

Development and Properties of Compressible MHD Turbulence in High-Beta Plasmas Development and Properties of Compressible MHD Turbulence in High-Beta Plasmas

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Many cosmic plasmas, including those in the solar wind and extra-galactic environments, are high beta = $P_g/P_B > 1$, so that as turbulence develops, magnetic stresses are, at least initially, weak. As the turbulence evolves, magnetic stresses become increasingly important on scales below the driving scales. Depending on the initial field strength and topology this evolution can take many large-scale eddy times to reach saturation. Even in subsonic turbulence, shocks can form and influence turbulence evolution and properties. We have carried out an extensive set of high resolution compressible MHD simulations of the evolution of such turbulence for a range of initial magnetic field strengths and topologies. Here we report on their properties and the astrophysical implications of those properties. This work is supported at the University of Minnesota by the US National Science Foundation and the Minnesota Supercomputing Institute.

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