

[7IM-13] Regulation of Star Formation Rates in Multiphase Galactic Disks: Numerical Tests of the Thermal/Dynamical Equilibrium Model

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Using two-dimensional numerical hydrodynamic simulations, we investigate the regulation of star formation rates in turbulent, multiphase, galactic gaseous disks. Our simulation domain is axisymmetric, and local in the radial direction and global in the vertical direction. Our models include galactic rotation, vertical stratification, self-gravity, heating and cooling, and thermal conduction. Turbulence in our models is driven by momentum feedback from supernova events occurring in localized dense regions formed by thermal and gravitational instabilities. Self-consistent radiative heating, representing enhanced/reduced FUV photons from the star formation, is also taken into account. Evolution of our model disks is highly dynamic, but reaches a quasi-steady state. The disks are overall in effective hydrostatic equilibrium with the midplane thermal pressure set by the vertical gravity. The star formation rate is found to be proportional approximately linearly to the midplane thermal pressure. These results are in good agreement with the predictions of a recent theory by Ostriker, McKee, and Leroy (2010) for the thermal/dynamic equilibrium model of star formation regulation.

[7IM-14] MHD turbulence in expanding/collapsing media

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We investigate driven magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) turbulence by including the effects of expansion and collapse of background medium. The main goal is to quantify the evolution and saturation of strength and characteristic lengths of magnetic fields in expanding and collapsing media. Our findings are as follows. First, with expansion and collapse of background medium, the magnetic energy density per comoving volume does not saturate; either it keeps decreasing or increasing with time. The magnetic energy density relative to the kinetic energy density strongly depends on the expanding or collapsing rate. Second, at scales close to the energy injection (or driving) scale, the slope of magnetic field power spectrum shallows with expansion but steepens with collapse. Third, various characteristic lengths, relative to the energy injection scale, decrease with expansion but increase with collapse. We discuss the astrophysical implications of our findings.