

The story so far:

Induction $u_p = \kappa B_p$
 $\frac{u_\phi}{R} - \frac{\kappa B_\phi}{R} = \Omega = \text{constant} \quad (1)$

Mass continuity $\rho \frac{u_p}{B_p} = \rho \kappa \equiv \eta = \text{constant} \quad (2)$

Torque balance $\rho \kappa R u_\phi - \frac{R B_\phi}{\mu_0} \equiv \rho \kappa L = \text{constant} \quad (3)$

AS 5002

Star Formation & Plasma Astrophysics

The Alfvénic point

- Use (1) - $\mu_0 \kappa / R^2$ (3) to eliminate B_ϕ :

$$\frac{u_\phi}{R} - \frac{\mu_0 \rho \kappa^2 u_\phi}{R} = \Omega - \frac{\mu_0 \rho \kappa^2 L}{R^2}$$

- Substitute: $\kappa^2 = \frac{u_p^2}{B_p^2}$ and $u_A^2 = \frac{B_p^2}{\mu_0 \rho}$,

- to get: $\frac{u_\phi}{R} \left(1 - \frac{u_p^2}{u_A^2} \right) = \Omega - \frac{u_p^2 L}{u_A^2 R^2}$.

- u_ϕ is singular at Alfvénic point $u_p = u_A$ unless:

$$R_A^2 \Omega - L = 0.$$

AS 5002

Star Formation & Plasma Astrophysics

Weber-Davis radial-field model

- Radial field lines close to star ("split monopole").
- Spherical Alfvénic surface, radius r_A .
- Isotropic mass loss.
- Angular momentum flux across area ds is:

$$(\rho_A u_A) \cdot (\Omega r_A^2 \cos^2 \theta) (2\pi r_A \cos \theta \cdot r_A d\theta)$$

Mass flux Net specific angular momentum transported along field line anchored at latitude θ Area of surface element ds

$$\Rightarrow -\dot{J} = (\rho_A u_A r_A^2) (\Omega r_A^2) 2\pi \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \cos^3 \theta d\theta \quad \xrightarrow{=4/3}$$

AS 5002

Star Formation & Plasma Astrophysics

Net spindown torque on star

- Density at Alfvén radius: $\rho_A = \frac{B_A^2}{\mu_0 u_A^2}$

- Net torque on star:

$$\Rightarrow -\dot{J} = \frac{8\pi}{3\mu_0} (B_A r_A^2)^2 \frac{\Omega}{u_A} = \frac{8\pi}{3\mu_0} (B_0 r_*^2)^2 \frac{\Omega}{u_A}$$

Radial or dipole field

- For thermal driving, $u_A \sim 2$ to $3 c_s$, indep. of Ω .
- For linear dynamo law, $B_0 \sim \Omega$.
- If stellar moment of inertia is constant:

$$J = k^2 M_* r_*^2 \Omega \Rightarrow \frac{d\Omega}{dt} \propto -\Omega^3$$

AS 5002

Star Formation & Plasma Astrophysics

General braking laws

$$\frac{d\Omega}{dt} = -c_0 \Omega^p \Rightarrow \frac{1}{1-p} (\Omega^{1-p} - \Omega_0^{1-p}) = -c_0 (t - t_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Omega = [\Omega_0^{1-p} + c_0 (p-1)(t - t_0)]^{1/(1-p)}$$

- Asymptotically:

$$\Omega \rightarrow c_0 (p-1) (t - t_0)^{1/(1-p)} \text{ for } t - t_0 \gg \frac{\Omega_0^{1-p}}{c_0 (p-1)}$$

- Hence for $p = 3$,

$$\Omega(t) \rightarrow t^{-1/2}$$

cf. Skumanich.

AS 5002

Star Formation & Plasma Astrophysics