



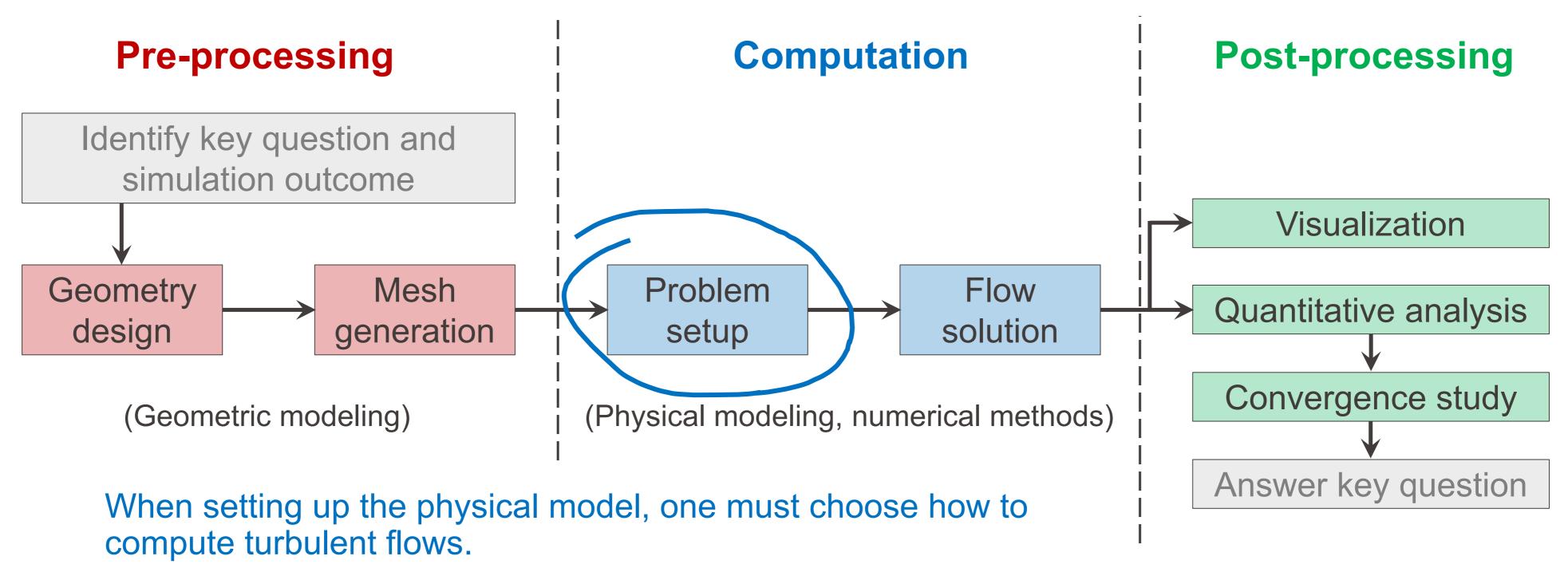
Turbulence modeling

Numerical Flow Simulation

École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

Edouard Boujo Fall 2024

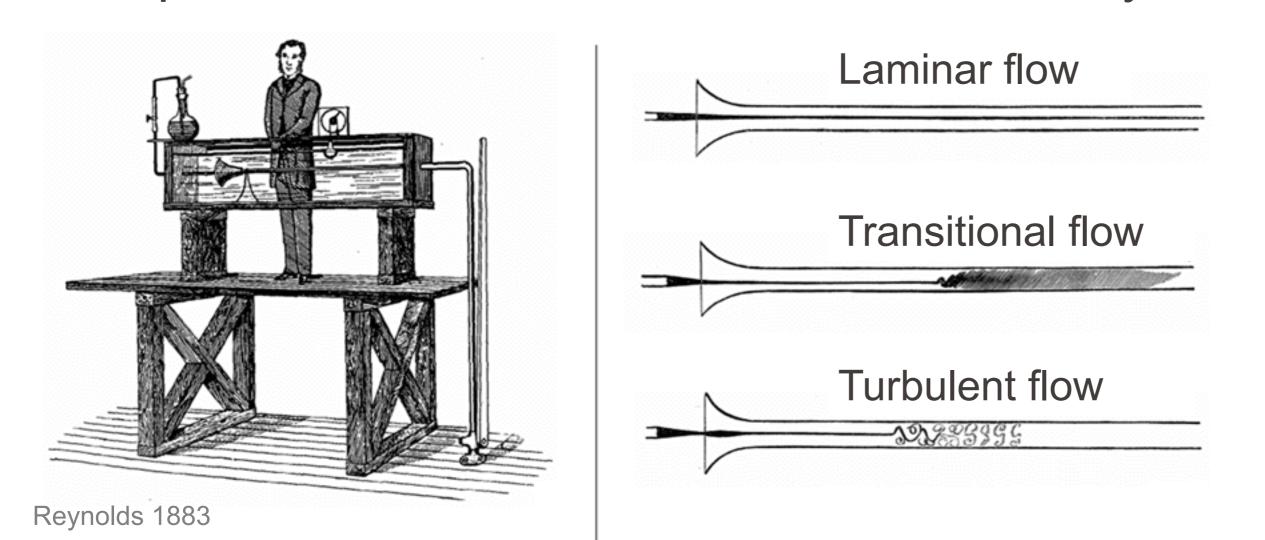
Numerical simulation workflow

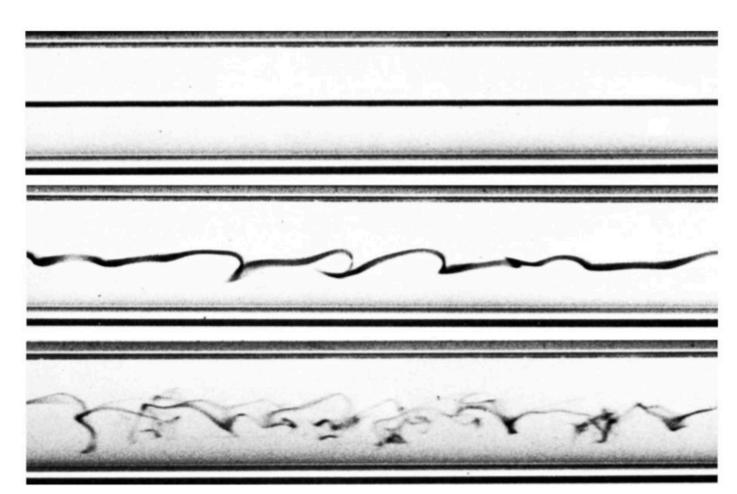


Schematic outline of this lecture:

- 1. What is turbulence? (Brief overview)
- 2. Numerical simulation of turbulent flows
- 3. Overview of turbulence models

Experimental observation from Osborne Reynolds:





van Dyke 1982

• Flow becomes unstable (and later turbulent) with increasing velocity and size, and with decreasing viscosity. Reynolds understood the role of "his" number:

$$Re = \frac{UL}{\nu}$$

Ratio of inertial to viscous forces:

$$\frac{div(\rho \mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}) \sim \rho U^2/L}{div(\mu \operatorname{grad}(\mathbf{u})) \sim \mu U/L^2}$$

- Flows generally turbulent when Reynolds numbers above O(10³-10⁴).
- Wide variety of turbulent flows in nature and engineering:







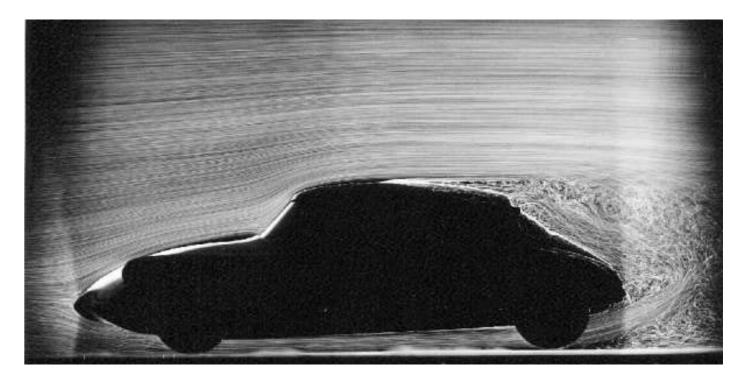


da Vinci, 15th c.



Hiroshige, 19th c.





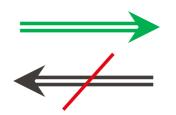
Quiz

Quiz

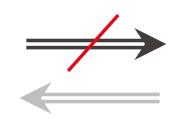
Turbulent flows contain small-scale vortices.

There is vorticity in simple shear flows too.

Turbulence



Vorticity



"Rotation" (vortex)

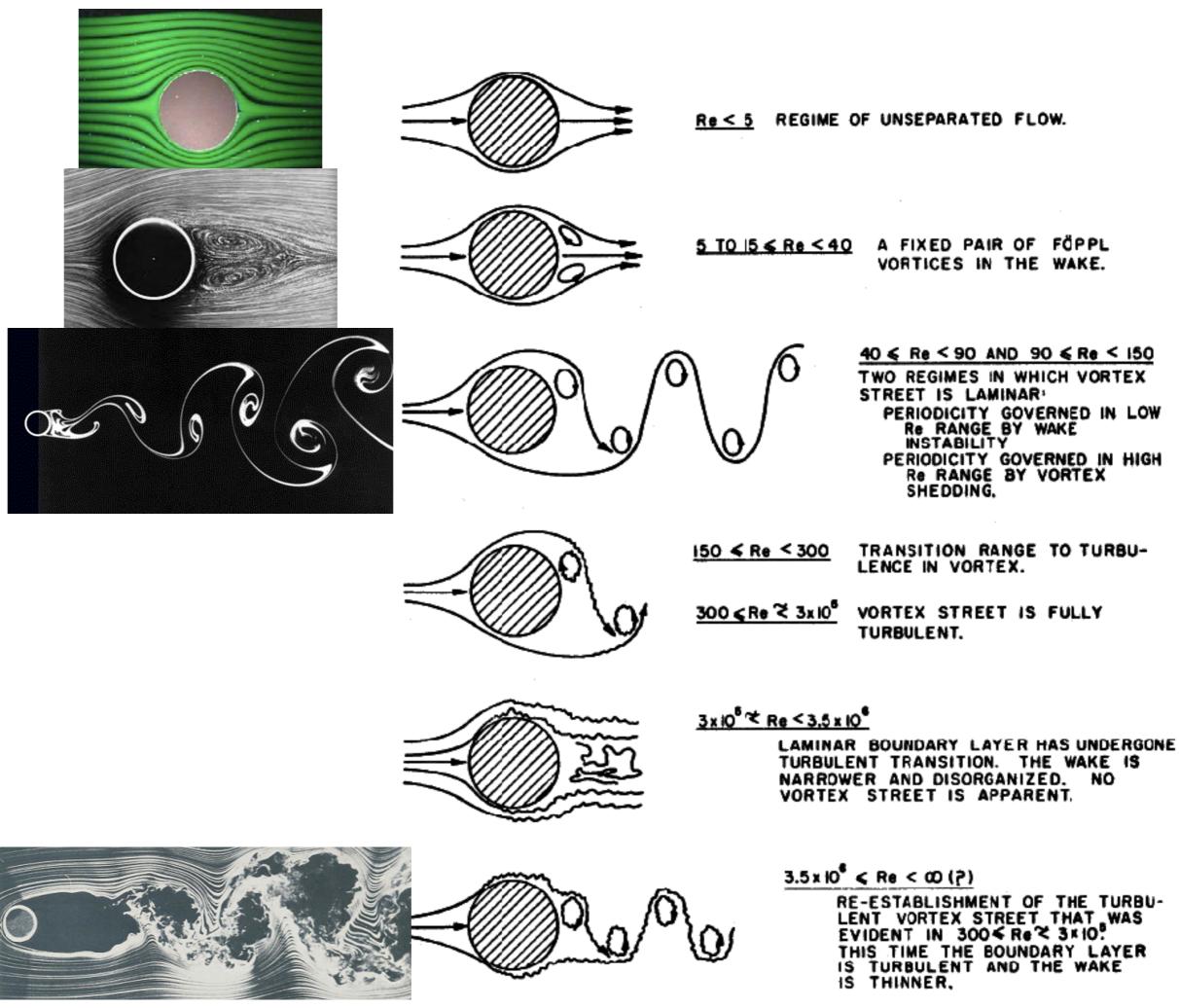
Laminar flows too can have vorticity.

In general vortices have nonzero vorticity, but there are irrotational vortices too: for ex.

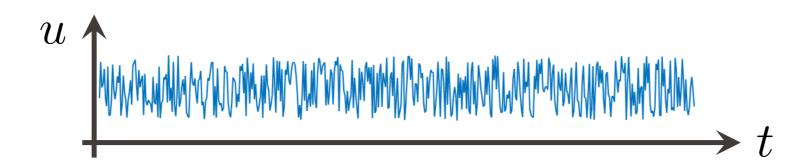
$$\begin{pmatrix} u_r \\ u_\theta \\ u_z \end{pmatrix} \propto \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1/r \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\omega} = \mathbf{0}$$

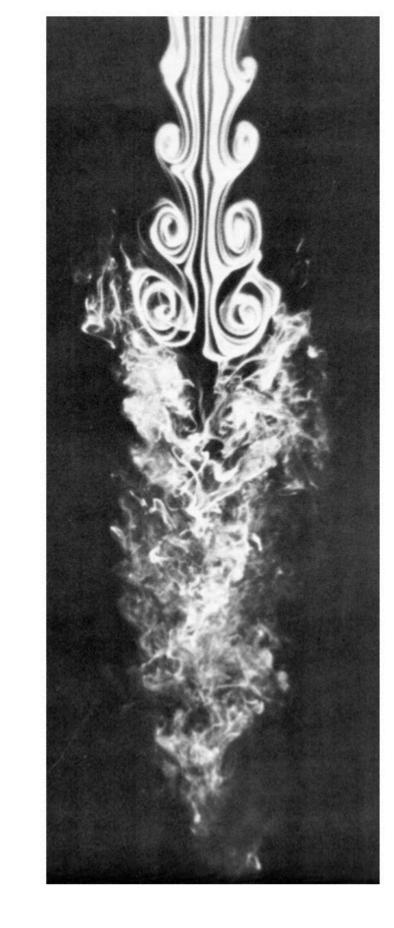
Turbulent flows contain small-scale vortices, but vortical flows are not necessarily turbulent.

Increasing Re



- No universal definition, but a set of characteristics:
 - 1. Always unsteady (even with steady boundary conditions).



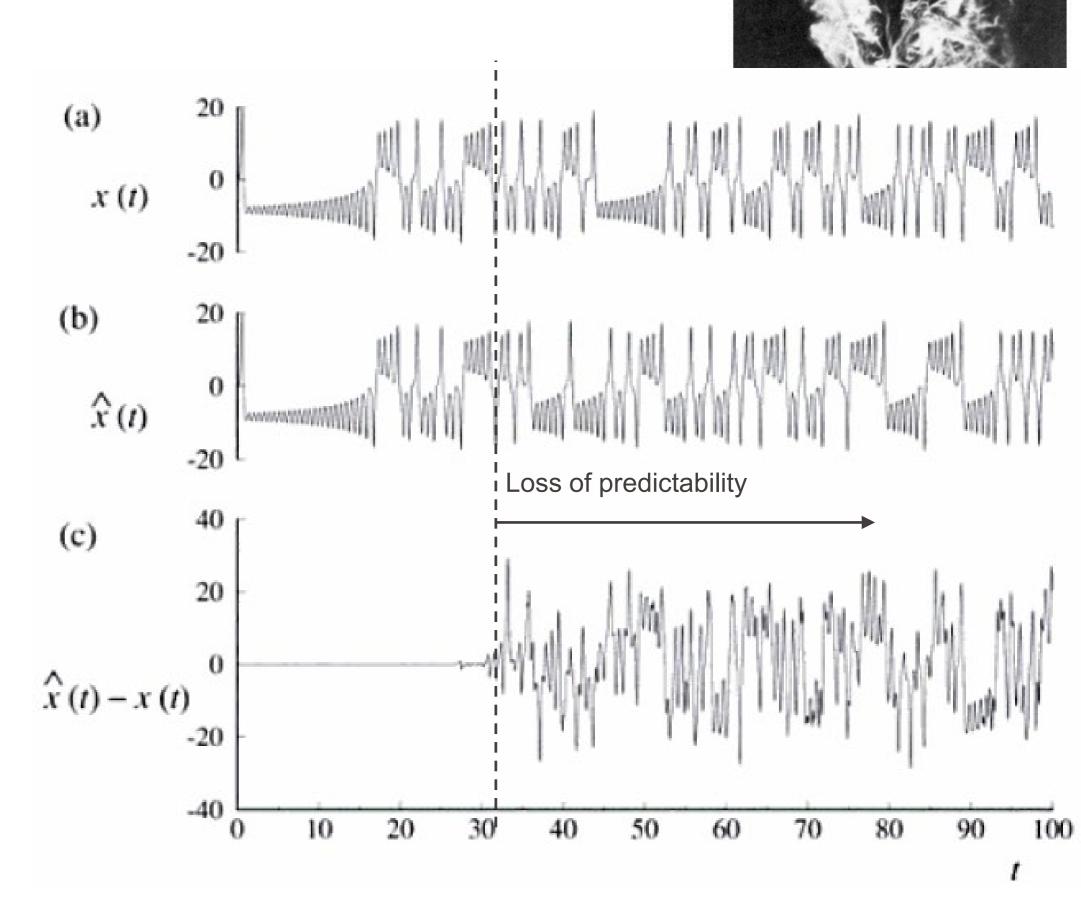


No universal definition, but a set of characteristics:

2. Random process.

- Signals seem unpredictable in time and space. Repetitions of the same experiment under same conditions yield different measurements. (But statistical properties are predictable.)
- The NS equations are deterministic, but become extremely sensitive to perturbations as Re increases.
 Similar to chaotic systems ("butterfly effect").

Example: Lorenz' system (1963) of ODEs with only 3 degrees of freedom (x, y, z). Two simulations with nearby initial conditions, x(0)=0.1 and 0.100001.

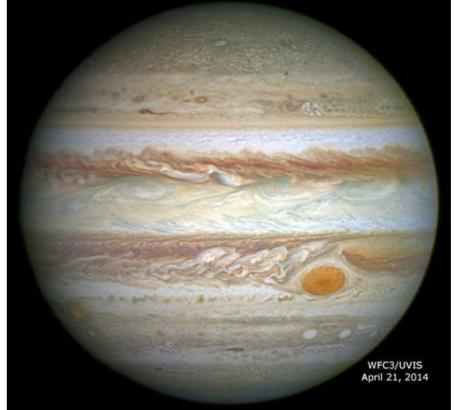


- No universal definition, but a set of characteristics:
 - 3. Always 3D.
 - Fluctuations in all directions, even in geometry invariant in 3rd direction.
 - 3D is necessary for vortex stretching (intensification) and tilting (deformation), an essential mechanism in turbulent flows.
 Recall the (incompressible) vorticity equation:

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\omega}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{\omega} = \nu \nabla^2 \boldsymbol{\omega} + (\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}$$
 convection diffusion vortex stretching/tilting

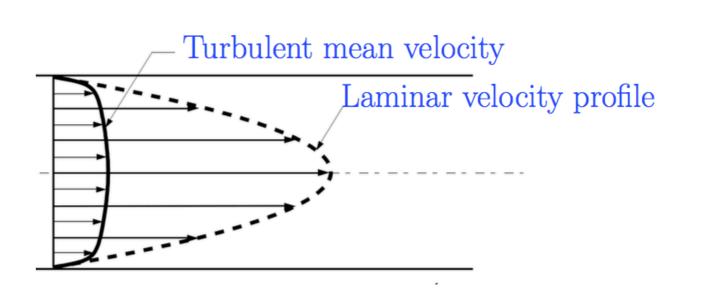
 Really 2D only in strongly confined systems (e.g. soap films, geophysical flows).

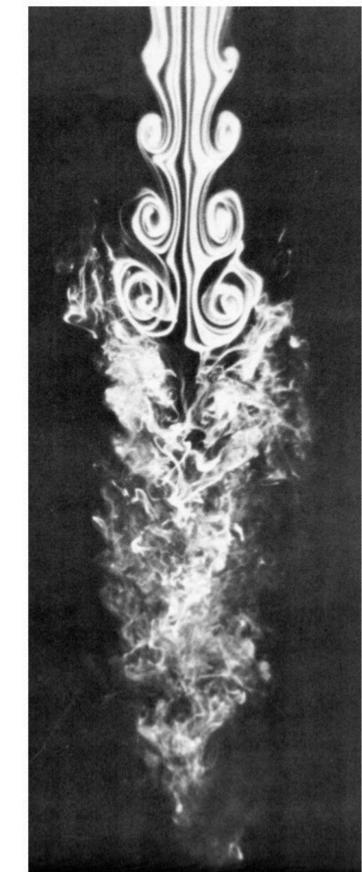




- No universal definition, but a set of characteristics:
 - 4. Turbulence mixes all quantities (mass, momentum, energy, passive scalars), because fluid particles initially far away can be brought close together by the eddying motions
 - → increased mixing and heat transfer, but increased drag/losses too.







- No universal definition, but a set of characteristics:
 - 5. Wide range of length and time scales (broadband spectra). For smallest vortices ("eddies"), Kolmogorov length scale and time scale:

$$\eta \sim \frac{L}{Re^{3/4}} \qquad \tau \sim \frac{L/U}{Re^{1/2}}$$

• Examples (air: $\nu \sim 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$):



$$L \sim 1 \text{ m}$$
 $U \sim 10 \text{ m/s}$

$$Re = \frac{UL}{\nu} \sim 10^6$$

$$\frac{L}{\eta} \sim \frac{1 \text{ m}}{3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}} \sim Re^{3/4} \sim 3 \times 10^4$$

$$\frac{L/U}{\tau} \sim \frac{0.1 \text{ s}}{10^{-4} \text{ s}} \sim Re^{1/2} \sim 10^3$$

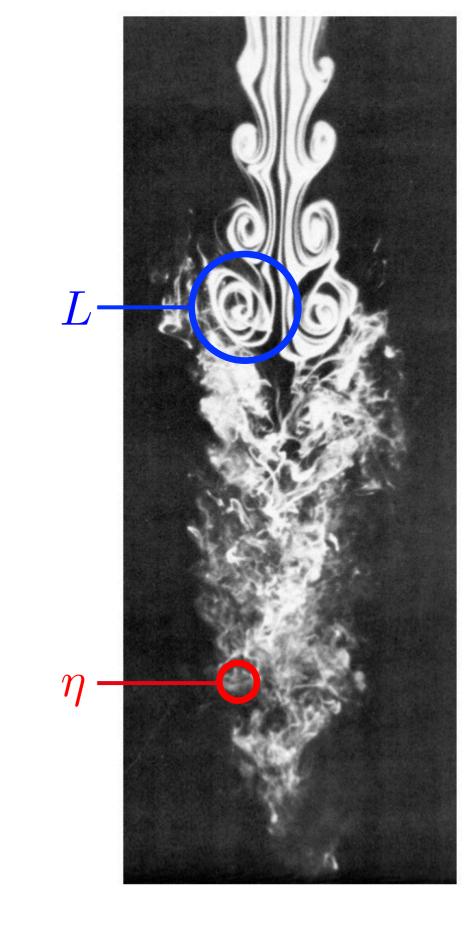


$$L \sim 10^3 \text{ m}$$
 $U \sim 10 \text{ m/s}$

$$Re = \frac{UL}{\nu} \sim 10^9$$

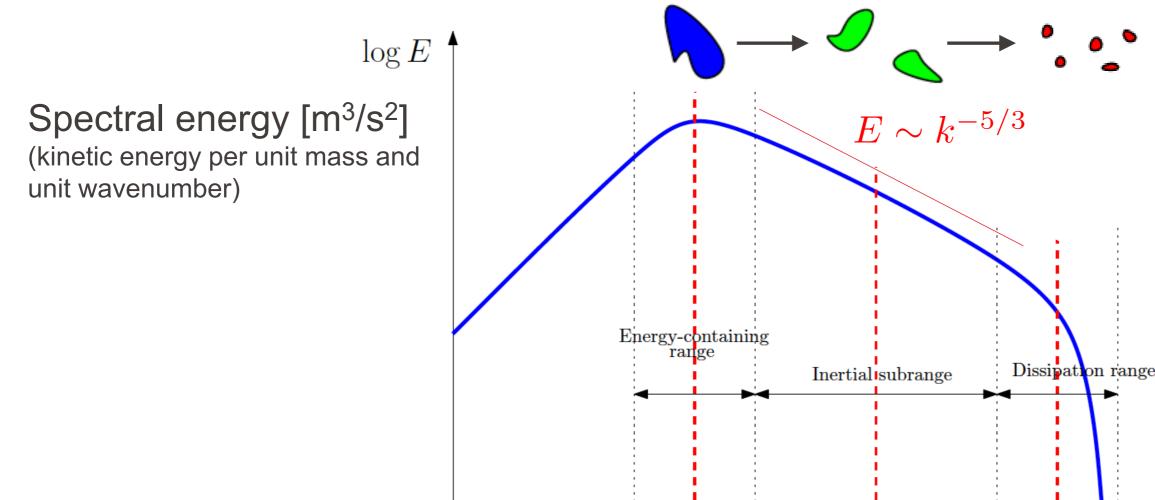
$$\frac{L}{\eta} \sim \frac{10^3 \text{ m}}{2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}} \sim Re^{3/4} \sim 6 \times 10^6$$

$$\frac{L/U}{\tau} \sim \frac{10^2 \text{ s}}{3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}} \sim Re^{1/2} \sim 3 \times 10^4$$



- No universal definition, but a set of characteristics:
 - 6. Energy cascade:
 - Large structures created by hydrodynamic instabilities (energy injection),
 - Vortex stretching breaks up eddies into smaller ones (energy transfer).
 - Viscosity dissipates smallest eddies (energy dissipation).





 $k = \mathcal{O}(L^{-1})$



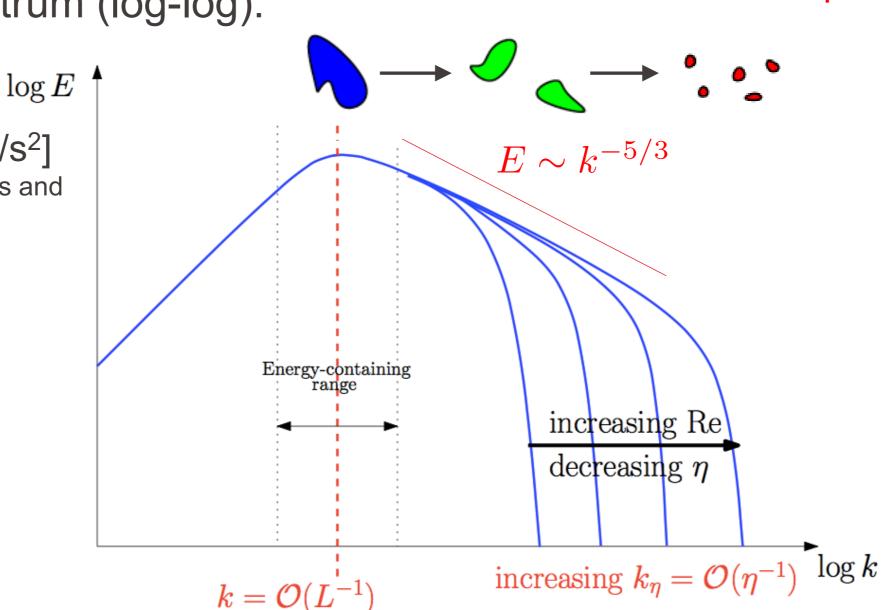
- No universal definition, but a set of characteristics:
 - 6. Largest eddies:
 - Flow & geometry-dependent,
 - Most energetic,
 - Insensitive to viscosity.

Typical energy spectrum (log-log):

Spectral energy [m³/s²] (kinetic energy per unit mass and unit wavenumber)

Smallest eddies:

- Homogeneous and isotropic,
- Dissipate energy via viscosity,
- Become smaller as Re increases, but are still much larger than the molecular free path (continuum).



Turbulence is difficult

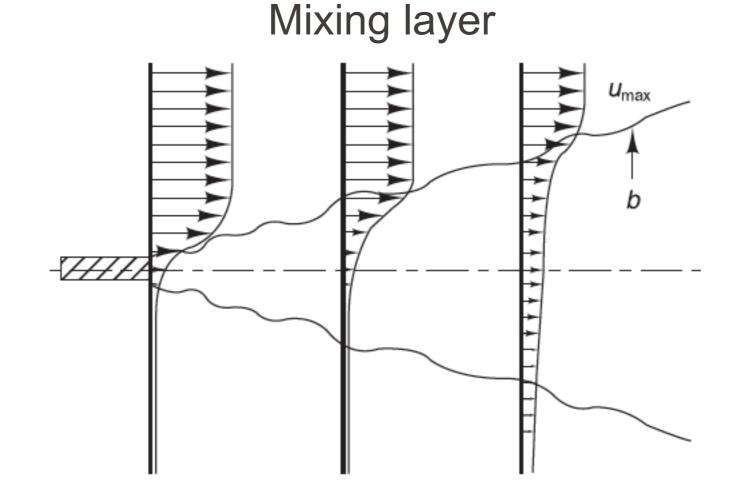
- Some (verified and unverified) quotations:
 - "When I meet God, I am going to ask him two questions: Why relativity? And why turbulence? I really believe he will have an answer for the first." (Heisenberg?)
 - "I am an old man now, and when I die and go to heaven there are two matters on which I hope for enlightenment. One is quantum electrodynamics, and the other is the turbulent motion of fluids. And about the former I am rather optimistic." (Horace Lamb?)
 - "The study of turbulence is not easy (...) even after various theoretical hypotheses have been absorbed, there are relatively few situations in which we can make positive predictions." (P.A. Davidson, "Turbulence: an introduction for scientists and engineers", Oxford University Press, 2004)

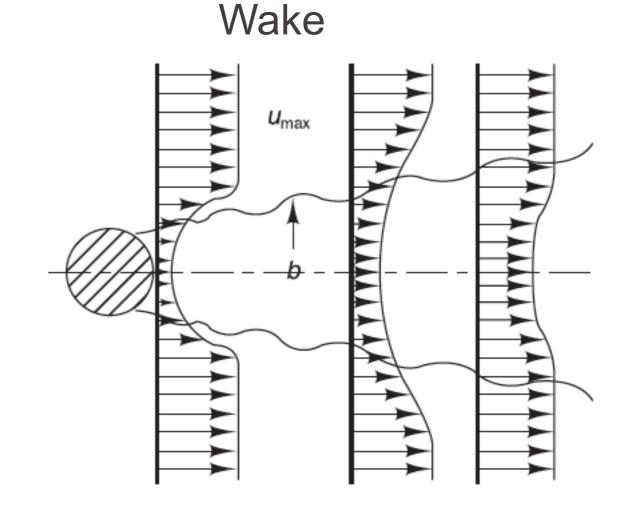
Turbulence is difficult

- Why?
 - Wide range of length and time scales, that increases (dramatically) with Re.
 - Extreme sensitivity (like chaotic systems), random character.
- How can we tackle it?
 - Analytical approach: no simple analytical closed-form theory today.
 - Empirical approach: describe turbulence statistically.
 - Numerical approach: can solve the Navier-Stokes equations directly if enough computational resources to resolve all the scales. Otherwise, need a turbulence model (approximation).

Free turbulent flows:

Jet





Mean flow and turbulent structures are self-similar (far enough downstream).
 For instance, in jets:

Mean streamwise velocity:

$$\frac{\overline{u}}{\overline{u}_{max}} = f\left(\frac{y}{b}\right)$$

Turbulent correlations:

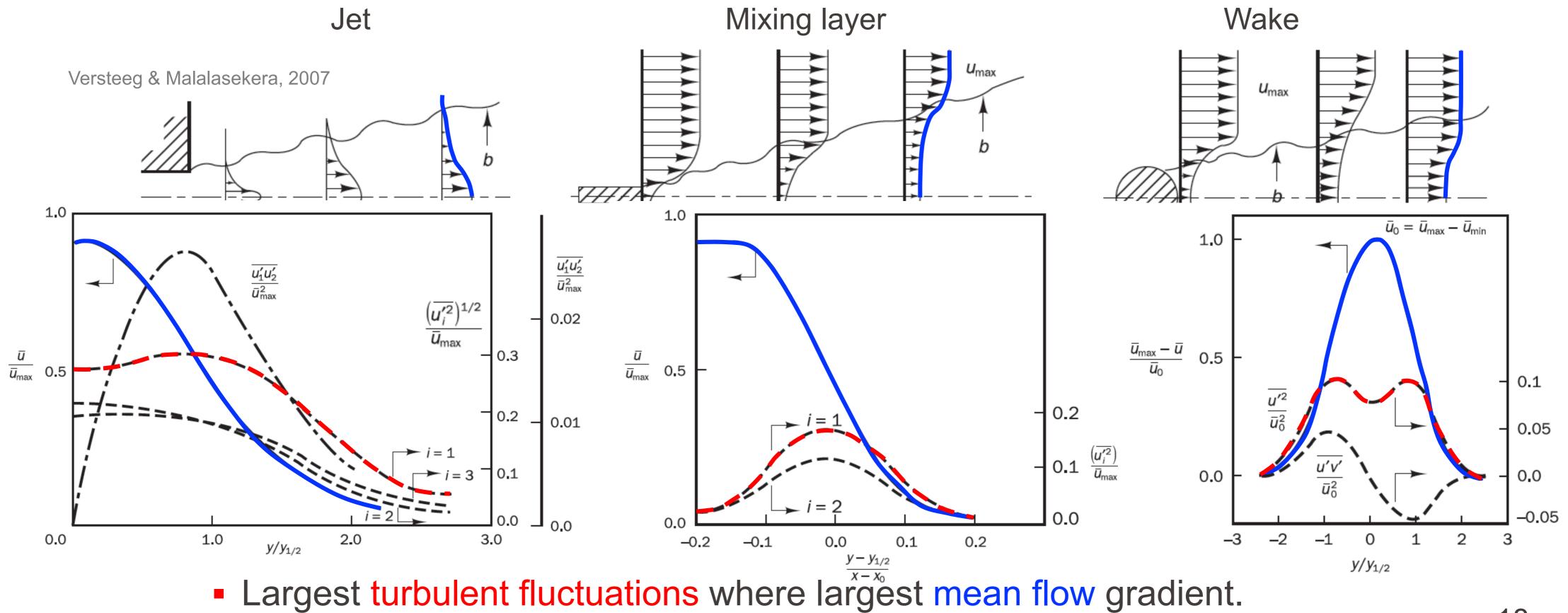
$$\frac{u'^2}{\overline{u}_{max}} = g\left(\frac{y}{b}\right) \qquad \frac{\overline{u'}}{\overline{u}_m}$$

$$\frac{u'v'}{\overline{u}_{max}} = h\left(\frac{y}{b}\right)$$

etc.

Numerical Flow Simulation

Free turbulent flows:



- Turbulence is anisotropic (e.g. $\overline{u'^2} > \overline{v'^2}$) in these flows.

Wall-bounded flows: flat plate boundary layer, pipe flow, channel flow...

 Close to the wall, flow influenced by viscous effects and independent of free-stream parameters → mean flow velocity depends on distance from the wall y and wall shear

stress τ_w . From dimensional analysis:

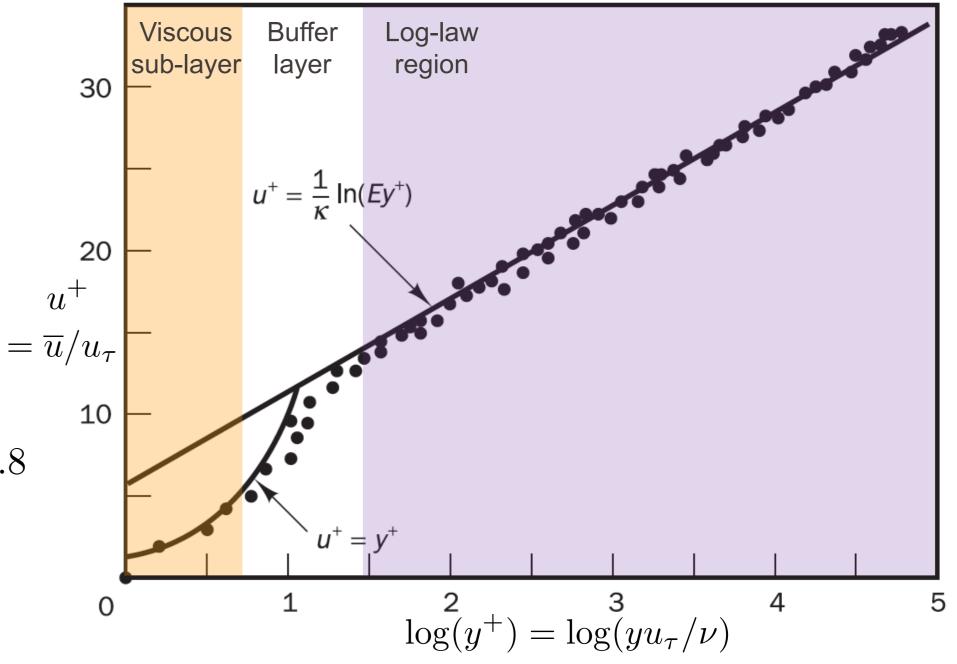
Law of the wall: $\frac{\overline{u}}{u_{\tau}} = f\left(\frac{yu_{\tau}}{\nu}\right)$ with velocity scale $u_{\tau} = \sqrt{\frac{\tau_w}{\rho}} = \sqrt{\nu \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial y}}$ ("friction velocity")

$$u^+ = f(y^+)$$

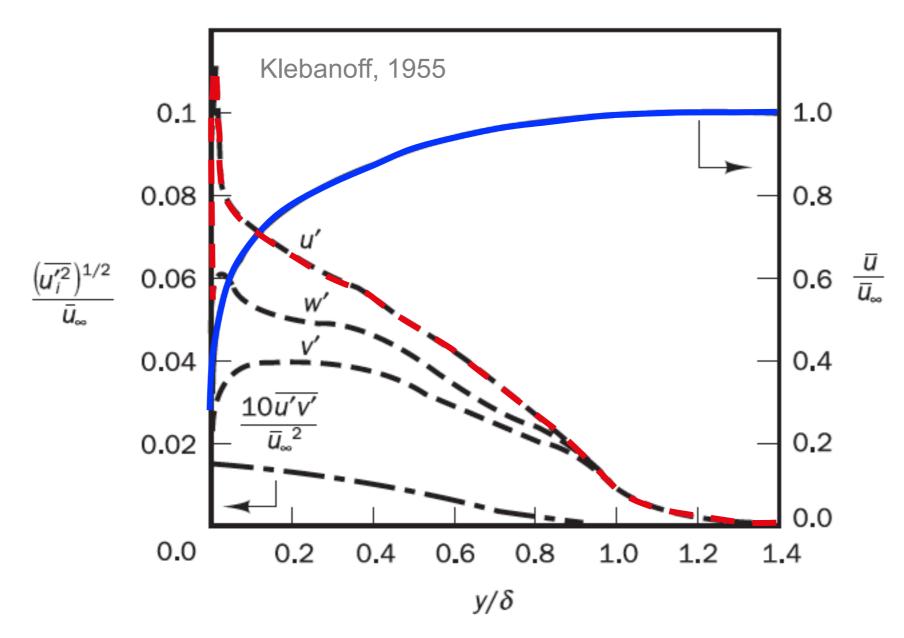
• Viscous sub-layer ($y^+<5$): dominated by viscous effects, very thin, linear relationship $u^+=y^+$

Log-law layer (30< y^+ , y/δ <0.3): logarithmic relationship $u^+ = \frac{1}{\kappa} \ln(Ey^+)$ $\kappa \approx 0.4, E \approx 9.8$

 Outer layer (50<y⁺): viscous effects negligible, fully turbulent.



- Wall-bounded flows
 - Example: flat-plate boundary layer (without pressure gradient)



- High turbulent production where large mean flow gradient.
- Turbulence strongly anisotropic near the wall, becomes isotropic farther away.

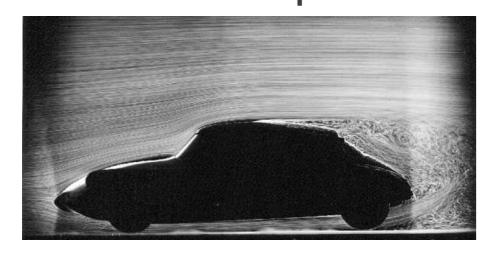
Numerical simulation of turbulent flows

- Challenging because of the wide range of length and time scales
 - Recall the ratio of large scales to Kolmogorov scales: $\frac{L}{n} \sim Re^{3/4}$ $\frac{L/U}{\tau} \sim Re^{1/2}$
 - Number of operations needed to resolve all scales:

$$\frac{L}{\eta} \sim Re^{3/4} \qquad \frac{L/U}{\tau} \sim Re^{1/2}$$

$$N = N_{\mathbf{x}} N_t \sim \left(\frac{L}{\eta}\right)^3 \left(\frac{L/U}{\tau}\right) \sim Re^{11/4}$$

• Examples:



$$L \sim 1 \text{ m}$$

$$U \sim 10 \text{ m/s}$$

$$Re = \frac{UL}{\nu} \sim 10^6$$

$$\nu$$

$$N \sim 10^{33/2} \sim 10^{16.5}$$



$$L \sim 10^3 \text{ m}$$
 $U \sim 10 \text{ m/s}$

$$Re = \frac{UL}{\nu} \sim 10^9$$

$$N \sim 10^{99/4} \sim 10^{25}$$

 Starts to become accessible to fastest supercomputers, but not quite to regular computers used in the industry.

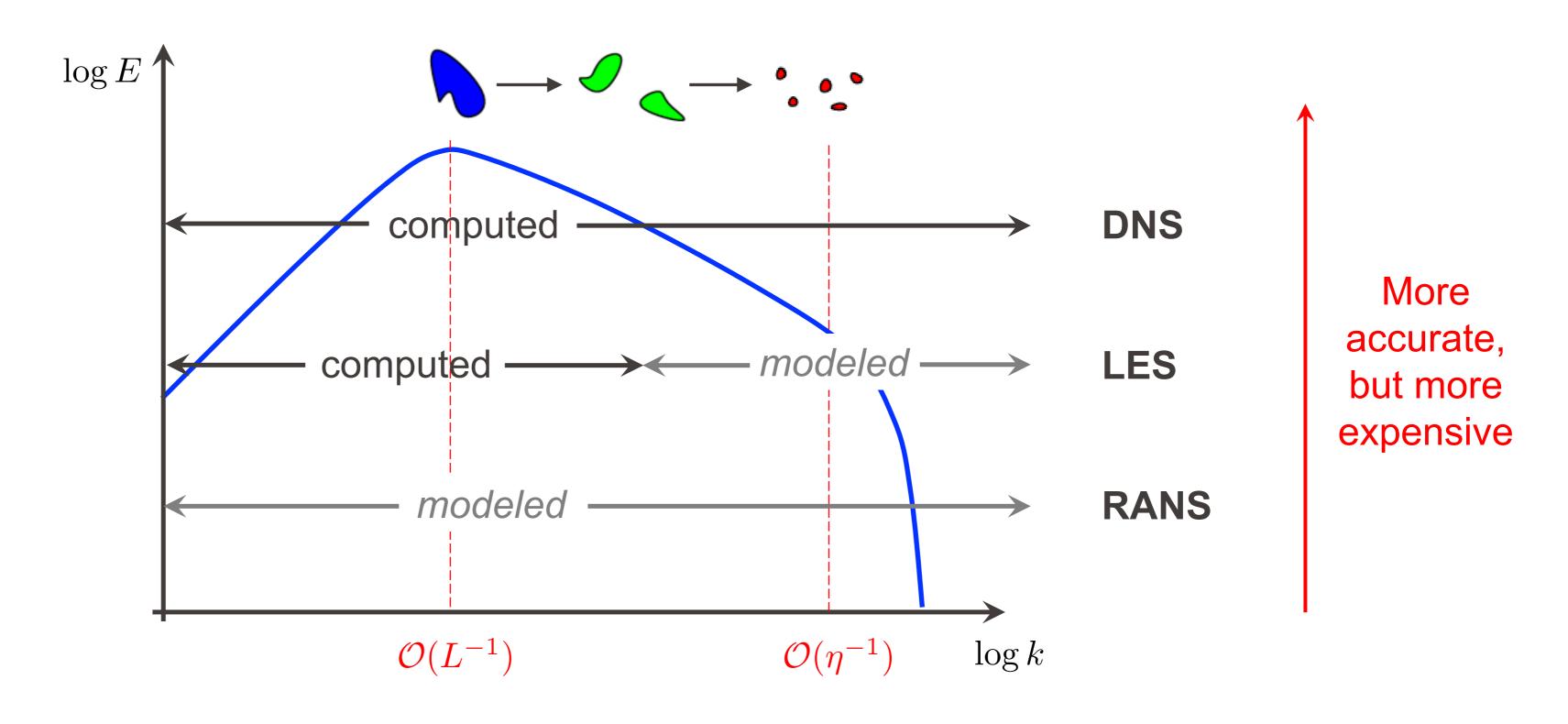
Numerical simulation of turbulent flows

- Three main methods:
 - 1. Direct numerical simulation (DNS):
 - Resolve all scales, all the way down to Kolmogorov scale
 - 2. Large-eddy simulation (LES):
 - Resolve larger eddies (flow & geometry-dependent) down to a size in the inertial subrange
 - Model the effect of smaller eddies (isotropic, universal behavior)
 - Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) eqs. + turbulence models
 - Solve for mean flow (ensemble average)
 - Model fluctuations at all scales

More accurate, but more expensive

Numerical simulation of turbulent flows

Three main methods:

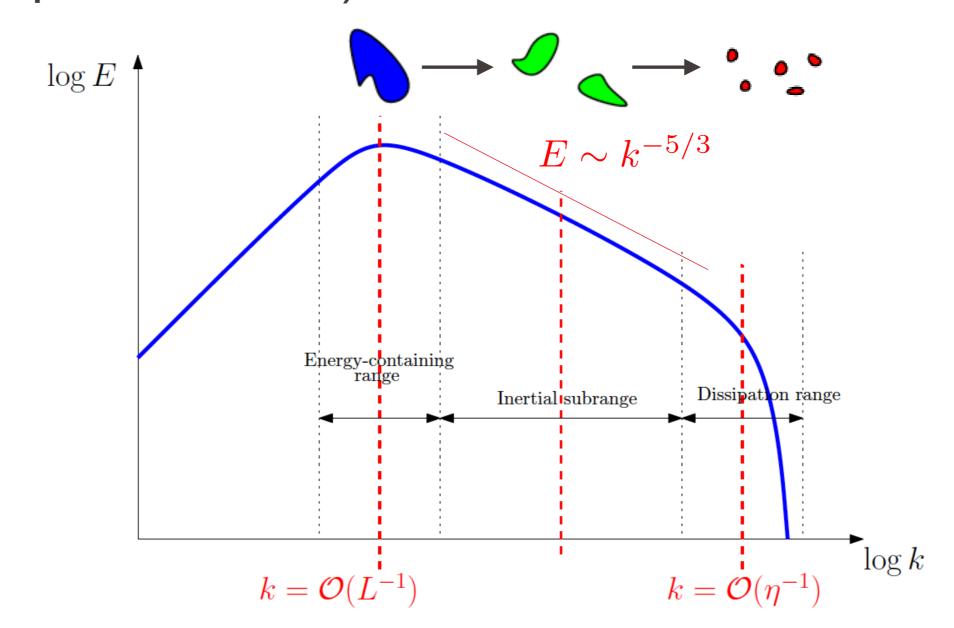


Direct numerical simulation (DNS)

- Resolve all scales, all the way down to Kolmogorov scale. No modeling.
- Assessment:
 - Highest possible level of description (all scales are resolved, all orders of the statistical moments can be computed)
 - Complete by nature (no flow-specific parameter)
 - Prohibitive cost at high Re
 - Range of applicability: theoretically unlimited
 - Accuracy: theoretically unlimited (practically limited by the precision of the numerical method)

Large-eddy simulations (LES)

- Compute explicitly large (energy-containing) eddies. Their dynamics is flow and geometry-dependent.
- Model the effect of small (dissipative) eddies. They have a more isotropic and flow-independent dynamics → easier to find a universal model.
- Large savings compared to DNS (which spends most computational effort on smallest dissipative scales).



Large-eddy simulations (LES)

- Two main steps:
 - Choice of a filtering operation to separate resolved scales and modeled scales
 → spatial filtering of the Navier-Stokes equations.
 - 2. Choice of a closure model: subgrid-scale (SGS) modeling.

1. Spatial filtering:

Total flow = filtered (resolved) scales + residual (subgrid) scales

 $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t) = \overline{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x},t) + \mathbf{u}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{x},t)$ $\overline{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x},t) = \int \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}',t)G(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')d\mathbf{x}'$

Total

Filtering = convolution in physical space
 = multiplication in spectral space

G: filter, or convolution kernel. Many types: sharp, Gaussian... Determines the size of the resolved eddies.

Large-eddy simulations (LES)

1. Filtered NS eqs. (incompressible): eqs. for the resolved, large-scale eddies

$$\nabla \cdot \overline{\mathbf{u}} = 0, \qquad \frac{\partial \overline{\mathbf{u}}}{\partial t} + (\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla) \overline{\mathbf{u}} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \overline{p} + \nu \nabla^2 \overline{\mathbf{u}} - \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

- Additional term: subgrid-scale (SGS) stress tensor $m{ au}_{ij} = \overline{u_i u_j} \overline{u}_i \overline{u}_j$
- Effect of the small eddies on the dynamics of the resolved, large-scale eddies.
- Closure problem: SGS stress unknown (non-resolved terms)! Must be modeled.

2. SGS modeling

 Most common choice: eddy viscosity model. SGS stress proportional to rate of deformation of the resolved flow, and same coefficient of proportionality for all components.

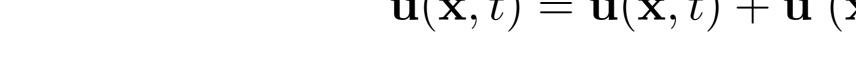
$$m{ au}_{ij} - rac{1}{3}m{ au}_{kk}\delta_{ij} = -
u_{SGS}\left(
abla \overline{\mathbf{u}} +
abla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T
ight)_{ij}$$
 u_{SGS} : eddy viscosity [m²/s]

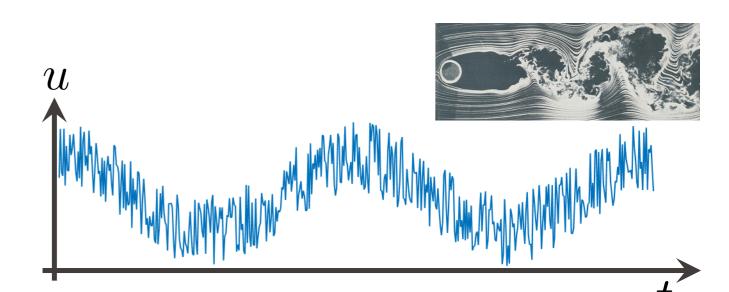
Many SGS models proposed for eddy viscosity.
 For example: Smagorinsky-Lilly, dynamic Smagorinsky-Lilly, wall-adapted local eddy-viscosity (WALE), dynamic kinetic energy subgrid-scale (all available in Fluent).

Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) equations

- Reynolds decomposition
 - Total flow = mean flow (ensemble average) + fluctuations

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t) = \overline{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x},t) + \mathbf{u}'(\mathbf{x},t)$$





Averaging properties:

$$\overline{f'} = 0 \qquad \overline{\overline{f}}\overline{g} = \overline{f}\overline{g}$$

$$\overline{\overline{f}g'} = 0 \qquad \overline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}} = \frac{\partial \overline{f}}{\partial x} \qquad \overline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}} = \frac{\partial \overline{f}}{\partial t}$$

- Incompressible NS equations
 - Continuity eq.:

$$\overline{\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0} \longrightarrow \nabla \cdot \overline{\mathbf{u}} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}' = 0$$

The mean flow and fluctuations are incompressible.

Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) equations

- Incompressible NS equations
 - Momentum eq.:

$$\frac{\overline{\partial \mathbf{u}}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p + \nu\nabla^2\mathbf{u}$$

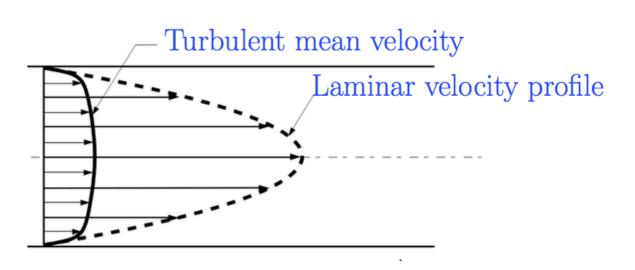
$$\frac{\overline{\partial (\overline{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{u}')}}{\partial t} + ((\overline{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{u}') \cdot \nabla)(\overline{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{u}') = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla(\overline{p} + p') + \nu\nabla^2(\overline{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{u}')$$

$$\frac{\partial \overline{\mathbf{u}}}{\partial t} + \overline{(\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla)\overline{\mathbf{u}}} + \overline{(\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla)\overline{\mathbf{u}}'} + \overline{(\overline{\mathbf{u}}' \cdot \nabla)\overline{\mathbf{u}}'} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla\overline{p} + \nu\nabla^2\overline{\mathbf{u}}$$

$$= \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}$$

$$\frac{\partial \overline{\mathbf{u}}}{\partial t} + (\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla)\overline{\mathbf{u}} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla\overline{p} + \nu\nabla^2\overline{\mathbf{u}} - \overline{(\overline{\mathbf{u}}' \cdot \nabla)\overline{\mathbf{u}'}}$$

 RANS eqs. for the mean flow: almost like NS eqs., but divergence of an additional stress, the Reynolds **stress** tensor $\tau = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{u}'}$ (variance of fluctuations, 6 independent components). Makes all the difference!



 Closure problem: Reynolds stress unknown! More unknown than equations. To solve the RANS eqs., must model the Reynolds stress.

Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) equations

- Must model the Reynolds stress: $\tau = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{u}'} = ?$
- Several types of turbulence models of increasing complexity
 - Turbulent viscosity models:
 - 0-equation models (algebraic models): mixing length models
 - 1-equation models: Spalart-Allmaras, turbulent kinetic energy model
 - 2-equation models: k- ε , k- ω models
 - Reynolds-stress eq. models (RSM): 7 additional transport eqs.

More accurate or general, but more expensive

- "Essentially, all models are wrong but some are useful." (G. Box)
- "Models of turbulence are inevitably incomplete." (S. Pope)

- To close the RANS equations, assume that the Reynolds stress is related to the mean flow, i.e. $\tau = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{u}'}$ can be expressed as a function of $\overline{\mathbf{u}}$.
- Boussinesq hypothesis (1877): Reynolds stress proportional to mean rate of deformation, and same coefficient of proportionality for all components

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T\right)$$

where $k = \frac{1}{2} \left(\overline{u'^2} + \overline{v'^2} + \overline{w'^2} \right)$ is the turbulent kinetic energy (TKE) [m²/s²], and ν_t is the **turbulent viscosity** (eddy viscosity) [m²/s].

Analogy with viscous stress (proportional to rate of deformation) and molecular viscosity:

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} + p\mathbf{I} = \mu \left(\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T \right)$$

• Central issue: how to determine ν_t ? Specific to each model (mixing length, Spalart-Allmaras, k- ε , k- ω ...)

- To close the RANS equations, assume that the Reynolds stress is related to the mean flow, i.e. $\tau = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{u}'}$ can be expressed as a function of $\overline{\mathbf{u}}$.
- Boussinesq hypothesis (1877): Reynolds stress proportional to mean rate of deformation, and same coefficient of proportionality for all components

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T\right)$$

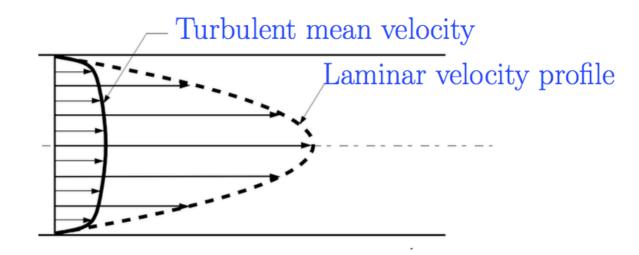
With this hypothesis, the RANS eqs. for the mean flow

$$\frac{\partial \overline{\mathbf{u}}}{\partial t} + (\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla) \overline{\mathbf{u}} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \overline{p} + \nu \nabla^2 \overline{\mathbf{u}} - \overline{(\overline{\mathbf{u}}' \cdot \nabla) \overline{\mathbf{u}}'}$$

are closed:

$$\frac{\partial \overline{\mathbf{u}}}{\partial t} + (\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla)\overline{\mathbf{u}} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \left(\overline{p} + \frac{2k}{3} \right) + (\nu + \nu_t) \nabla^2 \overline{\mathbf{u}}$$

• Note: turbulent viscosity must depend on space, $\nu_t(\mathbf{x})$ (otherwise, RANS eqs. would simply be equal to NS eqs. with a different viscosity/different Re, which is not true).



$$\boldsymbol{\tau} + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T\right)$$

- Zero-equation models (algebraic models): mixing length models
 - From dimensional analysis, turbulent viscosity [m²/s] = length * velocity: $\nu_t \sim l_t u_t$
 - Assume strong connection between mean flow and behavior of largest (energy-containing) eddies → build velocity scale on mean gradients:

$$l_t = l_m$$

$$u_t = l_m ||\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}|| = l_m \left(\sum_{i,j} \left(\frac{\partial \overline{u_i}}{\partial x_j}\right)^2\right)^{1/2} \longrightarrow \nu_t = l_m^2 ||\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}||$$
 le = "mixing length", Velocity scale

Length scale = "mixing length", to be specified (flow-dependent)

• Simple 2D flows: only one significant mean gradient: $u_t = l_m \left| \frac{\partial \overline{u}}{\partial y} \right| \longrightarrow \nu_t = l_m^2 \left| \frac{\partial \overline{u}}{\partial y} \right|$ + only one significant Reynolds stress:

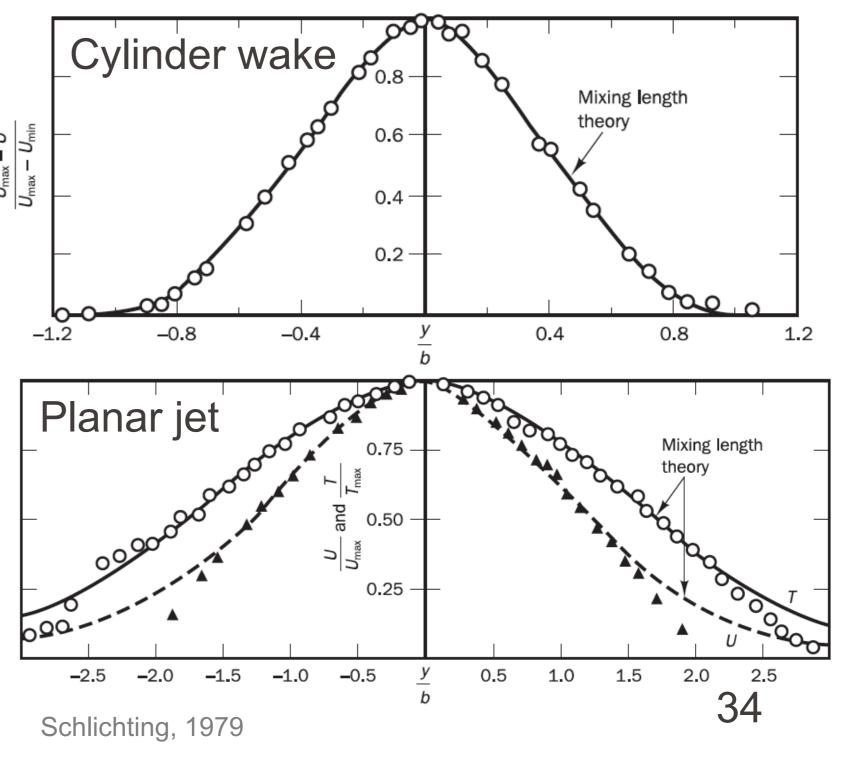
$$\tau_{xy} = \tau_{yx} = -\overline{u'v'} = \nu_t \frac{\partial \overline{u}}{\partial y} = l_m^2 \left| \frac{\partial \overline{u}}{\partial y} \right| \frac{\partial \overline{u}}{\partial y}$$

Boussinesq hypothesis:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T \right)$$

- Zero-equation models (algebraic models): mixing length models
 - Easy to implement, and computationally cheap.
 - Works well only in simple 2D flows: mixing layers, wakes, jets, boundary layers...
 Cannot describe flows with separation/recirculation.

Flow	Mixing length ℓ_m	L
Mixing layer Jet Wake	$0.07L \\ 0.09L \\ 0.16L$	Layer width Jet half width Wake half width
Axisymmetric jet Boundary layer $(\partial p/\partial x = 0)$ viscous sub-layer and	$0.075L$ $\kappa y [1 - \exp(-y^{+}/26)]$	Jet half width
log-law layer $(y/L \le 0.22)$ outer layer $(y/L \ge 0.22)$ Pipes and channels	0.09L	Boundary layer thickness Pipe radius or
(fully developed flow)	$L[0.14-0.08(1-y/L)^2-0.06(1-y/L)^4]$	channel half width



Rodi, 1980

Boussinesq hypothesis:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T\right)$$

- One-equation models: Spalart-Allmaras model
 - Specifically designed for external aerodynamics (boundary layers with adverse pressure gradients)
 - Solve one transport equation for an "eddy viscosity parameter" $\tilde{\nu}$ [m²/s]

$$\frac{\partial(\rho\tilde{\nu})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho\tilde{\nu}\overline{\mathbf{u}}) = \frac{1}{\sigma_{\nu}} \left\{ \nabla \cdot \left[\rho(\nu + \tilde{\nu})\nabla\tilde{\nu} \right] + C_{b2}\rho(\nabla\tilde{\nu})^2 \right\} + C_{b1}\rho\tilde{\nu}\tilde{\Omega} - C_{w1}\rho \left(\frac{\tilde{\nu}}{\kappa y}\right)^2 f_w$$
 rate of change—convection—molecular and turbulent diffusion—production—dissipation

y: distance to closest wall

 $\sigma_{\nu}, C_{b2}, C_{b1}, C_{w1}, \kappa$: empirical constants (flow-independent)

 $ilde{\Omega}, f_w$: functions containing other empirical constants

• Then, turbulent viscosity obtained as: $\nu_t = \tilde{\nu} f_{\nu 1}$

 $f_{\nu 1}$: function that tends to 1 for large $\tilde{\nu}/\nu$, and 0 for small $\tilde{\nu}/\nu$.

Boussinesq hypothesis:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T \right)$$

- One-equation models: turbulent kinetic energy model
 - Improvement on mixing length model
 - Turbulent viscosity: still $\nu_t \sim l_t u_t$, and $l_t = l_m$, but build velocity scale as $u_t = c \sqrt{k}$ with c a constant and k the turbulent kinetic energy [m²/s²]

$$\rightarrow \nu_t = c l_m \sqrt{k}$$

• An equation for *k* can be derived rigorously from NS (same method as for RANS eqs.):

$$\frac{\partial(\rho k)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho k \overline{\mathbf{u}}) = \nabla \cdot \begin{bmatrix} -\overline{p'} \overline{\mathbf{u}'} - \rho \overline{\overline{\mathbf{u}'}^2} \overline{\mathbf{u}'} \\ -\rho \overline{\mathbf{u}'}^2 \overline{\mathbf{u}'} \end{bmatrix} + \rho \nabla \nabla k \end{bmatrix} + \rho \tau : \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} - \frac{\rho \overline{\nu} \overline{||\nabla \mathbf{u}'||^2}}{||\nabla \mathbf{u}'||^2}$$
 rate of change convection diffusion production dissipation

Note (see later): $\epsilon = \nu ||\nabla \mathbf{u}'||^2$ is the rate of dissipation of TKE per unit mass [m²/s³]

Again, closure problem: unknown diffusion and dissipation terms.

RANS + turbulent viscosity models

$$au + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T\right)$$

One-equation models: turbulent kinetic energy model

$$\frac{\partial(\rho k)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho k \overline{\mathbf{u}}) = \nabla \cdot \left[-\overline{p' \mathbf{u'}} - \rho \overline{\mathbf{u'}^2 \mathbf{u'}} + \rho \nu \nabla k \right] + \rho \boldsymbol{\tau} : \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} - \rho \nu \overline{||\nabla \mathbf{u'}||^2}$$

- Solve a model transport equation for k:
 - On dimensional ground, write $\epsilon \sim U^3/L$ and choose $\epsilon = C_D \frac{k^{3/2}}{l_m}$ with C_D a constant. Model diffusive flux as $\rho \frac{\nu_t}{\sigma_k} \nabla k$, with σ_k a constant.

$$\frac{\partial(\rho k)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho k \overline{\mathbf{u}}) = \nabla \cdot \left[\rho \frac{\nu_t}{\sigma_k} \nabla k \right] + \rho \boldsymbol{\tau} : \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} - \rho C_D \frac{k^{3/2}}{l_m}$$

• Major drawback: still need to specify mixing length l_m .

RANS + turbulent viscosity models

Boussinesq hypothesis:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T \right)$$

- Two-equation models: k- ε model (standard)

 - Improvement on one-equation TKE model (no need to specify a mixing length) k^2 Turbulent viscosity: on dimensional ground $\nu_t \sim k^2/\epsilon \longrightarrow \det \nu_t = C_\mu \frac{k^2}{\epsilon}$
 - Solve 2 model transport equations for *k* (same as TKE: theoretical eq. + closure approx.) and for ε (empirical, but based on the analysis of homogeneous turbulence, turbulent freeshear flows, and wall-bounded turbulence):

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial(\rho k)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho k \overline{\mathbf{u}}) &= \nabla \cdot \left[\rho \frac{\nu_t}{\sigma_k} \nabla k \right] + \rho \boldsymbol{\tau} : \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} - \rho \epsilon \\ \frac{\partial(\rho \epsilon)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \epsilon \overline{\mathbf{u}}) &= \nabla \cdot \left[\rho \frac{\nu_t}{\sigma_\epsilon} \nabla \epsilon \right] + \rho C_{1\epsilon} \boldsymbol{\tau} : \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} \frac{\epsilon}{k} - \rho C_{2\epsilon} \frac{\epsilon^2}{k} \end{split}$$
 rate of change convection diffusion production dissipation

 $\sigma_k, \sigma_{\epsilon}, C_{1\epsilon}, C_{2\epsilon}$ empirical constants (flow-independent)

- Need special treatment at the wall (see later).
- Well established, widely validated, well calibrated for internal flows. However, poor performance in unconfined flows, swirling/rotating flows, curved boundary layers.
- Three versions in Fluent: standard (Launder & Spalding, 1974), RNG, realizable.

RANS + turbulent viscosity models

Boussinesq hypothesis:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T\right)$$

- Two-equation models: k- ω model (standard)
 - Instead of ε , use the specific turbulent dissipation rate $\omega = \epsilon/k$ [1/s] (not to be confused with vorticity) as 2^{nd} variable.
 - Turbulent viscosity: on dimensional ground, $\nu_t \sim k/\omega$
 - Solve 2 model transport equations for k (similar to that of $k-\varepsilon$) and for ω .
 - Unlike k- ε , no need for special treatment at the wall.
 - More widely applicable than k- ε . But problematic in some complex external flows.
 - Several versions in Fluent: standard (Wilcox, 1998), SST (Menter, 1992; combines k- ε in the freestream and standard k- ω near the wall), GEKO, BSL.

RANS + Reynolds-stress model (RSM)

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T \right)$$

- Reynolds-stress model
 - Don't use Boussinesq hypothesis (isotropic turbulent viscosity). Instead, solve explicitly transport eqs. for the 6 Reynolds stresses (+1 eq. for ε).
 - Can derive a rigorous eq. for $\tau = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{u}'}$:

$$\frac{\partial \overline{u_i'u_j'}}{\partial t} + \overline{u_k} \partial_k \overline{u_i'u_j'} = -\left(\overline{u_i'u_k'} \partial_k \overline{u_j} + \overline{u_j'u_k'} \partial_k \overline{u_i}\right) - \partial_k \overline{u_i'u_j'u_k'} + \nu \partial_{kk} \overline{u_i'u_j'}$$
 rate of change convection
$$-2\nu \overline{\partial_k u_i' \partial_k u_j'} - \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\overline{u_i' \partial_j p'} + \overline{u_j' \partial_i p'}\right)$$
 dissipation pressure-strain interaction

- Again, closure problem: must model the unknown correlations. The diffusion and pressure-strain terms are modelled as a function of τ , the dissipation term as a function of ε .
- Allow for anisotropic turbulence. Accurate in simple and complex flows.
- However, less validated than k- ε .

RANS: summary

- The Reynolds stress tensor $au = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{u}'}$ is unknown.
- Turbulent viscosity models: Boussinesq hypothesis $au + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T\right)$
 - Mixing length model: $\nu_t = l_m^2 ||\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}||$ where the mixing length l_m is flow-dependent. No additional equation.
 - Spalart-Allmaras model: $u_t = \tilde{\nu} f_{\nu 1}$ 1 transport equation for $\tilde{\nu}$
 - TKE model: $\nu_t \sim l_m \sqrt{k}$ where the mixing length I_m is flow-dependent. 1 transport equation for k
 - k-arepsilon models: $u_t \sim k^2/\epsilon$ 2 transport equations for k and arepsilon
 - k- ω models: $u_t \sim k/\omega$ 2 transport equations for k and ω

• Reynolds-stress eq. models (RSM): solve directly for τ .
7 transport eqs. for the 6 independent components of τ and for ε .

RANS: summary

- The Reynolds stress tensor $au = -\overline{\mathbf{u}'\mathbf{u}'}$ is unknown.
- Turbulent viscosity models: Boussinesq hypothesis $au + \frac{2k}{3}\mathbf{I} = \nu_t \left(\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T\right)$

• Mixing length model:
$$u_t = l_m^2 ||\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}||$$

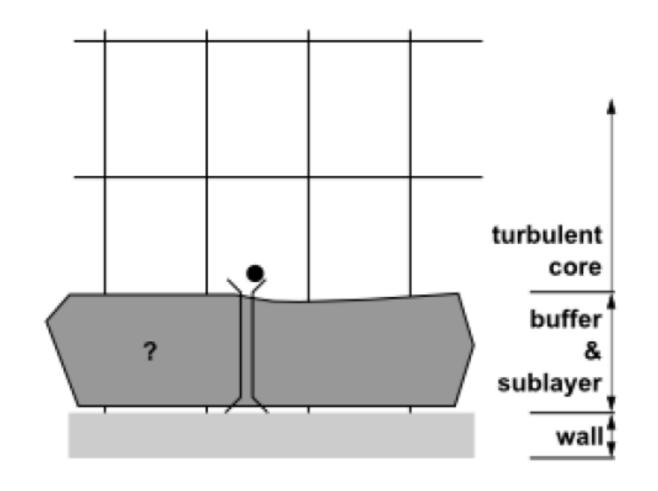
- Spalart-Allmaras model: $\nu_t = \tilde{\nu} f_{\nu 1}$
- TKE model: $\nu_t \sim l_m \sqrt{k}$
- $k\text{-}\varepsilon$ models: $\nu_t \sim k^2/\epsilon$
- $k ext{-}\omega$ models: $u_t \sim k/\omega$

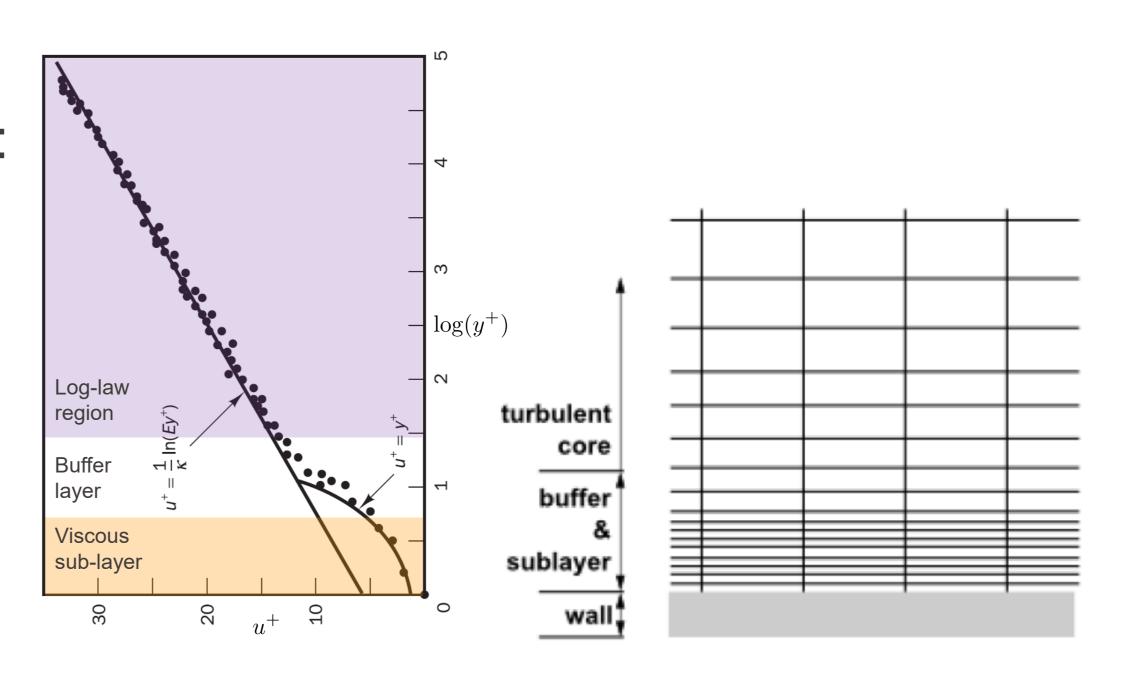
Note: in flows where turbulent regions and laminar regions coexist, *in principle* all turbulence models can predict laminar regions (i.e. they can yield $\nu_t=0$ and $\tau=0$, and the RANS eqs. reduce to the standard NS eqs.), except the mixing length model (ν_t is non-zero wherever the mean velocity gradient is non-zero). However, depending on the model, BCs etc., spurious production or insufficient dissipation of k (and ν_t) is possible.

• Reynolds-stress eq. models (RSM): solve directly for τ .

- Walls are the main source of mean vorticity and turbulence → strong impact on turbulence.
- Some hypotheses used to develop turbulence models are not valid near the walls (e.g., the hypothesis that viscous dissipation is negligible compared to other terms is valid far from walls because Re is large, but not close to walls because the flow is much slower, so the effective Re is much smaller) → near-wall modeling significantly affects the accuracy of turbulent flow simulations.

Numerically, two approaches:





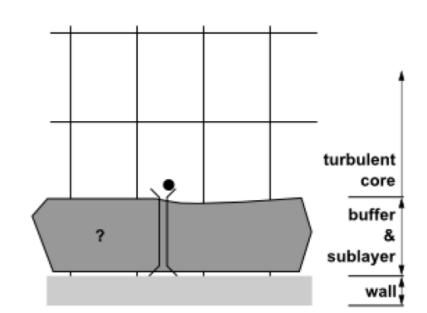
Wall functions:

- Viscosity-affected region (viscous sub-layer + buffer layer) is not resolved, but bridged with semi-empirical "wall functions".
- Outside this region, turbulent models can be used "as is".
- Cheaper, but less accurate.

Near-wall models:

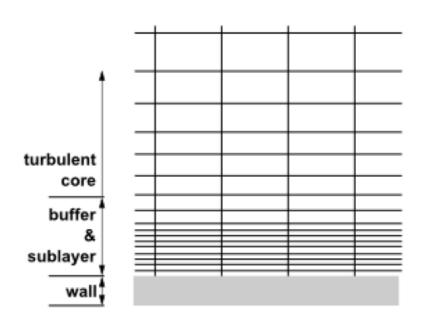
- Near-wall region is resolved all the way down to the wall. Requires a sufficiently fine mesh.
- Some turbulence models must be modified to account for the presence of the wall
- More accurate, but more expensive.

- Wall function approach:
 - For high-Re flows, this approach is economical, robust, reasonably accurate → practical option for industrial flows.



- Inadequate where low-Re effects are important:
 - Hypotheses of wall functions breaks down (actual profile ≠ turbulent law of the wall).
 - Must use near-wall model approach instead.
- First mesh cell center should be in the log layer $y^+>30$ (less true with more recent advanced wall functions; see Fluent Theory Guide).

- Near-wall model approach:
 - First mesh cell should be at $y^+ \sim 1$. Mesh should have at least 10-20 cells in the boundary layer.



- How to determine y⁺?
 - Defined as distance to the wall normalized by flow quantities → in principle, need to know flow solution to determine y⁺ values!

$$y^+ = rac{y u_ au}{
u}$$
 where $u_ au = \sqrt{rac{ au_w}{
ho}} = \sqrt{
u rac{\partial u_x}{\partial y}}$

- Estimation of y⁺ for the first mesh cell:
 - trial and error (compute, remesh, recompute),
 - from experience,
 - based on simple analytic formula.
- Online calculators based on formula for flat-plate boundary layer (only useful if flat plate is a good analogy for problem being solved). For example:
 - www.pointwise.com/yplus
 - www.cfd-online.com/Tools/yplus.php

- 1. Choosing a turbulence model
 - Depends on flow physics, accuracy required, computer resources available, etc.
 - Understand capabilities and limitations of turbulence model before using it.
 - For industrial applications: use RANS approach.
 - Aeronautical applications involving wall-bounded flows (boundary-layer flows): consider Spalart-Allmaras or k- ω .
 - "General" flow situations: consider $k-\varepsilon$ or $k-\omega$.
 - If low-Re effects, compressibility or shear flow spreading are important: consider k- ω .
 - More complex flows (e.g. streamline curvature, swirl, rotation, rapidly changing strain rate): consider RSM.
 - For detailed unsteady turbulent flow studies: use LES approach.

2. Choosing a model variation

- For complex near-wall phenomena (e.g. separation from curved surface), use:
 - RNG or realizable (rather than standard) k- ε model,
 - SST (rather than standard) $k-\omega$ model.
- If solution stability is a problem, use:
 - standard (rather than RNG or realizable) k- ε model,
 - standard (rather than SST) $k-\omega$ model.

3. Choosing a near-wall treatment

- High-Re flows and/or limited computer resources: consider wall function.
- For complex near-wall phenomena (e.g. separation from curved surface), use:
 - near-wall model approach (if practical),
 - non-equilibrium wall functions.

4. Choosing model parameters

- Never change model constants, unless expert user.
- If solution stability is a problem, consider:
 - decreasing under-relaxation factors for turbulence equations
 - using first-order solution procedure for turbulence equations
- Include all model options that may be important in the flow (e.g. buoyancy, swirl, compressibility, thermal effects)

5. Choosing an appropriate mesh

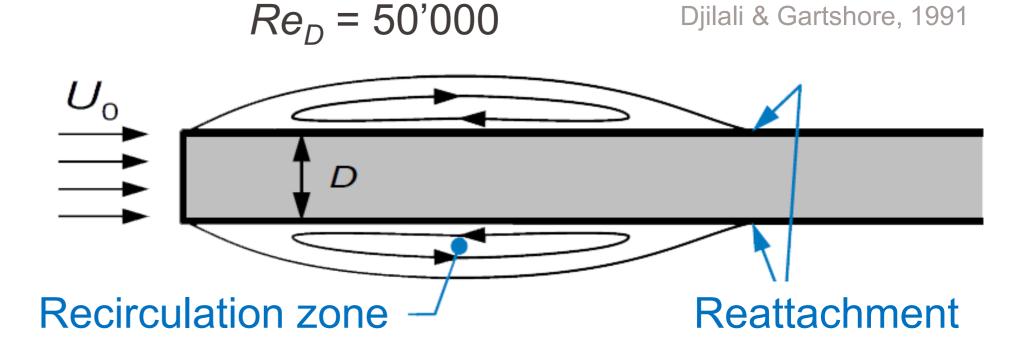
- LES: use fine mesh to resolve all scales down to smallest resolved eddies
- RANS with near-wall model: set first mesh cell at y+ ~ 1
- RANS with wall function: set first mesh cell at $y^+ \sim 30$

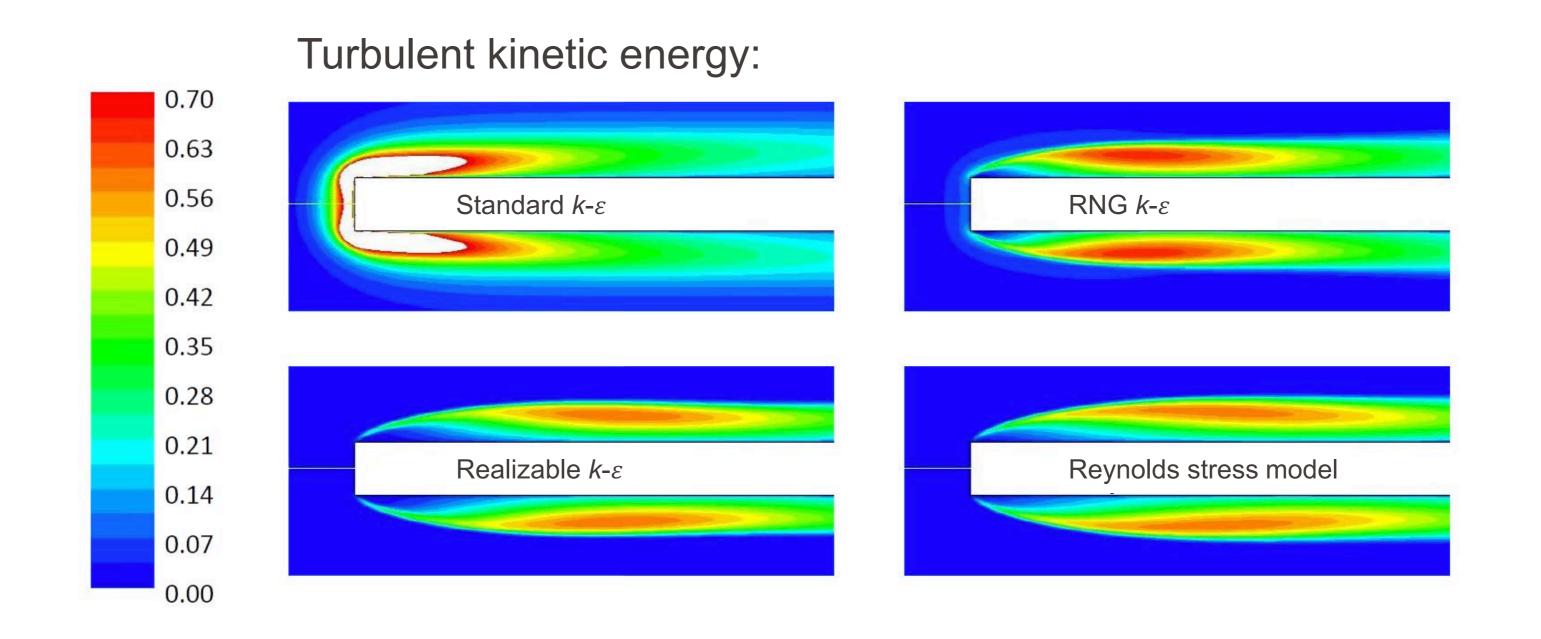
General comments

- Read Fluent Theory Guide and User's Guide before applying turbulence models.
- Study influence of turbulence model on flow solution.
- Validate flow solution whenever possible (compare with experimental data).

Turbulence models: example

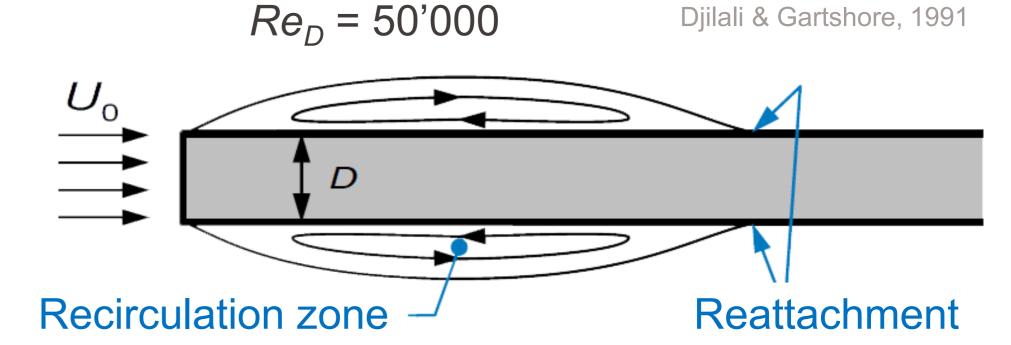
- Turbulent flow past a blunt flat plate.
- Four turbulence models considered.



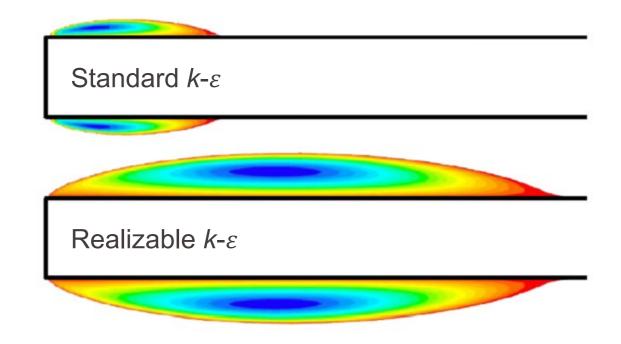


Turbulence models: example

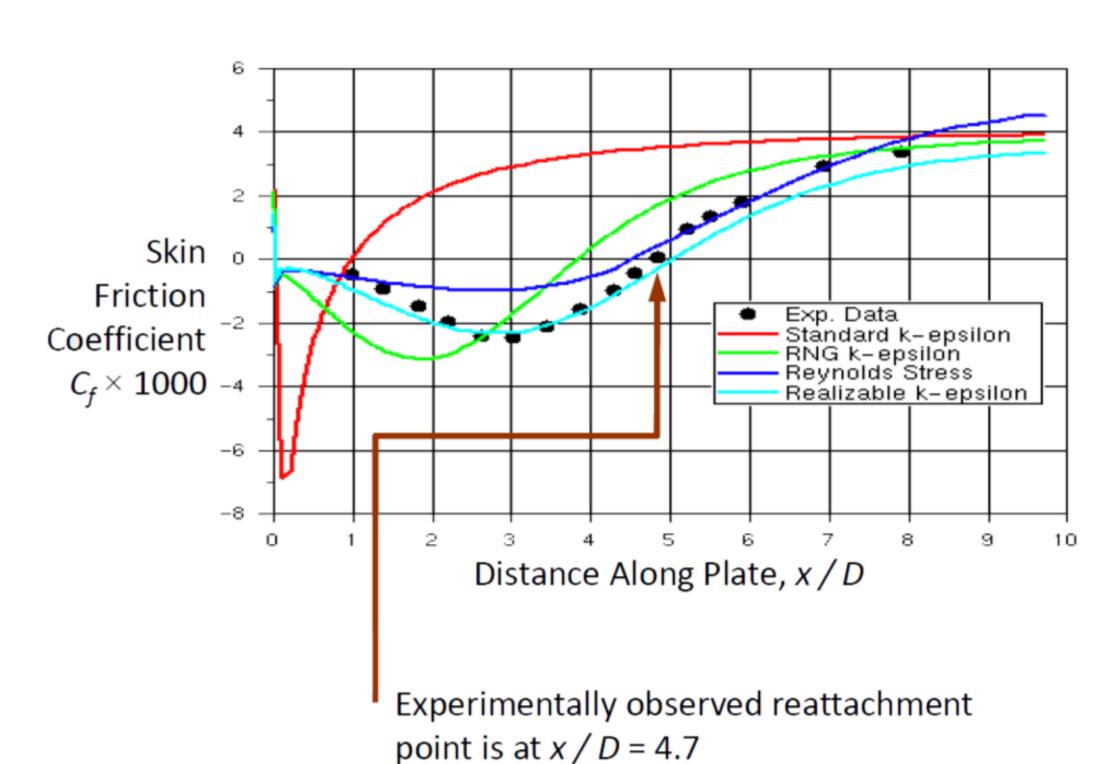
- Turbulent flow past a blunt flat plate.
- Four turbulence models considered.



Predicted recirculation zone:



Standard k- ε severely underpredicts the size of the recirculation zone. Realizable k- ε is more accurate.



Summary

- Turbulent flows are complex and difficult to simulate numerically.
- Hierarchy of different approaches: DNS, LES, RANS.
- Modeling turbulent flow is difficult. Many different RANS models of varying complexity.
- Choice of wall treatment is important for accuracy and mesh size (y^+) .
- Choice of most suitable turbulence model is generally difficult. Should be based on physical guidelines (see manual) and computer resources.
- Validation is particularly important to gauge accuracy of solution.

- For more details on turbulence and its modeling:
 - EPFL SGM Master course "Turbulence" (ME-467, T. Schneider)
 - Turbulent Flows, S. Pope

- Equation for the fluctuations:
 - Subtract the RANS eq. (mean flow) from the NS eq. (total flow), and recall the Reynolds decomposition $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x},t) = \overline{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x},t) + \mathbf{u}'(\mathbf{x},t)$:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$$
$$-\left(\frac{\partial \overline{\mathbf{u}}}{\partial t} + (\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla)\overline{\mathbf{u}} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla \overline{p} + \nu \nabla^2 \overline{\mathbf{u}} - \overline{(\mathbf{u}' \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u}'}\right)$$

$$\begin{split} &\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}'}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} - (\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla)\overline{\mathbf{u}} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p' + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}' + \overline{(\mathbf{u}' \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u}'} \\ &= \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}'}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u}' \cdot \nabla)\overline{\mathbf{u}} + (\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u}' + (\mathbf{u}' \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u}' \end{split}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}'}{\partial t} + (\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u}' = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p' + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}' + \overline{(\mathbf{u}' \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u}'} - (\mathbf{u}' \cdot \nabla)\overline{\mathbf{u}} - (\mathbf{u}' \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u}'$$

- Equation for the turbulent kinetic energy:
 - Start from the eq. for the fluctuations (previous slide):

$$\frac{\partial u_i'}{\partial t} + \overline{u}_j \partial_j u_i' = -\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_i p' + \nu \partial_{jj} u_i' + \overline{u_j' \partial_j u_i'} - u_j' \partial_j \overline{u_i} - u_j' \partial_j u_i'$$

• Multiply each eq. i by u'_i, sum the 3 eqs., and take the mean:

$$\overline{u_i'\frac{\partial u_i'}{\partial t}} + \overline{u_i'\overline{u}_j\partial_j u_i'} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\overline{u_i'\partial_i p'} + \nu\overline{u_i'\partial_j ju_i'} + \overline{u_i'\overline{u_j'\partial_j u_i'}} - \overline{u_i'u_j'\partial_j \overline{u_i}} - \overline{u_i'u_j'\partial_j u_i'}$$

- Rearrange each term (use product rule and/or incompressibility where needed):
 - 1st term: $\overline{u_i'} \frac{\partial u_i'}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \overline{u_i'}^2}{\partial t}$

$$\quad \text{3rd term:} \quad -\frac{1}{\rho}\overline{u_i'\partial_i p'} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\partial_i(\overline{u_i'p'})$$

• 2nd term:
$$\overline{u}_j\overline{u_i'\partial_ju_i'}=\frac{1}{2}\overline{u}_j\partial_j\overline{u_i'}^2$$

$$\quad \text{4th term:} \quad \nu \overline{u_i' \partial_{jj} u_i'} = \frac{1}{2} \nu \partial_{jj} \overline{u_i'}^2 - \nu \overline{(\partial_j u_i')}^2$$

Equation for the turbulent kinetic energy (continued):

$$\quad \textbf{5}^{\text{th}} \text{ term:} \quad \overline{u_i'\overline{u_j'}\partial_j u_i'} = \overline{u_i'}\,\overline{u_j'}\partial_j u_i' = 0 \cdot \, \overline{u_j'\partial_j u_i'} = 0$$

• 6th term:
$$-\overline{u_i'u_j'}\partial_j\overline{u_i}$$

$$\quad \text{7th term:} \quad -\overline{u_i'u_j'\partial_j u_i'} = -\frac{1}{2}\overline{u_j'\partial_j ({u_i'}^2)} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_j \overline{u_j' {u_j'}^2}$$

■ Gather:
$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial\overline{u_i'}^2}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\overline{u}_j\partial_j\overline{u_i'}^2 = -\frac{1}{\rho}\partial_i(\overline{u_i'p'}) + \frac{1}{2}\nu\partial_{jj}\overline{u_i'}^2 - \nu\overline{(\partial_ju_i')^2} - \overline{u_i'u_j'}\partial_j\overline{u_i} - \frac{1}{2}\partial_j\overline{u_j'u_i'}^2$$
$$\frac{\partial k}{\partial t} + \overline{u}_j\partial_jk = -\frac{1}{\rho}\partial_j(\overline{u_j'p'}) + \nu\partial_{jj}k - \nu\overline{(\partial_ju_i')^2} - \overline{u_i'u_j'}\partial_j\overline{u_i} - \frac{1}{2}\partial_j\overline{u_j'u_i'}^2$$
$$\frac{\partial k}{\partial t} + \overline{u}_j\partial_jk = \partial_j\left(-\frac{1}{\rho}\overline{u_j'p'} + \nu\partial_jk - \frac{1}{2}\overline{u_j'u_i'}^2\right) - \nu\overline{(\partial_ju_i')^2} - \overline{u_i'u_j'}\partial_j\overline{u_i}$$
$$\frac{\partial k}{\partial t} + (\overline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla)k = \nabla \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{\rho}\overline{\mathbf{u}'p'} + \nu\nabla k - \frac{1}{2}\overline{\mathbf{u}'^2\mathbf{u}'}\right) - \nu\overline{||\nabla\mathbf{u}'||^2} + \boldsymbol{\tau} : \nabla\overline{\mathbf{u}}$$

- Equation for the Reynolds stresses:
 - Same idea as for the turbulent kinetic energy (2 previous slides).
 - Start from the eq. for the fluctuations:

$$\frac{\partial u_i'}{\partial t} + \overline{u}_k \partial_k u_i' = \dots$$

Multiply by fluctuations and combine to form the quantity

$$u_j' \left(\frac{\partial u_i'}{\partial t} + \overline{u}_k \partial_k u_i' \right) + u_i' \left(\frac{\partial u_j'}{\partial t} + \overline{u}_k \partial_k u_j' \right) = \dots$$

Take the mean:

$$\overline{u_j'\left(\frac{\partial u_i'}{\partial t} + \overline{u}_k \partial_k u_i'\right)} + \overline{u_i'\left(\frac{\partial u_j'}{\partial t} + \overline{u}_k \partial_k u_j'\right)} = \dots$$

Rearrange:

$$\frac{\partial \overline{u_i' u_j'}}{\partial t} + \overline{u}_k \partial_k \overline{u_i' u_j'} = \dots$$