SPONTANEOUS RECONNECTION IN COLLISIONLESS PLASMA



FORCED RECONNECTION

Fourth International Sakharov Conference on Physics MAY, 22, 2009

SPONTANEOUS RECONNECTION IN COLLISIONLESS PLASMA



Spontaneous Reconnection == TEARING MODE

Fourth International Sakharov Conference on Physics MAY, 22, 2009

LEV ZELENYI



- ANTON ARTEMIEV
- HELMI MALOVA
- ANATOLYI PETRUKOVICH
- VICTOR POPOV
- SERGEI RUBALKO

Fourth International Sakharov Conference on Physics MAY, 22, 2009

LONG LASTING DRAMA OF IDEAS



Solar plasma

•1946 - R.Giovanelli, A theory of chromospheric flares, Nature, 1946





•1971— S.Syrovatsky, MHD theory of thin current sheets in Solar corona





1957 – E. Parker, Sweet's mechanism for merging magnetic fields in conducting fluids, 1957

1958 – P. Sweet, The neutral point theory of solar flares,







STEADY STATE PLASMA FLOW WITH RECONNECTION



Sweet-Parker model Petschek model

2

Petschek, H. E. Magnetic field annihilation NASA Spec. Pub., 1964.



Bo

B_x ≈ const

S.I.Syrovatsky





Dynamic thin current sheet





25 years after: Biscamp comments

138

NONLINEAR MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMICS

DIETER BISKAMP

Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics, Gurching

6.2.3 Syropatskii's current sheet solution

An alternative school of thought, with adherents mainly in the eastern hemisphere, originated from Syrovatskii's theory of current sheet formation (Syrovatskii, 1971). Like Petschek's model this is also a quasi-ideal, quasi-stationary approach, dealing only with the ideal solution, which may however exhibit sheet-like singularities. Though Syrovatskii's theory does not describe real configurations with high reconnection rates in the limit of small η , it provides a qualitatively correct picture for not-too-strong external driving.

6 Magnetic reconnection

small η . However, switching on an anomalous resistivity to eliminate the diffusion layer problem, Petschek-type configurations are set up quite independently of the particular choice of the boundary conditions. (b) Various simulations of self-consistent reconnecting systems have been performed, such as the process of island coalescence (section 6.6.1) or the nonlinear resistive kink mode (section 6.6.2), where no internal boundary conditions that could possibly affect the reconnection process have to be imposed. All develop extended current sheets for small η .

6.2.3 Syropatskii's current sheet solution

An alternative school of thought, with adherents mainly in the eastern hemisphere, originated from Syrovatskii's theory of current sheet forms tion (Syrovatskii, 1971). Like Petschek's model this is also a quasi-ideal quasi-stationary approach, dealing only with the ideal solution, which may however exhibit sheet-like singularities. Though Syrovatskii's theory dow not describe real configurations with high reconnection rates in the limit of small η , it provides a qualitatively correct picture for not-too-strong external driving.

The basic equations are somewhat different from those of two-dimensional incompressible MHD, to which the major part of this chapter is confined, using vanishing plasma pressure $\rho = 0$ instead. The main assumption is that all currents in the system are localized in isolated points and sheets. Hence φ satisfies Laplace's equation

 $\nabla^2 \omega$

function and one can use complex analysis, by the boundary conditions. If these change parametric time dependence $\psi(x, y, t)$, which dicular component v_{\perp} of the velocity from the

$$= \partial_t \psi + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \psi = 0 ,$$

$$\mathbf{v} \nabla \psi / |\nabla \psi|^2 , \quad \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{e}_z \times \nabla \psi ,$$
 (6.19)

at $\mathbf{v}_{\rm H}$ is calculated from the equation

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} \times \nabla \varphi = 0 , \qquad (6.20)$$

pation of motion using p = 0. (The latter that the current density and hence the Lorentz ically. Hence eq. (6.18) has to be regarded as use that the effect of the distributed currents is

Energy storage in thin current sheets

A.FRANK Laboratory Experiments

It is easy to determine the free magnetic energy of the neutral current sheet, i.e. the energy excess with respect to the initial energy of the potential magnetic field having a null line (Syrovatskii 1979). This amount of energy per length unit of the sheet is in Gaussian units as follows







Syrovatsky, 1971 DYNAMIC RECONNECTION singular cut – infinitely thin <u>metastable</u> <u>CS</u>



$$w = \int (B^2 - h_0^2 r^2) \frac{dV}{8\pi} = \frac{h_0^2 b^4}{32} \left(\ln \frac{4\ell^2}{b^2} - \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{LJ^2}{2c^2}$$



 $L = 2\ln\left(\frac{2\ell}{b}\right) - \frac{1}{2},$

is the self-induction per length unit of the sheet. It can



METASTABILITY !!

Solar plasma

Magnetospheric plasma

- 1946 R.Giovanelly, A theory of chromospheric flares, Nature, 1946
- 1971-1979 S.Syrovatsky, MHD theory of thin current sheets in Solar corona
- 1957 E. Parker, Sweet's mechanism for merging magnetic fields in conducting fluids, 1957
- 1958 P. Sweet, The neutral point theory of solar flares, 1958.





- 1957 Sputnik launch
- 1957-1958 discovery of radiation belts by Van Allen (inner r.b.), S.Vernov and A.Chudakov (outer r.b)
- 1965 discovery of the Earths' magnetotail -N.Ness, J. Geophys. Res.,



SAKHAROV LEGACY :: Beginning of the Space Age



FORTUITOUS FOR SPACE SCIENCE SAKHAROV OVERESTIMATE OF THE MASS REGUIRED FOR THE THERMONUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

KOROLEV'S DESIGN OF 5 ENGINE SUPERPOWERFUL R-7 LAUNCHER Intercontinental Ballistic missile launcher 8K71 M=5500 kg L=8000 km



 "Существенно, что вес заряда, а следовательно и весь масштаб ракеты, был принят на основе моей докладной записки. Это предопределило работу всей огромной конструкторскопроизводственной организации на многие годы. Именно эта ракета вывела на орбиту первый искусственный спутник Земли в 1957 году и космический корабль с Юрием Гагариным на борту в 1961 году. Тот заряд, под который все это делалось, много раньше, однако, успел "испариться", и на его место пришло нечто совсем иное...". А.Д. Сахаров. Воспоминания



"It's significant to note, that the charge weight and consequently the size of the rocket were accepted according to my memorandum. This for many years has determined the activity of the whole rocket industry. By means of this very rocket the First SPUTNIK was launched in 1957 and the spacecraft with Yury Gagarin onboard was put into orbit in 1961. The charge, the whole activity was based on before, vanished into thin air, but something totally different appeared instead...". ANDREI SAKHAROV MEMOIRS Я не могу судить, в какой мере Андрей Сахаров лично определил конструкцию и массу заряда, предназначенного для первой межконтинентальной ракеты. Но, безусловно, именно то, что делал Сахаров, потребовало создания такой ракеты, какую мы разработали под шифром Р-7. И имя Сахарова тоже должно упоминаться в истории космонавтики!
 Б.Е.Черток, Ракеты и люди, 1994, ROCKET AND PEOPLE





... I can't tell exactly, whether it was Andrei Sakharov who personally determined the construction and the charge weight for the intercontinental rocket. But, undoubtedly, Andrei Sakharov's activity had demanded such a rocket to be constructed, which was designed and called R-7. Therefore, the name of A. Sakharov should also be mentioned in the history of Soviet cosmonautics Международные следствия запуска первого ИСЗ International Dimensions of Sputnik Launch

"Mutual deterrence" regime

 Глобализировал и перевел в плоскость науки и техники мирный аспект соревнования между социалистической и капиталистической системами

Contributed to globalization of peaceful competition between the socialistic and capitalistic systems and transferred it to the domain of science and technology

 Запуск спутника «полностью изменил суть «Холодной войны».

"What Sputnik did... was to alter the nature of the Cold War...." Walter McDougall, The Heavens and The Earth

• Президент АН СССР М.В. Келдыш :

«Еще неизвестно, что имело большее значение для обороны страны: боевая межконтинентальная ракета, или первый спутник»

President of the USSR Academy of Sciences Mstislav Keldysh : "It is hard to say what strengthened the Soviet defense better – - the ICBM or the first Sputnik ?".



Earth's Magnetosphere The scene of dynamic interactions between the Sun and Earth's Magnetic Field



Earth Current sheet





$\beta = 8\pi nkT/B^2$	2 - 6 (central) / 0.1 - 2 (outer)
Ion density	0.25 cm ⁻³
Ion temperature	~4 keV
Electron temperature	~ 0.5 keV
Magnetic field	< 10 nT
Plasma convection velocity	∼ 20 km/s
Plasma beam velocity	~ 1500 km/s
lon gyroradius	~ 300-1000 km
M.F.P. length	~ 1 a.u.



First steps in theory of CS stability.





B. Coppi, G. Laval, and R. Pellat International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy (Received 13 January 1966)

The "Mirror Instability" for finite particle gyro-radius. Harold P. Furth, Nuclear Fusion, 1962

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{n_{0}}{(2\pi)^{3/2} a v^{2}} \exp\left[-\frac{v^{2}}{2}\left(\frac{v_{x}^{2}}{a^{4}}+v_{y}^{2}+v_{x}^{2}\right)\right] (1)$$

are subjected to the perturbation

$$B_{z} = b e^{\omega t} \sin k_{\parallel} x \sin k_{\perp} z$$

$$B_{x} = B + (k_{\perp}/k_{\parallel}) b e^{\omega t} \cos k_{\parallel} x \cos k_{\perp} z$$

$$E_{y} = (\omega/ck_{\parallel}) b e^{\omega t} \cos k_{\parallel} x \sin k_{\perp} z$$

$$f = f_{0} + f_{1} e^{\omega t},$$

$$(2)$$



Bruno Coppi





Rene Pellat

Two scenarios of magnetospheric activity



OUTLINE & MOTIVATIONS

• SPONTANEOUS RECONNECTION:: CHANGE OF MAGNETIC TOPOLOGY (Formation of X/O lines) Non trivial problem in collisionless plasma (only LANDAU damping)

Observational constraints:

possibility to accumulate magnetic flux – possibility quickly release stored energy—

METASTABILITY

- HARRIS SHEET PARADIGMA- OVERSTABILITY
- Realistic models of CS anisotropy, bifurcations, steepening
- Stability properties of anisotropic CS- and their free energy reservoirs
- Nonlinear effects and inverse cascade
- Substorm implications
- Overlapping of tearing/kink/sausage modes
- Conclusions

Metastability

Metastability is a general scientific concept which describes states of delicate equilibrium. A system is in a metastable state when it is in equilibrium (not changing with time) but is susceptible to fall into lower-energy states with only slight interaction.





In order for boiling to occur, the vapor pressure must exceed the ambient pressure plus a small amount of pressure induced by the surface tension



K. SCHINDLER

Tearing instability in plasma configurations Galeev, A. A., Zelenyi, L. M. JETP, 1976



Fig. 4. Regime of ion tearing: the electrons are gyroscopic, and the ions see a neutral sheet. The ion motion perpendicular to the plane shown is unidirectional on either side of the broken line.

Albert Galeev

Stabilization of ion tearing mode by the compressibility of magnetized electron



ABSOLUTE STABILITY OF HARRIS TYPE FIELD REVERSAL with IB_zI >0

B_z effects = Metastability





Very intense

discussions

Leaders of both

groups were

serious pipe smokers

EXCHANGE

OF IDEAS and CUBAN TOBACCO

Alex GALEEV Rene PELLAT



and recalculate its stability properties

Spacecraft observations of magnetotail processes (1992-....)

Geotail (1)

Interball (2+2)

Self-consistent equilibrium model of anisotropic CS

The quasi-adiabatic integral of motion (action integral Iz) is approximately conserved along ion trajectory

Map of distribution function of Speiser ions at the edges and in the center of CS

ε=0.1 z=2L

Thin current sheets ROLE OF ANISOTROPY

<u>Realistic features of TCS</u>: embedding, bifurcation, overshoots, steepening

Fast CS crossing and the model of thin current sheet

Observations approximated by Thin CS model and Harris CS

Different components of tearing mode energy sufficient criteria of instability.

Embedded CS approximation

Parameter space of TCS instability

Pellat 1983

$$\frac{\gamma_{\rm MHD}}{\omega_{0i}} = \left(kL\right)^{1/4} \left(\frac{T_e}{T_i}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{\delta B_z}{B_0}\right)^{3/4}$$

Formation of large scale plasmoid from small scale islands

Formation of large scale plasmoid from small scale islands

J.BUECHNER, 2004

Where reconnection could occur in the Earth's magnetosphere ?

Quiet conditions Topological distant tail reconnection

Middle tail reconnection

Baker et al. 1996 Petrukovich et al. 1998 Phan et al. 2000

Near Earth initiation Lui 1991 Kan 1998

Substorm onset at X=-15.5 R_E , 11:26:10 UT

Tail Reconnection TriggeringSubstorm OnsetScience 2008

Vassilis Angelopoulos,^{1*} James P. McFadden,² Davin Larson,² Charles W. Carlson,² Stephen B. Mende,² Harald Frey,² Tai Phan,² David G. Sibeck,³ Karl-Heinz Glassmeier,⁴ Uli Auster,⁴ Eric Donovan,⁵ Ian R. Mann,⁶ I. Jonathan Rae,⁶ Christopher T. Russell,¹ Andrei Runov,¹ Xu-Zhi Zhou,¹ Larry Kepko⁷

5 spacecraft

Hopes for breakthrough in understanding substorm initiations

THEMIS PROJECT

Eigenmodes of TCS

Multimode structure of TCS perturbations

Propagation of oblique drift waves in the CS

Statistics of wave direction (120 cases)

Standing tearing modes for $k=k_x$ Propagating oblique modes $\omega=k_yv_D$

Nonlinear interaction of numerous wave modes existing in the magnetotail- Non-Equilibrium Steady State (NESS)

Particle dynamics

Oblique propagation

Formation of nonmaxwellian spectra

Acceleration mechanism

Eway

Ewave

₹ V_φ

Single wave – surfacton acceleration Wave ensemble - piecewise surfatron acceleration \mathbf{E}_{wave} Particle Ewave $\rightarrow_{V_{\phi}}$ Sagdeev and Shapiro, 1973 Katsouleas and Dawson, 1983 Chernikov et al., 1992 ₹ V_¢ Neishtadt et al., 2009 Acceleration due to resonant Particle –wave interaction \mathbf{E}_{war}

Diffusion in turbulent magnetic field

Intermittent wave structure

Cross-Scale Coupling

Slow in time

Conclusions:

- Configurations with magnetic field reversals (current sheets) are intrinsically metastable.
- For certain (quite narrow narrow region of parameters L, Bn) TCS can become unstable to tearing perturbation (contrary to the Harris one), which drives the spontaneous reconnection
- CS wave modes are effective particle accelerators by "piecewise surfatron" mechanism
- Tearing mode ingredient is necessary for particle acceleration. Importance of oblique modes

More data (CrossScale+Scope+ROI) are needed
Electron scales are still not resolved

