

Harmonically forced and synchronized dynamos

Frank Stefani

with thanks to

Gerrit M. Horstmann, Laurène Jouve, Martins Klevs,
George Mamatsashvili, Tom Weier

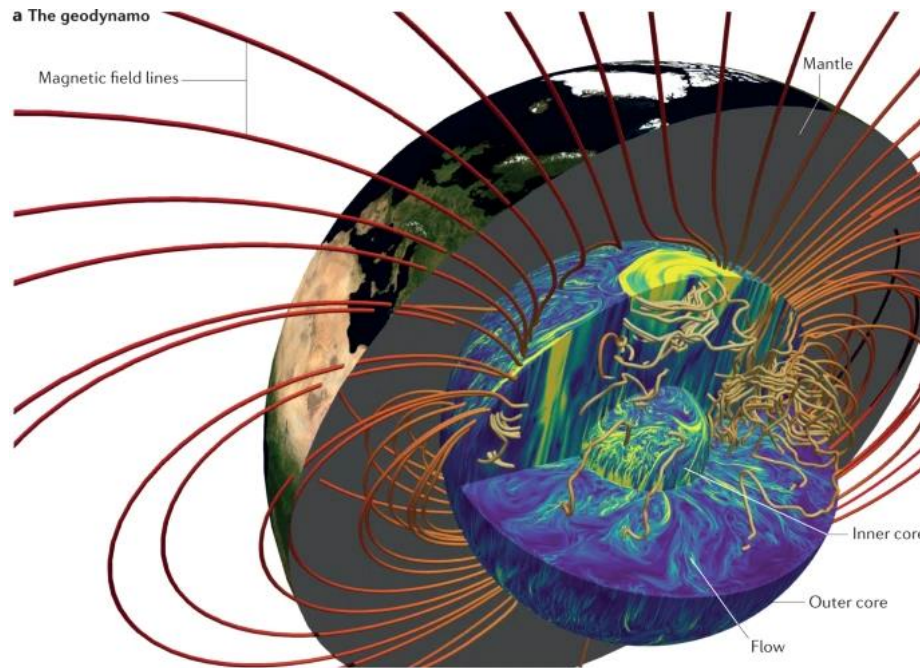
19th MHD Days
AIP Potsdam
2-4 Dec 2024

HZDR

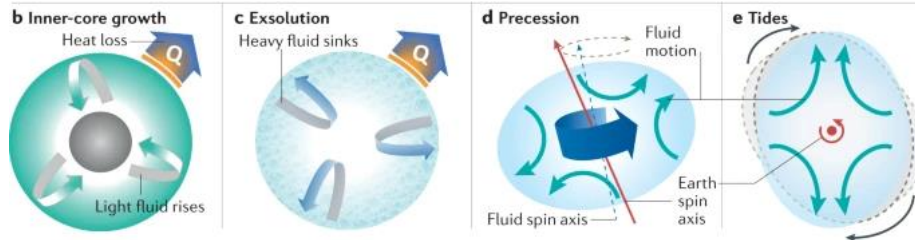
 HELMHOLTZ
ZENTRUM DRESDEN
ROSSENDORF

Precession, tides, et cetera: Highly recommendable reviews

M. Le Bars, D. Cébron, P. Le Gals: Flows driven by libration, precession, and tides. *Annu. Rev. Fluid Mech.* 47 (2015)



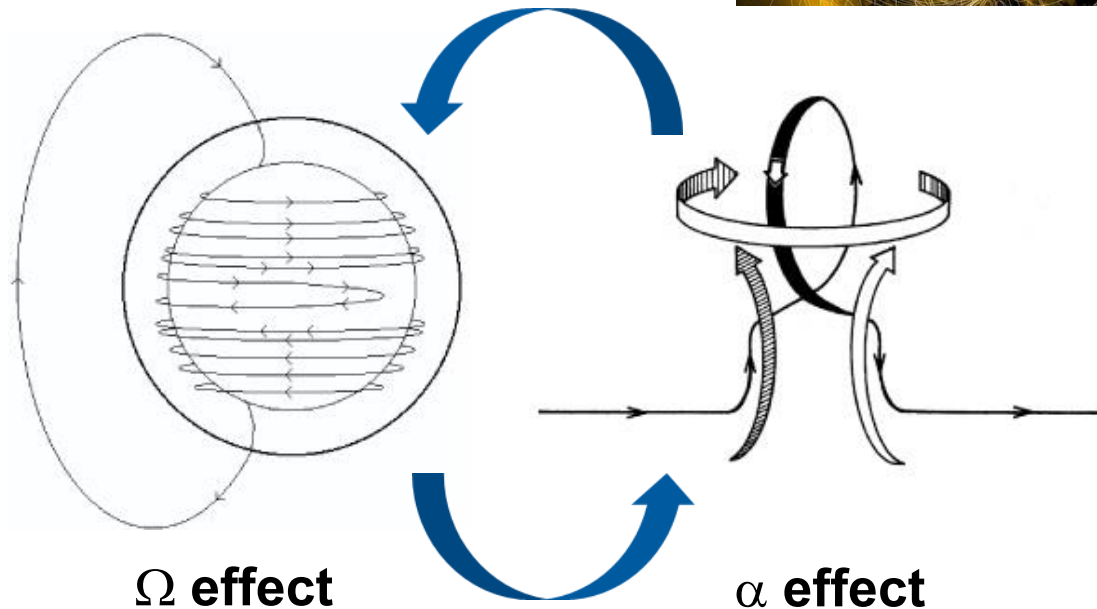
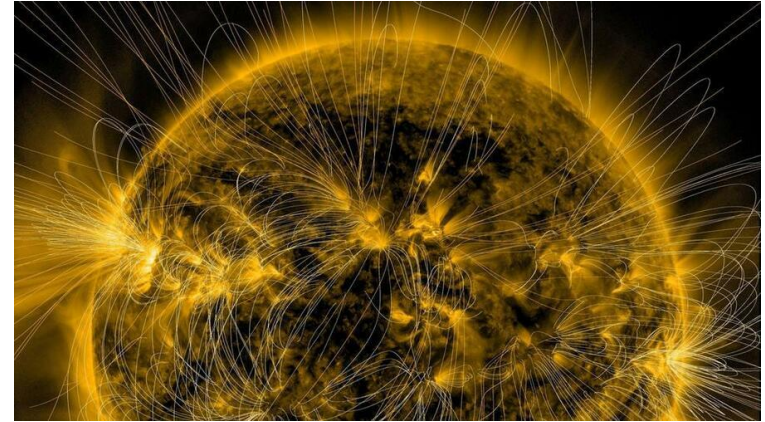
M. Landeau, A. Fournier, H.-C. Nataf, D. Cébron, N. Schaeffer: Sustaining Earth's magnetic dynamo. *Nature Rev. Earth Environ.* 3 (2022), 255



The solar dynamo: Basics

Any solar dynamo needs:

- some Ω effect to wind up toroidal field from poloidal field
- some α effect to regenerate poloidal field from toroidal field



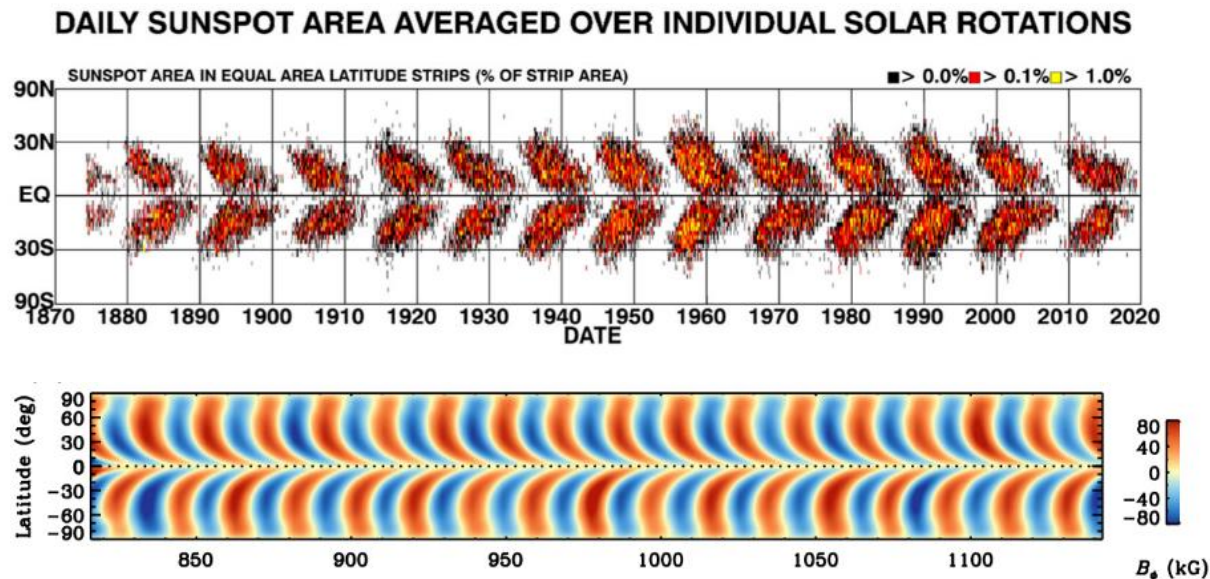
Parker, *Astrophys J.* 122, 293 (1955)

The solar dynamo: conventional wisdom

With appropriate models, e.g. Babcock-Leighton (including meridional circulation), and some parameter fitting, one “readily” obtains

- a reasonable **period of the Hale cycle** (22 years)
- a reasonable **shape of the butterfly diagram** of sunspots

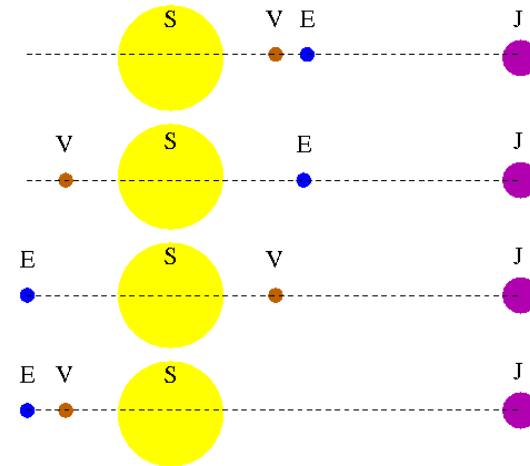
<http://www.solarcyclescience.com/solarcycle.html>



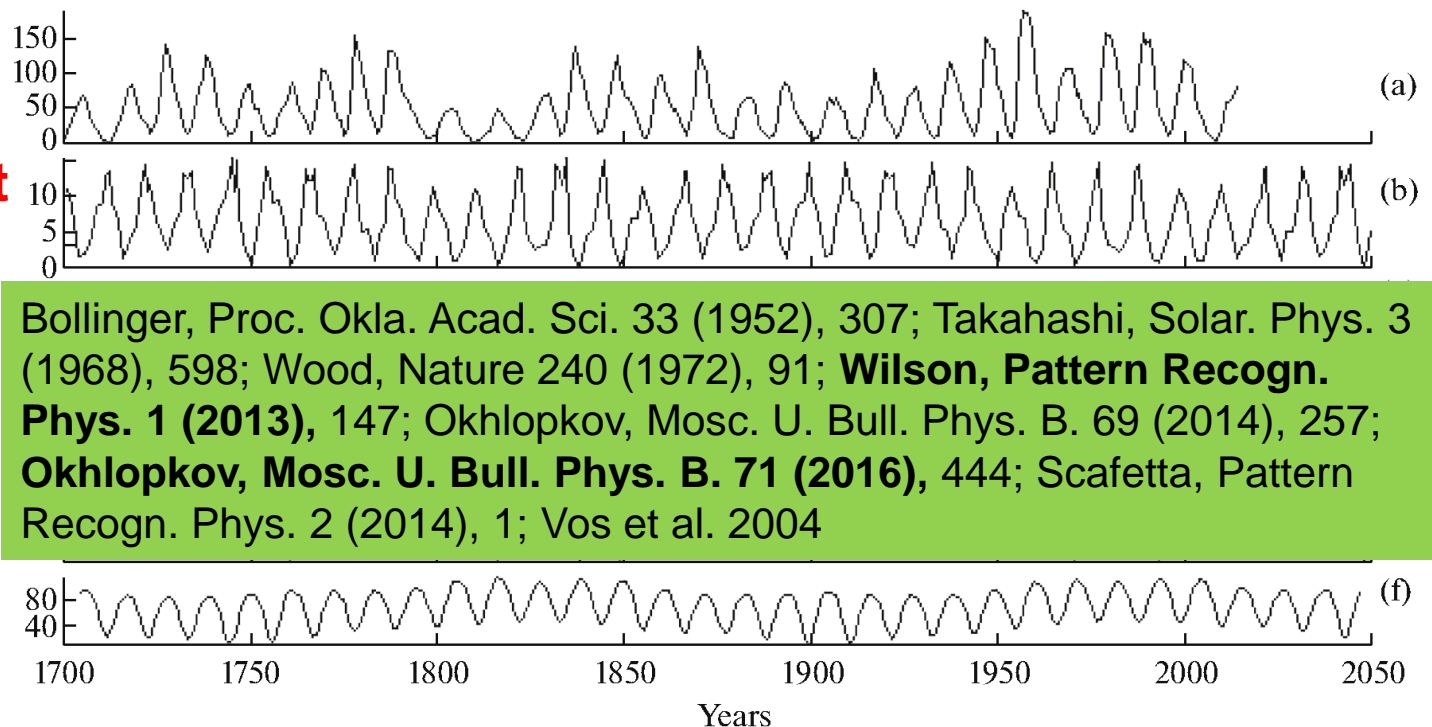
Karak, B.B., Miesch, M., ApJ 847 (2017), 69

First indication for phase stability and clocking

Conspicuous parallelity of the solar Schwabe cycle with **11.07-yr spring-tide period of the tidally dominant Venus-Earth-Jupiter system** (despite weak tidal forces → 1 mm tidal height!)

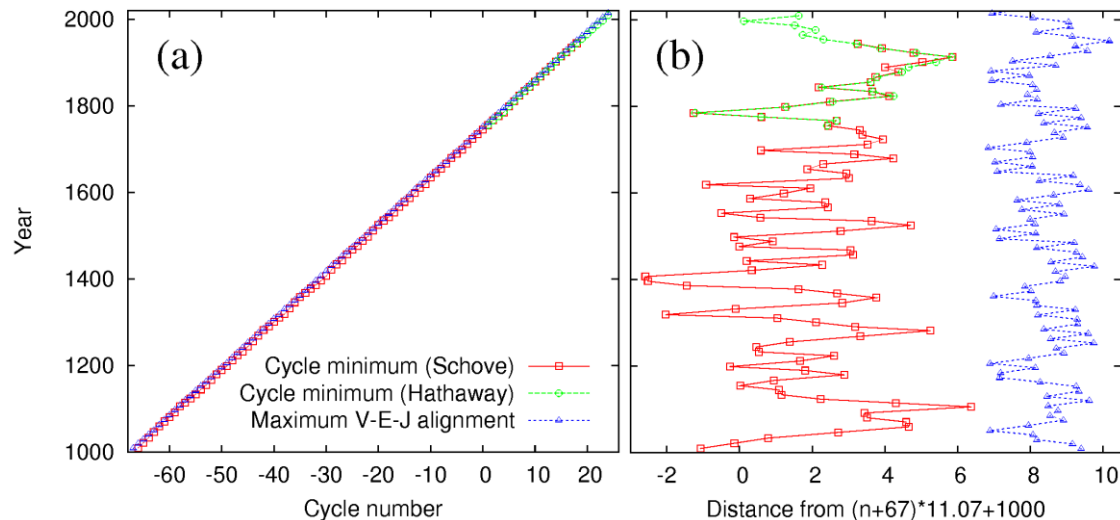


Sunspots
VEJ alignment index



Bollinger, Proc. Okla. Acad. Sci. 33 (1952), 307; Takahashi, Solar. Phys. 3 (1968), 598; Wood, Nature 240 (1972), 91; **Wilson, Pattern Recogn. Phys. 1 (2013), 147**; Okhlopkov, Mosc. U. Bull. Phys. B. 69 (2014), 257; **Okhlopkov, Mosc. U. Bull. Phys. B. 71 (2016), 444**; Scafetta, Pattern Recogn. Phys. 2 (2014), 1; Vos et al. 2004

First indication for phase stability and clocking



Schöve, D.J.: J. Geophys. Res. 60 (1955), 127; Hathaway, D.H., Liv. Rev. Sol. Phys. 7 (2010)

Strong indication for a **clocked process**,
in contrast to a random walk process

Schöve's data (derived mainly from aurorae borealis) are often criticized ("9 per century rule")

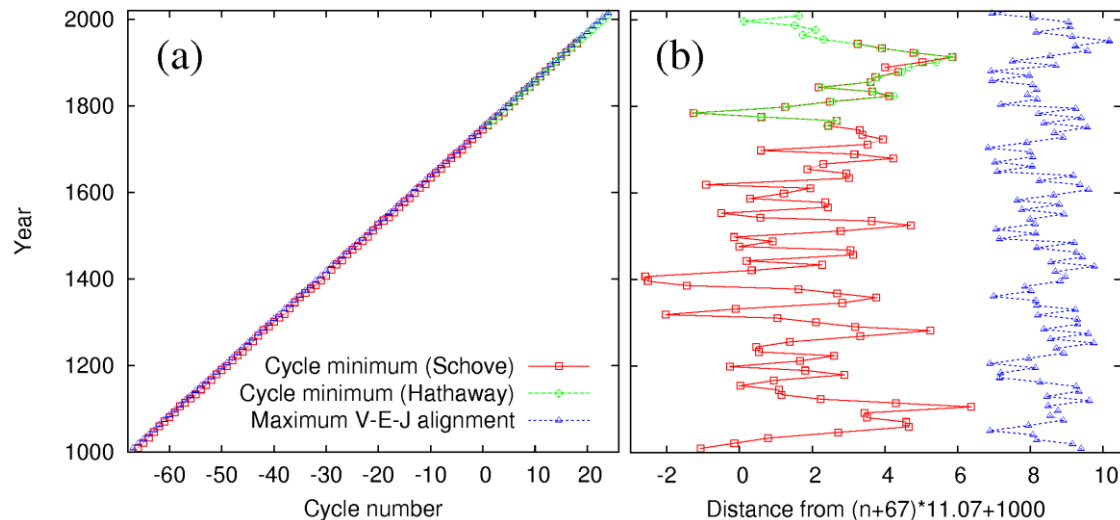
However: ^{10}Be and ^{14}C data give similar cycles.

F. S. et al., Solar Physics 294 (2019)

I. Usoskin, Living Rev. Sol. Phys. 14, 3 (2017); H.-C. Nataf, Solar Physics 297 (2022), 107

F. S. et al., Astron. Nachr. 341 (2020), 600

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F. S. et al., Astron. Nachr. 341 (2020), 600

Phase stability of the Schwabe cycle: the state of the debate

Stefani et al., Solar Physics 294 (2019)

Criticized by

Nataf, Solar Physics 297 (2022), 107

Criticized by



Nataf, Solar Physics 298 (2023), 33

answer

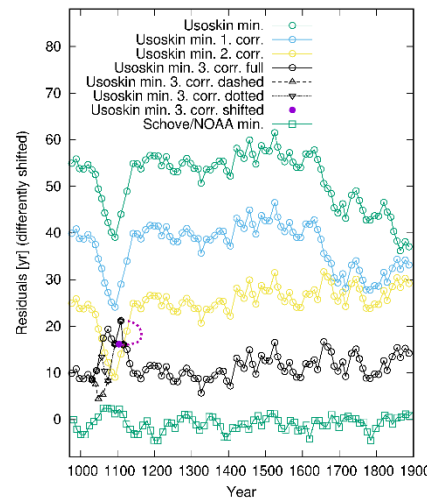
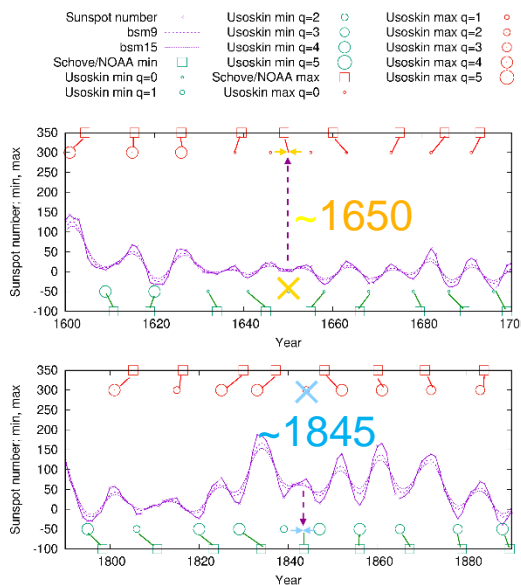
Scafetta, Solar Physics 298 (2023), 24

Weisshaar et al., A&A 671 (2023), A87:
No evidence for synchronization of the solar cycle by a “clock”

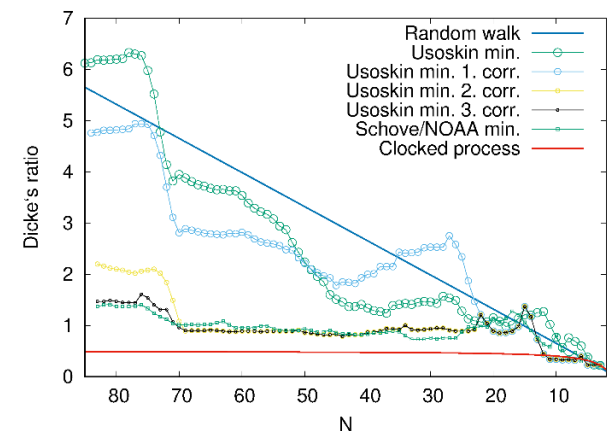
Criticized by

Stefani, Beer, Weier, **No evidence for absence of solar dynamo synchronization**, promptly rejected by Editor of A&A → Solar Physics 298, 83 (2023)

¹⁴C-Data: two very plausible corrections → clocked process down to AD 1140



Residuals



Dicke-Ratio



Phase stability of the Schwabe cycle: the state of the debate

Stefani et al., Solar Physics 294 (2019)

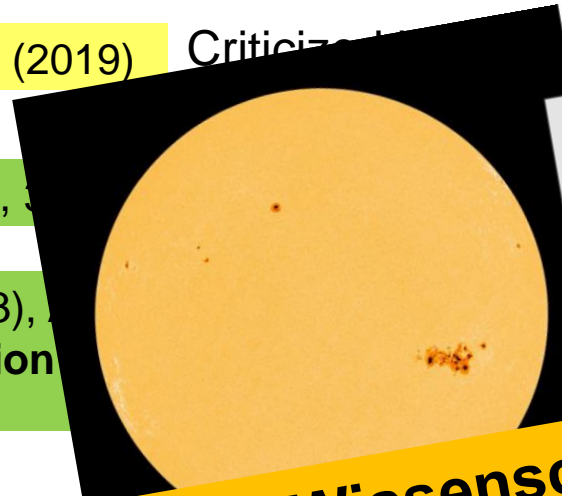
Criticized

297 (2022), 107

Nataf, Solar Physics 298 (2023),

298 (2023), 24

Weisshaar et al., A&A 671 (2023),
**No evidence for synchronization
 the solar cycle by a "clock"**



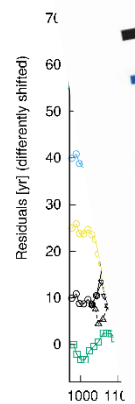
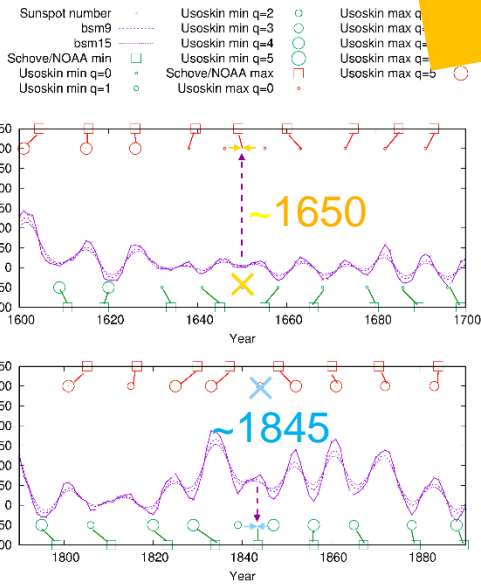
Die wechselnde Zahl der Sonnenflecken auf der Photosphäre, der sichtbaren Oberfläche der Sonne, sind ein Indikator für die solare Aktivität. Das Foto vom 10. Mai 2024 zeigt die riesige Sonnenfleckengruppe AR3664 (unten rechts), von der heftige Teilchenstürme ausgegangen waren.

zont erhalten. Diese Art der Aktivität schwankt zyklisch mit einer Periode von etwa elf Jahren.
 Dieser sogenannte Schwabe-Zyklus ist nach dem deutschen Astronomen Samuel Heinrich Schwabe benannt, der ihn

Bild der Wissenschaft, 01/2025

¹⁴C-Data: two very plausible cor...

**...evidence for
 ...synchrono-
 ...editor of
 ... (2023)**



Taktgeber des Sonnenzyklus

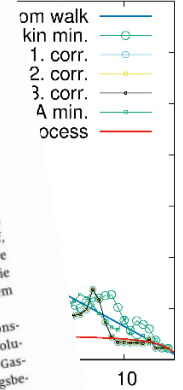
Der elfjährige Aktivitätszyklus der Sonne hat seine Ursache tief im Innern des Feuerballs. Hier vollzieht sich ein komplexes Wechselspiel zwischen der Rotation, dem strömenden Plasma und dem Magnetfeld. Geben zusätzlich Planeten von außen den Takt an?
 von THOMAS BÜHRKE

Die Sonne befindet sich derzeit in einem Maximum ungewöhnlich hoher Aktivität. So schleuderte ein Riesensonnenfleck mit der Bezeichnung AR3664 im Mai 2024 mehrfach Teilchenwolken ins All, die auf das Erdmagnetfeld trafen. „Der gesamte globale

Stromkreislauf der Erde wurde durch den Sturm beeinträchtigt“, schrieb Gang Li, Weltraumphysiker an der University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, auf dem Internationalen Spaceweather. Und die Stürme entfachten Polarlichter, die auch in Deutschland deutlich sichtbar den Hori-

...sommerzeit gelöst. Demnach variiert er um einen Mittelwert von 10,4 Jahren mit einer Variabilität von 8 bis 14 Jahren. In diesem Zeitraum gab es starke Intensitätsschwankungen – etwa die Spörer- und Maunder-Minima, die wohl die Kleinfachereiszeit vom 15. bis zum 17. Jahrhundert verursacht haben. Auch heftige Teilchenstürme zeichnen sich in den Baumringen ab, zum Beispiel in den Jahren 774, 993 und 1859 (Carrington-Ereignis). Lange Zeit war nicht klar, auf welche Weise der Aktivitätszyklus zustande kommt. Als Ursache sah man aber ein Wechselspiel zwischen dem globalen Magnetfeld und dem heißen Gas tief im Innern der Sonne.
 Bis in eine Tiefe von etwa 200.000 Kilometern ist unser Tagesgestirn konvektiv, wie Physiker sagen: Unablässig steigen heiße Gasmassen zur Oberfläche auf, kühlen ab und sinken wieder ins Innere zurück. Dieses Auf und Ab der Materie lässt sich in ähnlicher Weise in einem Kochtopf beobachten.
 Unterhalb von dieser Konvektionsschale, also in dem kugelförmigen Volutenbereich bis zum Zentrum, findet diese Gasbewegung nicht statt. Den Übergangsbereich zwischen diesen beiden Bereichen nennt man Tachokline. Bei der dort herrschenden Temperatur um zwei Millionen Grad haben die Atome ihre Elektro-

140



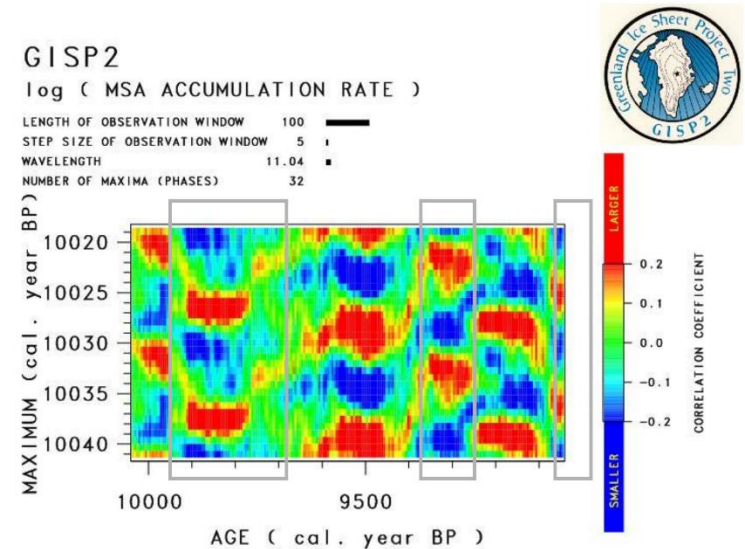
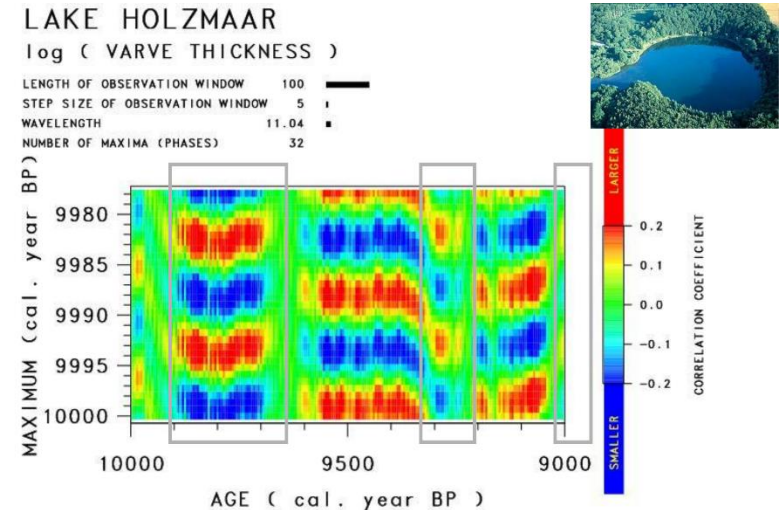
Second indication for phase stability and clocking

Phase diagrams for **algae data from lake Holzmaar** und algae-produced Methanesulfonate (MSA) in Greenland ice core GISP2 show 11.04-years cycle with very similar band structures.

Bands are separated by apparent 5.5-years-phase jumps, resulting from nonlinear transfer function (due to optimality condition of algae growth)

Strong evidence for a **11.04(?) -years-cycle, that was phase-stable over 1000 years!**

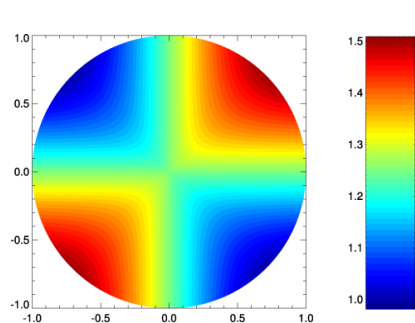
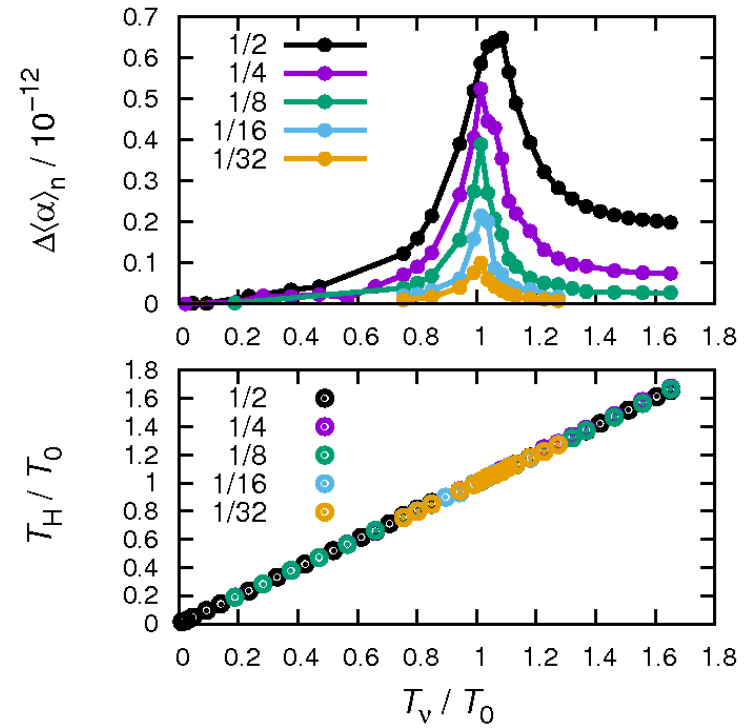
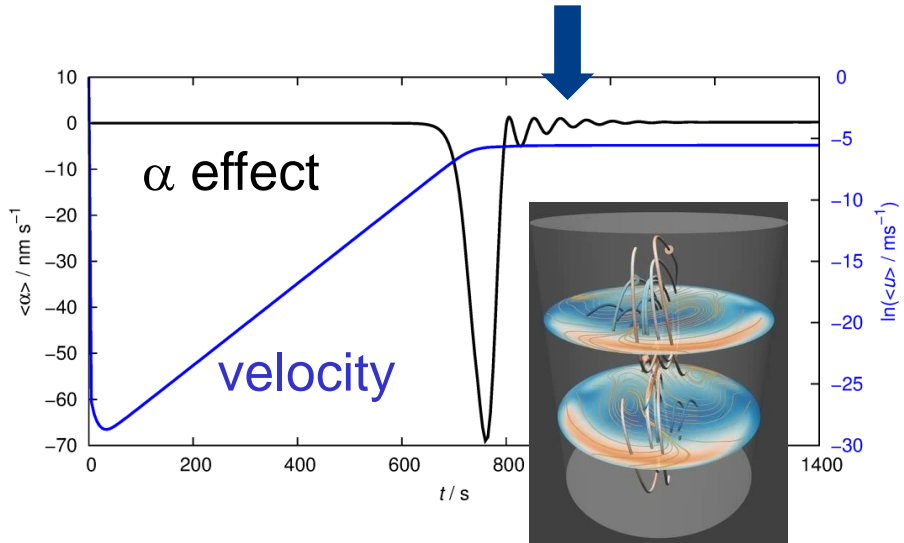
H. Vos et al., in "Climate in Historical Times: Towards a Synthesis of Holocene Proxy Data and Climate Models", GKSS School of Environmental Research, p. 293 (2004)



F. S. et al., Astron. Nachr. 341 (2020), 600

Original idea: tidal forces might synchronize α to 11.07 years

Current driven **Taylor instability** (with azimuthal wave number $m=1$) tends to undergo **intrinsic helicity oscillations**...



...which can be easily synchronized by tidal ($m=2$) perturbations (of the VEJ-system)

N. Weber et al., NJP 17 (2015), 113013; F. S. et al., Solar Phys. 291 (2016), 2197; Solar Physics 294 (2019), 60

A simple ODE model of a synchronized dynamo

$$\dot{A}(t) = \alpha(t)B(t) - \tau^{-1}A(t)$$

$$\dot{B}(t) = \omega A(t) - \tau^{-1}B(t)$$

$$\alpha(t) = \frac{c}{1 + gB^2(t)} + \frac{pB^2(t)}{1 + hB^4(t)} \sin(2\pi t / T_V)$$

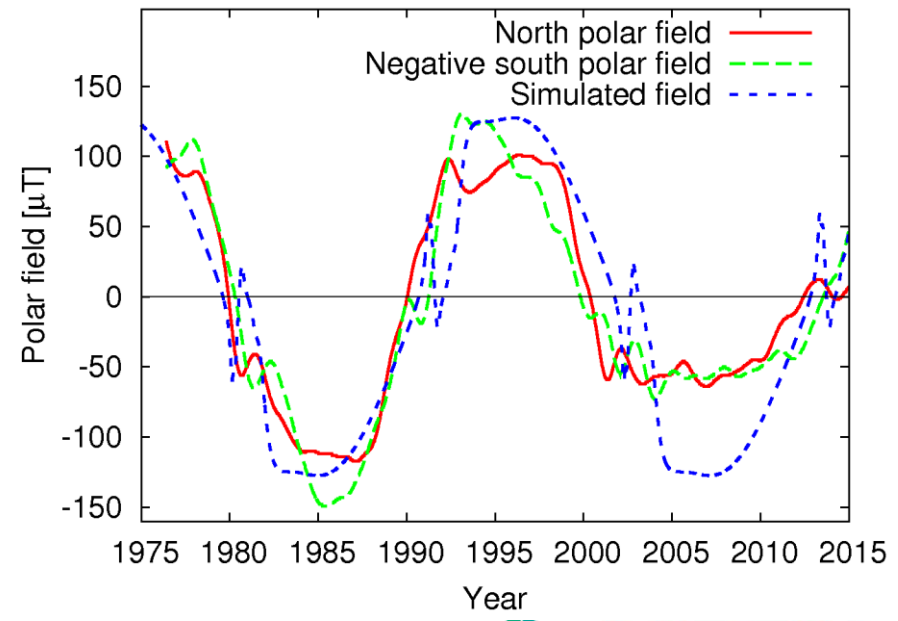
Oscillatory α term
with period of 11.07
years and resonant
dependence on the
field strength



Constant α term
with quenching

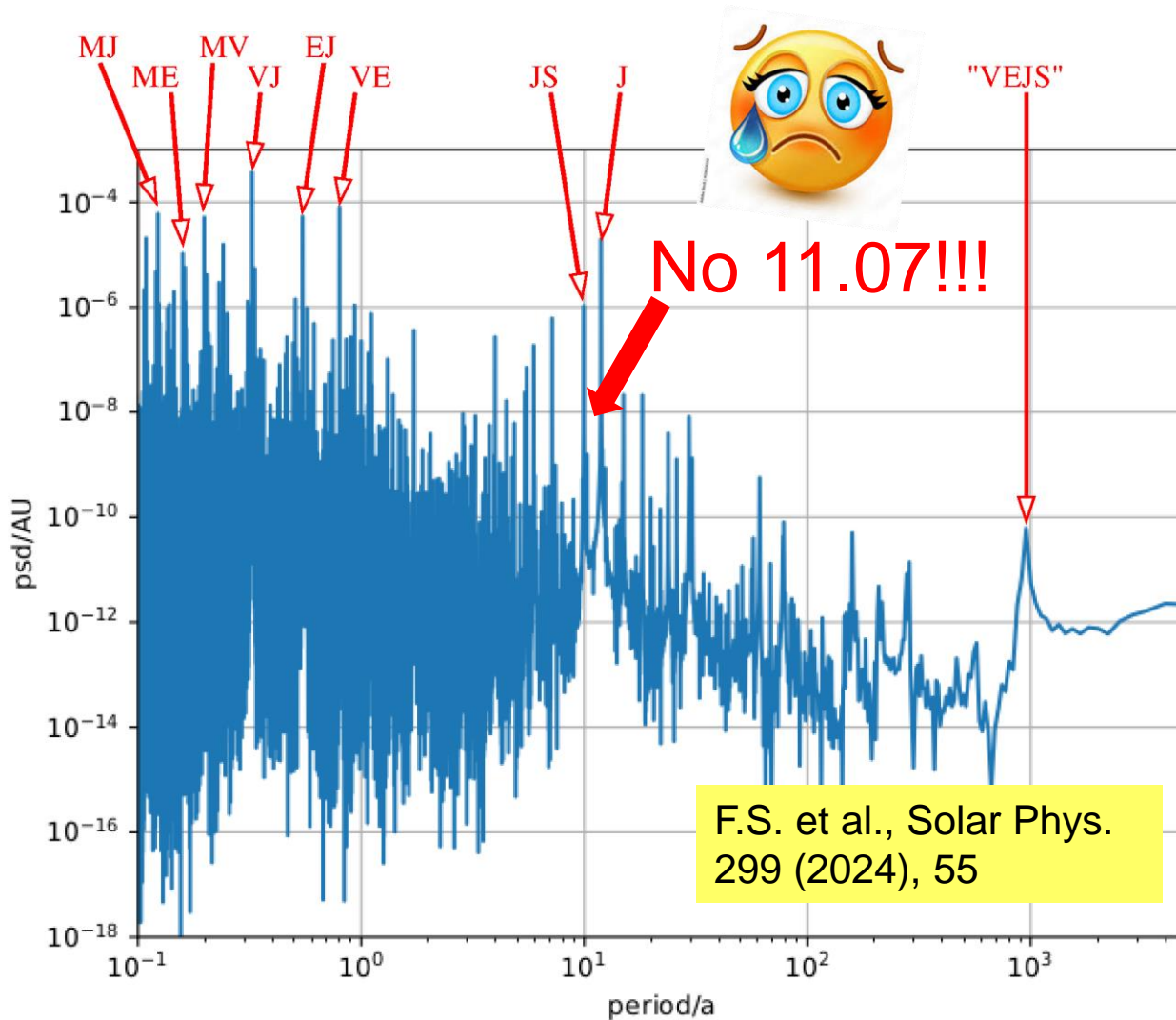


...parametric
resonance
yields a
22.14 years
solar cycle!



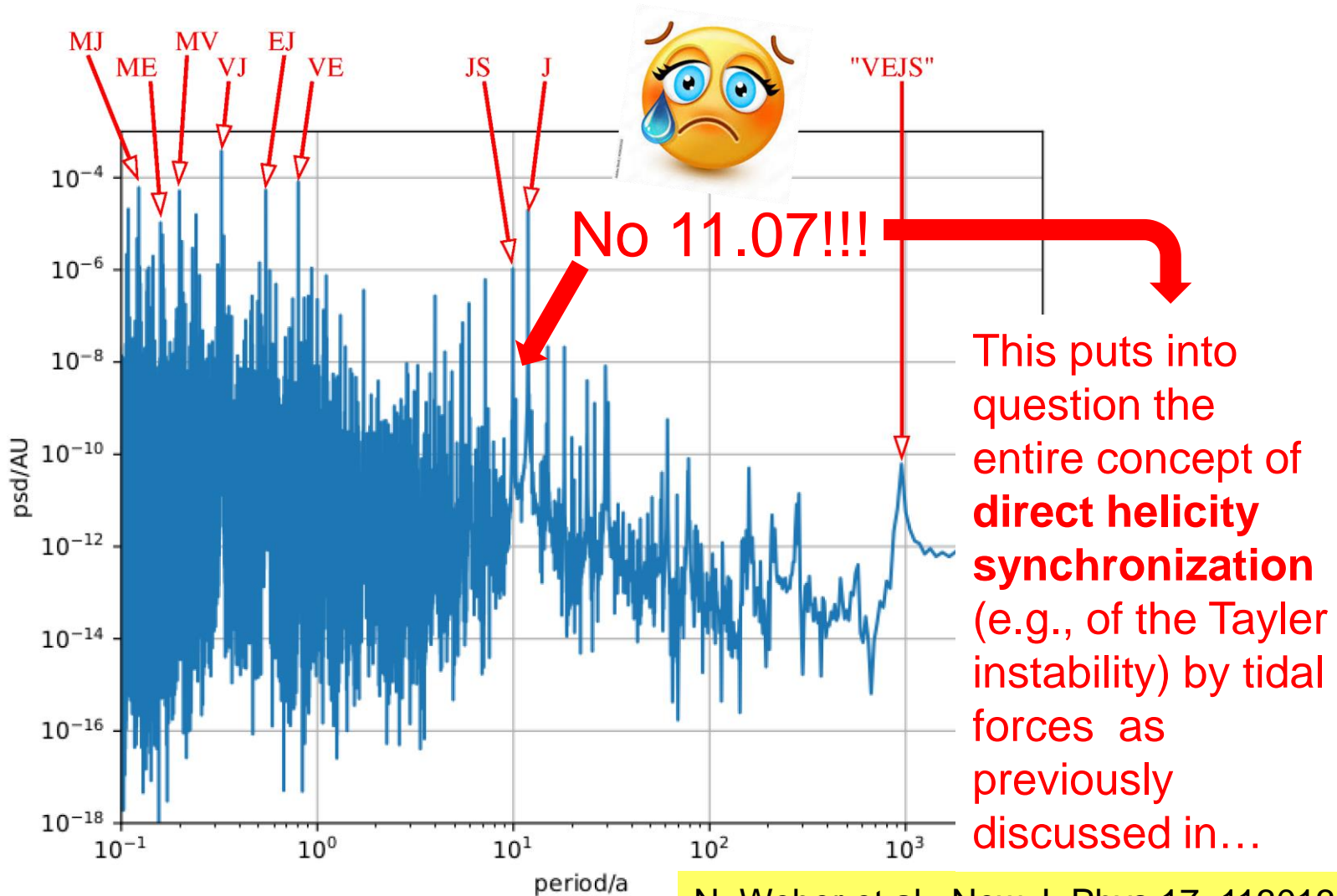
F.S. et al, Solar Phys. 291 (2016), 2197

However: No 11.07-yr peak in the spectrum of tidal potential...



H.-C. Nataf, Solar Phys. 297, 107 (2022),
R.G. Cionco et al., Solar Phys. 298, 70 (2023)

However: No 11.07-yr peak in the spectrum of tidal potential...

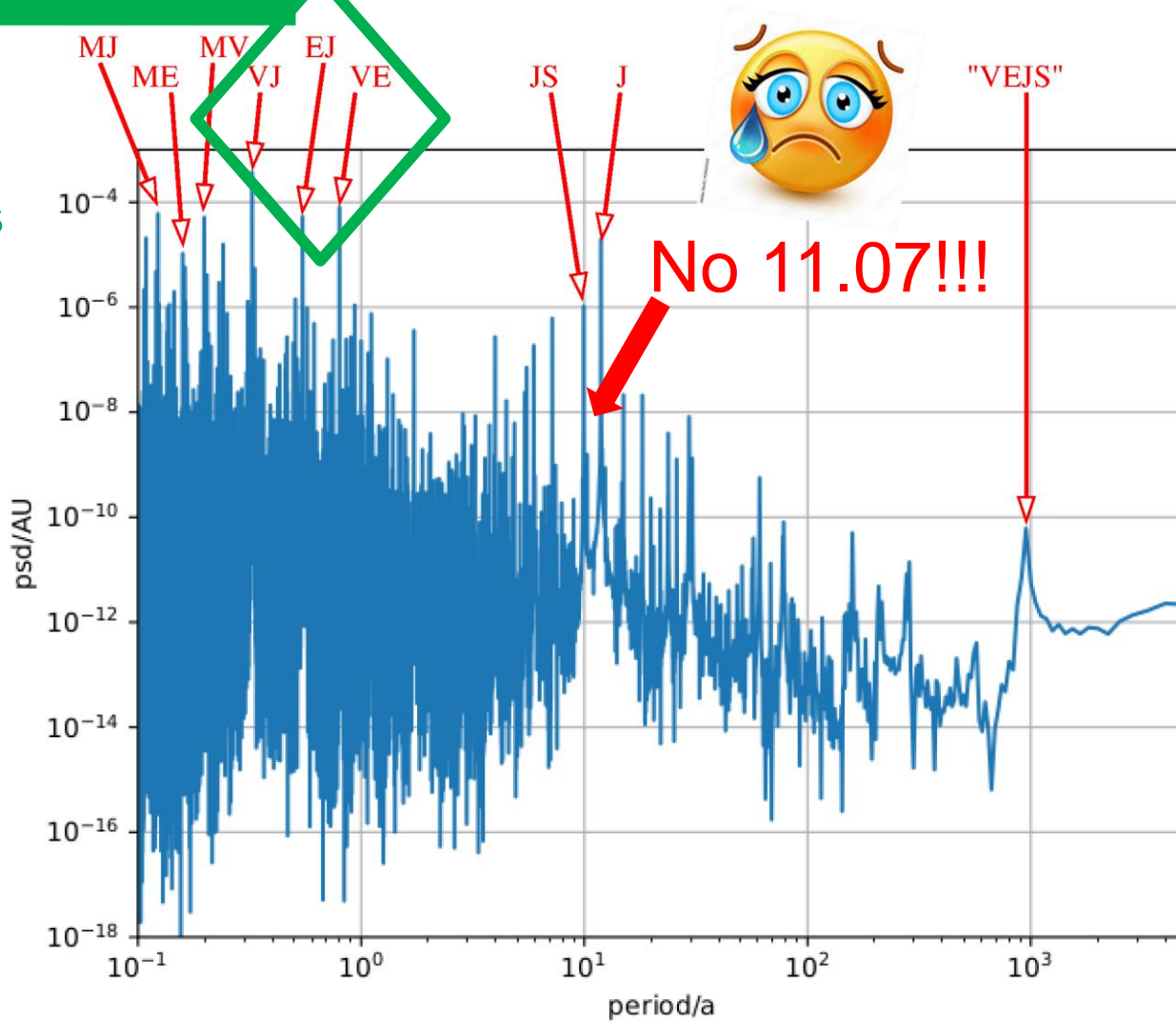


H.-C. Nataf, Solar Phys. 297, 107 (2022),
R.G. Cionco et al., Solar Phys. 298, 70 (2023)

N. Weber et al., New J. Phys 17, 113013 (2015); F. Stefani et al. Solar Phys. 291 (2016), 294 (2019), 296 (2021)

However: No 11.07-yr peak in the spectrum of tidal potential...

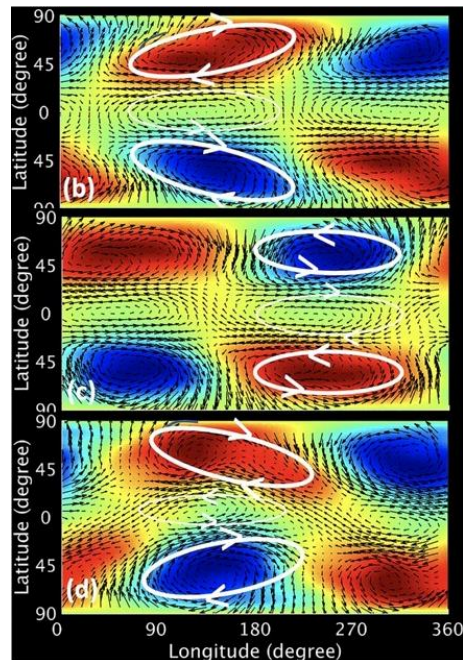
So, let's first focus on those periods



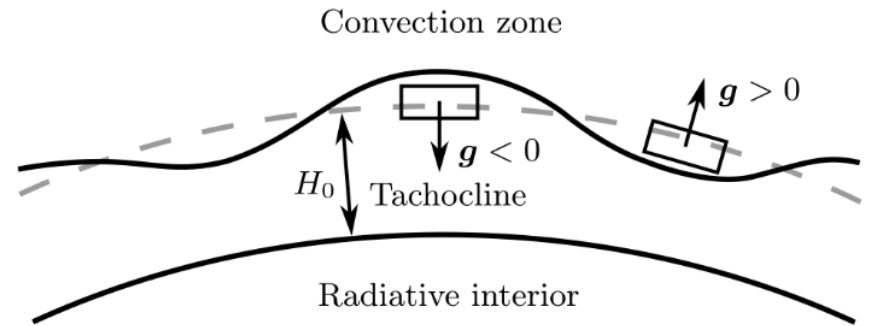
H.-C. Nataf, Solar Phys. 297, 107 (2022),
R.G. Cionco et al., Solar Phys. 298, 70 (2023)

New ansatz: Tidal synchronization of magneto-Rossby waves

magneto-Rossby waves



M. Dikpati, S.W. McIntosh,
Space Weather 18 (2020),
e2018SW002109



Shallow water approximation with azimuthal magnetic field under the influence of tidal forces, using some (not well-known) wave damping factor λ

G. Horstmann et al., Astrophys. J. 944 (2023),
48

New ansatz: Tidal synchronization of magneto-Rossby waves

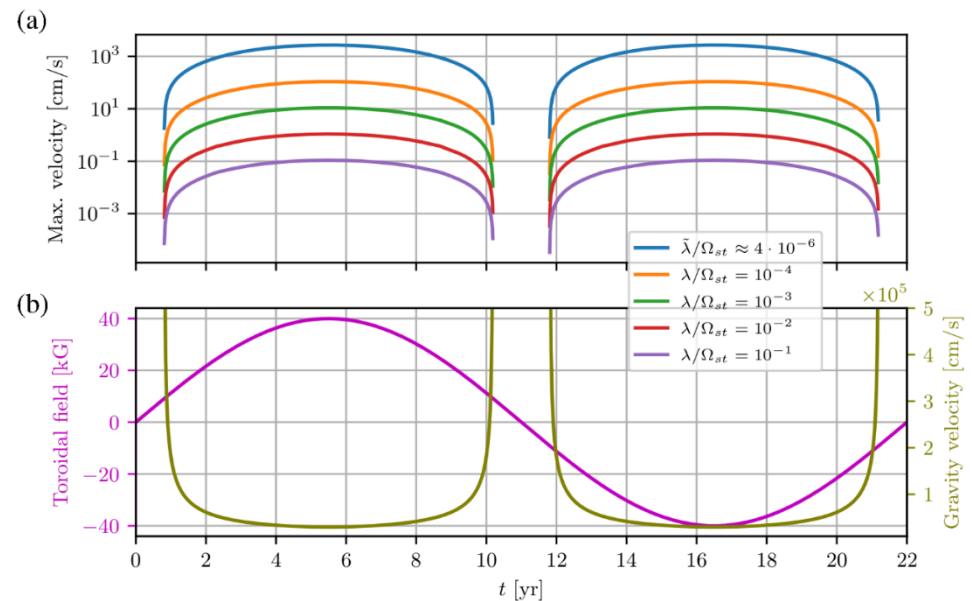
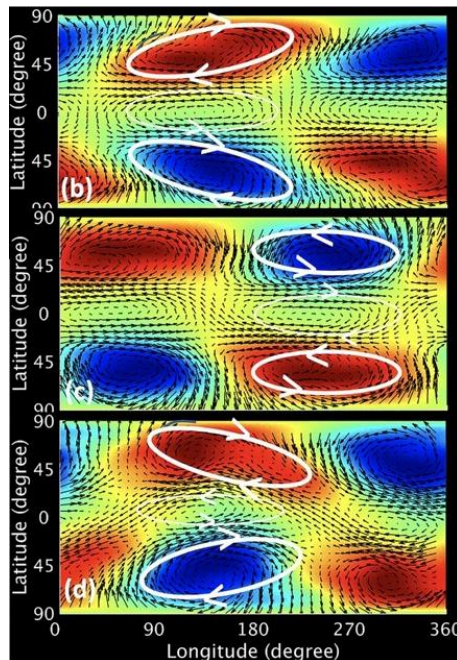
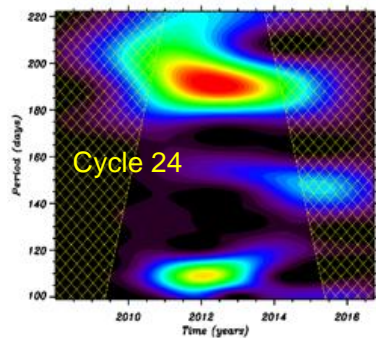
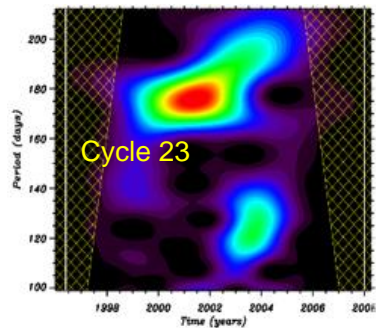
$$\square_{v_A}^2 v - C_0^2 \square_{v_A} \Delta v + f_0^2 \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial t^2} - C_0^2 \beta \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + 2\lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \square_{v_A} v - \lambda C_0^2 \Delta \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + \lambda^2 \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial t^2} = f_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial t^2} - \lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \square_{v_A} V$$

$$= \left[f_0 \Omega + 2\Omega^2 - \frac{2v_A^2}{R_0^2} + \frac{2f_0 \Omega}{R_0} y \right] \frac{4K\Omega}{R_0} \sin\left(\frac{2x}{R_0} - 2\Omega t\right) + \frac{4K\lambda\Omega^2}{R_0} \cos\left(\frac{2x}{R_0} - 2\Omega t\right)$$

Rieger-type periods magneto-Rossby waves



Analytical solution



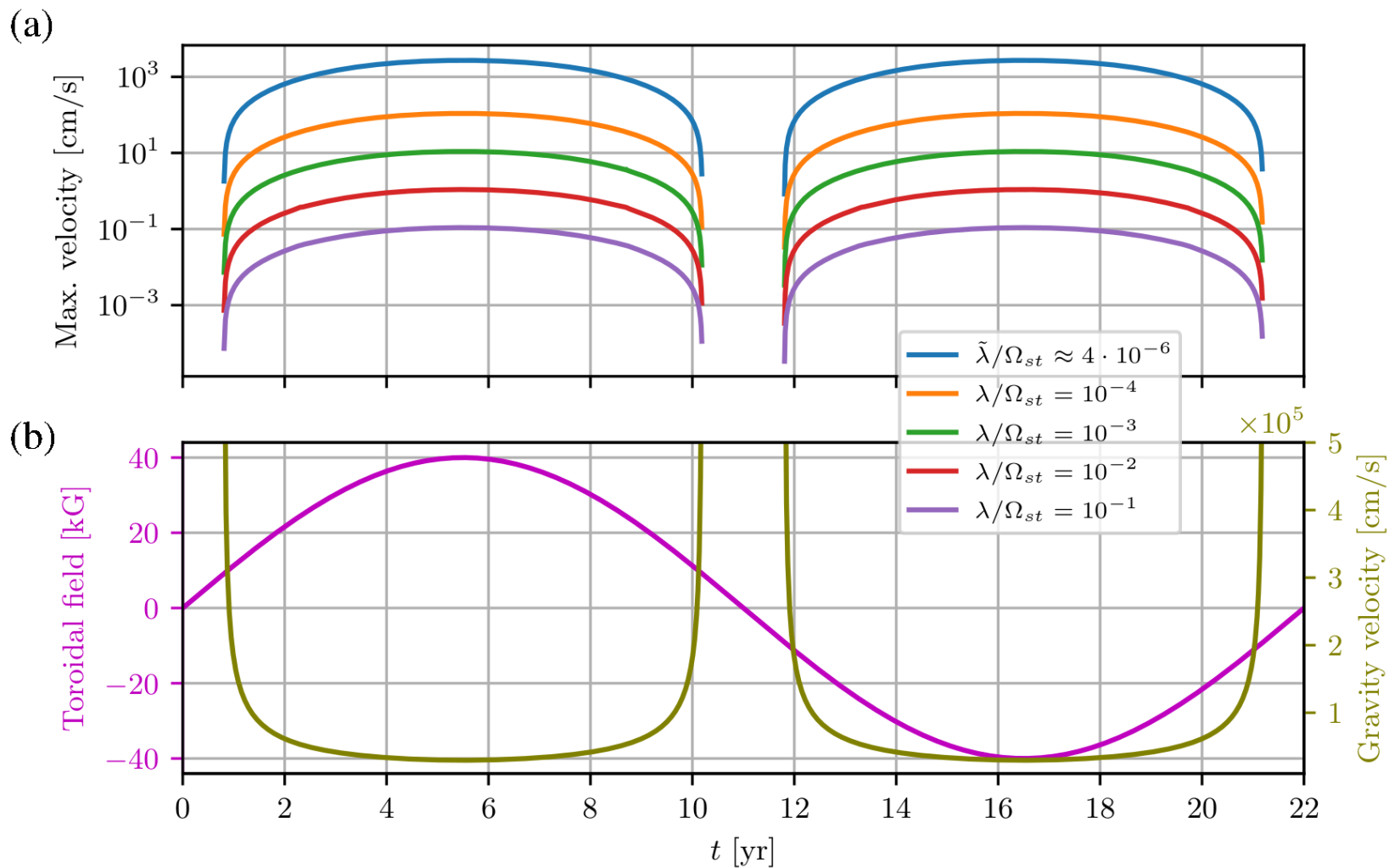
Example: Venus-Jupiter spring tide, period 118 days; wave **velocities of up to 1-100 m/s are possible** for realistic tides

G. Horstmann et al., *Astrophys. J.* 944 (2023), 48; F.S. et al., *Solar Phys.* 299 (2024), 55

E. Gurgenchvili et al., *A&A* 653, A146 (2021)

M. Dikpati, S.W. McIntosh, *Space Weather* 18 (2020), e2018SW002109

λ -dependent reaction on the 118-day spring tide of Venus-Jupiter

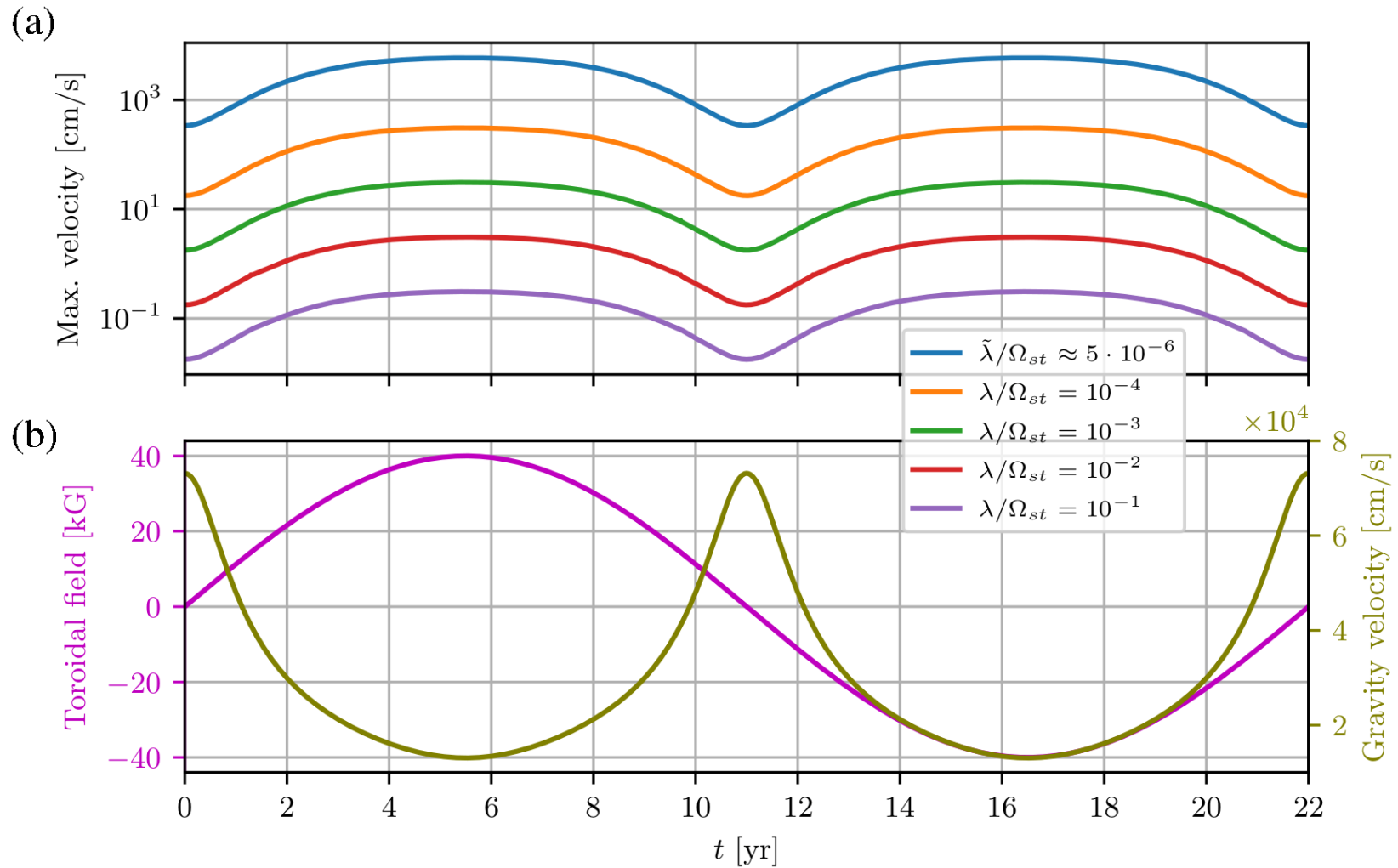


Simplified
assumption:

$$V = K \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{y}{R_0} \right) \left[1 + \cos \left(\frac{2x}{R_0} + \Omega_{st} t \right) \right]$$

F.S. et al., Solar Phys.
299 (2024), 55

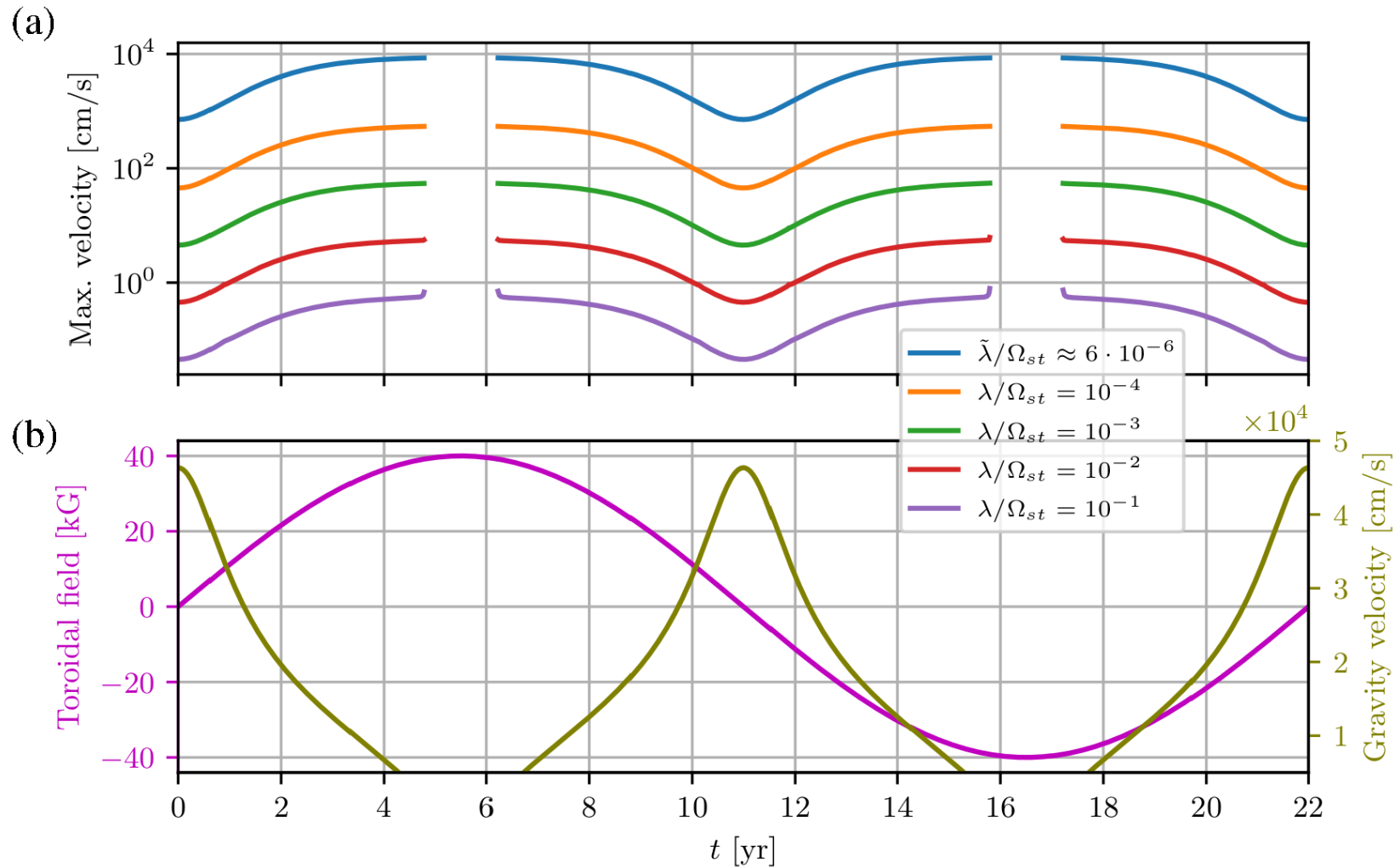
λ -dependent reaction on the 199-day spring tide of Earth-Jupiter



Simplified assumption:

$$V = K \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{y}{R_0} \right) \left[1 + \cos \left(\frac{2x}{R_0} + \Omega_{st} t \right) \right]$$

λ -dependent reaction on the 292-day spring tide of Earth-Venus

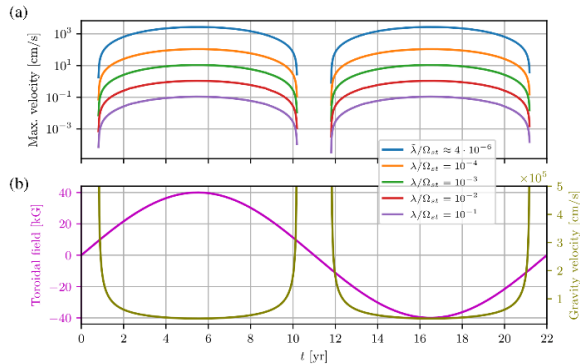


Simplified assumption:

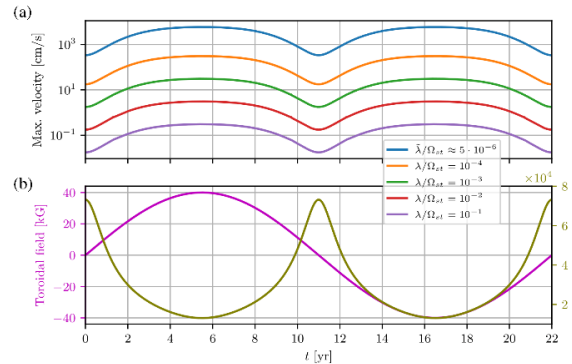
$$V = K \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{y}{R_0} \right) \left[1 + \cos \left(\frac{2x}{R_0} + \Omega_{st} t \right) \right]$$

Nice, but where does the 11.07-yr come from?

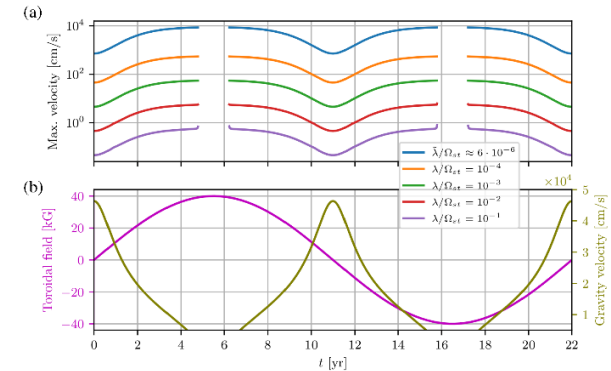
Venus-Jupiter spring tide
with period 118 days



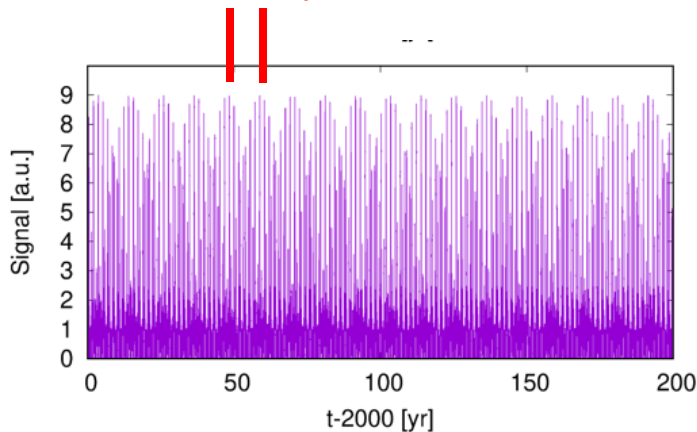
Earth-Jupiter spring tide
with period 199 days



Venus-Earth spring tide
with period 292 days



11.07 years



$$s(t) = \left[\cos\left(2\pi \cdot \frac{t - t_{VJ}}{0.5 \cdot P_{VJ}}\right) + \cos\left(2\pi \cdot \frac{t - t_{EJ}}{0.5 \cdot P_{EJ}}\right) + \cos\left(2\pi \cdot \frac{t - t_{VE}}{0.5 \cdot P_{VE}}\right) \right]^2$$

Any **dynamo-relevant effect** (helicity, α -effect, zonal flow, pressure...) will be a **quadratic functional** of the waves. This comprises a significant **axisymmetric part with 11.07-year period**.

F.S. et al., Solar Physics
299 (2024), 51

A „realistic“ 2D α - Ω -dynamo model with meridional circulation...

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = \tilde{\eta} D^2 B + \frac{1}{s} \frac{\partial(sB)}{\partial r} \frac{\partial \tilde{\eta}}{\partial r} - R_m s \mathbf{u}_p \cdot \nabla \left(\frac{B}{s} \right) + C_\Omega s (\nabla \times (A \mathbf{e}_\phi)) \cdot \nabla \Omega,$$

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = \tilde{\eta} D^2 A - \frac{R_m}{s} \mathbf{u}_p \cdot \nabla (sA) + C_\alpha^c \alpha^c B + C_\alpha^p \alpha^p B,$$

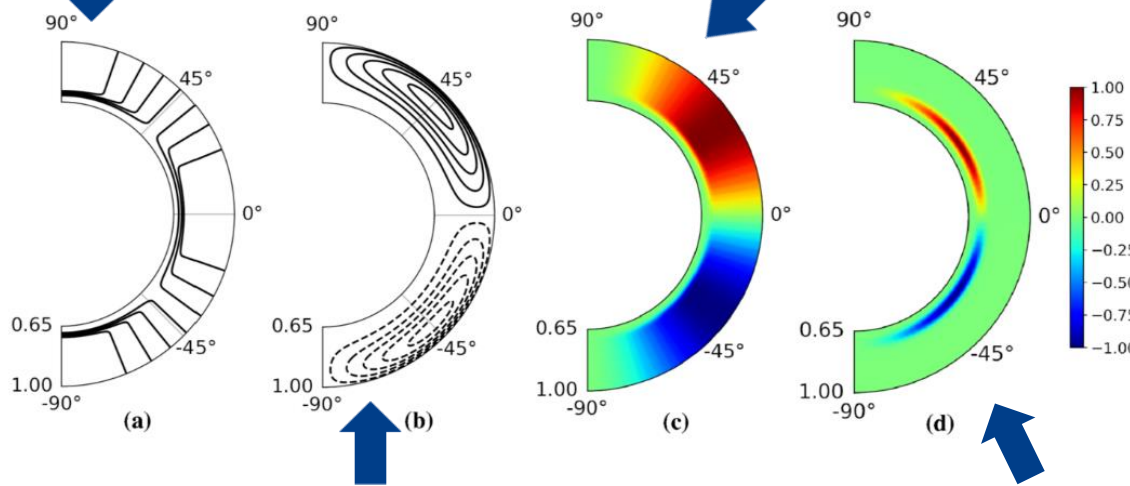
$$C_\Omega = \Omega_{\text{eq}} R_\odot^2 / \eta_t,$$

$$R_m = u_0 R_\odot / \eta_t,$$

$$C_\alpha^c = \alpha_{\text{max}}^c R_\odot / \eta_t,$$

$$C_\alpha^p = \alpha_{\text{max}}^p R_\odot / \eta_t.$$

$$\Omega(r, \Theta) = C_\Omega \left\{ \Omega_c + \frac{1}{2} \left[1 + \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{r - r_c}{d} \right) \right] (1 - \Omega_c - c_2 \cos^2 \Theta) \right\} \quad \alpha^c(r, \Theta, t) = C_\alpha^c \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} \sin^2 \Theta \cos \Theta \left[1 + \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{r - r_c}{d} \right) \right] \left[1 + \frac{|\mathbf{B}(r, \Theta, t)|^2}{B_0^2} \right]^{-1}$$



$$\mathbf{u}_p = \nabla \times (\psi(r, \Theta) \mathbf{e}_\phi)$$

$$\psi(r, \Theta) = R_m \left\{ -\frac{2}{\pi} \frac{(r - r_b)^2}{(1 - r_b)} \sin \left(\pi \frac{r - r_b}{1 - r_b} \right) \cos \Theta \sin \Theta \right\}$$

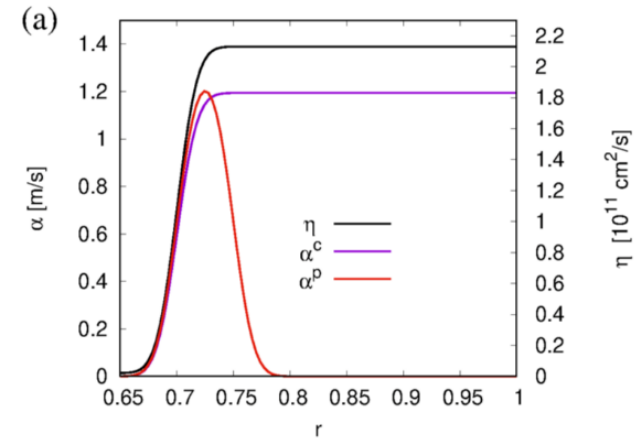
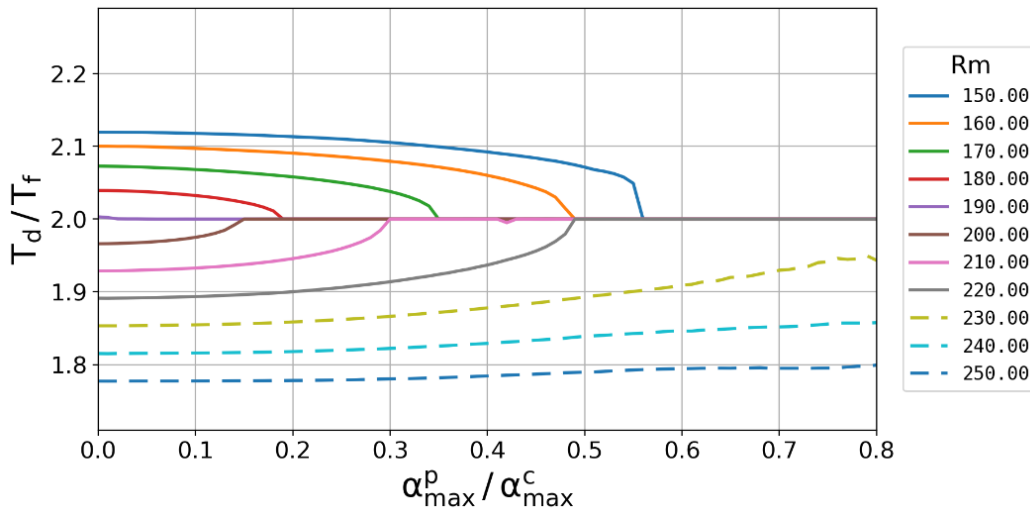
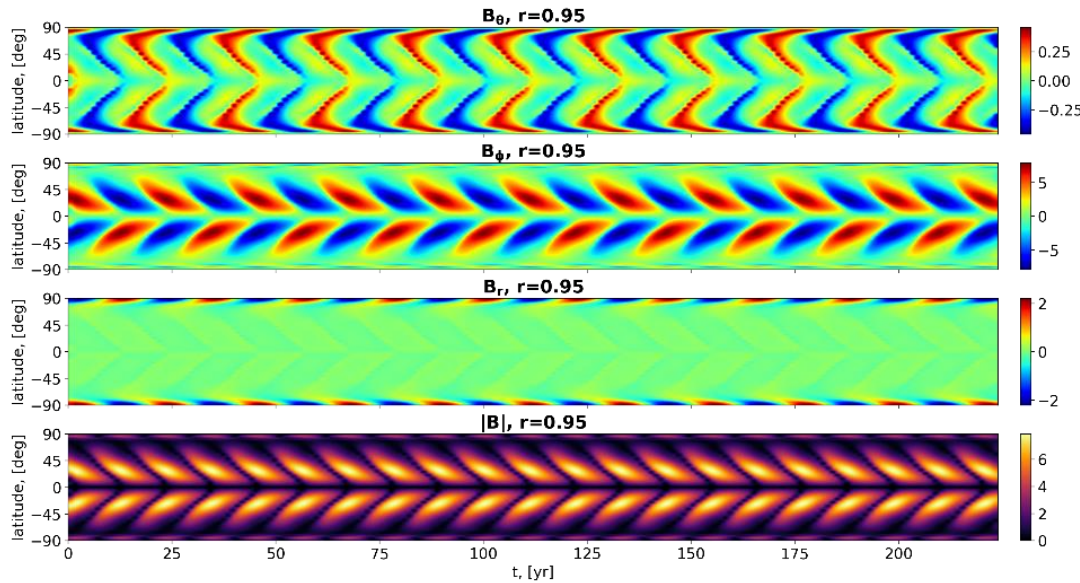
$$\alpha^p(r, \Theta, t) = C_\alpha^p \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sin^2 \Theta \cos \Theta \left[1 + \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{r - r_c}{d} \right) \right] \left[1 - \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{r - r_d}{d} \right) \right] \times \frac{2|\mathbf{B}(r, \Theta, t)|^2}{1 + |\mathbf{B}(r, \Theta, t)|^4} \sin(2\pi t / T_f),$$

$$\alpha = \alpha^c + \alpha^p$$

Assumed to result from wave helicity

11.07 yr

...shows again parametric resonance

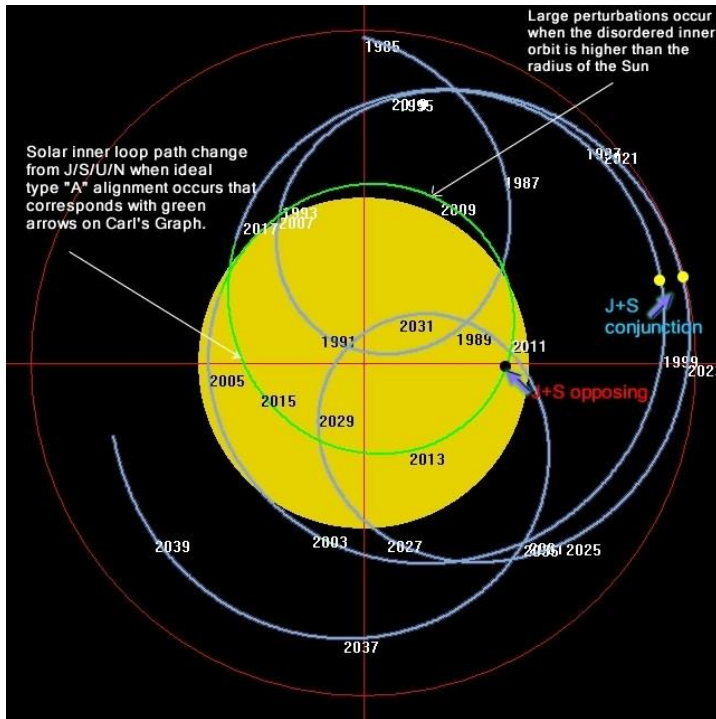


Much higher conductivity in the tachocline than in the convection zone



For a reasonable value $\alpha_0 = 1.3$ m/s, we need just ~ 1 m/s for the synchronized α to entrain the entire dynamo

Suess/de Vries cycle: A beat period between 22.14 and 19.86 yr ?



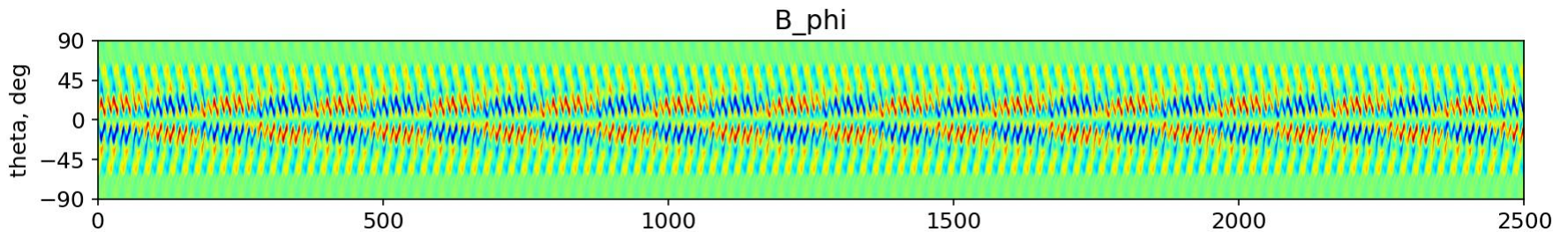
Tidal forcing → **22.14 years**
 Sun around barycenter → **19.86 years**
 (with unclear spin-orbit coupling)

Talk by J. Shirley

Beat period: **193 years**
 $19.86 \times 22.14 / (22.14 - 19.86)$



193 years: Suess-de Vries cycle



A little regression to an 1D α - Ω -model (with periodic α term):

$$\frac{\partial B(\theta, t)}{\partial t} = \omega(\theta, t) \frac{\partial A(\theta, t)}{\partial \theta} - \frac{\partial^2 B(\theta, t)}{\partial \theta^2} - \kappa B^3(\theta, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial A(\theta, t)}{\partial t} = \alpha(\theta, t) B(\theta, t) - \frac{\partial^2 A(\theta, t)}{\partial \theta^2},$$

Loss parameter with angular momentum periodicity ~ 19.86 yr

$$\omega(\theta, t) = \omega_0(1 - 0.939 - 0.136 \cos^2(\theta) - 0.1457 \cos^4(\theta)) \sin(\theta),$$

$$\alpha(\theta, t) = \alpha^p(\theta, t) + \alpha^c(\theta, t)$$

$$\alpha^p(\theta, t) = \alpha_0^p \sin(2\pi t/11.07) \operatorname{sgn}(90^\circ - \theta) \frac{B^2(\theta, t)}{(1 + q_\alpha^p B^4(\theta, t))} \text{ for } 55^\circ < \theta < 125^\circ$$

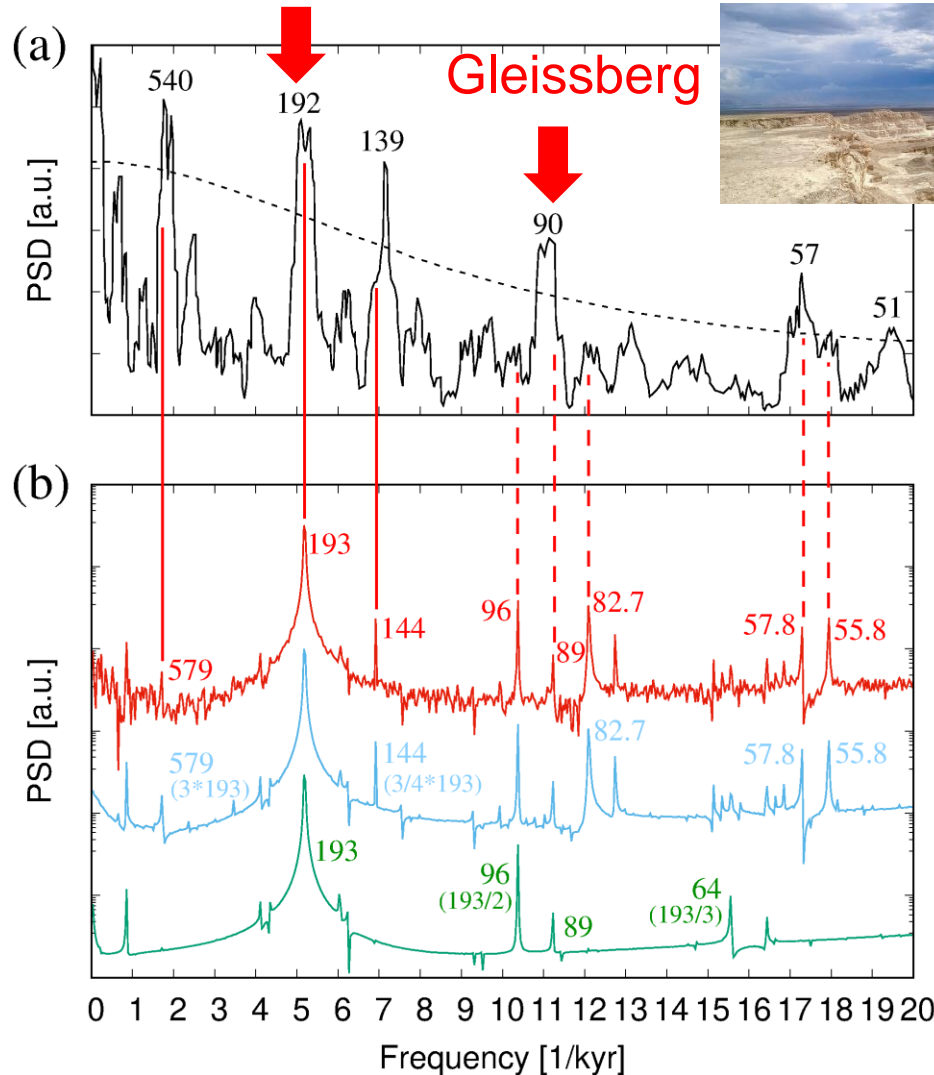
$$\alpha^c(\theta, t) = \alpha_0^c (1 + \xi(t)) \sin(2\theta) / (1 + q_\alpha^c B^2(\theta, t))$$

Noise with strength D

F.S. et al., Solar Physics 294 (2019), 60,
Solar Physics 296, 88 (2021)

Comparison: numerical results - sediment data (Lake Lisan)

Suess-de Vries



Yearly sediment thicknesses over 8500 years (climate archive)

S. Prasad et al., *Geology* 32, 581 (2004)

1D α - Ω -dynamo model

...with some noise

...all planets

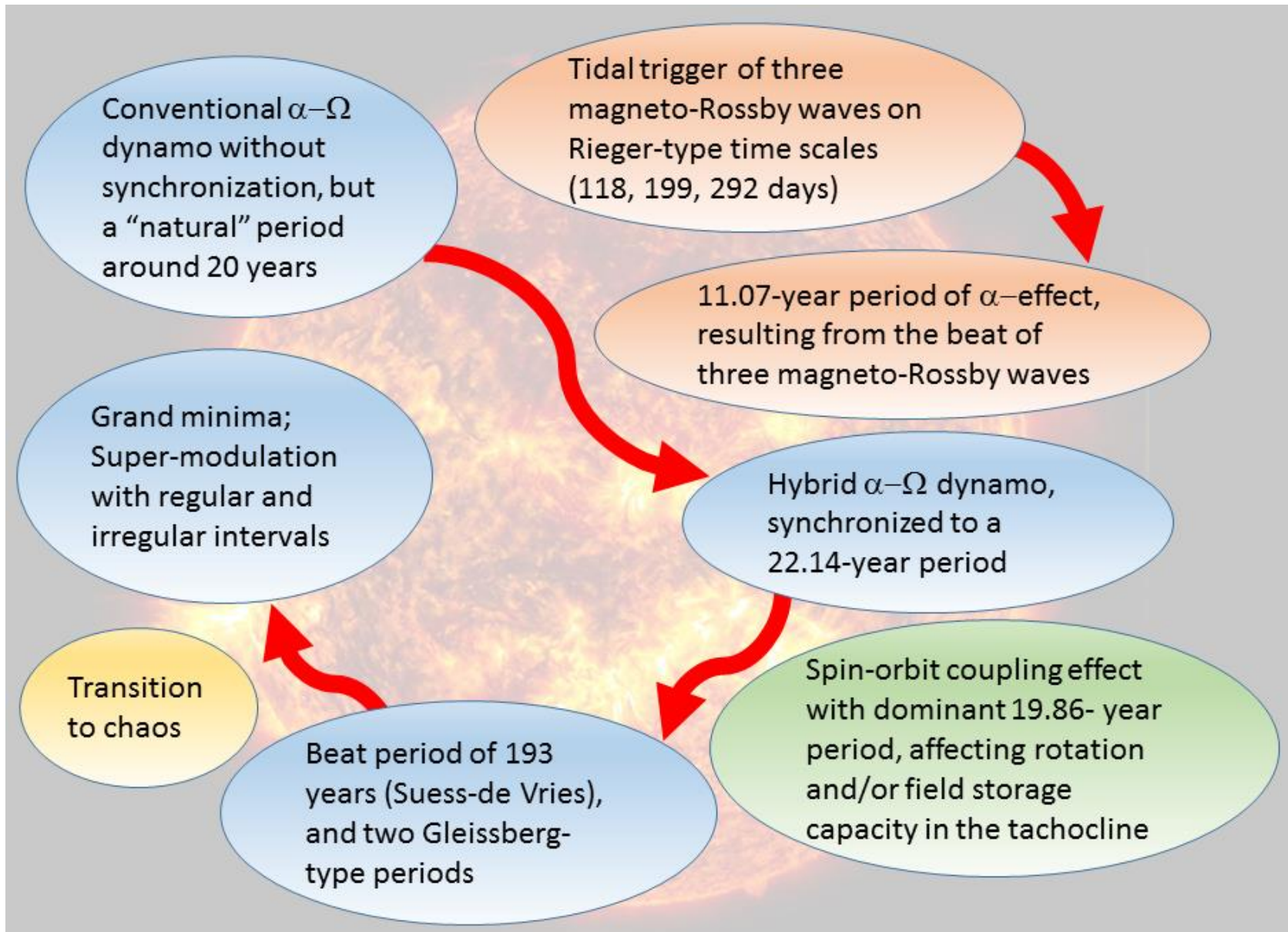
...only Jupiter and Saturn

F.S. et al., *Solar Physics* 296, 88 (2021); 299 (2024), 55

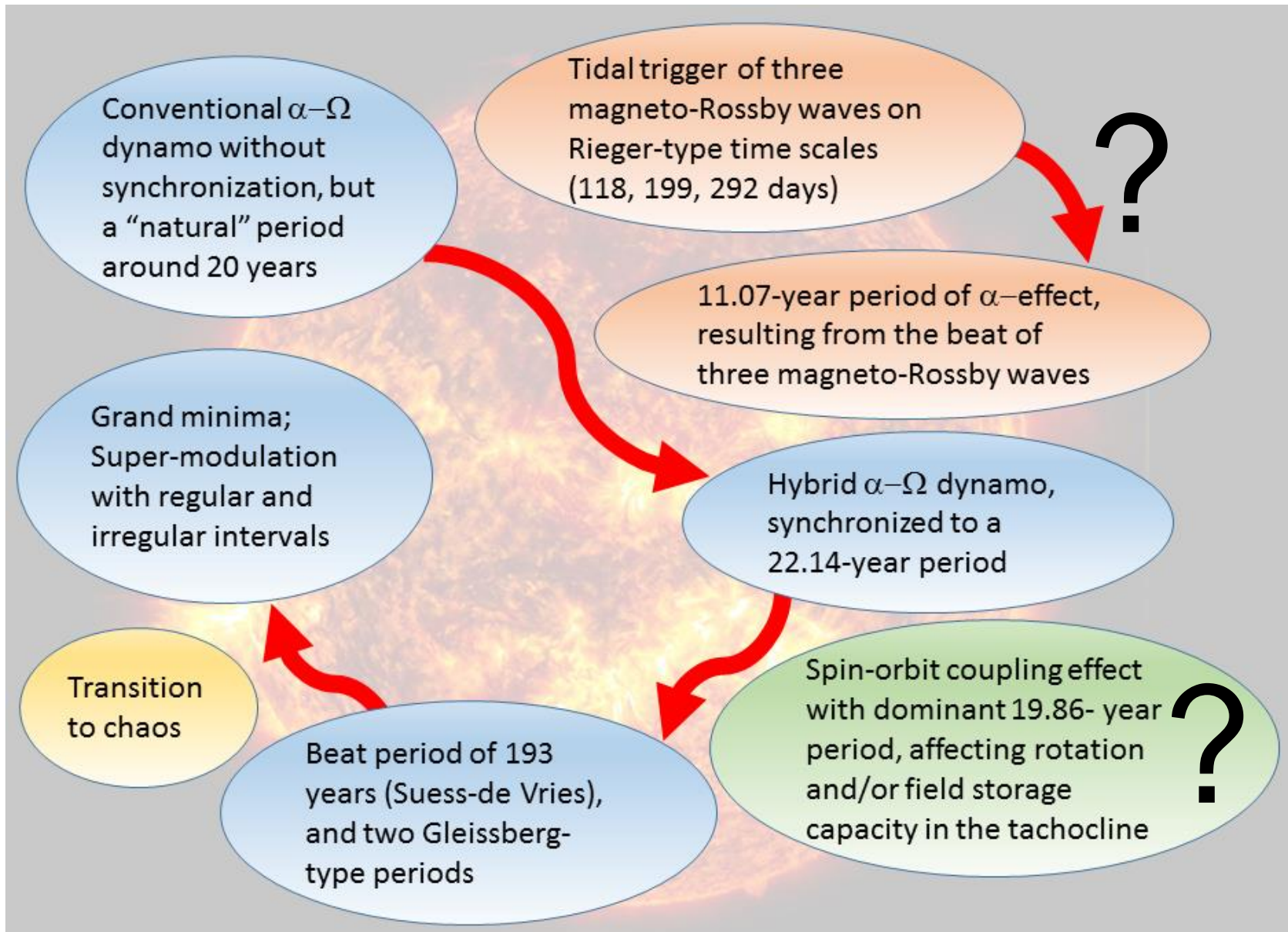
Summary

- General principle: Energy is „harvested“ on the shortest possible time-scales
- **Various dynamo periods emerge as beat periods**
- Three tidally triggered magneto-Rossby waves on Rieger-type time-scale → Schwabe/Hale
- Hale+Barycentric motion → Suess-de Vries (+Gleissberg)
- **Self-consistency**: The sharp Suess-de Vries peak at 193 years could hardly be explained without phase-stability of the primary Hale cycle at 22.14 years

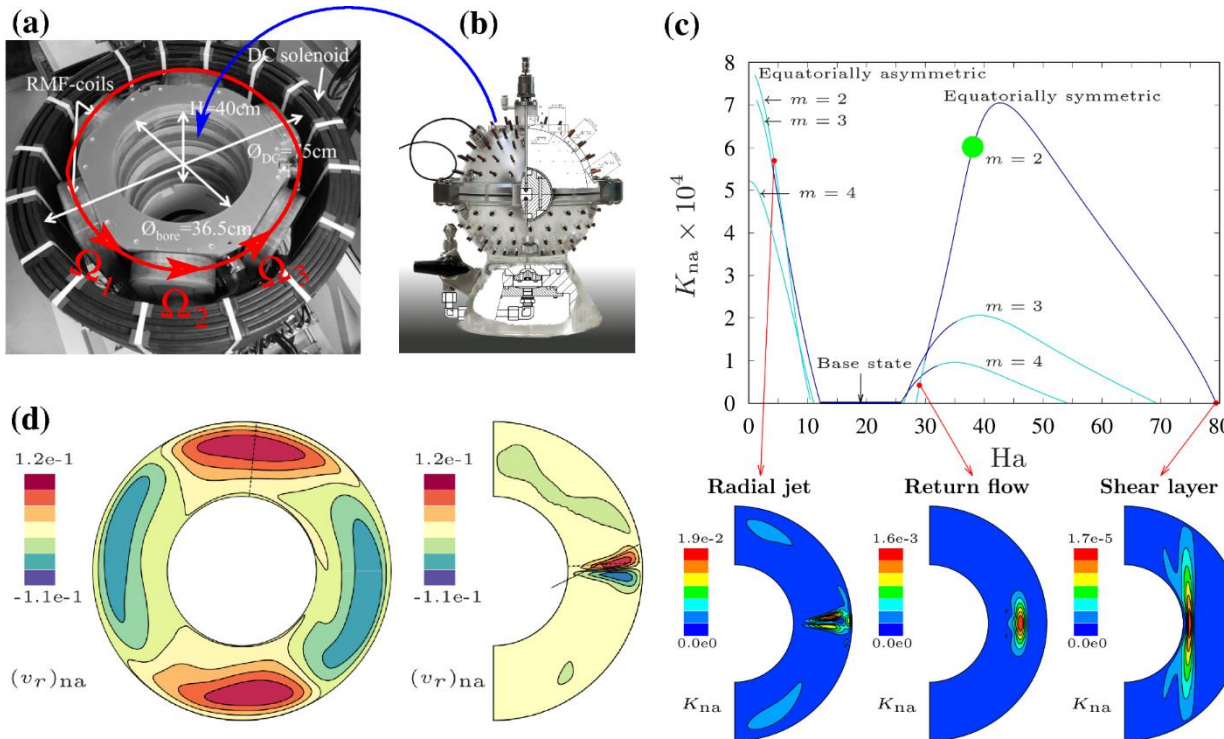
Summary



Summary and open problems



Our plan for an experiment with tidal excitation of three waves



Jüstel et al.,
Phys. Fluids 34,
104115 (2022)

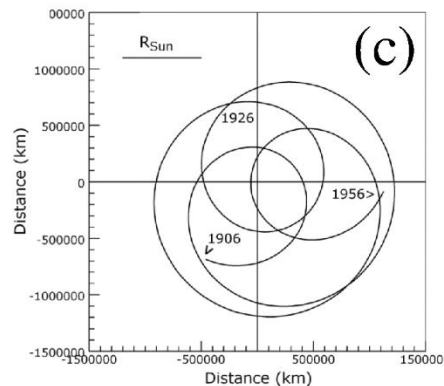
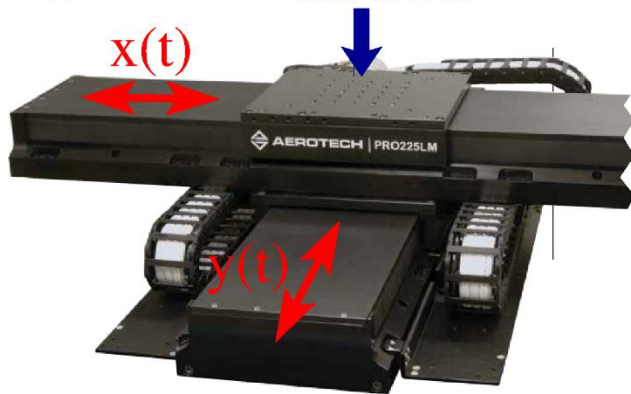
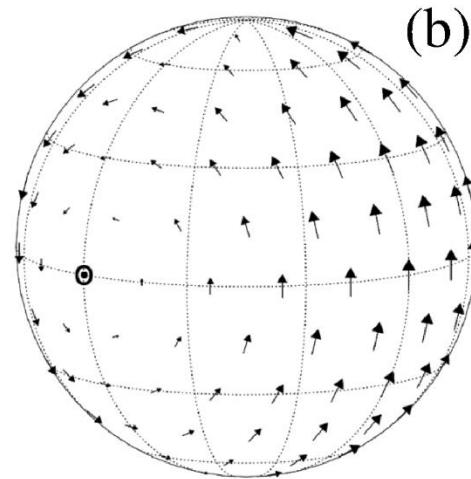
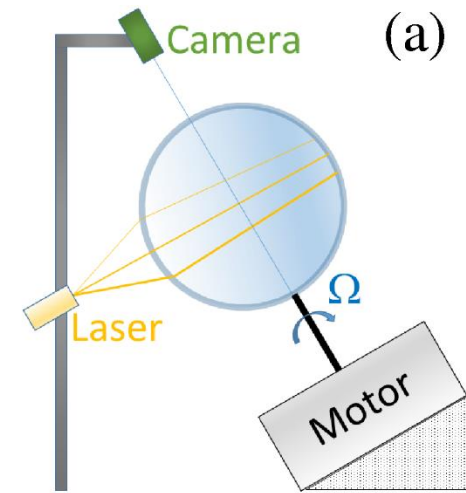
Ogbonna et al.,
Phys. Fluids 32,
124119 (2020)

Excitation of **three waves with azimuthal wave number $m=2$** (c,d) in a magnetized spherical Couette flow HEDGEHOG (b) by **tide-like forces** generated in the MultiMag facility (a)



Study of **beat period** in the emerging zonal flow (and the α -Effect)

Our plan for an experiment on spin-orbit coupling



Rosette-shaped barycentric motion (c) and inclined rotation axis lead to **spin-orbit coupling**

Emerging torque has **typical m=1 structure** (b) well known from **precession**

J. Shirley, Planet. Space Sci. 141, 1 (2017), 1339

Theory is yet underexplored, parameters still to be constrained by observation
→ **Improved theory + experiment (a)**

Talk by J. Shirley

Precession driven dynamo experiment

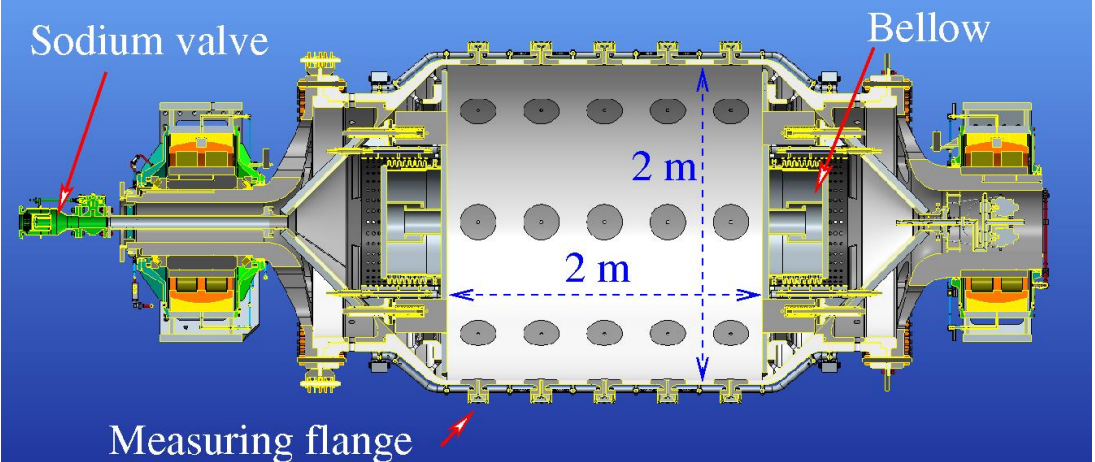
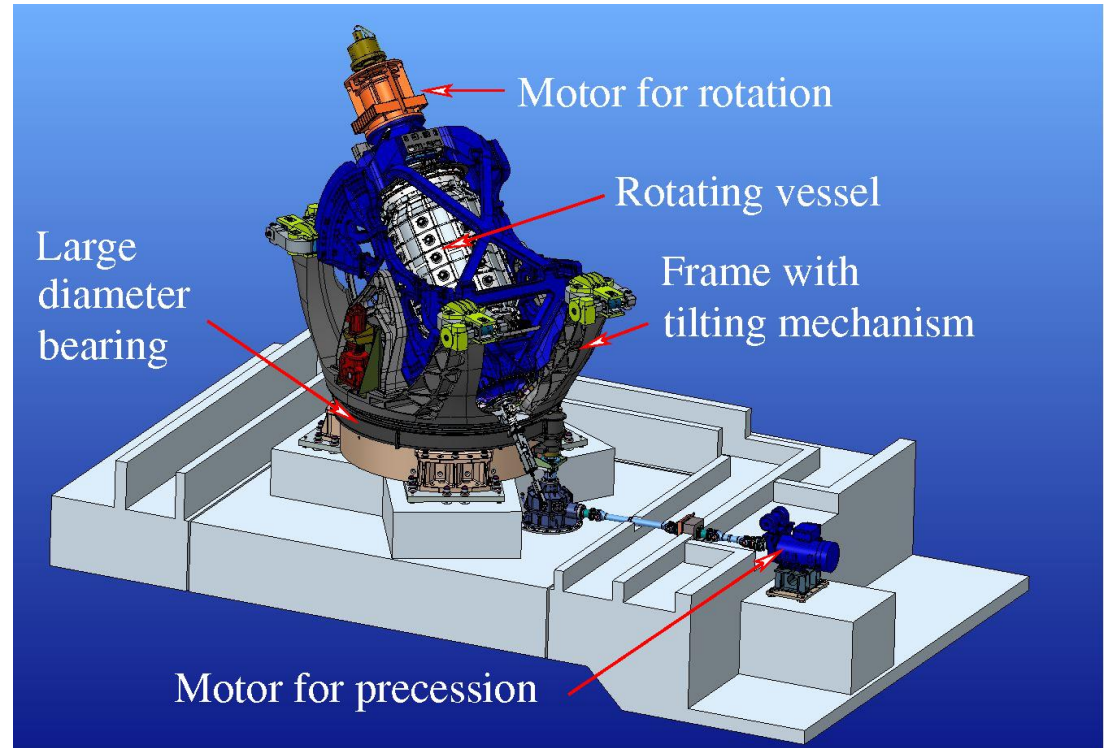


Slow motion (factor 10)

Precession driven dynamo experiment

Key parameters:

- Cylinder with 2 m diameter and 2 m height, 8 tons of liquid sodium
- Cylinder rotation: 10 Hz (will need some 800 kW motor power)
- Turntable rotation: 1 Hz
- **Magnetic Reynolds number ~ 700**
- **Gyroscopic torque onto the basement: 8 MNm !**



“Fundamental” problems due to huge gyroscopic torque

April 2013: drilling 7 holes (22 m deep)

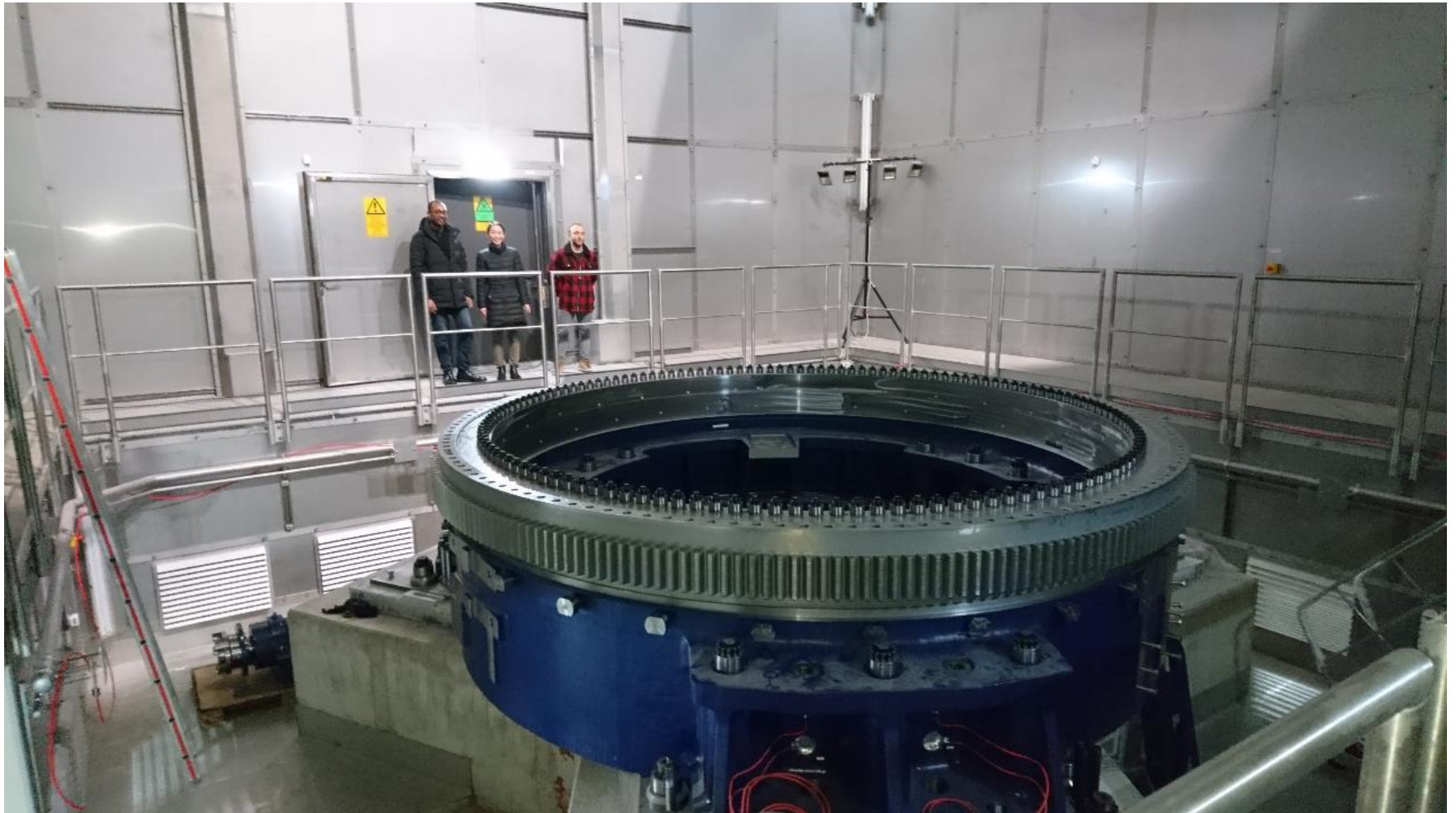


July 2013: Constructing the ferroconcrete basement

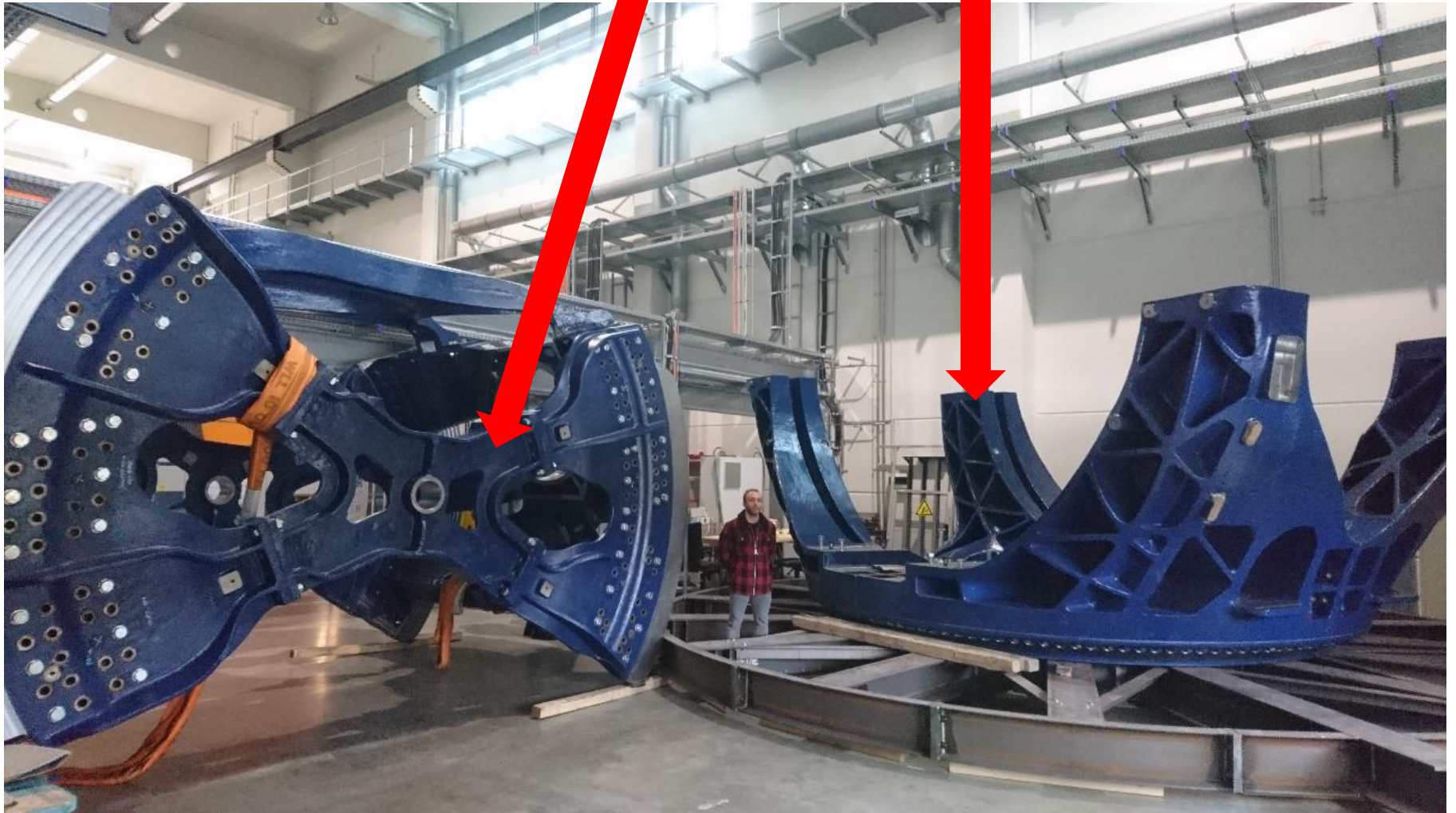


May 2015: The tripod for the dynamo within the containment (with stainless steel “wallpaper”)

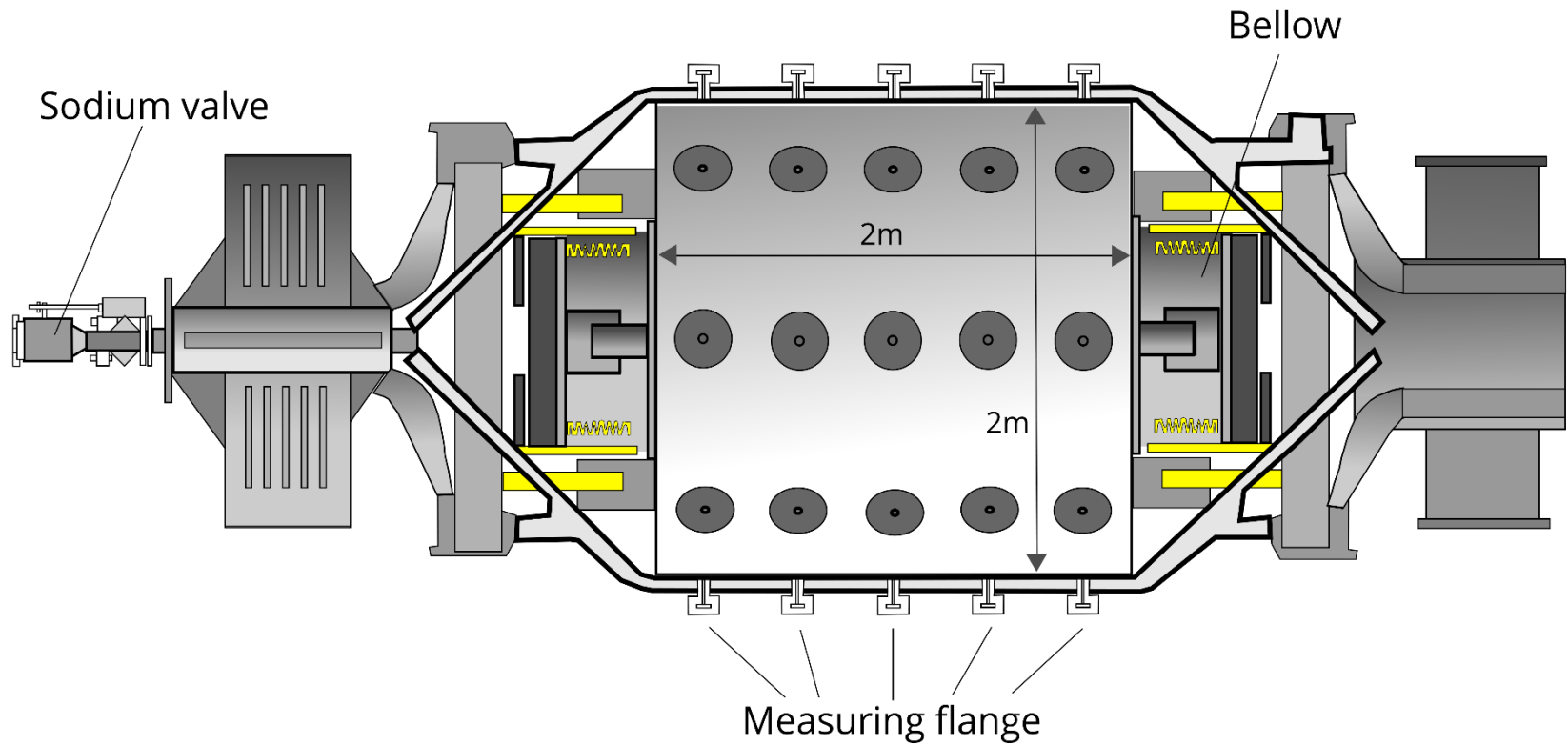
Large ball bearing installed (12/2018)



Traverse and pylons (01/2019)



Rotation vessel with bearings



Pressure test (with 35 bar) of the rotation vessel (3/2019)



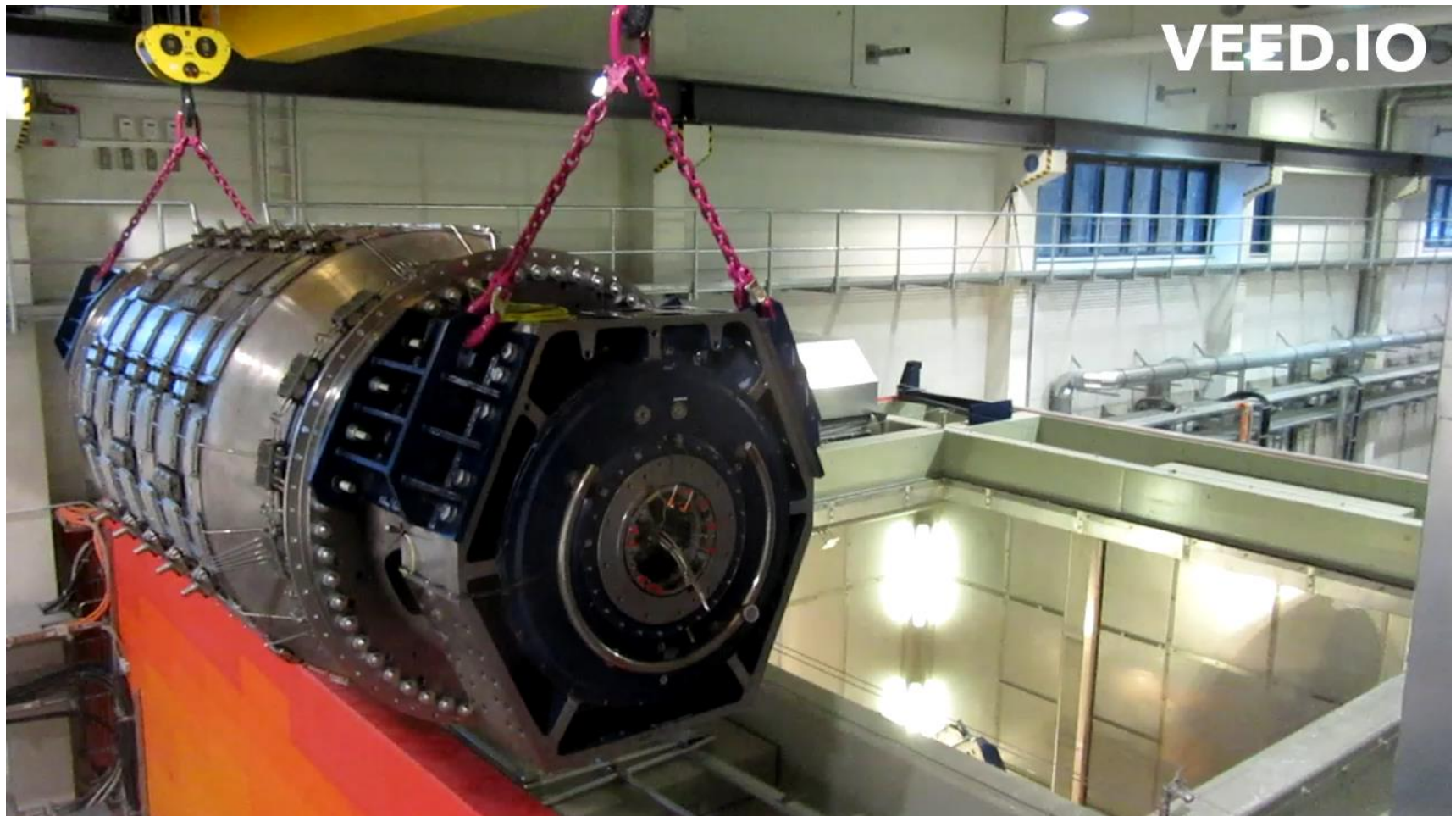
The vessel arrives at HZDR (July 3, 2020)



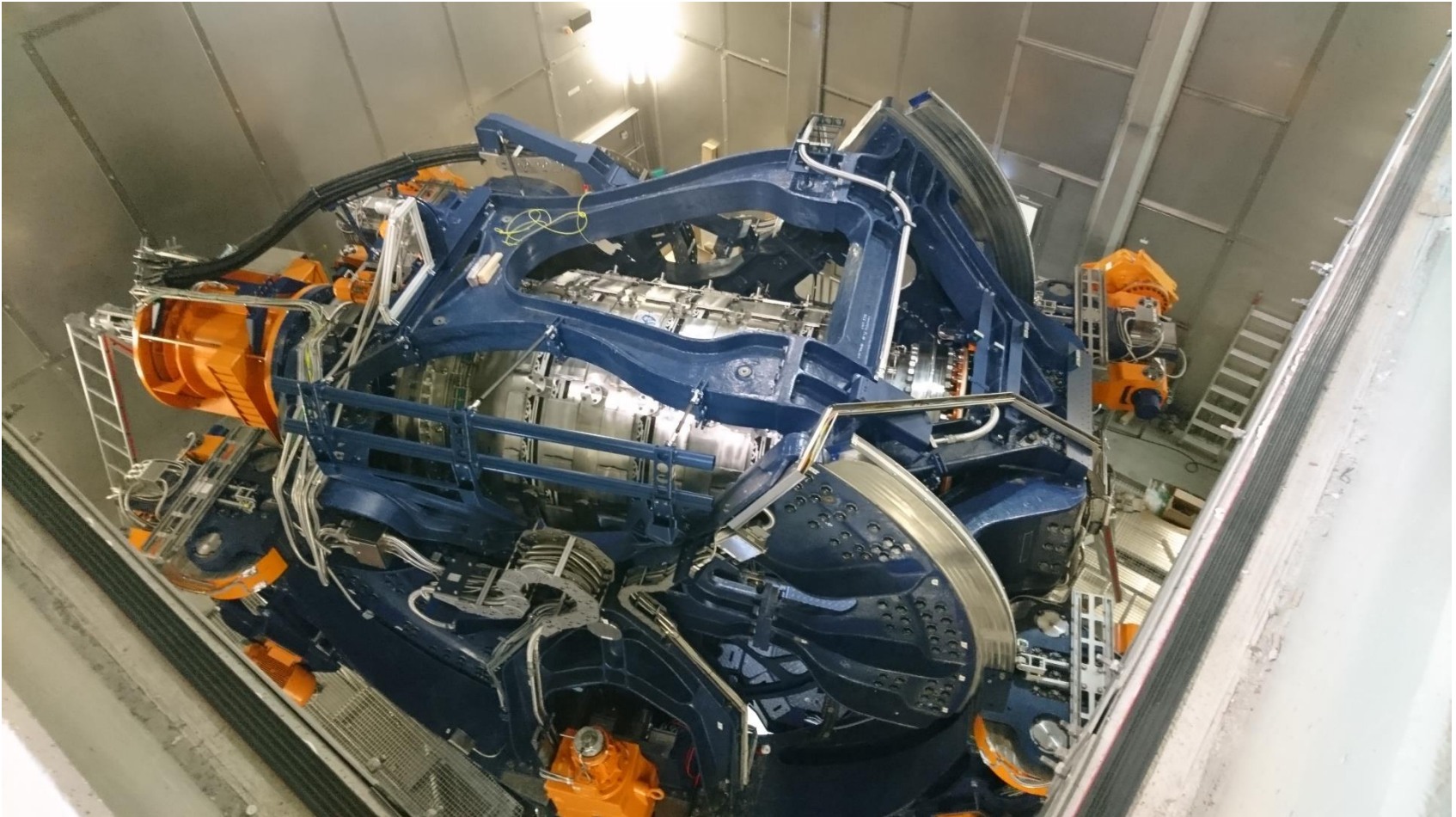
Assembly of the first conical end and the bearing (May 2022)



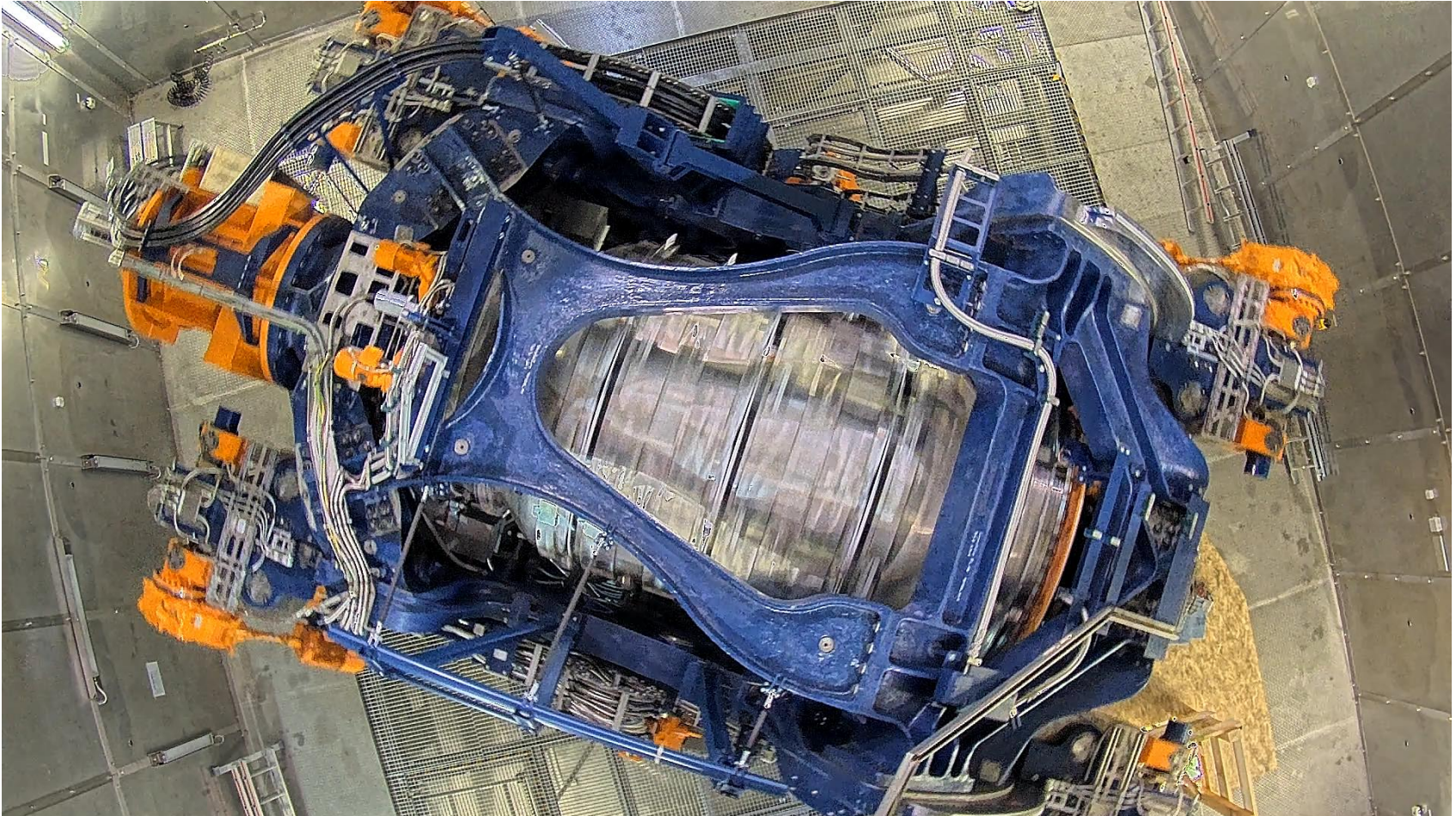
And then came January 17, 2024...



Ready to go...



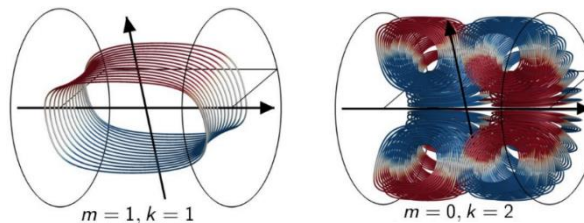
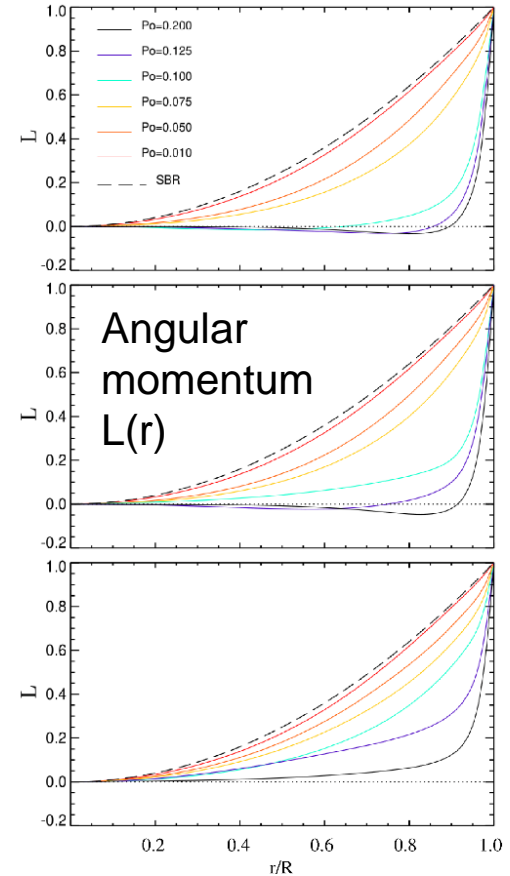
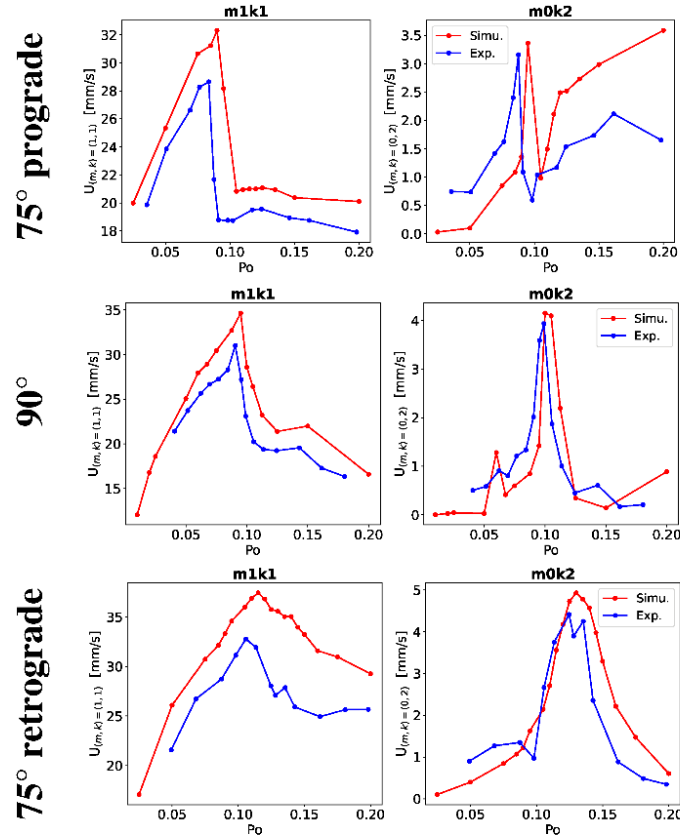
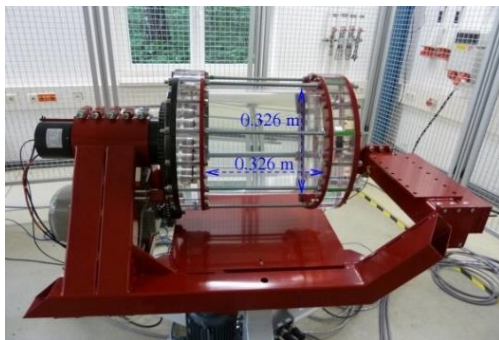
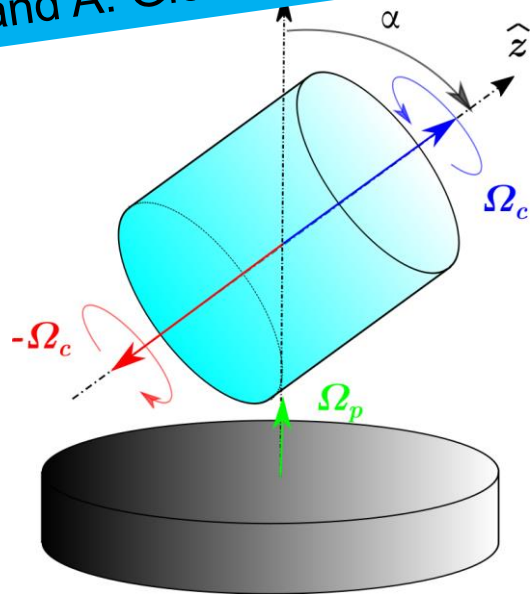
September 5, 2024: Rotation 1.7 Hz, Precession 0.08 Hz



Precession driven dynamo: Prospects for self-excitation

Good agreement of measured and simulated dynamo-relevant flow modes

Talks by Th. Gundrum and A. Giesecke

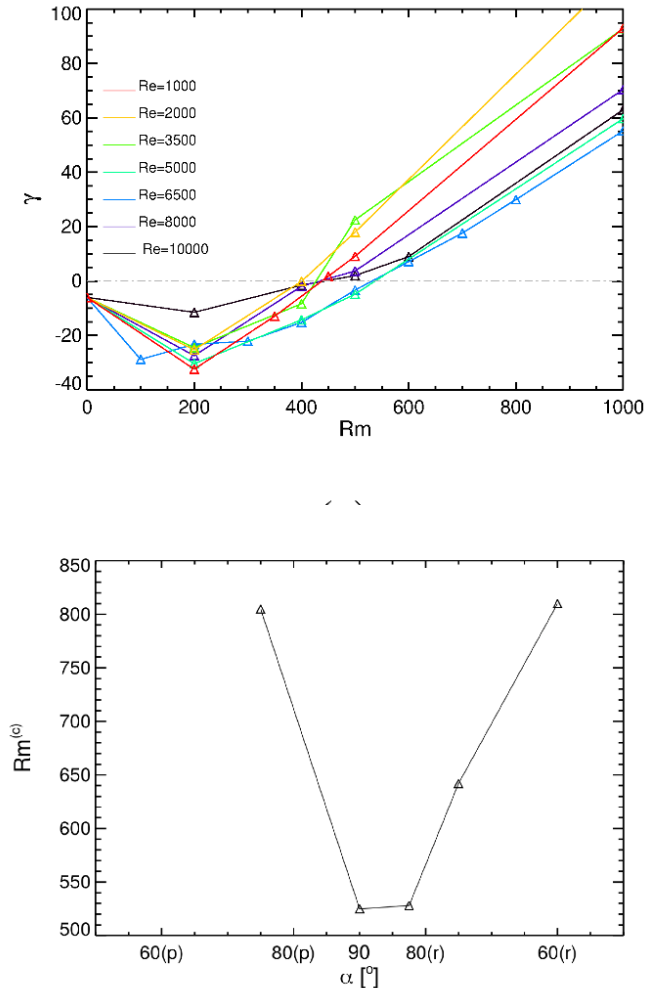
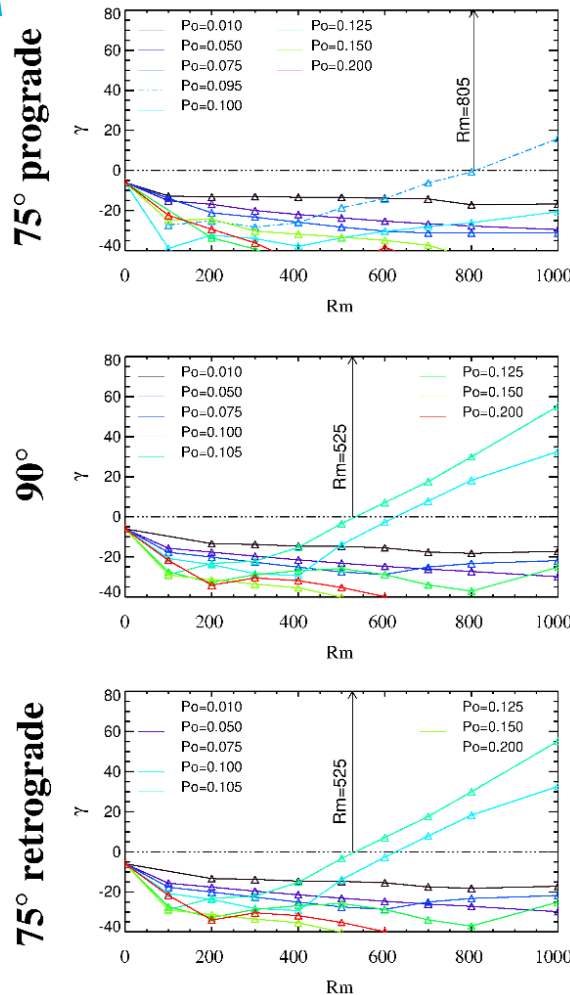


Kumar et al., Phys. Fluids 35 (2023), 014114;
 Giesecke et al., JFM 998, (2024), A30

Precession driven dynamo: Prospects for self-excitation

Talk by A. Giesecke

In a narrow range of the precession ratio, **dynamo action is predicted for $Rm \sim 430$** ($Rm=700$ is technically feasible)



Giesecke et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 120 (2018), 024502; Kumar et al., Phys. Fluids 35 (2023), 014114; Phys. Rev. E 109 (2024), 065101



First runs with water (at 1 Hz) on 28 November 2024



For first results, see talk by Th. Gundrum

**Thank you for
your attention!**

