# **Every Thing You Always Wanted to Know About** Two-Dimensional Turbulence

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# A physical motivation for two-dimensional turbulence

2D Navier-Stokes equations are a simple model for large scale motion of atmosphere and oceans: thin layers of fluid in which stratification and rotation supress vertical motions.





"More easily simulated on digital computers than 3d flows [...] a valuable testing ground for dynamical theories" RHK, 1967

# Outline

\* Zero thickness: 2D Navier-Stokes

- double cascade theory by Kraichnan
- experimental and numerical studies
- statistics of the inverse cascade
- \* Finite thickness: 2D or not 2D?
  - split energy cascade
  - 2D phenomenology in 3D flows





# 2D NAVIER-STOKES

### **Prehistory: 2D Navier-Stokes equations**

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\nabla p + v \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u_y}{\partial y} = 0$$

Introducing the stream function  $\mathbf{u} = \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \nabla \psi$ 

$$\frac{\partial \omega}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \omega = v \nabla^2 \omega + f - \alpha \omega$$

f: external forcing α: friction coefficient (from boundary conditions on the bottom)

In the inviscid, unforced limit  $v=\alpha=f=0$ ,  $\omega$  is a Lagrangian invariant two inviscid quadratic invariants:

$$\frac{d\omega}{dt}=0$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \int u^2 d^2 x \qquad .$$

energy

$$Z = \frac{1}{2} \int \omega^2 d^2 x$$

enstrophy

## **Pre-Kraichnan studies**

\* TD Lee (1951): enstrophy conservation is incompatible with direct energy cascade (i.e. the energy flux is inverse)  $\lim_{v \to 0} \frac{dE}{dt} = -\lim_{v \to 0} 2vZ = 0$ 

\* Fjørtoft (1953)

 $E_{3} + E_{4} + E_{5} = E'_{3} + E'_{4} + E'_{5}$  $k_{3}^{2}E_{3} + k_{4}^{2}E_{4} + k_{5}^{2}E_{5} = k_{3}^{2}E'_{3} + k_{4}^{2}E'_{4} + k_{5}^{2}E'_{5}$ 

energy center of mass moves to larger scales enstrophy center of mass moves to smaller scales



\* Neuman (1967)

Define characteristic wavenumbers:

from energy/enstrophy balance:

using Schwarz inequality :

$$\begin{cases} k_E^2 = \int k^2 E(k) dk / \int E(k) dk = Z / E \\ k_Z^2 = \int k^4 E(k) dk / \int k^2 E(k) dk = P / Z \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -2\nu Z \qquad \frac{dZ}{dt} = -2\nu P$$

 $\dot{k}_{E}^{2} = 2vk_{E}^{2}(k_{E}^{2} - k_{Z}^{2}) \leq 0$ 

i.e. energy characteristic scale increases.

A simple argument for cascade directions (Kraichnan, 1967; Eyink 1996)

Characteristic scales in the cascades:

$$\ell_{v} = \left(\varepsilon_{v} / \eta_{v}\right)$$
$$\ell_{f} = \left(\varepsilon_{f} / \eta_{f}\right)^{1/2}$$
$$\ell_{\alpha} = \left(\varepsilon_{\alpha} / \eta_{\alpha}\right)^{1/2}$$

 $\left( \varepsilon_{v} / \eta_{v} \right)^{1/2} \qquad \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \omega = v \nabla^{2} \omega + f - \alpha \omega$   $\left( \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{v} \right)^{1/2} \qquad \mathbf{\omega} = \nabla \times \mathbf{u}$ 



From energy/enstrophy balance 
$$\varepsilon_f = \varepsilon_{\alpha} + \varepsilon_v$$
  
in stationary conditions:  $\eta_f = \eta_{\alpha} + \eta_v$ 

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{v}}{\varepsilon_{\alpha}} = \left(\frac{\ell_{v}}{\ell_{f}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{\ell_{f}}{\ell_{\alpha}}\right)^{2} \frac{(\ell_{\alpha} / \ell_{f})^{2} - 1}{1 - (\ell_{v} / \ell_{f})^{2}} \qquad \qquad \frac{\eta_{v}}{\eta_{\alpha}} = \frac{(\ell_{\alpha} / \ell_{f})^{2} - 1}{1 - (\ell_{v} / \ell_{f})^{2}}$$

developed direct cascade:  $\ell_v \ll \ell_f$ 



developed inverse cascade:  $\ell_f \ll \ell_{\alpha}$  $\frac{\eta_{\alpha}}{\eta_{\alpha}} \rightarrow 0$  enstrophy goes to small scales  $\eta_{\alpha}$ 

 $\ell_{f}$ 

This argument determines the directions of the cascades but not how the characteristic scales depend on the parameter  $\alpha$  and  $\nu$ 

### Kraichnan [Phys. Fluids 10 (1967), J. Fluid Mech. 47 (1971)]

Non-linear transfer of energy and enstrophy at wavenumber k:

$$\frac{dE(k)}{dt}\Big|_{NL} = T(k) \quad \frac{dZ(k)}{dt}\Big|_{NL} = k^2T(k) \quad \text{with} \quad T(k) = (1/2)\int_0^\infty dp \int_0^\infty dq \ T(k, p, q)$$
  
and 
$$\frac{T(k, p, q) + T(p, q, k) + T(q, k, p) = 0}{k^2T(k, p, q) + p^2T(p, q, k) + q^2T(q, k, p) = 0} \quad (\text{energy/enstrophy conservation})$$

Energy transfer across a given scale

$$\Pi_{\mathcal{E}}(k) = \int_{k}^{\infty} T(k') dk' \sim \lambda_{k} k \mathcal{E}(k)$$
characteristic deformation frequency:  $\lambda_{k}^{2} \sim \int_{k}^{k} \mathcal{E}(p) p^{2} dp$ 
(smaller scales are incoherent)

Looking for a scale-independent energy flux  $\prod_{k=1}^{\infty} (k) = \epsilon$  one obtains  $E(k) = C \epsilon^{2/3} k^{-5/3}$ 

Transfer is local:  $\lambda_k$  is dominated by p~k and  $\lambda_k \sim \epsilon^{1/3} k^{2/3}$ 

Friction IR cutoff:  $k_{\alpha} \simeq \varepsilon^{-1/2} \alpha^{3/2}$ 

Enstrophy transfer across a given scale

$$\Pi_{Z}(k) = \int_{k}^{\infty} k'^{2} T(k') dk' \sim \lambda_{k} k^{3} E(k)$$

Looking for a scale-independent enstrophy flux  $\prod_{Z}(k)=\eta$  one obtains

$$E(k) = \mathcal{C}' \eta^{2/3} k^{-3}$$

with viscous UV cutoff:  $k_v \simeq \eta^{1/6} v^{-1/2}$ 

This argument is not fully consistent as it gives  $\lambda_k \sim \log(k/k_{min})$  and therefore a log-k dependent enstrophy flux

Kraichnan (1971): constant flux using log-corrected spectrum:

$$\boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{k}) = \boldsymbol{C}' \eta^{2/3} \boldsymbol{k}^{-3} \left[ \ln(\boldsymbol{k} / \boldsymbol{k}_{\min}) \right]^{-1/3}$$

Problem: transfer is not local:  $\lambda_k$  is dominated by wavenumbers  $p \ll k$   $\lambda_k^2 \simeq \eta^{2/3} \int_{k_{min}}^{k} p^{-1} \left[ \ln(p / k_{min}) \right]^{-1/3} dp$ (similar to Batchelor regime for passive scalar)  $k_{min}$ 

The analogy with passive scalar is even stronger when considering the effects of friction

### The double cascade scenario

A two dimensional fluid forced at intermediate scales is expected to develop the two cascades (inverse energy to large scales and direct enstrophy to small scales)



The double cascade scenario is typical of 2d flows, e.g. plasmas and other geophysical models.

# The fate of large scales (Kraichnan, 1967)

In the absence of friction (or with small friction) the inverse cascade is quasi-steady because largest scale grows in time as (from energy balance)

 $L(t) \simeq \varepsilon^{1/2} t^{3/2}$ 

When L(t) reaches the box size  $L_B$ , energy piles up at scale this scale generating the condensate: a large scale structure (a dipole in the case of periodic BC).

The condensate interacts non-locally with the cascade and modifies the k<sup>-5/3</sup> spectrum





Evolution of energy spetrum in DNS

velocity field in presence of the condensate numerical simulations by L.Smith and V.Yakhot, PRL (1993)

# RESULTS ON 2D TURBULENCE

### Early laboratory experiments

Thin layer of mercury with electrical forcing in a uniform magnetic field suppressing vertical motions (linear friction due to Hartmann layer). J.Sommeria, JFM **170**, 139 (1986)







FIGURE 1. The apparatus; the current distribution near one electrode and the velocity profile are schematized. The Hartmann-layer depth is denoted by  $\delta$ . (1) Copper frame. (2) Electrodes for current injection and electric potential measurements. (3) Electrodes for electric potential measurements only. (4) Mercury. (5) Glass cover. (6) Electrically insulating bottom plate in which electrodes are embedded.

# Observation of the inverse cascade very small inertial range

# Electrolyte cell

(P. Tabeling, M. Rivera, B. Ecke, J. Gollub, G. van Heijst)

Two layers of different densities the lower driven by Lorentz force (array of magnets).

Different implementations:

- \* salty water/fresh water
- \* immiscible layers (fluorinert/salt water) PIV data acquisition





courtesy of B. Ecke

#### Energy spectrum in inverse cascade



courtesy of S.Espa

# Soap films

#### (Y. Couder, W. Goldburg, H. Kellay, M.A. Rutgers, M. Rivera, R.E. Ecke)

Soap films are very interesting because of the large aspect ratio ( $\sim 10^4$ )

Evaporation limits the stability of the film: continuously running soap film channels with different geometries



M.Gharib, P.Derango, Phys. D 37 (1989)



Velocity acquisition by LDV and PIV

Turbulent spectrum in soap film channel



# Direct numerical simulation: the beginning

2D turbulent is in principle very convenient for numerical simulations (e.g. a 1024<sup>3</sup> simulation corresponds to about 56000<sup>2</sup> for memory occupation).

Not so convenient for integration time (which is proportional to  $N^{D+1}$ , i.e. 1024<sup>3</sup> corresponds to 15000<sup>2</sup>).

Even less convenient if we want to simulate both cascades (e.g. resolution of 100<sup>2</sup> for each cascade requires >10000<sup>2</sup> resolution)

First DNS (R.W.Bray, 1961): pure spectral code with 1≤k≤10 Study of the direct cascade

Lilly, 1969 finite difference scheme at 64<sup>2</sup> "Observation" of the double cascade Kolmogorov constant for inverse C=4.2-6.2



INERGY

D.K.Lilly, POF 12 (1969)

## **Pseudospectral simulations**

In 1971 Orszag [JAS **28**, 1074] shows how to remove aliasing efficiently (2/3 rule, after Phillips, 1959) paving the way to the use of (pseudo)-spectral codes both in 2D and 3D.

Pseudospectral codes are very efficient: not changed in 35 years of DNS

From Frisch & Sulem (1984) at 256<sup>2</sup> to Borue (1993) at 4096<sup>2</sup> the resolution growth is fitted by

 $N = 267^{*}2^{(t-1984)/2.8}$ 

Doubling time close to Moore's law: t=3x1.07=3.2

#### Evolution of resolution in 2D simulations



#### Direct numerical simulations of 2d turbulence

G. Boffetta, JFM (2007) G.Boffetta and S.Musacchio, PRE (2010)

Set of simulations at high resolutions with a parallel pseudo spectral code.

Ν	V	α	L/r <sub>f</sub>	r <sub>f</sub> ∕r <sub>∨</sub>	$\epsilon_{\alpha}/\epsilon_{f}$	$\eta_v/\eta_f$
2048	2x10⁻⁵	0.015	100	13	0.54	0.96
4096	5x10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.024	100	26	0.83	0.92
8192	2x10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.025	100	40	0.92	0.90
16384	1x10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.03	100	57	0.95	0.88
32768	2.5x10 <sup>-7</sup>	0.0	100	116	0.98	0.98

ω

Ψ



$$\frac{\varepsilon_{v}}{\varepsilon_{\alpha}} = \left(\frac{\ell_{v}}{\ell_{f}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{\ell_{f}}{\ell_{\alpha}}\right)^{2} \frac{(\ell_{\alpha} / \ell_{f})^{2} - 1}{1 - (\ell_{v} / \ell_{f})^{2}}$$
$$\frac{\eta_{v}}{\eta_{\alpha}} = \frac{(\ell_{\alpha} / \ell_{f})^{2} - 1}{1 - (\ell_{v} / \ell_{f})^{2}}$$

## Energy and enstrophy fluxes

Inverse cascade: constant flux of energy

Direct cascade: constant flux of enstrophy



Prediction for fluxes ratio

 $\ell_{v}$ enstrophy dissipative scale = v

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{v}}{\varepsilon_{\alpha}} = \left(\frac{\ell_{v}}{\ell_{f}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{\ell_{f}}{\ell_{\alpha}}\right)^{2} \frac{(\ell_{\alpha} / \ell_{f})^{2} - 1}{1 - (\ell_{v} / \ell_{f})^{2}} \propto \ell_{v}^{2} \simeq v$$

$$\frac{1}{\ell_{\alpha}} = \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{f}}\right) \left(\frac{1}{\ell_{\alpha}}\right) \frac{1}{1 - (\ell_{v} / \ell_{f})}$$

$$\nu^{1/2} \eta_{v}^{-1/6}$$

# Energy spectrum

Simultaneous observation of direct and inverse cascades



\* Inverse cascade: k<sup>-5/3</sup> spectrum

\* Direct cascade:

 $k^{-(3+\delta)}$  spectrum with correction δ which vanishes as ν → 0

## Third order structure function of 2D turbulence

Fluxes of energy and enstrophy in physical space

$$S_{p}(r) \equiv \left\langle \left( \delta u(r) \right)^{p} \right\rangle$$
$$\delta u(r) \equiv u(x+r) - u(x)$$

$$S_3(r) = \frac{1}{8} \eta_{\nu} r^3 \quad \text{for} \quad r \ll \ell_f$$

 $S_3(r) = \frac{3}{2} \varepsilon_{\alpha} r$  for  $r \gg \ell_f$ 

Direct enstrophy cascade

Inverse energy cascade



Higher order structure functions

 $S_{p}(r) = \left\langle \left( \delta u_{//}(r) \right)^{p} \right\rangle = C_{p} \left( \varepsilon r \right)^{p/3}$ 

compatible with Kolmogorov scaling no intermittency



Probability density functions of

velocity: close to Gaussian in the inverse cascade (left)

vorticity: self-similar in the direct cascade (right)

![](_page_21_Figure_7.jpeg)

# Conformal invariance in the inverse cascade

D.Bernard, G.Boffetta, A.Celani and G.Falkovich Nature Phys. **2**, 124 (2006) Phys. Rev. Lett. **98**, 024501 (2007).

![](_page_22_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Conformal invariance in the inverse cascade

D.Bernard, G.Boffetta, A.Celani and G.Falkovich Nature Phys. 2, 124 (2006) Phys. Rev. Lett. 98, 024501 (2007).

Positive vorticity clusters in the inverse cascade of 2d turbulence

![](_page_23_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_0.jpeg)

Positive vorticity cluster in the inverse cascade of 2d turbulence

# Fractal dimensions of a single vorticity cluster

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_3.jpeg)

☆ Boundary
☆ Frontier
☆ Cut points

L=side of square covering the cluster

# Probability distribution of vorticity clusters

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

see Cardy and Ziff, J.Stat. Phys. **110**, 1 (2003)

Is the inverse cascade equivalent (geometrically) to critical percolation?

size s= # connected sites of same sign boundary t= # connected sites adjacent to opposite sign

#### Conformal mapping for growth processes: Loewner equation (1923)

A curve  $\gamma_t$  growing in H from the origin (t parameterizes the curve). The evolution of  $\gamma_t$  can be mapped on the evolution of the map  $g_t(z)$  which map the complement of  $\gamma_t$  (or H\K) on H (Riemann theorem)

$$\frac{dg_{t}(z)}{dt} = \frac{2}{g_{t}(z) - \xi_{t}}$$

with  $g_0(z) = z$ and  $g(z) \sim z + O(1/z)$  as  $z \rightarrow \infty$ driving:  $\xi_t \in \mathbb{R}$ 

![](_page_27_Figure_4.jpeg)

**Example** solution to LE with  $\xi_t$ =a=const

$$g_{t}(z) = a + \sqrt{(z-a)^{2} + 4t}$$

i.e. a vertical segment of length  $2\sqrt{t}$ 

![](_page_27_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

# **Stochastic Loewner Equation**

Loewner equation(1923) for conformal mapping with driving  $\xi_t$ : **R**->**R** 

$$\frac{dg_{\dagger}(z)}{dt} = \frac{2}{g_{\dagger}(z) - \xi_{\dagger}}$$

LE describes a conformally invariant curve when the driving is proportional to a random walk

 $\xi_t = \sqrt{\kappa} B_t$ 

The "diffusion coefficient"  $\kappa$  controls the fractality of the generated trace (Rohde & Schramm, 2001)

\* 0 < k < 4simple curve\* 4 < k < 8non-simple curve ( $\infty$  intersections)\* k > 8space filling

Fractal dimension of SLE traces (Beffara, 2002)

$$D_F = 1 + \frac{\kappa}{8}$$

O.Schramm (2000) G.Lawler, O.Schramm, W.Werner (2001) see J.Cardy (2005)

![](_page_29_Picture_10.jpeg)

# Some applications of SLE

Old conjecture by Mandelbrot (1982): the frontier of BM is a SAW with D=4/3

Lawler, Schramm & Werner, 2000 (via SLE):

 $(SLE_6)$ 

- pioneer points: D=7/4
- frontier: D=4/3 (SLE<sub>8/3</sub>)
- cut points

D=3/4

# SLE<sub>k</sub> and critical systems

![](_page_30_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_9.jpeg)

- k=2 loop-erased random walk
- k=8/3 self avoiding random walk
- k=3 cluster boundaries in Ising
- k=4 isolines in O(2) model
- k=6 cluster boundaries in percolation
- k=8 uniform spanning trees

# Checking SLE in vorticity clusters

By inverting SLE one computes driving function

![](_page_31_Figure_2.jpeg)

# **Driving functions**

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

t

#### Driving $\xi(t)$ is Brownian motion $\rightarrow$ zero-vorticity lines are SLE<sub>k</sub>

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

 $\kappa = 5.9 \pm 0.3$  vorticity clusters are equivalent to critical percolation

# Atmospheric data

Mesoscale wind variability (radar and balloon): k<sup>-5/3</sup> K.S. Gage, J.Atmos.Sciences **36** (1979)

Global Atmospheric Sampling Program (6900 Boing 747 flights): k<sup>-5/3</sup> for wavelenghts 10-500 km k<sup>-3</sup> for wavelenghts 500-2000 km

see also Mozaic (on Airbus)

![](_page_34_Figure_4.jpeg)

wind) and potential energy spectra Nastrom, Gage, Jasperson, Nature **310** (1984) Gage, Nastrom, JAS **43** (1986)

Two-dimensional turbulence in the stratosphere ?

## Interpretations of Gage-Nastrom spectrum

- \* Stratified turbulence (Gage, Lilly)
- \* Gravity wave cascade (Dewan)
- \* 2-level quasi-geostrophic model (Tung, Orlando)
- \* Rotation + stratification (Lindborg)
- \* Two-dimensional turbulence with condensation (Falkovich, Shats)

large scale spectrum steeper, close to k<sup>-3</sup>

energy flux changes sign (nonlocal interactions)

# Statistics of the condensate

Experimental/numerical studies on the evolution and the statistics of the condensate

![](_page_36_Figure_2.jpeg)

experiments by Xia et al., Nat. Phys. 7 (2011)

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

# THIN FLUID LAYER: TRANSITION 2D-3D

# Dimensional transition in thin fluid layers

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

 $L_x = L_y$  = horizontal scale  $L_f$  = forcing correlation scale  $L_z$  = vertical scale (thickness)  $\eta$  = viscous scale

Transition from 2D to 3D turbulence as the thickness  $L_z$  increases

![](_page_39_Figure_4.jpeg)

# Numerical simulations of thin fluid layers

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

Two-dimensional random force **f** No friction

Aspect ratios  $L_y / L_x = 1 L_x / L_f = 16 L_x / L_z = [32-128] L_f / L_z = [2-8]$ Periodic b.c.: no material walls  $N_x \times N_y \times N_z = 4096 \times 4096 \times N_z$  grid points

Celani et al. (2010) PRL 104, 184506

# Kinetic energy growth

Energy grows linearly in time (in the absence of friction)

The growth rate decreases as the thickness is increased

![](_page_41_Figure_3.jpeg)

 $L_z < \eta$  energy growth rate = power injected  $L_z > \frac{1}{2} L_f$  energy growth rate = 0

Celani *et al.* (2010) PRL 104, 184506 Smith *et al.* (1996) PRL 77, 2467

# Split energy cascade

Part of the energy is transferred toward large scale in an inverse cascade (as in 2D). The remnant energy gives rise to a direct cascade (as in 3D)

As the thickness increases the energy flux in the inverse cascade reduces, and the flux in the direct cascade grows.

![](_page_42_Figure_3.jpeg)

## Energy spectrum

When the thickness of the layer is larger than viscous scale and smaller than forcing scale there is coexistence of

- 2D inverse cascade at large scales and
- 3D direct cascade at small scales

connected by an intermediate enstrophy cascade.

![](_page_43_Figure_5.jpeg)

### Vortex stretching analysis

<u>3D-NS equation for vorticity</u>  $\boldsymbol{\omega} = \nabla \times \mathbf{u}$  $\partial_t \boldsymbol{\omega} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{\omega} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \nu \Delta \boldsymbol{\omega} + \mathbf{f}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}}$ 

 $\frac{\text{Vortex stretching}}{\text{Enstrophy flux}} = \frac{\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{\omega}}$ 

![](_page_44_Figure_3.jpeg)

At large scales thin layers are effectively two-dimensional

#### Collaborators

![](_page_45_Picture_1.jpeg)

S. Berti, M.Shats, R. Ecke, I. Kolokolov, S. Musacchio G. Falkovich, M. Cencini, P. Muratore-Ginanneschi, A. Mazzino, A. Celani, A. Vulpiani