Tumbling and Spinning of Anisotropic Flat Particles

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Berkeley 🛄 Engineering

Outline



Particle transport in turbulence is an open question





Turbulence is chaotic flow with universal properties



Turbulence is rarely homogeneous (translation invariant) or isotropic (rotation invariant)



The multiscale chaos of turbulence is superimposed on the geometry of the original flow and instability



Special laboratory equipment can make homogeneous, isotropic turbulence



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1. Integral scale

• Largest eddy





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- Largest eddy
- 2. Small scale
 - Passive tracers







- 1. Integral scale
 - Largest eddy
- 2. Small scale
 - Passive tracers
- 3. Taylor microscale
 - Difficult to model particles numerically









Turbulence makes these projects interesting and difficult



Particle Rotation





Neutrally buoyant flat particles in five different shapes and sizes were tested in the flow

Shape	Small d=5mm	Medium d=10mm	Large d=20mm
Triangle	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Square		\checkmark	
Hexagon		\checkmark	



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3 cameras were used to capture orthogonal images while motors were rotated in alternating directions



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After 3D reconstruction, we can project the particles back onto a 2D plane to test our results







Nearest neighbor figure adapted from A quantitative study of three-dimensional Lagrangian particle tracking algorithms by Ouellette, Xu, and Bodenschatz (2006) Twitter: @t_oehmke



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reference particle, known location and orientation

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reference particle, known location and orientation



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reference particle, known location and orientation



reference particle, known location and orientation

particle of interest

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & 0\\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$R = R_T R_S$$

Where R is the rotation matrix And R_T is the tumbling matrix And R_S is the spinning matrix



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Trajectories were filtered to remove measurement and experimental noise



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Particles do not show a preferential orientation

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Perspectives: size matters more than shape

- The particles do not show a preferential orientation
- Particles follow a -4/3 power law scaling, meaning these particles are rotated and aligned by eddies of their size
 - This means that size matters more than shape
- These findings agree with results for solid, 3D particles as well

Questions to answer

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Particle transport in turbulence impacts many aspects of science

- Particle transport prediction
 - Where and how do transported particles eventually settle out of the flow?

Particle transport in turbulence impacts many aspects of science

- Particle transport prediction
 - Where and how do transported particles eventually settle out of the flow?
- Intermittency
 - What is the role of turbulence intermittency on particle kinematics?

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Questions?

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rotation rate for tracers : $\langle \dot{p}_i \dot{p}_i \rangle \sim \tau_k^{-2}$

rotation rate for scale $l:\langle \dot{p}_i\dot{p}_i\rangle \sim \tau_l^{-2}$

define τ_l in the inertial range : $\tau_l = l/u_l = l/(l\langle\epsilon\rangle)^{1/3}$

rotation rate for scale $l:\langle \dot{p}_i\dot{p}_i\rangle \sim l^{-4/3}$