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Project-Team FLUMINANCE

Fluid Flow Analysis, Description and Control
from Image Sequences

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THEME
**Observation and Modeling for Envi-
ronmental Sciences**

Table of contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Members | 1 |
| 2. Overall Objectives | 1 |
| 3. Scientific Foundations | 2 |
| 3.1. Fluid flow analysis and modeling | 2 |
| 3.2. Fluid motion analysis | 4 |
| 3.3. Data assimilation and Tracking of characteristic fluid features | 6 |
| 3.4. Visual servoing | 7 |
| 3.5. Sparse Representations and Bayesian model selection | 8 |
| 4. Application Domains | 9 |
| 4.1.1. Environmental sciences | 9 |
| 4.1.2. Experimental fluid mechanics and industrial flows | 9 |
| 5. Software | 10 |
| 5.1. DenseMotion software - Estimation of 2D dense motion fields | 10 |
| 5.2. 2DLayeredMotion software - Estimation of 2D independent mesoscale layered atmospheric motion fields | 10 |
| 5.3. 3DLayeredMotion software - Estimation of 3D interconnected layered atmospheric motion fields | 10 |
| 5.4. Low-Order-Motion - Estimation of low order representation of fluid motion | 10 |
| 6. New Results | 11 |
| 6.1. Fluid motion estimation | 11 |
| 6.1.1. Multiscale PIV method based on turbulent kinetic energy decay | 11 |
| 6.1.2. Stochastic uncertainty models for motion estimation | 11 |
| 6.1.3. 3D flows reconstruction from image data | 11 |
| 6.1.4. Motion estimation techniques for turbulent fluid flows | 12 |
| 6.1.5. Wavelet basis for multi-scale motion estimation | 12 |
| 6.1.6. Divergence-free wavelet basis and high-order regularization | 12 |
| 6.1.7. Divergence-free wavelet basis and high-order regularization | 13 |
| 6.1.8. Bayesian inference of hyper-parameters and models in motion estimation | 13 |
| 6.1.9. Method to quantify the uncertainty of motion measurement | 13 |
| 6.1.10. Sparse-representation algorithms | 14 |
| 6.2. Tracking and data assimilation | 14 |
| 6.2.1. Stochastic filtering for fluid motion tracking | 14 |
| 6.2.2. Reduced-order models for flows representation from image data | 14 |
| 6.2.3. Optimal control techniques for the coupling of large eddy dynamical systems and image data | 15 |
| 6.2.4. Free surface flows reconstruction and tracking | 15 |
| 6.2.5. Stochastic filtering technique for the tracking of closed curves | 16 |
| 6.2.6. Sequential smoothing for fluid motion | 16 |
| 6.2.7. Stochastic fluid flows dynamics under Gaussian uncertainty | 16 |
| 6.2.8. Variational assimilation of images for large scale fluid flow dynamics with uncertainty | 17 |
| 6.3. Analysis and modeling of turbulent flows | 17 |
| 6.3.1. Mixing layers between a uniform flow and a shear flow | 17 |
| 6.3.2. Hot-wire anemometry at low velocities | 17 |
| 6.3.3. Experimental studies for the assessment of turbulence statistical models | 17 |
| 6.4. Visual servoing approach for fluid flow control | 18 |
| 6.4.1. Fully exploitation of the controlled degrees of freedom of the 2D plane Poiseuille flow | 18 |
| 6.4.2. Visual servoing for the 3D plane Poiseuille flow | 18 |
| 6.5. National Initiatives | 18 |

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 6.5.1. | ANR-COSINUS PREVASSEMBLE: Ensemble methods for assimilation of observations and for prevision in Meteorology and Oceanography | 18 |
| 6.5.2. | ANR SYSCOMM MSDAG: MultiScale Data Assimilation in Geophysics | 18 |
| 6.5.3. | ANR SYSCOMM GeoFluids: | 19 |
| 6.5.4. | Britanny concil ARED IMAGEO: | 19 |
| 6.6. | International Initiatives | 19 |
| 7. | Dissemination | 20 |
| 7.1. | Animation of the scientific community | 20 |
| 7.2. | Participation in seminars, invitations, awards | 20 |
| 7.3. | Teaching | 21 |
| 8. | Bibliography | 21 |

Project-Team FLUMINANCE

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2. Overall Objectives

2.1. Overall Objectives

The research group that we have entitled FLUMINANCE from a contraction between the words “Fluid” and “Luminance” is dedicated to the extraction of information on fluid flows from image sequences and to the development of tools for the analysis and control of these flows. The objectives of the group are at the frontiers of several important domains. The group aims at providing in the one hand image sequence methods devoted to the analysis and description of fluid flows and in the other hand physically consistent models and operational tools to extract meaningful features characterizing or describing the observed flow and enabling decisions or actions. Such a twofold goal is of major interest for the inspection, the analysis and the monitoring of complex fluid flows, but also for control purpose of specific flows involved in industrial problems. To reach these goals we will mainly rely on data assimilation strategies and on motion measurement techniques. From a methodological point of view, the techniques involved for image analysis are either stochastic or variational. One of the main originality of the the FLUMINANCE group is to combine cutting-edge researches on these methods with an ability to conduct proper intensive experimental validations on prototype flows mastered in laboratory. The scientific objectives decompose in three main themes:

- **Fluid flows characterization from images**

We aim here at providing accurate measurements and consistent analysis of complex fluid flows through image analysis techniques. The application domain ranges from industrial processes and experimental fluid mechanics to environmental and life sciences. This theme includes also the use of non-conventional imaging techniques such as Schlieren techniques, Shadowgraphs, holography. The objective will be here to go towards 3D dense velocity measurements.

- **Coupling dynamical model and image data**

We focus here on the study, through image data, of complex and partially known fluid flows involving complex boundary conditions, multi-phase fluids, fluids and structures interaction problems. Our credo is that image analysis can provide sufficiently fine observations on small and medium scales to construct models which, applied at medium and large scale, account accurately for a wider range of the dynamics scales. The image data and a sound modeling of the dynamical uncertainty at the observation scale should allow us to reconstruct the observed flow and to provide efficient real flows (experimental or natural) based dynamical modeling. Our final goal will be to go towards a 3D reconstruction of real flows, or to operate large motion scales simulations that fit real world flow data and incorporate an appropriate uncertainty modeling.

- **Control and optimization of turbulent flows**

We are interested on active control and more precisely on closed-loop control. The main idea is to extract reliable image features to act on the flow. This approach is well known in the robot control community, it is called visual servoing. More generally, it is a technique to control a dynamic system from image features. We plan to apply this approach on flows involved in various domains such as environment, transport, microfluidic, industrial chemistry, pharmacy, food industry, agriculture, etc.

3. Scientific Foundations

3.1. Fluid flow analysis and modeling

Turbulent fluid flows involved in environmental or industrial applications are complex. In fluid mechanics laboratories, canonical turbulent shear flows have been studied for many years and a relatively clear picture of their underlying structure exists. However, the direct applicability of these efforts to real relevant flows, which often occur in complex geometries and in the presence of multiple non canonical influences, like cross-shear, span wise non-uniform and thermal stratification, is still unknown. In addition, the turbulence can be characterized by Reynolds number ranging between 10^3 and 10^4 , corresponding to transitional regime for which the use of classical turbulence models is limited.

In this context, we have performed research studies on turbulent shear flows of low velocities by tackling crucial topics of measurements, analysis and modeling of environmental and industrial flows in presence of non-canonical influences. This concerns more precisely the study of the interaction between a mixing layer and circular cylinder wake flow, the study of wake flow with span wise non uniformity, the study of mixing layer under the influence of thermal stratification and the study of mixing layer forced between non-uniform flows. The analysis of these flows has required the design of adequate dynamical models, using proper orthogonal decomposition and Galerkin projection. Understanding issues such as the mechanisms of heat and mass transfer involved in these shear flows provides meaningful information for the control of relevant engineering flows and the design of new technologies. To investigate more thoroughly these complex flows numerical and experimental tools have been designed. An immersed boundary method was proposed to mimic complex geometries into Direct Numerical simulation (DNS) and Large Eddy Simulations (LES) codes. A novel anemometer has been designed and implemented for the simultaneous measurement of velocity and temperature in air flows with a single hot-wire probe.

Mixing layer wake interaction

We have investigated the vortex shedding of a circular cylinder immersed in a plane turbulent mixing layer. For a centre span Reynolds number of 7500, the wake flow splits into three regions: a high-velocity wake, a low-velocity wake and a region of interaction in the middle span of the body. A strong unsteady secondary flow is observed, and explained with span wise base pressure gradients. Unexpected features are found for formation length and the base pressure along the span of the cylinder. In the high-velocity side, where the local Reynolds number is the highest, the formation length is longest. Based on the formation length measurements it was shown that as a function of the centre span Reynolds number, the wake flows behaves as circular cylinder in uniform flow. Three cells with a constant frequency with adjacent dislocations are observed. For each cell, a shedding mode was suggested. The relation of the secondary flow to the frequencies was examined. All the observations were analyzed by analogical reasoning with other flows. This pointed out the action of the secondary flow in the high-velocity side regarded as a wake interference mechanism.

Low order complex flow modeling

We have proposed improvements to the construction of low order dynamical systems (LODS) for incompressible turbulent external flows. The reduced model is obtained by means of a Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD) basis extracted through a truncated singular value decomposition of the flow auto-correlation matrix built from noisy PIV experimental velocity measurements. The POD modes are then used to formulate a reduced dynamical system that contains the main features of the flow. This low order dynamical system (LODS) is obtained through a Galerkin projection of the Navier-Stokes Equations on the POD basis. Usually, the resulting system of ordinary differential equations presents stability problems due to modes truncation and numerical uncertainties, especially when working on experimental data. The technique we proposed relies on an optimal control approach to estimate the dynamical system coefficients and its initial condition. This allows us to recover a reliable and stable spatio-temporal reconstruction of the large scales of the flow. The technique has been assessed on the near wake behind a cylinder observed through very noisy PIV measurement. It has been also evaluated for configurations involving a rotating cylinder.

Studies on complex 3D dynamical behavior resulting from the interaction between a plane mixing layer and the wake of a cylinder have been also investigated using POD representation, applied to data from two synchronized 2D PIV systems (Dual-plane PIV). This approach allowed us to construct a 3D-POD representation. An analysis of the correlations shows different length scales in the regions dominated by wake like structures and shear layer type structures [2]. In order to characterize the particular organization in the plane of symmetry, a Galerkin projection from a slice POD has been performed. This led to a low-dimensional dynamical system that allowed the analysis of the relationship between the dominant frequencies. This study led to a reconstruction of the dominant periodic motion suspected from previous studies [43]. This work allowed us to make a link between the three-dimensional organization and the secondary unsteady motion from the low velocity side to the high velocity side of the mixing layer, appearing in this highly 3D flow configuration.

Direct and Large Eddy simulations of complex flows

We have proposed a direct forcing method better suited to the use of compact finite difference schemes in Direct Numerical Simulation. The new forcing creates inside the body an artificial flow preserving the no-slip condition at the surface but reducing the step-like change of the velocity derivatives across the immersed boundary. This modification led to improve results both qualitatively and quantitatively for conventional and complex flow geometries [53].

Three-dimensional direct numerical simulations have been performed for vortex shedding behind cylinders. We focused in particular on cases for which the body diameter and the incoming flow involved span wise linear non-uniformity. Four configurations were considered: the shear flow, the tapered cylinder and their combinations, which gave rise namely to the adverse and aiding cases. In contrast with the observations of other investigators, these computations highlighted distinct vortical features between the shear case and the tapered case. In addition, it was observed that the shear case and the adverse case (respectively the tapered and aiding case), yielded similarities in flow topology. This phenomenon was explained by the span wise variations of the ratio of mean velocity and the cylinder diameter which seemed to govern these flows. Indeed, it was observed that large span wise variations of U/D seemed to enhance three-dimensionality, through the

appearance of vortex-adhesions and dislocations. Span wise cellular pattern of vortex shedding were identified. Their modifications in cell size, junction position and number were correlated with the variation of U/D . In the Lee side of the obstacle a wavy secondary motion was identified. Induced secondary flow due to the bending of Karman vortices in the vicinity of vortex-adhesion and dislocations was suggested to explain this result [52].

LES and experimental wake flow database

We contributed to the study of flow over a circular cylinder at Reynolds number $Re = 3900$. Although this classical flow is widely documented in the literature, especially for this precise Reynolds number, which leads to a sub critical flow regime, there is no consensus about the turbulence statistics immediately just behind the obstacle. This flow has been studied both numerically with Large Eddy Simulation and experimentally with Hot-Wire Anemometry and Particle Image Velocimetry. The numerical simulation has been performed using high-order schemes and the specific Immersed Boundary Method previously mentioned. We focused on turbulence statistics and power spectra in the near wake up to 10 diameters. Statistical estimation is shown to need large integration times increasing the computational cost and leading to an uncertainty of about 10% for most flow characteristics considered in this study. The present numerical and experimental results are found to be in good agreement with previous Large Eddy Simulation data. Our study has exhibited significant differences compared with the experimental data found in the literature. The obtained results attenuate previous numerical-experimental controversy for this type of flows [11].

Simultaneous velocity temperature measurements in turbulent flows

We have worked on the design of a novel anemometer for the simultaneous measurement of velocity and temperature in airflows with a single hot wire probe. The principle of periodically varying the overheat ratio of the wire has been selected and applied through a tunable electronic chain. Specific methods were developed for the calibration procedure and the signal processing. The accuracy of the measurements was assessed by means of Monte-Carlo simulations. Accurate results were provided for two types of turbulent non-isothermal flows, a coaxial heated jet and a low speed thermal mixing. The particular interest of the synchronization of the two measurements has been emphasized during the PhD thesis of T. Ndoye.

A new dynamic calibration technique has been developed for hot-wire probes. The technique permits, in a short time range, the combined calibration of velocity, temperature and direction calibration of single and multiple hot-wire probes. The calibration and measurements uncertainties were modeled, simulated and controlled, in order to reduce their estimated values.

3.2. Fluid motion analysis

Flow visualization has been a powerful tool to depict or to understand flow feature properties. Efforts to develop high-quality flow visualization techniques date back over a century. The analysis of the recorded images consisted firstly to a qualitative interpretation of the streak lines leading to an overall global insight into the flow properties but lacking quantitative details on important parameters such as velocity fields or turbulence intensities. Point measurement tools such as hot wire probes or Laser Doppler Velocimetry have typically provided these details. As these probes give information only at the point where they are placed, simultaneous evaluations at different points require to dispose a very large number of probes and the evaluation of unsteady field (most of the flows are unsteady) is almost unachievable with them.

In an effort to avoid the limitations of these probes, the Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV), a non-intrusive diagnostic technique, has been developed in the last two decades [42]. The PIV technique enables obtaining velocity fields by seeding the flow with particles (e.g. dye, smoke, particles) and observing the motion of these tracers. In computer vision, the estimation of the projection of the apparent motion of a 3D scene onto the image plane, refereed in the literature as optical-flow, is an intensive subject of researches since the 80's and the seminal work of B. Horn and B. Schunk [48]. Unlike to dense optical flow estimators, the former approach provides techniques that supply only sparse velocity fields. These methods have demonstrated to be robust and to provide accurate measurements for flows seeded with particles. These restrictions and their inherent discrete local nature limit too much their use and prevent any evolutions of these techniques towards the devising of methods supplying physically consistent results and small scale velocity measurements. It does

not authorize also the use of scalar images exploited in numerous situations to visualize flows (image showing the diffusion of a scalar such as dye, pollutant, light index refraction, fluorecein,...). At the opposite, variational techniques enable in a well-established mathematical framework to estimate spatially continuous velocity fields, which should allow more properly to go towards the measurement of smaller motion scales. As these methods are defined through PDE's systems they allow quite naturally including as constraints the kinematical and dynamical laws governing the observed fluid flows. Besides, within this framework it is also much easier to define characteristic features estimation on the basis of physically grounded data model that describes the relation linking the observed luminance function and some state variables of the observed flow. This route has demonstrated to be much more robust to scalar image. Several studies in this vein have strengthened our skills in this domain. All the following approaches have been either formulated within a statistical Markov Random Fields modeling or either within a variational framework. For a thorough description of these approaches see [7].

ICE data model and div-curl regularization This fluid motion estimator is constructed on a data model derived from the Integration of the Continuity Equation (ICE data model) [5] and includes a second order regularization scheme enabling to preserve blobs of divergence and curl. Intensive evaluations of this estimator on flow prototypes mastered in laboratory have shown that this estimator led to the same order of accuracy as the best PIV techniques but for an increase information density. This ability to get dense flow fields allowed us estimating proper vorticity or divergence maps without resorting to additional post-processing interpolation schemes.

Schlieren Image velocimetry We have addressed the problem of estimating the motion of fluid flows visualized with the Schlieren technique. Such an experimental visualization system is well known in fluid mechanics and it enables the visualization of unseeded flows. This technique authorizes the capture of phenomena that are impossible to visualize with particle seeding such as natural convection, phonation flow, breath flow and allows the setting of large scale experiments. Since the resulting images exhibit very low intensity contrasts, classical motion estimation methods based on the brightness constancy assumption (correlation-based approaches, optical flow methods) are completely inefficient. The global energy function we have defined for Schlieren images is composed of i) a specific data model accounting for the fact that the observed luminance is related to the gradient of the fluid density, and ii) a specific constrained div-curl regularization term. To date there exists no motion estimator allowing estimating accurately dense velocity fields on Schlieren images.

Low order fluid motion estimator This low-dimensional fluid motion estimator [6] is based on the Helmholtz decomposition, which consists in representing the velocity field as the sum of a divergence-free component and a curl-free one. In order to provide a low-dimensional solution, both components have been approximated using a discretization of the vorticity (curl of the velocity vector) and divergence maps through regularized Dirac measures [47]. The resulting so-called irrotational (resp. solenoidal) field is then represented by a linear combination of basis functions obtained by a convolution product of the Green kernel gradient and the vorticity map (resp. the divergence map). The coefficient values and the basis function parameters are obtained by minimizing a function formed by an integrated version of the mass conservation principle of fluid mechanics.

Potential functions estimation and finite mimetic differences We have studied a direct estimation approach of the flow potential functions (respectively the *stream* function and the *velocity* potential) from two consecutive images. The estimation has been defined on the basis of a high order regularization scheme and has been implemented through mimetic difference methods[12]. With these approaches the discretization preserves basic relationships of continuous vector analysis. Compared to previous discretization scheme based on auxiliary div-curl variables, the considered technique appeared to be numerically much more stable and led to an improve accuracy.

2D and 3D atmospheric motion layer estimation In this study, we have explored the problem of estimating mesoscales dynamics of atmospheric layers from satellite image sequences. Due to the intrinsic sparse 3-dimensional nature of clouds and to large occluded zones caused by the successive overlapping of cloud layers, the estimation of accurate layered dense motion fields is an intricate issue. Relying on a physically sound vertical decomposition of the atmosphere into layers, we have proposed two dense motion estimators

for the extraction of multi-layer horizontal (2D) and 3D wind fields. These estimators are expressed as the minimization of a global function that includes a data-driven term and a spatio-temporal smoothness term. A robust data term relying on shallow-water mass conservation model has been proposed to fit sparse observations related to each layer. In the 3D case, the layers are interconnected through a term modeling mass exchanges at the layers surfaces frontiers [9].

A novel spatio-temporal regularizer derived from the shallow-water momentum conservation model has been considered to enforce temporal consistency of the solution along time. These constraints are combined with a robust second-order regularizer preserving divergent and vorticity structures of the flow. Besides, a two-level motion estimation scheme has been settled to overcome the limitations of the multiresolution incremental estimation scheme when capturing the dynamics of fine mesoscale structures. This alternative approach relies on the combination of correlation and optical-flow observations. An exhaustive evaluation of the novel method has been first performed on a scalar image sequence generated by Direct Numerical Simulation of a turbulent bi-dimensional flow. Based on qualitative experimental comparisons, the method has also been assessed on a Meteosat infrared image sequence.

3.3. Data assimilation and Tracking of characteristic fluid features

Classical motion estimation techniques usually proceed on pairs of two successive images, and do not enforce temporal consistency. This often induces an estimation drift which is essentially due to the fact that motion estimation is formulated as a local process in time. No adequate physical dynamics law, or conservation law, related to the observed flow, is taken into account over long time intervals by the usual motion estimators. The estimation of an unknown state variable trajectory on the basis of specified dynamical laws and some incomplete and noisy measurements of the variable of interest can be either conducted through optimal control techniques or through stochastic filtering approach. These two frameworks have their own advantages and deficiencies. We rely indifferently on both approaches.

Stochastic filtering for fluid motion tracking We have proposed a recursive Bayesian filter for tracking velocity fields of fluid flows. The filter combines an Itô diffusion process associated to 2D vorticity-velocity formulation of Navier-Stokes equation and discrete image error reconstruction measurements. In contrast to usual filters, designed for visual tracking problem, our filter combines a continuous law for the description of the vorticity evolution with discrete image measurements. We resort to a Monte-Carlo approximation based on particle filtering. The designed tracker provides a robust and consistent estimation of instantaneous motion fields along the whole image sequence. In order to handle a state space of reasonable dimension for the stochastic filtering problem, the motion field is represented as a combination of adapted basis functions. The basis functions are derived from a mollification of Biot-Savart integral and a discretization of the vorticity and divergence maps of the fluid vector field. The output of such a tracking is a set of motion fields along the whole time range of the image sequence. As the time discretization is much finer than the frame rate, the method provides consistent motion interpolation between consecutive frames. In order to reduce further the dimensionality of the associated state space when we are facing a large number of motion basis functions, we have explored a new dimensional reduction approach based on dynamical systems theory. The study of the stable and unstable directions of the continuous dynamics enables to construct an adaptive dimension reduction procedure. It consists in sampling only in the unstable directions, while the stable ones are treated deterministically [6].

When the likelihood of the measurement can be modeled as Gaussian law, we have also investigated the use of so-called ensemble Kalman filtering for fluid tracking problems. This kind of filters introduced for the analysis of geophysical fluids is based on the Kalman filter update equation. Nevertheless, unlike traditional Kalman filtering setting, the covariances of the estimation errors, required to compute the Kalman gain, rely on an ensemble of forecasts. Such a process gives rise to a Monte Carlo approximation for a family of stochastic non linear filters enabling to handle state spaces of large dimension. We have recently proposed an extension of this technique that combines sequential importance sampling and the propagation law of ensemble kalman filter. This technique leads to ensemble Kalman filter with an improve efficiency. This appears to be a generalization

of the optimal importance sampling strategy we proposed in the context of partial conditional Gaussian trackers [1].

Variational assimilation technique

We investigated the use of variational framework for the tracking from image sequence of features belonging to high dimensional spaces. This framework relies on optimal control principles as developed in environmental sciences to analyze geophysical flows [49], [50]. Within the PhD of Nicolas Papadakis [10], we have first devised a data assimilation technique for the tracking of closed curves and their associated motion fields. The proposed approach enables a continuous tracking along an image sequence of both a deformable curve and its associated velocity field. Such an approach has been formalized through the minimization of a global spatio-temporal continuous cost functional, with respect to a set of variables representing the curve and its related motion field. The resulting minimization sequence consists in a forward integration of an evolution law followed by a backward integration of an adjoint evolution model. The latter pde includes a term related to the discrepancy between the state variables evolution law and discrete noisy measurements of the system. The closed curves are represented through implicit surface modeling [51], whereas the motion is described either by a vector field or through vorticity and divergence maps according to the type of targeted application. The efficiency of the approach has been demonstrated on two types of image sequences showing deformable objects and fluid motions.

More recently assimilation technique for the direct estimation of atmospheric wind field from pressure images have been proposed [4]. These techniques rely on a brightness variation model of the intensity function. They do not include anymore motion measurements provided by external motion estimators. The resulting estimator allows us to recover accurate fluid motion fields and enables tracking dense vorticity maps along an image sequence.

3.4. Visual servoing

Nowadays, visual servoing is a widely used technique in robot control. It consists in using data provided by a vision sensor for controlling the motions of a robot [45]. Various sensors can be considered such as perspective cameras, omnidirectional cameras, 2D ultrasound probes or even virtual cameras. In fact, this technique is historically embedded in the larger domain of sensor-based control [54] so that other sensors than vision sensors can be properly used. On the other hand, this approach was first dedicated to robot arms control. Today, much more complex system can be considered like humanoid robots, cars, submarines, airships, helicopters, aircrafts. Therefore, visual servoing is now seen as a powerful approach to control the state of dynamic systems.

Classically, to achieve a visual servoing task, a set of visual features \mathbf{s} has to be selected from visual measurements \mathbf{m} extracted from the image. A control law is then designed so that these visual features reach a desired value \mathbf{s}^* related to the desired state of the system. The control principle is thus to regulate to zero the error vector $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}^*$. To build the control law, the knowledge of the so-called *interaction matrix* \mathbf{L}_s is usually required. This matrix links the time variation of \mathbf{s} to the camera instantaneous velocity \mathbf{v}

$$\dot{\mathbf{s}} = \mathbf{L}_s \mathbf{v} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{s}}{\partial t} \quad (1)$$

where the term $\frac{\partial \mathbf{s}}{\partial t}$ describes the non-stationary behavior of \mathbf{s} . Typically, if we try to ensure an exponential decoupled decrease of the error signal and if we consider the camera velocity as the input of the robot controller, the control law writes as follow

$$\mathbf{v} = -\lambda \widehat{\mathbf{L}}_s^+ \mathbf{e} - \widehat{\mathbf{L}}_s^+ \frac{\partial \mathbf{e}}{\partial t} \quad (2)$$

with λ a proportional gain that has to be tuned to minimize the time-to-convergence, $\widehat{\mathbf{L}}_s^+$ the pseudo-inverse of a model or an approximation of \mathbf{L}_s and $\frac{\partial \widehat{\mathbf{e}}}{\partial t}$ an estimation of $\frac{\partial \mathbf{e}}{\partial t}$.

The behavior of the closed-loop system is then obtained, from (2), by expressing the time variation of the error \mathbf{e}

$$\dot{\mathbf{e}} = -\lambda \mathbf{L}_s \widehat{\mathbf{L}}_s^+ \mathbf{e} - \mathbf{L}_s \widehat{\mathbf{L}}_e^+ \frac{\partial \widehat{\mathbf{e}}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{e}}{\partial t}. \quad (3)$$

As can be seen, visual servoing explicitly relies on the choice of the visual features \mathbf{s} and then on the related interaction matrix; that is the key point of this approach. Indeed, this choice must be performed very carefully. Especially, an isomorphism between the camera pose and the visual features is required to ensure that the convergence of the control law will lead to the desired state of the system. An optimal choice would result in finding visual features leading to a diagonal and constant interaction matrix and, consequently, to a linear decoupled system for which the control problem is well known. Thereafter, the isomorphism as well as the global stability would be guaranteed. In addition, since the interaction matrix would present no more nonlinearities, a suitable robot trajectory would be ensured.

However, finding such visual features is a very complex problem and it is still an open issue. Basically, this problem consists in building the visual features \mathbf{s} from the nonlinear visual measurements \mathbf{m} so that the interaction matrix related to \mathbf{s} becomes diagonal and constant or, at least, as simple as possible.

On the other hand, a robust extraction, matching (between the initial and desired measurements) and real-time spatio-temporal tracking (between successive measurements) have to be ensured but have proved to be a complex task, as testified by the abundant literature on the subject. Nevertheless, this image process is, to date, a necessary step and often considered as one of the bottlenecks of the expansion of visual servoing. That is why more and more non geometric visual measurements are proposed [3].

3.5. Sparse Representations and Bayesian model selection

Sparse representation methods aim at finding representations of a signal with a small number of components taken from an over-complete dictionary of elementary functions or vectors. Sparse representation are of interest in a number of applications in Physics and signal processing. In particular, they provide a simple characterization of certain families of signals encountered in practice. For example, smooth signals can be shown to have a sparse representation in over-complete Fourier or wavelet dictionaries. More recently, it has been emphasized in [44] that the solutions of certain differential equations (*e.g.*, diffusion or transport equation) have a sparse representation in dictionaries made up of curvelets.

Finding the sparse representation of a signal typically requires to solve an under-determined system of equations under the constraint that the solution is composed of the minimum number of non-zero elements. Unfortunately, this problem is known to be NP-hard and sub-optimal procedures have to be devised to find practical solutions. Among the various algorithms that find approximate solutions, let us mention for example the matching pursuit, orthogonal matching pursuit or basis pursuit algorithms.

Choosing appropriate models and fixing hyper-parameters is a tricky and often hidden process in optic-flow estimation. Most of the motion estimators proposed so far have generally to rely on successive trials and an empirical strategy for fixing the hyper parameters values and choosing the adequate model. Besides of its computational inefficiency, this strategy may produce catastrophic estimate without any relevant feedback for the end-user, especially when motions are difficult to apprehend as for instance for complex deformations or non-conventional imagery. Imposing hard values to these parameters may also yield poor results when the lighting conditions or the underlying motions differ from those the system has been calibrated with. At the extreme, the estimate may be either too smooth or at the opposite non-existent strong motion discontinuities.

Bayesian model selection offers an attractive solution to this problem. The Bayesian paradigm implicitly requires the definition of several competing observation and prior *probabilistic* model(s). The observation model relates the motion of the physical system to the spatial and temporal variations of the image intensity. The prior models define the spatio-temporal constraints that the motion have to satisfy. Considering these competing models, the Bayesian theory provides methodologies to select the best models under objective performance criterion (minimum probability of error, minimum mean square error, etc). Moreover, due to the generality of this problem, numerous algorithms and approximations exist in the literature to implement efficient and effective practical solutions: Monte-Carlo integration, mean-field and Laplace approximations, EM algorithm, graphical models, etc.

4. Application Domains

4.1. Application Domains

By designing new approaches for the analysis of fluid-image sequences the FLUMINANCE group aims at contributing to several application domains of great interest for the community and in which the analysis of complex fluid flows plays a central role. The group focuses mainly on two broad application domains:

- Environmental sciences;
- Experimental fluid mechanics and industrial flows.

4.1.1. *Environmental sciences*

The first huge application domain concerns all the sciences that aim at observing the biosphere evolution such as meteorology, climatology or oceanography but also remote sensing study for the monitoring of meteorological events or human activities consequences. For all these domains image analysis is a practical and unique tool to *observe, detect, measure, characterize or analyze* the evolution of physical parameters over a large domain. The design of generic image processing technique for all these domains might offer practical software tools to measure precisely the evolution of fluid flows for weather forecasting or climatology studies. It might also offer possibilities of closed surveillance of human and natural activities in sensible areas such as forests, river edges, and valley in order to monitor pollution, floods or fire. The need in terms of local weather forecasting, risk prevention, or local climate change is becoming crucial for our tomorrow's life. At a more local scale, image sensors may also be of major utility to analyze precisely the effect of air curtains for safe packaging in agro-industrial.

4.1.2. *Experimental fluid mechanics and industrial flows*

In the domain of **experimental fluid mechanics**, the visualization of fluid flows plays a major role, especially for turbulence study since high frequency imaging has been made currently available. Together with analysis of turbulence at different scales, one of the major goals pursued at the moment by lot of scientists and engineers consists in studying the ability to manipulate a flow to induce a desired change. This is of huge technological importance to enhance or inhibit mixing in shear flows, improve energetic efficiency or control the physical effects of strain and stresses. This is for instance of particular interest for:

- military applications, for example to limit the infra-red signatures of fighter aircraft;
- aeronautics and transportation, to limit fuel consumption by controlling drag and lift effects of turbulence and boundary layer behavior;
- industrial applications, for example to monitor flowing, melting, mixing or swelling of processed materials, or preserve manufactured products from contamination by airborne pollutants, or in industrial chemistry to increase chemical reactions by acting on turbulence phenomena.

5. Software

5.1. DenseMotion software - Estimation of 2D dense motion fields

Participants: Thomas Corpetti, Patrick Héas, Etienne Mémin.

This code allows the computation from two consecutive images of a dense motion field. The estimator is expressed as a global energy function minimization. The code enables the choice of different data model and different regularization functional depending on the targeted application. Generic motion estimator for video sequences or dedicated motion estimator for fluid flows can be specified. This estimator allows in addition the users to specify additional correlation based matching measurements. It enables also the inclusion of a temporal smoothing prior relying on a velocity vorticity formulation of the Navier-Stoke equation for Fluid motion analysis applications. The different variants of this code correspond to research studies that have been published in IEEE transaction on Pattern Analysis and machine Intelligence, Experiments in Fluids, IEEE transaction on Image Processing, IEEE transaction on Geo-Science and Remote Sensing. The binary of this code can be freely downloaded on the FLUID web site <http://fluid.irisa.fr>.

5.2. 2DLayeredMotion software - Estimation of 2D independent mesoscale layered atmospheric motion fields

Participants: Patrick Héas, Etienne Mémin.

This software enables to estimate a stack of 2D horizontal wind fields corresponding to a mesoscale dynamics of atmospheric pressure layers. This estimator is formulated as the minimization of a global energy function. It relies on a vertical decomposition of the atmosphere into pressure layers. This estimator uses pressure data and classification clouds maps and top of clouds pressure maps (or infra-red images). All these images are routinely supplied by the EUMETSAT consortium which handles the Meteosat and MSG satellite data distribution. The energy function relies on a data model built from the integration of the mass conservation on each layer. The estimator also includes a simplified and filtered shallow water dynamical model as temporal smoother and second-order div-curl spatial regularizer. The estimator may also incorporate correlation-based vector fields as additional observations. These correlation vectors are also routinely provided by the Eumetsat consortium. This code corresponds to research studies published in IEEE transaction on Geo-Science and Remote Sensing. It can be freely downloaded on the FLUID web site <http://fluid.irisa.fr>.

5.3. 3DLayeredMotion software - Estimation of 3D interconnected layered atmospheric motion fields

Participants: Patrick Héas, Etienne Mémin.

This software extends the previous 2D version. It allows (for the first time to our knowledge) the recovery of 3D wind fields from satellite image sequences. As with the previous techniques, the atmosphere is decomposed into a stack of pressure layers. The estimation relies also on pressure data and classification clouds maps and top of clouds pressure maps. In order to recover the 3D missing velocity information, physical knowledge on 3D mass exchanges between layers has been introduced in the data model. The corresponding data model appears to be a generalization of the previous data model constructed from a vertical integration of the continuity equation. This research study has been recently accepted for publication in IEEE trans. on Geo-Science and Remote Sensing. A detailed description of the technique can be found in an Inria research report. The binary of this code can be freely downloaded on the FLUID web site <http://fluid.irisa.fr>.

5.4. Low-Order-Motion - Estimation of low order representation of fluid motion

Participants: Anne Cuzol, Etienne Mémin.

This code enables the estimation of a low order representation of a fluid motion field from two consecutive images. The fluid motion representation is obtained using a discretization of the vorticity and divergence maps through regularized Dirac measure. The irrotational and solenoidal components of the motion fields are expressed as linear combinations of basis functions obtained through the Biot-Savart law. The coefficient values and the basis function parameters are obtained as the minimizer of a functional relying on an intensity variation model obtained from an integrated version of the mass conservation principle of fluid mechanics. Different versions of this estimation are available. The code which includes a Matlab user interface can be downloaded on the FLUID web site <http://fluid.irisa.fr>. This program corresponds to a research study that has been published in the International Journal on computer Vision.

6. New Results

6.1. Fluid motion estimation

6.1.1. Multiscale PIV method based on turbulent kinetic energy decay

Participants: Patrick Héas, Dominique Heitz, Etienne Mémin.

We have proposed a new multiscale PIV method based on turbulent kinetic energy decay. The technique is based on scaling power laws describing the statistical structure of turbulence. A spatial regularization constraints the solution to behave through scales as a self similar process via second-order structure function and a given power law. The real parameters of the power-law, corresponding to the distribution of the turbulent kinetic energy decay, have been estimated from a simple hot-wire measurement. The method has been assessed in a turbulent wake flow and grid turbulence through comparisons with HWA measurements and other PIV approaches. Results have indicated that the present method is superior because it accounts for the whole dynamic range involved in the flows.

6.1.2. Stochastic uncertainty models for motion estimation

Participants: Thomas Corpetti, Etienne Mémin.

In this work we have proposed a stochastic formulation of the brightness consistency used principally in motion estimation problems. In this formalization the image luminance is modeled as a continuous function transported by a flow known only up to some uncertainties. Stochastic calculus enables to built then conservation principles which take into account the motion uncertainties. These uncertainties defined either from isotropic or anisotropic models can be estimated jointly to the motion estimates. Such a formulation besides providing estimates of the velocity field and of its associated uncertainties allows us to define a natural linear scale space multiresolution framework. The corresponding estimator implemented within a local least squares approach has shown to improve significantly the results of the corresponding deterministic estimator (Lucas and Kanade estimator). This fast local motion estimator has been shown to provide results that are in the same order of accuracy than state-of-the-art dense fluid flow motion estimator for particle images. This work has been published in a conference proceeding and has been accepted for publication in the journal *Ieee trans. on image processing* [23], [16]. We intend to pursue this formalization to define dense motion estimators that allows handling in the same way luminance conservation under motion uncertainty principles.

6.1.3. 3D flows reconstruction from image data

Participants: Ioana Barbu, Dominique Heitz, Cédric Herzet, Etienne Mémin.

Our work focusses on the design of new tools for the problem of 3D reconstruction of a turbulent flow motion. This task includes both the study of physically-sound models on the observations and the fluid motion, and the design of low-complexity and accurate estimation algorithms. On the one hand, state-of-the-art methodologies such as “sparse representations” will be investigated for the characterization of the observation and fluid motion models. Sparse representations are well-suited to the representation of signals with very few coefficients and offer therefore advantages in terms of computational and storage complexity. On the other hand, the estimation problem will be placed into a probabilistic Bayesian framework. This will allow the use of state-of-the-art inference tools to effectively exploit the strong time-dependence of the fluid motion. In particular, we will investigate the use of “ensemble Kalman” filter to devise low-complexity sequential estimation algorithms.

This year, we have more particularly focussed on the problem of reconstructing the particle positions from several two-dimensional images. Our approach is based on the exploitation of a particular family of sparse representation algorithms, namely the so-called “pursuit algorithms”. Indeed, the pursuit procedures generally allow a good trade-off between performance and complexity. Hence, we have performed a thorough study comparing the reconstruction performance and the complexity of different state-of-the-art algorithms to that achieved with pursuit algorithms. This work has led to the publication of two conference papers in experimental fluid mechanics [21], [34].

6.1.4. Motion estimation techniques for turbulent fluid flows

Participants: Patrick Héas, Dominique Heitz, Cédric Herzet, Etienne Mémin.

Based on physical laws describing the multi-scale structure of turbulent flows, this article proposes a regularizer for fluid motion estimation from an image sequence. Regularization is achieved by imposing some scale invariance property between histograms of motion increments computed at different scales. By reformulating this problem from a Bayesian perspective, an algorithm is proposed to jointly estimate motion, regularization hyper-parameters, and to select the most likely physical prior among a set of models. Hyper-parameter and model inference is conducted by likelihood maximization, obtained by marginalizing out non-Gaussian motion variables. The Bayesian estimator is assessed on several image sequences depicting synthetic and real turbulent fluid flows. Results obtained with the proposed approach in the context of fully developed turbulence improve significantly the results of state of the art fluid flow dedicated motion estimators. This work has been published in several conferences and in the journal *Tellus, Serie A* [18].

6.1.5. Wavelet basis for multi-scale motion estimation

Participants: Pierre Dérian, Patrick Héas, Cédric Herzet, Souleymane Kadri Harouna, Etienne Mémin.

This work aims at exploring wavelet representations for fluid motion estimation from consecutive images. This scale-space representation, associated to a simple gradient-based optimization algorithm, sets up a natural multi-resolution framework for the optical flow estimation well suited to medium range velocity magnitude. Moreover, a very simple closure mechanism, approaching locally the solution by high-order polynomials, is provided by truncating the wavelet basis at fine scales. Well-known turbulence regularities and multifractal behaviors on the reconstructed motion field can also be imposed on the wavelet coefficients. Accuracy and efficiency of the proposed method has been evaluated on scalar and particles image sequences of turbulent fluid flows. Particularly good results have been observed for particle image velocimetry. This offers a very interesting alternative to traditional PIV techniques. This work has been published in computer vision or turbulence conferences [26], [25].

6.1.6. Divergence-free wavelet basis and high-order regularization

Participants: Pierre Dérian, Patrick Héas, Souleymane Kadri Harouna, Etienne Mémin.

Expanding on a wavelet basis the solution of an inverse problem provides several advantages. Wavelet bases yield a natural multiresolution analysis that may alleviate the use of Gauss Newton strategy for medium range motion amplitude. The continuous representation of the solution with wavelets enables analytical calculation of regularization integrals over the spatial domain. By choosing differentiable wavelets, high-order derivative regularizers can be designed, either taking advantage of the wavelet differentiation properties or via the basis's mass and stiffness matrices. Moreover, differential constraints on vector solutions, such as the divergence-free volume preserving constraint, can be handled with biorthogonal wavelet bases. Numerical results on synthetic and real images of incompressible turbulence show that divergence-free wavelets and high-order regularizers are particularly relevant in the context of incompressible fluid flows. This work has been partly published in a conference proceeding [25].

6.1.7. Divergence-free wavelet basis and high-order regularization

Participants: Pierre Dérian, Patrick Héas, Souleymane Kadri Harouna.

This work presents a method for regularization of inverse problems. The vectorial bi-dimensional unknown is assumed to be the realization of an isotropic divergence-free fractional Brownian Motion (fBm). The method is based on fractional Laplacian and divergence-free wavelet bases. The main advantage of these bases is to enable an easy formalization in a Bayesian framework of fBm priors, by simply sampling wavelet coefficients according to Gaussian white noise. Fractional Laplacians and the divergence-free projector can naturally be implemented in the Fourier domain. An interesting alternative is to remain in the spatial domain. This is achieved by the analytical computation of the connection coefficients of divergence-free fractional Laplacian wavelets, which enables to easily rotate this simple prior in any sufficiently "regular" wavelet basis. Taking advantage of the tensorial structure of a separable fractional wavelet basis approximation, isotropic regularization is then computed in the spatial domain by low-dimensional matrix products. The method is successfully applied to fractal image restoration and turbulent optic-flow estimation.

6.1.8. Bayesian inference of hyper-parameters and models in motion estimation

Participants: Patrick Héas, Cédric Herzet, Etienne Mémin.

Bayes rule provides a nice framework for motion estimation from image sequences. We rely on a hierarchical modeling linking the image intensity function variable, the motion field variable, hyper-parameters composed of the likelihood and prior model inverse variances and of robust parameters, and finally the observation and prior model. The variable dependence can thus be expressed as a 4-level hierarchy. Applying the Bayes rule on this hierarchy, we obtain three levels of inference, which enable us to obtain, by marginalizing out intermediate variables, a direct dependence of the variable of interest to the image intensity function. Thus, the estimates of regularization parameters, of robust parameters associated to semi-quadratic norms of a family of M-estimators, and of observation and prior models are inferred in a maximum likelihood sense while maximizing jointly the motion field a posteriori probability. The quality of the method is demonstrated on synthetic and real two-dimensional turbulent flows and on several computer vision scenes of the "Middlebury" data-base. This work has been accepted for publication in IEEE transaction on Image Processing (IP) [17].

6.1.9. Method to quantify the uncertainty of motion measurement

Participants: Patrick Héas, Dominique Heitz, Cédric Herzet.

Measurement uncertainty is a general concept associated with any measurement that can be used to quantify the confidence of the estimation. The 'Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement' (GUM) provides a framework to account for all uncertainties and then to propagate them. However, in particle image velocimetry (PIV), measurement uncertainty estimation is a tricky task since it has to be done through the propagation of distributions via Monte Carlo simulations for each velocity components and all pixel location in the image. Considering a standard Bayesian formulation of the optical flow problem together with a Gaussian assumption the uncertainty associated to the estimated velocity field has been provided and described. First PIV measurement uncertainty estimations and discussions have been recently published in a conference issue [36].

6.1.10. Sparse-representation algorithms

Participant: Cédric Herzet.

We have pursued the study of efficient sparse decomposition algorithms. In particular, we have addressed the problem of finding good sparse representations into a probabilistic framework [24]. First, we have showed that one of the standard formulations - the Lagrangian formulation - of this problem can be interpreted as a limit case of a maximum a posteriori (MAP) problem involving Bernoulli-Gaussian variables. Then, we have proposed different tractable implementations of this MAP problem and explained some well-known pursuit algorithms (MP, OMP, StOMP, CoSaMP and SP) as particular cases of the proposed algorithms. Experimentations led on synthetic data show a good general behavior of the proposed methods.

Exploiting further this probabilistic framework, we have then considered the design of *soft* pursuit algorithms. In particular, instead of making hard decisions on the support of the sparse representation and the amplitude of the non-zero coefficients, our soft procedures iteratively update *probability* on the latter values. The proposed algorithms are designed within the framework of the mean-field approximations and resort to the so-called variational Bayes EM algorithm to implement an efficient minimization of a Kullback-Leibler criterion.

6.2. Tracking and data assimilation

6.2.1. Stochastic filtering for fluid motion tracking

Participants: Sébastien Bélyou, Anne Cuzol, Sai Gorthi, Etienne Mémin.

We investigated the study of a recursive Bayesian filter for tracking velocity fields of fluid flows. The filter combines an Ito diffusion process associated to 2D vorticity-velocity formulation of Navier-Stokes equation and discrete image error reconstruction measurements. In contrast to usual filters designed for visual tracking problems, our filter combines a continuous law for the description of the vorticity evolution with discrete image measurements. We resort to a Monte-Carlo approximation based on particle filtering. The designed tracker provides a robust and consistent estimation of instantaneous motion fields along the whole image sequence.

When the likelihood of the measurement can be modeled as Gaussian law, we have also investigated the use of the so-called ensemble Kalman filtering for fluid tracking problems. This kind of filters introduced for the analysis of geophysical fluids is based on the Kalman filter update equation. Nevertheless, unlike traditional Kalman filtering setting, the covariances of the estimation errors, required to compute the so-called Kalman gain, relies on an ensemble of forecasts. Such a process gives rise to a Monte Carlo approximation for a family of non-linear stochastic filters enabling to handle state spaces of large dimension. We have recently proposed an extension of this technique that combines sequential importance sampling and the propagation law of a n ensemble Kalman filter. This technique leads to an ensemble Kalman filter with an improved efficiency. This year we have investigated the introduction of a nonlinear direct image measurements operator within this ensemble Kalman scheme. This modification of the filter provides very good results on 2D numerical and experimental flows even in the presence of strong noises. We are currently assessing its application to oceanic satellite images for the recovering of ocean streams. We are studying also the impact on the stochastic dynamics of turbulent noise defined as auto-similar Gaussian random fields and the introduction within an incremental ensemble analysis scheme of multiscale motion measurements. This work has been published in conference issues [28], [27], [35].

6.2.2. Reduced-order models for flows representation from image data

Participants: Patrick Héas, Cédric Herzet, Etienne Mémin, Véronique Souchaud.

One of the possibilities to neglect the influence of some degrees of freedom over the main characteristics of a flow consists in representing it as a sum of K -orthonormal spatial basis functions weighted with temporal coefficients. To determine the basis function of this expansion one of the usual approaches relies on the Karhunen-Loeve decomposition (referred as proper orthogonal decomposition – POD – in the fluid mechanics domain). In practice, the spatial basis functions, also called modes, are the eigen vectors of an empirical auto-correlation matrix which is built from “snapshots” of the considered physical process.

In this axis of work we focus on the case where one does not have a direct access to snapshots of the considered physical process. Instead, the POD has to be built from the partial and noisy observation of the physical process. Instances of such scenarios include situations where real instantaneous vector-field snapshots are estimated from a sequence of *images*. We have been working on several approaches dealing with such a new paradigm. A first approach consists in extending standard penalized motion-estimation algorithms to the case where the sought velocity field is constrained to span a low-dimensional subspace [38]. Giving a probabilistic interpretation to this problem, we have designed novel optimization procedures in the framework of maximum a posteriori estimation problem. This work has led to the publication of a paper in the GretsI conference. We are currently working on an EM-algorithm implementation of this approach.

In a second approach, we are considering the design of the POD as the solution of a minimum least squares estimation problem based on the distribution of the (unknown) velocity field given a sequence of images. This alternative formulation allowed us to take explicitly the uncertainty on the velocity field into account into our optimization process. We are currently working on several practical implementations of this problem, relying on Monte-Carlo integration and Krylov subspaces.

In a third axis we have studied two variational data assimilation techniques for the estimation of low order dynamical models for fluid flows. Both methods are built from optimal control recipes and rely on POD representation associated to Galerkin projection of the Navier Stokes equations. The proposed techniques differ in the control variables they involve. The first one introduces a weak dynamical model defined only up to an additional uncertainty time dependent function whereas the second one, handles a strong dynamical constraint in which the coefficients of the dynamical system constitute the control variables. Both choices correspond to different approximations of the relation between the reduced basis on which is expressed the motion field and the basis components that have been neglected in the reduced order model construction. The techniques have been assessed on numerical data and for real experimental conditions with noisy Image Velocimetry data. This work has been presented in several conferences. A journal paper has been recently accepted with minor changes to the journal of computational Physics

6.2.3. Optimal control techniques for the coupling of large eddy dynamical systems and image data

Participants: Dominique Heitz, Etienne Mémin, Cordelia Robinson, Yin Yang.

This work aims at investigating the use of optimal control techniques for the coupling of Large Eddies Simulation (LES) techniques and 2D image data. The objective is to reconstruct a 3D flow from a set of simultaneous time resolved 2D image sequences visualizing the flow on a set of 2D plans enlightened with laser sheets. This approach will be experimented on shear layer flows and on wake flows generated on the wind tunnel of Irstea Rennes. Within this study we wish also to explore techniques to enrich large-scale dynamical models by the introduction of uncertainty terms or through the definition of subgrid models from the image data. This research theme is related to the issue of turbulence characterization from image sequences. Instead of predefined turbulence models, we aim here at tuning from the data the value of coefficients involved in traditional LES subgrid models or in longer-term goal to learn empirical subgrid models directly from image data. An accurate modeling of this term is essential for Large Eddies Simulation as it models all the non resolved motion scales and their interactions with the large scales.

First tests have been conducted with two-dimensional Direct Numerical Simulations (DNS) of mixing layer coupled with noisy observations. By modifying the initial condition of the system, the proposed method recovers the state of an unknown function with good accuracy. This work has been published in the International Symposium on Turbulence and Shear Flow Phenomena (TSFP) 2011 [29].

6.2.4. Free surface flows reconstruction and tracking

Participants: Benoît Combes, Dominique Heitz, Etienne Mémin.

Characterising a free-surface flow (space and time-dependent velocity and geometry) given observations/measures at successive times is an ubiquitous problem in fluid mechanic and in hydrology. Observations can consist of e.g. measurements of velocity, or like in this work of measurements of the geometry of the free-surface. Indeed, recently developed depth/range sensors allow to capture directly a rough 3D geometry of surfaces with high space and time resolution. The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the ability of the Kinect sensor to estimate time-dependent 3D free-surface geometries. Then, based on these observations and on a stochastic data assimilation method, we want to estimate both time dependent geometry and displacement field associated to a free-surface flow from a simple temporal sequence of Kinect data. This year we have demonstrated on real data the possibility to measure free surface flow geometry with kinect sensor and on synthetic data to estimate both time dependent geometry and displacement field associated to a free-surface flow from a simple temporal sequence of Kinect-like data. This work has been published in the new conference Flow Volume Reconstruction [22]. We intend to extend such a study to hydrological applications.

6.2.5. Stochastic filtering technique for the tracking of closed curves

Participants: Christophe Avenel, Etienne Mémin.

We have proposed a filtering methodology for the visual tracking of closed curves. Opposite to works of the literature related to this issue, we consider here a curve dynamical model based on a continuous time evolution law with different noise models. This led us to define three different stochastic differential equations that capture the uncertainty relative to curve motions. This new approach provides a natural understanding of classical level-set dynamics in terms of such uncertainties. These evolution laws have been combined with various color and motion measurements to define probabilistic state space models whose associated Bayesian filters can be handled with particle filters. This on going work will be continued within extensive curve tracking experiments and extended to the tracking of other very high dimensional entities such as vector fields and surfaces. This work has been published in conference proceedings and a journal article is conditionally accepted to minor changes for publication in a meteorological journal.

6.2.6. Sequential smoothing for fluid motion

Participants: Anne Cuzol, Etienne Mémin.

In parallel to the construction of stochastic filtering techniques for fluid motions, we have proposed a new sequential smoothing method within a Monte-Carlo framework. This smoothing aims at reducing the temporal discontinuities induced by the sequential assimilation of discrete time data into continuous time dynamical models. The time step between observations can indeed be long in environmental applications for instance, and much longer than the time step used to discretize the model equations. While the filtering aims at estimating the state of the system at observations times in an optimal way, the objective of the smoothing is to improve the estimation of the hidden state between observation times. The method is based on a Monte-Carlo approximation of the filtering and smoothing distributions, and relies on a simulation technique of conditioned diffusions. The proposed smoother can be applied to general non linear and multidimensional models. It has been applied to a turbulent flow in a high-dimensional context, in order to smooth the filtering results obtained from a particle filter with a proposal density built from an Ensemble Kalman procedure.

6.2.7. Stochastic fluid flows dynamics under Gaussian uncertainty

Participant: Etienne Mémin.

In this research axis we aim at devising stochastic Eulerian expression for the description of fluid flow evolution laws incorporating uncertainty on the particles location. Such an uncertainty modeled through the introduction of a random term allows taking into account approximations or truncation effects performed within the dynamics analytical constitution steps. This includes for instance the modeling of unresolved scales interaction in large eddies simulation (LES) or in Reynolds average numerical simulation (RANS), but also uncertainties attached to non uniform grid discretization. This model is mainly based on a stochastic version of the Reynolds transport theorem. Within this framework various simple expressions of the mean drift component can be exhibited for different models of the random field carrying the uncertainties we have on the

flow. We aim at using such a formalization within image based data assimilation framework and to derive appropriate stochastic versions of geophysical flow dynamical modeling.

6.2.8. Variational assimilation of images for large scale fluid flow dynamics with uncertainty

Participants: Souleymane Kadri Harouna, Etienne Mémin.

In this work we explore the assimilation of a large scale representation of the flow dynamics with image data provided at a finer resolution. The velocity fields at large scales is described as a regular smooth components whereas the complement component is a highly oscillating random velocity field defined on the image grid but living at all the scales. Following this route we have started to assess the performances of a variational assimilation technique with direct image data observation. Preliminary results obtained for a wavelet based 2D Navier Stokes implementation and images of a passive scalar transported by the flow are very encouraging.

6.3. Analysis and modeling of turbulent flows

6.3.1. Mixing layers between a uniform flow and a shear flow

Participant: Dominique Heitz.

We have addressed the analysis and modelling of non canonical turbulent mixing layers between a uniform flow and a shear flow. From a parametric study by bidimensional direct numerical simulations two mixing layer configurations between a uniform flow and a shear flow have been selected. These two configurations share the same shear flow but have a different uniform flow.

The shear flow was obtained with curved gauze. However the theoretical shear parameter predicted by the literature is different from the value obtained by experiments. In order to study these discrepancies, the flow through a gauze was studied by particle image velocimetry. This allowed the general modeling of the uniform flow through curved wire gauze, leading to linear mean velocity profiles. From a hot-wire anemometry study of the two flow configurations it was observed that one flow behaves like a mixing layer whereas the other flow yields a wake behaviour. The mixing layer indicates an increasing turbulent kinetic energy along its longitudinal development, while the wake exhibits an asymmetry.

6.3.2. Hot-wire anemometry at low velocities

Participant: Dominique Heitz.

A new dynamical calibration technique has been developed for hot-wire probes. The technique permits, in a short time range, the combined calibration of velocity, temperature and direction calibration of single and multiple hot-wire probes. The calibration and measurements uncertainties were modeled, simulated and controlled, in order to reduce their estimated values. This year a patent application has been submitted.

6.3.3. Experimental studies for the assessment of turbulence statistical models

Participants: Patrick Héas, Dominique Heitz, Etienne Mémin.

[In collaboration with G. Artana and P. Minini (Univ. Bueno Aires)]

Selecting directly from images the most likely scaling motion priors enables the recovery of physical quantities related to the energy flux and the flow regularity. Such measurements are of major interest for turbulence studies. In particular, determining the energy flux across scales and characterizing intermittency is very important to assess the relevance of the statistical models proposed for atmospheric turbulence. Although, the measurement of flux and atmospheric flow regularity has already been obtained previously using in situ data, it required an important measurement campaign lasting several years based on sensors placed on airplanes. Therefore, the proposed motion estimation technique described above represents an attractive tool since it enables the direct estimation of these quantities from a couple of images. A paper concerning an atmospheric turbulence study using Meteosat Second Generation (MSG) images has been accepted in the journal *Tellus A*. Experimental studies of three-dimensional turbulence behind a grid or in the wake of a cylinder has been performed and will be submitted in the journal *Experiments in fluids*. New experiments for the assessment of turbulence statistical models are currently going on in collaboration with the laboratory of fluid mechanics and turbulence scientists in Argentina. They focus on two-dimensional turbulence of soap films visualized with a Schlieren imagery system. The goal of this work is to validate experimentally the theoretical model predicting non-intermittent inverse energy cascades in pure two-dimensional flows

6.4. Visual servoing approach for fluid flow control

6.4.1. *Fully exploitation of the controlled degrees of freedom of the 2D plane Poiseuille flow*

Participants: Christophe Collewet, Xuan Quy Dao.

This work concerns the Phd of Xuan-Quy Dao and can be seen as an extension of the works carried out by Roméo Tatsambon. Since visual measurements are used, we propose here to use advanced visual servoing techniques to fully exploit the controlled degrees of freedom of the 2D plane Poiseuille flow. To achieve this goal we propose to design a control law based on partitioned visual servo control (this approach has been first proposed in the robotics community by [46] but in a very different context). Therefore, we have shown that, following this way and contrary to the literature concerning drag reduction, it becomes easy to simultaneously reduce the drag and the kinetic energy density of the flow. That is of great importance since the controlled flow is in an unstable state and may become turbulent when the kinetic energy density is growing. This key problem is not well taken into account in the literature. Indeed, either the drag or the kinetic energy density is reduced, but never both of them. Moreover, we have shown that in practice, the way the drag is reduced does not influence the way the kinetic energy density is reduced. In addition, since dense visual measurements are used, our approach is very robust against measurement noise.

6.4.2. *Visual servoing for the 3D plane Poiseuille flow*

Participant: Christophe Collewet.

We focus here on the 3D plane Poiseuille flow which is much more realistic than the 2D case. In that case, it can be shown that the reduced linearized flow is in a stable configuration. However, it is possible to find some bad initial conditions which causes the flow to present high transient energy growths. Indeed, a small perturbation velocity value in the reduced linearized system leads to a transient effect which is characterized by a growth in a short-time behaviour of the kinetic density energy, before a decay occurs. Practically, this transient effect, if not controlled, can cause transition to turbulence. Usually, the streamwise shear stress component at a point belonging to the wall is used as the output of the system in order to control it in a closed-loop fashion. We have proposed a vision-based approach to control this flow (see section 3.4). Our approach has revealed to be the most efficient approach in comparison to existing ones. Indeed, the transient energy is highly reduced. In addition, as in the 2D plane Poiseuille flow, the initialization problem is not of concern in the vision-based approach. In addition, our approach is robust to measurement noise when a large number of flow measurements is available, which is possible in real practical situations. This work has been published in several conferences [33], [20], [32] and has been recently accepted for publication in the International Journal of Flow Control [19].

6.5. National Initiatives

6.5.1. *ANR-COSINUS PREVASSEMBLE: Ensemble methods for assimilation of observations and for prevision in Meteorology and Oceanography*

Participants: Sébastien Bélyou, Anne Cuzol, Etienne Mémin.

duration 36 months.

The purpose of this project is to further study ensemble methods -, and to develop their use for both assimilation of observations and prediction. Among the specific questions to be studied are the theory of Particle Filters and Ensemble Kalman Filters, the possibility of taking temporal correlation into account in ensemble assimilation, the precise assessment of what can and cannot be achieved in ensemble prediction, and the objective validation of ensemble methods.

The partners of this project are Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique/ENS (leader), Météo-France and three INRIA groups (ALEA, ASPI, FLUMINANCE).

6.5.2. *ANR SYSCOMM MSDAG: MultiScale Data Assimilation in Geophysics*

Participants: Pierre Dérian, Patrick Héas, Dominique Heitz, Cédric Herzet, Etienne Mémin.

duration 36 months.

Changing scale is a well-known topic in physics (geophysics, fluid mechanics and turbulence, theoretical and statistical physics, mechanics, porous media, etc.) It has led to the creation of powerful sophisticated mathematical tools: renormalization, homogenization, etc. These ideas are also used in numerical analysis (the so-called multigrid approach) for solving efficiently partial differential equations. Data assimilation in geophysics is a set of methods that allows to combine optimally numerical models in large spaces with large dataset of observations. At the confluence of these two topics, the goal of this project is to study how to embed the change of scales (a multiscale point of view) issue into the framework of geophysical data assimilation, which is a largely unexplored subject.

The partners of this 3 years project are the CERE/ CLIME INRIA group (leader), the LSCE/CEA, the INRIA groups MOISE and FLUMINANCE.

6.5.3. ANR SYSCOMM GeoFluids:

Participants: Patrick Héas, Dominique Heitz, Etienne Mémin, Véronique Souchaud.

duration 48 months.

The project Geo-FLUIDS focuses on the specification of tools to analyse geophysical fluid flows from image sequences. Geo-FLUIDS aims at providing image-based methods using physically consistent models to extract meaningful features describing the observed flow and to unveil the dynamical properties of this flow. The main targeted application domains concern Oceanography and Meteorology . The project consortium gathers the INRIA research groups: FLUMINANCE (leader), CLIME, IPSO, and MOISE. The group of the “Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique” located at the ENS Paris, the IFREMER-CERSAT group located at Brest and the METEOFRANCE GMAP group in Toulouse.

6.5.4. Brittany concil ARED IMAGEO:

Participants: Cédric Herzet, Etienne Mémin, Véronique Souchaud.

duration 36 months. This project of the Brittany concil, which finances the PhD thesis of Véronique Souchaud, aims at studying methods for the estimation of reduced order modeling of fluid flows evolution laws from image sequences. The goal consists here at defining the estimation of a reduced basis describing the flow evolution as a motion estimation problem.

6.6. International Initiatives

6.6.1. INRIA Associate Teams

6.6.1.1. HURACAN

Title: Analysis and control of fluid flows from image sequences

INRIA principal investigator: Etienne Memin

International Partner:

Institution: Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Laboratory: Fluid Dynamics Laboratory

International Partner:

Institution: IRSTEA (France)

Duration: 2010 - 2012

See also: <http://huracan.inria.fr>

The HURACAN associated team is centered on the analysis and the control of fluid flows from image sequences. The research objectives of this team are organized into two distinct work axes. The first one aims at defining and studying visual servoing techniques for fluid flows control. In addition to the definition of efficient visual servoing schemes this axis of work gathers research issues related to fluid flows velocity measurement from images and to flows excitation through plasma actuators. The second research axis focuses on the coupling between large scales representations of geo-physical flows and image data. More precisely, it aims at studying means to define directly from the image sequences the small scales terms of the dynamics. This research axis includes the study of coupling models and data defined at different scales, problems of multiscale velocities estimation respecting turbulence phenomenological laws and issues of experimental validation.

7. Dissemination

7.1. Animation of the scientific community

- *Editorial boards of journals*
 - E. Mémin is Associate Editor for the Image and Vision Computing Journal (IVC).
 - E. Mémin is Associate Editor for the Int. Journal of Computer Vision (IJCV).
- *Technical program committees of conferences*
 - C. Collewet: TPC member of ORASIS'11.
 - C. Herzet: TPC member of GRETSI'11, EUSIPCO 2011.
 - E. Mémin: TPC member of SSVM'11, EMMCVPR'11, ICCV'11, GRETSI'11.
- *Project reviewing, consultancy, administrative responsibilities*
 - E. Mémin is leading the Technological development commission (CDT) of the INRIA Rennes Bretagne Atlantique center
 - E. Mémin is a member of the personal commission of the IRISA and INRIA Rennes Bretagne Atlantique centers
 - E. Mémin is reviewer for FET/IST projects of the European Community
 - C. Collewet is member of the IRSTEA evaluation committee
 - C. Collewet is member of the ecotechnologies department committee
- *Ph.D. reviewing*
 - E. Mémin: Amur Khuda Bux (LMAM, Université Paul Verlaine de Metz), Riadh Fezzani (ONERA, Université de Paris VI).

7.1.1. Other involvements

- The Fluminance is involved in the French network GDR "Structure de la Turbulence et Mélange".
- The Fluminance group participates to the French network GDR "Contrôle Des Décollements".

7.2. Participation in seminars, invitations, awards

- A. Cuzol gave an invited talk on "Conditional simulation within a non linear stochastic filtering framework" at the Statistics seminar, LJK, Grenoble.
- E. Mémin gave an invited talk at the LIMSI/CNRS on "Fluid flow analysis from images"

- R. Tatsambon Fomena was invited to the Symposium on "Advances in Control of Fluid Dynamics and Challenges facing the US Defense Department's thrust on Unmanned Autonomous Systems" for the SIAM Conference on Control and Its Applications.
- The paper "Low-complexity MAP Hypothesis Testing by Bethe Free Energy Minimization" cosigned by C. Herzet, K. Woradit, H. Wymeersch and L. Vandendorpe, published in IEEE Trans. Signal Processing, 2010 [8] has received the best paper award from the Newcom++ European Network of Excellence in December 2011.

7.3. Teaching

Licence : 2eme année (classe préparatoire), Mécanique des fluides (30h Eq. TD), Dominique Heitz, INSA Rennes L2

Master : Mastere SISEA, Modélisation Statistique des Images (15h Eq TD), Patrick Héas, niveau M2, Université de Rennes 1.

Master : Mastere de Statistiques et Econométrie, Analyse de données, (10h Eq. TD), Cedric Herzet, niveau M1, Université de Rennes I

Master : Mastere INFORMATIQUE, Analyse du mouvement (15h Eq TD), Etienne Mémin, niveau M2, Université de Rennes 1.

Master : Mastere INFORMATIQUE, Vision par ordinateur (15h Eq TD), Etienne Mémin, niveau M2, Université de Rennes 1.

Master : 4eme année dep GMA, INSA Rennes dep GMA, INSA Rennes Mécanique des fluides (25h eq TD), Dominique Heitz, INSA Rennes

PhD & HdR:

HdR : Thomas Corpetti, Images & télédétection : analyse de séquences à basse et très haute résolution spatiale, Université de Rennes I, 20/06/2011

PhD : Christophe Avenel, Suivi de courbes libres fermées déformables par processus stochastiques, Université de Rennes I, 08/12/2011, Etienne Mémin et Patrick Pérez)

PhD in progress : Ioanna Barbu, Estimation volumique de mouvement fluides à partir de séquence d'images, 01/11/2010, Cédric Herzet et Etienne Mémin

PhD in progress : Sébastien Béyou, Filtre d'ensemble pour l'assimilation de données images, 01/11/2010, Cédric Herzet et Etienne Mémin

PhD in progress : Qui Dao, Commande des écoulements fluides par asservissement visuel, 01/10/2010, Christophe Collewet

PhD in progress : Pierre Dérian, Estimation multi-échelle de mouvements de Fluides turbulents dans des séquences d'images, 01/10/2009, Patrick Héas et Etienne Mémin

PhD in progress : Véronique Souchaud, Estimation directe de décomposition orthogonales propres à partir de séquences d'images, 01/11/2009, Cédric Herzet et Etienne Mémin

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Major publications by the team in recent years

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- [2] C. BRAUD, D. HEITZ, P. BRAUD, G. ARROYO, J. DELVILLE. *Analysis of the wake-mixing-layer interaction using multiple plane PIV and 3D classical POD*, in "Exp. in Fluids", 2004, vol. 37, n^o 1, p. 95–104.
- [3] C. COLLEWET, E. MARCHAND. *Modeling complex luminance variations for target tracking*, in "IEEE Int. Conf. on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, CVPR'08", Anchorage, Alaska, June 2008, p. 1–7.
- [4] T. CORPETTI, P. HÉAS, E. MÉMIN, N. PAPADAKIS. *Pressure image assimilation for atmospheric motion estimation*, in "Tellus Series A: Dynamic Meteorology and Oceanography", 2009, vol. 61, n^o 1, p. 160–178, http://www.irisa.fr/fluminance/publi/papers/2008_Tellus_Corpetti.pdf.
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- [6] A. CUZOL, E. MÉMIN. *A stochastic filter technique for fluid flows velocity fields tracking*, in "IEEE Trans. Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence", 2009, vol. 31, n^o 7, p. 1278–1293.
- [7] D. HEITZ, E. MÉMIN, C. SCHNOERR. *Variational Fluid Flow Measurements from Image Sequences: Synopsis and Perspectives*, in "Experiments in fluids", 2010, vol. 48, n^o 3, p. 369–393.
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- [10] N. PAPADAKIS, E. MÉMIN. *A variational technique for time consistent tracking of curves and motion*, in "Journal of Mathematical Imaging and Vision", 2008, vol. 31, n^o 1, p. 81–103, <http://www.irisa.fr/fluminance/publi/papers/Papadakis-Memin-JMIV07.pdf>.
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Publications of the year

Doctoral Dissertations and Habilitation Theses

- [13] C. AVENEL. *Suivi de courbes libres fermées déformables par processus stochastiques*, Université de Rennes I, France, December 2011.
- [14] T. CORPETTI. *Images & télédétection : analyse de séquences à basse et très haute résolution spatiale*, Université Rennes 1, June 2011, Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches, <http://hal.inria.fr/tel-00616558/en>.

Articles in International Peer-Reviewed Journal

- [15] C. COLLEWET, E. MARCHAND. *Photometric visual servoing*, in "IEEE Trans. on Robotics", 2011, vol. 27, n^o 4, p. 828–834 [DOI : 10.1109/TRO.2011.2112593], http://hal.inria.fr/docs/00/62/98/34/PDF/itro_sp.pdf.
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- [18] P. HÉAS, E. MÉMIN, D. HEITZ, P. MININNI. *Power laws and inverse motion modeling: application to turbulence measurements from satellite images*, in "Tellus-A", 2011, to appear.
- [19] R. TATSAMBON FOMENA, C. COLLEWET. *Fluid Flow Control: a Vision-Based Approach*, in "International Journal of Flow Control", 2011.

Invited Conferences

- [20] R. TATSAMBON FOMENA, C. COLLEWET, E. MÉMIN. *A New approach for Fluid Flows control*, in "Symposium on Advances in Control of Fluid Dynamics and Challenges facing the US Defense Department's thrust on Unmanned Autonomous Systems for the SIAM Conference on Control and Its Applications", Baltimore, USA, July 2011.

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- [21] I. BARBU, C. HERZET, E. MÉMIN. *Sparse models and pursuit algorithms for PIV Tomography*, in "Forum on recent developments in Volume Reconstruction techniques applied to 3D fluid and solid mechanics", Poitiers, France, November 2011, <http://www.irisa.fr/fluminance/publi/papers/Barbu2011b.pdf>.
- [22] B. COMBÈS, A. GUIBERT, E. MÉMIN, D. HEITZ. *Free-surface flows from Kinect: feasibility and limits*, in "FVR2011", Poitiers, France, December 2011, to appear, [Http://www.irisa.fr/fluminance/publi/papers/2011_Combes_FVR11.pdf](http://www.irisa.fr/fluminance/publi/papers/2011_Combes_FVR11.pdf).
- [23] T. CORPETTI, E. MÉMIN. *Stochastic models for local optical flow estimation*, in "Scale Space Methods and Variational Methods (SSVM) in Computer Vision", Israel, June 2011.
- [24] A. DRÉMEAU, C. HERZET, L. DAUDET. *Soft Bayesian pursuit algorithm for sparse representations*, in "IEEE Workshop on Statistical Signal Processing", France, June 2011, <http://www.irisa.fr/fluminance/publi/papers/Dremeau2011a.pdf>.
- [25] P. DÉRIAN, P. HÉAS, C. HERZET, E. MÉMIN. *Wavelet-based fluid motion estimation.*, in "Scale Space Methods and Variational Methods (SSVM) in Computer Vision", Israel, June 2011, http://www.irisa.fr/fluminance/publi/papers/2011_SSVM_derian.pdf.
- [26] P. DÉRIAN, P. HÉAS, C. HERZET, E. MÉMIN. *Wavelets to reconstruct turbulence multifractals from experimental image sequences*, in "7th Int. Symp. on Turbulence and Shear Flow Phenomena, TSFP-7", Ottawa, Canada, July 2011, http://www.irisa.fr/fluminance/publi/papers/derian11a_tsfp7.pdf.

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