

SOME THOUGHTS ON MAGNETIC RECONNECTION

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Abstract. The idea of ‘magnetic reconnection’ has been around since the work of Ronald Giovanelli who proposed it while searching for an explanation of solar flares. The idea seems to have received a boost from the work of James Dungey but he made it very clear in his writing that magnetic lines of force were not physical entities and shouldn’t be treated as such. Bearing this point in mind, attention is concerned here with noting the non-physicality of the whole notion of ‘magnetic reconnection’ and suggesting an alternative approach to seeking explanations for such phenomena as solar flares via the study of plasmas.