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Title: Self-similar Decay of Generalized Two-dimensional Turbulence

Abstract:

We study decaying two-dimensional turbulence governed by the so-called two-dimensional incompressible fluid models indexed by a parameter α . The family of equations includes the Navier-Stokes equation ($\alpha = 2$), the surface quasi-geostrophic equation ($\alpha = 1$), and the Charney-Hasegawa-Mima equation in the asymptotic model (AM) regime ($\alpha = -2$). In the inviscid limit, the equations have two quadratic invariants, the energy and the enstrophy. A self-similarity theory is proposed for α turbulence. The result of Iwayama and Shepherd (2004) is generalized to α turbulence. We derive a necessary condition for the existence of a self-similar energy spectrum. Our theory predicts the critical Reynolds number decay law for the decaying NS turbulence with usual viscosity, which is found numerically by Chasnov (1997). The theory also predicts the decay law for the CHM turbulence in the AM regime with hyperviscosity, which is found numerically by Iwayama (2002). We perform direct numerical simulations for the surface quasi-geostrophic equation ($\alpha = 1$) with usual viscosity to study whether the energy spectrum decays self-similarly. The numerical simulation results yield power-law decay of the energy and the enstrophy, and the self-similarity of the energy spectrum. Our theory and the numerical simulation results are in good agreement.

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