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## **Disk Viscosity**

- Molecular viscosity is so small that disk evolution would ٠ be too slow ( $t_{acc} \sim 10^{13}$  yrs).
- Have to consider other mechanisms for viscosity ٠
  - 1. Turbulent Viscosity (Lin & Papaloizou 1995)
    - But may work the wrong way (transport angular momentum inward; e.g. Stone & Balbus 1996)
    - Also Keplerian motions tend to stabilize the disk (no turbulence)
  - 2. Current paradigm is magnetic instabilities in the disk
    - Developed for accretion disks by Balbus & Hawley (1991)

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**Spring Analogy** 

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## **Magneto-rotational Instability** (MRI)

(Also often called Balbus-Hawley instability)

If a weak magnetic pull exists between two gasparcels A and B on adjacent orbits, and the parcels are perturbed, and the magnetic tension increase. The effect is that A moves inward and B moves outward: a pull causes them to move apart!

The lower orbit of A causes an increase in its velocity, while B decelerates. This enhances their velocity difference! This is positive feedback: an instability.



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Causes turbulence in the disk

## **Magneto-rotational Instability** (MRI)



However, there is still some debate on the importance of MRI (Hartmann et al. 2006)

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Angular Monentum Trais Shear Flow Central Object

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