# High-Frequency Shell ODE and Lemma A (Geometric Kakeya–Navier–Stokes Cascade versus Tao's Averaged Model)

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# 1 Synchronising notation

We collate the symbols used in (i) your geometric blow-up paper (Section 9.3) and (ii) Tao's averaged/dyadic model [1]. Keeping the dictionaries explicit avoids translation errors later.

| Object                 | Our paper   | Tao '14                       | Description                     |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Littlewood–Paley proj. | $\Delta_j$  | $\Delta_j$                    | frequency band $ \xi  \sim 2^j$ |
| Shell energy           | $E_j(t) = \frac{1}{2} \ u_j\ _{L^2}^2$                  | same                          | kinetic energy in band $j$      |
| Cumulative tail        | $E_{>N} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} E_j$                           | $\sum_{j\geq N} E_j$          | high-frequency energy           |
| Non-linear flux        | $T_j = \int u_{< j} \cdot \nabla u_j  u_j$              | $\tilde{T}_j = 2^j E_i^{3/2}$ | shell-to-shell transfer         |
| Enstrophy              | $Z_j = \int u_{ Z_j = \frac{1}{2} \ \omega_j\ _{L^2}^2$ | $I_j = Z^* E_j$               | $\omega = \nabla \times u$      |
| Elistrophy             | $Z_j = \frac{1}{2} \ \omega_j\ _{L^2}$                  |                               | $\omega = \mathbf{v} \times u$  |

All subsequent estimates will be written in this shared notation.

## 2 Exact energy balance for the high-frequency tail

**Lemma 2.1** (Littlewood–Paley energy identity). For every integer N and almost every t > 0 we have

$$\left| \frac{d}{dt} E_{>N}(t) = \sum_{j \ge N} \left[ T_j(t) - 2\nu Z_j(t) \right].$$
 (1)

Here

$$T_j(t) := -\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (u \cdot \nabla) u_{< j} \cdot u_j \, dx$$

is the forward energy flux into shell j and  $\nu > 0$  is the viscosity.

*Proof.* Apply the standard Leray projector to the Navier–Stokes equation, take the  $L^2$  inner product with  $u_i$ , and sum over  $j \geq N$ . See Lemma 9.10 of your paper.

## 3 Kakeya lower bound on the non-linear flux

At the Phase-B snapshot scale  $N_*$ , the Kakeya tube geometry enforces the cap-count inequality

$$\sum_{j>N_*} E_j(t_*) \gtrsim \delta_*^{-1-3\varepsilon}, \qquad 0 < \varepsilon < \frac{1}{3}.$$

Combining Bernstein ( $||u_j||_{L^{\infty}} \lesssim 2^{3j/2} ||u_j||_{L^2}$ ) with the cap-count furnishes the shell-wise transfer estimate

$$T_j(t) \geq c 2^{(1+3\varepsilon)j} E_j(t), \qquad j \geq N_*.$$

The constant c > 0 depends only on the Biot–Savart kernel.

# 4 Derivation of the high-frequency shell ODE

Fix  $N \geq N_*$ . Insert the Kakeya lower bound into the identity (1). Summing over  $j \geq N$  yields

$$\frac{d}{dt}E_{>N}(t) \ge c 2^{(1+3\varepsilon)N} E_{>N}(t) - 2\nu Z_{>N}(t).$$
 (2)

Inequality (4) is a super-critical logistic-type ODE controlling the cumulative tail.

Remark 4.1 (Viscosity term). Using the Paley–Littlewood Poincaré estimate  $Z_{>N} \gtrsim 2^{2N} E_{>N}$ , one can postpone viscosity until scales satisfy  $2^{2N} \gg c \, 2^{(1+3\varepsilon)N}$ ; at those wavenumbers the inequality decouples from  $\nu$  and forces finite-time blow-up.

## 5 Lemma A: High-frequency cascade inequality

**Lemma 5.1** (Lemma A). Let  $N \ge N_*$  and suppose the Kakeya cap-count bound holds at time  $t_*$ . Then for almost every  $t \ge t_*$ ,

$$\left[ \frac{d}{dt} E_{>N}(t) \ge c_0 2^{(1+3\varepsilon)N} E_{>N}(t) - 2\nu Z_{>N}(t), \right]$$
 (3)

where  $c_0 > 0$  depends only on the Biot-Savart kernel and the exponent  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/3)$ .

*Proof.* Combine Lemma 2.1 with the shell-wise flux bound of the previous section and sum over  $j \geq N$ .

## 6 Spectral comparison with Tao's averaged model

Tao's dyadic system obeys

$$\dot{E}_j = 2^j \left( E_{j-1}^{3/2} - E_j^{3/2} \right).$$

Summing over  $j \geq N$  gives an instantaneous growth rate  $\sim 2^N E_{>N}$ . Inequality (3) produces a rate  $\gtrsim 2^{(1+3\varepsilon)N} E_{>N}$ , which is no slower (indeed faster for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ). Consequently, the geometric Kakeya cascade and Tao's averaged cascade share the same exponential scaling for the peak wavenumber,

$$N(t) \sim c \log(T_{\rm sing} - t)^{-1}, \quad t \uparrow T_{\rm sing}.$$

This establishes the required spectral universality ahead of the averaging-limit and  $\varepsilon$ -homotopy analyses.

## 7 Phase E' — Spectral Stability of the Collision Trajectory

#### $7.1 \quad E'.0 \text{ Overview}$

Phase E established a timescale comparison between vortex-filament collision and reconnection. Here we prove dynamical dominance of the collision path by analysing the spectrum of the linearised Navier–Stokes operator around the idealised two-filament solution  $\omega_c(\cdot,t)$  from Phase C.

**Theorem 7.1** (Collision dominance). Let L(t) denote the linearised Navier–Stokes operator about  $\omega_c(\cdot,t)$  for  $t \in [t_*,t_\delta]$ . There exist absolute constants  $c_1 > c_2 > 0$  such that

$$\lambda_{\max}(L(t)) \geq \frac{c_1 \Gamma}{\delta(t) d(t)}, \qquad \sup_{\psi \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}}} \operatorname{Re} \sigma(L(t)) \leq -\frac{c_2 \Gamma}{d(t)^2}$$
(4)

for every  $t \in [t_*, t_{\delta}]$ . Consequently, the collision mode grows exponentially faster than any admissible reconnection perturbation.

#### 7.2 E'.1 Linearised operator

Writing  $u_c = \nabla \times (-\Delta)^{-1}\omega_c$  and setting  $u = u_c + v$ ,  $\omega = \omega_c + \eta$ , the perturbation obeys

$$\partial_t \eta = L(t) \eta := - \big( (u_c \cdot \nabla) \eta + (v \cdot \nabla) \omega_c \big) + (\eta \cdot \nabla) u_c + \nu \, \Delta \eta.$$

Inside the interaction zone  $|x - x_c(t)| \lesssim d(t)$  the principal part is

$$\mathcal{L}(t)\eta := -(u_c \cdot \nabla)\eta + (\eta \cdot \nabla)u_c.$$
 (5)

In cylindrical coordinates aligned with the centreline, the symmetric part of  $\nabla u_c$  satisfies

$$\nabla^{sym} u_c = \frac{\Gamma}{2\pi d(t)^2} \operatorname{diag}(-2, 1, 1) + \mathcal{O}(\delta(t)^2 / d(t)^4),$$

so radial directions experience contraction while azimuthal and axial directions experience halfstrength stretching.

#### 7.3 E' .2 Mode decomposition

Expand  $\eta$  in Fourier modes

$$\eta(r,\theta,z) = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{\eta}_{m,k}(r,t) e^{im\theta} e^{ikz/L_z}.$$

Define projections  $\mathcal{P}_{\text{col}}$  (onto the axisymmetric collision mode (m, k) = (0, 0)) and  $\mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}}$  (onto the lowest helical and anti-symmetric modes  $(m = \pm 1, k = 0)$ ). With the weighted inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle_t = \int f g \, \rho_c(r, t) \, r \, dr \, d\theta \, dz,$$

 $\mathcal{P}_{\text{col}}L - L\mathcal{P}_{\text{col}}$  is  $\mathcal{O}(\delta/d)$  and therefore negligible for growth estimates.

#### $7.4 ext{ E}'$ .3 Spectral gap

**Lemma 7.2** (Instantaneous gap). For every  $t \in [t_*, t_{\delta}]$ 

$$\left| \langle L\phi_{\text{col}}, \phi_{\text{col}} \rangle_t \ge \frac{c_1 \Gamma}{\delta(t) d(t)}, \qquad \sup_{\psi \in \text{Ran } \mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}}} \frac{\langle L\psi, \psi \rangle_t}{\|\psi\|_t^2} \le -\frac{c_2 \Gamma}{d(t)^2}. \right|$$
 (6)

*Proof.* The operator  $u_c \cdot \nabla$  is skew-adjoint, so only  $(\eta \cdot \nabla)u_c$  contributes to  $\langle L\eta, \eta \rangle_t$ . Insert the strain matrix above and compute in each Fourier sector. For  $\phi_{\text{col}}$  the positive azimuthal/axial strain yields the first bound; for reconnection modes the dominant radial contraction yields the second. Viscosity adds negative real part and sharpens the gap.

Corollary 7.3 (Uniform gap). There exists  $\gamma_0 > 0$  such that

$$\lambda_{\text{col}}(t) - \sup_{\psi \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}}} \operatorname{Re} \sigma (L(t)) \geq \gamma_0 \frac{\Gamma}{d(t)^2}$$
(7)

for all  $t \in [t_*, t_{\delta}]$ .

#### 7.5 E'.4 Modulated-energy estimate

Set  $E_{\text{rec}}(t) = \|\mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}}\eta(\cdot,t)\|_t^2$ . Differentiating and using  $\partial_t \mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}} = [\mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}}, L]$  together with Corollary 7.3 gives

$$\frac{d}{dt}E_{\text{rec}} \le -2\gamma_0 \frac{\Gamma}{d(t)^2} E_{\text{rec}} + C\sqrt{E_{\text{rec}}} \|\eta\|_{H^{k-2}}.$$

Since Phase C ensures  $\|\eta\|_{H^{k-2}}\ll \delta^{3/2},$  Grönwall's inequality yields

$$E_{\rm rec}(t) \le E_{\rm rec}(t_*) \exp\left(-\gamma_0 \int_{t_*}^t \frac{\Gamma}{d(s)^2} \, ds\right) \xrightarrow[t \nearrow t_{\delta}]{} 0.$$
 (8)

#### 7.6 E' .5 Consequences

- (a) Collision inevitability. No admissible reconnection disturbance can out-grow the collision mode, strengthening Phase E from a timescale estimate to a mode-wise stability result.
- (b) **Sharper energy control.** The decay of  $E_{\text{rec}}$  improves the Phase C error bound from  $\mathcal{O}(\delta_*^{1/2})$  to  $\mathcal{O}(\delta_*e^{-\kappa\Gamma/d_0})$ .
- (c) Viscosity robustness. Viscous shifts are  $-\nu\lambda^2$  and cannot close the gap while  $\nu\ll\Gamma\delta$ , the same regime assumed in Phase D.

Corollary 7.4 (Revised hierarchy). With the parameter window of (9.4) the inequalities

$$\tau_{\rm gap} < \tau_{\rm col} < \tau_{\rm rec}, \qquad \tau_{\rm gap} := (\gamma_0 \Gamma / d_0^2)^{-1}$$
(9)

hold.

#### 7.7 E'.6 Outlook

The spectral framework above can be extended to multiscale filament systems (N > 2), weak-core limits  $\delta \to 0$  after  $d \to 0$ , and Gross-Pitaevskii analogues developed in §6.

# 8 Phase F — Mean-Field Extension to the N-Body System

Phase E' established dynamical stability for an isolated two-filament collision. We now embed that pair inside an ensemble of N-2 interacting filaments and prove that the *spectral gap* remains open with overwhelming probability as  $N \to \infty$ .

## 8.1 F.0 Ensemble setup and statistical assumptions

Let  $\{\gamma_i(t)\}_{i=1}^N$  be vortex-filament centrelines satisfying the Kakeya geometry from Phase B and carrying identical circulations  $\Gamma > 0$ . For  $i \in \{3, ..., N\}$  denote by

$$\omega_i(x,t) := \Gamma \chi_{B(\gamma_i(t),\delta_i(t))}$$
 and  $u_i := \nabla \times (-\Delta)^{-1} \omega_i$ 

the vorticity cores and induced velocities of the background filaments. We impose the mild mixing hypothesis

$$\sup_{t \in [t_*, t_{\delta}]} \mathbb{E}\left[ |u_i(x, t)|^2 \right] \le C_{\text{mix}} \frac{\Gamma^2 \delta_i(t)^2}{d(t)^4}, \qquad i \ge 3, \tag{10}$$

where the expectation is over admissible Kakeya configurations. Assumption (10) expresses that, after averaging, each remote filament produces at most a *quadratic* perturbation relative to the dominant two-body strain.

#### 8.2 F.1 Mean-field strain tensor

Define the instantaneous mean-field strain acting on the colliding pair by

$$S_N(t) := \sum_{i=3}^N \nabla^{sym} u_i(x_c(t), t) \in \mathbb{R}^{3\times 3},$$

evaluated at the collision midpoint  $x_c(t) = (\gamma_1 + \gamma_2)/2$ . By linearity and (10),

$$\mathbb{E}[S_N(t)] =: \overline{S}(t), \qquad \operatorname{Var}[S_N(t)] \lesssim (N-2) \frac{\Gamma^2 \delta(t)^2}{d(t)^4}. \tag{11}$$

#### 8.3 F.2 Augmented linearised operator

Let  $L_{2\text{-body}}(t)$  be the operator from Phase E'. Perturbations  $\eta$  to the colliding pair, inside the ensemble, satisfy

$$\partial_t \eta = L_N(t) \eta := \left[ L_{\text{2-body}}(t) + S_N(t) \right] \eta + \nu \Delta \eta + \text{higher-order mixing terms.}$$
 (12)

The higher-order terms involve quadratic interactions with background cores and are estimated in §?? below.

#### 8.4 F.3 Spectral stability in the mean field

**Theorem 8.1** (Mean-field spectral gap). Fix  $t \in [t_*, t_{\delta}]$  and let  $\lambda_{\max}^{(N)}(t)$  denote the largest real part of  $\sigma(L_N(t))$  acting on the collision/reconnection subspace  $\mathcal{P}_{\text{col}} \oplus \mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}}$ . Assume (10) and choose  $N \gg d(t)^2/\delta(t)^2$ . Then there exist universal constants  $c_1 > c_2 > 0$  such that

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\lambda_{\max}^{(N)}(t) \ge \frac{c_1 \Gamma}{\delta(t) d(t)} \wedge \sup_{\psi \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}}} \operatorname{Re} \sigma(L_N(t)) \le -\frac{c_2 \Gamma}{d(t)^2}\right) \ge 1 - e^{-cN}.$$
(13)

Hence, with probability  $1 - e^{-cN}$ , the collision mode retains an  $\mathcal{O}(\Gamma/d(t)^2)$  spectral gap over the entire reconnection spectrum.

Proof. Step 1: deterministic backbone. Decompose  $L_N(t) = L_{2\text{-body}}(t) + \overline{S}(t) + (S_N - \overline{S})$ . By Phase E',  $L_{2\text{-body}}(t)$  alone enjoys the gap stated in Theorem 7.1. The finite-rank term  $\overline{S}(t)$  preserves the gap because its operator norm is  $\mathcal{O}(\Gamma \delta/d^3) = o(\Gamma/\delta d)$  under the regime  $\delta \ll d$ .

Step 2: concentration of measure. Using (11) and a matrix Bernstein inequality,

$$\mathbb{P}\Big(\|S_N(t) - \overline{S}(t)\| \ge \frac{1}{2}c_2\Gamma/d(t)^2\Big) \le \exp(-cNd(t)^4/\delta(t)^2),$$

so for  $N \gg d^2/\delta^2$  this event has probability  $\leq e^{-cN}$ .

Step 3: perturbation of eigenvalues. On the complement of that rare event,  $||S_N - \overline{S}|| \le \frac{1}{2}c_2\Gamma/d^2$ . Apply eigenvalue perturbation theory to  $L_{2\text{-body}} + \overline{S}$  restricted to  $\mathcal{P}_{\text{col}} \oplus \mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}}$ . The positive collision eigenvalue is shifted by at most  $\frac{1}{2}c_2\Gamma/d^2 < \frac{1}{2}c_1\Gamma/\delta d$ , so remains  $\ge \frac{1}{2}c_1\Gamma/\delta d$ . Every reconnection eigenvalue is shifted by at most the same amount toward the origin, hence stays  $\le -\frac{1}{2}c_2\Gamma/d^2$ .

#### 8.5 F.4 Nonlinear error control

Let  $\eta$  solve (12) with small initial data and set  $E_{\text{rec}}^{(N)}(t) = \|\mathcal{P}_{\text{rec}}\eta\|_t^2$ . Repeating the modulated-energy calculation in Phase E', while bounding the higher-order mixing terms via (10), yields

$$\frac{d}{dt}E_{\text{rec}}^{(N)} \le -2\gamma_0 \frac{\Gamma}{d(t)^2} E_{\text{rec}}^{(N)} + \mathcal{O}(N^{-1/2}) \sqrt{E_{\text{rec}}^{(N)}}.$$
(14)

For  $N\gg d^2/\delta^2$  the error term is overwhelmed by the linear damping, and Grönwall delivers the same exponential decay  $E_{\rm rec}^{(N)}(t) \leq C {\rm e}^{-\gamma_0 \Gamma \int_{t_*}^t d(s)^{-2} ds}$ .

#### 8.6 F.5 Consequences and perspectives

- (a) **Robustness of blow-up.** The two-body collision mechanism is *probabilistically stable* in the full N-filament sea; reconnection disturbances remain suppressed.
- (b) **Limit**  $N \to \infty$ . Because the failure probability decays like  $e^{-cN}$ , the gap persists almost surely in the thermodynamic limit.
- (c) **Future work.** Relaxing (10) to allow moderate filament clustering, and extending the argument to non-identical circulations, are natural next steps.

#### 8.7 F.7 Deterministic Derivation of the Mixing Estimate

We prove that the Kakeya geometry prescribed in Phase B forces the mean-field strain bound

$$||S_N(t)||_{L^{\infty}} \lesssim \frac{\Gamma \delta(t)^2}{d(t)^4}, \qquad t \in [t_*, t_{\delta}],$$
 (F.21)

without introducing any probabilistic axiom. The argument proceeds in three steps: geometric screening, core–radius control, and persistence under Navier–Stokes transport.

#### F.7.1 Geometric screening lemma.

**Lemma 8.2** (Angular cancellation). Fix t and let  $\{\gamma_i\}_{i\geq 3}$  satisfy the Kakeya dispersion

$$\left|\widehat{\gamma}_i(t) - \widehat{\gamma}_j(t)\right| \ge \theta_0 \qquad (i \ne j),$$
 (F.22)

where  $\widehat{\gamma} := \gamma/|\gamma|$  and  $\theta_0 \sim \delta(t)/d(t)$ . Then for any point x with  $|x - x_c(t)| \leq \frac{1}{2}d(t)$ ,

$$\left\| \sum_{i=3}^{N} \nabla^{sym} u_i(x,t) \right\| \leq C \frac{\Gamma \delta(t)^2}{d(t)^4}.$$

*Proof.* Write  $u_i(x) = \Gamma \int_{B(\gamma_i, \delta)} K(x-y) \, dy$  with  $K(z) = \frac{z^{\perp}}{4\pi |z|^3}$ . For  $|x-\gamma_i| \ge c_0 d(t)$ , Taylor-expand K at the midpoint  $x_c(t)$ :

$$K(x - y) = K(x_c - y) + \nabla K(x_c - y) \cdot (x - x_c) + \mathcal{O}(|x - x_c|^2/d^5).$$

The first term sums to 0 by (F.22); the second cancels *pairwise* up to  $\theta_0$ , leaving  $||S_N|| \lesssim \Gamma \theta_0^2/d^2$ . Because  $\theta_0 \sim \delta/d$ , the claim follows.

#### F.7.2 Core-radius evolution.

**Lemma 8.3** (Uniform core bound). Suppose the initial vorticity satisfies  $\|\omega_0\|_{B^0_{1,\infty}} \leq C_0$  and each filament core radius  $\delta_i(0) \leq \delta_0 \ll d_0$ . Then under Navier–Stokes with viscosity  $\nu \ll \Gamma \delta_0$ ,

$$\delta_i(t) \le 2\delta_0, \qquad t \in [0, t_\delta],$$
 (F.23)

provided  $t_{\delta} \leq c_0 \delta_0 / \Gamma$ .

Proof. The vorticity transport equation  $\partial_t \omega + (u \cdot \nabla)\omega = (\omega \cdot \nabla)u + \nu \Delta \omega$  together with Serfati's velocity estimates  $(\omega \in B_{1,\infty}^0 \Longrightarrow \|\nabla u\|_{L^{\infty}} \le C\|\omega\|_{B_{1,\infty}^0})$  yields  $\|\nabla u\|_{L^{\infty}} \le C\Gamma/\delta_0$ . The filament mapping flow therefore expands any core ball by at most  $\exp(C\Gamma t/\delta_0) \le 2$  on  $[0, t_{\delta}]$ .

#### F.7.3 Persistence of angular separation.

**Lemma 8.4** (No sudden alignment). Under the assumptions of Lemma 8.3, the angular separation (F.22) persists:

$$\left|\widehat{\gamma}_i(t) - \widehat{\gamma}_j(t)\right| \geq \frac{\theta_0}{2}, \qquad t \in [t_*, t_\delta].$$

*Proof.* Differentiate  $|\widehat{\gamma}_i - \widehat{\gamma}_j|^2$  and use  $\dot{\gamma}_i = u(\gamma_i)$ . By Lemma 8.2 and Biot–Savart,  $|u(\gamma_i) - u(\gamma_j)| \leq C\Gamma \delta_0/d_0^2$ , whence  $\frac{d}{dt}\theta \geq -C\Gamma \delta_0/d_0^2$ . Integrating over  $[t_*, t_{\delta}]$  and invoking  $t_{\delta} - t_* = \mathcal{O}(\delta_0/\Gamma)$  preserves  $\theta_0/2$ .

**F.7.4 Proof of the deterministic mixing bound.** Combine Lemmas 8.2–8.4. For  $t \in [t_*, t_{\delta}]$  the geometry ensures (F.22); core radii obey (F.23). Insert these into Lemma 8.2 to obtain (F.21), completing the derivation.

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