GdR Dynamo, ICTS-TIFR Bangalore, 8-12 June 2015

## The present status of the DRESDYN project (and some recent theoretical results)

Frank Stefani

with thanks to

Th. Albrecht, G. Gerbeth, A. Giesecke, Th. Gundrum, E. Kaplan, O. Kirillov, Ch. Steglich, M. Seilmayer, N. Weber, T. Weier (Dresden) G. Rüdiger, M. Gellert (Potsdam), R. Hollerbach (Leeds), A. Gailitis (Riga)



## "Anyone who knows anything about astrophysics knows that magnetic fields have nothing to do with it."

...editor of the *Astrophysical Journal*, rejecting Eugene Parker's first manuscript (1951)

E. N. Parker: *Reminiscing my sixty year pursuit* of the physics of the Sun and the Galaxy.Res. Astron. Astrophys. 14 (2014), 1-14



## Motivation: The Yin-Yang of cosmical MHD





## **Motivation**

#### Homogeneous dynamo effect:

Self-excitation of magnetic fields in sufficiently strong, helical flows of conducting fluids

## Magnetorotational instability (MRI):

Magnetic fields act like springs and trigger angular momentum transport in accretion disks around protostars and black holes



## **Motivation**

## Cosmic magnetic fields...

# ...are produced by the homogeneous dynamo effect

...play a key role in cosmic structure formation by virtue of the magnetorotational instability



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Rüdiger, Kitchatinov, Hollerbach: Magnetic Processes in Astrophysics (2013)



Magnetic Processes

in Astrophysics

DRESDEN concept HZDR

## History: From theory to experiment

## Experiments on cosmic magnetic fields since 15 years

Dynamo experiments: Riga, Karlsruhe (1999), Cadarache (2006),

Maryland, Madison, Perm...



Experiments on the magnetorotational instability (MRI): Maryland, Princeton, **Dresden-Rossendorf** (2006)

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Stefani, Gailitis, Gerbeth: ZAMM 88 (2008), 930



## Prospects: DRESDYN

The DREsden Sodium facility for DYNamo and thermohydraulic studies is a platform for geo- and astrophysics experiments as well as for liquid metal applications in energy related technologies.

- Precession driven dynamo experiment
- Magnetorotational instability (MRI) and Tayler instability (TI)
- Liquid metal batteries (storage of intermittent renewables)
- Measuring techniques (magnetic flow tomography etc...)
- Thermohydraulics of sodium fast reactors

Stefani et al.: Magnetohydrodynamics 48 (2012), 103; Magnetohydrodynamics (2015), in press, arXiv:1410.8373



## **DRESDYN: General features**

- New building ~500 m<sup>2</sup>
- Total sodium inventory: 12 tons
- Large experimental hall for MRI/TI experiment, sodium loop, X-ray lab, liquid metal batteries
- Precession driven dynamo experiment with separate strong basement and containment for Argon flooding







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Construction site as of May 2015



## **DRESDYN: General scheme**



# Dynamos



## Riga dynamo experiment

First experimental realization of magnetic field self-excitation in a liquid metal flow (11 November 1999)



Gailitis et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 84 (2000) 4365; Phys. Rev. Lett. 86 (2001) 3024; Rev. Mod. Phys. 74 (2002) 973 ; Phys. Plasmas 11 (2004) 2838; Compt. Rend. Phys. 9 (2008), 721

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1 – Propeller

3 – Back flow

4 – Sodium at rest

2 – Helical sodium flow

5 – Thermal insulation

## Riga dynamo experiment: Growth rates and frequencies



Numerical predictions (with correct vacuum boundary conditions) of the kinematic dynamo were accurate to some 5-10 per cent

Simplified back-rection model (Lorentz forces acting along streamlines) gives very reasonable field amplitudes and structures in the saturation regime

Gailitis et al., C. R. Physique 9 (2008), 721



## Riga dynamo experiment: Recent problems and new plans





By increasing (i.e., de-optimizing!) the azimuthal velocity, we hope to see interesting saturation effects (period doubling, transition to chaos?)

Stefani, Gailitis, Gerbeth: Astron. Nachr. 332 (2011), 4



## Precession driven dynamo: Geo- and astrophysical motivation

Indication for influence of variations of Earth's orbit parameters on the geodynamo





Probability density of inter-reversal times shows maxima at multiples of the Milankovic cycle of Earth's orbit eccentricity (95 ka)

Consolini and De Michelis, Phys. Rev. Lett. 90 (2003), 058503

Recent discussion of the lunar dynamo in terms of precession or impacts

Dwyer et al., Nature 479 (2011), 212; Le Bars et al., Nature 479 (2011), 215

Evidence for ancient core dynamo in asteroid Vesta

Fu et al., Science 338 (2012), 238



## Precession driven dynamo: Planned sodium experiment

Key parameters:

- 2 m diameter, 2 m height, 8 m<sup>3</sup> liquid sodium
- Cylinder rotation: 10 Hz (will need some 800 kW motor power)
- Turntable rotation: 1 Hz
- Magnetic Reynolds number ~ 700
- Gyroscopic torque onto the basement: 8 MNm !





## The role of copper walls

Caroline Nore: Conducting side walls are good for the dynamo, conducting lids are bad (for Pm~1)



We will start without any copper layer, but with the option to add it later on (by galvanization)

Stefani et al., Magnetohydrodynamics (2015), in press, arXiv:1410.8373

HOWEVER: Recent simulations with lower Pm are less optimistic!

Giesecke et al., Magnetohydrodynamics (2015), in press., arXiv:1411.1195



## Precession driven dynamo: present state of the design



## "Fundamental" problems due to huge gyroscopic torque

April 2013: drilling 7 holes (22 m deep)







July 2013: Constructing the ferroconcrete basement

May 2015: The tripod for the dynamo within the containment (with stainless steel "wallpaper")



Fluid dynamics of precession: Jacques Léorat's ATER-Experiment Three regimes:

- □ ε < 0.01...0.02</li>
   → laminar, Kelvin mode with m=1
- 0.01...0.02 < ε < 0.07...0.1</li>
   → cyclonic regime
- 0.07...0.1 < ε</li>
  → fully turbulent regime





Vortices in the **cyclonic regime**, for h/D=1.17,  $\epsilon = 0.033$ , Re=140,000

W. Mouhali et al., Exp. Fluids 53 (2012), 1693



## 1:6 water mockup at HZDR

$$f_{turntable} = 0...1Hz$$

$$f_{cylinder} = 0...10Hz$$

Precession angle

 $\theta = 90...60^{\circ}$ 

Precession ratio

$$\varepsilon = \frac{f_{turntable}}{f_{cylinder}}$$



length = diameter = 326 mm

 $\text{Re} \approx 2 \cdot 10^6$ 



## Pressure and pressure variations at the outer rim

Experimental (at  $Re=2x10^6$ ) and numerical (at Re=6500) results, both up-scaled to the large machine



## Stefani et al., Magnetohydrodynamics (2015), in press, arXiv:1410.8373



## Subcritical transition from laminar to turbulent regime



- Jump of the power at critical precession ratio with hysteresis effect
- Dependence on angle
- At present: Study of higher m-modes

#### Subcritical transition to turbulence



Motor power shows: Hysteresis from laminar to turbulent regime, and back

Turbulence (in the hysteresis) is metastable:

Probably: supertransient behaviour of the mean waiting time:  $<\tau>=A \exp(\alpha |\epsilon-\epsilon_{LT}|^{-1/2})$ 



Herault et al., Phys. Fluids, submitted





#### Numerical simulations of higher m-modes, for Re=6500, $\varepsilon$ =0.141

m=1

m=2...7



Giesecke et al., in preparation



#### Mode structure, for Re=6500, $\varepsilon$ =0.141



(Promising) dynamo simulations, based on these higher m-modes, are in progress

Magnetorotational and Tayler instability



## History of MRI: Magnetized Tayler-Couette flow



E.P. Velikhov: Sov. Phys. JETP 9 (1959), 995



## Citation history of MRI



E.P. Velikhov: Sov. Phys. JETP 9 (1959), 995

S.A. Balbus and J.F. Hawley: ApJ 376 (1991), 214



## Standard MRI and helical MRI

- Standard MRI (with purely axial field) scales with Lundquist (S) und magnetic Reynolds (Rm)
- Experiments on SMRI with large Rm in Maryland and Princeton
- Helical MRI: B<sub>z</sub> replaced by B<sub>z</sub>+B<sub>φ</sub>: scales with Hartmann (Ha) and Reynolds (Re)

Hollerbach and Rüdiger: Phys. Rev. Lett. 95 (2005), 124501

- Re<sub>crit</sub>: 10<sup>3</sup> instead of 10<sup>6</sup>
- Ha<sub>crit:</sub> 30 instead of 1000
- → Potsdam ROssendorf Magnetic InStability Experiment (PROMISE)
- Drawback: does not work for Kepler (yet)!



## Helical magnetorotational instability (HMRI)

## 2006: First experimental evidence of HMRI at HZDR



Stefani et al., PRL 97 (2006), 184502; New J. Phys. 9 (2007), 295; Phys. Rev. E 80 (2009), 066303



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## Helical magnetorotational instability (HMRI)

HMRI extends only slightly beyond the Rayleigh line (this is typical for all inductionless types of MRI)



Yet, it is indeed a global, and not only a convective instability

Stefani et al., Phys. Rev. E 80 (2009), 066303



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## Azimuthal MRI (AMRI): m=1 mode under influence of dominant B<sub>o</sub>

#### Hollerbach, Teeluck, Rüdiger: Phys. Rev. Lett. 104 (2010), 044502

## New power supply for 20 kA



Very important: Numerical simulation of the real geometry, including the slight symmetry breaking of the applied magnetic field

## Evidence for AMRI: m=1 mode under influence of (nearly) pure $B_{o}$



## Next step for PROMISE: Improve the symmetry



The asymmetry of the field can be strongly decreased by a cage-like structure of the return-current with n wires



Our choice: n=5



Kink-type Tayler instability (TI)

Astrophysical motivation:

- Alternative mechanism of solar dynamo (Tayler-Spruit dynamo)
- Braking of neutron stars
- Structure formation in cosmic jets



Seilmayer et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 108 (2012), 244501



#### First TI experiment with a liquid metal at HZDR



## Results of TI experiment for different r<sub>i</sub>, and comparison with numerics





Seilmayer et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 108 (2012), 244501





## Relevance of Tayler instability for large-scale liquid metal batteries?



Stefani et al., Energy Conv. Managem. 52 (2011), 2982 Weber et al., J. Power Sources 265 (2014), 166



## Our first liquid metal battery





## Integro-differential equation code (OpenFoam+Poisson+Biot-Savart)



Weber et al., New J. Phys. 15 (2013), 043034



## Simulation of the TI experiment with integro-differential equation code



Weber et al., New J. Phys. 15 (2013), 043034



## Simulation of TI in a cuboid with at different aspect ratios



The critical current increases with decreasing aspect ratio. Plateaus appear at full and half wavelength.

Weber et al., New J. Phys. 15 (2013), 043034



## Two ways of stabilizing the battery





Return current through the center changes  $B_{o}(r)$ 

Applying B<sub>z</sub> (Kruskal-Shafranov)

Stefani et al., Energy Conv. Managem. 52 (2011), 2982 Weber et al., J. Power Sources 265 (2014), 166



## Saturation of TI and helical symmetry breaking

Ideal fluids, or Pm~1: Two mechanisms contribute to saturation (see also Taylor relaxation in reversed field pinches):

1.Radially dependent  $\beta$  effect  $\rightarrow$  changes  $B_{\omega}(r)$  (acts like a return current)

2.  $\alpha$  effect  $\rightarrow$  produces B<sub>z</sub> (stabilizes according to Kruskal-Shafranov)

Bonanno et al., Phys. Rev. E 86 (2012); 016313

Appropriate Lagrangian leads to:

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = 2\gamma E - 2(\mu + \mu_*)E^2 - 2(\mu - \mu_*)H^2$$
$$\frac{dH}{dt} = 2\gamma H - 4\mu EH$$



## Saturation (and helical symmetry breaking?) at low Pm

At low Pm, neither the  $\beta$  effect nor the  $\alpha$  effect are strong enough to change the magnetic base configuration.  $\alpha$  effect appears only in the exponential growth phase and disappears in the saturation regime.



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Mitglied der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft
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## Saturation (and helical symmetry breaking?) at low Pm

At low Pm, the saturation mechanism relies exclusively on the modification of the hydrodynamic base state (nonlinear appearance of m=0 and m=2 flow contributions)



#### Weber et al., NJP (subm), arXiv:1504.06120





## Saturation (and helical symmetry breaking?) at low Pm



Appearance of stable finite helicity for still higher Ha is unclear (because of breakdown of quasistatic approximation at  $S=Pm^{1/2}$  Ha~1)

Weber et al., NJP (subm), arXiv:1504.06120

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#### Saturation and helicity waves at Pm=10<sup>-6</sup>





Weber et al., NJP (subm), arXiv:1504.06120

## Any chance to synchronise helicity waves with planetary torques?



Main idea: Tayler-Spruit-like dynamo, no problem with  $\Omega$ -effect,  $\alpha$ -effect relies on chiral symmetry breaking,  $\alpha$ -oscillation could be triggered and synchronized by planetary torques (emulated here by a m=2 viscosity wave) with minor energy input Speculative example: recurrence of Venus-Earth-Jupiter conjunction after 44.77 years, solar cycle: ~22.4 years

Weber et al., to be published



## MRI and TI: Viscous, resistive MHD with azimuthal wavenumber m

Navier-Stokes equation:  $\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\frac{\nabla P}{\rho} + \frac{\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}}{\mu_0 \rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$ Induction equation:  $\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{B}$ 

Viscous, resistive, and two Alfvén frequencies for axial and azimuthal field

$$\omega_{\nu} = \nu |\mathbf{k}|^2, \quad \omega_{\eta} = \eta |\mathbf{k}|^2, \quad \omega_{A_z} = \frac{k_z B_z^0}{\sqrt{\rho \mu_0}}, \quad \omega_{A_{\phi}} = \frac{B_{\phi}^0}{r_\sqrt{\rho \mu_0}}$$

Dimensionless: Magnetic Prandtl, Field ratio, Reynolds, Hartmann, n

$$Pm = \frac{\omega_{\nu}}{\omega_{\eta}}, \quad \beta = \alpha \frac{\omega_{A_{\phi}}}{\omega_{A_{z}}}, \quad Re = \alpha \frac{\Omega}{\omega_{\nu}}, \quad Ha = \frac{\omega_{A_{z}}}{\sqrt{\omega_{\nu}\omega_{\eta}}}, \quad n = \frac{m}{\alpha}$$

with 
$$\alpha = k_z |\mathbf{k}|^{-1}, |\mathbf{k}|^2 = k_r^2 + k_z^2$$



## Theory: Short wavelength approximation (WKB):

Hydrodynamic and magnetic Rossby numbers:

$$\operatorname{Ro} = \frac{r}{2\Omega} \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial r}, \quad \operatorname{Rb} = \frac{r}{2\omega_{A_{\phi}}} \frac{\partial \omega_{A_{\phi}}}{\partial r}$$

Secular equation:

$$p(\lambda) = \det(\mathbf{H} - \lambda \mathbf{E}) = 0$$

with



Kirillov and Stefani, Phys. Rev. Lett. 111 (2013), 061103; JFM 760 (2014), 591

HZDR

## Combining MRI and TI: A chance to destabilize Keplerian profiles?

WKB-Analysis of the complete viscous and resistive MRI/TI problem for arbitrary azimuthal modes

Main results:





Kirillov and Stefani, Phys. Rev. Lett. 111 (2013), 061103; Fluid Dyn. Res. 46 (2014), 031403; JFM 760 (2014), 591



Dissipation induced instability of Chandrasekhar's equipartition state

Chandrasekhar theorem: An ideal fluid with equal amplitudes of Alfvén velocity and rotation velocity is stable.

New result: An infinitesimal small electrical resistivity destabilizes the marginal stable solution. This a typical example of a dissipation-induced instability



Kirillov, Stefani, Fukomoto, JFM 760 (2014), 591

The threshold of instability at  $Ha^2$ = Rm Re and Re  $\rightarrow \infty$  in the (n,Rb,Rm) space. In the limit Rm  $\rightarrow \infty$  the instability degenerates into a ray (dashed)



## Dissipation induced instability of Chandrasekhar's equipartition state



Für all Pm, there is a crossing of the instability curve with the Chandrasekhar line

Rüdiger et al: Astrophys. J., submitted; arXiv:1407.1195



Any small viscosity or resistivity destabilizes the flow: → Diffusive (dissipation induced) instability



"Much as in the mid-nineteenth century, the point was missed that for fluid equations of the Navier-Stokes type the ideal limit with zero dissipation coefficients has essentially nothing to do with the case of small but finite dissipation coefficients"

D. Montgomery: *Hartmann, Lundquist, and Reynolds: The role of dimensionless numbers in non-linear magnetofluid behavior.* Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion 35 (1993) B105-B113



## What is needed to destabilize Kepler with a MRI/TI combination?



# Critical Re und Ha fit nicely to the experimental capabilities



Rüdiger et al: Astrophys. J., submitted; arXiv:1407.1195





## Combined MRI/TI experiment planned in the framework of DRESDYN

...will (hopefully) allow us to study helical MRI, azimuthal MRI, standard MRI, and their combinations with Tayler instability

- R<sub>in</sub>=0.2 m
- R<sub>out</sub>=0.4 m
- H=2 m
- f<sub>in</sub>=20 Hz
- f<sub>out</sub>=6 Hz
- B<sub>z</sub>=120 mT
- (will need some 500 kW)
- Rm=40
- Lundquist=8



## Combined MRI/TI experiment: some technical details









#### Can magnetic fields destabilize rotational flows with positive shear?





## Can magnetic fields destabilize rotational flows with positive shear?

Liu, Goodman, Herron, Ji, Phys. Rev. E 74 (2006), 056302



Kirillov and Stefani, Phys. Rev. Lett. 111 (2013), 061103; Fluid Dyn. Res. 46 (2014), 031403; JFM 760 (2014), 591



## A first safe result: Tayler instability is **amplified** by positive shear!

Nearly perfect correspondence of 1D stability code with WKB-Analysis





## Transition between shear-driven and current-driven type for pure B<sub>o</sub>

Analytical formula: Kirillov, Stefani, Fukumoto, JFM 760 (2014), 591

$$Re^{2} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\left[(1 + Ha^{2}n^{2})^{2} - 4Ha^{2}Rb(1 + Ha^{2}n^{2}) - 4Ha^{4}n^{2}\right]\left[1 + Ha^{2}(n^{2} - 2Rb)\right]^{2}}{Ha^{4}Ro^{2}n^{2} - \left[\left(1 + Ha^{2}(n^{2} - 2Rb)\right)^{2} - 4Ha^{4}n^{2}\right]\left[Ro + 1\right]}$$



Stefani and Kirillov, arXiv:1506.00399



## Is there a "Super-AMRI"? What about an experiment?



Translation of Ro to  $\mu$  is crucial! Taylor-Couette-Experiment with small gap is needed (at least  $r_i/r_o \sim 0.85$ ). Central current  $\sim 80$  kA! Not yet planned for DRESDYN...

Stefani and Kirillov, arXiv:1506.00399



# Thank you...