At Stanford



# Minimal models of the Solar dynamo

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#### **Convective spherical shell dynamos**



# Basic state & scaling $T_S = T_0 - \beta d^2 r^2/2$ $\boldsymbol{g} = -d\gamma \boldsymbol{r}$

Length scale:dTime scale: $d^2/\nu$ Temp. scale: $\nu^2/\gamma\alpha d^4$ Magn. flux density: $\nu(\mu\varrho)^{1/2}/d$ 

# Model equations & parameters Boussinesg approximation $\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u} = 0, \quad \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{B} = 0,$ $\partial_t u + u \cdot \nabla u =$ $-\nabla \pi - \tau \boldsymbol{k} \times \boldsymbol{u} + \Theta \boldsymbol{r} + \nabla^2 \boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{B} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{B},$ $P\left(\partial_t \Theta + \boldsymbol{u} \cdot \nabla \Theta\right) = R \, \boldsymbol{r} \cdot \boldsymbol{u} + \nabla^2 \Theta,$ $P_m(\partial_t \boldsymbol{B} + \boldsymbol{u} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{B}) = P_m \, \boldsymbol{B} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{u} + \nabla^2 \boldsymbol{B}.$ $R = \frac{\alpha \gamma \beta d^6}{\nu \kappa}, \ \tau = \frac{2\Omega d^2}{\nu}, \ P = \frac{\nu}{\kappa}, \ P_m = \frac{\nu}{\lambda}$ **Boundary Conditions** $\boldsymbol{r} \cdot \boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{r} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{r} \times \boldsymbol{u} / r^2 = 0,$ $\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\boldsymbol{r}} \cdot \boldsymbol{B}_{\text{int}} = \hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\boldsymbol{r}} \cdot \boldsymbol{B}_{\text{ext}},$ $\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\boldsymbol{r}} \times \boldsymbol{B}_{\mathrm{int}} = \hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{\boldsymbol{r}} \times \boldsymbol{B}_{\mathrm{ext}},$ $\Theta = 0$ , at $r = r_i \equiv 2/3$ and $r_o \equiv 5/3$

# **Numerical Methods**

#### 3D non-linear problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u} &= \nabla \times (\nabla v \times \mathbf{r}) + \nabla w \times \mathbf{r} \quad \mathbf{B} = \nabla \times (\nabla h \times \mathbf{r}) + \nabla g \times \mathbf{r} \\ \text{Spectral decomposition in spherical harmonics and Chebyshev polynomials} \\ x &= \sum_{l,m,n} X_{l,n}^m(t) T_n(r) P_l^m(\cos \theta) e^{im\varphi} \quad \text{where } x = (v, w, \Theta, g, h)^T \\ \text{Scalar equations} \\ \partial_t X_{l,n}^m &= \hat{\mathcal{L}} X_{l,n}^m + N_{l,n}^m(X) \quad \text{where } \hat{\mathcal{L}} X_{l,n}^m \text{: linear, } N_{l,n}^m(X) \text{: non-linear} \\ \text{Pseudo-spectral method. Time-stepping: Crank-Nicolson & Adams-Bashforth} \\ [X_{l,n}^m]^{k+1} &= \left(1 - \frac{\Delta t}{2} \hat{\mathcal{L}}\right)^{-1} \left\{ \left(1 + \frac{\Delta t}{2} \hat{\mathcal{L}}\right) [F_{l,n}^m]^k + \frac{\Delta t}{2} \left(3[N_{l,n}^m]^k - [N_{l,n}^m]^{k-1}\right)\right\} \\ \text{Resolution: radial=41, latitudinal=193, azimuthal=96.} \\ \text{Linear problem: Galerkin spectral method for the linearised equations leading to an eigenvalue problem for the critical parameters.} \end{aligned}$$

Tilgner, IJNMF, 1999

#### Types of dynamos in the parameter space (thick shells)



- Regular and chaotic non-oscillatory dipolar dynamos (at large Pm/P and not far above dynamo onset)
- Oscillatory dipolar dynamos (at values of R larger than those of non-oscillatory dipoles)
- $\triangle$  Hemispherical dynamos always oscillatory
- **Quadrupolar** dynamos always oscillatory



#### Example of a quadrupolar oscillation (thick shells)



 $P = 5, \tau = 5 \times 10^3$  $R = 8 \cdot 10^5, P_m = 3$ 

One period (first then second column)

Mean meridional filedlines of constant  $\overline{B_{\varphi}}$  (left),  $r \sin \vartheta \partial_{\theta} \overline{h}$  (right) and radial magn. field.

Time series of toroidal  $G_1^0$  and poloidal  $H_1^0, H_2^0$  magn. coefficients.



Half-period of oscillation (column-by-column)

# An example of a dipolar oscillation (thick shells) $R = 3.5 \cdot 10^6$ , $\tau = 3 \cdot 10^4$ , P = 0.75 and $P_m = 0.65$



http://www.maths.gla.ac.uk/~rs/res/B/anim.bm.gif http://www.maths.gla.ac.uk/~rs/res/B/anim.radmagn\_2.gif

#### Fit to a mean-field dynamo wave model (thick shells)



#### Dependence on the shell thickness





Solid – magnetic energy components; Empty – kinetic energy components

## Types of dynamos in the parameter space (thin shells)



Figure 1: Convection-driven dynamos as a function of R, P and  $P_m$  for  $\tau = 2000$ . Decaying dynamos are indicated by solid black dots, MD dynamos are indicated by blue diamonds, FD dynamos are indicated by red stars, mixed dynamos are indicated by pink squares, and quadrupolar dynamos are indicated by green triangles.

#### Transition to fluctuating dynamos in thin shells



Crucial assumption:

Stress free at outer boundary No-slip at inner boundary

$$\eta = 0.65, P = 1, \tau = 2000,$$
  
 $R = 1.5 \times 10^5, P_m = 5$ 







No-slip at inner boundary, stress free at outer boundary as found by helioseismology, NSF's National Solar Observatory

#### **Butterfly diagram**



time



LONGITUDINALLY AVERAGED MAGNETIC FIELD

Hathaway, D.H., et al, 2003, Astrophys. J., 589, 665-670

# Bistability of dynamo solutions $\eta = 0.65$



## Bistability and hysteresis in the MD <==> FD transition (thin shells)



Figure 2: Co-existing nonlinear dynamo solutions at identical parameter values in the case  $\eta = 0.65 \tau = 2000$ , R = 150000 and  $P/P_m = 0.2$ . The fluctuating poloidal magnetic energy component  $\widetilde{M}_p$  (solid circles) and the mean poloidal magnetic energy component  $\overline{M}_p$  (empty circles) are scaled on the left ordinate, while the Nusselt number at  $r = r_i$  (solid diamonds) is scaled on the right ordinate. Cases started from initial conditions

## Bistability and hysteresis in the MD <==> FD transition (thick shells)

Bistability and hysteresis in the ratio of fluctuating poloidal to mean poloidal magn energy







## **Conclusions**

• Global dynamo models in rotating spherical shells and with the Boussinesq approximation capture the basic first order physics of the convective-dynamo problem

Thermally/chemically driven convection,

Magnetic field generation,

Lorentz force acts on fluid.

# • Such models have been relatively successful in modelling the Geodynamo because compressibility is not so important.

Westward drift of magnetic structures,

Reversals and excursions,

Scaling properties.

We propose to use such models to gain insights into the basic physics of the regular solar magnetic cycle.