Global MHD simulations of stellar dynamos

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Gustavo A. Guerrero Physics Department (UFMG-Brazil)

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Outline

- Magnetic fields in **solar-type stars** (the targets)
- Dynamo framework mean-field theory
- Global models
 - The Physics: MHD
 - The codes
 - Numerical methods
 - DNS & LES
- Results
 - Mean-flows
 - Magnetic fields and cycles
- Stellar dynamos in radiative zones layers
- Concluding remarks

Solar and Stellar cycles



Ca II HK lines (also Lx, H α and other proxies)





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What a dynamo must reproduce





The Sun

- Properties of the magnetic field along the solar cycle
- Scaling laws of stellar cycles
 - $P_{\text{cyc}} \times P_{\text{rot}}$ or $P_{\text{cyc}} \times \text{Ro}$
 - Field strength x Ro= P_{rot}/τ_c

See also: Baliunas+ (1995), Metcalfe+ (2010, 2013), Egeland+ (2015) Noyes et al. (1983, 1984), Brandenburg & Saar (1998), Böhm-Vitense (2007), Brandenrburg et al. (2017)

Modeling the solar dynamo

(Mathematical intermezzo, also applicable to dynamos in other stars in the HR diagram and to galaxies)

Mean-field dynamo mechanism (Parker, 55; Steenbeck et al. 66)

Induction equation

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (U \times B - \eta J) \qquad J = \nabla \times B$$

$$\nabla \times (U \times B) = -\underbrace{U \cdot \nabla B}_{\text{advection}} + \underbrace{B \cdot \nabla U}_{\text{stretching}} - \underbrace{B \nabla \cdot U}_{\text{compression}}$$

-Induction/advection vs. diffusion $R_{\rm m} = u_{\rm rms}/(\eta k_{\rm f})$

	<i>T</i> [K]	$\rho [\mathrm{gcm^{-3}}]$	$P_{\rm m}$	$u_{\rm rms} [{\rm cm s^{-1}}]$	L [cm]	<i>R</i> _m
Solar CZ (upper part)	10^{4}	10^{-6}	10^{-7}	10 ⁶	10 ⁸	10^{6}
Solar CZ (lower part)	10^{6}	10^{-1}	10^{-4}	10^{4}	10^{10}	10^{9}
Protostellar discs	10^{3}	10^{-10}	10^{-8}	10^{5}	10^{12}	10
CV discs and similar	10^{4}	10^{-7}	10^{-6}	10^{5}	10^{7}	10^{4}
AGN discs	10^{7}	10^{-5}	10^{4}	10 ⁵	10^{9}	10^{11}
Galaxy	10^{4}	10^{-24}	(10^{11})	10^{6}	10^{20}	(10^{18})
Galaxy clusters	108	10^{-26}	(10^{29})	10 ⁸	10^{23}	(10^{29})

After separation of scales and in spherical geometry, we get

$$\frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} [r(u_r + \gamma_r) \bar{B}] + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} [(u_\theta + \gamma_\theta) \bar{B}] \right] = s(\bar{B}_p \cdot \nabla) \Omega$$
$$- [\nabla \eta_T \times (\nabla \times \bar{B})]_{\phi} + \eta_T \left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \right) \bar{B} + [\nabla \times (\alpha^D \bar{B})]_{\phi}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{s} \left[(\bar{u_p} + \gamma_p) \cdot \nabla \right] (s \bar{A}) = \eta_T \left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \right) \bar{A} + (\alpha^D \bar{B})_{\phi}$$

with $\eta_T = \eta + \beta$ The total magnetic diffusivity

$$C_{\alpha} = \frac{\alpha_0}{\eta_T k_f}, \quad C_{\Omega} = \frac{\Delta \Omega}{\eta_T k_f^2}, \quad C_U = \frac{U_0}{\eta_T k_f}$$

Ω-effect (P \rightarrow **T)**



From helioseismology inversions (Schou et al. 1998)

$$\frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} [r(u_r + \gamma_r)\bar{B}] + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} [(u_\theta + \gamma_\theta)\bar{B}] \right] = s(\bar{B}_p \cdot \nabla) \Omega$$
$$- [\nabla \eta_T \times (\nabla \times \bar{B})]_{\phi} + \eta_T \left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{r\sin\theta} \right) \bar{B} + [\nabla \times (\alpha^D \bar{B})]_{\phi}$$
$$\frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{s} [(\bar{u}_p + \gamma_p) \cdot \nabla] (s\bar{A}) = \eta_T \left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{r\sin\theta} \right) \bar{A} + (\alpha^D \bar{B})_{\phi}$$

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$\begin{array}{l} \textbf{\alpha-effect (P \rightarrow T): contribution from MHD} \\ \textbf{turbulence} \\ \alpha_{i\, j} \mathbf{B} = \alpha \mathbf{B} \end{array}$

and α is a pseudo-scalar. It can only exist if the system lacks of reflectional symmetry (e.g., the system is rotating).



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$$\frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial r} [r(u_r + \gamma_r)\bar{B}] + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} [(u_\theta + \gamma_\theta)\bar{B}] \right] = s(\bar{B}_p \cdot \nabla) \Omega$$
$$- [\nabla \eta_T \times (\nabla \times \bar{B})]_{\phi} + \eta_T \left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{r\sin\theta} \right) \bar{B} + [\nabla \times (\alpha^D \bar{B})]_{\phi}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{A}}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{s} \left[\left(\bar{u}_p + \gamma_p \right) \cdot \nabla \right] \left(s \bar{A} \right) = \eta_T \left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \right) \bar{A} + \left(\alpha^D \bar{B} \right)_{\phi}$$

with $\eta_T = \eta + \beta$ The total magnetic diffusivity

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α - Ω dynamo with solar differential rotation







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After an educated (not always possible) fine tuning of parameters



See also: Bonanno et al. (2002), Jouve et al. (2008), Käpylä et al. (2006)

Global simulations



A. Steinko & NASA-NAS visualization team

- Spherical geometry
 (r, θ, φ)
- Rotation
- Only convection zone $0.7R_{\odot} < r < 0.95 R_{\odot}$
- CZ + stable layer
 0.6R_o < r < 0.95 R_o
 (Guerrero et al. 2019)



Cossette et al. (2017)

The Physics

MHD equations (anelastic case)

$$\frac{D\boldsymbol{u}}{Dt} = -\nabla\varphi' - \boldsymbol{g}\frac{\Theta'}{\Theta_o} + 2\boldsymbol{u} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega} \\
+ \frac{1}{\mu\rho_o}\boldsymbol{B} \cdot \nabla\boldsymbol{B} + \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{u}}, \\
\frac{D\Theta'}{Dt} = -\boldsymbol{u} \cdot \nabla\Theta_a - \alpha\Theta' + \mathcal{D}_{\Theta}, \\
\frac{D\boldsymbol{B}}{Dt} = \boldsymbol{B} \cdot \nabla\boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{B}\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u} + \mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{B}}, \\
\nabla \cdot (\rho_o \boldsymbol{u}) = 0, \\
\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{B} = 0.$$

The Codes

Finite differences (PENCIL-CODE, MURaM, Y. Fan code, ...)

PENCIL-CODE: 6th order finite differences, RK in time, DNS (Käpylä et al. 2012, Warnecke et al. 2018, Viviani et al. 2018, ...)



Adapted from **MURaM** code: 4th order finite differences, RK in time, Yin-Yang grid, DNS. (Hotta et al. 2016, 2018)



Finite volumes (EULAG)

EULAG-MHD: MPDATA, semi-implicit in time, ILES (Ghizaru et al. 2010; Strugarek et al. 2016, 2018; Guerrero et al. 2016, 2019)



Spectral (MAGIC, ASH, Leeds, ...)

ASH: Spectral methods, DNS, LES (Brun et al. 2004; Brown et al. 2010, Augustson et al. 2015, ...)



Current limitations

$$Re = \frac{u_{rms}L}{v} \sim 10^{12}$$
 (10³)

$$\mathrm{Rm} = \frac{u_{\mathrm{rms}} L}{\eta} \sim 10^9 \quad (10^3)$$

$$Ra = \frac{GM(\Delta r)^{4}}{\nu \kappa R^{2}} \frac{-1}{c_{p}} \frac{ds}{dr} \ge 10^{20} \quad (10^{7})$$

- Important dynamical scales go from *km*'s to hundreds of *Mm*.
- To be numerically stable, simulations use large values of the dissipative terms
- Energy transfer from bottom to top
- Large-scale fields evolve in time scales going from years to decades
- Simulations take long time to achieve HD and MHD steady states
- SGS parametrization is useful, e.g., Guizaru et al. (2010), Guerrero et al. (2016, 2019), Auguston et al. (2015)

Results

Mean Flows (HD case)



Gastine et al. (2013)

- Mean flows in Taylor-Proudman balance (cylindrical contours of iso-rotation)
- The results of different codes/models are convergent, e.g., Käpylä et al. (2011), Gastine et al. (2013), Guerrero et al. (2013)

• MHD case

- u_{rms} and shear flows decrease and the latitudinal gradient of entropy increases, breaking the Taylor-Proudman balance (Hotta, 2018)
- In models without stable layer the transition from solar to anti-solar occurs at large Ro (Karak et al. 2016)
- In models with stable layer no transition is observed (Guerrero et al. 2019)





Hotta (2018) ²²



Guerrero et al. (2019)

Magnetic cycles



PENCIL-CODE: DNS, only convection zone (Käpyla et al. 2012)



Time (years)

P_{cyc} vs P_{rot} Models with CZ only





Strugarek et al. (2017) EULAG-mhd ILES simulations







Warnecke et al. (2016,2017) pencil-code *wedge*, dynamo coefficients from TFM. Results consistent with $\alpha\Omega$ -dynamos Viviani et al. (2018) pencil-code *full sphere*, high resolution for small Ro. Non- axisymmetric fields.

P_{cyc} vs P_{rot} CZ + stable layer



P_{cyc} vs P_{rot} CZ + stable layer





Lorenzo Oliveira et al. 2019 (*in preparation*)

Magnetic cycles in solar twins: solar mass, metalicity, surface temperature.

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The mean-field analysis confirms an $\alpha^2 \Omega$ dynamo operating in the radiative zone

Mean-fields in the meridional plane

Field lines in the radiative zone





Dynamo loop



Instability of toroidal fields in stable layers



Dynamos in radiative zones with imposed shear



Latitude $(90^{\circ} - \theta)$

Monteiro & Guerrero (in preparation)

Conclusions

- Global dynamo simulations are valuable tools to study the physics of stellar interiors and the origin of the stellar magnetic fields
- Still far from reproducing the solar dynamo properties
- SGS formulations proven helpful and necessary since current resolutions are not able to capture the all the relevant scales
- Simulations with CZ only result in P_{cyc} decaying with P_{rot}
- Simulations with CZ+stable layer result in P_{cyc} increasing with P_{rot}
 - These are $\alpha^2\Omega$ -dynamos operating in the radiative zone due to a magnetic alpha effect

Thank you

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Surface field strength



- Due to buoyancy, the toroidal field at the poles follows the same scaling with Ro than B_{a} at the tachocline
- The larger the *Ro* the strongest the field at the poles and the weaker the field at the equator
- When toroidal flux emerges from the bottom of the CZ, the poloidal flux is removed and re-distributed in the domain
- The magnetic diffusivity is inhomogeneous in latitude, therefore the poloidal field at equator decays faster than at the poles