





Role of coherent structures for transport in fully-developed turbulence

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Outline

- 1. Turbulence and wavelets Turbulence and averages Continuous and orthogonal wavelets Extraction of coherent structures
- 2. Role of coherent structures
 2D Numerical experiments (DNS)
 2D Laboratory experiment (PIV)
 3D Numerical experiments (DNS)
- 3. Interpretation and perspectives Interpretation of the turbulent cascade Conclusion and perspectives : Coherent Vortex Simulation (CVS)

Fully-developed turbulence

Turbulence is a property of flows which involves a **large number of degrees of freedom** interacting together, *i.e.*, a **crowd** (*turba,ae*) of vortices (*turbo, turbinis*).

Fluid hypothesis : observation is made at scales much larger than the mean free path of particles.

Turbulent flows are solutions of **Navier-Stokes equations** :

$$\partial_t ec{\omega} + (ec{v} \cdot
abla) ec{\omega} - ec{\omega} \cdot
abla ec{v} =
u \,
abla^2 \omega +
abla imes ec{F}$$

 $ec{\omega} =
abla imes ec{v} \ ext{ and } \
abla \cdot ec{v} = 0$

 ω vorticity, v velocity, F external force, v viscosity and ρ =1 density, plus initial conditions and boundary conditions

Fully-developed turbulence when Reynolds number is very large, *i.e.*, when the nonlinear term strongly dominates the viscous linear term.

One realization of a fully developed turbulent flow



Modulus of vorticity

Energy spectrum



2D turbulent flow in a cylindrical container



DNS N=1024²

Random initial conditions

No-slip boundary conditions using volume penalization

Schneider & Farge Phys. Rev. Lett., December 2005

Turbulence practice is the 'art of averaging'

Reynolds averaging (1883):
Field
$$f$$
 = Mean \overline{f} + Fluctuations f'
with $\overline{f}' = 0$ $\overline{\overline{f}} = \overline{f}$
 $\overline{f} = \overline{f} = \overline{f}$
 $\overline{f} = \overline{f} = \overline{\partial}\overline{f}$

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

$$\overline{fg}=\overline{f}\overline{g}+\overline{f'g'}$$

Proposition :
 $f'=f_c'+f_i'$

Fluctuations = coherent fluctuations + incoherent fluctuations

Research program to study turbulence

'In the last decade we have experienced a conceptual shift in our view of turbulence. For flows with strong velocity shear, or other organizing characteristics, many now feel that the spectral description has inhibited fundamental progress. **The next "El Dorado" lies in the mathematical understanding of coherent structures** in weakly dissipative fluids: the formation, evolution and interaction of metastable vortex-like solutions of nonlinear partial differential equations...'



Norman Zabusky, Physics Today, 1984

We have proposed to replace the Fourier representation by the **wavelet representation** to keep track of **coherent structures** and to replace classical averages by **nonlinear filtering of wavelet coefficients.**

Farge and Rabreau, 1988, C. R. Acad. Paris, **307** Farge, 1992, Ann. Rev. Fluid Mech., **24** Farge and Schneider, 2006 Encyclopedia Math. Phys., Elsevier

Integral transforms



Other representations



Space-wavenumber representation

Space-scale representation

Wavelet representation

Wavelets are functions well localized in both physical and spectral space. The wavelet representation is based on a set of dilated and translated wavelets Ψ_{ii} indexed by scale *j* and position *i*.

The space locality of f is kept by each wavelet coefficient f_{ji} since each coefficient is indexed by its scale j and its position i. Therefore filtering in wavelet basis preserves space locality.

In contrast Fourier coefficients are indexed by wavenumbers and therefore one needs to know the phase of all coefficients to preserve space locality. Therefore filtering in Fourier basis looses space locality.

Special wavelets can generate orthogonal bases. Using them, a signal sampled on *N* points is represented by *N* wavelet coefficients and the computing cost of the fast wavelet transform is proportional to *N* operations.

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

Farge and Schneider, Encyclopedia of Mathematical Physics, 2006

Wavelet transforms

Analyzing functions : Translates and dilates of an oscillating function (zero mean) Well localized in space and wavenumber	
Wavelet coefficients : $\tilde{f}(l, \vec{x}) = \langle \psi_{l, \vec{x}} f(\vec{x}) \rangle$	
Continuous wavelets	Orthogonal wavelets
$\Psi_{l,\vec{x}} = \frac{1}{l^{n/2}} \Psi\left(\frac{x'-x}{l}\right)$	$\Psi_{j,i} = 2^{j/2} \Psi \left(2^j x - i \right)$
 Translates and dilates can vary continuously Redundant basis 	 Translates and dilates sit on a discrete dyadic grid Orthogonal basis
 Easily read coefficients Unfold in both space and scale Good for analysis 	 Filtering and reconstruction Compression (JPEG 2000) Good for computation (N oper.)

Multiscale representation



Extraction of coherent structures

Since there is not yet a universal definition of coherent structures observed in turbulent flows (from laboratory and numerical experiments), we adopt an **apophetic method** :

instead of defining what they are, we define what they are not.

We propose the minimal statement: **'Coherent structures are different from noise'**



Extracting coherent structures becomes a **denoising problem**, not requiring any hypotheses on the coherent structures 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.

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

Denoising algorithm

Gaussian white noise is by definition equidistributed among all modes and the amplitude of the coefficients is given by its r.m.s., whatever the functional basis one considers.

Therefore the coefficients of a noisy signal whose amplitudes are much larger than the r.m.s. of the noise belong to the denoised signal. This procedure corresponds to **nonlinear filtering**.

The advantage of performing such a nonlinear filtering using the wavelet representation is that the **wavelet coefficients** preserve the space locality.

Since we do not know a priori the r.m.s. of the noise, we have proposed an iterative procedure which takes as first guess the r.m.s. of the noisy signal and does not require adjusting any parameter. The more noisy the signal is, the faster the convergence.

> Azzalini, Farge, Schneider, Appl. Comput. Harmonic Analysis, 18 (2), 2005

Wavelet-based denoising

1. Goal:

Extraction of coherent structures from a noise which can then be modelled to compute the flow evolution.

- 2. Apophatic principle:
 - no hypothesis on the structures,
 - only hypothesis on the noise,
 - simplest hypothesis as our first choice.
- 3. Hypothesis on the noise:

 $f_n = f + w$

- w: Gaussian white noise,
- σ^2 : variance of the noise,
- N: number of coefficients.
- 4. Computation of the threshold:

 $\epsilon = \sqrt{2\sigma^2 ln(N)}$

5. Denoised signal: $f_D = \sum_{\lambda: |\tilde{f}_{\lambda}| < \varepsilon} \tilde{f}_{\lambda} \psi_{\lambda}$





Coherent Vortex Extraction

Farge, Schneider, Kevlahan, Phys. Fluids 11(8), 1999 Farge, Pellegrino, Schneider, Phys. Rev. Lett. 87(5), 2001

- Vorticity $\vec{\omega} = \nabla \times \vec{v}$ at resolution $N = 2^{3J}$
- Wavelet transform $\tilde{\vec{\omega}} = \langle \vec{\omega}, \psi_\lambda \rangle$
- Thresholding: $T = (4/3Z \ln N)^{1/2}$

$$\tilde{\vec{\omega}}_C = \begin{cases} \tilde{\vec{\omega}} & \text{for } |\tilde{\vec{\omega}}| \ge T, \\ 0 & \text{for } |\tilde{\vec{\omega}}| < T \end{cases} \qquad \tilde{\vec{\omega}}_I = \begin{cases} \tilde{\vec{\omega}} & \text{for } |\tilde{\vec{\omega}}| < T, \\ 0 & \text{for } |\tilde{\vec{\omega}}| \ge T \end{cases}$$

- Inverse wavelet transform to reconstruct $\vec{\omega}_C + \vec{\omega}_I = \vec{\omega}$
- Apply Biot-Savart operator to reconstruct $\vec{v}_C + \vec{v}_I = \vec{v}$ with $\vec{v} = \nabla \times \nabla^{-2} \vec{\omega}$
- Remark: $Z = Z_C + Z_I$ (orth. dec.) and $E \approx E_C + E_I$
- Linear complexity, $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{N})$

Application to 2D turbulent flows

 Either from numerical experiment, computed using
 Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS) at resolution 512²

 Or from laboratory experiment, measured using
 Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) at resolution 128²

in collaboration with Jori E. Ruppert-Felsot, Erhan Sharon and Harry L. Swinney Center for Nonlinear Dynamics, University of Texas at Austin

Decomposition of 2D vorticity field in numerical experiment



1D cut of the vorticity field in numerical experiment





PDF of vorticity *in numerical experiment*



 ω_{max}

Enstrophy spectrum *in numerical experiment*



A posteriori proof of coherence in numerical experiment



Coherent structures are regions where nonlinearity is depleted, thus, for 2D flows: $\omega = \sinh(\psi)$

Arnold, 1965, Joyce & Montgomery, 1973 Robert & Sommeria, 1991



Wavelet filtering of the flow evolution in numerical experiment



Nonlinear Sci. Num. Simul., 8

Passive scalar advection *from numerical experiment*



Time evolution of the concentration variance from numerical experiment



Advection of tracer particles

from numerical experiment



0.2 % of coefficients 99.8 % of coefficients 99.8 % of kinetic energy 93.6 % of enstrophy

0.2 % of kinetic energy 6.4 % of enstrophy

by the total flow

by the coherent flow

by the incoherent flow

+







Transport by vortices

Beta, Schneider, Farge 2003, Nonlinear Sci. Num. Simul., 8

Diffusion by Brownian motion

Time correlation of the Lagrangian velocity from numerical experiment



Rotating tank experiment



150 cm Table

Decomposition of 2D vorticity field in laboratory experiment



Enstrophy in wavelet space in numerical experiment



PDF of vorticity *in laboratory experiment*



Enstrophy spectrum in laboratory experiment



A posteriori proof of coherence in laboratory experiment

Coherent structures are regions where **nonlinearity is depleted**, thus, for 2D flows: $\omega = f(\psi)$

> Arnold, 1965, Joyce & Montgomery, 1973 Robert & Sommeria, 1991

Total

PIV

N=128²

Coherent

Incoherent



Passive scalar advection in laboratory experiment


Advection of tracer particles in laboratory experiment



Application to 3D turbulent flows

from numerical experiment

 of a turbulent mixing layer,
 computed using DNS at resolution 512 x256 x 128 :
 in collaboration with Mike Rogers

Center for Turbulence Research, NASA-Ames and Stanford University

• from numerical experiment of homogeneous isotropic turbulence, computed using DNS at resolution 2048³ :

in collaboration with Yukio Kaneda, Katsunori Yoshimatsu and Naoya Okamoto

> Computer Sciences Department, Nagoya University

3D turbulent mixing layer



3D turbulent mixing layer

Schneider, Farge, Pellegrino, Rogers, J. Fluid Mech., 534, 2005



Modulus of vorticity field in numerical experiment







Energy spectrum *in numerical experiment*



PDF of velocity



Energy and enstrophy versus R_{λ}



Nonlinear transfers and energy fluxes



Wavelet extraction in 3D vorticity field in numerical experiment



Fourier extraction in 3D vorticity field in numerical experiment



Relative helicity in numerical experiment



'The terms "scale of motion" or "eddy of size I " appear repeatedly in the treatments of the inertial range. One gets an impression of little, randomly distributed whirls in the fluid, with the **cascade process consisting of the fission of the whirls into smaller ones**, after the fashion of Richardson's poem. This picture seems drastically in conflict with what can be inferred about the qualitative structures of high-Reynolds number turbulence from laboratory vizualization techniques and from the application of the Kelvin's circulation theorem'.



Robert Kraichnan, On Kolmogorov's inertial range theories, J. Fluid Mech., 62, 305-330, 1974

We should find a **new interpretation of the turbulent cascade**, **taking into account** the nonlinear dynamics of Navier-Stokes equations and the **formation of coherent vortices** in regions of strong shear.

New interpretation of the energy cascade Fourier space viewpoint



New interpretation of the energy cascade *Physical space viewpoint*

PRODUCTION Wes of vortex tases produad Sy instasilities in shear layers INERTIAL RANGE Intermittent vortex interactions > Nonlinear cascad Tursalent dissipation production of Sachsround noin which is damped in the viscous range

New interpretation of the energy cascade Wavelet space viewpoint



Conclusion

The description of turbulent flows in terms of **mean value plus random fluctuations** seems eroded since there is **no scale separation** in the fully-developed turbulent regime.

We have developed a **wavelet-based filter** to separate the coherent fluctuations from the incoherent ones. The algorithm works in any space dimension, has no adjustable parameter and is fast, requiring only **order N operations**.

In each flow realization fluctuations are thus split into two orthogonal components which exhibit different statistics:

- coherent fluctuations, which are long-range correlated and non-Gaussian, and correspond to coherent vortices,
- **incoherent fluctuations**, which are decorrelated and Gaussian, and correspond to a random background flow.

Perspectives

The nonlinear wavelet filter disentangles two different dynamics :

- a **nonlinear** dynamics, corresponding to **transport by the coherent vortices**,
- a **linear** dynamics corresponding to **turbulent dissipation**.

We conjecture that discarding the incoherent flow may be sufficient to model turbulent dissipation

 \Rightarrow Coherent Vortex Simulation (CVS).

Two-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations in vorticity-velocity formulation

$$\partial_{t}\omega + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \omega - \nu \nabla^{2} \omega = \nabla \times \vec{f}$$
(1)
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$$

$$\omega(0, \vec{x}) = \omega_{0}$$

with the vorticity $\omega = \nabla \times \vec{v}$, and the velocity \vec{v} ; \vec{f} is a given forcing, and $\nu > 0$ the kinematic constant viscosity.

Completed with periodic boundary conditions.

The velocity can be reconstructed from the vorticity using the Biot-Savart relation,

$$\vec{v} = \nabla^{\perp} (\nabla^2)^{-1} \omega \tag{2}$$

with $\nabla^{\perp} = (-\partial y, \partial x)$.

Using the decomposition of the flow into coherent and incoherent componenents, i.e.

$$\omega = \omega_C + \omega_I \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v} = \vec{v}_C + \vec{v}_I \,, \tag{3}$$

and projecting (1) onto coherent and incoherent components we obtain an equivalent system

$$\partial_t \omega_C + (\vec{v}_C \cdot \nabla \omega_C + \vec{v}_C \cdot \nabla \omega_I + \vec{v}_I \cdot \nabla \omega_C + \vec{v}_I \cdot \nabla \omega_I)_C - \nu \nabla^2 \omega_C = \nabla \times \vec{f}_C$$

$$\partial_t \omega_I + (\vec{v}_C \cdot \nabla \omega_C + \vec{v}_C \cdot \nabla \omega_I + \vec{v}_I \cdot \nabla \omega_C + \vec{v}_I \cdot \nabla \omega_I)_I - \nu \nabla^2 \omega_I = \nabla \times \vec{f}_I$$
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v}_C = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{v}_I = 0$$
$$\omega_C(0, \vec{x}) = (\omega_0)_C \quad \text{and} \quad \omega_I(0, \vec{x}) = (\omega_0)_I$$

which describes the evolution of the coherent and incoherent flow and their coupling in the spirit of nonlinear Galerkin methods, see e.g. (P. Constantin and C. Foias, 1988).

Estimations for the magnitude of the different terms (II)

This yields the following orders of magnitude of the different terms:

- O(1) terms: ∇w_I and $\nabla^2 \omega_I$
- $O(\varepsilon)$ terms: ω_I
- $O(\varepsilon^2)$ terms: \vec{v}_I

The terms for the coherent flow $(\omega_C, \nabla \omega_C, \nabla^2 \omega_C, \vec{v}_C)$ are all by construction of O(1). Neglecting terms of increasing orders we obtain a hierarchy of CVS models.

Development of the CVS model equations (V)

Retaining only terms containing the coherent flow we obtain the following model equations:

CVS O(1)

$$\partial_t \omega_C + (\vec{v}_C \cdot \nabla \omega_C)_C - \nu \nabla^2 \omega_C = \nabla \times \vec{f}_C$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v}_C = 0$$

$$\omega_C(0, \vec{x}) = (\omega_0)_C$$
(5)

Note that in this system the influence of the incoherent flow is completely neglected and only the time evolution of the coherent flow is computed. Retaining the O(1) and additionally the $O(\varepsilon)$ terms we obtain more complete equations:

CVS $O(\varepsilon)$

$$\partial_t \omega_C + (\vec{v}_C \cdot \nabla \omega_C + \vec{v}_C \cdot \nabla \omega_I)_C - \nu \nabla^2 \omega_C = \nabla \times \vec{f}_C \qquad (6)$$

$$\partial_t \omega_I + (\vec{v}_C \cdot \nabla \omega_C + \vec{v}_C \cdot \nabla \omega_I)_I - \nu \nabla^2 \omega_I = \nabla \times \vec{f}_I \qquad (7)$$
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{v}_C = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{v}_I = 0$$
$$\omega_C(0, \vec{x}) = (\omega_0)_C \quad \text{and} \quad \omega_I(0, \vec{x}) = (\omega_0)_I$$

We observe that the equation for ω_I is a linear advection-diffusion equation, where the coherent velocity \vec{v}_C is given.



Relative norms of the nonlinear terms with respect to $(\vec{v}_C \cdot \nabla \omega_C)_C$ using different thresholds ε . The values are averaged in time over 20τ .

Coherent Vortex Simulation (CVS)

- 1. Projection of vorticity onto an orthogonal wavelet basis.
- 2. Extraction of coherent vortices using orthogonal wavelets.
- 3. Computation of the coherent vorticity by inverse transform.
- 4. Computation of the coherent velocity using Biot-Savart's law.
- 5. Addition of a security zone in wavelet space.
- 6. Integration of Navier-Stokes of in the reduced wavelet basis.
- 7. Use volume penalization to describe solid walls and obstacles.

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

Farge and Schneider, Flow Turbulence and Combustion, **66**, 2001 Schneider, Farge, Azzalini and Ziuber J. Turbulence, **7** (44), 2006

Adapted wavelet basis







- 1. Selection of the wavelet coefficients whose modulus is larger than the threshold.
- 2. Construction of a 'gradedtree' which defines the 'interface' between the coherent and incoherent wavelet coefficients.
- 3. Addition of a 'security zone' which corresponds to dealiasing.

Dipole impinging on a wall at Re= 1000 *Time evolution of vorticity computed by CVS*



Adapted grid generated from wavelets Time evolution of the grid computed by CVS



Dipole impinging on a wall at Re= 1000 *Time evolution of E and Z computed by CVS*



Time evolution of energy (red) and enstrophy (blue).

Schneider and Farge, in ENUMATH 2005, Springer, 2006

3D mixing layer *Comparison between DNS and CVS*



4 eddy turnover times

Schneider, Farge, Pellegrino, Rogers, J. Fluid Mech., 534, 2005

3D mixing layer *Comparison between DNS and CVS*



8 eddy turnover times

Schneider, Farge, Pellegrino, Rogers, J. Fluid Mech., 534, 2005

3D mixing layer *Comparison between DNS and CVS*



Rogers, J. Fluid Mech., 534, 2005

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Kai Schneider, Marie Farge, Alexandre Azzalini and Jörg Ziuber, 2006 Coherent vortex extraction and simulation of 2D isotropic turbulence *J. of Turbulence*, **7**, **44**, 1-24

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