

# TURBULENCE in Fluids and Plasmas

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# Outline

- General features and Kolmogorov's theory
- 2-D and quasi-2-D limits of turbulence
- Examples of fluid and plasma 2-D turbulence
- Inverse cascade and formation of structures –  
Large scale flows
- Intermittency and non-Kolmogorov's turbulence
- Non-linear dynamics

# General features and Kolmogorov's theory

Fluid motions

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} = -\frac{\nabla p}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}; \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$$

*Laminar flows,  
regular, deterministic description*

*Kinetic energy of  
flows dies out due to  
fluid viscosity*

$Re \geq 1$

*Turbulent flows*

*a) irregularity - statistical treatment  
b) rapid mixing - turbulent diffusion  
c) wide range of length scales*

Reynolds number  $\Rightarrow Re = \frac{v_0 L_0}{\nu}$

$Re \gg 1$

# Dissipation of kinetic energy of turbulent flow?

## Richardson's idea (Landau-Hopf mechanism)

- 1) Turbulence causes the formation of eddies of many different length-scale structures.
- 2) Most of the kinetic energy of a turbulent motion is contained in the large-scale structures.
- 3) The energy "cascades" from these large-scale structures to smaller scale structures by an inertial and essentially inviscid mechanism.
- 4) This process creates structures that are small enough that molecular diffusion becomes important and viscous dissipation of energy finally takes place.

$$\underbrace{L_0 \geq L_1 > L_2 > L_3 > \dots > L_n > \dots}_{\text{inertial interval, } \varepsilon = \text{const}} \quad \dots > L_N$$

*Kolmogorov scales,  
dissipation of the energy  
by viscosity*

→ direction of the energy cascade,  $\varepsilon \rightarrow$

This is so called **direct** energy cascade

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} = -\frac{\nabla p}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}; \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$$



Reynolds number  $\Rightarrow \text{Re}_0 = \frac{\text{inertial term}}{\text{viscous term}} \equiv \frac{v_0 L_0}{\nu}$



$$L_0 \geq L_1 > L_2 > L_3 > \dots > L_n > \dots \quad \dots > L_N$$

*inertial interval,  $\varepsilon = \text{const}$*       *Kolmogorov scales, dissipation of the energy by viscosity*

$$\text{Re}_0 \geq \text{Re}_1 > \text{Re}_2 > \text{Re}_3 > \dots > \text{Re}_n > \dots \quad \dots > \text{Re}_N$$

*inertial interval,  $\varepsilon = \text{const}$*       *Kolmogorov scales, dissipation of the energy by viscosity*

# Kolmogorov's hypotheses - turbulence is locally isotropic

1) Energy dissipated per unit time and per unit mass by viscosity

$$\varepsilon \propto \frac{v_0^3}{L_0} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} v_N &\sim v_0 \text{Re}_0^{-1/4} \\ L_N &\sim L_0 \text{Re}_0^{-3/4} \end{aligned}$$

$\Leftrightarrow$  *Kolmogorov's scales*

2) Inertial interval: turbulence characteristics are specified in terms of  $\varepsilon = \text{const}$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (v_1 - v_2)^2 \rangle &\equiv \langle (\delta v)^2 \rangle \sim \varepsilon^{2/3} r^{2/3}, \quad r \sim L_n \\ E(k) &\sim \varepsilon^{2/3} k^{-5/3}, \quad L_0^{-1} \ll k \ll L_N^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

$\Leftrightarrow$  *Kolmogorov's turbulent spectra*

# 2-D and quasi-2-D limits of turbulence



2-D Fluid turbulence

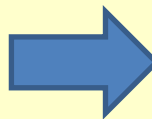
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v} &= -(\nabla\phi \times \mathbf{z}) & \Rightarrow & \frac{\partial \nabla^2 \phi}{\partial t} - (\nabla\phi \times \mathbf{z}) \cdot \nabla \nabla^2 \phi = 0 \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{v} &= \nabla^2 \phi \mathbf{z} \\ \omega_k &= 0 \end{aligned}$$



*Inertial interval - Invariants*



$$\begin{aligned} W &= \int (\nabla\phi)^2 d\mathbf{r} \Leftrightarrow \text{energy} \\ V &= \int (\nabla^2 \phi)^2 d\mathbf{r} \Leftrightarrow \text{enstrophy} \end{aligned}$$



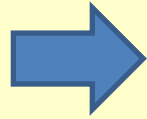
Energy cascades into longer scales =  
**Inverse cascade process in  $\mathbf{k}$ -space**

Arnold, 1965; Kraichnan, 1967

# quasi-2-D limits of turbulence



Inhomogeneous media



*admits excitation of linear waves  
( $\omega_k \neq 0$ ) with characteristic spatial scales*



Fluid, rotating atmosphere

Rossby waves

$$\rho_g = (gH_0)^{1/2} / \langle f \rangle$$

Rossby radius

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\langle f \rangle} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \approx \left| \rho_g \nabla \ln \frac{H_0}{f} \right| \ll 1$$

Magnetized plasma

Drift type waves

$$\rho_s = (T_e / m_i)^{1/2} / \omega_{ci}$$

ion Larmor radius

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\omega_{ci}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \approx \left| \rho_s \nabla \ln \frac{n_0}{B_0} \right| \ll 1$$



*admits excitation of linear waves*  
*( $\omega_k \neq 0$ ) with characteristic spatial scales*



**Rossby waves**

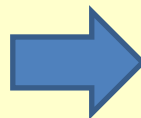
$$\rho_g = (gH_0)^{1/2} / \langle f \rangle$$

*Rossby radius*

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\langle f \rangle} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \approx \left| \rho_g \nabla \ln \frac{H_0}{f} \right| \ll 1$$

$$\omega_R = [(\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{z}) \cdot \nabla \ln f] / (1 + k^2)$$

*wave turbulence*



*energy cascade in*  
*k - space?*

**Drift - type waves**

$$\rho_s = (T_e / m_i)^{1/2} / \omega_{ci}$$

*ion Larmor radius*

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\omega_{ci}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \approx \left| \rho_s \nabla \ln \frac{n_0}{B_0} \right| \ll 1$$

$$\omega_R = [(\mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{z}) \cdot \nabla \ln n_0] / (1 + k^2)$$

# Inverse cascade and formation of structures – Large scale flows



Quasi-2-D wave turbulence

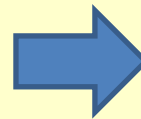


$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{v} = -(\nabla \phi \times \mathbf{z}) \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{v} = \nabla^2 \phi \mathbf{z} \\ \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 0 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla^2 \phi - \phi) - [(\nabla \phi \times \mathbf{z}) \cdot \nabla] \left( \nabla^2 \phi + \ln \frac{\omega_{ci}}{n_0} \right) = 0$$

Charny-Obukhov-Hasegawa-Mima equation

$$W = \int [(\nabla \phi)^2 + \phi^2] d\mathbf{r} \Leftrightarrow \text{energy}$$

$$V = \int [(\nabla^2 \phi)^2 + (\nabla \phi)^2] d\mathbf{r} \Leftrightarrow \text{enstrophy}$$

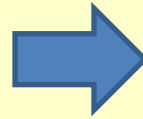


Inertial interval –  
energy cascading in k-space?

# Inertial interval - spectral properties

Quasi-2-D wave turbulence

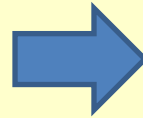
$$\omega_{\mathbf{k}} = f(\mathbf{k}) \neq 0$$



turbulence property of H-M eq. -  
cascading **model** in inertial interval

Decay of one wave into two  
other waves:

$$\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2 + \mathbf{k}_3 = 0$$



**k-values** of two waves produced by  
the decay proces can **trace** the  
cascade proces

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{energy} \equiv W_{\mathbf{k}} \\ \text{enstrophy} \equiv V_{\mathbf{k}} \end{array} \right\} = f(\mathbf{k})$$

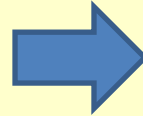


Thus, **k-values** decide the partition of energy  
and enstrophy of newly created waves.  
The cascade process therefore gives the energy  
and enstrophy **transfer** in **k-space**.

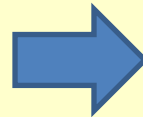
# Inertial interval - spectral properties

cascading model produces energy spectrum with **two** distinctive regions

$$W_{\mathbf{k}} = f(\mathbf{k})$$



**One**, at  $k \gg k_c$  spectrum is isotropic with  $W_{\mathbf{k}} \sim k^{-4}$  and turbulence is self-similar  $\equiv$   
**Direct cascade** in 2-D fluid turbulence



**Second**, at  $k \ll k_c$   
**Inverse cascade**, Spectrum is anisotropic with  $k_x$  and  $k_y$ , turbulence is **not self-similar**

Quasi-2-D **wave** turbulence is in general **not self-similar** and characterized by the **anisotropic spectrum**

**two distinctive regions**

**Second**, at  $k \ll k_c$

**Inverse cascade**, Spectrum is anisotropic with  $k_x$  and  $k_y$ , turbulence is **not self-similar**

**One**, at  $k \gg k_c$

spectrum is isotropic with  $W_{\mathbf{k}} \sim k^{-4}$  and turbulence is self-similar  $\equiv$

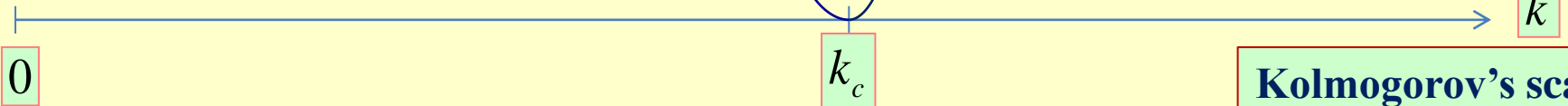
**Direct cascade** in 2-D fluid turbulence



$$W_{\mathbf{k}} = f(\mathbf{k})$$

**Inverse cascade**

**Direct cascade**



**Quasi-2-D wave turbulence is in general not self-similar and characterized by the anisotropic spectrum**

# Large scale flows, intermittency and non-Kolmogorov's turbulence

Spectrum condensation

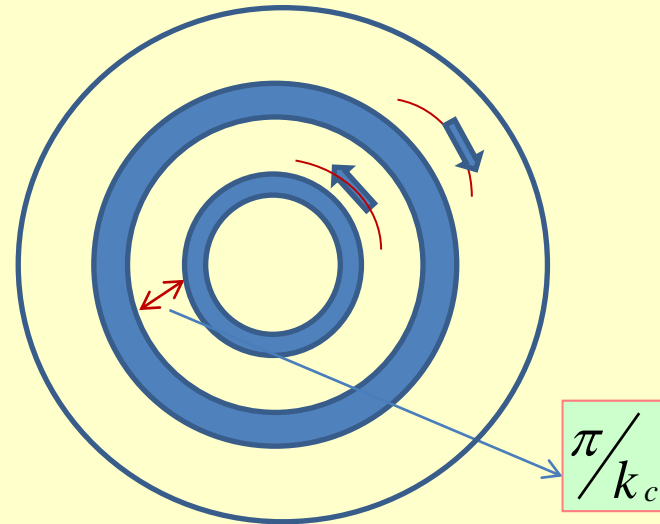


$$\gamma_D(k_x, k_y) \Rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} k_y \approx 0 \\ k_x \approx k_c \end{array} \right., \quad k_c \sim (1/L_0 \phi_0)^{1/3}$$

Inertial interval at  $k \ll k_c$   
 Spectrum is **anisotropic** and tends to **condense** at

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} k_y \approx 0 \\ k_x \sim k_c \end{array} \right\}$$

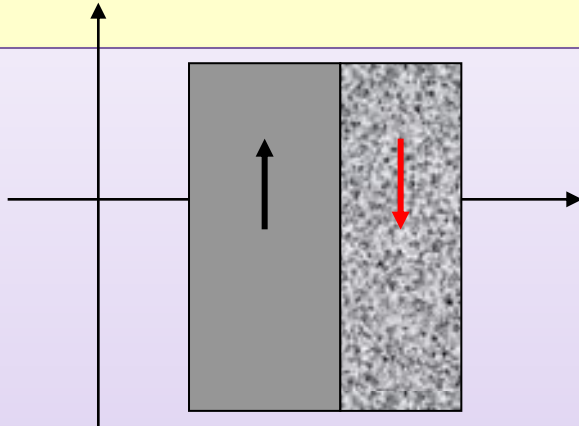
This predicts the formation of **zonal flows** in y-direction which are periodic in the x-direction  $\equiv$   
**Coherent flow structure**



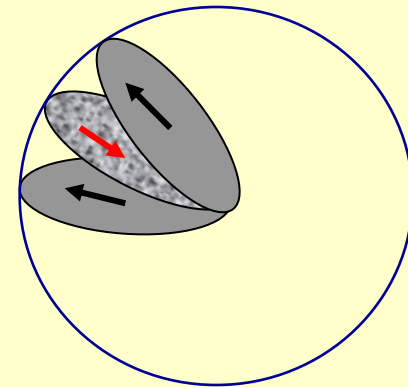
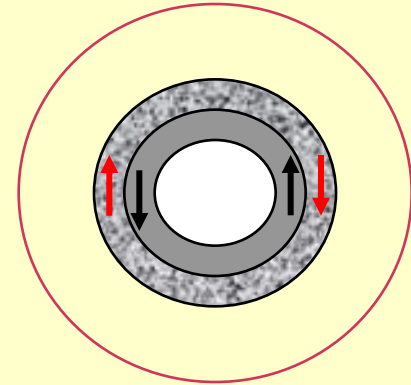
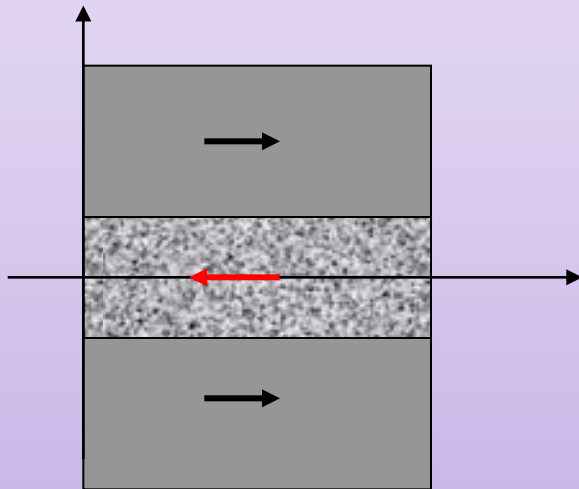
**Quasi-2-D wave turbulence** is dominated by such coherent structures, turbulence is **intermittent**

# Large scale structures: Definitions

- Zonal flows



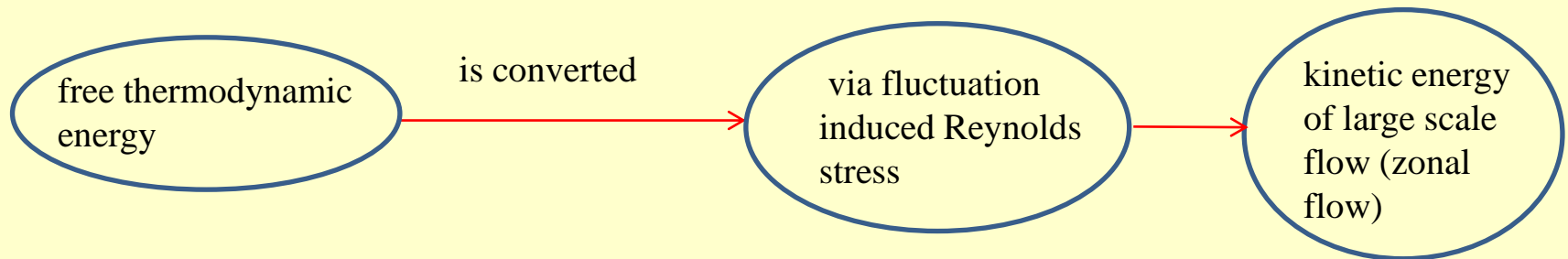
- Streamers



# Non-linear dynamics

$$\mathbf{v} = -(\nabla\phi \times \mathbf{z}), \quad \phi = \langle\phi\rangle + \tilde{\phi} \Rightarrow \mathbf{v} = \langle\mathbf{v}\rangle + \tilde{\mathbf{v}}, \quad \langle\tilde{\mathbf{v}}\rangle = 0$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \nabla n_0 \\ \nabla T_0, \nabla B_0 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{drift type} \\ \text{waves} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \langle\tilde{v}_r \tilde{v}_g\rangle \\ \text{Reynolds stress} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial\langle\mathbf{v}_g\rangle}{\partial t}$$





# Non-linear dynamics

$$\mathbf{v} = -(\nabla \phi \times \mathbf{z}), \quad \phi = \langle \phi \rangle + \tilde{\phi} \Rightarrow \mathbf{v} = \langle \mathbf{v} \rangle + \tilde{\mathbf{v}}, \quad \langle \tilde{\mathbf{v}} \rangle = 0$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{v} = -(\nabla \phi \times \mathbf{z}) \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{v} = \nabla^2 \phi \mathbf{z} \\ \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{k}) \neq 0 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla^2 \phi - \phi) - [(\nabla \phi \times \mathbf{z}) \cdot \nabla] \left( \nabla^2 \phi + \ln \frac{\omega_{ci}}{n_0} \right) = 0$$



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle v_g \rangle = - \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (\tilde{v}_r \tilde{v}_g) \right\rangle$$

# CONCLUSIONS

- General features and Kolmogorov's theory
- 2-D and quasi-2-D limits of turbulence
- Inverse cascade and formation of structures –  
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- Examples of fluid and plasma 2-D turbulence
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