The background image shows an aerial view of a large wind farm. Numerous wind turbines are scattered across a field, with their blades creating a pattern of light and shadow against a bright, cloudy sky.

Turbulence

Tobias M. Schneider

Pierre Beck (TA)
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09.05.2025

Vattenfall, Denmark

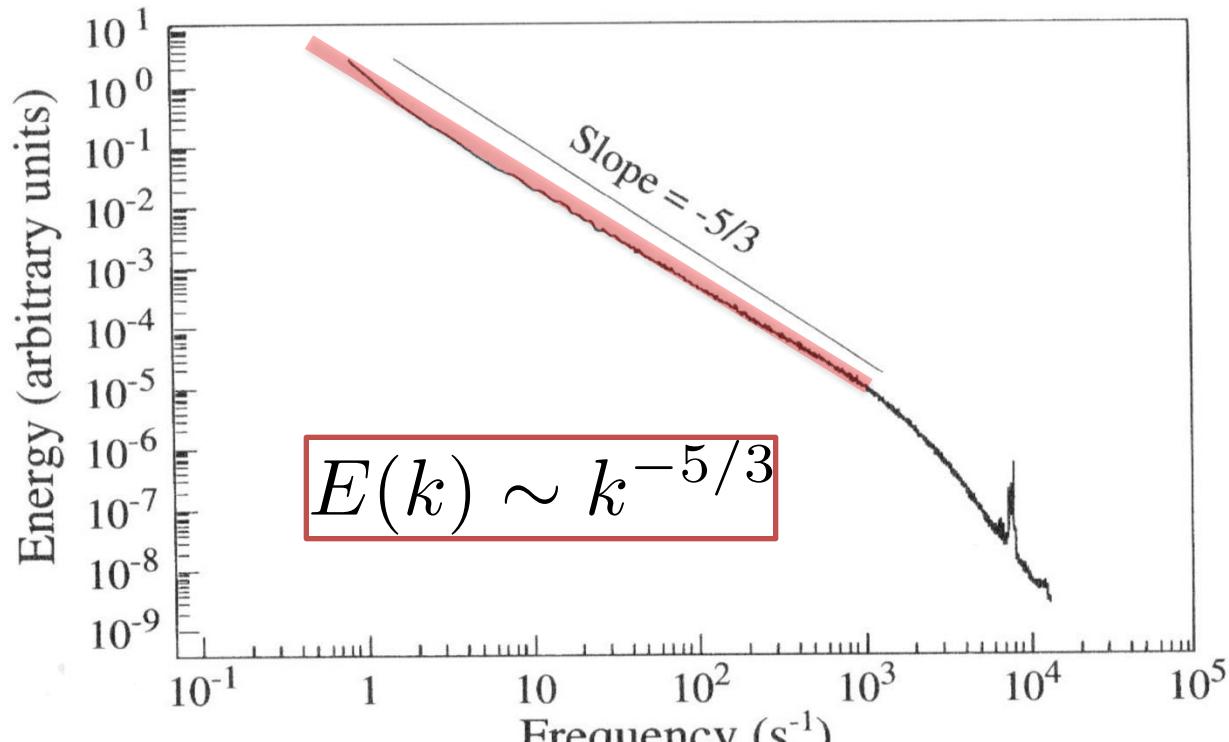
Plan for today

- 1. Intermittency corrections / Intro Models (10h15-12h00)**
- 2. Chaos Theory – Episode 2 (13h15-15h00) (Omid Ashtari)**

Ch. 8: Intermittency

Aim of this chapter: Demonstrate that K41 theory may need corrections

Observation: Energy spectrum



Or wavenumber k (Taylor frozen flow)

ONERA S1 windtunnel

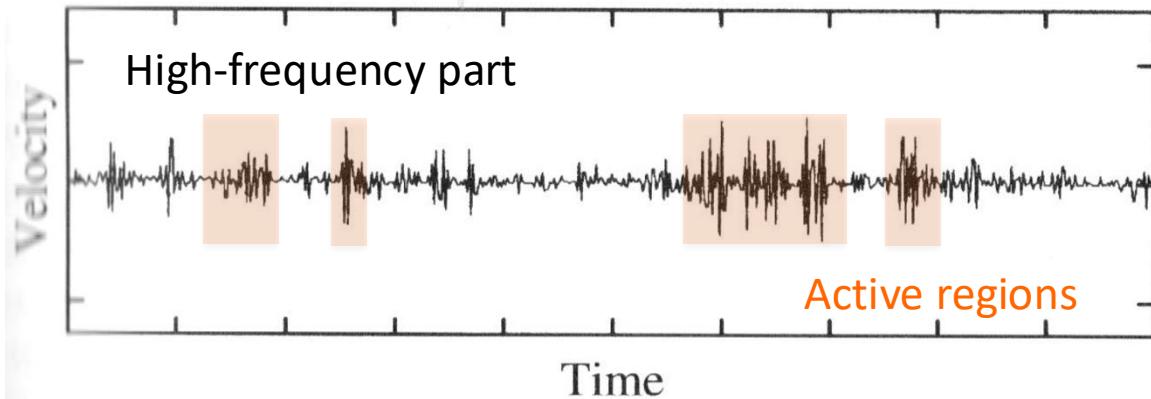
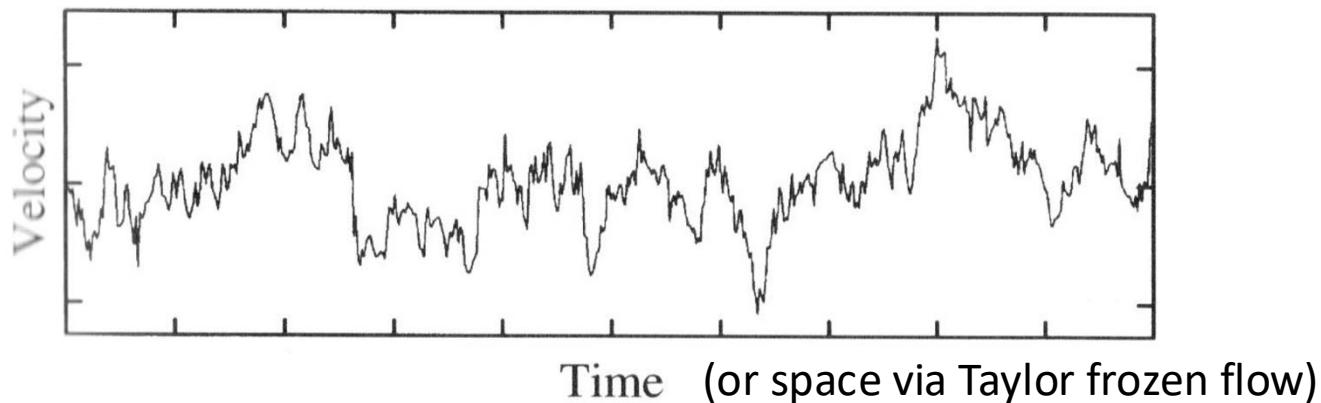


$$E(k) \sim k^{-5/3}$$

- K41 theory described data very well
- But: small deviations from $-5/3$ scaling?

Intermittent turbulent signal

Question: Is the signal scale invariant (self-similar) – c.f. hypothesis 2



Turbulent jet

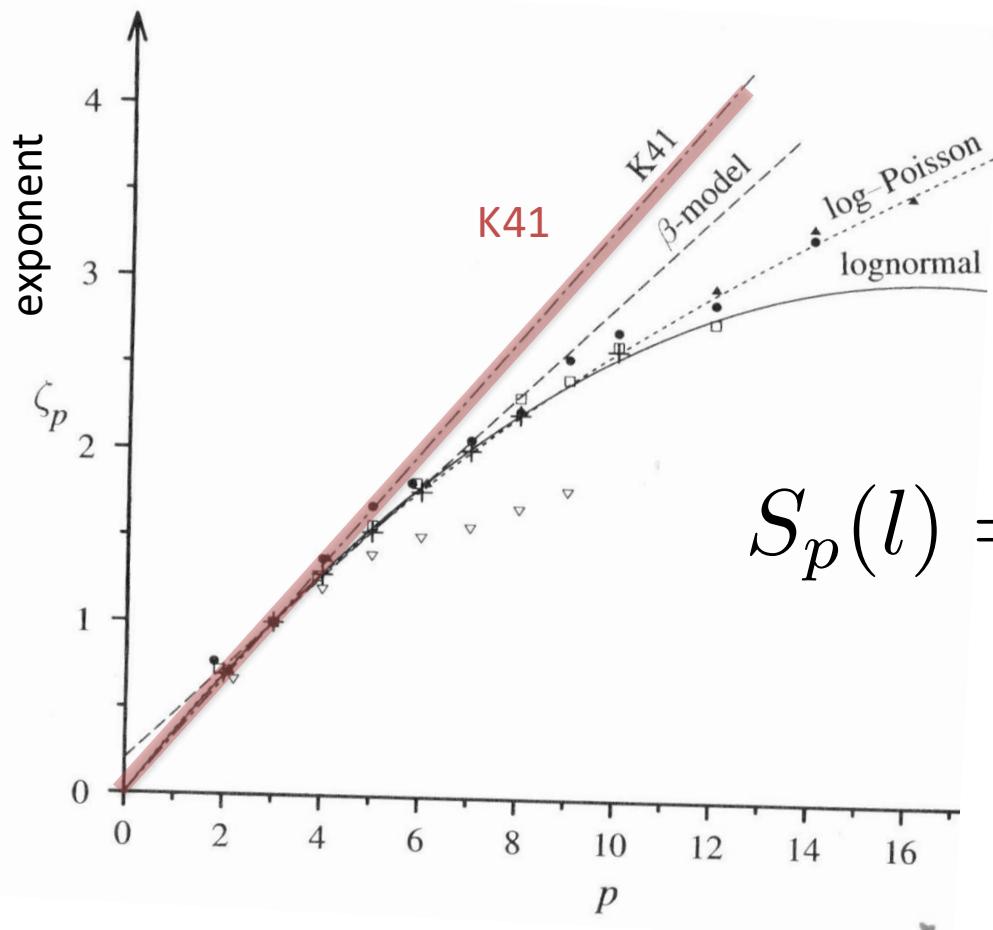


Intermittent: Activity only during a fraction of time

➡ Not self-similar (violates H2)

Here: Dissipation-range intermittency

High-order structure functions

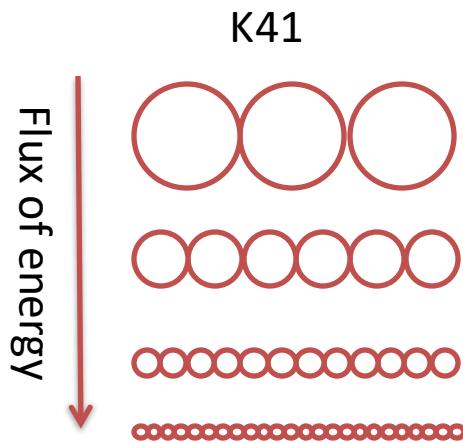


$$S_p(l) = \langle (\delta v_{||}(l))^p \rangle \propto l^{\zeta_p}$$

→ Likely that there are *intermittency corrections* to K41 in the inertial range

Intermittency models – Beta-model

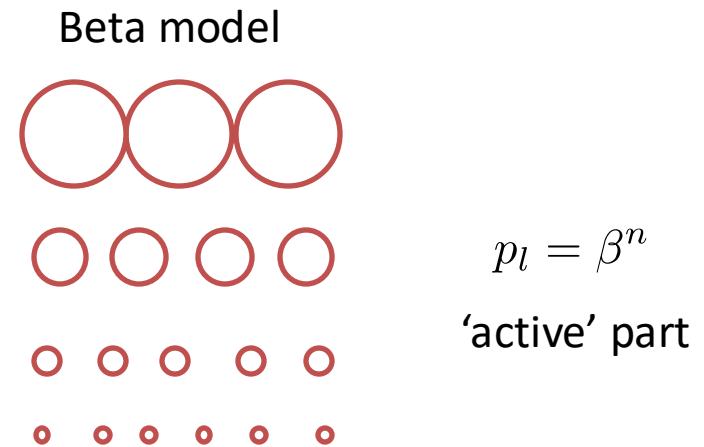
Richardson cascade - cartoon



$$l = r^n l_0$$

Space-filling eddy generations
Scale invariant

$$\zeta_p = \frac{p}{3}$$



$$p_l = \beta^n$$

Not space-filling

$$\zeta_p = \frac{p}{3} + (3 - D)\left(1 - \frac{p}{3}\right); \quad 3 - D = \frac{\ln \beta}{\ln r}$$

Summary turbulence theory

3 hypotheses

- H1: restored symmetries
- H2: self-similar scaling
- H3: finite dissipation

Navier-Stokes equations

Energy transport

Statistics

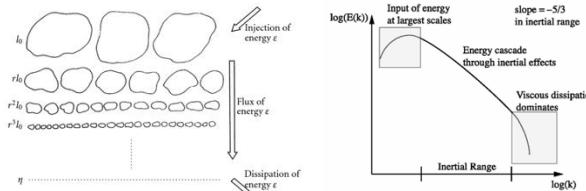
$$E(k) \leftrightarrow \text{correlations}$$

K41 theory, including spectrum

$$E(k) \sim \epsilon^{2/3} k^{-5/3}$$

Physical picture

- Richardson cascade
- characteristic scales



Violation of H2 →

Intermittency corrections to K41 theory

Fundamental open questions about turbulence

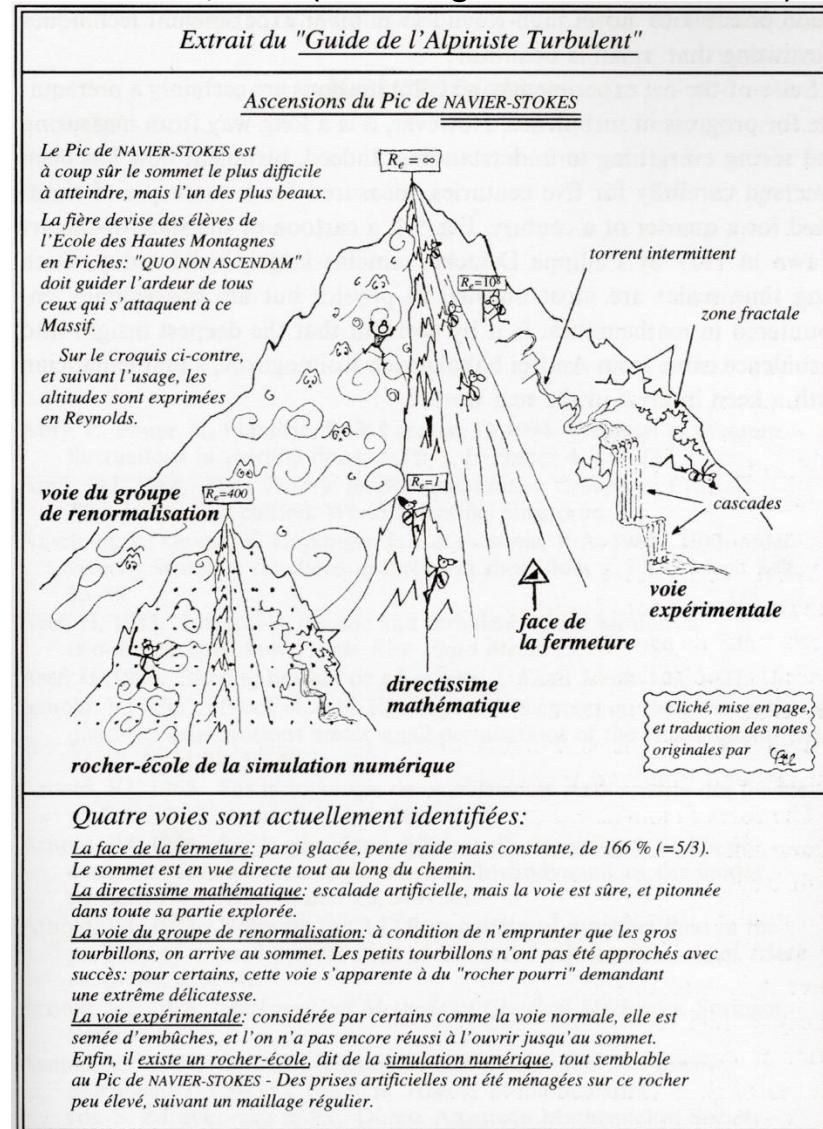
Feynman: “Turbulence is the most important unsolved Problem of classical physics”

- Intermittency corrections to K41
- Universality of the decay
- Transition to turbulence
- Smoothness of Navier-Stokes solutions
-

Exciting fundamental questions about the nature of turbulence remain

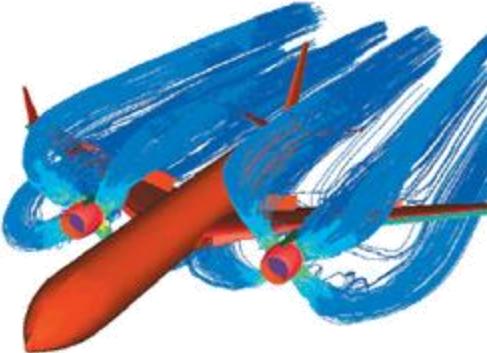
→ One approach: **Dynamical Systems Theory**
(tbc today 13h00 – 15h00)

P. Delache, 1977 (observing turbulence research)



Ch. 9 – Simulation and Models

Engineering problems involving turbulence - examples



Typical tasks

- determine forces (drag, lift,...)
- design geometries optimizing forces
- ...

Tools

- experiments (full-size / models)
- computer simulation CFD – *Computational Fluid Dynamics*

Features of the flow:

- high Reynolds number
- complex geometries
- ...

Question: How to simulate the flow?

The plan for the last classes

9.1 Introduction and motivation – Why models?

9.2 RANS Concepts

 Reynolds decomposition and equations

- closure problem

 eddy viscosity models

- mixing length

- $k-\varepsilon$ model

- Reynolds stress models

9.3 LES (very short)

Logistics for the remaining weeks

Reminder: Project deadline May 30 17h00 sharp

May 16th: No class but only Q&A (only 10h00 – 12h00)

- Project
- Remaining exercise sheets (and solutions)

May 23rd: RANS & LES – last class of the semester (!!)

Week of May 26th: if possible, one extra Q&A session (tbc)