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# Solved and Unsolved Dynamos Alexander Schekochihin (Oxford)

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Rincon, Califano, AAS, Valentini, PNAS in press (2016) [arXiv:1512.06455]
 Melville, AAS, Kunz, MNRAS in press (2016) [arXiv:1512.08131]
 Rincon, AAS, Cowley, MNRAS 447, L45 (2015)
 Kunz, AAS & Stone, PRL 112, 205003 (2014)
 AAS et al., PRL 100, 184501 (2008); Rosin et al., MNRAS 413, 7 (2011)
 Tzeferacos et al., in preparation (2016); Meinecke et al., PNAS 112, 8211 (2015)
 AAS et al., NJP 9, 300 (2007); AAS et al., ApJ 612, 276 (2004)



[Abell 2634 cluster, Eilek & Owen 2002, ApJ 5267, 202]

900 kpc

### **Turbulence Makes the Field**



This equation is linear in **B**, so field will either decay to zero or grow to dynamical strength. Probably the latter. Typically,  $B \sim 10^{-6}$  G,  $\beta \sim 10^{2}$ Crucially (imho),  $\frac{B^{2}}{8\pi} \sim \frac{\rho u^{2}}{2}$ 

### Theoretical MHD Dynamo: ~SOLVED



 $\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times \left( \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} \right) + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{B}$ 

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$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}) + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{B}$$
All you need is a  
chaotic flow  
**Basic idea:**  

$$\frac{d\mathbf{B}}{dt} \equiv \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = (\mathbf{b}\mathbf{b} : \nabla \mathbf{u})B \equiv \gamma B$$

$$\ln B \sim \int^t dt' (\mathbf{b}\mathbf{b} : \nabla \mathbf{u})(t')$$

So, roughly, field in Lagrangian frame accumulates as random walk



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

All you need is a chaotic flow **Basic idea:** 

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}B}{\mathrm{d}t} = (\mathbf{b}\mathbf{b}:\nabla\mathbf{u})B \equiv \gamma B$$
$$\ln B \sim \int^t \mathrm{d}t' \, (\mathbf{b}\mathbf{b}:\nabla\mathbf{u})(t')$$



Key effect: a succession of random stretchings (and un-stretchings)







### Numerical MHD Dynamo: SOLVED

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}) + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{B}$$
All you need is a  
chaotic flow  
(and large enough Rm)
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = (\mathbf{b}\mathbf{b} : \nabla \mathbf{u}) B \equiv \gamma B$$
The bottom line is that  
turbulent dynamo works if  
Rm > Rm<sub>c</sub> ~ 50 to 2000  
(depending on Re)

AAS et al., NJP 9, 300 (2007)

### Numerical MHD Dynamo: SOLVED

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

First evidence was in 1981:

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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

12 October 1981

All you need is a chaotic flow (and large enough Rm)

Helical and Nonhelical Turbulent Dynamos

M. Meneguzzi Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and Section d'Astrophysique, Division de la Physique, Centre d'Etudes Nucléaires de Saclay, F-91191 Gif-Sur-Yvette, France

and

U. Frisch Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Observatoire de Nice, F-06007 Nice, France

and

A. Pouquet<sup>(a)</sup>

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Observatoire de Meudon, F-92190 Meudon, France (Received 13 April 1981)

Direct numerical simulations of three-dimensional magnetohydrodynamic turbulence with kinetic and magnetic Reynolds numbers up to 100 are presented. Spatially intermittent magnetic fields are observed in a flow with nonhelical driving. Small-scale helical driving produces strong large-scale nearly force-free magnetic fields.



 $\frac{\mathrm{d}B}{\mathrm{d}t} = (\mathbf{b}\mathbf{b}:\nabla\mathbf{u})B \equiv \gamma B$ 

The bottom line is that turbulent dynamo works if  $Rm > Rm_c \sim 50$  to 200 (depending on Re)

AAS et al., NJP 9, 300 (2007)



The bottom line is that turbulent dynamo works if  $Rm > Rm_c \sim 50$  to 200 (depending on Re)

AAS et al., NJP 9, 300 (2007)

Tzeferacos et al., in preparation (2016) Meinecke et al., *PNAS* **112**, 8211 (2015)



AAS et al., NJP 9, 300 (2007)

Tzeferacos et al., in preparation (2016) Meinecke et al., *PNAS* **112**, 8211 (2015)

### In Fact, This Is All Irrelevant to Astro...



Key effect: a succession of random stretchings (and un-stretchings) AAS et al., *ApJ* **612**, 276 (2004)

# **Collisionless Plasma: Adiabatic Constraints**

Changing magnetic field causes local pressure anisotropies:  $\frac{1}{p_{\perp}}\frac{\mathrm{d}p_{\perp}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{1}{B}\frac{\mathrm{dB}}{\mathrm{d}t}$ conservation of  $\mu = v_{\perp}^2/B$  $\frac{1}{2p_{\parallel}} \frac{\mathrm{d}p_{\parallel}}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\frac{1}{B} \frac{\mathrm{dB}}{\mathrm{d}t}$ conservation of  $J = \oint \mathrm{d}\ell v_{\parallel}$  $\frac{\mathrm{d}B}{\mathrm{d}t} = (\mathbf{b}\mathbf{b}:\nabla\mathbf{u})B \equiv \gamma B$ 

It is very hard to change *B* in the face of these constraints! [*CGL supports no dynamo action:* Santos-Lima et al. 2011, Proc. IAU No 274, 482]

Helander, Strumik & AAS, in preparation (2016)





(compressions/rarefactions & heat fluxes are also sources of local pressure anisotropy) AAS et al., *ApJ* **629**, 139 (2005); *MNRAS* **405**, 291 (2010)

### Pressure Anisotropy > Microinstabilities



Instabilities are fast, small scale (~Larmor). They are instantaneous compared to "fluid" dynamics.



AAS et al., *ApJ* **629**, 139 (2005); *MNRAS* **405**, 291 (2010)

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AAS et al., ApJ 629, 139 (2005); MNRAS 405, 291 (2010)



### Pressure Anisotropy > Microinstabilities





### In the **solar wind**:



### Marginal State At All Times?





3' (62 kpc)

### Marginal State At All Times?



How do you evolve the field from small to large while keeping everywhere within marginal stability boundaries?



Mogavero & AAS, *MNRAS* **440**, 3226 (2014)

### **Effective Closure Options**



How do you evolve the field from small to large while keeping everywhere within marginal stability boundaries?



Mogavero & AAS, *MNRAS* **440**, 3226 (2014)

### **Effective Closure Options**



How do you evolve the field from small to large while keeping everywhere within marginal stability boundaries?



## PLASMA DYNAMO: UNSOLVED?



How do you evolve the field from small to large while keeping everywhere within marginal stability boundaries?

In view of these complications, does dynamo work in a weakly collisional plasma?



Num. Plasma Dynamo: SOLVED (F. Rincon)Hybrid kinetic system solved by a Vlasov code (grid):
$$\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla f_i + \left[\frac{e}{m_i}\left(\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}}{c}\right) + \frac{\mathbf{F}}{m_i}\right] \cdot \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \mathbf{v}} = 0$$
 $\mathbf{E} = -\frac{T_e \nabla n_e}{en_e} - \frac{\mathbf{u}_e \times \mathbf{B}}{c} + \frac{4\pi\eta}{c^2} \mathbf{j}$  $\mathbf{u}_e = \mathbf{u}_i - \frac{\mathbf{j}}{en_e}$  $\mathbf{j} = \frac{c}{4\pi} \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$  $n_e = n_i$  $\mathbf{h} = -c \nabla \times \mathbf{E}$ Will magnetic energy grow?

Rincon et al., PNAS in press (2016) [arXiv:1512.06455]

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### Num. Plasma Dynamo: SOLVED (F. Rincon)



Rincon et al., *PNAS* in press (2016) [arXiv:1512.06455] Time (turnover time  $L/u_{r.m.s.}$  units)

### Num. Plasma Dynamo: UNSOLVED (F. Rincom) Magnetic field lines and pressure anisotropy $\Delta_i = (P_{\perp,i} - P_{\parallel,i})/P_{\perp,i}$ **FULLY** MAGNETISED $\beta = 10^4 \quad \frac{\rho_i}{L} \simeq 0.02$ This couldn't be run for a very long time, so, in fact, it still belongs to the (semi-)UNSOLVED category (but will be solved imminently by M. Kunz & D. St-Onge) $\beta = 10^4$ t = 0.301 (turnovers)

# Num. Plasma Dynamo: UNSOLVED (F. Rincon)

Firehoses in bends: note square bends

[cf. Melville & AAS 2016, in prep.]



Mirrors in stretched folds: *"bubbles" filled with trapped particles* [cf. Rincon, AAS & Cowley 2015, MNRAS 447, L45]



# Num. Plasma Dynamo: UNSOLVED (F. Rincom)

### Pressure anisotropy relaxes in some self-consistent way:



It would be fascinating to follow this dynamo for a long time and see how the macro-micro scale interaction works, how anisotropy adjusts, etc. But this is currently unaffordable in 3D3V.



Kunz, AAS & Stone, *PRL* **112**, 205003 (2014)



Kunz, AAS & Stone, PRL 112, 205003 (2014)







AAS et al., PRL **100**, 081301 (2008) Rosin et al., MNRAS **413**, 7 (2011) Melville, AAS, Kunz, MNRAS in press (2016) [arXiv:1512.08131]





AAS et al., PRL **100**, 081301 (2008) Rosin et al., MNRAS **413**, 7 (2011) Melville, AAS, Kunz, MNRAS in press (2016) [arXiv:1512.08131]



















 $\mu$  conservation is broken at long times, firehose fluctuations scatter particles to maintain pressure anisotropy at marginal level

Kunz, AAS & Stone, PRL 112, 205003 (2014)



- effective collisionality required to maintain marginal stability
- measured scattering rate during the saturated phase
- $\mathbf{X}$  measured scattering rate during the secular phase

Kunz, AAS & Stone, *PRL* **112**, 205003 (2014)





Melville, AAS, Kunz, MNRAS in press (2016) [arXiv:1512.08131]



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Rincon, AAS & Cowley, MNRAS 447, L45 (2015) Melville, AAS, Kunz, MNRAS in press (2016) [arXiv:1512.08131]



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Rincon, AAS & Cowley, *MNRAS* 447, L45 (2015) Melville, AAS, Kunz, *MNRAS* in press (2016) [arXiv:1512.08131]



effective collisionality required to maintain marginal stability

- measured scattering rate during the saturated phase
- $\mathbf{X}$  measured scattering rate during the secular phase

Kunz, AAS & Stone, *PRL* **112**, 205003 (2014)



### **Effective Closure Options**







#### **Effective Closure Options** $S_1 = 2 \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega, S_2 = -2 \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega, \beta(0) = 600$ 1 0.8 This in fact 0.6 also happens 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 0 for firehoses, St Option I: Suppress stretching at ultra-high beta $\beta > \Omega/S$ This happens $\Delta \equiv \frac{p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel}}{p} \sim \frac{1}{\nu} \frac{1}{B} \frac{\mathrm{d}B}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\gamma}{\nu} \in \left[-\frac{2}{\beta}, \frac{1}{\beta}\right]$ for firehoses (also mirrors in saturation Melville, AAS & Kunz Option II: Enhance collisionality & decaying) arXiv:1512.08131



Option III: Skew the average towards regions This happens of weaker field by trapping particles for secularly growing mirrors This in fact also happens for firehoses, **Option I: Suppress stretching** at ultra-high beta  $\beta > \Omega/S$ This happens  $\Delta \equiv \frac{p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel}}{p} \sim \frac{1}{\nu} \frac{1}{B} \frac{\mathrm{d}B}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\gamma}{\nu} \in \left[-\frac{2}{\beta}, \frac{1}{\beta}\right]$ for firehoses (also mirrors in saturation Melville, AAS & Kunz Option II: Enhance collisionality & decaying) arXiv:1512.08131



In firehose regions, anomalous scattering will marginalise anisotropy

Melville, AAS & Kunz arXiv:1512.08131 It appears that in the stretching
 regions, B can grow, at the price of
 "mirror-bubble" infestation
 (as long as the stretching does not
 last longer than ~ turnover time





In firehose regions, anomalous scattering will marginalise anisotropy

Eff. collisionality:  $\nu_{\rm eff} \sim S \beta$ 

to keep anisotropy marginal:

$$\Delta \sim \frac{S}{\nu_{\rm eff}} \sim \beta^{-1}$$

Melville, AAS & Kunz arXiv:1512.08131 It appears that in the stretching
 regions, B can grow, at the price of
 "mirror-bubble" infestation
 (as long as the stretching does not
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![](_page_55_Picture_1.jpeg)

 In firehose regions, anomalous scattering will marginalise anisotropy

Eff. collisionality:  $\nu_{\text{eff}} \sim S\beta$ Eff. viscosity:  $\mu_{\text{eff}} \sim \frac{p}{\nu_{\text{eff}}} \sim \frac{B^2/8\pi}{S}$ 

NB: regions of weaker field are less viscous!

It appears that in the stretching regions, B can grow, at the price of "mirror-bubble" infestation (as long as the stretching does not last longer than ~ turnover time

![](_page_55_Picture_6.jpeg)

Melville, AAS & Kunz arXiv:1512.08131

![](_page_56_Picture_1.jpeg)

In firehose regions, anomalous scattering will marginalise anisotropy

Eff. collisionality:  $\nu_{\text{eff}} \sim S\beta$ Eff. viscosity:  $\mu_{\text{eff}} \sim \frac{p}{\nu_{\text{eff}}} \sim \frac{B^2/8\pi}{S}$ Energy flux (Kolmogorov):  $\varepsilon \sim \frac{\rho U^3}{L}$ 

Fastest turnover rate:

$$S \sim \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\mu_{\text{eff}}}\right)^{1/2} \sim \text{Ma}\left(\frac{U}{L}\nu_{\text{eff}}\right)^{1/2} \sim \frac{U}{L} \text{Ma}^2$$

Melville, AAS & Kunz arXiv:1512.08131 It appears that in the stretching
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 "mirror-bubble" infestation
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Rincon et al., PNAS in press (2016)

![](_page_57_Picture_1.jpeg)

In firehose regions, anomalous scattering will marginalise anisotropy

Eff. collisionality:  $\nu_{\text{eff}} \sim S\beta$ Eff. viscosity:  $\mu_{\text{eff}} \sim \frac{p}{\nu_{\text{eff}}} \sim \frac{B^2/8\pi}{S}$ Energy flux (Kolmogorov):  $\varepsilon \sim \frac{\rho U^3}{L}$ 

- Fastest turnover rate:
- $S \sim \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\mu_{\rm eff}}\right)^{1/2} \sim {\rm Ma} \left(\frac{U}{L}\nu_{\rm eff}\right)^{1/2} \sim \frac{U}{L} {\rm Ma}^2 \beta \equiv \frac{U}{L} {\rm Re}_{\rm eff}^{1/2}$

Effective Reynolds number:  $\operatorname{Re}_{eff} = \operatorname{Ma}^4 \beta^2$ 

Regions of decreasing field will quickly break up? It appears that in the stretching
 regions, B can grow, at the price of
 "mirror-bubble" infestation
 (as long as the stretching does not
 last longer than ~ turnover time

![](_page_57_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Picture_1.jpeg)

 $\succ$  In firehose regions, anomalous scattering will marginalise anisotropy

Eff. collisionality:  $\nu_{\rm eff} \sim S\beta$ Eff. viscosity:  $\mu_{\text{eff}} \sim \frac{p}{\nu_{\text{eff}}} \sim \frac{B^2/8\pi}{S}$ Energy flux (Kolmogorov):  $\varepsilon \sim \frac{\rho U^3}{I}$ 

Fastest turnover rate:

 $S \sim \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\mu_{eff}}\right)^{1/2} \sim \frac{\varepsilon}{R^2/8\pi}$  NB: faster if the field is weaker

 $\blacktriangleright$  It appears that in the stretching regions, B can grow, at the price of "mirror-bubble" infestation (as long as the stretching does not last longer than  $\sim$  turnover time

![](_page_58_Picture_7.jpeg)

So magnetic energy grows in one turnover time from any level:

 $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\frac{B^2}{8\pi} \sim S \frac{B^2}{8\pi} \sim \varepsilon \quad \text{(but only if this enhanced collisionality persists)}$ Mogavero & AAS, MNRAS 440, 3226 (2014)

![](_page_59_Picture_1.jpeg)

- In firehose regions, anomalous scattering will marginalise anisotropy
- Regions of decreasing field will quickly break up?

Thus, it is quite difficult to decrease B in a weakly collisional plasma, while growth is OK (and maybe even faster!). Good news for fast plasma dynamo!

![](_page_59_Figure_5.jpeg)

It appears that in the stretching regions, B can grow, at the price of "mirror-bubble" infestation

 (as long as the stretching does not last longer than ~ turnover time

![](_page_59_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Picture_1.jpeg)

- In firehose regions, anomalous scattering will marginalise anisotropy
- Regions of decreasing field will quickly break up?

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These are speculations. Upcoming historic events:

Plasma dynamo simulations

 (F. Rincon; M. Kunz & D. St-Onge)

 NIF dynamo experiment

 (G. Gregori et al, in ~6 months)

It appears that in the stretching
 regions, B can grow, at the price of
 "mirror-bubble" infestation
 (as long as the stretching does not
 last longer than ~ turnover time

![](_page_60_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Picture_1.jpeg)

- $\succ$  In firehose regions, anomalous scattering will marginalise anisotropy
- Regions of decreasing field will quickly break up?

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These are speculations. Upcoming historic events:  $\blacktriangleright$  It appears that in the stretching regions, B can grow, at the price of "mirror-bubble" infestation (as long as the stretching does not last longer than  $\sim$  turnover time

![](_page_61_Picture_7.jpeg)

2016: the year of plasma dynamo?

- $\diamond$  Plasma dynamo simulations (F. Rincon; M. Kunz & D. St-Onge)  $\diamond$  NIF dynamo experiment (G. Gregori et al, in ~6 months) For astrophysics, paradigm change in the air?
  - At any rate, high-beta, weakly collisional plasma dynamics are interesting and still to be understood.

![](_page_62_Picture_1.jpeg)

- ➢ In firehose regions, anomalous scattering will marginalise anisotropy
- $\blacktriangleright$  Regions of decreasing field will quickly break up?

Thus, it is quite difficult to decrease B in a weakly collisional plasma, while growth is OK (and maybe even faster). Good news for fast plasma dynamo!

These are speculations. Upcoming historic events:  $\blacktriangleright$  It appears that in the stretching regions, B can grow, at the price of "mirror-bubble" infestation (as long as the stretching does not last longer than  $\sim$  turnover time

![](_page_62_Picture_7.jpeg)

2016: the year of plasma dynamo?

 $\diamond$  Plasma dynamo simulations (F. Rincon; M. Kunz & D. St-Onge) *plasma dynamics are interesting* ♦ NIF dynamo experiment (G. Gregori et al, in ~6 months) For astrophysics, paradigm change in the air?

At any rate, high-beta, weakly collisional and still to be understood.

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![](_page_63_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_63_Picture_5.jpeg)

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SOLVED AND UNSOLVED PROBLEMS IN PLASMA PHYSICS

Guest Editors: Ilya Dodin & Hong Qin