

Interpreting filter based sequential spectra

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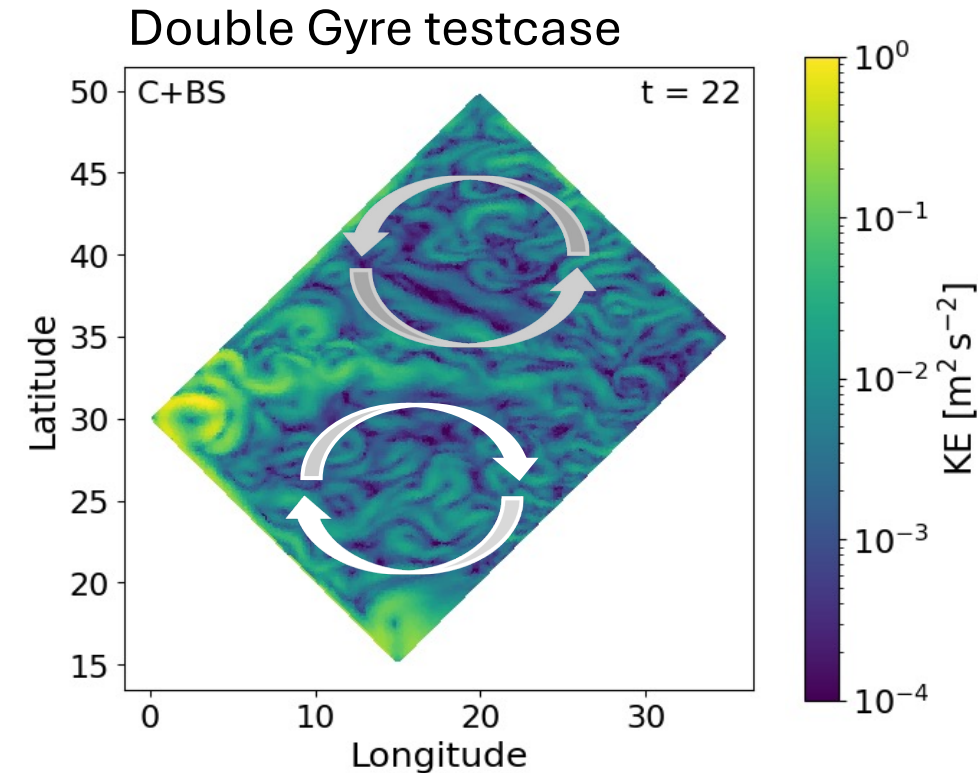
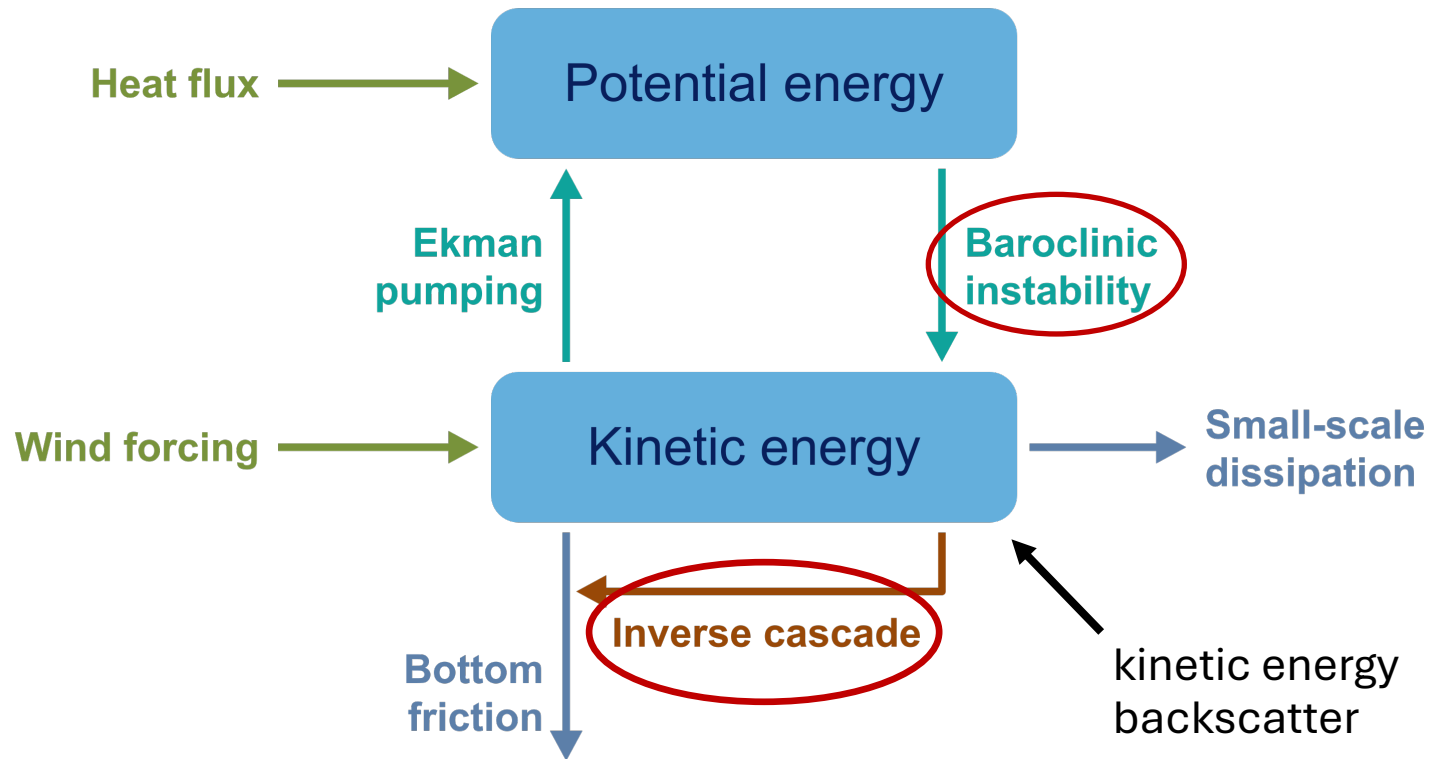
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Understanding the resolved and parameterised Ocean Energy Cycle

*How does **kinetic energy backscatter** transfer across scales and influence the Ocean energy cycle?*



Kinetic Energy Budget

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \partial_t |\mathbf{u}_h|^2}_{\text{kinetic energy tendency}} = \underbrace{-\mathbf{u}_h \cdot (\mathbf{u}_h \cdot \nabla_h) \mathbf{u}_h}_{\text{non-linear transfer}} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{\rho_0} \mathbf{u}_h \cdot \nabla_h p}_{\rightarrow \text{buoyancy flux}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{u}_h \cdot V(\mathbf{u}_h)}_{\text{viscous dissipation}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{u}_h \cdot B(\mathbf{u}, e)}_{\text{kinetic energy backscatter}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{u}_h \cdot \partial_z (v_v \partial_z \mathbf{u}_h)}_{\text{vertical viscosity}} + F$$

kinetic
energy
tendency

non-linear
transfer

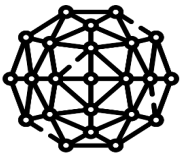
→ buoyancy
flux

viscous
dissipation

kinetic
energy
backscatter

vertical
viscosity

Domain integrated spectral analysis



Implicit Filter

github.com/FESOM/implicit_filter

biharmonic

Unresolved
kinetic energy

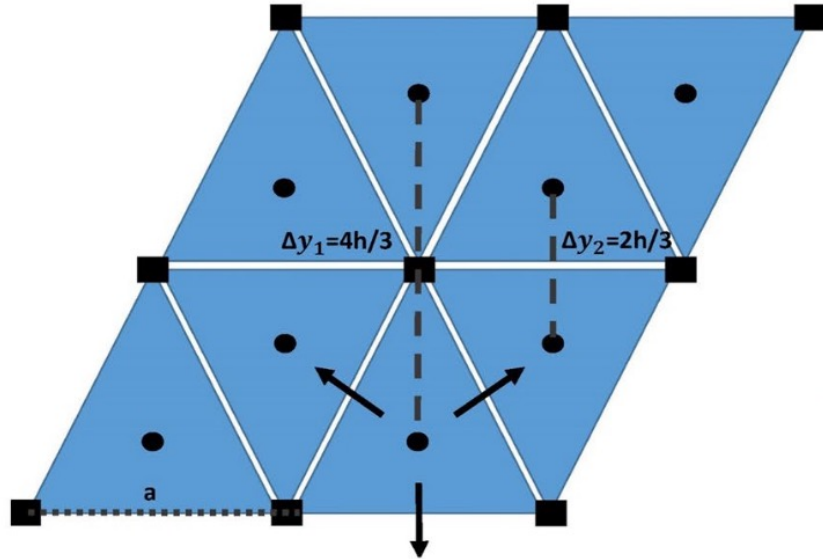
harmonic

$$\partial_t e = -c_{\text{dis}} \langle E_{\text{dis}} \rangle - \langle E_{\text{back}} \rangle + e_{\text{dif}}$$

Why use the implicit filter?

Double Gyre testcase in FESOM2

- non-periodic bounded domain
- triangular grid



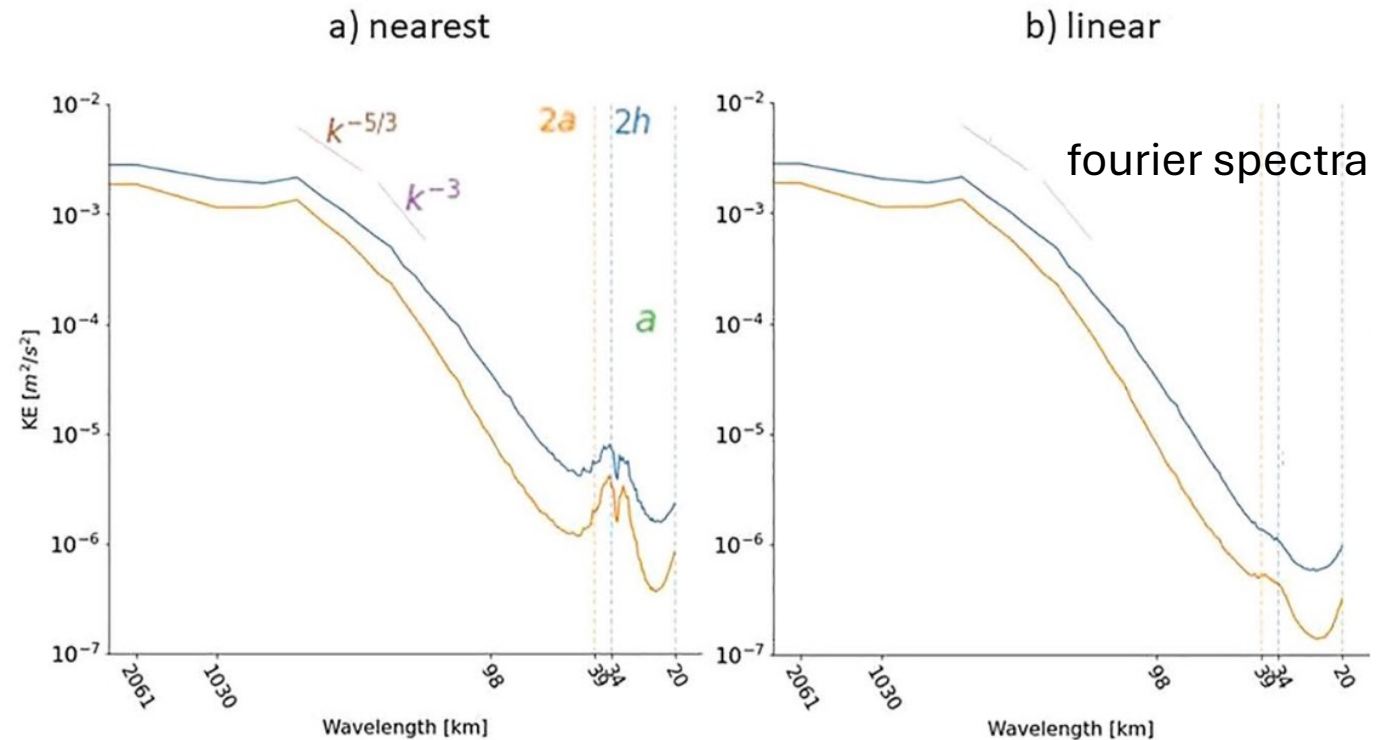
- implicit filter works on native grid

- no subdomain
- no windowing
- no interpolation

- based on operators inherent in the model

➡ **consistent diagnostic framework**

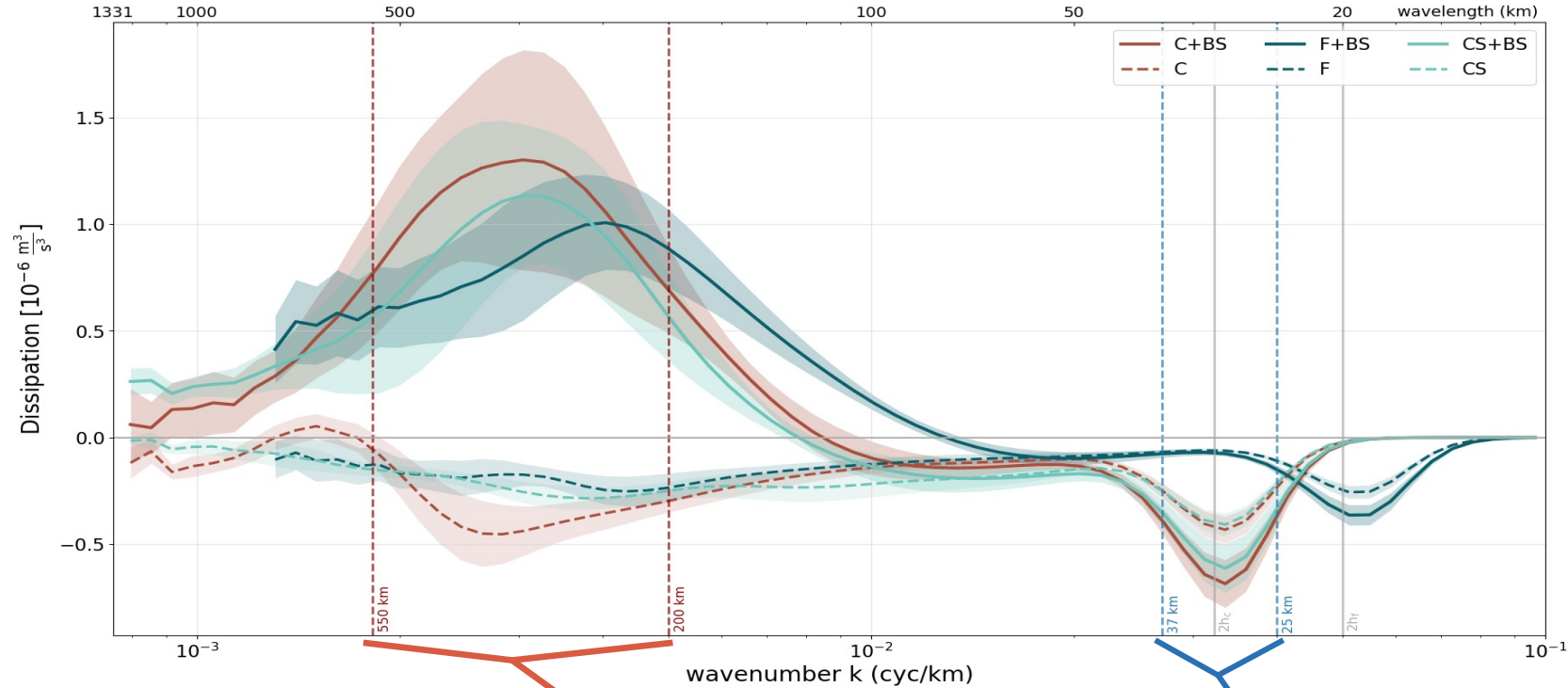
interpolation introduces uncertainties



Figures from Juricke et al (2023)

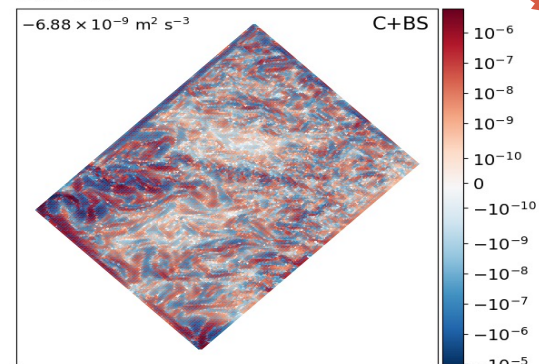
HELMHOLTZ

Why use the implicit filter?

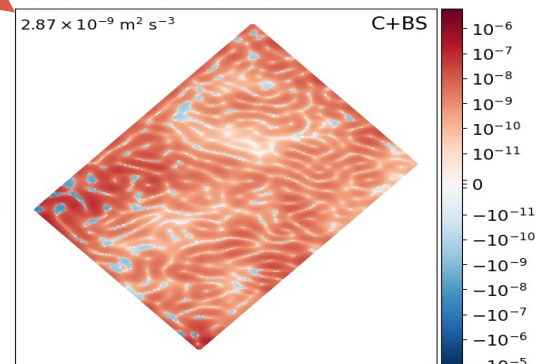


directly associate
spectral features with
2D differential fields

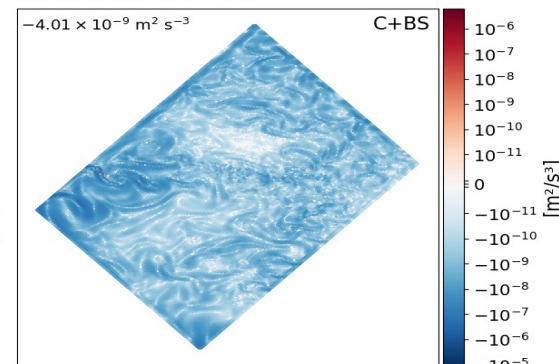
Full Field



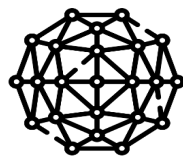
Differential 200-550 km



Differential 25-37 km



Domain integrated spectral analysis



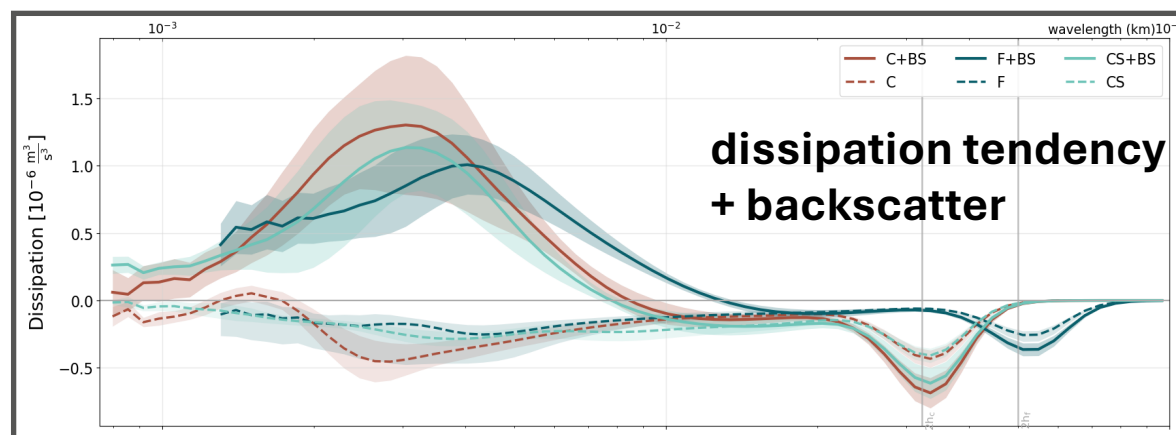
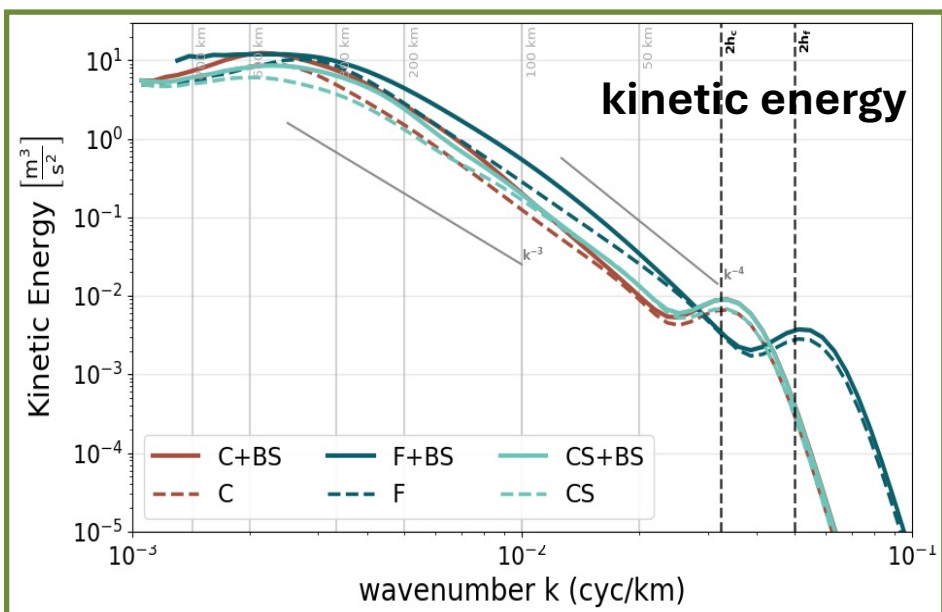
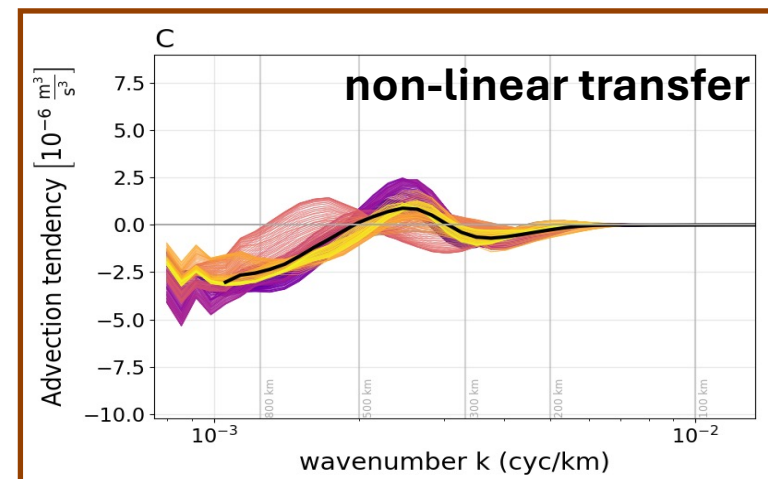
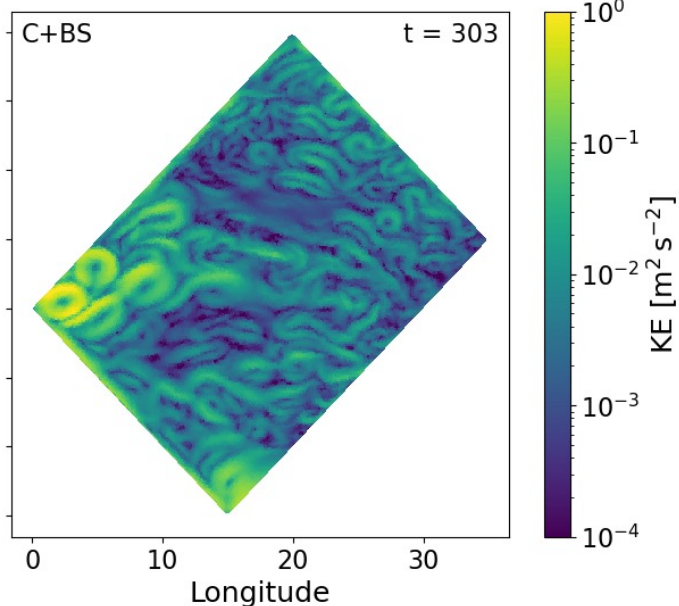
Implicit Filter

github.com/FESOM/implicit_filter

Kinetic Energy Budget

How do I interpret
these spectra?

→ fourier spectra

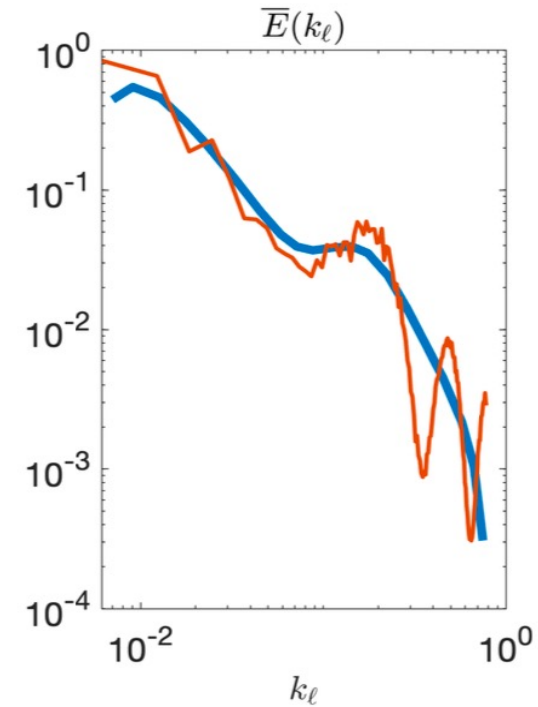
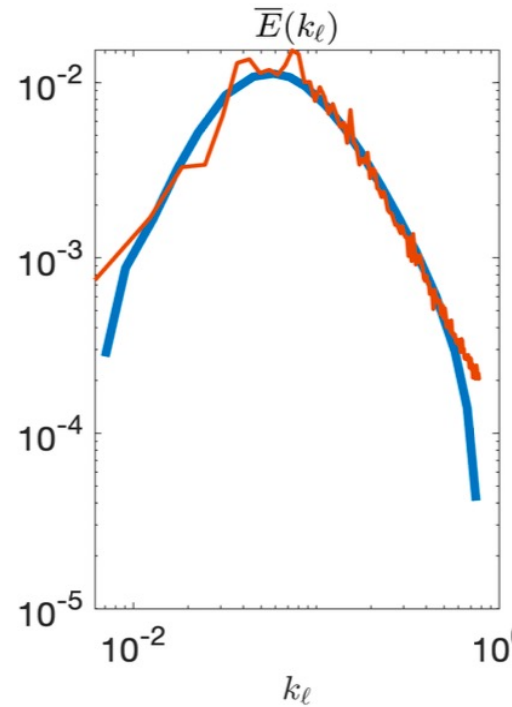
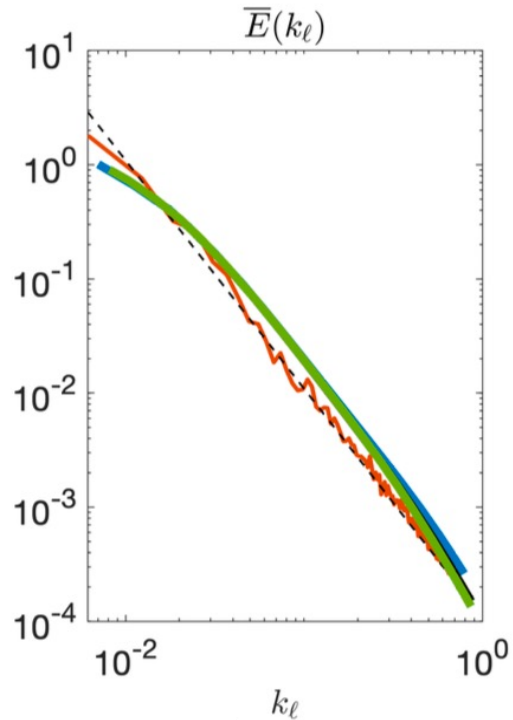
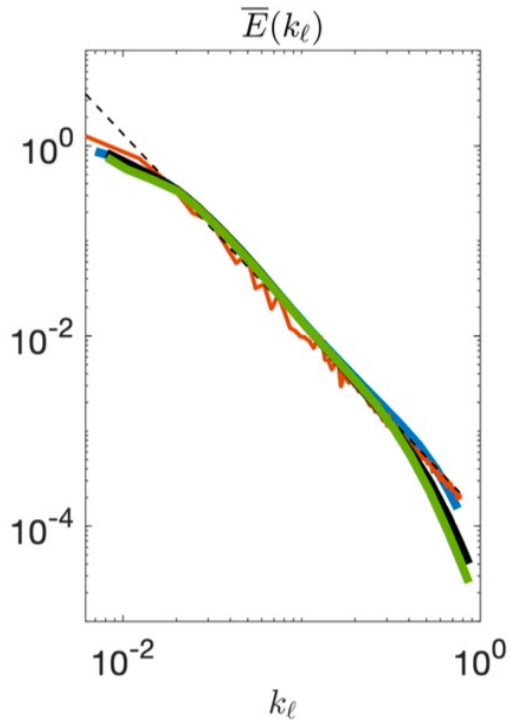


How can we interpret differential filter spectra?

spectral slopes

spectral density

position and amplitude of
spectral peaks



- theoretical understanding of mechanisms
- practical guideline on implementation and interpretation

→ 1D analytical analysis

→ parameter sweeps with synthetic spectra

Sequential filtering as a convolution in fourier space

$$E_\ell(k_\ell) = \int E(k) F_\ell(k) dk$$

→

$$k_\ell E_\ell(k_\ell) = \int k E(k) W(s) ds$$

$$z = \frac{k}{k_\ell} \rightarrow \int E(k) W(z) dz \quad \begin{matrix} s = \ln z = \ln k - \ln k_\ell \\ E dk = k E d \ln k \end{matrix}$$

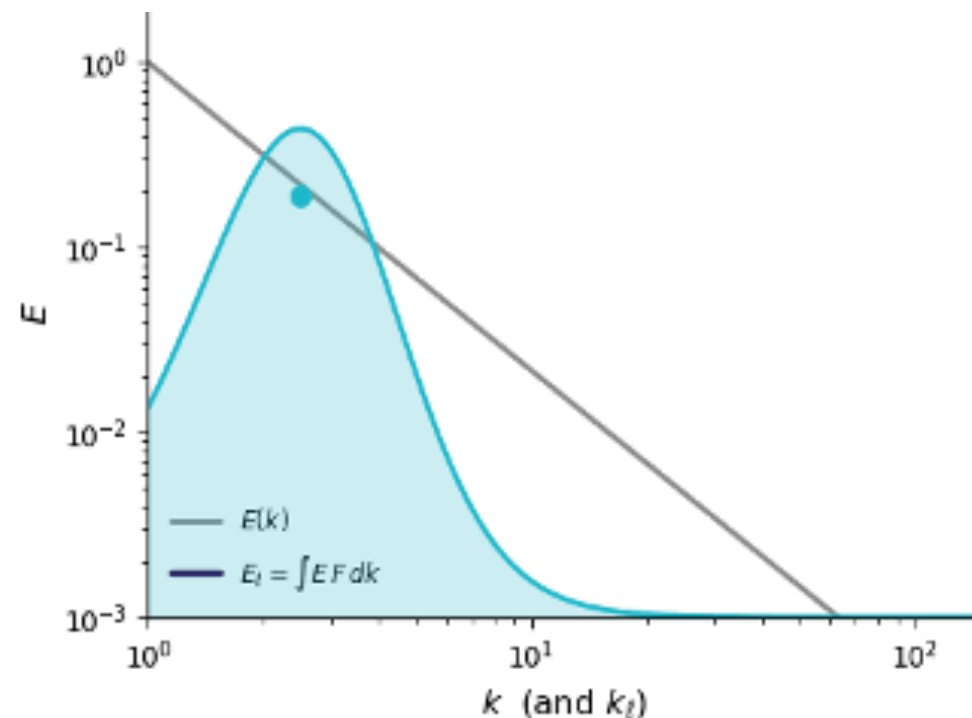
$W(z) = k_\ell F_\ell$

- form factor is normalised

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} W(s) ds = 1$$

- translation invariant

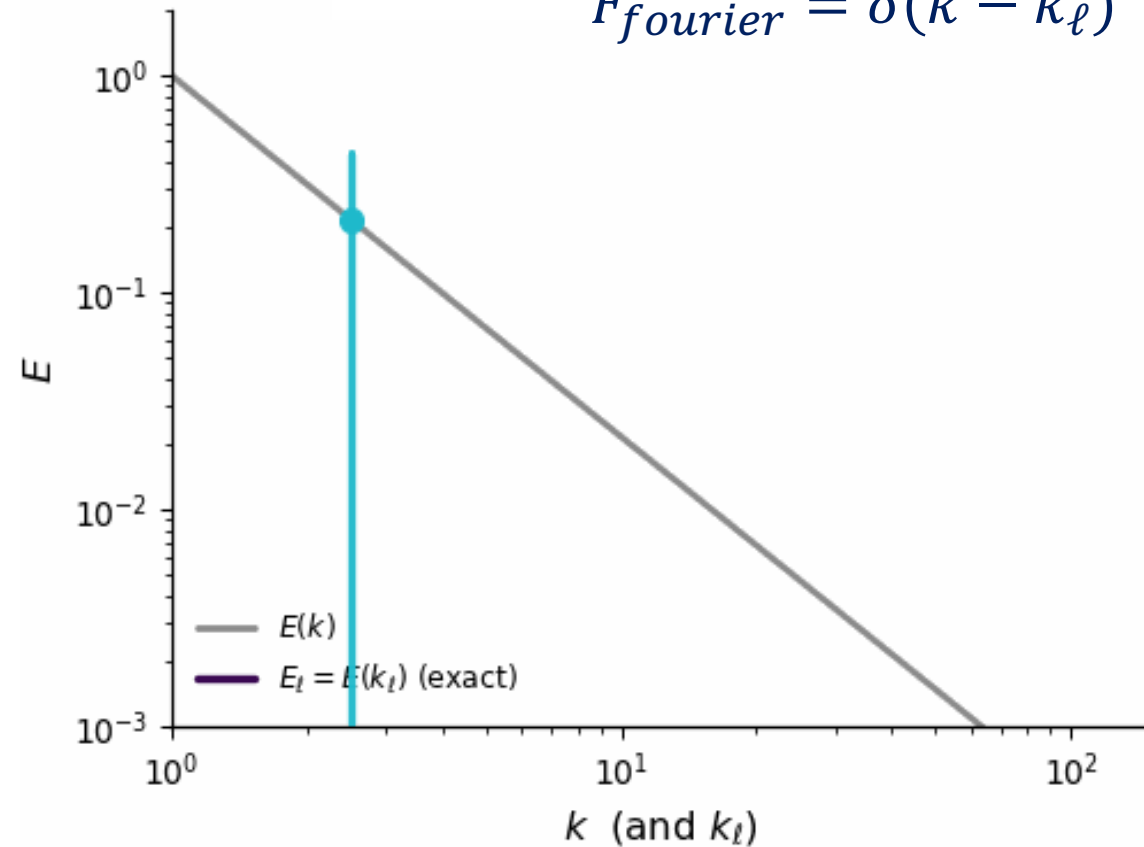
$$W = W(\ln k - \ln k_\ell)$$



Form factor: Fourier vs Coarse graining spectra

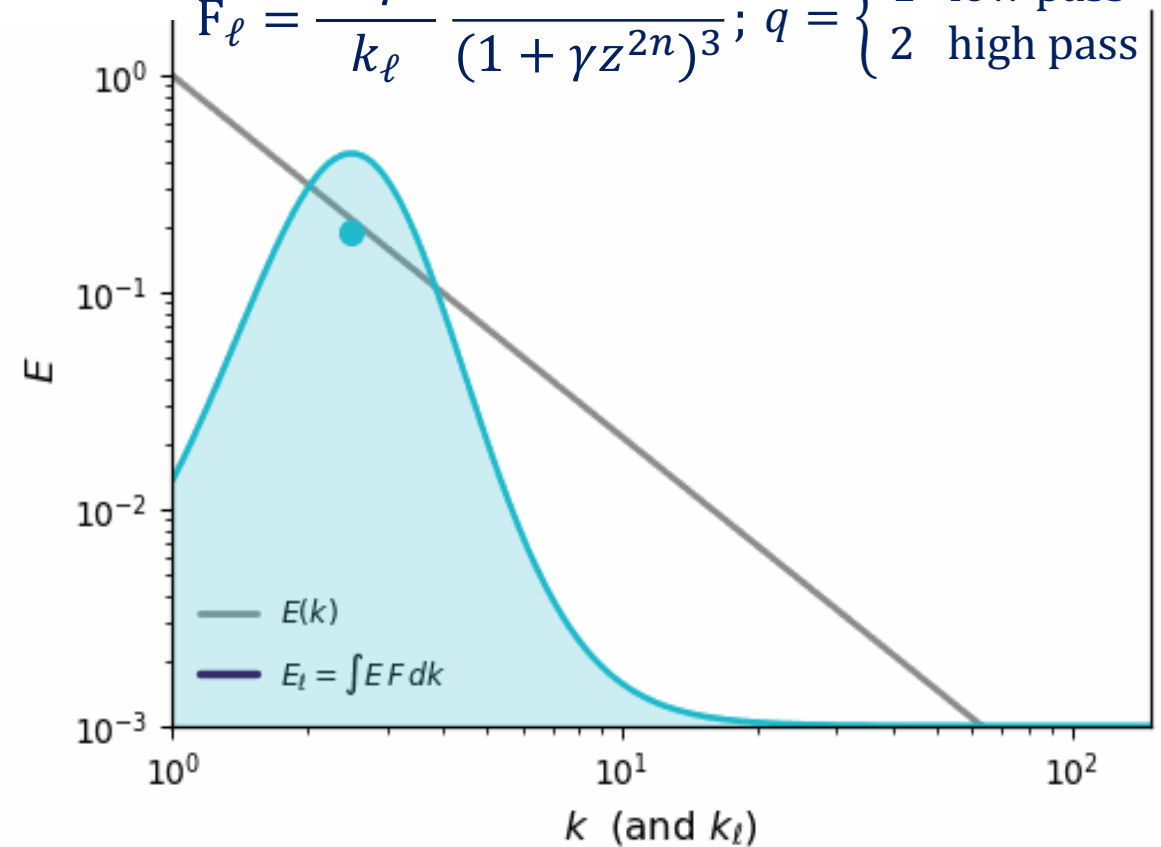
single wavenumber

$$F_{\text{fourier}} = \delta(k - k_\ell)$$

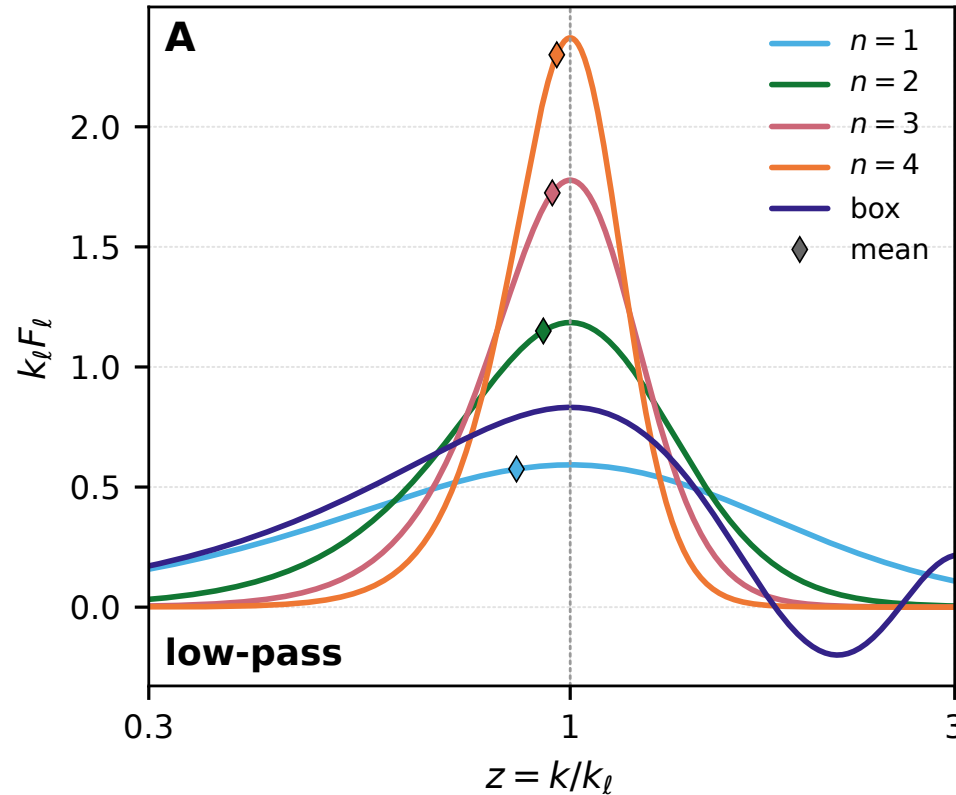


wavenumber band

$$F_\ell = \frac{4n\gamma^q}{k_\ell} \frac{z^{2qn}}{(1 + \gamma z^{2n})^3}; \quad q = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{low pass} \\ 2 & \text{high pass} \end{cases}$$



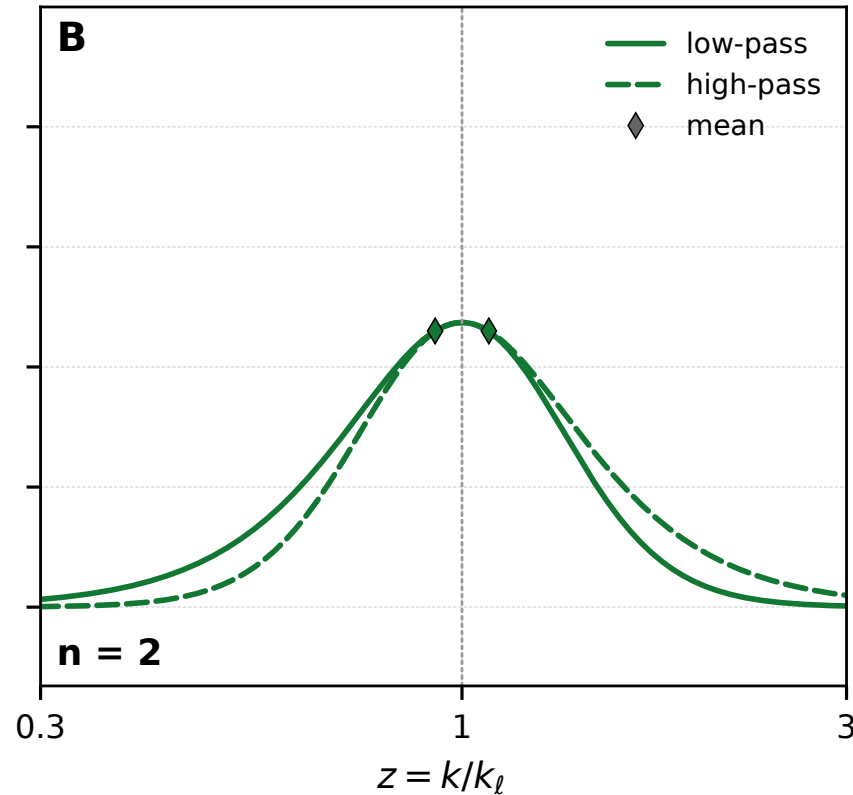
Form factor characterised by position and width



Position:

$$\langle s \rangle = \mp \frac{1 - \ln 2}{2n} = \mp \frac{0.22}{n}$$

$\nearrow$
 $\gamma^H = 2, \gamma^L = \frac{1}{2}$



Width:

$$\text{FWHM}(n) = \frac{2.175}{n} \approx 2\sqrt{\text{Var}(s)}$$

Power-law spectra $E = Ck^{-\alpha}$

$$\begin{aligned} k_\ell E_\ell(k_\ell) &= \int k E(k) W(s) ds = C k_\ell^{1-\alpha} \cdot \int e^{(1-\alpha)s} W(s) ds \\ &= C k_\ell^{1-\alpha} \cdot M_W(1-\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

converges for $0 < \mu < 6n$ $\mu = 2nq + 1 - \alpha$

$$M_W(1-\alpha) = 4n\gamma^q \int \frac{z^{2nq+1-\alpha}}{(1+\gamma z^{2n})^3} ds$$

for red spectra

$$\alpha_{\text{crit}}^L = 2n + 1, \quad \alpha_{\text{crit}}^H = 4n + 1$$

moment generating
function

$\mu \leq 0$: lower limit of integral dominates

$$E_\ell \approx 4n\gamma^q C k_\ell^{-\alpha} \int_{\ln(\frac{k_{\min}}{k_\ell})} \frac{z^{2nq+1-\alpha}}{(1+\gamma z^{2n})^3} ds \approx \underbrace{\frac{4n\gamma^q C k_{\min}^\mu}{|\mu|}}_{\text{const.}} k_\ell^{-(2nq+1)}$$

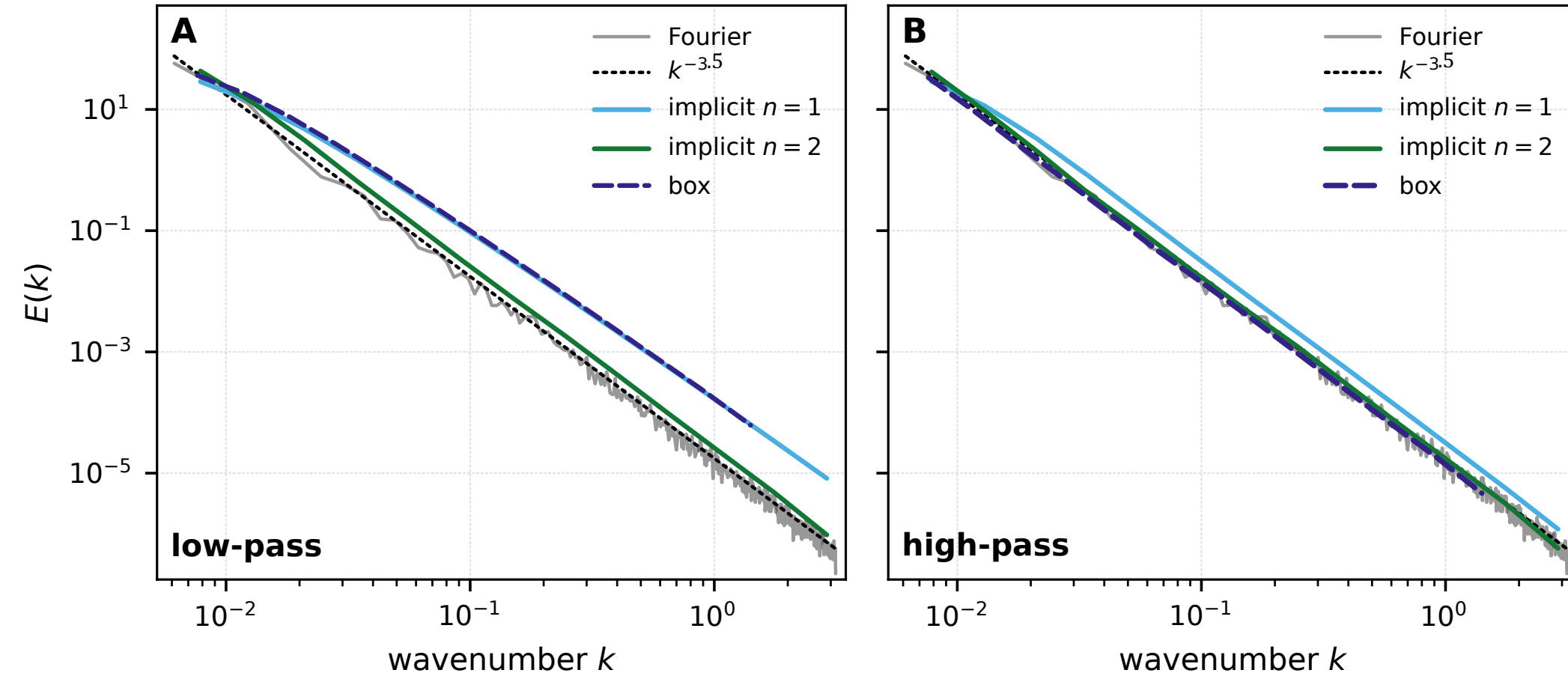
saturation at $k_\ell^{-\alpha_{\text{crit}}}$

$$\alpha_{\text{crit}} \propto n$$

$\Rightarrow$ increasing order recovers
steeper slopes

Sadek and
Aluie (2018),
Zhao and Aluie
(2025)

Power-law spectra $E = Ck^{-\alpha}$



saturation for slopes $\geq \alpha_{\text{crit}}$

$$\alpha_{\text{crit}}^L = 2n + 1, \quad \alpha_{\text{crit}}^H = 4n + 1$$

Power-law spectra $E = Ck^{-\alpha}$

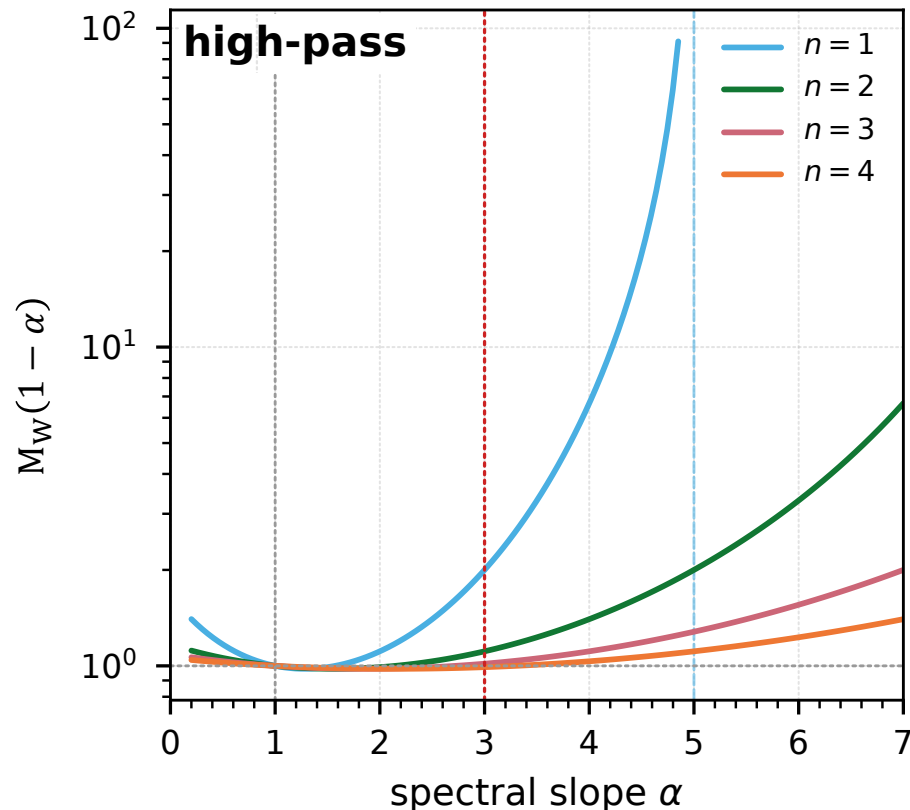
$$k_{\ell} E_{\ell}(k_{\ell}) = \int k E(k) W(s) ds = C k_{\ell}^{1-\alpha} \cdot \int e^{(1-\alpha)s} W(s) ds$$

$$= C k_{\ell}^{1-\alpha} \cdot \underbrace{M_W(1-\alpha)}$$

const. $\neq 1$
(in general)

➤ power law multiplied with constant factor

⇔ constant vertical shift in logarithmic coordinates



cumulant generating function:

$$\ln M_W(1-\alpha) = \underbrace{\langle s \rangle (1-\alpha)}_{\langle s \rangle \propto \frac{1}{n}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \text{Var}(s) (1-\alpha)^2 + \dots}_{\text{Var}(s) \propto \frac{1}{n^2}}$$

➤ density shift grows towards α_{crit} where the spectrum saturates

➤ increasing filter order reduces density shift

Spectral peaks $kE = P(\ln k)$

position and amplitude ?

↓
 $\langle x \rangle$

↓
 $\text{Var}(x)$

energy in peak is
conserved

if peak shape is
recovered

$$\Rightarrow \frac{h_{P_\ell}}{h_P} \approx \sqrt{\frac{\text{Var}(x_P)}{\text{Var}(x_{P_\ell})}}$$

P : peak in $\ln k$

$M_P(t)$: mgf of peak

x_P : coordinate of peak in $\ln k$

$$M_{P_\ell} = \dots = M_P(t) \cdot M_W(-t) \Rightarrow \ln(M_{P_\ell}) = \ln(M_P(t)) + \ln(M_W(-t))$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle x_{P_\ell} \rangle = \langle x_P \rangle - \langle s \rangle$$

filtered peak shifted by $-\langle s \rangle$ to
HP: larger scales
LP: smaller scales

$$\Rightarrow \text{Var}(x_{P_\ell}) = \text{Var}(x_P) + \text{Var}(s) \quad \text{variances add}$$

only filter order !

change in mean and
variance **independent** of
original peak (in log-
coordinates)

$$\langle s \rangle \propto \frac{1}{n} \quad \text{Var}(s) \propto \frac{1}{n^2}$$

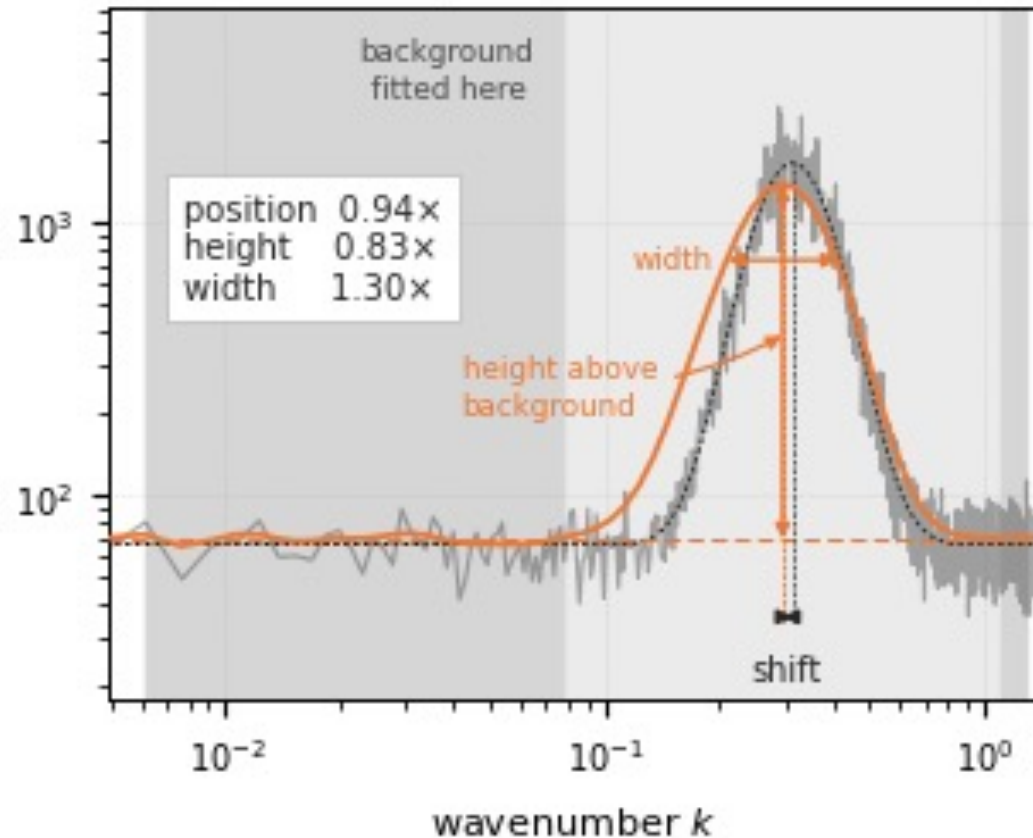
damping and relative
broadening depend on ratio

$$\sqrt{\frac{\text{Var}(s)}{\text{Var}(x_{P_\ell})}}$$

$\Rightarrow$ stronger for narrower peaks and lower filter order !

Artificial peak experiments with log-gauss peaks

resolved: $W_{\text{peak}} = 0.74$ oct, $R = 1.35$



ratio

$$R := \frac{\text{FWHM}_{\text{peak}}}{\text{FWHM}(n)}$$

$$\text{FWHM}(n) = \frac{2.175}{n} \text{ oct} \approx 2\sqrt{\text{Var}(s)}$$

broadening

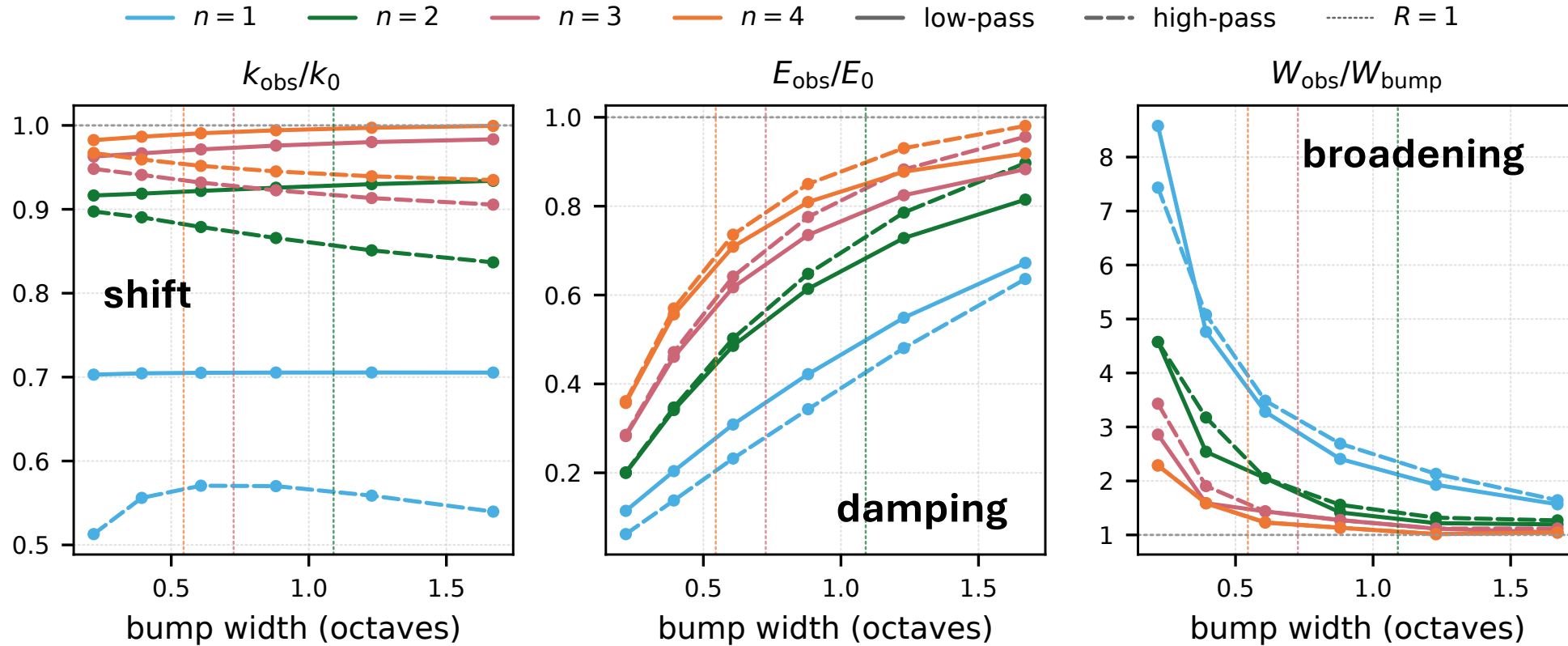
$$\frac{\text{FWHM}_{\text{obs}}}{\text{FWHM}_{\text{peak}}} \approx \sqrt{1 + \frac{1.4}{R^2}}$$

damping

$$\frac{h_{\text{obs}}}{h_{\text{peak}}} \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 1.40/R^2}}$$

$R \lesssim 1 \rightarrow$ shape of peak is not resolved $\Rightarrow$ shape of filtered peak $\approx$ shape of form factor

Synthetic peak experiments with log gauss peaks



$$\text{FWHM}(n) = \frac{2.175}{n} \text{ oct}$$

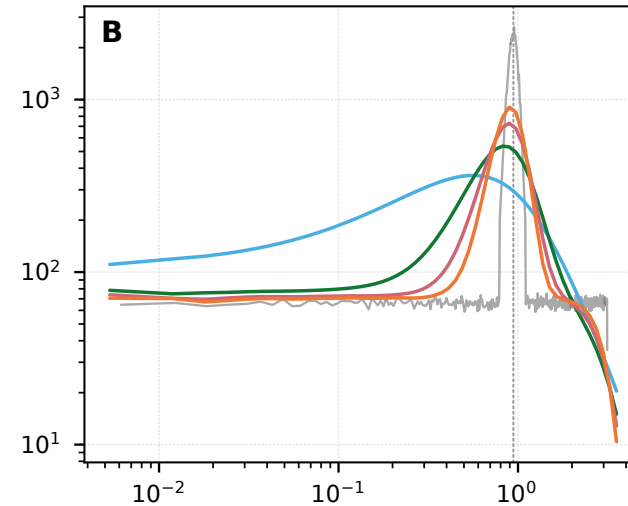
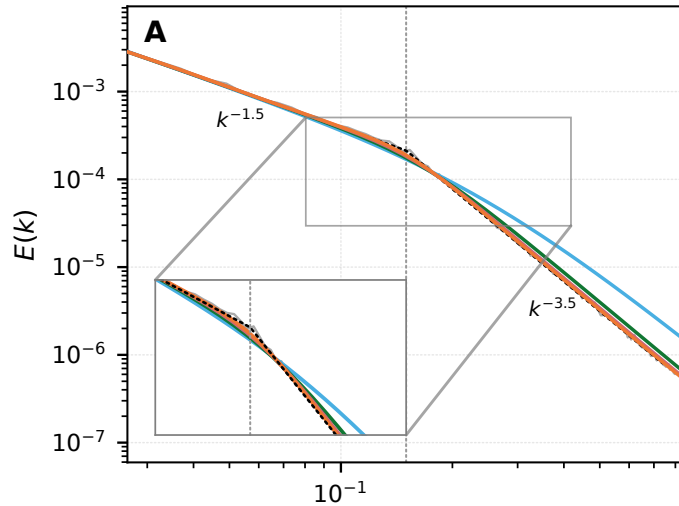
ratio

$$R := \frac{\text{FWHM}_{\text{peak}}}{\text{FWHM}(n)}$$

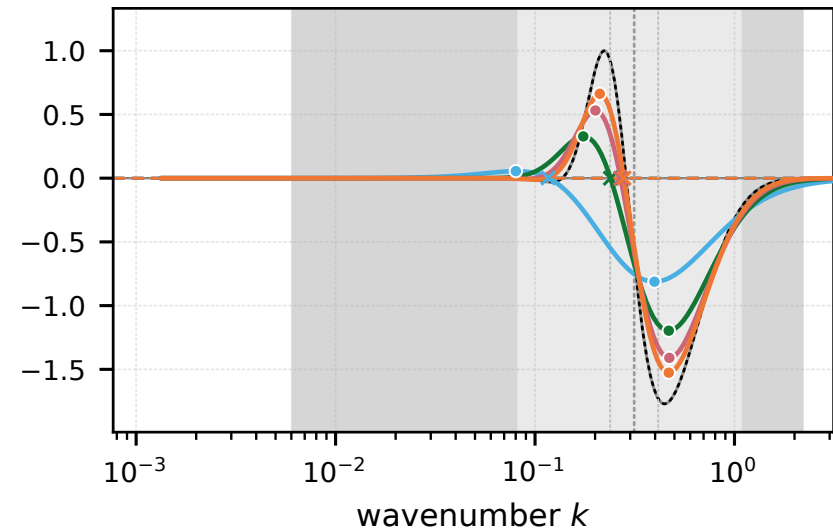
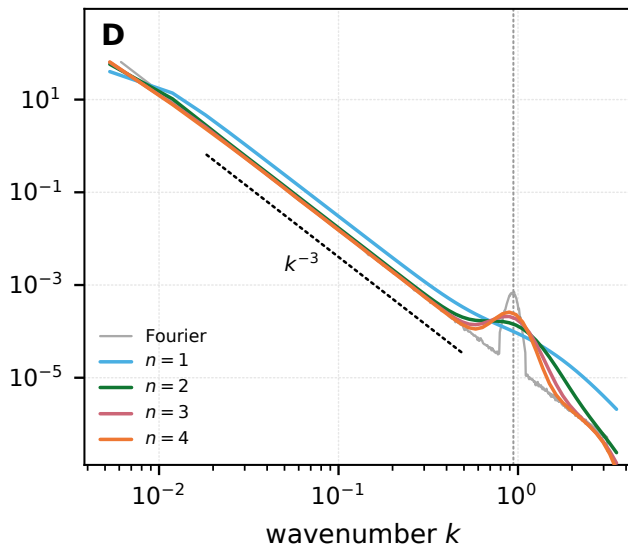
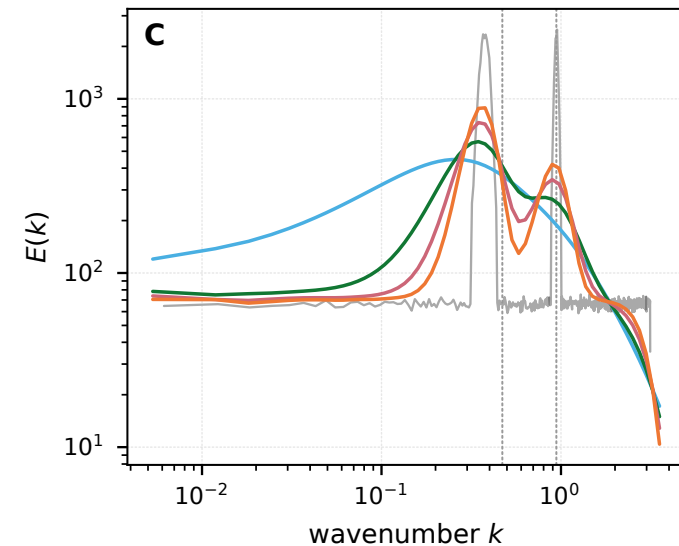
broadening $\frac{\text{FWHM}_{\text{obs}}}{\text{FWHM}_{\text{peak}}} \approx \sqrt{1 + \frac{1.4}{R^2}}$

damping $\frac{h_{\text{obs}}}{h_{\text{peak}}} \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 1.40/R^2}}$

Examples of synthetic spectra experiments



- slope break
- multiple peaks
- peaks above background slope
- dipole structure



Domain and grid scales

truncation effect *domain and grid scales*

- field carries energy only between $k_{\min}$ and $k_{\max}$
- close to integral limits form factor flanks would reach beyond $k_{\min}$ or $k_{\max}$

$$k_{\ell} E_{\ell}(k_{\ell}) = \int_{\ln\left(\frac{k_{\min}}{k_{\ell}}\right)}^{\ln\left(\frac{k_{\max}}{k_{\ell}}\right)} k E(k) W(s) ds$$

- cut off at integral limits

power law spectra → dip in spectral density

peaks → displaced away from $k_{\min}$ or $k_{\max}$

- higher order decreases margin of truncation effect

discretisation effect *only grid scales*

- discrete Laplacian: $\lambda(k) = \frac{2}{h} \sin \frac{kh}{2}$
 $kh \ll 1 \rightarrow \lambda \approx k$

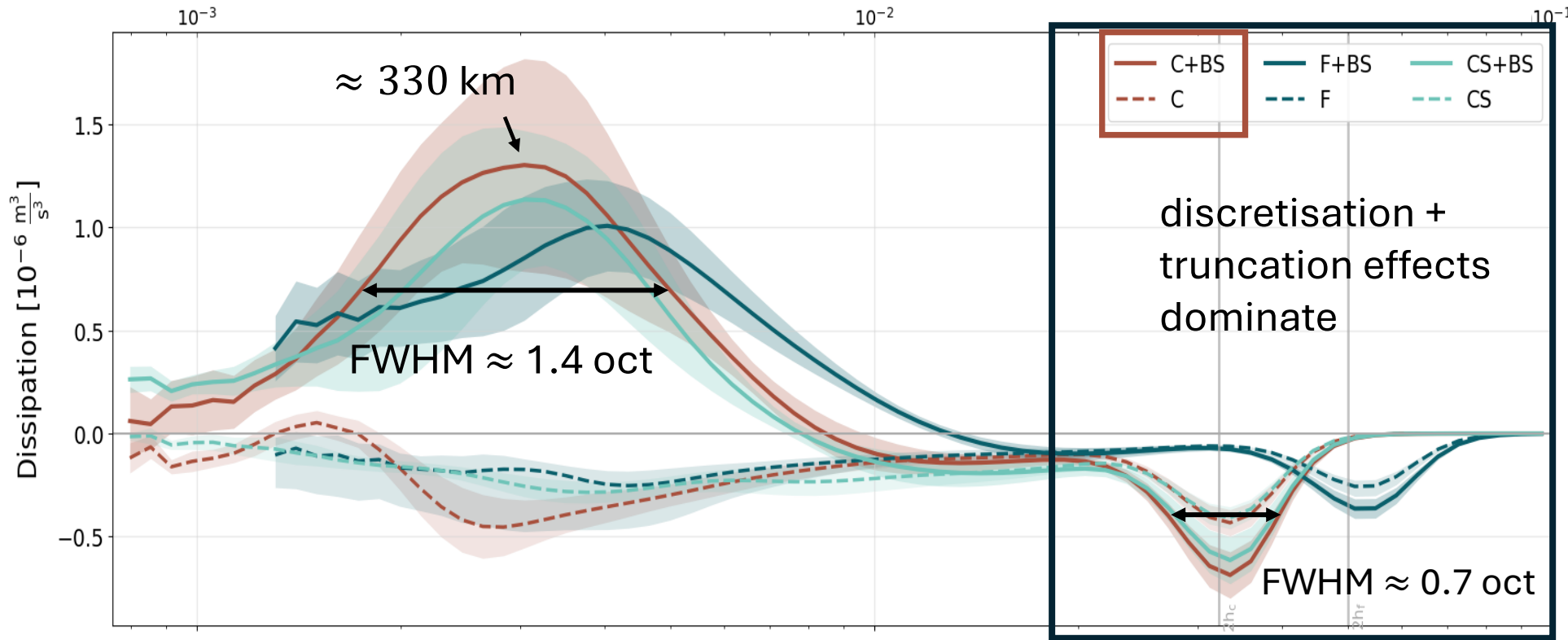
- increasing compression of axis $\frac{d\lambda}{dk} \rightarrow 0$
towards $\lambda\left(\frac{\pi}{h}\right) = \frac{2}{h}$

- energy conservation → enhanced spectral density

- cannot be changed by filter order

How do I interpret spectra?

$n = 4$, high-pass
 $\text{FWHM}(n = 4) = 0.54 \text{ oct}$



$$\tilde{R} = \frac{\text{FWHM}_{\text{obs}}}{\text{FWHM}(n)}$$

$$R = \frac{\text{FWHM}_{\text{peak}}}{\text{FWHM}(n)}$$

damping

$$\frac{h_{\text{obs}}}{h_{\text{peak}}} \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 1.40/R^2}}$$

broadening

$$\frac{\text{FWHM}_{\text{obs}}}{\text{FWHM}_{\text{peak}}} \approx \sqrt{1 + \frac{1.4}{R^2}}$$

injection

$$\tilde{R} \approx 2.2 \Rightarrow R \approx 1.85 \Rightarrow h_{\text{fourier}} \approx 1.2 h_{\text{obs}}$$

maximum $\Rightarrow$ at $\approx 300 \text{ km}$

grid scale dissipation

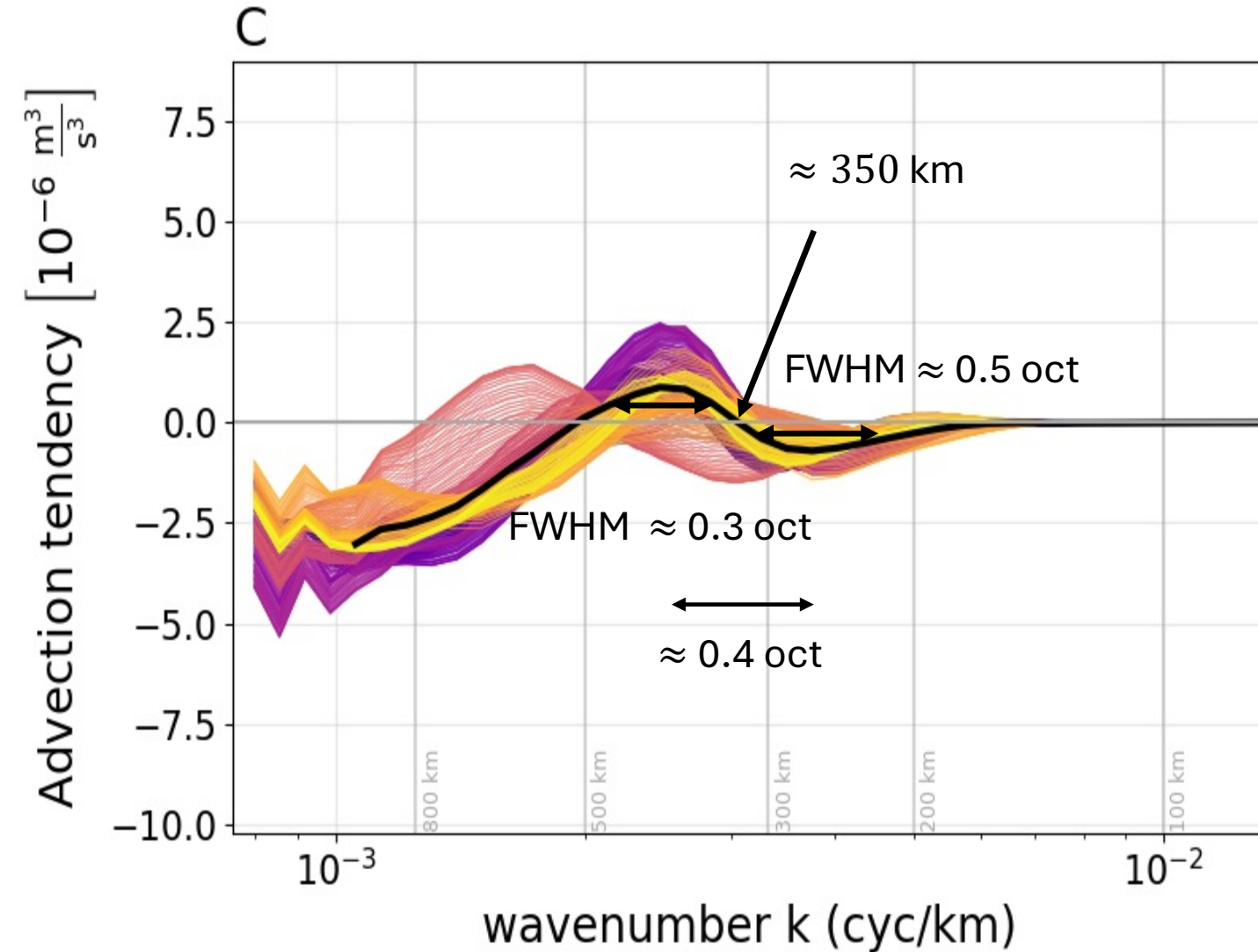
- damping & shift due to truncation effect
- amplification of peak due to discretisation effect

no reliable estimate of damping and shift possible, only area preserved

How do I interpret my spectra?

$$\tilde{R} = \frac{\text{FWHM}_{\text{obs}}}{\text{FWHM}(n)} \quad n = 4, \text{ high-pass}$$

$$\text{FWHM}(n = 4) = 0.54 \text{ oct}$$



positive lobe

$\tilde{R} \approx 0.55 \Rightarrow$ width set by formfactor
 $\Rightarrow$ estimate of lower bound for
 fourier peak $h_{\text{fourier}} \gtrsim 3h_{\text{obs}}$

negative lobe

$\tilde{R} \approx 0.9 \Rightarrow h_{\text{fourier}} \approx 2h_{\text{obs}}$

root

shifted by $\approx 0.09 \text{ oct} \Rightarrow$ at $\approx 340 \text{ km}$

Take Away...

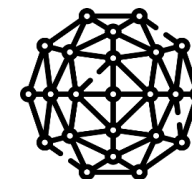
➤ implicit filter

- provides a consistent framework for analyses on unstructured grids
- allows for direct association of spectra with 2D structures
- able to recover relevant features for energy cycle analysis

➤ coarse graining spectra $\neq$ fourier spectra

- differences due to finite form factor
- decrease with increasing filter order

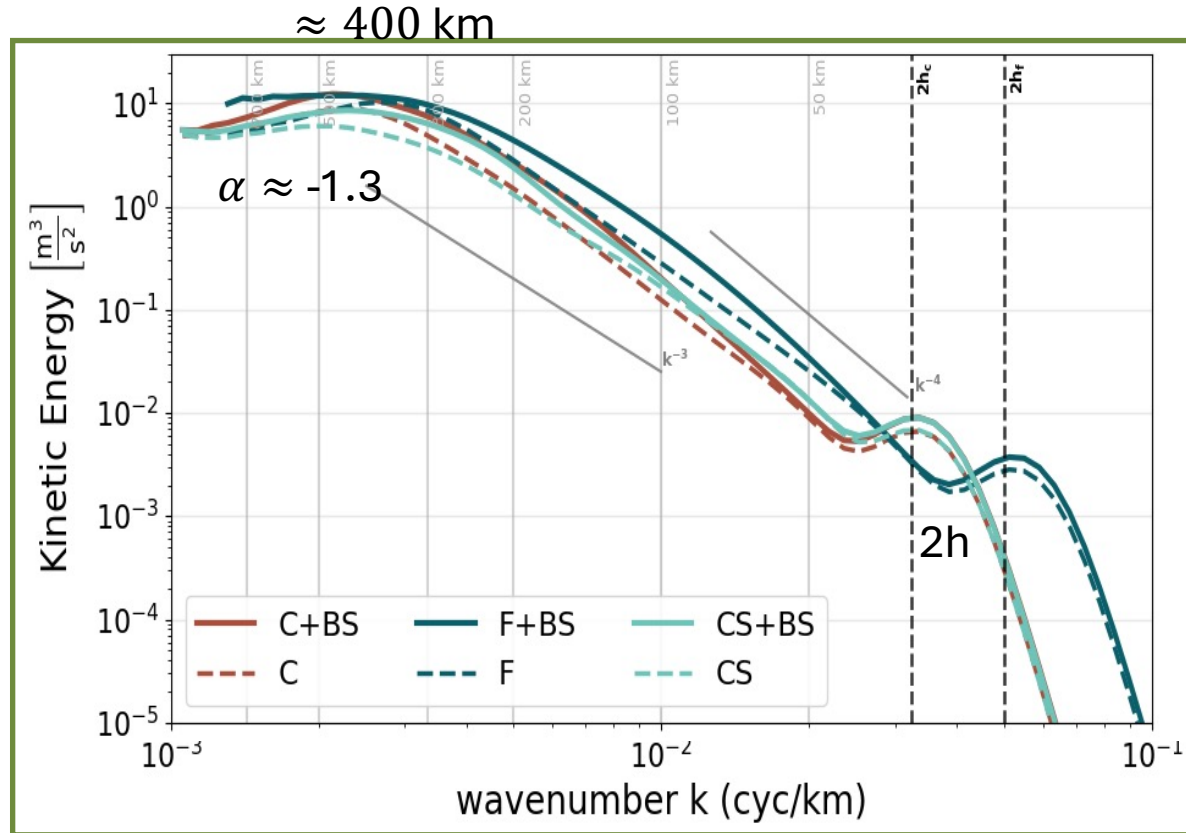
➡ new vcycle- preconditioner allows using orders $\gg 4$



Kacper Nowak
Implicit Filter
github.com/FESOM/implicit_filter

How do I interpret my spectra?

through 'Fourier Eyes'



largescale dip

$\gtrsim 1.5$ oct above $k_{\min} \Rightarrow$ no truncation effect

$\alpha \approx -1.3 \Rightarrow$ density bias $\approx 20\%$

solver instability at largest scale

powerlaw slope

$\alpha \approx 3 - 4 \ll 17 = \alpha_{\text{crit}}^H (n = 4)$

$\Rightarrow$ slopes are recovered

$\Rightarrow$ density bias negligible

gridscale bump

discretisation and form
factor truncation dominate

$\Rightarrow$

location and amplitude not
reliable, only total energy

$n = 4$, high-pass

$\alpha_{\text{crit}}^H = 4n + 1 = 17$