Effects of Emerging Bipolar Magnetic Regions in Mean-field Dynamo Model of Solar Cycles 23 and 24

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ABSTRACT

We model the physical parameters of Solar Cycles 23 and 24 using a nonlinear dynamical mean-field dynamo model that includes the formation and evolution of bipolar magnetic regions (BMR). The Parker-type dynamo model consists of a complete MHD system in the mean-field formulation: the 3D magnetic induction equation, and 2D momentum and energy equations in the anelastic approximation. The initialization of BMR is modeled in the framework of Parker's magnetic buoyancy instability. It defines the depths of BMR injections, which are typically located at the edge of the global dynamo waves. The distribution with longitude and latitude and the size of the initial BMR perturbations are taken from the NOAA database of active regions. The tilt of the perturbations is modeled by random function, and the mean tilt is modeled as a near-surface helicity (alpha-effect) term. The data-driven models are compared with the models calculated for random longitudinal and latitudinal distributions of the initial perturbation. The modeling results are compared with various observed characteristics of the solar cycles, including the magnetic butterfly diagram, the polar magnetic and basal magnetic fluxes, and the probability distributions of the BMR flux on the surface. The modeling results show that only the BMR perturbations located in the upper half of the convection zone lead to the magnetic active regions on the solar surface. While the BMR initialized in the lower part of the convection zone do not emerge on the surface, they still affect the global dynamo process. Our results show that BMR can play a substantial role in the dynamo processes, and affect the strength of the solar cycle. However, the data-driven model shows that the BMR effect alone cannot explain the weak Cycle 24. This weak cycle and the prolonged preceding minimum of magnetic activity were probably caused by a decrease of the turbulent helicity in the bulk of the convection zone during the decaying phase of Cycle 23.

Keywords: Sun: magnetic fields; Sun: oscillations; sunspots

1. INTRODUCTION

The basic scenario for the hydromagnetic solar dynamo involves a cyclic mutual transformation of the toroidal and poloidal magnetic fields by means of differential rotation and cyclonic convective motions characterized by kinetic helicity (Parker 1955). The key idea of Parker suggests that the poloidal magnetic field of the Sun is generated from rising loops of the toroidal magnetic field in the deep convection zone, which are twisted around the radial direction by turbulent cyclonic motions ("the alpha-effect"). The resulting poloidal fields of the loops coalesce into a large-scale poloidal magnetic field of a new solar cycle. The subsequent stretching of the poloidal field by the differential rotation produces the toroidal field ("the Omega-effect"). The whole 22-year cyclic process of the magnetic field generation and transformation represents dynamo waves, forming the magnetic butterfly diagram and reversing the magnetic polarity of the Sun's global magnetic field. Occasional strands of toroidal flux tubes emerge on the surface due to the magnetic buoyancy instability (Parker 1955, 1979) in the form of east-west oriented Bipolar Magnetic Regions (BMR).

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On the one hand, this scenario stems from the turbulent dynamo theory and mean-field dynamo models (Moffatt 1978; Parker 1979; Raedler 1980), which are the basis of our current understanding of the nature of magnetic activity in astrophysical objects (Brandenburg & Subramanian 2005; Shukurov & Subramanian 2021). Global convective MHD simulations prove the validity of the basic principles of the dynamo theory (Guerrero et al. 2016; Schrinner 2011; Schrinner et al. 2011; Warnecke et al. 2018, 2021). Naturally, the mean-field solar dynamo models consider the dynamo process to be distributed over the convection zone and 'shaped' into the butterfly diagram of emerged BMR in the subsurface rotational shear layer (Brandenburg 2005; Pipin & Kosovichev 2011).

On the other hand, the phenomenological scenario of Babcock-Leighton (hereafter, BL) (Babcock 1961; Leighton 1969), based on observations of magnetic field evolution on the solar surface, grew into a popular flux-transport model of the solar cycles (see reviews by Charbonneau 2011; Brun et al. 2014; Dikpati 2016). In this scenario, the poloidal field is generated due to the latitudinal tilt of BMR emerging on the solar surface. This field is transported by the surface meridional circulation and turbulent diffusion to the polar regions where it sinks in the interior and is amplified by the differential rotation, creating a new toroidal field, which produces emerging BMR. The meridional circulation speed controls the solar-cycle duration. For these dynamo models, the surface magnetic activity, which is often considered in the form of an empirical "source term" in the induction equation, is crucial.

In terms of the mean-field theory, the empirical Babcock-Leighton source term calculated from the magnetic flux of BMR observed on the solar surface can be considered as a near-surface alpha-effect (Stix 1974). From this point of view, the primary differences between Parker's and Babcock-Leighton's scenarios are in the distribution of the alpha-effect in the convection zone and the role of the turbulent magnetic diffusion and meridional circulation in the magnetic flux transport. While Parker's scenario assumes that the alpha-effect is distributed in the convection zone and turbulent diffusion plays a major role in the formation of migrating dynamo waves and considers the formation of BMR as a secondary effect, in the Babcock-Leighton scenario, the BMR play a key role providing the surface alpha-effect and magnetic flux transported by the meridional circulation to the polar regions.

Theoretical models based on these scenarios have been successful in explaining some observed properties of the solar cycles and magnetic field evolution. The Babcock-Leighton flux-transport models explain the magnetic flux emergence and transport observed on the solar surface as well as the evolution of the polar magnetic field (Dikpati et al. 2016). The recently developed self-consistent Parker-type mean-field model (Pipin 2018) explains the global magnetic structure and evolution (Obridko et al. 2021), as well as the dynamical processes, such as the migrating zonal flows – torsional oscillations (Kosovichev & Pipin 2019) and variations of the meridional circulation (Getling et al. 2021), observed by helioseismology. The model also explained the extended solar-cycle phenomenon (Pipin & Kosovichev 2019). This model determines the 3D evolution of the large-scale vector magnetic field, coupled with the equations describing large-scale flows and heat transport in the axisymmetric 2D approximation. Thus, unlike in the Babcock-Leighton models, the differential rotation and meridional circulation are not input parameters - they are calculated together with the magnetic field evolution. This allowed comparing the model results with the helioseismic measurements.

Despite the recent advances, both types of dynamo models do not provide a clear understanding of the physical mechanisms causing variations of the solar amplitude and, thus, cannot provide robust solar-cycle predictions. In the Babcock-Leighton models, the primary idea is that the solar cycle strength is governed by spatial and temporal variations of the BMR tilt, which affects the amount of magnetic flux transported to the polar regions (e.g. Dikpati 2016). On the other hand, Parker-type models attempt to explain the solar-cycle amplitudes by long- and short-term variations of the distributed alpha-effect and associated non-linear processes in the deep convection zone (e.g. Pipin & Kosovichev 2020).

To evaluate the role of BMR in these models, Pipin (2022) developed a 3D mean-field model, which includes the mechanism of magnetic flux emergence due to the magnetic buoyancy instability resulting in the formation of BMR on the surface. It was found that the generation of the large-scale poloidal field via the emergence and evolution of the solar bipolar magnetic regions can profoundly effect on the global dynamo process. Thus, this new type of mean-field dynamo modeling includes the basic features of both Parker's and Babcock-Leighton's scenarios.

In this paper, we study the effects of BMR on the solar dynamo using the mean-field dynamo model of Pipin & Kosovichev (2020) and the BMR formulation of Pipin (2022). Our aim is to investigate the global parameters of the mean-field dynamo for these solar cycles and evaluate the role of BMR in the cycle properties. To model the surface magnetic activity, we adopt the data of solar active regions from the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center for

Solar Cycles 23 and 24. In particular, we study the evolution of the polar magnetic field and investigate whether the modeled BMR activity can explain the weak Cycle 24.

2. MODEL FORMULATION

The model is formulated within the mean-field MHD (magnetohydrodynamics) framework of Krause & Rädler (1980). The basic details of the model are given earlier by Pipin & Kosovichev (2019) (hereafter PK19) and Pipin (2022) (hereafter, P22).

The magnetic field evolution is governed by the mean-field induction equation:

$$\partial_t \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle = \nabla \times (\mathcal{E} + \langle \mathbf{U} \rangle \times \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle) , \qquad (1)$$

where $\mathcal{E} = \langle \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b} \rangle$ is the mean electromotive force; \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{b} are the turbulent fluctuating velocity and magnetic field, respectively; and $\langle \mathbf{U} \rangle$ and $\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle$ are the mean velocity and magnetic field. We assume that the averaging is done over the ensemble of turbulent flows and magnetic fields. We decompose the induction vector $\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle$ into the sum of the axisymmetric and non-axisymmetric parts,

$$\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle = \overline{\mathbf{B}} + \tilde{\mathbf{B}} \,, \tag{2}$$

where $\overline{\mathbf{B}}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{B}}$ are the axisymmetric and non-axisymmetric components of the large-scale magnetic field. The mean electromotive force describes the turbulent effects on the mean magnetic field evolution. It consists of two parts:

$$\mathcal{E}_i = \mathcal{E}_i^{(A)} + \mathcal{E}_i^{(BMR)}, \tag{3}$$

where $\mathcal{E}_i^{(A)}$ is calculated analytically using the double-scale approximation of Roberts & Soward (1975) (see, e.g., Kitchatinov et al. 1994; Pipin 2008). The phenomenological part $\mathcal{E}_i^{(\mathrm{BMR})}$ describes formations of the surface bipolar regions (BMR) from the large-scale toroidal magnetic field.

The expression for $\mathcal{E}_i^{(A)}$ reads as follows,

$$\mathcal{E}_{i}^{(A)} = (\alpha_{ij} + \gamma_{ij}) \langle B \rangle_{i} - \eta_{ijk} \nabla_{j} \langle B \rangle_{k}, \qquad (4)$$

here, α_{ij} describes the turbulent generation of the magnetic field by helical motions (the α -effect), γ_{ij} describes the turbulent pumping, and η_{ijk} is the eddy magnetic diffusivity tensor. The α -effect tensor includes the small-scale magnetic helicity density contribution, i.e., the pseudo-scalar $\langle \chi \rangle = \langle \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \rangle$ (where \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} are the fluctuating vector-potential and magnetic field, respectively),

$$\alpha_{ij} = C_{\alpha} \psi_{\alpha}(\beta) \alpha_{ij}^{(H)} + \alpha_{ij}^{(M)} \psi_{\alpha}(\beta) \frac{\langle \chi \rangle \tau_c}{4\pi \overline{\rho} \ell_o^2}, \tag{5}$$

where the expressions of the kinetic helicity tensor $\alpha_{ij}^{(H)}$ and the magnetic helicity tensor $\alpha_{ij}^{(M)}$ are given by Pipin (2018). The radial profiles of the $\alpha_{ij}^{(H)}$ and $\alpha_{ij}^{(M)}$ depend on the mean density stratification, profile of the convective RMS velocity u_c and on the Coriolis number $\Omega^* = 2\Omega_0\tau_c$, where Ω_0 is the angular velocity of the star and τ_c is the convective turnover time. The magnetic quenching function $\psi_{\alpha}(\beta)$ depends on the parameter $\beta = |\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle| / \sqrt{4\pi \bar{\rho} u_c^2}$. Note that in the presence of the $\tilde{\mathbf{B}}$ -field, the α effect tensor becomes non-axisymmetric. It is caused by the $\psi_{\alpha}(\beta)$ -quenching and the magnetic helicity effects.

The magnetic helicity evolution follows the global conservation law for the total magnetic helicity, $\langle \chi \rangle^{(tot)} = \langle \chi \rangle + \langle \mathbf{A} \rangle \cdot \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle$, (see, Hubbard & Brandenburg (2012); Pipin et al. (2013); Brandenburg (2018)):

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \langle \mathbf{U} \rangle \cdot \mathbf{\nabla}\right) \langle \chi \rangle^{(tot)} = -\frac{\langle \chi \rangle}{R_m \tau_c} - 2\eta \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle \cdot \langle \mathbf{J} \rangle - \nabla \cdot \mathcal{F}^{\chi}, \tag{6}$$

where, we use $2\eta \langle \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{j} \rangle = \frac{\langle \chi \rangle}{R_m \tau_c}$ (Kleeorin & Rogachevskii 1999). Also, we introduce the diffusive flux of the small-scale magnetic helicity density, $\mathcal{F}^{\chi} = -\eta_{\chi} \nabla \langle \chi \rangle$, and R_m is the magnetic Reynolds number, we employ $R_m = 10^6$. Following the results of Mitra et al. (2010), we put $\eta_{\chi} = \frac{1}{10} \eta_T$. Further details about the turbulent dynamo effects can be found in Pipin (2022)(P22) and in the above-cited papers. In what follows, we discard the advection of the total helicity

by meridional circulation. As a result, the amplitude of the polar magnetic field in the mean-field model decreases in comparison to the standard case (cf, P22). One purpose of this tuning is to get a stronger impact of the surface BMR on the deep dynamo in the new model.

The turbulent pumping, which is expressed by the antisymmetric tensor γ_{ij} , is important for reproducing the solar-like evolution of the dynamo-generated magnetic field (Warnecke et al. 2014, 2021). The formulation of γ_{ij} for the solar-type mean-field dynamo model was discussed by Pipin (2018). We define it as follows,

$$\gamma_{ij} = \gamma_{ij}^{(\Lambda \rho)} + \frac{\alpha_{\text{MLT}} u_c}{\gamma} \mathcal{H}(\beta) \,\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\text{n}} \varepsilon_{\text{inj}},\tag{7}$$

$$\gamma_{ij}^{(\Lambda\rho)} = 3\nu_T f_1^{(a)} \left\{ \left(\mathbf{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{\Lambda}^{(\rho)} \right) \frac{\Omega_n}{\Omega^2} \varepsilon_{\rm inj} - \frac{\Omega_j}{\Omega^2} \varepsilon_{\rm inm} \Omega_n \Lambda_{\rm m}^{(\rho)} \right\}$$
 (8)

where $\mathbf{\Lambda}^{(\rho)} = \mathbf{\nabla} \log \overline{\rho}$, $\alpha_{\text{MLT}} = 1.9$ is the mixing-length theory parameter, γ is the adiabatic exponent, u_c is the RMS convective velocity. In Eq.(7), the first term takes into account the mean drift of the large-scale field due to the gradient of the mean density, and the second term describes the magnetic buoyancy effect. Function $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ takes into account the effect of magnetic tension. For small values of β , $\mathcal{H}(\beta) \sim \beta^2$, and it saturates as β^{-2} for $\beta \gg 1$ (see P22 for details).

We assume that the large-scale flow is axisymmetric. It is decomposed into a sum of the meridional circulation and differential rotation, $\overline{\mathbf{U}} = \overline{\mathbf{U}}^m + r \sin\theta\Omega\left(r,\theta\right)\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$, where r is the radial coordinate, θ is the polar angle, $\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$ is the unit vector in the azimuthal direction, and $\Omega\left(r,\theta\right)$ is the angular velocity profile. The angular momentum conservation and the equation for the azimuthal component of large-scale vorticity, $\overline{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \left(\boldsymbol{\nabla} \times \overline{\mathbf{U}}^{\mathrm{m}}\right)_{\phi}$, determine the differential rotation and meridional circulation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \overline{\rho} r^2 \sin^2 \theta \Omega = - \nabla \cdot \left(r \sin \theta \overline{\rho} \left(\hat{\mathbf{T}}_{\phi} + r \sin \theta \Omega \overline{\mathbf{U}}^{\mathbf{m}} \right) \right)
+ \nabla \cdot \left(r \sin \theta \frac{\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle \langle B_{\phi} \rangle}{4\pi} \right),$$
(9)

$$\frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \mathbf{t}} = \mathbf{r} \sin \theta \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \times \nabla \cdot \overline{\boldsymbol{\rho}} \hat{\mathbf{T}}}{\mathbf{r} \overline{\rho} \sin \theta} - \frac{\overline{\mathbf{U}}^{\mathrm{m}} \overline{\omega}}{\mathbf{r} \sin \theta} \right)
+ \mathbf{r} \sin \theta \frac{\partial \Omega^{2}}{\partial z} - \frac{\mathbf{g}}{\mathbf{c}_{\mathrm{p}} \mathbf{r}} \frac{\partial \overline{\mathbf{s}}}{\partial \theta}
+ \frac{1}{4\pi \overline{\rho}} \left(\overline{\mathbf{B}} \cdot \nabla \right) \left(\nabla \times \overline{\mathbf{B}} \right)_{\phi} - \frac{1}{4\pi \overline{\rho}} \left(\left(\nabla \times \overline{\mathbf{B}} \right) \cdot \nabla \right) \overline{\mathbf{B}}_{\phi}, \tag{10}$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{T}}$ is the turbulent stress tensor:

$$\hat{T}_{ij} = \left(\langle u_i u_j \rangle - \frac{1}{4\pi\overline{\rho}} \left(\langle b_i b_j \rangle - \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} \left\langle \mathbf{b}^2 \right\rangle \right) \right), \tag{11}$$

(see detailed description in Pipin & Kosovichev 2019, PK19). Also, $\bar{\rho}$ is the mean density, \bar{s} is the mean entropy; $\partial/\partial z = \cos\theta\partial/\partial r - \sin\theta/r \cdot \partial/\partial\theta$ is the gradient along the axis of rotation. The mean heat transport equation determines the mean entropy variations from the reference state due to the generation and dissipation of large-scale magnetic fields and flows (Pipin & Kitchatinov 2000):

$$\overline{\rho}\overline{T}\left(\frac{\partial \overline{s}}{\partial t} + (\overline{\mathbf{U}} \cdot \mathbf{\nabla})\overline{s}\right) = -\mathbf{\nabla} \cdot (\mathbf{F}^c + \mathbf{F}^r) - \hat{T}_{ij}\frac{\partial \overline{U}_i}{\partial r_j} - \boldsymbol{\mathcal{E}} \cdot (\nabla \times \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle), \tag{12}$$

where \overline{T} is the mean temperature, \mathbf{F}^r is the radiative heat flux, \mathbf{F}^c is the anisotropic convective flux (see, PK19). The last two terms in Eq. (12) take into account the convective energy gain and sink caused by the generation and dissipation of large-scale magnetic and flow fields. The reference profiles of mean thermodynamic parameters, such as entropy, density, and temperature, are determined from the stellar interior model MESA (Paxton et al. 2011, 2013). The radial profile of the typical convective turnover time, τ_c , is determined by the MESA code, as well. We assume

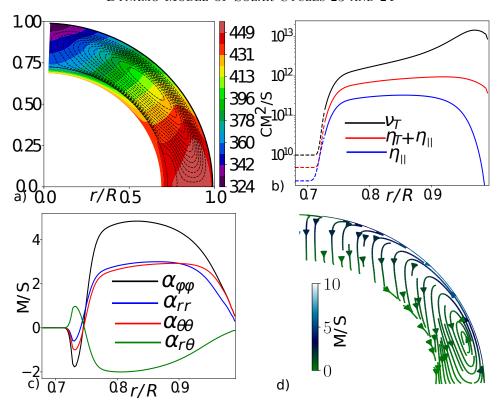


Figure 1. a) The meridional circulation (streamlines) and the angular velocity distributions; the magnitude of circulation velocity is ~ 13 m/s on the surface at 45° latitude; b) radial dependencies of the total eddy magnetic diffusivity, $\eta_T + \eta_{||}$, and its rotationally induced part, $\eta_{||}$, and the eddy viscosity profile, ν_T ; c) the α -effect tensor components as a function of radius at 45° latitude; and d) the streamlines of the toroidal magnetic field effective drift velocity caused by the meridional circulation and the turbulent pumping effect. For post-processing of modeling data and visualization in this and other figures, we use NUMPY/SCIPY (Harris et al. 2020; Virtanen et al. 2020) together with MATPLOTLIB (HUNTER 2007) and PYVISTA (SULLIVAN & KASZYNSKI 2019).

that τ_c does not depend on the magnetic field and global flows. The convective RMS velocity is determined from the mixing-length approximation,

$$u_{c} = \frac{\ell_{c}}{2} \sqrt{-\frac{g}{2c_{p}} \frac{\partial \overline{s}}{\partial r}},$$
(13)

where $\ell_c = \alpha_{MLT} H_p$ is the mixing length, $\alpha_{MLT} = 1.9$ is the mixing-length parameter, and H_p is the pressure scale height. Equation (13) determines the reference profiles for the eddy heat conductivity, χ_T , eddy viscosity, ν_T , and eddy diffusivity, η_T , as follows,

$$\chi_T = \frac{\ell^2}{6} \sqrt{-\frac{g}{2c_p} \frac{\partial \bar{s}}{\partial r}},\tag{14}$$

$$\nu_T = \Pr_T \chi_T, \tag{15}$$

$$\eta_T = \mathrm{Pm}_{\mathrm{T}} \nu_{\mathrm{T}}.\tag{16}$$

Figure 1 illustrates distributions of the angular velocity, meridional circulation, the α -effect, and the eddy diffusivity calculated for a nonmagnetic model. The amplitude of the meridional circulation on the surface is about 13 m/s. The angular velocity distribution is in agreement with the helioseismology data (Pipin & Kosovichev 2019).

2.1. Formation of Bipolar Magnetic Regions (BMR)

Following ideas of Parker (1955, 1971), the emergence of the bipolar magnetic regions (BMR) is modeled by using the mean electromotive force representing the magnetic buoyancy and twisting effects acting on unstable parts of the

axisymmetric magnetic field as follows (P22):

$$\mathcal{E}_{i}^{(\text{BMR})} = \alpha_{\beta} \delta_{i\phi} \langle B \rangle_{\phi} + V_{\beta} \left(\hat{\boldsymbol{r}} \times \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle \right)_{i}, \tag{17}$$

where the first term describes the α -effect caused by the BMR tilt, and the second term models the magnetic buoyancy instability. The magnetic buoyancy velocity, V_{β} , includes the turbulent and mean-field buoyancy effects (Kitchatinov & Rüdiger 1992; Kitchatinov & Pipin 1993; Ruediger & Brandenburg 1995):

$$V_{\beta} = \frac{\alpha_{\text{MLT}} u_c}{\gamma} \mathcal{H}(\beta_m) \, \xi_{\beta}(t, \mathbf{r}) \tag{18}$$

where function $\mathcal{H}(\beta)$ describes magnetic tension, $\beta = |\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle| / \sqrt{4\pi \overline{\rho} u_c^2}$, and subscript 'm' marks unstable points. Function ξ_{β} , defines the location and formation of the unstable part of the magnetic field,

$$\xi_{\beta}^{(\pm)}(\mathbf{r},t) = C_{\beta} \tanh\left(\frac{t}{\tau_{0}}\right) \exp\left(-m_{\beta} \left(\sin^{2}\left(\frac{\phi - \phi_{m}}{2}\right)\right) + \sin^{2}\left(\frac{\theta - \theta_{m}}{2}\right)\right) \psi(r, r_{m}^{(\pm)}), t < \delta t_{0}$$

$$= 0, t > \delta t. \tag{19}$$

where ψ is a kink type function of radius,

$$\psi(r, r_m^{(\pm)}) = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 + \text{erf} \left(100 \frac{\left(r - r_m^{(\pm)} \right)}{R} \right) \right) \times \left(1 - \text{erf} \left(100 \frac{\left(r - \left(r_m^{(\pm)} + 0.1R \right) \right)}{R} \right) \right), \tag{20}$$

where r_m and θ_m are the radius and the latitude of the toroidal magnetic field strength extrema in the convection zone. The reader finds further details in P22 and the above-cited papers. Then, the instability may act both near the bottom and near the top of the convection zone. We handle these situations separately using separate functions: $\xi_{\beta}^{(-)}(\mathbf{r},t)$ for the low half $(r_m^{(-)} < 0.86R)$ and $\xi_{\beta}^{(+)}(\mathbf{r},t)$ for the upper half $(r_m^{(+)} > 0.86R)$ of the convection zone.

Compared to P22, we modify the time evolution of the instability from simple exponent to C_{β} tanh $\left(\frac{t}{\tau_0}\right)$ and calculate the unstable points in the whole convection zone. This is similar to our earlier paper (Pipin & Kosovichev 2015). Also, this formulation allows for more flexible assimilation of the observational data of solar active regions (see Sec. 2.2). For consistency with the results of P22, we use the parameter $C_{\beta} = 180$. The other parameters are the same as in P22, i.e., the emergence time, $\delta t = 5$ days, the BMR's growth rate, $\tau_0 = 1$ day; and with $m_{\beta} = 100$ we get the size of BMR about 10 heliographic degrees. The perturbations are randomly initiated in time and longitude in each hemisphere independently.

The radial and latitudinal positions of the unstable points are computed using the instability parameter

$$I_{\beta} = -r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \log \frac{\left|\overline{B}\right|^{\zeta}}{\overline{\rho}},\tag{21}$$

where \overline{B} is the strength of the axisymmetric toroidal magnetic field and $\overline{\rho}$ is the density profile. The power law index $\zeta=1$ corresponds to Parker's instability condition. For a better match with the solar observations, we use $\zeta=1.2$. Typically, $I_{\beta}>0$ at the upper edge of the dynamo wave (see Fig. 3 in P22). This condition defines the depth of the unstable perturbations. Therefore, the instabilities are initiated at the points of the $|\overline{B}|I_{\beta}(r,\theta)$ maxima where $I_{\beta}(r_m,\theta_m)>0$.

The α -effect of the BMR is Eq. 17 is given as follows

$$\alpha_{\beta} = C_{\alpha\beta} (1 + \xi_{\alpha}) \cos \theta V_{\beta} \psi_{\alpha}(\beta) \psi(r, r_{\alpha}). \tag{22}$$

Here, the amplitude of the α -effect is determined by the local magnetic buoyancy velocity. Parameter ξ_{α} controls random fluctuations of the BMR's α -effect. In the current formulation, the α -effect of the BMR is readily linked to the BMR tilt (Stix 1974). Parameter $C_{\alpha\beta}$ defines the mean tilt (see, P22). The latitudinal dependence of this relationship is governed by the factor $\cos \theta$, see Eq. (22). In addition, we use a step-like function of Eq. (20) to define the radial extent of the BMR perturbations.

We model the randomness of the tilt using the parameter ξ_{α} . Similarly to the work of Rempel (2005) and Pipin (2022), the ξ_{α} evolution follows the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process,

$$\dot{\xi}_{\alpha} = -\frac{2}{\tau_{\xi}} \left(\xi_{\alpha} - \xi_{1} \right),$$

$$\dot{\xi}_{1} = -\frac{2}{\tau_{\xi}} \left(\xi_{1} - \xi_{2} \right),$$

$$\dot{\xi}_{2} = -\frac{2}{\tau_{\xi}} \left(\xi_{2} - g \sqrt{\frac{2\tau_{\xi}}{\tau_{h}}} \right).$$
(23)

Here, g is a Gaussian random number. It is renewed at every time step, τ_h . The τ_ξ is the relaxation time of ξ_α . The parameters $\xi_{1,2,3}$ are introduced to model smooth variations of ξ_α . Similarly to the above-cited papers, we choose the parameters of the Gaussian process as follows, $\bar{g} = 0$, $\sigma(g) = 1$ and $\tau_\xi = 2$ months. Parameters ξ_α and ξ_β vary independently in the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

2.2. Data-Driven BMR Model

In the data-driven models, we compute the radial position of the unstable point using the maximum of product $|\overline{B}| I_{\beta}(r,\theta)$, the condition $I_{\beta}(r_m,\theta_m) > 0$ and $r_m > 0.86R$. For the low half part of the convection zone, we use function $\xi_{\beta}^{(-)}$. The latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates θ_m and ϕ_m in function ξ_{β} are taken from the active region data base. Similarly to the theoretical model, the BMR's size is controlled by the parameter m_{β} , which is taken in the form:

$$m_{\beta} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\mathrm{S_a/10^6}}},$$

where S_a is the maximum observed area (in millionth of the hemisphere) of the bipolar active regions. We exclude all regions with $S_a < 50$.

The solar observations show a wide range of variations in the BMR's emergence time and growth rate. Also, there are periods of simultaneous emergence of several BMR in one hemisphere. To avoid the overlaps, we reformat the emergence initiation time as follows. Firstly, for such cases, we shift the emergence of subsequent BMR by 2 time steps after the end of the previous BMR emergence. Secondly, we define the minimal emergence time $\delta t_{min} = 2$ days and assume that these BMR have smaller τ_0 or the higher growth rate. Specifically, we define:

$$\tau_{\rm a} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\delta t_{\rm a}}{\delta t_{\rm min}} \tau_{\rm 0},$$

where δt_a is the total emergence time of the BMR, τ_a is the growth rate.

Putting all together, we obtain the instability function for the data-driven modeling, $\xi_{\beta}^{(a)}$

$$\xi_{\beta}^{(a)}(\mathbf{r},t) = C_{\beta} \tanh\left(\frac{t}{\tau_{a}}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{2}{\sqrt{S_{a}/10^{6}}} \left(\sin^{2}\left(\frac{\phi - \phi_{m}}{2}\right)\right) + \sin^{2}\left(\frac{\theta - \theta_{m}}{2}\right)\right) \psi(\mathbf{r}, r_{m}^{(+)}), t < \delta t_{a}$$

$$= 0, t > \delta t_{a}. \tag{24}$$

The parameters S_a , θ_m and ϕ_m are taken from the NOAA database of solar active regions (https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/).

Table 1. The parameters of the model runs. To is the axisymmetric base model without BMR. T1 and T2 are models with the random initialization of BMR. S0-S2 are data-driven models with the initialization corresponding to Solar Cycles 23 and 24 in the upper half of the convection zone. The second column shows the implementation of the BMR perturbations in the lower half (the first function) and the top half (the second function) of the convection zone (see Eqs 19 and 24); the third column shows whether the models employ the BMR tilt (see, Eqs 22,23); the column C_{α} show the parameters of the global mean-field alpha effects (see the text); the next column shows the time intervals for the corresponding C_{α} values (after the start of Solar Cycle 23 for models S0-S2); the last column shows the duration of the activity cycles (half dynamo periods of the magnetic cycles).

	BMR injection	$lpha_eta$	C_{α}	T [yr]	Period [yr]
Т0	0	0	0.045	≥0	10.4
T1	$\xi_eta^{(-)},\xi_eta^{(+)}$	ξ_lpha	0.04	≥ 0	10.6,
	<i>r r</i>				10.8,
					10.5
T2	$0, \xi_{\beta}^{(+)}$	ξ_{lpha}	0.045	≥ 0	11.2,
					11.3,
	() ()				11.1
S0	$\xi_{eta}^{(-)}, \xi_{eta}^{(\mathrm{a})}$	ξ_lpha	0.045	$\geq 0 \geq 5$	11.2,
			0.035	≥11	11.6
	() ()		0.044		
S1	$\xi_{eta}^{(-)}, \xi_{eta}^{(\mathrm{a})}$	ξ_{lpha}	0.045	$\geq 0 \geq 5$	11.4,
		> 0.95R	0.035	≥11	11.6
			0.034		
S2	$0, \xi_{\beta}^{(a)}$	ξ_{lpha}	0.045	$\geq 0 \geq 5$	11.6,
			0.036	≥11	12
			0.04		

2.3. Model parameters and boundary conditions

The model divides the integration domain into two parts. The overshoot region includes the upper part of the radiative zone. The bottom of the integration domain is fixed at $r_i = 0.67R$. The convection zone extends from $r_b = 0.728R$ to $r_t = 0.99R$. The solution of the heat transport gives the mean entropy distribution and determines the turbulent parameters in the convection zone. In the overshoot region, the intensity of the turbulent mixing decays exponentially from the bottom of the convection zone. The bottom boundary rotates as a solid-body at the rate $\Omega_0 = 430$ nHz. At the bottom boundary, the magnetic field induction vector is zero. At the top boundary, we use the black-body radiation heat flux and the stress-free condition for the hydrodynamic part of the problem.

For the induction equation (1), we use the top boundary condition in the form that allows penetration of the toroidal magnetic field to the surface:

$$\delta \frac{\eta_T}{r_t} B \left(1 + \frac{|B|}{B_{\text{esq}}} \right) + (1 - \delta) \mathcal{E}_{\theta} = 0, \tag{25}$$

where $r_{\rm t}=0.99R$. For the set of parameters $\delta=0.999$ and $B_{\rm esq}=5{\rm G}$, the surface toroidal field magnitude is around 1.5 G. The poloidal magnetic field is potential outside the dynamo domain. For the numerical solution, we use a spectral expansion in terms of the spherical harmonics and employ the FORTRAN version of the SHTNS library of Schaeffer (2013).

The basic model shows an agreement of the angular velocity profile with helioseismology results for $\Pr_T = 3/4$. The full dynamo cycle period of 20 years is reproduced if $\Pr_T = 11$ and $C_{\alpha} = 0.045$. Following the results of Pipin (2022), we put the parameter of the BMR's α -effect $C_{\alpha\beta} = 0.25$.

3. RESULTS

3.1. BMR formation and their parameters

Table 1 summarizes the key parameters of the model runs.

Model T0 is a base axisymmetric dynamo model without BMR. It reproduces basic observed properties of the solar cycles, such as the magnetic butterfly diagram, polar field reversals, migrating zonal flows (torsional oscillations), variations of the meridional circulation, and the extended solar cycle phenomenon (Pipin & Kosovichev 2019, 2020).

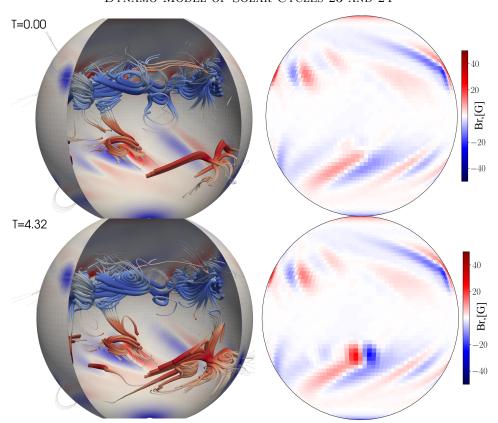


Figure 2. Formation of two magnetic regions in the South hemisphere during the growth phase of Cycle 23 in model S0. Left column shows the field lines of the non-axisymmetric magnetic field, and time is shown in days. Right column shows the surface radial magnetic field (full animation is available online).

Models T1 and T2 include the BMR initiation driven by the magnetic buoyancy instability with initial perturbations with the radius according to the instability criterion and randomly in longitude and latitude. The perturbations are initiated in the whole convection zone in model T1, and only in the upper half of the convection zone in model T2. Models S0-S2 are data-driven models. Like in T1 and T2 models, the BMR sources are distributed with the radius according to the magnetic buoyancy criterion, but in the upper half of the convection zone the latitudinal and longitudinal distributions correspond to the location of the solar active regions observed during Solar Cycles 23 and 24 (BMR injection function $\xi_{\beta}^{(-)}$). In the lower half of the convection zone, the BMR injection function is random in longitude and latitude ($\xi_{\beta}^{(-)}$) models S0 and S1, and it is not included in model S2. Also, in model S1, we limit the BMR α -effect to a near-surface layer. Then, the BMR remain untilted deep in the convection zone.

The global α -effect parameter, C_{α} , is chosen to match the duration and strength of the solar cycles. In particular, to fit the parameters of the sunspot cycles, 23 and 24, in the data-driven models S0 and S1 to observations, we use the variable mean-field α -effect because these cycles have different magnitudes and durations. The data-driven models start from the epoch of the solar minimum at the beginning of the sunspot cycle 23 in 1996. Using the numerical experiments, we find that the prolonged decay of Cycle 23 can be modeled if parameter C_{α} is decreased by 20% relative to its initial value $C_{\alpha}=0.036$ in 2001, after five years from the start of Cycle 23. Then, at the end of the cycle in 2011, it is increased back by 15% to $C_{\alpha}=0.04$. The value $C_{\alpha}=0.04$ is close to the dynamo threshold. The same variations of C_{α} are used in model T1. The reference axisymmetric model T0 has the constant $C_{\alpha}=0.045$.

Figure 2 illustrates the formation of BMR simulated in model S0. The BMR start as magnetic bubbles which eventually appear at the surface. In addition, we see the corresponding poleward magnetic flux transport events that are formed from remnants of the BMR's evolution due to the effects of differential rotation, meridional circulation, and magnetic eddy diffusivity.

Next, we look at distributions of the BMR's size, tilt angles and magnetic fluxes. We consider snapshots of the synoptic maps of the non-axisymmetric radial magnetic field and calculate the continuous area of the magnetic regions

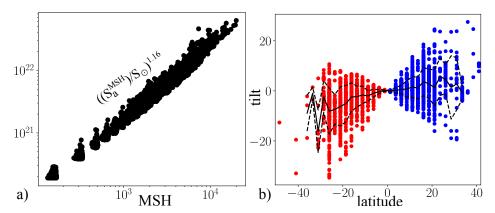


Figure 3. Model S0: a) Distribution of the BMR area and the magnetic flux, b) the BMR's tilt. Blue color shows BMR from the northern hemisphere, and red color shows the southern hemisphere, the solid line shows the mean tilt, and the dashed lines show the tilt variance.

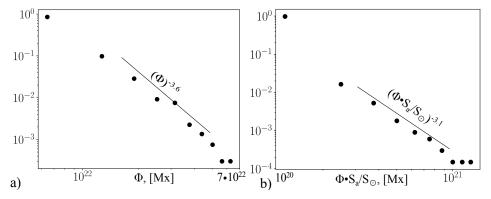


Figure 4. Model S0. a) Occurrence probability for the BMR flux magnitude, Φ ; b) the same for the BMR flux and area magnitude, $\Phi \cdot S_a$

using the threshold of 10^{20} Mx in the pixel. We find the linear relation between the BMR's area and flux, see Fig. 3a). This is in agreement with observational results (Nagovitsyn & Pevtsov 2021). The distribution of the tilt angle shown in Fig. 3b is also in close agreement with observations (Nagovitsyn et al. 2021), including the nonlinear behavior at latitudes $> 25^{\circ}$.

Figure 4 shows results for the probability distributions of the BMR's flux magnitude, Φ , and the power of the magnetic flux occupying the area S_a , $\Phi \cdot S_a$. These parameters show the power-law probability distributions, similarly to the observational analyses of Parnell et al. (2009), Muñoz-Jaramillo et al. (2015) and Nagovitsyn et al. (2021). However, the power-law indexes of in models are higher than in the observations, e.g., Parnell et al. (2009) found $P \propto (\Phi \cdot S_a)^{-1.8}$. Our model reproduces the power law but with a steeper index ≈ -3.1 .

3.2. The modeled magnetic field evolution

Figure 5 shows the time-latitude diagram of the surface radial magnetic field and the toroidal magnetic field in the subsurface shear layer for model S0. Also, we show the evolution of the BMR injection locations in radius. The butterfly diagrams are similar to the results of P22. The radial locations of the BMR injections mark the propagation of the dynamo wave from the bottom of the convection zone toward the surface (Kosovichev & Pipin 2019; Pipin & Kosovichev 2019). Figure 6 illustrates this propagation in a series of magnetic field meridional snapshots.

Noteworthy, the BMR injections from the bottom of the convection zone do not produce the surface BMR. This may be related to the restricted radial sizes of the BMR initiation sources (see Eq. 20). Nevertheless, as discussed later, such magnetic flux injections affect the surface non-axisymmetric magnetic field. With the described tuning of the C_{α} parameter, the BMR activity in model S0 satisfactorily fits the time-latitude variations of the near-surface toroidal magnetic field. Yet, near the equator, the BMR activity goes outside the modeled toroidal field evolution during the epoch of Cycle 23 minimum. The situation is clarified by Fig. 6. During the activity minima, the magnetic buoyancy

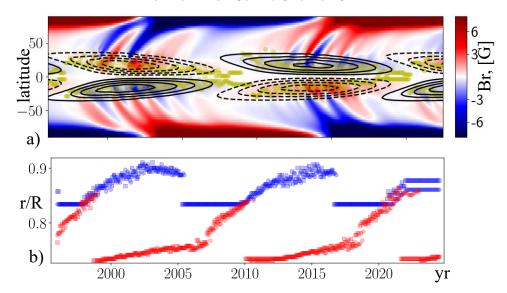


Figure 5. Model S0. a) Time-latitude diagram of the near surface toroidal magnetic field (contours in the range of $\pm 1 \text{kG}$), surface radial magnetic field (color image), and positions of the BMR (squares) for model S0; b) the starting radial positions of the injected BMRs; blue squares mark the BMR injections from the upper part of the convection zone and the red squares mark the injections from the lower part.

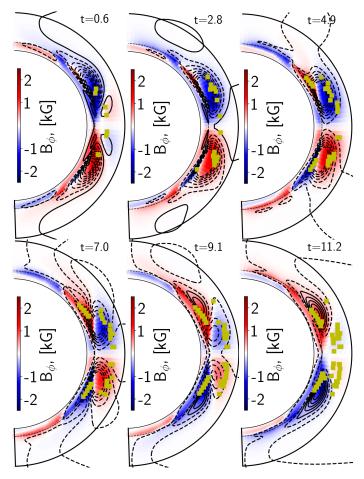


Figure 6. Snapshots of the axisymmetric magnetic field evolution during Cycle 23 in model S0. The BMR formation locations are marked by squares. To show the weak toroidal field near the equator, we use over-saturated color range. Vector-potential streamlines show the poloidal magnetic field, dashed lines reflect the anticlockwise direction of the field lines.

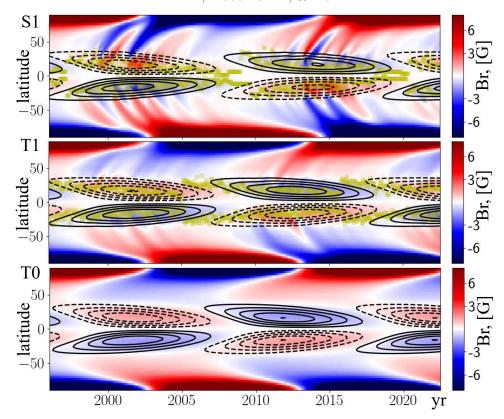


Figure 7. a) Time-latitude diagram of the near surface toroidal magnetic field (contours in range of $\pm 1 \text{kG}$), surface radial magnetic field (color image), and positions of the BMR (squares) for model S1; b) and c) the same as a) for models T1 and T0.

mechanism initiates BMR not only from weak remnants of the toroidal magnetic field of the old cycle in the subsurface layers very near the equator but also from the deeper layers on the edge of the new dynamo wave of the next cycle.

Figure 7 shows the time-latitude diagrams for models S1, T0 and T1. Similarly to the results of P22, we find that the model produces the smooth evolution of the surface radial magnetic field if we neglect the BMR's tilt. The comparison of models S0 and T1 shows that details of the magnetic buoyancy mechanism and latitudinal locations of the BMR activity are important for the magnetic cycle parameters (Mackay & Yeates 2012; Miesch & Dikpati 2014). For comparison, we show the results for the pure axisymmetric model, T0, as well. For the given C_{α} , model T0 has the activity cycle (half of the full dynamo period) of about 10.5 years, which is shorter than the periods of models T1 and S0, which include the BMR activity.

Figure 8 shows the mean absolute magnitude of the surface radial magnetic field, $|\overline{\mathbf{B}_r}|$, and the ratio of the mean magnitude of the axisymmetric surface field, $|\overline{\mathbf{B}_r}|$ to $|\overline{\mathbf{B}_r}|$. This ratio characterizes the level of the non-axisymmetry of the surface activity in our models. To compare with observations, we use the synoptic maps of the radial magnetic field from the KPO, SOLIS and SDO/HMI data archives (Harvey et al. 1980; Bertello et al. 2014; Scherrer et al. 2012). Using the synoptic maps, we calculate the surface mean of the unsigned radial magnetic field and the same for the axisymmetric radial magnetic field. We find that, in the observations, the value of $|\overline{\mathbf{B}_r}|$ reaches about 20-25 G at the solar maxima, and it was around 15 G in Solar Cycles 23 and 24. Bearing in mind the large-scale character of the magnetic activity in our model, we also compare our results with $|\overline{\mathbf{B}_r}|$ calculated f or non-axisymmetric spherical harmonics of the angular order m < 11. We find a satisfactory agreement of models S0 and S2 with the solar observations. Model S0 shows that Solar Cycle 25, started in 2019, can be the same or a little higher than Cycle 24. The same is likely true in model S2.

However, the basal level of $|\overline{\mathbf{B}_r}|$ during the solar minima is about by a factor of 2 smaller than in the solar observations. This is reflected in the behavior of the non-axisymmetry parameter $|\overline{\mathbf{B}}_r|/|\overline{\mathbf{B}_r}|$, as well. It seems that our model misses some parts of the dynamo process that are essential for the large-scale non-axisymmetric magnetic field of the Sun. Interestingly, the contribution of the BMR activity to the axisymmetric magnetic field increases to the observational

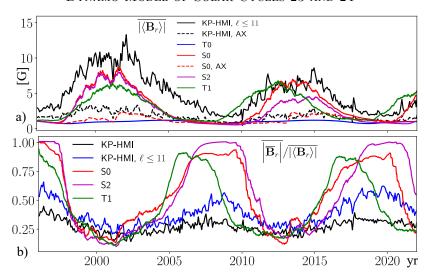


Figure 8. a) The mean absolute magnitude of the surface radial magnetic field; b) the ratio of the mean absolute magnitude of the axisymmetric surface field component to the mean magnitude of the surface radial magnetic field, $|\overline{\mathbf{B}}_r|/|\langle \mathbf{B}_r \rangle|$.

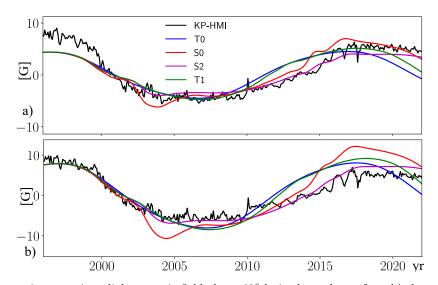


Figure 9. a) The mean axisymmetric radial magnetic field above 60° latitude at the surface; b) the same above 70° latitude.

level just after the magnetic cycle maximum (see the dashed red curve in Fig. 8a). Model S2 shows the same behavior.

Figure 9 shows the evolution of the polar magnetic field calculated by averaging the North-South anti-symmetric radial field components for latitudes higher than 60 and 70 degrees. We see that the polar field in the solar observations shows only a little change between these two measurements during the epoch of solar minimum around 1996. At the same time, the dynamo model shows significant changes in the latitude range in the polar field definition. Model T0 without BMR shows the same magnitude of the polar field for the cycle minima in 1996, 2007, and 2018. Model T1, with random initialization of BMR, shows a slight increase of the polar magnetic field during the minima due to the BMR contribution to the polar field magnitude. The same effect is found for model S0; although the magnitude of the mean-field α -effect in this model was decreased in Cycles 23 and 24 to match the observed properties of Cycle 24. The mean latitude of the BMR injections in the data-driven model S0 (NOAA data driven model) is lower than in model T1 with the random BMR initialization. Model S2 shows the best fit for the solar data reproducing plateaus during the minima of Solar Cycles 23 and 24.

In our simulations, we investigated various possibilities to reproduce the basic parameters of Solar Cycles 23 and 24. Besides the long-term variations of the mean-field parameter C_{α} , we considered α_{β} variations. In such cases, to bring

the model in the best agreement with observations, we needed to assume very small values C_{β} (corresponding to the mean BMR tilt) during the declining phase of Cycle 23 and the growth phase of Cycle 24. However, the observational results of Tlatov et al. (2013) do not show strong variations of the mean BMR tilt in different solar cycles. Yet, we can not exclude that Cycles 23 and 24 were affected by the emergence of the so-called "rogue" active regions (Nagy et al. 2017; Kumar et al. 2021). This point should be studied separately.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

We model the physical parameters of Solar Cycles 23 and 24 using the nonlinear 3D mean-field dynamical dynamo model and the observational active region data. Our algorithm for the emergence of bipolar magnetic regions is based on the magnetic buoyancy effect acting on the unstable part of the large-scale magnetic field. The radial positions of the unstable regions are calculated using Parker's magnetic instability condition. For the dynamo process distributed in the convection zone, this condition leads to the instability of the toroidal magnetic field at the front edge of the dynamo waves near the bottom of the convection zone and in its upper part, as illustrated in Fig. 6. For modeling the solar BMR injected from the upper part of the convection zone, we use the NOAA data base for coordinates and areas of active regions to specify the locations and sizes of the initial perturbations. For the unstable regions in the lower part of the convection zone, we use perturbations randomly distributed in time and longitude. Our results show that, in most cases, magnetic flux injections from the lower part of the convection zone do not result in the BMR formation on the surface. However, these injections affect the magnitude of the background non-axisymmetric magnetic field on the surface. Our dynamo models show the basal level of the non-axisymmetric magnetic field during the solar minima is about a factor of two smaller than in the solar observations. The possible reason is that our BMR algorithm is not sufficient for deep initialization sources. This affects the onset and decay of the large-scale non-axisymmetric magnetic activity.

The BMR distributions generated by our dynamo models show that the magnetic flux is directly proportional to BMR's areas. This result is equally applied to the data-driven models S0, S1, and S2, and models T1 and T2 with the random distribution of the BMR sizes and longitudinal initialization points. The same proportionality was found in observations by Nagovitsyn & Pevtsov (2021) for the sunspot groups areas. The distribution of the BMR vs. the magnetic flux and area shows the inverse power-law of index -3.1. This qualitatively agrees with the results of Parnell et al. (2009), Muñoz-Jaramillo et al. (2015), and Nagovitsyn et al. (2021). However, they found a less steep power law for the large-scale part of the magnetic field distributions.

In our models, the BMR's tilt is given theoretically, and it is directly related to the near-surface α -effect Stix 1974; Pipin 2022. The latitudinal profile of the tilt follows the $\cos\theta$ dependence, where θ is co-latitude. We choose the BMR's tilt to be randomly fluctuating about the mean. The resulting tilt distribution agrees with the solar observations (e.g. Nagovitsyn et al. 2021). Also, these authors found a tendency for the nonlinear behavior of tilt at latitudes $> 25^{\circ}$. Our model shows similar behavior. It is caused by the α -effect modulation due to the large-scale toroidal magnetic field.

Similar to Obridko et al. (2021) and Pipin (2022), we conclude that our initial modeling of Solar Cycles 22 and 23, which includes a combination of the global mean-field dynamo and emerging bipolar magnetic regions (BMR), shows that the BMR activity plays a significant role by affecting the strength and duration of the solar cycles. It was missing in the previous Parker-type dynamo models of the solar cycle. However, the data-driven models show that the BMR effect alone cannot explain the weak Cycle 24. The decrease in the cycle amplitude and the prolonged preceding minimum were probably caused by a decrease of the turbulent helicity in the bulk of the convection zone during the decaying phase of Cycle 23.

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Data Availability Statements. The data underlying this article are available by request.

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