

# **MHD Turbulence**

## *An overview of theoretical uncertainties*

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with thanks to my collaborators:

S. Cowley (*UCLA & Imperial*), G. Hammett (*PPPL*), J. Maron (*AMNH*),  
J. McWilliams (*UCLA*), S. Taylor (*Princeton*)

Reprints/references on <http://www.damtp.cam.ac.uk/user/as629> or ask me for a copy

# The Unknown

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*As we know,  
There are known knowns.  
There are things we know we know.  
We also know  
There are known unknowns.  
That is to say  
We know there are some things  
We do not know.  
But there are also unknown unknowns,  
The ones we don't know  
We don't know.*

*D. H. Rumsfeld  
12.02.02, DoD news briefing  
as quoted by [www.slate.com](http://www.slate.com)*

# Turbulence in Clusters and Galaxies

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This is a cluster...

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

**The Coma Cluster**

© NASA

# Turbulence in Clusters and Galaxies

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This is a galaxy...

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

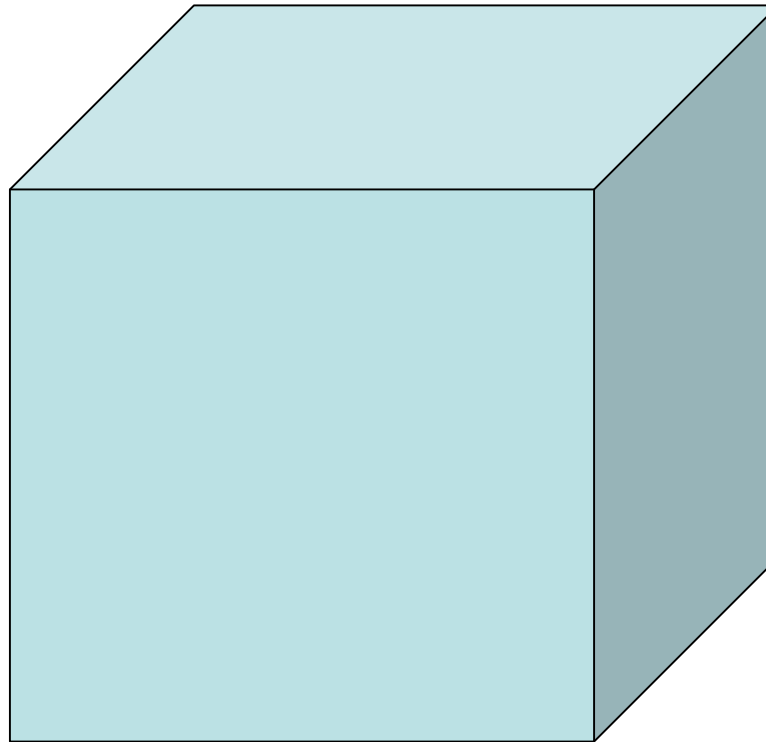
**M51**  
**The Whirlpool**  
**Galaxy**

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# MHD Turbulence: The Fundamental Problem

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...and this is the Matrix

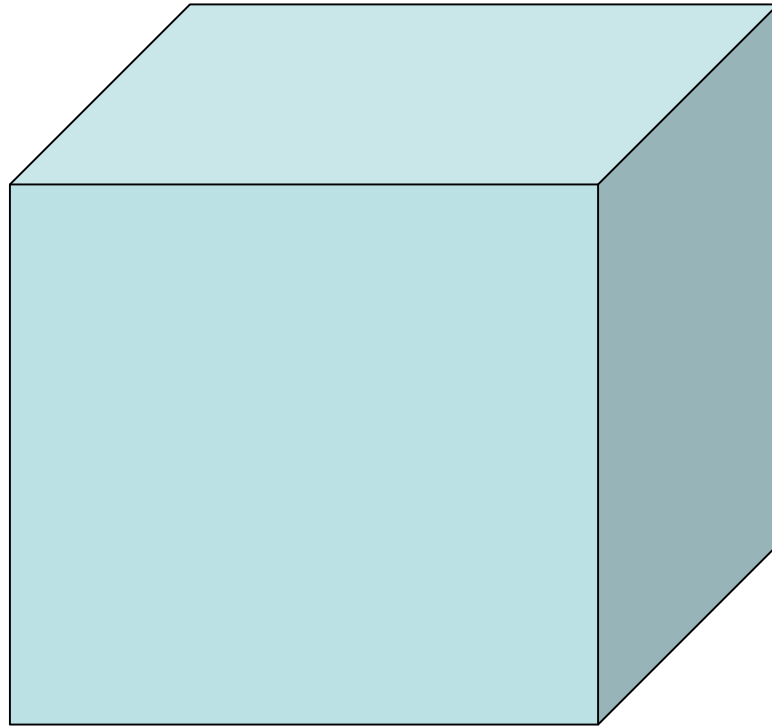


$N^3$   
The Periodic Box

# MHD Turbulence: The Fundamental Problem

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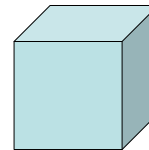


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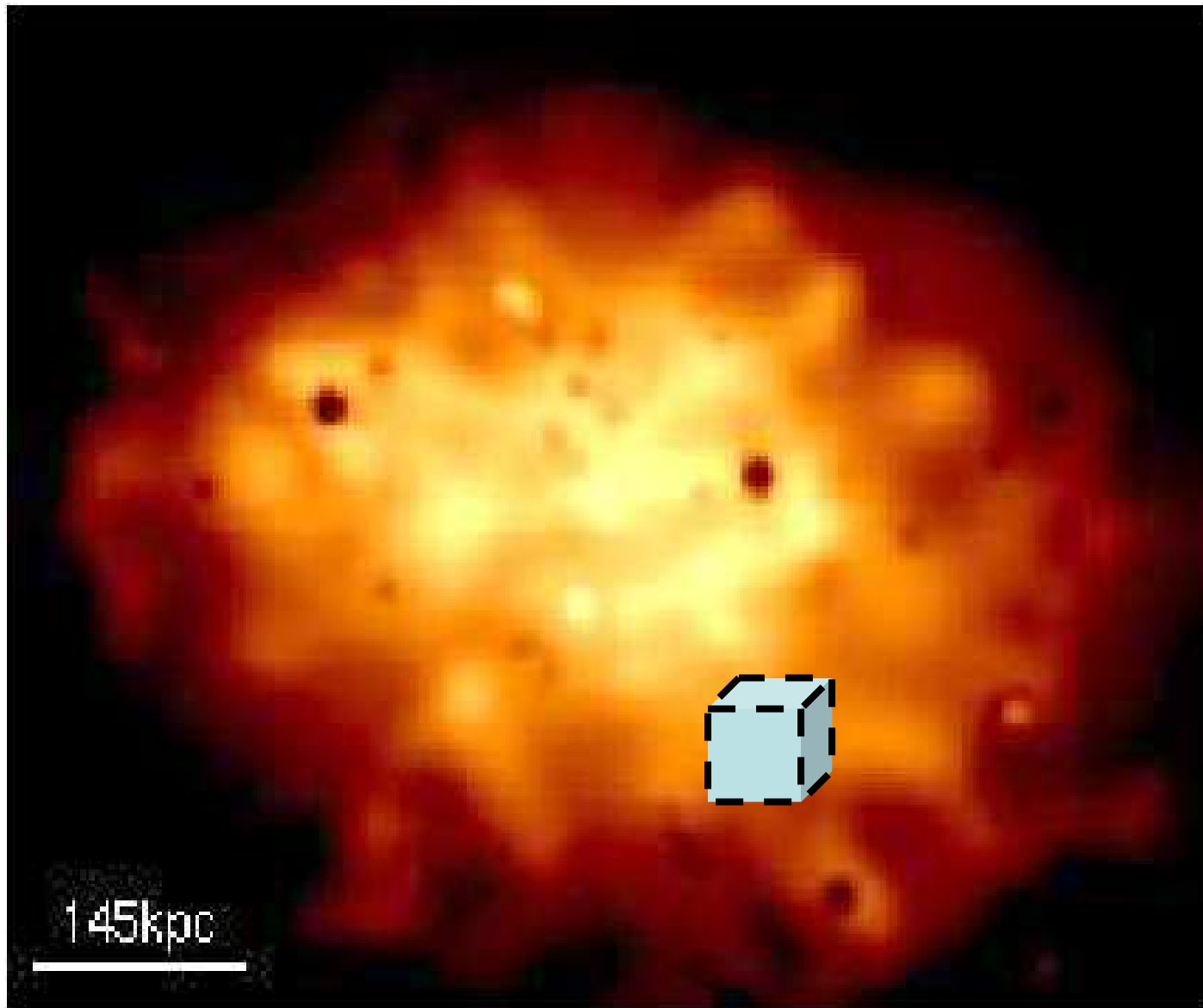
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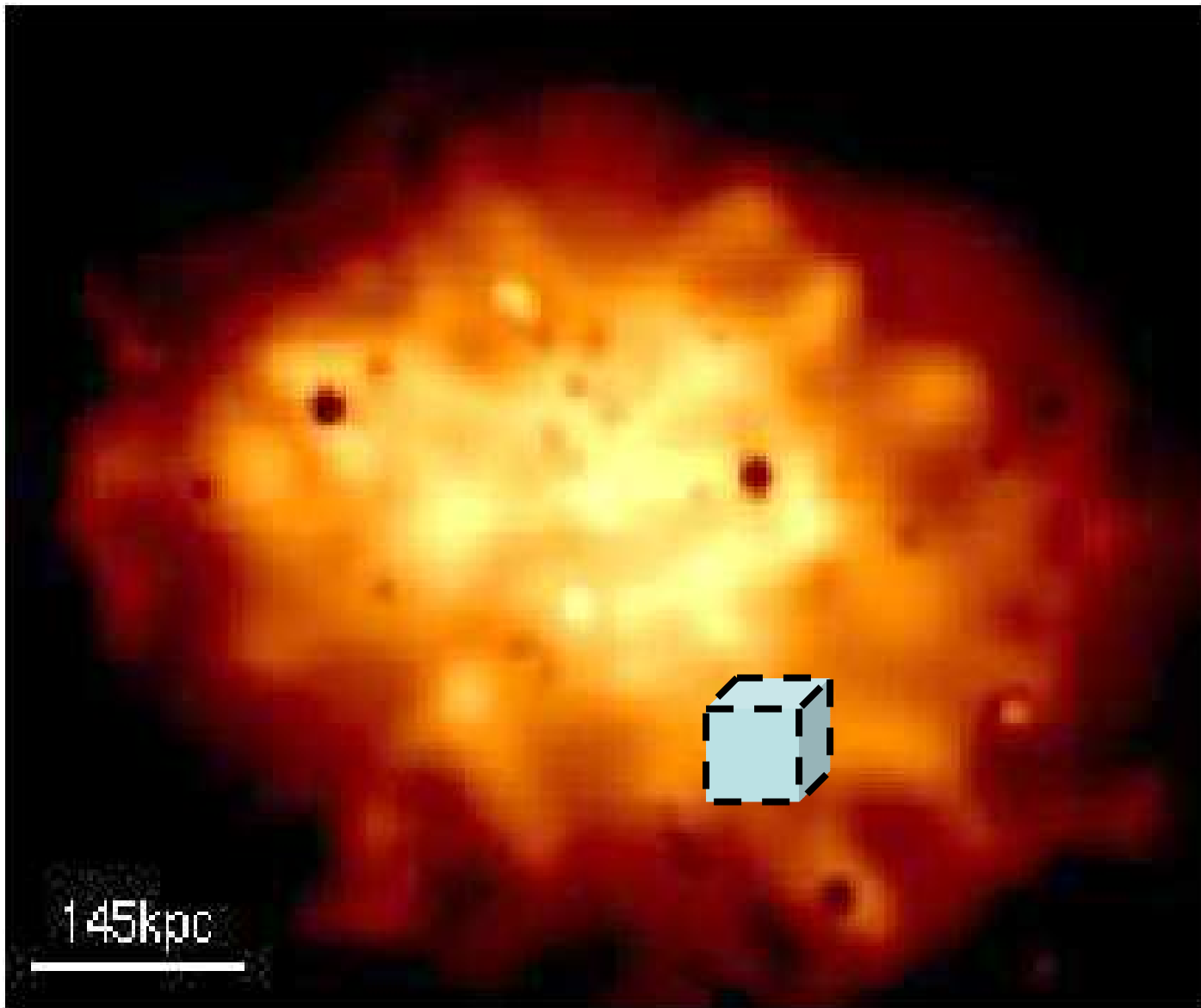


The Coma Cluster [Schuecker *et al.* 2004, *A&A* 426, 387]



# Turbulence: Multiscale Disorder

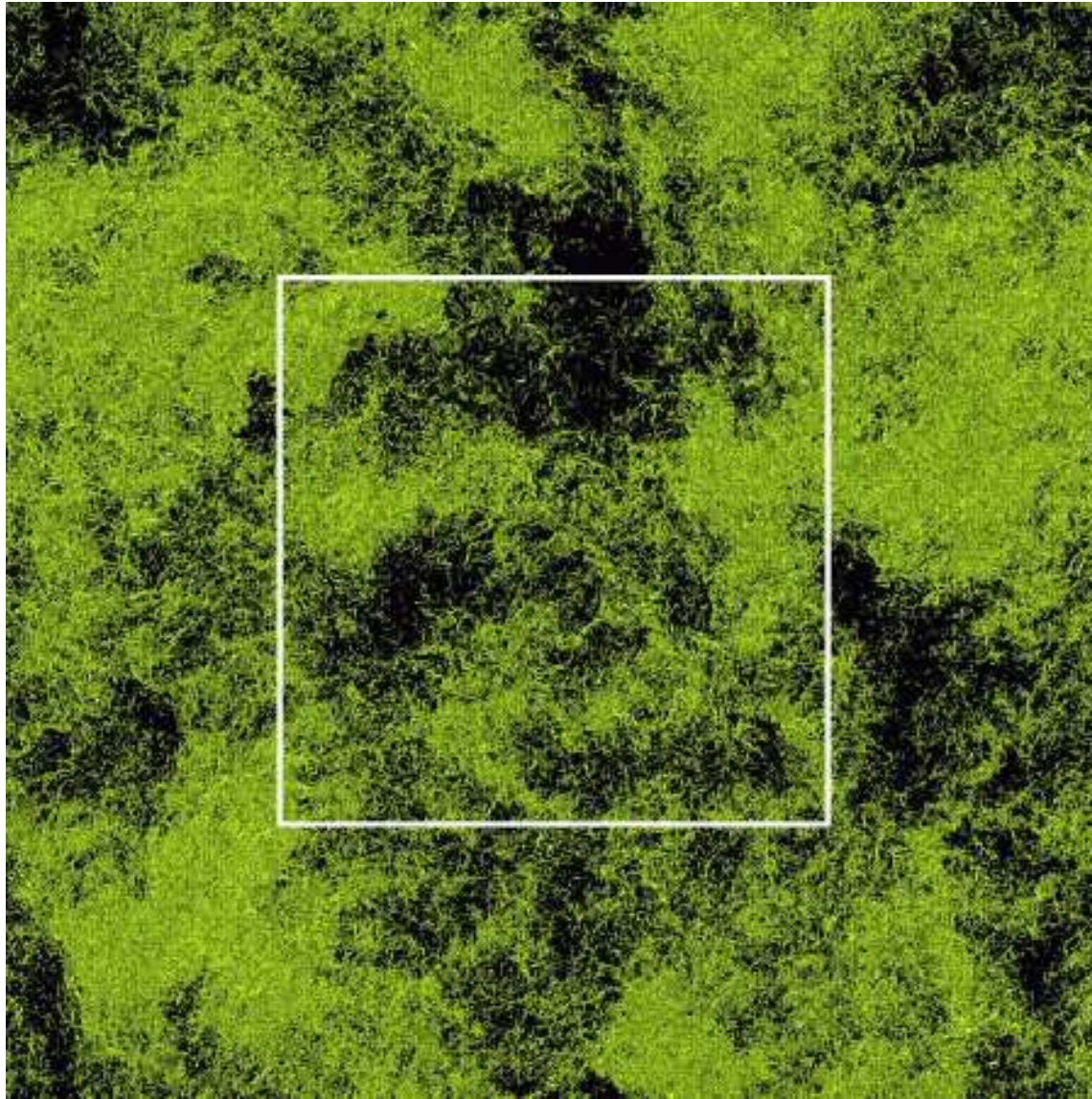
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The Coma Cluster [Schuecker *et al.* 2004, *A&A* 426, 387]

# Turbulence: Multiscale Disorder

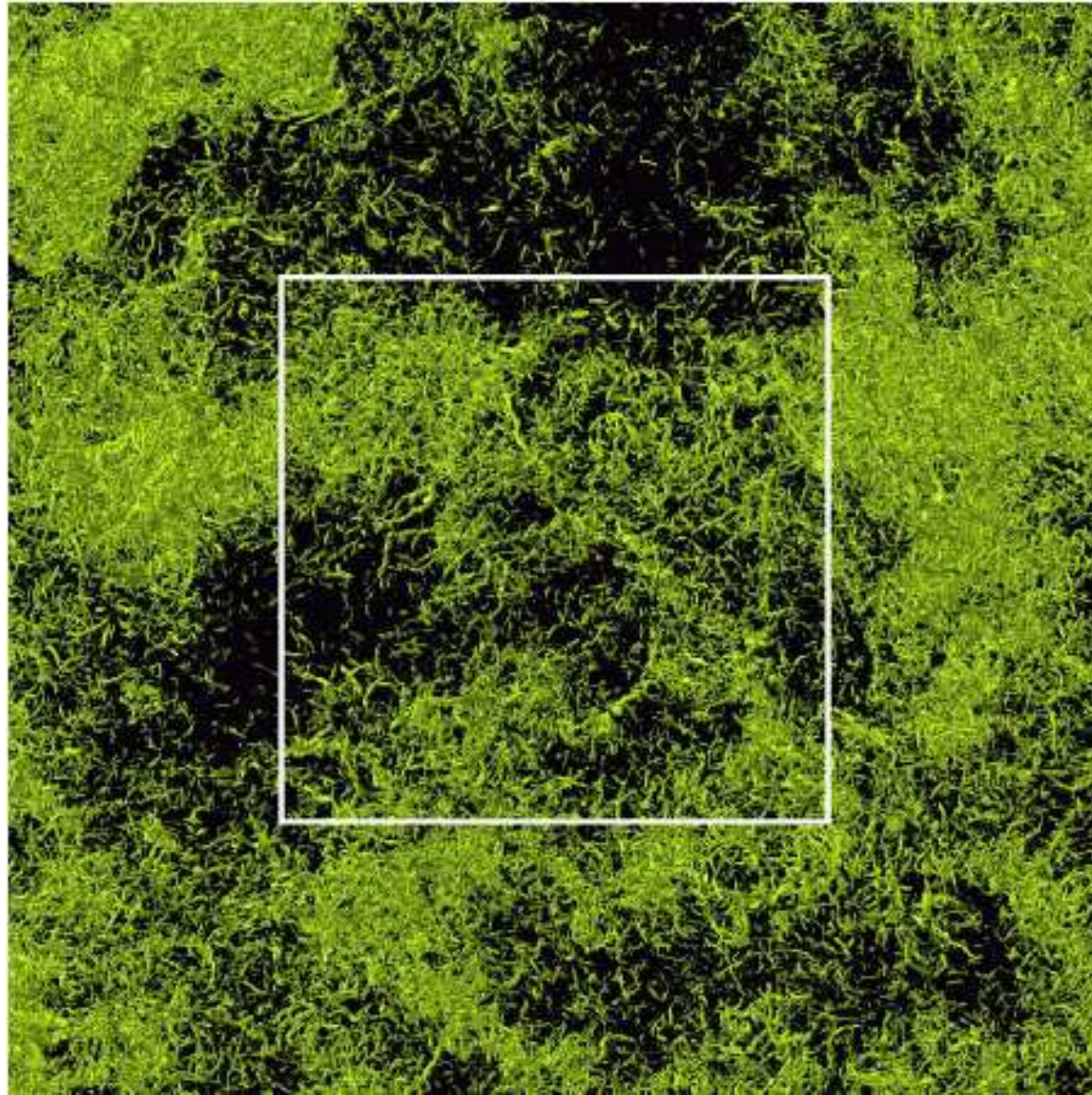
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[Image: Earth Simulator, isovorticity surfaces]

# Turbulence: Multiscale Disorder

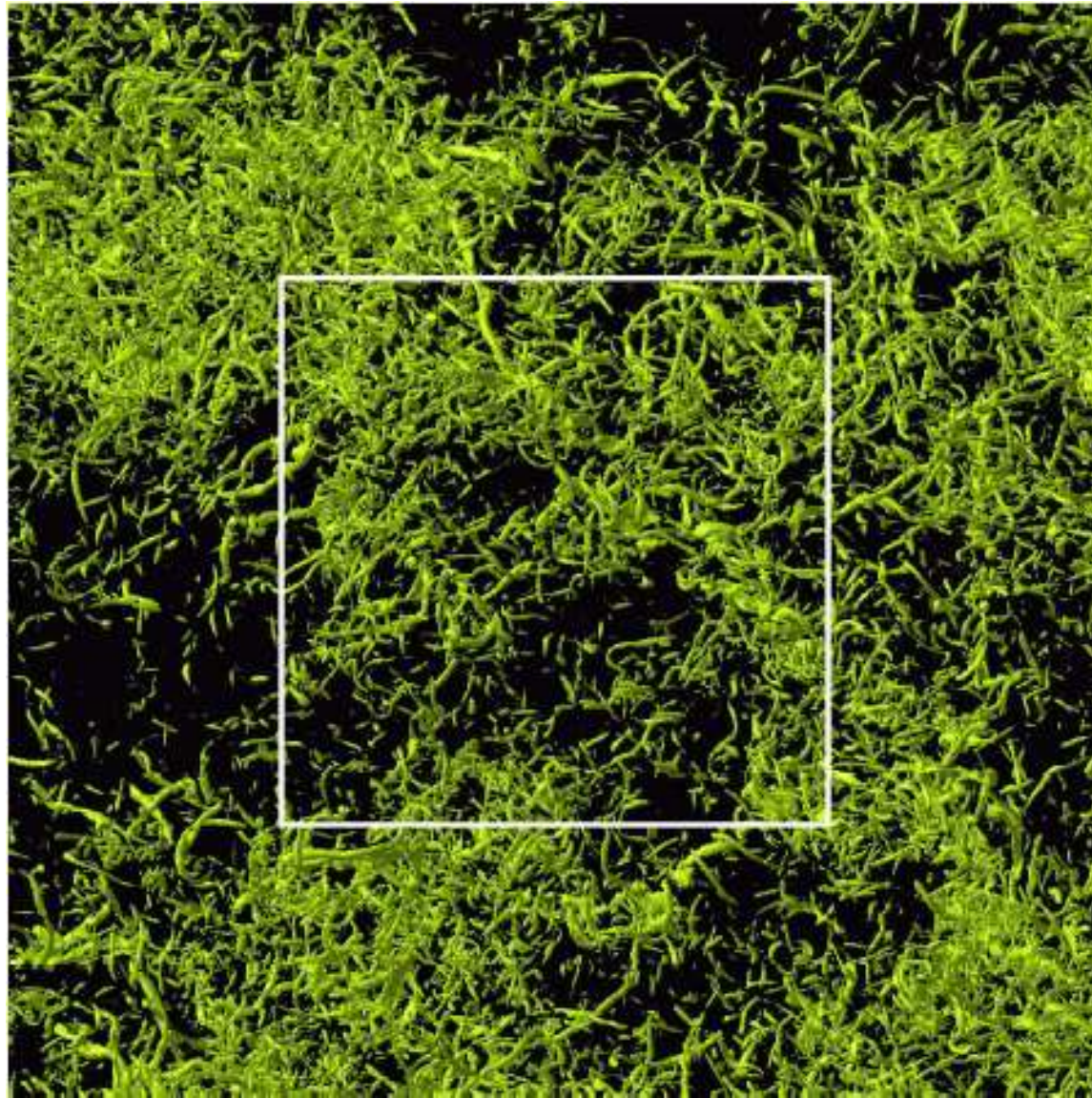
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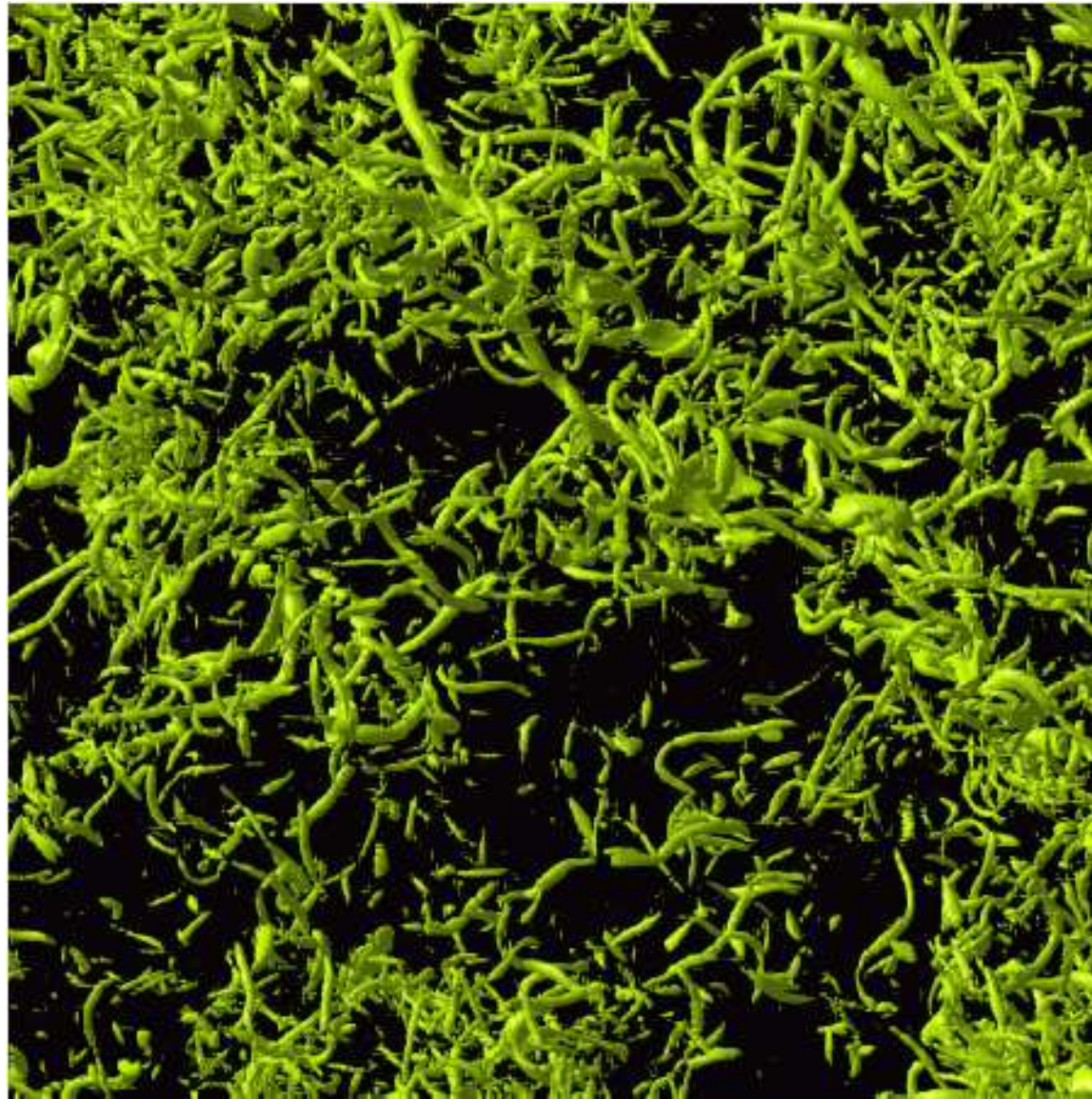
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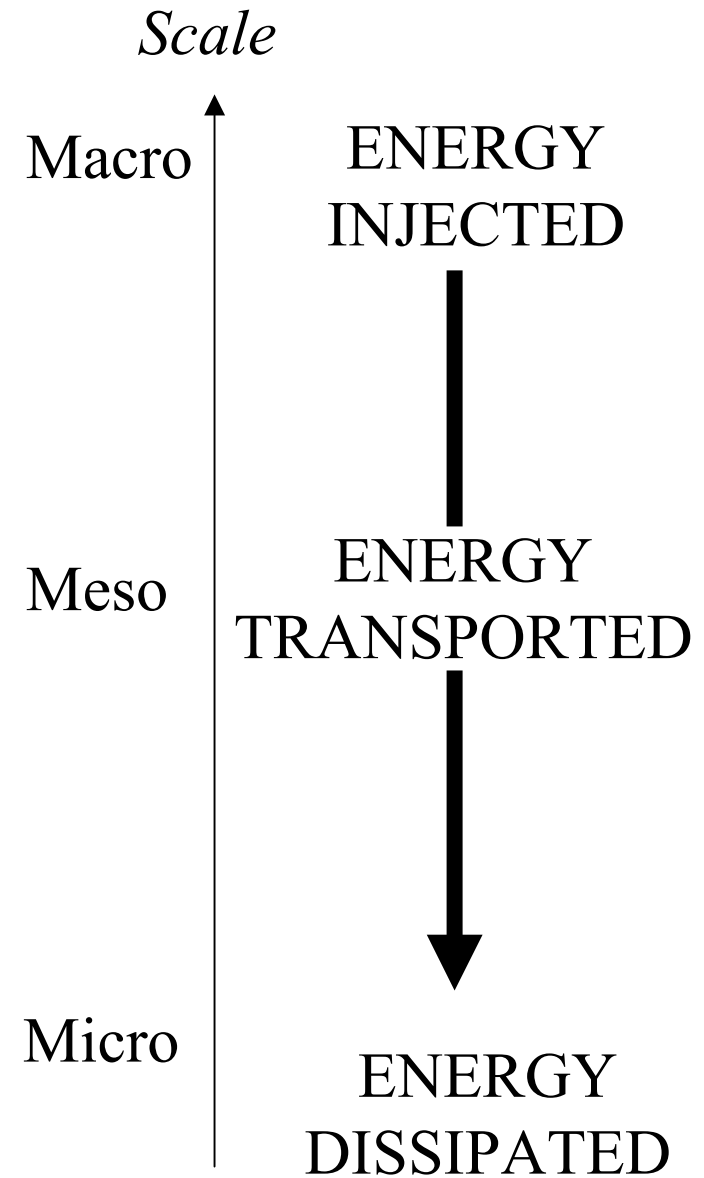
# Turbulence: Philosophy

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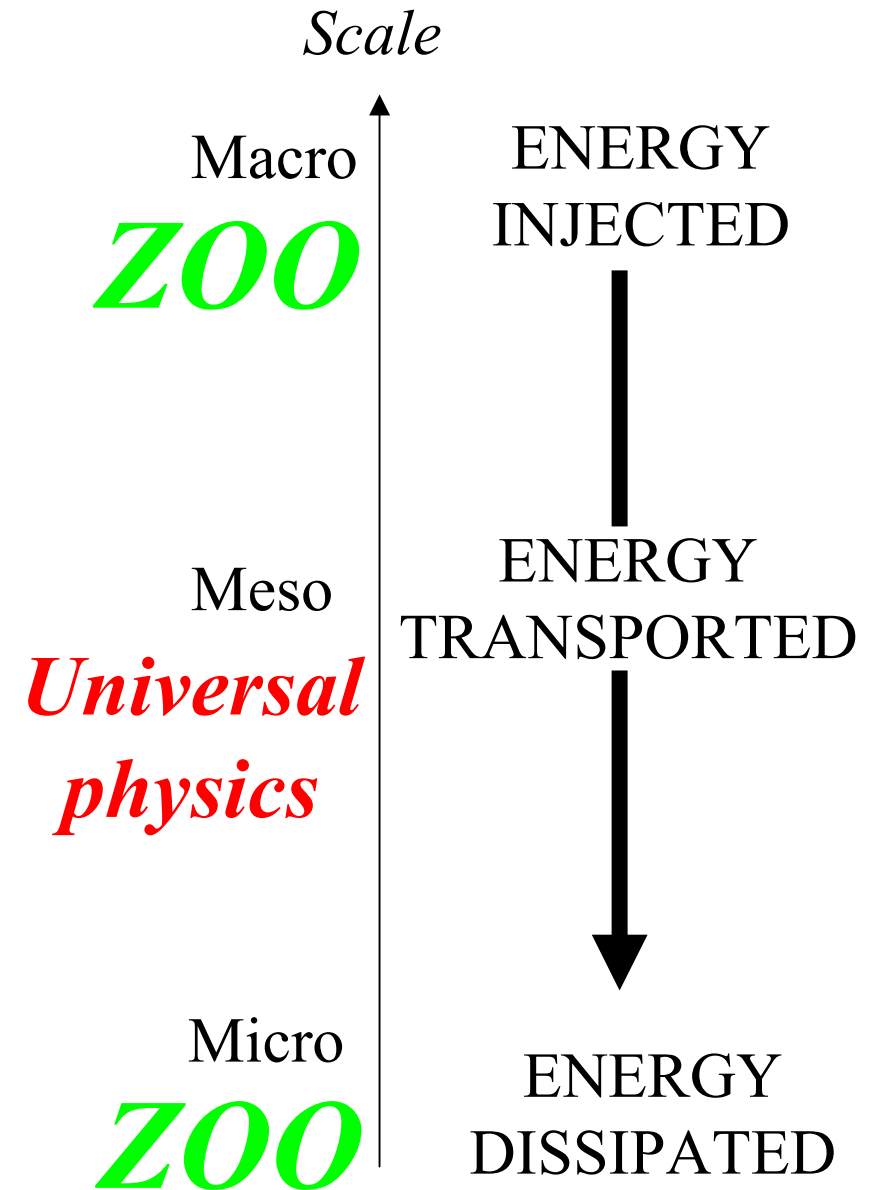
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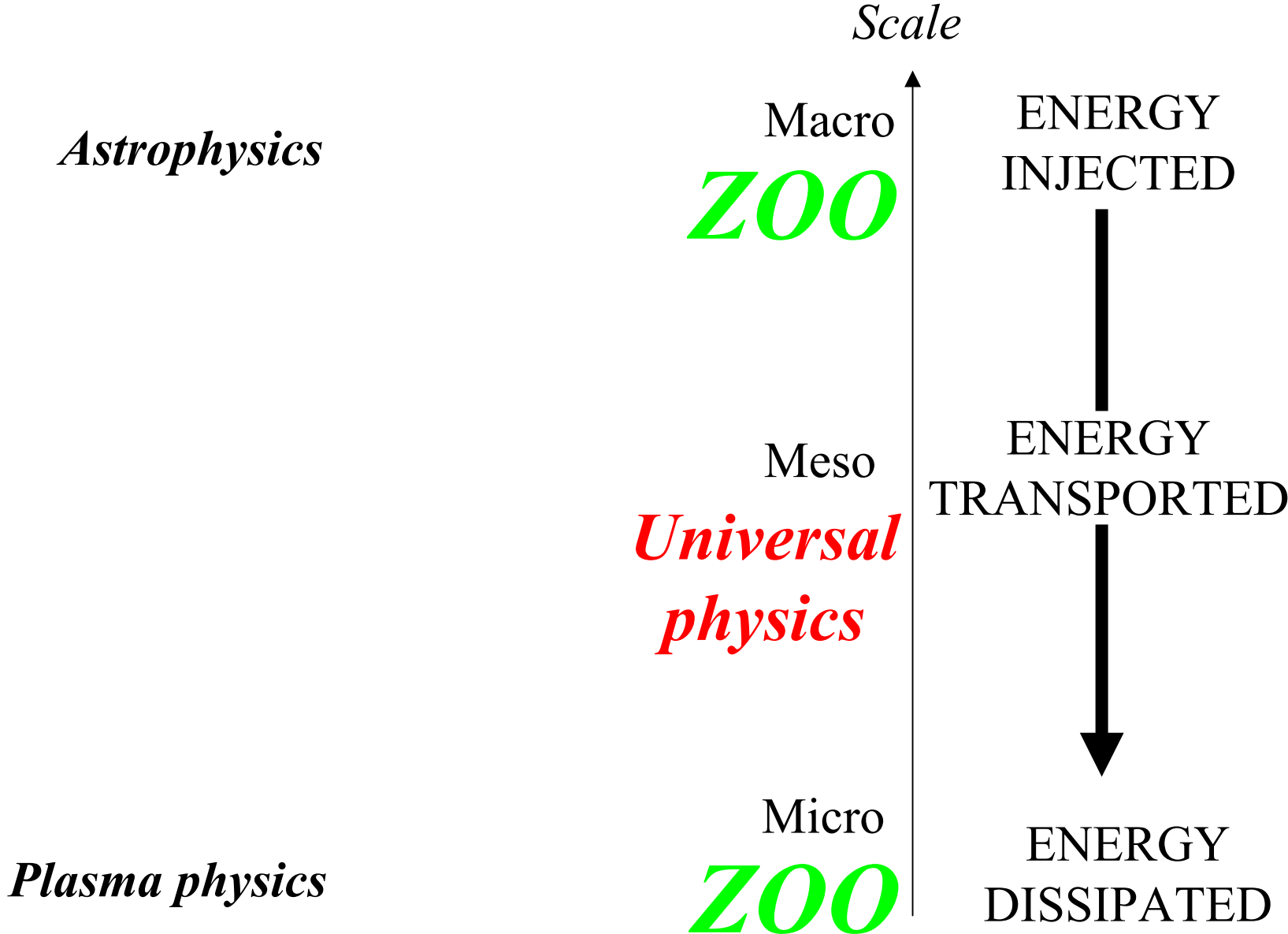
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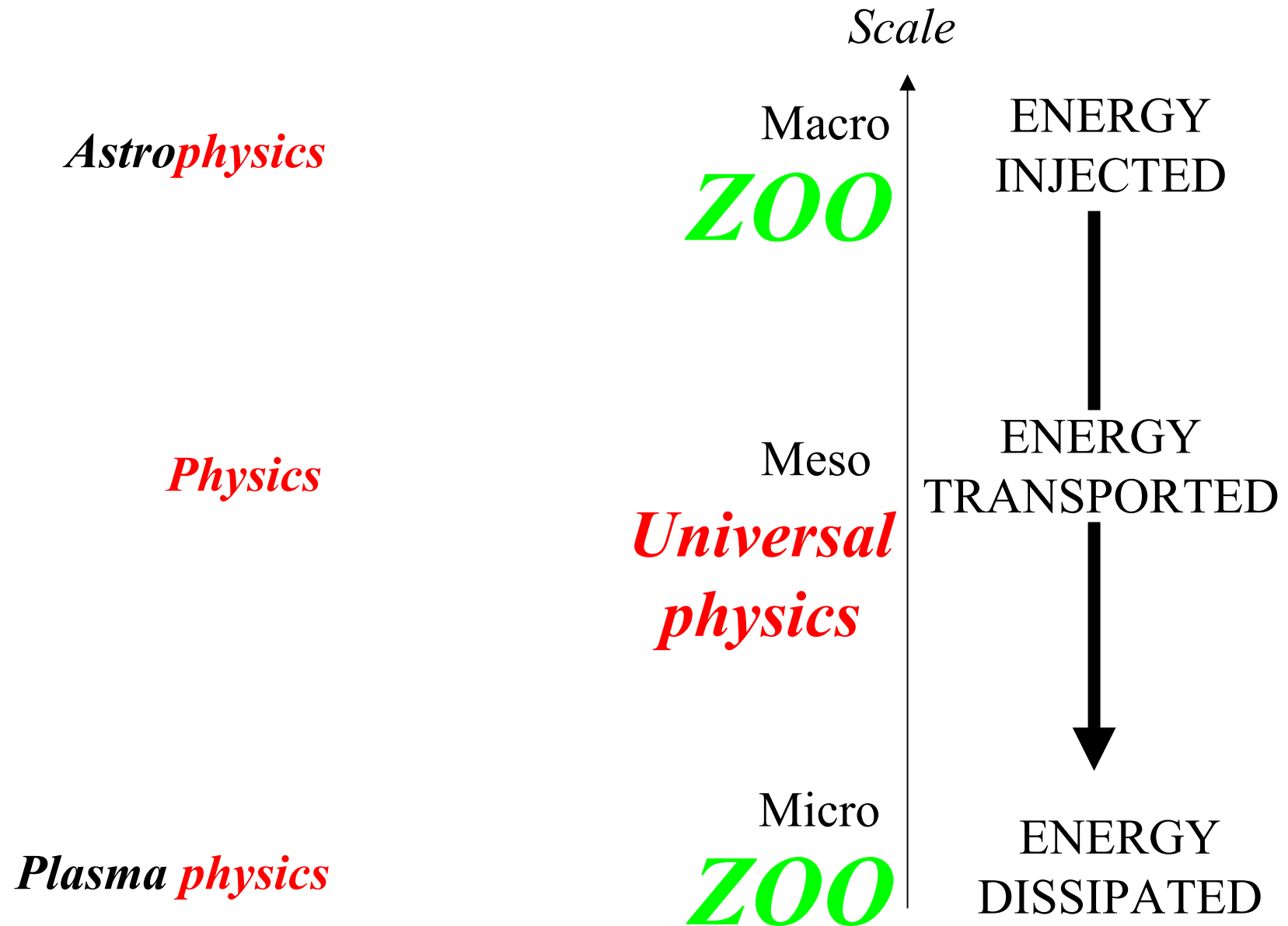
# Turbulence: Philosophy

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# Turbulence: Philosophy

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# The Richardson Cascade

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Big whorls have little whorls  
That feed on their velocity,  
And little whorls have lesser whorls  
And so on to viscosity.

*1922*

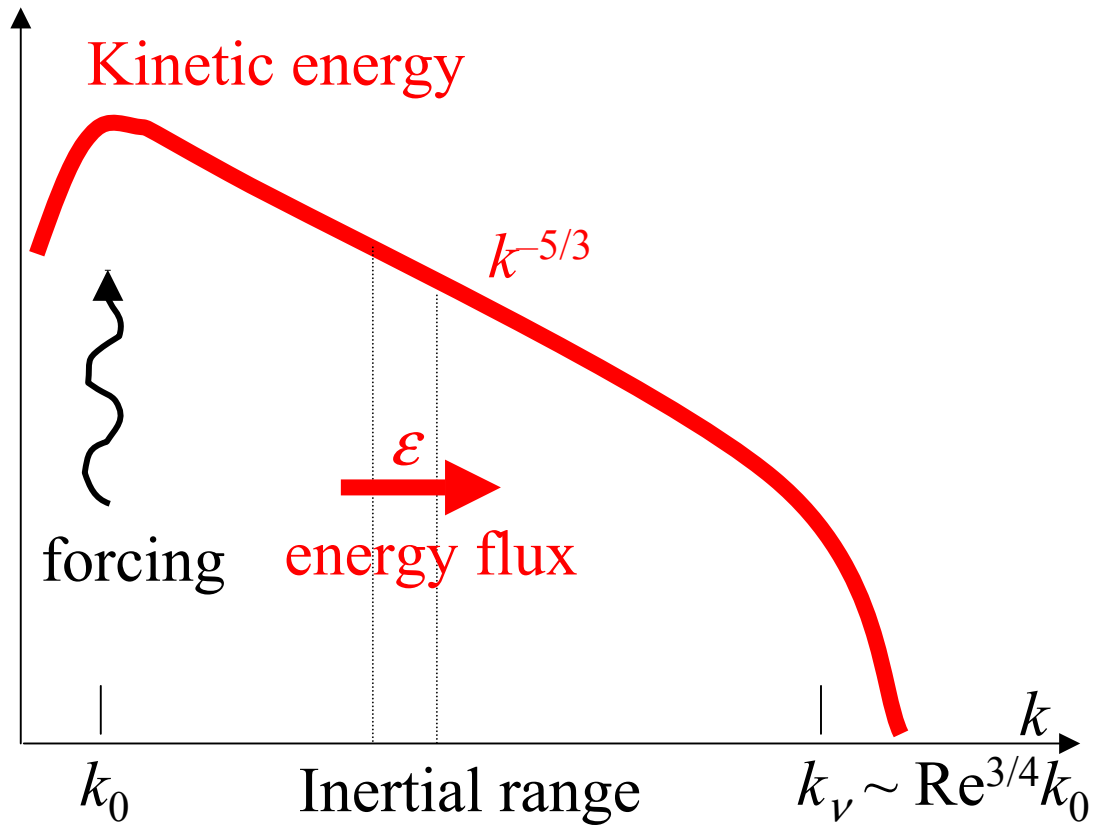
# Kolmogorov's 1941 Theory

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A. N. Kolmogorov  
*(1903-1987)*

# Kolmogorov Turbulence

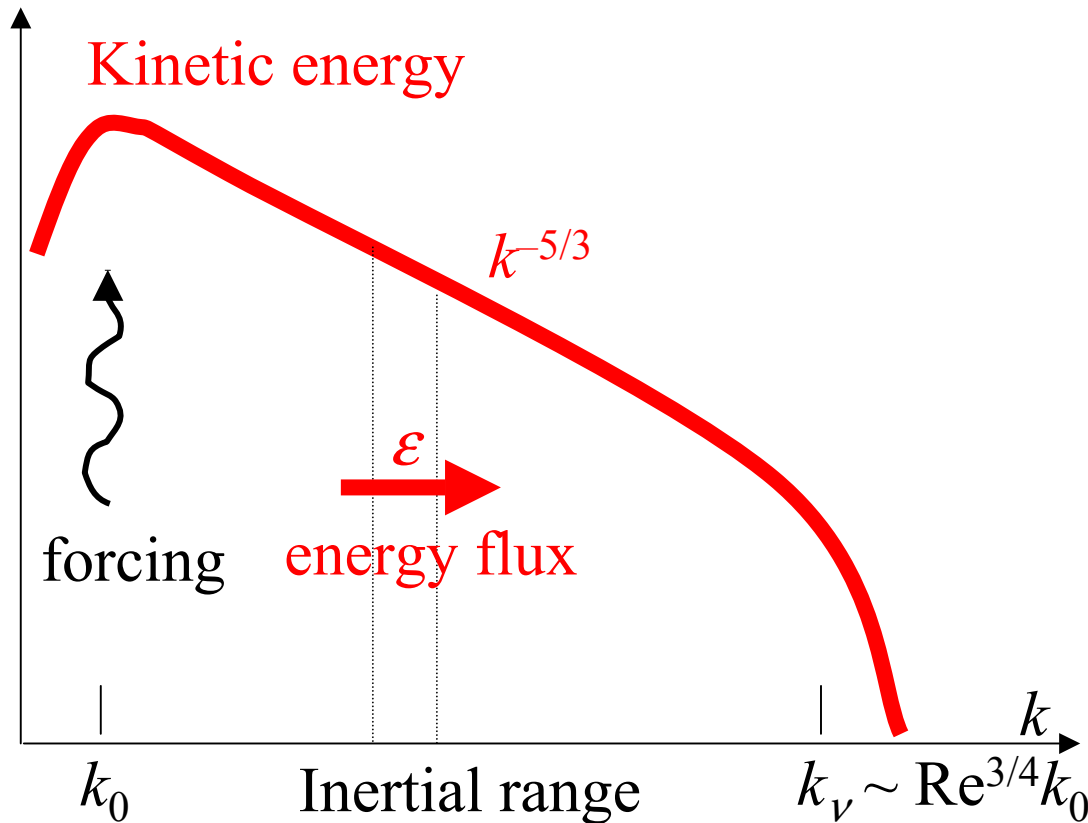


- Scale invariance
- Locality in  $k$  space

$$\epsilon \sim u_l^2 \tau_l^{-1} = \text{const}$$

Energy at scale  $l$       Cascade time (rate of transfer)

# Kolmogorov Turbulence



- Scale invariance
- Locality in  $k$  space

$$\epsilon \sim u_l^2 \tau_l^{-1} = \text{const}$$

Energy at scale  $l$       Cascade time (rate of transfer)

Only one time scale available at each  $l$ : the eddy-turnover time

$$\tau_l \sim \tau_{\text{eddy}} \sim l/u_l \longrightarrow u_l \sim \epsilon^{1/3} l^{1/3}$$



**K41**

*Kolmogorov spectrum fixed by dimensional analysis*

# MHD Turbulence: The Fundamental Problem

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$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} &= \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{f}, & \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 \\ \partial_t \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} &= \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \eta \Delta \mathbf{B}\end{aligned}$$

- **Is there universality?**
- **Are interactions local?**
- **Are macro scales important?**
- **Are micro scales important?**
- **Are magnetic and velocity fluctuations in scale-by-scale equilibrium with each other?**

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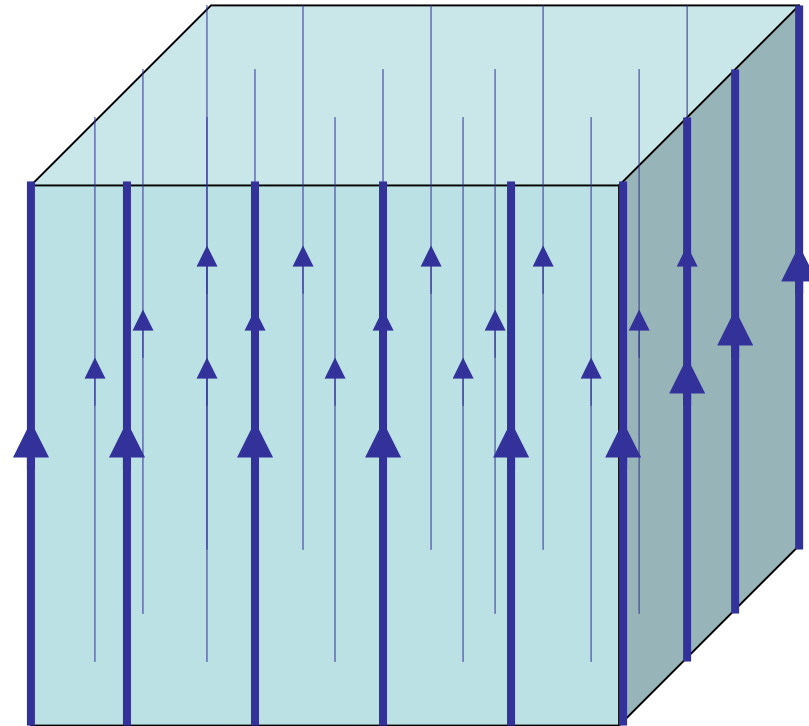
- **How are energy, momentum, heat transported?**
- **How are observed magnetic fields generated and shaped?**  
*(Magnetogenesis)*



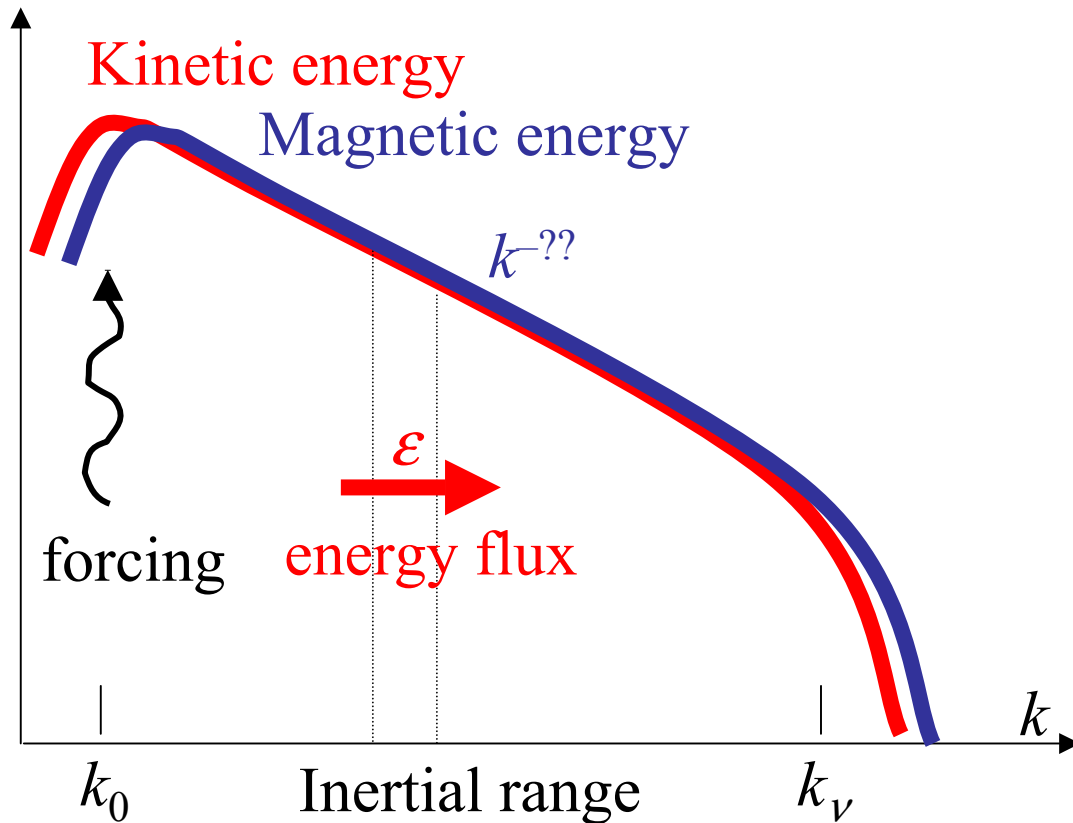
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Strong uniform  
mean field  $\mathbf{B}_0$   
imposed  
 $B_0 > u_{\text{rms}}$



# MHD Turbulence à la Kolmogorov



- Strong mean field  $B_0$
- Alfvénic state:  $u_l \sim B_l$
- Scale invariance
- Locality in  $k$  space

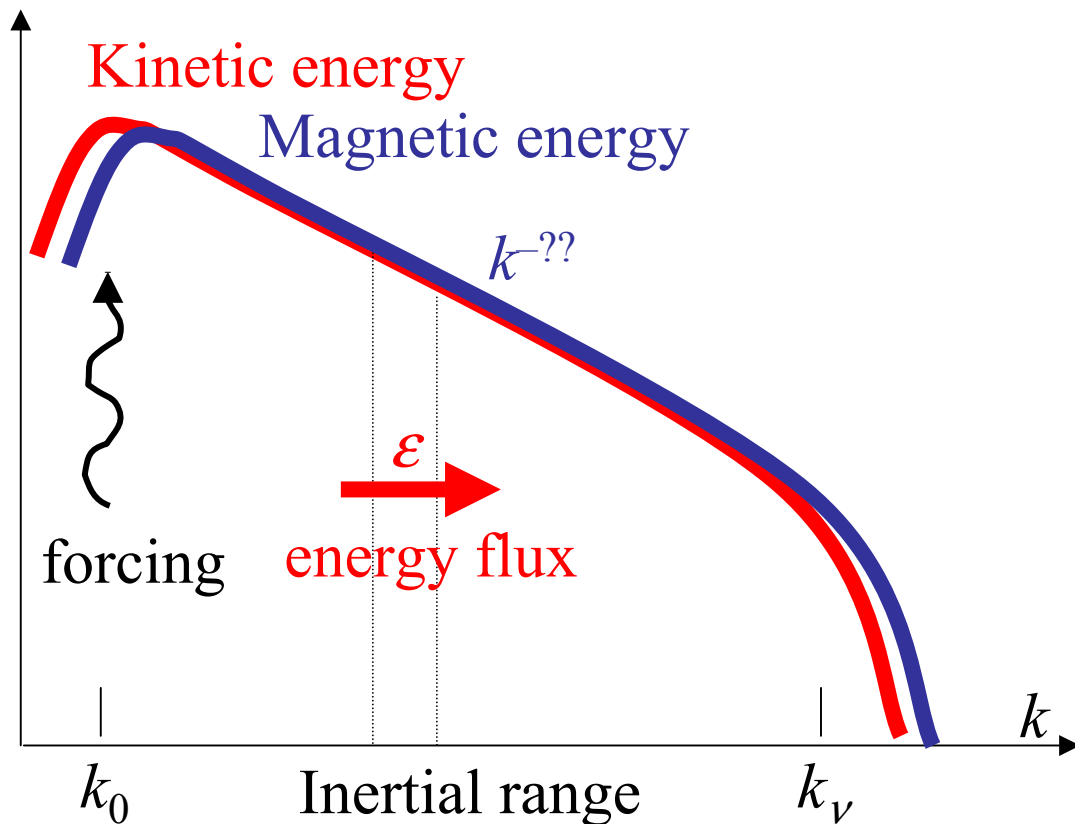
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Energy at scale  $l$       Cascade time (rate of transfer)

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Energy at scale  $l$       Cascade time (rate of transfer)

Two time scales available:

turnover time:  $\tau_{\text{eddy}} \sim l_{\perp} / u_l$

Alfvén time:  $\tau_A \sim l_{\parallel} / v_A$

$v_A = B_0 / (4\pi\rho)^{1/2}$

$\tau_l \sim ?$

*Cannot fix scalings solely by dimensional analysis!*

# Interaction of Alfvén Wave Packets — I

---

Elsasser fields  $\mathbf{z}^{\pm} = \mathbf{u} \pm \delta\mathbf{B}$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{z}^{\pm}}{\partial t} \mp v_A \frac{\partial \mathbf{z}^{\pm}}{\partial z} + \mathbf{z}^{\mp} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{z}^{\pm} = -\nabla p + \frac{\nu + \eta}{2} \Delta \mathbf{z}^{\pm} + \frac{\nu - \eta}{2} \Delta \mathbf{z}^{\mp}$$

[Iroshnikov 1964, *Sov. Astron.* **7**, 566; Kraichnan 1965, *Phys. Fluids* **8**, 1385]

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Only counterpropagating waves interact

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**Assume weak interactions:  $\tau_{\text{eddy}} \gg \tau_A$**

- Wave packet passes through another:  $\delta t \sim \frac{l_{\parallel}}{v_A} \sim \tau_A$

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- Its amplitude gets a kick:  $\delta u_l \sim \frac{u_l^2}{l} \delta t \sim u_l \frac{u_l}{l} \frac{l_{\parallel}}{v_A} \sim u_l \frac{\tau_A}{\tau_{\text{eddy}}}$

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- Sum of kicks over time  $t$ :  $\sum^t \delta u_l \sim u_l \frac{\tau_A}{\tau_{\text{eddy}}} \sqrt{\frac{t}{\tau_A}}$



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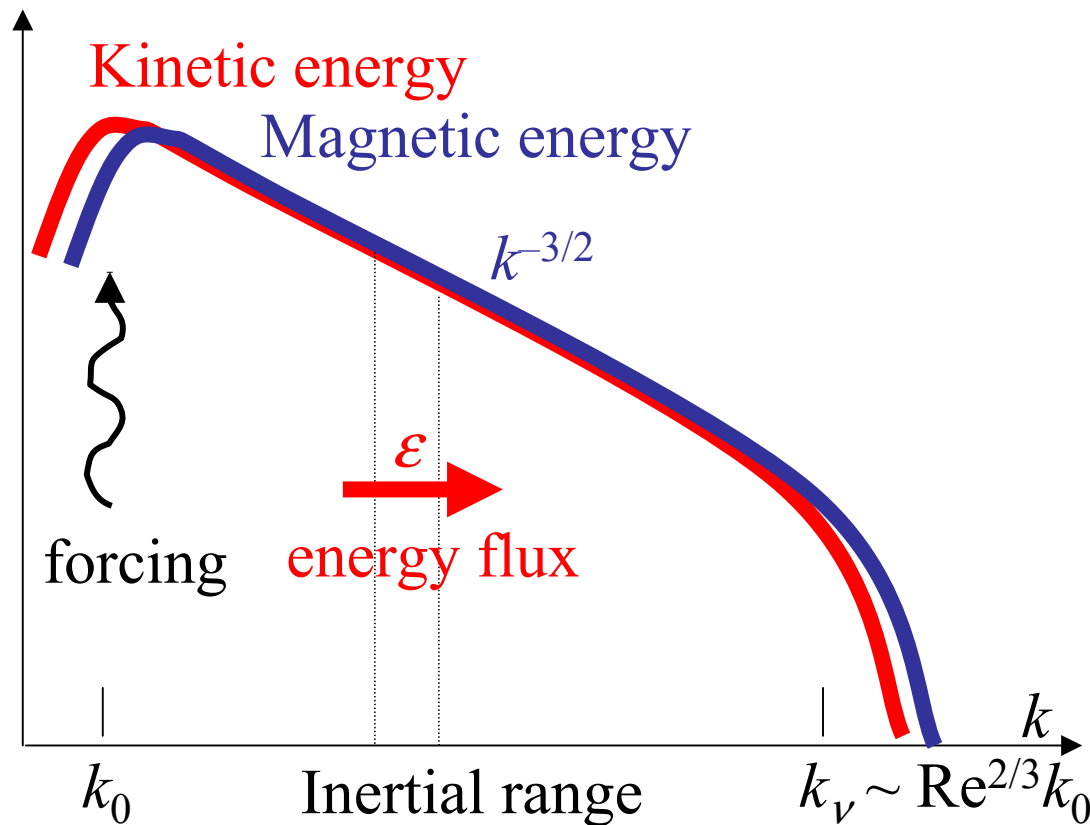
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- Sum of kicks over time  $t$ :  $\sum^t \delta u_l \sim u_l \frac{\tau_A}{\tau_{\text{eddy}}} \sqrt{\frac{t}{\tau_A}}$

- Cascade time:  $t \sim \tau_l \Leftrightarrow \sum^t \delta u_l \sim u_l \Rightarrow \boxed{\phantom{\mathbf{z}^\pm}}$

[Iroshnikov 1964, *Sov. Astron.* **7**, 566; Kraichnan 1965, *Phys. Fluids* **8**, 1385]

# Iroshnikov-Kraichnan Turbulence



- Strong mean field  $B_0$
- Alfvénic state:  $u_l \sim B_l$
- Scale invariance
- Locality in  $k$  space

$$\varepsilon \sim u_l^2 \tau_l^{-1} = \text{const}$$

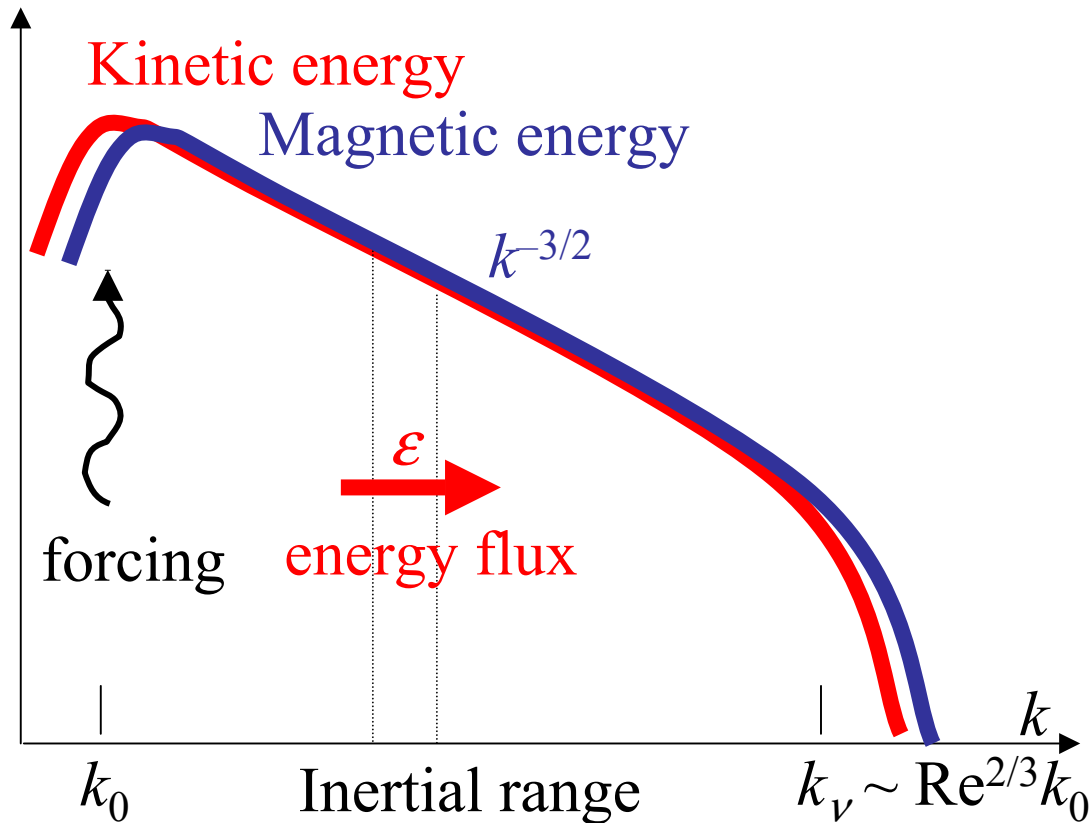
Energy at scale  $l$       Cascade time (rate of transfer)

Additional physical assumptions:

- weak interactions:  $\tau_{\text{eddy}} \gg \tau_A$

$$\tau_l \sim \frac{\tau_{\text{eddy}}^2}{\tau_A} \sim \frac{l_{\perp}^2}{u_l^2} \frac{v_A}{l_{\parallel}}$$

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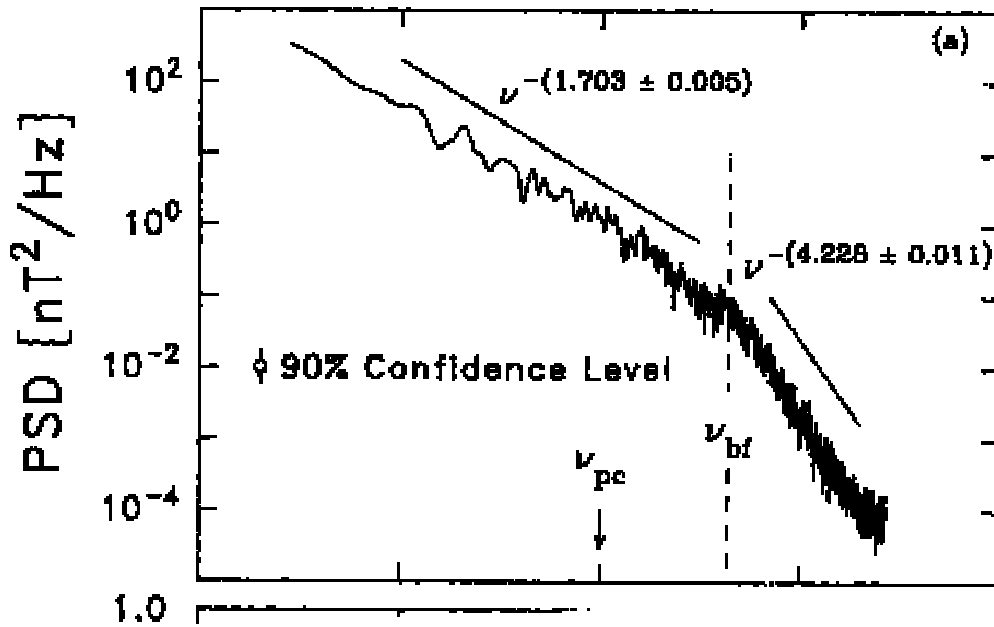
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- isotropy:  $l_{\parallel} \sim l_{\perp}$

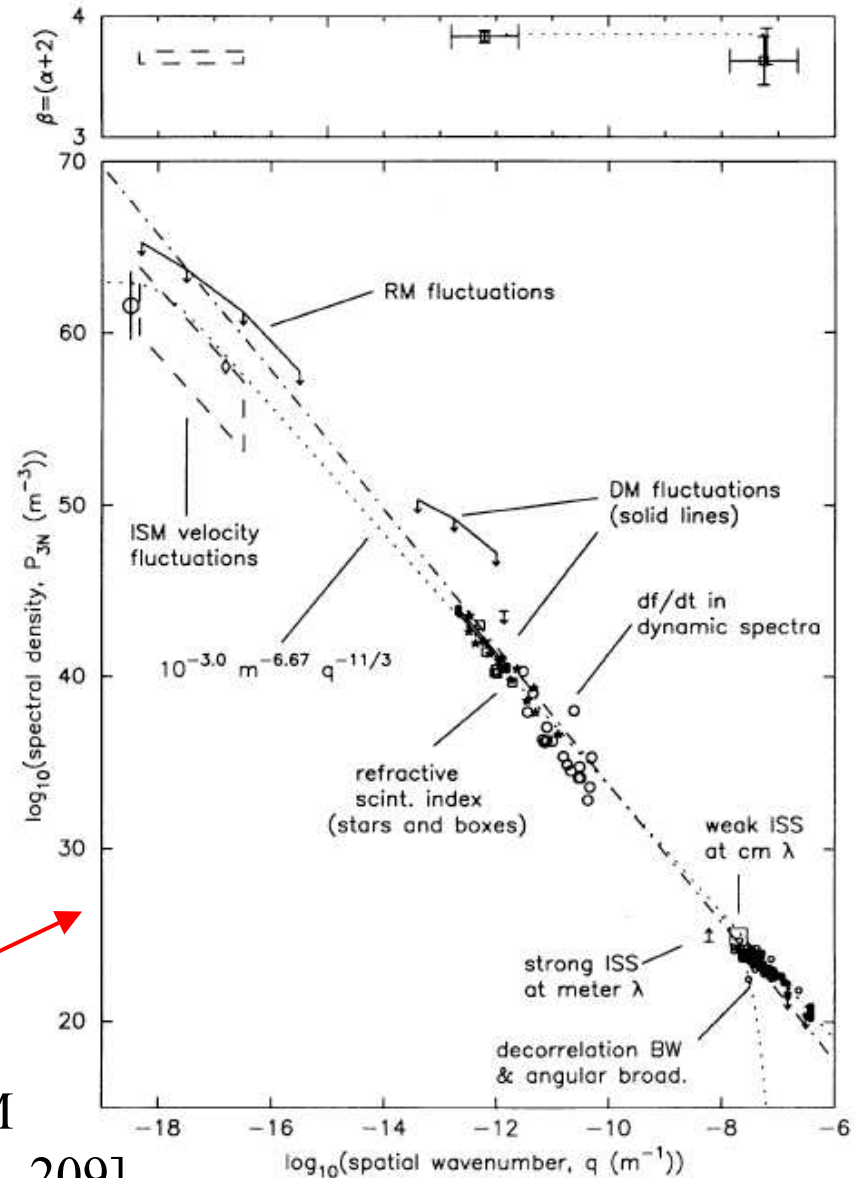
$$E(k) \sim (\varepsilon v_A)^{1/2} k^{-3/2} \quad \mathbf{IK65}$$

[Iroshnikov 1964, *Sov. Astron.* 7, 566; Kraichnan 1965, *Phys. Fluids* 8, 1385]

# Observations: Spectrum is not $k^{-3/2}$ ?

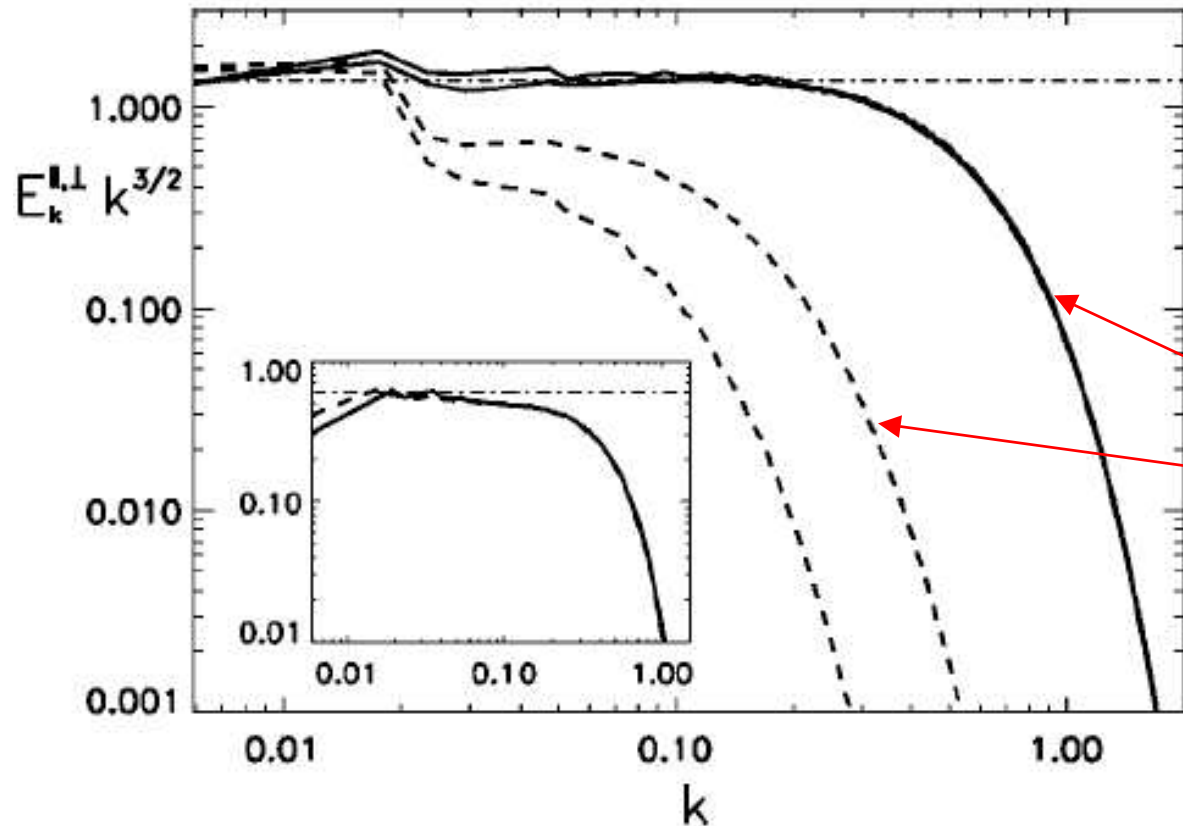


Solar wind  
[Leamon *et al.* 1998]



Electron density in the ISM  
[Armstrong *et al.* 1995, *ApJ* 443, 209]

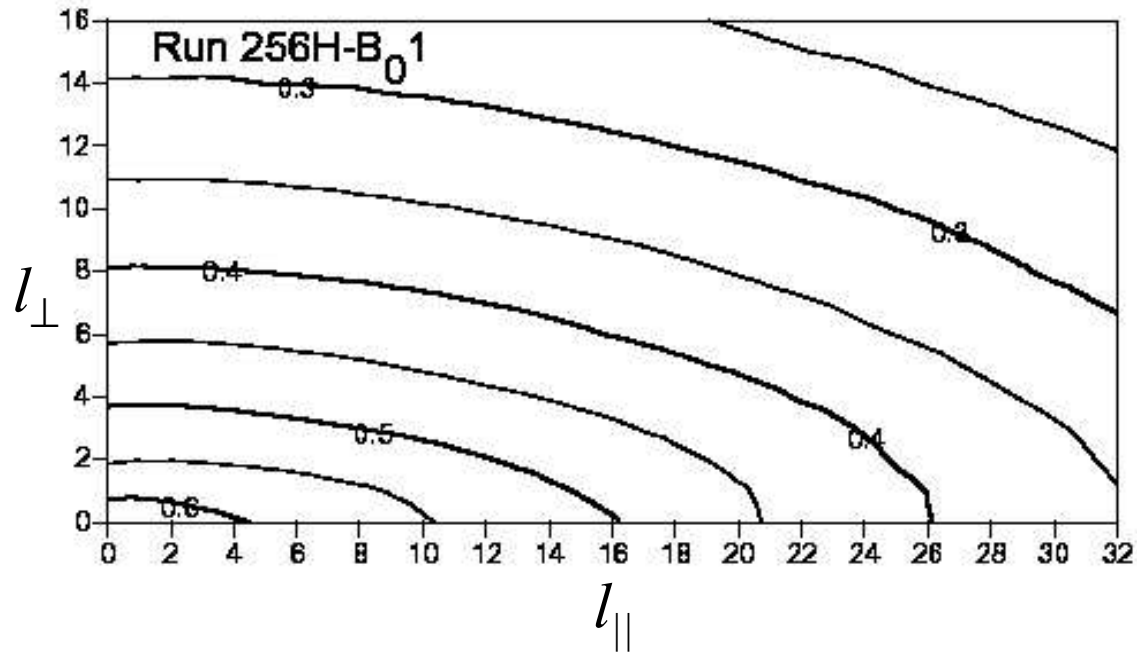
# DNS: MHD Turbulence is Anisotropic!



Müller *et al.* 2003,  
*PRE* **67**, 066302:  
perpendicular and  
parallel spectra

- weak interactions:  $\tau_{\text{eddy}} \gg \tau_A$
  - isotropy:  $l_{\parallel} \sim l_{\perp}$
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# DNS: MHD Turbulence is Anisotropic!



Cho *et al.* 2002,  
*ApJ* **564**, 291:  
contours of velocity  
correlation functions

- weak interactions:  $\tau_{\text{eddy}} \gg \tau_A$
  - isotropy:  $l_{\parallel} \sim l_{\perp}$
- $E(k) \sim (\varepsilon v_A)^{1/2} k^{-3/2}$  **IK65**

# Interaction of Alfvén Wave Packets — II

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Only counterpropagating waves interact:

$$\omega(\mathbf{k}) = \pm k_{\parallel} v_A$$

$$\omega(\mathbf{k}_1) + \omega(\mathbf{k}_2) = \omega(\mathbf{k}_3) \longrightarrow k_{\parallel 1} - k_{\parallel 2} = k_{\parallel 3} \longrightarrow k_{\parallel 2} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2 = \mathbf{k}_3 \longrightarrow k_{\parallel 1} + k_{\parallel 2} = k_{\parallel 3} \longrightarrow k_{\parallel 1} = k_{\parallel 3}$$



# Interaction of Alfvén Wave Packets — II

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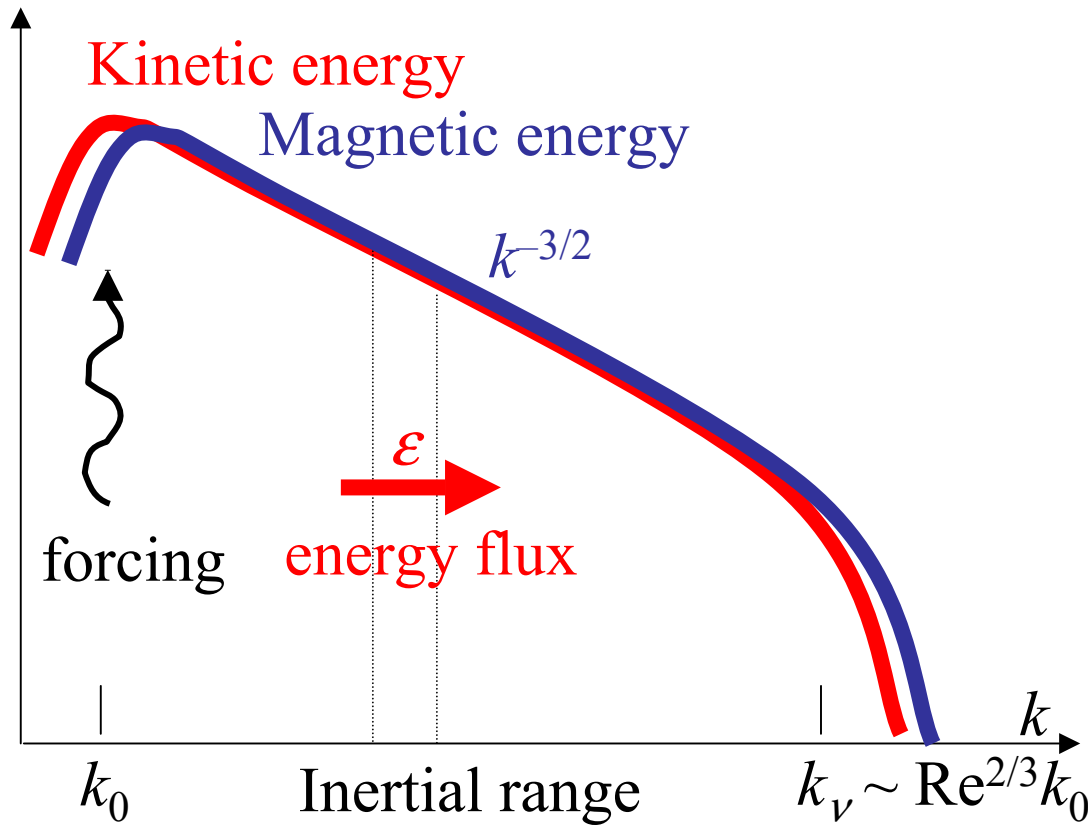
- **No cascade in  $k_{\parallel}$**
- **Alfvén waves interact via  $k_{\parallel} = 0$  modes**

## Issues With $k_{\parallel} = 0$ (“Mean Modes”)

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- **Very important: they mediate interaction between Alfvén waves** (in the weak-interaction limit, Alfvén waves are passive with respect to  $k_{\parallel} = 0$  modes)
- **They are not Alfvén waves themselves, rather, they are 2D MHD:** liable to form long-lived low- $k_{\perp}$  structures?  
some evidence of  $k^{-3/2}$  spectrum?  
[2D MHD: Kinney *et al.* 1995, *PoP* **2**, 3623; Biskamp & Swartz 2001, *PoP* **8**, 3282]  
[3D RMHD: Kinney & McWilliams 1998, *PRE* **57**, 7111]
- **In simulations with strong  $B_0$ , do these modes get mixed up with the Alfvénic spectrum?**  
(I think this is certainly true in Müller *et al.* simulations)
- **A numerical effect only?**  
(existence of such modes depends on **periodic boundaries**)

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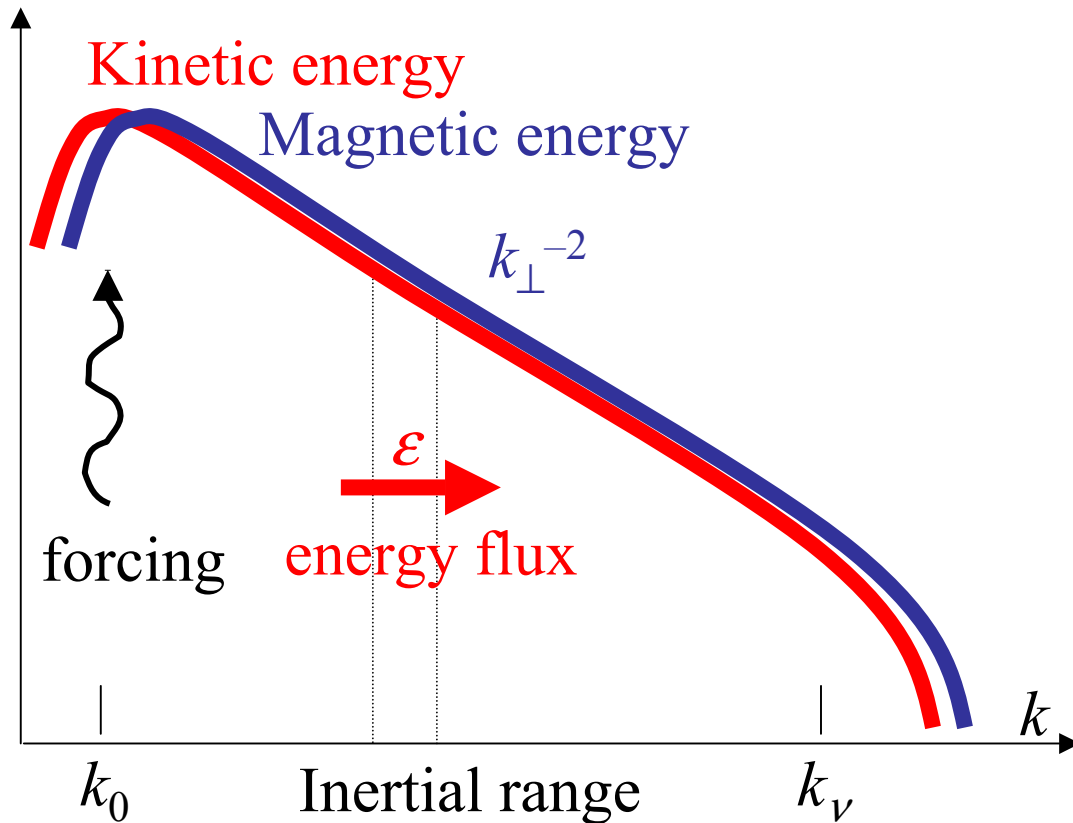
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# Weak MHD Turbulence



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Energy at scale  $l$       Cascade time (rate of transfer)

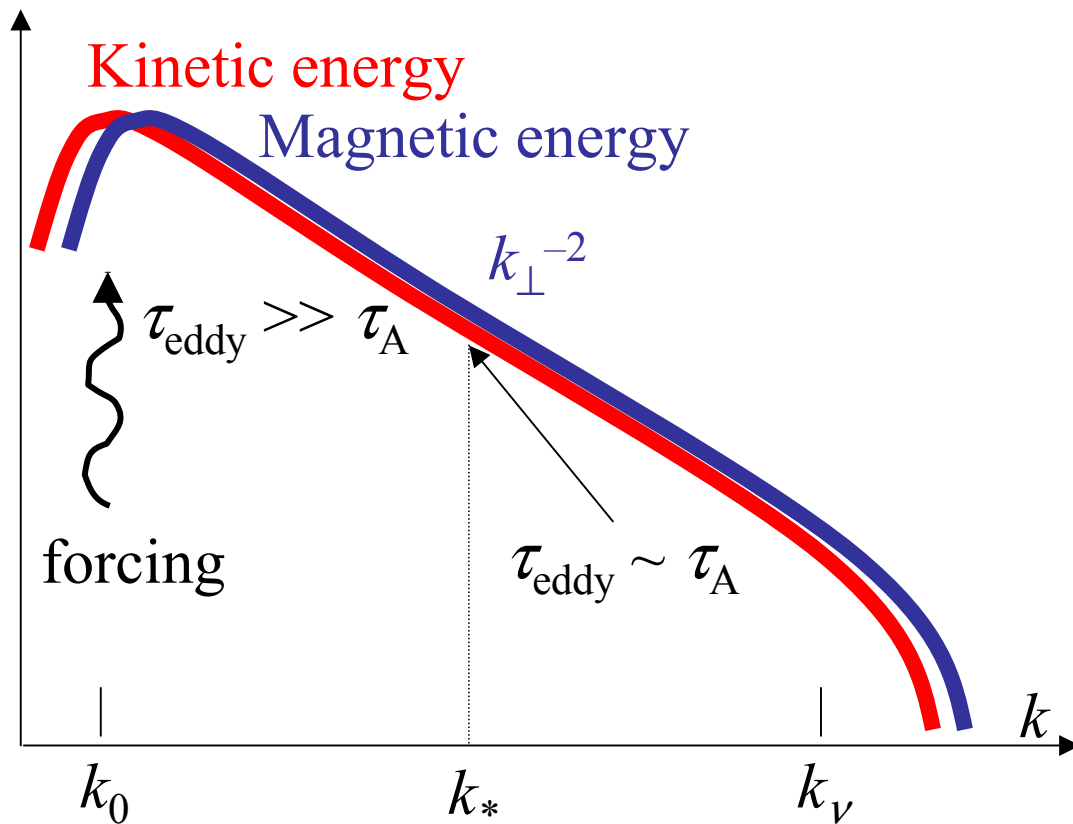
Additional physical assumptions:

- **weak interactions:**  $\tau_{\text{eddy}} \gg \tau_A$
- **extreme anisotropy:**  $l_{\parallel} \sim l_0$   
(no cascade in  $k_{\parallel}$ )

$$E(k_{\perp}) \sim (\epsilon k_{\parallel} v_A)^{1/2} k_{\perp}^{-2}$$

[e.g., Galtier *et al.* 2000, *JPP* **63**, 447; Lithwick & Goldreich 2003, *ApJ* **582**, 1220]

# Weak MHD Turbulence



- Strong mean field  $B_0$
- Alfvénic state:  $u_l \sim B_l$
- Scale invariance
- Locality in  $k$  space

$$\varepsilon \sim u_l^2 \tau_l^{-1} = \text{const}$$

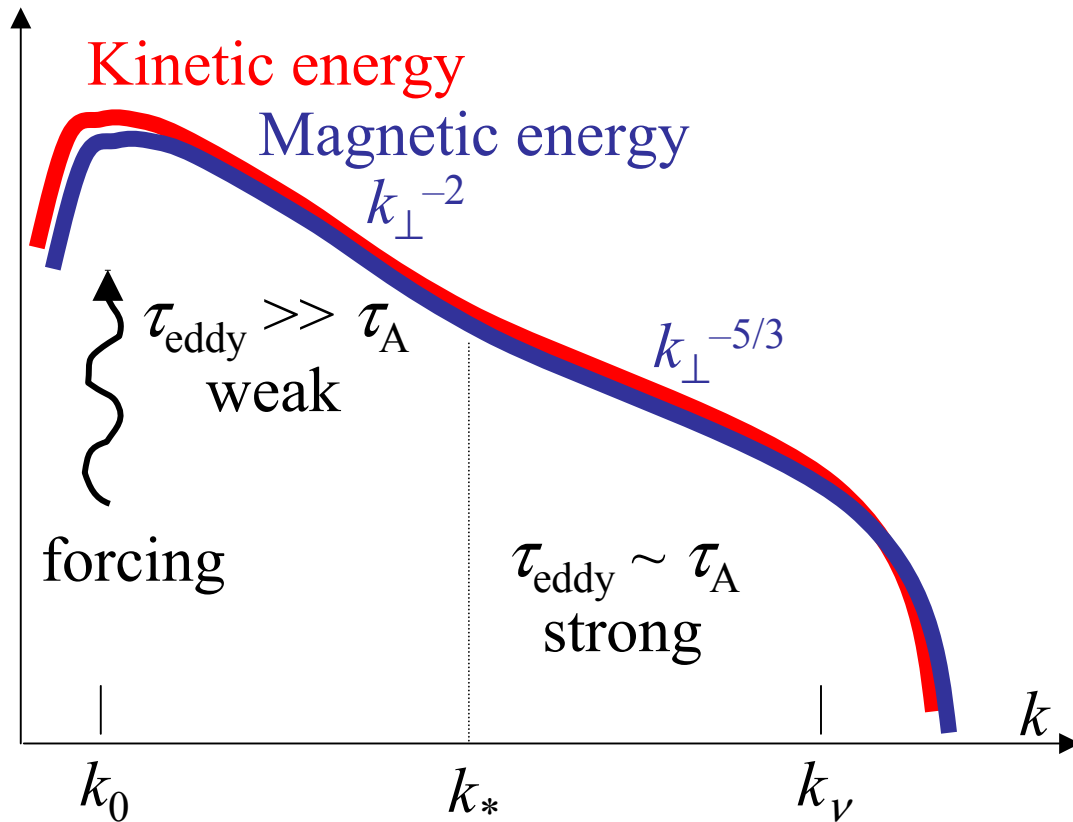
Energy at scale  $l$       Cascade time (rate of transfer)

**Weak interaction condition breaks down:**

$$\frac{\tau_A}{\tau_{\text{eddy}}} \sim \frac{u_0}{v_A} \left( \frac{l_0}{l_{\perp}} \right)^{1/2} \sim 1 \quad \text{when} \quad l_{\perp} \sim l_0 \left( \frac{u_0}{v_A} \right)^2 \equiv l_*$$

[e.g., Galtier *et al.* 2000, *JPP* **63**, 447; Lithwick & Goldreich 2003, *ApJ* **582**, 1220]

# Goldreich-Sridhar Turbulence



- Strong mean field  $B_0$
- Alfvénic state:  $u_l \sim B_l$
- Scale invariance
- Locality in  $k$  space

$$\varepsilon \sim u_l^2 \tau_l^{-1} = \text{const}$$

Energy at scale  $l$       Cascade time (rate of transfer)

Additional physical assumptions:

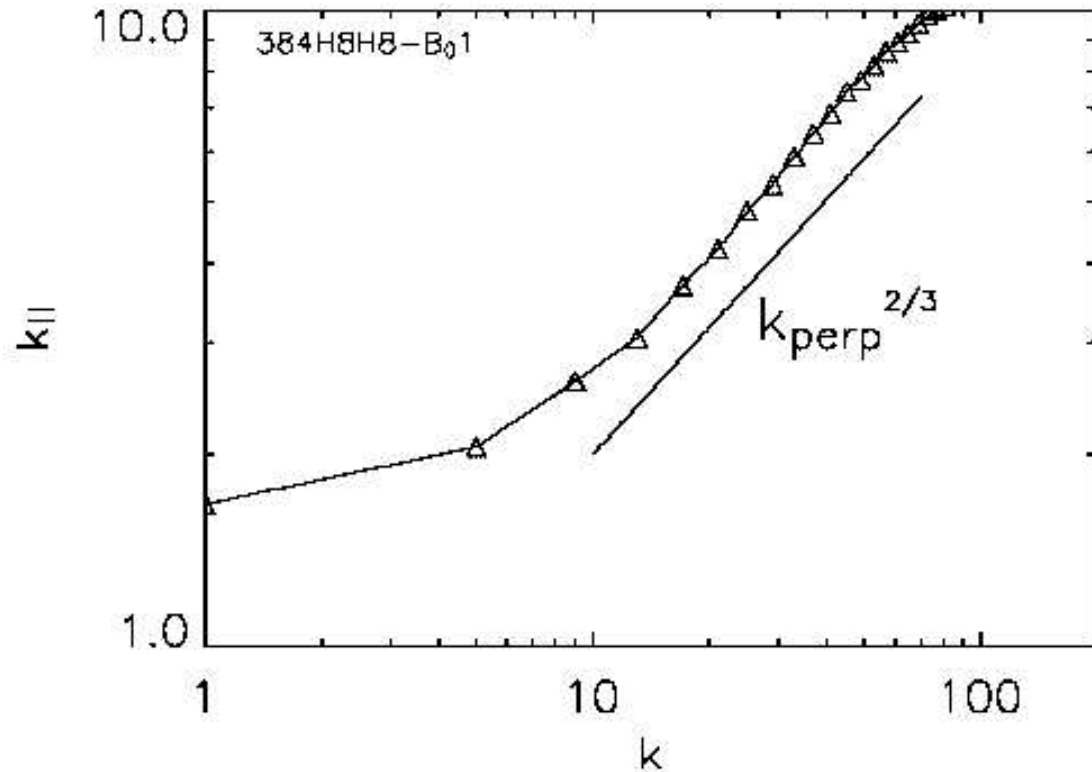
- strong interactions:  $\tau_{\text{eddy}} \sim \tau_A$   
(critical balance)

$$E(k_{\perp}) \sim \varepsilon^{2/3} k_{\perp}^{-5/3} \quad \text{GS95}$$

$$k_{\parallel} \sim \varepsilon^{1/3} v_A^{-1} k_{\perp}^{2/3}$$

[Goldreich & Sridhar 1995, *ApJ* 438, 763]

# Goldreich-Sridhar Turbulence: DNS



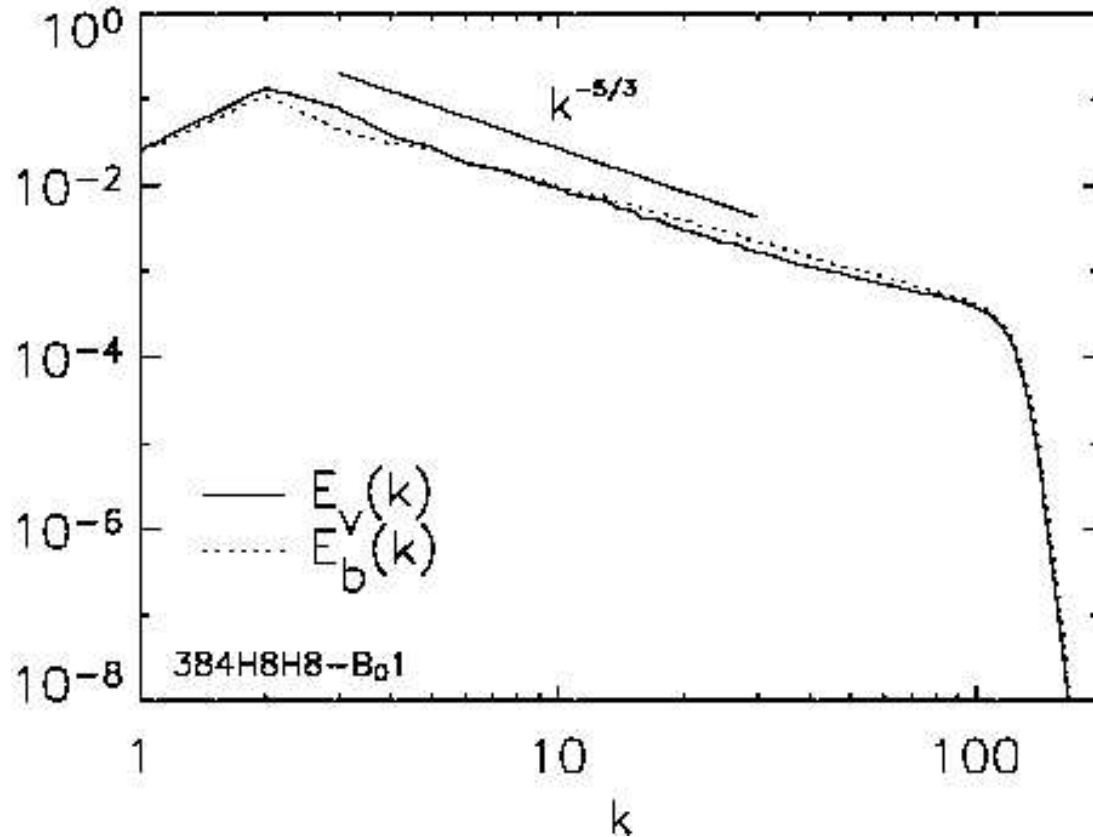
Cho *et al.* 2003,  
*ApJ* **595**, 812:

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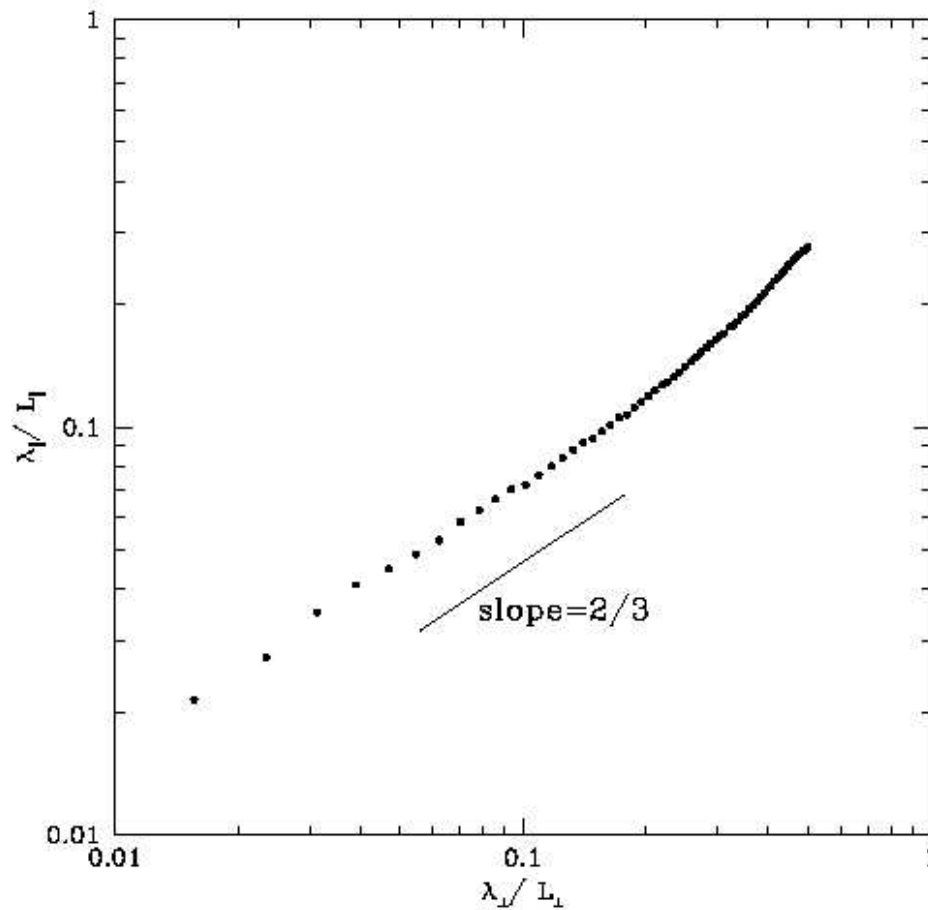


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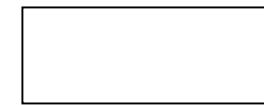
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# Goldreich-Sridhar Turbulence: DNS



Maron & Goldreich 2001,  
*ApJ* **554**, 1175:



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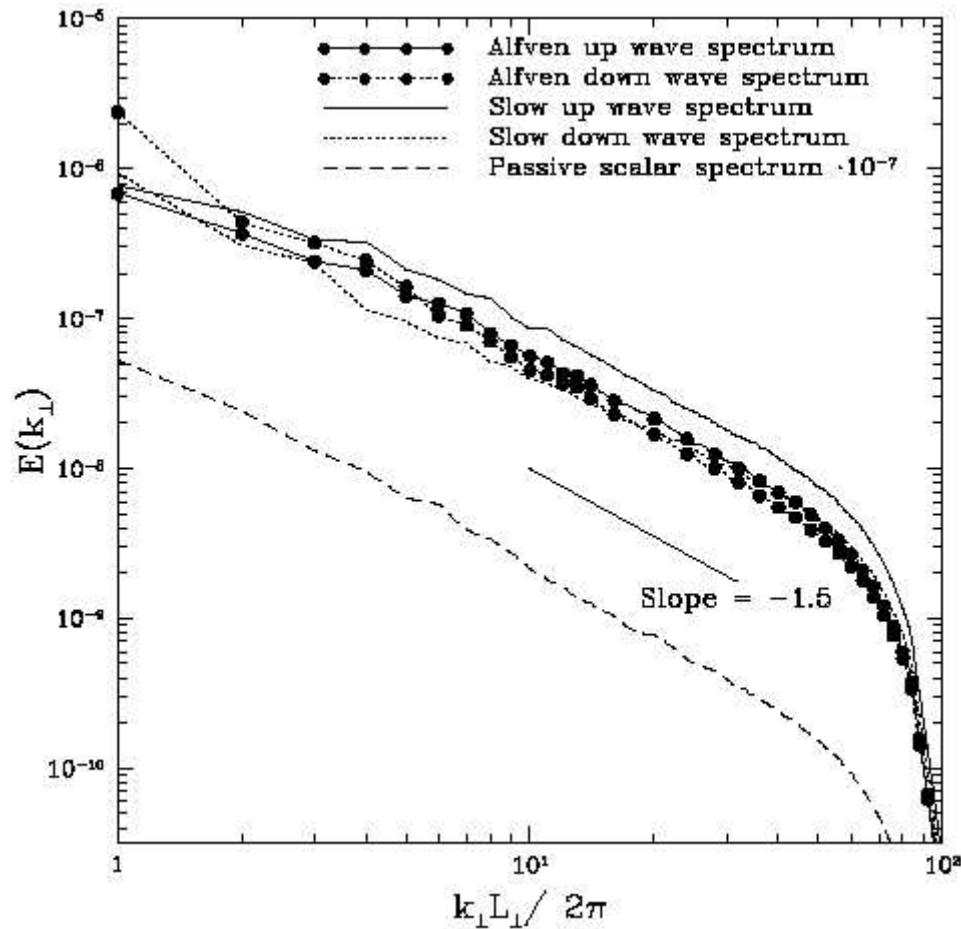


$$E(k_{\perp}) \sim \varepsilon^{2/3} k_{\perp}^{-5/3}$$

**GS95**

$$k_{\parallel} \sim \varepsilon^{1/3} v_A^{-1} k_{\perp}^{2/3}$$

# Goldreich-Sridhar Turbulence: DNS



Maron & Goldreich 2001,  
*ApJ* **554**, 1175:

spectra closer to  $k_{\perp}^{-3/2}$

**Spectra do not fit!**

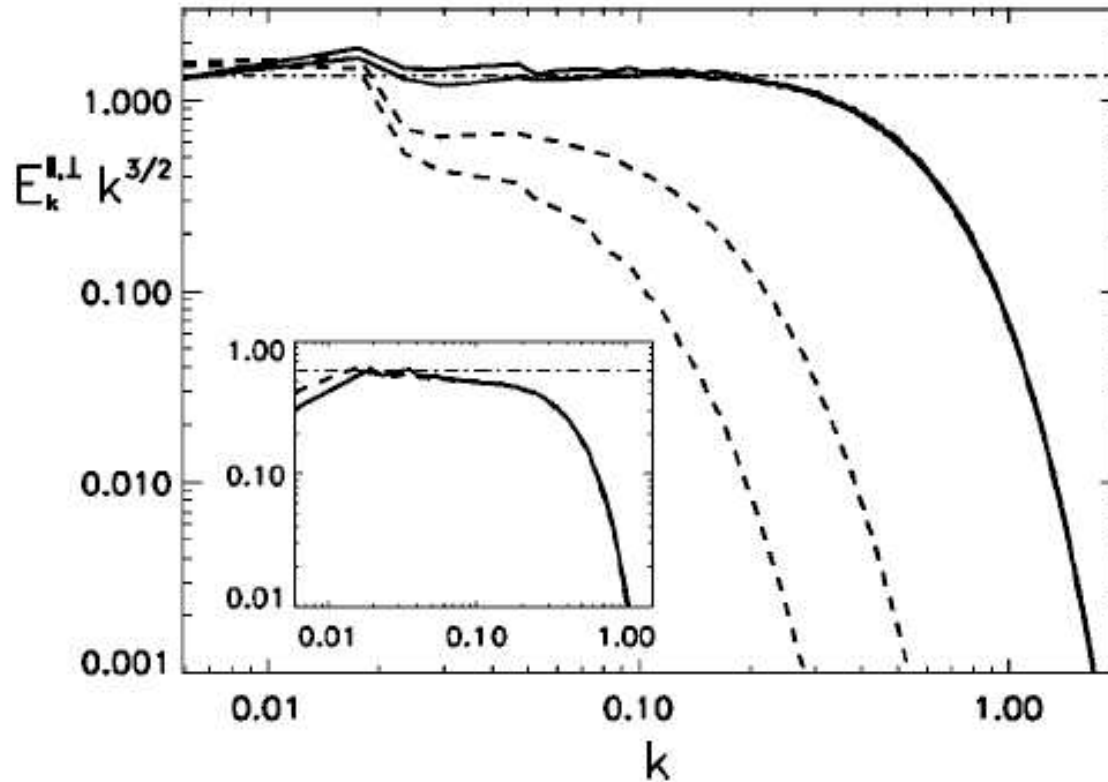
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# Goldreich-Sridhar Turbulence: DNS



$$B_0 \approx 5, 10u_{\text{rms}}$$

Müller *et al.* 2003,  
*PRE* **67**, 066302:  
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**Spectra do not fit!**

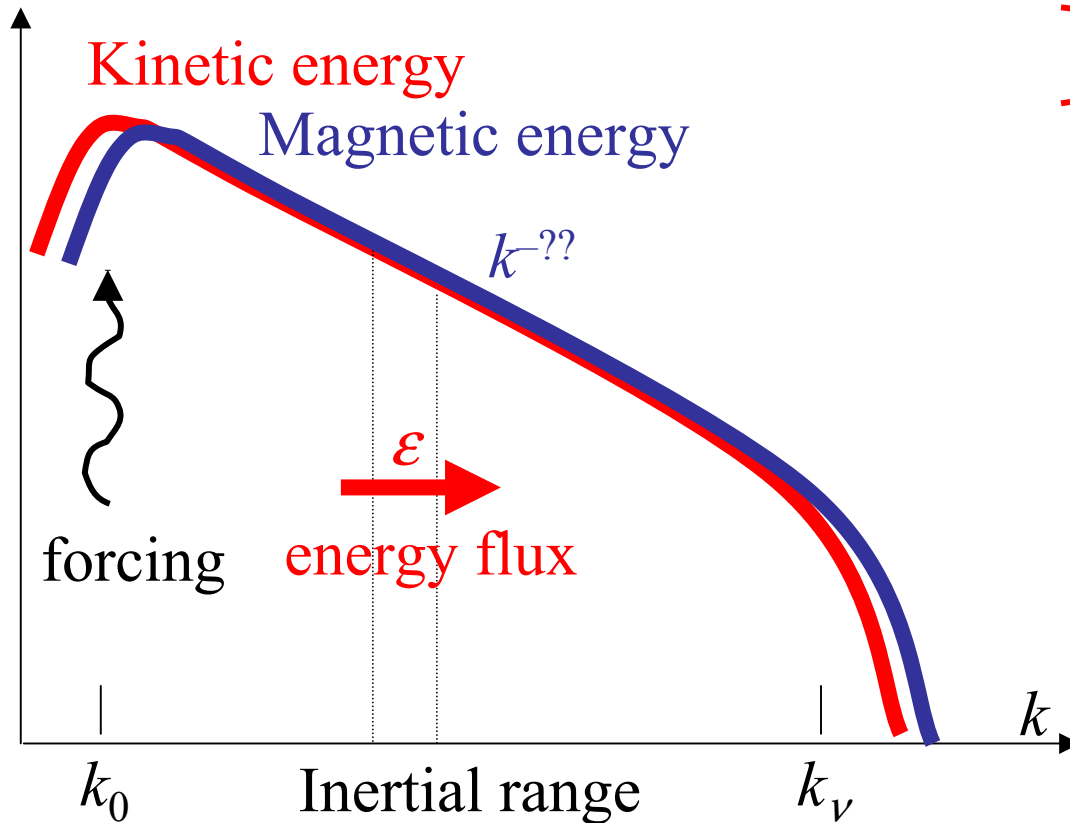
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# Isotropic MHD Turbulence: No Mean Field

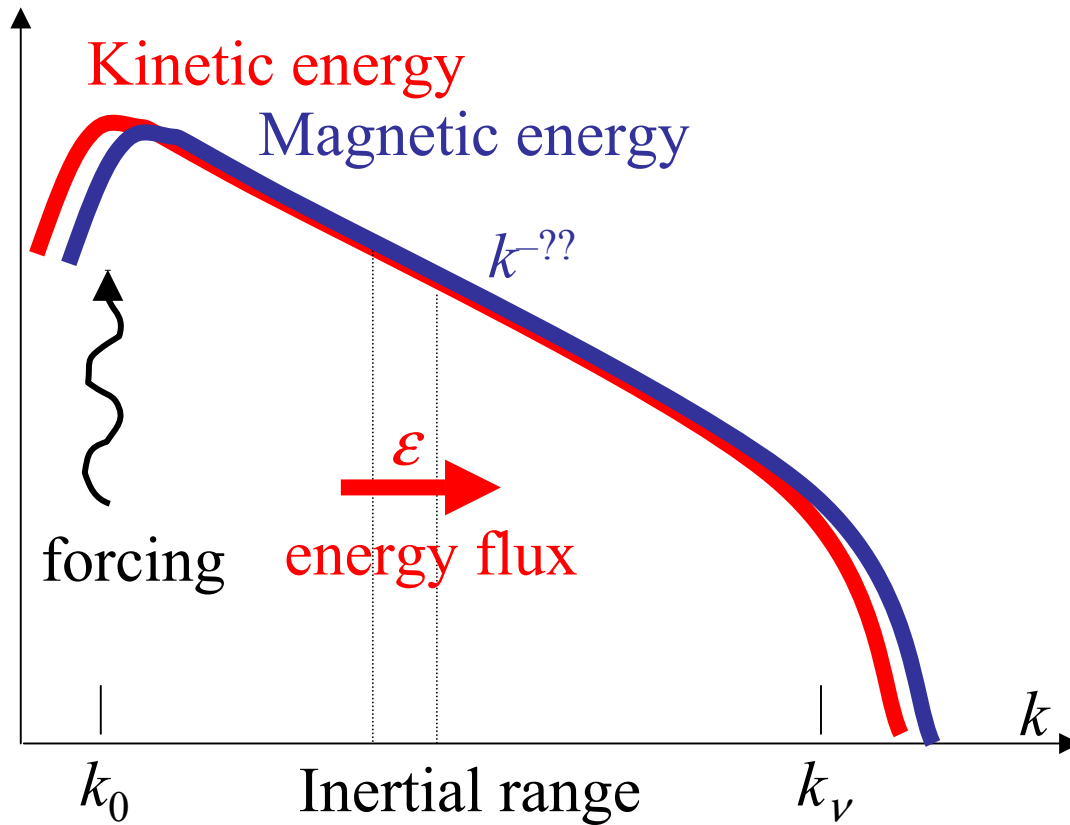


- ~~• Strong mean field  $B_0$~~
- Alfvénic state:  $u_l \sim B_l$
- Scale invariance
- Locality in  $k$  space

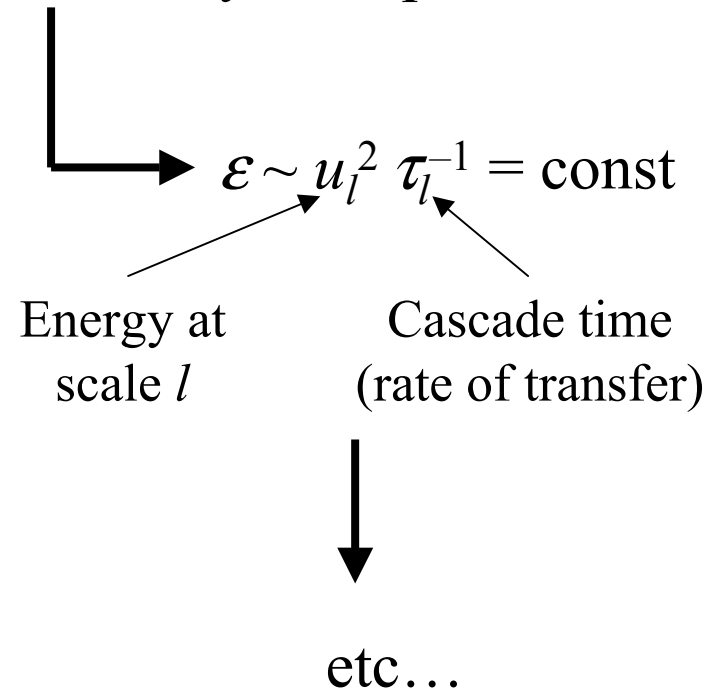
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Energy at scale  $l$       Cascade time (rate of transfer)

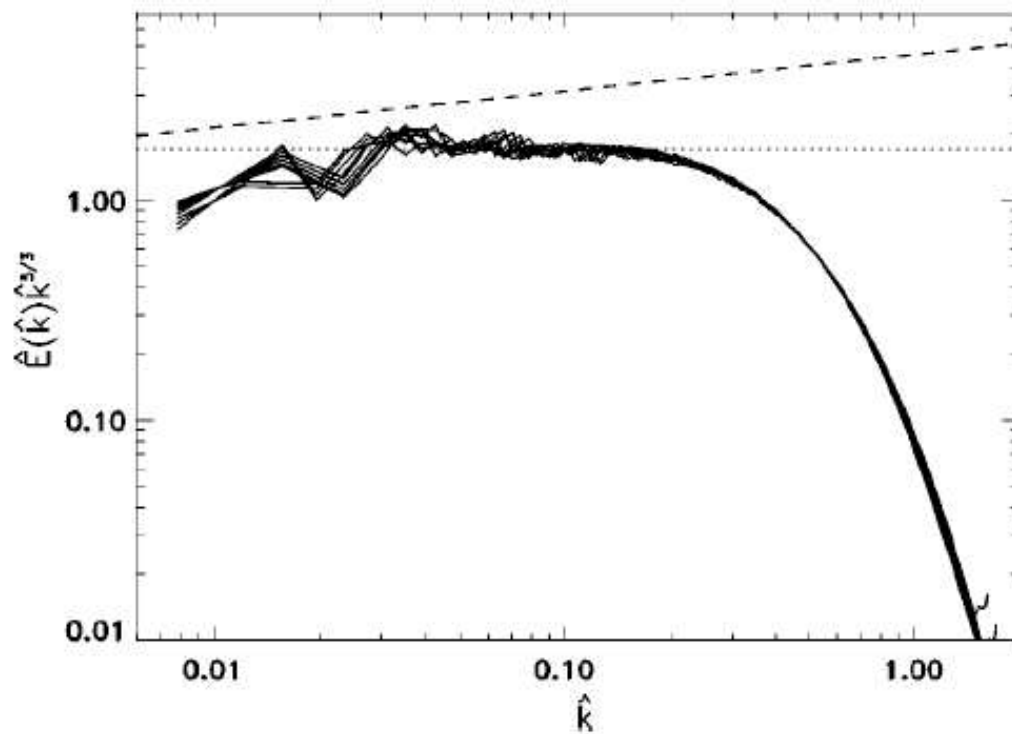
# Isotropic MHD Turbulence: No Mean Field



- Strong large-scale field?
- Alfvénic state:  $u_l \sim B_l$
- Scale invariance
- Locality in  $k$  space



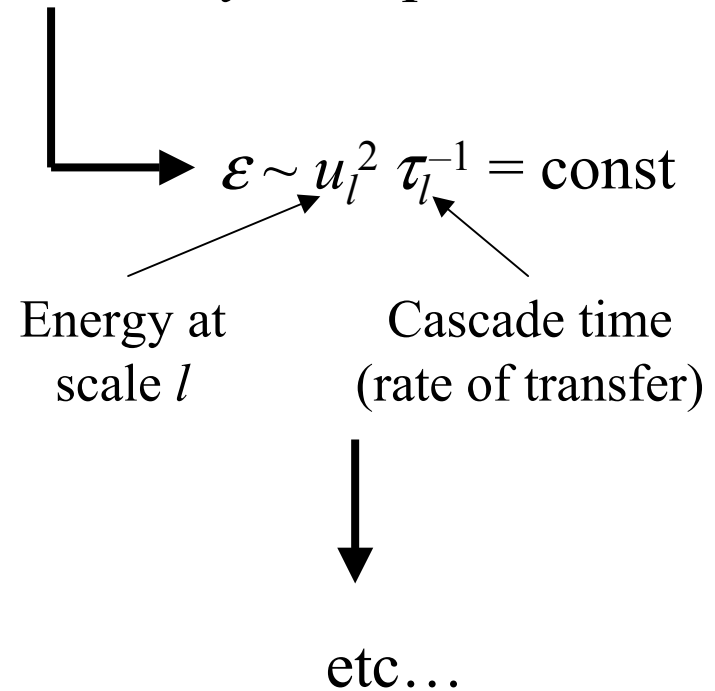
# Isotropic MHD Turbulence: DNS (Decaying)



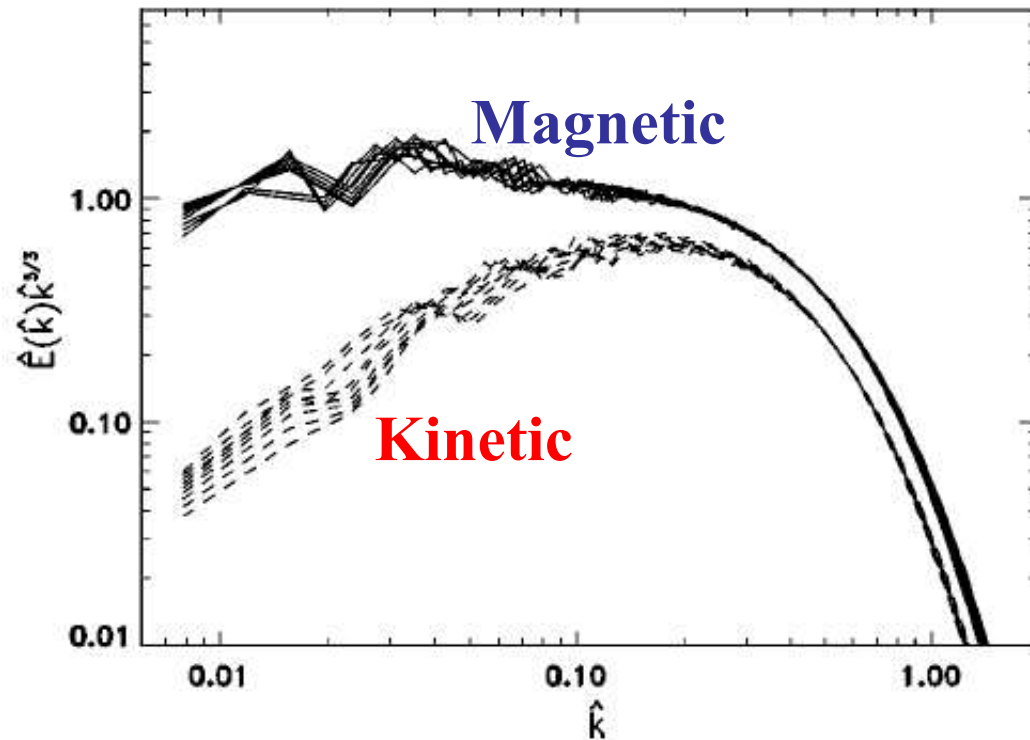
Biskamp & Müller 2000,  
*PoP* 7, 4889:

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

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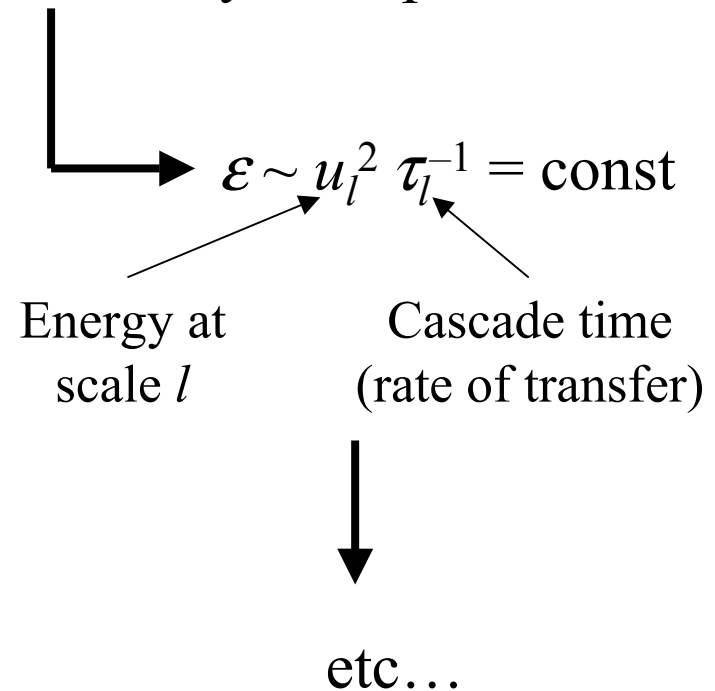
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Biskamp & Müller 2000,  
*PoP* 7, 4889:

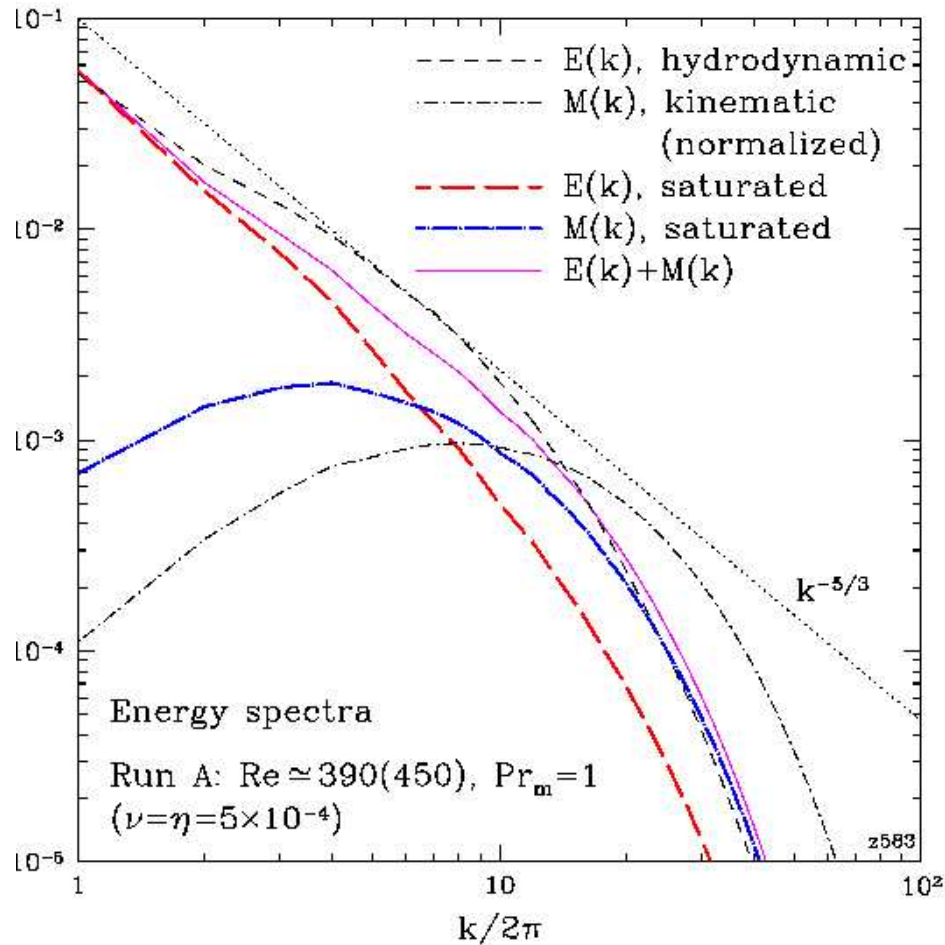
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- ~~Alfvénic state:  $u_l \sim B_l$~~
- Scale invariance
- Locality in  $k$  space



**NB:** decay controlled by large-scale force-free structure

# Isotropic MHD Turbulence: DNS (Forced)

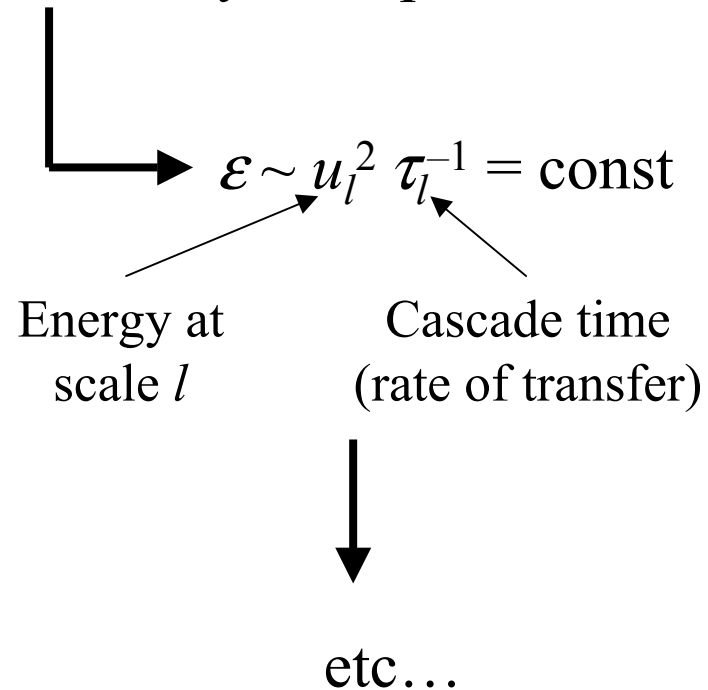


~~• Strong large-scale field?~~

~~• Alfvénic state:  $u_l \sim B_l$~~

• Scale invariance

• Locality in  $k$  space



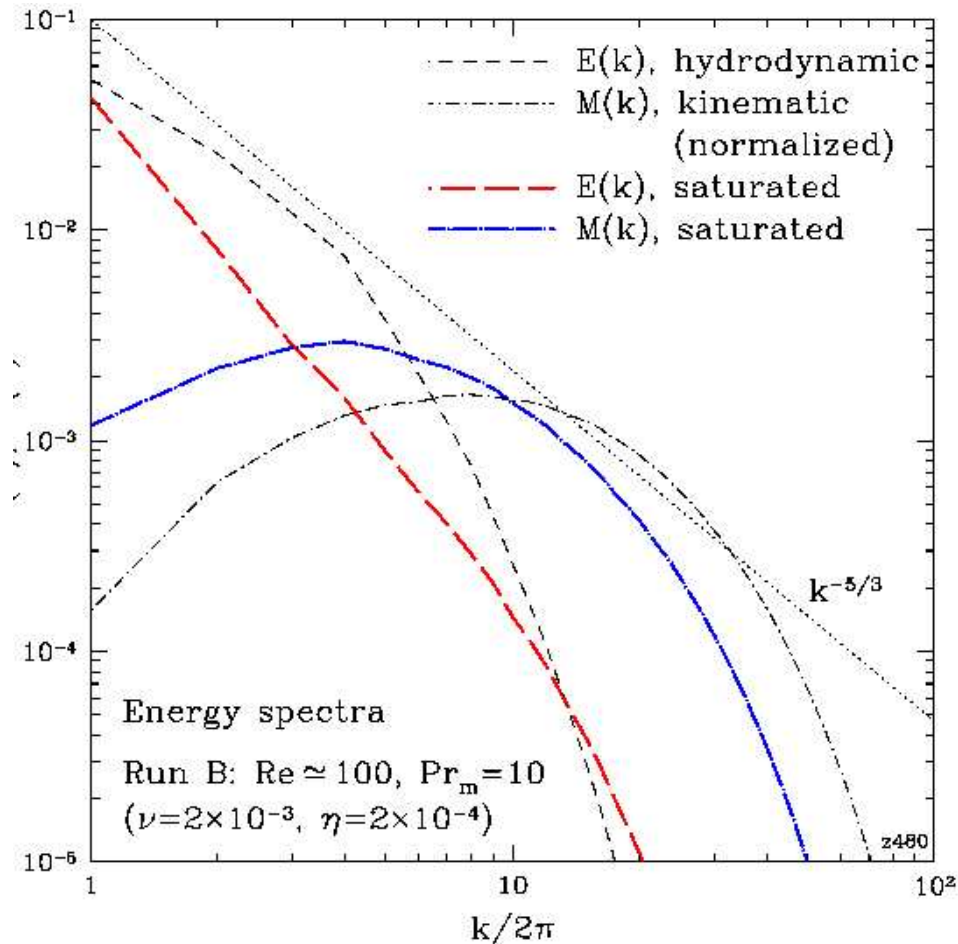
AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276

See also Maron *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **603**, 569

Haugen *et al.* 2004, *PRE* **70**, 016308



# Isotropic MHD Turbulence: DNS (Forced)

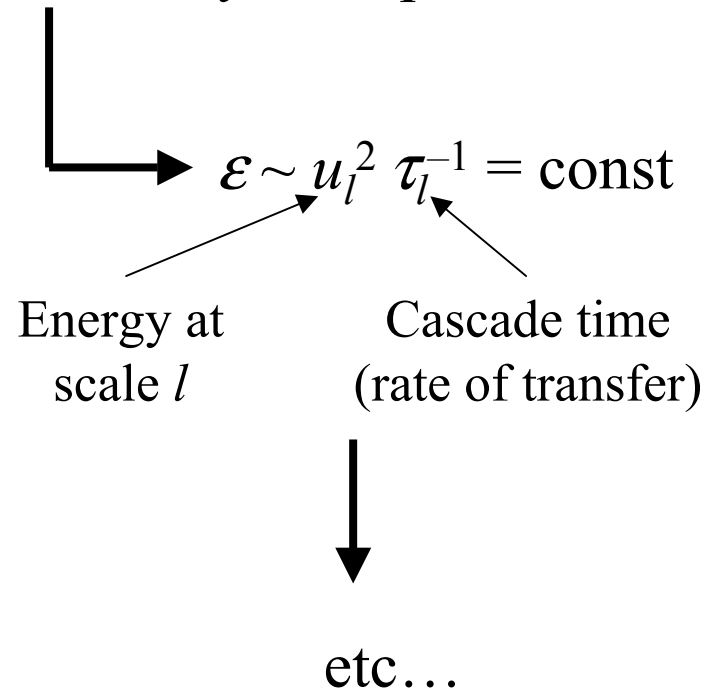


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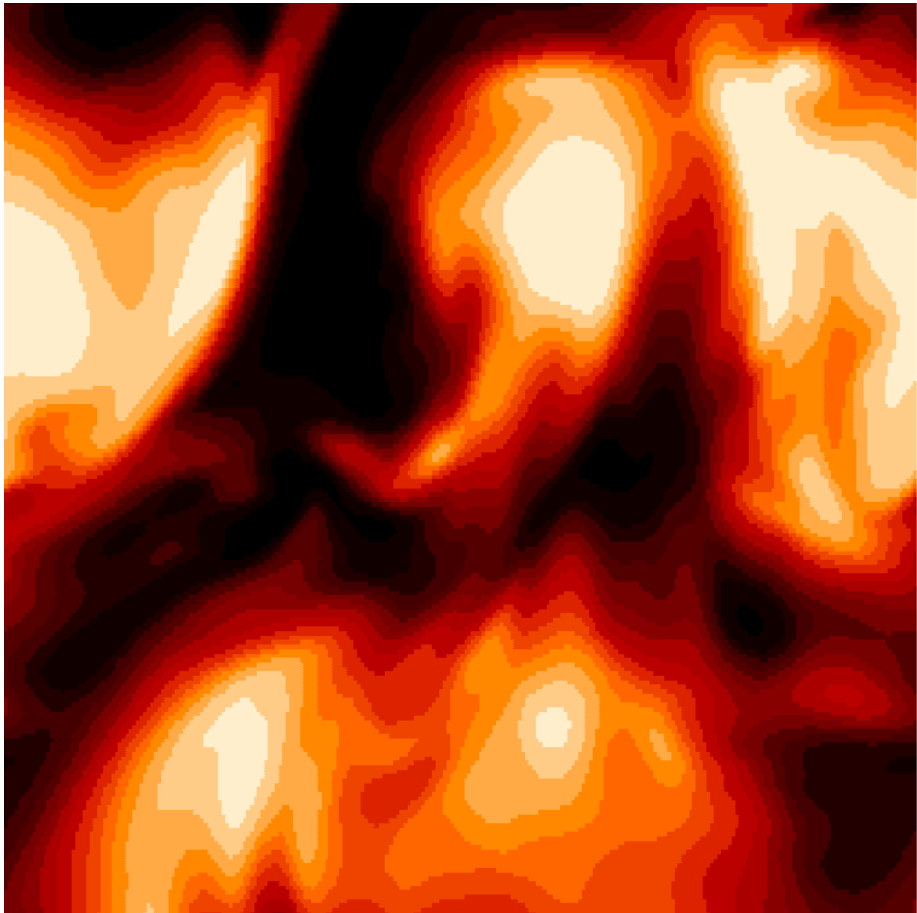
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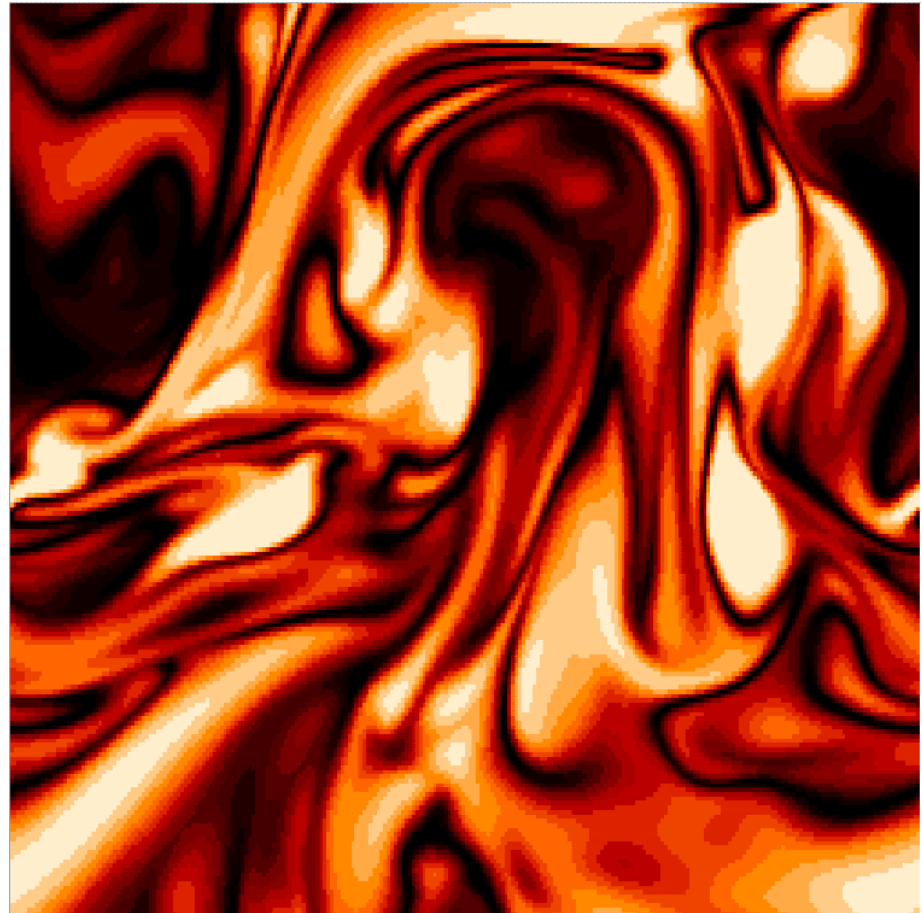
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# Isotropic MHD Turbulence: DNS (Forced)

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$|u|$

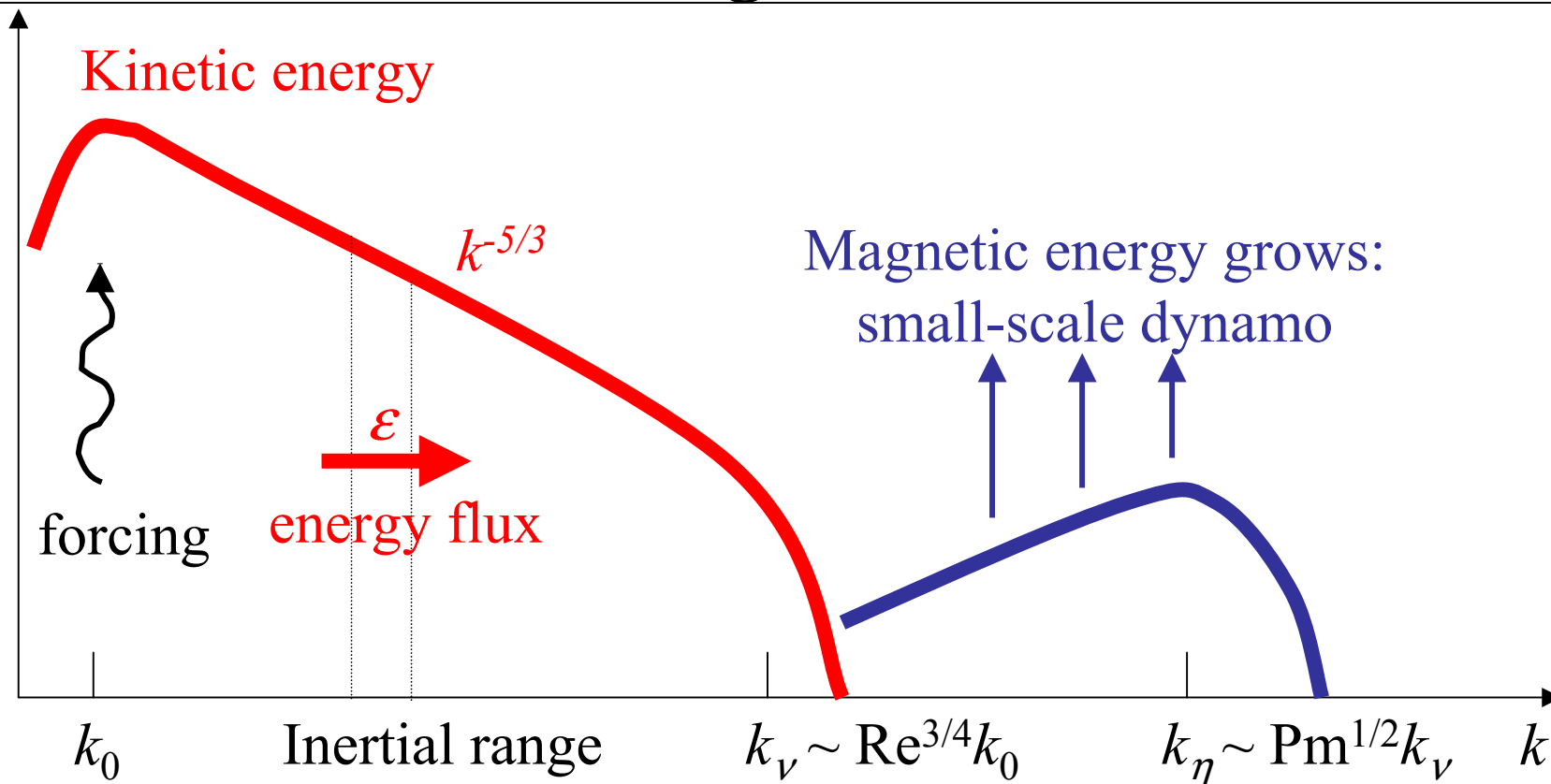


$|B|$

**Excess of magnetic energy at small scales**

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

# Two Scale Ranges in the Problem



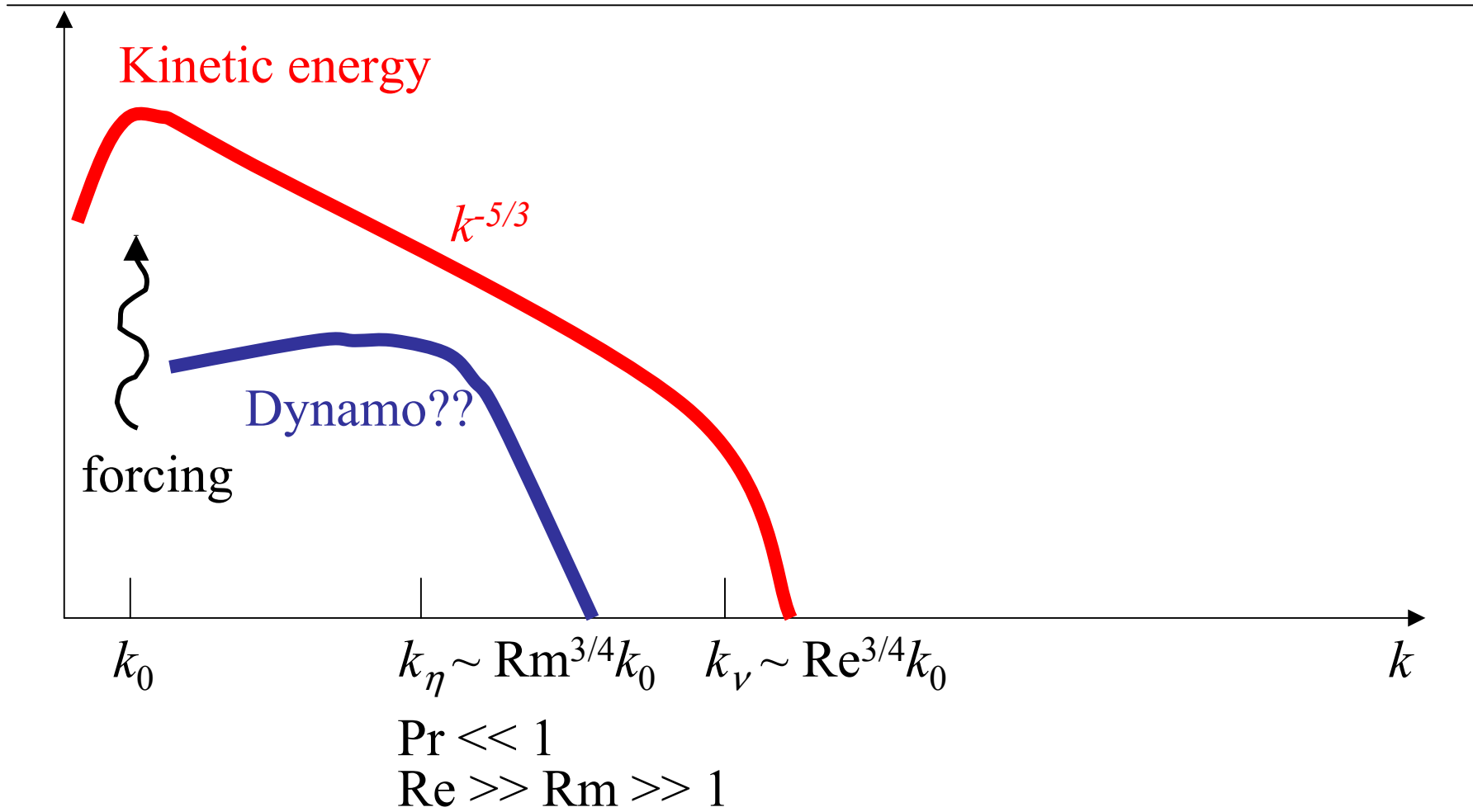
A key parameter: *magnetic Prandtl number*

**Pm** =  $\nu/\eta \sim 2.6 \times 10^{-5} T^4/n$  (ionised) or  $1.7 \times 10^7 T^2/n$  (with neutrals)

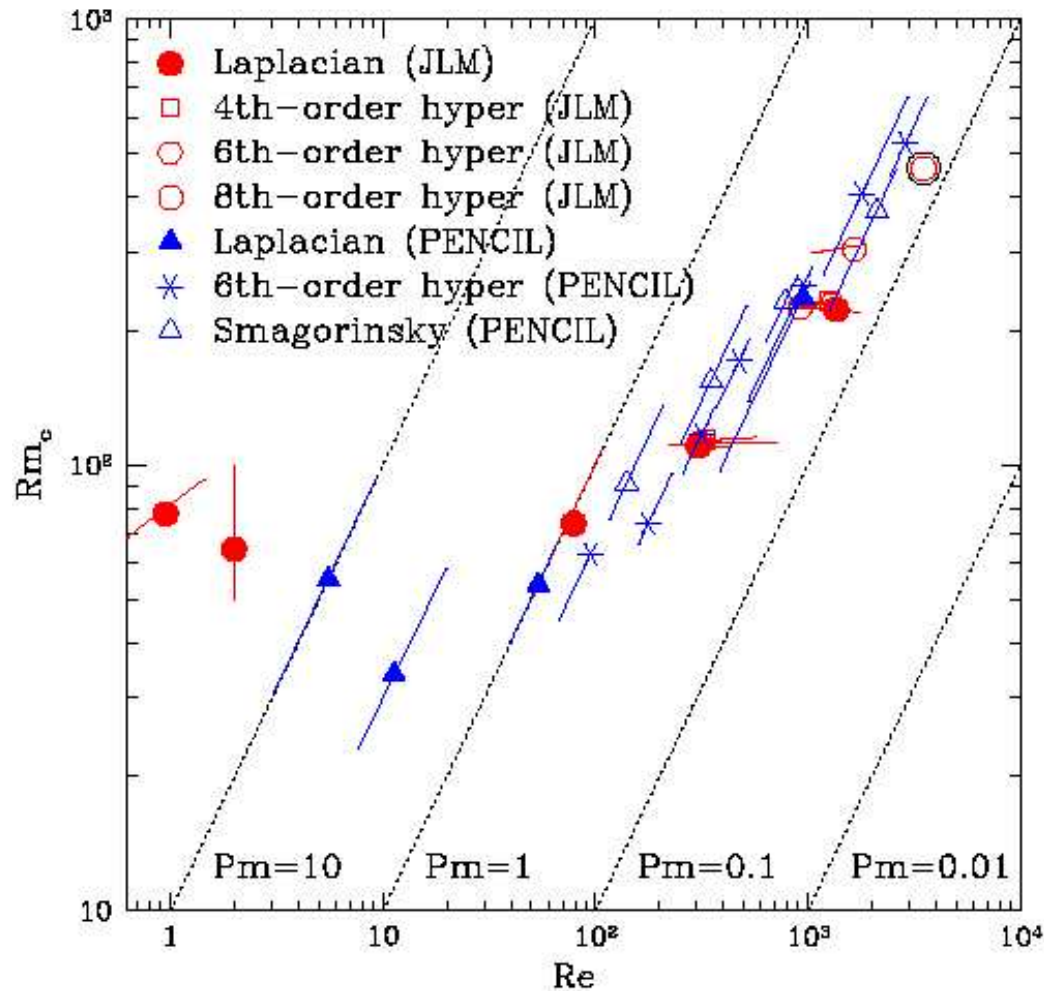
- **Pm**  $\gg 1$ : galaxies ( $10^{14}$ ), clusters ( $10^{29}$ )

- **Pm**  $\ll 1$ : planets ( $10^{-5}$ ), stars ( $10^{-7} \dots 10^{-4}$ ), protostellar discs ( $10^{-8}$ ), liquid-metal laboratory dynamos ( $10^{-6}$ )

# The Case of $Pm \ll 1$



# The Case of $Pm \ll 1$



Small-scale dynamo is quite hard to get numerically in the  $Pm \ll 1$  regime:

*$Rm_c$  grows with  $Re$*

$Rm_c \rightarrow ?$  as  $Re \rightarrow \infty$   
(unknown)

**Results from simulations with random forcing**

[Schekochihin *et al.* 2004, *PRL* **92**, 054502

Haugen *et al.* 2004, *PRE* **70**, 016308

Schekochihin *et al.* 2005, *ApJ* **625**, L115]

# The Case of $Pm \ll 1$

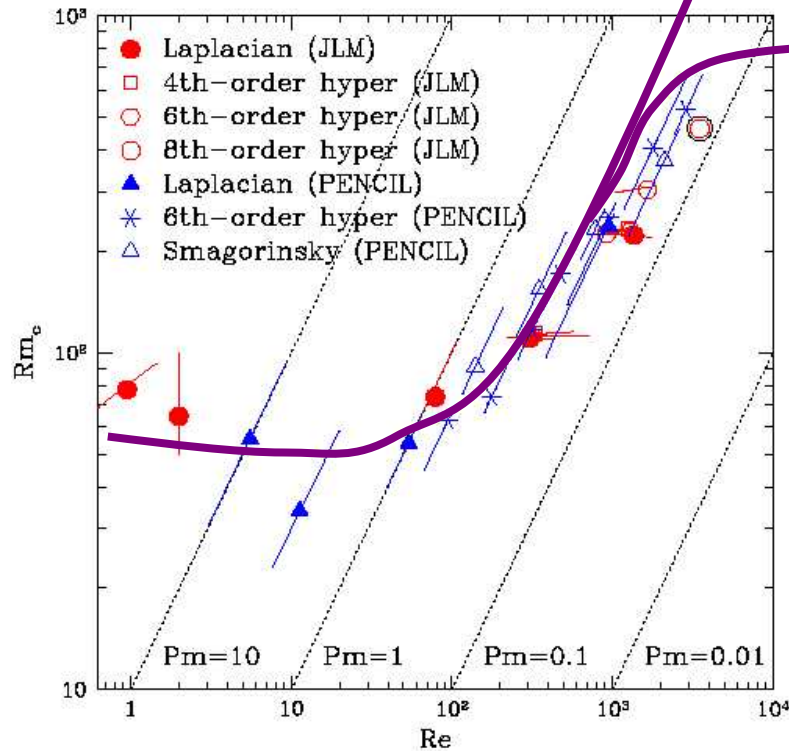
*Possible asymptotic outcomes:*

$Rm_c/Re \rightarrow \text{const} = Pm_c \sim 0.1$   
No dynamo at  $Pm \ll 1$

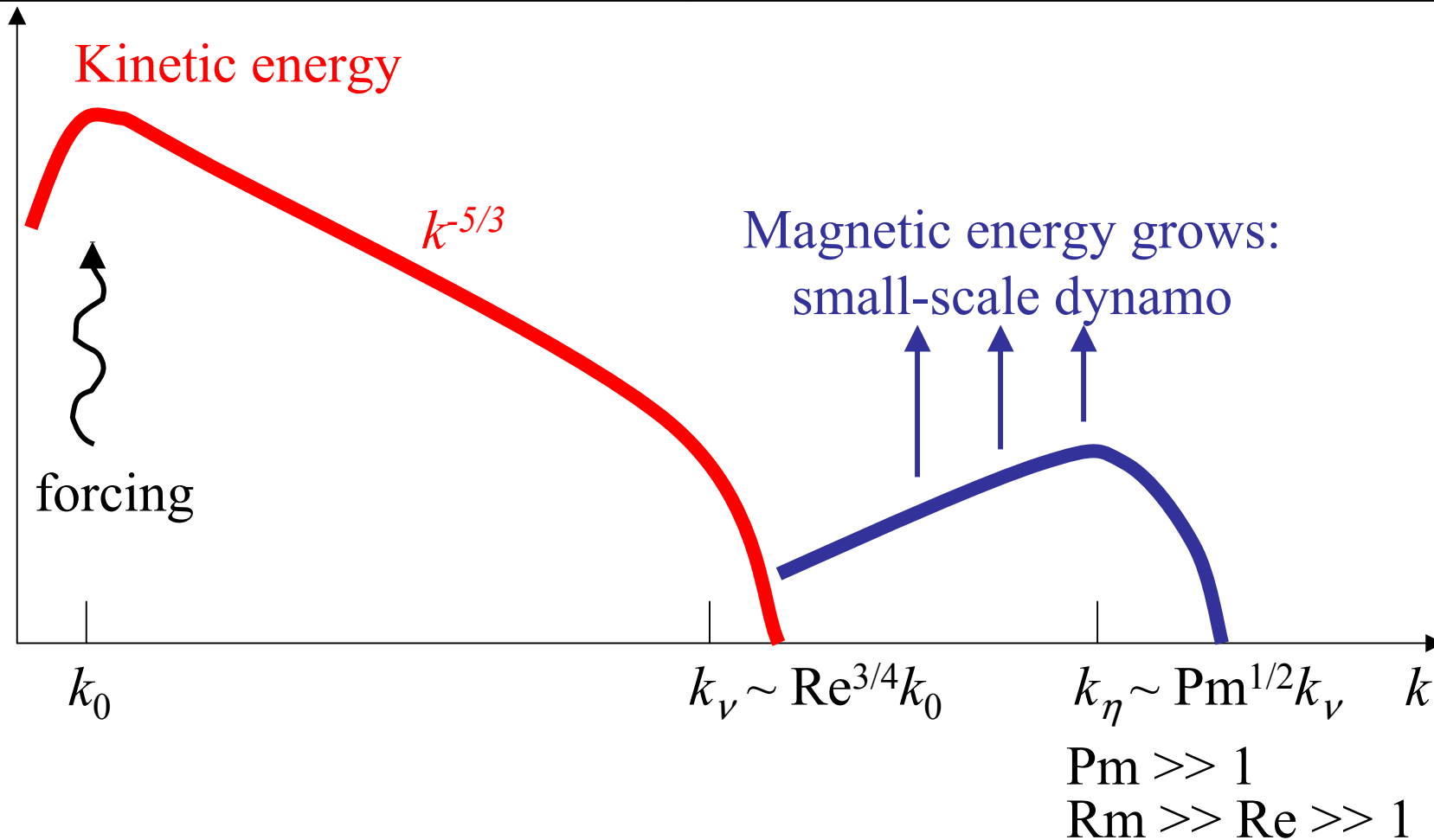
**OR**

$Rm_c \rightarrow \text{const}$

**Kazantsev model supports this possibility**  
[Rogachevskii & Kleeorin 1997, *PRE* 56, 417  
Boldyrev & Cattaneo 2004, *PRE* 92, 144501]



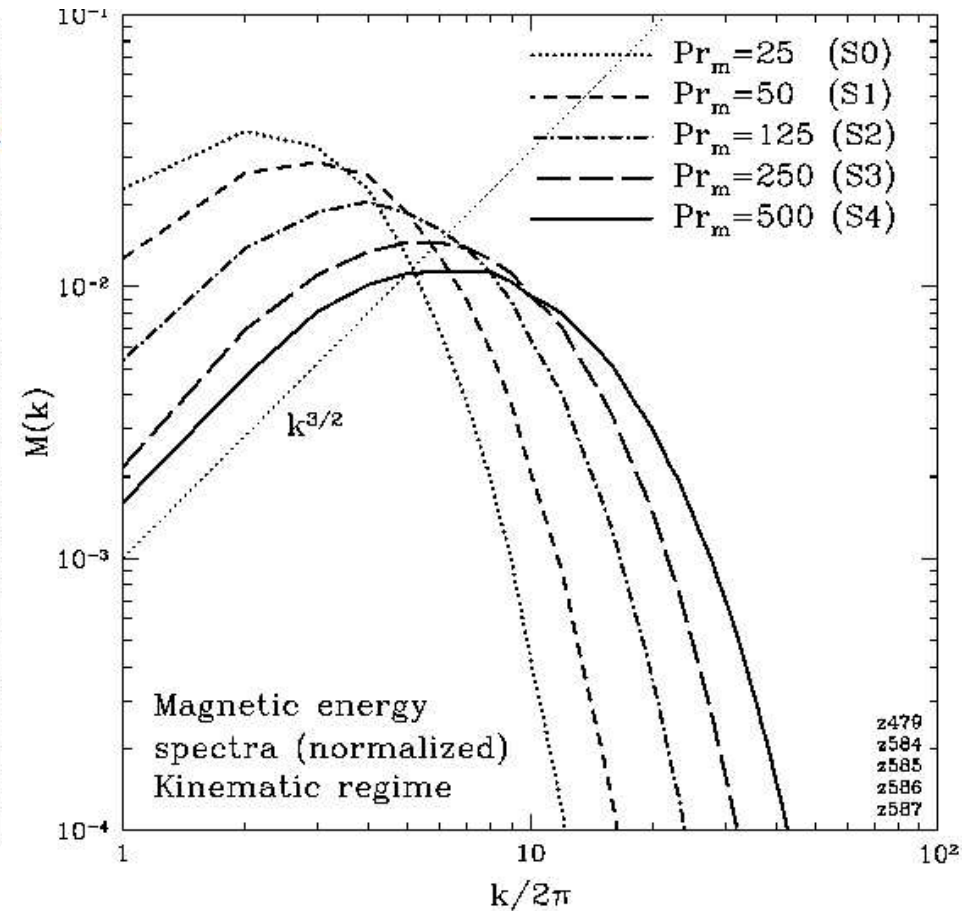
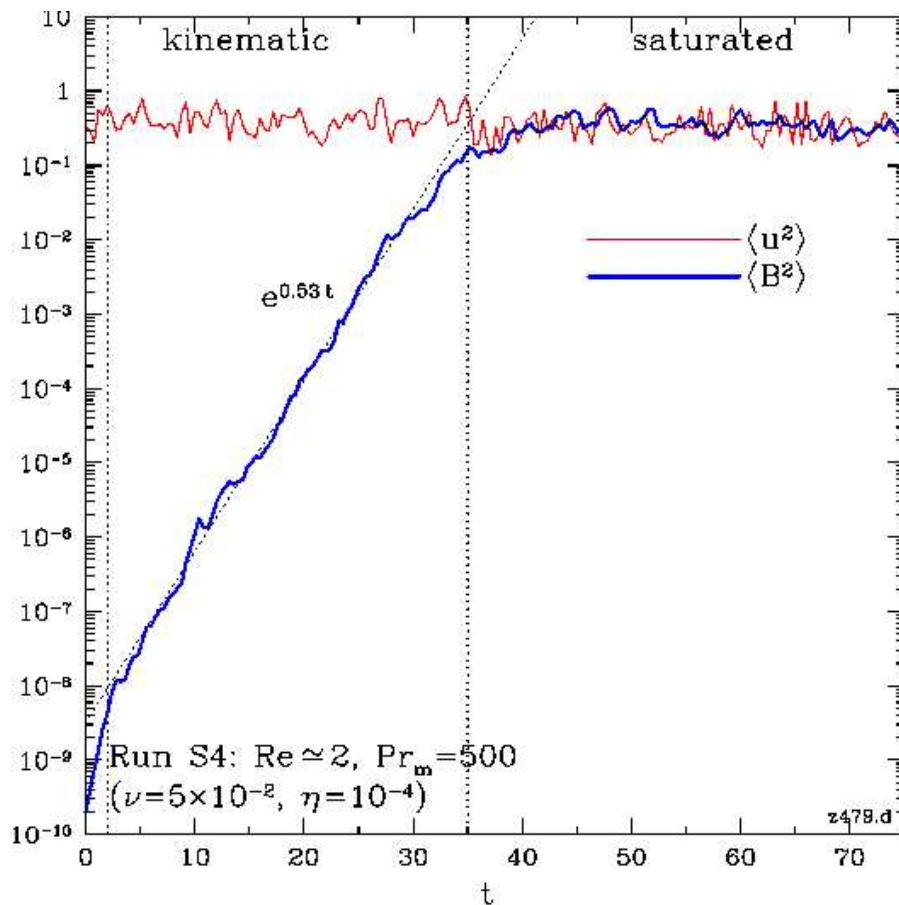
# Small-Scale Dynamo at $Pm \geq 1$



**$Pm \geq 1$ :** it is well established numerically that an initial weak seed field will grow at the smallest scales provided  $Rm > Rm_c \sim 10^2$

[Meneguzzi, Frisch & Pouquet 1981, *PRL* **47**, 1060]

# Small-Scale Dynamo: DNS



- $\langle B^2 \rangle$  grows exponentially, then saturates

- Field at the resistive scale ( $k_\eta \sim Pm^{1/2} k_\nu$ )

Quantitative analytical theory possible...

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276 and references therein]



# Modeling the Flow: Kazantsev Model

---

A solvable model of a random-in-time flow: **Gaussian white noise**

$$\langle u^i(t, \mathbf{x}) u^j(t', \mathbf{x}') \rangle = \delta(t - t') \kappa^{ij}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$$

[Kazantsev 1967, *JETP* **26**, 1031; Kraichnan 1968, *Phys. Fluids* **11**, 945]

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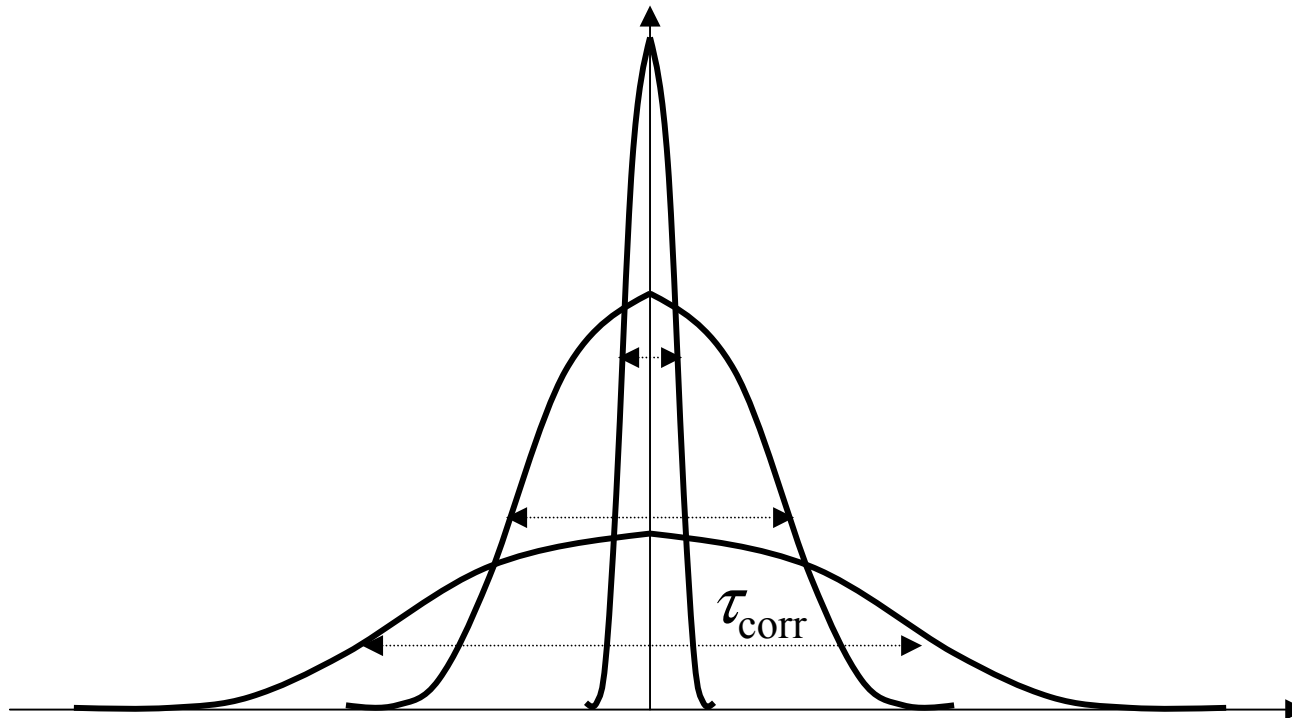
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**NB:** Flow of infinite energy acting for time 0  $\Rightarrow$  finite effect  
(...a physical limit of  $\tau_{\text{corr}} \rightarrow \infty$ )



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$\text{Pr} \gg 1 \Rightarrow$  **smooth velocity at subviscous scales** (“*Batchelor regime*”)

$$\kappa^{ij}(\mathbf{y}) = \kappa_0 \delta^{ij} - \frac{1}{2} \kappa_2 \left( y^2 \delta^{ij} - \frac{1}{2} y^i y^j \right) + \frac{1}{4!} \kappa_4 y^2 \left( y^2 \delta^{ij} - \frac{2}{3} y^i y^j \right) + \dots$$

linear shear “bending” motion



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**NOTE:** Suppose we use white forcing in Navier-Stokes equation,

$$\langle f^i(t, \mathbf{x}) f^j(t', \mathbf{x}') \rangle = \delta(t - t') \epsilon^{ij}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$$

- Then, for  $Re \ll 1$ ,  $\langle u^i(t, \mathbf{k}) u^j(t', \mathbf{k}') \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') \frac{1}{2\nu k^2} e^{-\nu k^2 |t-t'|} \epsilon^{ij}(\mathbf{k})$

and we connect to Kazantsev via  $\nu \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\epsilon^{ij}(\mathbf{k}) = \nu^2 k^4 \kappa^{ij}(\mathbf{k})$

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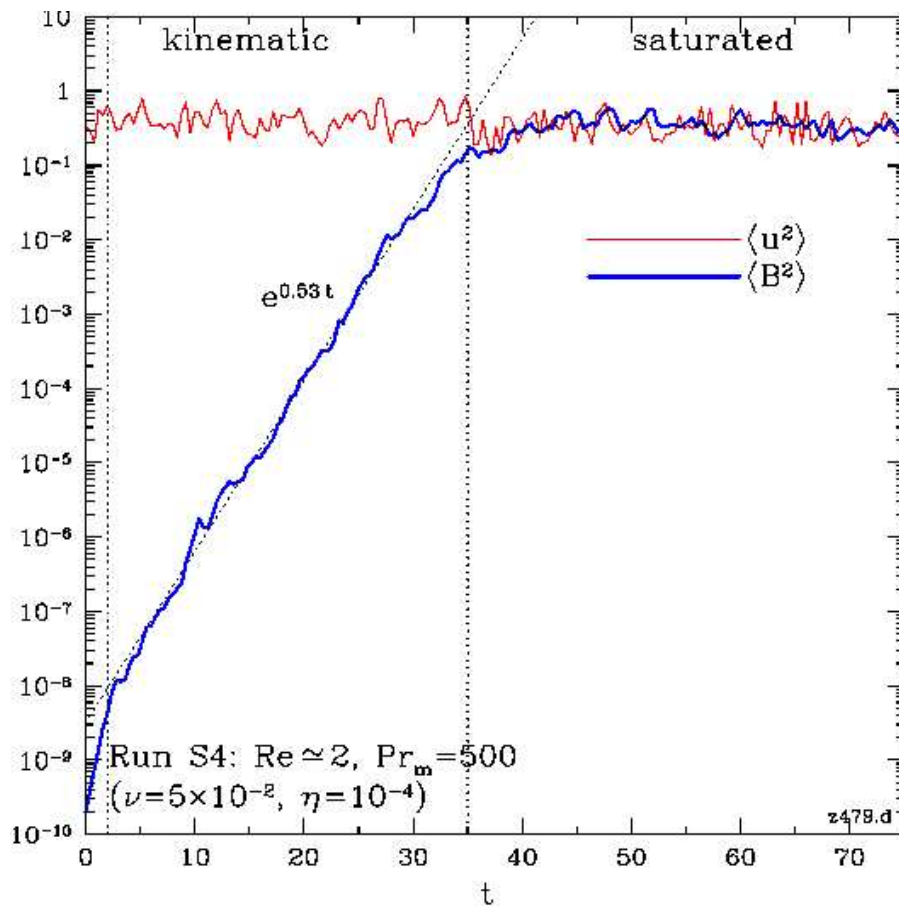
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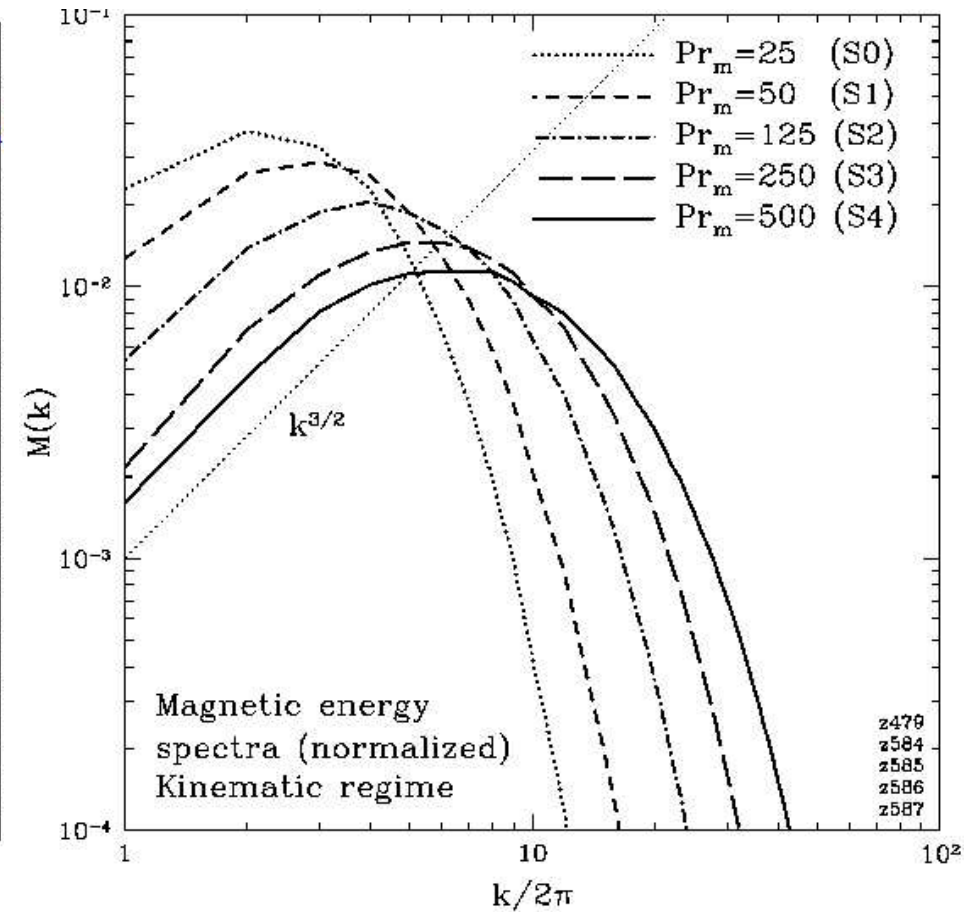
and we connect to Kazantsev via  $\nu \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\epsilon^{ij}(\mathbf{k}) = \nu^2 k^4 \kappa^{ij}(\mathbf{k})$

- **Real turbulence** when  $\text{Re} \gg 1$
- We simulate  $\text{Re} \sim 1$  — an intermediate regime with finite correlation time and forcing, but no inertial range (viscous scale  $\sim$  forcing scale)

# Small-Scale Dynamo: DNS



- $\langle B^2 \rangle$  grows exponentially, then saturates



- Field at the resistive scale ( $k_\eta \sim Pm^{1/2} k_\nu$ )

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276 and references therein]

# Small-Scale Dynamo in the Kazantsev Model

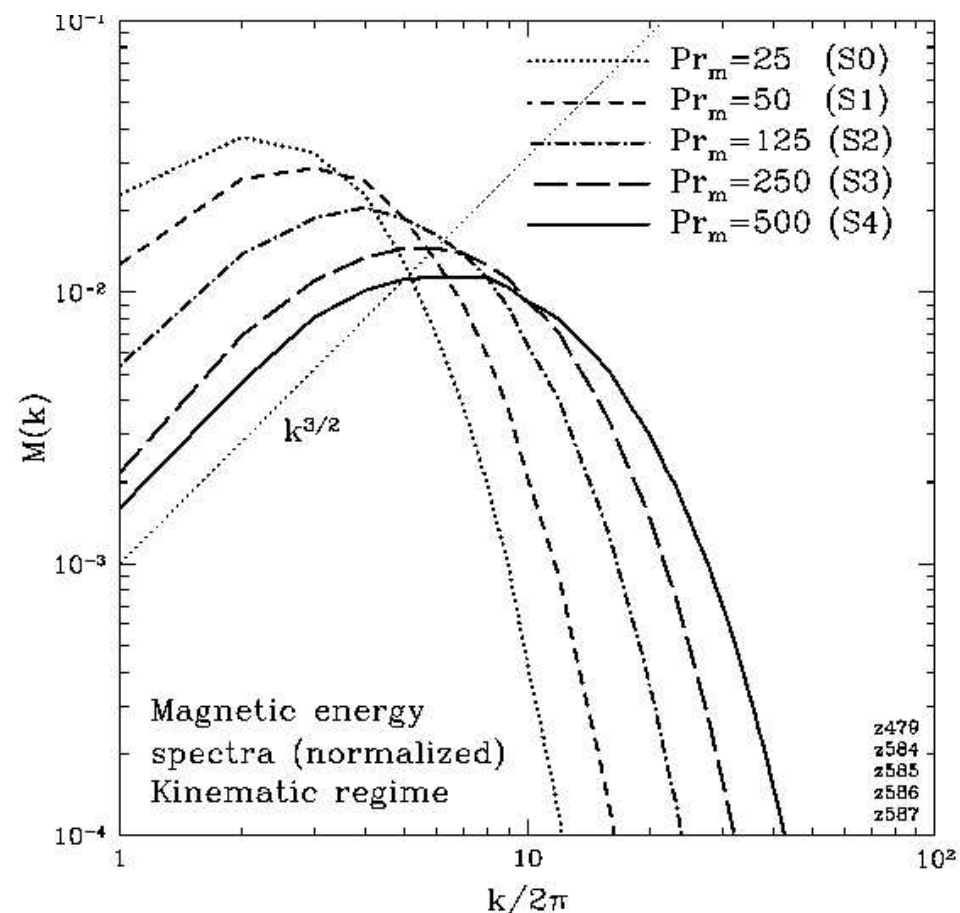
**Diffusion-free regime:**

$$\langle B^2 \rangle \propto \exp[2\bar{\gamma}t]$$

**Resistive (diffusive) regime:**

$$\langle B^2 \rangle \propto \exp[(3/4)\bar{\gamma}t]$$

where  $\bar{\gamma} = (5/4)\kappa_2$



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**Resistive regime:**

self-similar spectrum

$$M(t, k) \simeq \text{const } e^{\lambda\bar{\gamma}t} k^{3/2} K_0(k/k_\eta)$$

where  $\lambda \simeq \frac{3}{4} - \frac{\pi^2}{5[\ln(\text{Pr}^{1/2})]^2}$

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# Spectrum Is Not the End of Story...

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**But spectra do not tell us very much about field structure!**

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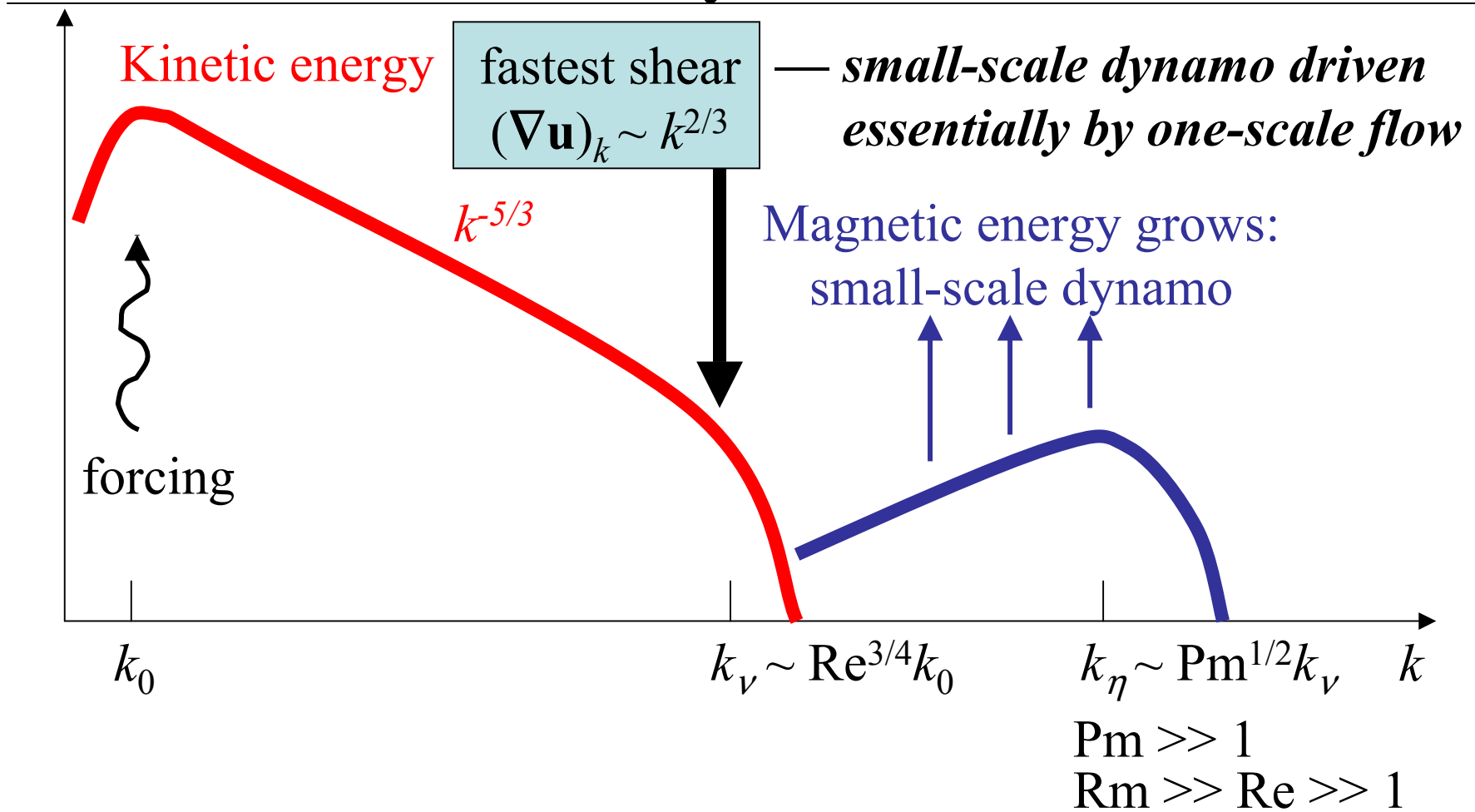
**But spectra do not tell us very much about field structure!**

For example, one used to argue, from the above:

back reaction  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim k_\eta B^2 \sim \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \sim k_\nu u^2$  sets in when

$$B^2 \sim (k_\nu/k_\eta) u^2 \sim \text{Pr}^{-1/2} u^2 \ll u^2 \text{ — WRONG!!!}$$

# Small-Scale Dynamo at $Pm \geq 1$

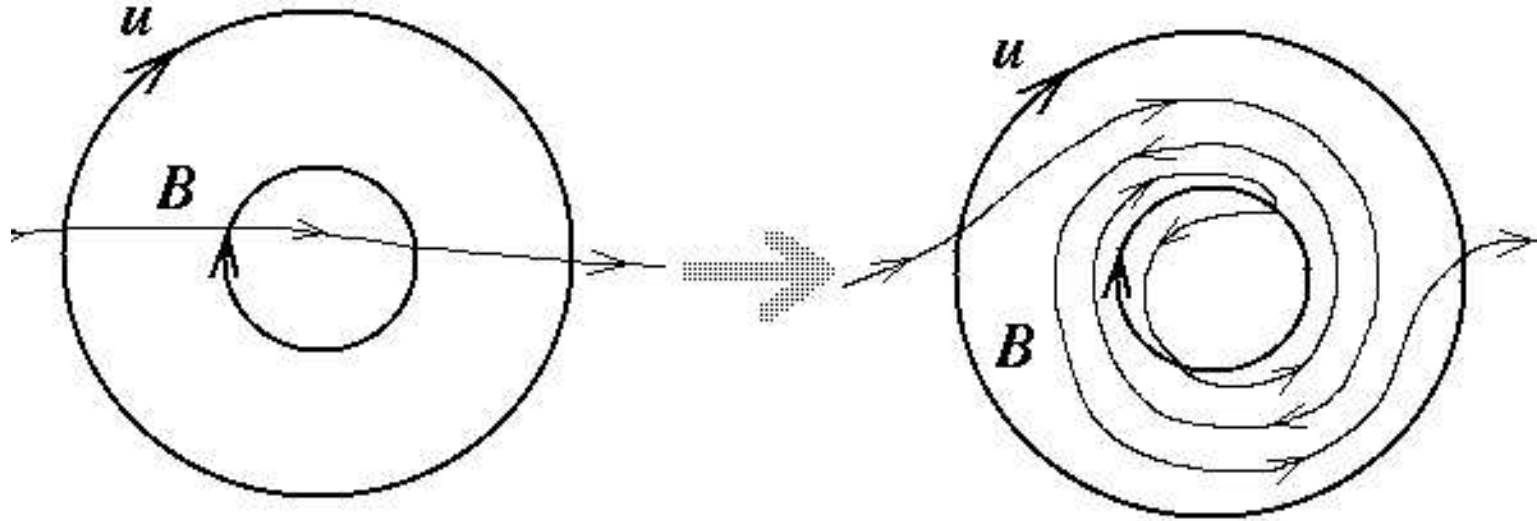


Dynamo mechanism: **random stretching**  
Very generic!

# The Folded Structure: Common Sense

---

*The flow winds up magnetic field into folds:*



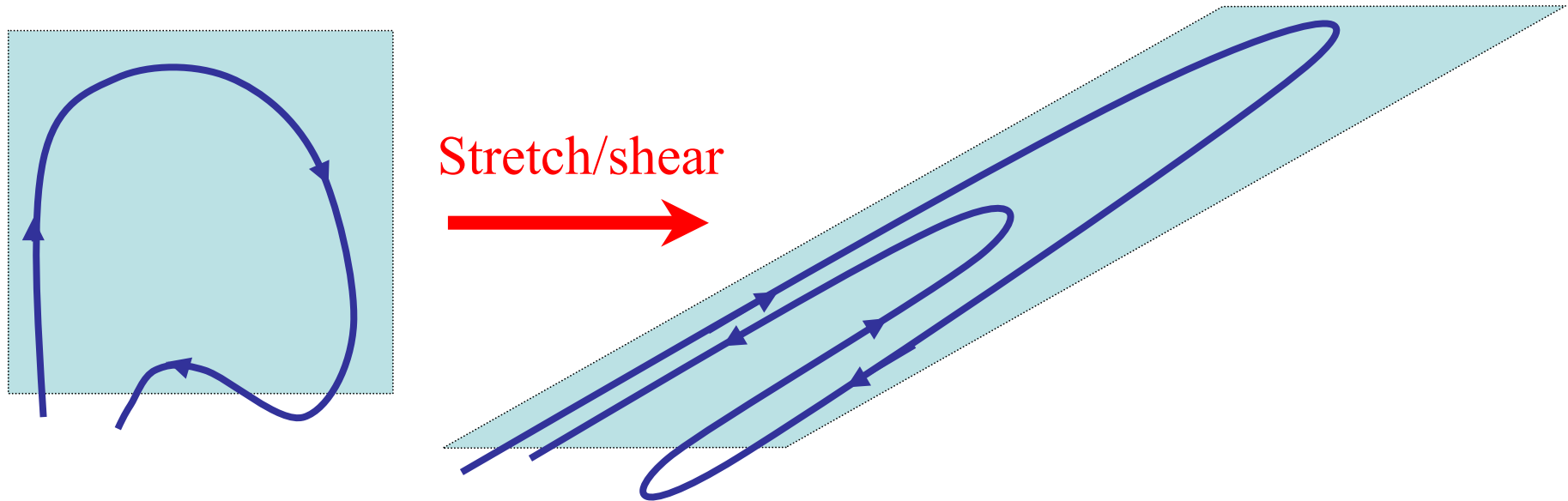
Straight field

Folded field

- Direction reversals at the resistive scale,  $k_{\perp} \sim k_{\eta}$
- Field varies slowly along itself:  $k_{\parallel} \sim k_{\text{flow}}$

# The Folded Structure: Common Sense

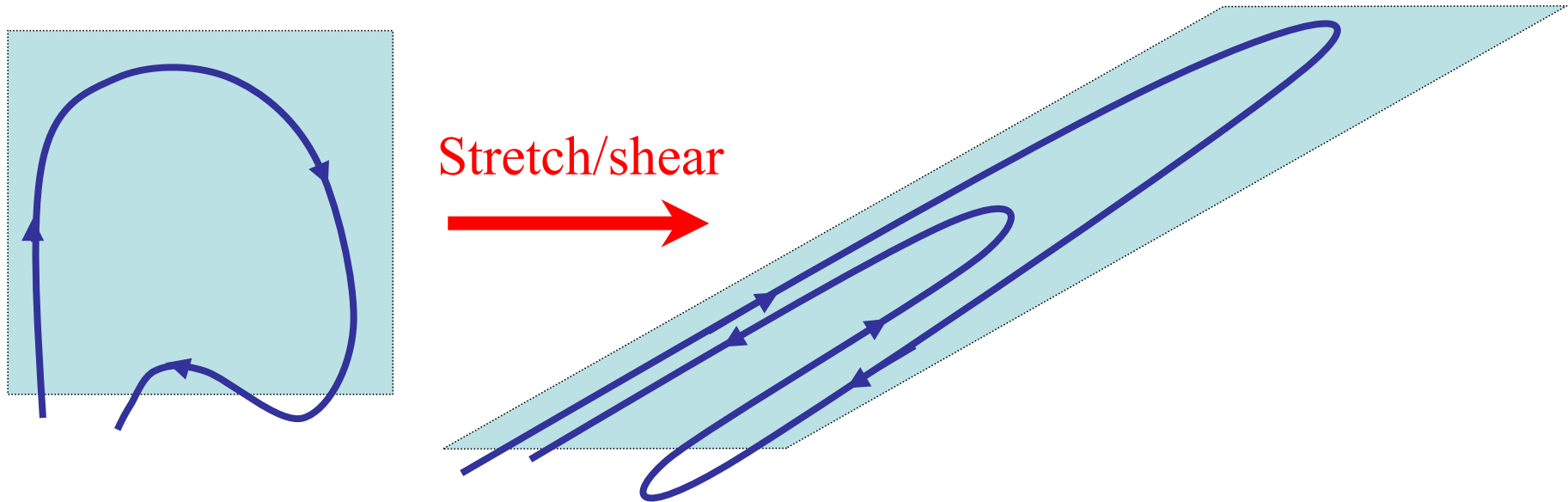
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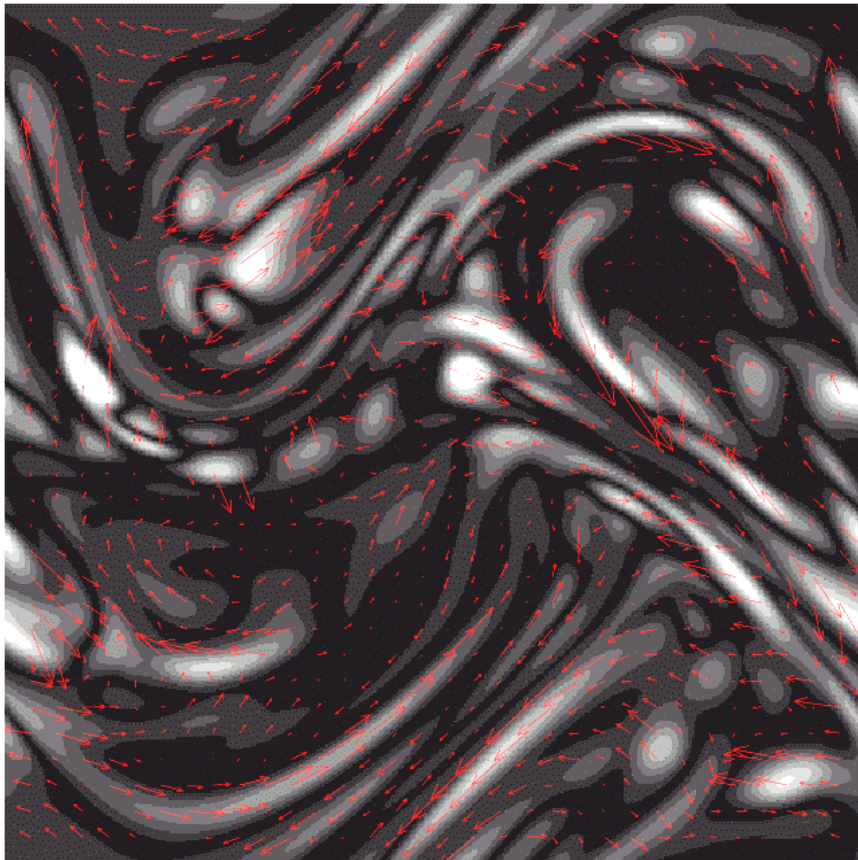
Therefore, in fact,

back reaction  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim k_{\parallel} B^2 \sim k_{\nu} B^2 \sim \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \sim k_{\nu} u^2$  sets in when

$B^2 \sim u^2$  (energy of the viscous eddies)

# Folded Structure: DNS ( $Pm \gg 1$ )

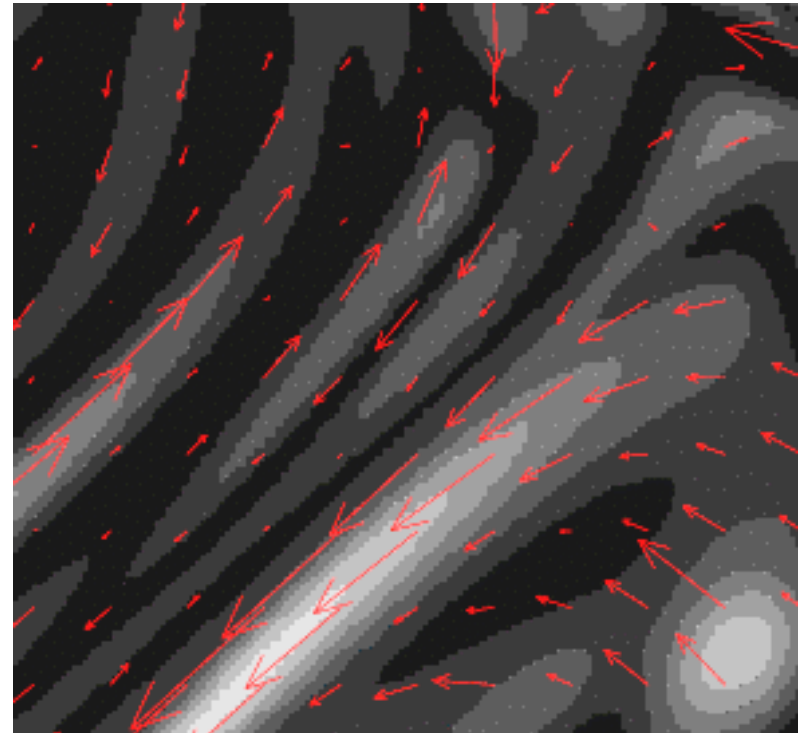
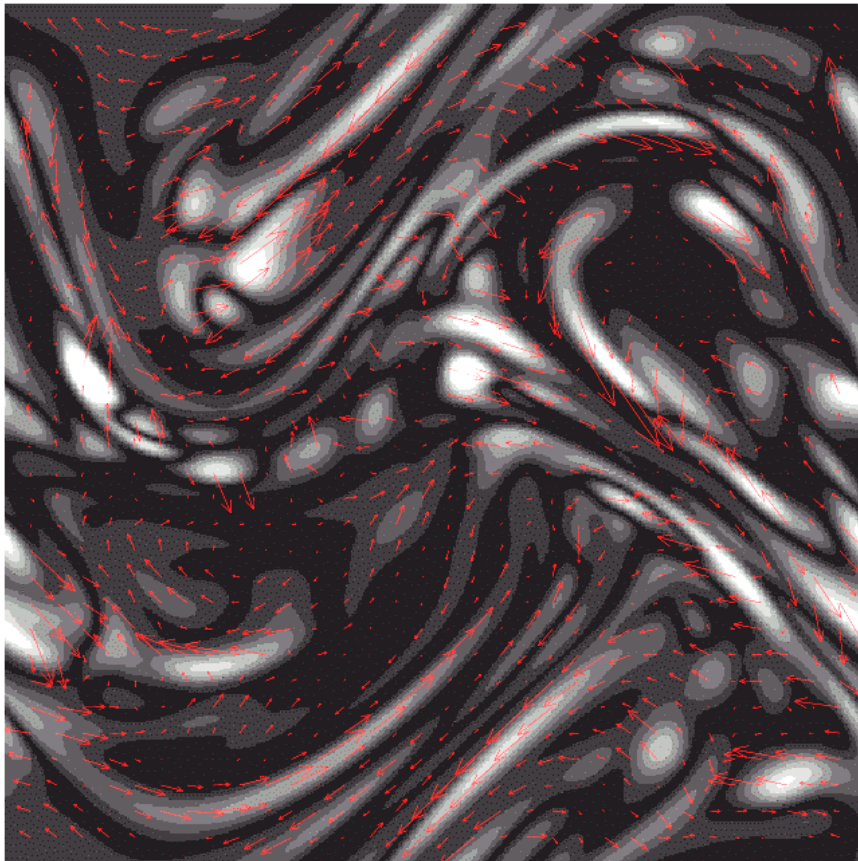
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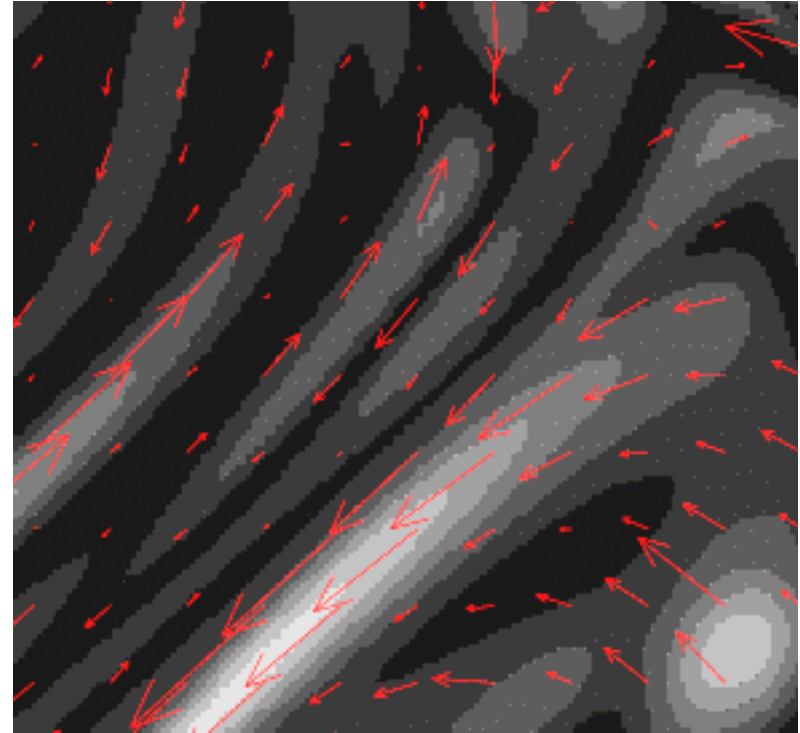
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# Folded Structure: The Movie

---

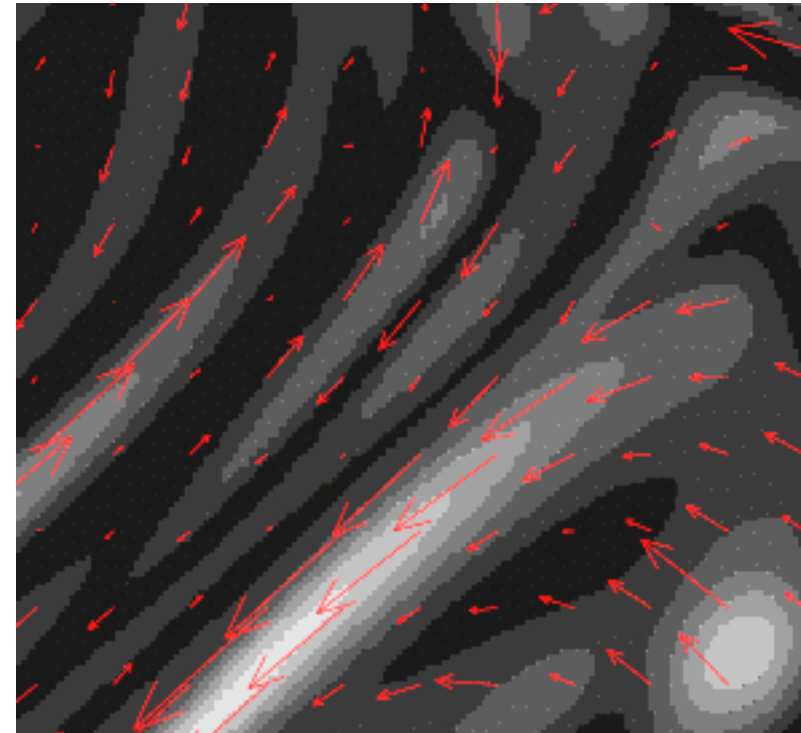
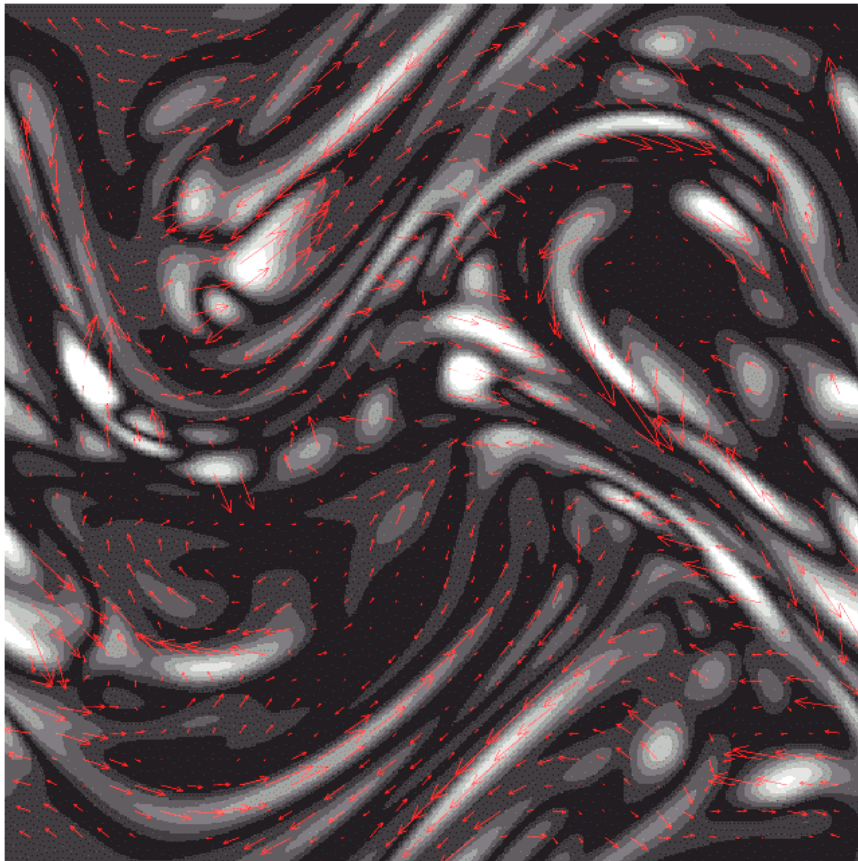
QuickTime™ and a  
DV/DVCPRO - NTSC decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.



In glorious black and white...

# Diagnosing Folded Structure

---



Previous work:

- *Extreme flux cancellation* [Ott & coworkers 1988-98, Cattaneo 1994]
- *Anisotropic two-point correlators* [Chertkov *et al.* 1999, *PRL* **83**, 4065]

# Characteristic Wavenumbers

The crudest diagnostics:

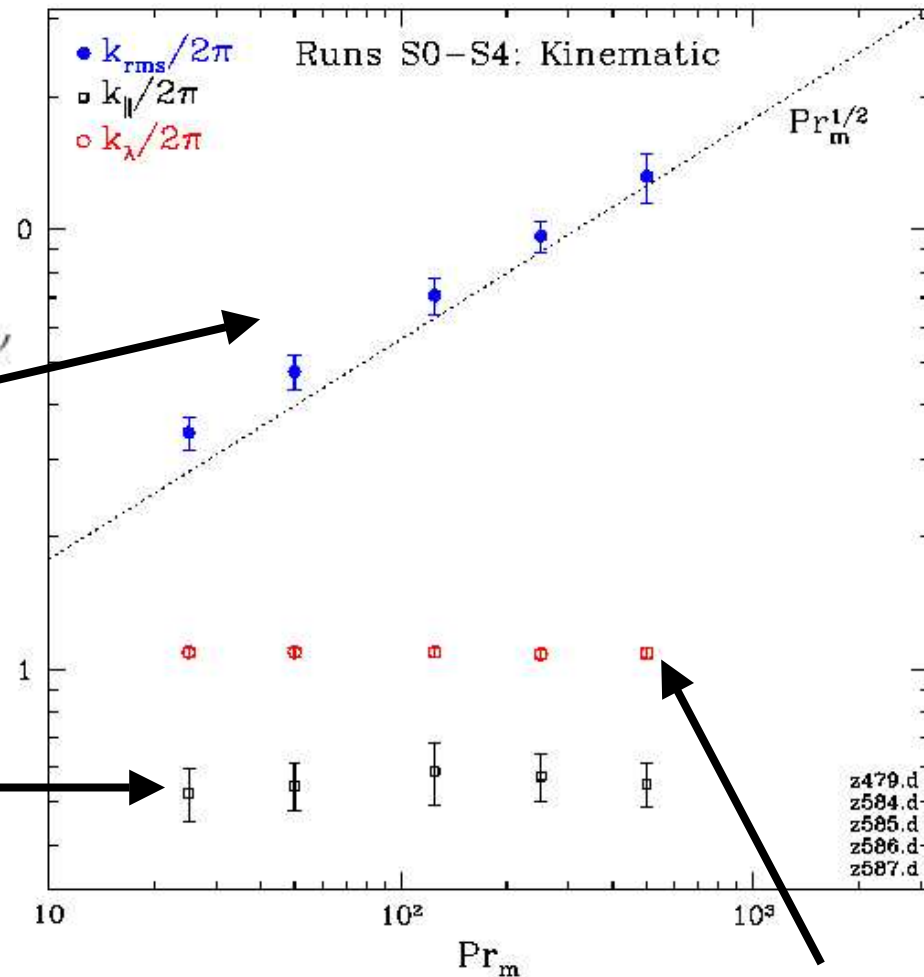
$$k_{\text{rms}} = \left[ \frac{2}{\langle B^2 \rangle} \int_0^\infty dk k^2 M(k) \right]^{1/2}$$

$$= \left[ \frac{\langle |\nabla \mathbf{B}|^2 \rangle}{\langle B^2 \rangle} \right]^{1/2} \sim k_\eta \sim \text{Pr}_m^{1/2} k_\nu$$

(direction reversals, get this already from spectral theory)

$$k_{\parallel} = \left[ \frac{\langle |\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}|^2 \rangle}{\langle B^4 \rangle} \right]^{1/2} \sim k_\nu$$

(inverse “fold length”, cannot get it from the spectrum!)



Compare them with the inverse Taylor microscale:

$$k_{\lambda} = \left[ \frac{\langle |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2 \rangle}{\langle u^2 \rangle} \right]^{1/2} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\lambda}$$

# Folded Structure: Attempting Theory

---

There is a simple argument to show  $k_{||} \sim k_{\perp}$ :

consider  $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B}$  — it satisfies (throw away diffusion)

$$\partial_t \mathbf{F} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B} : \nabla \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

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Suppose  $k_{\parallel} \gg k_{\nu} \Rightarrow$  neglect  $\nabla \nabla \mathbf{u} \Rightarrow$  **F satisfies same equation as B**

Therefore  $k_{\parallel}^2 \sim \frac{\langle F^2 \rangle}{\langle B^4 \rangle} \propto \frac{\langle B^2 \rangle}{\langle B^4 \rangle} < \text{const} \exp(-2\bar{\gamma}t)$  — decays!

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*This argument makes no assumption about the flow,  
but it is qualitative and resembles dangerously  
the famous (incorrect) “Batchelor analogy,”  
so we would like to do more quantitative theory.  
We try Kazantsev model, of course.*

# Folded Structure from Kazantsev Model

---

$$\partial_t \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

$$\partial_t \mathbf{F} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B} : \nabla \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

It is possible to derive *an equation for the joint PDF of  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{F}$* :

$$\partial_t P = -\frac{1}{2} \kappa_{,kl}^{ij} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial B^i} B^k + \frac{\partial}{\partial F^i} F^k \right) \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial B^j} B^l + \frac{\partial}{\partial F^j} F^l \right) P + \frac{1}{2} \kappa_{,klmn}^{ij} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial F^i \partial F^j} B^k B^l B^m B^n P$$

where (recall definitions)

$$\langle u^i(t, \mathbf{x}) u^j(t', \mathbf{x}') \rangle = \delta(t - t') \kappa^{ij}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$$

$$\kappa^{ij}(\mathbf{y}) = \kappa_0 \delta^{ij} - \frac{1}{2} \kappa_2 \left( y^2 \delta^{ij} - \frac{1}{2} y^i y^j \right) + \frac{1}{4!} \kappa_4 y^2 \left( y^2 \delta^{ij} - \frac{2}{3} y^i y^j \right) + \dots$$



# Folded Structure from Kazantsev Model

---

$$\partial_t \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

$$\partial_t \mathbf{F} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B} : \nabla \nabla \mathbf{u}$$

It is possible to derive an equation for the joint PDF of  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{F}$ .

This allows us to calculate all averages, individual and mixed:

thus, for example,  $k_{\parallel}^2 \sim \frac{\langle F^2 \rangle}{\langle B^4 \rangle} \rightarrow \frac{14}{27} \frac{\kappa_4}{\kappa_2} \sim k_{\nu}^2$  **OK!**

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Now note that  $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} = B^2 \left( \underbrace{\hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \nabla \hat{\mathbf{b}}}_{\mathbf{K} \text{ curvature}} + \hat{\mathbf{b}} \frac{\nabla_{\parallel} B}{B} \right)$   
mirror force

- Curvature  $\mathbf{K}$  tells us about **the geometry of the field lines**
- Field strength  $B$  is **the density of the field lines**

***Statistics of  $K$  and  $B$  give a description of field structure***

# Curvature Statistics from Kazantsev Model

---

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{K} = \mathbf{K} \cdot (\nabla \mathbf{u}) \cdot (\hat{\mathbb{I}} - \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}}) - \hat{\mathbf{b}}\mathbf{K}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} - 2\mathbf{K}\hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : \nabla \mathbf{u} + \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}} : (\nabla \nabla \mathbf{u}) \cdot (\hat{\mathbb{I}} - \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}})$$
$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{\mathbf{b}} = \hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot (\nabla \mathbf{u}) \cdot (\hat{\mathbb{I}} - \hat{\mathbf{b}}\hat{\mathbf{b}})$$

To get **curvature statistics**, again do a joint PDF and separate trivial parts (use isotropy):

$$P(t; \mathbf{K}, \hat{\mathbf{b}}) = \delta(|\hat{\mathbf{b}}|^2 - 1) \delta(\hat{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \mathbf{K}) \frac{1}{K} P_K(t; K)$$

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Get



$K$  rescaled by  $(2\kappa_4/7\kappa_2)^{1/2} \sim k_\nu$

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**There is a stationary solution:**

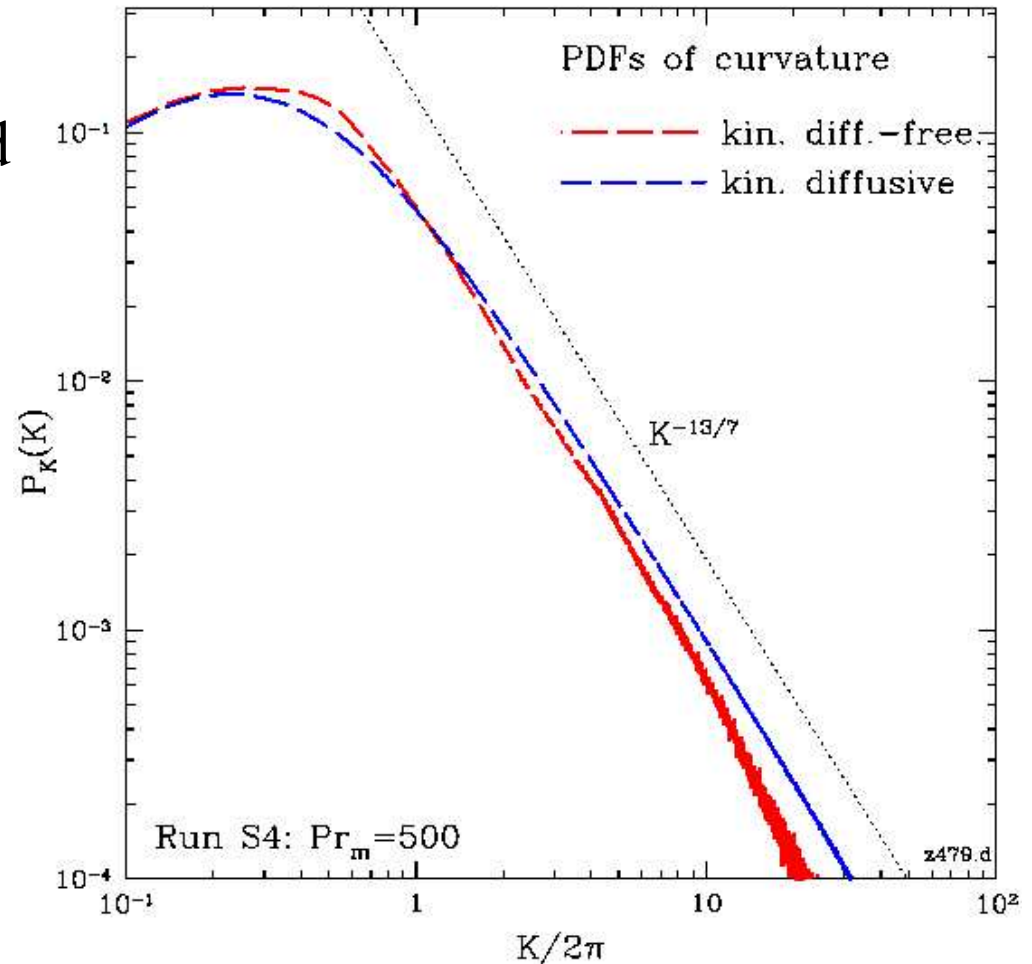
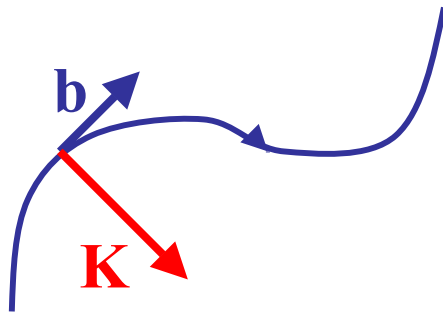
$$P_K(K) = \frac{6}{7} \frac{K}{(1 + K^2)^{10/7}} \sim \text{power tail } K^{-13/7}$$

[Drummond & Münch 1991, *JFM* **225**, 529; AAS *et al.* 2002, *PRE* **65**, 016305]

# Field Line Curvature Statistics

More detailed information:  
 geometry of field lines described  
 by the PDF of their curvature

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 cf. work on **material lines**: e.g., Drummond & Münch 1991, *JFM* **225**, 529]

# Curvature and Field Strength

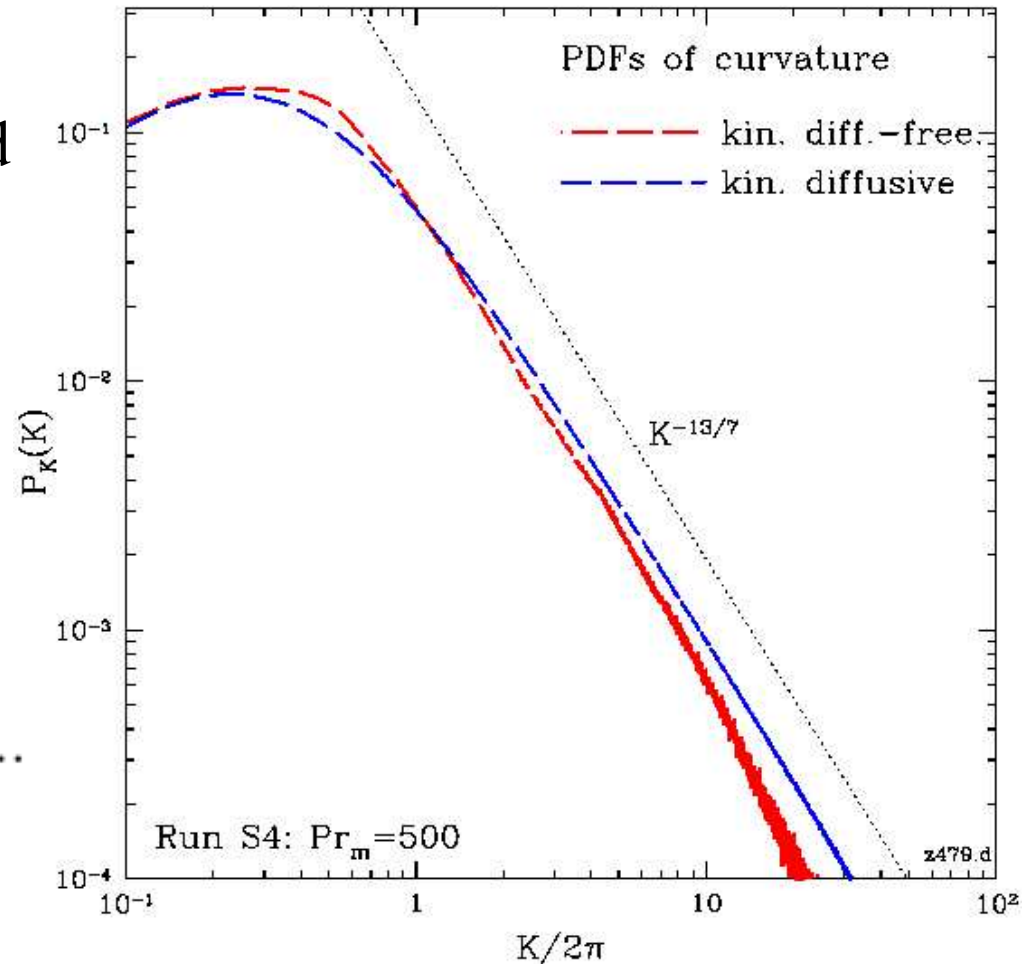
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Curvature and field strength  
are **anticorrelated**

$$\frac{\langle K^2 B^2 \rangle - \langle K^2 \rangle \langle B^2 \rangle}{\langle K^2 \rangle \langle B^2 \rangle} \simeq -0.9\dots$$



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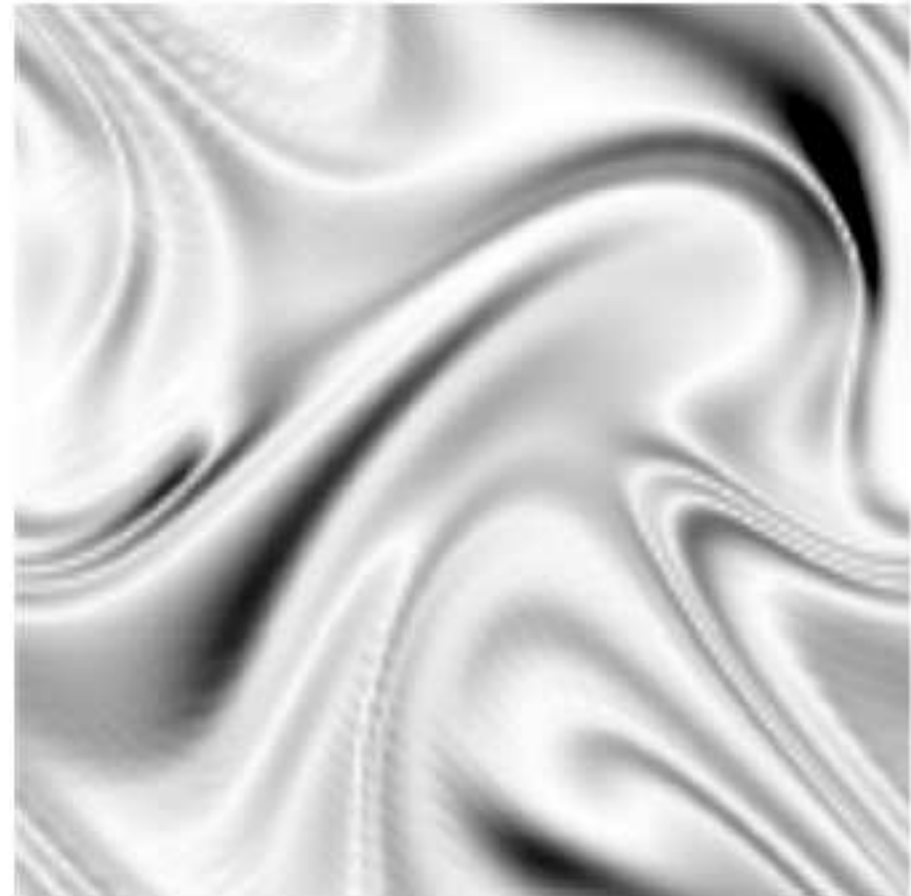
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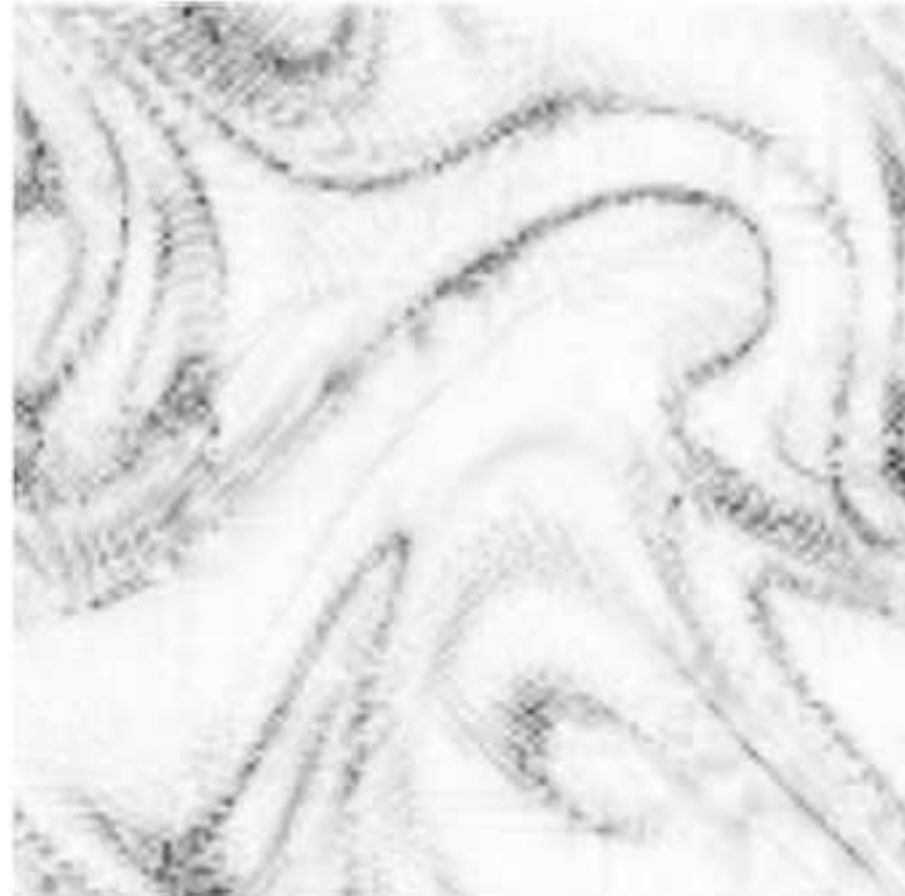
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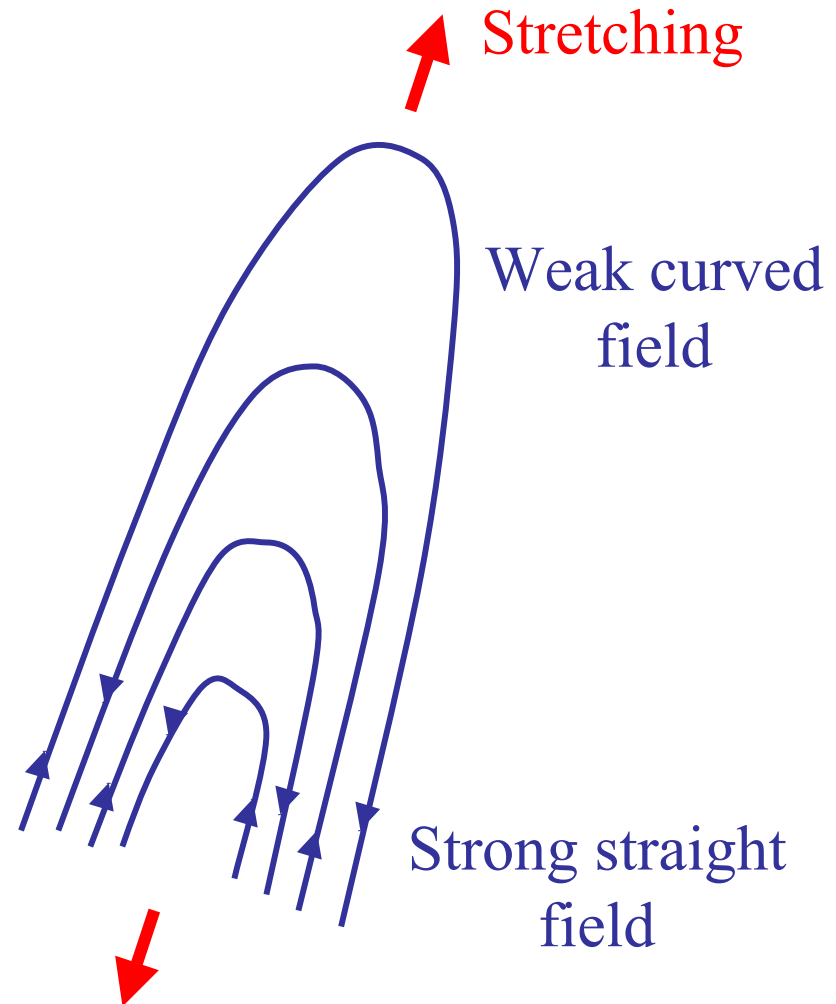
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$$\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{b}$$

**Curvature and field strength  
are anticorrelated**

...which is clear from simple  
geometry of field stretching  
(and can be shown both  
**analytically** and  
**numerically**)



[AAS *et al.* 2002, *PRE* **65**, 016305; 2004, *ApJ*, **612**, 276

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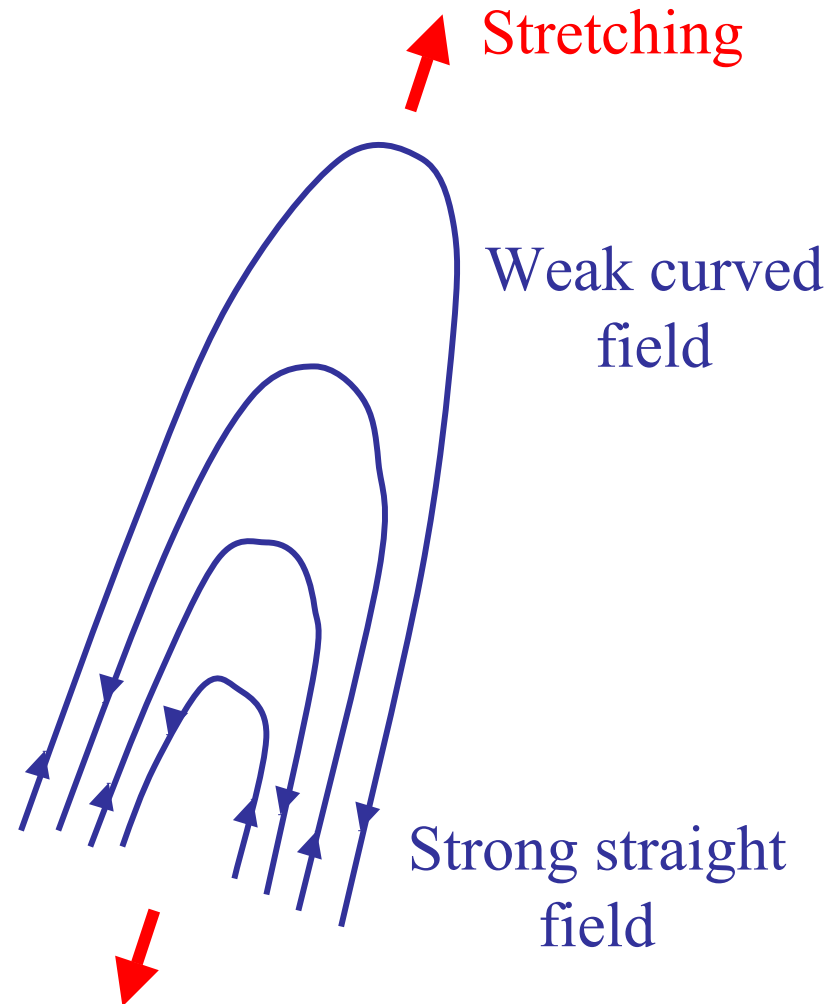
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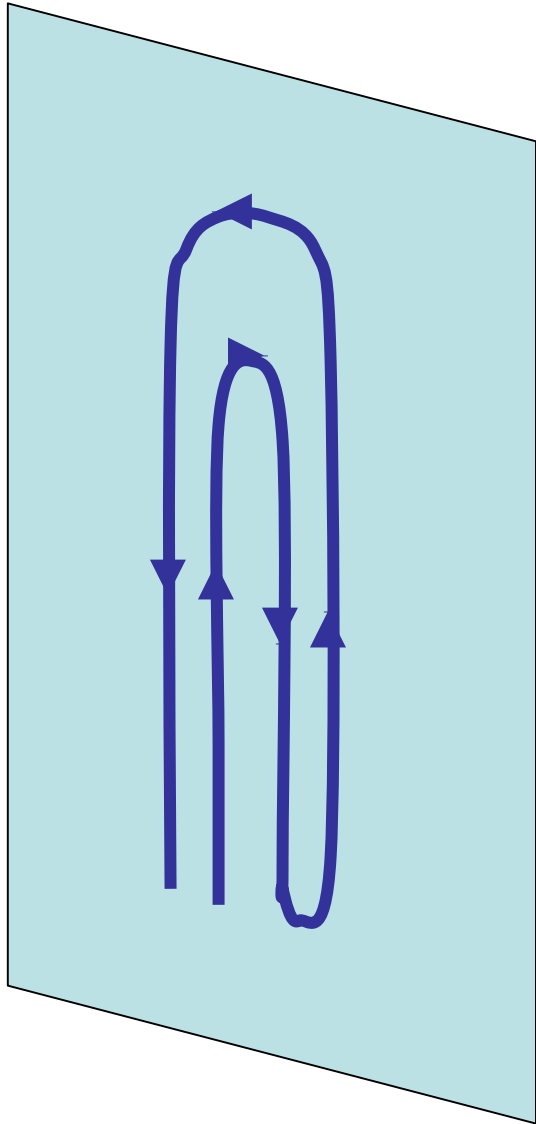
From Kazantsev model,  
can show, for example,  
that  $\langle B^4 K^2 \rangle \sim k_\nu^2 \langle B^4 \rangle$ ,  
but  $\langle K^2 \rangle \sim k_\nu^2 \text{Pr}^{4/7}$



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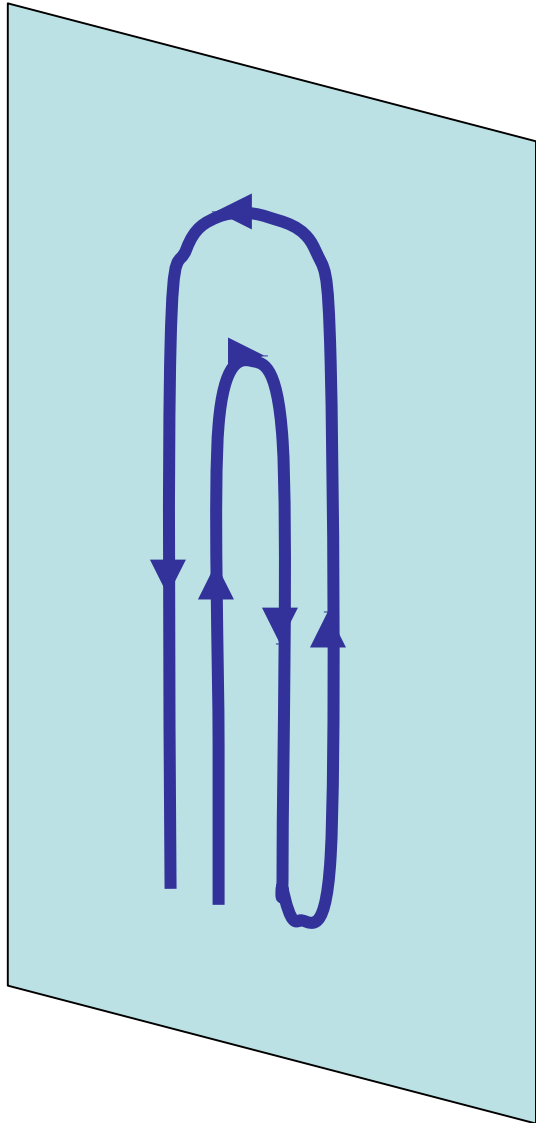
# How Is Small-Scale Dynamo Possible?

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The Zeldovich *et al.* mechanism [*JFM* 144, 1 (1984)]



Consider a smooth random flow  
whose scale  $\gg$  reversal scale

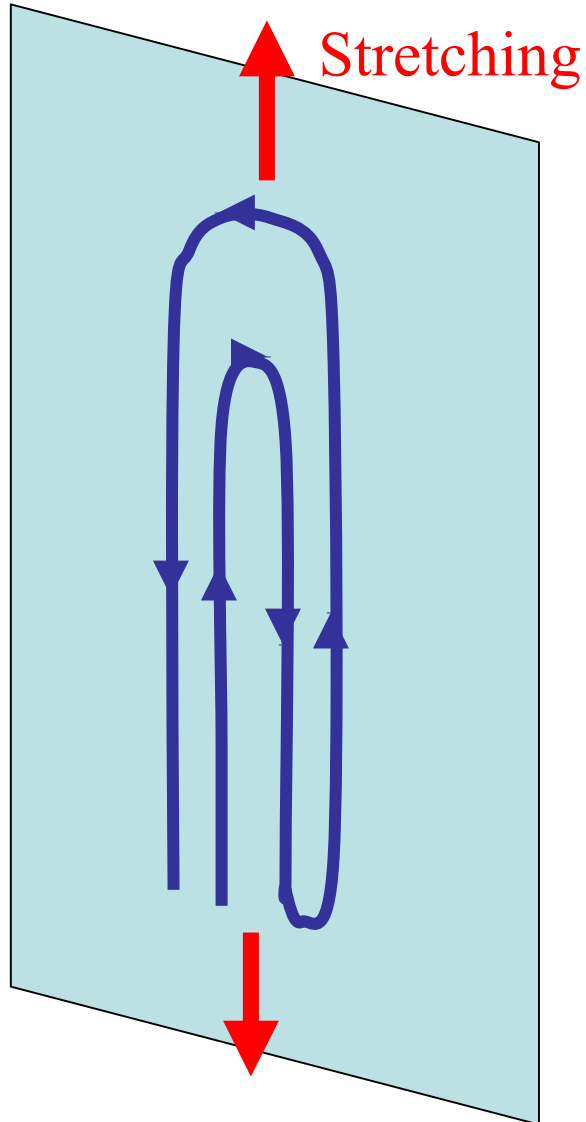
Locally, such a flow  
can be thought of  
as a *random linear shear*,  
with three Lyapunov directions:

**stretching,**  
**compression,**  
**“null”**

- viscous-scale eddies in turbulence
- deterministic chaotic flows  
(like ABC)
- Kazantsev model

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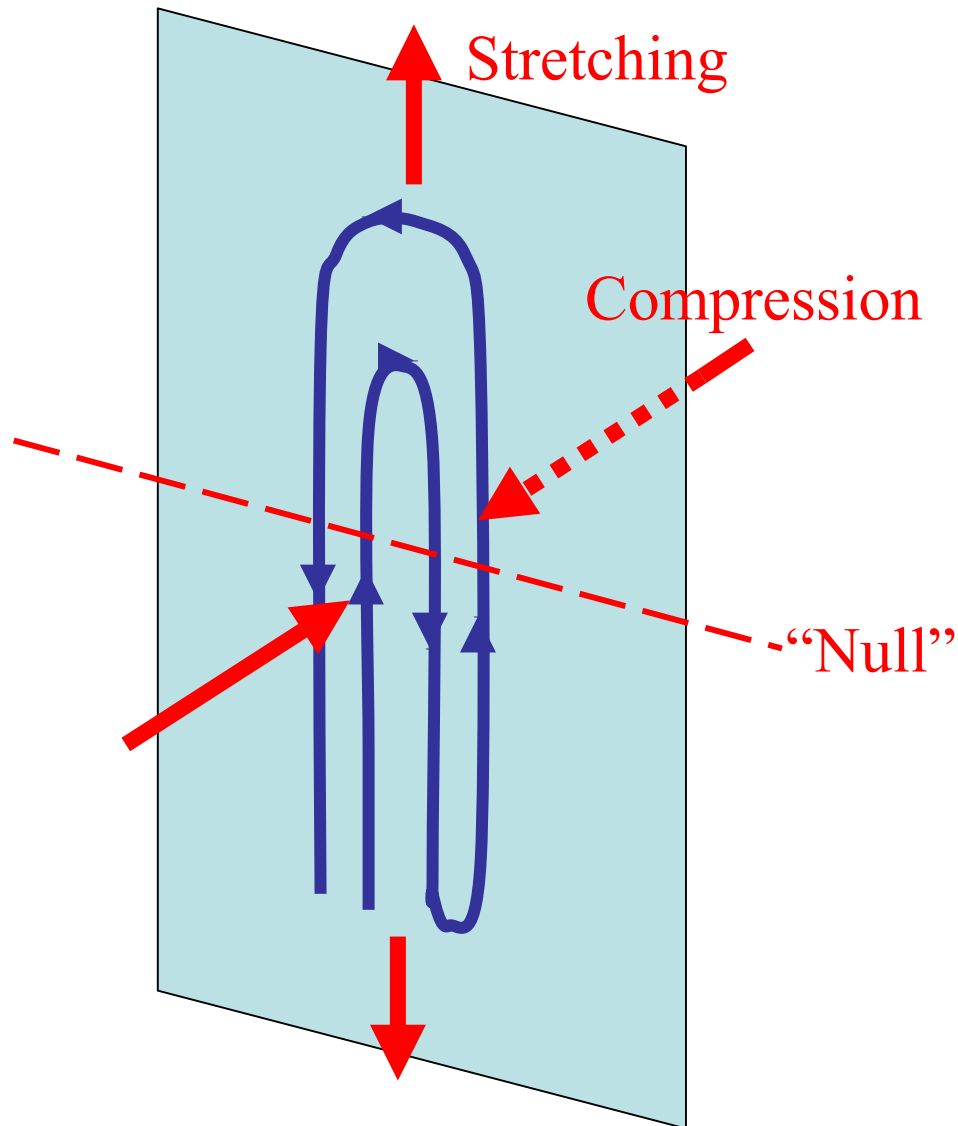
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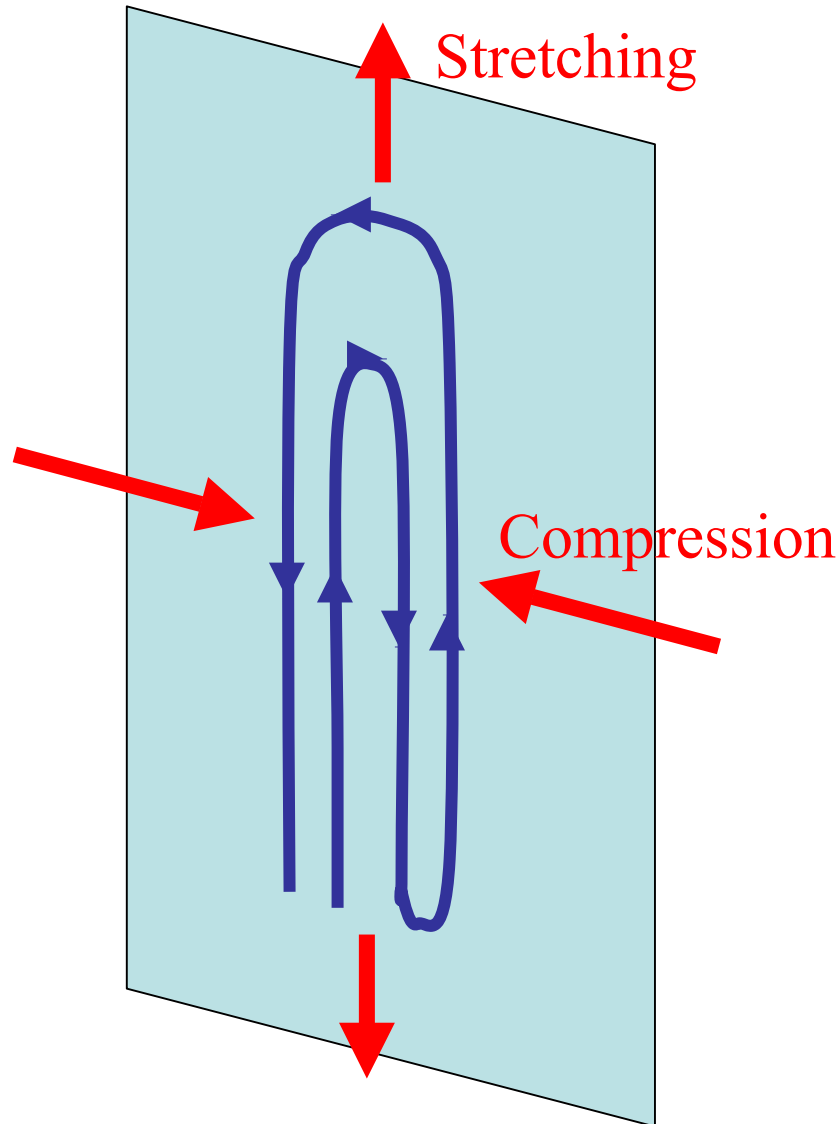
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**Winning configuration:**  
*resistive annihilation of  
antiparallel fields does  
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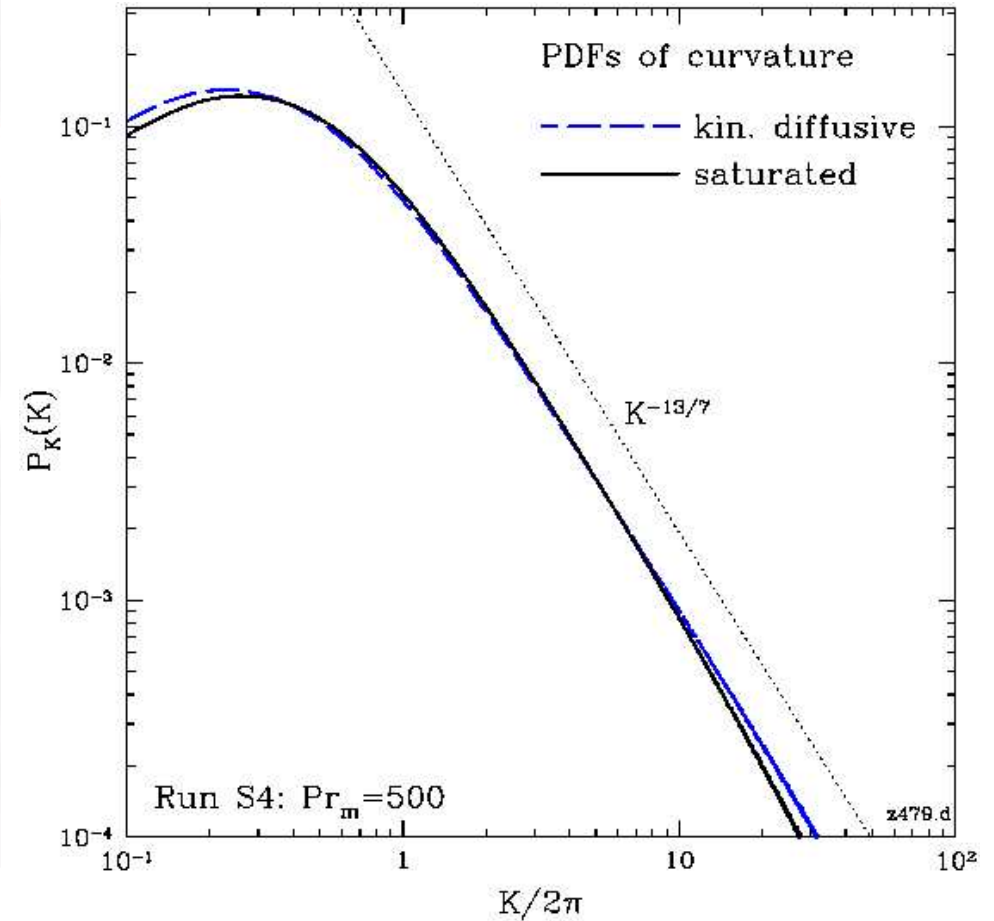
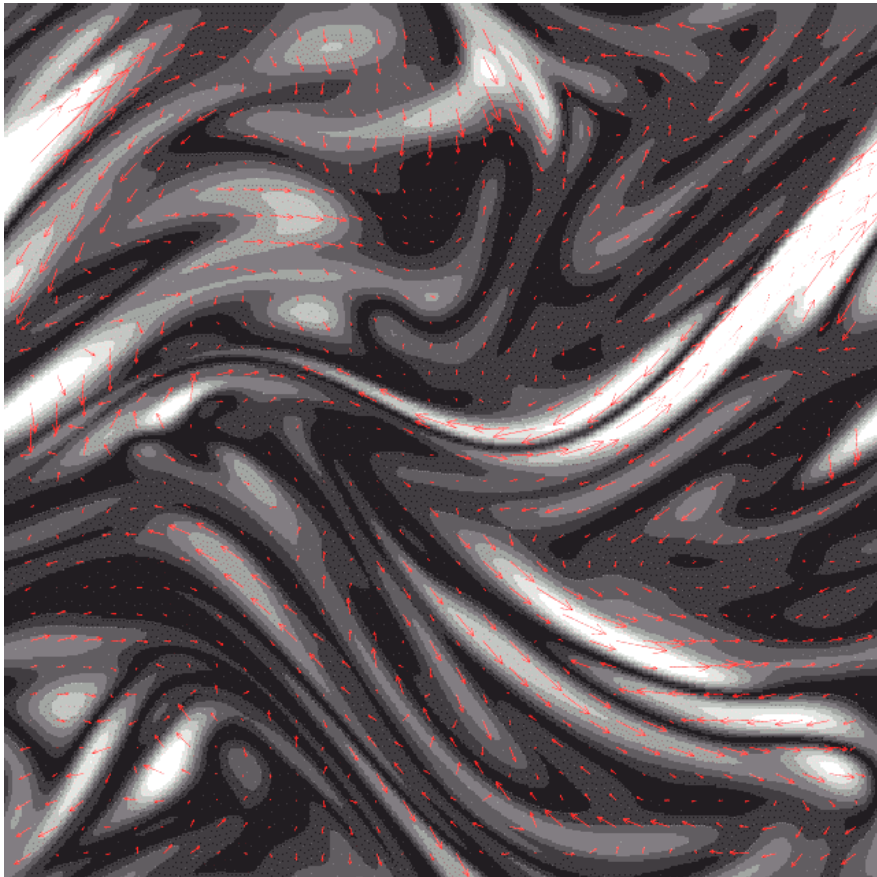


Winning configuration:  
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not cancel the effect of  
stretching

***This does not work in 2D!***  
[reason for antidynamo theorem,  
Zeldovich 1956, *ZhETF* 31, 154]



# Folded Structure Preserved in Saturation

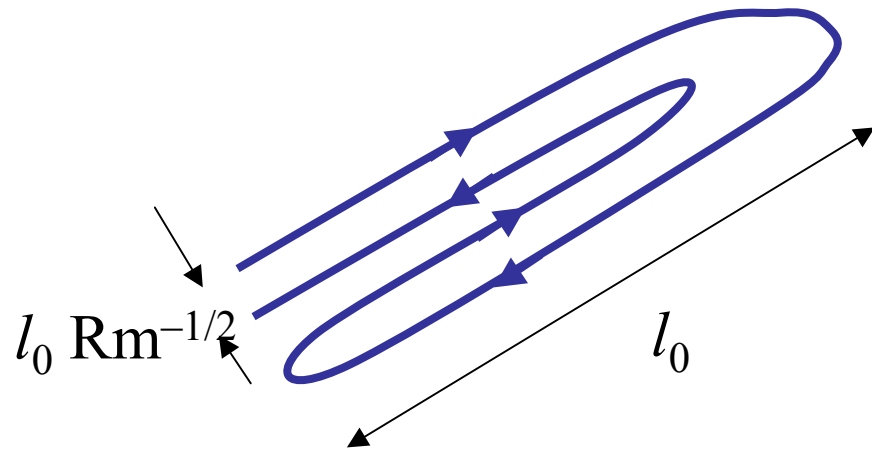


All the same features of **field-line geometry** and **field-strength anticorrelation with curvature** as in kinematic dynamo

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

# Saturation via Anisotropy

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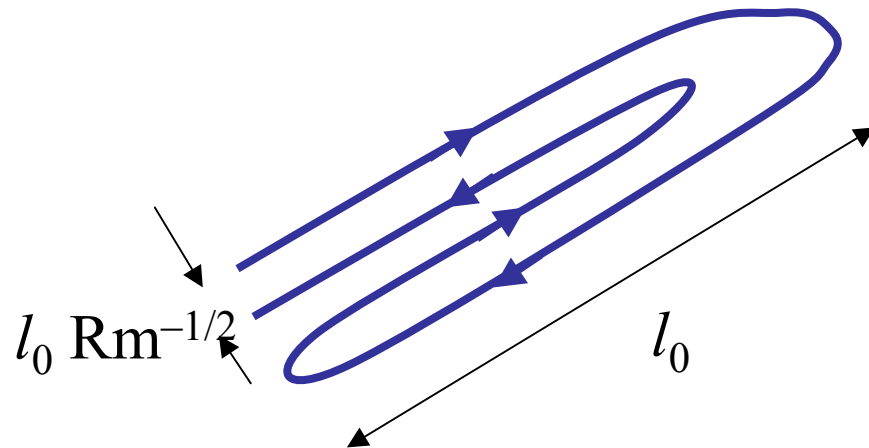


$$\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim k_{\parallel} B^2$$

**Folds provide a direction in space that is locally coherent at the scale of the flow**

# Saturation via Anisotropy

---



$$\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim k_{\parallel} B^2$$

Folds provide a direction in space that is locally coherent at the scale of the flow

It is possible to construct a Fokker-Planck-type model of saturated spectra based on the idea that **saturation occurs via partial two-dimensionalisation of the velocity gradients with respect to the local direction of the folds**

*This weakens stretching and enhances mixing, so dynamo saturates at marginally stable balance of the two*

# A Fokker-Planck Model of Saturation

Build on the Kazantsev formalism and model saturation by  
**making velocity statistics depend on the local field direction  $b^i b^j$ :**

$$\kappa^{ij}(\mathbf{k}) = \kappa^{(i)}(k, |\mu|)(\delta^{ij} - \hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j) + \kappa^{(a)}(k, |\mu|)(\hat{b}^i \hat{b}^j + \mu^2 \hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j - \mu \hat{b}^i \hat{k}_j - \mu \hat{k}_i \hat{b}^j)$$

Can then derive an equation for magnetic-energy spectrum in (almost) the usual way:

$$\partial_t M = \frac{1}{8} \gamma_{\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial k} \left[ (1 + 2\sigma_{\parallel}) k^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial k} - (1 + 4\sigma_{\perp} + 10\sigma_{\parallel}) k \right] M + 2(\sigma_{\perp} + \sigma_{\parallel}) \gamma_{\perp} M - 2\eta k^2 M$$

where  $\gamma_{\perp} = \int d^3k k_{\perp}^2 \kappa_{\perp} \sim [\langle |\nabla_{\perp} \mathbf{u}_{\perp}|^2 \rangle]^{1/2}$  “mixing rate”

$$\sigma_{\perp} = \frac{1}{\gamma_{\perp}} \int d^3k k_{\parallel}^2 \kappa_{\perp} \sim \frac{\langle |\nabla_{\parallel} \mathbf{u}_{\perp}|^2 \rangle}{\langle |\nabla_{\perp} \mathbf{u}_{\perp}|^2 \rangle}, \quad \sigma_{\parallel} = \frac{1}{\gamma_{\perp}} \int d^3k k_{\parallel}^2 \kappa_{\parallel} \sim \frac{\langle |\nabla_{\parallel} \mathbf{u}_{\parallel}|^2 \rangle}{\langle |\nabla_{\perp} \mathbf{u}_{\perp}|^2 \rangle}$$

Solution in the limit  $\eta \rightarrow +0$  is

$$M(k) \simeq k^s e^{\gamma t} K_0(k/k_{\eta}),$$

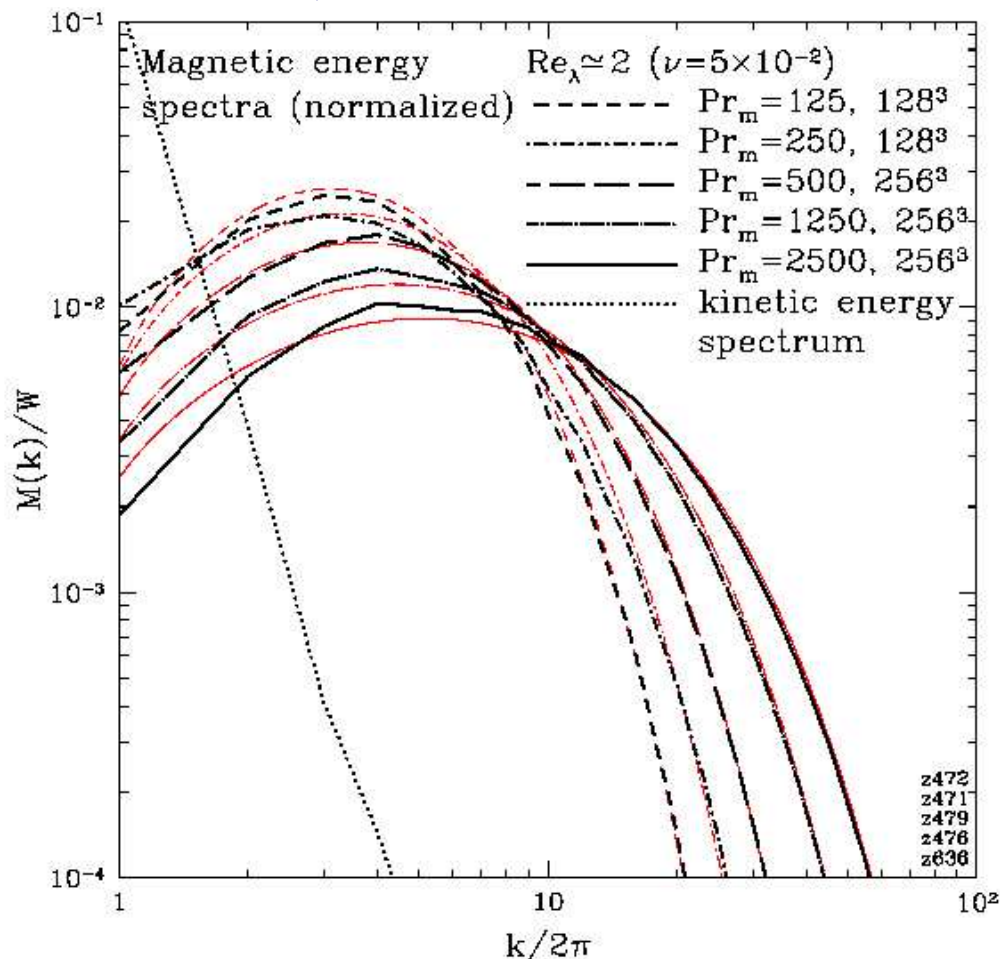
$$s = 2 \frac{\sigma_{\perp} + 2\sigma_{\parallel}}{1 + 2\sigma_{\parallel}}, \quad \gamma = \gamma_{\perp} \left[ 2(\sigma_{\perp} + \sigma_{\parallel}) - \frac{(1 + 2\sigma_{\perp} + 6\sigma_{\parallel})^2}{8(1 + 2\sigma_{\parallel})} \right], \quad k_{\eta} = \frac{1}{4} \left[ \frac{(1 + 2\sigma_{\parallel}) \gamma_{\perp}}{\eta} \right]^{1/2}$$

$\gamma = 0$  at some sufficiently small  $\sigma_{\perp}, \sigma_{\parallel} \Rightarrow$  **saturation purely by means of anisotropy!**

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *PRL* **92**, 084504]

# Saturated Spectra: Theory vs. DNS

We can solve the model with simulation parameters:  
these nonasymptotic solutions fit an entire sequence of spectra  
in runs with  $Re \sim 1$ ,  $Pm \gg 1$

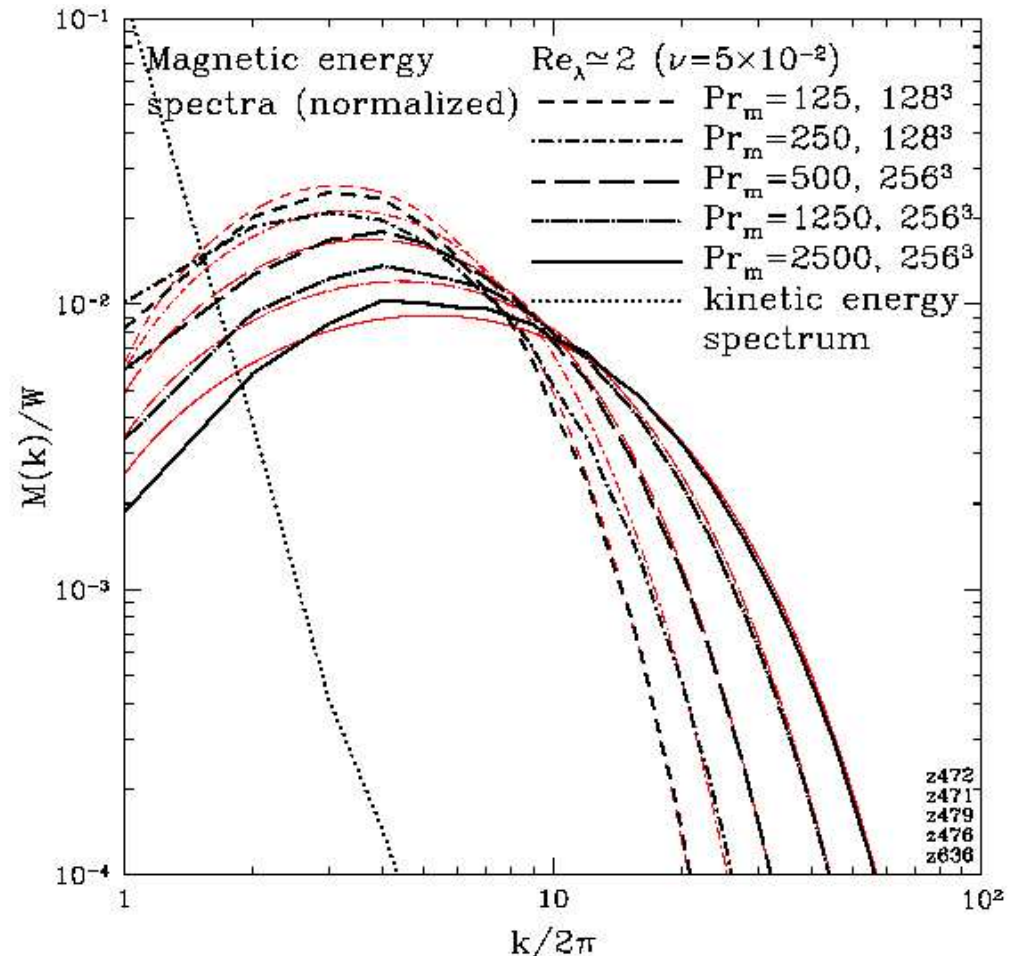


[AAS *et al.* 2004, *PRL* **92**, 084504]

# Saturated Spectra: Theory vs. DNS

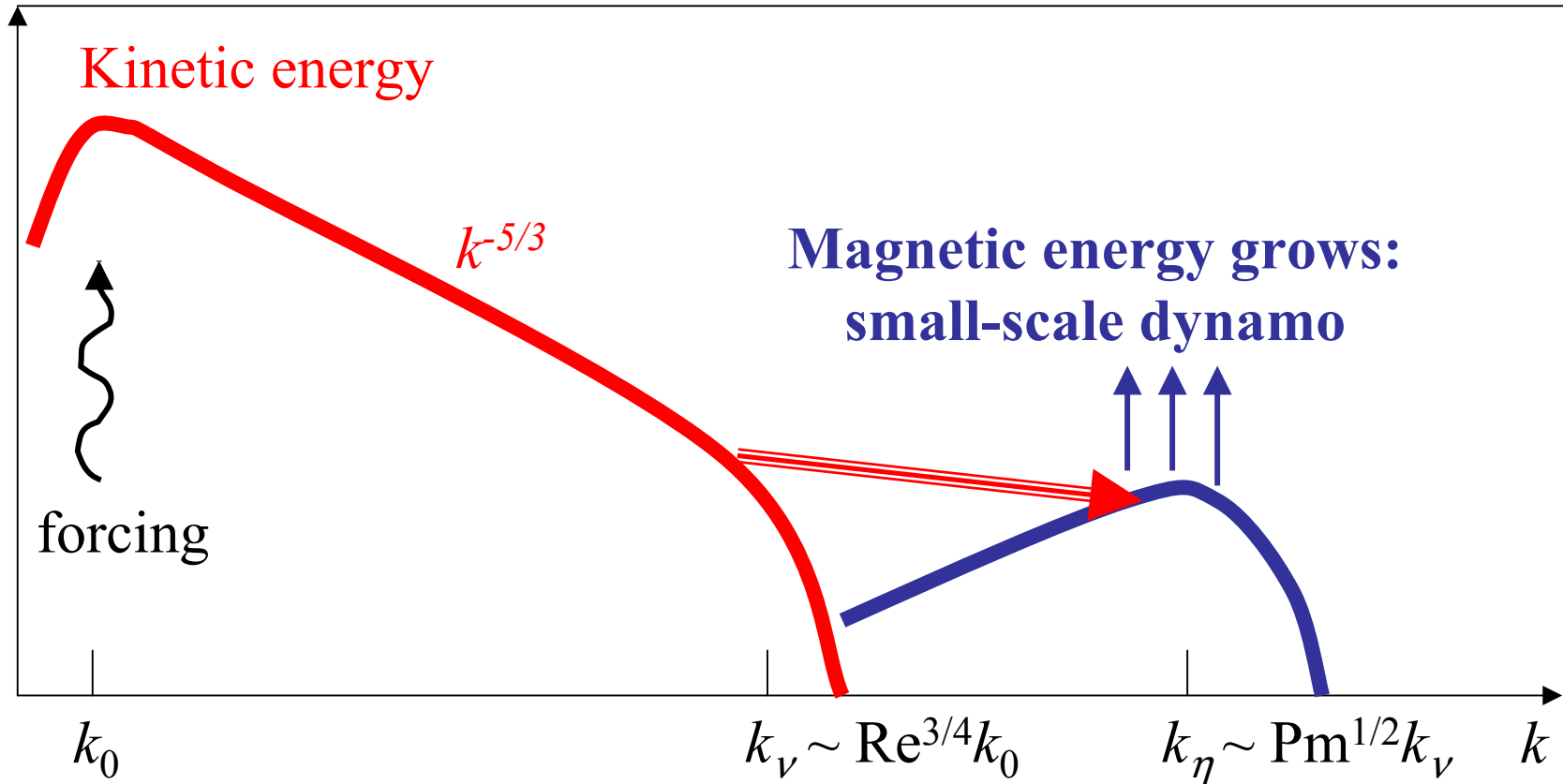
We can solve the model with simulation parameters:  
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**This is a pleasant surprise:  
apparently, the saturation  
mechanism is simple  
and robust enough  
to be captured by  
such an elementary model!**



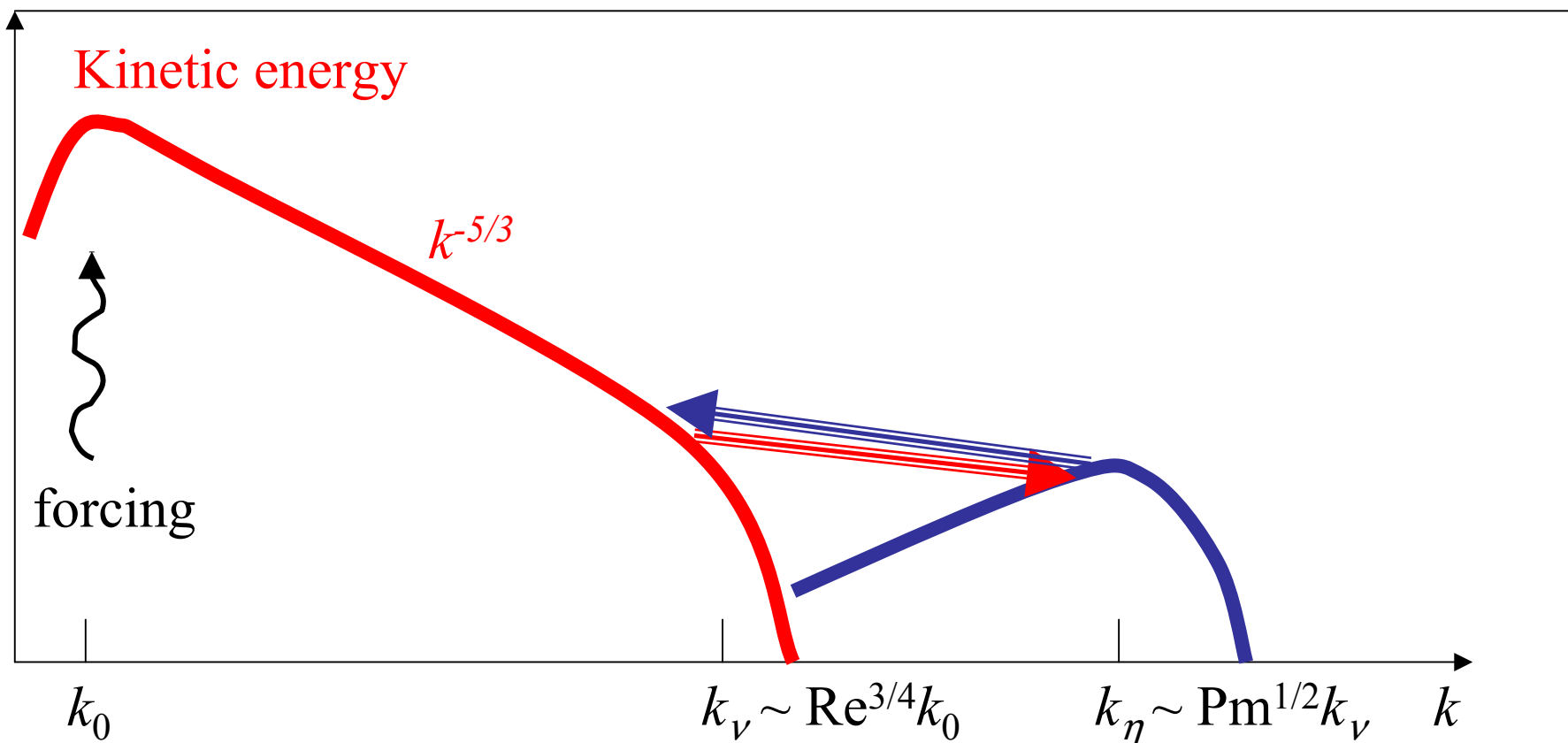
[AAS *et al.* 2004, *PRL* **92**, 084504]

# MHD Turbulence: Multiscale Flow



We have thus far considered dynamo in a *single-scale* random flow  
True turbulence has a range of scales

# Onset of Back Reaction



Kinematic growth

continues until  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}$

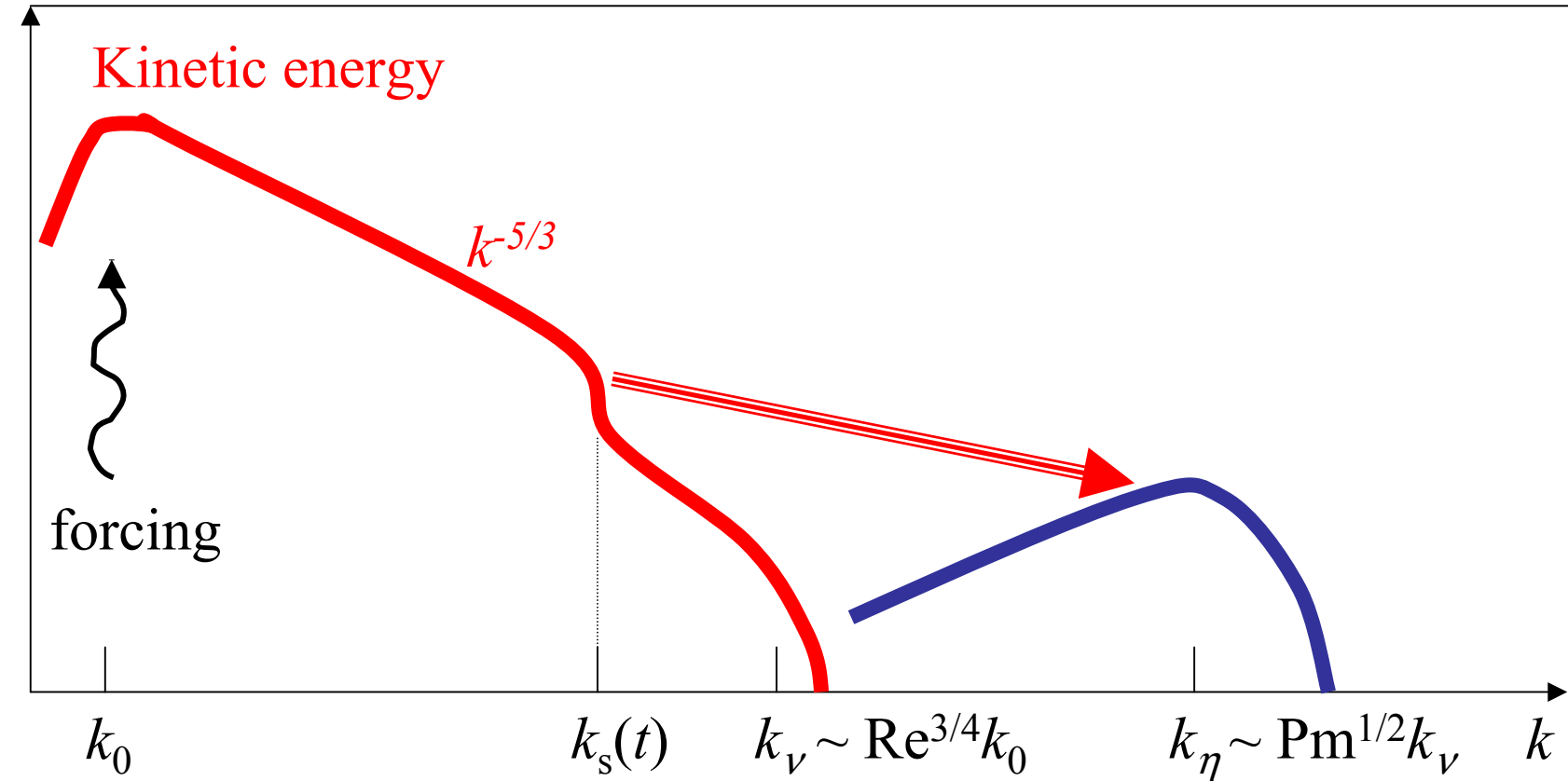
$$k_{\parallel} B^2 \sim k_v u^2 \quad \text{i.e.,} \quad B^2 \sim u^2$$

Mag. energy  $\sim$  visc. eddies energy

[AAS *et al.* 2002, *PRE* **65**, 016305]



# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth

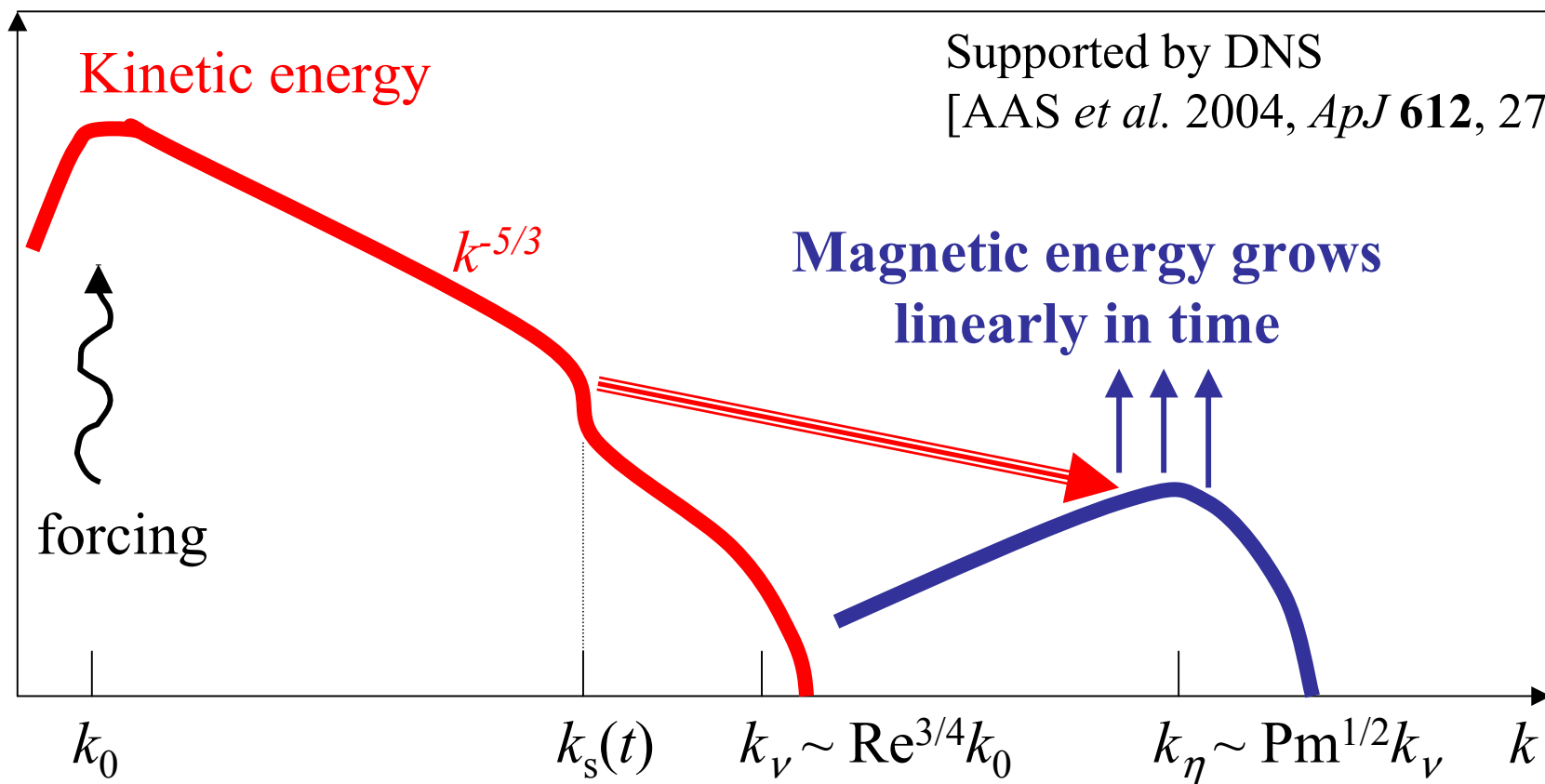


Define *stretching scale*  $l_s(t)$  :  $u_{l_s}^2 \sim \langle B^2 \rangle$

# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth

Supported by DNS

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]



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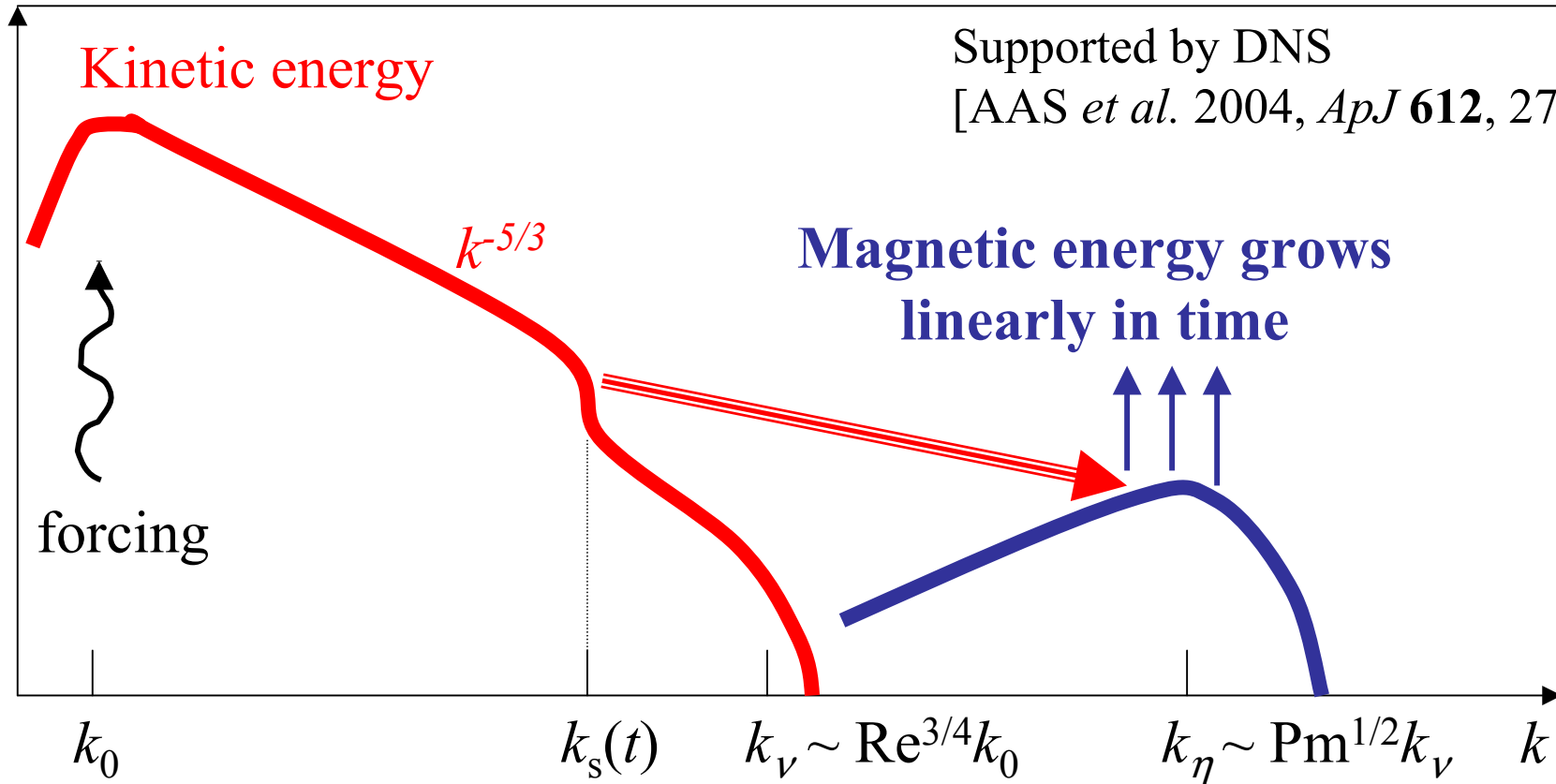
$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle B^2 \rangle \sim \frac{u l_s}{l_s} \langle B^2 \rangle \sim \frac{u^3}{l_s} \sim \epsilon = \text{const} \longrightarrow \boxed{\phantom{\text{ }}}$$

[AAS *et al.* 2002, *NJP* **4**, 84; Maron *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **603**, 569]

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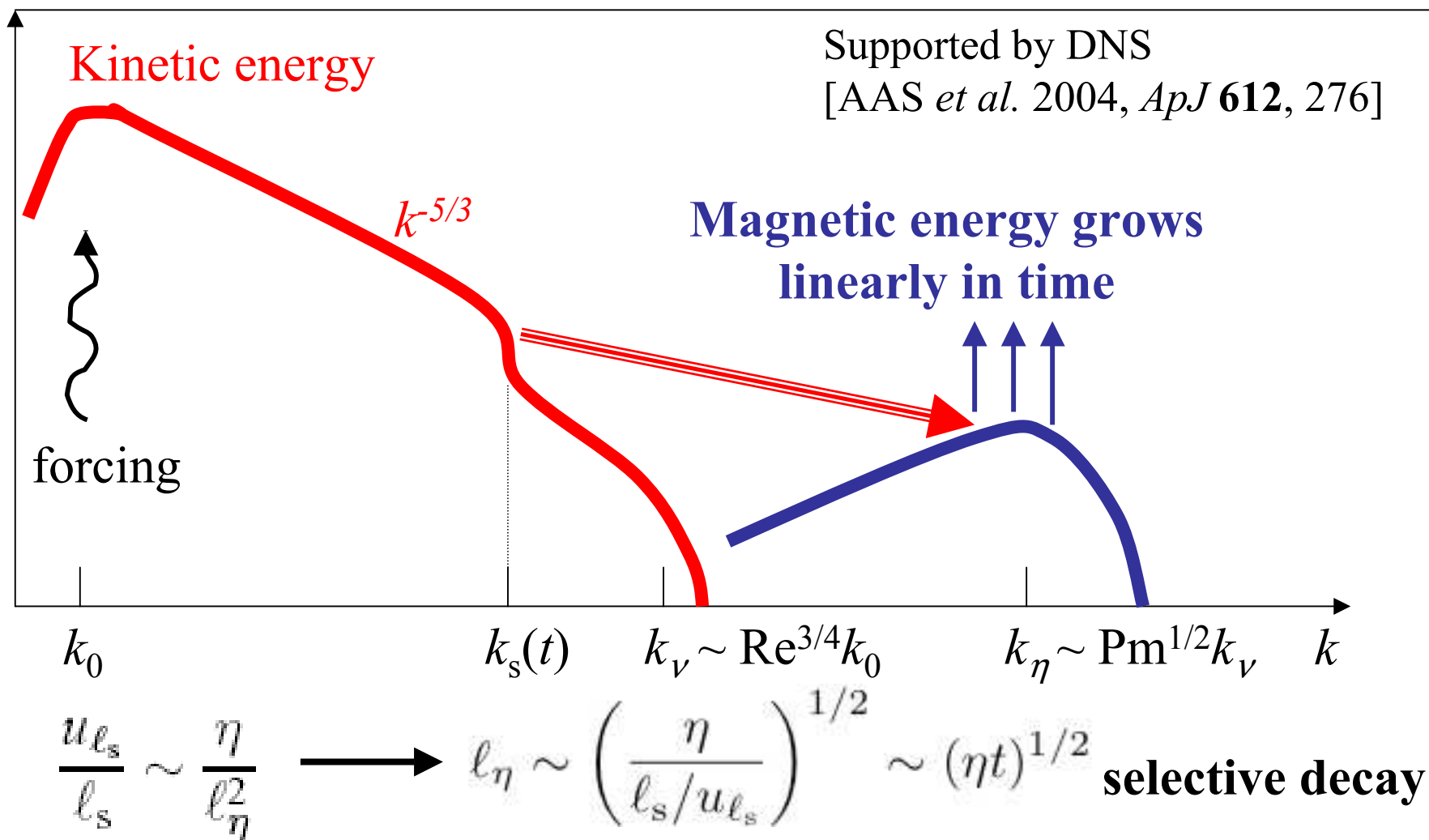
$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle B^2 \rangle \sim \frac{u_{l_s}}{l_s} \langle B^2 \rangle \sim \frac{u_{l_s}^3}{l_s} \sim \epsilon = \text{const} \longrightarrow \boxed{\phantom{\text{ }}}$$

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \sim \frac{u_{l_s}^2}{l_s} \sim \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} \sim k_{\parallel} \langle B^2 \rangle \longrightarrow k_{\parallel} \sim l_s^{-1} \sim \epsilon^{-1/2} t^{-3/2}$$

# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth

Supported by DNS

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]



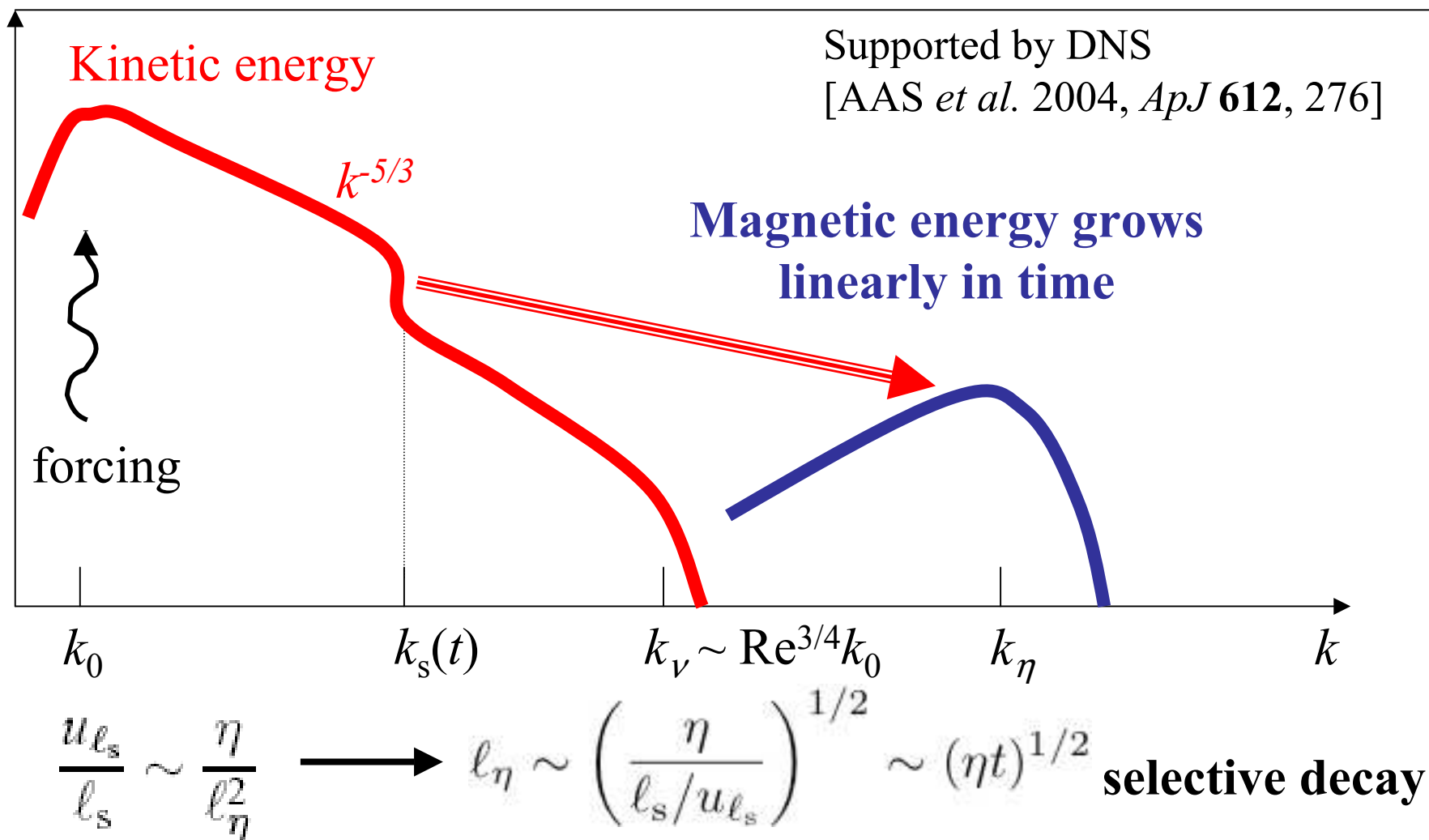
It is possible to construct a Fokker-Planck model of this self-similar intermediate growth stage

[AAS *et al.* 2002, *NJP* **4**, 84]

# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth

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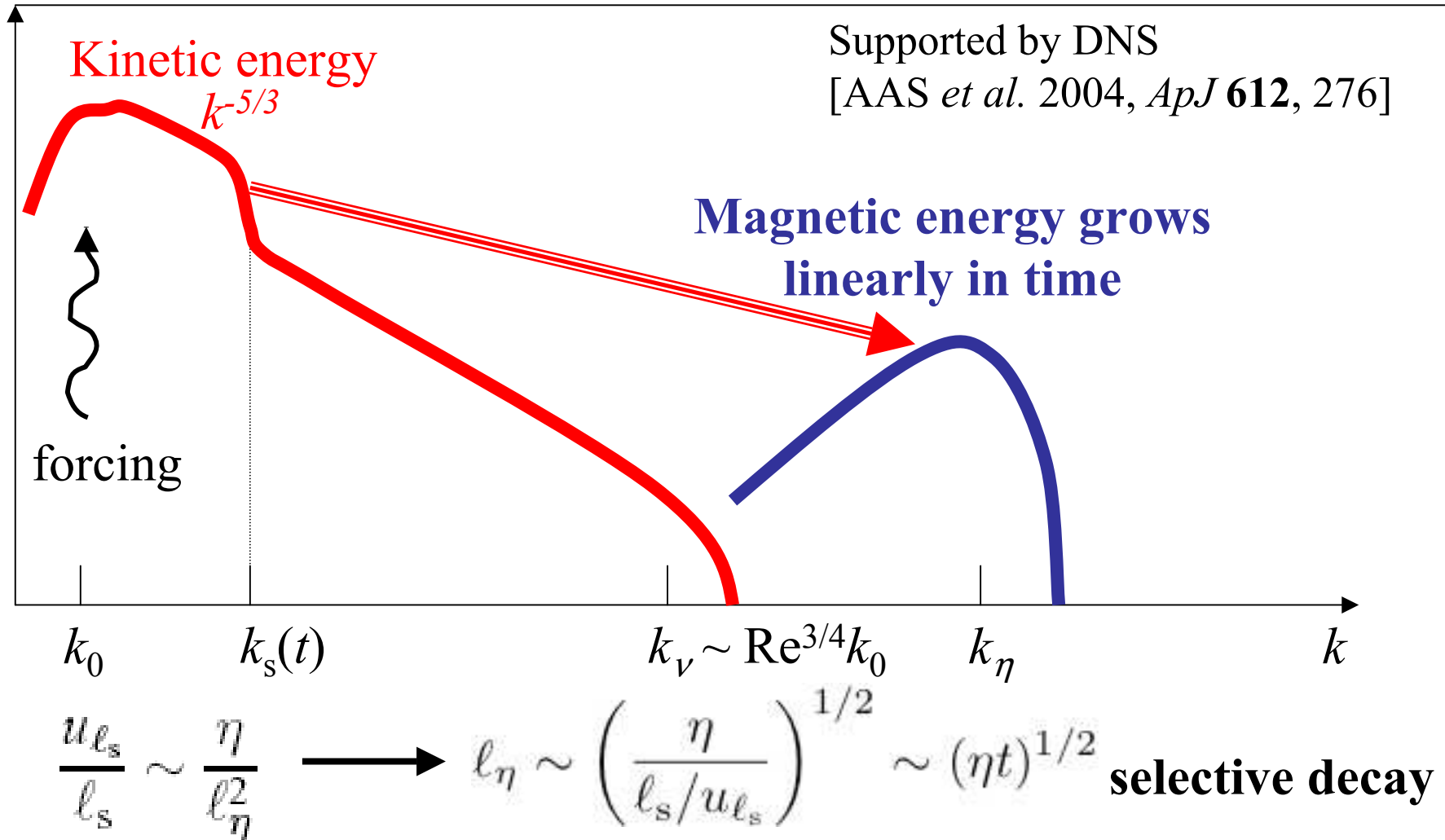
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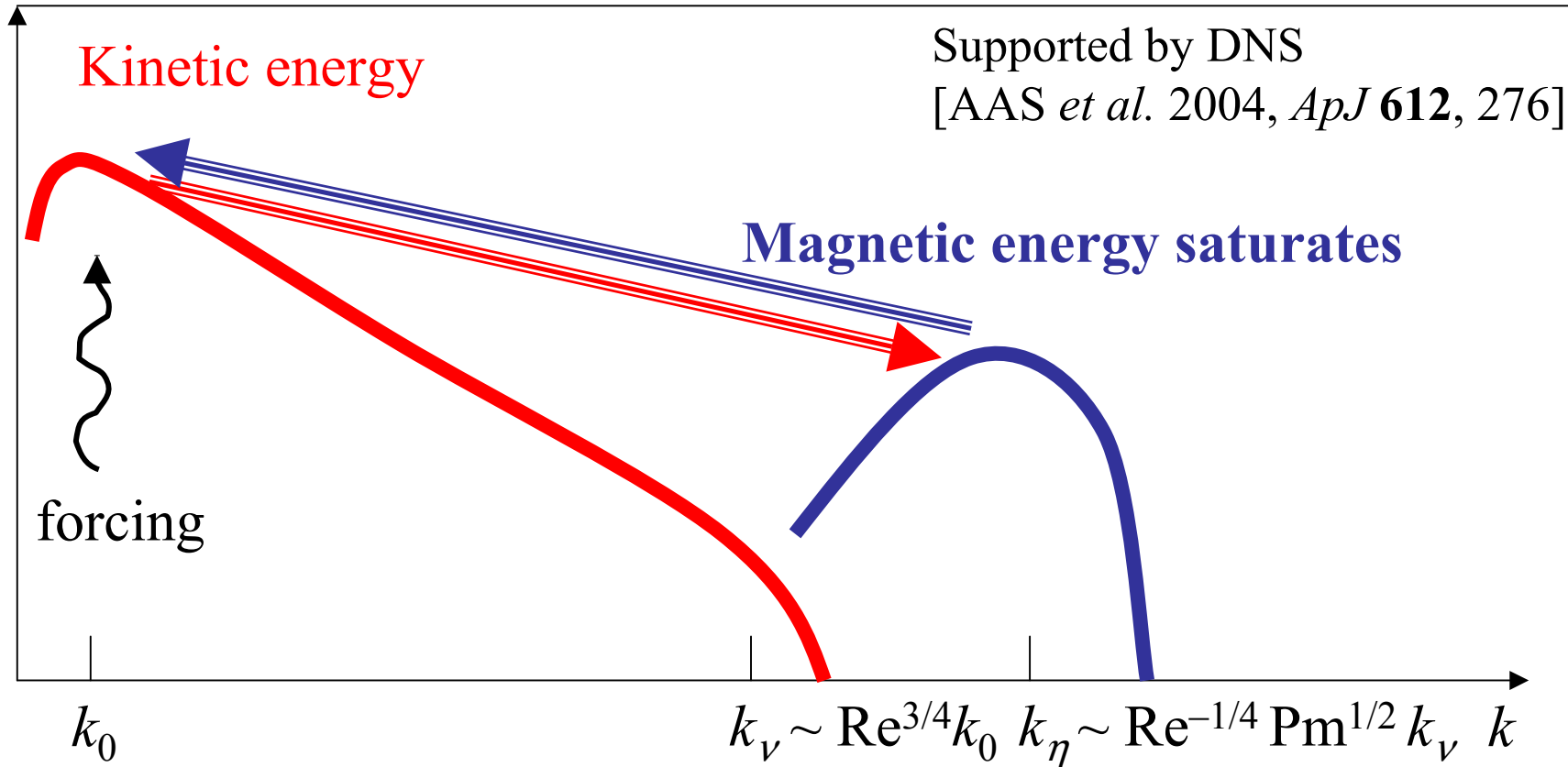
# Intermediate Nonlinear Growth



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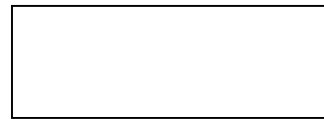
# Saturation



Supported by DNS  
 [AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

Nonlinear growth/selective decay/fold elongation continue until

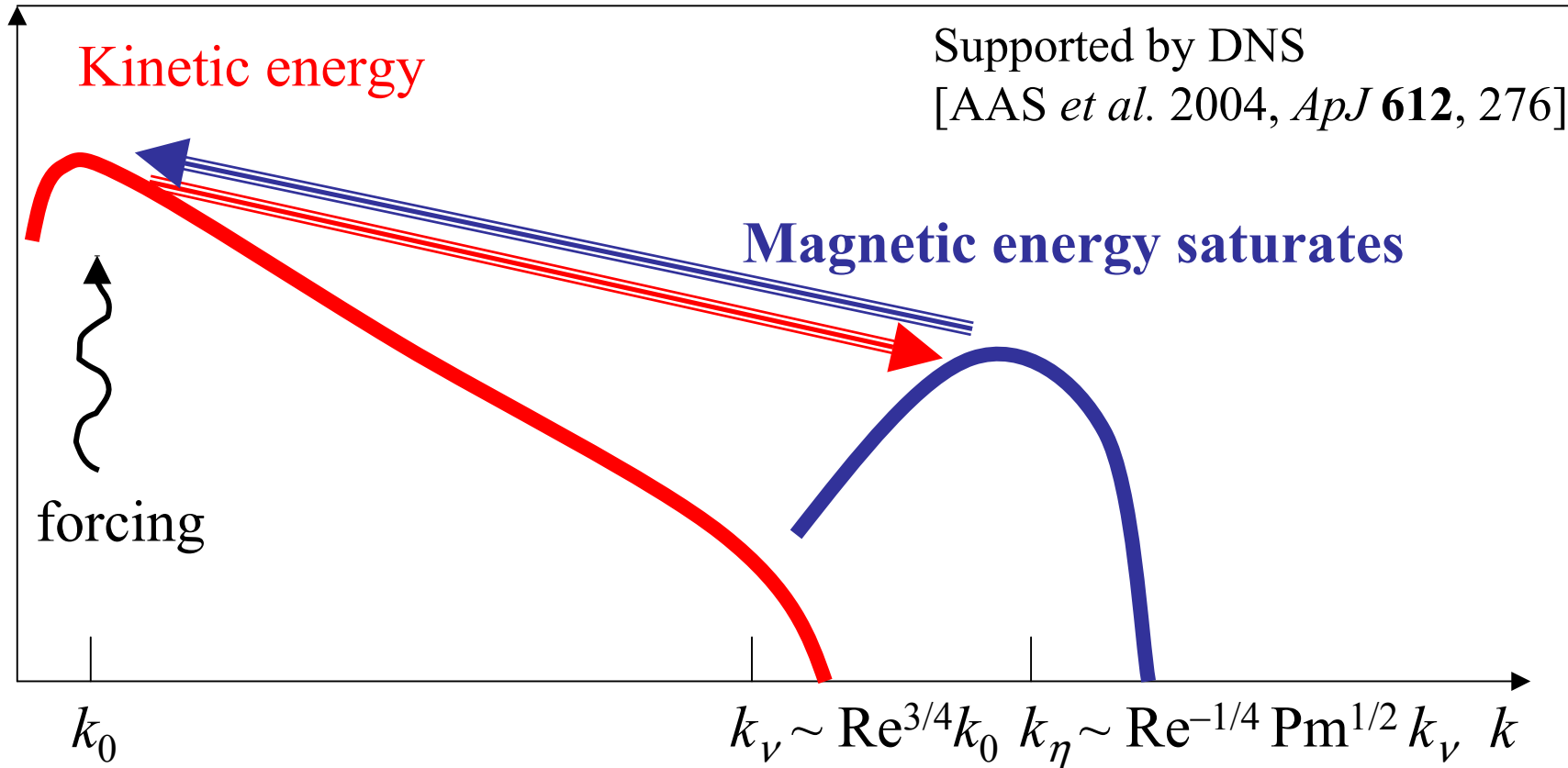
$$l_s \sim l_0$$



and  $l_\eta \sim \text{Rm}^{-1/2} l_0 \sim \text{Re}^{1/4} \text{Pm}^{-1/2} l_v$

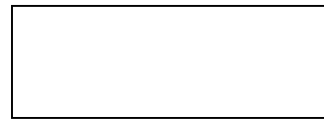
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# Saturation



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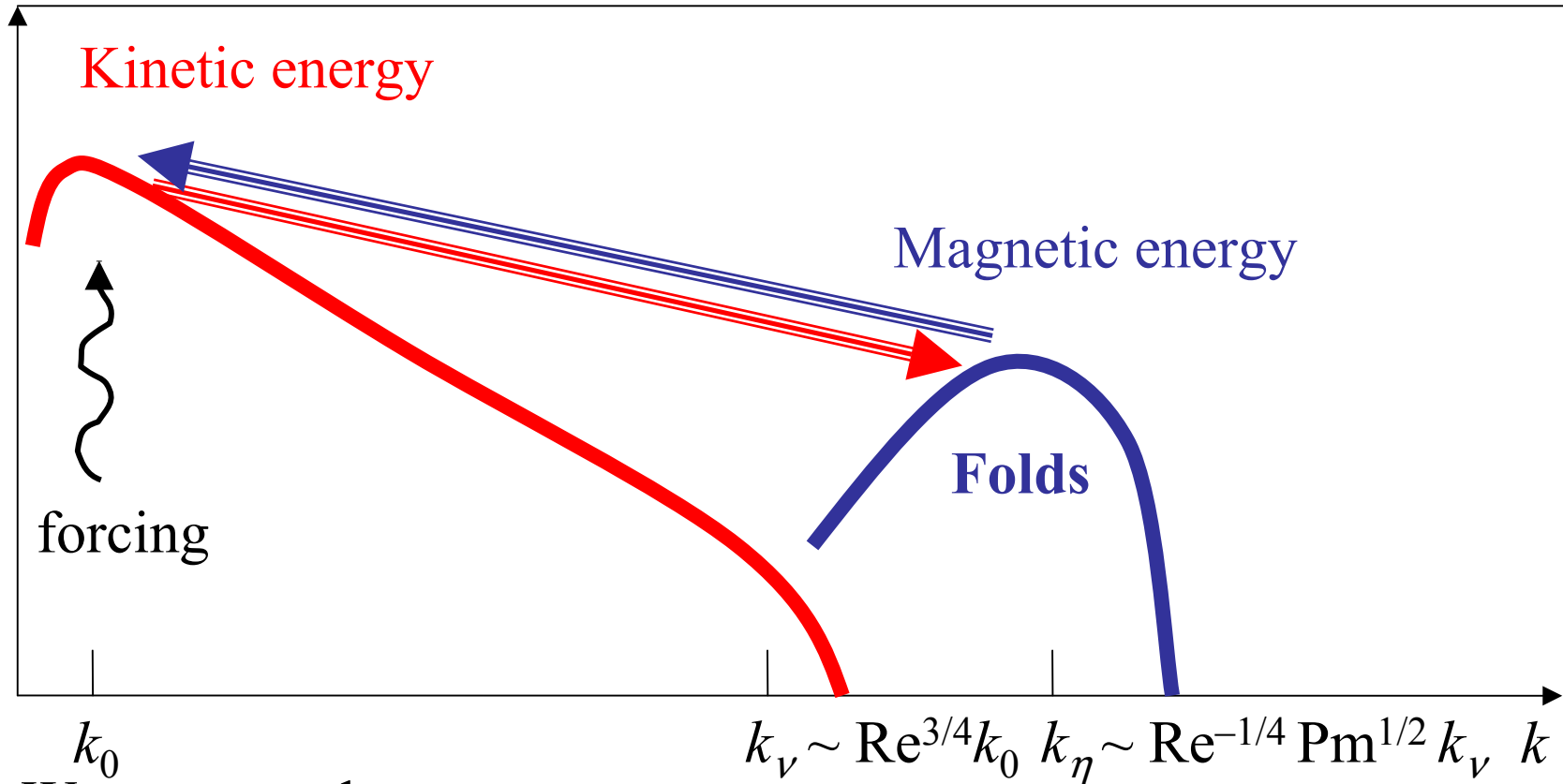


$$\text{and } l_\eta \sim \text{Rm}^{-1/2} l_0 \sim \text{Re}^{1/4} \text{Pm}^{-1/2} l_v$$

**NB:**  $l_\eta$  and  $l_v$  distinguishable only if  $\text{Pm} \gg \text{Re}^{1/2} \gg 1!!!$



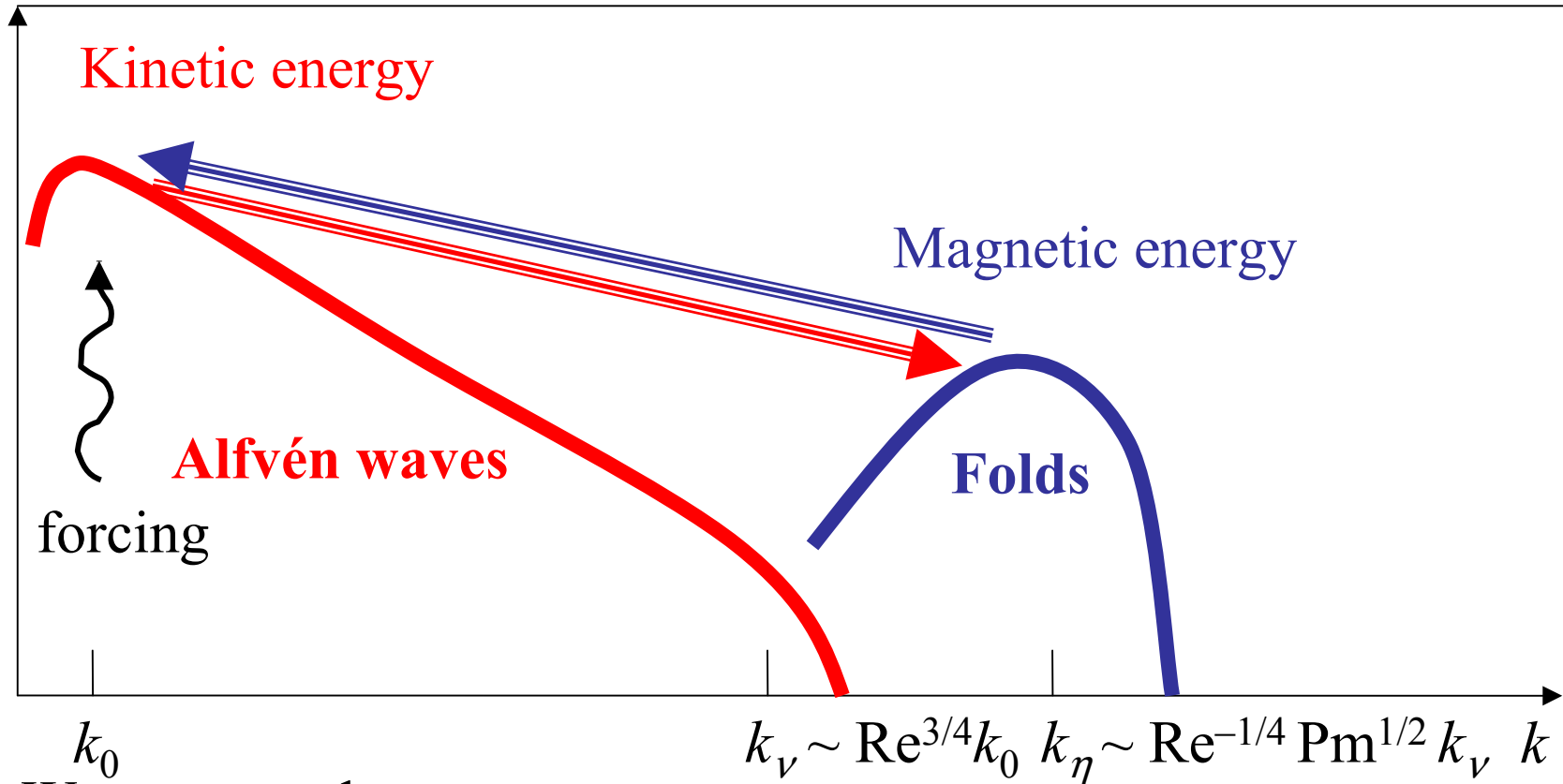
# Saturation



We propose that

- *saturation* is a balance between stretching and mixing by the outer-scale motions and Ohmic diffusion of the folded field

# Alfvén Waves and Folded Fields



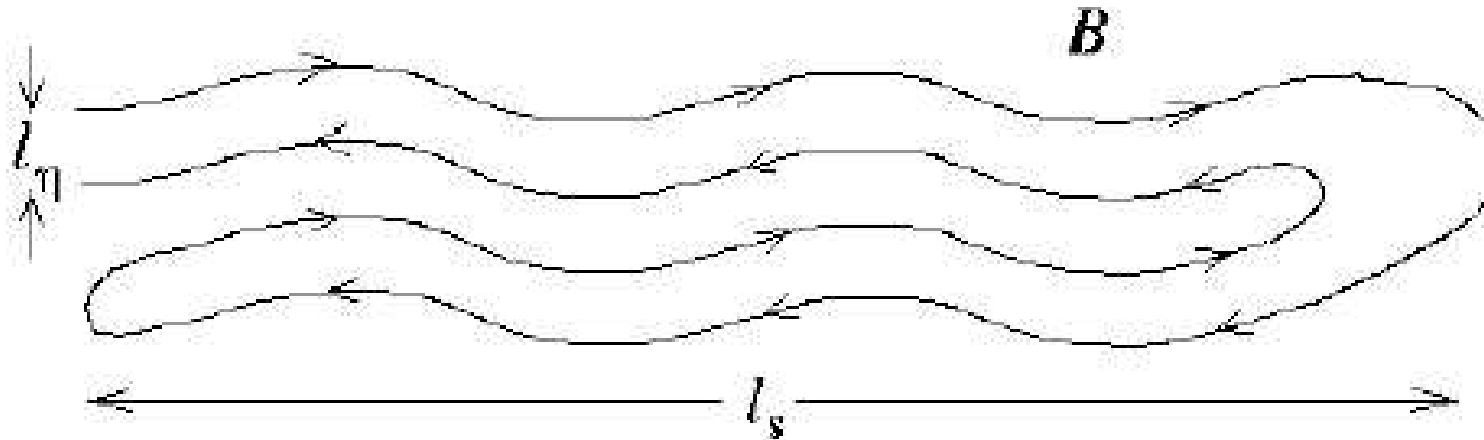
We propose that

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- the fully developed isotropic MHD turbulence **in the inertial range** is a superposition of folded magnetic fields and Alfvén waves

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

# Alfvén Waves and Folded Fields

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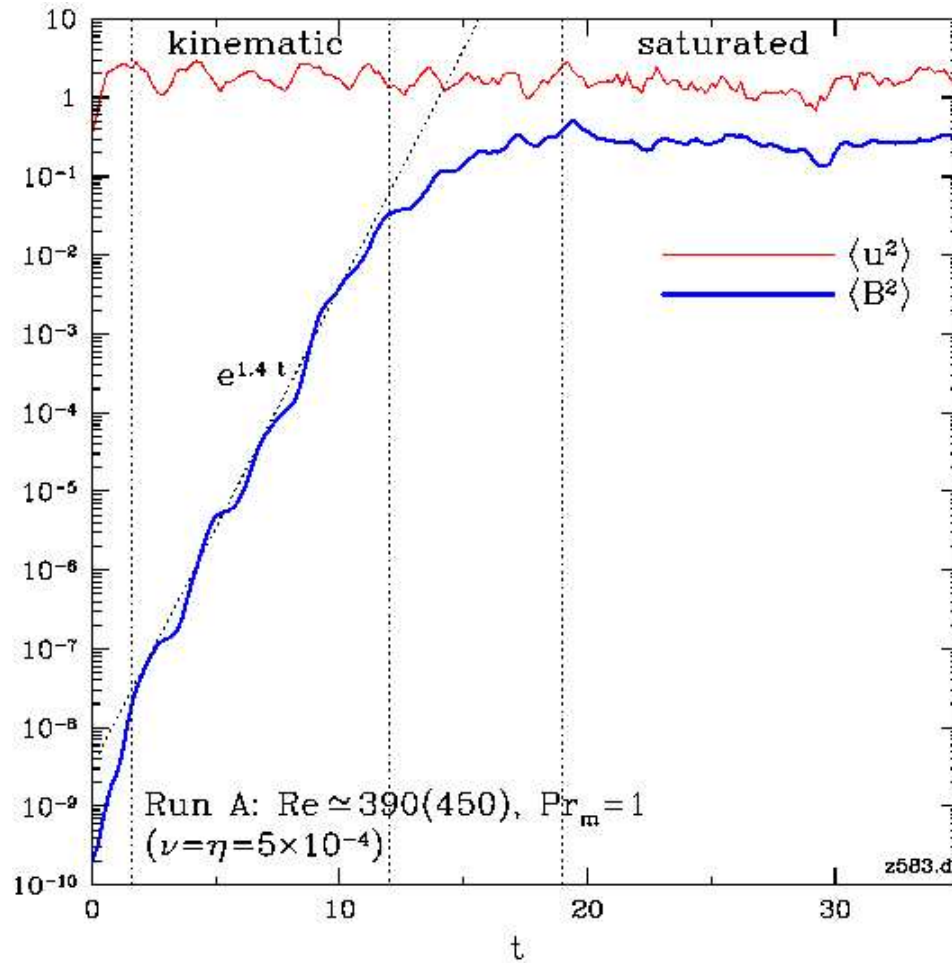
Dispersion relation:  for  $k_\perp \ll k \ll k_\parallel \sim l_s^{-1}$

We propose that

- **saturation** is a balance between stretching and mixing by the outer-scale motions and Ohmic diffusion of the folded field
- the fully developed isotropic MHD turbulence **in the inertial range** is a superposition of folded magnetic fields and Alfvén waves

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

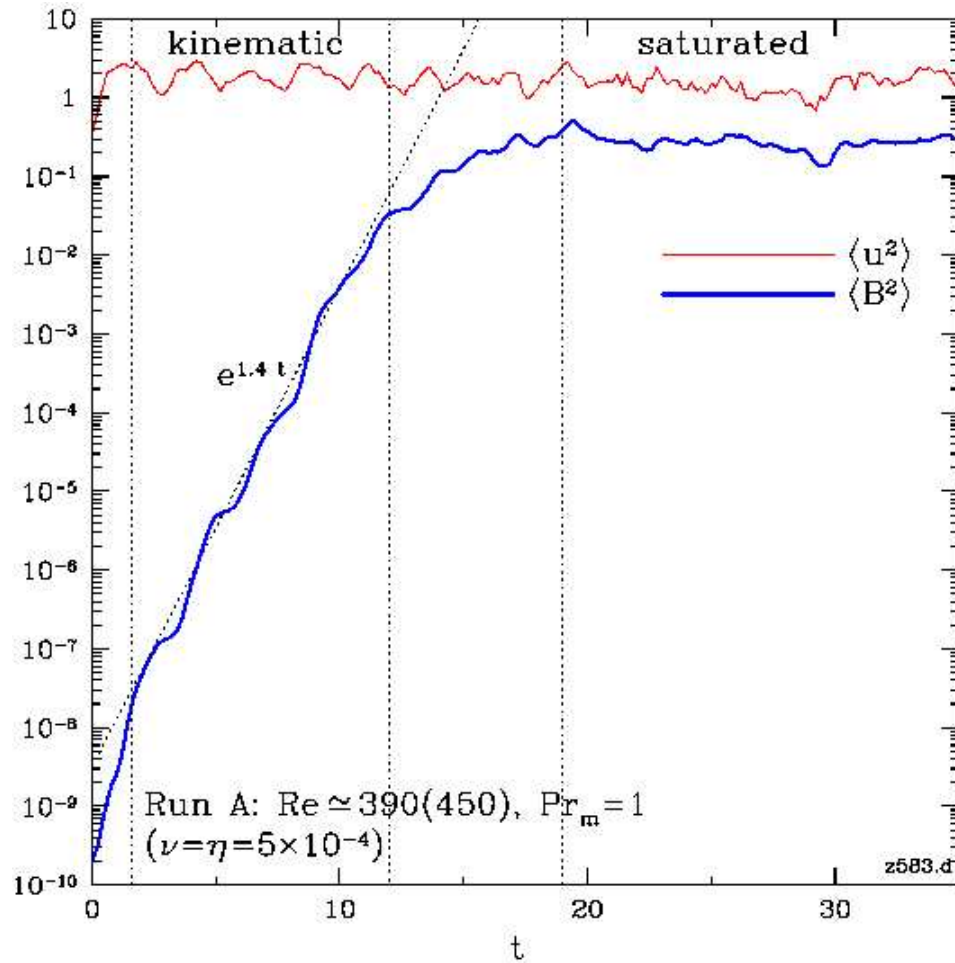
# DNS: Intermediate Growth



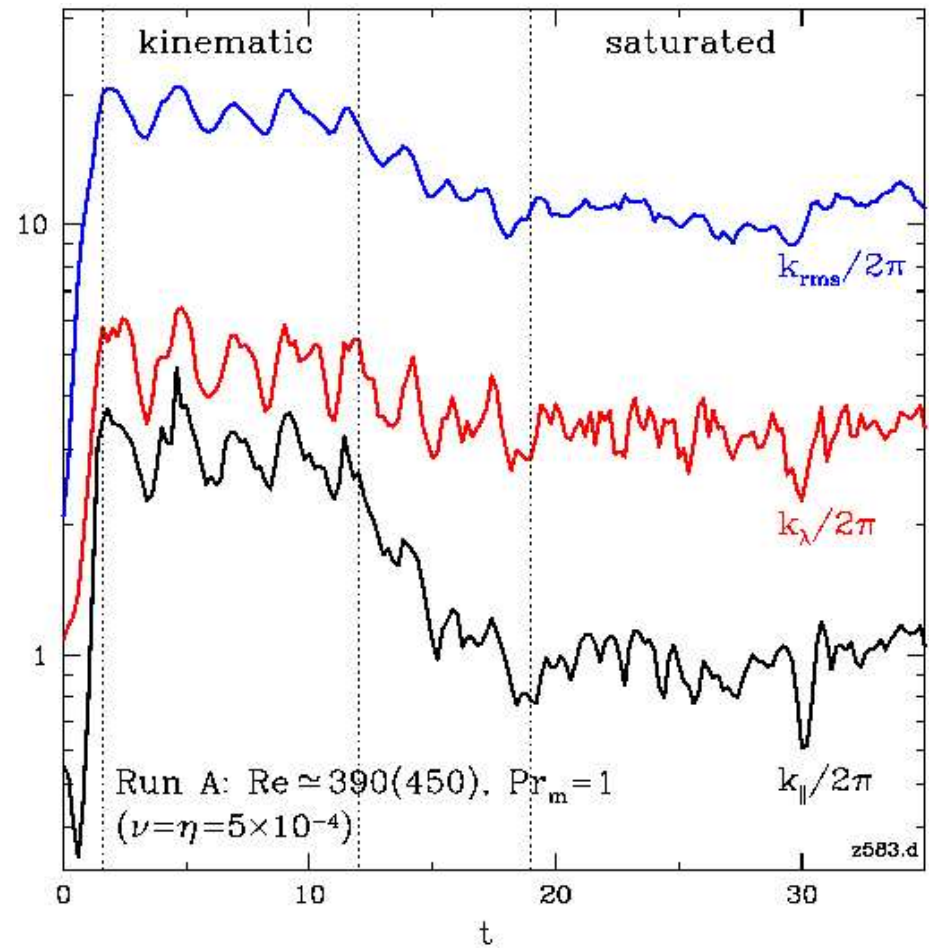
**Slower than exponential  
growth**

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

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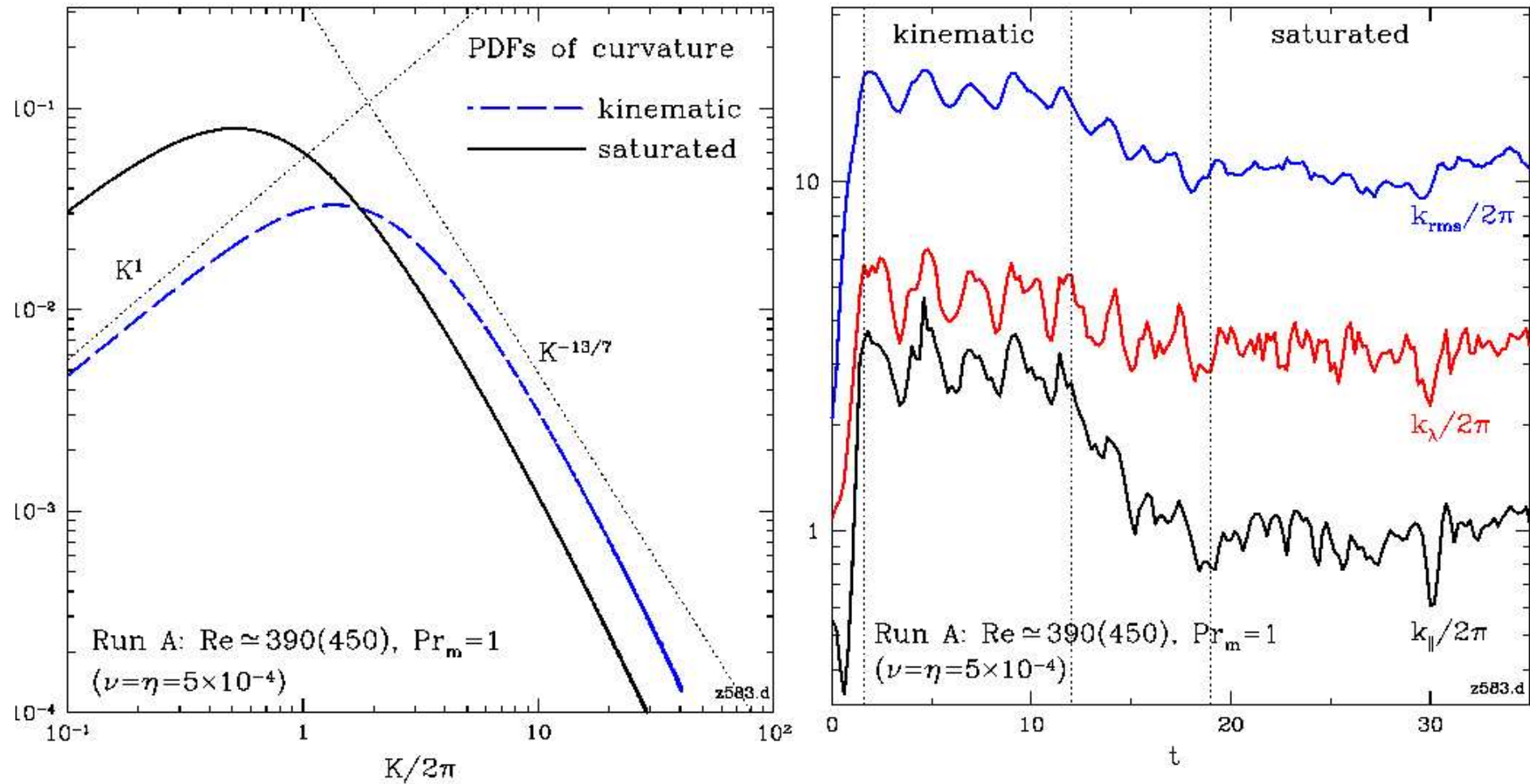


Slower than exponential  
growth



Selective decay and  
fold elongation

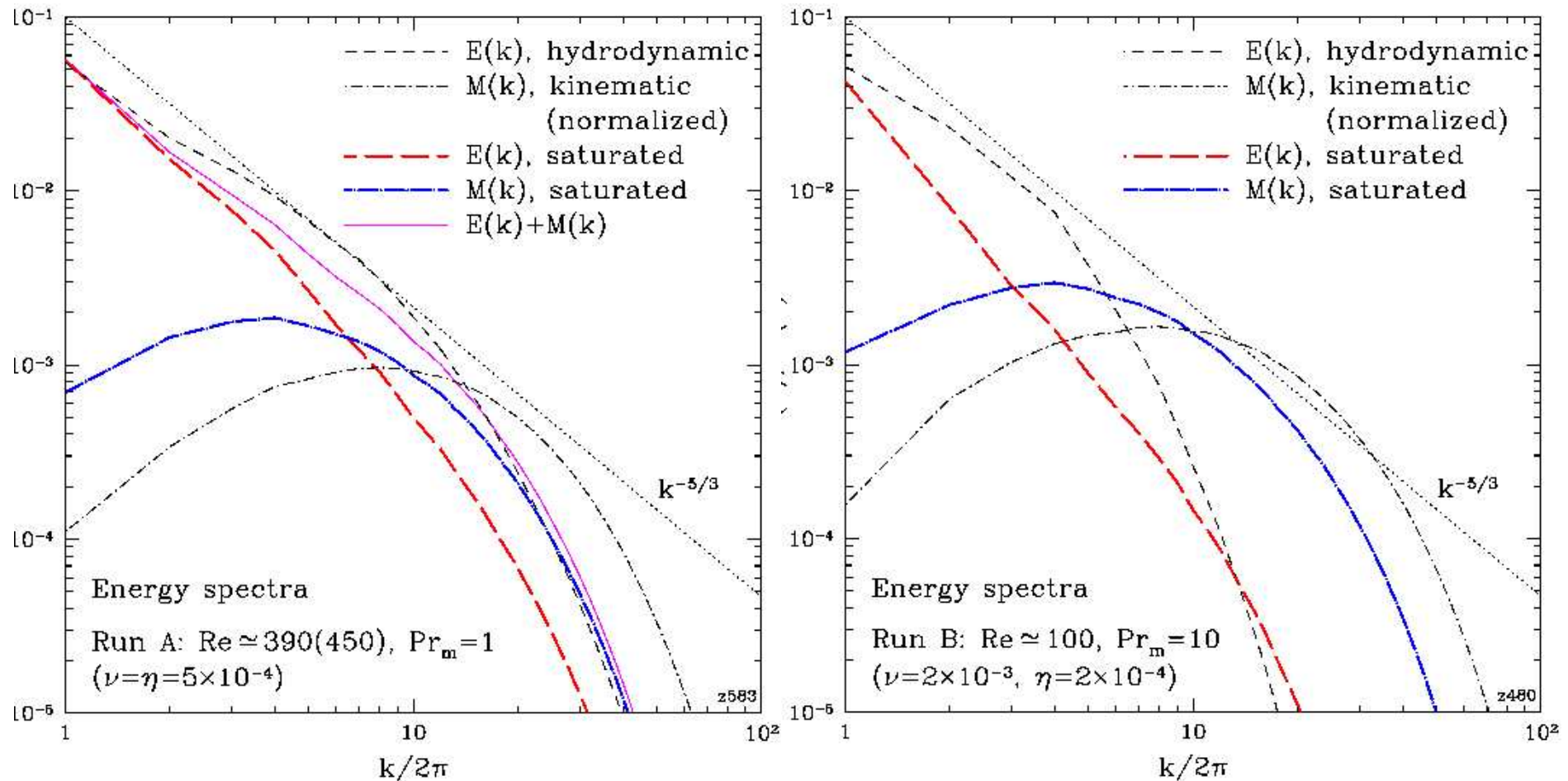
# DNS: Intermediate Growth



**Selective decay and  
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[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

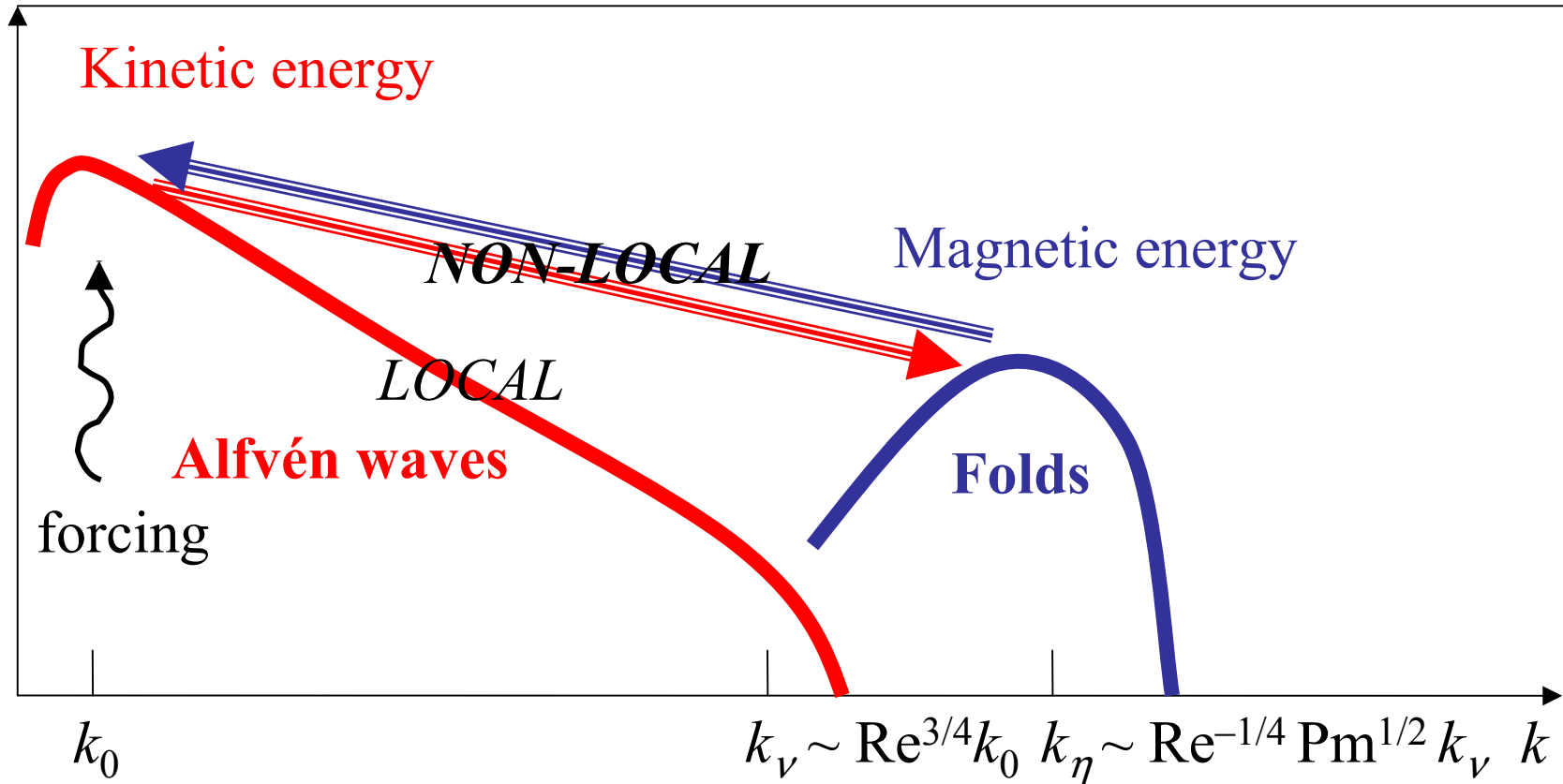
# DNS: Saturated Spectra



- **Folds** account for the predominance of large- $k$  modes in magnetic-energy spectra
- **Alfvén waves** should show up *in the velocity spectra*

[AAS *et al.* 2004, *ApJ* **612**, 276]

# Isotropic MHD Turbulence



*Interactions are NOT local in  $k$  space!*



# Isotropic MHD Turbulence

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$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{f}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$
$$\partial_t \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \eta \Delta \mathbf{B}$$

- **Is there universality?** **?**
- **Are interactions local?** **NO**
- **Are macro scales important?** **YES**
- **Are micro scales important?** **YES**
- **Are magnetic and velocity fluctuations in scale-by-scale equilibrium with each other?** **NO**