

# Extreme Magnetic Field Generation - large-scale fields in the universe

Kinwah Wu Mullard Space Science Laboratory University College London



#### **Maxwell's equations**

covariant form

$$F^{\alpha\beta}{}_{;\alpha} = \frac{4\pi}{c}j^{\beta}$$
$$F_{\alpha\beta,\gamma} + F_{\gamma\alpha,\beta} + F_{\beta\gamma,\alpha} = F_{\alpha\beta;\gamma} + F_{\gamma\alpha;\beta} + F_{\beta\gamma;\alpha} = 0$$

in flat space time

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = 4\pi\rho$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c}\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = -\frac{1}{c}\frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} + \frac{4\pi}{c}\mathbf{j}$$

Lorentz force equation:  $\mathbf{F} = q\left(\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v}}{c} \times \mathbf{B}\right)$ 



### **Astrophysical magnetic fields**





#### **Cosmological-scale fields vs stellar fields**

"magnetic flux"  $\Phi \sim BR^2$ 

- magnetars 10<sup>28</sup> Gcm<sup>2</sup>
- neutron stars  $10^{21} 10^{25} \,\text{Gcm}^2$
- white dwarfs  $10^{21} 10^{25} \, \text{Gcm}^2$
- solar-like stars  $10^{21} 10^{23} \,\text{Gcm}^2$
- galaxies ~10<sup>41</sup> Gcm<sup>2</sup>
- galaxy clusters ~10<sup>43</sup> Gcm<sup>2</sup>
- superclusters and beyond ???

#### toplogical properties

boundary conditions



# **Cosmological magnetic field (I)**

- light elements in metal poor halo stars
   <sup>6</sup>Li abundance indicating that the galaxy was bombarded by cosmic ray before it was formed (Rollinde et al. 2005)
- pulsar rotational measurement and timing study indicating a dipolar field in the Milky Way (Han et al. 2006)
- Faraday rotation in damped Lyman- $\alpha$  forest systems at  $z \sim 2$ , suggesting large-scale magnetic field B  $\sim 10^{-6}$  G (Blasi, Burles & Olinto 1999)

- in quasars, where MRI operates in accretion disks and jets, at z > 5



# **Cosmological magnetic field (II)**

- Cosmological magneto-genesis
  - fundamental issues
    - standard plasma physics or exotic physics ?
  - bottom-up process or top-down process ?

Angular momentum regulation

- proto-star formation in the early universe
- fueling and growing supermassive black holes (quasars at high z ... )

Cosmic rays at various z

- acceleration
- propagation
- confinement (?)



#### Magneto-genesis: Biermann battery (I)

Faraday's Law

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -c \left( \nabla \times \mathbf{E} \right)$$

Ohm's Law (omitting the current for the time being)

$$\mathbf{E} = -\left(rac{\mathbf{v}}{c} imes \mathbf{B}
ight) + rac{1}{n_{
m e} e} 
abla p_{
m e}$$

The Biermann battery equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} &= \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) + \frac{c}{n_{\rm e}^2 e} (\nabla p_{\rm e} \times \nabla n_{\rm e}) \\ &= \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) + \frac{1}{1 + \chi} \frac{m_{\rm p} c}{\rho^2 e} (\nabla p \times \nabla \rho) \end{aligned}$$



#### Magneto-genesis: Biermann battery (II)

in co-moving frame

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{a} \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) - 2\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\mathbf{B} + \frac{1}{1+\chi} \frac{m_{\rm p}c}{eB_0 t_0} \frac{(\nabla p \times \nabla \rho)}{\rho^2}$$

barotropic fluid p=p(
ho)

- isobaric surface coincide with isopynic surface

$$\nabla p \times \nabla \rho = 0$$

 $\text{``slow" moving} \qquad v\tau \ll L \Rightarrow \text{``} \mathbf{v} \to 0 \text{''}$ 

flux conservation

$$rac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \sim -2rac{\dot{a}}{a}\mathbf{B} \; \Rightarrow \; \Phi = Ba^2 \sim \mathcal{C}$$



## Magneto-genesis: bottom up scenario (I)

(1) Biermann battery operations in small scales

- stars, disks, accretion inflows
- (2) Dynamo growth
  - scaled by rotation rates
  - in favour of "compact" objects which are fast rotators
- (3) Field expelled from stellar objects
  - via supernovae, jets, outflows
- (4) Diffusion and connection/combination of small-scale fields
  - building up large-scale fields



## Magneto-genesis: bottom up scenario (II)

field generation in galaxies via SNR

- suppose in a plerion SNR

 $B \sim 10^{-3} \text{ G}$  $R \sim 1 \text{ pc}$ 

- SNR overlapping when  $R\sim 60~{
m pc}$ 

- reaching pressure equilibrium at  $\ R \sim 15 \ {
m pc}$ 

- diffusion coefficient (via ambipolar process)  $D \sim 10^2 \ {
m pc \ km \ s^{-1}}$ 

timescale to fill a galaxy with SNR generated field  $\tau \sim 10^{14} \text{ s} \approx 10^7 \text{ yr}$ expected Strength of the random field  $\sqrt{< B^2 >} \sim 3 \times 10^{-7} \text{ G}$ (Zweibel 2006)



## Magneto-genesis: bottom up scenario (III)

the difficulty for field spreading beyond galaxies

- typical size of a rich galaxy cluster  $R \sim 1 \; {
m Mpc}$ 

- diffusion coefficient  $D \sim 10^6 \ {\rm pc \ km \ s^{-1}}$ 

timescale for a galactic field to spread over within a galaxy clusters

$$\tau \sim 3 \times 10^{19} \text{ s} \approx 10^{12} \text{ yr} \gg \frac{2}{3H_0}$$

How about magnetic fields in large structures beyond galaxy clusters ???



## Magneto-genesis: top down scenario (I)

behind the photon last scattering surface

- the media are opaque to "light"
- photons, electrons and protons are strongly coupled

Thomson cross sections of charged particles

$$\sigma_{\rm t} = \left(\frac{e^2}{mc^2}\right)^2$$
$$m_{\rm e} \ll m_{\rm p} \Rightarrow \sigma_{\rm t}^{\rm (e)} \gg \sigma_{\rm t}^{\rm (p)}$$

near the last scattering surface

- photons preferentially scatter off electrons rather than protons
- velocity difference between charged particles, i.e. electric currents
- anisotropy in the photon radiation field leading to "micro-rotation"



# Magneto-genesis: top down scenario (II)

- Faraday induction equation
- Ohm's law
- Euler equation
- metric for space-time structure

magnetic field evolution equation (Ichiki et al. 2007)



#### Magneto-genesis: top down scenario (III)

for scale invariant density perturbation

$$S(k) \sim k^{-7/3} C_1 + k^5 C_2$$

slip term stress anisotropy term

 $B \propto \sqrt{k^3 S(k)} \propto k^{7/2} > 100 \, {
m Mpc}$  $k^{1/3} \sim 10 - 100 \, {
m Mpc}$  $k \sim 10^{-3} \, {
m pc} - 10 \, {
m Mpc}$  $\sim 0 < 10^{-3} \, {
m pc}$ 

expected field strength  $B \sim 10^{-21} - 10^{-16} \text{ G}$ 

which is larger than  $~B_{\rm seed}\sim 10^{-30}-10^{-20}~{\rm G}$  , the required seed field for dynamo amplification to micro-gauss field in IGM and ICM



#### **Neutrinos**

standard model for particle physics

- lepton family



+ their anti-particles

- neutrinos have non-zero mass
- neutrino oscillations/mixing during propagation
- neutrinos interact with their leptons via weak interaction

$$\begin{split} k^{\alpha} \frac{\partial \mathcal{I}^{i}(k^{\beta})}{\partial x^{\alpha}} + \Gamma^{\alpha}_{\beta\gamma} k^{\beta} k^{\gamma} \frac{\partial \mathcal{I}(k^{\beta})}{\partial k} \\ &= -u^{\delta} k^{\delta} \left[ \sum_{j} \chi^{ij}_{0}(x^{\beta}, k^{\beta}) \mathcal{I}^{i}(k^{\beta}) + \eta^{i}_{0}(x^{\beta}, k^{\beta}) + \int d^{4}k' \sum_{j} \sigma^{ij}_{0}(x^{\beta}, k^{\beta}, k'^{\beta}) \mathcal{I}^{j}(k'^{\beta}) \right] \end{split}$$

destruction/conversion

creation

scattering

# **UCL**

# **Cosmological fields (I)**

- neutrino last scattering surfaces (CNB!)
- 3 scattering surfaces instead of 1 only surface
- charge particle slip
- in dense early universe





# **Cosmological fields (II)**

- primordial neutrino generated fields are not necessarily weak
- diluted as the universe expanded
- magnetic fields are topological
  - not so easy to be destroyed
  - could retain coherent signatures when emerged from behind the last neutrino and photon scattering surfaces
  - largest scale cosmic magnetic field ???

More thoughts later .....