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Slide of the Seminar

Clustering of particles falling in a random flow

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Clustering of particles falling in a random flow

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Water droplets in turbulent rain clouds

Forces on small droplet

Gravity (Newton's second law):

$$\mathbf{F}_G = m \mathbf{g} = \frac{4\pi\rho_p}{3} a^3 \mathbf{g}$$

ρ_p density of water droplet

g gravitational acceleration

a particle size

Friction (Stokes' law):

$$\mathbf{F}_S = \mu (\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r},t) - \mathbf{v})$$

where

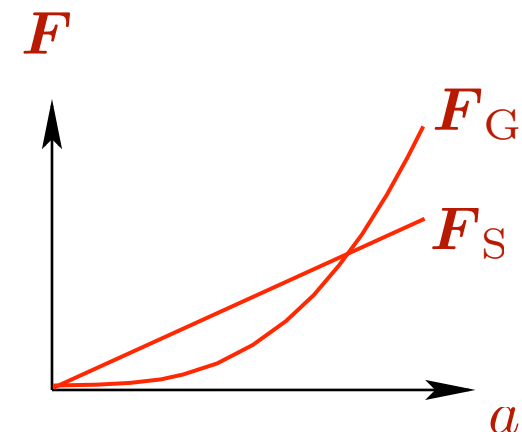
$$\mu = 6\pi\rho_p\nu a \quad (= m\gamma)$$

ν viscosity

$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r},t)$ velocity of turbulent air in cloud

\mathbf{r} droplet position

\mathbf{v} droplet velocity



Model

Spherical droplets move independently

Particle equation of motion

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{v}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{v}} = \gamma(\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{g}$$

γ damping rate (depends on droplet size and mass)

\mathbf{r} particle position

\mathbf{v} particle velocity

\mathbf{g} gravitational acceleration (or a mean flow)

$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ stationary incompressible random velocity field
no preferred direction or position in either space or time
single scale flow with typical length scale η , time scale τ and speed u_0

$$\langle u(\mathbf{x}_1, t) \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle u(\mathbf{x}_1, t_1) u(\mathbf{x}_2, t_2) \rangle \sim u_0^2 e^{-|t_1 - t_2|/\tau - (\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2)^2 / (2\eta^2)}$$

Question: How do particles cluster within this model?

Model parameters

u_0 flow speed
 η correlation length of flow
 γ damping rate
 τ correlation time of flow
 g gravitational acceleration



Dimensionless parameters:

Kubo number $Ku = u_0\tau/\eta$
 Stokes number $St = 1/(\gamma\tau)$
 Dimensionless gravity $F = g\tau/u_0$

In rain cloud turbulence:

$$Ku \sim 1$$

$$F \sim 1$$

$$St \sim 10^9 a^2$$

(a particle size in meter)

R. Shaw, Annu. Rev. Fluid Mech **35** (2003)

Small droplet

$$a = 1 \mu\text{m}$$

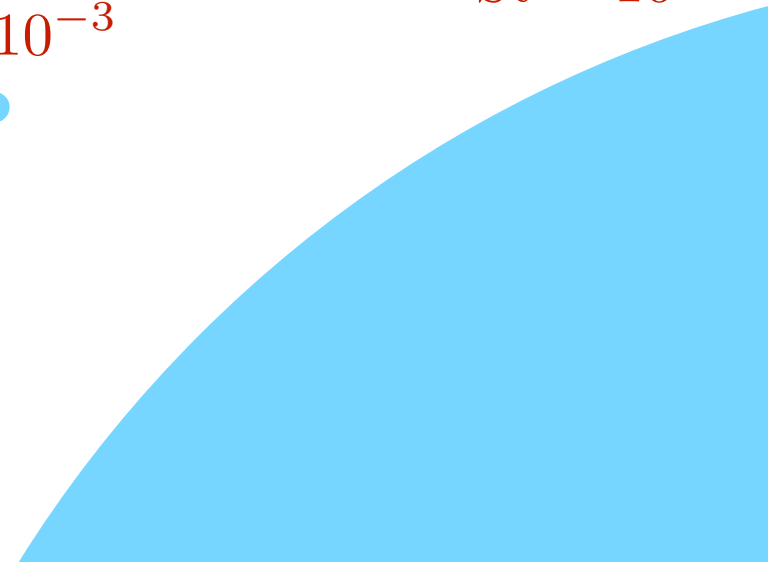
$$St \sim 10^{-3}$$



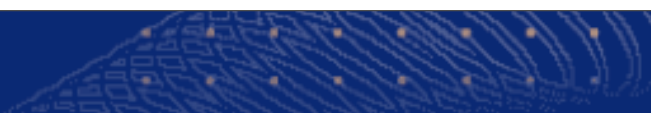
Large droplet

$$a = 100 \mu\text{m}$$

$$St \sim 10$$

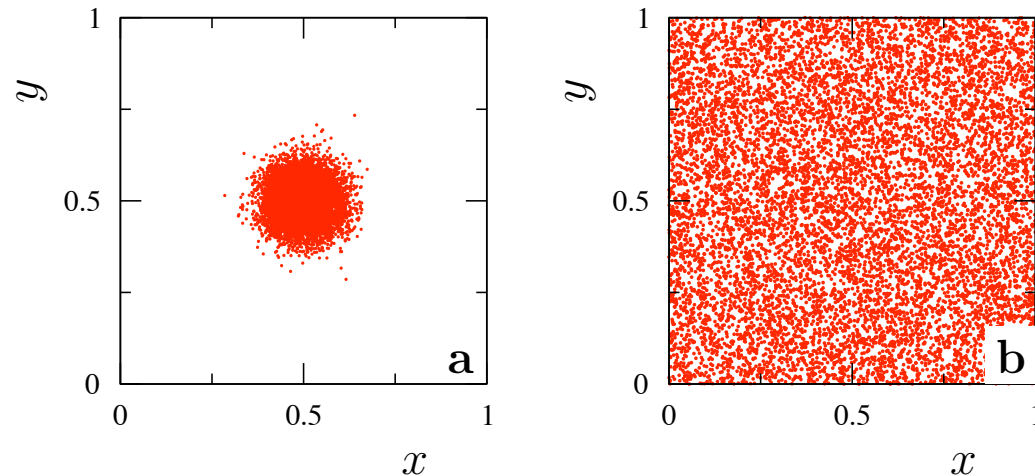






Mixing by random stirring

Computer simulation of 10^4 particles (red) in two-dimensional random flow (periodic boundary conditions in space)



a initial distribution, **b** particle positions after random stirring.

'Unmixing' of slightly inertial particles

Non-interacting, non-colliding particles (red) suspended in a random flow

Particle equation of motion

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{v}} = \frac{1}{St} (\boldsymbol{u}(\boldsymbol{r}, t) - \boldsymbol{v})$$

$$St = 0.1$$

$$Ku = 1$$

$$F = 0$$



Region of high vorticity



Particle density

'Unmixing' of slightly inertial particles

Non-interacting, non-colliding particles (red) suspended in a random flow

Particle equation of motion

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{v}} = \frac{1}{St} (\boldsymbol{u}(\boldsymbol{r}, t) - \boldsymbol{v})$$

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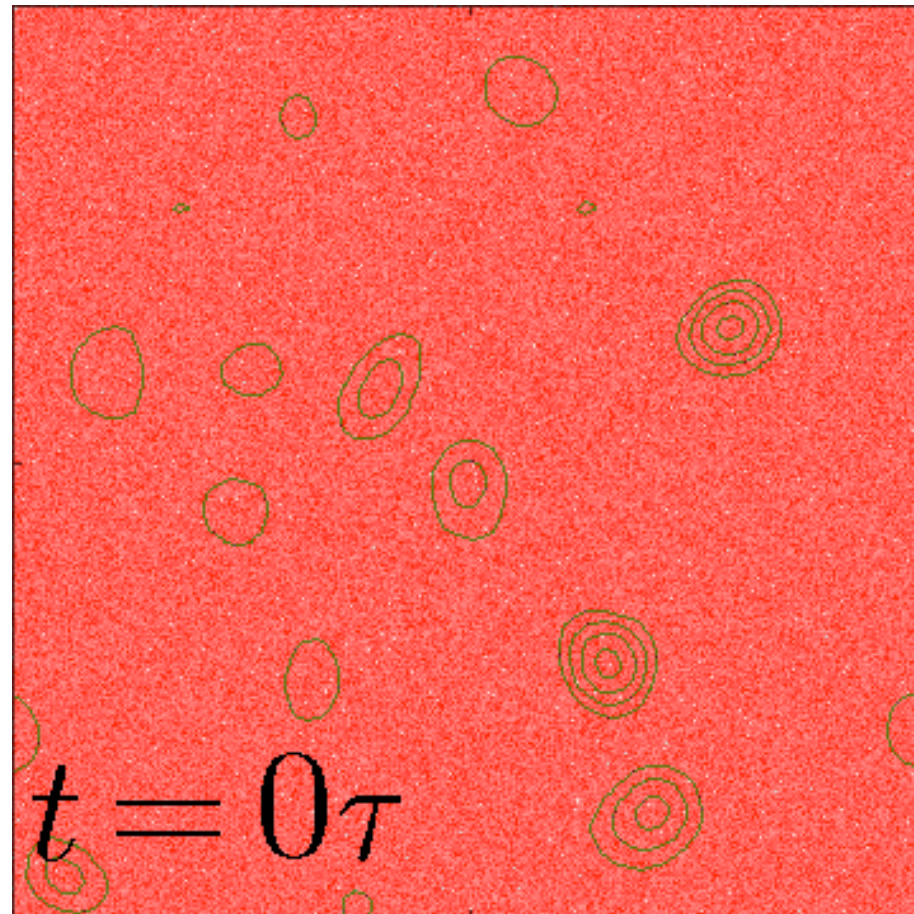
$$F = 0$$



Region of high vorticity



Particle density



Maxey centrifuge effect Maxey, J. Fluid Mech. **174**, 441, (1987)

Preferential concentration

Maxey, J. Fluid Mech. **174**, 441, (1987)

Droplets are centrifuged away from vortices.

For slightly inertial particles ($St \approx 0$)

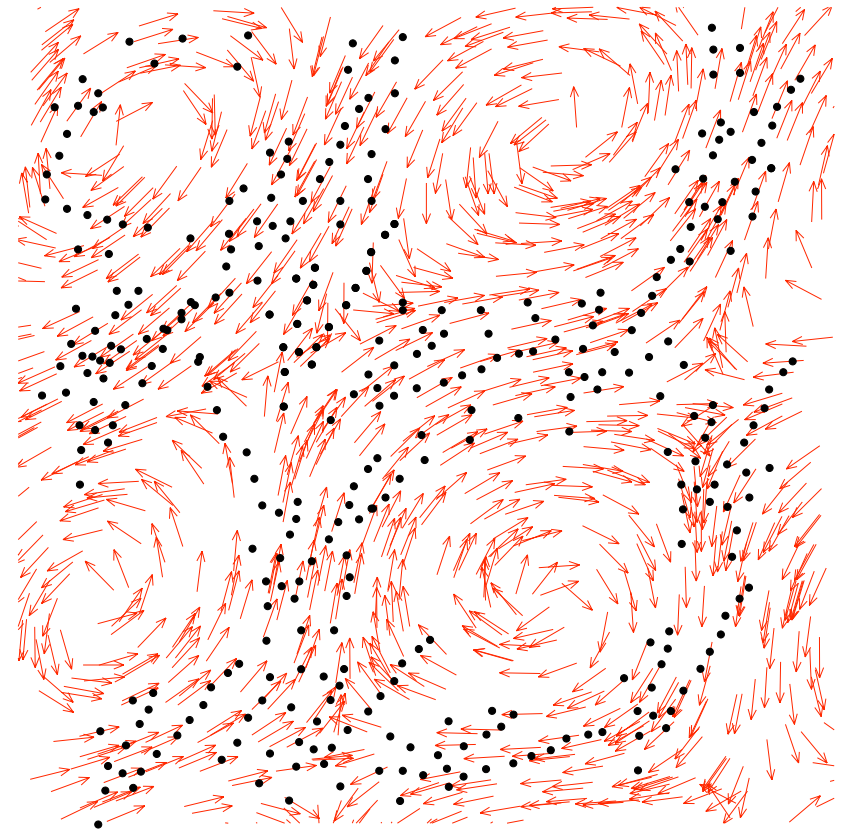
$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{u} - St \left[\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + Ku(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \right]$$

Particles follows effective velocity field \mathbf{v} , which is compressible

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} &= -Ku St \operatorname{Tr} \left[\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right)^2 \right] \\ &= -Ku St [\operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{S}) - \operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{R}^T \mathbf{R})] \end{aligned}$$

\mathbf{S} Strain-rate, \mathbf{R} Rotational part

Clustering because $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} < 0$ for typical trajectories.



Particles avoid regions of high vorticity and gather in regions of high strain.

'Unmixing' of very inertial particles

Non-interacting, non-colliding particles (red) suspended in a random flow

Particle equation of motion

$$\dot{\mathbf{v}} = \frac{1}{St} (\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mathbf{v})$$

$$St = 10$$

$$Ku = 0.1$$

$$F = 0$$



Region of high vorticity



Particle density

'Unmixing' of very inertial particles

Non-interacting, non-colliding particles (red) suspended in a random flow

Particle equation of motion

$$\dot{\mathbf{v}} = \frac{1}{St} (\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mathbf{v})$$

$$St = 10$$

$$Ku = 0.1$$

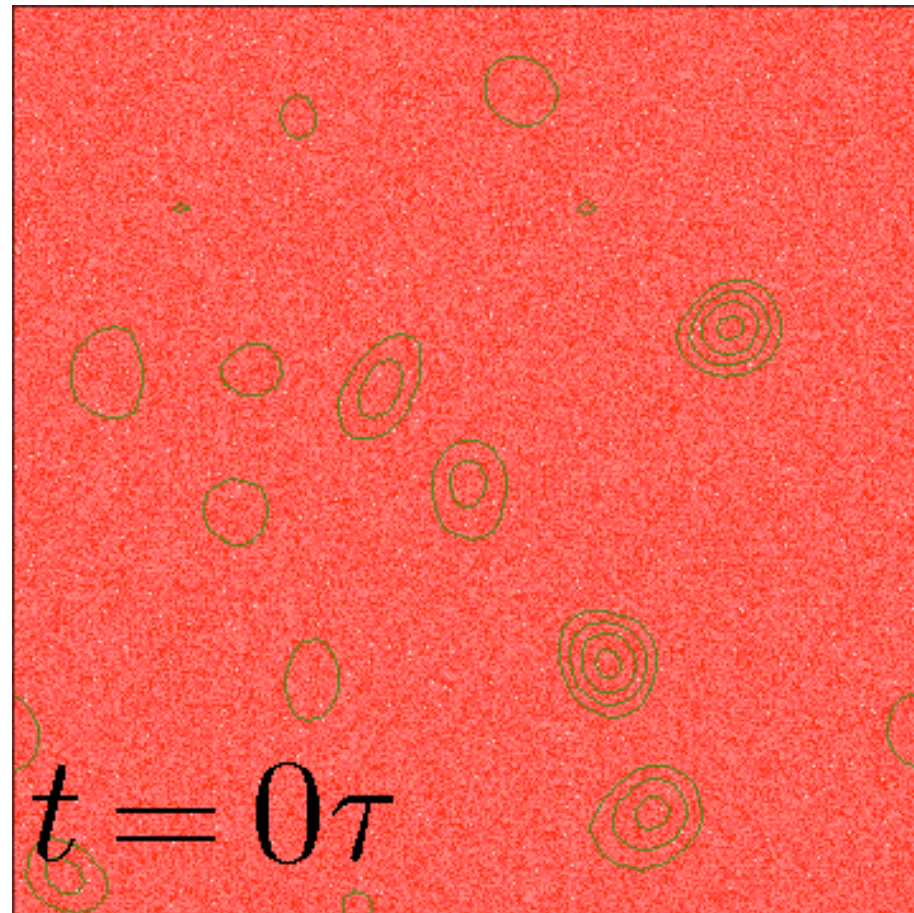
$$F = 0$$



Region of high vorticity



Particle density



Multiplicative amplification

The motion of heavy particles ($St \gg 1$) is independent of the instantaneous value of the force if Ku is small enough ($Ku \ll \sqrt{St}$).

Replace the position dependent \mathbf{u} by ‘random kicks’:

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}_t, t) \rightarrow \mathbf{u}(t)$$

Langevin/Fokker-Planck treatment possible.

Dynamics described by single parameter: $\epsilon^2 \sim Ku^2 St$

Clustering results as the net effect of many small deformations of particle velocity volumes, uncorrelated from any instantaneous structures in the flow.

Mehlig & Wilkinson, Phys. Rev. Lett. **92** (2004) 250602

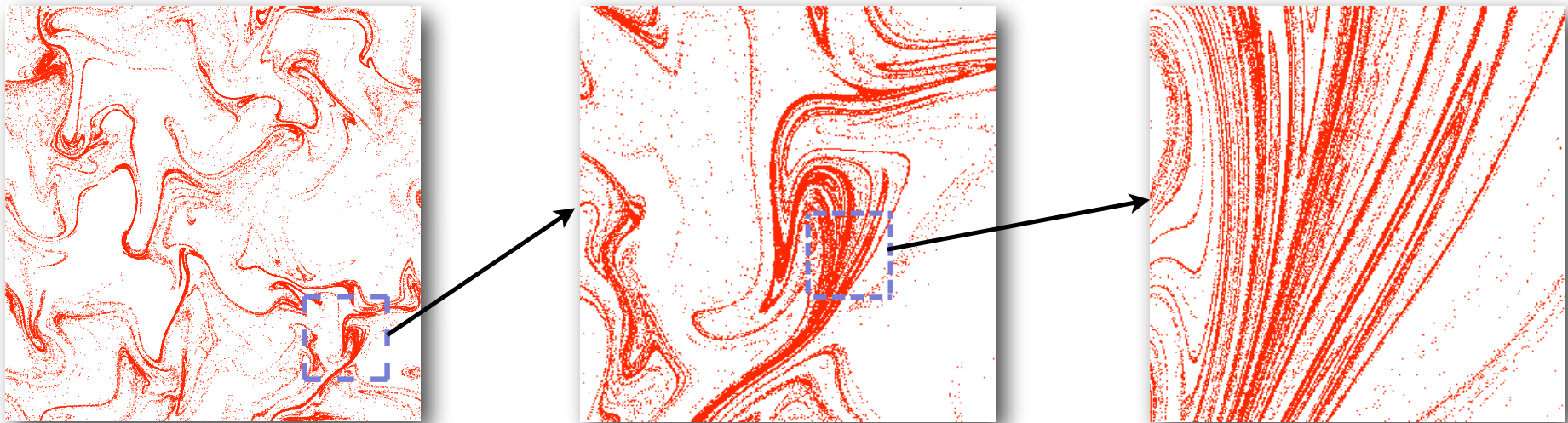
Duncan et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **95** (2005)

Wilkinson et al., Phys. Fluids **19** (2007) 113303

Fractal clustering

Particles cluster on self-similar structures, so called 'fractals'

Sommerer & Ott, Science **259** , 334, (1993)



Fractal dimension somewhere between one and two

Quantification of clustering ($d = 2$)

Lyapunov exponents $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2$ describe rate of contraction or expansion of small length element δr_t , and area element $\delta \mathcal{A}_t$ of particle flow

$$\lambda_1 = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} \ln(\delta r_t)$$

$$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} \ln(\delta \mathcal{A}_t)$$

J. Sommerer & E. Ott, Science 259 (1993) 351

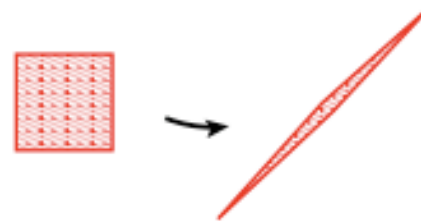
When $St > 0$ and not too large, the dynamics is:

- chaotic (positive maximal Lyapunov exponent)

$$\lambda_1 > 0$$

- compressible (sum of two maximal Lyapunov exponents negative)

$$\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 < 0$$

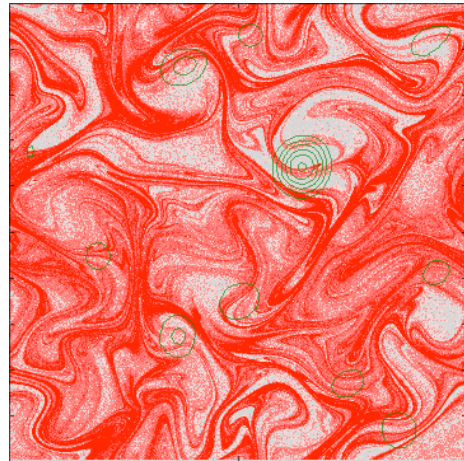


Fractal dimension $d_L \equiv 2 - \frac{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}{\lambda_2}$

Kaplan & Yorke, Springer Lecture Notes in Mathematics **730**, 204, (1979)

Clustering without gravity

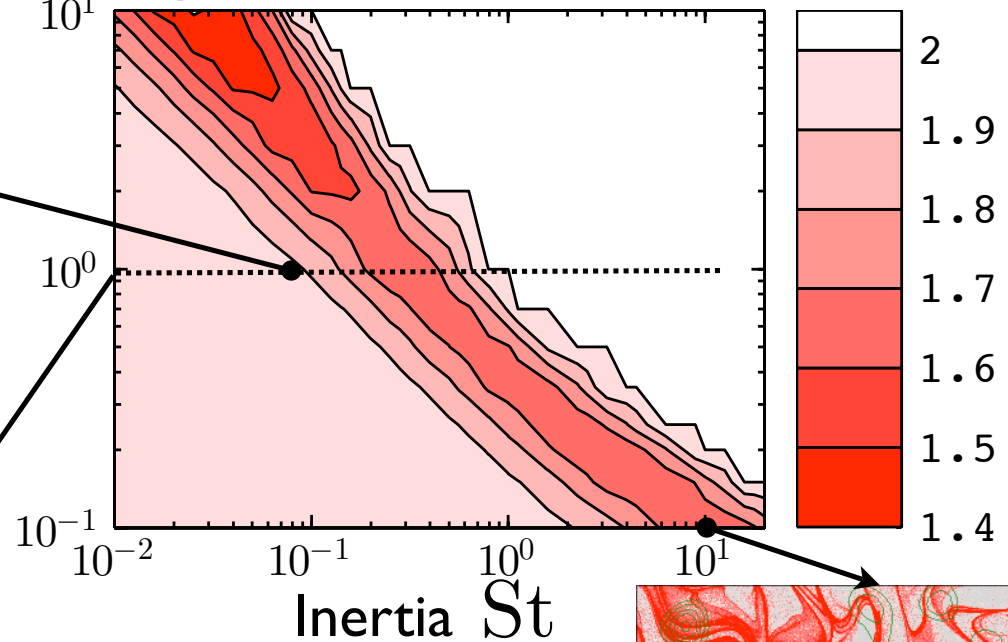
$$d_L \equiv 2 - \frac{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}{\lambda_2}$$



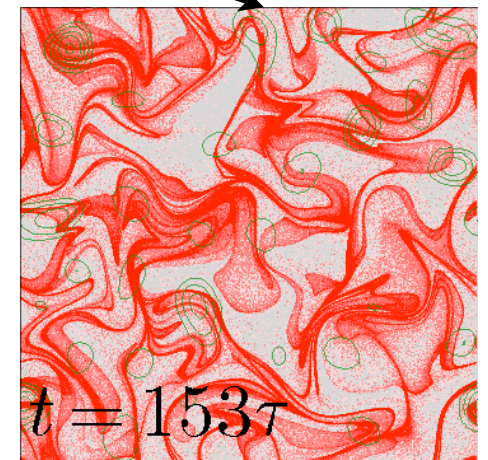
Maxey centrifuge effect

Flow intensity Ku

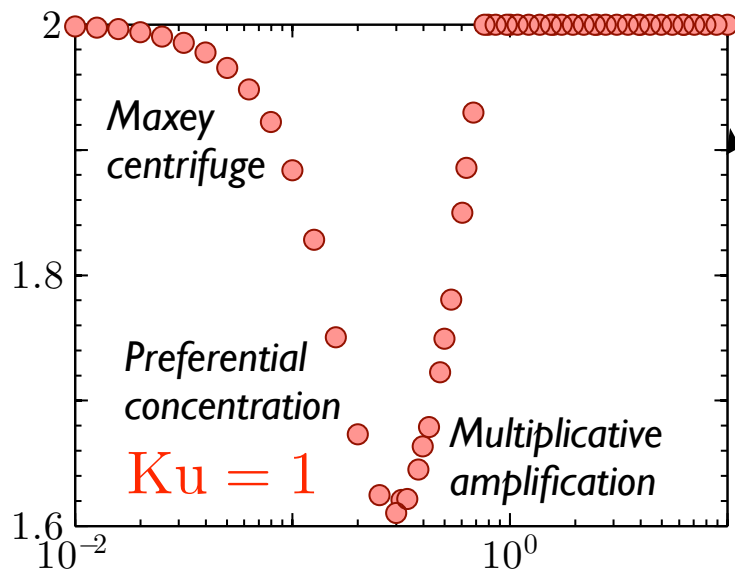
Fractal dimension d_L



Inertia St



$t = 153\tau$
Multiplicative amplification



Deterministic dynamics with gravity

Dynamics in the absence of u

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{v}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{v}} = \gamma(\cancel{\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}, t)} - \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{g}$$

Deterministic solution

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_0 + \mathbf{v}_s t + \gamma^{-1}(\mathbf{v}_0 - \mathbf{v}_s)(1 - e^{-\gamma t})$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_s + (\mathbf{v}_0 - \mathbf{v}_s)e^{-\gamma t}$$

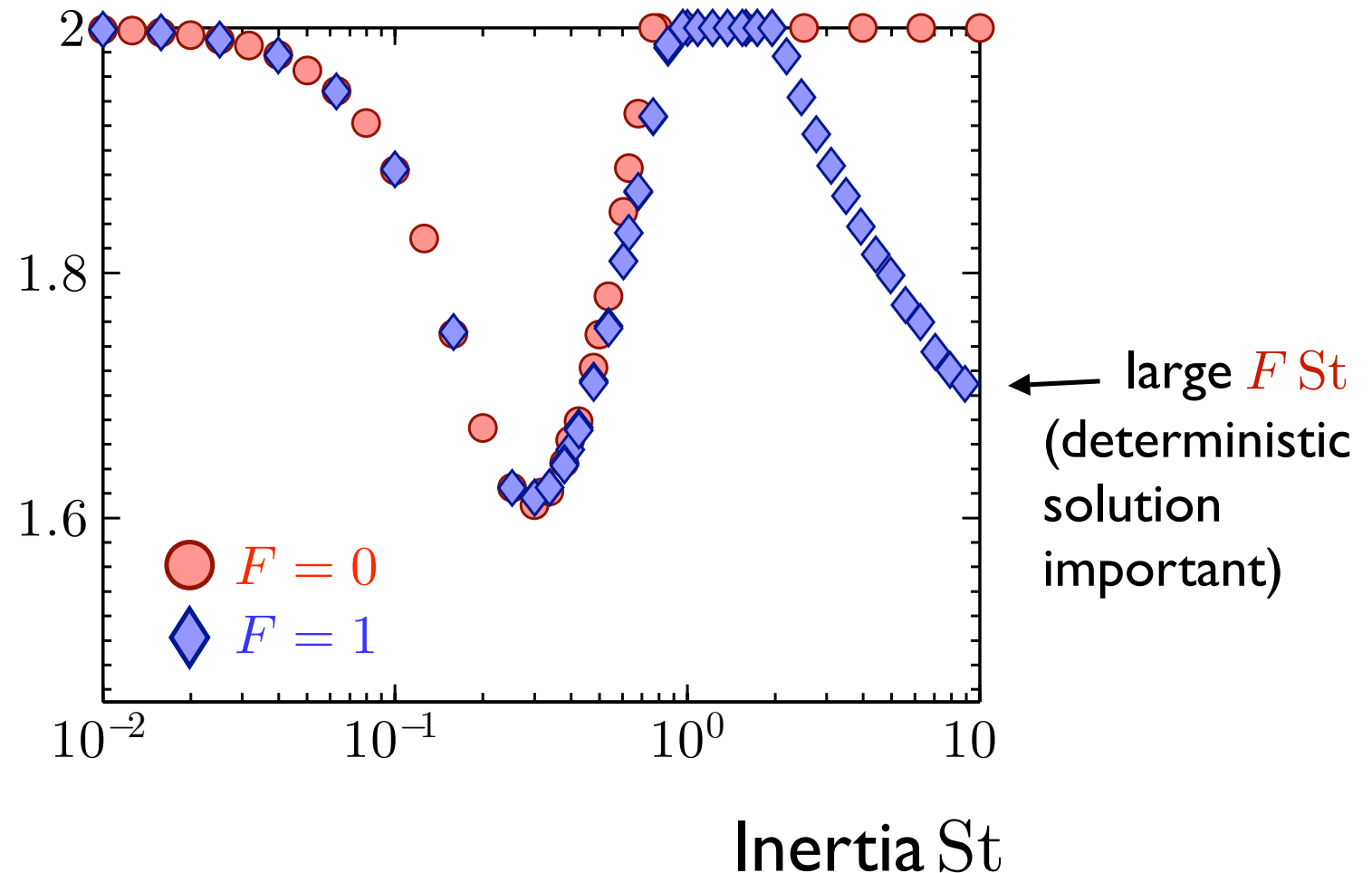
Particles reach a terminal 'settling velocity' $\mathbf{v}_s \equiv \mathbf{g}/\gamma$

The deterministic solution is important if $v_s \gg u_0$ ($FSt \gg 1$)

Relative motion between two particles is only affected by gravity through the \mathbf{r} -dependence in $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}, t)$. Gravity is expected to alter correlations between flow and particle trajectories.

Clustering with gravity ($Ku = 1$)

Fractal dimension d_L



'Unmixing' of falling inertial particles

Non-interacting, non-colliding particles (red) suspended in a random flow

$$St = 10$$

$$Ku = 1$$

$$F = 1$$

Frame moving with
velocity v_s



Particle density

Large- St gravitational clustering

'Unmixing' of falling inertial particles

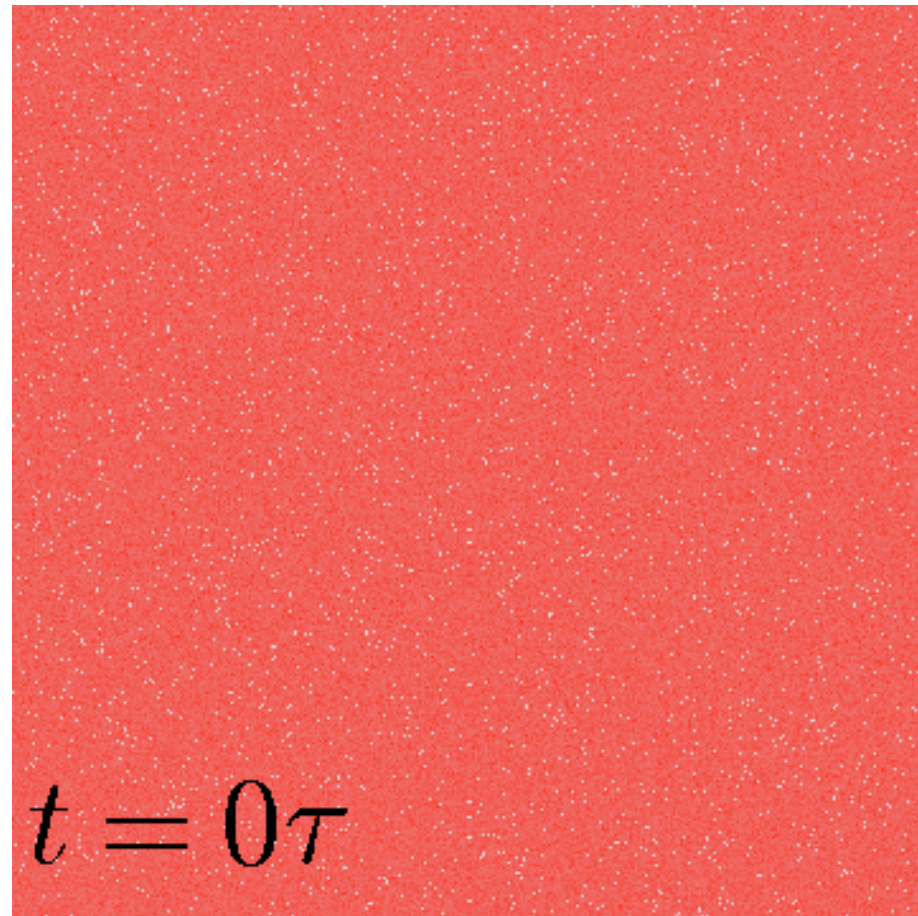
Non-interacting, non-colliding particles (red) suspended in a random flow

$$St = 10$$

$$Ku = 1$$

$$F = 1$$

Frame moving with
velocity v_s



Particle density

$$t = 0\tau$$

Large- St gravitational clustering

Large- St dynamics

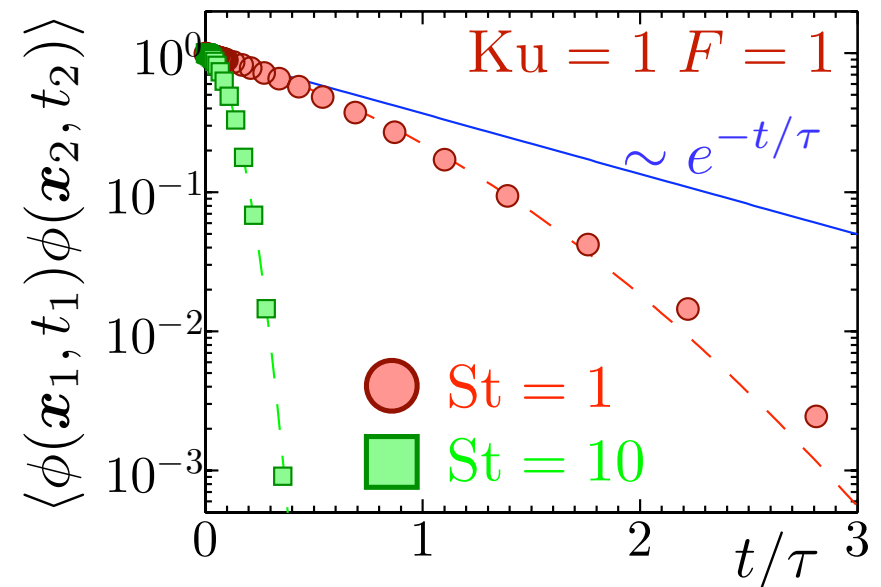
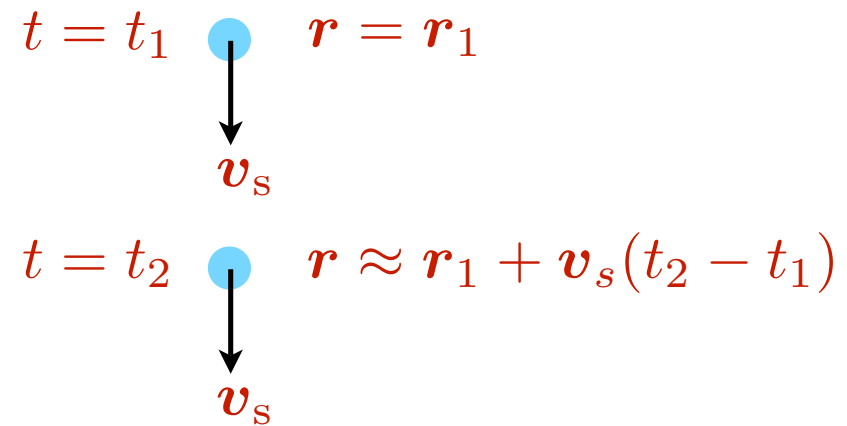
Deterministic solution $\mathbf{r} \approx \mathbf{r}_0 + \mathbf{v}_s t$ with settling velocity $\mathbf{v}_s = \mathbf{g}/\gamma$

Spatial decorrelation becomes faster than time decorrelation.

Single-particle correlation function at two different times

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u(\mathbf{x}_1, t_1) u(\mathbf{x}_2, t_2) \rangle & \\ & \sim u_0^2 e^{-|t_1 - t_2|/\tau - (\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2)^2 / (2\eta^2)} \\ & \sim u_0^2 e^{-|t_1 - t_2|/\tau - v_s^2 (t_1 - t_2)^2 / (2\eta^2)} \end{aligned}$$

When $G \equiv v_s \tau / \eta = Ku St F$ is large the effective correlation time approaches white noise.



Langevin model

Langevin equation for separations $\mathbf{R}' = (\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_2)/\eta$ and relative velocities $\mathbf{V}' = (\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2)/(\gamma\eta)$ ($t' = \gamma t$)

$$\delta\mathbf{R}' = \mathbf{V}' \delta t', \quad \delta\mathbf{V}' = -\mathbf{V}' \delta t' + \delta\mathbf{F}.$$

Increments $\delta\mathbf{F}$ are Gaussian white noise with $\langle \delta\mathbf{F} \rangle = \mathbf{0}$ and $\langle \delta F_i \delta F_j \rangle = 2\delta t' \text{Ku}^2 \text{St} \Sigma_{kl} D_{ik,jl} R'_k R'_l$ with $D_{ik,jl}$ obtained by integration of the effective correlation functions

$$D_{ik,jl} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \left\langle \frac{\partial u'_i}{\partial r'^k}(\mathbf{r}'(t'), t') \frac{\partial u'_j}{\partial r'^l}(\mathbf{0}, 0) \right\rangle.$$

We obtain ($\hat{\mathbf{g}} = -\mathbf{e}_y$)

$$D_{11,11} = D_{22,22} = -D_{11,22} = -D_{22,11} = -D_{12,21} = -D_{21,12} = \frac{1}{2G^2} - \frac{D_{21,21}}{3G^2}$$

$$D_{12,12} = \frac{G^2 - 1}{2G^4} + \frac{D_{21,21}}{3G^4}, \quad D_{21,21} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{8G}} \mathcal{F} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2G}} \right], \quad \mathcal{F}[x] \equiv \sqrt{\pi} e^{x^2} \text{erfc}(x).$$

Gravity introduces anisotropy ($D_{12,12} \neq D_{21,21}$)

Langevin model, large- G asymptote

Diagonalise and rescale noise

$$A_{\pm} \equiv \left(\frac{D_{21,21}}{D_{12,12}} \right)^{1/4} \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial r^2} \pm \left(\frac{D_{12,12}}{D_{21,21}} \right)^{1/4} \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial r^1}$$

For large values of $G = \text{KuSt}F$ the dynamics is governed by a single parameter $D_{++} = D_{--} \sim \text{Ku}^2 \text{St} / G^{3/2}$.

Compare this parameter to the parameter of the $F = 0$ white-noise model $\epsilon^2 \sim \text{Ku}^2 \text{St}$.

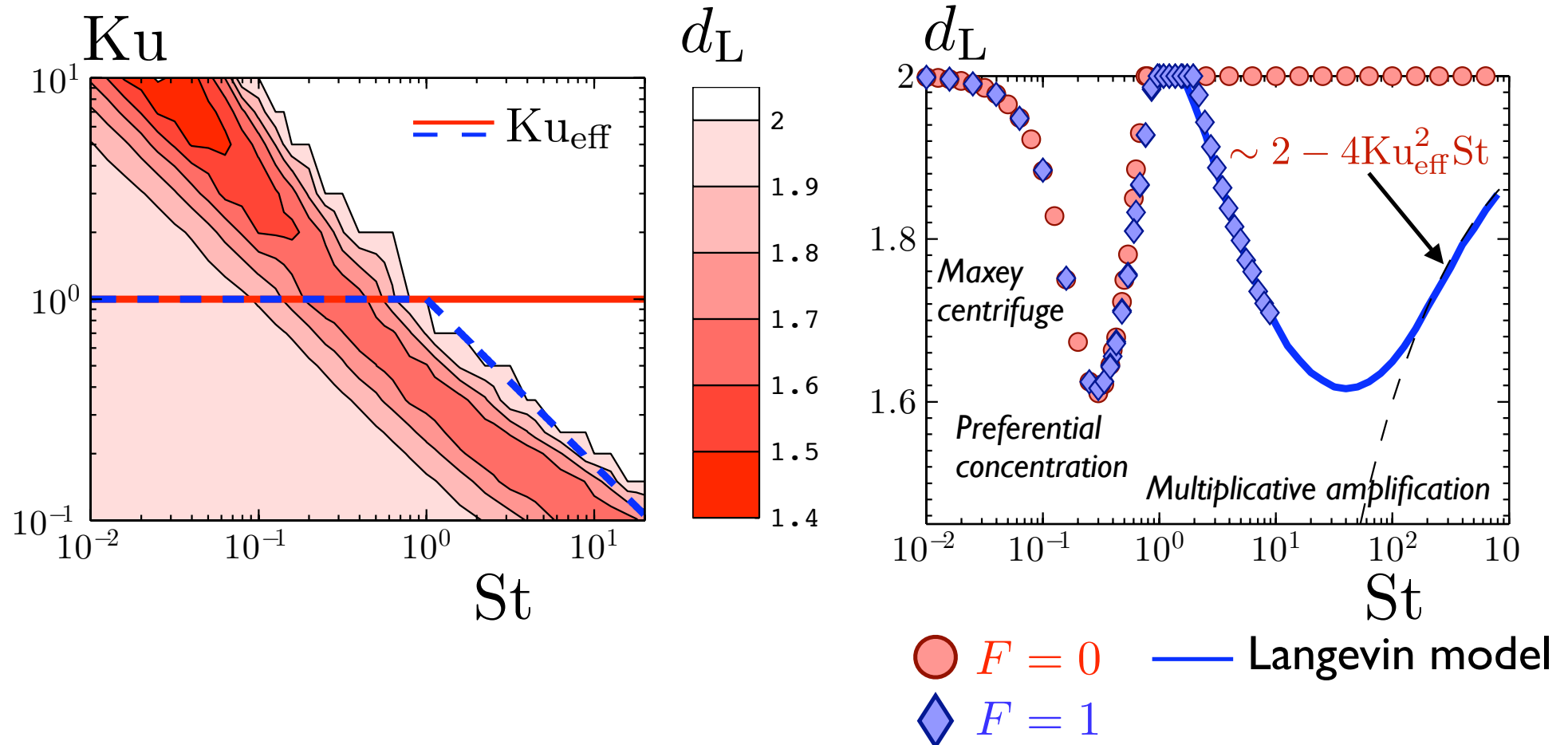
For a given large value of St define an effective Kubo number Ku_{eff} in ϵ^2 so that the two parameters are equal

$$\text{Ku}_{\text{eff}} \sim \begin{cases} \text{Ku} & \text{St small} \\ \text{Ku}^{1/4} / (F\text{St})^{3/4} & \text{St large} \end{cases} .$$

Ku_{eff} approximately maps the $F \neq 0$ model with some value of Ku onto the $F = 0$ model with Kubo number Ku_{eff} .

Large- St gravitational clustering

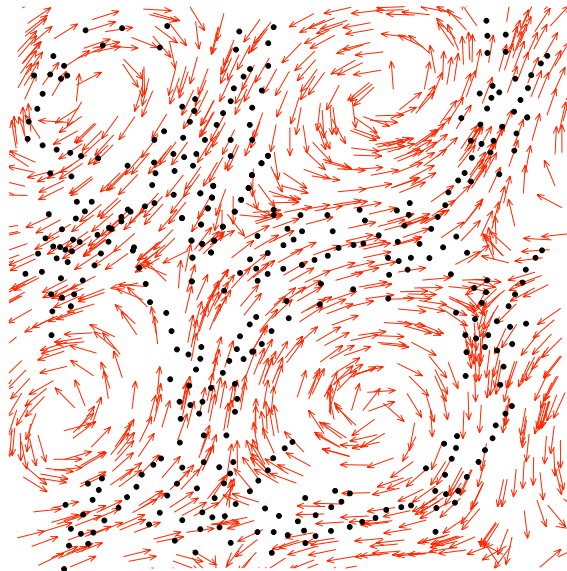
The effective Ku_{eff} maps the dynamics with $F > 0$, $Ku = 1$ and large St on the $F = 0$ -dynamics



Clustering due to preferential sampling

As we have seen, gravity tends to enhance clustering due to multiplicative amplification for large values of St .

What is the effect of gravity on preferential sampling (e.g. Maxey centrifuge effect) and anisotropy for general values of F ?



+ gravity = ?

To answer this question we make a series expansion around deterministic trajectories.

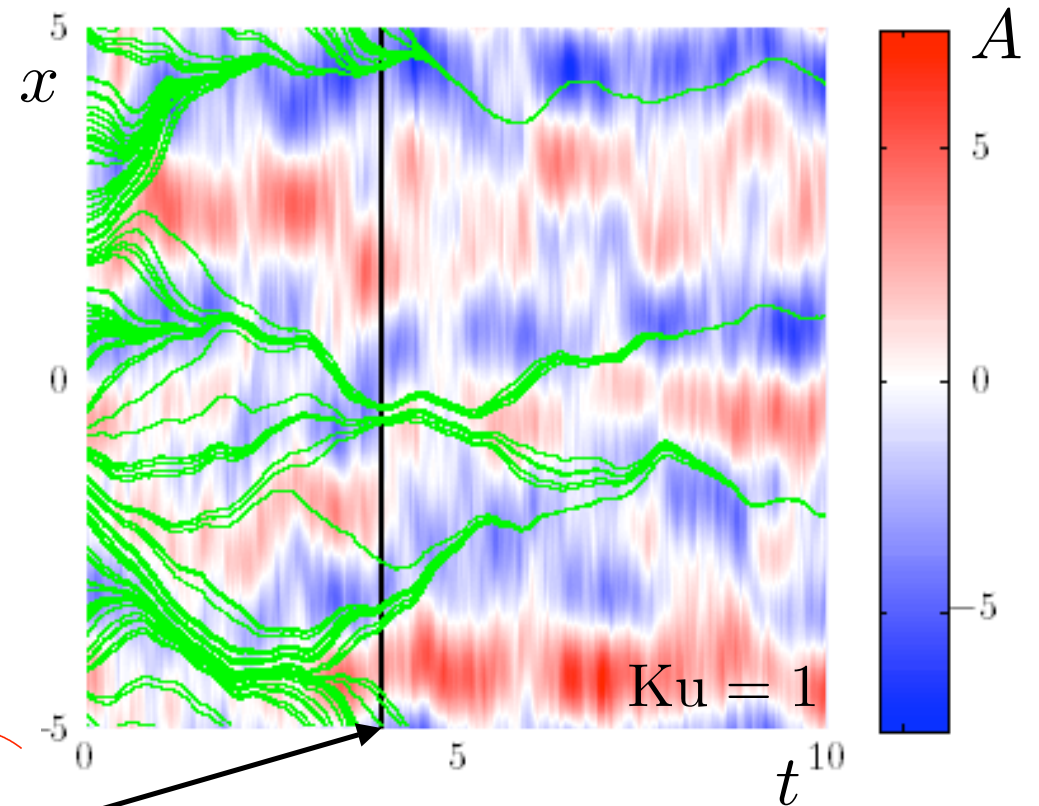
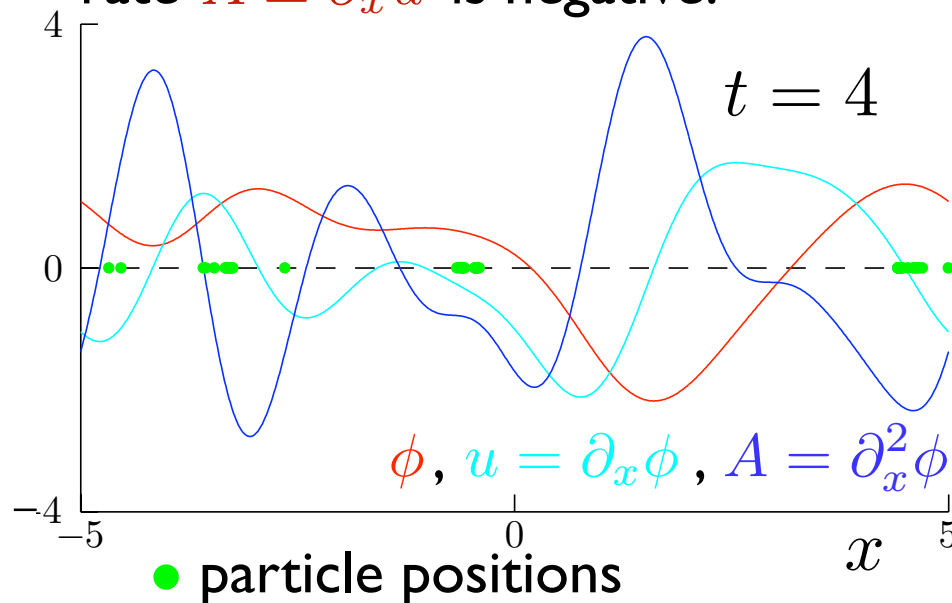
Example: preferential sampling ($d = 1$)

Particle following flow ($St = 0$)

$$\dot{x}_t = u(x_t, t)$$

in a one-dimensional potential
flow $u = \partial_x \phi$, with $\langle \phi(x, t) \rangle = 0$.

Particles tend to move towards
potential maxima where the strain
rate $A \equiv \partial_x u$ is negative.



A is non-ergodic: $\langle A(x_0, t) \rangle = 0$

$$\overline{A(x_t, t)} \equiv \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt A(x_t, t) < 0$$

Trajectory approximation ($d = 1$)

Start from dimensionless equations of motion

$$\ddot{x}_t = (u(x_t, t)Ku - \dot{x}_t)/St$$

Implicit solution

$$x_t = \tilde{x}_t + \frac{Ku}{St} \int_0^t dt_1 \int_0^{t_1} dt_2 e^{-(t_1-t_2)/St} u(x_{t_2}, t_2) \quad (\text{i})$$

with deterministic part $\tilde{x}_t = x_0 + St(1 - e^{-t/St})\dot{x}_0$.

Assume $|x_t - \tilde{x}_t|$ small for all times up to t and expand $u(x_t, t)$ around \tilde{x}_t

$$u(x_t, t) = u(\tilde{x}_t, t) + \partial_x u(\tilde{x}_t, t)(x_t - \tilde{x}_t) + \frac{1}{2} \partial_x^2 u(\tilde{x}_t, t)(x_t - \tilde{x}_t)^2 + \dots \quad (\text{ii})$$

Insert (i) into (ii) and recursively insert (ii) into itself. Ignore terms above a given order in Ku . This gives an approximation of $u(x_t, t)$ in terms of $u, \partial_x u, \partial_x^2 u$ etc. evaluated at the deterministic trajectory \tilde{x}_t .

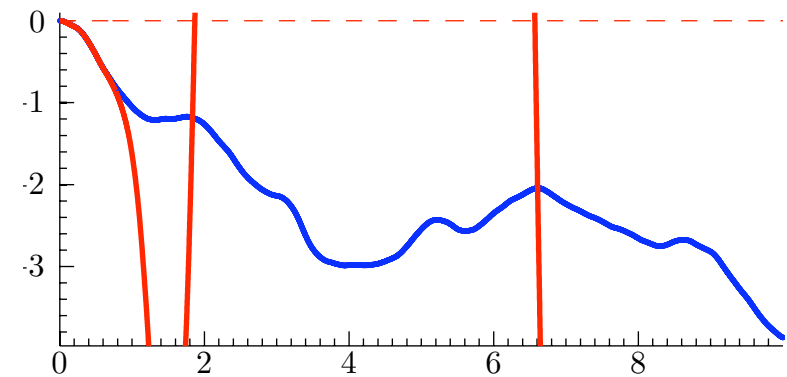
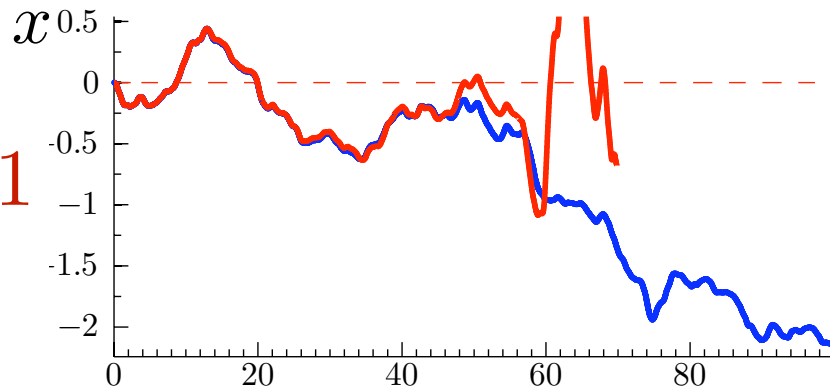
Trajectory approximation ($d = 1$)

Expansion is good up to some Ku - and St -dependent time scale t^* .

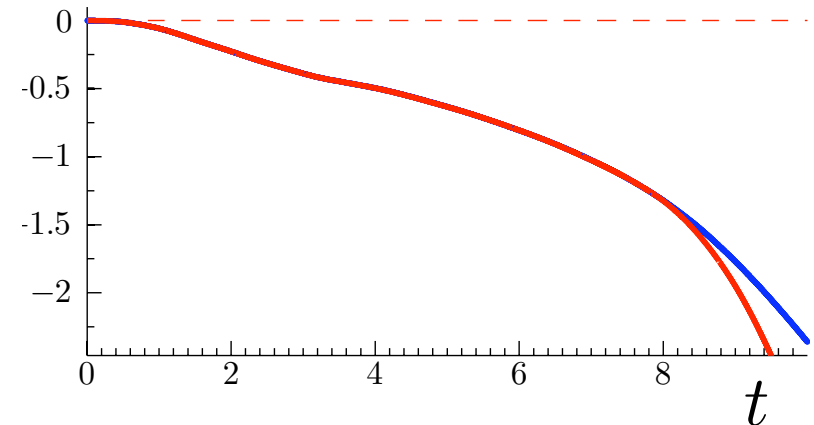
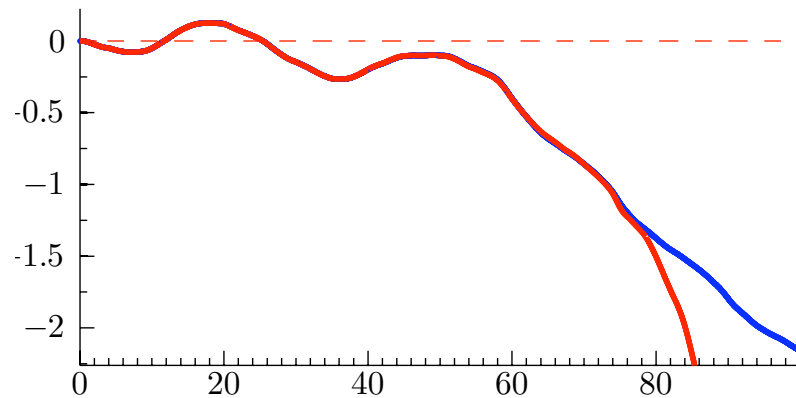
$Ku = 0.1$

$Ku = 1$

$St = 0.1$



$St = 10$



— Numerical trajectory

— Analytical trajectory $\mathcal{O}(Ku^5)$ using $u(x_0, t)$.

Steady state averages ($d = 1$)

Average over $u(\tilde{x}_t, t)$, $\partial_x u(\tilde{x}_t, t)$, $\partial_x^2 u(\tilde{x}_t, t)$, ... with known distribution $P(u, \partial_x u, \dots)$ (Gaussian here) along the deterministic trajectories \tilde{x}_t

$$\langle X \rangle_t \equiv \int du d\partial_x u \dots P(u, \partial_x u, \dots) X(x_t, t)$$

where X denotes a single particle dynamical quantity, e.g. \dot{x} , $\partial_x u(x_t, t)$, ...

For small enough Ku or large enough St the expansion is valid for many correlation times. This allows neglect of the initial configuration x_0 , \dot{x}_0 , $u(0)$, $\partial_x u(0)$, ... for large times. Steady state time averages along trajectories are calculated as

$$\langle X \rangle_\infty = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \langle X \rangle_T$$

Preferential distribution of $A = \partial_x u$

The first two moments of A :

$$\langle A \rangle_\infty = -\frac{3\text{Ku}}{1 + \text{St}} + \dots$$

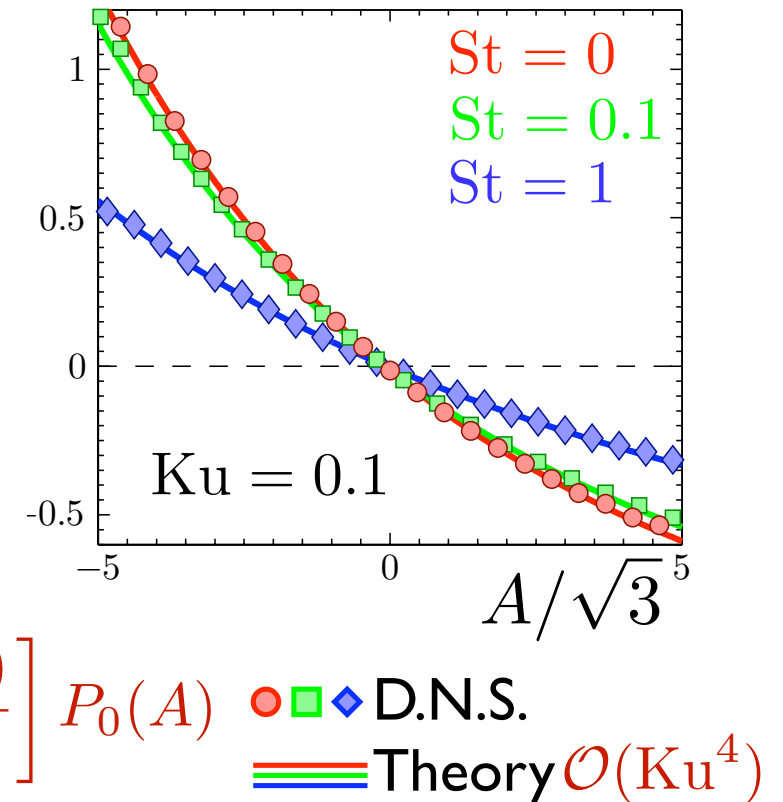
$$\langle A^2 \rangle_\infty = 3 + \frac{9\text{Ku}^2(1 + 3\text{St})}{(1 + \text{St})^2(1 + 2\text{St})} + \dots$$

Calculation of all moments $\langle A^m \rangle_\infty$ gives the distribution along preferential trajectories

$$P(A) = \left[1 - \frac{A\text{Ku}}{1 + \text{St}} + \frac{(A^2 - 3)\text{Ku}^2(1 + 3\text{St})}{2(1 + \text{St})^2(1 + 2\text{St})} \right] P_0(A)$$

$$P_0(A) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6\pi}} e^{-A^2/6}$$

$$P(A)/P_0(A) - 1$$



Trajectory approximation ($F \neq 0$)

Solve equations of motion (dimensionless units)

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \text{Ku} \mathbf{v} \quad , \quad \dot{\mathbf{v}} = (\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}_t, t) - \mathbf{v})/\text{St} + F \hat{\mathbf{g}}$$

implicitly

$$\mathbf{r}_t = \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_t + \frac{\text{Ku}}{\text{St}} \int_0^t dt_1 \int_0^{t_1} dt_2 e^{-(t_1-t_2)/\text{St}} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}_{t_2, t_2})$$

with deterministic part

$$\tilde{\mathbf{r}}_t = \mathbf{r}_0 + \text{Ku} \mathbf{v}_s t + \text{KuSt}(\mathbf{v}_0 - \mathbf{v}_s)(1 - e^{-t/\text{St}}) .$$

Expand the flow $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}_t, t)$ around $\tilde{\mathbf{r}}_t$ and iterate expansion.

Insert the expanded flow into the equation for the velocity gradient matrix $\mathbb{Z} \equiv \nabla \mathbf{v}^T$: $\dot{\mathbb{Z}} = (\nabla \mathbf{u}^T(\mathbf{r}_t, t) - \mathbb{Z})/\text{St} - \text{Ku} \mathbb{Z}^2$.

Expand this equation around the \mathbb{Z}^2 -term, solve implicitly and iterate to obtain an expansion of \mathbb{Z} .

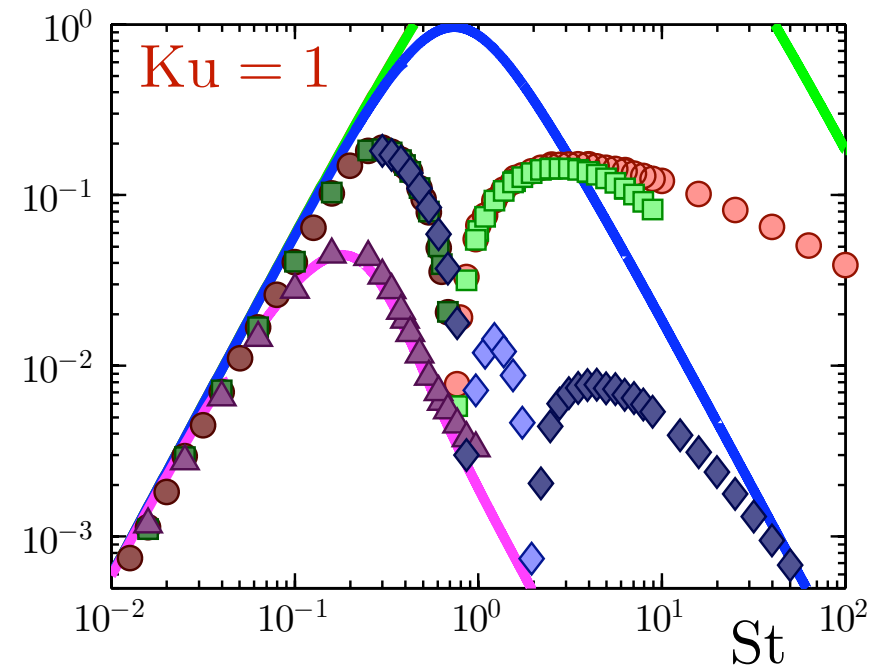
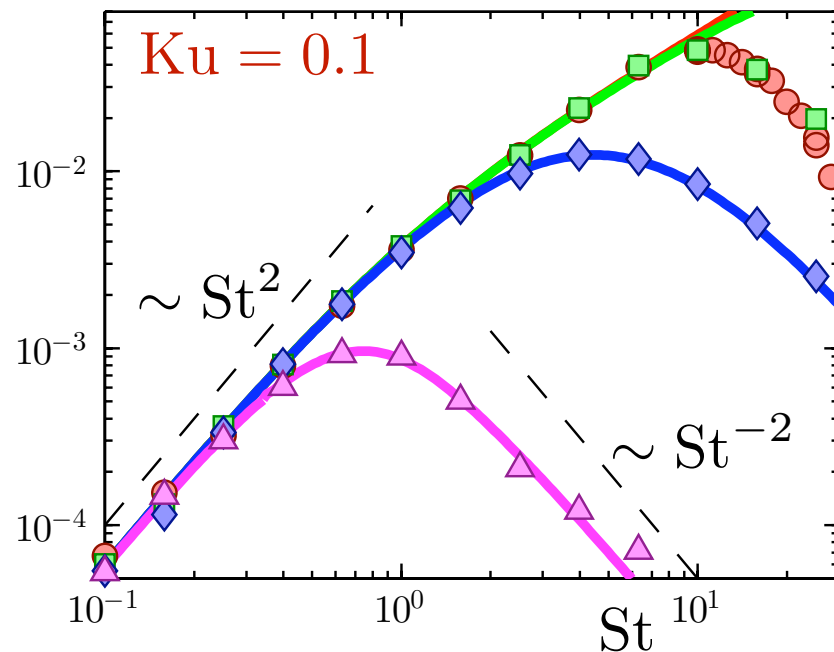
Evaluate average compressibility $\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty$ along particle trajectories to determine how areas of closeby particles develop ($\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = \text{Ku} \langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty$)

Preferential sampling of $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$

We find:

$$\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty = \frac{3\text{Ku}^3}{4\text{St}^5 G^8} \left\{ 2G^2 \text{St}^3 (5 + 4\text{St} + 3\text{St}^2 - G^2 \text{St}^2 (1 + \text{St})) + (1 + \text{St})^3 (2(1 + \text{St})^2 - G^2 \text{St}^2 (\text{St} - 3)) \mathcal{F} \left[\frac{1 + \text{St}}{\sqrt{2\text{St}G}} \right]^2 \right. \\ \left. - \sqrt{2} G \text{St}^2 (13 + 17\text{St} + 15\text{St}^2 + 3\text{St}^3 + G^2 \text{St}^2 (4 - \text{St} - 3\text{St}^2) + G^4 \text{St}^4) \mathcal{F} \left[\frac{1 + \text{St}}{\sqrt{2\text{St}G}} \right] - 4G \text{St} (1 + \text{St}^2 (2 + \text{St}^2 + G^2)) \mathcal{F} \left[\frac{1}{G} \right] \right. \\ \left. - 2\sqrt{\pi} (1 + \text{St}^2) G (-2 + \text{St}^2 (-2 + (-3 + \text{St}^2) G^2)) \int_0^\infty dt \exp \left[G^{-2} - t/\text{St} - G^2 t^2 / 4 \right] \text{erfc} \left[G^{-1} + Gt/2 \right] \right\}$$

$|\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty|$



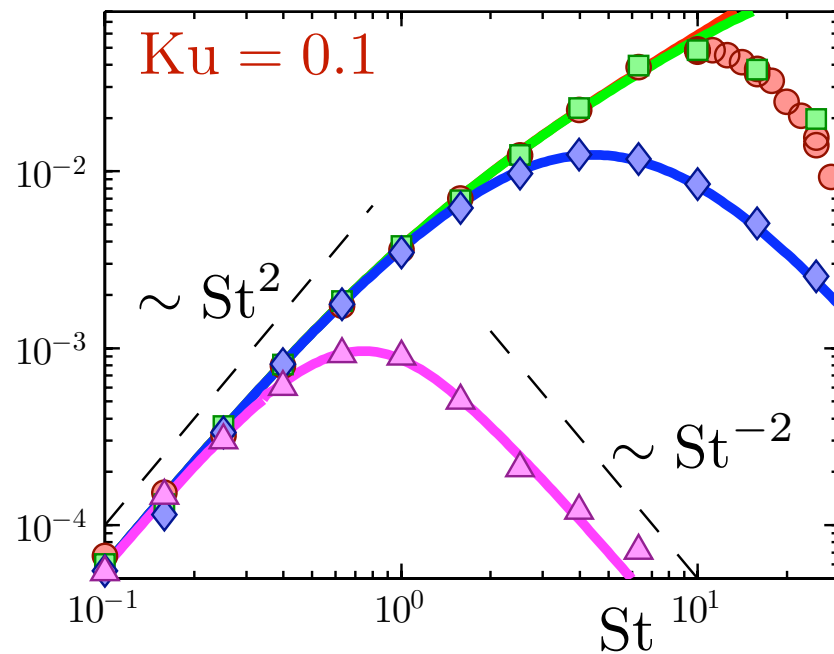
● $F = 0$
 ■ $F = 0.1$
 ◆ $F = 1$
 ▲ $F = 10$
 ▬ Theory

Preferential sampling of $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$

Small St : $\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty \sim 3Ku^3 St^2 (4G - 6G^3 - (4 - 4G^2 + 3G^4) \mathcal{F}[G^{-1}]) / (4G^5)$

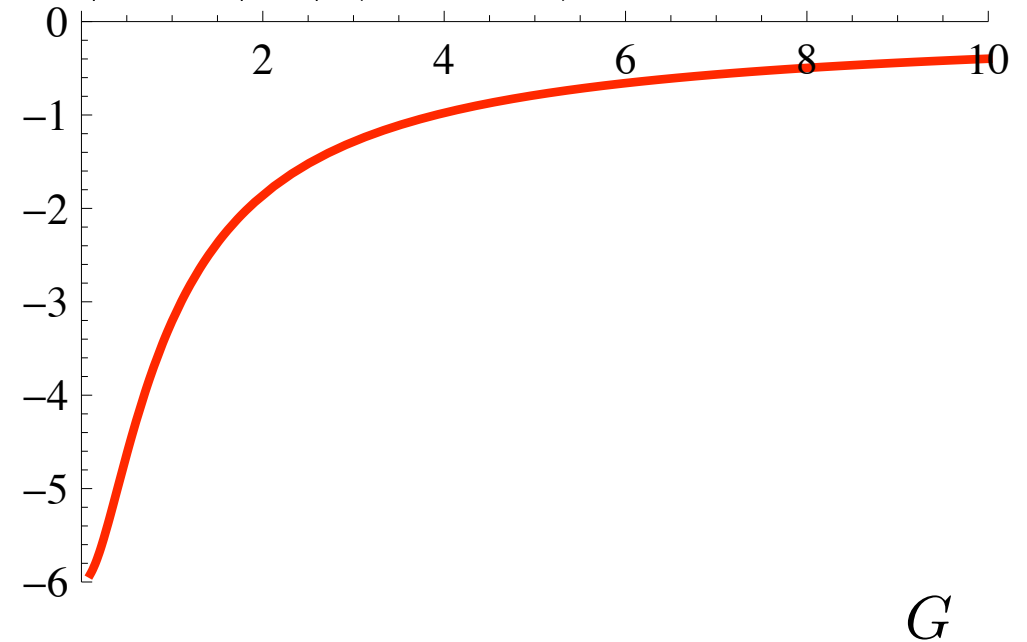
As $G \rightarrow 0$ the Maxey result is recovered $\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty \sim -6Ku^3 St^2$

$|\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty|$



● $F = 0$
 ■ $F = 0.1$
 ◆ $F = 1$
 ▲ $F = 10$
———— Theory

$\sim \langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty / (Ku^3 St^2)$



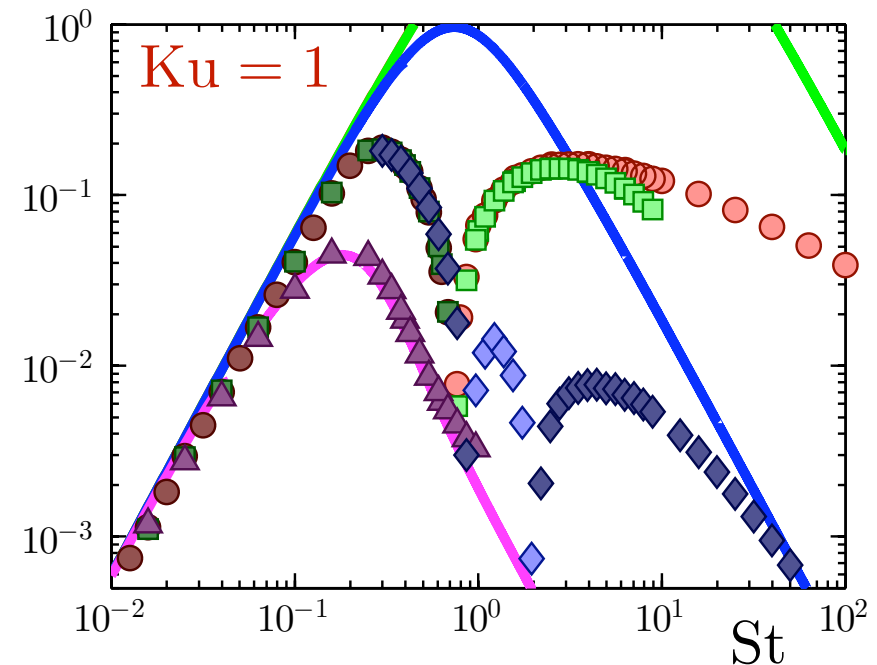
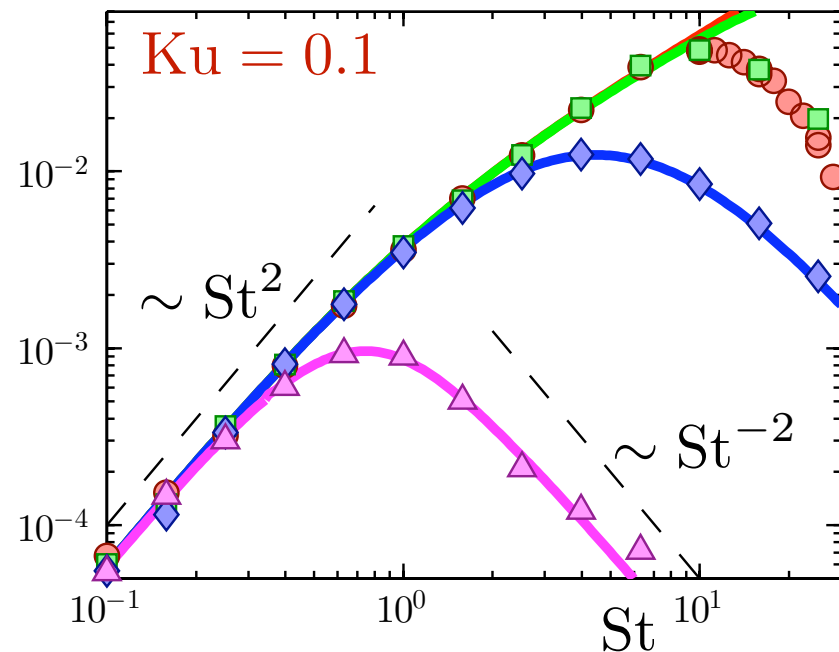
Preferential sampling of $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$

$$\text{Small } G: \langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty \sim -6\text{Ku}^3 \text{St}^2 \frac{1 + 3\text{St} + \text{St}^2}{(1 + \text{St})^3} + 9\text{Ku}^3 G^2 \text{St}^2 \frac{1 + 5\text{St} + 12\text{St}^2 + 20\text{St}^3 + 4\text{St}^4}{(1 + \text{St})^5}$$

As $G \rightarrow 0$ earlier results are recovered

[Gustavsson, Mehlig EPL 96 \(2011\)](#)

$|\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty|$



● $F = 0$
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 — Theory

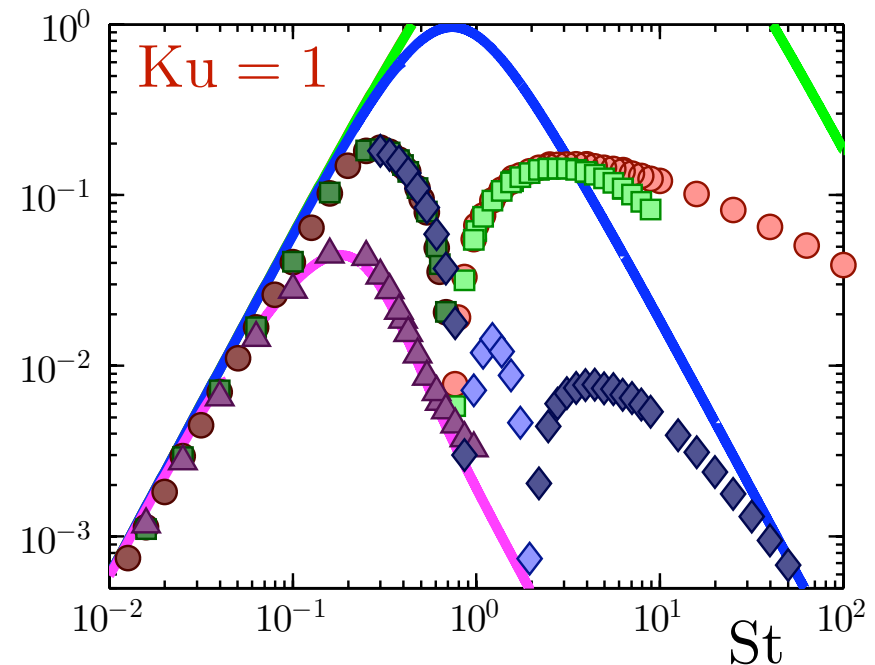
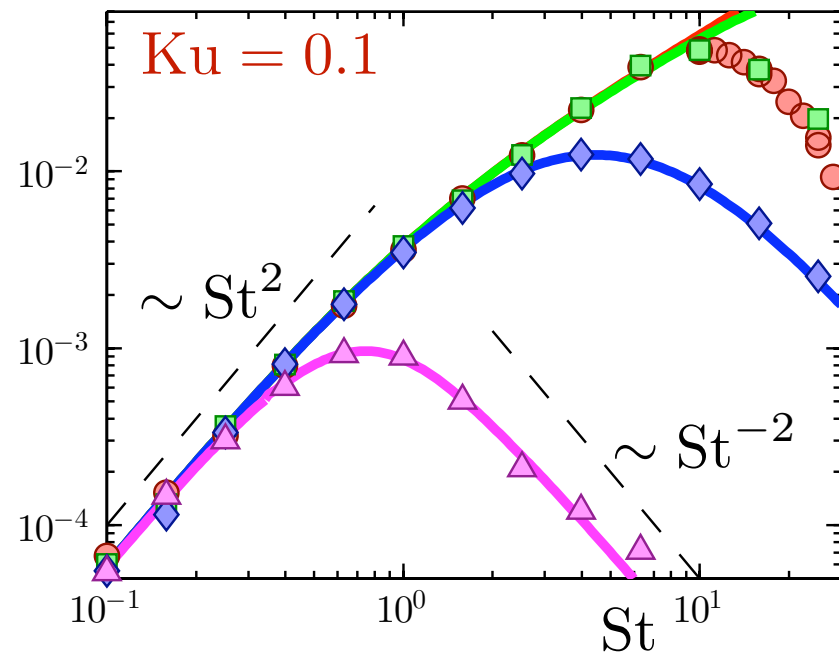
Preferential sampling of $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}$

Large St , G : $\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty \sim -3Ku^3 St \sqrt{2\pi} / (4G^3)$

Same parameter-dependence as the Langevin model:

$$KuSt \langle \nabla' \cdot \mathbf{v}' \rangle_\infty \sim -3\sqrt{2\pi}/4 [Ku^2 St / G^{3/2}]^2$$

$|\langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle_\infty|$



● $F = 0$
 ■ $F = 0.1$
 ◆ $F = 1$
 ▲ $F = 10$
 — — — — Theory

Maximal Lyapunov exponent λ_1

Similar expansion for λ_1 using

$$\lambda_1 = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \ln \frac{|\mathbf{R}_t|}{|\mathbf{R}_0|} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Ku}}{t} \int_0^t dt' \hat{\mathbf{R}}_{t'}^T \mathbb{Z}_{t'} \hat{\mathbf{R}}_{t'}$$

with $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_t \equiv \mathbf{R}_t / |\mathbf{R}_t|$ gives to lowest order in Ku

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{\text{Ku}^2}{2G^5} \left[-G^3 + G(1 + 11G^2)(\hat{\mathbf{R}}_0 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}})^2 - 2G(1 + 5G^2)(\hat{\mathbf{R}}_0 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}})^4 \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left\{ G^2(1 + 3G^2) - (1 + 12G^2 + 9G^4)(\hat{\mathbf{R}}_0 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}})^2 + 2(1 + 6G^2 + 3G^4)(\hat{\mathbf{R}}_0 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}})^4 \right\} \mathcal{F} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}G} \right] \right]$$

depends on the unit vector $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_0$ for a small initial separation between two particles.

Find λ_1 by averaging $(\hat{\mathbf{R}}_0 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}})^{2p}$ with $p = 1, 2, \dots$ using steady-state averages $\langle (\hat{\mathbf{R}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}})^{2p} \rangle_\infty$.

Complication: Steady-state averages $\langle (\hat{\mathbf{R}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}})^{2p} \rangle_\infty$ in turn depend on $(\hat{\mathbf{R}}_0 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}})^{2p}$ and contain secular terms.

Preferential alignment

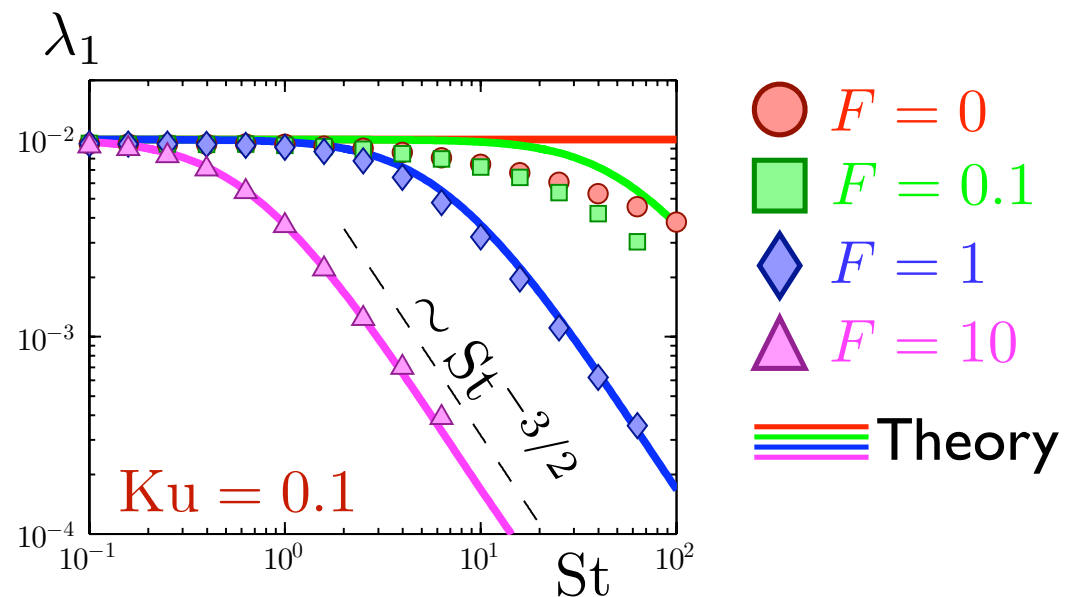
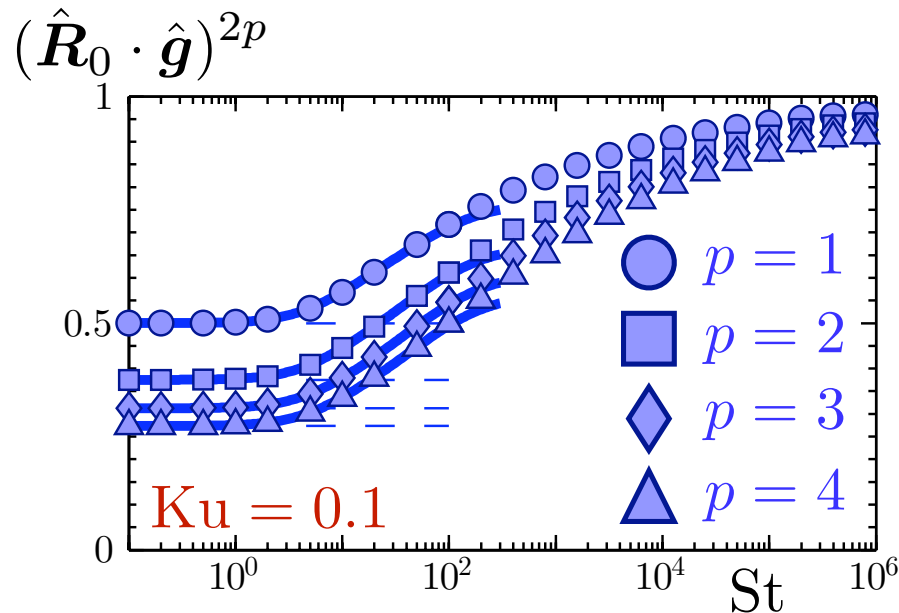
Self-consistency solution to remove the secular terms gives recursion relations for the moments $\langle (\hat{\mathbf{R}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}})^{2p} \rangle_\infty$.

These recursions can be solved if series expanded in small $G = \text{KuSt}F$.

We find

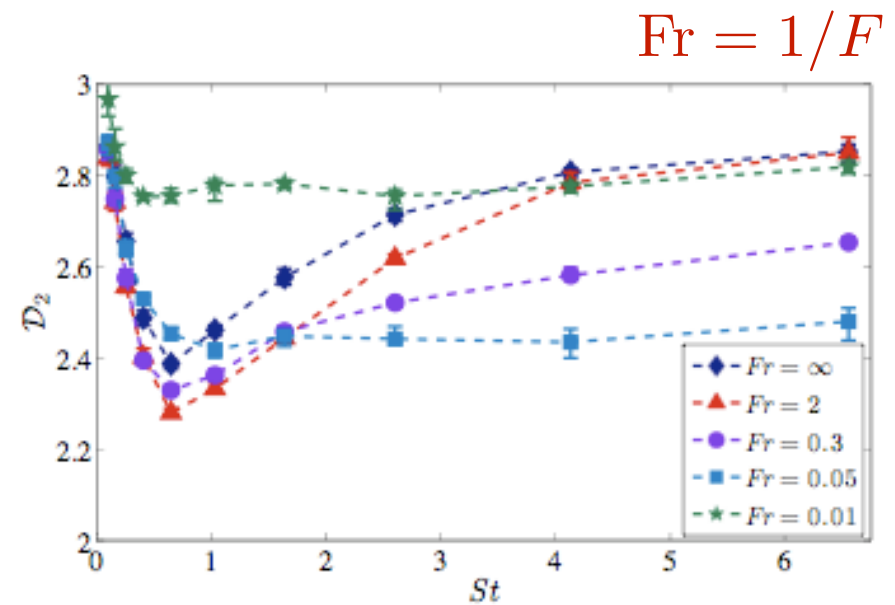
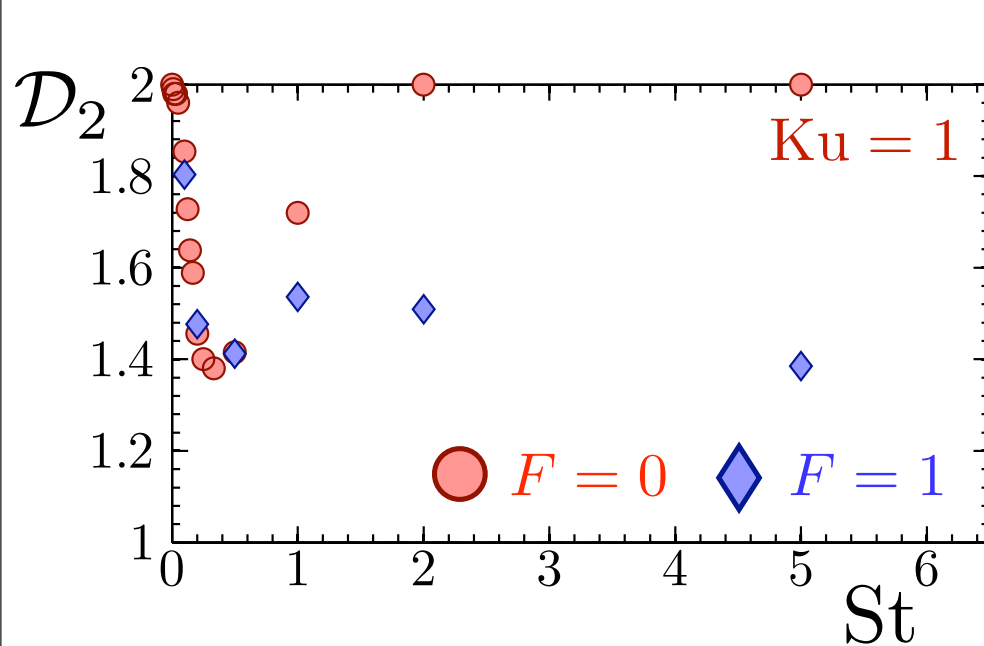
$$\langle (\hat{\mathbf{R}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{g}})^{2p} \rangle_\infty = \frac{(2p-1)!!}{2^p p!} \left[1 + \frac{pG^2}{p+1} - \frac{p(41+19p)G^4}{4(p+1)(p+2)} + \dots \right]$$

Padé-Borel resum this series to find the theory plotted below



Comparison to turbulence

Comparison of random-flow model ($d = 2$) to results from DNS.
 Correlation dimension \mathcal{D}_2 defined by scaling $\rho(R) \sim R^{\mathcal{D}_2-1}$ of
 distribution of distances $\rho(R)$ for small distances R .



Conclusions

Inertial response to flow fluctuations and the effect of gravity are not additive.

Small St : Gravity reduces clustering because correlations between particles and flow structures are weakened.

Large St : Gravity may increase clustering significantly due to multiplicative amplification.

Gravity introduces an anisotropy in the spatial distribution of close-by particles. Particle separations align with $\pm \hat{g}$.