

# Rossby Wave-Zonal Flow Turbulence in a Tangled Magnetic field

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# Introduction

## Why we study the Solar Tachocline?

1. Driving the solar activity.
2. Turbulences redistribute the angular momentum.  
Turbulent transport processes still poorly understood.

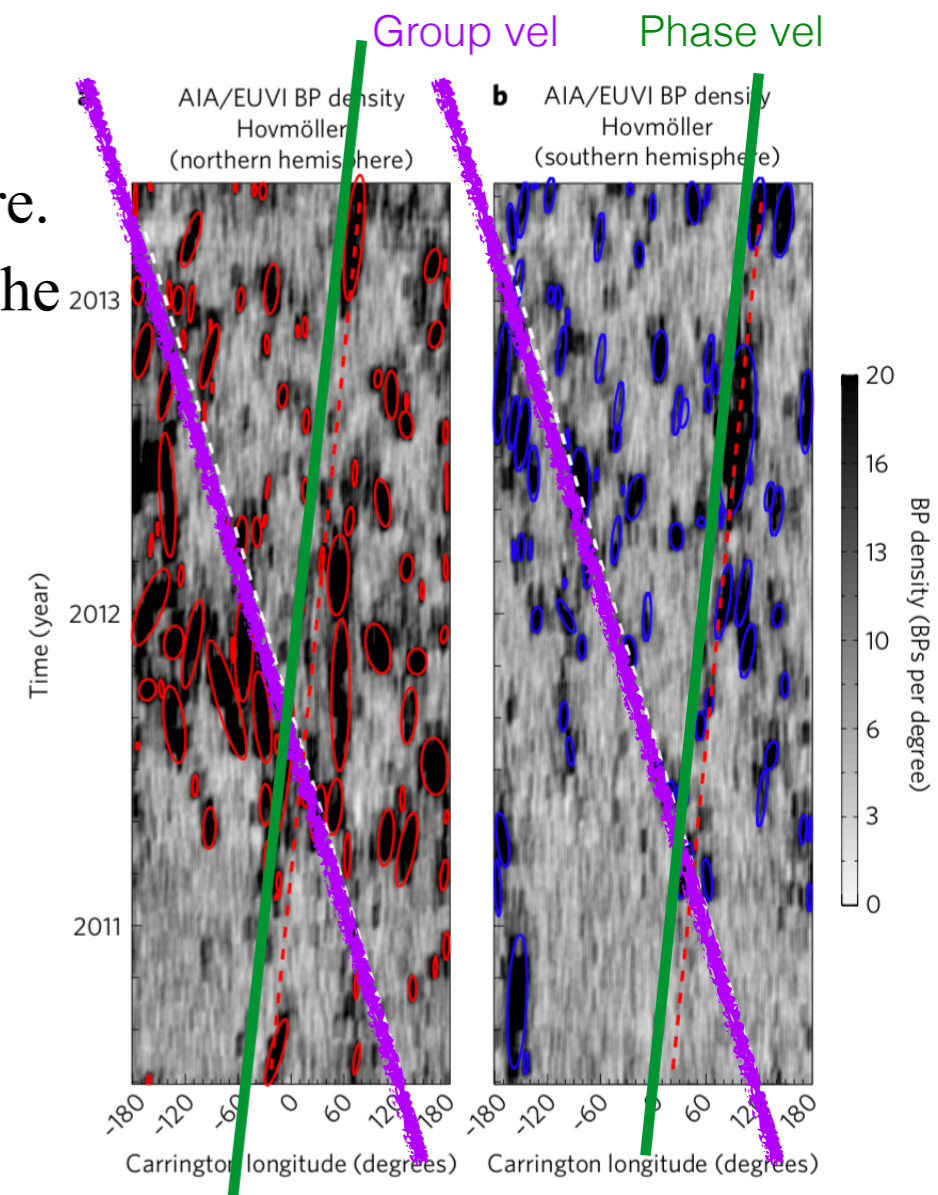
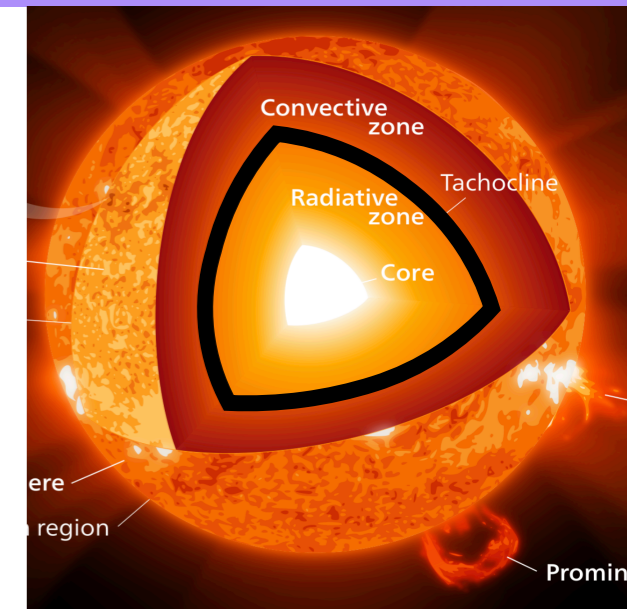
## About the solar tachocline:

1. Between the convective and radiative zone.
2. Strongly stratified/Pancake-like structures.  
Incompressible rotating fluid in 2D layers—  $\beta$ -plane model
3. Zonal Flow and Rossby Waves— as in the Jovian Atmosphere.  
Observational evidence: Magneto-Rossby-like waves on the surface of the sun  
Coronal brightspots (BPs).
4. A weak mean field— large magnetic Kubo number:



$$B = B_l + \widetilde{B}$$

$$Ku_{mag} \equiv \frac{\widetilde{u}\tau_{ac}}{\Delta_{eddy}} = \frac{l_{\parallel} |\widetilde{\mathbf{B}}|}{\Delta_{\perp} B_l} \gg 1$$

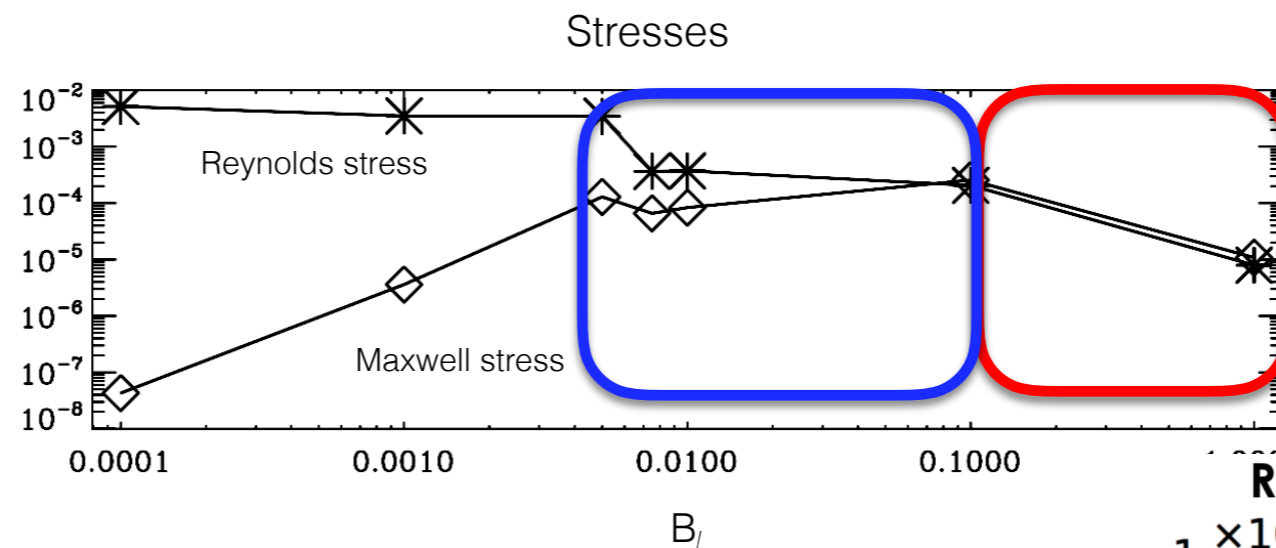
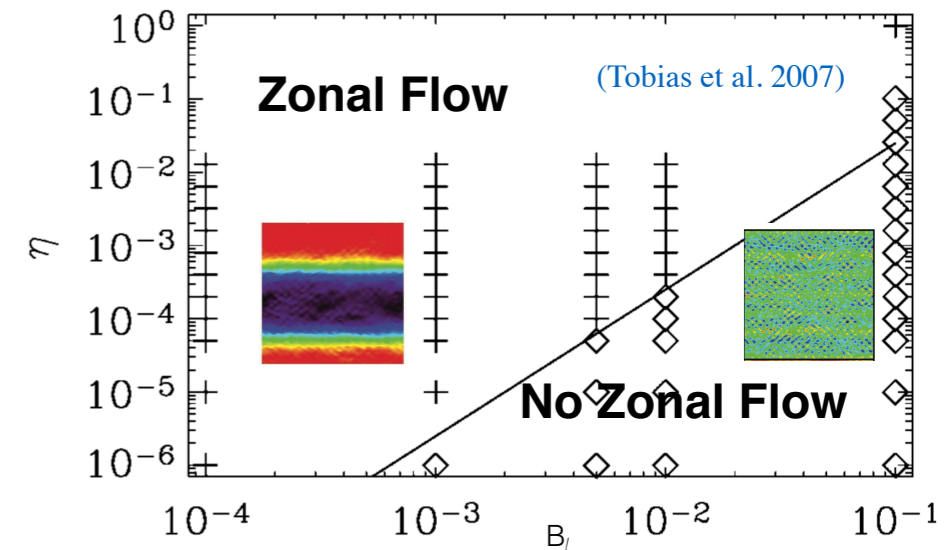


(McIntosh et al. 2017)

# Introduction— Takeaways

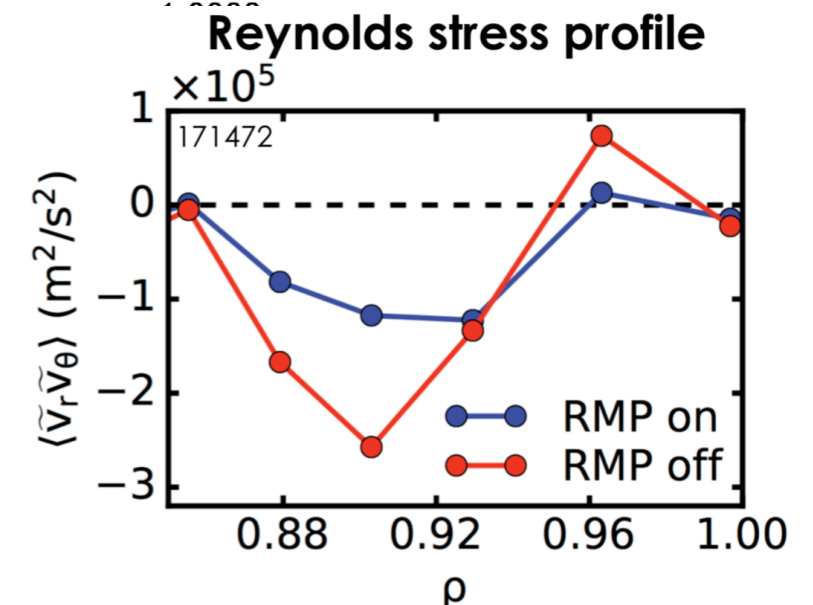
## ● Studies have shown:

1. Simulation of the Solar tachocline: Tobias et al. (2007) found a transition line.
2. The **Reynolds stress** will be suppressed at levels of field intensities **well below that of Alfvénization**, where Maxwell stress balances the Reynolds stress.
3. Related: An experiment on edge of DIII-D— RMP alters the Reynolds stress and increases the threshold of LH transition.



## ● We obtained:

1. **Dimensionless parameters** which successfully predict the transition line.
2. A theory of how the small-scale static **random magnetic fields suppress** the Reynolds stress.
3. This suppression happens when mean magnetic intensities **BELOW** that of Alfvénization.



# Introduction

- **Two main equations:**

$$\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} \cdot \nabla_{\perp} \right) \zeta - \beta \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = - \frac{(\mathbf{B} \nabla)(\nabla^2 A_z)}{\mu_0 \rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \zeta$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} \cdot \nabla_{\perp} \right) A = B_l \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \eta \nabla^2 A,$$

**2D MHD:**  
Alfvén-Rossby Waves on  
 $\beta$ -plane

- **Rossby Parameter ( $\beta$ ) and the  $\beta$ -plane model:**

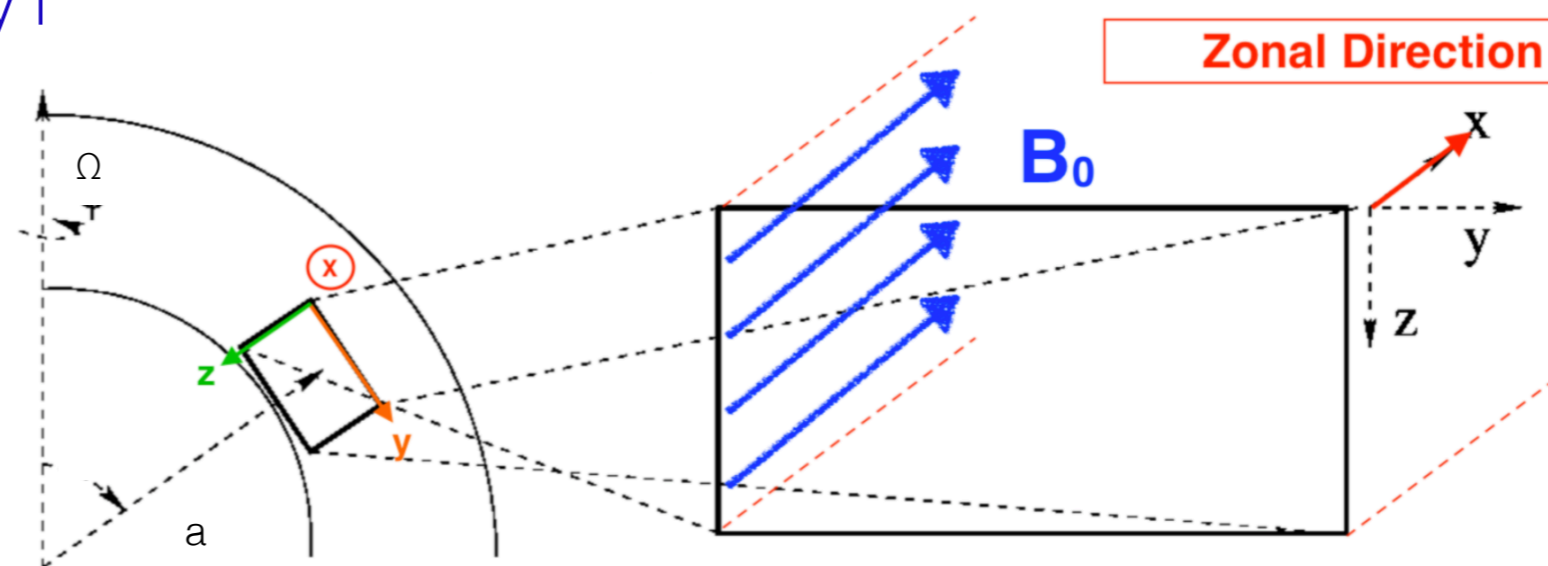
$$\beta = \left. \frac{df}{dy} \right|_{\phi_0} = 2\Omega \cos(\phi_0) / a$$

Derivative of angular frequency  $f$   
(Coriolis parameter)

↑ rotation    ↑ latitude    ↑ radius

- **Two limits:**

1. Small magnetic Kubo number  
(strong mean field)
2. Large magnetic Kubo number  
(weak mean field)



# A Model for PV Transport in Strong mean Magnetic field

# Model— Large mean field: Notations

## ● Notations we have:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{Stream Function} & \psi = \psi(x, y, z) \\ \text{Velocity field} & \mathbf{u} = \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}, 0 \right) \\ \text{Fluid Vorticity} & \boldsymbol{\zeta} = (0, 0, \zeta) \\ \text{Potential Field} & \mathbf{A} = (0, 0, A) \\ \text{Magnetic Field} & \mathbf{B} = \left( \frac{\partial A}{\partial y}, -\frac{\partial A}{\partial x}, 0 \right), \end{array} \right.$$

## ● Two main equations:

- **QL closure**
- **linear response of perturbations**

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} \cdot \nabla_{\perp} \right) \zeta - \beta \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = - \frac{(\mathbf{B} \nabla)(\nabla^2 A_z)}{\mu_0 \rho} + \nu (\nabla \times \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}) \\ \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}_{\perp} \cdot \nabla_{\perp} \right) A = B_l \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \eta \nabla^2 A, \\ \left. \begin{array}{l} \tilde{\zeta}_k = \left( \frac{i}{\omega + i\nu k^2 + \left( \frac{B_l^2}{\mu_0 \rho} \right) \frac{k_x^2}{-\omega - i\eta k^2}} \right) \left( \tilde{u}_y \frac{-\partial}{\partial y} \langle \zeta \rangle - \beta \tilde{u}_y \right) \\ \tilde{A}_k = \frac{\tilde{\zeta}_k}{k^2} \left( \frac{B_l k_x}{-\omega - i\eta k^2} \right) \end{array} \right\}$$

## Quasi-Linear Approximation:

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta &= \langle \zeta \rangle + \tilde{\zeta} \\ \psi &= \langle \psi \rangle + \tilde{\psi} \\ A &= \langle A \rangle + \tilde{A} \end{aligned} \quad \text{Perturbations produced by turbulences}$$

$$, \text{ where } \langle \rangle = \frac{1}{L} \int dx \frac{1}{T} \int dt$$

ensemble average over the zonal scales

# Model— Large mean field: Notations

## ● PV flux:

➤ By using Taylor Identities we have the Reynolds and Maxwell stress

➤ Express the PV flux with two diffusivities

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle \zeta_k \rangle = - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \langle \tilde{u}_{y,k} \tilde{\zeta}_k \rangle + \frac{\langle \tilde{B}_{y,k} \nabla^2 \tilde{A}_k \rangle}{\mu_0 \rho} \right) \equiv - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \Gamma,$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle v_x \rangle = - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left\{ \langle \tilde{v}_{x,k} \tilde{v}_{y,k} \rangle - \frac{\langle \tilde{B}_{x,k} \tilde{B}_{y,k} \rangle}{\mu_0 \rho} \right\} = \Gamma \quad \text{by Taylor Identity}$$

$$\Gamma = \langle \tilde{u}_y \tilde{\zeta} \rangle = (-D_{fluid} + D_{mag}) \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \langle PV \rangle$$

↑  
PV flux

↑  
Diffusivity  
of potential vorticity

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} D_{fluid} = \sum_k |\tilde{u}_{y,k}|^2 \frac{\nu k^2 + \omega_A^2 \frac{\eta k^2}{\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4}}{\left( \omega - \omega_A^2 \frac{\omega}{\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4} \right)^2 + \left( \nu k^2 + \omega_A^2 \frac{\eta k^2}{\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4} \right)^2} \\ D_{mag} = \sum_k |\tilde{u}_{y,k}|^2 \frac{\omega_A^2 \left( \nu k^2 (\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4) + \omega_A^2 \eta k^2 \right)}{\omega^2 \left( \omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4 - \omega_A^2 \right)^2 + \left( \nu k^2 (\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4) + \omega_A^2 \eta k^2 \right)^2} \end{array} \right. \times \left( \frac{B_{0,i}^2}{\mu_0 \rho} \right) \frac{k_i^2}{\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4}$$

# Model— Large mean field: Results

## ● Strong Mean Field:

For the strong large-scale field:

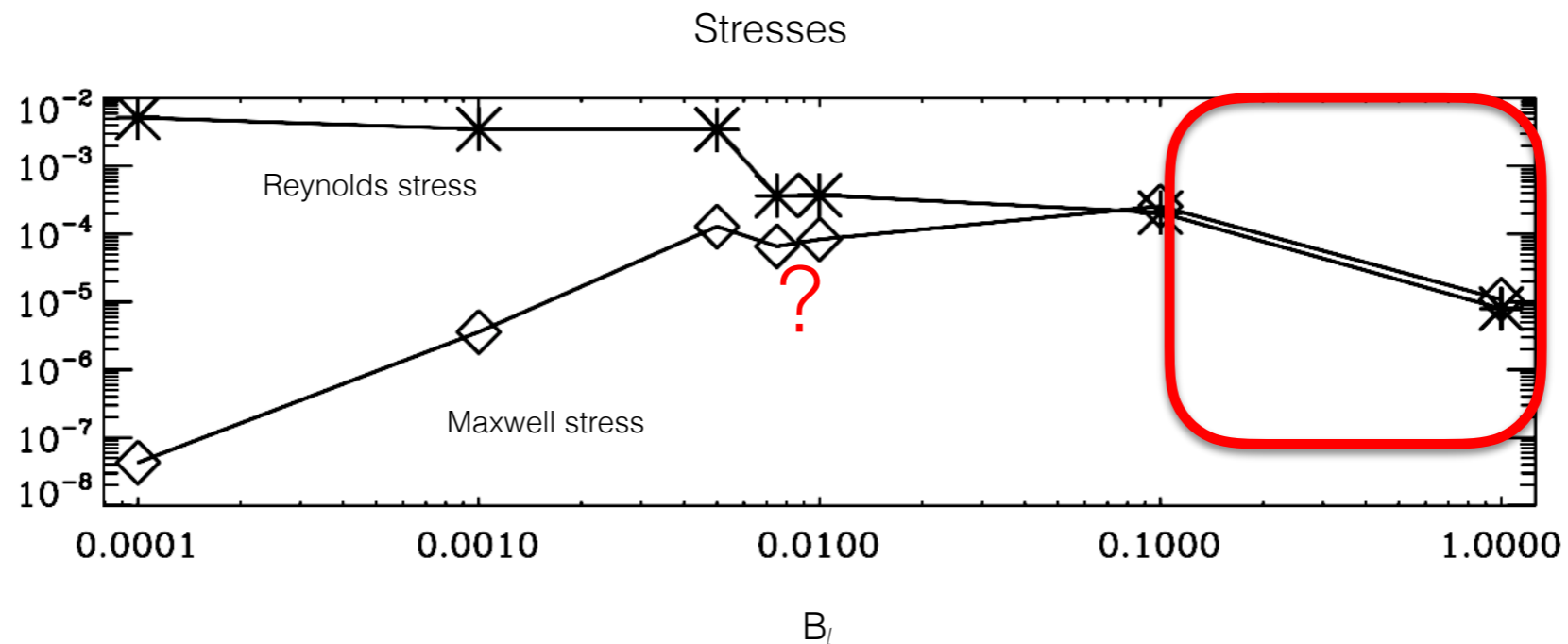
$$(\omega \sim \sqrt{\frac{B_0^2}{\mu_0 \rho}} k_j \gg \eta k^2, \nu k^2, \omega_R)$$

$$D_{fluid} = D_{mag}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \langle \widetilde{u}_x \widetilde{u}_y \rangle = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \frac{\langle \widetilde{B}_x \widetilde{B}_y \rangle}{\mu_0 \rho}$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \Gamma \rangle = 0 + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{\eta k^2}{\sqrt{\frac{B_0^2}{\mu_0 \rho}} k_j} \right)^2$$

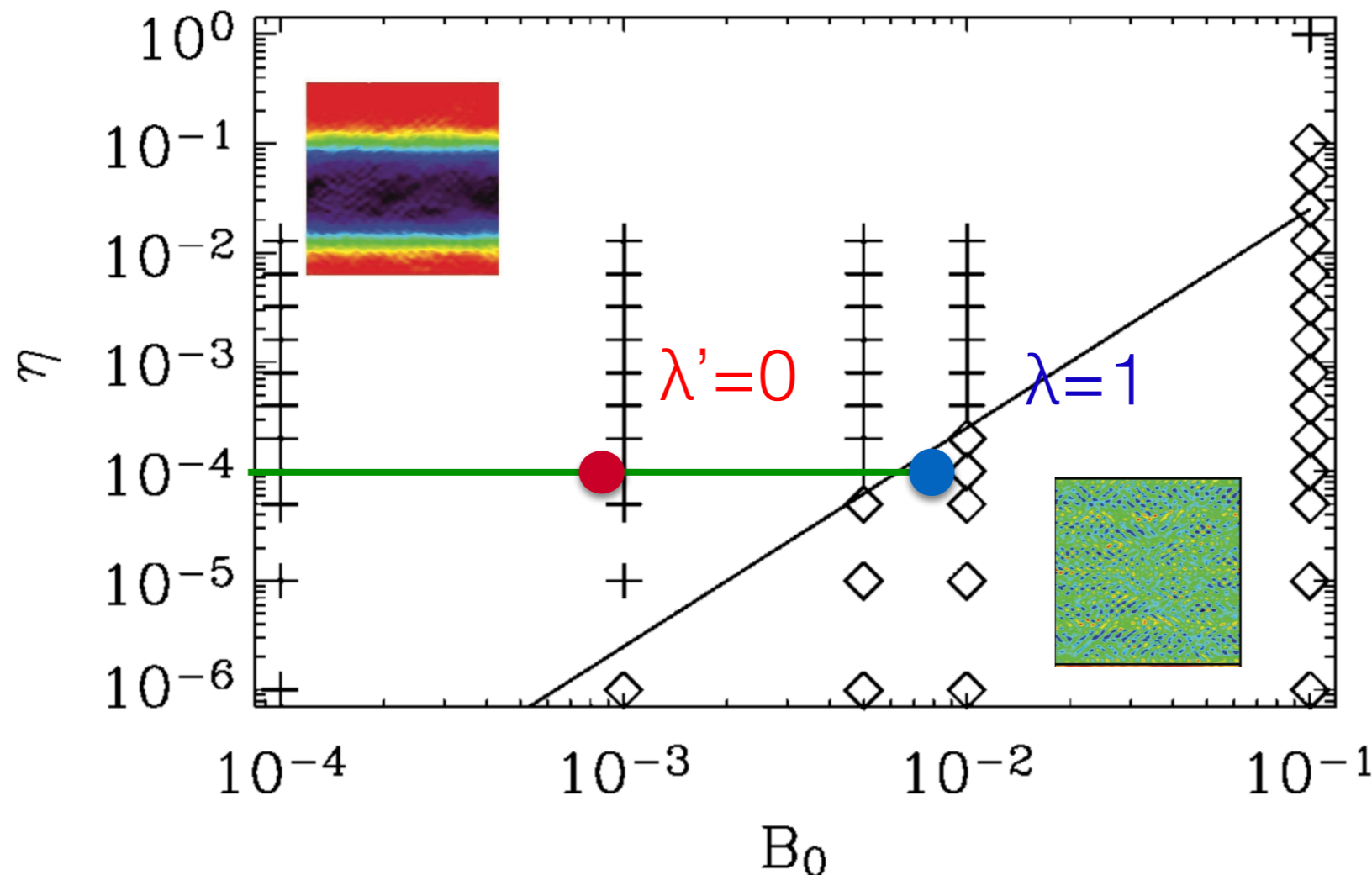
**The MHD turbulence plays no role in transporting momentum when the system is fully Alfvénized.**





# Model— Large mean field: Results and Predictions

## ● Two KEY dimensionless parameters:



(Tobias et al. 2007)

**Critical growth parameter ( $\lambda'$ ):**

$$\left[ \lambda' \equiv \frac{D_{fluid} - D_{mag}}{D_{fluid}} \right]$$

if  $\lambda' = 0$ , zonal flow **stops growing**  
(zonal flow production saturated).

$$\lambda' = 1 - \frac{B_{0,i}^2 k_i^2}{\mu_0 \rho} / (\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4)$$

**Transition parameter ( $\lambda$ ):**

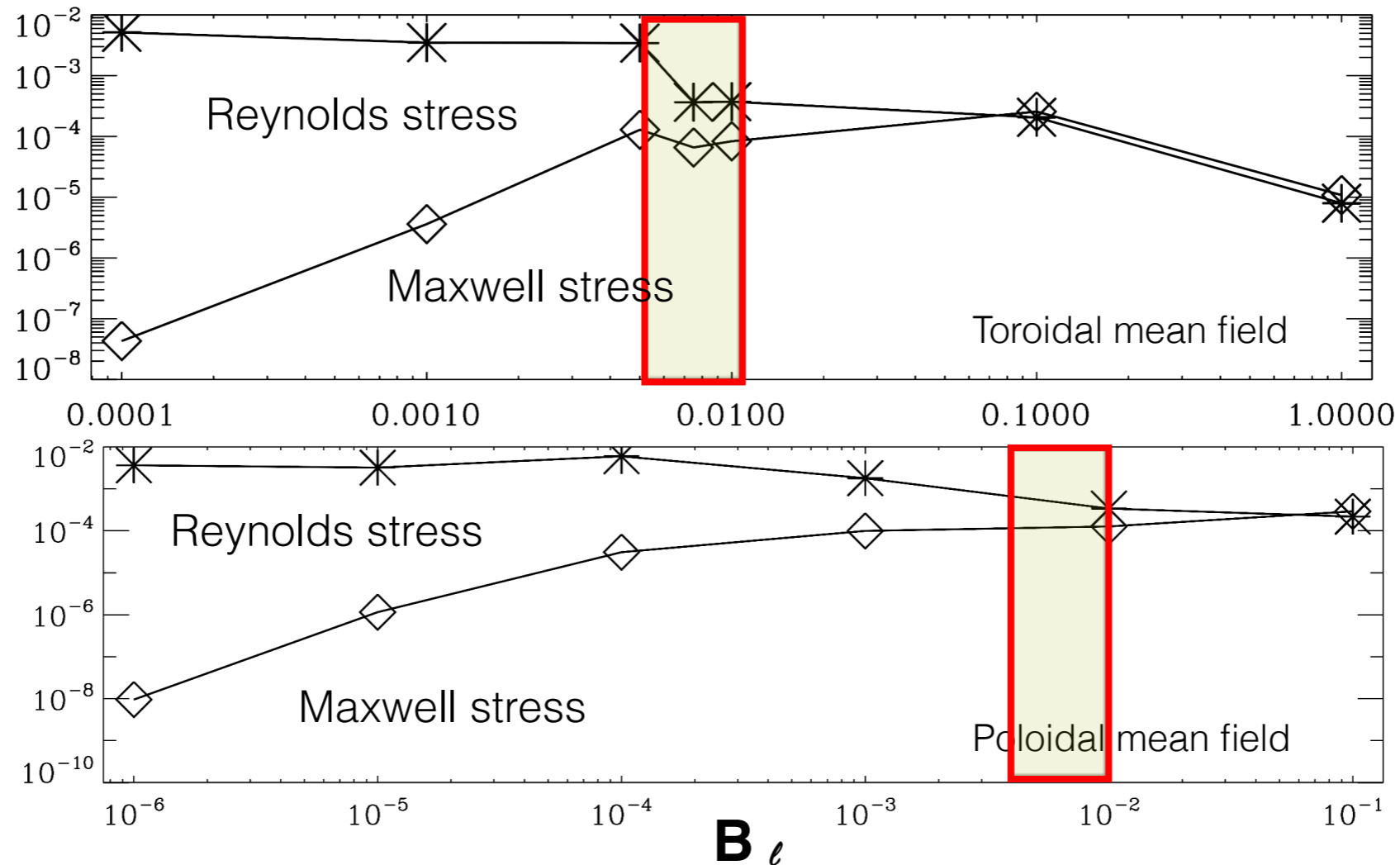
$$\left[ \lambda = \frac{\omega_{im}}{\omega_{re}} \right]$$

if  $\lambda = 1$ , the wave is **critically damped**.

$$\lambda \equiv \left| \frac{\omega_{im}}{\omega_{re}} \right| = \frac{\eta k^2 (\omega_R - \sqrt{\omega_R^2 + 4\omega_A^2})}{4\omega_A^2 \sqrt{\omega_R^2 + 4\omega_A^2}}$$

# Model— Large mean field: Results and Predictions

## ● Predictions of the transition ( $\lambda$ ) regime:



(Tobias et al. in preparation)

The Reynolds stress drops by an order of magnitude in the regime (toroidal mean field case) we predicted.

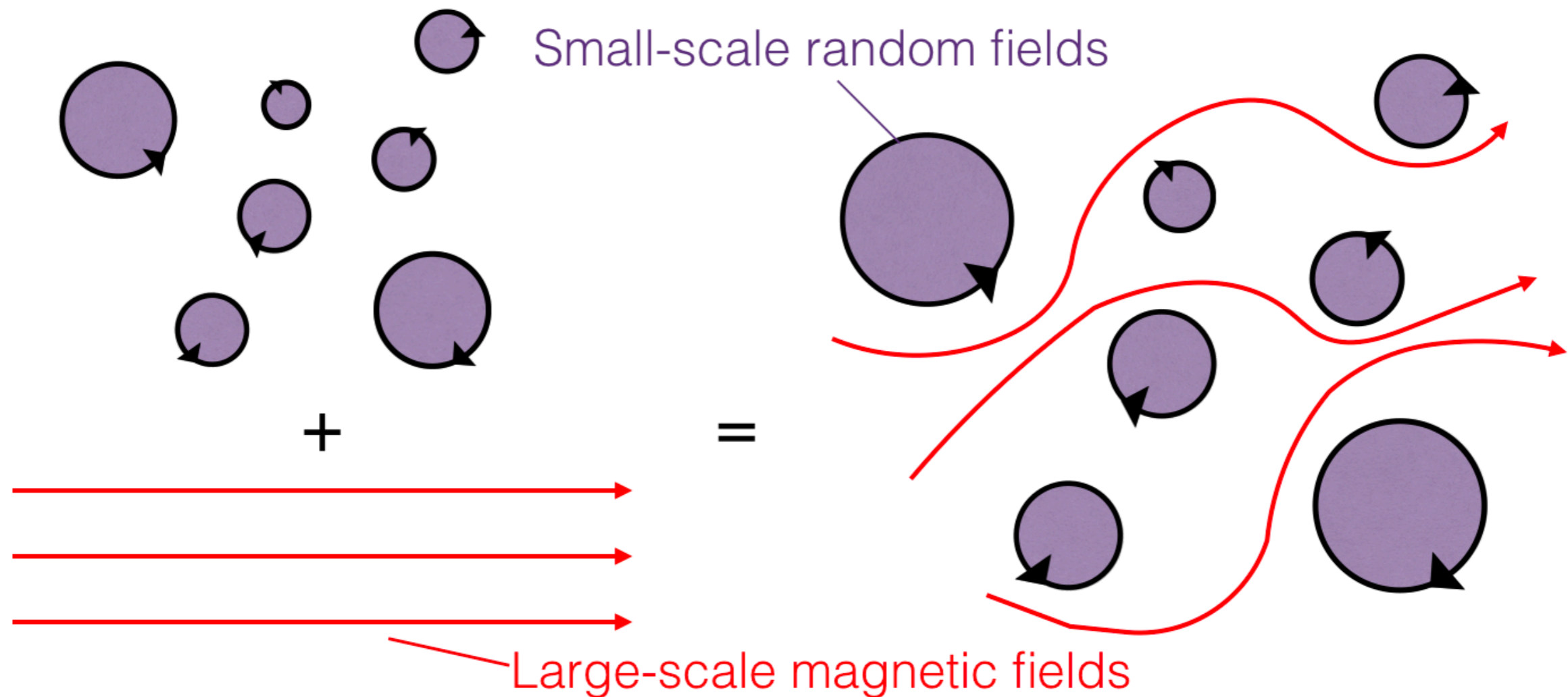
This occurs **at weaker  $B_\ell$**  than that for which the system is fully Alfvénized!



**The cross phase effect suppresses the Reynolds stress when mean field is weak!**

A Model for PV Transport  
in Random, Small-scale  
Magnetic fields

# Model— Random fields: Order of Scales



## ● Properties of random fields:

1. Smaller scale
2. Static
3. Randomness in space
4. Amplitudes of random fields distributed statistically.  
(assumption: PDF Gaussian)



Large magnetic Kubo number:

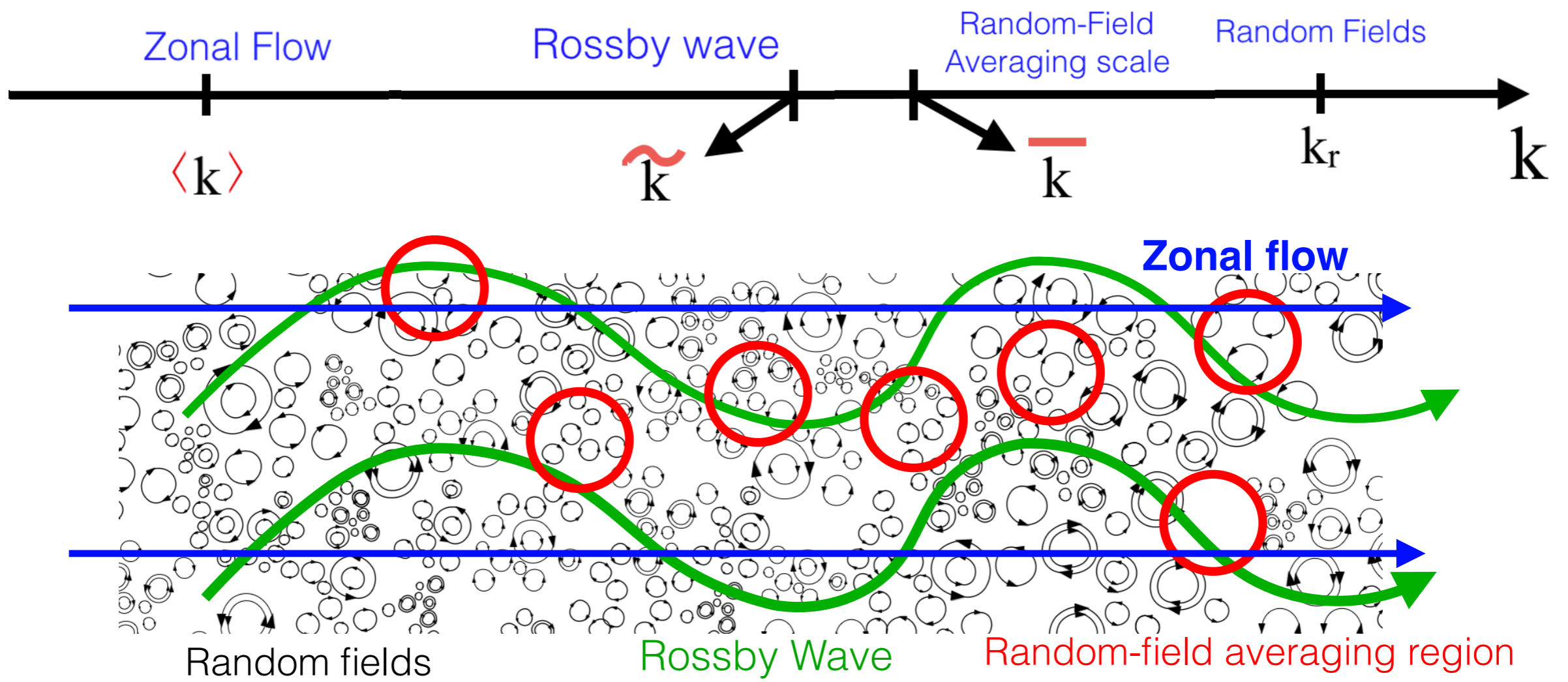
$$Ku_{mag} \equiv \frac{\tilde{u}\tau_{ac}}{\Delta_{eddy}} = \frac{l_{\parallel} |\tilde{\mathbf{B}}|}{\Delta_{\perp} B_l} > 1$$

# Model— Random fields: Order of Scales

potential field	$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_1 + \widetilde{\mathbf{A}} + \mathbf{A}_r$
magnetic field	$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_1 + \widetilde{\mathbf{B}} + \mathbf{B}_r$
magnetic current	$\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{0} + \widetilde{\mathbf{J}} + \mathbf{J}_r$
stream function	$\psi = \langle \psi \rangle + \widetilde{\psi}$
flow velocity	$\mathbf{u} = \langle \mathbf{u} \rangle + \widetilde{\mathbf{u}}$
vorticity	$\zeta = \langle \zeta \rangle + \widetilde{\zeta}$

## Two-average Method:

1.  $\overline{F} = \int dR^2 \int dB_r \cdot P_{(B_{r,x}, B_{r,y})} F$
2.  $\langle \rangle = \frac{1}{L} \int dx \frac{1}{T} \int dt$   
ensemble average over the zonal scales



# Model— Random fields: Assumptions and Results

## ● Assumptions:

1.  $\overline{B_{r,i}} = 0$  The averaging scale we chose  
 $\overline{B_{r,x}B_{r,y}} = 0$  We approximate the correlation matrix as diagonal (TBD),
2. The collective field at Rossby-scale is NOT large enough to alter the structure of the random fields:  $\overline{B_r} \rightarrow 0$

Two main equations:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{\zeta} - \beta \frac{\partial \bar{\psi}}{\partial x} = \frac{\overline{(\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla) J}}{\mu_0 \rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \bar{\zeta} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} A = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \psi + \eta \nabla^2 A. \end{array} \right.$$

Key term:  
Average effect of J x B

Linear response of the vorticity:

$$\tilde{\zeta}_k = \left( \frac{i}{\omega + i\nu k^2 + \frac{i\overline{B_{r,j}^2}k_j^2}{\mu_0\rho\eta k^2} + \frac{i}{\mu_0\rho} \frac{B_{l,x}^2 k_x^2}{\eta k^2 - i\omega}} \right) \tilde{u}_{y,k} \left( -\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \bar{\zeta} - \beta \right)$$

## ● Dispersion relation of the Rossby-Alfvén wave in random magnetic fields:

$$\left( \omega - \omega_R + \frac{i\overline{B_{r,y}^2}k_y^2}{\mu_0\rho\eta k^2} + i\nu k^2 \right) \left( \omega + i\eta k^2 \right) = \frac{B_{l,x}^2 k_x^2}{\mu_0\rho}$$

↑ (square mean)
↑ (mean square)

Dissipative response to  
Random magnetic fields
AW of the large-scale  
magnetic field

# Random fields: Results— Suppression

## ● Flux and diffusivity of potential vorticity:

$$\bar{\Gamma} = - \sum_k |\tilde{u}_{y,k}|^2 \frac{\nu k^2 + \left(\frac{B_l^2 k_x^2}{\mu_0 \rho}\right) \frac{\eta k^2}{\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4} + \frac{\overline{B_{r,y}^2} k_y^2}{\mu_0 \rho \eta k^2}}{\left(\omega - \left(\frac{B_l^2 k_x^2}{\mu_0 \rho}\right) \frac{\omega}{\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4}\right)^2 + \left(\nu k^2 + \left(\frac{B_l^2 k_x^2}{\mu_0 \rho}\right) \frac{\eta k^2}{\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4} + \frac{\overline{B_{r,y}^2} k_y^2}{\mu_0 \rho \eta k^2}\right)^2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \bar{\zeta} + \beta\right)$$

PV Diffusivity **D**

Large-scale field

small-scale random fields

$$\bar{\Gamma} = -D \left(\frac{\partial \bar{\zeta}}{\partial y} + \beta\right)$$

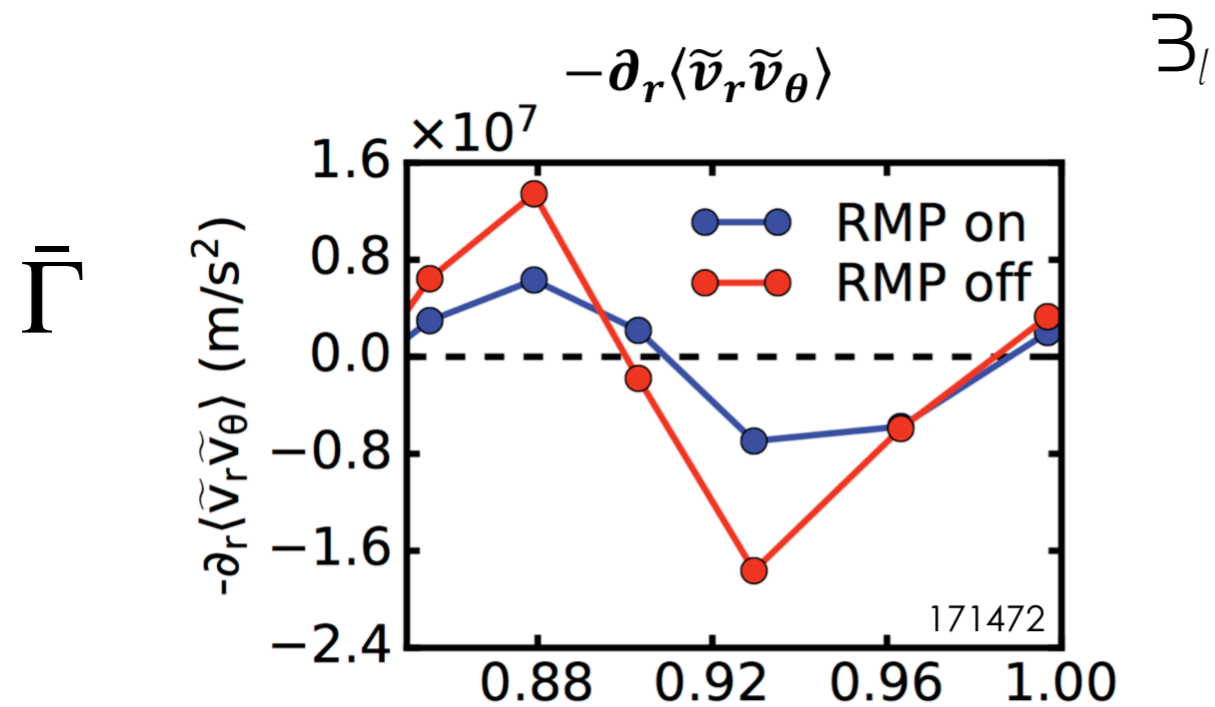
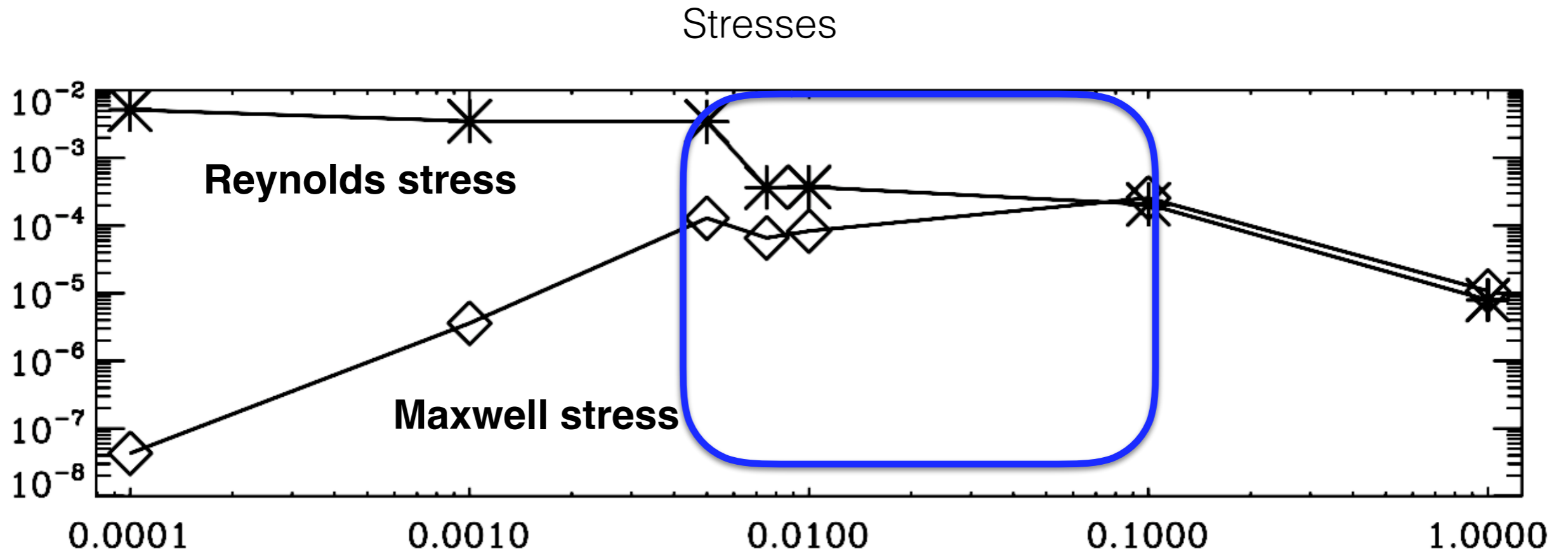
In a certain limit where  $B_l^2 \ll \overline{B_{r,y}^2}$  :

$$D = \sum_k |\tilde{u}_{y,k}|^2 \frac{\nu k^2 + \frac{\overline{B_{r,y}^2} k_y^2}{\mu_0 \rho \eta k^2}}{\omega^2 + \left(\nu k^2 + \frac{\overline{B_{r,y}^2} k_y^2}{\mu_0 \rho \eta k^2}\right)^2}$$

**The large- and small-scale magnetic fields have a synergistic effect on the cross-phase in the Reynolds stress.**

**Cross phase drops for stronger small-scale random fields!**

# Random fields: cont'd— Suppression



A related *Experiment (DIII-D)*: Resonant Magnetic Perturbations (RMP) suppress the Reynolds stress, increasing the threshold of the L-H transition.

(D. M. Kriete et al., TTF 2019)



# Random fields: Results— Zonal flow evolution

## ● Evolution of Zonal Flow

➤ Random magnetic fields suppress the Reynolds stress and increase the drag.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle u_x \rangle = \langle \bar{\Gamma} \rangle - \frac{1}{\eta \mu_0 \rho} \langle \overline{B_{r,y}^2} \rangle \langle u_x \rangle + \nu \nabla^2 \langle u_x \rangle$$

Cross-phase effect

Magnetic drag force

$(J_r \times B_r)$

**Random magnetic fields have an effect on both the PV flux and the magnetic drag.**

$$\bar{\Gamma} = - \sum_k |\tilde{u}_{y,k}|^2 \frac{\nu k^2 + \left(\frac{B_l^2 k_x^2}{\mu_0 \rho}\right) \frac{\eta k^2}{\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4} + \frac{\overline{B_{r,y}^2} k_y^2}{\mu_0 \rho \eta k^2}}{\left(\omega - \left(\frac{B_l^2 k_x^2}{\mu_0 \rho}\right) \frac{\omega}{\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4}\right)^2 + \left(\nu k^2 + \left(\frac{B_l^2 k_x^2}{\mu_0 \rho}\right) \frac{\eta k^2}{\omega^2 + \eta^2 k^4} + \frac{\overline{B_{r,y}^2} k_y^2}{\mu_0 \rho \eta k^2}\right)^2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \bar{\zeta} + \beta\right),$$

↑  
small-scale  
random fields

# Model— Random fields: Results— key parameters

$$(\omega_R \sim \omega_{re} > \omega_{B_r} \gg \eta k^2 \gg \nu k^2 \sim \omega_A^2)$$

Critical growth parameter ( $\lambda'$ ):

$$\lambda' \equiv \frac{\langle \bar{\Gamma} \rangle - \frac{1}{\eta \mu_0 \rho} \langle \overline{B_{r,y}^2} \rangle \langle u_x \rangle}{\langle \bar{\Gamma} \rangle}$$

if  $\lambda' = 0$ , the zonal flow stop growing.

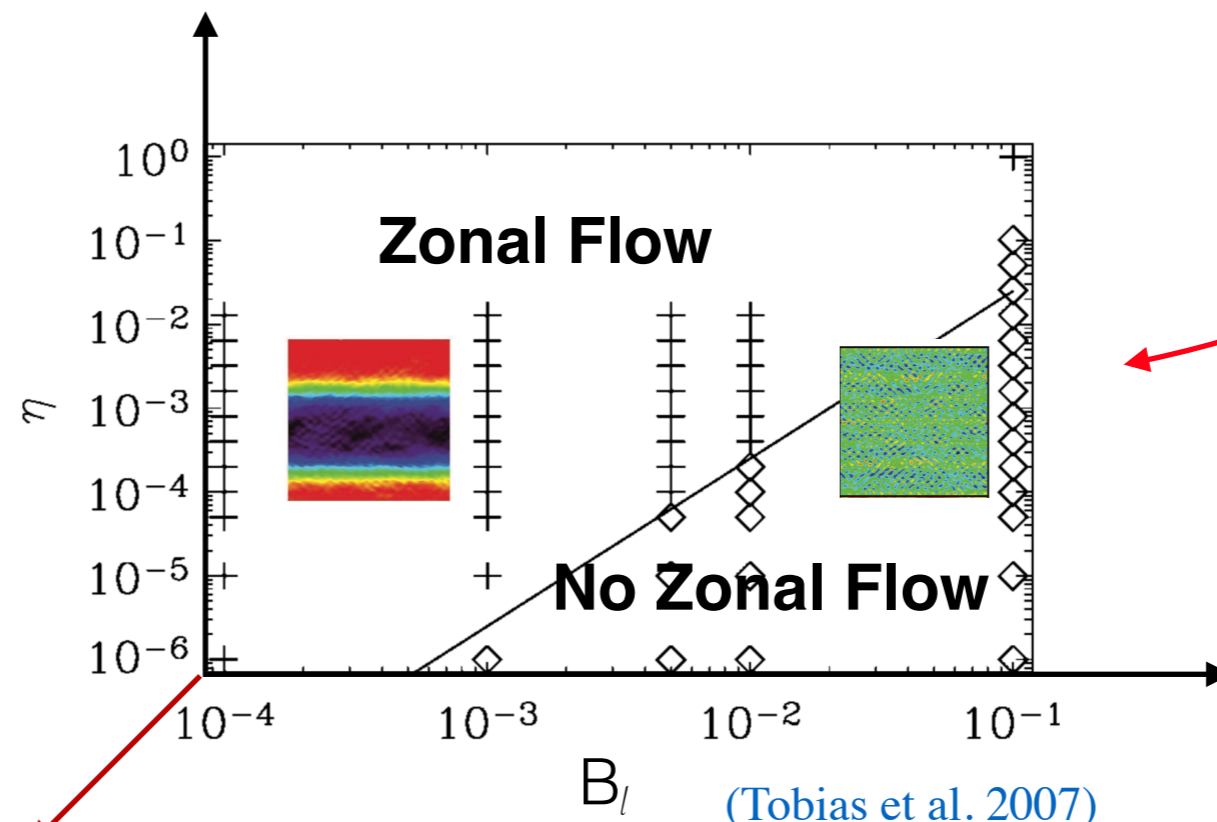
Transition parameter ( $\lambda$ ):

$$\left[ \lambda = \frac{\omega_{im}}{\omega_{re}} \right]$$

if  $\lambda = 1$ , the wave is critically damped.

$$\lambda \equiv \left| \frac{\omega_{im}}{\omega_{re}} \right| = \frac{\omega_{B_r}^2}{\eta k^2 \omega_R} = \frac{\omega_{B_r}^2}{\eta k_x \beta} \propto \frac{\overline{B_r^2}}{\eta \beta}$$

**Numerically, we need  $\langle \overline{B_{r,y}^2} \rangle$**



$\beta$

# Random fields: Physical picture— Effective medium

## ● Resisto-Elastic medium:

If we turnoff the Rossby frequency, we have a 2D non-rotating plane:

$$\omega^2 + i(\alpha + \eta k^2)\omega - (\alpha\eta k^2 + \chi) = 0$$

↑
↑
↑
↑
  
 drag + dissipation
 effective spring constants

$$\alpha \equiv \frac{\overline{B_{r,j}^2 k_j^2}}{\mu_0 \rho \eta k^2} \propto \frac{\text{spring constant}}{\text{dissipation}}$$

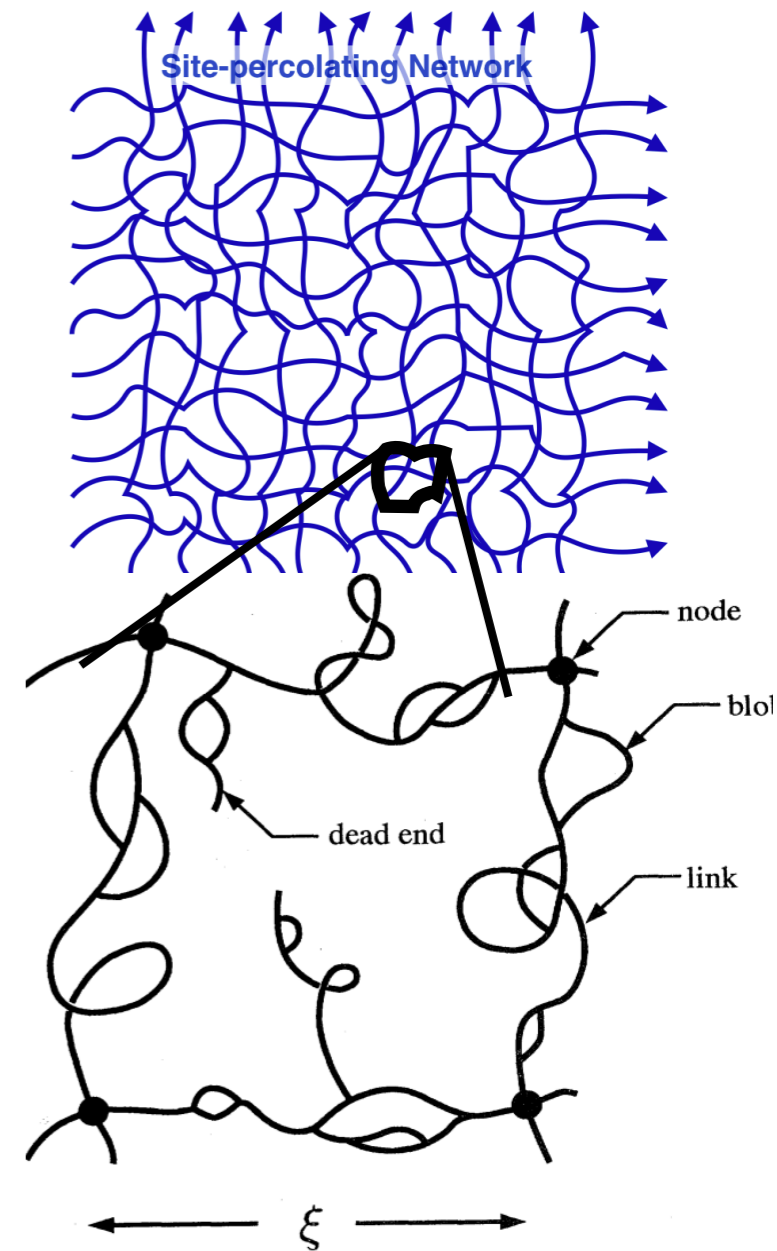
$$\chi \equiv \frac{B_{l,x}^2 k_x^2}{\mu_0 \rho}$$

➔
resisto-elastic medium!

## ● More can be done:

Fractal Network (Site-percolating) —

Calculate the effective spring constant, effective Young's Modulus of elasticity, and effective “conductivity” of vorticity (such as encountered in amorphous solids).



Schematic of the nodes-links-blobs model (Nakayama & Yakubo 1994).

# Random fields: Relation to 'Quenching' ?

- Recall the suppression of turbulent magnetic resistivity ( $\eta_T$ ) by weak magnetic field:

$$D_M = \eta_T = \sum_k \frac{|\tilde{u}_k|^2 \tau_{c,k}}{1 + Rm \frac{v_{A,l}^2}{\langle \tilde{u}^2 \rangle}} = \sum_k \frac{|\tilde{u}_k|^2 \tau_{c,k}}{1 + \frac{v_{A,r}^2}{\langle \tilde{u}^2 \rangle}} \quad \text{where } v_{A,l}^2 = \frac{B_l^2}{\mu_0 \rho}, \text{ and } v_{A,r}^2 = \frac{\overline{B_{r,y}^2}}{\mu_0 \rho}.$$

$$\overline{B_{r,y}^2} \sim Rm \cdot B_l^2 \quad (\text{Zeldovich et al. 1957})$$

- We derive an expression for PV diffusivity ( $D$ ):

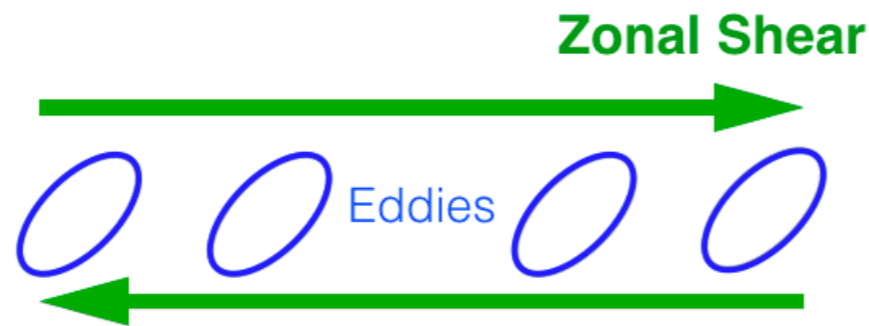
$$D_{PV} = \sum_k \frac{|\tilde{u}_{y,k}|^2 \frac{\alpha}{\omega^2}}{1 + \left(\frac{\alpha}{\omega}\right)^2}, \quad \text{where } \alpha \equiv \frac{v_{A,r}^2 k_y^2}{\eta k^2} \quad \frac{\alpha}{\omega^2} \sim \tau_c$$

The effect on both  $D_M$  and  $D_{PV}$  are due to  $\overline{B_{r,y}^2}$  effects, via the relation of Zeldovich.

Fundamental physics are the same, though the difference in detail is due to different parameter regimes.

- Shear will induce the correlation even  $B_{r,x}$  and  $B_{r,y}$  are initially uncorrelated.

**Symmetry breaking by zonal shear!** reconsider the effect of  $\overline{B_{r,x}B_{r,y}} \neq 0$



- PDF of random magnetic field can have a fat tail.

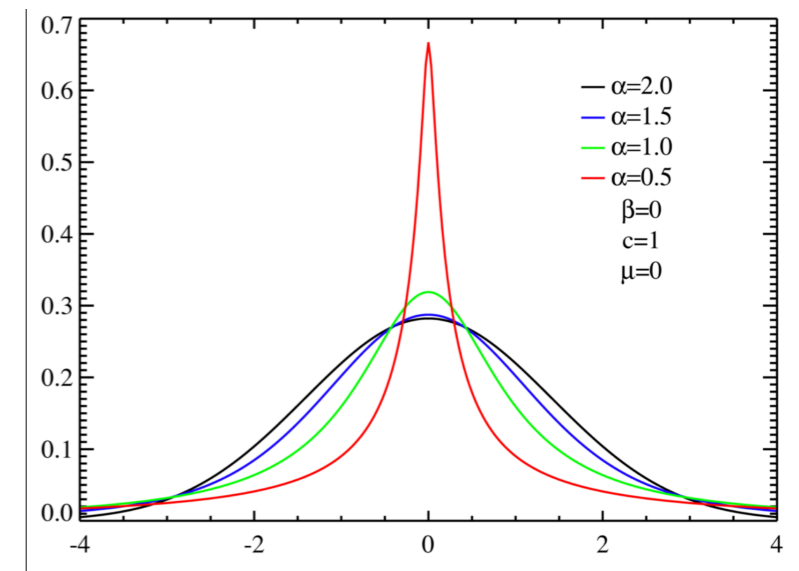
- The random magnetic fields is not static.

OR

Reconsider the perturbation from Rossby wave turbulence.

$$\widetilde{B}_r \not\rightarrow 0$$

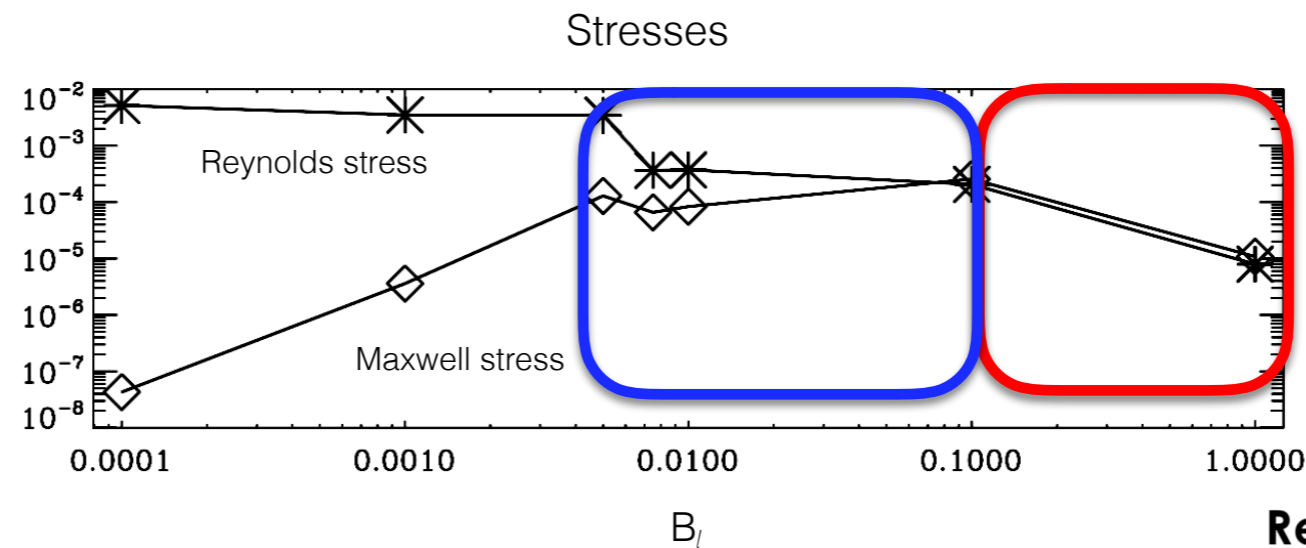
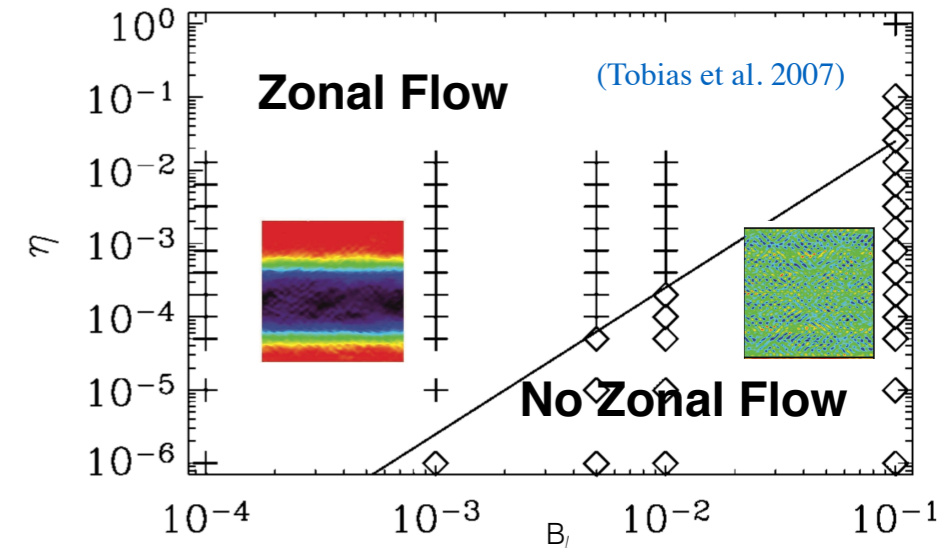
- Revisit the magnetic diffusivity  $\eta_T$ .



# Takeaways

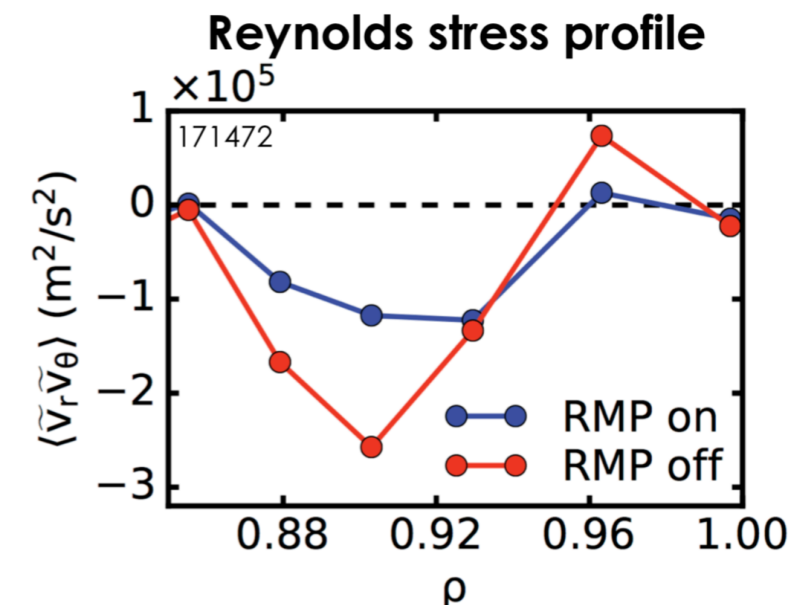
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2. **Reynolds stress** will be suppressed at levels of field intensities **well below that of Alfvénization**, where Maxwell stress balances the Reynolds stress.
3. Related: Experiment on edge of DIII-D— RMP alters the Reynolds stress and increases the threshold of LH transition.



## We obtained:

1. **Dimensionless parameters** which successfully predict the transition line.
2. A theory of how the small-scale static **random magnetic fields suppress** the Reynolds stress.
3. This suppression happens when mean magnetic intensities **BELOW** that of Alfvénization.



# Thank you!

This work is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy under Award No. DE-FG02- 04ER54738