Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 11, EGU2009-11176, 2009 EGU General Assembly 2009 © Author(s) 2009



Comparison of supercritical and subcritical dynamos and the consequences on Martian magnetism

W. Jiang (1) and W. Kuang (2)

(1) Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA (jiangw@umbc.edu /Fax: 301-614-6522), (2) Planetary Geodynamics Laboratory, Code 698, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, USA (Weijia.Kuang-1@nasa.gov / Fax: 301-614-6522)

Our numerical simulation of Martian dynamo indicates that the historical Martian dynamo could exist in a small subcritical domain (defined by the Rayleigh number lower than the critical point to excite a dynamo by convection in Martian core). This subcritical domain varies with the inner core dimension. To better understand the differences between the subcritical and subcritical dynamos, and their implications to Martian remenant magnetic field, we have analyzed in detail the properties of the magnetic fields, the convective flow patterns and the force balances in the outer core. Our results show distinct features between the two kinds of dynamos, in both spatial and temporal patterns, and in the dynamo regions (where the magnetic field is generated).