The background image shows an aerial view of a large wind farm. The turbines are arranged in several parallel rows across a green field. The sky above is a clear, pale blue. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down the rows of turbines.

Turbulence

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23.05.2025

Vattenfall, Denmark

Logistics for the remaining week

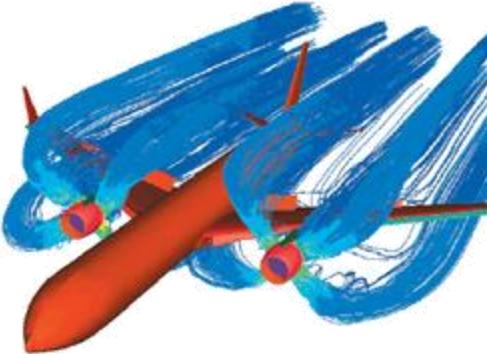
Reminder: Project deadline May 30 17h00 sharp

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

Week of May 26th: if possible, one extra Q&A session
-> likely: Monday, May 26, 17h15 [TBC, Moodle]

Ch. 9 – Simulation and Models

Engineering problems involving turbulence - examples



Typical tasks

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

Tools

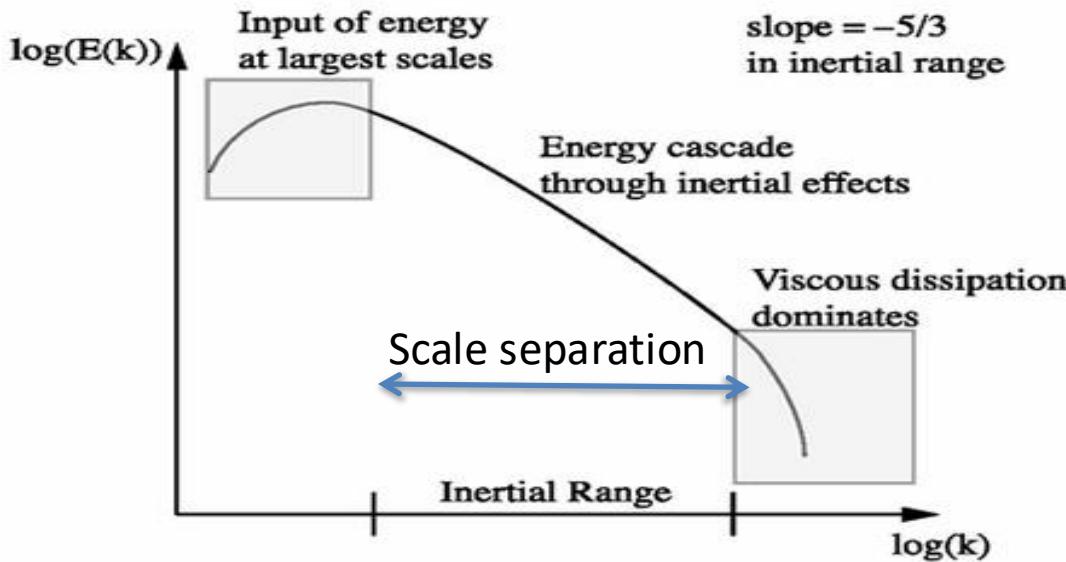
- experiments (full-size / models)
- computer simulation CFD – *Computational Fluid Dynamics*

Features of the flow:

- high Reynolds number
- complex geometries
- ...

Question: How to simulate the flow?

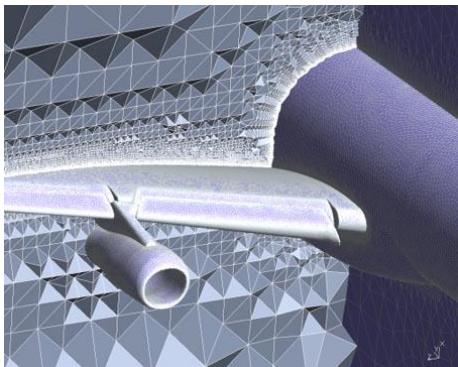
What about direct numerical simulation (DNS)?



$$\frac{l_0}{\eta} \sim Re^{3/4}$$

No of grid points: $N \sim Re^{9/4}$

→ Full DNS is impossible for most applications!!



We need to ‘model’ part of the turbulent dynamics!

Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS)

- eddy viscosity
 - $k-\epsilon$ model(s)
- Reynolds-stress models

Model at all spatial scales
Computationally cheap

Large-eddy simulations (LES)

- various sub-grid-models

Model only at small scales
Computationally much more expensive

The plan for the last class

9.1 Introduction and motivation – Why models?

9.2 RANS Concepts

 Reynolds decomposition and equations

- closure problem

 eddy viscosity models

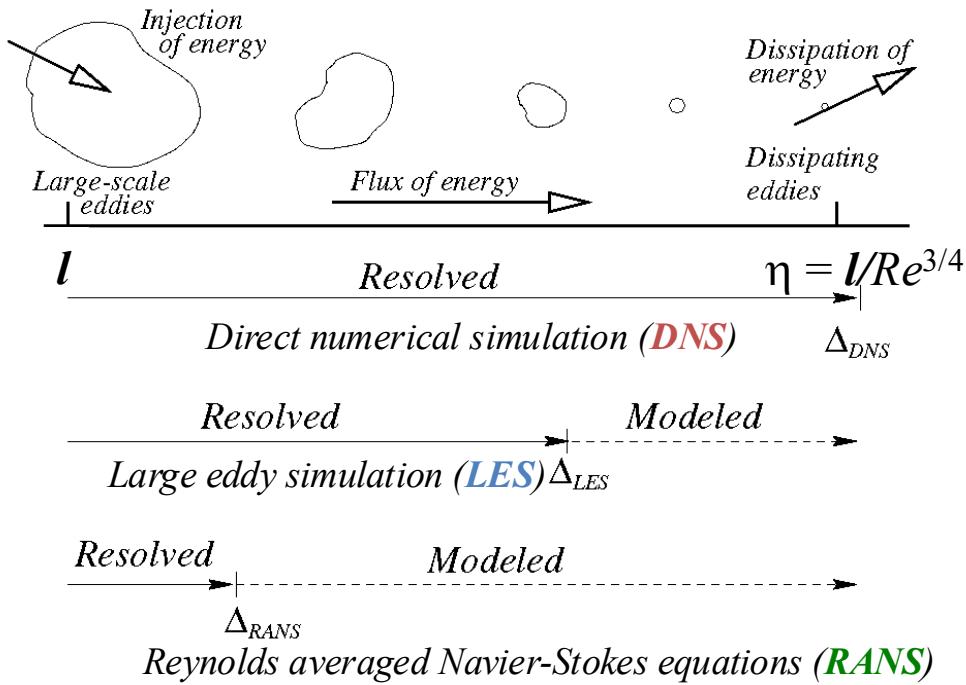
- mixing length

- $k-\varepsilon$ model

- Reynolds stress models

9.3 LES (very short)

Hierarchy of simulation approaches



DNS: Direct numerical simulation

- no model assumptions
- resolving all scales

LES: Large-eddy simulation

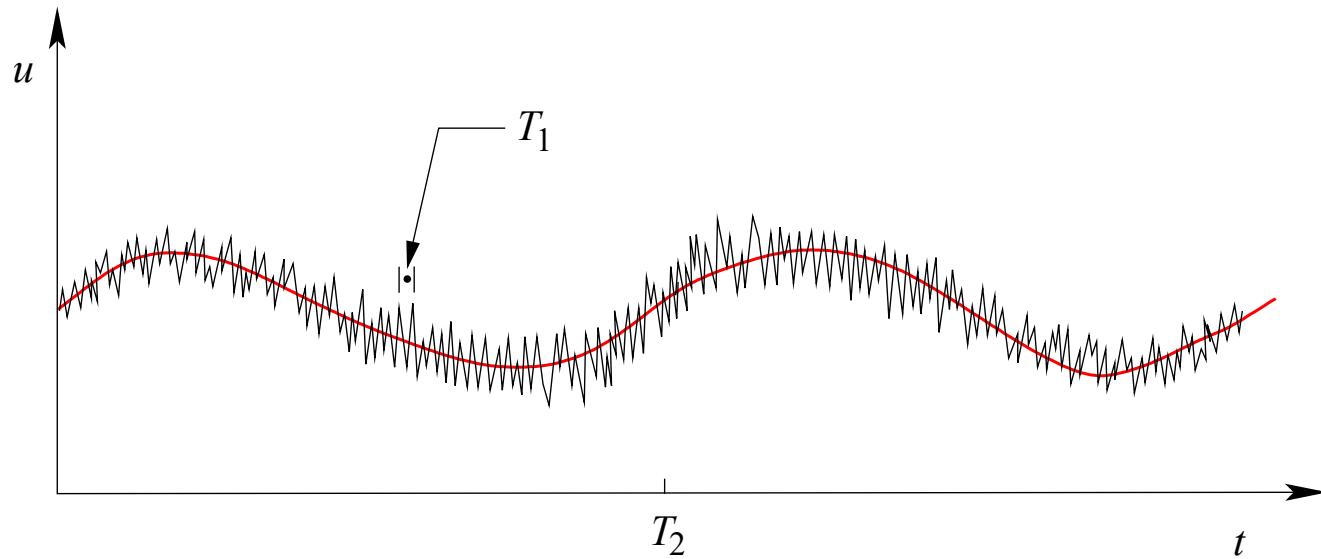
- resolve large scales
- model assumptions for small scales

RANS: Reynolds averaged Navier Stokes simulation

- model at basically all scales
- solve for mean flow

RANS – the aim

Aim: Develop equation for the mean flow



RANS concepts

Reynolds decomposition

Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes for the **mean flow**

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \underline{\mathbf{u}} + \underline{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla \underline{\mathbf{u}} &= -\nabla \bar{p} + \nu \nabla^2 \underline{\mathbf{u}} - \nabla \cdot \tau \\ \nabla \cdot \underline{\mathbf{u}} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad \tau_{ij} = \langle u'_i u'_j \rangle \quad \text{Reynolds stress tensor}$$

Closure problem:

10 unknown fields: $\bar{\mathbf{u}}, p, \tau$ but only 4 equations

→ Models for *Reynolds stress tensor* required $\mathcal{T} \leftrightarrow \bar{\mathbf{u}}$

The $k-\varepsilon$ model

Evolution of turbulent energy k : (exact)

$$k_t + \bar{u}_j \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j} = \text{production} - \varepsilon + \text{redistribution}$$
$$\text{production} = -\overline{\bar{u}'_i \bar{u}'_j} \frac{\partial \bar{u}_i}{\partial x_j}$$
$$\text{redistribution} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(v \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j} - \overline{\bar{p}' \bar{u}'_j} - \frac{1}{2} \overline{\bar{u}'_i \bar{u}'_i \bar{u}'_j} \right)$$
$$\varepsilon = \text{dissipation}$$
$$\varepsilon = 2v \overline{\bar{s}'_{ij} \bar{s}'_{ij}}$$

Model the redistribution terms:

$$\frac{\partial k}{\partial t} + \bar{u}_j \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j} = -\overline{\bar{u}'_i \bar{u}'_j} \frac{\partial \bar{u}_i}{\partial x_j} - \varepsilon + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[(v + v_T / \sigma_k) \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j} \right]$$

Diffusive energy flux!!

The $k-\varepsilon$ model

The ε equation (modeling of 6 higher order correlations)

$$\frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial t} + \bar{u}_j \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial x_j} = - C_{\varepsilon 1} \frac{\varepsilon}{k} \bar{u}'_i \bar{u}'_j \frac{\partial \bar{u}_i}{\partial x_j} - C_{\varepsilon 2} \frac{\varepsilon^2}{k} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[(v + v_T / \sigma_\varepsilon) \frac{\partial \varepsilon}{\partial x_j} \right]$$

Closing the $k-\varepsilon$ model by

$$v_T = C_v \frac{k^2}{\varepsilon}$$

The $k-\varepsilon$ model (Fluent 'standard')

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

$$\bar{u}_t + \bar{u} \cdot \nabla \bar{u} = -\nabla \bar{p} + \nabla \cdot [(v + v_T) \nabla \bar{u}],$$

$$k_t + \bar{u} \cdot \nabla k = P - \varepsilon + \nabla \cdot [(v + v_T/\sigma_k) \nabla k],$$

$$\varepsilon_t + \bar{u} \cdot \nabla \varepsilon = C_{\varepsilon 1} \frac{\varepsilon}{k} P - C_{\varepsilon 2} \frac{\varepsilon^2}{k} + \nabla \cdot [(v + v_T/\sigma_\varepsilon) \nabla \varepsilon]$$

$$P = -\bar{u}'_i \bar{u}'_j \frac{\partial \bar{u}_i}{\partial x_j}$$

$$-\bar{u}'_i \bar{u}'_j = 2v_T \bar{s}_{ij} - \frac{2}{3} k \delta_{ij}$$

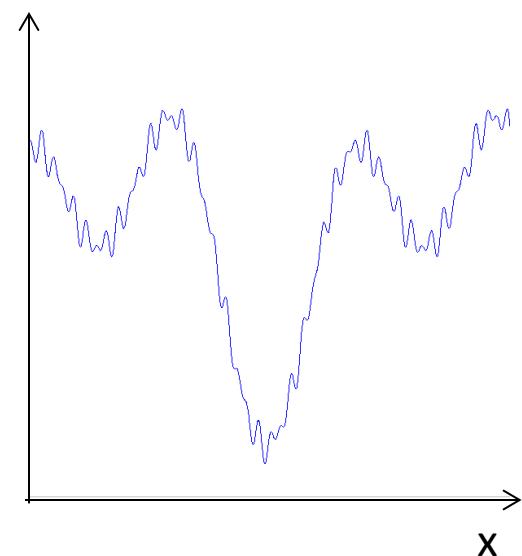
$$v_T = C_v \frac{k^2}{\varepsilon}$$

$$C_v = 0.09, \quad C_{\varepsilon 1} = 1.44, \quad C_{\varepsilon 2} = 1.92, \quad \sigma_k = 1.0, \quad \sigma_\varepsilon = 1.3$$

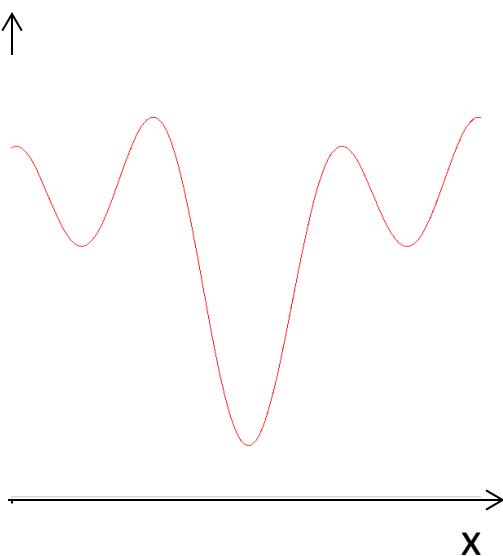
Large eddy simulations

Idea:

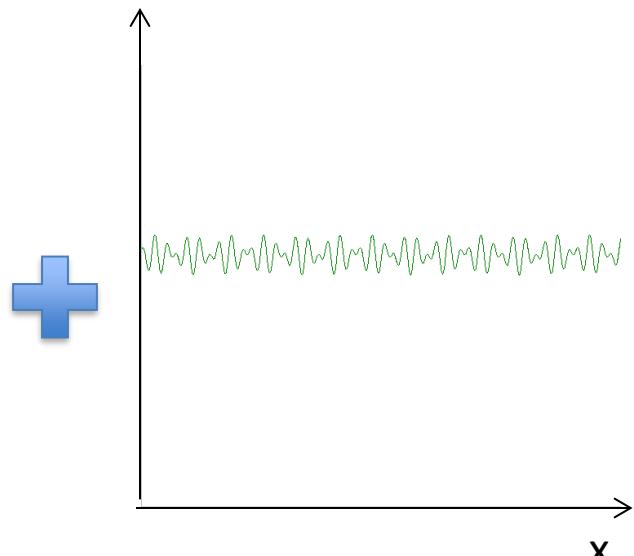
- Decompose the flow into large scales and small scales
- Fully resolve the dynamics of large scales
- Only model on the small scales



Full signal



Low (spatial) frequencies
Large scales (resolved)



High (spatial) frequencies
Small scales (modeled)

Note: Different decompositions

RANS: Mean + fluctuations

LES: Large scales + small scales

LES equations

$$\tilde{u}_t + \nabla \cdot (\tilde{u} \tilde{u}) = -\nabla \tilde{p} + \nu \Delta \tilde{u} - \nabla \cdot \tau_{SGS}$$

Sub-grid stress

$$\tau_{SGS,ij} \equiv L_{ij} + C_{ij} + R_{ij}$$

$$L_{ij} \equiv \tilde{u} \tilde{v} - \tilde{u} \tilde{v} \quad \left(= \tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}_j - \tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}_j \right) \quad \text{Leonard stress}$$

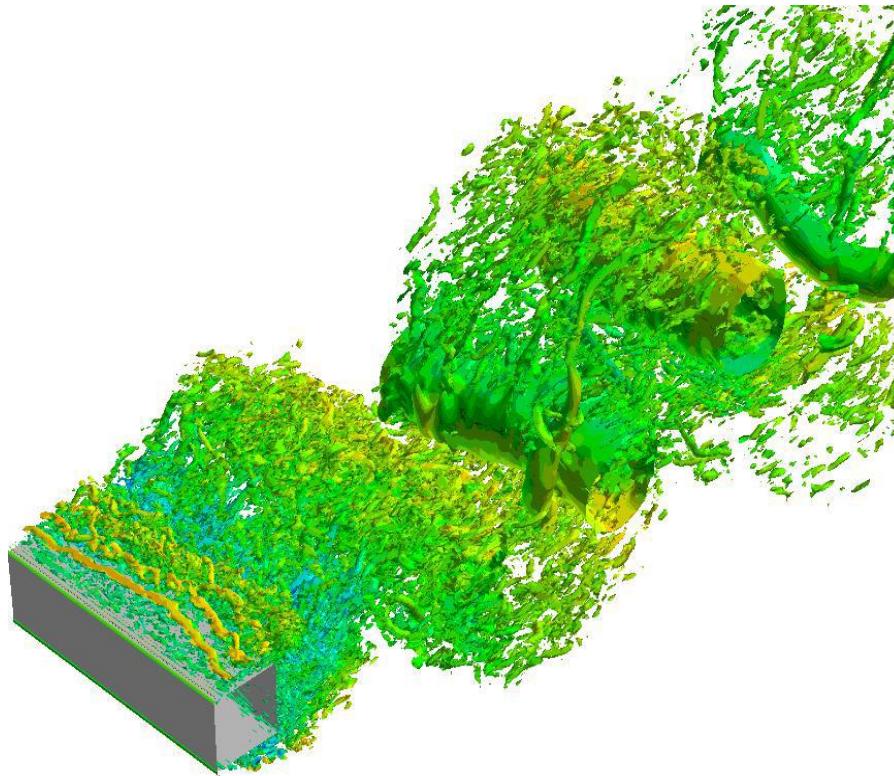
$$C_{ij} \equiv \tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}'_j + \tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}'_j \quad \left(= \tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}'_j + \tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}'_j \right) \quad \text{Cross stress}$$

$$R_{ij} \equiv \tilde{u}' \tilde{v}' \quad \left(= \tilde{u}'_i \tilde{u}'_j \right), \quad \text{Reynolds stress}$$

Smagorinsky sub-grid-model

$$\tau_{SGS} = -2\nu_{SGS} \tilde{S} \quad \nu_{SGS} = (C_S \Delta)^2 |\tilde{S}|$$

Example of a LES



*3D unsteady SVV-LES (Minguez et al. 2013),
Mesh $O(10^6)$ points
500h supercomputer Nec SX8, GENCI*

Summary turbulence theory

3 hypotheses

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

Navier-Stokes equations

Energy transport

Statistics

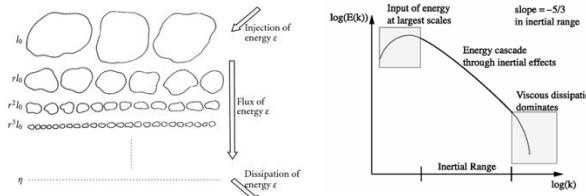
$$E(k) \leftrightarrow \text{correlations}$$

K41 theory, including spectrum

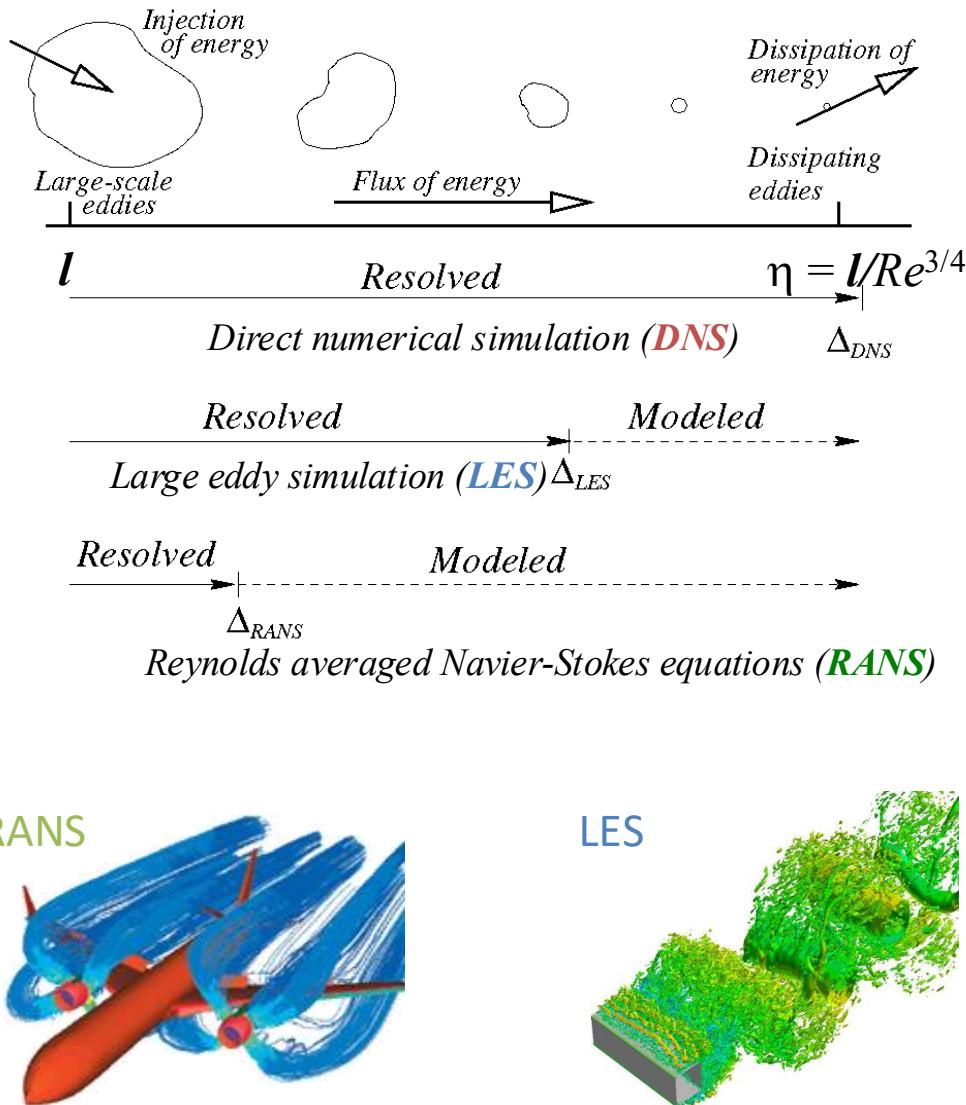
$$E(k) \sim \epsilon^{2/3} k^{-5/3}$$

Physical picture

- Richardson cascade
- characteristic scales



Simulation approaches



DNS: Direct numerical simulation

- no model assumptions
- resolving all scales

LES: Large-eddy simulation

- resolve large scales
- model assumptions for small scales

RANS: Reynolds averaged Navier Stokes simulation

- model at basically all scales
- solve for mean flow

Have a great summer break!!

