

Application of a Multifractal Phenomenological Model of Atmospheric Turbulence to Elastic Lidar Data

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Research Motivation

This work shall present a coupling of a multifractal turbulence model with a phenomenological model of turbulent flow structure applied to real data. The objective is to construct an improved phenomenological turbulence model using theoretical considerations regarding multifractal structures through non-differentiable functions in the form of an adaptation of scale relativity theory.

Methodology of Research

The minimal vortex of an instance of turbulent flow is considered, leading to a general equation for the non-differentiable vortex itself with its component velocity fields, and to energy dissipation. Then, an improved phenomenological turbulence model and relations between it and the minimal vortex are employed together, exemplifying the codependency of such models. Using turbulent medium wave propagation theory, certain relations are then extrapolated which allow the obtaining of the inner and outer length scales of the turbulent flow using lidar data.

Results and Comparison with State-of-the-art

In order to construct this phenomenological model, the parameters that govern scale behavior during the energy cascade need to be complex numbers. The model requires three initial scales, and yields realistic values and varying Hausdorff dimensions for the vortices described by the calculated scales, which illustrate the multifractal structure of the turbulent flow. The calculated altitude profiles are compiled and assembled into timeseries to exemplify the theory and are compared favorably with known literature.

Conclusions

A novel interpretation of turbulent structures in the context of modified turbulence phenomenology yields realistic and favorable results, driving new questions regarding the nature of turbulence.

Keywords: turbulence; multifractal; bifurcations

Domain: physics

Section: New (2020) thesis proposals

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