

Relativistic turbulence: a covariant approach to LES

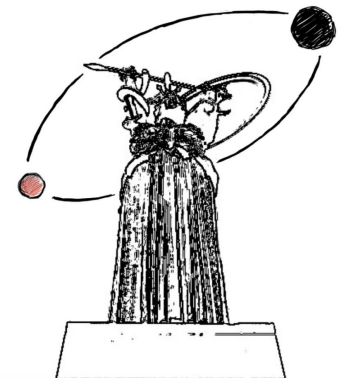
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Collaborators: *N. Andersson, I. Hawke, M.J. Hatton, G. Comer*

1st TEONGRAV international workshop on theory of gravitational waves

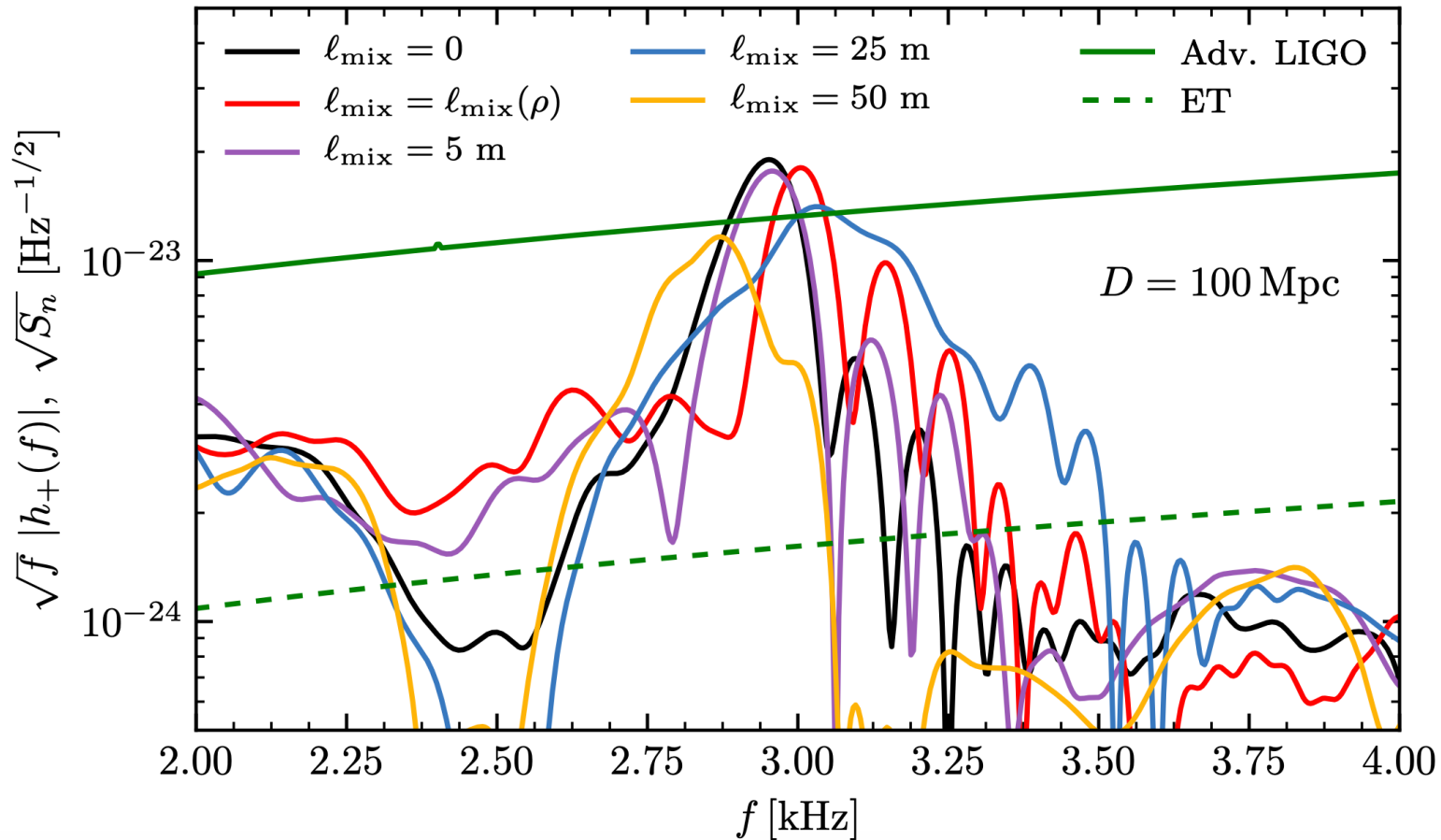
16-20 Sept 2024

[[PRD: 104 084090](#) , [arXiv: 2405.13593](#) , [arXiv: 2407.18012](#)]



Turbulence in mergers

Turbulence is driven in mergers, for example, by the Kelvin-Helmholtz instability (KHI) developing at the slip-line between merging NS. Turbulence modelling has a quantitative impact on the *merger dynamics*, the *outflows properties*, the *magnetic field amplification* and the post-merger *gravitational wave spectrum*.



[[Radice \(2020\)](#)]

Turbulence and Large Eddy Simulations

DNS of mergers are not feasible:

- Dissipation scale in mergers ≈ 1 cm ("conservative est.")
- Best resolution in large-scale simulations ≈ 10 m

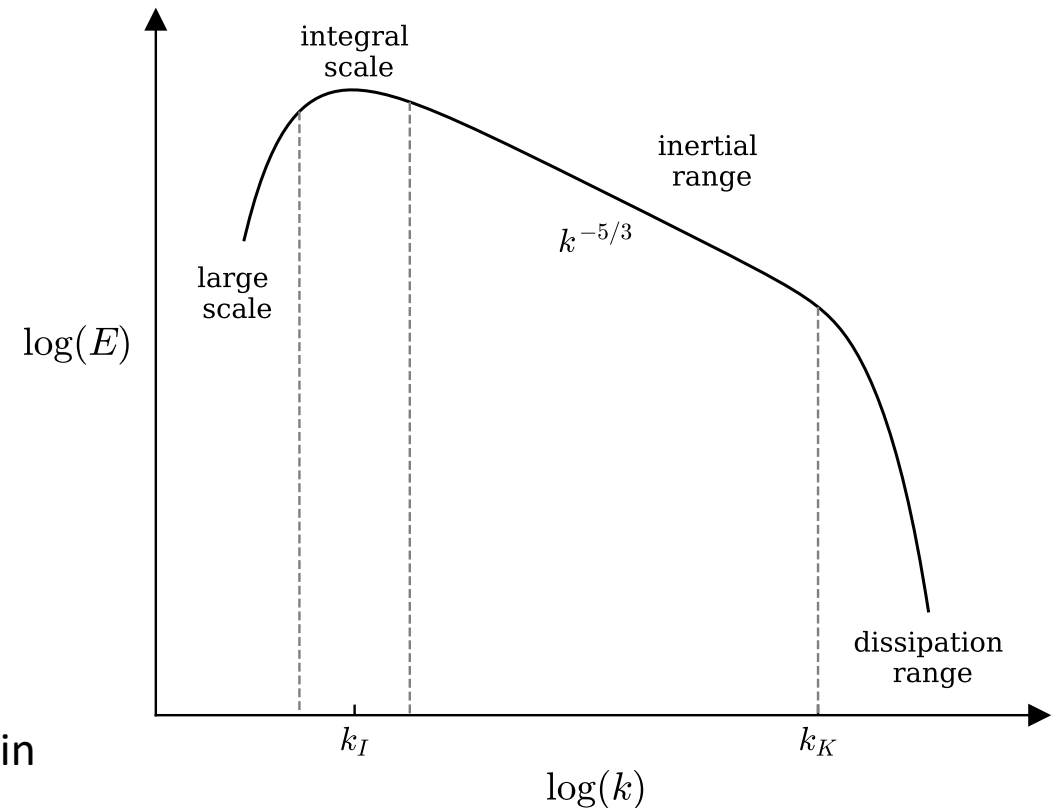
$$\text{Re} \approx 10^6 \div 10^{15}$$

Accounting for the unresolved physics:

- Filtering to separate into resolved and unresolved
- Evolve large-scale dynamics, model the rest

A little bit of context:

- Applications to numerical relativity have shown impressive results, e.g. [Aguilera-Miret+\(2024\)](#)
- All practical implementations so far break covariance, both in filtering and in the closures, see [Radice-Hawke\(2024\)](#)



General relativistic LES: the issue of covariance

The 3+1 "operational" approach

Filtering as a simple set of rules to apply directly on the 3+1 equations

Same as for Newtonian theory

Quick derivation of the coarse-grained equations

$$\begin{aligned}A &= \langle A \rangle + \delta A \\ \langle c \rangle &= c \\ \langle A + B \rangle &= \langle A \rangle + \langle B \rangle \\ \langle \partial_a A \rangle &= \partial_a \langle A \rangle\end{aligned}$$

This raises a number of "theory" questions...

- Space + time split from a relativistic perspective?
- Covariant derivatives? Metric and EFE?

The issue of covariance: not only theory

"Non covariant choice of closure schemes can induce artificial (coordinate independent) artefacts. For example, one expects turbulent momentum transport to operate only when there is non-zero shear in a Local Lorentz frame, which is guaranteed only for covariant closures."

[[Duez+ \(2020\)](#)]

A fully covariant approach: Lagrangian filtering

Theoretical framework: [PRD: 104 084090](#)

- covariant: "dynamically" identify a physically meaningful observer
- Fermi coordinates: geometry sector unaffected

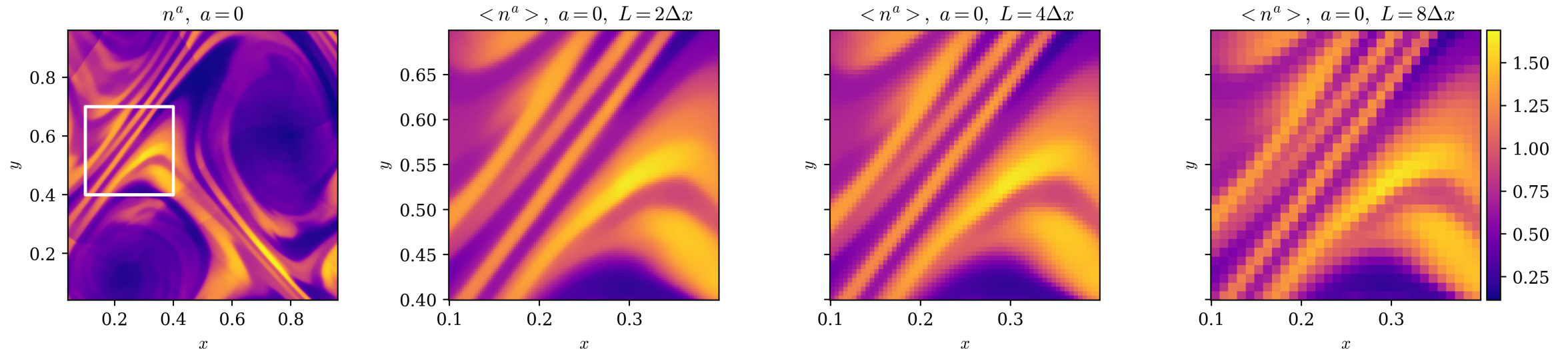
$$E_{(1)}^a = e_{(x)}^a + U^a U_b e_{(x)}^b, \quad E_{(1)}^a E_a^{(1)} = 1$$

$$r_{(I)} = \int_{\mathcal{V}_L} E_{(I)}^a n_a d\mathcal{V}_L, \quad I = 1, 2, 3$$

$$\langle X \rangle = \int_{V_L} X dV_L$$

Key steps in practice:

- run SR box simulations of KHI (I used¹ [METHOD](#))
- build filtering observers: minim. average particle drift
- perform the **Lagrangian** filtering (tilted box)



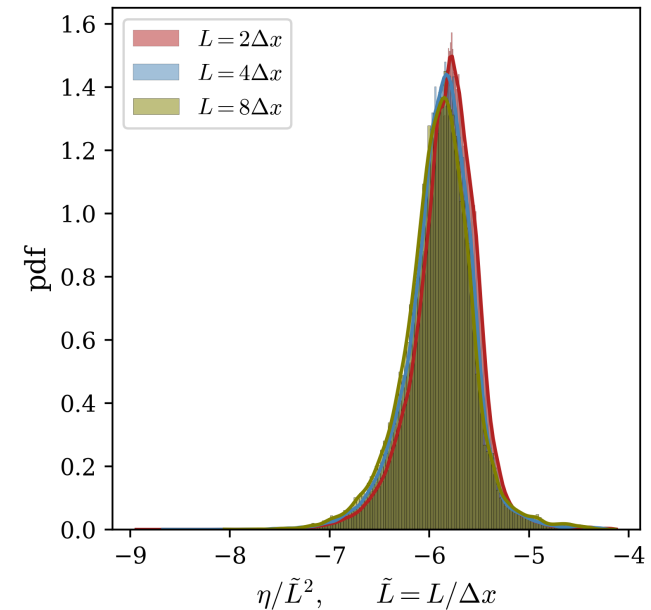
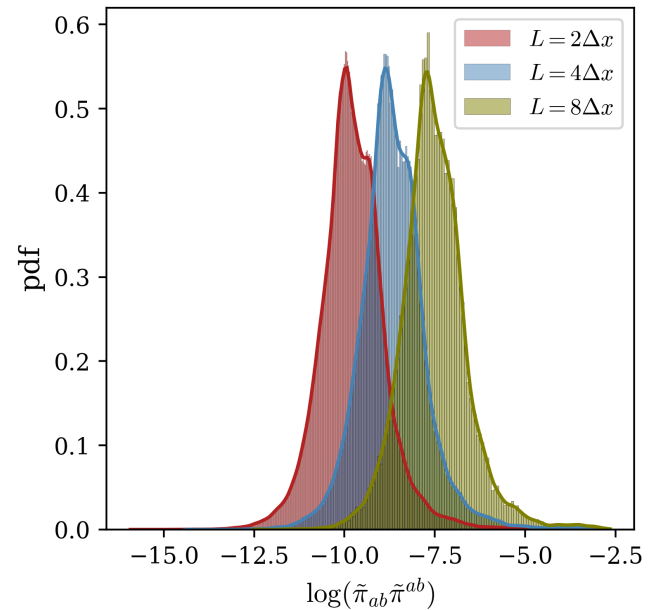
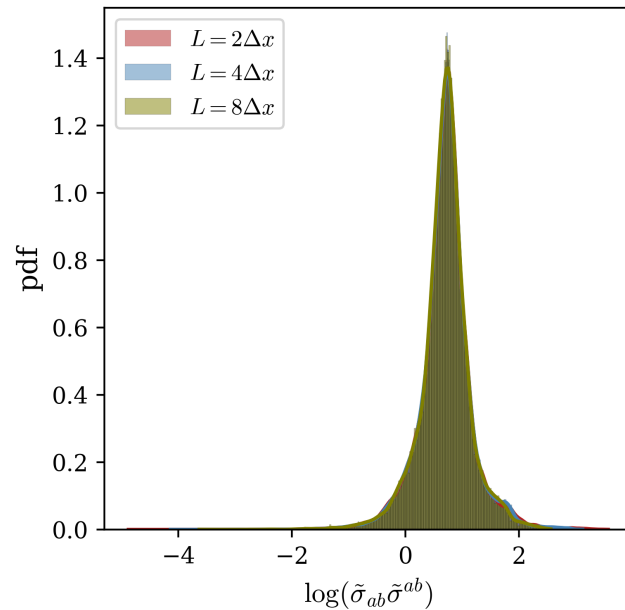
¹ <https://github.com/AlexJamesWright/METHOD>

Impact on matter sector: effective dissipative terms

$$\langle T^{ab} \rangle = \underbrace{(\tilde{\varepsilon} + \langle p \rangle) \tilde{u}^a \tilde{u}^b + \langle p \rangle g^{ab}}_{\text{ideal terms}} + \underbrace{2\tilde{u}^{(a} \tilde{q}^{b)} + \tilde{s}^{ab}}_{\text{“dissipative” terms}}$$

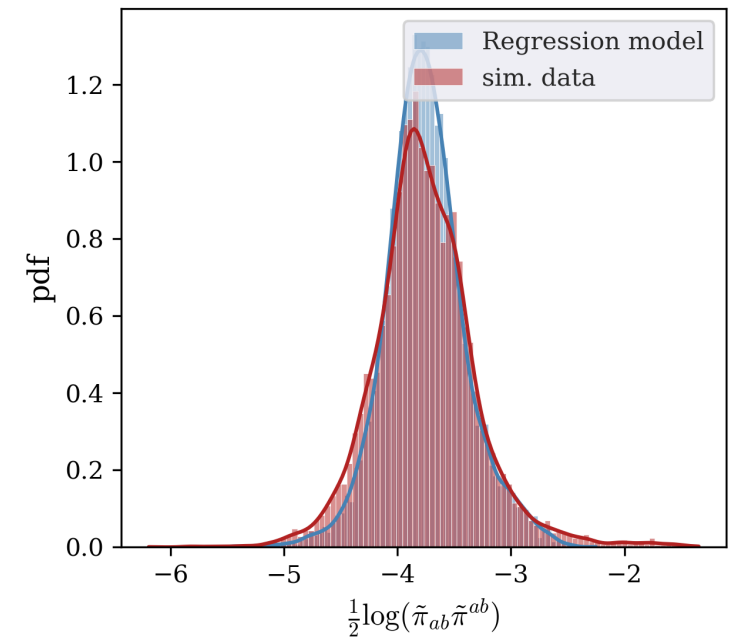
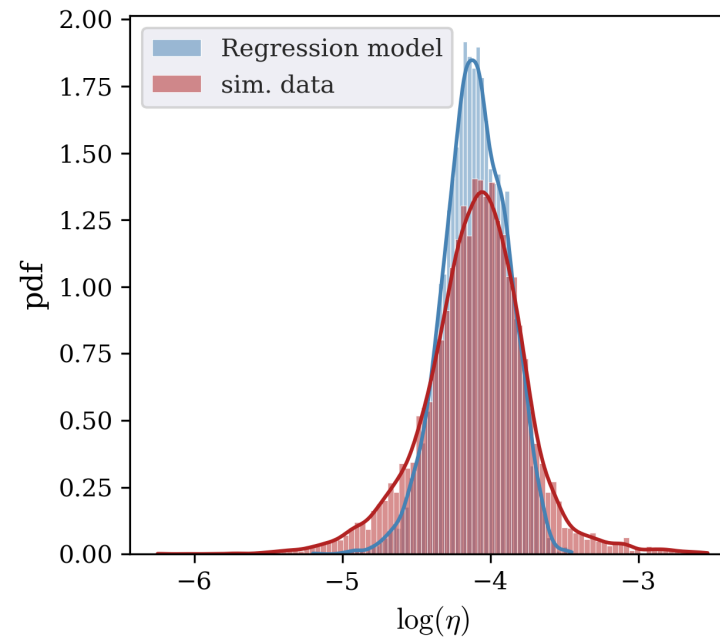
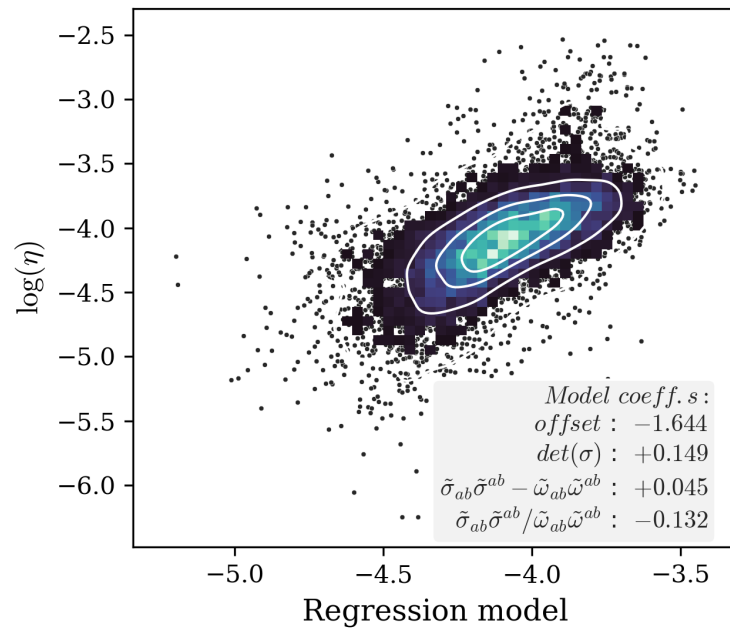
- Residuals need modelling: closures!
- EoM: “effective” dissipative fluid

“Residuals” due to non-linearities, capturing the impact of sub-filter fluctuations



A simple linear regression model

- explanatory vars: $\left\{ \tilde{T}, \tilde{n}, \tilde{\sigma}_{ab}\tilde{\sigma}^{ab}, \det(\tilde{\sigma}), \tilde{\omega}_{ab}\tilde{\omega}^{ab}, \tilde{\sigma}_{ab}\tilde{\sigma}^{ab} - \tilde{\omega}_{ab}\tilde{\omega}^{ab}, \tilde{\sigma}_{ab}\tilde{\sigma}^{ab} / \tilde{\omega}_{ab}\tilde{\omega}^{ab} \right\}$
- "Quality factor": $W_1(X, Y) = \sum_i \|X_{(i)} - Y_{(i)}\|$

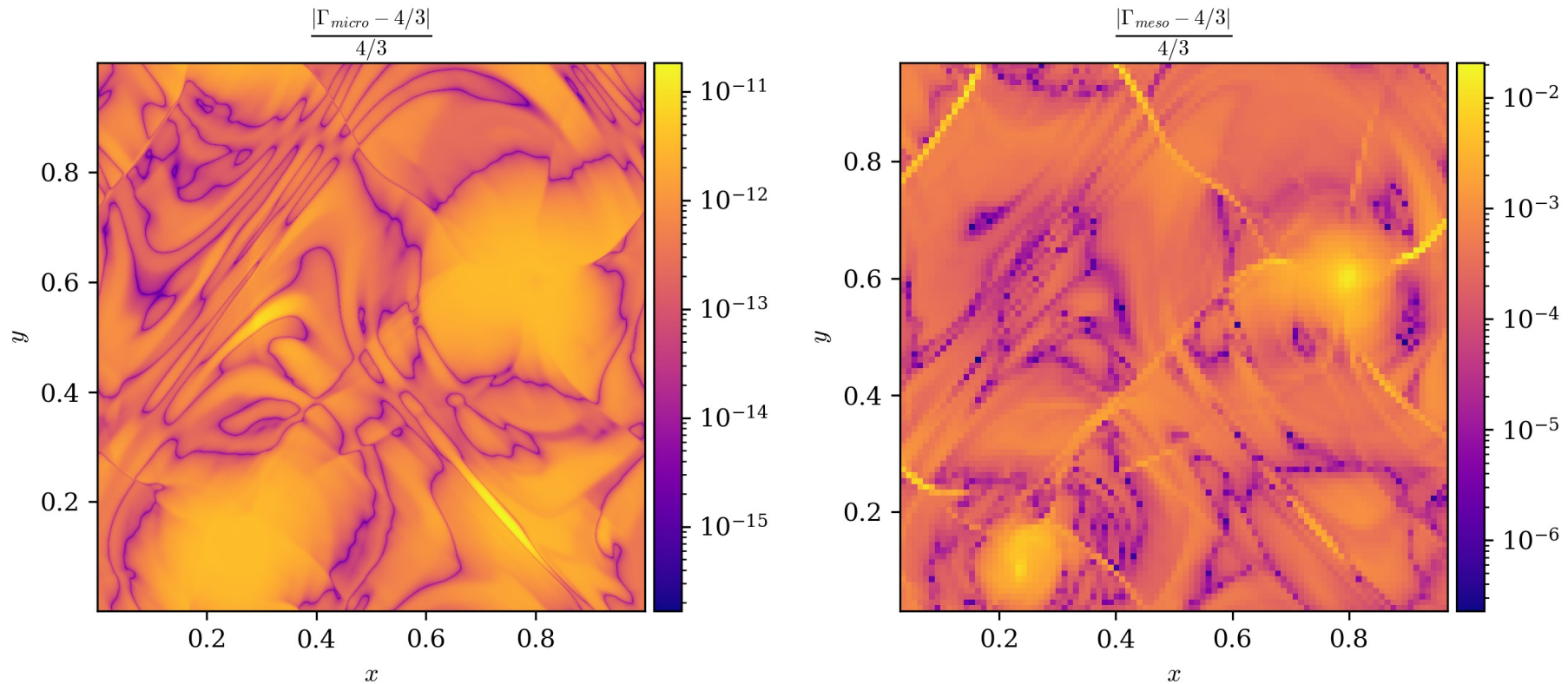


Impact on matter sector: thermodynamics

$$\langle p \rangle = -\tilde{\varepsilon} + \tilde{\mu}\tilde{n} + \tilde{T}\tilde{s} + M$$

- Pressure as a non-linear closure in NR: filtering impact?
- Neglected so far.

Testing the null-hypothesis: what if I ignore the non-linearities in the pressure?



Caveat: need 3D, realistic EoS, but...

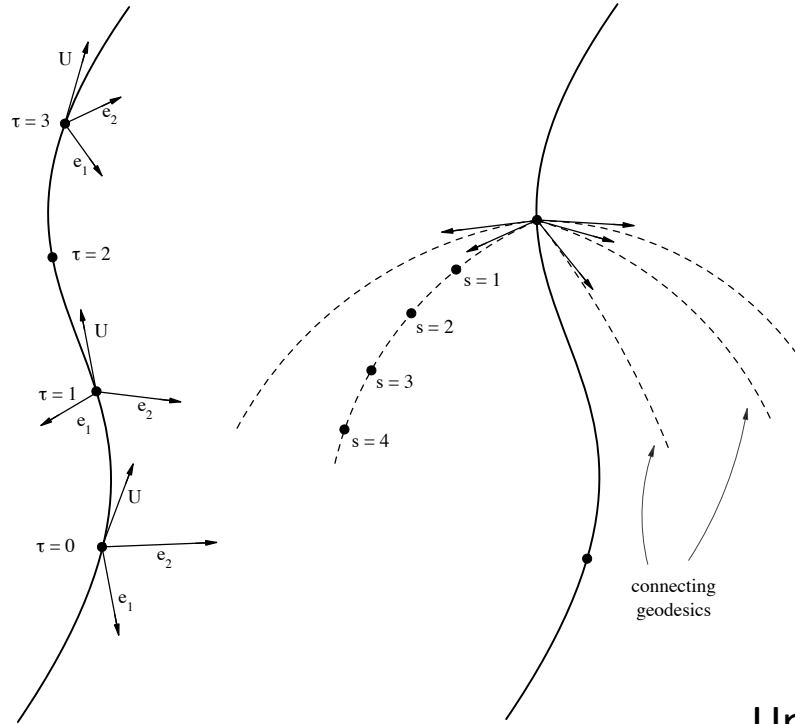
Recap/conclusions:

- Turbulence develops in mergers, with a quantitative impact on dynamics
- It is imperative to model it to fully realize the potential of multi-messenger NS astrophysics
- Modelling turbulence requires LES-type strategies (DNS not feasible)
- Proposed a covariant framework to do so in general relativistic settings
- Now presented a first practical implementation of the strategy
 - first positive results on a "**a priori**" calibration
 - tool for investigating a number of open issues in relativistic large-eddy modelling

Thank you for listening!

Back-up slides

Fibration framework and Fermi coordinates



Key ideas:

- Rel. Fluid dynamics: natural fibration of space-time
- Fermi coordinates: meaningful space-time split associated with a local observer

Advantages:

- Filtering explicitly defined: *metric unaffected can be shown, rather than assumed*
- Filtering operation is covariant: from SR to any spacetime

Upshot: "geometry side" is untouched

$$\langle \mathbf{G}(g, \partial g, \partial^2 g) \rangle = \mathbf{G}(\langle g \rangle, \partial \langle g \rangle, \partial^2 \langle g \rangle) = \mathbf{G}(g, \partial g, \partial^2 g)$$

Impact of filtering: covariant stability

According to the Boussinesq hypothesis, turbulent stresses are *dissipative in the mean*. The "classic" Smagorinsky model is based on this, and we are generalizing it to ensure covariance.

$$\nabla_a \tilde{n} = \perp_a^b \nabla_b \tilde{n} - \tilde{u}_a \dot{\tilde{n}}$$

$$\nabla_a \tilde{\varepsilon} = \perp_a^b \nabla_b \tilde{\varepsilon} - \tilde{u}_a \dot{\tilde{\varepsilon}}$$

$$\nabla_a \tilde{u}_b = -\tilde{u}_a \tilde{a}_b + \tilde{\omega}_{ab} + \tilde{\sigma}_{ab} + \frac{1}{3} \tilde{\theta} \perp_{ab}$$

Inspired by BDNK

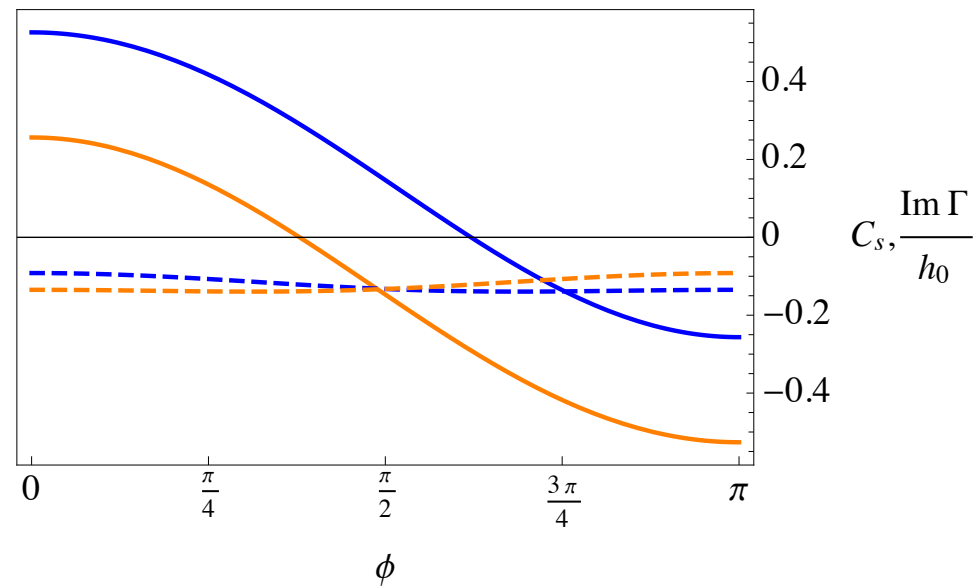
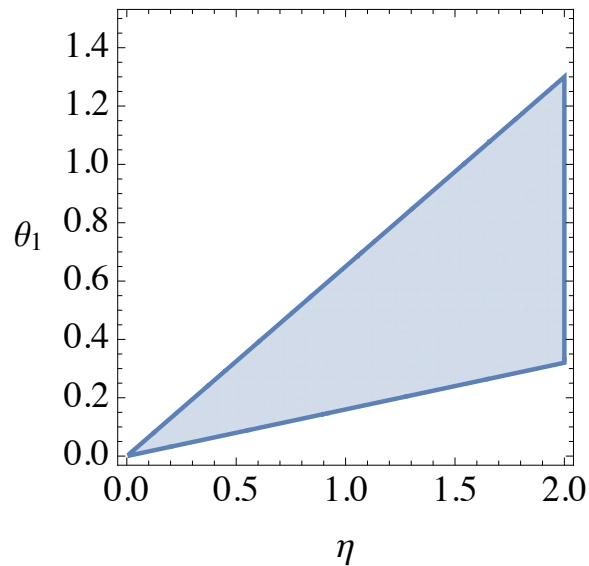


$$\tilde{\pi}^{ab} = \eta \tilde{\sigma}^{ab}$$

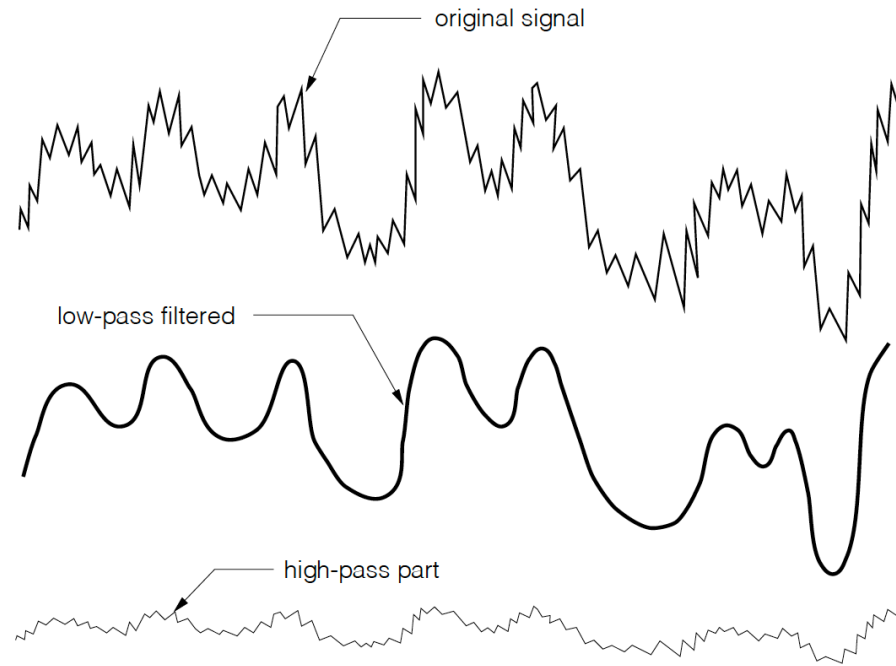
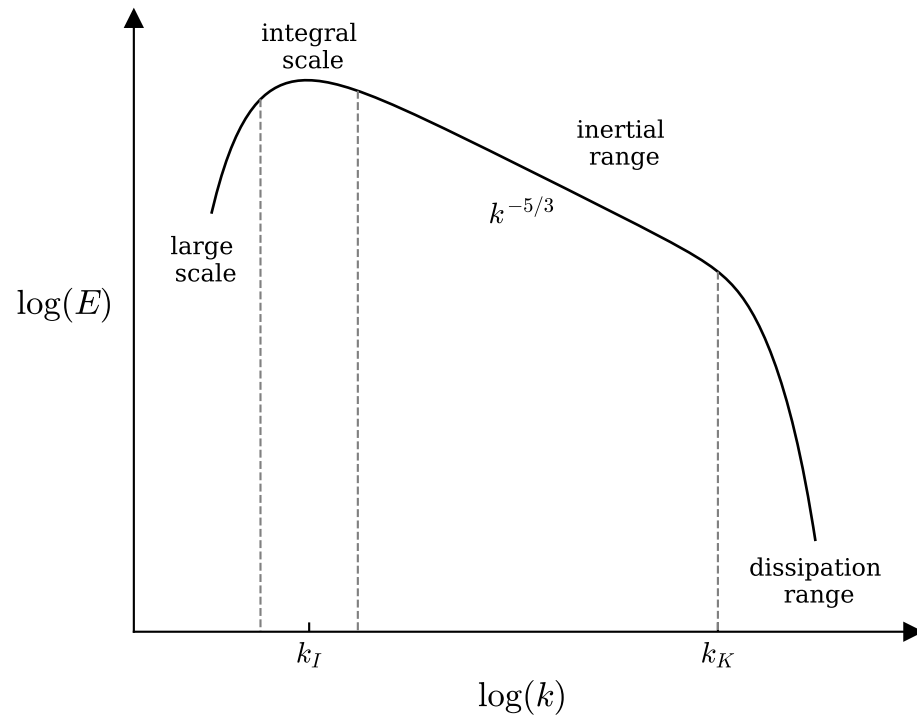
$$\tilde{\Pi} = \pi_1 \tilde{\theta} + \pi_2 \dot{\tilde{n}} + \pi_3 \dot{\tilde{\varepsilon}}$$

$$\tilde{q}^a = \theta_1 \tilde{a}^a + \theta_2 \perp^{ab} \nabla_b \tilde{n} + \theta_3 \perp^{ab} \nabla_b \tilde{\varepsilon}$$

$$\tilde{M} = \chi_1 \tilde{\theta} + \chi_2 \dot{\tilde{n}} + \chi_3 \dot{\tilde{\varepsilon}}$$



LES as a "low-pass filter"



$$A(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{k}}(t) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}}$$

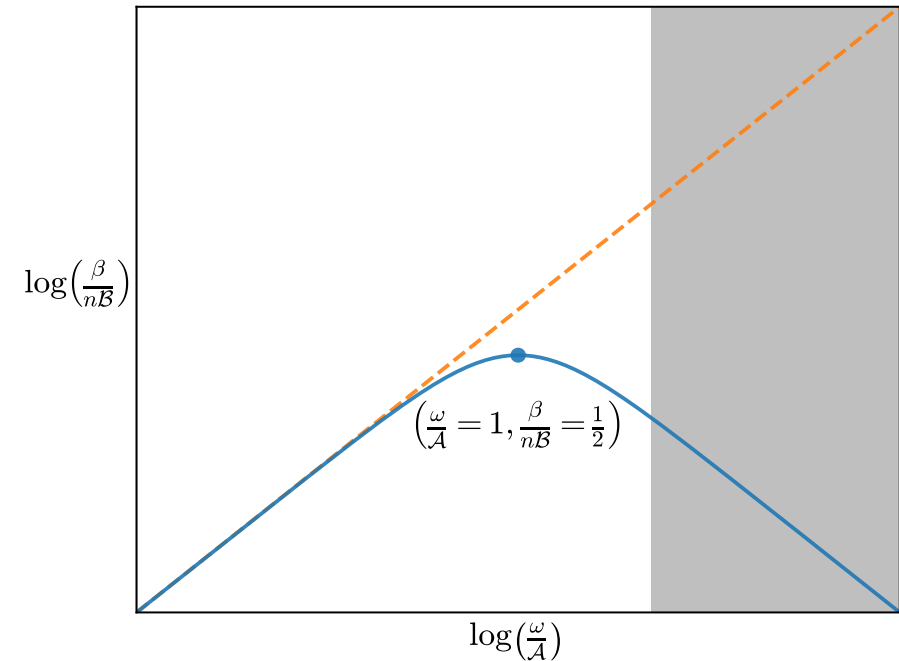
$$\delta A(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{|\mathbf{k}| \geq k_c} a_{\mathbf{k}}(t) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}}$$

Resolving (or not) the UV limit: bulk viscous case

Writing the equations in non-dimensional form we see that the reaction timescale is decoupled from the rest:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\varepsilon}{dt} &= -\frac{1}{\epsilon_{St}} (\varepsilon + c_r^2 p) \theta \\ a_b &= -\frac{1}{\epsilon_{St}} \frac{1}{\epsilon_{Ma}^2} \frac{1}{\varepsilon + c_r^2 p} \perp_b^c \nabla_c p \\ \frac{dn}{dt} &= -\frac{1}{\epsilon_{St}} n \theta \\ \frac{dY_e}{dt} &= -\frac{1}{\epsilon_A} (Y_e - Y_e^{\text{eq}})\end{aligned}$$

Integrating out the electron fraction via multi-scale methods, we obtain a NS-type bulk-viscous pressure:



Fast with respect to what? Resolving vs not-resolving the UV limit.