

Exploring the Sun and its effects on the
Earth's atmosphere and physical environment...

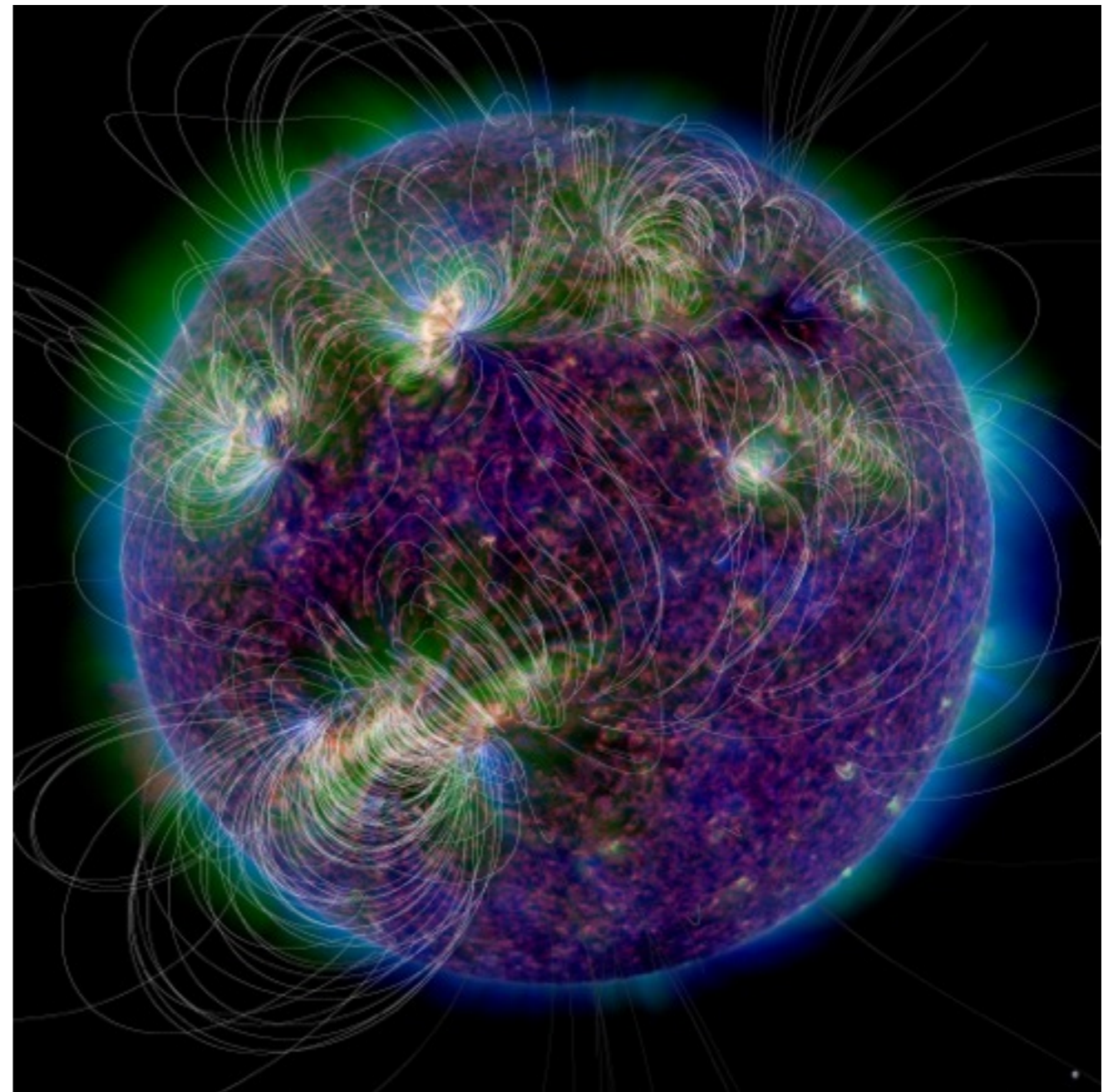
HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY

The Solar Dynamo

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ISWI/SCOSTEP
School on Space Science

Lima, Peru
September, 2014



High Altitude Observatory (HAO) – National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)

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NCAR



Outline

★ **Solar Magnetism**

- ▶ **Order amid chaos**

★ **Solar Convection and Mean Flows**

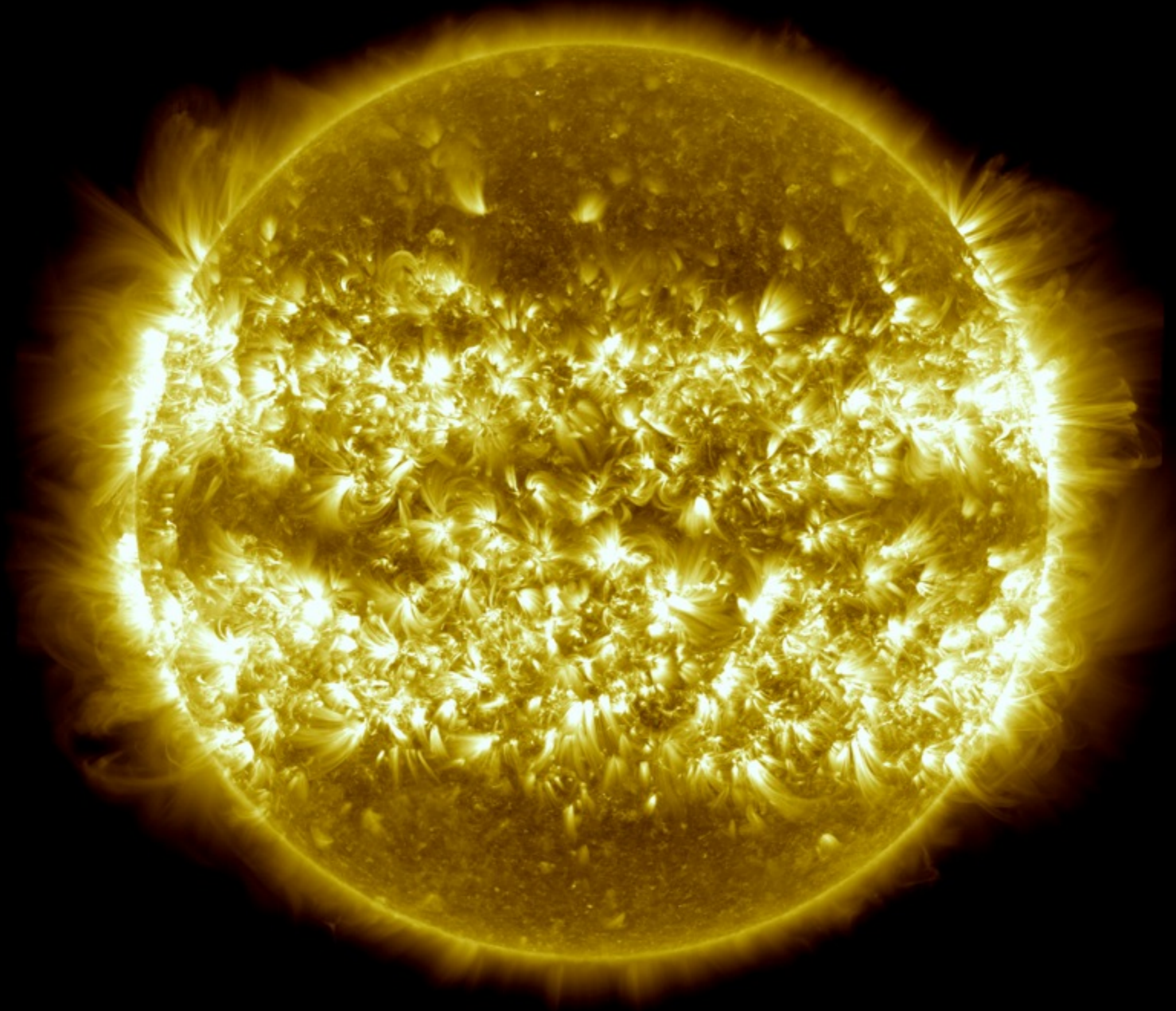
- ▶ **Heirarchy of convective motions**
- ▶ **Differential Rotation**
- ▶ **Meridional Circulation**

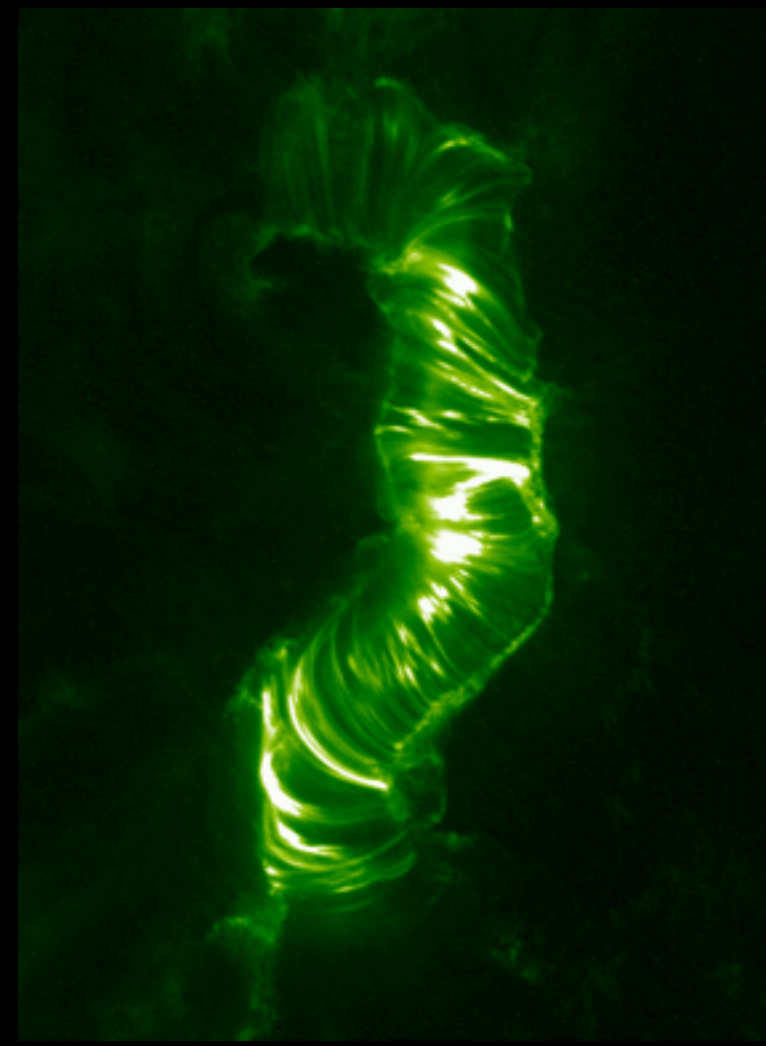
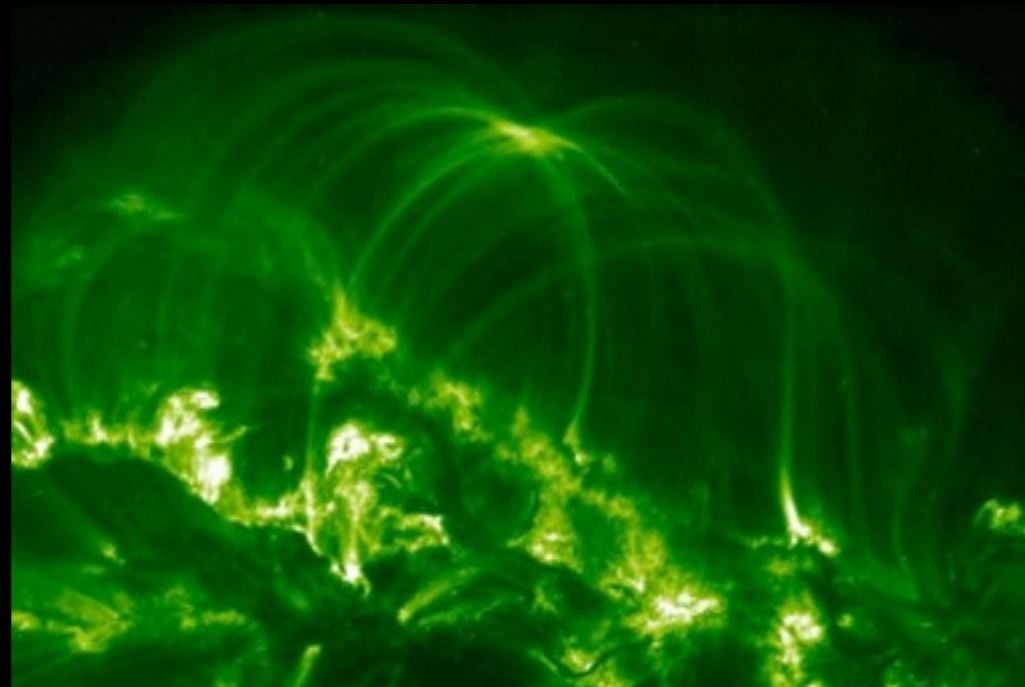
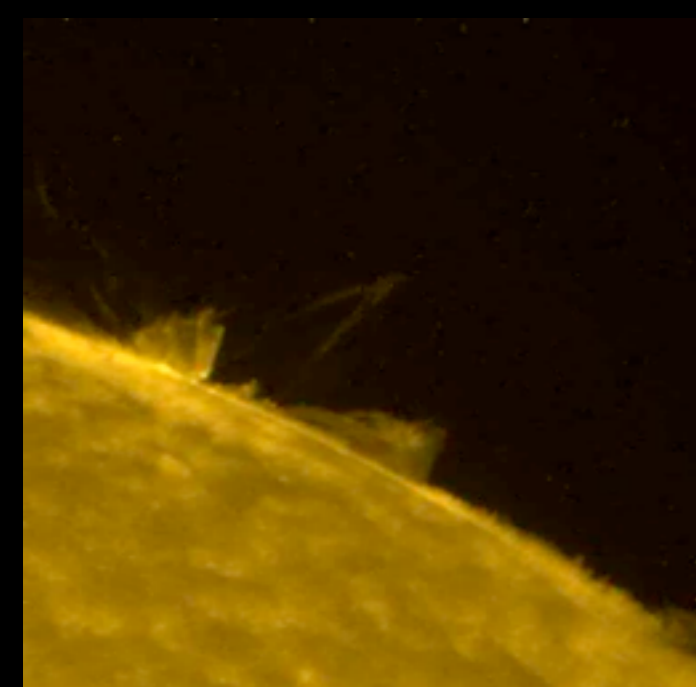
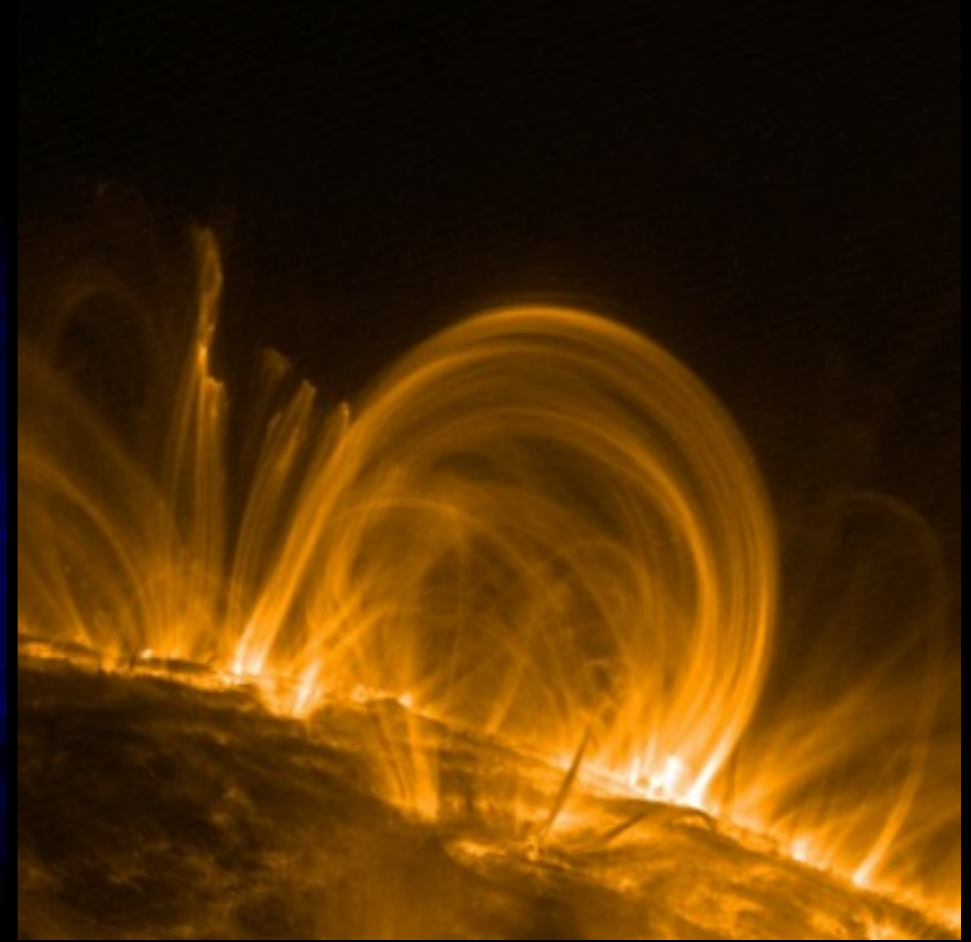
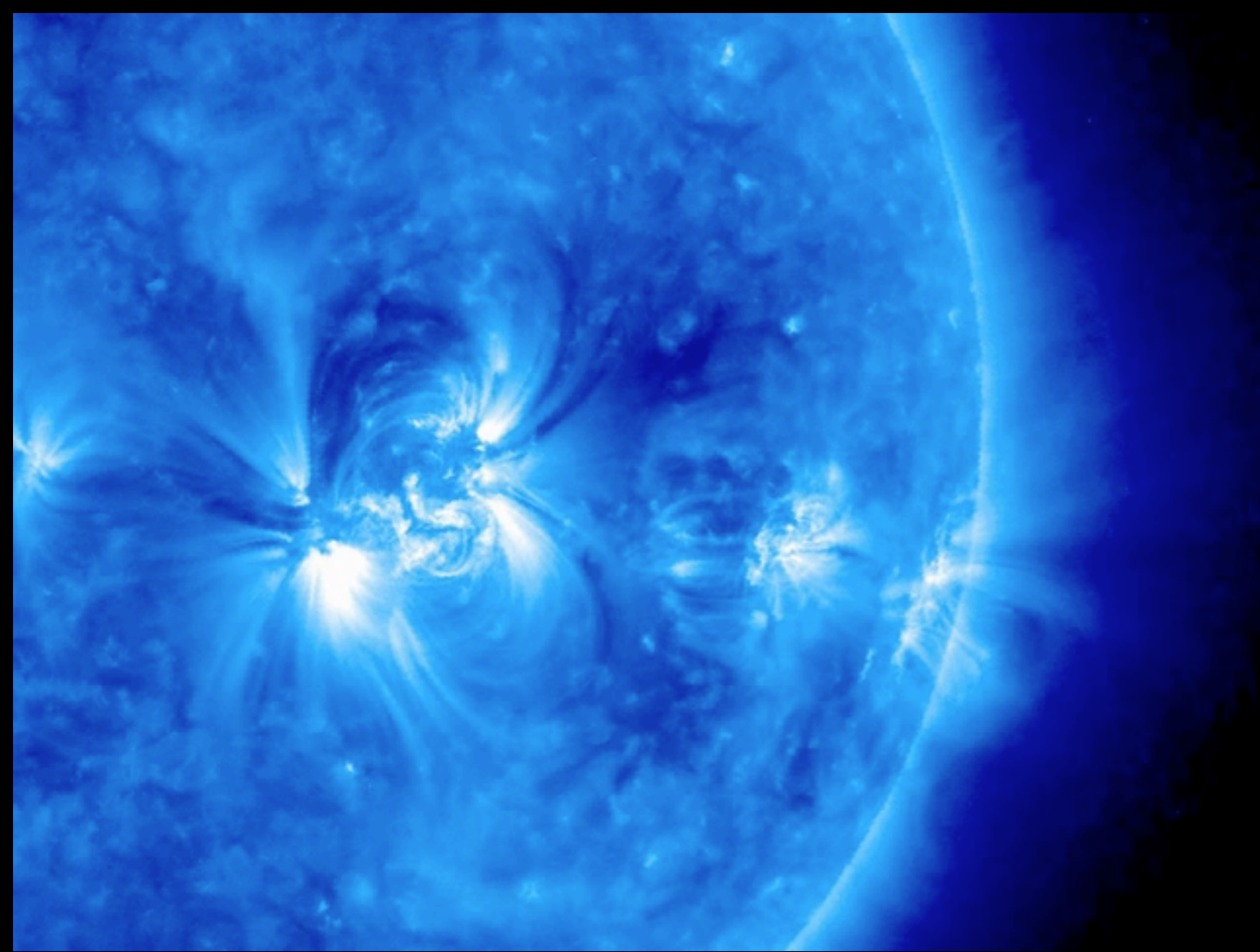
★ **Solar Dynamo Models**

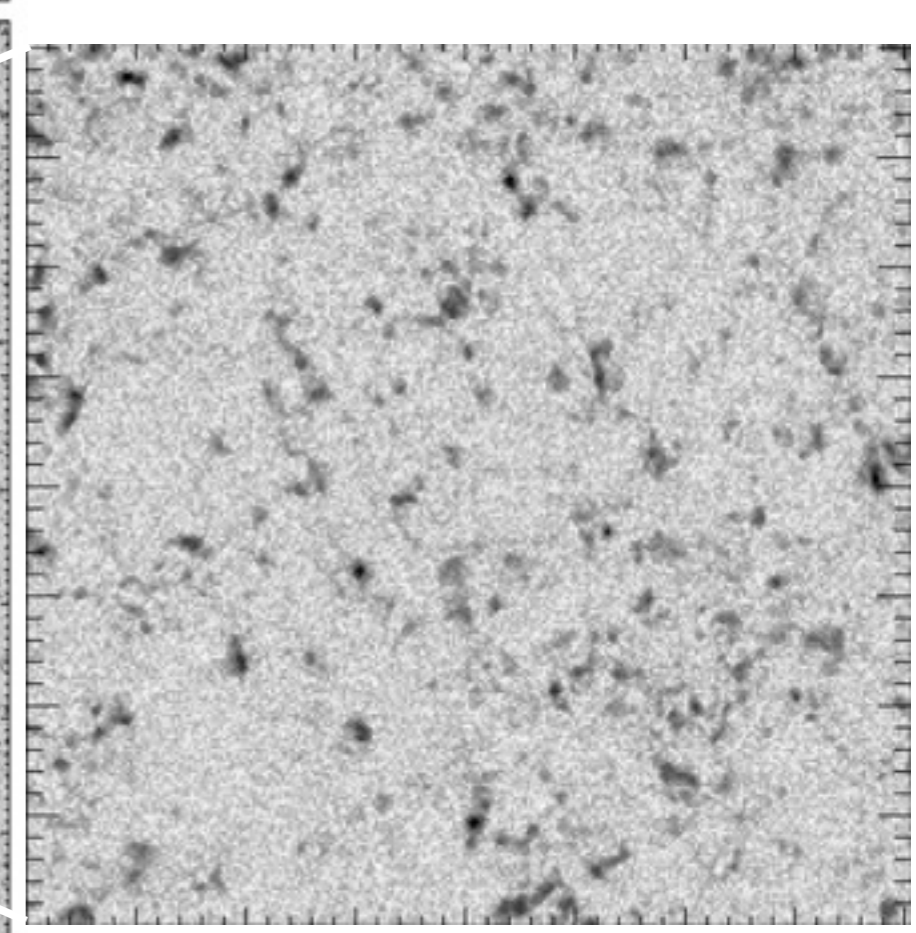
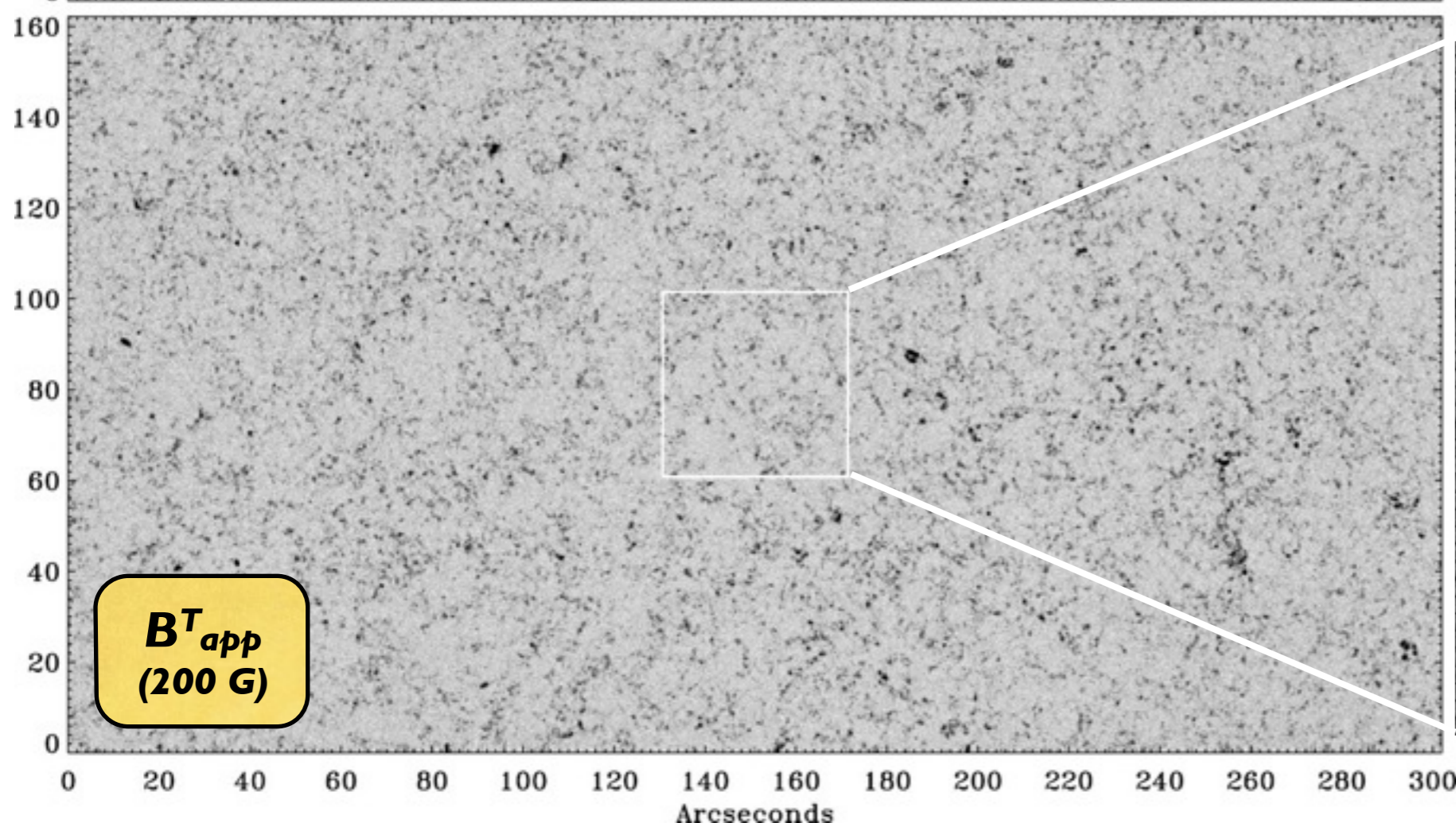
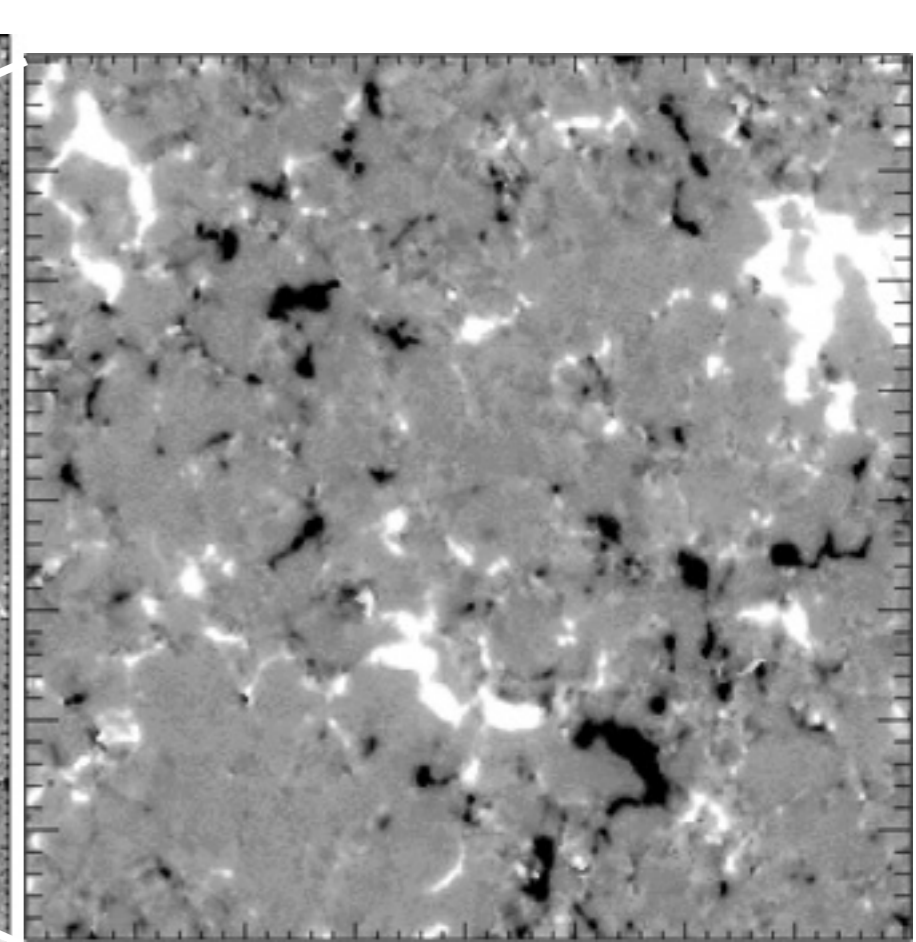
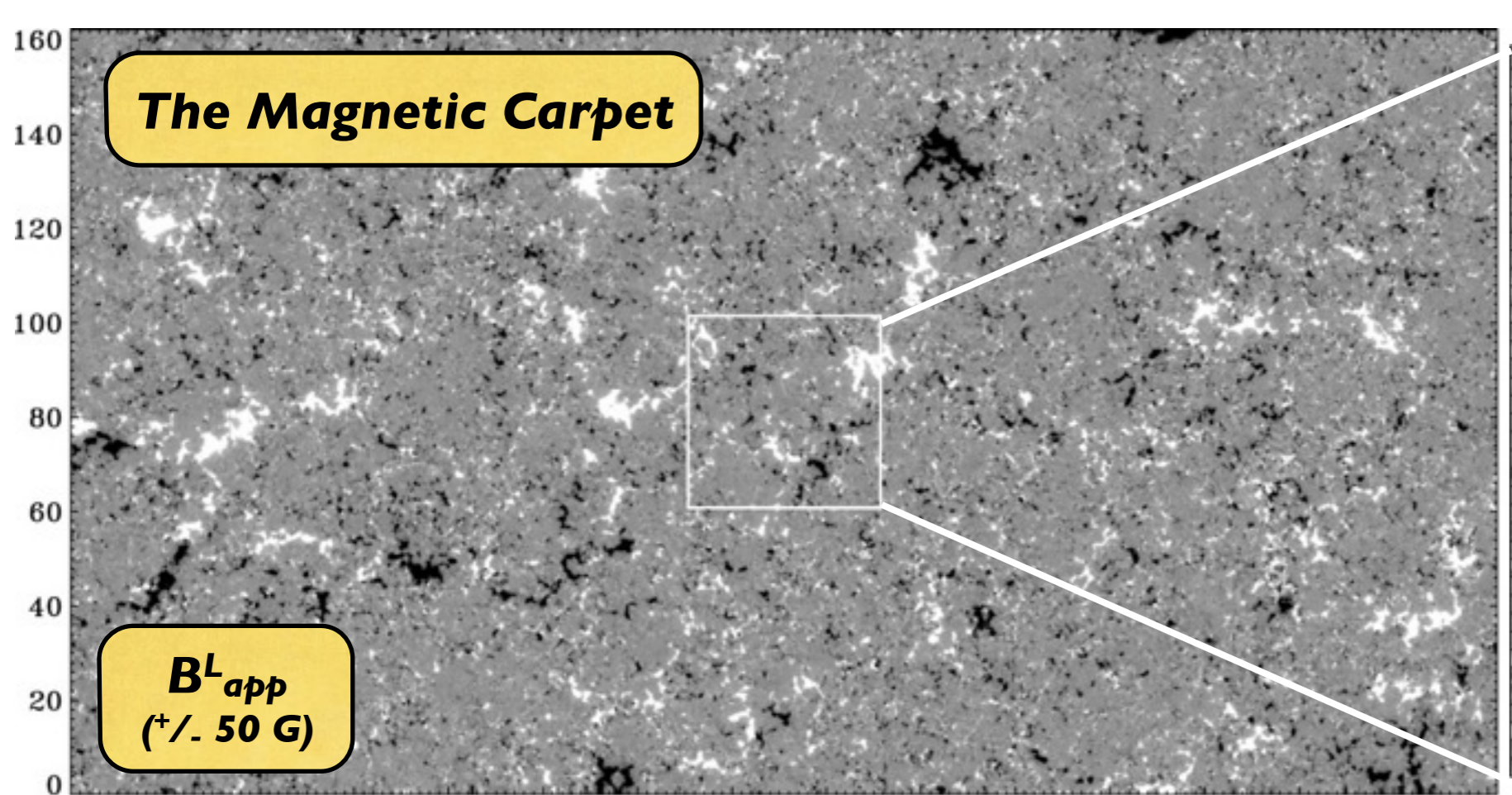
- ▶ **Small-Scale and Large-Scale
Dynamoes**
- ▶ **The Solar Cycle**

Everything I say also applies in some form to other stars





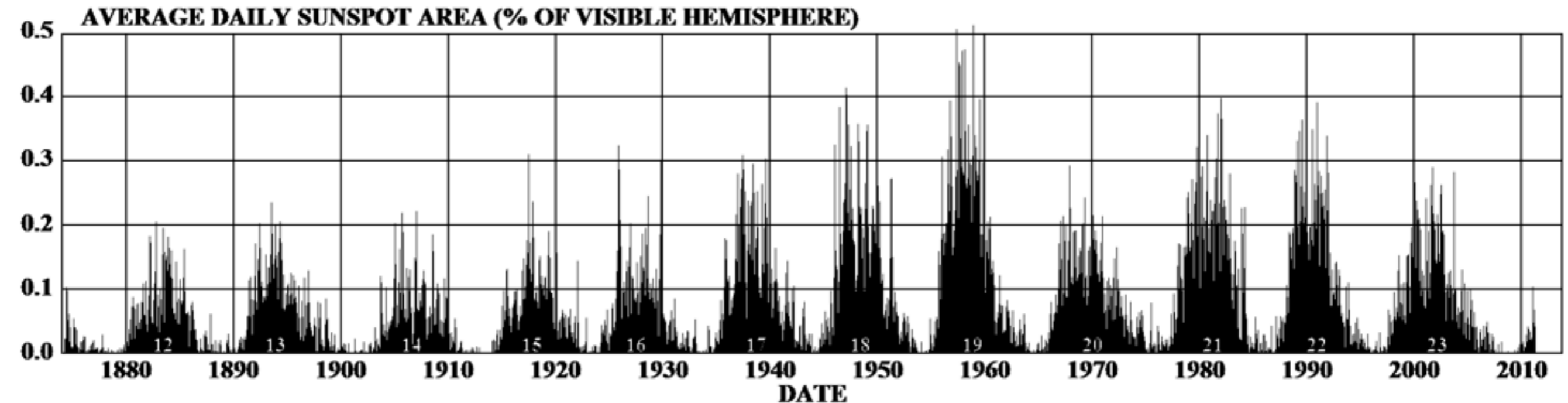
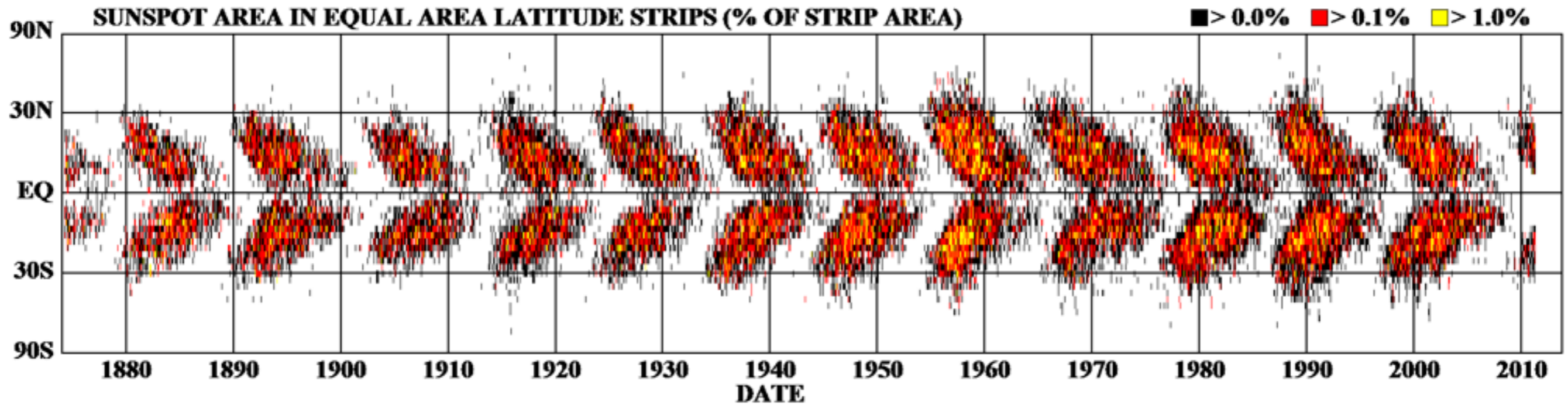




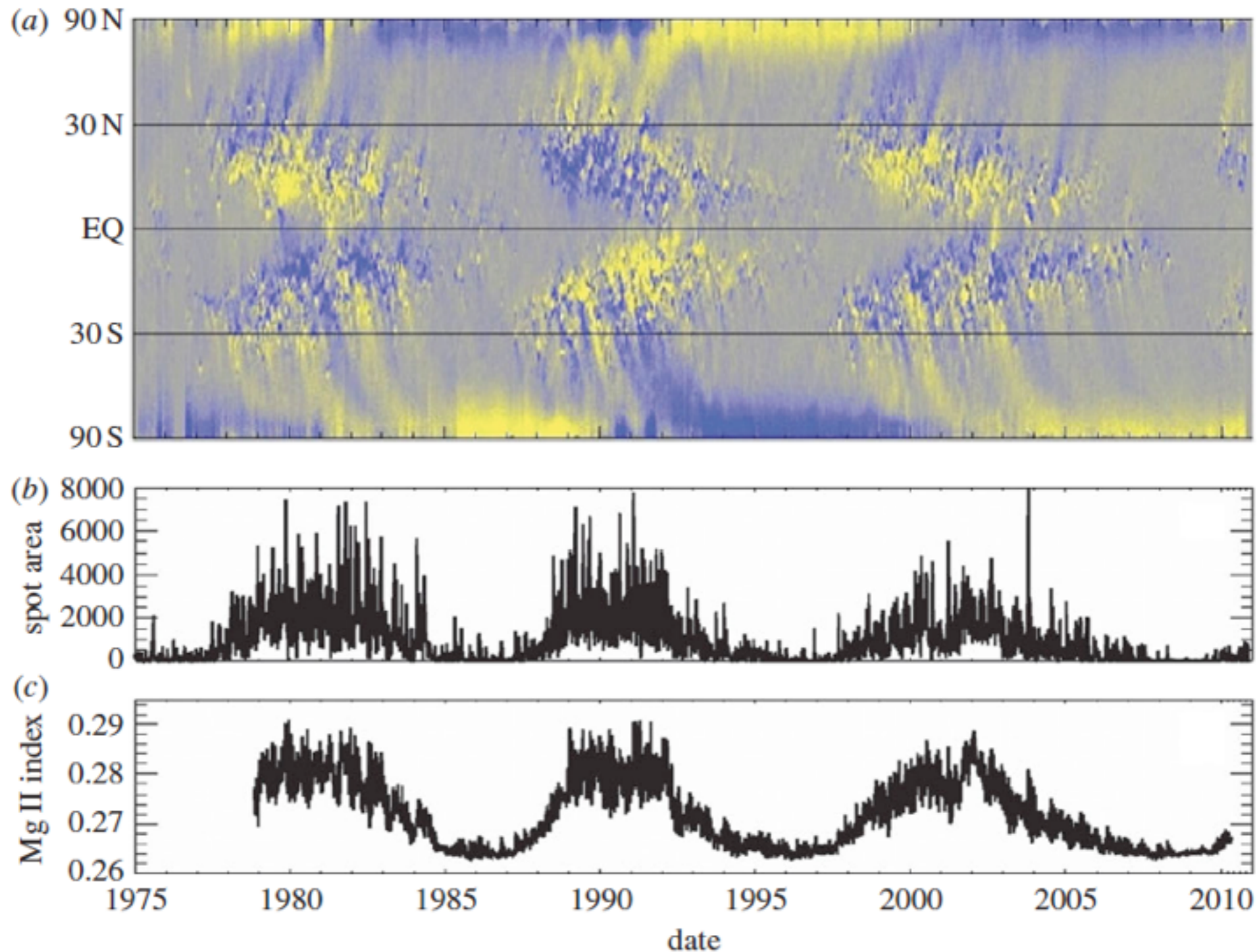
Lites et al (2008)

The Solar Cycle: Order Amid chaos

DAILY SUNSPOT AREA AVERAGED OVER INDIVIDUAL SOLAR ROTATIONS



Cycles are numbered with respect to the 11-year sunspot cycle (we're now in cycle 24) but the true magnetic cycle length is 22 years (on average)

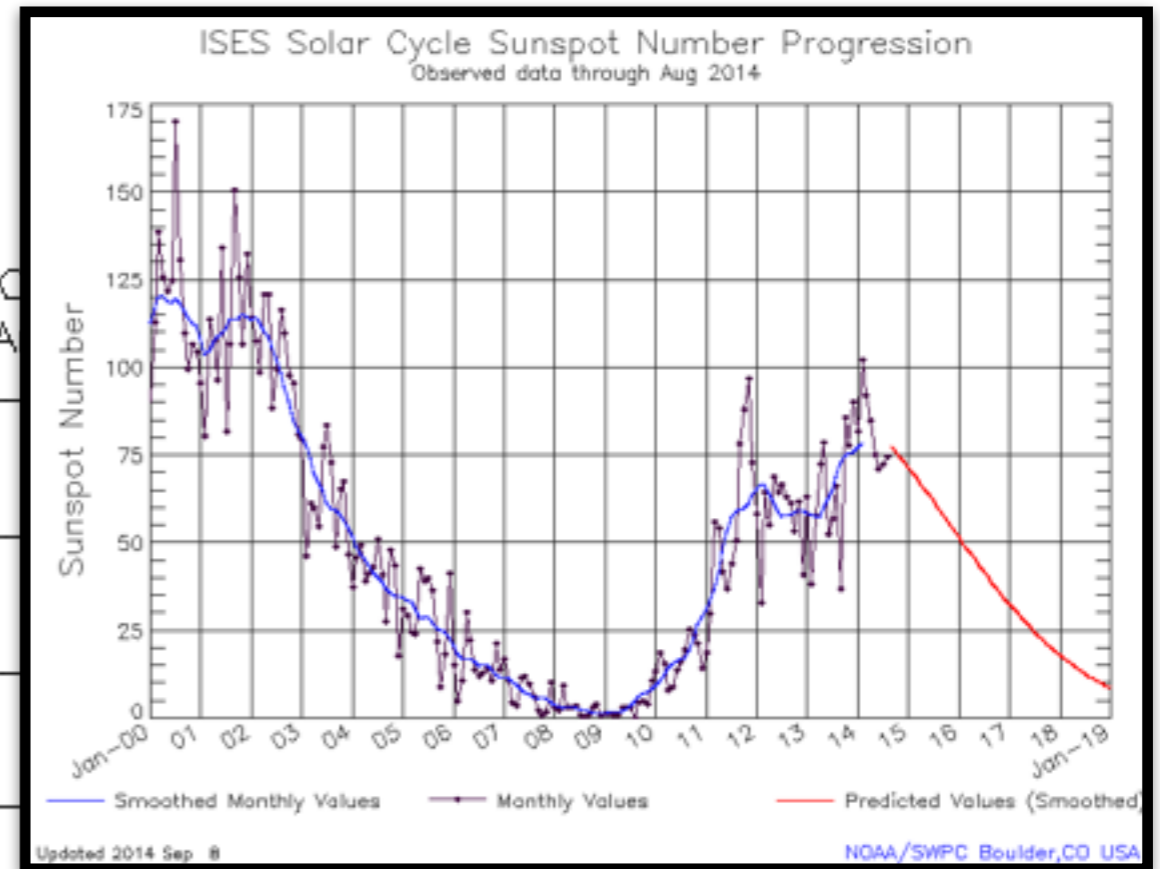
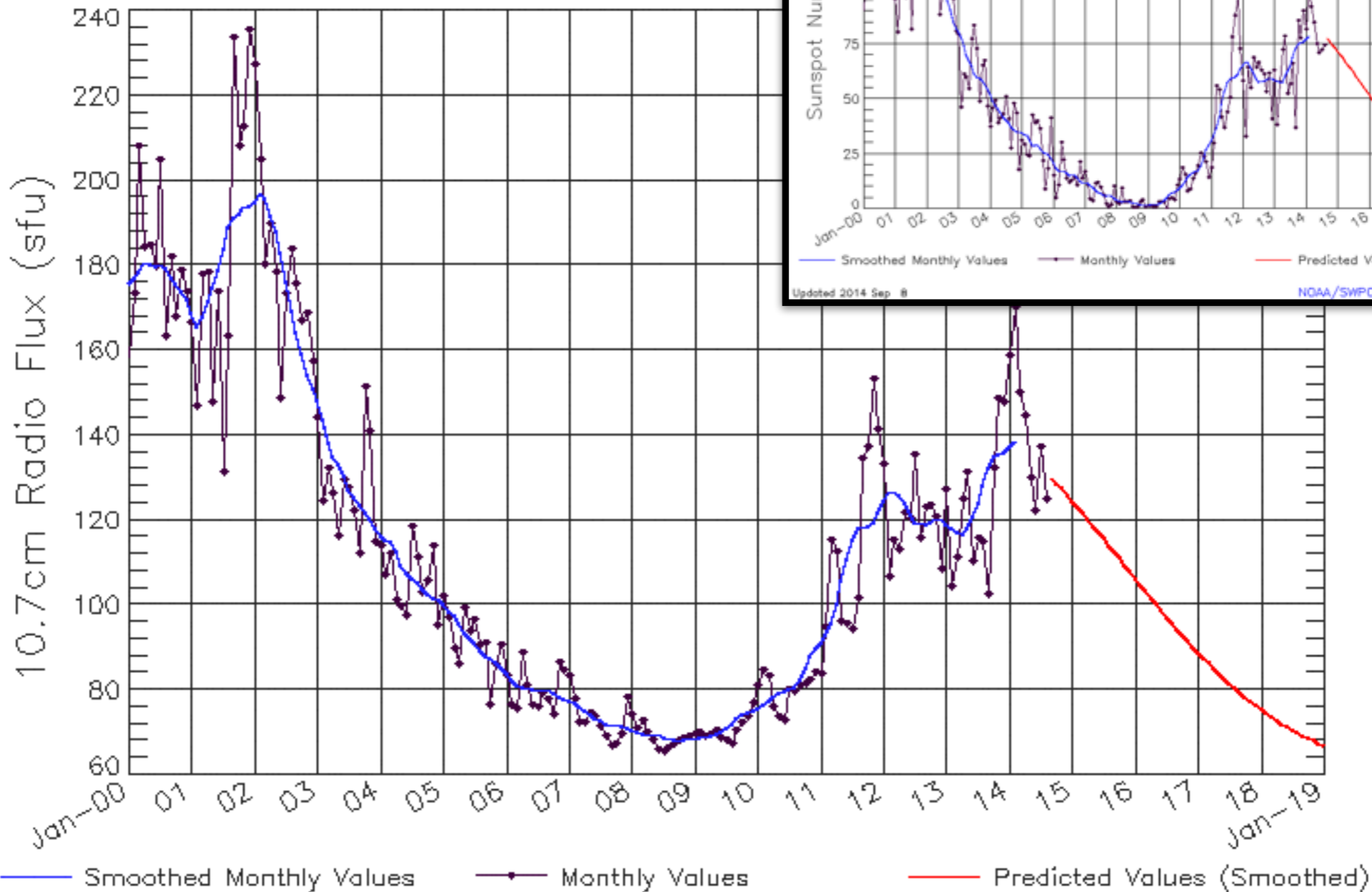


...and it's not just spots!

**The solar cycle regulates nearly all solar variability:
irradiance, solar wind, flares, CMEs, etc.**

ISES Solar Cycle F10.7cm Radio Flux

Observed data through Aug 2014

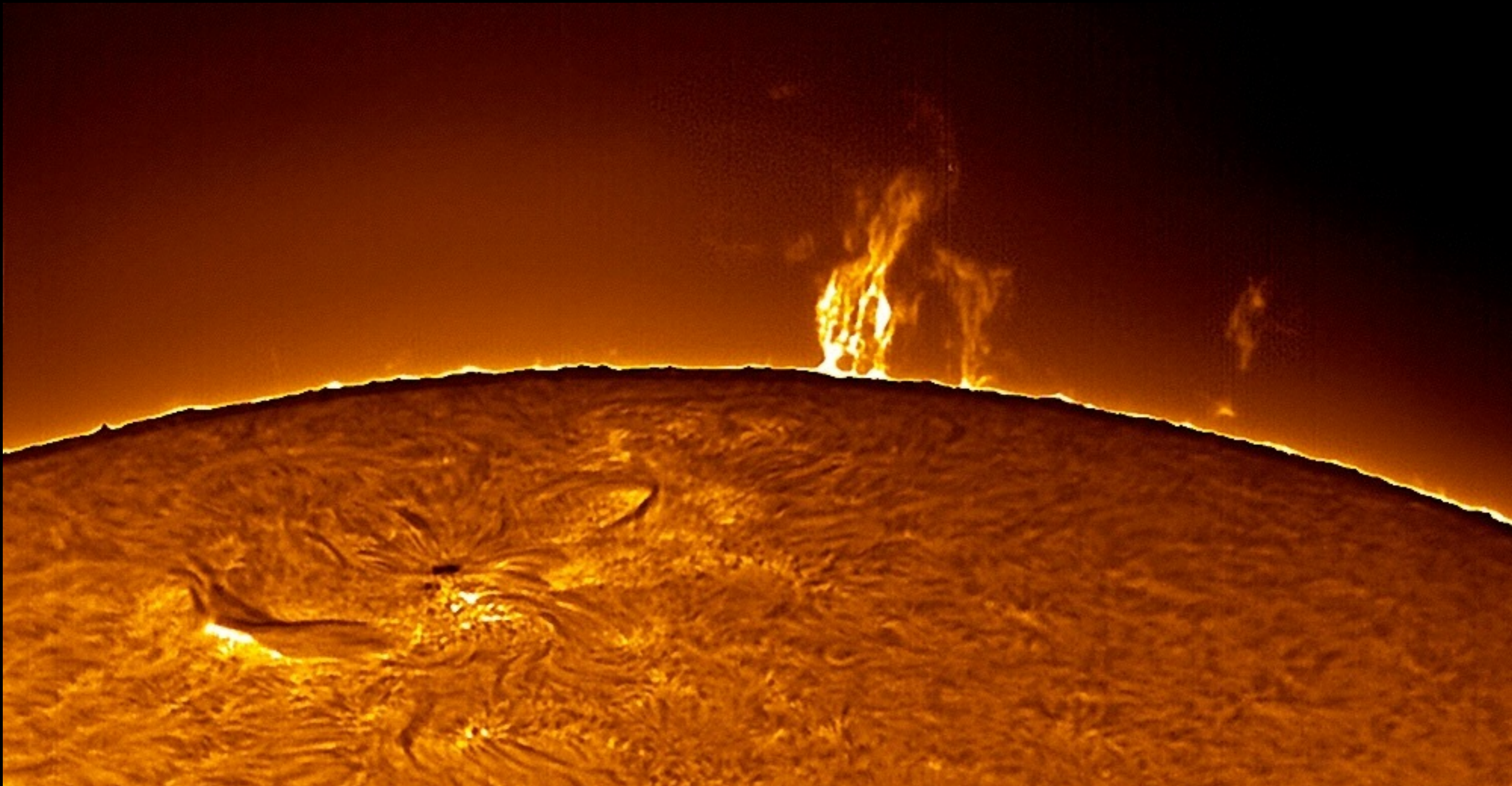


COSMOLOGY MARCHES ON



Where does this magnetism come from?

The Solar Dynamo



Part 2 (of 3)

★ ***Solar and Stellar Magnetism***

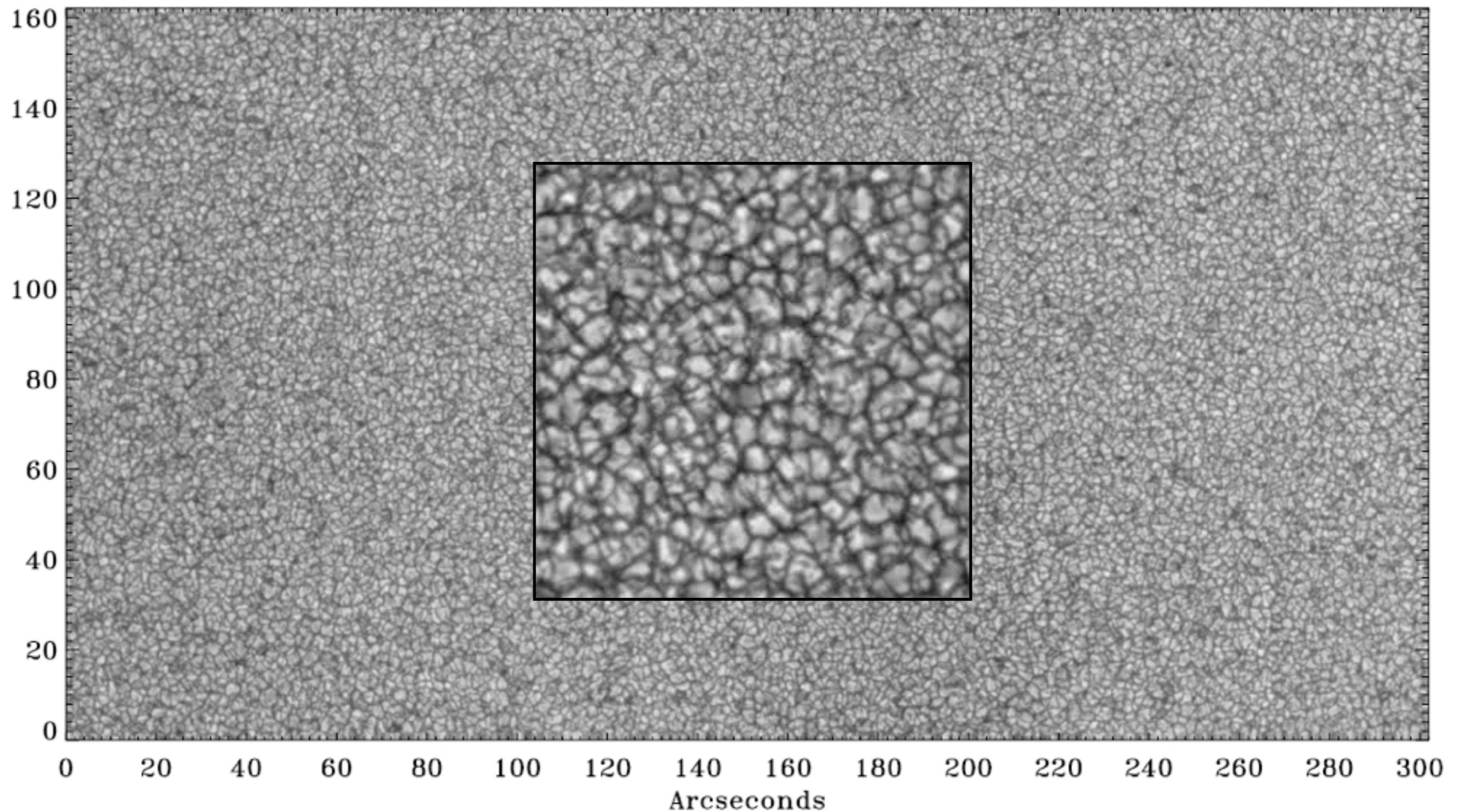
★ ***Solar Convection and Mean Flows***

★ ***Solar Dynamo Models***



Granulation in the Quiet Sun

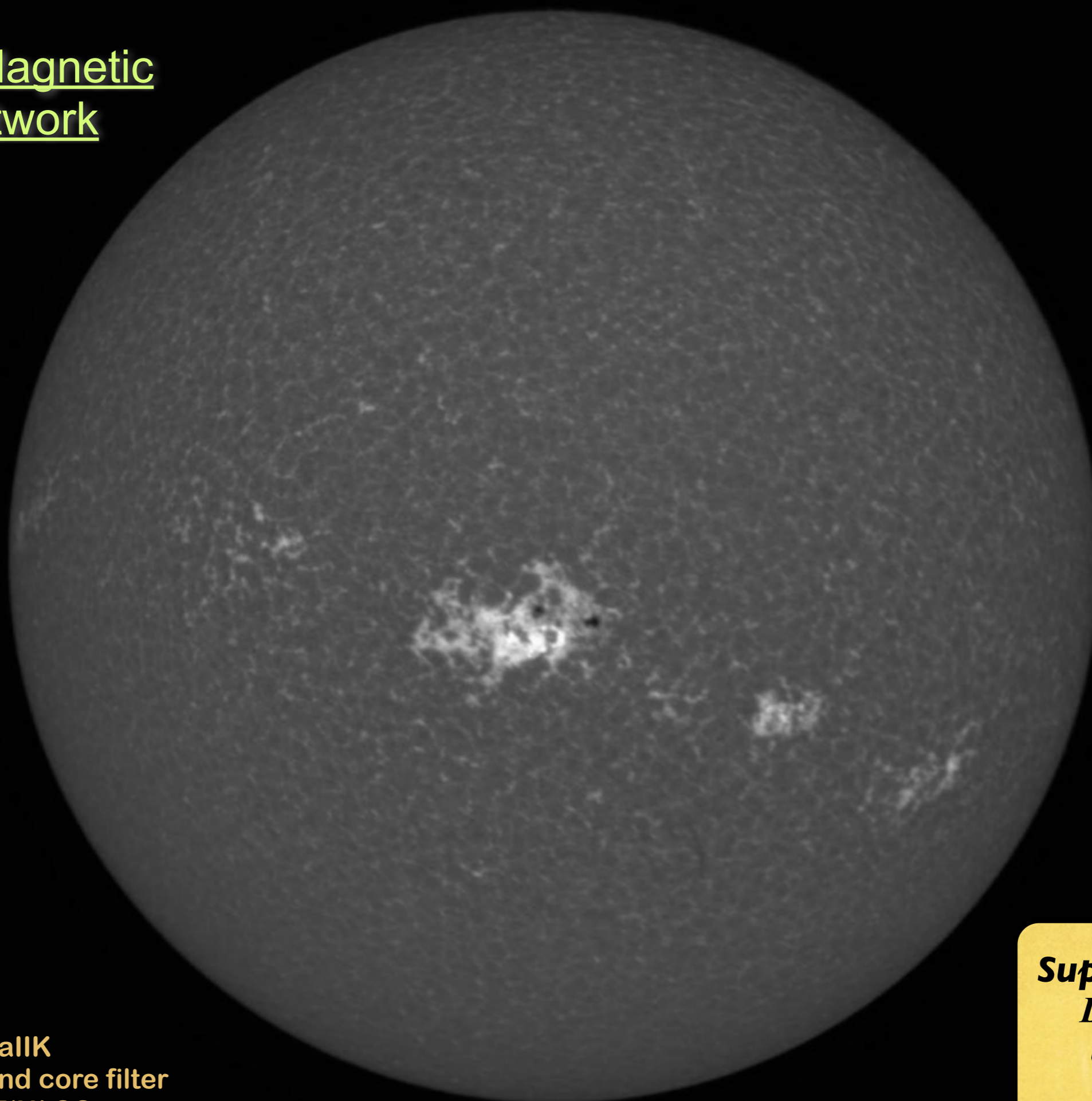
Lites et al (2008)



$L \sim 1-2 \text{ Mm}$
 $U \sim 1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$
 $t \sim 10-15 \text{ min}$

Dominant size scale of solar convection

The Magnetic Network

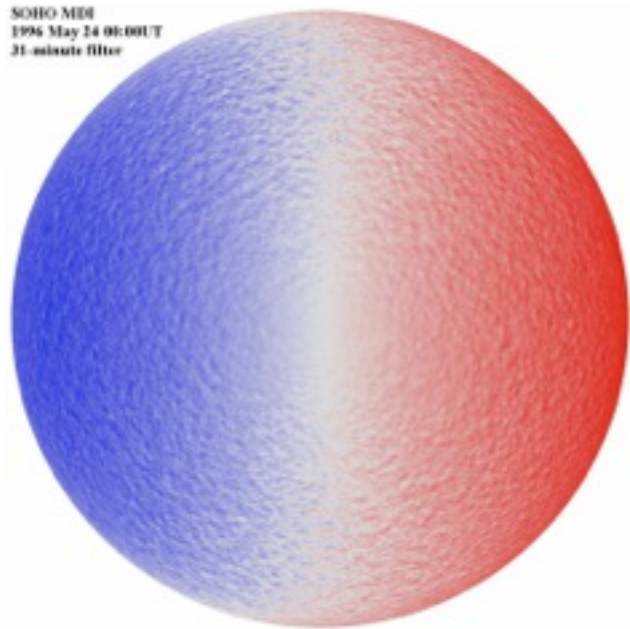


CaIIK
narrow-band core filter
PSPT/MLSO

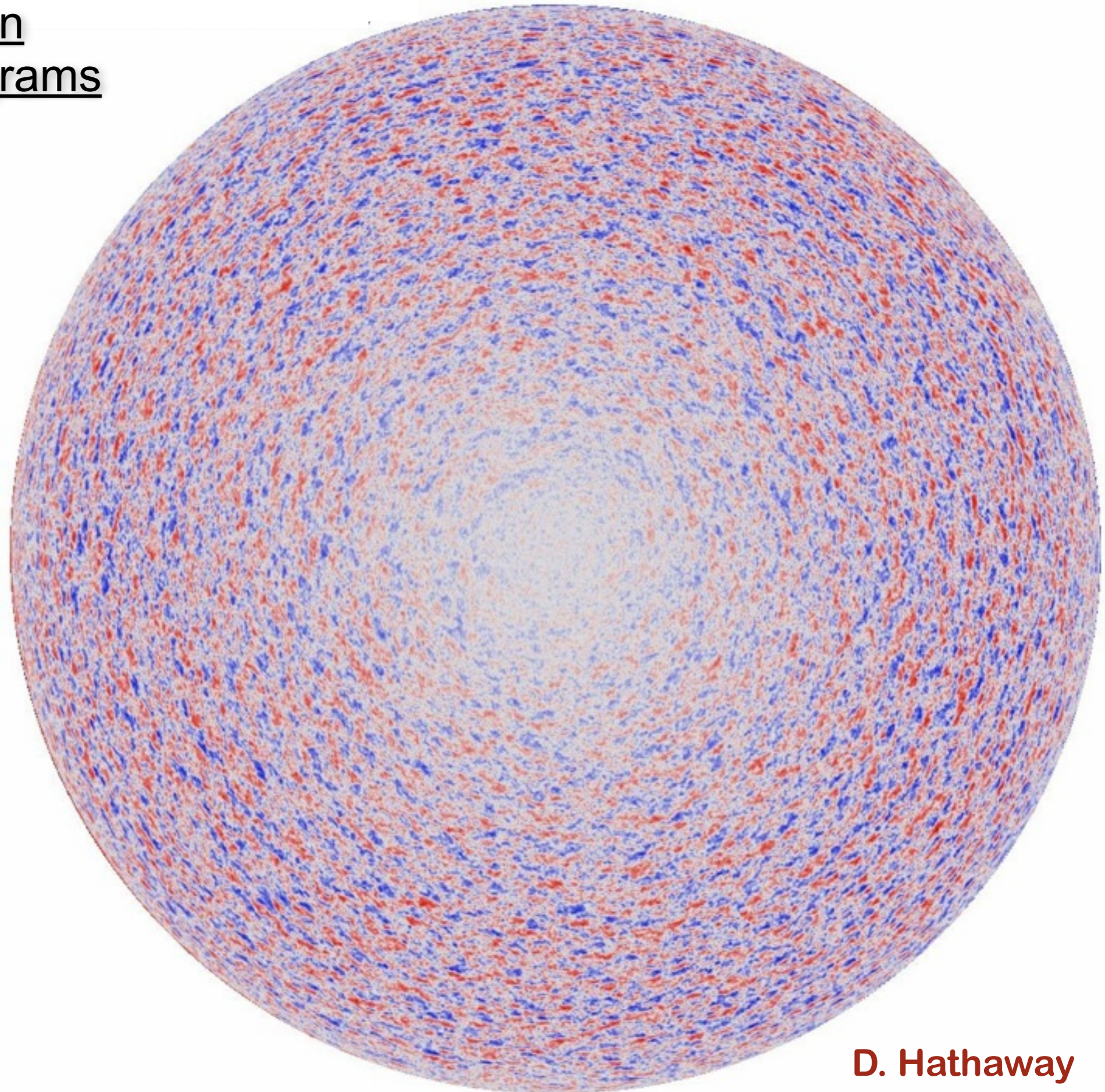
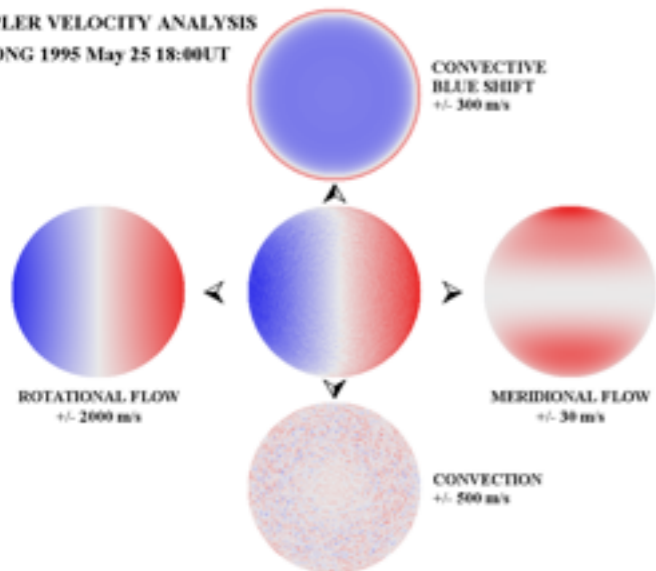
Supergranulation
 $L \sim 30-35 \text{ Mm}$
 $U \sim 500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
 $t \sim 20 \text{ hr}$

Supergranulation in Filtered Dopplergrams

**Most prominent in
horizontal velocities
near the limb**



DOPPLER VELOCITY ANALYSIS
GONG 1995 May 25 18:00UT



**D. Hathaway
(NASA MSFC)**

A hierarchy of convective scales

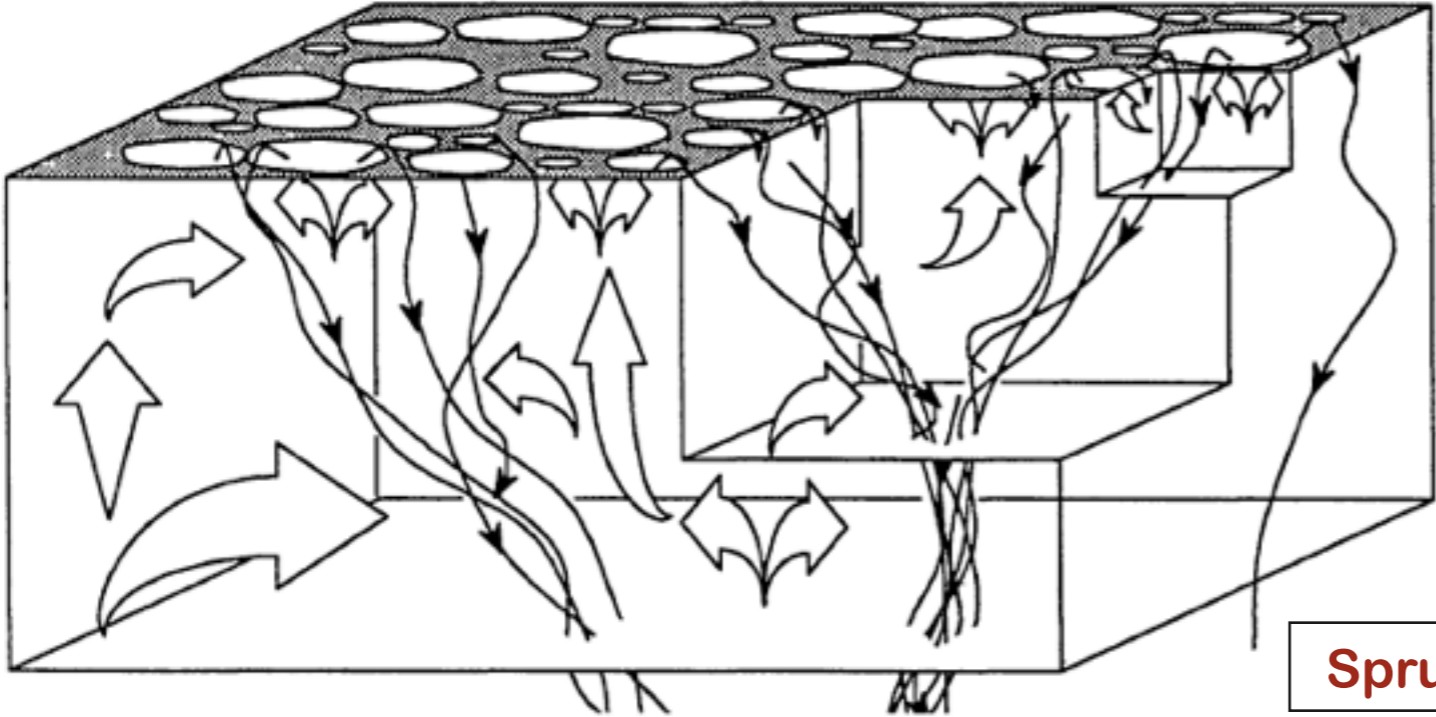
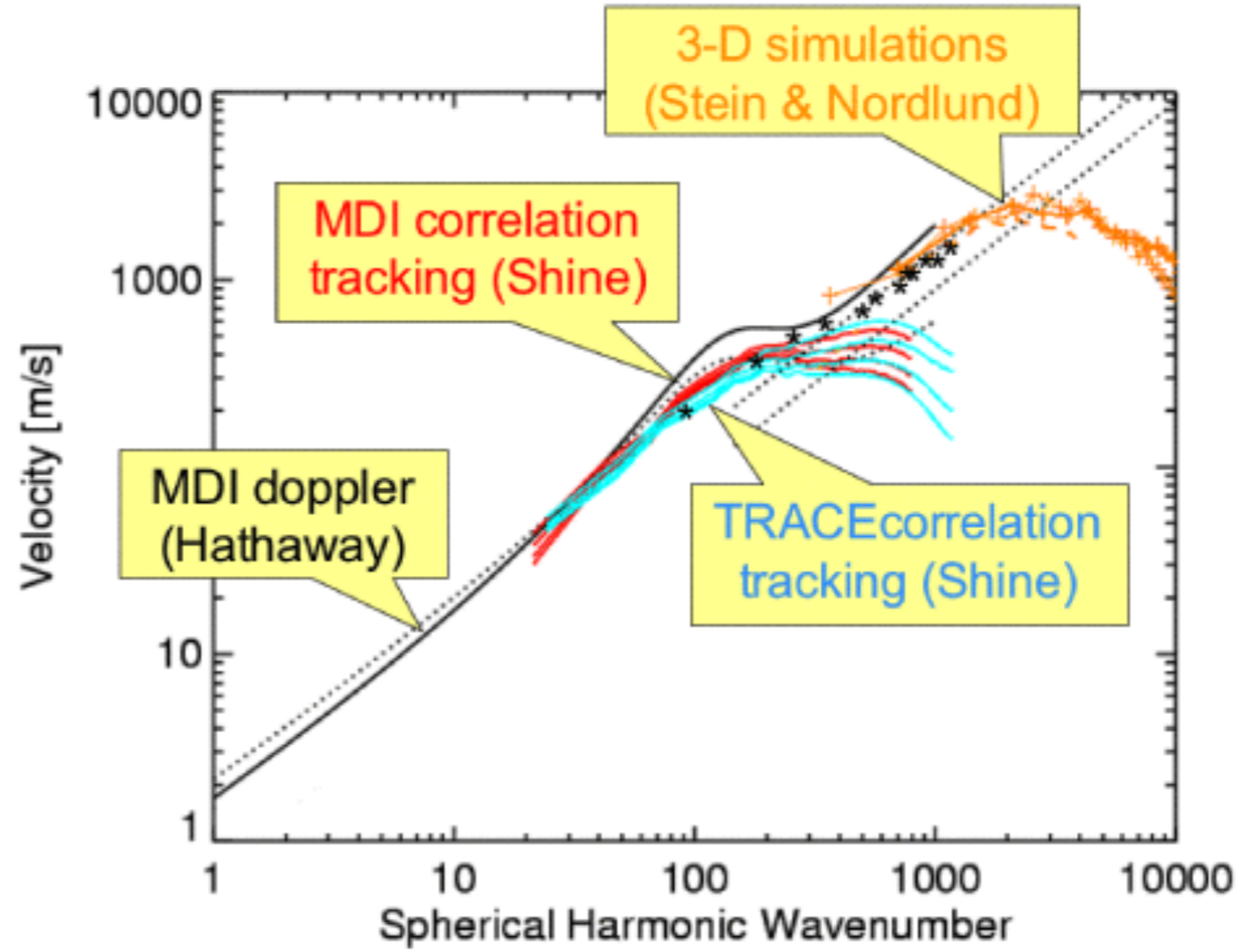
In the Sun, density and dynamical time scales increase with depth

Most of the mass flowing upward does not make it to the photosphere

Downward plumes merge into superplumes that penetrate deeper

Deep-seated pressure variations drive surface flows

Velocity spectrum $[kP(k)]^{1/2}$

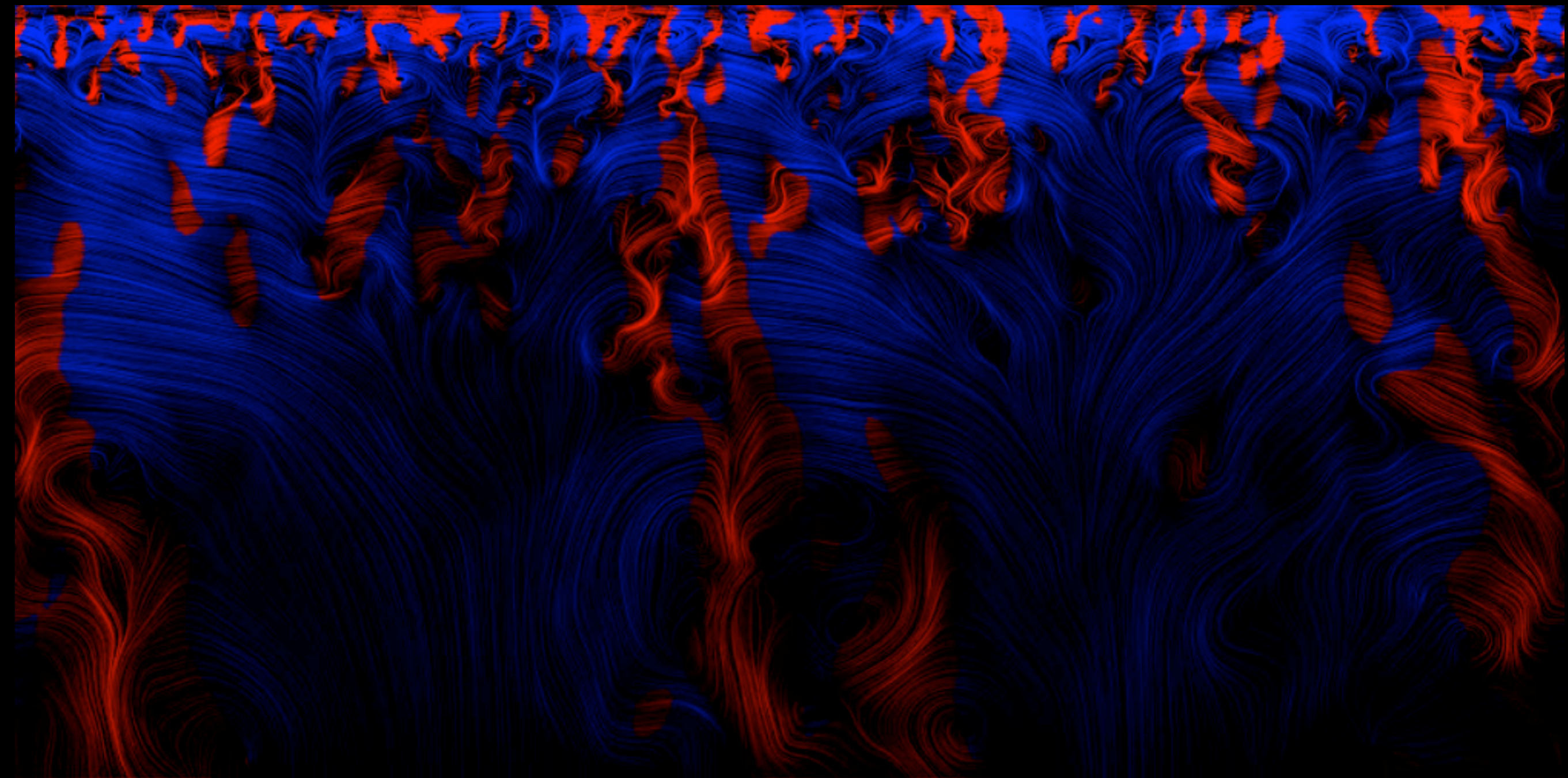


Nordlund, Stein & Asplund (2009)

Supergranulation and mesogranulation are part of a continuous (self-similar?) spectrum of convective motions

Spruit, Nordlund & Title (1990)

simulation by Stein et al (2006), visualization by Henze (2008)



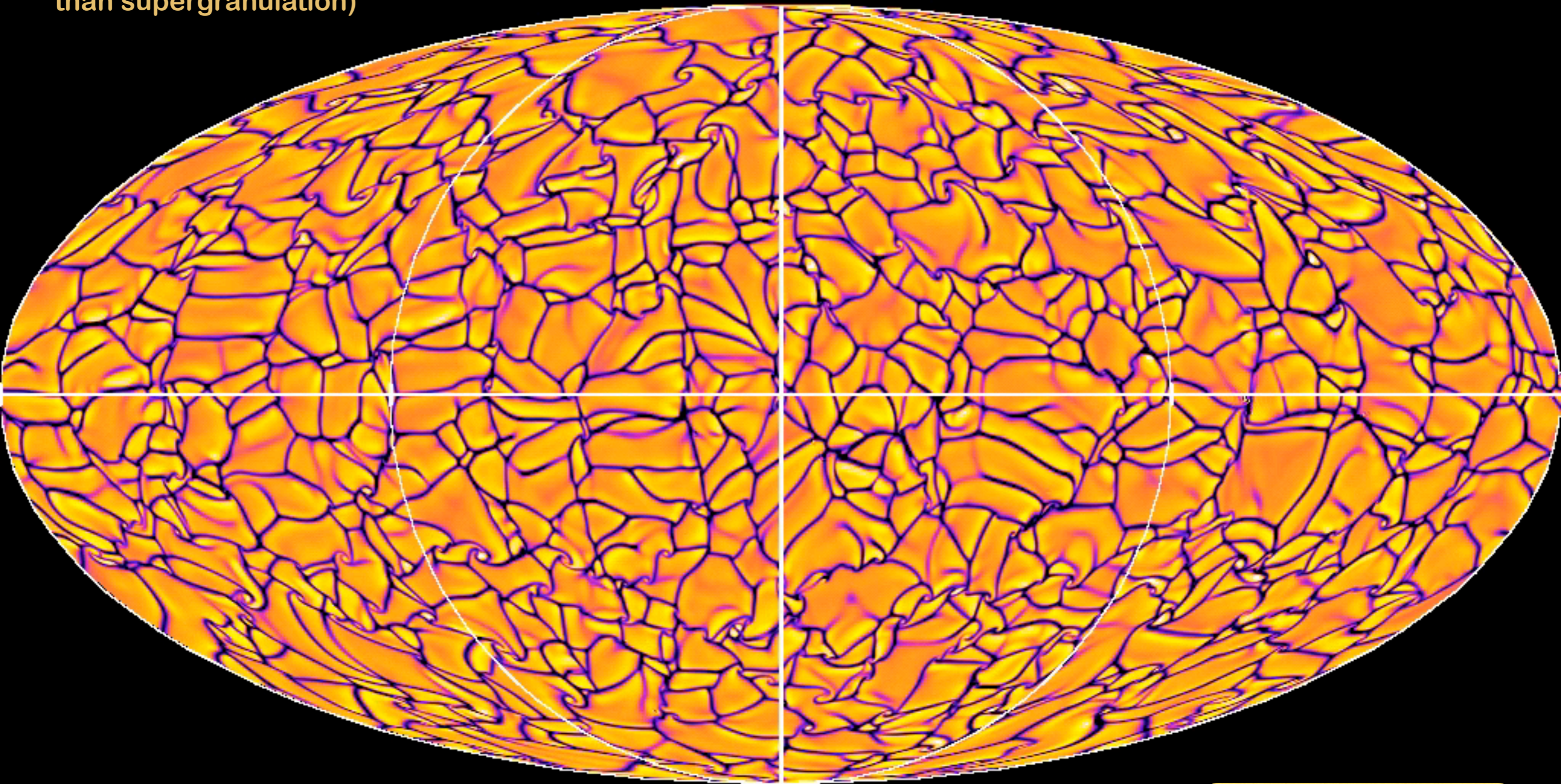
Size, time scales of convection cells increases with depth

***Beyond Solar Dermatology
But still stops at $0.97R$!
what lies deeper still?***

Giant Cells

(Loosely, anything bigger than supergranulation)

Eventually the hierarchy must culminate in motions large enough to sense the spherical geometry and rotation

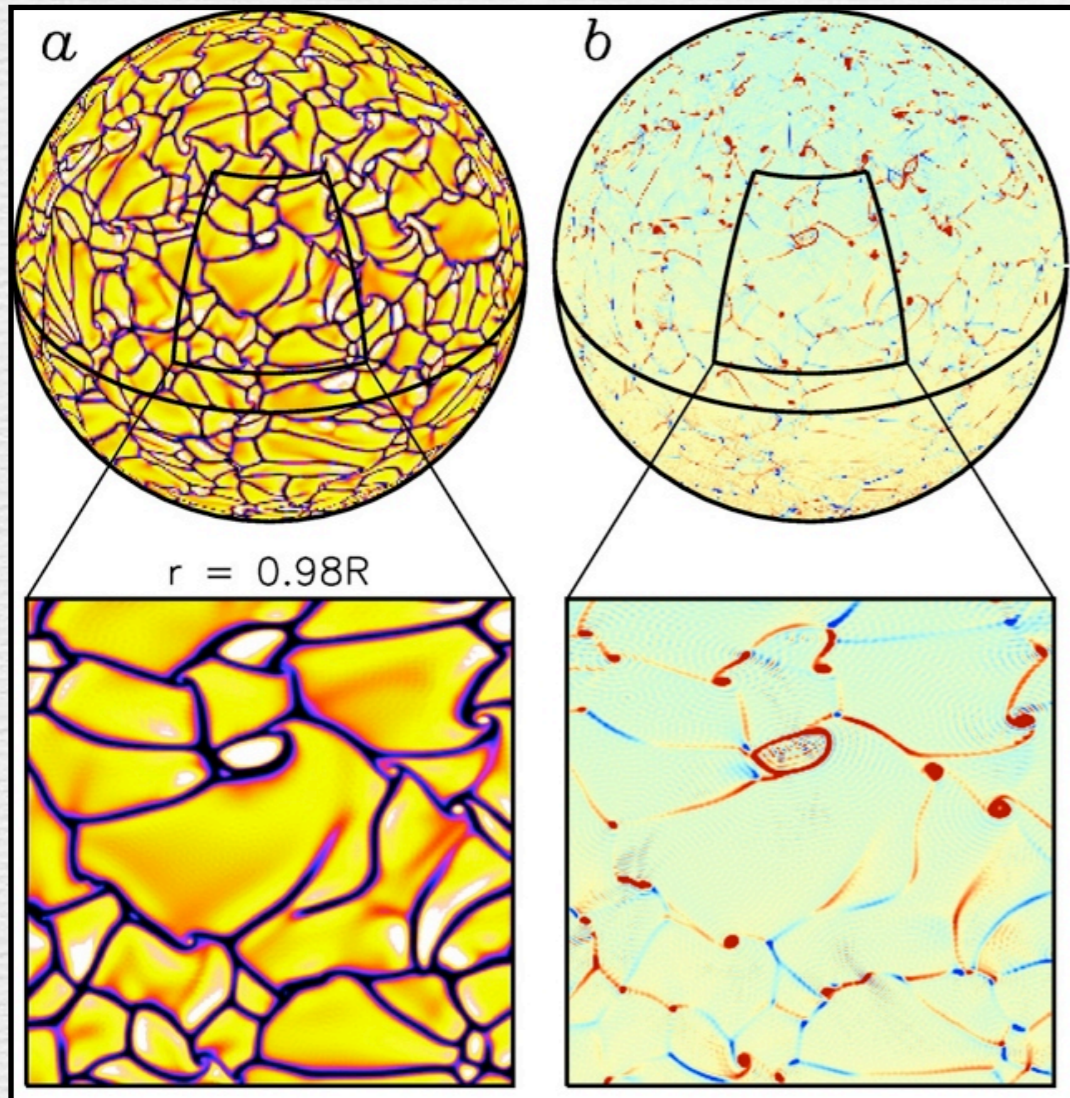


0.0

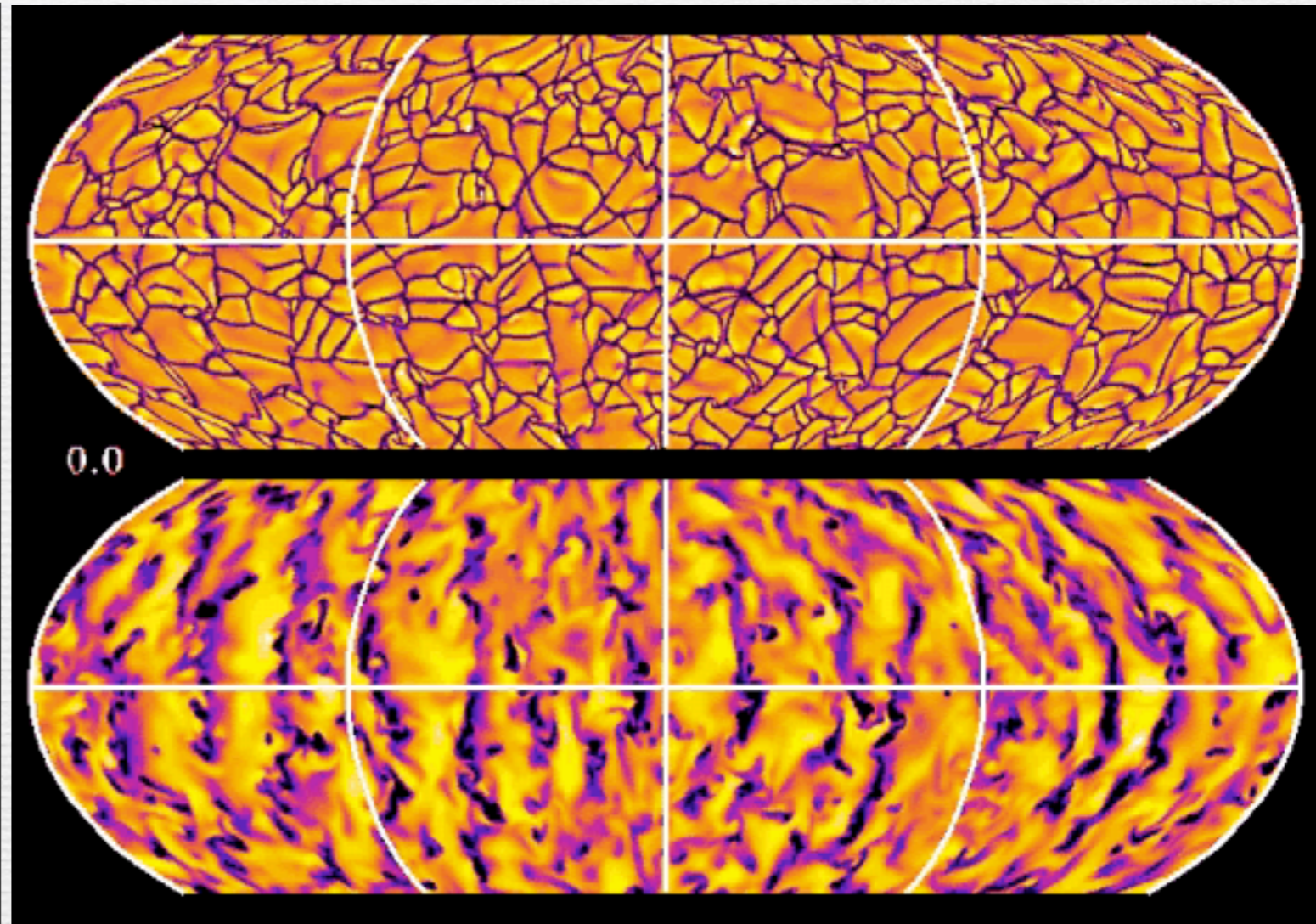
radial velocity, $r = 0.98R$

$L \sim 100 \text{ Mm}$
 $U \sim 100 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
 $t \sim \text{days - months}$

Structure of Giant Cells



**Solar Cyclones at high latitudes
(cool, helical downflows)**



**Convective columns at low latitudes
(thermal Rossby waves: prograde propagation)**

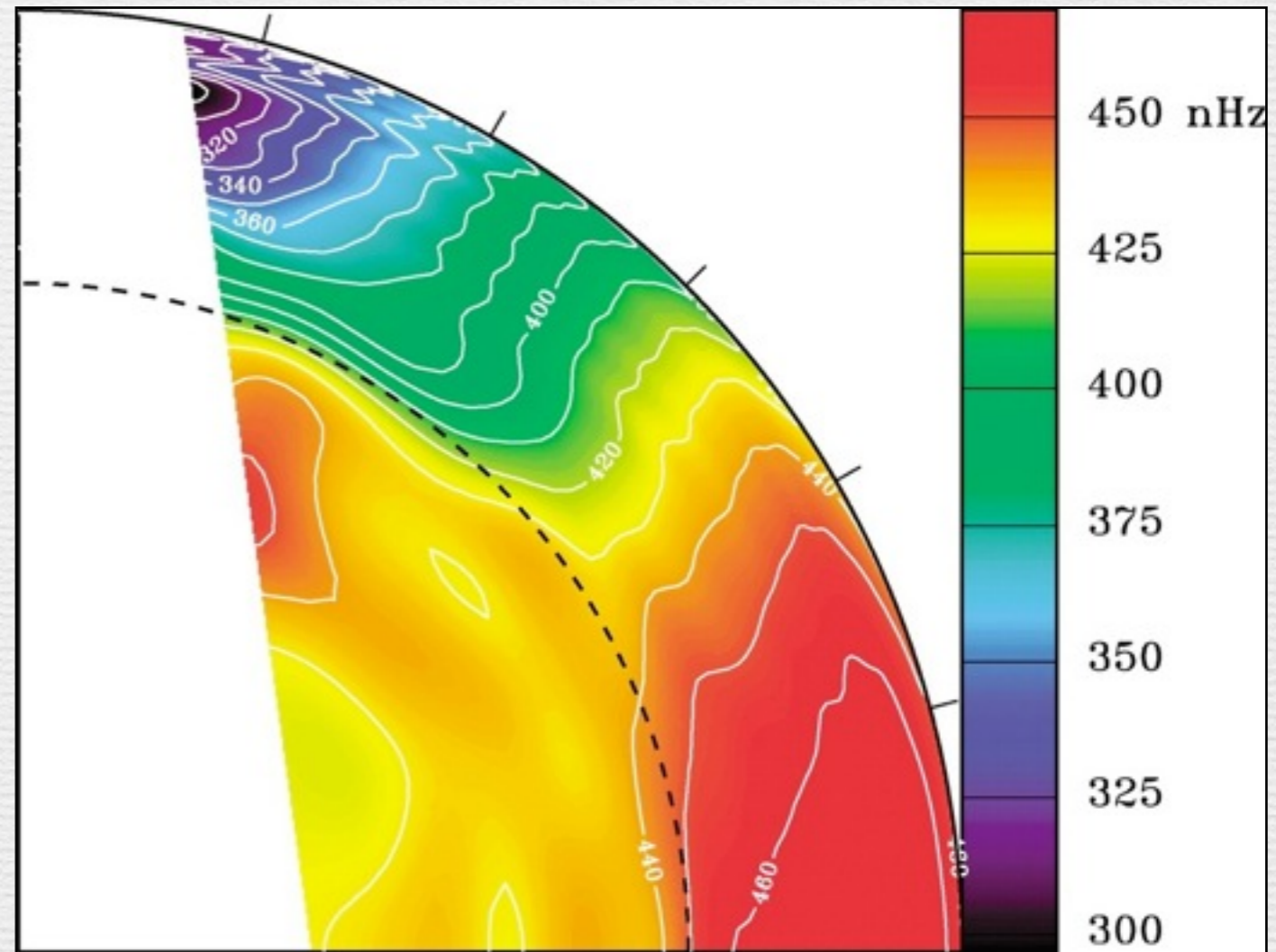
**Giant cells are notoriously difficult to detect
(masked by more vigorous surface convection)**

**However, we're pretty
sure they are there
Because...**

Giant Cells carry energy and redistribute angular momentum



That's how the Sun shines
(Carrying energy from $0.7R$ to surface)



That's why
the equator spins faster than the poles
(Only giant cells are big and slow enough to sense the rotation and spherical geometry)

Differential Rotation

Monotonic decrease in Ω of ~30% from equator to high latitudes in CZ

Nearly uniform rotation in radiative zone

Convection Implicated as source of DR

Nearly radial contours at mid-latitudes in CZ

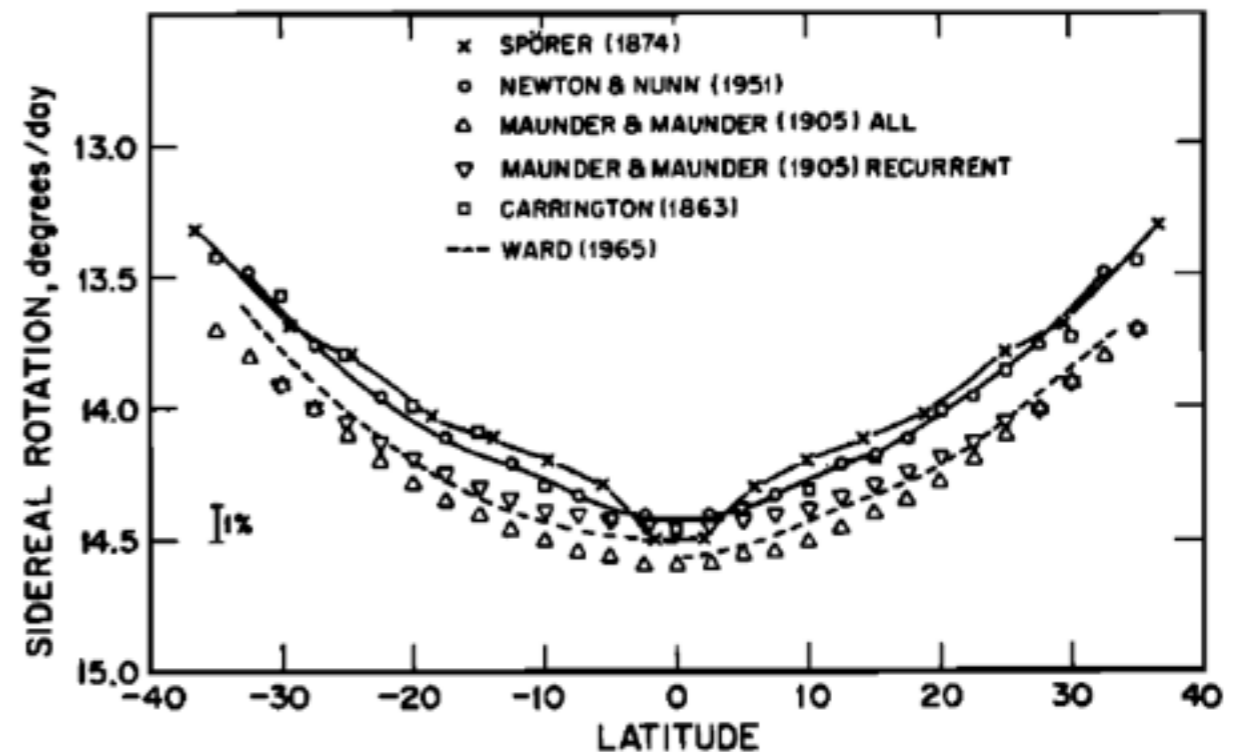
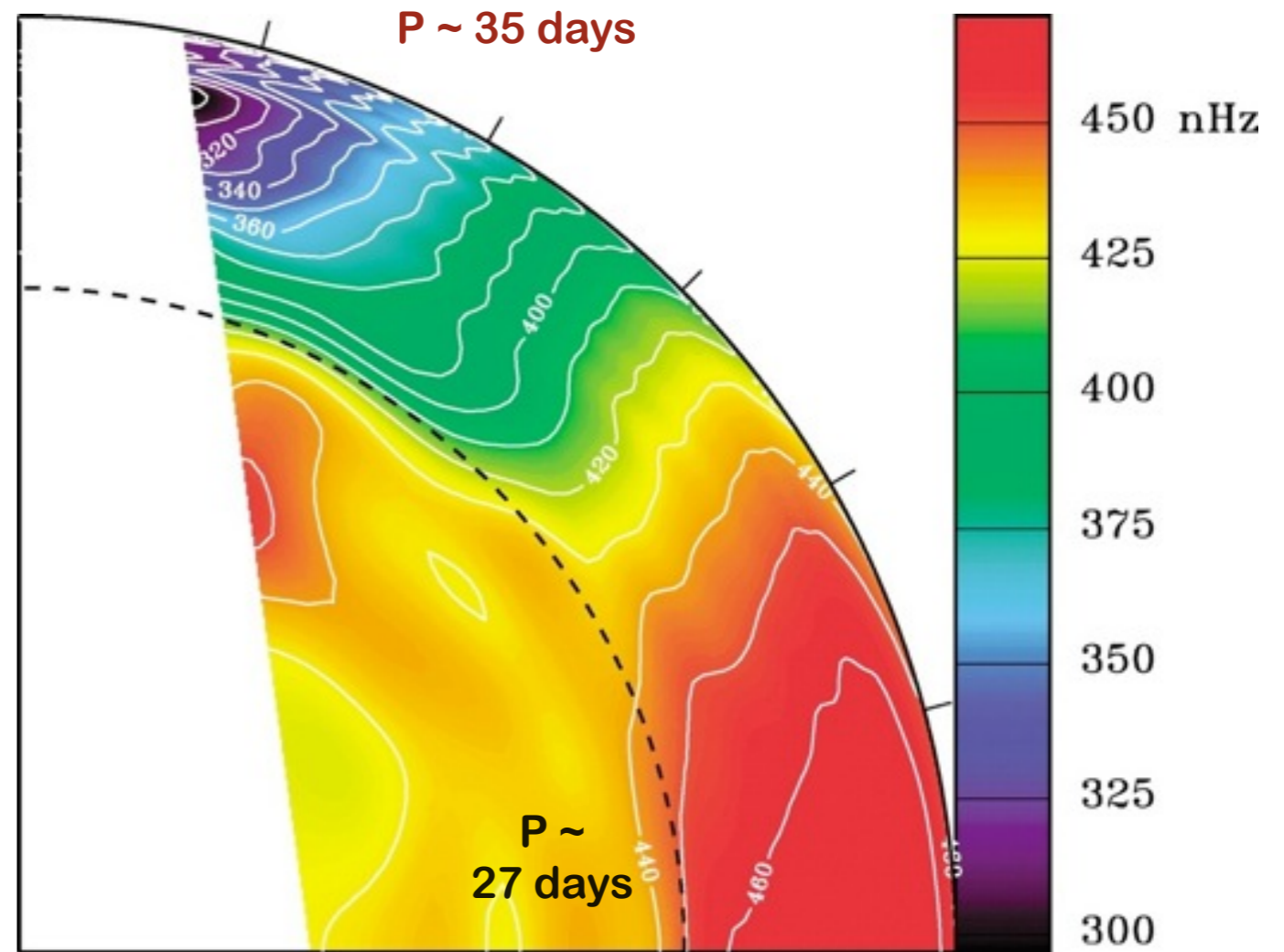
Radial Ω gradients near top & bottom:

Tachocline

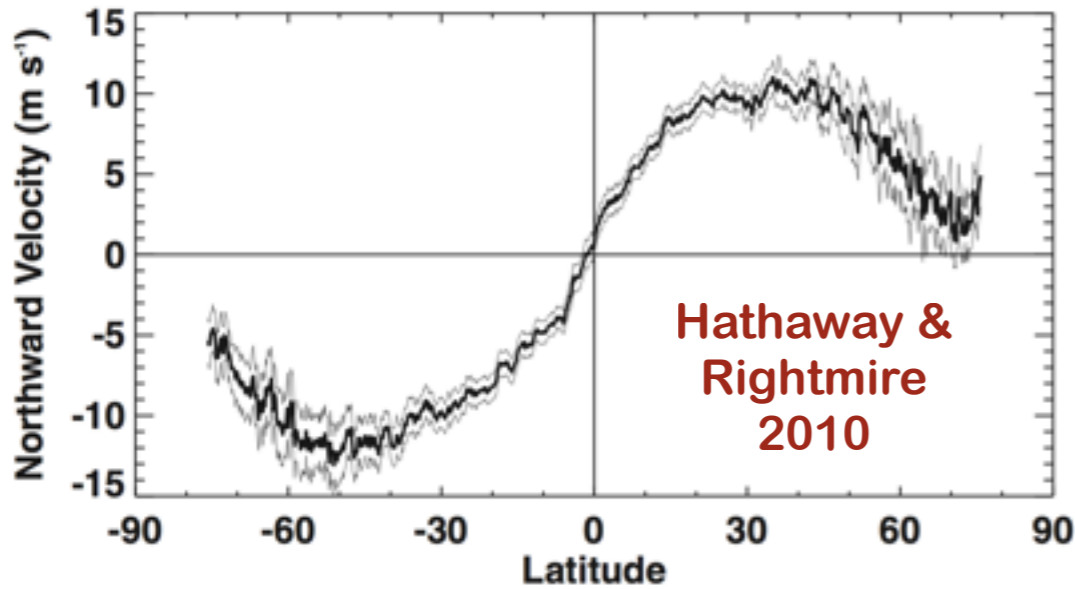
Near-surface shear layer

Interior rate intermediate between equator & poles in CZ

Persistent in time



Meridional Circulation



Systematically poleward at mid latitudes near surface ($r > 0.95R$)

Much weaker than differential rotation (~ 20 m/s)

Variable in time

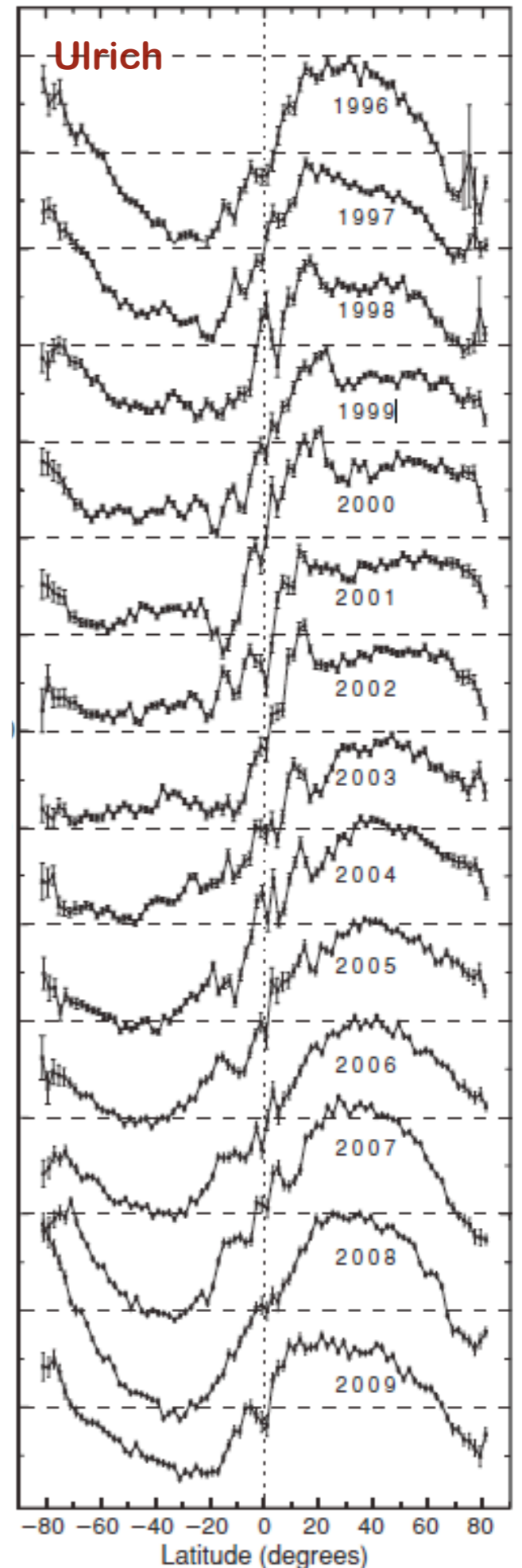
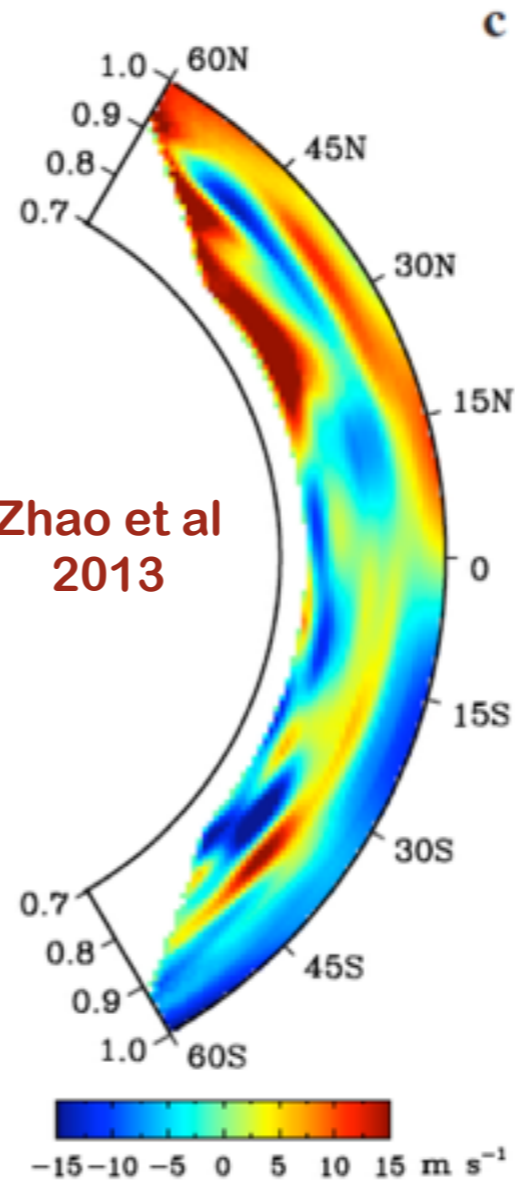
...and that's about all we know!

Observational techniques

Local helioseismology (left and below)

Surface Doppler measurements (right)

Feature Tracking



Reynolds Stress

Angular momentum per unit mass

$$\mathcal{L}^* = \lambda v_\phi$$

Average over longitude

$$\mathcal{L} = \langle \lambda v_\phi \rangle$$

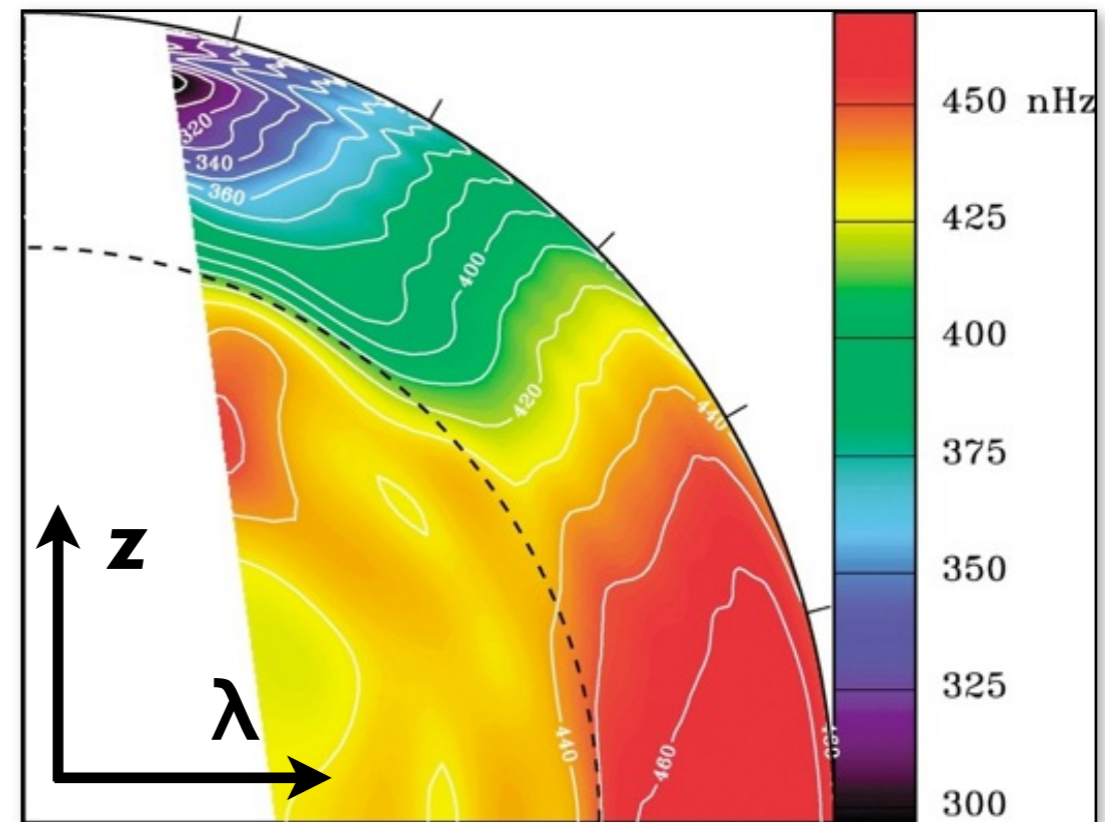
Conservation of ϕ momentum

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho \mathcal{L}^*) = -\nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v} \mathcal{L}^*) - \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial P}{\partial \phi}$$

Now average over longitude and write it as follows

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho \mathcal{L}) = -\nabla \cdot (\mathcal{F}_{mc} + \mathcal{F}_{rs})$$

Conservation of angular momentum



$$\mathcal{F}_{mc} = \langle \rho \mathbf{v}_m \rangle \mathcal{L}$$

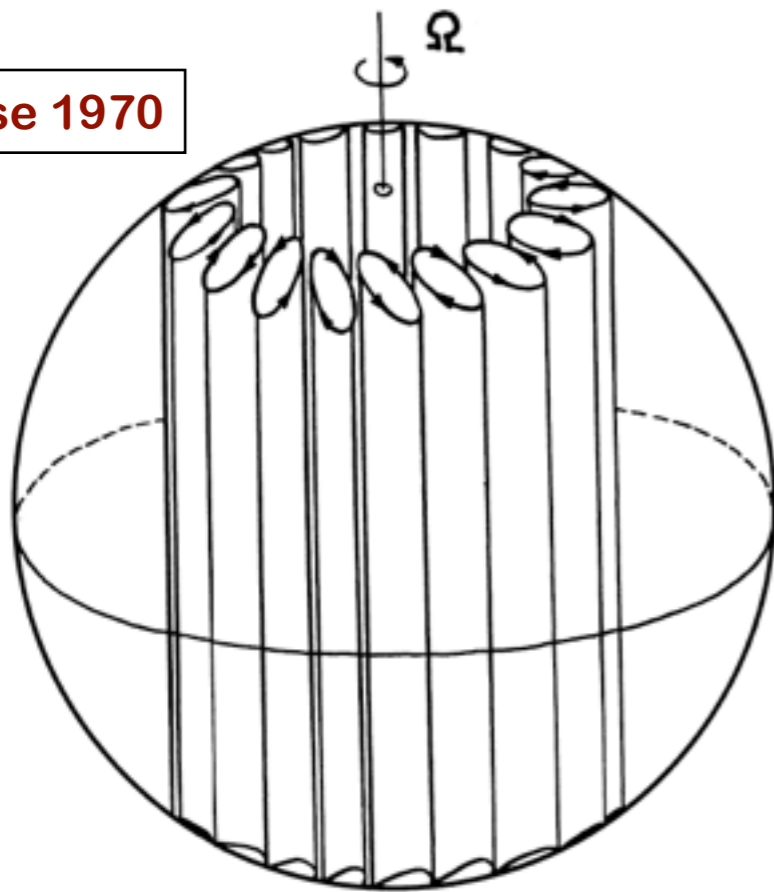
Reynolds stress

$$\mathcal{F}_{rs} = \langle \rho \lambda \mathbf{v}'_m v'_\phi \rangle$$

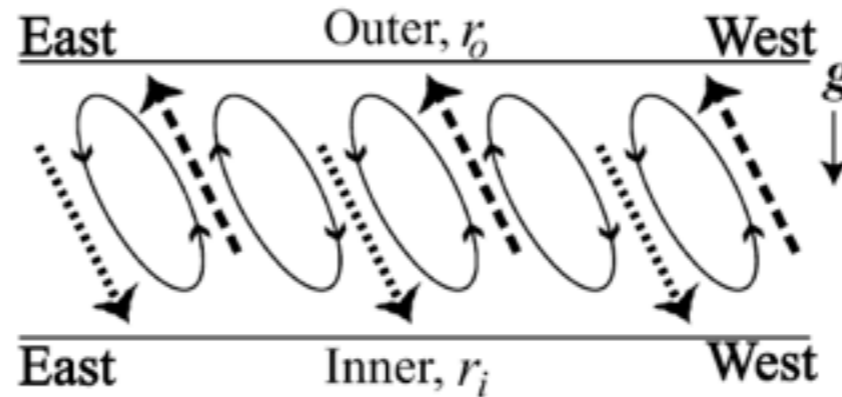
Angular Momentum Transport

Coriolis-induced tilting of convective structures

Busse 1970



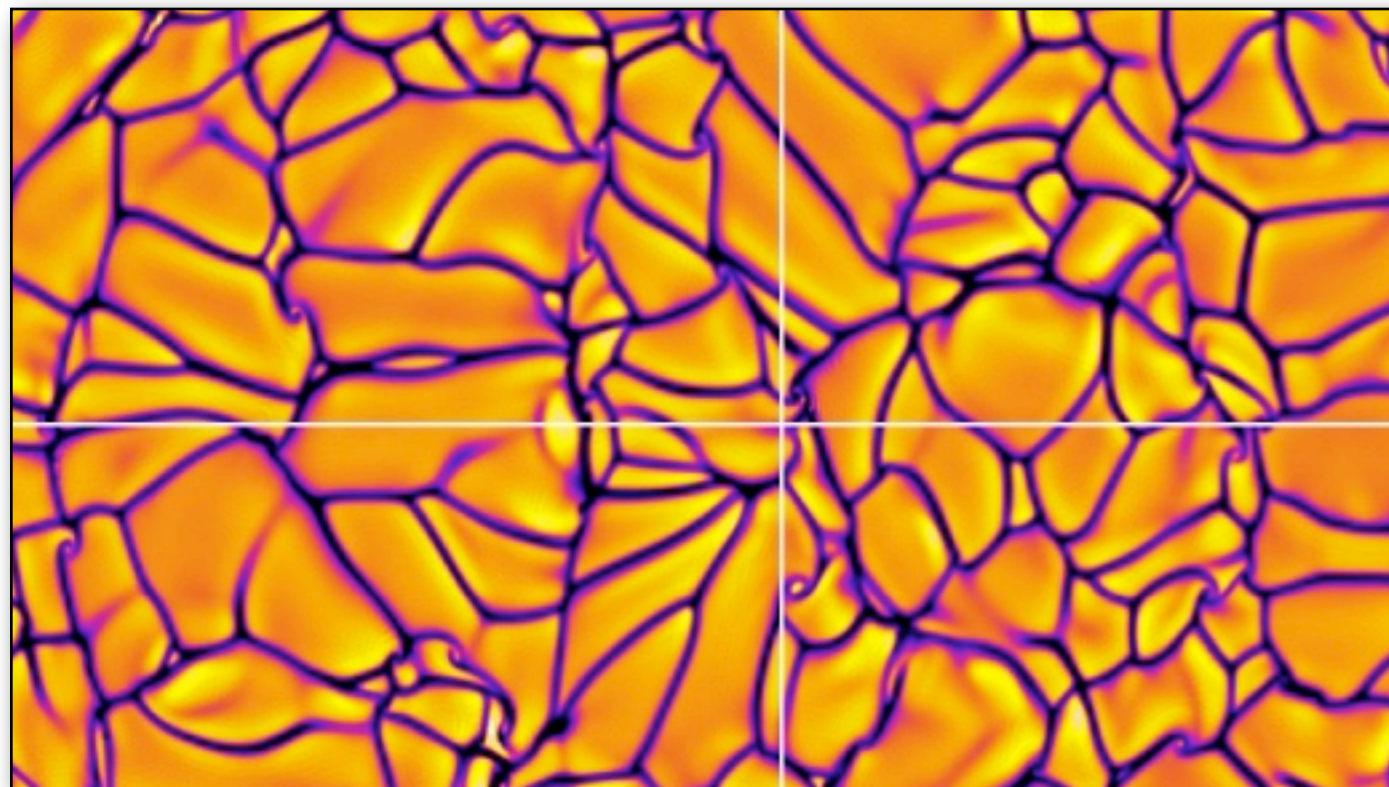
$Ro \ll 1$



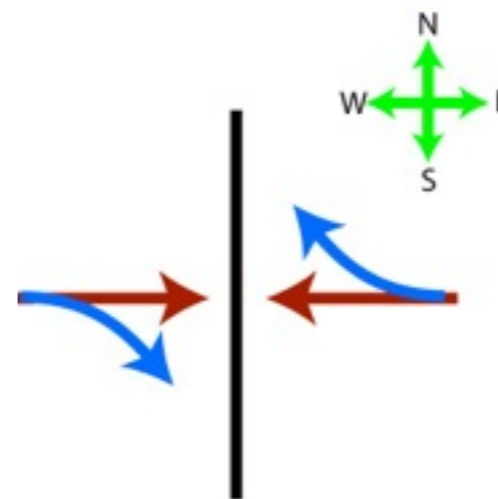
Aurnou et al 2007

$$\langle v'_\lambda v'_\phi \rangle > 0$$

angular momentum transport away from the rotation axis



$Ro \sim 1$



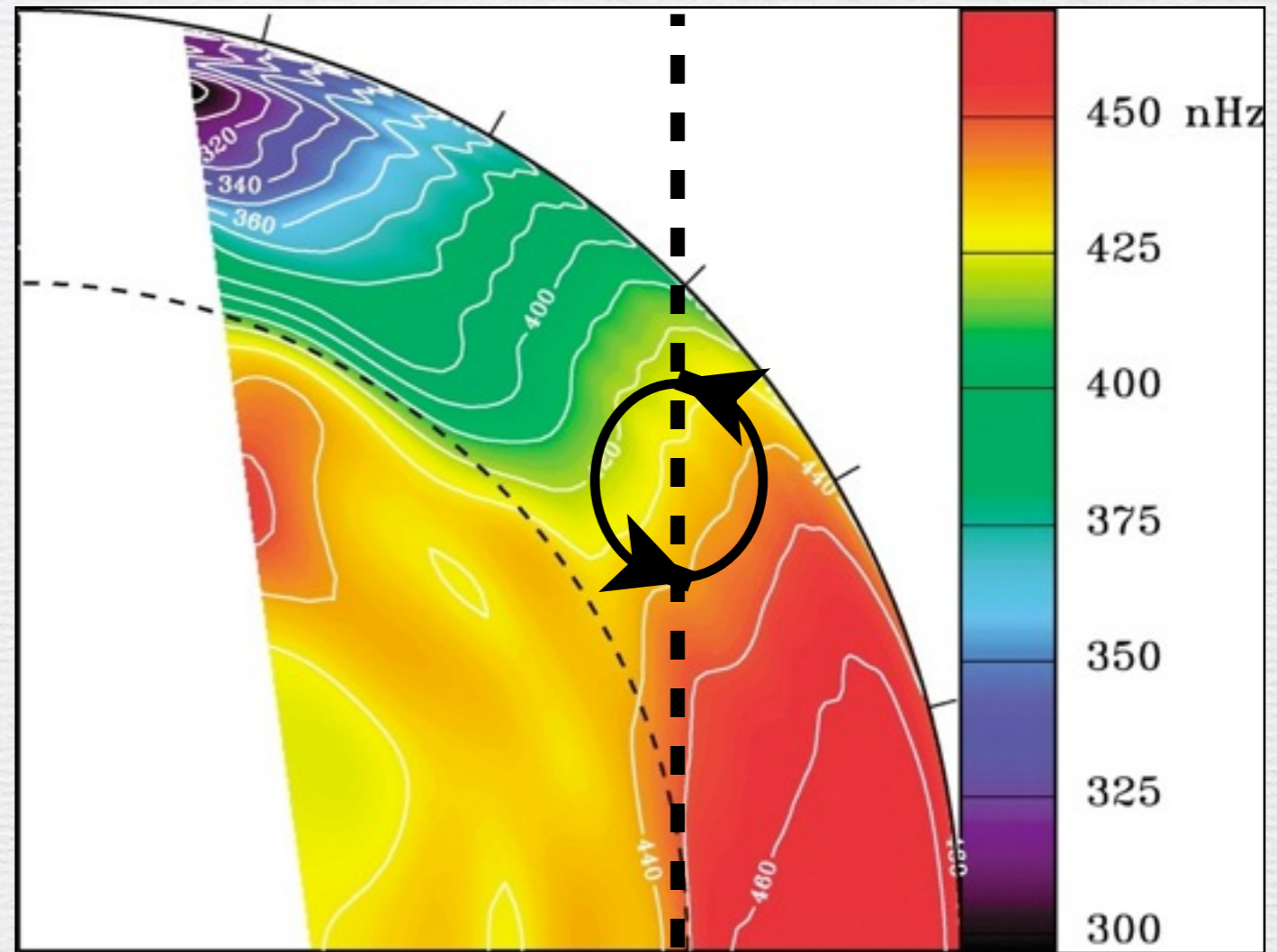
$$\langle v'_\theta v'_\phi \rangle > 0$$

(NH)

angular momentum transport toward the equator

Differential Rotation

**$\Delta\Omega$ Established by
convective angular
momentum transport
(Reynolds Stress)**



Conical orientation of Ω surfaces attributed to thermal gradients

$$\frac{\partial \Omega^2}{\partial z} = \frac{g}{r \lambda C_P} \frac{\partial \langle S \rangle}{\partial \theta}$$

Thermal Wind Balance

Warm poles

offset inertia of differential rotation

**Required amplitudes of thermal
variations tiny: one part in 10**

(δ

2.2million K background)

What about the Meridional Circulation?

How is it maintained?

Answer: it feeds off the differential rotation

Maintenance of MC: Gyroscopic Pumping

Miesch & Hindman (2011)

$$\langle \rho \mathbf{v}_m \rangle \cdot \nabla \mathcal{L} = \mathcal{F}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho \mathcal{L}) + \langle \rho \mathbf{v}_m \rangle \cdot \nabla \mathcal{L} = \mathcal{F}$$

No assumptions beyond basic MHD!

$$\mathcal{F} = -\nabla \cdot [\lambda \langle \rho \mathbf{v}' v'_\phi \rangle - \lambda \langle \mathbf{B} B_\phi \rangle - \rho \nu \lambda^2 \nabla \Omega]$$

Reynolds stress

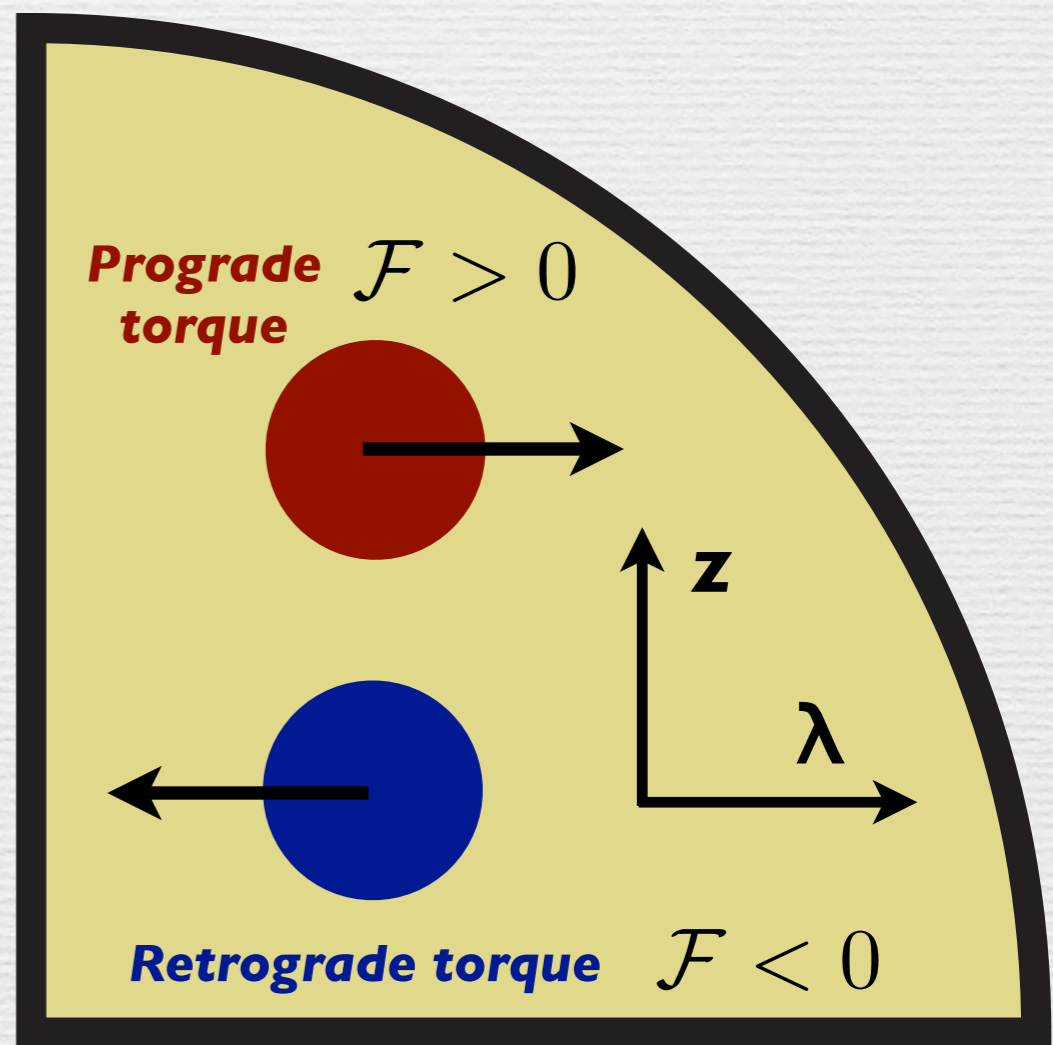
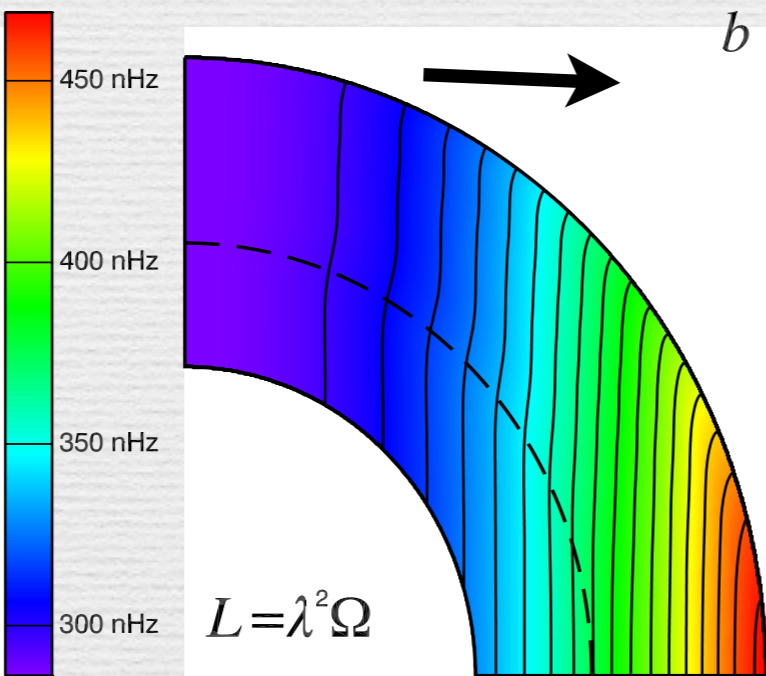
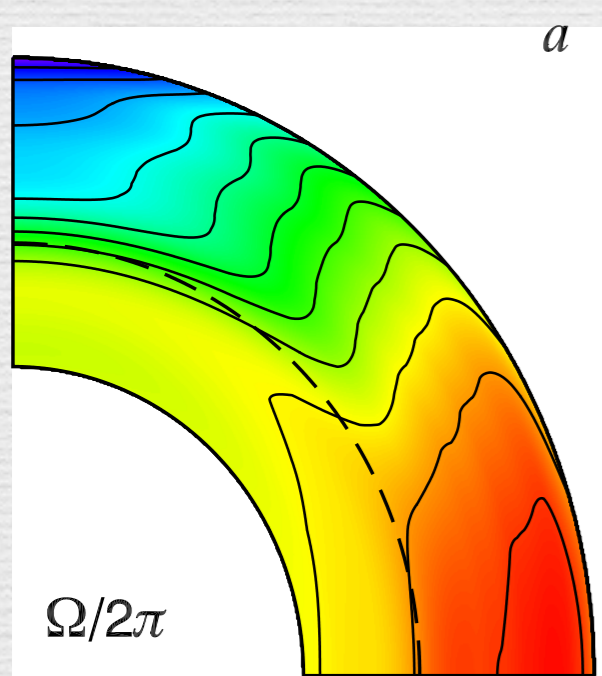
Lorentz force

Viscous diffusion

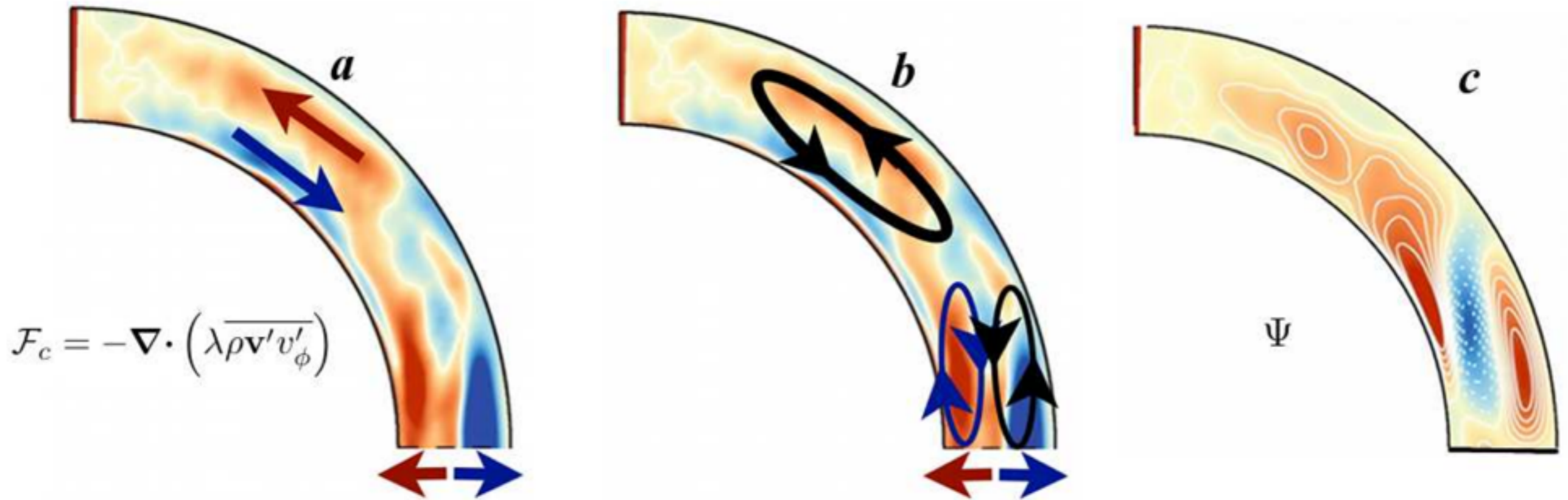
$$\mathcal{L} = \lambda^2 \Omega = \lambda \langle v_\phi \rangle$$

(GONG inversions, courtesy Rachel Howe)

$$\nabla \mathcal{L} \approx \frac{d\mathcal{L}}{d\lambda} \hat{\lambda}$$



Gyroscopic Pumping in Convection Simulations



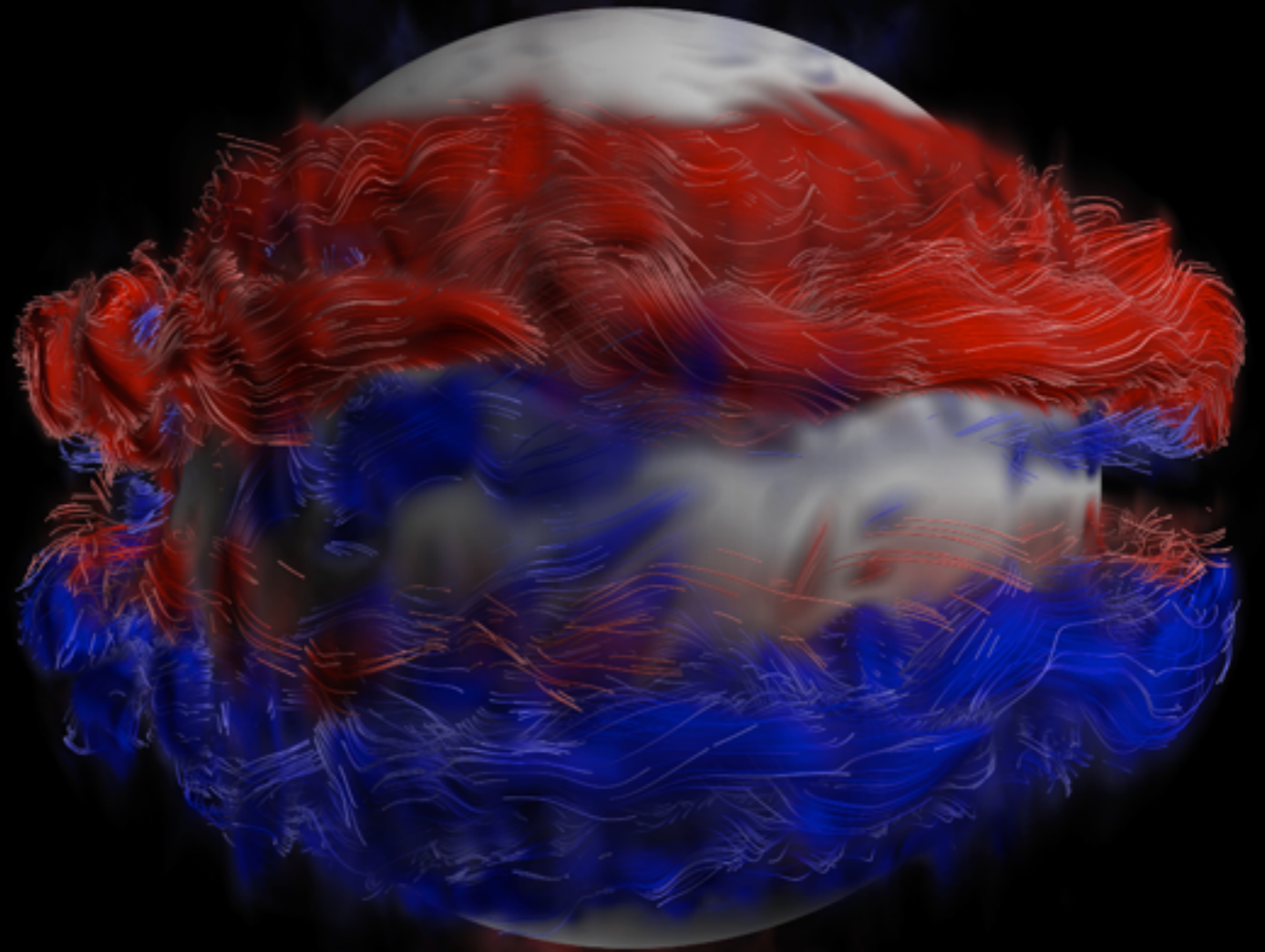
Meridional Circulation mainly depends on the convective angular momentum transport too

$$\langle \rho \mathbf{v}_m \rangle \cdot \nabla \mathcal{L} = \mathcal{F}$$

...Though magnetic fields and thermal variations (baroclinicity) can also contribute

Part 3 (of 3)

- ★ **Solar and Stellar Magnetism**
- ★ **Solar Convection and Mean Flows**
- ★ **Solar Dynamo Models**



Definition

Hydromagnetic Dynamo

A physical object or system that converts the kinetic energy of fluid motions into magnetic energy and sustains that magnetic energy indefinitely against ohmic decay (magnetic diffusion)

Generation of Magnetic Fields: The MHD Magnetic Induction Equation

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} - \eta \nabla \times \mathbf{B})$$

$$R_m = \frac{UL}{\eta}$$

Follows from Faraday's Law of Induction

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

And Ohm's Law (with a Galilean transformation)

$$\mathbf{J} = \sigma (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$$

MHD assumptions

- Highly ionized, Quasi-neutral
- High collision frequency/short mean-free paths
(high density, temperature)
- sub-relativistic bulk velocity

**Lesson # 1 in Solar Dynamo Theory:
If the velocity is specified (kinematic),
the induction equation is Linear**

**Note: this is the
definition of
“kinematic”**

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

Profound implications (immensely useful for theory):

Asking whether or not a given (steady) velocity field will or will not be a dynamo then reduces to a linear instability problem

Solutions are a linear superposition of different modes, each with its own (complex) eigenvalue and eigenfunction

Real part of eigenvalue indicates whether the solution exponentially grows or exponentially decays

Imaginary part determines whether or not the solution is oscillatory (cyclic)

**Lesson #2 in Solar Dynamo Theory:
No real dynamo in nature is kinematic**

**Profound pain in
the neck
(..or opportunity,
depending on your
perspective)**

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

This suggests two classes of dynamos:

Essentially kinematic:

**Make it
stop!**

Small seed field that is initially kinematic (too weak to induce a significant Lorentz force) grows exponentially until it becomes big enough to modify the velocity field

This brings up the crucial issue of: **Dynamo Saturation**

Essentially Nonlinear:

**Make it
go!**

**The velocity field that gives rise to the dynamo mechanism depends on the
existence of the field**

The focus then shifts toward: **Dynamo Excitation**

Lagrangian Chaos

Chaotic fluid trajectories amplify magnetic fields

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} - \eta \nabla \times \mathbf{B})$$

(provided that chaotic stretching wins the battle against ohmic diffusion)

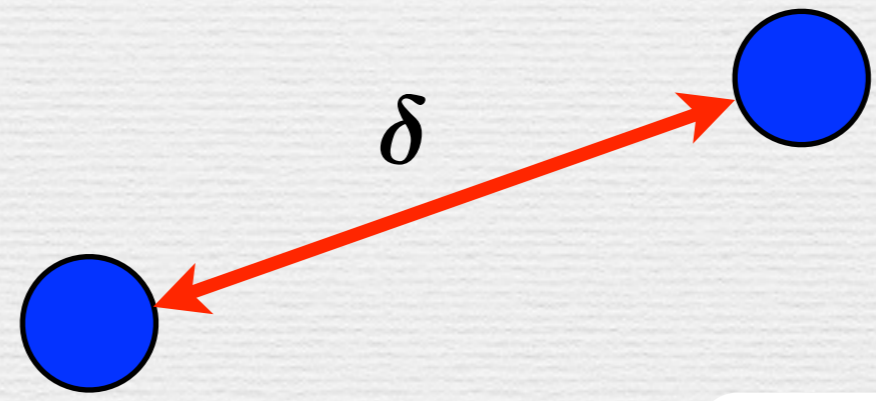
$$\frac{D\mathbf{B}}{Dt} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{B} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) - \nabla \times (\eta \nabla \times \mathbf{B})$$

If $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = \eta = 0$ then

$$\frac{D\mathbf{B}}{Dt} = (\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v}$$

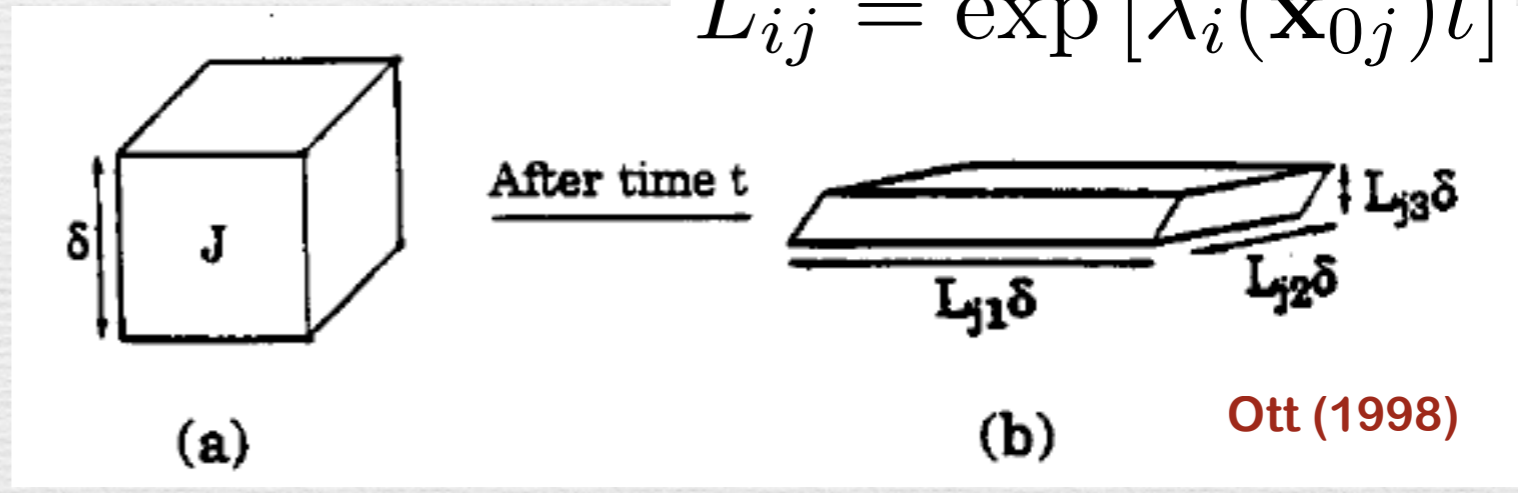
$$\frac{d\delta}{dt} = (\delta \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v}$$

$$\frac{d\delta_i(\mathbf{x}_0, t)}{dt} = \mathcal{J}_{ij}(\mathbf{x}_0, t) \delta_j(\mathbf{x}_0, t)$$



λ = Local Lyapunov exponents

$$L_{ij} = \exp [\lambda_i(\mathbf{x}_{0j})t]$$



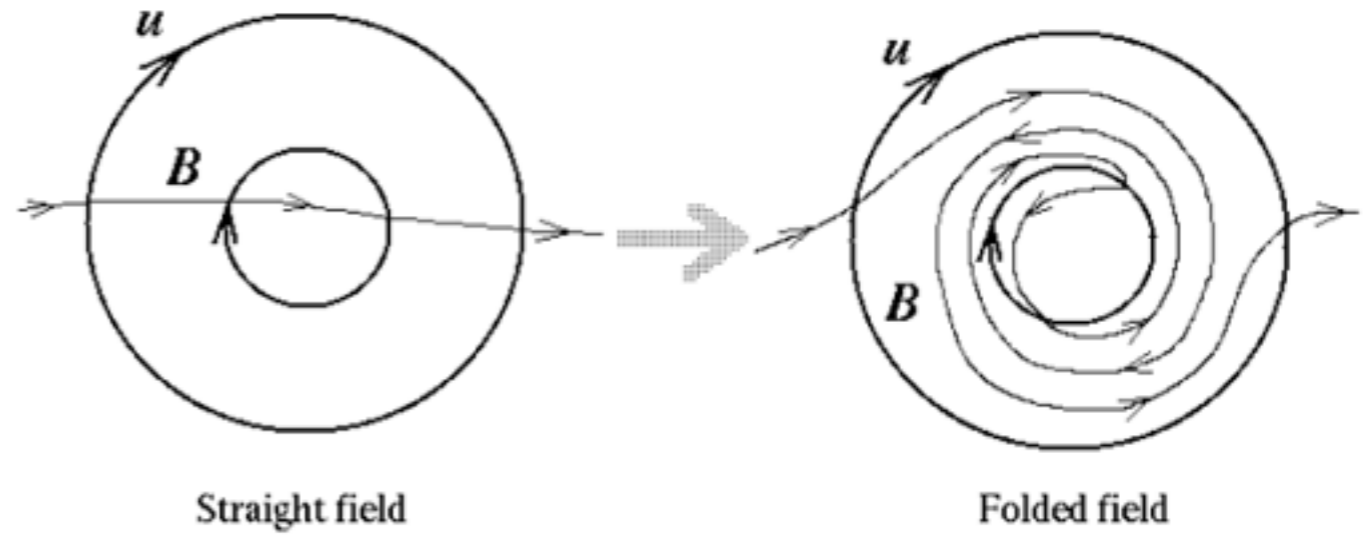
Ott (1998)

$$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = 0$$

Spatially smooth, temporally chaotic flows work best

$$R_m = \frac{UL}{\eta}$$

$$P_m = \frac{\nu}{\eta}$$

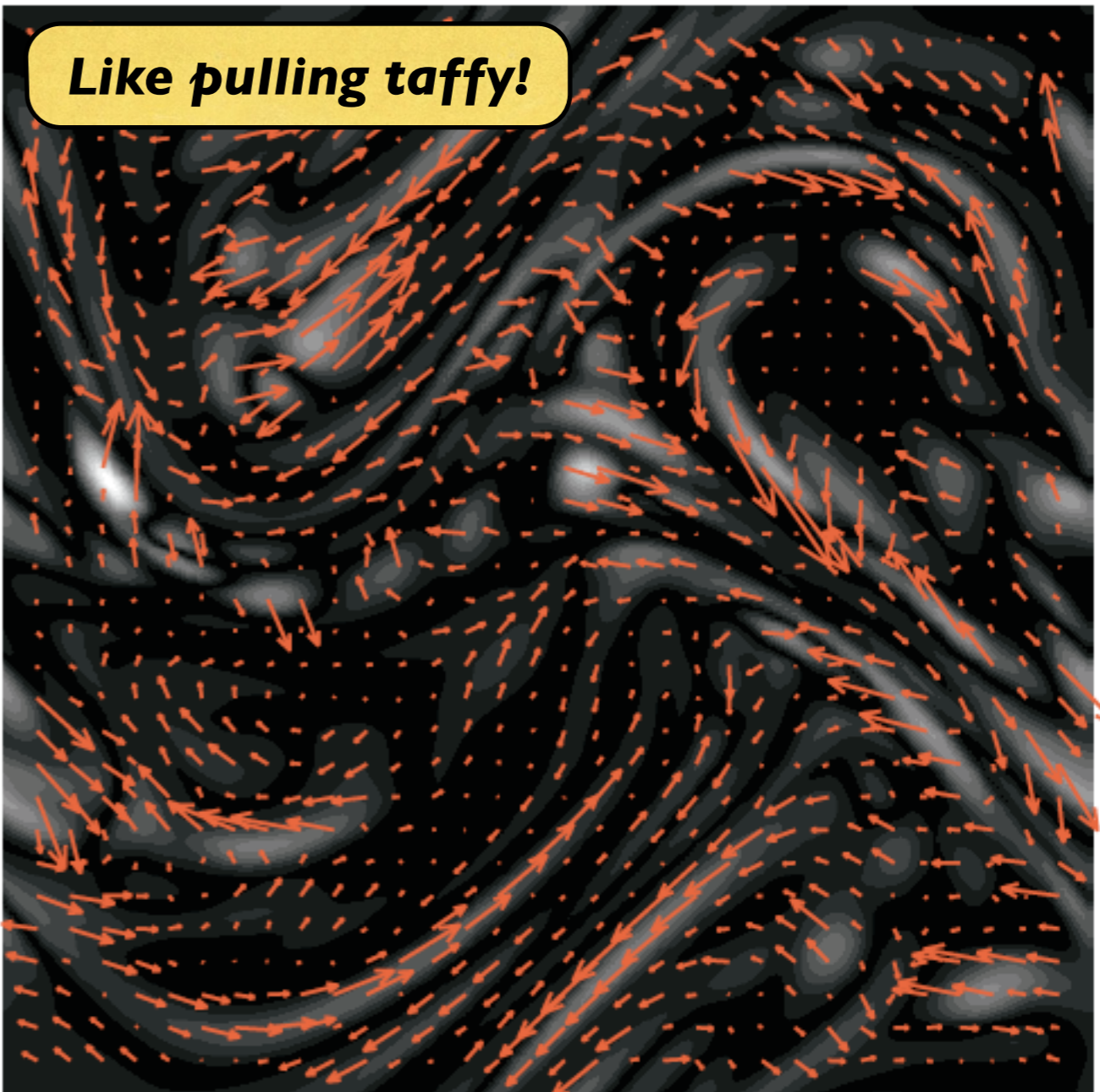


Schekochihin et al (2004)

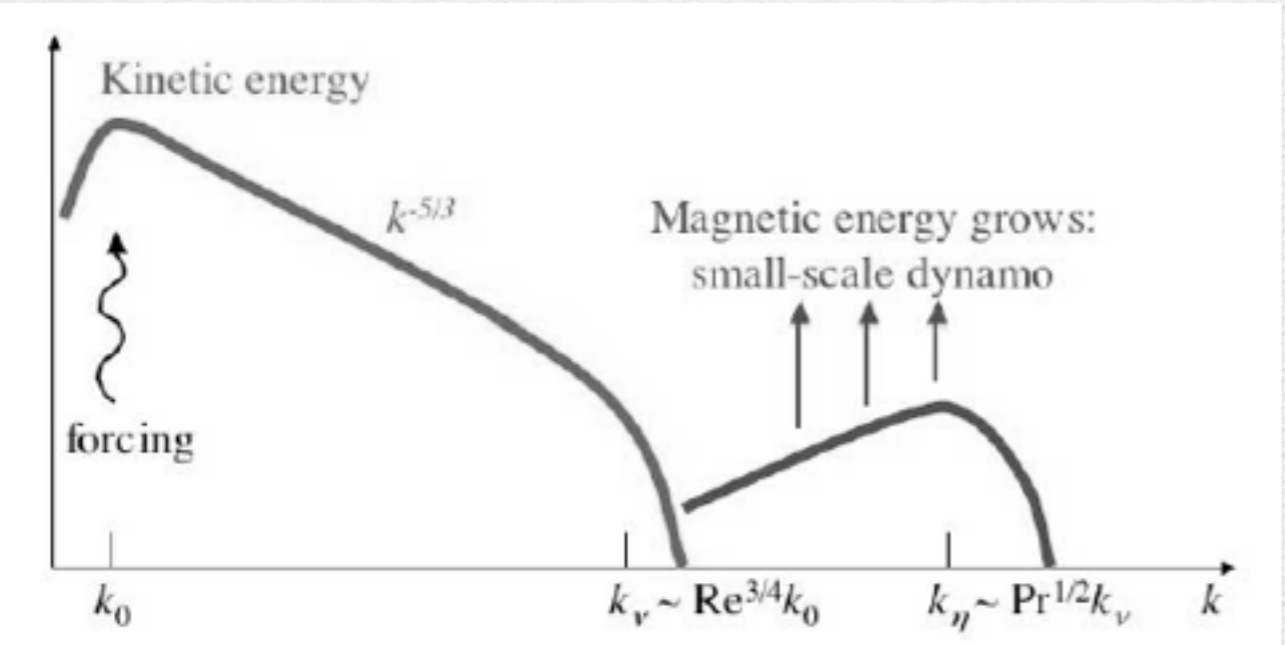
If $P_m > 1$ then turbulent dynamos build fields on sub-viscous scales

Magnetic energy peaks near resistive scale

Turbulent flows beget turbulent fields!



Like pulling taffy!



Local Dynamo Action in the Sun and Stars

Granulation: $\tau \sim 10\text{-}15$ min

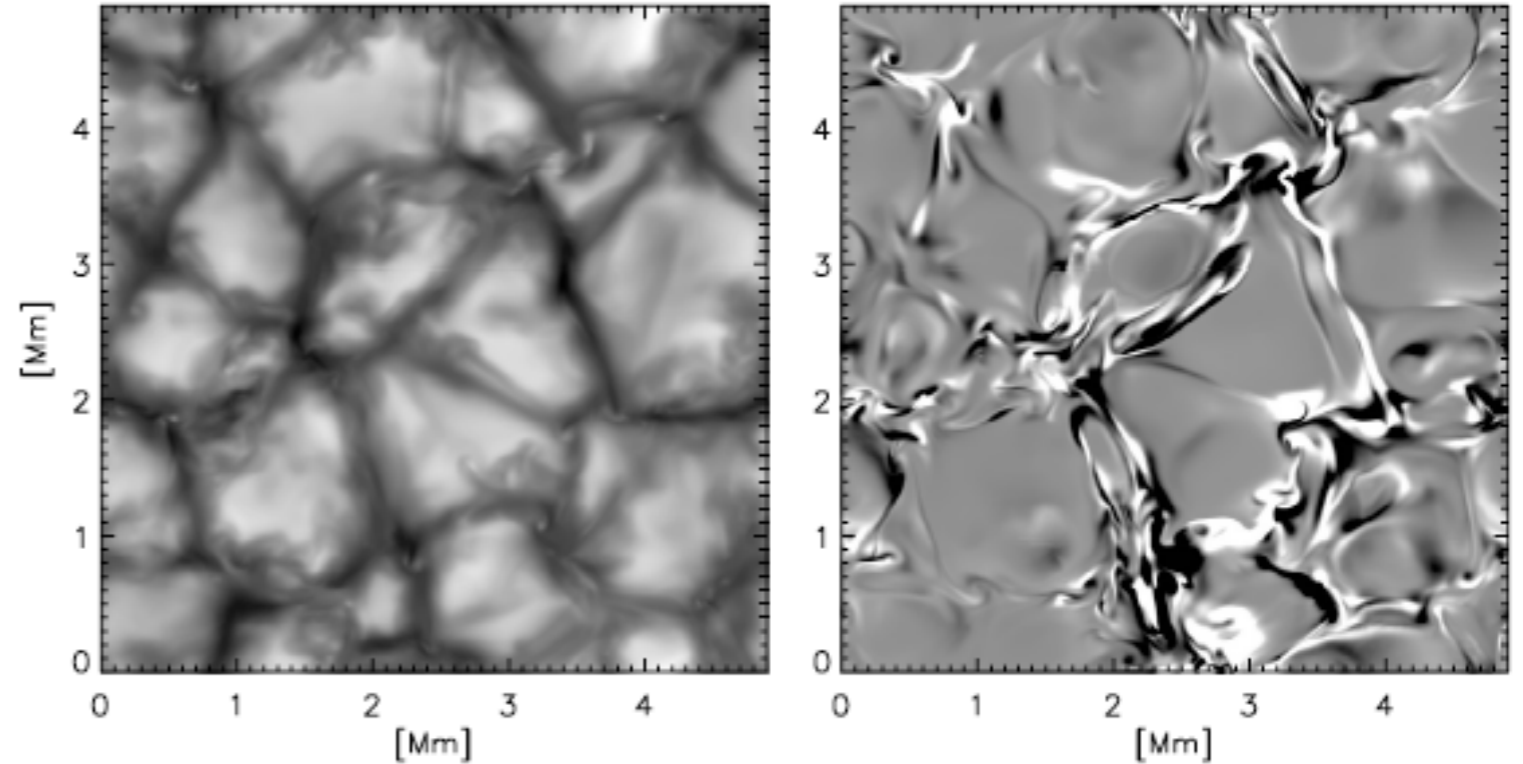
Giant Cells: $\tau \sim$ days - months

Granulation may generate field locally by chaotic stretching with little regard for the deeper convection zone

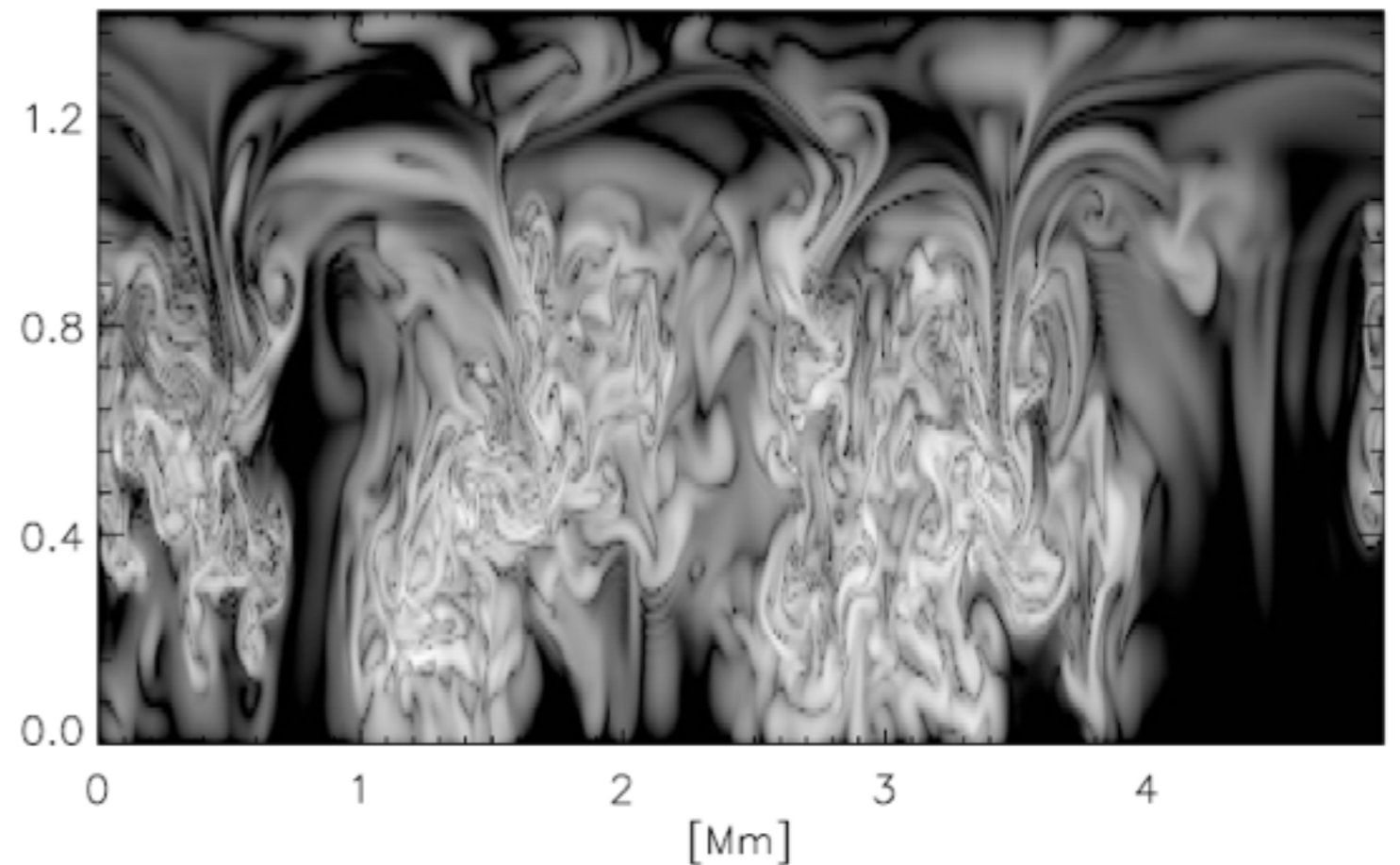
Flux expulsion and reconnection produce strong horizontal fields near photosphere

Magnetic pumping of flux through lower boundary can inhibit the surface dynamo in simulations

In the Sun the local dynamo is likely intimately coupled to the global dynamo



Schussler & Vogler (2008)



Types of Dynamos

define
Small-scale dynamo

Generates magnetic fields on scales smaller than the velocity field

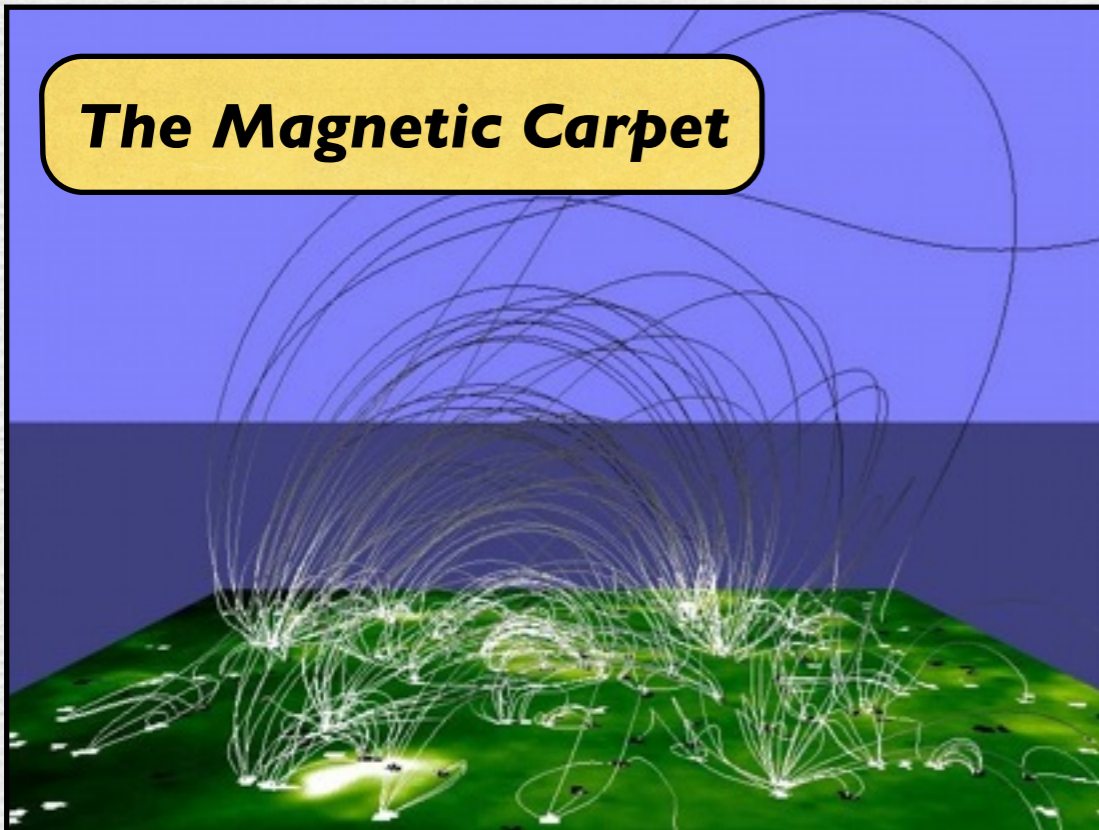
$$l_B \leq l_v$$

define
Large-scale dynamo

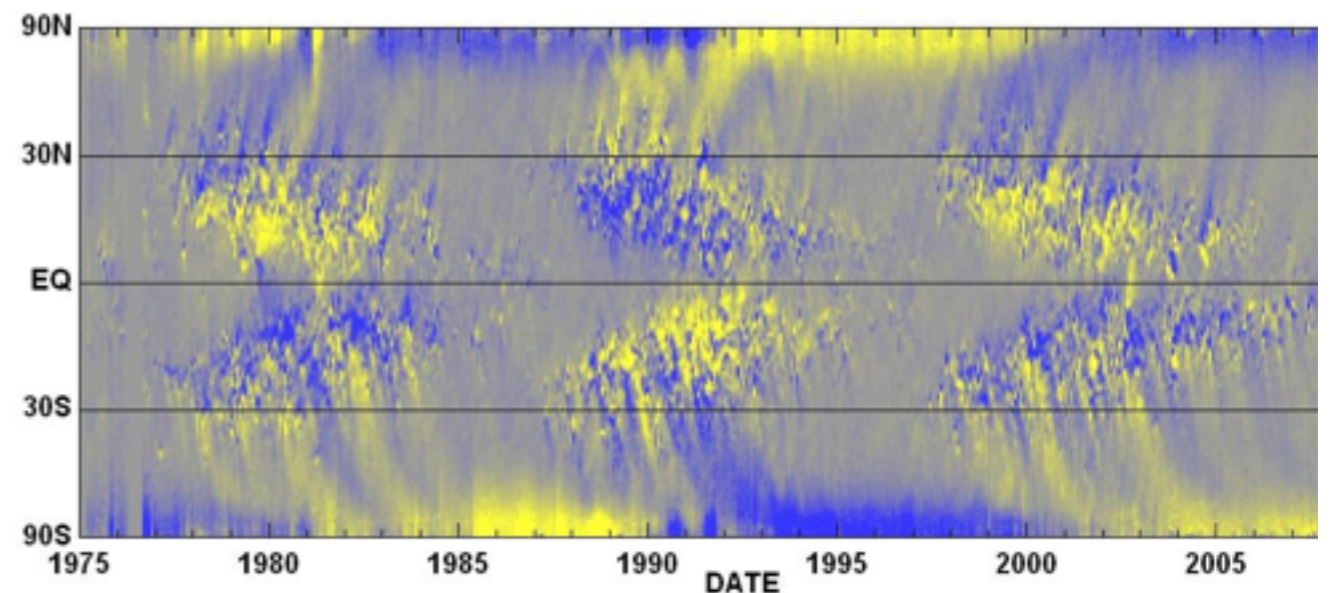
Generates magnetic fields on scales larger than the velocity field

$$l_B \gg l_v$$

The Magnetic Carpet



The Solar Cycle



Recipe for Building Large-Scale Fields

☞ Lagrangian Chaos

- ▶ Builds magnetic energy

☞ Rotational Shear

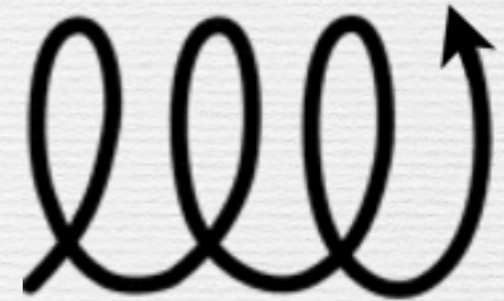
- ▶ Builds large-scale toroidal flux (
- ▶ Enhances dissipation of small-scale fields
- ▶ Promotes magnetic helicity flux

☞ Helicity

- ▶ Rotation and stratification generate kinetic helicity
- ▶ Kinetic helicity generates magnetic helicity
- ▶ Upscale spectral transfer of magnetic helicity generates large-scale fields
 - ◆ Local transfer:
helicity
 - ◆ Nonlocal transfer:



***Specific manifestations of a more general
(and more profound) phenomenon***



$$H_k = \langle \boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \boldsymbol{v} \rangle$$

$$H_m = \langle \boldsymbol{A} \cdot \boldsymbol{B} \rangle$$

$$H_c = \langle \boldsymbol{J} \cdot \boldsymbol{B} \rangle$$

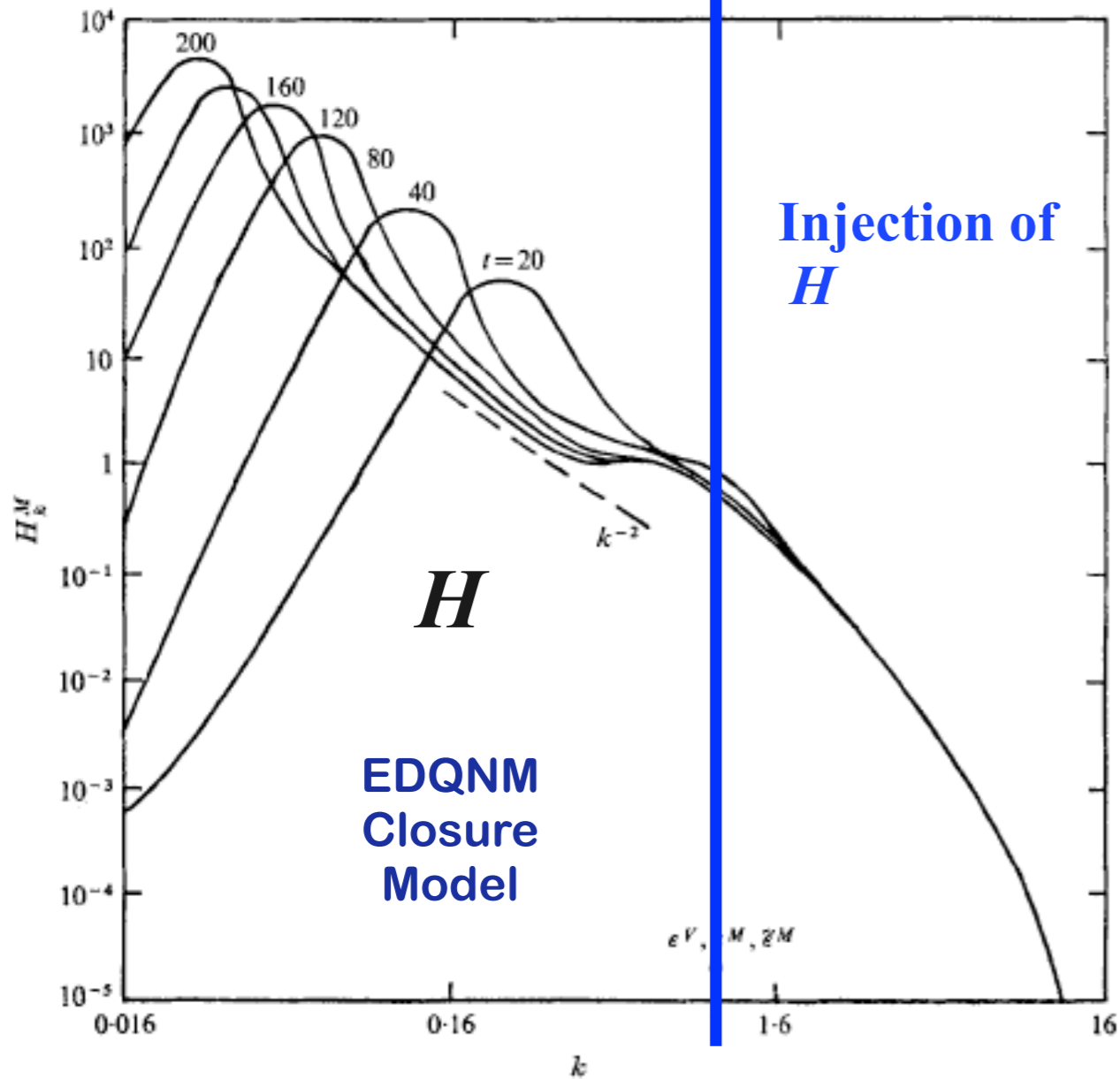
$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \nabla \times \boldsymbol{v}$$

$$\boldsymbol{B} = \nabla \times \boldsymbol{A}$$

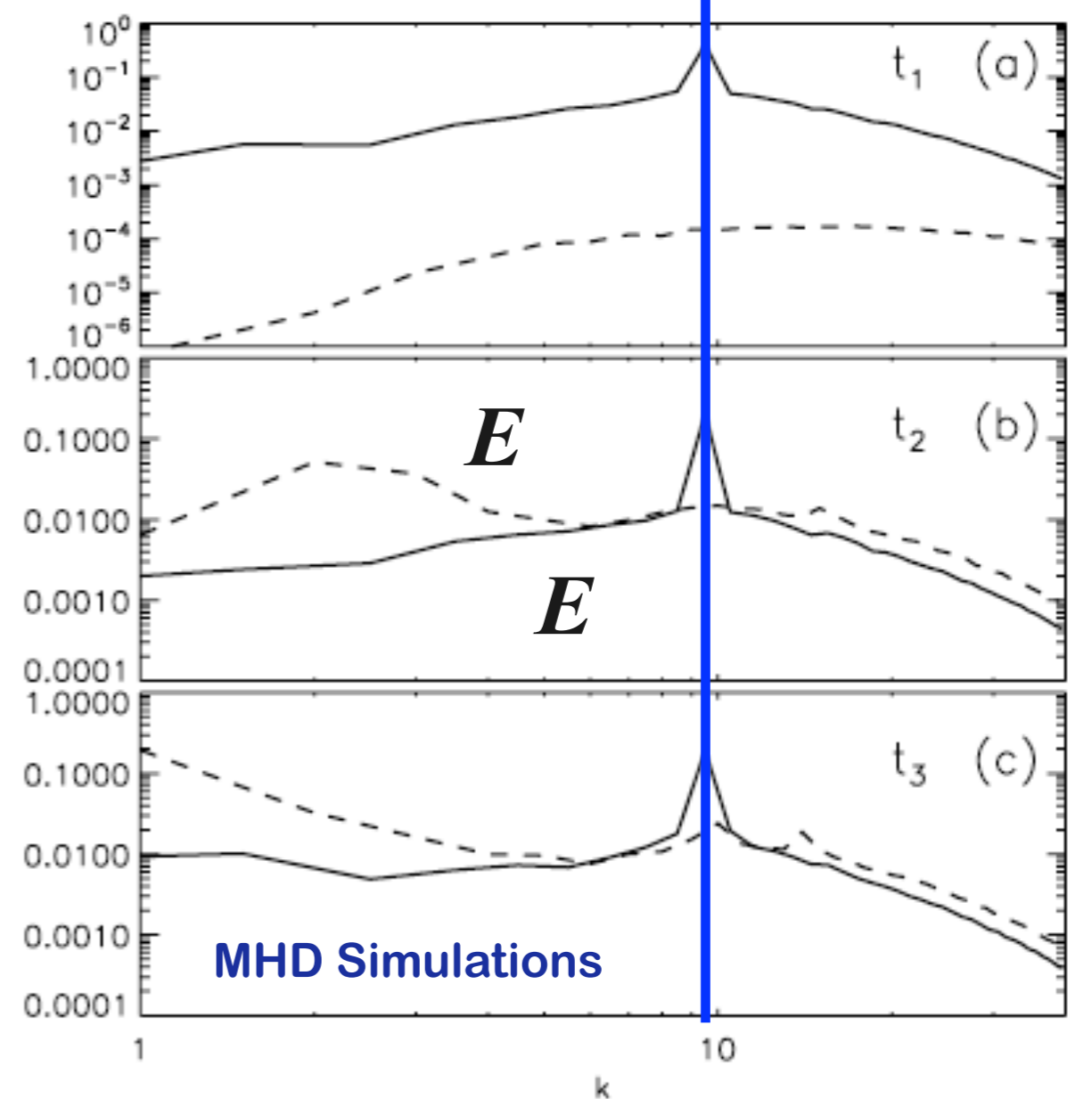
$$\boldsymbol{J} = \frac{c}{4\pi} \nabla \times \boldsymbol{B}$$

Inverse Cascade of Magnetic Helicity

Injection of



Pouquet, Frisch & Leorat (1976)



Alexakis, Mininni & Pouquet (2006)

Magnetic Helicity is conserved in the limit $\eta \rightarrow 0$

Provides an essential link between large and small scales

If you twist the field on small scales, large scales will respond

Large Scale Dynamos: The Mean Induction Equation

$$\frac{\partial \overline{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t} = \overset{\text{\textit{\Omega-effect}}}{\lambda \overline{\mathbf{B}}_p \cdot \nabla \Omega \hat{\phi}} + \overset{\text{\textit{Meridional circulation}}}{\nabla \times (\overline{\mathbf{v}}_m \times \overline{\mathbf{B}})} + \overset{\text{\textit{Diffusion (plasma)}}}{\eta \nabla^2 \overline{\mathbf{B}}} + \nabla \times \mathcal{E}$$

Kinematic, mean-field models

- ▶ Specify Ω , \mathbf{V}_m , \mathcal{E} as a function of r , θ , t , $\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle$

Non-kinematic mean-field models:

- ▶ Solve mean momentum, continuity, and energy equations to obtain Ω , \mathbf{V}_m , as a function of r , θ , t , $\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle$
- ▶ Still have to specify \mathcal{E} as a function of r , θ , t , $\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle$
- ▶ Also have to specify convective momentum, heat transport as a function of mean fields (hydro analogues of \mathcal{E})

3D MHD simulations:

- ▶ Solve 3D momentum, continuity, energy, and induction equations to obtain Ω , \mathbf{V}_m , \mathcal{E} as a function of r , θ , t , $\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle$

Plasma diffusion is typically neglected ($\eta=0$)

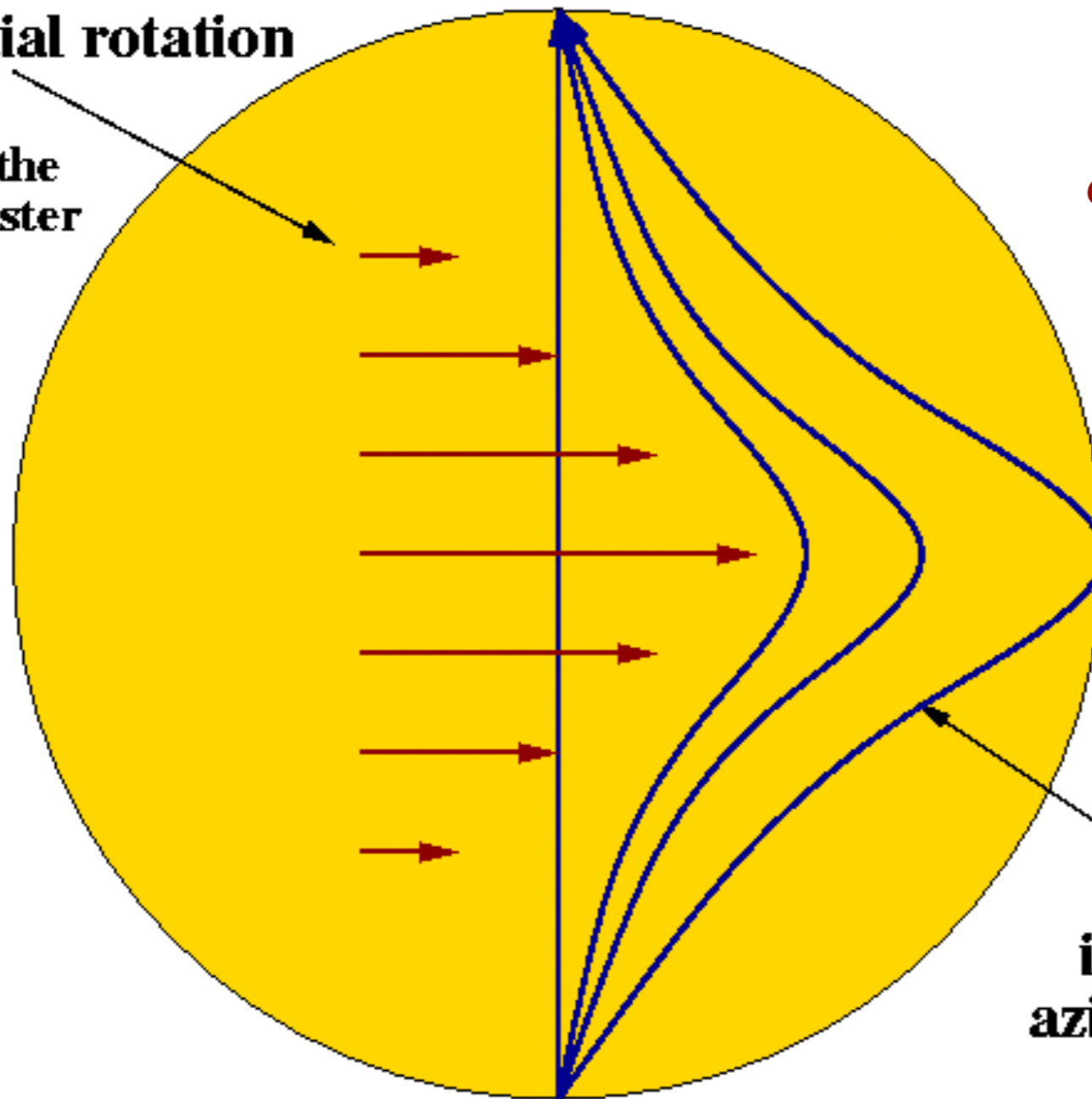
The Ω -effect

Converts poloidal to toroidal field and amplifies it

...by tapping the kinetic energy of the differential rotation

**Azimuthal flow
of differential rotation**

The longer the
arrow the faster
the flow



*(more theoretically justified
and robust than the α -effect)*

**Meridional
magnetic field
is transformed into
azimuthal magnetic field**

The Fluctuating emf

**Straightforward to show that if $\mathcal{E}=0$, the dynamo dies
(Cowling's theorem)**

$$\mathcal{E} = \overline{\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}'}$$

**How can a non-axisymmetric flow across magnetic field lines
produce an axisymmetric field?**

$$\mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{v} - \overline{\mathbf{v}}$$

$$\mathbf{B}' = \mathbf{B} - \overline{\mathbf{B}}$$

Commonly used components of \mathcal{E}

(in Mean-Field Dynamo Models)

$$\mathcal{E} = \overline{\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}'}$$



Turbulent α -effect $\mathcal{E} = \alpha \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \dots$

Amplification

Babcock-Leighton α -effect $\mathcal{E} = \alpha \tilde{\mathbf{B}} + \dots$ **(non-local)**

where $\tilde{\mathbf{B}} = \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \int_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} \bar{\mathbf{B}} \sin \theta r dr d\theta$ is the mean toroidal flux near the **bottom** of the CZ

and $\alpha(r, \theta)$ is confined to the **top** of the CZ

mathematically very similar to turbulent α -effect but physical justification is very different: see next slide

Turbulent Diffusion $\mathcal{E} = \eta_t \nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \dots$

Magnetic Pumping $\mathcal{E} = \gamma \times \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \dots$

Transport

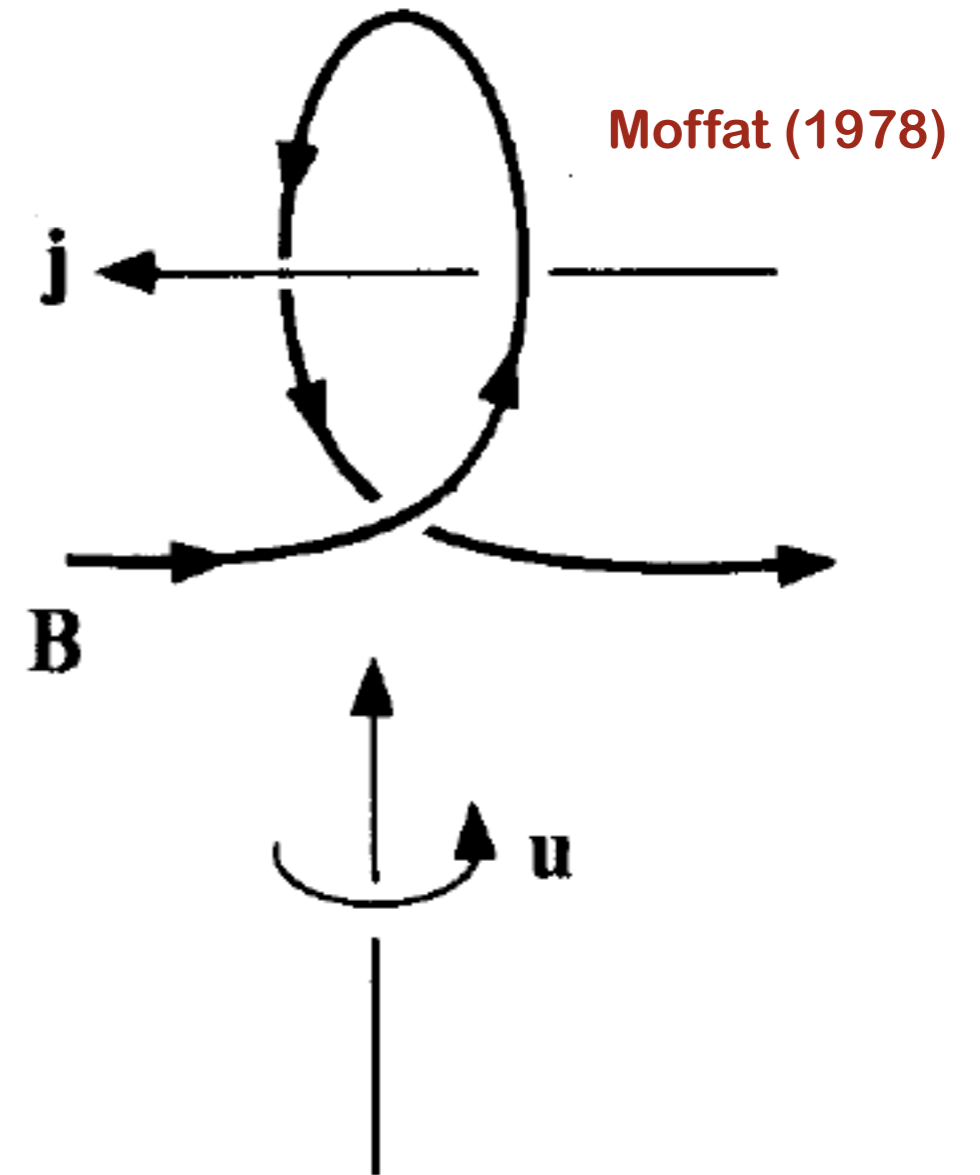
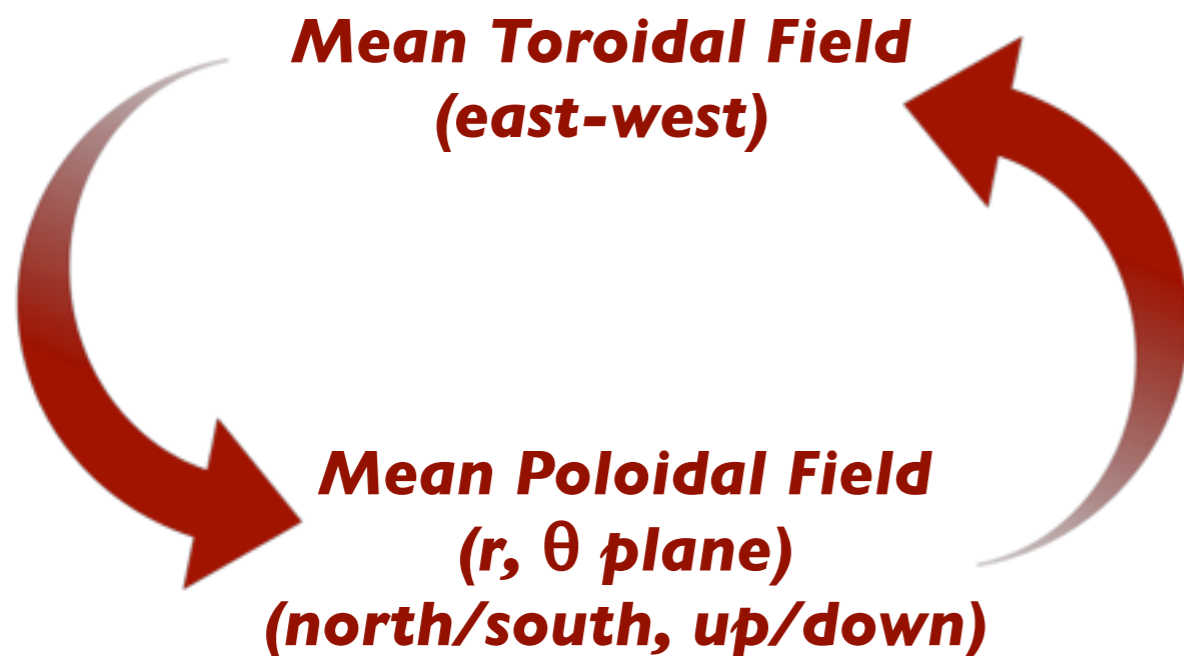
The turbulent α -effect

Helical motions (lift, twist) can induce an emf that is parallel to the mean field

$$\mathcal{E} = \overline{\mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}'} = \alpha \overline{\mathbf{B}}$$

This creates mean poloidal (r, θ) field from toroidal (ϕ) field

which closes the Dynamo Loop



Linked to kinetic, magnetic helicity

Linked to large-scale dynamo action

Illustrates the 3D nature of dynamos

Flux Emergence and the Babcock-Leighton Mechanism

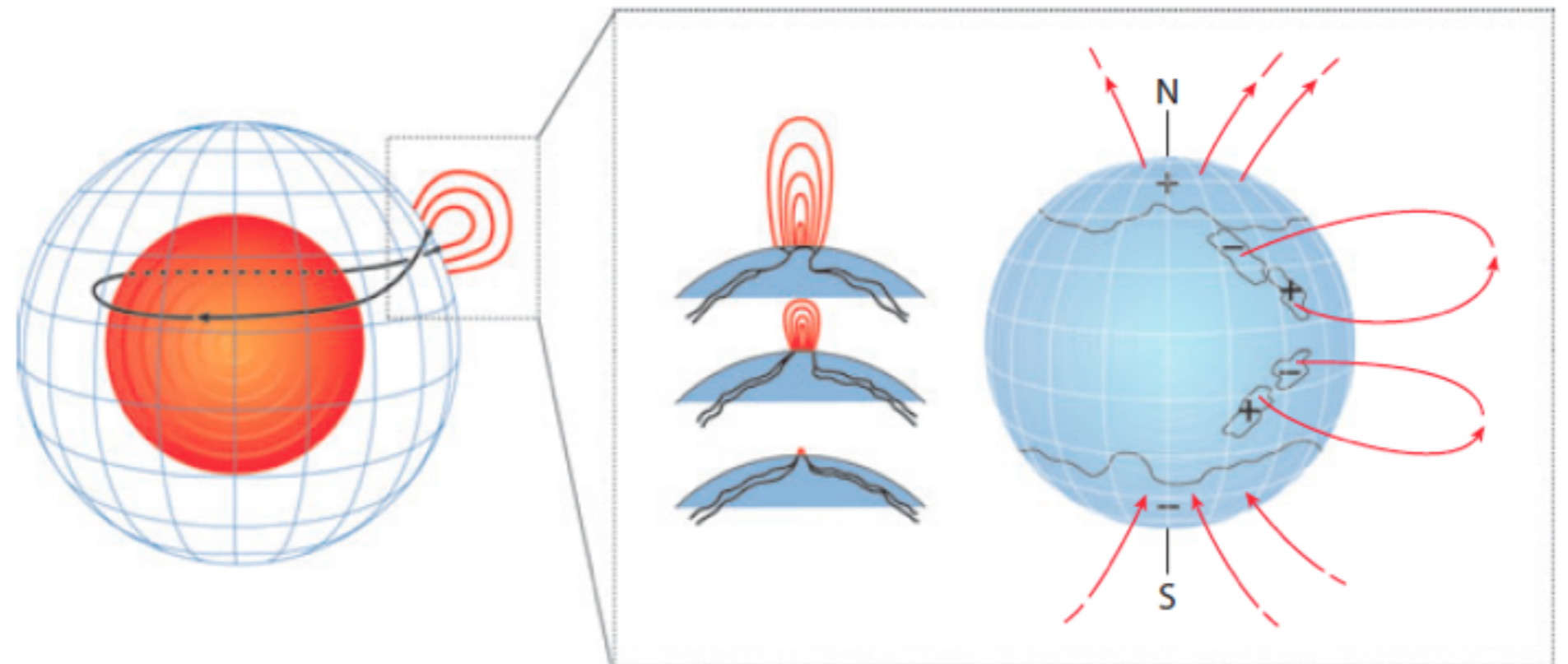
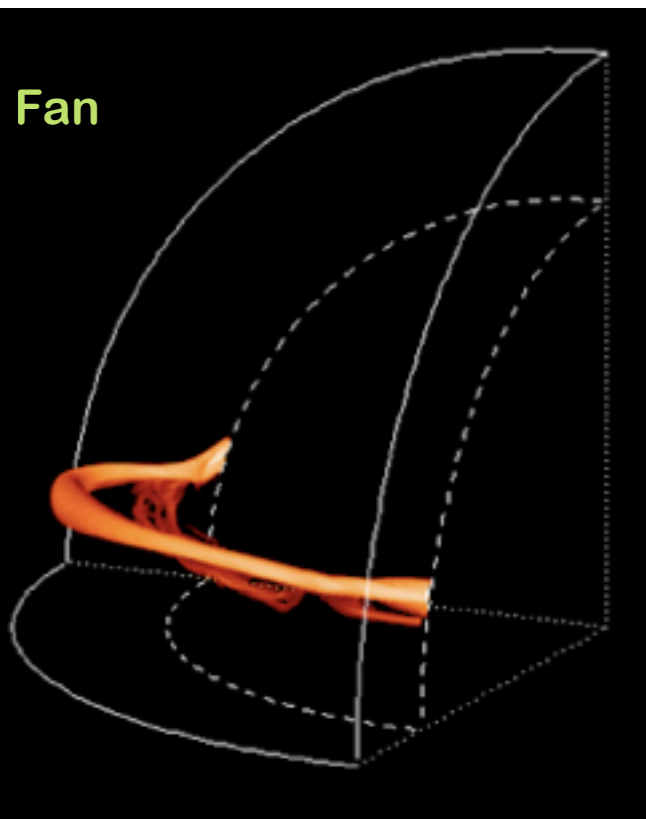
Toroidal flux tubes form in the lower CZ through differential rotation (Ω -effect)

They destabilize and rise through the CZ by means of *magnetic buoyancy*

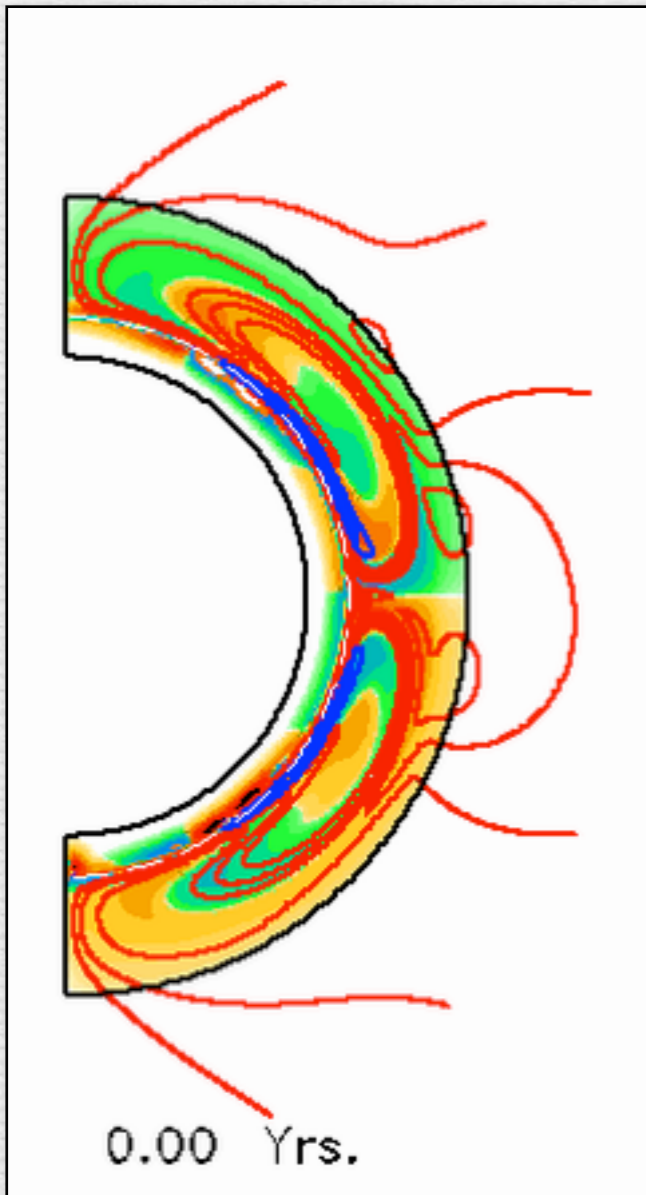
**Trailing member of the spot pair is displaced poleward relative to leading edge
(*Joy's law*: thought to be a consequence of the Coriolis force)**

Polarity of leading and trailing spots is opposite in each hemisphere and reverses each sunspot cycle (*Hale's law*)

Dispersal by convection and meridional flow acts to reverse the pre-existing poloidal field

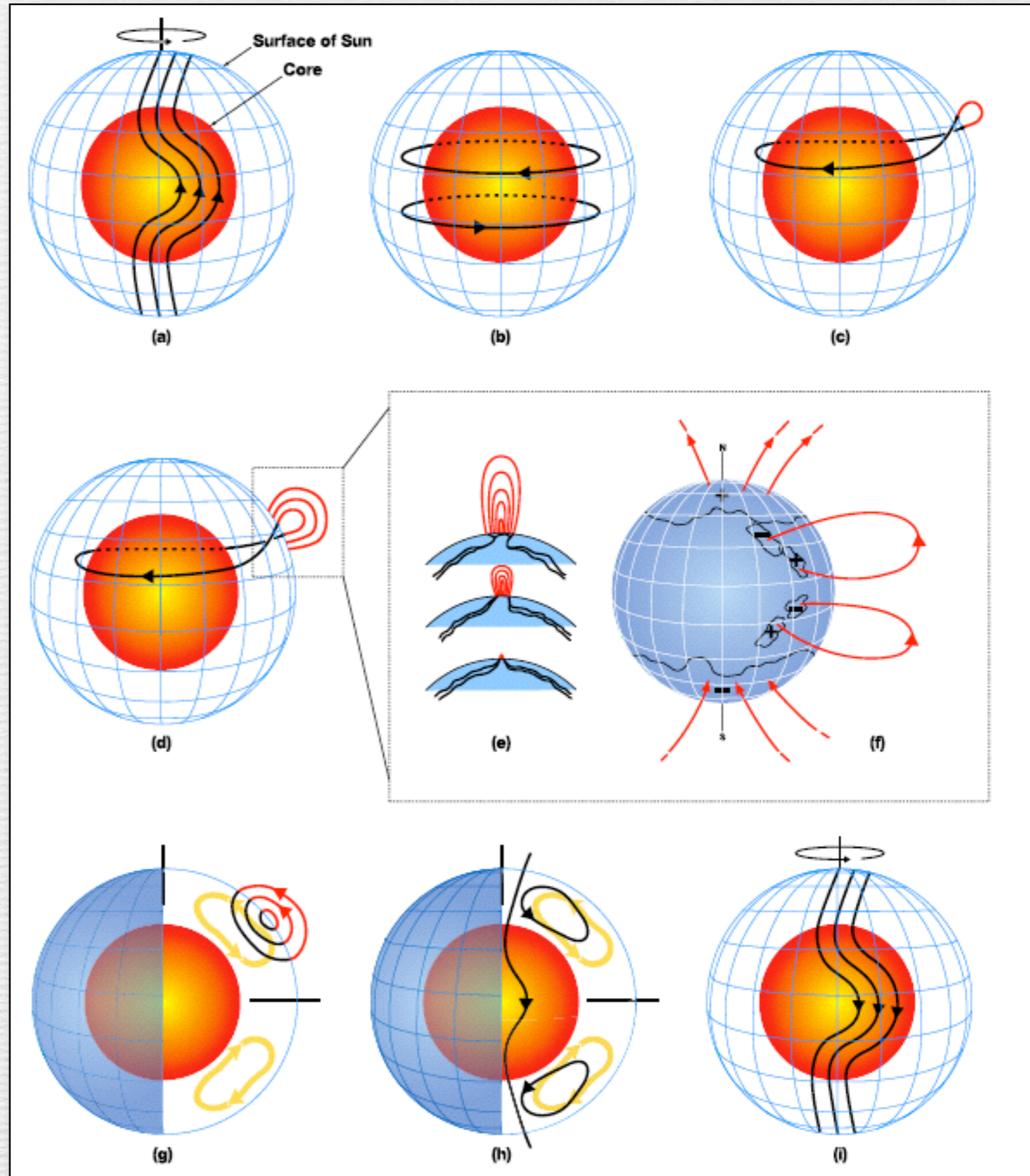


Babcock-Leighton Dynamo Models

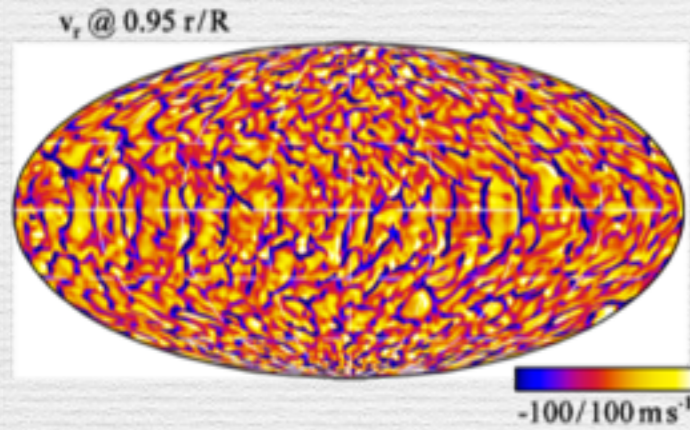


Dikpati & Gilman 2006

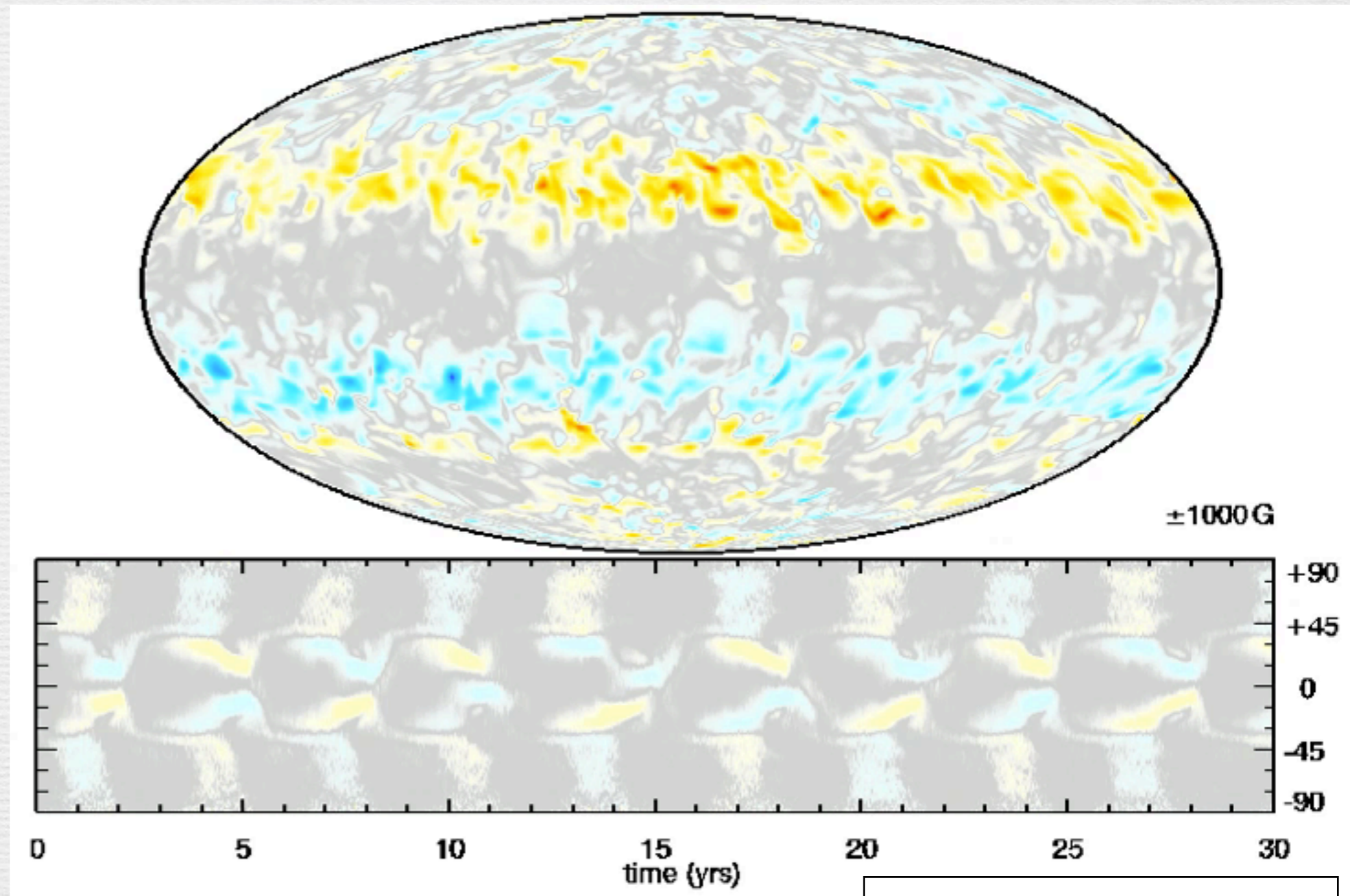
a.k.a.
Flux-Transport Dynamo
Models



Magnetic Cycles in Convective Dynamos

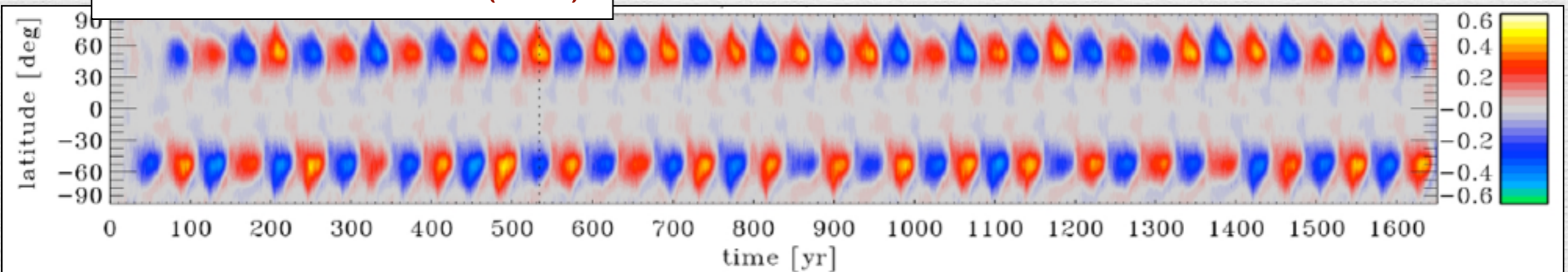


***Dramatic
progress in the
last 5 years***



Augustson et al. (2014)

Passos & Charbonneau (2014)



Why 11 years?

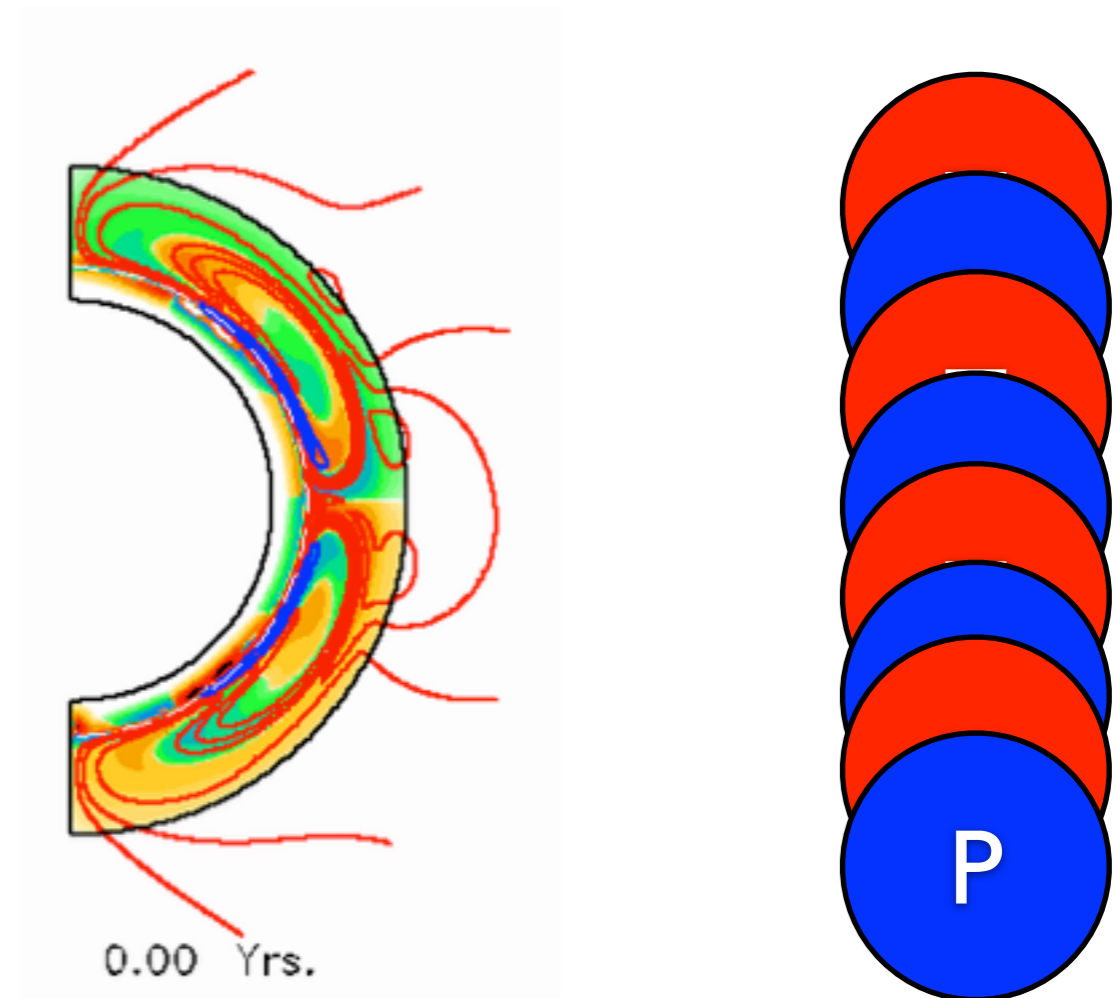
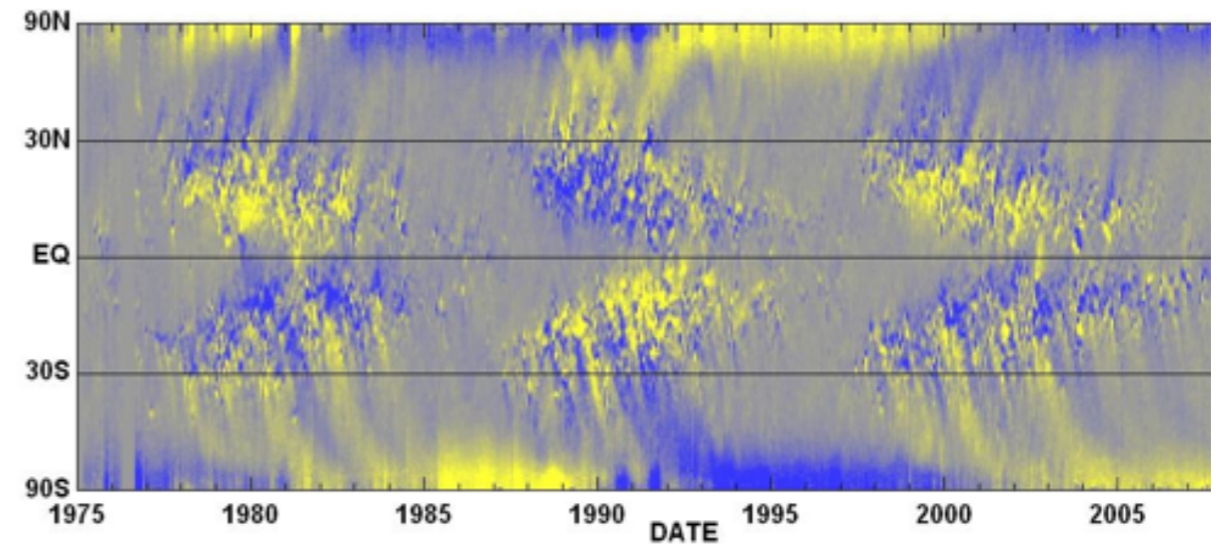
Cycle linked to propagation of toroidal flux (Butterfly diagram)

Three ways to get propagation

- ☞ **Meridional circulation**
 - ▶ Flux-Transport Dynamo models
 - ▶ 2-3 m/s at CZ base

- ☞ **Turbulent transport**
 - ▶ magnetic pumping
 - ▶ Mean-Field and convective dynamos

- ☞ **Dynamo wave**
 - ▶ Early α -
 - ▶ some modern convective dynamos



Puzzles

☞ **Amplitude and Structure of Deep Solar Convection**

- ▶ Models appear to be over-estimating amplitude
- ▶ small-scale magnetism may explain why

☞ **Mean Flows**

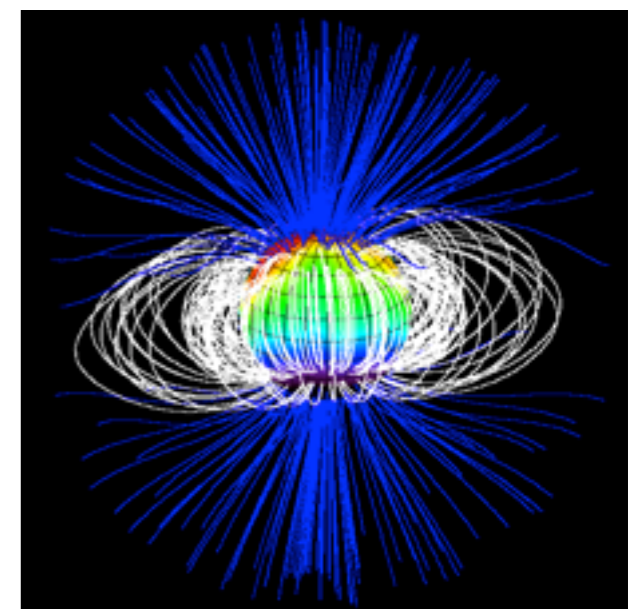
- ▶ How are the thermal gradients needed for conical Ω surfaces established?
- ▶ What is the subsurface structure of the MC?

☞ **The Solar Dynamo**

- ▶ How and where is mean poloidal field being generated?
- ▶ How do convective dynamos produce sunspots/active regions and what role do they play in the dynamo?
- ▶ How do small-scale and large-scale dynamo action couple?
- ▶ What sets the 11-year period?

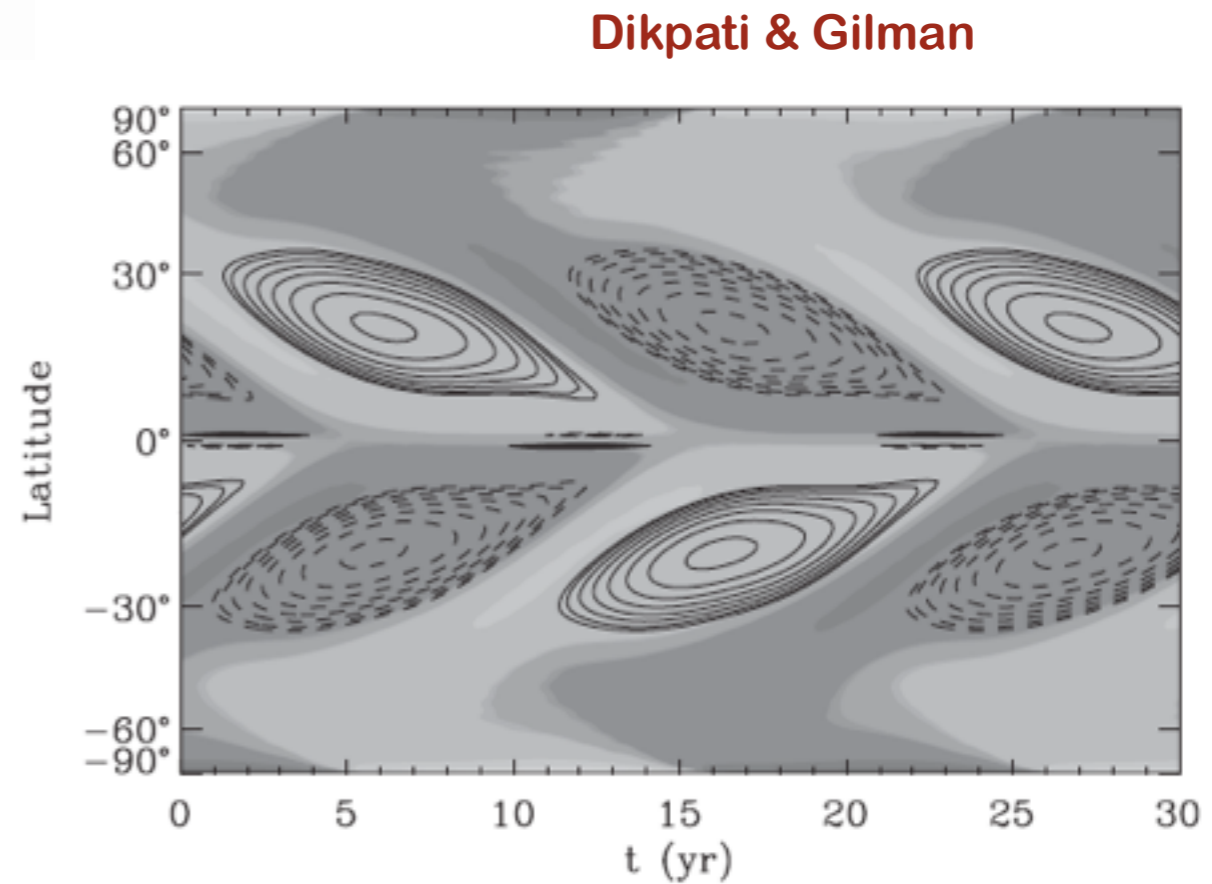
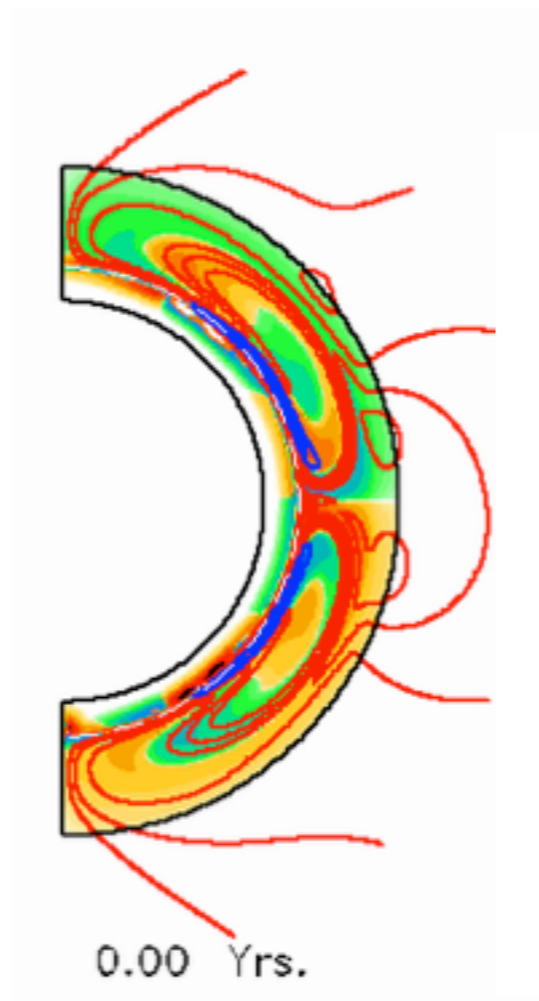
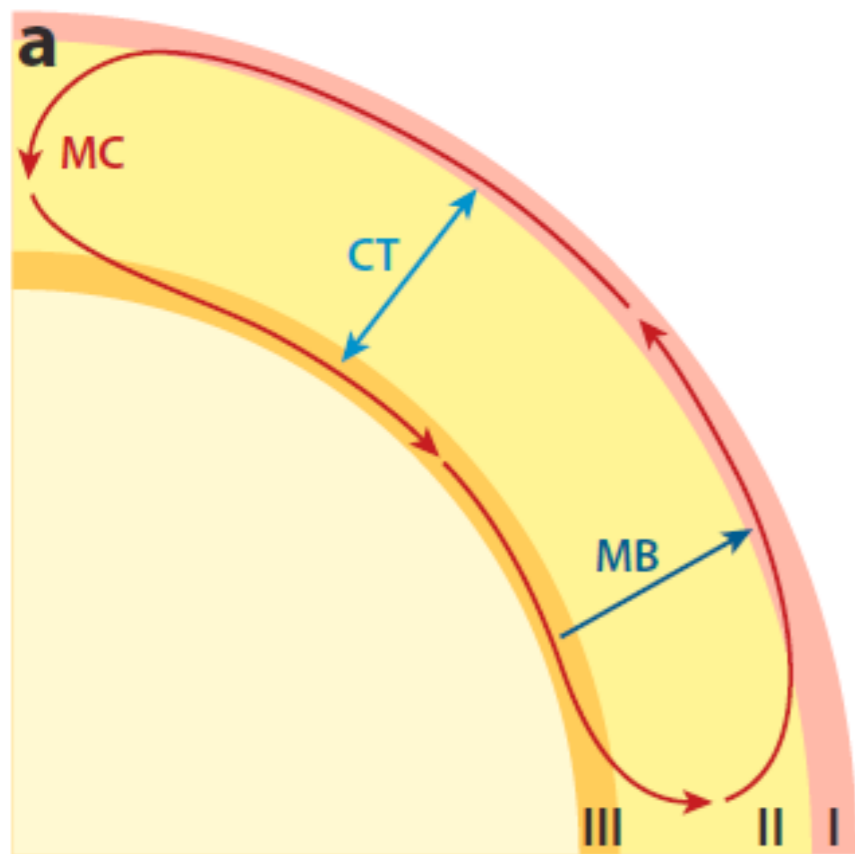
Answers may be found by looking to the stars!

Donati
et al
(2006)



Supplemental Slides

Solar Dynamo Models



c

	Toroidal field generation	Poloidal field generation	Principal coupling mechanisms	Cycle period determined by
BLFT models	Region III	Region I	MC, MB	Meridional flow
Interface models	Region III	Region II	CT	Dynamo waves ^a

a. Dispersion relation involving α , $\Delta \Omega$, and η_t .

Large Scale Dynamos: The Mean Induction Equation

Go back to our basic induction equation

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

Now just average over longitude and rearrange a bit
(other averages are possible but we'll stick to this for simplicity)

The equation for the mean field comes out to be

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t} = \lambda \bar{\mathbf{B}}_p \cdot \nabla \Omega \hat{\phi} + \nabla \times (\bar{\mathbf{v}}_m \times \bar{\mathbf{B}}) + \eta \nabla^2 \bar{\mathbf{B}} + \nabla \times \mathcal{E}$$

Ω -effect **Meridional circulation** **Diffusion (molecular)** **Fluctuating emf**

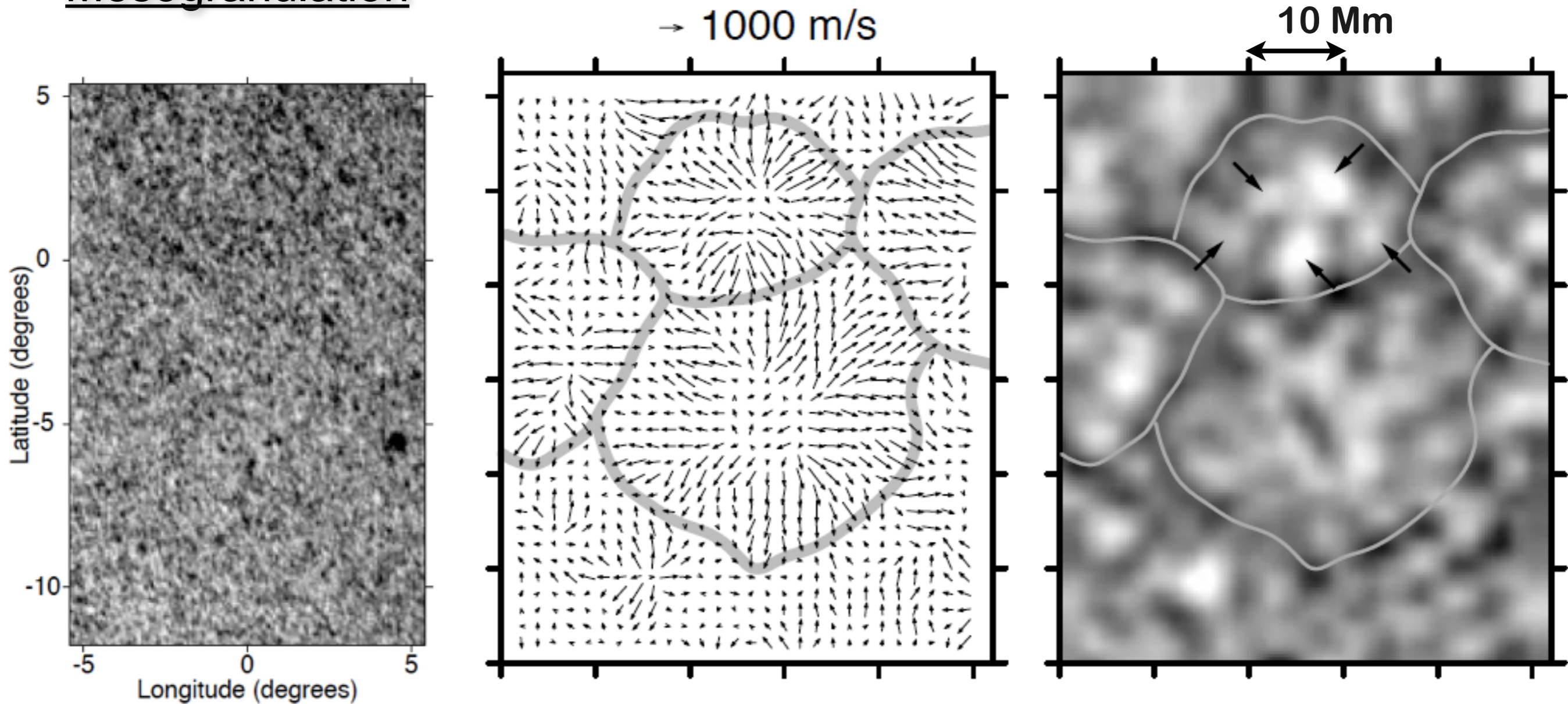
$$\lambda = r \sin \theta$$

Note:
The B field in the Sun is clearly not axisymmetric. Still, the solar cycle does have an axisymmetric component so that's a good place to start

No assumptions made up to this point beyond the basic MHD induction equation

Straightforward to show that if $\mathcal{E}=0$, the dynamo dies (Cowling's theorem)

Mesogranulation



**Most readily seen in horizontal velocity divergence maps
obtained from local correlation tracking (LCT)**

**Vertical velocity and temperature signatures of
mesogranulation and supergranulation are still elusive
hard to verify that they are convection *per se***

Shine, Simon &
Hurlburt (2000)

$L \sim 5 \text{ Mm}$
 $t \sim 3\text{-}4 \text{ hr}$