Vortex Roll Breakup in Turbulent Shear Flow

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Motivation



More "complex" than "textbook" thin shear layers:
1. Extra body forces (buoyancy, rotation, ...) → vortex rolls
2. Extra rates of strain (streamline curvature) → breakup

Effects of Transverse Strain: 3D Boundary Layers

- ▶ Mean flow speed and direction change with wall distance
- Turbulence "less efficient" at extracting energy from mean



- Tends to reduce momentum and heat transfer rates
- Vortex generators used to prevent flow separation/stall

Effects of Vertical Forcing: Vortex Rolls

- Streamwise-aligned vortices ventilate near-wall turbulence
- Large, organized vortex rolls embedded in a turbulent flow



- Tends to enhance mixing and heat transfer rates
- May increase vibration, heat load, and fatigue

Rayleigh-Bénard Convection (No Shear)





Temperature contours along midplane

Rayleigh-Bénard Convection With Shear





Temperature contours along midplane

Vortex Roll Breakup in 3D TBLs

- 1. 3D TBLs tend to reduce mixing and heat transfer
- 2. Vortex rolls tend to enhance mixing and heat transfer

What if transverse strain and wall-normal body forces act together?



Example 3D TBLs with Vortex Rolls



Vortex rolls over the Caspian Sea (NASA, 2008)

Example 3D TBLs with Vortex Rolls



Vortex rolls over the Caspian Sea (NASA, 2008)

Example 3D TBLs with Vortex Rolls



Vortex rolls over the Caspian Sea (NASA, 2008)

Spanwise Spectra of Vortex Rolls (Centerline)



Vertical Transport and Mixing

Heat transfer, mixing suppressed in non-equilibrium flow



Vertical Transport and Mixing

Mean temp. and heat flux correlations readjust

































- 1. 3D TBLs tend to reduce mixing and heat transfer
- 2. Vortex rolls tend to enhance mixing and heat transfer

What if transverse strain and wall-normal body forces act together?

Impulsively applied transverse pressure gradients shown to breakup vortex rolls temporarily reducing vertical transport of momentum and heat flux from equilibrium values.