

§4. Small-scale Structure of Turbulence:

Correlation Functions and the $\frac{4}{5}$ Law.

For this lecture, I will use a set of notes that I wrote for a course on turbulence @ DAMTP in 2006 (pp. 4-12).
Apologies for discontinuous pagination.

§2. Correlation Functions. (Stat. Descr. of Turbulence)

What does it mean "to solve turbulence"?

$l=1$

$$\partial_t \vec{u} + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla \vec{u} = -\nabla p + \nu \Delta \vec{u} + \vec{f}$$

$\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$ ↑ forcing - model.
random

\vec{u} is a random field: in space, time, and, if we use a random forcing function and an ensemble of random initial conditions, also in the strict statistical sense.

Predicting a particular realisation $u(t, \vec{x})$ is probably impossible and also physically useless (non-universal). Our ambition should be to predict some average quantities (stat. distributions).

$$\langle \dots \rangle_{\text{volume}} = \langle \dots \rangle_{\text{time}} = \langle \dots \rangle_{\text{ensemble}}$$

(for stationary st-ly processes)

Ergodic hypothesis is proven only for a few simple systems but is probably a safe assumption.

Formally, the full description would be

$P_1[\vec{u}_1; \vec{x}_1]$ - 1-pt prob. to have vel. \vec{u}_1 at point \vec{x}_1

$P_2[\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2; \vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2]$ - 2-pt prob to have vel. \vec{u}_1 @ \vec{x}_1 and vel. \vec{u}_2 @ \vec{x}_2

$P_3[\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \vec{u}_3; \vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2, \vec{x}_3]$ - 3-pt etc...

So we need n-pt distributions for all n.

- At small scales (below forcing/injection scale), may assume turbulence is homogeneous, i.e. all points in space are statistically equal.

Then $P_1[\vec{u}_1; \vec{x}_1] = P_1[\vec{u}_1]$ indep. of position

$P_2 = P_2[\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2; \vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1]$ depends only on distance between pts.

$P_3 = P_3[\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2, \vec{u}_3; \vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_3 - \vec{x}_1]$ etc...

• Galilean invariance:

$$\vec{u}'(t, \vec{x}) = \vec{u}(t, \vec{x} - \vec{U}t) + \vec{U}$$

← const velocity

If \vec{u} is a slu, so is \vec{u}' (without \vec{F}).

(See Frisch §62.6 on random Gal. inv.)

So one measures velocity increments:

$$\delta\vec{u} = \vec{u}(\vec{x}_2) - \vec{u}(\vec{x}_1) \text{ for 2-pt stats.}$$

$$\text{and } P[\delta\vec{u}; \vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1]$$

It is often hard to measure the full pdf and one looks at moments:

2-order $\left\{ \begin{aligned} \langle \delta u_i \delta u_j \rangle &= S_{ij}(\vec{r}), \vec{r} = \vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1 \text{ structure function} \\ \langle u_i(\vec{x}_1) u_j(\vec{x}_2) \rangle &= C_{ij}(\vec{r}) \text{ correlation function} \end{aligned} \right.$

3-order: $\langle \delta u_i \delta u_j \delta u_k \rangle$ etc...

In general, we may talk about n-pt m-order stats - cov. fu that has m powers of u_i taken in n different points.

Note that energy $\frac{1}{2} \langle |\vec{u}(\vec{x})|^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2} C_{ii}(0)$

is a 2-order 1-pt quantity independent of position.

Formally, $\langle u_i(\vec{x}_1) u_j(\vec{x}_2) \rangle = \int D\vec{u}_1 D\vec{u}_2 P[\vec{u}_1, \vec{u}_2; \vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1]$

Thus, $S_{ij}(\vec{r}) = \frac{2}{3} \langle u^2 \rangle \delta_{ij} = 2 C_{ij}(\vec{r}) =$
 $= S_{TT}(r) (\delta_{ij} - \hat{r}_i \hat{r}_j) + S_{LL}(r) \hat{r}_i \hat{r}_j$

$S_{TT} = \frac{2}{3} \langle u^2 \rangle = 2 C_{TT}$ $S_{ii}(0) = 0$

$S_{LL} = \frac{2}{3} \langle u^2 \rangle - 2 C_{LL}$ $C_{ii}(0) = 2 C_{TT}(0) + C_{LL}(0)$

Lecture 3

18.10.06

~~...~~ • Incompressibility imposes a further constraint

$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i} = 0$, so $\frac{\partial C_{ij}}{\partial x_{2j}} = \frac{\partial C_{ij}}{\partial r_j} = 0 =$

$= C'_{TT}(r) \hat{r}_j (\delta_{ij} - \hat{r}_i \hat{r}_j) + C'_{LL}(r) \hat{r}_j \hat{r}_i \hat{r}_j +$

$\frac{\partial}{\partial r_j} = \frac{r_j}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} = \hat{r}_j \frac{\partial}{\partial r}$ $+ (C_{LL} - C_{TT}) \left(\frac{\delta_{ij} r_j}{r^2} + \frac{r_i \cdot 3}{r^2} - 2 \frac{r_i r_j}{r^3} \hat{r}_j \right)$

$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r_j} \frac{r_i r_j}{r^2} \right)$

$= \hat{r}_i \left[C'_{LL} + \frac{2}{r} (C_{LL} - C_{TT}) \right]$

$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 C_{LL} = \frac{2}{r} C_{TT}$

Von Kármán relation

$C_{TT}(r) = \frac{1}{2r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 C_{LL} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) C_{LL}$

Analogous relation holds for S_{TT} and S_{LL}

Thus, we only need one scalar function: say, $S_{LL}(r)$

There is an equivalent description in k space:

$$u_i(\mathbf{k}) = \int d^3x e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} u_i(\mathbf{x})$$

$$u_i(\mathbf{x}) = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} u_i(\mathbf{k}) \Rightarrow \sum_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} u_i(\mathbf{k}) \frac{1}{V}$$

(discrete (periodic system) case)

$$\langle u_i(\mathbf{k}) u_j(\mathbf{k}') \rangle = \int d^3x \int d^3x' e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x} - i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{x}'} \underbrace{\langle u_i(\mathbf{x}) u_j(\mathbf{x}') \rangle}_{C_{ij}(\mathbf{r}), \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'}$$

$$= \underbrace{\int d^3r e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} C_{ij}(\mathbf{r})}_{\parallel C_{ij}(\mathbf{k})} \underbrace{\int d^3x' e^{-i\mathbf{x}'\cdot(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}')}}_{\parallel (2\pi)^3 \delta(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') \Rightarrow V \delta_{\mathbf{k}, -\mathbf{k}'}} (discr.)$$

So, $\langle u_i(\mathbf{k}) u_j(\mathbf{k}') \rangle = C_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) (2\pi)^3 \delta(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}')$

this happens because of spatial homogeneity

• Isotropy & parity give,

as before, $C_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) = C_1(k) \delta_{ij} + C_2(k) \hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j$, $\hat{k}_i = \frac{k_i}{k}$

• Incompressibility: $k_i C_{ij} = 0 \Rightarrow C_2 = -C_1$, so

$$\boxed{C_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) = C(k) (\delta_{ij} - \hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j)}$$

It is conventional (and convenient) to define spectrum in such a way that

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle u^2 \rangle = \mathcal{E} = \int_0^\infty dk E(k)$$

Well,

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle u^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left\langle \left| \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \vec{u}(k) e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} \right|^2 \right\rangle =$$

Vol. average

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3} e^{i(\vec{k} + \vec{k}') \cdot \vec{x}} \langle u_i(k) u_i(k') \rangle =$$

$$\underbrace{C_{ii}(k) (2\pi)^3 \delta(\vec{k} + \vec{k}')}_{"2C(k)"}$$

$$= \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} C(k) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_0^\infty dk k^2 \underbrace{\int_0^\pi d\theta \sin\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi}_{4\pi} C(k) =$$

$$= \int_0^\infty dk \frac{k^2 C(k)}{2\pi^2}$$

so, we set $E(k) = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} k^2 C(k)$

Now let us relate spectrum to corr. function:

$$C(k) = \frac{1}{2} C_{ii}(k) = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3r e^{-i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}} C_{ij}(\vec{r}) =$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty dr r^2 \left[C_{TT}(r) \cdot 2 + C_{LL}(r) \right] \underbrace{\int_0^\pi d\theta \sin\theta \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi e^{-i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}}}_{4\pi \frac{\sin kr}{kr}}$$

$$C_{LL} + \frac{1}{2} r C'_{LL}$$

$$2\pi \int_0^\pi d\cos\theta e^{-ikr \cos\theta} =$$

$$= 2\pi \frac{e^{-ikr} - e^{ikr}}{-ikr} = 4\pi \frac{\sin kr}{kr}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty dr r^2 \left[3C_{LL} + r C'_{LL} \right] 4\pi \frac{\sin kr}{kr}$$

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{2}{r} r^3 C_{LL}$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \langle u^2 \rangle - \frac{1}{2} S_{LL}(r)$$

Thus, $C(k) = 2\pi \int_0^\infty dr \frac{\sin kr}{kr} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^3 C_{LL}(r) =$
 $= \frac{2\pi}{3} \langle u^2 \rangle \int_0^\infty dr \frac{\sin kr}{kr} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^2 - \pi \int_0^\infty dr \frac{\sin kr}{kr} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^3 S_{LL}(r)$

$$\frac{1}{k} \int_0^\infty dr r \sin kr = -\frac{1}{k} \frac{\partial}{\partial k} \int_0^\infty dr \cos kr = 0$$

So, we have $\text{If } C_{LL}(r) = \lambda^d C_{LL}(r) \Rightarrow E(\lambda k) = \lambda^{-1-d} E(k)$

$$E(k) = \frac{k^2}{2\pi^2} C(k) = \frac{1}{\pi} k^2 \int_0^\infty dr \frac{\sin kr}{kr} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^3 C_{LL}(r)$$

Note that for small k this gives

$$E(k) = \frac{1}{\pi} k^2 \left[\int_0^\infty dr \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^3 C_{LL}(r) - \frac{1}{6} k^2 \int_0^\infty dr r^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^3 C_{LL}(r) + \dots \right]$$

provided $C_{LL}(r \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow 0$ faster than $\frac{1}{r^3}$

$-2 \int_0^\infty dr r^4 C_{LL}(r)$ provided $C_{LL}(r) \rightarrow 0$ faster than $\frac{1}{r^5}$

$$= \frac{1}{3\pi} k^4 \int_0^\infty dr r^4 C_{LL}(r) + \dots$$

infrared asymptotic

Δ Loytshauskii ~~invariant~~ invariant

See Davidson

Lauau & Lifshitz

for further discussion of this issue.

$$\partial_t u_i = -u_e \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_e} - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + \nu \nabla^2 u_i + f_i$$

Can we compute correlation functions from the N-S equation? Let's try:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \langle u_{1i} u_{2j} \rangle &= \langle u_{1i} \partial_t u_{2j} \rangle + \langle u_{2j} \partial_t u_{1i} \rangle \\ &= \left\langle -u_{1e} u_{2e} \frac{\partial u_{2j}}{\partial x_{2e}} - u_{1i} \frac{\partial p_2}{\partial x_{2j}} + \nu u_{1i} \nabla_2^2 u_{2j} + u_{1i} f_{2j} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - u_{2j} u_{1e} \frac{\partial u_{1i}}{\partial x_{1e}} - u_{2j} \frac{\partial p_1}{\partial x_{1i}} + \nu u_{2j} \nabla_1^2 u_{1i} + u_{2j} f_{1i} \right\rangle \\ &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial x_{1e}} \langle u_{1i} u_{1e} u_{2j} \rangle - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{2e}} \langle u_{1i} u_{2e} u_{2j} \rangle \\ &\quad - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{1i}} \langle p_1 u_{2j} \rangle - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{2j}} \langle p_2 u_{1i} \rangle + \\ &\quad + \nu \nabla_1^2 \langle u_{1i} u_{2j} \rangle + \nu \nabla_2^2 \langle u_{1i} u_{2j} \rangle + \\ &\quad + \underbrace{\langle u_{1i} f_{2j} \rangle + \langle u_{2j} f_{1i} \rangle}_{\text{energy injection terms}} \quad \text{diss. terms} \end{aligned}$$

If we now attempt to write an equation for 3-order corr. fns, we'll see that we need 4-order ones, etc.

$$\partial_t \langle uu \rangle \sim \langle uuu \rangle$$

$$\partial_t \langle uuu \rangle \sim \langle uuuu \rangle \dots$$

Closure problem: moments (corr. fns) satisfy an infinite hierarchy of equations.

This is a generic problem ~~in general~~ when one starts averaging nonlinear equations.

3-order correlators!

It can only be resolved rigorously if ~~there~~ there is a small parameter in the system that allows some sort of asymptotic expansion. No such luck in turbulence.

Some people look for closure schemes

- heuristic ways of closing the hierarchy so moments become computable.

Two basic approaches:

Millionshtchikov-Chandrasekhar
hypothesis

EITHER $\partial_t \langle uu \rangle \sim \langle uuu \rangle$

$\partial_t \langle uuu \rangle \sim \langle uuuu \rangle \sim \langle uu \rangle \langle uu \rangle$
as if u were Gaussian

See work of Kraichnan (DIA)

Orszag (EDQNM)

- McComb's book has full review.

OR $\partial_t \langle uu \rangle \sim \langle uuu \rangle \sim -\frac{1}{\tau} \langle uu \rangle$

τ -approximation

\uparrow
suitably chosen
corr. time.

I will not cover closure theories in this course.

Kolmogorov's $\frac{4}{5}$ Law

It turns out that we can make exact analytical progress with the equation for the velocity correlation function (p.11).

Because of homogeneity,

- $\langle u_{1i} u_{2j} \rangle = C_{ij}(\vec{r})$, $\vec{r} = \vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1$
- $\langle u_{1i} u_{1e} u_{2j} \rangle \equiv C_{ie,j}(\vec{r})$
- $\langle u_{1i} u_{2e} u_{2j} \rangle = C_{ej,i}(-\vec{r}) = -C_{ej,r}(\vec{r})$
- $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_{1e}} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial r_e}$ $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_{2e}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r_e}$

• Because of isotropy, pressure terms vanish:

Pf. $\langle p_1 u_{2j} \rangle = f(r) \hat{r}_j$

incompressibility $\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{2j}} \langle p_1 u_{2j} \rangle = \langle p_1 \frac{\partial u_{2j}}{\partial x_{2j}} \rangle = 0 =$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial r_j} f(r) \frac{r_j}{r} = f'(r) + f(r) \frac{3}{r} - f(r) \frac{r_j}{r^2} \frac{r_j}{r}$$

$$f'(r) + \frac{2}{r} f(r) = 0 \Rightarrow f(r) = \text{const} \frac{1}{r^2}$$

$$f(r \rightarrow 0) < \infty \Rightarrow \text{const} = 0 \Rightarrow f = 0 \text{ q.e.d.}$$

• Dissipation terms = $2\nu \nabla^2 C_{ij}(\vec{r})$

• Injection terms $\equiv 2\epsilon_{ij}(\vec{r})$ some smooth large-scale function.

So, with these simplifications, we get

$$\partial_t C_{ij} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (C_{ie,j} + C_{je,i}) + 2\nu \nabla^2 C_{ij} + 2\epsilon_{ij}(\vec{r})$$

Since $C_{ij}(\vec{r})$ in fact only depends on one scalar function, we can take the trace of this equation without losing any information:

$$\frac{1}{2} \partial_t C_{ii}(\vec{r}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} C_{ii} + \nu \nabla^2 C_{ii} + \epsilon_{ii}(\vec{r}) \quad (1)$$

This is basically the 2-point version of the energy equation.

From isotropy etc., we know that

$$\begin{aligned} C_{ii}(\vec{r}) &= 2C_{TT}(\vec{r}) + C_{LL}(\vec{r}) = -\frac{1}{2}S_{LL} + \frac{1}{3}\langle u^2 \rangle \\ &= 2C_{LL} + r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} C_{LL} + C_{LL} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^3 C_{LL}(\vec{r}) \\ &= \langle u^2 \rangle - \frac{1}{2r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^3 S_{LL}(\vec{r}) \end{aligned}$$

It is also possible to prove that the triple correlator $C_{ie,j}$ only depends on one scalar function, e.g. $S_{LL}(\vec{r}) = \hat{r}_i \hat{r}_j \hat{r}_k \langle \delta u_i \delta u_j \delta u_r \rangle$:

$$\begin{aligned} C_{ie,j}(\vec{r}) &= -\frac{1}{12} \left[S_{LL} \delta_{ie} \hat{r}_j - \frac{1}{2} (r S'_{LL} + 2S_{LL}) (\delta_{ij} \hat{r}_e + \delta_{ej} \hat{r}_i) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (r S'_{LL} - S_{LL}) \hat{r}_i \hat{r}_e \hat{r}_j \right] \end{aligned}$$

(see, e.g. Landau & Lifshitz vol 6 §34)

Therefore

$$C_{ii,i} = -\frac{1}{12} \hat{r}_e \left[S_{LL} - 2rS'_{LL} - 4S_{LL} + rS'_{LL} - S_{LL} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{12} \hat{r}_e \left(rS'_{LL} + 4S_{LL} \right) = \frac{1}{12} \frac{\hat{r}_e}{r^3} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^4 S_{LL}$$

~~Therefore, we can write the equation as~~

~~the following form~~

If we substitute all this into (1), we can get an equation ~~relating~~ relating S_{LL} and S_{LL} , called the Von-Kármán-Lowery equation.

It is not closed, of course, so not much use.

However, if we assume stationarity, i.e. $\partial_t C_{ii} = 0$ and large-scale energy injection, i.e.

$$\epsilon_{ii}(r) \approx \epsilon + \dots \quad (\text{Taylor-expanded})$$

Then (1) simplifies to

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r_e} \left[C_{ii,i} + \nu \frac{\partial}{\partial r_e} C_{ii} \right] = -\epsilon \quad (2)$$

~~Therefore, we can write the equation as~~

~~the following form~~

~~Therefore, we can write the equation as~~

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because $\frac{\partial \hat{r}_e}{\partial r_e} = 3$

Integrate this:

$$\underbrace{C_{ie,i} + \nu \frac{\partial}{\partial r_e} C_{ii}} = -\frac{1}{3} \epsilon r_e + \text{const}$$

So no singularity
@ $r \rightarrow 0$

$$\frac{1}{12} \hat{r}_e \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^4 S_{LL} - \nu \hat{r}_e \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \frac{1}{2r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^3 S_{LL}$$

$$= \frac{1}{12} \hat{r}_e \frac{1}{r^3} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^4 [S_{LL} - 6\nu S'_{LL}]$$

$$\frac{1}{r^3} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^4 [S_{LL} - 6\nu S'_{LL}] = -4\epsilon r$$

Integrating again, $S_{LL} = -\frac{4}{5} \epsilon r + 6\nu S'_{LL}$ (3)

This is Kolmogorov's $\frac{4}{5}$ law

small for
 $r \gg \ell_v$

Note For decaying turbulence, $\epsilon_{ii}(r) = 0$ (no forcing)

but we expect self-similar decay:

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} C_{ii}(r) = \frac{d\epsilon}{dt} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{1}{2r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r^3 S_{LL}(r)$$

= $-\epsilon$ (structure function const)

So we again get eq. (2)

Eq. (3) is important because it is the only exact result available. It is also consistent with K41: $\langle \delta u^3 \rangle \propto \epsilon \ell \Leftrightarrow \delta u_\ell \sim (\epsilon \ell)^{1/3}$

Note. There is a similar result for passive scalar:

$$\hat{r} \cdot \langle \delta \vec{u} \delta \theta^2 \rangle = -\frac{4}{3} \epsilon_\theta r + 2\pi \frac{2}{\partial r} \langle \delta \theta^2 \rangle$$

- Yaglom's $\frac{4}{3}$ law.

It is easier to derive because the equation is scalar - exercise.

Note. These exact results depend on the assumptions of homogeneity and isotropy (although these can be weakened) but not on locality - so they do not constitute proof of locality or of the existence of a Kolmogorov-style cascade!