

A Rough Guide to the MAS Code

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Preface

This user guide is intended to provide a short and straightforward guide to installing and running Predictive Science's global, 3-D MHD code, MAS. We also provide a brief description of the physics contained in MAS as well as the numerical techniques employed. If you need more information than is contained here, please see the list of references in Appendix A.

0.1 How to use this Guide

You should be able to read this guide from cover to cover, following the installation instructions, basic configuration, running the test examples, and visualizing the output.

0.2 About Us

Zoran Mikic (mikicz@predsci.com) is the principal code developer, assisted by Roberto Lionello (lionel@predsci.com) and Jon Linker (linkerj@predsci.com). Pete Riley (pete@predsci.com) is involved primarily with running (and breaking) the code and managing visualization efforts and web-based tools for accessing the model results. Janvier Wijaya (wijayaj@predsci.com) developed and maintains our visualization applications and is involved in maintaining our modeling website.

0.3 Your Feedback

As a first edition, this guide likely contains a number of errors. We would really welcome your comments and suggestions on how to improve it. Please send them to pete@predsci.com. For your effort, we will send you a FREE electronic copy of the revised edition!

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Acknowledgments

MAS is the collective effort of a number of people. In addition to the co-authors of this guide, who developed and maintain the current version of MAS, we have benefited from the help and guidance of several code developers, including Dalton Schnack at the University of Wisconsin.

1.2 MAS in a Nutshell

The MAS (Magnetohydrodynamics Around a Sphere) code has been developed to study the large-scale structure and dynamics of the solar corona and inner heliosphere. What makes the corona particularly difficult to study is that it exhibits a wide range of plasma parameters. Thus a successful model must calculate efficiently in these different regimes. This is exemplified by the wide disparity in the Alfvén time scale (τ_A), evolution time scale (τ_{evol}), and rotation time scale (τ_R): $\tau_A < \tau_{evol} < \tau_R$.

MAS, in one form or another, has been under development for ~ 17 years or so. It is built on a rich base of experience in computational physics and the modeling of solar coronal and fusion plasmas and has the following features:

- Time-dependent resistive MHD
- Incorporation of observed photospheric magnetic field data
- Evolution of boundary data

- Coronal and heliospheric components
- Non-uniform meshes (structured)
- 3D finite differences in spherical (r, θ, ϕ) coordinates
- Implicit and semi-implicit time differencing
- Comprehensive physics model including the solar wind and energy transport (radiation, parallel thermal conduction, heating, and Alfvén waves)
- Has been used to model CMEs
- Written in FORTRAN 90
- Designed to run on massively parallel computers using MPI: IBM/SP3 + SP4 (xlf); Linux & Beowulf (lf95, pgf90, Intel Fortran); Mac (Absoft and xlf); and SGI/Altix (ifort)
- Mesh decomposition among processors in 3D
- Dynamic allocation allows mesh size and number of processors to be selected at run time
- Restart capability using HDF files (for long runs)
- Many applications and comparisons with observational data (eclipses, IPS, in situ solar wind measurements, coronal holes, pB images, current sheet topology and spacecraft crossings, CMEs)
- A rich set of post-processing tools has been developed

The capabilities of the MAS model at the CCMC have been deliberately curtailed to minimize the chance of code failure. At present, the capabilities of MAS at CCMC are:

- Polytropic MHD model
- Driven by (filtered) Kitt Peak/SOLIS magnetic field maps
- Choice of low $(61 \times 51 \times 32)$ and medium $(85 \times 81 \times 64)$ resolution meshes
- Choice of base density and temperature in the corona
- Relaxation to steady state

- Increased viscosity and resistivity
- Runs on a single CPU

We are currently compiling and testing the fully parallel version of MAS at the CCMC (as part of our NASA Strategic Capability program and a collaboration with the NSF CISM program). Thus, in the near future, it is possible that both the serial and parallel versions will be available for users to run. In addition, we are continuing to develop MAS in-house. Thus, there are effectively three versions of the code: The old serial version, the new MPI production version, and the latest experimental version. In this document, we will focus on descriptions of the first two models, and, where appropriate, we will differentiate between which features or attributes are applicable to which model. If no distinction is made, then it can be assumed that the discussion refers to both models.

1.3 System Requirements

MAS can be compiled on any Linux/Unix-based machine. It will run on both 32-bit and 64-bit architectures. At an absolute minimum, a single-processor run can be completed (albiet after a very long time) on a system with at least 1 GB RAM and 500 MB of available disk space. However, for anything but test cases, the following requirements represent a reasonable minimum configuration for compiling and running MAS:

- 32-bit or 64-bit Intel, AMD, or IBM processor.
- Linux, Unix, or AIX operating system
- 1 GB RAM per node.
- 10 GB of available disk space.
- HDF and MPI Libraries, F90/95 Compiler

The precise system requirements will depend somewhat on the hardware and software. We currently compile and test MAS on: Mac Pro desktops and Beowulf Clusters containing 64 64-bit AMD Opteron processors (2 processors per node, and sharing 1 GB RAM). Our largest production runs are made on NASA's Columbia Supercomputer and NSF's Texas Ranger. We use, or have used: the Portland Group (PG) F90, Pathscale F95, Absoft, and Intel compilers.

1.4 Planned Improvements

MAS is constantly under development, and these improvements will be delivered to the CCMC as they are validated, both internally and through our participation in NASA's Strategic Capability and NSF's CISM programs. Some of our planned capabilities include the following:

- Add more flexibility to MAS at the CCMC:
 - Fractional Carrington rotations
 - Improved visualization and post-processing (interactive field lines, flying spacecraft trajectories through the model results)
 - Runs with evolution of boundary data
 - User-supplied magnetic field boundary data
 - Generation of higher-level data products
 - Implementation of the model with an improved energy equation, leading to a better solar wind model
- Implementation of the MPI version of MAS
- Coupling of the new MPI version of MAS to the heliospheric model, ENLIL

Additionally, we are currently investigating a number of physics advances, including the following:

- Desire to model fast CMEs ($\geq 1,000$ km/s), which requires stronger magnetic fields ~ 2 kG and smaller length scales $\sim 100,000$ km in active regions
- Desire to study specific CME events (e.g., May 12, 1997)
- Elements of CME initiation:
 - Initial equilibrium specification (p, ρ, B , solar wind)
 - Energization [e.g., shear flow profile $v_t(x,t)$, twist profile $\tau(x,t)$, eventually vector magnetograms]
 - Trigger mechanism [e.g., flux cancellation $B_r(x,t)$, or continued shear flows]

Chapter 2

Compiling and Running MAS

2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, we describe the basic steps required to compile, run, and restart the MAS code.

2.2 Compiling the Code

The code can be compiled as follows. Go to the source directory, and type:

```
make
```

which uses the file `Makefile` to compile the code. For this to work, it is necessary to have the proper shell environment variables defined to point to the HDF library (version 4) and to the MPI library, and to invoke the proper switches for the compiler. Typical environment variables that control these choices are defined in the CSH as follows:

```
LIBDF=-L/sw/lib -L/usr/local/HDF4.2r1/lib \  
-I/usr/local/HDF4.2r1/include \  
-lmfhdf -ldf -lsz -ljpeg -lz  
  
OPENMPI=-I/usr/local/openmpi/include \  
-L/usr/local/openmpi/lib \  
-Wl,-u,_munmap -Wl,-multiply_defined,suppress \  
-lmpi_f90 -lmpi_f77 -lmpi -lopen-rte -lopen-pal \  

```

```
F90=ifort

F90_OPTS=-O3 -assume byterecl -heap-arrays

LD_OPTS=-Wl,-stack_size,0x10000000
```

These particular choices are for the Intel Fortran compiler on Mac OS X with the OpenMPI library.

2.3 Running the Code

The most important parameters for the MAS code are set via the input file. We use a scheme in which a particular run is identified by a “run ID,” which we call `<runid>` henceforth. This should be a short string, such as `cme01a`, that is a descriptive of the type of run being done. It is recommended that each run be performed in its own directory. It is strongly recommended that this run directory be named `<runid>`. The convention for the input and output files produced is:

```
i<runid>:      input file
o<runid>:      output file (generated)
h<runid>###:   time histories (generated)
v<runid>###:   additional time histories (generated)
```

where “###” are sequence numbers of the form 001, 002, The code also writes the fields (at specified time step intervals or time unit intervals) into HDF (version 4) machine-independent binary files. These files are named:

```
{br,bt,bp,vr,vt,vp,jr,jt,jp,rho,p,t}###.hdf
```

These are some of the basic fields of interest; additional quantities may be selected at run time.

The code can be executed as follows (in CSH):

```
nohup mpirun -n 32 mas [-timer mpi] <runid> >& <runid>.log &
```

This launches a parallel job on 32 processors, placing the job in the background, reading the input file `i<runid>`, assuming that the executable is named `mas`. The output from the screen is directed to the log file `<runid>.log`.

Typically, multi-user computer centers use a queuing system to submit jobs. The job submission details are site-dependent, and are detailed elsewhere.

The code can be ended prematurely (i.e., before it reaches the requested execution time or number of time steps) by creating a file named `STOPRUN` in the run directory. This can be done by executing the UNIX command:

```
touch -a STOPRUN
```

which terminates the code gracefully at the next time step interval.

2.4 Restarting a Run

Typically, due to user time and queue limits at computer centers, a single run of the MAS code for a challenging set of parameters (e.g., high spatial resolution, long time evolution) may require more resources than are available for a single run of the code. In this case, we use the concept of “restarts.” Namely, a simulation can be completed in several consecutive runs, with the code being “restarted” from a previous run to continue a simulation. For example, consider a sequence of runs, with run IDs `cme01a`, `cme01b`, and `cme01c`. These are continuations of a single simulation that is incrementally run out to larger end times. For example, run `cme01a` would be the initial run that simulated the corona from $t = 0$ to $t = 15.37$ (say) code time units. In this case, the input file of the first run, `icme01a`, would have the input variable setting

```
rsifile=' '
```

(i.e., the variable `rsifile` is set to a blank string) to indicate that this is the first run of the chain. The continuation run would have the variable `rsifile` set to point to the “restart file” produced by run `cme01a`, which contains the state of all variables and fields at the end of the first run. This restart file is named `rs<runid>.hdf`. Thus, the input file `icme01b` for the second run would contain:

```
rsifile='../cme01a/rscme01a.hdf'
```

which would continue run `cme01a` from $t = 15.37$ to $t = 33.14$ (say).

2.5 Post-Processing the Output Files

The MAS code produces a range of output files, including 3-D HDF files of all magnetofluid parameters (e.g., B_r , B_t , B_p , v_r , v_t , v_p , T , p , and ρ). Other parameters, such as the Alfvén speed, V_A , or polarized brightness, pB , to name but a few, can also be computed using a set of command-line tools. Since the principal variables are on staggered grids, it is important to combine them carefully to produce new parameters. The MAS code also produces a sequence of time history files. The parameters may be local variables at a specific location within the simulation region, or volume-integrated averages. Run-related parameters, such as the time step, may be used to investigate the quality of the solutions.

2.6 Visualizing the Results

The HDF produced during the run can be read and visualized using most scientific visualization applications (e.g., IDL, MatLab, Mathematica). At our website (www.preds-ci.com), we provide several tools for viewing the data. These include: (1) An IDL routine to read the 3-D HDF files; and (2) a Mac/Linux visualization tool (called “View”) for opening and displaying 3-D HDF files. The website also contains a set of online IDL-driven tools for viewing runs that are already stored within our database.

Chapter 3

Understanding the Input Parameters

3.1 Overview

There's no easy way to present the data for this chapter: There are literally hundreds of parameters that can be set in MAS. Fortunately, there are perhaps 10-20 that ever really need to be considered for a particular run. So we have broken the parameter list into three main groups: The often, sometimes, and seldom modified parameters. In the sections that follow, we define each parameter, explain the rationale for its inclusion, and provide an example why/how it might be varied.

3.2 The Often-Varied Parameters

Name : ntmx
Description: Maximum number of time steps
Value : ≥ 0
Default : 500

Name : tmax
Description: Maximum time of simulation
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 200 code units (CU), where 1 CU = 24 minutes

Name : dtmax
Description: Maximum time step

Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 1 code unit (CU), where 1 CU = 24 minutes

Name : dtmin
 Description: Minimum time step
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 0.001 code units (CU), where 1 CU = 24 minutes

Name : rl
 Description: Distance between inner and outer radial boundary
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 1 code unit (CU), where 1 CU = 1 R_{\odot}

Name : mmodes
 Description: Modes with histories that will be saved
 Value : $0 \leq \text{mmodes} \leq \text{np}/2$ (np=number of longitudinal mesh points)
 Default : -1 (do not save histories)

Name : slund
 Description: Lundquist number
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 1000.

Name : visc
 Description: Viscosity
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 0.

Name : rsifile
 Description: Restart file
 Value : String of characters
 Default : rsmas

Name : option
 Description: Initial state (see routine initial)
 Value : One of these: wave1, wave2, streamer, dipole
 Default : NO_DEFAULT

Name : eqtype
 Description: Initial plasma equilibrium (see routine initial)
 Value : One of these: hydrostatic, zero-beta, parker

Default : NO_DEFAULT

Name : fldtype

Description: Initial magnetic field m (see routine initial)

Value : One of these: dipole, potential

Default : NO_DEFAULT

Name : gamma

Description: Ratio of specific heats

Value : $1. < \text{gamma} \leq 5/3$

Default : 1.05

Name : drratio

Description: The ratio of the mesh spacing at the end of a segment to
: that at the beginning for the radial mesh (see routine genmesh)

Value : Array > 0 .

Default : 1.

Name : rfrac

Description: The normalized positions of the mesh segment boundaries (as a fraction
: of the size of the domain) for radial mesh (see routine genmesh)

Value : Array > 0 .. The last value ≥ 1 .

Default : 1.

Name : dtratio

Description: The ratio of the mesh spacing at the end of a segment to that at the
: beginning for the latitudinal mesh (see routine genmesh)

Value : Array > 0 .

Default : 1.

Name : tfrac

Description: The normalized positions of the mesh segment boundaries (as a fraction
: of the size of the domain) for latitudinal mesh (see routine genmesh)

Value : Array > 0 .. The last value ≥ 1 .

Default : 1.

Name : nfrmesh

Description: Number of times to filter the radial mesh (see routine genmesh)

Value : Integer ≥ 0

Default : 0

Name : nftmesh
 Description: Number of times to filter the latitudinal mesh (see routine genmesh)
 Value : Integer ≥ 0
 Default : 0

Name : ihistint
 Description: Collect time-histories at intervals of ihistint timesteps
 Value : Integer ≥ 0
 Default : 1

Name : tpltxint
 Description: Plot field diagnostics every tpltxint Alfvèn times
 Value : Real ≥ 0 .
 Default : 0. code units (CU), where 1 CU = 24 minutes

Name : onedfile
 Description: Name of 1D file to load the initial equilibrium
 Value : String of characters
 Default : NO_DEFAULT

Name : np1d
 Description: Number of points in the 1D file to load the initial equilibrium
 Value : Integer ≥ 0
 Default : 701

Name : plotlist
 Description: List of output plot file separated by comma with no space in between
 Value : all, vr, vt, vp, br, bt, bp, rho, t, p, jr, jt, jp, ar, at, ap, arr, ari, atr,
 : ati, apr, api, vrr, vri, vtr, vti, vpr, vpi, ep, em, ub, rhor0, h1, visc,
 : visccell, eta, etacell, et0ef, ep0ef, er0, et0, ep0
 Default :

Name : b0
 Description: Strength of the initial dipole
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 1.

Name : bingauss
 Description: Specify magnetic field in Gauss or code units (1 CU = 2.205 G)
 Value : Logical
 Default : .false. (code units)

Name : rhor0
 Description: Base density
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 1. code unit (1 CU = 10^8 cm^{-3})

Name : trsdump
 Description: Write restart file every trsdump Alfvén times
 Value : If ≤ 0 , disable restart file dump at time intervals
 Default : 0.

Name : bnfile
 Description: File containing the magnetogram data
 Value : String ending in .dat
 Default : NO_DEFAULT

Name : tcond
 Description: Flag to have thermal conduction
 Value : 0. or 1.
 Default : 0. (no thermal conduction)

Name : radloss
 Description: Flag to have radiation losses
 Value : 0. or 1.
 Default : 0. (no radiation losses)

Name : tbc0
 Description: Temperature at the inner radial boundary
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : $1.80 \times 10^6 \text{ K}$

Name : tbc1
 Description: Temperature at the outer radial boundary
 Value : If 0. use tbc1, if > 0 . use value from pressure and density
 Default : 0.

Name : ifaw
 Description: Flag to turn on Alfvén wave pressure
 Value : 0 or 1
 Default : 0 (no Alfvén wave pressure)

Name : alpha_nocoll
 Description: Flag to turn on collisionless thermal conduction
 Value : 0. or 1.
 Default : 0. (no collisionless thermal conduction)

3.3 The Sometimes-Varied Parameters

Name : ifideal
 Description: Flag to have an ideal MHD run
 Value : 1 (ideal MHD) or 0 (resistive MHD)
 Default : 1

Name : ietatype
 Description: Specify kind of resistivity
 Value : 1 (uniform) or 2 (custom profile)
 Default : 1

Name : nretap
 Description: Number of radial points in custom resistivity profile (see routine loadeta)
 Value : ≥ 1
 Default : 1.

Name : retap
 Description: Radial mesh in custom resistivity profile (see routine loadeta)
 Value : 1D array of nondecreasing reals
 Default : All set to 1.

Name : etapr
 Description: Value of custom resistivity in radial profile (see routine loadeta)
 Value : 1D array of reals
 Default : All set to 1.

Name : ntetap
 Description: Number of latitudinal points in custom resistivity profile (see routine loadeta)
 Value : ≥ 1
 Default : 1.

Name : tetap
 Description: Latitudinal mesh in custom resistivity profile (see routine loadeta)

Value : 1D array of nondecreasing reals
Default : All set to 0.

Name : etapt
Description: Value of custom resistivity in latitudinal profile (see routine loadeta)
Value : 1D array of reals
Default : All set to 1.

Name : ivistype
Description: Specify kind of viscosity
Value : 1 (uniform) or 2 (custom profile)
Default : 1

Name : recell
Description: Cell-Reynolds value for viscosity (see routine cellvisc)
Value : Any. If ≤ 0 , then no cell viscosity is used.
Default : 0.

Name : recell_facr
Description: Radial factor in cell-Reynolds viscosity (see routine cellvisc)
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 1.

Name : recell_fact
Description: Latitudinal factor in cell-Reynolds viscosity (see routine cellvisc)
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 1.

Name : recell_facp
Description: Longitudinal factor in cell-Reynolds viscosity (see routine cellvisc)
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 1.

Name : recell_viscmax
Description: Maximum viscosity when using cell-Reynolds option (see routine cellvisc)
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 10^{20}

Name : recell_unift
Description: Flag to make cell viscosity uniform in latitude (see routine cellvisc)
Value : logical

Default : .false.

Name : nrvisp

Description: Number of radial points in custom viscosity profile (see routine loadvisc)

Value : ≥ 1

Default : 1.

Name : rvisp

Description: Radial mesh in custom viscosity profile (see routine loadvisc)

Value : 1D array of nondecreasing reals

Default : All set to 1.

Name : vispr

Description: Value of custom viscosity in radial profile (see routine loadvisc)

Value : 1D array of reals

Default : All set to 1.

Name : ntvisp

Description: Number of latitudinal points in custom viscosity profile (see routine loadvisc)

Value : ≥ 1

Default : 1.

Name : tvisp

Description: Latitudinal mesh in custom viscosity profile (see routine loadvisc)

Value : 1D array of nondecreasing reals

Default : All set to 0.

Name : vispt

Description: Value of custom viscosity in latitudinal profile (see routine loadvisc)

Value : 1D array of reals

Default : All set to 1.

Name : ifprec

Description: Flag to use preconditioning in matrix inversion

Value : 0 (no preconditioning), 1 (diagonal)

Default : 2

Name : epscg

Description: Convergence criterion for matrix inversion except for resistivity

Value : ≥ 0 .

Default : 10^{-8}

Name : ncghist
 Description: Write convergence history for matrix inversion every ncghist iterations
 Value : Integer ≤ 0
 Default : 0

Name : epscga
 Description: Convergence criterion for matrix inversion for resistivity
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 10^{-8}

Name : ncgmax
 Description: Maximum number of iterations in matrix inversion
 Value : Integer > 0
 Default : 500

Name : ifrho
 Description: Flag to advance the density
 Value : 1 (advance) or 0 (do not advance)
 Default : 1

Name : iftemp
 Description: Flag to advance the temperature
 Value : 1 (advance) or 0 (do not advance)
 Default : 1

Name : dformat
 Description: Format of output field files
 Value : text or hdf
 Default : text

Name : pr0
 Description: Base pressure in the initial hydrostatic equilibrium
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 0.1 code units (1 CU = $0.387 \text{ dyne cm}^{-2}$)

Name : dthmax
 Description: Angle used to specify shearing profile (see routine setvtrans0)
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 0.6981

Name : th0
 Description: Angle used to specify shearing profile (see routine setvtrans0)
 Value : $0 \leq \text{th0} \leq \pi$
 Default : $\pi/2$

Name : tnode
 Description: Defines temporal nodes for shearing profile (see routine setvtrans0)
 Value : Array of non-decreasing reals
 Default : -1.

Name : vnode
 Description: Defines velocity nodes for shearing profile (see routine setvtrans0)
 Value : Array of ≥ 0
 Default : 0.

Name : ihst
 Description: Radial point for collection of history diagnostics
 Value : If ≤ 0 or \geq mesh size, use middle point
 Default : 0

Name : jhst
 Description: Latitudinal point for collection of history diagnostics
 Value : If ≤ 0 or \geq mesh size, use middle point
 Default : 0

Name : khst
 Description: Longitudinal point for collection of history diagnostics
 Value : If ≤ 0 or \geq mesh size, use first point
 Default : 0

Name : bcr1type
 Description: Type of outer radial boundary
 Value : open, extrapolation, fixed, 1dchar (1D characteristics)
 Default : extrapolation

Name : bcr0type
 Description: Type of inner radial boundary
 Value : fixed, 1dchar (1D characteristics)
 Default : fixed

Name : dipangle

Description: Angle (in degrees) by which the initial dipole is tilted
 Value : Any real
 Default : 0.

Name : thistint
 Description: Collect time-histories every thistint Alfvén times
 Value : ≥ 0
 Default : 0.

Name : ipltxint
 Description: Plot field diagnostics at intervals of ipltxint time steps
 Value : Integer ≥ 0
 Default : 0

Name : ubzero
 Description: Set flow at inner boundary to zero if it is negative
 Value : Logical
 Default : .false.

Name : tnode_ch
 Description: Defines temporal nodes for coronal heating
 Value : Array of non-decreasing reals
 Default : -1.

Name : q0_pole_ch
 Description: Defines nodes for heat flux at the pole
 Value : Array of ≥ 0
 Default : 1.

Name : q0_eq_ch
 Description: Defines nodes for heat flux at the equator
 Value : Array of ≥ 0
 Default : 1.

Name : hlen_pole_ch
 Description: Defines nodes for length scale of deposition of heat at the pole
 Value : Array of ≥ 0
 Default : .5 Code Units (1 CU = 6.96×10^{10} cm)

Name : hlen_eq_ch
 Description: Defines nodes for length scale of deposition of heat at the equator

Value : Array of ≥ 0
 Default : .5 Code Units (1 CU = 6.96×10^{10} cm)

Name : q0phys_ch
 Description: Defines nodes for heat flux, which is modulated by q0_pole_ch and q0_eq_ch
 Value : Array of ≥ 0
 Default : 0. erg cm⁻² s⁻¹

Name : qalfven_ch
 Description: Defines nodes for Alfvén pressure at the inner radial boundary
 Value : Array of ≥ 0
 Default : 0. dyn cm⁻²

Name : he_fac
 Description: Helium fraction
 Value : ≥ 0
 Default : 0.

Name : br00
 Description: Artificial monopole radial field
 Value : ≥ 0
 Default : 0. Code Units (1 CU = 2.205 G)

Name : ishearprof
 Description: Pick a a type of shear profile (see routine setvtrans0)
 Value : 1, 2, or 3
 Default : 1

Name : arotate
 Description: Parameter used when ishearprof is 2 (see routine setvtrans0)
 Value : Real
 Default : 0.

Name : brotate
 Description: Parameter used when ishearprof is 2 (see routine setvtrans0)
 Value : Real
 Default : 0.

Name : crotate
 Description: Parameter used when ishearprof is 2 (see routine setvtrans0)
 Value : Real

Default : 0.

Name : thprof_th

Description: Parameter controlling latitudinal heating profile (see routine load_thprof)

Value : $0. \leq \text{thprof_th} \leq \pi$

Default : 0.7

Name : thprof_dth

Description: Parameter controlling latitudinal heating profile (see routine load_thprof)

Value : Real ≥ 0 .

Default : 0.08

Name : emgflux

Description: Flag to emerge new magnetic flux

Value : Logical

Default : .false.

Name : tnode_ef

Description: Defines temporal nodes for emerging flux (see routine eflux)

Value : Array of non-decreasing reals

Default : -1.

Name : brfile_ef

Description: Defines B_r file nodes for emerging flux (see routine eflux)

Value : Array of characters

Default : NO_DEFAULT

Name : ifradbc

Description: Use radiation balance boundary density

Value : 0 (do not use) or 1 (use)

Default : 1

Name : t0_tc

Description: Temperature below which to use modified thermal conduction

Value : ≥ 0 .

Default : 250,000 K

Name : dt0_tc

Description: Temperature interval to switch to modified thermal conduction

Value : ≥ 0 .

Default : 20,000 K

3.4 The Seldom-Varied Parameters

Name : g0
Description: Gravity at the inner radial boundary
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : .823 code units (CU),

Name : ifvdgv
Description: Flag to use advection in the momentum equation
Value : 1 (use) or 0 (do not use)
Default : 1

Name : simult
Description: Semi-implicit multiplier
Value : > 1 .
Default : 1.1

Name : dtmult
Description: Totally useless variable
Value : any real
Default : 1.

Name : strmax
Description: Variable to rescale the advective calculated time step
Value : $0. < \text{strmax} < 1$
Default : 0.5

Name : isitype
Description: Switch between fully explicit and semi-implicit algorithm
Value : 0 (fully explicit) or not 0 (semi-implicit)
Default : 1

Name : cfl
Description: In fully explicit runs, fraction of the CourantFriedrichsLewy limit
Value : $0. < \text{cfl} < 1$.
Default : 0.4

Name : omegaeta

Description: Implicit/explicit fraction in the resistivity advance

Value : 0. < omegaeta < 1.

Default : 0.5

Name : upwinda

Description: Flag to set upwinding in the advection of the vector potential

Value : 0. or 1.

Default : 0. (do not upwind)

Name : upwindv

Description: Flag to set upwinding in the advection of the velocity

Value : 0. or 1.

Default : 0. (do not upwind)

Name : pdma

Description: Partial Donor Method coefficient (see routine uwppdm)

Value : 0. < pdma < 2.

Default : 1.

Name : rmccl

Description: Useless variable: do not attempt to change!

Value : 0.

Default : 0.

Name : rmccl_facr

Description: Totally useless variable

Value : any real

Default : 1.

Name : rmccl_fact

Description: Totally useless variable

Value : any real

Default : 1.

Name : rmccl_facp

Description: Totally useless variable

Value : any real

Default : 1.

Name : rmccl_etamax

Description: Totally useless variable

Value : any real
Default : $1. \times 10^{20}$

Name : rmccl_unift
Description: Totally useless variable
Value : any logical
Default : .false.

Name : ifrsout
Description: Useless variable: do not attempt to change!
Value : 1
Default : 1

Name : icgtype
Description: Totally useless variable
Value : Any integer
Default : Undefined

Name : nwave
Description: Radial mode number in Alfvèn wave test (see routine wavel)
Value : Integer ≤ 1
Default : 1

Name : lwave
Description: Latitudinal mode number in Alfvèn wave test (see routine wavel)
Value : Integer ≤ 1
Default : 1

Name : epswave
Description: Wave amplitude in Alfvèn wave test (see routine wavel)
Value : > 0 .
Default : 10^{-6}

Name : sigma
Description: Totally useless variable
Value : Any real
Default : 1.

Name : ifpc
Description: Flag to use predictor/corrector scheme
Value : 1 (advance) or 0 (do not advance)

Default : 1

Name : predflow

Description: Flag to add flow part in the predictor step

Value : Logical

Default : .false.

Name : betapc_p

Description: Fraction of wave term in the predictor step in induction
: and energy equations

Value : $0 \leq \text{betapc_p} \leq 1$

Default : 0.5

Name : betapc_v

Description: Fraction of wave term in the predictor step in momentum equation

Value : $0 \leq \text{betapc_v} \leq 1$

Default : 0.5

Name : si_aggressive

Description: Use local semi-implicit coefficient or global

Value : Logical

Default : .false. (global)

Name : fac_cflv

Description: Account for velocity in calculating semi-implicit coefficient

Value : $0 \leq \text{fac_cflv} \leq 1$

Default : 1.

Name : betapc_si

Description: Use semi-implicit term in the predictor of the momentum equation

Value : 0. (do not use) or 1. (use)

Default : 1.

Name : rhofac1

Description: Totally useless variable

Value : Any real

Default : 0.04

Name : rhofac2

Description: Totally useless variable

Value : Any real

Default : 0.104

Name : ifohmic

Description: Flag to add ohmic heating to the energy equation

Value : If not 0, add ohmic heating

Default : 0

Name : ifhvisc

Description: Flag to add viscous heating to the energy equation

Value : If not 0, add viscous heating

Default : 0

Name : isetrho

Description: Set the density to give a uniform Alfvén speed
every isetrho timesteps

Value : Integer ≥ 0

Default : 0

Name : omegarho

Description: Tune density when a uniform Alfvén speed is
requested (see routine setrho)

Value : $0 \leq \text{omegarho} \leq 1$.

Default : 0.1

Name : upwindar

Description: Flag to upwind only the radial component in the
advection of the vector potential

Value : 0. or 1.

Default : 0. (do not upwind)

Name : upwindat

Description: Flag to upwind only the latitudinal component in the
advection of the vector potential

Value : 0. or 1.

Default : 0. (do not upwind)

Name : upwindap

Description: Flag to upwind only the longitudinal component in the
advection of the vector potential

Value : 0. or 1.

Default : 0. (do not upwind)

- Name : upwindphi
 Description: Flag to upwind the longitudinal component in the momentum equation
 Value : 0. or > 0 .
 Default : 1. (upwind)
- Name : ifeqcs
 Description: Flag to calculate specially the equatorial current sheet
 Value : If not 0, do the special calculation
 Default : 0
- Name : irsdump
 Description: Write restart file every irsdump timesteps
 Value : If ≤ 0 , disable restart file dump at time step intervals
 Default : 0
- Name : gbc0err
 Description: Error allowed in convergence criterion for characteristics boundary conditions
 Value : > 0 .
 Default : 10^{-5}
- Name : parchar
 Description: Solve characteristics parallel to the magnetic field
 Value : Logical
 Default : .false. (use gas characteristics)
- Name : nfiltub
 Description: Number of time to filter the boundary velocity
 Value : Integer ≥ 0
 Default : 0
- Name : nfiltn0
 Description: Number of time to filter the radiation-balance boundary density
 Value : Integer ≥ 0
 Default : 0
- Name : tne0
 Description: Time scale to advance the base density towards the required value when using radiation boundary conditions
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 1. Code Unit (1 CU = 24 minutes)

Name : rho_aw
 Description: Artificial inertia in Alfvén wave pressure advance
 Value : ≥ 0
 Default : 1.

Name : tc_r
 Description: Radius around which collisional thermal conduction is turned off
 Value : Must be within computational domain
 Default : 10. Code Units (1 CU = 6.96×10^{10} cm)

Name : tc_dr
 Description: Interval during which collisional thermal conduction is turned off
 Value : ≥ 0
 Default : 5. Code Units (1 CU = 6.96×10^{10} cm)

Name : tc_fac0
 Description: Factor multiplying thermal conduction below tc_r
 Value : ≥ 0
 Default : 1.

Name : tc_fac1
 Description: Factor multiplying thermal conduction below tc_r
 Value : ≥ 0
 Default : 1. (Must be 0. to turn collisional thermal conduction off)

Name : tc_nocoll_r
 Description: Radius around which collisionless thermal conduction is turned on
 Value : Must be within computational domain
 Default : 10. Code Units (1 CU = 6.96×10^{10} cm)

Name : tc_nocoll_dr
 Description: Interval during which collisionless thermal conduction is turned on
 Value : ≥ 0
 Default : 5. Code Units (1 CU = 6.96×10^{10} cm)

Name : neradmin
 Description: Totally useless variable
 Value : Any real
 Default : -10^{10}

Name : awthprof_th
 Description: Parameter controlling Alfvén wave pressure profile (see routine load_awthprof)
 Value : $0. \leq \text{awthprof_th} \leq \pi$
 Default : 0.7

Name : bmin
 Description: Minimum magnetic field assumed in calculating boundary velocity in emerging flux runs
 Value : Real ≥ 0 .
 Default : 0.05 Code Units (1 CU = 2.205 G)

Name : awthprof2_th
 Description: Parameter controlling Alfvén wave pressure profile (see routine load_awthprof)
 Value : $0. \leq \text{awthprof2_th} \leq \pi$
 Default : $\pi - 0.7$

Name : vrbc0ef
 Description: Flag to set the velocity at the lower boundary in emerging flux runs
 Value : Characters: exb (calculate from Poynting vector) or not
 Default : exb

Name : vtbc0ef
 Description: Flag to set the velocity at the lower boundary in emerging flux runs
 Value : Characters: exb (calculate from Poynting vector) or not
 Default : zero (set to zero)

Name : vpbc0ef
 Description: Flag to set the velocity at the lower boundary in emerging flux runs
 Value : Characters: exb (calculate from Poynting vector) or not
 Default : zero (set to zero)

Name : ifbheat
 Description: Flag to calculate heating depending on magnetic field
 Value : 0 (do not use) or 1 (use)
 Default : 0

Name : bheatfile
 Description: File to be read in calculating heating depending on magnetic field
 Value : Characters
 Default : brbyb2.dat

Name : fdphi
Description: Mimic final differences in longitude
Value : Logical
Default : .false.

Name : ifimplrad
Description: Calculate radiation losses semi-implicitly
Value : 0 (do not use) or 1 (use)
Default : 1

Name : ifeta_dyn
Description: Calculate local resistivity depending on the current
Value : 0 (do not use) or 1 (use)
Default : 0

Name : eta_min
Description: Minimum resistivity when ifeta_dyn is used
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 0.

Name : eta_max
Description: Maximum resistivity when ifeta_dyn is used
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 0.

Name : eta_jmin
Description: Current threshold when ifeta_dyn is used
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 30.

Name : eta_dj
Description: Width around current threshold when ifeta_dyn is used
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 5.

Name : eta_dj
Description: Proportionality constant for resistivity when ifeta_dyn is used
Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 1.

Name : bsqfloor

Description: Minimum B^2 in calculating resistivity when ifeta_dyn is used
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 0.

Name : fjfrac
 Description: Parameter important when ifeta_dyn is used
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 0.5

Name : alpha_tc
 Description: Exponent used in modified thermal conduction
 Value : ≥ 0 .
 Default : 2.5

Name : nfilt_kappa
 Description: Number of times to filter the thermal conduction tensor
 Value : Integer ≥ 0
 Default : 0

Name : split_visc
 Description: Split viscosity advance in momentum equation
 Value : Logical
 Default : .true.

Name : gamma1
 Description: When using variable gamma, this is the inner value
 Value : $1. < \text{gamma1} \leq 5/3$
 Default : 0.

Name : gamma2
 Description: When using variable gamma, this is the outer value
 Value : $1. < \text{gamma2} \leq 5/3$
 Default : 0.

Name : rgamma
 Description: When using variable gamma, this is the radius where the change occurs
 Value : Within computational domain
 Default : 0.

Name : drgamma
 Description: Radial distance over which we have a variable gamma

Value : ≥ 0 .
Default : 0.

Chapter 4

Example Runs

4.1 Overview

In this chapter we describe a suite of test runs that can be made using the code exactly as set up in Chapter 2. The input parameters for the test runs can be downloaded at:

<http://www.predsci.com/MAS/userguide/testruns/>

Currently, we provide two test cases: Carrington rotations 1913 and 1961. In the future, we will add more benchmark solutions, including 2- and 3-dimensional, time-dependent CME eruptions as well as thermodynamic solutions.

4.2 Test Case 1: Ambient Solar Corona for Carrington Rotation 1913

The input files and solutions for this run can be found at:

http://www.predsci.com/MAS/userguide/testruns/cr1913-low/corona_mas/corona/

The input file for this run is called “imas” and the input magnetogram is the file: br_m9_filt3.hdf.

The logfile for the run is located in the directory above this, i.e.,

`../corona_mas/corhel.log`

This file summarizes exactly how the magnetogram was processed prior to running the simulation, as well as details on the input parameters, the specific version of the code being run, and some basic timing information.

Once complete, you can compare your solutions, such as the output HDF files with the ones located in the directory:

http://www.predsci.com/MAS/userguide/testruns/cr1913-low/corona_mas/corona/

The numbers should match to within 10^{-6} . In the near future, we are planning to release a tool that will compare the HDF files directly.

4.3 Test Case 2: Ambient Solar Corona for Carrington Rotation 1961

The previous test case represented the solar corona under solar minimum conditions. Test case 2 was chosen because it occurred at the maximum of the solar activity cycle. The solution is located at:

http://www.predsci.com/MAS/userguide/testruns/cr1913-low/corona_mas/

The input files and log files are in the corresponding locations, as described in the previous section.

Chapter 5

The Physics Behind MAS

5.1 Overview

In this chapter, we summarize the main physical principles used to guide our development of the MAS code. In the next chapter we describe how these principles were implemented in the code and how the equations were solved numerically.

5.2 The MHD Equations

The SAIC coronal code MAS solves the following equations in spherical coordinates:

$$(5.1) \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J},$$

$$(5.2) \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t},$$

$$(5.3) \quad \mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} = \eta \mathbf{J},$$

$$(5.4) \quad \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0,$$

$$(5.5) \quad \rho \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} \right) = \frac{1}{c} \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} - \nabla p - \nabla p_w + \rho \mathbf{g} + \nabla \cdot (\nu \rho \nabla \mathbf{v}),$$

$$(5.6) \quad \frac{1}{\gamma - 1} \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla T \right) = -T \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} + S,$$

$$(5.7) \quad S = \frac{1}{2kn_e} (-\nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} - n_e n_p Q(T) + H + H_d + D)$$

where \mathbf{B} is the magnetic field, \mathbf{J} is the current density, \mathbf{E} is the electric field, ρ , \mathbf{v} , p , and T are the plasma mass density, velocity, pressure, and temperature, n_e and n_p are the electron and proton density, respectively, and p_w is the wave pressure and represents the acceleration due to waves. The gravitational acceleration is $\mathbf{g} = -g_0 \hat{\mathbf{r}} R_s^2 / r^2$, R_s is the solar radius, $\gamma = 5/3$ is the ratio of specific heats, η is the resistivity, and ν is the viscosity. The plasma pressure is $p = (n_e + n_p)kT$, where for a hydrogen plasma, $n_e = n_p$, and $\rho = m_p n_p$, where m_p is the proton mass. In practice, the vector potential \mathbf{A} is used to advance the equations. These equations are solved on nonuniform meshes that allow us to concentrate grid points in regions of interest. The method of solution, including the boundary conditions, has been described previously (Mikić and Linker, 1994; Linker and Mikić, 1997; Lionello et al., 1999; Mikić et al., 1999; Linker et al., 2001; Lionello et al., 2001).

The model can be applied to both ideal MHD, in which case the plasma resistivity, η is set to zero, as well as resistive MHD, where η is finite.

Although MAS is a fully 3-D, global model, it can be applied to 2-D configurations by truncating the number of points in longitude, ϕ . In the serial version of MAS, because of the pseudo-spectral treatment in ϕ , the number of points in longitude can be reduced to 1. In the parallel version, however, because a finite difference approach is used in all three dimensions, a minimum of 3 points must be retained in ϕ . MAS cannot be used to model two dimensions in either the equatorial plane ($r, \theta = \pi/2, \phi$) or on a spherical shell ($r = r_o, \theta, \phi$).

While MAS is typically used to solve the full MHD equations, it is often constructive to simplify the problem by implementing the so-called zero-beta model. In this case, plasma pressure and gravitational forces are neglected ($P = \mathbf{g} = 0$), and we assume a fixed plasma density profile, $\rho(r)$. This ensures that equilibria are force-free ($\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} = 0$) and the modeler can compare the numerical results with both analytical and numerical solutions of force-free fields.

In the energy equation (5.6)–(5.7), H is the coronal heating source, $H_d = \eta J^2 + \nu \nabla \mathbf{v} : \nabla \mathbf{v}$ is the heating due to resistive and viscous dissipation, D is the heating due to dissipation of Alfvén waves, and $Q(T)$ is the radiation loss function (e.g., Rosner et al., 1978; Athay, 1986). In the collisional regime (below $\sim 10R_s$), the heat flux is given by $\mathbf{q} = -\kappa_{\parallel} \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \nabla T$, where $\hat{\mathbf{b}}$ is the unit vector along \mathbf{B} , and $\kappa_{\parallel} = 9 \times 10^{-7} T^{5/2}$ is the Spitzer value of the parallel thermal conductivity (in cgs units). In the collisionless regime (beyond $\sim 10R_s$), the heat flux is given by $\mathbf{q} =$

$\alpha n_e k T \mathbf{v}$, where α is a dimensionless parameter of order 1 (Hollweg, 1978). We refer to our model that solves this more detailed energy equation as the “thermodynamic” MHD model.

The (unknown) coronal heating source H is a parameterized function. Lionello et al. (2007) describe how we have evaluated different coronal heating models to see which can yield a reasonable match to EUV and X-ray emission.

Since the acceleration of the solar wind by Alfvén waves occurs on spatial and time scales below those of our global numerical model, the wave pressure p_w is evolved using an equation for the time-space averaged Alfvén wave energy density ε (Jacques, 1977; Usmanov et al., 2000).

A principal difficulty in solving the equations above is that extremely steep temperature and density gradients arise in the transition region, a consequence of the balance between conduction of heat from the hot corona and radiation loss in the transition region. Since typical scale lengths for the transition region can be as small as 1 km, this makes calculations with a transition region very challenging, even on massively parallel computers. To make these calculations feasible, we have developed a way of artificially broadening the transition region. This is accomplished by modifying the thermal conductivity $\kappa(T)$ and radiation loss function $Q(T)$ in the lower part of the transition region in such a way that the coronal solution is not modified. This artificial broadening of the transition region affects the detailed temperature and density profiles within the lower transition region, and hence the emission characteristics there, but it does not significantly change coronal emission. We have demonstrated this in 1D models of static and dynamic loops, and 2D MHD models, by comparing with calculations performed with the true $\kappa(T)$ and $Q(T)$.

5.3 Initial and Boundary Conditions for Ambient Corona Calculations

The lower boundary of the polytropic model is defined as the “photospheric” boundary at $r = R_S$. This should be regarded as the base of the corona, that is just above the transition region, since this simplified model cannot hope to resolve the scale height of the photosphere. Since our primary concern is to model large-scale structure and evolution in the solar corona, this approximation, is likely justified.

The resistive MHD equations require specification of five of the 8 parameters (three components of both magnetic field and velocity, density, and pressure). Typically we choose to specify B_r , \mathbf{E}_t , ρ , and T . The remaining parameters are computed self-consistently.

The two external boundaries are: (1) a sphere at $r = R_o$, typically a some point above the photosphere, say at the base of the corona, in the chromosphere, or at the base of the transition region; and (2) a sphere at $r = R_{max}$, where r_{max} is some point outside the critical wave surfaces (i.e., the sound, Alfvén, and magnetosonic points). This could be as little as $20R_S$ or as much as $5AU$. Beyond this, the effects of pick-up ions (which are not presently included in the code) may play a non-negligible role. In practice, we rarely run a single model beyond $50 - 100R_S$ because of computational efficiency. We have found it better to split the region into two distinct regions: the corona and heliosphere, with a boundary typically set to $30R_S$.

The internal boundaries lie at $\theta = 0$ and 180° . Appropriate geometric conditions are applied using analytic functions.

Typical values for the plasma and magnetic field parameters at $r = R_S$ and the equator are: Magnetic field strength, $B_o = 2.2$ Gauss; mass density, $\rho_o = 1.67 \times 10^{-16}$ g cm⁻³, which corresponds to an ion and electron number density, $n_o = 10^8$ cm⁻³; temperature, $T_o = 1.4 \times 10^6$ K (defined by the ideal gas law, $P_o = 2n_o k T_o$). For polytropic runs, the ratio of specific heats, γ , is set to 1.05. Although this cannot be justified on any physical grounds (γ is clearly $5/3$ in reality), it leads to a corona that is relatively isothermal, as is observed. To relax this limitation requires incorporation of various heating terms, which are included in the thermodynamic model. Using these values, we can compute the following parameters at the equator, at $r = R_S$: Sound speed, $c_s = 157$ km s⁻¹; Alfvén speed; $v_A = 470$ km s⁻¹; and $\beta = 0.2$. Similarly, at the poles: Sound speed, Alfvén speed; $v_A = 940$ km s⁻¹; and $\beta = 0.05$. The Alfvén time, $\tau = 1,449$ s (24.2 minutes). It is worth noting that the plasma and magnetic field parameters in the code have all been renormalized using these values. Thus speeds in the code must be multiplied by 470 to convert to km s⁻¹ and magnetic fields must be multiplied by 2 to convert to Gauss. The conversion of all parameters into cgs and rationalized MKS units is given in Appendix B.

In our thermodynamic model the lower radial boundary coincides with the upper chromosphere.

The initial and boundary conditions are described in detail by Linker and Mikić (1997). The key boundary condition required from observations is the radial magnetic field at the solar surface, B_{r0} . This must be supplemented with conditions on the plasma temperature and density at $r = R_s$, where we typically choose a temperature $T_0 = 20,000$ K and a number density $n_0 = 2 \times 10^{12}$ cm⁻³, representative of the upper chromosphere. In the thermodynamic MHD model, the choices for coronal heating determine the properties of the solutions, and the exact choice of T_0 and n_0 are not crucial as long as n_0 is large enough to maintain a chromosphere in the presence of the specified heating. The velocity parallel to the magnetic field

cannot be specified at $r = R_s$ in a well-posed problem; the boundary conditions on the velocity are determined from the characteristic equations along \mathbf{B} . The surface magnetic flux is specified from observations. At the upper radial boundary, which is placed beyond the sonic and Alfvén points, the characteristic equations are used as well.

For the initial condition, we start by computing a potential magnetic field in the corona that matches B_{r0} at the solar surface. We impose a spherically symmetric solar wind solution and integrate the time-dependent MHD equations in time until the solution settles down to an equilibrium. Helmet streamers with closed field lines form, surrounded by open field lines along which the solar wind flows outward.

5.4 Initial and Boundary Conditions for prominence and CME Eruptions

The initial conditions for CME computations is similar to the preceding discussion. The equations are advanced forward in time using suitable boundary conditions until a steady state is reached. At this point, time-dependent variations are applied at the boundary to build up stresses in the coronal magnetic field, which lead to the eruption of a CME and/or prominence.

Chapter 6

The Numerical Techniques Implemented in MAS

6.1 Introduction

In this chapter we briefly describe the numerical techniques used to solve the time-dependent MHD equations discussed in the previous chapter.

6.2 Meshes

The use of staggered meshes is a common technique in computational fluid dynamics and electrodynamics. It facilitates the specification of well-posed boundary conditions; at the lower boundary R_0 , typically only the magnetic field normal to R_0 and the electric field tangential to R_0 are allowed to be specified. Other components are computed at boundary in the same way as interior grid points. Staggered meshes preserve the vector identities $\nabla \cdot \nabla \times = 0$ and $\nabla \times \nabla = 0$, which makes it possible to maintain $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$ $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = 0$ to machine accuracy. The implementation of second order accurate derivatives or first order upwind derivatives is straightforward as well.

The original MAS code (a serial, vectorized code) uses a staggered mesh in r and θ . Grid points in r and θ can be spaced nonuniformly. Derivatives in the ϕ direction are computed using a pseudo-spectral method, which requires a uniform ϕ mesh. Figure 6.2 shows the location of quantities on the staggered r and θ .

The parallel MAS code (allows 3D domain decomposition with MPI) uses a staggered mesh in all three dimensions; Figure 6.2 shows the location of quantities for two cells of the staggered 3D mesh. All quantities map to the same locations as

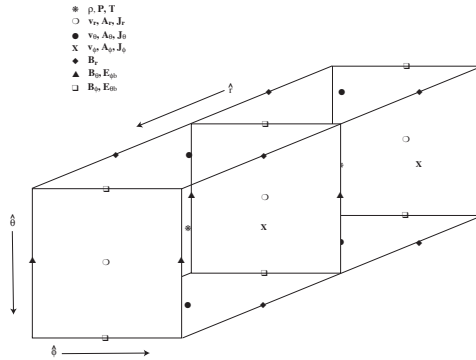


Figure 6.2: The 3D staggered mesh used in the parallel MAS code.

operators in our equations. As such, we can implement the conjugate gradient algorithm to efficiently compute the solution x . In comparison to the biconjugate gradient method, we have found it to be an order of magnitude faster.

6.5 Renormalization

To maximize the numerical precision of the result, the MHD variables are renormalized into non-dimensional quantities. The renormalization constants are chosen such that they are indicative of the typical value of that parameter in the solar corona. Hence most variables in “code” units have values near one. The conversion from “code” units to both cgs and rationalized MKS units is summarized in Table xxx. It is worth emphasizing that it is easy to recognize some parameters as being in code units if the renormalization constant is large. Speed, for example has to be multiplied by 481 to obtain values in kilometers per second. On the other hand, the conversion of magnetic field from “code” units to Gauss involves only a multiplication of 2.205. Thus one should be careful to keep track of whether one has converted to real units or not.

6.6 The Zero-Beta Model

The model can be “short-circuited” to approximate the behavior of a low-beta plasma by setting $p = 0$ and $\mathbf{g} = 0$ and further assuming a fixed plasma density profile $\rho(\mathbf{r})$. In this configuration, all magnetic phenomena in the MHD equations are still retained. In addition to simplifying the physical processes, making the

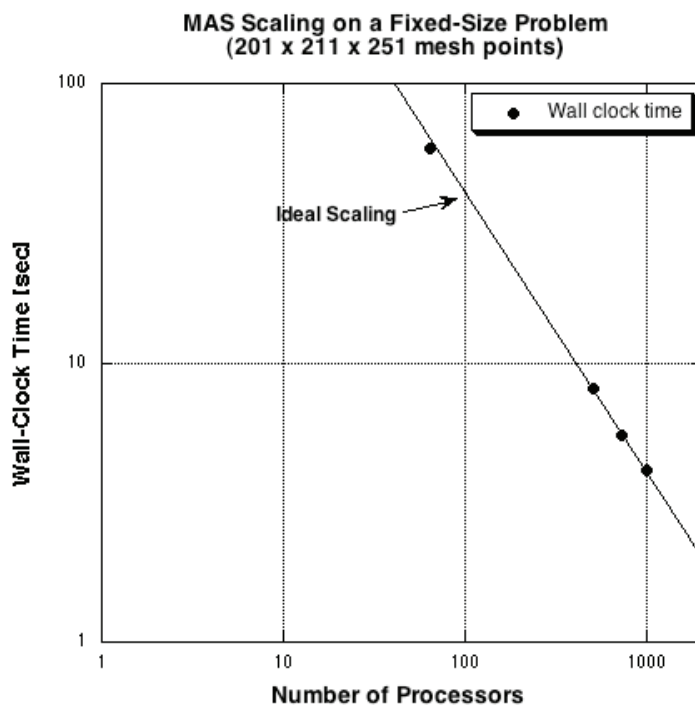


Figure 6.3: MAS scaling for a fixed-size problem.

code more robust, and speeding up the time of execution, this approximation has the property that equilibria formed are force free, that is, $\mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B} = 0$. Thus one can compare MAS zero-beta equilibria with analytic or numerical calculations of force-free fields.

6.7 The Performance of MAS

Figure 6.7 shows how MAS scales for a fixed-size problem as the number of processors increases from 64 to 1000. The solid line denotes what perfect scaling would look like. At least for problem sizes of the order of 200^3 , the code scales extremely well.

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Peer-Reviewed Articles about the MAS Code

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Relevant Websites

- Predictive Science's Solar and Heliospheric Group's Main Page:
<http://www.predsci.com>
- The Predictive Science STEREO Modeling Support Page:
<http://www.predsci.com/stereo>
- The Predictive Science MAS Modeling Page:
<http://www.predsci.com/modeling.html>

Appendix B

Conversion Table for MAS parameters

The following table provides the necessary constants to convert from MAS's internal code units to something more meaningful. To use them, simply multiply the raw MAS output by the appropriate constant.

Table 6.1: Converting from MAS code units to cgs and MKS.

Parameter	to convert to cgs	to convert to MKS
Length, l	6.96×10^{10} cm	6.96×10^8 m
Time, t	1445.87 s	1445.87 s
Velocity, v	481.3711 km/s	481.3711 km/s
Electron density, n_e	10^8 cm $^{-3}$	10^{14} m $^{-3}$
Mass density, ρ	1.6726×10^{-16} g/cm 3	1.6726×10^{-13} kg/m 3
Pressure, p	0.3875717 dyn/cm 2	3.875717×10^4 Pa
Temperature, T	2.807067×10^7 K	2.807067×10^7 K
Magnetic field, B	2.2068908 Gauss	2.2068908×10^{-4} T
Resistivity, η	0.0467796 s	—
Electrical Diffusivity, η/μ_o	—	3.3503427×10^8 km 2 /s