

# Spatial pattern formation in non-equilibrium condensates. Part II.

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- Introduction: Exciton–polariton condensates
  - Gross-Pitaevskii equation with loss and gain
    - Radially symmetric stationary states
    - Spiral vortex states
    - Vortex lattices
  - Non-equilibrium spinor system: interplay between interconversion and detuning
    - Stability of cross-polarized vortices
    - Synchronisation/desynchronisation
  - Controllable half-vortex lattices
  - Turbulence in nonequilibrium condensates

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Magnus Borgh  
Southampton University



Jonathan Keeling  
St Andrews University

M.Borgh, J.Keeling and N.G.Berloff, PRB, **81**, 235302 (2010)

N.G.Berloff, arXiv:1010.5225 (2010)

J.Keeling and N.G.Berloff, arXiv:1102.5302 (2011).

**Polariton condensates as sustained non-equilibrium system with nontrivial spatiotemporal properties.**

Advantage: source term can be made to vary in space and time to control pattern formation.

Recent experiments study

- quantised vortices [Lagoudakis et al Nature Phys 2008]
- solitary waves propagation [Amo et al Nature 2009]
- pattern in 1D samples [Wertz et al Nature Phys 2010]

Polarization degree of freedom allows to create **topological textures** more complicated than simple vortices.

How to control the transition between different states?

Phase transition from linear to elliptical to circular polarisations?

Mean-field model of a non-equilibrium BEC of exciton-polaritons

$$i\hbar\partial_t\psi = \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2\nabla^2}{2m} + V_{\text{ext}} + U|\psi|^2 + i(\gamma_{\text{net}} - \Gamma|\psi|^2) \right] \psi,$$

$V_{\text{ext}}$  is an external trapping potential,  $= \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 r^2$ ,  $\gamma_{\text{net}}$  – net gain,  $\Gamma$  – effective loss,  $U$  – effective (pseudo-) interaction potential.

Length in units of oscillator length  $\sqrt{\hbar/m\omega}$ , energies in units of  $\hbar\omega$ , and  $\psi \rightarrow \sqrt{\hbar\omega/2U}\psi$ , yields:

$$i\partial_t\phi = [-\nabla^2 + r^2 + |\phi|^2 + i(\alpha - \sigma|\phi|^2)] \phi.$$

Two parameters:  $\alpha = 2\gamma_{\text{net}}/\hbar\omega$  (gain), and  $\sigma = \Gamma/U$  (loss);

Estimate from experiments:  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 10$  and  $\sigma \sim 0.3$

[Keeling and NB, PRL, 100,250401 (2008)]

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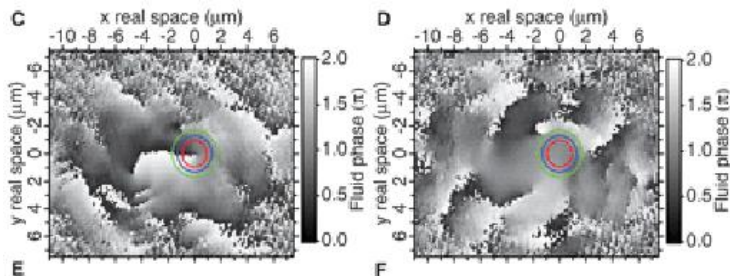
[Keeling and NB, PRL, **100**,250401 (2008)]



# Experiments on spinor polariton condensates

[Lagoudakis et al, Science, November 2009]:

Phase maps of left- and right-circular polarized polariton states



Observed all possible  $(\pm 1, \pm 1)$  vortex states.

# Polariton spin degree of freedom

- Include spin degree of freedom: left- and right-circular polariton states  $\psi_L$  and  $\psi_R$ .

- For weakly-interacting dilute Bose gas model:

$$H = \frac{\hbar^2 |\nabla \psi_L|^2}{2m} + \frac{\hbar^2 |\nabla \psi_R|^2}{2m} + \frac{U_0}{2} \left( |\psi_L|^2 + |\psi_R|^2 \right)^2$$

- Tendency to biexciton formation  $\rightarrow U_L$ . Magnetic field:  $\Omega_B$ .
- $J_2$  Circular symmetry broken – two equivalent axes.  
 $J_1$  preferred direction – inequivalent axes.

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# Non-equilibrium spinor system

Spinor Gross-Pitaevskii equation: [Borgh et al PRB, **81**, 235302 (2010)]

$$i\hbar\partial_t\psi_L = \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2\nabla^2}{2m} + V_{\text{ext}}(r) + \frac{\Omega_B}{2} + U_0|\psi_L|^2 + (U_0 - 2U_1)|\psi_R|^2 + i(\gamma_{\text{net}} - \Gamma|\psi_L|^2) \right] \psi_L + J_1\psi_R$$

Similarly for  $\psi_R$  with  $\psi_L \leftrightarrow \psi_R$  and  $\Omega_B \rightarrow -\Omega_B$ .

Dimensionless cGPE:

$$i\partial_t\psi_L = \left[ -\nabla^2 + v(r) + |\psi_L|^2 + (1-u_s)|\psi_R|^2 + \frac{\Delta}{2} + i(\alpha - \sigma|\psi_L|^2) \right] \psi_L + J\psi_R$$

If  $v(r) = r^2$  then take  $\alpha \rightarrow \alpha\Theta(r_0 - r)$  as before.

Questions:

- Normal modes of uniform model: diffusive, linear, gapped.
- Effect of  $\Delta$  and  $J$  on vortices?
- How does interconversion  $J$  interact with currents?
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# Stability of cross-polarized vortices

$J = 0$ : All  $(\pm 1, 0)$  and  $(\pm 1, \pm 1)$   
vortex complexes are  
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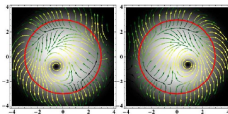
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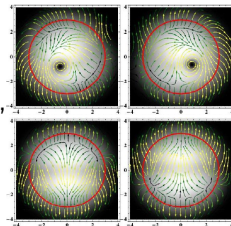
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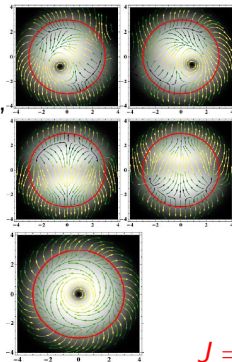
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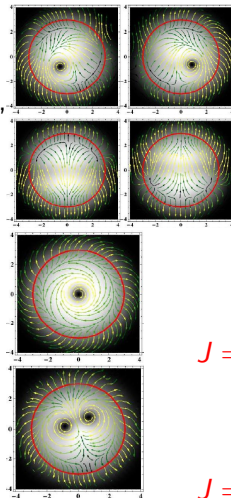
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$J = 0.5$

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$J = 2$

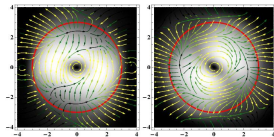


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$J \neq 0, \Delta \neq 0$ : For a given  $J$ , any sufficiently large  $\Delta$  allows the vortex complexes  $(+1, -1)$  and  $(\pm 1, 0)$  to stabilize.



$$J = 1, \Delta = 8$$

# Two-mode system

Neglect  $v(r)$  and spatial variations, write

$$\psi_{L,R} = \sqrt{\rho_{L,R}} e^{i(\phi \pm \theta/2)}, \quad R = \frac{\rho_L + \rho_R}{2}, \quad z = \frac{\rho_L - \rho_R}{2},$$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\theta} &= -\Delta - 2u_\sigma z + \frac{2Jz \cos(\theta)}{\sqrt{R^2 - z^2}} \\ \dot{z} &= 2(\alpha - 2\sigma R)z - 2J\sqrt{R^2 - z^2} \sin(\theta) \\ \dot{R} &= 2\sigma \left( \frac{\alpha}{\sigma} R - R^2 - z^2 \right).\end{aligned}$$

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Equation for a driven, damped  
pendulum

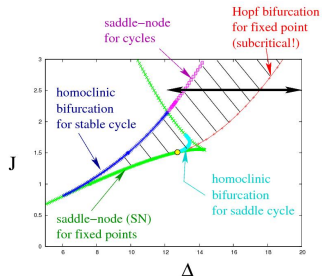
$$\ddot{\theta} + 2\alpha\dot{\theta} = -2\alpha\Delta + 4u_a J \frac{\alpha}{\sigma} \sin(\theta).$$

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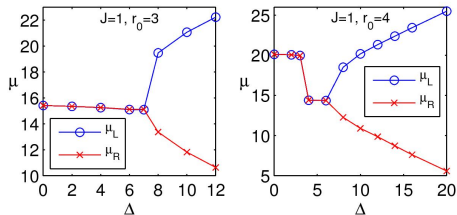
Yellow point – Takens–Bogdanov point

Hatched area – bistability between fixed point and limit cycle

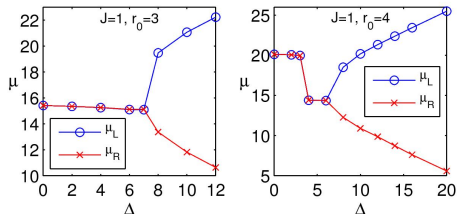
[with Balanov and Janson]



# Trapped spinor system: $\mu_{L,R} = i\partial_t \langle \ln \psi_{L,R} \rangle$ vs $\Delta$ .

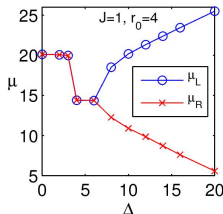
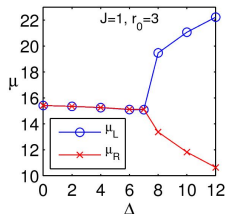


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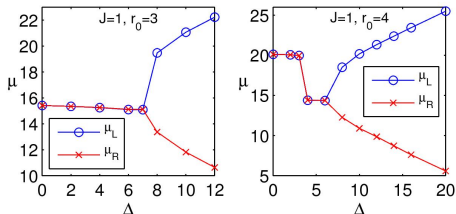
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 $\Delta$  causes  $R(L)$  to grow (shrink).

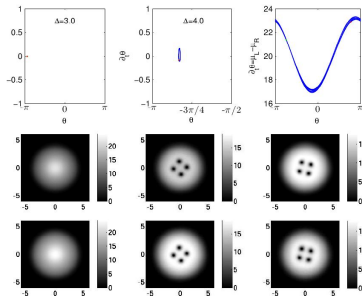
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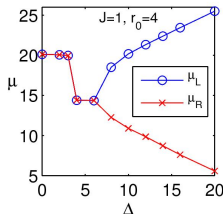
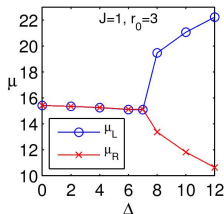
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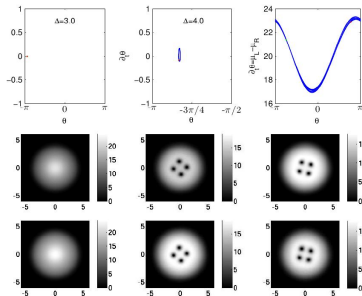
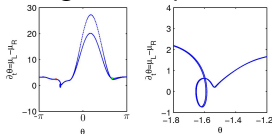


Simple case no vortices;  $r_0 < r_{TF}$ .

Marginal case  $r_0 \sim r_{TF}$ .

$\Delta$  causes  $R(L)$  to grow (shrink).

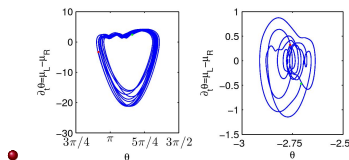
"Simple case" not so simple:  
retrograde loop



- Full model with a trap confirms the predictions of two-mode model, but has richer behaviour:

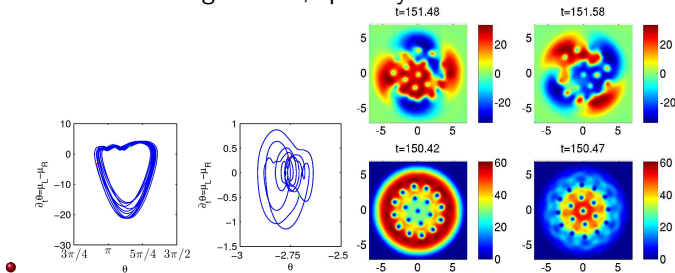
# Full two-component model

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  - Phase portraits: fixed points, limit cycles with winding 0, 1, 2; retrograde loops, quasi-periodic and chaotic behaviours



# Full two-component model

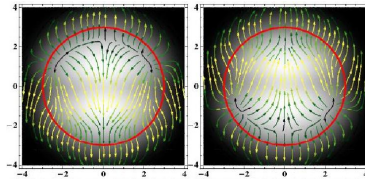
- Full model with a trap confirms the predictions of two-mode model, but has richer behaviour:
  - Phase portraits: fixed points, limit cycles with winding 0, 1, 2; retrograde loops, quasi-periodic and chaotic behaviours
  - Counter-rotating lattices; spatially non-uniform interconversions...





# Stationary solitary waves

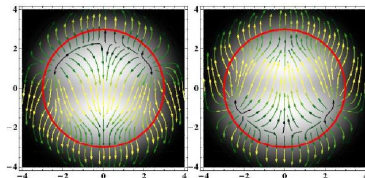
Stationary density depletion for intermediate  $J$  and small  $\Delta$



$$\Delta = 0$$

# Stationary solitary waves

Stationary density depletion for intermediate  $J$  and small  $\Delta$



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Density depletions appear in trapped and uniform equilibrium condensates:

dark/black/grey solitons; rarefaction waves;

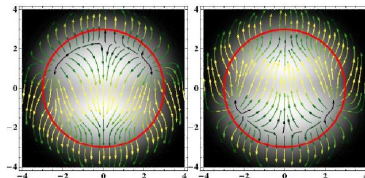
Travelling hole solutions of the complex Ginzburg–Landau equations: e.g.

Nozaki–Bekki solutions

Are these relevant?

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Travelling hole solutions of the complex Ginzburg–Landau equations: e.g.  
**Nozaki–Bekki solutions**

**Are these relevant?**

From simulations  $\psi_L(x, y) = \psi_R(x, -y)$ , so this stationary state satisfies

$$i\partial_t\psi = [-\nabla^2 + r^2 + |\psi|^2 + i(\alpha\Theta(r_0 - r) - \sigma|\psi|^2)]\psi + J\psi(x, -y).$$

# One-dimensional modified GL equation

Consider solutions of a modified GL equation without trap

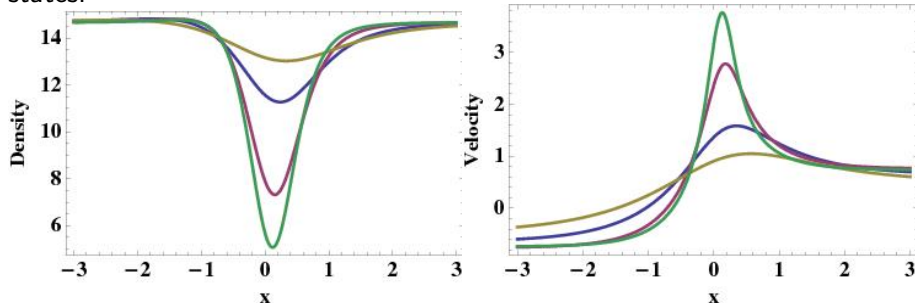
$$i\partial_t\psi = -\psi_{xx} + |\psi|^2\psi + i(\alpha - \sigma|\psi|^2)\psi + J\psi(-x).$$

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Stationary solutions exist for  $0 < J < J_{cr}$ . Black soliton evolves into these states.

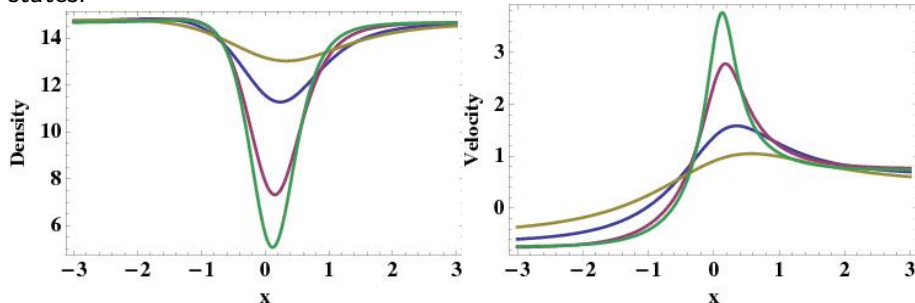


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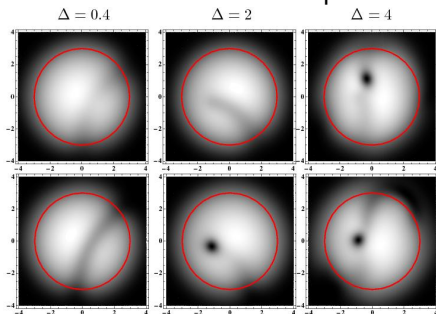
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Note: For Nozaki–Bekki holes  $J = 0$  but one needs diffusion  $i\psi_{xx}$  (spectral filtering to stabilize the central frequency of the pulse)

# Vortex trajectories

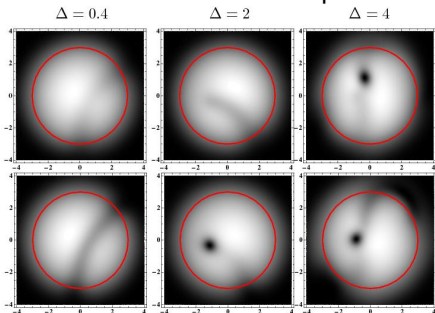
Densities of L and R components for  $J = 1$



Similarly complicated cycloid trajectories of vortices are known for two-layer fluids with one vortex in each layer — e.g. in models of tropical vortices. Reaction diffusion equations may lead to spiral wave dynamics.

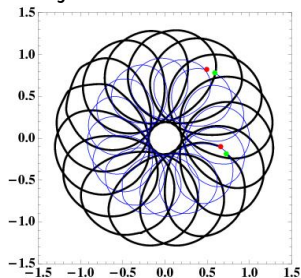
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Trajectories for  $\Delta = 4$



Spirographs

(epitrochoids/hypotrochoid)



# Spinor condensates—vortex lattices

[J.Keeling and NB, arXiv:1102.5302]

Vortex patterns generated by superposition of fluxes.

Spinor complex Ginzburg-Landau equation:

$$2i\partial_t\psi_{l,r} = \left[ \pm \frac{\Delta}{2} - \nabla^2 + v(r) + |\psi_{l,r}|^2 + (1 - u_a)|\psi_{r,l}|^2 \right. \\ \left. + i(\alpha - 2i\eta\partial_t - \sigma|\psi_{l,r}|^2 - \tau|\psi_{r,l}|^2) \right] \psi_{l,r} + J\psi_{r,l}.$$

$\eta$  – energy relaxation [Wouters and Savona arXiv:1007.5431 (2010)];

$\tau$  – cross-spin nonlinear dissipation;

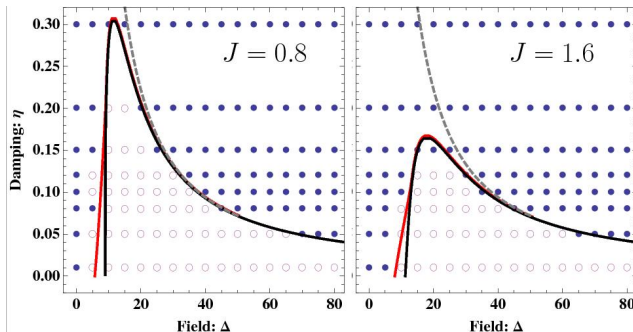
$\Delta$  – effect of the magnetic field (in Hamiltonian  $\sim \Delta(|\psi_r|^2 - |\psi_l|^2)$ );

$J$  – electric field, stress or due to asymmetry of quantum well interfaces;

Magnetic field,  $\Delta$ , drives the transition from synchronized to desynchronized regimes for  $\eta = \tau = 0$ .

# Synchronized/desynchronized regimes

For nonzero  $\eta$  there is a second transition at  $\Delta_{c2}$  back to synchronized state,  $\Delta_{c2} \simeq (2\alpha/\eta)(\sigma - \tau + \eta u_a)/(\sigma + \tau + \eta(2 - u_a))$  (dashed line)



- –synchronized states ( vortex-free states or synchronized vortices);
- – desynchronized states (vortices of opposite sign for  $l$  and  $r$ ).

Conclude: homogeneous model gives good prediction of spatially varying system.

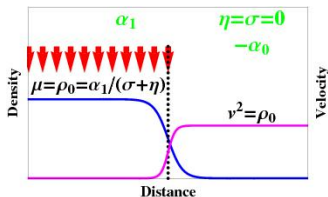
# Vortex formation

Vortex formation in equilibrium condensates:

- interactions of finite amplitude sound waves;
- existence of critical velocities of the flow;
- modulational instabilities.

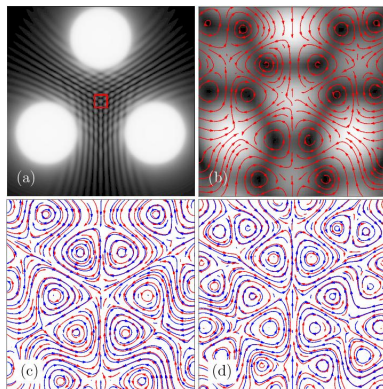
In addition in nonequilibrium condensates – pattern forming, interaction of fluxes with a disorder etc.

## Vortex formation due to interference of supercurrents



Analytical solution for the velocity  $u(r)$  on  $\infty < r < \infty$ .

# Pumping in three equidistant spots



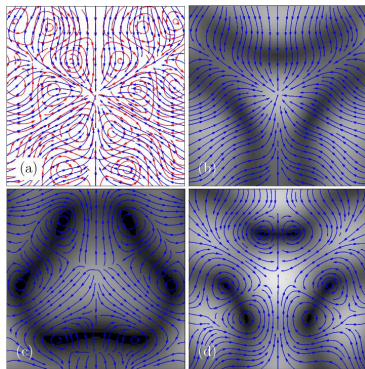
- (a)  $\Delta = 0$  showing geometry of pumping;
- (b) Desynchronized  $\Delta = 20$  steady majority density with streamlines;
- (c) Lower synchronized  $\Delta = 5$  streamlines of both polarizations;
- (d) Upper synchronized  $\Delta = 40$  streamlines of both polarizations.

# Half-vortices

"Half-vortices" have been seen in experiments:

[Lagoudakis et al Nature Phys. (2009)]

Are "half-vortices" pinned and stabilized by disorder?



(a) Desynchronized  $\Delta = 20$  half-vortex lattice;

(b) -(c) -(d) evolution of minority component in desynchronized regime  $\Delta = 20$ .

Majority component is stationary in both regimes;

Minority component is stationary in synchronized regime only.

In desynchronized regime averages to vortex-free state.

# Vortex Lattice Spacing

Currents are negligible at the pumping centre,  $\mu(\rho_{l,r})$ ; away from pumping spot – densities are negligible.

*Synchronized regime:* away from the pump

$$\mu - |\vec{u}|^2 \mp \Delta/2 = J(\rho_l/\rho_r)^{\mp 1/2} \cos(\theta) \text{ and}$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\rho_{l,r} \vec{u}) + \alpha_1 \rho_{l,r} = \mp J \sqrt{\rho_l \rho_r} \sin(\theta).$$

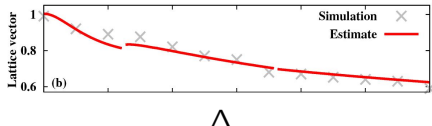
These are solved by  $\sin(\theta) = 0$  and  $\nabla(\rho_l/\rho_r) = 0$ ,

$$\text{so } |\vec{u}|^2 = \mu + \sqrt{J^2 + \Delta^2/4}.$$

*Desynchronized regime:*  $\theta$  and  $\rho_l/\rho_r$  are not time independent, so one calculates averages. If  $\rho_r \gg \rho_l$ , then for majority component

$$\langle |\vec{u}_r|^2 \rangle = \langle \mu_r \rangle + \Delta/2.$$

Superposition of such currents results in hexagonal vortex lattice with spacing  $l = (2\pi/|\vec{u}|) \times 2/3\sqrt{3}$ .



## Classical Turbulence

In 50th Batchelor wrote to his friend and close colleague, Alan Townsend, who remained in Australia:

*You will come to Cambridge, study turbulence, and work with G. I. Taylor.*

The answer came immediately: *I agree, but I have two questions:*

*who is G. I. Taylor and ... what is turbulence?*

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The answer came immediately: *I agree, but I have two questions: who is G. I. Taylor and ...* **what is turbulence?**

# Motivation

**Classical turbulence** – cascading vorticity;

**Superfluid turbulence** – quantisation of velocity circulation – differences with classical turbulence;

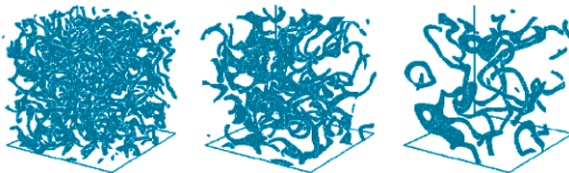
**Strong turbulence** – unstructured vortices (distance between vortices of the order of their core);

**Weak turbulence regime** – almost independent motion of weakly interacting dispersive waves.

Stages in condensate formation from a nonequilibrium state:

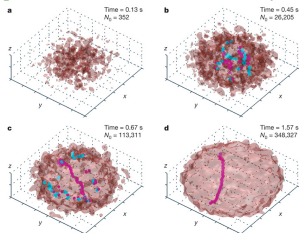
[Berloff & Svistunov Phys Rev A (2002)]

**weak turbulence** → **strong turbulence** → **superfluid turbulence** → **condensate**



Vortex formed during nonequilibrium kinetics of BEC

[Weiler et al. Nature (2008)]

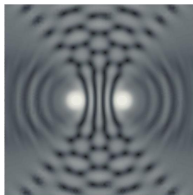


Reverse the process going from condensate to weak turbulent state?

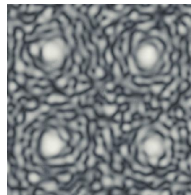
[Henn et al PRL (2009)]: applied an external oscillatory perturbation to produce vortices.

# Interference of currents

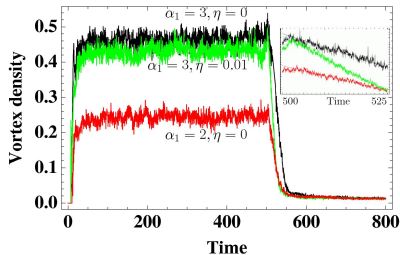
Regular emission of vortices



Many irregular spots: turbulence



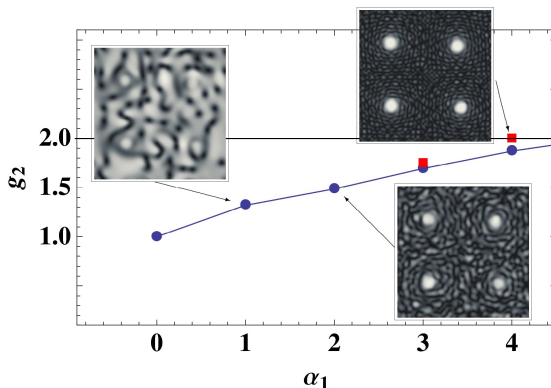
Two regimes: forced turbulence and turbulence decay.



# Weak turbulence

In forced turbulence it is possible to reach a **weak turbulence** state:

$g_2 = \langle |\psi|^4 \rangle / \langle |\psi|^2 \rangle^2$ . Weak turbulence implies  $g_2 \sim 2$ .



**Red Squares** – nonzero  $\eta$  facilitates the transition to weak turbulence.

Assume

- (i) the existence of inertial range in the momentum space;
- (ii) neglect pumping and dissipation there.

Weak turbulence theory

[Zhakharov et al (1992); Salman and Berloff, Physica D (2009)]:

**Main idea:**

Use random phase approximation to obtain evolution equation for the wave spectrum  $\langle a_{\mathbf{k}_1} a_{\mathbf{k}_2}^* \rangle = n_{\mathbf{k}_1} \delta(\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_2)$ ,

$a_{\mathbf{k}}$  – the Fourier transform of  $\psi$  and  $\mathbf{k}_i$  are discrete wave vectors.

$$\partial_t n_{\mathbf{k}_1}(t) =$$

$$\int d^2 k_2 d^2 k_3 d^2 k_4 W_{k_1, k_2; k_3, k_4} (n_{\mathbf{k}_3} n_{\mathbf{k}_4} n_{\mathbf{k}_1} + n_{\mathbf{k}_3} n_{\mathbf{k}_4} n_{\mathbf{k}_2} - n_{\mathbf{k}_1} n_{\mathbf{k}_2} n_{\mathbf{k}_3} - n_{\mathbf{k}_1} n_{\mathbf{k}_2} n_{\mathbf{k}_4}),$$

$$\text{where } W_{k_1, k_2; k_3, k_4} = \frac{4\pi}{(2\pi)^2} \delta(\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_3 - \mathbf{k}_4) \delta(k_1^2 + k_2^2 - k_3^2 - k_4^2)$$

# Wave spectra

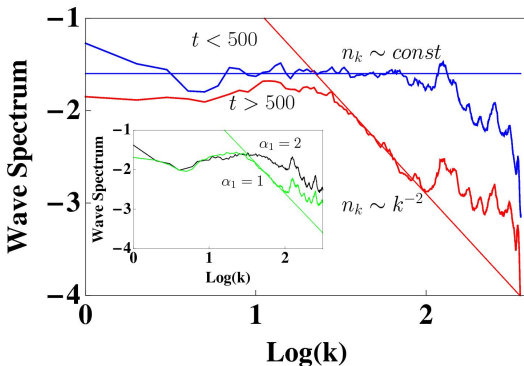
Two solutions:

(i) Equipartition of the total kinetic energy  $E = \int k^2 n_k d\mathbf{k}$ , so that

$$n_k \sim k^{-2};$$

(ii) Equipartition of the total number of particles  $N = \int n_k d\mathbf{k}$ , so that

$$n_k \sim \text{const}.$$



# Conclusions-1

- Nonequilibrium condensates: condensates made of light
  - Gross-Pitaevskii equation with loss and gain

$$i\partial_t\psi = [-\nabla^2 + r^2 + |\psi|^2 + i(\alpha\Theta(r_0 - r) - \sigma|\psi|^2)]\psi.$$

- Radially symmetric stationary states: narrowing of density profile
- Spiral vortex states

- Vortex lattices



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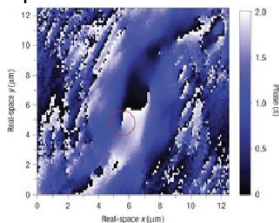
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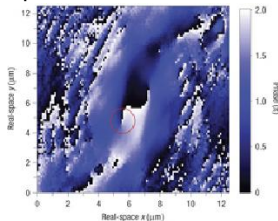
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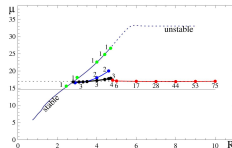
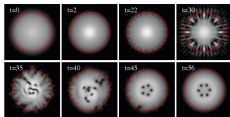
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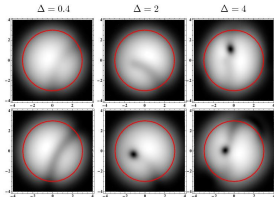
# Conclusions-2

- Non-equilibrium spinor system

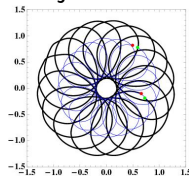
$$i\partial_t\psi_L = \left[ -\nabla^2 + V(r) + \frac{\Delta}{2} + |\psi_L|^2 + (1 - u_a)|\psi_R|^2 + i(\alpha\Theta(r_0 - r) - \sigma|\psi_L|^2) \right] \psi_L + J\psi_R$$

- Effect of  $\Delta$  and  $J$  on vortices.

Densities of L and R components for  $J = 1$



Trajectories for  $\Delta = 4$



Spirographs  
(epitrochoids/hypotrochoid)

- Synchronization/desynchronization with the region of bistability.

- Turbulence in exciton-polariton condensates may lead to novel regimes of turbulence of classical matter field.
  - The regimes can be distinguished by finding second order correlation function; by looking at the wave spectrum.
  - What are the stages in transition from strong turbulence to weak turbulence and back?
- Spinor condensates: predictions of homogeneous model (synchronization/desynchronization) are not significantly modified by spatial inhomogeneity.
  - Observation of the experimental behaviour in an applied field can thus be used to distinguish the the loss nonlinearities  $\sigma, \tau$  and  $\eta$ .
  - Vortices, vortex lattices and half-vortex lattices in spinor condensates. Being stationary these textures can be studied experimentally.
- Turbulence in spinor condensates.

Scaling laws? Cross-overs of different regimes? Interplay between turbulent regimes and the effects of magnetic field?...