

Turbulence - Structures and Statistics

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Overview

- Turbulence Simulation
- Coherent Structures
- Statistical Description

Introduction

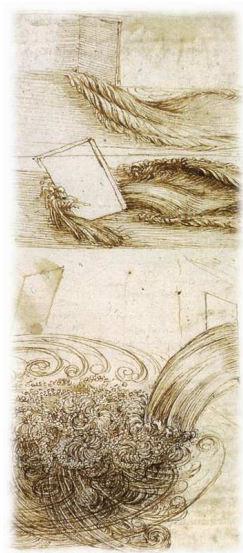
Turbulence ...

- is ubiquitous in nature
- remains one of the major challenges of classical physics
- is a paradigm for a complex system
- is governed by coherent structures
- requires a statistical description

Introduction

Problem: turbulence ...

- is described by nonlinear equations
- exhibits spatio-temporal chaos
- involves large space- and time-scales



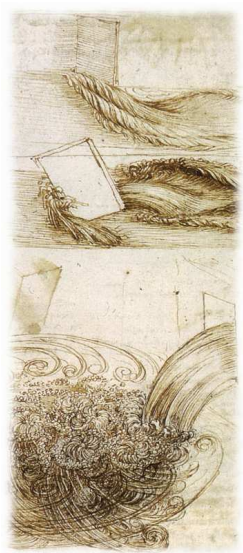
Introduction

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Possible solutions:

- understanding of structures
- formulating a statistical theory



Introduction

Problem: turbulence ...

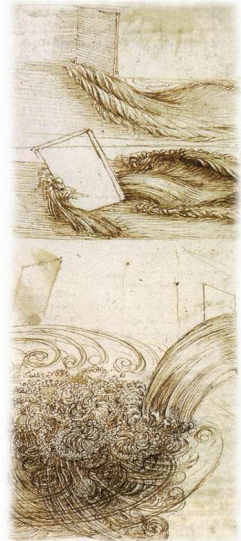
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Possible solutions:

- understanding of structures
- formulating a statistical theory

Tools:

- any kind of mathematics, that will do
- computer simulations



DNS

DNS: equations

Navier-Stokes equations:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t}(\mathbf{x}, t) + \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) = -\nabla p(\mathbf{x}, t) + \nu \Delta \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) + \hat{\mathbf{f}}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0$$

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$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0$$

Vorticity: $\boldsymbol{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \nabla \times \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)$

Vorticity equation:

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\omega}}{\partial t}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \nabla \times (\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \times \boldsymbol{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t)) + \nu \Delta \boldsymbol{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t) + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

DNS: numerics I

- aim: forced (stationary) homogeneous, isotropic turbulence
- temporal discretization: RK3 TVD
- spatial discretization: box-length 2π , dim grid points, periodic boundary conditions
- pseudospectral code

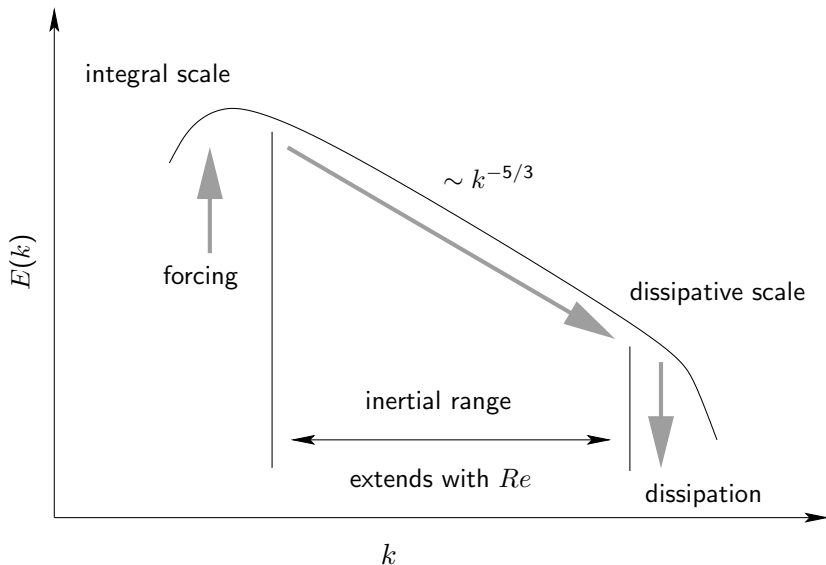
Thanx to H. Homann and R. Grauer for many hints and tips!

DNS: numerics II

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{\omega}}{\partial t}(\mathbf{k}, t) + \nu k^2 \tilde{\omega}(\mathbf{k}, t) = i\mathbf{k} \times \mathcal{F}\{\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \times \boldsymbol{\omega}(\mathbf{x}, t)\} + \tilde{f}(\mathbf{k}, t)$$

- adaptive time-stepping (Courant-Friedrichs-Levy criterion)
- *pseudospectral*: forward/backward FFT is computationally cheaper than convolution ($N \log N$ vs. N^2)
- aliasing: spherical mode truncation
- viscosity is treated exactly (integrating factor)
- forcing: freezing of low modes
- code is currently OpenMP parallelized

DNS: computational costs I



DNS: computational costs II

- forcing scale and dissipative scale should be well separated
- inertial range extends with increasing Re
- size of smallest structures decreases with Re
- smallest structures should be well-resolved by the grid
- turbulent field should be accurately advanced in time

DNS: computational costs III

to be more precisely ...

$$\eta = \left(\frac{uL}{\nu} \right)^{-3/4} L = Re^{-3/4} L$$

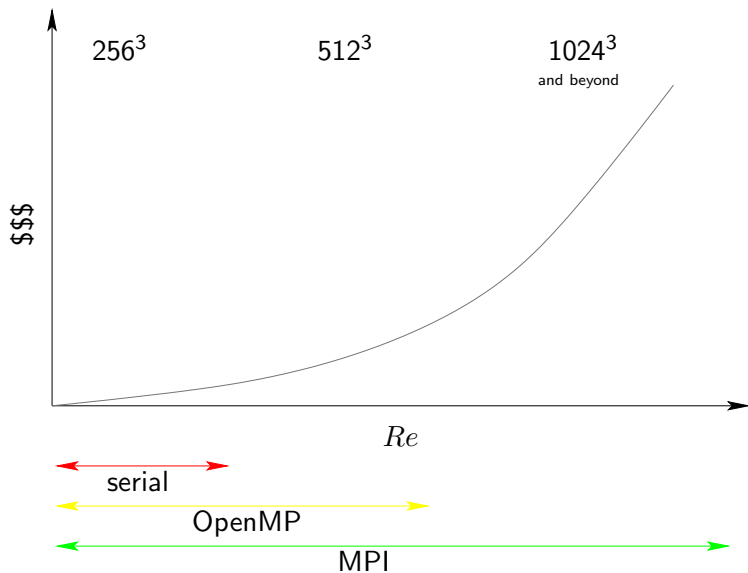
$$\Delta x \sim \eta$$

$$N_x \sim \left(\frac{2\pi}{\Delta x} \right)^3 \sim \left(\frac{2\pi}{L} \right) Re^{9/4} \quad \longrightarrow \quad Re \sim \left(\frac{L}{2\pi} \right)^{4/3} N_x^{4/9}$$

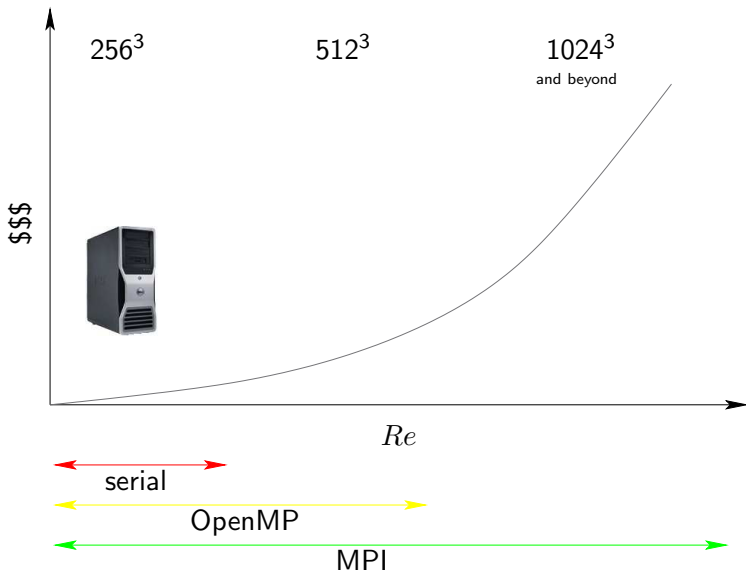
$$N_t \sim \frac{T}{\Delta t} \sim \frac{T}{\Delta x/u} \sim \frac{T}{l/u} Re^{3/4}$$

$$$$$ \sim N_x N_t \sim \left(\frac{T}{l/u} \right) \left(\frac{2\pi}{l} \right)^3 Re^3$$

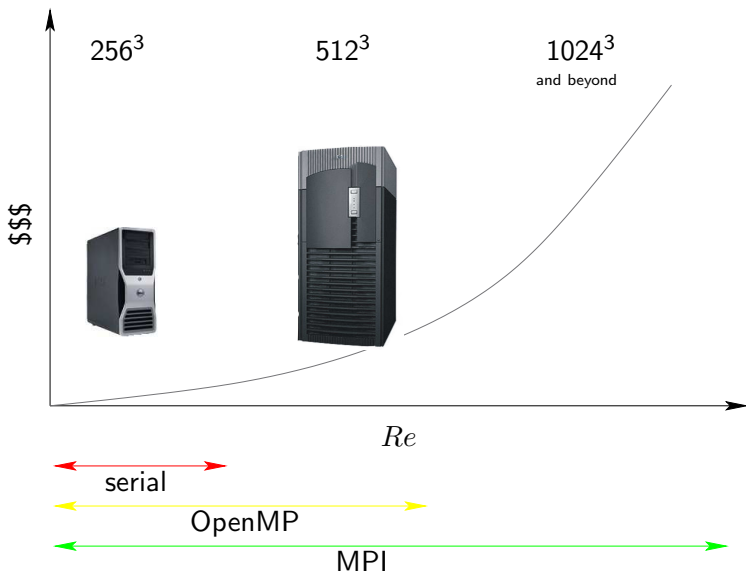
DNS: computational costs IV



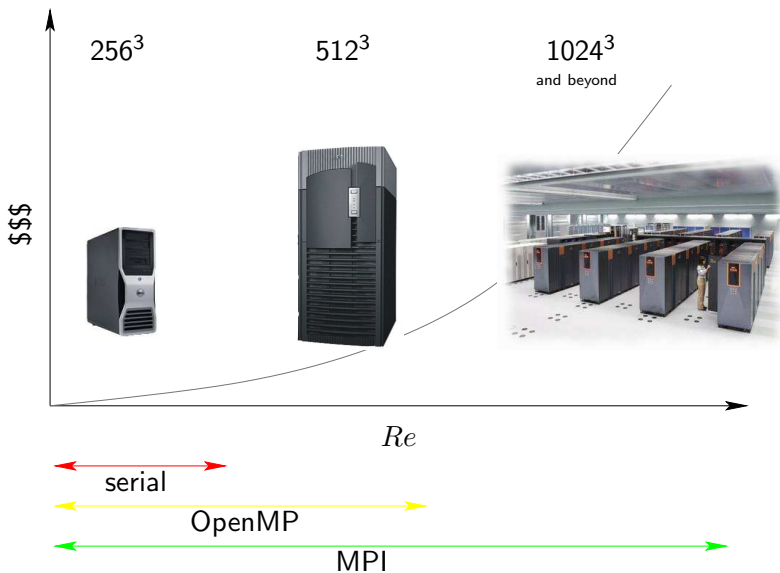
DNS: computational costs IV



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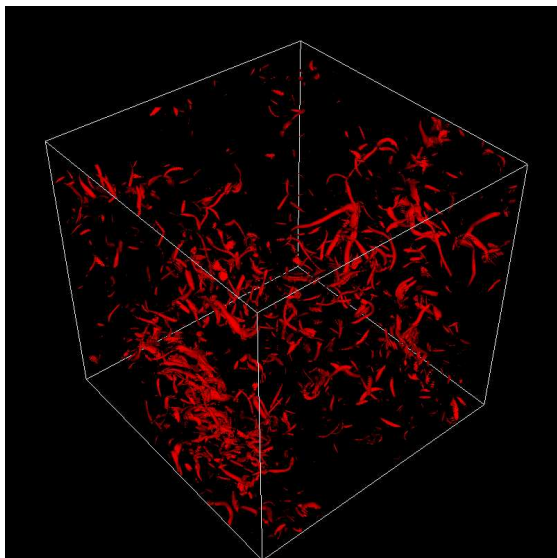
Coherent Structures

Coherent Structures: introduction

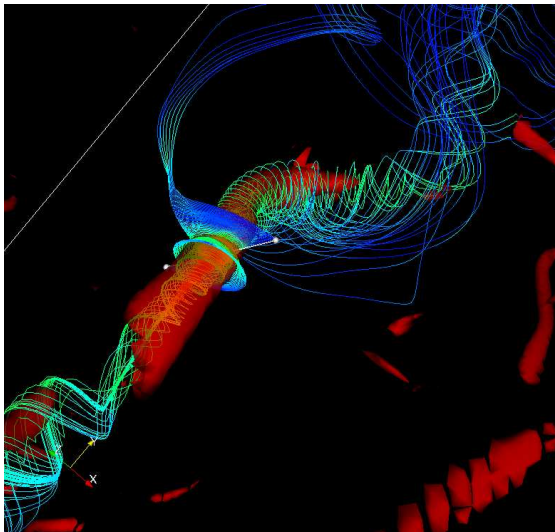
- turbulent fields are not random
- display a complex spatial structure
- structures severely influence statistical properties (intermittency)

Coherent Structures: phenomenology

- vortex tubes/
filaments
- intermittent
spatial
distribution



Coherent Structures: streamlines



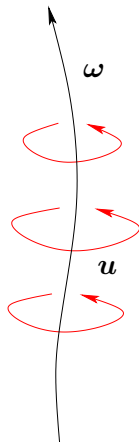
- spiraling streamlines
- vortex trapping

Coherent Structures: isolated tube

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\omega}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{\omega} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \nu \Delta \boldsymbol{\omega}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \omega_r(r, \varphi, z) \mathbf{e}_r + \omega_\varphi(r, \varphi, z) \mathbf{e}_\varphi + \omega_z(r, \varphi, z) \mathbf{e}_z$$

$$\text{with } \omega_r, \omega_\varphi \ll \omega_z$$



Coherent Structures: isolated tube

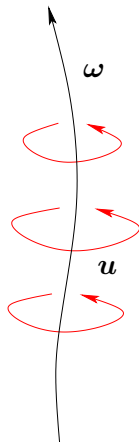
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$$\mathbf{u} = u_r(r, \varphi, z) \mathbf{e}_r + u_\varphi(r, \varphi, z) \mathbf{e}_\varphi + u_z(r, \varphi, z) \mathbf{e}_z$$

$$\text{with } u_r, u_z \ll u_\varphi$$



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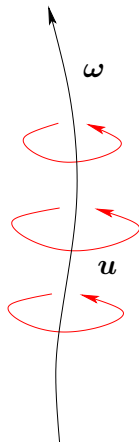
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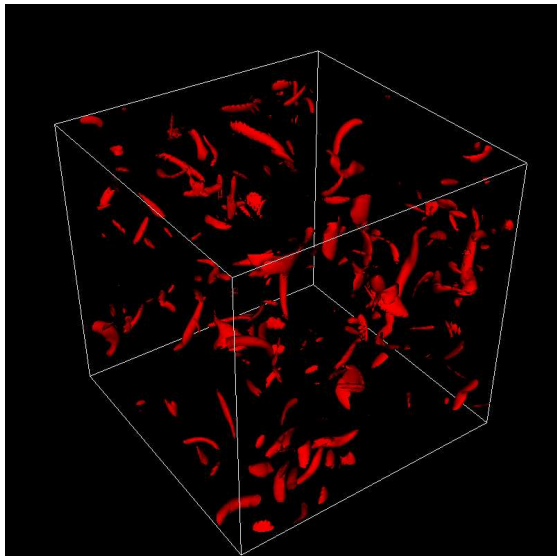
$$\text{with } u_r, u_z \ll u_\varphi$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial \omega_z}{\partial t} + \underbrace{\frac{u_\varphi}{r} \frac{\partial \omega_z}{\partial \varphi}}_{\text{advection}} = \underbrace{\omega_z \frac{\partial u_\varphi}{\partial z}}_{\text{stretching}} + \underbrace{\nu \Delta \omega_z}_{\text{diffusion}}$$

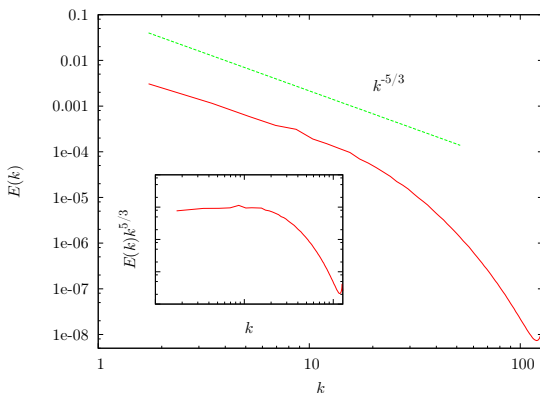


Coherent Structures: vortex dynamics

- complex vortex interaction



Coherent vs. Random Fields



dm^3	Re	R_λ	u_{rms}	ν	L	T	$k_{max}\eta$
256	1674	158	0.084	0.0001	1.98	23.5	0.96

Coherent vs. Random Fields: randomization

$$\omega(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{\omega}_{\mathbf{k}}(t) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \quad \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

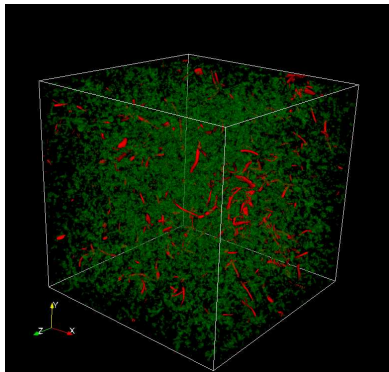
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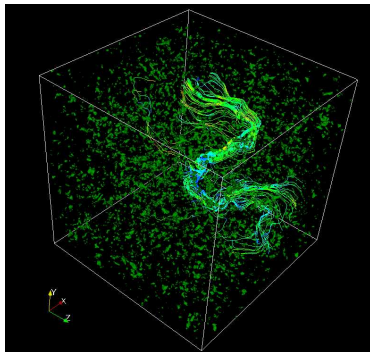
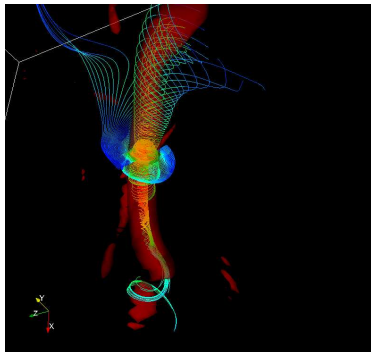
$$\implies \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \quad \mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

$$\omega^r(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \tilde{\omega}_{\mathbf{k}}(t) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x} + \varphi_{\mathbf{k}}}$$

$$\implies \mathbf{u}^r(\mathbf{x}, t) \quad \mathbf{a}^r(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

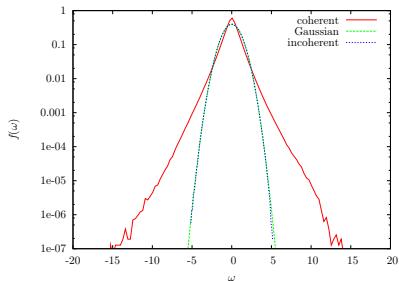


Coherent vs. Random Fields: streamlines



- no trapping events in incoherent vorticity
- different transport/diffusion properties (?)

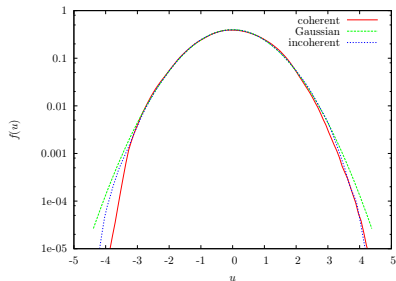
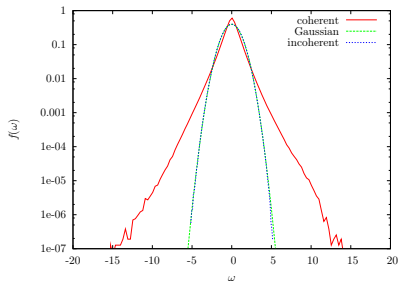
Coherent vs. Random Fields: pdf's



coherence as the origin of:

- non-Gaussianity

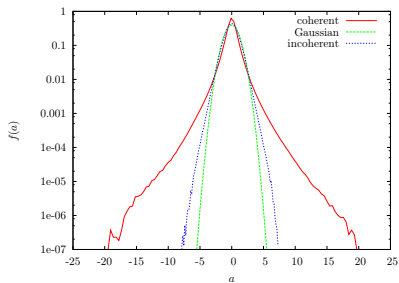
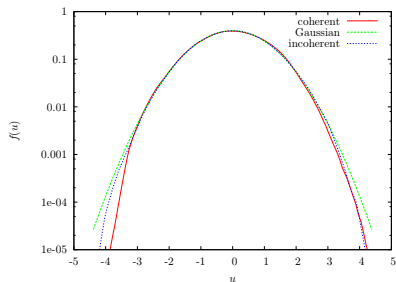
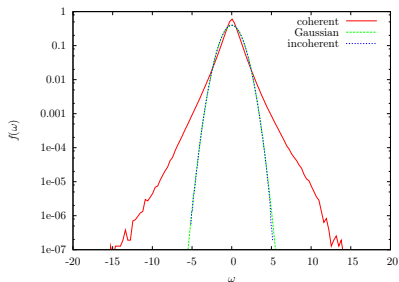
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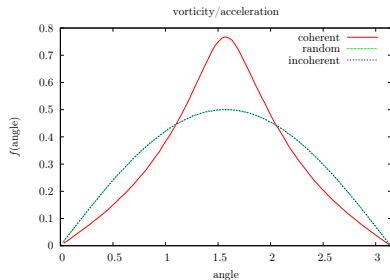
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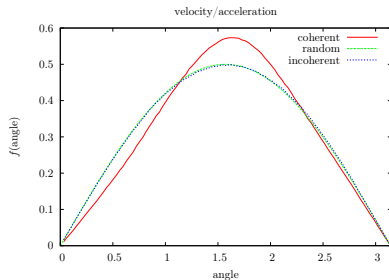
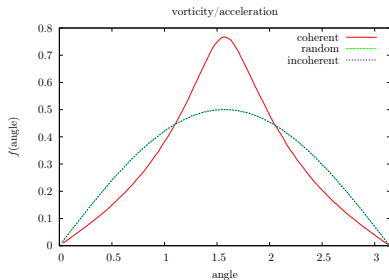
- non-Gaussianity
- intermittency

Coherent vs. Random Fields: alignment pdf's



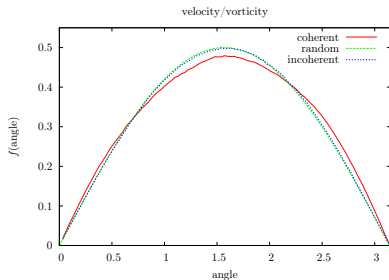
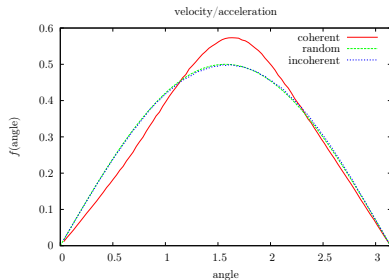
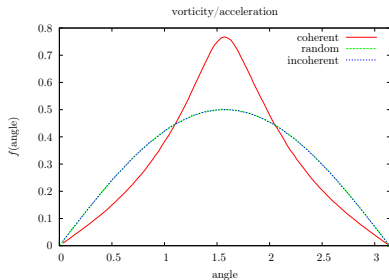
- characteristic peaks
- similar to an ensemble of vortex tubes

Coherent vs. Random Fields: alignment pdf's



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Statistical Description

Lundgren's Hierarchy Revisited

Statistics: introduction

Consider an ideal gas:

- deterministic description impossible
- statistical description needed

Statistics: introduction

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- ... and sufficient!

Statistics: introduction

Consider an ideal gas:

- deterministic description impossible
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-
- the same applies for turbulence
 - Lundgren 1967: statistical description of turbulence similar to BBGKY hierarchy

Statistics: notation

fine-grained one-point distribution:

$$\hat{f}^1 = \hat{f}^1(\mathbf{v}^1; \mathbf{x}^1, t) := \delta(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}^1, t) - \mathbf{v}^1) = \prod_{i=1}^3 \delta(u_i(\mathbf{x}^1, t) - v_i^1)$$

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two-point distribution:

$$\hat{f}^{12} = \hat{f}^{12}(\mathbf{v}^1, \mathbf{v}^2; \mathbf{x}^1, \mathbf{x}^2, t) := \delta(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}^1, t) - \mathbf{v}^1) \delta(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}^2, t) - \mathbf{v}^2)$$

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pdf via ensemble average

$$f(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) = \langle \hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) \rangle = \int d\mathbf{v}' \delta(\mathbf{v}' - \mathbf{v}) f(\mathbf{v}'; \mathbf{x}, t)$$

Statistics: properties

reduction property:

$$f^1 = \int d\mathbf{v}^2 f^{12}$$

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joint/conditional averages:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \phi(\mathbf{x}, t) \hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) \rangle \\ &= f(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) \langle \phi(\mathbf{x}, t) | \mathbf{v} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Statistics: evolution equation for $\hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t)$

substantial derivative of the fine-grained pdf:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t)$$

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together with

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(and a little rearrangement) one ends up with

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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) = - \nabla_{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \left[\hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt}(\mathbf{x}, t) \right].$$

Statistics: evolution equation for $f(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t)$

additional ensemble averaging leads to:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) = -\nabla_{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \left\langle \hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt}(\mathbf{x}, t) \right\rangle$$

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in terms of a conditional average:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) = -\nabla_{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \underbrace{\left\langle \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt}(\mathbf{x}, t) \middle| \mathbf{v} \right\rangle}_{\text{Here's the physics!}} f(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t).$$

Statistics: coupling to f^{12} I

alternatively:

$$\left\langle \hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt}(\mathbf{x}, t) \right\rangle = \left\langle \hat{f}(\mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}, t) (-\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} p(\mathbf{x}, t) + \nu \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)) \right\rangle.$$

with the identity $1 = \int d\mathbf{v}^2 \delta(\mathbf{u}^2 - \mathbf{v}^2)$ (and the Poisson equation for the pressure)

$$-\left\langle \hat{f} \nabla p \right\rangle = \left\langle -\frac{\nabla_{\mathbf{x}^1}}{4\pi} \iint d\mathbf{x}^2 d\mathbf{v}^2 \frac{\nabla_{\mathbf{x}^2}(\mathbf{v}^2 \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}^2} \mathbf{v}^2)}{|\mathbf{x}^1 - \mathbf{x}^2|} \delta(\mathbf{u}^1 - \mathbf{v}^1) \delta(\mathbf{u}^2 - \mathbf{v}^2) \right\rangle =$$

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Statistics: coupling to f^{12} II

similar treatment of diffusion term:

$$\langle \nu(\Delta_{\mathbf{x}^1} \mathbf{u}^1) \delta(\mathbf{u}^1 - \mathbf{v}^1) \rangle = \lim_{\mathbf{x}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^1} \langle \nu \Delta_{\mathbf{x}^2} \mathbf{u}^2 \delta(\mathbf{u}^1 - \mathbf{v}^1) \rangle$$

Statistics: coupling to f^{12} II

similar treatment of diffusion term:

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first equation of Lundgren's hierarchy:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} f + \mathbf{v}^1 \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}^1} f = - \nabla_{\mathbf{v}^1} \left[- \frac{\nabla_{\mathbf{x}^1}}{4\pi} \int d\mathbf{x}^2 d\mathbf{v}^2 \frac{(\mathbf{v}^2 \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}^2})^2}{|\mathbf{x}^1 - \mathbf{x}^2|} f^{12} + \lim_{\mathbf{x}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^1} \nu \Delta_{\mathbf{x}^2} \int d\mathbf{v}^2 \mathbf{v}^2 f^{12} \right]$$

derivation of higher orders analogously

Statistics: increment pdf

velocity increments:

$$\delta \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}^1, \mathbf{x}^2, t) = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}^2, t) - \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}^1, t)$$

fine-grained pdf:

$$\hat{h}(\delta \mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}^1, \mathbf{x}^2, t) := \delta(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}^2, t) - \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}^1, t) - \delta \mathbf{v})$$

substantial derivative:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{h}(\delta \mathbf{v}; \mathbf{x}^1, \mathbf{x}^2, t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{h} + \mathbf{v}^1 \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}^1} \hat{h} + \mathbf{v}^2 \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}^2} \hat{h}$$

Statistics: increment pdf

basically repeating the same steps leads to

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- solve pdf equation analytically (method of characteristics)
- ... or numerically

Summary

- slender vortices are crucial to turbulent dynamics
- framework for a statistical description of turbulence