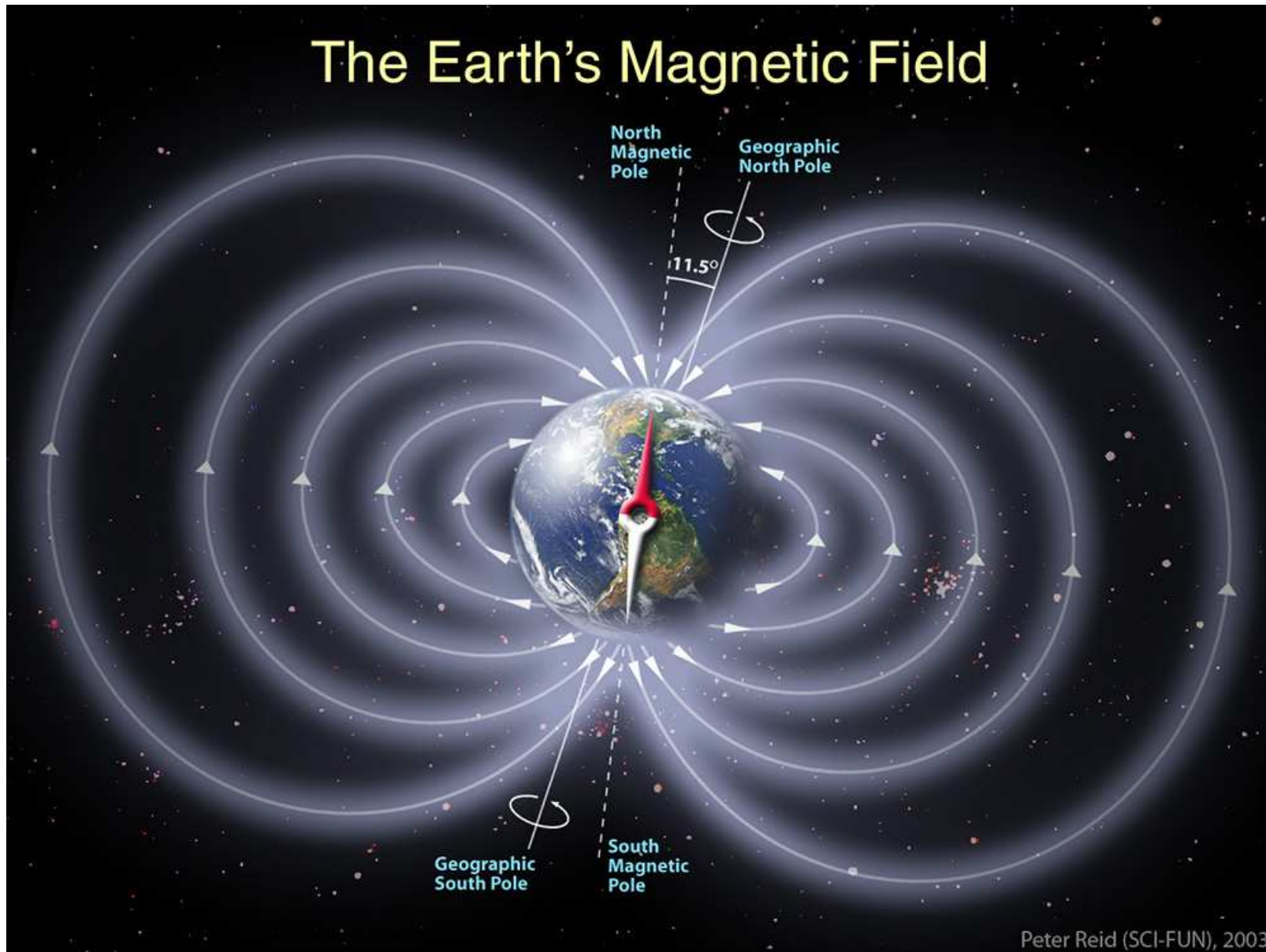
- Magnetic fields in Astrophysics
- MHD Basics
- MHD waves
- Astrophysical batteries



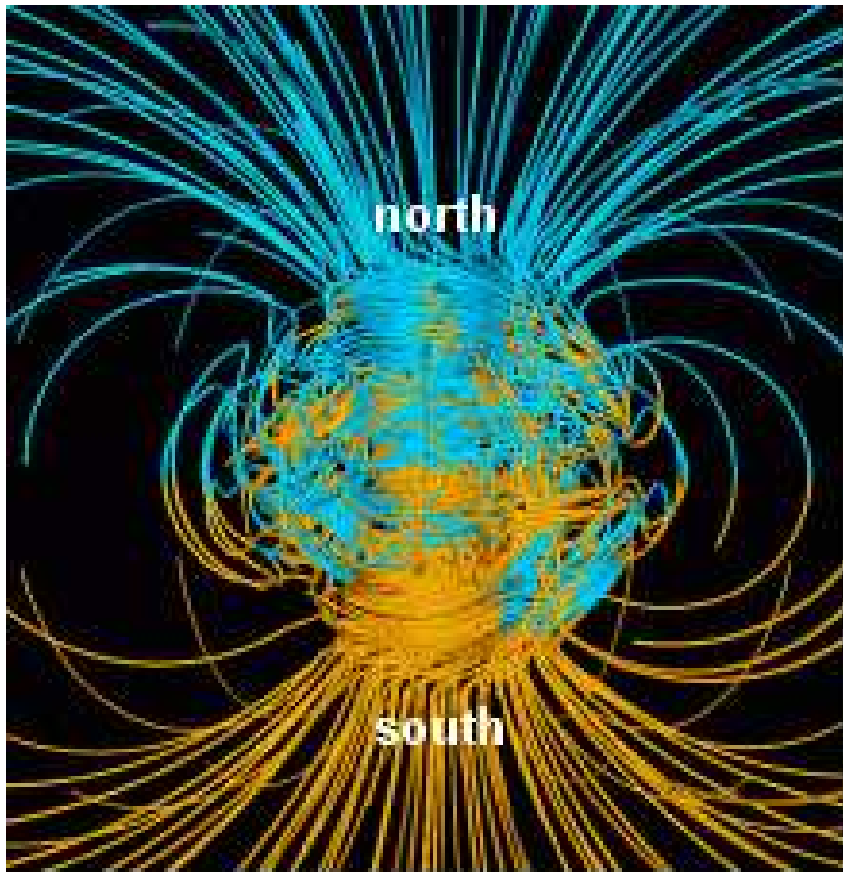
The magnetic Universe

- **Earth (1 Gauss; Irregular reversals over 2×10^5 yr)**
- **Sun (1 - 10^3 gauss; 11 yr Solar cycle)**
- **Neutron Stars: $10^{12} - 10^{15}$ G!**
- **Control of many processes: Accretion and Jets**
- **Galaxies: $B \sim 10\mu\text{G}$, ordered on 10 kpc scales + random component**
- **Clusters of Galaxies: few μG strengths on ~ 10 kpc scales**
- **Equally strong B in Young $z \sim 1 - 2$ galaxies (Bernet et al. 2008)**
- **Even in the IGM and voids? ($B \geq 3 \times 10^{-16}$ Gauss; Mpc scales)**
(Neronov and Vovk, 2010; ... BUT SEE Broderick et al., 2011)

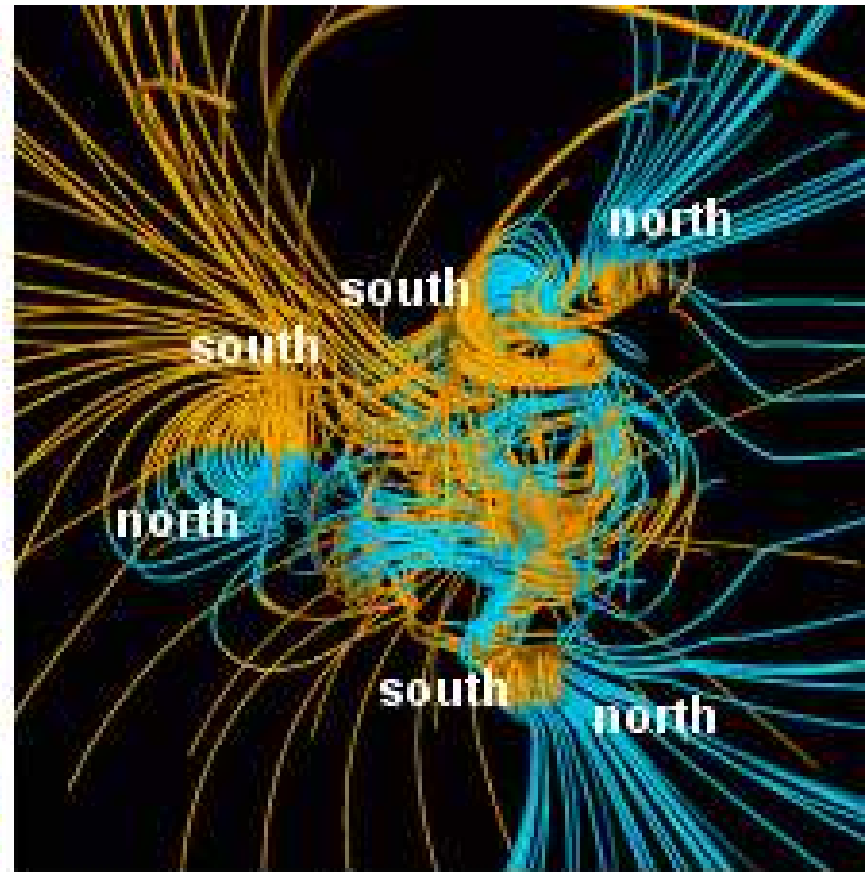
The Earth's Magnetic Field



The Earth's Magnetic Field



between reversals



during a reversal

Simulations by Glatzmaier and Roberts, 1995



The Magnetic Universe

Why Magnetic Universe?

- **Electrically Neutral Universe**
 - Both +ve and -ve Charges Present
- **Free Electric charges + No magnetic charges** \Rightarrow
 - Can short out strong E in plasma rest frame
- **Non Relativistic Velocities** \Rightarrow
 - Simpler to think in terms of B than E

Maintaining magnetic fields

- **Magnetic fields decay if not maintained, because of:**
 - Resistance dissipating currents ($\sim 20,000$ yr for earth)
 - Lorentz force Driving motions, which are damped by Viscosity or become turbulent and then decay

- **EM induction by Motions can maintain magnetic fields**

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E}, \quad \mathbf{E} = -\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B} + \frac{\mathbf{J}}{\sigma}.$$

- **Motions in a magnetic field induces electric fields**
- **If this electric field has a curl, can re-generate magnetic fields**

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}) + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{B}.$$

- **Magnetic Field almost frozen to moving plasma.**
Need initial B field – "Battery".
Need kinetic to magnetic energy conversion — dynamos

MHD basics: The Induction equation

- **Maxwell's equations**

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0,$$

$$\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 4\pi \rho_e,$$

- **Ohm's law**

$$\mathbf{J} = \rho_e \mathbf{V} + \sigma \left(\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}}{c} \right)$$

- **Eliminate J using Ohm+Maxwell, define resistivity $\eta = c^2/(4\pi\sigma)$**

$$\frac{\eta}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} + \frac{\eta}{c^2} \mathbf{V}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}) + \mathbf{E} = \frac{\eta}{c} (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) - \frac{\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}}{c}.$$

- **Faraday timescale $\eta/c^2 \sim 10^{-14} T_4^{-3/2} s$ for ionized plasma!**

MHD basics: The Induction equation

- Variation timescale (or advective timescale) of \mathbf{E} usually much longer than Faraday time

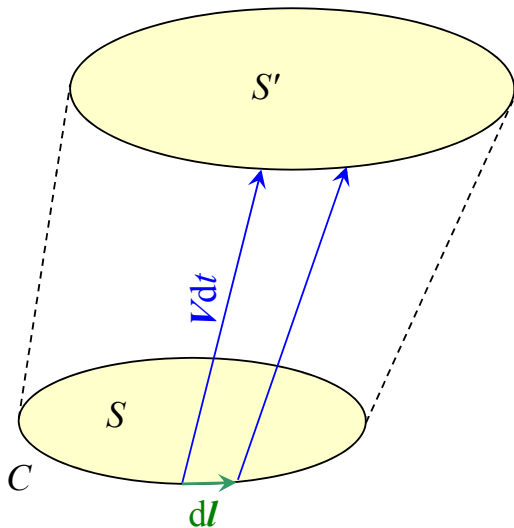
$$\frac{\eta}{c^2} \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} + \frac{\eta}{c^2} \mathbf{V}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}) + \mathbf{E} = \frac{\eta}{c} (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) - \frac{\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}}{c}.$$

- So neglect displacement and advective currents terms, take curl, use Faraday \Rightarrow **Induction equation**

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

- $\mathbf{V} = 0 \Rightarrow$ **pure diffusion and decay**
- If $\eta \rightarrow 0$, the flux $\Phi = \int_S \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$ is 'frozen' $\rightarrow d\Phi/dt \rightarrow 0$.
- **Mag. Reynolds number** $R_M = (VB)/(\eta B/L) = VL/\eta \gg 1$

Flux Freezing



● **Magnetic flux:** $\Phi = \int_S \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$.

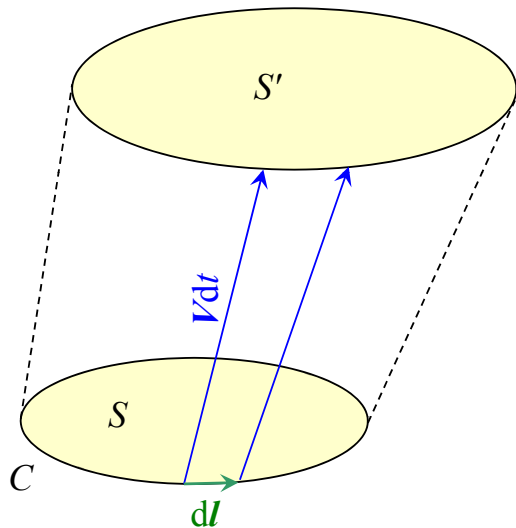
$$\Delta\Phi = \int_{S'} \mathbf{B}(t+dt) \cdot d\mathbf{S} - \int_S \mathbf{B}(t) \cdot d\mathbf{S}.$$

● $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$ **at time** $t + dt \Rightarrow$

$$\int_{S'} \mathbf{B}(t + dt) \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \int_S \mathbf{B}(t + dt) \cdot d\mathbf{S} - \oint_C \mathbf{B}(t + dt) \cdot (d\mathbf{l} \times \mathbf{V} dt),$$

$$\Delta\Phi = \int_S [\mathbf{B}(t + dt) - \mathbf{B}(t)] \cdot d\mathbf{S} - \oint_C \mathbf{B}(t + dt) \cdot (d\mathbf{l} \times \mathbf{V}) dt.$$

Flux Freezing



$$\Delta\Phi = \int_S [\mathbf{B}(t+dt) - \mathbf{B}(t)] \cdot d\mathbf{S} - \oint_C \mathbf{B}(t+dt) \cdot (d\mathbf{l} \times \mathbf{V}) dt.$$

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dt} = \int_S \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \cdot d\mathbf{S} - \oint_C (\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$

- Using $\oint_C (\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \int_S \nabla \times (\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot d\mathbf{S}$

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dt} = \int_S \left[\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} - \nabla \times (\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}) \right] \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \eta \int_S (\nabla^2 \mathbf{B}) \cdot d\mathbf{S}.$$

- So as $\eta \rightarrow 0$, $d\Phi/dt \rightarrow 0$ and so Φ is constant.

Flux freezing applications

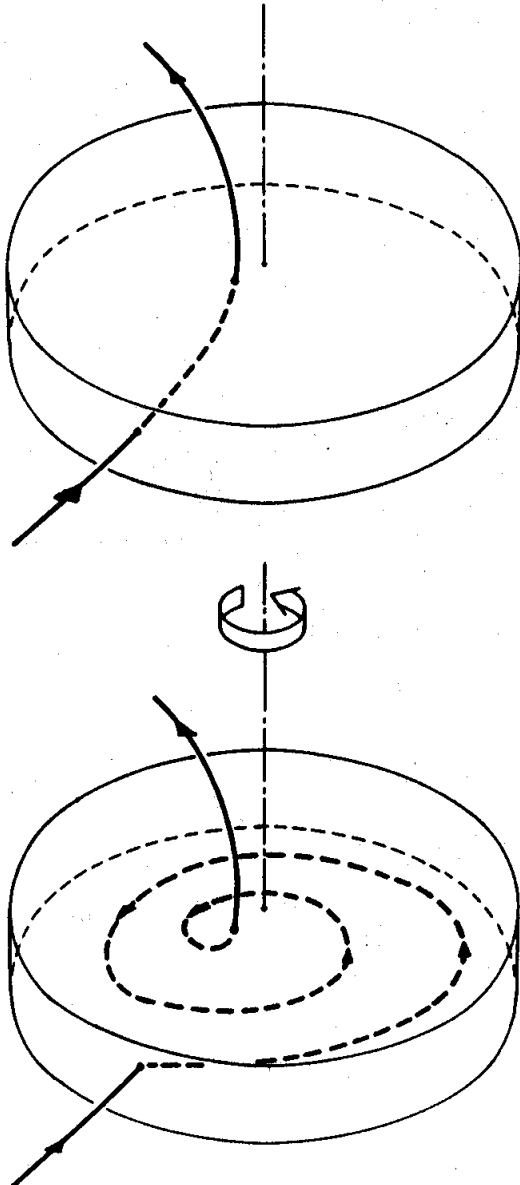
- Consider a flux tube with field B , length l , density ρ

$$BA = \text{Constant}, \quad \rho Al = \text{Constant} \rightarrow \frac{B}{\rho l} = \text{Constant}$$

- Compressing a flux tube of constant length l increases B
- Incompressible fluid motion with $\rho = \text{Constant}$ gives $B \propto l$ and $A \propto 1/l$: Application to small-scale dynamo
- Ignoring diffusion, one can expand induction equation as

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}) = - \underbrace{(\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B}}_{\text{advection}} + \underbrace{(\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{V}}_{\text{stretching}} - \underbrace{\mathbf{B}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V})}_{\text{compression}},$$

Galactic Shear



- **Stretching due to differential rotation in galaxy**
- **Let $V = (0, r\Omega(r), 0)$, initially axisymmetric B**
- **Leads to winding up the field: $B_r = B_r(r, z)$
 $B_\phi = B_\phi(r, z, t_0) + r(d\Omega/dr)B_r t$
 $B_z = B_z(r, z)$**



The Lorentz Force

- **The Lorentz force on a charge:** $\mathbf{F} = q[\mathbf{E} + (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})/c]$
- **The Lorentz force on fluid \mathbf{F} is :**

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{F} &= +en_p \left[\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v}_p \times \mathbf{B}}{c} \right] - en_e \left[\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v}_e \times \mathbf{B}}{c} \right] \\ &= [en_p - en_e] \mathbf{E} + [en_p \mathbf{v}_p - en_e \mathbf{v}_e] \times \mathbf{B}/c \\ &= \rho_e \mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}}{c}\end{aligned}$$

- **Charge density** $\rho_e = (+en_p - en_e)$
- **Current density:** $\mathbf{J} = (+en_p \mathbf{v}_p - en_e \mathbf{v}_e)$



The neglect of the Electric force

- Including the charge density the Lorentz force is:

$$\mathbf{F} = \rho_e \mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}}{c}$$

- The ratio of the electric to magnetic parts is:

$$\frac{|\rho_e \mathbf{E}|}{|(\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}/c)|} = \frac{|(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E})\mathbf{E}|}{|(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{B}|} \sim \frac{V^2}{c^2} \ll 1,$$

- The last part follows from Ohms law applied to a highly conducting medium: $\mathbf{E} + (\mathbf{V}/c) \times \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{J}/\sigma \sim 0$.
- So electric part of force can be neglected compared to magnetic part for $V/c \ll 1$.

The Lorentz force

- Using $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = (4\pi/c)\mathbf{J}$

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{B}}{4\pi} = \underbrace{-\nabla \left(\frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right)}_{\text{Pressure}} + \underbrace{\frac{(\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{B}}{4\pi}}_{\text{Tension}}$$

- Magnetic force broken into a "Pressure gradient" and Tension force

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{V}) = 0$$

$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial \mathbf{V}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{V} \right] = -\nabla p - \rho \nabla \phi + \mathbf{F}_{\text{viscous}} + \frac{\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}}{c}$$

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

$$p = K \rho^\gamma; \quad \nabla^2 \phi = 4\pi G \rho$$

Magnetic energy evolution

- Start from Faraday's Law and dot with B

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial B^2}{\partial t} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -c \mathbf{B} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{E}) = -c \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}) - c \mathbf{E} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B})$$

- Use Ohm's Law: $\mathbf{E} = -(\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B})/c + (4\pi/c^2)\eta\mathbf{J}$

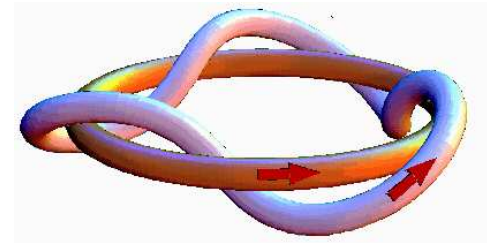
$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial B^2}{\partial t} = -c \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}) - (4\pi/c)\eta\mathbf{J} \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) + (\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B}) \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{B})$$

- Shuffle the triple product, divide by 4π

$$\frac{1}{8\pi} \frac{\partial B^2}{\partial t} + \underbrace{\nabla \cdot \left[\frac{c}{4\pi} \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B} \right]}_{\text{Poynting flux}} = \underbrace{\frac{4\pi}{c^2} \eta \mathbf{J}^2}_{\text{Dissipation}} - \underbrace{\mathbf{V} \cdot \frac{(\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B})}{c}}_{\text{LF Work}}$$

Magnetic Helicity

- **Magnetic Helicity** $H = \int_V \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} dV$, $\nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B}$
 \mathbf{A} is vector potential, V is **closed** volume

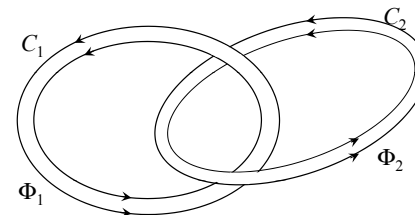


- **Measures links and twists in B**

- H invariant under gauge transformation for closed fields

$$H' = \int_V \mathbf{A}' \cdot \mathbf{B}' dV = H + \int_V \nabla \Lambda \cdot \mathbf{B} dV = H + \oint_{\partial V} \Lambda \mathbf{B} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} dS = H,$$

- $H = \Phi_1 \oint_{C_1} \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{l} + \Phi_2 \oint_{C_2} \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{l}, = 2\Phi_1 \Phi_2$





IUCAA Linking number is

$$(4 \times 1) + (4 \times -1) = 0!!$$



Magnetic helicity evolution

- Using Faraday's law and $(\partial \mathbf{A} / \partial t) = -c(\mathbf{E} + \nabla \phi)$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B}) &= (-\mathbf{E} - \nabla \phi) \cdot \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{A} \cdot (-\nabla \times \mathbf{E}) \\ &= -2\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{E} - \phi \mathbf{B}). \end{aligned}$$

- Use Ohm's Law: $\mathbf{E} = -(\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B})/c + (4\pi/c^2)\eta \mathbf{J}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dH}{dt} &= -2 \int_V \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} dV + \oint_{\partial V} (\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{E} - \phi \mathbf{B}) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} dS \\ &= -2\eta \int_V \left(\frac{4\pi}{c}\right) \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{B} dV \end{aligned}$$

Helicity Conservation

- Helicity evolution
$$\frac{dH}{dt} = -2\eta \int_V dV \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{B}.$$
- For energy
$$\frac{dE_B}{dt} = -\eta \int_V dV \frac{4\pi}{c^2} \mathbf{J}^2 - \int_V dV \mathbf{V} \cdot \frac{(\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B})}{c}$$
- As $\eta \rightarrow 0$, $dE_B/dt \rightarrow$ constant with $|\mathbf{J}| \propto \eta^{-1/2}$, $B \propto \eta^0$.
- BUT $dH/dt \rightarrow 0!$
- Helicity is nearly conserved even when energy dissipated

How does helicity arise in astrophysical systems?



Writhe and Twist Helicities



Anvar and Natasha Shukurov 2009

WRITHE AND TWIST Helicities

MHD Waves

- Magnetostatic equilibrium, with ρ_0, p_0, B_0 uniform and $V_0 = 0$
- Consider small perturbations $\rho_1, p_1, \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{B}_0, \mathbf{v}$ and linearize MHD eqns in the perturbations

$$\frac{\partial \rho_1}{\partial t} + \rho_0 \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{v}) = 0$$

$$\rho_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \left[p_1 + \frac{\mathbf{B}_0 \cdot \mathbf{b}}{4\pi} \right] + \frac{(\mathbf{B}_0 \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{b}}{4\pi}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{b}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}_0) = (\mathbf{B}_0 \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{B}_0 (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}).$$

$$p_1 = (dp/d\rho)_0 \rho_1 = (\gamma p_0 / \rho_0) \rho_1 = c_s^2 \rho_1$$

- Solve by taking Fourier transform: modes with $\exp i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} - \omega t)$

MHD waves

- For Fourier modes we have

$$-i\omega\hat{\rho}_1 + \rho_0(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}}) = 0; \quad -i\omega\hat{\mathbf{b}} = (i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{B}_0)\hat{\mathbf{v}} - \mathbf{B}_0(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}})$$

$$-i\omega\hat{\mathbf{v}} = -i\mathbf{k} \left[\frac{\hat{p}_1}{\rho_0} + \frac{\mathbf{B}_0 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{b}}}{4\pi} \right] + \frac{(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{B}_0)\hat{\mathbf{b}}}{4\pi}; \quad \hat{p}_1 = c_s^2\hat{\rho}_1$$

- Multiply by $i\omega$ eliminate b and ρ_1 ; Define Alfvén velocity:
 $V_A = B_0/\sqrt{4\pi\rho_0}$.

$$\omega^2\hat{\mathbf{v}} = (c_s^2 + V_A^2)(\mathbf{k} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}})\mathbf{k} + (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}_A) [(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}_A)\hat{\mathbf{v}} - (\mathbf{V}_A \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}})\mathbf{k} - (\mathbf{k} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{v}})\mathbf{V}_A].$$

- Have homogenous matrix equation for \hat{v}_i of form $M_{ij}\hat{v}_j = 0$
- Dispersion relation from $Det(M) = 0$, 3-modes of Oscillation, for magnetic case unlike fluid case

MHD Waves

- **Alfvén Waves: For $\hat{v} \perp \mathbf{k}$ and $\hat{v} \perp \mathbf{B}_0$, so $\mathbf{k} \cdot \hat{v} = 0$ and $\hat{v} \cdot \mathbf{V}_A = 0$**

$$\omega^2 = (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}_A)^2 = (kV_A \cos \theta)^2; \quad \omega/k = \pm V_A \cos \theta; \quad (\cos \theta = \hat{\mathbf{B}}_0 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}})$$

- **Group velocity $\nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \omega = \pm V_A$, waves propagate along the field, incompressible**
- **From induction equation: $\hat{v} \parallel \hat{\mathbf{b}}$, so $\hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \mathbf{B}_0 = 0$, and driven by field tension**
- **Other two modes taking dot product with \mathbf{k} and \mathbf{V}_A**

$$\begin{pmatrix} \omega^2 - k^2(c_s^2 + V_A^2) & k^2(\mathbf{V}_A \cdot \mathbf{k}) \\ -(\mathbf{V}_A \cdot \mathbf{k})c_s^2 & \omega^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{k} \cdot \hat{v} \\ \mathbf{V}_A \cdot \hat{v} \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

- **Gives dispersion relation for fast/slow magnetosonic waves**

$$\left(\frac{\omega}{k}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{2}(V_A^2 + c_s^2) \pm \left[\frac{1}{4}(V_A^2 + c_s^2)^2 - V_A^2 c_s^2 \cos^2 \theta\right]^{1/2}.$$



The first “seed” fields in the universe

- **Primordial fields from Early Universe? Uncertain Physics**
Constrained by observations of CMB, FRM
- **Astrophysical Batteries using positive/negative charge asymmetry**
- **Biermann Batteries:** $\mathbf{E}_{Bier} = -\nabla p_e / en_e + \dots$
 $(\partial \mathbf{B} / \partial t) = -c \nabla \times \mathbf{E}_{Bier} = -(ck / en_e) \nabla n_e \times \nabla T_e$
 - **Re-ionization fronts:** $B < 10^{-19}$ G (Subramanian, Narasimha, Chitre, MN, 1994; Gnedin, Ferrara and Zweibel, ApJ, 2000)
 - **Structure formation Shocks** (Kulsrud et al, 1997)
- **During recombination: $\gamma - e/p$ scattering asymmetry**
 $B_0 \sim 10^{-30}$ G at Mpc (Gopal & Sethi, 2005; Mattarrese et al, 2005);
 $B_0 \sim 10^{-21}$ G at pc (Ichiki et al 2007)
- **Seed fields from first supernovae and AGN outflows**

Need Dynamos to explain observed fields and maintain against decay

Biermann Battery

- Write 2-fluid equations for electrons/protons and subtract

$$\frac{D_e \mathbf{v}_e}{Dt} = -\frac{\nabla p_e}{n_e m_e} - \frac{e}{m_e} (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v}_e \times \mathbf{B}) - \nabla \phi_g - \frac{(\mathbf{v}_e - \mathbf{v}_p)}{\tau_{ei}},$$

$$\frac{D_i \mathbf{v}_i}{Dt} = -\frac{\nabla p_i}{n_i m_i} + \frac{e}{m_i} (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v}_i \times \mathbf{B}) - \nabla \phi_g + \frac{m_e n_e}{m_i n_i} \frac{(\mathbf{v}_e - \mathbf{v}_i)}{\tau_{ei}}.$$

- Assume $m_e \ll m_i$, neglect nonlinear: Generalized Ohm's law

$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v}_i \times \mathbf{B} = -\frac{\nabla p_e}{en_e} + \frac{\mathbf{J}}{\sigma} + \frac{1}{en_e} \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} + \frac{m_e}{e^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{\mathbf{J}}{n_e} \right)$$

- Take curl, use Ampere, neglect Hall, inertial terms

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times [\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{B} - \eta(\nabla \times \mathbf{B})] - \frac{ck_B}{e} \frac{\nabla n_e}{n_e} \times \nabla T.$$

- Fields generated from zero if ∇T not parallel to ∇n_e