

uPrime

Because u' matters

User Manual

Version 0.8.0 · Alpha Release

Jibu Tom Jose

Transient Fluid Mechanics Laboratory (PI: Omri Ram)
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Technion
Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa

github.com/CmdrRyder/uPrime

doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19376184

Open source · GNU GPL v3 · 2026

Abstract

uPrime is an open-source, cross-platform desktop application for the post-processing and turbulence analysis of planar velocity fields obtained from particle image velocimetry (PIV) and computational fluid dynamics (CFD). The software provides an integrated graphical environment covering the full range of standard turbulence diagnostics: mean velocity profiles with cumulative-statistics convergence verification, Reynolds normal and shear stresses, turbulent kinetic energy (TKE) budgets, one-dimensional and two-dimensional spatial and temporal power spectral densities, two-point spatial and temporal correlation functions with automatic integral length and time scale extraction, turbulence anisotropy analysis via the Lumley triangle and barycentric maps, snapshot Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD) with modal energy spectra and low-order flow field reconstruction, Dynamic Mode Decomposition (DMD) with frequency-growth rate spectra and spatial mode visualization, vortex identification using five scalar criteria including gradient-based methods and the Graftieaux Γ functions, and probability analysis comprising velocity and fluctuation probability density functions, forward- and reverse-flow probability maps for separation diagnostics, binary space-time maps of coherent structure passage, and quadrant analysis of the Reynolds shear stress with hole-size conditioning. All analyzes are accessible through a labeled graphical interface without requiring programming knowledge, making the tool accessible to students and researchers new to quantitative flow analysis.

uPrime reads multi-snapshot Tecplot ASCII `.dat` files exported from LaVision DaVis, as well as MATLAB `.mat` files (classic v5/v7 and HDF5-based v7.3). It supports both 2D two-component (2D2C) and stereo three-component (2D3C) PIV datasets. It includes coordinate transformation tools for correcting camera calibration misalignment, snapshot subsampling for efficient handling of large time-resolved datasets, and a multi-case import and comparison workflow for overlaying results from different experiments or runs. Figures are exportable as PNG (300 DPI) or vector graphics (PDF, SVG) with editable text, facilitating direct integration into publication workflows.

Keywords: particle image velocimetry; turbulence post-processing; Reynolds stresses; turbulent kinetic energy budget; power spectral density; two-point correlation; integral length scale; Lumley triangle; Proper Orthogonal Decomposition; Dynamic Mode Decomposition; vortex identification; probability density function; quadrant analysis; ejections and sweeps; reverse-flow probability; backflow coefficient; binary space-time map; mean and convergence; MATLAB `.mat` input; open-source software; LaVision DaVis

Contents

1 Getting Started **5**
- 1.1 What is uPrime? . . . 5
- 1.2 What uPrime can do . . . 5
- 1.3 System requirements . . . 6
- 1.4 Installation . . . 6
  - 1.4.1 Option A: Windows executable (recommended for non-developers) . . . 6
  - 1.4.2 Option B: Run from source . . . 7
- 1.5 Input file formats . . . 7
  - 1.5.1 Tecplot ASCII (`.dat`) . . . 7
  - 1.5.2 MATLAB (`.mat`) . . . 7

2 Main Window **10**
- 2.1 Overview . . . 10
  - 2.1.1 Step 1: Load Data . . . 10
  - 2.1.2 Step 2: Preprocess . . . 12
  - 2.1.3 Step 3: Analysis . . . 12
- 2.2 Acquisition type and sampling frequency . . . 12
- 2.3 Dataset info ribbon . . . 13
- 2.4 Field viewer . . . 14
  - 2.4.1 Display controls . . . 14
  - 2.4.2 Streamlines . . . 14
  - 2.4.3 Toolbar . . . 14
  - 2.4.4 Saving figures . . . 14
- 2.5 Export menu . . . 15
- 2.6 Snapshot subsampling and large dataset handling . . . 15
  - 2.6.1 Large dataset handling (datasets exceeding 4 GB) . . . 16

3 Coordinate Transform **18**
- 3.1 Rotation . . . 18
- 3.2 Origin shift . . . 18
- 3.3 Mirror . . . 18

4 Mean & Convergence **20**
- 4.1 Mean Velocity tab . . . 20
  - 4.1.1 Normalization by U_m . . . 20
  - 4.1.2 Multi-case comparison . . . 20
  - 4.1.3 Exporting . . . 21
- 4.2 Convergence tab . . . 21
  - 4.2.1 Background . . . 22
  - 4.2.2 Using the tab . . . 22
  - 4.2.3 Grid layout (raw values) . . . 22
  - 4.2.4 Single plot (normalized) . . . 24
  - 4.2.5 Exporting . . . 24
- 4.3 Inline non-convergence notice . . . 24

5 Reynolds Stress Analysis **26**
5.1 2D contour map . . . 26
5.2 Line profile . . . 26
5.3 Multi-case comparison . . . 27
5.4 Exporting . . . 27

6 TKE Budget **29**
6.1 Using the window . . . 30
6.2 Multi-case comparison . . . 30
6.3 Exporting . . . 30

7 Space-Time Spectral Analysis **31**
7.1 Spatial Spectra – Welch (Tab 1) . . . 31
7.2 Temporal Spectra (Tab 2, TR Only) . . . 31
7.3 Space-Time Spectra (Tab 3, TR Only) . . . 32
7.4 Spatial Spectra – FFT (Tab 4) . . . 32
7.5 Multi-case comparison . . . 32

8 Anisotropy Invariant Analysis **33**
8.1 Lumley triangle mode . . . 33
8.2 Barycentric map mode . . . 34
8.3 Multi-case comparison . . . 34

9 Correlation Analysis **35**
9.1 Selecting a reference . . . 35
9.2 Spatial correlation . . . 35
9.3 Temporal correlation (TR only) . . . 37
9.4 Multi-case comparison . . . 37

10 POD Analysis **38**
10.1 Computing POD . . . 38
10.2 Energy Spectrum tab . . . 38
10.3 Spatial Modes tab . . . 39
10.4 Temporal Coefficients tab (TR only) . . . 39
10.5 Reconstruction tab . . . 39
10.6 Exporting . . . 41

11 DMD Analysis **42**
11.1 Computing DMD . . . 42
11.2 Spectrum tab . . . 42
11.3 Mode tab . . . 42
11.4 Exporting . . . 43

12 Vortex Identification **44**
12.1 Field View tab . . . 45
12.2 Vortex Statistics tab . . . 46
12.3 Exporting . . . 46

13 Probability Analysis **47**
13.1 PDF tab . . . 47
13.2 Flow Direction tab . . . 50
13.3 Binary Space-Time tab . . . 51
13.4 Quadrant tab . . . 51

13.5 Exporting . . . 54

14 Multi-case Comparison **55**
14.1 Importing a case . . . 55
14.2 Managing cases . . . 55
14.3 Plot styles . . . 56
14.4 Quantity selector and layout chooser . . . 56
14.5 Combined export . . . 56
14.6 Header consistency checks . . . 56

15 Compare Cases **57**
15.1 Adding cases . . . 57
15.2 1D comparison . . . 57
15.3 2D Field Compare . . . 57
15.4 Exporting . . . 57

16 Tips, Workflow, and Troubleshooting **59**
16.1 Recommended workflow . . . 59
16.2 Performance tips . . . 59
16.3 Exporting figures for publication . . . 60
16.4 Known limitations . . . 60
16.5 Common issues . . . 60

17 Mouse and Keyboard Reference **62**
17.1 Mouse interactions by window . . . 62
17.2 Keyboard shortcuts . . . 62
17.3 Field Viewer: Display Controls Summary . . . 62

A Citing uPrime **64**

B Sample Dataset **65**

C Version history **66**

Chapter 1

Getting Started

1.1 What is uPrime?

uPrime reads Tecplot `.dat` files exported from LaVision DaVis, and MATLAB `.mat` files containing PIV or CFD velocity fields. It provides a graphical interface for turbulence post-processing. You do not need to know Python, MATLAB, or any programming language to use it. Everything is point-and-click.

The workflow is always the same:

1. Load your snapshots (`.dat` or `.mat`).
2. Set the acquisition type and sampling frequency.
3. Align the coordinate system if needed.
4. Verify statistical convergence in the **Mean & Convergence** module.
5. Open any analysis module and explore your data.

1.2 What uPrime can do

- Load 2D2C and 2D3C (stereo) PIV data from multiple `.dat` files or a single `.mat` file.
- Display mean velocity fields, standard deviation, vorticity, velocity vectors, and streamlines.
- Plot mean velocity line profiles (free, horizontal, vertical) and verify cumulative-statistics convergence at any picked point.
- Compute all Reynolds stress components with 2D maps, line profiles, and uncertainty bands.
- Compute and plot the full TKE budget (production, convection, turbulent diffusion, residual) with selectable term visibility.
- Perform spatial, temporal, and space-time spectral analysis.
- Compute two-point spatial and temporal correlations with integral length and time scales.
- Analyze turbulence anisotropy via the Lumley triangle and barycentric maps (stereo only).
- Perform Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD) with energy spectra, mode shapes, and flow reconstruction.
- Perform Dynamic Mode Decomposition (DMD) with frequency spectra and spatial mode visualization (TR only).
- Identify vortex cores and boundaries using five scalar criteria: vorticity, Q-criterion, swirling strength, λ_2, and Γ_1/Γ_2 (Graftieaux).

- Compute probability density functions of the velocity components and their fluctuations at a point, along a line, in a region of interest, or over the whole field, with skewness and flatness.
- Map forward-flow and reverse-flow probability (backflow coefficient) to locate and quantify intermittent separation.
- Plot binary space-time maps of the fluctuation sign along a line to visualise the passage of coherent structures (TR only).
- Decompose the Reynolds shear stress into ejections, sweeps, and interactions by quadrant analysis, with a hole-size sweep and joint PDF.
- Import multiple cases (CSV) and overlay them in Reynolds stress, TKE budget, spectra, correlation, anisotropy, and mean velocity plots for direct visual comparison.
- Apply and manage non-destructive spatial masks.
- Correct camera calibration misalignment, shift the coordinate origin, and mirror the dataset.
- Export all results as Tecplot `.dat` or `.csv` files, and figures as PNG (300 DPI), PDF, or SVG with editable text.

1.3 System requirements

Table 1.1: Minimum system requirements.

Item	Requirement
Operating system	Windows 10/11 (primary); macOS 12+; Linux (Ubuntu 20+)
Python	3.10 or later (source installation only)
RAM	8 GB minimum; 16 GB or more recommended for large datasets
Display	1920×1080 or larger strongly recommended
Python dependencies (source installation)	
`numpy`	Array operations and numerical core
`scipy`	Signal processing and spectral analysis
`matplotlib`	Plotting and figure export
`PyQt6`	Graphical user interface
`pyfftw`	Fast Fourier transforms (accelerates spectral analysis)
`h5py`	Read v7.3 (HDF5-based) `.mat` files

Note

All Python dependencies are installed automatically via `pip install -r requirements.txt`. The Windows executable requires no Python or dependency installation.

1.4 Installation

1.4.1 Option A: Windows executable (recommended for non-developers)

Download `uPrime_v0.7.1.exe` from the GitHub Releases page and double-click to launch. No Python or any other software is required.

> **Note**
>
> Windows Defender may show a security warning on first launch. Click **More info** then **Run anyway**. This is normal for executables built with PyInstaller that have not been code-signed.

1.4.2 Option B: Run from source

1. Clone the repository:

```
git clone https://github.com/CmdrRyder/uPrime.git
cd uPrime
```

2. Install dependencies:

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

3. Launch:

```
python main.py
```

1.5 Input file formats

uPrime accepts two file formats: Tecplot ASCII `.dat` (one snapshot per file) and MATLAB `.mat` (full time series in a single file). The file type is auto-detected from the extension.

1.5.1 Tecplot ASCII (`.dat`)

uPrime reads **Tecplot ASCII `.dat` files** in the standard DaVis export format. Each file contains one PIV snapshot. Select multiple files at once to load a full time series.

uPrime automatically reads the physical units from the variable name strings in the file header (e.g. `"x [mm]"`, `"Velocity u [m/s]"`). If units are not specified in the header, it defaults to millimetres for coordinates and m/s for velocity. All internal computations are performed in SI units regardless of the input.

> **Note**
>
> uPrime auto-detects variable names. It expects `x`, `y`, `U` (or `Velocity u`), `V` (or `Velocity v`), and optionally `W` for stereo. Extra columns (vorticity, acceleration, etc.) are ignored silently. An `isValid` or `mask` column is used to exclude invalid vectors; this column is present by default in DaVis exports. Files exported directly from DaVis will load without any configuration.

1.5.2 MATLAB (`.mat`)

uPrime also loads MATLAB `.mat` files. Both classic v5/v7 (read via `scipy.io`) and v7.3 (HDF5-based, read via `h5py`) are supported. Format detection is automatic.

- One `.mat` file contains the entire dataset (all snapshots).
- Velocity arrays must have shape `(Ny, Nx, N_snap)`. The loader detects and corrects the alternative `(Nx, Ny, N_snap)` ndgrid convention automatically.
- Coordinate arrays `x` and `y` can be 1D vectors or 2D meshgrid arrays. Transposed meshgrids are auto-corrected; orientation is determined primarily from the variance pattern in the data, with shape comparison as a fallback.

- Variable names are auto-detected. The recognized candidates (case-insensitive) are: `x`, `X`, `xc`, `xx` for x; `y`, `Y`, `yc`, `yy` for y; `u`, `U`, `Vx`, `vx` for U; `v`, `V`, `Vy`, `vy` for V; `w`, `W`, `Vz`, `vz` for W (optional); `isValid`, `isvalid`, `mask`, `valid`, `IsValid` for the validity mask (optional). Extra variables are ignored.
- **Multiple snapshots required.** Single-snapshot files (where the velocity array is 2D, or has `N_snap` = 1) are detected from metadata and rejected with a clear error before any data is loaded.

When you select a `.mat` file, uPrime reads only the variable names and shapes (no data) and shows the variable confirmation dialog (Figure 1.1). The dialog appears within seconds even for very large files.

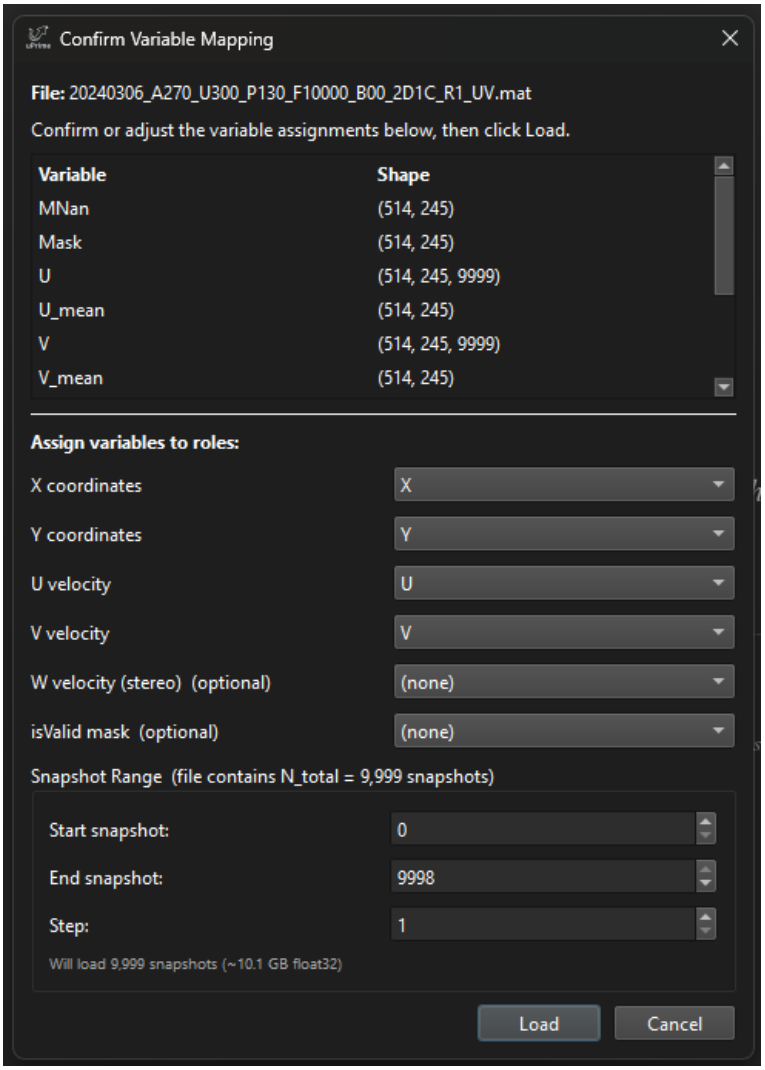


Figure 1.1: `.mat` variable confirmation dialog. The top panel lists every variable in the file with its shape. Six dropdowns map the file variables to uPrime's expected roles (x, y, U, V, W, isValid); auto-detected matches are pre-filled. The bottom panel sets the snapshot subset to load (start, end, step), with a live readout of the resulting count and estimated memory size. Click **Load** to confirm and start the actual data read.

Snapshot subset. The dialog includes Start, End, and Step spinboxes. They allow loading only a slice (e.g. snapshots 0–999) or a strided subsample (e.g. every 10th snapshot from 0 to 9999). The estimated in-memory size updates live. This is useful for preliminary inspection

of very large files before committing to the full load.

Mask convention. A **Mask convention** dropdown sits next to the isValid selector. The default, **1 = valid (uPrime default)**, matches the `.dat` convention. If your file uses the opposite convention (for example a `Mask` variable where 1 marks points to *exclude*), select **1 = invalid (mask out)**. uPrime applies the chosen convention directly, with no auto-detection. After loading, the status bar warns if the resulting masked fraction is extreme (below 5% or above 95%); if that warning is unexpected, reload with the other convention.

Progress feedback. For v7.3 files (HDF5), the read is chunked snapshot-by-snapshot and the progress bar advances determinately. For classic `.mat` files, the read is a single blocking call from `scipy.io`, so a busy indicator is shown along with the file size in the status bar. After the read, the status bar prints a confirmation listing the chosen variables and snapshot count, for example:

```
Loaded .mat:  x=X, y=Y, u=U, v=V, w=(none), isValid=(none), N=1000 of 9999
                          (range 0:9990 step 10)
```

Tip

For very large `.mat` files, save with `-v7.3` in MATLAB:
`save('dataset.mat', 'x', 'y', 'u', 'v', '-v7.3')`
This enables HDF5 chunked reading, which can show real per-snapshot progress and avoids loading the entire file in one blocking call.

Warning

A `.mat` file containing a single snapshot will be rejected before any data is read (Figure 1.2). Most uPrime modules require multiple snapshots to compute statistics; for a single snapshot only the field viewer is meaningful, which does not justify loading the file.

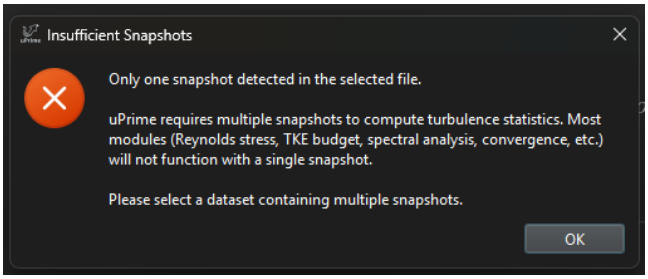


Figure 1.2: Error dialog shown when a `.mat` file contains only one snapshot. The check is performed on the metadata before any data is loaded, so the error appears immediately regardless of the file size.

Chapter 2

Main Window

2.1 Overview

When uPrime launches you will see a welcome screen. The sidebar on the left is your control panel. All steps are numbered in the order you should use them.

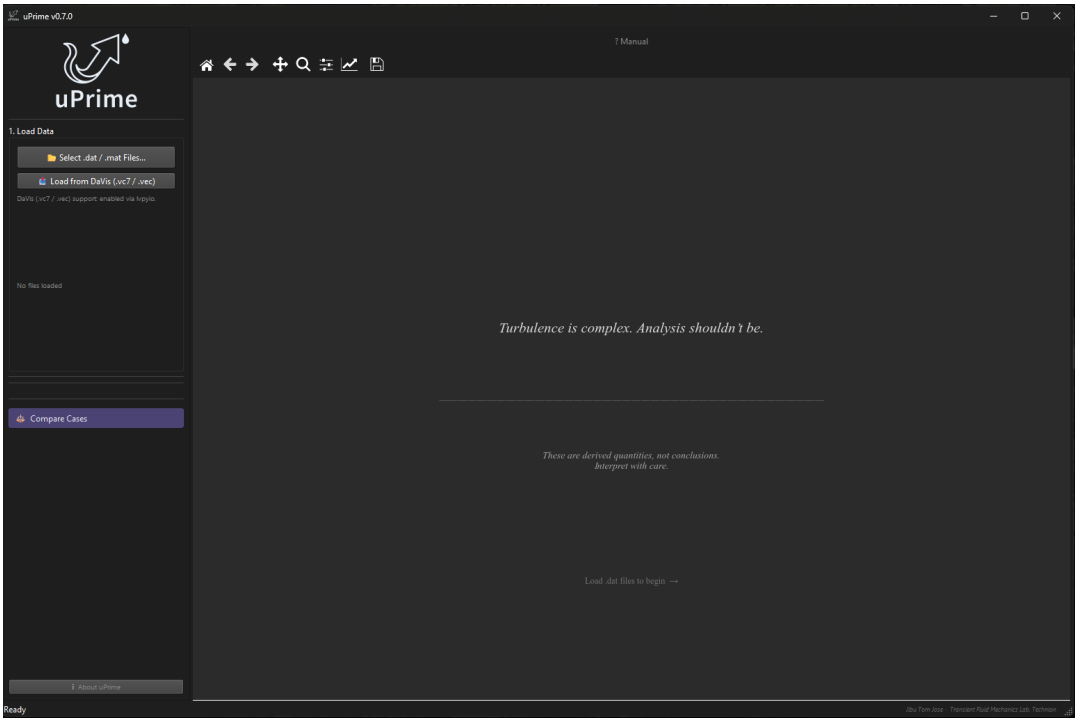


Figure 2.1: uPrime v0.7.0 welcome screen on launch. The sidebar shows Step 1 (Load Data) only. The **? Manual** button is visible in the top right. Load `.dat` or `.mat` files from the sidebar to begin.

2.1.1 Step 1: Load Data

Click **Select .dat / .mat Files...** to open a file browser. You can select multiple `.dat` files (one snapshot each) or a single `.mat` file (full time series). The file type is auto-detected from the extension.

For `.dat` loads, a subsampling dialog appears next (see Section 2.6). For `.mat` loads, the variable confirmation dialog appears (see Section 1.5.2).

After loading, the acquisition-type dialog appears. Set **TR** (time-resolved) or **Non-TR** and enter the sampling frequency f_s if TR.

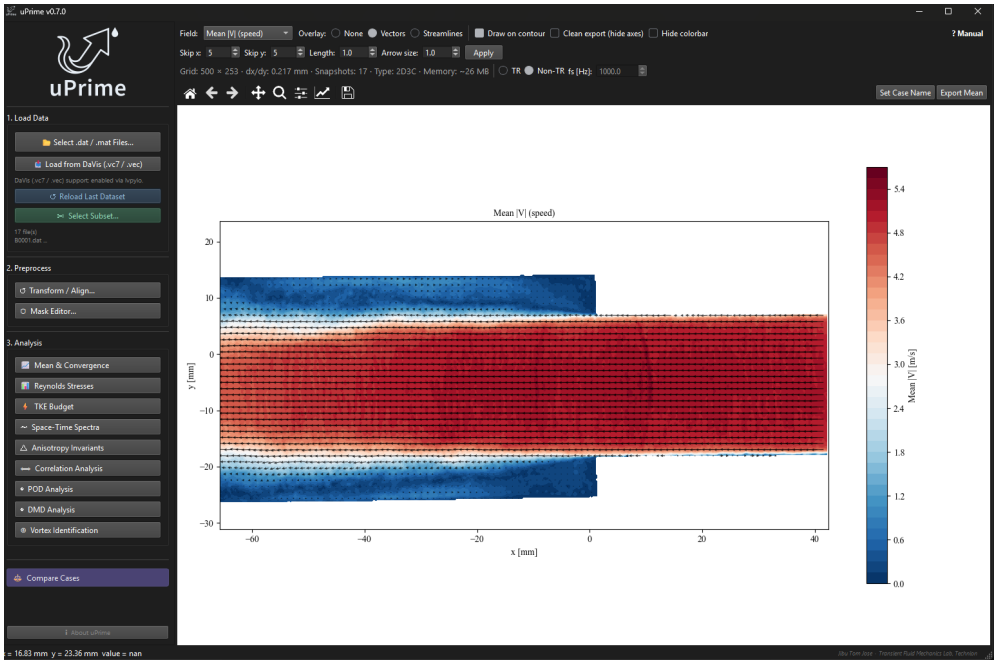


Figure 2.2: Main window after loading a dataset. The Analysis panel lists modules in the recommended order of use, beginning with **Mean & Convergence** for verifying statistical convergence before moving to higher-order statistics.

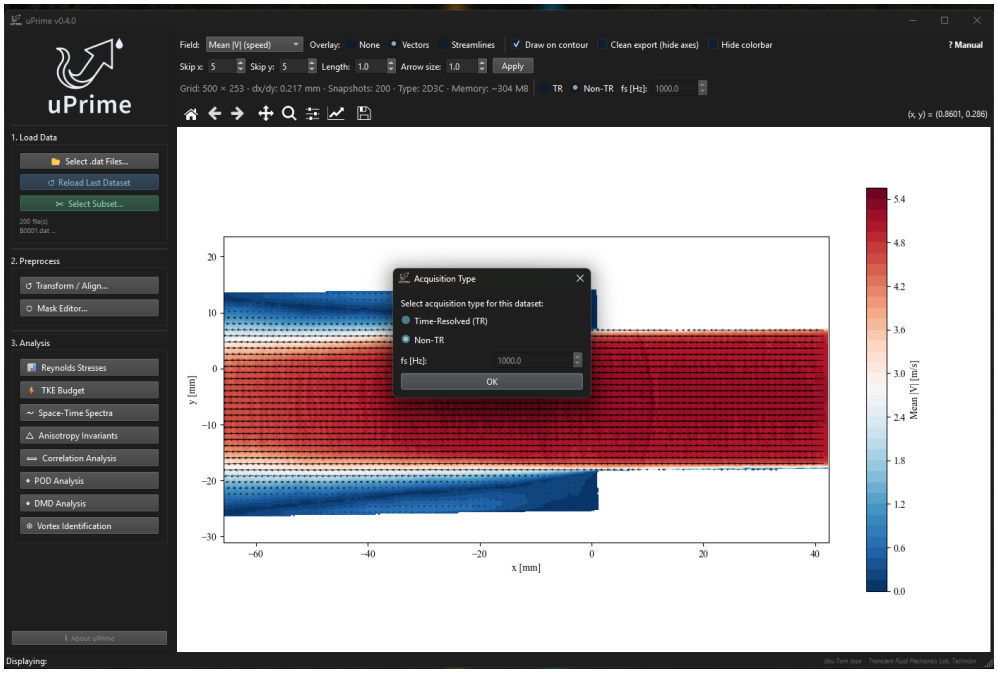


Figure 2.3: Acquisition type dialog shown automatically after each data load. Select TR and enter f_s to enable temporal analysis modules. The f_s spinbox is greyed out when Non-TR is selected.

2.1.2 Step 2: Preprocess

Click **Transform / Align...** to open the coordinate correction tool. This is where you fix camera tilt, shift the coordinate origin, and optionally mirror the dataset. **Always do this before running any analysis.** Full details are in Chapter 3.

Click **Mask Editor...** to draw additional spatial masks over regions you want to exclude from analysis (e.g. reflections, shadows, or wall regions not detected by the DaVis isValid flag). Masks are non-destructive: the raw velocity data is never modified. Toggling a mask on or off does not require reloading.

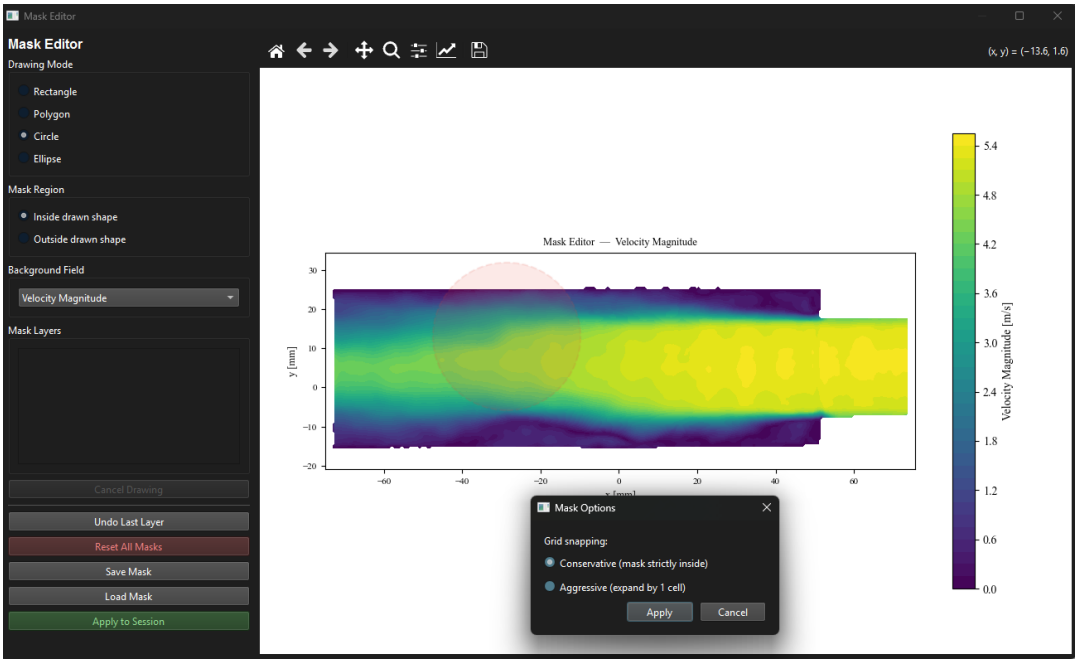


Figure 2.4: Mask Editor window. The user is drawing a polygon (red) over a region to exclude. Drawing modes include Rectangle, Polygon, Circle, and Ellipse. The mask can be applied inside or outside the drawn shape. Multiple layers can be stacked and each can be undone independently.

2.1.3 Step 3: Analysis

Click any analysis button to open that module in its own window. Multiple analysis windows can be open at the same time and can be compared side by side. The recommended starting point is **Mean & Convergence** (Chapter 4); from there proceed to Reynolds stresses, TKE budget, and the higher-order modules as appropriate.

All heavy computations (POD, DMD, TKE budget, correlation, vortex identification, probability analysis) run in a background thread so the main window remains fully responsive during computation. A progress indicator appears below the compute button while the calculation is in progress.

2.2 Acquisition type and sampling frequency

The acquisition type and sampling frequency f_s are set in the dataset info ribbon at the top of the main window, immediately below the field options strip. A dialog to set these values also appears automatically after each data load.

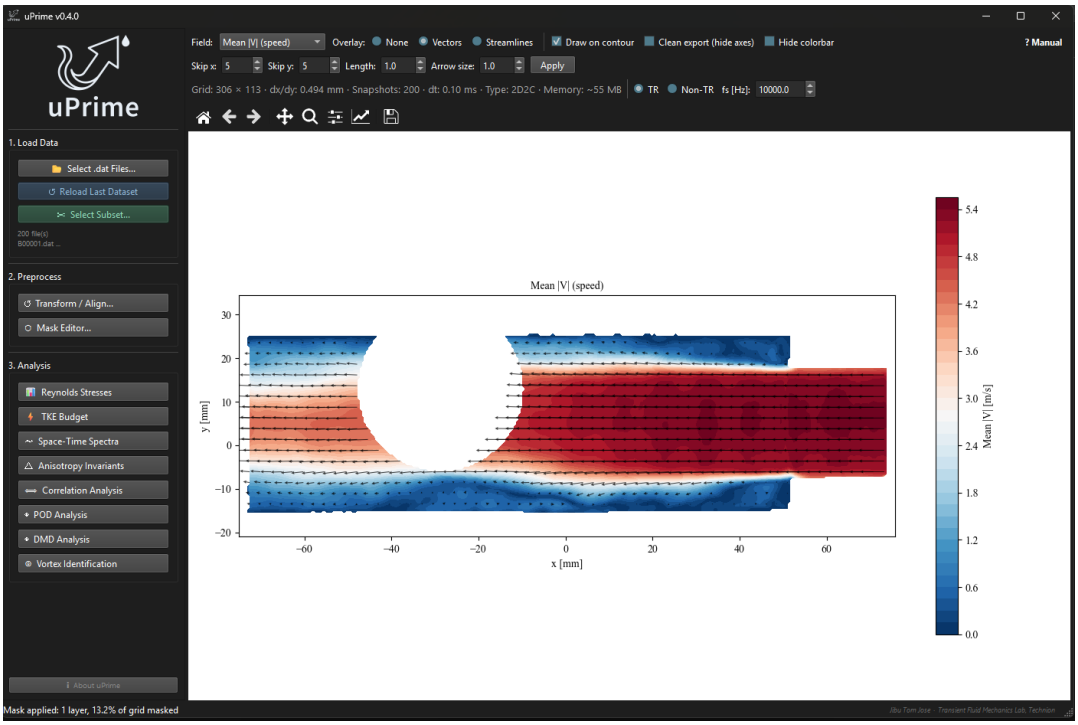


Figure 2.5: Main window after applying a drawn mask. The masked region is shown in white. The status bar at the bottom reports the number of mask layers and the fraction of the grid that is masked.

- **TR**: snapshots are acquired at a fixed rate. Enter f_s in Hz (enabled only for TR). Temporal analyzes (temporal spectra, temporal correlation, POD temporal coefficients, DMD) become available.
- **Non-TR**: snapshots are statistically independent (e.g. double-frame PIV). Temporal analyzes are greyed out.

Warning

Set the correct acquisition type and f_s before opening any analysis window. Analysis windows read these settings when they open.

2.3 Dataset info ribbon

A compact info strip appears just below the options strip after loading:

`Grid: 507 × 248 · dx/dy: 0.165 mm · Snapshots: 2000 · dt: 0.10 ms · Type: 2D2C · Memory: ~2012 MB`

- **Grid**: number of velocity vectors in x and y.
- **dx / dy**: spatial resolution in mm. For `.mat` files this is estimated from the coordinate arrays using the median of differences (robust to small rounding at the edges). A non-uniform grid (more than 1% variation in spacing) triggers a status-bar warning, since FFT and Welch spectra assume uniform grids.
- **Snapshots**: how many snapshots are currently active (reflects subsampling).
- **dt**: time between frames in milliseconds (TR data only; updates if f_s or stride changes).

- **Type**: `2D2C` for planar PIV; `2D3C` for stereo PIV with W.
- **Memory**: estimated RAM used by the velocity arrays. For datasets exceeding 4 GB, this reflects the size of the memory-mapped file on disk rather than physical RAM consumed (see Section 2.6).

2.4 Field viewer

The right panel shows the selected velocity field as a filled contour plot with optional velocity vectors.

2.4.1 Display controls

Table 2.1: Field viewer display controls.

Control	Description
Field	Quantity to show: Mean U/V/W, speed $\|V\|$, vorticity, Std(U), Std(V)
Overlay	None, Vectors, or Streamlines
Draw on contour	When checked, overlays the selected overlay on the filled contour
Clean export	Hides all axis labels, tick marks, and the plot title for a clean exported image
Hide colorbar	Removes the colorbar from the plot
? Manual	Opens the user manual PDF

2.4.2 Streamlines

Streamlines trace the instantaneous mean velocity field and give a cleaner visual impression of the flow topology than arrow vectors, especially in regions with complex recirculation.

Step-by-step

1. Set **Overlay** to **Streamlines**.
2. The vector ribbon appears. Left-click and drag on the field to draw a rake seed line. Multiple rakes can be drawn cumulatively.
3. Adjust **Length**, color, and line width in the ribbon.
4. Click **Apply** to redraw.
5. Click **Reset** in the ribbon to clear all seed rakes and start over.

Note

Streamlines are drawn from the mean velocity field only. They do not reflect instantaneous snapshot structure.

2.4.3 Toolbar

2.4.4 Saving figures

Click the Save button in the toolbar. PNG is saved at 300 DPI. PDF and SVG use vector graphics; all text is saved as editable text and can be restyled in Adobe Illustrator or Inkscape.

Table 2.2: Toolbar button functions.

Button	Function
Home	Resets the view to the original limits, regardless of zoom history
Back / Forward	Step through zoom history
Pan	Click and drag to pan the view
Zoom	Click and drag a rectangle to zoom in
Save	Save the figure as PNG (300 DPI), PDF, or SVG

Tip

For publication figures: (1) enable **Clean export** to hide axes, (2) enable **Hide colorbar** if not needed, (3) save as SVG and open in Illustrator to set your journal's font and size requirements.

2.5 Export menu

The **Export** menu in the menu bar provides one-click export of the time-averaged mean field as a Tecplot ASCII `.dat` file. The exported file contains $\langle U \rangle$, $\langle V \rangle$, $|V|$, and (for stereo data) $\langle W \rangle$ on the original grid, ready for use in CFD validation, plotting in Tecplot, or import into other PIV tools.

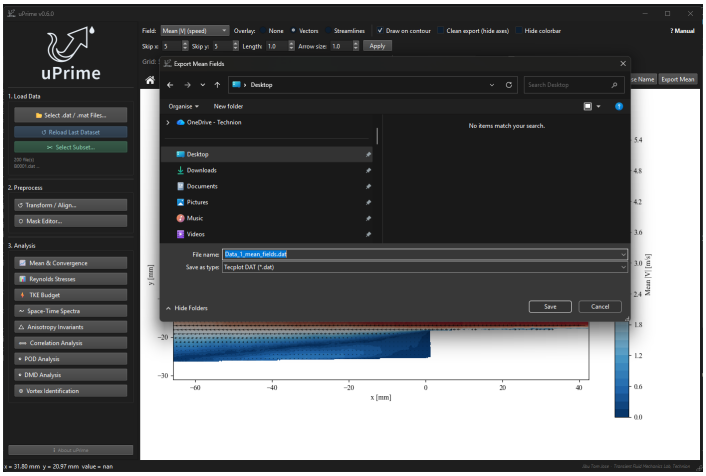


Figure 2.6: Main window **Export** menu showing the Tecplot ASCII mean field export option.

2.6 Snapshot subsampling and large dataset handling

A subsampling dialog appears whenever `.dat` files are selected, giving you control over how many snapshots to load. The same controls (start, end, step) are available inside the `.mat` variable confirmation dialog (Section 1.5.2).

- **Load all**: load every file in the selection.
- **Stride**: load every K-th snapshot. Stride 5 on a 10,000-snapshot dataset gives 2000 samples, which is sufficient for mean fields, Reynolds stresses, and correlations.
- **Limit**: load only the first N snapshots.

The dialog shows the estimated snapshot count and memory usage, updating live as you change the options.

After loading, click **Select Subset...** to adjust the active snapshot range without re-reading from disk.

Tip

For 10,000+ snapshot datasets, start with Stride 5 (~2000 samples). Mean fields and Reynolds stresses converge well at this level. Run POD and DMD on the full set once you know what you are looking for. Use the **Mean & Convergence** module (Chapter 4) to verify whether your subsample is sufficient.

2.6.1 Large dataset handling (datasets exceeding 4 GB)

When the estimated dataset size after subsampling exceeds 4 GB, uPrime automatically switches to a **memory-mapped** loading strategy. Instead of loading all velocity data into RAM, uPrime writes the data to a temporary binary file on your system's temp drive (typically `C:\Users\`*`username`*`\AppData\Local\Temp`) and accesses it as needed. The actual path is shown in the warning label inside the subsampling dialog.

Note

Memory-mapped loading requires free disk space on your system temp drive equal to the dataset size. For a 10,000-snapshot 2D2C dataset at a typical grid size, this is approximately 10 GB. The temporary file is deleted automatically when uPrime closes normally.

Warning

If uPrime crashes or is forcibly closed, a temporary file may be left behind. From v0.7.1, uPrime automatically sweeps orphaned `uprime_memmap_*` files at startup and before each new data load, so leftovers from a previously crashed session are cleared the next time you open the program or load data. Files belonging to a currently running session (or to another running instance) are never touched, so manual deletion from the system temp folder is now rarely necessary.

The key practical differences when memory-mapped loading is active:

- **Initial load is slower**: uPrime writes the full dataset to disk before opening it. On a fast SSD, expect 30–90 seconds for a 10 GB dataset in addition to the normal file reading time.
- **All analysis works normally**: POD, DMD, TKE budget, spectra, correlation, and vortex identification all function identically. Memory-mapped arrays behave like regular numpy arrays.
- **RAM usage is reduced**: only the pages of data currently being accessed are held in RAM. The operating system manages this automatically.
- **Do not load from external drives**: if your `.dat` files are on an external HDD, copy them to a local drive first. Reading from an external drive while also writing the memory-mapped cache to the temp drive simultaneously will be very slow.

Tip

If your system temp drive (usually C:) does not have enough free space, use Stride subsampling to reduce the dataset to under 4 GB before loading. For example, Stride 3

on a 10,000-snapshot dataset gives ∼3333 snapshots (∼3.3 GB for a typical 2D2C grid), which stays below the threshold and loads entirely into RAM.

Chapter 3

Coordinate Transform

Open from **2. Preprocess → Transform / Align. . .** .

Warning

Transforms modify the dataset **in memory** and cannot be undone. If you make a mistake, click **Reload Last Dataset** in the sidebar to reload from disk and start again.

In PIV experiments, the camera is rarely perfectly aligned with the flow geometry. Even a 1° tilt introduces errors in all derived quantities, including mean profiles, Reynolds stresses, line profiles, and integral scales. Always apply the transform *before* opening any analysis module.

3.1 Rotation

Step-by-step

1. Left-click and drag on the field preview to draw a reference line along any feature that should be perfectly horizontal or vertical (wall, step edge, pipe centerline).
2. The misalignment angle is computed automatically and shown in the **Correction angle** field.
3. Choose **Linear** (fast) or **Cubic** (smoother, recommended for final results).
4. Click **Apply Rotation**.

Note

Rotation is limited to ±10°. For larger corrections, fix the calibration in DaVis and re-export your data.

3.2 Origin shift

Moves the coordinate origin $(0, 0)$ to a physically meaningful reference point such as a step corner, pipe inlet, or cylinder center. Two modes are available: **Set new origin** (click on the point that should become $(0, 0)$) and **Set known point** (click a point and enter what its real-world coordinates should be).

3.3 Mirror

Flips the entire dataset along an axis through the current origin. **Mirror X** negates all x-coordinates and the U component; **Mirror Y** negates all y-coordinates and the V component.

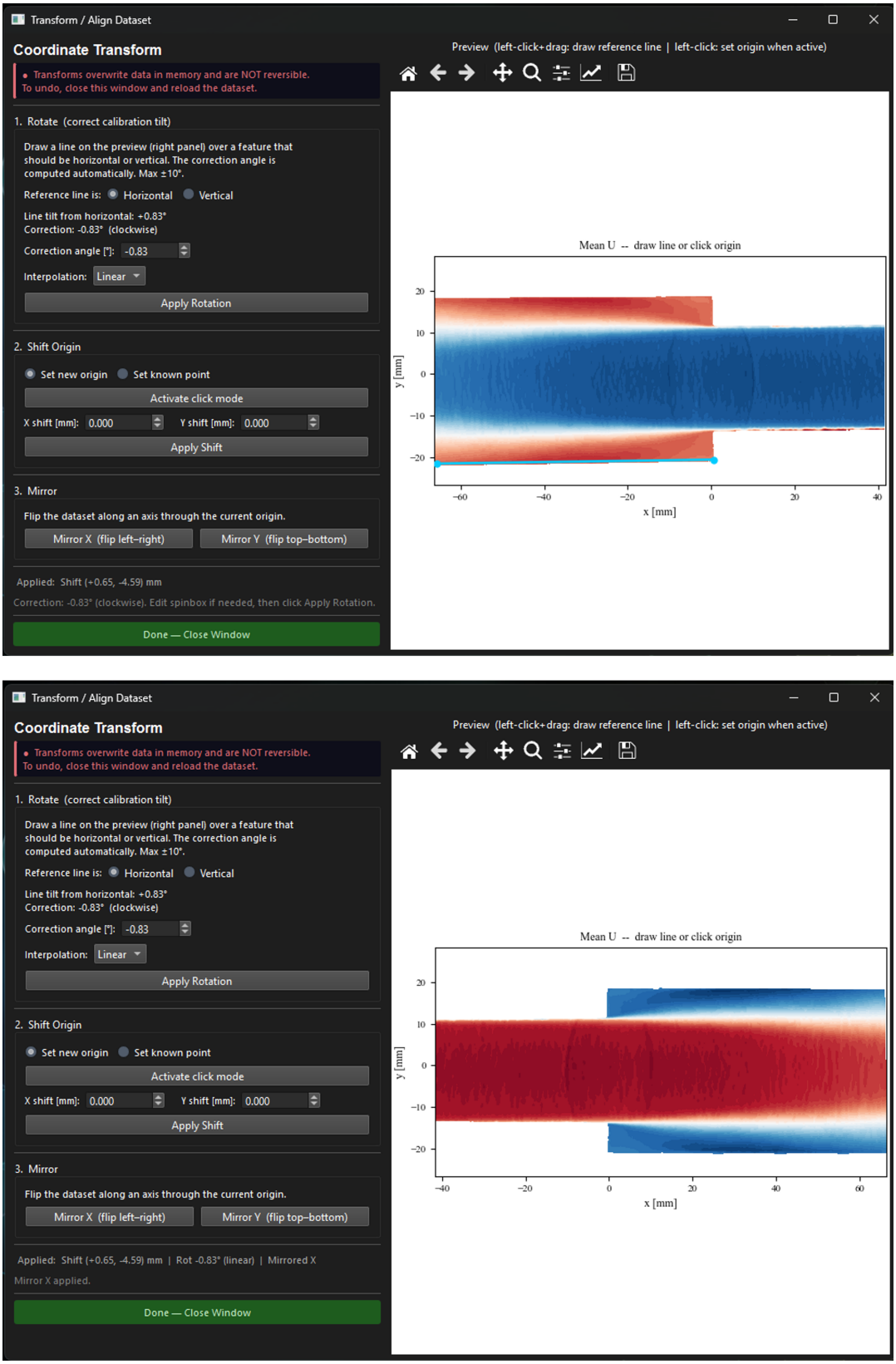


Figure 3.1: Coordinate Transform window. Left: controls. Right: live preview of the mean field. A reference line drawn along the lower pipe wall is shown in cyan. The computed correction angle appears automatically in the left panel.

Chapter 4

Mean & Convergence

Open from **3. Analysis → Mean & Convergence**.

The Mean & Convergence module is the recommended first stop for any new dataset. It serves two purposes: plotting mean velocity profiles along arbitrary lines (similar to the Reynolds stress line-profile mode but for first-order statistics), and quantitatively verifying that the dataset has enough snapshots for the higher-order statistics computed by other modules to be trustworthy.

The module has two tabs: **Mean Velocity** (line profiles) and **Convergence** (cumulative statistics at a picked point).

4.1 Mean Velocity tab

This tab plots $\langle U \rangle$, $\langle V \rangle$, and (for stereo data) $\langle W \rangle$ along a user-drawn line, in the same style as Reynolds stress line profiles.

Step-by-step

1. Choose line orientation: **Free**, **Horizontal**, or **Vertical**.
2. For Horizontal or Vertical, set **Spatial avg ± pts** to average over neighboring rows or columns and reduce noise.
3. Left-click and drag on the $|\langle U \rangle|$ field (left panel) to draw the line, *or* enter the endpoints (x_0, y_0) and (x_1, y_1) numerically and click **Set Line** (v0.7.0; see Figure 5.3).
4. Click **Plot Profile**.

4.1.1 Normalization by U_m

A checkbox labeled **Normalize by U_m** and a paired spinbox let you divide the plotted velocity components by a user-supplied bulk or reference velocity. When checked, the y-axis labels switch to `U/U_m [-]`, `V/U_m [-]`, etc. The arc-length axis is not normalized, matching the convention used elsewhere in uPrime.

Tip

Set U_m to the bulk velocity, free-stream velocity, or any reference value for your flow. Profiles are then directly comparable across cases at different Reynolds numbers.

4.1.2 Multi-case comparison

uPrime can overlay imported cases (CSV files exported from previous uPrime sessions or other tools that follow the same column layout) on top of the current profile. This is useful for comparing experimental runs, conditions, or numerical-versus-experimental data.

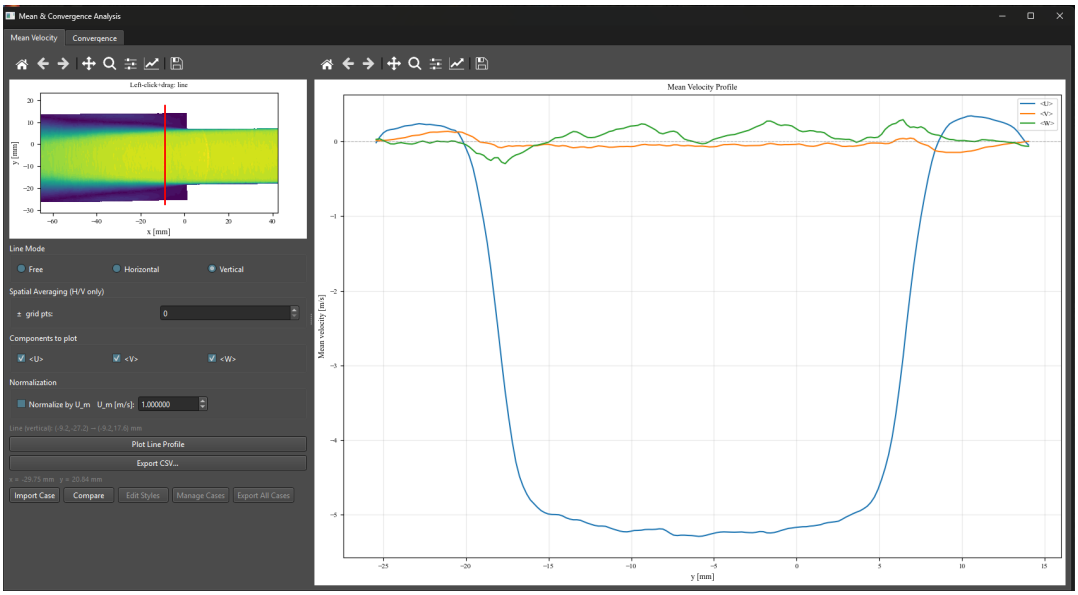


Figure 4.1: Mean & Convergence module, Mean Velocity tab. Left: $|\langle U \rangle|$ field with a free line drawn (cyan). Right: $\langle U \rangle$, $\langle V \rangle$ profiles along the line as a function of arc length. Stereo data adds $\langle W \rangle$.

Step-by-step

1. Click **Import Case…** and select a CSV file.
2. The imported case is added to the case list with an auto-assigned color and dashed linestyle.
3. Use **Edit Styles…** to change line color, style, marker, and label per case.
4. Use **Manage Cases…** to rename or remove cases.
5. The current U_m setting is compared against the `# U_m =` header in each imported CSV. If they differ, a status-bar warning is shown for that specific case so you can manually re-normalize before publishing.

The same multi-case workflow is available in Reynolds Stress, TKE Budget, Spectra, Correlation, and Anisotropy windows (see Chapter 14).

4.1.3 Exporting

Click **Export Profile…** to save the current profile as a CSV file. The header records the line geometry (endpoints), the U_m value (or N/A if normalization is off), and the column layout. Multi-case overlays can be exported together using **Export All Cases…**.

4.2 Convergence tab

The Convergence tab quantifies whether the dataset has enough snapshots for the first three moments of the velocity fluctuations to be statistically converged. This serves as a numerical check on the assumptions made by every other turbulence-statistics module.

4.2.1 Background

Given a sequence of N snapshots, the cumulative running statistics are

$$\langle u' \rangle_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (u_i - \langle u \rangle_{\text{final}}), \tag{4.1}$$

$$\langle u'u' \rangle_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (u_i - \langle u \rangle_{\text{final}})^2, \tag{4.2}$$

$$\langle u'u'u' \rangle_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (u_i - \langle u \rangle_{\text{final}})^3, \tag{4.3}$$

where $\langle u \rangle_{\text{final}}$ is the mean computed over all loaded snapshots. With this definition, the curves approach a non-zero asymptote as N grows, which is what allows convergence to be visually inspected.

The cumulative moments are computed using Welford's online algorithm extended to the third central moment. This is a single-pass $O(N)$ computation, numerically stable, and avoids storing per-snapshot residuals.

A trailing-window stability criterion is used to find the convergence point N^*:

$$N^* = \min \left\{ N \ : \ \frac{\max_{n \in [N-W,N]} q_n - \min_{n \in [N-W,N]} q_n}{\sigma_{\text{scale}}} < \varepsilon \right\}$$

where $W = \max(50, N/10)$ and σ_{scale} is component-aware: $\sqrt{\langle u'u' \rangle_{\text{final}}}$ for first moments, $\langle u'u' \rangle_{\text{final}}$ for second, and $\langle u'u' \rangle_{\text{final}}^{3/2}$ for third (and similarly per-component for v and w). The criterion further requires the inequality to hold continuously across the next W samples (sustained crossing), which prevents spurious early matches when the trailing-window range happens to be small by chance.

Reference: Welford, B.P. (1962). Note on a method for calculating corrected sums of squares and products. *Technometrics*, 4(3), 419–420.

4.2.2 Using the tab

Step-by-step

1. Set **Kernel size** (odd integer, default 3). The picked point is averaged over a $k \times k$ neighborhood. Larger kernels reduce noise but cannot pick points within $\lfloor k/2 \rfloor$ of the boundary.
2. Left-click on the field to pick a point. Points within the boundary margin (shaded grey) are rejected with a status-bar message.
3. Set the three thresholds: ε_1 for $\langle u' \rangle$, ε_2 for $\langle u'u' \rangle$, ε_3 for $\langle u'u'u' \rangle$. Default 1e-3 each.
4. Tick which moment orders to plot: $\langle u' \rangle$, $\langle u'u' \rangle$, $\langle u'u'u' \rangle$.
5. Choose **Grid layout** (one subplot per component-order combination, raw values) or **Single plot** (all selected curves overlaid, normalized).
6. Click **Compute Convergence**.

4.2.3 Grid layout (raw values)

In grid mode, $\langle u' \rangle_N$, $\langle u'u' \rangle_N$, and $\langle u'u'u' \rangle_N$ are plotted in physical units, one subplot per component (rows: u, v, optionally w) and per moment order (columns: 1, 2, 3). A pair of dashed horizontal lines marks the threshold band $q_{\text{final}} \pm \varepsilon \cdot \sigma_{\text{scale}}$ around the asymptote, and a vertical line at N^* shows the sustained-crossing convergence point. Curves that never satisfy the criterion are labeled **Not converged**.

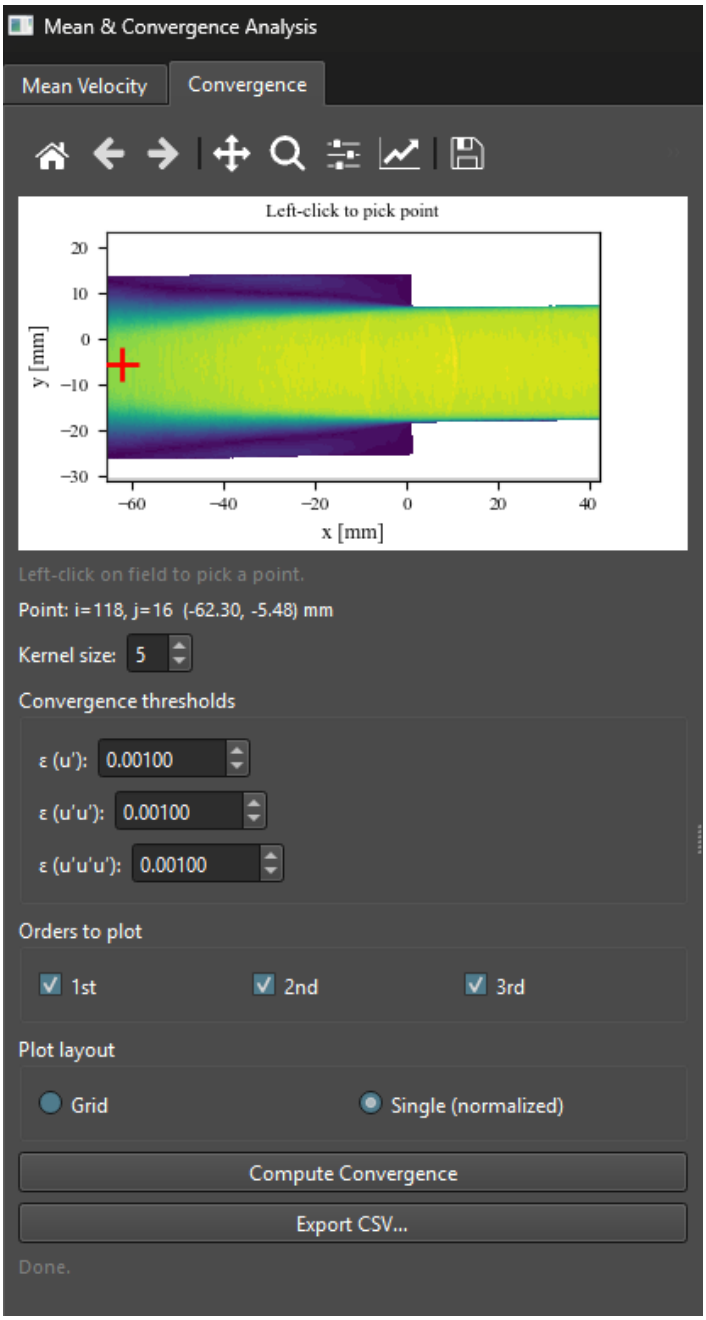


Figure 4.2: Convergence tab, point picker. The $|\langle U \rangle|$ field is shown in viridis. The boundary margin (grey overlay) is determined by the kernel size and clicks inside it are rejected. The picked point and kernel footprint are shown as a red marker.

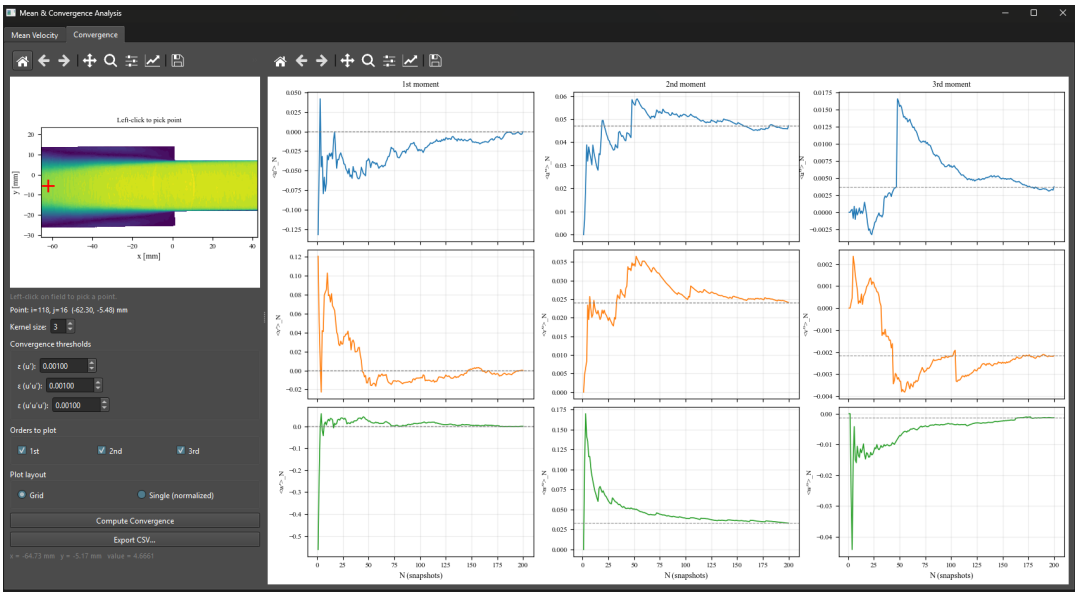


Figure 4.3: Convergence tab, grid layout (planar 2D2C: 2×3 subplots). Each panel shows a cumulative moment in physical units, the dashed threshold band around its final-value asymptote, and the vertical N^* line where the sustained-crossing criterion is first met. Third moments typically require many more snapshots than first or second moments to converge.

4.2.4 Single plot (normalized)

In single-plot mode, every selected curve is normalized by its own scale σ_{scale} so they share a common dimensionless y-axis. Curves are color-coded by component (u, v, w) and styled by moment order (solid for first, dashed for second, dotted for third). Per-component dashed threshold bands are drawn around each curve's asymptote $q_{\text{final}}/\sigma_{\text{scale}}$.

4.2.5 Exporting

Click **Export CSV...** to save the cumulative moments. The header block records the picked point indices and physical coordinates, the kernel size, the three thresholds, the dataset N_{total}, and the N^* value computed for each quantity. The columns are N, $\langle u' \rangle_N$, $\langle u'u' \rangle_N$, $\langle u'u'u' \rangle_N$, $\langle v' \rangle_N$, ..., adding w components for stereo data.

Tip

First and second moments typically converge with a few hundred snapshots in well-mixed regions. Third moments often require 5000 or more, and may not converge at all in regions of low intensity. A non-converging $\langle u'u'u' \rangle$ is not necessarily a problem for second-order statistics; the convergence module simply makes this explicit.

4.3 Inline non-convergence notice

The Reynolds Stress, TKE Budget, and Spectral Analysis windows display a persistent amber top-bar label when the loaded dataset has fewer than 500 snapshots:

> ⚠ Only **N=234** snapshots loaded. Statistics may not be converged. Use the Mean & Convergence module to verify.

The label is hidden automatically when the dataset has 500 or more snapshots. Other modules (Correlation, Anisotropy, POD, DMD, Vortex Identification) are silent. The 500 threshold is

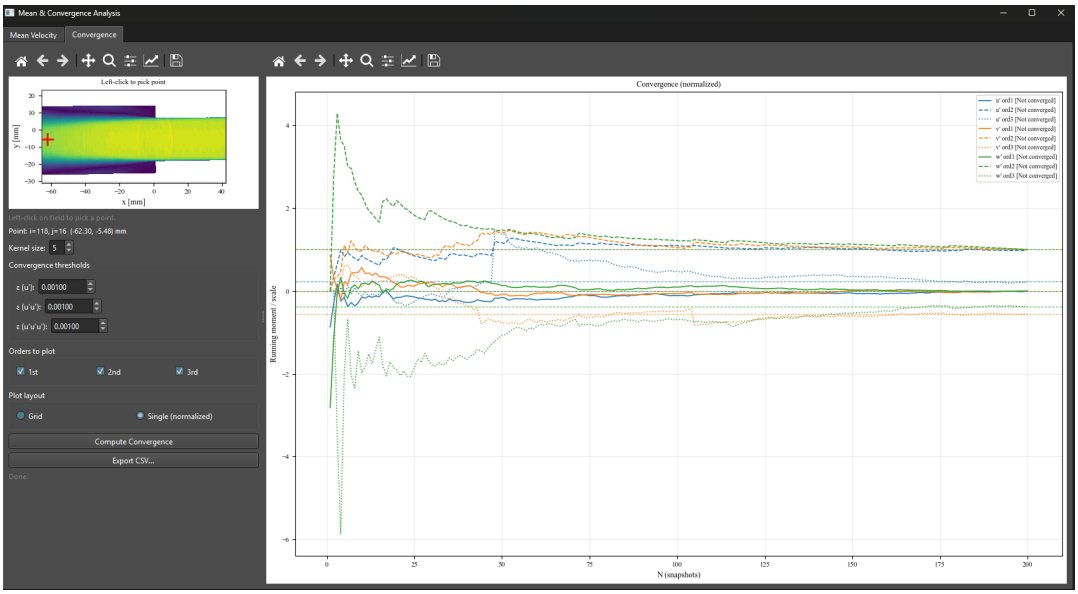


Figure 4.4: Convergence tab, single normalized layout. All selected curves are overlaid on one axes and approach their respective non-zero asymptotes (one per curve). Per-component dashed threshold bands flank each asymptote.

hardcoded in `core/constants.py` as `CONVERGENCE_WARNING_N` and can be changed in source builds.

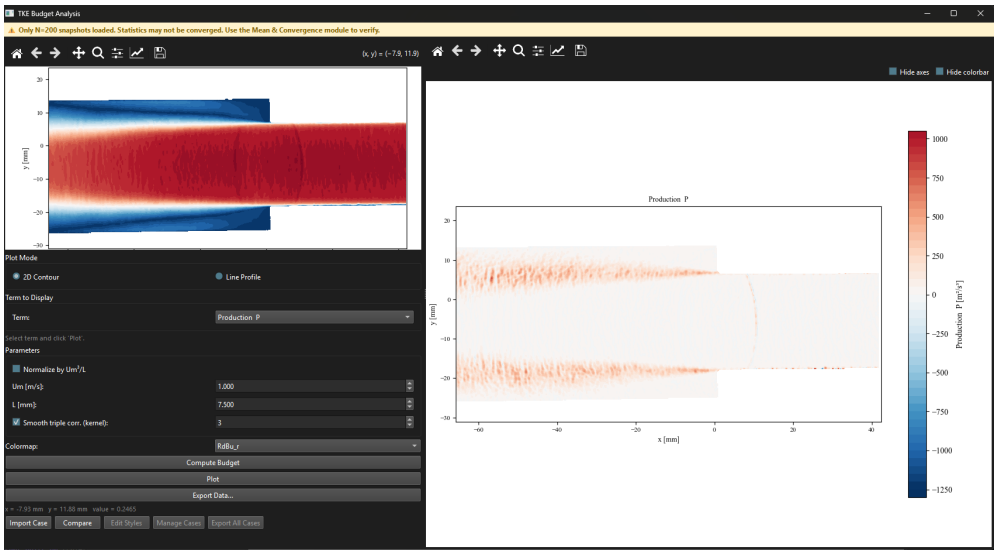


Figure 4.5: Top-bar non-convergence label as it appears in the Reynolds Stress window with $N = 234$ snapshots. The label is hidden automatically once $N \geq 500$.

Chapter 5

Reynolds Stress Analysis

Open from **3. Analysis → Reynolds Stresses**.

In turbulent flows, the instantaneous velocity can be decomposed into a time-averaged mean $\langle U_i \rangle$ and a fluctuating component u_i', such that $U_i = \langle U_i \rangle + u_i'$. The Reynolds stress tensor $\langle u_i' u_j' \rangle$ quantifies the statistical intensity and directionality of these fluctuations and appears as a closure term in the Reynolds-Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) equations (Pope, 2000):

$$\rho \frac{D\langle U_i \rangle}{Dt} = -\frac{\partial \langle p \rangle}{\partial x_i} + \mu \nabla^2 \langle U_i \rangle - \rho \frac{\partial \langle u_i' u_j' \rangle}{\partial x_j}$$

The diagonal components $\langle u'u' \rangle$, $\langle v'v' \rangle$, $\langle w'w' \rangle$ are the normal stresses, directly related to the turbulent kinetic energy by $k = \frac{1}{2}(\langle u'u' \rangle + \langle v'v' \rangle + \langle w'w' \rangle)$. The off-diagonal components $\langle u'v' \rangle$, $\langle u'w' \rangle$, $\langle v'w' \rangle$ are the shear stresses, which are responsible for the turbulent momentum transfer across shear layers and boundary layers.

For 2D2C data, only $\langle u'u' \rangle$, $\langle v'v' \rangle$, and $\langle u'v' \rangle$ are available. All six components are computed for stereo (2D3C) data.

Tip

The shear stress $\langle u'v' \rangle$ is particularly useful for identifying shear layers and recirculation zones: it changes sign across the centreline of a jet or shear layer, and its peak magnitude locates the region of maximum turbulent momentum transfer.

Reference: Pope, S.B. (2000). *Turbulent Flows*. Cambridge University Press.

5.1 2D contour map

Step-by-step

1. Select **2D Contour Map** under Plot Mode.
2. Choose the component from the **Component** dropdown.
3. Optionally check **Scale by U_m^2** and enter the bulk velocity U_m to non-dimensionalise.
4. Click **Plot Contour**.

5.2 Line profile

Step-by-step

1. Select **Line Profile** under Plot Mode.
2. Choose line orientation: **Free**, **Horizontal**, or **Vertical**.
3. For Horizontal/Vertical, set **Spatial avg ± pts** to average over neighboring rows or columns and reduce noise.
4. Left-click and drag on the left field panel to draw the line, *or* type the endpoint

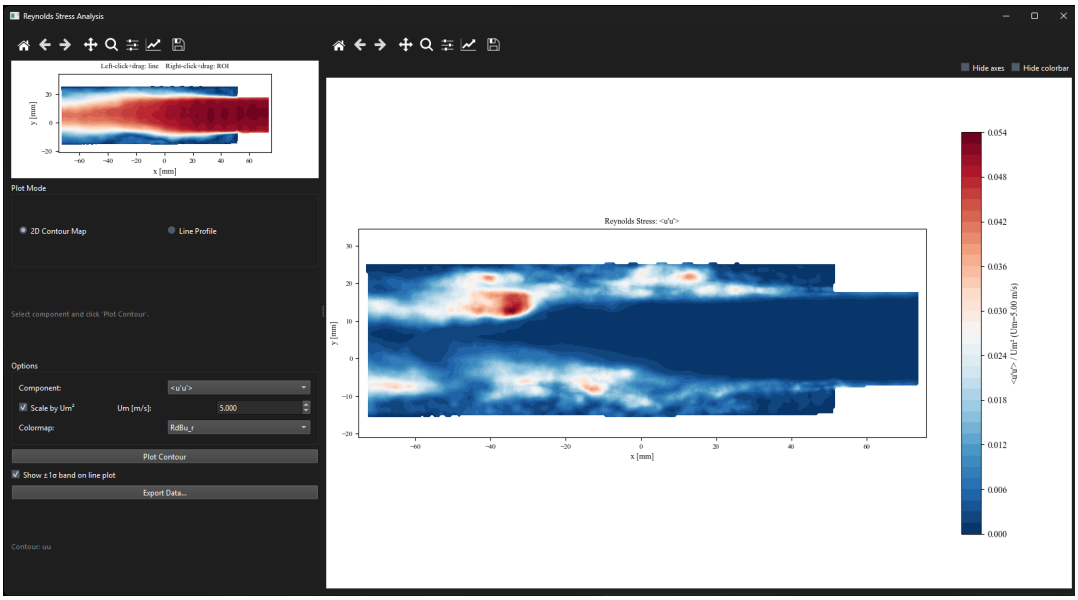


Figure 5.1: Reynolds stress window in 2D contour mode showing $\langle u'v' \rangle$. The mean field is shown in the small reference panel on the left.

coordinates (x_0, y_0) and (x_1, y_1) into the **Line coordinates** boxes and click **Set Line** to place the line exactly (v0.7.0). Manual entry is useful for reproducing the same line across cases or datasets.

5. Click **Plot Line Profile**.

All available stress components are plotted together. Check **Show $\pm 1\sigma$ band** to display uncertainty bands. From v0.5.0 onward this checkbox is unchecked by default; the bands tend to crowd plots when multiple cases are overlaid for comparison.

5.3 Multi-case comparison

The Reynolds Stress window supports importing CSV exports from previous sessions and overlaying them on the current plot. See Chapter 14 for the full workflow. The same Import Case, Edit Styles, Manage Cases, and Export All Cases controls apply.

5.4 Exporting

Click **Export Data...** to save all stress components simultaneously in a single Tecplot `.dat` file or as a CSV.

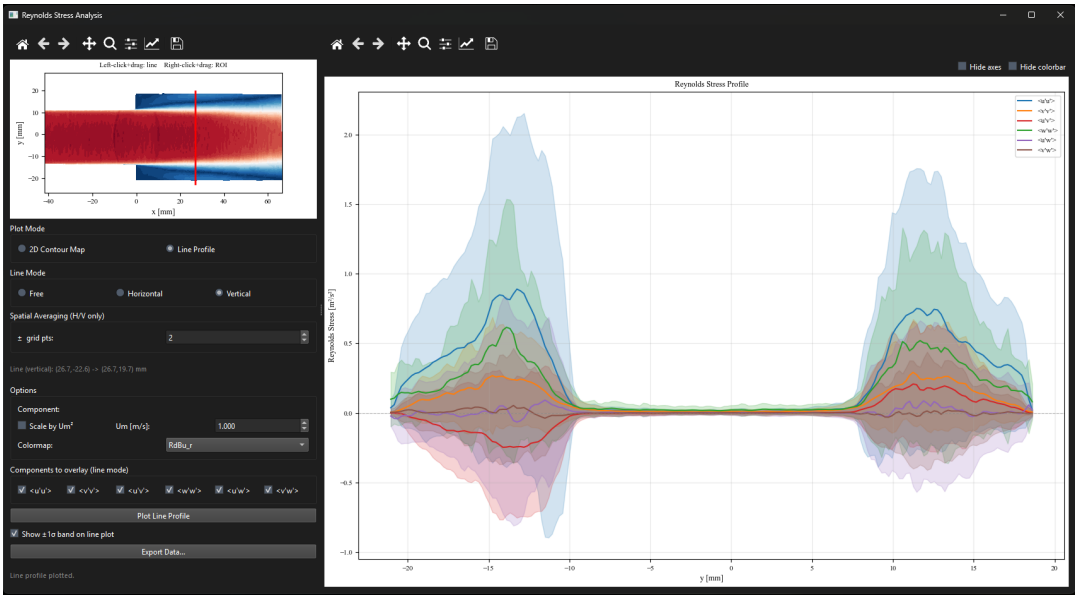


Figure 5.2: Reynolds stress window in line profile mode. All stress components are plotted simultaneously in different colors. Optional shaded bands show $\pm 1\sigma$ statistical uncertainty (toggle in the side panel).

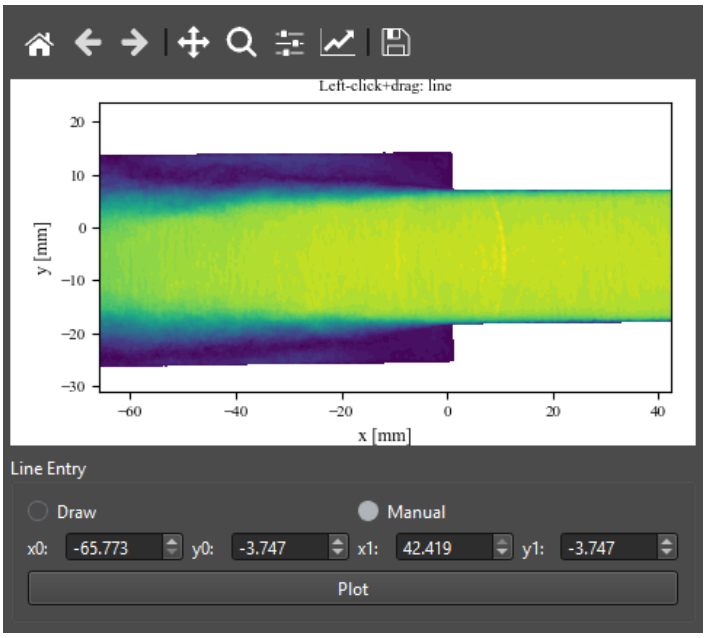


Figure 5.3: Manual line-coordinate entry (v0.7.0). In any Line Profile mode the endpoints can be set numerically as (x_0, y_0) and (x_1, y_1) instead of, or in addition to, click-and-drag. The same coordinate boxes appear in Reynolds Stress, TKE Budget, and Mean Velocity line profiles, so an identical line can be reproduced exactly across datasets.

Chapter 6

TKE Budget

Open from **3. Analysis → TKE Budget**.

The turbulent kinetic energy $k = \frac{1}{2}\langle u_i' u_i' \rangle$ evolves according to the TKE transport equation (Pope, 2000, Ch. 5):

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial k}{\partial t}}_{\text{unsteady}} + \underbrace{\langle U_j \rangle \frac{\partial k}{\partial x_j}}_{C} = \underbrace{-\langle u_i' u_j' \rangle \frac{\partial \langle U_i \rangle}{\partial x_j}}_{P} \underbrace{- \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}\left(\frac{1}{2}\langle u_i' u_i' u_j' \rangle + \frac{\langle p' u_j' \rangle}{\rho} \right)}_{D} \underbrace{- \nu \left\langle \frac{\partial u_i'}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial u_i'}{\partial x_j} \right\rangle}_{\varepsilon}$$

Production P represents the rate at which turbulent energy is generated by the interaction of Reynolds stresses with the mean velocity gradients. Convection C describes the transport of k by the mean flow. Turbulent diffusion D redistributes energy in space via triple velocity correlations. Viscous dissipation ε converts kinetic energy irreversibly into heat at the small scales.

From planar PIV, the dissipation ε and pressure diffusion cannot be computed directly. uPrime therefore computes a residual $R = P + D - C$ (for stationary turbulence with $\partial k/\partial t \approx 0$), which absorbs dissipation and any missing out-of-plane contributions. A non-zero R is physically expected and is not an error.

Spatial gradients are computed using central differences with NaN-inpainting near mask boundaries to prevent spurious gradients at wall and shadow edges. Triple correlations for turbulent diffusion are optionally smoothed with a median filter before differentiation to reduce noise amplification.

> **Note**
>
> The residual R absorbs pressure diffusion and viscous dissipation, which cannot be computed from planar PIV. A non-zero residual is expected and is *not* an error in the calculation.

Reference: Pope, S.B. (2000). *Turbulent Flows*. Cambridge University Press.

Table 6.1: TKE budget terms in uPrime.

Symbol	Name	Availability
k	Turbulent kinetic energy	Always
P	Production	Always
C	Convection	Always
D	Turbulent diffusion	Always
R	Residual	Always
$\partial k/\partial t$	Unsteady term	TR data only

6.1 Using the window

Step-by-step

1. Set parameters: enter U_m and L if normalising. Adjust the smoothing kernel if the field is noisy.
2. Click **Compute Budget** (only needs to be done once per session).
3. Select a term from the **Term** dropdown.
4. Choose **2D Contour** or **Line Profile**.
5. Click **Plot**.

In line profile mode the line can be drawn by click-and-drag on the field or set exactly via the (x_0, y_0)–(x_1, y_1) coordinate boxes (v0.7.0; see Figure 5.3). TKE k is always overlaid as a dashed reference line regardless of which budget term is selected. Term-visibility checkboxes (**P**, **C**, **D**, **R**) below the plot control which budget terms appear. All four are checked by default; unchecking one hides it without recomputing.

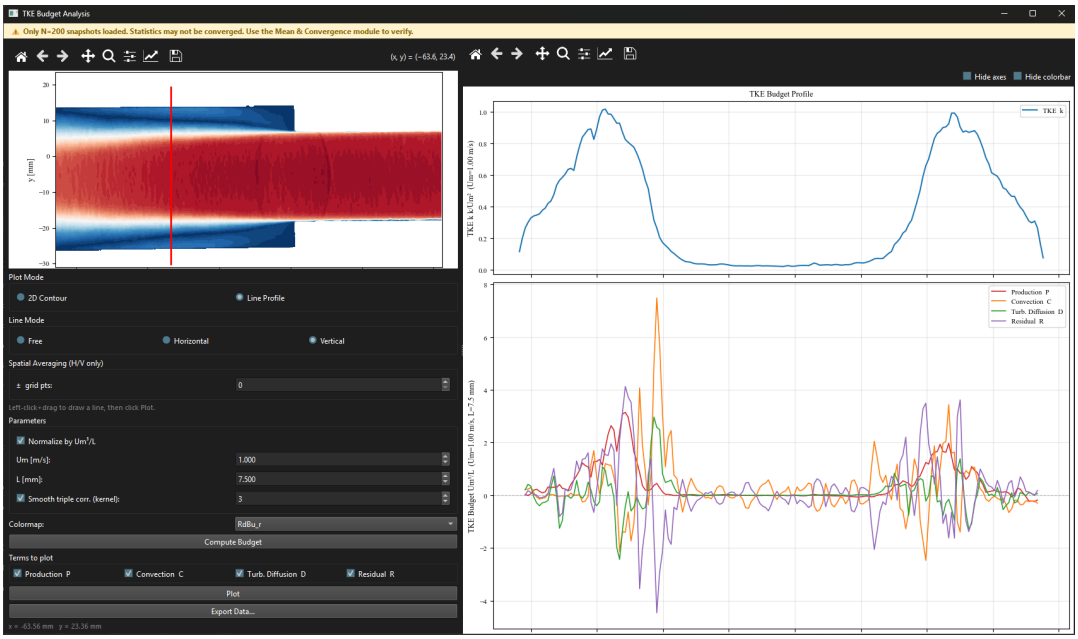


Figure 6.1: TKE Budget window in line profile mode showing P, C, D, R along a vertical line through the shear layer. The four checkboxes below the plot control which terms are visible at any time. The mean field reference is shown in the left panel.

Tip

Enable **Normalize by** U_m^3/L to make the budget terms non-dimensional. TKE k is normalized by U_m^2. This is essential when comparing results across different flow conditions or Reynolds numbers.

6.2 Multi-case comparison

The TKE Budget window supports CSV import and overlay (Chapter 14).

6.3 Exporting

Click **Export Data...** to save all budget terms together in a single file.

Chapter 7

Space-Time Spectral Analysis

Open from **3. Analysis → Space-Time Spectra**.

The spectral window has four tabs. **Spatial (Welch)** is always available. **Temporal** and **Spatiotemporal** require time-resolved data. **Spatial (FFT)** is always available and provides a complementary 2D ROI-based spatial spectrum.

7.1 Spatial Spectra – Welch (Tab 1)

The one-dimensional spatial energy spectrum $E(k)$ characterizes the distribution of turbulent kinetic energy across spatial scales. For homogeneous isotropic turbulence, Kolmogorov's similarity theory predicts an inertial subrange where $E(k) \propto k^{-5/3}$ (Kolmogorov, 1941). The spatial spectrum is computed along a user-defined line using Welch's method: the line is divided into overlapping segments, each Hann-windowed and Fourier-transformed, and the periodograms are averaged to reduce variance. The wavenumber k is in rad/m.

Step-by-step

1. Choose **Horizontal** (k_x) or **Vertical** (k_y) mode.
2. Left-click and drag on the field to draw the line.
3. Select which velocity components to include (U, V, W).
4. Set the number of Welch segments and overlap.
5. Click **Compute**.

Results are plotted on a log-log scale. The Kolmogorov $-5/3$ reference slope can be toggled on/off. You can also compensate the spectrum by multiplying by $k^{5/3}$ to flatten the inertial range.

Reference: Kolmogorov, A.N. (1941). The local structure of turbulence in incompressible viscous fluid for very large Reynolds numbers. *Proceedings of the USSR Academy of Sciences*, 30, 301–305.

7.2 Temporal Spectra (Tab 2, TR Only)

The power spectral density $E(f)$ of the velocity fluctuations at a fixed point reveals the temporal frequency content of the turbulence. Dominant peaks correspond to periodic or quasi-periodic phenomena such as vortex shedding, shear layer flapping, or acoustic resonances. The temporal spectrum is computed using Welch's method with a Hann window.

Step-by-step

1. Left-click on the field to pick a reference point, or right-click drag to draw an ROI.
2. Set the number of Welch segments. More segments give a smoother spectrum at the cost of frequency resolution.

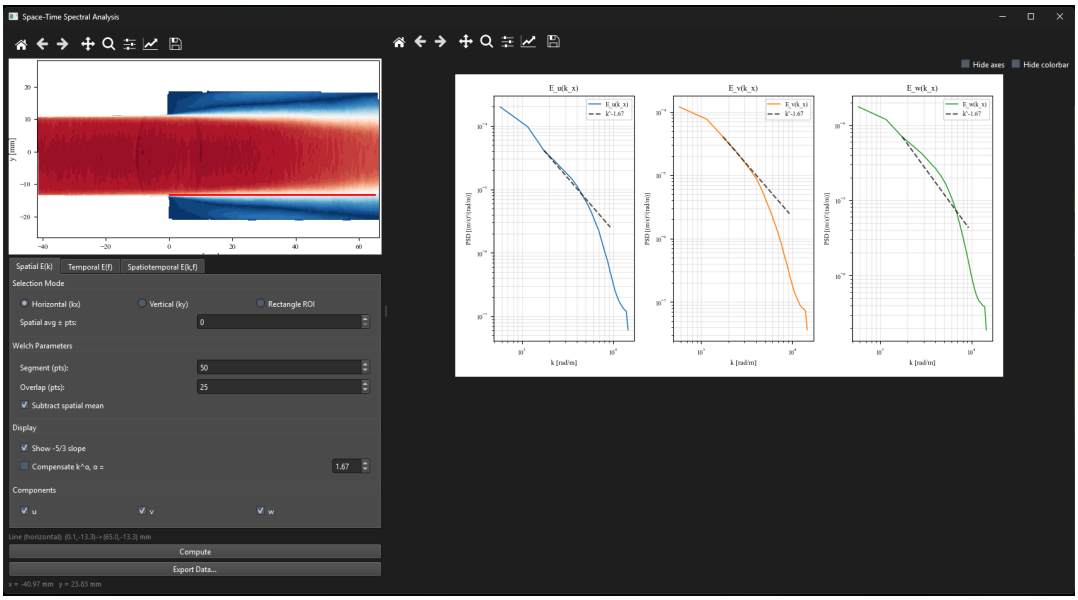


Figure 7.1: Spatial spectra (Welch tab) showing $E(k_x)$ for the U and V components along a horizontal line through the shear layer. The dashed line shows the Kolmogorov $-5/3$ reference slope. The inertial subrange is visible between approximately $k = 100$ and $k = 1000\,\text{rad/m}$.

3. Click **Compute**.

Tip

Looking for a shedding frequency or flapping mode? Use fewer segments (higher frequency resolution). Just want the spectral shape? Use more segments for a smoother curve.

7.3 Space-Time Spectra (Tab 3, TR Only)

The two-dimensional space-time spectrum $E(k, f)$ jointly characterizes the spatial and temporal structure of convecting turbulent structures. It is computed by applying a 2D Fourier transform in both space (along a streamwise line) and time. Diagonal ridges in the resulting map correspond to spatially coherent structures convecting at a fixed speed. The slope of a ridge gives the convection velocity $U_c = 2\pi f/k$, providing a direct test of Taylor's frozen turbulence hypothesis (del Álamo & Jiménez, 2009).

Reference: del Álamo, J.C. & Jiménez, J. (2009). Estimation of turbulent convection velocities and corrections to Taylor's approximation. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 640, 5–26.

7.4 Spatial Spectra – FFT (Tab 4)

Computes the 2D spatial energy spectrum over a rectangular ROI using a direct FFT (via pyFFTW), averaged over all snapshots. The result is shown as 1D marginal spectra $E(k_x)$ and $E(k_y)$ alongside the 2D spectral map.

7.5 Multi-case comparison

Spatial Welch and Temporal spectra support CSV import and overlay (Chapter 14).

Chapter 8

Anisotropy Invariant Analysis

Open from **3. Analysis → Anisotropy Invariants**.

> **Note**
>
> This module requires **stereo PIV (2D3C)** data. It is not available for 2D2C datasets.

The Reynolds stress tensor $b_{ij} = \langle u_i' u_j' \rangle / (2k) - \delta_{ij}/3$ is a symmetric, traceless tensor that describes the anisotropy of the turbulence. Its eigenvalues $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \lambda_3$ satisfy $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = 0$. The invariants of b_{ij},

$$\eta^2 = \frac{1}{6} b_{ij} b_{ji}, \qquad \xi^3 = \frac{1}{6} b_{ij} b_{jk} b_{ki},$$

define a two-dimensional state space. All physically realizable turbulence states lie within the Lumley triangle, bounded by the one-component ($\lambda_1 = 2/3$), two-component ($\lambda_3 = -1/3$), and isotropic ($\lambda_i = 0$) limits (Lumley, 1978). The barycentric map is an alternative linear representation of the same anisotropy state space introduced by Banerjee et al. (2007), which maps the three limiting states to the vertices of an equilateral triangle with coordinates that vary linearly between limits.

References: Lumley, J.L. (1978). Computational modeling of turbulent flows. *Advances in Applied Mechanics*, 18, 123–176. Banerjee, S., Krahl, R., Durst, F. & Zenger, Ch. (2007). Presentation of anisotropy properties of turbulence. *International Journal of Heat and Fluid Flow*, 28(3), 939–946.

8.1 Lumley triangle mode

> **Step-by-step**
>
> 1. Ensure **Line (Lumley triangle)** is selected.
> 2. Choose **Free**, **Horizontal**, or **Vertical** line orientation.
> 3. Left-click and drag on the mean field to draw the sampling line.
> 4. Click **Compute**.

Reading the triangle: the top vertex represents one-component turbulence; the bottom-left vertex represents two-component axisymmetric (disk-like) turbulence; the bottom-right vertex represents two-component axisymmetric (rod-like) turbulence; the origin represents isotropic turbulence. Points outside the boundary indicate numerical issues (insufficient snapshots or masked regions).

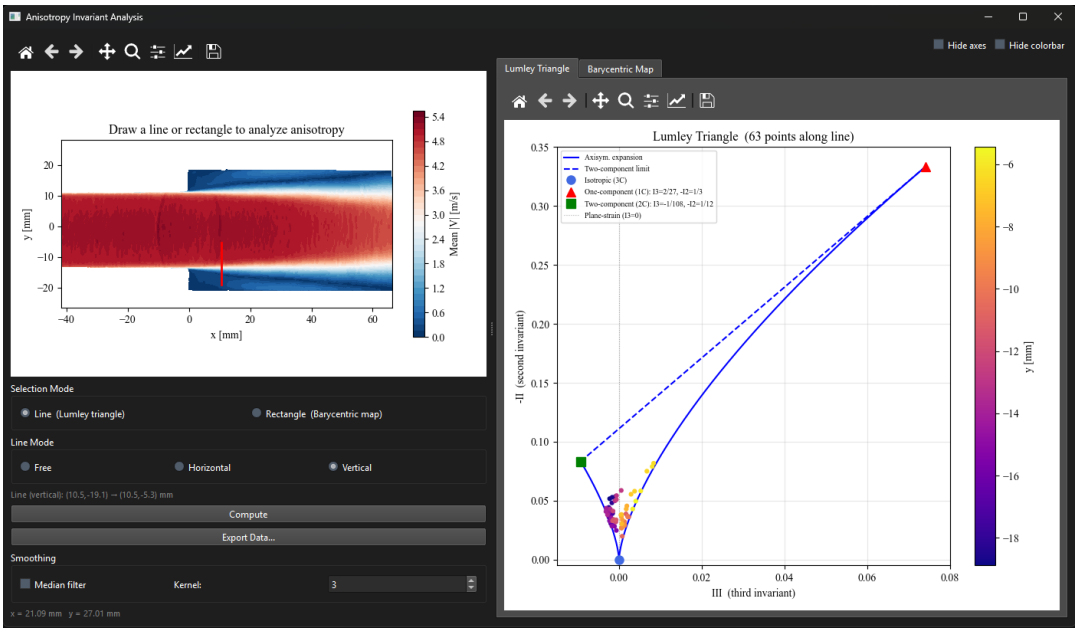


Figure 8.1: Anisotropy window in Lumley triangle mode. Left: the vertical sampling line crosses the shear layer on the mean field. Right: each sampled point appears in the triangle, colored by its distance along the line. Points migrate from near-isotropic (center) toward the one-component vertex (top) inside the high-turbulence shear layer.

8.2 Barycentric map mode

Step-by-step

1. Select **Rectangle (Barycentric map)**.
2. Left-click and drag to draw a rectangular region on the field.
3. Click **Compute**.

The map colors each grid point by its anisotropy state: red = one-component, blue = two-component axisymmetric, green = three-component (near isotropic). Check **Median filter** to apply a 3×3 spatial smoothing to reduce noise.

8.3 Multi-case comparison

Lumley-triangle line profiles support CSV import and overlay (Chapter 14).

Chapter 9

Correlation Analysis

Open from **3. Analysis → Correlation Analysis**.

The two-point spatial correlation function

$$R_{uu}(\Delta x, \Delta y) = \frac{\langle u'(\mathbf{x}, t)\, u'(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{\Delta}, t)\rangle}{\sigma(\mathbf{x})\, \sigma(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{\Delta})}$$

measures the degree to which velocity fluctuations at two different locations are statistically related. When R_{uu} decays from 1 at $\Delta = 0$ to 0, the separation at which it crosses zero defines the integral length scale L, a measure of the size of the largest energy-containing eddies (Pope, 2000). The temporal autocorrelation $R(\tau)$ plays an analogous role in time, with the integral time scale $T = \int_0^\infty R(\tau)\, \mathrm{d}\tau$.

Reference: Pope, S.B. (2000). *Turbulent Flows*. Cambridge University Press.

9.1 Selecting a reference

- **Point mode**: left-click on the mean field to select a single reference point. Enable 3×3 **kernel average** to reduce sensitivity to noisy vectors at that point.
- **ROI mode**: left-click and drag to draw a rectangle. The correlation is computed as a spatial average over the region.

9.2 Spatial correlation

Step-by-step

1. Select Point or ROI mode and pick your reference on the field.
2. Choose the velocity component: R_{uu}, R_{vv}, or R_{ww}.
3. Select the **Scale method** (Table 9.1).
4. Click **Compute Spatial Correlation**.

In Point mode you see the full 2D correlation map and two independent 1D slice panels. In ROI mode only the 1D panels are shown. The computed L_x and L_y are displayed in the readout strip at the bottom of the window. A vertical dashed line marks the crossing lag used by the selected scale method; for the zero-crossing method, this line is placed at the lag where R first crosses zero, while L is reported as the integral of R up to that crossing. Click **Show Diagnostic Plot** to see the cumulative integral of $R(\Delta r)$.

Tip

If unsure, start with **Zero crossing**. If the correlation does not have a clean crossing (common for low-Reynolds-number flows or short datasets), switch to **Exponential fit**.

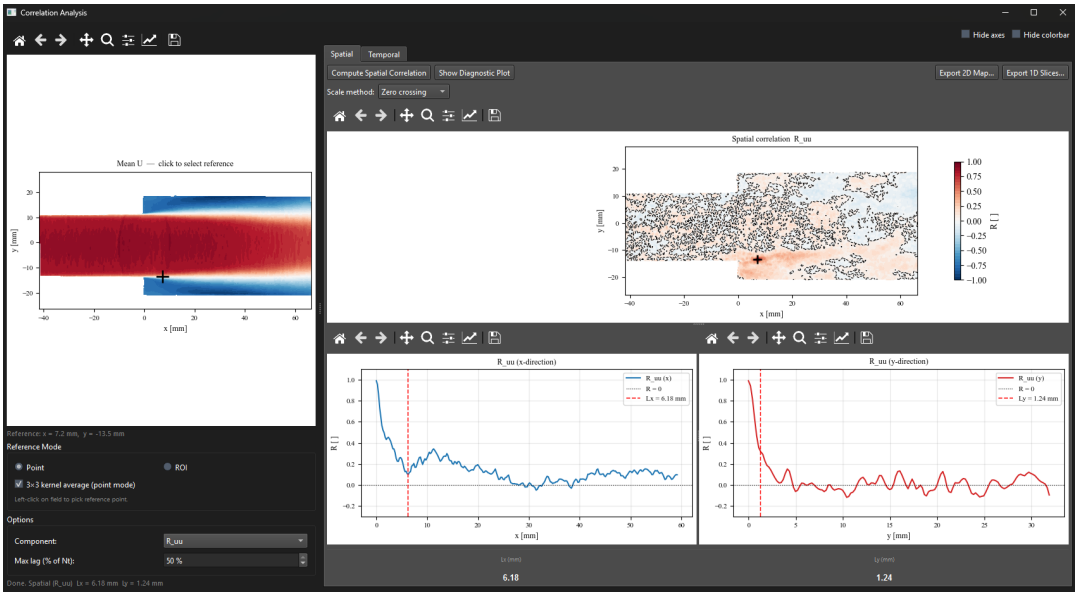


Figure 9.1: Correlation window in ROI mode showing R_{uu} in the x- and y-directions. The vertical dashed red line marks the zero-crossing lag used to compute the integral length scale. L_x and L_y are reported in the readout strip at the bottom.

Table 9.1: Integral scale methods.

Method	**When to use**
Zero crossing	Clean, well-resolved correlations with a clear zero crossing. Standard choice.
Exponential fit	Noisy correlations without a clear zero crossing. Robust to noise in the tail.
1/e point	Returns the lag at which R first drops to $e^{-1} \approx 0.368$ (interpolated).
Domain integral	When no zero crossing exists and you want a conservative upper bound.

9.3 Temporal correlation (TR only)

Step-by-step

1. Click the **Temporal** tab.
2. Pick a reference point or draw an ROI as before.
3. Set **Max lag (% of Nt)**: 50% is usually sufficient.
4. Select the Scale method.
5. Click **Compute Temporal Correlation**.

Results show $R(\tau)$ vs time lag τ in milliseconds, with integral time scale T and Taylor microscale λ_t marked.

9.4 Multi-case comparison

Spatial 1D slice and temporal correlation curves support CSV import and overlay (Chapter 14).

Chapter 10

POD Analysis

Open from **3. Analysis → POD Analysis**.

Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD) finds the most efficient low-dimensional representation of the velocity field by decomposing the fluctuation field into a set of orthogonal spatial modes $\boldsymbol{\phi}_n(\mathbf{x})$ and corresponding temporal coefficients $a_n(t)$:

$$\mathbf{u}'(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} a_n(t)\, \boldsymbol{\phi}_n(\mathbf{x})$$

The modes are ordered by their energy content: Mode 1 captures the largest fraction of the total TKE, Mode 2 the next largest, and so on. This property, known as optimality, means that the POD is the most efficient basis for representing the flow in a least-squares sense (Lumley, 1967; Holmes et al., 1996). In practice, a small number of modes often captures the dominant coherent structures (recirculation zones, vortex shedding, shear layer flapping), while the remaining modes represent incoherent noise.

uPrime implements the snapshot POD method (Sirovich, 1987), which is efficient when the number of spatial grid points exceeds the number of snapshots. The SVD of the fluctuation snapshot matrix directly yields the POD modes and their energy content.

References: Lumley, J.L. (1967). The structure of inhomogeneous turbulent flows. In *Atmospheric Turbulence and Radio Wave Propagation*, 166–178. Holmes, P., Lumley, J.L. & Berkooz, G. (1996). *Turbulence, Coherent Structures, Dynamical Systems and Symmetry*. Cambridge University Press. Sirovich, L. (1987). Turbulence and the dynamics of coherent structures. *Quarterly of Applied Mathematics*, 45(3), 561–590.

10.1 Computing POD

Step-by-step

1. Set **Modes to compute** (default 25). Increasing this takes longer.
2. Click **Compute POD**. For large datasets this may take several seconds to a minute.
3. All four tabs populate automatically when done.

Note

POD uses all velocity components simultaneously (U+V for 2D2C; U+V+W for 2D3C). The energy percentage of each mode reflects the combined energy across all components.

10.2 Energy Spectrum tab

Use the energy spectrum to decide how many modes to use for reconstruction and interpretation. A steep drop after Mode 1 or 2 indicates a flow dominated by one or two strong coherent

structures. A slow gradual decay indicates broadband turbulence with energy distributed across many scales.

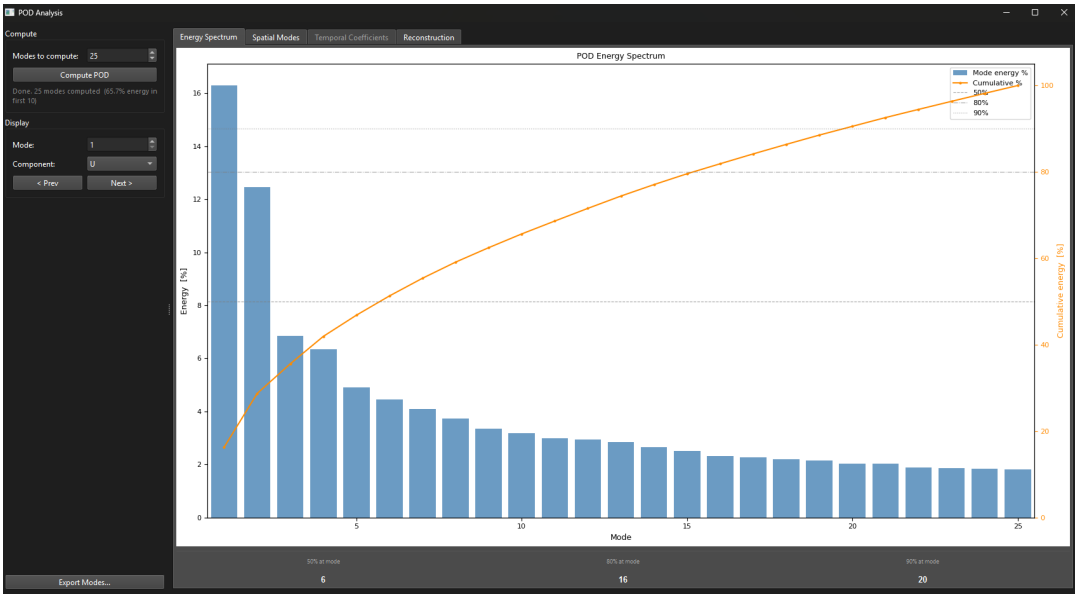


Figure 10.1: POD Energy Spectrum tab. Bars show the energy percentage per mode; the orange curve shows cumulative energy. Dashed horizontal lines mark the 50%, 80%, and 90% thresholds. The readout strip at the bottom shows how many modes are needed to reach each threshold.

10.3 Spatial Modes tab

Use the **Mode** spinbox or **< Prev** / **Next >** buttons to step through modes. Use the **Component** dropdown to inspect different velocity directions. The title shows the mode number and its energy fraction.

10.4 Temporal Coefficients tab (TR only)

Shows the temporal coefficient time series $a_n(t)$ for the selected mode and its power spectral density. A sharp peak in the PSD indicates a periodic structure at that frequency (e.g. vortex shedding or shear layer flapping).

10.5 Reconstruction tab

Step-by-step

1. Drag the **Snapshot** slider to select a snapshot.
2. Set **Modes for reconstruction** (minimum 1).
3. Click **Reconstruct**.

The three panels show the original field, the low-order reconstruction, and the residual. A residual below 10–20% RMS generally means the selected modes capture the dominant structure.

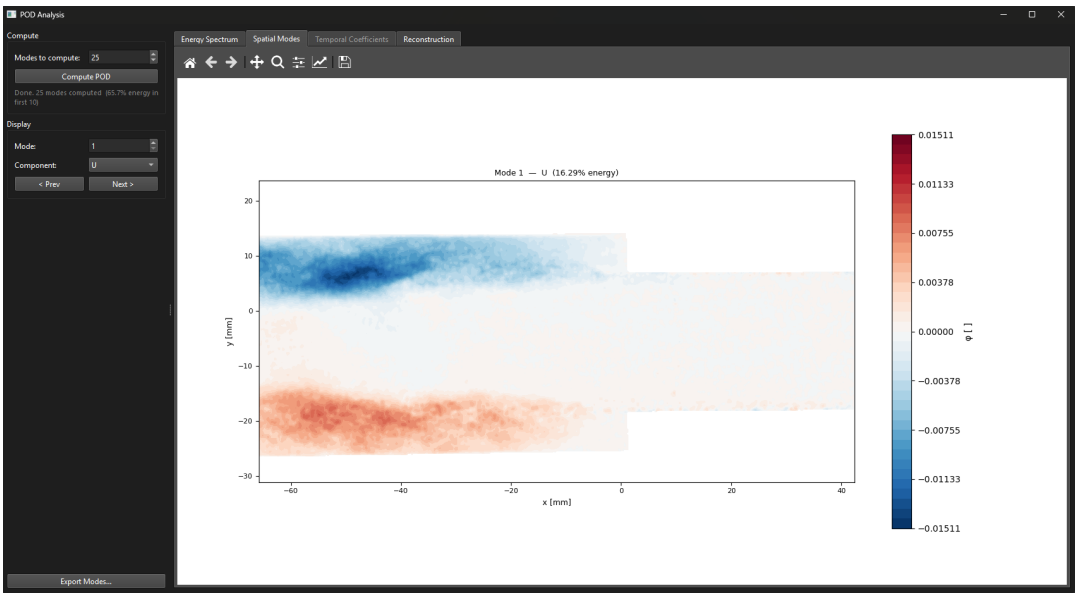


Figure 10.2: POD Spatial Modes tab showing Mode 1 of the U component. Red and blue regions represent opposite-signed velocity fluctuations associated with the dominant coherent structure in the flow. The energy fraction of the mode is shown in the plot title.

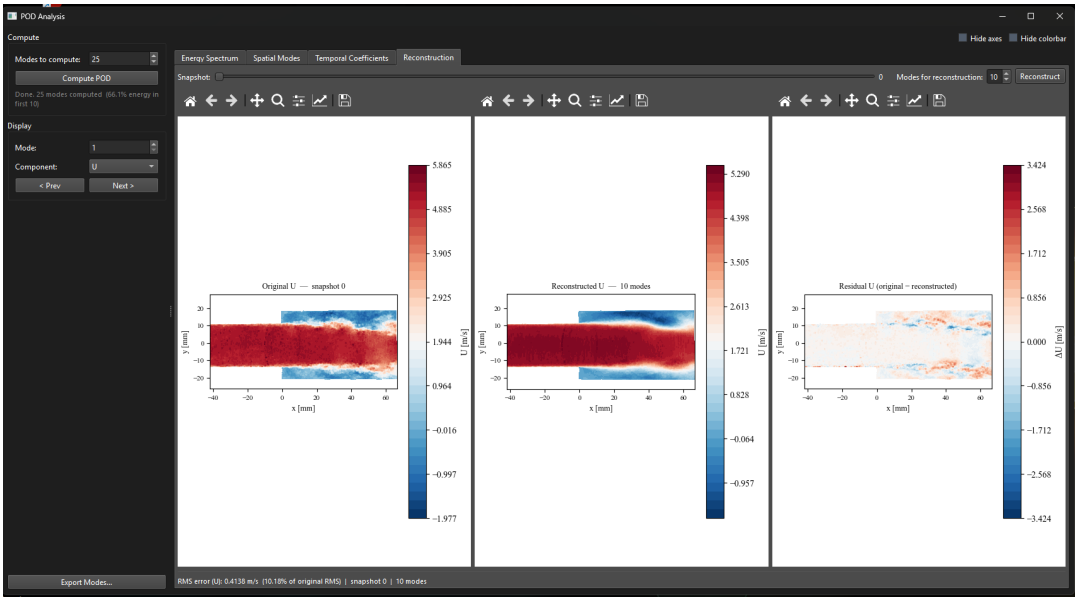


Figure 10.3: POD Reconstruction tab. Left: original snapshot. Center: low-order reconstruction with selected modes. Right: residual (original minus reconstructed). The RMS reconstruction error is shown at the bottom.

10.6 Exporting

Click **Export Modes...** to save all spatial modes as a Tecplot `.dat` file and temporal coefficients as a `.csv` file.

Chapter 11

DMD Analysis

Open from **3. Analysis → DMD Analysis**.

> **Note**
>
> DMD requires **time-resolved** data and at least 50 snapshots. The button is greyed out for non-TR datasets.

Dynamic Mode Decomposition (DMD) extracts spatial modes that oscillate at a single frequency and grow or decay at a single rate. Unlike POD, DMD modes are not ordered by energy but by their dynamic content. This makes DMD ideal for isolating periodic phenomena such as vortex shedding, acoustic resonances, or shear layer flapping (Schmid, 2010; Tu et al., 2014).

References: Schmid, P.J. (2010). Dynamic mode decomposition of numerical and experimental data. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 656, 5–28. Tu, J.H., Rowley, C.W., Luchtenburg, D.M., Brunton, S.L. & Kutz, J.N. (2014). On dynamic mode decomposition: theory and applications. *Journal of Computational Dynamics*, 1(2), 391–421.

11.1 Computing DMD

> **Step-by-step**
>
> 1. Set **Rank truncation** (default 50). This caps the number of DMD modes.
> 2. Optionally enable a Strouhal number normalization with a reference length and velocity.
> 3. Click **Compute DMD**.

11.2 Spectrum tab

The spectrum shows each DMD mode as a bubble in the frequency-growth-rate plane, with bubble area proportional to mode amplitude. Click on any bubble to display its spatial structure in the Mode tab. A growth-rate filter $|\sigma| <$ threshold can be applied to focus on near-neutral physically meaningful modes.

11.3 Mode tab

Displays the spatial structure (real and imaginary parts) of the currently selected DMD mode for the chosen velocity component.

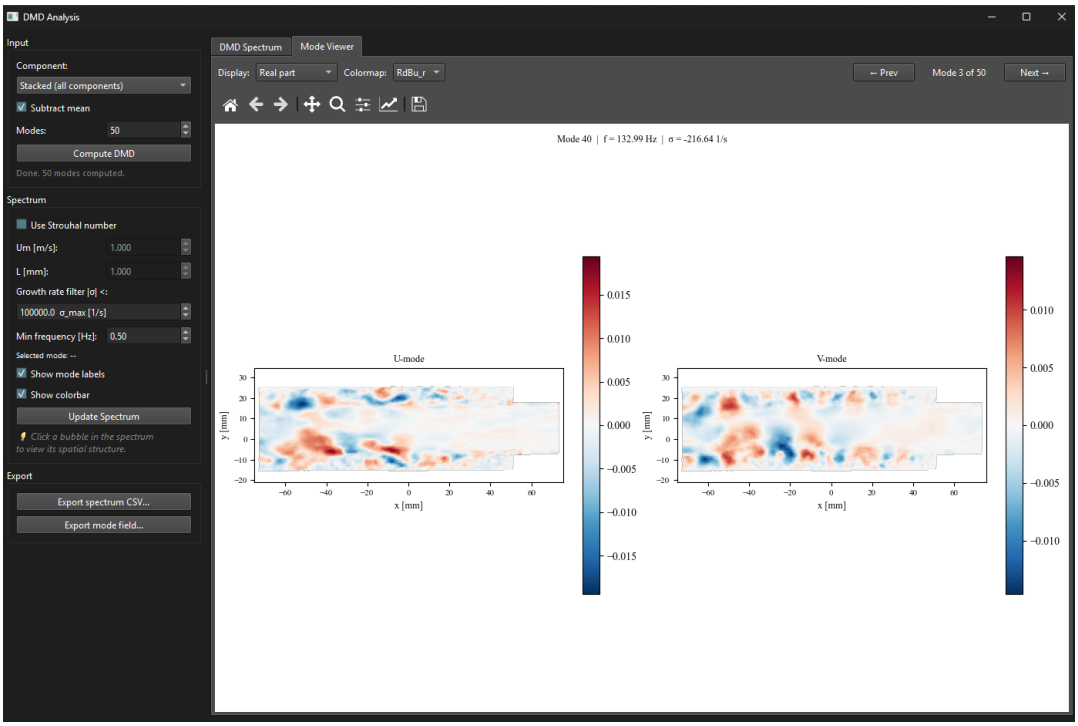


Figure 11.1: DMD Mode tab showing the real and imaginary parts of a selected mode. Animating between them gives a sense of the structure's oscillation in time.

Tip

The real and imaginary parts of a DMD mode represent the two phases of the oscillation separated by a quarter period. Animating between them (real → imaginary → −real → −imaginary) gives a physical sense of how the structure evolves in time.

11.4 Exporting

Click **Export spectrum CSV...** to save a table of all modes with their frequency, growth rate, and amplitude. Click **Export mode field...** to save the spatial structure of the currently selected mode as a Tecplot `.dat` file.

Chapter 12

Vortex Identification

Open from **3. Analysis → Vortex Identification**.

Vortex identification methods seek to objectively define the boundary and core of a vortex from the instantaneous or mean velocity field. uPrime implements five scalar criteria, which can be broadly divided into gradient-based (Eulerian) methods and the integral-based Graftieaux criteria.

Gradient-based methods

All four gradient-based methods derive from the 2D velocity gradient tensor:

$$\nabla \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} \partial u/\partial x & \partial u/\partial y \\ \partial v/\partial x & \partial v/\partial y \end{pmatrix}$$

which is decomposed into its symmetric strain rate $\mathbf{S} = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^\top)$ and antisymmetric rotation rate $\mathbf{\Omega} = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla \mathbf{u} - \nabla \mathbf{u}^\top)$.

- **Vorticity** $\omega = \partial v/\partial x - \partial u/\partial y$: the simplest measure of local rotation, but nonzero in shear layers even without a vortex core.
- **Q-criterion** (Hunt et al., 1988): $Q = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial_x u^2 + \partial_y v^2 + 2\,\partial_y u\,\partial_x v)$. A vortex core is identified where $Q > 0$, meaning rotation dominates strain. Q is the most widely used criterion in PIV literature.
- **Swirling strength** λ_{ci} (Zhou et al., 1999): the imaginary part of the complex eigenvalue of $\nabla \mathbf{u}$. Complex eigenvalues exist only where the flow is locally swirling; λ_{ci} is therefore immune to pure shear contamination that inflates ω and Q in shear layers. uPrime multiplies by $\mathrm{sign}(\omega)$ to retain rotation direction.
- **λ_2-criterion** (Jeong & Hussain, 1995): identifies a vortex core as a connected region where the second eigenvalue of $\mathbf{S}^2 + \mathbf{\Omega}^2$ is negative. This criterion has a direct physical motivation: $\lambda_2 < 0$ marks regions where the centrifugal tendency of the pressure field overcomes both strain and unsteady effects.

References: Hunt, J.C.R., Wray, A. & Moin, P. (1988). Eddies, stream, and convergence zones in turbulent flows. *CTR Report CTR-S88*, 193–208. Zhou, J., Adrian, R.J., Balachandar, S. & Kendall, T.M. (1999). Mechanisms for generating coherent packets of hairpin vortices in channel flow. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 387, 353–396. Jeong, J. & Hussain, F. (1995). On the identification of a vortex. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 285, 69–94.

Graftieaux Γ functions

The Γ functions (Graftieaux et al., 2001) are computed directly from the velocity vectors without differentiation, making them substantially more robust to PIV measurement noise:

$$\Gamma_1(P) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{M \in \mathcal{S}} \sin\left(\mathbf{PM}, \widehat{\mathbf{U}_M}\right), \qquad \Gamma_2(P) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{M \in \mathcal{S}} \sin\left(\mathbf{PM}, \widehat{\mathbf{U}_M - \widetilde{\mathbf{U}}}\right)$$

where $\mathcal{S}$ is a local neighborhood of N points around P, $\widehat{(\cdot,\cdot)}$ denotes the angle between two vectors, and $\widetilde{\mathbf{U}}$ is the local mean velocity over $\mathcal{S}$. Both functions are bounded between -1 and $+1$. The sign gives the rotation direction ($+1$ = CCW, -1 = CW). A vortex *core* is identified where $|\Gamma_1| > 0.6$–0.7; the vortex *boundary* is where $|\Gamma_2| > 2/\pi \approx 0.64$. The neighborhood half-width S (default 2, corresponding to a 5×5 stencil) is user-adjustable.

Reference: Graftieaux, L., Michard, M. & Grosjean, N. (2001). Combining PIV, POD and vortex identification algorithms for the study of unsteady turbulent swirling flows. *Measurement Science and Technology*, 12(9), 1422–1429.

12.1 Field View tab

Step-by-step

1. Select the scalar field and input (mean or instantaneous frame).
2. Click **Compute Field**.
3. Set the threshold fraction and sign filter, then click **Detect Vortices**.
4. Check **Show vortex boundaries** to overlay detected contours on the colormap.

The threshold is expressed as a fraction of the field maximum, making it dataset-agnostic. The actual physical value is shown in the readout next to the slider. For the Γ criteria the threshold has a universal meaning ($|\Gamma_1| = 0.6$ corresponds to the standard core boundary); for gradient-based criteria it is dataset-dependent and must be chosen by the user.

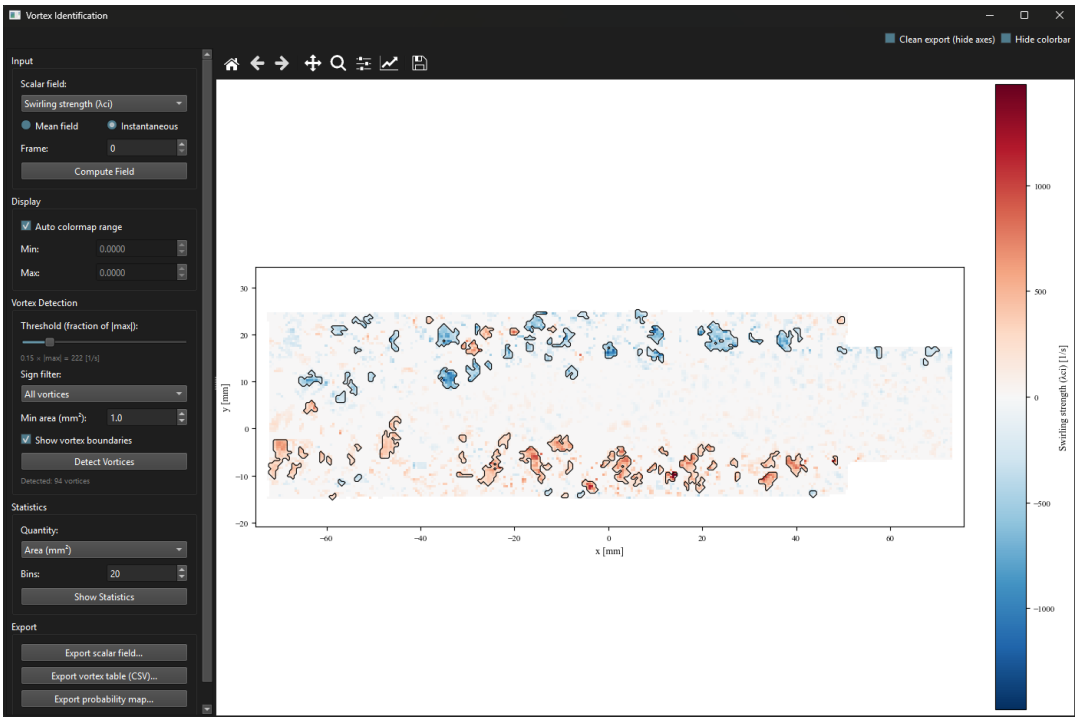


Figure 12.1: Vortex Identification window showing the swirling strength λ_{ci} field for an instantaneous snapshot. Detected vortex boundaries (black contour lines) are overlaid on the colormap. The threshold is set to 15% of the field maximum. Red regions indicate positive (CCW) rotation; blue regions indicate negative (CW) rotation. A total of 94 vortices are detected above the minimum area threshold.

Tip

For PIV data, start with Γ_1/Γ_2, which is most robust to measurement noise. Cross-check with Q-criterion or λ_{ci}. If the two methods agree, the detected structures are reliable.

12.2 Vortex Statistics tab

After clicking **Show Statistics**, two plots appear: a spatial probability map showing how often a vortex is detected at each grid point across all snapshots, and a histogram of the selected per-vortex quantity (area, circulation, or aspect ratio) with positive and negative vortices shown separately in red and blue.

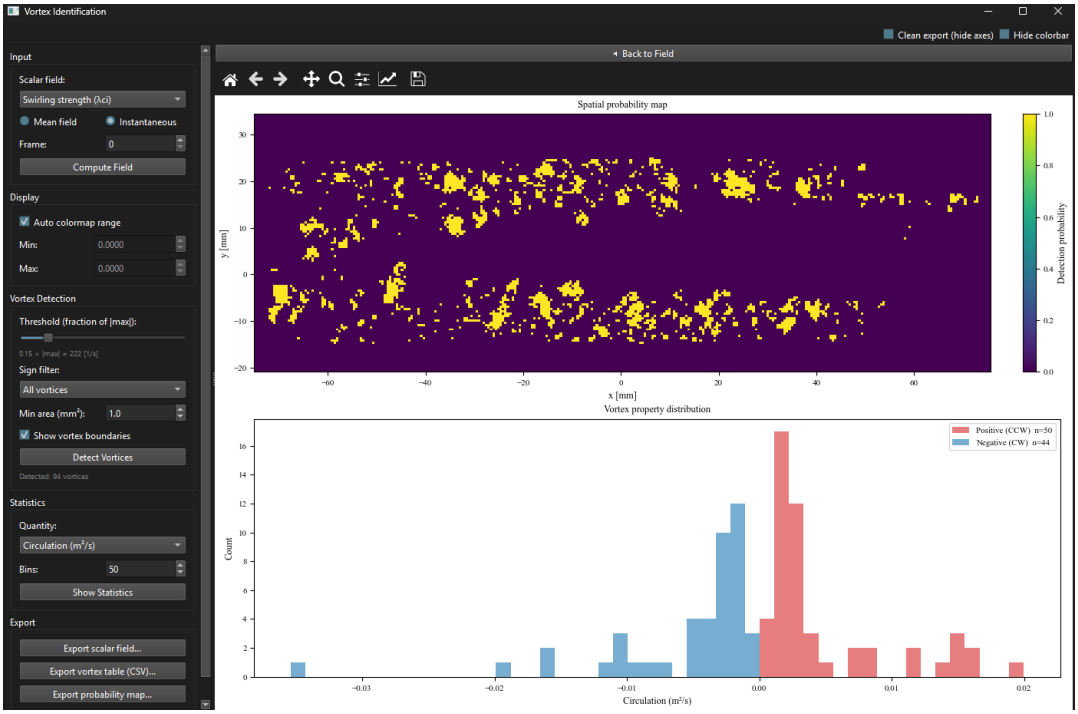


Figure 12.2: Vortex Statistics view. Top: spatial probability map showing the fraction of snapshots in which a vortex is detected at each grid point (viridis colormap, 0–1). Yellow regions indicate persistent vortex locations concentrated in the shear layers. Bottom: circulation histogram for 94 detected vortices (50 CCW in red, 44 CW in blue). The near-symmetric distribution about zero is consistent with a turbulent shear layer with no mean rotation bias.

12.3 Exporting

Click **Export scalar field...** to save the scalar field as a Tecplot `.dat` file. Click **Export vortex table (CSV)...** to save a per-vortex table with columns: vortex ID, centroid position, area, sign, circulation, aspect ratio, and frame index. The default filename now reflects the active criterion (e.g. `vortex_lambda_ci_dataset.csv`). This CSV is designed to be imported into post-processing scripts for vortex tracking or further statistical analysis.

Chapter 13

Probability Analysis

Open from **3. Analysis → Probability Analysis**.

Reynolds stresses, spectra, and correlations all describe the flow through low-order moments. Two flows can share the same mean and the same variance and still behave very differently: one may fluctuate gently about the mean, the other may sit quiet most of the time and burst violently at rare instants. Recovering that information requires the full probability distribution of the fluctuations rather than its first two moments. This chapter covers the four diagnostics grouped in the **Probability Analysis** window, each in its own tab:

- **PDF**: histograms of the instantaneous velocity components and their fluctuations, with skewness and flatness.
- **Flow Direction**: maps of forward-flow and reverse-flow probability, used to locate and quantify separation.
- **Binary Space-Time**: the sign of the fluctuation along a line plotted against time, revealing the passage of coherent structures (TR only).
- **Quadrant**: decomposition of the Reynolds shear stress into ejections, sweeps, and interactions.

> **Note**
>
> All four tabs count valid samples *per grid point*. Masked or invalid vectors (NaN) are excluded from the sample count at that point rather than being treated as zeros, so a point with k valid snapshots out of N is normalised by k, not by N. A point with no valid samples returns NaN and is rendered as background, not as a probability of zero. Points whose valid-sample count is very low still produce a number, so check the sample-count readout before interpreting isolated extreme values.

13.1 PDF tab

The probability density function $p(q)$ of a quantity q is estimated as a normalised histogram, so that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(q)\,\mathrm{d}q = 1,$$

that is, the bar heights are divided by both the total number of valid samples and the bin width. Densities from different datasets, different sample counts, and different bin settings are therefore directly comparable. Selecting **Counts** instead of **Density** shows raw bin counts, which is convenient for reading off sample numbers but is not comparable across datasets.

Available quantities are the instantaneous components u, v, w and the magnitude $|\mathbf{V}|$, and the fluctuations $u' = u - \langle u \rangle$, $v' = v - \langle v \rangle$, $w' = w - \langle w \rangle$, where $\langle \cdot \rangle$ denotes the ensemble average over snapshots at each grid point. The w and w' options are available for stereo (2D3C) data only.

Two shape measures are reported alongside each histogram:

$$S = \frac{\langle q'^3 \rangle}{\langle q'^2 \rangle^{3/2}}, \qquad F = \frac{\langle q'^4 \rangle}{\langle q'^2 \rangle^2}.$$

The skewness S measures asymmetry: $S = 0$ for a symmetric distribution, $S < 0$ when large negative excursions dominate. The flatness (kurtosis) F measures the weight of the tails, with $F = 3$ for a Gaussian. Values well above 3 indicate intermittency, that is, rare events far stronger than the r.m.s. level, which is the classical signature of small-scale turbulence. Values well below 3 indicate the opposite: a flat-topped or bimodal distribution, which is what you get when the sampling region spans two distinct flow states rather than one turbulent field. Both are reported in the status bar below the plot, alongside N, the mean, the standard deviation, and the sample minimum and maximum.

Sampling modes

- **Point**: click a grid point on the field. The PDF is built from the N_t snapshots at that point only.
- **Line**: select **Horizontal** or **Vertical**, then either drag the line on the preview or type the endpoints into the **Line Entry** boxes (x_0, y_0, x_1, y_1) and click **Set line**, exactly as in the Reynolds Stress and TKE Budget modules. All grid points on the line and all snapshots are pooled into one distribution; the plot title reports how many points the line covers. Free (arbitrary-angle) lines are deliberately not offered here, because pooling points sampled by interpolation along an oblique line mixes interpolated values into the statistics.
- **ROI**: drag a rectangle. All points inside it are pooled across all snapshots.
- **Whole field**: every valid point in the domain, across all snapshots.

Histogram controls

The number of bins is user-set. As a rough guide, aim for at least a few hundred samples per bin in the core of the distribution; a point-mode PDF from 200 snapshots supports perhaps 15 to 20 bins, whereas a whole-field PDF from the same dataset easily supports 100.

The bin range is set either manually through the **min** and **max** boxes or automatically by ticking **Auto (robust) range**, which clips the range to robust percentiles so that a handful of outliers cannot stretch the axis and collapse the entire distribution into one or two bins. Fixing the range manually is the right choice when comparing several cases, since identical bin edges are required for the histograms to be superimposable. **Gaussian overlay** draws a normal distribution with the same mean and standard deviation as the data, which is the quickest visual test of normality. **Log y** switches the density axis to logarithmic, making the tails legible; on a linear axis the tails of a turbulent PDF are visually indistinguishable from zero even when they carry most of the fourth moment.

Tip

Compare a point PDF inside a shear layer with one in the free stream. The free-stream distribution is close to Gaussian ($S \approx 0$, $F \approx 3$); the shear-layer distribution is typically skewed and has a flatness well above 3. That difference is invisible in the Reynolds stress map, which reports only $\langle q'^2 \rangle$.

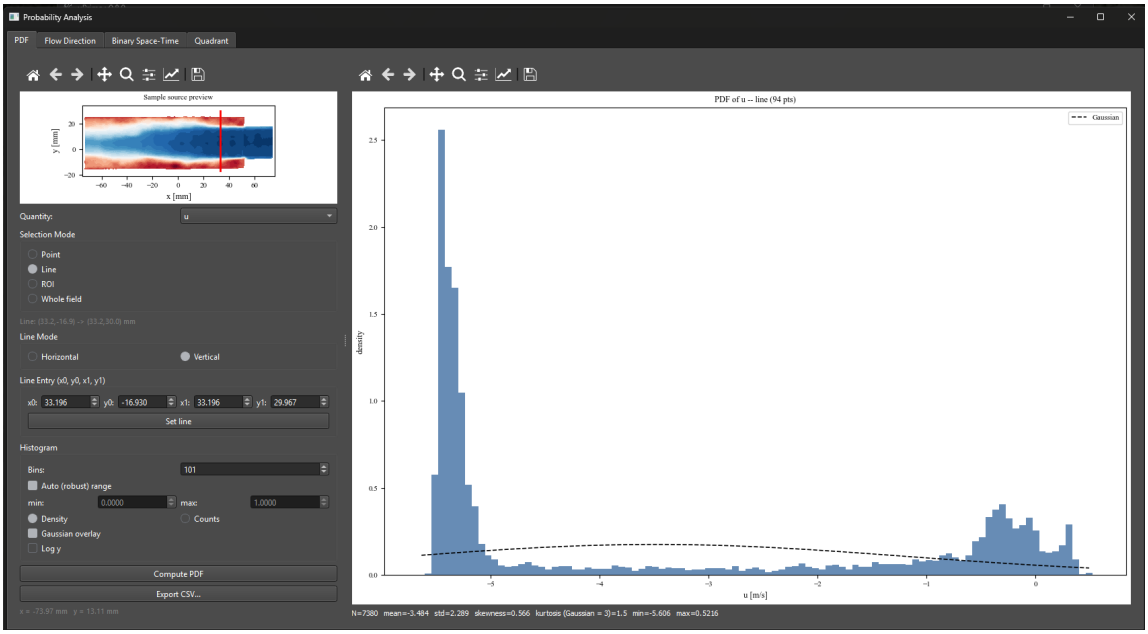


Figure 13.1: Probability Analysis window, **PDF** tab. A vertical sampling line at $x = 33.2\,\text{mm}$ (red, in the sample-source preview at the top left) pools 94 grid points over all snapshots into a single distribution of the streamwise velocity u, giving $N = 7380$ valid samples. The distribution is clearly bimodal, with a sharp peak near $u \approx -5.4\,\text{m/s}$ and a broad secondary peak near $u \approx 0$: the line crosses two distinct flow regions. The dashed Gaussian overlay, built from the same mean ($-3.484\,\text{m/s}$) and standard deviation ($2.289\,\text{m/s}$), fails to describe either peak. The kurtosis of 1.5, well below the Gaussian value of 3, is the quantitative signature of that bimodality, and is exactly the information a Reynolds stress map cannot show.

Warning

A converged mean does not imply a converged PDF. The tails of the distribution are governed by the rarest events, so the fourth moment needs far more snapshots than the second. Treat F from a few hundred snapshots as indicative only, and verify convergence in the **Mean & Convergence** module (Chapter 4) first.

13.2 Flow Direction tab

For each grid point, the fraction of snapshots in which the streamwise velocity is positive defines the **forward-flow probability**

$$\mathrm{FFP}(x,y) = \frac{1}{N_{\mathrm{valid}}(x,y)} \sum_{n=1}^{N_t} \mathcal{H}[u_n(x,y)]\,, \qquad \mathrm{RFP}(x,y) = 1 - \mathrm{FFP}(x,y),$$

where $\mathcal{H}$ is the Heaviside step function and N_{valid} is the number of valid (non-NaN) snapshots at that point. RFP is the **reverse-flow probability**, identical to the backflow coefficient γ_p of Simpson (1989).

This quantity is the standard instantaneous criterion for separation, and it is far more informative than the mean velocity field. Mean separation ($\langle u \rangle = 0$) is a single contour line; the RFP field shows the whole intermittent region in which the flow reverses part of the time. Simpson's widely used states of detachment are defined directly on it:

Table 13.1: States of turbulent boundary-layer detachment after Simpson (1989), expressed in terms of the reverse-flow probability.

State	Abbreviation	Criterion
Incipient detachment	ID	RFP = 0.01
Intermittent transitory detachment	ITD	RFP = 0.20
Transitory detachment	TD	RFP = 0.50
Detachment (mean separation)	D	$\langle \tau_w \rangle = 0$

Reference: Simpson, R.L. (1989). Turbulent boundary-layer separation. *Annual Review of Fluid Mechanics*, 21, 205–234.

Sampling modes

Flow Direction offers **ROI** and **whole domain** only. Line profiles are not offered: FFP and RFP are inherently two-dimensional maps, and a line extracted from a probability field is better produced by exporting the map and sampling it, than by a mode that invites reading a probability along an arbitrary cut as if it were a profile.

When an ROI is set, the computation itself is restricted to the ROI, not merely the display. Grid points outside the ROI are rendered in a distinct neutral grey so that an untouched region is never confused with a region where the probability happens to be low.

Tip

The RFP = 0.5 contour and the mean $\langle u \rangle = 0$ contour usually do not coincide. Plotting both is a quick check on whether your separation region is steady or flapping: a large gap between them means the separation point is moving substantially in time.

13.3 Binary Space-Time tab

> **Note**
>
> This tab requires time-resolved data. Set **Acquisition Type** to TR with a valid f_s in the info ribbon before opening the window, otherwise the tab is disabled.

A binary space-time map reduces the fluctuation field along a line to its sign alone:

$$b(s,t) = \operatorname{sign}\left[q'(s,t)\right] \in \{-1, +1\},$$

where s is the distance along the selected line and t is time. The result is plotted as a two-colour map with t on the horizontal axis and s on the vertical axis. Amplitude information is deliberately discarded; what remains is the topology of the fluctuation field, which is exactly what is needed to see coherent structures.

Three features are read directly from such a map:

- **Inclination**: coherent structures convecting past the line produce slanted stripes. The slope $\mathrm{d}s/\mathrm{d}t$ of a stripe is a convection velocity, which can be compared against the local mean velocity to test Taylor's hypothesis.
- **Streamwise extent**: the horizontal width of a stripe, multiplied by the convection velocity, estimates the structure length. This is a direct, geometric alternative to the integral scale from the two-point correlation (Chapter 9).
- **Persistence**: how long a single sign survives before flipping, which characterises the lifetime of the structure at that location.

Only horizontal and vertical lines are offered. The map's vertical axis must be a physical distance with uniform spacing for the stripe slopes to be interpretable as velocities, which an interpolated oblique line does not guarantee.

References: del Álamo, J.C. & Jiménez, J. (2009). Estimation of turbulent convection velocities and corrections to Taylor's approximation. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 640, 5–26. Dennis, D.J.C. & Nickels, T.B. (2011). Experimental measurement of large-scale three-dimensional structures in a turbulent boundary layer. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 673, 180–217.

13.4 Quadrant tab

Quadrant analysis asks which kinds of motion produce the Reynolds shear stress $\langle u'v' \rangle$. Each instantaneous sample is classified by the signs of u' and v' into one of four quadrants of the (u', v') plane. The **Pair** selector chooses which two fluctuation components define the plane; u'–v' is the standard choice and the only one for which the quadrant names below apply, the other pairs being available for stereo data.

Table 13.2: Quadrant classification of the instantaneous Reynolds shear stress.

Quadrant	Signs	Name	Contribution to $\langle u'v' \rangle$
Q1	$u' > 0$, $v' > 0$	Outward interaction	Positive
Q2	$u' < 0$, $v' > 0$	Ejection	Negative
Q3	$u' < 0$, $v' < 0$	Inward interaction	Positive
Q4	$u' > 0$, $v' < 0$	Sweep	Negative

In a wall-bounded shear flow with $\mathrm{d}\langle u\rangle/\mathrm{d}y > 0$, the shear stress $\langle u'v'\rangle$ is negative and is generated almost entirely by Q2 and Q4: low-momentum fluid lifted away from the wall (ejections) and high-momentum fluid swept toward it (sweeps). Q1 and Q3 oppose the mean transport and typically contribute far less. The near-wall balance between ejections and sweeps is one of the most-used descriptors of wall turbulence.

Two fractions are reported per quadrant i:

$$T_i = \frac{N_i}{N_{\text{valid}}} \qquad \text{(time fraction)}, \qquad S_i = \frac{\langle u'v'\rangle_i}{\langle u'v'\rangle} \qquad \text{(stress fraction)},$$

where $\langle u'v'\rangle_i$ is the conditional average taken over the samples in quadrant i only, with the sum over all four quadrants recovering the total. At hole size $H = 0$ the time fractions sum to unity and the stress fractions sum to unity by construction; at $H > 0$ both sums fall below unity, because the excluded weak events are missing by design, and the shortfall itself measures how much of the signal is weak. Note the sign convention: S_i is normalised by $\langle u'v'\rangle$, which is itself negative in a wall-bounded shear flow, so the stress-producing quadrants Q2 and Q4 appear as *positive* fractions and the counter-gradient quadrants Q1 and Q3 as negative ones. Comparing T_i with S_i is the point of the exercise: a quadrant that occupies a small fraction of the time while carrying a large fraction of the stress is by definition intermittent and energetic.

Hole size

To isolate the strongest events, a hole of size H is defined in the (u', v') plane and only samples outside it are counted:

$$|u'v'| > H\, u_{\text{rms}}\, v_{\text{rms}}.$$

$H = 0$ recovers the plain quadrant decomposition with every sample included. Increasing H progressively excludes weak fluctuations near the origin and retains only extreme events. The tab provides both a single-H view and a **hole-size sweep**, which plots $S_i(H)$ for the four quadrants against H. In wall turbulence the Q2 and Q4 curves persist to large H while Q1 and Q3 decay quickly, quantifying how much of the stress is carried by rare, strong events.

A joint PDF of (u', v') is also available, with the quadrant boundaries and the hyperbolic hole contours overlaid, giving the same information in a continuous form. It is drawn on a $\log_{10}(N + 1)$ scale, so that the sparsely populated extreme events remain visible next to the dense core.

Sampling and outputs

Sampling is **ROI** or **Whole field**; draw an ROI by right-clicking and dragging on the selection preview. The region applies to the joint histogram and the hole-size sweep only. The two-dimensional stress-fraction maps always use the full domain, since their purpose is to show where in the flow each quadrant dominates.

Clicking **Compute** produces the joint PDF, the quadrant-contribution bar chart, and the Q2 and Q4 stress-fraction maps at the current hole size. **Hole sweep (Lu & Willmarth)** repeats the decomposition over a range of H and plots the resulting curves. Three separate exports are provided: **Export fractions CSV…** for the per-quadrant numbers, **Export 2D…** for the stress-fraction maps, and **Export hole sweep CSV…** for the sweep curves.

References: Wallace, J.M., Eckelmann, H. & Brodkey, R.S. (1972). The wall region in turbulent shear flow. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 54(1), 39–48. Lu, S.S. & Willmarth, W.W. (1973). Measurements of the structure of the Reynolds stress in a turbulent boundary layer.

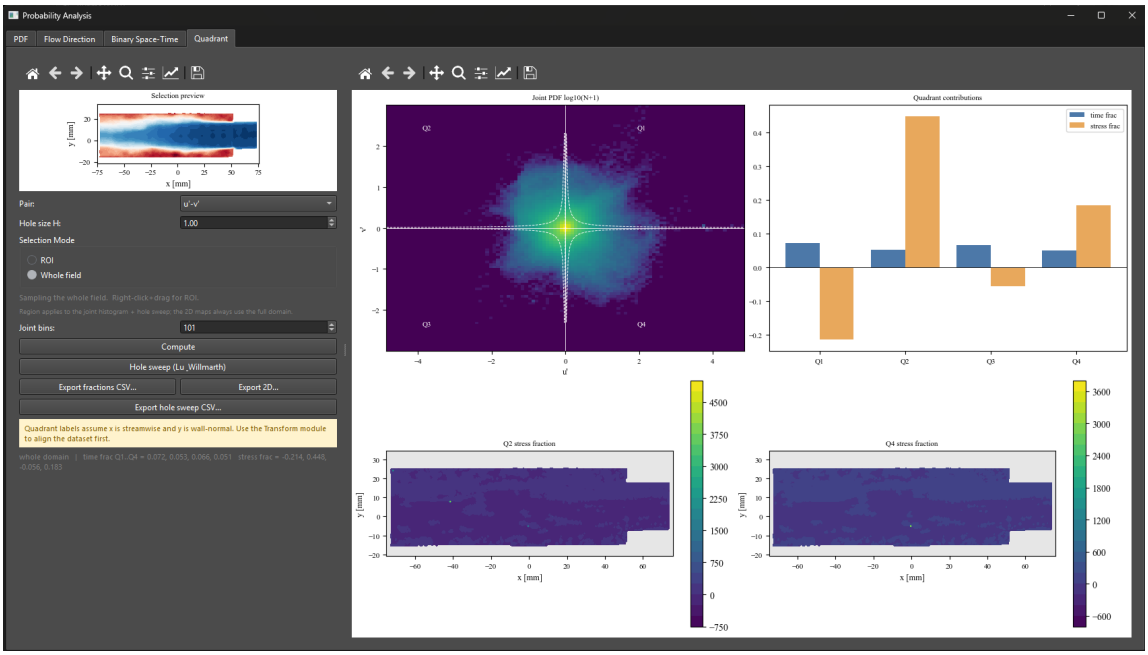


Figure 13.2: Probability Analysis window, **Quadrant** tab, whole-field sampling at hole size $H = 1$. Top left: joint PDF of (u', v') on a $\log_{10}(N + 1)$ scale, with the quadrant boundaries and the hyperbolic hole contours overlaid; only samples outside the hole are counted. Top right: time fractions (blue) and stress fractions (orange) per quadrant. Q2 (ejections, $S_2 = 0.448$) and Q4 (sweeps, $S_4 = 0.183$) carry the stress while Q1 and Q3 oppose it (-0.214 and -0.056), the classical wall-turbulence balance. Each quadrant occupies only 5 to 7 % of the time, and the four time fractions sum to 0.24 rather than 1 because $H = 1$ excludes the weak events. Bottom: Q2 and Q4 stress-fraction maps over the full domain, with masked and invalid regions in grey.

Journal of Fluid Mechanics, 60(3), 481–511. Wallace, J.M. (2016). Quadrant analysis in turbulence research: history and evolution. *Annual Review of Fluid Mechanics*, 48, 131–158.

Warning

Quadrant analysis is defined with respect to the mean shear direction. If the coordinate system is not aligned with the flow, the quadrant labels lose their physical meaning: what the software calls an ejection is then some mixture of ejections and sweeps. Align the dataset in the **Coordinate Transform** module (Chapter 3) before running this tab.

13.5 Exporting

Every tab exports through the standard uPrime paths. One-dimensional results (PDF histograms, hole-size sweeps, quadrant fractions) export as `.csv` with a full settings header block recording the quantity, sampling mode, sampling geometry, bin count, hole size, and valid-sample count. Two-dimensional results (FFP/RFP maps, joint PDFs, binary space-time maps) export as Tecplot `.dat` through the shared 2D writer, and as PNG (300 DPI), PDF, or SVG figures from the toolbar. Exported CSV profiles can be re-imported into the **Compare Cases** viewer (Chapter 15) to overlay probability results from different runs.

Chapter 14

Multi-case Comparison

Several analysis modules support importing CSV files from previous uPrime sessions and overlaying them on top of the current plot. This is useful for comparing experimental conditions, validating against numerical data, or assembling multi-panel publication figures.

The same workflow is used in: Mean & Convergence (Mean Velocity tab), Reynolds Stress, TKE Budget, Spectra (Spatial Welch and Temporal), Correlation, and Anisotropy (Lumley line mode).

14.1 Importing a case

Click **Import Case...** and select a CSV file. The CSV must follow the column layout produced by uPrime's own **Export Profile** or **Export Data** actions. The imported case is added to the case list with an auto-assigned color and dashed linestyle.

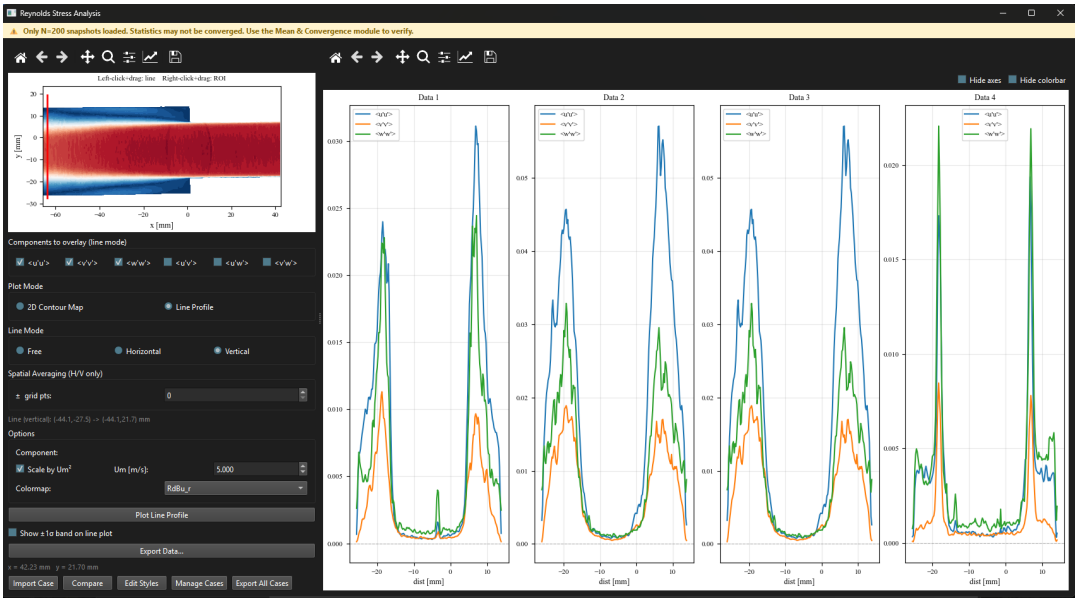


Figure 14.1: Reynolds stress line profile with two imported cases overlaid. The current dataset is shown as solid lines; imported cases use distinguishable colors and linestyles. The legend uses the user-assigned label per case.

14.2 Managing cases

Click **Manage Cases...** to open the Case Manager dialog. From here, cases can be renamed, hidden, or removed. Each case retains its imported file path, line geometry (where applicable), and any header metadata such as U_m.

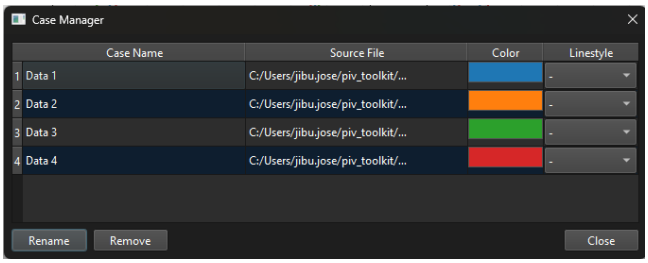


Figure 14.2: Case Manager dialog. Each row corresponds to one imported case. Use the rename field to change the legend label; toggle visibility with the checkbox; click **Remove** to drop a case from the list.

14.3 Plot styles

Click **Edit Styles...** to change line color, linestyle, marker, and label per case. The current dataset and imported cases are styled independently.

14.4 Quantity selector and layout chooser

For modules with multiple quantities (Reynolds stresses with several components, TKE budget with P, C, D, R, etc.), the quantity selector controls which quantity is overlaid. The layout chooser switches between single-axes overlay and a faceted grid (one panel per case, sharing axes).

14.5 Combined export

Click **Export All Cases...** to save the current dataset and all visible imported cases together in a single CSV. A `case` column is added to identify which row belongs to which case, suitable for pandas, MATLAB, or further plotting.

14.6 Header consistency checks

uPrime reads metadata from CSV headers when available. For Mean Velocity profiles, the `# U_m =` header is read per imported case. If the imported U_m differs from the current setting, a status-bar warning is shown for that specific case so you can manually re-normalize before publishing.

Warning

uPrime does not automatically convert units between cases. If your imported CSV uses different units (mm vs m, m/s vs U/U_m, etc.), the comparison will be misleading. Check the header values and re-export the source data in a consistent format if needed.

Chapter 15

Compare Cases

The **Compare Cases** viewer is a standalone window for comparing several complete datasets side by side, up to six at once. It is distinct from the per-module multi-case overlay of Chapter 14: that workflow overlays exported CSV profiles *inside* a single analysis module, whereas Compare Cases loads whole cases and compares them directly, both as 1D quantities and as full 2D fields, without re-opening each analysis module case by case.

Open the viewer from the main window. Each case is loaded independently, so cases may come from different experiments, resolutions, or grids.

15.1 Adding cases

Step-by-step

1. Click **Add Case...** and select the data for one case.
2. Repeat for each case you want to compare (six maximum).
3. Each case is given a color and a label; use the case list to rename, recolor, hide, or remove a case.

15.2 1D comparison

The **1D** tab overlays a chosen scalar quantity from every loaded case on a single set of axes, with a companion table listing the numeric values per case. Use the quantity selector to switch between the available 1D quantities. Because all cases share the same axes, differences in profile shape and magnitude can be read off directly.

15.3 2D Field Compare

The **2D Field Compare** tab shows one contour tile per case in a shared grid (up to six tiles). All tiles use a common colormap and, optionally, a common color scale, so that a given color denotes the same value in every tile. Choose the field to display (for example a velocity component or a Reynolds stress) from the field dropdown; every tile updates together.

Tip

For a fair visual comparison, keep the shared color scale enabled so every tile spans the same range. Disable it only when one case has a very different dynamic range and you want each tile auto-scaled to its own data.

15.4 Exporting

Export the current comparison figure at publication resolution using the standard uPrime toolbar, following the same export conventions as the rest of the program.

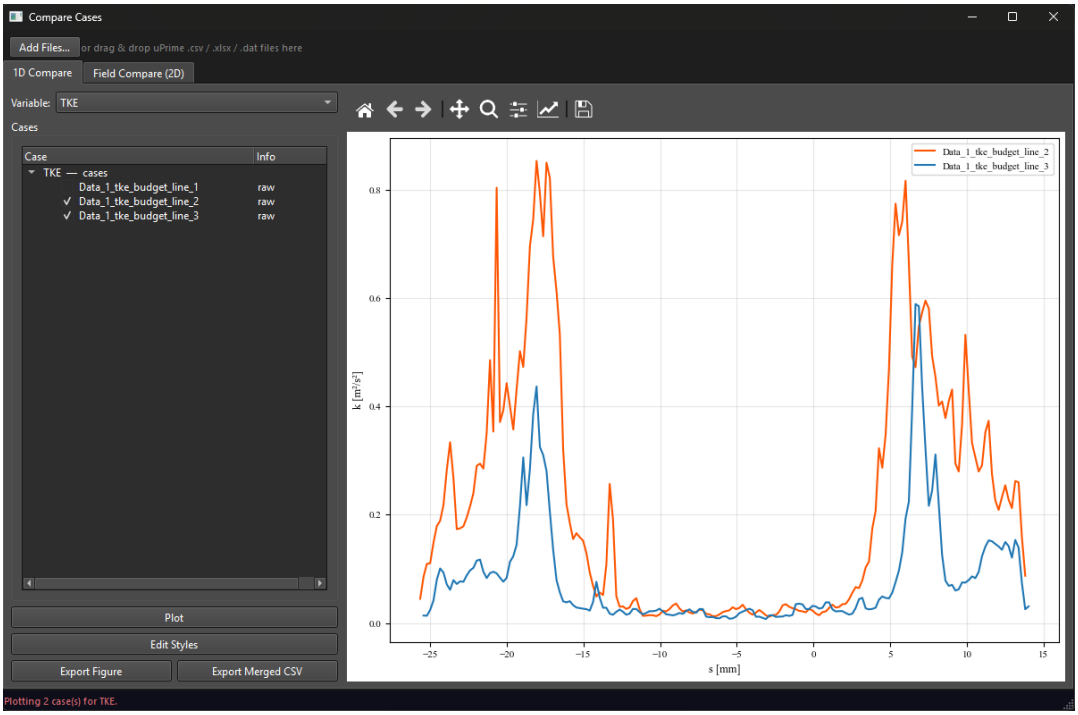


Figure 15.1: Compare Cases viewer, 2D Field Compare tab. Each tile is one loaded case, all sharing a common colormap and color scale so the same color denotes the same value across cases. The 1D tab (not shown) overlays a selected scalar quantity from every case on shared axes with a companion value table.

Chapter 16

Tips, Workflow, and Troubleshooting

16.1 Recommended workflow

For any new dataset, follow this order:

1. **Load** your files (`.dat` or `.mat`). Use stride subsampling if the dataset is large.
2. **Set** acquisition type and f_s in the popup dialog or the info ribbon.
3. **Transform**: rotate to correct tilt, shift the origin to a physical reference.
4. **Inspect** the mean field. Does the flow look correct? Right direction, sensible magnitudes?
5. **Mean & Convergence**: plot the mean velocity profile through your region of interest, then check at a representative point that first and second moments are converged. Skip $\langle u'u'u' \rangle$ if your dataset is small.
6. **Reynolds stresses**: identify turbulent regions and shear layers.
7. **TKE budget**: understand energy production and transport.
8. **Correlations**: measure integral length and time scales.
9. **POD**: identify dominant coherent structures.
10. **DMD** (TR only): extract frequency-specific coherent modes.
11. **Vortex identification**: locate and quantify vortex cores.
12. **Export** results. Use the multi-case workflow to overlay against benchmark data when relevant.

16.2 Performance tips

- POD and DMD computation time scales as N_t^2. For 5000+ snapshots use stride subsampling to ~1000–2000 samples first.
- Velocity data is loaded as 32-bit floats (float32), halving RAM usage compared to the 64-bit default.
- Close unused analysis windows to free RAM.
- Use **Reload Last Dataset** to undo a bad transform without restarting.
- For spatial spectra over a region, the FFT tab is faster than running multiple Welch lines.
- The Γ_1/Γ_2 computation involves a Python loop over all grid points and can be slow for large grids. Start with a subsampled dataset or a small neighborhood size S while exploring.

- For very large `.mat` files, save with `-v7.3` in MATLAB to enable HDF5 chunked reading and real per-snapshot progress.

16.3 Exporting figures for publication

- **PDF / SVG**: all text is embedded as editable text objects. Open in Adobe Illustrator or Inkscape to change fonts, sizes, and labels to match journal requirements.
- **PNG**: 300 DPI by default. Suitable for Word, PowerPoint, and reports.
- Enable **Clean export** and/or **Hide colorbar** for plain field images without annotations.

16.4 Known limitations

- 3D (tomographic) PIV data is not supported.
- Pressure and viscous dissipation are not computed; the TKE budget residual absorbs these terms.
- Taylor hypothesis (for converting temporal to spatial scales) is only valid at low turbulence intensity ($u'/\langle U \rangle \ll 1$).
- Anisotropy analysis requires stereo data (2D3C) and will be unavailable for 2D2C datasets.
- DMD requires time-resolved data and a minimum of 50 snapshots.
- The Γ_1/Γ_2 computation is slower than gradient-based methods for large grids due to the neighborhood summation loop.
- The Binary Space-Time tab of the Probability module requires time-resolved data; on non-TR datasets the snapshot axis has no physical time meaning and the tab is disabled.
- Probability density functions, and in particular the flatness, converge far more slowly than the mean and variance. Fourth-order statistics from a few hundred snapshots should be treated as indicative only.
- Quadrant analysis assumes the coordinate system is aligned with the mean shear. Align the dataset in the Coordinate Transform module first, or the quadrant labels lose their physical meaning.
- Free (arbitrary-angle) lines are not offered in the PDF and Binary Space-Time tabs, and line sampling is not offered at all in the Flow Direction and Quadrant tabs.
- In the Quadrant tab an ROI restricts the joint histogram and the hole-size sweep only. The Q2 and Q4 stress-fraction maps are always computed over the full domain.
- All exported results are time-averaged unless otherwise noted. Per-snapshot export will be added in a future version.
- `.mat` files must contain multiple snapshots. Single-snapshot files are rejected before any data is loaded.
- For classic `.mat` files (not v7.3), the snapshot subset is applied after the full read because `scipy.io.loadmat` is a single blocking call. Convert to v7.3 in MATLAB for efficient strided loading on very large files.

16.5 Common issues

Table 16.1: Common issues and solutions.

Issue	**Solution**
Files do not load (`.dat`)	Confirm files are Tecplot ASCII format from DaVis. Binary `.dat` files are not supported.
`.mat` load shows "Insufficient Snapshots" immediately	The file contains only one snapshot. uPrime requires multiple snapshots. Re-export from MATLAB with the time axis included as the third dimension of `u`, `v`, etc.
`.mat` variable dialog cannot find `u`	The velocity variable name is not in the recognized list. Use the manual dropdowns in the dialog to map your variables to x, y, u, v, etc.
`.mat` dx/dy shown as 0.000 mm	Coordinate arrays are degenerate (all values equal along one axis), or the meshgrid orientation could not be inferred. Check that `x` and `y` contain real coordinate values.
Anisotropy module is greyed out	Data is 2D2C. This module requires stereo (2D3C) data with a W component.
DMD button is greyed out	Set Acquisition Type to TR in the info ribbon and ensure at least 50 snapshots are loaded.
Temporal tabs are greyed out	Set Acquisition Type to Time-Resolved and enter f_s before opening the analysis window.
Top-bar amber non-convergence label is shown	Dataset has fewer than 500 snapshots. Open Mean & Convergence and verify convergence at a point in your region of interest.
PDF save fails: permission denied	The file is open in Adobe Acrobat. Close it in Acrobat first, then save again.
Rotation gives a blank result	Mirror the dataset *before* rotating, not after.
Lumley triangle points outside boundary	Insufficient snapshots or masked/invalid vectors near the sampling line. Avoid masked regions when drawing the analysis line.
DMD spectrum dominated by high-$\|\sigma\|$ modes	Apply the growth rate filter ($\|\sigma\| <$ threshold) to focus on near-neutral physically meaningful modes.
Γ computation is very slow	Reduce the neighborhood half-width S, or subsample the dataset before computing.
Binary Space-Time tab is greyed out	Data is marked Non-TR. Set Acquisition Type to Time-Resolved and enter f_s in the info ribbon before opening the window.
PDF looks spiky or has empty bins	Too few samples for the chosen bin count. Reduce the number of bins, or switch from Point to Line, ROI, or Whole field sampling to pool more samples.
Reverse-flow probability is 0 everywhere	The flow does not reverse in this dataset, or the coordinate system is rotated so that reversal appears in the other component. Check the alignment in Coordinate Transform.
Quadrant fractions do not sum as expected	Both the time fractions and the stress fractions sum to 1 only at hole size $H = 0$. At $H > 0$ the excluded weak events are missing by design, and the shortfall measures how much of the signal is weak.
Grey patches in an FFP or RFP	Those points lie outside the ROI, so they were never

Chapter 17

Mouse and Keyboard Reference

17.1 Mouse interactions by window

Table 17.1: Mouse interactions in analysis windows.

Window	Action	Effect
All windows	Left-click on toolbar Home	Reset to original zoom
Main (Streamlines)	Left-click drag on field	Draw streamline seed rake
Mean & Convergence (Tab 1)	Left-click drag on field	Draw line profile
Mean & Convergence (Tab 2)	Left-click on field	Pick convergence point
Reynolds, TKE	Left-click drag on field	Draw line profile
Spectra	Left-click drag on field	Draw analysis line
Spectra	Right-click drag on field	Draw rectangular ROI
Anisotropy	Left-click drag on field	Draw Lumley triangle line
Anisotropy	Left-click drag on field	Draw barycentric ROI (in Rectangle mode)
Correlation	Left-click on field	Pick reference point (Point mode)
Correlation	Left-click drag on field	Draw ROI (ROI mode)
Transform	Left-click drag on preview	Draw rotation reference line
Transform	Left-click on preview	Set new origin (Shift Origin mode)
DMD Spectrum	Left-click on bubble	Select mode and show spatial structure
Vortex	Left-click drag on field	Draw ROI (field view)
Probability (PDF)	Left-click on preview	Pick sample point (Point mode)
Probability (PDF)	Left-click drag on preview	Draw sampling line (Line mode)
Probability (PDF)	Right-click drag on preview	Draw ROI (ROI mode)
Probability (Flow Direction)	Right-click drag on preview	Draw ROI
Probability (Binary)	Left-click drag on preview	Draw horizontal or vertical line
Probability (Quadrant)	Right-click drag on preview	Draw ROI

17.2 Keyboard shortcuts

17.3 Field Viewer: Display Controls Summary

Table 17.2: Keyboard shortcuts.

Key	Action
F1	Open user manual

Table 17.3: Quick reference for display controls.

Control	Shortcut / location
Change displayed field	**Field** dropdown in the options strip
Toggle overlay type	**Overlay** radio buttons
Adjust vector density	**Skip x** and **Skip y** spinboxes
Scale arrow/streamline length	**Length** spinbox
Scale arrowhead size	**Arrow size** spinbox
Draw streamline rake	Left-click drag on field (Streamlines overlay active)
Hide all axes and labels	**Clean export** checkbox
Hide colorbar	**Hide colorbar** checkbox
Reset view	**Home** button in toolbar
Save figure	Save button in toolbar (PNG 300 DPI, PDF, SVG)
Open manual	**? Manual** button (top right) or F1

Appendix A

Citing uPrime

If uPrime contributes to your research, please cite:

> Jibu Tom Jose, & Ram, O. (2026). *uPrime: Open-source software for velocity field and turbulence analysis from PIV and CFD data*. Transient Fluid Mechanics Laboratory (TFML), Technion (v0.8.0-alpha). Zenodo.
> https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19376184

The citation text and DOI are also accessible directly from within the application via **About uPrime** at the bottom of the sidebar. The DOI can be copied to the clipboard using the copy button next to it.

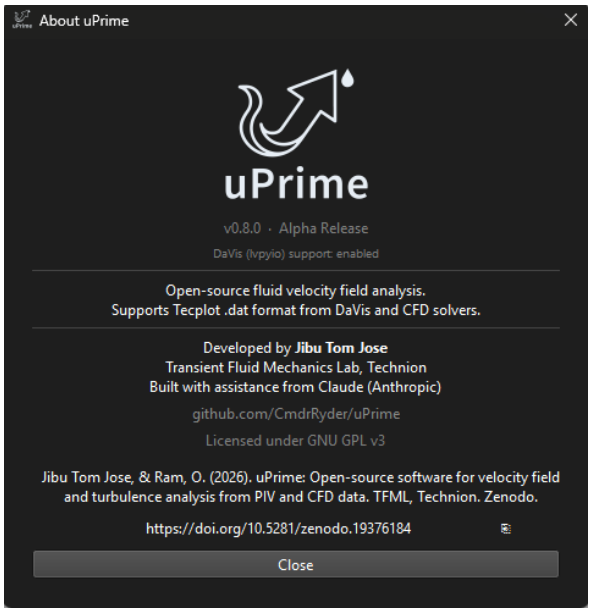


Figure A.1: About uPrime dialog (v0.8.0). The citation text and DOI are displayed with a one-click copy button. The GitHub link opens the repository in the default browser.

Appendix B

Sample Dataset

A sample dataset is available for testing and evaluating uPrime workflows without needing your own experimental data.

Download: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19539711

The dataset includes one non-time-resolved stereo PIV dataset (2D3C) with 100 snapshots, suitable for testing Reynolds stress, TKE budget, correlation, anisotropy, POD, and vortex identification modules; and one time-resolved planar PIV dataset (2D2C) with 200 snapshots, suitable for testing temporal spectra, temporal correlation, TR-POD, and DMD workflows.

Both datasets are provided in Tecplot ASCII `.dat` format and load directly into uPrime without any configuration.

Warning

This dataset is provided strictly for testing and evaluation of uPrime. It must not be used for research, publications, or redistribution without explicit written permission from the authors.

Appendix C

Version history

Version	Summary
v0.1	Initial release: Reynolds stresses, TKE visualisation, basic spectral analysis.
v0.2	TKE budget, anisotropy invariants, correlation analysis, coordinate transform. Migrated from PyQt5 to PyQt6.
v0.3	POD analysis, improved correlation module (multiple scale methods, diagnostic plots), expanded transform tool.
v0.3.3	Bug fixes (home button, mirror–rotate sequence, correlation ROI drawing). UI improvements: sidebar reorganized, dataset info ribbon, Times New Roman export font, 300 DPI PNG. New features: snapshot subsampling and subset selection, reload button, mirror transform, exit confirmation dialog, hide axes/colorbar in all windows.
v0.3.4	Streamline overlay: rake-based seed drawing, cumulative rakes, color picker, line width control. Spatial FFT tab: 2D ROI-based spatial spectra via pyFFTW. Memory halved: velocity arrays loaded as float32. Improved subset loading. Export improvements: 300 DPI PNG, improved PDF quality.
v0.4.0	New modules: DMD Analysis (TR only, frequency-growth rate spectrum, spatial mode viewer, Strouhal number support); Vortex Identification (vorticity, Q-criterion, λ_{ci}, λ_2, Γ_1/Γ_2, per-vortex statistics, spatial probability map). Non-destructive masking: raw velocity data never modified; mask stored as single 2D boolean array. Unit auto-detection from `.dat` file header. Acquisition type moved to dataset info ribbon with popup dialog on load. Correlation: 1/e method now returns interpolated crossing lag; zero-crossing marker placed at actual crossing position. Logo added to application and manual. User manual accessible via F1 or top-right button.
v0.4.1	Performance: all heavy computations (POD, DMD, TKE budget, correlation, spectra, vortex identification) moved to background QThread workers; main window stays responsive during computation; progress indicator shown below compute button. Large dataset support: datasets exceeding 4 GB are automatically memory-mapped to a temporary file in the system temp folder instead of being loaded into RAM; a warning with the temp path and required disk space is shown in the subsampling dialog. Bug fix: cursor value readout now reports correct values after mirror transform.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Version	Summary
v0.5.0	Multi-case comparison workflow added to Reynolds Stress, TKE Budget, Spectra, Correlation, and Anisotropy windows: Import Case, Edit Styles, Manage Cases, Combined CSV export. Export menu in main window with Tecplot ASCII mean field export. Term-visibility checkboxes (P/C/D/R) on TKE budget line plot. Reynolds stress $\pm 1\sigma$ band hidden by default.
v0.5.1	New **Mean & Convergence** module: first entry in the Analysis panel. Mean Velocity tab with line profiles, U_m normalization, and multi-case import matching the Reynolds Stress workflow. Convergence tab with Welford online algorithm for cumulative first, second, and third central moments at a kernel-averaged picked point; sustained-crossing N^* detection; grid layout (raw values) and single normalized layout. Convergence pop-up warnings removed and replaced by an inline amber top-bar label on Reynolds, TKE, and Spectra modules when $N < 500$.
v0.6.0	MATLAB `.mat` file input (classic v5/v7 and v7.3 HDF5). Variable confirmation dialog with auto-detection, snapshot subset spinboxes, single-snapshot rejection. Auto-correction of meshgrid orientation and `(Nx, Ny, Nt)` velocity arrays. dx/dy estimated from coordinate arrays via robust median-of-differences. Default export filenames in Vortex Identification module. Mean & Convergence picker fix for elongated fields (canvas height computed from data aspect). Field-display ZeroDivisionError guard.
v0.6.1	Bug-fix release. `.mat` loader fills masked points with NaN instead of 0. `get_masked()` preserves the stored dtype (no float64 promotion), halving memory for float32 data. Explicit **Mask convention** dropdown in the `.mat` dialog replaces the previous auto-detection heuristic. All `contourf` plots wrap fields in `np.ma.masked_invalid` so masked points render as the axes background rather than the colormap minimum.
v0.7.0	Manual line-coordinate entry (x_0, y_0, x_1, y_1) in Reynolds Stress, TKE Budget, and Mean Velocity line profiles. New standalone **Compare Cases** viewer: 1D overlay with value table and 2D Field Compare tiled contours, up to six cases. Corrected non-dimensionalisation (k by U_m^2, budget terms by U_m^3/L).
v0.7.1	Bug-fix release. Orphaned `uprime_memmap_*` temporary files from crashed sessions are swept automatically at startup and before each data load; files in use are never touched. Main window opens larger so the sidebar no longer shows a scrollbar.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Version	Summary
v0.8.0	New **Probability Analysis** module with four tabs. **PDF**: normalised histograms of u, v, w, $\|\mathbf{V}\|$, u', v', w' with point, line, ROI, and whole-field sampling, reporting skewness and flatness. **Flow Direction**: forward- and reverse-flow probability maps (backflow coefficient) over an ROI or the whole domain. **Binary Space-Time**: two-colour sign map along a horizontal or vertical line versus time (TR only). **Quadrant**: Q1–Q4 time and stress fractions, joint PDF of (u', v'), and hole-size sweep. Valid samples are counted per grid point, so masked and invalid vectors are excluded from the normalisation rather than counted as zeros. ROI selection restricts the computation itself, with untouched regions rendered in a distinct grey.