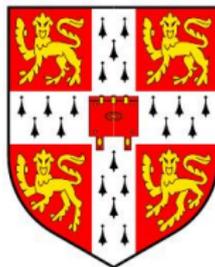


# Spatial pattern formation in non-equilibrium condensates

**Natalia Berloff**  
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University of Cambridge



- 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
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Magnus Borgh  
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Jonathan Keeling  
St Andrews University

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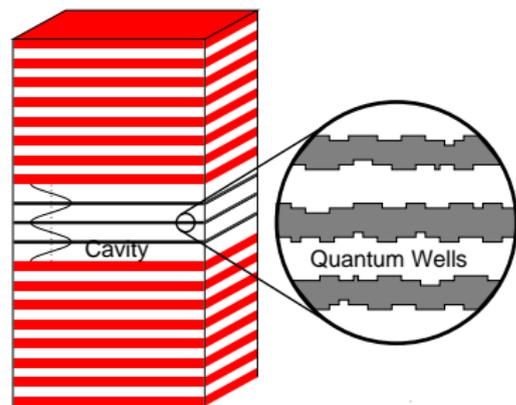
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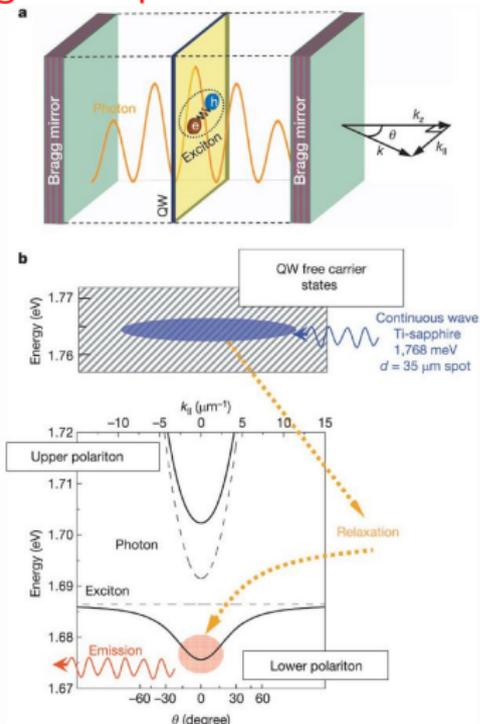
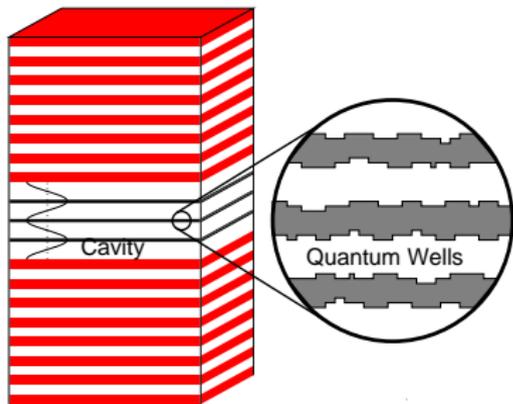
# Nonequilibrium condensates: condensates made of light

Absorption of photon by semiconductor  $\Rightarrow$  exciton  $\Rightarrow$  emitting photon  $\Rightarrow$  mirrors  $\Rightarrow$  exciton photon superposition  $\Rightarrow$  polariton  $m_{\text{pol}} = 10^{-4} m_e \Rightarrow$   
BEC expected at “high” temperature!



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**BEC expected at "high" temperature!**



# Lower and Upper polariton branches

Polariton frequency  $\omega_{\vec{k}} = (c/n)\sqrt{k^2 + (2\pi N/L_w)^2}$

$n$  is the refractive index,  $c$  the speed of light in vacuum, and  $N$  labels the transverse mode in a cavity of transverse size  $L_w$ .

For small  $k$   $\hbar\omega_{\vec{k}} = \hbar\omega_0 + \hbar^2 k^2/2m$  with photon mass  $m = \hbar(n/c)(2\pi N/L_w)$ .

$$i\hbar\partial_t \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{\text{phot}} \\ \Psi_{\text{ex}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \hbar\omega_k & \frac{1}{2}g \\ \frac{1}{2}g & \varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{\text{phot}} \\ \Psi_{\text{ex}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Eigenstates

$$E_{\vec{k}}^{\text{LP,UP}} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( \hbar\omega_0 + \varepsilon + \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} \right) \mp \sqrt{\left( \hbar\omega_0 - \varepsilon + \frac{\hbar^2 k^2}{2m} \right)^2 + g^2} \right]$$

Direct observation of spectrum, transmission and reflection of the microcavity as a function of energy and incident angle

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Direct observation of spectrum: [transmission and reflection of the microcavity as a function of energy and incident angle.](#)

- **polariton-polariton interactions:**

interactions between charged particles, saturation of the exciton-photon interactions, **electron-electron exchange**;  
for low densities pseudo-potential  $U(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow U\delta(\mathbf{r})$ ;  
typical scale of  $U$  is  $10^{-3} \text{ meV}\mu\text{m}^2$ .

- **short lifetime (5-10 ps):**

(i) non-equilibrium condensate (ii) helps image the properties.  
 $ck = E_{\vec{k}}^{\text{LP,UP}} \sin(\theta)$ , therefore, refer to polariton momentum, wavevector or emission angle  $\theta$  interchangeably.

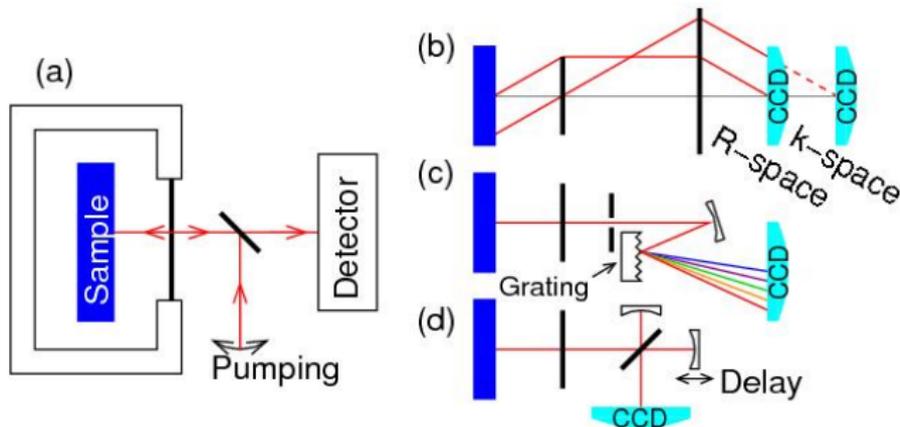
- **two polarisation states:**

**left- and right-circularly polarised** photon states;

- **coupling** between mechanical strain in the sample and the energy of electron and hole breaks symmetry and favours a particular linear polarisation.

# Experiments on exciton-polariton condensates

## Schematic of an experiment studying polaritons:



Detector measures:

- (b) the real and momentum space images;
- (c) energy resolved images using a spectrometer;
- (d) first-order coherence using an interferometer.

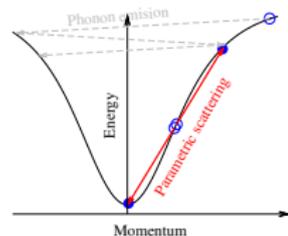
From M.Richard, PhD Thesis, Universite Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, 2004.

<http://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-00009088/fr>

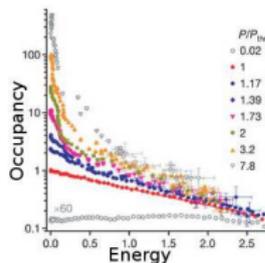
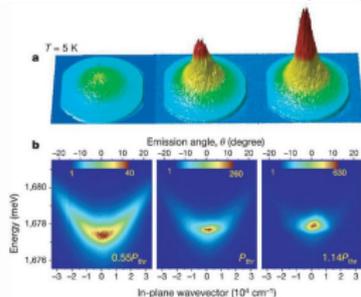
Materials: CdTe or GaAs

## Polariton Injection

- directly creating zero momentum polaritons with a coherent pump laser;
- coherently creating polaritons at a 'magic angle';
- coherently creating polaritons at large angles;
- incoherent pump laser;
- injecting electrons and holes by electric currents.



## Momentum distribution and thermalisation



[Kasprzak et al Nature (2006); Deng et al PRL (2006)]:

Polariton condensates are non-equilibrium steady states emitting coherent light.

Should they be described as condensates or as lasers?

Criteria:

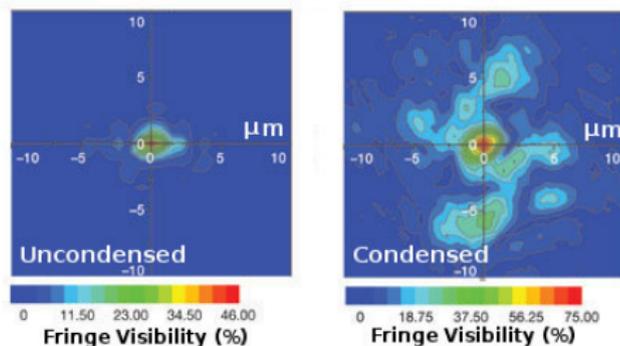
- (i) **Thermal distribution?** Polariton distribution is set by balance of pumping, decay and relaxation.  
Smooth cross-over between equilibrium BEC, polariton condensate and lasing.
- (ii) **Stimulated scattering into ground state.** Within polariton modes vs stimulated emission of photons in lasers.
- (iii) **Inversion of gain medium in lasers.** Polariton condensation occurs with a quasi-thermal distribution of polaritons. No need for inverted (negative temperature) distribution of gain medium in order for gain to exceed absorption.

# Coherence and correlation measurements

The first and second order correlation functions of the electromagnetic field:

$$g_1(\vec{r}, \vec{r}', t, t') = \frac{\langle E^*(\vec{r}', t')E(\vec{r}, t) \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle E(\vec{r}', t')^2 \rangle \langle E(\vec{r}, t)^2 \rangle}},$$
$$g_2(\vec{r}, \vec{r}', t, t') = \frac{\langle E^*(\vec{r}', t')E^*(\vec{r}, t)E(\vec{r}, t)E(\vec{r}', t') \rangle}{\langle E(\vec{r}', t')^2 \rangle \langle E(\vec{r}, t)^2 \rangle}.$$

- Temporal coherence  $g_1(\tau) = g_1(\vec{r}, \vec{r}, t + \tau, t)$ ;
- Spatial coherence  $g_1(|r|) = g_1(\mathbf{r}_0 + \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}_0, t, t)$ .



# Modelling non-equilibrium condensates

The complex Ginzburg-Landau equation:

$$i\partial_t\psi = c_1\nabla^2\psi + c_2|\psi|^2\psi + c_3\psi.$$

Gross-Pitaevskii equation as a non-relativistic limit of the Klein-Gordon equation—the simplest equation consistent with special relativity.

$$\frac{\partial^2\Psi}{\partial t^2} = c^2\nabla^2\Psi - \lambda^2\Psi$$

Represent  $\Psi = \psi \exp[\mp i\lambda t]$  for matter and anti-matter solutions.

$$-\lambda^2\psi - 2i\lambda\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial t^2} = c^2\nabla^2\psi - \lambda^2\psi$$

Non-relativistic limit  $\left|\frac{\partial^2\psi}{\partial t^2}\right| \ll \lambda\left|\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t}\right|$

Gross-Pitaevskii equation

$$i\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{c^2}{2\lambda}\nabla^2\psi$$

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$$i\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{c^2}{2\lambda}\nabla^2\psi + A|\psi|^2\psi.$$

Equation for the macroscopically occupied polariton state  $\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$ :

$$i\hbar\partial_t\Psi = [E(i\nabla) + U|\Psi|^2 + V(\mathbf{r})] \Psi + i [P_{\text{coh}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + (P_{\text{inc}}(\mathbf{r}) - \kappa - \sigma|\Psi|^2) \Psi]$$

Polariton dispersion,  $E(k)$  (eg. a quadratic dispersion

$$E(k) \simeq \hbar^2 k^2 / 2m_{\text{pol}});$$

Strength of the  $\delta$ -function interaction (pseudo)potential  $U$ ;

External potential  $V(\mathbf{r})$ ;

Coherent pump field  $P_{\text{coh}}(\mathbf{r})e^{i\omega_p t}$ ;

Incoherent pump field  $P_{\text{inc}}(\mathbf{r})$ ;

$\kappa$  and  $\sigma$  describe linear and nonlinear losses respectively.

cf. "generic laser model" of Wouters and Carusotto PRA (2007)

Bogoliubov spectrum comes from considering fluctuations of the form  $\Psi(\vec{r}, t) = e^{-i\mu t/\hbar} \left( \Psi_0 + \sum_k u_k e^{-i\xi_k t + i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}} + v_k e^{i\xi_k^* t - i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}} \right)$ , and finding a self consistent set of equations for  $u_k, v_k$  and the frequency  $\xi_k$ .

Spectrum of non-equilibrium system  $\hbar\xi_k \simeq -i\hbar\eta + \sqrt{\mu\hbar^2 k^2 / m_{\text{pol}} - \hbar^2 \eta^2}$  for small  $k$ .

$\eta$  is a characteristic size of the pump rate, e.g.  $\eta \simeq P_{\text{inc}} - \kappa$ .

For small  $k$ , the real part of the spectrum is zero for  $k < \eta\sqrt{m_{\text{pol}}/\mu}$ .

No superfluidity in non-equilibrium condensates?

# Superfluidity checklist

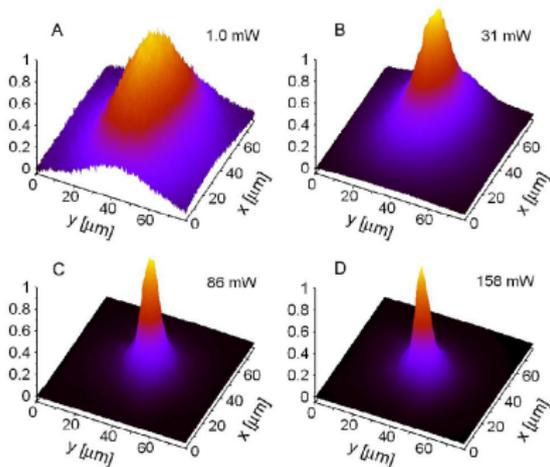
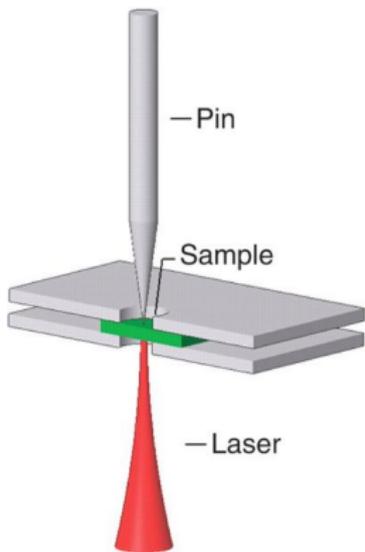
**Table 1 | Superfluidity checklist**

	Quantized vortices	Landau critical velocity	Metastable persistent flow	Two-fluid hydrodynamics	Local thermal equilibrium	Solitary waves
Superfluid $^4\text{He}$ /cold atom Bose-Einstein condensate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-interacting Bose-Einstein condensate	✓	X	X	X	✓	X
Classical irrotational fluid	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Incoherently pumped polariton condensates	✓	X	?	?	X	?

# Nonequilibrium condensates: condensates made of light

[Balili et al Science **316**,(2007)]:

A harmonic trapping potential is created by squeezing the sample by a sharp pin.



Signatures of BEC:  
spatial and spectral narrowing; coherence

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:

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

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

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

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# Radially symmetric stationary states

$$\mu\psi = [ -\nabla^2 + r^2 + |\psi|^2 + i(\alpha - \sigma|\psi|^2) ] \psi$$

$\alpha$  not too large, Thomas-Fermi solution  $|\psi|^2 = (\mu - r^2)$  for  $r < r_{TF} = \sqrt{\mu}$

$\int d^2r (\alpha - \sigma|\psi|^2) |\psi|^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \mu = 3\alpha/2\sigma$

Madelung transformation,  $\psi = \sqrt{\rho}e^{i\phi}$ :

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low density  $\implies$  gain

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currents  $\nabla \phi$ , between these regions

(in TF  $\phi'(r) = -\sigma r \rho(r)/6$ )

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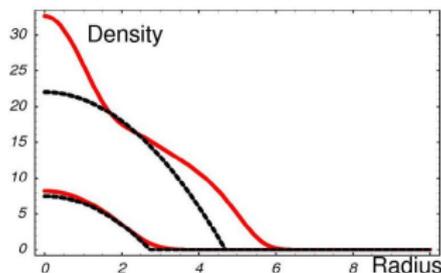
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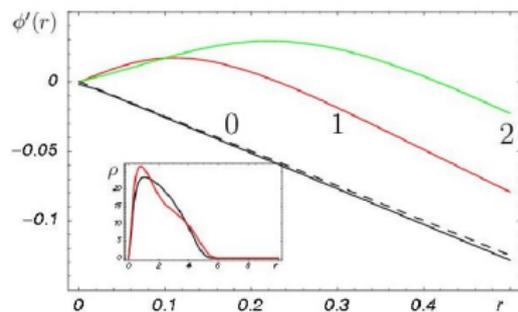
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Theory:

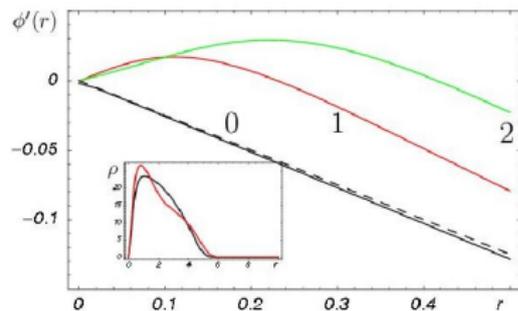


$$\psi = f(r) \exp[i s \theta + i \phi(r)]$$

Leading order

$$\phi'(r) \sim \alpha/2(s+1)r.$$

Theory:



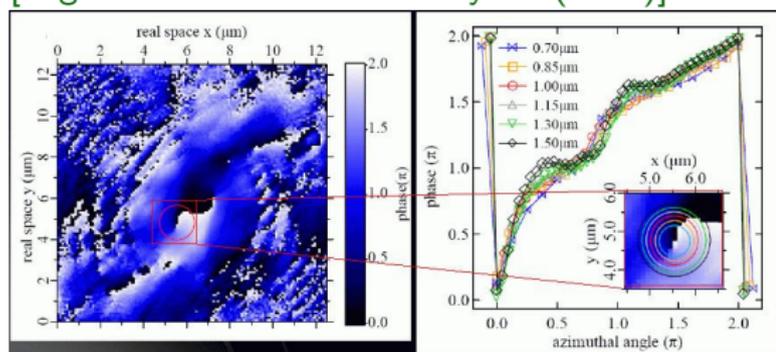
$$\psi = f(r) \exp[i s \theta + i \phi(r)]$$

Leading order

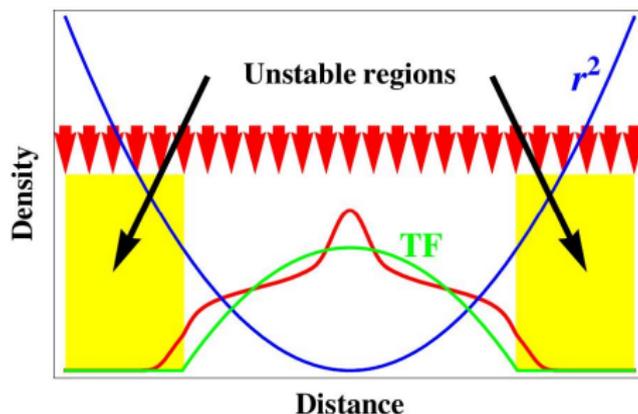
$$\phi'(r) \sim \alpha/2(s+1)r.$$

Experiment:

[Lagoudakis et al. Nature Physics (2008)]



# Instability of rotationally symmetric states



$$\frac{1}{2}\partial_t\rho + \nabla \cdot [\rho\mathbf{v}] = (\alpha - \sigma\rho)\rho, \quad \partial_t\mathbf{v} + \nabla(\rho + r^2 + |\mathbf{v}|^2) = 0$$

If  $\alpha, \sigma$  small, find normal modes in 2D trap:  $\delta\rho_{n,m} = e^{im\theta} h_{n,m}(r) e^{i\omega_{n,m}t}$   
 $\omega_{n,m} = 2\sqrt{m(1+2n) + 2n(n+1)}$ .  
Add weak pumping and decay

$$\omega_{n,m} \rightarrow \omega_{n,m} + i\alpha \left[ \frac{m(1+2n) + 2n(n+1) - m^2}{2m(1+2n) + 4n(n+1) + m^2} \right]$$

# Finite Spot Size

In experiments: finite spot, of size comparable to observed cloud, is used.

Model this as  $\alpha = \alpha(r) \equiv \alpha \Theta(r_0 - r)$

For small  $r_0$  ( $r_0 < r_{TF} \sim \sqrt{3\alpha/2\sigma}$ ), this stabilises the radially symmetric modes and vortex modes:

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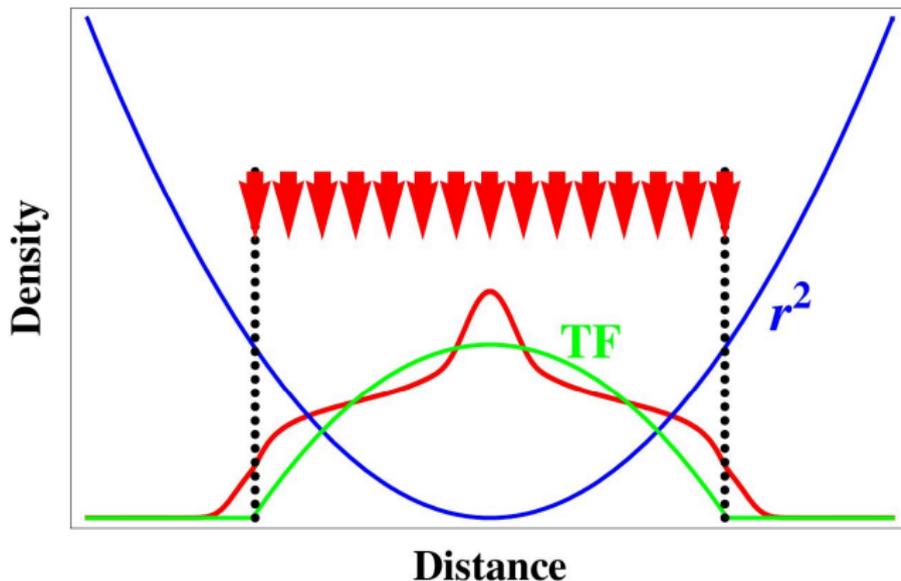
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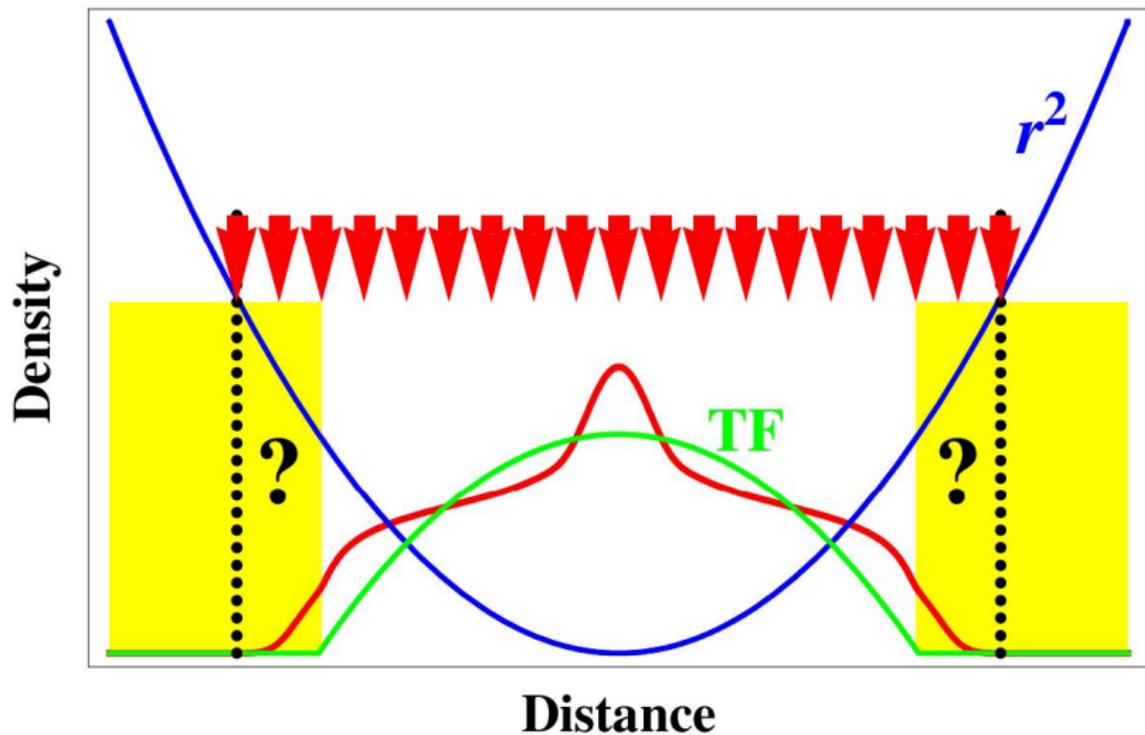
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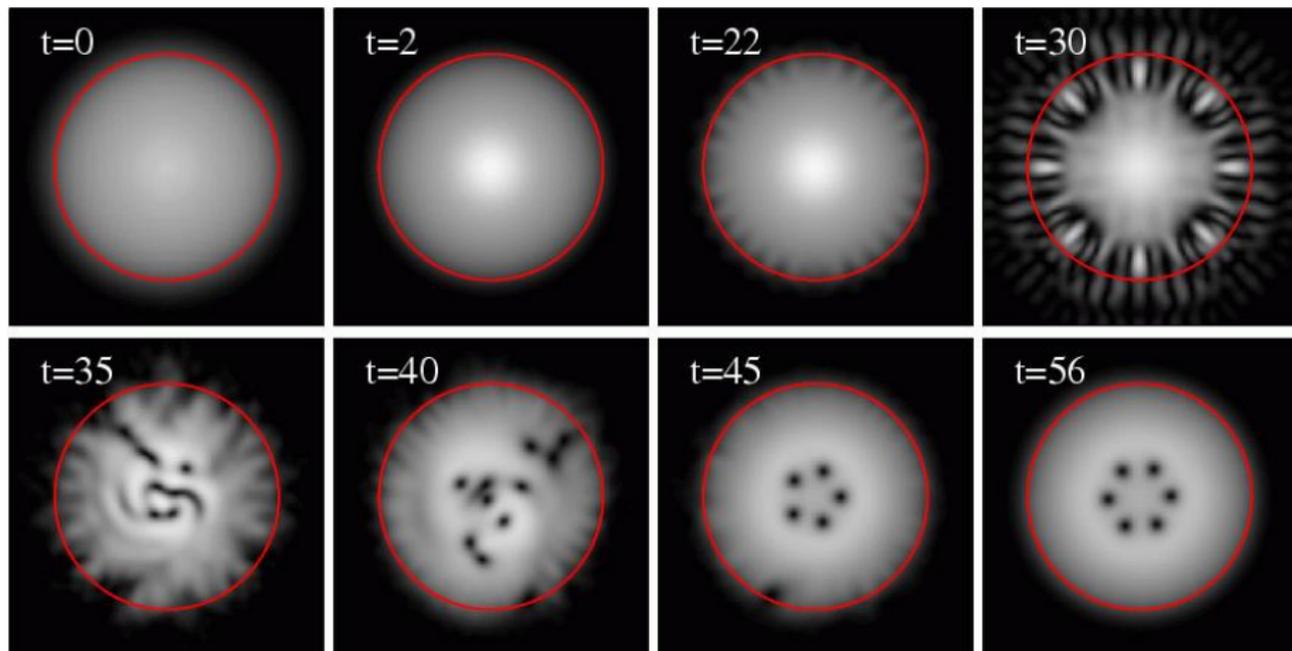
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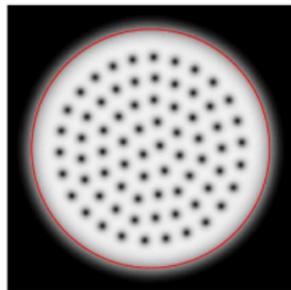
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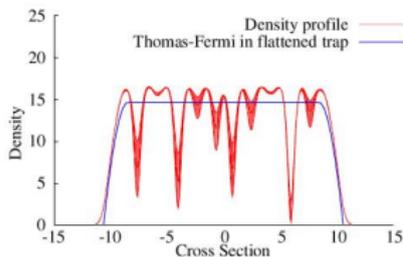
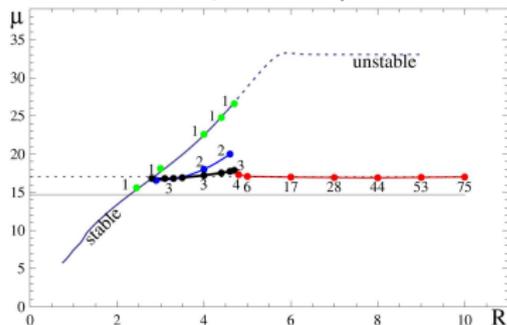
# Development of instability?







Stationary  $\mu \sim 3\alpha/2\sigma$ ; Vortex lattice  $\mu \sim \alpha/\sigma$



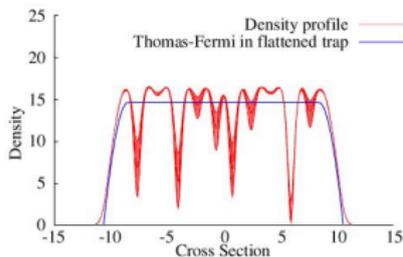
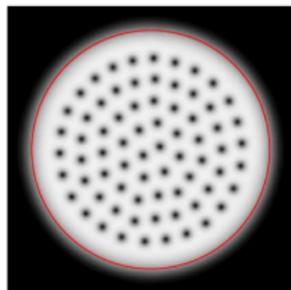
In rotating frame

$$\nabla \cdot [\rho(\nabla\phi - \Omega \times r)] = (\sigma - \rho)\rho$$

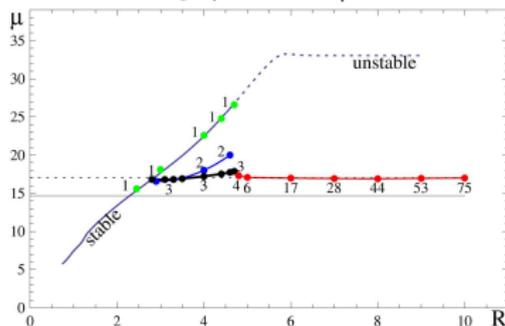
$$\mu = |\nabla\phi - \Omega \times r|^2 + r^2(1 - \Omega^2) + \rho$$

In TF regime away from boundaries solution is

$$\nabla\phi = \Omega \times r, \rho = \sigma/\sigma = \mu, \Omega^2 = 1.$$



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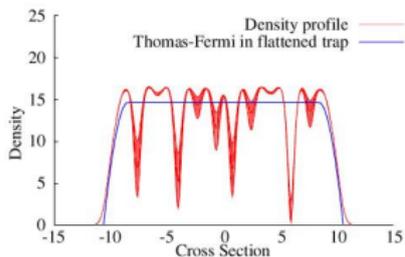
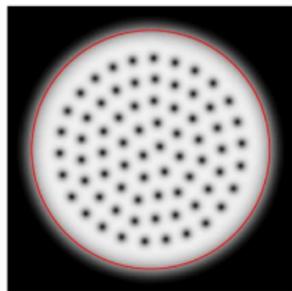


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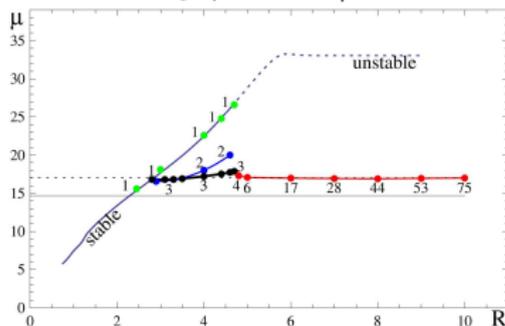
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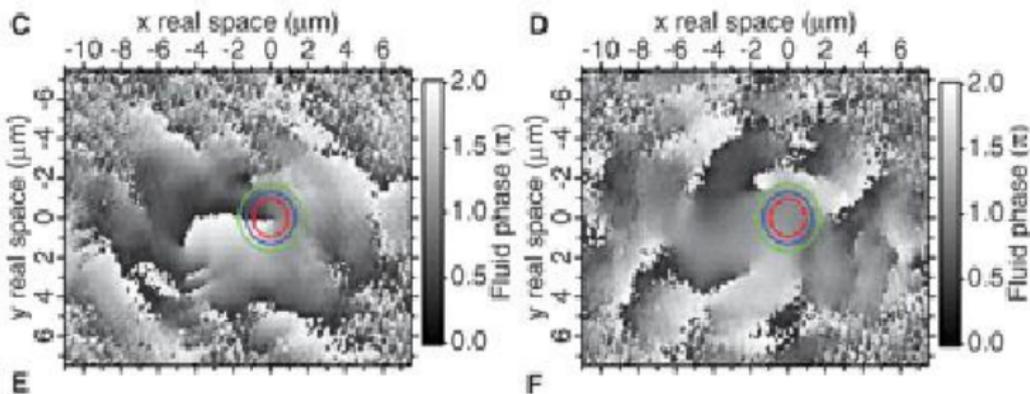
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Results so far do not involve polariton spin:

[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.

- 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  $\rightarrow U_0$ . 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:

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

Dimensionless cGPE:

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Questions:

- Normal modes of uniform model: diffusive, linear, gapped.
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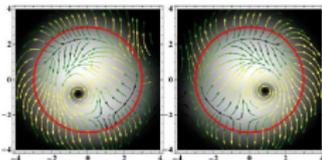
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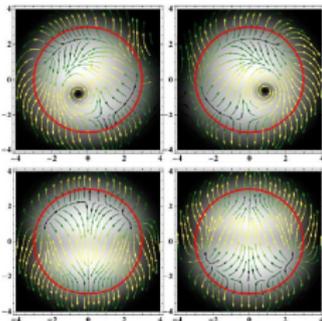
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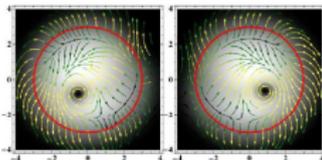
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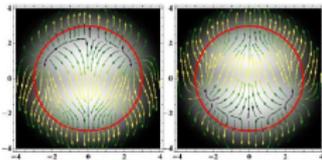
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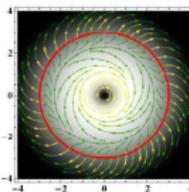
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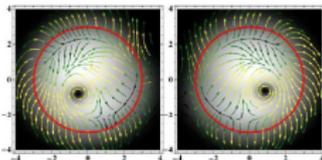
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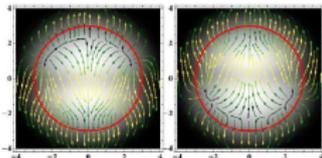
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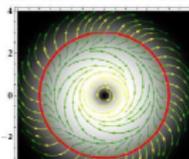
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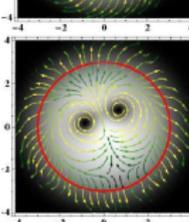
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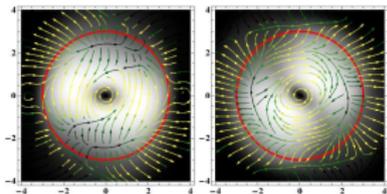
$J = 2$

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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

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

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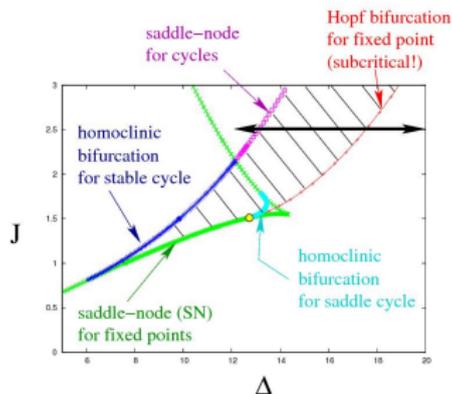
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$$\psi_{L,R} = \sqrt{\rho_{L,R}} e^{i(\phi \pm \theta/2)}, \quad R = \frac{\rho_L + \rho_R}{2}, \quad z = \frac{\rho_L - \rho_R}{2},$$

$$\dot{\theta} = -\Delta - 2u_a z + \frac{2Jz \cos(\theta)}{\sqrt{R^2 - z^2}}$$

$$\dot{z} = 2(\alpha - 2\sigma R)z - 2J\sqrt{R^2 - z^2} \sin(\theta)$$

$$\dot{R} = 2\sigma \left( \frac{\alpha}{\sigma} R - R^2 - z^2 \right).$$

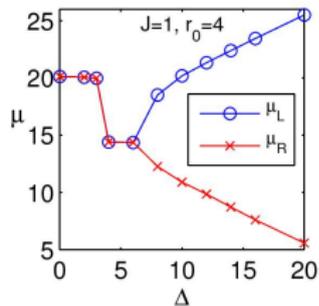
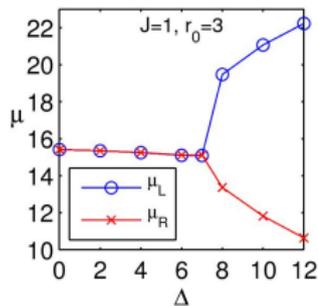


Yellow point – Takens–Bogdanov point

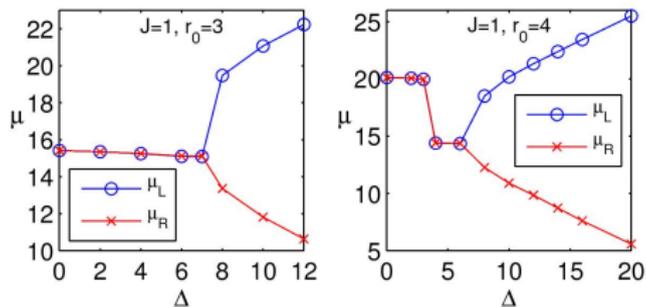
Hatched area – bistability between fixed point and limit cycle

[with Balanov and Janson]

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

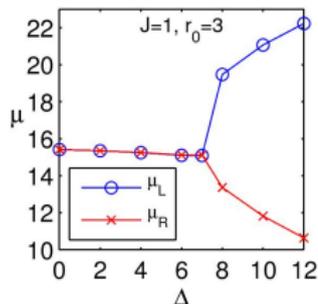


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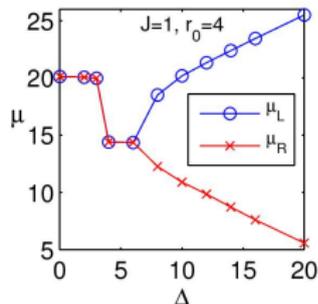


Simple case no vortices;  $r_0 < r_{TF}$ .

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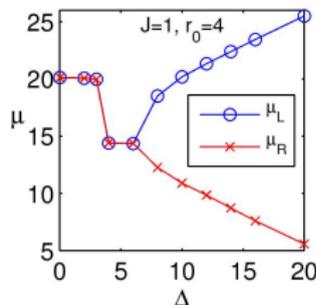
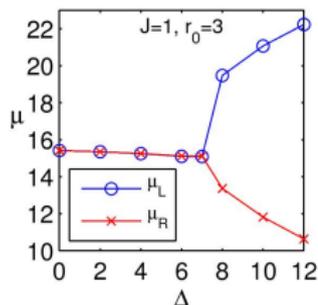
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Marginal case  $r_0 \sim r_{TF}$ .

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

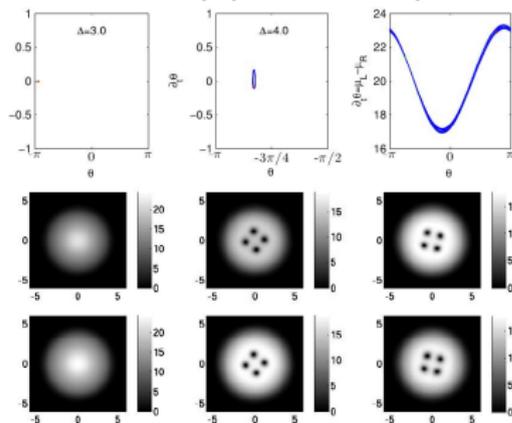
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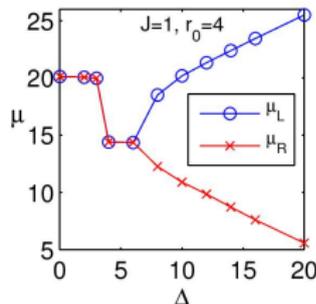
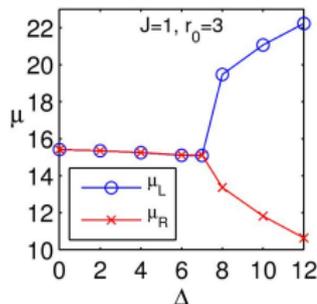
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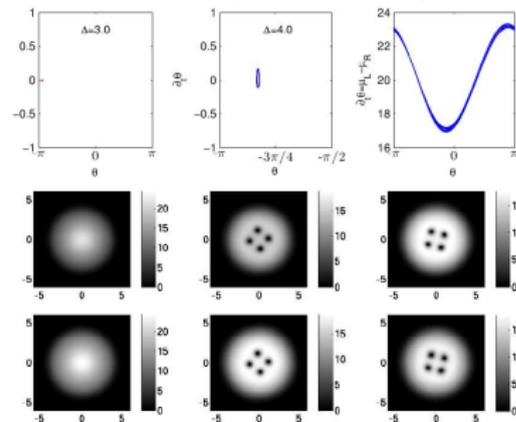
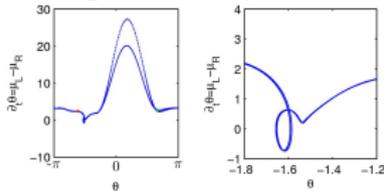


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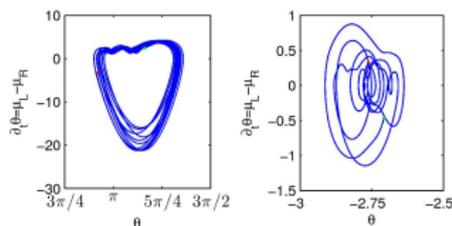
“Simple case” not so simple:  
retrograde loop



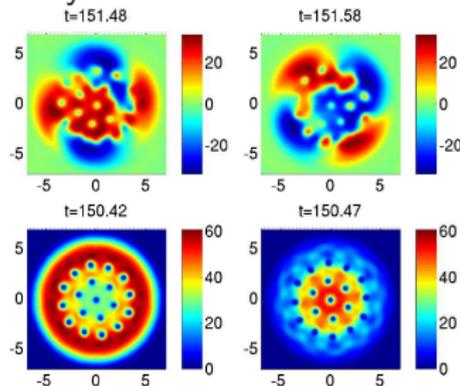
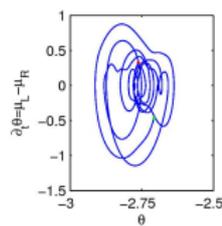
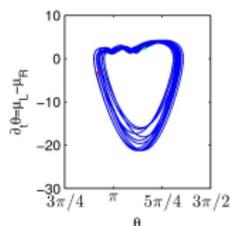
- Full model with a trap confirms the predictions of two-mode model, but has richer behaviour:

# Full two-component model

- 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

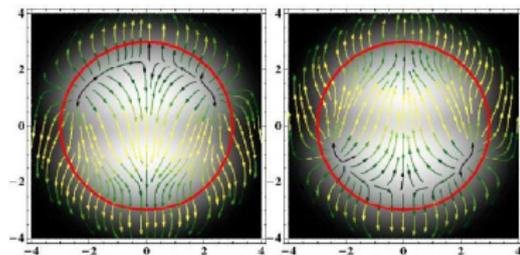


- Full model with a trap confirms the predictions of two-mode model, but has richer behaviour:
  - Phase portraits: fixed points, limit cycles with winding 0, 1, 2; retrograde loops, quasi-periodic and chaotic behaviours
  - Counter-rotating lattices; spatially non-uniform interconversions...



# Stationary solitary waves

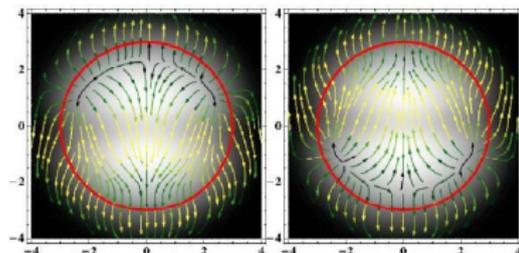
Stationary density depletion for intermediate  $J$  and small  $\Delta$



$$\Delta = 0$$

# Stationary solitary waves

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



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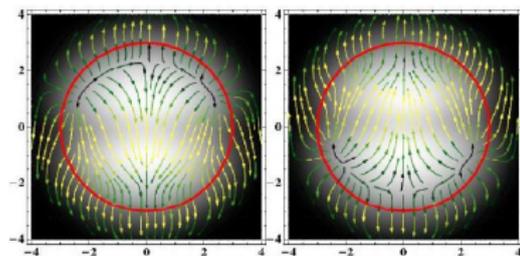
Density depletions appear in trapped and uniform equilibrium condensates:  
dark/black/grey solitons; rarefaction waves;

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

Are these relevant?

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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

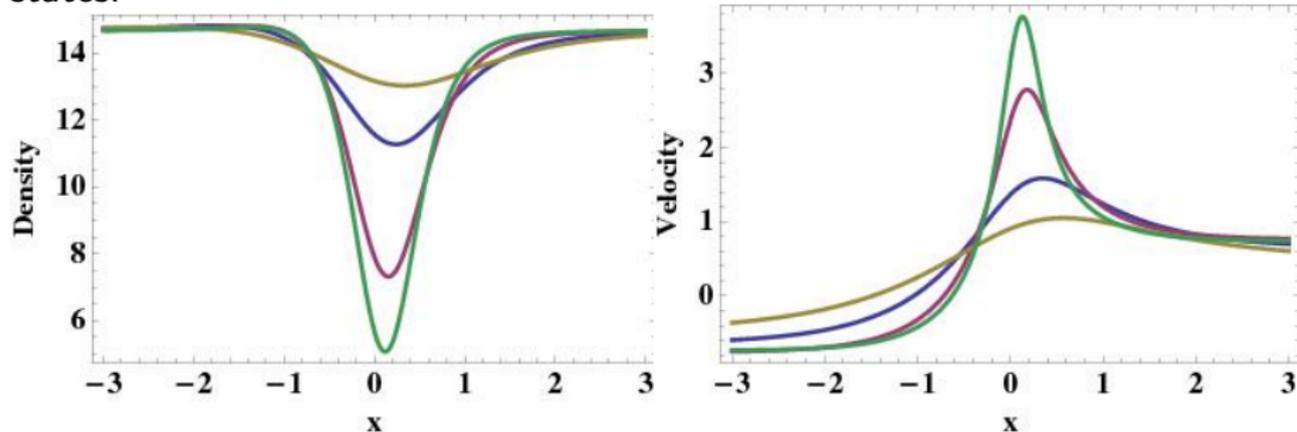
$$i\partial_t\psi = -\psi_{xx} + |\psi|^2\psi + i(\alpha - \sigma|\psi|^2)\psi + J\psi(-x).$$

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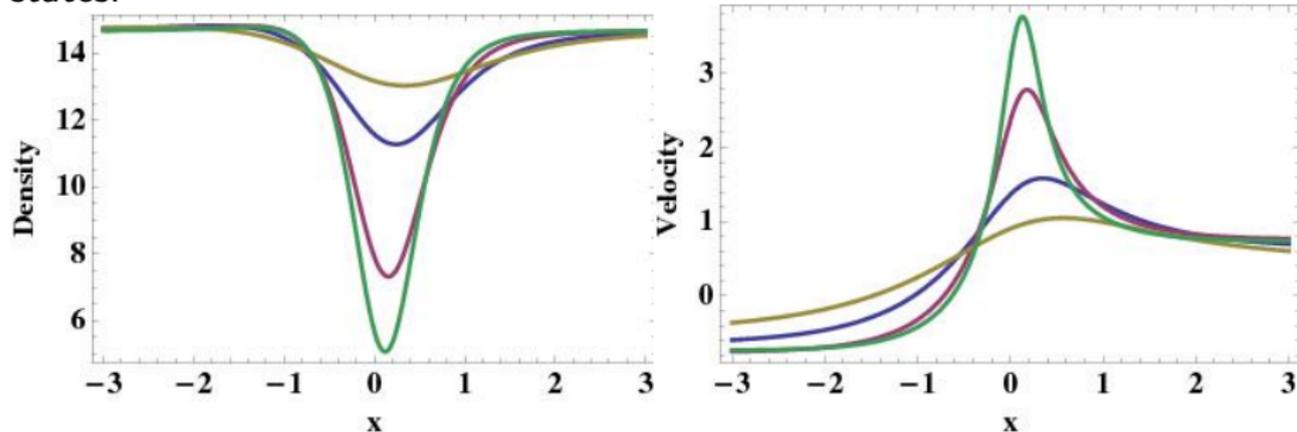


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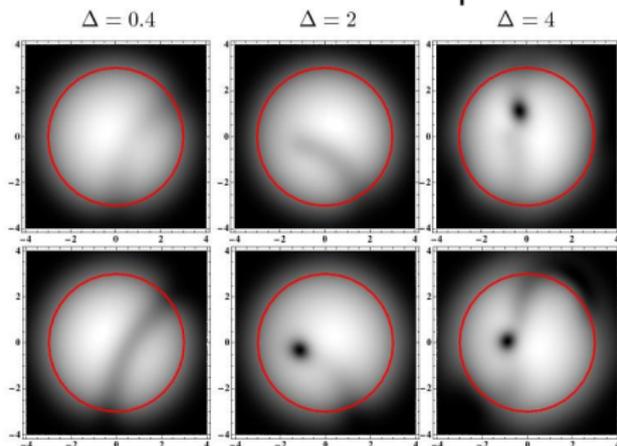
Stationary solutions exist for  $0 < J < J_{cr}$ . Black soliton evolves into these states.



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

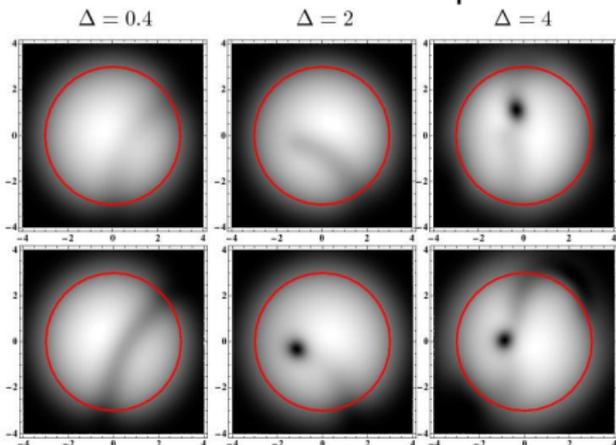
# Vortex trajectories

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



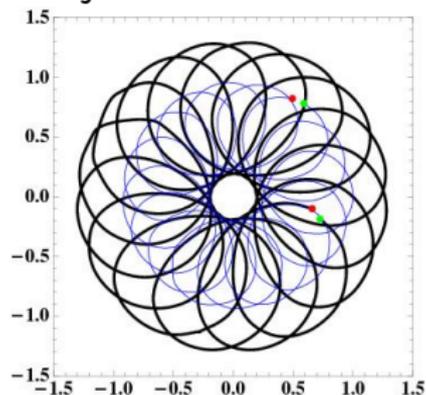
Similarly complicated cycloid trajectories of vortices are known for two-layer fluids with one vortex in each layer — e.g. in models of tropical vortices. Reaction-diffusion equations may lead to spiral wave dynamics.

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Trajectories for  $\Delta = 4$



Spirographs

(epitrochoids/hypotrochoid)

## Vortex trajectories explained (somewhat)

Taking into account forces: Magnus force, radial advection, vortex interactions can explain stationary vortex pairs.

Variational technique and ansatz  
 $\psi_L = A(t)(z - z_L(t)) \exp(-|z|^2)$ ,  
 $\psi_R = B(t)(z^* - z_R^*(t)) \exp(-|z|^2)$   
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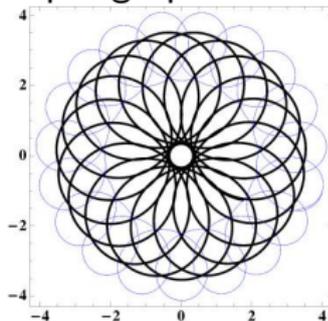
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yield equations of motion.

$$z_L(t) = x_L(t) + iy_L(t),$$

$$z_R(t) = x_R(t) + iy_R(t),$$

$$\dot{z}_L = a(\Delta - \delta)iz_L + 2Jbiz_R^*,$$

$$\dot{z}_R = a(\Delta + \delta)iz_R - 2Jbiz_L^*.$$

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;

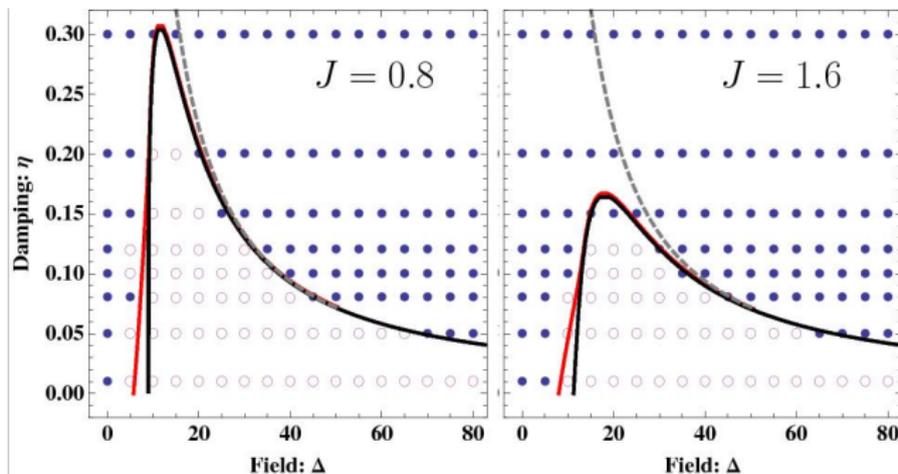
$\Delta$  – effect of the magnetic field (in Hamiltonian  $\sim \Delta(|\psi_r|^2 - |\psi_l|^2)$ );

$J$  – 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

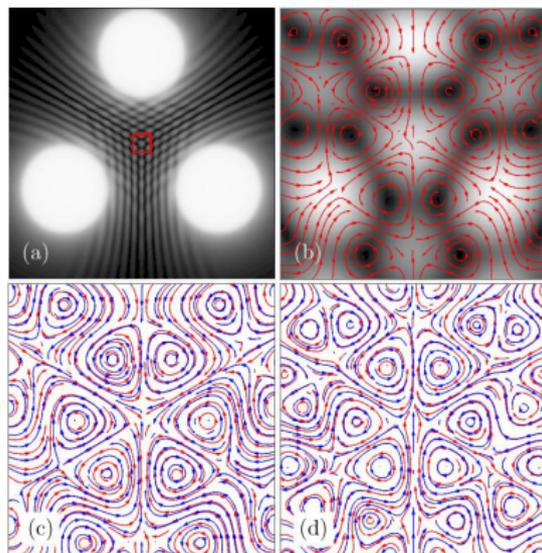
For nonzero  $\eta$  there is a second transition at  $\Delta_{c2}$  back to synchronized state,  $\Delta_{c2} \simeq (2\alpha/\eta)(\sigma - \tau + \eta u_a)/(\sigma + \tau + \eta(2 - u_a))$  (dashed line)



- –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.

# Pumping in three equidistant spots



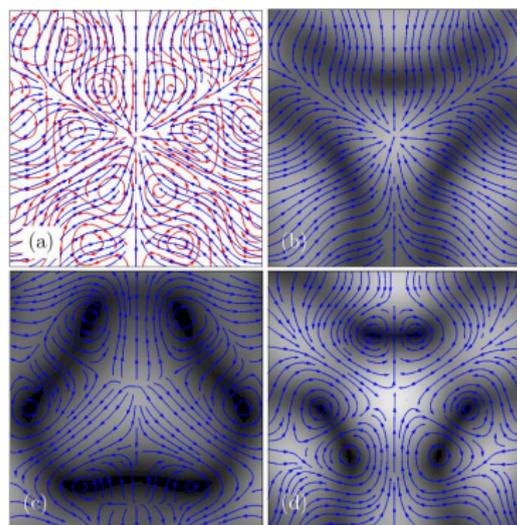
- (a)  $\Delta = 0$  showing geometry of pumping;
- (b) Desynchronized  $\Delta = 20$  steady majority density with streamlines;
- (c) Lower synchronized  $\Delta = 5$  steamlines of both polarizations;
- (d) Upper synchronized  $\Delta = 40$  steamlines of both polarizations.

# Half-vortices

"Half-vortices" have been seen in experiments:

[Lagoudakis et al Nature Phys. (2008)]

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

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

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

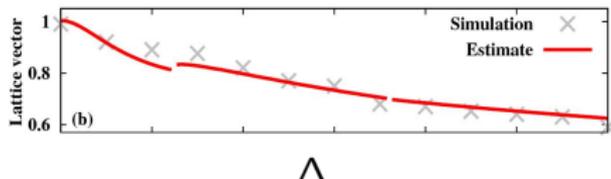
These are solved by  $\sin(\theta) = 0$  and  $\nabla(\rho_l/\rho_r) = 0$ ,

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

*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  $l = (2\pi/|\vec{u}|) \times 2/3\sqrt{3}$ .



# Motivation

**Classical turbulence** – cascading vorticity;

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

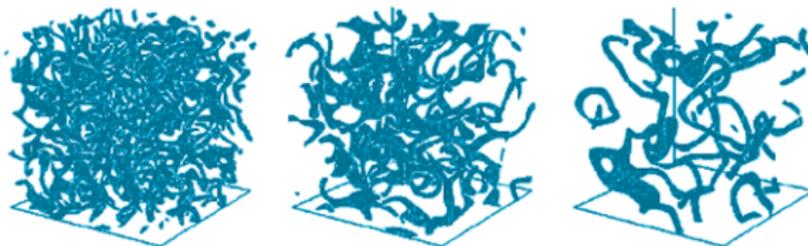
**Strong turbulence** – unstructured vortices (distance between vortices of the order of their core);

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

Stages in condensate formation from a nonequilibrium state:

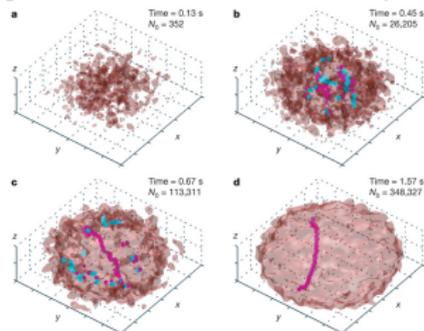
[Berloff & Svistunov Phys Rev A (2002)]

**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.

Modelling Exciton-polariton condensates:  
the **complex Ginzburg-Landau equation**

$$2i\partial_t\psi = [-\nabla^2 + v(\mathbf{r}) + |\psi|^2 + i(\alpha(\mathbf{r}) - i2\eta\partial_t\psi - \sigma|\psi|^2)] \psi,$$

$v(\mathbf{r})$  – external disorder potential (ex.  $v(r) = m\omega^2 r^2/2$ );  
 $\alpha$  – an effective gain (intensity of the pumping field);  
 $\sigma$  – nonlinear losses.

Energy and length rescaled using harmonic oscillator energy and length.  
From experiments,  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 10, \sigma \sim 0.3$ .

$\eta$  – energy relaxation [[Wouters and Savona arXiv:1007.5431 \(2010\)](#)] –  
interactions with normal fluid [[Pitaevskii, JETP \(1959\)](#)].

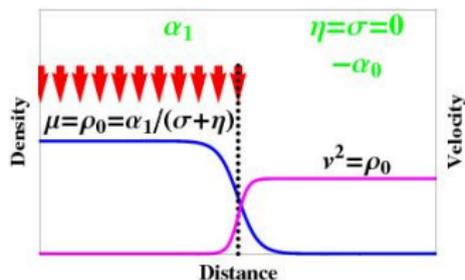
# Vortex formation

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.

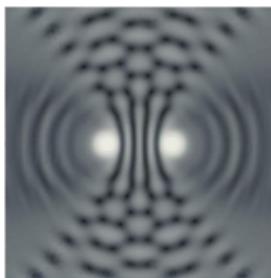
## Vortex formation due to interference of supercurrents



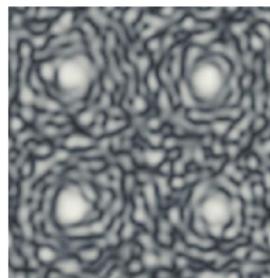
Analytical solution for the velocity  $r(u)$  on  $\infty < r < \infty$ .

# Interference of currents

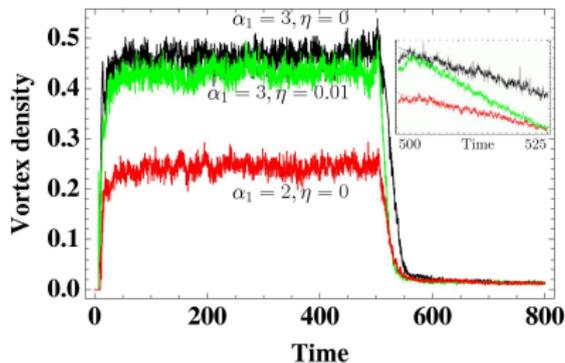
Regular emission of vortices



Many irregular spots: turbulence



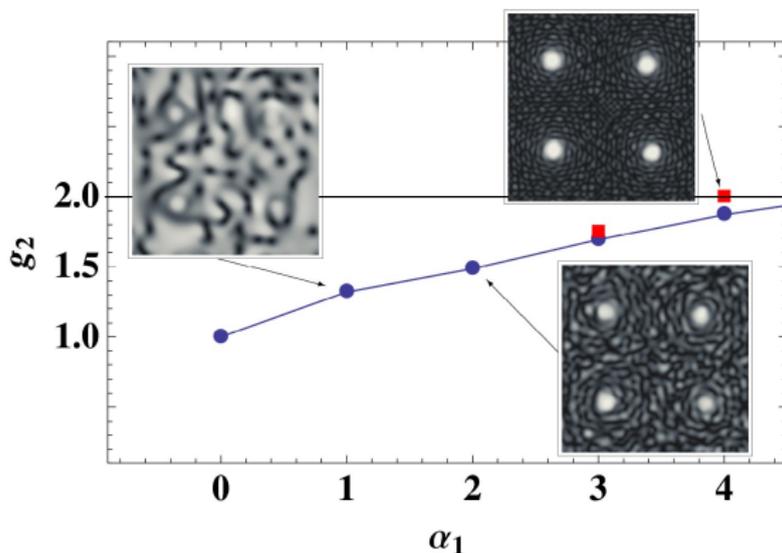
Two regimes: forced turbulence and turbulence decay.



# 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.

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

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

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

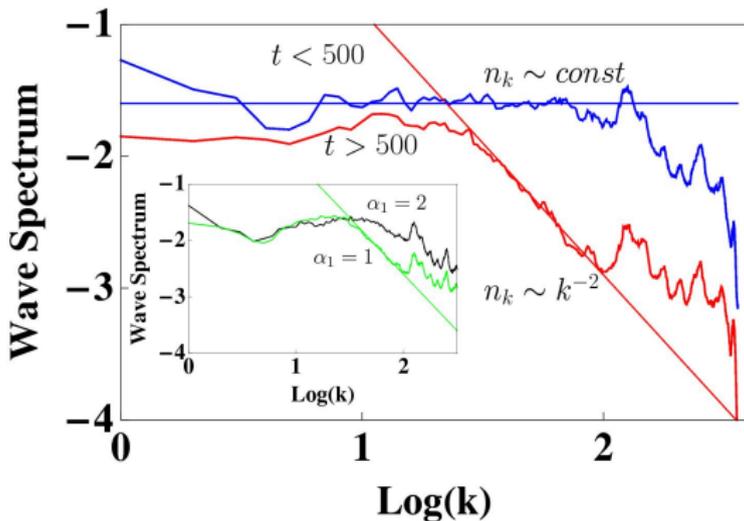
Two solutions:

(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

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



- 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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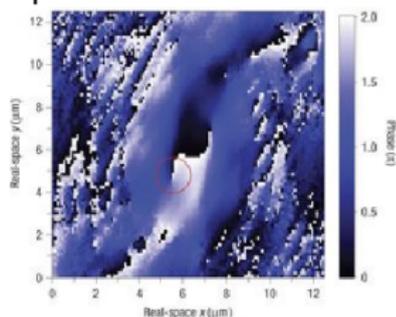
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# Conclusions-1

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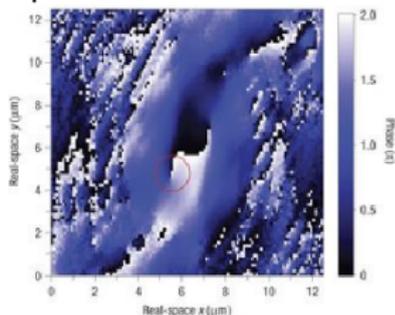
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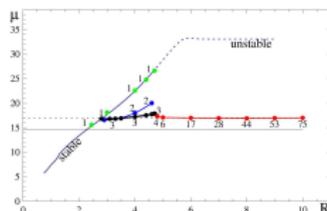
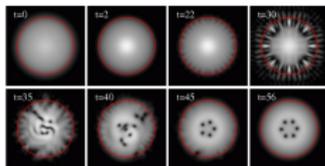
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- Spiral vortex states



- Vortex lattices

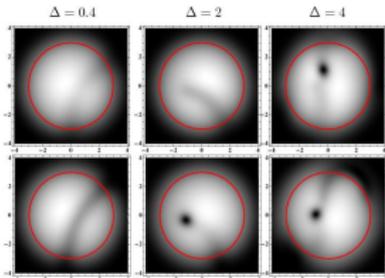


- Non-equilibrium spinor system

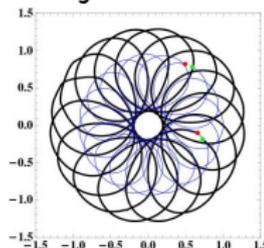
$$i\partial_t\psi_L = \left[ -\nabla^2 + V(r) + \frac{\Delta}{2} + |\psi_L|^2 + (1 - u_a)|\psi_R|^2 + i(\alpha\Theta(r_0 - r) - \sigma|\psi_L|^2) \right] \psi_L + J\psi_R$$

- 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?...