



# Wavelet-based definition of turbulent dissipation

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**WHAT IS DISSIPATION ?**

**WHAT IS TURBULENCE ?**

## James Clerk Maxwell, 1877

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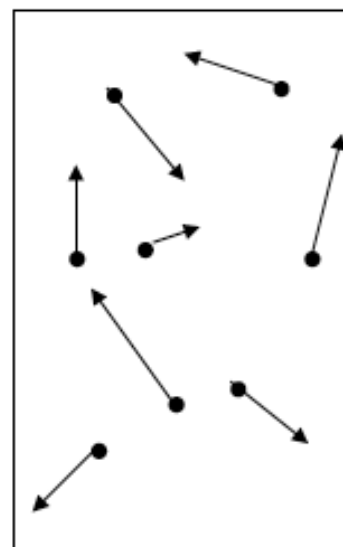
*'The notion of dissipated energy could not occur to a being who could trace the motion of every molecule and size it at the right moment. It is only to a being in the intermediate stage, who can hold of some forms of energy while others elude his grasp, that energy appears to be passing inevitably from the available to the dissipated state'*

Maxwell, 'Diffusion',  
Encyclopedia  
Britannica, 1877

# Molecular dissipation

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- Lagrangian mechanics are insufficient to predict the behavior of the majority of many-particles systems.
- But equilibrium implies equivalence between a (very) large number of microscopic configurations.
- This principle of equivalence is sufficient to predict macroscopic properties at equilibrium!
- Statistical distributions compatible with this principle are entropy maxima.
- The phenomenon by which these equilibria are attained is called dissipation.





# Dissipation is a matter of choice!

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- The definition of dissipation depends on the definitions of equilibrium :
  - return to local equilibrium  $\rightarrow$  collisional dissipation,
  - return to global equilibrium  $\rightarrow$  fluid dissipation.
- Close to equilibrium, dissipation can be predicted by a linear theory (Onsager relations, ...).
- Far from equilibrium, open questions remain:
  - does the standard dissipation still play a role?
  - is there another relevant dissipation?

## Lewis Fry Richardson, 1930

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*‘By an arbitrary choice we try to divide motions into two classes: those which we treat in detail, those which we smooth away by some process of averaging. Unfortunately these two classes are not always mutually exclusive. [...] Diffusion is a compensation for neglect of details. The form of the law of diffusion depends entirely upon the arbitrary chosen method of averaging, which is always implied when diffusion or viscosity are mentionned. This calls attention to the desirability of making more explicit statements about smoothing operations than has hitherto been the custom;’*

*Richardson and Gaunt, ‘Diffusion regarded as a compensation for smoothing’, Memoirs Royal Met. Soc., 3, 30, 1930*

## G. I. Taylor, 1938

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*'The fact that small quantities of very high frequency disturbances appear, and increase as the speed increases, seems to confirm the view frequently put forward by the author that **the dissipation of energy is due chiefly to the formation of very small regions where the vorticity is very high**'*

*Taylor, 'The spectrum of turbulence', Proc. Royal Soc. London A, 164, 1930*

⇒ **We will focus on the vorticity field.**

## Hugh Dryden, 1948

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*'The rapidly developing theory of random functions may possibly form the mathematical framework of an improved theory of turbulence. However, it is necessary to separate the random processes from the nonrandom processes. It is not yet fully clear what the random elements are in turbulent flows.'*

Dryden, 'Recent advances in the mechanics of boundary layer flow', Adv. Applied Mech., 1, 1948

⇒ We propose to use the wavelet representation.

# What is turbulence?

**Turbulence** is a state that **fluid flows** reaches when they become **unstable** and **highly fluctuating**.

***Etymology of the word 'turbulence' :***

*turba-ae*  $\Rightarrow$  *crowd, mob,*

*turbo-inis*  $\Rightarrow$  *vortex.*

A turbulent flow is a **mob of vortices interacting together** on a wide range of temporal and spatial scales.

***Hypotheses :***

- The **fluid** is supposed to be a **continuous medium** since the scale at which one observes it is much larger than the mean free path of molecules,
- The **fluid flow** is supposed to be **incompressible**, *i.e.*, non-divergent.

Fluid flows reach the **fully-developed regime** when they become **highly mixing**, which corresponds to **strong turbulence**.

# Oberserved forced 3D turbulent flow

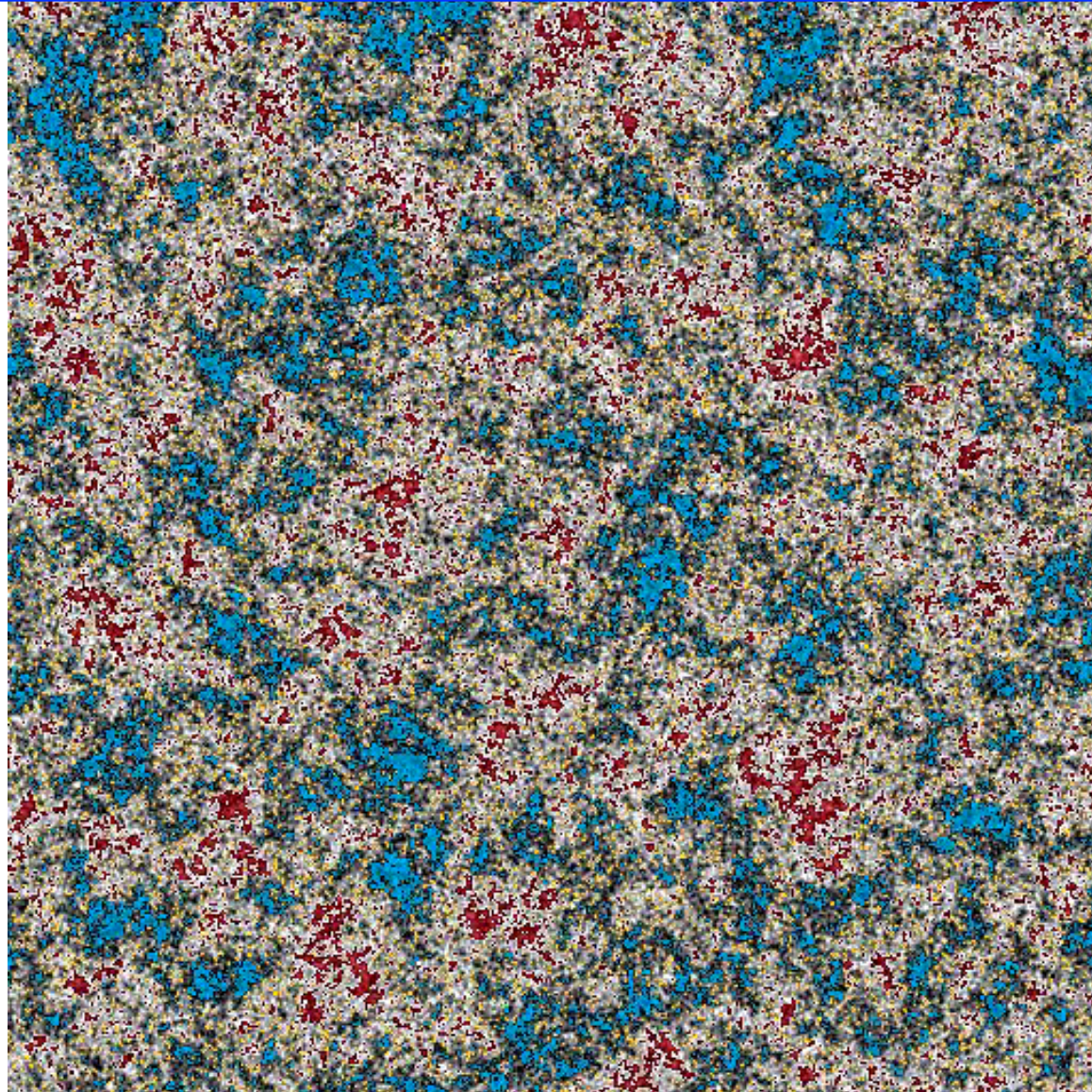
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# Simulated 2D decaying turbulent flow

Resolution  
 $N=512^2$



Time  
evolution  
of the  
vorticity  
field  
from  
random  
initial  
conditions

$\omega_{min}$



$\omega_{max}$

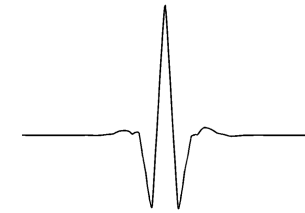
**WHAT ARE WAVELETS ?**

**HOW TO DECOMPOSE  
TURBULENT FLOWS  
USING THEM ?**



# Continuous / orthogonal wavelets

Analyzing functions are  
translates and dilates  
of an oscillating function (of zero mean)



Well localized in both space and wavenumber

$$\tilde{f}(l, \vec{x}) = \langle \psi_{l, \vec{x}} | f \rangle$$

Continuous wavelets

$$\psi_{l, \vec{x}}(x') = \frac{1}{l^{n/2}} \psi\left(\frac{\vec{x}' - \vec{x}}{l}\right)$$

- Translates and dilates  
vary continuously
- Redundant representation

- Coefficients are easy to read
- Unfold in both space and scale
- For analysis

Orthogonal wavelets

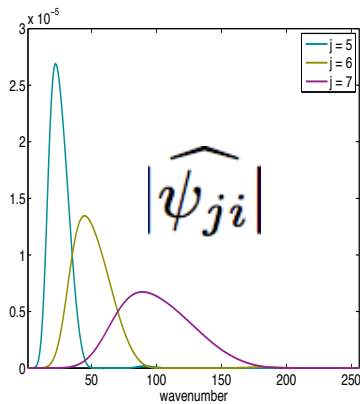
$$\psi_{j, i}(x') = 2^{j/2} \psi(2^j x' - i)$$

- Translates and dilates are  
on a discrete dyadic grid
- Orthogonal basis

- Coefficients not easy to read
- sampled on a dyadic grid
- For filtering and compression

# Orthogonal wavelet representation

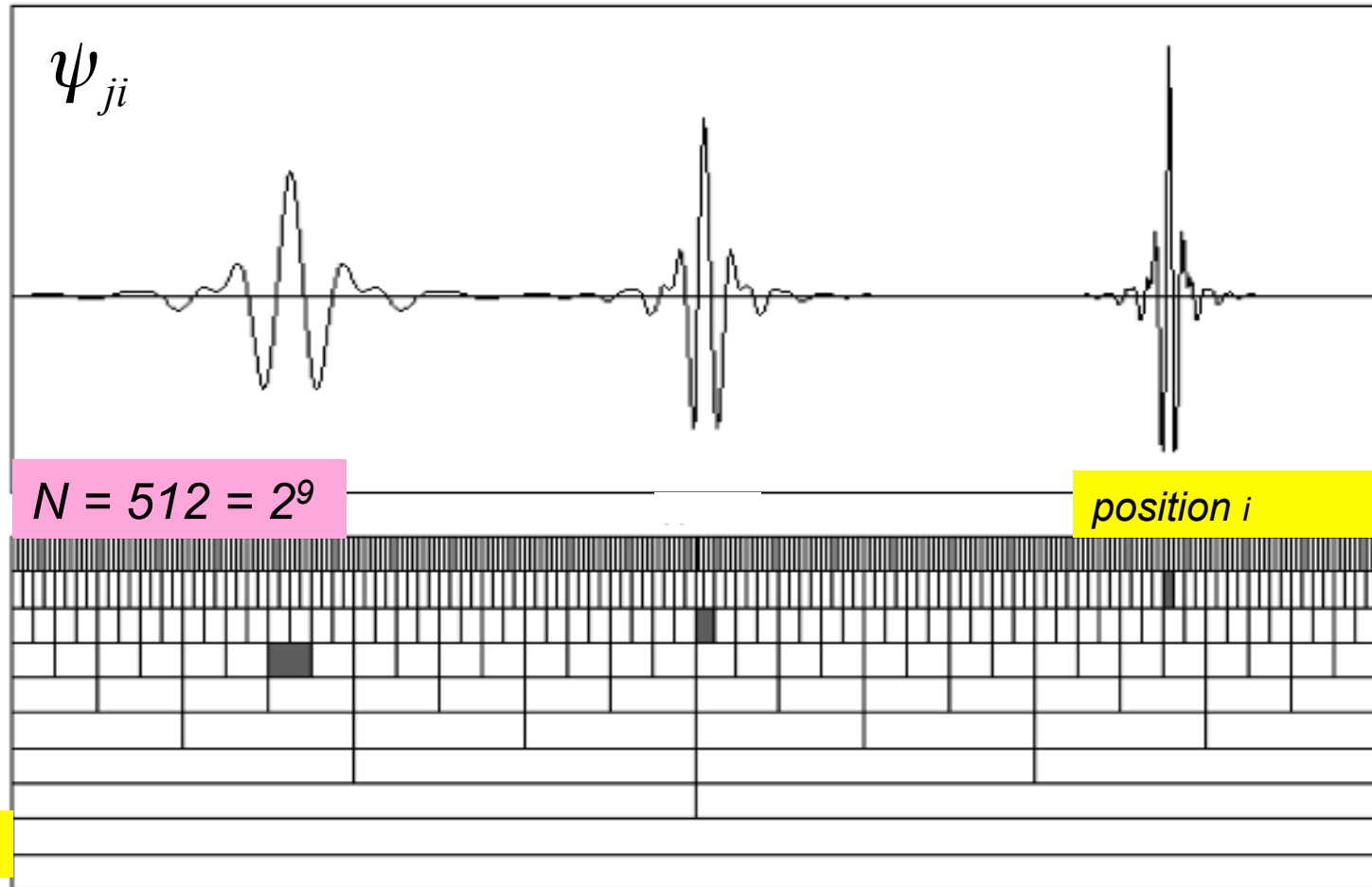
## Wavelets



wavelet  
coefficients

$$\tilde{f}_{ji} = \langle \psi_{ji} | f \rangle$$

scale  $j$



Mallat, 2008  
A wavelet tour of  
signal processing, 3rd edition,  
Academic Press

# 3D orthogonal wavelets

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- **fast algorithm** with **linear complexity**
- **no redundancy** between the coefficients

A 3D vector field  $v(x)$  sampled on  $N = 2^{3J}$  equidistant grid points

$\psi_\lambda(x)$  3D wavelet  $\rightarrow$  orthogonal wavelet series

$$v(x) = \sum \tilde{v}_\lambda \psi_\lambda(x), \quad \tilde{v}_\lambda = \langle v, \psi_\lambda \rangle$$

$$\Lambda = \{ \lambda = (j, i_n, \mu), j = 0, \dots, J-1, i_n = 0, \dots, 2^j - 1, n = 1, 2, 3, \text{ and } \mu = 1, \dots, 7 \}$$

$$N_j = 7 \times 2^{3j}, \text{ wavelet coefficients at a scale indexed by } j$$

We use Coifman 12 wavelet, which are  
compactly supported with four vanishing moments.

# Wavelet-based diagnostics

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- Local intermittency measure

$$I(l, x) = \frac{|\tilde{f}(l, x)|^2}{\left\langle |\tilde{f}(l, x)|^2 \right\rangle_x}$$

- Local Reynolds number

M. F., 1992,  
*Ann.Rev.Fluid Mech.*,  
24, 395-457

$$Re(l, x) = \frac{|\bar{v}(l, x)|l}{\nu}$$

- Local Rossby number

$$Ro(l, x) = \frac{|\bar{v}(l, x)|l}{2\Omega l} \quad \text{OR} \quad Ro(l, x) = \frac{\bar{\omega}(l, x)}{2\Omega}$$

# How to decompose turbulent flows?

*'In 1938 Tollmien and Prandtl suggested that turbulent fluctuations might consist of two components, a diffusive and a non-diffusive. Their ideas that fluctuations include both random and non random elements are correct, but as yet there is no known procedure for separating them.'*

Hugh Dryden, Adv. Appl. Mech., 1, 1948

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{mean} + \text{turbulent fluctuations} \\ &= \text{mean} + \text{non random} + \text{random} \\ &= \text{mean} + \text{coherent structures} + \text{incoherent noise} \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Coherent Vorticity Extraction (CVE)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{turbulent dynamics} \\ &= \text{chaotic non diffusive} + \text{stochastic diffusive} \\ &= \text{inviscid nonlinear dynamics} + \text{turbulent dissipation} \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Coherent Vorticity Simulation (CVS)

M. F., 1992  
Ann. Rev. Fluid Mech., 24

M. F., Schneider, Kevlahan, 1999,  
Phys. Fluids, 11 (8)

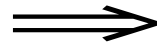
M. F., Pellegrino, Schneider, 2001  
Phys. Rev. Lett., 87 (5)

# How to extract coherent structures?

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Since there is **not yet a universal definition of coherent structures** which emerge out of turbulent fluctuations,  
**we adopt an apophetic method :**  
**instead of defining what they are, we define what they are not.**

*For this we propose the minimal statement :  
**‘Coherent structures are not noise’***



*Extracting coherent structures becomes a **denoising problem**,  
**not requiring any hypotheses on the structures themselves**  
**but only on the noise** to be eliminated.*

Choosing the **simplest hypothesis** as a first guess,  
we suppose we want to eliminate an **additive Gaussian white noise**,  
and for this we use a **nonlinear wavelet filtering**.

*M.F., Schneider et al., 2003  
Phys. Fluids, **15** (10)*

*Azzalini, M. F., Schneider, 2005  
ACHA, **18** (2)*

# Wavelet-based denoising algorithm

## Apophatic method :

- no hypothesis on the structures,
- *only hypothesis on the noise*,
- *simplest hypothesis as our first choice.*

## Hypothesis on the noise :

$$f_n = f_d + n$$

$n$  Gaussian white noise,  
 $\langle f_n^2 \rangle$  variance of the noisy signal,  
 $N$  number of coefficients of  $f_n$ .

## Wavelet decomposition :

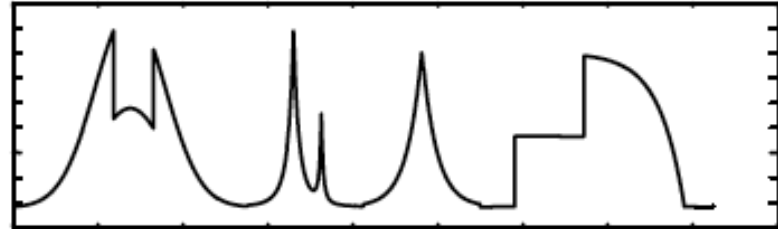
$$\tilde{f}_{ji} = \langle f | \psi_{ji} \rangle \quad \begin{array}{l} j \text{ scale,} \\ i \text{ position} \end{array}$$

## Estimation of the threshold :

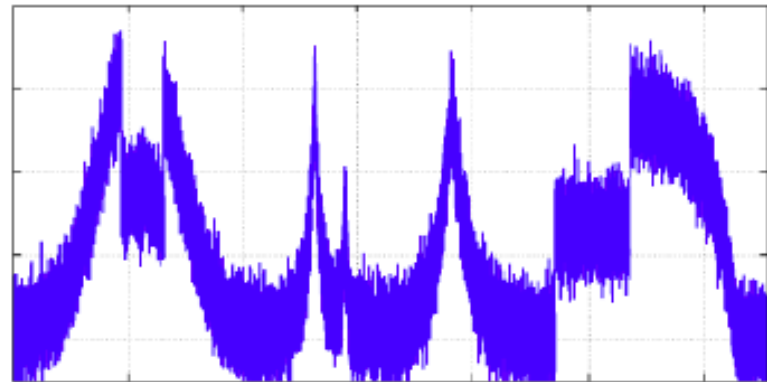
$$\varepsilon_n = \sqrt{2 \langle f_n^2 \rangle \ln(N)}$$

## Wavelet reconstruction :

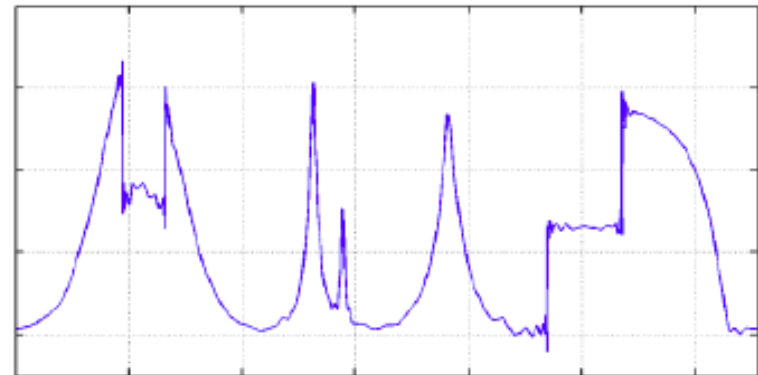
$$f_d = \sum_{ji: |\tilde{f}_{ji}| > \varepsilon_n} \tilde{f}_{ji} \psi_{ji}$$



$f$



$f_n$



$f_d$

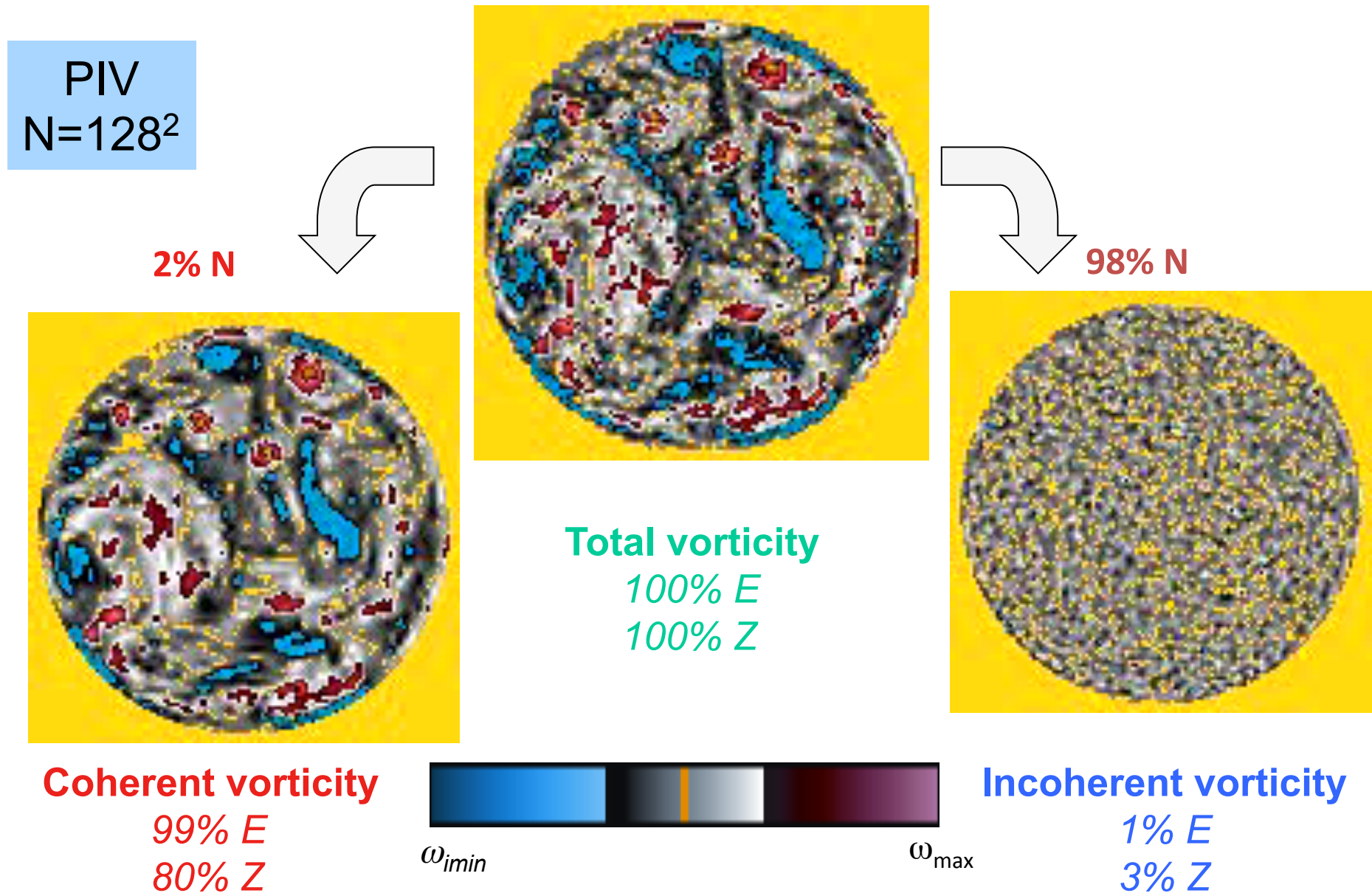
Donoho, Johnstone,  
Biometrika, **81**, 1994

Azzalini, M. F., Schneider,  
ACHA, **18** (2), 2005

**WAVELET DECOMPOSITION  
OF 2D AND 3D  
TURBULENT FLOWS ?**



# Wavelet filtering of an experimental rotating tank flow



# A posteriori proof of coherence

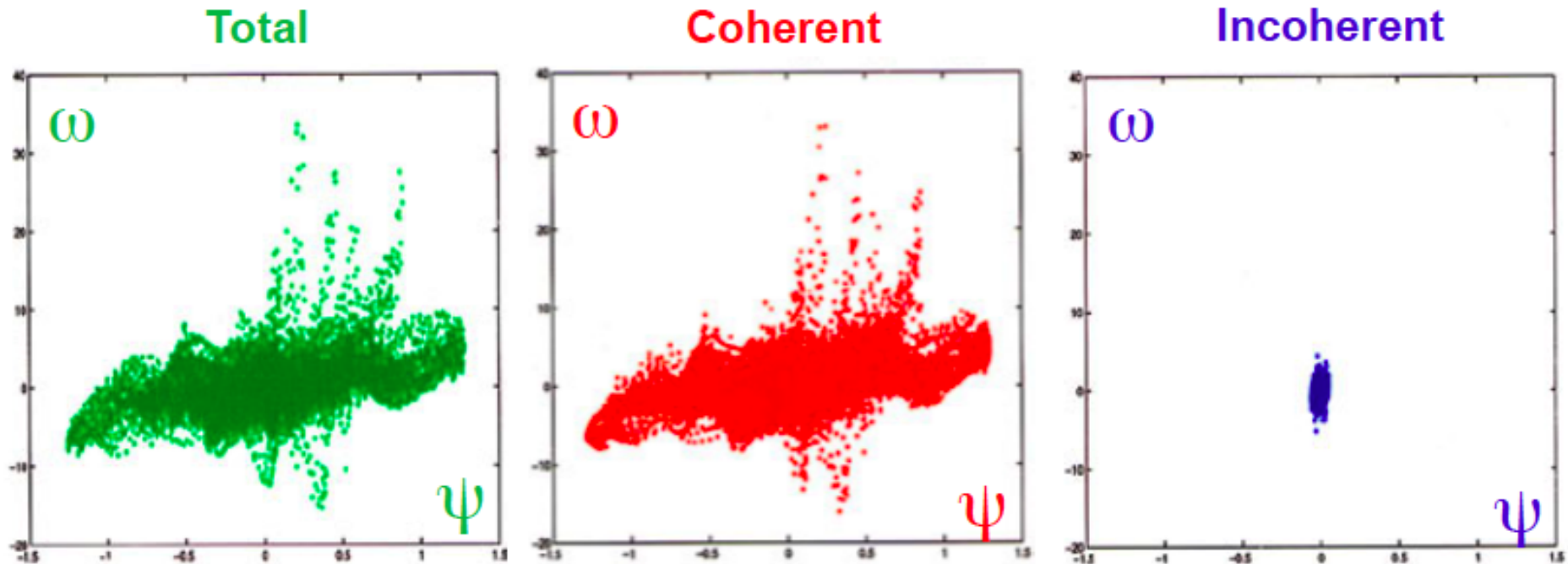
PIV  
N=128<sup>2</sup>

Coherent structures are  
locally (in space and time)  
steady solutions of Euler equation,  
thus, for 2D flows:

*Arnold, 1965,  
Joyce & Montgomery, 1973  
Robert & Sommeria, 1991*

$$\omega = f(\psi)$$

Depletion of nonlinearity  
in coherent structures

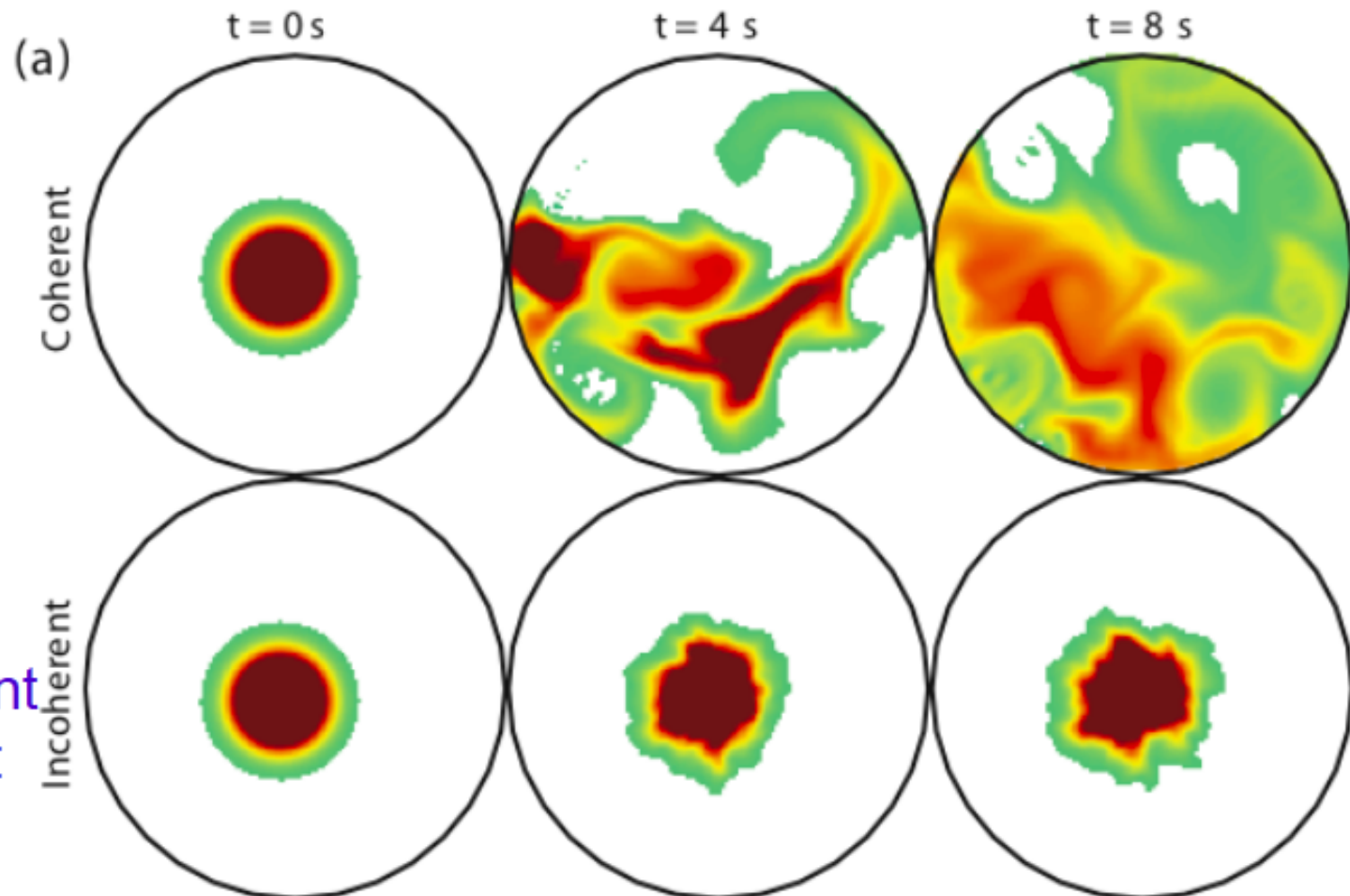


# Passive scalar advection *in laboratory experiment*

PIV  
 $N=128^2$

Transport by  
the coherent  
vortices :

Diffusion by  
the incoherent  
background :



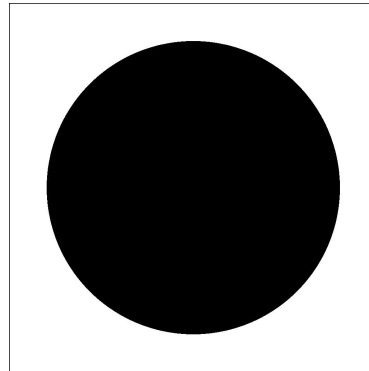


# Transport and diffusion of a passive scalar

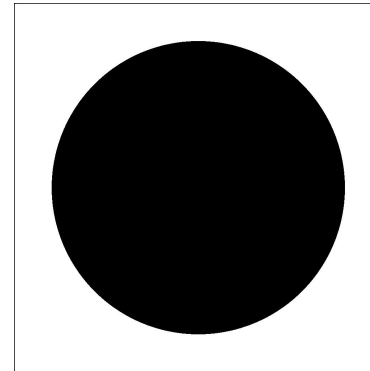
DNS  
 $N=512^2$

Transport by the  
coherent flow  
and  
turbulent  
dissipation by the  
incoherent flow

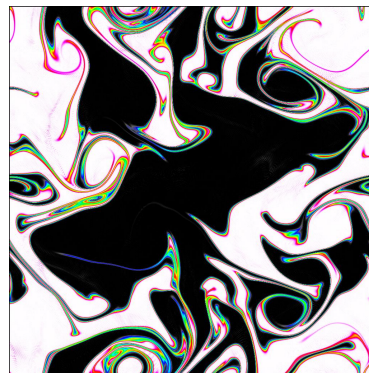
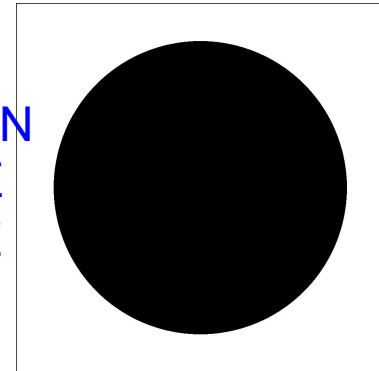
Beta, Schneider,  
M.F., 2003,  
Nonlinear  
Sci. Num.  
Simul., 8



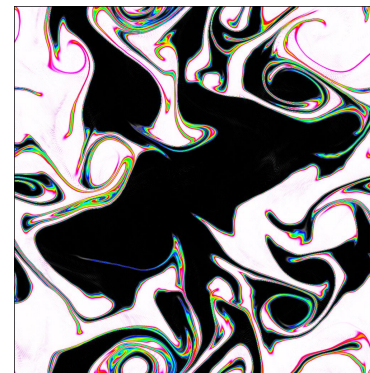
0.2%N  
99.8%E  
93.6%Z



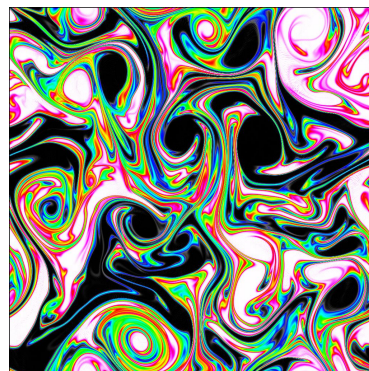
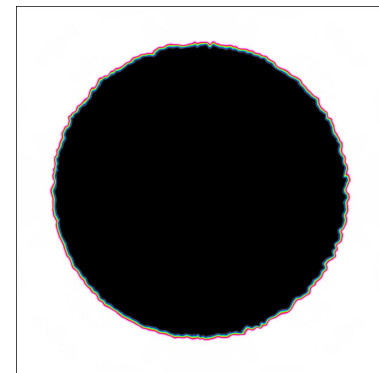
99.8%N  
0.2%E  
6.4%Z



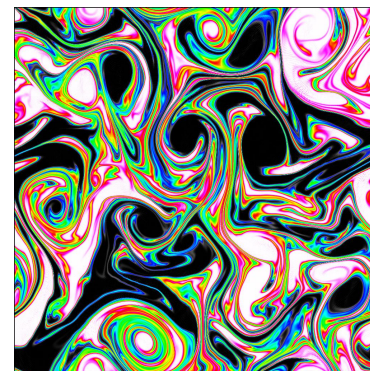
=



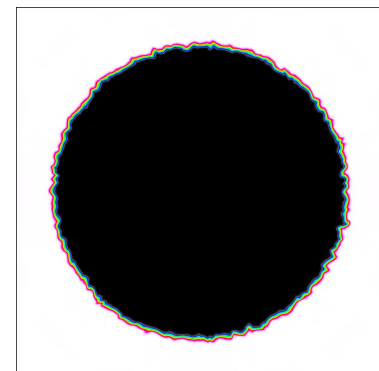
+



Total flow



Coherent flow



Incoherent flow

# Advection of tracer particles

**DNS**  
**N=128<sup>2</sup>**

**0.2 % of coefficients**  
**99.8 % of kinetic energy**  
**93.6 % of enstrophy**

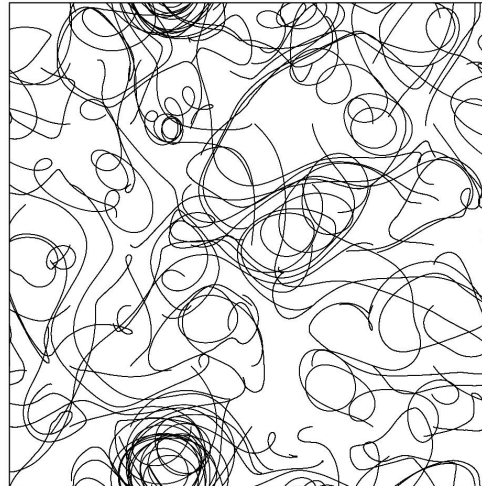
**99.8 % of coefficients**  
**0.2 % of kinetic energy**  
**6.4 % of enstrophy**

by the total flow



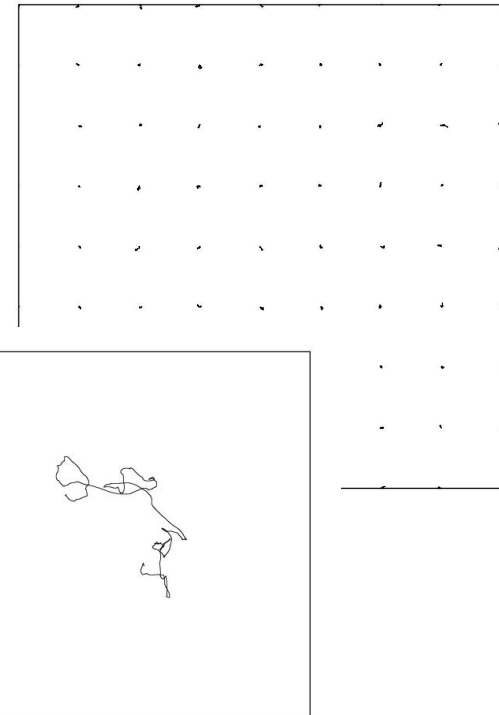
=

by the coherent flow



+

by the incoherent flow



**Transport by vortices**

Beta, Schneider, M.F.  
2003, Nonlinear  
Sci. Num. Simul., 8

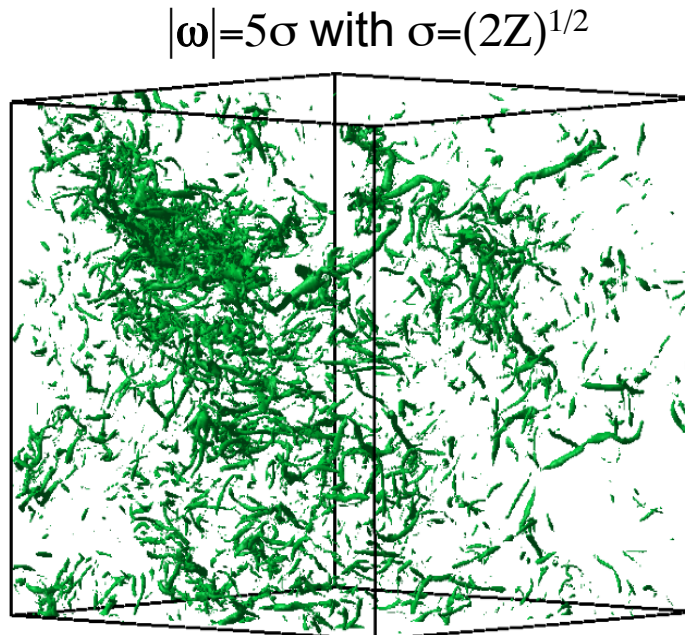
**Diffusion by Brownian motion**

# Wavelet filetring of an homogeneous 3D turbulent flow

DNS  
 $N=2048^3$

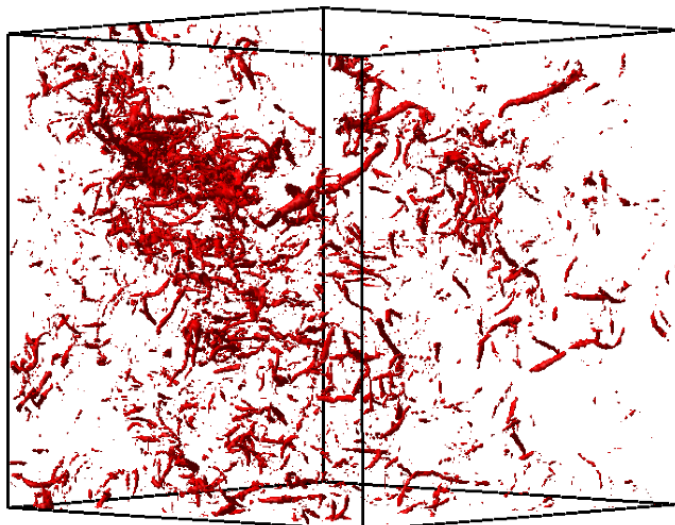
## Coherent vorticity

2.6 %  $N$  coefficients  
80% enstrophy  
99% energy



## Incoherent vorticity

97.4 %  $N$  coefficients  
20 % enstrophy  
1% energy

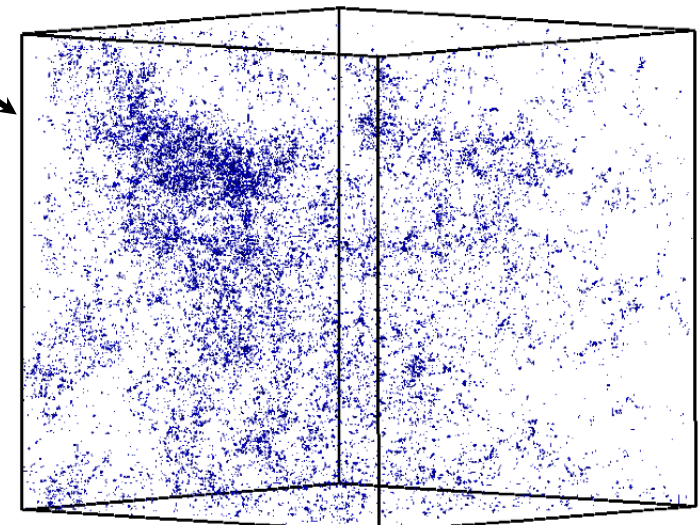


$|\omega|=5\sigma$

Total vorticity

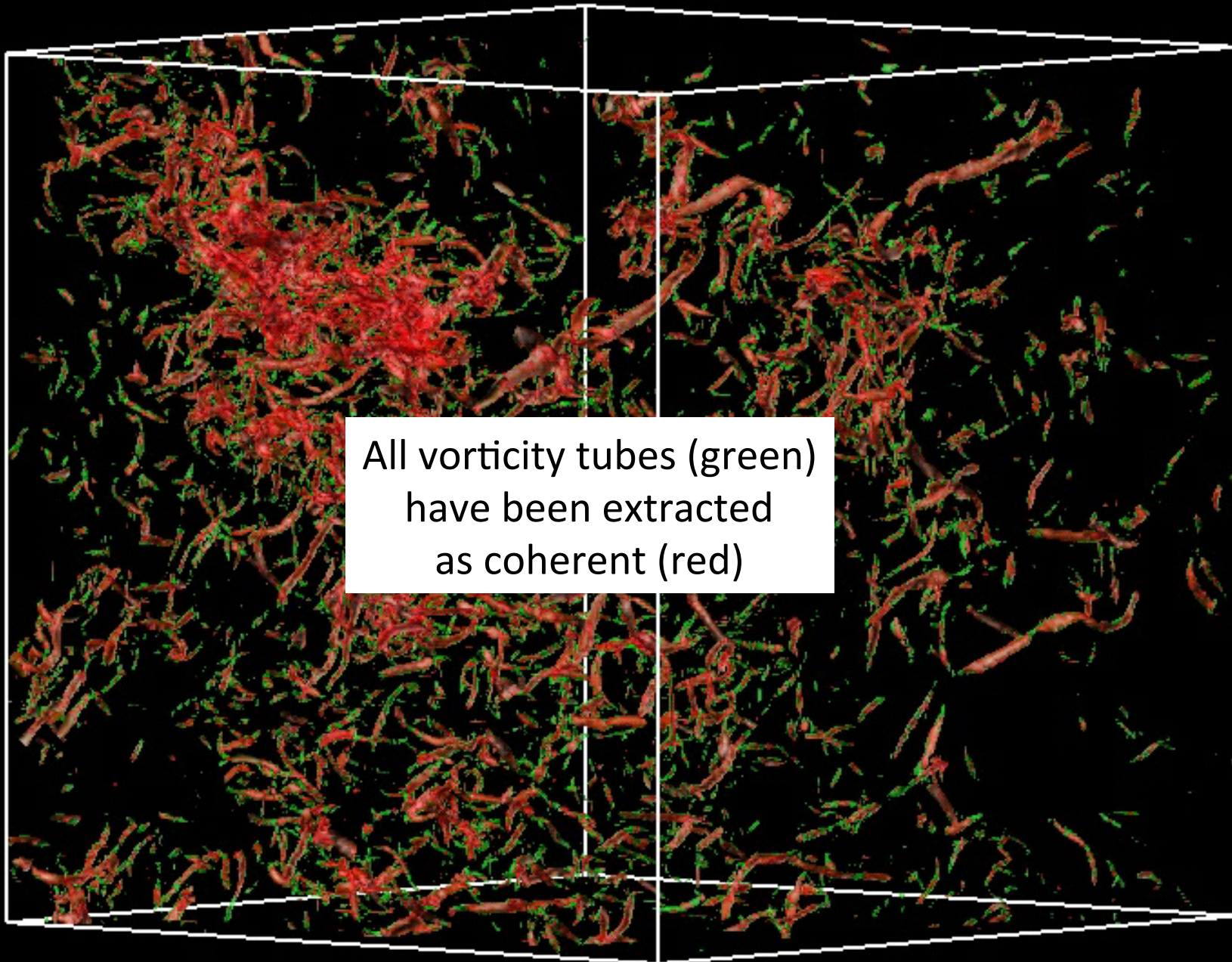
+

Okamoto, Yoshimatsu,  
Schneider, M.F.,  
Kaneda, 2007,  
*Phys. Fluids*, **19**, 1159



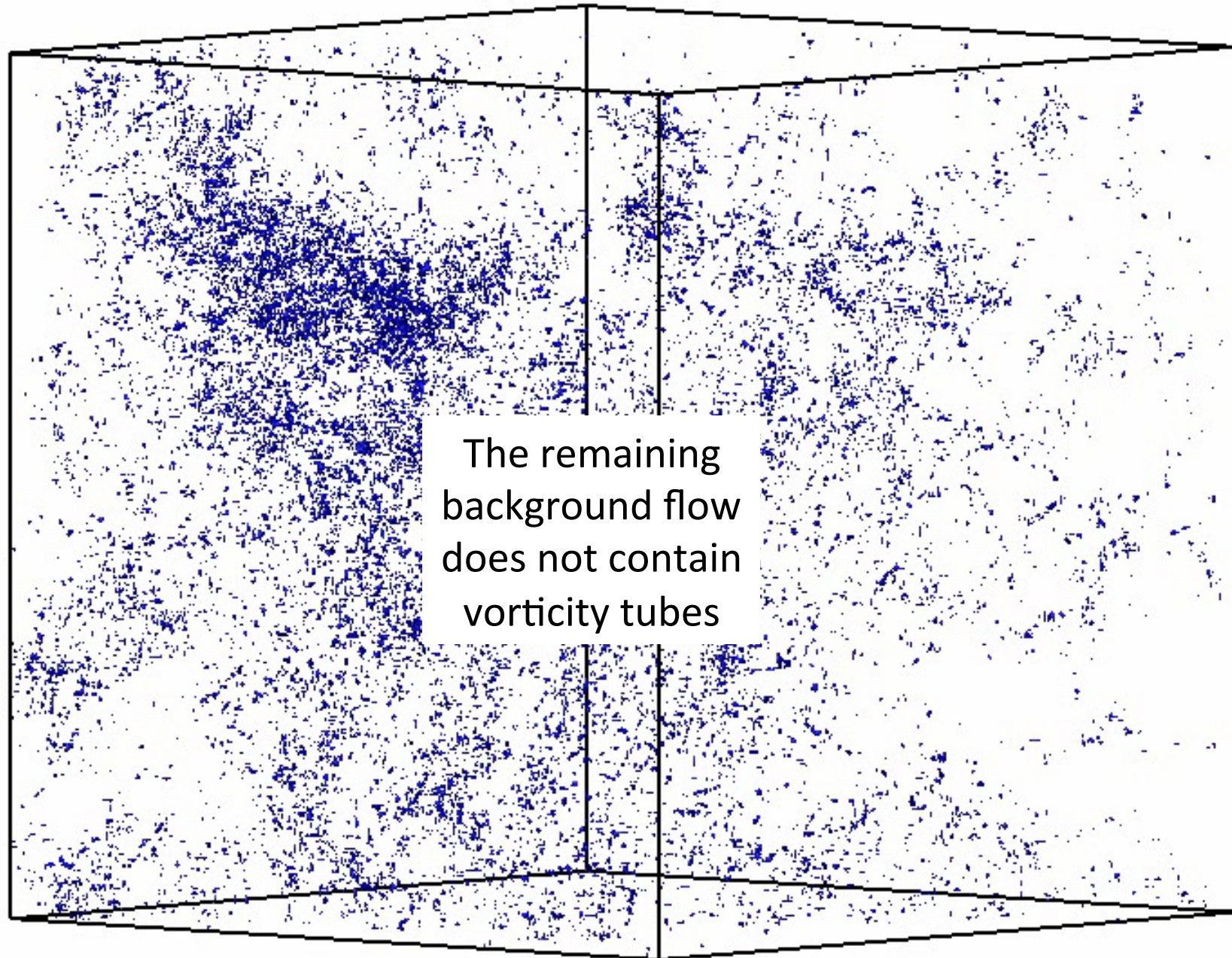
$|\omega|=5/3\sigma$





All vorticity tubes (green)  
have been extracted  
as coherent (red)



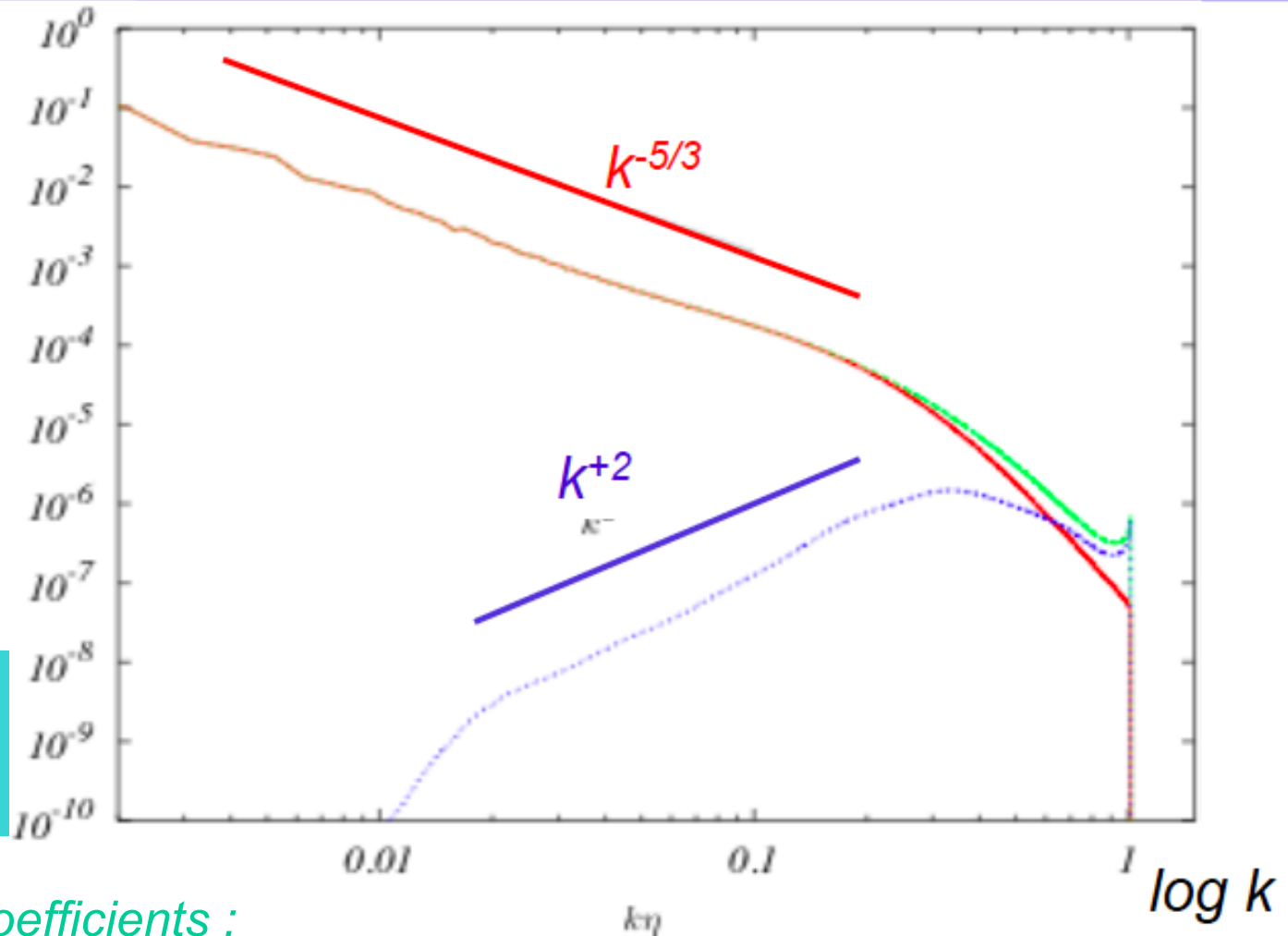




# Energy spectrum

DNS  
 $N=2048^3$

$\log E(k)$



Okamoto, Yoshimatsu,  
Schneider, M.F., Kaneda,  
2007,  
Phys. Fluids, **19**, 1159

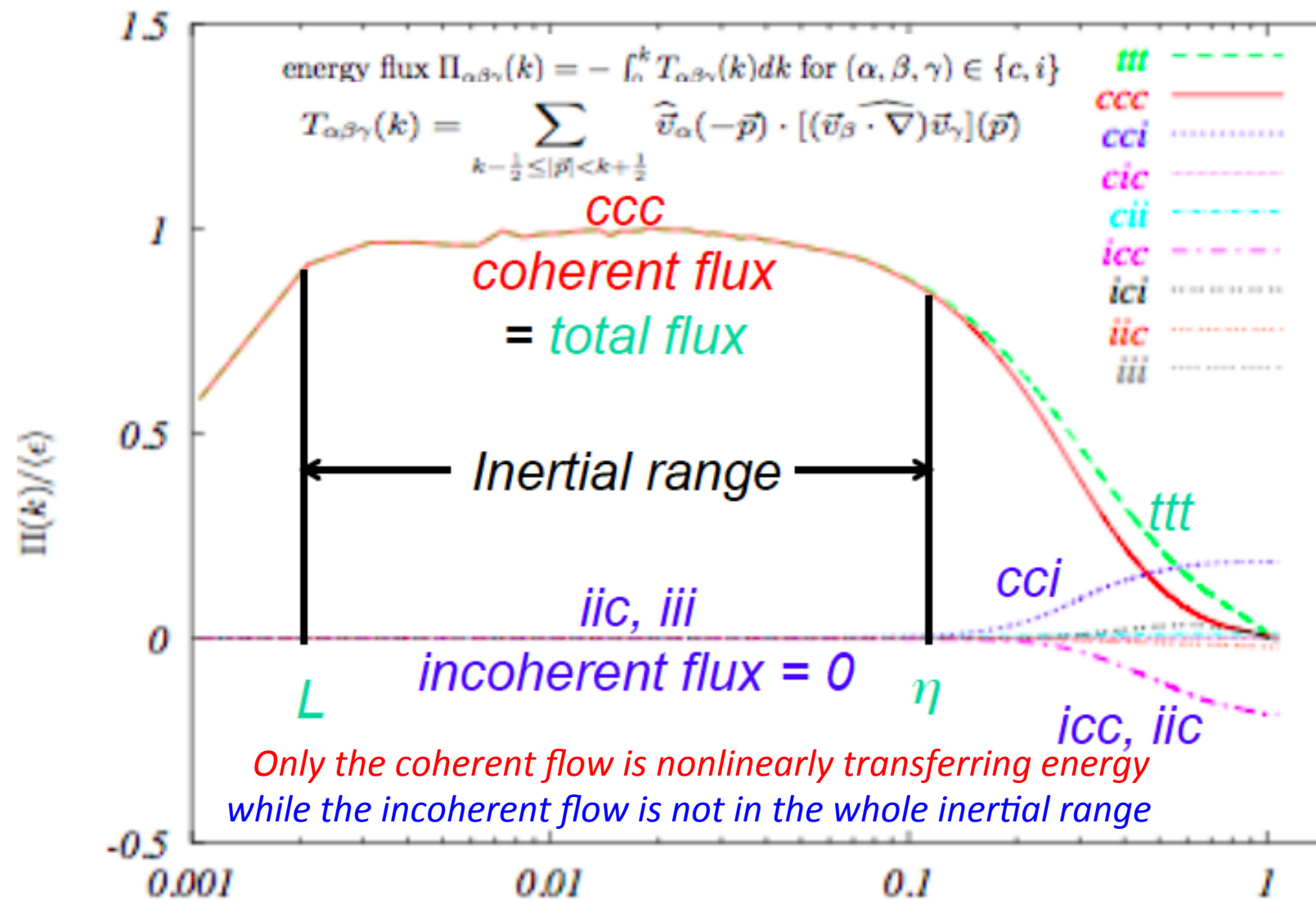
Retained wavelet coefficients :

2.6 %  $N$  coefficients  
80% enstrophy  
99% energy

**Multiscale Coherent**  
 $k^{-5/3}$  scaling, i.e.  
long-range correlation

**Multiscale Incoherent**  
 $k^{+2}$  scaling, i.e.  
energy equipartition

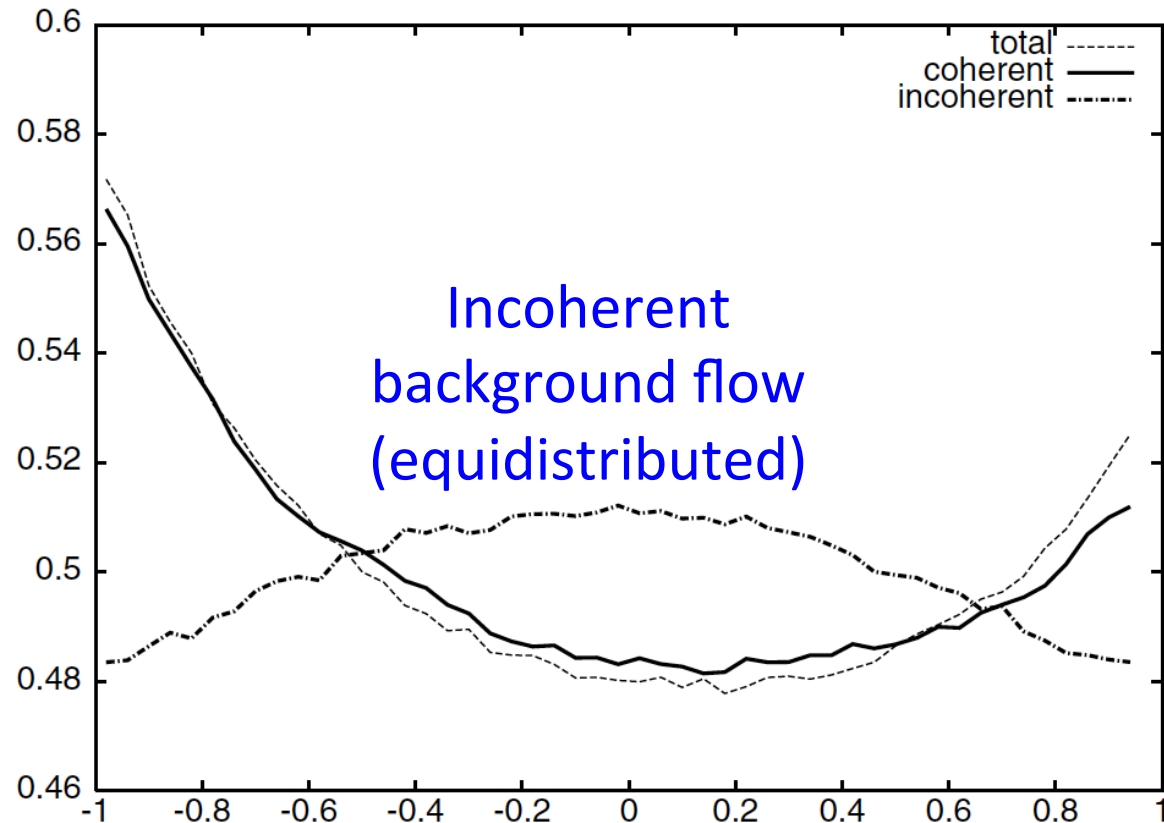
# Nonlinear transfers and energy fluxes



# PDF of relative helicity

Coherent  
vortex tubes  
with depletion  
of nonlinearity  
(peaked at  $|h|=1$ )

$$h = \frac{\vec{V} \cdot \vec{\omega}}{|\vec{V}| |\vec{\omega}|}$$

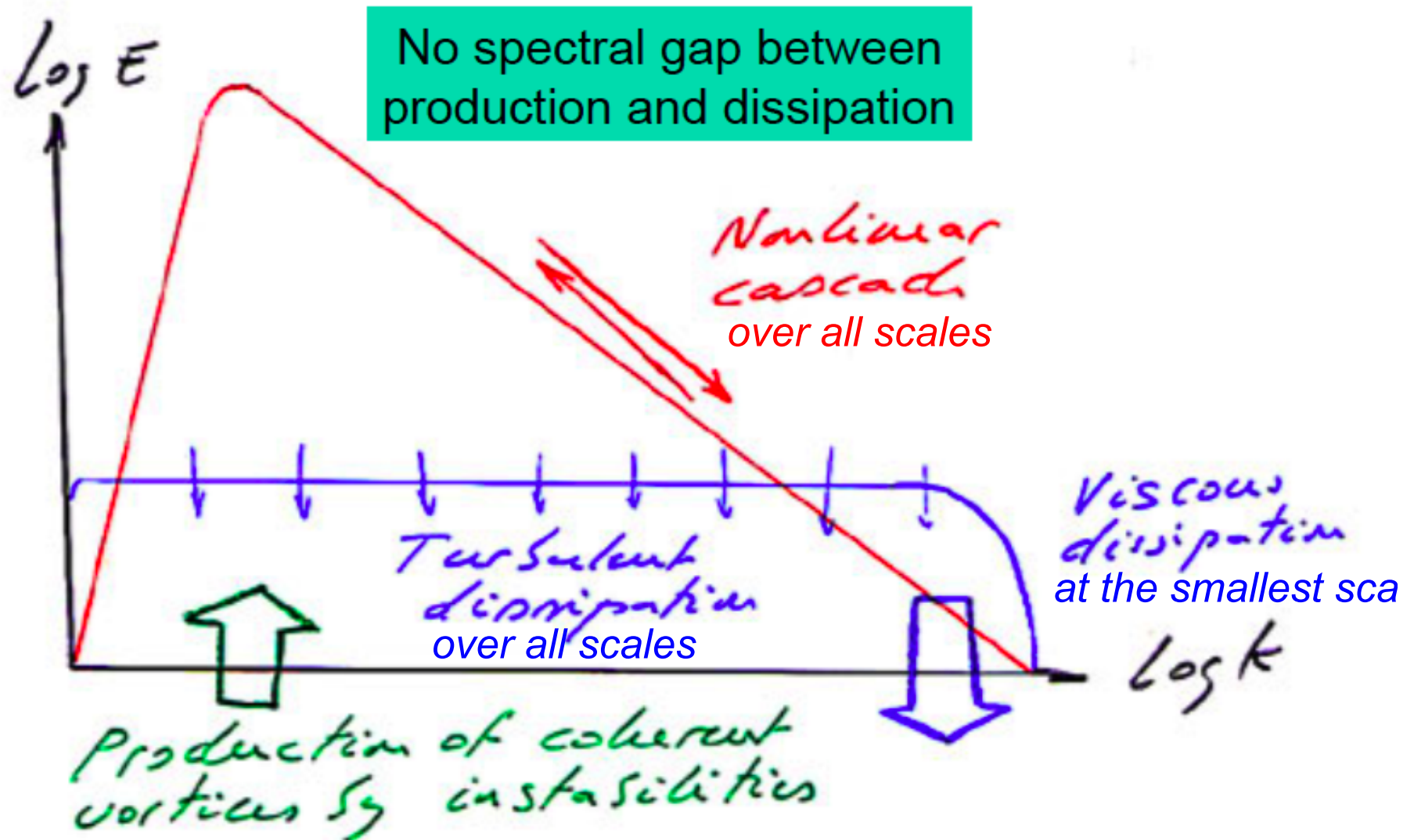


M. F., Pellegrino and Schneider, 2001,  
'Coherent vortex extraction in 3D turbulent flows  
using orthogonal wavelets',  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.*, **87**(5), 2001

# **CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES**

# New interpretation of the turbulence cascade

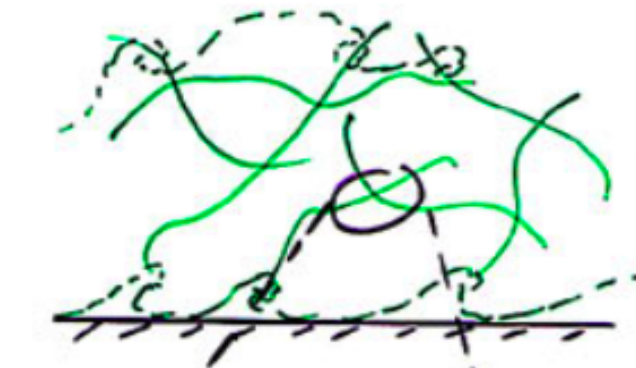
## Fourier space viewpoint



# New interpretation of the turbulence cascade

## Physical space viewpoint

No vortex fission 'a la Richardson'



PRODUCTION  
Web of vortex  
tubes produced  
by instabilities  
in shear layers



INERTIAL RANGE  
Intermittent vortex  
interactions

Vortex stretching  
and bursting

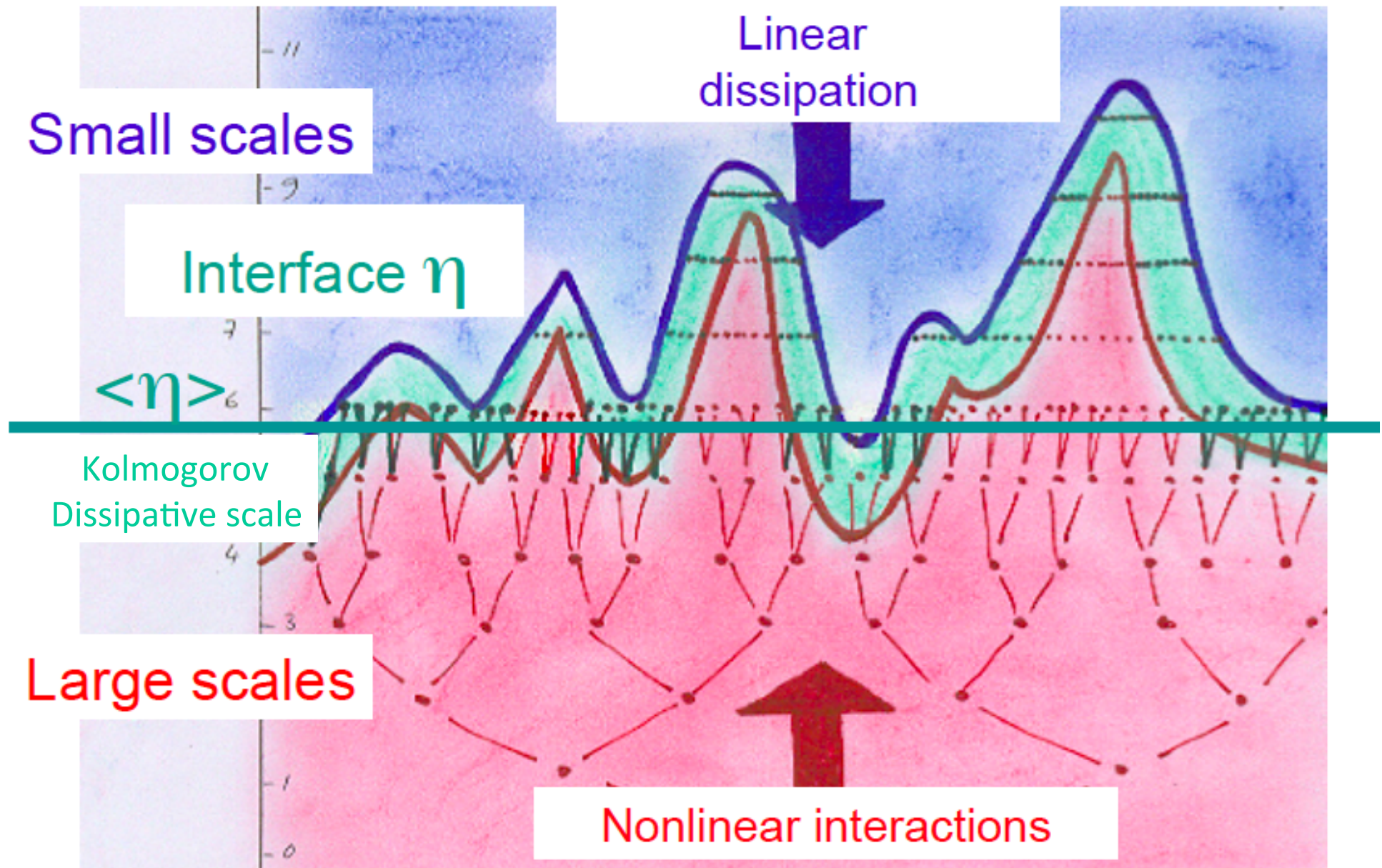


⇒ Nonlinear cascade  
+  
Turbulent dissipation  
production of background noise  
which is damped in the  
viscous range



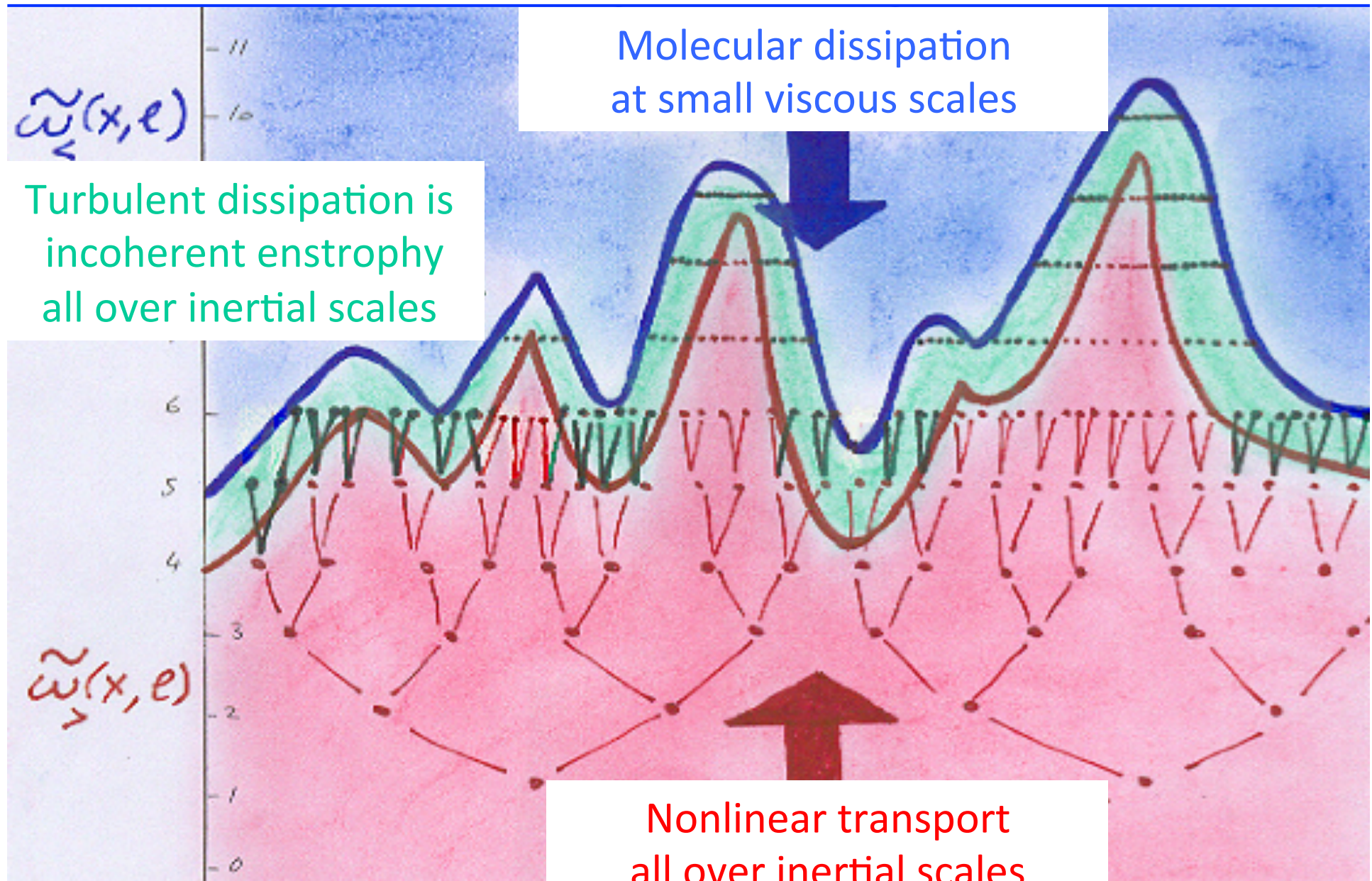
# New interpretation of turbulence cascade

## *Wavelet space viewpoint*





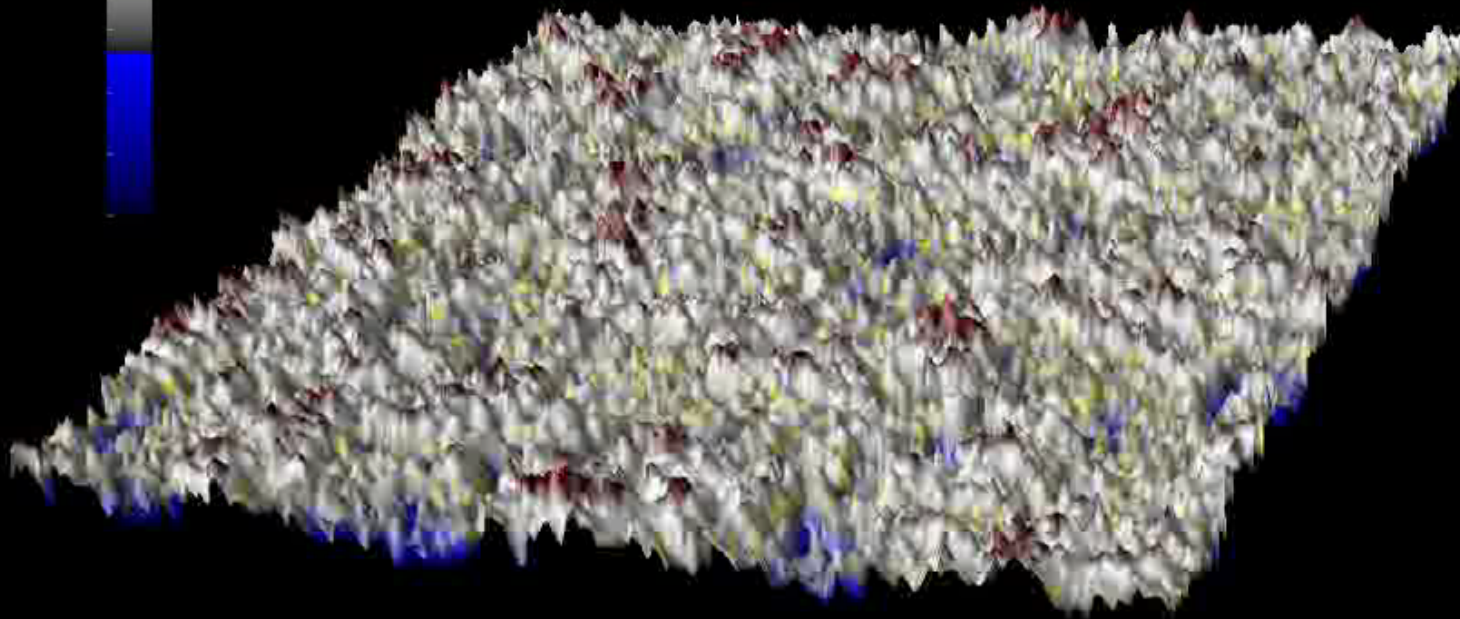
# Wavelet-based definition of turbulent dissipation



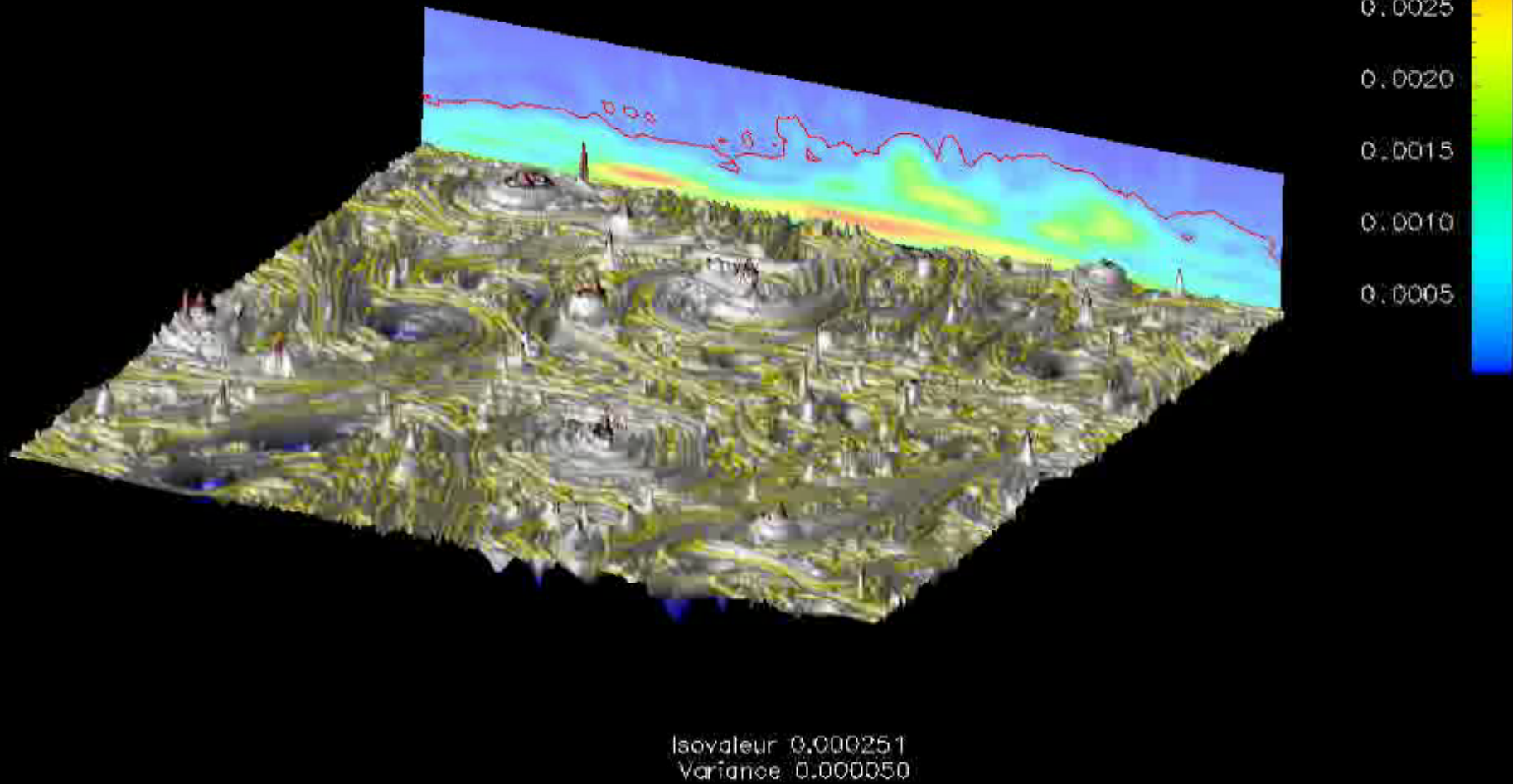


Champ de Vorticite, cas BALANCE

Simulation of a 2D homogeneous turbulent flow



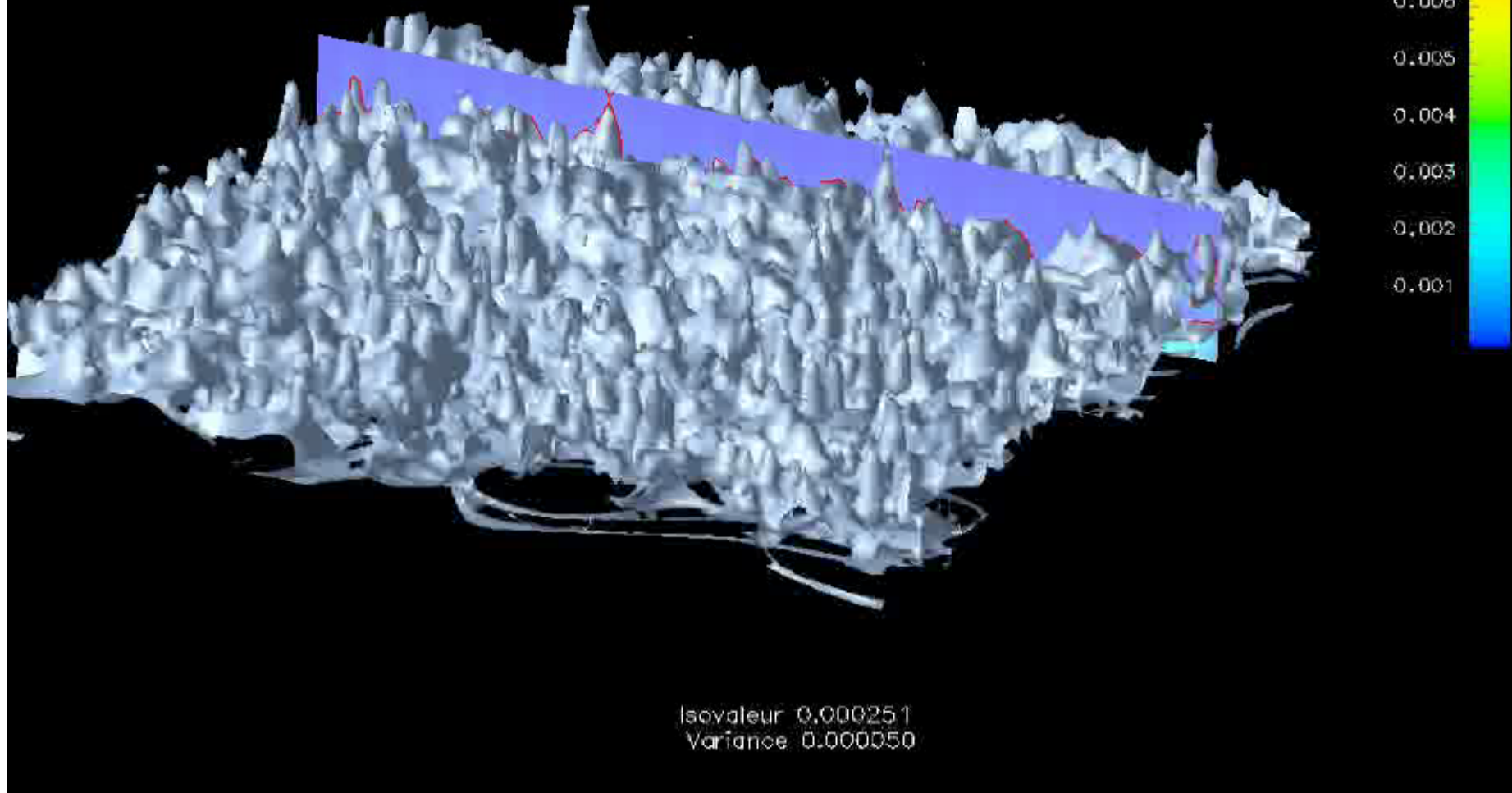
## Interface between the strong and weak incoherent wavelet coefficients



The strong wavelet coefficients are below the interface and correspond to the flow generated by the coherent vortices

The weak wavelet coefficients are above the interface and correspond to the incoherent dissipative background flow

## Interface between the strong and weak incoherent wavelet coefficients



The strong wavelet coefficients are below the interface and correspond to the flow generated by the coherent vortices

The weak wavelet coefficients are above the interface and correspond to the incoherent dissipative background flow

*‘We conjecture that turbulent flows can be described as a superposition of **metastable coherent vortices that are not in statistical equilibrium**. Their nonlinear interactions are responsible for the chaotic behaviour of turbulent flows and generate **a random incoherent flow, which then relaxes towards statistical equilibrium** and is dissipated at the smallest scales.’*

*M. F., Pellegrino and Schneider, 2001,  
‘Coherent vortex extraction in 3D turbulent flows  
using orthogonal wavelets’,  
Phys. Rev. Lett., **87**(5), 2001*

*‘We conjecture that the wavelet representation, formulated in terms of both space and scale, allows such **a decoupling between organized motions out of statistical equilibrium and random motions in statistical equilibrium.** Both components are multiscale but have different probability distributions and correlations.’*

*M. F., Pellegrino and Schneider, 2001,  
‘Coherent vortex extraction in 3D turbulent flows  
using orthogonal wavelets’,  
Phys. Rev. Lett., **87**(5), 2001*

*‘This gives us incentives to extend the **CVS method to compute three-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations in an adaptive wavelet basis**, remapped at each time step to track the nonlinear vortex dynamics in both space and scale, as we have done for two-dimensional turbulent flows. **The advantage of the CVS method is to combine an Eulerian representation of the solution in a wavelet basis with a Lagrangian strategy to adapt the basis in space and scale**, to track the formation, advection, and dissipation of vortex tubes whatever their scales.’*

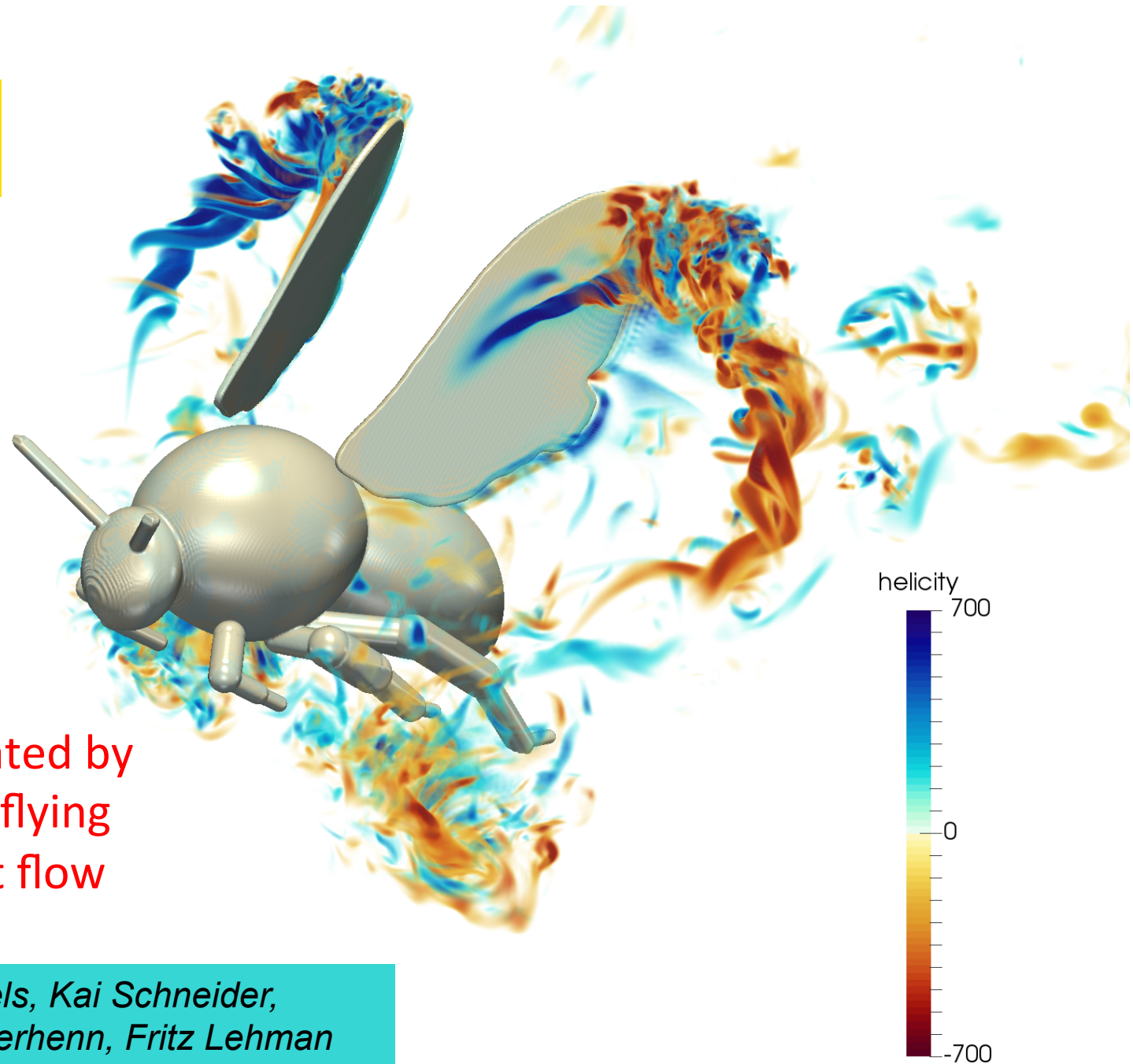
M. F., Pellegrino and Schneider, 2001,  
‘Coherent vortex extraction in 3D turbulent flows  
using orthogonal wavelets’,  
Phys. Rev. Lett., **87**(5), 2001



DNS  
 $N=680/10^6$

Helicity generated by  
a bumblebee flying  
in a turbulent flow

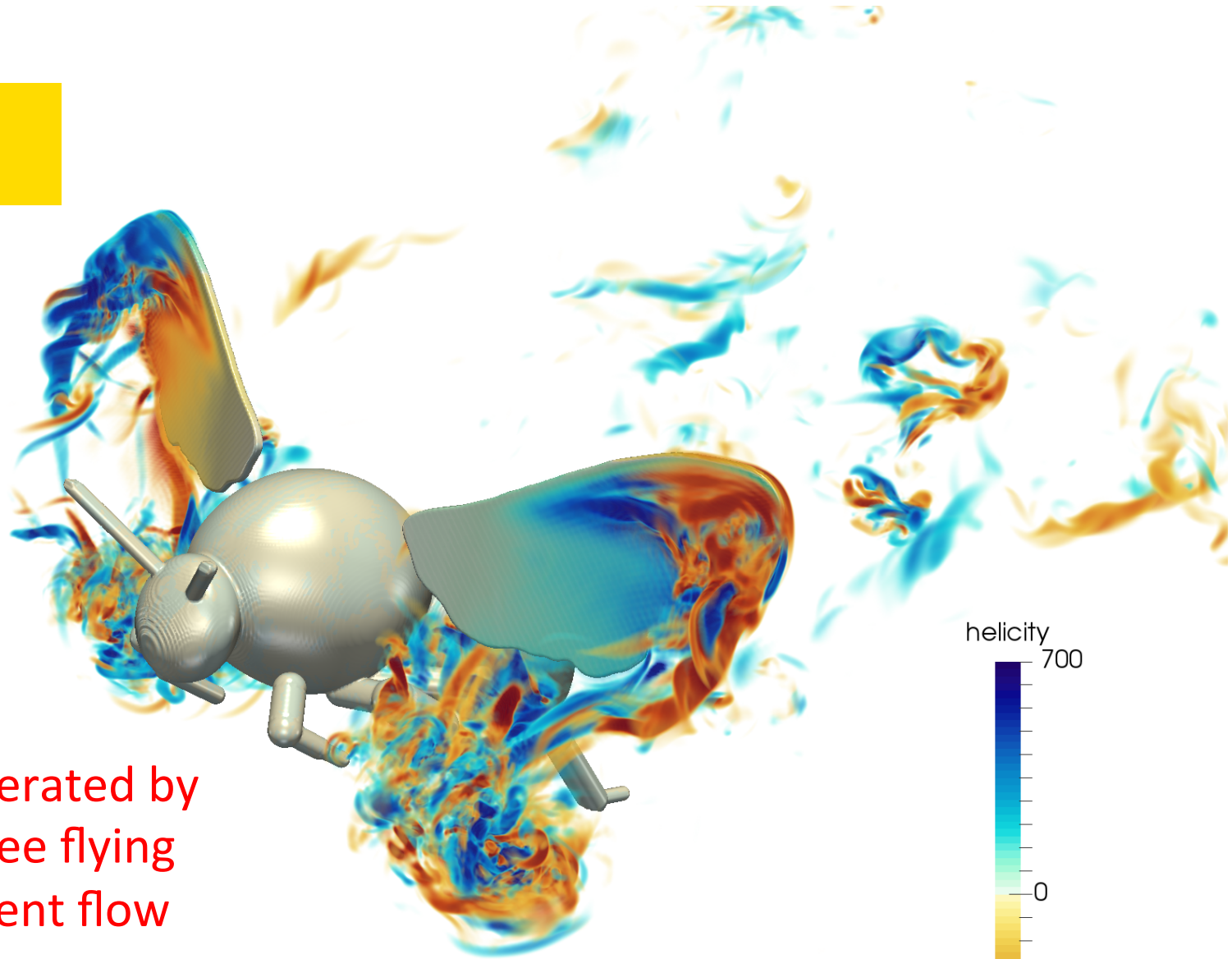
*Thomas Engels, Kai Schneider,  
M. F., Joern Sesterhenn, Fritz Lehman  
Collaboration ANR-AIFIT*



DNS  
 $N=680 \cdot 10^6$

Helicity generated by  
a bumblebee flying  
in a turbulent flow

For more information see  
<http://aifit.cfd.tu-berlin.de/wordpress/>





DNS  
 $N=680 \cdot 10^6$

Helicity generated by  
a bumblebee flying  
in a turbulent flow

*To see the movies type  
'Bumblebee in turbulence'  
on You Tube*

