

On-off pumping for drag reduction in a turbulent channel flow

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Question

Can we exploit an **unsteady** injection of pumping energy for drag reduction?

Flow control: where are we?

Passive

No control energy



Active

Control energy

Hybrid

(more) Pumping
energy

Making an existing idea practical

J. Fluid Mech. (2012), vol. 700, pp. 246–282. © Cambridge University Press 2012
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Pulsating pipe flow with large-amplitude oscillations in the very high frequency regime. Part 1. Time-averaged analysis

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Prediction of the drag reduction effect of pulsating pipe flow based on machine learning

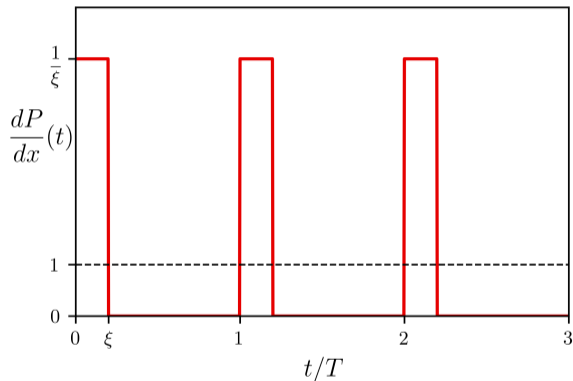
Wataru Kobayashi, Takaaki Shimura, Akihiko Mitsuiishi, Kaoru Iwamoto^{*}, Akira Murata

On-off pumping



- $Re_\tau = 180$
- Two parameters only, since

$$\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \frac{dP}{dx} dt = 1$$



$$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{dP}{dx} \delta_{i1} - \frac{dp}{dx_i} + \frac{1}{Re_\tau} \frac{\partial^2 u_i}{\partial x_j^2}$$

Our model problem

- DNS of a plane turbulent channel flow

$$3\pi h \times 1.5\pi h \times 2h \Rightarrow 6\pi h \times 3\pi h \times 2h$$

$$\Delta x^+ = 6.6, \Delta y^+ = 3.3, \Delta z^+ = 0.5 - 3.2$$

Higher resolutions employed for verification purposes, up to:

$$\Delta x^+ = 2.2, \Delta y^+ = 1.1, \Delta z^+ = 0.15 - 1.0$$

- Two very diverse codes used to check robustness

Time integration:

Fractional step method (AB)

Spatial discretization:

II order FD

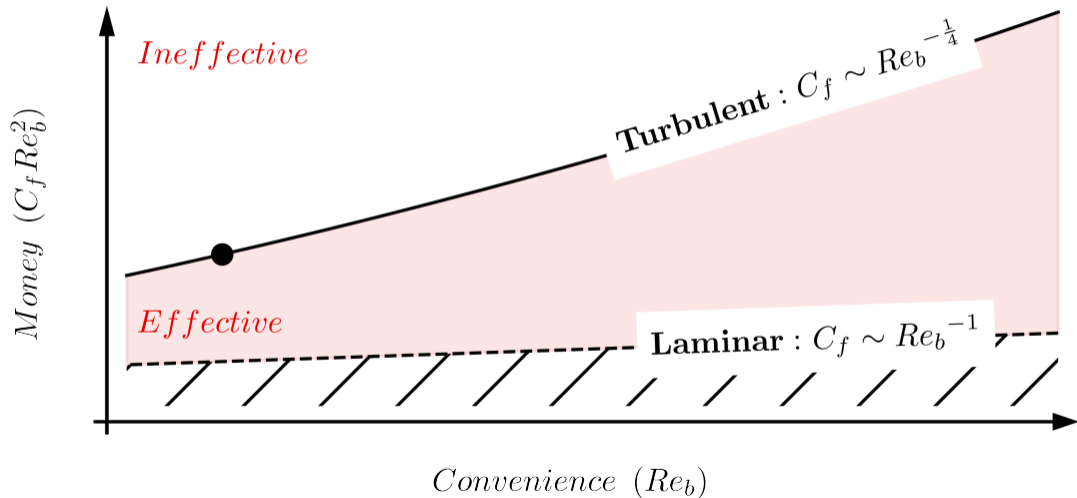
Time integration:

Partially implicit method (RK3 – CN)

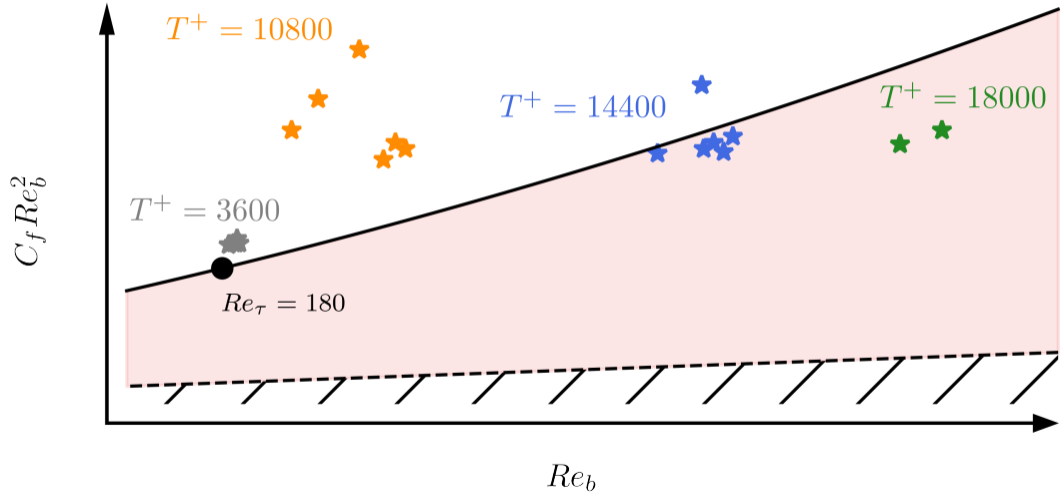
Spatial discretization:

Fourier – IV order compact FD

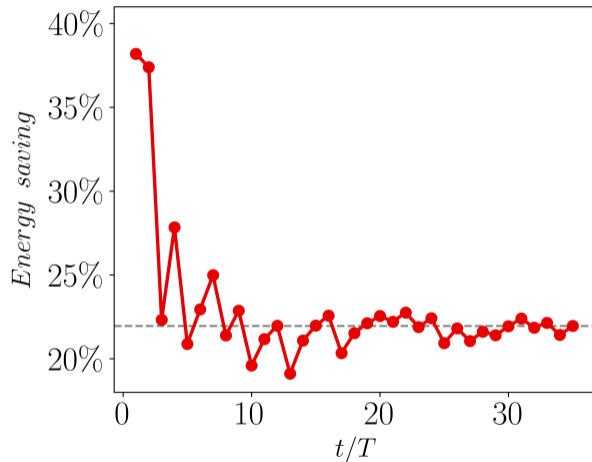
Money VS Convenience *(Frohnappel, Hasegawa & Quadrio JFM 2012)*



It works!



A demanding investigation



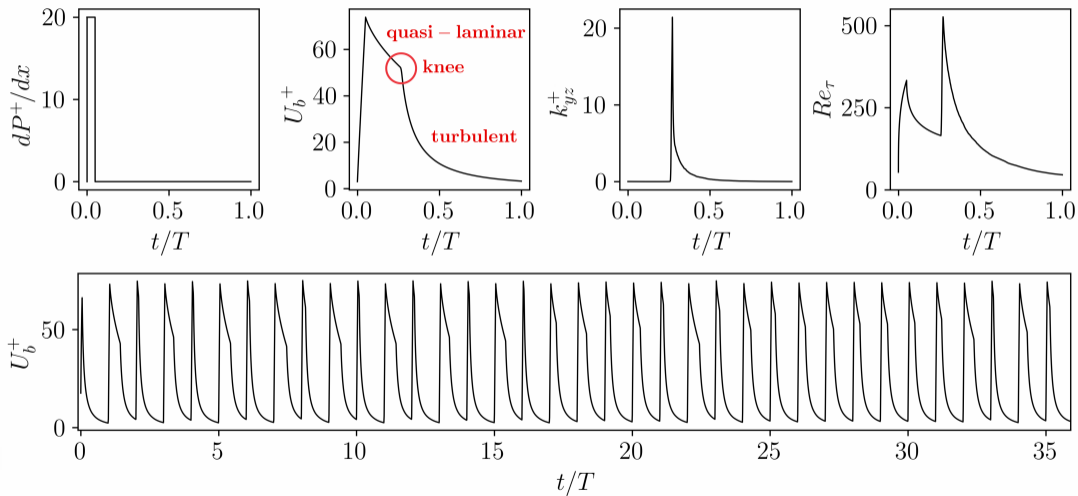
Several cycles needed

Best performance from long periods

Total time: 50x standard channel

Figure: Convergence of the energy saving for our best-performing simulation

0D statistics



The quasi-laminar flow state

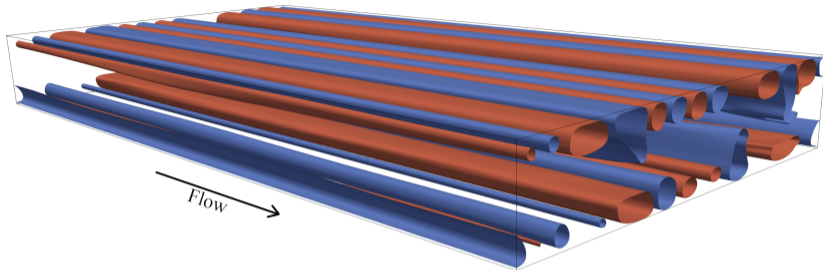


Figure: Positive (red) and negative (blue) contours of the streamwise velocity fluctuations

Streamwise velocity structures

- Remains of the low- Re flow phase at the beginning of every cycle
- Their instability is responsible for the breakdown to turbulence (knee)

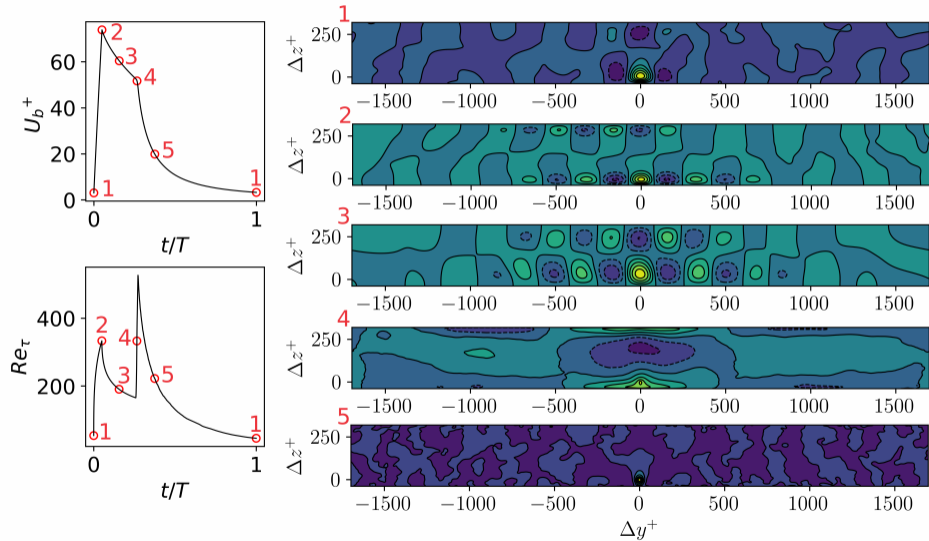
Conclusions

- Unsteady pumping yields significant energy savings (up to 22%, for the parameters considered)
- Large room for improvement, both in terms of searching for the optimal parameters and understanding of the complex flow physics
- Practical applications?

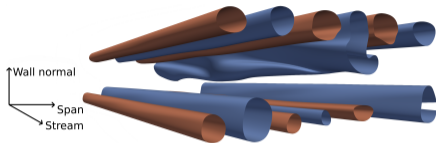
The End

Questions?

Spanwise correlations of the streamwise velocity ($z^+ = 40$)



Two competing transition mechanisms



Oblique waves

- Distort a low speed streak
- May induce an asymmetric transition
- Typically cause an "early" breakdown to turbulence

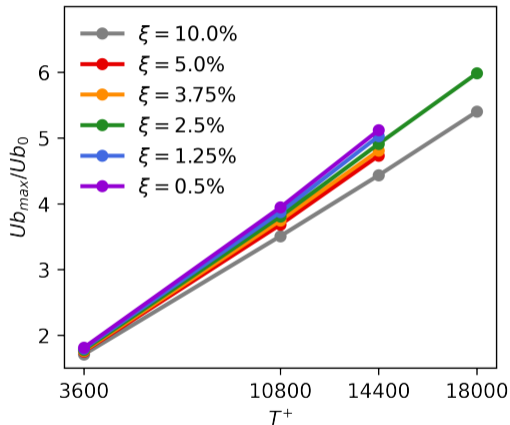
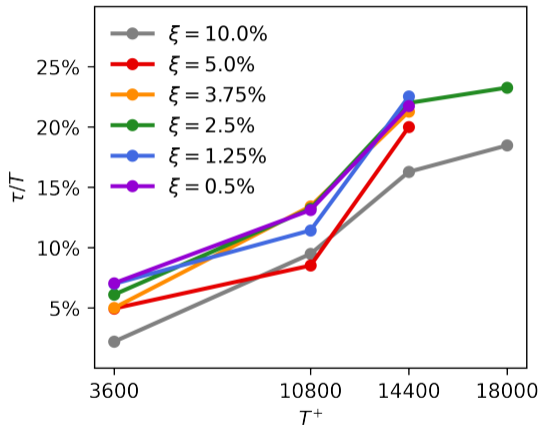


Hairpins

- Last stage of a complex mechanism
- Induce a symmetric transition
- Typically cause a "late" breakdown to turbulence

The Optimal Time Dependent Modes (*Kern et al., 2021*) are a promising approach for further investigations

The longer the period, the better



Parameter study

$\xi \backslash T^+$	3600	10800	14400	18000
0.50%	18	18	18	
1.25%	18	18	35	
2.50%	18	18	35	35
3.75%	18	18	35	
5.00%	18	18	35	
10.0%	18	18	35	35

Table: Number of simulated periods.
Smaller domain in light gray, bigger domain in dark gray.

Grids

Name	$L_x/h, L_y/h, L_z/h$	n_x, n_y, n_z
<i>LowRes</i>	$3\pi, 1.5\pi, 2$	128, 128, 128
<i>db-LowRes</i>	$6\pi, 3\pi, 2$	256, 256, 128
<i>StdRes</i>	$3\pi, 1.5\pi, 2$	256, 256, 160
<i>db-StdRes</i>	$6\pi, 3\pi, 2$	512, 512, 160
<i>HighRes</i>	$3\pi, 1.5\pi, 2$	512, 512, 256
<i>db-HighRes</i>	$6\pi, 3\pi, 2$	1024, 1024, 256
<i>vHighRes</i>	$3\pi, 1.5\pi, 2$	768, 768, 512

Robustness of the velocity streaks

Two codes, one result: streaks!

- Equally observed employing a finite difference or a spectral code
- Visible for all the forcing waveforms considered
- Similar smaller structures are documented (*He & Seddighi, 2013*)
- Their lifetime τ is grid and code independent

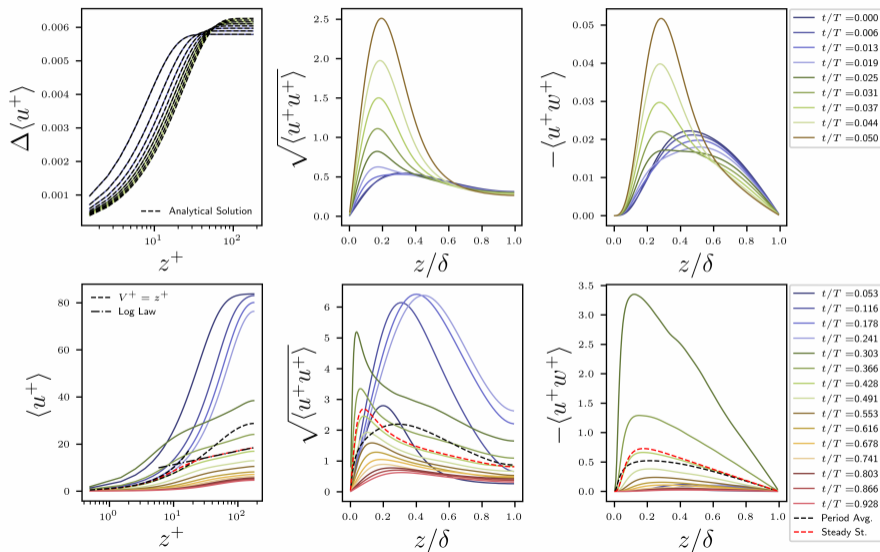
$T^+ = 10800, \xi = 5.0\%$

Setup	τ^+
StdRes	965
HighRes	864
vHighRes	1127

$T^+ = 14400, \xi = 5.0\%$

Setup	τ^+
db-LowRes spectral	2851
db-StdRes	2882
db-HighRes	2911

1D-statistics



Spectra

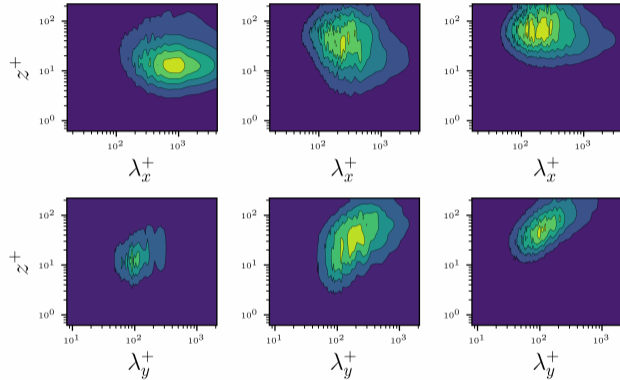
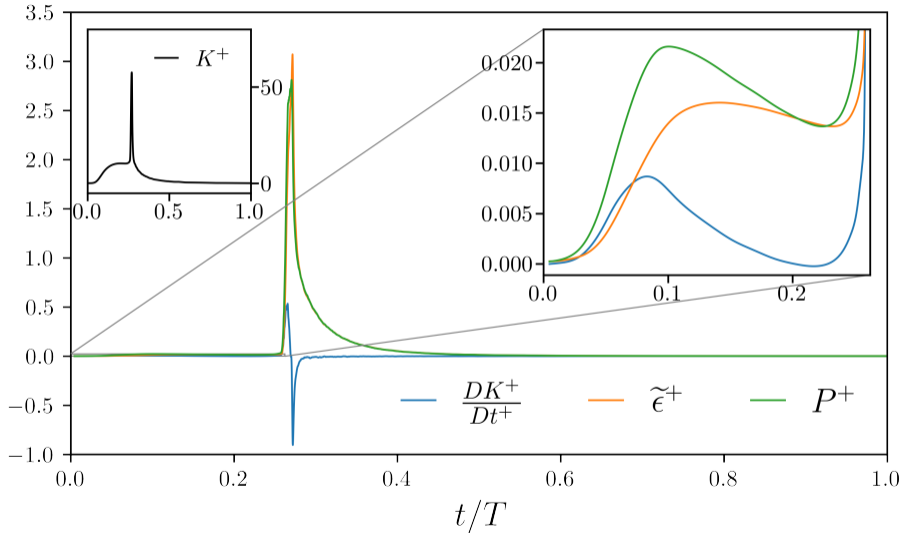


Figure: Pre-multiplied energy spectra in instantaneous wall units corresponding to the 5th correlation plot. The first (second) line refers, respectively, to the stream-wise (span-wise) direction. The stream-wise, span-wise and wall-normal velocity components are varied from left to right.

TKE balance



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