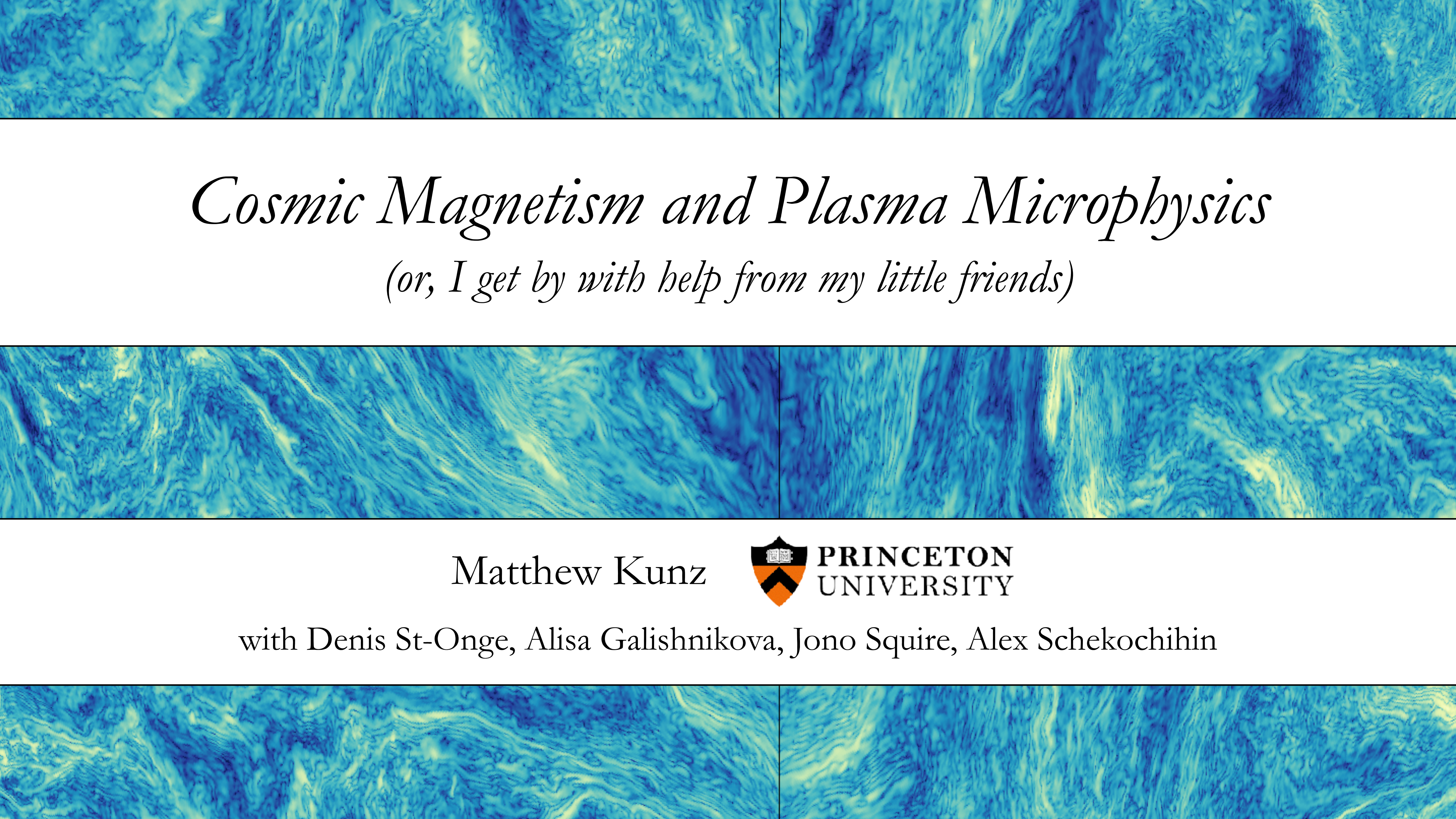


The background of the slide is a Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) fluctuation map, showing a complex pattern of blue and yellowish-white swirls and filaments, representing temperature variations in the early universe.

Cosmic Magnetism and Plasma Microphysics

(or, I get by with help from my little friends)

Matthew Kunz



with Denis St-Onge, Alisa Galishnikova, Jono Squire, Alex Schekochihin

Outline

- Observational motivation:
Why are intracluster magnetic fields at $\sim\mu\text{G}$ level and $\sim\text{kpc}$ scale?
- Fluctuation dynamo and plasma microphysics:
Kinetic instabilities, reduced viscosity, and a fast dynamo
- Selected results from program of theory and simulations
Featuring work with St-Onge, Galishnikova, Squire & Schekochihin
- (if time remains...) The broader challenge:
Material properties of weakly collisional, high-beta plasmas

Abell 2199

~200 kpc

~500 kpc

Galaxy Clusters: $\sim 10^{14-15} M_{\odot}$ in ~ 1 Mpc

intracluster medium (ICM)

14 % thermal plasma

$T \sim 1 - 10$ keV

$n \sim 10^{-4} - 10^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

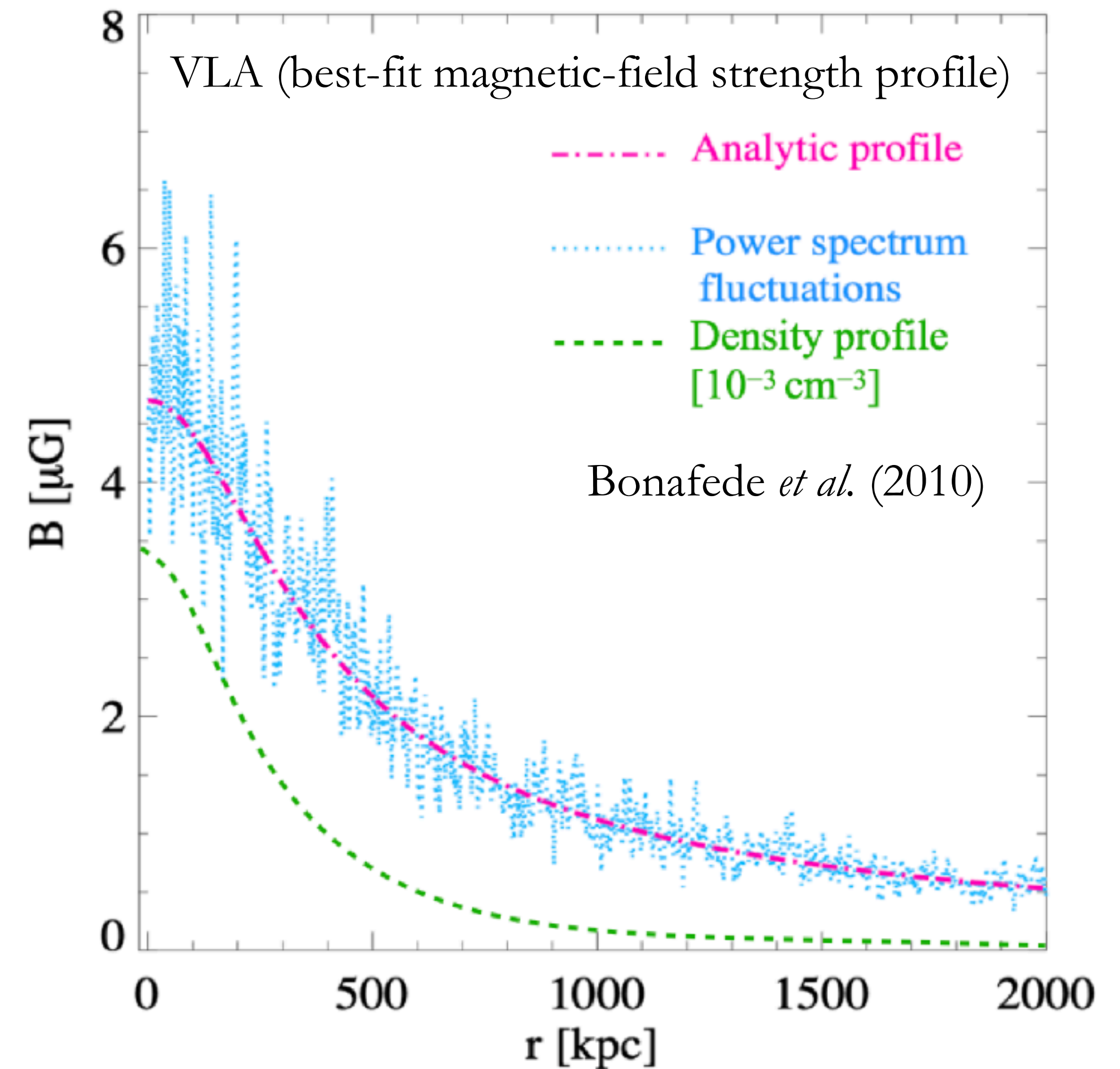
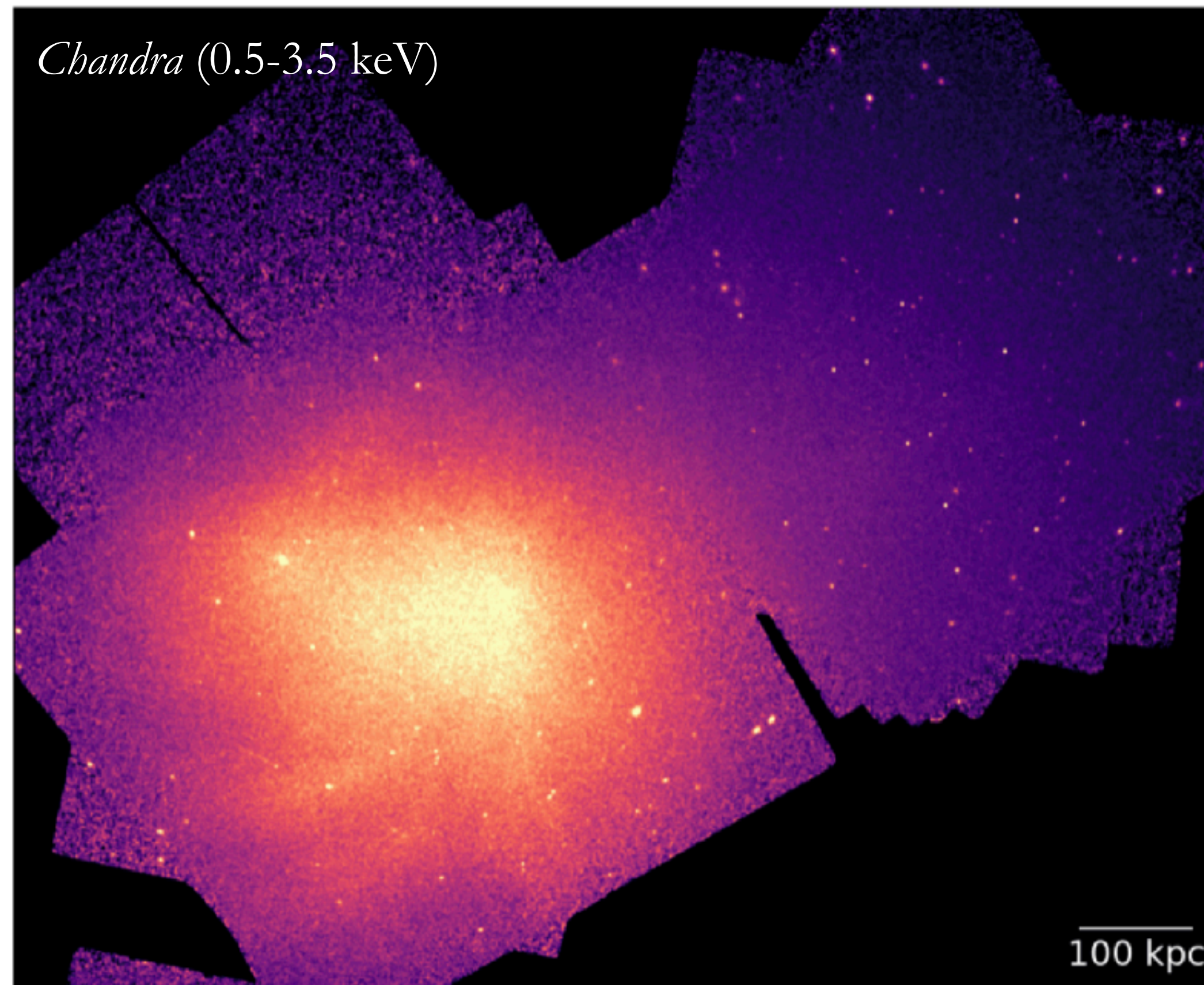
ion Larmor orbit
if $B \sim 10^{-18}$ G

200 kpc

ion Larmor orbit
now, with $B \sim \mu\text{G}$



Example (Coma cluster) using Faraday rotation measurements:

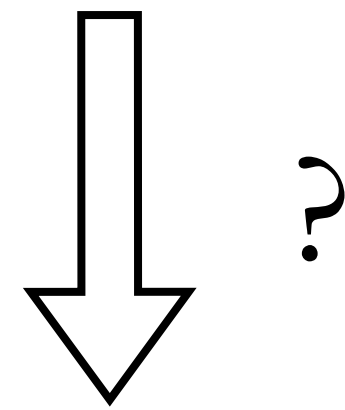


Similar strengths ($\sim 1 - 10 \mu\text{G}$) on similar scales ($\sim 1 - 10 \text{ kpc}$) inferred from RMs in other clusters (e.g., Murgia *et al.* 2004; Vogt & Enßlin 2005; Govoni *et al.* 2017)

How to make $\sim \mu\text{G}$ intracluster magnetic fields?

$$\rho_i \sim \left(\frac{T}{1 \text{ keV}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{B}{10^{-18} \text{ G}} \right)^{-1} \text{ kpc}$$

$$\beta = \frac{nT}{B^2/8\pi} \sim 10^{26}$$



$$\rho_i \sim \left(\frac{T}{1 \text{ keV}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{B}{10^{-6} \text{ G}} \right)^{-1} \text{ npc}$$

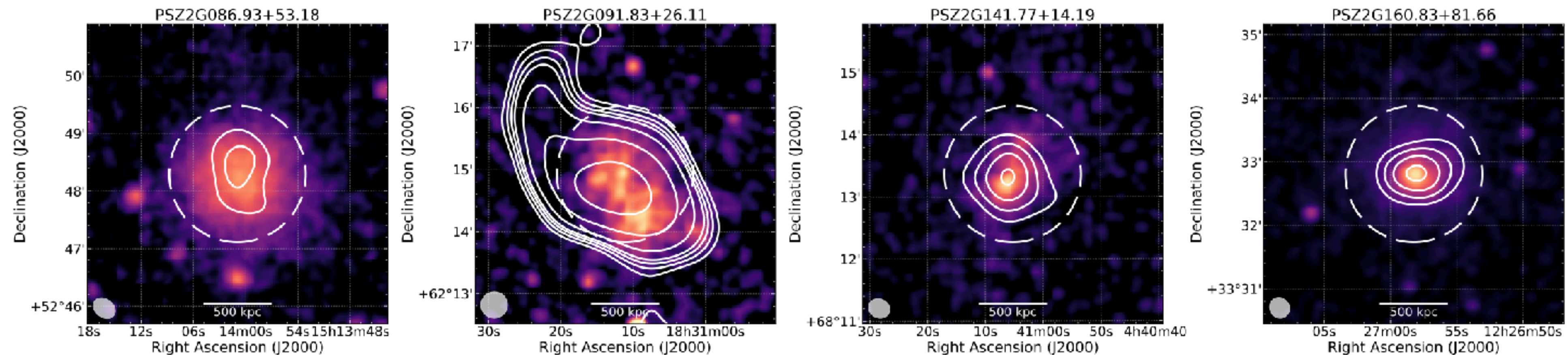
($\sim$ size of Jupiter)

$$\beta = \frac{nT}{B^2/8\pi} \sim 10^2$$

...and in a cosmologically short time?

Di Gennaro *et al.* (2020, *Nature*):

“The high radio luminosities indicate that these clusters [detected by LOFAR via diffuse radio emission at $z \sim 0.7$] have similar magnetic field strengths to those in nearby clusters, and suggest that magnetic field amplification is fast during the first phases of cluster formation.”



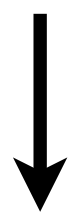
Hints from $z = 0$:

Hitomi, before its death (2016):

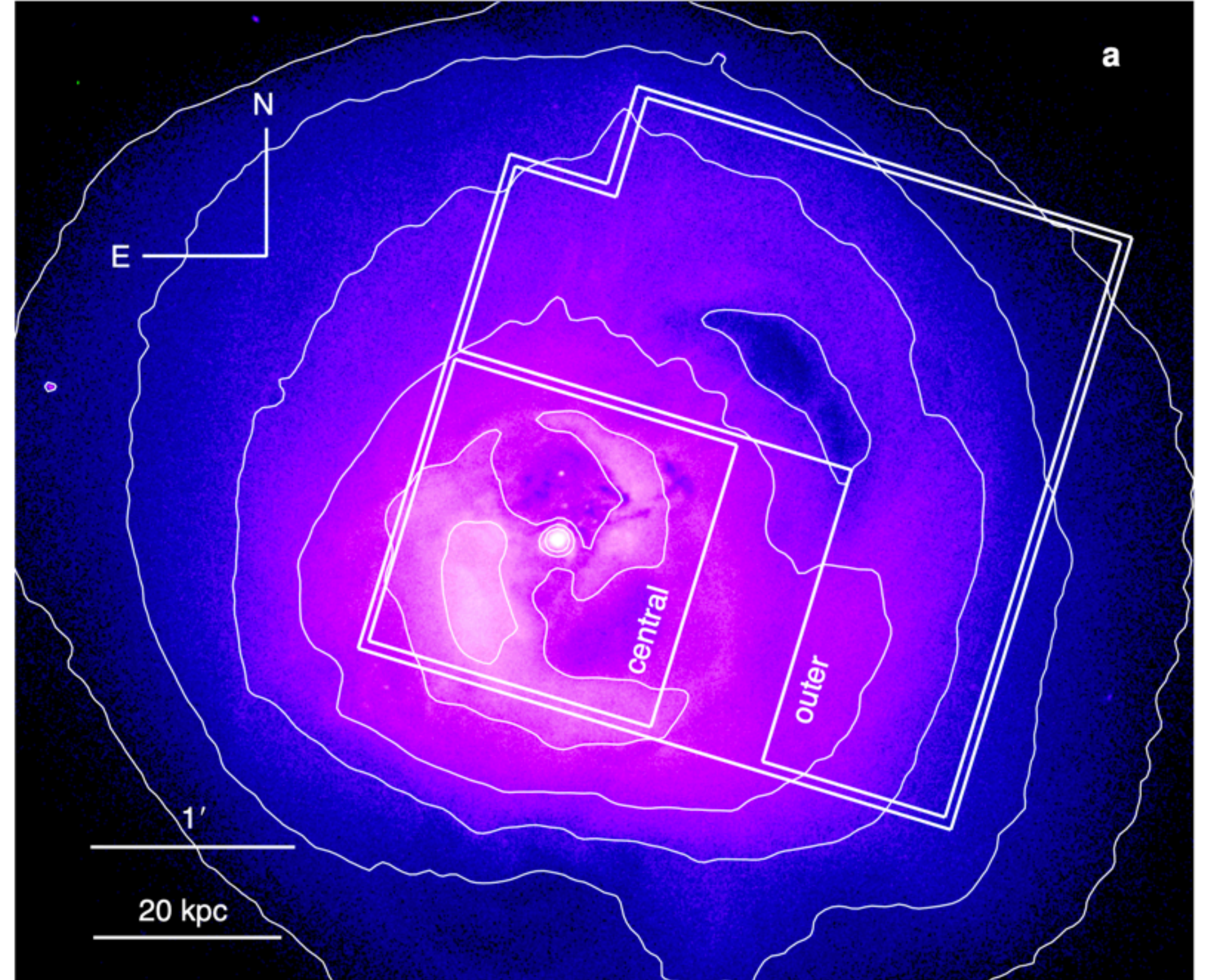
$$u = 164 \pm 10 \text{ km/s}$$

in Perseus at $\sim 50 \text{ kpc}$
($M \lesssim 0.2$)

typical from
RM maps



$$v_A = 77 \left(\frac{B}{5 \mu\text{G}} \right) \left(\frac{n}{0.02 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1/2} \text{ km s}^{-1}$$



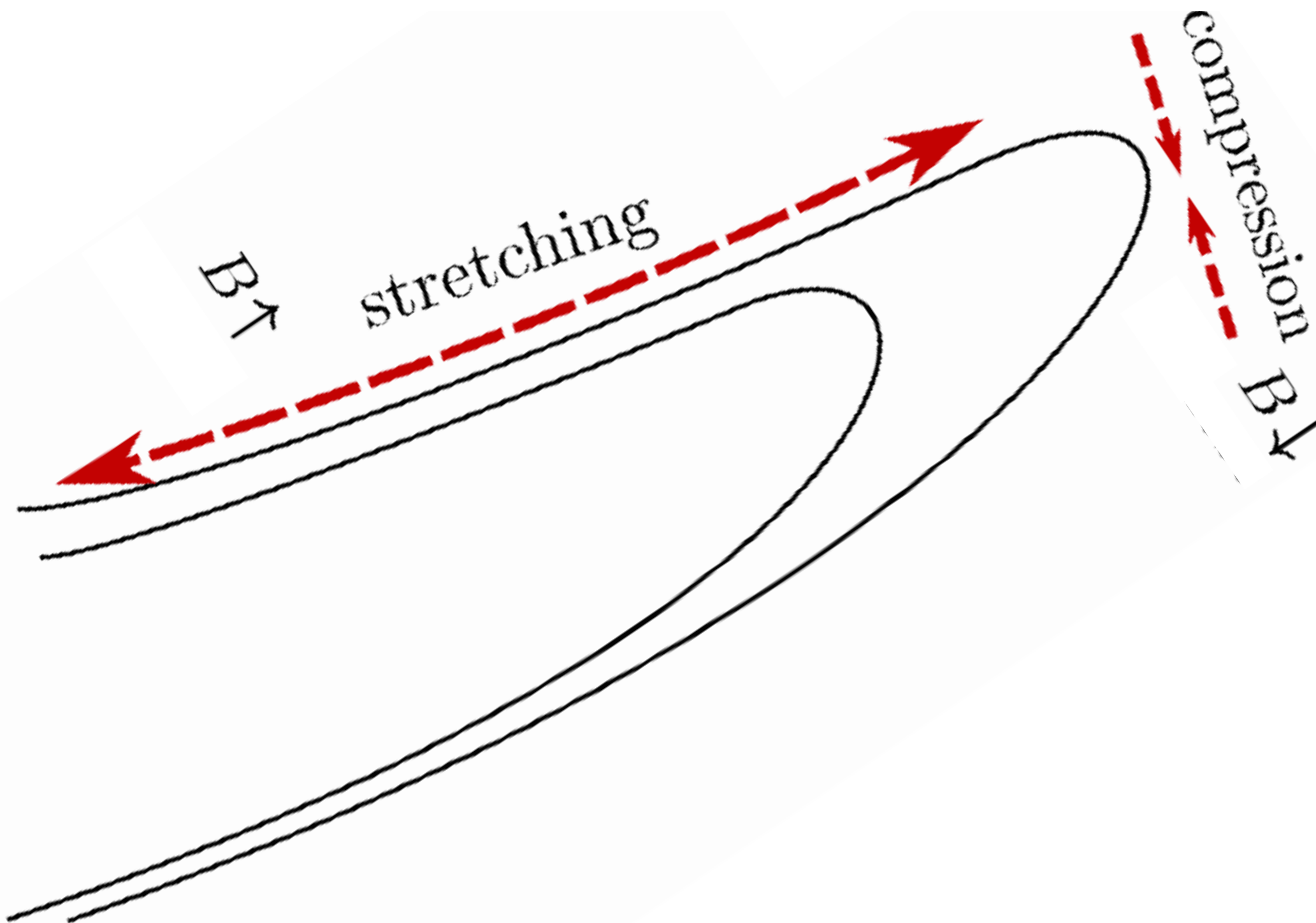
likely not a coincidence that $M_A \doteq u/v_A \sim \text{few}$
($B \propto n^{1/2}$ inferred in Coma: Bonafede *et al.* 2010)

it is then natural to attribute intracluster magnetic field to
the **fluctuation (“turbulent”) dynamo**

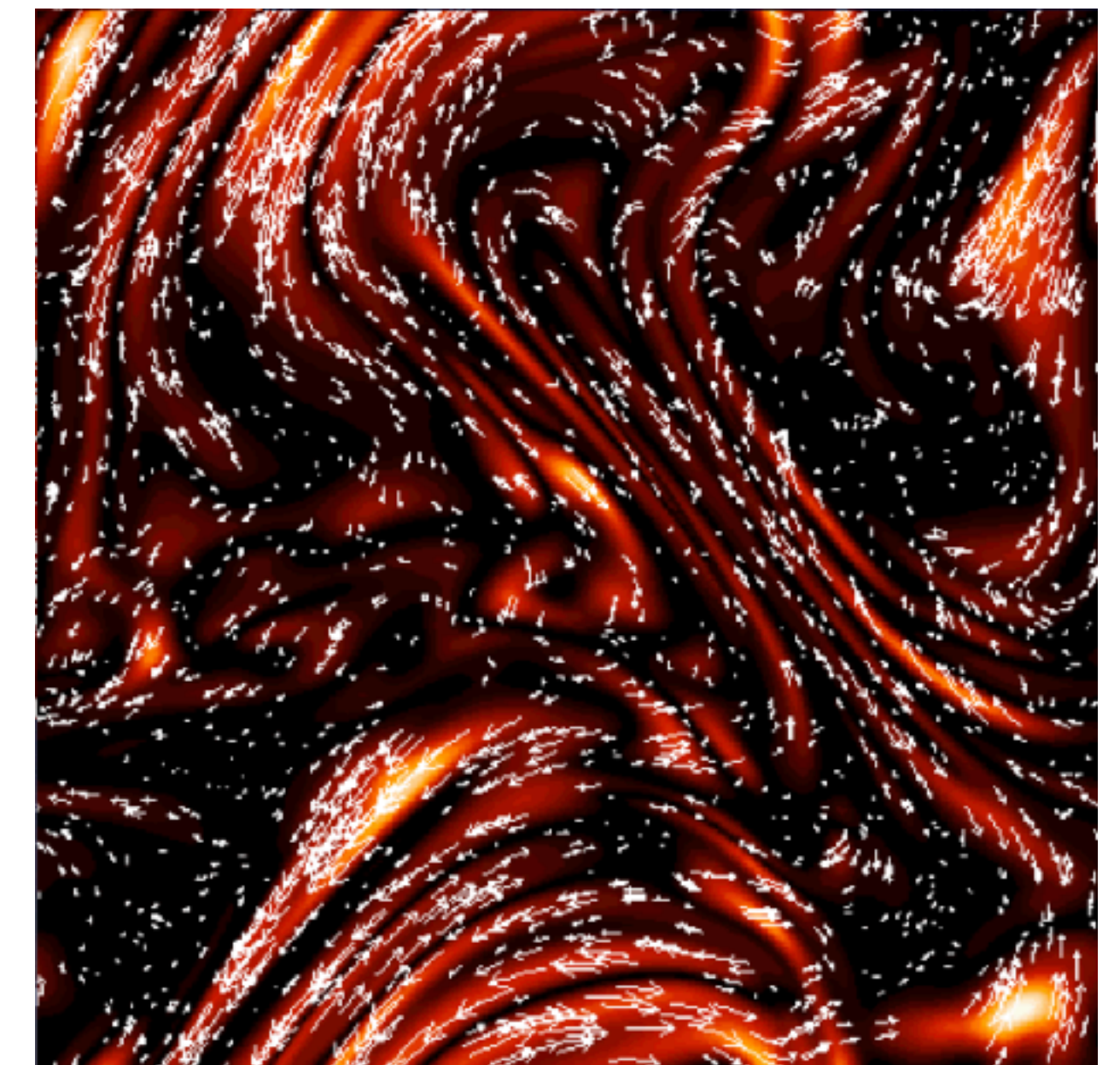
(Batchelor 1950; Kazantsev 1967; Zel’dovich et al. 1984; Childress & Gilbert 1995),
whereby a succession of random velocity shears stretches the field
and leads on the average to its growth to dynamical strengths.

$$\frac{d \ln B}{dt} = \hat{b} \hat{b} : \nabla u$$

magnetic energy grows in a 3D,
smooth, chaotic velocity field



B from $Re \sim 1$, $Pm \gg 1$
Schekochihin *et al.* (2004)



material properties of the plasma matter

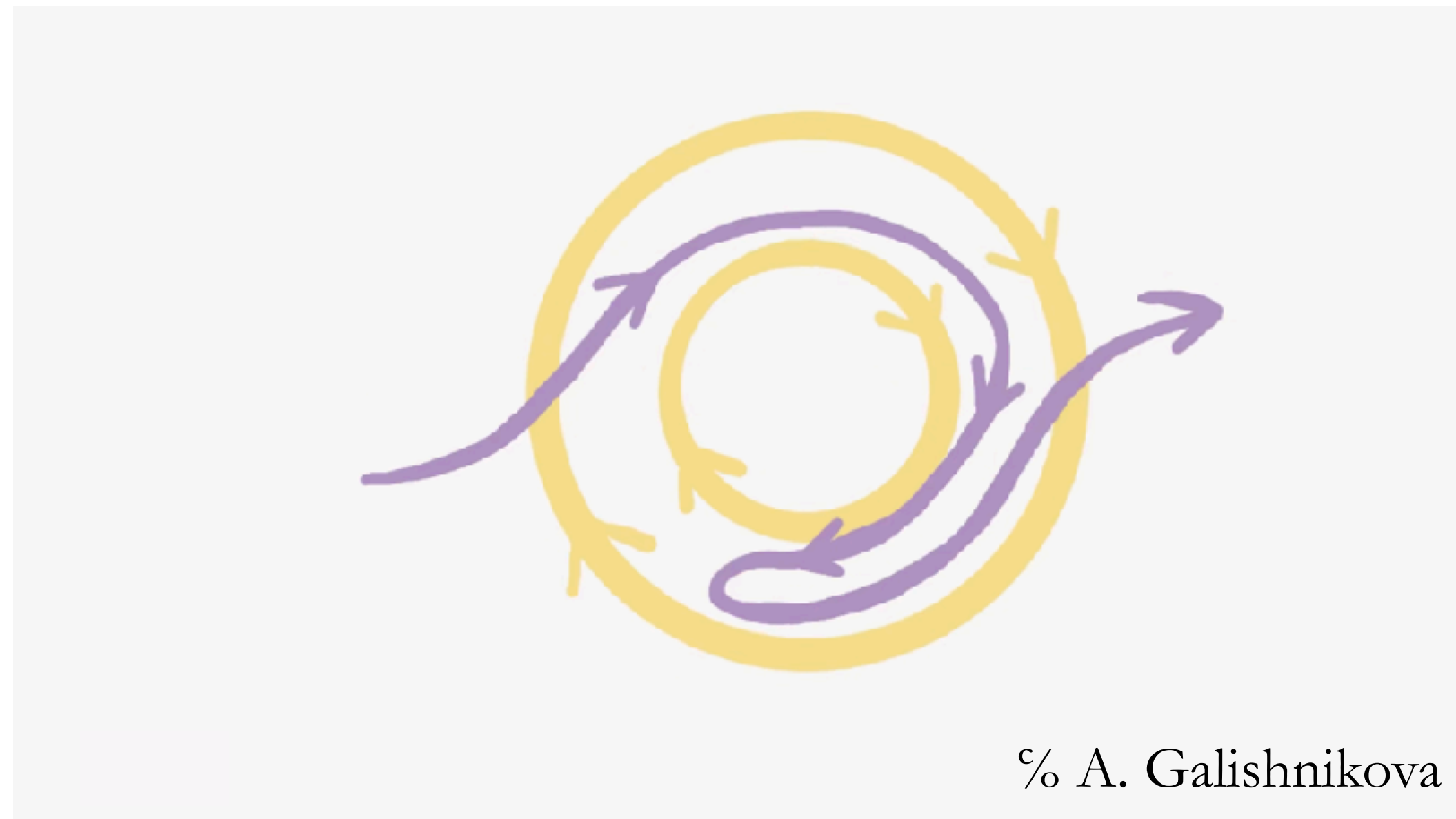
$$\text{Re} \doteq \frac{UL}{\nu} \approx 2 \left(\frac{U}{200 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right) \left(\frac{L}{100 \text{ kpc}} \right) \left(\frac{T}{10^8 \text{ K}} \right)^{-5/2} \left(\frac{n}{10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)$$

$$\text{Pm} \doteq \frac{\nu}{\eta} \approx 2 \times 10^{29} \left(\frac{T}{10^8 \text{ K}} \right)^4 \left(\frac{n}{10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1}$$

viscous scale, where $\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \sim \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$: $\ell_\nu \sim L \text{Re}^{-3/4}$

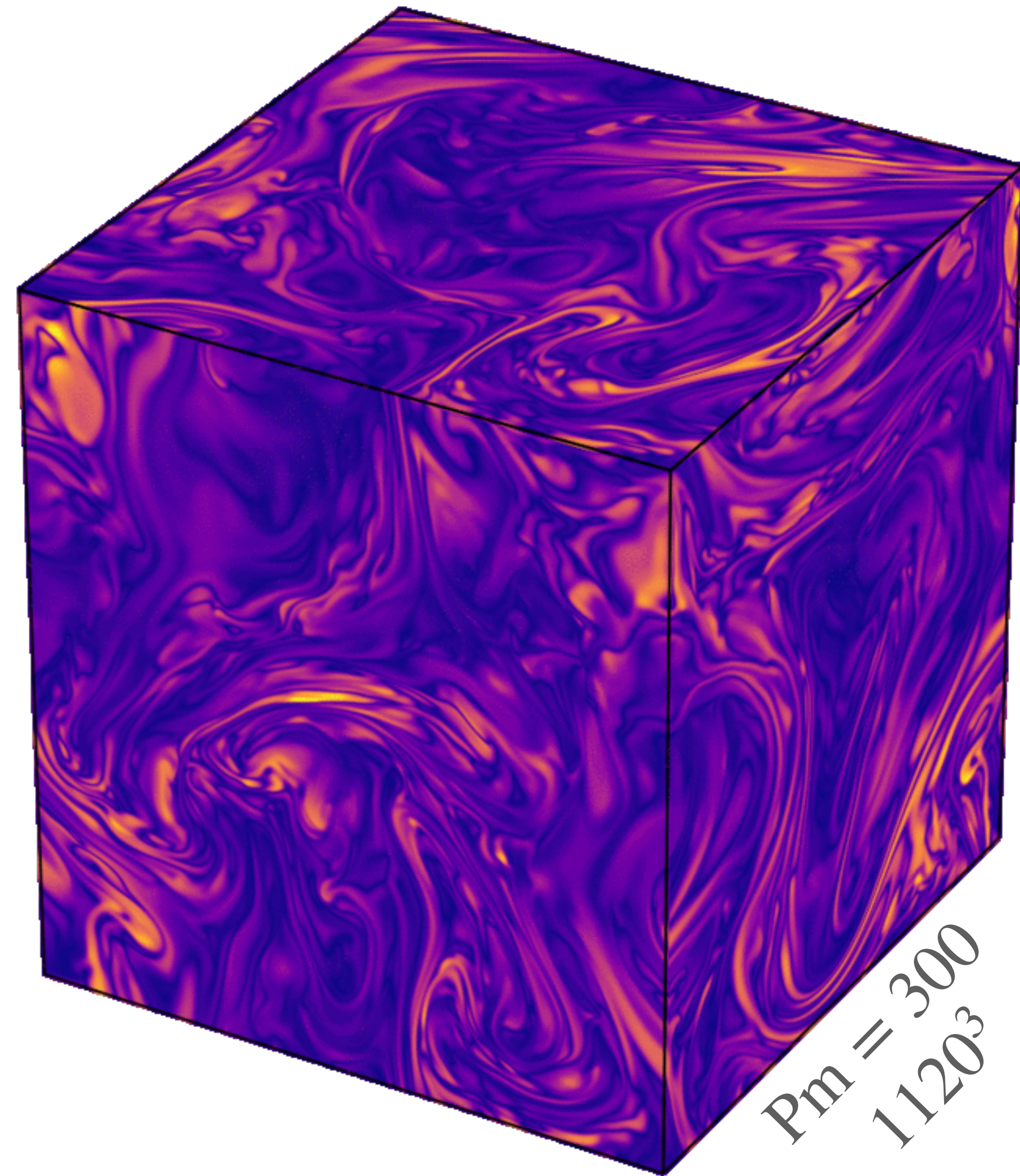
resistive scale, where $\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \sim \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{B}$: $\ell_\eta \sim \ell_\nu \text{Pm}^{-1/2} \ll \ell_\nu$

magnetic field arranged in folds



if magnetic field dynamically weak, then

$$\frac{d \ln B}{dt} \sim \frac{U}{L} \text{Re}^{1/2}$$



Seeds?

1. Primordial or pre-galactic

(e.g., Kulsrud *et al.* 1997: Biermann + fluctuation dynamo;
see also Zhou, Zhdankin, Kunz, Loureiro, Uzdensky (2022, *PRX*) on Weibel instability $\rightarrow$ fluctuation dynamo)

2. Galactic + dispersion & dilution throughout cluster volume

(e.g., Rees & Setti 1968; Rees 1987; Rephaeli 1988; Furlanetto & Loeb 2001)

supported indirectly by observed early metal enrichment of clusters

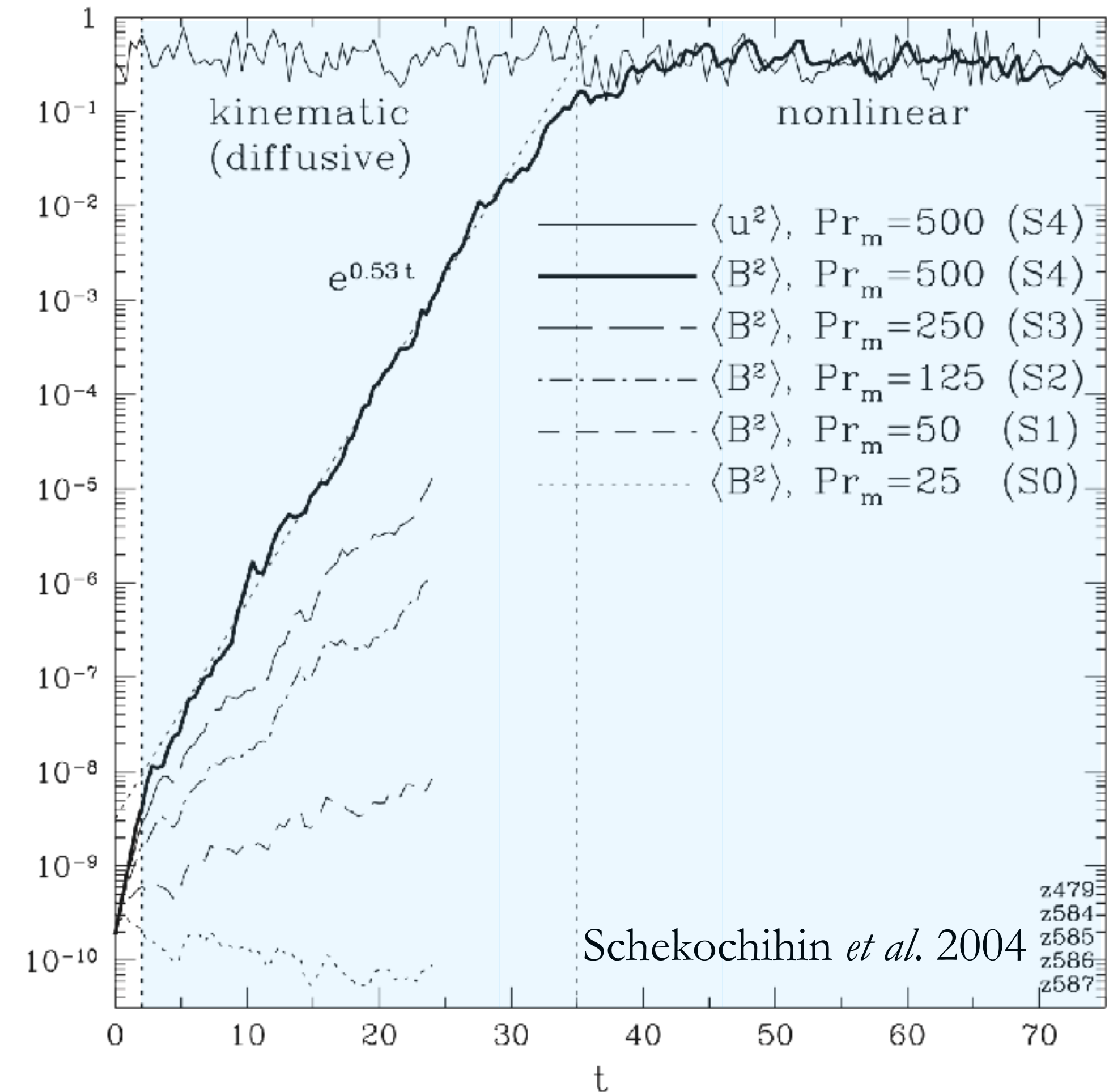
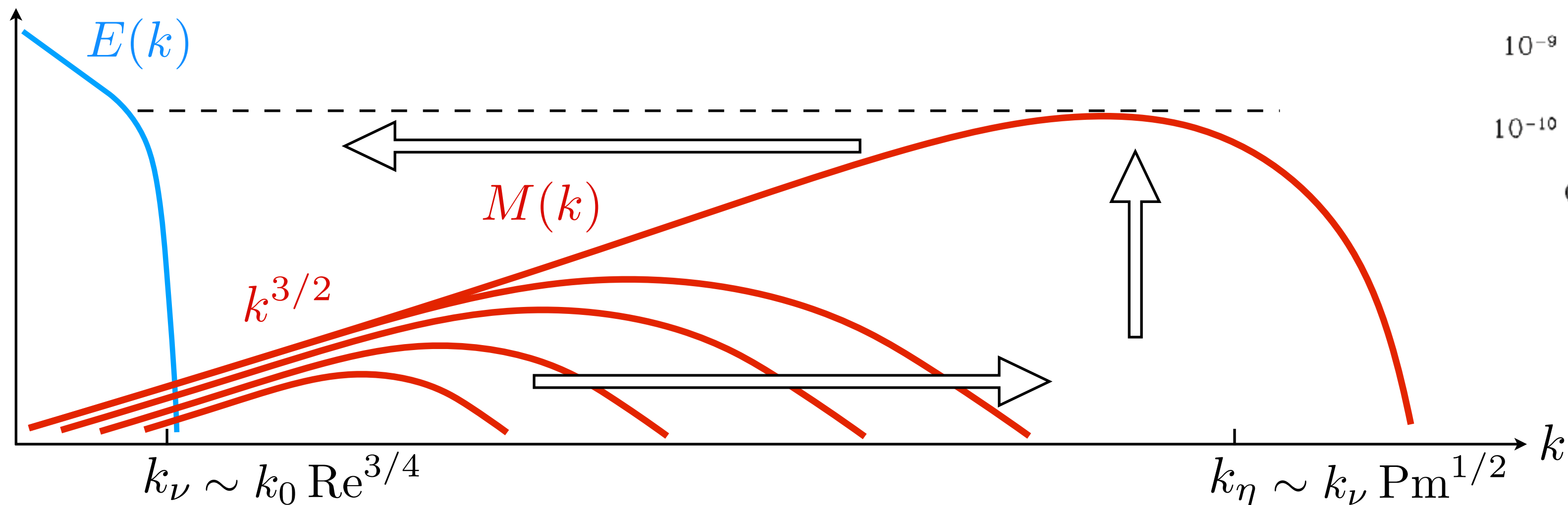
(e.g., Mantz *et al.* 2020: $M \sim 2 \times 10^{14} \text{ M}_\odot$ at $z \simeq 1.7$ with $\sim 1/3$ Solar metallicity)

in either case, turbulent amplification
and maintenance of fields needed

MHD fluctuation dynamo evolution at $\text{Pm} \gg 1$

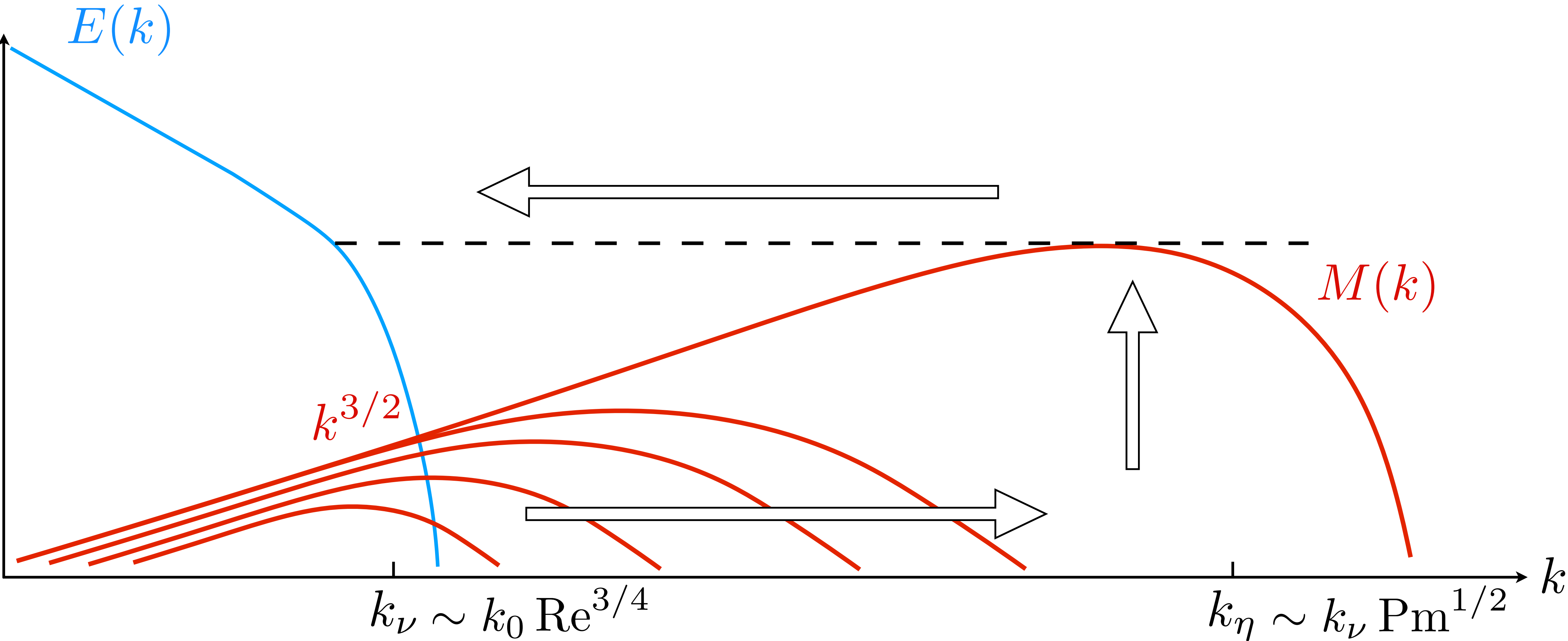
- 1) kinematic
no feedback from B on u ; exponential growth
Kazantsev $k^{3/2}$ spectrum, peaking at k_η
development of folded structure
- 2) nonlinear
tension affects viscous-scale eddies:
$$\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \sim u_\nu^2 / \ell_\nu$$

slower, larger-scale eddies take over stretching
secular growth $\langle B^2 \rangle$ (Sch02&04, Cho+09, Beresnyak12)
- 3) saturation at $\langle B^2 \rangle \sim \langle u^2 \rangle$
not scale-by-scale! suppression of $\hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}}:\nabla \mathbf{u}$



$\text{Pm} \doteq \text{viscosity/resistivity} = \text{Rm}/\text{Re}$

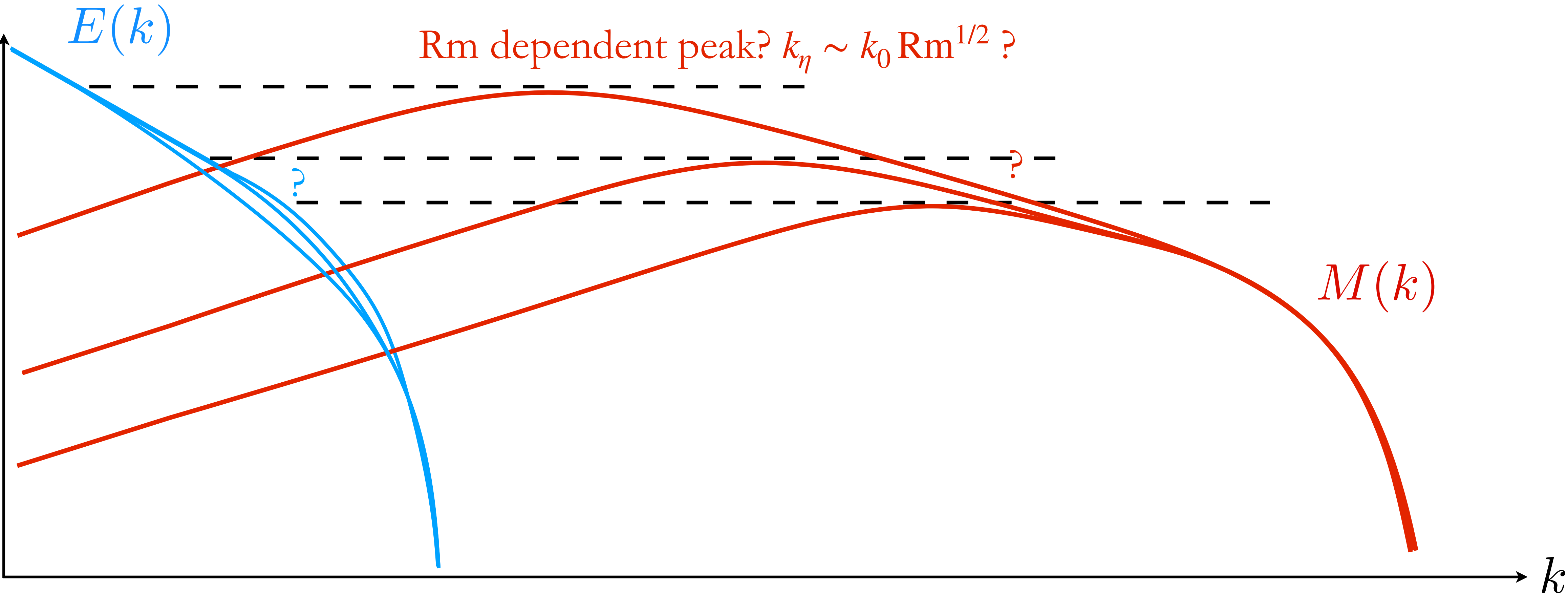
stir incompressible, subsonic turbulence at box scale...



$$\text{Re} = \frac{UL}{\nu}$$

$\text{Pm} \doteq \text{viscosity/resistivity} = \text{Rm}/\text{Re}$

stir incompressible, subsonic turbulence at box scale...



complicating issues...

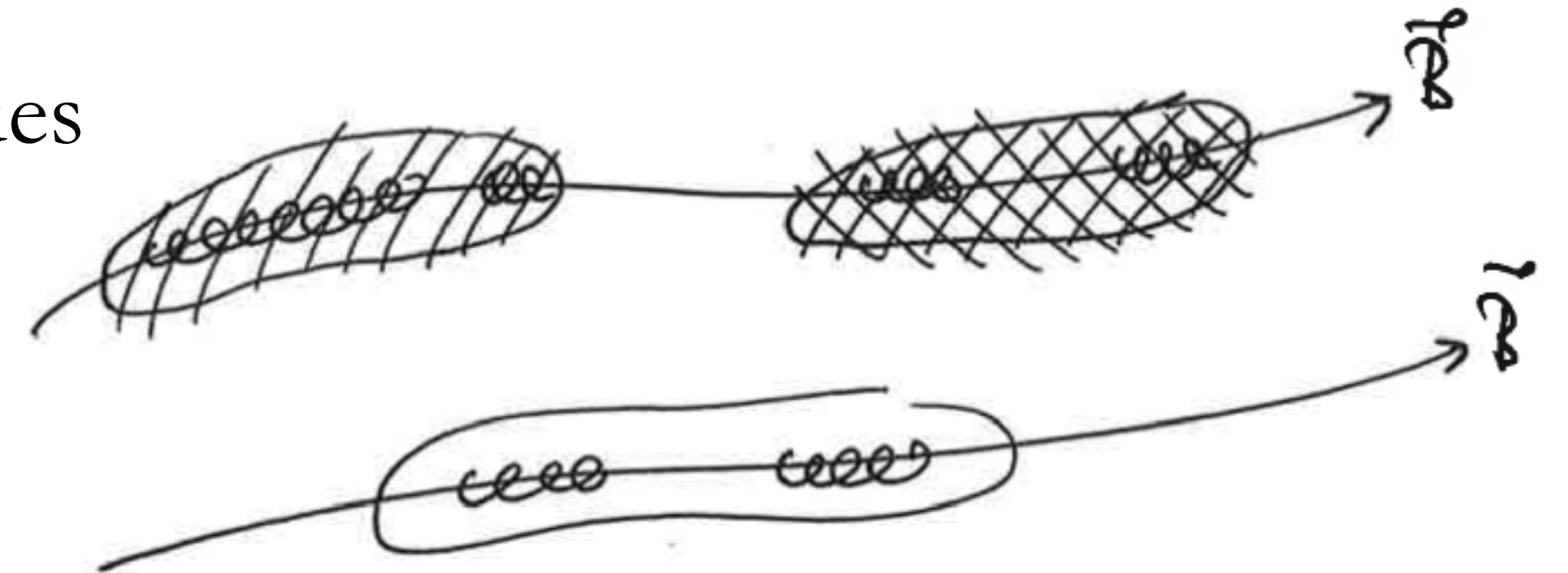
- ICM is **well magnetized**, even at $\beta \sim 10^{22}$; implies that viscous transport is anisotropic:

$$\frac{\lambda_{\text{mfp}}}{\rho_i} \sim 0.1 \left(\frac{\text{Pm}}{\beta_i} \right)^{1/2} \quad \text{using "Spitzer" (collisional) values}$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\text{Re}_{\parallel} \doteq M \frac{L}{\lambda_{\text{mfp}}} \ll \text{Re}_{\perp} \sim M \frac{L}{\rho_i} \quad \text{"Braginskii-MHD"}$$

(M is Mach number; $\text{Pm} \equiv \nu/\eta$)



- ICM is **weakly collisional**, i.e., not rigorously a fluid on all but the largest scales (e.g., $\text{Re}_{\parallel} \sim 1 - 10$ from Coulomb collisions in ICM)

Departures from LTE: $|p_{\perp}/p_{\parallel} - 1| \sim M^2 \text{Re}_{\parallel}^{-1/2} \sim 0.01 - 0.1$ (will return to this shortly...)

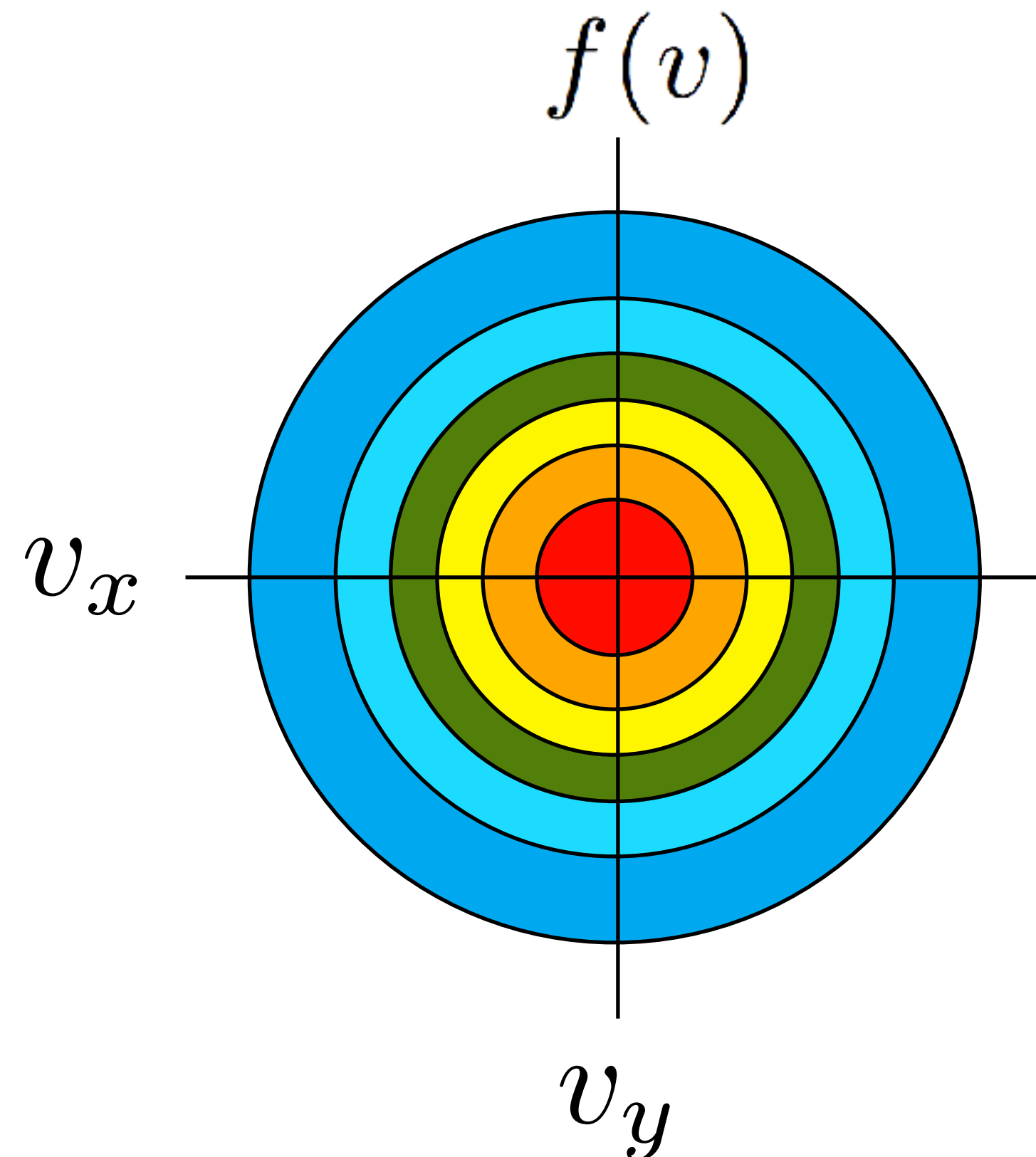
- Dynamo is slow if such departures aren't regulated (e.g., $|d \ln B / dt|^{-1} \sim 0.5$ Gyr in ICM) (and it's impossible in a plasma that conserves adiabatic invariants; Helander *et al.* 2016)

let's pause here for a
plasma physics primer...

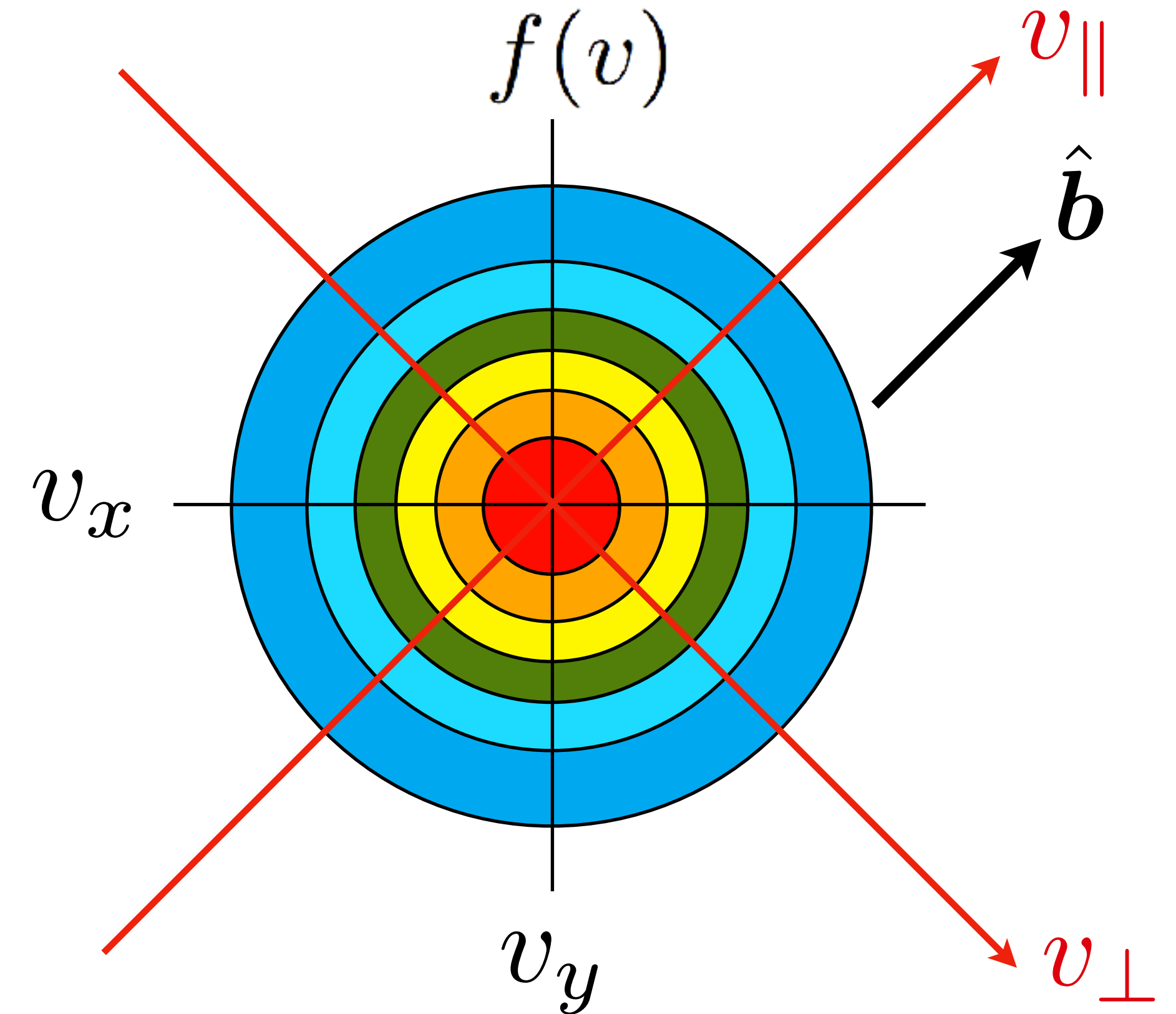
Suppose I have an isotropic, Maxwellian velocity distribution function of the plasma particles:

$$f(v) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{v^2}{v_{\text{th}}^2}\right)$$

$$f(v) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{v_{\parallel}^2}{v_{\text{th}}^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{v_{\perp}^2}{v_{\text{th}}^2}\right)$$

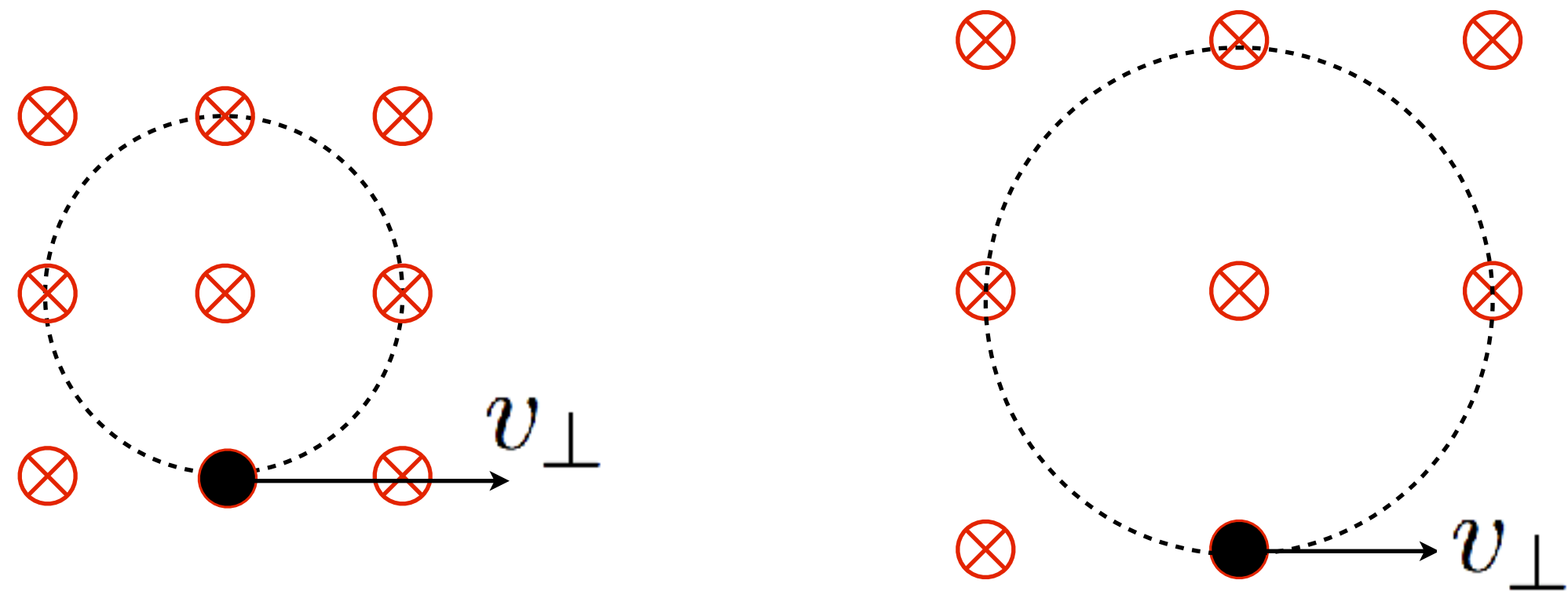


now thread the plasma with a magnetic field:

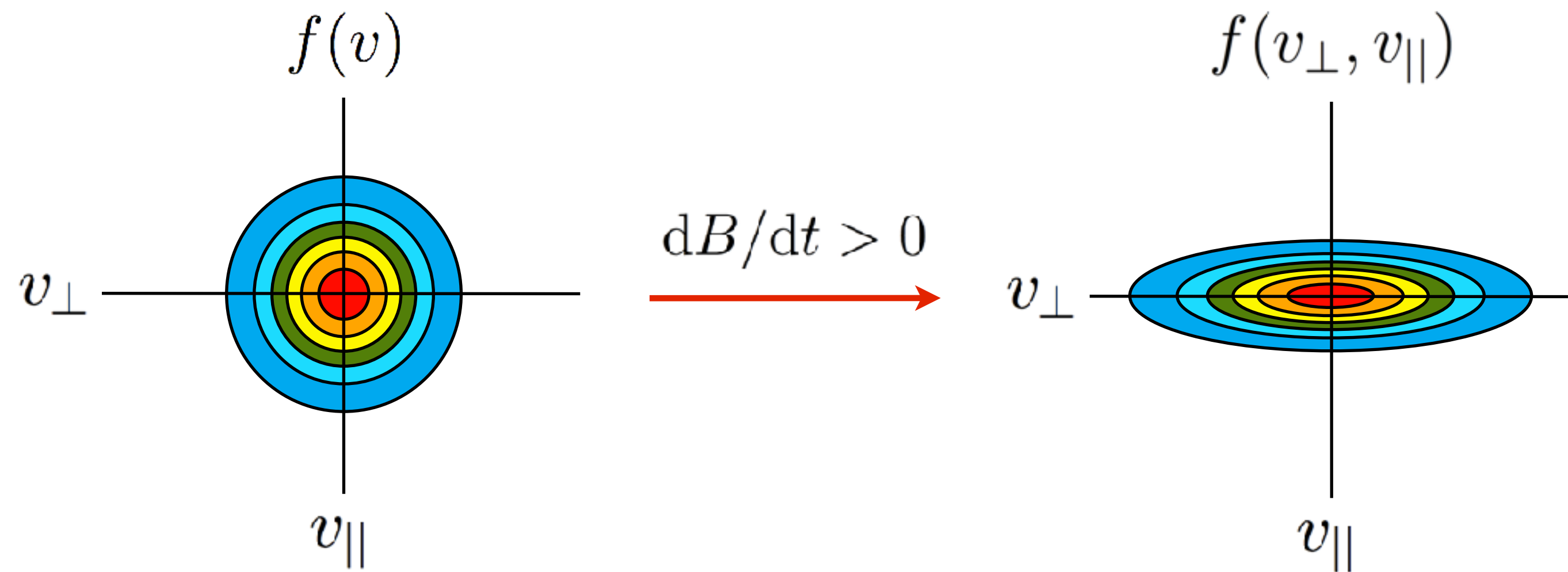
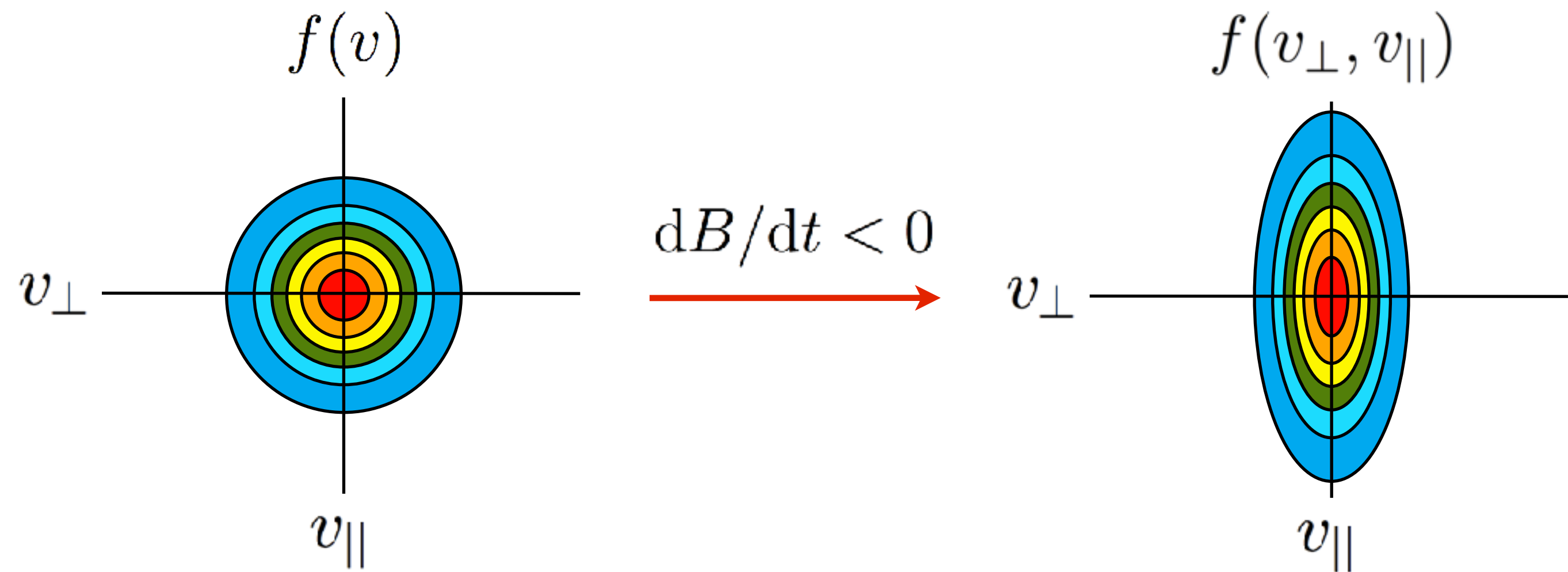
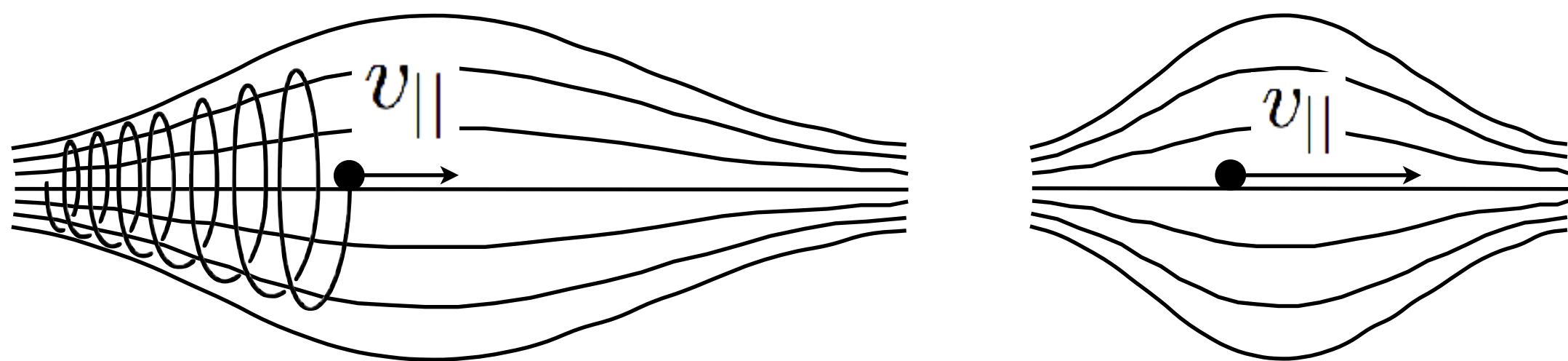


adiabatic evolution distorts the particle distribution function in this field-aligned frame...

μ conservation:

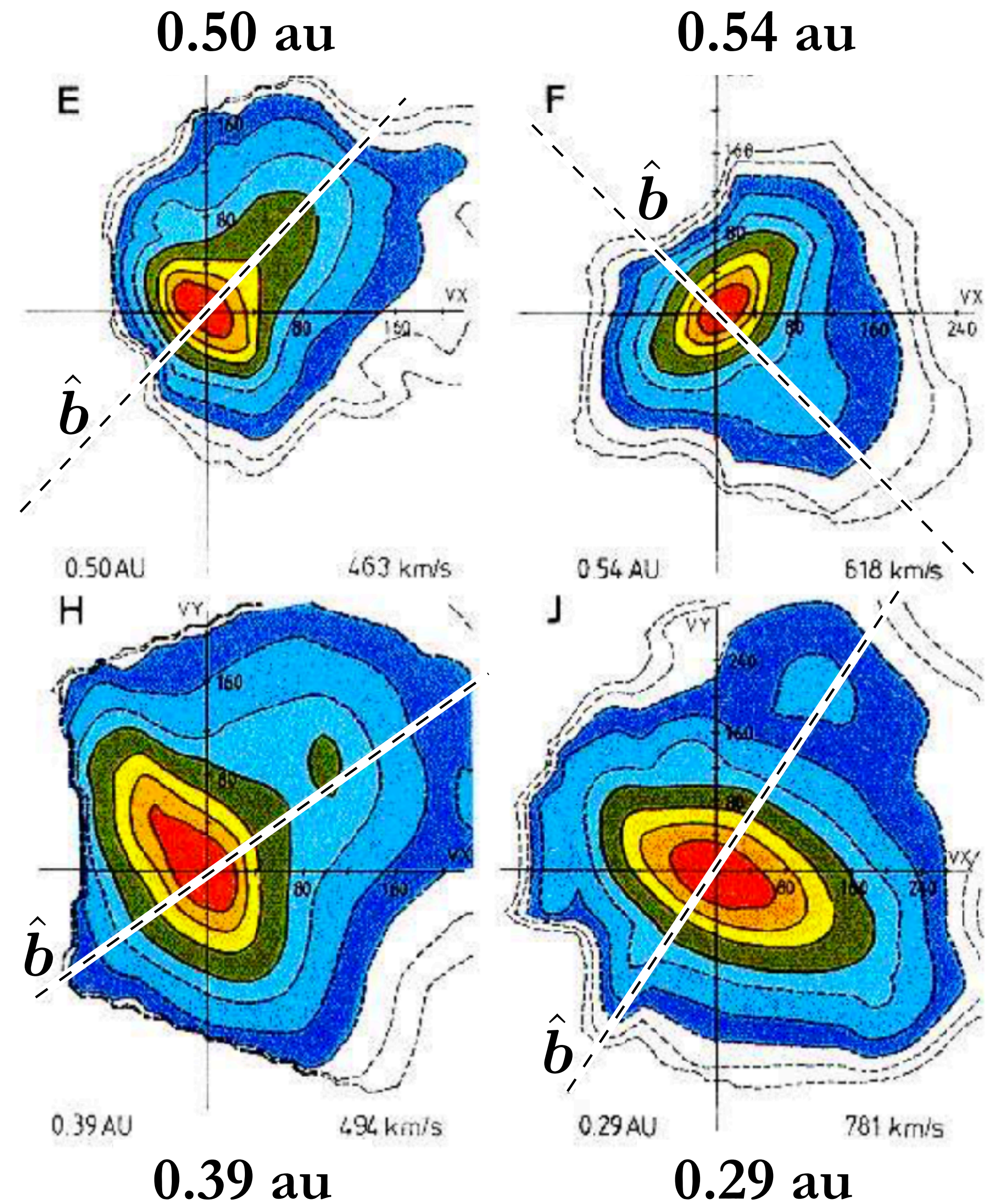
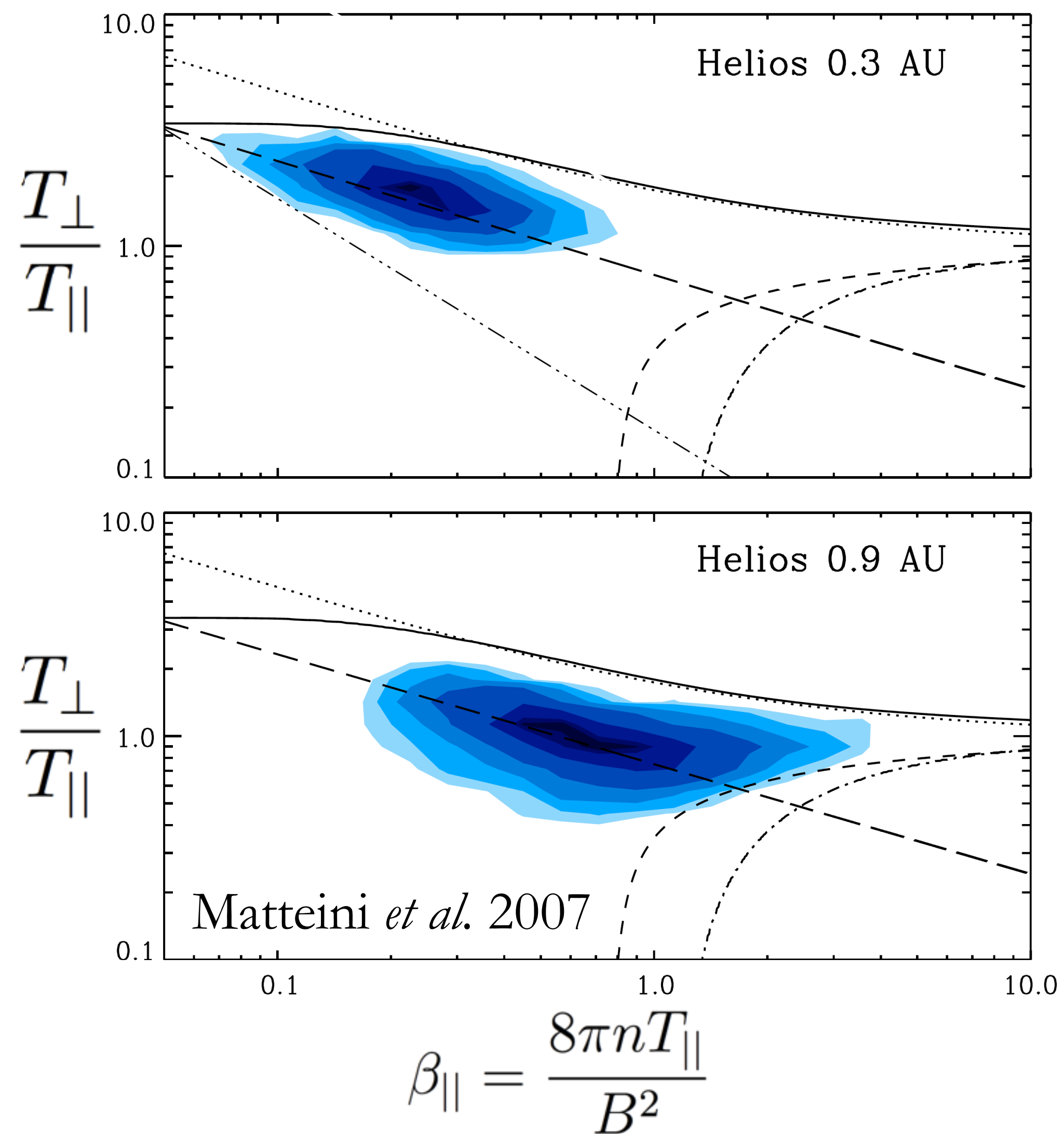


J conservation:



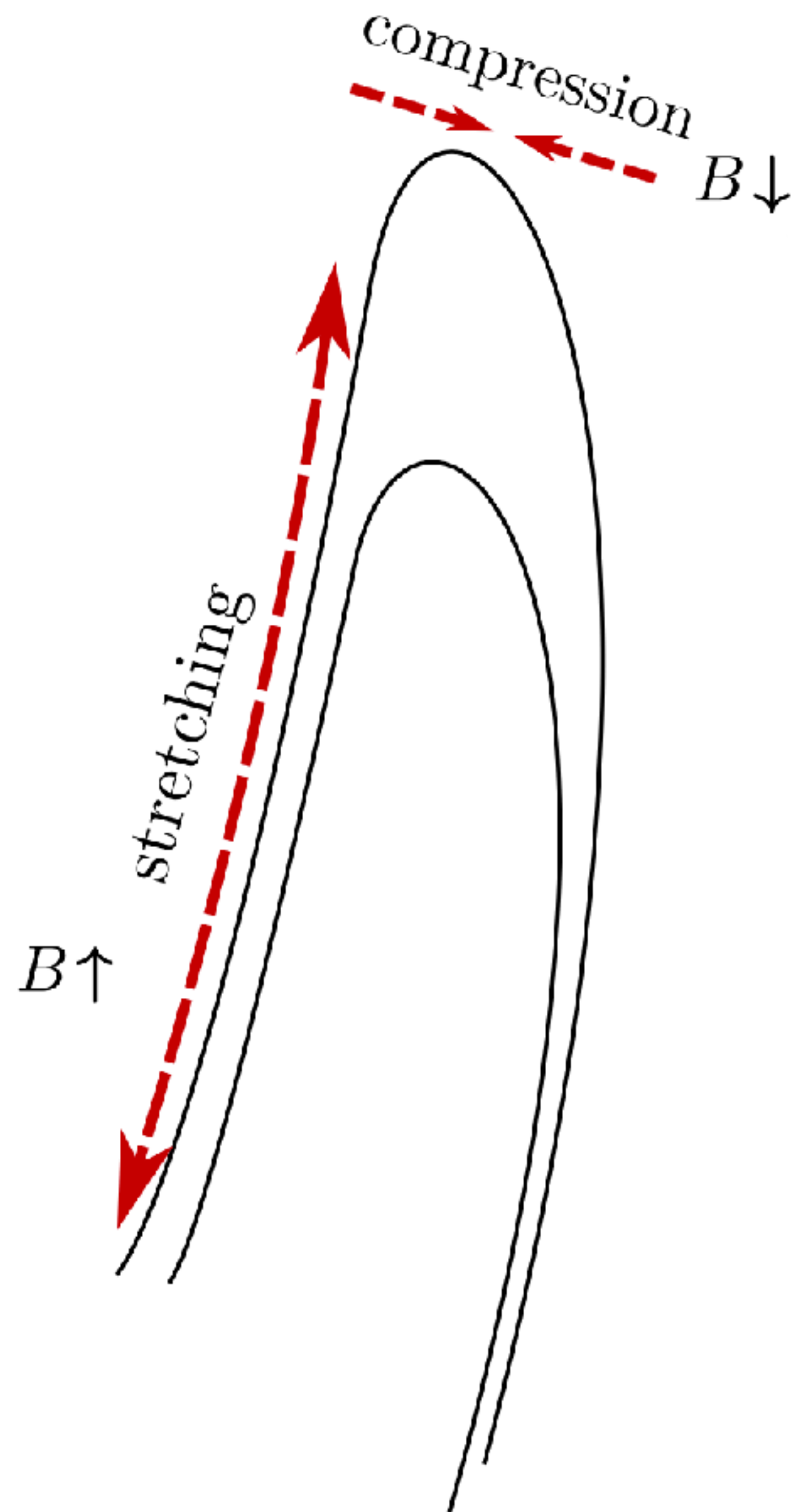
$$f(v_{\perp}, v_{\parallel}) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{v_{\parallel}^2}{v_{\text{th}\parallel}^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{v_{\perp}^2}{v_{\text{th}\perp}^2}\right)$$

These field-biased distortions are measured directly in the solar wind:

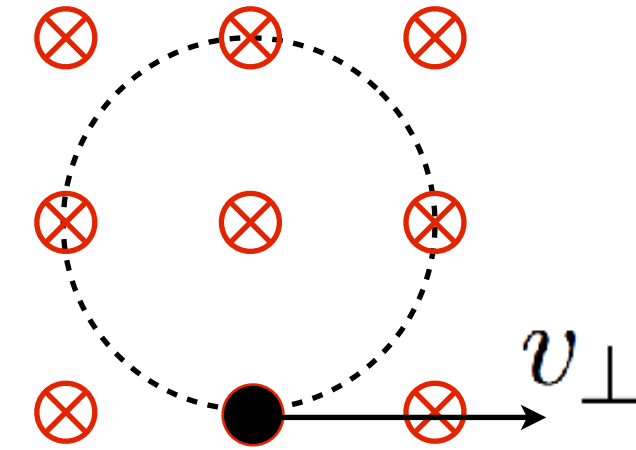
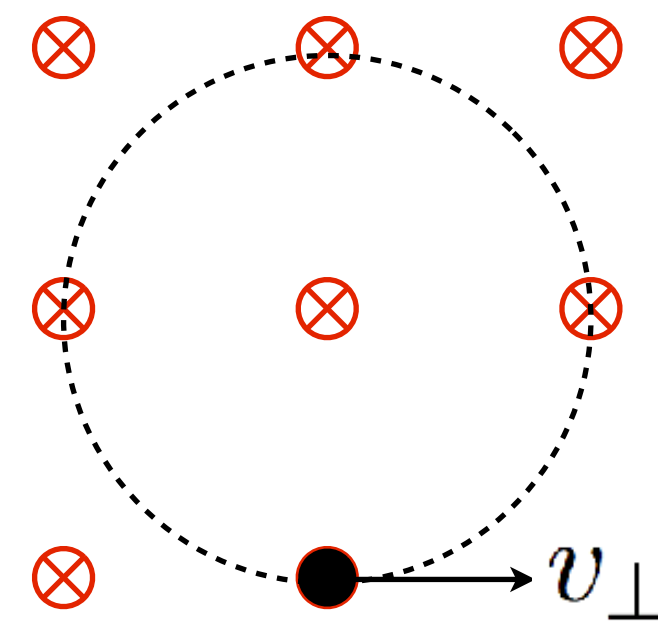


Marsch (2006)

dynamo context: can't move a plasma differentially without stretching/compressing B



μ -conservation implies pressure anisotropy:



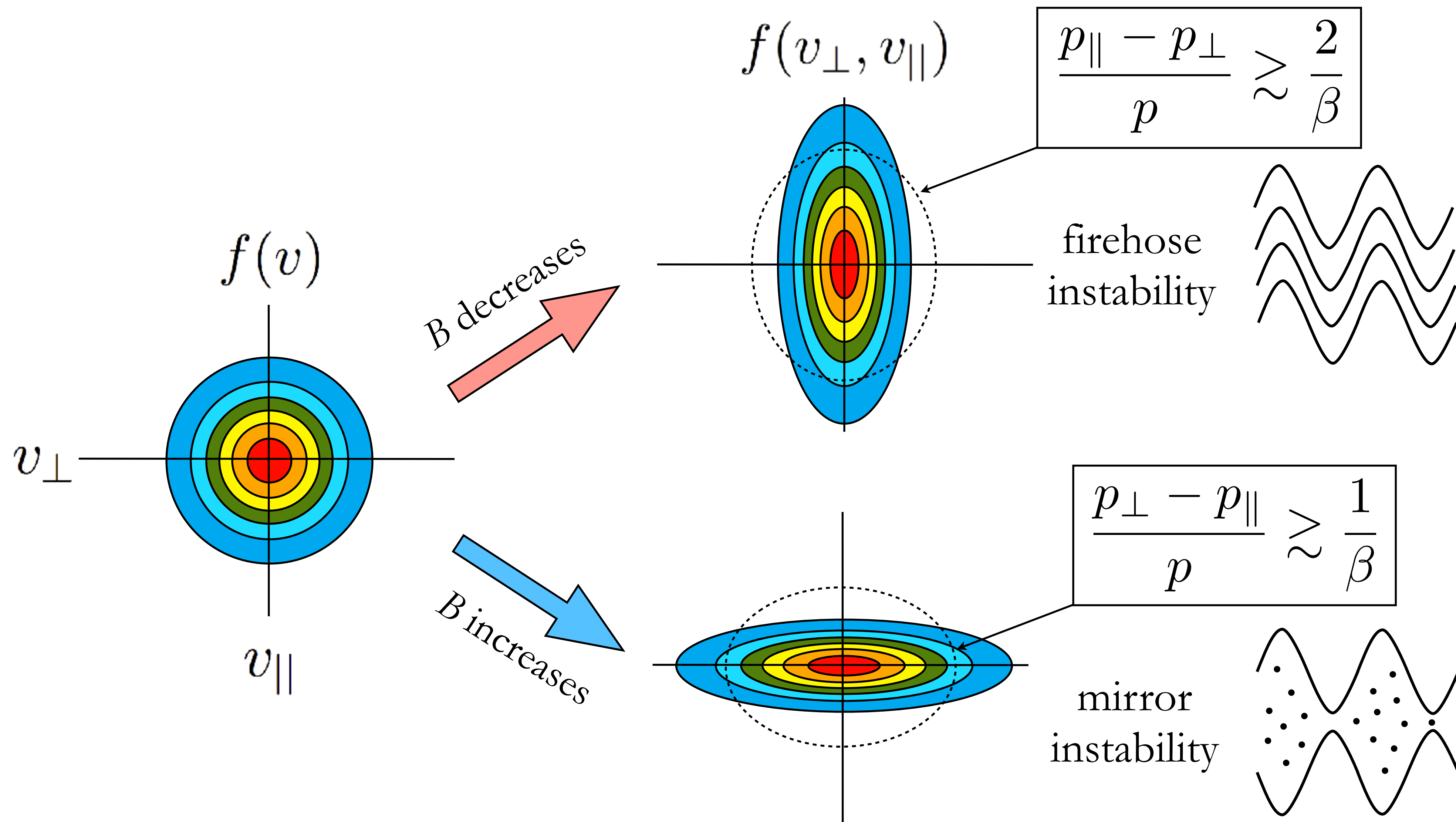
$$\frac{p_{\perp}}{p} \propto \frac{B}{B_0}$$

appreciable dynamo growth is *impossible*
if μ is conserved; there's not enough
free energy (Helander *et al.* 2016)

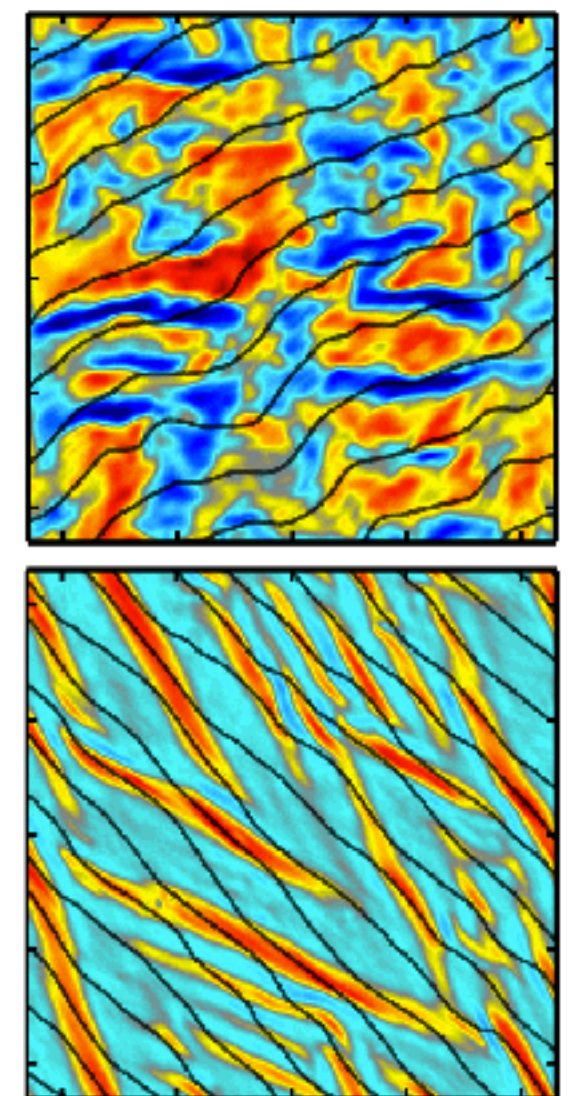
implies (at least) two things:

- 1) μ must be broken, e.g., by **kinetic instabilities** that feed off $p_{\perp} \neq p_{\parallel}$
- 2) no “kinematic” phase... **B , no matter how weak, influences the flow**

if $\beta \gg 1$, then even small departures from LTE affect **microscale** dynamics:

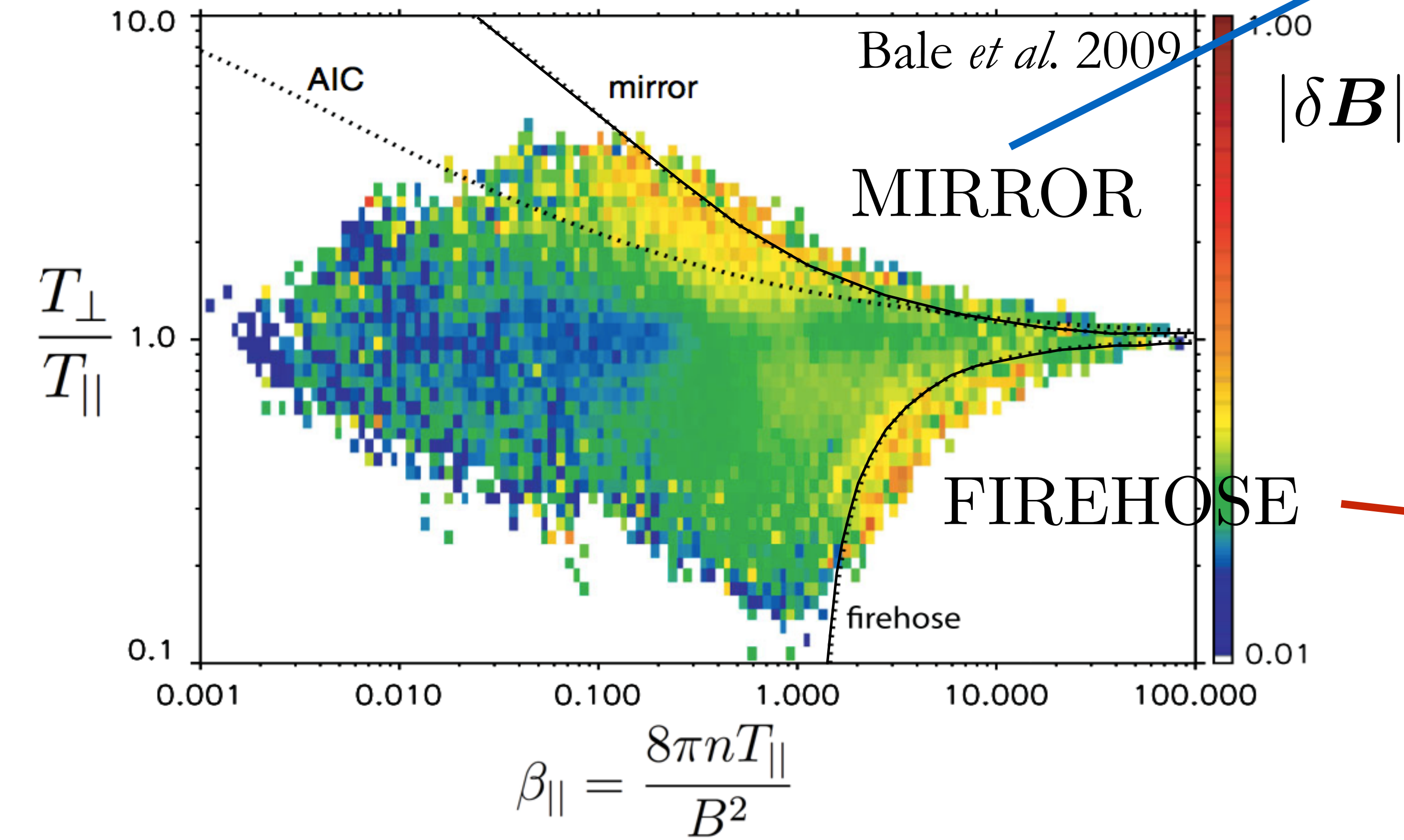


rapidly produce
ion-Larmor-scale
bends in field lines,
which scatter and
trap particles
and thereby
regulate
departures from
LTE ($p_{\perp} \neq p_{\parallel}$)

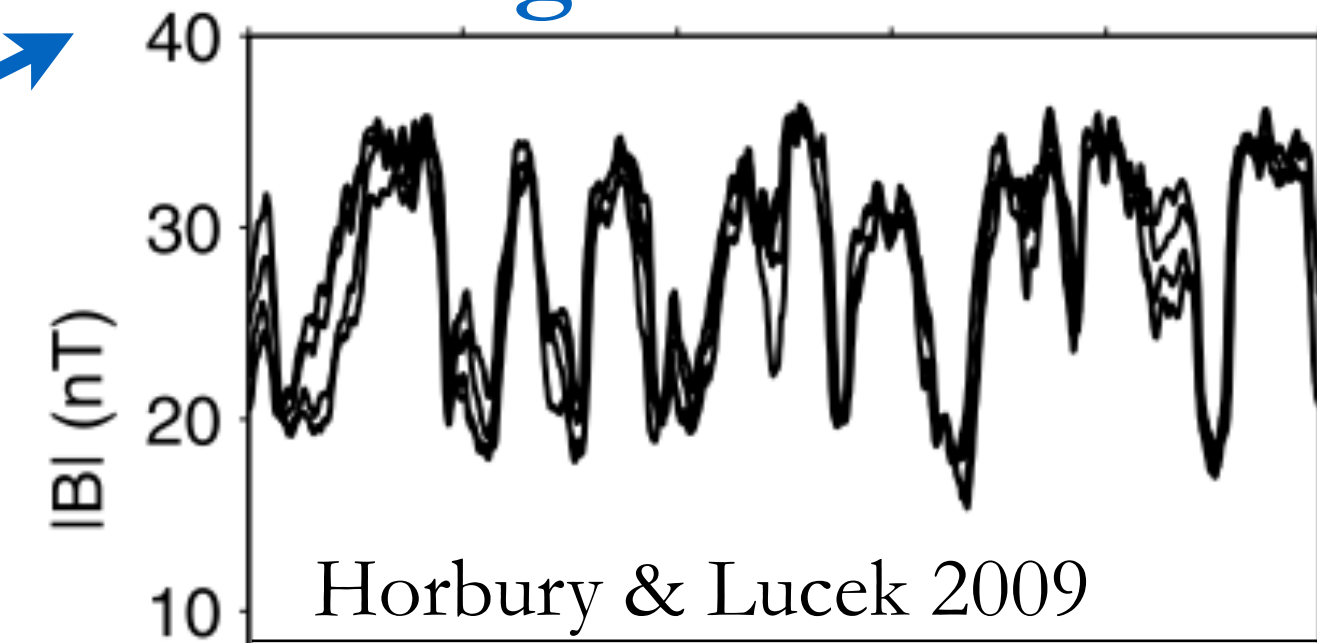


Kunz, Stone & Schekochihin 2014, PRL

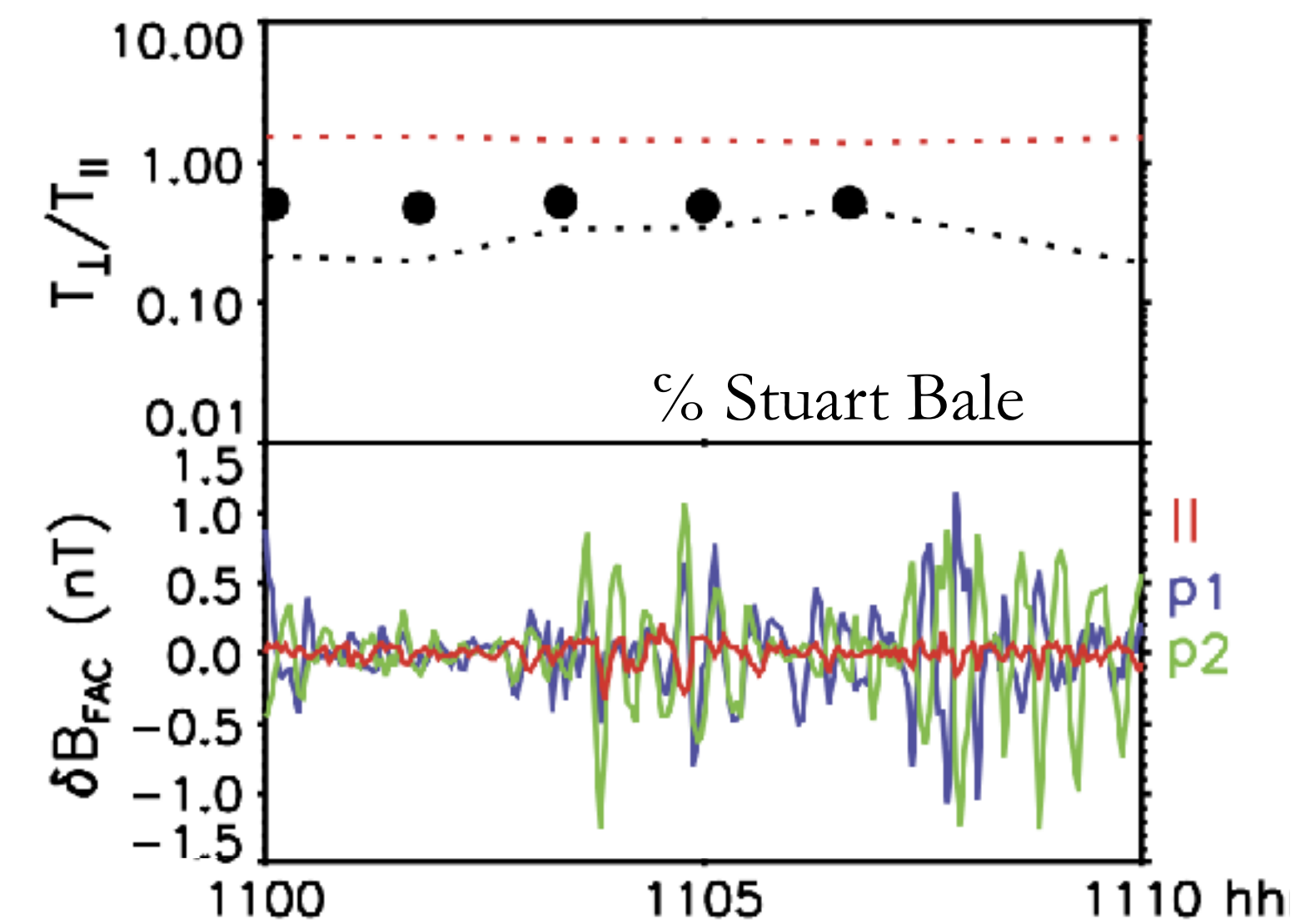
evidence from near-Earth solar wind:



magnetic mirrors



firehose fluctuations



can estimate deviations from LTE in ICM: $\Delta \doteq \frac{P_{\perp} - P_{\parallel}}{P} \sim M \frac{\lambda_{\text{mfp}}}{L} \sim 0.01 - 0.1 \gtrsim \frac{1}{\beta}$

implication: scattering by kinetic Larmor-scale instabilities $\gtrsim$ Coulomb scattering

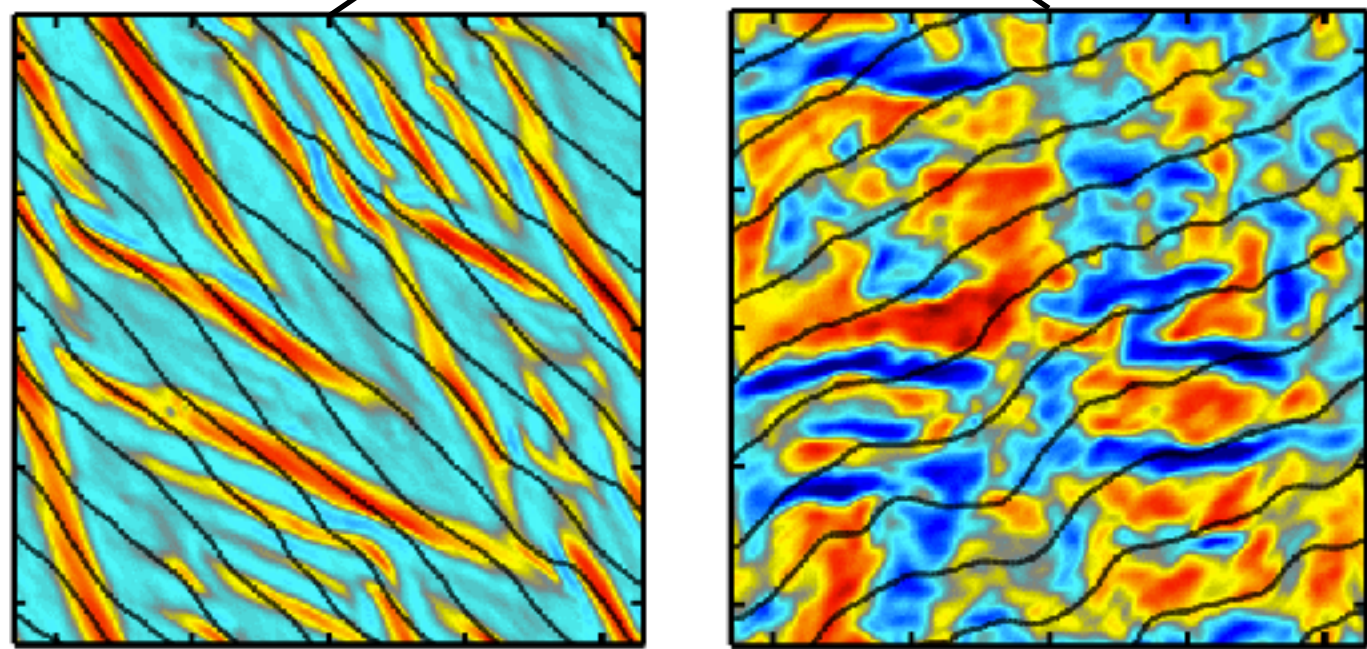
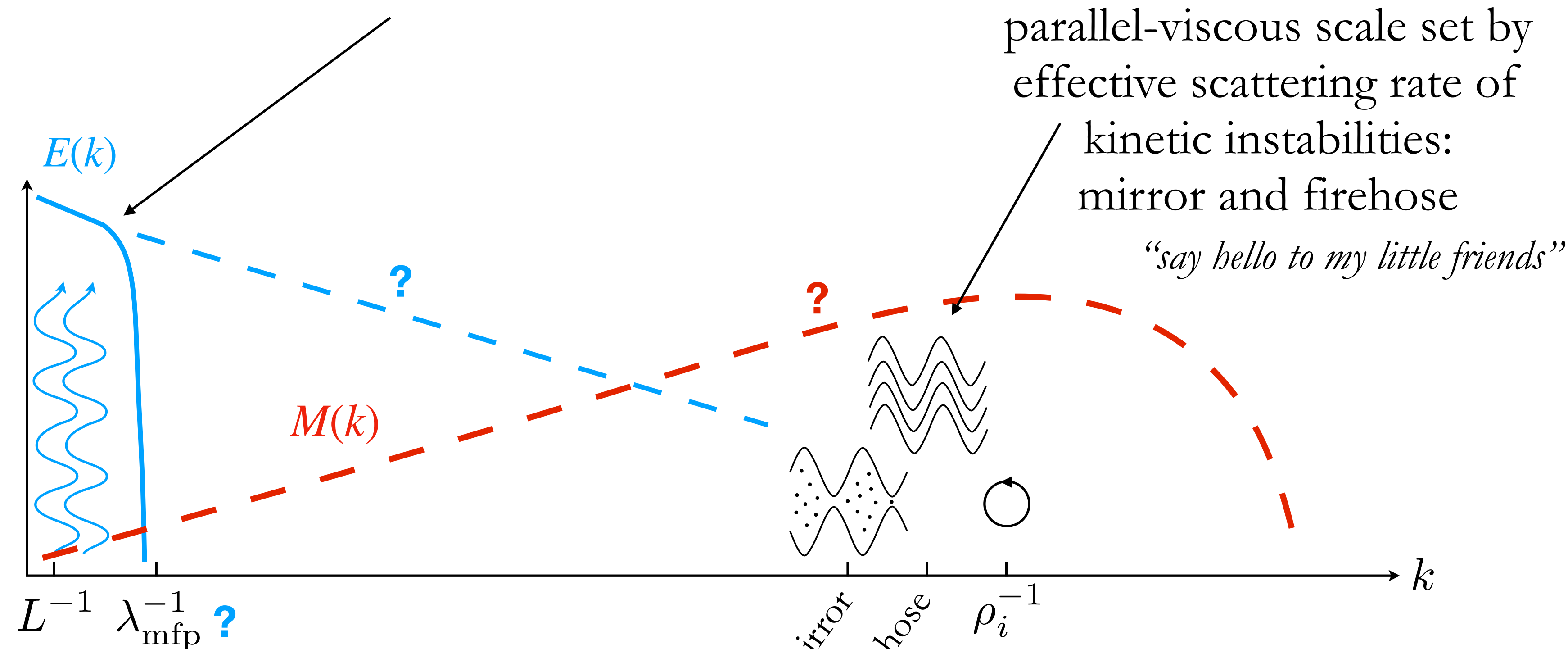
$\text{Re}_{\parallel}$ likely controlled by what's going on at Larmor scale

(and increasingly so in the early stages of dynamo, when $\beta \gg 1$)

back to plasma dynamo...

fastest stretching motions at parallel-viscous scale

(recall $d \ln B / dt = \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u}$)

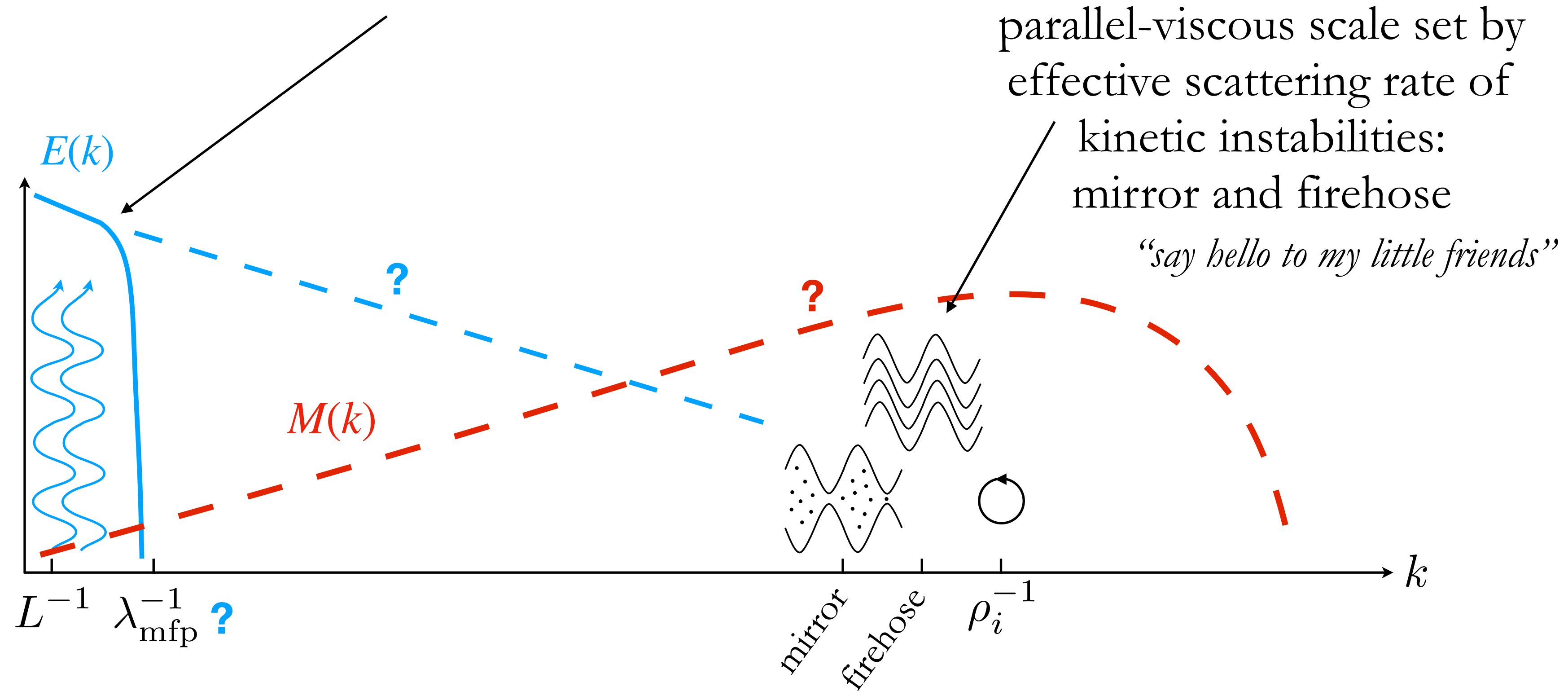


these try to maintain

$$-\frac{B^2}{4\pi} \lesssim p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel} \lesssim \frac{B^2}{8\pi}$$

fastest stretching motions at parallel-viscous scale

$$(\text{recall } d \ln B / dt = \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u})$$



$$\text{Re}_{\parallel} \sim M^2 \nu_{\text{eff}} \tau_{\text{eddy}, L} \longrightarrow \tau_{\text{eddy}, \ell_{\text{visc}}} \sim \tau_{\text{eddy}, L} \text{Re}_{\parallel}^{-1/2} \propto \nu_{\text{eff}}^{-1/2}$$

the faster the instabilities scatter, the faster is the dynamo

One can show that, for

$$B \gtrsim 10 \left(\frac{U}{200 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{3/5} \left(\frac{L}{100 \text{ kpc}} \right)^{-1/5} \left(\frac{n}{10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{2/5} \left(\frac{T}{10^8 \text{ K}} \right)^{1/5} \text{ nG},$$

the effective collisionality induced by firehose/mirror instabilities is

$$\nu_{\text{eff}} \sim \frac{U}{L} \left(\frac{U}{v_A} \right)^2 \beta.$$

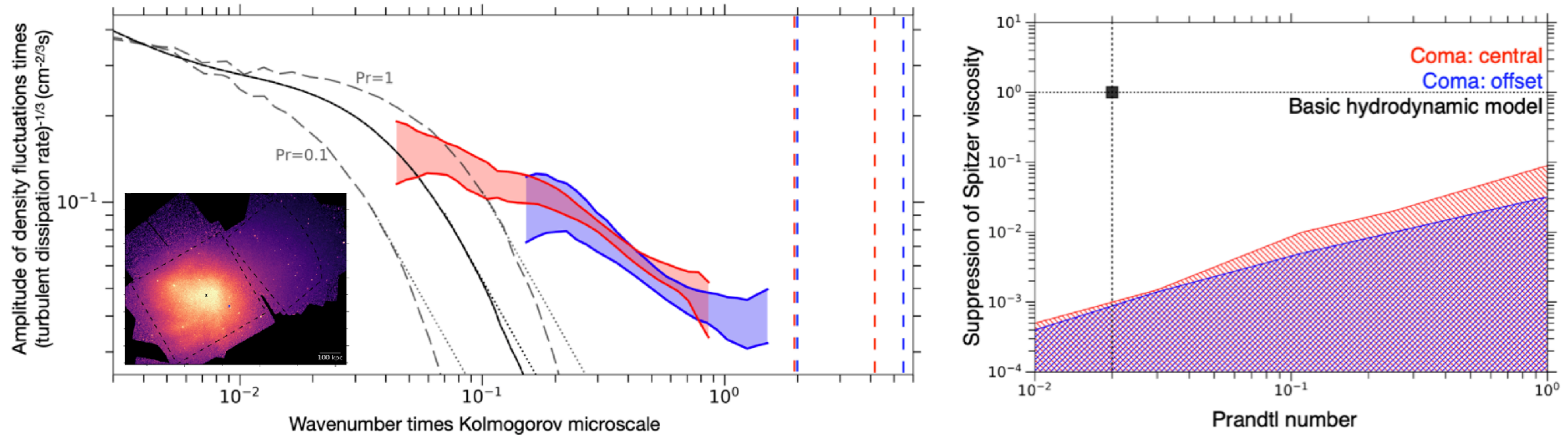
This implies

$$\lambda_{\parallel \text{mfp,eff}} \sim L \left(\frac{U}{v_A} \right)^{-3} \beta^{-1/2} \quad \text{Re}_{\parallel, \text{eff}} \sim \left(\frac{U}{v_A} \right)^4 \quad \ell_{\nu, \text{eff}} \sim L \left(\frac{U}{v_A} \right)^{-3}.$$

Choosing $L = 100 \text{ kpc}$ and blindly promoting $\sim$ to $\approx \dots$

$$\frac{\lambda_{\parallel \text{mfp,eff}}}{\lambda_{\text{mfp,C}}} \approx 0.05 \left(\frac{U}{200 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{-3} \left(\frac{B}{2 \mu\text{G}} \right)^4 \left(\frac{n}{10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{T}{10^8 \text{ K}} \right)^{-5/2}.$$

such a collisionality comports with obs'd turbulence spectrum in Coma cluster



Zhuravleva *et al.* (2019) claims that viscosity is $\sim 0.01 - 0.1 \times$ Spitzer value;
consistent with prediction

if so, then from ~ 10 nG levels,

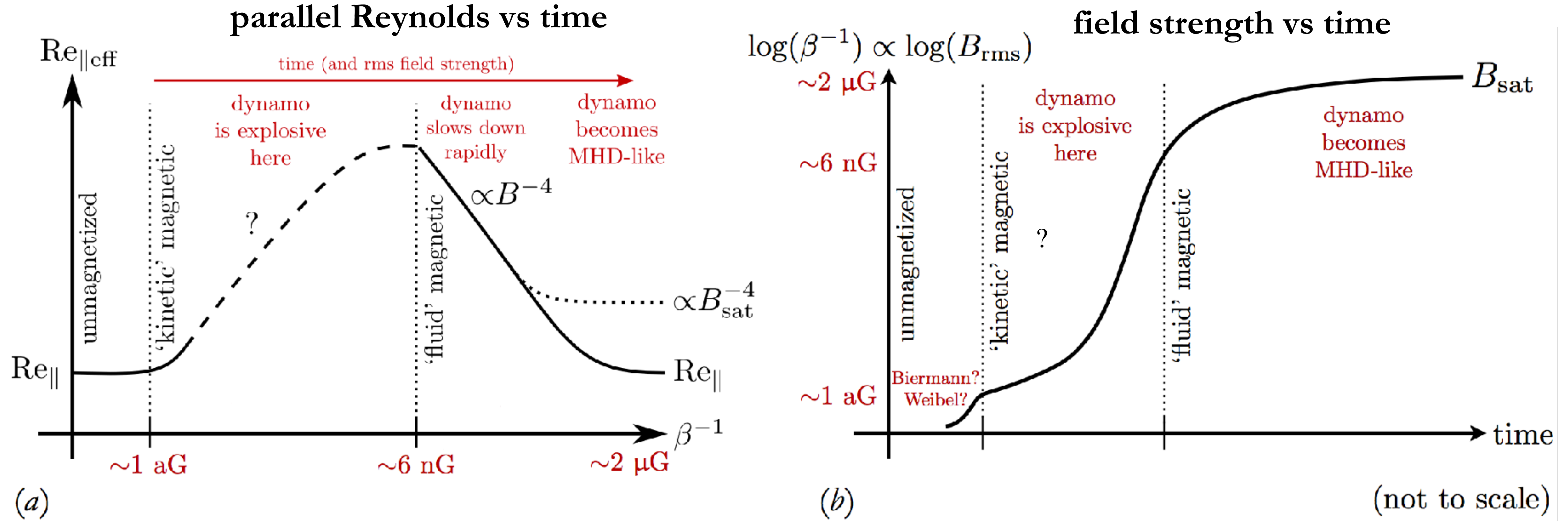
$$\frac{d \ln B}{dt} \sim \frac{U}{L} \text{Re}_{\parallel, \text{eff}}^{1/2} \sim \frac{U^3}{L} \frac{4\pi m_i n}{B^2} \propto B^{-2}$$

integrating and using typical values implies
 $\sim \mu\text{G}$ fields within ~ 30 Myr. *Fast!!!*

What happens before ~ 10 nG? not sure...

- Weibel growth up to ~ 0.1 nG... but on skin-depth scales (Zhou *et al.* 2022)
- Galactic/stellar pollution of early intergalactic medium... dilution? (Rees 1987, ...)
- Explosive growth from $\sim 10^{-16}$ G?
(Schekochihin & Cowley 2006; Mogavero & Schekochihin 2014; Melville, Schekochihin & Kunz 2016)

motivates the following idea of 3 dynamo regimes:



explosive growth? predicts $\sim$ nG fields in cosmologically short time.

prior theories of explosive growth: Schekochihin & Cowley (2006); Mogavero & Schekochihin (2014); Melville, Schekochihin & Kunz (2016)

We have begun a study of fluctuation dynamo
in collisionless and weakly collisional plasmas
using hybrid-kinetic particle-in-cell simulations,
Braginskii-MHD simulations, and
analytic modeling.

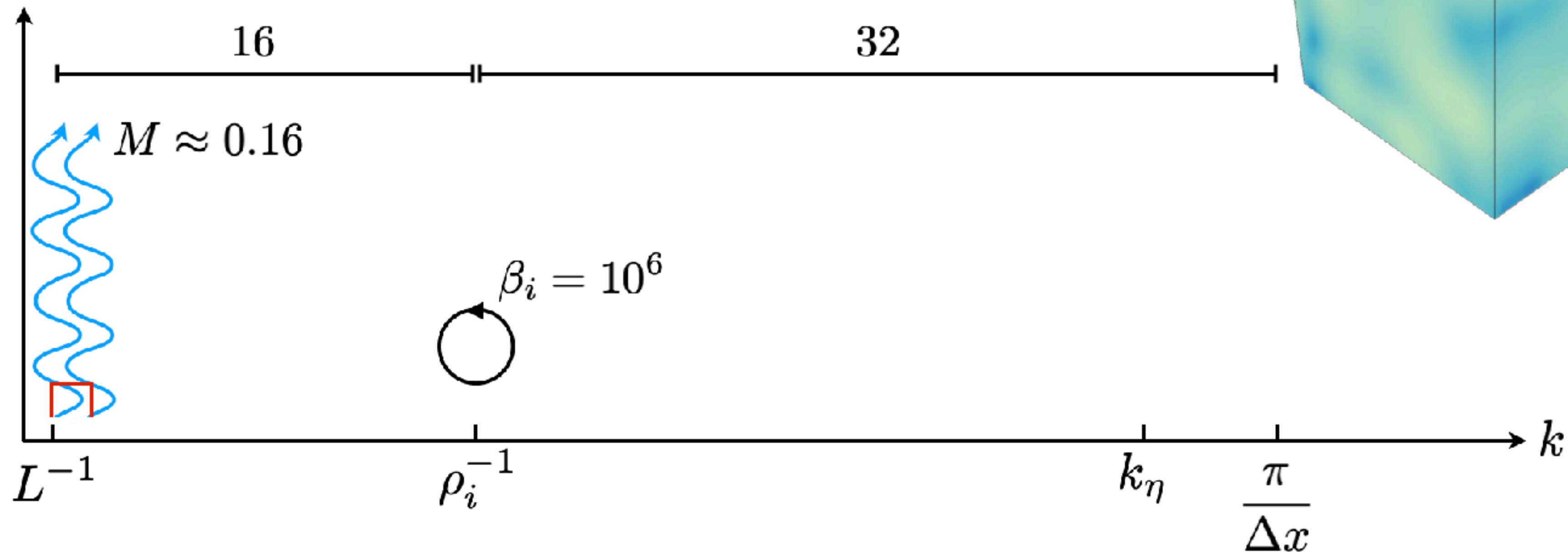
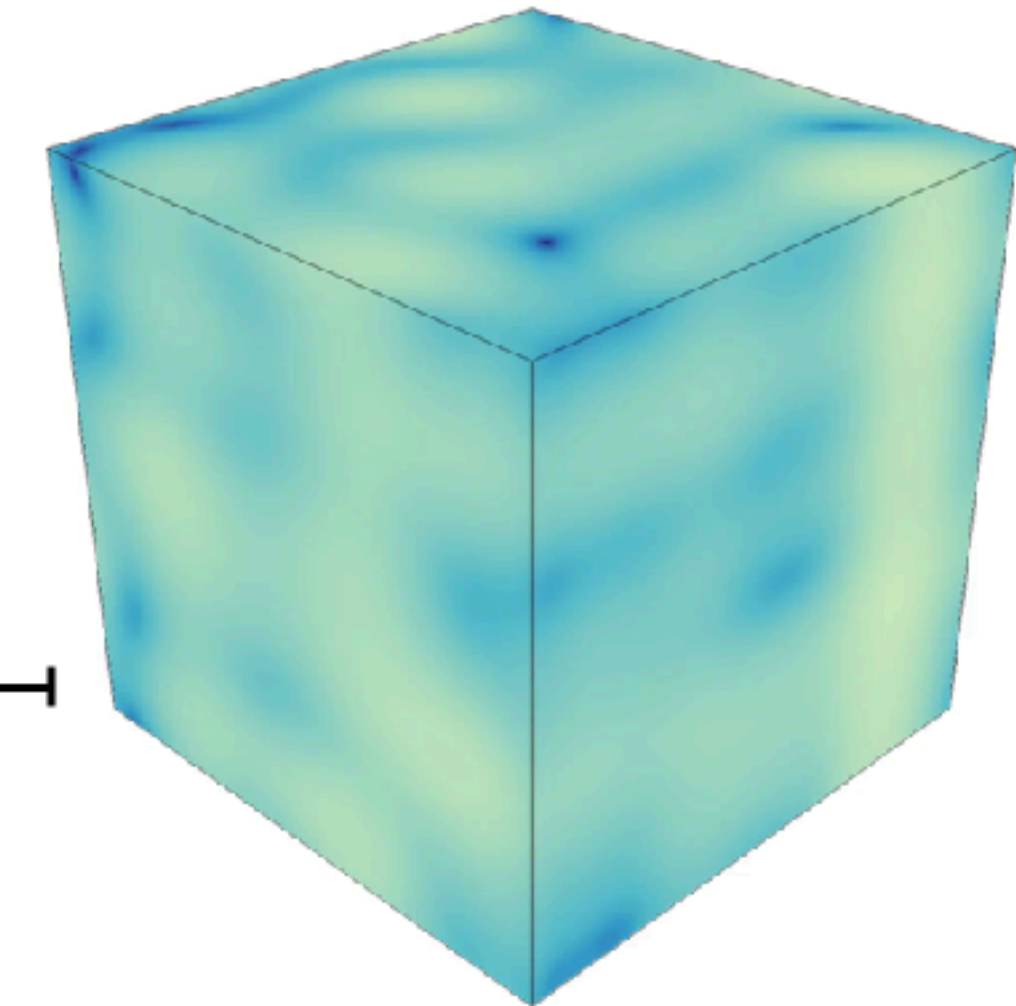
hybrid-kinetic particle-in-cell simulations using Pegasus

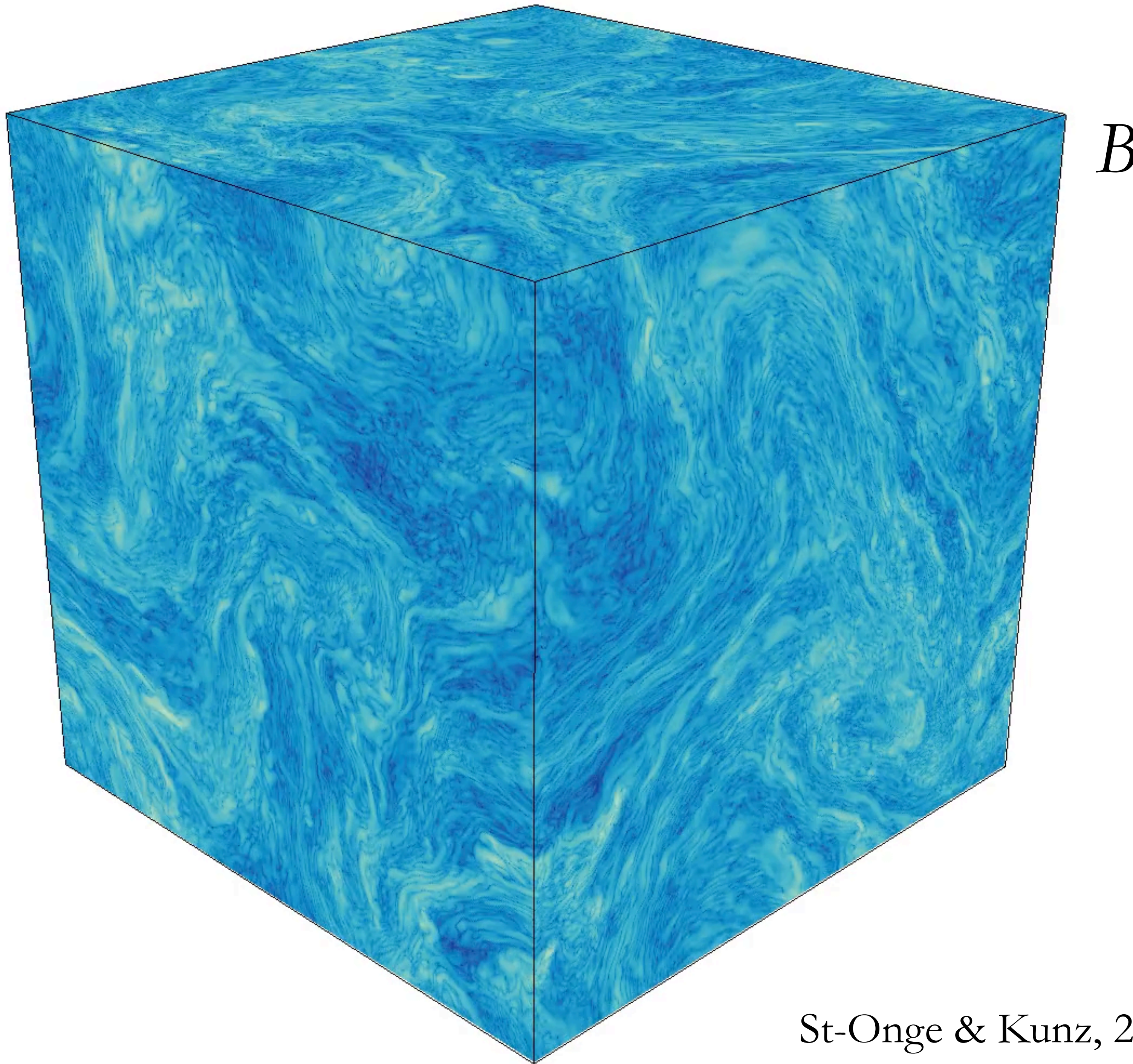


$$\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla f_i + \left[\frac{Z_i e}{m_i} \left(\mathbf{E} + \frac{\mathbf{v}}{c} \times \mathbf{B} \right) + \frac{\mathbf{F}}{m_i} \right] \cdot \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial \mathbf{v}} = 0 + \text{fluid equation for massless, isothermal electrons}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -c \nabla \times \mathbf{E} + \text{hyper-resistivity}$$

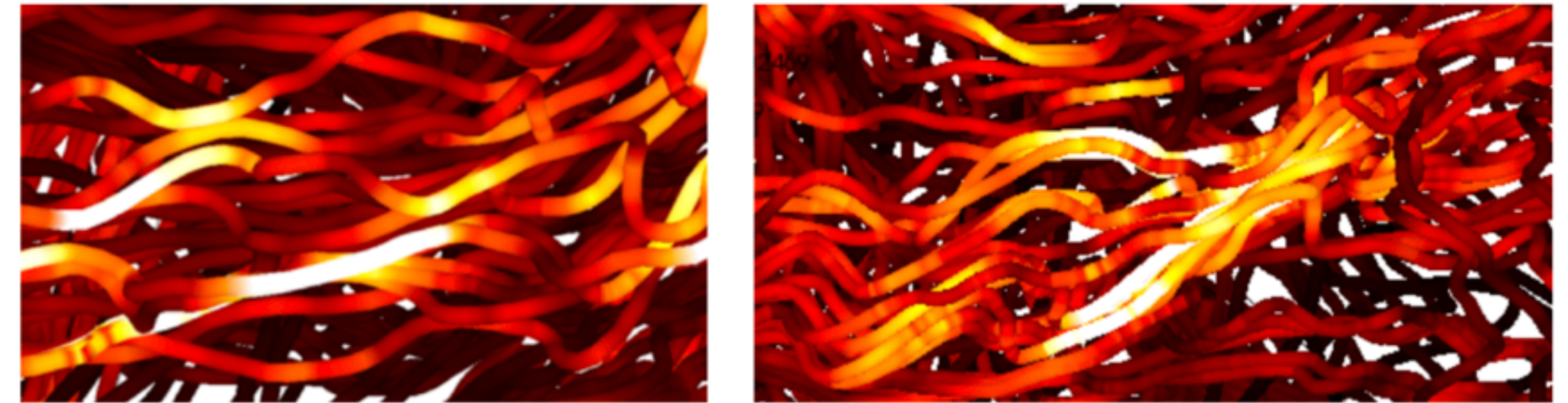
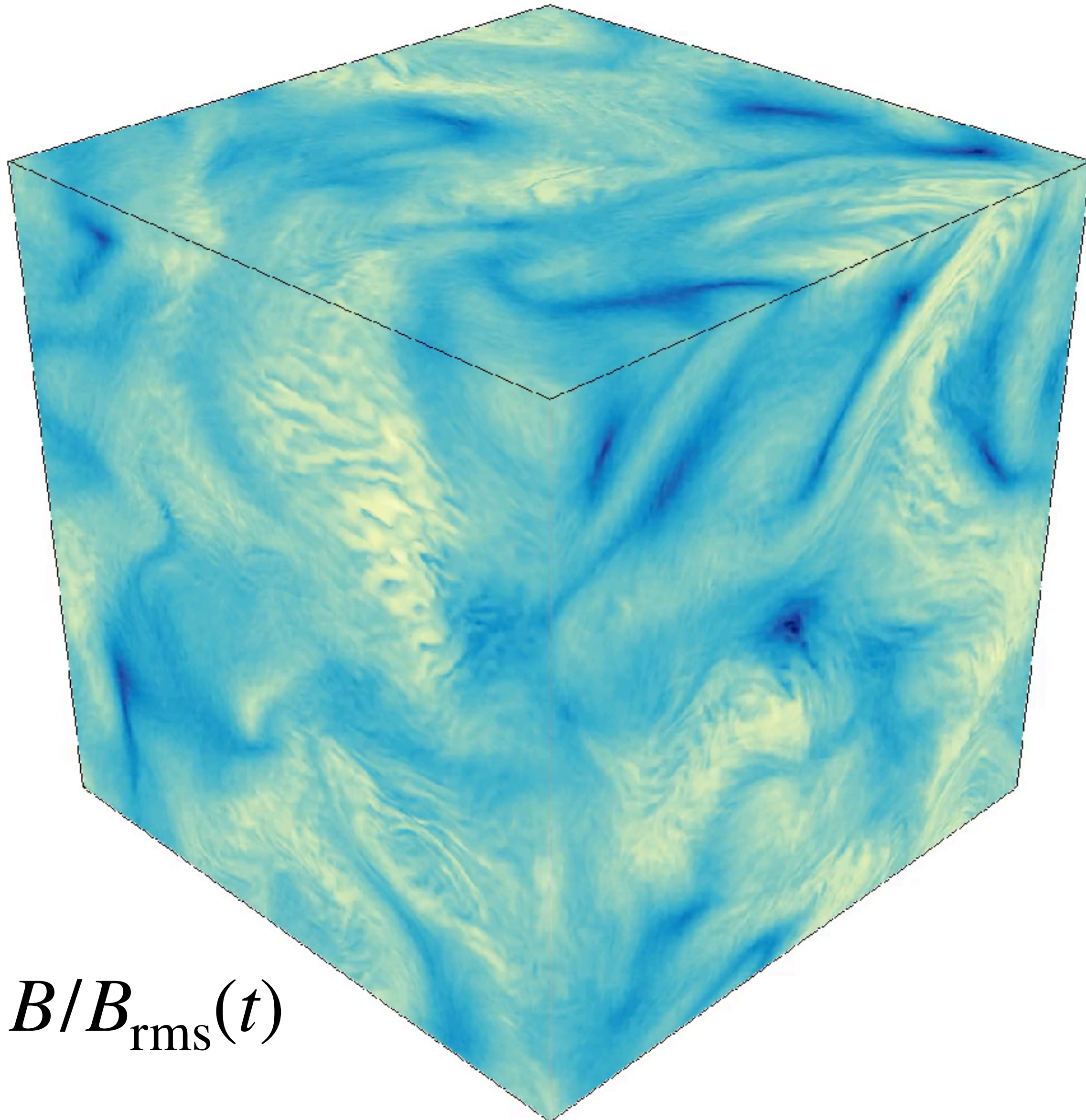
zero-net-flux magnetic field at the largest box scales,
subject to time-correlated incompressible, subsonic stirring
St-Onge & Kunz 2018, *ApJL*





St-Onge & Kunz, 2018 *ApJL*

1. Turbulent amplification of magnetic fields to dynamically important strengths is possible in a collisionless plasma. Ion-Larmor-scale kinetic instabilities supply effective collisionality and increase $\text{Re}_{\parallel}$.

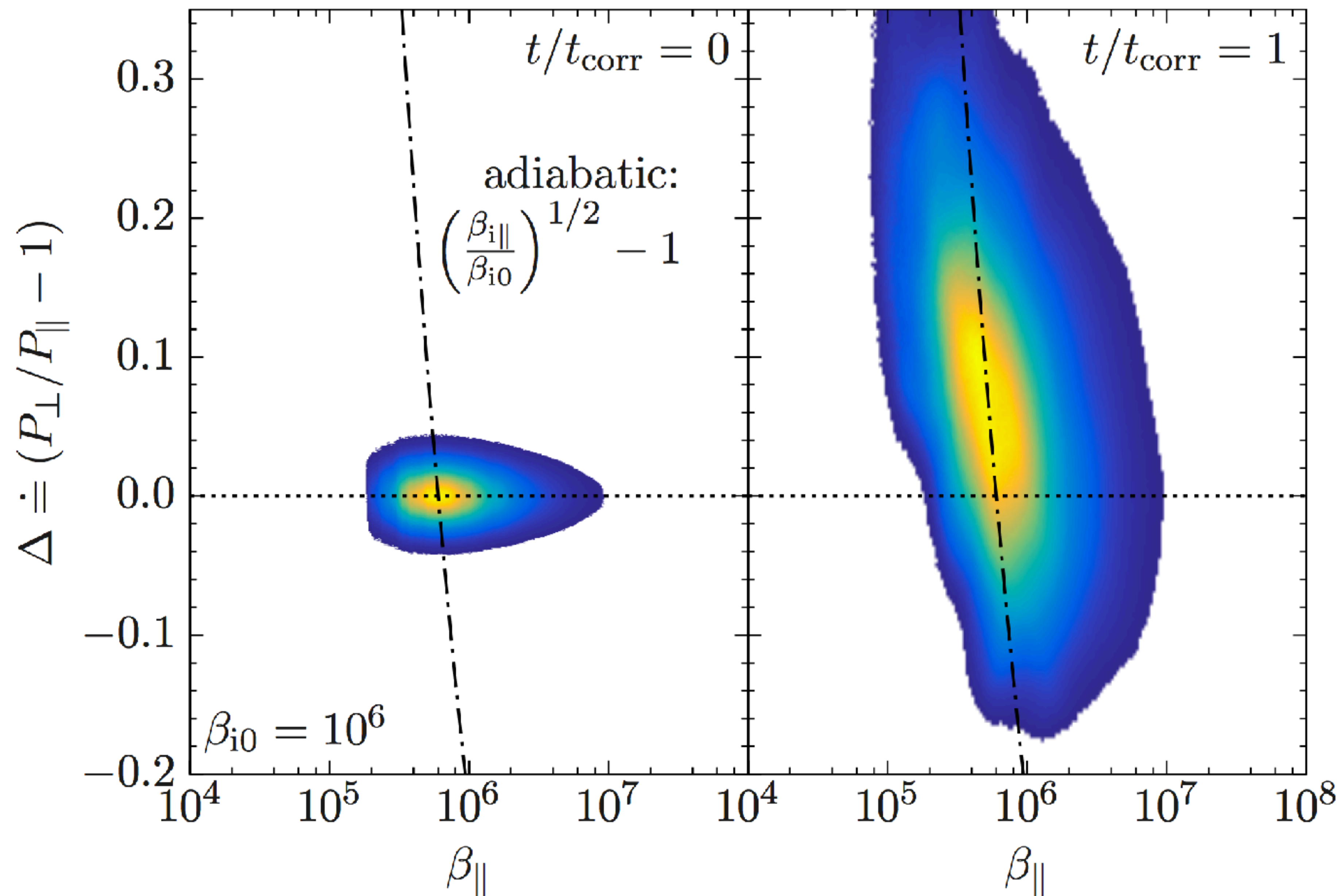


magnetic-field lines from a Pegasus simulation of plasma dynamo showing ion-Larmor-scale mirror instabilities (light/dark = weak/strong magnetic field)

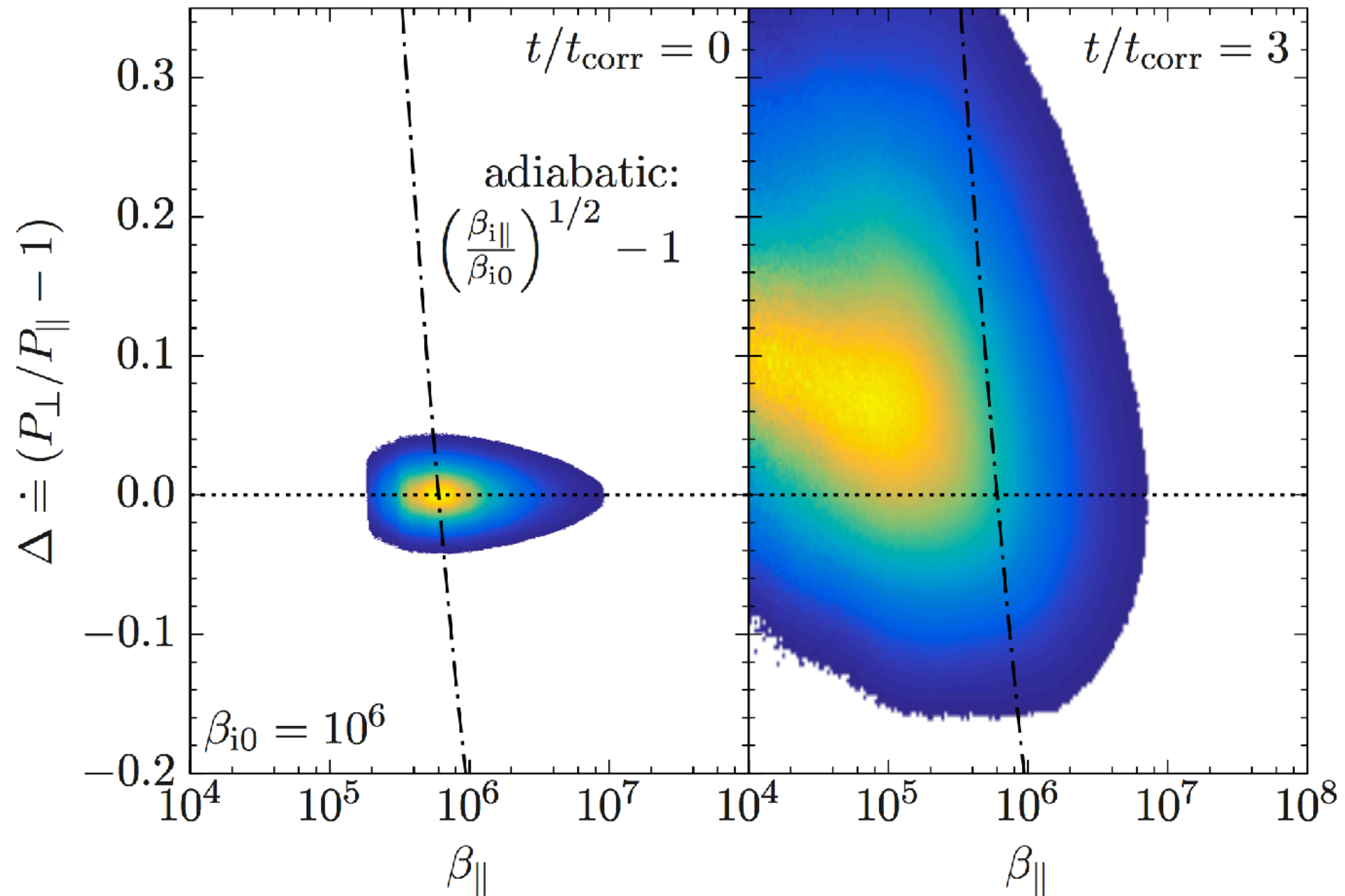


also seen in François Rincon's (2016, *PNAS*) plasma dynamo simulations

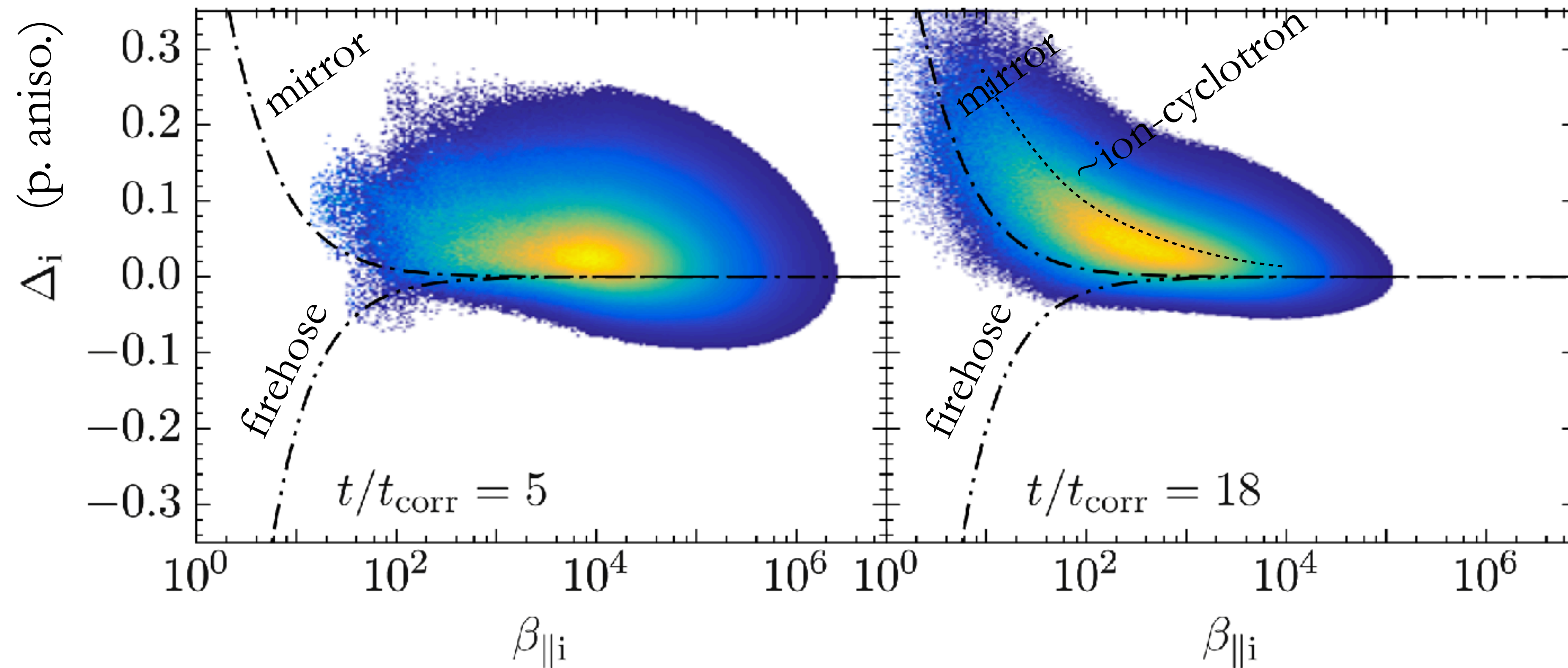
adiabatic evolution produces pressure anisotropy...



...which is relaxed by firehose/mirror instabilities.



throughout exponential-growth phase, p. aniso. knows about thresholds



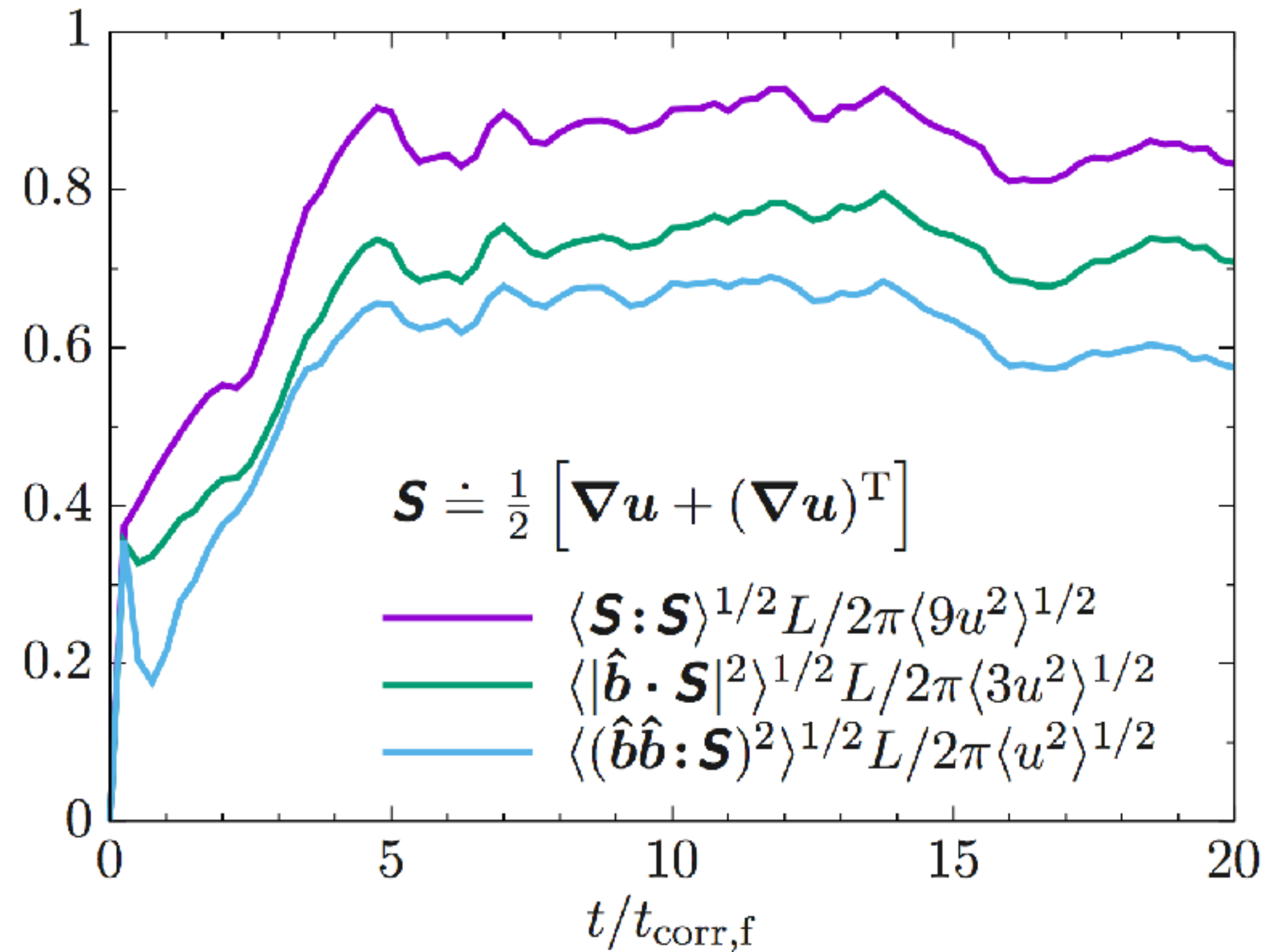
firehose/mirror instabilities limit

(though not completely)

departures from thermodynamic equilibrium

2. There is no true “kinematic” phase... B , no matter how weak, influences the flow.

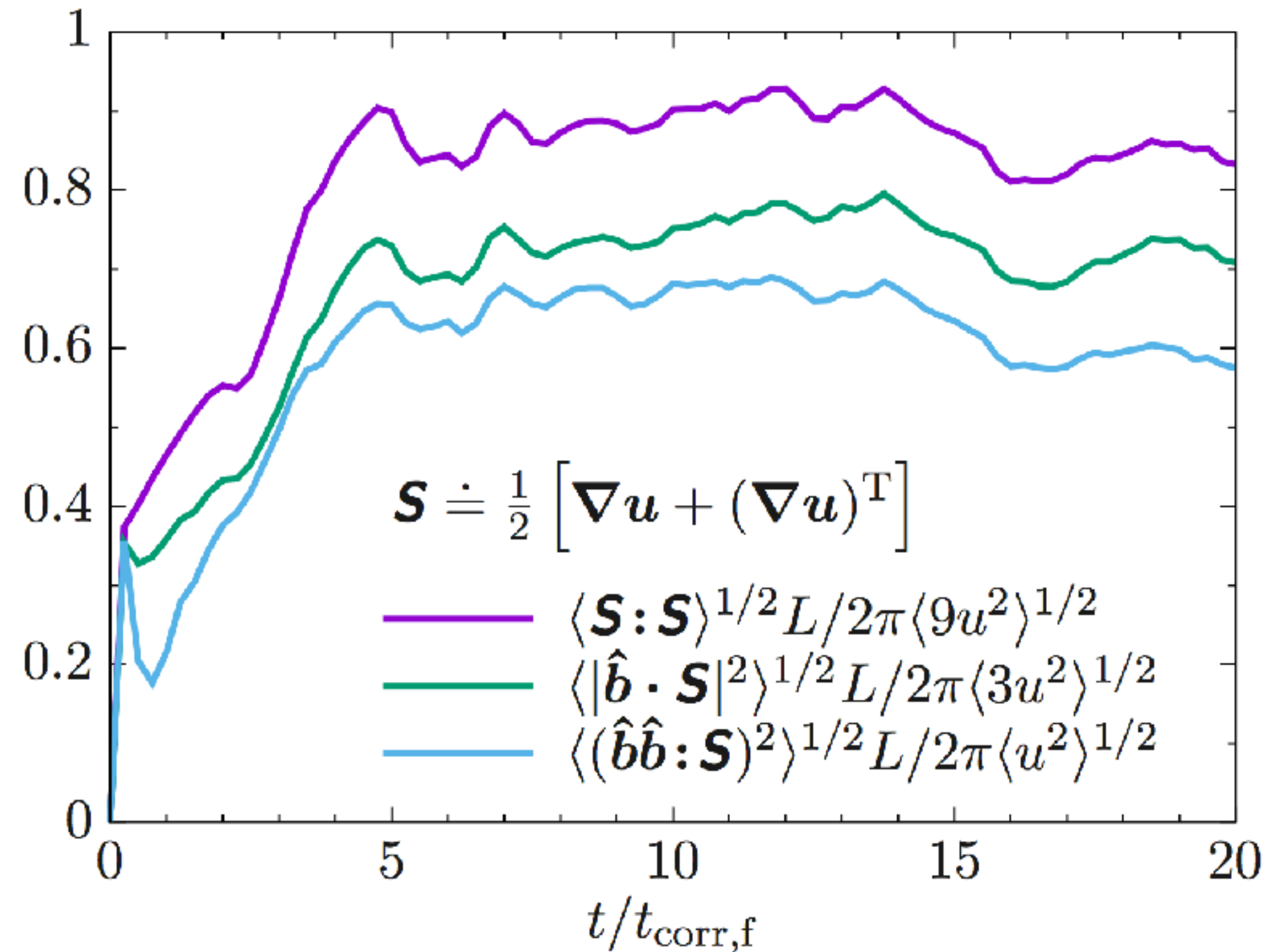
total rate of strain $\gg$ field-parallel rate of strain



certain motions are preferred over others:
viscosity is **anisotropic**, as though the plasma
were weakly collisional and magnetized
(à la Braginskii 1965)

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total rate of strain $\gg$ field-parallel rate of strain



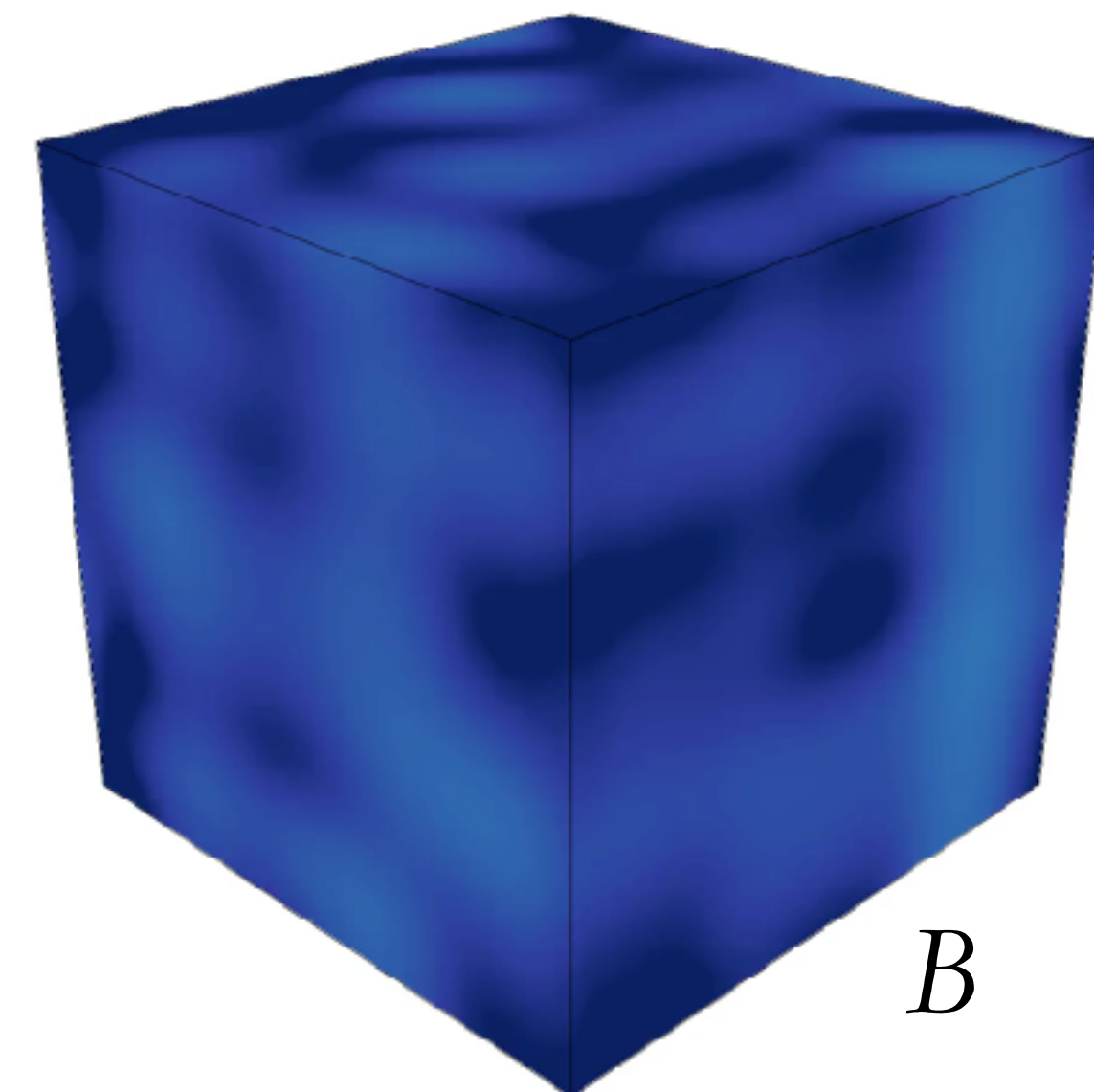
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viscosity is **anisotropic**, as though the plasma
were weakly collisional and magnetized
(à la Braginskii 1965)

leveraged to:

- i. perform & analyze (w. novel diagnostics)
a large number of Braginskii-MHD
simulations of plasma dynamo;
- ii. construct analytic modified Kazantsev-
Kraichnan model for field evolution
(supplants Mal'ushkin & Kulsrud 2001)

$$\langle u^i(t, r) u^j(t', r') \rangle = \delta(t - t') \kappa^{ij}(r - r')$$

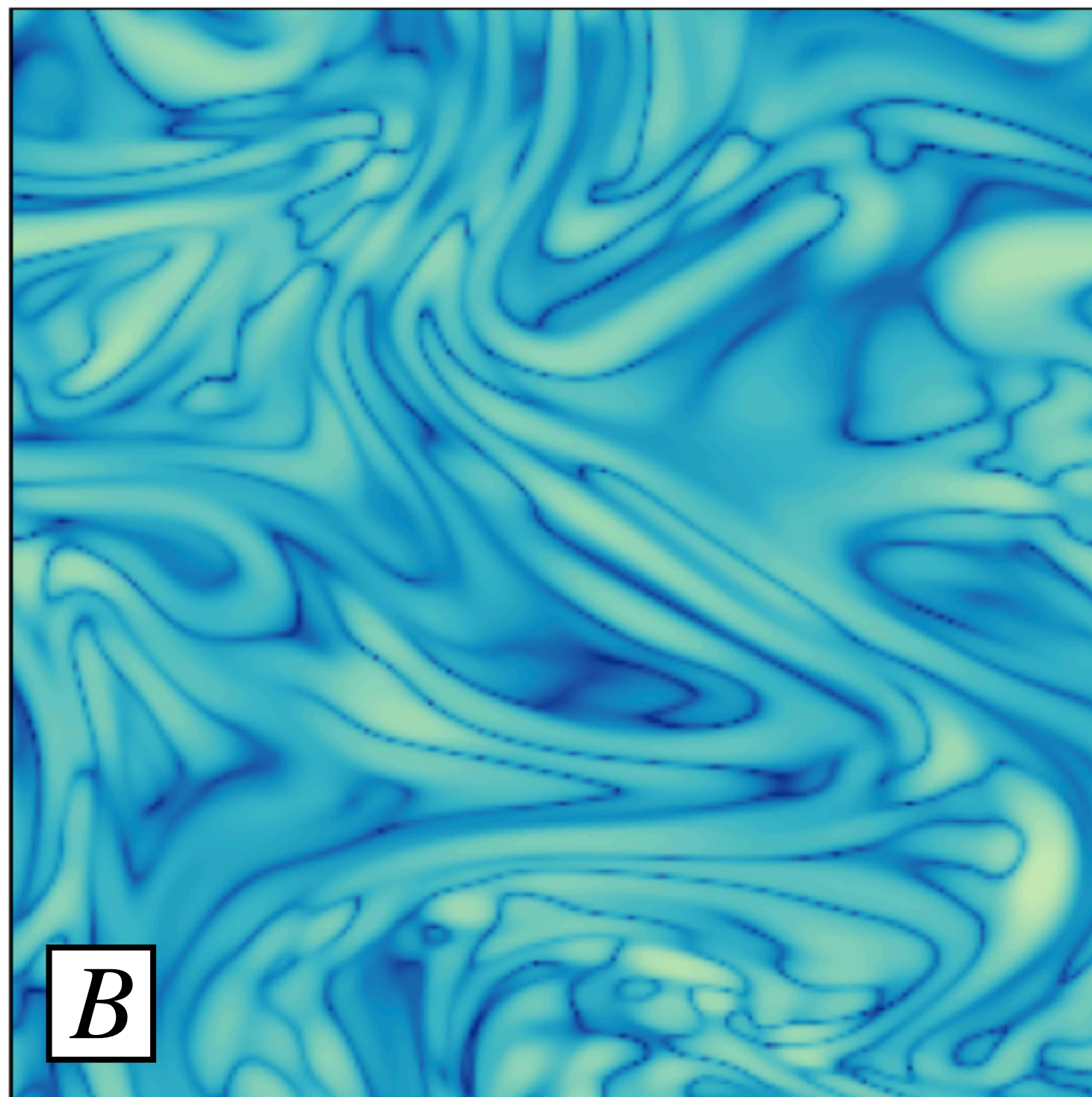
(St-Onge, Kunz *et al.* 2020, *JPP*)



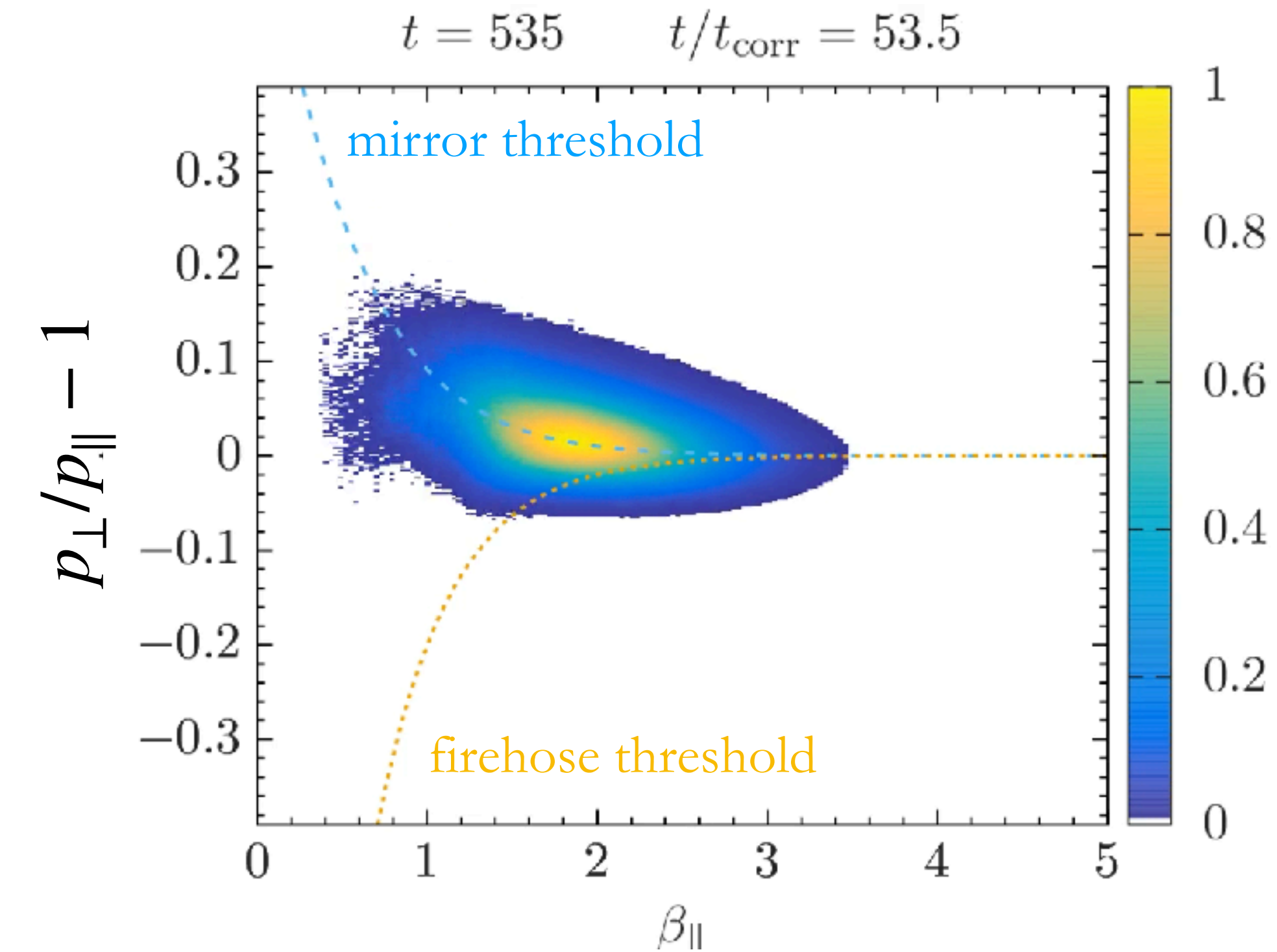
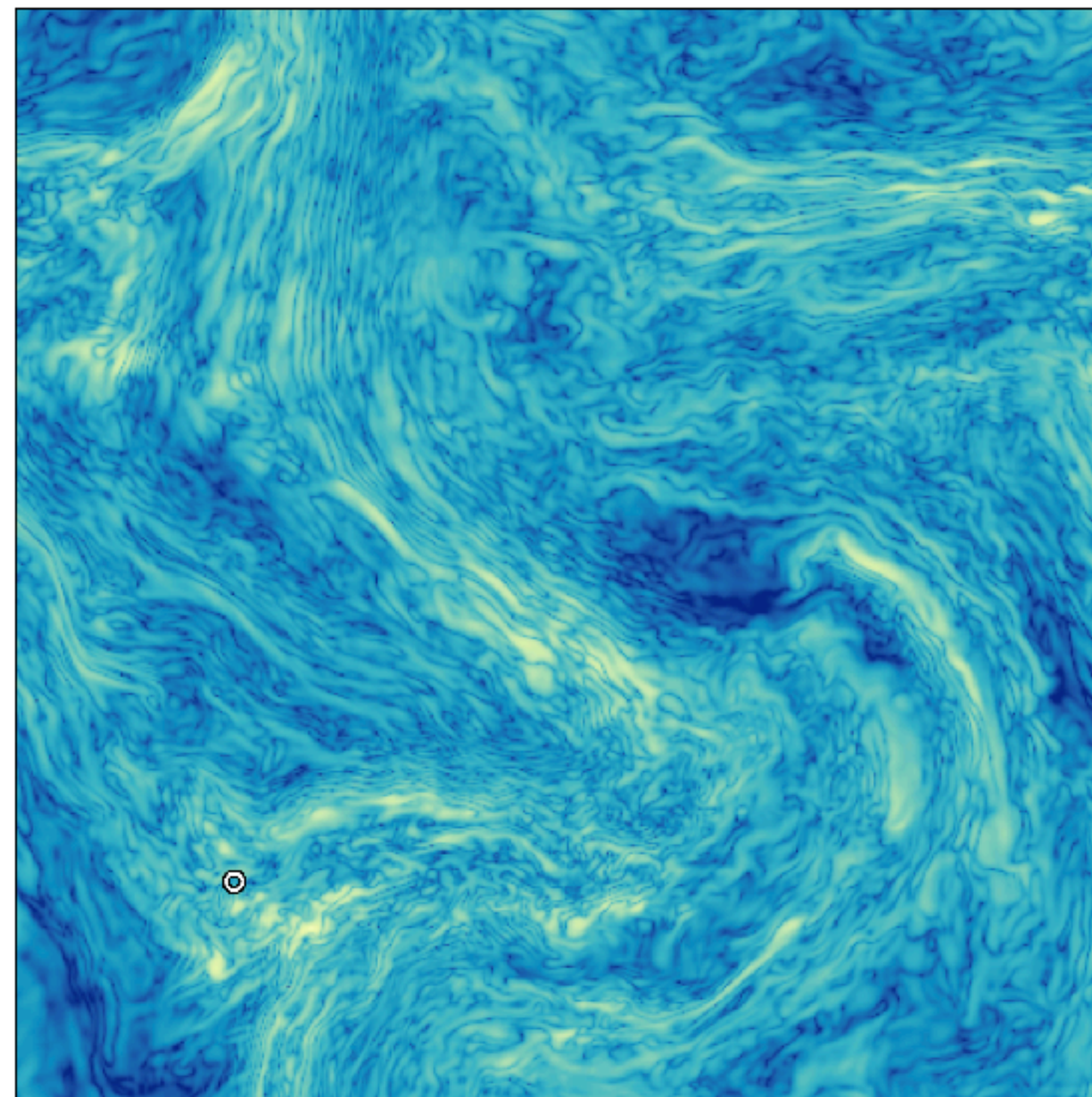
3. In many respects, behaves as though it were a $P_m \gg 1$ MHD dynamo:
exponential growth, Kazantsev-like spectrum, folded magnetic fields, saturates with $\langle B^2 \rangle \sim \langle u^2 \rangle$

...because pressure anisotropy is regulated

MHD ($P_m = 500$)

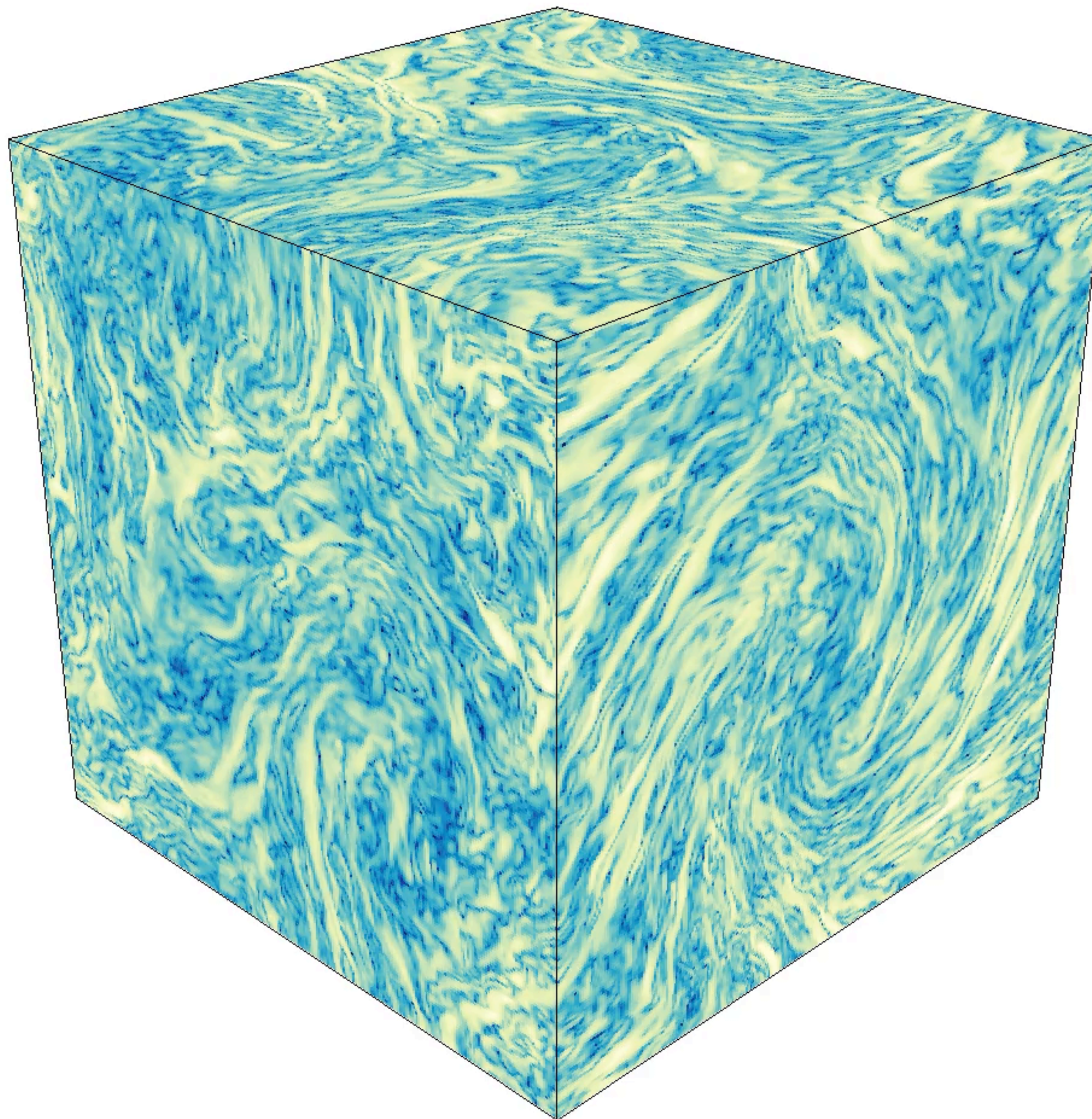


Kinetic

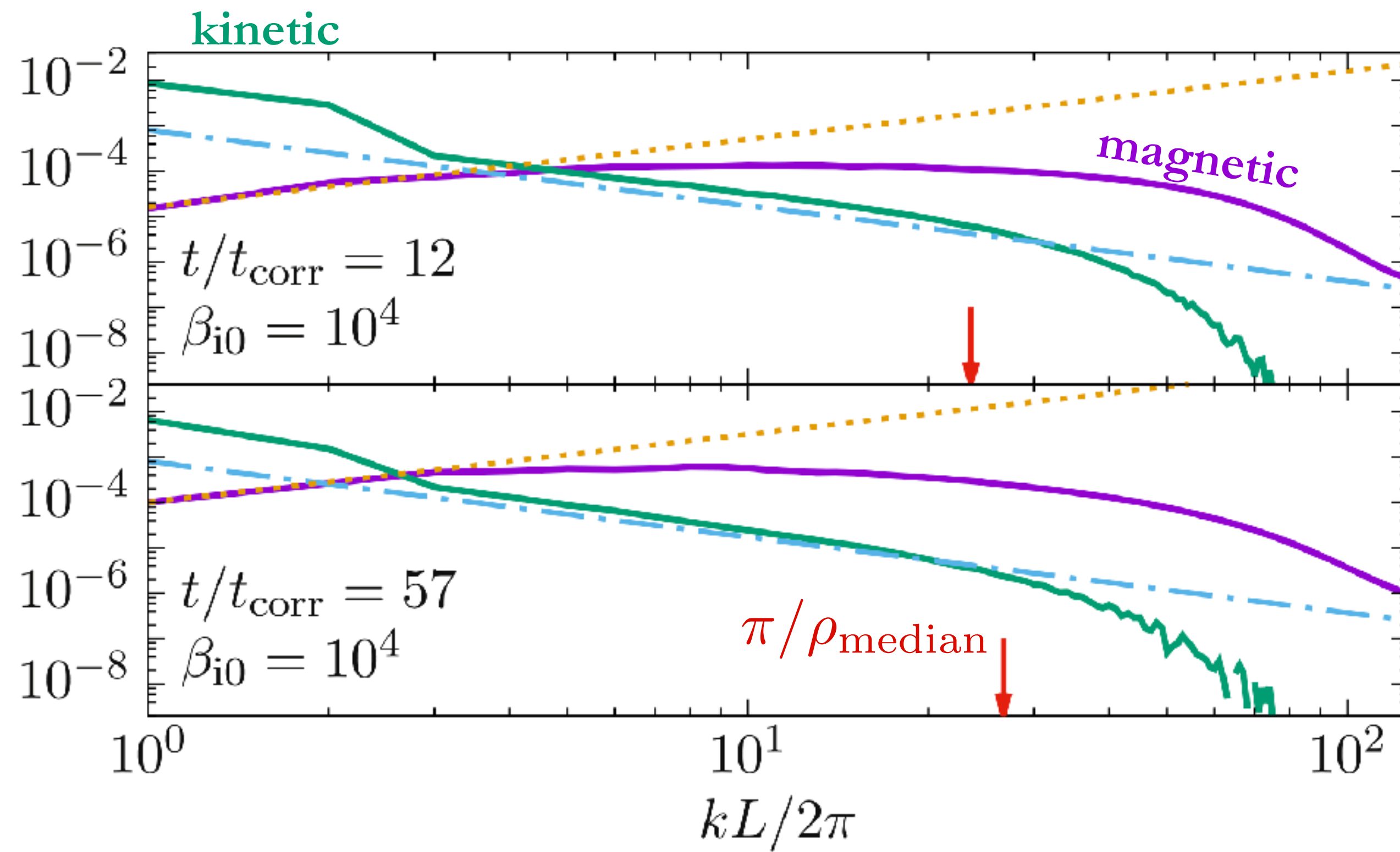


(take off your glasses)

we did a separate run that reached nonlinear and saturation regimes

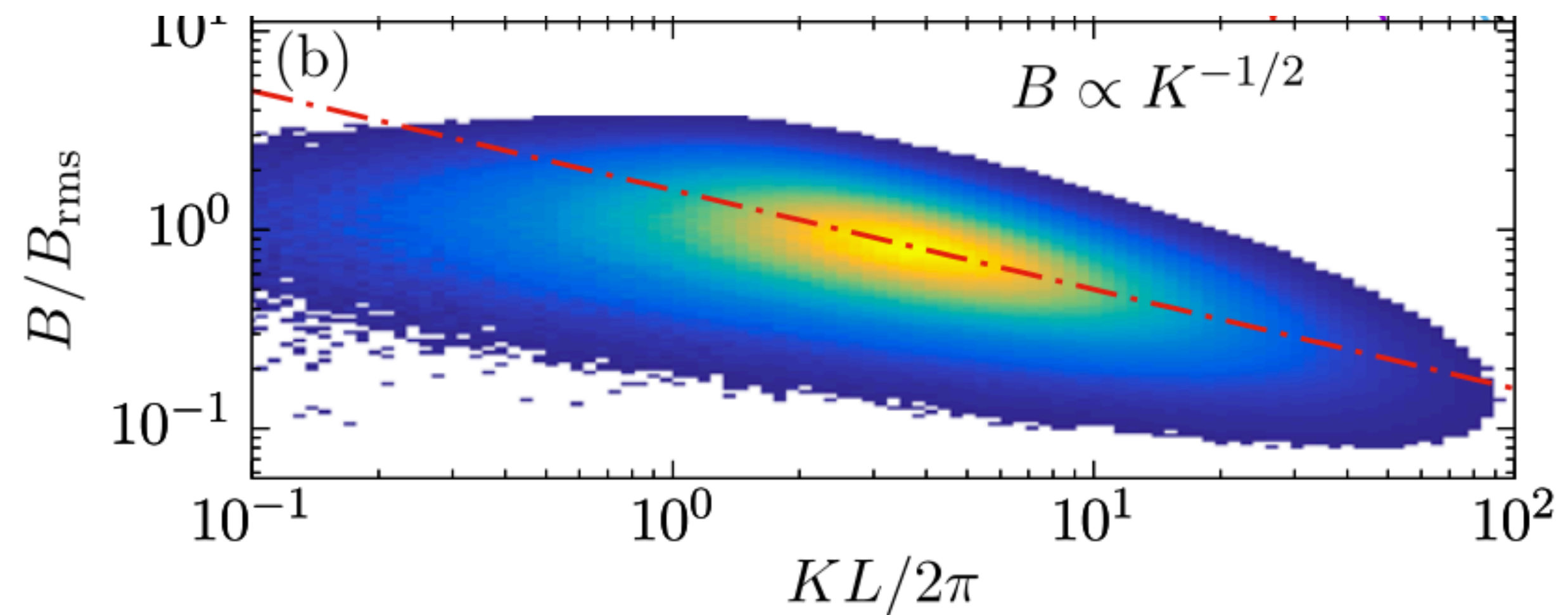


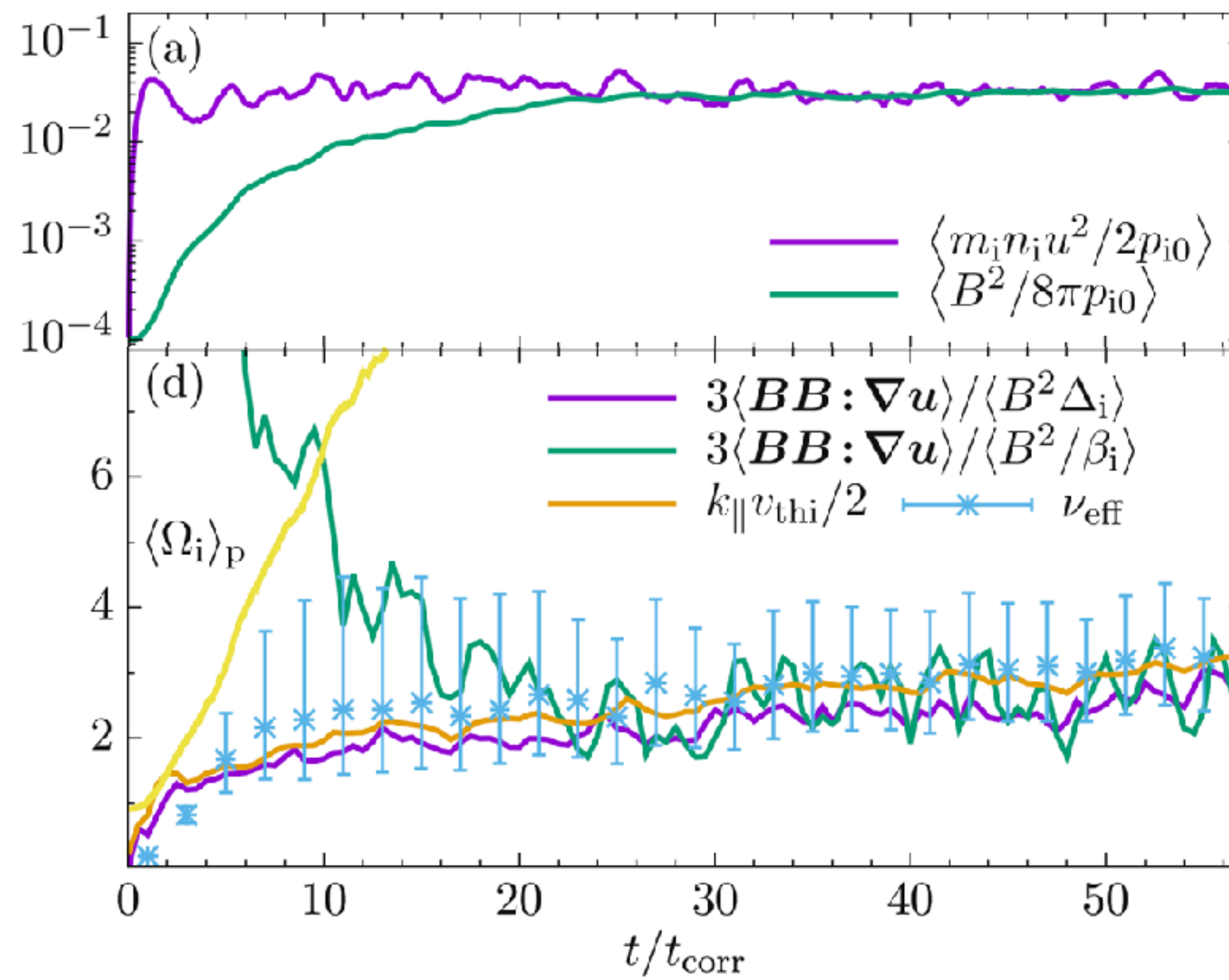
B



magnetic power
migrates to
larger scales,
above resistive
and Larmor

anti-correlation
between B and
field-line
curvature K
(i.e., folds, as
in $\text{Pm} \gg 1$)

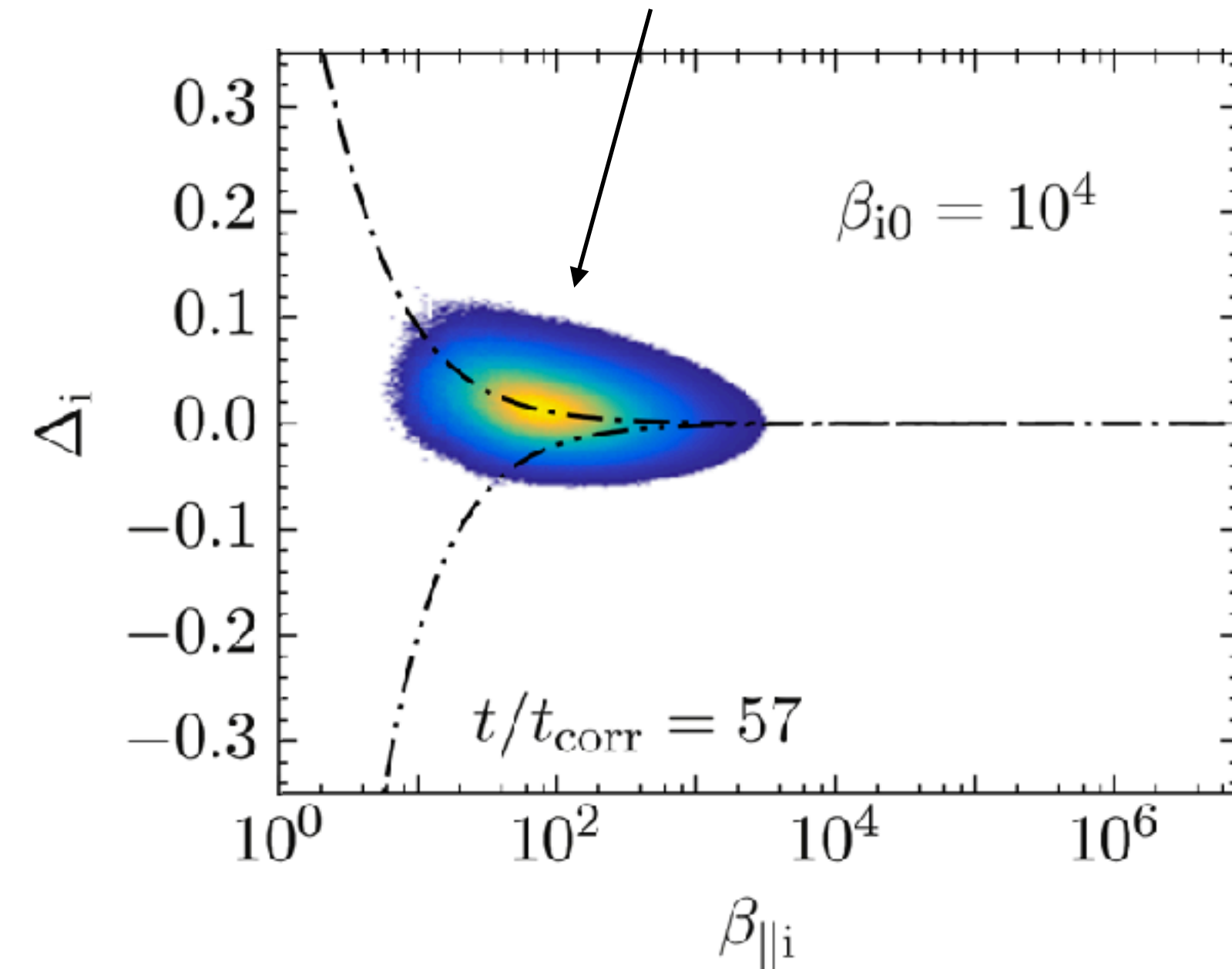




$$\langle B^2 \rangle \sim \langle u^2 \rangle$$

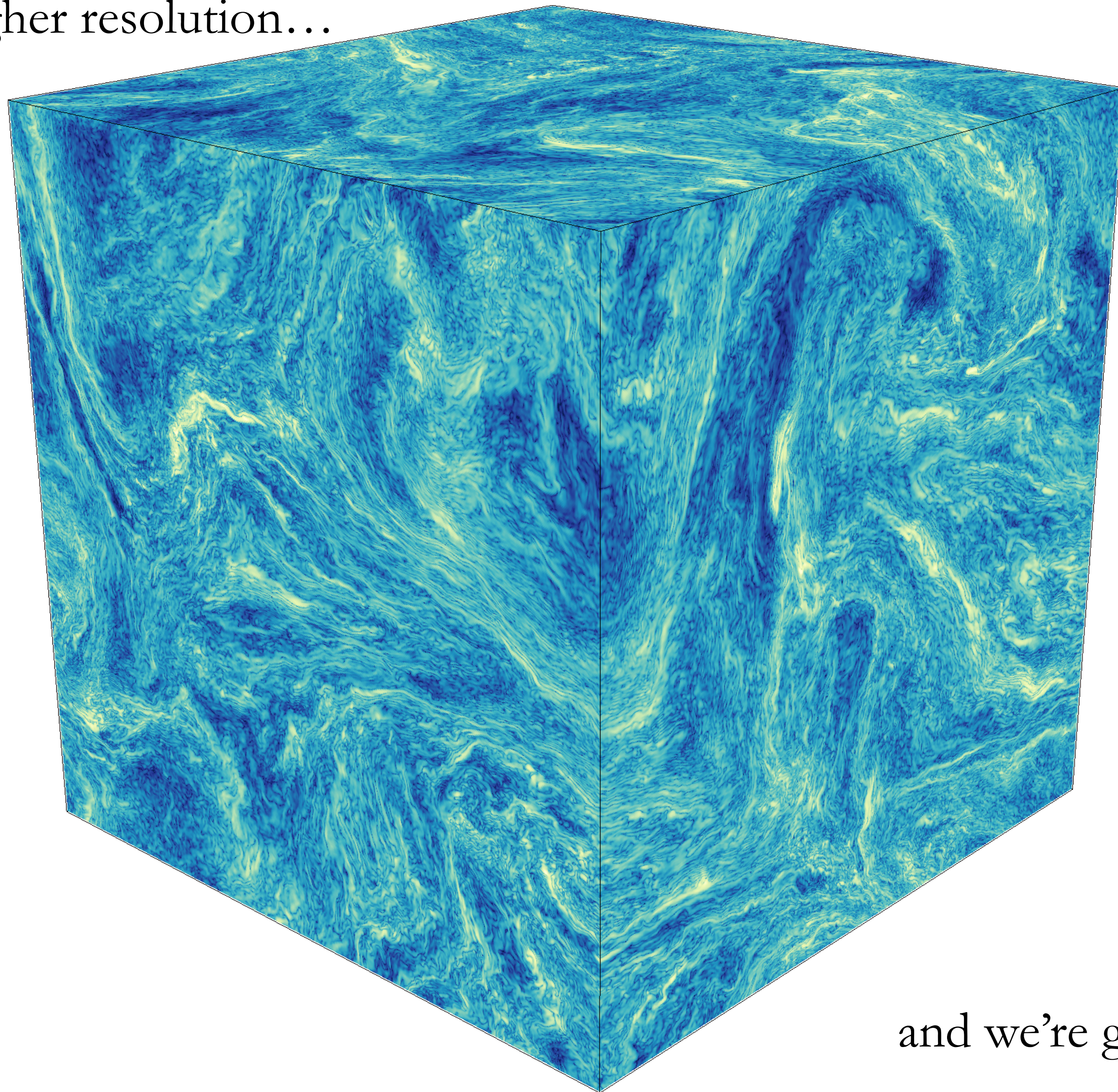
$$\text{collisionality} \sim \frac{\parallel \text{flow}}{\text{shear}} \times \beta$$

implies tight regulation of p. aniso.
which is indeed seen



problem for testing explosive growth idea:
explosive growth is predicted to onset
in this run just as saturation occurs,
an issue of limited scale separation

at even higher resolution...
 1008^3



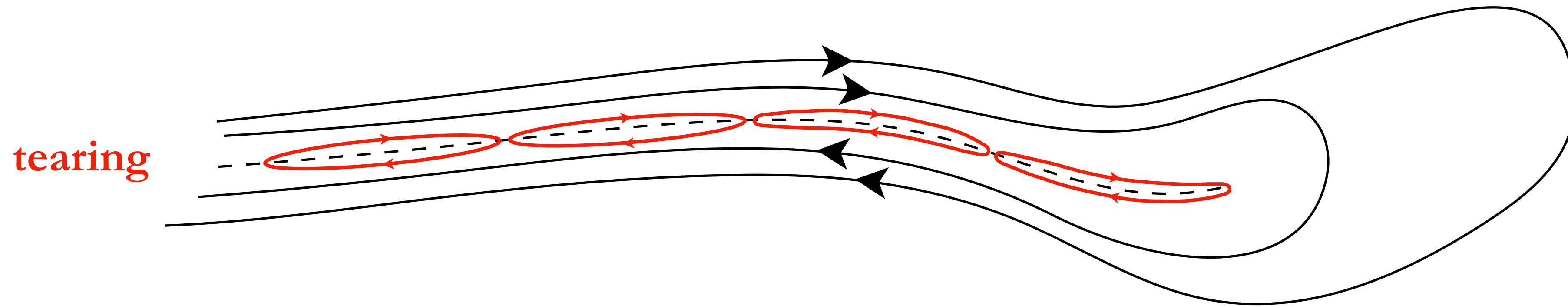
B

and we're going to $\sim 2000^3$ now

some take-aways on **plasma dynamo**

- Turbulent dynamo works in a collisionless plasma (see also Rincon *et al.* 2016), a non-trivial statement! Dynamically strong cosmic magnetic fields owe their existence to kinetic plasma instabilities.
- In many respects, collisionless magnetized plasma behaves as though it were weakly collisional, magnetized fluid with $Pm \gg 1$. Larmor-scale instabilities easily triggered, induce effective collisionality, and limit departures from LTE; wave-particle interactions supplant particle-particle interactions.
- β -dependent effective viscosity. Modified viscous scale $\ell_{\parallel, \text{visc}} \sim L M_A^{-3} \sim 3 \text{ kpc}$ in Coma
(which explains I. Zhuravleva's X-ray observations of extended turbulence spectrum ...
galaxy clusters are becoming informative laboratories for frontier plasma physics!)
- β -dependent effective viscosity implies fast turbulent generation of ICM magnetic field
(we are continuing investigation of *magnetogenesis and dynamo across cosmic time* through NSF CAREER award)
- Hybrid-kinetic and Braginskii-MHD simulations performed and analyzed. Some fun new diagnostics. Some aspects of Braginskii-MHD simulations match behavior in kinetic runs (closure?)

A recent wrinkle in the story...



view of $\text{Pm} \gg 1$ dynamo as efficient generator of thin, elongated current sheets

Simple theory for tearing disruption of folds:

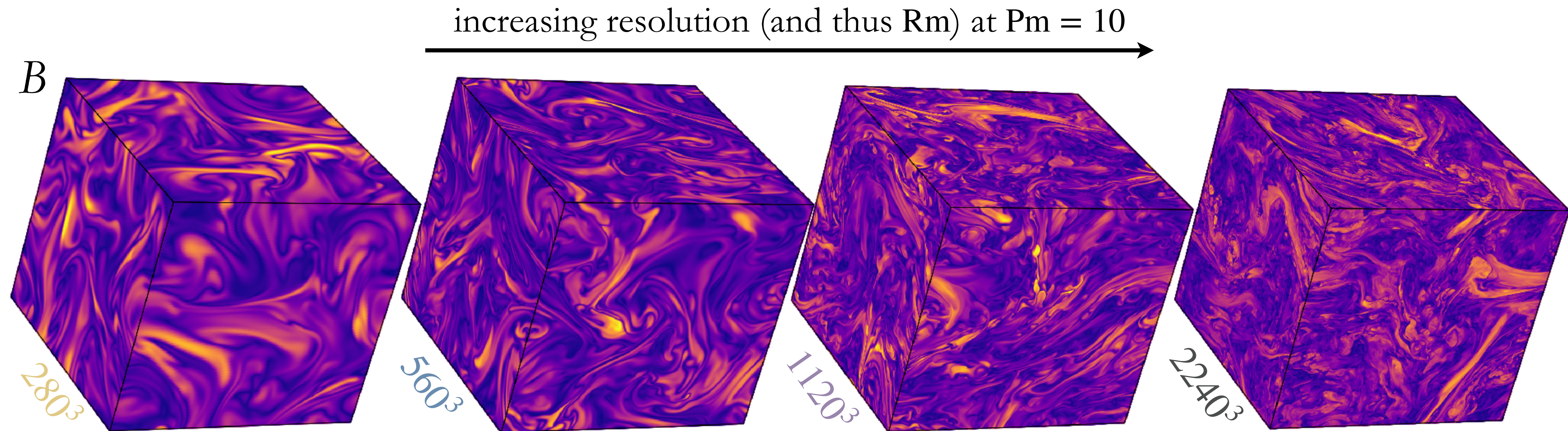
timescale for disruption $\lesssim \min(\text{lifetime of magnetic fold, diffusive timescale})$?

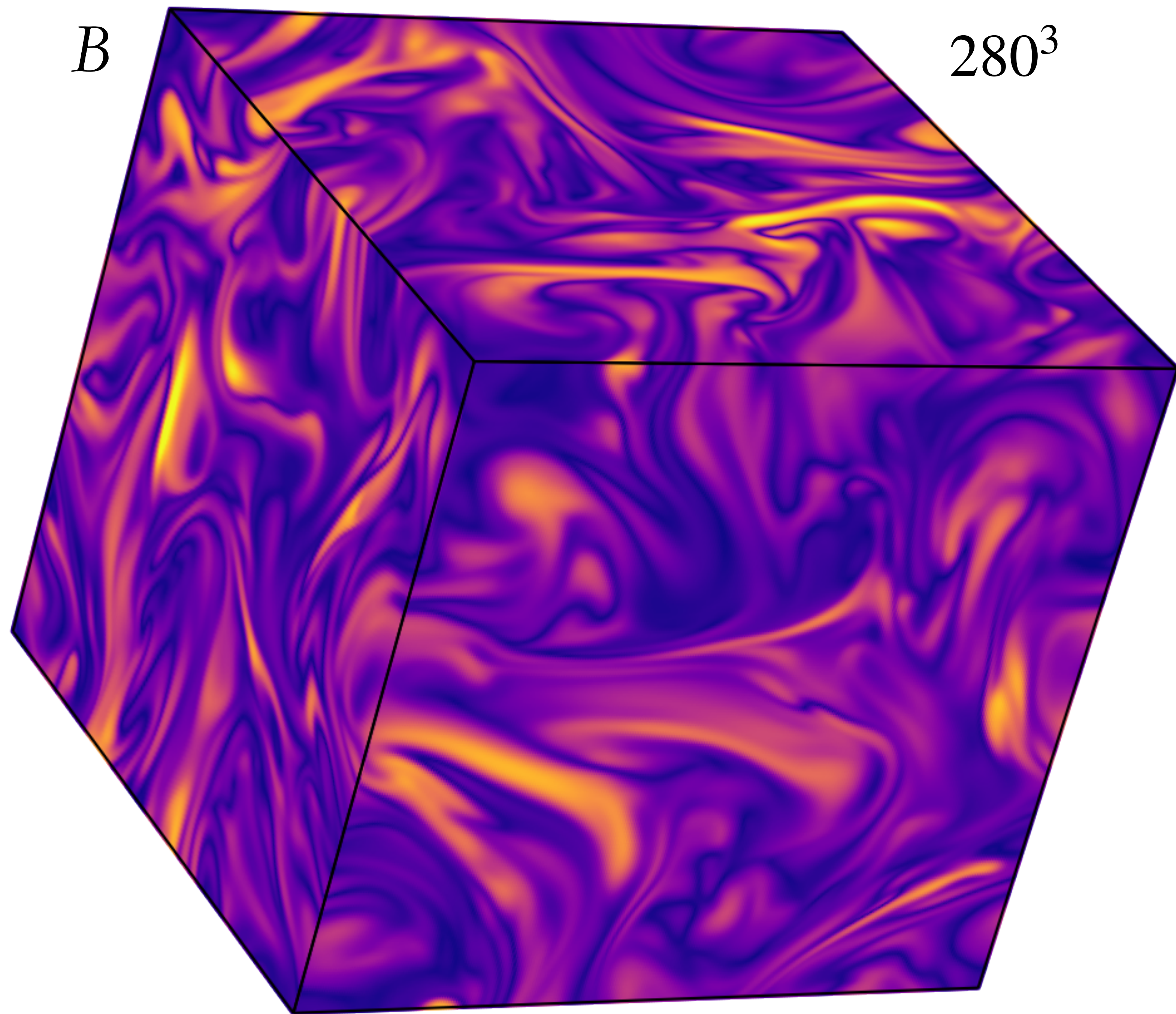
(Galishnikova, Kunz & Schekochihin 2022; Schekochihin, *JPP* review of MHD turbulence)

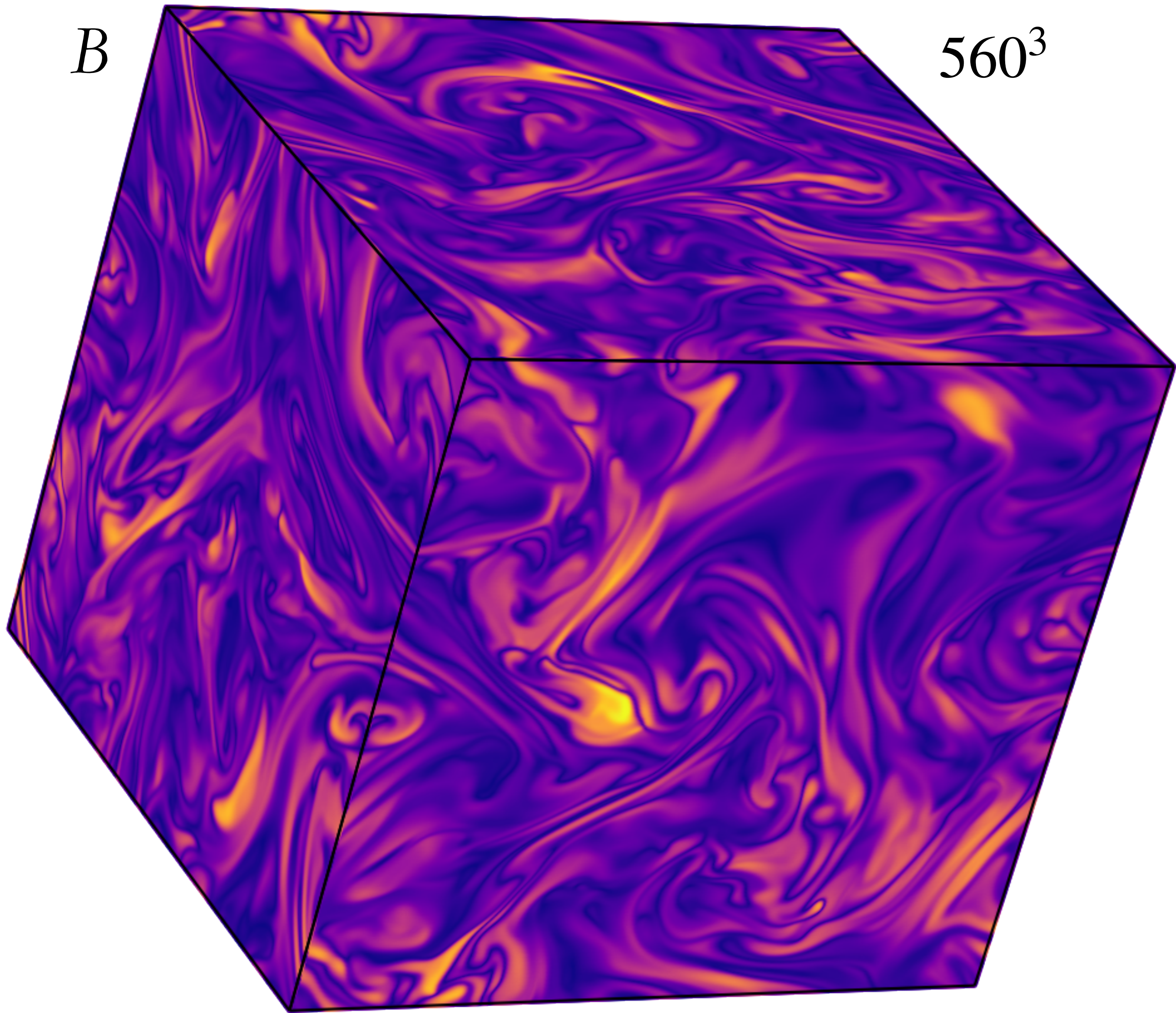
Can show that tearing is *always* slower than resistive diffusion during kinematic stage, but that $\gamma_t \tau_\eta \gtrsim 1$ in nonlinear stage.

In saturated state, $\gamma_t \gtrsim U/L$ implies tearing of folds beneath
“tearing scale” $\lambda_* \sim L \text{Rm}^{-3/10} (1 + \text{Pm})^{-1/5}$

→ magnetic folds in saturation should be broken up into islands

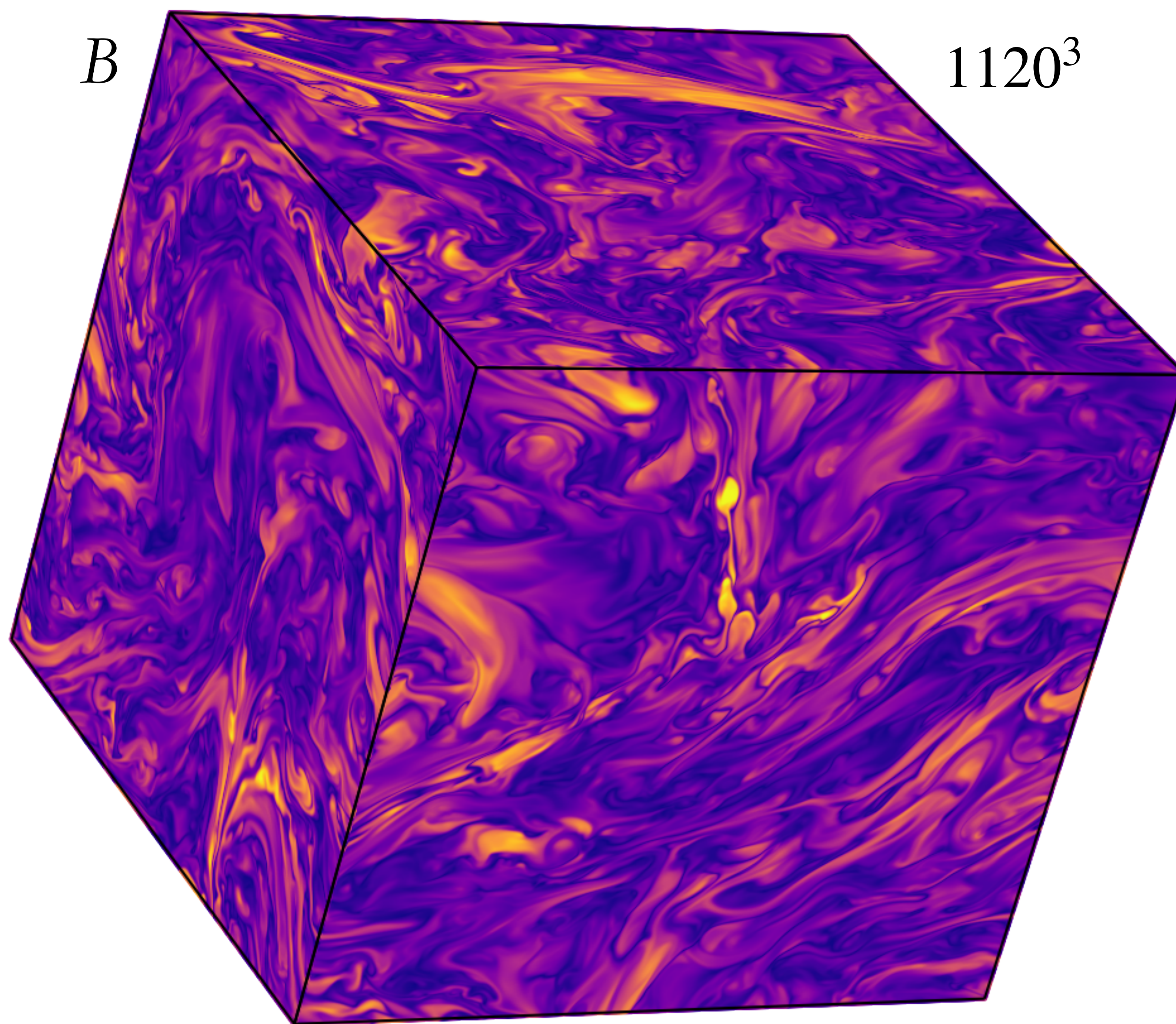


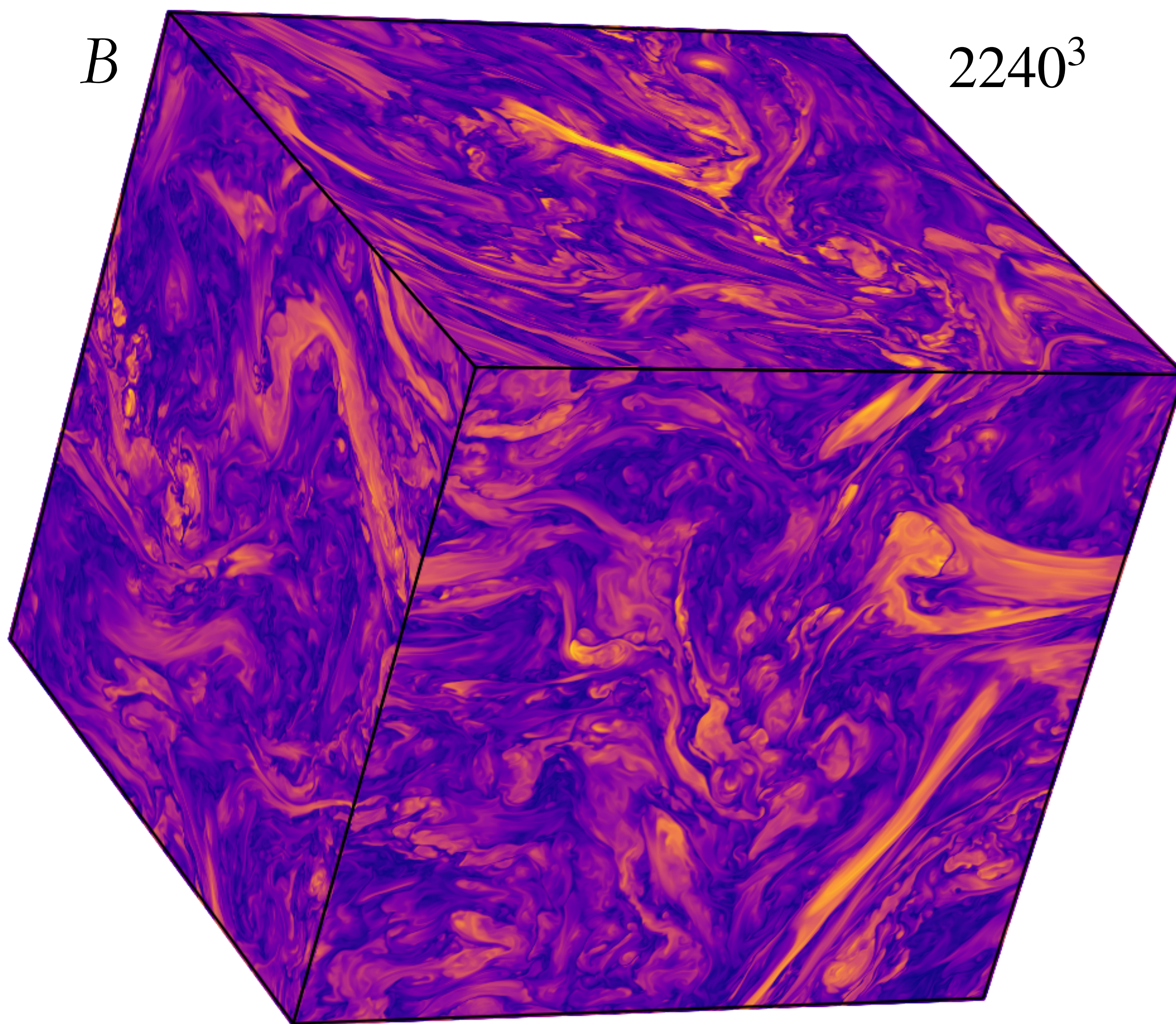




B

560^3

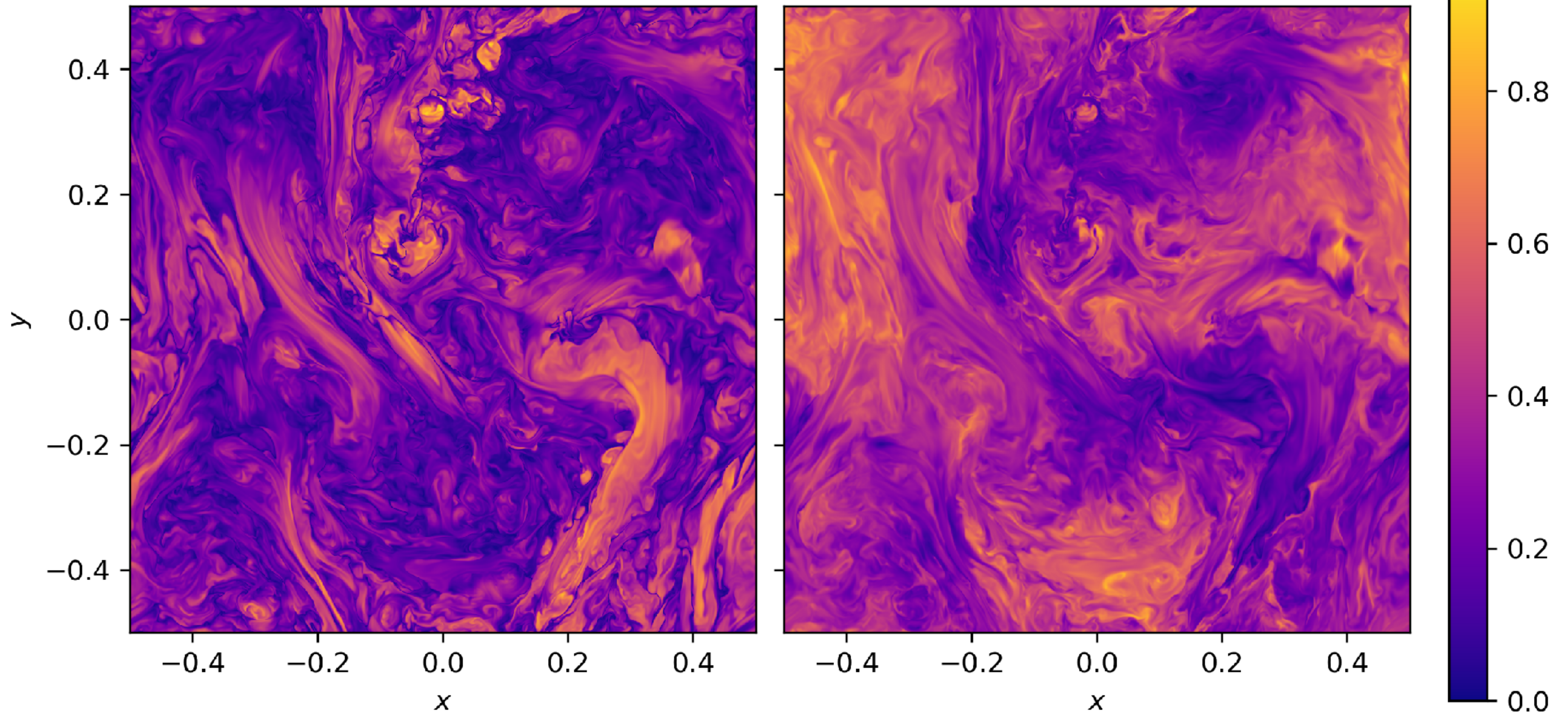




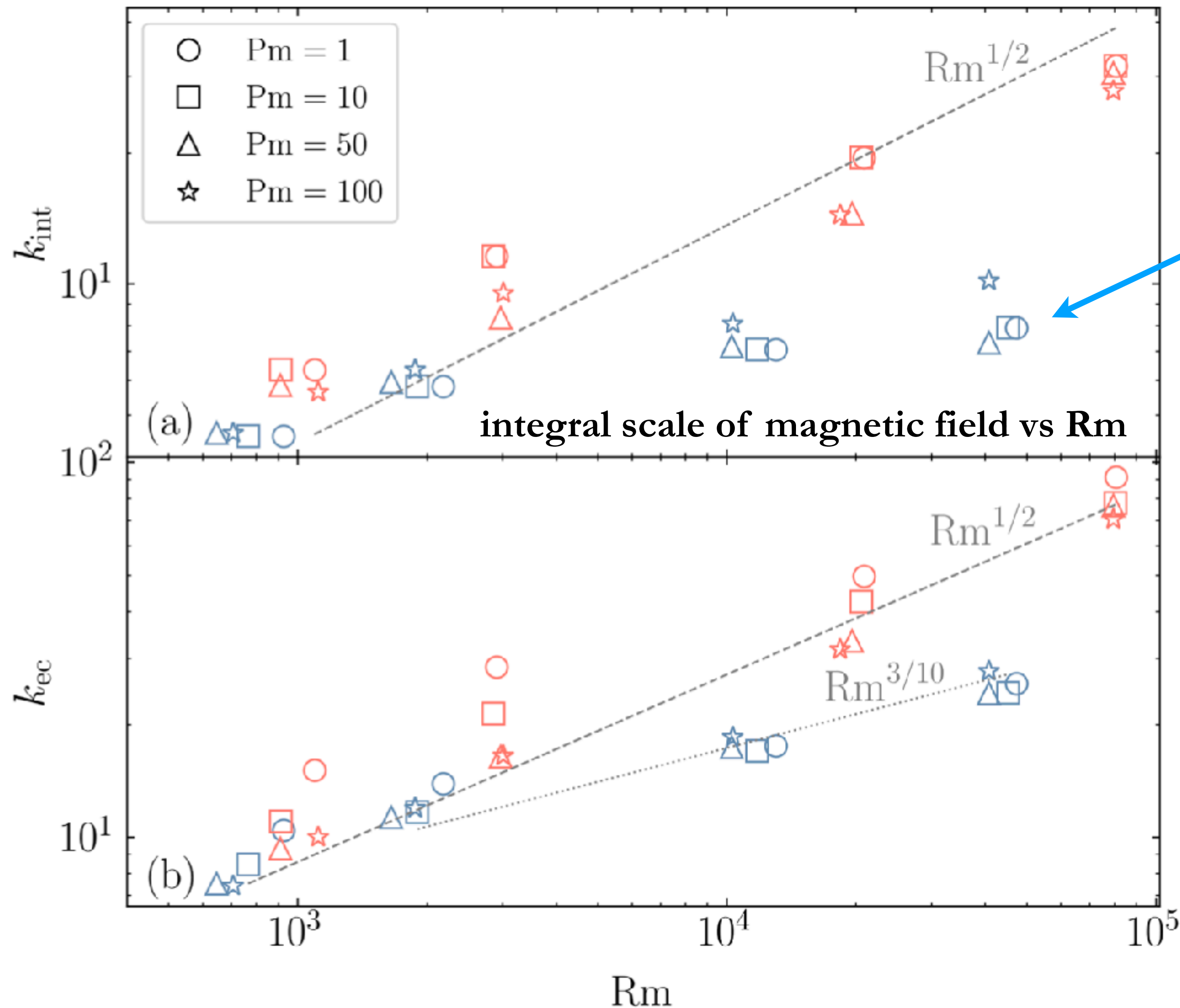
at 2240^3 , $\text{Pm} = 10$

B

u



BONUS!



peak of the magnetic
energy spectrum

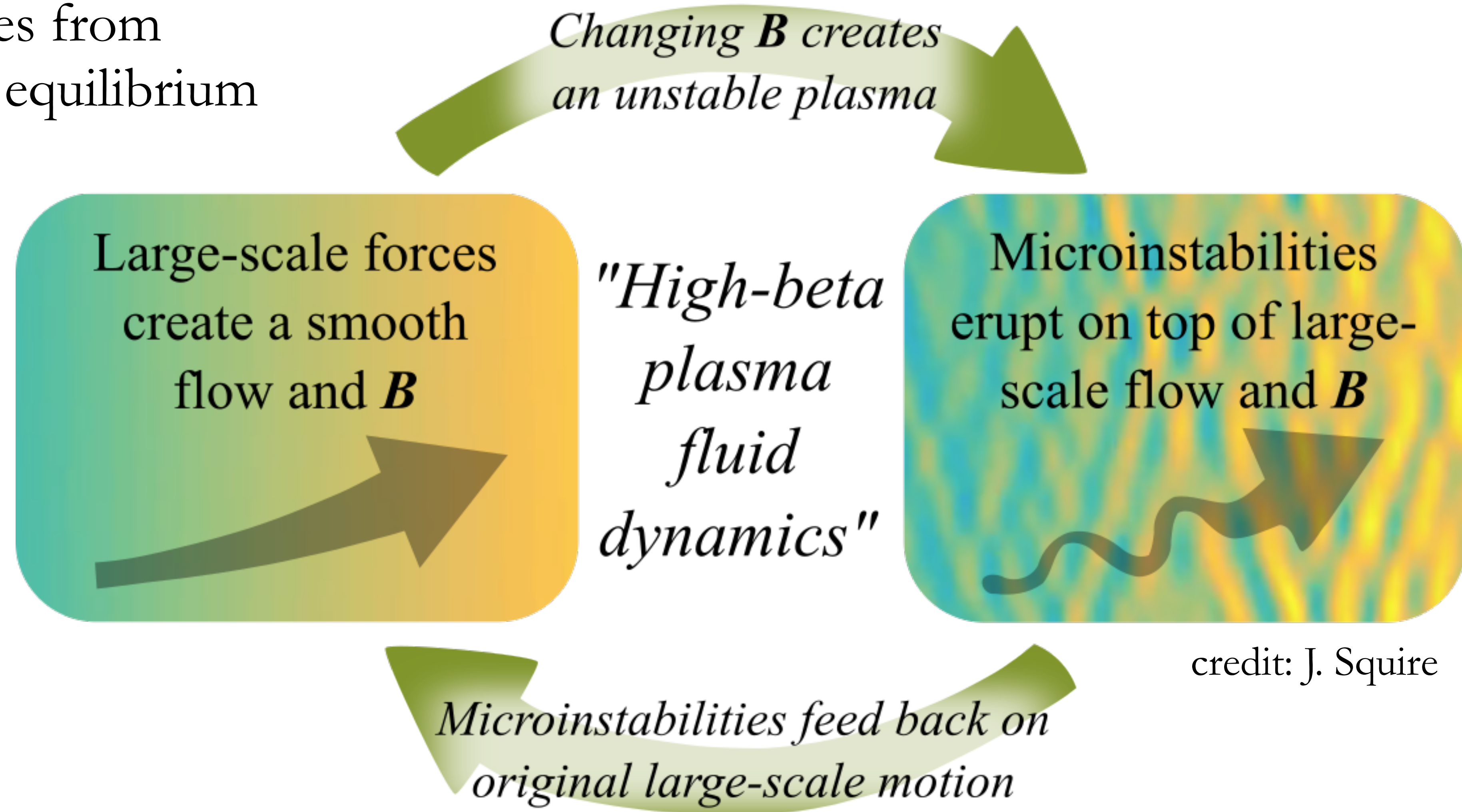
in saturated state is
independent of R_m
at large R_m and low P_m ,
within a factor of a few
of driving scale

new numerical result,
comports with old
theoretical suspicions

(Biermann & Schlüter, Subramanian, Beresnyak)
and ICM observations (what little there are...)

see Galishnikova, Kunz & Schekochihin for more

plasma dynamo is just one example:
kinetic Larmor-scale instabilities
restore fluid-like behavior to
collisionless systems by
limiting departures from
local thermodynamic equilibrium



credit: J. Squire

see US plasma decadal white paper by Kunz & Squire, et al.

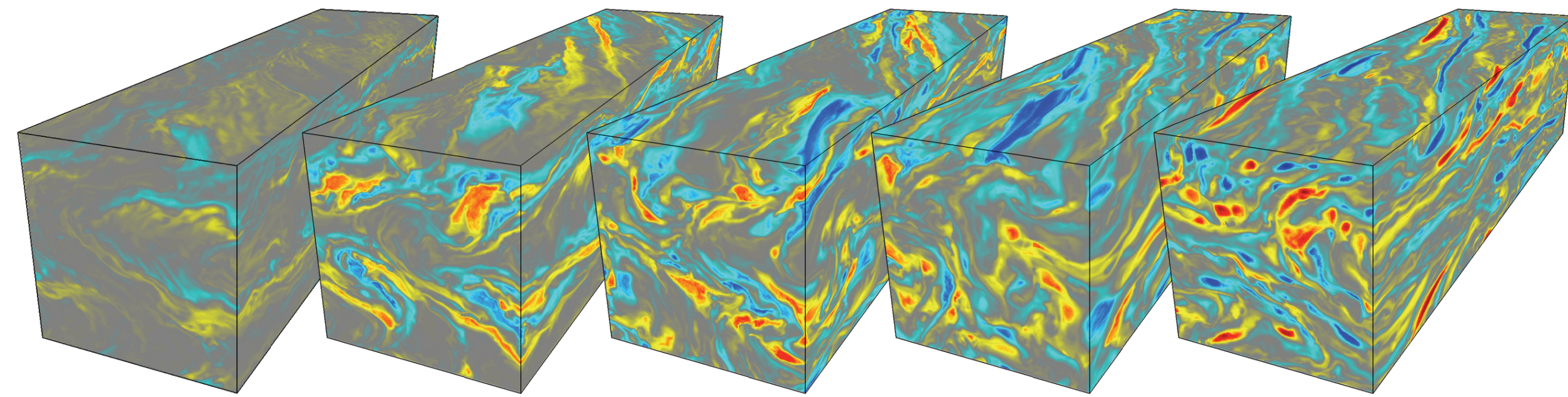
arXiv:1903.04080



Balbus, Bale, Chen, Churazov, Cowley, Forest,
Gammie, Quataert, Reynolds, Schekochihin,
Sironi, Spitkovsky, Stone, Zhuravleva, Zweibel

facilitates enhanced angular-momentum transport in
collisionless and weakly collisional accretion disks
(direct connection between micro and macro):

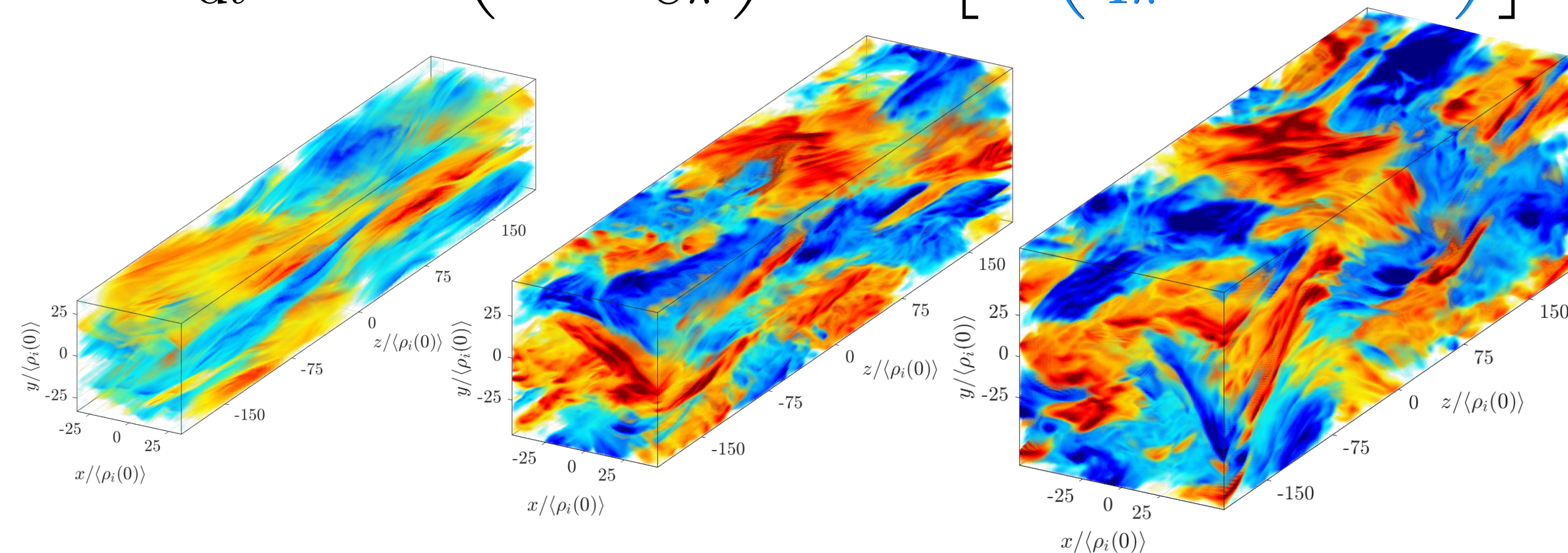
$$T_{R\phi} = \rho u_R u_\phi - \frac{B_R B_\phi}{4\pi} \left(1 + \frac{p_\perp - p_\parallel}{B^2/4\pi} \right)$$



Kunz, Stone & Quataert (2016, *PRL*)
Kempski, Quataert, Squire & Kunz (2019)

modifies critical balance in strong Alfvénic
turbulence, application to expanding solar wind
(direct connection between micro and macro):

$$mn \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nabla \left(p_\perp + \frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left[\hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} \left(\frac{B^2}{4\pi} + p_\perp - p_\parallel \right) \right]$$



Bott, Arzamasskiy, Kunz, Quataert & Squire (2021, *ApJL*)