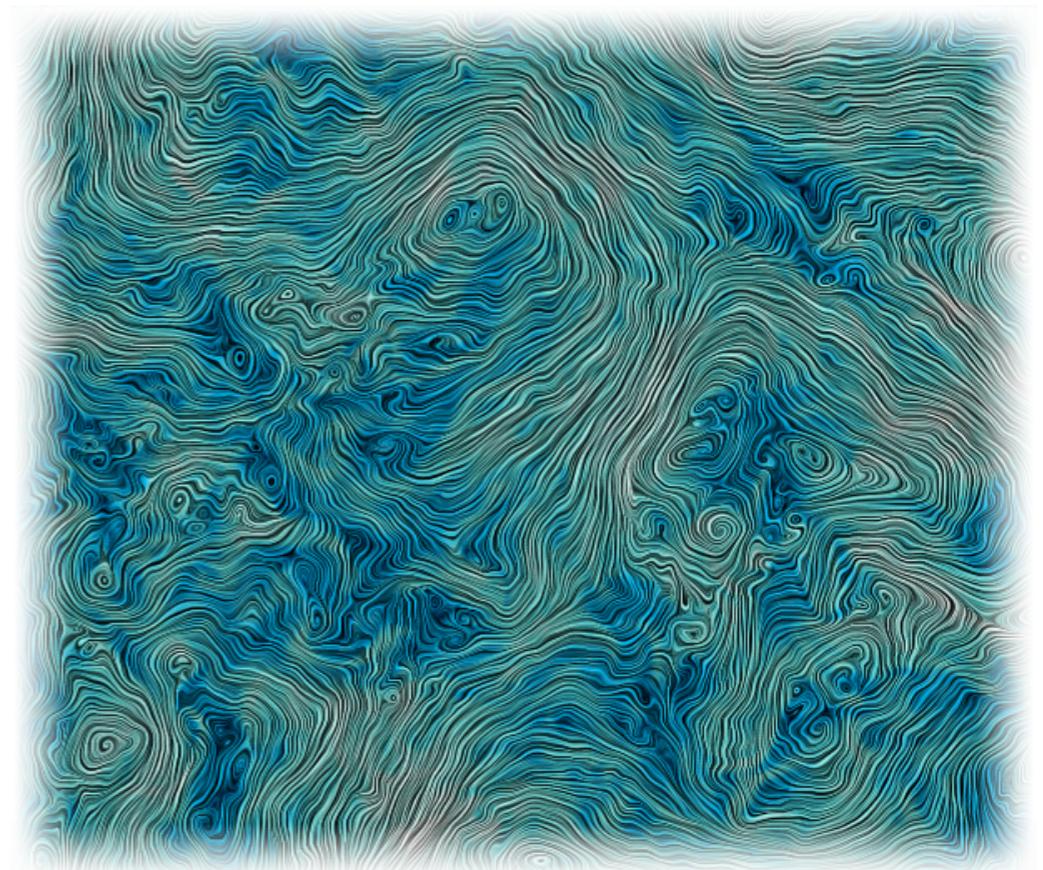


# A whistle-stop tutorial on observational turbulence studies

Background and motivation for a statistical  
treatment

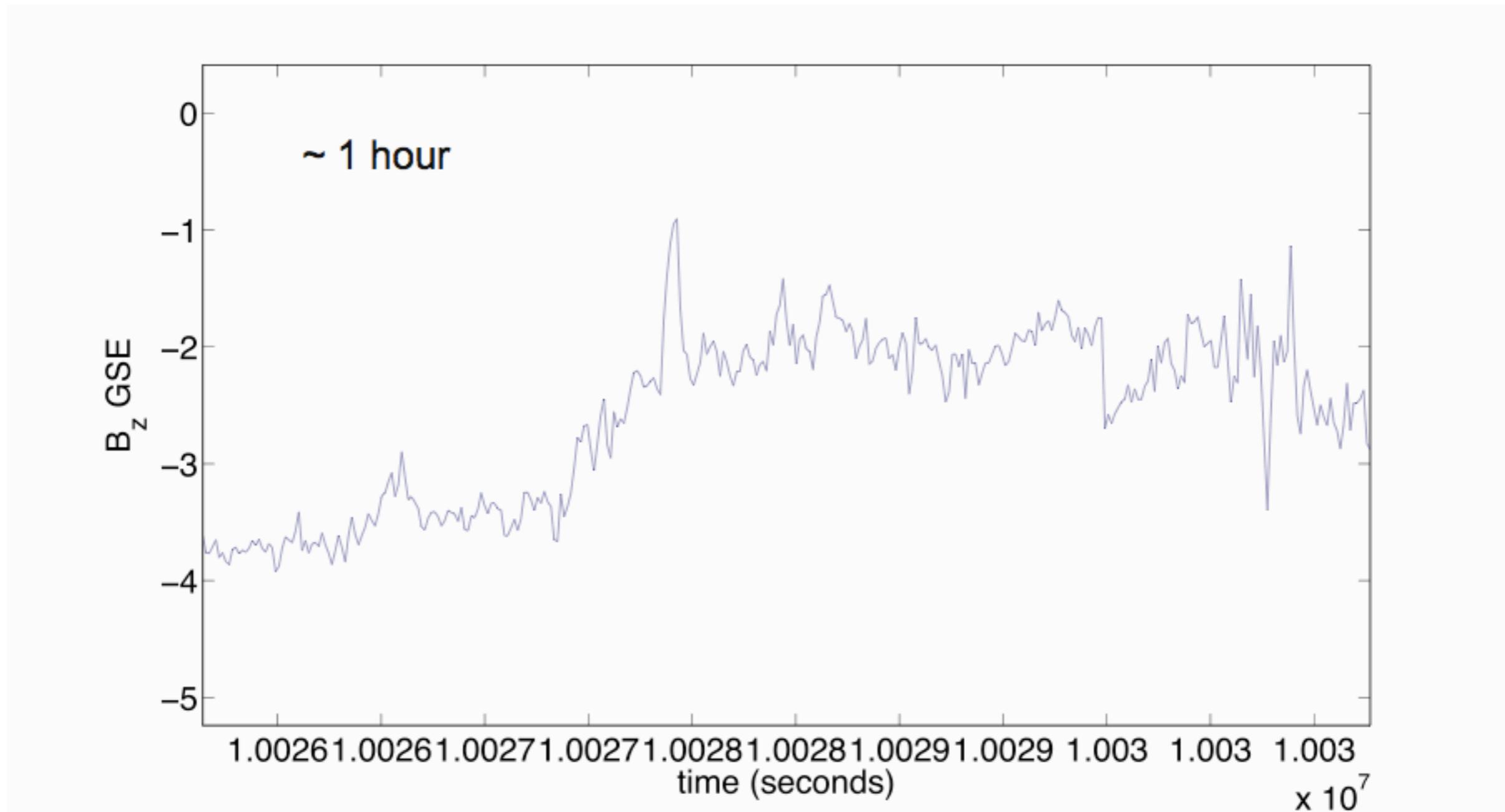
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Khurom Kiyani



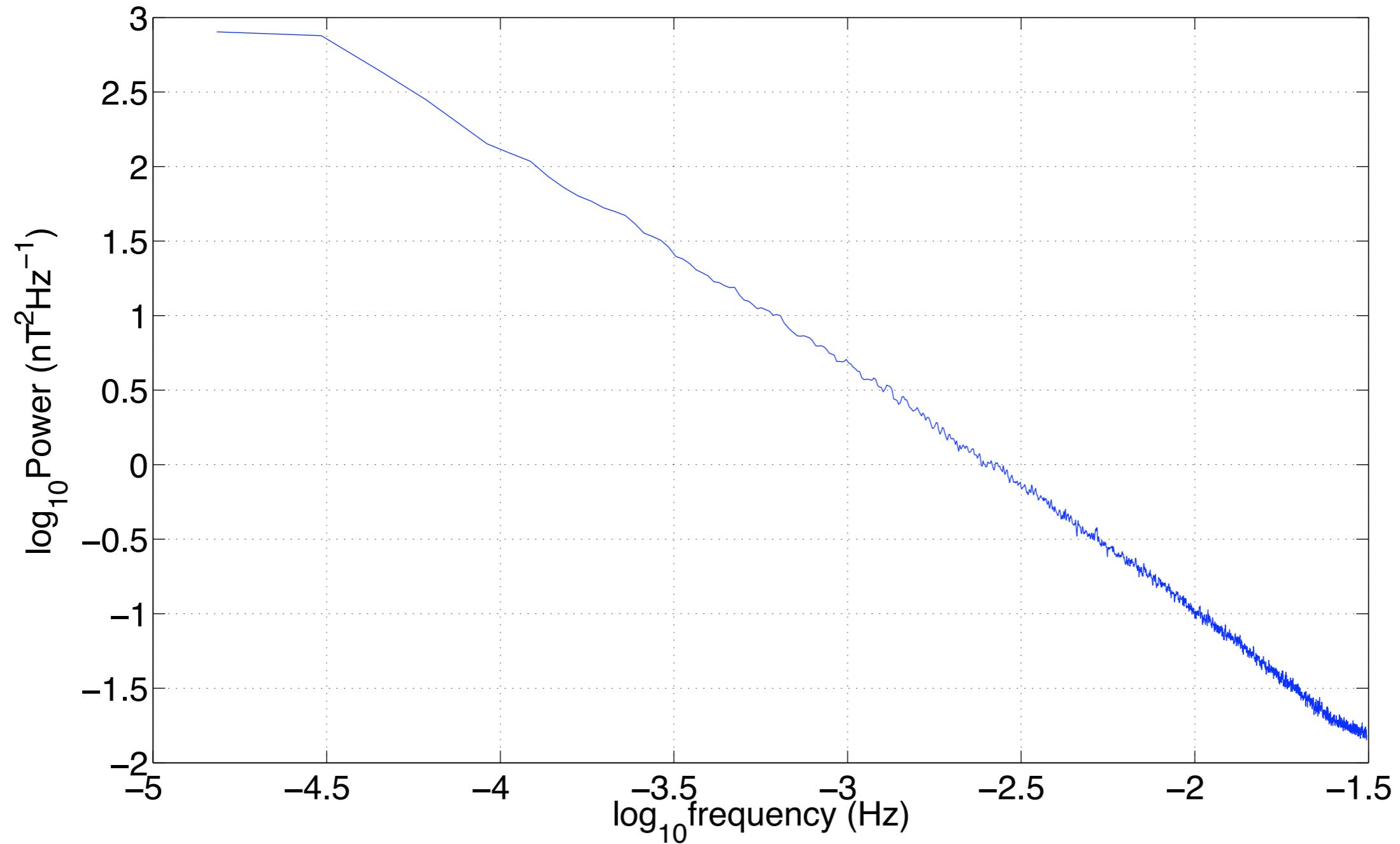
# motivation

---



# motivation

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# outline

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# outline



# outline

---

- Equations of motion and phenomenology of energy transfer in  $r$  and  $k$ -space for iHI turbulence.
- Richardson energy cascade and the  $5/3^{\text{rd}}$  energy spectrum (power spectral density)
- Measurement and ensembles
- Higher order two-point statistics
- Some real data from the solar wind
- $4/5^{\text{th}}$  (third order) law
- fractal models (if time permits)

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# statistical theory of turbulence

---

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

Incompressible fluid Navier-Stokes equations

# statistical theory of turbulence

---

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}'}{\partial t'} + \mathbf{u}' \cdot \nabla' \mathbf{u}' = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p' + \frac{1}{Re} \nabla'^2 \mathbf{u}'$$

$$\nabla' \cdot \mathbf{u}' = 0$$

$$Re = \frac{LV}{\nu}$$

Reynolds  
number

Dimensionless Navier-Stokes equations

the turbulence problem (amongst others)

---

To understand better the phenomenology,  
and thus dynamics, of turbulence

# statistical theory of turbulence

---

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$$
$$\mathbf{u} = \bar{U}_i + \tilde{u}_i$$
$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$$

Reynolds decomposition

# statistical theory of turbulence (RANS)

---

$$\frac{\partial \bar{U}_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \bar{U}_i \bar{U}_j = -\frac{1}{\rho} \partial_i \bar{P} + \nu \partial^2 \bar{U}_i$$

$$+ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \langle \tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}_j \rangle$$

Reynolds stress tensor  
(two point spatial correlation/covariance)

(will stay with 2-point statistics)

# statistical theory of turbulence

---

$$\langle \tilde{u}_i \tilde{u}_j \rangle \xrightleftharpoons{FT} P(k)$$

Wiener-Khinchin theorem

# energy transfer in real space (Karman-Howarth eq)

---

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle u_i u'_k \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial x'_j} \langle u_i u_j u_k \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial x'_j} \langle u_i u'_j u'_k \rangle \\ &= -\frac{1}{\rho} \left\langle u'_k \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + u_i \frac{\partial p'}{\partial x_k} \right\rangle + \nu \left\langle u_i \nabla'^2 u'_k + u'_k \nabla^2 u_i \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

# energy transfer in real space (Karman-Howarth eq)

---

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle u_i u'_k \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial x'_j} \langle u_i u_j u_k \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial x'_j} \langle u_i u'_j u'_k \rangle \\ &= -\frac{1}{\rho} \left\langle u'_k \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + u_i \frac{\partial p'}{\partial x_k} \right\rangle + \nu \left\langle u_i \nabla'^2 u'_k + u'_k \nabla^2 u_i \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{2\partial E}{3\partial t} = -\frac{2}{3}\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial S_2}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{6r^4}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r^4S_3) - \frac{\nu}{r^4}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^4\frac{\partial S_2}{\partial r}\right)}$$

# energy transfer in real space (Karman-Howarth eq)

---

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle u_i u'_k \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial x'_j} \langle u_i u_j u_k \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial x'_j} \langle u_i u'_j u'_k \rangle \\ &= -\frac{1}{\rho} \left\langle u'_k \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + u_i \frac{\partial p'}{\partial x_k} \right\rangle + \nu \left\langle u_i \nabla'^2 u'_k + u'_k \nabla^2 u_i \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{2}{3} \frac{\partial E}{\partial t} = -\frac{2}{3} \varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial S_2}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{6r^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^4 S_3) - \frac{\nu}{r^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^4 \frac{\partial S_2}{\partial r} \right)$$

the closure problem

# Fourier (k-space) -- mode-coupling

---

$$\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \nu k^2 \right] u_\alpha(\mathbf{k}, t) = M_{\alpha\beta\gamma}(\mathbf{k}) \int d^3\mathbf{j} u_\beta(\mathbf{j}, t) u_\gamma(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{j}, t) + f_\alpha(\mathbf{k}, t)$$

$$k_\alpha u_\alpha(\mathbf{k}, t) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) - \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) = -\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p(\mathbf{x}, t) + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0$$

# energy transfer in Fourier space (Lin equation)

---

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + 2\nu k^2 \right] \langle u_{-k} u_k \rangle &= M_k \langle u_{-k} u_j u_{k-j} \rangle \\ &+ M_{-k} \langle u_k u_{-j} u_{-k+j} \rangle + \langle u_{-k} f_k \rangle + \langle f_{-k} u_k \rangle \end{aligned}$$

# energy transfer in Fourier space (Lin equation)

---

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + 2\nu k^2 \right] \langle u_{-k} u_k \rangle &= M_k \langle u_{-k} u_j u_{k-j} \rangle \\ &\quad + M_{-k} \langle u_k u_{-j} u_{-k+j} \rangle + \langle u_{-k} f_k \rangle + \langle f_{-k} u_k \rangle \end{aligned}$$

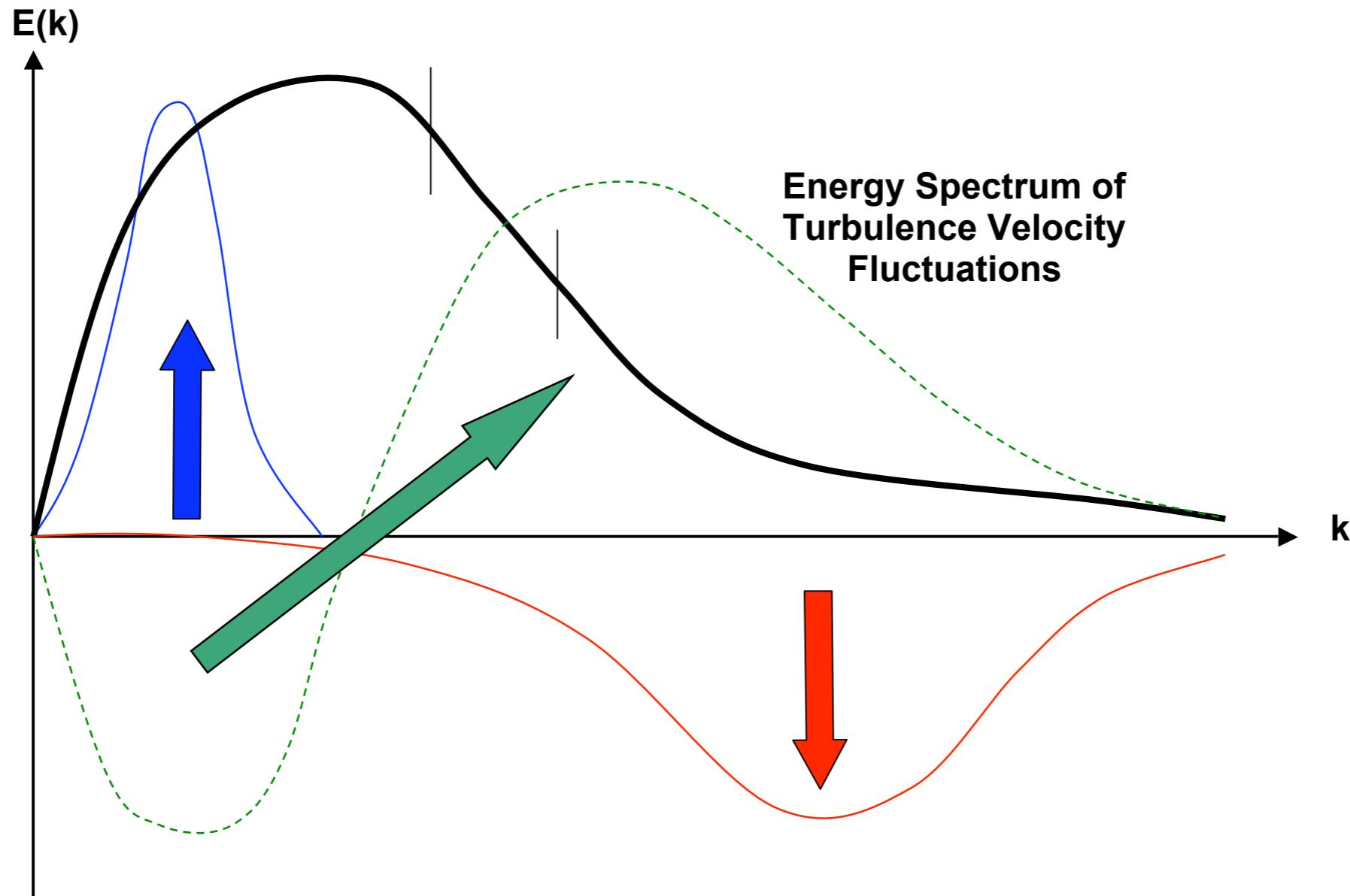
$$T(k, t) = M_k \{ \langle u_{-k} u_j u_{k-j} \rangle - \langle u_k u_{-j} u_{-k+j} \rangle \}$$

$$\boxed{\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + 2\nu k^2 \right] E(k, t) = T(k, t) + W(k, t)}$$

# energy transfer in Fourier space (Lin equation)

---

$$\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + 2\nu k^2 \right] E(k, t) = T(k, t) + W(k, t)$$



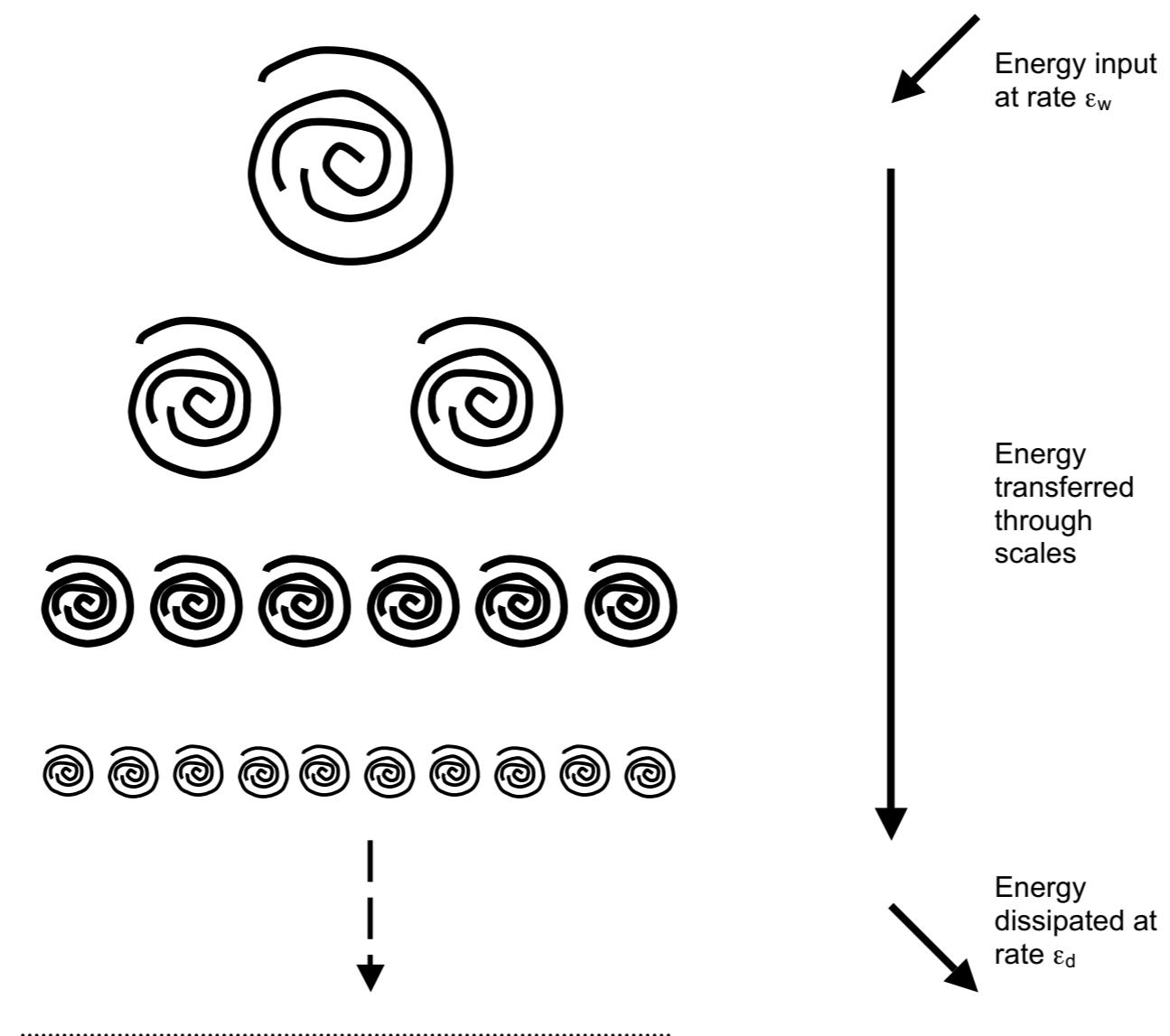
# outline

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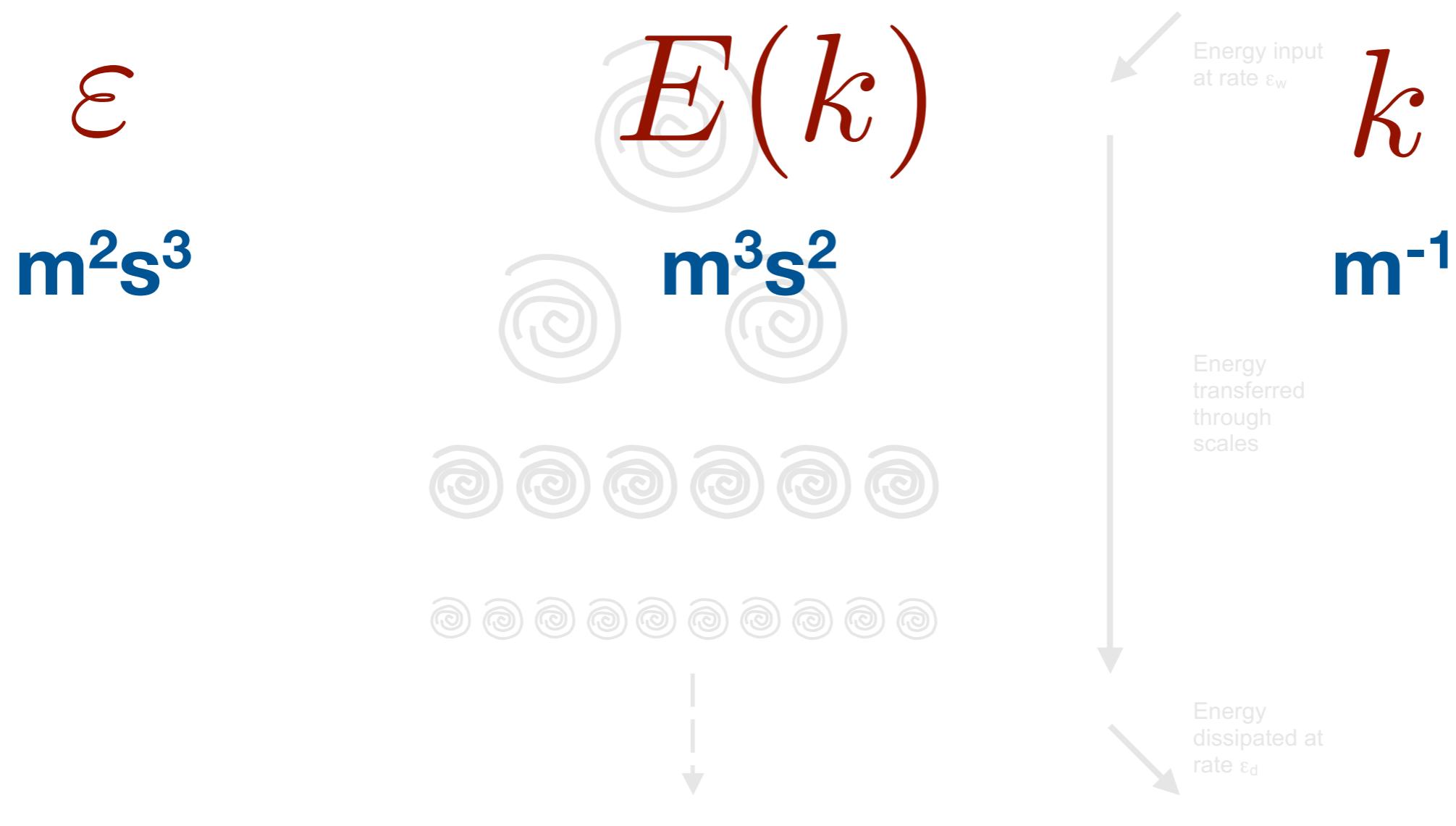
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# Kolmogorov scaling and Richardson cascade

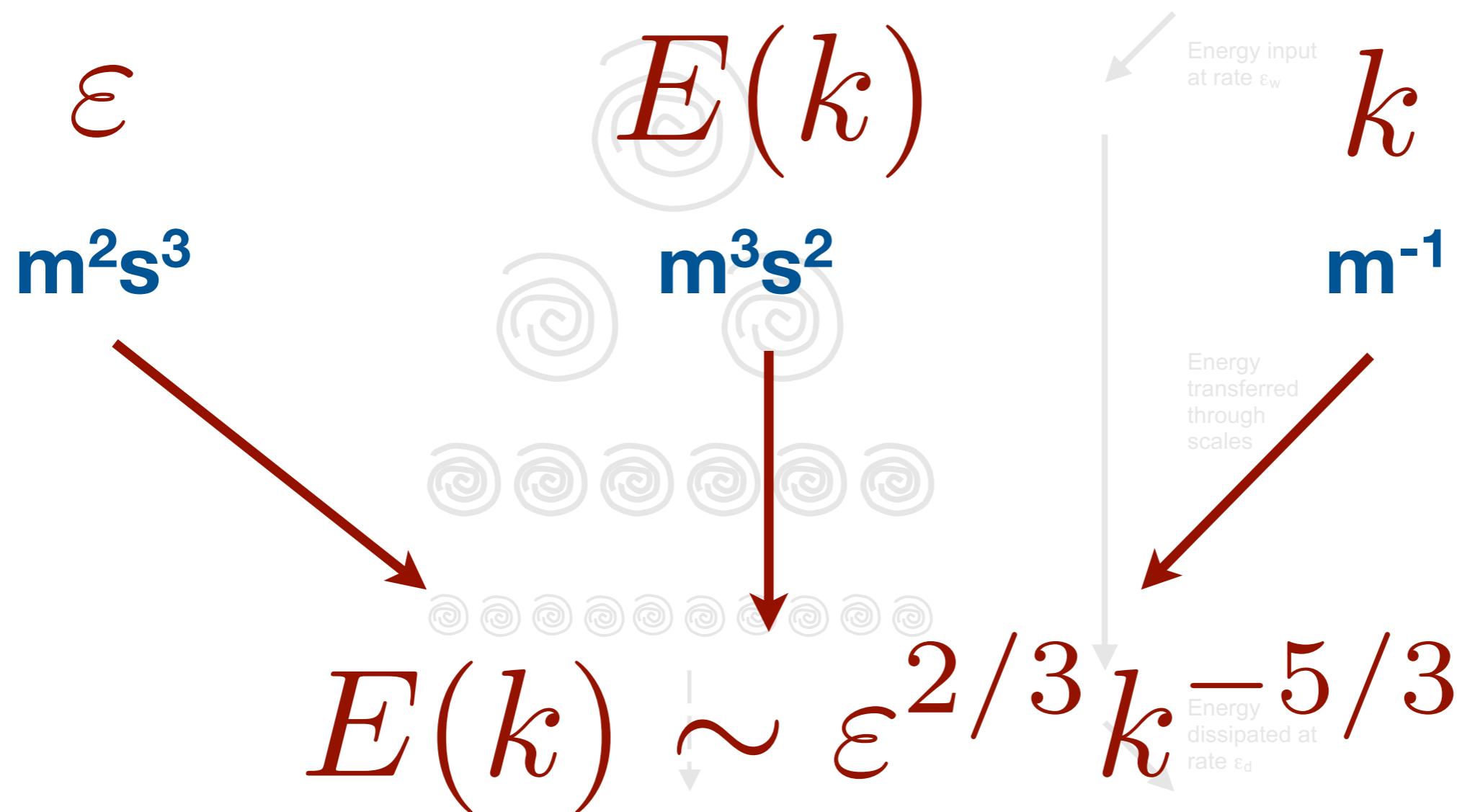
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# Kolmogorov scaling and Richardson cascade



# Kolmogorov scaling and Richardson cascade



more dimensionless numbers

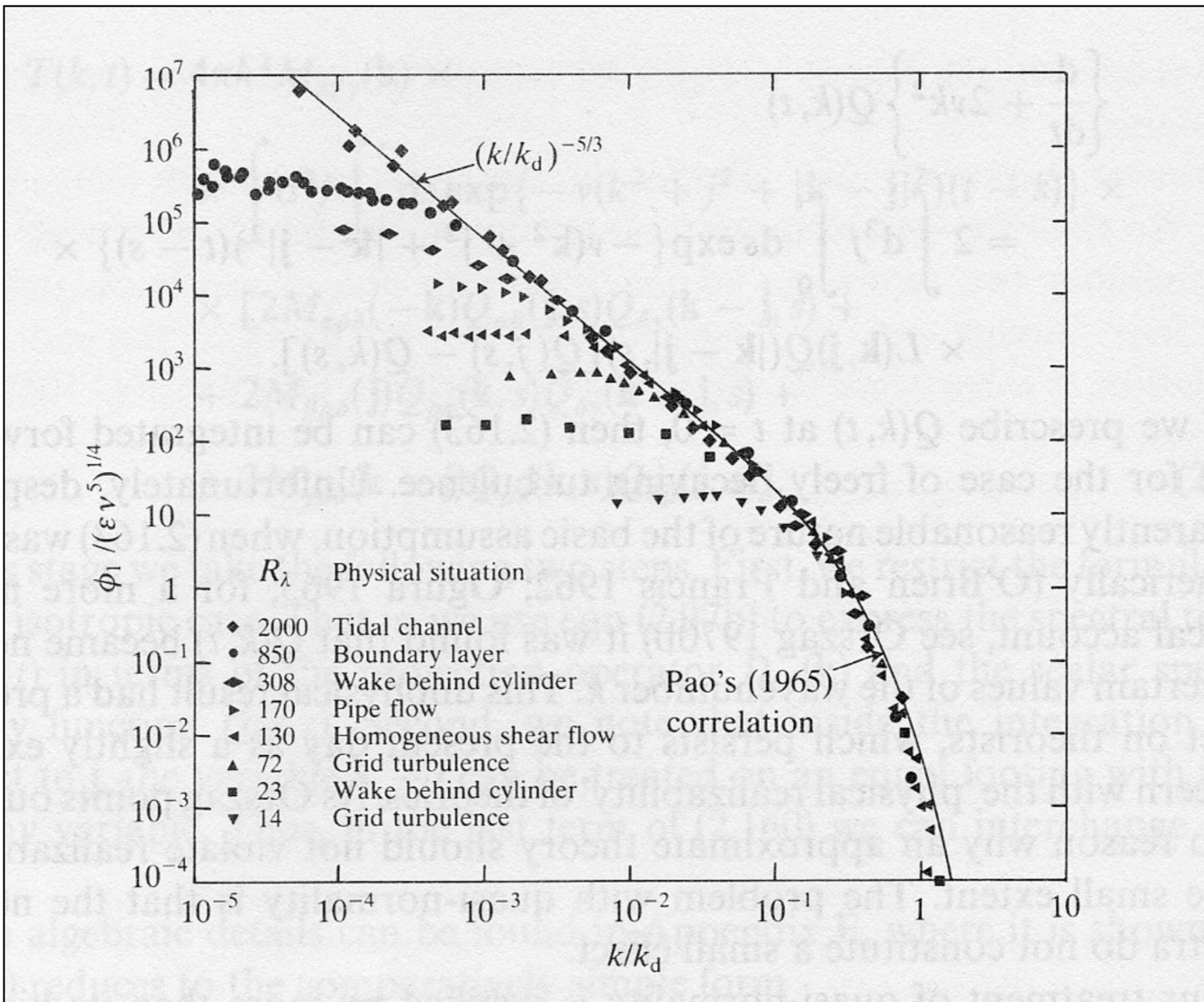
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$$k_d = \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{\nu^3} \right)^{1/4}$$

$$l_d = 1/k_d$$

$$Re = (L/l_d)^{4/3}$$

# Kolmogorov scaling and Richardson cascade

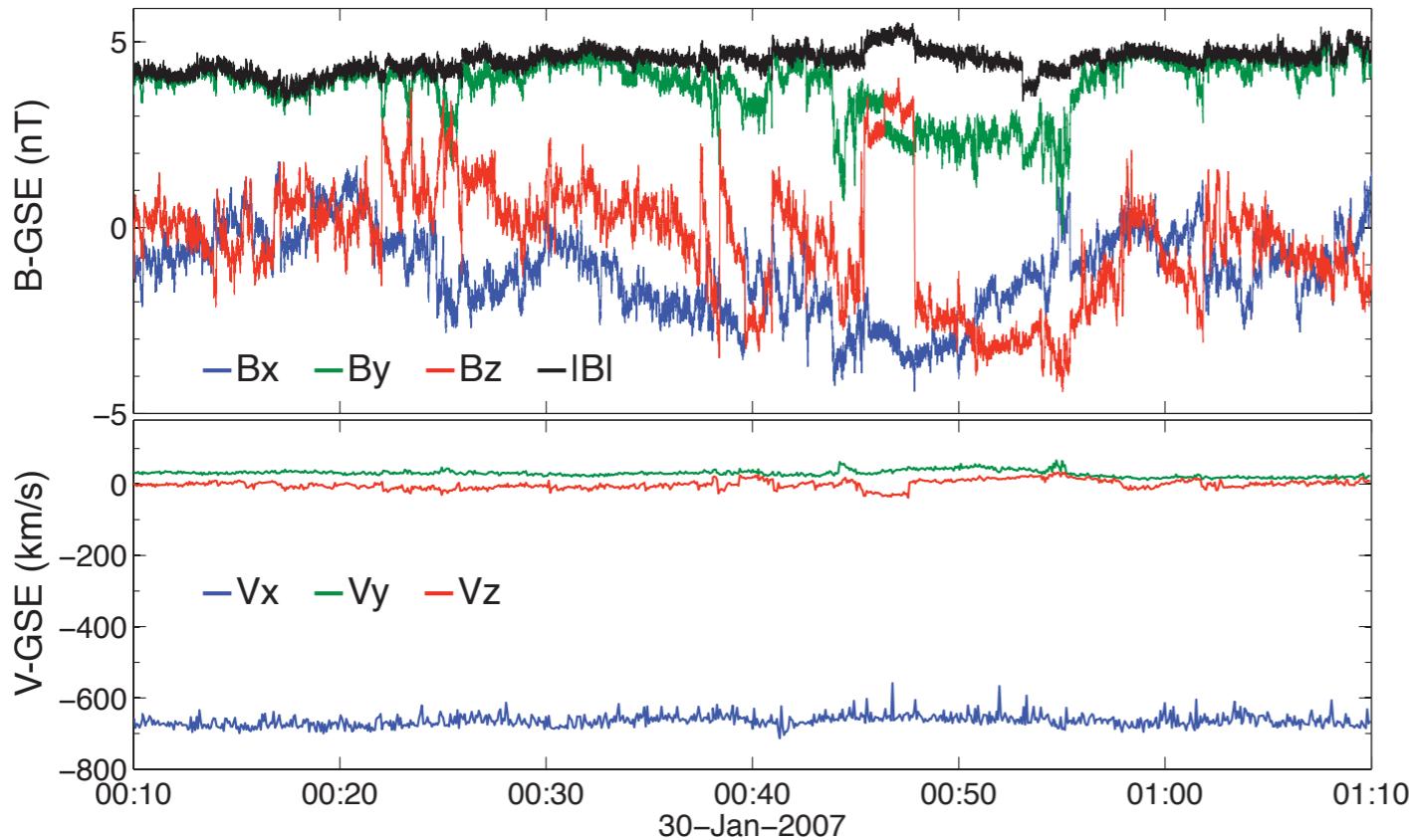


# outline

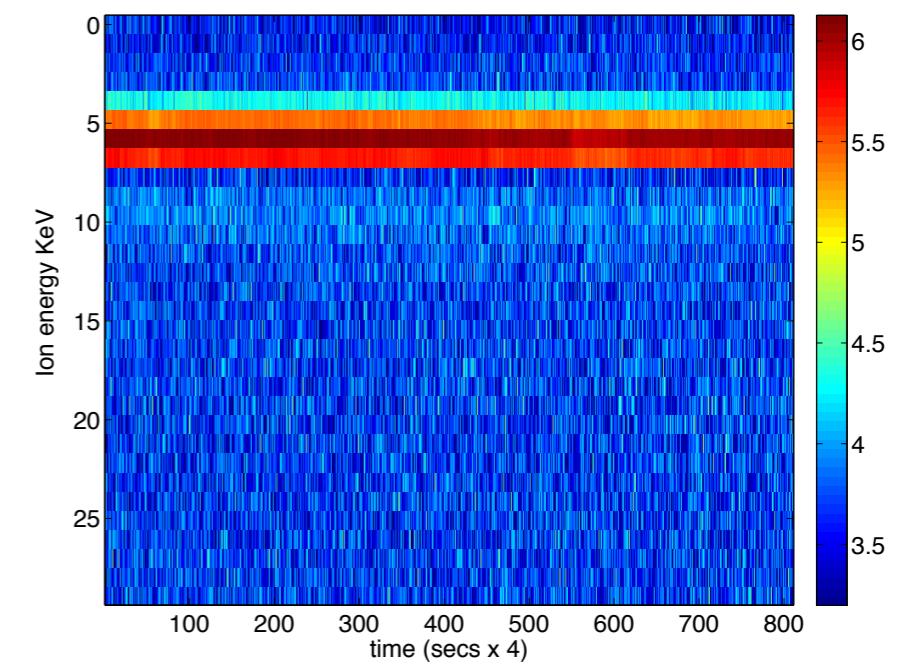
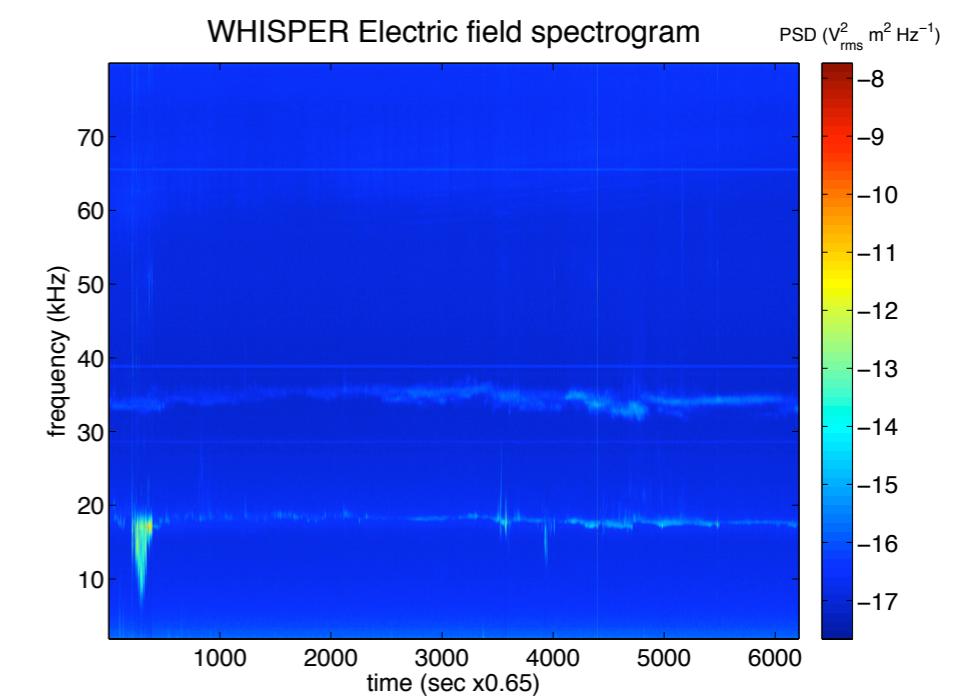
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# ensembles, ergodicity & statistical stationarity

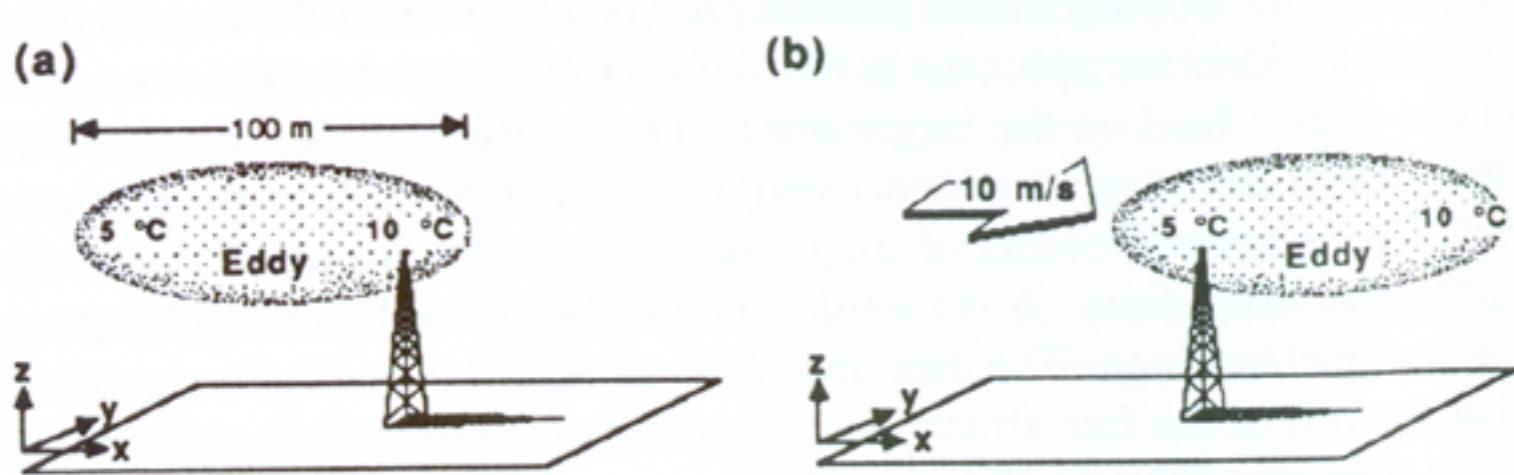


$n_e \sim 4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$     $V_A \sim 50 \text{ km s}^{-1}$     $T_{i\perp} \sim 24 \text{ eV}$   
 $\beta_p \sim 1$     $|B| \sim 4 \text{ nT}$     $T_e \sim 22 \text{ eV}$   
 $\rho_i \sim 111 \text{ km}$     $\rho_e \sim 2 \text{ km}$     $T_p \sim 15 \text{ eV}$



stationary plasma parameters

# Frozen turbulence & Taylor's hypothesis

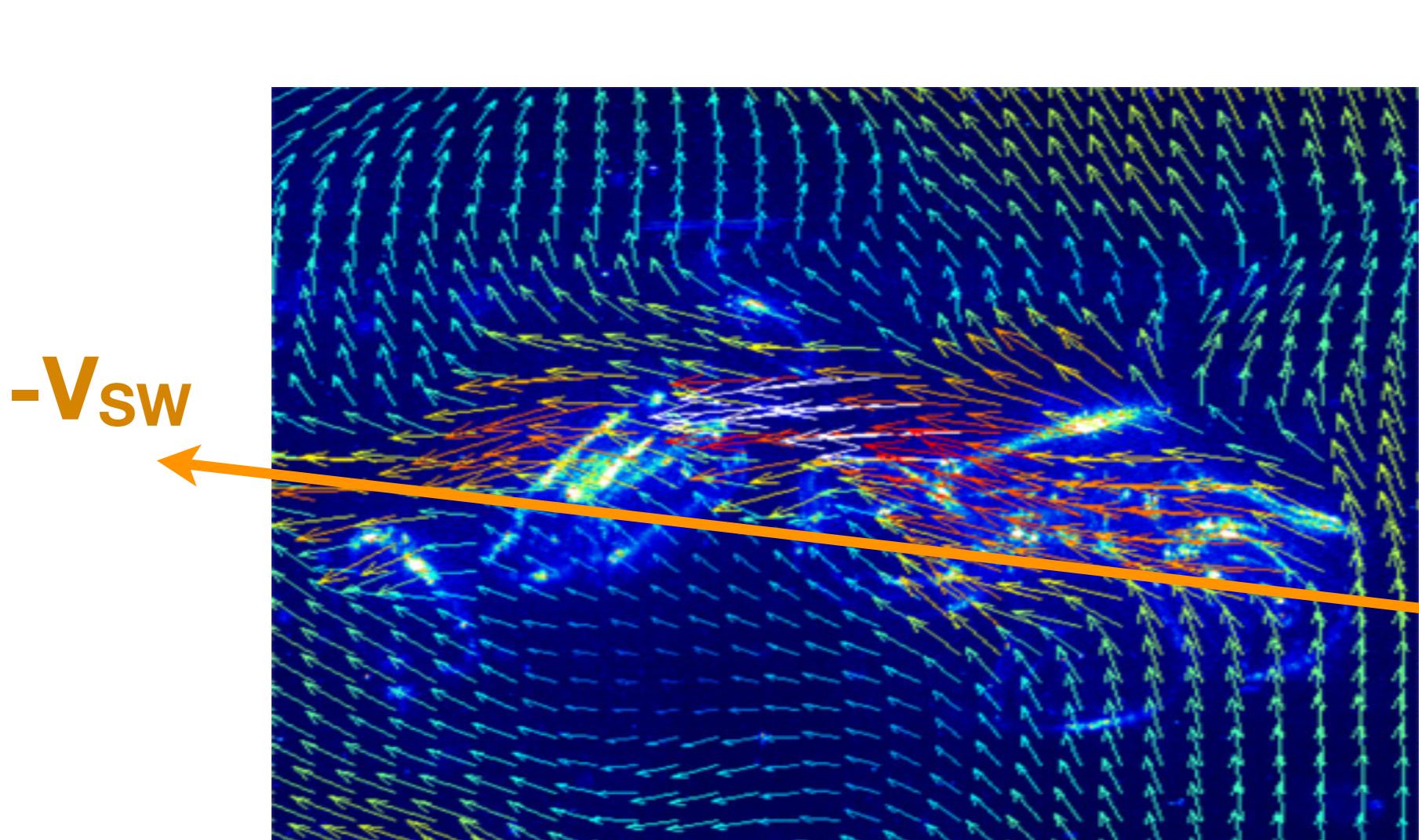


**Fig. 1.4** Illustration of Taylor's hypothesis. (a) An eddy that is 100 m in diameter has a 5 °C temperature difference across it. (b) The same eddy 10 seconds later is blown downwind at a wind speed of 10 m/s.

*from Stull 1988*

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} = -\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}$$
$$\sim \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{V}$$

# angles of measurement w.r.t. B



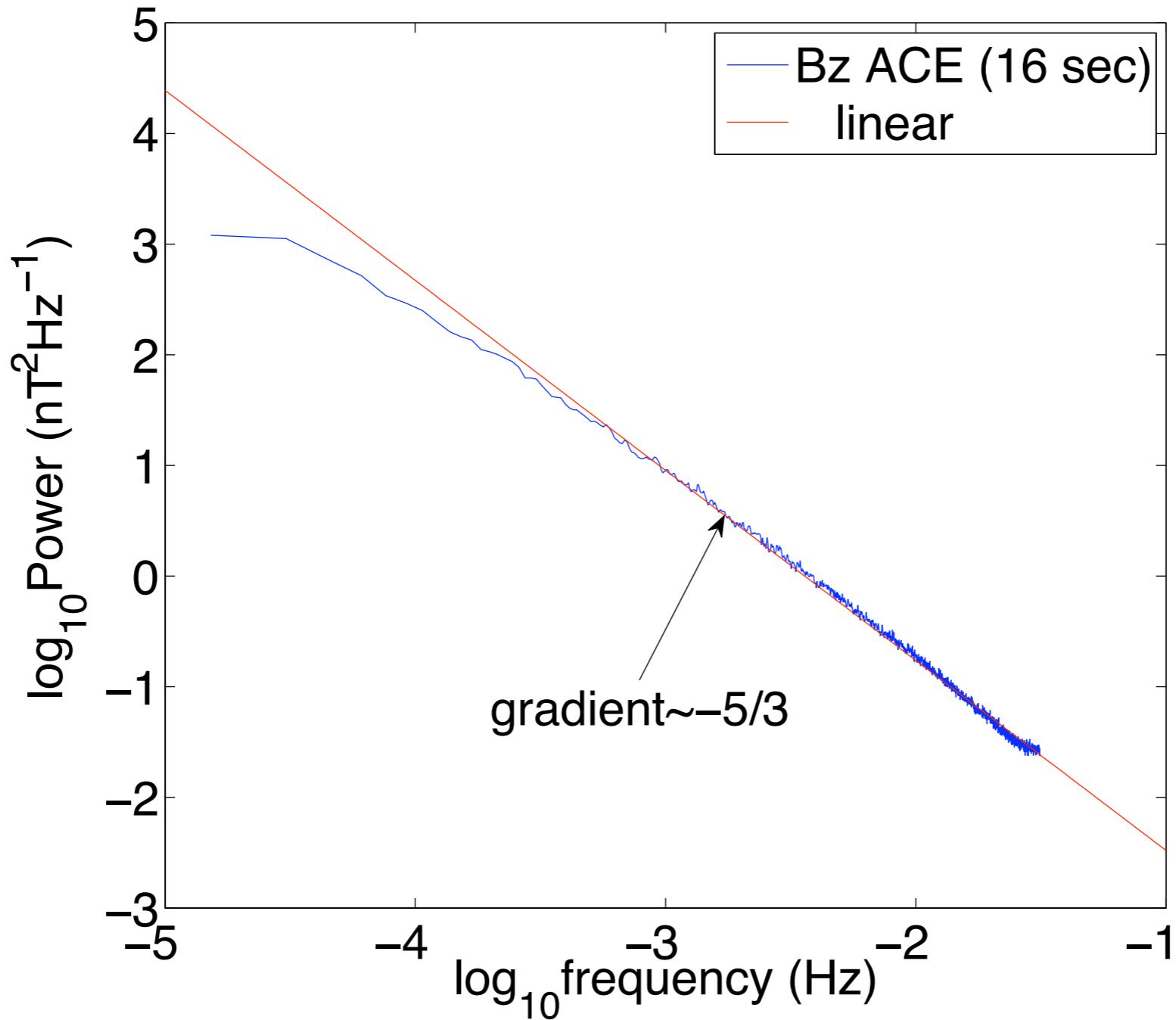
$$k = \frac{2\pi f_{sc}}{V_{SW}}$$

Taylor frozen-in approx,  
for low-frequency  
phenomena

$$\text{MHD } \frac{V_A}{V_{SW}} < 1 \quad \text{else} \quad \frac{V_\phi}{V_{SW}} < 1$$

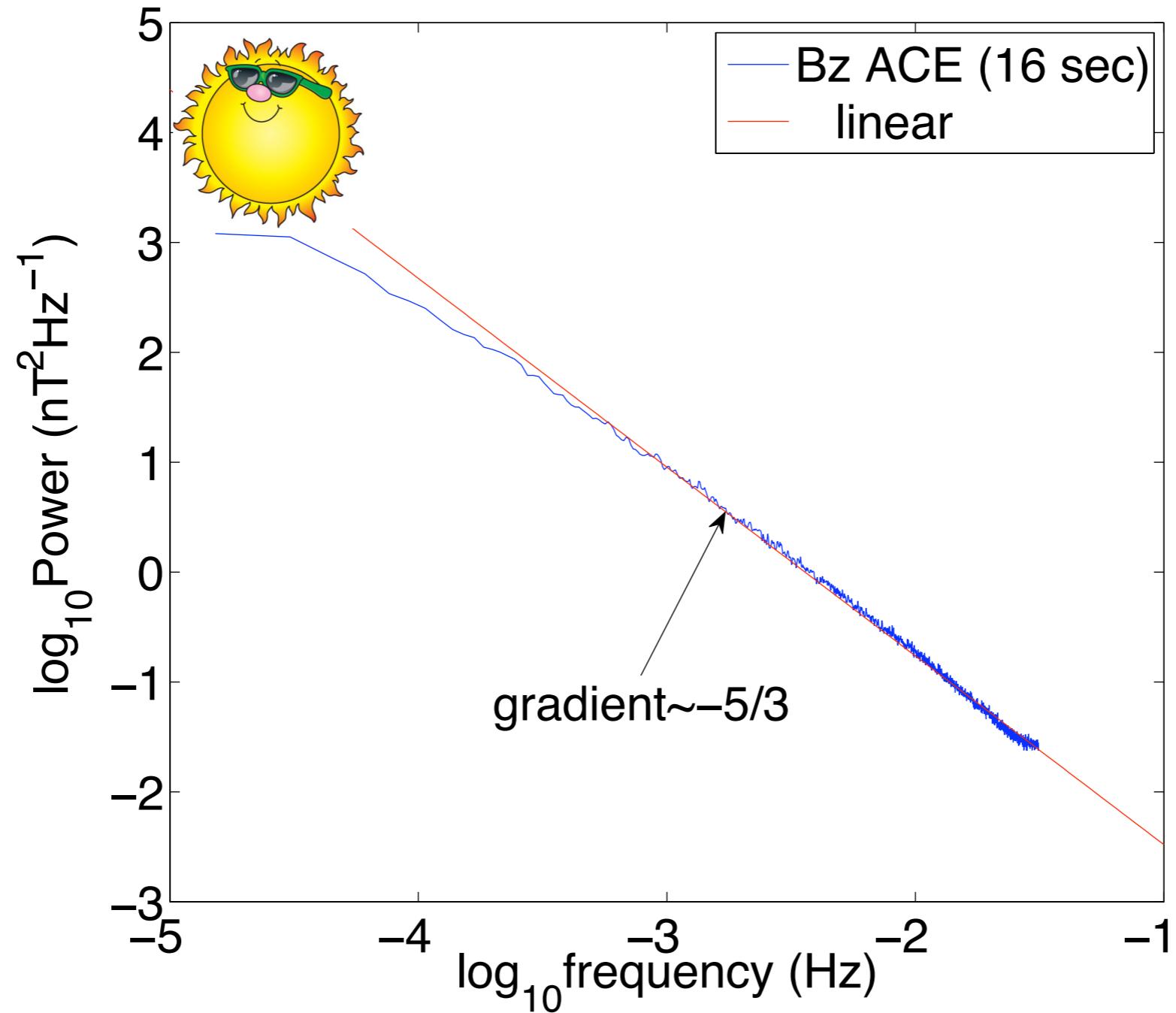
# MHD inertial range (spectral) scaling exponents

---

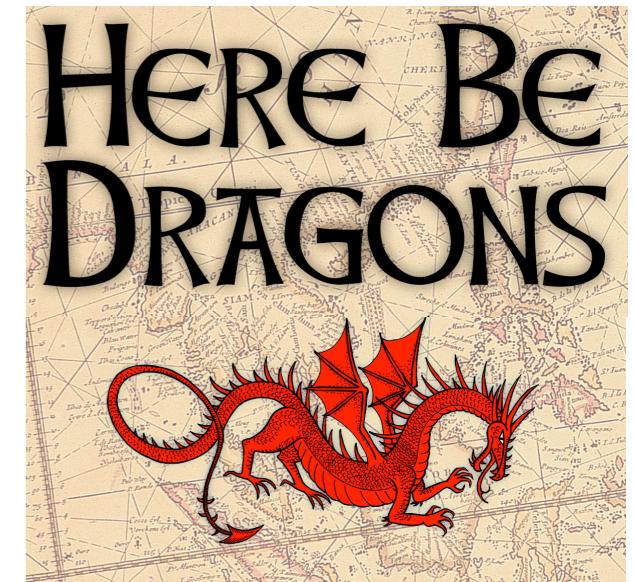
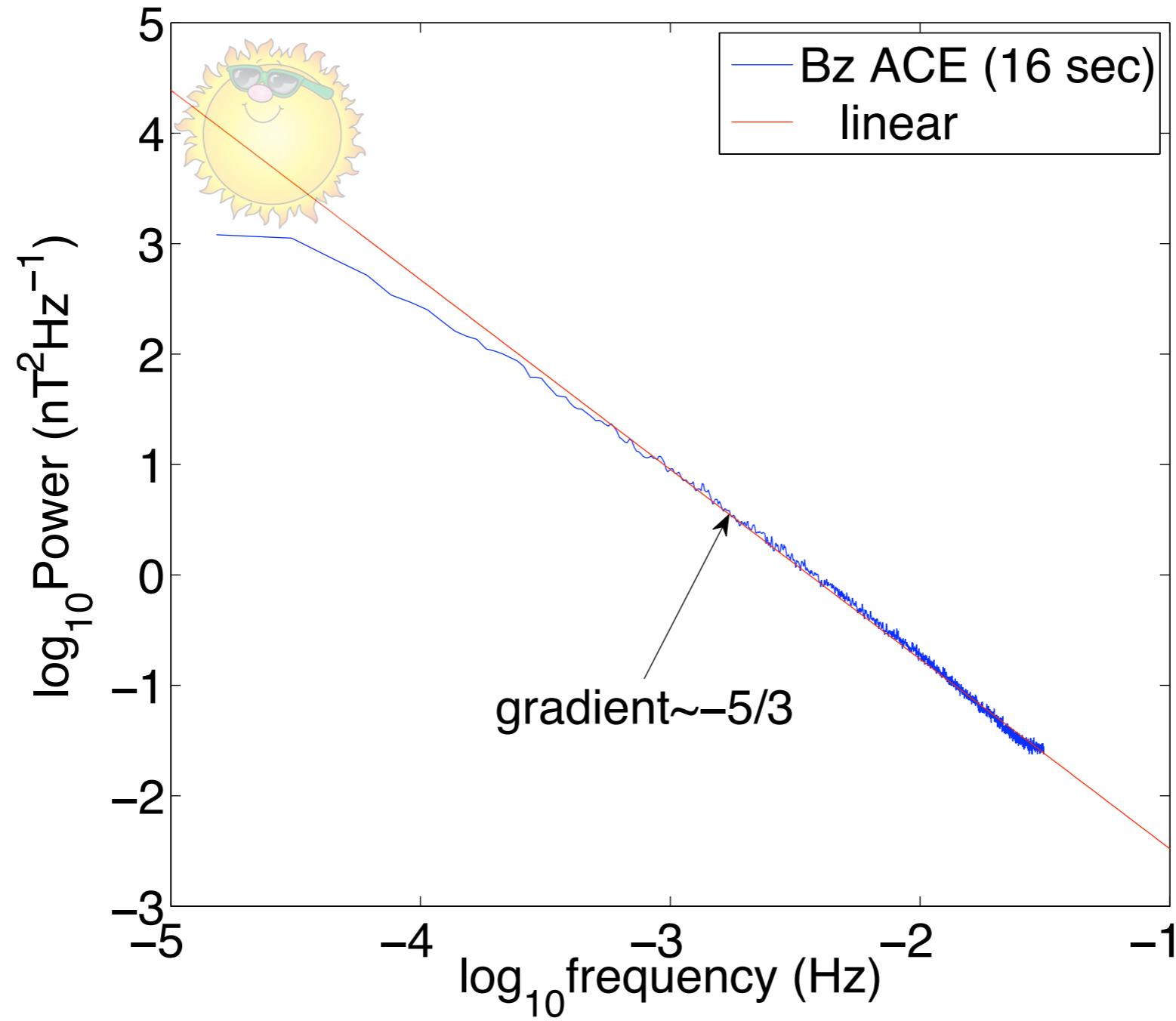


# MHD inertial range (spectral) scaling exponents

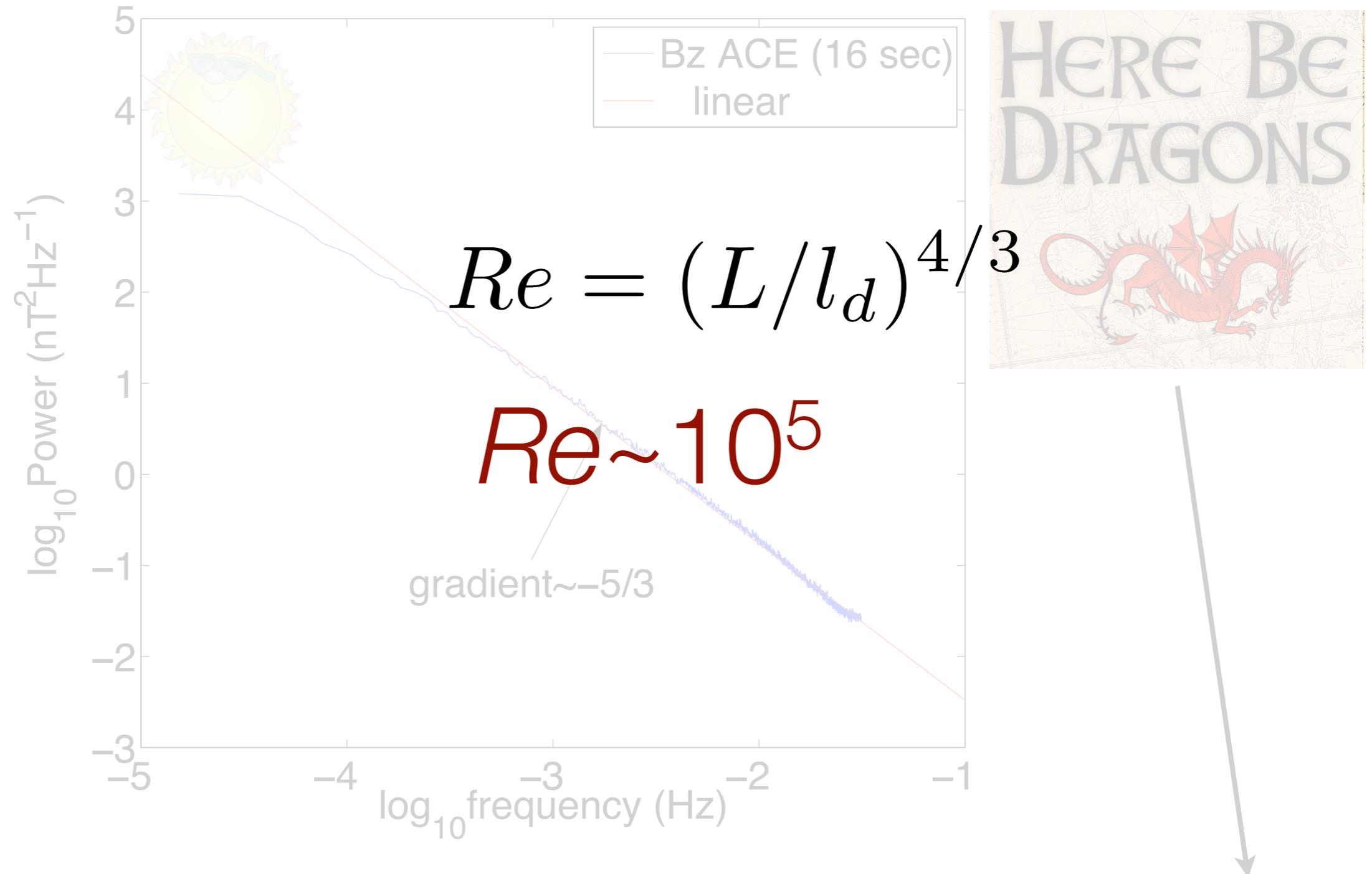
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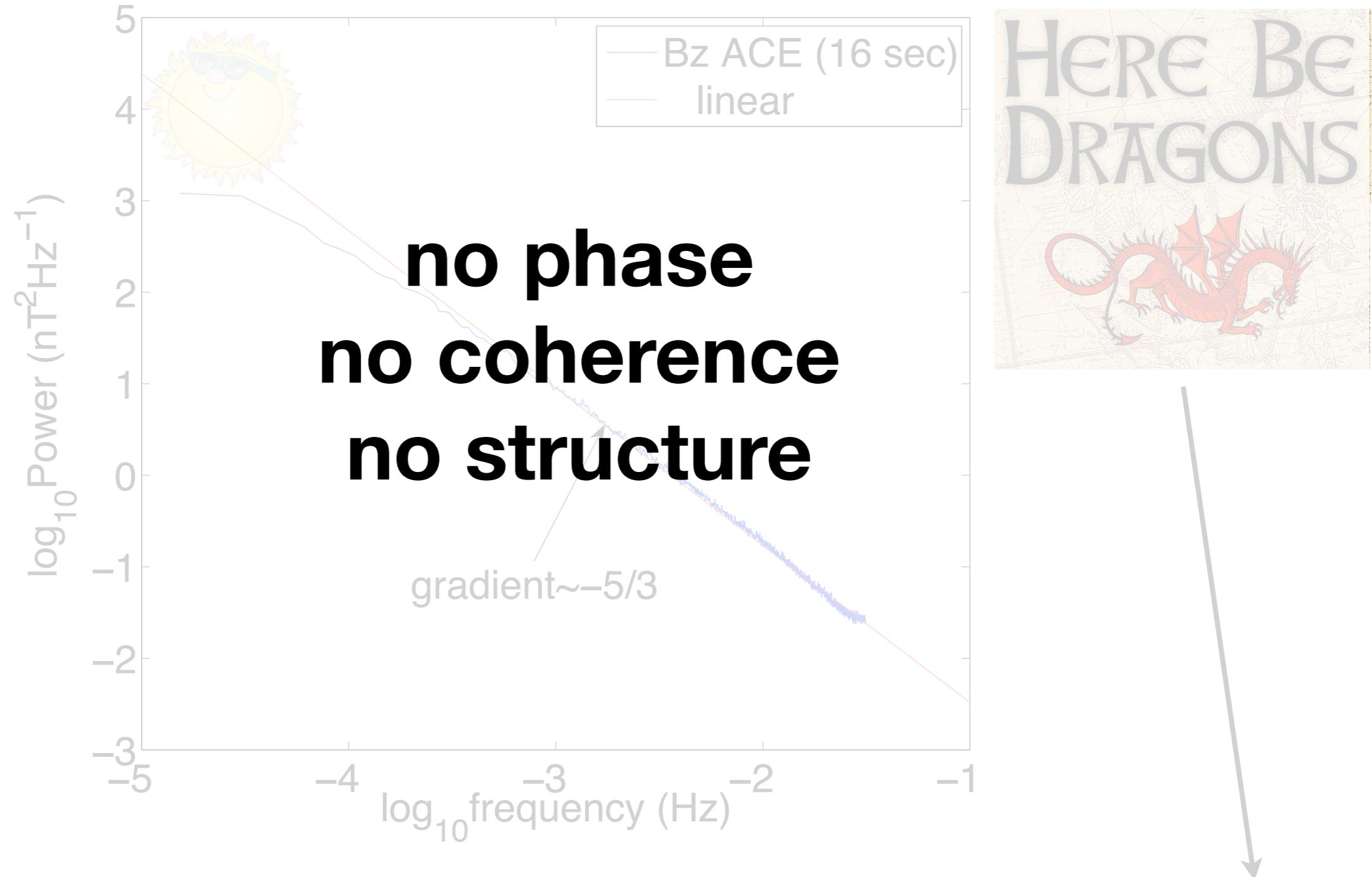
# MHD inertial range (spectral) scaling exponents



# MHD inertial range (spectral) scaling exponents



# MHD inertial range (spectral) scaling exponents



# outline

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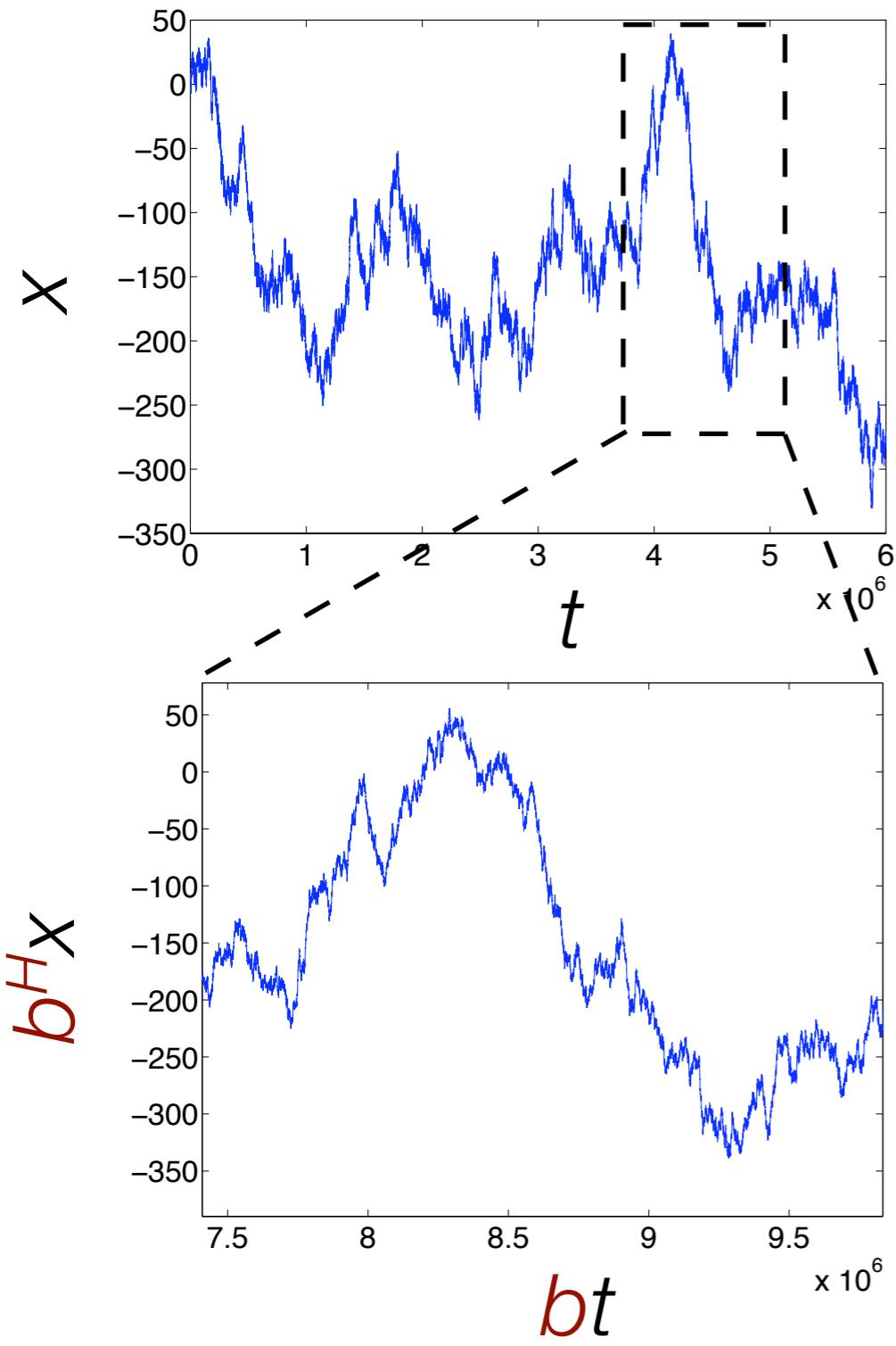
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# Scaling

(beyond spectra)

scaling, fractals and all that jazz ...

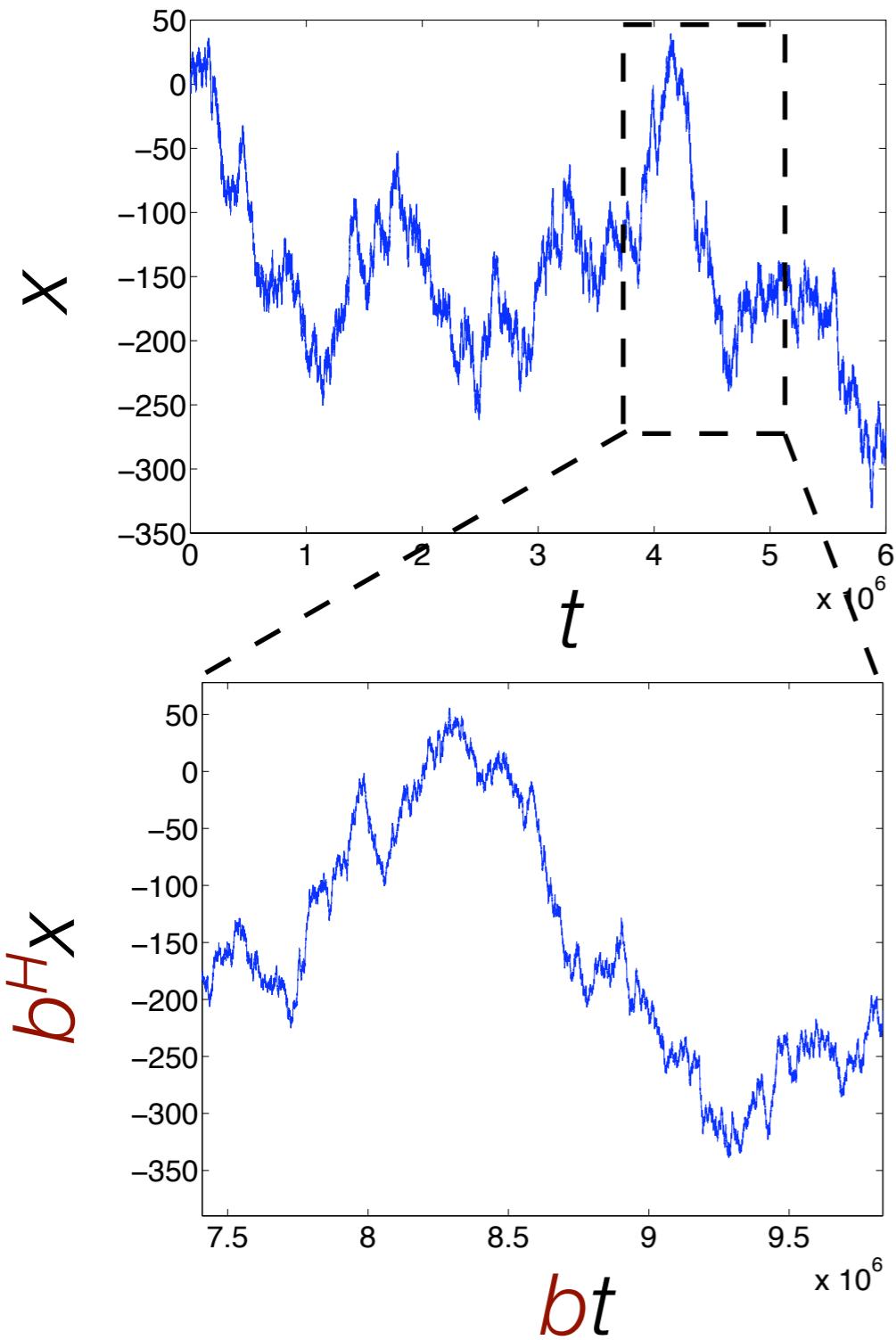
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Change scale from  $t$  to  $bt$   
AND  
scale  $x$  to  $b^H x$

# scaling, fractals and all that jazz ...

---



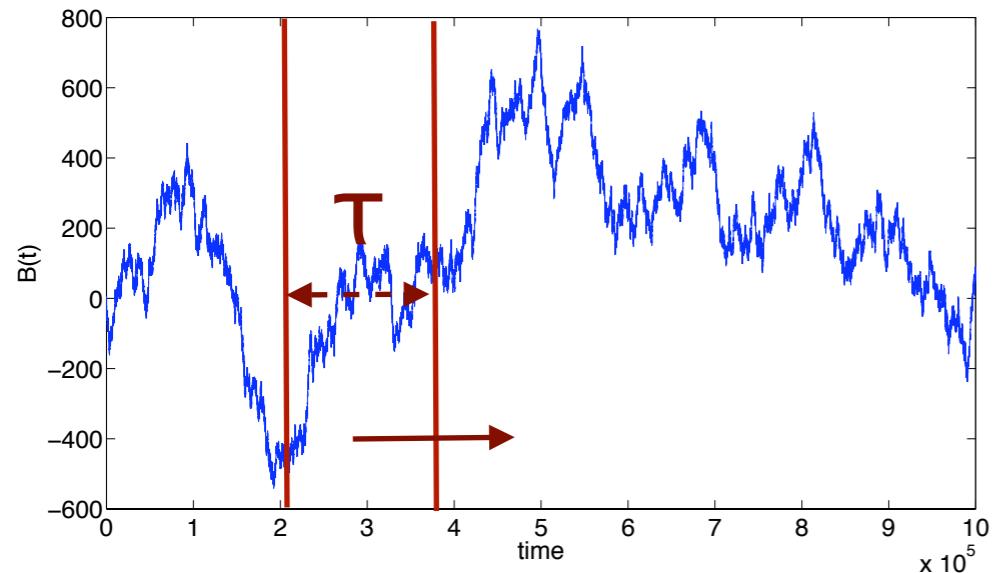
Change scale from  $t$  to  $bt$   
AND  
scale  $x$  to  $b^H x$

If the statistics of  
 $b^H x$  is the same as  $x$  then  
process is  
statistically self-similar

Hurst exponent  $H$

# self-similarity

---

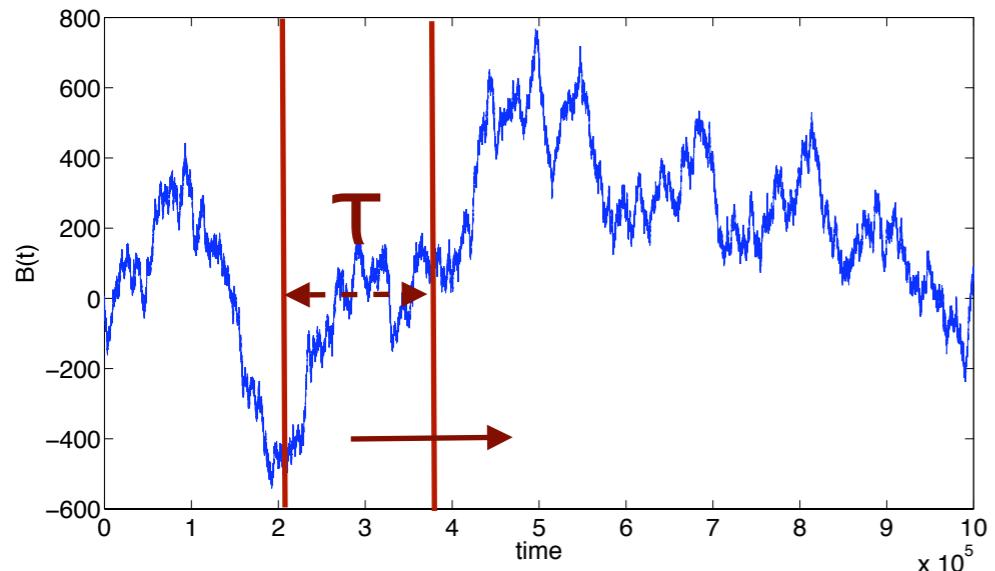


increments

$$y(t, \tau) = x(t + \tau) - x(t)$$

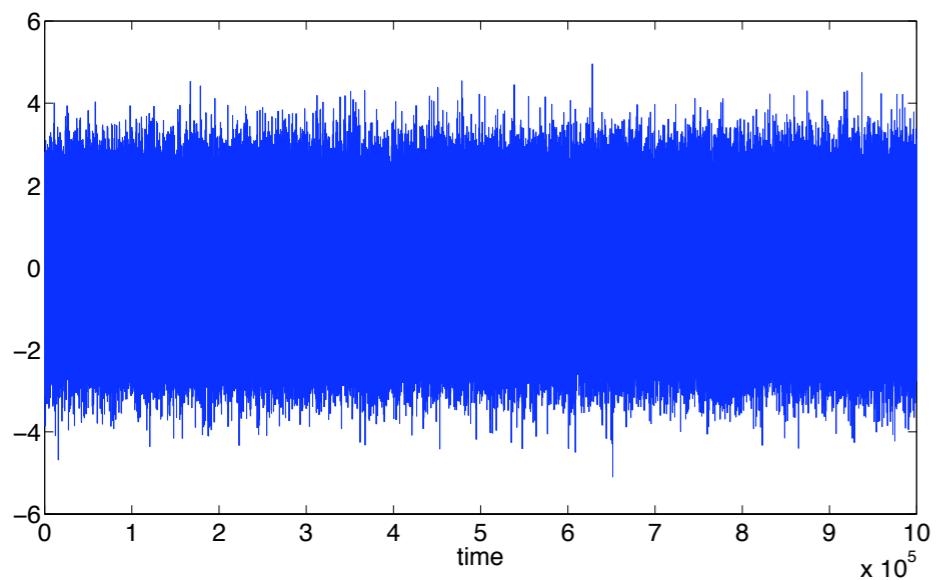
# self-similarity

---



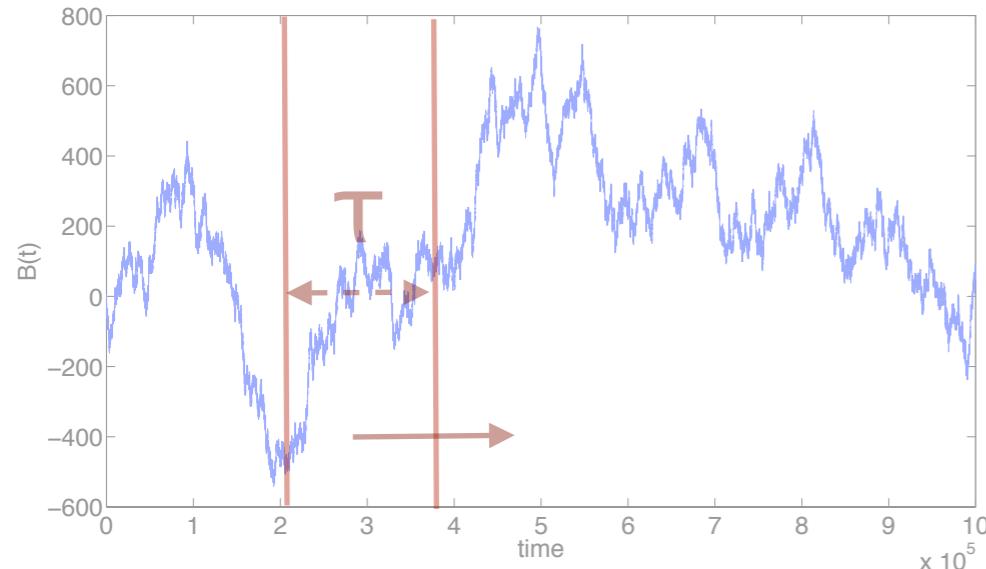
increments

$$y(t, \tau) = x(t + \tau) - x(t)$$

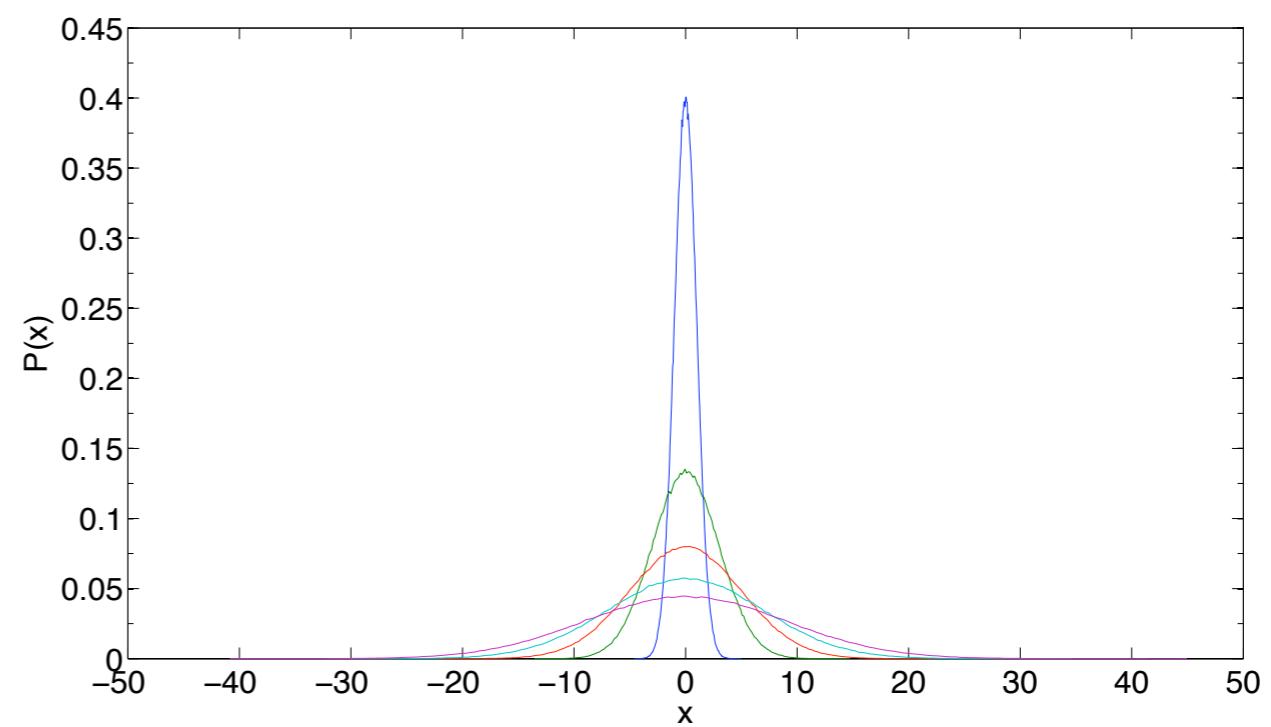
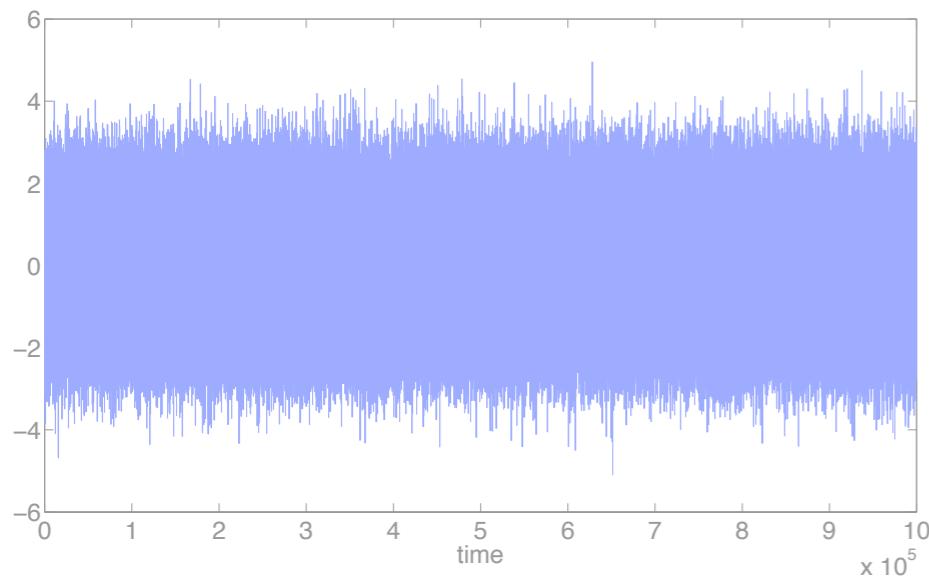


# self-similarity

---



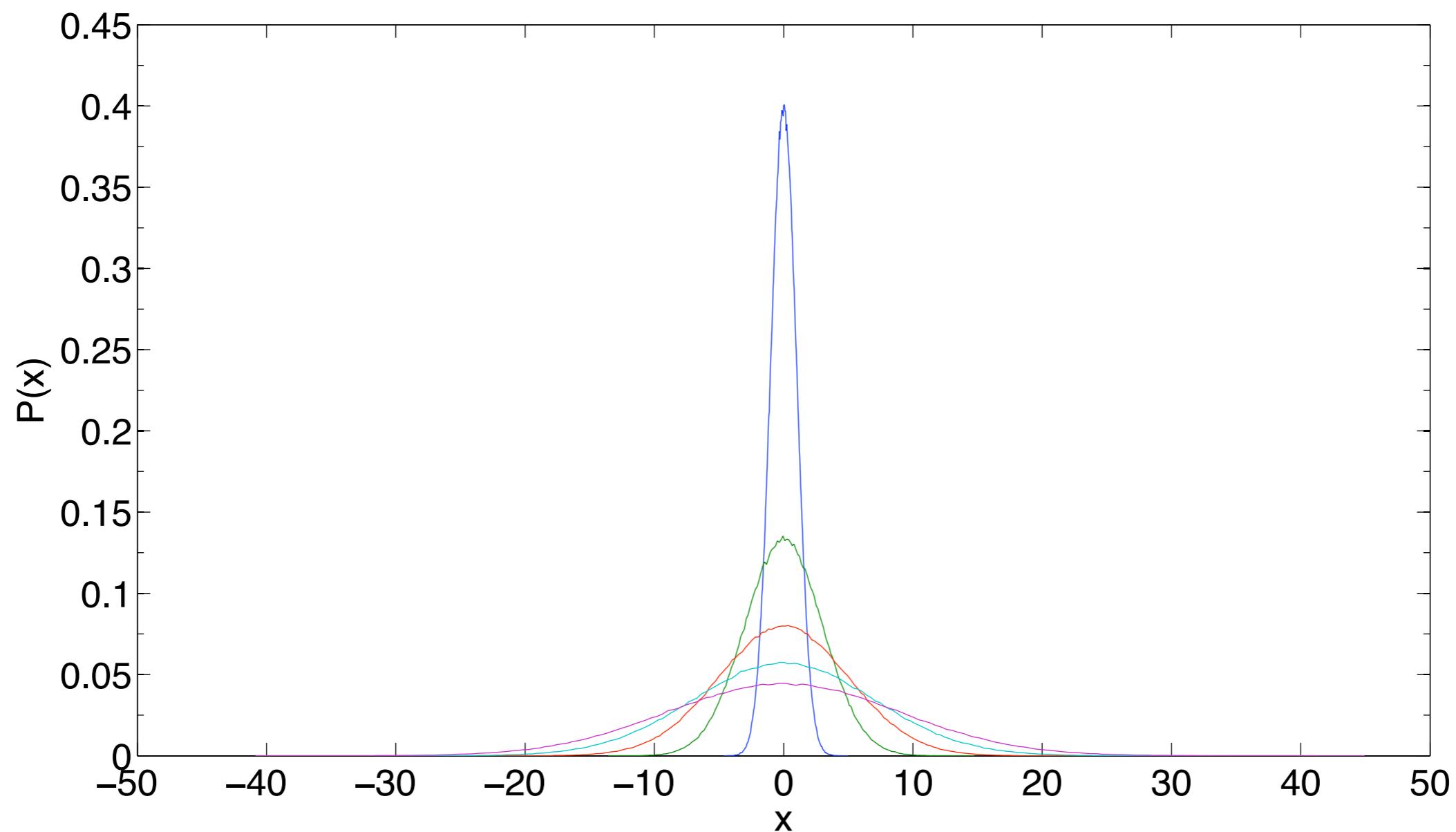
probability density function



# pdf scaling

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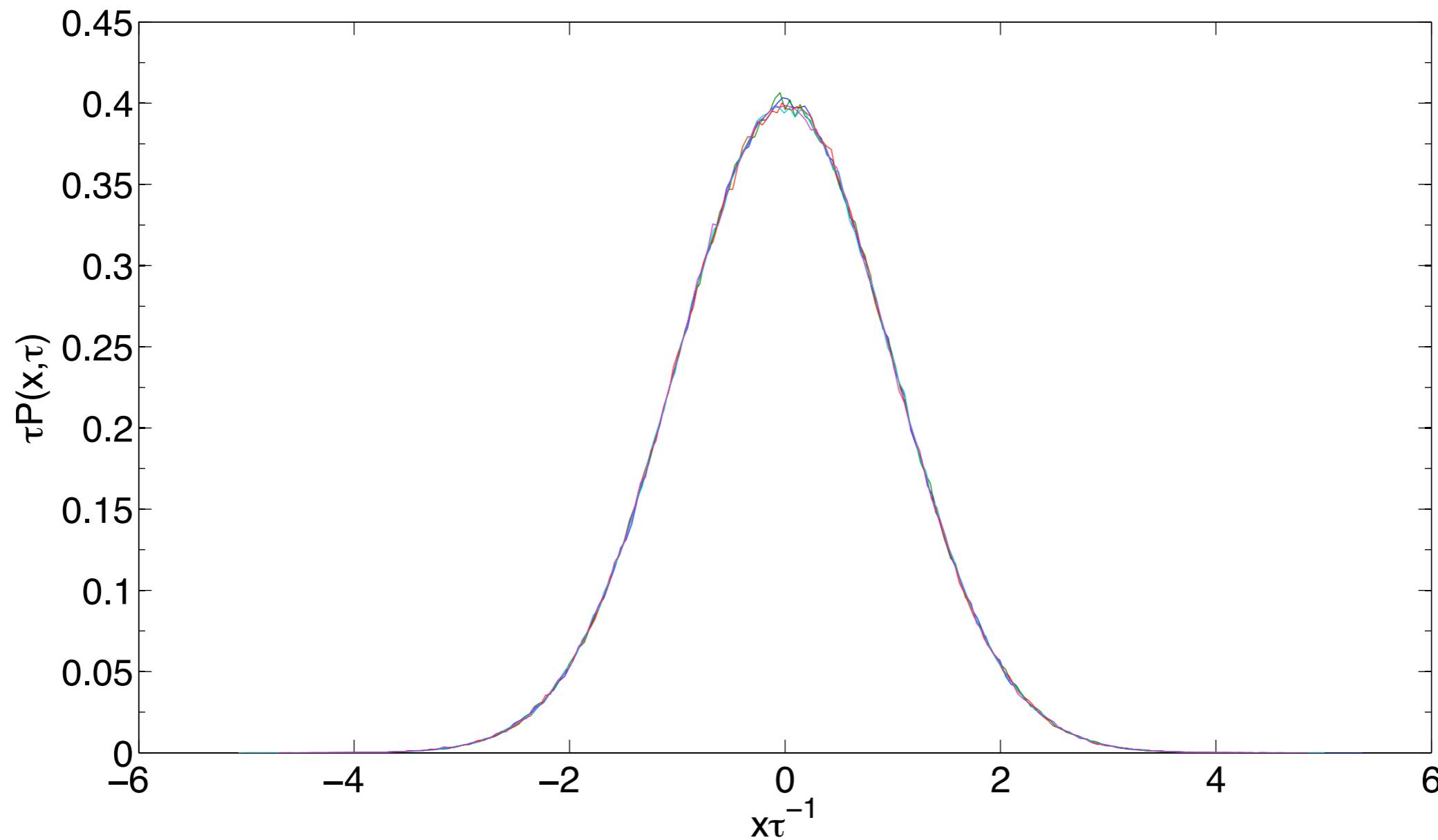
$$P(y, \tau) = \tau^{-H} \mathcal{P}_s(y\tau^{-H})$$



# pdf scaling

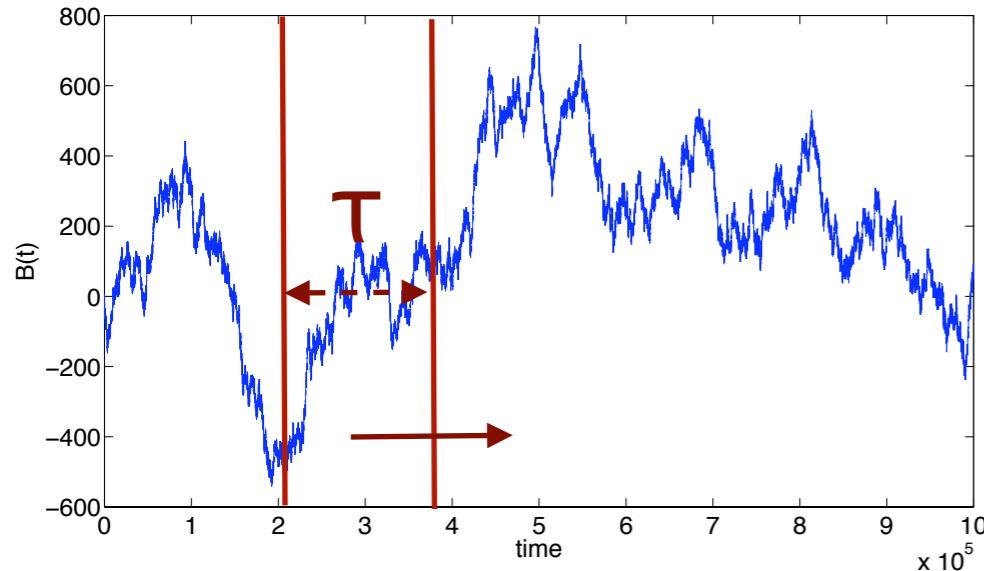
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$$P(y, \tau) = \tau^{-H} \mathcal{P}_s(y\tau^{-H})$$



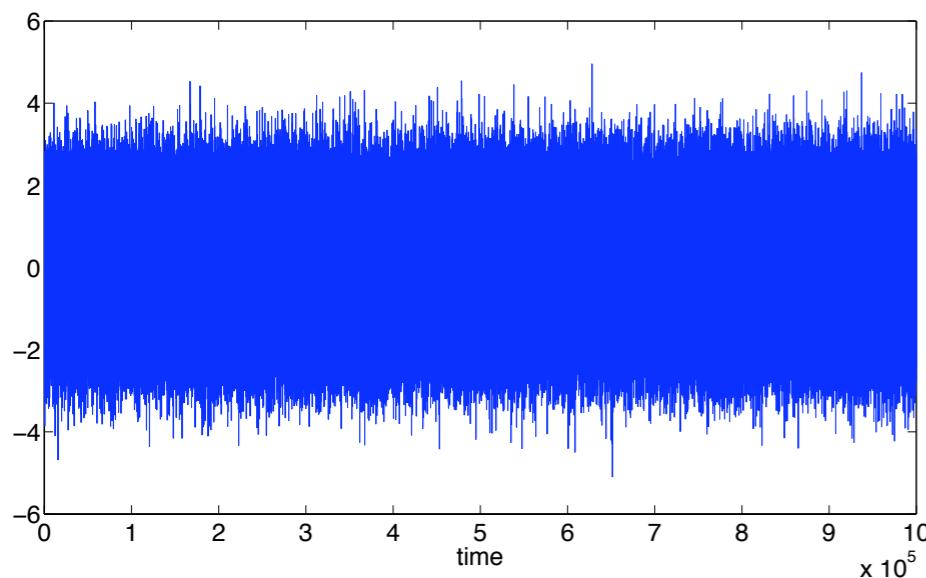
# Test statistic and its scaling

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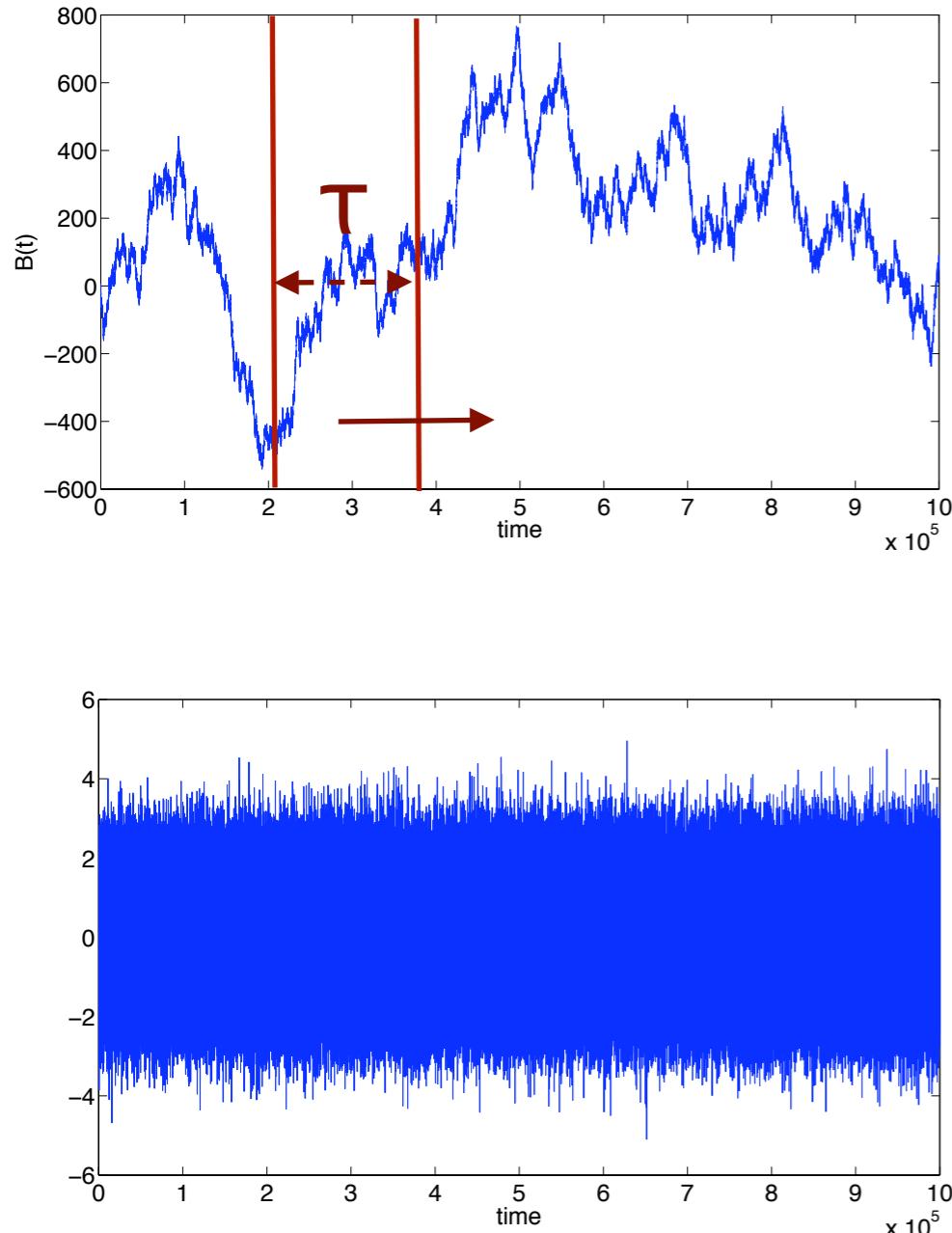
increments

$$y(t, \tau) = x(t + \tau) - x(t)$$



# Test statistic and its scaling

---



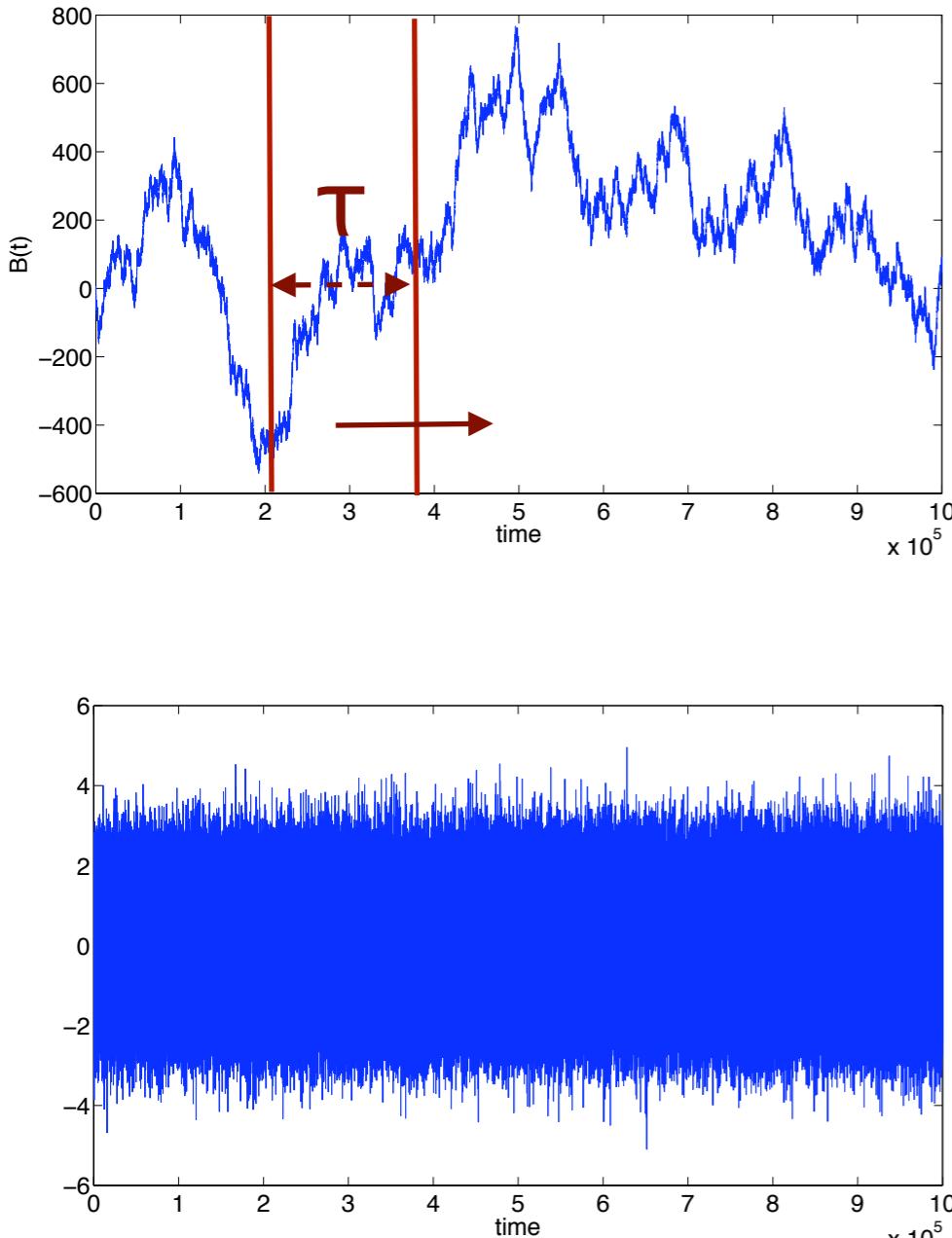
increments

$$y(t, \tau) = x(t + \tau) - x(t)$$

$p^{\text{th}}$  order moment

$$M^p(\tau) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N y_j^p$$

# Test statistic and its scaling



increments

$$y(t, \tau) = x(t + \tau) - x(t)$$

$p^{\text{th}}$  order moment

$$M^p(\tau) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N y_j^p$$

moment scaling

$$M^p(\tau) = M^p(1) \tau^{\zeta(p)}$$

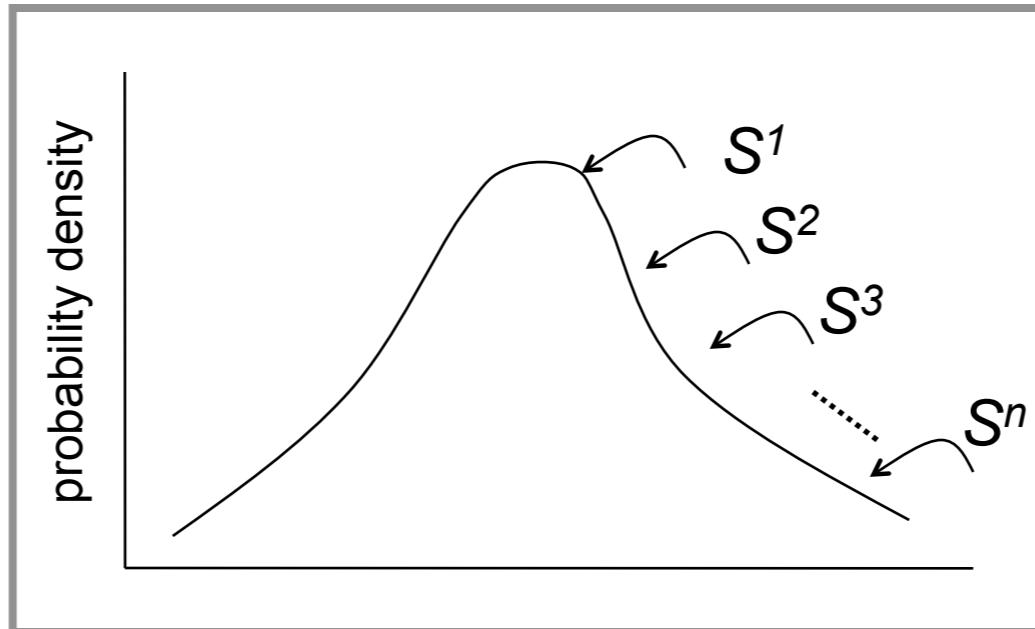
$$\log M^p(\tau) = \log M^p(1) + \boxed{\zeta(p)} \log \tau$$

via ordinary least-squares regression

# Heavy-tails and intermittency

---

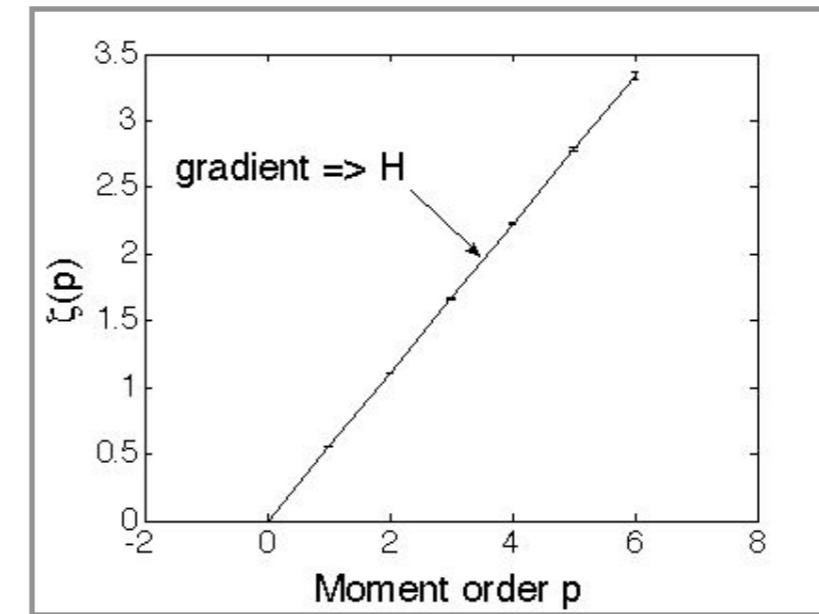
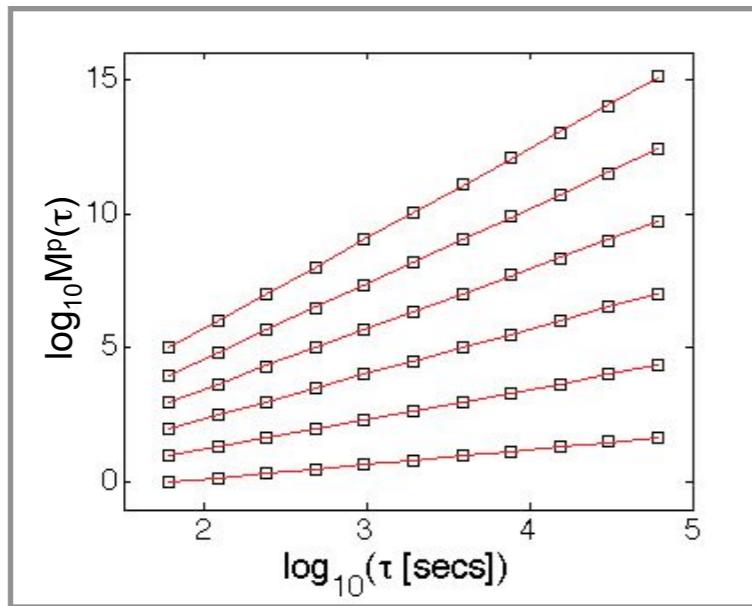
$$S^p(\tau) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |y_i^p|$$



# Test statistic and its scaling

---

$$\log M^p(\tau) = \log M^p(1) + \zeta(p) \log \tau$$

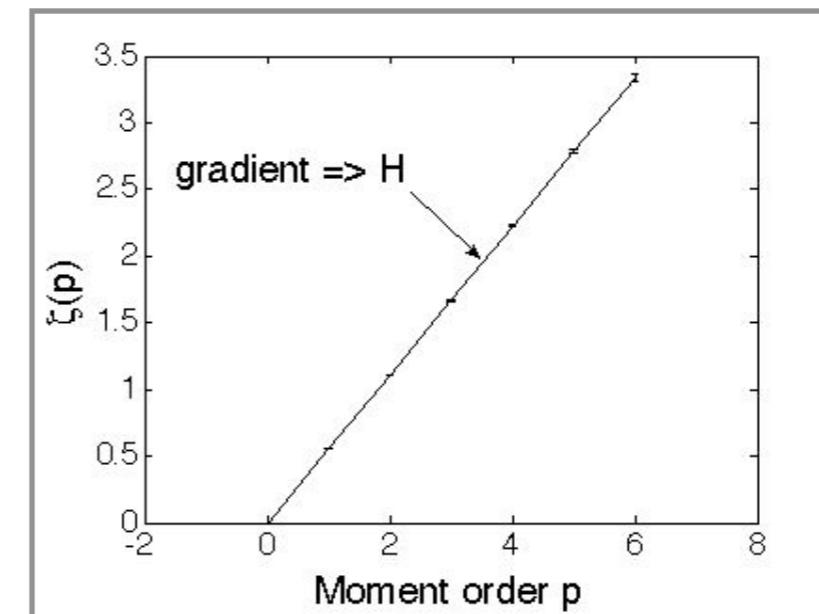
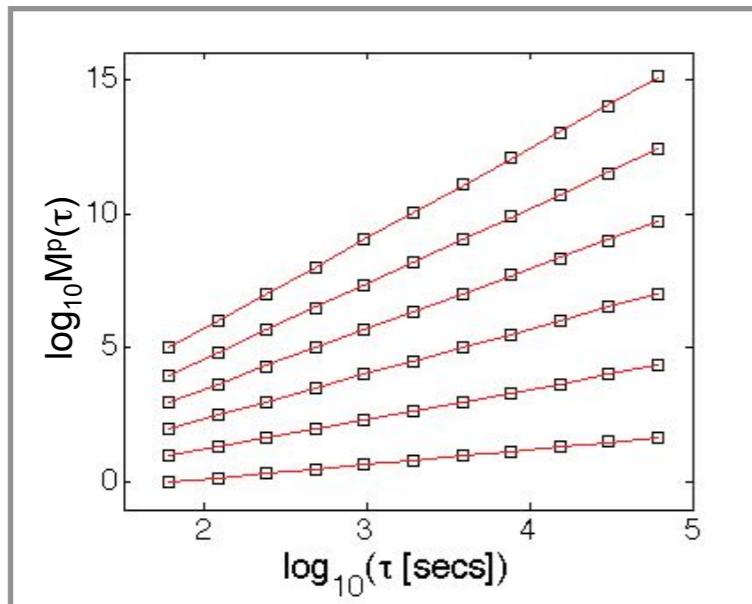


$$\zeta(p) = pH$$

single exponent scaling

# Test statistic and its scaling

$$\log M^p(\tau) = \log M^p(1) + \zeta(p) \log \tau$$



$$\zeta(p) = pH$$

if  $\zeta(p)$  non – linear

single exponent scaling

then multi exponent  
scaling

# Limit theorems and the origin of scaling

---

‘All epistemological value of the theory of probability is based on this: that large scale random phenomena in their collective action create strict, non-random regularity.’

(Gnedenko and Kolmogorov, *Limit Distributions for Sums of Independent Random Variables*)

# Limit theorems

---

Central Limit Theorem (De Moivre, Laplace, Lyapunov)

$$S_N = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S_N \rightarrow Gaussian$$

# Limit theorems

---

Central Limit Theorem (De Moivre, Laplace, Lyapunov)

$$S_N = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S_N \rightarrow \text{Gaussian}$$

Generalized Central Limit Theorem (Lévy)

$$S_N = \frac{1}{N^{1/\alpha}} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S_N \rightarrow \text{Lévy}$$

# Limit theorems

---

Central Limit Theorem (De Moivre, Laplace, Lyapunov)

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Generalized Central Limit Theorem (Lévy)

$$S_N = \frac{1}{N^{1/\alpha}} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S_N \rightarrow \text{Lévy}$$

and many others! ————— Stable processes

# Limit theorems and self-similar processes

---

$$S_N = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i$$

Coarse-graining/averaging

Scaling

$$S_N = \frac{1}{N^{1/\alpha}} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i$$

study of limit theorems and stable processes have a very profound link to self-similar processes

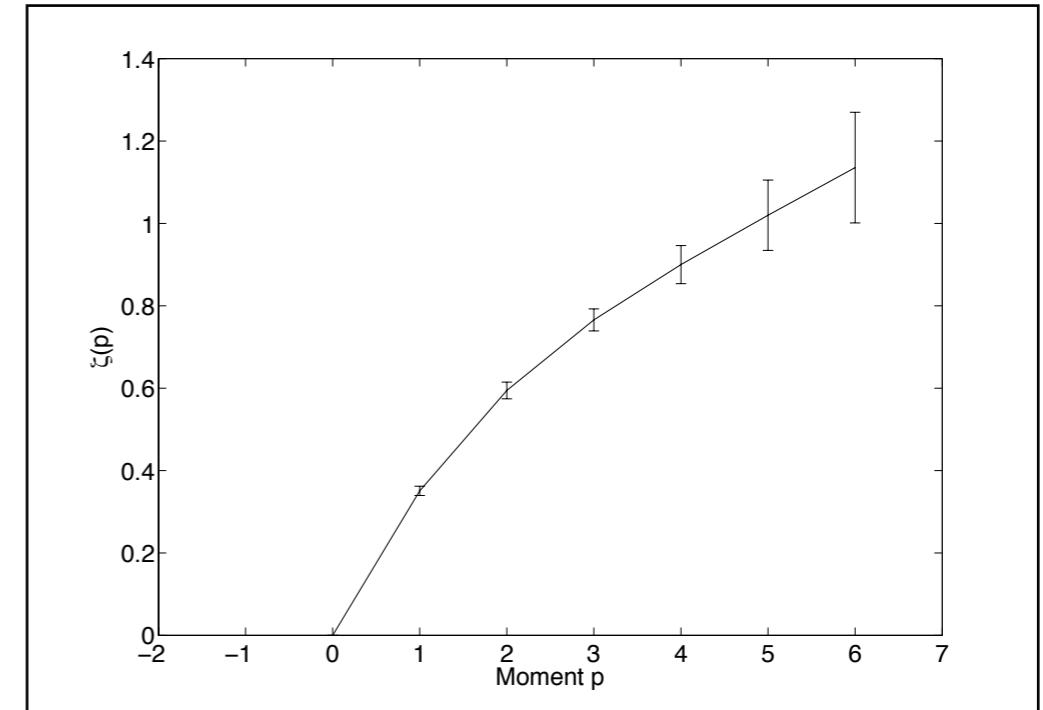
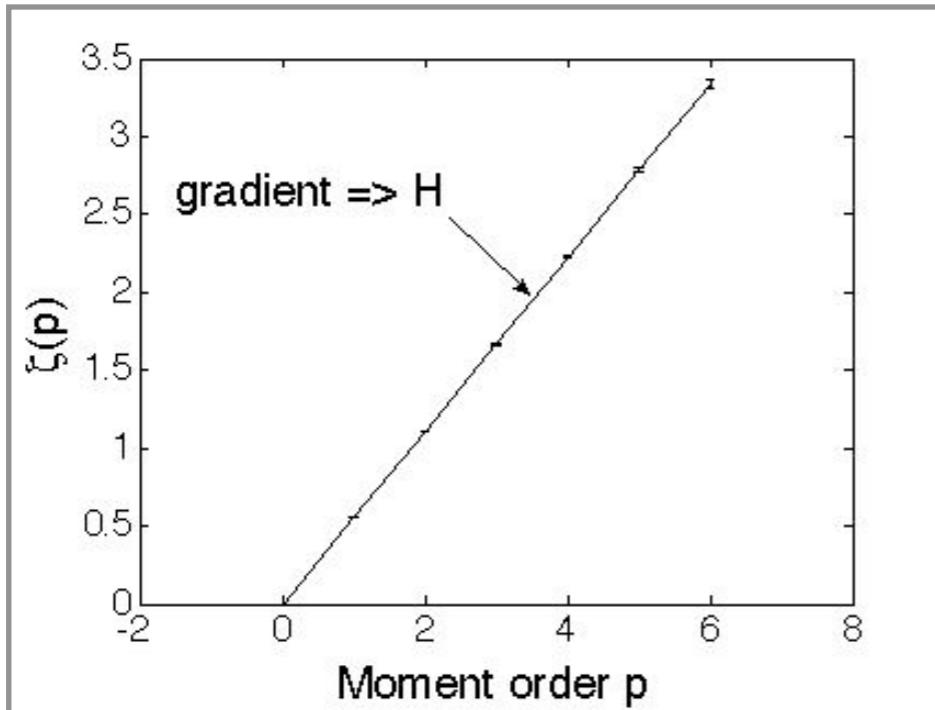
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$$\zeta(p) = pH$$

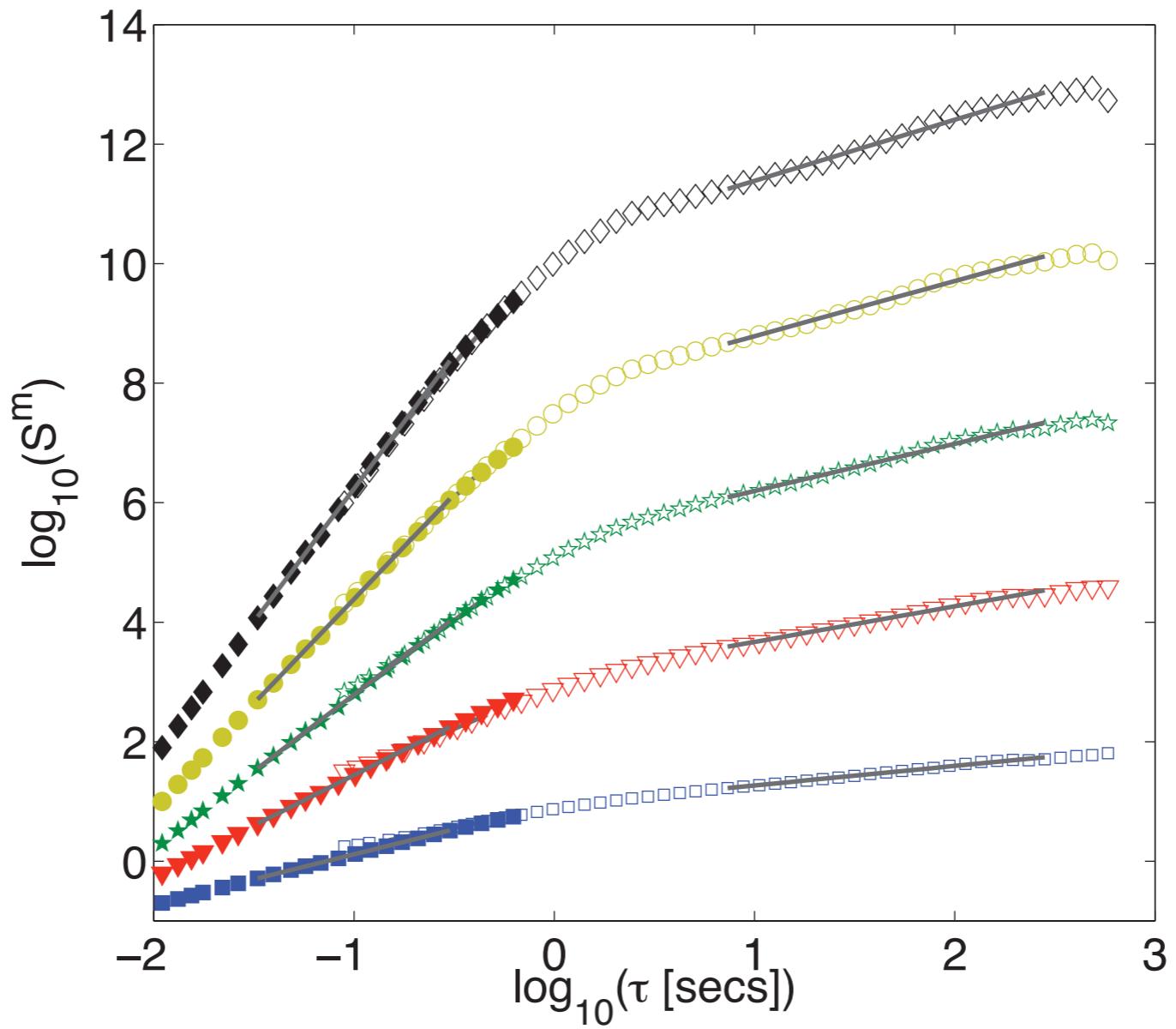
**monoscaling**

$$\zeta(p) \text{ non - linear}$$

**multiscaling**

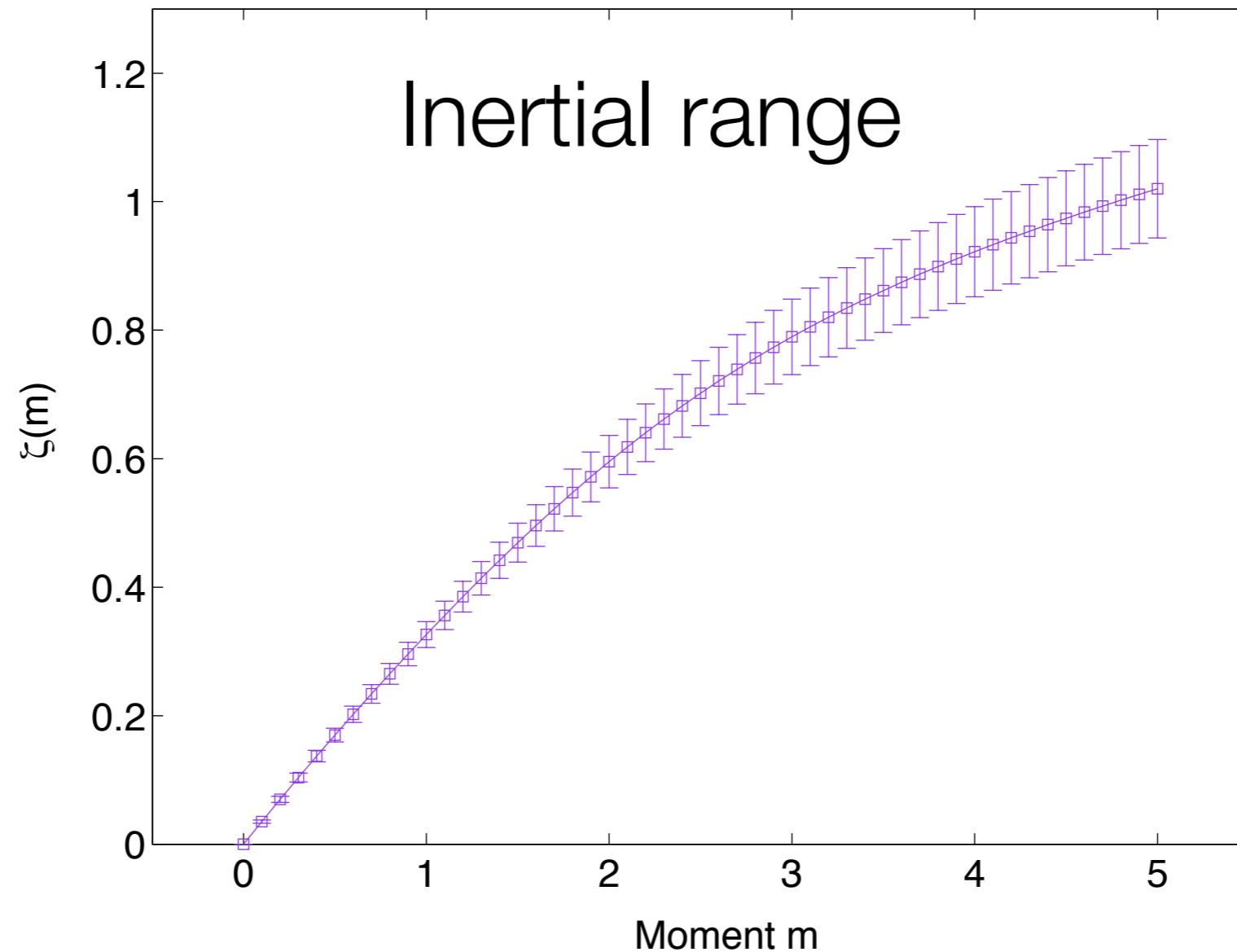
# moment scaling

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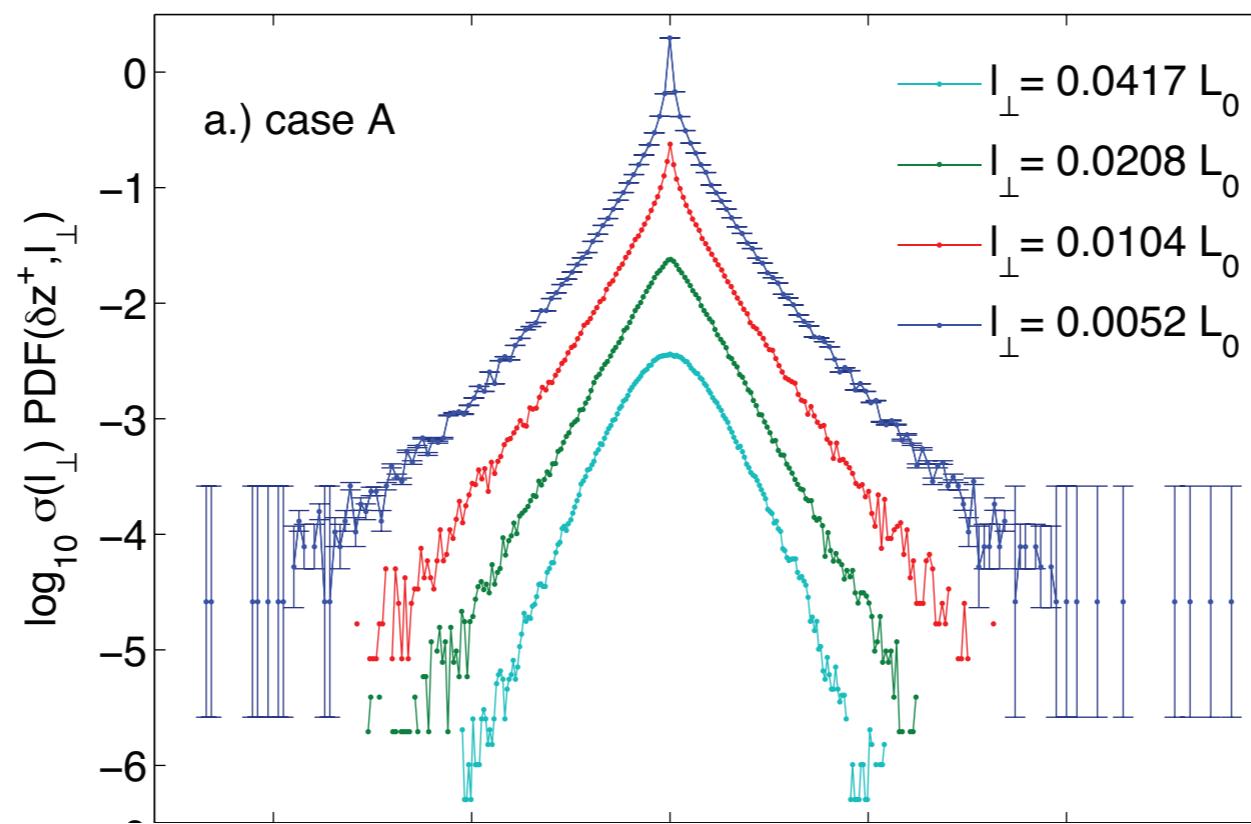
# moment scaling

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# non-Gaussian pdfs

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# outline

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- Equations of motion and phenomenology of energy transfer in  $r$  and  $k$ -space for iHI turbulence.
- Richardson energy cascade and the  $5/3^{\text{rd}}$  energy spectrum (power spectral density)
- Measurement and ensembles
- Higher order two-point statistics
- Some real data from the solar wind
- **4/5<sup>th</sup> (third order) law**
- fractal models (if time permits)

## 4/5ths law (Kolmogorov 1941)

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$$\frac{2\partial E}{3\partial t} = -\frac{2}{3}\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial S_2}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{6r^4}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}(r^4S_3) - \frac{\nu}{r^4}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^4\frac{\partial S_2}{\partial r}\right)$$

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$$S_3(r) \simeq -\frac{4}{5}\varepsilon r$$

# why is the 4/5<sup>th</sup> law important?

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- One of the few exact results from Navier Stokes Equations -- de facto **exact** closure of Karman Howarth equations
- Make a **direct measurement of the energy transfer rate** from simple structure functions i.e. ‘straight-forward’ **moment calculations**
- Energy in = Energy out => direct **measurement of total energy going into dissipation and heating** (thermodynamics of the system)
- Can be shown valid for each realisation – **not dependent on an ensemble average**
- Free from intermittency corrections

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- Fractal models (if time permits)

# what does all of this mean and why does it matter?

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# Power-laws, exponents -- why should we care?

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- Many theories and models
  - ▶ main prediction is scaling behaviour and thus scaling exponents
  - ▶ directly measurable from observations
- Information on the **scaling of statistical quantities** and thus help in prediction of **bulk properties of turbulent flows** e.g. ability to calculate Reynolds stresses in Reynolds averaged equations (RANS).

# Power-laws, exponents -- why should we care?

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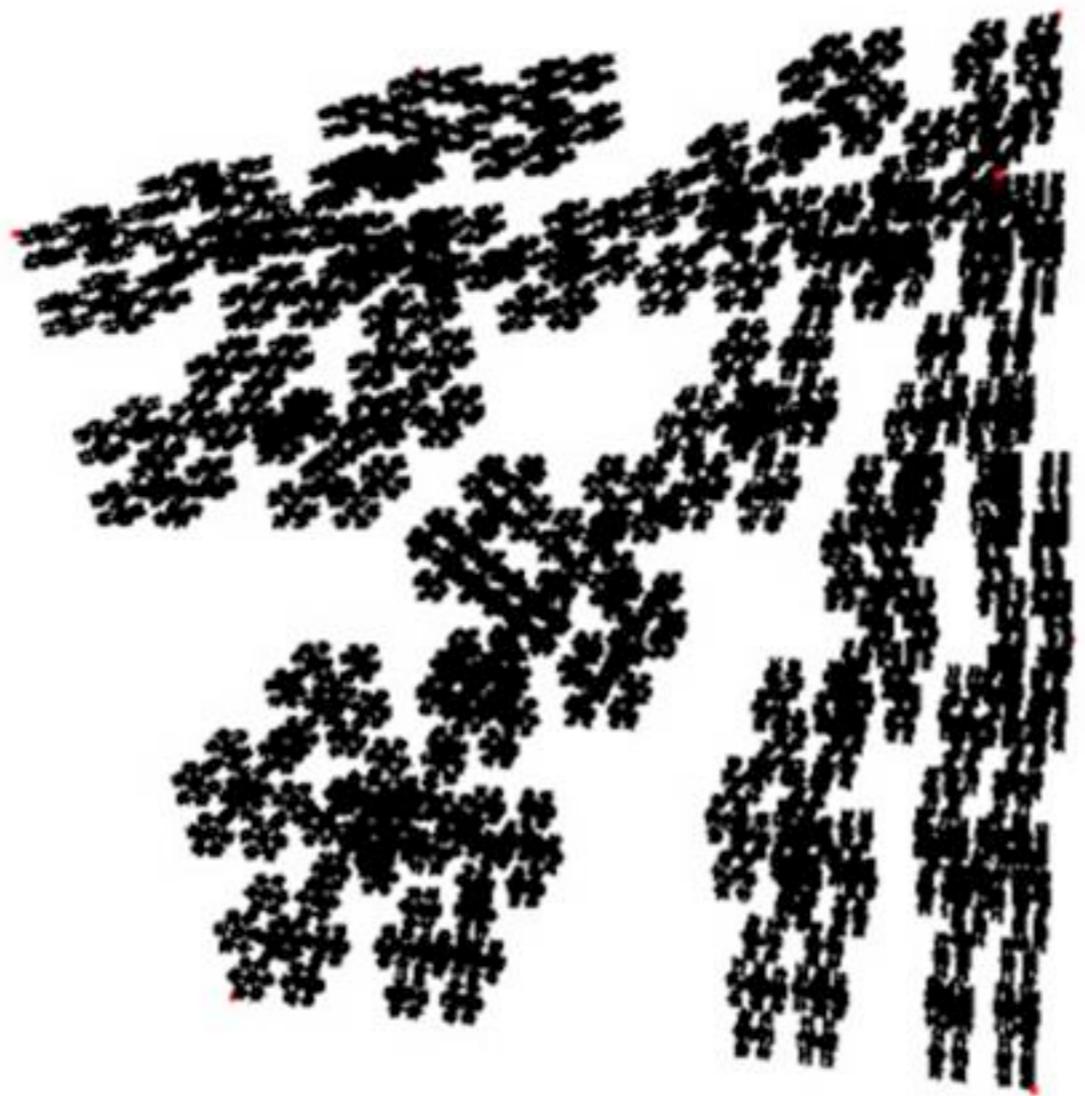
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**However**

- Need to take a sober attitude to such things -- avoid the temptation to just fit straight lines to log-log plots. Statistics and errors need to be handled well.

# fractal dissipation

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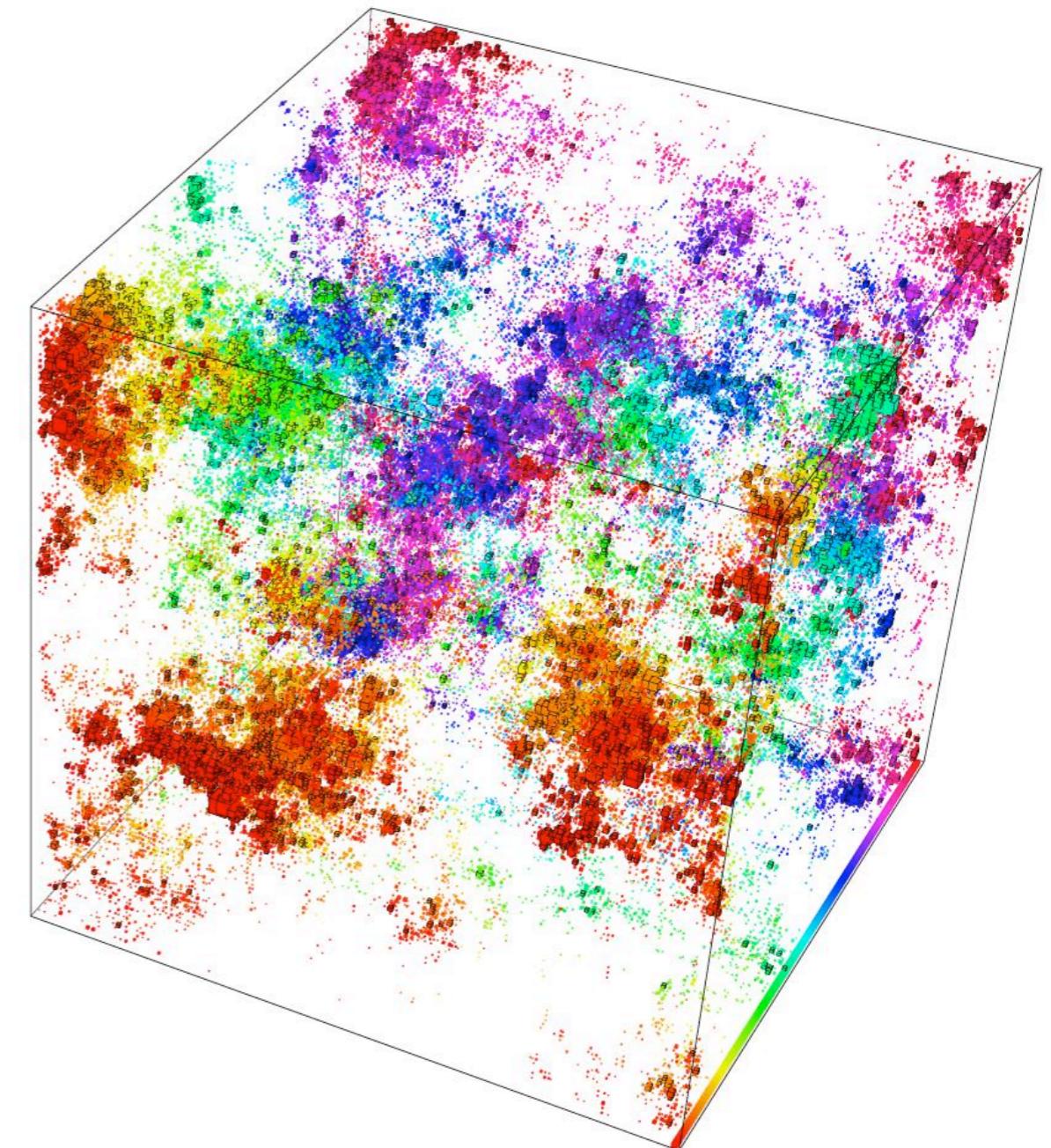
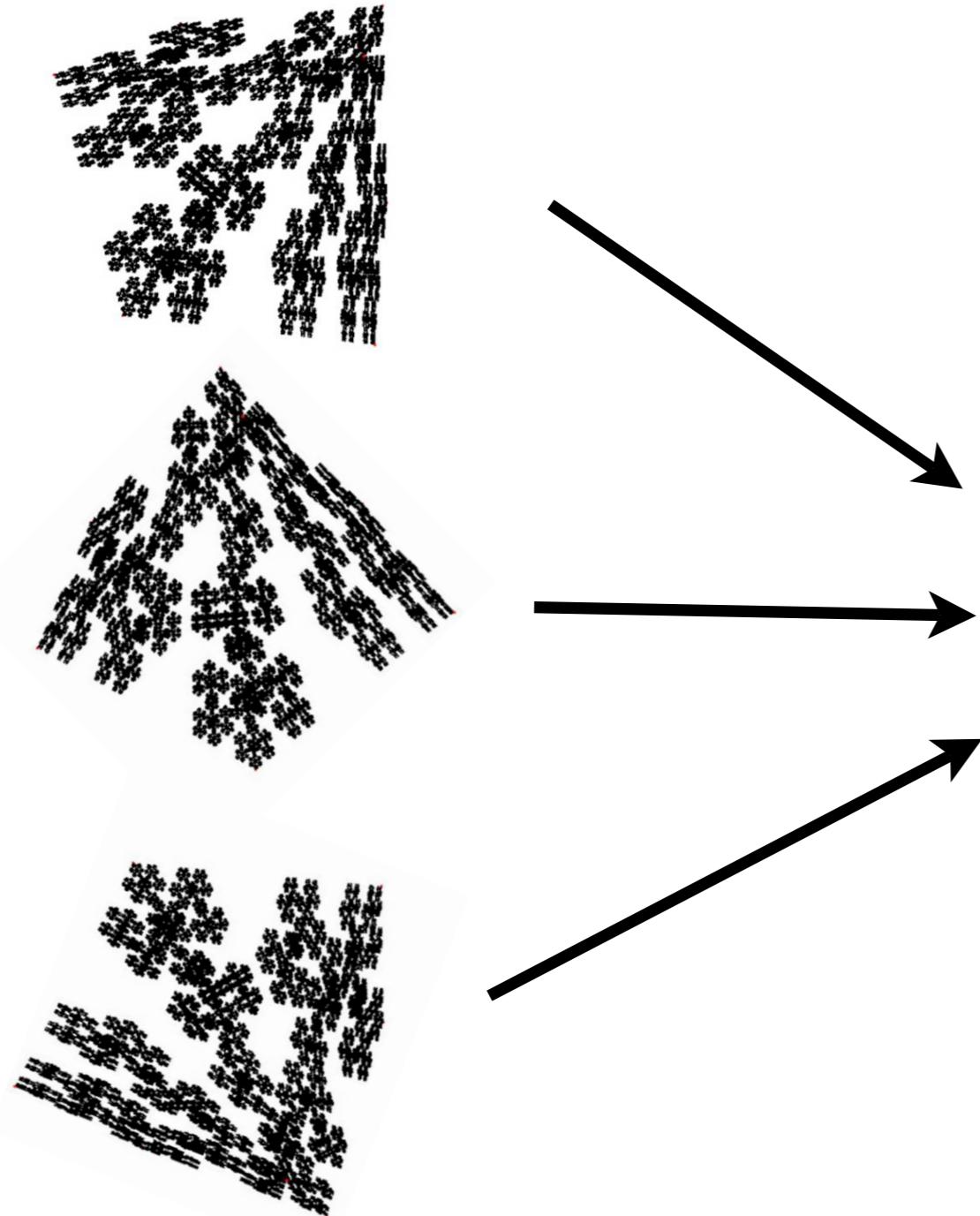
Single exponent  $H$   
living on a fractal set of  
dimension  $D$  where  
dissipation occurs

**Global Scale Invariance**

Cantor ‘dust’ courtesy of Andrew Top: [http://www.andrewtop.com/IFS3d/  
IFS3d.html](http://www.andrewtop.com/IFS3d/IFS3d.html)

# Multifractal dissipation

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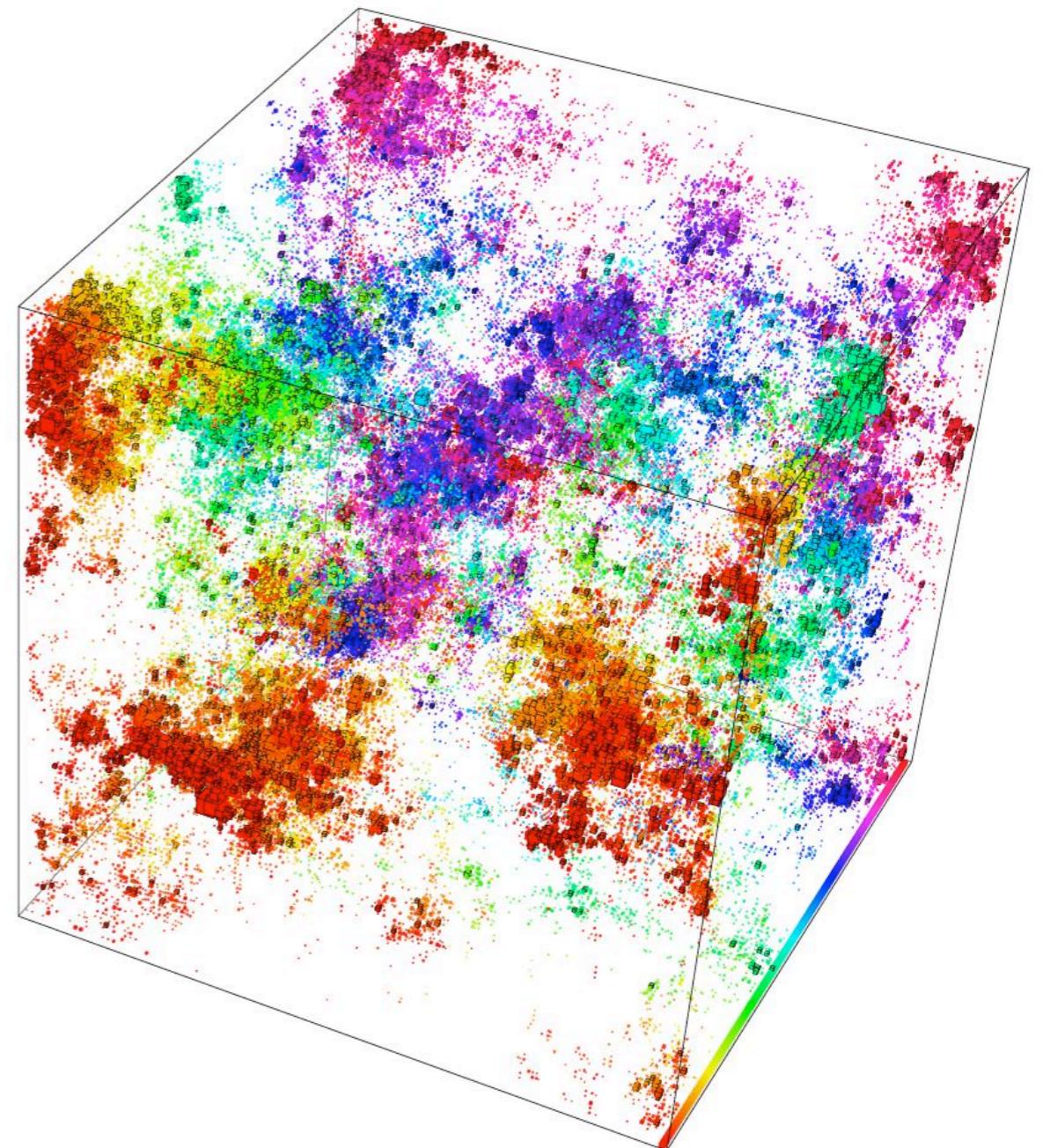
Courtesy of R. Roemer (Warwick): multifractal electronic wavefunction at metal insulator transition in 3D Anderson model

# Multifractal dissipation

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multiple exponents  $h$   
living on a fractal sets of  
dimension  $D(h)$  where  
dissipation occurs

**Local Scale Invariance**



the end

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