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A. Pellegrinotti,

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Ya. G. Sinai,

Princeton University and Russian Academy of Sciences

XI International Conference of Mathematical Physics in Armenia

“Stochastic and Analytic Methods in Mathematical Physics”

Yerevan, Armenia, September 2-7 2019

*Dedicated to the memory of Robert A. Minlos*

# 1. INTRODUCTION

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$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \sum_{j=1}^3 u_j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \mathbf{u} = \Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p, \quad \mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3.$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0, \quad \mathbf{u}(\cdot, 0) = \mathbf{u}_0.$$

$\mathbf{u} : \mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is the velocity field,  $p$  is the pressure and we assume for the viscosity  $\nu = 1$  (always possible by rescaling).

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In spite of considerable progress, it is still unknown whether there are smooth solutions that become singular in a finite time. This is the celebrated Global Regularity Problem (GRP), in the list of the Clay millennium problems.

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Already Leray proved that if a solution becomes singular at some time  $\tau$ , then the total enstrophy

$$S(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\omega(\mathbf{x}, t)|^2 d\mathbf{x},$$

where  $\omega(\mathbf{x}, t) = \nabla \times \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)$  is the vorticity, diverges as  $t \uparrow \tau$ ;

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where  $\omega(\mathbf{x}, t) = \nabla \times \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)$  is the vorticity, diverges as  $t \uparrow \tau$ ; i.e., the support in Fourier  $\mathbf{k}$ -space moves to the high  $|\mathbf{k}|$  region.

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The solutions of Li and Sinai are unphysical: the energy diverges (The energy identity holds but is not coercive.)

They suggest however the study of a new class of real flows which is interesting in itself and may be relevant for the GRP.

## 2. LI-SINAI SOLUTIONS

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$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, t) = \frac{i}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) e^{i(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{x})} d\mathbf{x}.$$

The NS equations go, by a Duhamel formula, into

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, t) &= e^{-t\mathbf{k}^2} \mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{k}) + \\ &+ \int_0^t e^{-(t-s)\mathbf{k}^2} ds \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \langle \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}', s), \mathbf{k} \rangle P_{\mathbf{k}} \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}', s) d\mathbf{k}', \end{aligned}$$

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where  $\mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{k}) = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, 0)$  is the initial data and  $P_{\mathbf{k}}$  the orthogonal projector expressing incompressibility:  $P_{\mathbf{k}} \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} - \frac{\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{k} \rangle}{k^2} \mathbf{k}$ .

## 2. Li-Sinai solutions 2

Only real solutions  $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, t)$  are considered. The velocity in physical space  $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)$  is complex in general.

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$$\mathbf{g}^{(1)}(\mathbf{k}, s) = e^{-sk^2}\mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{k})$$

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## 2. Li-Sinai solutions 3

For  $p > 2$  we have the recursive relation

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{g}^{(p)}(\mathbf{k}, s) = \\ &= \int_0^s ds_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \langle \mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}'), \mathbf{k} \rangle P_{\mathbf{k}} \mathbf{g}^{(p-1)}(\mathbf{k}', s_2) e^{-s(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}')^2 - (s-s_2)(\mathbf{k}')^2} d\mathbf{k}' + \\ & \quad + \sum_{\substack{p_1+p_2=p \\ p_1, p_2 > 1}} \int_0^s ds_1 \int_0^s ds_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \langle \mathbf{g}^{(p_1)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}', s_1), \mathbf{k} \rangle \cdot \\ & \quad \cdot P_{\mathbf{k}} \mathbf{g}^{(p_2)}(\mathbf{k}', s_2) e^{-(s-s_1)(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}')^2 - (s-s_2)(\mathbf{k}')^2} d\mathbf{k}' + \\ & \quad + \int_0^s ds_1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \langle \mathbf{g}^{(p-1)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}', s_1), \mathbf{k} \rangle P_{\mathbf{k}} \mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{k}') e^{-(s-s_1)(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}')^2 - s(\mathbf{k}')^2} d\mathbf{k}'. \end{aligned}$$

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It can be shown that if  $\mathbf{v}_0$  is bounded and summable, the series converge for  $t$  small (depending on  $A$ ).

## 2. Li-Sinai solutions 4

The Li-Sinai theory considers initial data  $\mathbf{v}_0$  with essential support in a sphere  $D$  of radius  $R$  around a point  $\mathbf{k}^{(0)} \neq 0$ , with  $R \ll |\mathbf{k}^{(0)}|$ . For definiteness assume  $\mathbf{k}^{(0)} = (0, 0, a)$ ,  $a > 0$ .

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By way of convolution, the support of  $\mathbf{g}^{(p)}$  will be  $\underbrace{D + \dots + D}_{p \text{ times}}$ ,

which is centered around  $p\mathbf{k}^{(0)}$ , and, for large  $p$ , by analogy with probability theory, has a transversal dimension of the order  $\sqrt{p}$ .

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We then introduce normalized variables and new functions:

$$\mathbf{k} = p\mathbf{k}^{(0)} + \sqrt{p} \mathbf{Y}^{(p)}, \quad \mathbf{h}^{(p)}(\mathbf{Y}^{(p)}, s) = \mathbf{g}^{(p)}(p\mathbf{k}^{(0)} + \sqrt{p} \mathbf{Y}^{(p)}, s)$$

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where  $\mathbf{Y}^{(p)} = \mathcal{O}(1)$ .

## 2. Li-Sinai solutions 5

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integrating over  $\theta_j, j = 1, 2$  and observing that the main contribution of the exponential factors to the integrals comes for  $s_1, s_2 \approx s$  we get a simplified recursive relation ( $\mathbf{Y}^{(\rho)} = \mathbf{Y}$ )

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$$\mathbf{h}^{(p)}(\mathbf{Y}, s) = p^{\frac{5}{2}} \sum_{\substack{p_1 + p_2 = p \\ p_1 \cdot p_2 > \sqrt{p}}} \frac{1}{p_1^2 p_2^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} P_{\mathbf{e}_3 + \frac{\mathbf{Y}}{\sqrt{p}}} \mathbf{h}^{(p_2)} \left( \frac{\mathbf{Y}'}{\sqrt{1-\gamma}}, s \right) \cdot \left\langle \mathbf{h}^{(p_1)} \left( \frac{\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{Y}'}{\sqrt{\gamma}}, s \right), \mathbf{e}_3 + \frac{\mathbf{Y}}{\sqrt{p}} \right\rangle d\mathbf{Y}',$$

where  $\mathbf{e}_3$  is the unit vector along the  $k_3$  axis.

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As  $\mathbf{k} = \rho \mathbf{k}^{(0)} + \mathbf{Y}$ , the incompressibility condition

$$\langle \mathbf{h}^{(\rho)}(\mathbf{Y}, s), \mathbf{k} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{h}^{(\rho)}(\mathbf{Y}, s), \rho a \mathbf{e}_3 + \sqrt{\rho} \mathbf{Y} \rangle = 0$$

implies for the third component of  $\mathbf{h}^{(\rho)}$

$$h_3^{(\rho)} = -\frac{1}{a\rho} F^{(\rho)}(\mathbf{Y}, s), \quad F^{(\rho)}(\mathbf{Y}, s) = \langle \mathbf{h}^{(\rho)}(\mathbf{Y}, s), \mathbf{Y} \rangle = \mathcal{O}(1),$$

i.e.,  $h_3^{(\rho)}(\mathbf{Y}, s) = \mathcal{O}(\rho^{-\frac{1}{2}})$ .

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implies for the third component of  $\mathbf{h}^{(p)}$

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i.e.,  $h_3^{(p)}(\mathbf{Y}, s) = \mathcal{O}(p^{-\frac{1}{2}})$ . Hence if  $p$  is large, the vector  $\mathbf{h}^{(p)}(\mathbf{Y}, s)$  is essentially transversal to the  $\mathbf{e}_3$ -axis,

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We get a remarkable simplification: *the incompressibility projector is reduced to the identity.*

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The fundamental *Ansatz*, suggested by the CLT of probability, is that for  $\rho$  large enough and  $\mathbf{s}$  in some interval, the solution of the recursive relation has the form

$$\mathbf{h}^{(\rho)}(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{s}) = \rho(\Lambda(\mathbf{s}))^\rho \mathbf{g}^{(3)}(\mathbf{Y}) \left( \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{Y}) + \delta^{(\rho)}(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{s}) \right)$$

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(The correlation matrix of the Gaussian depends on  $\mathbf{v}_0$ : we assume for simplicity that it is standard.)

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$$g^{(2)}(\mathbf{Y})\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{Y}) = \\ = \int_0^1 d\gamma \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} g_\gamma^{(2)}(\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{Y}') g_{1-\gamma}^{(2)}(\mathbf{Y}') \mathcal{E}_\mathbf{H}(\gamma, \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}') \mathbf{H} \left( \frac{\mathbf{Y}'}{\sqrt{1-\gamma}} \right) d\mathbf{Y}'$$

where  $g_\sigma^{(2)}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{e^{-\frac{\mathbf{x}^2}{2\sigma}}}{2\pi\sigma}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $g^{(2)} = g_1^{(2)}$  and

$$\mathcal{E}_\mathbf{H}(\gamma, \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}') = -(1-\gamma)^{\frac{3}{2}} \left\langle \frac{\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{Y}'}{\sqrt{\gamma}}, \mathbf{H} \left( \frac{\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{Y}'}{\sqrt{\gamma}} \right) \right\rangle_2 + \\ + \gamma^{\frac{1}{2}}(1-\gamma) \left\langle \frac{\mathbf{Y}'}{\sqrt{1-\gamma}}, \mathbf{H} \left( \frac{\mathbf{Y}'}{\sqrt{1-\gamma}} \right) \right\rangle_2,$$

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The parameters are the components on the unstable (6-d) and neutral (4-d) linear spaces. The only condition on the stable component is that it is small enough.

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The finite time blow-up follows immediately from the fundamental Ansatz. We have

$$A^p \mathbf{h}^{(p)}(\mathbf{Y}, t) = \rho(A\Lambda(t))^p g^{(3)}(\mathbf{Y}) \left( \mathbf{H}^{(0)}(\mathbf{Y}) + \delta^{(p)}(\mathbf{Y}, t) \right).$$

As  $\Lambda$  is strictly increasing, the power series diverges at  $t = \tau$  if  $|A| = \frac{1}{\Lambda(\tau)}$ .

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$$E(t) = \frac{(2\pi)^3}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, t)|^2 d\mathbf{k}, \sim \frac{C_E^{(\alpha)}}{(\tau - t)^{\beta_\alpha}},$$

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where  $\beta_+ = 1$ ,  $\beta_- = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $C_E^{(\alpha)}$ ,  $C_S^{(\alpha)}$  are constants, and  $\alpha = \pm$  is the sign of  $A$ .

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For a better understanding of the behavior of the solutions, also in view of extending the analysis to the associated real solutions, we resorted to computer simulations.

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The blow-up is best followed by looking at the behavior of the total enstrophy  $S(t)$ , which describes the flow of energy to the microscale in the physical space, and of its marginals in  $\mathbf{k}$ -space.

### 3. Li-Sinai solutions. Simulations 2

The initial data for the complex solutions prescribed by Li and Sinai are of the type  $\mathbf{v}_0^\pm = \pm K \bar{\mathbf{v}}_0(\mathbf{k})$ ,  $K > 0$  with

$$\bar{\mathbf{v}}_0(\mathbf{k}) = \left( k_1, k_2, -\frac{k_1^2 + k_2^2}{k_3} + \Phi(\mathbf{k}) \right) g^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}^{(0)}) \chi_b(k_3 - a),$$

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The function  $\Phi$  is a linear combination of the eigenfunctions of the linearization of the renormalization group map.

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The simulations were carried out within the framework of a European PRACE Project n. 2015133169, and also of CINECA ISCRA Projects of type B and C.

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For the description of the blow-up we consider the total energy and enstrophy and the correspondent marginals in  $\mathbf{k}$ -space along the main axes

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and the analogous marginals  $E_j(k_j, t)$ ,  $S_j(k_j, t)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ .

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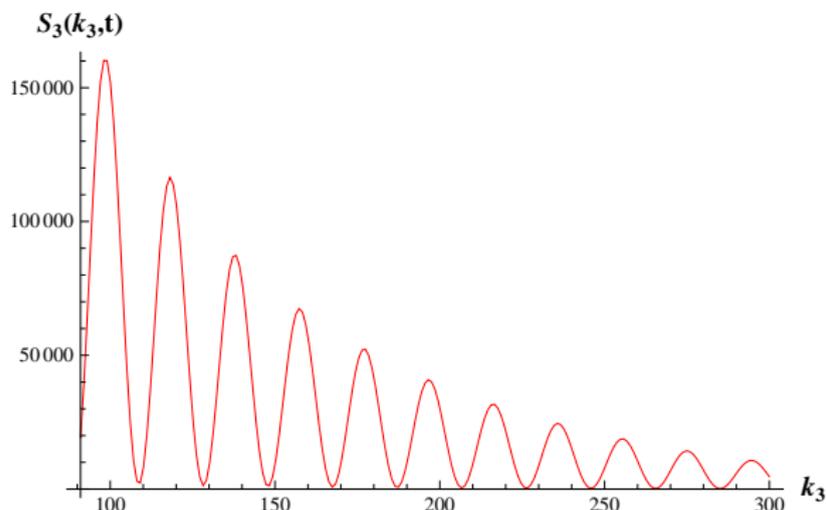
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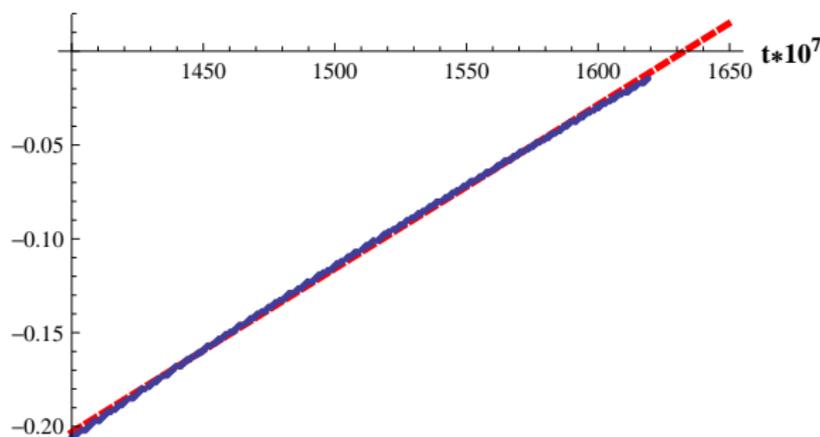
The behavior of the exponential decay rate allows a good estimate of the critical time  $t_c$ .

### 3. Li-Sinai solutions. Simulations 7



**Figure 1:**  $a = 20$ ,  $E_0 = 5 \times 10^4$ . Entrophy marginal density  $S_3(k_3, t)$  at  $t = 1125 \times 10^{-7}$ . The zeroes are approximately periodic with period  $a$ . Simulation range  $k_3 \in [-19, 2528]$ .

### 3. Li-Sinai solutions. Simulations 8



**Figure 2:**  $a = 20$ ,  $E_0 = 5 \times 10^4$ . Exponential decay rate  $-\kappa(t)$  for the marginal density  $E_3(k_3, t)$ , taken for  $k_3 \geq 400$ , vs magnified time  $t \times 10^7$ , with linear regression (dashed line). Simulation range  $k_3 \in [-19, 2528]$ .

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Therefore, by the convolution mechanism, when the components  $\mathbf{g}^{(\rho)}$  for large  $\rho$  are excited, the support moves to the high  $\mathbf{k}$  region. The mechanism is not as “good” as for the complex case, but it is rather efficient, especially if  $a$  is large.

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$$\mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{k}) = A \left( k_1, k_2, -\frac{k_1^2 + k_2^2}{k_3} \right) g^{(2)}(\mathbf{k}^\perp) \times \\ \times [g(k_3 - a)\chi_b(k_3 - a) + g(k_3 + a)\chi_b(k_3 + a)].$$

Here  $\mathbf{k}^\perp = (k_1, k_2)$ ,  $g^{(r)}$  is the standard Gaussian in  $\mathbb{R}^r$  ( $g^{(1)} = g$ ),  $\chi_b(x)$ , with  $b \in (\frac{a}{2}, a)$  is a smooth cutoff to avoid the singularity at  $k_3 = 0$ , and  $A > 0$ .

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Recall however that the following scaling holds: If  $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{k}, t)$  is a solution with initial data  $\mathbf{v}_0(\mathbf{k})$ , and  $\lambda > 0$  then

$$\mathbf{v}^{(\lambda)}(\mathbf{k}, t) = \lambda^2 \mathbf{v}(\lambda \mathbf{k}, \lambda^{-2} t)$$

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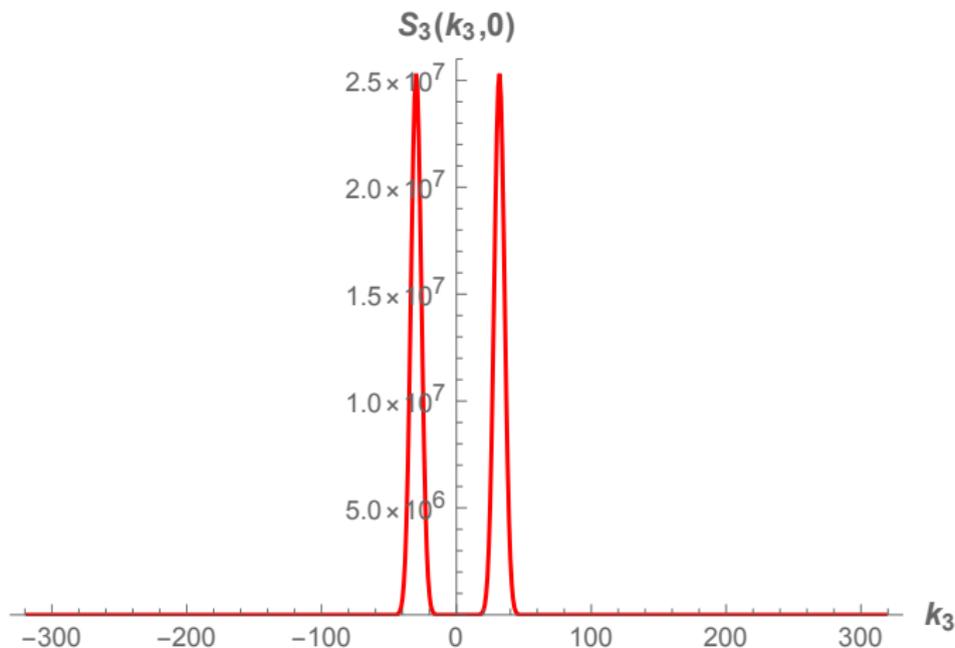


Figure 3: Plot of the marginal distribution in  $\mathbf{k}$ -space  $S_3(k_3)$  as at  $t = 0$ .

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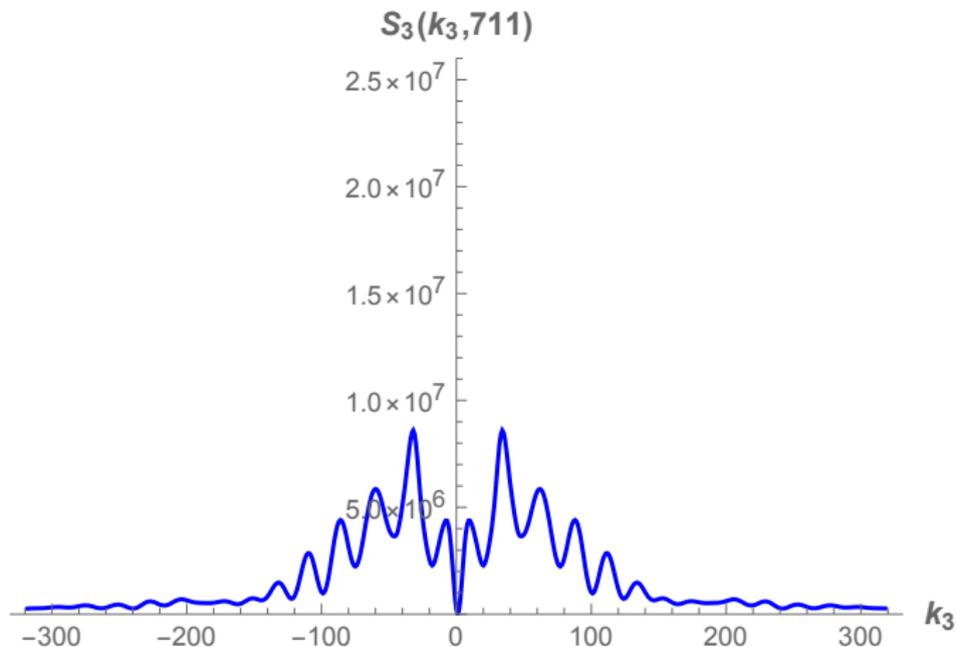
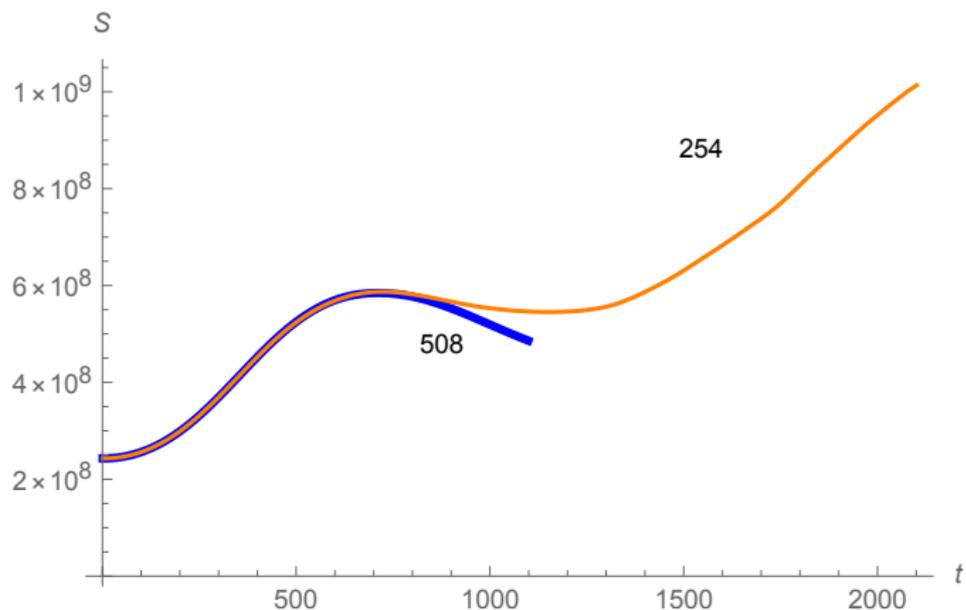


Figure 4: Plot of the marginal distribution in  $\mathbf{k}$ -space  $S_3(k_3)$  as at  $t = 711\tau$ .

#### 4. Real antisymmetric solutions. Simulations 5



**Figure 5:** Plot of the total enstrophy  $S(t)$  with mesh  $[-147, 147]^2 \times [-3000, 3000]$  (orange) and with mesh  $[-254, 254]^2 \times [-3000, 3000]$  (blue). (Time  $t$  in units  $\tau = 1.5625 \times 10^{-8}$ ).

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The growth of the maximal velocity and the impressive growth and concentration of vorticity is illustrated by the following slides.

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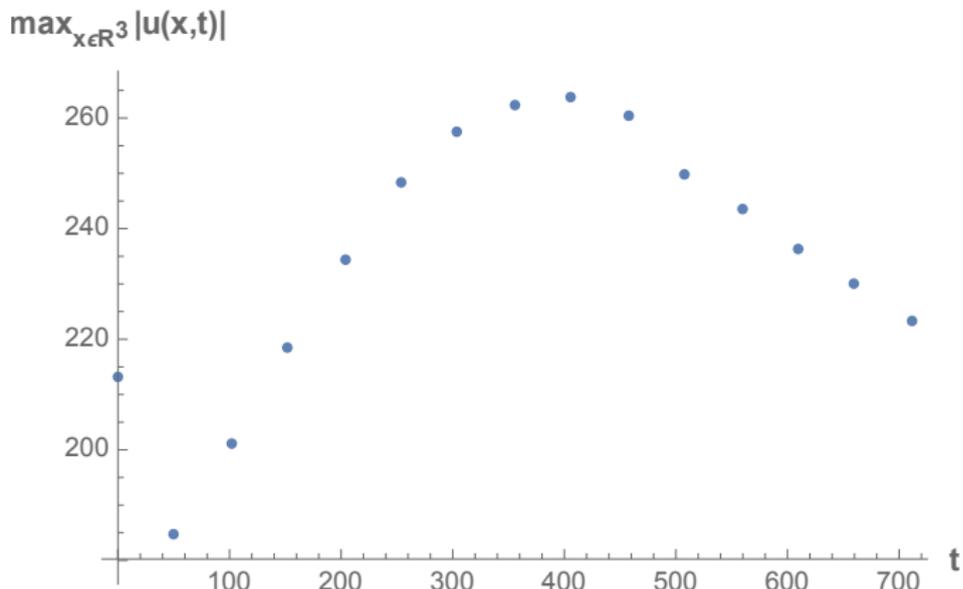


Figure 6: Plot of the maximal velocity as a function of time (Time  $t$  in units  $\tau = 1.5625 \times 10^{-8}$ ).

#### 4. Real antisymmetric solutions. Simulations 8

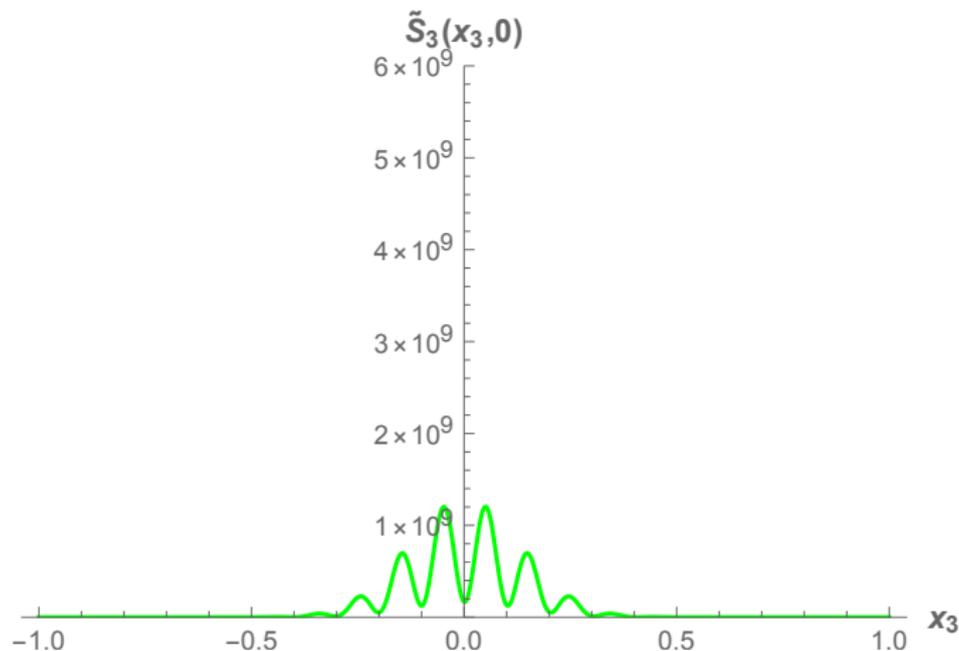
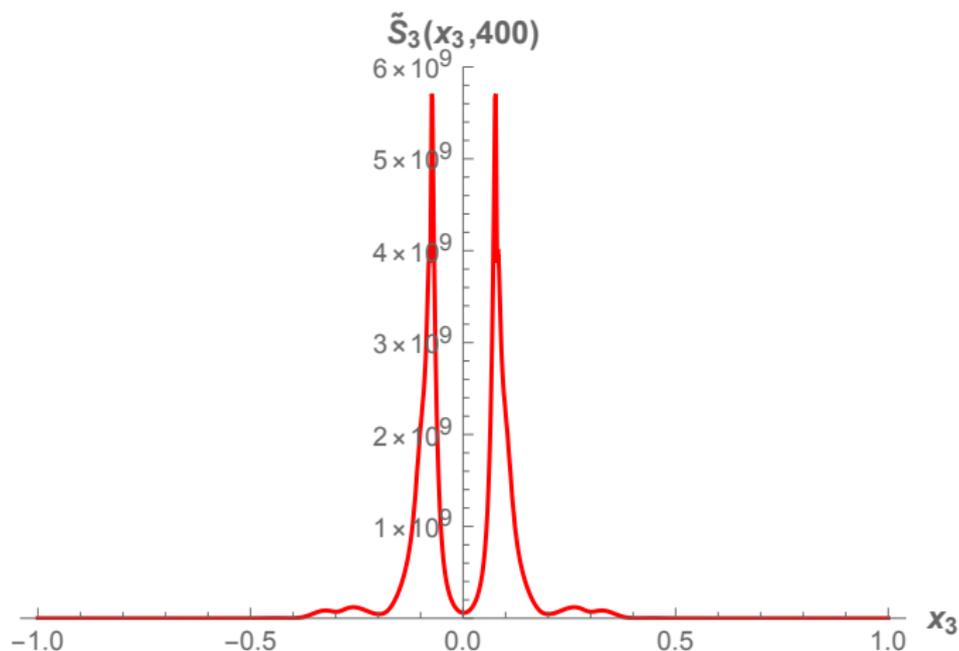


Figure 7: The marginal distribution  $\tilde{S}_3(x_3, 0)$  of enstrophy (square modulus of the vorticity) at time  $t = 0$ .

#### 4. Real antisymmetric solutions. Simulations 9



**Figure 8:** The marginal distribution  $\tilde{S}_3(x_3, T_2)$  of enstrophy (square modulus of the vorticity) at time  $t = T_2 \approx 400\tau$ . Vorticity is concentrated in two huge spikes at  $x_3 = \pm \bar{x}_3$ ,  $\bar{x}_3 \approx 0.08$ .

#### 4. Real antisymmetric solutions. Simulations 10

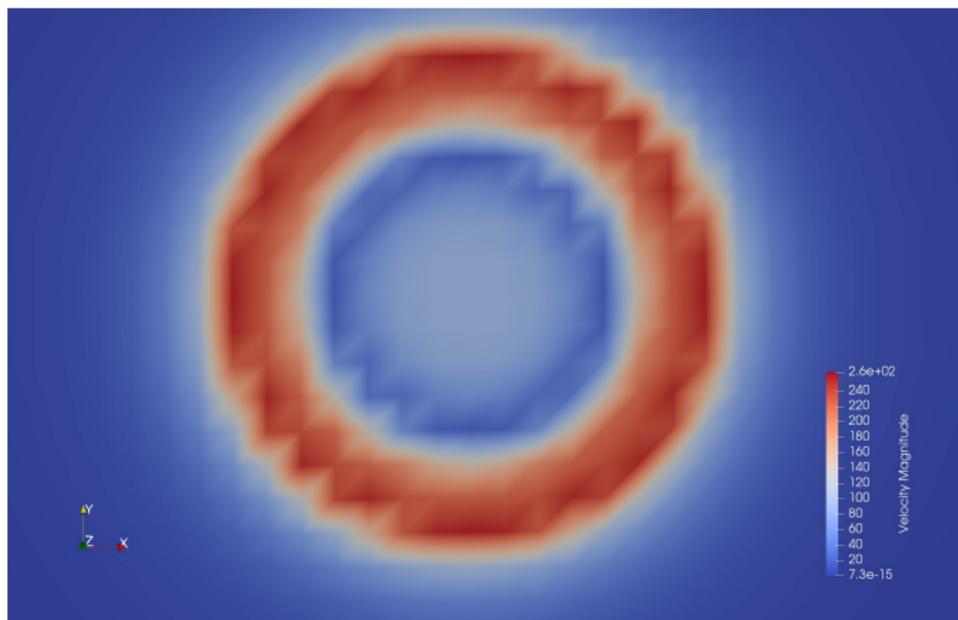


Figure 9: The velocity magnitude  $|\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t)|$  on the plane  $x_3 = 0.08$  at time  $t = 400\tau \approx T_2$ .

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Both features recall the behavior of tornadoes or hurricanes.

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Further work is needed in order to understand the behavior of the flows with initial data leading to fixed points which are not axial symmetric or axial symmetric with swirl.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION