

# **Elastic Turbulence: A Look at Some Simple Systems**

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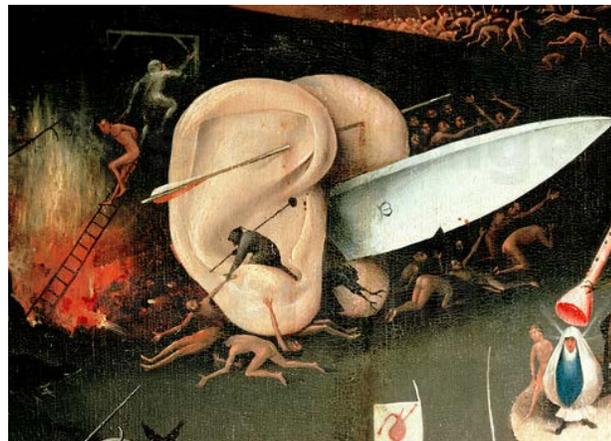
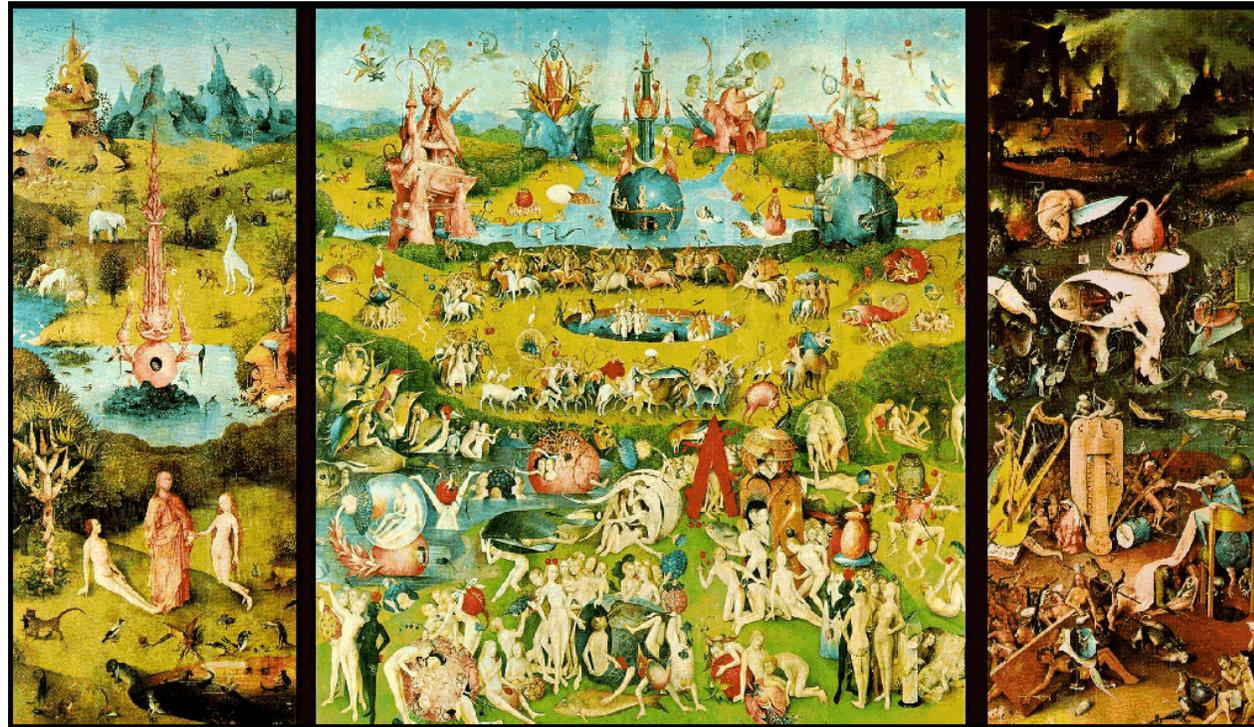
# Outline

- What is Turbulence?
- What and Why of Elastic Fluids, and CHNS, in particular  
CHNS  $\equiv$  Cahn-Hilliard Navier-Stokes
- Single Eddy Problem
- CHNS Turbulence
- Transport and Beyond
- Lessons

**What is Turbulence?**

# Turbulence (after Kadomtsev)

"The Garden of Earthly Delights", Hieronymous Bosch



# Model

- Navier-Stokes Equation:

$$\rho \left( \frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \vec{v} - \nu \nabla^2 \vec{v} \right) = -\nabla P + \tilde{f}$$

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

Random forcing  
(usually large scale)

- Finite domain, closed, periodic
- $Re = v \cdot \nabla v / \nu \nabla^2 v \sim VL/\nu$  ;  $Re \gg 1$
- Variants:
  - 2D, QG
  - Compressible flow
  - Pipe flow – inhomogeneity
  - MHD, etc.

# What is turbulence? (3D)

- Spatio-temporal “disorder”
- Broad range of space-time scales
- Power transfer / flux thru broad range of scales \*
- Energy dissipation and irreversibility as  $Re \rightarrow \infty$  \*

And:

- Decay of large scales
- Irreversible mixing
- Intermittency / burstiness



Ma Yuan



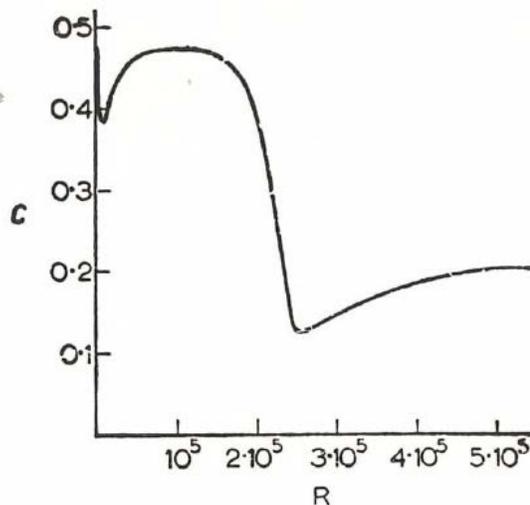
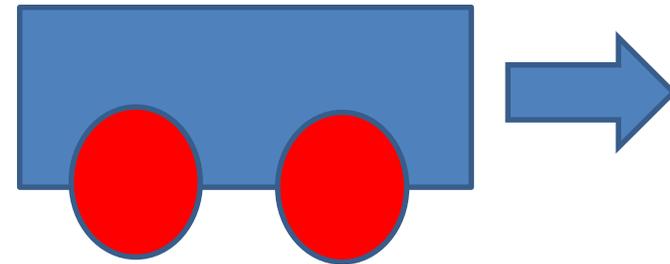
Leonardo

# Why broad range scales? What motivates cascade concept?

A) Planes, trains, automobiles...

## DRAG

- Recall:  $F_d \sim c_D \rho A V^2$
- $C_D = C_D(Re) \rightarrow$  drag coefficient



$$C_D \sim Re^{(0)} \text{ as } Re \rightarrow \infty$$

- The Point:
  - Energy dissipation is finite, and due to viscosity, yet does not depend explicitly on viscosity → ANOMALY
  - ‘Irreversibility persists as symmetry breaking factors vanish’

i.e.  $\frac{dE}{dt} \sim F_d V \sim C_D \rho A V^3$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} \sim \frac{V^3}{l_0} \equiv \epsilon \rightarrow \text{dissipation rate} \quad l_0 \rightarrow \text{macro length scale}$$

- Where does the energy go?

$$\text{Steady state } \nu \langle (\nabla \vec{v})^2 \rangle = \langle \vec{f} \cdot \vec{v} \rangle = \epsilon$$

- So  $\epsilon = \nu \langle (\nabla v)^2 \rangle \leftarrow$  independent of  $\nu$
- $(\nabla v)_{rms} \sim \frac{1}{\nu^{1/2}} \rightarrow$  suggests  $\rightarrow$  singular velocity gradients (small scale)

$\therefore$

- Flat  $C_D$  in  $Re \rightarrow$  turbulence must access small scales as  $Re \rightarrow \infty$
- Obviously consistent with broad spectrum, via nonlinear coupling

B) ... and balloons

- Study of ‘test particles’ in turbulence:
- Anecdotal:

Titus Lucretius Caro: 99-55 BC

“De rerum Nature” cf. section V, line 500

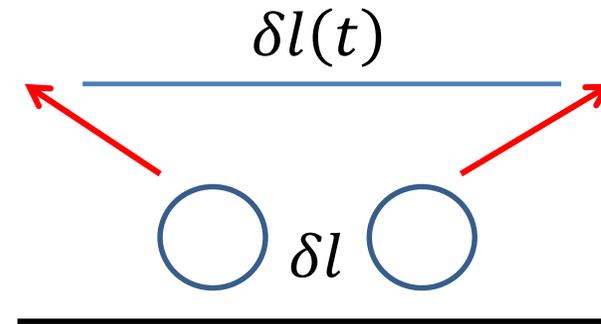
- Systematic:

L.F. Richardson: - probed atmospheric turbulence by study of balloon separation

Noted:  $\langle \delta l^2 \rangle \sim t^3 \rightarrow$  super-diffusive

- not  $\sim t$ , ala’ diffusion, noise

- not exponential, ala’ smooth chaotic flow



## Upshot:

$$\delta V(l) = \left( \left( \vec{v}(\vec{r} + \vec{l}) - \vec{v}(\vec{r}) \right) \cdot \frac{\vec{l}}{|\vec{l}|} \right) \rightarrow \text{structure function} \rightarrow \text{velocity differential across scale}$$

Then:  $\delta V \sim l^\alpha$

so,  $\frac{dl}{dt} \sim l^\alpha \rightarrow$  growth of separation

$$\rightarrow \langle l^2 \rangle \sim t^{\frac{2}{1-\alpha}} \sim t^3$$

$$\rightarrow \alpha = \frac{1}{3}$$

so  $\delta V(l) \sim l^{1/3}, \langle \delta l^2 \rangle \sim t^3$

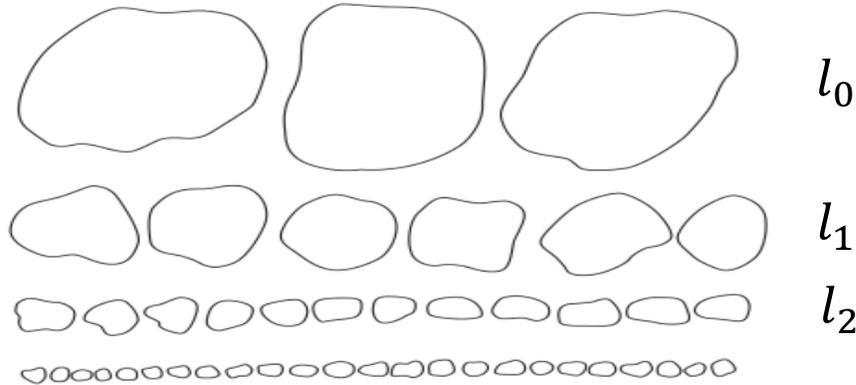
$\rightarrow$  Points:

- large eddies have more energy, so rate of separation **increases** with scale
- **Relative** separation is excellent diagnostic of flow dynamics

cf: tetrads: Siggia and Shraiman

# K41 Model (Phenomenological)

- Cascade  $\rightarrow$  hierarchical fragmentation



- Broad range of scales, no gaps

- Described by structure function

-  $\langle \delta v(l)^2 \rangle \leftrightarrow$  energy,  
of great interest

- $\langle \delta V(l)^2 \rangle, \dots, \langle \delta V(l)^n \rangle, \dots$

- higher moments  
more challenging

$\leftarrow$  Related to energy distribution  
 $\leftrightarrow$  greatest interest

- Input:
- 2/3 law (empirical)

$$S_2(l) \sim l^{2/3}$$

- 4/5 law (Rigorous) - TBD

$$\langle \delta V(l)^3 \rangle = -\frac{4}{5} \epsilon l$$

→ Ideas:

- Flux of energy in scale space from  $l_0$  (input/integral scale) to  $l_d$  (dissipation) scale – set by  $\nu$
- Energy flux is same at all scales between  $l_0, l_d \leftrightarrow$  self-similarity

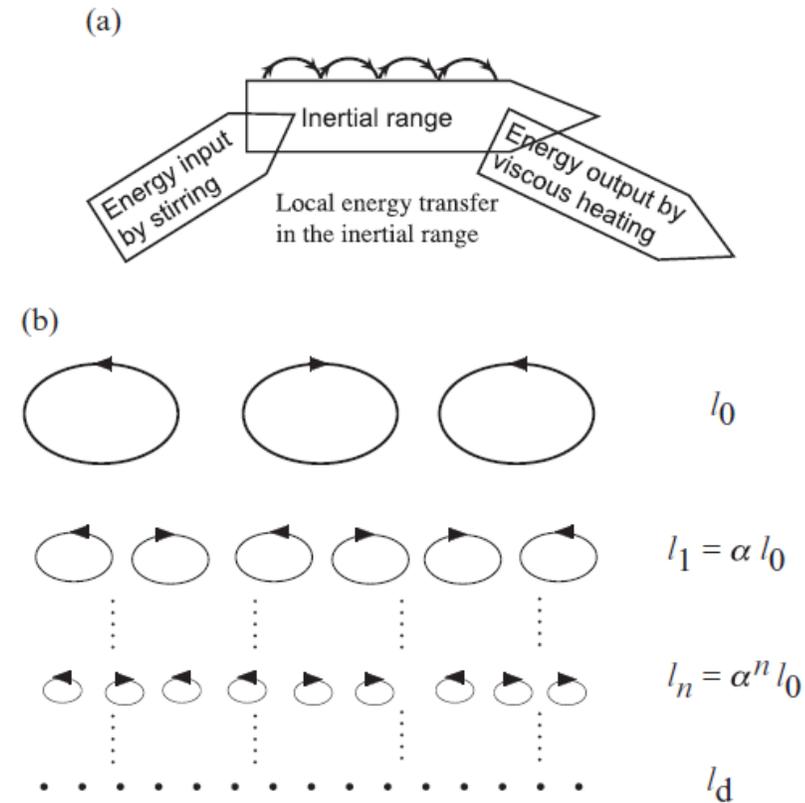
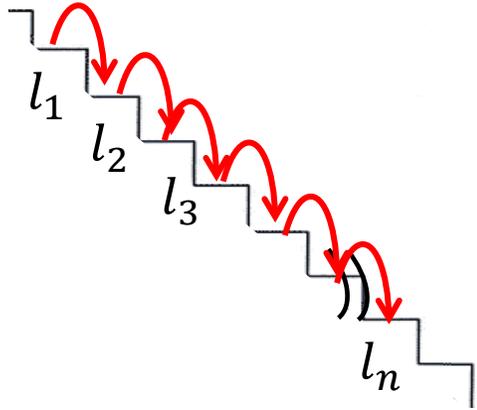
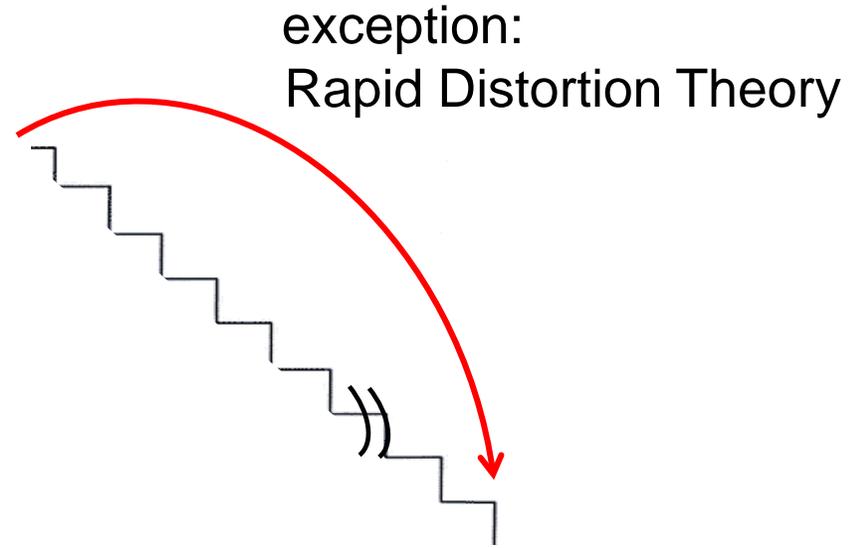


Fig. 2.12. Basic cartoon explanation of the Richardson–Kolmogorov cascade. Energy transfer in Fourier–space (a), and real scale (b)

→ So



not



$$\rightarrow \epsilon \sim V(l)^2 / \tau(l) \sim V(l)^3 / l \rightarrow V(l) \sim (\epsilon l)^{1/3} ; 1 / \tau(l) \sim (\epsilon / l^2)^{1/3}$$

$$\rightarrow V(l)^2 \sim V_0^2 (l / l_0)^{2/3} \quad (\text{transfer rate increases as scale decreases})$$

And

$$\rightarrow E(k) \sim \epsilon^{2/3} k^{-5/3} \quad E = \int dk E(k)$$

→ Where does it end?

- Dissipation scale
  - cut-off at  $1/\tau(l) \sim \nu/l^2$  i.e.  $Re(l) \rightarrow 1$
  - $l_d \sim \nu^{3/4} / \epsilon^{1/4}$
- Degrees of freedom

$$\#DOFs \sim \left(\frac{l_0}{l_d}\right)^3 \sim Re^{9/4}$$

For  $l_0 \sim 1km$ ,  $l_d \sim 1mm$  (PBL)

$$\rightarrow N \sim 10^{18}$$

# The Theoretical Problem

- “We don’t want to *think* anything, man. We want to *know*.”
  - “Pulp Fiction” (Quentin Tarantino)

- What do we know?

– 4/5 Law (and not much else...)

$$\langle V(l)^3 \rangle = -\frac{4}{5} \epsilon l \rightarrow \text{asymptotic for finite } l, \nu \rightarrow 0$$

$$S_2 = \langle \delta V(l)^2 \rangle$$
$$S_3 = \langle \delta V(l)^3 \rangle$$

$$\text{from: } \frac{\partial S_2}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{3l^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial l} (l^4 S_3) - \frac{4}{3} \epsilon + \frac{2\nu}{l^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial l} \left( l^4 \frac{\partial S_2}{\partial l} \right)$$

(Karman-Howarth)

flux in scale

dissipation

- Stationarity,  $\nu \rightarrow 0$

## 4/5 Law

- $S_3(l) = -\frac{4}{5}\epsilon l$
- Energy thru-put balance  $\langle \delta V(l)^3 \rangle / l \leftrightarrow \epsilon$
- Notable:
  - Euler:  $\partial_t v + v \cdot \nabla v + \nabla P / \rho = 0$ ; reversible;  $t \rightarrow -t, v \rightarrow -v$
  - N-S:  $\partial_t v + v \cdot \nabla v + \nabla P / \rho = \nu \nabla^2 v$ ; time reversal broken by viscosity
  - $S_3(l)$ :  $S_3(l) = -\frac{4}{5}\epsilon l$ ; reversibility breaking maintained as  $\nu \rightarrow 0$

Anomaly

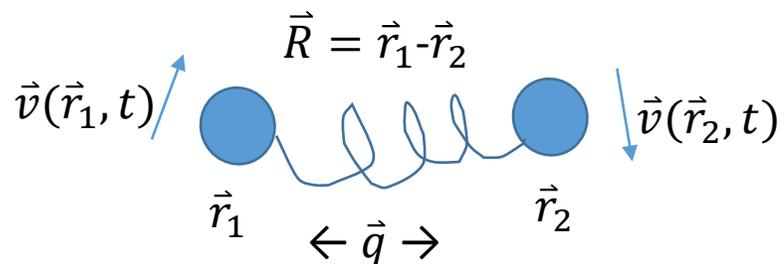
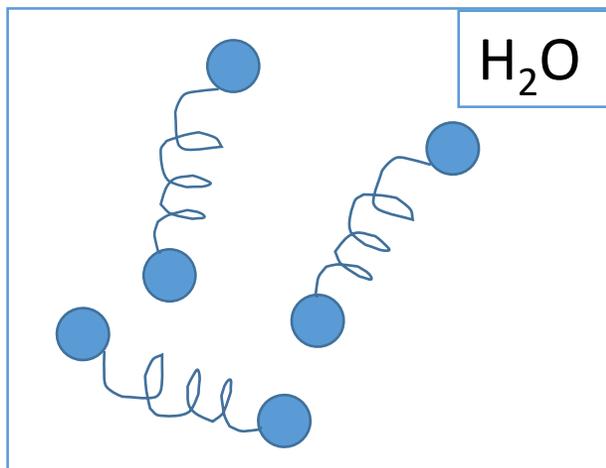
- N.B.: A little history; philosophy:
  - ‘Anomaly’ in turbulence → Kolmogorov, 1941
  - Anomaly in QFT → J. Schwinger, 1951 (regularization for vacuum polarization)
- Speaking of QFT, what of renormalized perturbation theory?
  - Renormalization gives some success to low order moments, identifies relevant scales
  - Useful in complex problems (i.e. plasmas) and problems where  $\tau_{int}$  is not obvious
  - Rather few fundamental insights have emerged from R.P.T

Caveat Emptor

# **What and Why of Elastic Fluids?**

# Elastic Fluid -> Oldroyd-B Family Models

→ Solution of Dumbbells



Internal DoF  
i.e. polymers

$$\gamma \left( \frac{d\vec{r}_{1,2}}{dt} - \vec{v}(\vec{r}_{1,2}, t) \right) = - \frac{\partial U}{\partial \vec{r}_{1,2}} + \vec{\xi}, \text{ where } U = \frac{k}{2} (\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2)^2 + \dots$$

Labels:   
 -  $\gamma$ : stokes drag   
 -  $\frac{\partial U}{\partial \vec{r}_{1,2}}$ : entropic spring   
 -  $\vec{\xi}$ : noise

$$\text{so } \frac{d\vec{R}}{dt} = \vec{v}(\vec{R}, t) + \vec{\xi}/\gamma, \text{ and } \frac{d\vec{q}}{dt} = \vec{q} \cdot \nabla \vec{v}(\vec{R}, t) - \frac{2}{\gamma} \frac{\partial U}{\partial \vec{q}} + \text{noise}$$

Seek  $f(\vec{q}, \vec{R}, t | \vec{v}, \dots) \rightarrow$  distribution

$$\begin{aligned} \text{➤ } \partial_t f + \partial_{\vec{R}} \cdot [\vec{v}(\vec{R}, t) f] + \partial_{\vec{q}} \cdot \left[ \vec{q} \cdot \nabla \vec{v}(\vec{R}, t) f - \frac{2}{\gamma} \frac{\partial U}{\partial \vec{q}} f \right] \\ = \partial_{\vec{R}} \cdot \mathbf{D}_0 \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{R}} + \partial_{\vec{q}} \cdot \mathbf{D}_q \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{q}} \end{aligned}$$

Is F.P. valid?!

➤ and moments:

$$Q_{ij}(\vec{R}, t) = \int d^3 q q_i q_j f(\vec{q}, \vec{R}, t) \rightarrow \text{electric energy field (tensor)}$$

➤ so:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t Q_{ij} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla Q_{ij} = Q_{i\gamma} \partial_\gamma v_j + Q_{j\gamma} \partial_\gamma v_i \quad \text{and concentration} \\ \text{relaxation} \rightarrow \omega_z Q_{ij} + D_0 \nabla^2 Q_{ij} + 4 \frac{k_B T}{\gamma} \delta_{ij} \quad \text{equation} \end{aligned}$$

strain

➤ Defines Deborah number:  $\nabla \vec{v} / \omega_z$

# Reaction on Dynamics

$$\triangleright \rho[\partial_t v_i + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla v_i] = -\nabla_i P + \nabla_i \cdot [c_p k Q_{ij}] + \eta \nabla^2 v_i + f_i$$

elastic stress

- Classic systems; Oldroyd-B (1950).
- Extend to nonlinear springs (FENE), rods, rods + springs, networks, director fields, etc...
- Supports elastic waves and fluid dynamics, depending on Deborah number.
- Oldroyd-B  $\leftrightarrow$  active tensor field

# Constitutive Relations

➤ J. C. Maxwell:

$$(\text{stress}) + \overset{\text{relaxation}}{\tau_R} \frac{d(\text{stress})}{dt} = \overset{\text{viscosity}}{\eta} \frac{d}{dt} (\text{strain})$$

➤ If  $\tau_R/T = D \ll 1$ , stress =  $\eta \frac{d}{dt}$  (strain)

$$\sigma = -\eta \nabla \vec{v}$$

➤ If  $\tau_R/T = D \gg 1$ , stress  $\cong \frac{\eta}{\tau_R}$  (strain)

$$\sim E (\text{strain})$$

➤ Limit of “freezing-in”:  $D > 1$  is criterion.

$T \equiv$  dynamic  
time scale

- $D \sim$  Deborah Number  $\sim |\nabla V|/\omega_Z \sim \tau_{relax}/\tau_{dyn}$

- Limit for elasticity:  $D \gg 1 \rightarrow$  limit for elasticity

- Why “Deborah”?  $\rightarrow$

Hebrew Prophetess Deborah:

“The mountains flowed before the Lord.” (Judges)

$\therefore$

- Revisit Heraclitus (1500 years later):

$\rightarrow$  “All things flow” – if you can wait long enough

# Relation to MHD?!

➤ Re-writing Oldroyd-B:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{T} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{T} - \mathbf{T} \cdot \nabla \vec{v} - (\nabla \vec{v})^T \cdot \mathbf{T} = \frac{1}{\tau} \left( \mathbf{T} - \frac{\mu}{\tau} \mathbf{I} \right)$$

$\mathbf{T} \equiv$  stress

➤ MHD:  $\mathbf{T}_m = \frac{\vec{B}\vec{B}}{4\pi}$

$$\partial_t \vec{B} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \vec{B} = \vec{B} \cdot \nabla \vec{v} + \eta \nabla^2 \vec{B}$$

➤ So

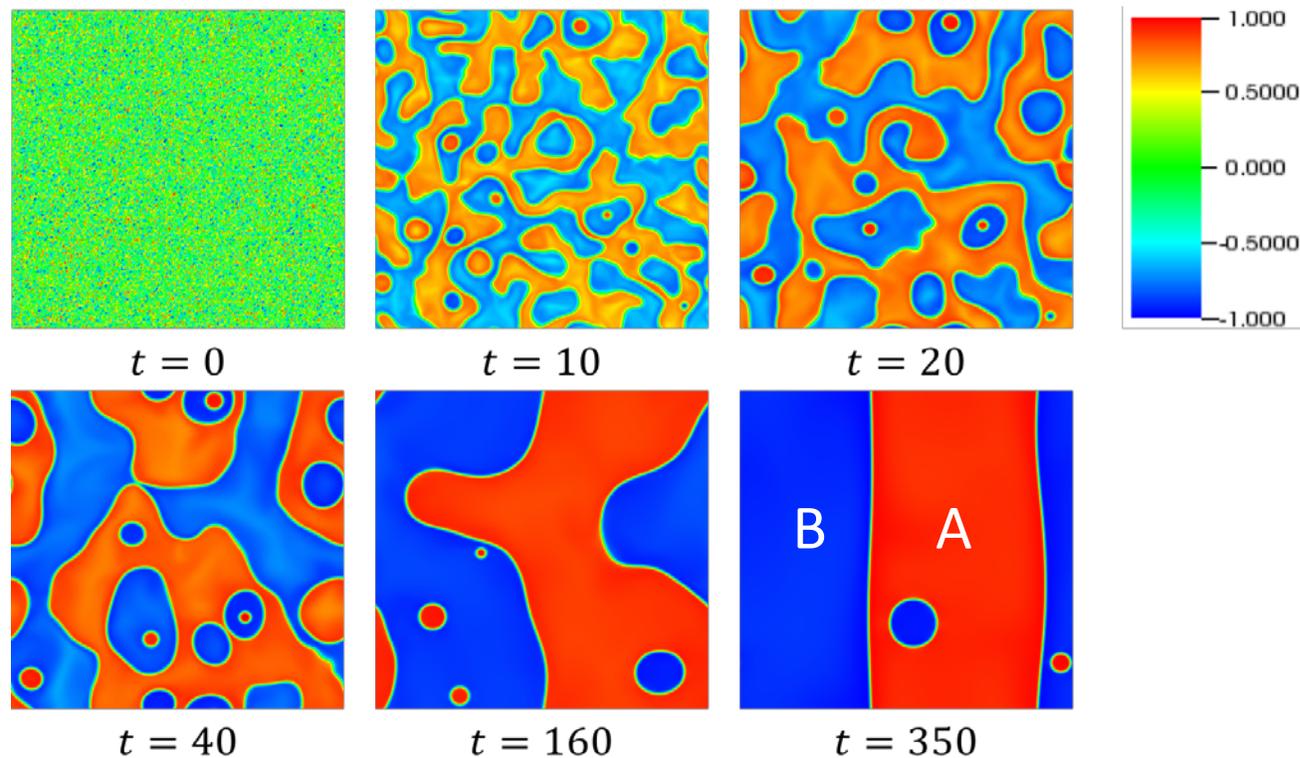
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{T}_m + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{T}_m - \mathbf{T}_m \cdot \nabla \vec{v} - (\nabla \vec{v})^T \cdot \mathbf{T}_m = \eta [\vec{B} \nabla^2 \vec{B} + (\nabla^2 \vec{B}) \vec{B}]$$

➤  $\lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} (\text{Oldroyd-B}) \iff \lim_{R_m \rightarrow \infty} (\text{MHD})$

c.f. Ogilvie and Proctor

# Elastic Media -- What Is the CHNS System?

- Elastic media – Fluid with internal DoFs → “springiness”
- The Cahn-Hilliard Navier-Stokes (CHNS) system describes ***phase separation*** for binary fluid (i.e. ***Spinodal Decomposition***)



[Fan *et.al.* Phys. Rev. Fluids 2016]

Miscible phase  
→ Immiscible phase

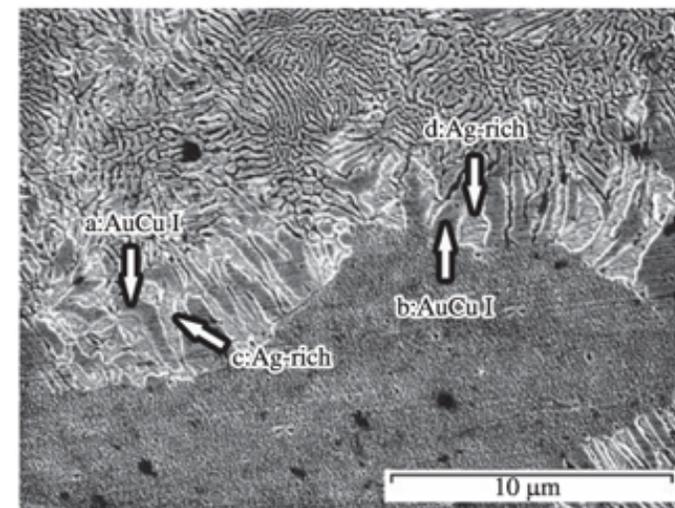


Figure 5. FE-SEM micrograph of specimen aged at 400 °C for 5000 minutes.

[Kim *et.al.* 2012]

# Elastic Media? -- What Is the CHNS System?

- How to describe the system: the concentration field
- $\psi(\vec{r}, t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\rho_A(\vec{r}, t) - \rho_B(\vec{r}, t)]/\rho$  : scalar field  $\rightarrow$  density contrast
- $\psi \in [-1, 1]$
- CHNS equations (2D):

$$\partial_t \psi + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \psi = D \nabla^2 (-\psi + \psi^3 - \xi^2 \nabla^2 \psi)$$

$$\partial_t \omega + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \omega = \frac{\xi^2}{\rho} \vec{B}_\psi \cdot \nabla \nabla^2 \psi + \nu \nabla^2 \omega$$

# Why Should a Plasma Physicist Care?

➤ Useful to examine familiar themes in plasma turbulence from new vantage point

➤ Some key issues in plasma turbulence:

## 1. Electromagnetic Turbulence

- CHNS vs 2D MHD: analogous, with interesting differences.

- Both CHNS and 2D MHD are *elastic* systems

- Most systems = 2D/Reduced MHD + many linear effects

  - Physics of dual cascades and constrained relaxation → relative importance, selective decay...

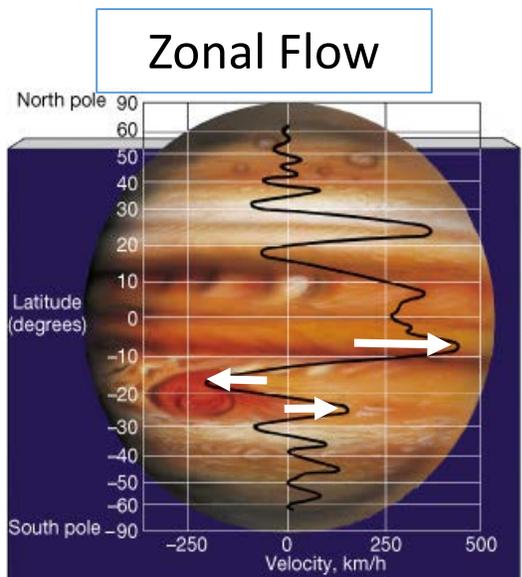
  - Physics of wave-eddy interaction effects on nonlinear transfer (i.e. Alfvén effect ↔ Kraichnan)

MHD ↔ CHNS

# Why Care?

## 2. Zonal flow formation → negative viscosity phenomena

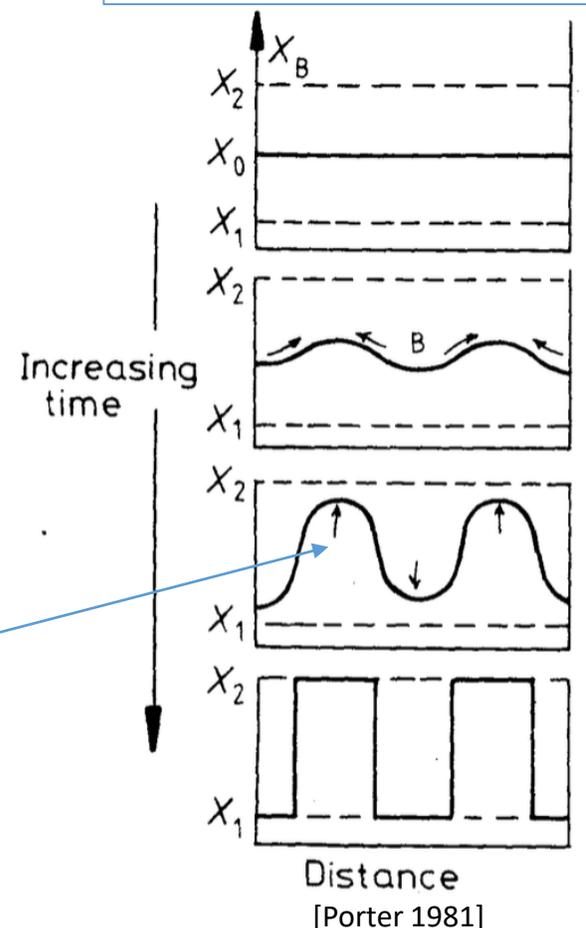
- ZF can be viewed as a “spinodal decomposition” of momentum.
- What determines scale?



<http://astronomy.nyu.edu.cn/~lixd/GA/AT4/AT411/HTML/AT41102.htm>

Arrows:  
 $\psi$  for CHNS;  
 flow for ZF.

### Spinodal Decomposition



Distance  
 [Porter 1981]

# Why Care?

## 3. “Blobby Turbulence”

- CHNS is a naturally blobby system of turbulence.
- What is the role of structure in interaction?
- How to understand blob coalescence and relation to cascades?
- How to understand multiple cascades of blobs and energy?

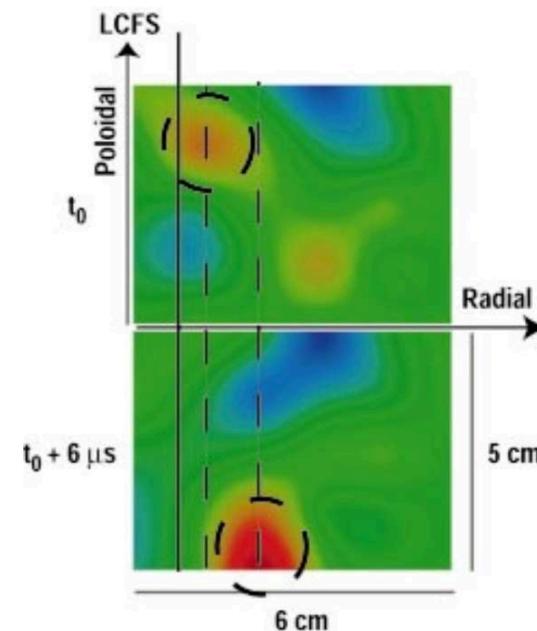


FIG. 4. (Color) Two frames from BES showing 2-D density plots. There is a time difference of  $6 \mu\text{s}$  between frames. Red indicates high density and blue low density. A structure, marked with a dashed circle and shown in both frames, features poloidal and radial motion.

[J. A. Boedo et.al. 2003]

- CHNS exhibits all of the above, with many new twists

# A Brief Derivation of the CHNS Model

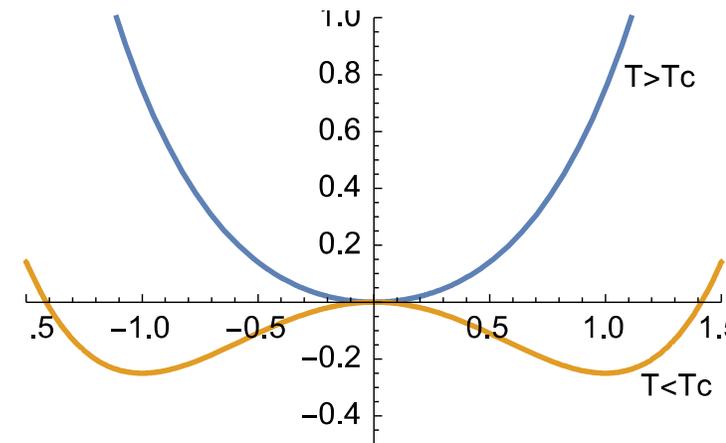
- Second order phase transition  $\rightarrow$  Landau Theory.
- Order parameter:  $\psi(\vec{r}, t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\rho_A(\vec{r}, t) - \rho_B(\vec{r}, t)]/\rho$
- Free energy:

$$F(\psi) = \int d\vec{r} \left( \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} C_1 \psi^2 + \frac{1}{4} C_2 \psi^4}_{\text{Phase Transition}} + \underbrace{\frac{\xi^2}{2} |\nabla \psi|^2}_{\text{Gradient Penalty}} \right)$$

- $C_1(T), C_2(T)$ .

- Isothermal  $T < T_C$ . Set  $C_2 = -C_1 = 1$ :

$$F(\psi) = \int d\vec{r} \left( -\frac{1}{2} \psi^2 + \frac{1}{4} \psi^4 + \frac{\xi^2}{2} |\nabla \psi|^2 \right)$$



# A Brief Derivation of the CHNS Model

➤ Continuity equation:  $\frac{d\psi}{dt} + \nabla \cdot \vec{J} = 0$ . Fick's Law:  $\vec{J} = -D\nabla\mu$ .

➤ Chemical potential:  $\mu = \frac{\delta F(\psi)}{\delta\psi} = -\psi + \psi^3 - \xi^2 \nabla^2 \psi$ .

➤ Combining above  $\rightarrow$  Cahn Hilliard equation:

$$\frac{d\psi}{dt} = D\nabla^2\mu = D\nabla^2(-\psi + \psi^3 - \xi^2 \nabla^2 \psi)$$

➤  $d_t = \partial_t + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla$ . Surface tension: force in Navier-Stokes equation:

$$\partial_t \vec{v} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \vec{v} = -\frac{\nabla p}{\rho} - \psi \nabla \mu + \nu \nabla^2 \vec{v}$$

➤ For incompressible fluid,  $\nabla \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ .

# 2D CHNS and 2D MHD

## ➤ 2D CHNS Equations:

$$\partial_t \psi + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \psi = D \nabla^2 (-\psi + \psi^3 - \xi^2 \nabla^2 \psi)$$

$$\partial_t \omega + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \omega = \frac{\xi^2}{\rho} \vec{B}_\psi \cdot \nabla \nabla^2 \psi + \nu \nabla^2 \omega$$

$-\psi$ : Negative diffusion term

$\psi^3$ : Self nonlinear term

$-\xi^2 \nabla^2 \psi$ : Hyper-diffusion term

With  $\vec{v} = \hat{z} \times \nabla \phi$ ,  $\omega = \nabla^2 \phi$ ,  $\vec{B}_\psi = \hat{z} \times \nabla \psi$ ,  $j_\psi = \xi^2 \nabla^2 \psi$ .

## ➤ 2D MHD Equations:

$$\partial_t A + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla A = \eta \nabla^2 A$$

$$\partial_t \omega + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \omega = \frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} \vec{B} \cdot \nabla \nabla^2 A + \nu \nabla^2 \omega$$

$A$ : Simple diffusion term

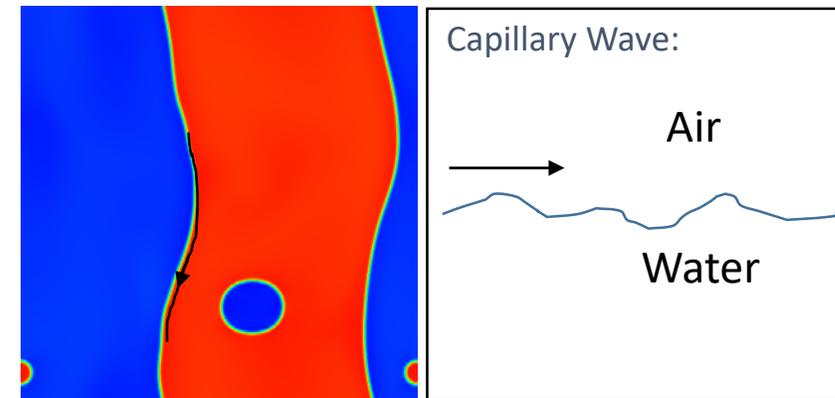
With  $\vec{v} = \hat{z} \times \nabla \phi$ ,  $\omega = \nabla^2 \phi$ ,  $\vec{B} = \hat{z} \times \nabla A$ ,  $j = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla^2 A$ .

|                      | 2D MHD            | 2D CHNS           |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Magnetic Potential   | $A$               | $\psi$            |
| Magnetic Field       | $\mathbf{B}$      | $\mathbf{B}_\psi$ |
| Current              | $j$               | $j_\psi$          |
| Diffusivity          | $\eta$            | $D$               |
| Interaction strength | $\frac{1}{\mu_0}$ | $\xi^2$           |

# Linear Wave

- CHNS supports linear “elastic” wave:

$$\omega(k) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{\xi^2}{\rho} |\vec{k} \times \vec{B}_{\psi_0}|} - \frac{1}{2} i(CD + \nu)k^2$$



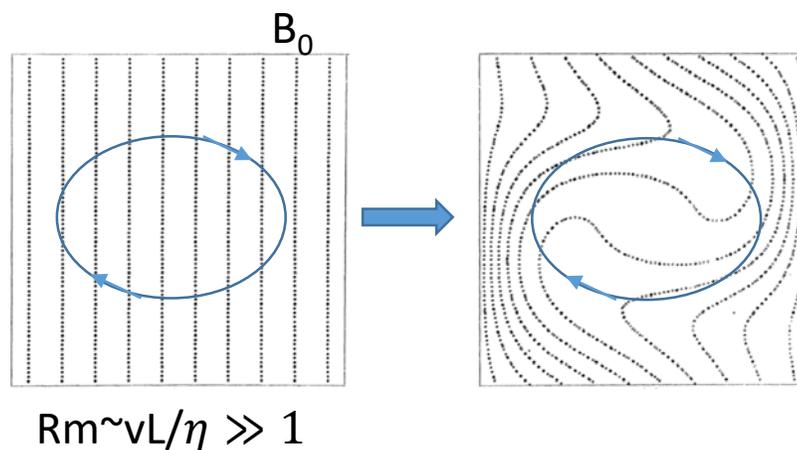
Where  $C \equiv [-1 - 6\psi_0 \nabla^2 \psi_0 / k^2 - 6(\nabla \psi_0)^2 / k^2 - 6\psi_0 \nabla \psi_0 \cdot i\mathbf{k} / k^2 + 3\psi_0^2 + \xi^2 k^2]$

- Akin to capillary wave at phase interface. Propagates ***only*** along the interface of the two fluids, where  $|\vec{B}_{\psi}| = |\nabla \psi| \neq 0$ .
- Analogue of Alfvén wave.
- Important differences:
  - $\vec{B}_{\psi}$  in CHNS is large only in the interfacial regions.
  - Elastic wave activity does not fill space.

# **What of a Single Eddy? (Homogenization)**

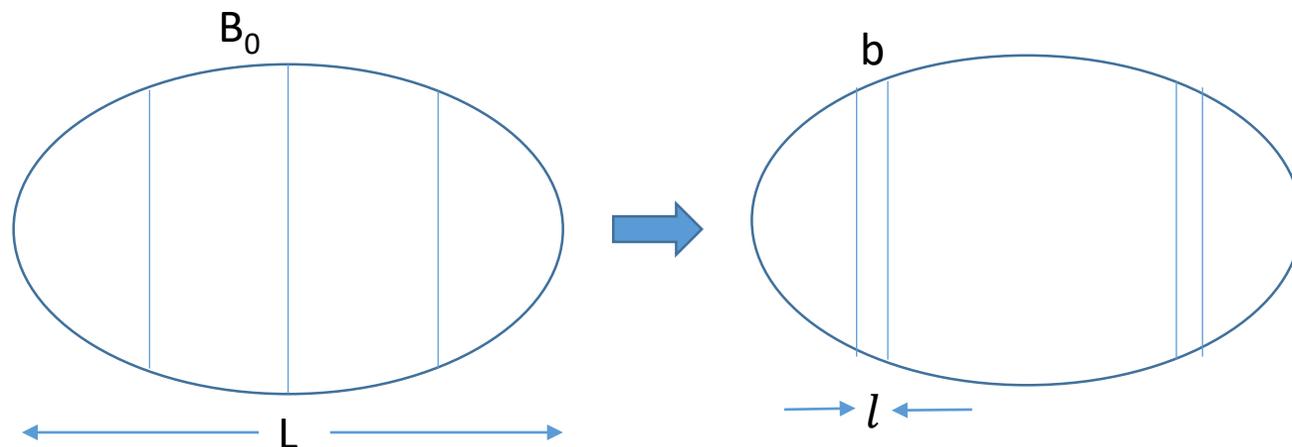
# Flux Expulsion

- Simplest dynamical problem in MHD (Weiss '66, et. seq.)
- Closely related to “PV Homogenization”



- Field wound-up, “expelled” from eddy
- For large  $Rm$ , field concentrated in boundary layer of eddy
- Ultimately, back-reaction asserts itself for sufficient  $B_0$

# How to Describe?



after n turns:  
 $nl=L$

- Flux conservation:  $B_0 L \sim b l$     Wind up:  $b = n B_0$  (field stretched)
- Rate balance: wind-up  $\sim$  dissipation

$$\frac{v}{L} B_0 \sim \frac{\eta}{l^2} b \cdot \tau_{expulsion} \sim \left( \frac{L}{v_0} \right) Rm^{1/3}.$$

$$l \sim \delta_{BL} \sim L/Rm^{1/3} \cdot b \sim Rm^{1/3} B_0.$$

N.B. differs from  
Sweet-Parker!

# What's the Physics?

- Shear dispersion! (Moffatt, Kamkar '82)

$$\partial_t A + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla A = \eta \nabla^2 A \quad (\text{Shearing coordinates})$$

$$v_y = v_y(x) = v_{y0} + x v_y' + \dots$$

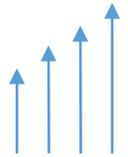
$$\frac{dk_x}{dt} = -k_y v_y', \quad \frac{dk_y}{dt} = 0$$

$$\partial_t A + x v_y' \partial_y A - \eta (\partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2) A = 0$$

$$A = A(t) \exp i(\vec{k}(t) \cdot \vec{x})$$

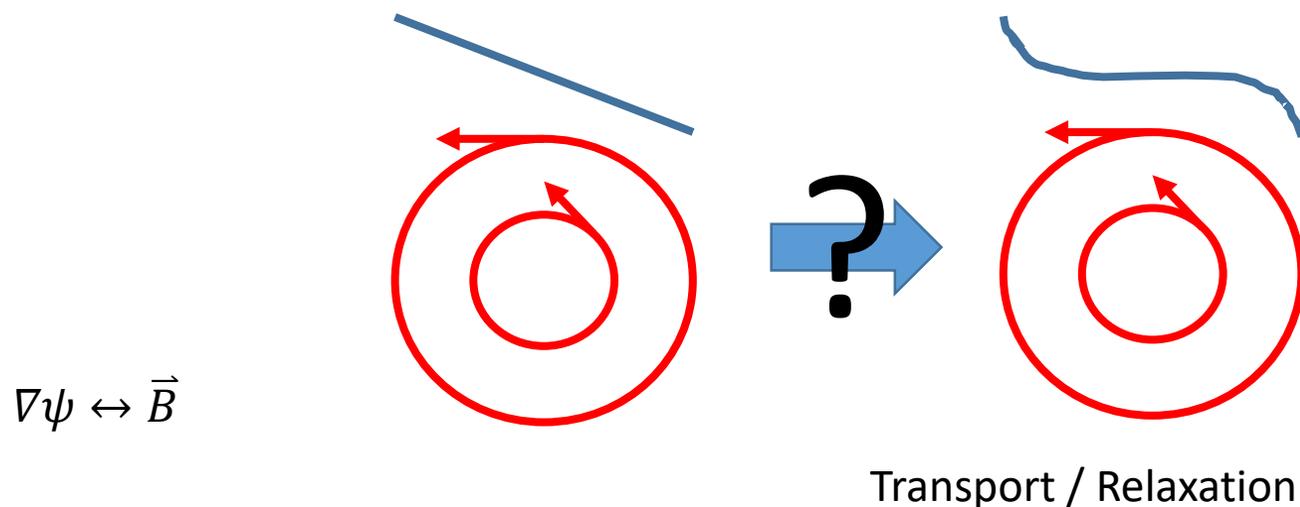
(Shear enhanced dissipation annihilates interior field)

- So  $\tau_{mix} \cong \tau_{shear} Rm^{1/3} = (v_y')^{-1} Rm^{1/3}$



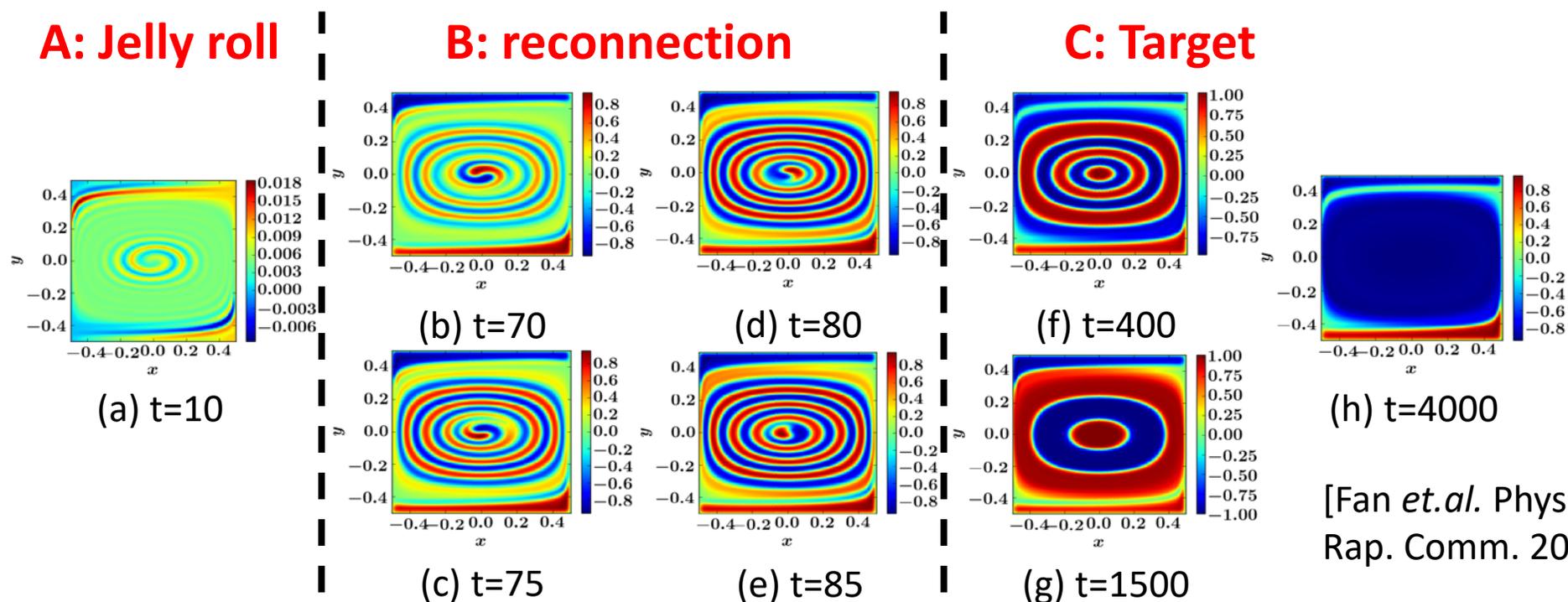
# Single Eddy Mixing -- Cahn-Hilliard

- Structures are the key → need understand how a single eddy interacts with  $\psi$  field
- Mixing of  $\nabla\psi$  by a single eddy → characteristic time scales?
- Evolution of structure?
- Analogous to flux expulsion in MHD (Weiss, '66)



# Single Eddy Mixing -- Cahn-Hilliard

- 3 stages: (A) the "jelly roll" stage, (B) the *topological evolution* stage, and (C) the *target pattern* stage.
- $\psi$  ultimately homogenized in slow time scale, but metastable target patterns formed and merge.



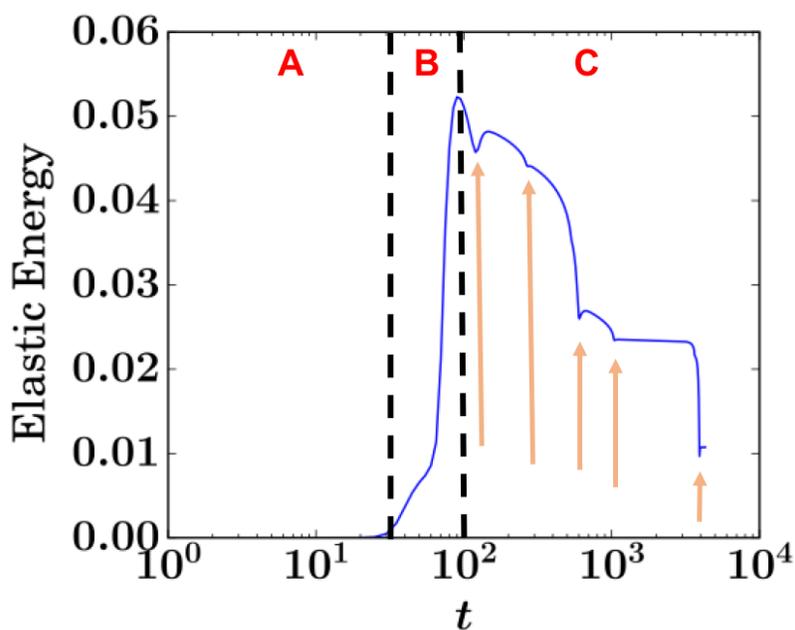
[Fan *et.al.* Phys. Rev. E  
Rap. Comm. 2017]

- Additional mixing time emerges.

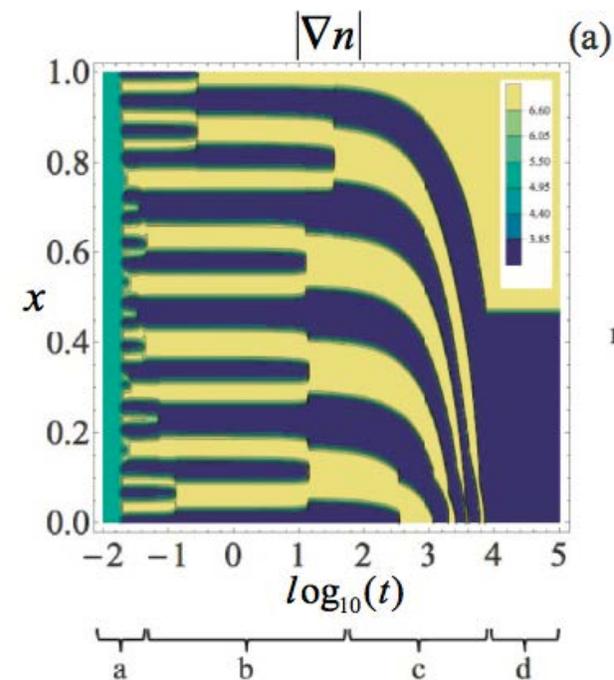
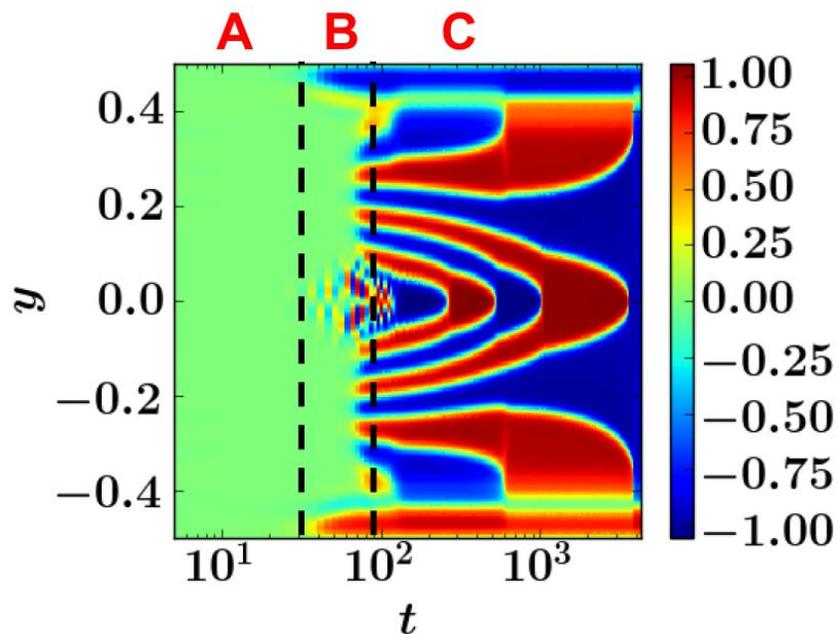
Note coarsening!

# Single Eddy Mixing

- The bands merge on a time scale long relative to eddy turnover time.
- The 3 stages are reflected in the elastic energy plot.
- The target bands mergers are related to the dips in the target pattern stage.
- The band merger process is similar to the step merger in drift-ZF staircases.



Episodic relaxation-coarsening Cahn-Hilliard dynamics



# Back Reaction – Vortex Disruption

➤ (MHD only) (A. Gilbert et.al. '16; J. Mak et.al. '17)

➤ Demise of kinematic expulsion?

- Magnetic *tension* grows to react on vorticity evolution!

➤ Recall:  $b \sim B_0 (Rm)^{1/3}$

- B.L. field stretched!

➤ and  $\vec{B} \cdot \nabla \vec{B} = -\frac{|B|^2}{r_c} \hat{n} + \frac{d}{ds} \left( \frac{|B|^2}{2} \right) \hat{t}$

➤  $|\vec{B} \cdot \nabla \vec{B}| \cong b^2 / L_0$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} r_c \sim L_0 \\ \frac{d}{ds} \sim L_0^{-1} \end{array} \right\} \text{vortex scale}$$

# Back Reaction – Vortex Disruption

➤ So  $\rho \frac{d\omega}{dt} = \hat{z} \cdot [\nabla \times (\vec{B} \cdot \nabla \vec{B})]$

$$v_{A0}^2 = B_0^2 / 4\pi\rho$$

→  $\rho u \cdot \nabla \omega \sim b^2 / lL_0$

↑  
small BL scale enters

➤ Feedback → 1 for:  $Rm \left(\frac{v_{A0}}{u}\right)^2 \sim 1$

Remember this!

➤ Critical value to disrupt vortex, end kinematics

➤ Related Alfvén wave emission.

➤ Note for  $Rm \gg 1 \rightarrow$  strong field not required

➤ Will re-appear...

# **Some Aspects of CHNS Turbulence**

# MHD Turbulence – Quick Primer

- (Weak magnetization / 2D)
- Enstrophy conservation broken
- Alfvénic in  $B_{rms}$  field – “magneto-elastic” (E. Fermi ‘49)

$$\epsilon = \frac{\langle \tilde{v}^2 \rangle^2}{l^2} \frac{l}{B_{rms}} \implies E(k) = (\epsilon B_{rms})^{1/2} k^{-3/2}$$

- Dual cascade:
 

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Forward in energy                                     | reduced transfer rate:<br>Kraichnan |
| <u>Inverse</u> in $\langle A^2 \rangle \sim k^{-7/3}$ |                                     |
- What is dominant (A. Pouquet)?

- conventional wisdom focuses on energy
- yet  $\langle A^2 \rangle$  conservation – freezing-in law!?
- Is the inverse cascade of  $\langle A^2 \rangle$  the ‘real’ process, with energy dragged to small scale by fluid?

# Ideal Quadratic Conserved Quantities

## • 2D MHD

### 1. Energy

$$E = E^K + E^B = \int \left( \frac{v^2}{2} + \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0} \right) d^2x$$

### 2. Mean Square Magnetic Potential

$$H^A = \int A^2 d^2x$$

### 3. Cross Helicity

$$H^C = \int \vec{v} \cdot \vec{B} d^2x$$

## • 2D CHNS

### 1. Energy

$$E = E^K + E^B = \int \left( \frac{v^2}{2} + \frac{\xi^2 B_\psi^2}{2} \right) d^2x$$

### 2. Mean Square Concentration

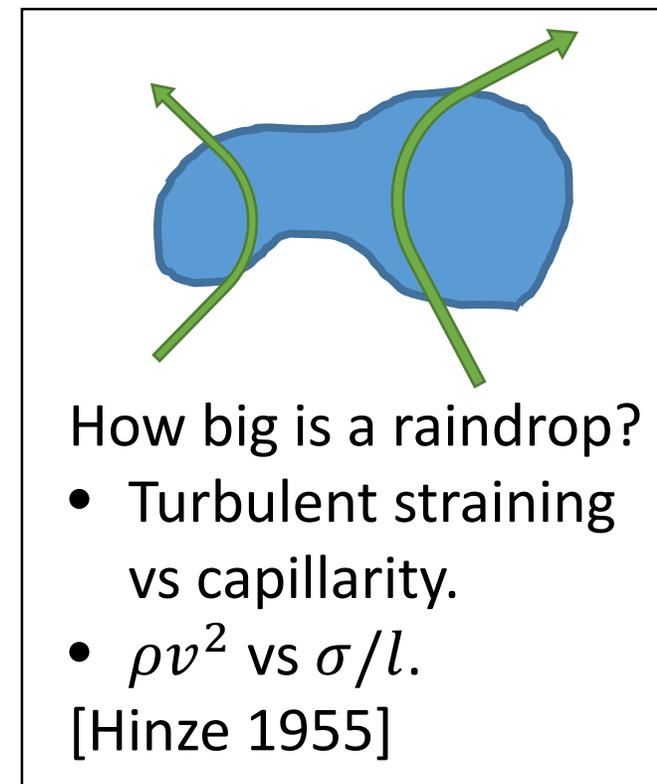
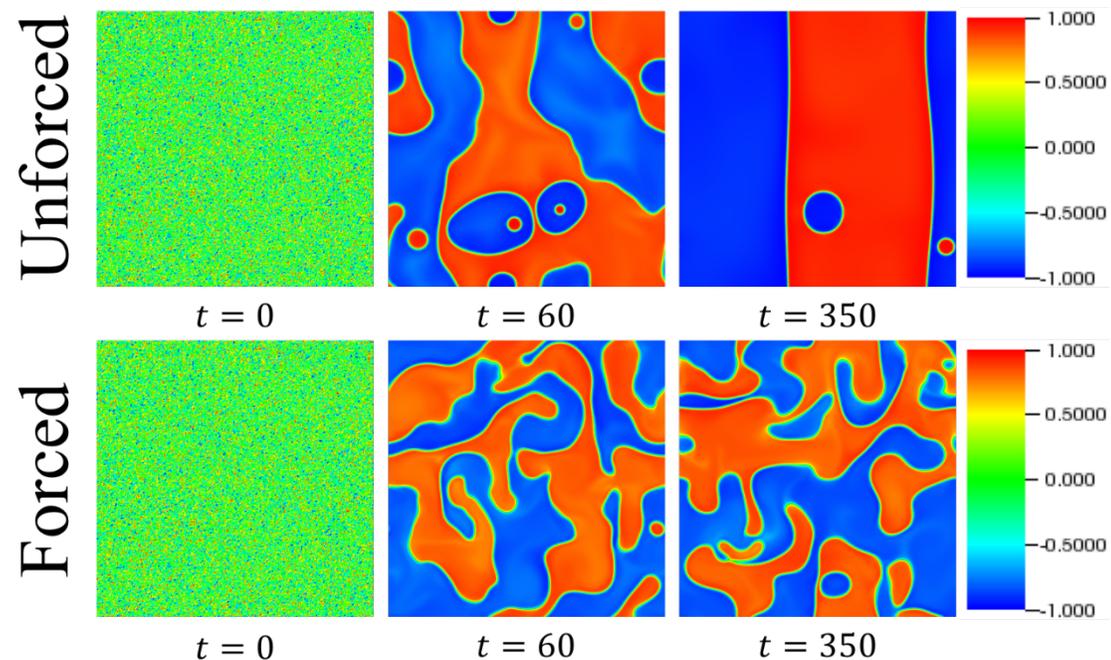
$$H^\psi = \int \psi^2 d^2x$$

### 3. Cross Helicity

$$H^C = \int \vec{v} \cdot \vec{B}_\psi d^2x$$

Dual cascade expected!

# Scales, Ranges, Trends

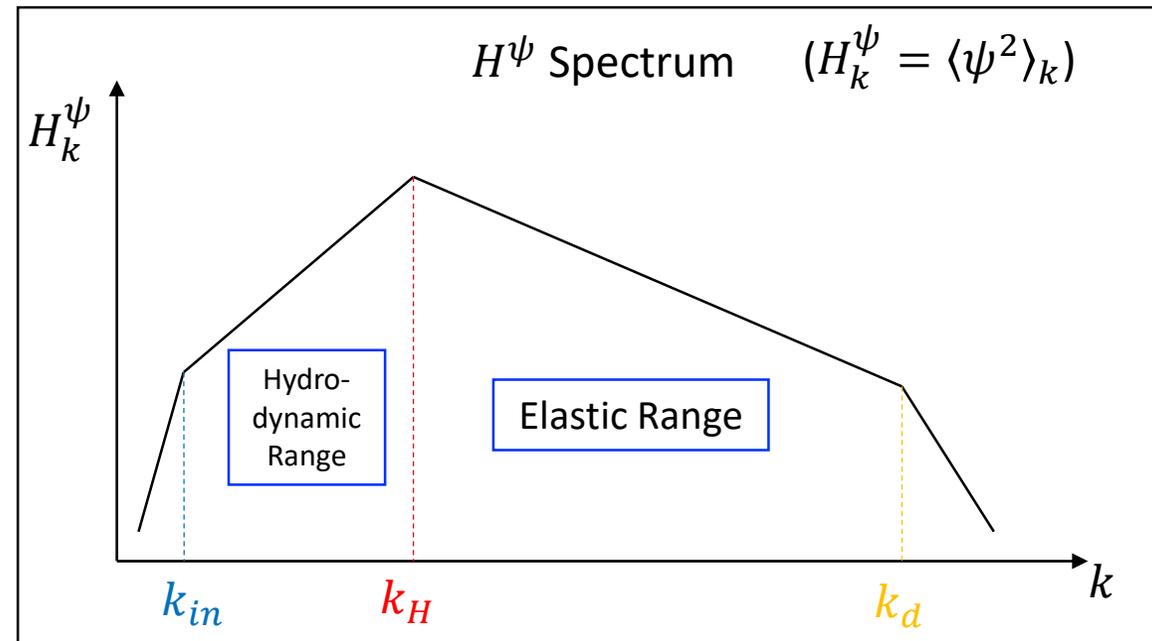


- Fluid forcing → Fluid straining vs Blob coalescence
- Straining vs coalescence is fundamental struggle of CHNS turbulence
- Scale where turbulent straining  $\sim$  elastic restoring force (due surface tension):  
Hinze Scale

$$L_H \sim \left(\frac{\rho}{\xi}\right)^{-1/3} \epsilon_{\Omega}^{-2/9}$$

# Scales, Ranges, Trends

- Elastic range:  $L_H > l > L_d$ : where elastic effects matter.
- $L_H/L_d \sim \left(\frac{\rho}{\xi}\right)^{-1/3} \nu^{-1/2} \epsilon_{\Omega}^{-1/18} \rightarrow$  Extent of the elastic range
- $L_H \gg L_d$  required for large elastic range  $\rightarrow$  case of interest



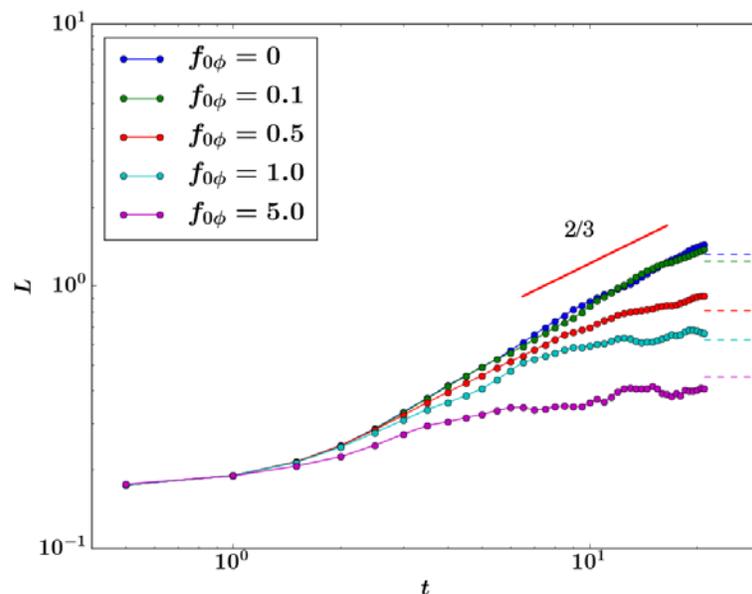
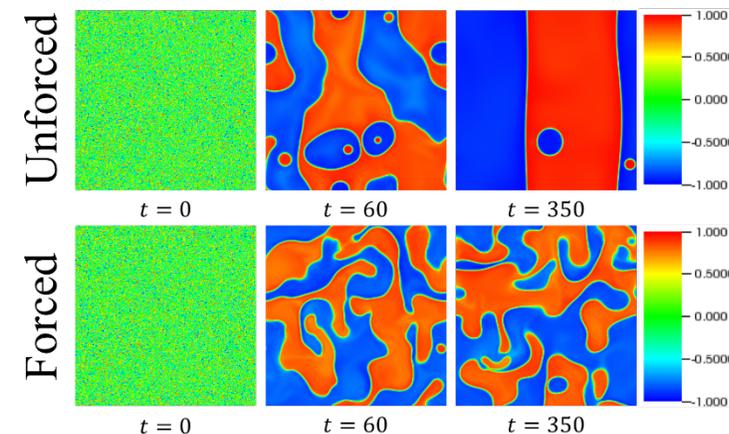
# Scales, Ranges, Trends

- Key elastic range physics: **Blob coalescence**

- Unforced case:  $L(t) \sim t^{2/3}$ .

(Derivation:  $\vec{v} \cdot \nabla \vec{v} \sim \frac{\xi^2}{\rho} \nabla^2 \psi \nabla \psi \Rightarrow \frac{\dot{L}^2}{L} \sim \frac{\sigma}{\rho} \frac{1}{L^2}$ )

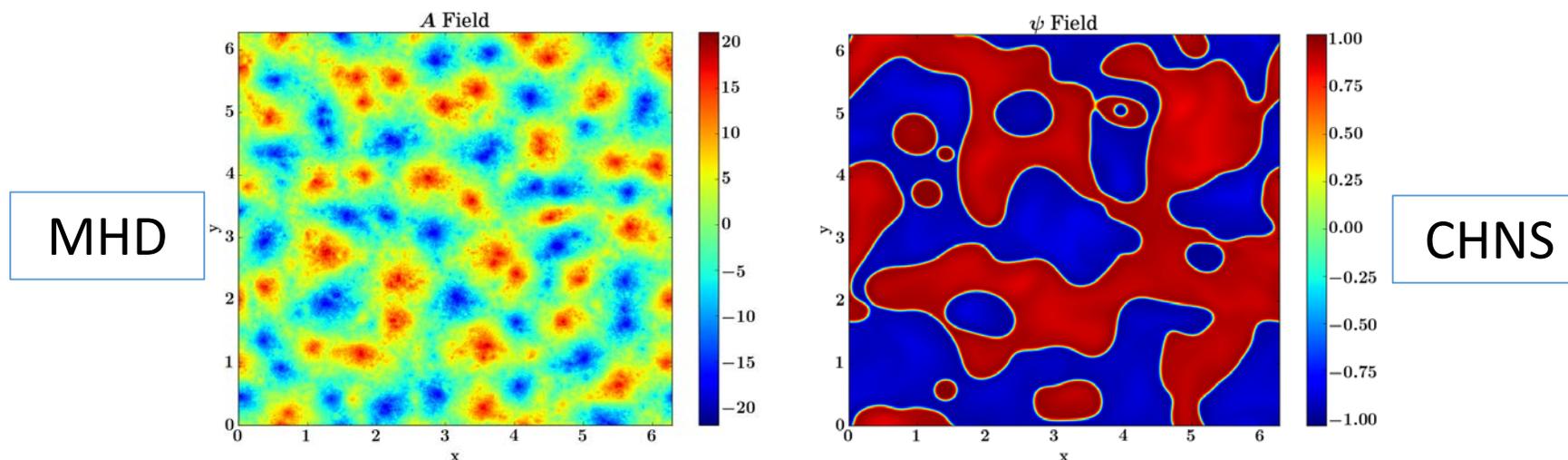
- Forced case: blob coalescence arrested at Hinze scale  $L_H$ .



- $L(t) \sim t^{2/3}$  recovered
- Blob growth arrest observed
- Blob growth saturation scale tracks Hinze scale (dashed lines)

- Blob coalescence suggests inverse cascade is fundamental here.

# Cascades: Comparing the Systems



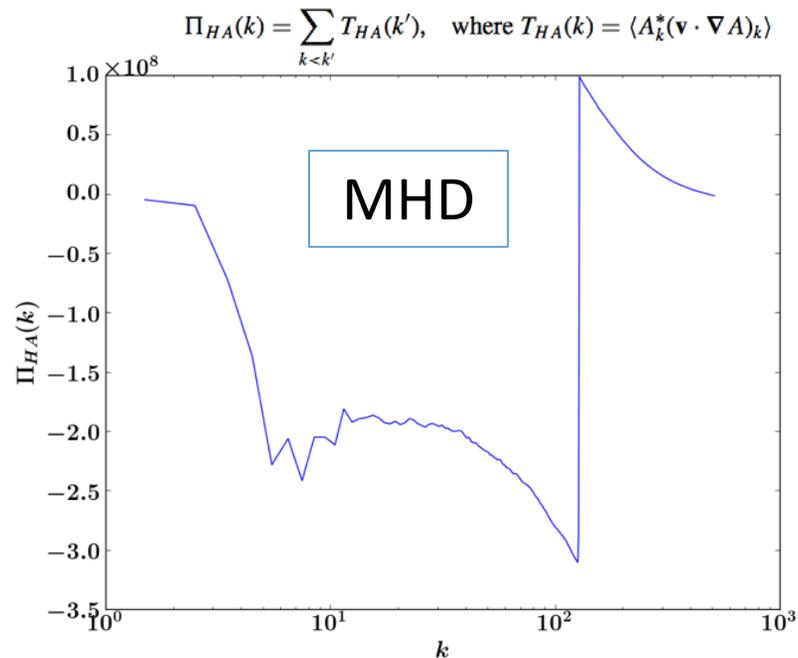
- Blob coalescence in the elastic range of CHNS is analogous to flux coalescence in 2D MHD.
- Suggests *inverse cascade* of  $\langle \psi^2 \rangle$  in CHNS.
- Supported by statistical mechanics studies (absolute equilibrium distributions).
- Arrested by straining.

# Cascades - the Story

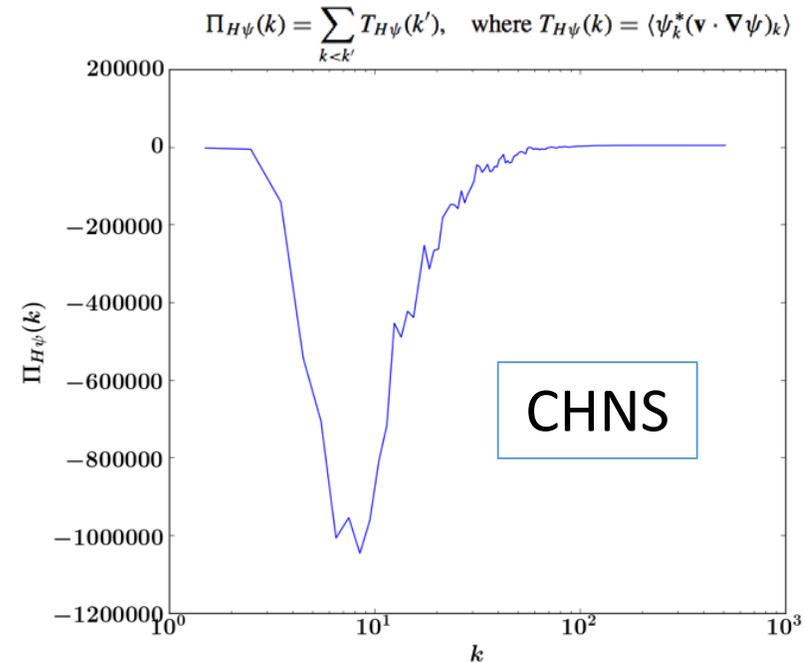
- So, dual cascade:
  - Inverse cascade of  $\langle \psi^2 \rangle$
  - Forward cascade of  $E$
- Inverse cascade of  $\langle \psi^2 \rangle$  is formal expression of blob coalescence process → generate larger scale structures till limited by straining
- Forward cascade of  $E$  as usual, as elastic force breaks enstrophy conservation
- Forward cascade of energy is analogous to counterpart in 2D MHD

# Cascades

## ➤ Spectral flux of $\langle A^2 \rangle$ :



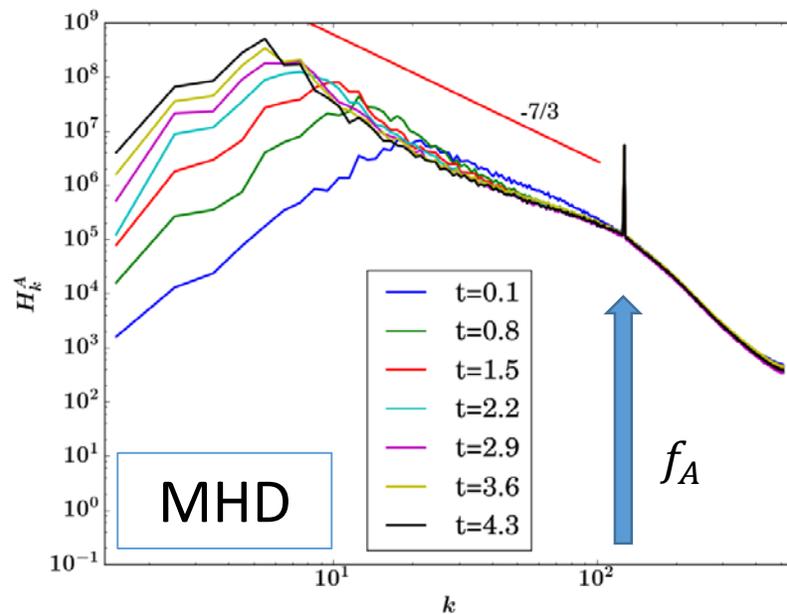
## Spectral flux of $\langle \psi^2 \rangle$ :



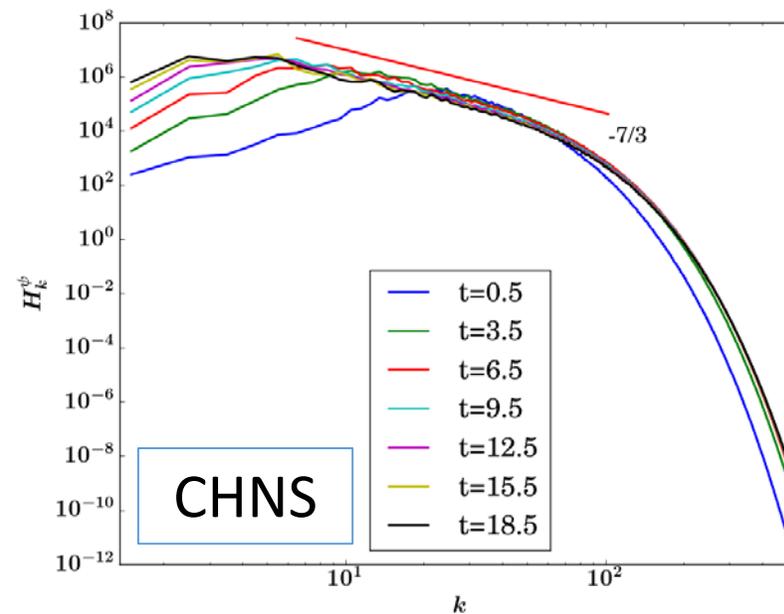
- MHD: weak small scale forcing on  $A$  drives inverse cascade
- CHNS:  $\psi$  is unforced  $\rightarrow$  aggregates naturally  $\Leftrightarrow$  structure of free energy
- Both fluxes negative  $\rightarrow$  inverse cascades

# Power Laws

➤  $\langle A^2 \rangle$  spectrum:



$\langle \psi^2 \rangle$  spectrum:



➤ Both systems exhibit  $k^{-7/3}$  spectra.

➤ Inverse cascade of  $\langle \psi^2 \rangle$  exhibits same power law scaling, so long as  $L_H \gg L_d$ , maintaining elastic range: Robust process.

# Power Laws

➤ Derivation of -7/3 power law:

➤ For MHD, key assumptions:

- Alfvénic equipartition ( $\rho \langle v^2 \rangle \sim \frac{1}{\mu_0} \langle B^2 \rangle$ )

- Constant mean square magnetic potential dissipation rate  $\epsilon_{HA}$ , so

$$\epsilon_{HA} \sim \frac{H^A}{\tau} \sim (H_k^A)^{\frac{3}{2}} k^{\frac{7}{2}}.$$

➤ Similarly, assume the following for CHNS:

- Elastic equipartition ( $\rho \langle v^2 \rangle \sim \xi^2 \langle B_\psi^2 \rangle$ )

- Constant mean square magnetic potential dissipation rate  $\epsilon_{H\psi}$ , so

$$\epsilon_{H\psi} \sim \frac{H^\psi}{\tau} \sim (H_k^\psi)^{\frac{3}{2}} k^{\frac{7}{2}}.$$

# More Power Laws

➤ Kinetic energy spectrum (**Surprise!**):

➤ 2D CHNS:  $E_k^K \sim k^{-3}$ ;

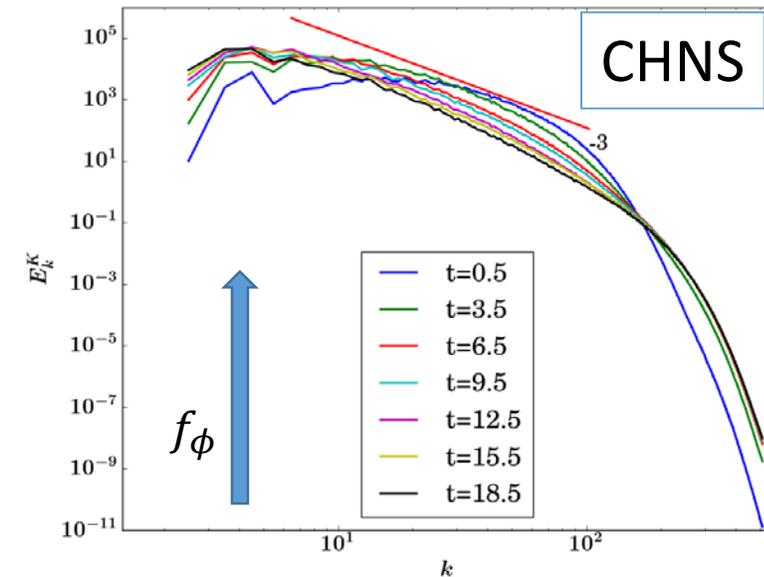
➤ 2D MHD:  $E_k^K \sim k^{-3/2}$ .

➤ The -3 power law:

- Closer to enstrophy cascade range scaling, in 2D Hydro turbulence.
- Remarkable departure from expected -3/2 for MHD. **Why?**

➤ Why does CHNS  $\leftrightarrow$  MHD correspondence hold well for  $\langle \psi^2 \rangle_k \sim \langle A^2 \rangle_k \sim k^{-7/3}$ , yet break down drastically for energy???

➤ **What physics** underpins this surprise??

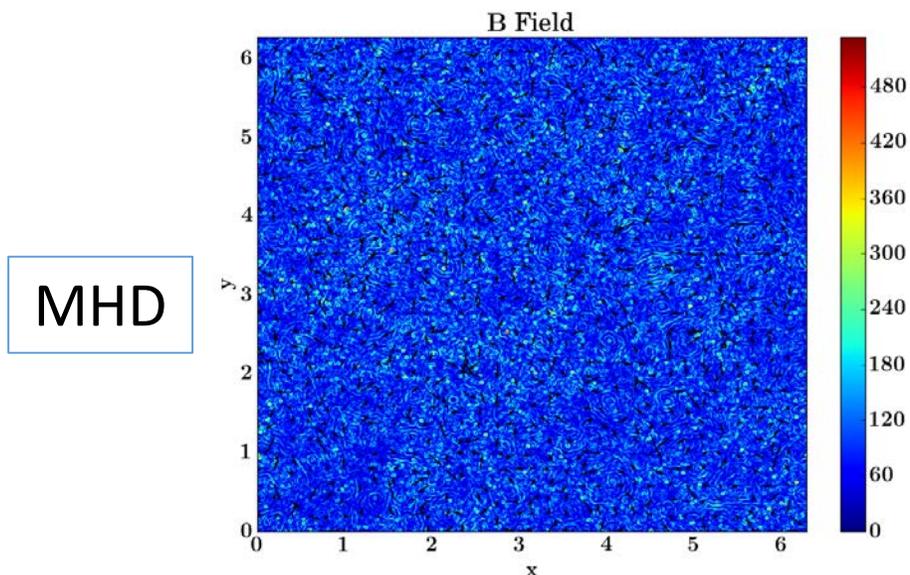


# Interface Packing Matters! – Pattern!

- Need to understand *differences*, as well as similarities, between CHNS and MHD problems.

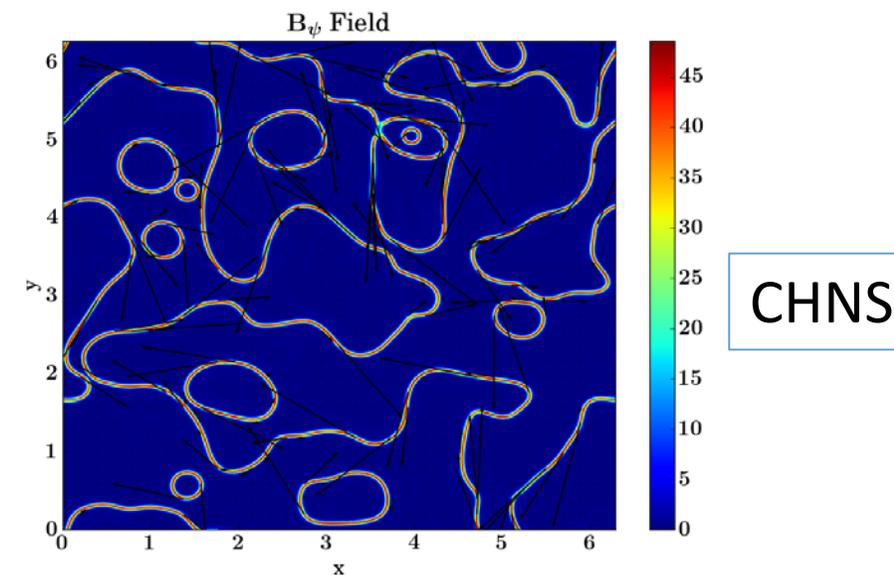
## 2D MHD:

- Fields pervade system.



## 2D CHNS:

- Elastic back-reaction is limited to regions of density contrast i.e.  $|\vec{B}_\psi| = |\nabla\psi| \neq 0$ .
- As blobs coalesce, interfacial region diminished. 'Active region' of elasticity decays.



# Interface Packing Matters!

- Define the **interface packing fraction**  $P$ :

$$P = \frac{\text{\# of grid points where } |\vec{B}_\psi| > B_\psi^{rms}}{\text{\# of total grid points}}$$

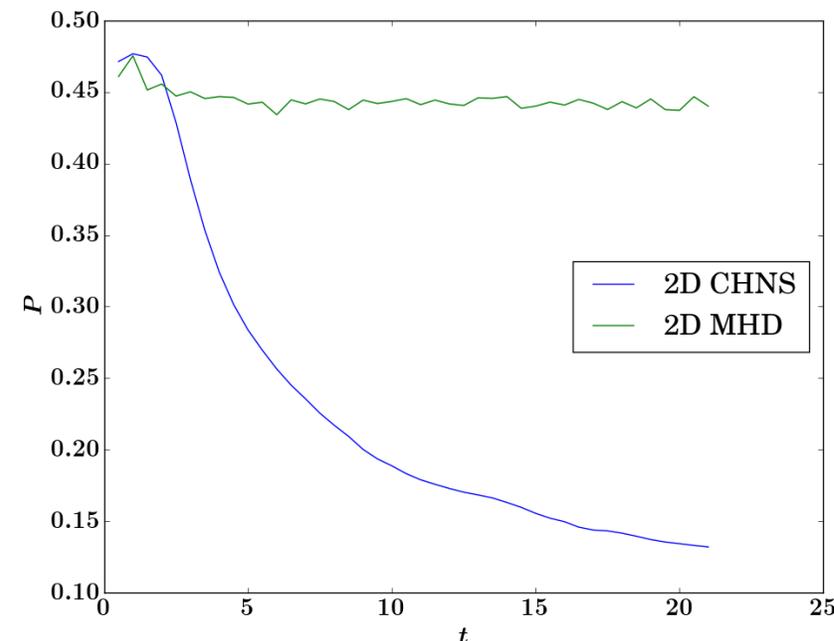
- $P$  for CHNS decays;

- $P$  for MHD stationary!

- $\partial_t \omega + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla \omega = \frac{\xi^2}{\rho} \vec{B}_\psi \cdot \nabla \nabla^2 \psi + \nu \nabla^2 \omega$ : small  $P \rightarrow$  local back reaction is weak.

- Weak back reaction  $\rightarrow$  reduce to 2D hydro  $\rightarrow$  k-spectra

- Blob coalescence coarsens interface network



# What Are the Lessons?

- Avoid power law tunnel vision!
- **Real space** realization of the flow is necessary to understand key dynamics. Track interfaces and packing fraction  $P$ .
- One player in dual cascade (i.e.  $\langle \psi^2 \rangle$ ) can modify or constrain the dynamics of the other (i.e.  $E$ ).
- Against conventional wisdom,  $\langle \psi^2 \rangle$  inverse cascade due to blob coalescence is the robust nonlinear transfer process in CHNS turbulence.
- Beggings more attention to magnetic helicity in 3D MHD.

# **Transport and Beyond**

- **Active Scalar Transport**
- **Two Stage Evolution**
- **Revisiting Quenching**

# Physics: Active Scalar Transport

- Magnetic diffusion,  $\psi$  transport are cases of active scalar transport
- (Focus: 2D MHD) (Cattaneo, Vainshtein '92, Gruzinov, P. D. '94, '95)

scalar mixing – the usual

$$\partial_t A + \nabla\phi \times \hat{z} \cdot \nabla A = \eta \nabla^2 A$$

$$\partial_t \nabla^2 \phi + \nabla\phi \times \hat{z} \cdot \nabla \nabla^2 \phi = \nabla A \times \hat{z} \cdot \nabla \nabla^2 A + \nu \nabla^2 \nabla^2 \phi$$

turbulent resistivity

back-reaction

- Seek  $\langle v_x A \rangle = -D_T \frac{\partial \langle A \rangle}{\partial x} - \eta \frac{\partial \langle A \rangle}{\partial x}$
- Point:  $D_T \neq \sum_{\vec{k}} |\vec{v}_{\vec{k}}|^2 \tau_{\vec{k}}^K$ , often substantially less
- Why: Memory!  $\leftrightarrow$  Freezing-in
- Cross Phase

# Conventional Wisdom

- [Cattaneo and Vainshtein 1991]: turbulent transport is suppressed even for a weak large scale magnetic field is present.

- Starting point:  $\partial_t \langle A^2 \rangle = -2\eta \langle B^2 \rangle$

- Assumptions:

- Energy equipartition:  $\frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} \langle B^2 \rangle \sim \langle v^2 \rangle$

- Average B can be estimated by:  $|\langle \mathbf{B} \rangle| \sim \sqrt{\langle A^2 \rangle} / L_0$

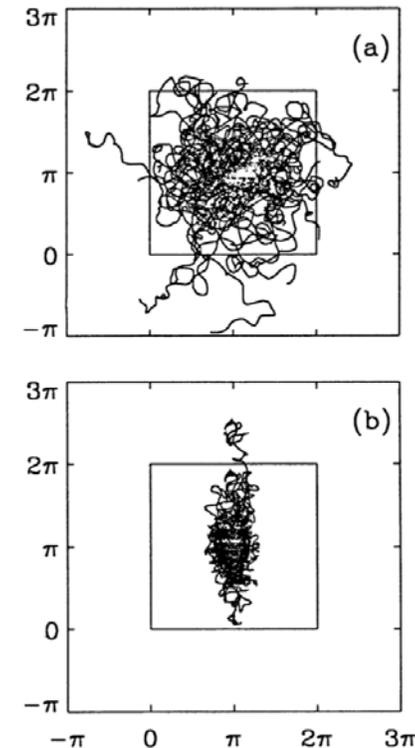
- Define Mach number as:  $M^2 = \langle v_A \rangle^2 / \langle \tilde{v}^2 \rangle = \langle v^2 \rangle / v_A^2 = \langle v^2 \rangle / \frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} \langle B^2 \rangle$

- Result for suppression stage:  $\eta_T \sim \eta M^2$

- Fit together with kinematic stage result:

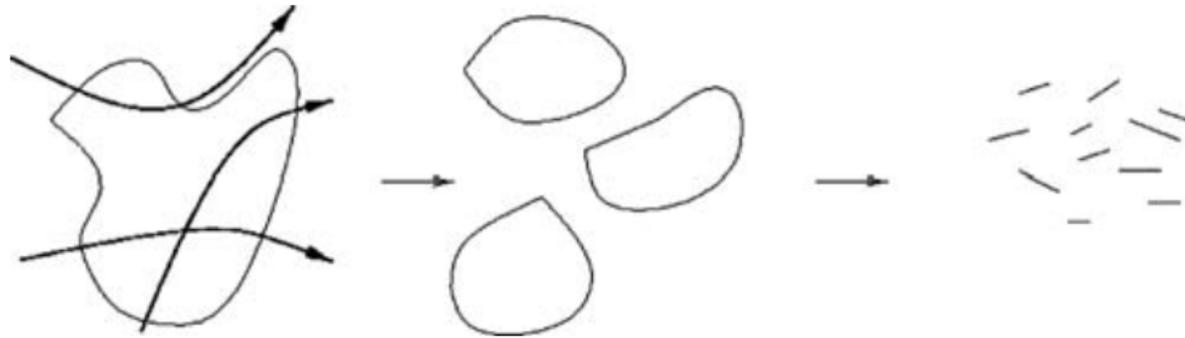
$$\eta_T \sim \frac{ul}{1 + \text{Rm}/M^2}$$

- Lack physics interpretation of  $\eta_T$  !



# Origin of Memory?

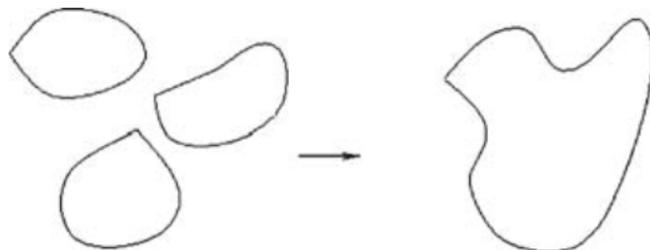
- (a) flux advection vs flux coalescence
  - intrinsic to 2D MHD (and CHNS)
  - rooted in inverse cascade of  $\langle A^2 \rangle$  - dual cascades
- (b) tendency of (even weak) mean magnetic field to “Alfvenize” turbulence [cf: vortex disruption feedback threshold!]
- Re (a): Basic physics of 2D MHD



Forward transfer: fluid eddies chop up scalar A.

# Memory Cont'd

- V.S.



Inverse transfer: current filaments and A-blobs attract and coagulate.

- Obvious analogy: straining vs coalescence; CHNS
- Upshot: closure calculation yields:

$$\Gamma_A = - \sum_{\vec{k}'} [\tau_c^\phi \langle v^2 \rangle_{\vec{k}'} - \tau_c^A \langle B^2 \rangle_{\vec{k}'}] \frac{\partial \langle A \rangle}{\partial x} + \dots$$

flux of potential
competition

scalar advection vs. coalescence (“negative resistivity”)

(+)
(-)

N.B.:

- Coalescence
- Negative diffusion
- Bifurcation

# Conventional Wisdom, Cont'd

- Then calculate  $\langle B^2 \rangle$  in terms of  $\langle v^2 \rangle$ . From:

$$\partial_t A + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla A = -v_x \frac{\partial \langle A \rangle}{\partial x} + \eta \nabla^2 A$$

- Multiplying by  $A$  and sum over all modes:

$$\frac{1}{2} [\cancel{\partial_t \langle A^2 \rangle} + \langle \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{v} A^2) \rangle] = -\Gamma_A \frac{\partial \langle A \rangle}{\partial x} - \eta \langle B^2 \rangle$$

Dropped stationary case

Dropped periodic boundary  $\rightarrow$  introduce nonlocality?!

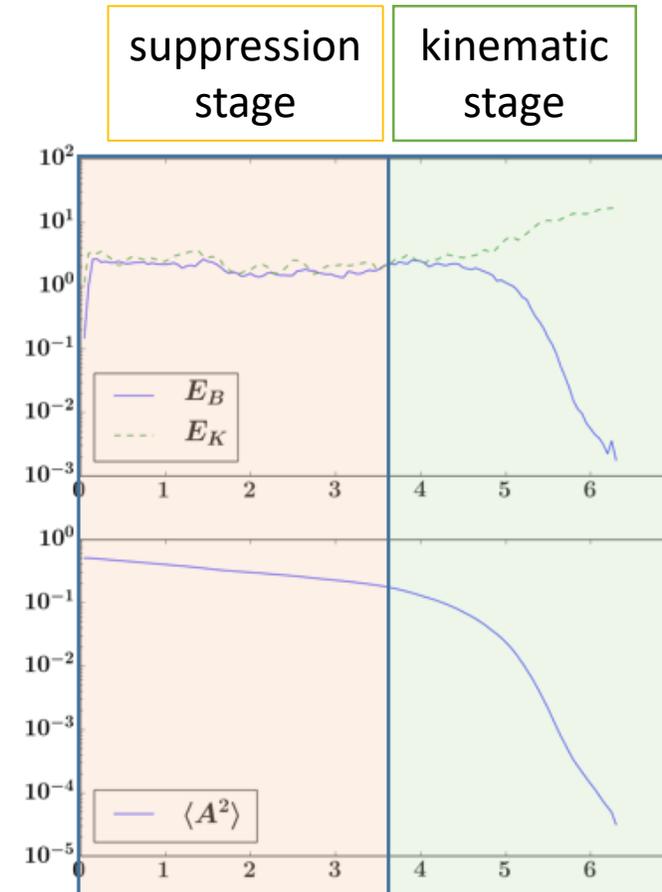
- Therefore:  $\langle B^2 \rangle = -\frac{\Gamma_A}{\eta} \frac{\partial \langle A \rangle}{\partial x} = \frac{\eta_T}{\eta} B_0^2$
- Define Mach number as:  $M^2 \equiv \langle v^2 \rangle / v_{A0}^2 = \langle v^2 \rangle / (\frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} B_0^2)$
- Result:  $\eta_T = \frac{\sum_{\mathbf{k}} \tau_c \langle v^2 \rangle_{\mathbf{k}}}{1 + \text{Rm}/M^2} = \frac{ul}{1 + \text{Rm}/M^2}$
- This theory is not able to describe  $B_0 \rightarrow 0$ , though may be extended (?!)

Is this story “the truth, the whole truth and  
nothing but the truth’?”

→ A Closer Look

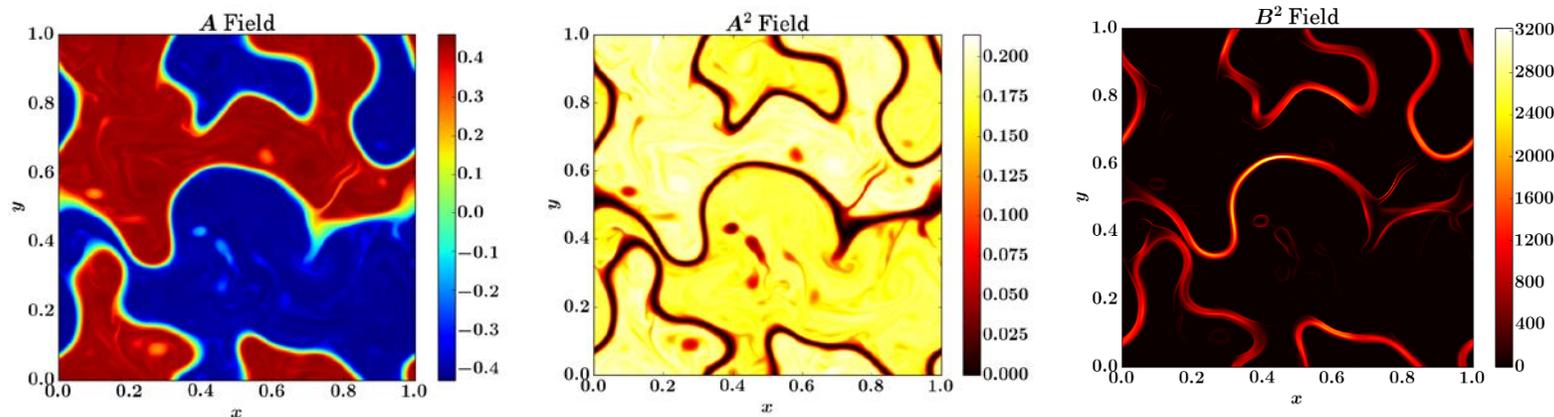
# Two Stage Evolution:

- 1. The suppression stage: the (large scale) magnetic field is sufficiently strong so that the diffusion is suppressed.
- 2. The kinematic decay stage: the magnetic field is dissipated so the diffusion rate returns to the kinematic rate.
- Suppression is due to the memory induced by the magnetic field.

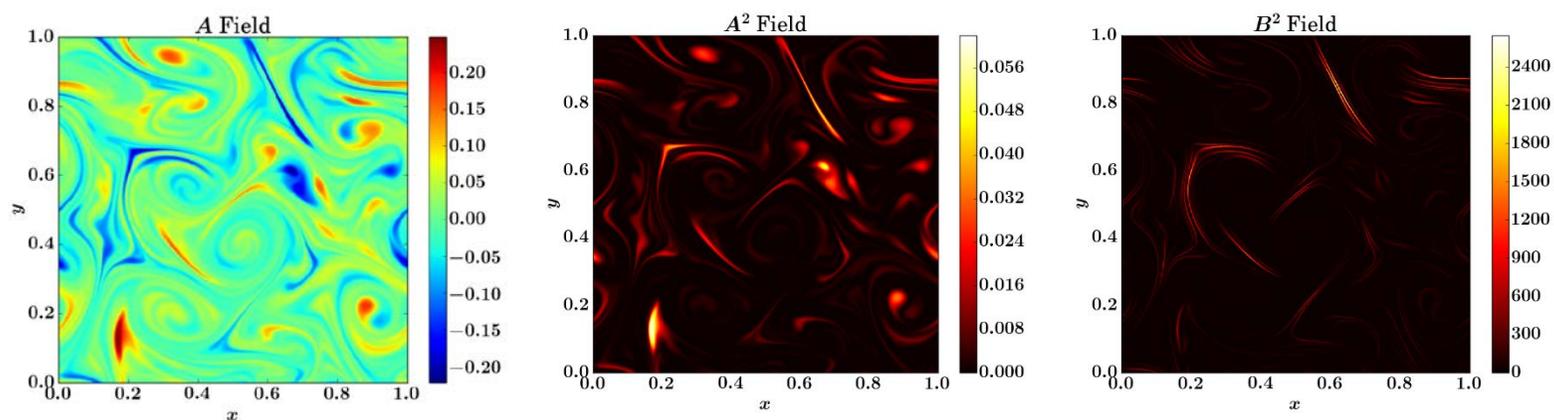


# New Observations

- With no imposed  $B_0$ , in suppression stage:



- v.s. same run, in kinematic stage (trivial):

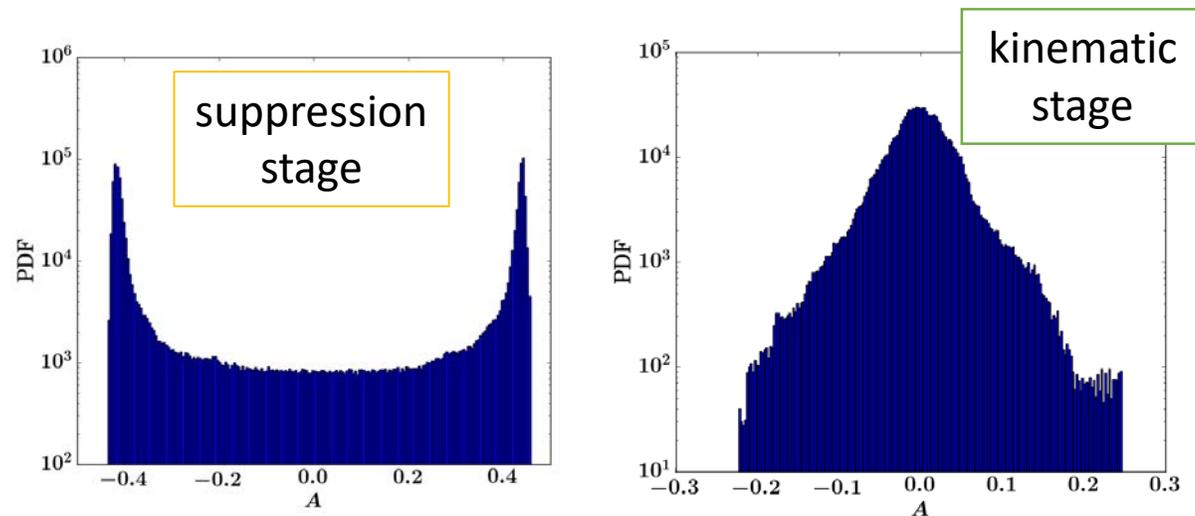


# New Observations Cont'd

- Nontrivial structure formed in real space during the suppression stage.
  - $A$  field is evidently composed of “blobs”.
  - The low  $A^2$  regions are 1-dimensional.
  - The high  $B^2$  regions are strongly correlated with low  $A^2$  regions, and also are 1-dimensional.
  - We call these 1-dimensional high  $B^2$  regions “barriers”, because these are the regions where mixing is reduced, relative to  $\eta_K$ .
- ➔ Story one of ‘blobs and barriers’

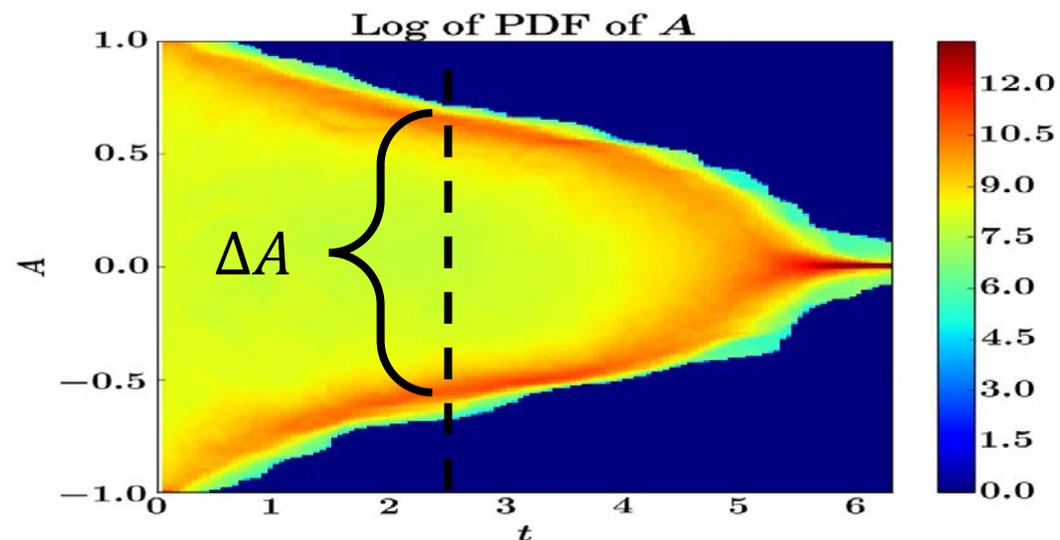
# Evolution of PDF of A

- Probability Density Function (PDF) in two stage:



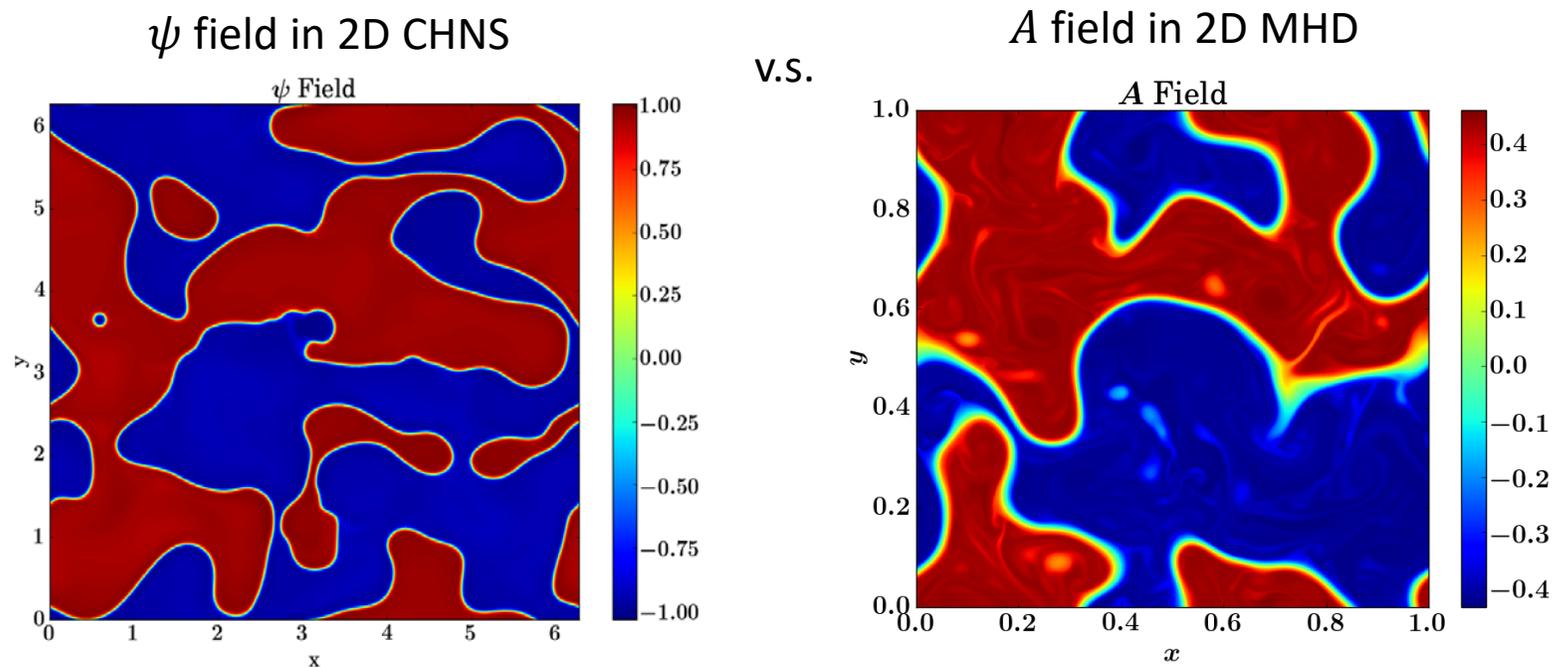
- Time evolution: horizontal "Y".

- The PDF changes from double peak to single peak as the system evolves from the suppression stage to the kinematic stage.



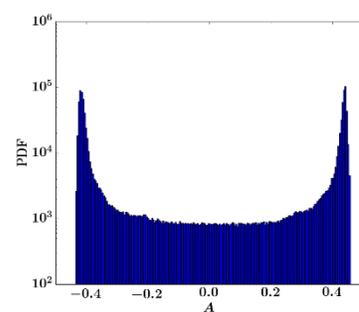
# 2D CHNS and 2D MHD

- The  $A$  field in 2D MHD in suppression stage is strikingly similar to the  $\psi$  field in 2D CHNS (Cahn-Hilliard Navier-Stokes) system:

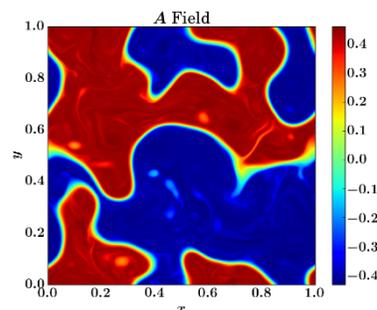


# Unimodal Initial Condition

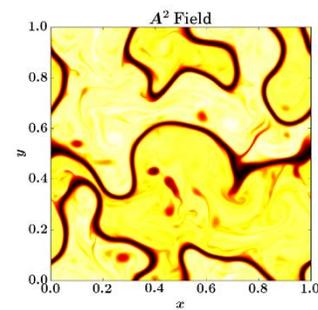
- One may question whether the bimodal PDF feature is purely due to the initial condition. The answer is No.
- Two non-zero peaks in PDF of  $A$  still arise, even if the initial condition is unimodal.



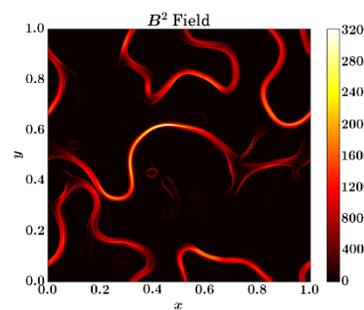
(a1)



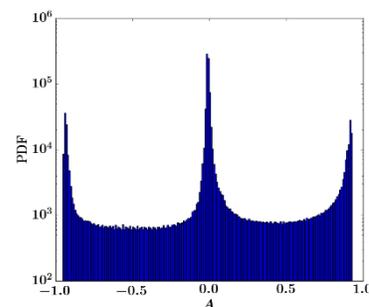
(a2)



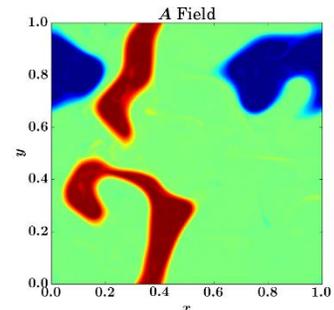
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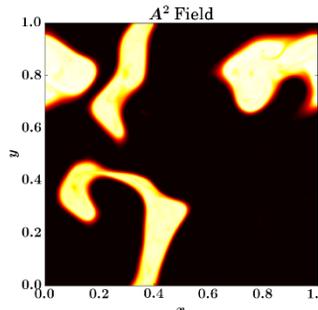
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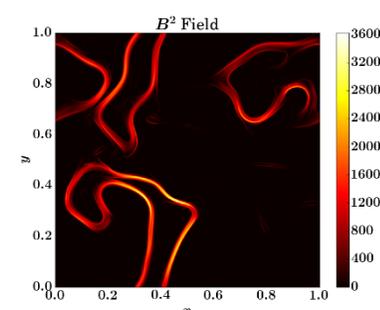
(b1)



(b2)



(b3)

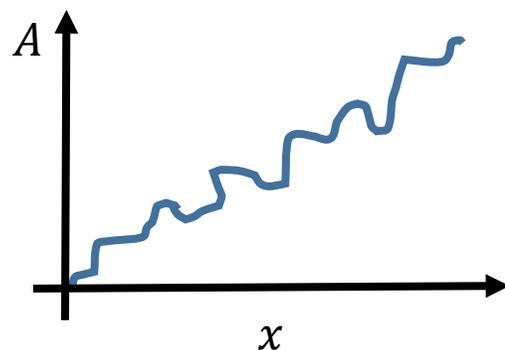
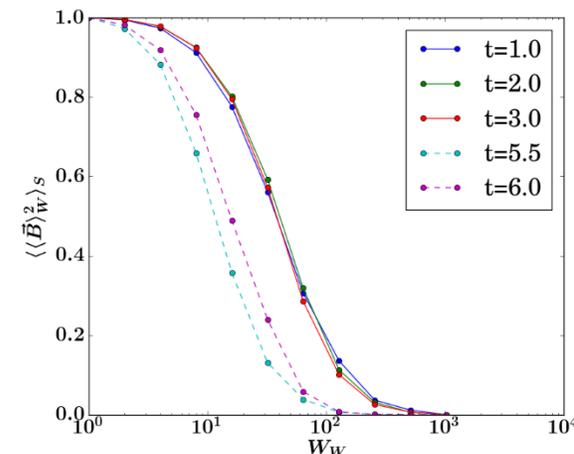


(b4)

# The problem of the mean field $\langle B \rangle$

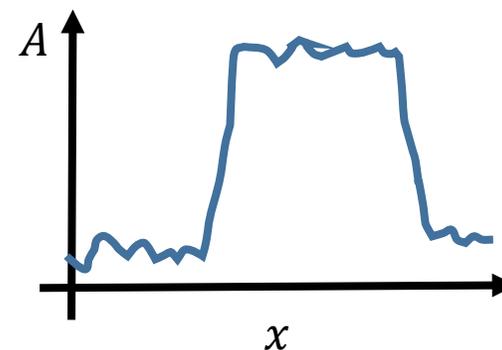
## → What does mean mean?

- $\langle B \rangle$  depends on the averaging window.
- With no imposed external field,  $B$  is highly intermittent, therefore the  $\langle B \rangle$  is not well defined.



$$|\langle B \rangle| \sim \sqrt{\langle A^2 \rangle} / L_0 \quad \checkmark$$

v.s.



$\langle B \rangle$  not well defined

Reality

# Revisiting Quenching

# New Understanding

- Summary of important length scales:  $l < L_{stir} < L_{env} < L_0$ 
  - System size  $L_0$
  - Envelope size  $L_{env} \rightarrow$  emergent (blob)
  - Stirring length scale  $L_{stir}$
  - Turbulence length scale  $l$ , here we use Taylor microscale  $\lambda$
  - Barrier width  $W \rightarrow$  emergent
- Quench is not uniform. Transport coefficients differ in different regions.
- In the regions where magnetic fields are strong,  $Rm/M^2$  is dominant. They are regions of **barriers**.
- In other regions, i.e. Inside blobs,  $Rm/M'^2$  is what remains.  $M'^2 \equiv \langle V^2 \rangle / \left( \frac{1}{\rho} \langle A^2 \rangle / L_{env}^2 \right)$

# New Understanding, cont'd

- From  $\partial_t \langle A^2 \rangle = -\langle \mathbf{v} A \rangle \cdot \nabla \langle A \rangle - \nabla \cdot \langle \mathbf{v} A^2 \rangle - \eta \langle B^2 \rangle$
- Retain 2nd term on RHS. Average taken over an envelope/blob scale.
- Define diffusion (closure):

$$\langle \mathbf{v} A \rangle = -\eta_{T1} \nabla \langle A \rangle$$

$$\langle \mathbf{v} A^2 \rangle = -\eta_{T2} \nabla \langle A^2 \rangle$$

- Plugging in:  $\partial_t \langle A^2 \rangle = \eta_{T1} (\nabla \langle A \rangle)^2 + \nabla \eta_{T2} \cdot \nabla \langle A^2 \rangle - \eta \langle B^2 \rangle$
- For simplicity:  $\langle B^2 \rangle \sim \frac{\eta_T}{\eta} (\langle B \rangle^2 + \langle A^2 \rangle / L_{env}^2)$
- where  $L_{env}$  is the envelope size. Scale of  $\nabla^2 \langle A^2 \rangle$ .
- Define new strength parameter:  $M'^2 \equiv \langle v^2 \rangle / (\frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} \langle A^2 \rangle / L_{env}^2)$

- Result: 
$$\eta_T = \frac{ul}{1 + \text{Rm}/M^2 + \text{Rm}/M'^2} = \frac{ul}{1 + \text{Rm} \frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle^2 / \langle v^2 \rangle + \text{Rm} \frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} \langle A^2 \rangle / L_{env}^2 \langle v^2 \rangle}$$

$$\eta_T = V l / \left[ 1 + \frac{R_m}{M^2} + \frac{R_m}{M'^2} \right]$$

- Barriers:

$$\eta_T \approx V l / \left[ 1 + R_m \frac{\langle B \rangle^2}{\rho \langle \tilde{V}^2 \rangle} \right]$$

Strong field  
↓

- Blobs:

$$\eta_T \approx V l / \left[ 1 + R_m \frac{\langle A^2 \rangle}{\rho L_{env}^2 \langle \tilde{V}^2 \rangle} \right]$$

Weak effective field  
↓

- Quench stronger in barriers, ,non-uniform

# Barrier Formation

# Formation of Barriers

- How do the barriers form?

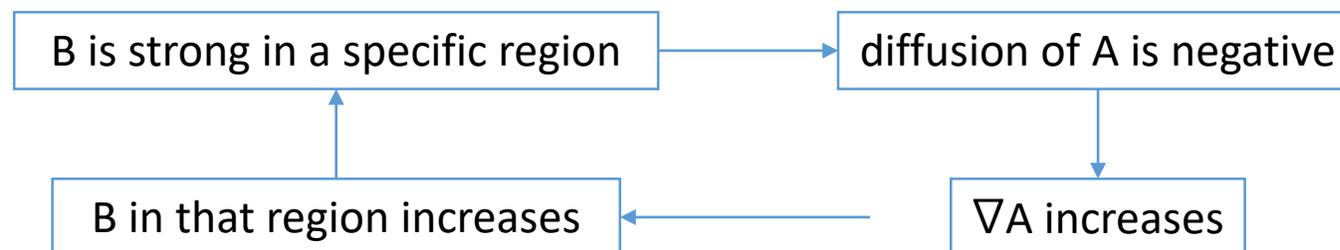
$$\eta_T = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \tau_c [\langle v^2 \rangle_{\mathbf{k}} - \frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} \langle B^2 \rangle_{\mathbf{k}}]$$

flux coalescence

- From above, strong B regions can support negative incremental

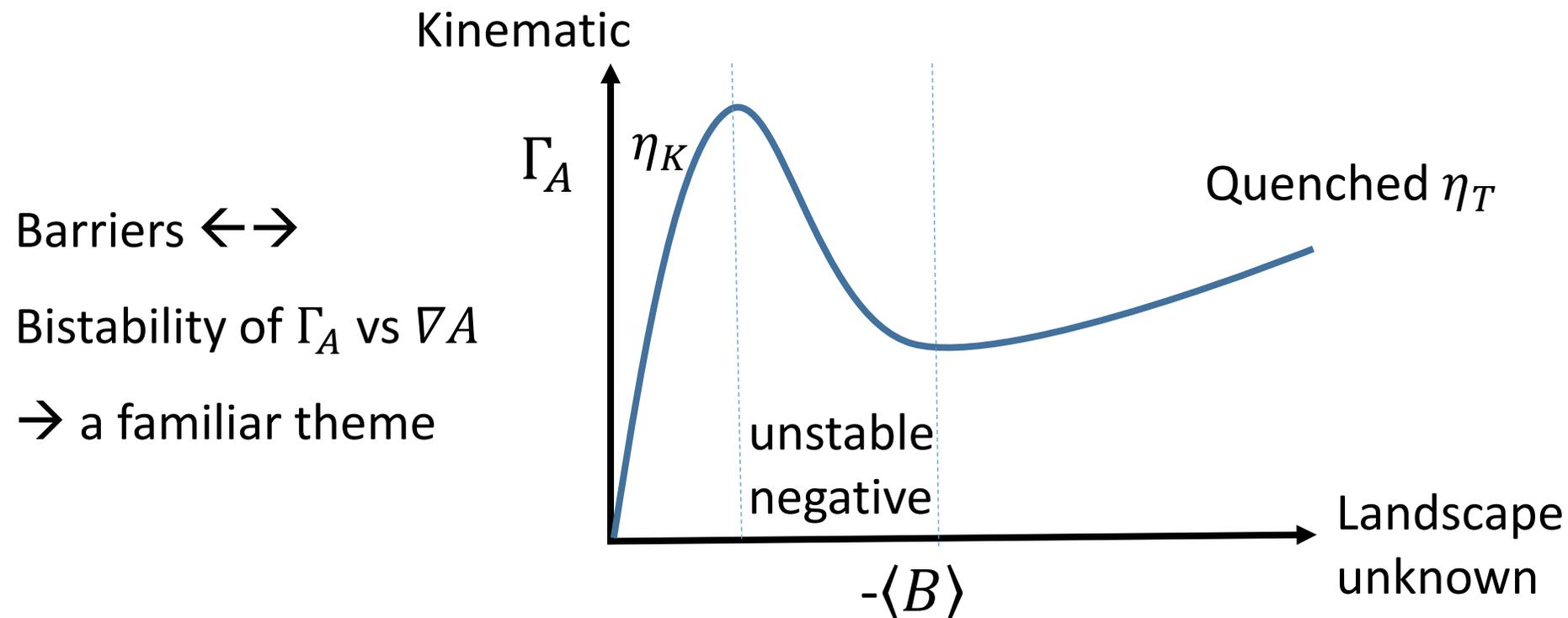
$$\eta_T = \delta\Gamma_A / \delta(-\nabla A) < 0, \text{ suggesting clustering}$$

- $\langle \eta_T \rangle > 0$
- Positive feedback: a twist on a familiar theme



# Formation of Barriers, Cont'd

- Negative resistivity leads to barrier formation.
- The S-curve reflects due to the dependence of  $\Gamma_A$  on  $B$ .
- When slope is negative  $\rightarrow$  negative (incremental) resistivity.



# Describing the Barriers

- How to measure the barrier width  $W$ .

- Starting point:  $W \sim \Delta A / B_b$

- Use  $\sqrt{\langle A^2 \rangle}$  to calculate  $\Delta A$

- Define the barrier regions as:

$$B(x, y) > \sqrt{\langle B^2 \rangle} * 2$$

arbitrary threshold



- Define barrier packing fraction  $P \equiv \frac{\# \text{ of grid points for barrier regions}}{\# \text{ of total grid points}}$

- Use the magnetic fields in the barrier regions to calculate the magnetic energy:

$$\sum_{\text{barriers}} B_b^2 \sim \sum_{\text{system}} B^2$$

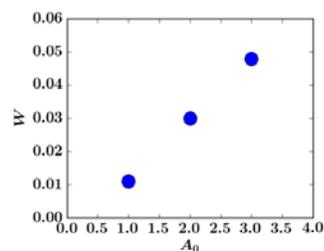
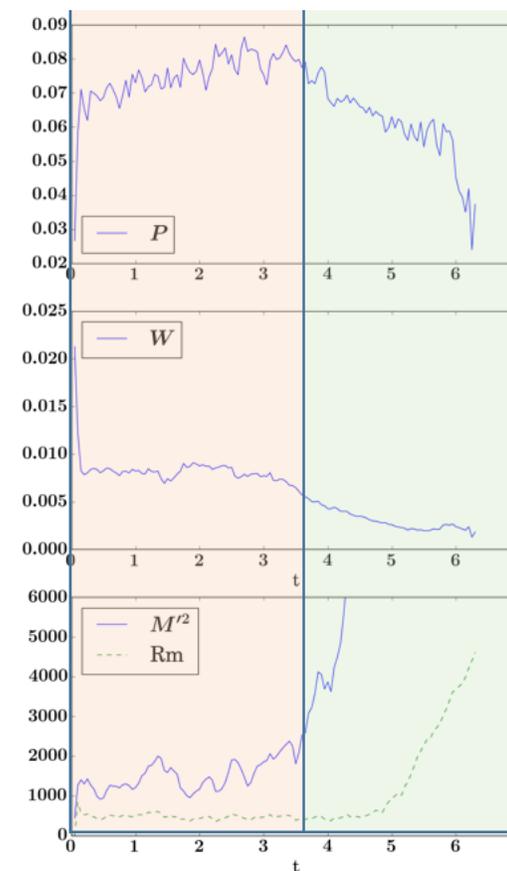
- Thus  $\langle B_b^2 \rangle \sim \langle B^2 \rangle / P$

- So barrier width can be estimated by:  $W^2 \equiv \langle A^2 \rangle / (\langle B^2 \rangle / P)$

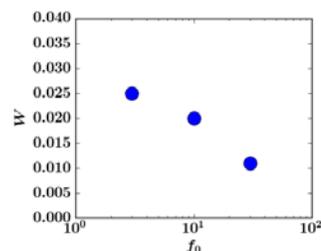
N.B. All magnetic energy in the barriers

# Describing the Barriers

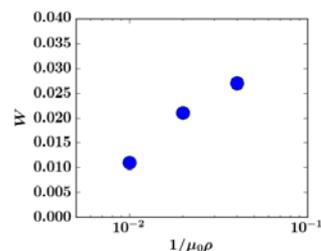
- Time evolution of  $P$  and  $W$ :
  - $P$ ,  $W$  collapse in decay
  - $M'$  rises
- Sensitivity of  $W$ :
  - $A_0$  or  $1/\mu_0\rho$  greater  $\rightarrow$   $W$  greater;
  - $f_0$  greater,  $W$  smaller; (ala' Hinze)
  - $W$  not sensitive to  $\eta$  or  $\nu$ .



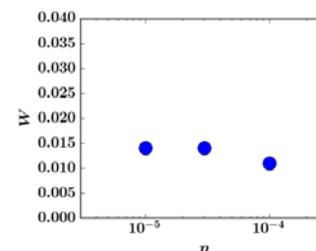
(a)



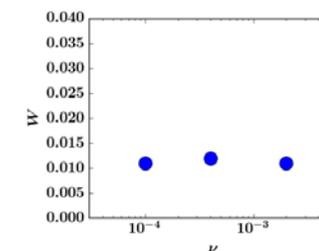
(b)



(c)



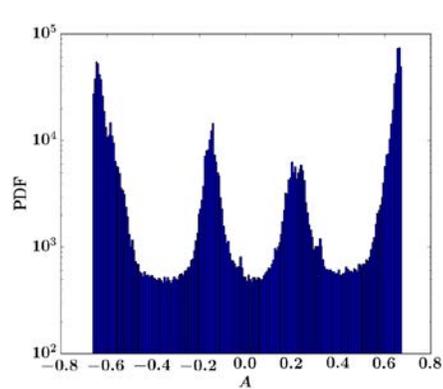
(d)



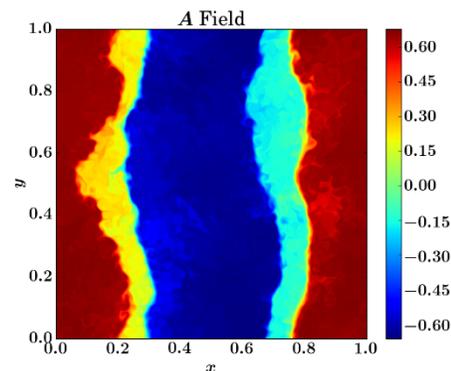
(e)

# Staircase (inhomogeneous Mixing, Bistability)

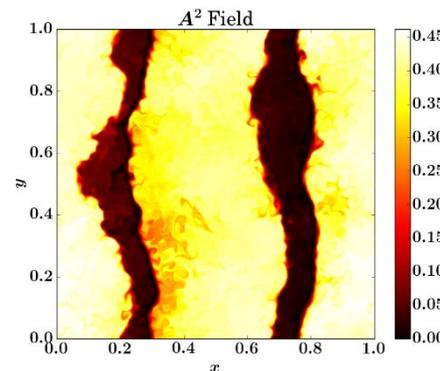
- Staircases emerge spontaneously! - Barriers
- Initial condition is the usual cos function (bimodal)
- The only major sensitive parameter (from runs above) is the forcing scale is  $k=32$  (for all runs above  $k=5$ ).
- Resembles the staircase in MFE.



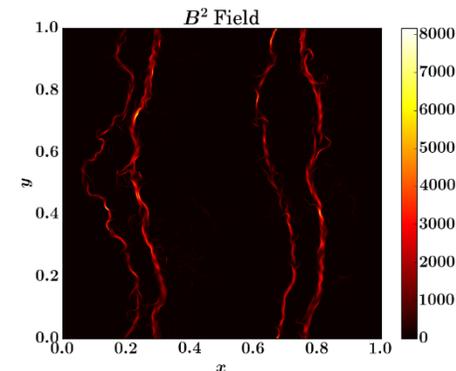
(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

# Conclusions / Summary

- Magnetic fields suppress turbulent diffusion in 2D MHD by: formation of intermittent **transport barriers**.
- Magnetic structures:
  - Barriers – thin, 1D strong field regions
  - Blobs – 2D, weak field regions
- Quench not uniform:

$$\eta_T = \frac{ul}{1 + \text{Rm} \frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} \langle \mathbf{B} \rangle^2 / \langle v^2 \rangle + \text{Rm} \frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} \langle A^2 \rangle / L_{env}^2 \langle v^2 \rangle}$$

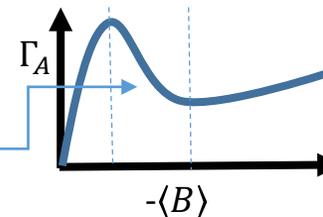
barriers, strong B

blobs, weak B,  $\nabla^2 \langle A^2 \rangle$  remains

- Barriers form due to negative resistivity:

$$\eta_T = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \tau_c [\langle v^2 \rangle_{\mathbf{k}} - \frac{1}{\mu_0 \rho} \langle B^2 \rangle_{\mathbf{k}}]$$

flux coalescence



- Formation of “magnetic staircases” observed for some stirring scale

# Future Works

- Extension of the transport study in MHD:
  - Numerical tests of the new  $\eta_T$  expression ?
  - What determines the barrier width and packing fraction ?
  - Why does layering appear when the forcing scale is small ?
  - What determines the step width, in the case of layering
  - The transport study may also be extended to 3D MHD ( $\langle \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} \rangle$  important instead of  $\langle A^2 \rangle$ )
- Other similar systems can also be studied in this spirit. e.g. Oldroyd-B model for polymer solutions. (drag reduction)
- Reduced Model of Magnetic Staircase

# General Conclusions

- Dual (or multiple) cascades can interact with each other, and one can modify another.
- We also show how a length scale, e.g. the Hinze scale in 2D CHNS, emerges from the balance of kinetic energy and elastic energy in blobby turbulence. → blob scale
- We see that negative incremental diffusion (flux/blob coalescence) can lead to novel real space structure in a simple system.
- Avoid fixation on k-spectra/power laws. Real space structure encodes info re: interactions.

# Reading

- Fan, P.D., Chacon:
- PRE Rap Comm 99, 041201 (2019)  
→ Active Scalar Transport 2D MHD
  - PoP 25, 055702 (2018)  
→ Plasma/MHD Connection
  - PRE Rap Comm 96, 041101 (2017)  
→ Single Eddy
  - Phys Rev Fluids 1, 054403 (2016)  
→ Turbulence

Thank you!