Temperature fluctuations induced by turbulent dissipation

Wouter Bos*1, Robert Chahine, Andrey Pushkarev, and Robert Rubinstein

¹Laboratoire de Mecanique des Fluides et d'Acoustique (LMFA) – CNRS : UMR5509, Université Claude Bernard - Lyon I (UCBL), Ecole Centrale de Lyon, Institut National des Sciences Appliquées [INSA] - Lyon – 36 Av Guy de Collongue 69134 ECULLY CEDEX, France

Abstract

In practically every fluid flow, kinetic energy is converted into heat through viscous friction. In a turbulent flow this heat is generated in an inhomogeneous matter and the temperature distribution in the fluid will subsequently not be uniform. We investigate these temperature fluctuations in isotropic turbulence. It is shown by numerical simulations and theory how these fluctuations interact with the turbulent flow that generated them. The intermittent nature of the dissipation rate fluctuations is shown to play a fundamental role in the physics of viscous heating.

*Speaker