ASTR-6000 Seminar COLLAGE: Coronal Heating, Solar Wind, & Space Weather

February 3, 2022

Coronal heating: waves & turbulence (a whirlwind tour)

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Outline

- 1. Observations of waves & turbulence
- 2. Types of fluctuations (MHD, acoustic-gravity, thin-tube modes)
- 3. How are waves generated ?
- 4. How do waves propagate & evolve in the corona?
- 5. How are waves dissipated (to provide some Q_{heat})?
- 6. Turbulence



(0) Defining our terms

	WAVES	TURBULENCE
Observers	Oscillations (usually with 1 dominant frequency) that propagate through a system. <i>Also:</i> a single pulse that propagates through a system ("shock wave")?	Random/stochastic oscillations with unresolved spatial/time scales. (Usually involves a continuous spectrum of frequencies.)
Theorists	Small-amplitude oscillations (i.e., solutions to linearized equations) that propagate through a system.	Stochastic fluctuations that represent a "cascade" of energy across a broad range of spatial/time scales.



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• At the photosphere, we see *both* granulation & the echoes of internally-trapped acoustic-mode waves. McClure et al. (2019, *Solar Phys.*, 294, 18) separated them:

Original

Granulation

PModes



Doppler-shift velocity: black/green (3 km/s up) ... white (3 km/s down)



- Solar interior: convection excites a broad spectrum of acoustic ("*p*-mode") waves that bounce around.
- Precise frequency measurements allow helioseismology; i.e., inference of the (r, θ) dependence of T, c_s , rotation, etc.





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Waves are observed in on-disk coronal images, often as

- single-pulse **blast waves** caused by strong flares ("EUV waves;" "Moreton waves")
- loop oscillations that damp rapidly, allowing *B* to be inferred ("coronal seismology")



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Off-limb coronal wave measurements can be easier to interpret than on-disk...



• *Results:* Alfvén-like waves seem to have periods of order 3-5 minutes; compressive waves have periods of order 10-20 minutes.

$$\delta \tilde{n} \rightarrow \delta \rho, \, \delta B \rightarrow \delta u$$

- Off-limb motion tracking: Hinode sees swaying spicules (Okamoto et al. 2007).
- Intensity modulations: AIA/SDO sees compressive waves propagating along polar plumes (Krishna Prasad et al. 2011)

• Off-limb spectroscopy: CoMP sees time-varying Doppler shifts: Alfvén waves and possibly turbulence (e.g., Liu et al. 2014, *ApJ*, 797, 7).

UVCS, SUMER, EIS integrate for times >> 1 wave period to see nonthermal broadening in emission lines...

• In the solar wind *in situ* instruments detect broad-band turbulent fluctuations in just about every measurable plasma parameter (e.g., Kiyani et al. 2015):

• Putting it all together (here, for Alfvénic fluctuations in polar coronal holes connected to the fast solar wind), can reveal the global energy budget for waves/turbulence...

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I've been talking a lot about two main flavors:

• Alfvén (transverse, incompressive, magnetic)

$$U_{\rm A} = \frac{1}{2} \rho_0 (\delta v_\perp)^2 + (\delta B_\perp)^2 / 8\pi$$

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Alfvén waves propagate along **B** at V_A ... acoustic waves propagate at $c_s \propto T^{\frac{1}{2}}$

$$\beta = \frac{P_{\text{gas}}}{P_{\text{mag}}} \approx \left(\frac{c_s}{V_{\text{A}}}\right)^2$$

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In an ideal MHD plasma, there are really 3 modes: Alfven & fast/slow magnetosonic waves (the latter being magnetic modifications of acoustic waves).

Depending on the angle between their wavevector **k** and the background field **B**, fast/slow modes can propagate at phase speeds anywhere between 0 and $(V_A^2 + c_s^2)^{1/2}$ and "carry" all 5 different types of amplitude fluctuations $(\delta v_{\perp}, \delta v_{\parallel}, \delta B_{\perp}, \delta B_{\parallel}, \delta \rho)$.

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- Transverse (m > 0) modes propagate at a weighted average of inside & outside speeds:

$$V_{\rm ph} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_i V_{\rm Ai}^2 + \rho_e V_{\rm Ae}^2}{\rho_i + \rho_e}}$$

• In regions where $\beta \sim 1$, kink-mode type jostling can excite compressive modes, too...

(Hasan et al. 2005)

(3) How are waves generated?

We've mentioned some mechanisms already...

- Vertical flux tubes are jostled, and kink-mode waves propagate up.
- A remnant of convection-driven *p*-mode power survives ("leaks") to large heights.
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- Lighthill's (1952) theory of jet-engine "noise" has been long suspected to be relevant to the generation of waves from incoherent sources like convection...

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- Linear waves obey a similar-looking energy conservation equation as those we've seen before...

$$rac{\partial U}{\partial t} \,+\,
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m damp}$$

Set aside $Q_{\text{damp}} \approx Q_{\text{heat}}$, and assume it's time-steady:

$$abla \cdot \mathbf{F} = 0 \implies \frac{1}{A(r)} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} [A(r) F(r)] = 0$$

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For the two main types,

$$F = UV_{\rm gr} \approx \begin{cases} \rho_0(\delta v_{\parallel})^2 c_s , & \text{(sound)} \\ \rho_0(\delta v_{\perp})^2 V_{\rm A} , & \text{(Alfvén)} \end{cases}$$

• Sound wave evolution: assume $A \approx \text{constant}$ (i.e., waves just go straight up)

$$\rho_0(\delta v_{\parallel})^2 c_s \approx \text{constant} \implies \delta v_{\parallel} \propto \rho_0^{-1/2} T^{-1/4}$$

For a chromosphere with a "flat" (isothermal) temperature, ignore the $T^{-1/4}$ factor.

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- Thus, sound waves grow in amplitude with increasing height... until the point where δv_{\parallel} reaches the sound speed c_s .
- Then, because "crests" can easily outpace "troughs," **the waves nonlinearly steepen into shocks.**
- Piston-driven 1D models (e.g., Carlsson & Stein) give rise to intermittent sawtooths...

• Alfvén wave evolution: assume $A \approx 1/B$ (i.e., waves follow the field lines)

$$ho_0 (\delta v_\perp)^2 V_{\rm A} \sim
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Alfvén waves also grow in amplitude as height increases... recall obs. potpourri:

Four general sets of mechanisms:

- 5a. Collisions (particle-particle interactions)
- 5b. Entropy increase across shocks (*maybe* a subset of 5a)
- 5c. Radiation (important in photosphere & low chromosphere)
- 5d. Collisionless effects (wave-particle interactions)

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- 5d. Collisionless effects (wave-particle interactions)
- Collisions occur ~randomly on micro-scales, and they usually add **diffusion terms** to the momentum & energy conservation equations:

viscosity electrical resistivity heat conductivity ambipolar friction $\begin{cases} \text{velocity shear} \\ \text{ion-electron drift (J)} \\ \text{temperature gradient} \\ \text{ion-neutral drift} \end{cases}$

Collisions produce imaginary terms in the dispersion relation...

 $\omega = kV_{\rm ph} = \omega_r + i\gamma$ {amplitudes} $\propto e^{i\omega_r t} e^{-\gamma t}$ $Q_{\rm damp} = 2\gamma U$

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In the corona & solar wind:

• Compressive (fast & slow) waves are damped most strongly by conduction, over very short length scales:

$$L_{\rm damp} = V_{\rm ph}/\gamma \sim (10^{-4} R_{\odot}) \left(\frac{\rm period}{5 \rm min}\right)^2$$

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• Alfvén waves don't feel conductive damping, and visc/Ohmic damping is weaker:

$$L_{\rm damp} = V_{\rm ph}/\gamma \sim (5 R_{\odot}) \left(\frac{\rm period}{5 \rm min}\right)^2$$

transition region

Sun-generated compressive waves are mostly damped out around the coronal base

> Other (more gradual) sources of compressive waves probably are what we see in the corona & solar wind

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-Lewis Richardson

Cartoon: Maron & Goldreich (2001)

• The Fourier power spectrum reveals more physics...

• If the system is being "stirred" with a time-steady energy input, the flow of energy through the system should be time-steady, too...

$$Q_{\text{stir}} = \left\{ Q_{\text{cascade}} = \frac{\Delta U_{\text{eddy}}}{\Delta t} \right\} = Q_{\text{damp}} = Q_{\text{heat}}$$

For eddies at a given size-scale, we can assume a 1st postulate of strong turbulence:

 $\left\{\begin{array}{c} \text{eddy} \\ \text{circulation time} \end{array}\right\} \approx \left\{\begin{array}{c} \text{eddy} \\ \text{lifetime} \end{array}\right\} \approx \frac{\ell}{\delta v} = \tau_{\text{nl}}$

$$\delta v$$

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- The cascade rate (which is also the heating rate, if all is time-steady) is:

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- In week 2's notation:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \delta v = u \\ \ell = \lambda_{\rm ph} \end{pmatrix} \quad Q_{\rm heat} = \mathcal{E} \, \frac{\rho u V_{\rm A}^2}{L} \sim \frac{\rho u^3}{\lambda_{\rm ph}} \implies \mathcal{E} \sim \frac{L \, u^2}{\lambda_{\rm ph} V_{\rm A}^2} \qquad \begin{array}{c} m = 2 \\ n = 1 \end{array}$$

MHD Turbulence

For next week

- Continue tinkering with the hands-on computation exercise; due next week (Thursday, February 10, 2022).
- Participate in the <u>#hands-on-1-discussion</u> channel on Slack, even if just to vent about python...

