

Exercise on turbulent helical dynamos

Use the PENCIL CODE from <http://pencil-code.googlecode.com> to simulate the saturation behavior of a dynamo from helically forced turbulence with forcing wavenumber $k_f = 3$ in units of the box wavenumber $k_1 = 1$. To start with, make sure `samples/helical-MHDturb` works. Note that there is a manual. To speed things up, compile with 16^3 meshpoints. In `run.in`, you may use, for example, `nu=2e-2` and `eta=2e-3`. To run for longer, set `nt=20000`, `it1=50`.

1. Determine the critical value of the magnetic diffusivity above which there is a growth of the rms magnetic field, `brms`, in the file `data/time_series.dat`.
2. Determine the corresponding value of the magnetic Reynolds number, $R_m = u_{\text{rms}}/\eta k_f$.
3. Determine the growth rate of the magnetic field for a chosen value of the magnetic diffusivity that is about half the critical value. Do this by plotting the logarithm of `brms` versus time.
4. Determine the structure of the magnetic field. Consider the evolution of 3 different magnetic field averages. In the file `data/time_series.dat` the evolution of rms values of three different magnetic field averages is being written: the xy average is called `bmz`, the yz average is called `bm x`, and the zx average is called `bm y`. Run the simulation until saturation and determine which of the three averages dominates in the end.
5. Fit the resulting $\langle \overline{\mathbf{B}^2} \rangle$ to the expression

$$B_0^2 \left[1 - e^{-2\eta k_1^2 (t-t_s)} \right]$$

Here you should use the rms value of the strongest of the three field averages found in question 4.