# Fast and Furious dynamo action in the anisotropic dynamo

# Franck Plunian<sup>1</sup>†, and Thierry Alboussière<sup>2</sup>

 $^1$ Université Grenoble Alpes, Université Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS, IRD, IFSTTAR, ISTerre, 38000 Grenoble, France

<sup>2</sup>Université de Lyon, ENSL, UCBL, CNRS, LGL-TPE, 46 allée d'Italie, F-69364 Lyon, France

(Received xx; revised xx; accepted xx)

In the limit of large magnetic Reynolds numbers, it is shown that a smooth differential rotation can lead to fast dynamo action, provided that the electrical conductivity or magnetic permeability is anisotropic. If the shear is infinite, for example between two rotating solid bodies, the anisotropic dynamo becomes furious, meaning that the magnetic growth rate increases toward infinity with an increasing magnetic Reynolds number.

**Key words:** Magnetohydrodynamics, Dynamo effect, Anisotropy, Fast Dynamo, Axisymmetry

#### 1. Introduction

Dynamo action is a magnetic instability that converts part of the kinetic energy of a moving material into magnetic energy, without the aid of a magnet, but provided of course that the material is electrically conducting (Rincon 2019; Tobias 2021). One of the simplest kinematic dynamos is the anisotropic dynamo, which relies on the anisotropy of electromagnetic properties, and for which an exponentially growing magnetic field can be generated by a velocity field as simple as a shear (Ruderman & Ruzmaikin 1984; Lortz 1989). Anisotropic electrical conductivity means that the electric current density J is no longer parallel to the electric field E, even in the absence of a velocity field U. Similarly, an anisotropic magnetic permeability means that the magnetic field H and the induction field B are no longer parallel. In natural objects, anisotropy in electric conductivity may result, in the Earth's core from the anisotropic crystallisation of the inner core (Deuss 2014; Ohta et al. 2018), in plasmas from the presence of an external magnetic field (Braginskii 1965), and in spiral galaxies (Brandenburg & Subramanian 2005) from their spiral geometries. In contrast, anisotropy of magnetic permeability seems unlikely, at least at large scale. However, at the laboratory scale, among the few experiments that succeeded in reproducing a dynamo effect, one involved soft iron (Lowes & Wilkinson 1963, 1968), while another worked only in the presence of soft iron propellers (Miralles et al. 2013; Kreuzahler et al. 2017; Nore et al. 2018), highlighting the crucial role that magnetic permeability can play. In this paper, the medium is taken as homogeneous, which excludes any source of dynamo action based on spatial variations of electrical conductivity or magnetic permeability (Pétrélis et al. 2016; Marcotte et al. 2021; Gallet et al. 2012, 2013).

The anisotropic dynamo has several features making it unique.

† Email address for correspondence: Franck.Plunian@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

- (i) Defeating Cowling's antidynamo theorem (Cowling 1934), it was shown that fully axisymmetric dynamo action is possible in cylindrical geometry (Plunian & Alboussière 2020). The counterpart in Cartesian geometry makes dynamo possible for two-dimensional plane motion (Ruderman & Ruzmaikin 1984; Alboussière et al. 2020), defeating Zel'dovich's antidynamo theorem (Zel'dovich 1957). This reduces the validity of these two antidynamo theorems to the case of isotropic magnetic diffusivity, which was in fact implicitly assumed by Cowling and Zel'dovich.
- (ii) For a sliding motion corresponding to infinite shear, in Cartesian geometry the opposite motions of two superimposed plates (Alboussière et al. 2020), in cylindrical geometry the opposite rotations of two coaxial cylinders (Plunian & Alboussière 2020), an exact dynamo threshold can be explicitly derived. Furthermore, it was found that the dynamo threshold is small enough to be experimentally tested.
- (iii) The effect on dynamo action of the anisotropy of the magnetic permeability is opposite to that of the electrical conductivity, which even makes the dynamo impossible if the two anisotropies are identical (Plunian & Alboussière 2021).
- (iv) In Cartesian geometry the anisotropic dynamo is found to be fast if the shear is smooth (Ruderman & Ruzmaikin 1984), and furious if the shear is infinite (Alboussière et al. 2020), the meaning of these two types of dynamo action, fast and furious, being explained below. In cylindrical geometry, there is a priori no reason why it should be different. However this remains to be proven, which is the subject of this paper, for the two cases, a smooth differential rotation and an infinite shear.

A kinematic dynamo is said to be fast if, in the limit of large magnetic Reynolds numbers, the magnetic growth rate tends towards, or oscillates around, a positive limit. In this case, the magnetic energy grows on a time-scale smaller than that of magnetic diffusion, typically the advective time scale. In contrast, a kinematic dynamo is said to be slow if, in the limit of large magnetic Reynolds numbers, the magnetic growth rate tends towards zero, meaning that the dynamo occurs on the magnetic diffusion time scale, or on a time scale between that of advection and magnetic diffusion. This distinction between slow and fast dynamo was first made by Vainshtein & Zel'dovich (1972) for astrophysical objects like the Sun where the magnetic Reynolds number in the convection zone is large. Subsequently it was shown that a necessary condition for a velocity field to produce a fast dynamo action is to exhibit Lagrangian chaos or singularities (Soward 1994; Childress & Gilbert 1995), as can be expected for example in a turbulent flow. Extending the previous definitions, a dynamo is said to be furious ("very fast" in Alboussière et al. (2020)) if the magnetic growth rate increases without upper bound with the magnetic Reynolds number, corresponding to magnetic growth on an even smaller time scale than advection. The three types of dynamo, slow, fast and furious are illustrated in Figure 1.

Besides the anisotropic dynamo, among the simplest dynamos are the multicellular flow studied by Roberts (1972) and the monocellular flow studied by Ponomarenko (1973), both being helical. In the Roberts dynamo, the fluid motion is smooth and not chaotic, leading to slow dynamo action. However, by adding singularities at the stagnation points of the flow it is possible to introduce an additional time scale which, if taken sufficiently small, can lead to fast dynamo action (Soward 1987). In the Ponomarenko dynamo, depending whether the flow shear between the inner cylinder and the outer cylinder is smooth or infinite, the dynamo is either slow (Ruzmaikin et al. 1988) or fast (Gilbert 1988). Even in the fast case, magnetic diffusion appears to be a crucial ingredient of the Ponomarenko dynamo, as it is the only way to generate the radial component of the magnetic field from its azimuthal component (Gilbert 1988). Similarly, in the anisotropic dynamo, magnetic diffusion is also crucial. However, as will be shown below, anisotropy now helps to generate both the radial and azimuthal components of the magnetic field,

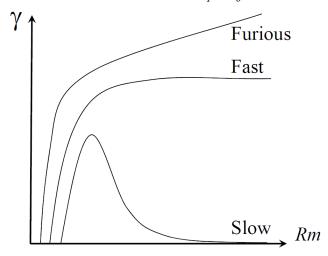


FIGURE 1. Illustration of possible growth rates  $\gamma$  versus the magnetic Reynolds number Rm, for slow, fast and furious dynamos.

turning the dynamo into a fast or furious process depending on the type of shear that is considered.

#### 2. General formulation

We will consider two velocity fields, corresponding to differential rotation with either smooth or infinite shear as illustrated in Figures 2a and 2b. In cylindrical coordinates  $(r, \theta, z)$ , the smooth velocity field is given by

$$U = (0, r\Omega(r), 0), \tag{2.1}$$

where the angular velocity  $\Omega(r)$  is a continuous and differentiable function of r. The velocity field with infinite shear is given by

$$U = \begin{cases} r \Omega e_{\theta}, & \text{for } r < R \\ 0, & \text{for } r > R \end{cases}$$
 (2.2)

where  $(e_r, e_\theta, e_z)$  is the cylindrical coordinate system. The motion described by (2.2) corresponds to a solid body rotation of an inner-cylinder of radius R with the angular velocity  $\Omega$ , surrounded by a medium at rest.

The assumption that electrical conductivity, or magnetic permeability, is anisotropic means that it takes a different value depending on the direction considered. Following Ruderman & Ruzmaikin (1984), the electrical conductivity and magnetic permeability are defined by  $\sigma_{\parallel}$  and  $\mu_{\parallel}$  in a given direction  $\mathbf{q}$ , and by  $\sigma_{\perp}$  and  $\mu_{\perp}$  in the directions perpendicular to  $\mathbf{q}$ . In the direction parallel to  $\mathbf{q}$ , Ohm's law and the relation between  $\mathbf{H}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  are written in the form  $\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{q} = \sigma_{\parallel}(\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{q})$  and  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{q} = \mu_{\parallel}(\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{q})$ , while in the directions perpendicular to  $\mathbf{q}$ , they are written as  $\mathbf{J} - (\mathbf{J} \cdot \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q} = \sigma_{\perp}(\mathbf{E} - (\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q})$  and  $\mathbf{B} - (\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q} = \mu_{\perp}(\mathbf{H} - (\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{q})\mathbf{q})$ . This leads to two symmetric tensors,  $[\sigma_{ij}]$  for the electrical conductivity and  $[\mu_{ij}]$  for the magnetic permeability, defined by

$$[\sigma_{ij}] = \sigma_{\perp} \delta_{ij} + (\sigma_{\parallel} - \sigma_{\perp}) q_i q_j, \qquad [\mu_{ij}] = \mu_{\perp} \delta_{ij} + (\mu_{\parallel} - \mu_{\perp}) q_i q_j. \tag{2.3a,b}$$

In the magnetohydrodynamic approximation, Maxwell's equations and Ohm's law take

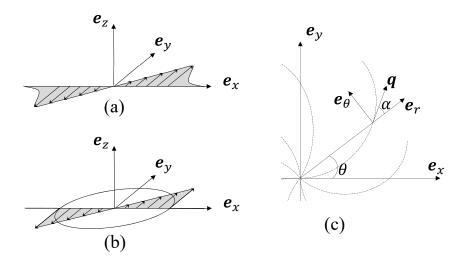


FIGURE 2. Left: Illustration of the velocity field given by differential rotation in the horizonthal plane, with (a) a smooth shear and (b) an infinite shear. Right: Sketch of the logarithmic spirals tangential to the vector q.

the following forms

$$\mathbf{H} = [\mu_{ij}]^{-1} \mathbf{B},\tag{2.4a}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0, \tag{2.4b}$$

$$\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{H},\tag{2.4c}$$

$$\partial_t \mathbf{B} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E} \tag{2.4d}$$

$$\mathbf{J} = [\sigma_{ij}](\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{U} \times \mathbf{B}), \tag{2.4e}$$

leading to the equation for the magnetic induction B,

$$\partial_t \mathbf{B} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{U} \times \mathbf{B}) - \nabla \times ([\sigma_{ij}]^{-1} \nabla \times ([\mu_{ij}]^{-1} \mathbf{B})), \qquad (2.5)$$

where

$$[\sigma_{ij}]^{-1} = \sigma_{\perp}^{-1} \left( \delta_{ij} + \sigma q_i q_j \right), \qquad [\mu_{ij}]^{-1} = \mu_{\perp}^{-1} \left( \delta_{ij} + \mu q_i q_j \right), \tag{2.6a,b}$$

with

$$\sigma = \frac{\sigma_{\perp}}{\sigma_{\parallel}} - 1, \qquad \mu = \frac{\mu_{\perp}}{\mu_{\parallel}} - 1. \tag{2.7a,b}$$

As in Plunian & Alboussière (2020, 2021), we choose q as a unit vector in the horizontal plane defined by

$$\mathbf{q} = c \; \mathbf{e}_r + s \; \mathbf{e}_\theta, \tag{2.8}$$

where  $c = \cos \alpha$ ,  $s = \sin \alpha$ , with  $\alpha$  a prescribed angle. The vector  $\mathbf{q}$  is tangent to logarithmic spirals in the horizonthal plane  $(\mathbf{e}_r, \mathbf{e}_\theta)$ , as illustrated in Figure 2c.

Since the velocity is stationary and independent of z, and as we are considering only axisymmetric solutions, we can look for the magnetic induction in the form

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}(r)\exp(\gamma t + \mathrm{i}kz),\tag{2.9}$$

where B(r) is the axisymmetric magnetic mode at vertical wave number k. In (2.9) a positive value of the real part of the magnetic growth rate  $\gamma$  is the signature of dynamo action, the dynamo threshold corresponding to  $\Re\{\gamma\} = 0$ .

Replacing (2.1) and (2.9) in (2.5), and after some algebra (see Appendix A), one obtains the following equations for  $B_r(r)$  and  $B_{\theta}(r)$ ,

$$\gamma B_r = -\varepsilon \left[ \mu c^2 k^2 B_r + (1 + \sigma s^2) D_k(B_r) - cs(\sigma - \mu) k^2 B_\theta \right], \qquad (2.10a)$$

$$\gamma B_{\theta} = -\varepsilon \left[ \sigma c^2 k^2 B_{\theta} + (1 + \mu s^2) D_k(B_{\theta}) - cs(\sigma - \mu) D_k(B_r) \right] + r\Omega'(r) B_r, \qquad (2.10b)$$

where  $\varepsilon = (\sigma_{\perp}\mu_{\perp})^{-1}$ , and

$$D_k(X) = k^2 X - \partial_r \left(\frac{1}{r} \partial_r (rX)\right). \tag{2.11}$$

Normalizing the distance by some value a, and time by  $|\Omega^{-1}(a)|$ , corresponds in (2.10a, b) to replace  $\varepsilon$  by the inverse of the magnetic Reynolds number

$$Rm = \sigma_{\perp} \mu_{\perp} a^2 |\Omega(a)|, \tag{2.12}$$

the fast dynamo problem referring to  $Rm \gg 1$ , or equivalently to  $\varepsilon \ll 1$ .

In Section 3, an asymptotic analysis of (2.10a,b) for  $\varepsilon \ll 1$ , will allow to estimate the leading order of the magnetic growth rate in the case of a smooth shear given by (2.1). On the other hand, this cannot be done as easily for the case of a solid body rotation given by (2.2). Indeed, as  $\Omega'(r) = 0$  in both regions r < R and r > R, the system (2.10a,b) reduces to two anisotropic diffusion equations, without velocity term. Reminding that dynamo action is a conversion of kinetic into magnetic energy, the system (2.10a,b) is therefore not sufficient to describe the dynamo process. In fact, we will see that the velocity is only involved in the boundary conditions across r = R. Therefore, it will be necessary to solve (2.10a,b) with appropriate boundary conditions, in order to derive the magnetic growth rate  $\gamma$  and study its behaviour for  $\varepsilon \ll 1$ . This will be the subject of Section 4.

## 3. Fast dynamo for smooth differential rotation

Here we follow a similar line of arguments to the one developed for the smooth Ponomarenko dynamo (Gilbert 1988, 2003), essentially based on a boundary analysis. In the asymptotic limit  $\varepsilon \ll 1$  we expand  $\gamma$ ,  $B_r$  and  $B_\theta$  in powers of  $\varepsilon^{1/2}$ , such that

$$\gamma = \gamma_0 + \varepsilon^{\frac{1}{2}} \gamma_1 + \varepsilon \gamma_2 + \dots, \tag{3.1}$$

$$B_r = B_{r0} + \varepsilon^{\frac{1}{2}} B_{r1} + \varepsilon B_{r2} + \dots, \tag{3.2}$$

$$B_{\theta} = B_{\theta 0} + \varepsilon^{\frac{1}{2}} B_{\theta 1} + \varepsilon B_{\theta 2} + \dots, \tag{3.3}$$

and we set

$$k = K\varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$
 and  $r = a + \varepsilon^{\frac{1}{2}}\zeta$ , (3.4)

meaning that we search for a magnetic mode at some radius r=a within a magnetic boundary layer. The r-derivative takes the form  $\partial_r = \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_{\zeta}$ , leading to

$$\frac{1}{r}\partial_r(rX) = \frac{X}{a} + \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}}\frac{\partial X}{\partial \zeta} \quad \text{and} \quad D_k(X) = \varepsilon^{-1}(K^2 - \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \zeta^2})X - \varepsilon^{-\frac{1}{2}}\frac{1}{a}\frac{\partial X}{\partial \zeta} + \frac{X}{a^2}, \quad (3.5)$$

where X can be any variable, e.g.  $B_r$  or  $B_\theta$ . Rewriting (2.4b) as

$$B_z = ik^{-1} \frac{1}{r} \partial_r (rB_r), \tag{3.6}$$

and using (3.5a), we find

$$B_z = B_{z0} + \varepsilon^{\frac{1}{2}} B_{z1} + \varepsilon B_{z2} + \dots, \tag{3.7}$$

where, at leading order,  $B_z = B_{z0} = iK^{-1}\partial B_{r0}/\partial \zeta$ . A striking difference with the Ponomarenko dynamo is that, at leading order, none of the three components  $B_{r0}$ ,  $B_{\theta 0}$  and  $B_{z0}$  is identically zero, whereas in the Ponomarenko dynamo  $B_{r0} = 0$ .

Assuming that the variations in r are of the same order of magnitude as those in z, we can approximate  $D_k(X) \approx \varepsilon^{-1} K^2 X_0$ . Replacing (3.1-3.3) in (2.10a,b) then leads, at leading order, to the equations

$$\left[\gamma_0 + (1 + \sigma s^2 + \mu c^2)K^2\right]B_{r0} - cs(\sigma - \mu)K^2B_{\theta 0} = 0, \tag{3.8a}$$

$$\left[cs(\sigma - \mu)K^{2} + a\Omega'(a)\right]B_{r0} - \left[\gamma_{0} + (1 + \sigma c^{2} + \mu s^{2})K^{2}\right]B_{\theta 0} = 0.$$
 (3.8b)

In (3.8a,b), looking for non-zero  $B_{r0}$  and  $B_{\theta 0}$  leads to the following expression for the leading order growth rate,

$$\gamma_0 = \frac{K^2}{2} \left[ -(\sigma + \mu + 2) \pm |\sigma - \mu| \left( 1 + \frac{4csa\Omega'(a)}{K^2(\sigma - \mu)} \right)^{1/2} \right]. \tag{3.9}$$

A necessary condition for dynamo action is  $\gamma_0 > 0$ , which corresponds to

$$a\Omega'(a) > \frac{K^2(\sigma+1)(\mu+1)}{cs(\sigma-\mu)} \equiv \frac{K^2}{cs} \left(\frac{\mu_{\parallel}}{\mu_{\perp}} - \frac{\sigma_{\parallel}}{\sigma_{\perp}}\right)^{-1}.$$
 (3.10)

In (3.10), we note that, from (2.7a,b), we have  $\sigma+1>0$  and  $\mu+1>0$ . Then, assuming  $cs(\sigma-\mu)>0$ , (3.10) implies that the derivative of  $\Omega(r)$  at r=a must be positive and sufficiently large. This can be achieved in different ways, one of them being  $\Omega(r)<0$  and  $\lim_{r\to\infty}\Omega(r)=0$ . Although here the differential rotation is smooth, this picture is consistent with the one obtained for an infinite shear (Plunian & Alboussière 2021). We note that in (3.9), swapping  $\sigma$  and  $\mu$ , and changing  $\Omega(r)$  in  $-\Omega(r)$ , does not change the result, extending the duality argument put forward by Favier & Proctor (2013) and Marcotte et al. (2021) to the cases of anisotropic electrical conductivity and anisotropic magnetic permeability.

From (3.9) and (3.10) we conclude that, in the limit  $Rm \gg 1$ , the magnetic growth rate at leading order can be positive and independent of Rm, making the smooth anisotropic dynamo a fast dynamo. This is true only if  $\sigma \neq \mu$ , meaning that the degree of anisotropy of electrical conductivity must be different from the one of magnetic permeability. An additional condition is that  $cs \neq 0$ , which means that the two limiting cases of geometry anisotropy, namely straight radii and circles, must be excluded.

## 4. Furious dynamo for infinite shear

#### 4.1. Renormalization and boundary conditions

In the case of an inner cylinder in solid body rotation surrounded by a medium at rest, given by the velocity (2.2), the system to solve is identical in each region r < R and r > R, given by (2.10*a*,*b*) with  $\Omega'(r) = 0$ . Again, normalizing the distance and time by respectively R and  $|\Omega|^{-1}$ , leads to

$$\tilde{\gamma}B_r = -\left[\mu c^2 k^2 B_r + (1 + \sigma s^2) D_k(B_r) - cs(\sigma - \mu) k^2 B_\theta\right]$$
(4.1a)

$$\tilde{\gamma}B_{\theta} = -\left[\sigma c^2 k^2 B_{\theta} + (1 + \mu s^2) D_k(B_{\theta}) - cs(\sigma - \mu) D_k(B_r)\right],\tag{4.1b}$$

where

$$\tilde{\gamma} = \gamma R m, \tag{4.2}$$

with Rm defined by (2.12), replacing a by R, and  $\Omega(a)$  by  $\Omega$ . The system of equations (4.1a,b) must be completed by the appropriate boundary conditions for r = 0 and  $r \to \infty$ ,

$$B_r(r=0) = B_\theta(r=0) = \lim_{r \to \infty} B_r = \lim_{r \to \infty} B_\theta = 0,$$
 (4.3a-d)

and by the continuity across r = 1 of the normal component of  $\mathbf{B}$ , and of the tangential components of  $\mathbf{H}$  and  $\mathbf{E}$ ,

$$[B_r]_{r=1^-}^{r=1^+} = [H_\theta]_{r=1^-}^{r=1^+} = [H_z]_{r=1^-}^{r=1^+} = [E_\theta]_{r=1^-}^{r=1^+} = [E_z]_{r=1^-}^{r=1^+} = 0, \tag{4.4a-e}$$

where  $[X]_{r=1^{-}}^{r=1^{+}} = X(r=1^{+}) - X(r=1^{-})$ . From (2.4a) and (3.6), (4.4a-c) can be rewritten as

$$[B_r]_{r=1^-}^{r=1^+} = [B_\theta]_{r=1^-}^{r=1^+} = [\partial_r B_r]_{r=1^-}^{r=1^+} = 0, \tag{4.5a-c}$$

meaning that  $B_r$ ,  $B_\theta$  and the derivative of  $B_r$  are continuous across r = 1. From (2.4d) we have  $E_\theta = -\mathrm{i} k^{-1} \tilde{\gamma} B_r$ , implying that the two conditions (4.4a) and (4.4d) are redundant. As for the last one (4.4e), using (2.4e) it can be rewritten as

$$[J_z]_{r=1^-}^{r=1^+} = \overline{Rm}B_r(r=1),$$
 (4.6)

where J has been normalized by  $(\mu_{\perp}R)^{-1}$ , and  $\overline{Rm}$  is still the magnetic Reynolds number except that it is signed, keeping track of the direction of the rotation, anticlockwise  $(\overline{Rm} > 0)$  or clockwise  $(\overline{Rm} < 0)$ . It is defined by  $\overline{Rm} = \text{sign}(\Omega) \cdot Rm$ .

#### 4.2. Resolution

The resolution of the system (4.1a,b) follows the same line of reasoning as that of Plunian & Alboussière (2021) except that here, instead of the dynamo threshold corresponding to  $\tilde{\gamma} = 0$ , we solve the system for any value of  $\tilde{\gamma}$ .

Introducing

$$k_{\sigma} = k \left( \frac{1 + \sigma + \tilde{\gamma}/k^2}{1 + \sigma s^2} \right)^{1/2}, \quad k_{\mu} = k \left( \frac{1 + \mu + \tilde{\gamma}/k^2}{1 + \mu s^2} \right)^{1/2},$$
 (4.7*a*, *b*)

and with the help of the identity

$$D_{k_1}(X) = D_{k_2}(X) + (k_1^2 - k_2^2)X, (4.8)$$

the system (4.1a,b) takes the following form

$$(1+\sigma s^2)D_{k_{\sigma}}(B_r) = (\sigma - \mu)ck^2(cB_r + sB_{\theta})$$

$$(4.9a)$$

$$(1 + \mu s^2) D_{k_{\mu}}(B_{\theta}) = (\sigma - \mu) c \left( s D_k(B_r) - c k^2 B_{\theta} \right). \tag{4.9b}$$

Then we can show that (see Appendix B)

$$D_{k_{\mu}}(cB_r + sB_{\theta}) = D_{k_{\sigma}}\left(sD_k(B_r) - ck^2B_{\theta}\right) = 0. \tag{4.10a, b}$$

Then, using (4.10a,b) and (4.9a,b) leads to

$$\left(D_{k_{\mu}} \circ D_{k_{\sigma}}\right)(B_r) = \left(D_{k_{\sigma}} \circ D_{k_{\mu}}\right)(B_{\theta}) = 0. \tag{4.11a, b}$$

The two operators  $D_{k_{\sigma}}$  and  $D_{k_{\mu}}$  being commutative,  $B_r$  and  $B_{\theta}$  satisfy the same linear differential equation of fourth order. As the solution of  $D_{\nu}(X) = 0$  is a linear combination of  $I_1(\nu r)$  and  $K_1(\nu r)$ , where  $I_1$  and  $K_1$  are first and second kind modified Bessel functions

of order 1, the solutions of (4.11a,b) are a linear combination of  $I_1(k_{\sigma}r)$ ,  $K_1(k_{\sigma}r)$ ,  $I_1(k_{\mu}r)$  and  $K_1(k_{\mu}r)$ . Applying the boundary conditions (4.3a-d) and (4.5a,b),  $B_r$  and  $B_{\theta}$  can be written in the following form,

$$B_{r} = \begin{cases} r < 1, & -s \left( \lambda_{\sigma} \frac{I_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \lambda_{\mu} \frac{I_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right) \\ r > 1, & -s \left( \lambda_{\sigma} \frac{K_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \lambda_{\mu} \frac{K_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right) \end{cases}$$
(4.12)

$$B_{\theta} = \begin{cases} r < 1, & c \left( \lambda_{\sigma} \frac{I_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{\mu s^{2} + (\tilde{\gamma}s^{2})/(c^{2}k^{2})}{1 + \mu s^{2}} \lambda_{\mu} \frac{I_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right) \\ r > 1, & c \left( \lambda_{\sigma} \frac{K_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{\mu s^{2} + (\tilde{\gamma}s^{2})/(c^{2}k^{2})}{1 + \mu s^{2}} \lambda_{\mu} \frac{K_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right) \end{cases} , \quad (4.13)$$

where  $B_{\theta}$  has been obtained from  $B_r$  by replacing (4.12) in (4.9a). To do this, we need to calculate  $D_{k_{\sigma}}(B_r)$ , which is derived in Appendix C.

The continuity of  $\partial_r B_r$  (calculated in Appendix D) across r=1, given by (4.5c), leads to the additional identity between  $\lambda_{\sigma}$  and  $\lambda_{\mu}$ 

$$\lambda_{\sigma} \Gamma(k_{\sigma}) + \lambda_{\mu} \Gamma(k_{\mu}) = 0, \tag{4.14}$$

with

$$\Gamma(x) = x \left( \frac{I_0(x)}{I_1(x)} + \frac{K_0(x)}{K_1(x)} \right) \equiv (I_1(x)K_1(x))^{-1},$$
 (4.15)

the last identity being the Wronskian relation

$$I_m(x)K_{m+1}(x) + I_{m+1}(x)K_m(x) = 1/x. (4.16)$$

Finally, to apply the last boundary condition (4.6) we need to calculate the z-component of the current density, that is derived by replacing  $B_r$  and  $B_\theta$  given by (4.12) and (4.13), in (2.4a) and (2.4c), leading to (see Appendix E)

$$\mathbf{J}_{z} = \begin{cases} r < 1, & c \left[ k_{\sigma} \lambda_{\sigma} \frac{I_{0}(k_{\sigma}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{s^{2}\tilde{\gamma}}{c^{2}k^{2}} \lambda_{\mu} k_{\mu} \frac{I_{0}(k_{\mu}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right] \\ r > 1, & -c \left[ k_{\sigma} \lambda_{\sigma} \frac{K_{0}(k_{\sigma}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{s^{2}\tilde{\gamma}}{c^{2}k^{2}} \lambda_{\mu} k_{\mu} \frac{K_{0}(k_{\mu}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right] \end{cases}$$
(4.17)

Replacing (4.12) and (4.17) in (4.6), and using (4.14), leads to the following dispersion relation

$$\overline{Rm} = \frac{c}{s} \left( 1 - \frac{s^2 \tilde{\gamma}}{c^2 k^2} \right) \left( I_1(k_\sigma) K_1(k_\sigma) - I_1(k_\mu) K_1(k_\mu) \right)^{-1}. \tag{4.18}$$

The dynamo threshold obtained for  $\tilde{\gamma} = 0$  has been the subject of a previous paper (Plunian & Alboussière 2021).

#### 4.3. Asymptotic behaviour of $\tilde{\gamma}$ in the limit of large magnetic Reynolds numbers

We note that in (4.18), as  $k_{\sigma}$  and  $k_{\mu}$  given by (4.7a,b) also depend on  $\tilde{\gamma}$ , we cannot derive an explicit expression for  $\tilde{\gamma}$ . Therefore to determine the asymptotic behaviour of  $\tilde{\gamma}$  for  $Rm \gg 1$ , two approaches are possible, either by solving numerically (4.18) that we postpone to Subsection 4.4, or to carry out an asymptotic study, assuming that  $k_{\sigma} \gg 1$  and  $k_{\mu} \gg 1$ . In the latter case, since (Abramowitz & Stegun 1968)

for 
$$|z| \gg 1$$
,  $I_1(z)K_1(z) = \frac{1}{2z} + O(\frac{1}{z^3})$ , (4.19)

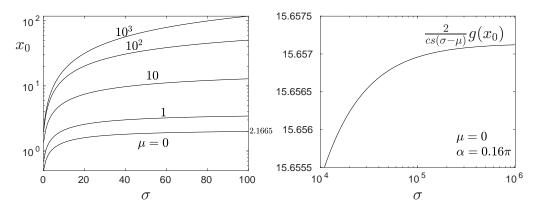


FIGURE 3. (a) Plot of  $x_0$  versus  $\sigma$  for several values of  $\mu$  and  $\alpha=0.16\pi$ . (b) Plot of  $\frac{2}{cs(\sigma-\mu)}g(x_0)$  versus  $\sigma$  for  $\mu=0$  and  $\alpha=0.16\pi$ .

the dispersion relation (4.18) can be written as

$$\overline{Rm} \approx \frac{2c}{s} \left( 1 - \frac{s^2 \tilde{\gamma}}{c^2 k^2} \right) \frac{k_{\sigma} k_{\mu}}{k_{\mu} - k_{\sigma}}.$$
 (4.20)

In (4.20), replacing  $k_{\sigma}$  and  $k_{\mu}$  by their expressions (4.7a,b) leads to the following expression

$$\overline{Rm} \approx \frac{-2k}{cs(\sigma - \mu)}g(\frac{\tilde{\gamma}}{k^2}),$$
 (4.21)

where q(x) is the function defined by

$$g(x) = (1 + \sigma s^2)^{1/2} (1 + \sigma + x)^{1/2} (1 + \mu + x) + (1 + \mu s^2)^{1/2} (1 + \mu + x)^{1/2} (1 + \sigma + x).$$
 (4.22)

For a given value of Rm, as  $\tilde{\gamma}$  depends on k, the maximum growth rate is obtained for  $\partial \tilde{\gamma}/\partial k = 0$ . Therefore, differentiating (4.21) versus k, we find that this maximum is characterised by

$$g(x_0) = 2x_0 g'(x_0), (4.23)$$

where g' is the derivative of g, and  $x_0$  the solution of the following equation

$$\left(\frac{1+\sigma s^2}{1+\sigma+x_0}\right)^{1/2} \left[2x_0^2 + (1+\sigma)x_0 - (1+\sigma)(1+\mu)\right] 
+ \left(\frac{1+\mu s^2}{1+\mu+x_0}\right)^{1/2} \left[2x_0^2 + (1+\mu)x_0 - (1+\mu)(1+\sigma)\right] = 0.$$
(4.24)

In Figure 3a, the solution  $x_0$  of (4.24) is plotted versus  $\sigma$ , for  $\alpha = 0.16\pi$  and several values of  $\mu$ . The value  $\alpha = 0.16\pi$  is chosen in reference to the dynamo threshold minimum obtained for  $\sigma \gg 1$  when  $\mu = 0$  (Plunian & Alboussière 2020). For  $\mu = 0$  we find that  $\lim_{\sigma \to \infty} x_0 = 2.1665$ , that will be used for comparison with the numerical results of Section 4.4. Replacing  $x_0$  in (4.22),  $\frac{2}{cs(\sigma-\mu)}g(x_0)$  is calculated and plotted in Figure 3b versus  $\sigma$  for  $\alpha = 0.16\pi$  and  $\mu = 0$ . It takes the value 15.65715 for  $\sigma = 10^6$  which, again, will be used for comparison with the numerical results of Section 4.4.

As  $x_0$  is entirely determined by  $\sigma$ ,  $\mu$  and s, we conclude from (4.21) that the maximum growth rate corresponds not only to  $\tilde{\gamma} = x_0 k^2$  but also to  $k \propto Rm$ , implying that

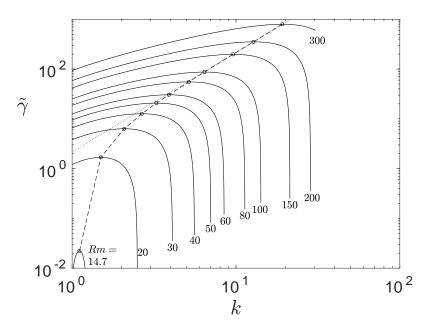


FIGURE 4. Plot of  $\tilde{\gamma}$  versus k for  $\mu = 0$ ,  $\sigma = 10^6$ ,  $\alpha = 0.16\pi$  and several values of Rm. For each curve, the maximum  $\tilde{\gamma}_0$  of  $\tilde{\gamma}$ , obtained for  $k = k_0$ , is denoted by a circle.

 $\tilde{\gamma} \propto Rm^2$ . From (4.2), we then conclude that

for 
$$Rm \gg 1$$
,  $\gamma \propto Rm$ , (4.25)

making the anisotropic dynamo with infinite shear a furious dynamo.

Assuming  $cs(\sigma - \mu) > 0$ , we note that (4.21) implies that k and  $\overline{Rm}$  have opposite signs, meaning that the dynamo action corresponds to a clockwise rotation of the inner cylinder. For  $Rm \gg 1$ , as  $k \propto Rm$  and  $\tilde{\gamma}/k^2 \to x_0$ , from the definition of  $k_{\sigma}$  and  $k_{\mu}$  given in (4.7a,b), the two assumptions  $k_{\sigma} \gg 1$  and  $k_{\mu} \gg 1$  made at the beginning of Section 4.3, are satisfied.

## 4.4. Numerical solution of the dispersion relation (4.18)

In Figure 4, the growth rate  $\tilde{\gamma}$  obtained from (4.18) is plotted versus k, for  $\mu=0$ ,  $\sigma=10^6$ ,  $\alpha=0.16\pi$  and several values of Rm. As mentioned above,  $\sigma$  is taken as sufficiently large in order to reach asymptotically the minimum dynamo threshold which, for  $\mu=0$ , is equal to Rm=14.7 (Plunian & Alboussière 2020). For other values of  $\mu,\sigma$  or  $\alpha$ , the curves will be different, without however changing the asymptotic behaviour of  $\tilde{\gamma}$  as  $Rm\gg 1$ . As found in Subsection 4.3, the values of  $\overline{Rm}$  are found negative.

In Figure 4, for each curve, the maximum of  $\tilde{\gamma}$  is denoted by a circle. The dotted straight curve corresponds to  $\tilde{\gamma} = x_0 k^2$  with  $x_0 = 2.1665$  calculated from (4.24), showing an excellent agreement between the asymptotic approach at large Rm and the numerical results.

From Figure 4, each maximum is denoted by its coordinates  $(k_0, \tilde{\gamma}_0)$ , such that  $\tilde{\gamma}_0 = \max_k \tilde{\gamma}(k) = \tilde{\gamma}(k_0)$ . In Figure 5a,  $k_0/Rm$  and  $\tilde{\gamma}_0/Rm^2$  are then plotted versus Rm. In the asymptotic limit  $Rm \gg 1$  the scaling laws  $k_0 \propto Rm$  and  $\tilde{\gamma}_0 \propto Rm^2$  found in Section 4.3 are clearly validated. In addition, the horizonthal dotted lines corresponding

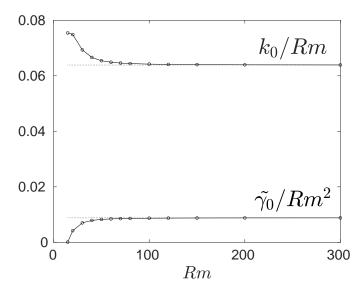


FIGURE 5. (a) Plots of  $k_0/Rm$  and  $\tilde{\gamma}_0/Rm^2$  versus Rm for  $\mu=0,\,\sigma=10^6,\,\alpha=0.16\pi.$  The horizonthal dotted lines correspond to the asymptotic approach of Section 4.3.

to 
$$\left(\frac{2}{cs(\sigma-\mu)}g(x_0)\right)^{-1}=1/15.65715$$
 and to  $x_0\left(\frac{2}{cs(\sigma-\mu)}g(x_0)\right)^{-2}=2.1665/15.65715^2$ , confirm the excellent agreement with the asymptotic approach.

It is instructive to plot the geometries of the magnetic field and the current density for different values of Rm. For that we use the expressions derived in (4.12-4.13) and (F 2) for the magnetic field, and (E 10-E 15) for the electrical current density. The geometries of the horizonthal magnetic field lines and electric current lines are plotted in Figure 6. The three components of the magnetic field normalized by  $B_H(r=1)$  where  $B_H$  is the modulus of the horizonthal component  $B_H = \sqrt{B_r^2 + B_\theta^2}$ , are given in Figure 7. The three components of the current density, normalized by  $RmB_H(r=1)$ , are given in Figure 8.

In Figure 6, we note that the geometry of the electric current lines in the (x, y)-plane do not depend on Rm. This is due to the fact that  $\sigma \gg 1$ . Indeed, from the expressions of  $J_r$  and  $J_\theta$  given in Appendix E (E 10-E 14) it can be shown that, for  $\sigma \gg 1$  and provided that  $\tilde{\gamma}/k^2$  is bounded, we have  $J_\theta = -\frac{c}{s}J_r$  for both r < 1 and r > 1. This corresponds to have  $J \cdot q = 0$  or, equivalently, the electric current lines perpendicular to q. In contrast, the geometry of the horizonthal magnetic fields lines vary with Rm, in such a way that a magnetic boundary layer seems to appear at r = 1 for  $Rm \gg 1$ . To quantify such a boundary layer, in Figures 7 and 8 the components of B and J are plotted versus Rm(r-1), and it is obvious that the curves merge as Rm increases, suggesting that the thickness of the boundary layer is of the order  $O(Rm^{-1})$ .

#### 5. Conclusions

We have shown that the anisotropic dynamo in cylindrical geometry is fast if the differential rotation is smooth, and furious if the shear is infinite. In both cases the underlying mechanism is based on the stretching by differential rotation and anisotropic diffusion. For a smooth velocity profile, the dynamo occurs on a time scale equal to the turnover time  $t_{\text{Fast}} = |\Omega(a)|^{-1}$ , where a is some characteristic radius, indicating for example the one at which the shear is maximum. If the shear is infinite at r = a, the

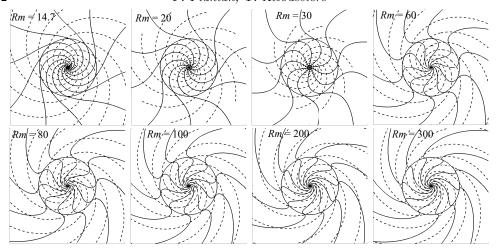


FIGURE 6. Plots of the magnetic field lines (full) and the electric current lines (dashed) in the horizontal plane (x, y), for  $\mu = 0$ ,  $\sigma = 10^6$ ,  $\alpha = 0.16\pi$ , and different values of Rm.

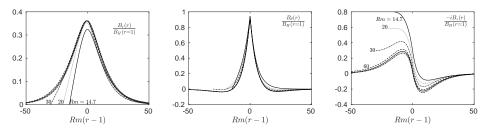


FIGURE 7. From left to right, plots of  $B_r$ ,  $B_{\theta}$  and  $-iB_z$ , normalized by  $B_H(r=1)$ , versus Rm(r-1), for  $\mu=0$ ,  $\sigma=10^6$ ,  $\alpha=0.16\pi$  and  $Rm \in \{14.7, 20, 30, 60, 100, 200, 300\}$ .

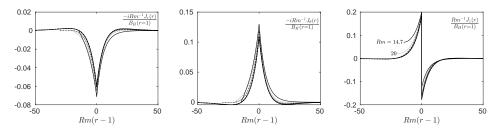


FIGURE 8. From left to right, plots of  $-iJ_r$ ,  $-iJ_\theta$  and  $J_z$ , normalized by  $Rm\,B_H(r=1)$ , versus Rm(r-1), for  $\mu=0,\ \sigma=10^6,\ \alpha=0.16\pi$  and  $Rm\in\{14.7,20,30,60,100,200,300\}$ .

dynamo occurs on a time scale  $t_{\text{Furious}}$  even shorter that  $|\Omega(a)|^{-1}$ . In dimensional units, it is equal to

$$t_{\text{Furious}} = (Rm \, \Omega(a))^{-1} = (\sigma_{\perp} \mu_{\perp} a^2 \Omega(a)^2)^{-1}.$$
 (5.1)

For  $Rm \gg 1$  we then have  $t_{\rm Furious} \ll t_{\rm Fast}$ . This new characteristic time  $t_{\rm Furious}$  arises because, in the anisotropic dynamo, the mechanism of magnetic generation due to the anisotropic diffusion is particularly efficient, at least more efficient than the mechanism due to the isotropic diffusion on which, for example, the Ponomarenko dynamo is partially working on. As a result, the magnetic boundary layer in which the generation of the magnetic field occurs is thinner, leading to a magnetic growth faster than the

fast Ponomarenko dynamo. To illustrate this, it is instructive to rewrite the system of equations (2.10a,b) in the following schematical way

$$\gamma B_r \sim -k^2 R m^{-1} B_r + k^2 R m^{-1} B_\theta,$$
 (5.2a)

$$\gamma B_{\theta} \sim -k^2 R m^{-1} B_{\theta} + k^2 R m^{-1} B_r + r \Omega'(r) B_r,$$
 (5.2b)

in which each term is a simplified expression of the original terms of (2.10 a, b). On the right-hand side of (5.2a, b), the first term of each equation corresponds to the magnetic dissipation, acting against the dynamo action, the second tems are source terms for the dynamo due to the anisotropic diffusion, while the third term of (5.2a) is also a source term, due to the velocity shear. Apart the velocity term  $r\Omega'(r)B_r$ , all other terms of (5.2a,b) are of the same order of magnitude provided that

$$B_r \sim B_\theta$$
, and  $\gamma \sim k^2 Rm^{-1}$ . (5.3)

The velocity term can be estimated as  $r\Omega'(r) \sim 1$  if the shear is smooth and  $r\Omega'(r) \sim k$  if the shear is infinite. Assuming that in (5.2a,b) the velocity term is also of the same order of magnitude as the other terms, leads to  $\gamma \sim 1$  and  $k \sim Rm^{\frac{1}{2}}$  for the smooth shear, and to  $\gamma \sim k \sim Rm$  for the infinite shear. The thickness of the magnetic boundary layer that can be estimated as  $\delta \sim k^{-1}$ , then scales as  $\delta \sim Rm^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  in the smooth case, and  $\delta \sim Rm^{-1}$  in the infinite shear case. These order of magnitude confirmed by our previous findings, clearly establish the crucial role of the boundary layers.

In order to capture the difference with the Ponomarenko dynamo we can rewrite, again schematically, the system of equations given in Gilbert (1988, 2003) as

$$\gamma B_r \sim -k^2 R m^{-1} B_r + k R m^{-1} B_\theta,$$
 (5.4a)

$$\gamma B_{\theta} \sim -k^2 R m^{-1} B_{\theta} + k R m^{-1} B_r + r \Omega'(r) B_r. \tag{5.4b}$$

In (5.4a),  $kRm^{-1}B_{\theta}$  is again a source term corresponding to the generation of  $B_r$  from  $B_{\theta}$ , coming from the isotropic diffusion of  $B_{\theta}$  in the r-direction. This term is to contrast with the anisotropic diffusion term  $k^2Rm^{-1}B_{\theta}$  in (5.2a). In both cases the diffusion is involved, but they have different orders of magnitude for  $k \gg 1$ . Assuming that the terms on the right-hand side of (5.4a) are of the same order of magnitude leads to

$$B_{\theta} \sim k B_r$$
, and  $\gamma \sim k^2 R m^{-1}$ . (5.5)

Taking the same estimation of the velocity term  $r\Omega'(r)$  as above,  $r\Omega'(r) \sim 1$  if the shear is smooth and  $\Omega'(r) \sim k$  if the shear is infinite, and assuming that it is of the same order of magnitude as the other terms of (5.4b), except the term  $kRm^{-1}B_r$  which is smaller for  $k \gg 1$ , leads to  $\gamma \sim k^{-1} \sim Rm^{-\frac{1}{3}}$  for the smooth shear, and to  $\gamma \sim 1$  and  $k \sim Rm^{\frac{1}{2}}$  for the infinite shear. The thickness of the magnetic boundary layer,  $\delta \sim k^{-1}$ , then scales as  $\delta \sim Rm^{-\frac{1}{3}}$  in the smooth case, and  $\delta \sim Rm^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  in the infinite shear case.

Eventually, a unique characteristic time can be define, as

$$t = \sigma_{\perp} \mu_{\perp} \delta^2, \tag{5.6}$$

with, for the Ponomarenko dynamo,  $\sigma_{\perp} = \sigma_{\parallel}$  and  $\mu_{\perp} = \mu_{\parallel}$ . In (5.6), t corresponds to the magnetic diffusion time through a magnetic boundary layer of thickness  $\delta$ . Replacing  $\delta/a$  by either  $Rm^{-\frac{1}{3}}$ ,  $Rm^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  or  $Rm^{-1}$  leads to a characteristic time equal to  $Rm^{-\frac{1}{3}}\Omega(a)^{-1}$ ,  $\Omega(a)^{-1}$  or  $Rm^{-1}\Omega(a)^{-1}$ , as summarized in Table 5. Therefore, as mentioned above, it is mainly the thickness of the boundary layer that governs the characteristic time of the dynamo action, and thus the ability to have a slow, fast or furious dynamo for increasingly thin boundary layers.

$\delta/a$ $Rm^{-\frac{1}{3}}$ $t\Omega(a)$ $Rm^{\frac{1}{3}}$	$Rm^{-1}$ $Rm^{-1}$

Table 1. Rm-power scalings of the thickness  $\delta$  of the magnetic boundary layer, and of the characteristic time t of the dynamo. These two quantities satisfy the unique formula (5.6).

Such an anisotropic dynamo could be designed at the laboratory scale, using appropriate conducting layers or coils, or high-permeability materials, in order to mimic the homogeneous anisotropy considered here. According to figure 5, to successfully demonstrate the furious aspect of such a dynamo, a minimum magnetic Reynolds number of about 30 would be necessary, which is about twice more than the value 14.6 of the dynamo threshold. From the estimate given in Plunian & Alboussière (2020), assuming an electrical conductivity equal to the one of copper would require an inner cylinder with a radius of 0.05 m and a rotation frequency of about 25 Hz, which is feasible in the laboratory. In natural objects where the magnetic Reynolds number is much larger, fast or furious dynamo action should be favoured, provided that the anisotropy of the electrical conductivity does play a role, as can be expected for example in spiral arms galaxies where  $Rm \gg 1$  and for which our anisotropic model might be a good approximation.

## Acknowledgements

We acknowledge Andrew Gilbert for his interest in our work and his helpful comments.

Declaration of Interests. The authors report no conflict of interest.

#### REFERENCES

Abramowitz, M. & Stegun, I. A. 1968 Handbook of Mathematical Functions with Formulas, Graphs and Mathemarical Tables. Dover Publications, New York.

Alboussière, T., Drif, K. & Plunian, F. 2020 Dynamo action in sliding plates of anisotropic electrical conductivity. Physical Review E 101, 033107.

Braginskii, S.I. 1965 Transport Processes in a Plasma. Reviews of Plasma Physics 1, 205.

Brandenburg, A. & Subramanian, K. 2005 Astrophysical magnetic fields and nonlinear dynamo theory. Physics Reports 417 (1), 1–209.

CHILDRESS, S. & GILBERT, A. D. 1995 Stretch, Twist, Fold: The Fast Dynamo. Springer.

COWLING, T. G. 1934 The magnetic field of sunspots. Mon. Not. R. Astr. Soc. 94, 39–48.

DEUSS, A. 2014 Heterogeneity and anisotropy of earth's inner core. Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences **42** (1), 103–126.

FAVIER, B. & PROCTOR, M. R. E. 2013 Growth rate degeneracies in kinematic dynamos. Phys. Rev. E 88, 031001.

Gallet, B., Pétrélis, F. & Fauve, S. 2012 Dynamo action due to spatially dependent magnetic permeability. Europhysics Letters 97 (6), 69001.

Gallet, B., Pétrélis, F. & Fauve, S. 2013 Spatial variations of magnetic permeability as a source of dynamo action. Journal of Fluid Mechanics 727, 161–190.

GILBERT, ANDREW D. 1988 Fast dynamo action in the Ponomarenko dynamo. Geophysical & Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics 44 (1-4), 241–258.

Gilbert, Andrew D. 2003 Chapter 9 - Dynamo Theory. Handbook of Mathematical Fluid Dynamics, vol. 2, pp. 355–441. North-Holland.

- Kreuzahler, S., Ponty, Y., Plihon, N., Homann, H. & Grauer, R. 2017 Dynamo enhancement and mode selection triggered by high magnetic permeability. *Physical Review Letters* 119, 234501.
- LORTZ, D. 1989 Axisymmetric dynamo solutions. Z. Naturforsch 44a, 1041–1045.
- Lowes, F. J. & Wilkinson, I. 1963 Geomagnetic dynamo: A laboratory model. Nature 198, 1158-1160.
- Lowes, F. J. & Wilkinson, I. 1968 Geomagnetic dynamo: An improved laboratory model. Nature 219, 717–718.
- MARCOTTE, F., GALLET, B., PÉTRÉLIS, F. & GISSINGER, C. 2021 Enhanced dynamo growth in nonhomogeneous conducting fluids. *Phys. Rev. E* **104**, 015110.
- MIRALLES, S., BONNEFOY, N., BOURGOIN, M., ODIER, P., PINTON, J.-F., PLIHON, N., VERHILLE, G., BOISSON, J., DAVIAUD, F. & DUBRULLE, B. 2013 Dynamo threshold detection in the von Kármán sodium experiment. *Physical Review E* 88, 013002.
- Nore, C., Castanon Quiroz, D., Cappanera, L. & Guermond, J.-L. 2018 Numerical simulation of the von Kármán sodium dynamo experiment. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics* 854, 164–195.
- Ohta, K., Nishihara, Y., Sato, Y., Hirose, K., Yagi, T., Kawaguchi, S. I., Hirao, N. & Ohishi, Y. 2018 An experimental examination of thermal conductivity anisotropy in hcp iron. Frontiers in Earth Science 6, 176.
- PÉTRÉLIS, F., ALEXAKIS, A. & GISSINGER, C. 2016 Fluctuations of electrical conductivity: A new source for astrophysical magnetic fields. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **116**, 161102.
- Plunian, F. & Alboussière, T. 2020 Axisymmetric dynamo action is possible with anisotropic conductivity. *Physical Review Research* 2, 013321.
- Plunian, F. & Alboussière, T. 2021 Axisymmetric dynamo action produced by differential rotation, with anisotropic electrical conductivity and anisotropic magnetic permeability. *Journal of Plasma Physics* 87 (1), 905870110.
- PONOMARENKO, Y.B. 1973 On the theory of hydromagnetic dynamos. Zh. Prikl. Mekh. & Tekh. Fiz. (USSR) 6, 47–51.
- RINCON, F. 2019 Dynamo theories. Journal of Plasma Physics 85 (4), 205850401.
- ROBERTS, G.O. 1972 Dynamo action of fluid motions with two-dimensional periodicity. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences* **271**, 411–454.
- RUDERMAN, M. S. & RUZMAIKIN, A. A. 1984 Magnetic field generation in an anisotropically conducting fluid. *Geophysical & Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics* **28** (1), 77–88.
- Ruzmaikin, A., Sokoloff, D. & Shukurov, A. 1988 Hydromagnetic screw dynamo. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics* **197**, 39–56.
- SOWARD, A. M. 1987 Fast dynamo action in a steady flow. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics* 180, 267–295.
- SOWARD, A. M. 1994 Fast dynamos In *Lectures on Solar and Planetary Dynamos* (ed. M. R. E. Proctor, A. D. Gilbert),181–217, Camb. Univ. Press.
- Tobias, S.M. 2021 The turbulent dynamo. Journal of Fluid Mechanics 912, P1.
- Vainshtein, S.I. & Zel'dovich, Ya. B. 1972 Origin of magnetic fields in astrophysics. *Usp. Fiz. Nauk* **106**, 431–457, [English transl.: Sov. Phys. Usp., Vol. 15, p. 159-172, 1972].
- Zel'dovich, Ya. B. 1957 The magnetic field in the two-dimensional motion of a conducting turbulent liquid. *Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Physics* 4, 460, [Russian original ZhETF, Vol. 31, No. 3, p. 154, 1957].

## Appendix A. Derivation of (2.10a,b)

The induction equation (2.5) is derived from (2.4d) and (2.4e), such that

$$\partial_t \mathbf{B} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{U} \times \mathbf{B}) - \nabla \times [\sigma_{ij}]^{-1} \mathbf{J}, \tag{A 1}$$

with, from (2.4a) and (2.4c),

$$\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times [\mu_{ij}]^{-1} \mathbf{B},\tag{A 2}$$

Assuming axisymmetry ( $\partial_{\theta} = 0$ ) and considering the solenoidality of  $\mathbf{B}$  given by (2.4b), the curl of the cross product of  $\mathbf{U} = r\Omega(r)\mathbf{e}_{\theta}$  by  $\mathbf{B} = (B_r, B_{\theta}, B_z) \exp(\gamma t + \mathrm{i}kz)$  takes the form

$$\nabla \times (\mathbf{U} \times \mathbf{B}) = r\Omega' B_r \mathbf{e}_{\theta}, \tag{A 3}$$

where, from now, the exponential term is dropped for convenience. From the definition (2.6a) of  $[\sigma_{ij}]^{-1}$ , we have

$$[\sigma_{ij}]^{-1} \boldsymbol{J} = \sigma_{\perp}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} (1 + \sigma c^2) J_r + \sigma c s J_{\theta} \\ \sigma c s J_r + (1 + \sigma s^2) J_{\theta} \\ J_z \end{pmatrix}. \tag{A 4}$$

Taking the curl leads to

$$\nabla \times [\sigma_{ij}]^{-1} \boldsymbol{J} = \sigma_{\perp}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} -\mathrm{i}k \left[ \sigma c s J_r + (1 + \sigma s^2) J_{\theta} \right] \\ \mathrm{i}k^{-1} \left[ D_k (J_r) + \sigma c^2 k^2 J_r + \sigma c s k^2 J_{\theta} \right] \\ \frac{1}{r} \partial_r \left( r \left[ \sigma c s J_r + (1 + \sigma s^2) J_{\theta} \right] \right) \end{pmatrix}, \tag{A 5}$$

where, again,  $D_{\nu}(X) = \nu^2 X - \partial_r \left(\frac{1}{r}\partial_r(rX)\right)$ , and with  $J_z = ik^{-1}\frac{1}{r}\partial_r(rJ_r)$  coming from the solenoidality of the current density.

Similarly, we find that

$$\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times [\mu_{ij}]^{-1} \mathbf{B} = \mu_{\perp}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} -ik \left[ \mu cs B_r + (1 + \mu s^2) B_{\theta} \right] \\ ik^{-1} \left[ D_k (B_r) + \mu c^2 k^2 B_r + \mu cs k^2 B_{\theta} \right] \\ \frac{1}{r} \partial_r \left( r \left[ \mu cs B_r + (1 + \mu s^2) B_{\theta} \right] \right) \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (A 6)

Combining (A5) and (A6) leads to

$$\nabla \times [\sigma_{ij}]^{-1} \left[ \nabla \times [\mu_{ij}]^{-1} \mathbf{B} \right] = (\sigma_{\perp} \mu_{\perp})^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} F \\ G \\ ik^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{r} \partial_r (rF) \right) \end{pmatrix}, \tag{A7}$$

with

$$F = \mu c^2 k^2 B_r + (1 + \sigma s^2) D_k(B_r) - k^2 c s(\sigma - \mu) B_\theta, \tag{A 8}$$

$$G = -cs(\sigma - \mu)D_k(B_r) + \sigma k^2 c^2 B_{\theta} + (1 + \mu s^2)D_k(B_{\theta}).$$
 (A9)

Combining (A 1), (A 2), (A 3) and (A 7), leads to (2.10a,b).

## Appendix B. Derivation of (4.10a,b)

Rewriting (4.1a,b) in the form

$$D_k(B_r) = -\left[\tilde{\gamma}B_r + \mu c^2 k^2 B_r + \sigma s^2 D_k(B_r) - cs(\sigma - \mu)k^2 B_\theta\right]$$
(B1a)

$$D_k(B_\theta) = -\left[\tilde{\gamma}B_\theta + \sigma c^2 k^2 B_\theta + \mu s^2 D_k(B_\theta) - cs(\sigma - \mu)D_k(B_r)\right],\tag{B1b}$$

and considering the linear combination c(B1a)+s(B1b), leads to

$$(1 + \mu s^2) D_k(cB_r + sB_\theta) = -(\tilde{\gamma} + \mu c^2 k^2) (cB_r + sB_\theta).$$
 (B 2)

Then, using the identity

$$(1 + \mu s^2)D_k(X) = (1 + \mu s^2)D_{k_n}(X) - (\tilde{\gamma} + \mu c^2 k^2)X, \tag{B3}$$

we find that

$$D_{k_{\mu}}(cB_r + sB_{\theta}) = 0. \tag{B4}$$

In a similar way, considering the linear combination  $sD_k((B1a))-ck^2(B1b)$ , leads to

$$(1 + \sigma s^2) D_k(s D_k(B_r) - ck^2 B_\theta) = -(\tilde{\gamma} + \sigma c^2 k^2) (s D_k(B_r) - ck^2 B_\theta).$$
 (B 5)

Then, using the identity

$$(1 + \sigma s^2)D_k(X) = (1 + \sigma s^2)D_{k\sigma}(X) - (\tilde{\gamma} + \sigma c^2 k^2)X,$$
 (B6)

we find that

$$D_{k_{\sigma}}(sD_k(B_r) - ck^2B_{\theta}) = 0. \tag{B7}$$

## Appendix C. Derivation of (4.13)

To obtain  $B_{\theta}$  from  $B_r$  by replacing (4.12) in (4.9a), we need to calculate  $D_{k_{\sigma}}(B_r)$ , given by

$$D_{k_{\sigma}}(B_{r}) = \begin{cases} r < 1, & -s\lambda_{\mu} \frac{D_{k_{\sigma}}(I_{1}(k_{\mu}r))}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \\ r > 1, & -s\lambda_{\mu} \frac{D_{k_{\sigma}}(K_{1}(k_{\mu}r))}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \end{cases}$$
(C1)

With the help of the identity (4.8) we have

$$D_{k_{\sigma}}(B_{r}) = \begin{cases} r < 1, & -s\lambda_{\mu}(k_{\sigma}^{2} - k_{\mu}^{2}) \frac{I_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \\ r > 1, & -s\lambda_{\mu}(k_{\sigma}^{2} - k_{\mu}^{2}) \frac{K_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \end{cases}$$
(C2)

Then replacing  $k_{\sigma}$  and  $k_{\mu}$  by their expressions given in (4.7a,b) and after some additional algebra leads to (4.13).

## Appendix D. Derivation of the boundary condition (4.14)

To write the continuity of  $\partial_r B_r$  at r=1 we first need to calculate the expression of  $\partial_r B_r$  at any r. From the following identities satisfied for any  $\nu$ ,

$$\partial_r \left( I_1(\nu r) \right) = \nu I_0(\nu r) - \frac{1}{r} I_1(\nu r), \tag{D1}$$

$$\partial_r (K_1(\nu r)) = -\nu K_0(\nu r) - \frac{1}{r} K_1(\nu r),$$
 (D 2)

the expression of  $\partial_r B_r$  is obtained by deriving (4.12),

$$\partial_{r}B_{r} = \begin{cases} r \leqslant 1, & -s\frac{\lambda_{\sigma}}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} \left[ k_{\sigma}I_{0}(k_{\sigma}r) - \frac{1}{r}I_{1}(k_{\sigma}r) \right] \\ & -s\frac{\lambda_{\mu}}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \left[ k_{\mu}I_{0}(k_{\mu}r) - \frac{1}{r}I_{1}(k_{\mu}r) \right] \\ r \geqslant 1, & s\frac{\lambda_{\sigma}}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} \left[ k_{\sigma}K_{0}(k_{\sigma}r) + \frac{1}{r}K_{1}(k_{\sigma}r) \right] \\ & s\frac{\lambda_{\mu}}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \left[ k_{\mu}K_{0}(k_{\mu}r) + \frac{1}{r}K_{1}(k_{\mu}r) \right] \end{cases}$$
(D 3)

Then, from (D 3) writing the continuity of  $\partial_r B_r$  at r=1 leads to (4.14).

## Appendix E. Derivation of the current density J

The current density J given in (A 6) can be written, in its renormalized form, as

$$\mathbf{J} = \begin{pmatrix} -ik\phi \\ ik^{-1} \left[ D_k(B_r) + \mu c^2 k^2 B_r + \mu c s k^2 B_\theta \right] \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (E1)

with  $\phi = \mu cs B_r + (1 + \mu s^2) B_\theta$ .

Replacing  $B_r$  and  $B_\theta$  by their expressions (4.12) and (4.13), leads to

$$\phi = \begin{cases} r < 1, & c \left[ \lambda_{\sigma} \frac{I_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{s^{2}\tilde{\gamma}}{c^{2}k^{2}} \lambda_{\mu} \frac{I_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right] \\ r > 1, & c \left[ \lambda_{\sigma} \frac{K_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{s^{2}\tilde{\gamma}}{c^{2}k^{2}} \lambda_{\mu} \frac{K_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right] \end{cases} , \tag{E 2}$$

and therefore to  $J_r$ .

Using the relations (D1) and (D2) written in the form

$$\frac{1}{r}\partial_r \left(rI_1(\nu r)\right) = \nu I_0(\nu r),\tag{E3}$$

$$\frac{1}{r}\partial_r\left(rK_1(\nu r)\right) = -\nu K_0(\nu r),\tag{E4}$$

leads to

$$\frac{1}{r}\partial_{r}(r\phi) = \begin{cases}
r < 1, & c \left[ \lambda_{\sigma}k_{\sigma}\frac{I_{0}(k_{\sigma}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{s^{2}\tilde{\gamma}}{c^{2}k^{2}}\lambda_{\mu}k_{\mu}\frac{I_{0}(k_{\mu}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right] \\
r > 1, & -c \left[ \lambda_{\sigma}k_{\sigma}\frac{K_{0}(k_{\sigma}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{s^{2}\tilde{\gamma}}{c^{2}k^{2}}\lambda_{\mu}k_{\mu}\frac{K_{0}(k_{\mu}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right]
\end{cases} , (E 5)$$

and therefore to  $J_z$ .

Using (B3), we find that

$$D_k(B_r) + \mu c^2 k^2 B_r + \mu c s k^2 B_\theta = D_{k_\mu}(B_r) + \frac{\mu c s k^2 \phi - \tilde{\gamma} B_r}{1 + \mu s^2}.$$
 (E 6)

From the expression of  $B_r$  given by (4.12), we have

$$D_{k_{\mu}}(B_{r}) = \begin{cases} r < 1, & -\frac{s\lambda_{\sigma}}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} D_{k_{\mu}}(I_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)) \\ r > 1, & -\frac{s\lambda_{\sigma}}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} D_{k_{\mu}}(K_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)) \end{cases}$$
(E7)

Using (4.8) leads to

$$D_{k_{\mu}}(B_{r}) = \begin{cases} r < 1, & -\frac{s\lambda_{\sigma}}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} (k_{\mu}^{2} - k_{\sigma}^{2}) I_{1}(k_{\sigma}r) \\ r > 1, & -\frac{s\lambda_{\sigma}}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} (k_{\mu}^{2} - k_{\sigma}^{2}) K_{1}(k_{\sigma}r) \end{cases} , \tag{E8}$$

where we used the identity  $D_{\nu}(I_1(k_{\nu}r)) = D_{\nu}(K_1(k_{\nu}r)) = 0$ . After some algebra we find

that

$$D_{k_{\mu}}(B_{r}) + \frac{\mu c s k^{2} \phi - \tilde{\gamma} B_{r}}{1 + \mu s^{2}} = \begin{cases} r < 1, & \lambda_{\sigma} s k^{2} \left( \frac{\sigma c^{2} + \tilde{\gamma}/k^{2}}{1 + \sigma s^{2}} \right) \frac{I_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + s \tilde{\gamma} \lambda_{\mu} \frac{I_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \\ r > 1, & \lambda_{\sigma} s k^{2} \left( \frac{\sigma c^{2} + \tilde{\gamma}/k^{2}}{1 + \sigma s^{2}} \right) \frac{K_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + s \tilde{\gamma} \lambda_{\mu} \frac{K_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \end{cases}$$

leading to  $J_{\theta}$ .

Then the current density takes the following form for r < 1,

$$J_{r} = -ikc \left[ \lambda_{\sigma} \frac{I_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{s^{2}\tilde{\gamma}}{c^{2}k^{2}} \lambda_{\mu} \frac{I_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right], \tag{E 10}$$

$$J_{\theta} = ik^{-1} \left[ \lambda_{\sigma} sk^{2} \left( \frac{\sigma c^{2} + \tilde{\gamma}/k^{2}}{1 + \sigma s^{2}} \right) \frac{I_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + s\tilde{\gamma}\lambda_{\mu} \frac{I_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right], \tag{E 11}$$

$$J_z = c \left[ \lambda_{\sigma} k_{\sigma} \frac{I_0(k_{\sigma}r)}{I_1(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{s^2 \tilde{\gamma}}{c^2 k^2} \lambda_{\mu} k_{\mu} \frac{I_0(k_{\mu}r)}{I_1(k_{\mu})} \right], \tag{E 12}$$

for r > 1,

$$J_{r} = -ikc \left[ \lambda_{\sigma} \frac{K_{1}(k_{\sigma}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{s^{2}\tilde{\gamma}}{c^{2}k^{2}} \lambda_{\mu} \frac{K_{1}(k_{\mu}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \right], \tag{E 13}$$

$$J_{\theta} = ik^{-1} \left[ \lambda_{\sigma} sk^2 \left( \frac{\sigma c^2 + \tilde{\gamma}/k^2}{1 + \sigma s^2} \right) \frac{K_1(k_{\sigma}r)}{K_1(k_{\sigma})} + s\tilde{\gamma}\lambda_{\mu} \frac{K_1(k_{\mu}r)}{K_1(k_{\mu})} \right], \tag{E 14}$$

$$J_z = -c \left[ \lambda_{\sigma} k_{\sigma} \frac{K_0(k_{\sigma}r)}{K_1(k_{\sigma})} + \frac{s^2 \tilde{\gamma}}{c^2 k^2} \lambda_{\mu} k_{\mu} \frac{K_0(k_{\mu}r)}{K_1(k_{\mu})} \right]. \tag{E 15}$$

# Appendix F. Derivation of Bz

From (3.6) we have

$$B_z = ik^{-1}(\frac{B_r}{r} + r\partial_r B_r). \tag{F1}$$

Then replacing (4.12) and (D3) in (F1), leads to

$$B_{z} = ik^{-1}s \begin{cases} r < 1, & -\left[\lambda_{\sigma}k_{\sigma}\frac{I_{0}(k_{\sigma}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \lambda_{\mu}k_{\mu}\frac{I_{0}(k_{\mu}r)}{I_{1}(k_{\mu})}\right] \\ r > 1, & \lambda_{\sigma}k_{\sigma}\frac{K_{0}(k_{\sigma}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\sigma})} + \lambda_{\mu}k_{\mu}\frac{K_{0}(k_{\mu}r)}{K_{1}(k_{\mu})} \end{cases}$$
 (F 2)