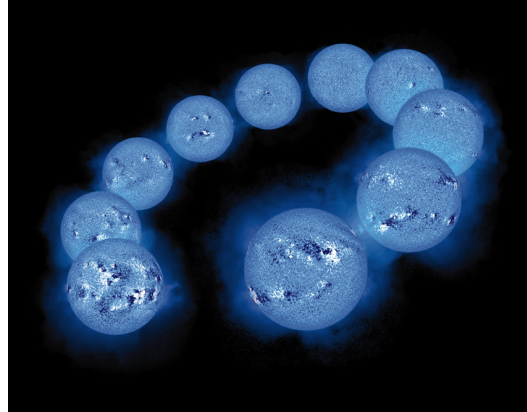


# The Solar Dynamo

Dieter Schmitt (Katlenburg-Lindau)

Mean-field dynamo models  
The solar cycle  
Long-term variability



## 1. Mean-field dynamo models

Mean-field vs. dynamical 3D models

### 1.1 Dynamo equation

Spherical coordinates  $(r, \vartheta, \varphi)$

axisymmetric mean fields  $\mathbf{B}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\partial/\partial\varphi = 0$ , azimuthal averages

kinematic, i.e.  $\mathbf{v}$  given

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} + \alpha \mathbf{B} - \eta_T \nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \quad \text{mean induction equation}$$

$$\langle \mathbf{v}' \times \mathbf{B}' \rangle = \alpha \mathbf{B} - \beta \nabla \times \mathbf{B}, \quad \eta_T = \eta_m + \beta$$

$$\alpha \approx -\tau \langle \mathbf{v}' \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}') \rangle / 3, \quad \beta \approx \tau \langle \mathbf{v}'^2 \rangle / 3 \quad \text{for isotropic turbulence}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_p + \mathbf{B}_t = \nabla \times (0, 0, A_\varphi) + (0, 0, B_\varphi), \quad B = B_\varphi, \quad A = A_\varphi$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_p + \mathbf{v}_t = \nabla \times (0, 0, \psi / r \sin \vartheta) + (0, 0, \Omega(r, \vartheta) r \sin \vartheta)$$

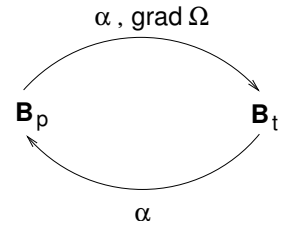
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}_p}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v}_p \times \mathbf{B}_p + \alpha \mathbf{B}_t - \eta_T \nabla \times \mathbf{B}_p)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}_t}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v}_p \times \mathbf{B}_t + \mathbf{v}_t \times \mathbf{B}_p + \alpha \mathbf{B}_p - \eta_T \nabla \times \mathbf{B}_t)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_p = 0, \quad \alpha = \eta_T = \text{const}, \quad \nabla \times \nabla \times (F \mathbf{e}_\varphi) = -\Delta_1 F \mathbf{e}_\varphi, \quad \Delta_1 = \Delta - \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \vartheta}$$

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = r \sin \vartheta (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \cdot \nabla \Omega - \alpha \Delta_1 A + \eta_T \Delta_1 B$$

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = \alpha B + \eta_T \Delta_1 A$$



rigid rotation has no effect

no dynamo if  $\alpha = 0$

$$\frac{\alpha\text{-term}}{\nabla\Omega\text{-term}} \approx \frac{\alpha_0}{|\nabla\Omega|L^2} \begin{cases} \gg 1 & \alpha^2\text{-dynamo} \\ \ll 1 & \alpha\Omega\text{-dynamo} \end{cases}$$

Sun:  $|\nabla\Omega|L^2 \approx \Delta v \approx 400 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ ,  $\alpha \approx v_{\text{rms}}^2 \tau / L \approx 1 \text{ ms}^{-1}$

$\sim \alpha\Omega$ -dynamo

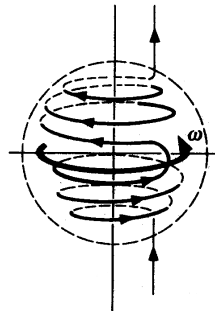
$$\frac{|B_t|}{|B_p|} \approx \left( \frac{|\nabla\Omega|L^2}{\alpha_0} \right)^{1/2} \approx 20 \quad \text{toroidal field dominates}$$

bipolar regions on surface erupted toroidal field

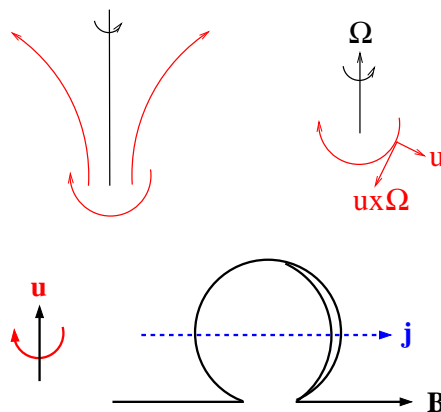
$\sim$  EW orientation

## 1.2 Dynamo effects

- Differential rotation

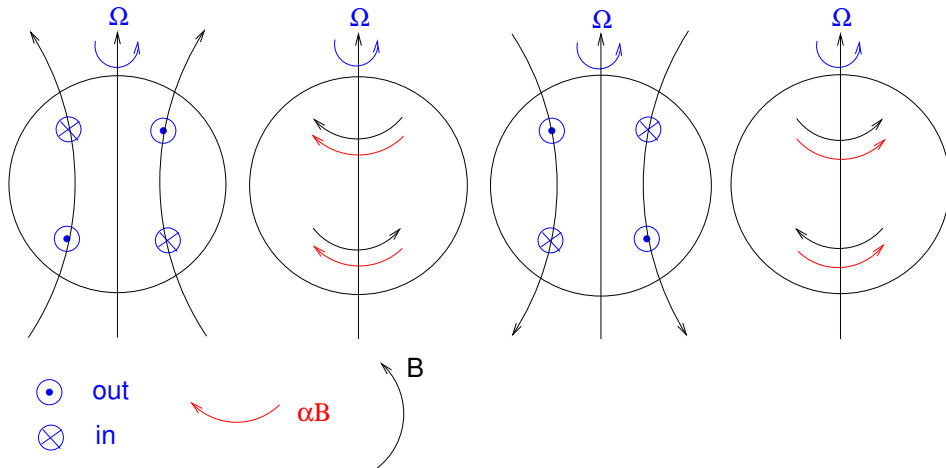


- Helical convection /  $\alpha$ -effect



### 1.3 $\alpha\Omega$ -dynamo

$$\frac{\partial\Omega}{\partial r} < 0, \quad \alpha \sim \cos\vartheta$$



poloidal field      toroidal field by differential rotation; electric currents by  $\alpha$ -effect      poloidal field by  $\alpha$ -effect      toroidal field by differential rotation; electric currents by  $\alpha$ -effect

periodically alternating field, here antisymmetric with respect to equator

### 1.4 Dynamo waves

Consider  $\alpha\Omega$ -equations locally

Cartesian coordinates  $(x, y, z)$  corresponding to  $(\vartheta, \varphi, r)$

$\alpha = \text{const}$ ,  $\eta_T = \text{const}$ ,  $\mathbf{v} = (0, \Omega z, 0)$  with  $\Omega = \text{const}$

$\mathbf{B}_t = (0, B(x, t), 0)$ ,  $\mathbf{B}_p = (0, 0, \partial A(x, t)/\partial x)$

$\dot{B} = \Omega A' + \eta_T B''$ ,  $\dot{A} = \alpha B + \eta_T A''$ ,  $\dot{\phantom{x}} = \partial/\partial t$ ,  $' = \partial/\partial x$

ansatz  $(B, A) = (B_0, A_0) \exp[i(\omega t + kx)]$

dispersion relation  $(i\omega + \eta_T k^2)^2 = ik\Omega\alpha$

assume  $\alpha\Omega < 0$ , e.g.  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $\Omega < 0$  and take  $k > 0$

$\omega = i\eta_T k^2 - (1 + i)|k\alpha\Omega/2|^{1/2}$  (Parker, 1955)

growth rate  $-\omega_i = -\eta_T k^2 + |k\alpha\Omega/2|^{1/2} \geq 0$  for

$|k\alpha\Omega/2|^{1/2} \geq \eta_T k^2$ : inductive effects must exceed threshold

$\omega_R = -|k\alpha\Omega/2|^{1/2} < 0$ : wave propagation in positive  $x$ -direction

identical result with  $k < 0$

if  $\alpha\Omega > 0$  wave propagation in negative  $x$ -direction

## In general:

wave propagates along surfaces of constant rotation

(Yoshimura, 1975)

direction of propagation depends on  $\text{sign}(\alpha\Omega)$

period geometric mean of  $(k\alpha)^{-1}$  and  $\Omega^{-1}$

in the critical case  $(\eta_T k^2)^{-1}$ , decreasing with increasing excitation

## 1.5 Dynamo number

$$\Omega = \Omega_0 \tilde{\Omega}, \quad \alpha = \alpha_0 \tilde{\alpha}, \quad t = \frac{R^2}{\eta_T} \tilde{t}, \quad B = B_0 \tilde{B}, \quad A = R B_0 \tilde{A}$$

$$\tilde{A} = \frac{\Omega_0 R^2}{\eta_T} \tilde{A}$$

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = r \sin \vartheta (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \cdot \nabla \Omega + \Delta_1 B$$

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = P \alpha B + \Delta_1 A$$

$$P = R_\alpha R_\Omega = \frac{\alpha_0 R}{\eta_T} \cdot \frac{\Omega_0 R^2}{\eta_T} \quad \text{dynamo number}, \quad B_t/B_p \approx (R_\Omega/R_\alpha)^{1/2}$$

## 1.6 $\alpha\Omega$ dynamo modes

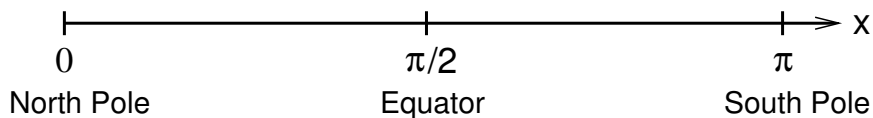
bounded  $\alpha\Omega$  dynamo solutions, dimensionless

$\alpha = \alpha_0 \cos x$ ,  $\partial u_y / \partial z = G_0 \sin x$  dynamo effects

$\dot{A} = P \cos x B + A''$ ,  $\dot{B} = \sin x A' + B''$  dynamo equations

$$P = R_\alpha R_\Omega = \frac{\alpha_0 L}{\eta_T} \cdot \frac{G_0 L^2}{\eta_T} \quad \text{dynamo number}$$

boundary conditions,  $L = \pi/2$



$x = 0 : A = B = 0$

$x = \pi : A = B = 0$

$x = \pi/2$  : antisymmetric solution, dipolar :  $A' = B = 0$

symmetric solution, quadrupolar :  $A = B' = 0$

now antisymmetric solution

### Free decay:

$$\dot{A} = A'', \quad \dot{B} = B''$$

$$A_n = e^{\omega_n t} \sin nx \quad \text{with} \quad \omega_n = -n^2, \quad n = 1, 3, 5, \dots$$

$$B_n = e^{\omega_n t} \sin nx \quad \text{with} \quad \omega_n = -n^2, \quad n = 2, 4, 6, \dots$$

### Eigenvalue problem:

$$\dot{A} = P \cos x B + A'', \quad \dot{B} = \sin x A' + B''$$

expansion in decay modes (complete, orthogonal, satisfy b.c.)

$$A = e^{\omega t} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} a_n \sin nx, \quad B = e^{\omega t} \sum_{n=2,4,6,\dots} b_n \sin nx$$

$$\sin x \cos nx = 1/2 [\sin(n+1)x - \sin(n-1)x]$$

$$\cos x \sin nx = 1/2 [\sin(n+1)x + \sin(n-1)x]$$

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \sin nx \sin mx dx = \pi/4 \delta_{nm}$$

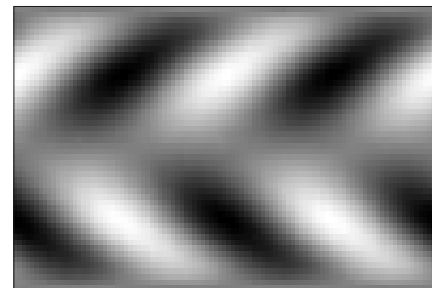
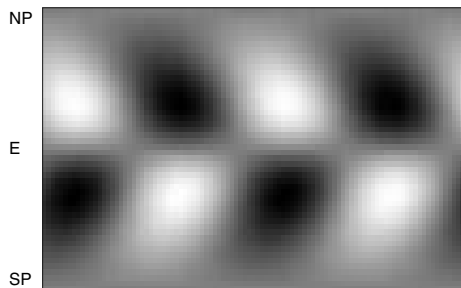
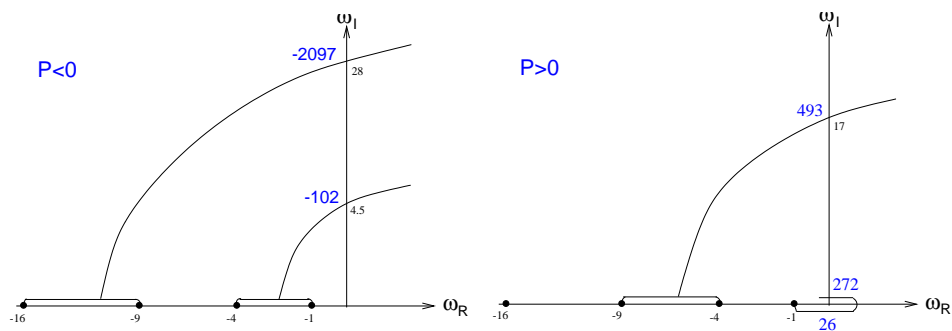
$$\omega a_m = P/2(b_{m-1} + b_{m+1}) - m^2 a_m, \quad m \text{ odd}$$

$$\omega b_m = 1/2((m-1)a_{m-1} - (m+1)a_{m+1}) - m^2 b_m, \quad m \text{ even}$$

$$\omega \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ b_2 \\ a_3 \\ b_4 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & P/2 & & & \\ 1/2 & -4 & -3/2 & & \\ & P/2 & -9 & P/2 & \\ & & 3/2 & -16 & -5/2 \\ & & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ b_2 \\ a_3 \\ b_4 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

vary  $P$  until  $\omega_R = 0 : P_{\text{crit}}$

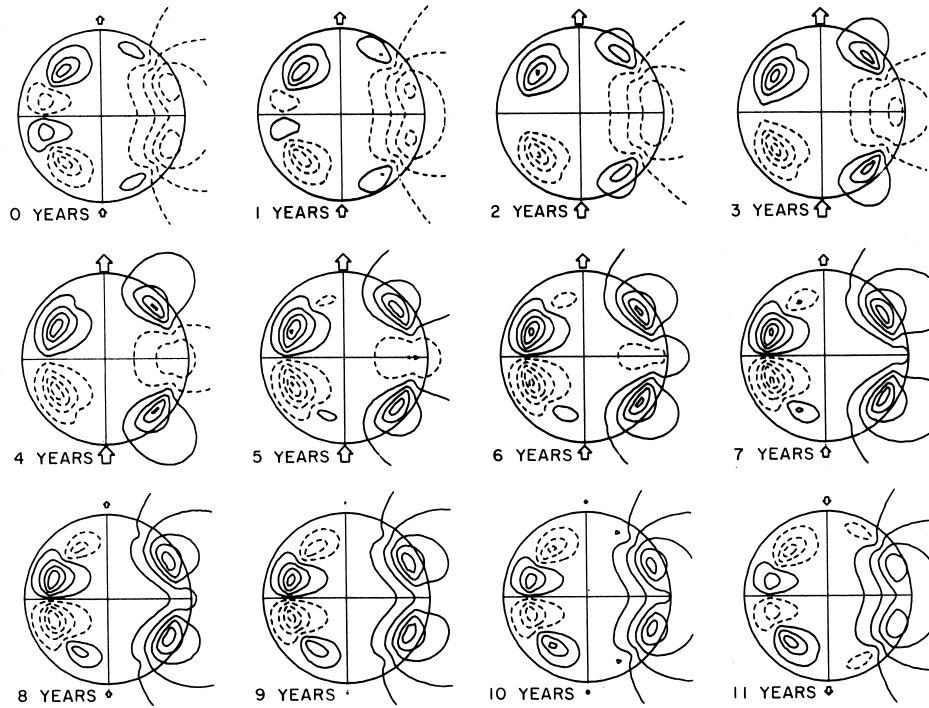
### Dipole: antisymmetric with respect to equator



Pcpublic/schmitt/dynamo/dynewp.f and dynew.f

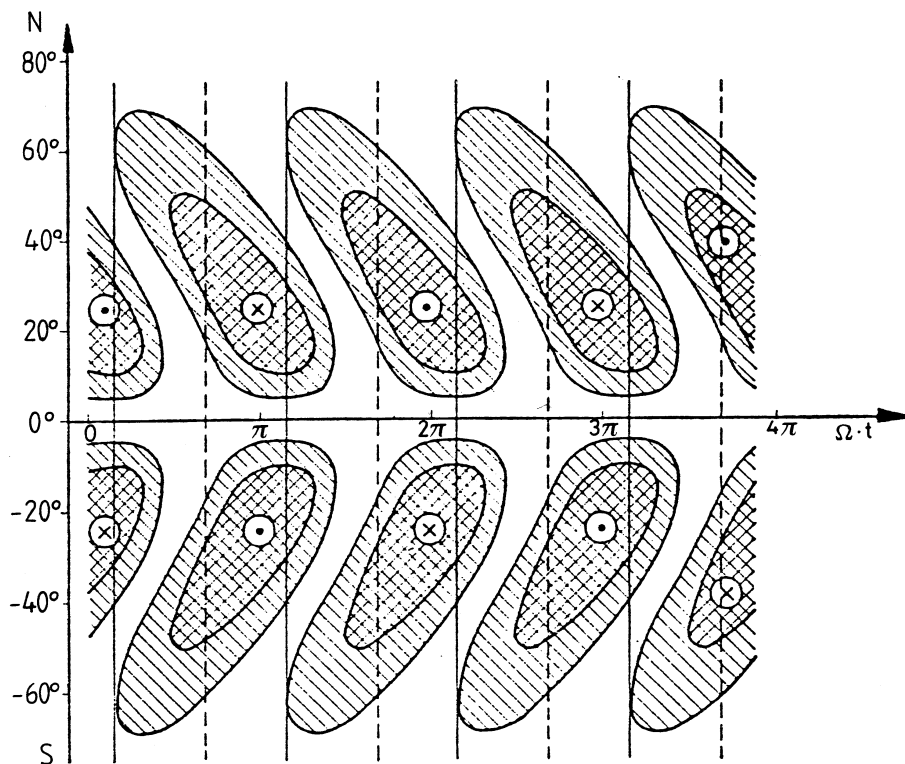
**Exercise:** find critical dynamo numbers for quadrupole, symmetric with respect to equator

## 1.7 Spherical $\alpha\Omega$ solutions



(Stix 1976)

theoretical butterfly diagram



(Krause and Steenbeck 1969)

## 1.8 Nonlinear effects

### Linear theory:

exponential growth for  $P > P_{\text{crit}}$ ,

thus often  $P = P_{\text{crit}}$  used, further  $B = |\mathbf{B}|$  not determined

nonlinear effects through Lorentz force or flux loss,

especially for  $B \gtrsim B_{\text{eq}}$  with  $B_{\text{eq}}^2/8\pi = 1/2 \rho u_{\text{rms}}^2$

Lenz law: reduction of induction effect

heuristic approaches, partly backed by mean field theory

$$\langle \mathbf{F}_{\text{Lor}} \rangle = \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B} + \langle \mathbf{j}' \times \mathbf{B}' \rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{v} \rightarrow \Omega$$

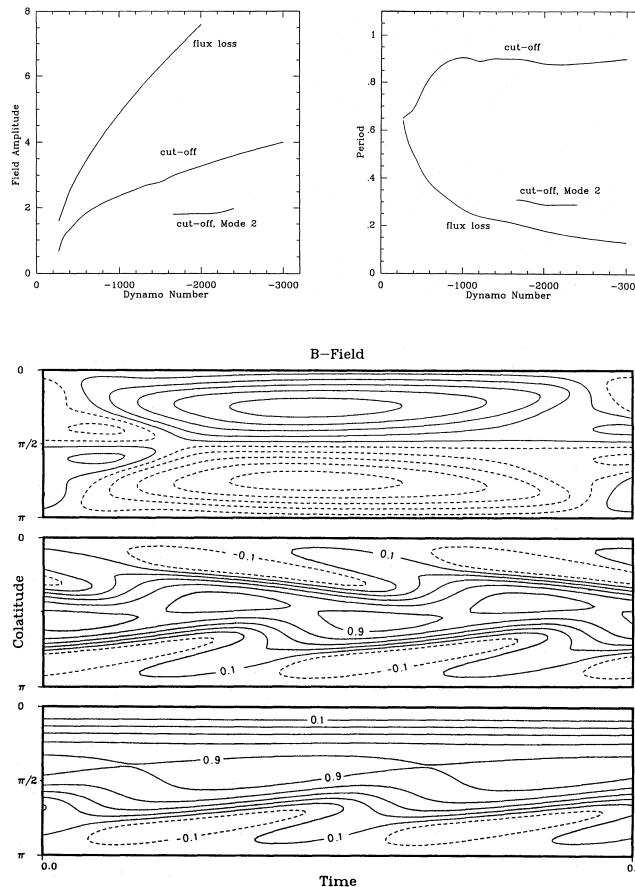
$$\mathbf{F}'_{\text{Lor}} = \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B}' + \mathbf{j}' \times \mathbf{B} \rightarrow \mathbf{v}' \rightarrow \alpha$$

### $\alpha$ -quenching:

$\alpha = \alpha_0 f(B)$ ,  $f$  decreasing with increasing  $B$ , often

$$f(B) = 1 - B^2/B_c^2 \quad \text{or} \quad f(B) = 1/(1 + B^2/B_c^2) \quad \text{or}$$

$$f(B) = B_c^3/B^3 \quad \text{with} \quad B_c \approx B_{\text{eq}} \quad \text{or} \quad B_c \approx B_{\text{eq}}/\sqrt{R_m}$$



## Dynamical $\Omega$ -quenching:

dynamical action of Lorentz force on differential rotation

truncated system

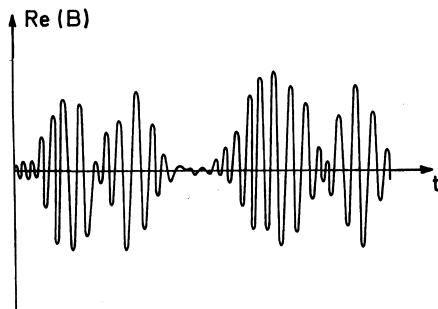
$$\dot{A} = B - A$$

$$\dot{B} = iP\Omega A - B$$

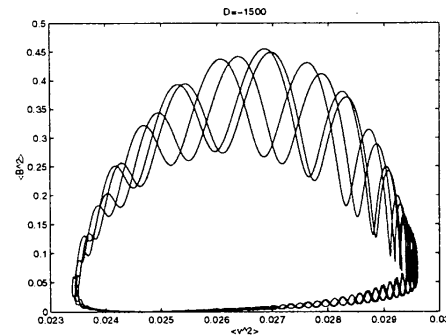
$$\dot{\Omega} = iAB - \nu\Omega$$

similar to Lorenz system

rich bifurcation structure for increasing  $P$ , chaotic solutions

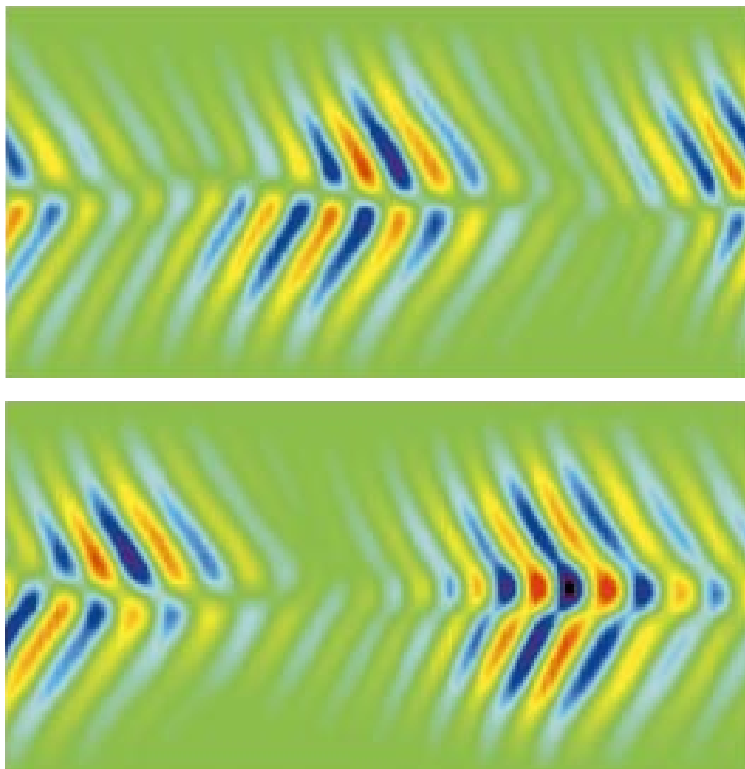


Cattaneo et al. (1984)



Tobias (1996)

2D PDE more regular



Weiss and Tobias (2000)



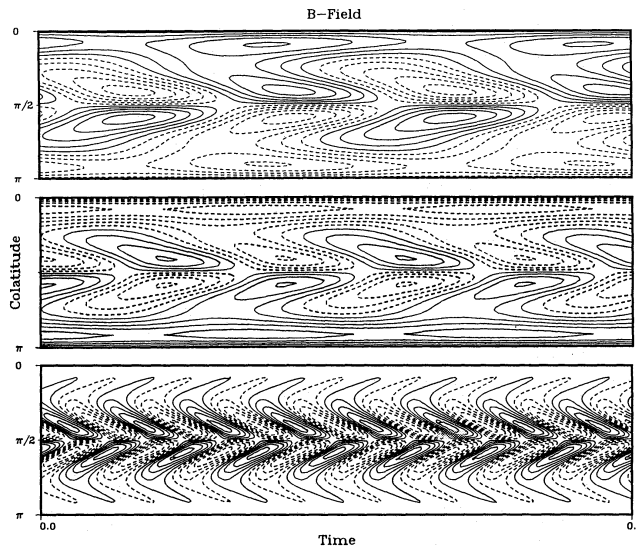
## Flux loss due to magnetic buoyancy:

either by extra loss term in  $B_{\text{tor}}$  equation, e.g.

$$\frac{B_0}{\tau} g(B) = \frac{B_0}{\tau} \begin{cases} -\text{sgn}(B)(B^n - B_c^n) & \text{for } |B| > B_c, \quad n = 2, 3 \\ 0 & \text{for } |B| < B_c \end{cases}$$

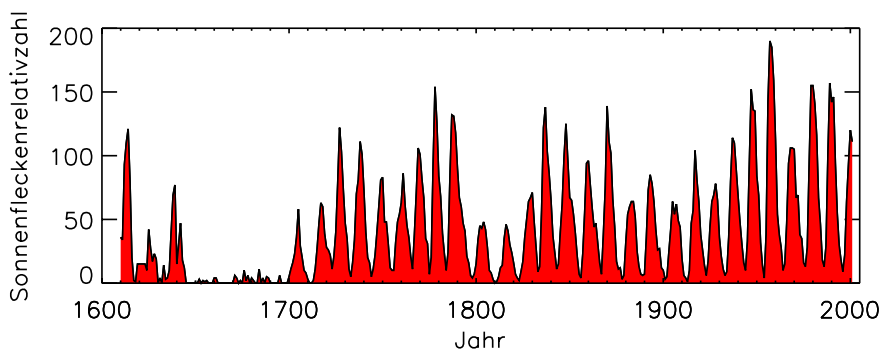
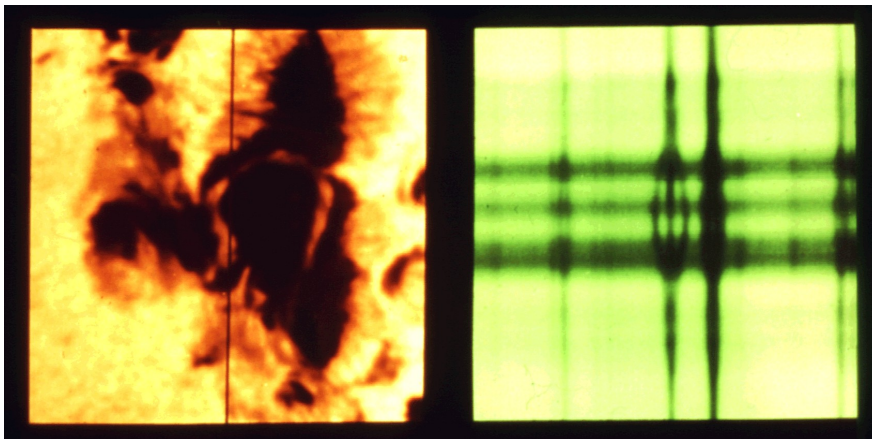
or

$$v_r = h(B^n) \quad \text{in } \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) \text{ - term}$$

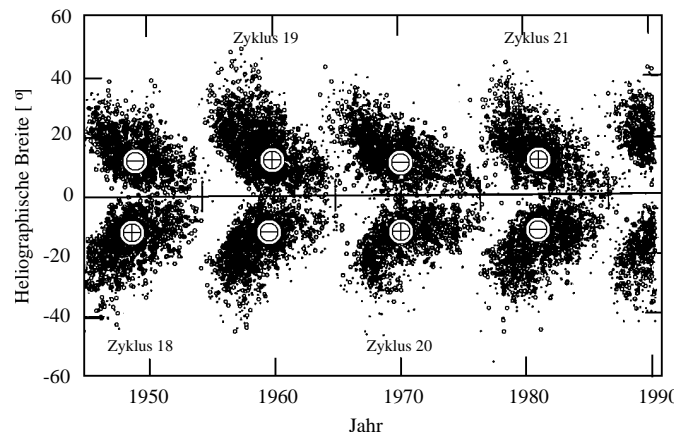
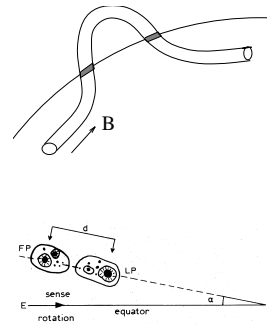
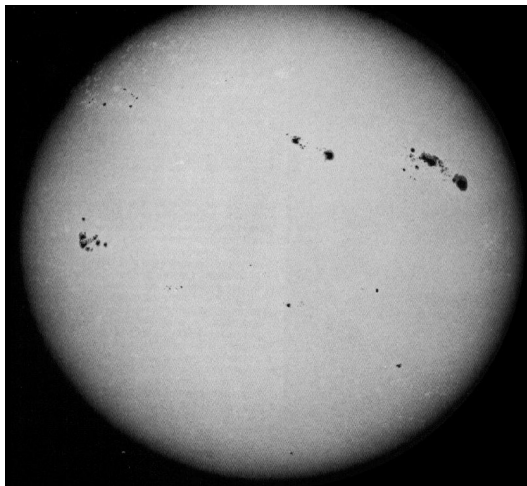
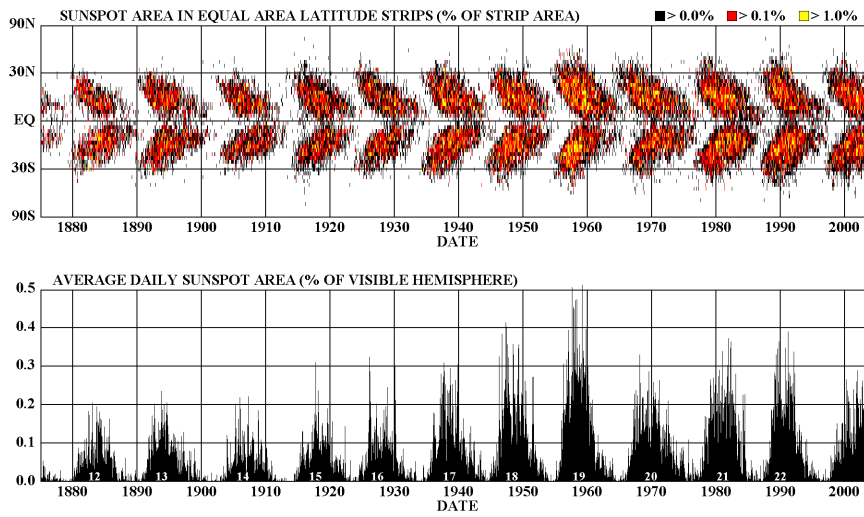


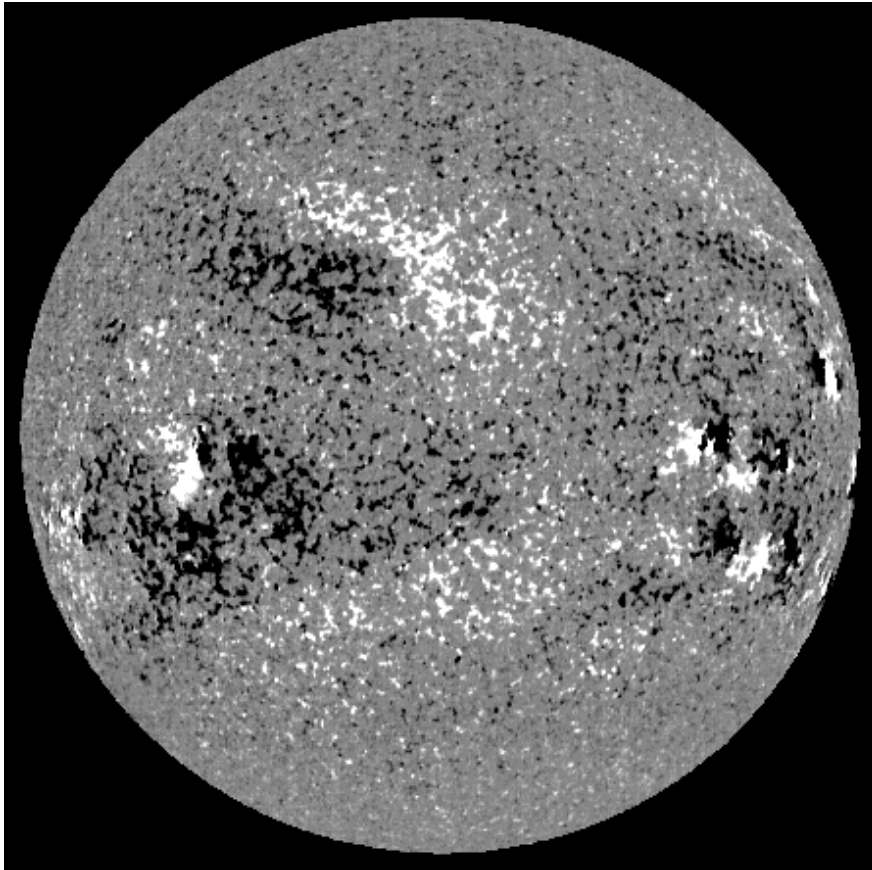
## 2. The solar cycle

### 2.1 Observations



# DAILY SUNSPOT AREA AVERAGED OVER INDIVIDUAL SOLAR ROTATIONS

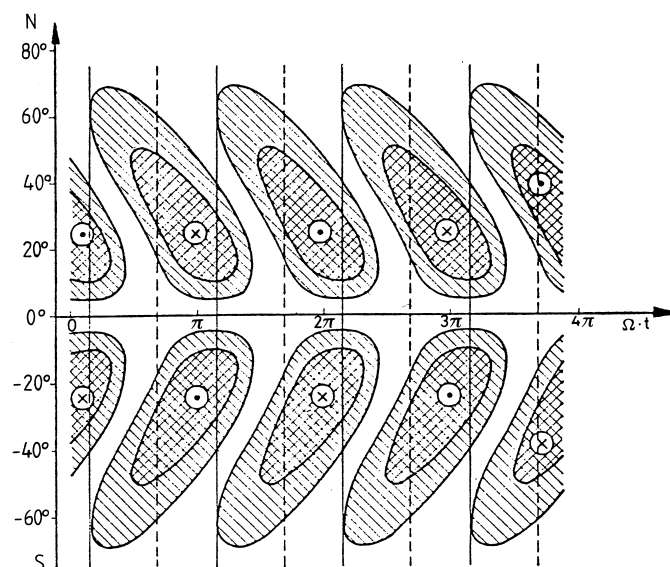




## 2.2 Classical dynamo models

$\alpha\Omega$ -dynamo in convection zone,  $\Omega(r)$  with  $\partial\Omega/\partial r < 0$ ,

$\alpha \sim \cos\vartheta$ ,  $\eta_T = 10^{10} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$

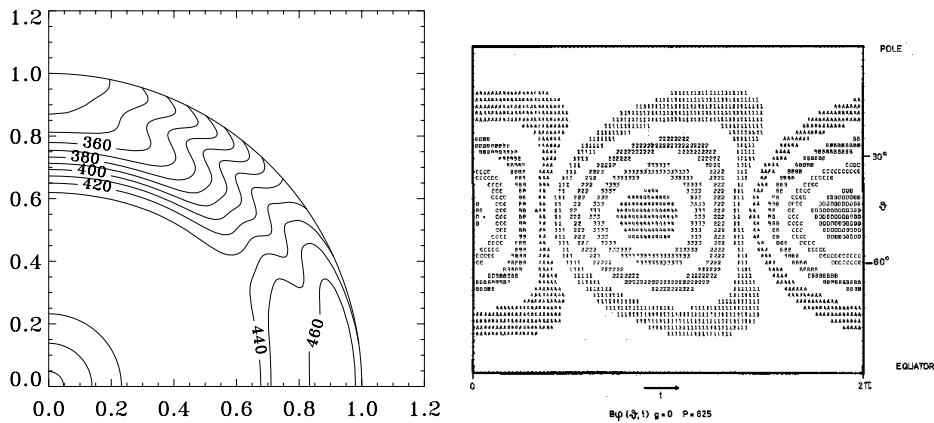


theoretical butterfly diagram  $B_\varphi(\vartheta, t)$  in good accordance with observations

Steenbeck and Krause (1969)

## 2.3 Difficulties of convection zone models

- Intermittency: magnetic flux in small-scale structures embedded in field-free plasma (flux tubes)
- Polarity rules: strictly obeyed  $\rightarrow B \approx 10^5$  G (Schüssler, 1993)
- Magnetic buoyancy: rise time  $\ll$  cycle length (Parker, 1975)
- Rotation law: from helioseismology, e.g. Tomzyk et al. (1995)
- Resulting butterfly diagram (Köhler, 1973)



## 2.4 Overshoot layer dynamo

Favourable dynamo site:

storage, reduced turbulent diffusivity, rotation, dynamic  $\alpha$ -effect

- Dynamo action of magnetostrophic waves (Schmitt, 1985):

magnetic field layer unstable due to magnetic buoyancy

$\rightarrow$  excitation of magnetostrophic waves in a fast rotating fluid

$$V_A^2/V_{\text{rot}} \approx v_{\text{mw}} \ll V_A \ll V_{\text{rot}} \ll V_S$$

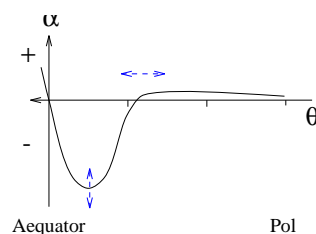
mw are helical and induce an electromotive force

$\rightarrow$  electric current parallel to toroidal magnetic field

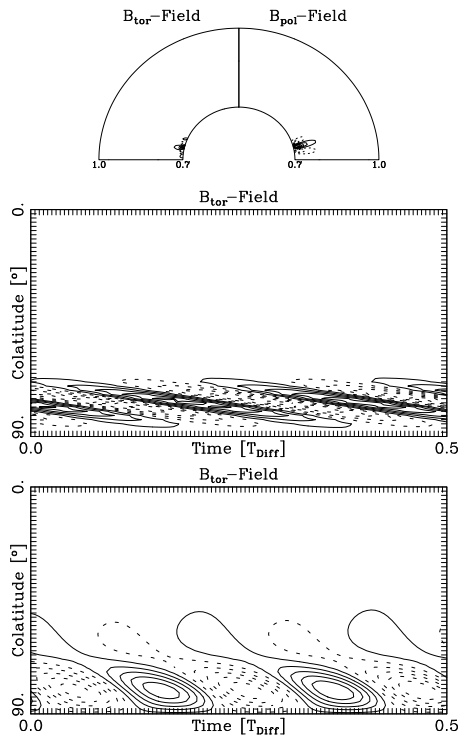
$$\equiv \text{dynamic } \alpha\text{-effect: } \alpha \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle_{\text{tor}} = \langle \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{b} \rangle_{\text{tor}}$$

not based on convection, applicable to strong fields

superposition of most unstable waves:



- Dynamo model



Schmitt (1993)

difficulties: overlapping wings, parity, phase  $B_\varphi - B_r$

- Flux tube instability:  $B > B_{\text{threshold}}$  (Ferriz-Mas et al., 1994)

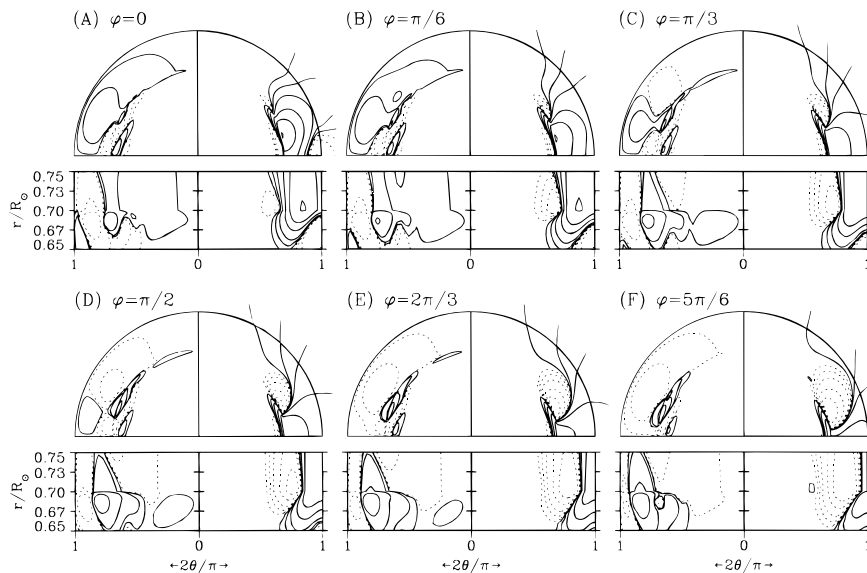
## 2.5 Interface dynamos

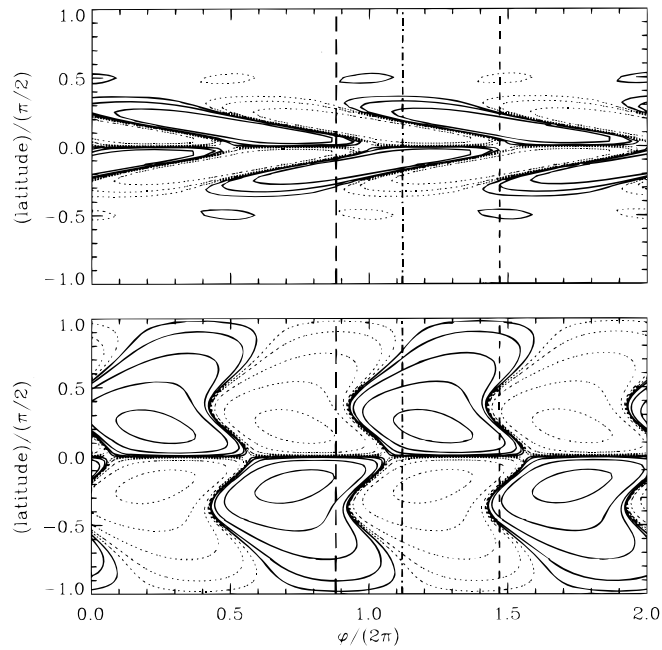
Parker (1993):

convection zone:  $\eta_T$  large,  $\alpha$

overshoot layer:  $\eta_T$  small,  $\partial\Omega/\partial r$ , most flux

dynamo on interface layer





Charbonneau and MacGregor (1997)

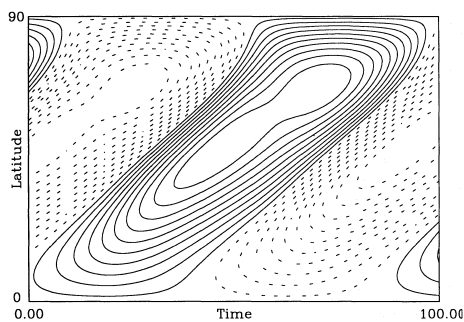
influences of  $\partial\Omega/\partial\theta$ ,  $\partial\Omega/\partial r$ -profile,  $\alpha$ -profile

## 2.6 Flux transport dynamos

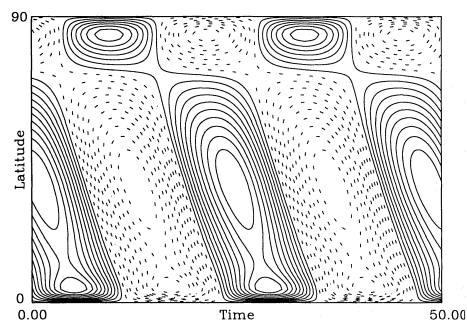
Durney (1995), Choudhuri et al. (1995),

Dikpati and Charbonneau (1999)

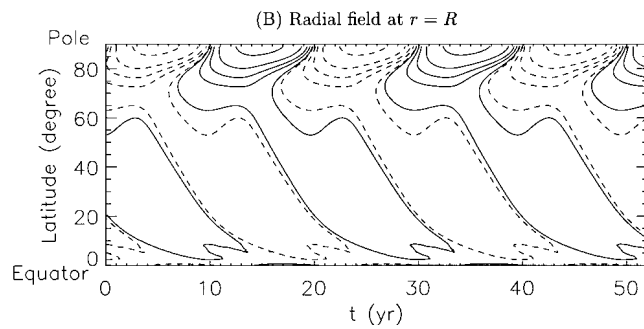
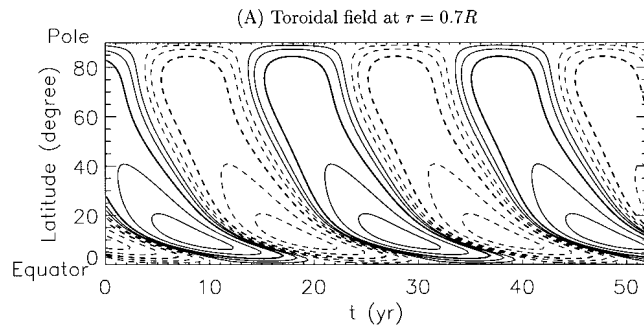
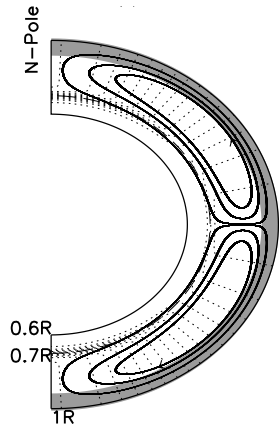
- regeneration of poloidal field through tilt of decaying bipolar active regions  
(Babcock, 1961; Leighton, 1969)
- rotational shear in tachocline
- transport of magnetic flux by meridional circulation



without

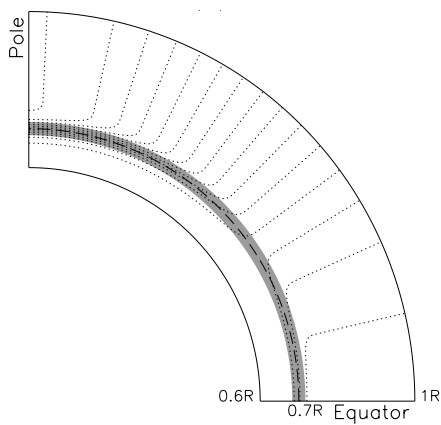


with meridional circulation

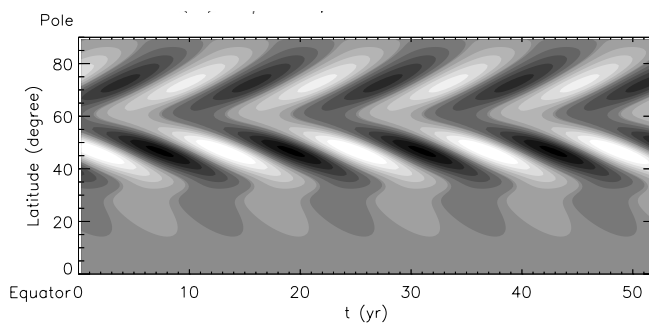
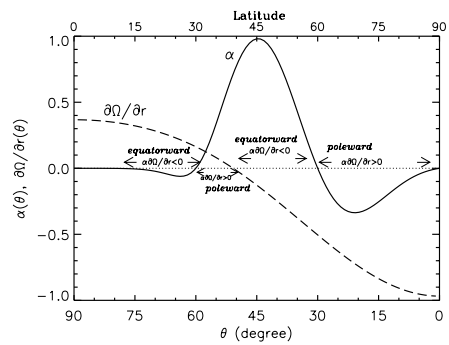


## 2.7 Overshoot layer dynamo with meridional circulation

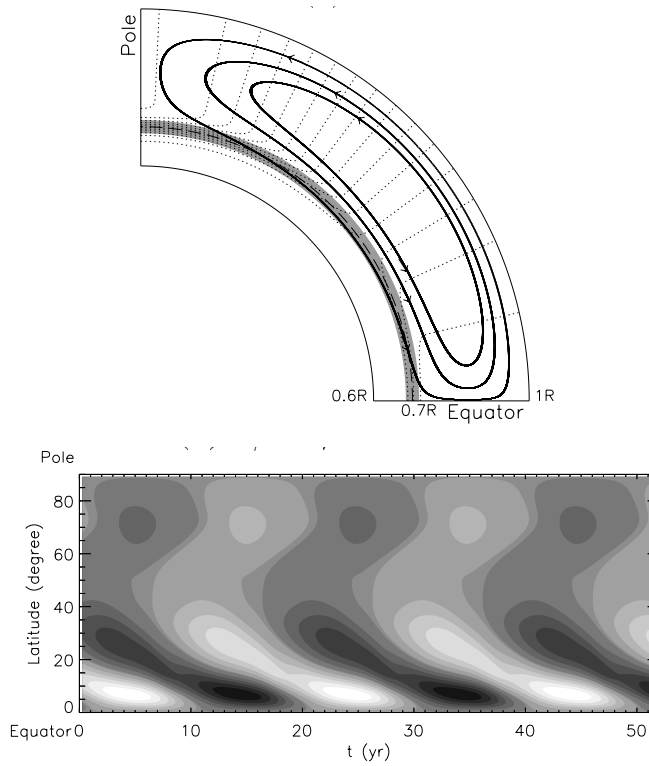
Dikpati and Gilman (2001)



$\alpha$ -effect due to shear instability



without merid. circ.

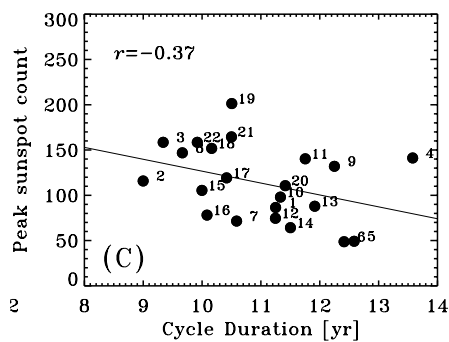
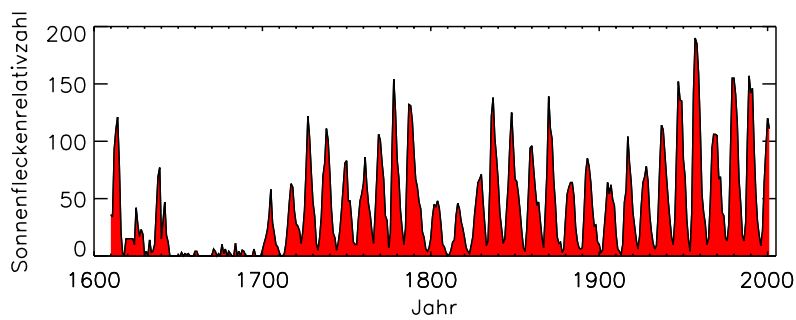


deep  $\alpha$ -effect favours dipolar, high  $\alpha$ -effect quadrupolar solutions

### 3. Long-term variations

#### 3.1 Observations

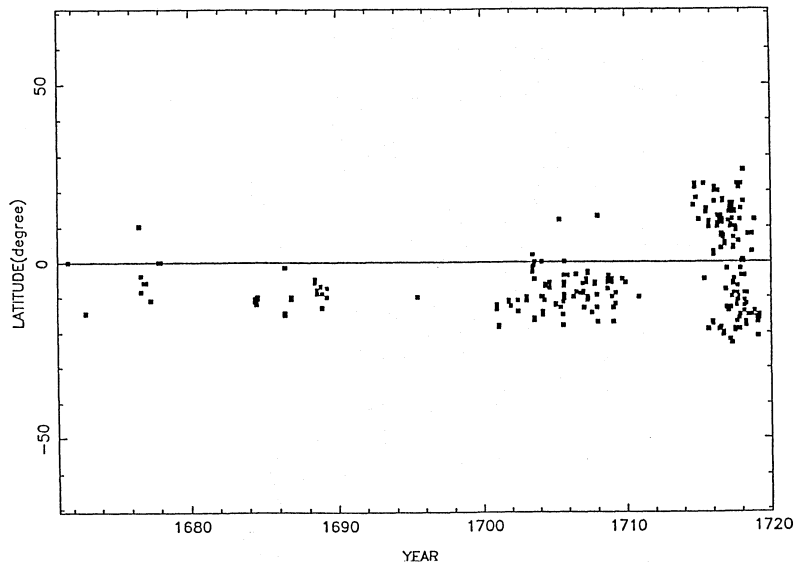
- Variation in cycle length and strength



odd-even effect (Gnevychev-Ohl)



- Maunder minimum 1630–1710, grand minima



Ribes and Nesme-Ribes (1993)

oscillatory? asymmetric?

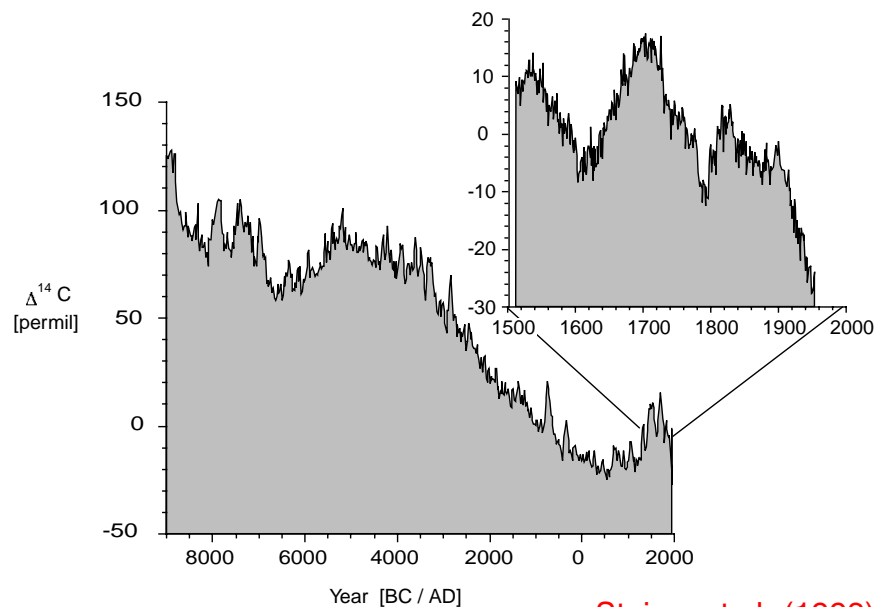
- Cosmogenic isotopes:  $^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $^{10}\text{Be}$

formed by cosmic rays as spallation products in the atmosphere

flux of galactic cosmic rays anticorrelated with solar activity

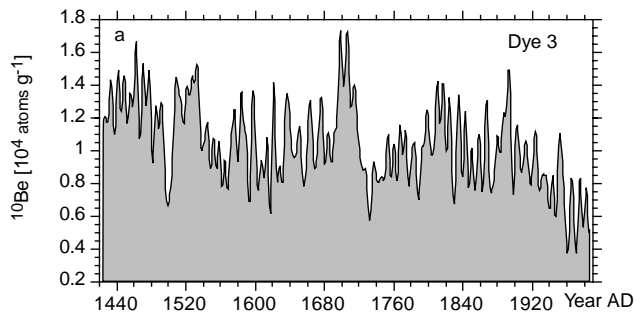
long term trend due to geomagnetic field

$^{14}\text{C}$ : tree rings, 30-year convolution, long-term trend



Stuiver et al. (1998)

$^{10}\text{Be}$ : ice cores, precipitation, 2-year convolution, 11-year cycles

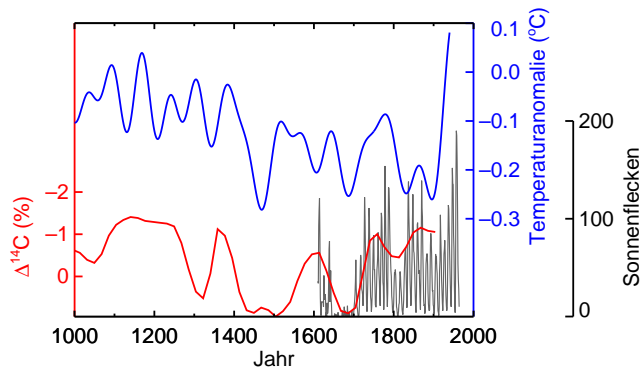


Beer et al. (1994)

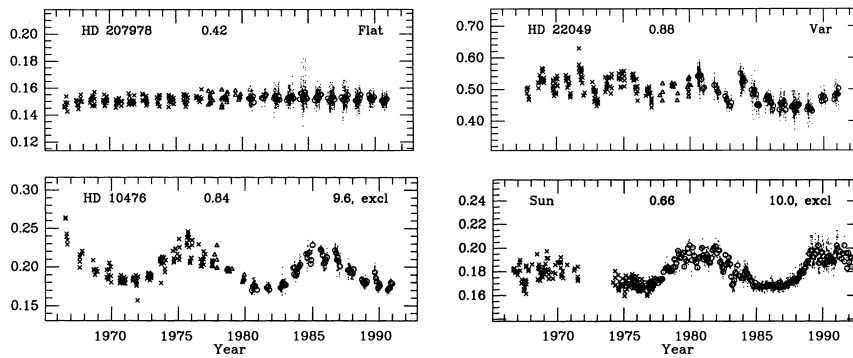
cycle possibly continued during Maunder minimum

Dalton minimum, Maunder minimum, Spörer minimum, Wolf

minimum, medieval maximum: potentially correlated with climate



• Cool star activity: star spots, Ca index, X-ray emission



0.25 : 0.25 : 0.5

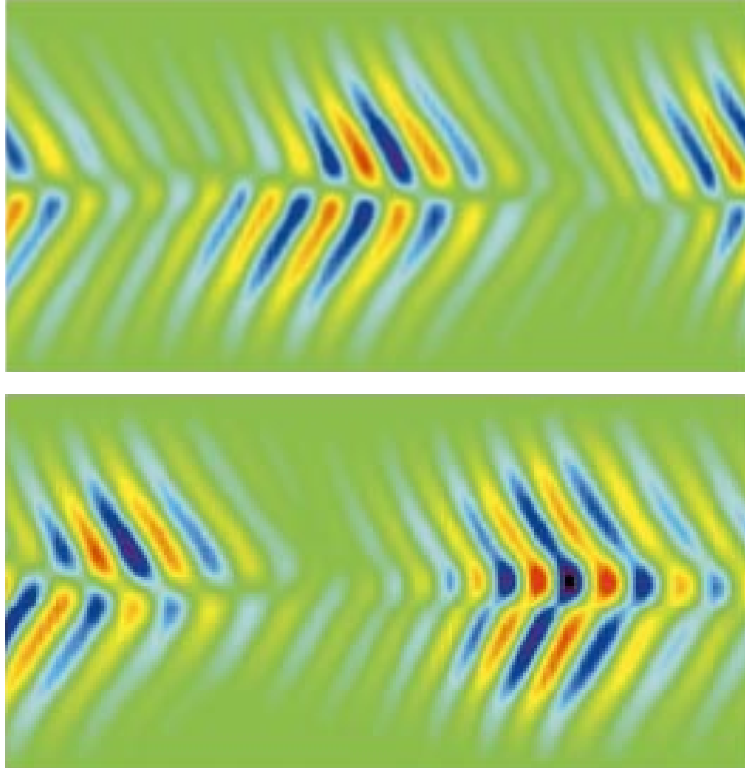
Wilson (1978), Baliunas et al. (1995)

fast rotating stars more active

• Origin of long-term modulation of solar cycle hardly understood

- modulation of differential rotation
- stochastic fluctuations of the  $\alpha$ -effect
- variation of meridional circulation
- on-off intermittency

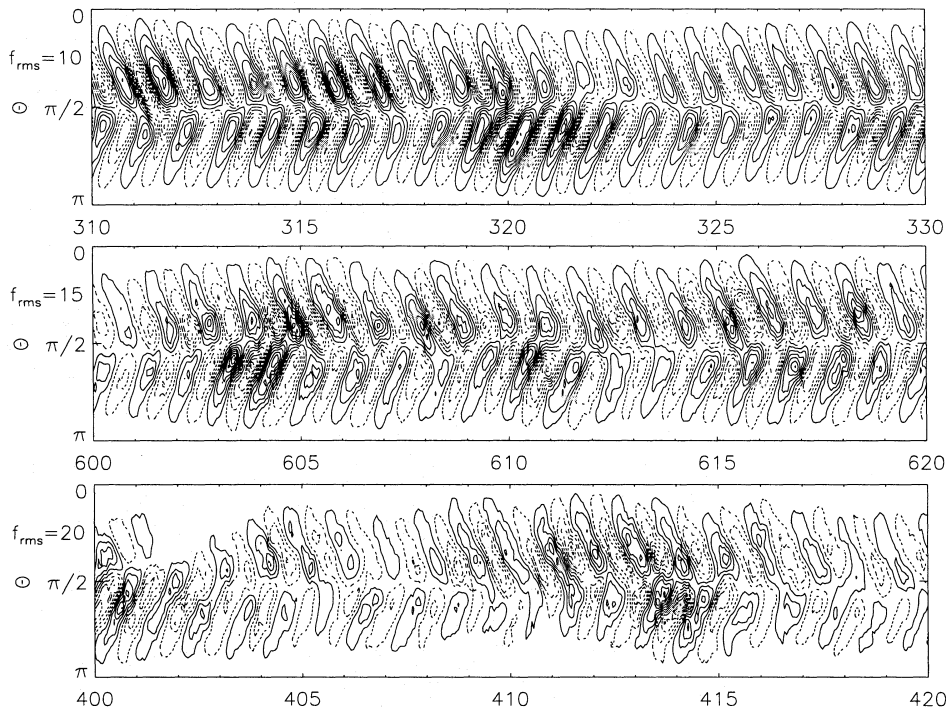
### 3.2 Modulation of differential rotation



Weiss and Tobias (2000)

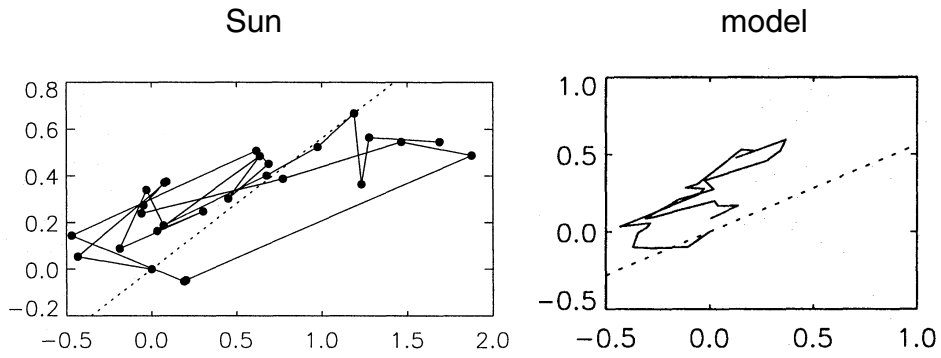
### 3.3 Stochastic fluctuations of the $\alpha$ -effect

$$\alpha = \alpha_0(r, \vartheta) + \delta\alpha(r, \vartheta, t)$$

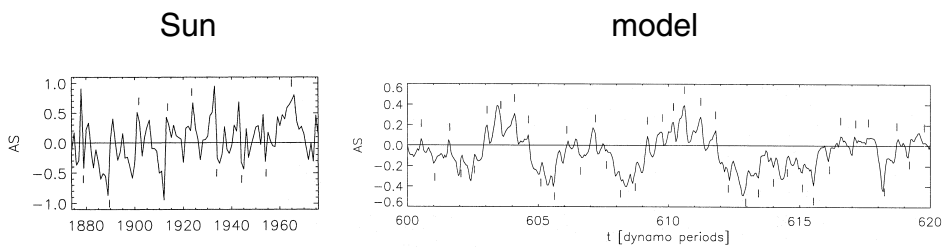


Ossendrijver, Hoyng, Schmitt (1996)

## log Amplitude vs Phase shift



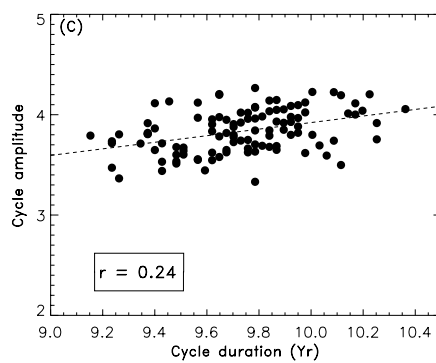
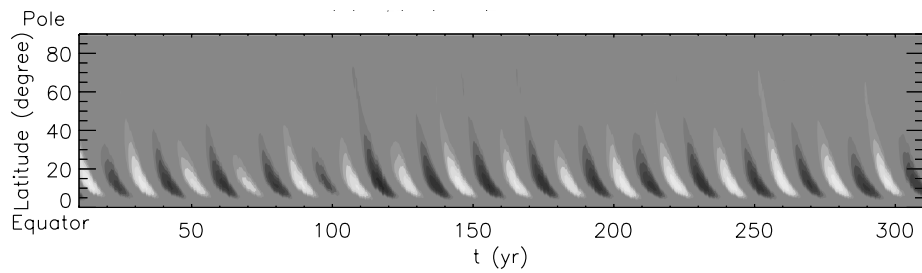
## Asymmetry



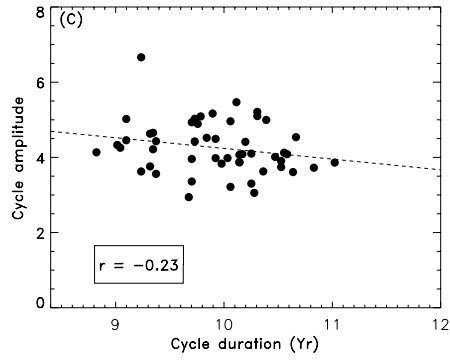
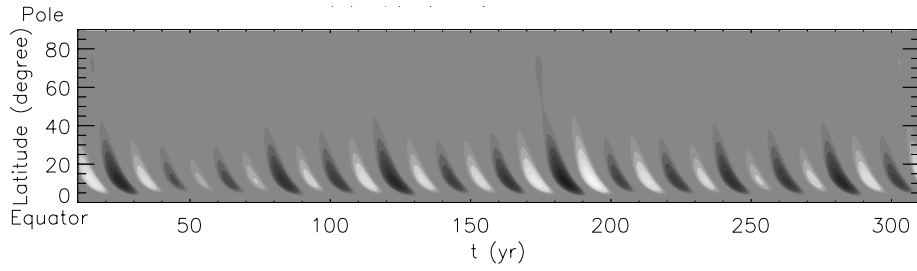
## 3.4 Variation of meridional circulation

Charbonneau and Dikpati (2000)

$$\delta\Psi$$

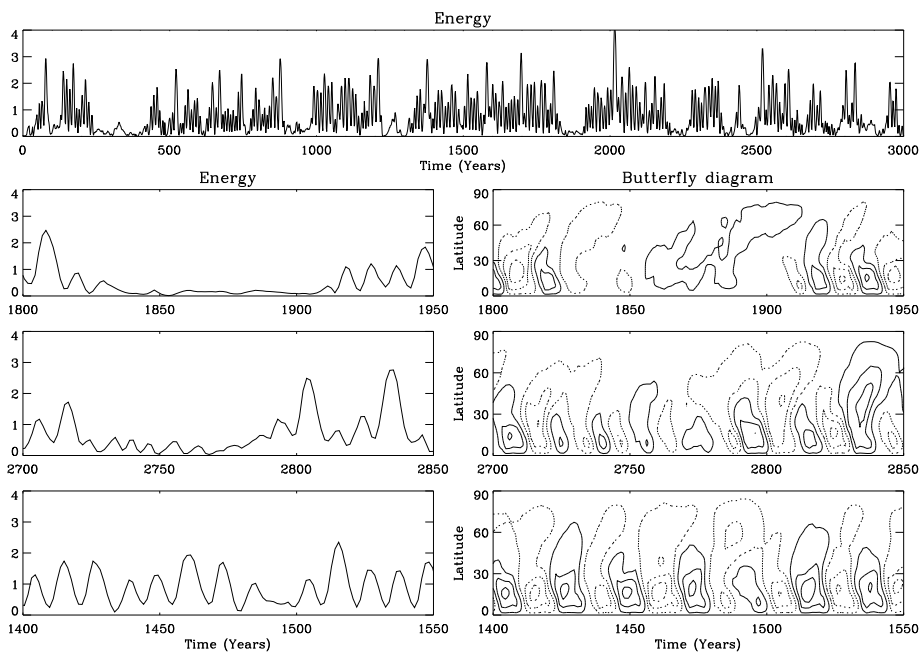


$\delta\alpha$



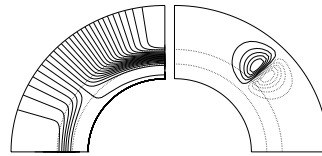
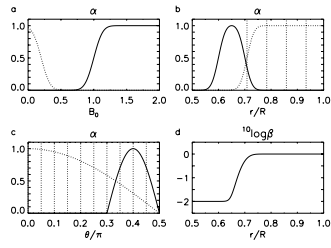
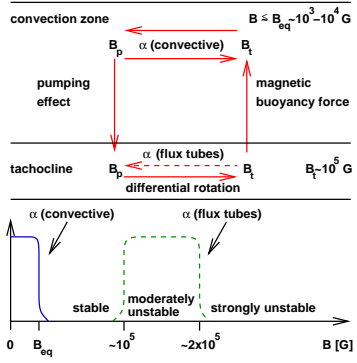
### 3.5 On-off intermittency

- overshoot layer dynamo driven by flux tube instability
- lower threshold in field strength for dynamo action
- random fluctuations due to magnetic fields in convection zone

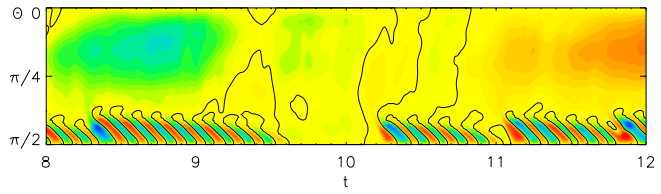


Schmitt et al. (1996)

interface dynamo / flux tube dynamo



differential rotation and downflow



Ossendrijver (2000)