

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_{ext} is an external trapping potential, $= \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 r^2$, γ_{net} – net gain, Γ – 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

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

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

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

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

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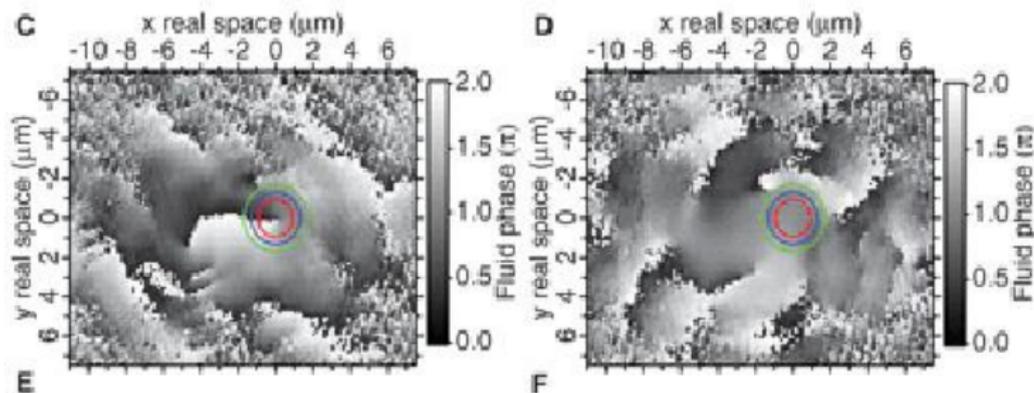
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[Lagoudakis et al, Science, November 2009]:

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 ψ_L and ψ_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: Ω_B
- J_2 Circular symmetry broken – two equivalent axes.
- J_1 preferred direction – inequivalent axes.

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- Tendency to biexciton formation $\rightarrow U_1$. Magnetic field: Ω_B
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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 ψ_R with $\psi_L \leftrightarrow \psi_R$ and $\Omega_B \rightarrow -\Omega_B$.

Dimensionless cGPE:

$$i\partial_t\psi_L = \left[-\nabla^2 + v(r) + |\psi_L|^2 + (1-u_1)|\psi_R|^2 + \frac{\Delta}{2} + i(\alpha - \sigma|\psi_L|^2) \right] \psi_L + J\psi_R$$

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 Δ and J on vortices?
- How does interconversion J interact with currents?
- Synchronization/desynchronization.

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

$J \neq 0, \Delta = 0$: Solutions $(+1, +1)$ are stable,
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Outcome of instability $\Delta = 0$

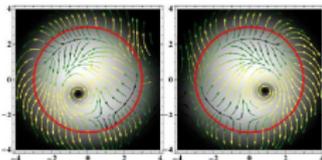
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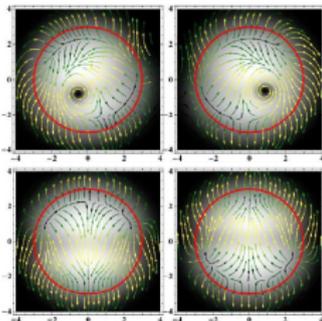
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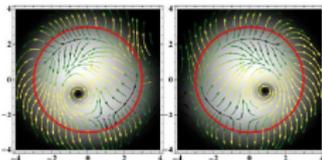
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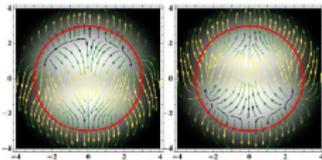
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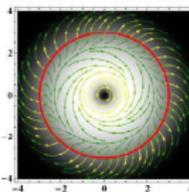
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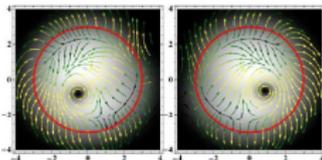
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Stability of cross-polarized vortices

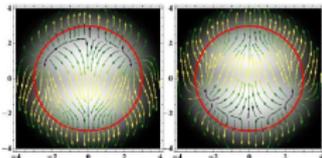
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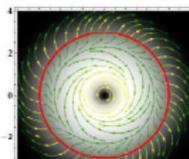
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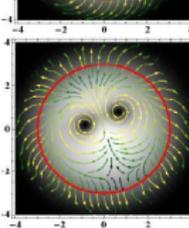
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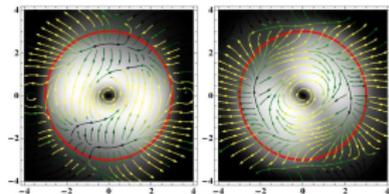
$J = 2$

Stability of cross-polarized vortices

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$J \neq 0, \Delta \neq 0$: For a given J , any sufficiently large Δ 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

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

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

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

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Josephson regime $J \ll u_a R$ &
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Equation for a driven, damped
pendulum

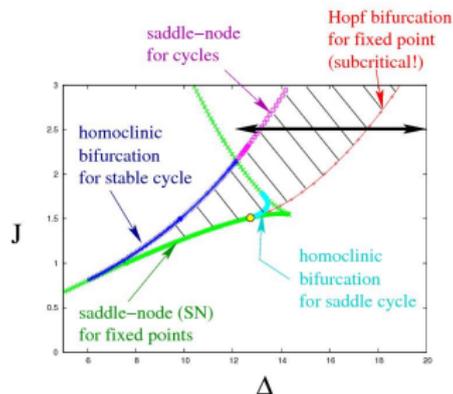
$$\ddot{\theta} + 2\alpha\dot{\theta} = -2\alpha\Delta + 4u_a J \frac{\alpha}{\sigma} \sin(\theta).$$

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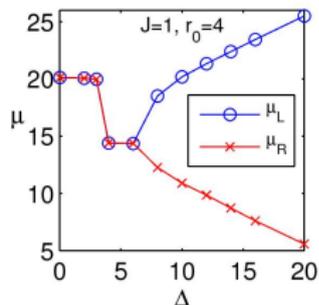
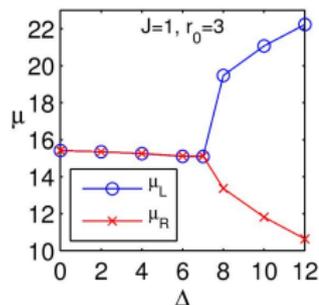


Yellow point – Takens–Bogdanov point

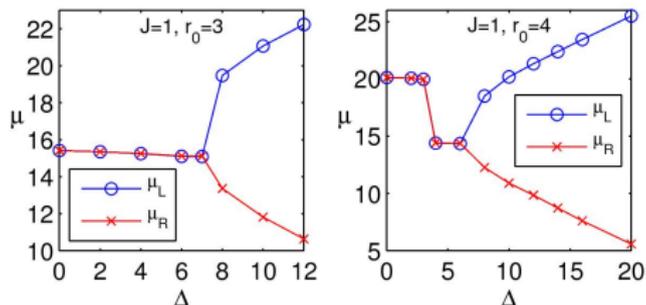
Hatched area – bistability between fixed point and limit cycle

[with Balanov and Janson]

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

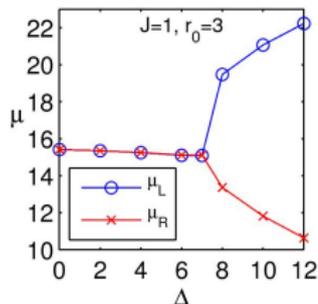


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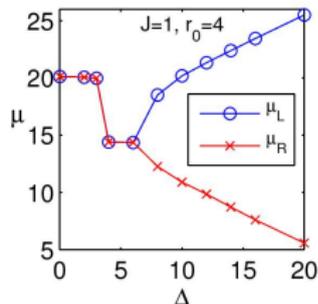


Simple case no vortices; $r_0 < r_{TF}$.

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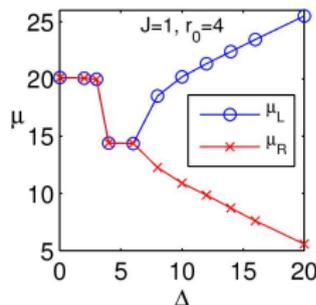
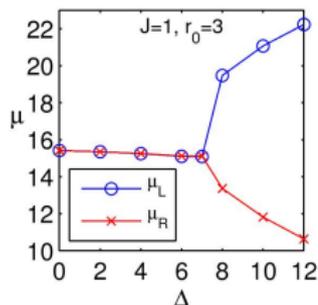


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Marginal case $r_0 \sim r_{TF}$.
 Δ causes $R(L)$ to grow (shrink).

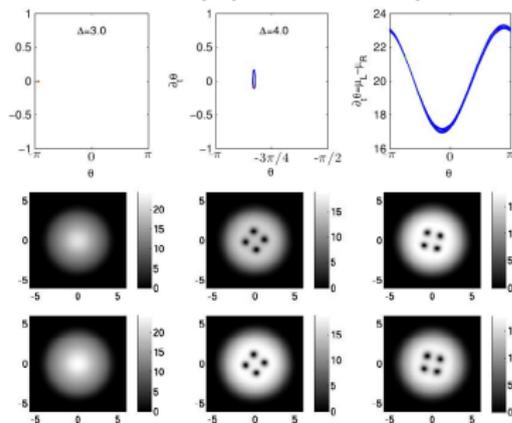
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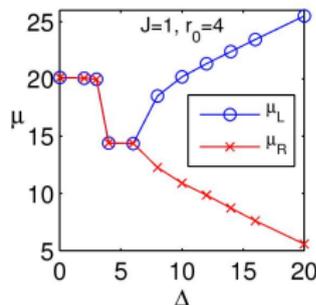
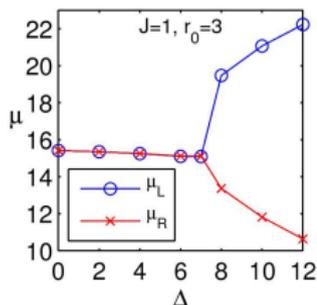
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Trapped spinor system: $\mu_{L,R} = i\partial_t \langle \ln \psi_{L,R} \rangle$ vs Δ .

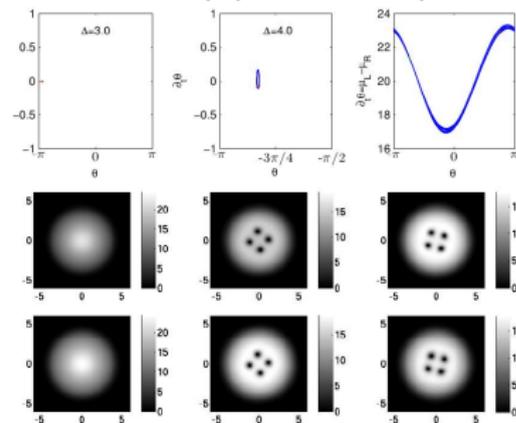
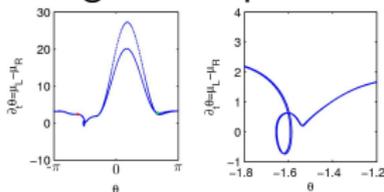


Simple case no vortices; $r_0 < r_{TF}$.

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

Δ causes $R(L)$ to grow (shrink).

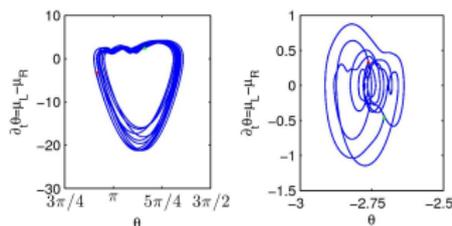
“Simple case” not so simple:
retrograde loop



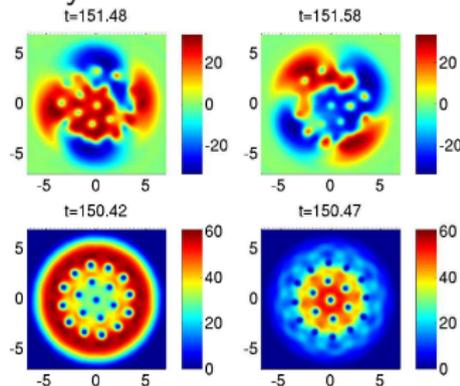
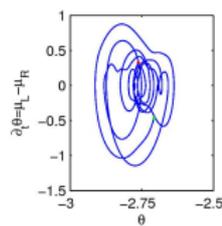
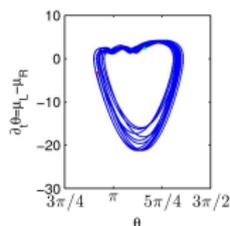
- Full model with a trap confirms the predictions of two-mode model, but has richer behaviour:

Full two-component model

- 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

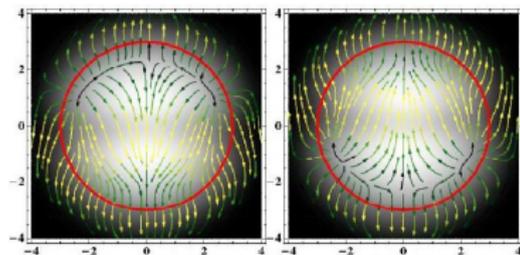


- Full model with a trap confirms the predictions of two-mode model, but has richer behaviour:
 - Phase portraits: fixed points, limit cycles with winding 0, 1, 2; retrograde loops, quasi-periodic and chaotic behaviours
 - Counter-rotating lattices; spatially non-uniform interconversions...



Stationary solitary waves

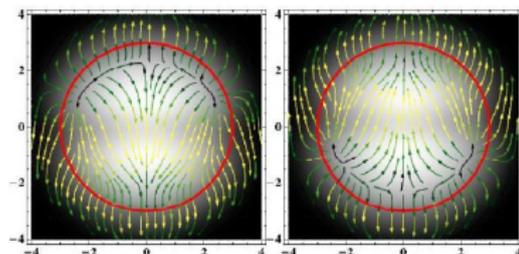
Stationary density depletion for intermediate J and small Δ



$$\Delta = 0$$

Stationary solitary waves

Stationary density depletion for intermediate J and small Δ



$$\Delta = 0$$

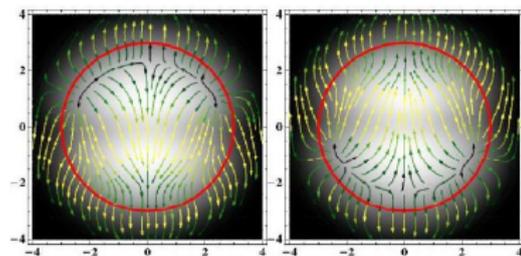
Density depletions appear in trapped and uniform equilibrium condensates:
dark/black/grey solitons; rarefaction waves;

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

Are these relevant?

Stationary solitary waves

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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

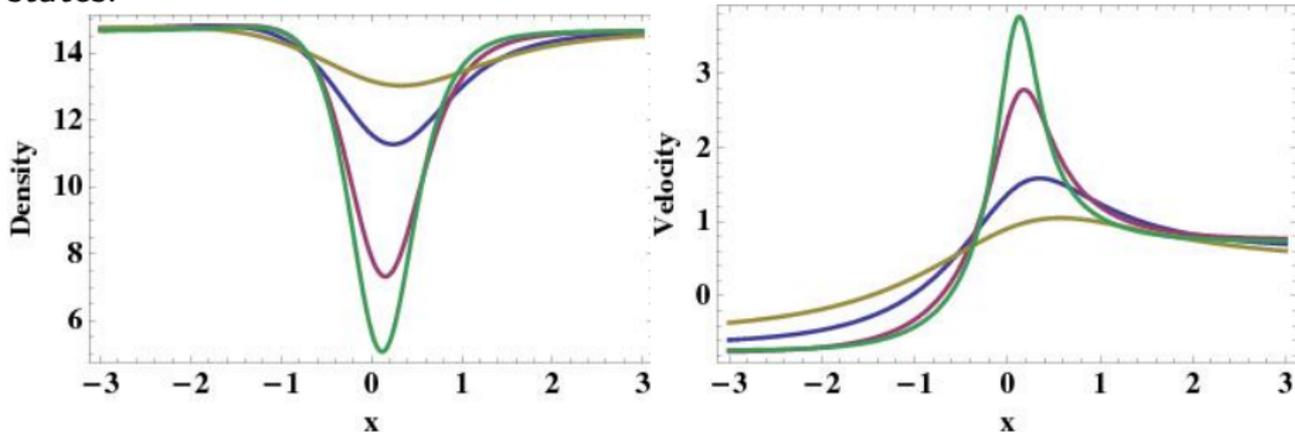
$$i\partial_t\psi = -\psi_{xx} + |\psi|^2\psi + i(\alpha - \sigma|\psi|^2)\psi + J\psi(-x).$$

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

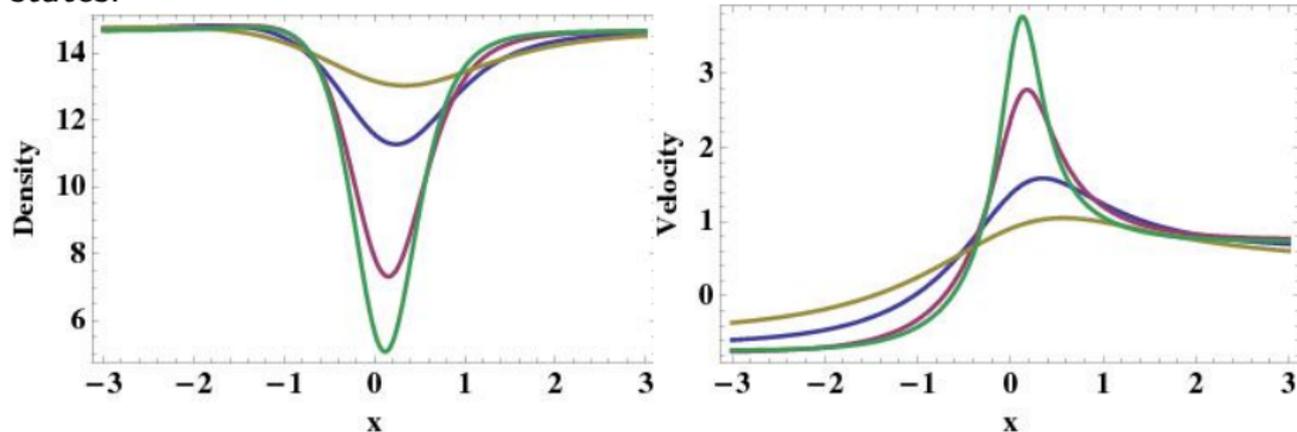


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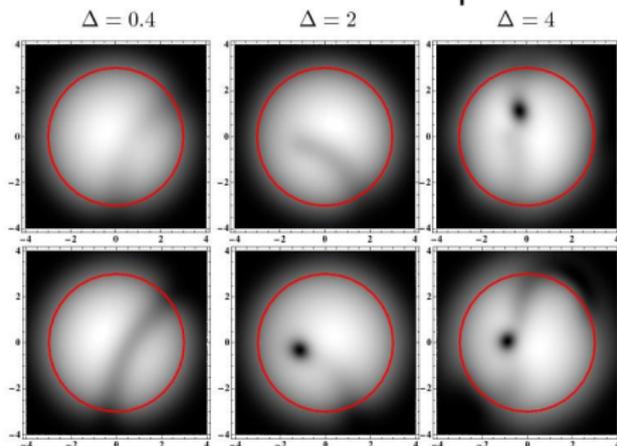
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Note: For Nozaki–Bekki holes $J = 0$ but one needs diffusion $i\psi_{xx}$ (spectral filtering to stabilize the central frequency of the pulse)

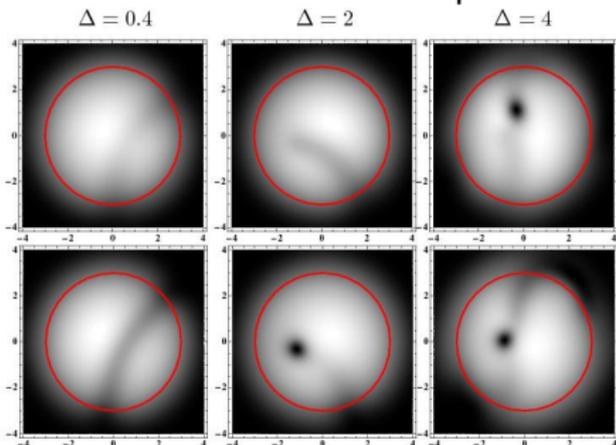
Vortex trajectories

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



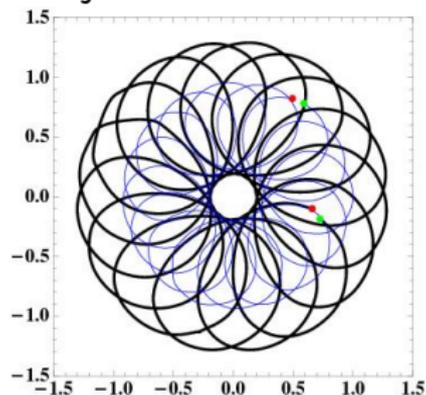
Similarly complicated cycloid trajectories of vortices are known for two-layer fluids with one vortex in each layer — e.g. in models of tropical vortices. Reaction-diffusion equations may lead to spiral wave dynamics.

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



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Trajectories for $\Delta = 4$



Spirographs

(epitrochoids/hypotrochoid)

[J.Keeling and NB, arXiv:1102.5302]

Vortex patterns generated by superposition of fluxes.

Spinor complex Ginzburg-Landau equation:

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

η – energy relaxation [Wouters and Savona arXiv:1007.5431 (2010)];

τ – cross-spin nonlinear dissipation;

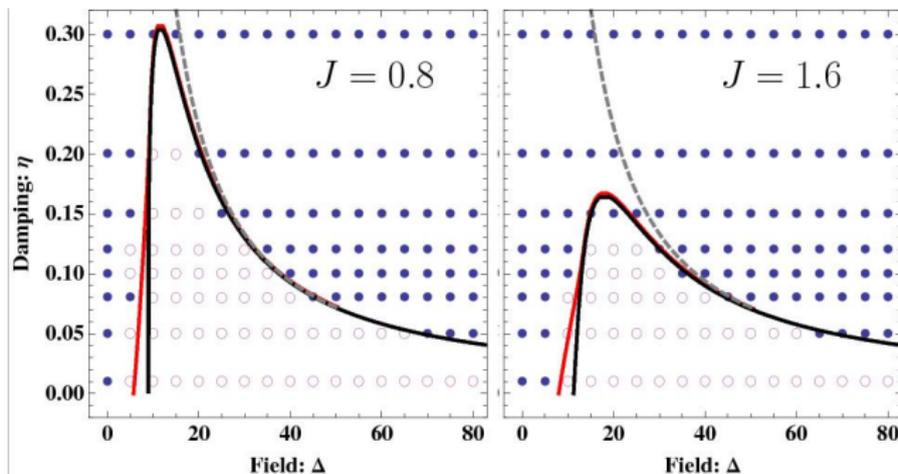
Δ – effect of the magnetic field (in Hamiltonian $\sim \Delta(|\psi_r|^2 - |\psi_l|^2)$);

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

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

Synchronized/desynchronized regimes

For nonzero η there is a second transition at Δ_{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.

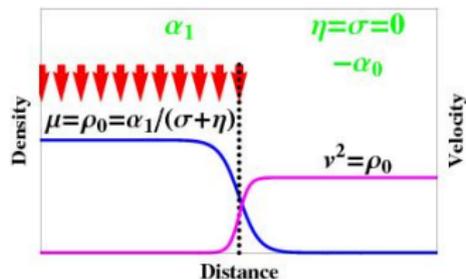
Vortex formation

Vortex formation in equilibrium condensates:

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

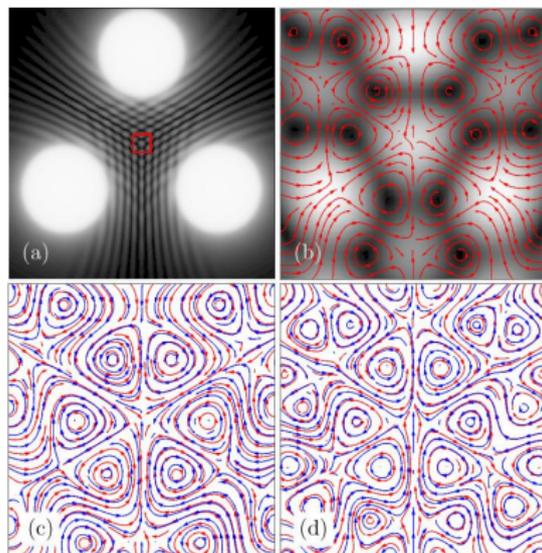
In addition in nonequilibrium condensates – pattern forming, interaction of fluxes with a disorder etc.

Vortex formation due to interference of supercurrents



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

Pumping in three equidistant spots



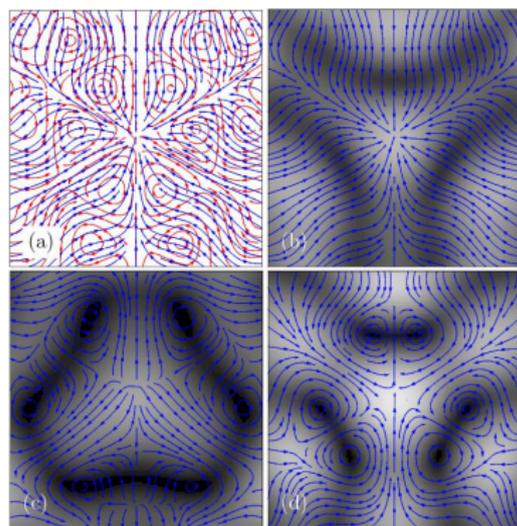
- (a) $\Delta = 0$ showing geometry of pumping;
(b) Desynchronized $\Delta = 20$ steady majority density with streamlines;
(c) Lower synchronized $\Delta = 5$ steamlines of both polarizations;
(d) Upper synchronized $\Delta = 40$ steamlines of both polarizations.

Half-vortices

"Half-vortices" have been seen in experiments:

[Lagoudakis et al Nature Phys. (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

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

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

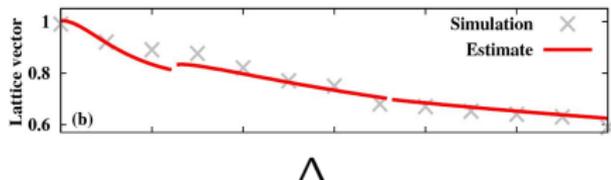
These are solved by $\sin(\theta) = 0$ and $\nabla(\rho_l/\rho_r) = 0$,

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

Desynchronized regime: θ and ρ_l/ρ_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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Motivation

Classical turbulence – cascading vorticity;

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

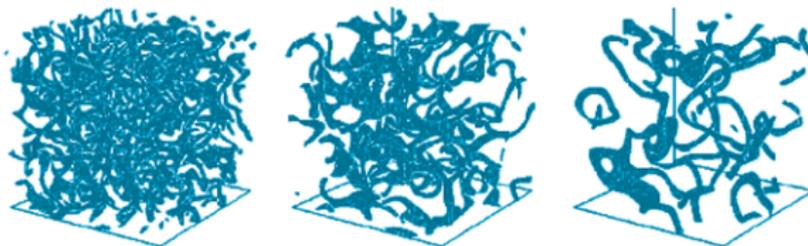
Strong turbulence – unstructured vortices (distance between vortices of the order of their core);

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

Stages in condensate formation from a nonequilibrium state:

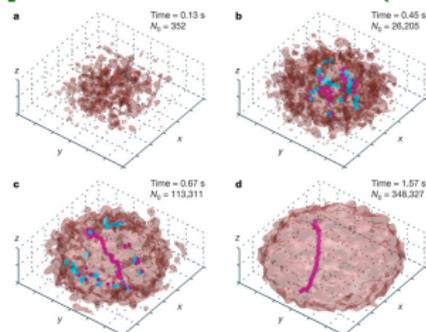
[Berloff & Svistunov Phys Rev A (2002)]

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



Vortex formed during nonequilibrium kinetics of BEC

[Weiler et al. Nature (2008)]

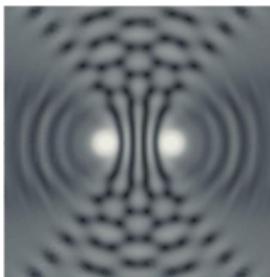


Reverse the process going from condensate to weak turbulent state?

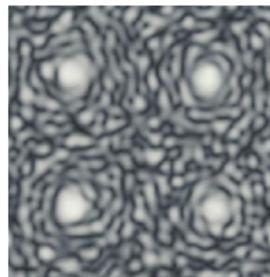
[Henn et al PRL (2009)]: applied an external oscillatory perturbation to produce vortices.

Interference of currents

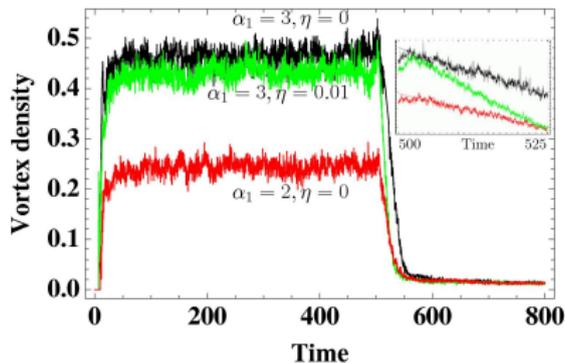
Regular emission of vortices



Many irregular spots: turbulence



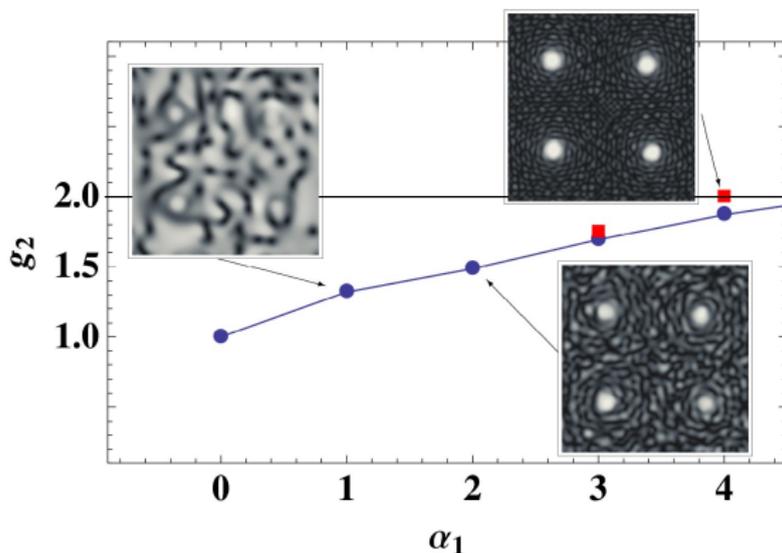
Two regimes: forced turbulence and turbulence decay.



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 η 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 ψ 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

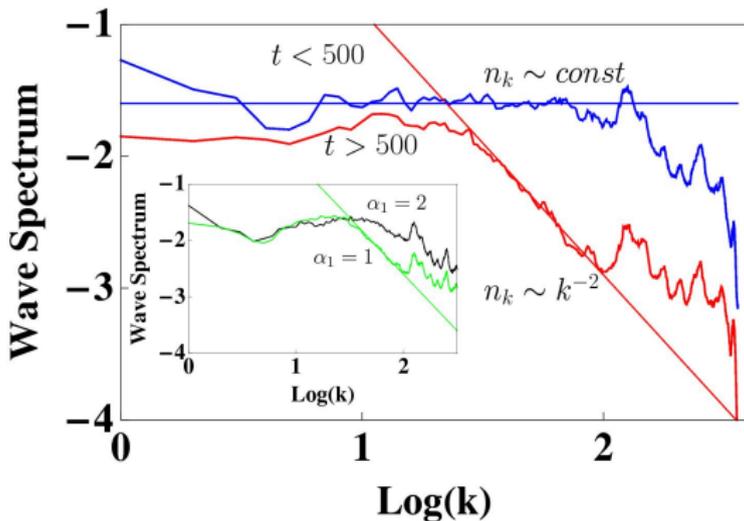
Two solutions:

(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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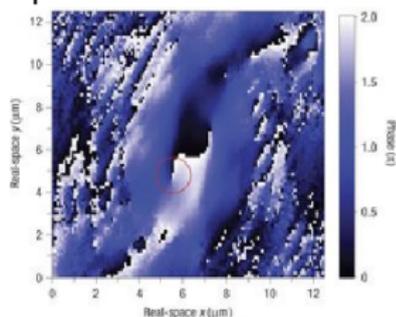
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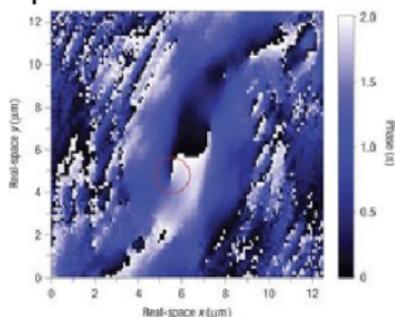
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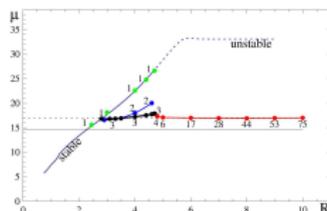
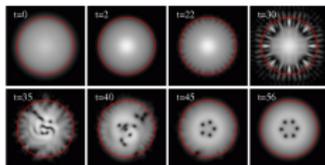
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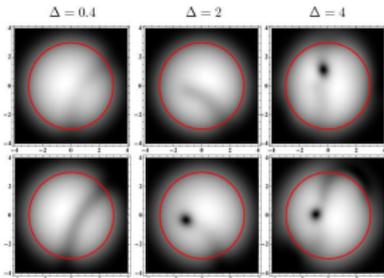


- Non-equilibrium spinor system

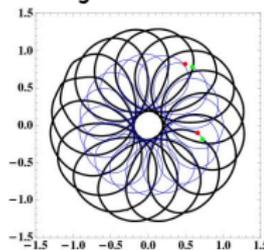
$$i\partial_t\psi_L = \left[-\nabla^2 + V(r) + \frac{\Delta}{2} + |\psi_L|^2 + (1 - u_a)|\psi_R|^2 + i(\alpha\Theta(r_0 - r) - \sigma|\psi_L|^2) \right] \psi_L + J\psi_R$$

- Effect of Δ 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 σ, τ and η .
 - 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?...