

# Dynamics of Turbulence Entrainment in Drift-Zonal Flow Turbulence

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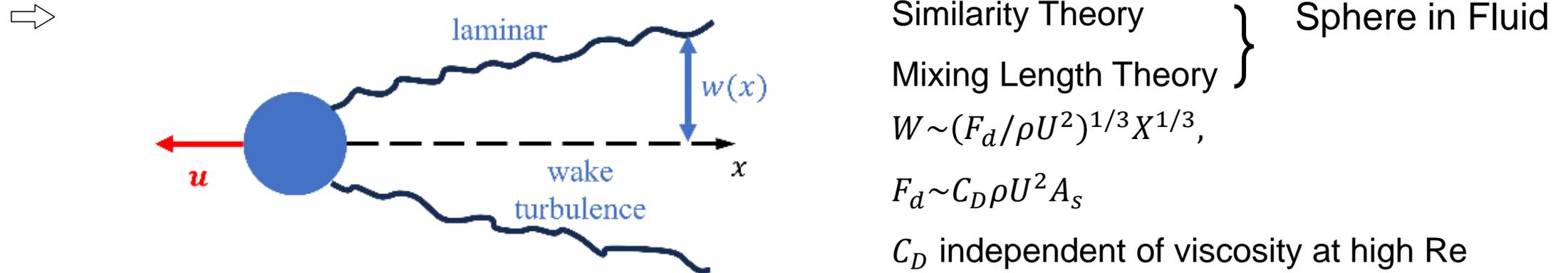
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APS: Dewar Memorial

10/8/2024

# Wake-Classic Example of Turbulence Spreading



⇒ Physics: Entrainment of laminar region by expanding turbulent region.  
 Key is turbulent mixing. ⇒ Wake expands

⇒ Townsend '49:

- Distinction between momentum transport — eddy viscosity—and fluctuation energy transport
- Failure of eddy viscosity to parametrize spreading
- Jet Velocity:  $V = \frac{\langle V_{perp} * V^2 \rangle}{\langle V^2 \rangle} \Rightarrow$  spreading flux FOM

# Spreading in MFE

*i. e.*

⇒ Numerous gyrokinetic simulations

N.B. Basic studies absent ...

$$\partial_t \xi = \gamma \xi (1 - \xi) + \partial_x D(\xi) \partial_x \xi + D_0 \partial_x^2 \xi$$

⇒ Diagnosis primarily by:      - color VG

$$\gamma \sim 0(\varepsilon)$$

   - tracking of “Front”

⇒ Theory    ⇒ Nonlinear Intensity diffusion models

                  ⇒ Reaction-Diffusion Equations - especially Fisher + NL diffusion

                  ⇒ Continuum DP Models - Later.....

Recently:

⇒ Renewed interest in context of  $\lambda_q$  broadening problem, cf. Xu Chu, P. D.; Z. Li + ...

⇒ Simulations measure correlation of spreading  $\langle \tilde{V}_r \tilde{p} \tilde{p} \rangle$  with  $\lambda_q$  broadening (Nami Li+ ... )

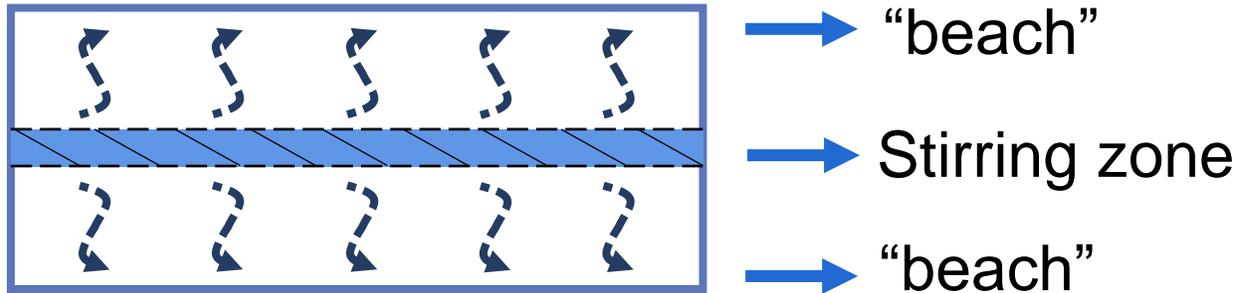
⇒ Intermittency effects T. Wu, P. D. + 2023, A. Sladkomedova 2024, T. Long, P. D.’ 24



Especially blobs, voids

# Spreading Studies - Numerical Experiments

⇒ 2D Box, Localized Stirring Zone



⇒ Comparison of:

<u>System</u>	<u>Features</u>
2D Fluid	Selective Decay, Vortices How to Measure Spreading?
2D MHD with weak $\underline{B}_0$ perp.	Alfvenization, Vortex Bursting, Zeldovich number
Forced Hasegawa-Mima with Zonal Flow	Waves + Eddies + ZF Multiple regimes and Mechanisms

N.B. Clear distinction between “spreading” and “avalanching”

# Numerics: 2D Dedalus simulation

## **Box Characteristics:**

- Dedalus Framework  
analogous to BOUT++

- Grid Size:  $512 \times 512$
- Doubly Periodic boundary condition, beach regulates expansion

## **Forcing Characteristics:**

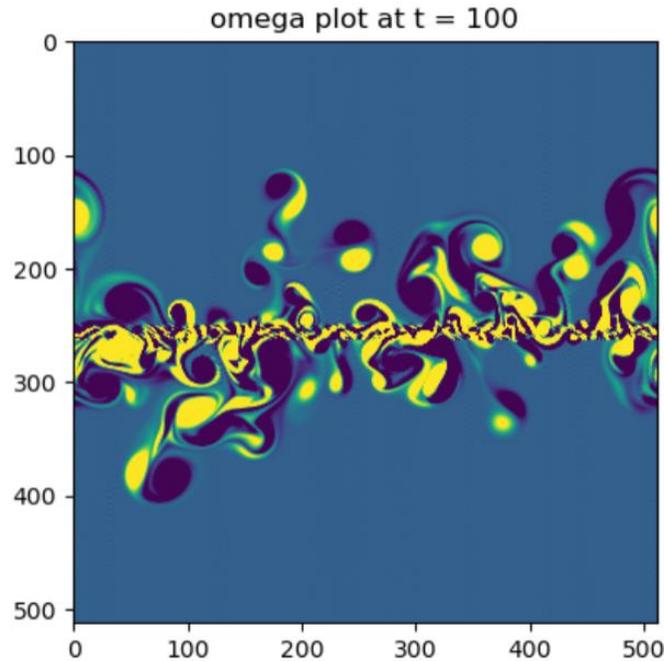
- Superposition of Sinusoidal Forcing, vorticity
- Spectrum: Constant  $E(k)$ , ensuring uniform energy distribution across wave numbers.
- Correlation Length: Approximately  $1/10$  of the box scale, some room for dual cascade.
- Localized through a Heaviside step function.
- Phase of forcing randomized every typical eddy turnover time

# **2D Fluid**

## **2D MHD + Weak Field**

# What Happens ?

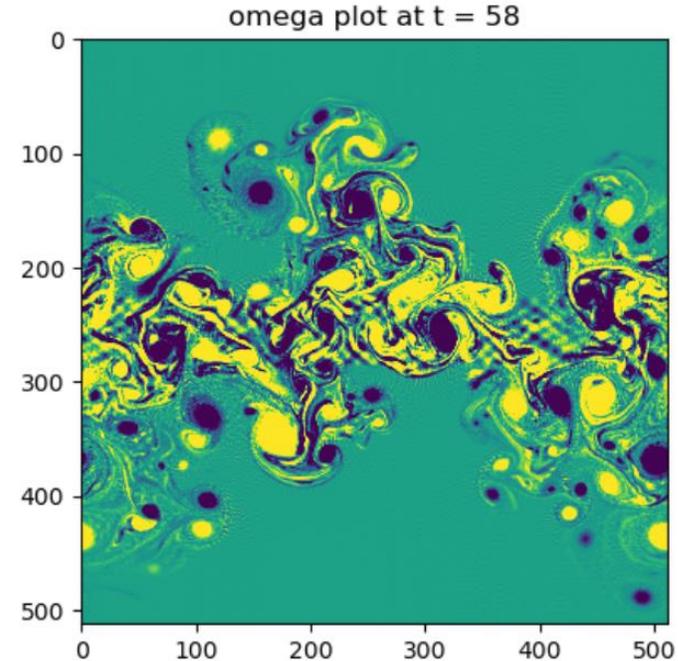
In Far Field, away from Forcing layer



Vorticity snapshot at  $Re \sim 100$

⇒ {  
Dipoles emerge  
Spreading intermittent

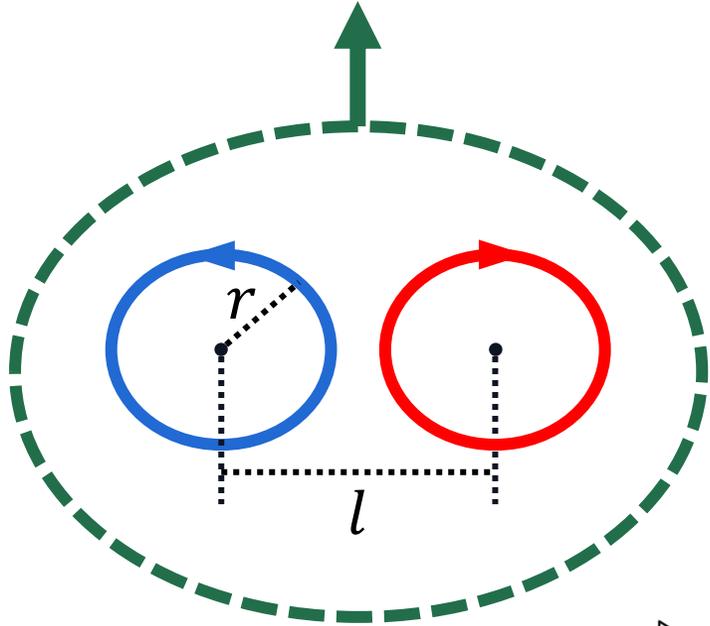
No apparent "Front"



Vorticity snapshot at  $Re \sim 2000$

- Dipoles, filaments, cluster  
- Fractalized front

## ⇒ N.B. Dipole Vortex



— Uniform speed due to mutual induction

$$— C = \frac{\Gamma}{l} = \frac{vr}{l}$$

⇒ Dipole Vortices propagate at constant speed, “free flyers”

⇒ Physical origin of “ballistic spreading” ? !

i.e. ensemble dipoles expands linearly in time

c.f. Zaslavskii comment circa 2000.

# Summary - 2D Fluid

- Coherent structures - Dipole vortices - mediate spreading of turbulent region → free flyers
- Mixed region expands as  $w \sim t$ , consistent with dipoles.
- No discernable “Front”, spreading is intermittent. (space+time)
- Spreading distribution is non-trivial. Requires further study.
- ⇒ — Turbulence spreading non-diffusive.

# 2D MHD

- The equations: 
$$\frac{d}{dt}(\nabla^2 \varphi) = \nu \nabla^2 \nabla^2 \varphi + \nabla A \times \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \nabla \nabla^2 A + \tilde{f}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} A = \eta \nabla^2 A$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} = \partial_t + \nabla \varphi \times \hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \nabla$$

- Inviscid Invariants:  $E = \langle V^2 + B^2 \rangle$ ,  $H = \langle A^2 \rangle$ ,  $H_c = \langle \vec{V} \cdot \vec{B} \rangle \Rightarrow 0$ , hereafter

Conservation of  $H$  is Key !

- Consider weak mean magnetic field:  $B = B_0(y) \hat{\mathbf{x}}$

$$B_0(y) \sim B_0 \sin(y) \Rightarrow \text{initial imposed field}$$

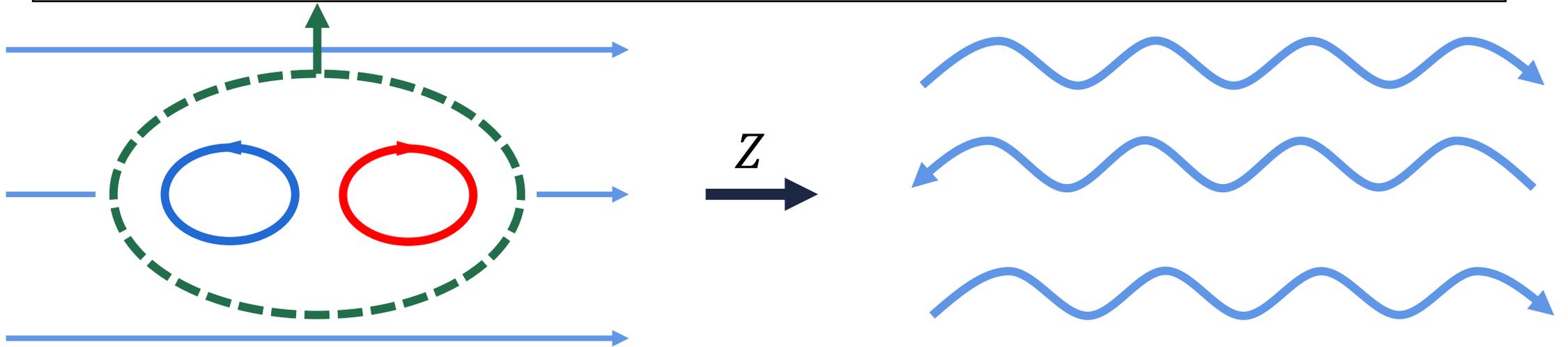
- As before, localized forcing region, effectively unmagnetized

# Crux of the Issue!?

⇒ Hydrodynamics: Dipole vortex 'Carries' turbulence energy ⇒ spreading

⇒ But... weak  $B_0$  can 'burst' vortices ⇒

Converts dipole kinetic energy to Alfvén waves, propagating laterally, and to dissipation.



⇒ So, can a weak  $B_0$  block spreading in 2D MHD ! ?

N.B. Perp Alfvén waves observed

## → 2D MHD: Summary

- Weak  $B_0$  enables vortex disruption

Dipole bursting  $\Rightarrow$  Saturates spreading



- Weak  $B_0$  blocks advance of kinetic energy
- Process: Conversion dipole KE to Alfvén waves, laterally propagating

- $Z = R_m \frac{V_{A0}^2}{\langle v_{rms}^2 \rangle}$  as critical parameter



- Reinforces notion of “free flyer dipoles” as critical to spreading

# Forced Hasegawa – Mima + Zonal Flows





## For clarity; Contrast:

⇒ **Spreading in presence of fixed, externally prescribed shear layer**

⇒ **Here:** → Forcing →  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Waves} \\ \text{Eddies} \end{array} \right\}$  → Zonal flow (self-generated)

∴ forcing ( $\tilde{v}_{rms}, Re$ ) + drag ⇒ control parameters

⇒ “weak” and “strong” Turbulence Regimes

$$v_{gr} \text{ VS } v_r \rightarrow \frac{\langle \tilde{v}_r \xi \rangle}{\sum_k v_{gr}(k) \xi_k} \rightarrow \frac{\tilde{v}_r \tau_c f}{\Delta_c} \rightarrow Ku$$

⇔ 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup> order energy flux

coherency factor

$\Delta_c \sim v_{gr} \tau_c$

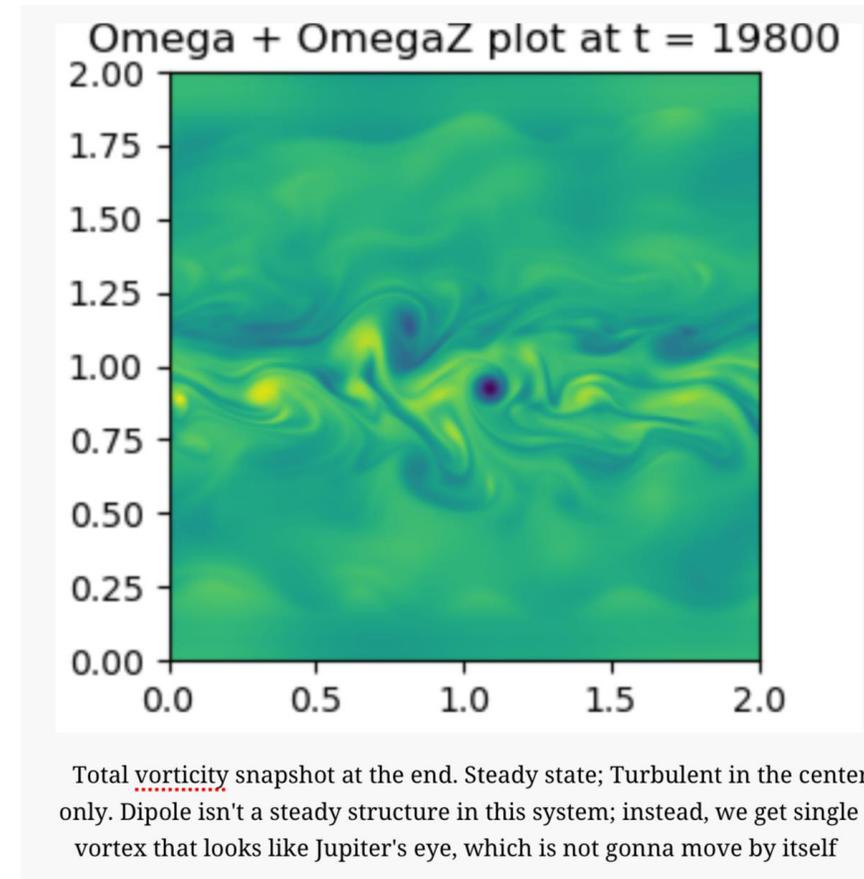
⇒  $Ku < 1$  → wave dominated spreading

$Ku > 1$  → mixing dominated spreading ⇒ ~ 2D fluid

# Typical saturated snapshot(Kubo 0.2)

- Dipoles disappear
- Large coherent vortex

N.B. Density gradient precludes dipoles.



$$\text{Total Vorticity: } \nabla^2(\tilde{\phi} + \phi_z)$$

# H-M + Zonal Flow System, cont'd

→ Enter the Zonal Flow...

- Multiple channels for NL interaction
- But with ZF ↔ eddy, wave coupling to ZF dominant
- ZF is the mode of minimal inertia, damping, transport

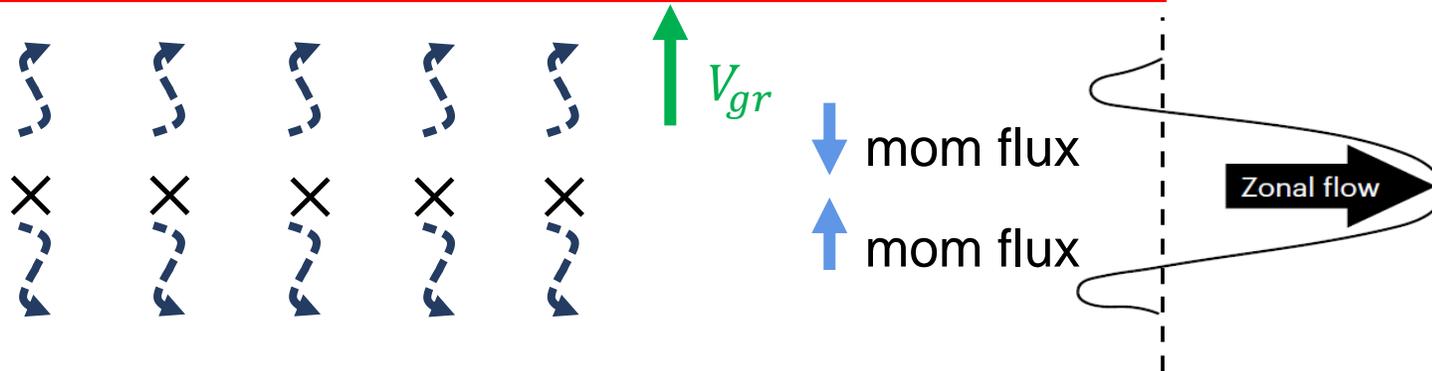
Waves:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (1 + k_{\perp}^2 \rho_s^2) \tilde{\phi} = \dots$$

ZF:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (k_r^2 \rho_s^2) \bar{\phi}_z = \dots$$

⇒ energy coupled to ZF ( $\tilde{v}_r = 0$ ) cannot “spread”, unless recoupled to waves



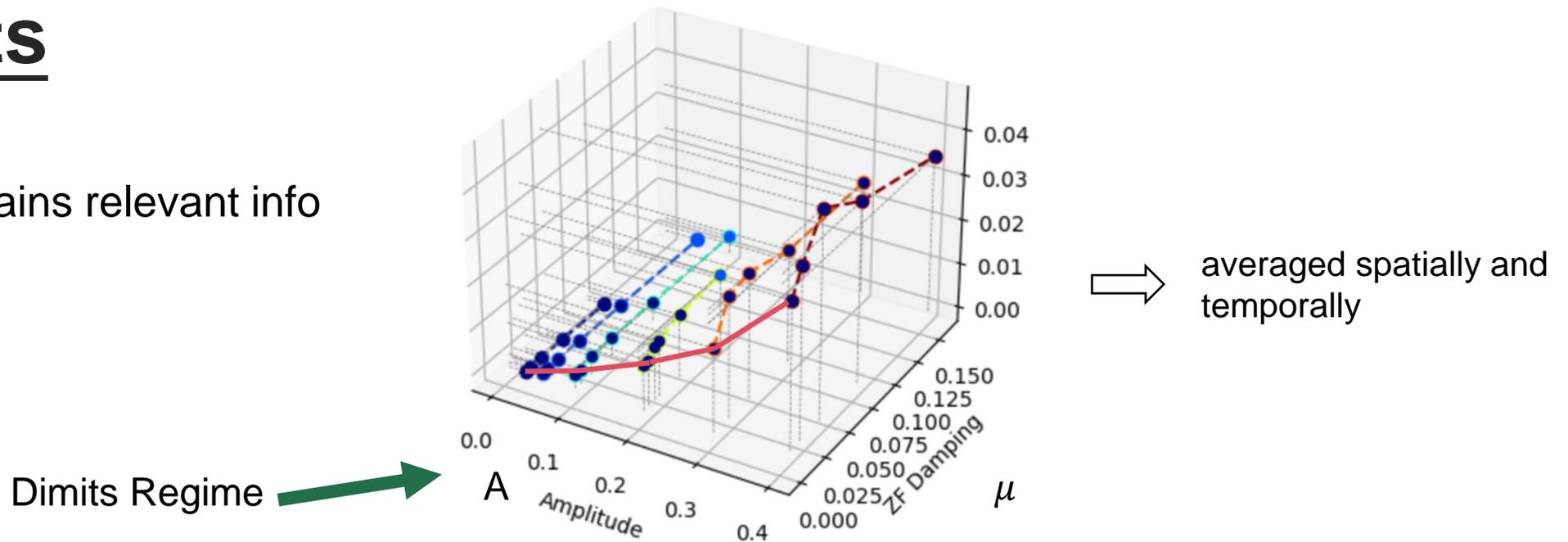
→ Degradation of ZF (back transfer) is crucial to spreading

→ ∴  $\mu$  must regulate spreading. What of  $\mu \rightarrow 0$  regimes? — Nonlinear Transfer

# Results

## Fluctuation Potential Enstrophy Flux

3D plot contains relevant info



- Potential enstrophy flux generally increases as drag increases. “Dimits regime” for turbulence spreading. Spreading diminishes as power coupled to Z.F. (Fixed, spatially)
- Self-generated barrier to spreading.
- For A increasing, PE flux rises sharply, even for weak ZF damping. Fate of ZF?
- “KH-type” mechanism loss of Dimits regime at higher A? Characterization??

N.B. “Dimits Regime”= Condensation of energy into ZF for weaker forcing.

# Results, Cont'd

## Wave Energy Flux

- Dimits regime at low forcing and ZF damping
- Increases with ZF damping and forcing amplitude
- Dominant  $K_x$  increases due ZF decorrelation
- Spectrum condensation towards low k with inverse cascade

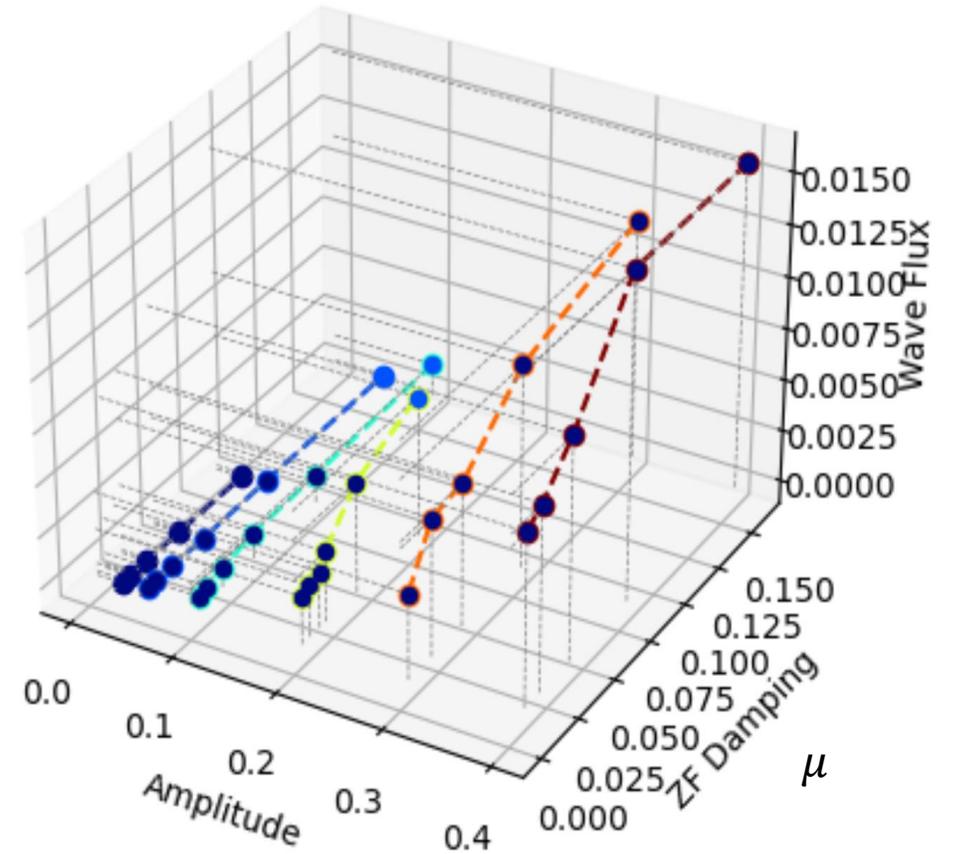


implication for  $v_{gr}$  and  $\sum_{\mathbf{k}} v_{gr}(\mathbf{k})E_{\mathbf{k}}$

- Take note of increasing W.E.flux as  $\mu \rightarrow 0$ ,  
A increases.

$$\text{Wave Energy Flux} \left\langle -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \nabla \phi \right\rangle \longleftrightarrow \sum_{\mathbf{k}} v_{gr}(\mathbf{k})E_{\mathbf{k}}$$

for drift waves

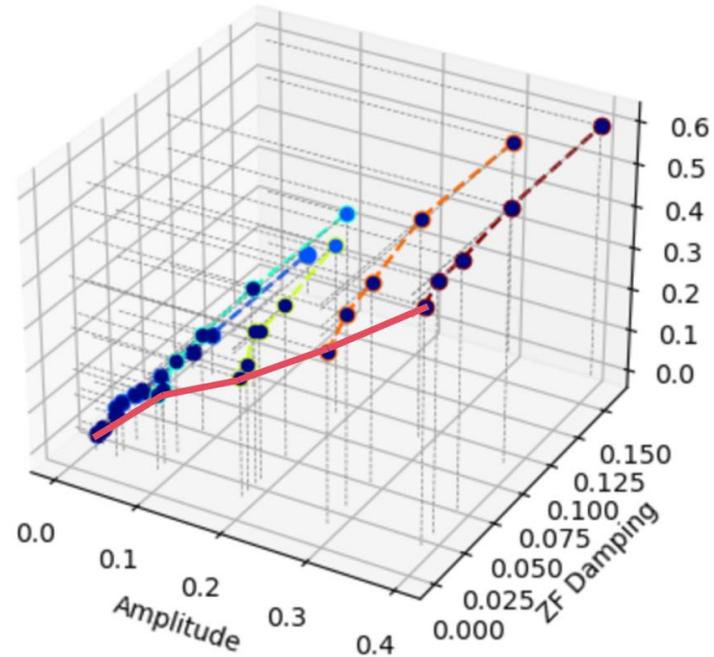


# Results, Cont'd

$$\frac{\tilde{v}_r \tau_{cf}}{\Delta_{cc}} \text{ where } \Delta_c \sim \langle K_x^2 \rangle^{-1/2}$$

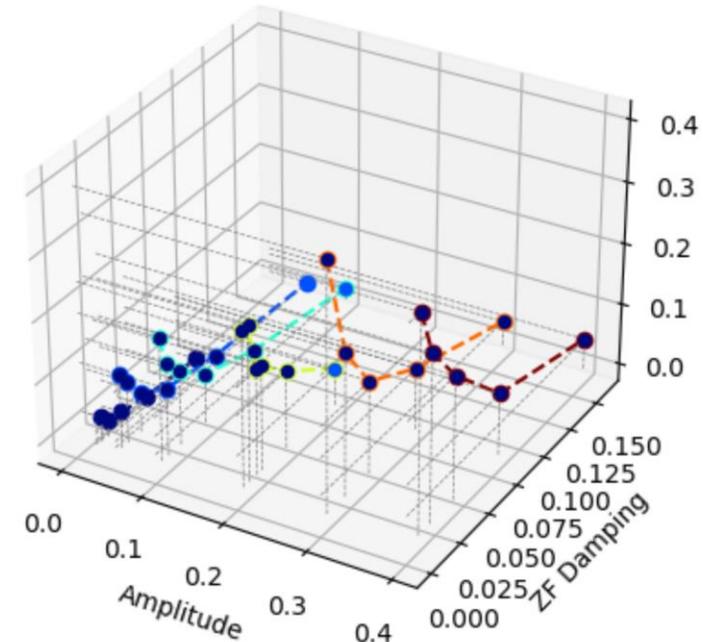


Kubo Number



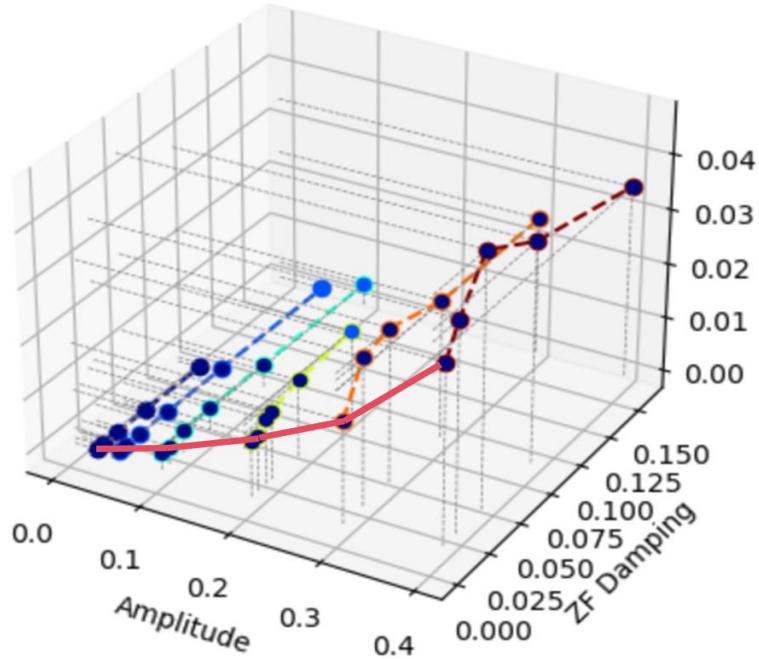
Fluctuation intensity increases as drag increases

zonal\_velocity



Zonal velocity decreases with increasing drag (clear)

# → Spreading and Fate of Zonal Flows



→ Spreading rises for increased forcing, even for  $\mu \rightarrow 0$

→ Dimits regime destroyed. How?

⇒ Seems necessary for spreading in systems with ZF

⇒ Related to issue of 'tertiary instability' (Rogers+, 2000)

→ Animal Hunt for linear instabilities (KH, Tertiary ...) seems pointless in turbulence

→ Instead,  $P_{Re} = -\langle \widetilde{V}_x \widetilde{V}_y \rangle \cdot \frac{\partial \overline{V}_y}{\partial x}$  Power transfer [fluctuations → flow]

$P_{Re} < 0$  : Wave → ZF transfer

$P_{Re} > 0$  : ZF → Wave transfer ⇒ ZF decay

# Quantifying Wave-ZF Power transfer

$$1/2 * \frac{\partial \overline{V}_y^2}{\partial t} = \omega_Z \langle \widetilde{v}_x \widetilde{v}_y \rangle - drag * \overline{V}_y$$

Reynolds power

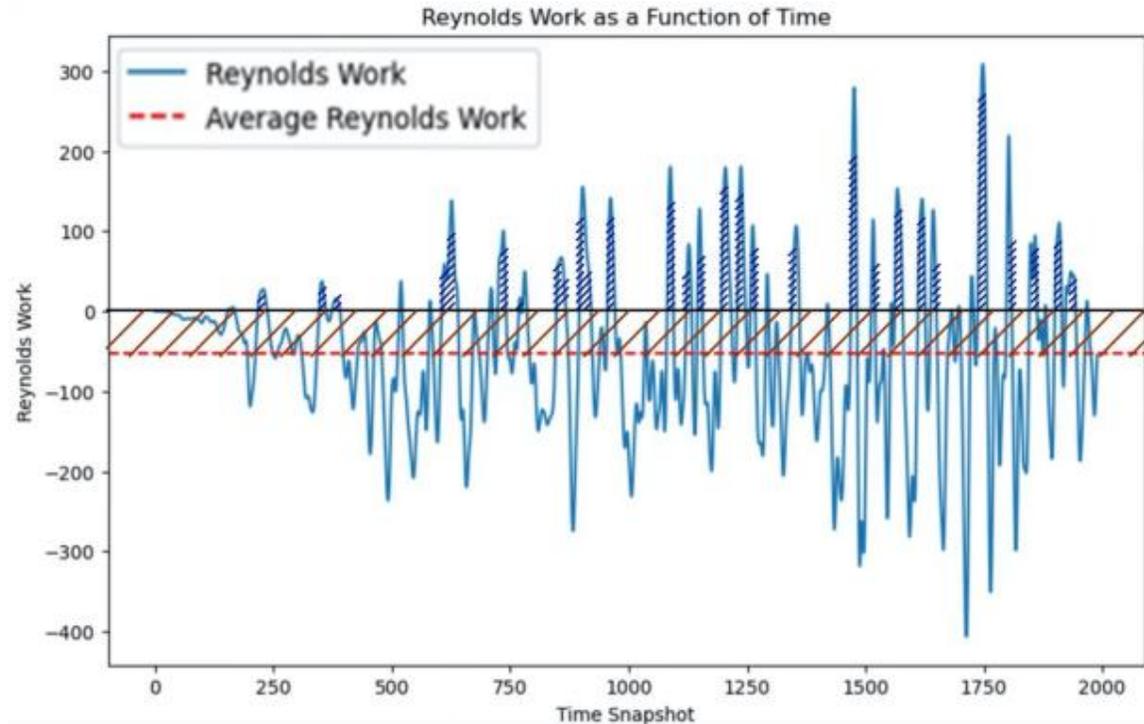


We quantify ZF → Waves Power Transfer as the ratio of the area above the axis to mean work done on the zonal flow.

N.B.:

$$P_{Re} = -\langle \widetilde{V}_x \widetilde{V}_y \rangle \cdot \frac{\partial \overline{V}_y}{\partial x}$$

'Turbulent viscosity' model fails capture 2 signs



Reynolds power vs time

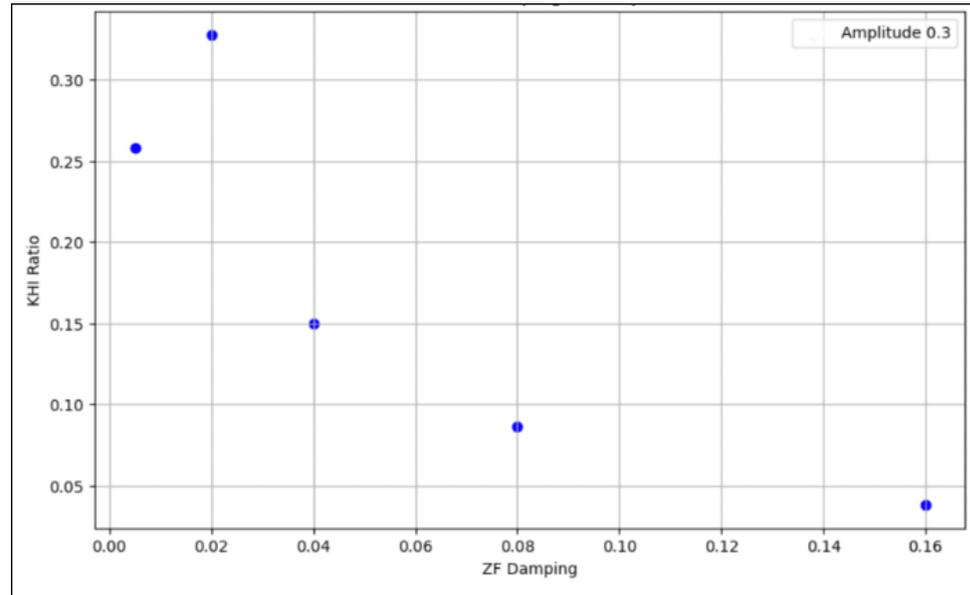
$P_{Re} < 0 \Rightarrow$  Wave → ZF transfer

$P_{Re} > 0 \Rightarrow$  ZF → Wave transfer

# Results, Cont'd

$P_{Re}$  ratio vs ZF damping

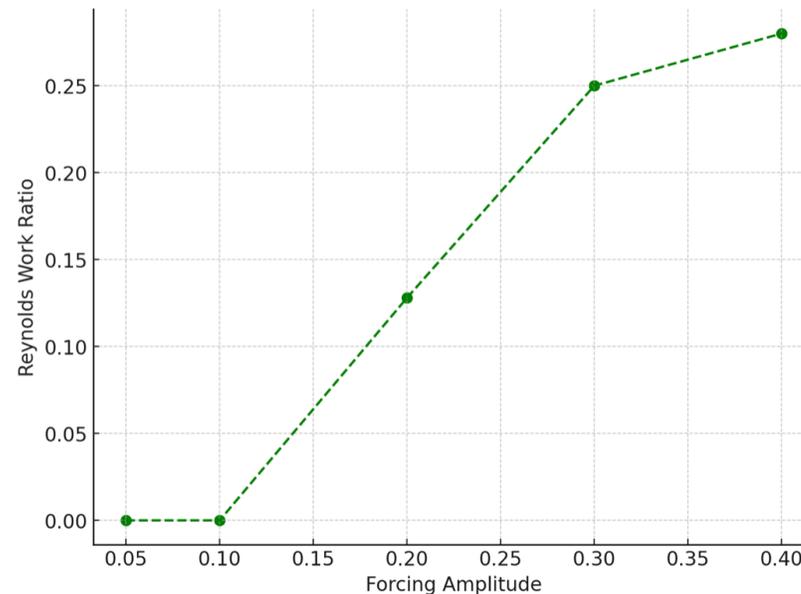
Dimits Regime



- The ratio generally decreases as a function of ZF damping
- ⇔ Damped Zonal Flow More Stable, less return of power to fluctuations

# Results, Cont'd, $P_{Re}$ Ratio vs Forcing Strength

*$P_{Re}$  ratio vs forcing amplitude*



Preliminary  
→ Explore other FOMs

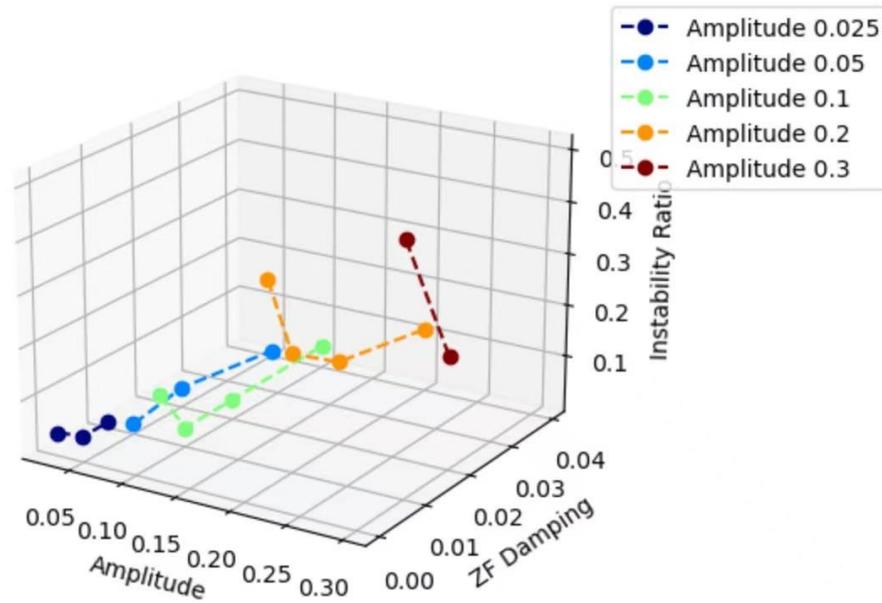
Mechanism →  
vortex shedding!?

- The ratio increases as a function of forcing strength
- Indicates that re-coupling of ZF energy to turbulence increases for stronger forcing
- This approach avoids instability morass.

⇒ Significant nonlinear recoupling of energy to waves

# $P_{Re}$ Ratio vs $A, \mu$

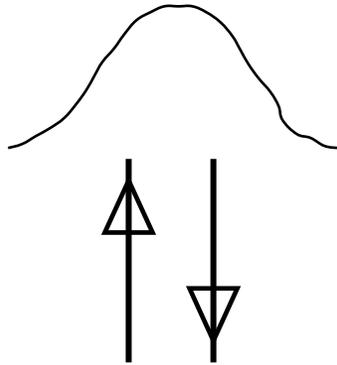
Instability Ratio vs Amplitude and ZF Damping



- $P_{Re}$  back transfer increases with forcing, and as  $\mu$  decreases
- Further analysis required

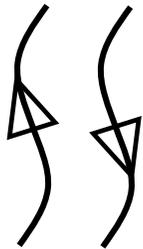
# Related Problem: Jet Migration(Laura Cope)

i.e. - Here:



⇒ turbulence patch propagates,  
drags ZF/Jet along

- There:



⇒ Jet migrates  
but Migration enabled by dynamics of fluctuation  
field

⇒ Zonon → low mode # fluctuation co-located with Z.F.

$$V_{Drift} \sim \mu^{0.7} \epsilon^{0.3}$$

# So Jet Velocity !?

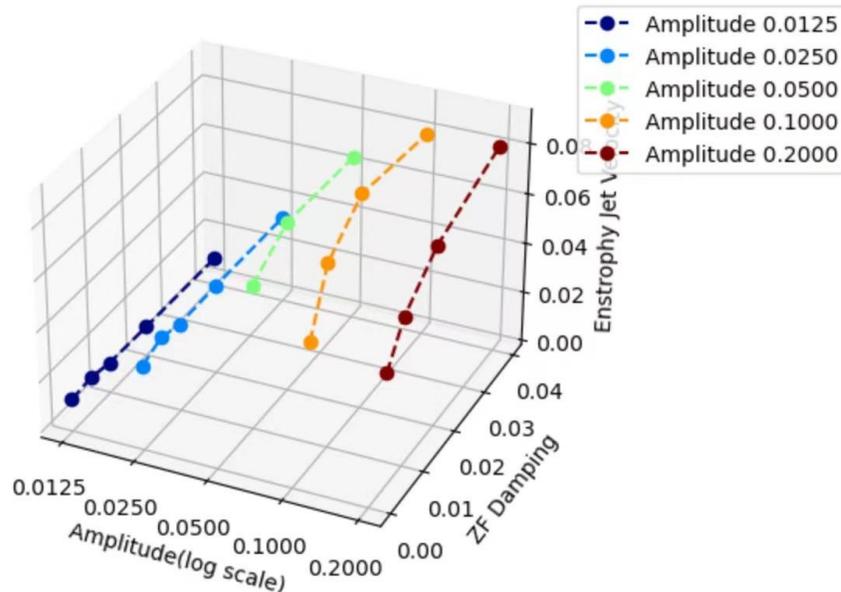
→ As waves/eddies drag along zonal flow, Jet velocity(ala' Townsend) is related to Jet Migration.

so

→ Enstrophy Jet Velocity?!

$$V_{jet} = \langle v_r \tilde{u}^2 \rangle / \langle \tilde{u}^2 \rangle$$

Enstrophy Jet Velocity vs Amplitude and ZF Damping



- Now familiar trends
- Seems semi-quantitatively consistent with Cope results.

# Summary - Drift Wave Turbulence

- Spreading fluxes mapped in forcing, ZF damping parameter space
- Dominant mechanism  $\longleftrightarrow$   $Ku$  (waves vs mixing), Both waves and mixings in play.  
*what of  $Ku \sim 1$ ?*
- Dimits-like regime discovered. Fixed ZF pattern.
- ZF quenching intimately linked to spreading
- $P_{Re} > 0$  bursts track breakdown of Dimits regime and onset turbulent mixing  
Spreading increases.

## → General Summary

→ Coherent structures dipoles frequently mediate spreading

←→ underpin “ballistic scaling”

→ Spreading dynamics non-diffusive; Conventional wisdom misleading, or worse.

→ In DWT, wave propagation and turbulent mixing both drive spreading

→ ZF quenching critical to spreading in DWT. Power coupling most useful to describe ZF quench—should be focus.

→ Closely related to jet migration.

## → Future Plans

- High resolution studies
- Understand ZF quenching physics and calculate power recoupling-general case, GK formulation?
- What is physics of  $P_{Re} > 0$  bursts? - shedding?
- Spreading in Avalanching. Relative Efficiency? Spreading and Transport?  
Flux-driven H-W System. Potential Enstrophy Flux!?

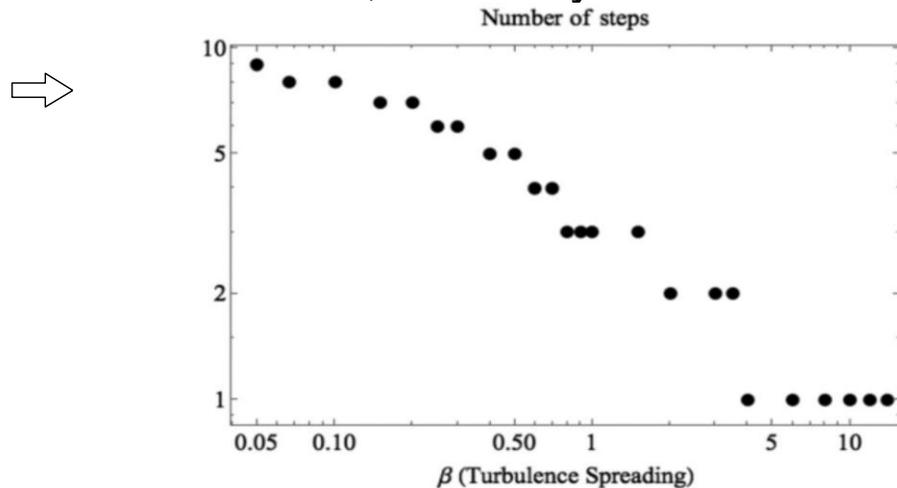
More general:

- Is spreading mechanism universal? Seems unlikely
- Towards a model, models...  $Ku \sim 1$  is an interesting challenge
- Relation/connection of DW+ZF spreading and Jet Migration (L. Cope)
- Is Directed Percolation of any use in this?  
Details-??

# Back-Up

# Why Study Spreading?

⇒ Spreading strength sets staircase step size via intensity scattering. See also F. Ramirez, P.D. Phys Rev E 2024



from A. Ashourvan, P.D.  
(in spirit of BLY, for drift wave turbulence)

⇒ Spreading potentially significant in determining

- Physical turbulence profiles
- Non-locality phenomena

⇒ It's observed! — M. Kobayashi + 2022  
— T. Long, T. Wu (2021, 2023)  
— Estrada + (2011)

# 2D Fluid - the prototype

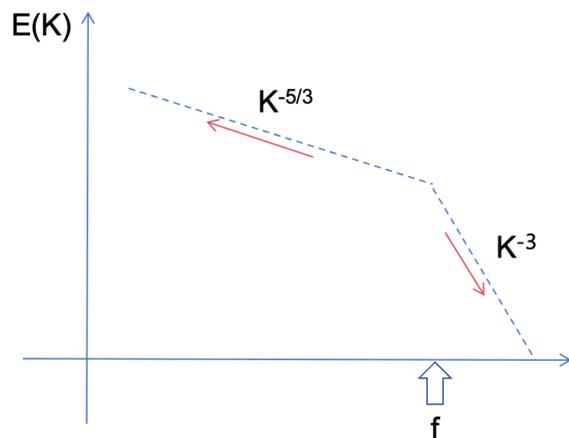
Vorticity Equation:  $\frac{D\omega}{Dt} = \nu \nabla^2 \omega - \alpha \omega$

Key Physics:

- Inviscid, unforced invariants  $\rightarrow$ 
  - Energy  $E = \int d^2x (\nabla\phi)^2 / 2$
  - Enstrophy  $\Omega = \int d^2x (\nabla^2\phi)^2 / 2$

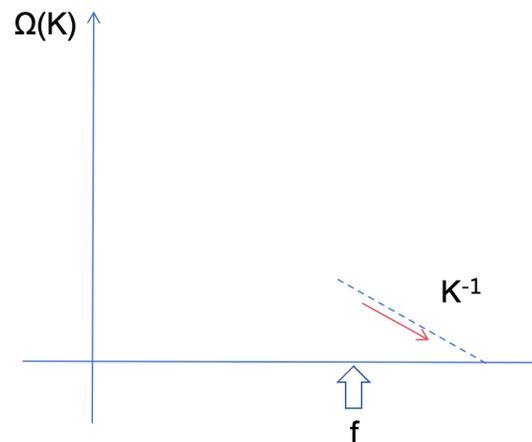
$\Rightarrow$  Dual Cascade

Kraichnan



(3/2 law proved)

**Robust**



("cascade" dubious)

# 2D Fluid, Cont'd

## ⇒ Selective Decay

Forward 'Cascade' enstrophy → Senses viscosity  
Inverse 'Cascade' energy → Senses drag

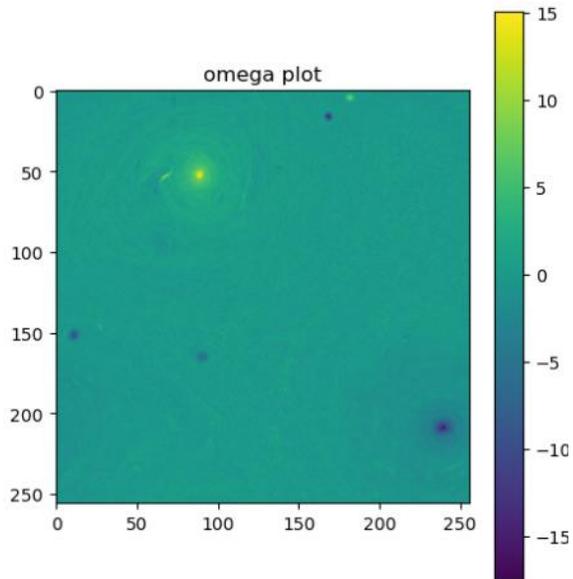
For Final State of Decay:

$$\delta(\Omega + \lambda E) = 0$$

Bretherton + Haidvogel

## ⇒ Role Coherent Structures (Vortices)

cf: B. Gallet, recent



- emergence isolated coherent vortices → survive decay

$$-\frac{d}{dt} \nabla \omega = (s^2 - \omega^2)^{1/2}$$

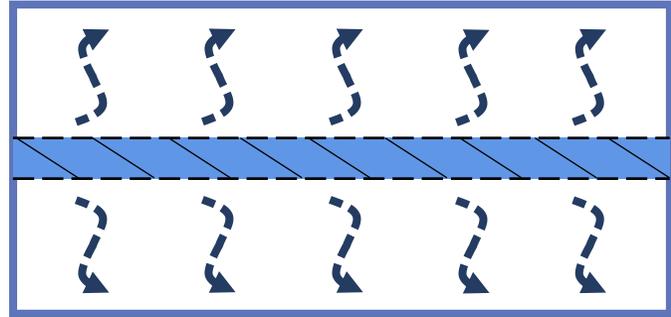
$\omega = \nabla^2 \varphi \rightarrow$  vorticity

$s = \partial_{xy}^2 \varphi \rightarrow$  shear

- Dipole vortices emerge, also

# 2D Fluid

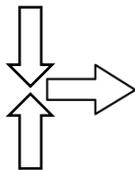
⇒ Realize:



→ Forcing layer

- Most of system in state of Selective Decay !
- Need Consider / Compare :

$\langle V_y (\nabla^2 \varphi)^2 / 2 \rangle \rightarrow$  Enstrophy Flux



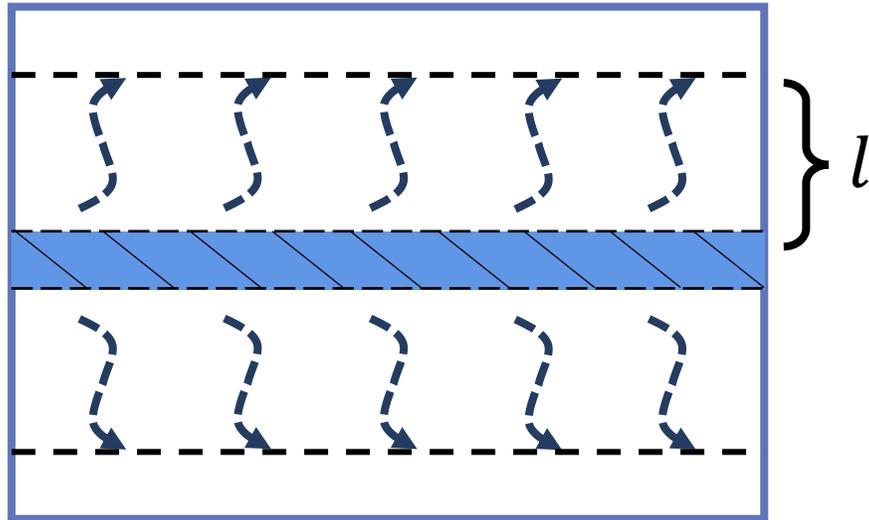
Physical Measures of Spreading

$\langle V_y (\nabla \varphi)^2 / 2 \rangle \rightarrow$  Energy Flux

as measures of “intensity spreading”. ⇒ Selective decay suggests these are radically different.

# On Keeping Score

⇒ Loosely, interested in scaling of expansion of turbulent region with time



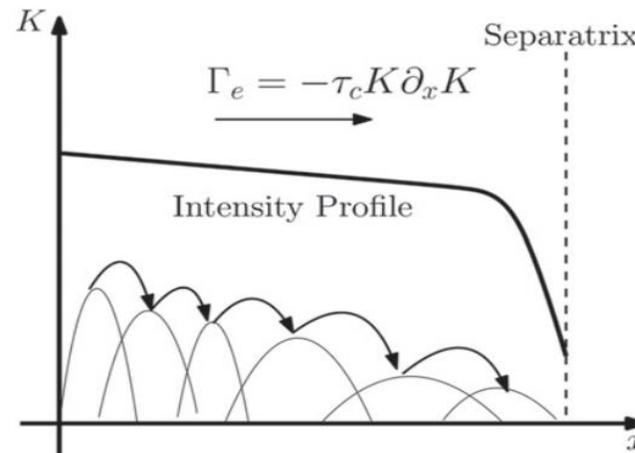
$$l \sim t^\alpha$$

$$\alpha ?$$

N.B. Contrast DP  $\Rightarrow$  critical single site

⇒ Many approaches to  $l$ ...

MFE favorite :



Track footprint of  $|\varphi|^2$   
Plot vs time,  
1D projection

# Keeping Score, cont'd

Table 1: Table describing various velocity and transport parameters.

➔ Approaches

Parameter	Symbol	Equation	Description
RMS Velocity	$V_{rms}$	$V_{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N v_i^2}$	Root-mean-square velocity of turbulence, also known as turbulence intensity. This can either be measured near the forcing zone and averaged horizontally for a characteristic velocity as a basis of comparison, or measured globally to obtain global energy.
Quantity-Weighted RMS Distance	$X_{W-rms}$	$X_{W-rms} = \sqrt{\frac{\int  \delta(x) ^2  Q(x)  dx}{\int  Q(x)  dx}}$	Quantity-weighted root-mean-square position represents the location of the quantity of interest, typically energy or entropy. One value is generated for each time. The quantity Q is usually energy or entropy.
Quantity-Weighted RMS Spreading Velocity	$V_{W-rms}$	$V_{W-rms}$ is the slope of $X_{W-rms}$ plotted against time	Quantity-Weighted RMS Spreading Velocity represents the bulk motion. This is more comprehensive than the front velocity.

N.B. :

- Quantity weighting can differ; depending on quantity
- RMS velocity sensitive to how computed

# Keeping Score, cont'd

## → Approaches, cont'd

— Front velocity is MFE favorite  
sensitive to 1D projection, definition

— Transport Flux  $\langle V_y E \rangle$ ,  $\langle V_y \Omega \rangle$ , most  
physical, clearest connection to  
dynamics of 2D Fluid  
but: Sensitive to viscosity and  
selective decay dynamics

— Jet velocity very sensitive to  
viscosity, field chosen

Front Velocity	$V_{front}$	$V_{front}$ is the slope obtained from tracking the outermost turbulent patch	This is usually comparable to $V_{W-rms}$ , although front doesn't exist for low Reynolds number.
Transport Flux Density of certain quantity	$\Phi_Q$	$\Phi_Q = \langle QV_{\perp} \rangle$	The amount of certain quantity passing through a unit length per unit time; flux is the integral of flux density through the horizontal surface, which bounds half of the region and can be related to the rate of change of the quantity in that region.
Transport "jet" Velocity	$V_Q$	$V_Q = \frac{\langle QV_{\perp} \rangle}{\langle Q \rangle}$	Also known as normalized flux density. Average is usually taken horizontally. This velocity is separately obtained for each time.

# Keeping Score, cont'd

## Observation:

- Lower  $Re \rightarrow$  Significant speed, 'front' fluctuations due to variability in dipole population
- Transport velocities quite sensitive to viscosity and selective decay  
i.e.  $\langle V_y \Omega \rangle$  drops  
jet velocity  $\langle V_y \Omega \rangle / \langle \Omega \rangle$  rises } especially for higher viscosity,  
Due selective decay
- Formation of dipoles follows decay of enstrophy
- Dipoles ultimately determine spreading

# Results

$Re \sim 5000$

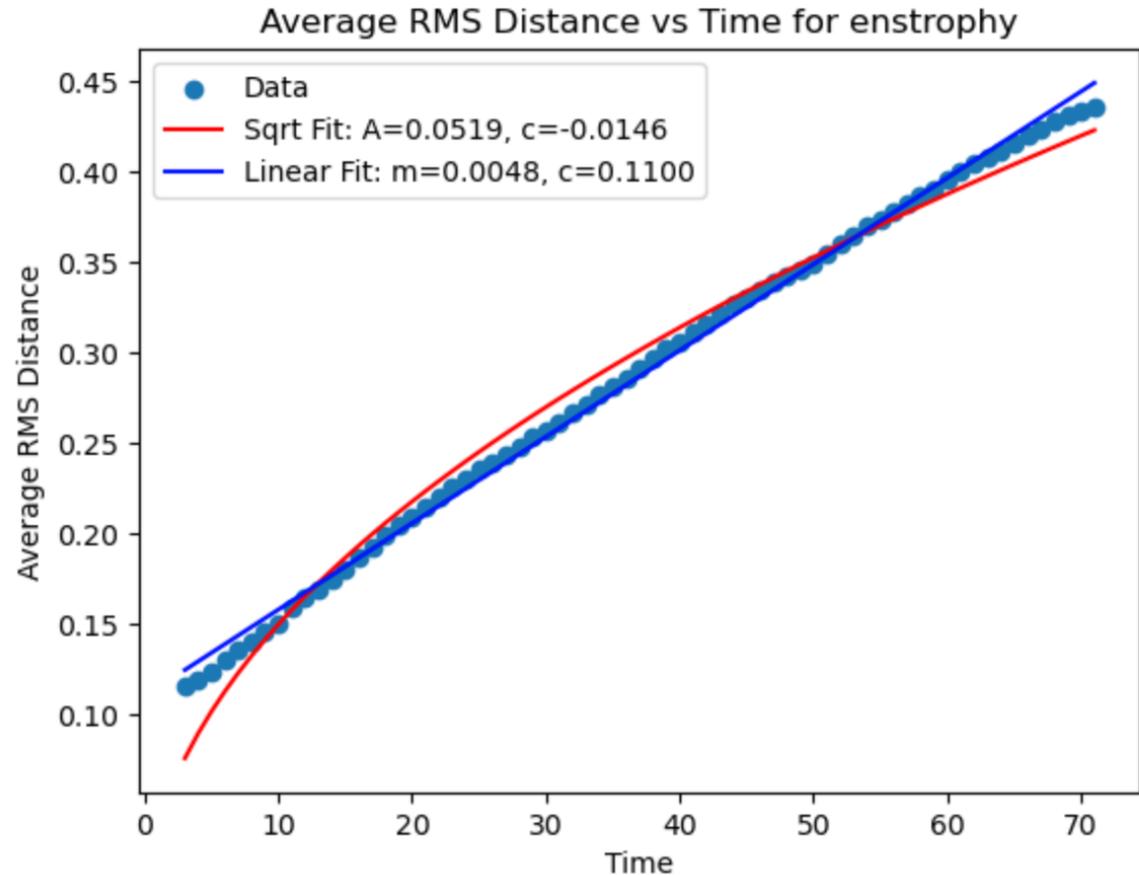
$\Omega$ -weighted  
rms distance

— Constant spreading speed for  
enstrophy, i.e.,  $l \sim ct$

$$\underline{\alpha = 1}$$

—  $c/V_{rms} \sim 0.1$

— Consistent with picture of dipole  
vortices carrying spreading flux

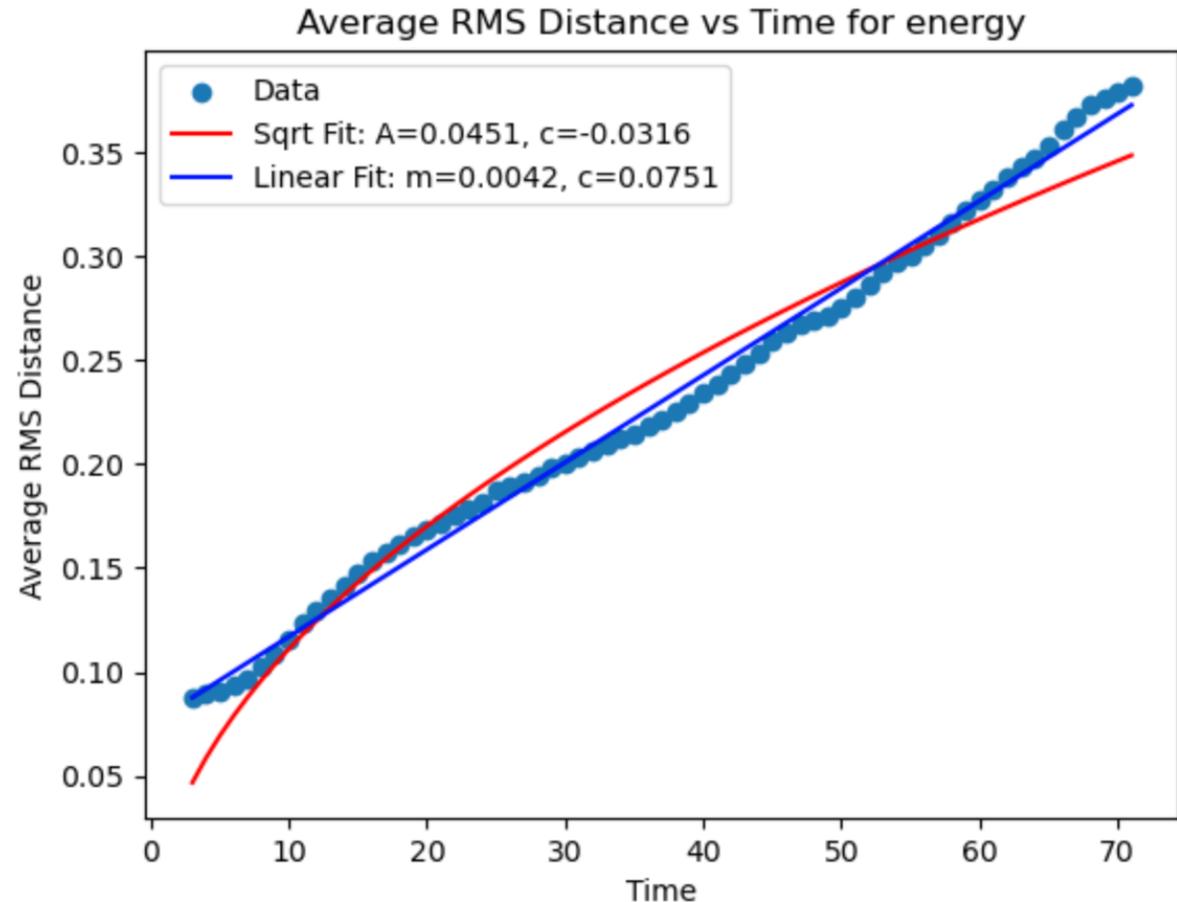


# Results, cont'd

$Re \sim 5000$

$E$ -weighted  
rms distance

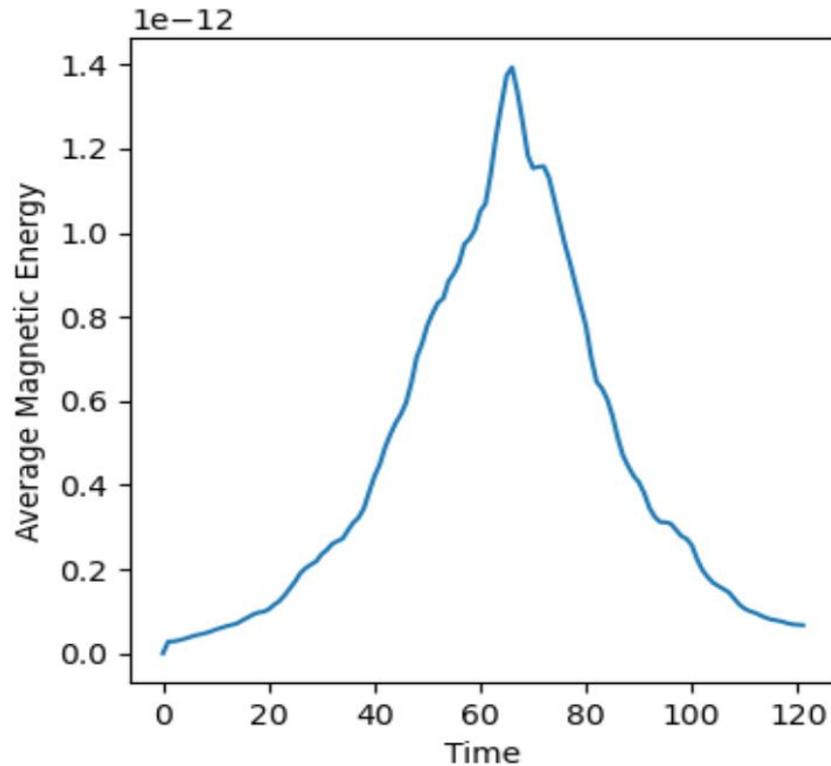
- Constant spreading speed for energy, i.e.,  $\alpha \simeq 1$
- $c/V_{rms} \sim 0.1$
- Larger dipoles  $\leftrightarrow$  more energy  $\rightarrow$  increases fluctuations relative to enstrophy case



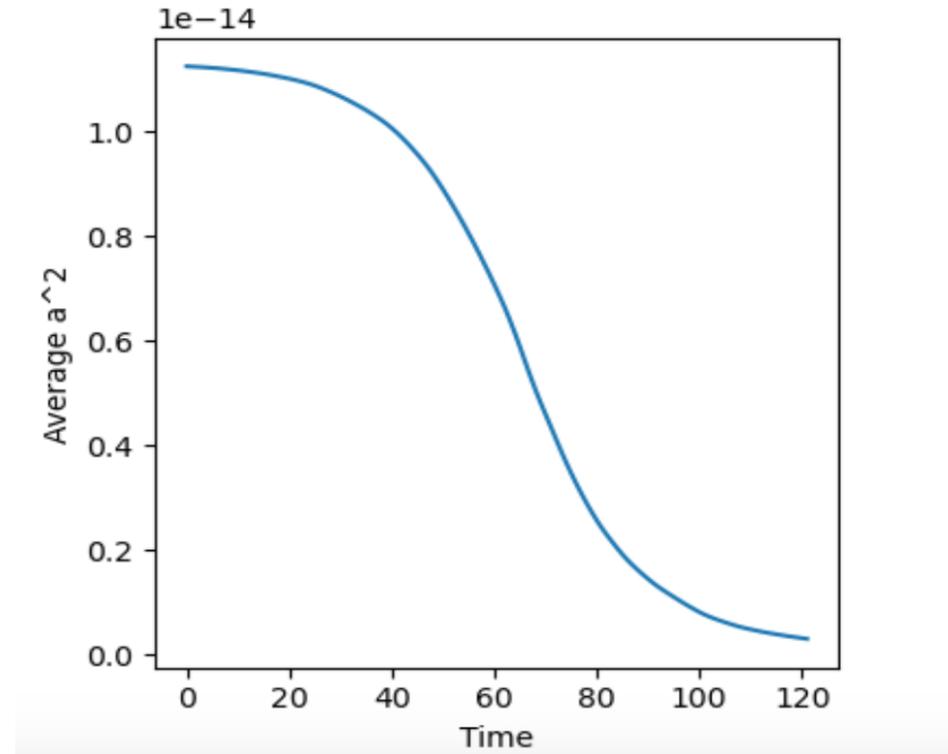
# 2D MHD + Weak $B_0$

## ⇒ 2D MHD

- Zeldovich Theorem: No dynamo in 2D



- Consequence of decay  $\langle A^2 \rangle$



⇒ Field ultimately decays

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle A^2 \rangle = -\eta \langle B^2 \rangle$$
$$\int_0^t \langle B^2 \rangle dt \leq \frac{\langle A(0)^2 \rangle}{\eta}, \therefore \langle B^2 \rangle \text{ decays}$$

# Key Physics of 2D MHD

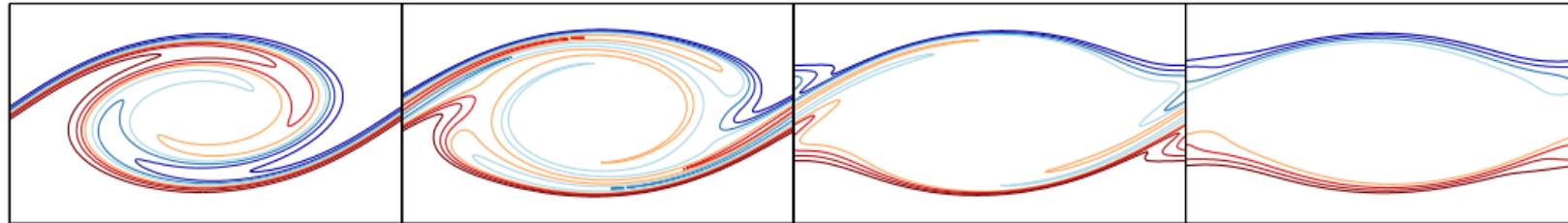
N. B. “Z”  $\Rightarrow$  Zeldovich

- Lorentz force suppresses inverse kinetic energy cascade. Inverse cascade  $\langle A^2 \rangle$  develops

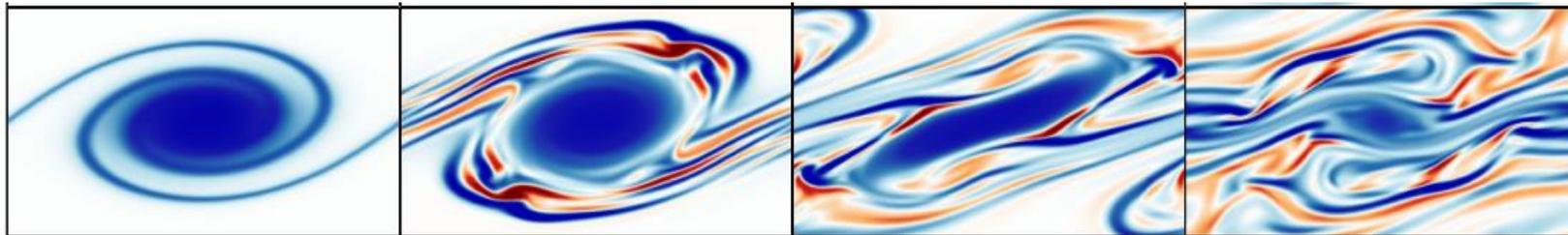
- Single Eddy: Expulsion (Weiss'66) vs. Vortex Disruption (Mak et. al 2017)

Key Parameter:  $Z = Rm \frac{V_{A0}^2}{V_E^2}$   
 $Z \sim 1$  bounds the two regimes

Expulsion:



Vortex bursting:



from Mak et. al 2017

See also: Gilbert, Mason, Tobias 2016.

# Key Physics of 2D MHD, cont'd

- Turbulent Diffusion: ( Cattaneo + Vainshtein '92;  
Gruzinov + P.D. '94 )

Closure +  $\langle A^2 \rangle$  conservation  $\Rightarrow$  Quenched Diffusion of  $B$  - field

From:  $D_t \sim \eta_{anom} \sim \langle \tilde{V}^2 \rangle \tau_c$

To:  $D_t \sim \eta_{anom} \sim \langle \tilde{V}^2 \rangle \tau_c / [1 + R_m V_{A0}^2 / \langle \tilde{V}^2 \rangle] \sim D_{Kin} / (1 + Z)$   
 $\uparrow$

- Once again,

$$\text{Key Parameter: } Z = R_m \frac{V_{A0}^2}{\langle \tilde{V}^2 \rangle}$$

$\langle \tilde{V}^2 \rangle$  vs  $V_E^2$

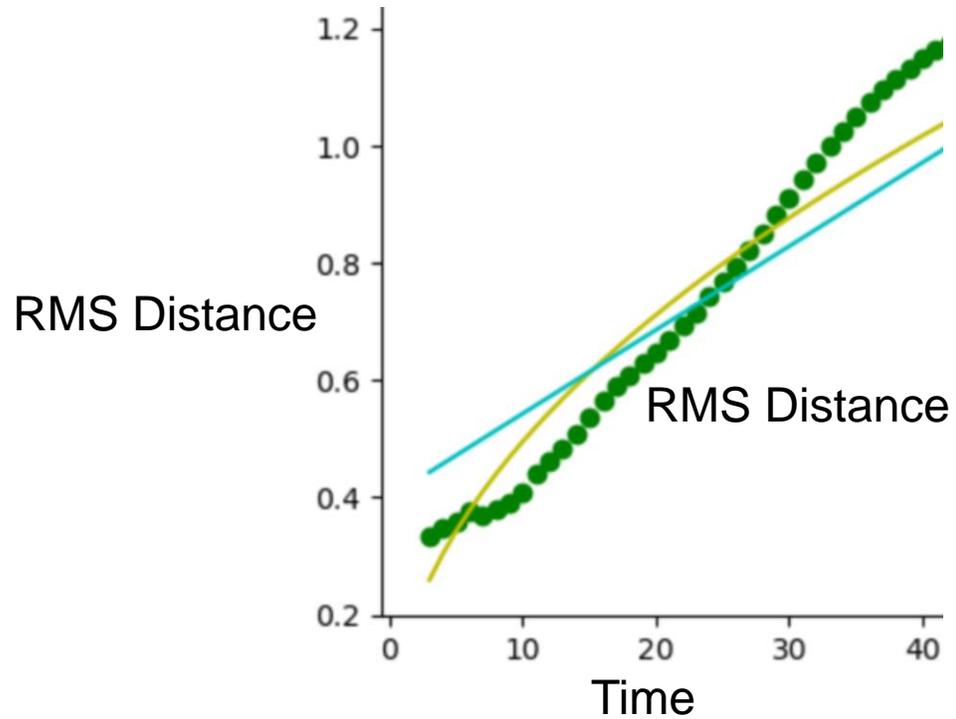
N.B.: -  $V_{A0}$  is initial weak mean magnetic field

-  $R_m$  large...

- Physics is simply  $\underline{V} \cdot \nabla \omega$  vs  $\underline{B} \cdot \nabla J$  and stretching

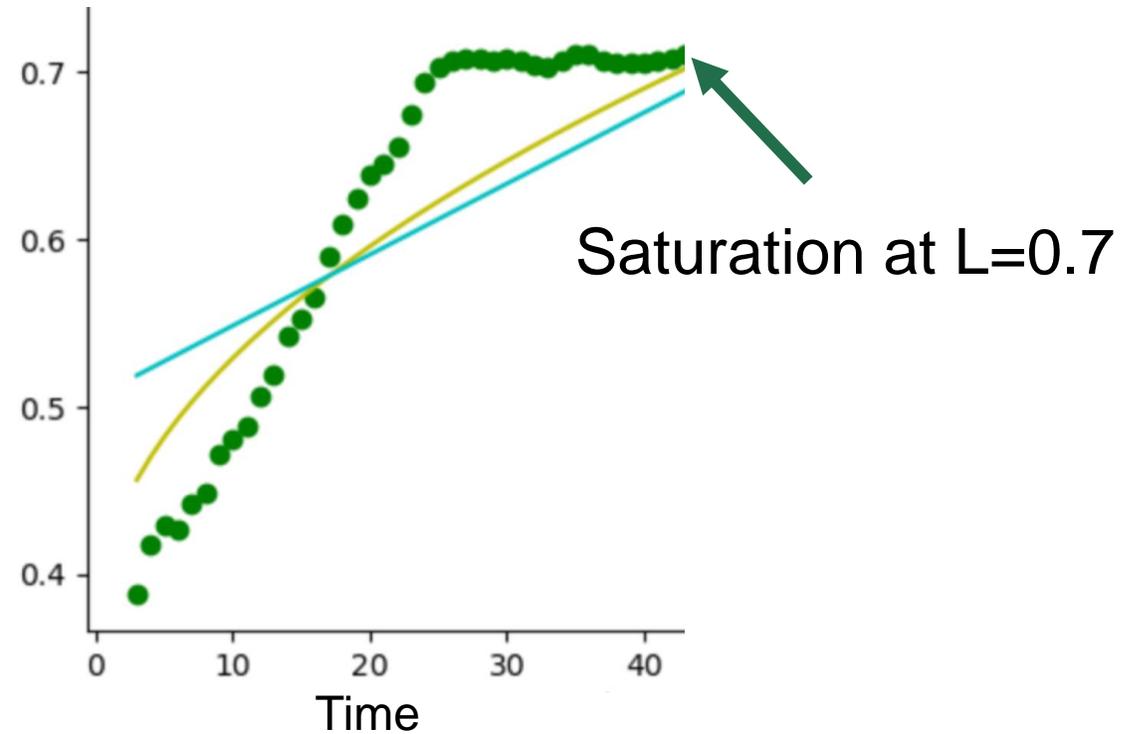
# ⇒ Time evolution of Spreading

Hydro regime:  $Rm = 100, Bo = 0.001, Z = 0.01$



⇒ Hydro case spreads linearly

MHD:  $Rm = 100, Bo = 0.01, Z = 1$



⇒  $Z=1$  Case saturates.  
(dipoles disrupted)

# ⇒ Spreading vs. Z - Turbulence

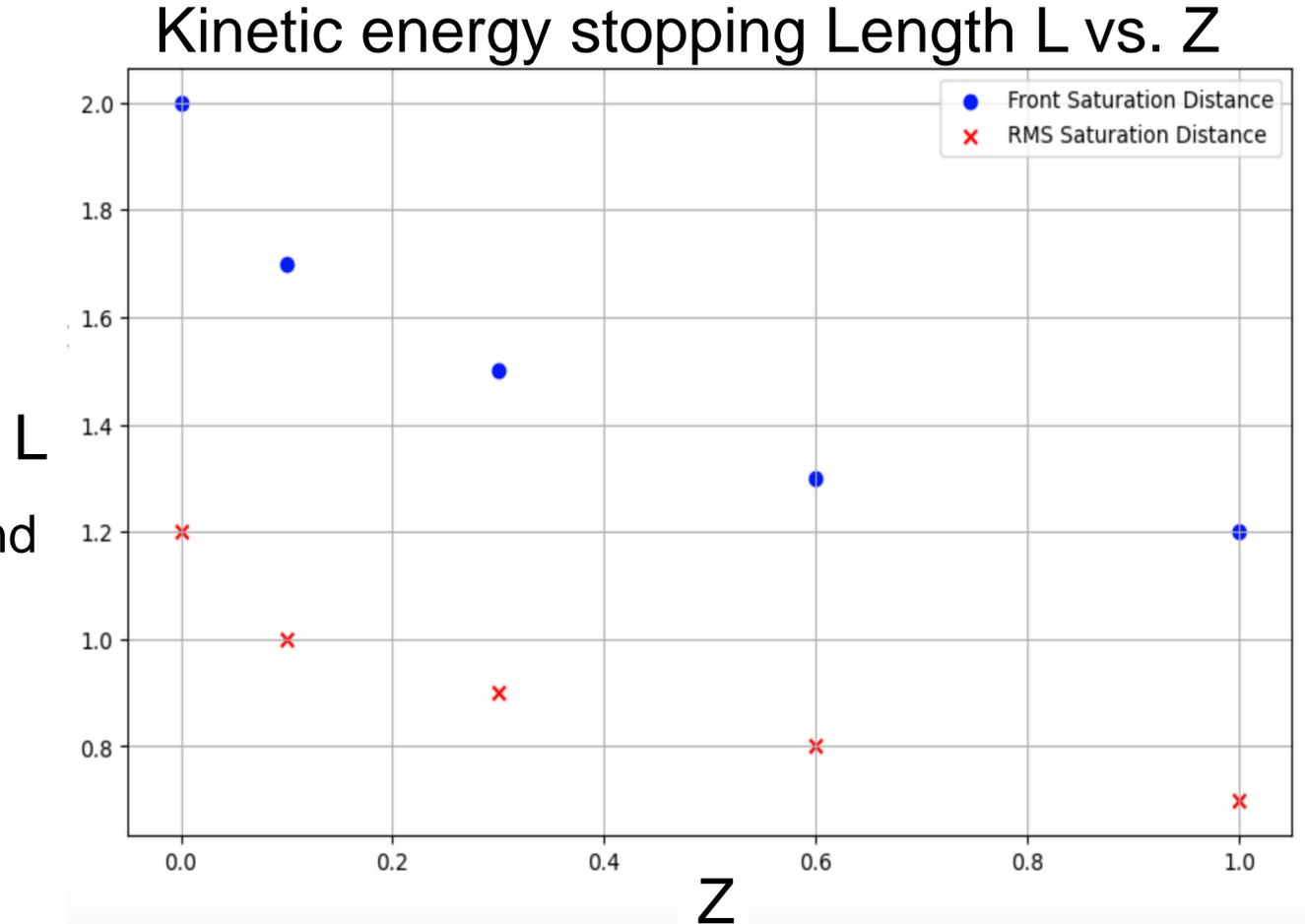
- Now consider turbulence:

- Kinetic Energy Stopping length decreases with increasing  $Z = R_m \frac{V_{A0}^2}{\langle V_{rms}^2 \rangle}$

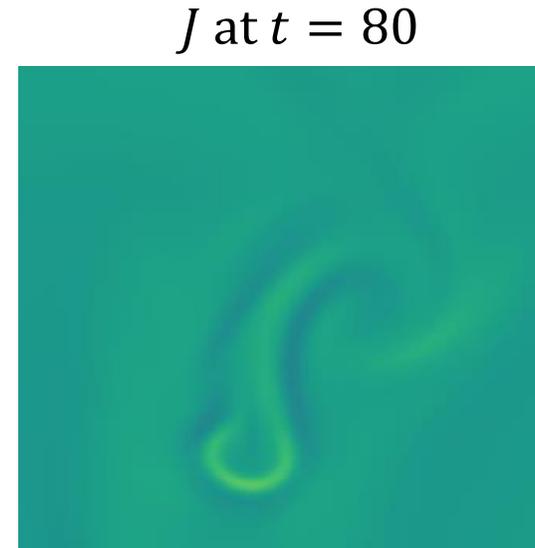
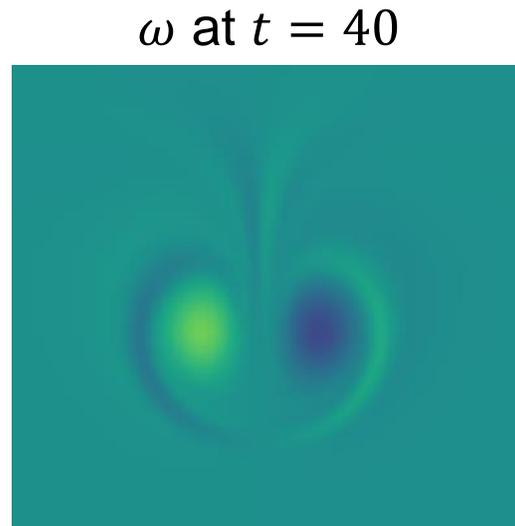
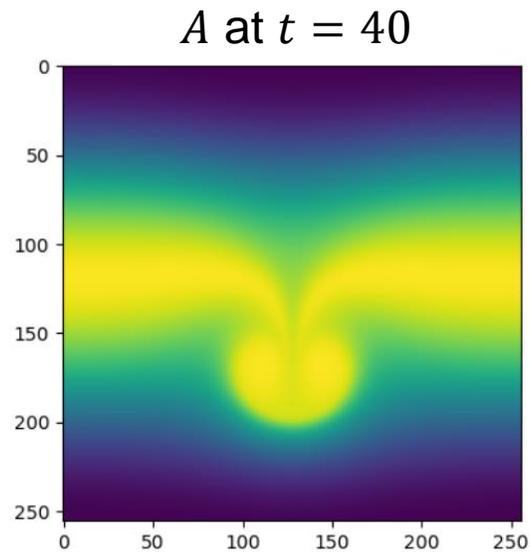
N.B.  $Z$  reflects both  $R_m$  and  $B_0$

- Systematic difference between Front and RMS saturation evident, trends match

⇒ Insight from vortex studies useful



# ⇒ Single Dipole in weak $B_0$

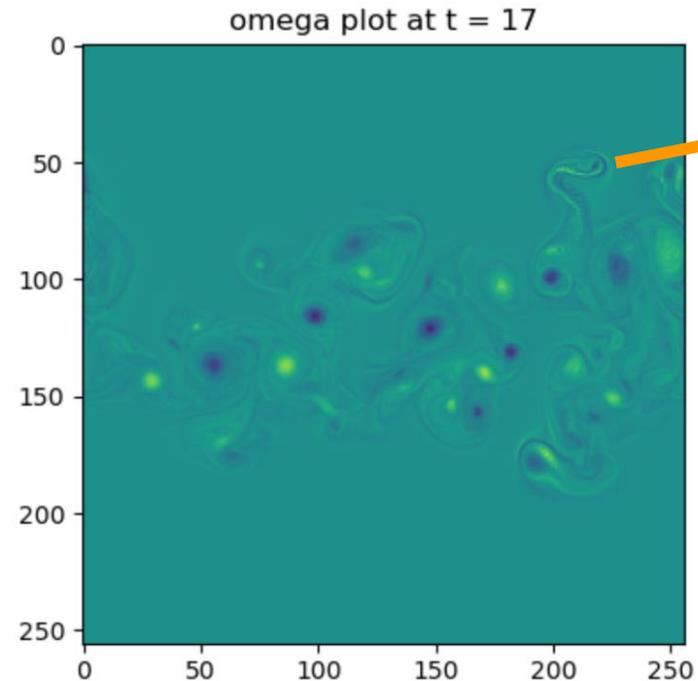
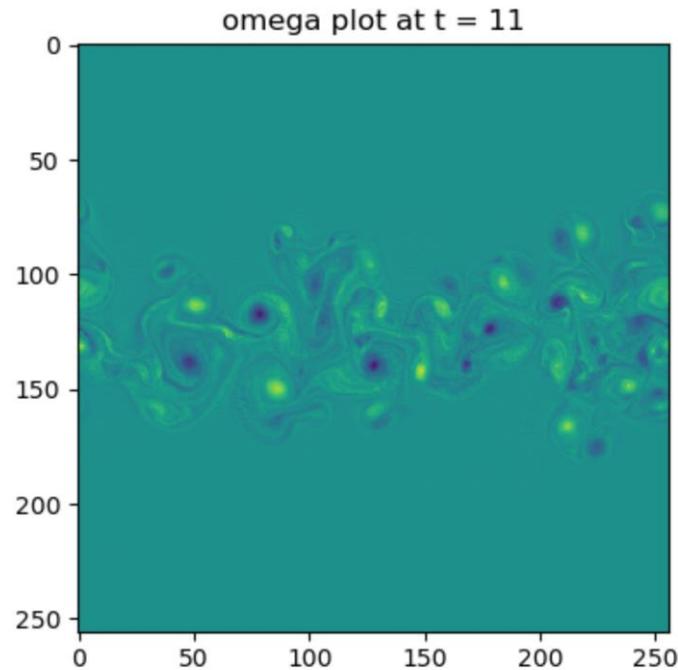


Note wrapping filament tends to cancel and push on dipole, so it distorts and ultimately bursts

Filament and vortex bursting. Concentration of energy at small scale  $\Rightarrow$  fast dissipation

Connection: vortex busting  $\Leftrightarrow$  MHD cascade singularity?!

# → Close Look at Vorticity Field



Bursting/Filamentation



- $Z=3$ ,  $Rm \approx 50$ ,  $Re \approx 500$ ,  $B=0.01$
- Dipoles evident at early times, but encounter stronger field as migrate
- Vortex bursting occurs at later times  $\Rightarrow$  Spreading halted.

# → Single Dipole Penetration

- Dipole penetration decreases with increasing  $Z$
- Evidence that varying  $B_0$  and  $R_m$  impact penetration.

But  $Z$  is not the full story...  $P_m$  dependence?

Log-Log Plot of  $L$  against  $Z$

