

Week 1 Lecture Notes

# Solar Physics –

# **Dynamics of the Sun's Interior**





# How the Sun Works

#### The Sun as a star:

- 1) Core energy production
- 2) Radiative transfer
- 3) Convection zone with differential rotation
- 4) Magnetic fields created via dynamo activity





- The core is the ultimate steady source of energy; however, there is variability in the Sun's energy output due to plasma processes closer to the surface, in the convection zone.
- The Sun's magnetized atmosphere varies on all observable timescales.
- Solar dynamics cause observable effects on Earth and geospace on timescales of seconds to centuries.

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# **Solar Facts and Figures**

Observed and inferred from stellar modeling

- Age ~ 4.5 Gyr
- Mass ~ 2 x 10<sup>30</sup> kg Fusion loss rate ~ 4 x 10<sup>9</sup> kg /s Solar wind rate ~ 2 x 10<sup>9</sup> kg /s
- Radius ~ 700 Mm 1 AU ~ 1.5 x  $10^5$  Mm ~ 215 R $_{\odot}$ 1 AU ~ 8 light-minutes
- Layer thicknesses: Core, 175 Mm (25%) Radiative zone, 325 Mm (45%) Convection zone, 200 Mm (30%) Photosphere, 0.5 Mm Chromosphere, 2.5 Mm
- Mass fraction below CZ: 98%

- Mean density ~ 1.4 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) Mean composition by number: 90% H, 10% He, 0.1% other Mean composition by mass: 71% H, 27% He, 3% other
- Conditions at center: Temperature, 1.5 x 10<sup>7</sup> K Density, 1.5 x 10<sup>2</sup> g/cm<sup>3</sup> (gold x 8) Mass composition, 34% H, 64% He, 2% other (C, N, O,...)
- Conditions "at" photosphere: Temperature, 5770 K (light bulb) Density, 2 x 10<sup>-7</sup> g /cm<sup>3</sup> Pressure ~ 0.2 atm Gravity ~ 27 gees



# **Equations of Stellar Structure\***

(\*i.e., a big, hot ball of gas)

Hydrostatic force balance:

 $\frac{dp(r)}{dr} = - \frac{GM(r)\rho(r)}{r^2}$ 

Mass growth with radius:

$$\frac{dM(r)}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho(r)$$

Energy transfer in a radiative zone:

Energy balance:

$$\frac{dT(r)}{dr} = -\frac{3\kappa(\rho,T)\rho(r)}{16\sigma T^{3}(r)}\frac{L(r)}{4\pi r^{2}} \quad \longleftarrow \quad \frac{dL(r)}{dr} = 4\pi r^{2}\rho(r)\varepsilon(\rho,T)$$

or in an adiabatic convective zone:

(alternate form)

$$\frac{dT(r)}{dr} = -\frac{GM(r)}{r^2} \frac{\delta_p(\rho, T)}{c_p(\rho, T)} \qquad \frac{d\ln p(r)}{dr} = \gamma(\rho, T) \frac{d\ln \rho(r)}{dr}$$

Also need: ideal gas equation of state  $p = (k_{\rm B}/\overline{m})\rho T$  and constitutive relations for Rosseland mean opacity  $\kappa$ , nuclear power per gram  $\varepsilon$ , thermal expansion coefficient  $\delta_p(\overline{m})$ , specific heat  $c_p = \gamma c_v$ , etc.





# Why is it Good that the pp Chain Starts Slowly?

# (pp) ${}^{1}H + {}^{1}H \rightarrow {}^{2}D + e^{+} + v_{e}$

- The pp reaction is actually a combination of two events:
  - Two protons momentarily fuse into a highly unstable helium-2 nucleus
  - The <sup>2</sup>He undergoes beta decay before it dissociates!
  - This mechanism was first proposed by Hans Bethe in 1939
- The process is therefore dependent on the weak nuclear interaction
  - Beta decay is relatively slow ("beta plus" = positron emission)
  - This type of event is accordingly rare; it's the rate-limiting step
- Why is this good?
  - If it went faster, the Sun would have exhausted all its hydrogen long ago
- The Hep reaction is similarly rare, as it depends on the beta decay of <sup>4</sup>Li :

(Hep)  ${}^{3}\text{He} + {}^{1}\text{H} \rightarrow {}^{4}\text{He} + e^{+} + v_{e}$ 



# **Refining the Stellar Model through Observations**

How we study various regions and properties of the Sun:

- Nuclear fusion: neutrino telescopes
- **Core:** *low-degree p-modes (pressure/acoustic modes) from helioseismology*
- Radiative zone: low-degree p-modes
- **Convective zone:** *moderate-degree p-modes*
- **Sub-surface zone:** *high-degree p-modes*
- Surface conditions, motion, and magnetic field: visible light images; tracking of features or structures; imaging of Doppler and Zeeman shifts
- **Chromosphere:** UV/EUV Imaging and spectroscopy (higher temperature)
- **Corona:** EUV/X-ray imaging and spectroscopy, in-situ particle and field measurements



#### **Doppler Imaging Reveals Photospheric Oscillations**

They dominate over the convection "granules" seen in white light





# Helioseismology

Study of the Sun's normal modes of vibration (spherical harmonics)









# What *p*-Modes Look Like

Illustrations of spherical harmonics

A *p*-mode has 3 "quantum numbers": n = number of radial nodes, l = number of nodal planes cutting the surface, m = number of nodal planes cutting the equator



http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/Helioseismology.shtml & http://www.oca.eu/grec/astrosismologie.html Steve Lantz Electrical and Computer Engineering 5860 www.cac.cornell.edu/~slantz



# Portrait of Differential Rotation from Helioseismology





# Within the Convection Zone, Rotation Rate Varies with Latitude



- Average rotation speed as a function of depth and latitude can be inferred from the Doppler splitting of peaks in the power spectrum
- Eastward- and westward-traveling waves have different resonant frequencies



# How Differential Rotation Might Drive the Dynamo

"Frozen-in" flux is wound around the base of the convection zone



http://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/epo/educators/presentations/presentations2006\_07\_esss.php



# "Jet Streams" and Pulses in the Sun's Differential Rotation



http://spd.boulder.swri.edu/solar\_mystery

- The movie is based on 13+ years of helioseismology from SOHO/MDI and GONG. Rotation *variations* are color coded: blue/red is slow/fast.
- Red bands in the outer third of the Sun migrate slowly down from each pole toward the equator. Claim: these torsional oscillations or "jet streams" are linked with sunspot emergence and the solar cycle.
- A mystery: rotation rates at the base of the convection zone, the level of the suspected dynamo, change markedly or "pulse" over 6–7 months.



# The Solar Cycle: "Butterfly Diagram"

Latitudes of sunspot appearance vs. time

#### DAILY SUNSPOT AREA AVERAGED OVER INDIVIDUAL SOLAR ROTATIONS





# 7 Megameters (1%) Down: Torsional Oscillation or "Jet Stream"





# **Overlay of Jet Streams with the Butterfly Diagram**





# Jet Migration is Slower in The Present Solar Cycle...

Does it explain the persistence of the previous solar minimum?



http://science.nasa.gov/media/medialibrary/2009/06/17/17jun\_jetstream\_resources/sonogram.jpg



# Full-Disk Dopplergram Showing Steady Surface Flows



http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/



# Analysis: Separated Components of the Flow





# **Hypothetical Streamlines Including Meridional Flow**





# **Supergranulation**

Detected through the horizontal component of the flow





# Local Time-Distance Helioseismology Also Reveals...



A vertical cut through the outer 1% of the sun showing flows and temperature variations inferred by helioseismic tomography.



# Magnetic Flux at the Supergranule Boundaries

- Magnetic flux is observed to congregate at the edges of supergranules
- Lines and points of convergence of the horizontal flow are drawn in yellow and green
- Lines are inferred to be regions of downflow
- Opposite magnetic field polarities are depicted in black and white
- Analogy: like corks floating in a pot of boiling water

#### 23 Feb. 1996,16:44 to 21:03 UT





#### Granulation

This type of solar convection was first discovered in high-resolution white-light images over 100 years ago; now Doppler images tell us the line-of-sight speed





# **Granulation Also Drives Magnetic Fields to Downflows**

X ray bright points (XBP, in white) are associated with strong fields



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http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap100416.html



# **Dynamics of Magnetic Fields at Granule Boundaries**

Yohkoh observations of the CH G band (left) and Ca II H line (right)



http://solar-b.nao.ac.jp/news\_e/20061127\_press\_e



#### **Instability to Convection**

The Schwarzschild criterion





# How Unstable Does the Convection Zone Need to Be?

1) Heat per unit mass released by a bubble rising (or falling) over a "mixing length":

$$T\Delta s' - T\Delta s = -T\ell \frac{ds}{dz}$$

3) Take the local mixing length to be proportional to *H…* 

l

$$F_{\rm conv} = \frac{1}{2}\rho V T \ell \frac{ds}{dz}$$

4) ...where the local pressure scale height *H* is defined as:

(11) = 1

$$= aH$$
  $H \equiv -\left(\frac{a \ln p}{dz}\right) \approx \frac{p}{\rho g} = \frac{\alpha_T}{\gamma g}c_s^2$ 

The above assumes zero-order hydrostatic balance and defines  $c_s$  as:

$$c_s^2 \equiv \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial \rho}\right)_s = -\left(\frac{\partial s}{\partial \rho}\right)_p \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial s}\right)_\rho = -\frac{c_p}{c_v} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \rho}\right)_p \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial T}\right)_\rho = \gamma \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial \rho}\right)_T = \frac{\gamma}{\alpha_T} \left(\frac{p}{\rho}\right)_T$$

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# **Estimating the Mach Number of the Convection**

 Kinetic energy of a bubble due to buoyancy acting over half a "mixing length":

 $\frac{\rho V^2}{2} = \frac{\delta_p \rho g \ell^2}{8} \left( -\frac{1}{c_p} \frac{ds}{dz} \right)$ 

2) Definition of dimensionless *superadiabaticity*, a local measure of instability:

$$\Delta \nabla = -\frac{H}{c_p} \frac{ds}{dz}$$

Density changes caused by pressure perturbations are neglected. Using the previous estimate of  $F_{conv}$  that also relates V and ds/dz,

$$M = U_1 (\Delta \nabla)^{1/2} = U_2 \frac{(F_{\rm conv} / \rho)^{1/3}}{c_s}$$

$$U_1 \equiv \left[\frac{a^2 \delta_p \alpha_T}{4\gamma}\right]^{1/2} \sim O(1), \qquad U_2 \equiv \left[\frac{a \delta_p r_*}{2c_p}\right]^{1/3} = \left[\frac{a \alpha_T \left(\gamma - 1\right)}{2\delta_p \gamma}\right]^{1/3} \sim O(1)$$

The Mach number  $M = V/c_s$ . For an ideal gas,  $\gamma = 5/3$ ,  $\alpha_T = 1$ , and  $\delta_p = 1$ .



# **Scales of Solar Convection**

Type of observation	Granules	Meso- granules?	Super- granules	Giant cells?
Horizontal velocity	1400 m/sec	?	300 m/sec	25 m/sec
Vertical velocity	900 m/sec	60 m/sec	35 m/sec	?
Horizontal length scale	1.4 Mm	7.0 Mm	30 Mm	340 Mm
Cell lifetime	0.07 hours	2.0 hours	25 hours	1800 hours
Turnover time	0.30 hours	?	30 hours	3800 hours
Squared Mach #	0.11	?	1.4 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.6 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>
Rossby #	167	?	1.67	0.012
antz al and Computer Engineering 5860				Jupiter's Great Red Spot: 0.015



# **Result: Superadiabaticity in the Sun**

Note, it's essentially zero in the convection zone





#### **Animation of Magnetograms**

Magnetic fields trace out patterns of convection and rotation



\*Play the QuickTime version to speed it up



# Magnetic Field Evolution over Two Solar Cycles

# Solar Magnetic Field Evolution

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\*QuickTime version has better resolution



# Solar Min vs. Solar Max...





What is responsible for this *periodic re*-generation of the Sun's magnetic fields? It seems the mechanism, whatever it is, must be global in scope



#### **Dynamo Theory and Magnetohydrodynamics – 1** Starting from the single-fluid equations for ions and electrons

$$\begin{split} M_{j}N_{j} \frac{\partial \Psi_{j}}{\partial t} &= q_{j}N_{j} \left( \underline{E} + \Psi_{j} \underline{x} \underline{B} \right) - \nabla p_{j} + m_{j}N_{j} \frac{\alpha}{2} \\ \overline{\partial t} \rho &= \sum_{j=1}^{2} m_{j}N_{j}', \quad \underline{Y} = \frac{1}{\rho} \sum_{j=1}^{2} m_{j}N_{j}' \underline{Y}_{j}' \\ \underline{\gamma} &= \sum_{j=1}^{2} q_{j}N_{j}' \underline{\Psi}_{j}', \quad note \text{ that if } N_{i} \approx N_{e}, \quad q_{i} = -q_{e}, \\ \rho &= N(m_{i} + m_{e}), \quad \underline{\Psi} &= \frac{1}{\rho} N(m_{i} + m_{e}) = \frac{m_{i} \underline{Y}_{i} + m_{e} \underline{Y}_{e}}{m_{k} + m_{e}} \\ \underline{\gamma} &= eN(\Psi_{i} - \underline{Y}_{e}) \quad add \text{ equations for ions, electrons} \\ N \frac{1}{2} \left( m_{i} \underline{\Psi}_{i} + m_{e} \underline{Y}_{e} \right) &= eN(\Psi_{i} - \Psi_{e}) \times \underline{B} - \nabla p + p \frac{q}{2} \\ \rho &= \frac{2\underline{Y}}{2t} = \frac{1}{c} \underline{\gamma} \times \underline{B} - \nabla p + p \frac{q}{2} \\ P &= \frac{2\underline{Y}}{2t} = \frac{1}{c} \underline{\gamma} \times \underline{B} - \nabla p + p \frac{q}{2} \\ neglect viscosidy \\ + nonlineer term_{i}; \\ aloo ion-c collision \\ \end{split}$$



# Magnetohydrodynamics – 2

The magnetic induction equation

Know: Ohm's Law 
$$j = \sigma E'$$
 in rest frame of  
the moving fluid element  
 $j = \sigma (E + X B) = in$  fixed frame of ref.  
OHM'S LAW (do a Lorentz transformation)  
add ampere 'o Jaw  $\nabla x B = \frac{4\pi}{C} j + \frac{1}{C} \frac{3E}{2F} \rightarrow neglect - 1000 \text{ freg.}$   
(neglecting magnetizability, polarizability of medium)  
Jareday'r Jaw  $\nabla x E = -\frac{1}{C} \frac{3B}{3T}$   
 $V_{C} \nabla x B = E + \frac{V}{C} \times B$ ,  $\nabla x (\frac{C^{2}}{4\pi\sigma} \nabla x B) = -\frac{3B}{2T} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{2E}{2T} = \nabla x (Y \times B)$   
 $\frac{3E}{2T} = \nabla x (Y \times B) - \nabla x (g \nabla x B)$   
MHD Ohm's Lew or magnetic induction equ.



# Magnetohydrodynamics – 3

Alternate forms for the magnetic terms



# Magnetohydrodynamics – 4

Interpretation of the Lorentz force



#### **Frozen-In Flux** MHD in the limit of zero resistivity

Now " how to integret magnetic induction egn. ! Consider magnetic flux & across arbitrary surface Zi moving with velocity V(r) (not uniformly) da O 1 de = ] je da + pr. (Vxdl) change due to change in B Clange due to border of " Exither growing or shrinking But  $\oint B(V \times dl) = -\oint (V \times B) \cdot dl = -\iint \nabla \times (V \times B) \cdot da$  $\frac{d \Phi}{d t} = \left[ \int \left[ \frac{\partial B}{\partial t} - \nabla \times (V \times B) \right] \right] da$ Stokes theorem From MHP induction: J>00 => 1+ 20 1. Infinite conductivity  $\Rightarrow$  "from in" flox travels along with fluid - Finite cond. means dippage can occur. Note  $-\nabla x (\eta \nabla x B) = \eta \nabla^2 B$ ; DiPPUSION for  $\eta = const.$ 

This is how differential rotational is able to "wind up" a seed field



# **Dimensionless Numbers of MHD**

Scale 
$$\underline{y}$$
 by  $V$ ,  $\nabla$  by  $\underline{L}$ ,  $\underline{B}$  by  $B_{0}$  in induction eqn.  
 $\underline{y} \cdot \nabla \underline{B} \sim \underline{B} \cdot \nabla \underline{y} \sim \underline{B} \cdot \underline{y}$ ;  $\nabla \nabla^{2} \underline{B} \sim \nabla \underline{D}^{2} \underline{D}^{2}$   
Ratio =  $\begin{bmatrix} VL \\ \underline{\gamma} \end{bmatrix}$  = magnetic Reynolds  $\pm$ ,  $Rm \begin{bmatrix} B|C \ FOR \\ L=LARGE \\ (astro) \end{bmatrix}$   
dimensionless Ohm's Law,  $\frac{\partial \underline{B}}{\partial t} + \underline{y} \cdot \nabla \underline{B} = \underline{B} \cdot \nabla \underline{y} + \frac{1}{Rm} \nabla^{2} \underline{B}$   
Next,  $\underline{p} \cdot \nabla \underline{y} \sim \underline{p} \cdot \underline{V}^{2}$   
Ratio =  $\frac{V^{2} \cdot 4\pi p_{0}}{B_{0}^{2}} = \begin{bmatrix} (\underline{V} \times \underline{B}) \times \underline{B} & -\frac{4\pi}{4\pi} \\ \underline{B} \cdot \underline{D} & -\frac{2\pi}{4\pi} \end{bmatrix}$   
Ratio =  $\frac{V^{2} \cdot 4\pi p_{0}}{B_{0}^{2}} = \begin{bmatrix} (\underline{V} \times \underline{A})^{2} = \begin{bmatrix} affven Mach \\ \underline{B} \cdot \underline{P} \cdot \nabla \underline{P} & M \\ -\frac{2\pi}{B} \cdot \underline{P} \cdot \underline{P} \cdot \underline{V} \end{bmatrix}$ 

Plasma  $\beta$  is also the square of the ratio of sound speed to Alfvén speed. Large Rm means **B** will get pulled and squeezed until it can fight back...



#### **MHD Force Balance in the Solar Interior**

Flux expulsion = becomes like a fluid boundary layer If this is strong ) ⇒ get nonlinear response. \* [SEE ARGUMENT NEXT PG.] Equipartition at photosphere: p~ BT (Zirin, p. 126) bound Region Height Photosphere O Density 1617 1012 Chromosphere 1500 08 Corona 3000 Average observed field in photosphere is about 1 Gauss But sunspots 2 1 kG. Current belief : all fields are ~ kG, apparently weak ones aren't spatially resolved.



# **Magnetic Buoyancy Instability**

Magnetic Buoyancy in Convection Zone. (Eugene Parker) A p~ B<sup>2</sup>/<sub>8TT</sub>, then density reduction is significant inside high - B region (thermo. p down ⇒ fluid density down, relative to field-free surroundings). In gravity field : high - B regions are buoyant! etc. This is probably why flux emerges in the first place. Magnetic Tension competes with buoyancy; a very difficult problem!

In the convection zone,  $B^2/8\pi$  only has to be comparable to  $\rho T \Delta s \sim \rho T c_{\rho} M^2$ 



# Magnetic Buoyancy with a Twist

When field gets strong: magnétic buoyancy, sunspots erupt - somehow twisting must also occur to Complete the cycle. Cariolis force Causes it to these tube to poloidal comp terbulent convection u/B field!

Points that rise radially (diverge) tend to acquire an anticyclonic spin. Surprisingly, this rather simplistic picture of a rising, twisting flux tube not only provides an essential " $\alpha$ -effect" for dynamo theory, it can be shown to satisfy both Joy's Law and Hale's Polarity Law...



# The Dynamo Must Have an $\alpha$ - as Well as an $\omega$ -effect

For a full solar cycle, fields must be converted back to poloidal







poloidal  $\rightarrow$  toroidal field (bar magnet  $\rightarrow$  2 donuts) toroidal  $\rightarrow$  poloidal field (2 donuts $\rightarrow$  bar magnet)



# Joy's Law

The leading sunspot of a pair is always tilted toward the equator



A rising flux tube will tend to tilt like this due to Coriolis forces



# Hale's Polarity Law

The polarity of the leading spots in one hemisphere is opposite that of the leading spots in the other hemisphere and the polarities reverse from one cycle to the next.



Cycle 22

![](_page_49_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Putting It All Together...

A cartoon of how the solar cycle might possibly work?

![](_page_49_Figure_3.jpeg)

- Equatorward migration of sunspots (called "Spörer's Law," though first noted by Carrington around 1861) is explained by the return flow of the meridional circulation, deep in the convection zone
- Poleward migration of flux away from sunspots (via diffusion plus the surface meridional flow) creates opposite polarity for the next cycle

![](_page_50_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Rival $\alpha$ -effect Based on Mean Field Dynamo Theory

Problem: simulations designed to test this theory show that the magnetic energy tends to build up at small, turbulent scales instead of large ones