

**Solution to Ex. 6.17 (Unfinished)**  
*of Turbulent Flows* by Stephen B. Pope, 2000

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Let  $\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\kappa}^b$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\kappa}^c$  be three wavenumber vectors such that

$$\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a + \boldsymbol{\kappa}^b + \boldsymbol{\kappa}^c = 0 \quad (1)$$

and define  $\mathbf{a}(t) = \hat{\mathbf{u}}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a, t)$ ,  $\mathbf{b}(t) = \hat{\mathbf{u}}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^b, t)$ , and  $\mathbf{c}(t) = \hat{\mathbf{u}}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^c, t)$ . Consider a periodic velocity field, which at time  $t = 0$  has non-zero Fourier coefficient only at the six wavenumber  $\pm\boldsymbol{\kappa}_a$ ,  $\pm\boldsymbol{\kappa}_b$ , and  $\pm\boldsymbol{\kappa}_c$ . Consider the initial evolution of the velocity field governed by the Euler equations. Use Eq. (6.146) with  $\nu = 0$  to show that, at  $t = 0$ ;

(a)

$$\frac{da_j}{dt} = -i\kappa_l^a P_{jk}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a) (b_k^* c_l^* + c_k^* b_l^*) \quad (2)$$

(b)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}^* \right) = -\text{im}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}) \quad (3)$$

where  $\text{im}(z)$  function returns the imaginary part of a complex value  $z$ .

(c)

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}^* + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{b}^* + \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{c}^*) = 0 \quad (4)$$

(d) there are 24 modes with non-zero rates of change. Sketch their locations in wavenumber space.

**Solution**

(a)

Eq. (6.146) with  $\nu = 0$  and  $\boldsymbol{\kappa} = \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a$  is expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{da_j}{dt} &= -i\kappa_l^a P_{jk}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a) \sum_{\boldsymbol{\kappa}'} \hat{u}_k(\boldsymbol{\kappa}', t) \hat{u}_l(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a - \boldsymbol{\kappa}', t) \\
&= -i\kappa_l^a P_{jk}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a) \left[ \hat{u}_k(-\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a, t) \hat{u}_l(2\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a, t) + \hat{u}_k(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a, t) \hat{u}_l(0, t) \right. \\
&\quad + \hat{u}_k(-\boldsymbol{\kappa}^b, t) \hat{u}_l(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a + \boldsymbol{\kappa}^b, t) + \hat{u}_k(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^b, t) \hat{u}_l(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a - \boldsymbol{\kappa}^b, t) \\
&\quad \left. + \hat{u}_k(-\boldsymbol{\kappa}^c, t) \hat{u}_l(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a + \boldsymbol{\kappa}^c, t) + \hat{u}_k(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^c, t) \hat{u}_l(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a - \boldsymbol{\kappa}^c, t) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Using Eq. (6.121) and recall that at  $t = 0$  only the specified six wavenumbers have corresponding Fourier coefficients, we could write

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{da_j}{dt} &= -i\kappa_l^a P_{jk}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a) \left[ \hat{u}_k(-\boldsymbol{\kappa}^b, t) \hat{u}_l(-\boldsymbol{\kappa}^c, t) + \hat{u}_k(-\boldsymbol{\kappa}^c, t) \hat{u}_l(-\boldsymbol{\kappa}^b, t) \right] \\
&= -i\kappa_l^a P_{jk}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a) \left[ b_k^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^b, t) c_l^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^c, t) + c_k^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^c, t) b_l^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^b, t) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

(b)

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}^* \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} a_j a_j^* \right) = \frac{1}{2} a_j^* \frac{d}{dt} (a_j) + \frac{1}{2} a_j \frac{d}{dt} (a_j^*) \tag{7}$$

Introduce the projection tensor

$$P_{jk} = \delta_{jk} - \frac{\kappa_j \kappa_k}{\kappa^2} \tag{8}$$

Substitute Eq. (8) into Eq. (6) and we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{da_j}{dt} &= -i\kappa_l^a P_{jk}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a) b_k^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^b) c_l^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^c) - i\kappa_l^a P_{jk}(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a) c_k^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^c) b_l^*(\boldsymbol{\kappa}^b) \\
&= -i\kappa_l^a \left( \delta_{jk} - \frac{\kappa_j^a \kappa_k^a}{(\kappa^a)^2} \right) b_k^* c_l^* - i\kappa_l^a \left( \delta_{jk} - \frac{\kappa_j^a \kappa_k^a}{(\kappa^a)^2} \right) c_k^* b_l^* \\
&= -i\kappa_l^a b_j^* c_l^* - i\kappa_l^a \left( -\frac{\kappa_j^a \kappa_k^a}{(\kappa^a)^2} \right) b_k^* c_l^* - i c_j^* \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}^* - i\kappa_l^a \left( -\frac{\kappa_j^a \kappa_k^a}{(\kappa^a)^2} \right) c_k^* b_l^* \\
&= -i b_j^* \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c}^* + i \frac{\kappa_j^a}{(\kappa^a)^2} \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c}^* \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}^* - i c_j^* \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}^* + i \frac{\kappa_j^a}{(\kappa^a)^2} \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}^* \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c}^*
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

multiply  $a_j^*$  on the both sides of Eq. (9)

$$\begin{aligned}
a_j^* \frac{da_j}{dt} &= -ia_j^* b_j^* \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c}^* + i \frac{a_j^* \kappa_j^a}{(\kappa^a)^2} \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c}^* \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}^* \\
&\quad - ia_j^* c_j^* \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}^* + i \frac{a_j^* \kappa_j^a}{(\kappa^a)^2} \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}^* \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c}^* \\
&= -i \mathbf{a}^* \cdot \mathbf{b}^* \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c}^* - i \mathbf{a}^* \cdot \mathbf{c}^* \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}^* + i 2 \frac{\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{a}^* \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c}^* \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}^*}{(\kappa^a)^2}
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

With the simple relationship

$$a_j \frac{da_j^*}{dt} = \left( a_j^* \frac{da_j}{dt} \right)^* \tag{11}$$

And note that  $(-i\kappa)^* = i\kappa$ , we can have

$$a_j \frac{da_j^*}{dt} = i \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c} + i \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b} - i 2 \frac{\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{a} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}}{(\kappa^a)^2} \tag{12}$$

Adding Eq. (10) and Eq. (12), the result is

$$\begin{aligned}
a_j^* \frac{da_j}{dt} + a_j \frac{da_j^*}{dt} &= -i \mathbf{a}^* \cdot \mathbf{b}^* \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c}^* - i \mathbf{a}^* \cdot \mathbf{c}^* \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}^* \\
&\quad + i \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c} + i \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b} \\
&= -2i \operatorname{im}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b})
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

Thus Eq. (7) becomes

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}^* \right) = -i \operatorname{im}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b}) \tag{14}$$

(c)

From Eq. (14), we observe that this expression falls into a cyclic symmetric manner. Then we could write

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}^* + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{b}^* + \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{c}^*) &= -2\text{im}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b} \\
&\quad + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^b \cdot \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^b \cdot \mathbf{a} \\
&\quad + \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^c \cdot \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{a} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^c \cdot \mathbf{b}) \\
&= -2\text{im}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^b \cdot \mathbf{c} \\
&\quad + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{a} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^c \cdot \mathbf{b} \\
&\quad + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^b \cdot \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^c \cdot \mathbf{a}) \\
&= -2\text{im}(-\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^c \cdot \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^b \cdot \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c} \times \boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{a})
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

Invoke continuity equation, Eq. (6.128), we have

$$\boldsymbol{\kappa}^a \cdot \mathbf{a} = \boldsymbol{\kappa}^b \cdot \mathbf{b} = \boldsymbol{\kappa}^c \cdot \mathbf{c} = 0 \tag{16}$$

Then Eq. (15) turns into

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}^* + \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{b}^* + \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{c}^*) = 0 \tag{17}$$

(d)

Unfortunately, I do not have a proper solution to part (d). I will check upon this exercise later.