

# MHD Turbulence in Galaxies and Clusters

Alex Schekochihin (*DAMTP/Cambridge*)

Steve Cowley (*UCLA & Imperial*)

Jason Maron (*AMNH*)

Greg Hammett (*PPPL*)

Russell Kulsrud (*Princeton*)

Jim McWilliams (*UCLA*)

Prateek Sharma (*Princeton*)

Sam Taylor (*Princeton*)

Reprints/references on <http://www.damtp.cam.ac.uk/user/as629> or ask me for a copy

*This is a cluster of galaxies...*



**The Coma Cluster**  
© NASA

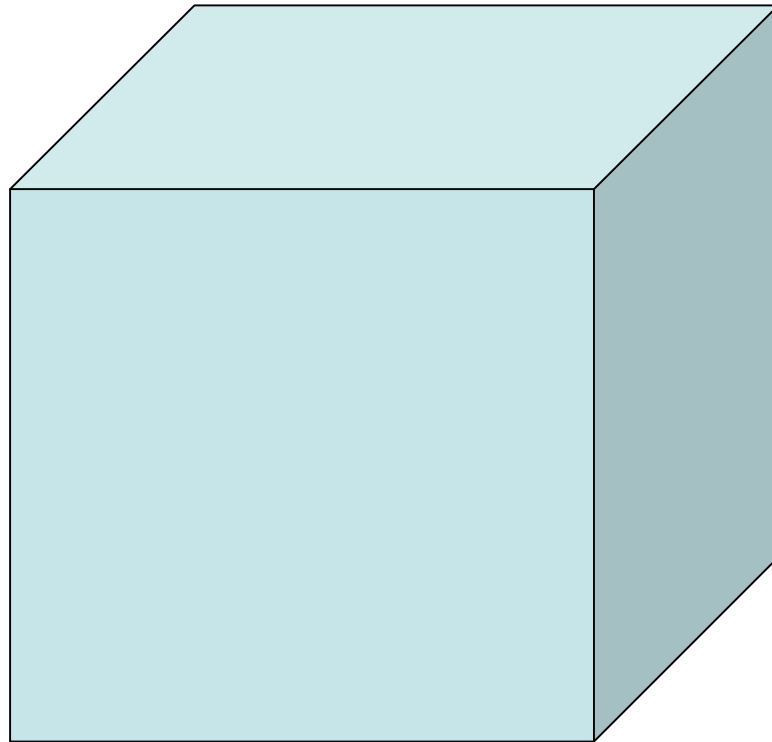
*This is a galaxy...*



**M51**  
**The Whirlpool**  
**Galaxy**

© NOAO/AURA/NSF

*...and this is the Matrix*

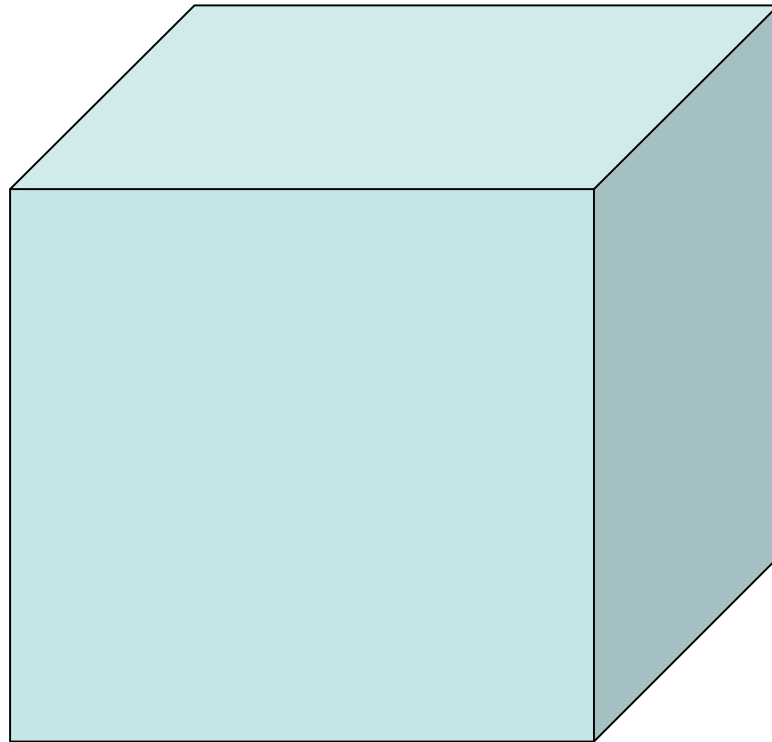


$\mathbb{N}^3$   
**The Periodic Box**

# MHD Turbulence: The Fundamental Problem

---

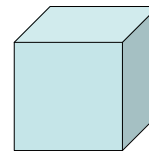
$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} &= \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{f}, & \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 \\ \partial_t \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} &= \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \eta \Delta \mathbf{B}\end{aligned}$$



# MHD Turbulence: The Fundamental Problem

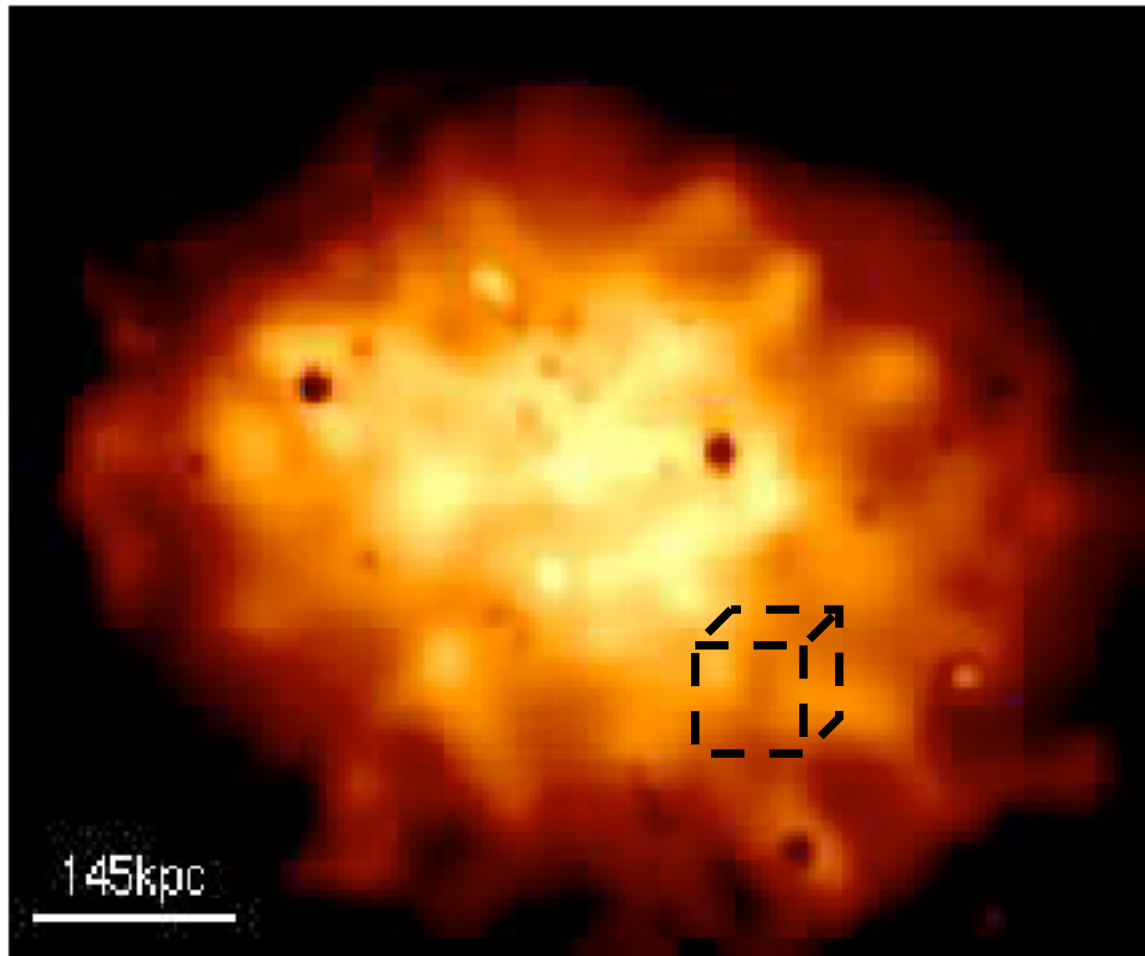
---

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} &= \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{f}, & \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 \\ \partial_t \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} &= \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \eta \Delta \mathbf{B}\end{aligned}$$



# MHD Turbulence: The Fundamental Problem

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{f}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$
$$\partial_t \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \eta \Delta \mathbf{B}$$



**Coma Cluster**  
from  
Schuecker *et al.*  
astro-ph/0404132

# MHD Turbulence: The Fundamental Problem

---

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{f}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$
$$\partial_t \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \eta \Delta \mathbf{B}$$

## Clusters are wonderful:

- amorphous plasma
- no rotation (**nonhelical!**)
- subsonic turbulence (from mergers/structure formation)
- tangled magnetic fields

... a case of “pure” turbulence

*(more about them later...)*



# MHD Turbulence: The Fundamental Problem

---

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} &= \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{f}, & \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 \\ \partial_t \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} &= \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \eta \Delta \mathbf{B}\end{aligned}$$

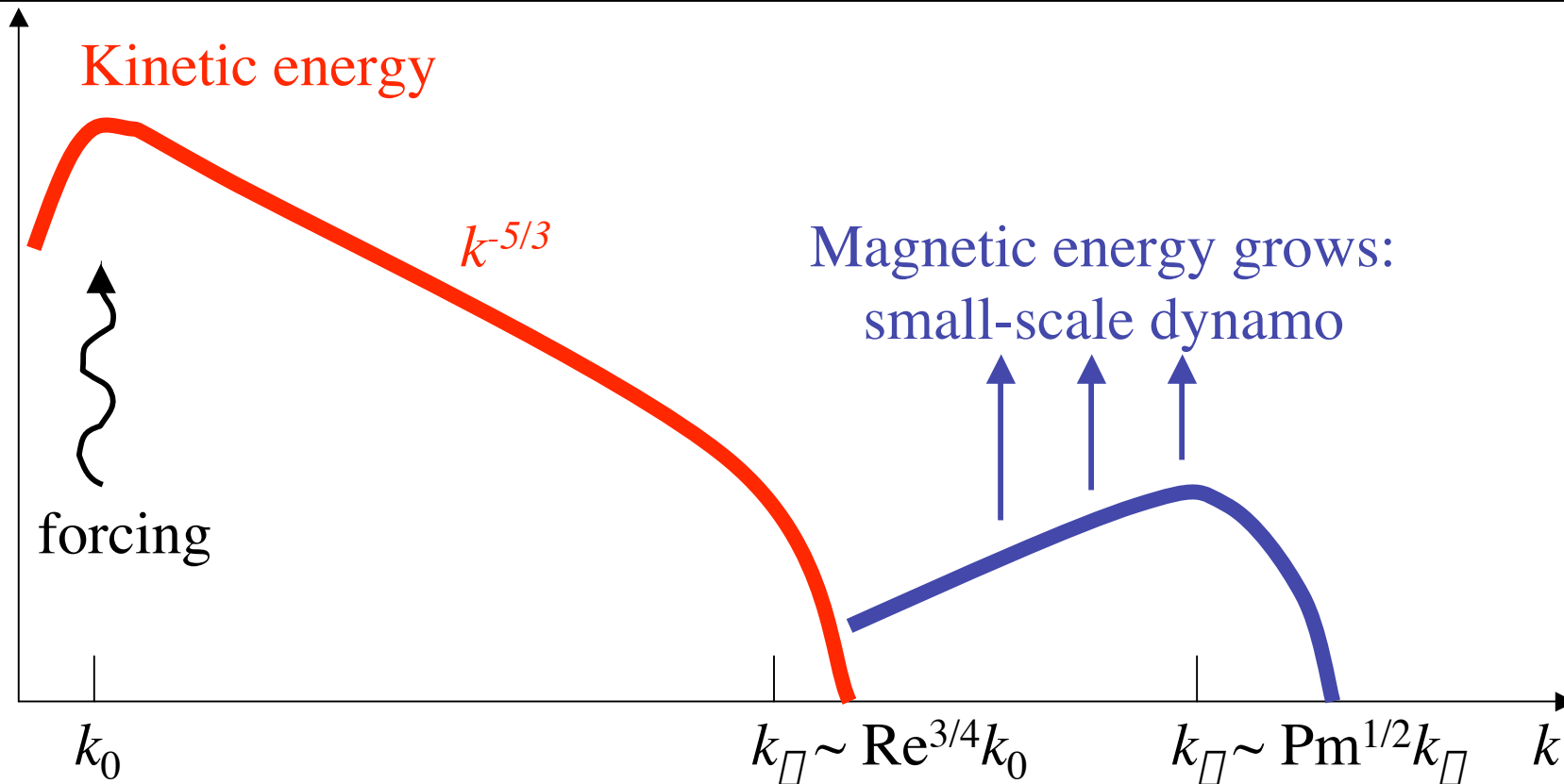
Set  $\mathbf{B} = 0$ , start with small seed field. There are two main issues:

- 1. Is there small-scale dynamo**, i.e., does magnetic energy  $\langle B^2 \rangle$  grow?
- 2. If it does, how does it saturate**: what is the long-term state of the fully-developed isotropic MHD turbulence?

*Can we simulate this problem in our box?*

I.e., what are the scales ranges and what happens at smallest scales?

# Two Scale Ranges in the Problem



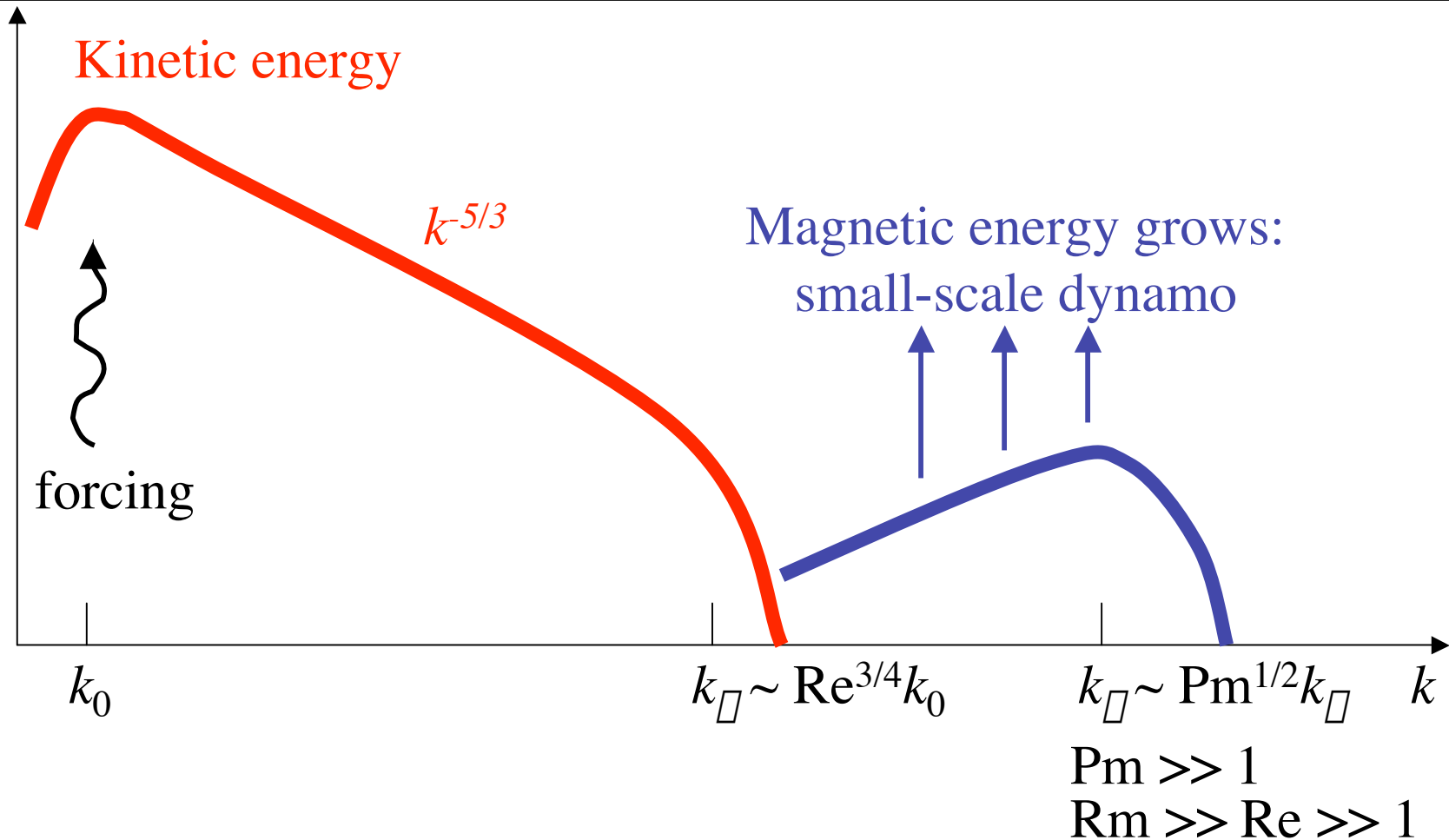
A key parameter: *magnetic Prandtl number*

$Pm = \nu/\eta \sim 2.6 \times 10^{-5} T^4/n$  (ionised) or  $1.7 \times 10^7 T^2/n$  (with neutrals)

- $Pm \gg 1$ : galaxies ( $10^{14}$ ), clusters ( $10^{29}$ )

- $Pm \ll 1$ : planets ( $10^{-5}$ ), stars ( $10^{-7} \dots 10^{-4}$ ), protostellar discs ( $10^{-8}$ ), liquid-metal laboratory dynamos

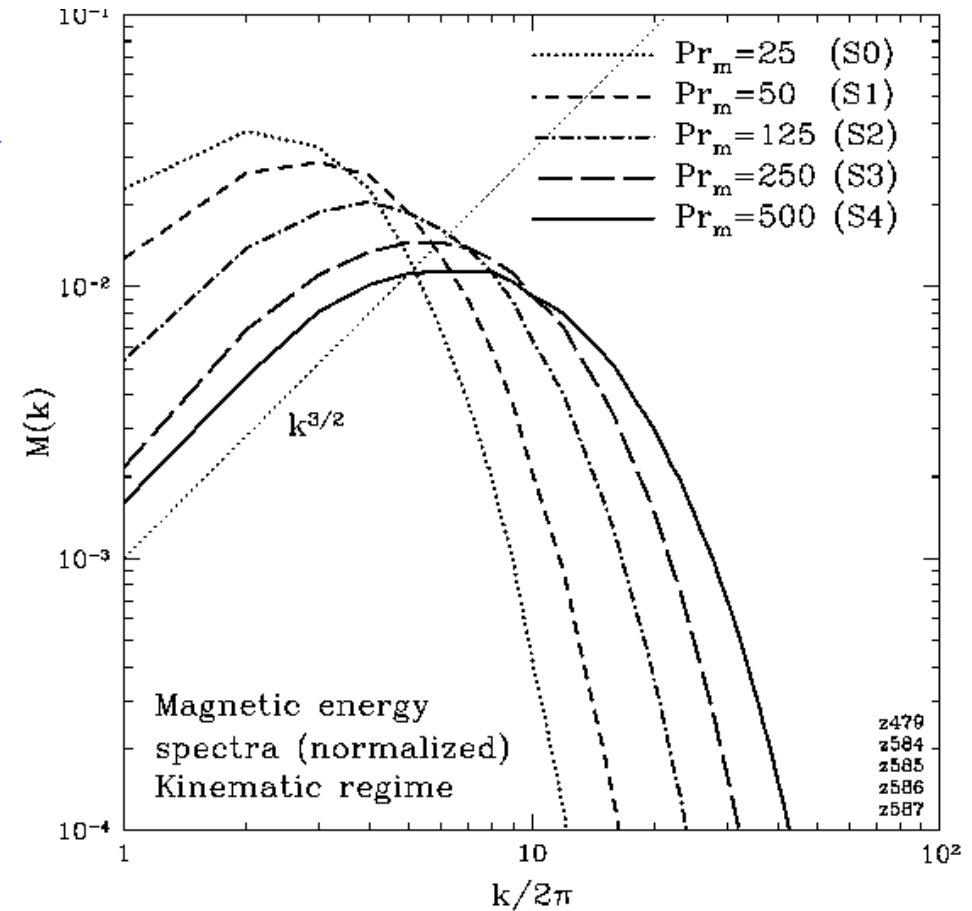
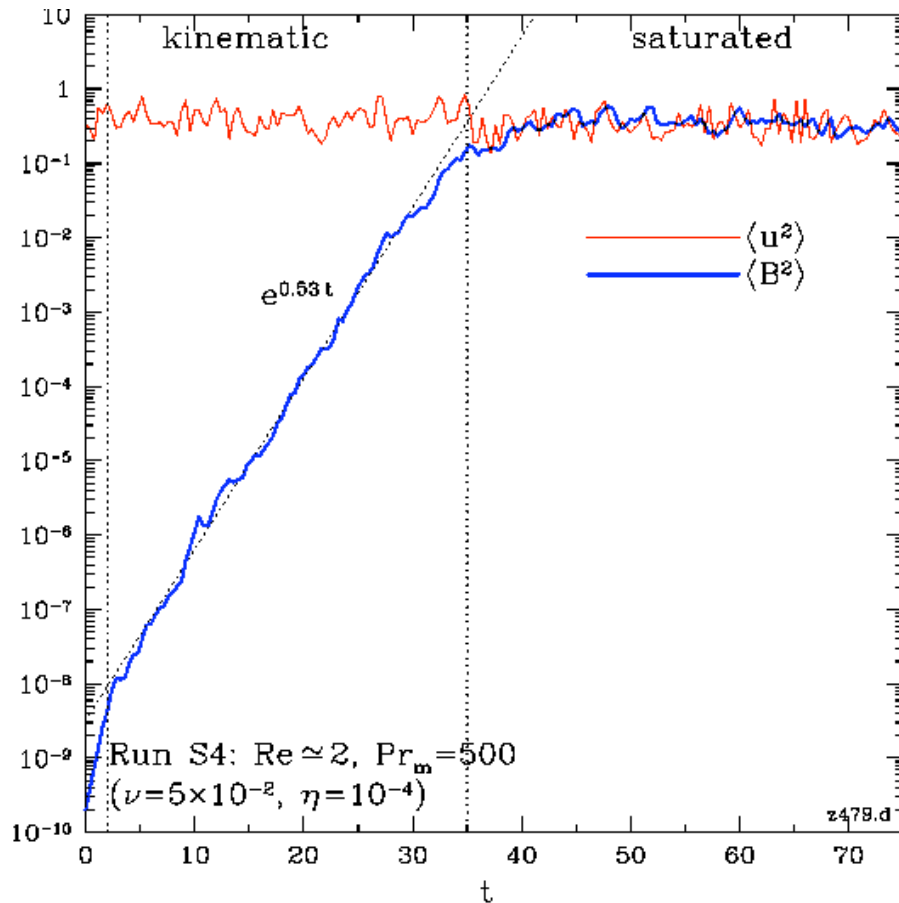
# Small-Scale Dynamo at $Pm \geq 1$



**$Pm \geq 1$ :** it is well established numerically that an initial weak seed field will grow at the smallest scales provided  $Rm > Rm_c \sim 10^2$

[Meneguzzi, Frisch & Pouquet 1981, *PRL* **47**, 1060]

# Small-Scale Dynamo: DNS



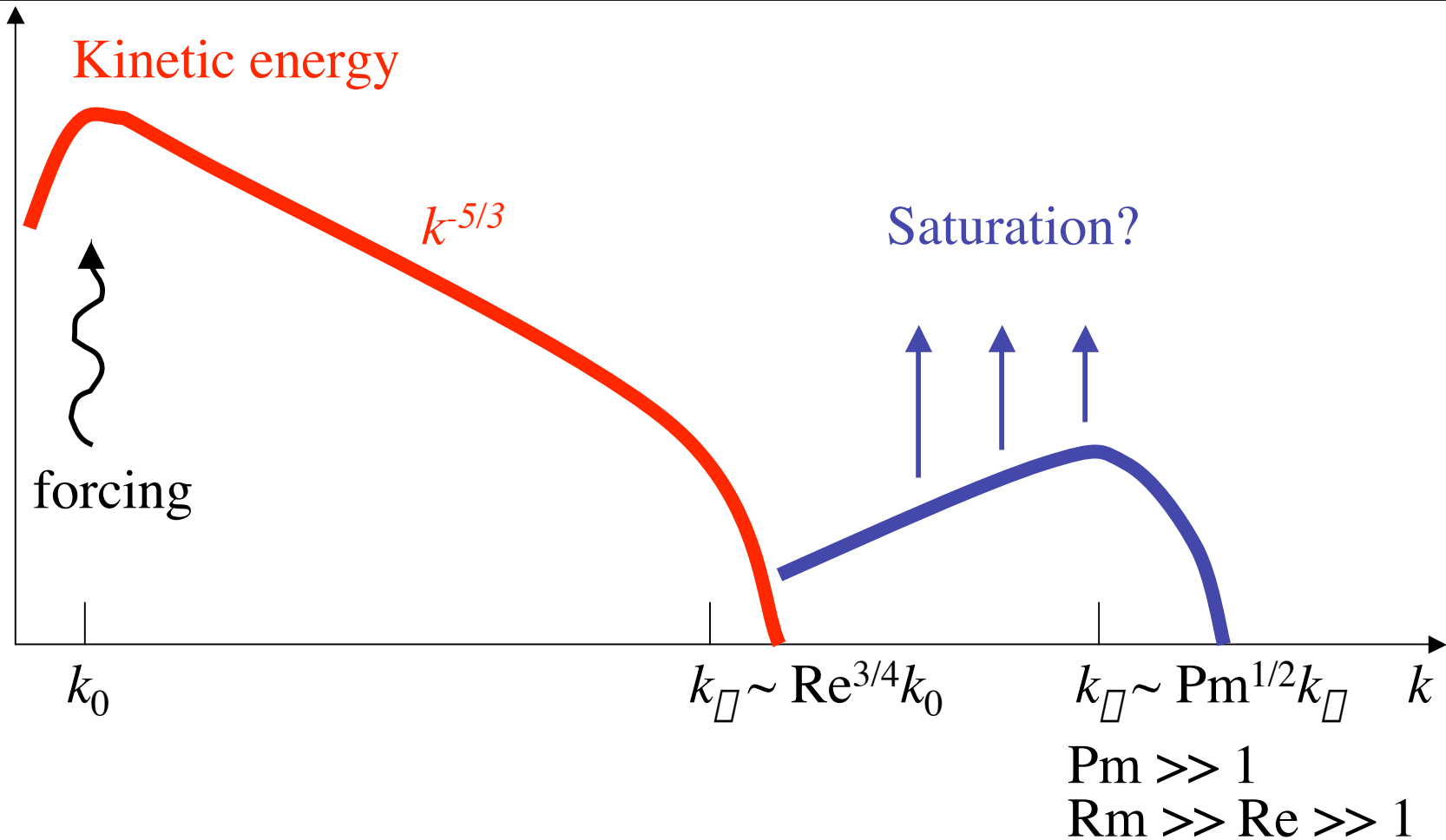
- $\langle B^2 \rangle$  grows exponentially, then saturates

- Field at the resistive scale ( $k_{\square} \sim Pm^{1/2} k_{\square}$ )

Fairly sophisticated analytical treatment of this regime is possible

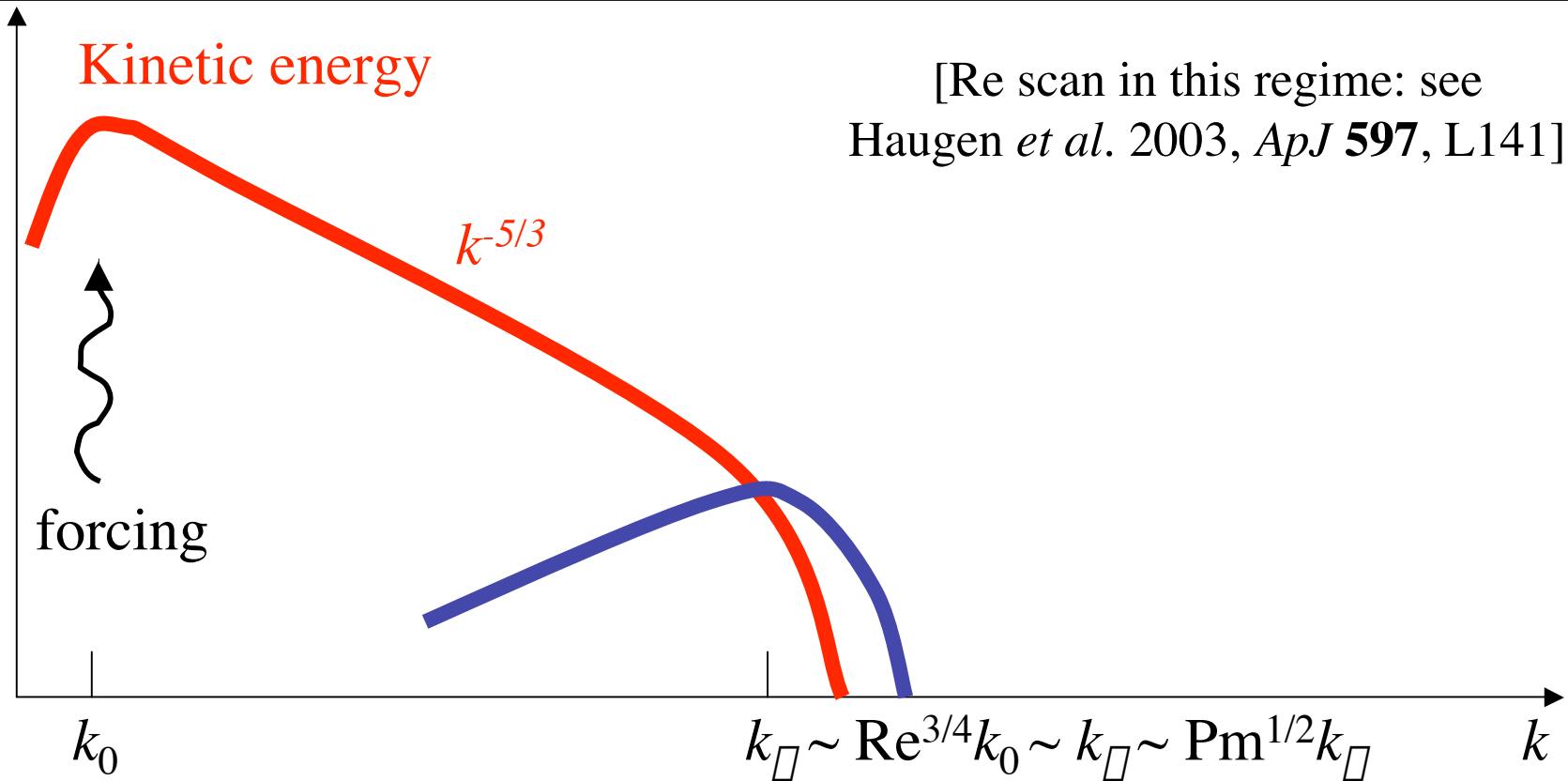
[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276 and references therein]

# Numerical Approaches



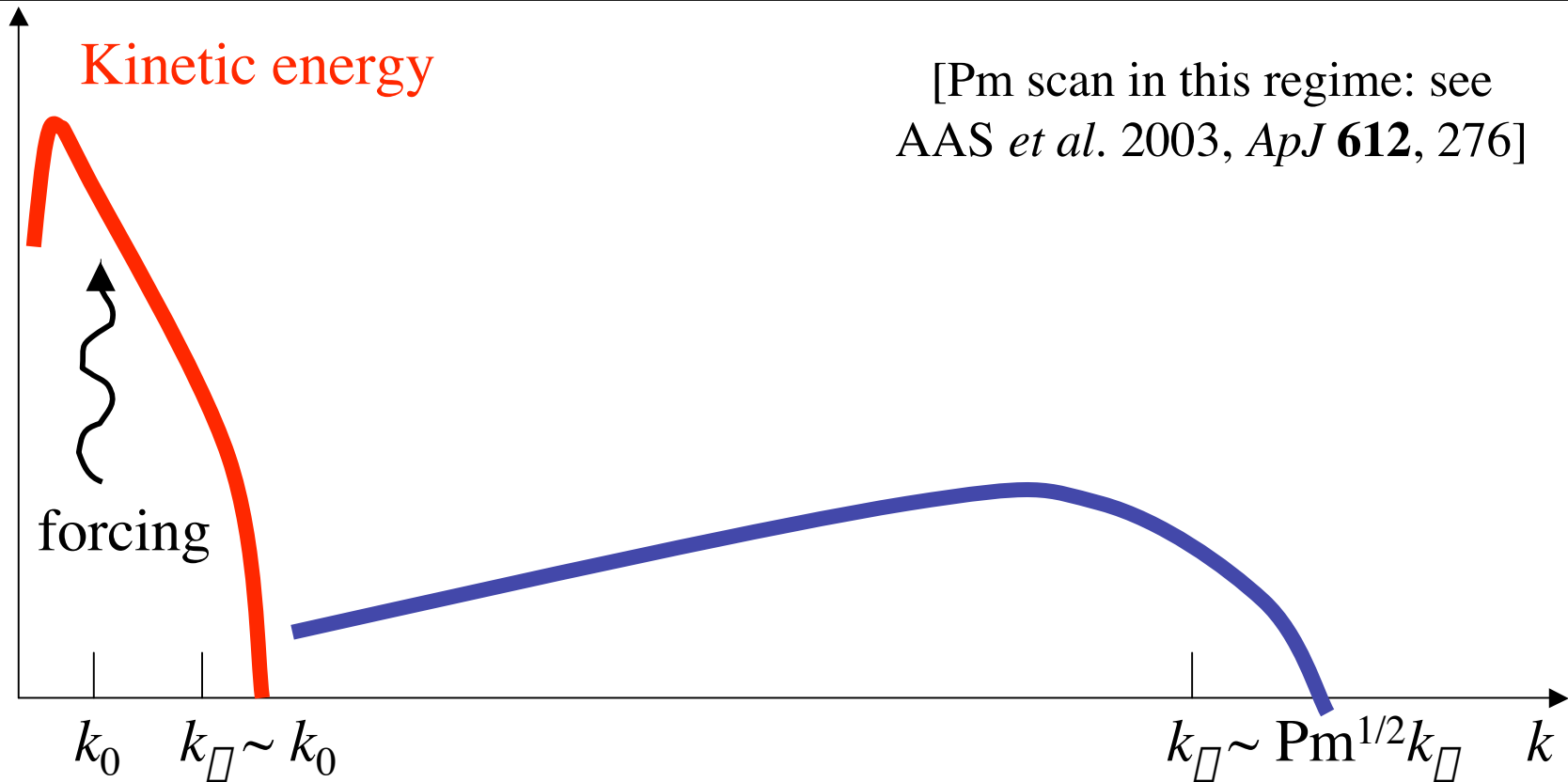
Do we really need to resolve two scale ranges **in saturation?**

# Numerical Approaches: $Re \gg 1, Pm \sim 1$



Do we really need to resolve two scale ranges in saturation?  
**Approach I:  $Re \gg 1, Pm \sim 1$  (sacrifice subviscous range)**

# Numerical Approaches: $Re \sim 1, Pm \gg 1$



Do we really need to resolve two scale ranges in saturation?

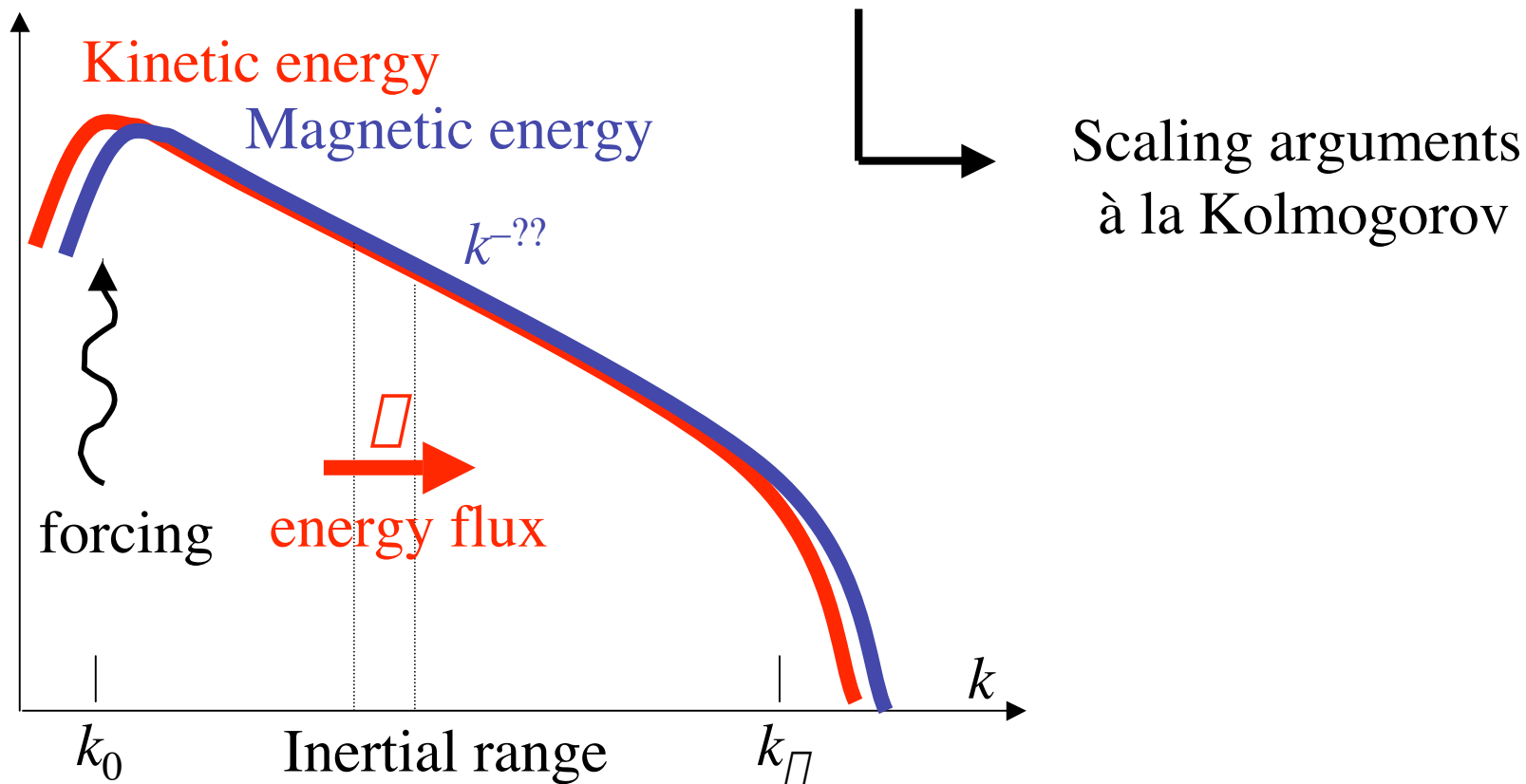
*Approach I:*  $Re \gg 1, Pm = 1$  (sacrifice subviscous range)

*Approach II:*  $Re \sim 1, Pm \gg 1$  (sacrifice inertial range)

# MHD Turbulence: Standard Picture

Standard approach: forget about dissipation scales and

- assume**
- magnetic energy is large-scale dominated
  - elementary motions are Alfvénic,  
so  $u_k \sim B_k$
  - interactions are local in  $k$  space





# MHD Turbulence: Standard Picture

---

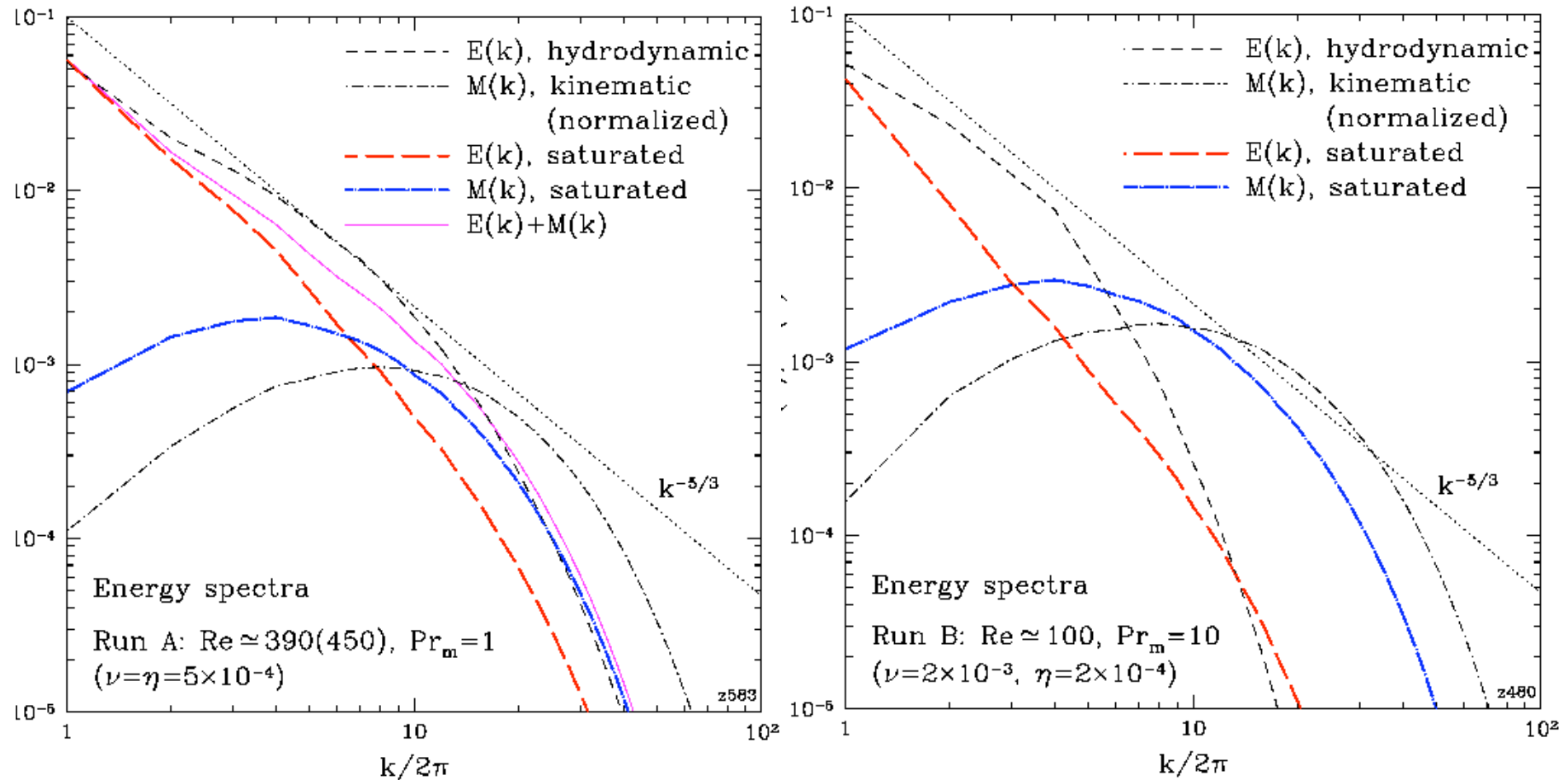
Standard approach: forget about dissipation scales and

- assume**
- magnetic energy is large-scale dominated
  - elementary motions are Alfvénic,  
so  $u_k \sim B_k$
  - interactions are local in  $k$  space

With further assumptions, obtain various scaling laws...

- **IK63/65**: weak interactions, isotropy  $\longrightarrow E(k) \sim (\nu v_A)^{1/2} k^{-3/2}$
- **Weak turbulence**: weak interactions,  
no cascade in  $k_{\parallel}$  (extreme anisotropy)  $\longrightarrow E(k) \sim (\nu k_{\parallel} v_A)^{1/2} k_{\perp}^{-2}$
- **GS95**: strong interactions/critical balance  
(Alfvén time  $\sim$  turnover time)  $\longrightarrow \begin{aligned} E(k) &\sim \nu^{2/3} k_{\perp}^{-5/3} \\ k_{\parallel} &\sim \nu^{1/3} v_A^{-1} k_{\perp}^{2/3} \end{aligned}$

# Isotropic MHD Turbulence: DNS



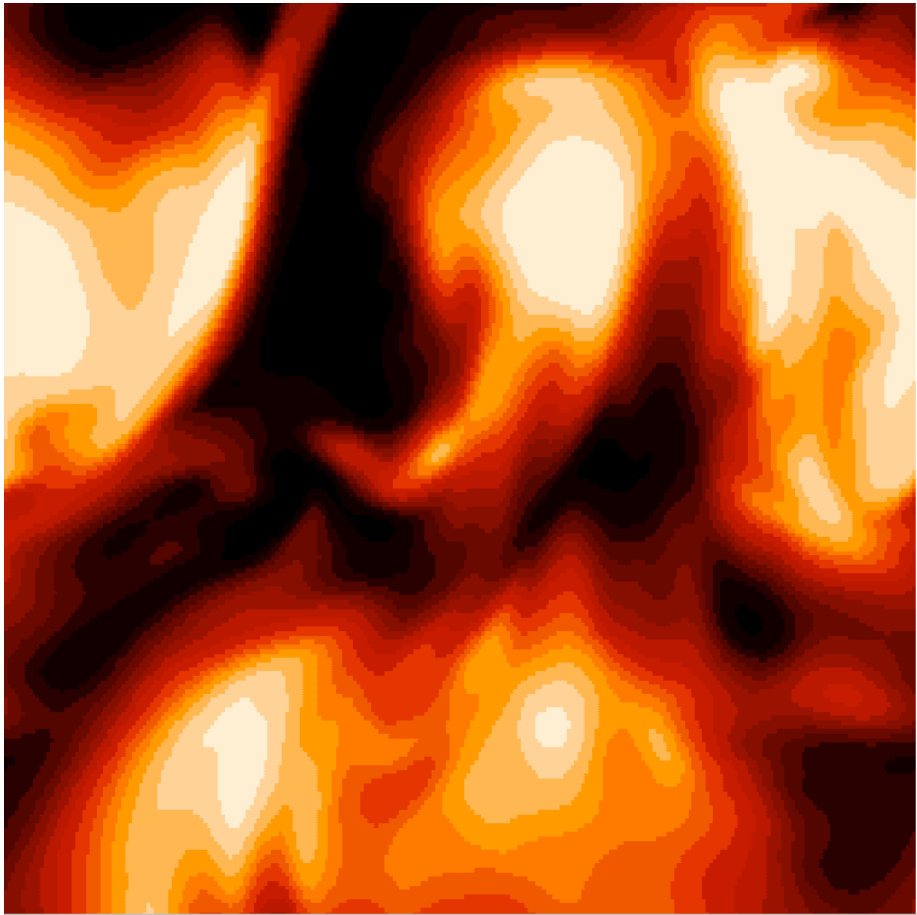
**There is no evidence of scale-by-scale equipartition!**

Excess of magnetic energy at small scales

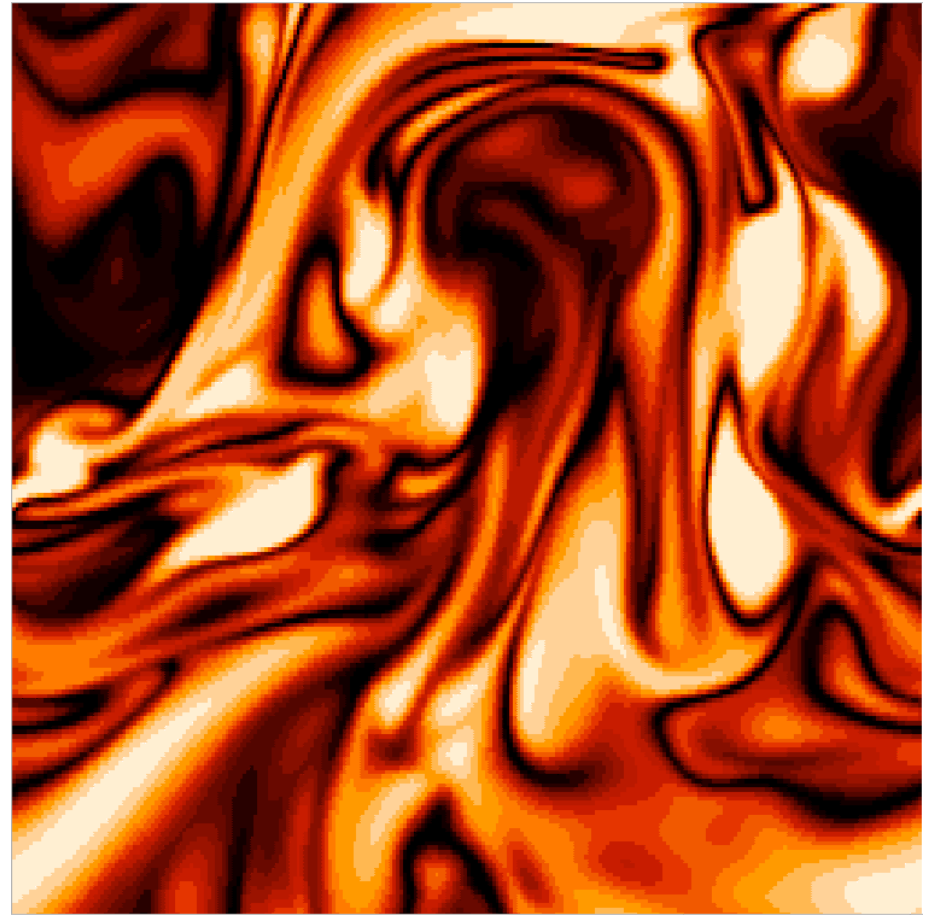
[Maron *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **603**, 569; AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276;  
Highest resolution to date ( $1024^3$ ) : Haugen *et al.* 2003, *ApJ* **597**, L141]

# Isotropic MHD Turbulence: DNS

---



$|u|$

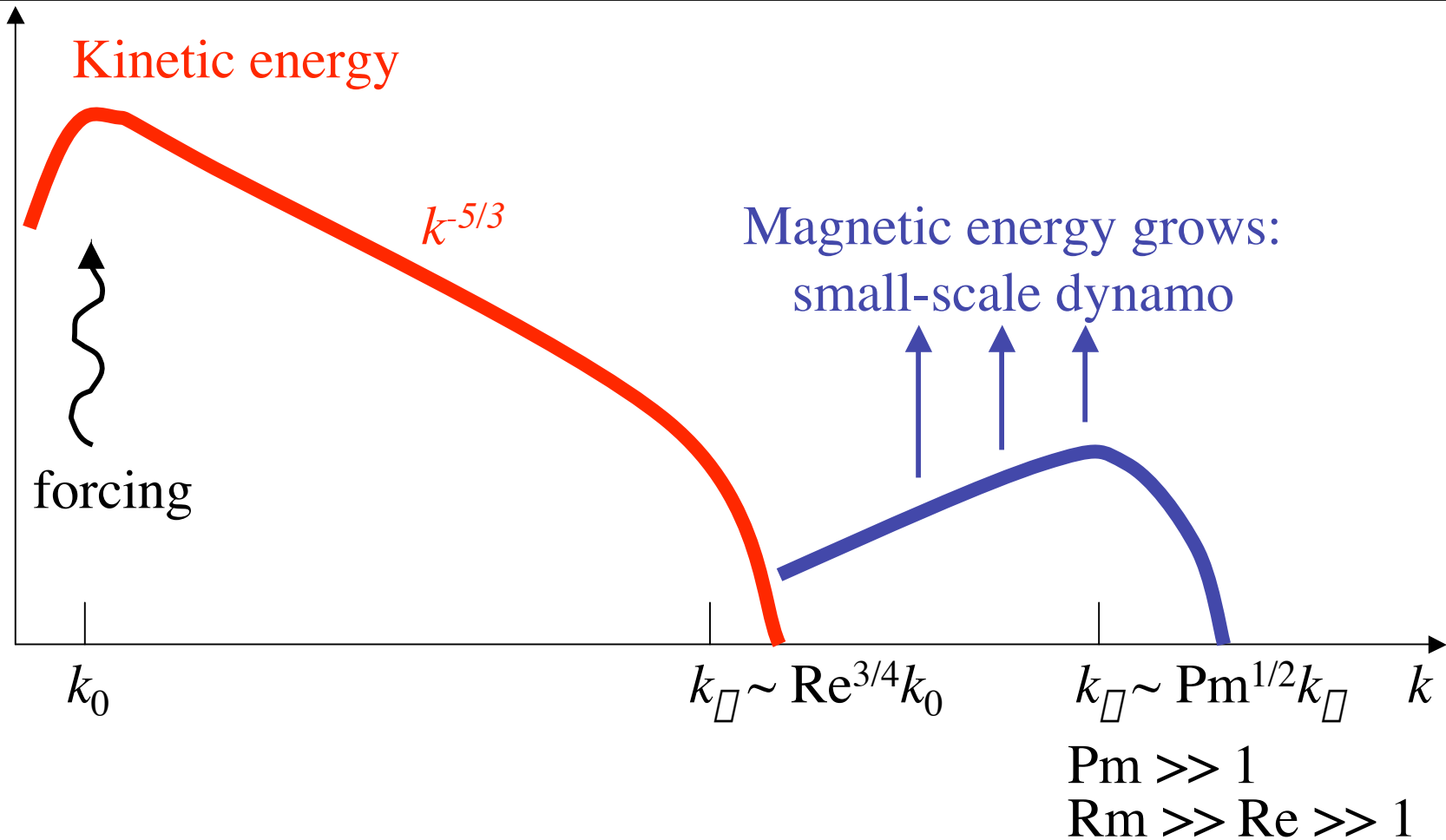


$|B|$

**Excess of magnetic energy at small scales**

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

# Small-Scale Dynamo at $Pm \geq 1$



Go back to small-scale dynamo and ask some basic questions...

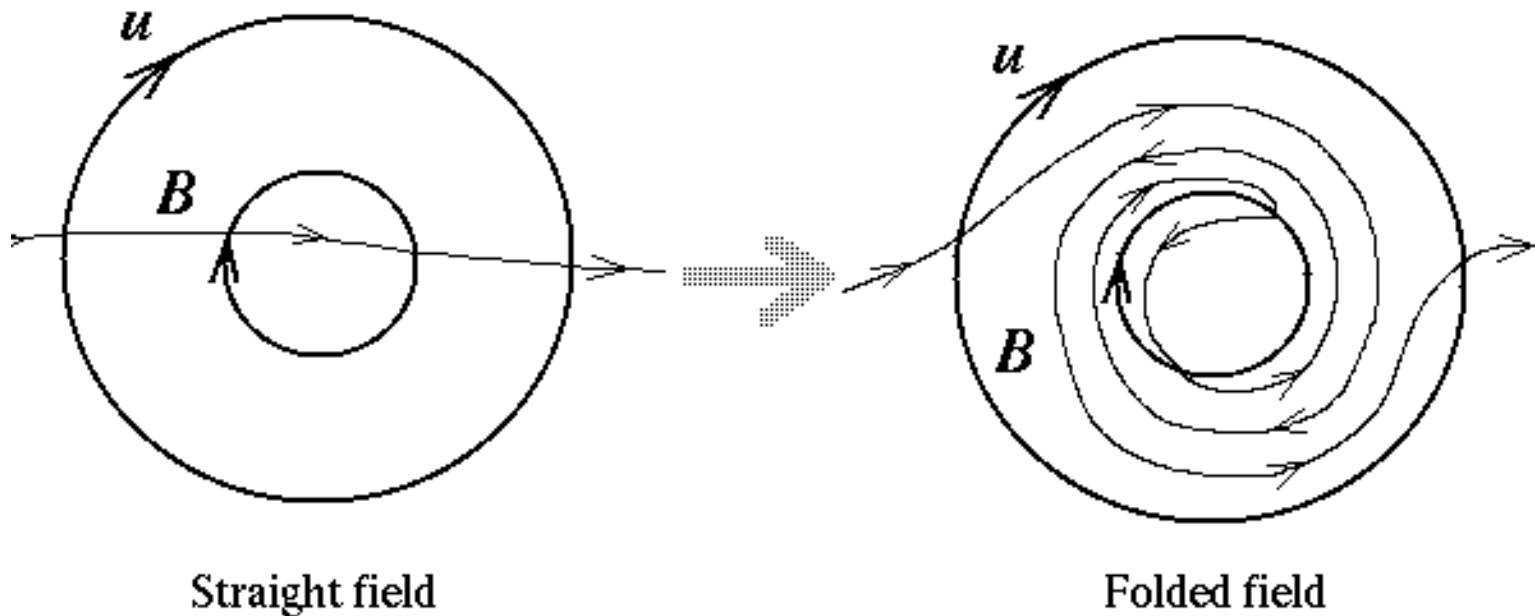
# Folded Structure: Common Sense

---

## What sort of fields does the small-scale dynamo make?

When  $Rm \gg 1$ , field “frozen” into the flow (cf. material lines).

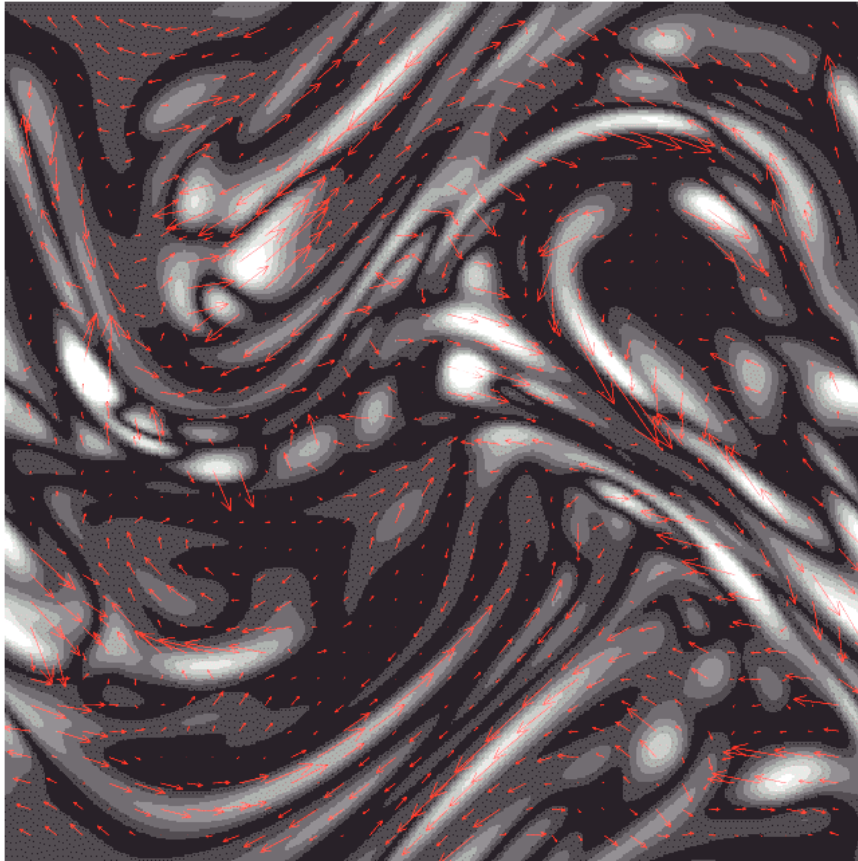
The flow winds up the field into folds:



- Direction reversals at the resistive scale,  $k_{\perp} \sim k_{\perp}$
- Field varies slowly along itself:  $k_{\parallel} \sim k_{\text{flow}}$

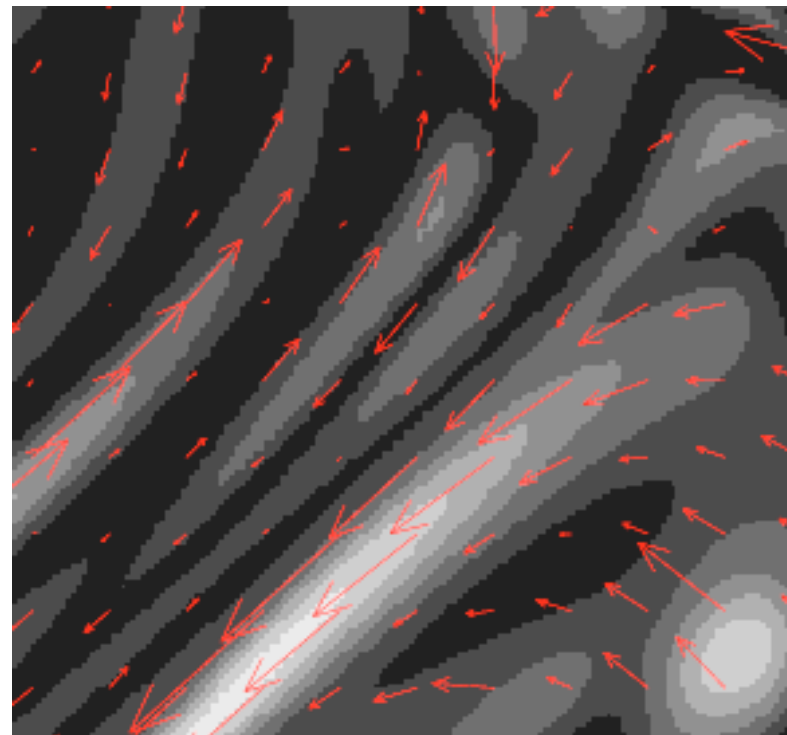
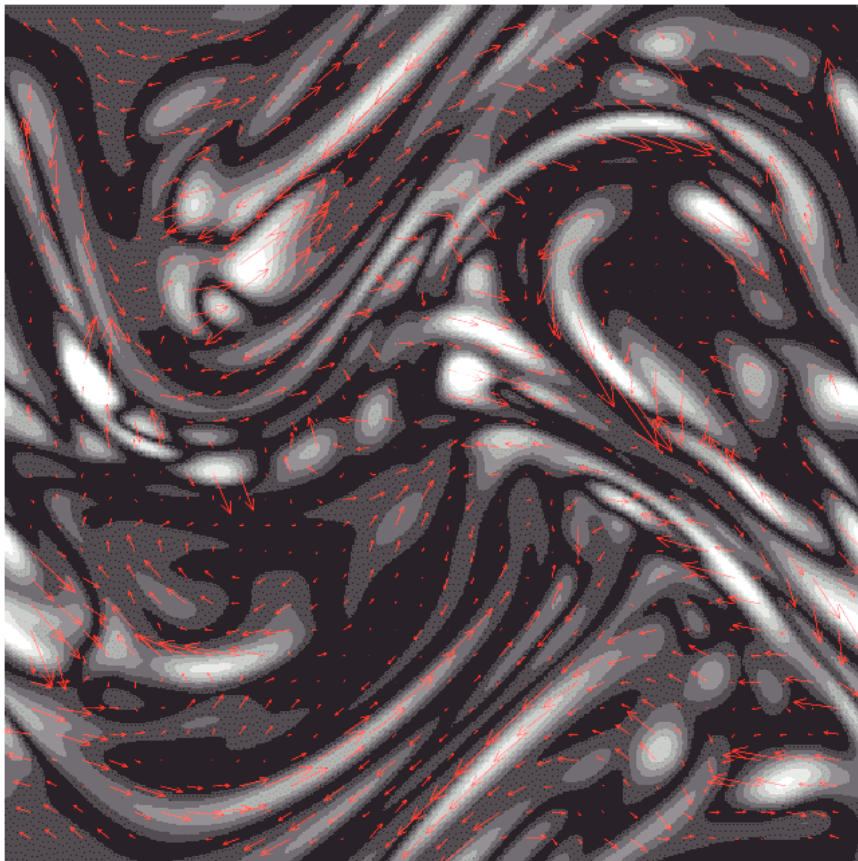
# Folded Structure: DNS ( $Pm \gg 1$ )

---



# Folded Structure: DNS ( $Pm \gg 1$ )

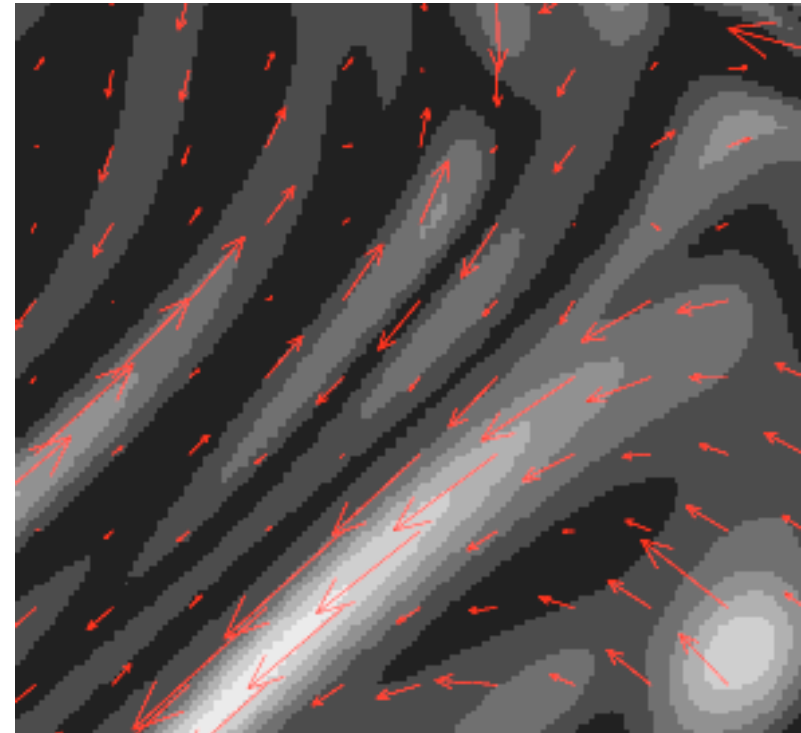
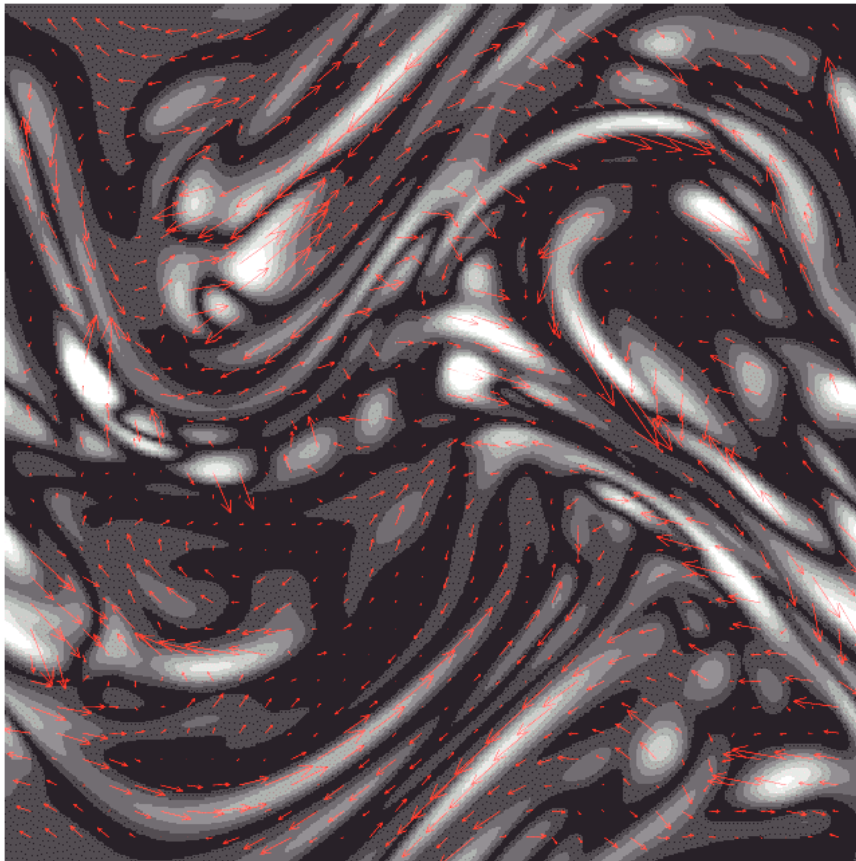
---





# Folded Structure: DNS ( $Pm \gg 1$ )

---



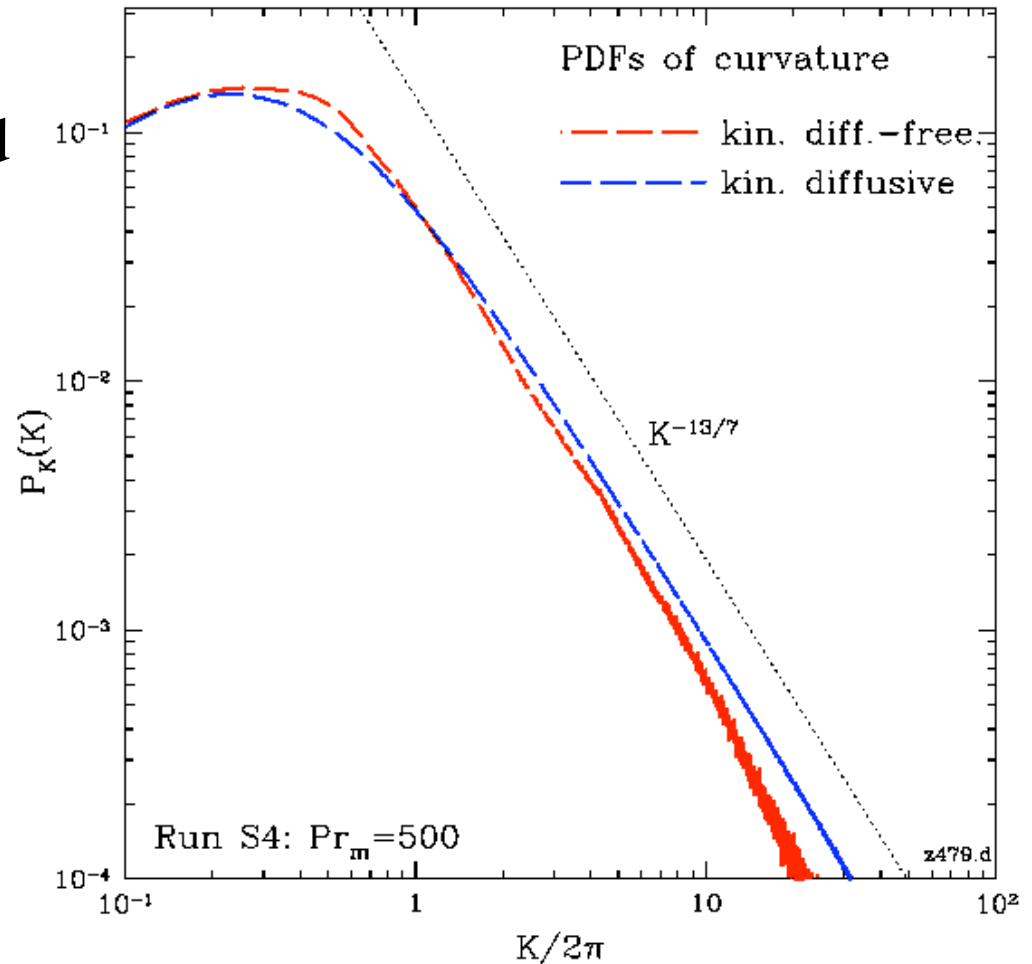
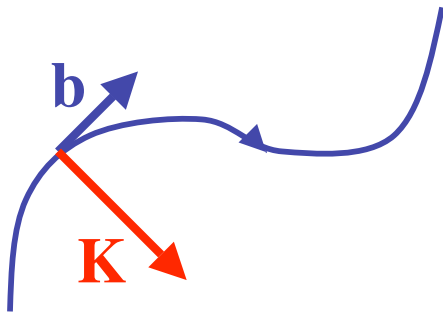
Many ways of diagnosing this structure:

- *Extreme flux cancellation* [Ott & coworkers 1988-98, Cattaneo 1994]
- *Anisotropic two-point correlators* [Chertkov *et al.* 1999, *PRL* **83**, 4065]
- *Statistics of field-line curvature*  
[AAS *et al.* 2002, *PRE* **65**, 016305; 2004, *ApJ*, **612**, 276]



# Field Line Curvature Statistics

More detailed information:  
 geometry of field lines described  
 by the PDF of their curvature  
 $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{b}$



$$P_K(K) = \frac{6}{7} \frac{K}{(1 + K^2)^{10/7}} \sim \text{power tail } K^{-13/7}$$

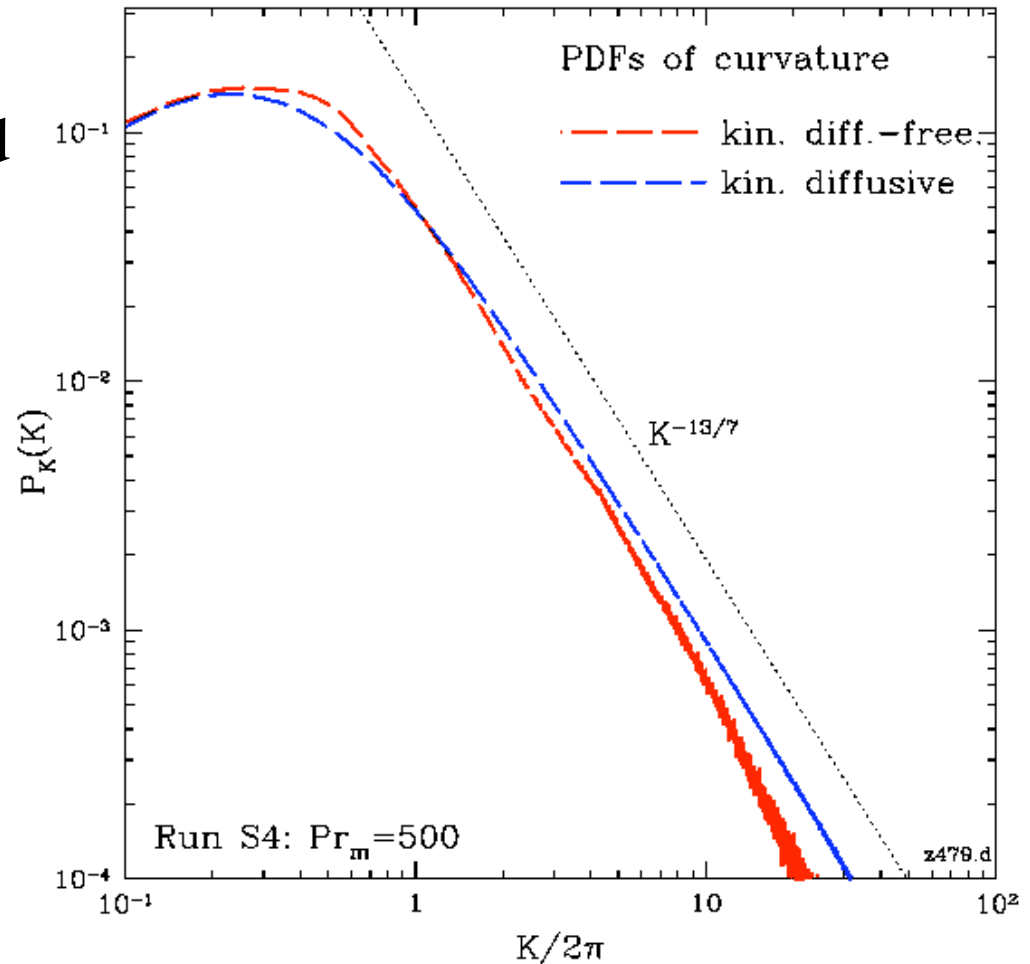
[AAS *et al.* 2002, *PRE* **65**, 016305; 2004, *ApJ*, **612**, 276

cf. work on **material lines**: e.g., Drummond & Münch 1991, *JFM* **225**, 529]

# Curvature and Field Strength

More detailed information:  
 geometry of field lines described  
 by the PDF of their curvature  
 $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{b}$

Curvature and field strength  
 are **anticorrelated**



$$P_K(K) = \frac{6}{7} \frac{K}{(1 + K^2)^{10/7}} \sim \text{power tail } K^{-13/7}$$

[AAS *et al.* 2002, *PRE* **65**, 016305; 2004, *ApJ*, **612**, 276

cf. work on **material lines**: e.g., Drummond & Münch 1991, *JFM* **225**, 529]

# Curvature and Field Strength

---

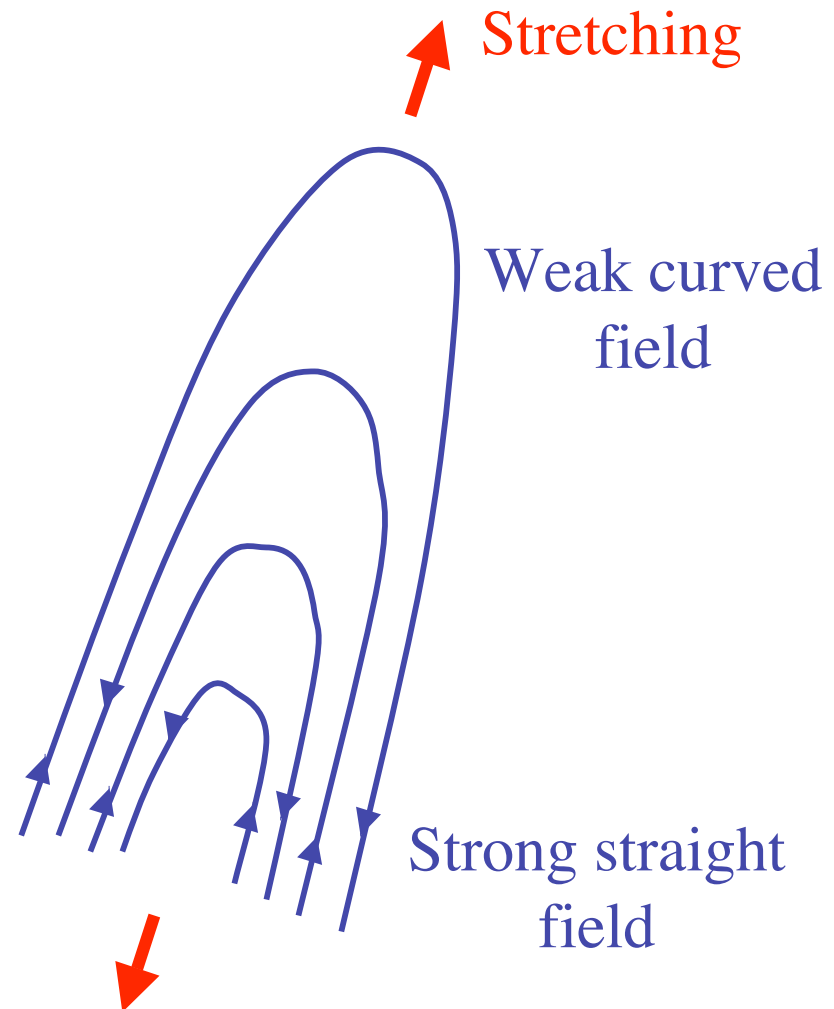
More detailed information:

geometry of field lines described  
by the PDF of their curvature

$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{b}$$

**Curvature and field strength  
are anticorrelated**

...which is clear from simple  
geometry of field stretching  
(and can be shown both  
**analytically** and  
**numerically**)



[AAS *et al.* 2002, *PRE* **65**, 016305; 2004, *ApJ*, **612**, 276

cf. work on **material lines**: e.g., Drummond & Münch 1991, *JFM* **225**, 529]

# Characteristic Wavenumbers

The crudest diagnostics:

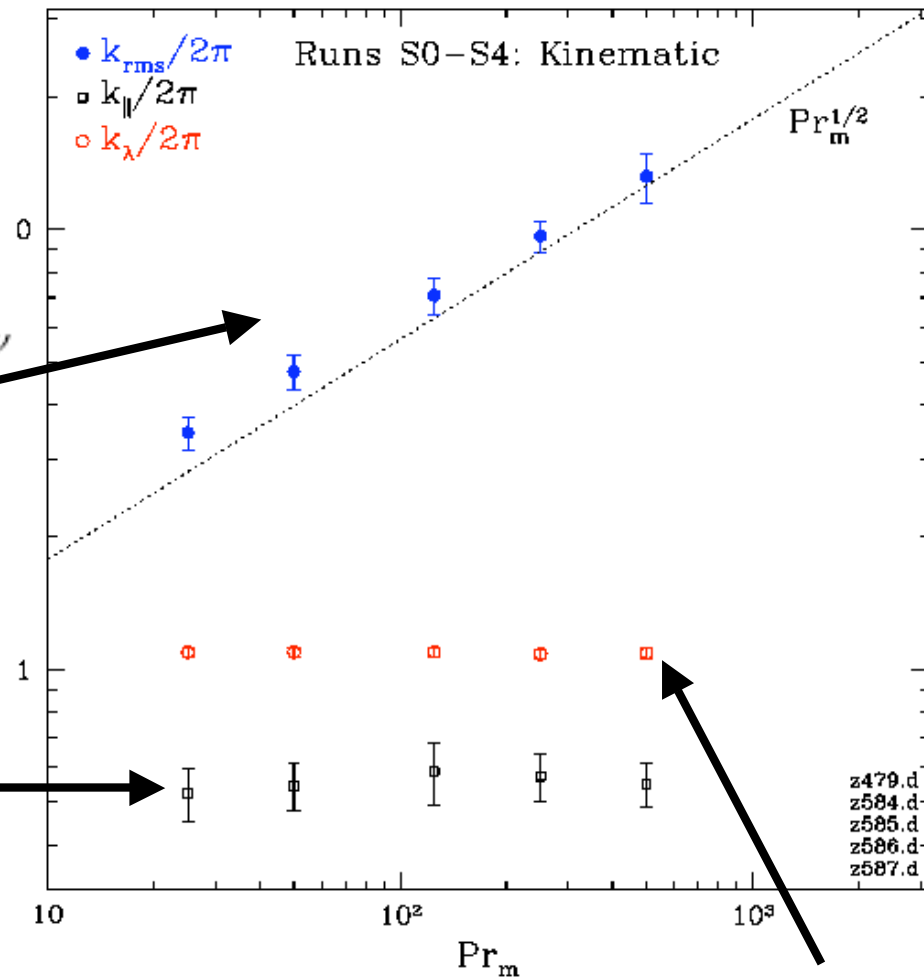
$$k_{\text{rms}} = \left[ \frac{2}{\langle B^2 \rangle} \int_0^\infty dk k^2 M(k) \right]^{1/2}$$

$$= \left[ \frac{\langle |\nabla \mathbf{B}|^2 \rangle}{\langle B^2 \rangle} \right]^{1/2} \sim k_\eta \sim \text{Pr}_m^{1/2} k_\nu$$

(direction reversals, get this already from spectral theory)

$$k_{\parallel} = \left[ \frac{\langle |\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}|^2 \rangle}{\langle B^4 \rangle} \right]^{1/2} \sim k_\nu$$

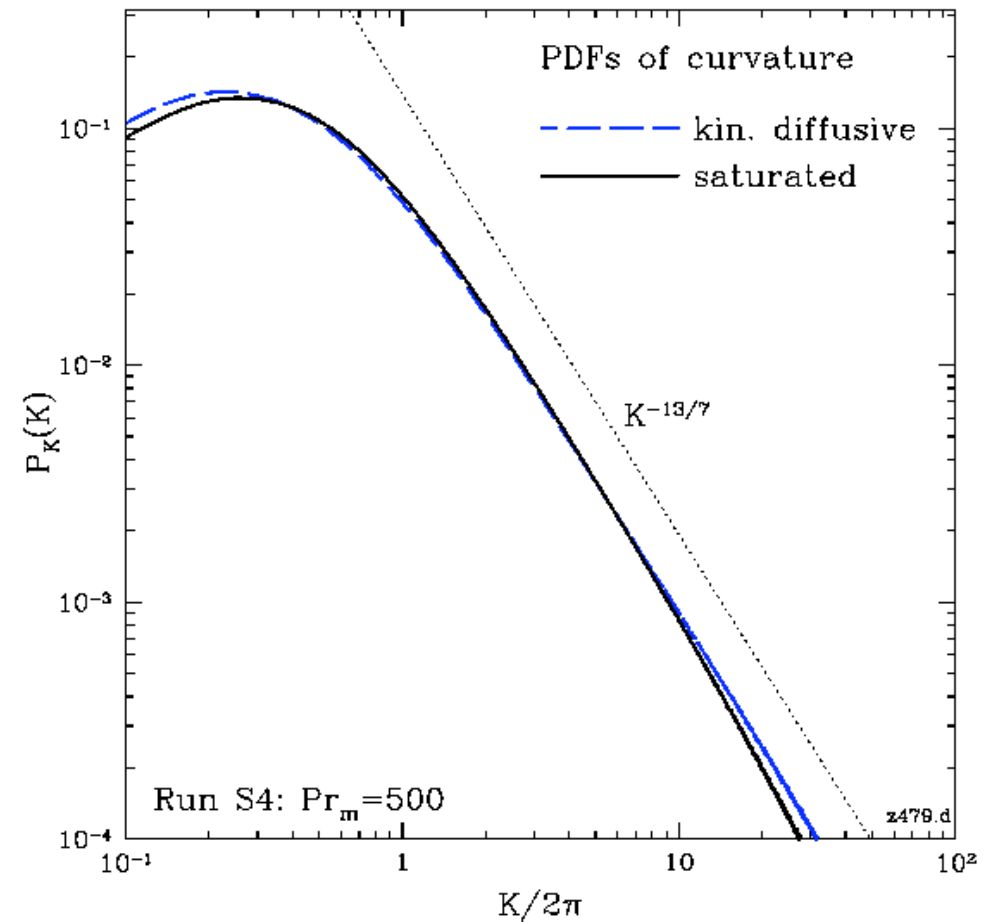
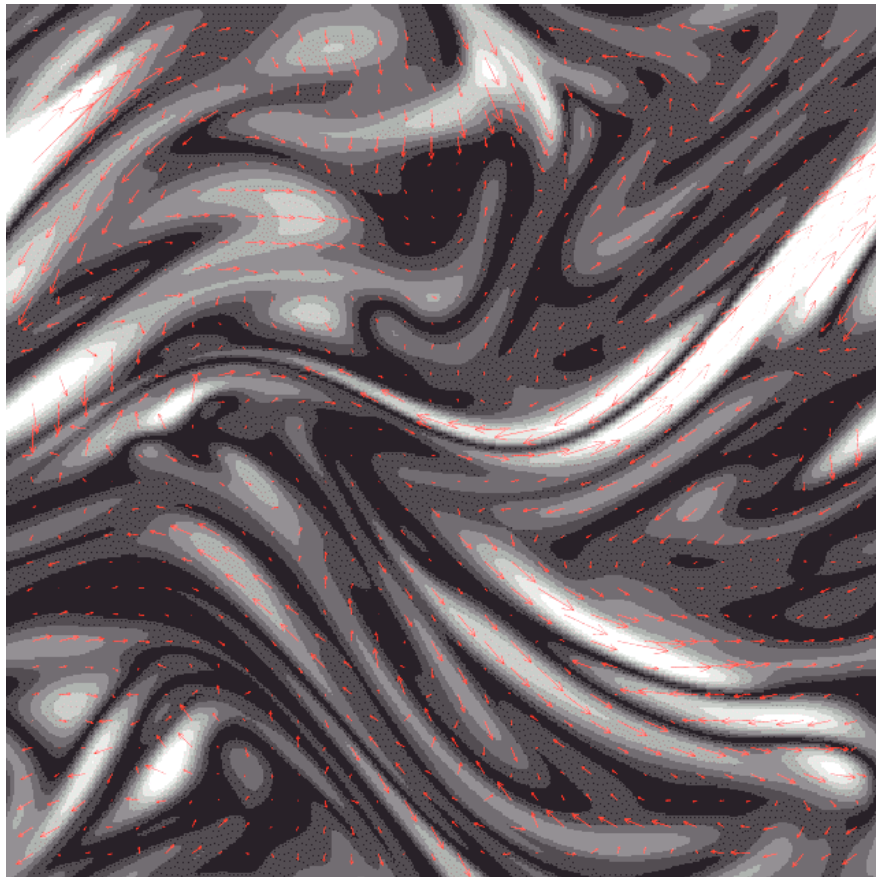
(inverse “fold length”, cannot get it from the spectrum!)



Compare them with the inverse Taylor microscale:

$$k_{\lambda} = \left[ \frac{\langle |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2 \rangle}{\langle u^2 \rangle} \right]^{1/2} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\lambda}$$

# Folded Structure Preserved in Saturation

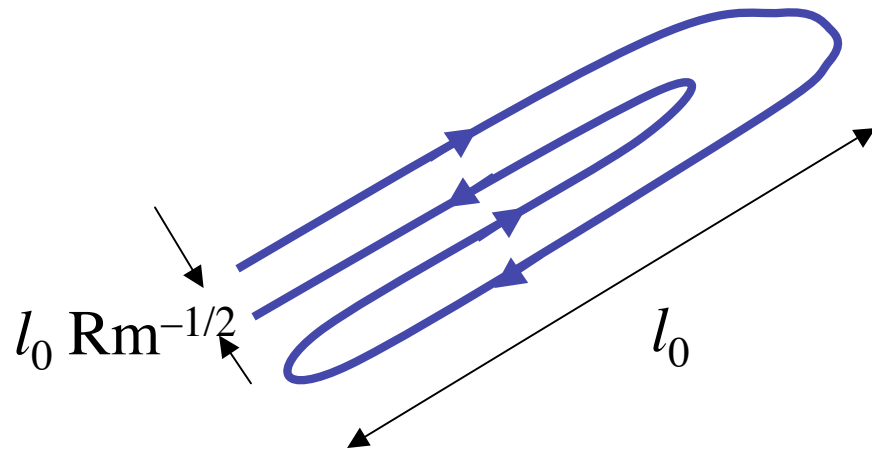


All the same features of **field-line geometry** and **field-strength anticorrelation with curvature** as in kinematic dynamo

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

# Saturation via Anisotropy

---

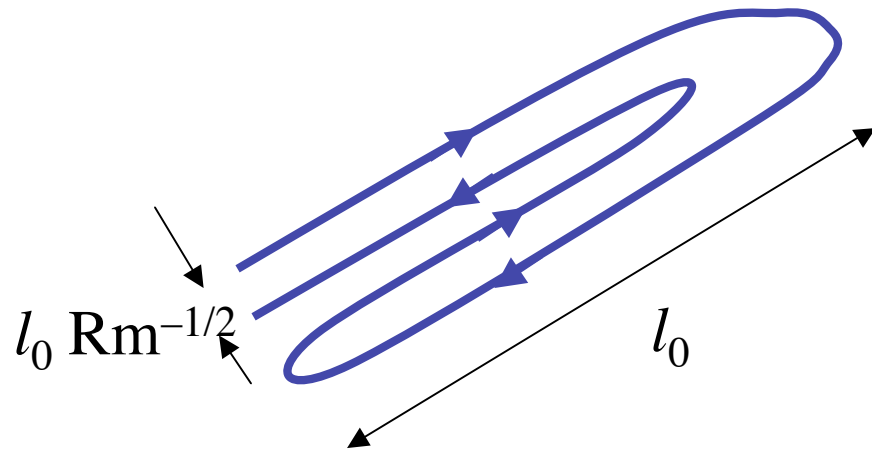


$$\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim k_{\parallel} B^2$$

**Folds provide a direction in space that is locally coherent at the scale of the flow**

# Saturation via Anisotropy

---



$$\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim k_{\parallel} B^2$$

Folds provide a direction in space that is locally coherent at the scale of the flow

It is possible to construct a Fokker-Planck-type model of saturated spectra based on the idea that **saturation occurs via partial two-dimensionalisation of the velocity gradients with respect to the local direction of the folds**

*This weakens stretching and enhances mixing, so dynamo saturates at marginally stable balance of the two*

# A Fokker-Planck Model of Saturation

Build on the Kazantsev formalism and model saturation by  
**making velocity statistics depend on the local field direction  $\hat{b}^i \hat{b}^j$ :**

$$\kappa^{ij}(\mathbf{k}) = \kappa^{(i)}(k, |\mu|) (\delta^{ij} - \hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j) + \kappa^{(a)}(k, |\mu|) (\hat{b}^i \hat{b}^j + \mu^2 \hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j - \mu \hat{b}^i \hat{k}_j - \mu \hat{k}_i \hat{b}^j)$$

Can then derive an equation for magnetic-energy spectrum in (almost) the usual way:

$$\partial_t M = \frac{1}{8} \gamma_{\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial k} \left[ (1 + 2\sigma_{\parallel}) k^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial k} - (1 + 4\sigma_{\perp} + 10\sigma_{\parallel}) k \right] M + 2(\sigma_{\perp} + \sigma_{\parallel}) \gamma_{\perp} M - 2\eta k^2 M$$

where  $\gamma_{\perp} = \int d^3k k_{\perp}^2 \kappa_{\perp} \sim [\langle |\nabla_{\perp} \mathbf{u}_{\perp}|^2 \rangle]^{1/2}$  “mixing rate”

$$\sigma_{\perp} = \frac{1}{\gamma_{\perp}} \int d^3k k_{\parallel}^2 \kappa_{\perp} \sim \frac{\langle |\nabla_{\parallel} \mathbf{u}_{\perp}|^2 \rangle}{\langle |\nabla_{\perp} \mathbf{u}_{\perp}|^2 \rangle}, \quad \sigma_{\parallel} = \frac{1}{\gamma_{\perp}} \int d^3k k_{\parallel}^2 \kappa_{\parallel} \sim \frac{\langle |\nabla_{\parallel} \mathbf{u}_{\parallel}|^2 \rangle}{\langle |\nabla_{\perp} \mathbf{u}_{\perp}|^2 \rangle}$$

Solution in the limit  $\eta \rightarrow 0$  is

$$M(k) \simeq k^s e^{\gamma t} K_0(k/k_{\eta}),$$

$$s = 2 \frac{\sigma_{\perp} + 2\sigma_{\parallel}}{1 + 2\sigma_{\parallel}}, \quad \gamma = \gamma_{\perp} \left[ 2(\sigma_{\perp} + \sigma_{\parallel}) - \frac{(1 + 2\sigma_{\perp} + 6\sigma_{\parallel})^2}{8(1 + 2\sigma_{\parallel})} \right], \quad k_{\eta} = \frac{1}{4} \left[ \frac{(1 + 2\sigma_{\parallel}) \gamma_{\perp}}{\eta} \right]^{1/2}$$

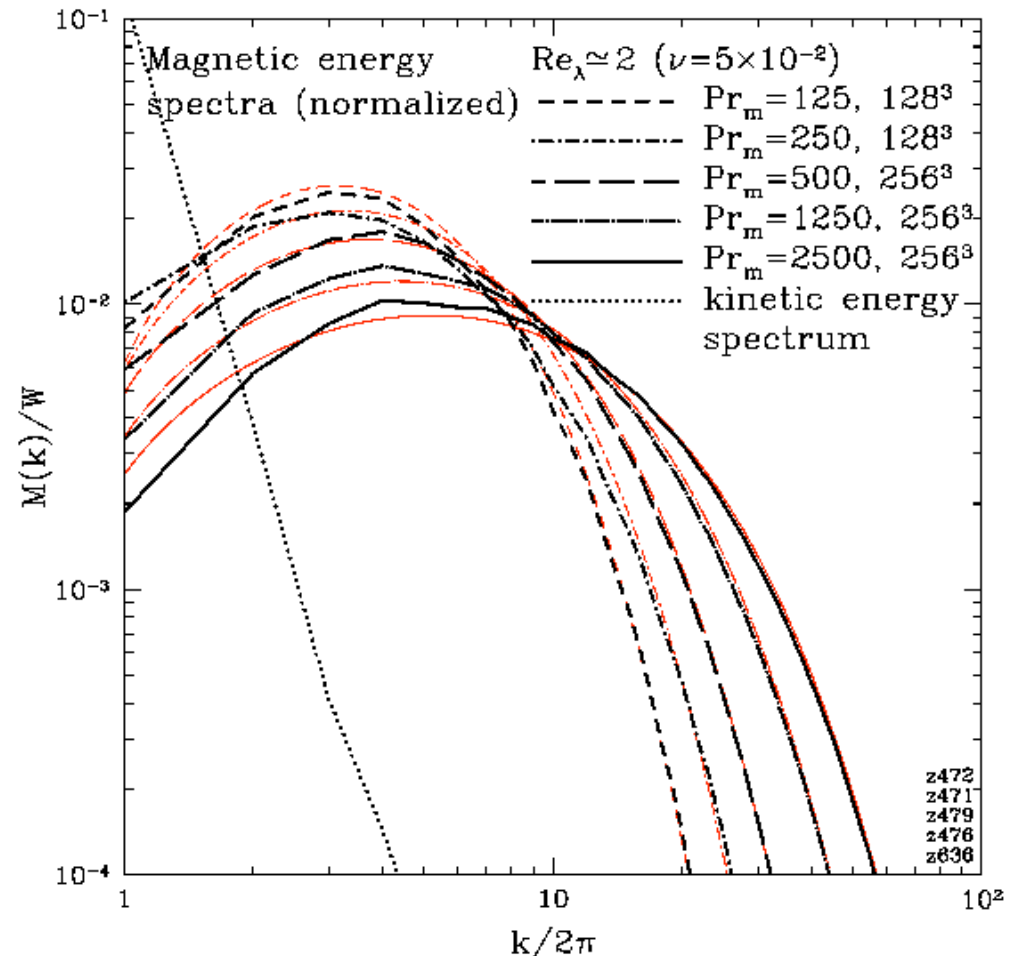
$\eta = 0$  at some sufficiently small  $\eta_{\perp}, \eta_{\parallel}$  **saturation purely by means of anisotropy!**

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *PRL* **92**, 084504]



# Saturated Spectra: Theory vs. DNS

We can solve the model with simulation parameters:  
these nonasymptotic solutions fit an entire sequence of spectra  
in runs with  $Re \sim 1$ ,  $Pm \gg 1$

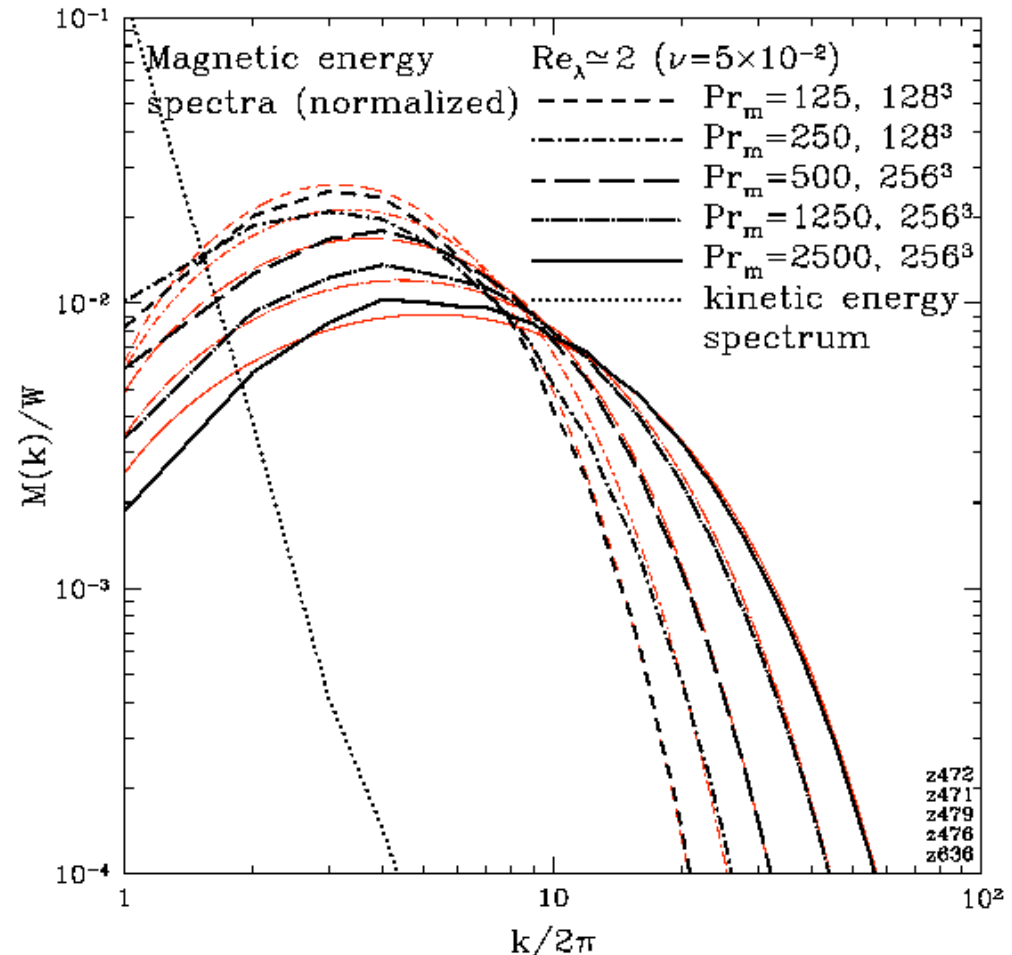


[AAS *et al.* 2004, *PRL* **92**, 084504]

# Saturated Spectra: Theory vs. DNS

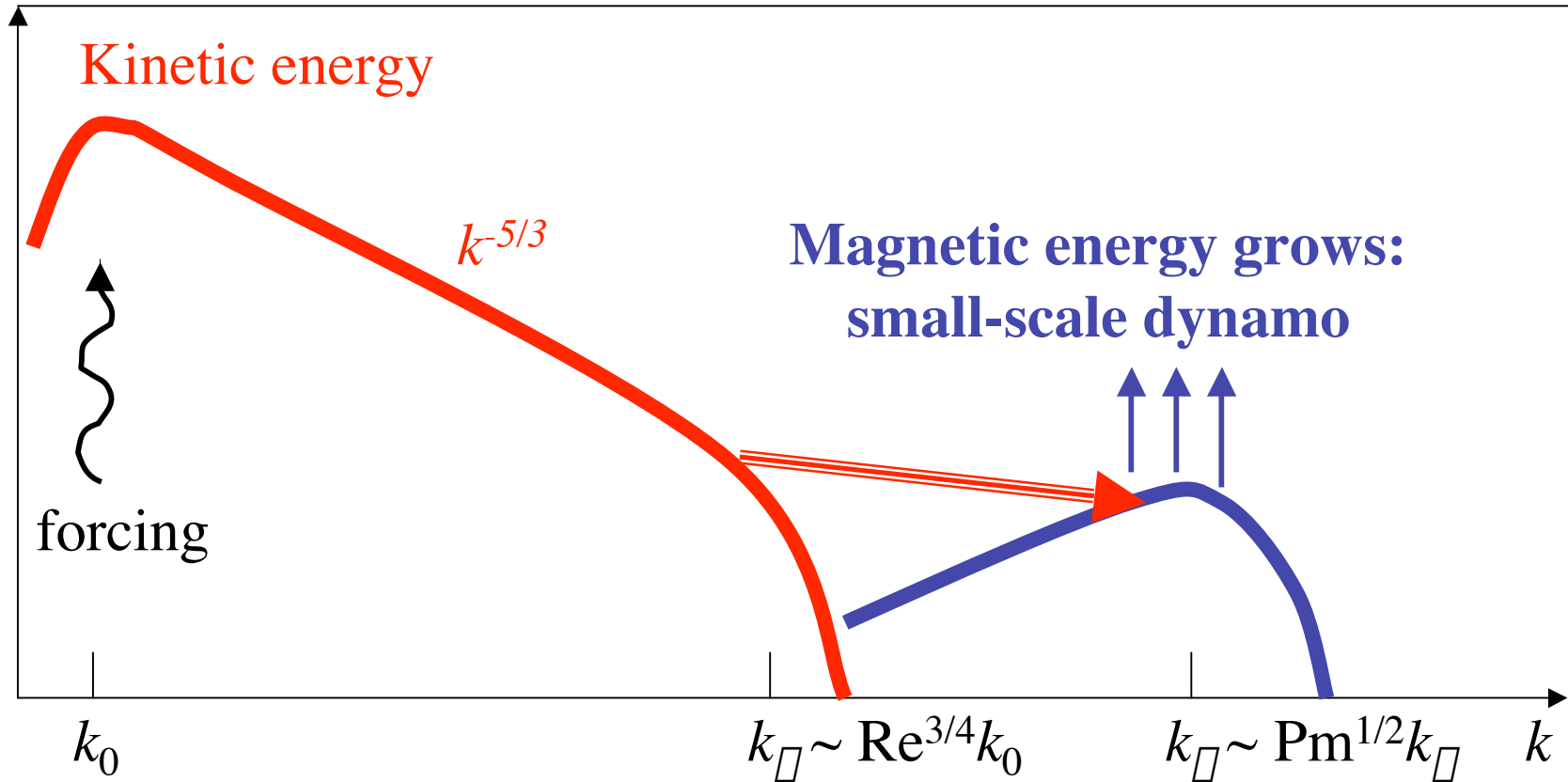
We can solve the model with simulation parameters:  
these nonasymptotic solutions fit an entire sequence of spectra  
in runs with  $Re \sim 1$ ,  $Pm \gg 1$

**This is a pleasant surprise:  
apparently, the saturation  
mechanism is simple  
and robust enough  
to be captured by  
such an elementary model!**



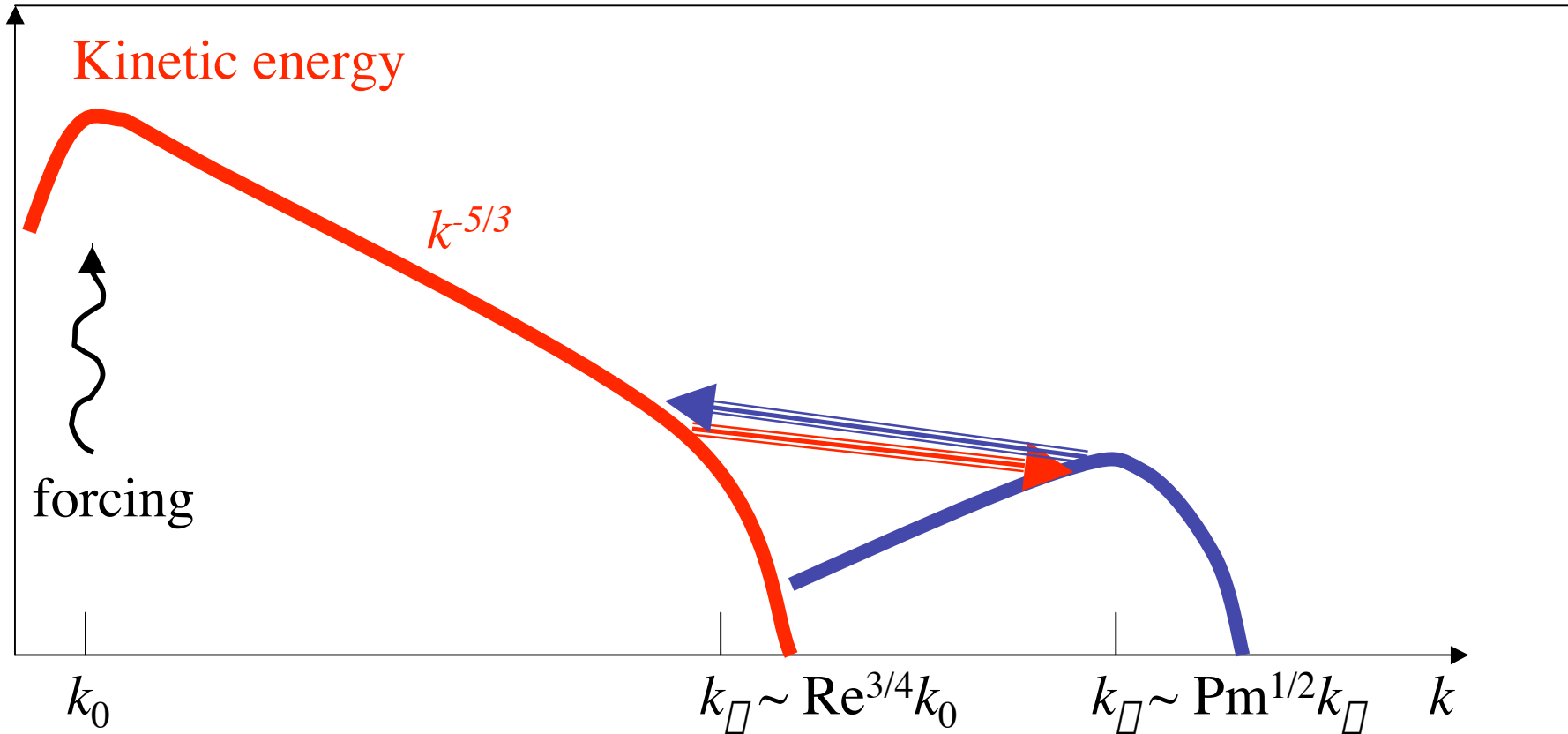
[AAS *et al.* 2004, *PRL* **92**, 084504]

# MHD Turbulence: Multiscale Flow



We have thus far considered dynamo in a *single-scale* random flow  
True turbulence has a range of scales

# Onset of Back Reaction



Kinematic growth

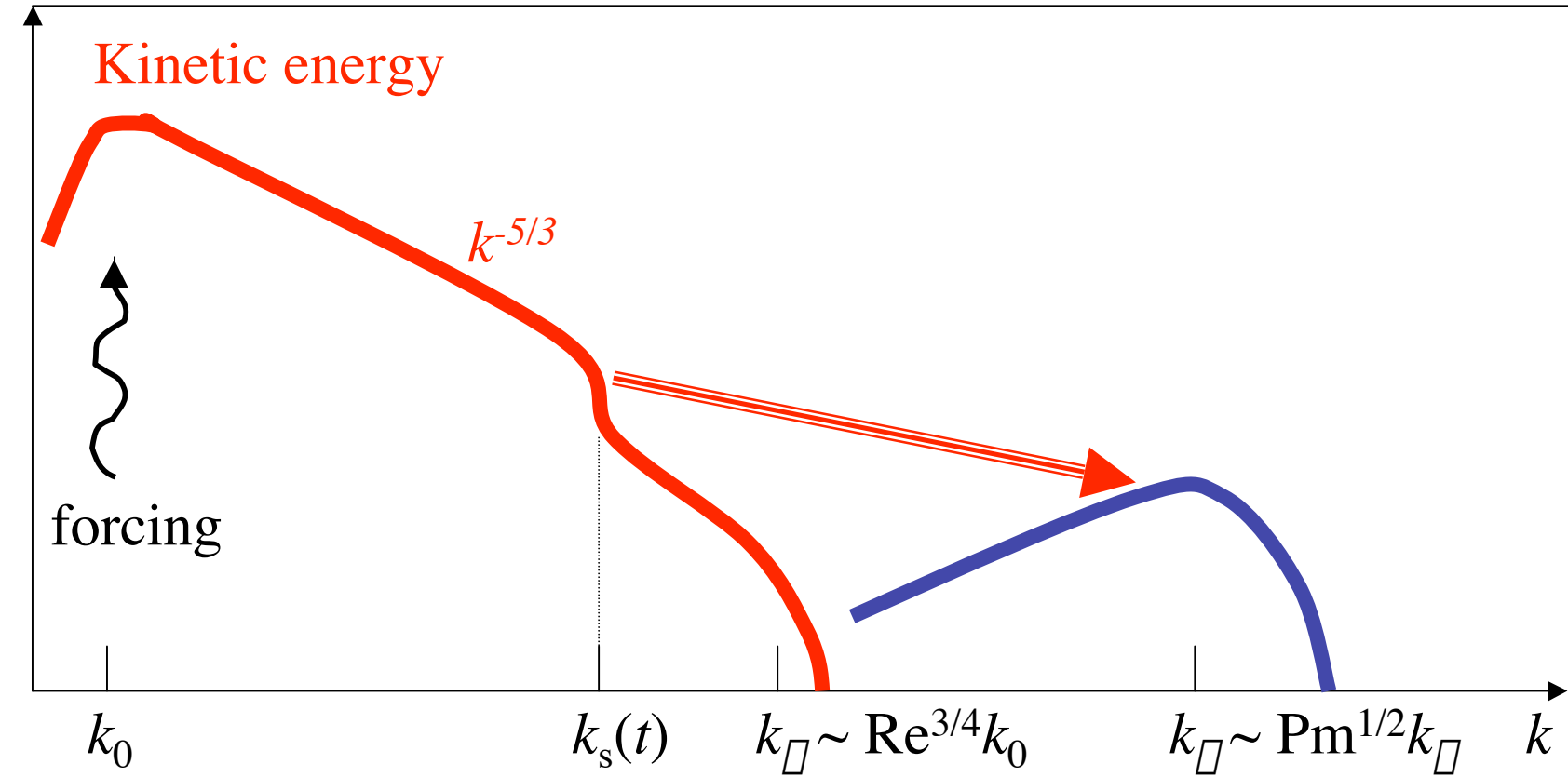
continues until  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}$

$$k_{\parallel} B^2 \sim k_{\square} u^2 \quad \text{i.e.,} \quad B^2 \sim u^2$$

Mag. energy  $\sim$  visc. eddies energy

[AAS *et al.* 2002, *PRE* **65**, 016305]

# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth

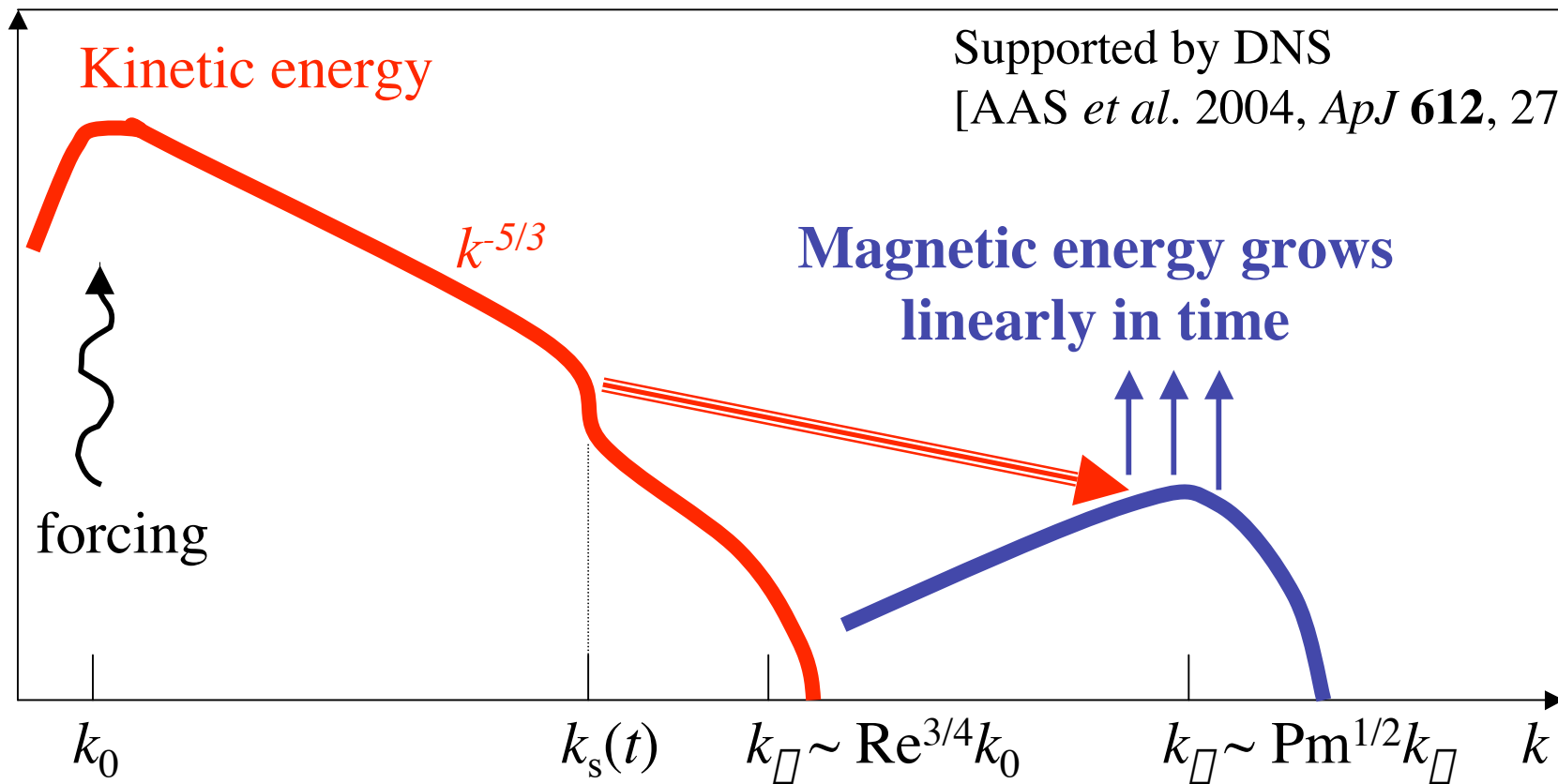


Define *stretching scale*  $l_s(t)$  :  $u_{\ell_s}^2 \sim \langle B^2 \rangle$

# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth

Supported by DNS

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]



Define *stretching scale*  $l_s(t)$  :  $u_{l_s}^2 \sim \langle B^2 \rangle$

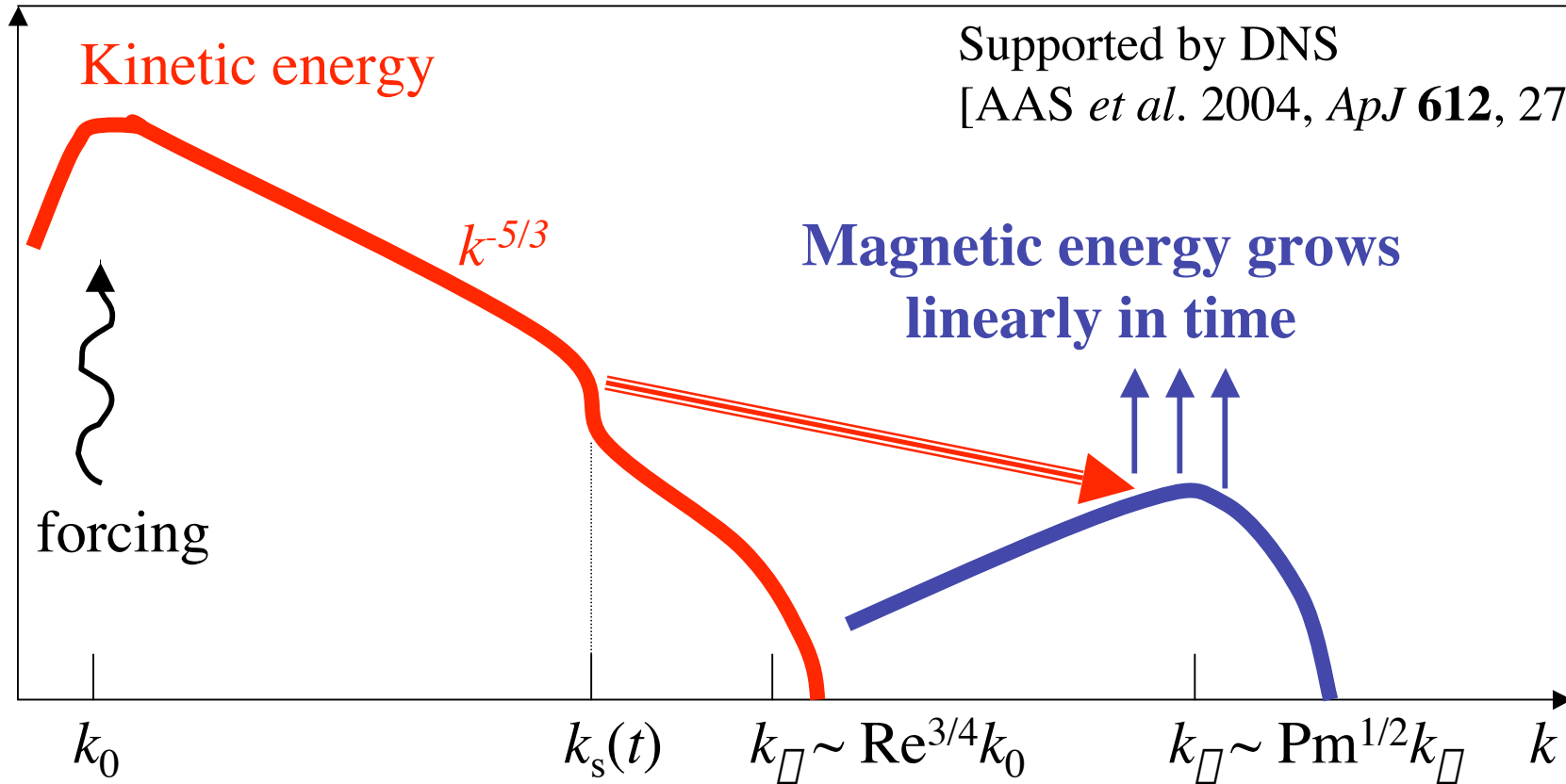
$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle B^2 \rangle \sim \frac{u l_s}{l_s} \langle B^2 \rangle \sim \frac{u_{l_s}^3}{l_s} \sim \epsilon = \text{const} \longrightarrow \boxed{\langle B^2 \rangle(t) \sim \epsilon t}$$

[AAS *et al.* 2002, *NJP* **4**, 84; Maron *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **603**, 569]

# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth

Supported by DNS

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]



Define *stretching scale*  $l_s(t)$  :  $u_{l_s}^2 \sim \langle B^2 \rangle$

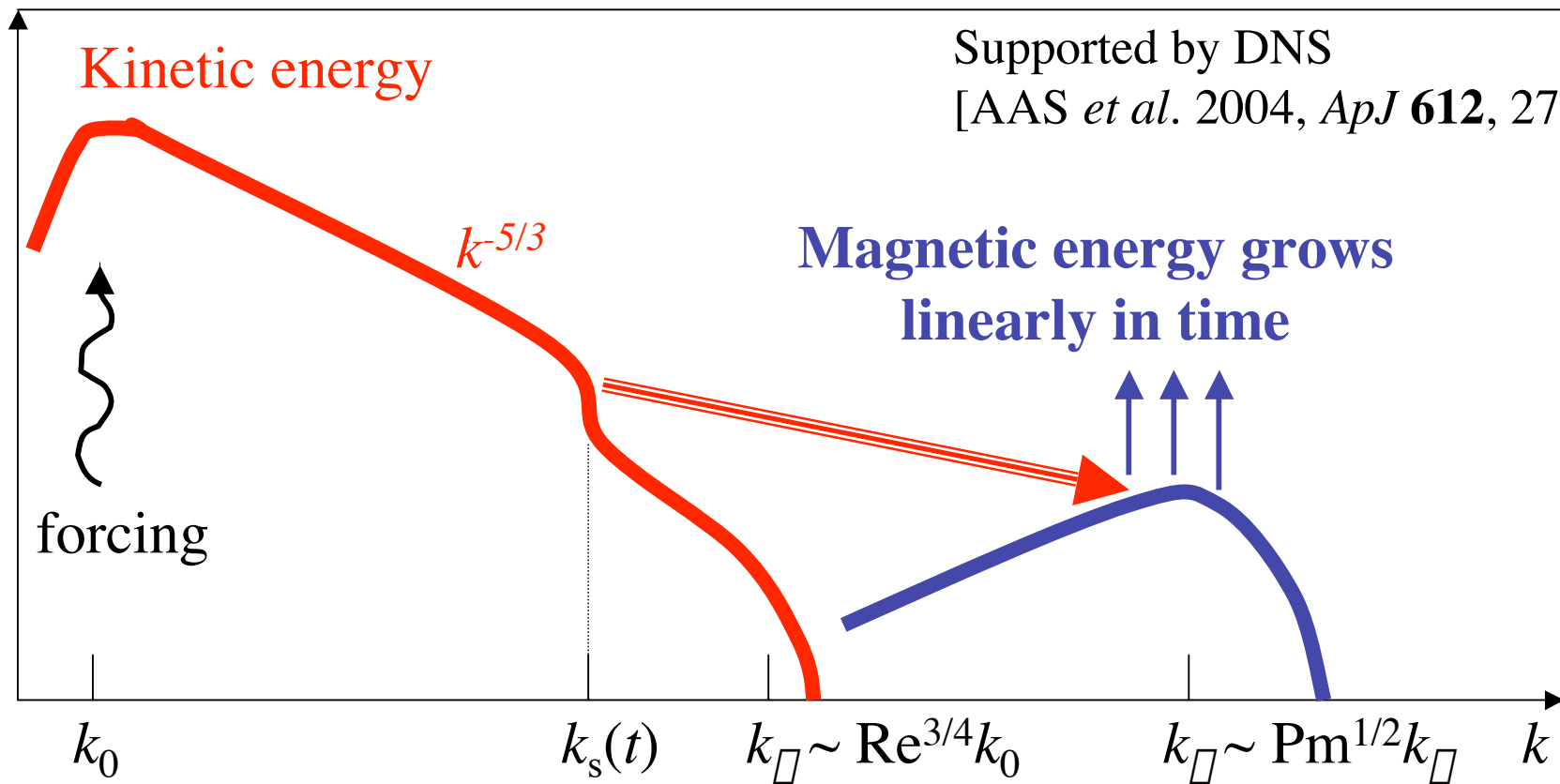
$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle B^2 \rangle \sim \frac{u l_s}{l_s} \langle B^2 \rangle \sim \frac{u_{l_s}^3}{l_s} \sim \epsilon = \text{const} \longrightarrow \langle B^2 \rangle(t) \sim \epsilon t$$

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \sim \frac{u_{l_s}^2}{l_s} \sim \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim k_{\parallel} \langle B^2 \rangle \longrightarrow k_{\parallel} \sim l_s^{-1}$$

# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth

Supported by DNS

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]



$$\frac{u_{l_s}}{l_s} \sim \frac{\eta}{l_{\eta}^2} \longrightarrow l_{\eta} \sim \left( \frac{\eta l_s}{u_{l_s}} \right)^{1/2} \sim (\epsilon t)^{1/2} \quad \text{selective decay}$$

It is possible to construct a Fokker-Planck model of this self-similar intermediate growth stage

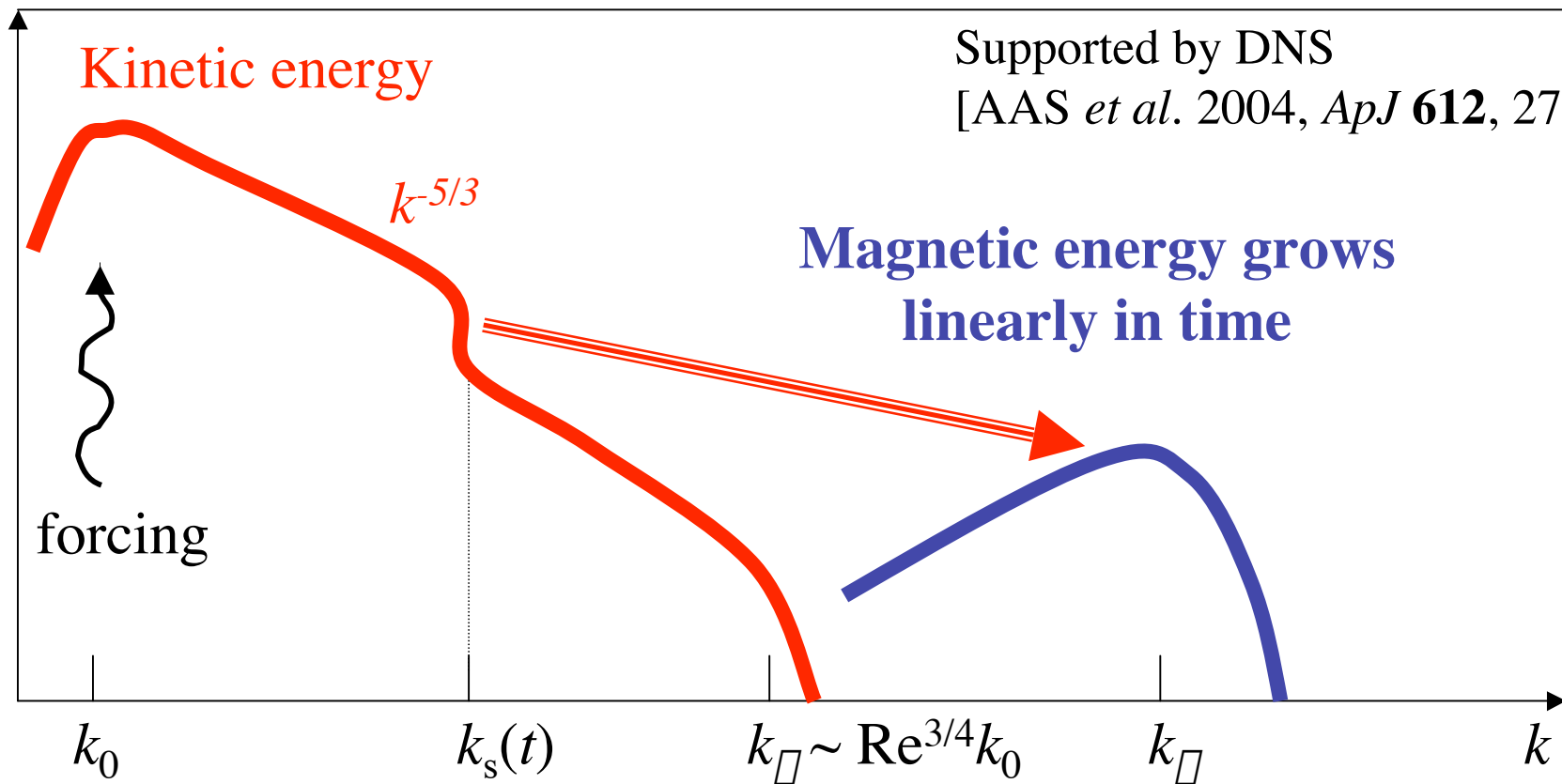
[AAS *et al.* 2002, *NJP* **4**, 84]



# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth

Supported by DNS

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]



$$\frac{u_{l_s}}{l_s} \sim \frac{\eta}{l_\eta^2} \longrightarrow l_\eta \sim \left( \frac{\eta l_s}{u_{l_s}} \right)^{1/2} \sim (\epsilon t)^{1/2} \quad \text{selective decay}$$

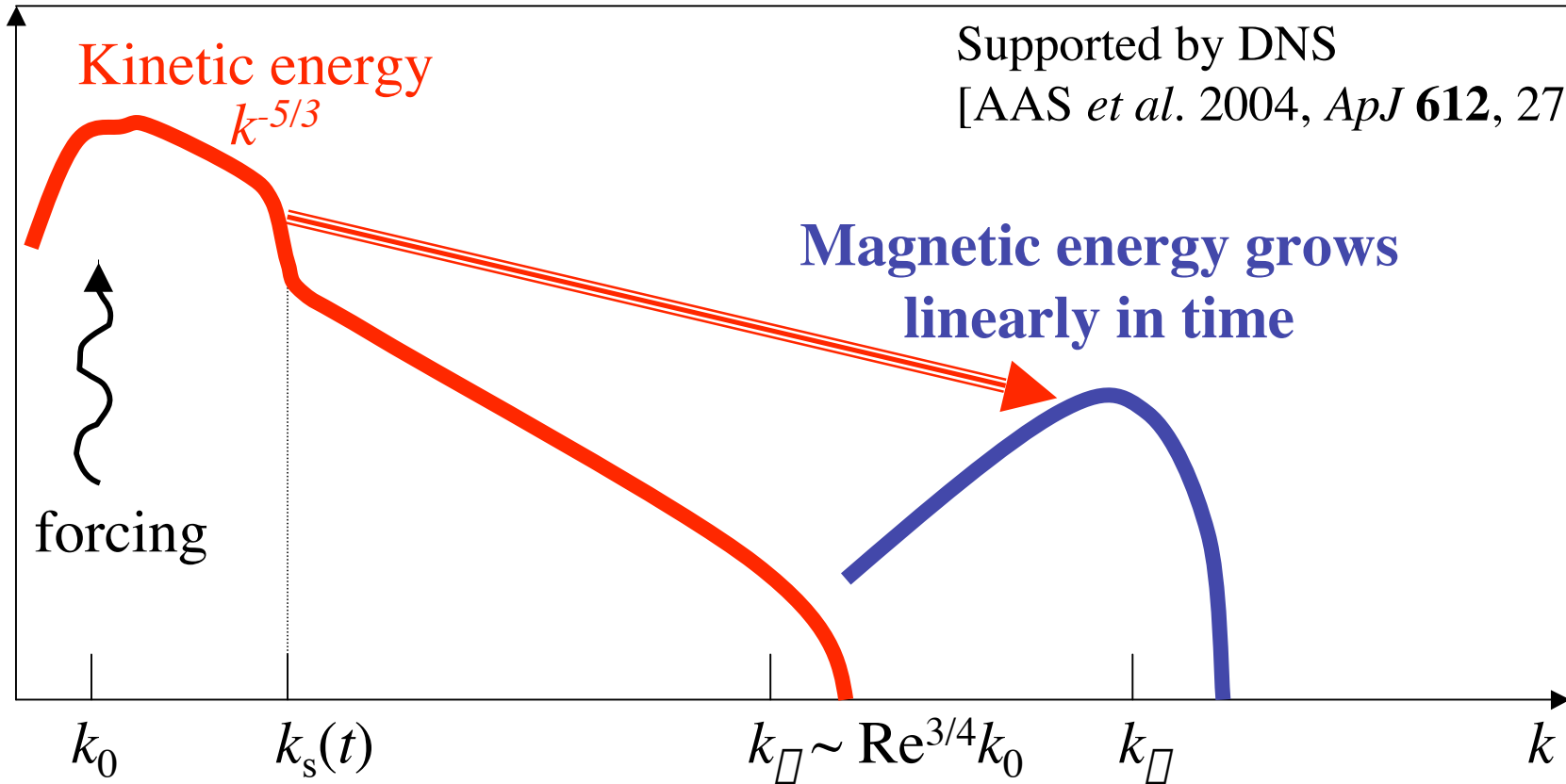
It is possible to construct a Fokker-Planck model of this self-similar intermediate growth stage

[AAS *et al.* 2002, *NJP* **4**, 84]

# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth

Supported by DNS

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

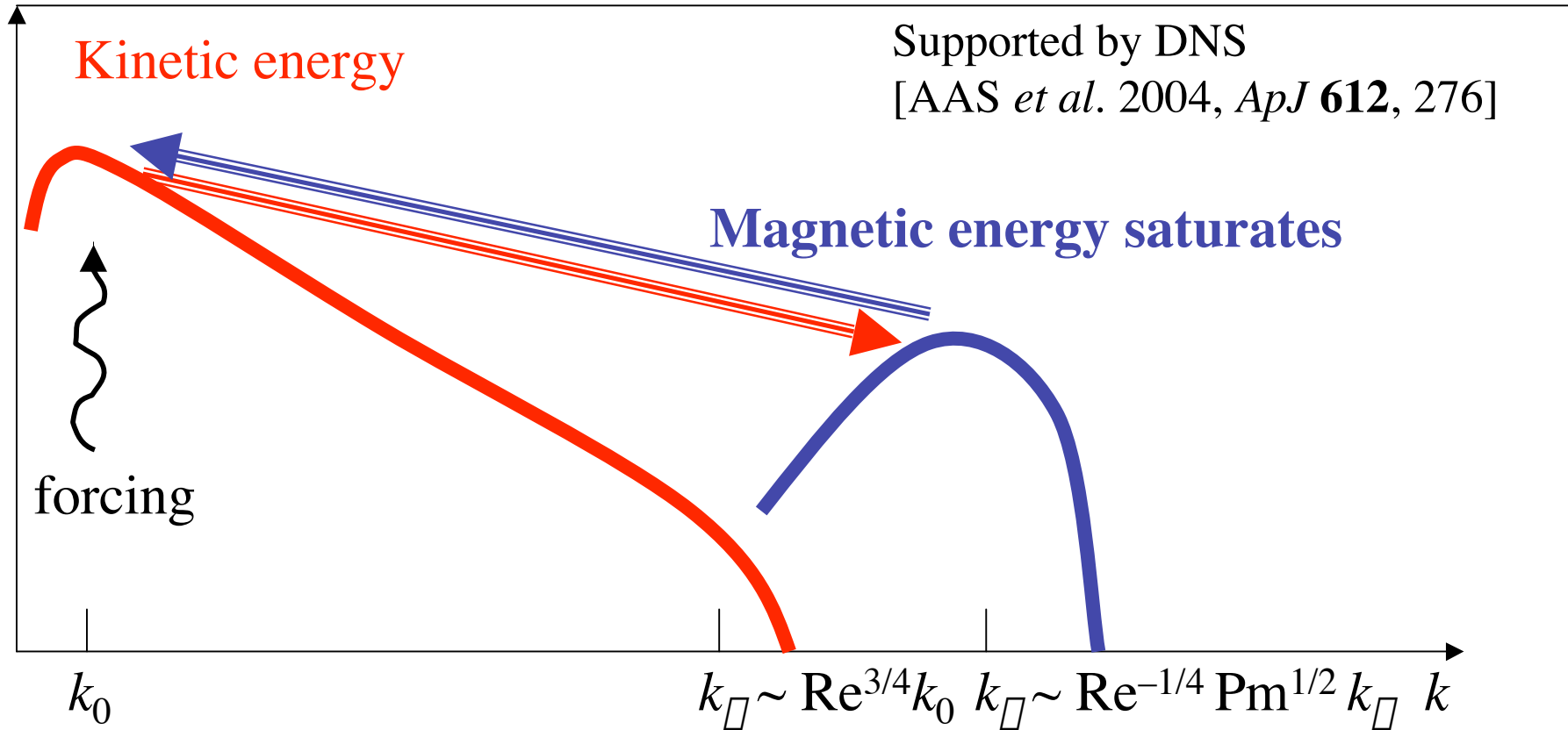


$$\frac{u_{\ell_s}}{\ell_s} \sim \frac{\eta}{\ell_{\eta}^2} \longrightarrow \ell_{\eta} \sim \left( \frac{\eta \ell_s}{u_{\ell_s}} \right)^{1/2} \sim (\epsilon t)^{1/2} \quad \text{selective decay}$$

It is possible to construct a Fokker-Planck model of this self-similar intermediate growth stage

[AAS *et al.* 2002, *NJP* **4**, 84]

# Saturation



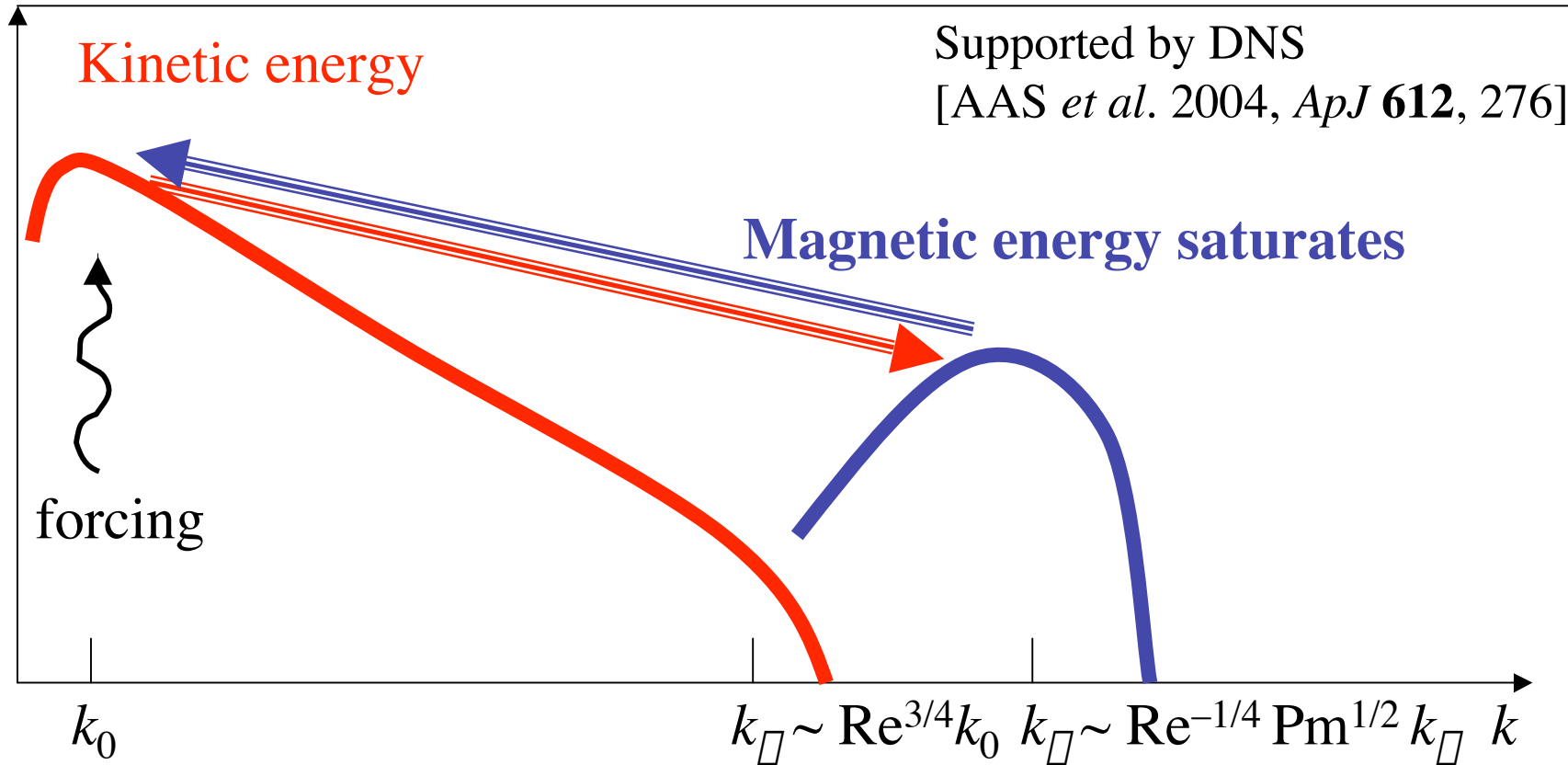
Nonlinear growth/selective decay/fold elongation continue until

$$l_s \sim l_0 \longrightarrow \boxed{B^2 \sim u^2}$$

$$\text{and } l_{\square} \sim \text{Rm}^{-1/2} l_0 \sim \text{Re}^{1/4} \text{Pm}^{-1/2} l_{\square}$$

[AAS *et al.* 2002, *NJP* **4**, 84]

# Saturation



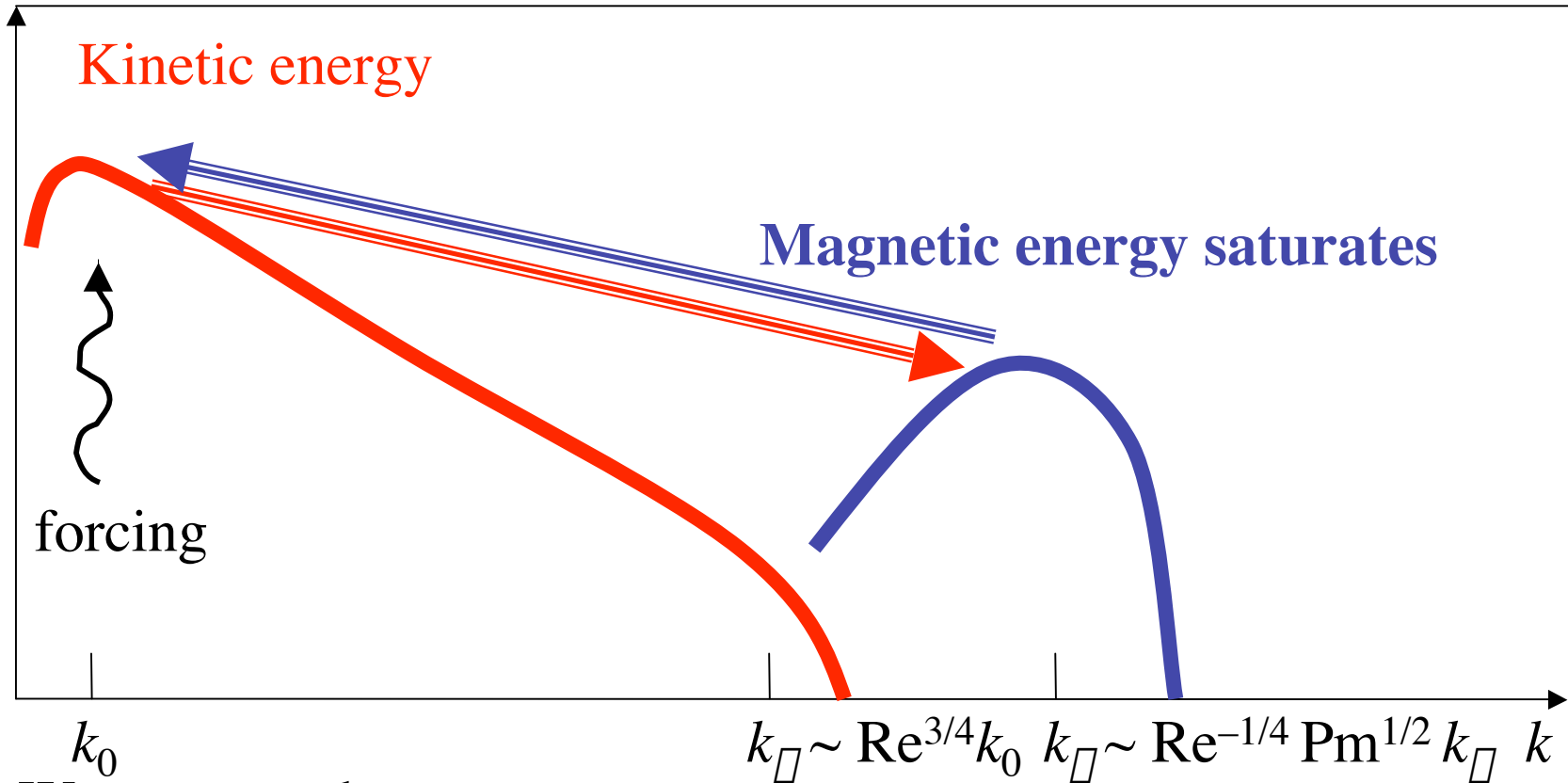
Nonlinear growth/selective decay/fold elongation continue until

$$l_s \sim l_0 \longrightarrow \boxed{B^2 \sim u^2}$$

$$\text{and } l_\square \sim \text{Rm}^{-1/2} l_0 \sim \text{Re}^{1/4} \text{Pm}^{-1/2} l_\square$$

**NB:**  $l_\square$  and  $l_\square$  distinguishable only if  $\text{Pm} \gg \text{Re}^{1/2} \gg 1!!!$

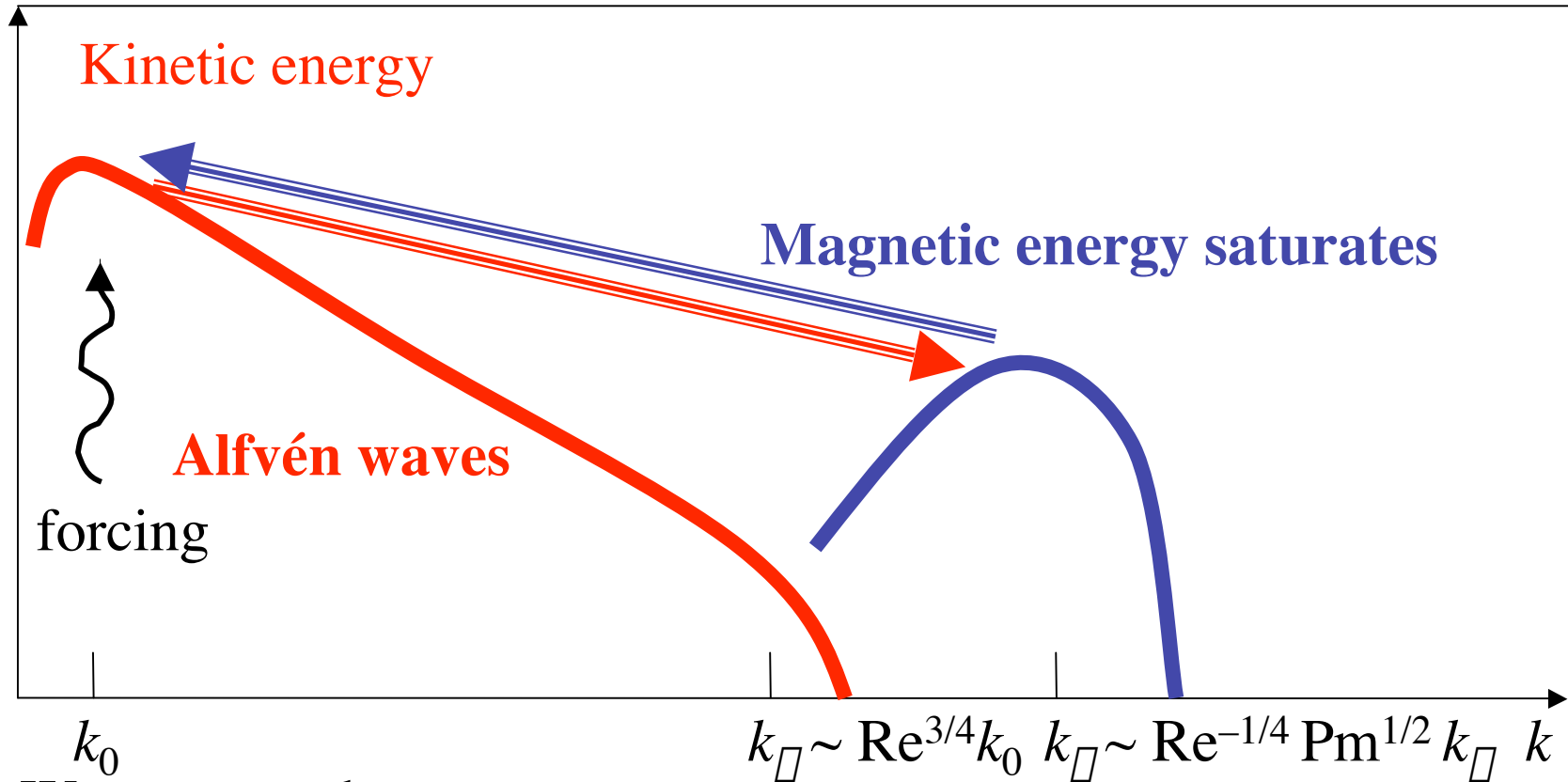
# Saturation



We propose that

- *saturation* is a balance between stretching and mixing by the outer-scale motions and Ohmic diffusion of the folded field

# Alfvén Waves and Folded Fields



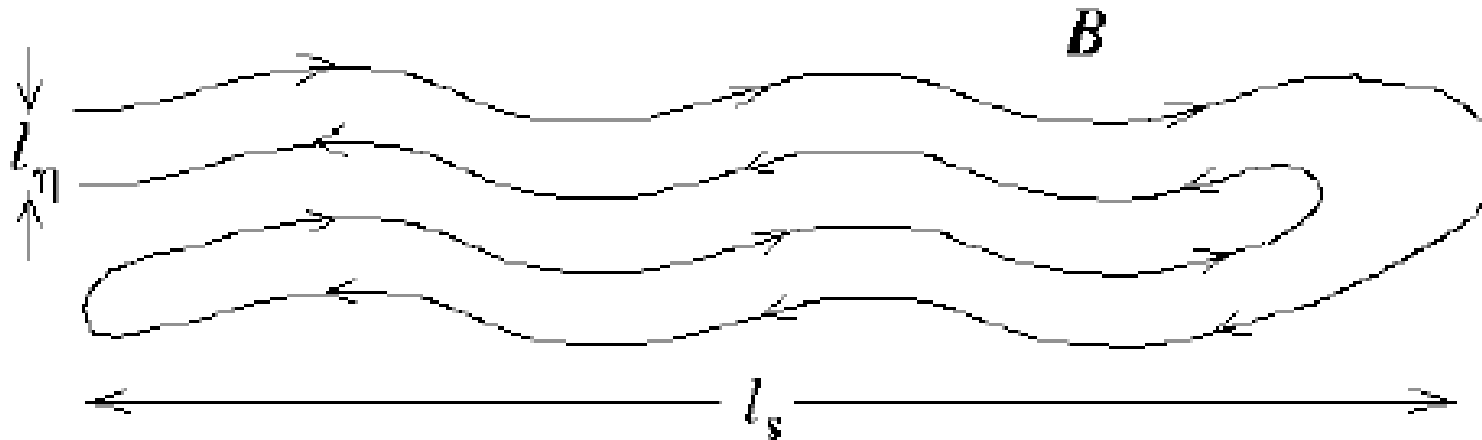
We propose that

- *saturation* is a balance between stretching and mixing by the outer-scale motions and Ohmic diffusion of the folded field
- the fully developed isotropic MHD turbulence **in the inertial range** is a superposition of folded magnetic fields and Alfvén waves

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

# Alfvén Waves and Folded Fields

---



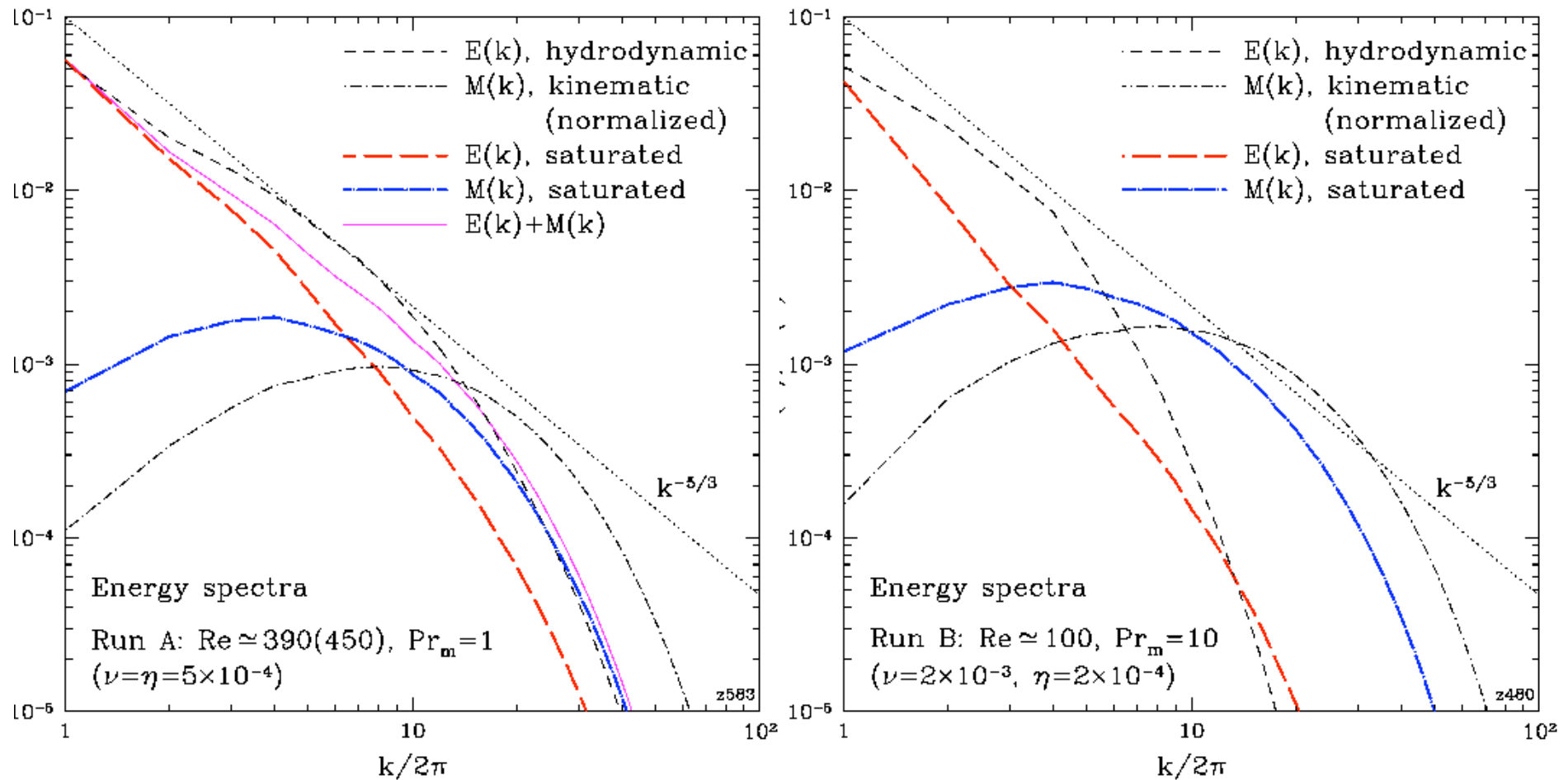
Dispersion relation:  $\omega^2 = \mathbf{k} \mathbf{k} : \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} \langle B^2 \rangle$  for  $k_\perp \ll k \ll k_\parallel \sim l_s^{-1}$

We propose that

- *saturation* is a balance between stretching and mixing by the outer-scale motions and Ohmic diffusion of the folded field
- the fully developed isotropic MHD turbulence **in the inertial range** is a superposition of folded magnetic fields and Alfvén waves

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

# DNS: Saturated Spectra

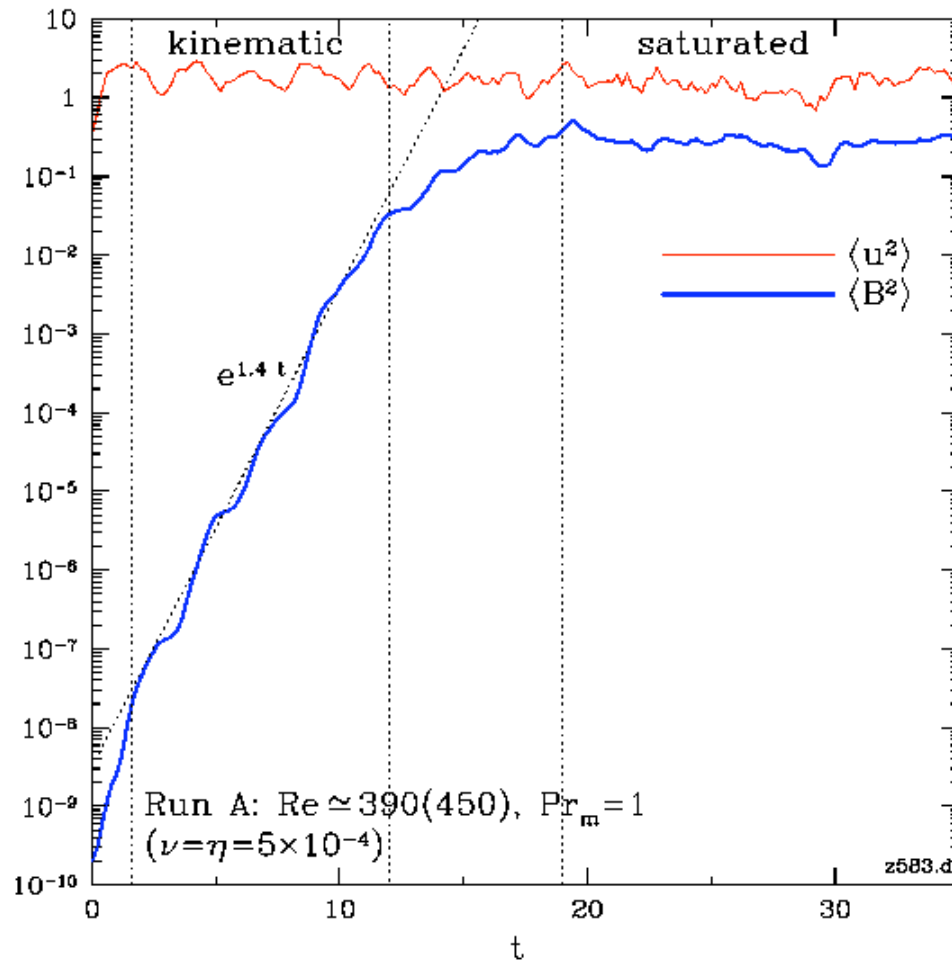


- **Folds** account for the predominance of large- $k$  modes in magnetic-energy spectra
- **Alfvén waves** should show up *in the velocity spectra*

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]



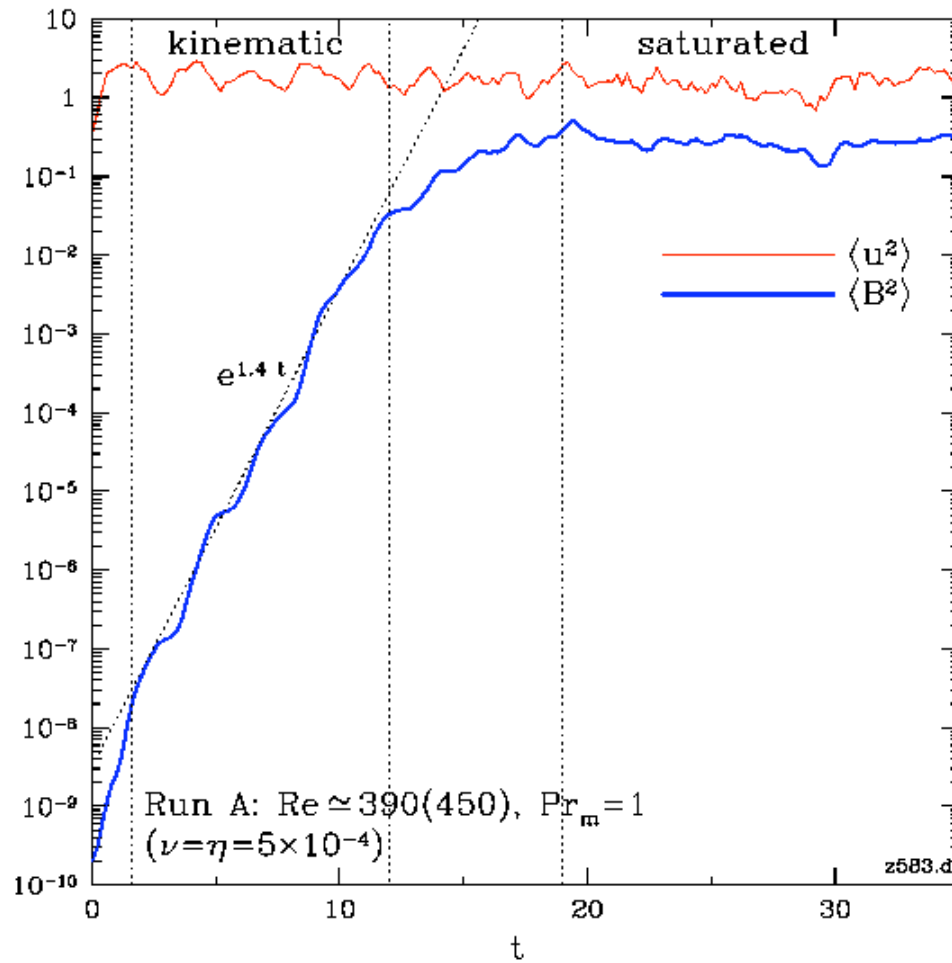
# DNS: Intermediate Growth



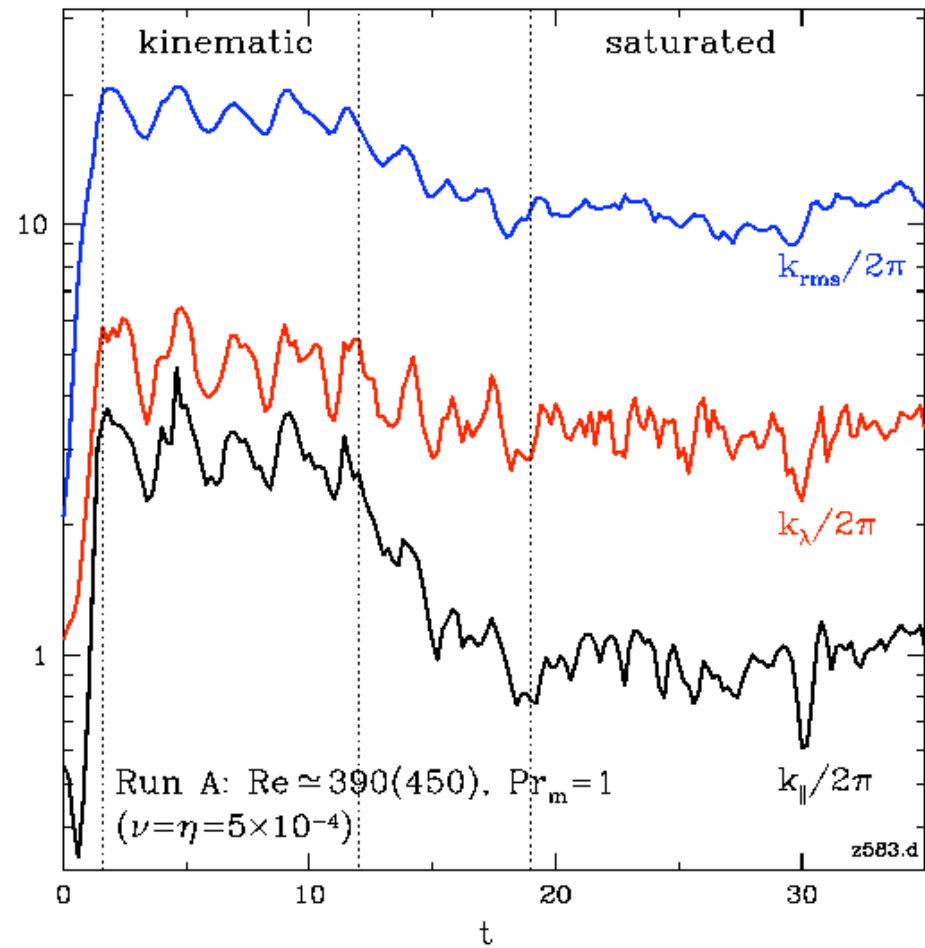
**Slower than exponential  
growth**

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

# DNS: Intermediate Growth

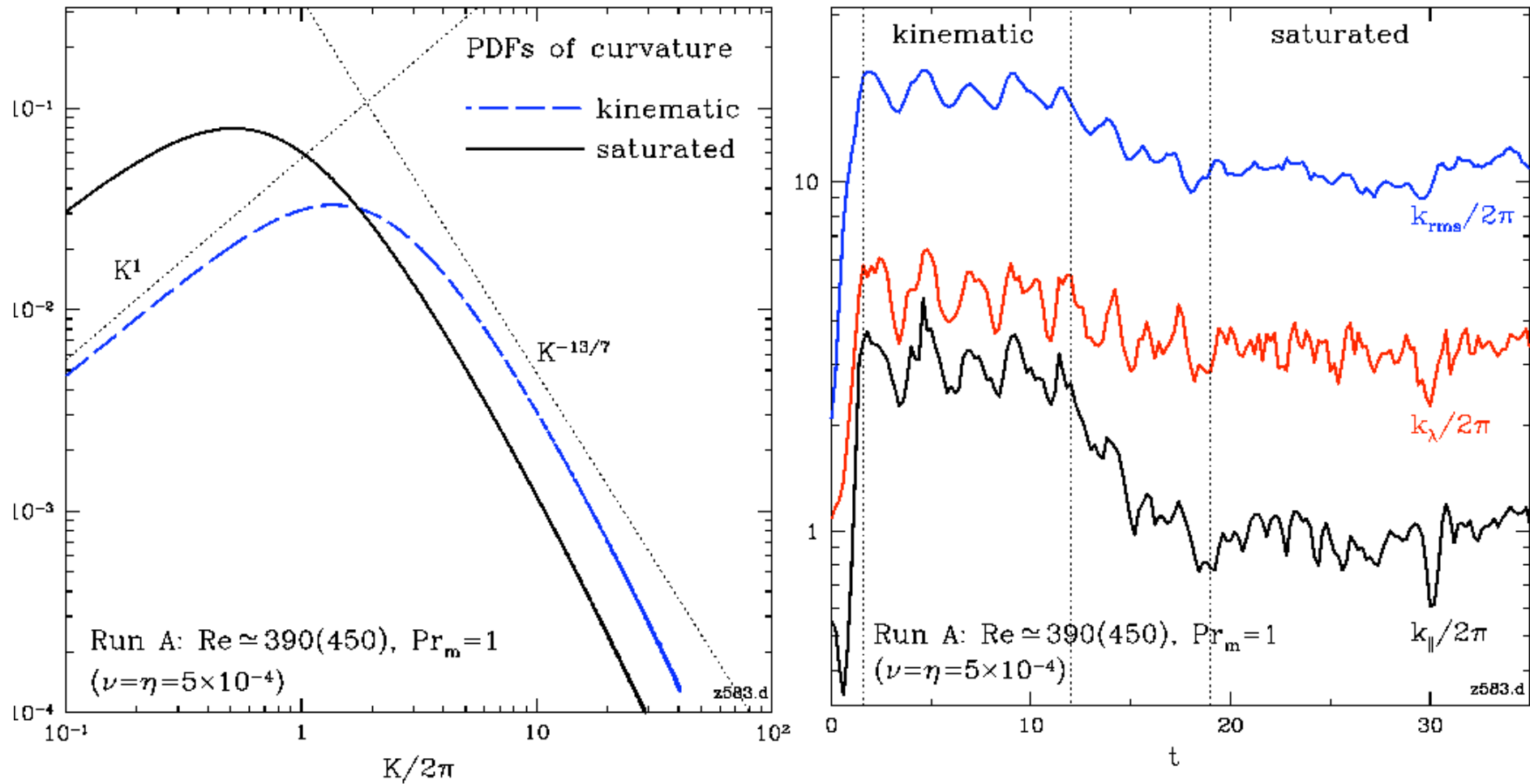


Slower than exponential  
growth



Selective decay and  
fold elongation

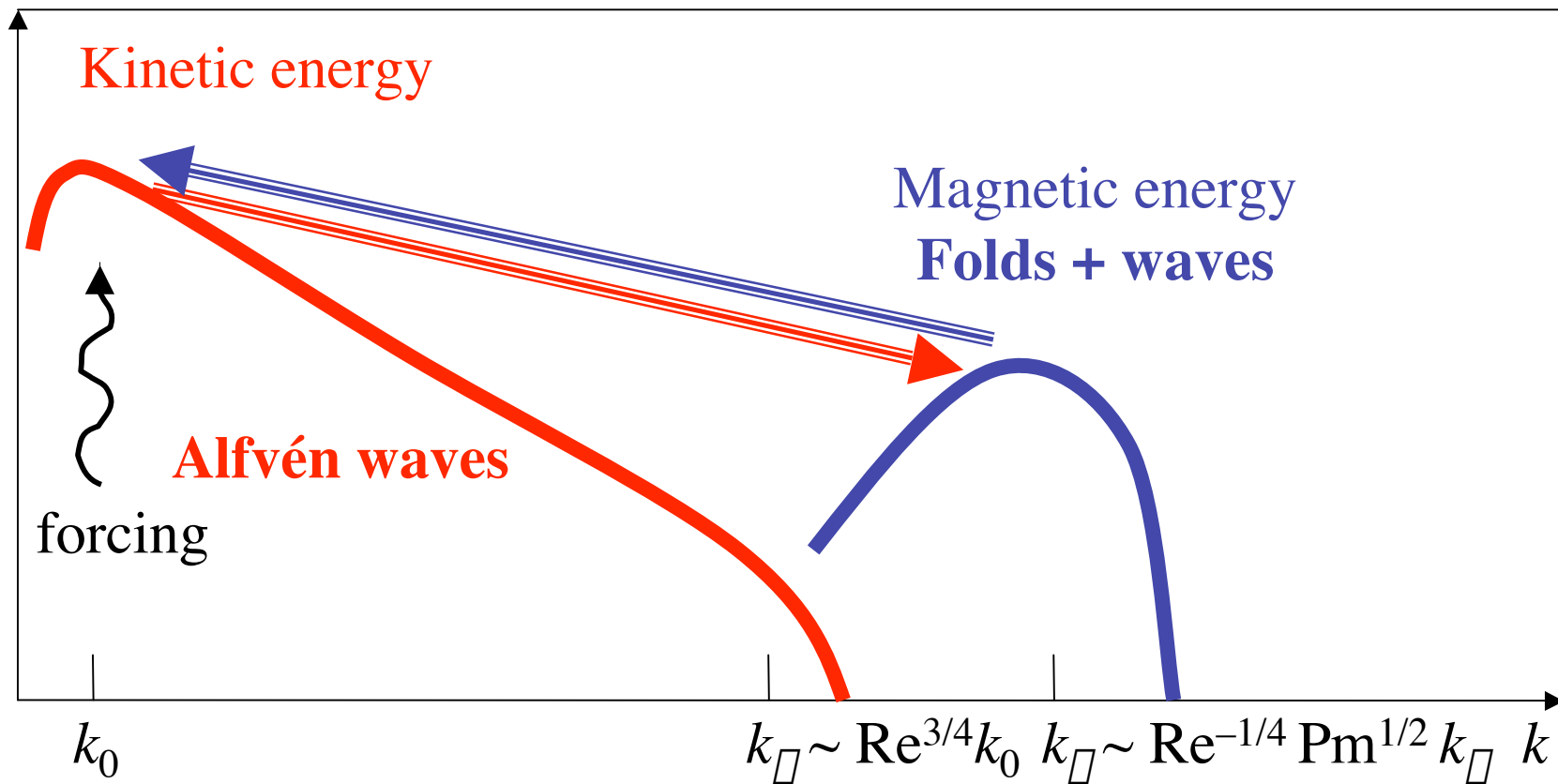
# DNS: Intermediate Growth



**Selective decay and  
fold elongation**

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

# Alfvén Waves and Folded Fields



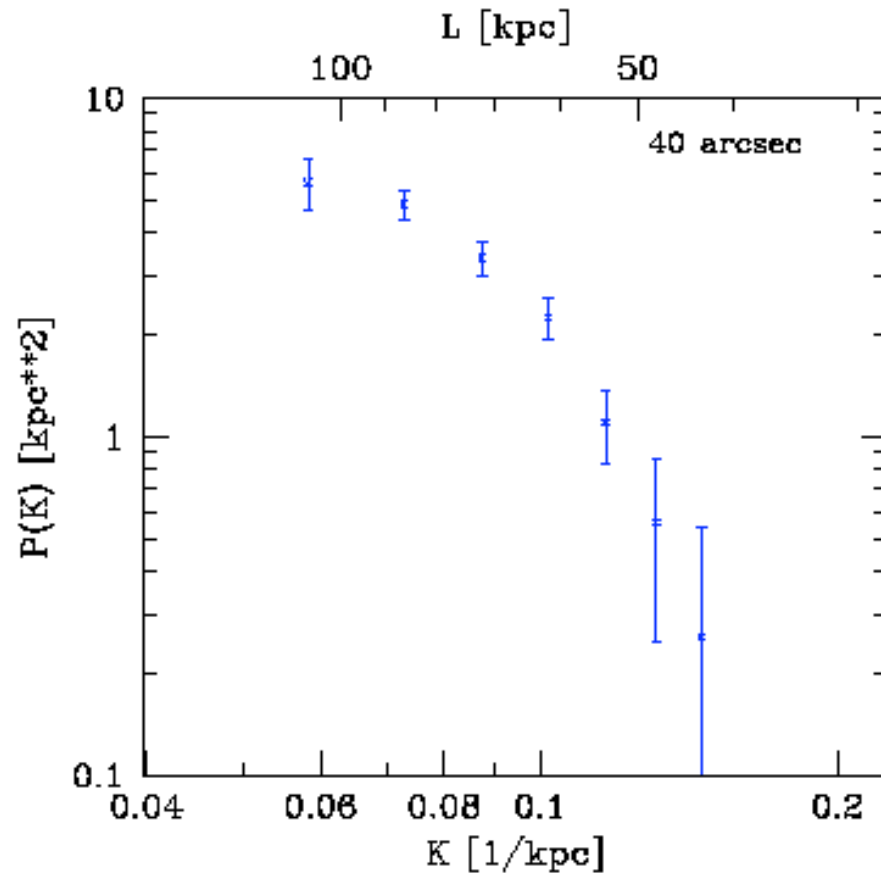
***NB: The assumption of locality in  $k$  space has been abandoned!***

# Cluster Turbulence

## TURBULENCE

### Coma cluster

[Schuecker *et al.*, astro-ph/0404132]

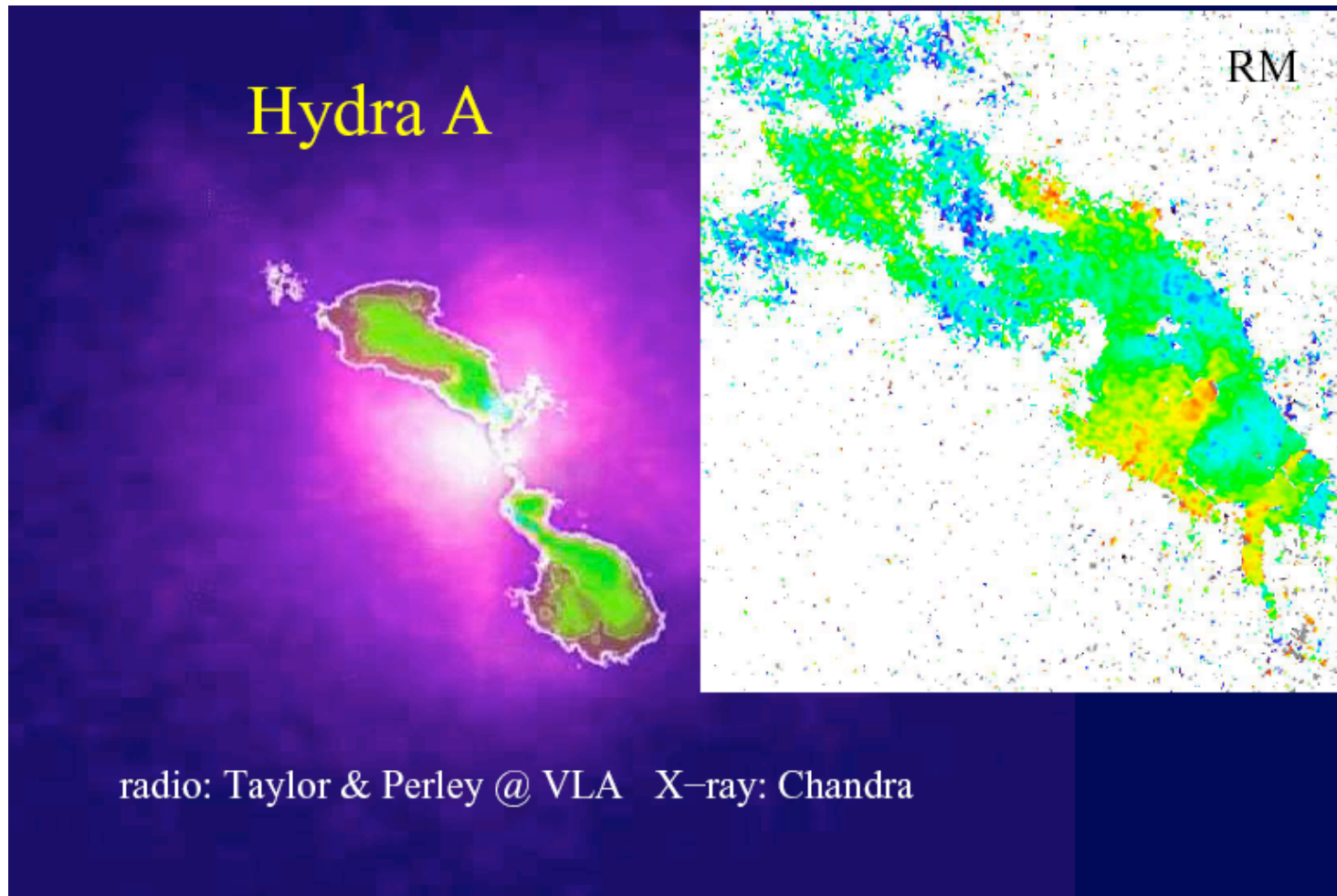


- Driven by mergers
- Subsonic below outer scale
- Outer scale  $\sim 10^2 \dots 10^3$  kpc
- Viscous scale  $\sim 10 \dots 30$  kpc
- $Re \sim 10^2 \dots 10^3$

# Cluster Magnetic Fields

---

Faraday Rotation data from extended sources allows one to measure spatial structure (spectra) of magnetic fields in clusters



[picture courtesy of T. Enßlin]

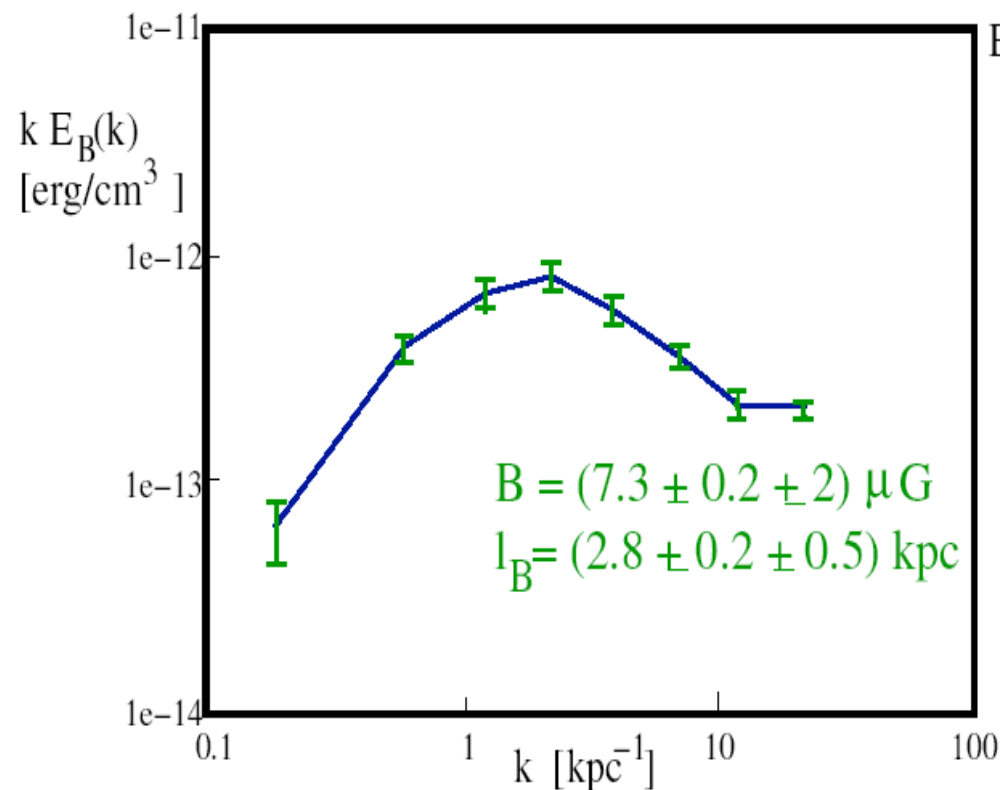
# Cluster Magnetic Fields

## MAGNETIC FIELDS

### Hydra A Cluster

[Vogt & Enßlin 2004,  
picture courtesy of T. Enßlin]

- $B \sim 1 \dots 10 \mu\text{G}$   
(equipartition  
strength  $\sim 100 \mu\text{G}$ )
- Mostly disordered
- Scale  $\sim 1 \text{ kpc}$

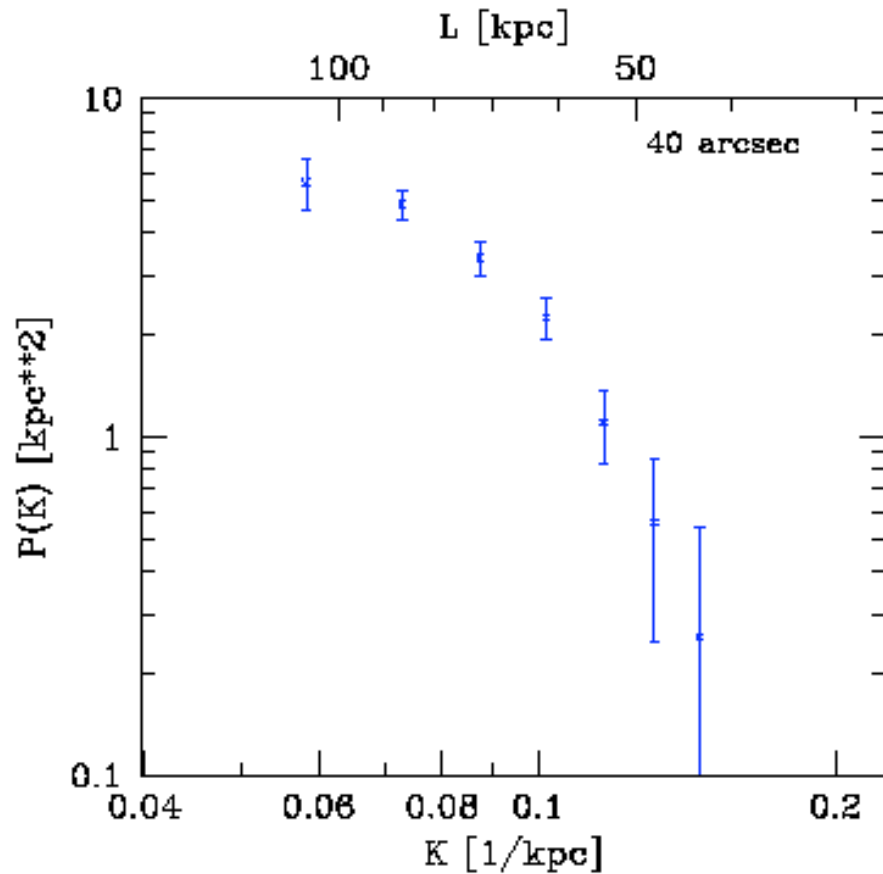


# Cluster MHD

## TURBULENCE

### Coma cluster

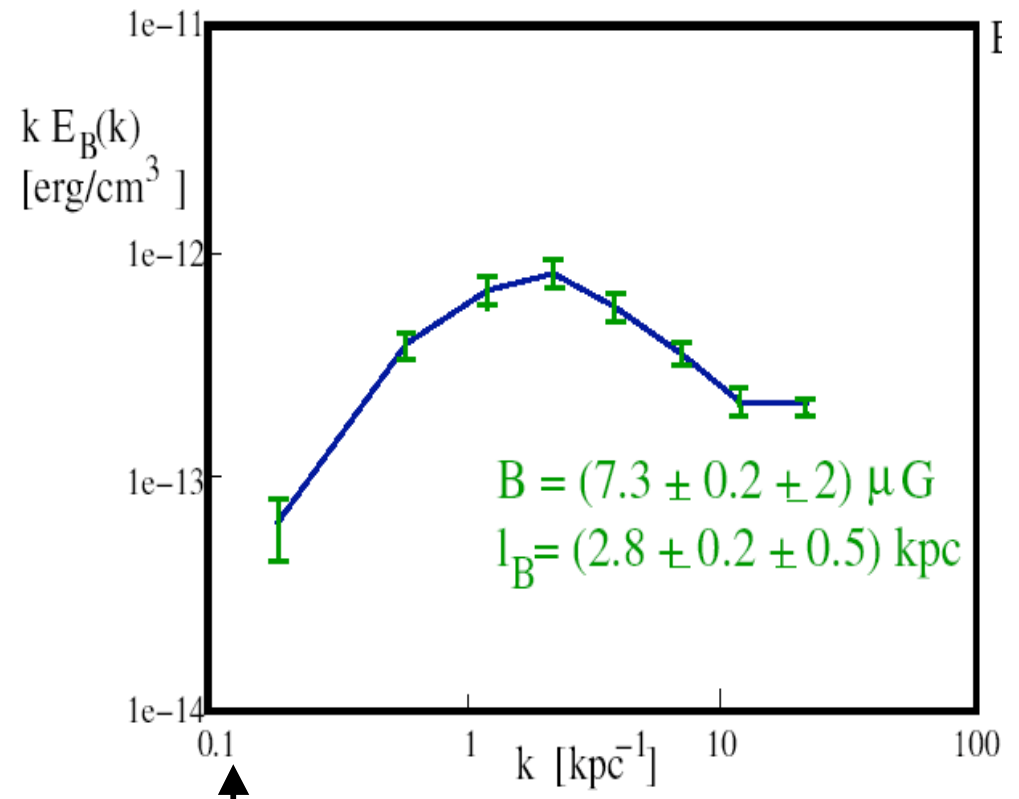
[Schuecker *et al.*, astro-ph/0404132]



## MAGNETIC FIELDS

### Hydra A Cluster

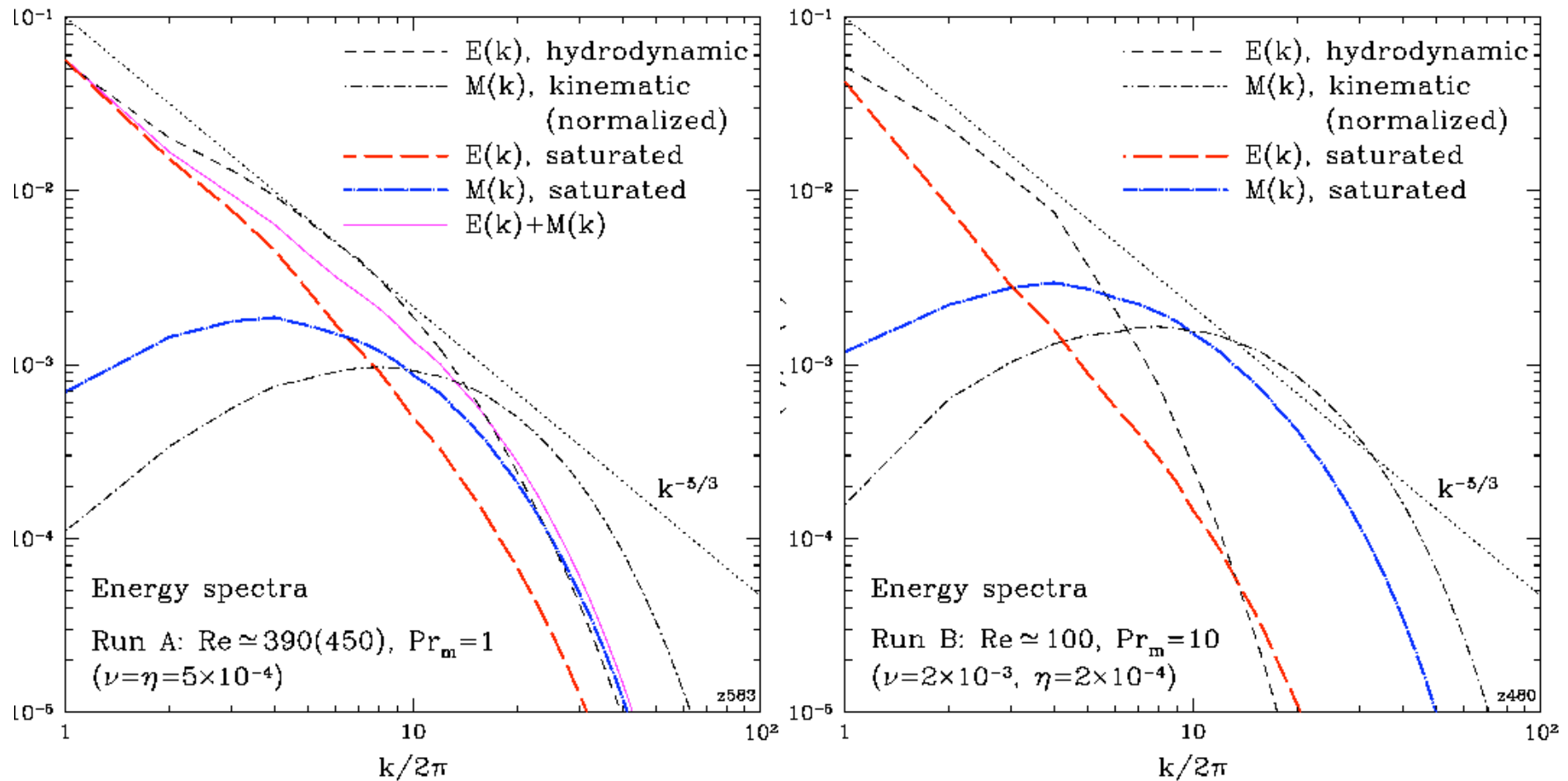
[Vogt & Enßlin 2004,  
picture courtesy of T. Enßlin]



**Viscous scale is around here (~10 kpc)**



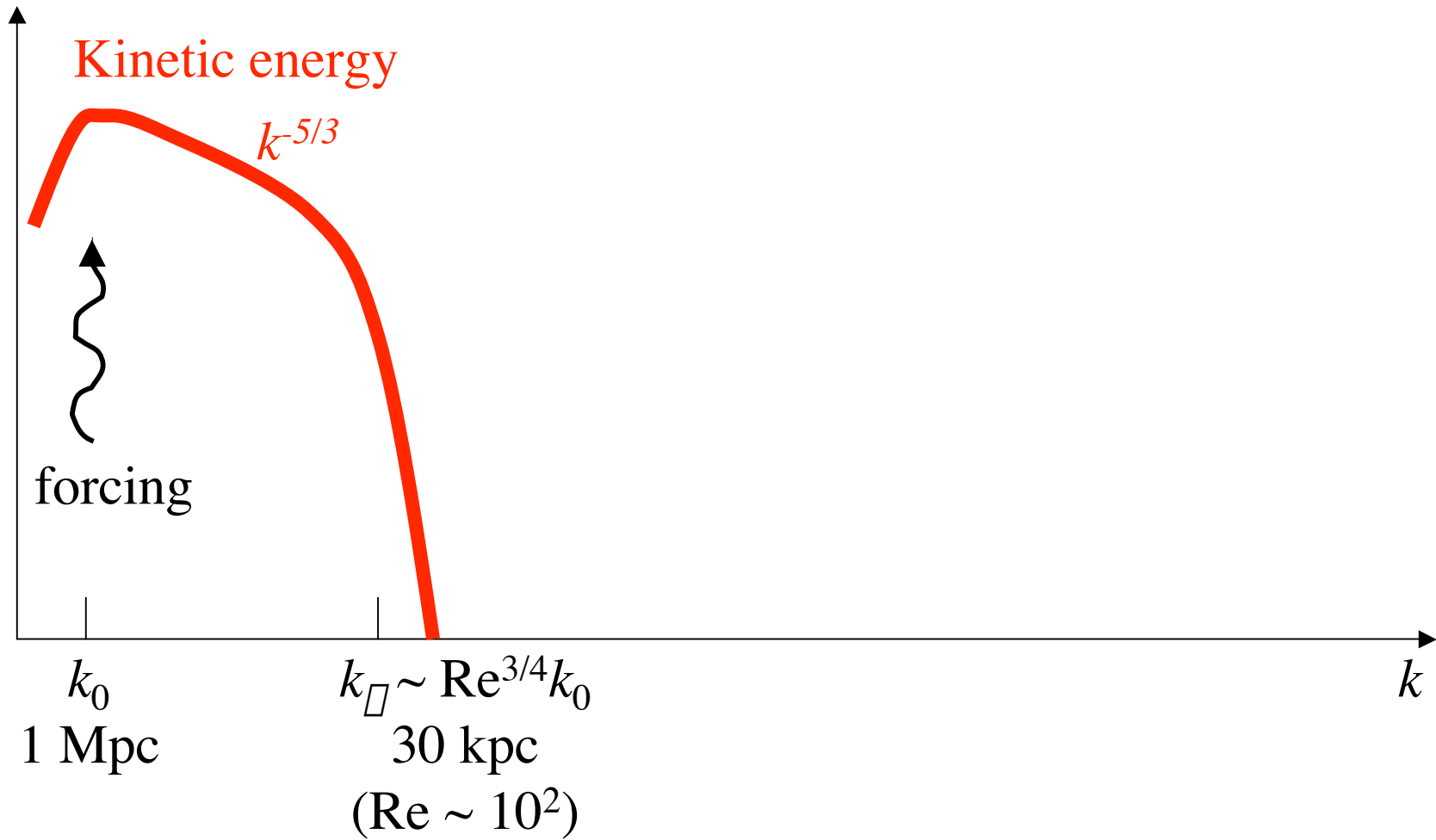
# Cluster MHD



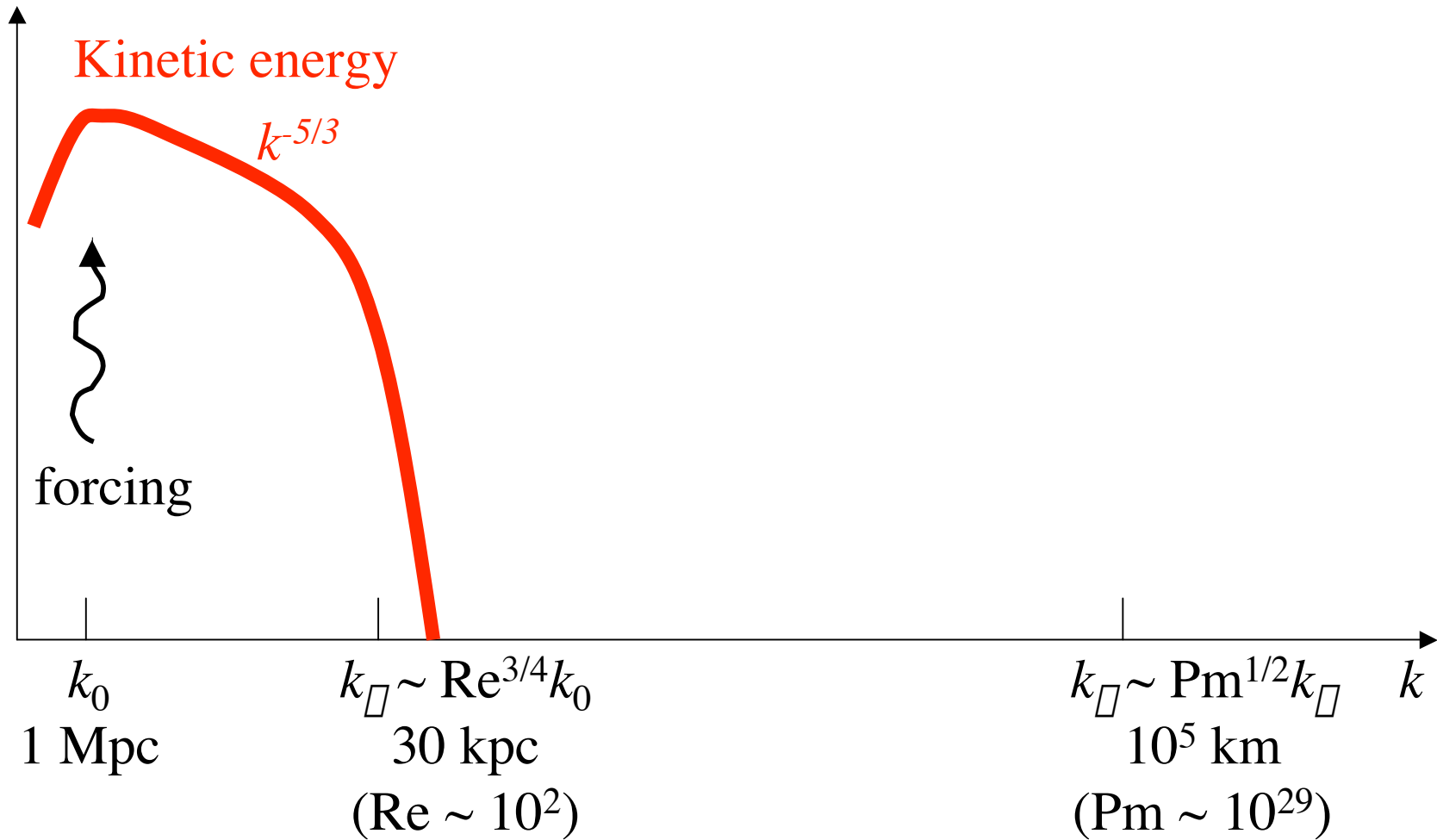
Kinetic- and magnetic-energy spectra look (at least qualitatively)  
quite similar to ourspectra of simulated MHD turbulence

**Does this mean we've got it right?**

# Cluster MHD

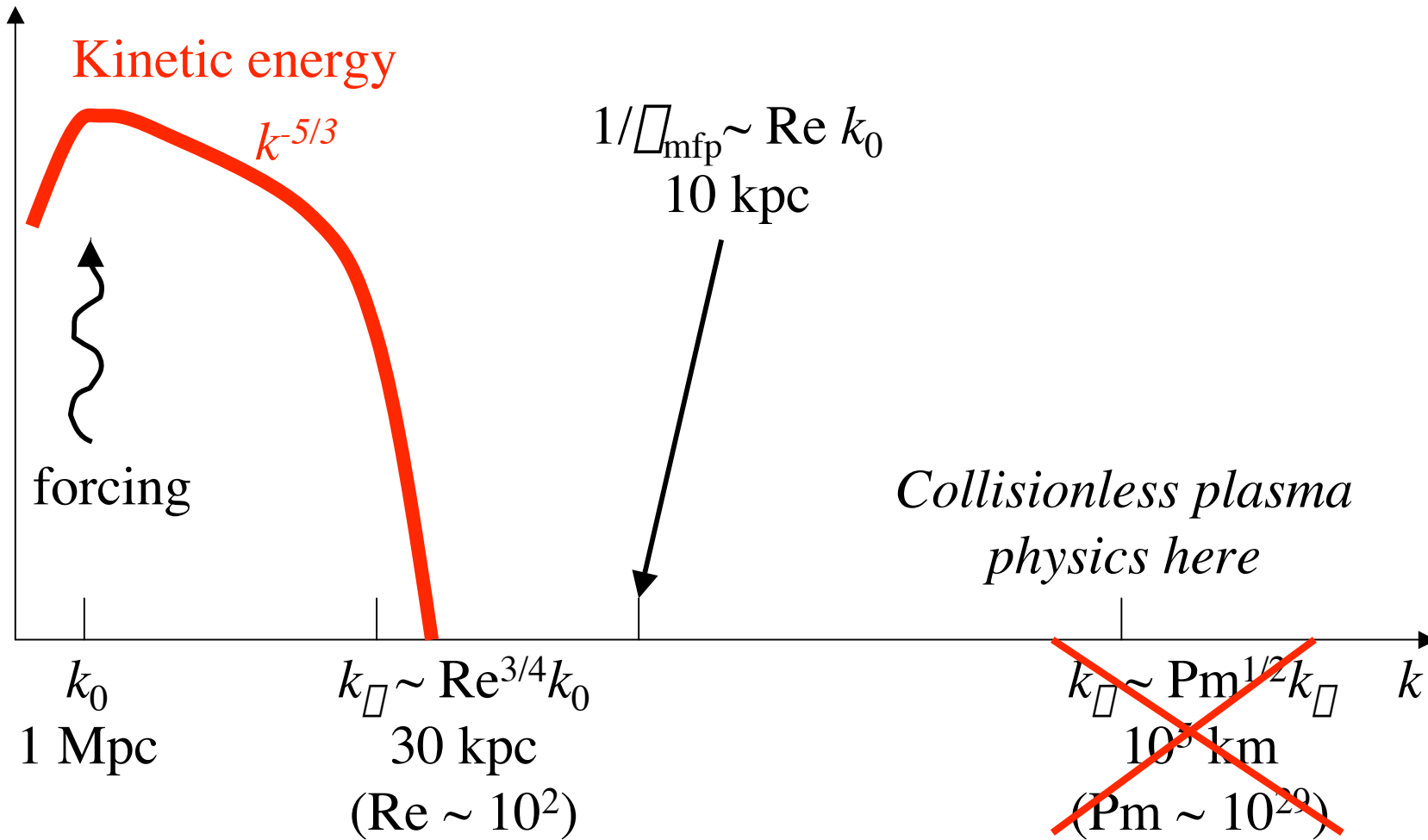


# Cluster MHD



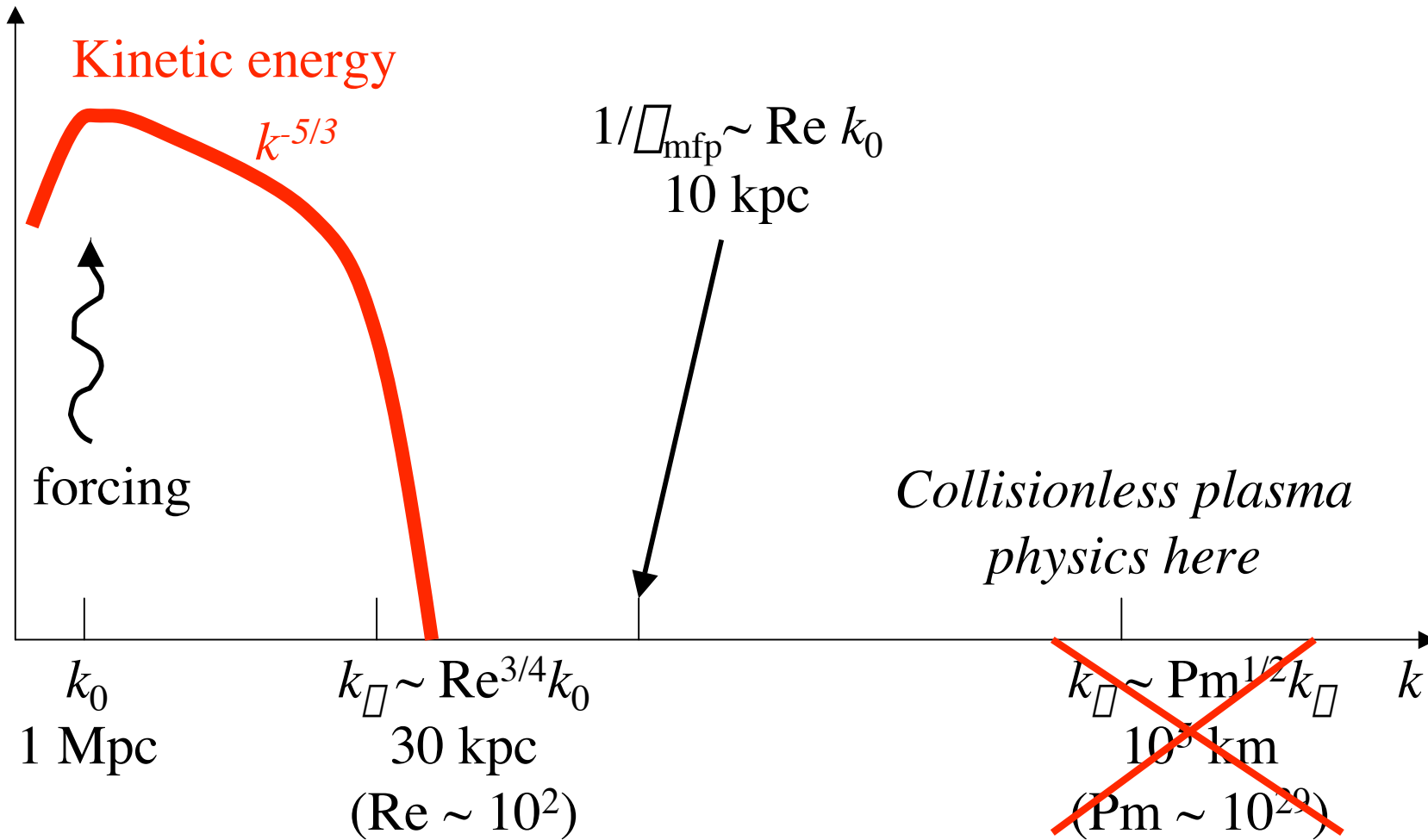
**This is a ludicrous distance!**

# Cluster ~~MHD~~



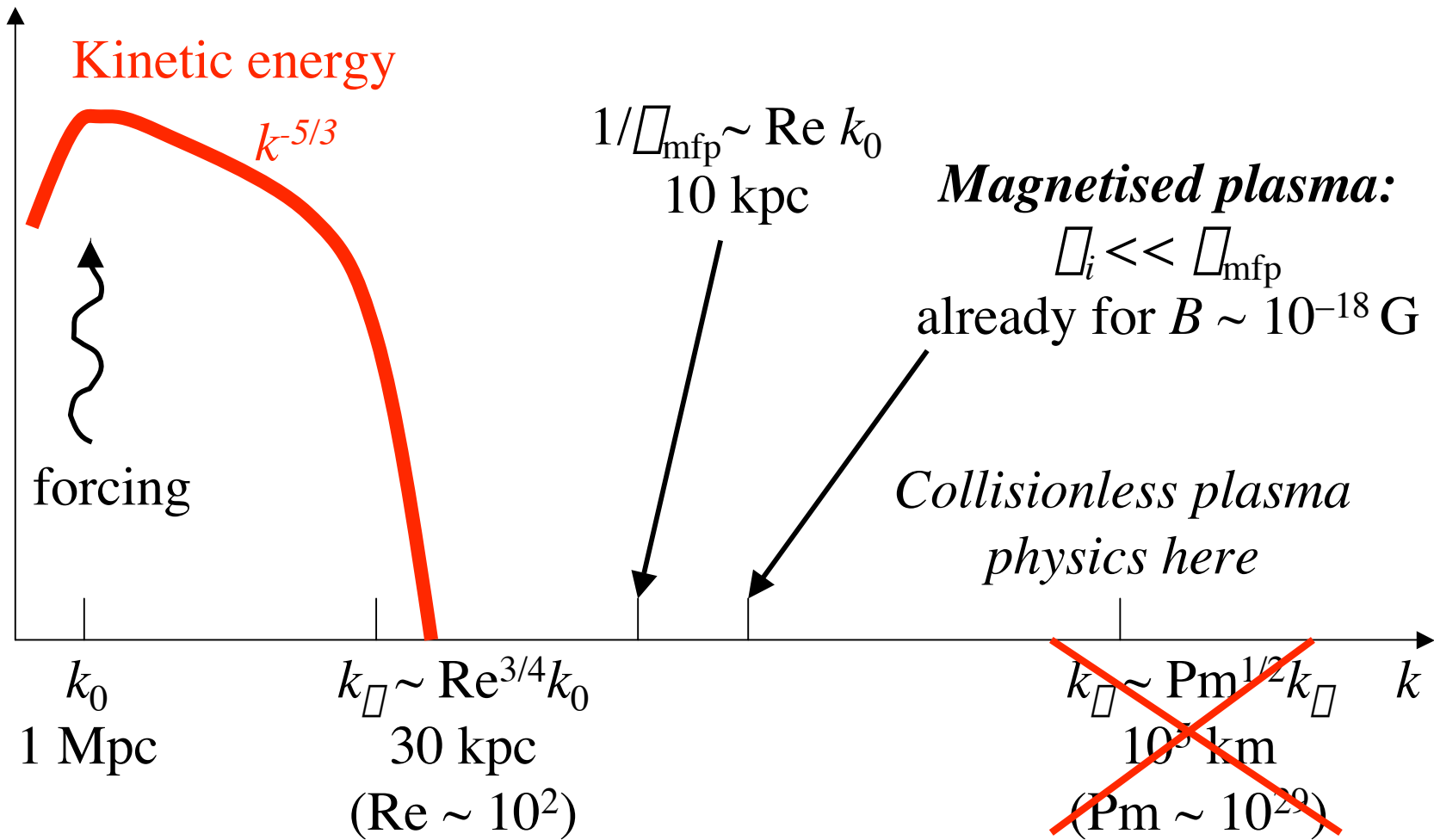
*What is the effective magnetic cutoff?*

# Cluster Plasma Physics



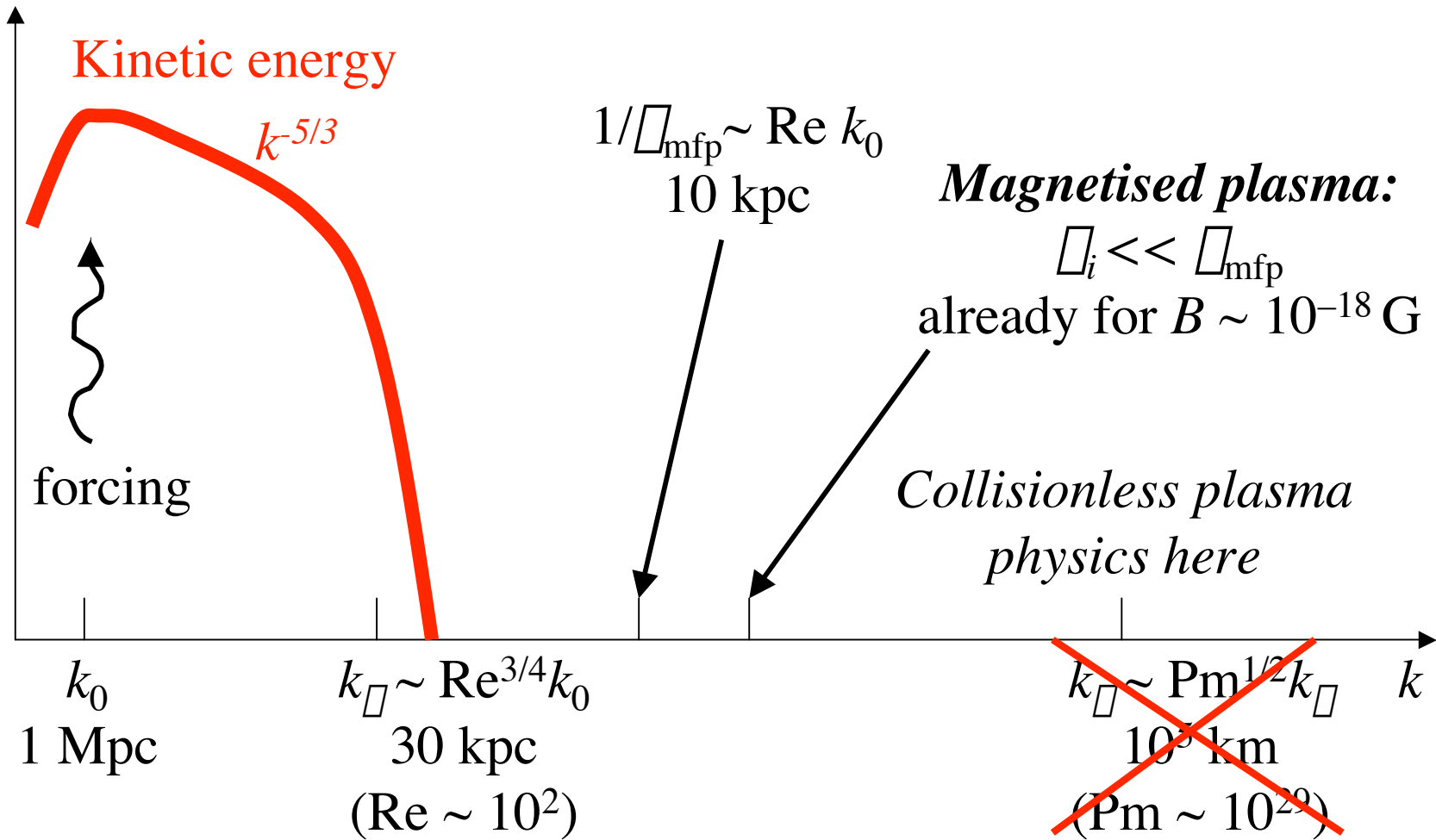
$$\rho \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nabla \cdot \hat{\mathbf{P}} + \frac{(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{B}}{4\pi} \quad \text{with } \hat{\mathbf{P}} = \sum m\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}$$

# Cluster Plasma Physics



$$\rho \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nabla \cdot \hat{\mathbf{P}} + \frac{(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \times \mathbf{B}}{4\pi} \quad \text{with} \quad \hat{\mathbf{P}} = (\hat{\mathbf{I}} - \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}})p_\perp + \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}}p_\parallel$$

# Cluster Plasma Physics



$$\rho \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nabla \tilde{p} + \nabla \cdot [\hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}}(p_\perp - p_\parallel)] + \frac{\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}}{4\pi} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

where  $p_\perp - p_\parallel = 3\rho\nu_B \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u}$

# MHD with Braginskii Viscosity

---

$$\rho \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nabla \tilde{p} + \nabla \cdot [\hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}}(p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel})] + \frac{\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}}{4\pi} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\text{where } p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel} = 3\rho\nu_B \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{B}}{dt} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}$$



# MHD with Braginskii Viscosity

---

$$\rho \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nabla \tilde{p} + \nabla \cdot [\hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}}(p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel})] + \frac{\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}}{4\pi} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\text{where } p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel} = 3\rho\nu_B \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{B}}{dt} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

Physics: conservation of the first adiabatic invariant  $\mu = \overline{mv_{\perp}^2}/2B$

Changes in field strength  $\square$  **pressure anisotropy**

# MHD with Braginskii Viscosity

---

$$\rho \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nabla \tilde{p} + \nabla \cdot [\hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}}(p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel})] + \frac{\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}}{4\pi} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\text{where } p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel} = 3\rho\nu_B \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{B}}{dt} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

Physics: conservation of the first adiabatic invariant  $\mu = \overline{mv_{\perp}^2}/2B$

Changes in field strength  $\square$  **pressure anisotropy**

# MHD with Braginskii Viscosity

---

$$\rho \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = -\nabla \tilde{p} + \nabla \cdot [\hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}}(p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel})] + \frac{\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}}{4\pi} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$$\text{where } p_{\perp} - p_{\parallel} = 3\rho\nu_B \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

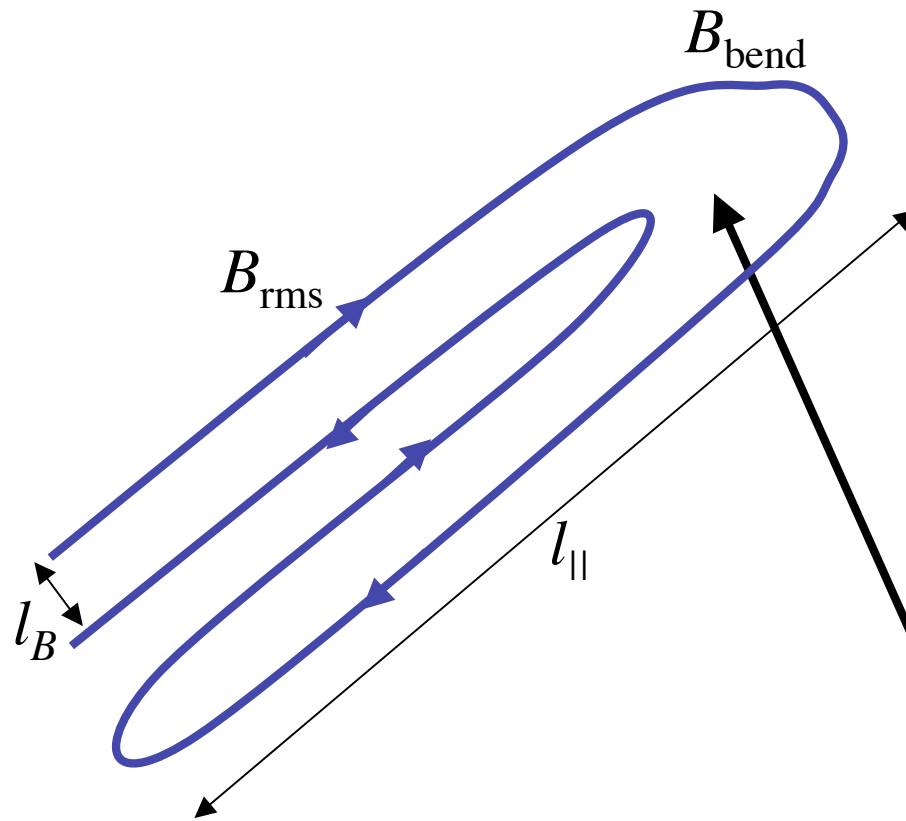
$$\frac{d\mathbf{B}}{dt} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

Physics: conservation of the first adiabatic invariant  $\mu = \overline{mv_{\perp}^2}/2B$

Changes in field strength  $\square$  **pressure anisotropy**

Can we solve/simulate this modified system of equations?

# Firehose Instability



There is a very fast-growing instability (**faster than  $\lambda u$ !**)

$$\gamma = k_{\parallel} (-3 \frac{B}{\mu_0} \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} - v_A^2)^{1/2}$$

valid both for  $k_{\perp} \ll k_{\parallel} < 1/\lambda_{\text{mfp}}$   
and  $k_{\parallel} > 1/\lambda_{\text{mfp}}$   
amplifies shear-Alfvén-polarised perturbations

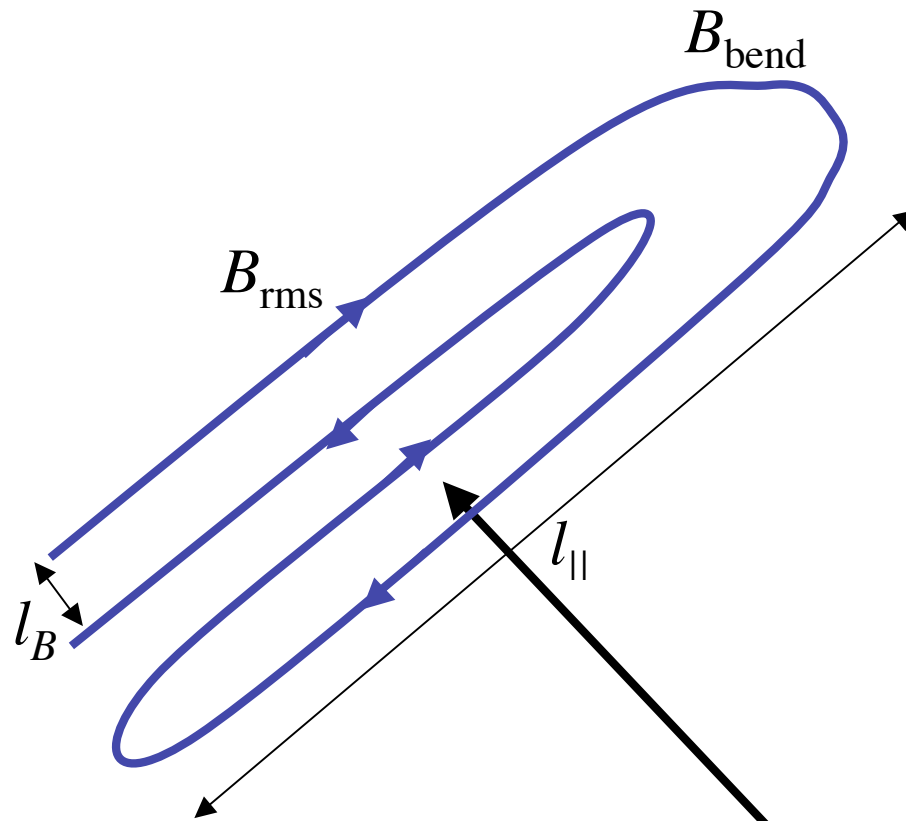
**occurs in the regions of decreasing field:**

$$\frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} < 0$$

*bends of the folds*

[Rosenbluth 1956, *LANL Report 2030*;  
Vedenov & Sagdeev 1958, *Doklady* **3**, 278;  
Parker 1958, *Phys. Rev.* **109**, 1874;  
Chandrasekhar *et al.* 1958, *Proc. Roy. Soc.* **245**, 435]

# Mirror Instability



There is another instability (slower than firehose, still **faster than  $\beta u$** )

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma &= (2/\beta)^{1/2} k_{\parallel} \beta \\ &[(3\beta \mathbf{b}\mathbf{b} : \nabla \mathbf{u}/v_{th})(1 - k_{\parallel}^2/2k_{\perp}^2) \\ &\quad - v_A^2(1 + k_{\parallel}^2/k_{\perp}^2)] \end{aligned}$$

valid for  $k_{\perp} > k_{\parallel}/\sqrt{2} \gg 1/\lambda_{\text{mfp}}$   
(collisionless regime)

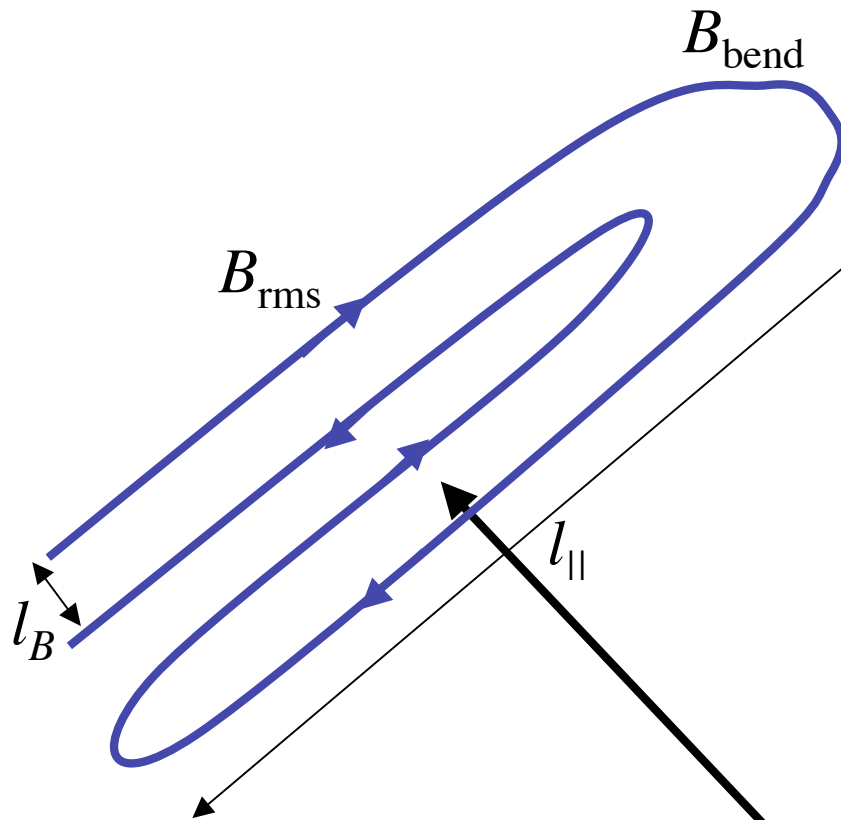
**occurs in the regions of increasing field:**

$$\frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} > 0$$

*straight segments of the folds*

[Rosenbluth 1956, *LANL Report 2030*;  
Vedenov & Sagdeev 1958, *Doklady* **3**, 278;  
Parker 1958, *Phys. Rev.* **109**, 1874;  
Chandrasekhar *et al.* 1958, *Proc. Roy. Soc.* **245**, 435]

# Mirror Instability



**STABILISED**  
**when  $v_A^2 \sim u^2$**   
**(at the viscous scale)**

There is another instability (slower than firehose, still faster than  $\square u$ )

$$\square = (2/\square)^{1/2} k_{\parallel} \square$$

$$[(3 \square_B \mathbf{b}\mathbf{b} : \square \mathbf{u}/v_{th})(1 - k_{\parallel}^2/2k_{\square}^2) - v_A^2(1 + k_{\parallel}^2/k_{\square}^2)]$$

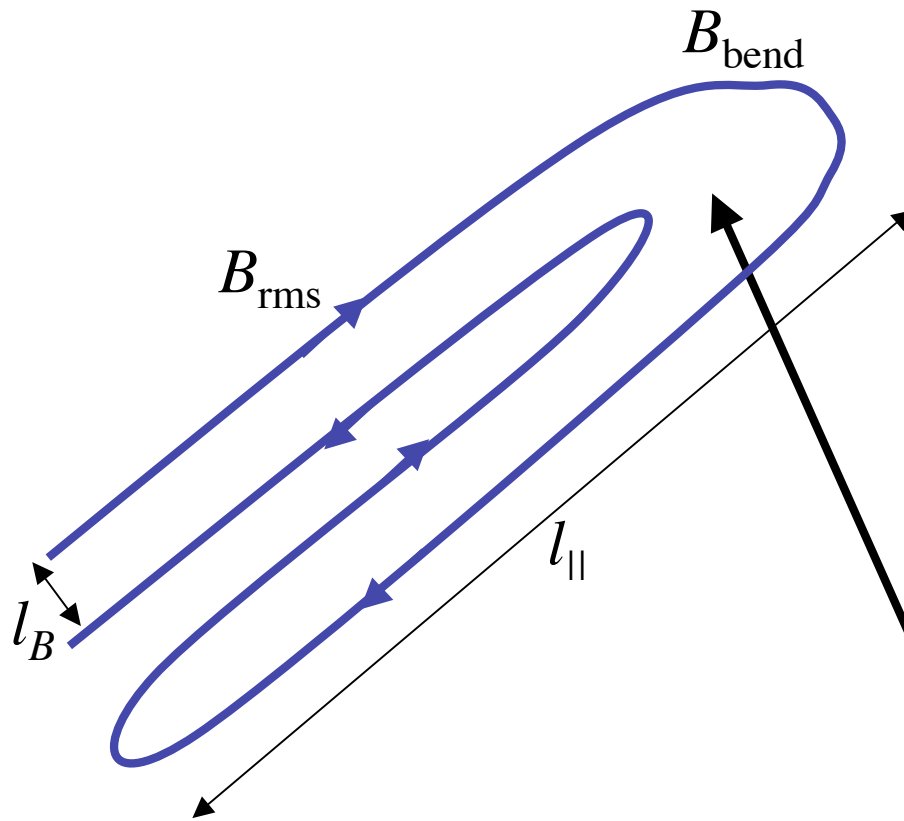
valid for  $k_{\square} > k_{\parallel}/\sqrt{2} \gg 1/\square_{mfp}$   
 (collisionless regime)

**occurs in the regions of increasing field:**

$$\frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} > 0$$

*straight segments of the folds*

# Firehose Instability



**NOT STABILISED:**  
**in the bends  $v_A^2 \ll u^2$**   
**even in saturation**

There is a very fast-growing instability (faster than  $\Delta u$ )

$$\Delta = k_{\parallel} (-3 \Delta_B \mathbf{b}\mathbf{b} : \Delta \mathbf{u} - v_A^2)^{1/2}$$

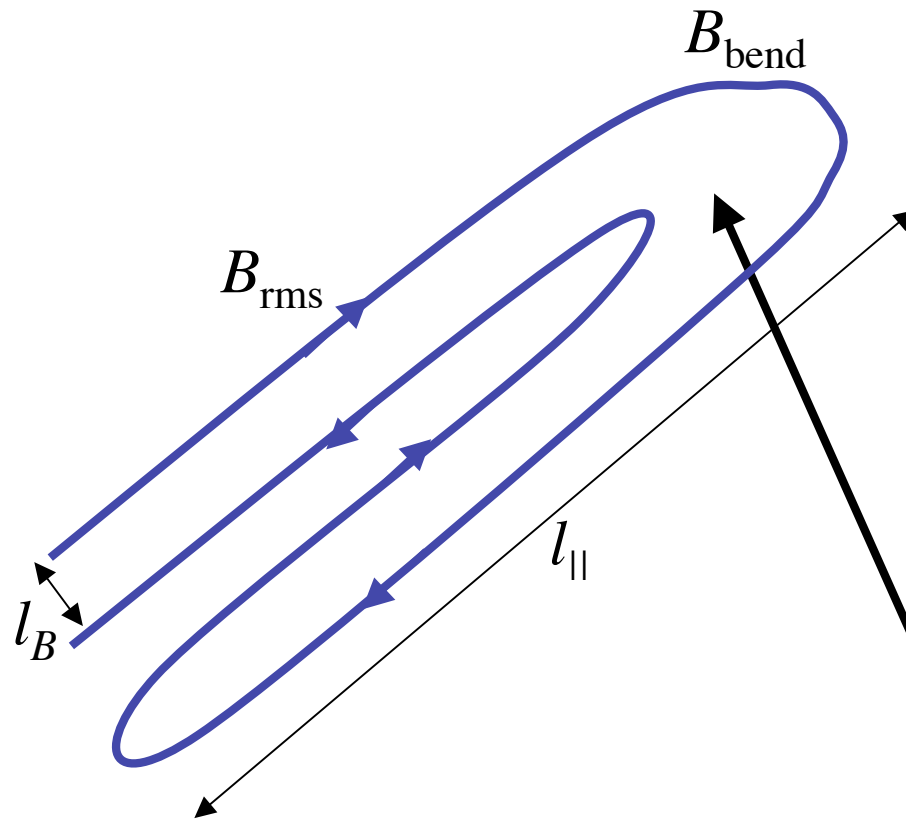
valid both for  $k_{\perp} \ll k_{\parallel} < 1/\Delta_{\text{mfp}}$   
 and  $k_{\parallel} > 1/\Delta_{\text{mfp}}$   
 amplifies shear-Alfvén-polarised perturbations

**occurs in the regions of decreasing field:**

$$\frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} < 0$$

*bends of the folds*

# Firehose Instability



**So a simulation of MHD  
with Braginskii viscosity  
will blow up at the grid scale!**

[Maron 2002, unpublished]

There is a very fast-growing instability (faster than  $\beta u$ !)

$$\gamma = k_{\parallel} (-3\beta_B \mathbf{b}\mathbf{b} : \nabla \mathbf{u} - v_A^2)^{1/2}$$

valid both for  $k_{\perp} \ll k_{\parallel} < 1/\lambda_{\text{mfp}}$   
and  $k_{\parallel} > 1/\lambda_{\text{mfp}}$   
amplifies shear-Alfvén-polarised  
perturbations

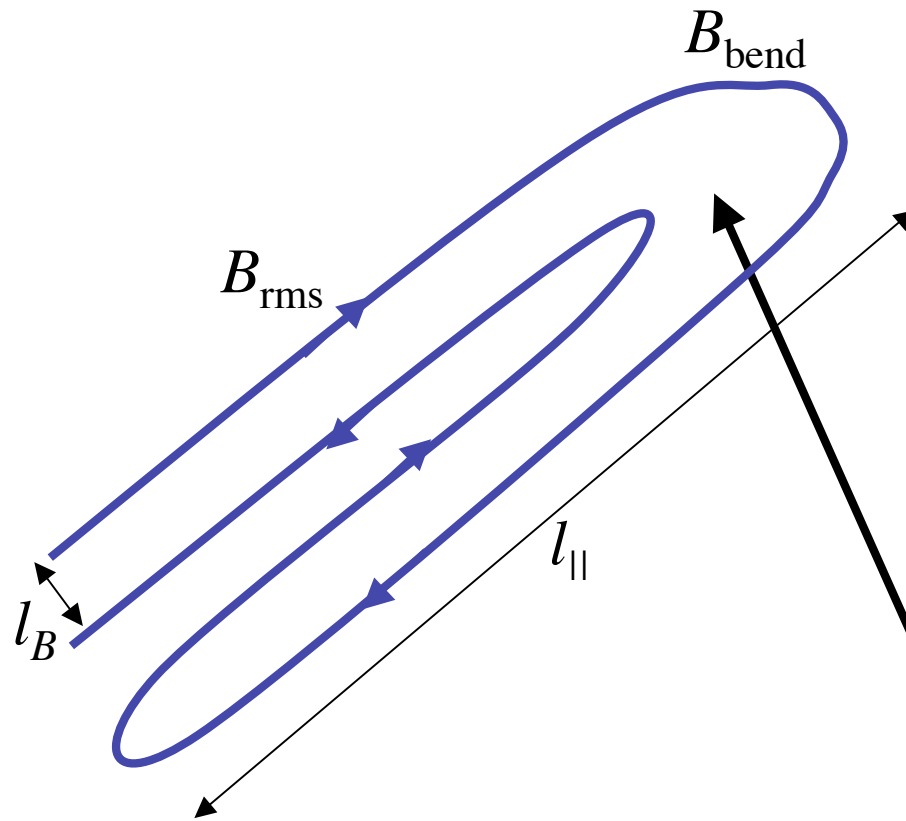
**occurs in the regions  
of decreasing field:**

$$\frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} < 0$$

*bends of the folds*



# Firehose Instability



**Growth rate tails off  
at  $k \sim \lambda_i$**

There is a very fast-growing instability (faster than  $\lambda u$ !)

$$\gamma = k_{\parallel} (-3 \lambda_B \mathbf{b} \mathbf{b} : \nabla \mathbf{u} - v_A^2)^{1/2}$$

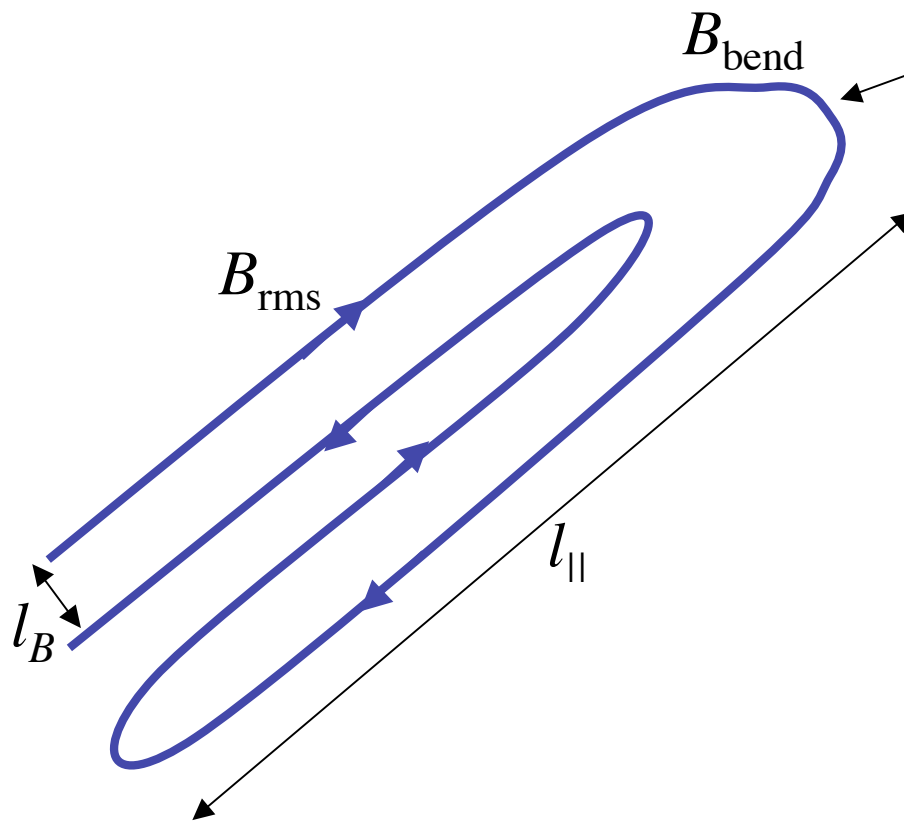
valid both for  $k_{\perp} \ll k_{\parallel} < 1/\lambda_{\text{mfp}}$   
and  $k_{\parallel} > 1/\lambda_{\text{mfp}}$   
amplifies shear-Alfvén-polarised  
perturbations

**occurs in the regions  
of decreasing field:**

$$\frac{1}{B} \frac{dB}{dt} = \hat{\mathbf{b}} \hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} < 0$$

*bends of the folds*

# Effective Magnetic Cutoff



Curvature  $K_{\text{bend}} \sim 1/\varpi_{i, \text{bend}}$

- Can show that  $BK^{1/2} \sim \text{const}$  throughout the fold, so

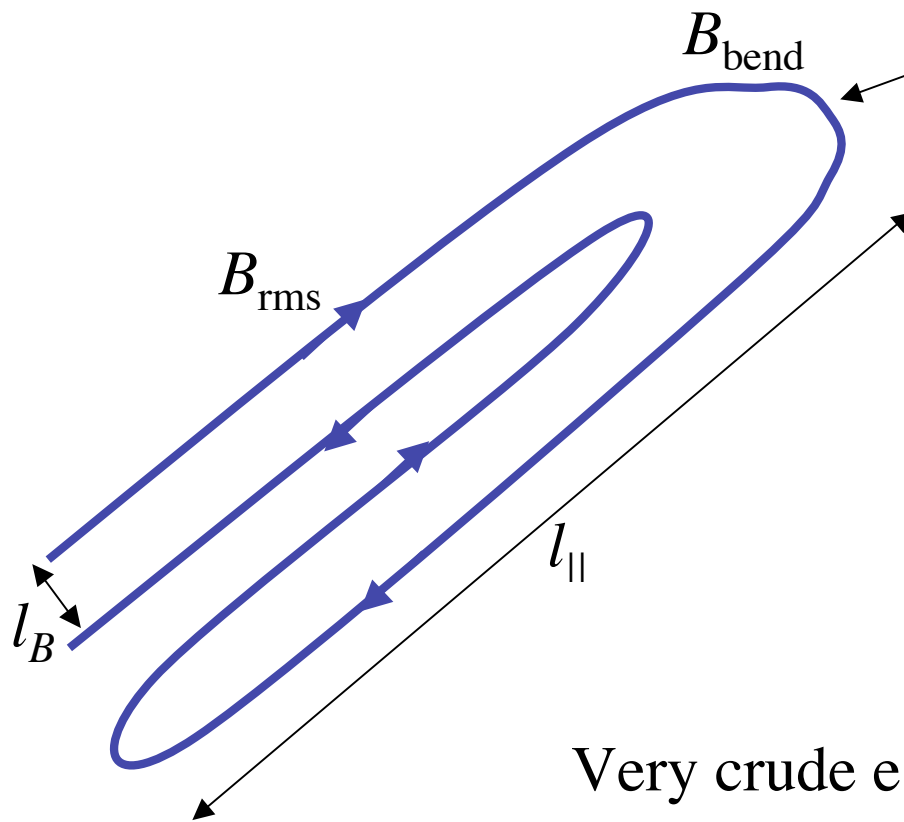
$$B_{\text{bend}}/B_{\text{rms}} \sim (\varpi_{i, \text{bend}}/l_{\parallel})^{1/2}$$

- But  $\varpi_i \propto 1/B$ , so

$$\varpi_{i, \text{bend}}/\varpi_{i, \text{rms}} \sim B_{\text{rms}}/B_{\text{bend}}$$

- Also  $l_B/l_{\parallel} \sim B_{\text{bend}}/B_{\text{rms}}$

# Effective Magnetic Cutoff



Curvature  $K_{\text{bend}} \sim 1/\varpi_{i, \text{bend}}$

- Can show that  $BK^{1/2} \sim \text{const}$  throughout the fold, so

$$B_{\text{bend}}/B_{\text{rms}} \sim (\varpi_{i, \text{bend}}/l_{\parallel})^{1/2}$$

- But  $\varpi_i \propto 1/B$ , so

$$\varpi_{i, \text{bend}}/\varpi_{i, \text{rms}} \sim B_{\text{rms}}/B_{\text{bend}}$$

- Also  $l_B/l_{\parallel} \sim B_{\text{bend}}/B_{\text{rms}}$

Very crude estimates give

$$\frac{l_B}{1 \text{ kpc}} \sim 10^{-2} \left( \frac{T}{10^8 \text{ K}} \right)^{1/6} \left( \frac{B_{\text{rms}}}{1 \mu\text{G}} \right)^{-1/3} \left( \frac{l_{\parallel}}{1 \text{ Mpc}} \right)^{2/3} \sim 10 \text{ pc}$$

A bit too small, but not unreasonable...

NB:  $l_B$  tends to decrease as instrument resolution increases  
 [cf. Kim *et al.* 1990, *ApJ* **355**, 29; Feretti *et al.* 1995, *A&A* **302**, 680]

# Poetry in Lieu of Summary

---

James Clerk Maxwell on the inevitability of kinetic description  
of cluster plasmas

*At quite uncertain times and places,  
The atoms left their heavenly path,  
And by fortuitous embraces,  
Engendered all that being hath.  
And though they seem to cling together,  
And form “associations” here,  
Yet, soon or late, they burst their tether,  
And through the depths of space career.*

1874