Periodic solutions representing the origin of turbulent bands in channel flow

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Plane channel flow



Isolated turbulent band

Isolated extending turbulent band in large computational domain



Xiong, Tao, Chen and Brandt, Phys. Fluids (2015)

System & Parameters

• Governing equation

Incompressible Navier-Stokes equation

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{u}}{\partial t} + \boldsymbol{u} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \nu \Delta \boldsymbol{u}$$
$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{0}$$

• Dimensionless parameter

Reynolds number : $Re_m = \frac{Uh}{v}$ (U: constant bulk mean velocity)

• Boundary conditions

streamwise & spanwise \Rightarrow periodic wall-normal \Rightarrow no-slip impermeable



System & Parameters

• Numerical domain & Grid numbers

(L_x, L_z)	(N_x, N_y, N_z)
(500,250)	(3840, 49, 1920)
(200, 200)	(768, 49, 768)
(100, 100)	(384, 49, 384)



Example

$$(L_x, L_z) = (500, 250), Re_m = 440$$



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$$(L_x, L_z) = (500, 250), Re_m = 440$$



Length & Angle

Measurement method



Length & Angle

 $(L_x, L_z) = (500, 250), Re_m = 440 \quad (Re = 3Re_m/2 = 660)$



- Streamwise length l_x
- Spanwise length l_z

•
$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(l_z/l_x)$$

Length & Angle

 $(L_x, L_z) = (500, 250), Re_m = 440 \quad (Re = 3Re_m/2 = 660)$



Effects of spatial periodicity

$$(L_x, L_z) = (500, 250)$$



Example

$$(L_x, L_z) = (500, 250), Re_m = 440$$



Downstream edge

$$(L_x, L_z) = (500, 250), Re_m = 450$$



Downstream edge

$$(L_x, L_z) = (500, 250), Re_m = 450$$



Downstream edge



Isolation of downstream edge

 \Rightarrow Add the spatially localized damping force

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{u}}{\partial t} + \boldsymbol{u} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{u} = -\nabla p + \frac{1}{Re} \Delta \boldsymbol{u} - F(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{z}, \boldsymbol{t}) (\boldsymbol{u} - \boldsymbol{U}_{LF} \boldsymbol{e}_{\boldsymbol{x}})$$
$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{0}$$



Isolation of downstream edge



Isolation of downstream edge



Isolated downstream edge



Periodic solution extracted using damping force



'shear-layer' sinuous instability \Rightarrow staggered vortices \Rightarrow chaos

$$(L_x, L_z) = (100, 100), Re_m = 460, \alpha = 0.1$$

Mean flow field for periodic solution
$$\langle u - U_{LF} e_x \rangle_t = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T (u - U_{LF} e_x) dt$$

High-speed region
High-speed region
Wall-normal roll
$$(u - U_{LF} e_x) = 0.1$$

 $u_x - U_{LF} = 0.1$
 $u_x - U_{LF} = -0.1$
velocity vectors
on $y=0$

Mean flow field for periodic solution

$$\langle \boldsymbol{u} - U_{LF} \boldsymbol{e}_x \rangle_t = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T (\boldsymbol{u} - U_{LF} \boldsymbol{e}_x) \, \mathrm{d}t$$



Mean flow field for periodic solution

$$\langle \boldsymbol{u} - U_{LF} \boldsymbol{e}_x \rangle_t = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T (\boldsymbol{u} - U_{LF} \boldsymbol{e}_x) \, \mathrm{d}t$$



Mean flow field for periodic solution

$$\langle \boldsymbol{u} - U_{LF} \boldsymbol{e}_{\chi} \rangle_t = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T (\boldsymbol{u} - U_{LF} \boldsymbol{e}_{\chi}) \, \mathrm{d}t$$





Extension to turbulent band

 $(L_x, L_z) = (100, 100), Re_m = 460, \alpha = 0$



Extension to turbulent band

 $(L_x, L_z) = (100, 100), Re_m = 460, \alpha = 0$



Extension to turbulent band

$$(L_x, L_z) = (100, 100), Re_m = 460, \alpha = 0$$



Bifurcation diagram of periodic solution

 $(L_x, L_z) = (100, 100), \alpha = 0.1$



Snapshot

$$(L_x, L_z) = (100, 100), Re_m = 460, \alpha = 0.1$$





Bifurcation diagram of periodic solution

$$(L_x, L_z) = (100, 100), Re_m = 460$$



Bifurcation diagram of periodic solution

$$(L_x, L_z) = (100, 100), Re_m = 460$$



Relevance to full Navier-Stokes system

$$(L_x, L_z) = (100, 100), Re_m = 460$$



Relevance to full Navier-Stokes system



Concluding remarks

- Turbulent bands of equilibrium length have been observed in large numerical domain.
- Turbulent bands can be sustained up to around $Re_m = 440$.
- Relative periodic orbits have been discovered in spatially-localized damping-forced Navier-Stokes system.
- Periodic solutions mathematically provide self-sustaining mechanism of downstream edge (physically, inclined and thus stretched wall-normal rolls).
- If damping force is reduced, upper-branch solution loses its stability and eventually chaotic solution appears to represent turbulent bands of longer array of complex vortices.
- Periodic solutions representing turbulent bands might be connected to full Navier-Stokes system (cf. Hof et al.'s invariant solutions).