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1956-2021



# Transport & Mixing of Tracers: An Overview

Biased

\* Kinematic Transport

\* Realistic Transport & mixing

Reviews: Aref et al. 2017

Thiffeault 2012

See Bibliography

# Three Pillars of Kinematic Transport

1) The Arena

Ocean, Atmosphere, Tokamak,  
Solar Wind, Accretion Disc, Blood Vessel

$\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  domain of fluid  
 $n = 2, 3$

differentiable manifold of any dim.

Phase space  $T^*\mathcal{Q}$  w/ can. coords  $(q, p)$

Symplectic manifold, Poisson manifold

General manifold w/ boundary

$M$  any manifold w/ coords.  $(z^1, z^2, \dots, z^n) = z$

Types: open vs. closed pipe flow vs. Taylor-Couette

## 2) The Cargo

neutrally buoyant ptle, dye, entrop/mass,  
mass density, vorticity, magnetic flux  
phase space density, ...

Differential Forms:

0-form

1-form

2-form

3-form

⋮

n-form

entropy/mass

magnetic flux in MHD

fluid volume

} Attributes of  
Lagrangian  
fluid elements

Phase space den of Vlasov for  $n=6$

Any Tensor field on  $M$ :

$$\overset{\circ}{T}(z) \rightarrow T(z, t)$$

meaning of transport

### 3) The Transporter

often fluid vel. field in dim 2 or 3

Phase space dynamics, Vlasov

Vector field on  $M$

in coords

$$V^i(z) \quad \text{or} \quad V^i(z, t) \quad i=1, 2, \dots, n \quad \rightarrow \quad i=1, 2, \dots, n+1$$

$$\frac{dz^i}{dt} = V^i(z) \quad \Rightarrow \quad z_t = \phi_t^{\circ} z^{\circ} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad z^i = z^i(z^{\circ}, t)$$

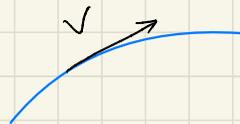
Flow

$$\phi_t \circ \phi_{-t} = \text{Id} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \phi_{-t} \circ \phi_t^{\circ} z^{\circ} = \phi_{-t} z_t^{\circ} = z^{\circ}$$

Integral curves  
w/  $V$  tangent

1-parameter  
Abelian group

$\Rightarrow$  transport w/o  
mixing



Some vector fields:

2D incompressible Euler

$$v = \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right)$$

NC Hamiltonian vector field

Poisson bracket  $\{, \}$

$$V^i = J^{ij} \frac{\partial H}{\partial z^j} = \{z^i, H\}$$

$\{, \} : C^\infty(M) \times C^\infty(M) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$ , bilinear, antisym.

& Jacobi identity,  $\{f, \{g, h\}\} + \{g, \{h, f\}\} + \{h, \{f, g\}\} \equiv 0$

Canonical Hamiltonian vector field

$$J_c = \begin{bmatrix} 0_m & I_m \\ -I_m & 0_m \end{bmatrix}$$

e.g. 2D Euler

# Kinematic Transport is Lie Dragging!

Arena any manifold,  $M$

Cargo any tensor field,  $T$

Transporter any vector field,  $V$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathcal{L}_V T = 0$$

Basic Equation

$\mathcal{L}_V$  is the Lie derivative along  $V \in \mathcal{X}(M)$  Yano 1957 etc.

Why Lie Dragging?

Example 1  $\rho$  a 3-form on 3D  
domain of fluid,  $\mathcal{D}$ .

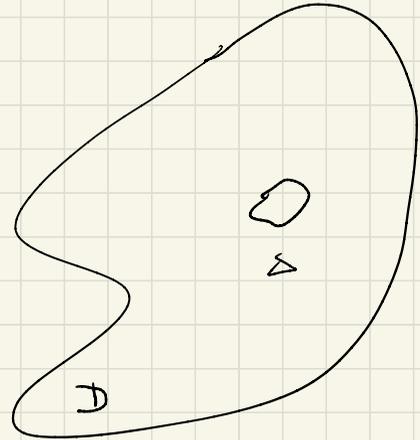
Consider arbitrary  $\Delta \subset \mathcal{D}$ , a subvolume

$$M_{\Delta}(t) = \int_{\Delta(t)} \rho(x,t) d^3x \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{mass of fluid} \\ \text{in } \Delta \end{array}$$

Assume  $\Delta$  moves w/ fluid velocity  $\xi$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \mathcal{L}_{\xi} \rho = 0 \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{dM_{\Delta}}{dt} = 0$$



## Example 2 Kinematic Dynamo

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} &= -\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) = -\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{B} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \\ &= -\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{B}\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{B}$  is a vector density

$\Leftrightarrow$  2-form

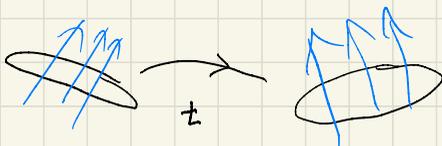
$\mathbb{D}$  3 dim domain

$S$  arbitrary 2dim surface

$\mathbf{B} \cdot d^2x$  mag. flux through  
infinitesimal area

Alfven's Frozen-in Flux

$$\frac{d\Phi_S(t)}{dt} = \int_S \mathbf{B} \cdot d^2x = 0$$



### Example 3

Liouville's Equation on  $6n$  dim Phase space

$$z_\alpha = (q_\alpha, p_\alpha) \text{ for ptle } \alpha$$

Phase space prob. density for  $\alpha = 1, 2, \dots, n$  interacting ptles

$$F(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n)$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + \mathcal{L}_V F = 0$$

$V$  is a Ham. vector field

$$V \cdot = \{ \cdot, h \}$$

$$h = \sum_\alpha \frac{|p_\alpha|^2}{2m_\alpha} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha, \beta} \phi_{\alpha\beta}(z_\alpha, z_\beta)$$

↙ 2-Body interaction

# Self-Consistent Transport — Hamiltonian Mean Field Theories

$$H = \int h_1(z) f(z, t) d^m z + \frac{1}{2} \iint h_2(z, z') f(z, t) f(z', t) d^m z d^m z' + \dots$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \left\{ f, \frac{\delta H}{\delta f} \right\} = 0, \quad \frac{\delta H}{\delta f} = h_1 + \int h_2 f dz'$$

variational derivative

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \int \mathcal{L}_{\delta H} f = 0$$

Depends on  $f$  globally

Lie dragging by a  
Ham. vector field depending  
on  $f$ !

Tennyson et al. 1994

PJM 2003

Why Lie dragging?

Assures important physical quantity  
conserved along integral curves.



Kinematic Transport meets Dynamical Systems Theory

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Yet  $\dot{z} = V(z)$  —

$$\dot{z} = \phi_{-t}^{\circ} \phi_t^{\circ} \dot{z} = \phi_{-t} z_t$$

⇒ — mixed

# Dynamical Systems Theory - Phase Space Structures

\* Periodic Orbits

stable (elliptic), unstable (hyperbolic)

\* Quasiperiodic Orbits

e.g. attracting  $\mathbb{T}^2$

\* Invariant sets

Barriers to transport; exact or sticky regions

Cantor sets - strange attractors

\* Regions of chaos, ergodicity, invariant measures

## Tools - Fast Indicators

Lyapunov Exponent: calculation technique Benettin et al. 1980  
experimental technique Wolf et al. 1985  
FTLE Froeschle et al. 1997

FTLE as indicator of transport Haller 2000 →

others (celestial mech.): Lichten et al. 2007

Small alignment index (SALI) Skokos et al. 2007

General alignment index (GALI)

mean exp. growth of nearby orbits (MEGNO) Cinotta 2000

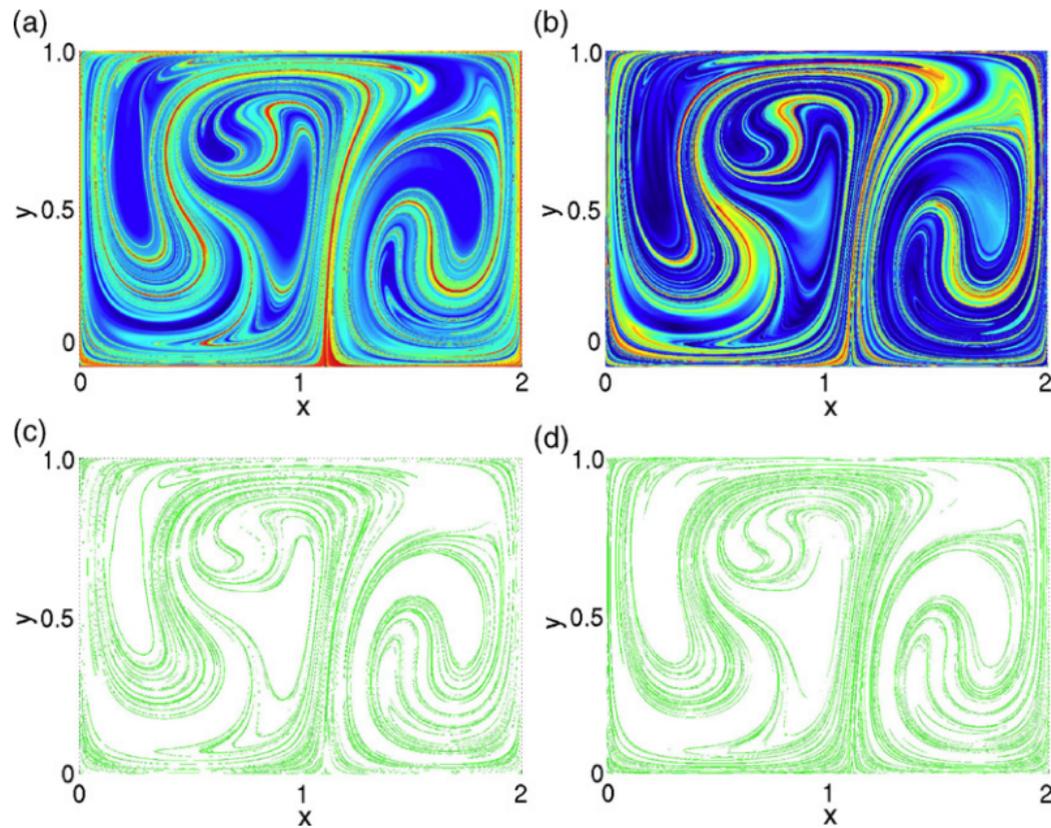
Frequency Methods: Laskar et al. 1992

Finite Time Rotation Number: Szezech et al. 2013; Sander et al.

FTRN "dual" to FTLE - integrability vs. chaos

"Duality"

$$\Psi = A \sin[\pi f(x,t)] \\ \times \sin(\pi y)$$



FTRN  
exists where  
FTLE doesn't!

**Fig. 1.** (Color online.) (a) Time-4T Lyapunov exponent and (b) time-4T rotation number for the double gyre system, with period  $T = 10$ , amplitude  $A = 0.1$  and forcing strength  $\epsilon = 0.25$ . (c) and (d) depict the Lagrangian coherent structures corresponding to ridges of (a) and (b), respectively.

# Modelling w/ Symplectic Maps

Example: Standard Map - generic near elliptic periodic orbit

Charged pte. in E-field  $m\ddot{x} = eE(x,t)$

$$E = E_1 e^{ik_1 x - i\omega_1 t} + E_2 e^{ik_2 x - i\omega_2 t} + \dots$$

$$E_1 = E_2 = \dots \quad \text{scaling} \Rightarrow H = \frac{p^2}{2} + C \sin q \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} S(t - \pi n)$$

Standard Map:

$$q_{n+1} = q_n + p_{n+1}; \quad p_{n+1} = p_n - \frac{k}{2\pi} \sin(2\pi q_n)$$

Invariant Circles are exact barriers to transport

KAM limit, Poincaré-Birkhoff Thm, Island Overlap, Greene's Method, Renormalization & scaling.

del-Castillo-Negrete et al. 1992 Nontwist

Pumped rotating annulus on  $\beta$ -plane

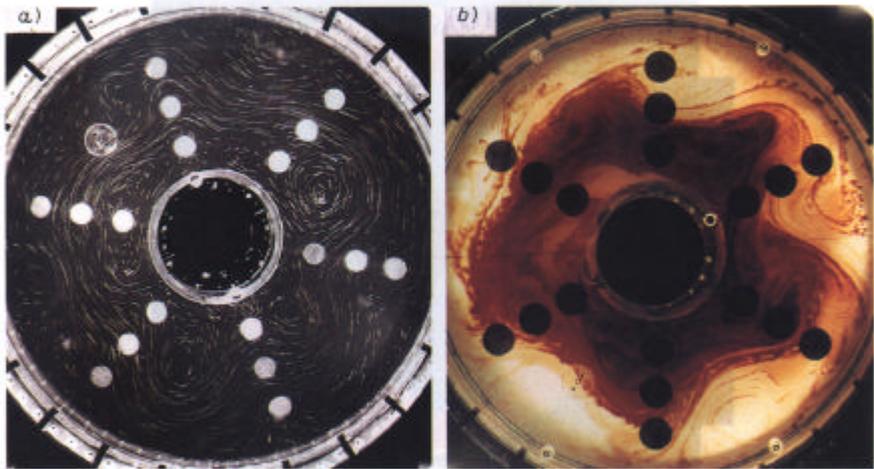


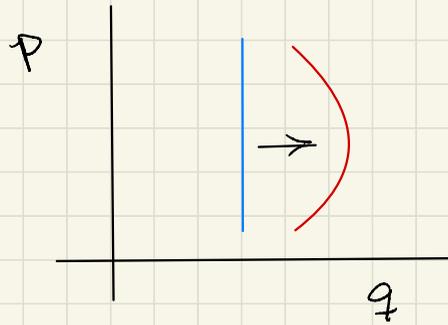
Fig. 11. - *a*) Streak photograph of an eastward jet generated in a slowly decelerating tank by pumping *only* through the middle ring of ports, which alternate as sources and sinks (acceleration rate =  $0.013 \text{ rad/s}^2$ ,  $F = 137 \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$ ,  $\Omega = 25.1 \text{ rad/s}$ , exposure time =  $1/4 \text{ s}$ ). *b*) An eastward jet generated by pumping through three consecutive radial pairs of sources (at  $r = 35.1 \text{ cm}$ ) and sinks (at  $r = 27.0 \text{ cm}$ ) ( $\Omega = 12.6 \text{ rad/s}$ ,  $F = 200 \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$ ). Here the dye is injected on the inner side of the jet, filling the region of quasi-uniform  $q$ ; there is only weak mixing across the center of the jet.

Zonal Flow  $\Rightarrow$  Nontwist  $\Leftrightarrow \exists$  shearless Torus

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del-Castillo-Negrete & PJM 1992, 1993

Moser twist condition - further up  $\Rightarrow$  further over



Behavior not captured by the  
Standard Map!

Standard Nontwist Map

$$q_{m+1} = q_m + a(1 - p_m^2); \quad p_{m+1} = p_m - b \sin q_m$$

Precursors:

J. Howard

J. Weiss

Large literature

Apte, Wurm, Fuchs

... Viana 2021

Javier Beron-Vera

today!

generic behavior of shearless tori

\* nonstandard bifurcations

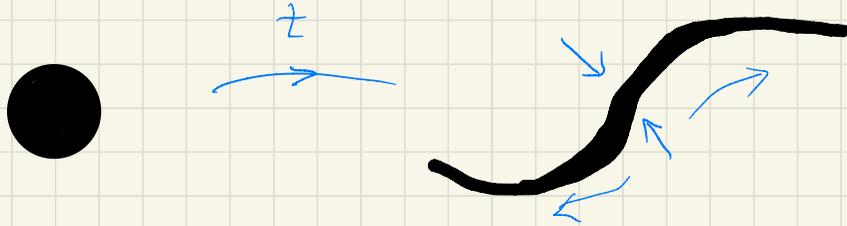
\* nonstandard renormalization

\* Broken Shearless Tori are sticky!

# Realistic Particle Transport and Mixing

$$\overset{\circ}{z} = \phi_{-t} \circ \phi_t = \overset{\circ}{z} \quad \text{Broken! How?}$$

If  $\exists$  stretching & contracting directions  $\Rightarrow$



Generation of fine scales

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + U \cdot \nabla S = N \nabla^2 S$$

Someone's #

Gets activated on fine scales

$\Rightarrow$  mixing

$\exists$  measures of mixing

J-L Thiffeault

## Other Possibilities

\* Collisional Kinetic theory

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \left\{ \frac{\mathcal{H}}{\partial t}, f \right\} = \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \right|_c$$

Boltzmann  
Landau  
:

\* Damping & Driving

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + v \cdot \nabla S = D + \int (S, x, t)$$

↑  
Source

## Intentional vs. "Natural"

Natural: midlatitude ozone → ozone hole, impurities in tokamak,  
...

Intentional: diagnostic dye, Barium, neutrally buoyant pttes (PIV)  
...

# Particle Entrainment

Weeks 1997

Partic. (PIV, Pollutant, mid latitude ozone, ...) in vel. field.

moves w/ fluid:  $U_p = U_f$  ? Approx.

Sphere:  
radius,  $a$

$$m_f = \frac{4}{3} \pi a^3 \rho$$

$$m \frac{dU_p}{dt} = 6\pi a \rho \nu (U_f - U_p)$$

Stokes drag Simha et al. 2018  
boundaries etc.

$$+ m_f \frac{dU_f}{dt}$$

Pressure, viscous stresses

$$+ \frac{1}{2} m_f \left( \frac{dU_f}{dt} - \frac{dU_p}{dt} \right)$$

added mass

$$+ 6a^2 \rho \sqrt{\pi \nu} \int_0^t \frac{d/d\tau (U_f - U_p)}{\sqrt{t-\tau}} d\tau$$

Basset history

$$+ (m - m_f) F$$

buoyancy, centripetal

That's All Folks!

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Reviews with real mixing: [1–5]

Some Hamiltonian background: [3]

Lie derivatives: [4, 5]

Hamiltonian mean field theories: [6, 7]

Lyapunov exponents and fast indicators:

Famous papers on Lyapunov exponents: calculation [8] experiment [9]

Finite-time Lyapunov exponents (FTLE): [10]

Lagrangian Coherent Structures:

Based on FTLE: [11–14] and many newer papers by Haller

Based on Fast Indicators from celestial mechanics:

Small Alignment Index (SALI) and Generalized Alignment Index (GALI) [15]

Mean Exponential Growth of Nearby Orbits (MEGNO) [16]

Frequency Methods: [17]

Finite time rotation number (FTRN): [18, 19]

Swinney’s Rotation Annulus: [20]

Zonal Flows have Shearless Tori/Standard Nontwist Map: [21–24]

Some later work on Shearless Tori/Standard Nontwist Map: [18, 19, 25–30]

Earlier nontwist maps: [31, 32]

Maxey – Riley equation discussion: [33]

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Supported by U.S. Dept. of Energy Contract # DE-FG05-80ET-53088.