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Investigation of internal intermittency by way of spectral moments¹ SAMUEL LORTIE, LAURENT MYDLARSKI, McGill University — The analysis of turbulence data using higher-order spectral moments is relatively uncommon despite the use of such methods in other fields of physics and engineering. In this study, we investigate the use of higher-order spectral moments to infer the effects of internal intermittency in multiple turbulent flows. We present spectral moments of both turbulent velocity and passive scalar (temperature) fields and offer a comparison of their intermittent behaviour. The experimental data analysed herein includes measurements of homogeneous, isotropic high-Reynolds-number grid turbulence, heated wakes of a cylinder, a heated turbulent jet, and turbulent channel flow. We focus on third- and fourth-order spectral moments using the definitions first proposed by Dwyer (J. Acoust. Soc. Am., 1983), as they are sensitive to transients and provide insight into the study of internal intermittency. Moreover, we confirm the dependence of internal intermittency on Reynolds number (e.g. Sreenivasan and Antonia, Ann. Rev. Fluid Mech., 1997) and the higher degree of scalar field internal intermittency, as compared to that of the velocity field (e.g. Warhaft, Ann. Rev. Fluid Mech., 2000).

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