

Contents

Acknowledgments	iv
Abstract	vi
Contents	viii
List of Figures	xii
List of Tables	xxi
Nomenclature	xxii
Greek letters	xxii
Roman letters	xxiii
Acronyms	xxvi
1 Introduction	1
1.1 The role of geometry	1
1.2 Previous identification criteria	3
1.3 Non-local, multi-scale, and clustering features	5
1.4 Choice of applications: passive scalar, enstrophy, and dissipation fields	5
1.5 Grid resolution effects	7
1.6 Structure interaction	8
1.7 Outline	9

2 Methodology for the study of the geometry of structures in turbulence	10
2.1 Extraction of structures	10
2.1.1 The curvelet transform	11
2.1.2 Periodic reconnection	14
2.2 Characterization of structures	15
2.2.1 Shape index and curvedness	15
2.2.2 Joint probability density function (jpdf)	17
2.2.3 Signature of a structure	19
2.3 Classification of structures	20
2.3.1 Clustering algorithm	21
2.3.2 Feature and visualization spaces	23
2.3.3 Optimality score: silhouette coefficient	25
3 Application to a virtual set of structures	27
4 Geometry of structures of a passive scalar fluctuation field in stationary isotropic homogeneous turbulence	30
4.1 DNS database	30
4.2 Multi-scale diagnostics	31
4.3 Geometry of passive scalar iso-surfaces	33
4.4 Discussion and physical interpretation	41
5 Geometry of structures of enstrophy and dissipation fields in decaying homogeneous isotropic turbulence	44
5.1 DNS database	44
5.2 Multi-scale decomposition	45
5.3 Characterization and classification of individual structures	50
5.4 Effect of grid resolution in the geometry of structures	56
5.5 Clustering results for the 1024^3 case	58

5.6 Discussion	60
6 Assessment of the new non-local methodology complementing existing local methods	62
6.1 Local identification criteria	62
6.2 Application of non-local methodology	64
7 Interaction among structures of different fields: proximity issues	69
7.1 Motivation	69
7.2 Methodology	71
7.2.1 Processing individual structures	71
7.2.2 Transition from individual structures to results for the set \mathcal{A}	74
7.2.3 Computational remarks	74
7.3 Application to structures of Q and $[A_{ij}]_+$	75
7.3.1 Proximity and area coverage of surrounding structures through jpdf+i	76
7.3.2 Proximity split by groups through cumulative marginal pdfs	78
7.3.3 Structures of Q surrounding themselves	79
7.4 Application to structures of $\omega_i \omega_i$ and $S_{ij} S_{ij}$	80
7.5 Discussion	83
8 Conclusions and Future Work	85
8.1 Geometry of individual structures	85
8.2 Assessment of non-local methodology complementing existing local identification criteria	87
8.3 Proximity issues from a geometrical perspective	88
8.4 Computational remarks	89
8.5 Future work	89
Appendix A Governing equations for the generation of strain, vorticity, dissipation, and enstrophy	92

A.1 Generation of strain and dissipation	92
A.2 Generation of vorticity and enstrophy	93
Appendix B Interpretation of extracted structures	96
Appendix C Differential geometry background	100
Appendix D Density functions on manifolds	109
D.1 Conditions for existence of an explicit analytical solution	115
D.2 Extension to multiple dimensions	118
Appendix E Gauss-Bonnet theorem in the shape index, curvedness space	120
Appendix F Definition of feature center and upper and lower distances of a probability density function.	122
Appendix G Analytic geometric characterization of limiting surfaces.	124
Appendix H Stratified random sampling with disproportionate allocation	127
Bibliography	129
Subject Index	137