Squaring the circle in YSO

The origin of accretion in weakly ionised protoplanetary discs

Geoffroy Lesur







Accretion/Outfow In Young Stellar Objects

Angular momentum transport processes I- turbulent (viscous) transport



- Transport angular momentum in the bulk of the disc
- Suggested by Shakura & Sunyaev (1973) A&A, 24, 337
- Turbulence leads to enhanced transport («mixing length theory»)
- One defines a turbulent viscosity



 $10^{-3} < \alpha < 10^{-2}$

Angular momentum transport processes II- disc wind



- Angular momentum extracted from the disc by a magnetic wind [Blandford & Payne 1982, MNRAS, 199, 883]
- Magnetic field exerts a torque on the disc surface which generates accretion (not described by α-disc!)

MHD processes

The magnetorotational instability (MRI)



[Balbus, & Hawley (1991) ApJ, 376, 214] [Balbus (2003) ARA&A, 41, 555]

Ionisation sources in protoplanetary discs





Exact value is strongly model dependent (grains, metallicity)



Question to observers #1:

Can we get observational constrains on the ionisation fraction in protoplanetary discs ?

Dead zone in protoplanetary discs



3 non ideal effects enter the scene

Ohmic diffusion (collisions between electrons and neutrals)

Ambipolar Diffusion (collisions between ions and neutrals)

Hall Effect (drift between electrons and ions)

Amplitude of these effects depends strongly on location & composition

Nonideal MHD effects



Nonideal MHD induction equation

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{B}}{\partial t} = \boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \left(\boldsymbol{v} \times \boldsymbol{B} - \frac{4\pi}{c} \eta \boldsymbol{J} - \frac{\boldsymbol{J} \times \boldsymbol{B}}{en_e} + \frac{c}{\gamma \rho \rho_i} (\boldsymbol{J} \times \boldsymbol{B}) \times \boldsymbol{B} \right)$$
Ideal Ohmic Hall Ambipolar

Reverse field polarity $oldsymbol{B}
ightarrow - oldsymbol{B}$ $oldsymbol{J}
ightarrow - oldsymbol{J}$

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{B}}{\partial t} = \boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \left(\boldsymbol{v} \times \boldsymbol{B} - \frac{4\pi}{c} \eta \boldsymbol{J} + \frac{\boldsymbol{J} \times \boldsymbol{B}}{en_e} + \frac{c}{\gamma \rho \rho_i} (\boldsymbol{J} \times \boldsymbol{B}) \times \boldsymbol{B} \right)$$

Dynamics depends on field polarity

Hall MRI Depends on field polarity



Hall effect can drive large scale structure formation

Very weak Hall effect

Strong Hall effect [Bethune+2015 in prep]

"rings"



Despite being strongly unstable to the MRI, Hall dominated discs can spontaneously organise [Kunz & Lesur 2013, Bethune+2015 in prep]

Very weak or no turbulence

Nonideal MHD effects



Ambipolar diffusion Stabilises the outer disc



The outer disc is less sensitive to the Hall effect [Bai 2015, Simon+2015] Quenching of the midplane turbulence by ambipolar diffusion

The role of the MRI in PPdiscs

For R>1AU, the MRI is strongly affected by nonideal effects

- $\circ \alpha$ values are not sufficient to explain observed accretion rates (no turbulence)
- Large scale structures (rings & vortices) can appear spontaneously
- If Hall-dominated, the dynamics depends on the field polarity



Questions to observers #2:

Is the disc midplane turbulent ? (could be tested with dust settling ?)

Do we observe structures (rings, vortices) in planet-free discs?

Do we observe a dichotomy in PPD evolution (field polarity sensitivity) ?

Disc winds

Disc winds Blandford & Payne paradigm





Need a large scale mean field

Magneto-centrifugal ejection when i>30°

• Requires
$$\beta \equiv \frac{P_{\mathrm{Th}}}{P_{\mathrm{Mag}}} \sim 1$$
 [Murphy+ (2010)]

Surface winds in weakly magnetised discs $\beta \equiv \frac{P_{\text{Th}}}{P_{\text{Mag}}} = 10^3 - 10^5$



• "Weak" field
$$B \simeq 0.8 R_{\rm au}^{-13/8} \left(\frac{\beta_{\rm midplane}}{10^3}\right)^{-1/2} {\rm G}$$

Bulk flow is decoupled from the field

Only the disc "surface" (ionised by FUVs) feels the field.

Blandford & Payne paradigm applied at the disc surface only [Bai+ 2013]

Disc winds Mass loss rate issue

Ohmic+ambipolar diffusion



$$\dot{M}_{\rm wind} \simeq 10^{-8} \, M_{\odot} / {\rm yr}$$

$$\dot{M}_{\rm acc} \simeq 10^{-9} \, M_{\odot} / {\rm yr}$$

[Gressel+2015]

• $\dot{M}_{wind} > \dot{M}_{acc}$ is energetically impossible !

 Mass loss rates are generally overestimated (vertical boundary artefact) [Suzuki+ (2010); Bai+ (2013); Lesur+ (2013); Fromang+ (2013)]



Questions to observers #3:

- Oo we observe winds in the outer part of PPDs that could be explained by magnetic acceleration? How strong are these winds?
- Can we put constraints on magnetic field strength & topology in PPDs?

Hydrodynamic instabilities

is there something alive in dead zones?

Baroclinic instability (=radial convection)

Driven by the radial entropy gradient [Klahr & Bodenheimer (2003)]

 $\Sigma \propto R^{-a}$

assuming $\frac{H}{R} \propto R^b$

$$\frac{a}{2} + 2b - 1 < 0 \quad \text{instability}$$

Requires fast cooling [Petersen+ (2007); Lesur & Papaloizou (2010)]

$$\bullet$$
 Leads to $\alpha \sim 10^{-3} \text{---} 10^{-2}$



Petersen+ (2007), ApJ, 658, 1252



- appears in baroclinic discs: $\Omega(r, z)$
- Relies on fast cooling function to sustain vertical shear (thermal wind equation)
- Most effective for 5 AU < R < 50 AU [Lin & Youdin 2015]</p>

• Give $\alpha \lesssim 10^{-3}$





Nelson+ (2013)

Interaction with an external enveloppe



A falling enveloppe might be sufficient to drive accretion through spiral waves transport [Lesur+ 2015]

Conclusions & perspectives



Dead zones are the current bottleneck in disc modelling

- MHD-driven turbulence is insufficient to explain accretion rates
- No reliable theoretical constraint on winds due to numerical limitations
- Hydro processes are still largely speculative (thermodynamics, inflows?)

But some interesting developments

- Prediction of magnetically driven surface winds in the outer disc
- Sensitivity to the field polarity in Hall dominated regions
- Spontaneous formation of rings and vortices is possible

List of questions to observers



- Can we get observational constrains on the ionisation fraction in protoplanetary discs ?
- Is the disc midplane turbulent ? (could be tested with dust settling ?)
- Do we observe structures (rings, vortices) in planet-free discs?
- Do we observe a dichotomy in PPD evolution (field polarity sensitivity) ?
- Do we observe winds in the outer part of PPDs that could be explained by magnetic acceleration? How strong are these winds?
- Can we put constraints on magnetic field strength & topology in PPDs?