

# Generation & dynamics of solitonic defects: Kibble-Zurek in reduced dimensionality

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616th WE-Heraeus Seminar, 12 May  
2016

Bad Honnef - Germany



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI  
DI TRENTO

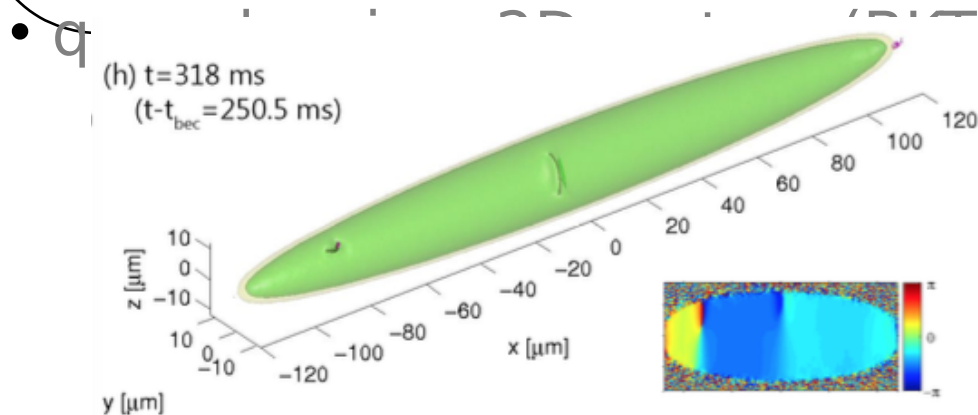
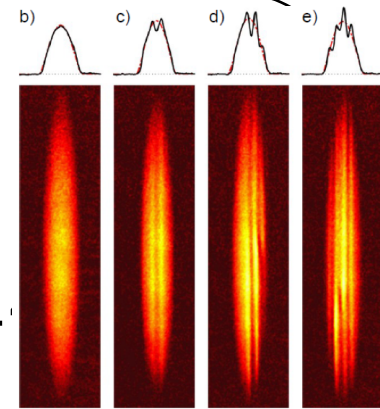


National Changhua  
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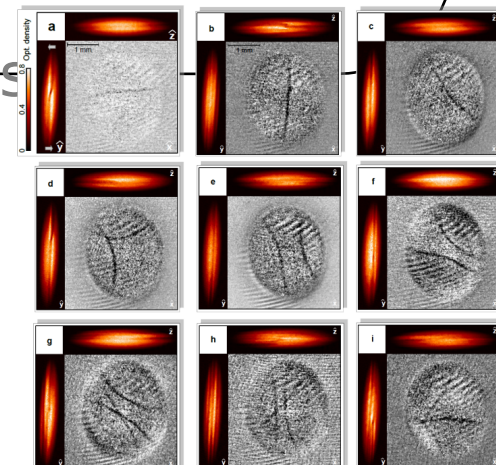




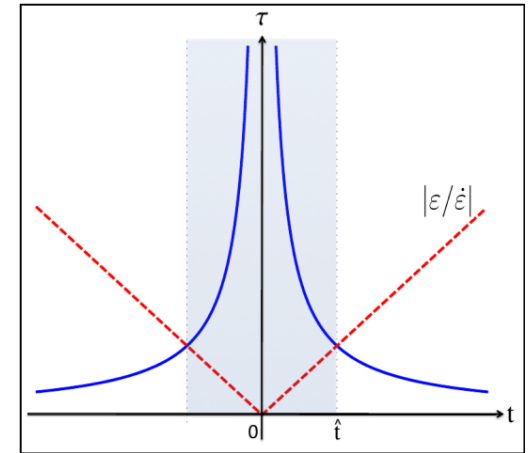
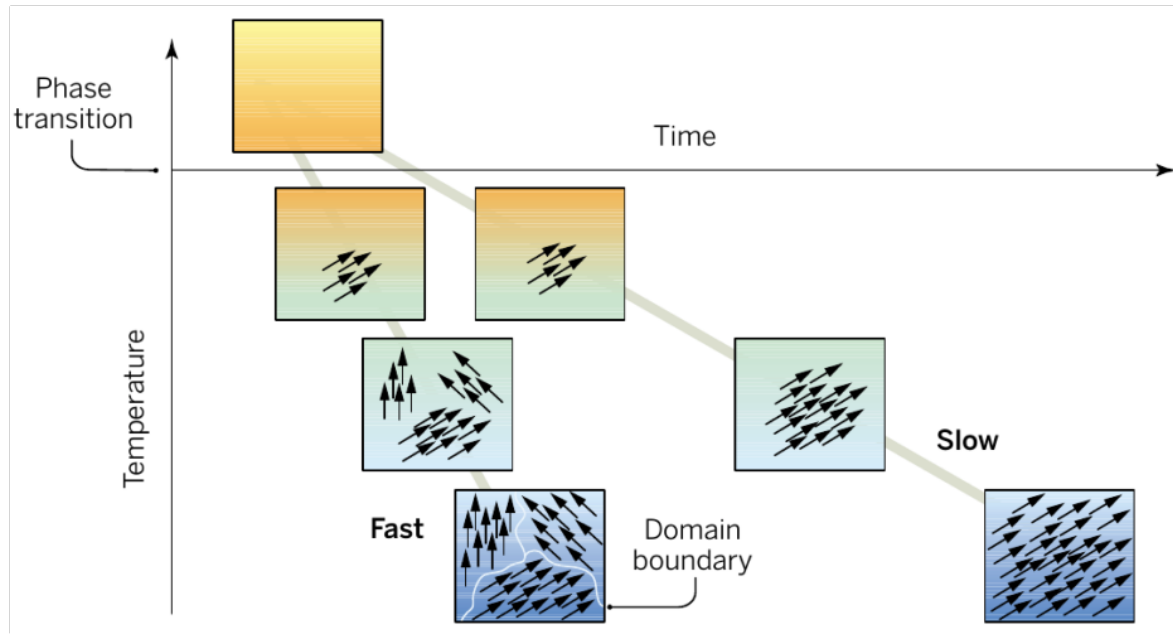
- Kibble-Zurek Mechanism;
- a relevant experiment (Nat. Phys. 9, 2013);
- solitons vs “solitonic” vortices (PRL 113, 2015);
- stochastic defect generation;
- solitonic vortex dynamics and interactions (PRL 115, 2015);



corrections



# BE Kibble-Zurek Mechanism



$$\epsilon(t) = \frac{T - T_C}{T_C}$$

The system evolution slows down at the phase transition. Fast enough quenches could result in defect creation

$$\text{Defect number } N_S \propto \tau_q^{-\alpha}$$

$\nu, z$  equilibrium critical exponents

exponents

$$\xi(t) = \frac{\xi_0}{|\epsilon(t)|^\nu}$$

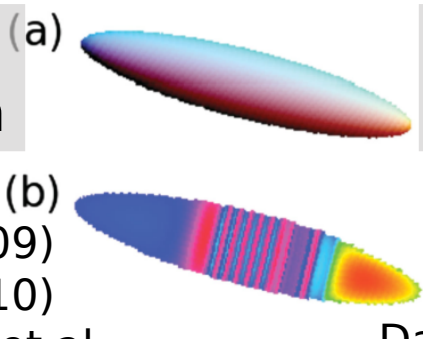
$$\tau(t) = \frac{\tau_0}{|\epsilon(t)|^{z\nu}}$$

# BEC Kibble-Zurek in cold atoms



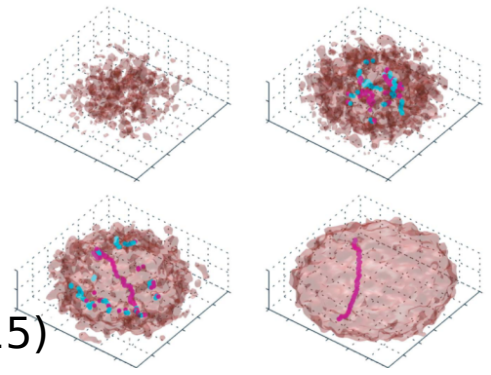
1D:  
Soliton Formation

Zurek et al.  
PRL 102, 105702 (2009)  
PRL 104, 160404 (2010)  
Gels / Schmiedmayer et al.

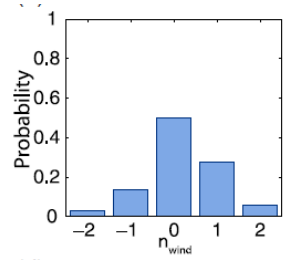
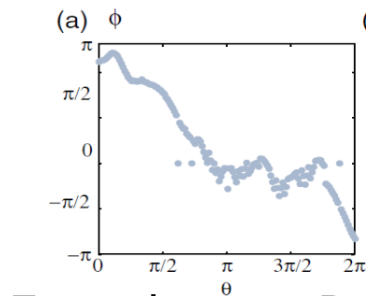


Quasi-2D / 3D:  
Vortex Formation

Weiler-Davis et al.  
Nature 455, 948 (2008)  
Dalibard Nat. Comm. (2015)



Ring Trap:  
Persistent Current

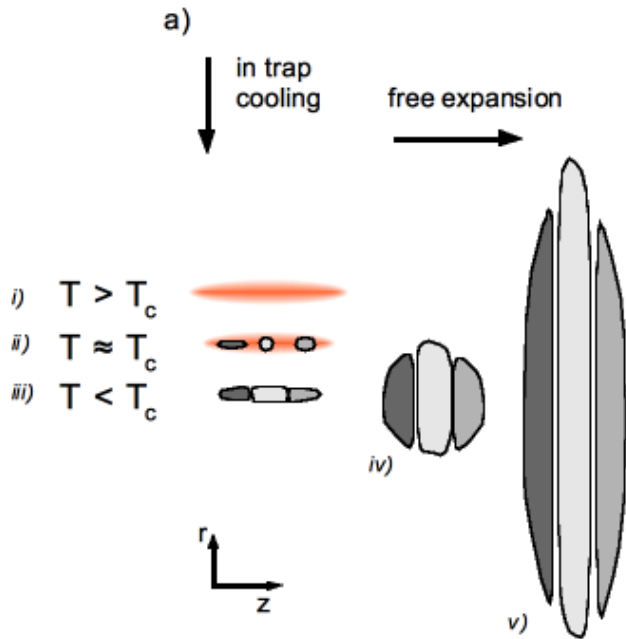
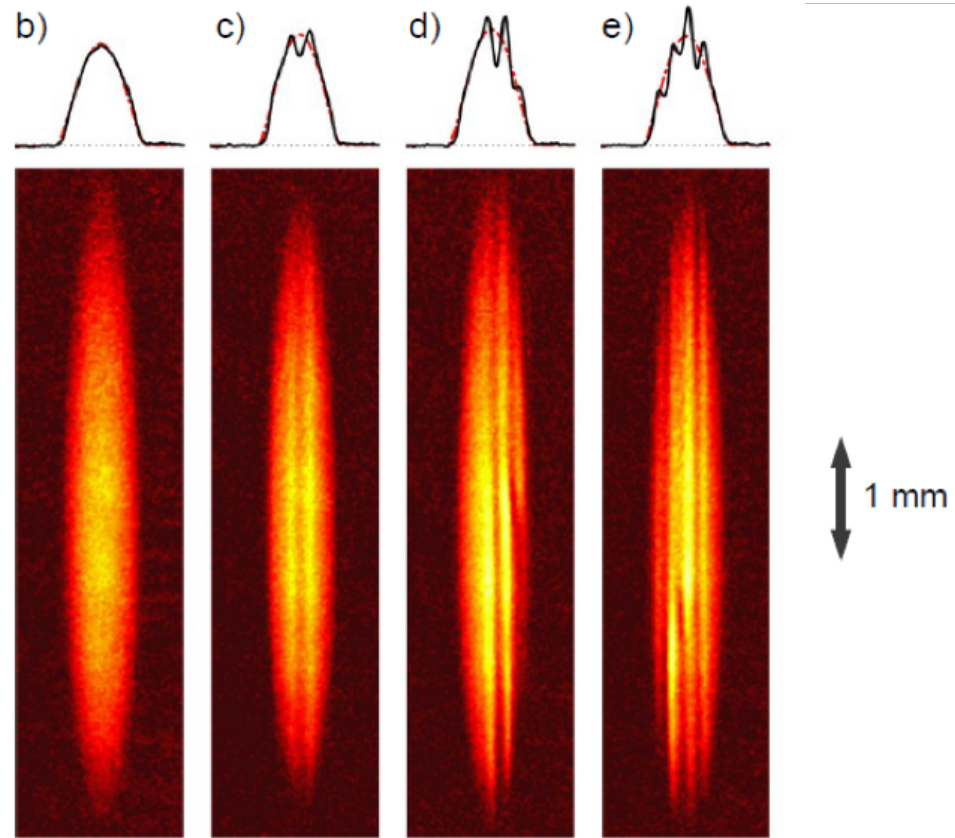
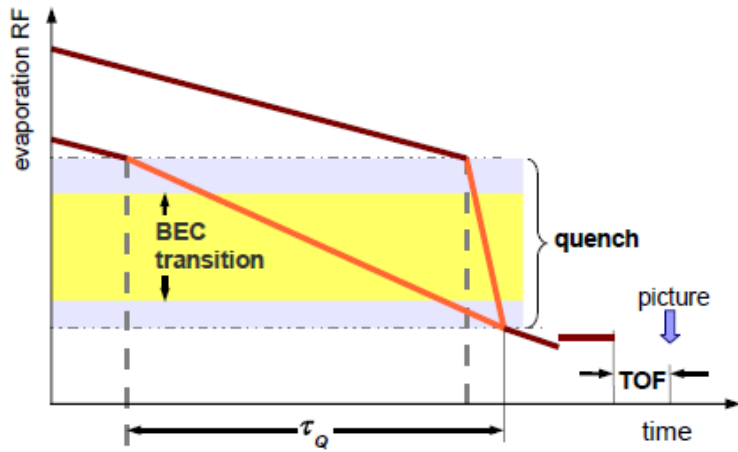


Experiment: Dalibard/Beugnon  
PRL 113, 135302 (2014)

Brand et al.  
PRL 110, 215302 (2013)  
Davis et al.  
PRL 107, 230402 (2011)  
Zurek et al. Sci. Rep (2012)

Critical Exponents Experimentally  
Characterised in a Box-like Trap

Hadzibabic et al, Science 347  
(2015)



Slow  $\longleftrightarrow$  Fast

## Solitons?

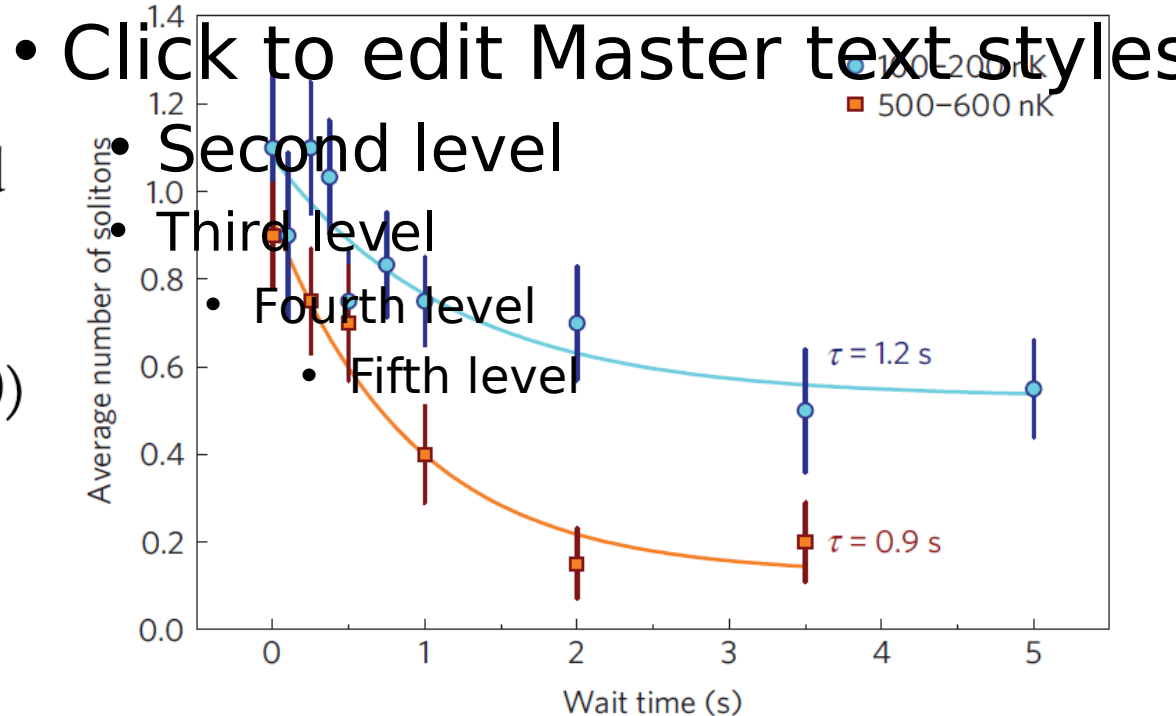
G.Lamporesi *et al.*, Nat. Phys. 9, 656 (2013)





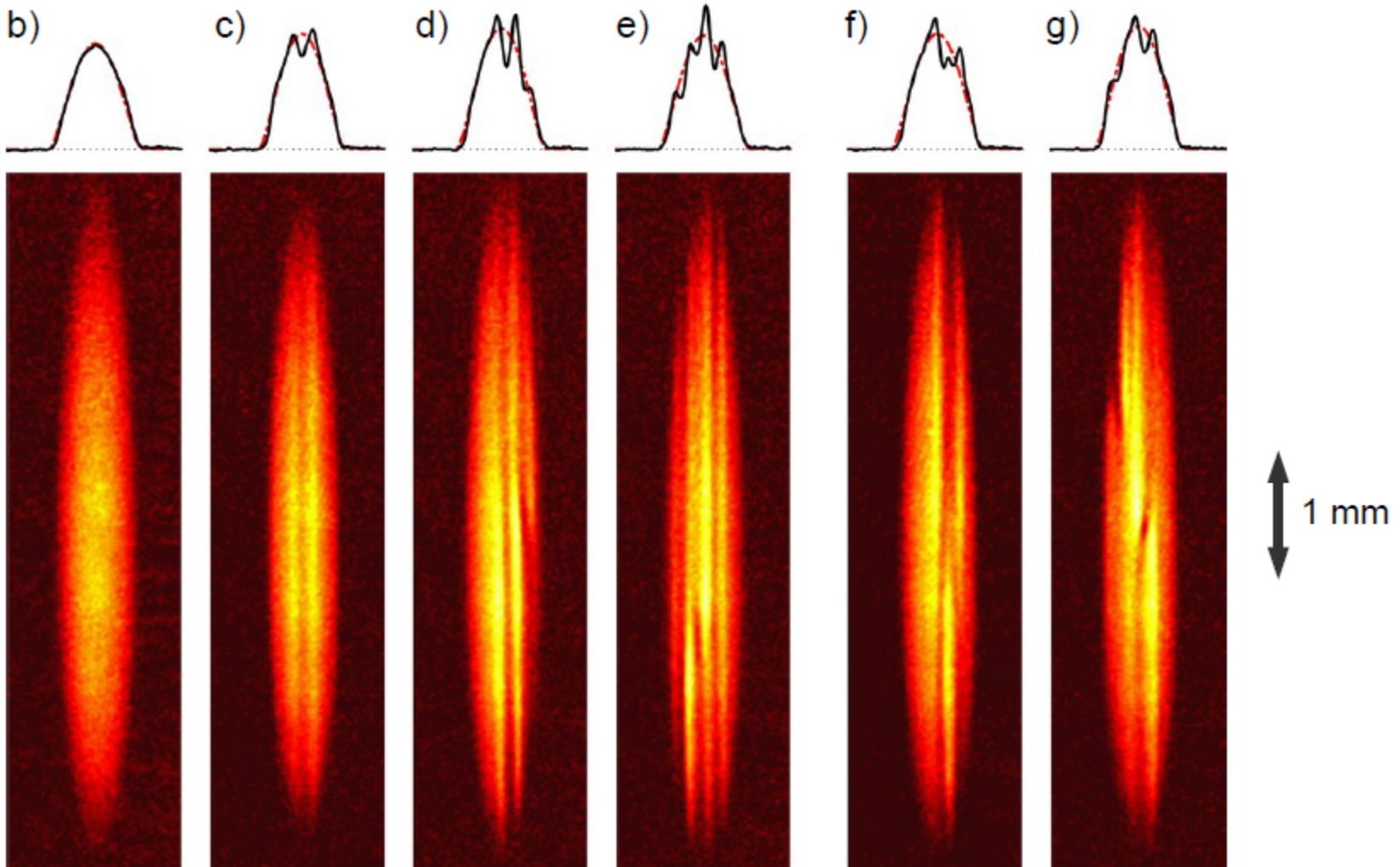
Solitons in 3D are expected to undergo two kinds of instability:

- Thermal (unless at  $T = 0$ )
- Dynamical (snaking instability)



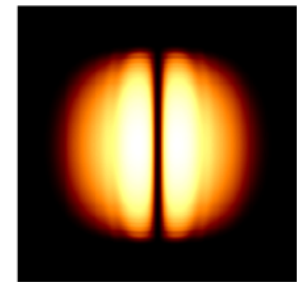
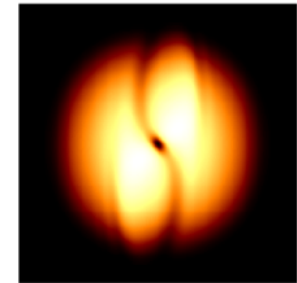
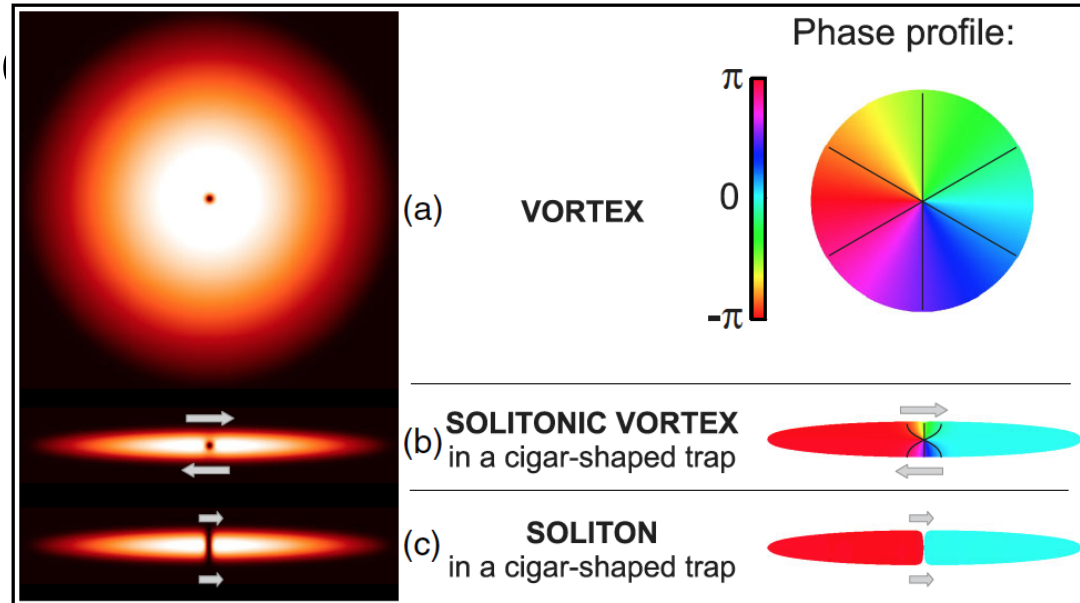
Why do they live for such a long time?

# BEC Are they really solitons?

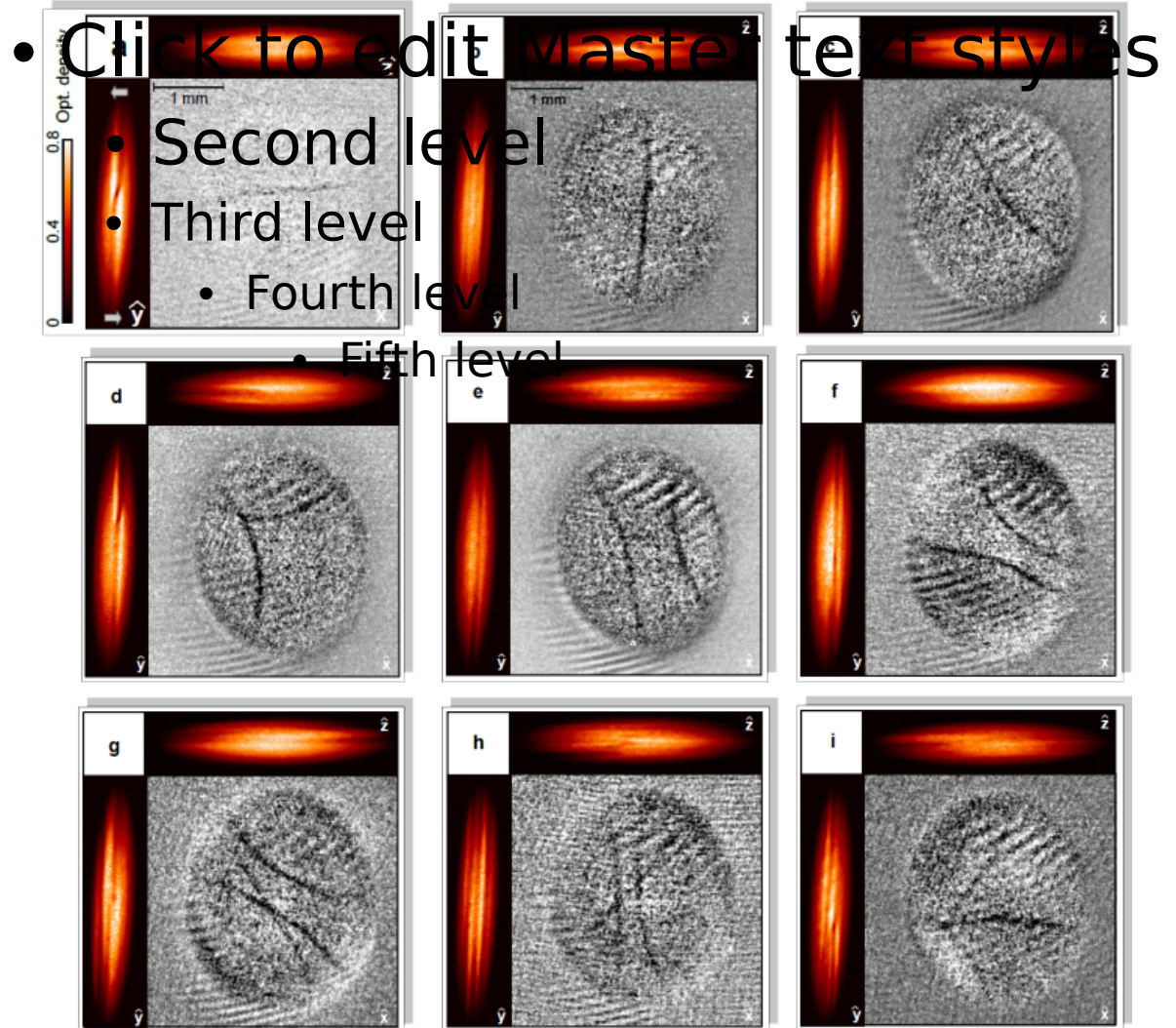
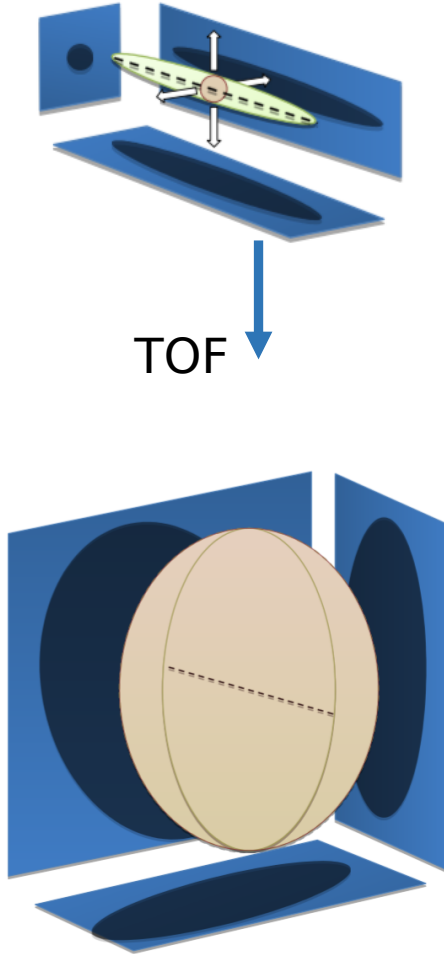




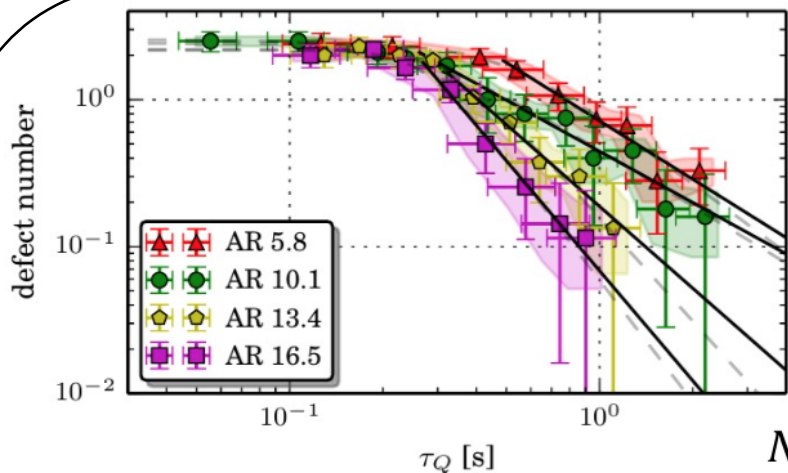
- Vortex oriented perpendicularly to the axis of an axisymmetric elongated trap.
- Quantized vorticity
- Anisotropic phase pattern - Planar





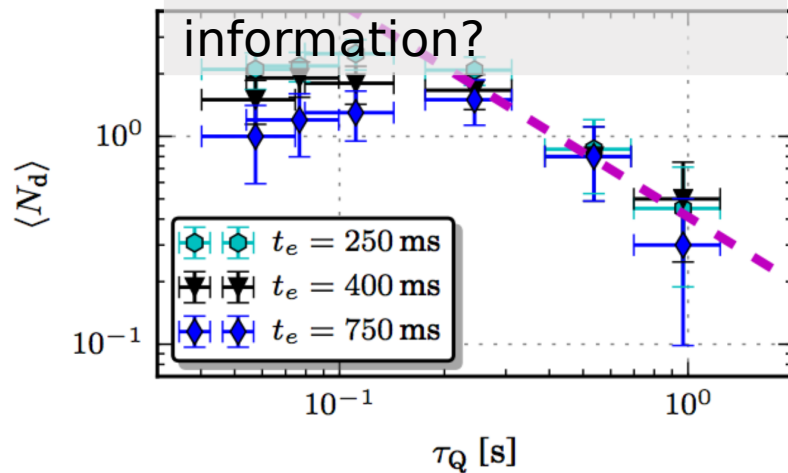
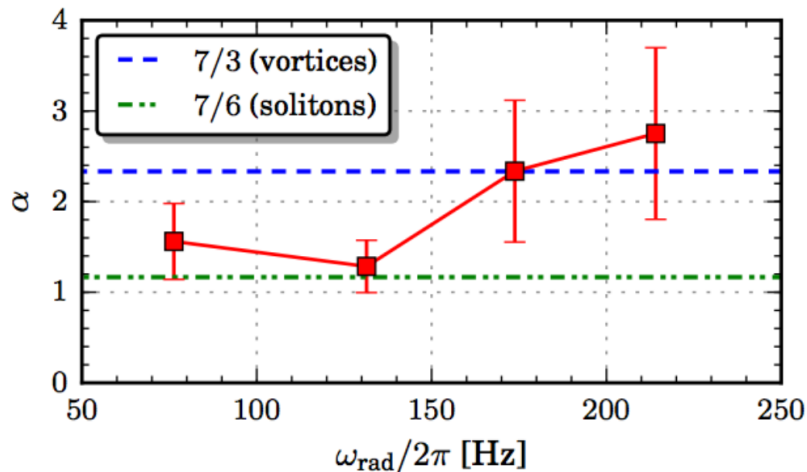


# BEC Scaling and aspect ratio



$$N_S \propto \tau_Q^{-\alpha}$$

- power-law scaling for slow ramps
- aspect ratio dependent exponent
- at plateau for fast ramps
- Experiments show some intriguing behaviour, how to get some more information?



New on  
arXiv:1605.02982



## Stochastic Projected Gross-Pitaevskii

equation

$$d\psi = \hat{P} \left\{ -\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{L}_0 \psi + \frac{\gamma}{K_B T(t)} [\mu(t) - \hat{L}_0] \psi \right\} dt + dW$$

$$\hat{L}_0 = -\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2m} + V(\mathbf{r}) + g|\psi|^2$$

$$\langle dW^*(\mathbf{r}) dW(\mathbf{r}') \rangle = 2\gamma \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') dt$$

Experimental data matched through:

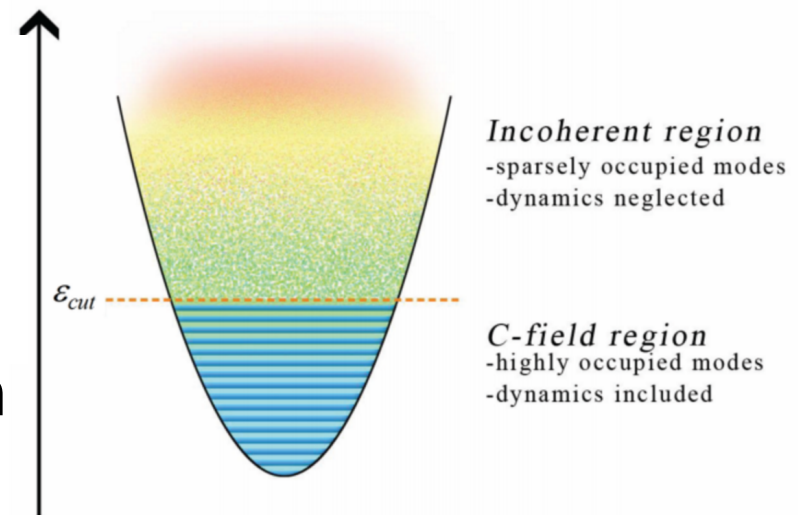
$$N_{TOT}^{exp} = \int d^3r \left[ |\psi|^2 + \int d^3p n_{E>E_R}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{p}) \right]$$

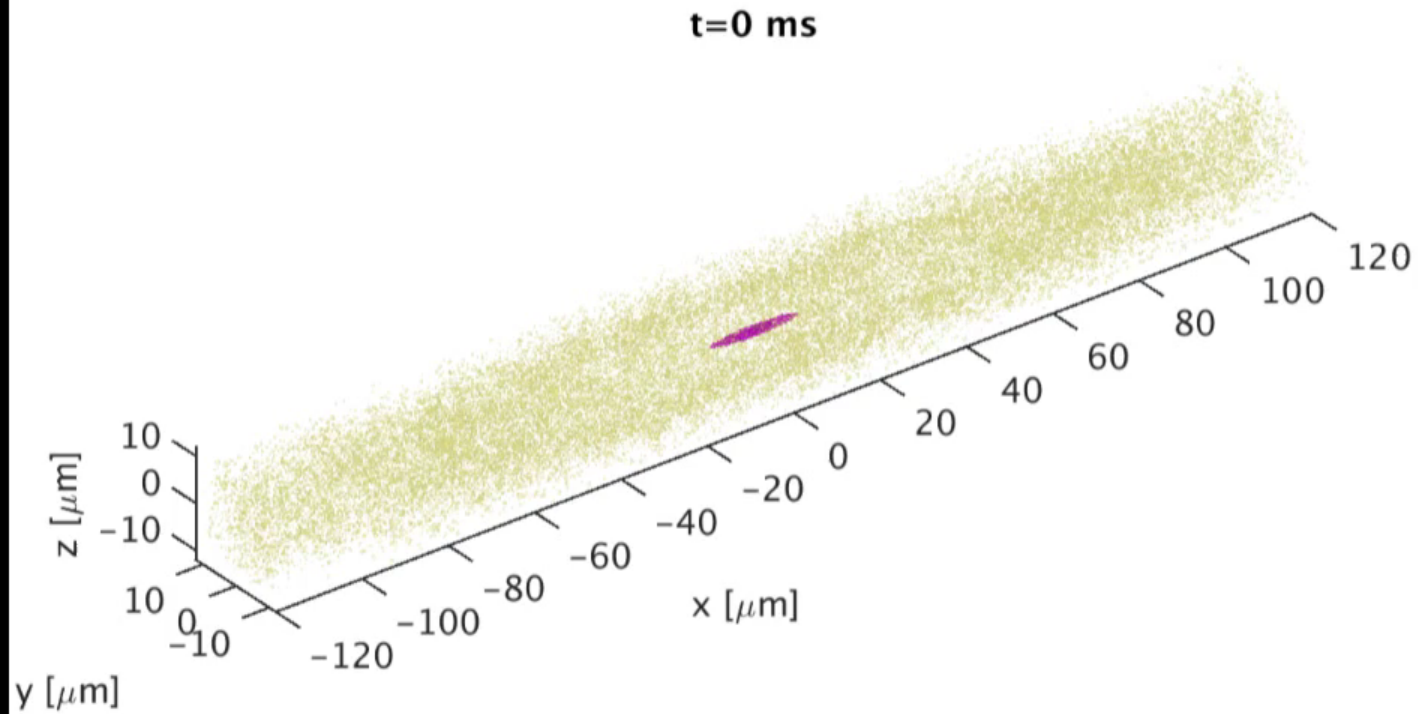
- $\psi$  represents the condensate and a number of thermal modes.
- Condensate extracted by numerical diagonalisation [Penrose-Onsager].

numerical diagonalisation  
[Penrose-Onsager]

Blakie et al., Adv. in Phys.,

57 (2008)

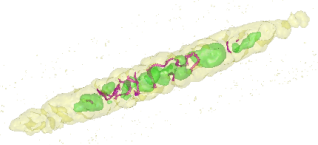




(a)  $t=0$  ms  
( $t-t_{\text{bec}}=-67.5$  ms)

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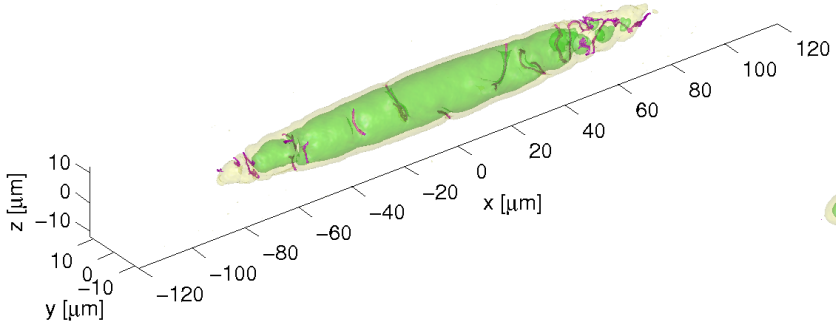
(b)  $t=48$  ms  
( $t-t_{\text{bec}}=-19.5$  ms)



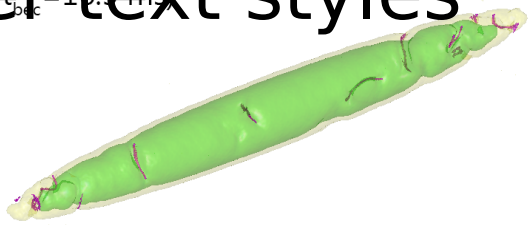
(c)  $t=54$  ms  
( $t-t_{\text{bec}}=-13.5$  ms)



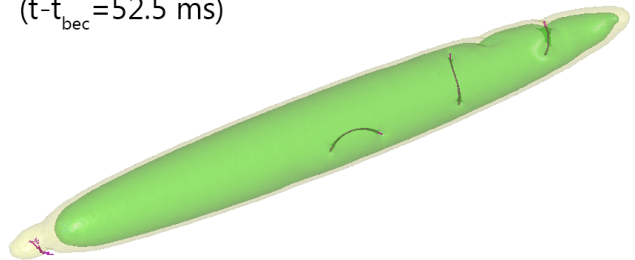
(d)  $t=72$  ms  
( $t-t_{\text{bec}}=4.5$  ms)



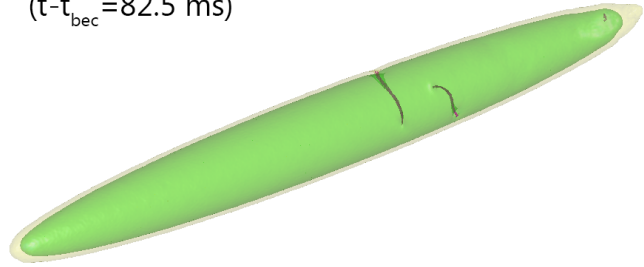
(e)  $t=84$  ms  
( $t-t_{\text{bec}}=16.5$  ms)



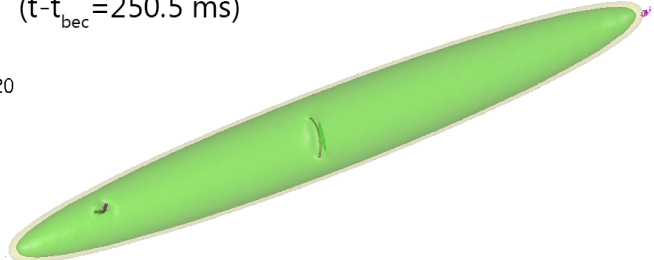
(f)  $t=120$  ms  
( $t-t_{\text{bec}}=52.5$  ms)



(g)  $t=150$  ms  
( $t-t_{\text{bec}}=82.5$  ms)

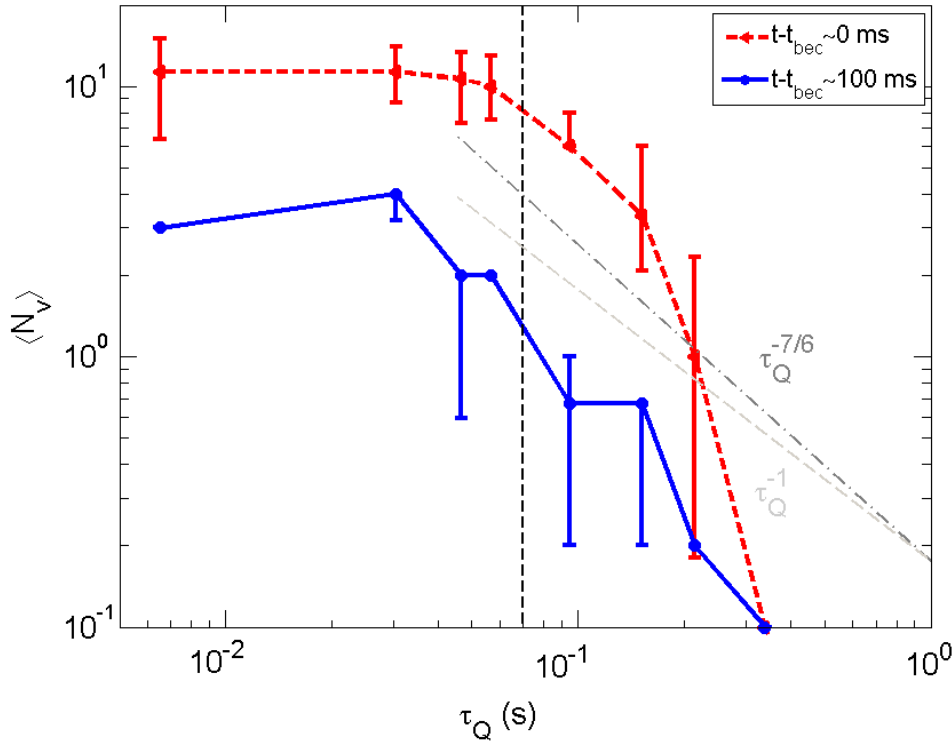


(h)  $t=318$  ms  
( $t-t_{\text{bec}}=250.5$  ms)





A.R. = 10.1

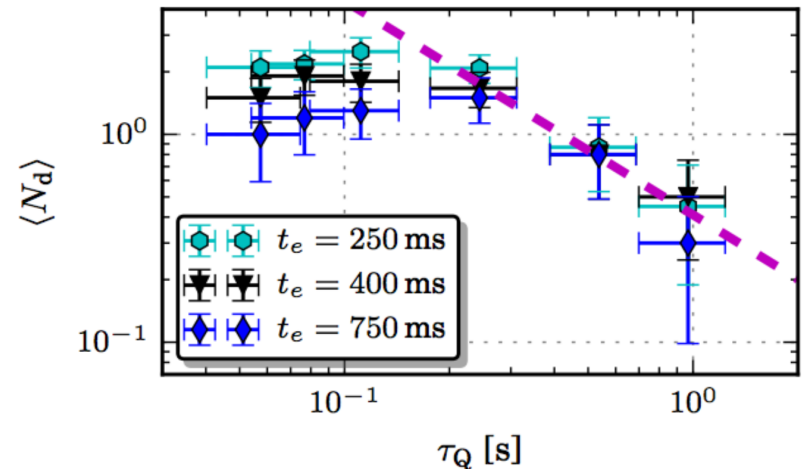


Qualitative agreement with the experiments:

- Plateau for fast quenches
- Power decay for slower quenches
- Lowering with waiting time

The number of defects goes down as the waiting time increases.

$$(t - t_{bec})^{exp} = 250\text{ms}$$

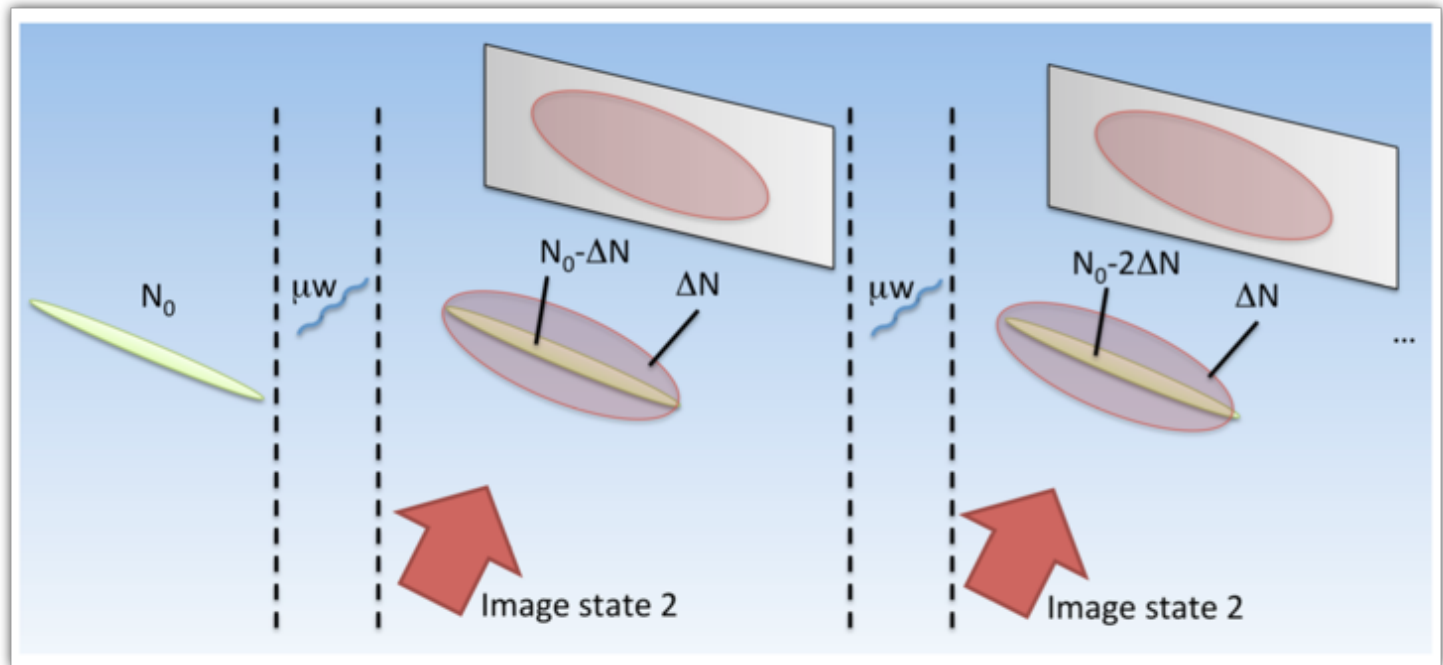




## Quasi-non destructive stroboscopic imaging:

$$\frac{\Delta N}{N_0} \approx 4\%$$

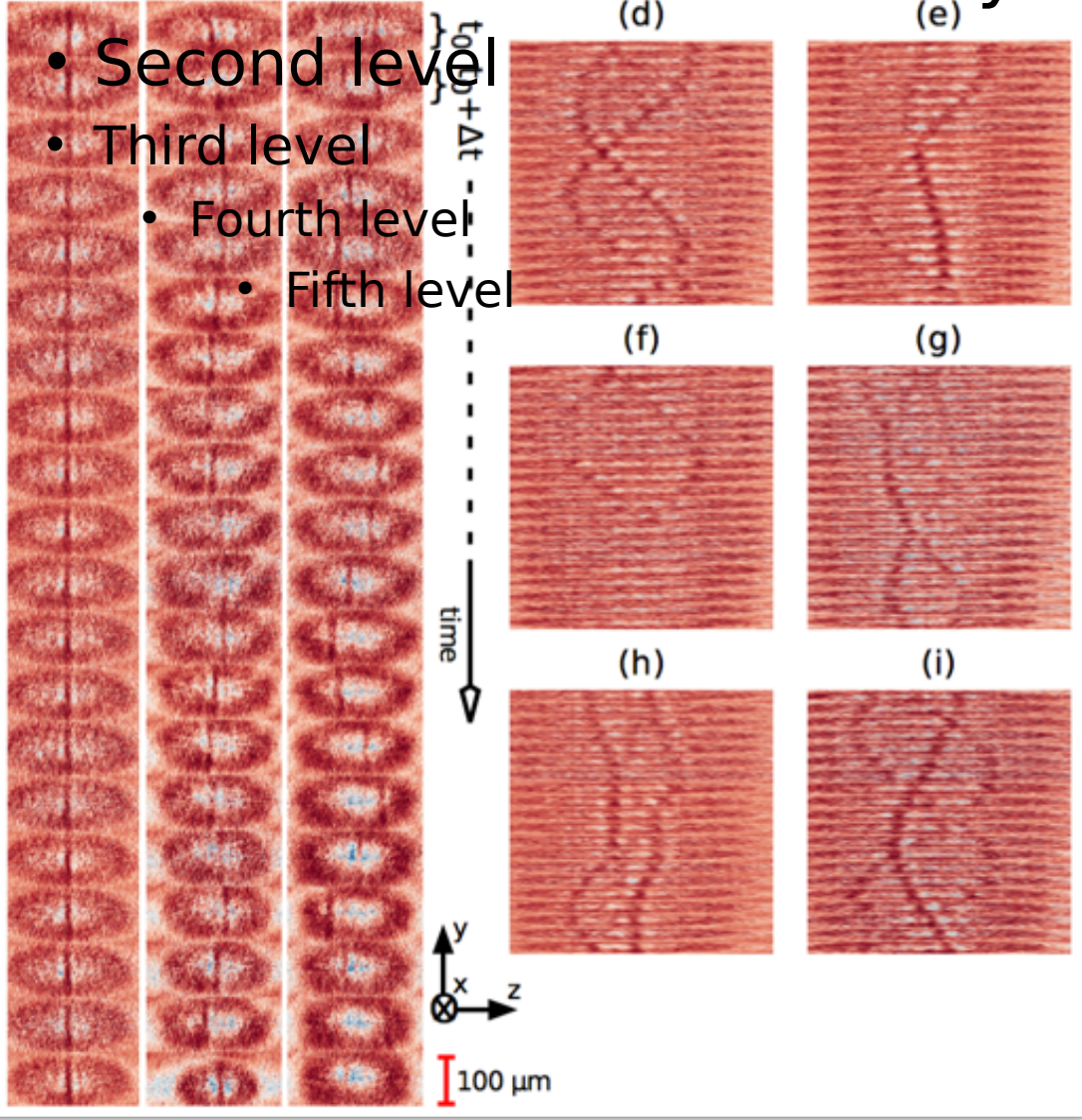
$$N_0 \approx 10^7$$



- Magnetic harmonic trap in  $|1, -1\rangle$  with  $\{\omega_{\perp}, \omega_z\}/2\pi = \{131, 13\}$  Hz;
- 13 ms of expansion in  $|2, -2\rangle$ , with RF refocusing dressing;
- Up to 20 consecutive extractions.

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- Third level
  - Fourth level
  - Fifth level



- Expansion in the anti-trapped state
- Optical levitation
- Imaging of the outcoupled part only





- A straight vortex line should precess in an inhomogeneous non-rotating condensate
- It follows equipotential elliptical orbits around

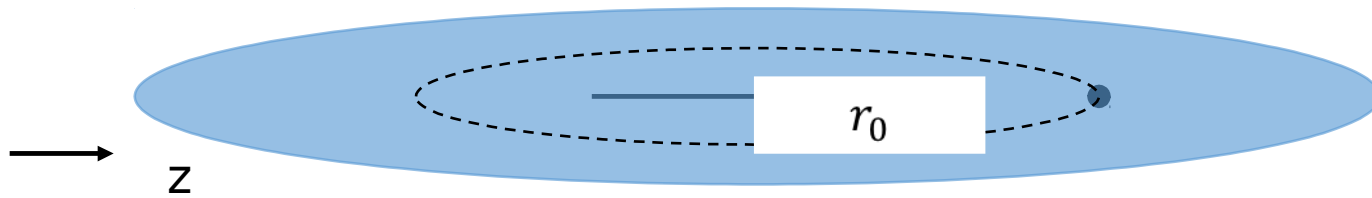
Orbital period:

$$T_{SV} = \frac{4(1 - r_0^2)\mu}{3\hbar\omega_{\perp}\ln(R_{\perp}/\xi)} T_z$$

being:  $T_z = \frac{2\pi}{\omega_z}$  the axial trapping frequency;

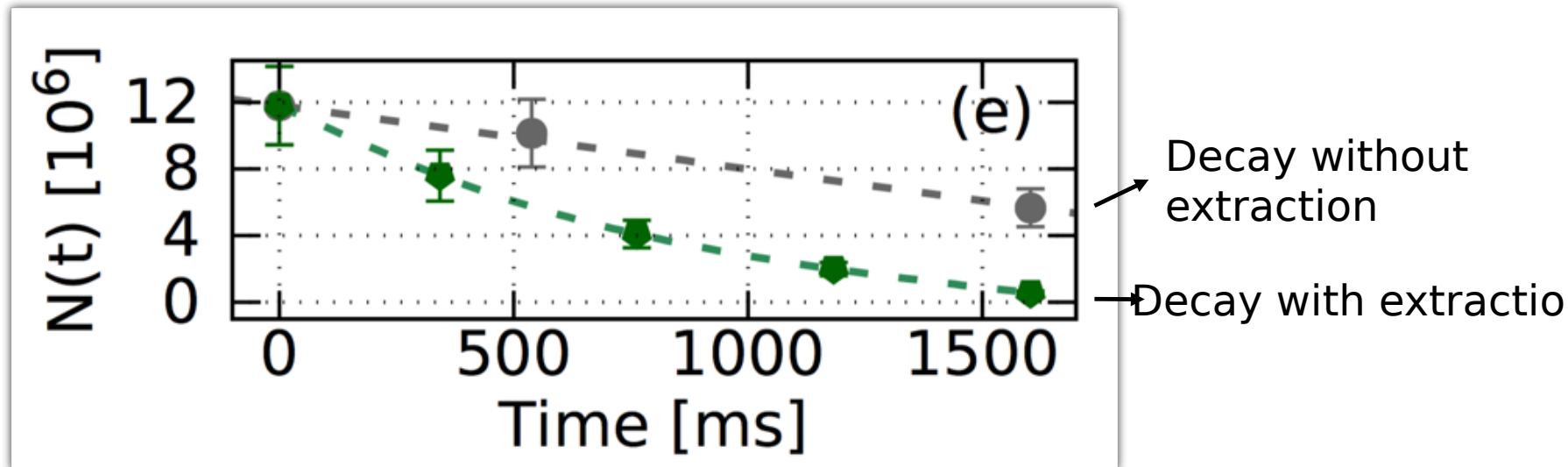
$r_0 = \frac{z_{max}}{R_z} = \frac{y_{max}}{R_y}$  the maximum amplitude;

$\xi$  the condensate healing length.



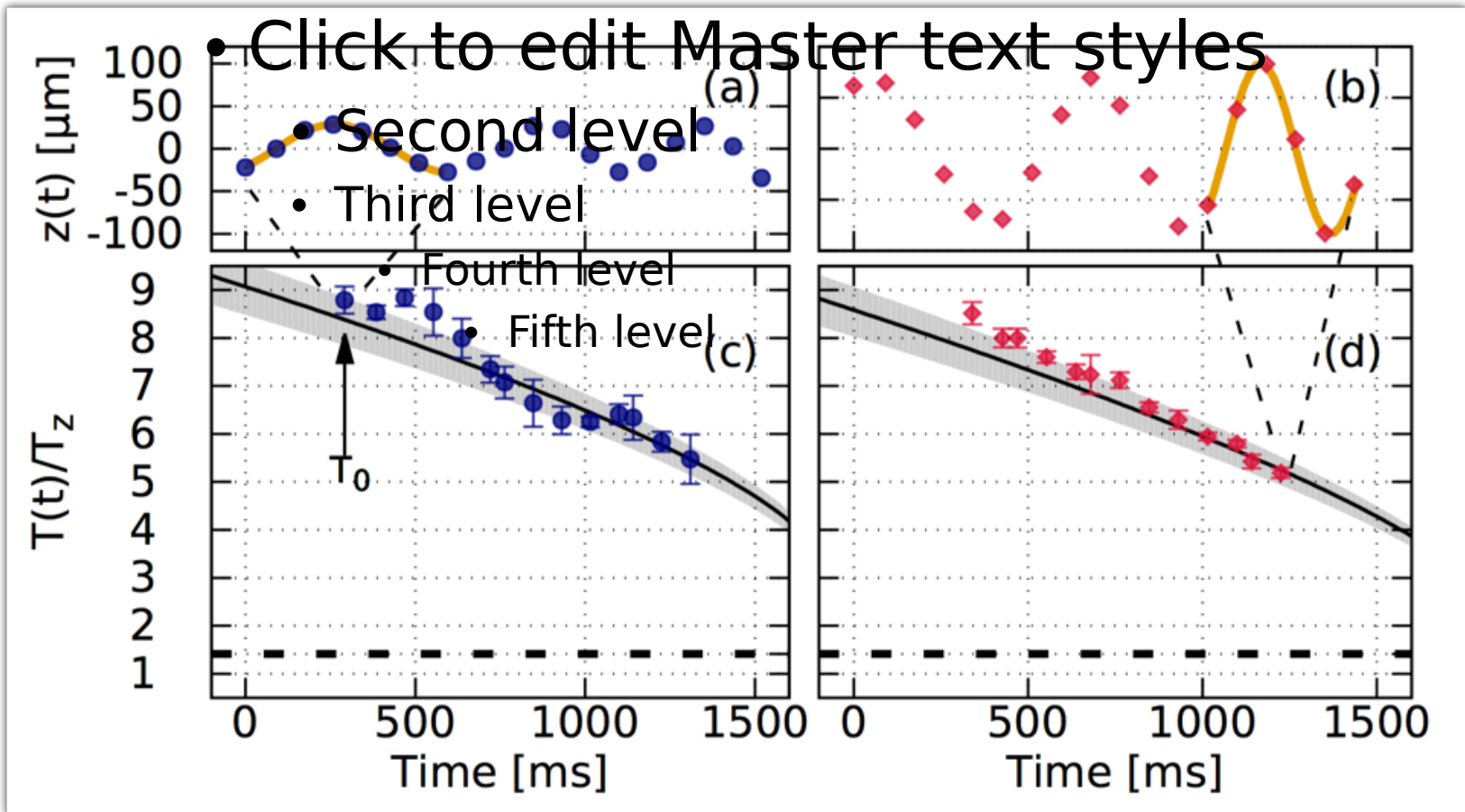


The extraction procedure changes the number of particles in time:



Hence, the period itself should depend on time:

$$T_{SV} \propto \mu \propto N(t)^{2/5}$$



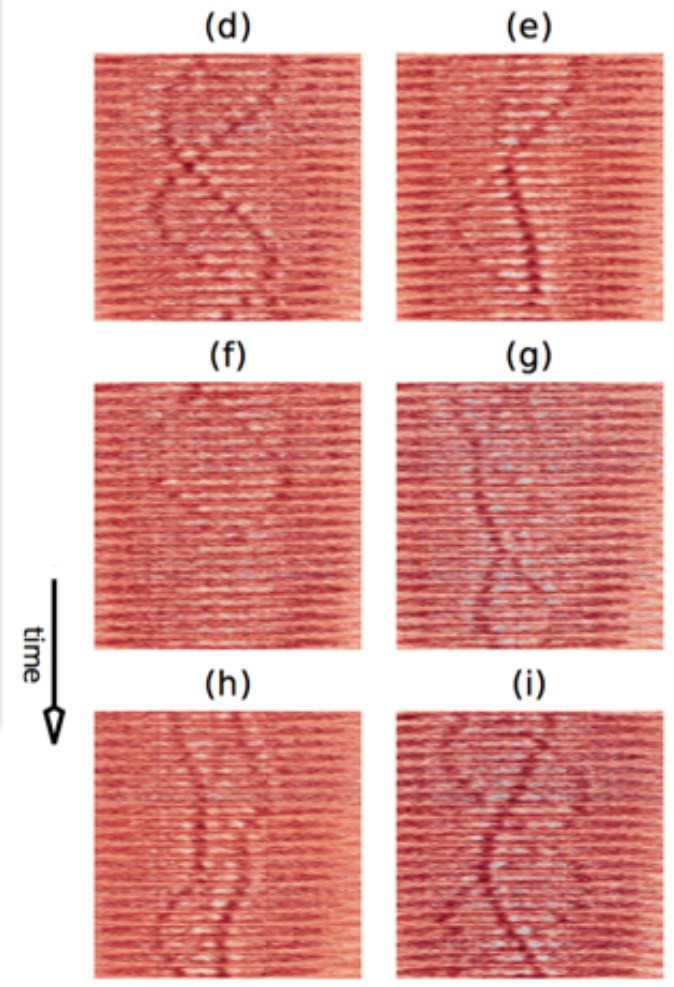
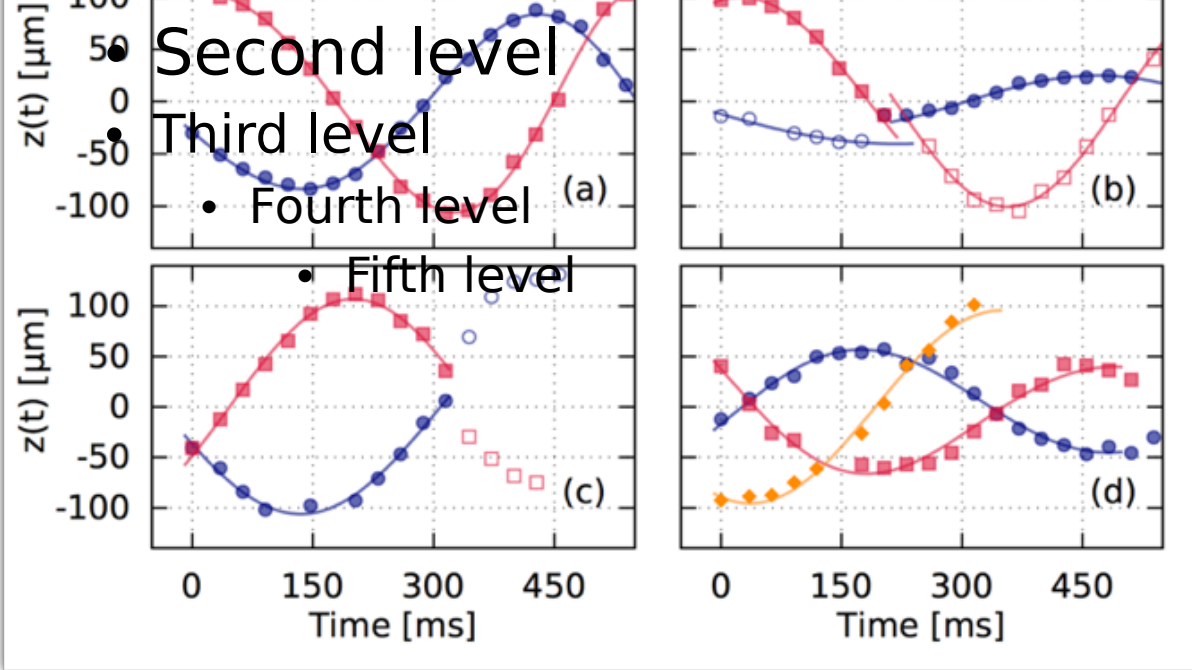


Destructive absorption images show random orientation of vortex lines

The experimental system seems a good benchmark for studying in real time vortex decay processes and reconnections, if only an axial non-destructive observation method is developed.

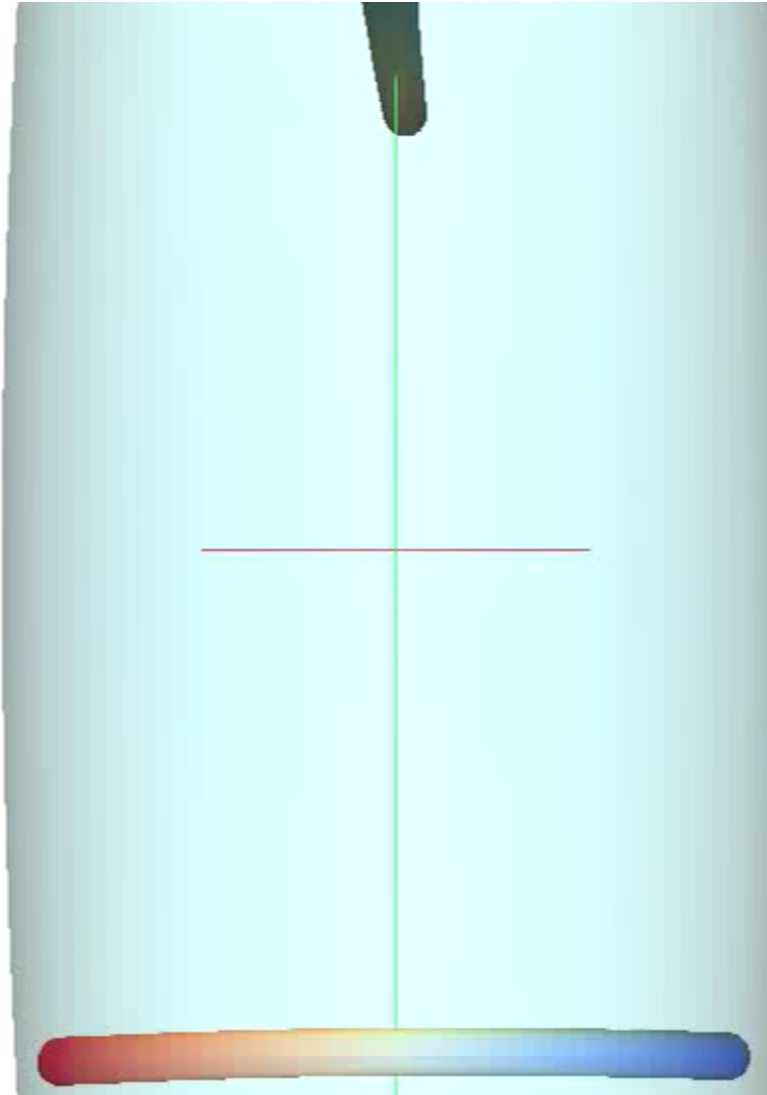


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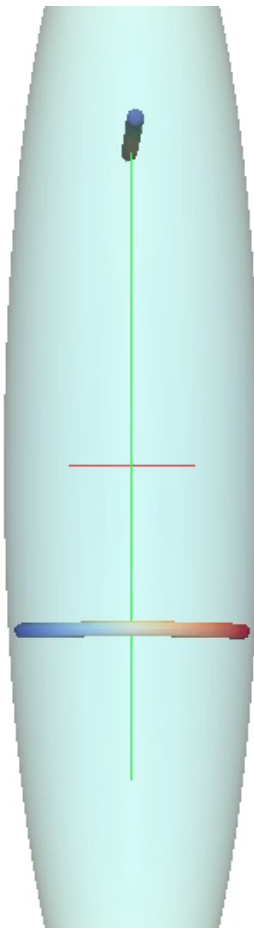
Observations:

- Unperturbed trajectory *or*
- Change in visibility *and/or*
- Trajectory phase shift.

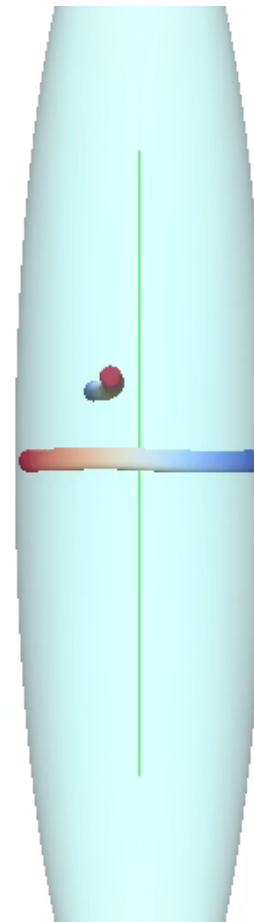




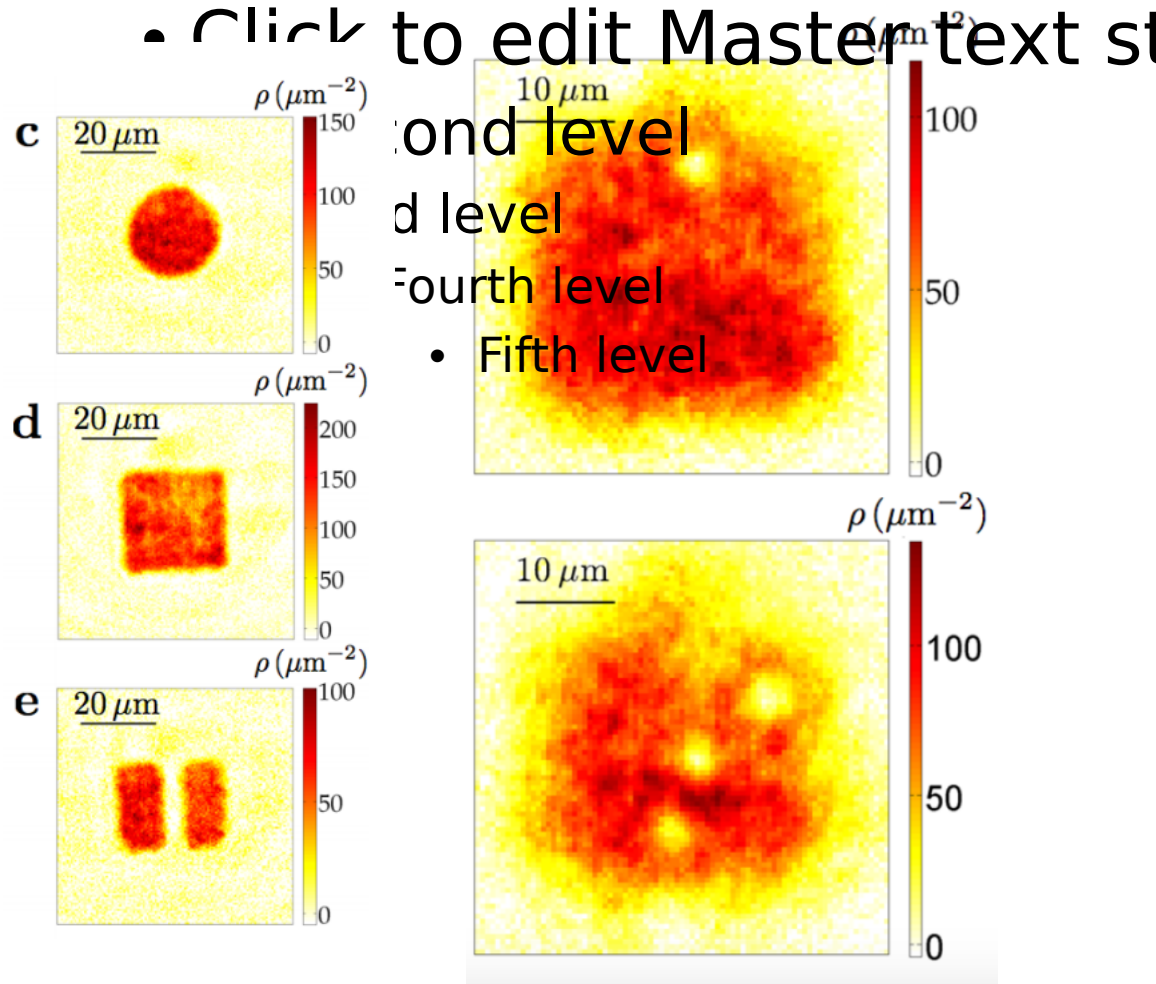
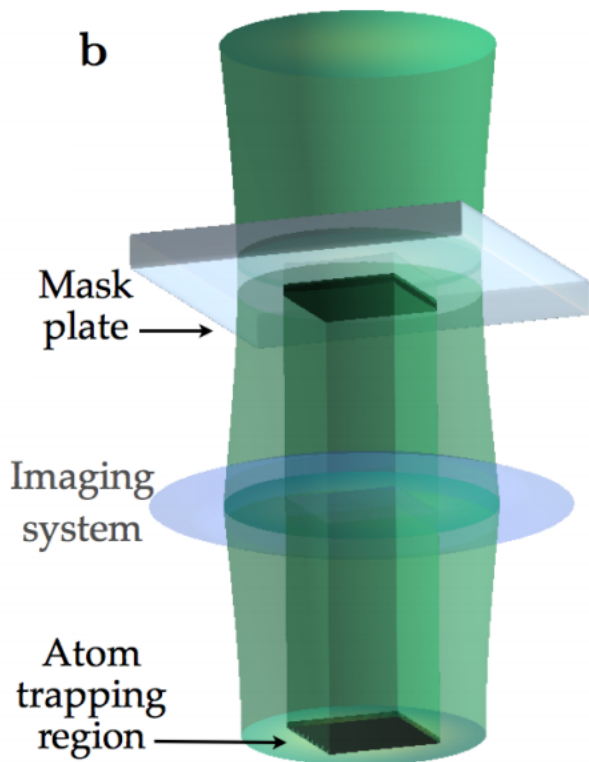
Single



Double

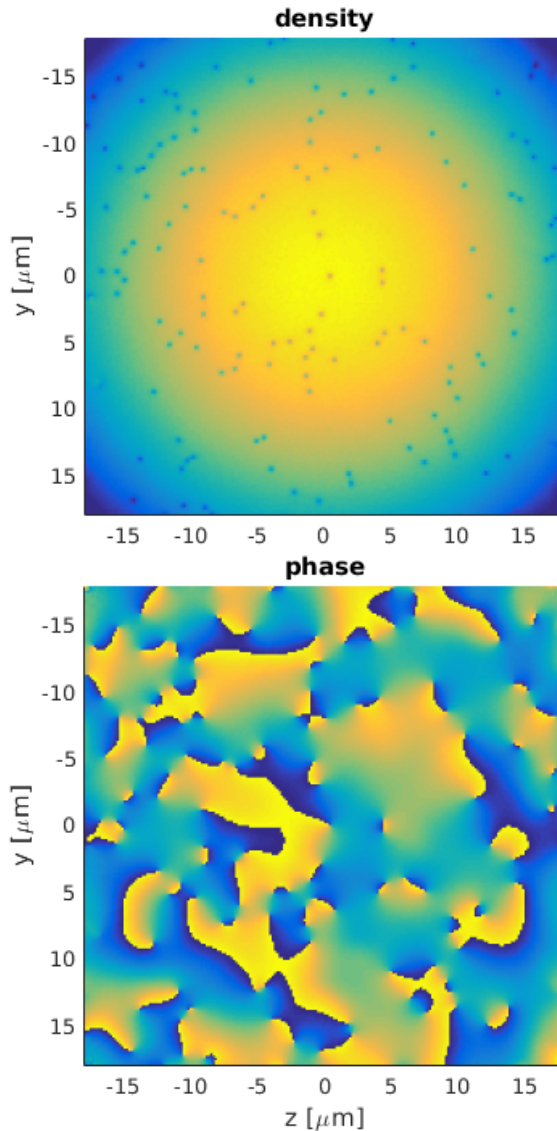


# BE Two-dimensional systems

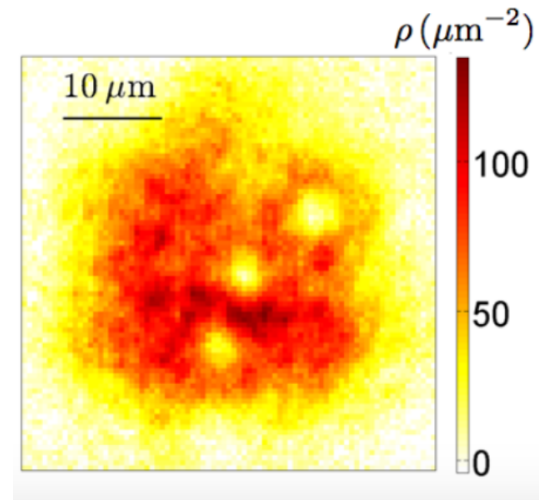
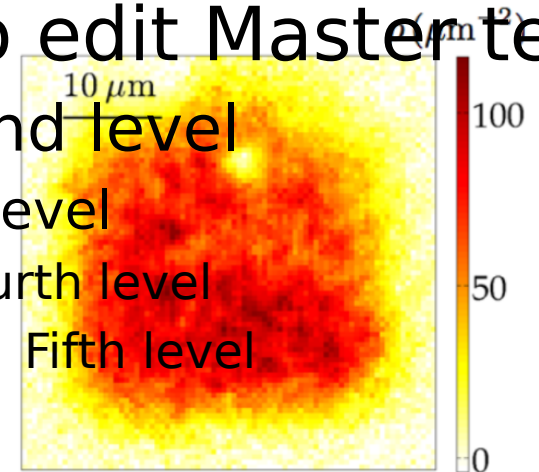




# BEOT Two-dimensional systems

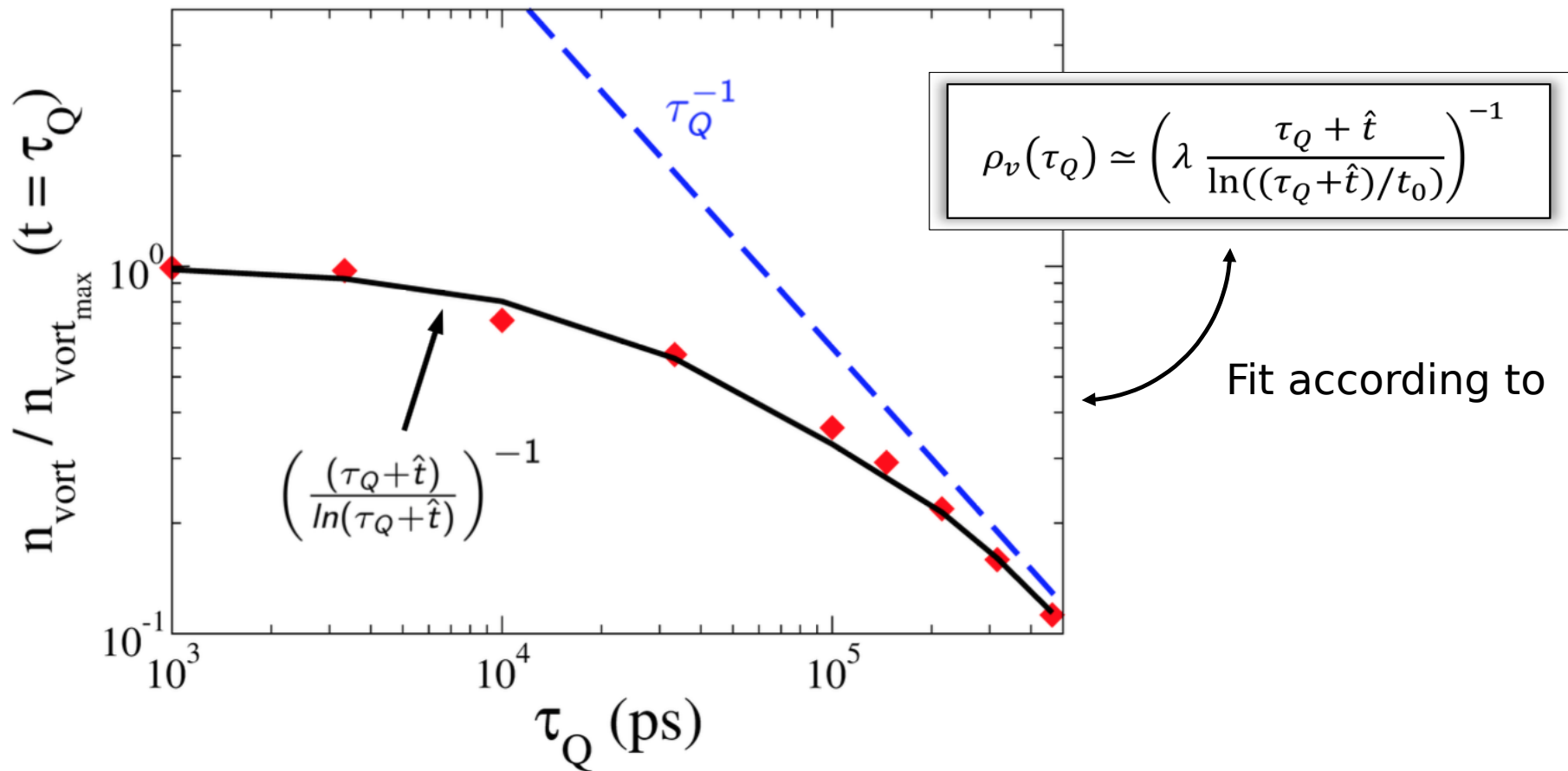


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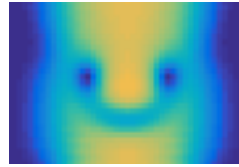


Defect number ( $P/P_{TH} = 1.5$ )





Thank you!



Happy soliton



# MACRO Mini-Conference & JQC Symposium

Tue 13th -Fri 16th September 2016

Newcastle upon Tyne

(UK)

Multicomponent  
Atomic  
Condensates &  
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dynamics

Keynote speakers include:

V. Bagnato, N. Berloff, H.

Rubinsztein-Dunlop, I.

Spielman, M. Ueda

[conferences.ncl.ac.uk/jqcmacro/](http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/jqcmacro/)

Registration deadline: 30th

June, 2016

**Multiple contributed talk slots available to applicants.**



# Backslides



# BE Kibble-Zurek Mechanism

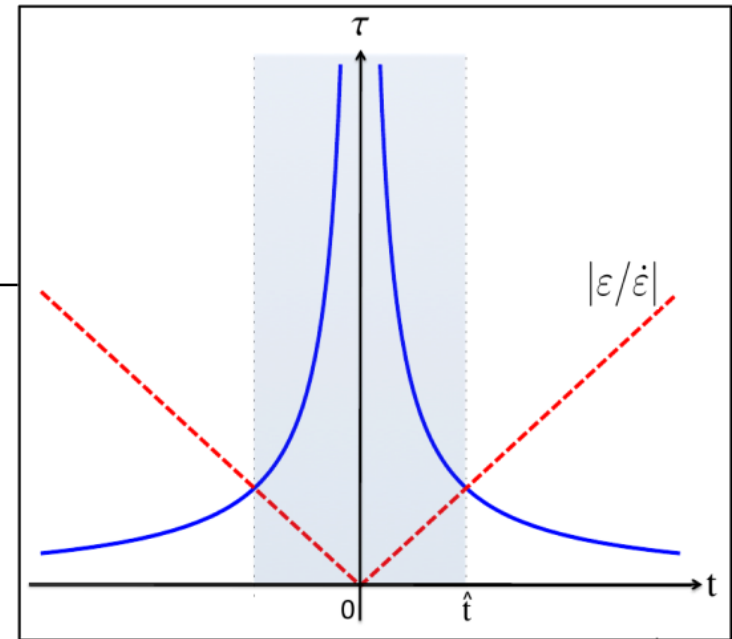


Power law scaling:

coherence length      relaxation time

$$\xi(t) = \frac{\xi_0}{|\varepsilon(t)|^\nu}$$

$$\tau(t) = \frac{\tau_0}{|\varepsilon(t)|^{z\nu}}$$



If the quench is linear

$$\varepsilon(t) = t/\tau_Q$$

"Freezing" time:

$$\hat{t} \sim (\tau_0 \tau_Q^{z\nu})^{\frac{1}{1+z\nu}}$$

$$\hat{\xi} = \xi(\hat{t}) = \xi_0 \left( \frac{\tau_Q}{\tau_0} \right)^{\frac{\nu}{1+z\nu}}$$

$$d \sim \hat{\xi}^{-D}$$

domain size:

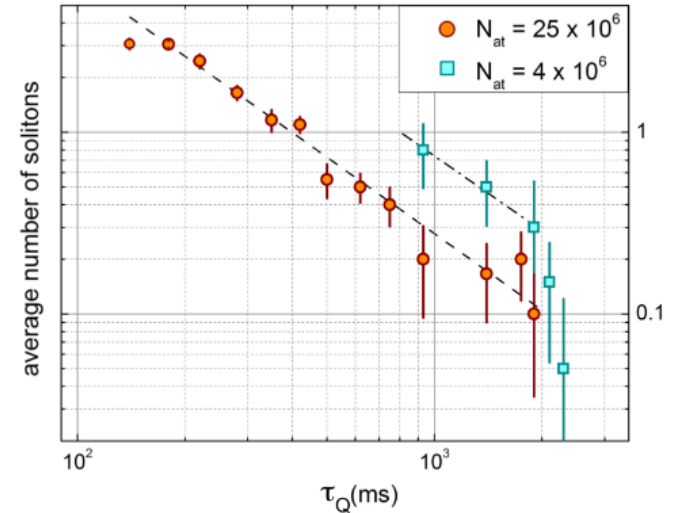
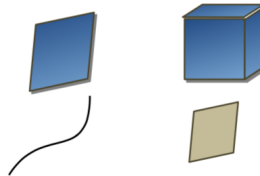
defect density:

# Scaling exponents



$$n \sim \frac{\hat{\xi}^d}{\hat{\xi}^D} = \frac{1}{\xi_0^{D-d}} \left( \frac{\tau_0}{\tau_Q} \right)^{(D-d) \frac{\nu}{1+z\nu}}$$

$\nu, z$ : critical exponents  
 $D$ : system dimension  
 $d$ : defect dimension •



**(D-d)=2**

**(D-d)=1**

Critical exponents \ Trap	Homogeneous	Harmonic	Toroidal	Homog.	Harm.
Arbitrary ( $\nu, z$ )	$\frac{2\nu}{1+\nu z}$	$\frac{2(1+2\nu)}{1+\nu z}$	$\frac{1+3\nu}{1+\nu z}$	$\frac{\nu}{1+\nu z}$	$\frac{1+2\nu}{1+\nu z}$
Mean-field theory ( $\nu = \frac{1}{2}, z = 2$ )	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	$\frac{5}{4}$	1/4	1
Experiments/F model ( $\nu = \frac{2}{3}, z = \frac{3}{2}$ )	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{7}{3}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	1/3	7/6

➔ Dimensionality has a role in scaling!



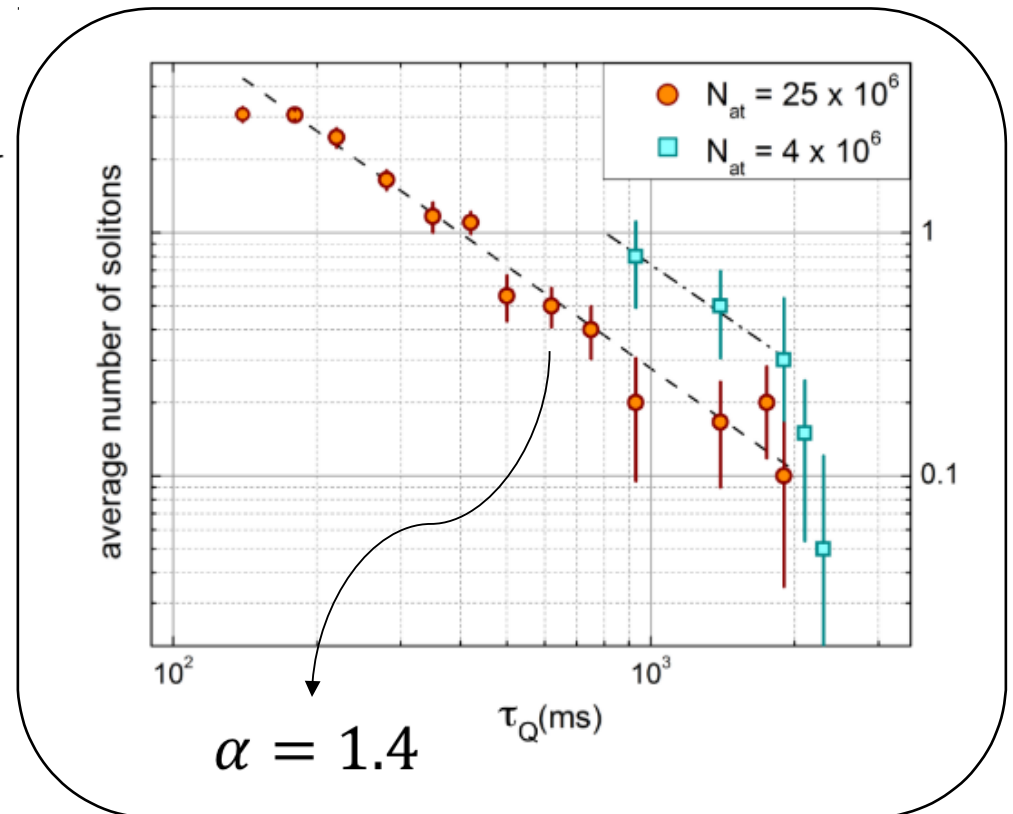
- The number of defects is expected to follow a power-law as a function of the quench time (fixed size of the system)

$$N_S \propto \tau_Q^{-\alpha}$$

where  $\alpha$  is determined by the critical exponents of the phase transition.

F-model prediction for solitons in 3D:

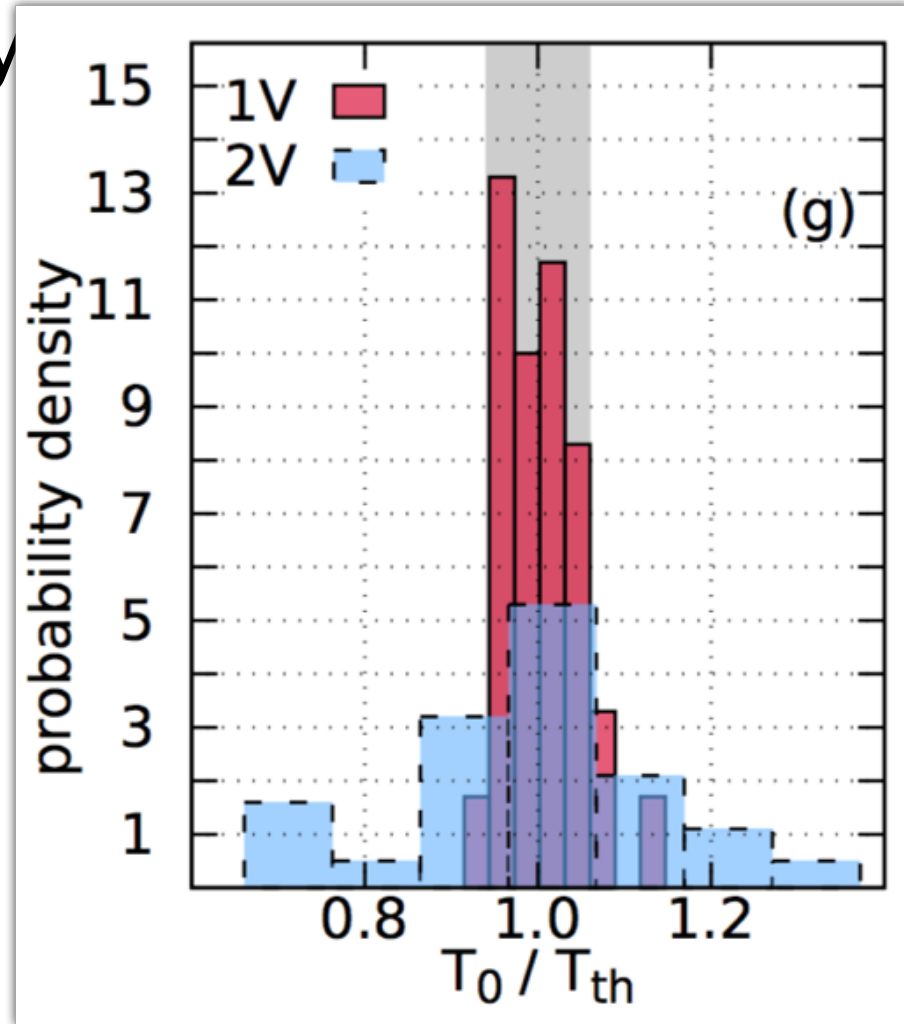
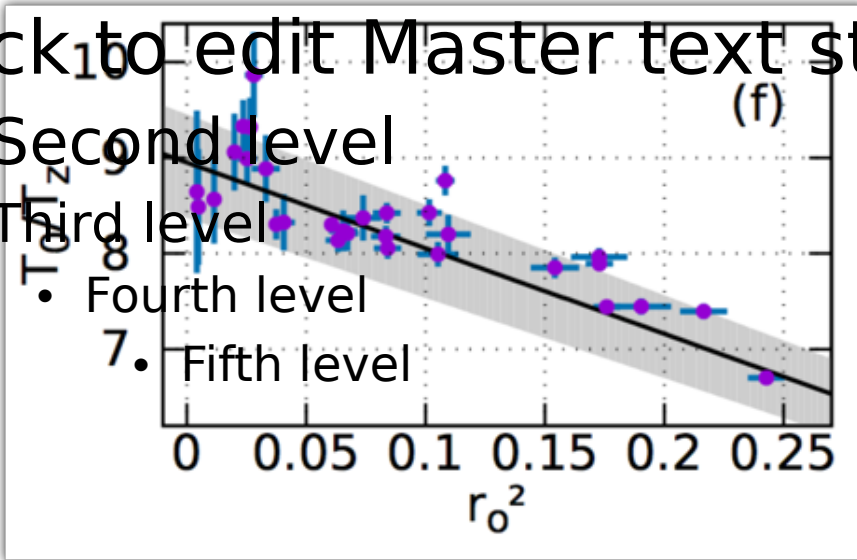
$$\alpha = 7/6 = 1.17.$$





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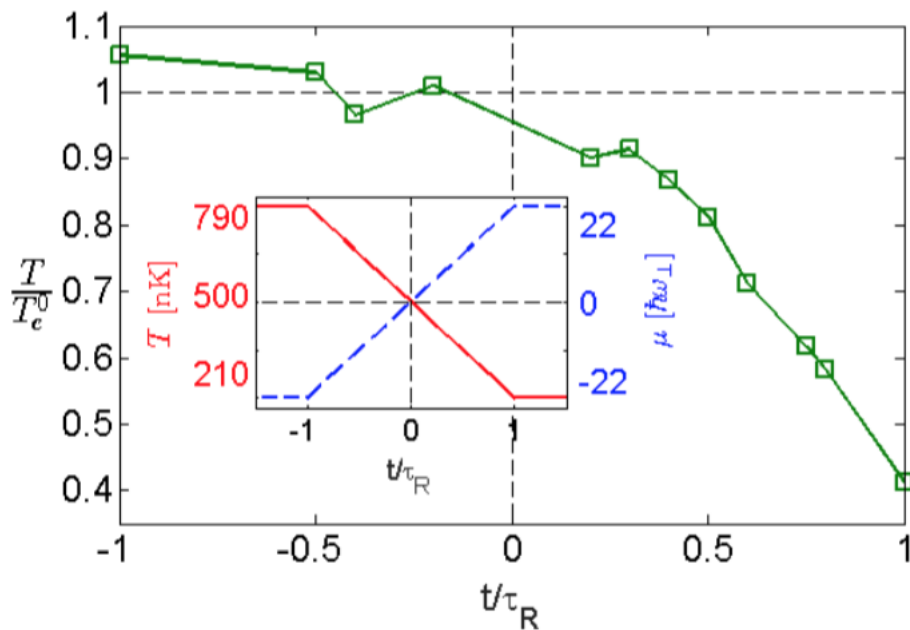


$$\frac{T_{SV}}{T_z} = \frac{4(1 - r_0^2)\mu}{3\hbar\omega_{\perp}\ln(R_{\perp}/\xi)}$$

$$N_V = 1: \frac{T_0}{T_{th}} = 0.97 \pm 0.04$$

$$N_V = 2: \frac{T_0}{T_{th}} = 0.96 \pm 0.14$$



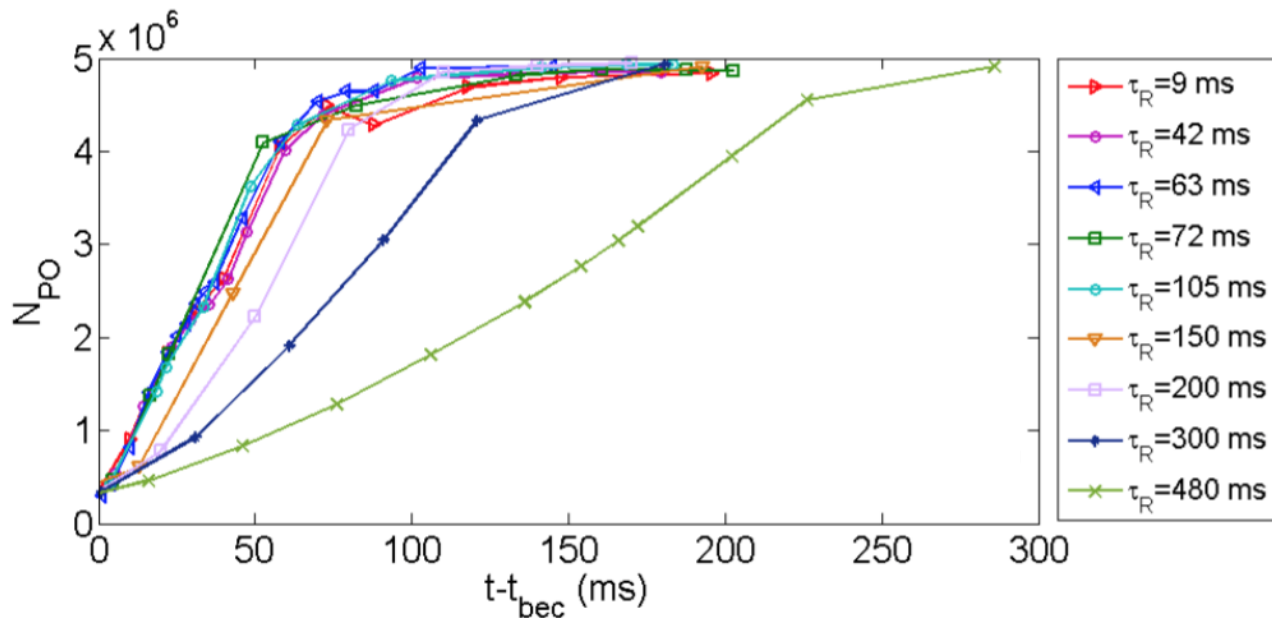


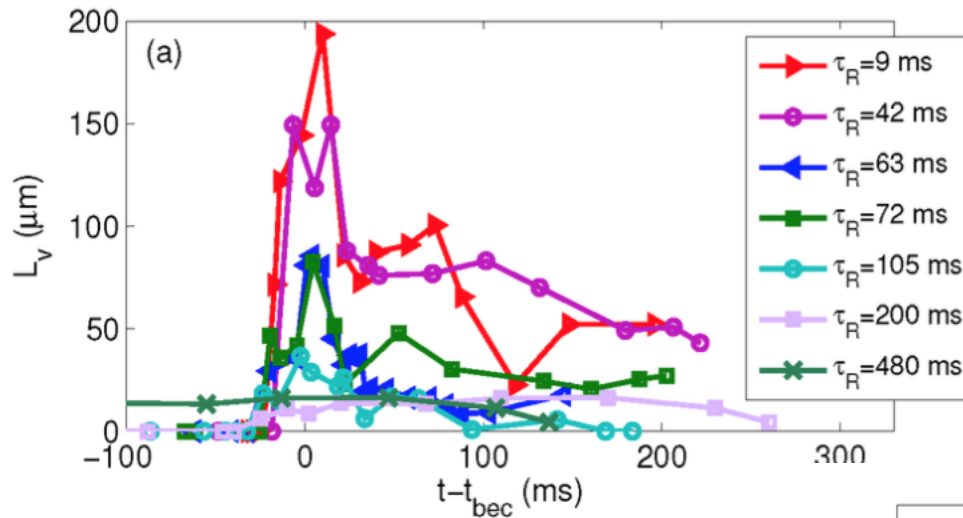
A quench is performed simultaneously in temperature and in chemical potential (inset).

$$n_{PO}(t_{BEC}) = 5\% n_{PO}(t_{final})$$

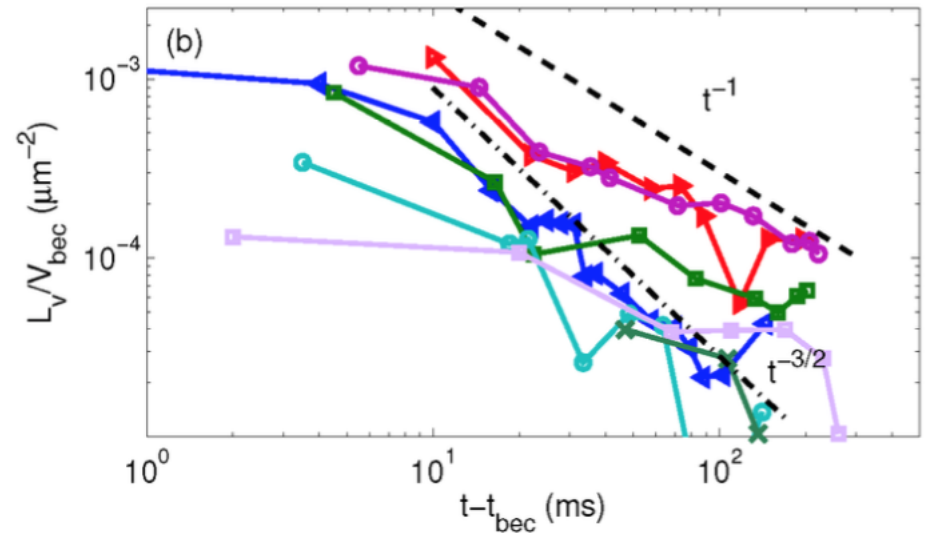
P-O mode growth.  $\tau_R$  is the ramp time.

is the ramp time.



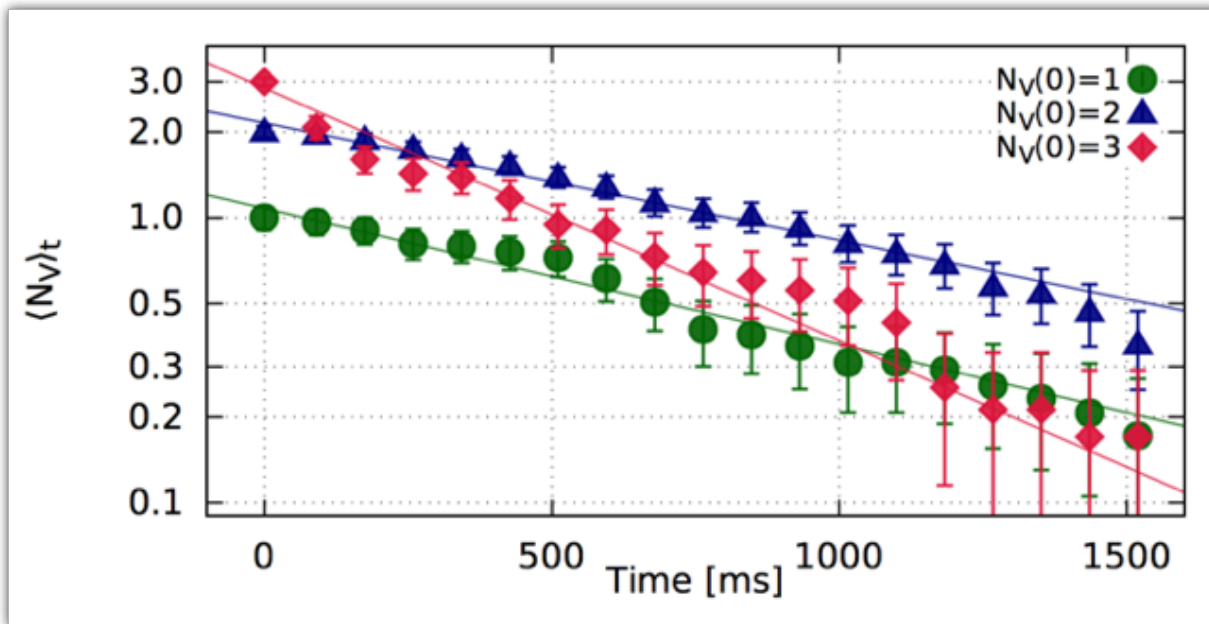


Vortex line density scales as  $l_v \propto t^{-1}$  or  $l_v \propto t^{-3/2}$  (quantum turbulence regime?).





Single vortex lifetime is limited by scattering with thermal excitations.



$$\tau_1 = (910 \pm 100)\text{ms}$$

$$\tau_2 = (1050 \pm 100)\text{ms}$$

$$\tau_3 = (490 \pm 100)\text{ms}$$

$\tau$  is compatible for  $N_V(0) = 1, 2$ , but not for  $N_V(0) = 3$ .

Does this mean that two-vortex interactions are suppressed?

suppressed?



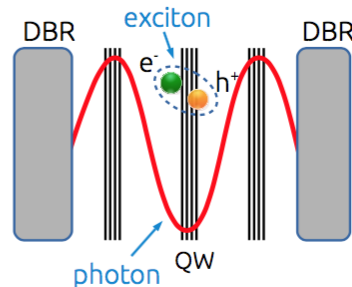
- BKT free vortices give a correction in the predicted vortex density for KZM:

$$\rho_v(\tau_Q) \simeq \left( \lambda \frac{\tau_Q + \hat{t}}{\ln((\tau_Q + \hat{t})/t_0)} \right)^{-1}$$

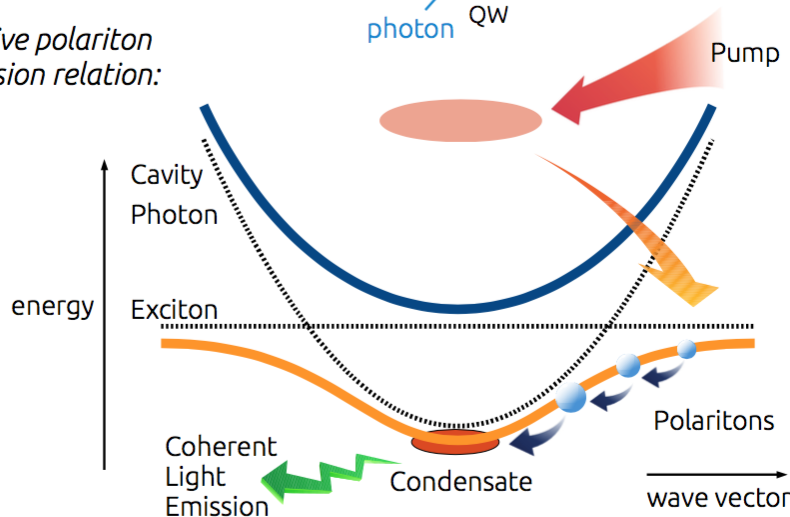


$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2m} + i\frac{\hbar}{2} \left( \frac{P_0(\mathbf{r}, t)}{1 + \frac{|\psi|^2}{n_s}} - \gamma \right) + \frac{\hbar P_0(\mathbf{r}, t)}{2\Omega} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + g \left( |\psi|^2 - \frac{1}{dV} \right) \right] \psi + \eta(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

Schematic of exciton-polaritons in quantum-well:



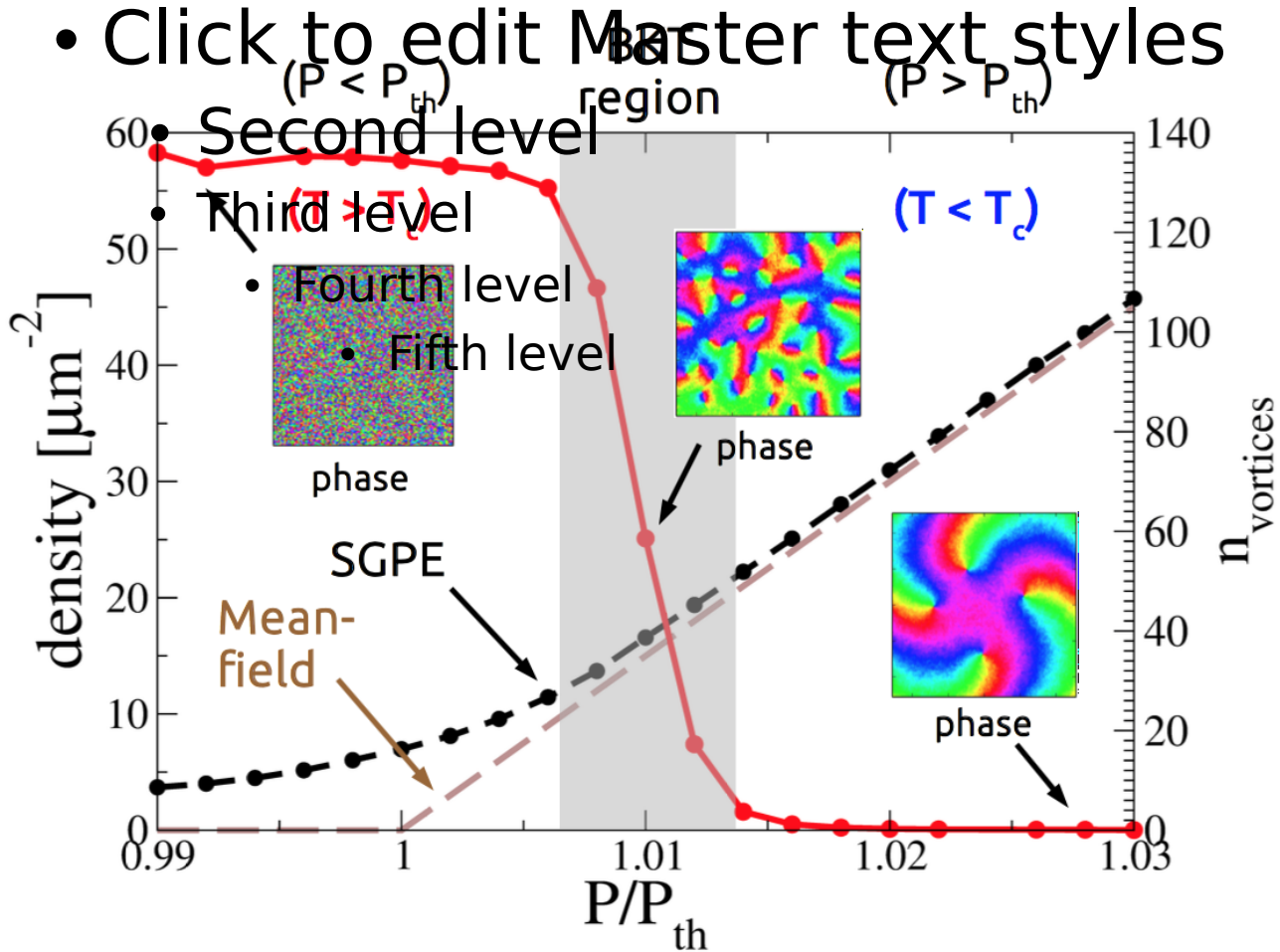
Effective polariton dispersion relation:



$\gamma$  loss rate;  
 $P_0$  pumping strength;  
 $n_s$  saturation density;

A steady state is reached when the system equilibrates between driving and dissipation.

# Vortex number decay

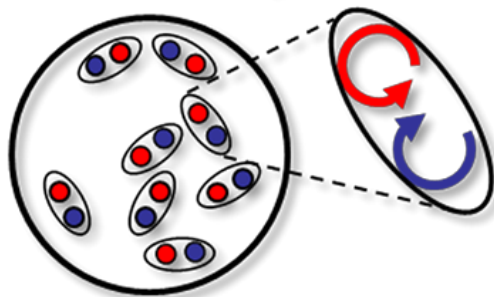




- BKT phase transition:

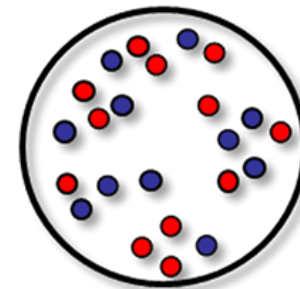
- Due to the Mermin-Wagner theorem, no condensation in an infinite 2D system for any  $T > 0$ .
- However, a superfluid transition occurs at finite  $T$ .
- Berezinskii-Kosterlitz-Thouless (BKT) at  $T_{BKT}$ :
  - For  $T < T_{BKT}$  vortices of opposite circulation are coupled in pairs.
  - For  $T > T_{BKT}$  they gradually become free.

Superfluid ( $T < T_c$ )



Bound vortex-antivortex pairs

Normal state ( $T > T_c$ )



Proliferation of free vortices

