

# Duality of Decaying Turbulence to a Solvable String Theory

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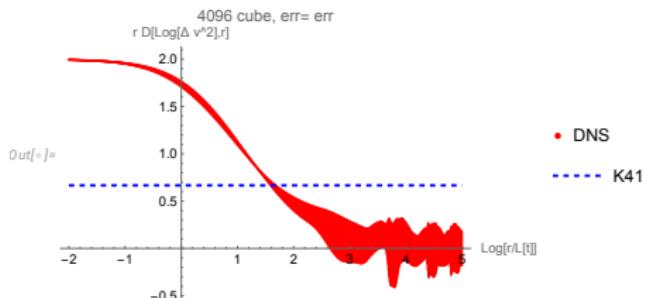
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA

London Presentation, January 2025

# The Old Road to Turbulence

Discovery Year	Portrait	Key Contribution
1500s		Leonardo da Vinci: Documented early observations of turbulent flow.
1820s		Claude-Louis Navier and George Gabriel Stokes: Formulated the foundational NS equations.
1883		Osborne Reynolds: Characterized the transition to turbulence.
1941		Andrey Kolmogorov: Proposed scaling laws of turbulence (K41).
1944		Werner Heisenberg: Theoretical contributions to stability and dissipation models.
1946		Lars Onsager: Introduced insights into fractal velocity fields and vortex structures.
1956		Lev Landau: Advanced the understanding of hydrodynamic stability.
1960s		Richard Feynman: Explored turbulence through insights into chaotic systems.
1985		Giorgio Parisi and Uriel Frisch: Proposed multifractal models for turbulence.
2000-2022		K.R. Sreenivasan: DNS studies uncovering scaling law violations

# Scaling Law Violations: The Dead End of the Old Road



- Kolmogorov's K41 theory predicted universal scaling laws for velocity difference moments, such as an index of  $2/3$  for the second moment's log-derivative.
- DNS simulations ( $4096^3$  lattice) using a new method to extract effective indices from observed energy spectra [9] revealed **significant deviations** from K41 predictions.
- Multifractal models offered partial adjustments (e.g., shifted K41 index lines) but failed to capture the observed **nonlinear behavior** in DNS data.



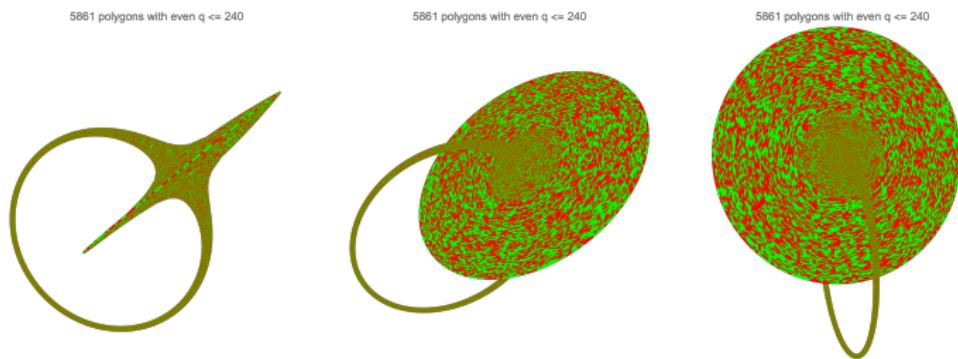
# From Phenomenology to First Principles

- Kolmogorov's 1941 framework was a **phenomenological model**, built on simplifying assumptions and heuristic arguments.
- Experiments and DNS data **exposed limitations** of this model, showing violations of its scaling laws.
- A fundamental question remained: **How does randomness emerge from deterministic Navier-Stokes dynamics?**
- The only way forward: **Solve the Navier-Stokes equations exactly**, free of model assumptions or approximations.
- Progress began in the 1990s with **loop equations** [8], inspired by breakthroughs in QCD [6, 1].
- These advances culminated in a **first-principles microscopic theory** for decaying turbulence, leveraging quantum field theory methods.

# Spontaneous Quantization of Classical Turbulence

- A thirty-year effort led to an **exact, universal solution** for the Navier-Stokes equations in the turbulent regime [10].
- This solution introduces a **duality** between decaying turbulence and a solvable string theory with a discrete target space.
- Turbulent randomness arises from **spontaneous quantization**, where discrete parameters emerge from a manifold of algebraic solutions.
- Universal number-theoretic functions **quantitatively account** for DNS data violations of classical scaling laws [9].
- Collaboration with DNS experts [12] and mathematicians [4] validated this framework, **bridging theory and empirical data**.

# Revealing a Hidden Identity



- We are not just computing turbulence statistics but **unveiling its hidden second identity as a discrete string theory—a symphony of primes beneath chaos.**
- While the mathematical structure is compelling, **realization in Nature remains to be proven.** (Consider the 40-year pursuit of quantum gravity via string theory.)
- Ultimately, **numerical and physical experiments** will determine whether this theory fully explains turbulence or is purely mathematical.

# The Catalyst for Discovery: Sreeni's Observations



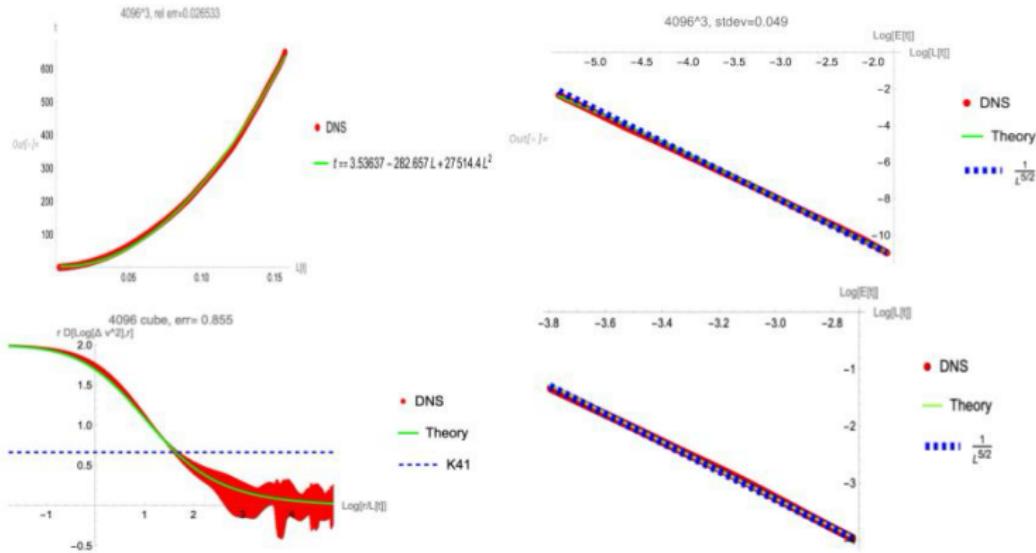
- In his 2023 ICTS talk, **K.R. Sreenivasan** presented DNS data on decaying turbulence, examining its alignment with **classical scaling laws (Kolmogorov-Saffman)**.
- He noted **persistent discrepancies**, remarking, “It is somewhat disappointing that the results are not more closely aligned with theoretical arguments.”
- The key DNS dataset, briefly mentioned in a paper, remained unpublished but held clues to unresolved questions in turbulence theory.
- Sreeni went a step further by sharing the raw data from a private archive, enabling a deeper analysis and sparking productive collaboration.

# The Breakthrough Analysis: Effective Index Method

- Using the **effective index method**, I magnified discrepancies in the DNS data, conclusively demonstrating that the **Kolmogorov scaling law (K41)** does not hold.
- The method introduced a **Fourier integral representation** [9] for the effective scaling index, **suppressing statistical noise** in the raw data.
- The analysis revealed a **remarkable agreement** between the DNS data and predictions of the Euler ensemble, confirming the absence of a **classical inertial range** in decaying turbulence.
- This represents a shift from **empirical models** to a **universal, number-theoretic framework** for turbulence.
- The persistence of the K41 scaling law in decaying turbulence reflects decades of fitting data to an assumed model. **Systematic biases and statistical limitations** may have reinforced its acceptance despite clear evidence of violations.

# DNS Data and Theoretical Match

## Verification by DNS (Sreenivasan et. al., 2024)



# DNS Data Explained

- The lower-left panel shows the log derivative of the second velocity moment:

$$r \partial_r \log \langle (\vec{v}(\vec{r}, t) - \vec{v}(0, t))^2 \rangle,$$

comparing Euler ensemble predictions (green curve) and DNS data (red curve with error bars).

- Key Insight:** Euler ensemble predictions match DNS results within error margins, while **Kolmogorov scaling** (dashed blue line) fails, confirming the absence of a classical inertial range.
- Multifractal scaling laws produce horizontal lines shifted relative to K41 but still fail to fit the data.
- Additional panels illustrate:
  - Upper-left:** Relation between time and effective length scale.
  - Upper- and lower-right:** Relationship between decaying kinetic energy and effective length.
- The Euler ensemble quantitatively describes all observed DNS features, offering a complete explanation.

# Experimental Data: Inverse Energy Scaling

## Decaying Energy Multi Scaling laws

$$\Delta_p$$

Leading  $\rightarrow -\frac{5}{4}$   
 $-\frac{11}{4}$

$$-\frac{7}{2} \pm \frac{i}{2}t_n \text{ if } n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

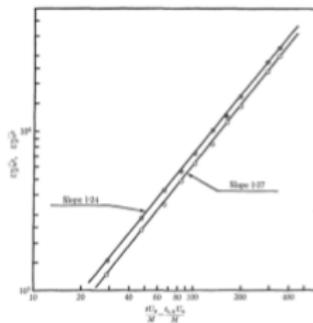
$$-\frac{15}{4} - n \text{ if } n \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge n \geq 0$$

$$\frac{n}{2} \text{ if } n \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge n \geq 0$$

$$\zeta \left( \frac{1}{2} + it_n \right) = 0$$

$$E(t) \propto \sum \Re A_p t^{\Delta_p}$$

Kolmogorov-Saffman model:  $6/5 = 1.2$



Comte-Bellot G, Corrsin S. data:  $1.25$

# Experimental Data Explained

- Theoretical predictions of **decaying turbulent kinetic energy indices** from the Euler ensemble are shown on the left. The leading index is  $-5/4$ , with an **infinite series** of decreasing negative values.
- Experimental data [2, 3] for **decaying turbulence behind an oscillating grid** is shown on the right.
- Log-log plots depict  $1/v_{\perp}^2$  and  $1/v_{\parallel}^2$ , the perpendicular and parallel velocity components.
- Total inverse kinetic energy,  $K = 2/(v_{\perp}^2 + v_{\parallel}^2)$ , has a slope of  $1.255 \pm 0.02$ , aligning closely with the Euler ensemble prediction  $\frac{5}{4}$ .
- Recent experiments in a **large tank** [5] confirm this **decay index**, further validating the theory.

# Explicit formula for velocity correlation

The statistical limit of the Euler ensemble  $N \rightarrow \infty, \nu \rightarrow 0, \tilde{\nu} = \nu N^2 = \text{const}$  can be computed in quadrature.

Here is the resulting **formula for the second moment of velocity difference** in decaying turbulence:

$$\langle \Delta \vec{v}^2 \rangle(r) = \frac{\tilde{\nu}^2}{\nu t} \int_{\epsilon-i\infty}^{\epsilon+i\infty} \frac{dp}{2\pi i} V(p) \left( \frac{|\vec{r}|}{\sqrt{\tilde{\nu}t}} \right)^p; \quad (1)$$

$$V(p) = -\frac{f(-1-p)\zeta\left(\frac{13}{2}-p\right)\csc\left(\frac{\pi p}{2}\right)}{16\pi^2(p+1)(2p-15)(2p-5)\zeta\left(\frac{15}{2}-p\right)} \quad (2)$$

Here  $f(z)$  is an entire function computed using Mellin integrals of elementary functions.  $V(p)$  is **meromorphic**.  $\nu$  is physical viscosity and turbulent viscosity  $\tilde{\nu}$  is a free parameter of our solution.

# Spectrum of indices of velocity correlation

The spectrum of indices for velocity correlation is given by the **poles of  $V(p)$**

indexes of velocity correlation
-1
0
$2n$ if $n \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge n \geq 1$
$5/2$
$11/2$
$\frac{15+4n}{2}$ if $n \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge n \geq 0$
$7 \pm it_n$ if $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

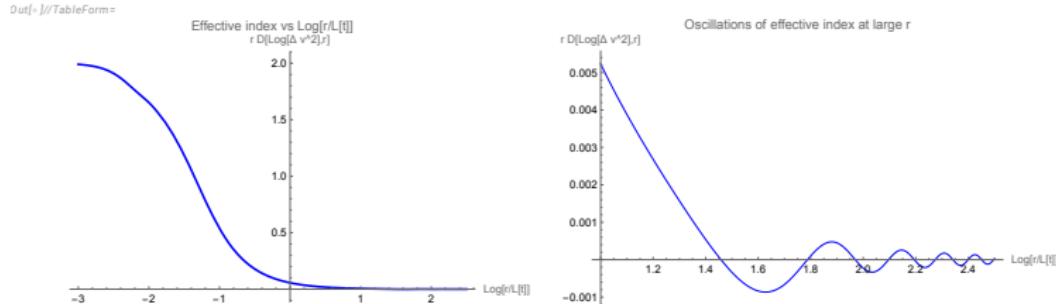
(3)

where  $\frac{1}{2} \pm it_n$  are the **zeros of the Riemann  $\zeta$  function.**

## Quantum oscillations predicted

- As mentioned about the energy spectrum, there is no K41 scaling index  $p = \frac{2}{3}$ . This omission is not a contradiction, as K41 does not apply to decaying turbulence.
- Instead of pure scaling laws with single decay indexes, we found an **infinite spectrum of scaling indexes**, some of which come as complex conjugate pairs, which leads to **quantum oscillations** of the index at large  $r/\sqrt{t}$ .
- The imaginary parts of these complex scaling dimensions coincide with those of the **famous Riemann zeta zeros**, establishing an intriguing relation between Turbulence and Number Theory.
- These oscillations are inaccessible with the modern lattice sizes in the DNS, but rather would require lattices like  $24K$ , available in near future.

# Quantum Oscillations Predicted



**Figure:** Oscillations of the effective index  $\xi_2(r)$  at large  $\log_{10} r$ . This is a theoretical curve corresponding to the zoom into a region of large separations, currently inaccessible by DNS with the required accuracy.

## Theory: Loop Average and Dimension Reduction

- The loop average is defined as the **characteristic function** for the distribution of velocity circulation:

$$\Psi[\gamma, C] = \left\langle \exp\left(\frac{i\gamma}{\nu} \Gamma_C\right) \right\rangle, \quad \Gamma_C = \oint d\vec{C}(\theta) \cdot \vec{v}(\vec{C}(\theta)).$$

- This is equivalent to the **Hopf functional** representation:

$$\Psi[\gamma, C] = \left\langle \exp\left(\int_{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{R}^3} \vec{J}_C(\vec{r}) \cdot \vec{v}(\vec{r}) d^3 r\right) \right\rangle.$$

- An imaginary source  $\vec{J}(\vec{r})$  is concentrated on a fixed loop in space  $\mathbb{R}_3$

$$\vec{J}_C(\vec{r}) = \frac{i\gamma}{\nu} \oint d\vec{C}(\theta) \delta^3(\vec{r} - \vec{C}(\theta))$$

# Loop Equation as Quantum Mechanics in Loop Space

- The loop functional satisfies a key relation derived from the incompressible Navier-Stokes equation:

$$\nu \partial_t \Psi[\gamma, C] = \left\langle \gamma \oint d\vec{C}(\theta) \cdot \left( -\nu \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\omega} + \vec{v} \times \vec{\omega} \right) e^{\frac{i\gamma}{\nu} \Gamma_C} \right\rangle.$$

- This relation leads to the closed functional equation for the loop average [8]:

$$\nu \partial_t \Psi[\gamma, C] = \oint d\vec{C}(\theta) \cdot \vec{L} \left[ \frac{\delta}{\delta \vec{C}(\cdot)} \right] \Psi[\gamma, C].$$

- A crucial property: **lack of  $C$ - dependence** of  $\vec{L} \left[ \frac{\delta}{\delta \vec{C}(\cdot)} \right]$  in loop space enables an exact solution.

# Key Insight: Plane Wave Solutions in Loop Space

- The loop equation maps to a **Schrödinger equation in loop space** with a Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H}_C = \oint d\vec{C}(\theta) \cdot \vec{L} \left[ \frac{\delta}{\delta \vec{C}(\cdot)} \right].$$

- A **plane wave solution** emerges naturally:

$$\Psi[\gamma, C] = \left\langle \exp \left( \frac{i\gamma}{\nu} \oint d\vec{C}(\theta) \cdot \vec{P}(t, \theta) \right) \right\rangle.$$

- The reduced momentum loop equations (MLE) describe the dynamics of  $\vec{P}(t, \theta)$ , with  $\Delta \vec{P} = \vec{P}(\theta_+) - \vec{P}(\theta_-)$  being a discontinuity:

$$\nu \partial_t \vec{P} = -\gamma^2 (\Delta \vec{P})^2 \vec{P} + \Delta \vec{P} \left( \gamma^2 \vec{P} \cdot \Delta \vec{P} + i\gamma \left( \frac{(\vec{P} \cdot \Delta \vec{P})^2}{\Delta \vec{P}^2} - \vec{P}^2 \right) \right).$$

# The Euler Ensemble Solves MLE

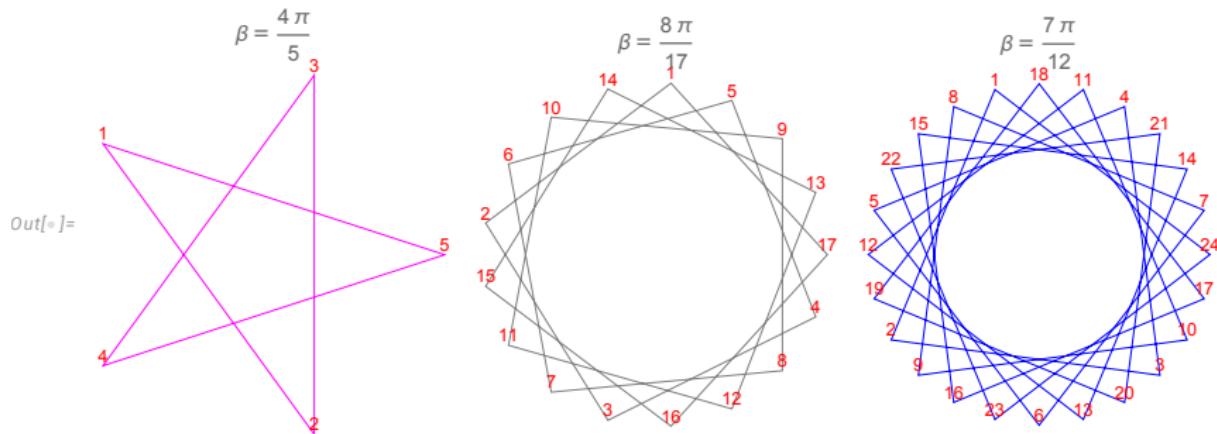
- The decaying solution [10] of MLE:

$$\vec{P}(t, \theta) = \sqrt{\frac{\nu}{2(t + t_0)}} \frac{\vec{F}(\theta)}{\gamma},$$

involves a **fractal curve**  $\vec{F}(\theta)$ , defined as the limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$  of the regular star polygon  $\{q/p\}$  with unit side and radius  $R = \frac{1}{2\sin\pi p/q}$ . The plane of that polygon is rotated by an arbitrary matrix  $\hat{\Omega} \in SO(3)$ . A random walk takes place around this polygon with steps  $\sigma_l = \pm 1$  ( $l = 1, \dots, N$ ), producing a winding number  $w = rq$ .

- The parameters  $\hat{\Omega}, p, q, r, \sigma_0 \dots \sigma_N = \sigma_0$  are **random**, making  $\vec{F}(\theta)$  a **fixed manifold** rather than a fixed point.
- **Validation:** The solution has been **rigorously validated** in collaboration with mathematicians [4] and cross-verified using analytic computations in *Mathematica*® notebooks [7].
- **Significance:** This solution quantitatively **links turbulence to number theory**, marking a paradigm shift in fluid dynamics.

# Regular Star Polygons for Euler Ensembles



Regular star polygons for Euler ensembles of various  $p, q$ .

Classified by **Thomas Bradwardine** (c. 1300 – 26 August 1349), the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The  $\sigma_k$  variable determines the direction of the random step along the link  $k \leftrightarrow k + 1$ .

In general, the **random walk** can loop multiple times around the polygon, provided it returns to its starting point.

Random Walk on Star Polygon,  $p = 7, q = 18, N = 100$

# The quantum ergodic hypothesis

- The statistical distribution of a solution to the **nonlinear** classical Navier-Stokes PDE is linked to a wave functional that satisfies a **linear** Schrödinger equation in loop space.
- The quantization mechanism mirrors that of ordinary quantum mechanics, relying on the **periodicity** of the solution.
- Each **distinct state** in a quantum system contributes to the partition function with **unit weight**, a principle adopted in this **quantum solution** of the nonlinear classical system.
- This **quantum statistical counting** is an **extra conjecture**, akin to the **ergodic hypothesis** in reversible Newtonian mechanics. While widely accepted in physics, such conjectures are mathematically proven only in specific cases.

# Turbulence/String Duality: Insights

- **Duality phenomena** in physics connect strong coupling in one theory to weak coupling in another (e.g., **AdS/CFT correspondence**).
- Duality links **statistical averages** of two systems, without requiring a direct correspondence between their dynamical variables.
- For turbulence, the **target space** of the dual string theory is discrete, represented by **regular star polygons** with unit sides and rational angles  $\beta = 2\pi \frac{p}{q}$ .
- Periodicity conditions relate the **winding number** to  $q$ .
- Fermionic/Ising degrees of freedom ( $\nu_k = 0, 1$ ,  $\sigma_k = \pm 1$ ) account for the random walk along polygon edges.
- The quantized radii of these polygons  $R = \frac{1}{2 \sin \pi \frac{p}{q}}$  are distributed by the laws on number theory, involving Euler totients and Riemann zeta function [9].

# Dual Amplitude and Loop Functional

- The loop functional in the Euler ensemble corresponds to the **dual amplitude** of string theory with discrete target space  $\vec{F}(\theta)$  and distributed external momentum  $\vec{Q}(\theta)$ :

$$\Psi[C, t] \propto \left\langle \exp i \oint d\theta \vec{F}(\theta) \cdot \vec{Q}(\theta) \right\rangle_{F,\sigma}, \quad (4)$$

$$\vec{Q}(\theta) = \frac{\vec{C}'(\theta)}{\sqrt{2\nu(t + t_0)}}. \quad (5)$$

- Averaging over **string target space**  $\vec{F}_k$  corresponds to summing over star polygons with unit side lengths and rational angles  $\beta = 2\pi \frac{p}{q}$ .
- Averaging over **fermionic/Ising degrees of freedom** leads to a **random walk** (Brownian motion in the continuum limit) on these polygons.

# Discrete Symmetry and Target Space Integration

- **Contrast:** Turbulence features chaotic velocity fields, while the dual string theory exhibits **discrete symmetries** and harmonic fluctuations around a nonlinear classical solution for the fermion density = angle on a circle.
- Integration over the target space (star polygons) reduces to a **discrete sum** over Euler ensemble states:
  - Rational numbers  $\frac{p}{q} \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,
  - Fermionic configurations ( $\nu_k = 0, 1$ ),
  - Winding number  $w = \frac{p}{q} \sum (2\nu_k - 1)$ .
- Visualizing polygons for fixed  $N$ , ordered by angle  $\beta$ , as a torus in 3D space, reveals the **world sheet** of a discrete string. Each polygon is a cross-section of this torus, with the thin part corresponding to small  $p, q$  and large cross-sections correspond to  $q \rightarrow \infty$  at fixed  $p$  or  $q - p$ .
- Red/green coloring of polygon edges indicates fermionic occupation numbers (random walk directions).

# AI-driven Open Source Project

- The **momentum loop equation** and its solution via the Euler ensemble have been recently **mathematically verified** [4].
- However, computing the statistical limits of the Euler ensemble remains computationally intensive and impractical for manual methods.
- To address this, we are launching an **open source GitHub project**[11] dedicated to:
  - **Verifying and extending** the statistical limits of the Euler ensemble.
  - Building a **collaborative platform** for community feedback, enabling skeptics to voice concerns and contribute constructively.
- The project will feature:
  - An **interactive database** of research papers, *Mathematica*<sup>®</sup> notebooks, experimental data, and DNS results.
  - An **AI-driven interface** for seamless exploration and analysis.
  - **Heavy computations** will be handled by *Mathematica*<sup>®</sup>.

## Epilogue: The Road Ahead

- The equivalence between decaying turbulence and solvable string theory marks a paradigm shift in fluid mechanics.
- This framework offers analytical tools for:
  - Forced turbulence,
  - Magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) turbulence,
  - And other complex fluid regimes.
- Collaborations with mathematicians, experimentalists, and DNS researchers are key to exploring new regimes and validating predictions.
- Open Questions:
  - How does external forcing modify the turbulence-string theory duality?
  - How to extend these findings to compressible turbulence or MHD turbulence?
  - Are there other PDEs exhibiting dimensional reduction?
  - What generalizations of the Euler ensemble exist for random walks on loop groups?

# Closing Thoughts: The Ascent to Understanding



*"Scaling the summit of turbulence theory is like climbing a formidable mountain. Each milestone—Navier-Stokes equations, loop equations, dimension reduction, and Euler ensemble —leads to the breathtaking view at the summit."*

- The **Euler ensemble** not only explains decaying turbulence but offers a **new framework** for addressing fluid dynamics' most challenging puzzles.
- This climb has reached a significant peak, but the journey is far from over.
- I invite you to join this **expedition** as we unite theory, experiments, and simulations to unravel turbulence's enduring mysteries.

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# Energy Decay in the Euler Ensemble

- Solutions originating deep within the unit circle ( $\Psi \neq 1$ ) can become turbulent and eventually decay toward  $\Psi \rightarrow 1$ , reflecting energy dissipation by micro-scale vortex structures.
- The decaying solution for  $\vec{P}(\theta, t)$ :

$$\vec{P} = \sqrt{\frac{\nu}{2(t + t_0)}} \frac{\vec{F}}{\gamma},$$

where  $\vec{F}$  satisfies the fixed-point equation:

$$\left( (\Delta \vec{F})^2 - 1 \right) \vec{F} = \Delta \vec{F} \left( \gamma^2 \vec{F} \cdot \Delta \vec{F} + i\gamma \left( \frac{(\vec{F} \cdot \Delta \vec{F})^2}{\Delta \vec{F}^2} - \vec{F}^2 \right) \right).$$

# Fractal Curve as the Euler Ensemble

- The equation for  $\vec{F}(\theta)$  was solved and analyzed in [10, 9].
- The solution describes a **fractal curve**, the limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$  of a polygon  $\vec{F}_0 \dots \vec{F}_N = \vec{F}_0$ , with vertices:

$$\vec{F}_k = \frac{\{\cos(\alpha_k), \sin(\alpha_k), \imath \cos(\frac{\beta}{2})\}}{2 \sin(\frac{\beta}{2})},$$

where:

$$\theta_k = \frac{k}{N}, \quad \beta = \frac{2\pi p}{q}, \quad N \rightarrow \infty,$$

$$\alpha_{k+1} = \alpha_k + \sigma_k \beta, \quad \sigma_k = \pm 1, \quad \beta \sum \sigma_k = 2\pi pr.$$

- Parameters  $\hat{\Omega}, p, q, r, \sigma_0 \dots \sigma_N = \sigma_0$  are **random**, making  $\vec{F}(\theta)$  a **fixed manifold** instead of a fixed point.
- This manifold, called the **big Euler ensemble**, highlights the degeneracy of solutions.

# Fixed Point and Degeneracy

- The fixed-point equation uses discrete versions of continuity and principal value:

$$\Delta \vec{F} \equiv \vec{F}_{k+1} - \vec{F}_k,$$

$$\vec{F} \equiv \frac{\vec{F}_{k+1} + \vec{F}_k}{2}.$$

- Both terms in the fixed-point equation vanish independently, leading to two scalar conditions:

$$(\Delta \vec{F})^2 = 1, \tag{6a}$$

$$\vec{F}^2 - \frac{\gamma^2}{4} = \left( \vec{F} \cdot \Delta \vec{F} - \frac{i\gamma}{2} \right)^2. \tag{6b}$$

- These equations ensure nonzero vorticity, avoiding  $\vec{F} \parallel \Delta \vec{F}$ .

# Origin of Randomness and Integers

- Randomness in the Euler ensemble does not stem from infinitesimal stochastic forces but from the **degenerate fixed manifold** of nonlinear equations.
- This internal stochasticity resembles ergodic behavior in Newtonian dynamics, where trajectories uniformly cover the energy surface, leading to Gibbs-Maxwell distributions.
- Integer solutions ( $\sigma_k = \pm 1$ ) emerge from:
  - Algebraic constraints in the fixed-point equations.
  - Rational quantization ( $\beta = 2\pi p/q$ ) dictated by wave function periodicity.
- Remarkably, co-prime pairs of integers  $p$  and  $q$  define the quantized angles and radii of star polygons, reminiscent of quantum effects in magnetic fields.

# The Euler Totient and the Ensemble

- The integers  $1 \leq p < q$  are constrained to be co-prime with  $q$  and satisfy:

$$2 < q < N, \quad (N - q) \mod 2 = 0.$$

- The number of valid fractions  $\frac{p}{q}$  for a fixed  $q$  is given by the **Euler totient function**:

$$\varphi(q) = \sum_{\substack{p=1 \\ (p,q)}}^{q-1} 1 = q \prod_{p|q} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right).$$

- We named this set the **Euler ensemble** to honor Euler's contributions to both fluid dynamics and number theory.
- The inviscid Navier-Stokes equation is described by the Euler totient function rather than the Euler equation itself.