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# Wavelets to study 3D homogeneous MHD turbulence

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*To Mike Proctor, Cargèse, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010*

## **Turbulence and Wavelets**

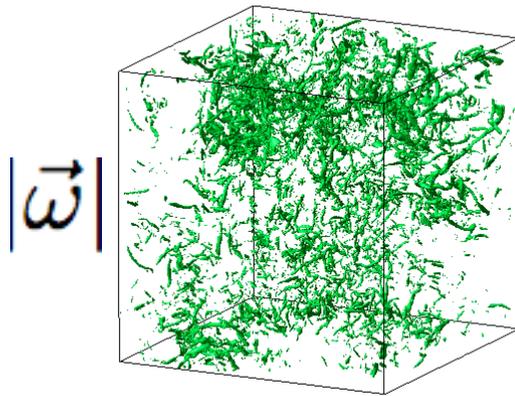
**Coherent Vorticity and  
Current sheet Extraction  
(CVCE)**

**Coherent Vorticity and  
Current sheet Simulation  
(CVCS)**

# Turbulence

Turbulence { Eddies excited on a wide range of scales  
Fluctuations present coherent structures  
Strong spatial and temporal intermittency

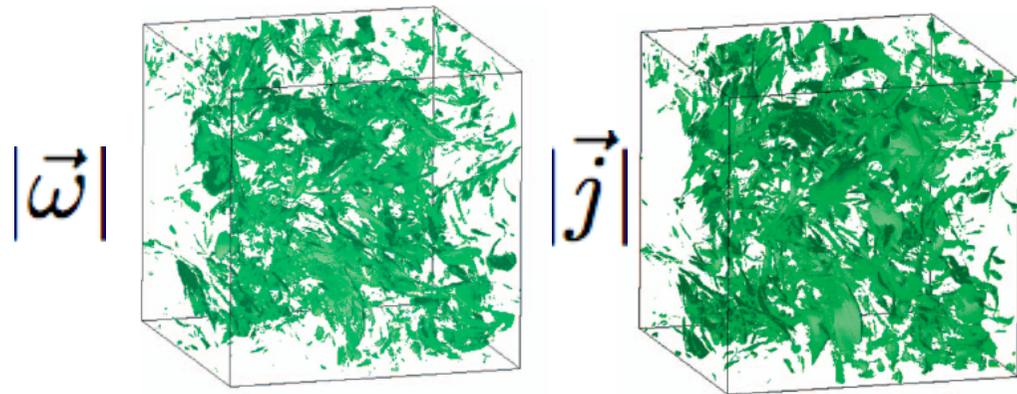
## Hydrodynamic turbulence



*Vorticity tubes*

*Siggia., J. Fluid Mech...,  
107, 375, 1981*

## MHD turbulence



*Vorticity sheets and current sheets*

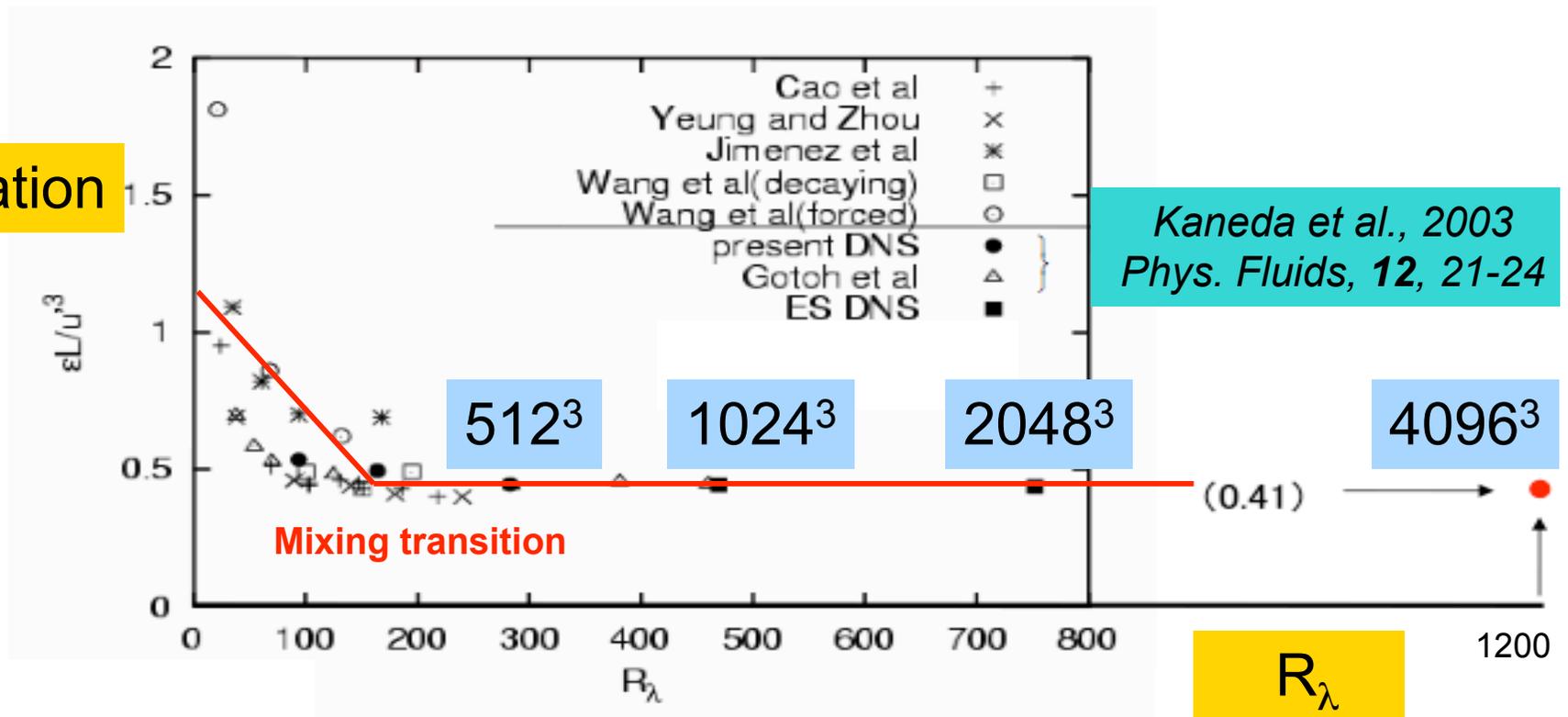
*Politano et al., Phys.  
Plasmas, 2, 2931, 1995*

# Fully-developed turbulence

Normalized energy dissipation  $\alpha \rightarrow ?$

$$\alpha = \epsilon L / u'^3 \quad \text{as } \nu \rightarrow 0, \text{ or } Re \rightarrow \infty$$

Dissipation



Dissipation independent of viscosity  $\Rightarrow$  turbulent dissipation

Why? how turbulent dissipation differs from viscous dissipation?

# How to decompose turbulent flows?

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## Reynolds averaging (1883)

$$\text{Field } f = \text{Mean } \langle f \rangle + \text{Fluctuations } f'$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f' \rangle &= 0 & \langle \langle f \rangle \rangle &= \langle f \rangle \\ \langle f + g \rangle &= \langle f \rangle + \langle g \rangle & \langle \nabla f \rangle &= \nabla \langle f \rangle \end{aligned}$$

*but nonlinearity is hard to handle since there is no scale separation*

$$\implies \langle fg \rangle = \langle f \rangle \langle g \rangle + \text{Reynolds Stress } \langle f' g' \rangle$$

We propose to decompose **Fluctuations**  $f'$  into  
**Coherent Fluctuations** + **Incoherent Fluctuations**

$$f' = f'_c + f'_i$$

# How to decompose turbulent fluctuations?

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'In 1938 Tollmien and Prandtl suggested that *turbulent fluctuations might consist of two components*, a *diffusive* and a *non-diffusive*. Their ideas that fluctuations include both *random* and *non random* elements are correct, but **as yet there is no known procedure for separating them.**'

Hugh Dryden, *Adv. Appl. Mech.*, **1**, 1948

**turbulent fluctuations**  
= **non random** + **random**  
= **coherent structures** + **incoherent noise**

⇒ Coherent Vorticity Extraction (**CVE**)

**turbulent dynamics**  
= **chaotic non diffusive** + **stochastic diffusive**  
= **inviscid nonlinear dynamics** + **turbulent dissipation**

⇒ Coherent Vorticity Simulation (**CVS**)

Farge,  
*Ann. Rev. Fluid Mech.*, **24**, 1992

Farge, Schneider, Kevlahan,  
*Phys. Fluids*, **11** (8), 1999

Farge, Pellegrino, Schneider  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.*, **87** (5), 2001

# How to define coherent structures?

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Since there is **not yet a universal definition of coherent structures** which emerge out of turbulent fluctuations,  
we adopt an **apophetic method** :  
**instead of defining what they are, we define what they are not.**

For this we propose the minimal statement:  
**'Coherent structures are not noise'**

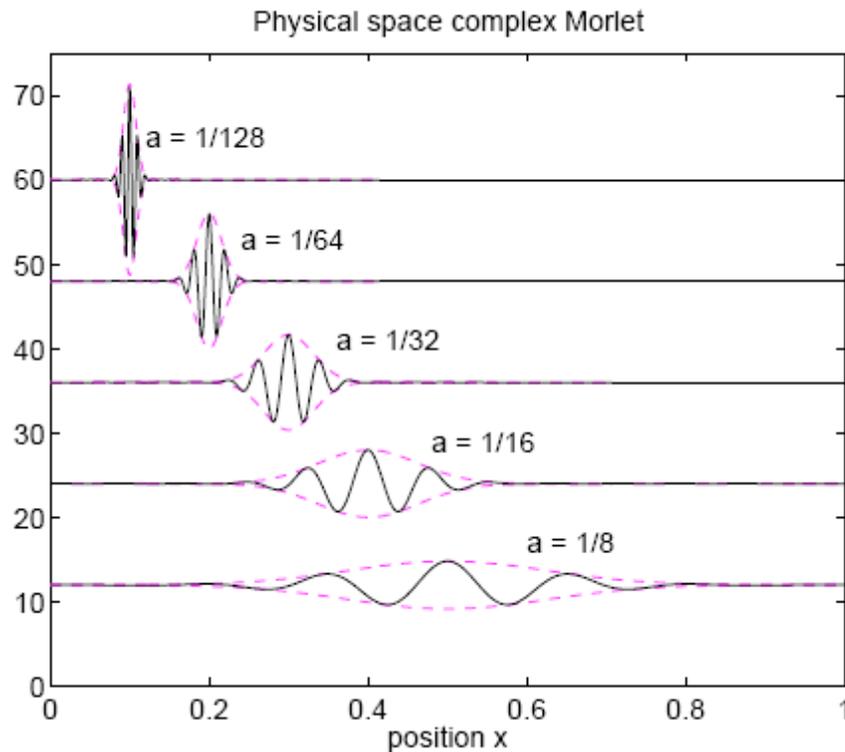


Extracting coherent structures becomes a **denoising problem**,  
**not requiring any hypotheses on the structures themselves**  
**but only on the noise** to be eliminated.

Choosing the **simplest hypothesis** as a first guess,  
we suppose we want to eliminate an **additive Gaussian white noise**,  
and for this we use a **nonlinear wavelet filtering**.

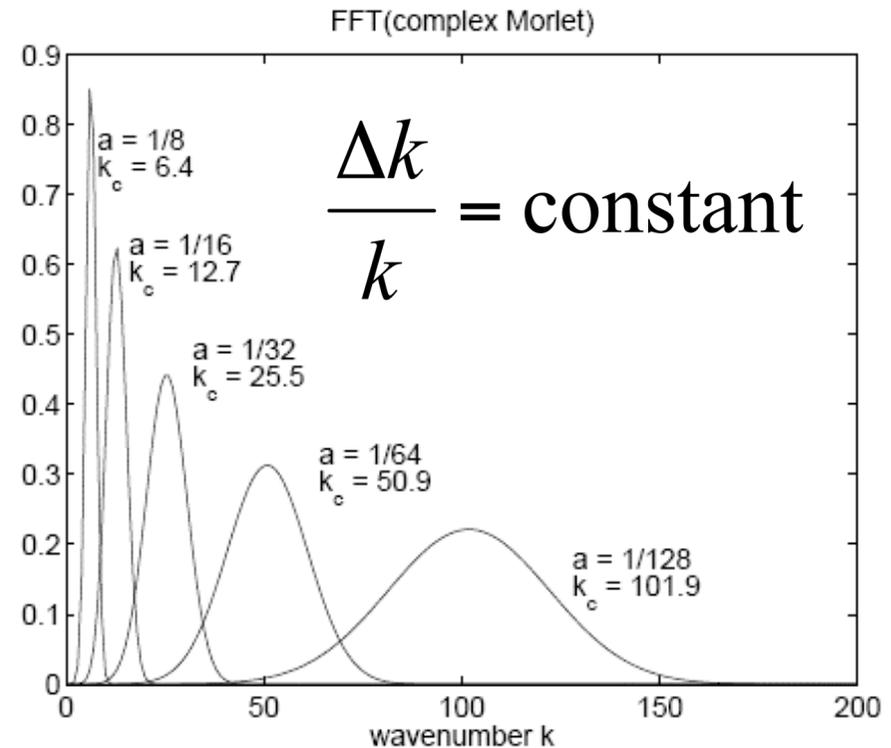
*Farge, Schneider et al.*  
*Phys. Fluids, 15 (10), 2003*

# Wavelet representation



## Physical space

*A. Grossmann and J. Morlet,  
Decomposition of Hardy functions into  
square integrable wavelets of constant shape,  
SIAM J. Math. Anal., 15, 1984*



## Spectral space

*M. Farge  
Wavelet transforms and their  
applications to turbulence  
Ann. Rev. Fluid Mech., 24, 1992*

# 3D orthogonal wavelets

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- **fast algorithm** with **linear complexity**
- **no redundancy** between the coefficients

A 3D vector field  $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x})$  sampled on  $N = 2^{3J}$  equidistant grid points

$\psi_\lambda(\mathbf{x})$  3D wavelet  $\rightarrow$  orthogonal wavelet series

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum \tilde{v}_\lambda \psi_\lambda(\mathbf{x}), \quad \tilde{v}_\lambda = \langle \mathbf{v}, \psi_\lambda \rangle$$

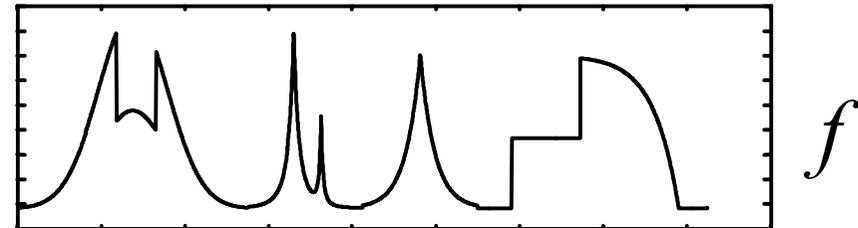
$$\Lambda = \{ \lambda = (j, i_n, \mu), j = 0, \dots, J-1, i_n = 0, \dots, 2^j - 1, n = 1, 2, 3, \text{ and } \mu = 1, \dots, 7 \}$$

$$N_j = 7 \times 2^{3j}, \text{ wavelet coefficients at a scale indexed by } j$$

We use here **the Coifman 12 wavelet** which is compactly supported, four vanishing moments, quasi-symmetric.

# Wavelet denoising

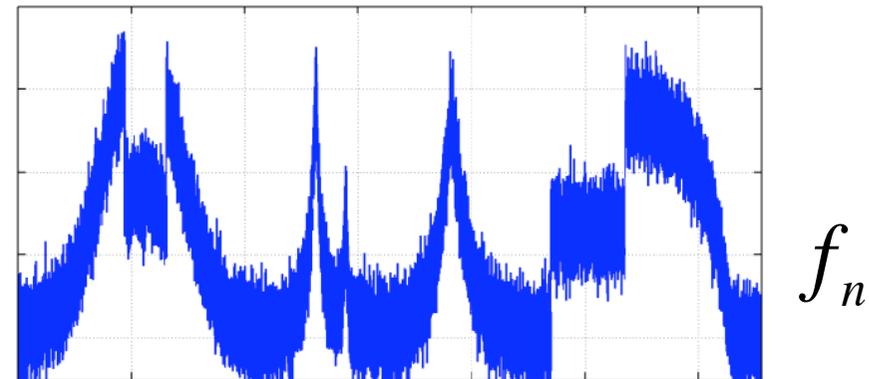
- **Apophatic method**
  - no hypothesis on the structures,
  - only hypothesis on the noise,
  - simplest hypothesis as our first choice.



- **Hypothesis on the noise**

$$f_n = f_d + n$$

$n$  : Gaussian white noise,  
 $\langle f_n^2 \rangle$  : variance of the noisy signal,  
 $N$  : number of coefficients of  $f_n$ .



- **Wavelet decomposition**

$$\tilde{f}_{ji} = \langle f | \psi_{ji} \rangle$$

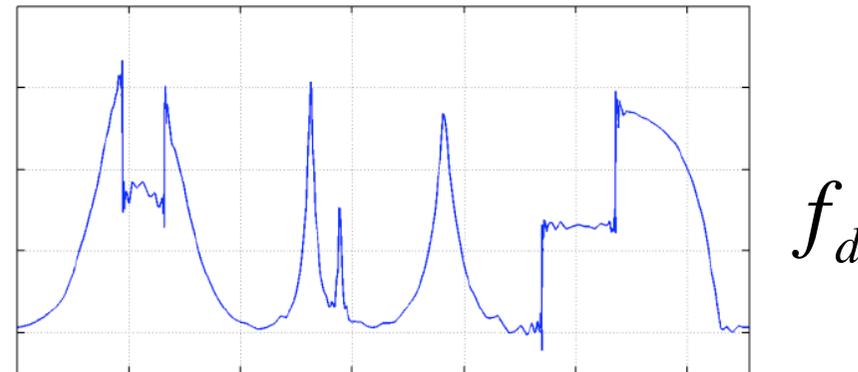
*j scale*  
*i position*

- **Estimation of the threshold**

$$\varepsilon_n = \sqrt{2 \langle f_n^2 \rangle \ln(N)}$$

- **Wavelet reconstruction**

$$f_d = \sum_{j\ddot{i}: |\tilde{f}_{j\ddot{i}}| < \varepsilon_n} \tilde{f}_{j\ddot{i}} \psi_{j\ddot{i}}$$



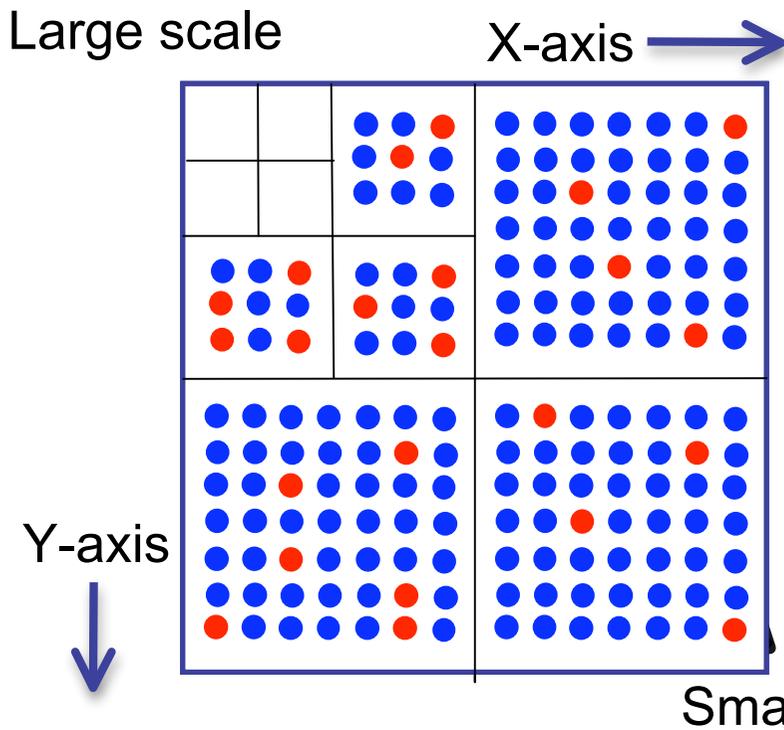
Donoho and Johnstone  
Biometrika, **81**, 1994

Azzalini, Farge and Schneider  
ACHA, **18** (2), 2005

Vorticity field in physical space

$$\omega \xrightarrow{\text{FWT}} \tilde{\omega}_\lambda \text{ Wavelet coefficients of } \omega$$

The threshold value depends on the **enstrophy** and the **resolution** of the field only.



$$\rho_\epsilon(\tilde{\omega}_\lambda) = \begin{cases} \tilde{\omega}_\lambda & \text{for } |\tilde{\omega}_\lambda| > \epsilon, \\ 0 & \text{for } |\tilde{\omega}_\lambda| \leq \epsilon, \end{cases}$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_c = \rho_\epsilon(\tilde{\omega}_\lambda) \quad \text{coherent}$$

$$\tilde{\omega}_i = \tilde{\omega}_\lambda - \tilde{\omega}_c \quad \text{incoherent}$$

FWT inverse

Coherent vorticity in physical space

Coherent vorticity in physical space

$$\omega_c$$

$$\omega_i = \omega - \omega_c$$

# **Turbulence and Wavelets**

**Coherent Vorticity and  
Current sheet Extraction  
(CVCE)**

**Coherent Vorticity and  
Current sheet Simulation  
(CVCS)**

# Application to MHD turbulence

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- Generalization of the **CVE** method to **CVCE**, **Coherent Vorticity and coherent Current Extraction**, out of MHD homogeneous and isotropic turbulence,
- Decomposition of **vorticity and current density fields** into **coherent** and **incoherent** contributions,
- Evaluation of the **compression** thus obtained to assess the feasibility and potential of **CVCS**, **Coherent Vorticity and Current Simulation**, a deterministic computation of the coherent fields only using an **adaptive wavelet basis**, while discarding the incoherent contributions.

# 3D MHD equations

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3D incompressible MHD turbulence  
without mean magnetic field

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla P + \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{b} + \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{f}^u$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{b}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{b}) + \eta \Delta \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{f}^b$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0,$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$$

$\mathbf{u}$  velocity field

$\mathbf{b}$  magnetic field

Magnetic Prandtl number  $Pr_m=1$ :  $\nu = \eta$ ,

Random forcing imposed on velocity and magnetic fields  
at low-wavenumbers,  $k < 2.5$ .

# Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS)

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- DNS of 3D incompressible MHD turbulence **without mean magnetic field** in a periodic box,
- Magnetic Prandtl number  $Pr_m=1$ ,
- The simulations use a **dealiased pseudo-spectral** method, and a **fourth order Runge-Kutta** method for time marching,
- **Random forcing** imposed on velocity and magnetic fields at low-wavenumbers,  $k < 2.5$ ,
- The DNS was performed until the energy dissipation rate per unit mass remains almost constant to insure that the flow has reached a **statistically quasi-stationary state**.

# DNS parameters

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$N$	$E^u$	$E^b$	$Z^u$	$Z^b$	$k_{\max}\eta_{\text{IK}}$	$R_\lambda^u$	$R_\lambda^b$
$512^3$	0.386	0.873	96.8	136	2.1	159	304

$E^u, E^b$ : kinetic and magnetic energies

$Z^u, Z^b$ : kinetic and magnetic enstrophies

$\eta_{\text{IK}}$ : The Iroshnikov and Kraichnan (IK) microscale

$R_\lambda^u, R_\lambda^b$ : kinetic and magnetic Taylor microscale Reynolds numbers

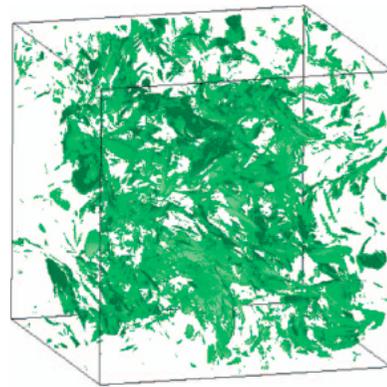
Cross helicity and magnetic helicity are almost zero.

Yoshimatsu, Kondo, Schneider,  
Okamoto, Hagiwara and Farge  
*Phys. Plasmas*, **16**, 082306, 2009

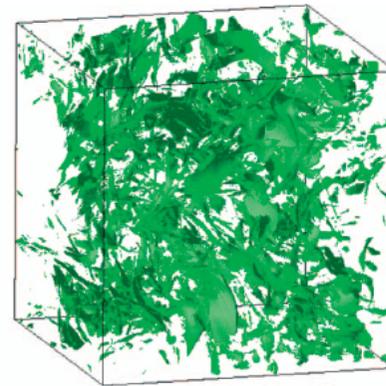
# CVCE method

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- Extraction coherent vorticity and coherent current from the **vorticity field** and **current density field**.



$|\omega|$



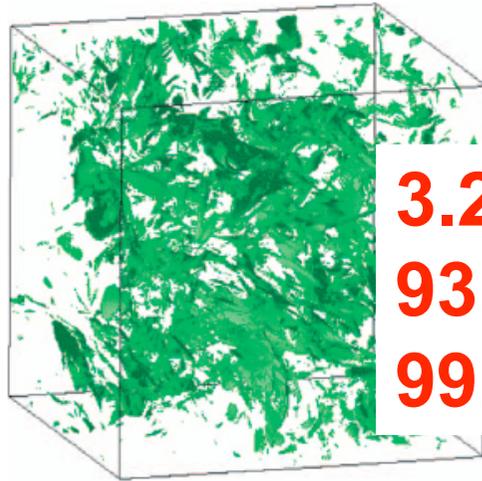
$|j|$

- The same definition of coherent structures as **CVE**,
- Application of **nonlinear thresholding** to the **wavelet coefficients** of  $\omega$  and  $j$ , **separately**.

total

coherent

$|\omega|$

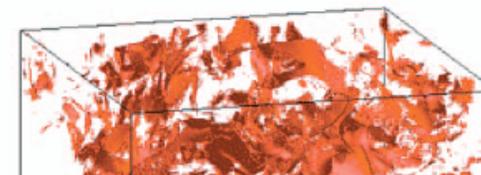
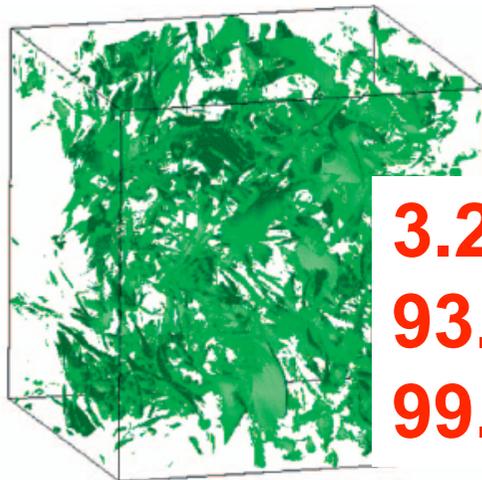


**3.2%** of the **wavelet** coefficients  
**93.2%** of the kinetic enstrophy  
**99.8%** of the kinetic energy

$$|\omega| = m_\omega + 4\sigma_\omega$$



$|j|$



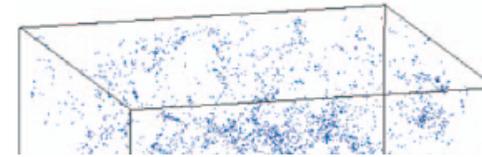
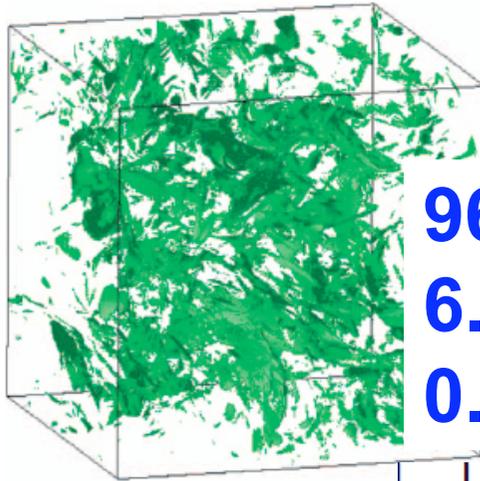
**3.2%** of the **wavelet** coefficients  
**93.7%** of the magnetic enstrophy  
**99.9%** of the magnetic energy

$$|j| = m_j + 4\sigma_j$$

total

incoherent

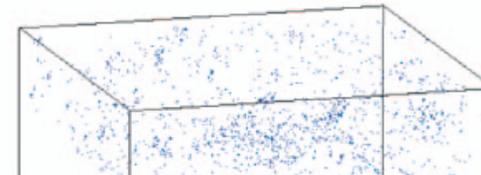
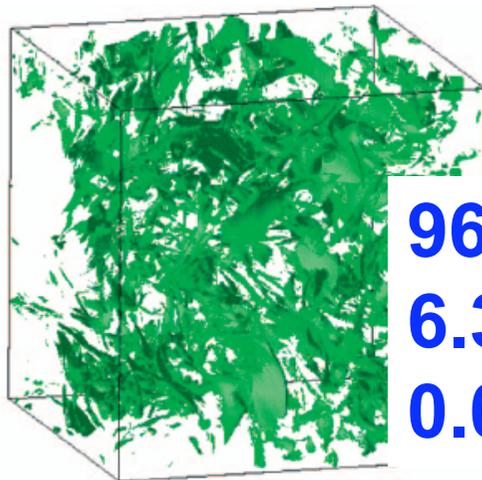
$|\omega|$



**96.8%** of the **wavelet** coefficients  
**6.8%** of the kinetic enstrophy  
**0.1%** of the kinetic energy

$$|\omega| = (m_\omega + 4\sigma_\omega)/3$$

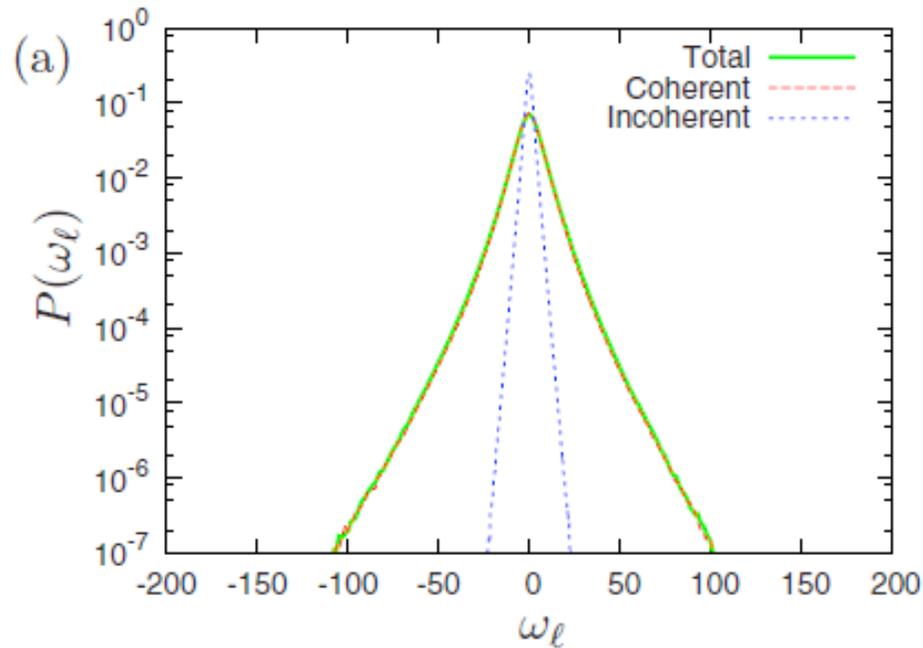
$|j|$



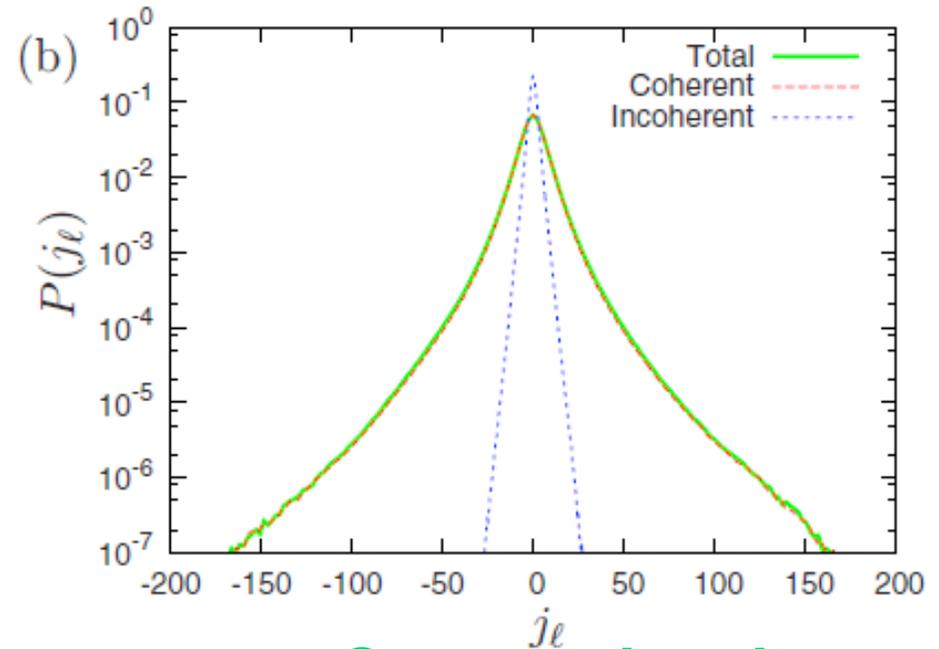
**96.8%** of the **wavelet** coefficients  
**6.3%** of the magnetic enstrophy  
**0.06%** of the magnetic energy

$$|j| = (m_j + 4\sigma_j)/3$$

# PDF of vorticity and current density



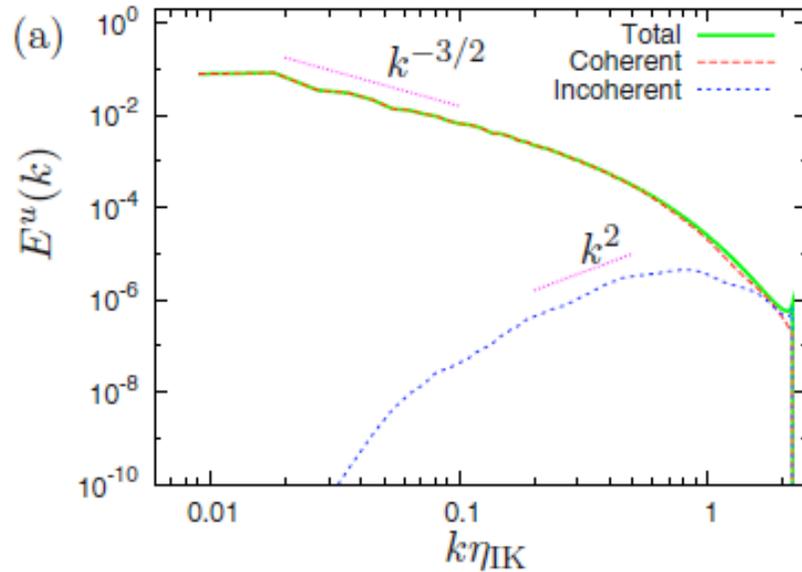
Vorticity



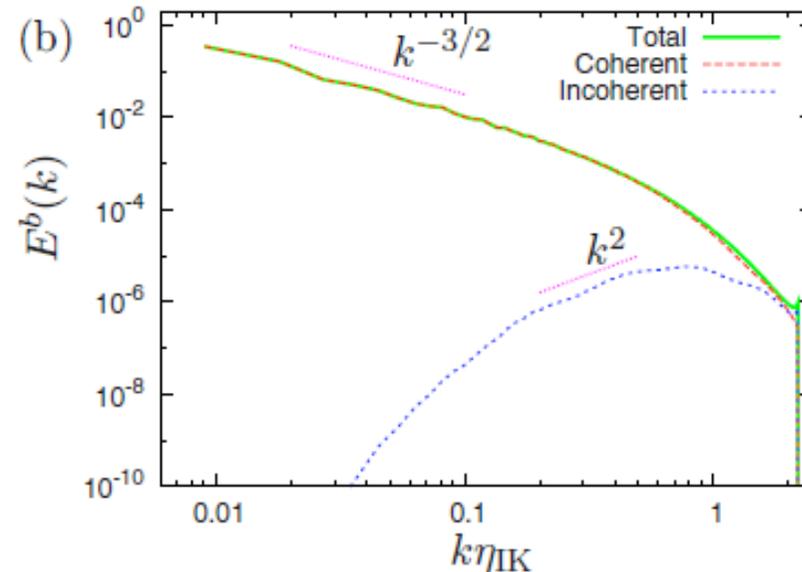
Current density

- The **total** and **coherent** PDFs well superimpose.
- The PDFs of the **incoherent** fields have reduced variances compared to those of the **total** fields.

# Energy spectra



**Kinetic energy**



**Magnetic energy**

- **Coherent** contributions:

$$E_C^u(k) \propto k^{-3/2} \quad (\text{Iroshnikov-Kraichnan}) \quad E_C^b(k) \propto k^{-3/2}$$

- **Incoherent** contributions:

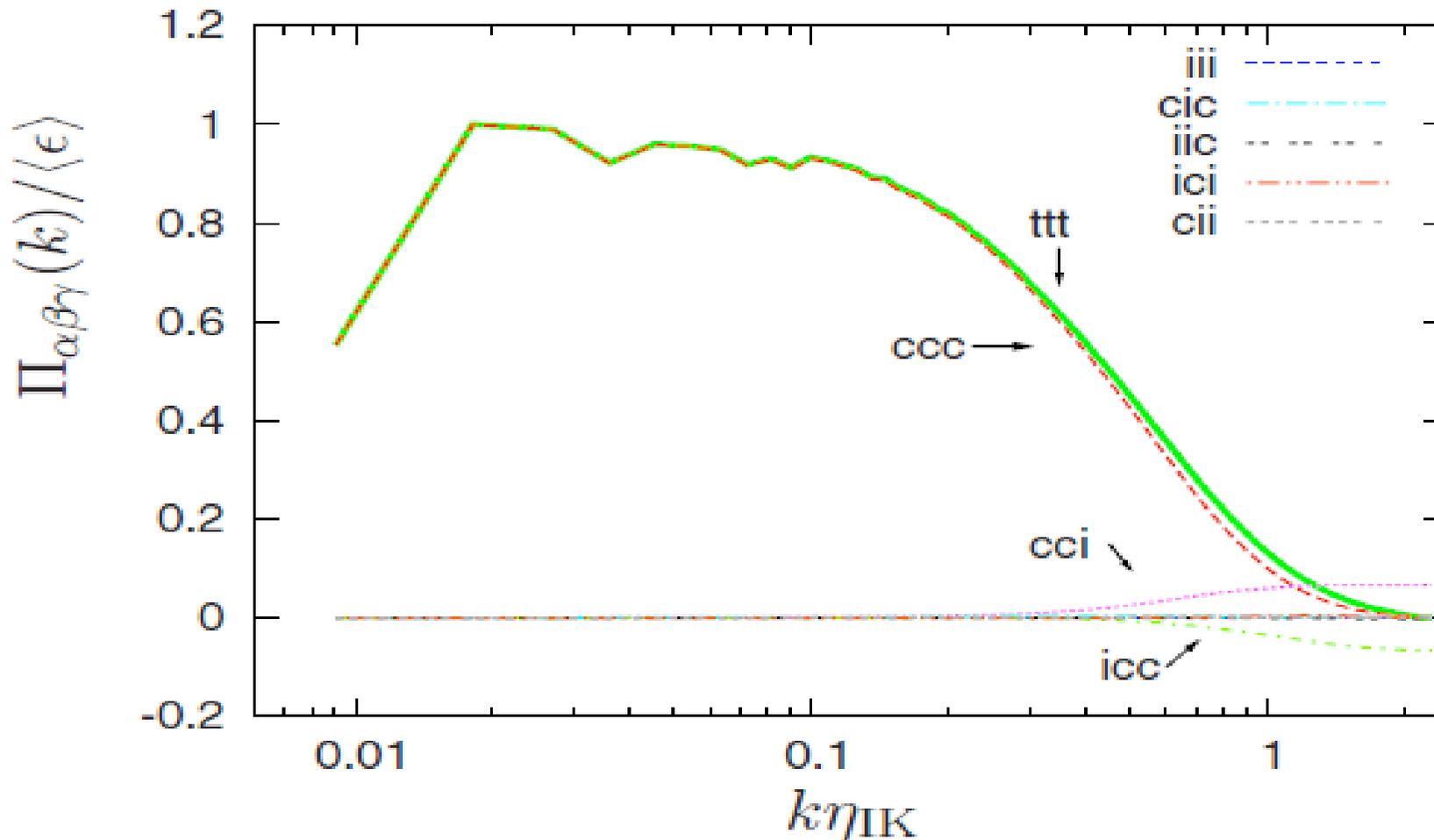
$$E_I^u(k) \propto k^2 \quad (\text{energy equipartition}) \quad E_I^b(k) \propto k^2$$

# Nonlinear transfers and energy fluxes

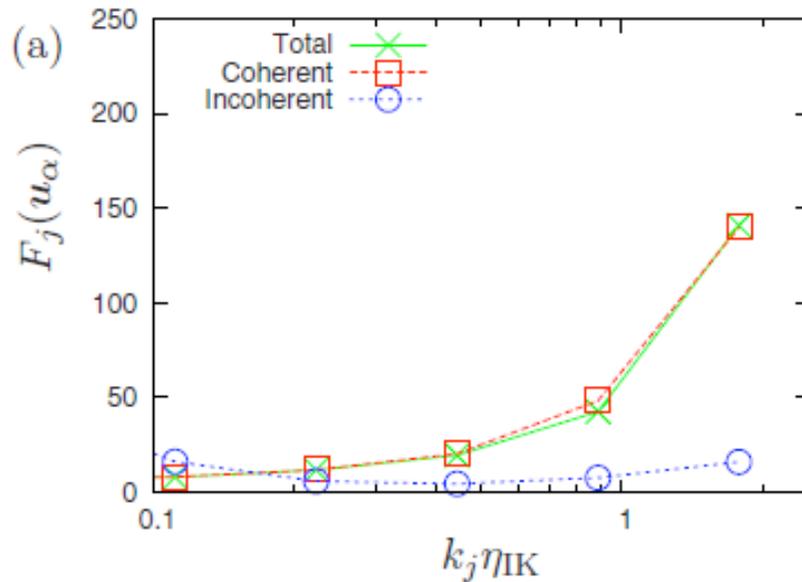
$$T_{\alpha\beta\gamma}(k) = \sum_{k-\frac{1}{2} \leq |\vec{p}| < k+\frac{1}{2}} \widehat{\vec{v}}_{\alpha}(-\vec{p}) \cdot [(\widehat{\vec{v}}_{\beta} \cdot \widehat{\nabla}) \widehat{\vec{v}}_{\gamma}](\vec{p})$$

energy flux  $\Pi_{\alpha\beta\gamma}(k) = -\int_0^k T_{\alpha\beta\gamma}(k) dk$  for  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) \in \{c, i\}$

Yoshimatsu, Kondo, Schneider,  
Okamoto, Hagiwara and Farge  
*Phys. Plasmas*, **16**, 082306, 2009

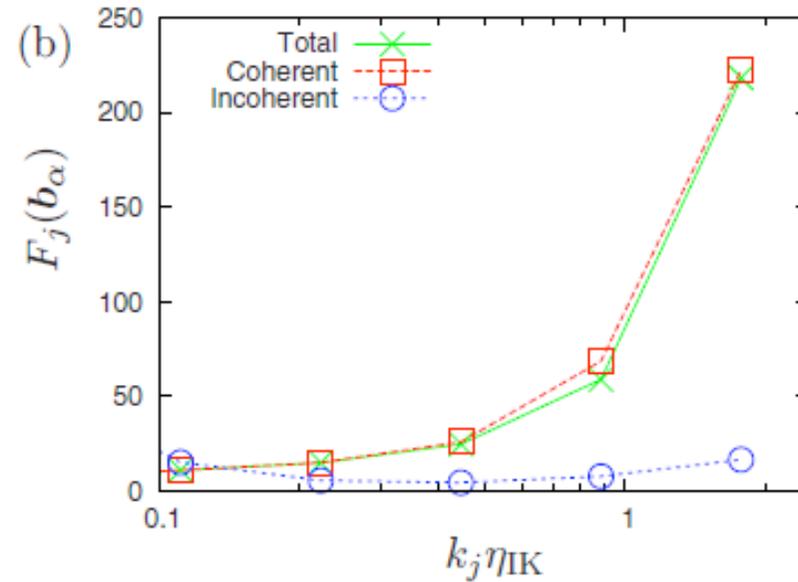


# Scale dependent flatness



Velocity

$$k_j = 2^j / 1.3$$



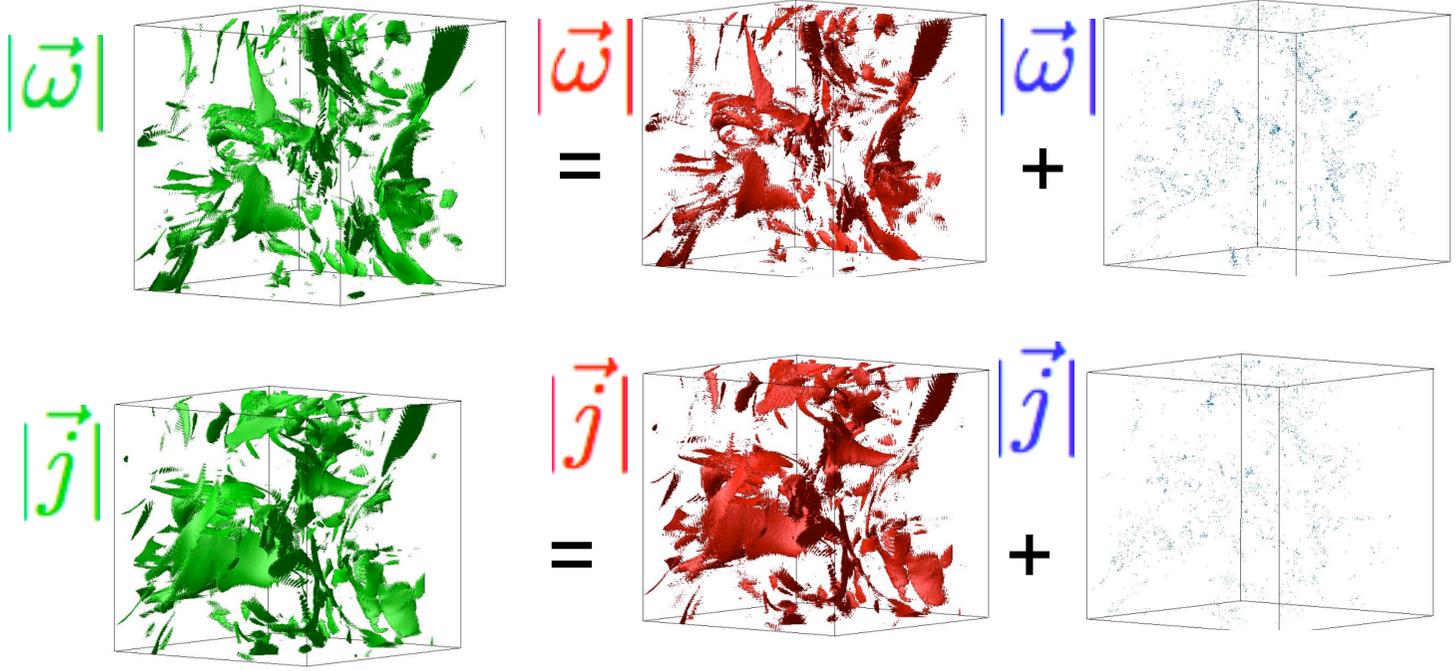
Magnetic field

- The magnetic field is more intermittent than velocity.

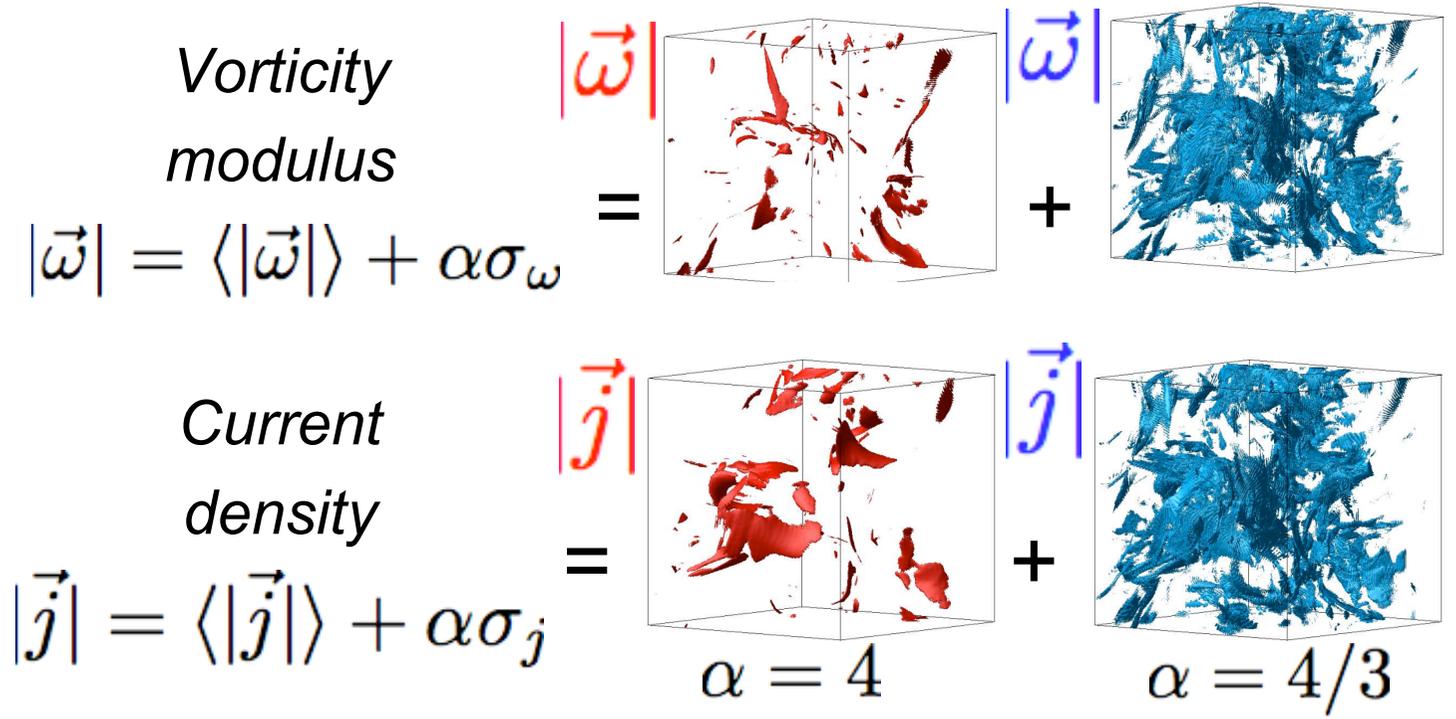
Cho et al., *Astrophys. J.*,  
595, 812, 2003

- Coherent structures (vorticity sheets and current sheets) are responsible for the intermittency.

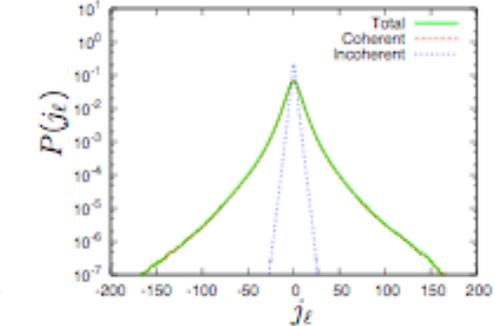
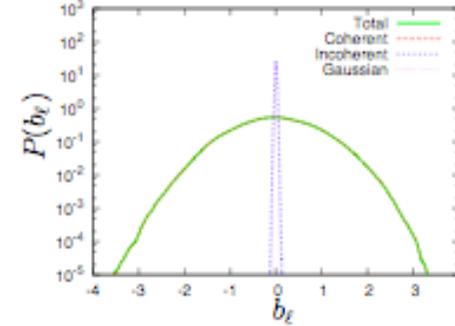
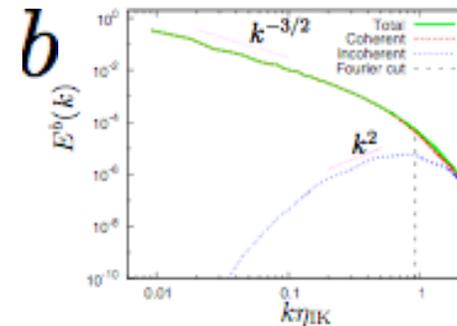
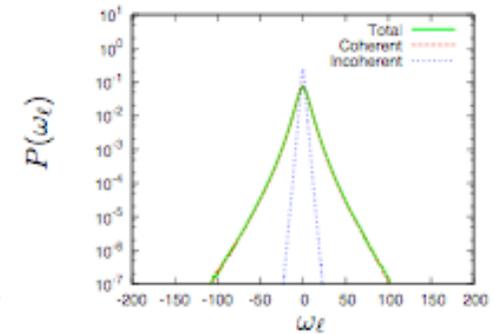
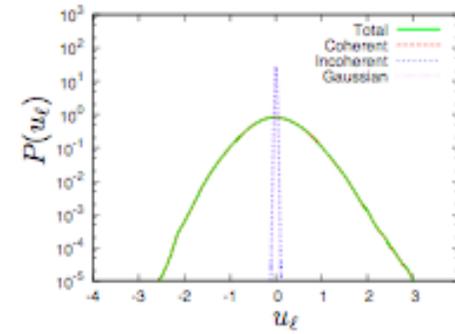
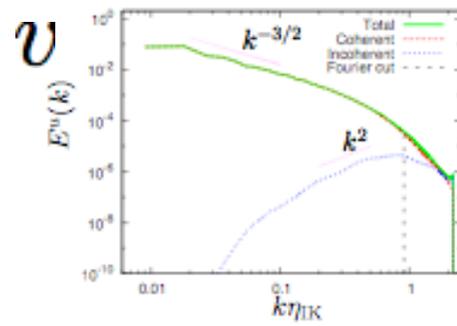
Wavelet  
CVE



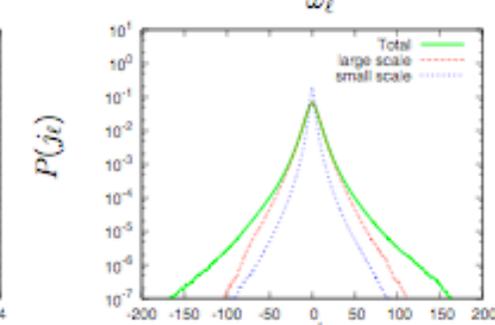
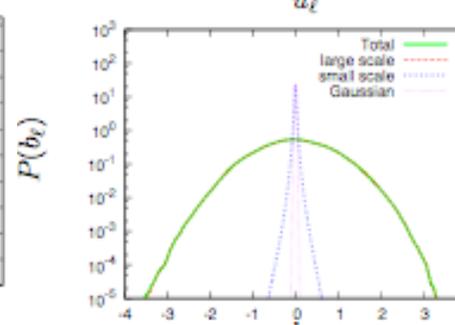
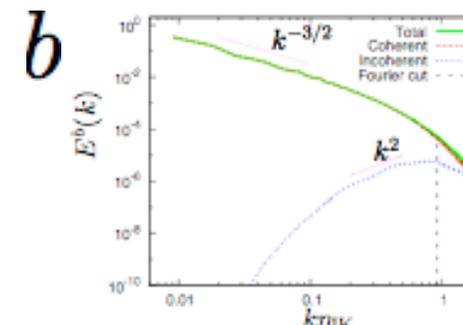
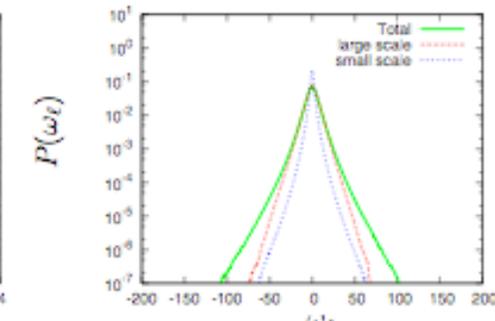
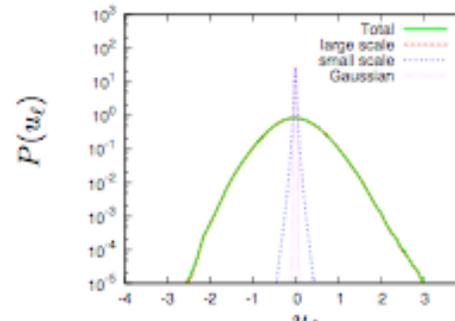
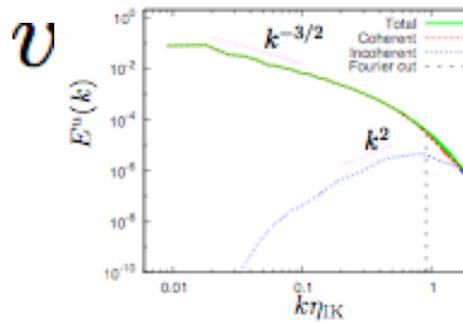
Fourier  
LSE



# Wavelet CVE



# Fourier LSE

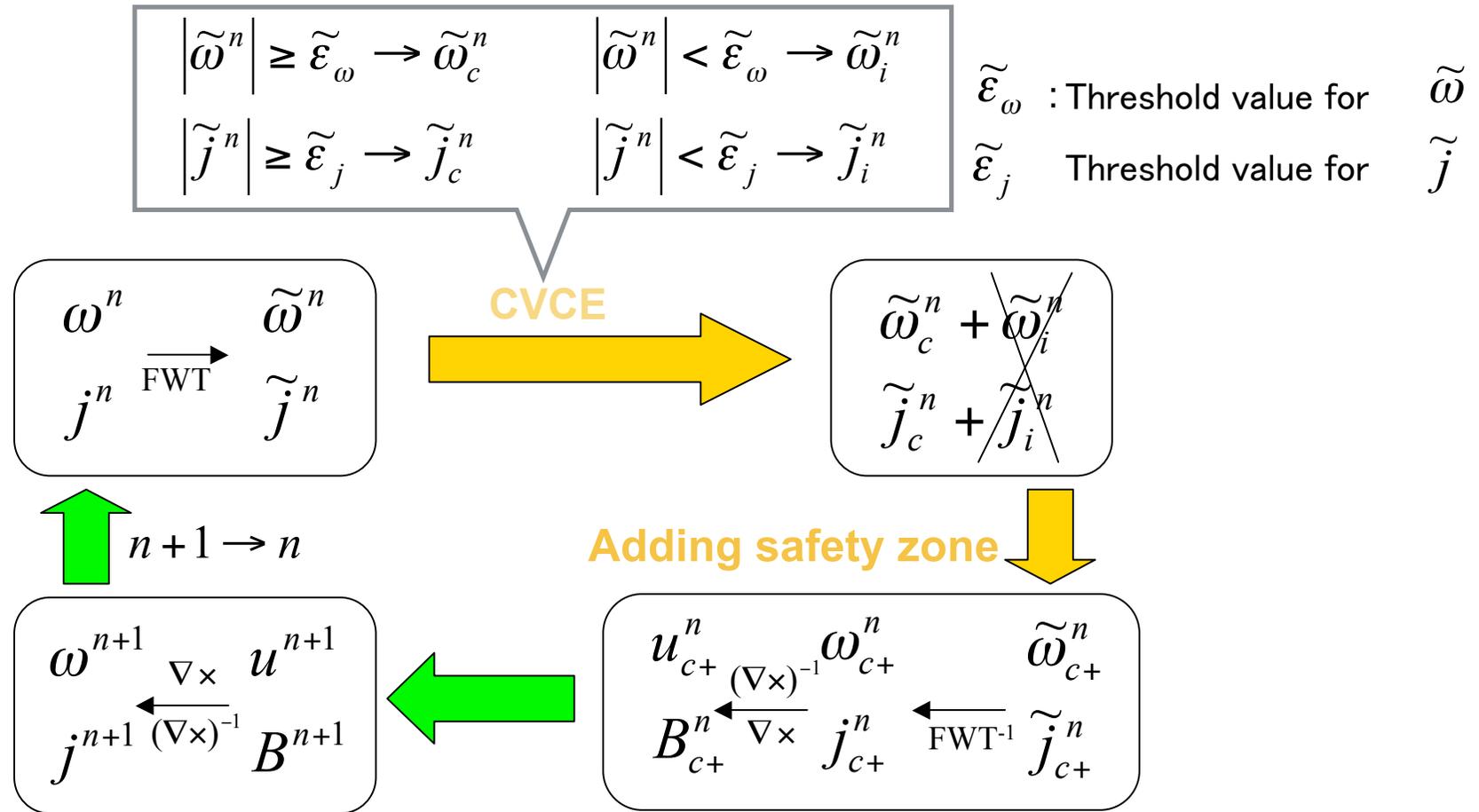


# **Turbulence and Wavelets**

**Coherent Vorticity and  
Current sheet Extraction  
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**Coherent Vorticity and  
Current sheet Simulation  
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# Flow chart of CVCS



Time integration

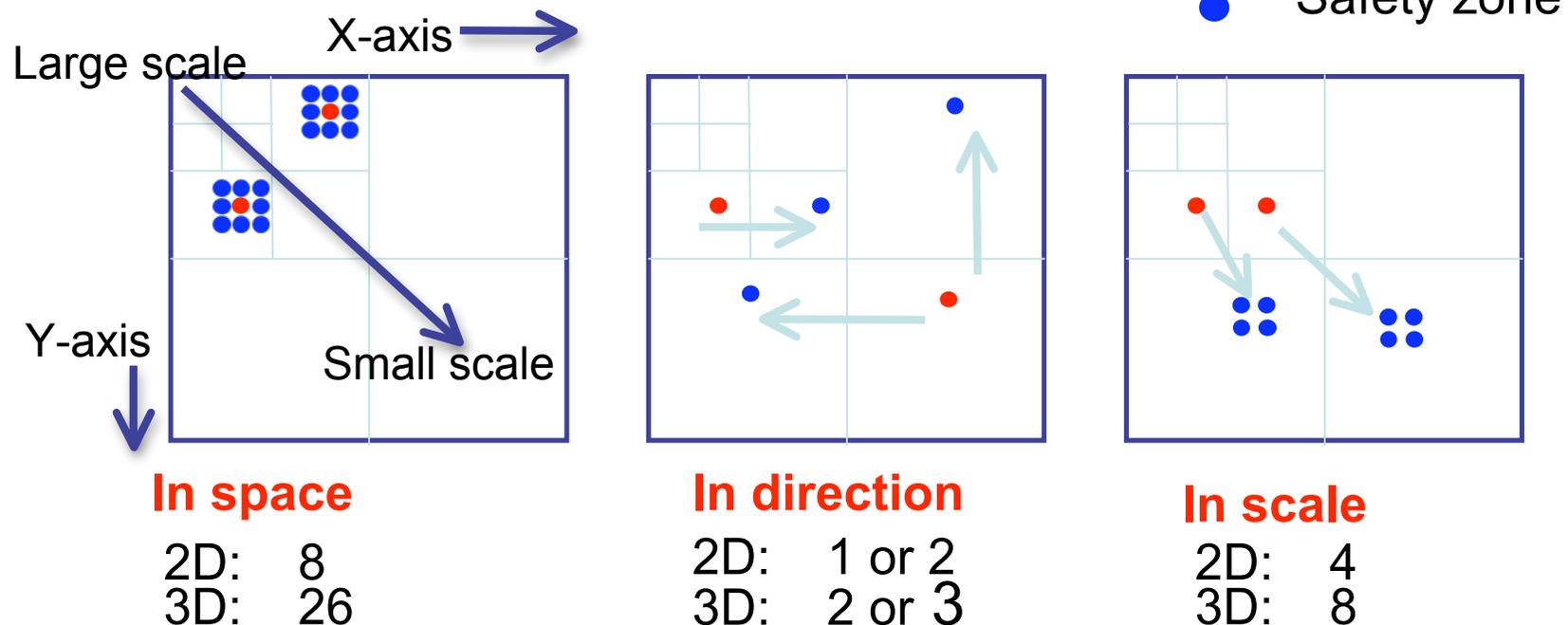
$n$  : time  
 $\sim$  : wavelet coefficients

$c$  : coherent  
 $c+$  : coherent + safety zone

# Safety zone in 3D

To track and predict the motion of the coherent structures and their generation of small scales, one requires to add a **safety zone** to the retained wavelet coefficients.

## Safety zone in wavelet space



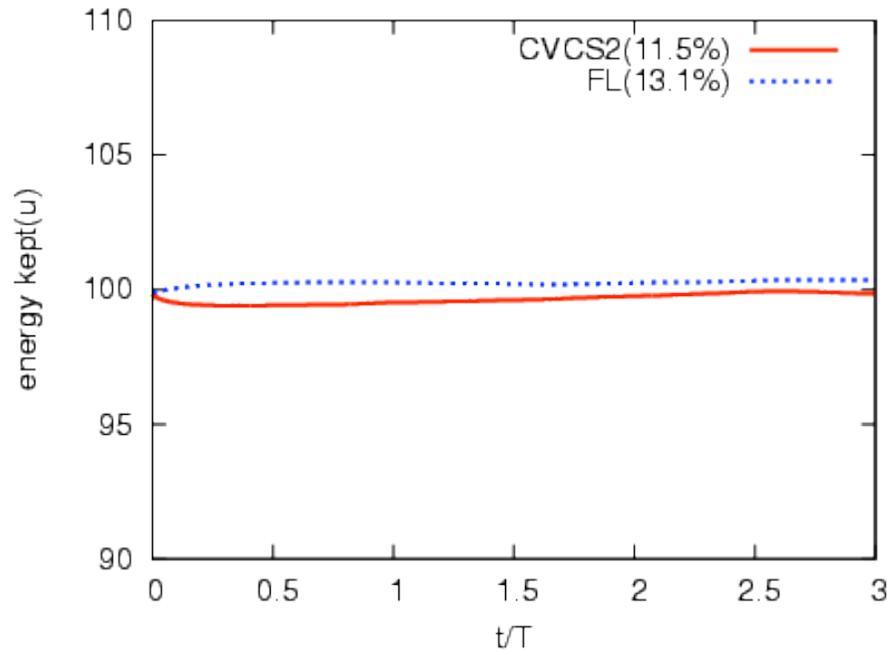
*Farge & Schneider, 2001,  
Flow, Turb., Comb., 66(4), 393*

*Schneider, Farge et al., 2005,  
J. Fluid Mech., 534(5), 39*

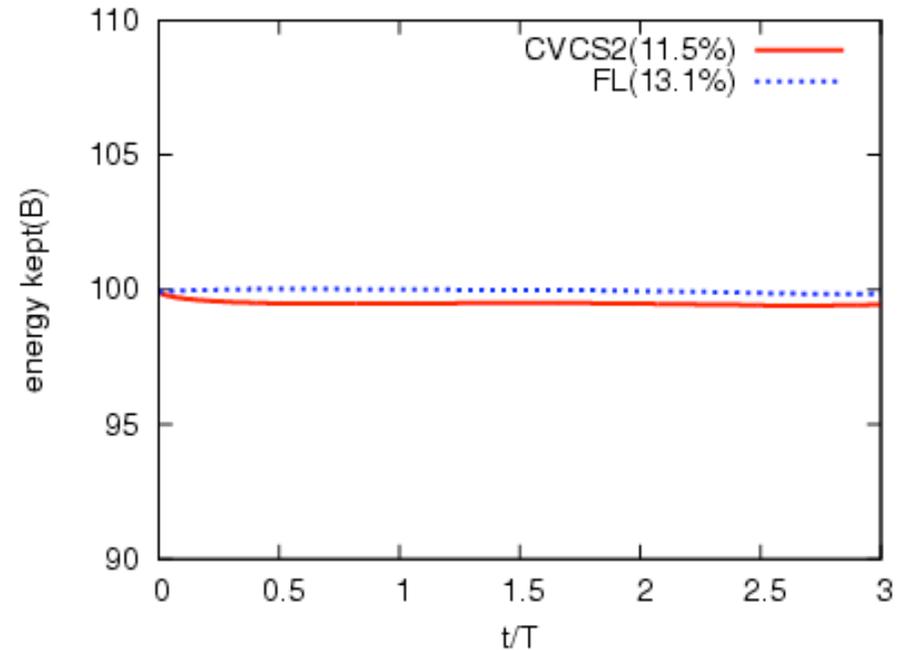
# DNS / CVCS / Fourier LES

## 11.5% N Retained energy compared to DNS

### Kinetic energy



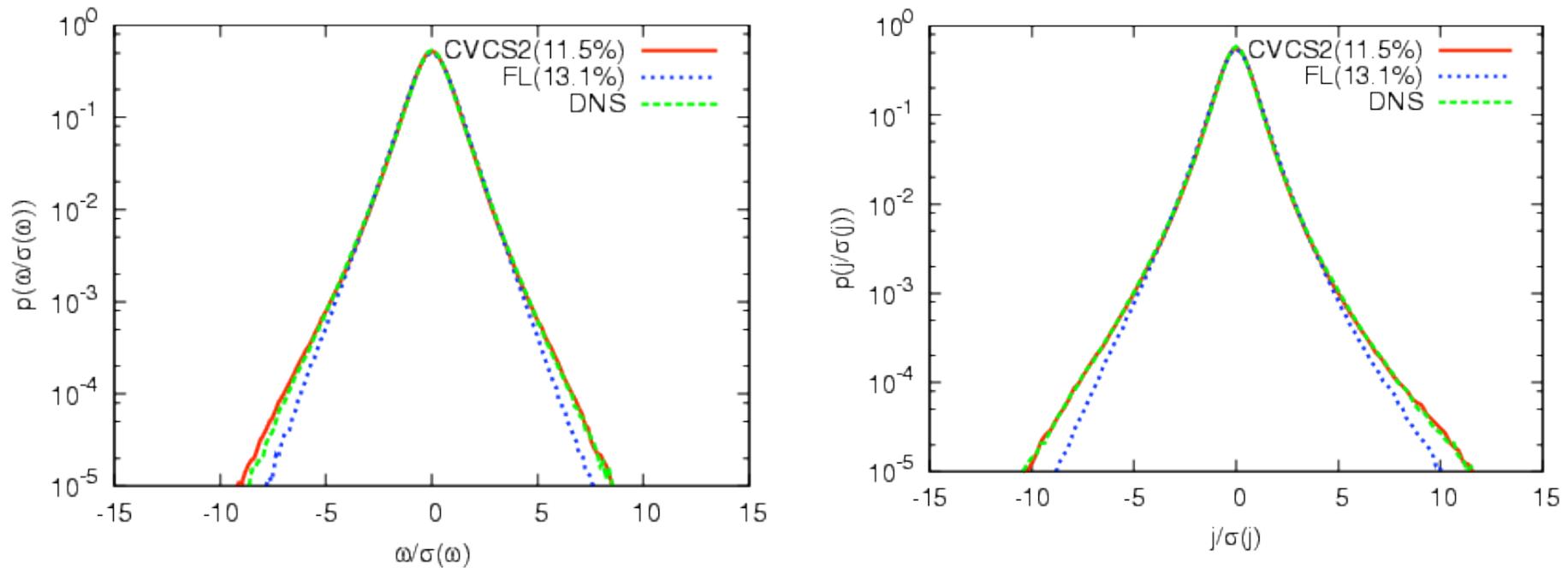
### Magnetic energy



For the ratio of CVS energy over DNS energy, we find a **good agreement within 1.5%**.

# DNS / CVCS / Fourier LES

## 11.5% N PDFs of vorticity and current density

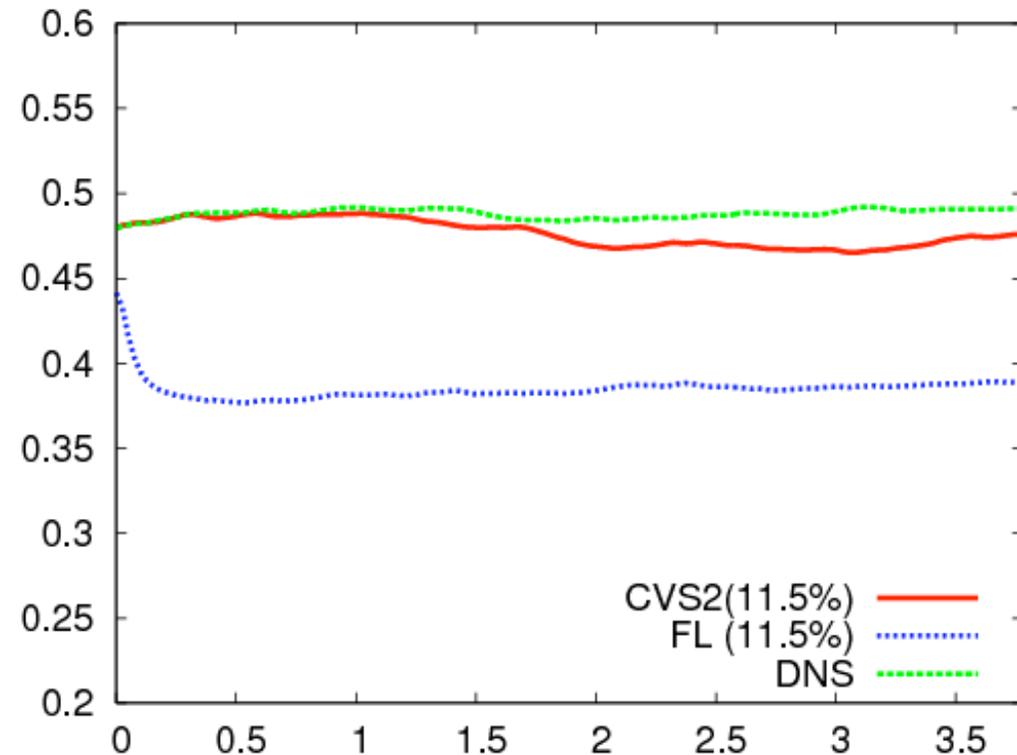


- The PDFs normalized by each standard deviation for **DNS** and **CVCS** almost superimpose.
- The PDF for **Linear Fourier** is slightly narrower compared to that for **DNS**.

# DNS / CVCS / Fourier LES

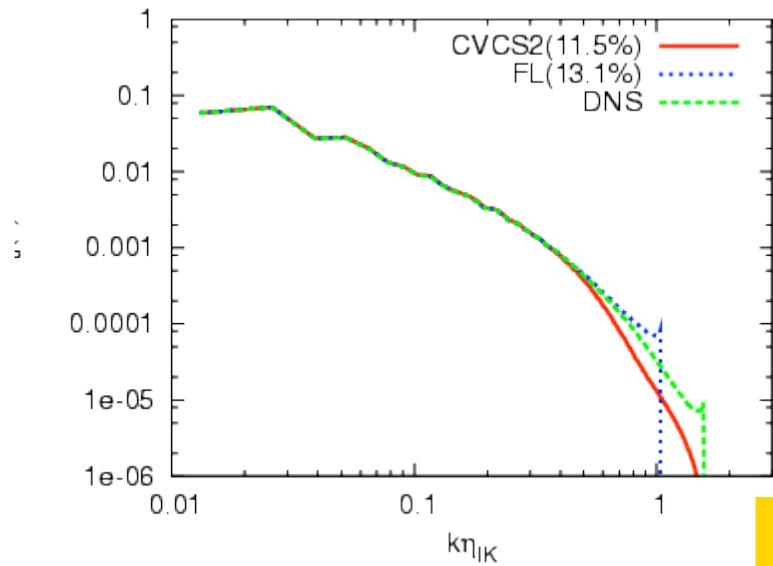
11.5% N

## Skewness of the velocity gradients

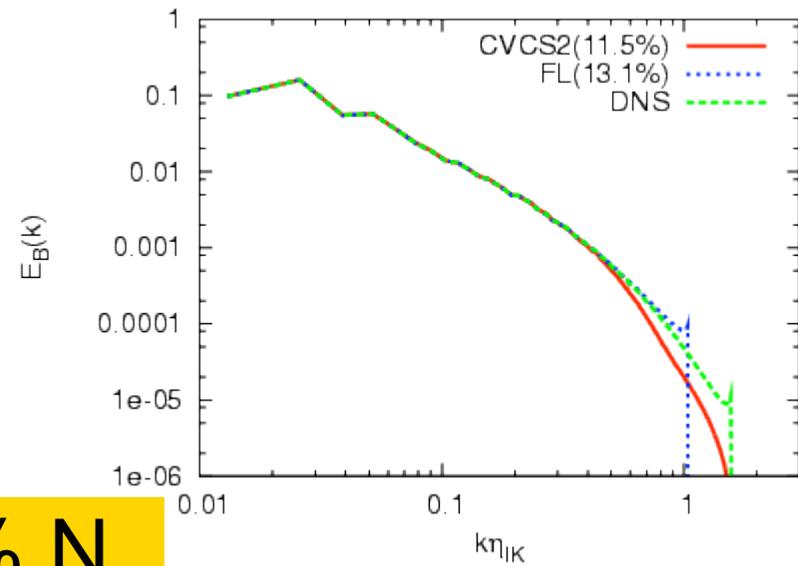


CVCS is in reasonable agreement with DNS but the Linear Fourier for the same compression rate differs by more than 20% with respect to DNS.

# Kinetic energy spectrum

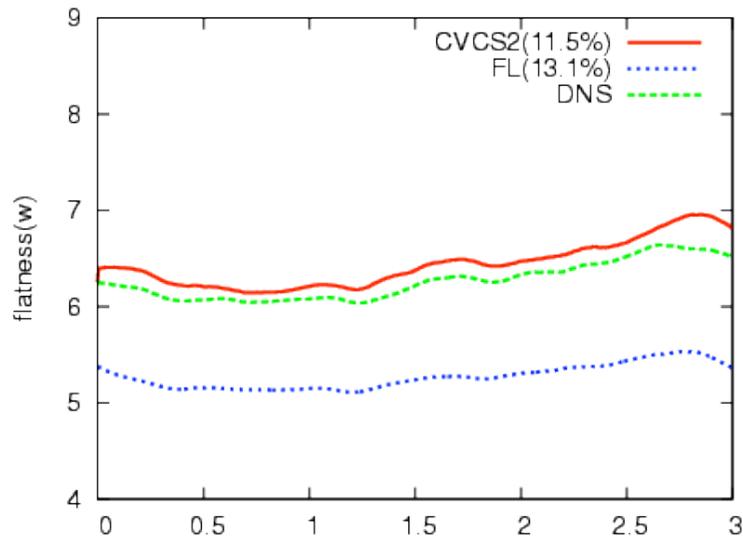


# Magnetic energy spectrum

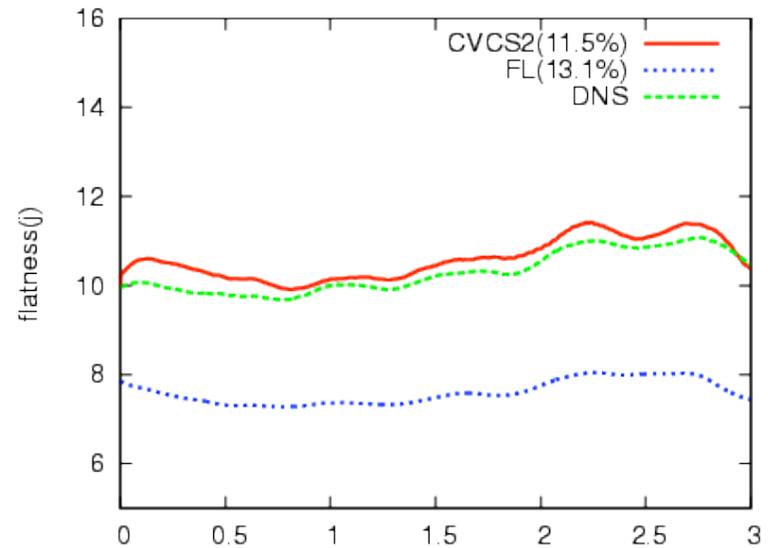


11.5% N

# Flatness of vorticity



# Flatness of current density



# Conclusion

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- We introduced **CVCE** method for extracting coherent structures out of 3D homogeneous MHD turbulence,
- About **3.2% N** wavelet coefficients are **sufficient** to represent the coherent vorticity sheets and the coherent current sheets,
- These **coherent structures** are **responsible for the flow intermittency**,
- The **statistics of the coherent** velocity and coherent magnetic fields are **similar to those of the total** velocity and total magnetic fields, respectively,
- The tests of **Coherent Vorticity and Current Simulation (CVCS)** and their comparison with Fourier/LES are **promising**.

*To download papers and codes*  
**<http://wavelets.ens.fr>**