

Turbulence in superfluids: waves and vortices

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Université Sorbonne Paris Nord, Villetaneuse, France

Physics of Wave Turbulence and beyond

UNIVERSITÉ
SORBONNE
PARIS NORD



anr[®] QuanTiP

- 1) introduce *dilute atomic superfluids*

basic properties, experiments, measurements, orders of magnitude

- 2) show some experimental results

equilibrium, linear dynamics, nonlinear

- 3) explain what we do at LPL

and why it may be relevant for superfluid turbulence

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- show pictures of Sergey
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- cite all litterature

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Wave turbulence and vortices in Bose–Einstein condensation

Sergey Nazarenko^a, Miguel Onorato^{b,*}

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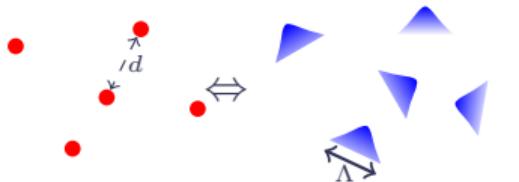
Available online 3 July 2006

Communicated by A.C. Newell

What is a Bose-Einstein condensate ?

Quantum mechanics:

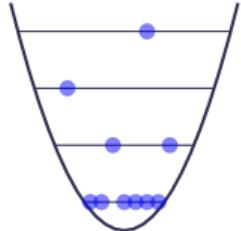
particles behave as **waves**.



De Broglie (1923)

Quantum statistics:
bosons accumulate in
the lowest energy level

$$n\Lambda^3 > 2.61$$



Bose & Einstein (1925)



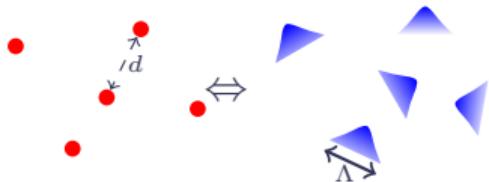
$$n \sim \frac{1}{d^3} \quad \Lambda = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2\pi M k_B T}}$$

Need a trap and advanced cooling techniques

What is a Bose-Einstein condensate ?

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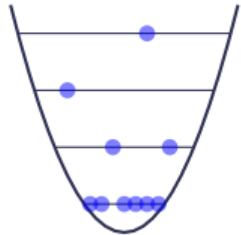
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Cornell, Ketterle & Wieman (Nobel 2001)

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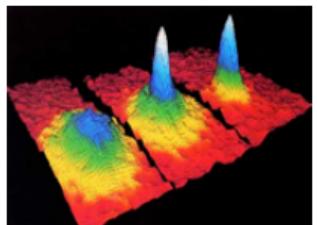
- ⇒ laser cooling
- ⇒ magnetic / optical traps
- ⇒ evaporation



Chu, Cohen-Tannoudji & Phillips (Nobel 1997)

First BEC achieved in 1995
Sodium & Rubidium

Since then: Li, H, He, K, Cs, Cr, Yb, Ca, Sr, Dy, Er, molecules, ...



Superfluid properties ?

Quantum fluids are superfluids:

- ⇒ no viscosity
- ⇒ irrotational flow

*critical velocity v_c
quantum vortices*

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2M} + g|\psi|^2 + V(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mu \right) \psi$$

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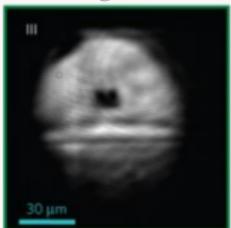
Classical fluid



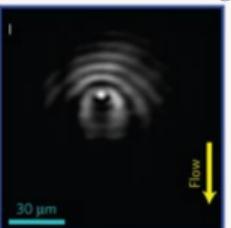
Wikimedia: wake of a boat

Quantum fluid

$$v < v_c$$



$$v > v_c$$

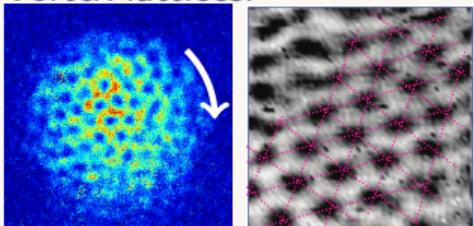


[Amo et al., Nat. Phys. (2009)]

No wake for $v < v_c$!

(generally: $v_c \leq \text{sound}$)

Vortex lattices:



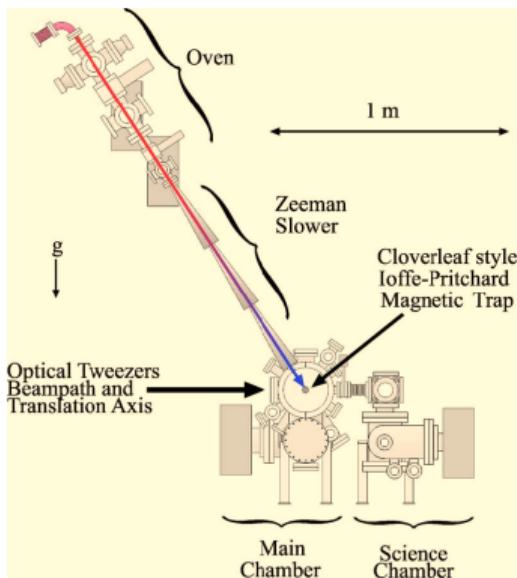
rotating superfluid, LPL

superconductor
[Guillamón et al., Nat. Phys. (2009)]

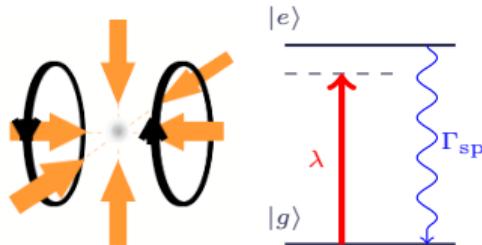
Superfluid flow **without dissipation**
Rotating superfluid is analogous to a **superconductor**

How to produce a ultra-cold gaz ?

Path: MOT \Rightarrow optical molasses \Rightarrow conservative trap \Rightarrow evaporative cooling to BEC



MIT, 2006, Rubidium

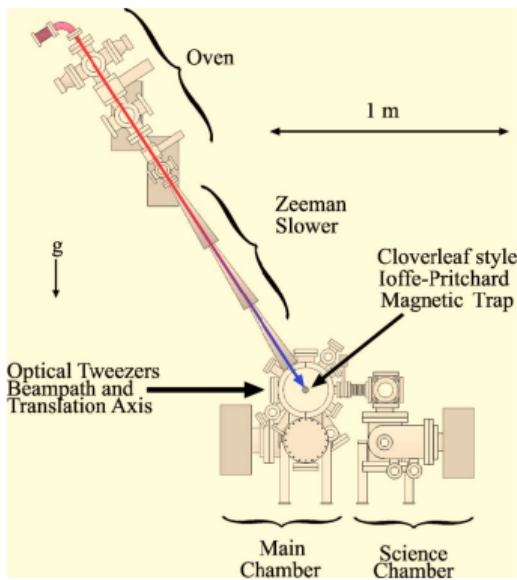


Stage	n (cm^{-3})	v or T	$\text{PSD} = n\Lambda^3$
Oven @400 K	10^{13}	350 m/s	10^{-14}
Slowed beam	10^7	40 m/s	10^{-18}
MOT	10^{10}	$150 \mu\text{K}$	10^{-7}
c-MOT	10^{11}	$300 \mu\text{K}$	4×10^{-7}
Molasses	10^{11}	$10 \mu\text{K}$	6×10^{-5}
Magnetic trap	10^{11}	$500 \mu\text{K}$	2×10^{-7}
BEC	3×10^{13}	<500 nK	2.61

[Ketterle et al., *Making, probing and understanding BECs* (1999)]

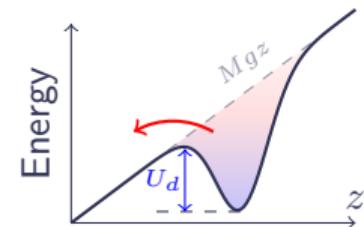
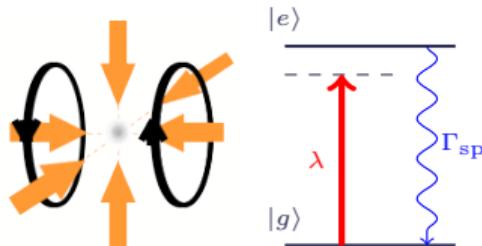
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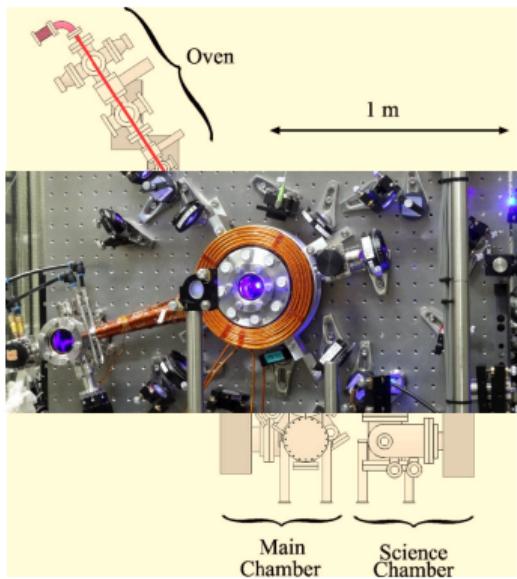
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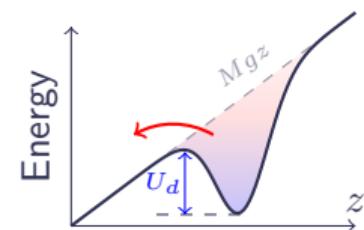
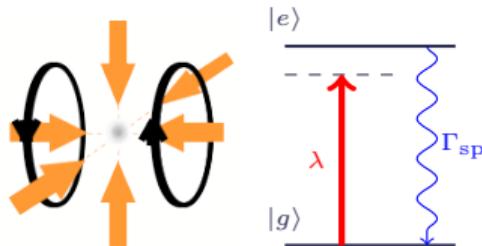
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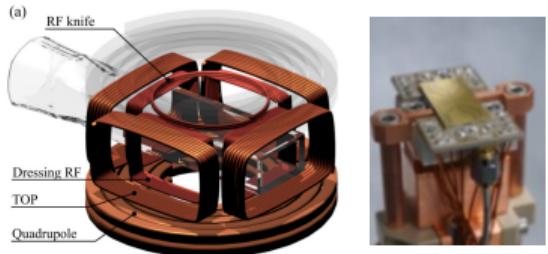
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Examples of traps for ultra-cold atoms

Magnetic traps

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = -\langle \hat{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \propto |\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r})|$$

⇒ trap near a local minimum of B-field



$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{M}{2} (\omega_x^2 x^2 + \omega_y^2 y^2 + \omega_z^2 z^2)$$

pros

- ⇒ easy & stable
- ⇒ extremely smooth

cons

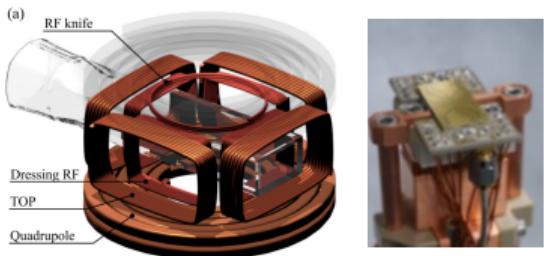
- ⇒ large scale only
- ⇒ bulky

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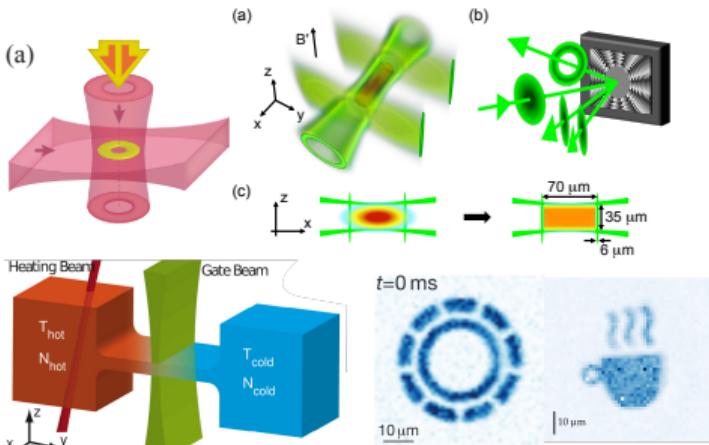
[Oxford, Paris, ...]

R. Dubessy

Optical traps

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = -\langle \hat{d} \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \propto I(\mathbf{r})$$

\Rightarrow trap near local extrema of intensity



pros

- \Rightarrow highly versatile
- \Rightarrow scalable

cons

- \Rightarrow heating & stability
- \Rightarrow rugosity

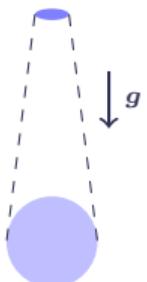
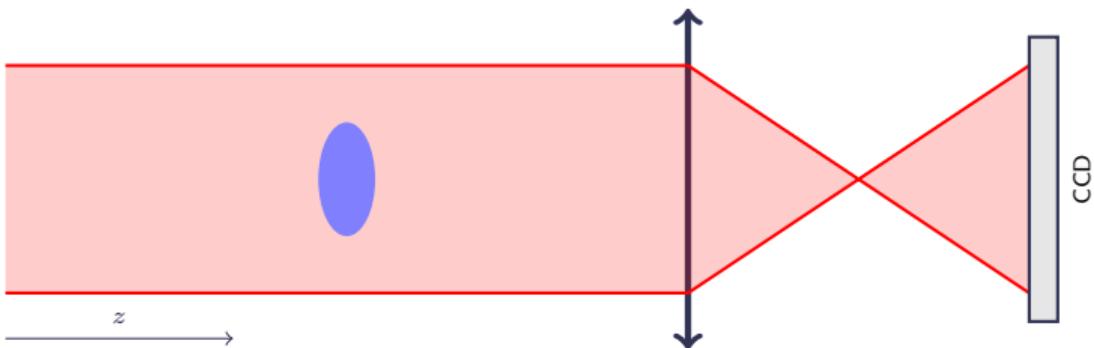
[NIST, Cambridge, Zurich, Paris, ...]

Turbulence in superfluids: waves and vortices

Les Houches Sept. 2024

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How to probe a quantum gaz ?



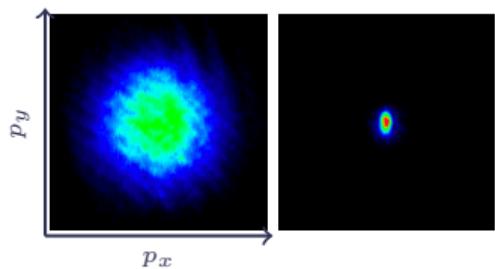
Record the *shadow* of the cloud on the camera.

⇒ in situ

$$n_{2D}(x, y) = \int dz n(\mathbf{r})$$

⇒ after a time-of-flight

mapping: $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_0 + \mathbf{v}t \Rightarrow$ access to momentum distribution.



Thermal gaz: $\Delta p_x = \Delta p_y = \sqrt{Mk_B T}$

Condensate: $\Delta p_x = \frac{\hbar}{2\Delta x} \neq \Delta p_y$

Orders of magnitude

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2M} + g|\psi|^2 + V(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mu \right) \psi, \quad N = \int d\mathbf{r} |\psi|^2, \quad g = \frac{4\pi\hbar^2}{M} a_s$$

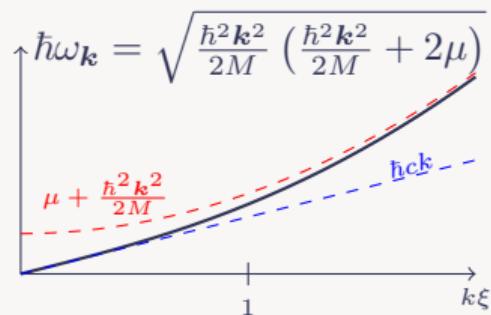
two-body scattering length: a_s

healing length: $\xi = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2M\mu}}$

speed of sound: $c = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{M}}$

homogeneous system

$$V(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0$$



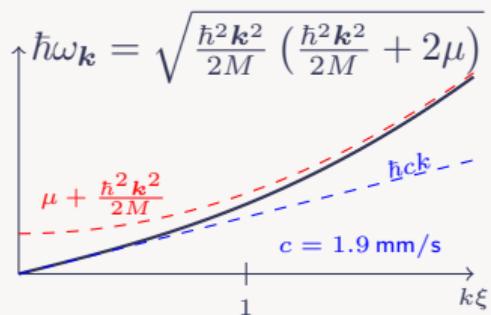
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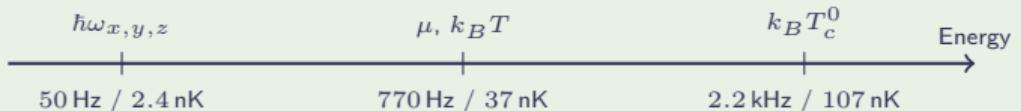
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Harmonic trap

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{M}{2} (\omega_x^2 x^2 + \omega_y^2 y^2 + \omega_z^2 z^2)$$

Take $N = 10^5$ ^{87}Rb atoms in a isotropic trap $M = 1.44 \times 10^{-25}$ kg



$$\Rightarrow n(\mathbf{r}) = |\psi|^2 = \frac{\mu - V(\mathbf{r})}{g}$$

Thomas-Fermi inverted parabola

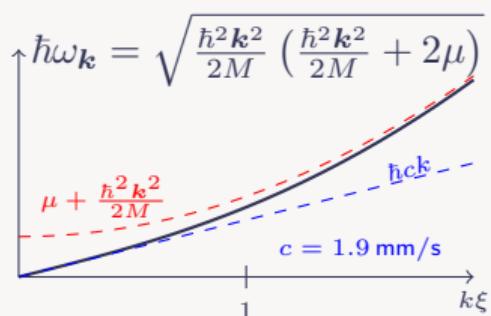
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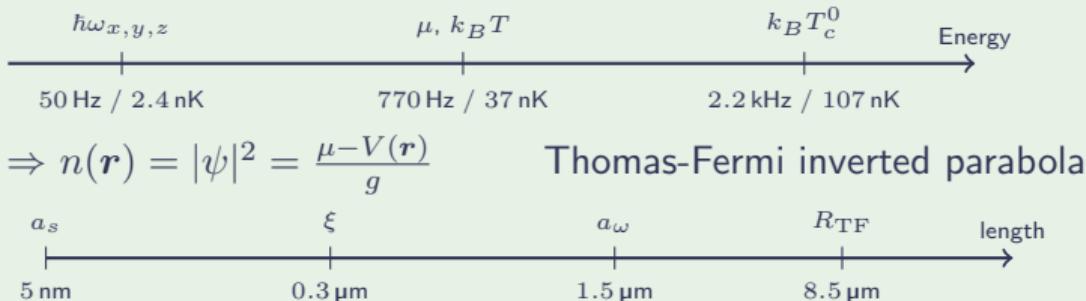
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For an anisotropic trap $\omega_{x,y} \ll \omega_z$, if $\hbar\omega_{x,y} \ll \mu, k_B T \leq \hbar\omega_z$

z degree of freedom is frozen \Rightarrow 2D dynamics

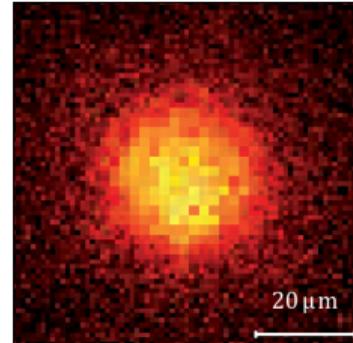
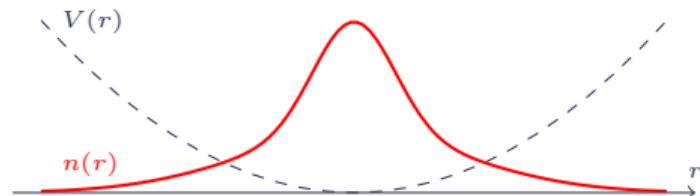
What can we do with a superfluid ? (I)

Equilibrium properties

Example: measurement of the equation of state of a many-body system.

- ⇒ in-situ density profile $n(r)$
- ⇒ knowledge of the trap $V(r)$
- ⇒ local density approximation

$$\mu_{\text{loc}}(r) = \mu_0 - V(r)$$



[Desbuquois et al., PRL (2014)]

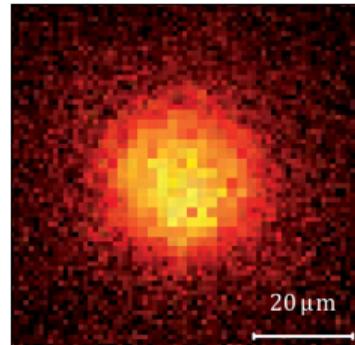
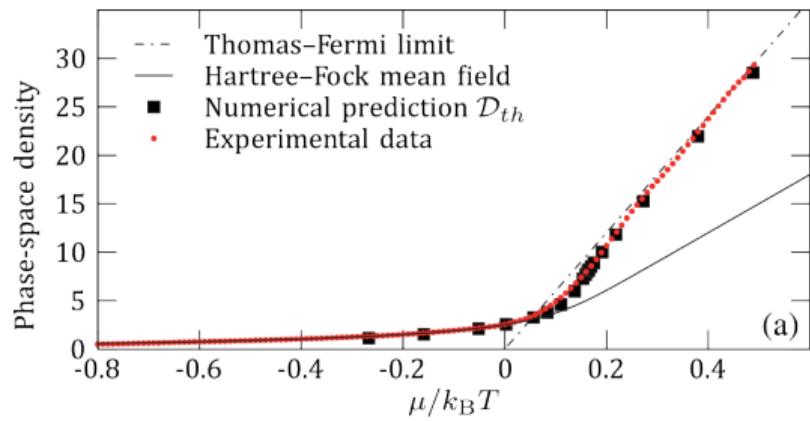
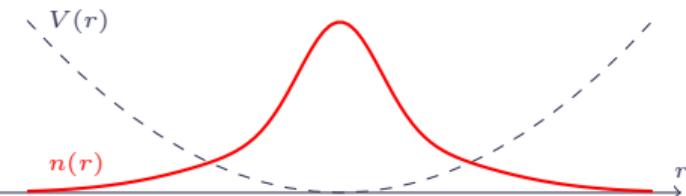
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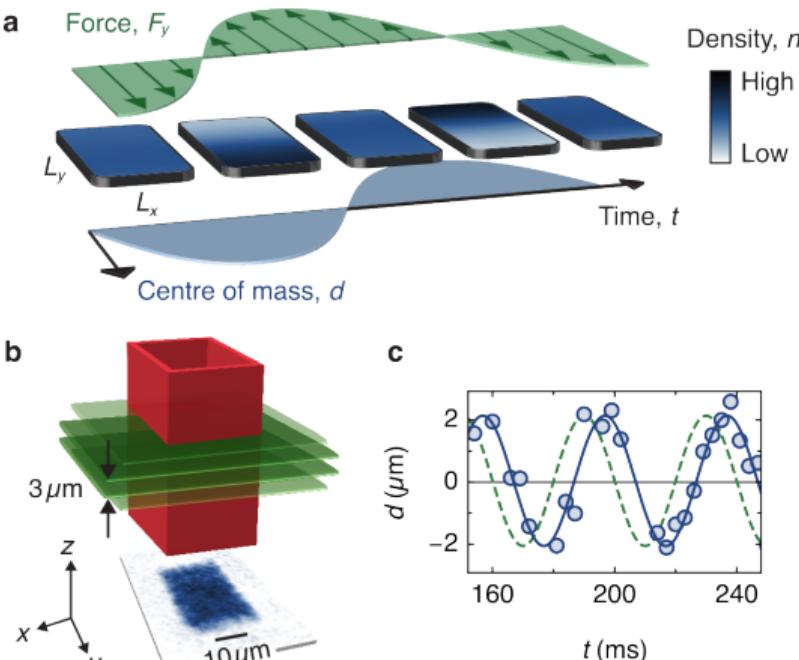
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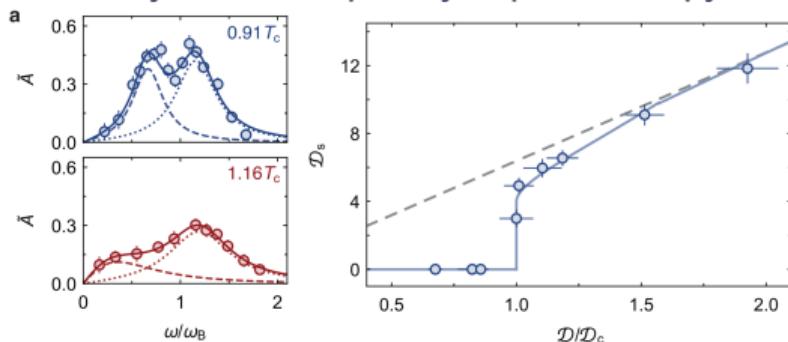
What can we do with a superfluid ? (II)

Weak excitations



[Christodoulou et al., Nature (2021)]

- ⇒ apply weak oscillating force to excite sound waves
- ⇒ record center-of-mass oscillations
- ⇒ vary drive frequency: spectroscopy

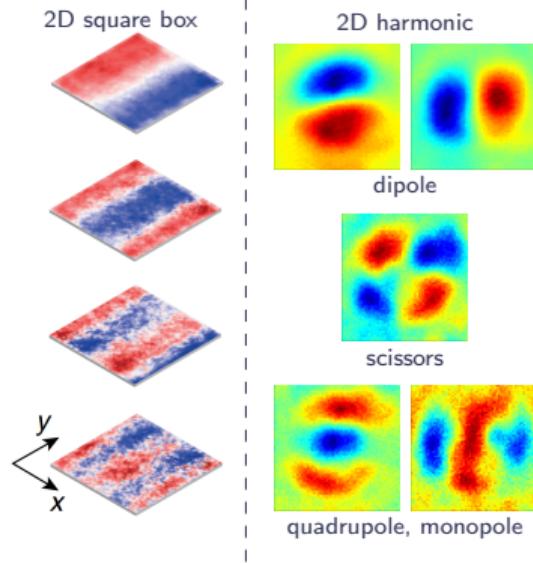


- ⇒ two peaks ⇔ two speeds of sound
- ⇒ measure of the superfluid fraction

What can we do with a superfluid ? (III)

Wave propagation

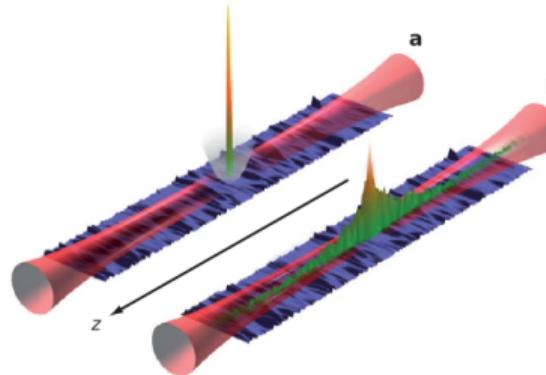
Small amplitude waves



⇒ dispersion relation

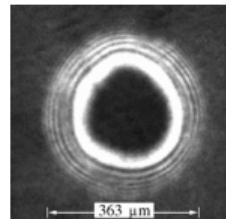
[Galka et al., PRL (2022), Dubessy et al., NJP (2014)]

Anderson localization



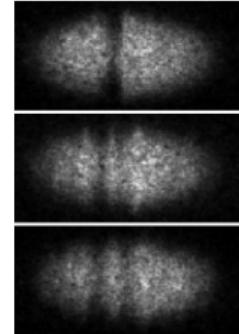
[Billy et al., Nature (2008)]

Nonlinear dispersive shock waves



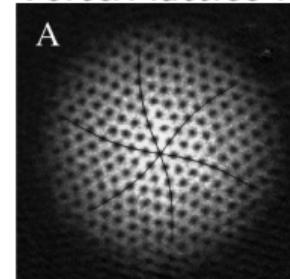
[Hoefer et al., PRA (2006)]

Grey solitons



[Burger et al., PRL (1999)]

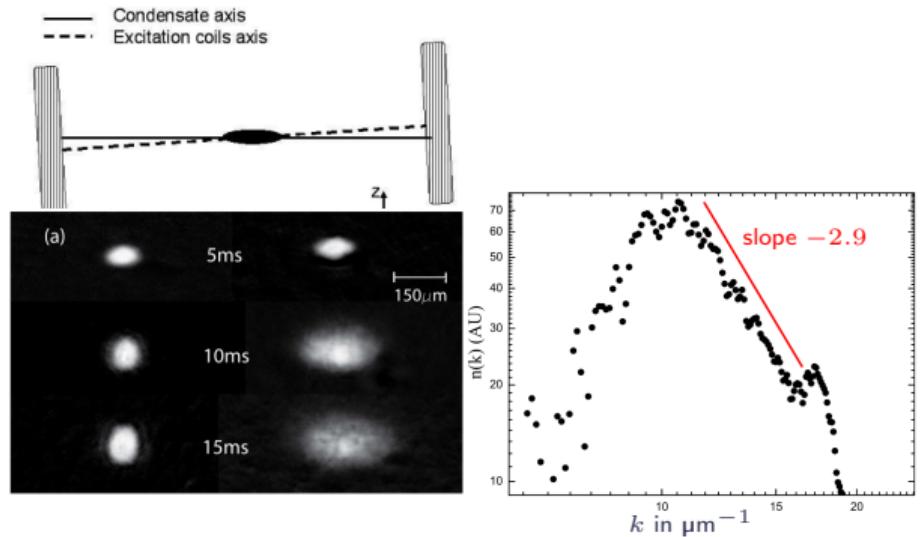
Vortex lattice modes



[Coddington et al., PRL (2003)]

Turbulence in BECs (I)

Pioneering work in São Carlos

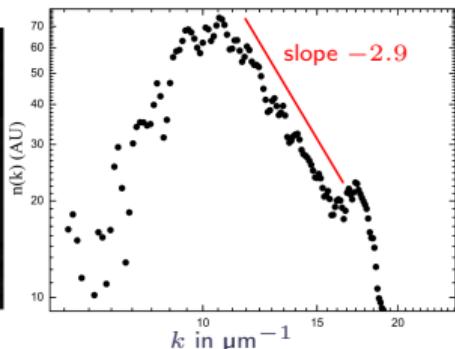
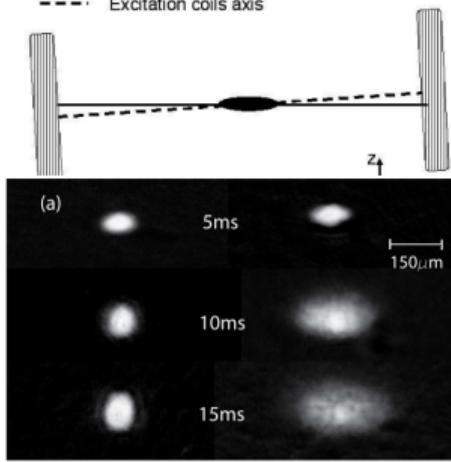


[Henn et al., PRL (2009), Thompson et al., Laser Phys. Lett. (2014), arXiv:2407.11237]

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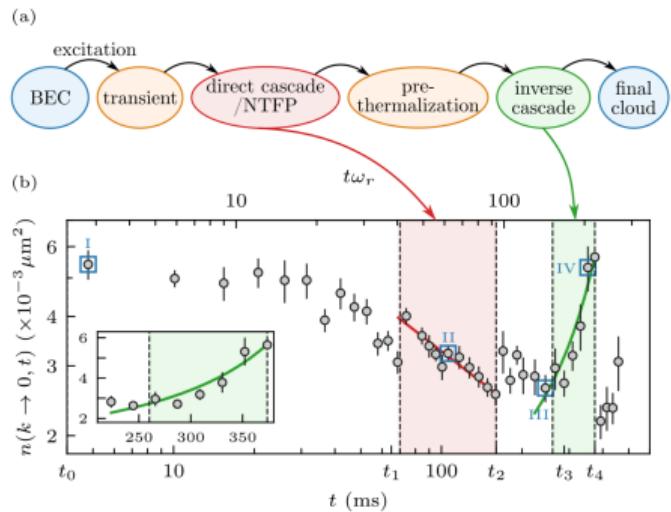
Pioneering work in São Carlos

— Condensate axis
- - - Excitation coils axis



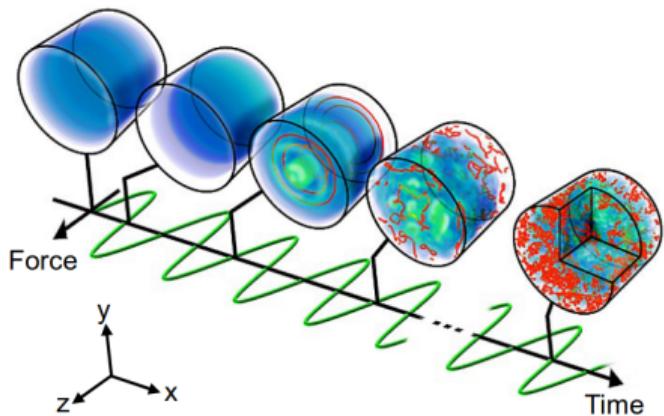
Observation of relaxation stages in a non-equilibrium closed quantum system:
decaying turbulence in a trapped superfluid

M. A. Moreno-Armijos,^{1,*} A. R. Fritsch,¹ A. D. García-Orozco,¹ S. Sab,¹ G. Telles,¹
Y. Zhu,² L. Madeira,¹ S. Nazarenko,² V. I. Yukalov,^{1,3} and V. S. Bagnato^{1,4,5}

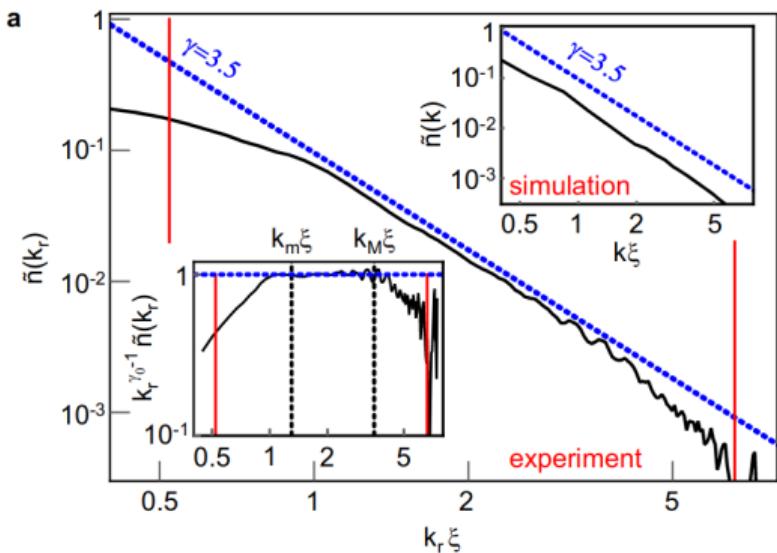


Turbulence in BECs (II)

The Cambridge experiment: turbulence in a box



- $\Rightarrow \omega_{\text{drive}} = 2\pi \times 9 \text{ Hz} \& U_d \sim k_B \times 60 \text{ nK}$
- \Rightarrow steady-state $n(k)$ for $2 \text{ s} \leq t \leq 4 \text{ s}$
- \Rightarrow consistent with numerical simulations

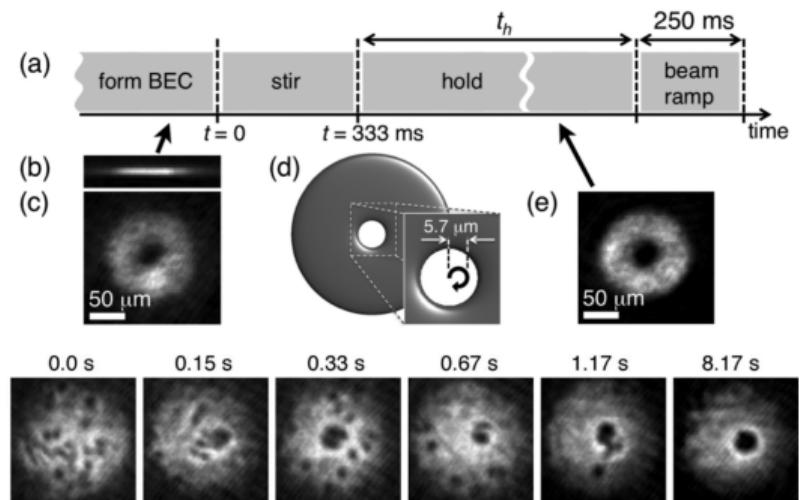


Similar experiment in a 2D square box $\gamma = 2.9$

Contribution of waves versus vortices in this scenario ?

Vortex turbulence ?

Hard to see a 3D vortex tangle in experiments: 2D is better \Rightarrow test Onsager's predictions

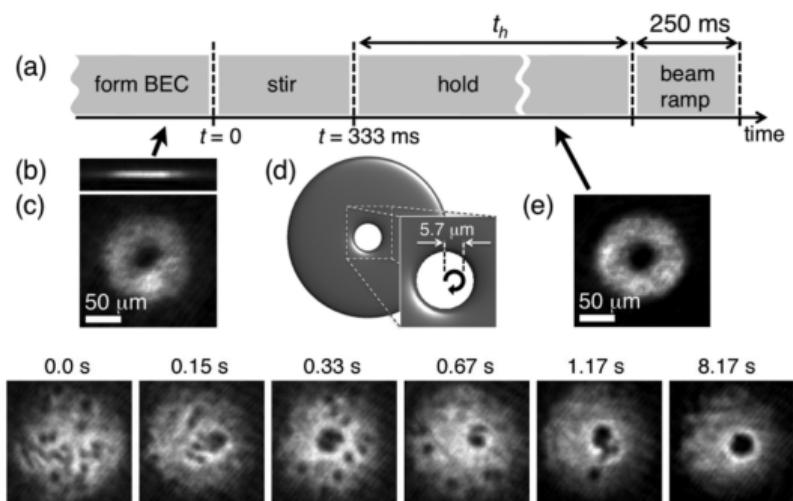


- \Rightarrow random initial vortex distribution
- \Rightarrow emergence of large scale flow

[Neely et al., PRL (2013)]

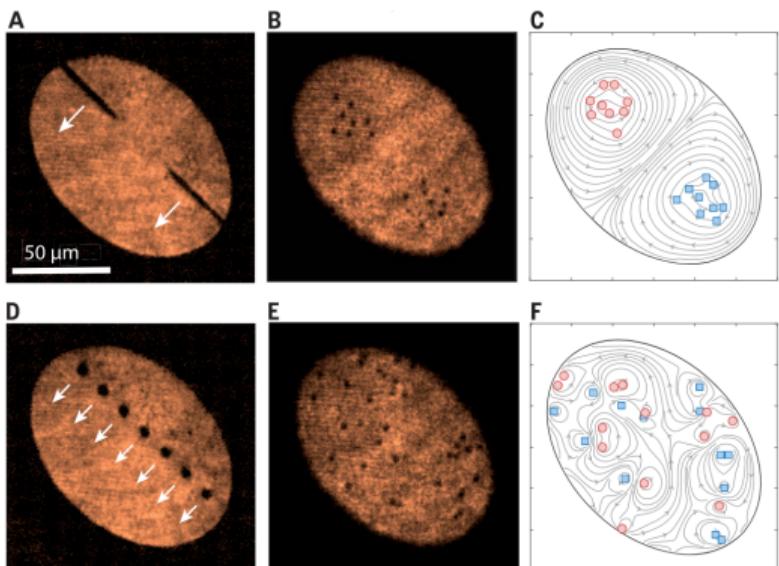
Vortex turbulence ?

Hard to see a 3D vortex tangle in experiments: 2D is better \Rightarrow test Onsager's predictions



- \Rightarrow random initial vortex distribution
- \Rightarrow emergence of large scale flow

[Neely et al., PRL (2013)]



- \Rightarrow control over the vortex injection

[Gauthier et al., Science (2019)]

The BEC group at Villetaneuse

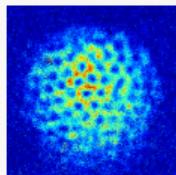
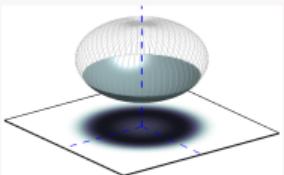


H. Perrin



<http://bec.lpl.univ-paris13.fr>

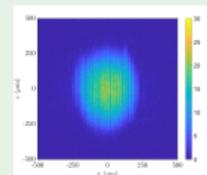
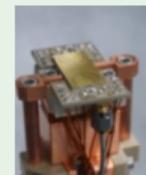
Bubble trap experiment



Thermal melting of a vortex lattice
arXiv:2404.05460

Rb

Atomchip experiment

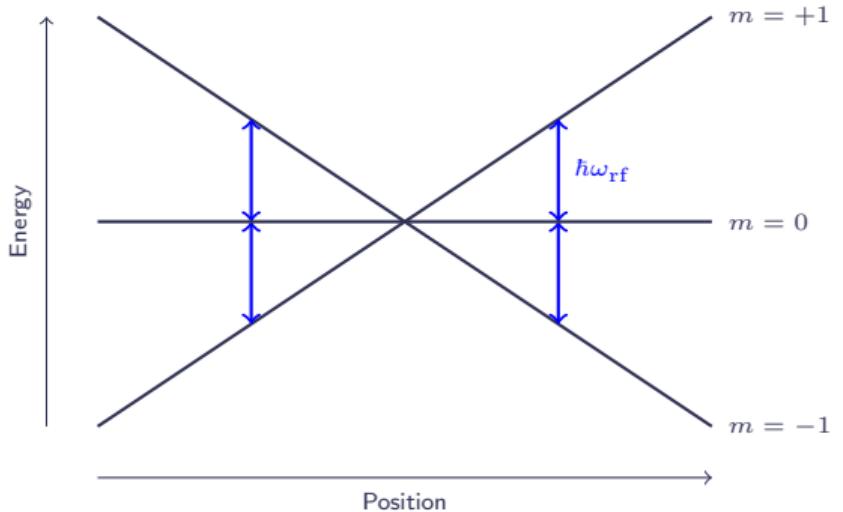


Fast manipulation of a quantum gas on an atom chip with a strong microwave field
arXiv:2405.07583

Na

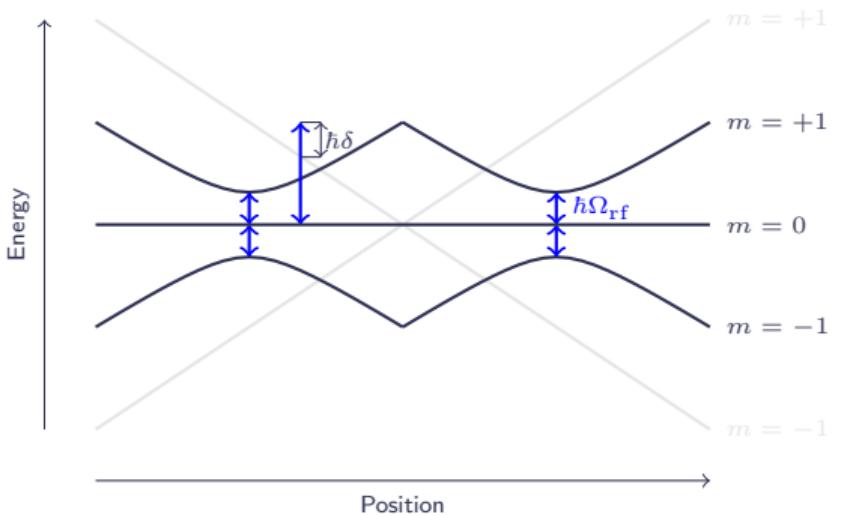
Main interest: study quantum gases dynamics in low dimensions

quadrupole field: $B_0 = b'(xe_x + ye_y - 2ze_z)$ & rf photons



Energy levels of a groundstate
 ^{87}Rb atom ($F = 1$)

quadrupole field: $B_0 = b'(xe_x + ye_y - 2ze_z)$ & rf photons



Energy levels of a groundstate
 ^{87}Rb atom ($F = 1$)

The atom-field coupling results
in an energy minimum on the
isomagnetic surface

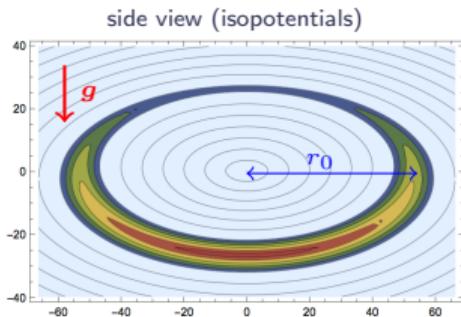
$$\hbar\omega_{\text{rf}} = \mu|B_0|.$$

[Zobay & Garraway PRL (2001)]

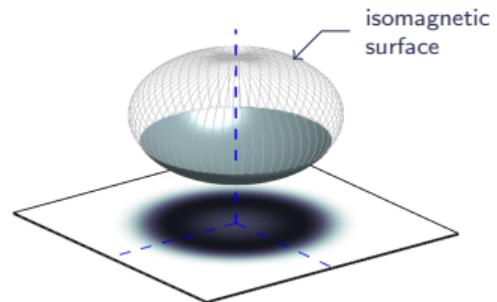
Adiabatic potential: $V(\mathbf{r}) = \hbar\sqrt{\delta(\mathbf{r})^2 + \Omega_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{r})^2}$

$$\delta(\mathbf{r}) = \omega_{\text{rf}} - \mu|B_0|/\hbar$$

Superfluid on a curved space



The motion of the atoms is constrained on a 2D curved surface “bubble geometry”.



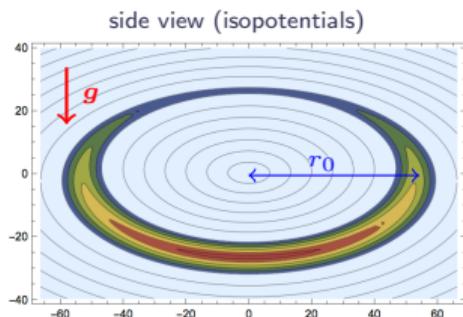
Superfluid on a curved space

$$\Omega_{\text{rf}} \sim 20 - 100 \text{ kHz}$$

$$r_0 \propto \omega_{\text{rf}}/b' \sim 20 - 200 \mu\text{m}$$

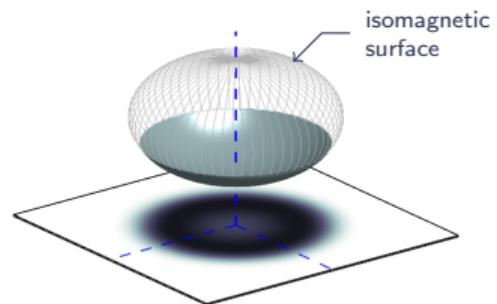
$$\omega_{x,y} \propto \sqrt{g/r_0} \sim 20 - 50 \text{ Hz}$$

$$\omega_z \propto b'/\sqrt{\Omega_{\text{rf}}} \sim 0.3 - 2 \text{ kHz}$$



\Rightarrow very thin $\omega_z \gg \omega_{x,y}$

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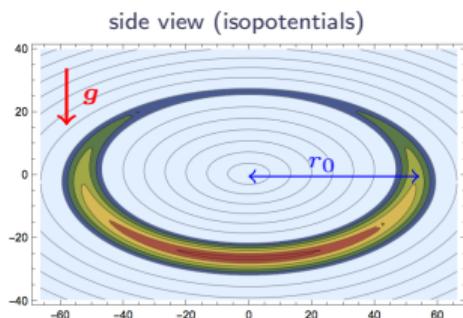
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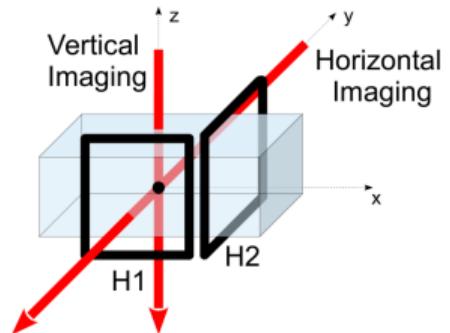


\Rightarrow very thin $\omega_z \gg \omega_{x,y}$

\Rightarrow rf polarization controls the ω_x / ω_y anisotropy

- **rotationally invariant** ($\omega_x = \omega_y$) for σ^+
- **anisotropic** ($\omega_x \neq \omega_y$) in general

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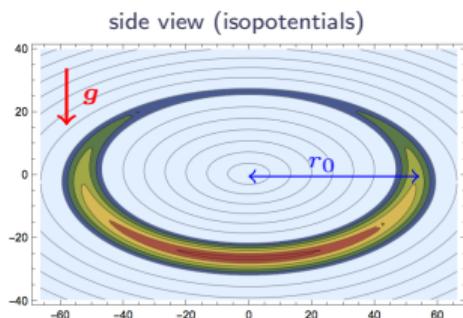
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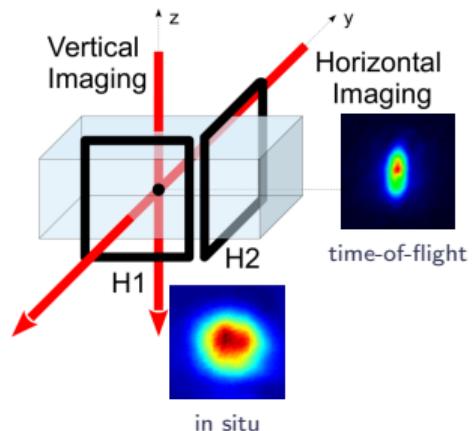
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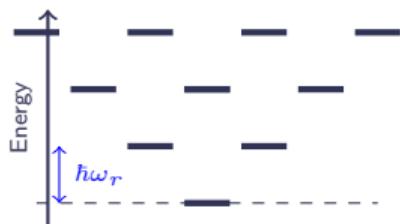
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We measure the cloud properties by comparing **pictures of the density profiles** to models.



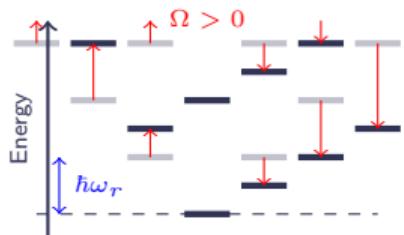
Motivation for reaching the *fast rotation* regime

Rotation in a 2D harmonic trap: simulation of quantum Hall physics



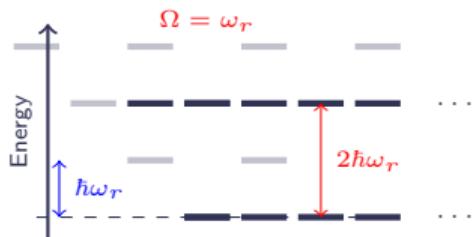
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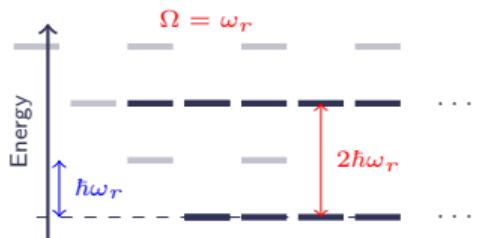
When $\Omega = \omega_r$: the centrifugal force
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Landau levels hamiltonian

[Schweikhard et al. PRL (2004),
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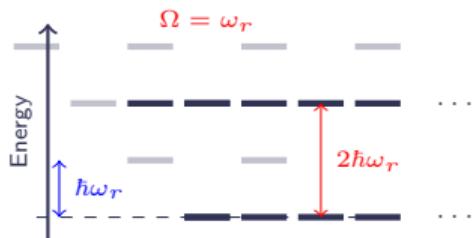
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Add a **quartic term** : stabilizes the cloud

$$V(r) = \frac{M\omega_r^2}{2}r^2(1 + \kappa r^2)$$

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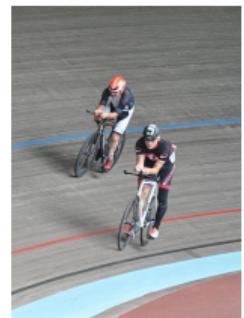
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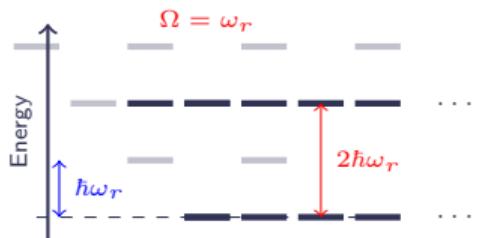
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omnium, wikipedia

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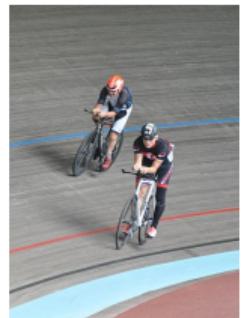
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Highly degenerate groundstate means also higher sensitivity to fluctuations !

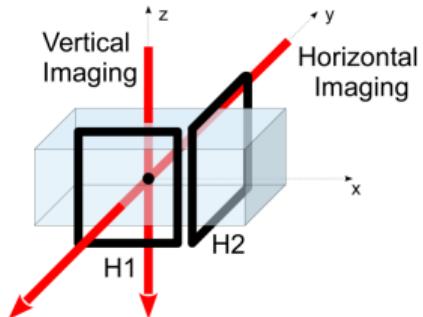
How to rotate ?

⇒ use a weakly elliptic rf polarization

⇒ angle & amplitude are fully controlled

$$\theta(t) = \Omega_{\text{stir}} t.$$

$$V_{\text{trap}} \simeq \frac{M}{2} \omega_r^2 [(1 + \epsilon)x'^2 + (1 - \epsilon)y'^2]$$

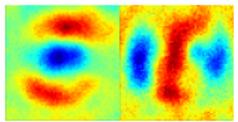


⇒ couples to the BEC quadrupole mode

⇒ resonant coupling for:

$$\Omega_{\text{stir}} = \frac{\omega_r}{\sqrt{2}} \simeq 2\pi \times 24 \text{ Hz}$$

[Chevy et al. PRL 2000, Abo-Shaeer et al. Science 2001]



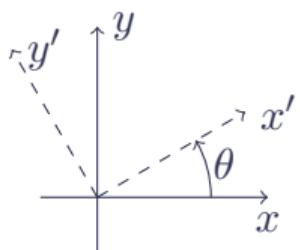
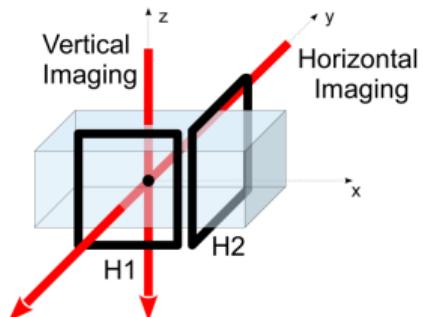
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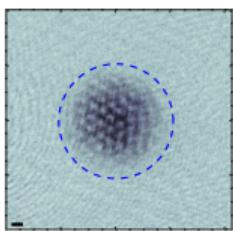
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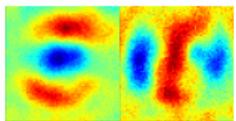


Increasing Ω_{rot} ...



$$\Omega_{\text{rot}} / (2\pi) = 20 \text{ Hz}$$

Blue dashed circle: Thomas-Fermi radius after 27 ms time-of-flight



[Chevy et al. PRL 2000, Abo-Shaeer et al. Science 2001]

$$\epsilon = 0.18$$

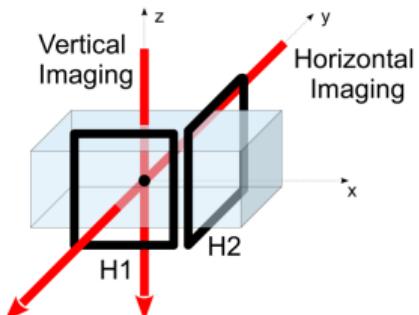
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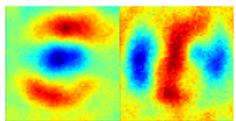
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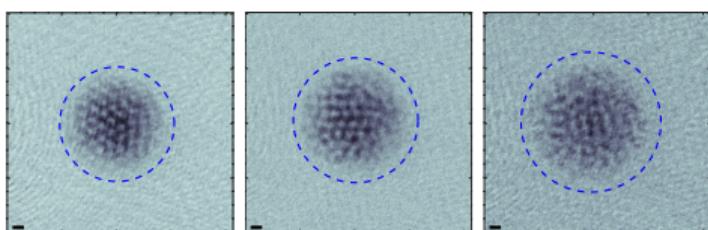
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Increasing Ω_{rot} ... disordered lattice...



$\Omega_{\text{rot}}/(2\pi) = 20 \text{ Hz}$ 21 Hz 24.5 Hz

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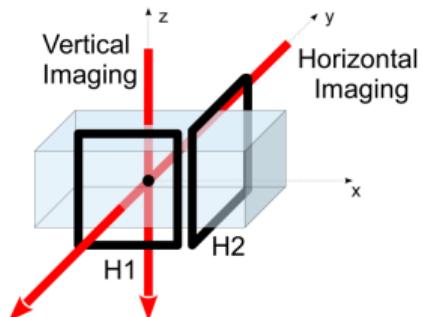
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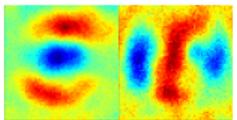
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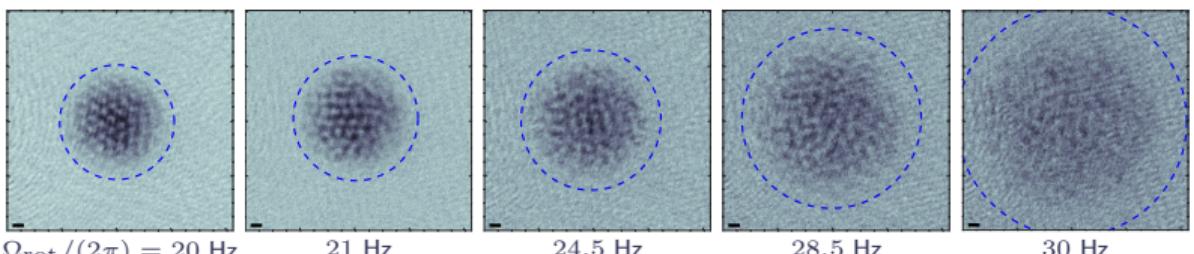
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Increasing Ω_{rot} ... disordered lattice... melting?

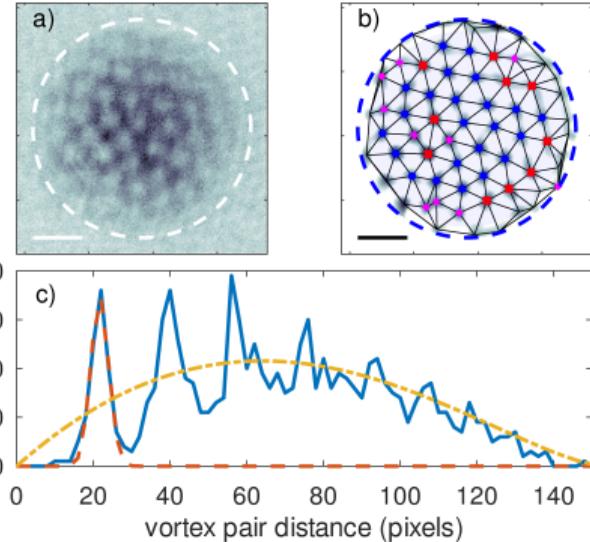


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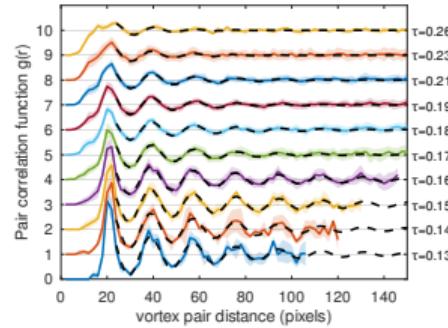
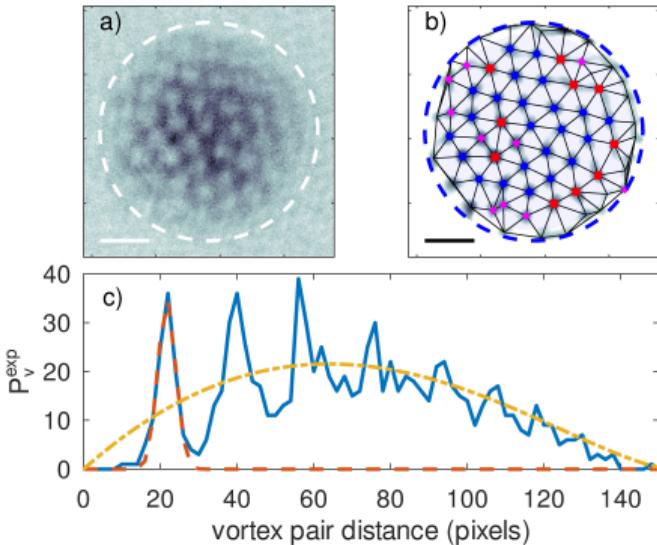
Thermal melting of a vortex lattice

arXiv:2404.05460



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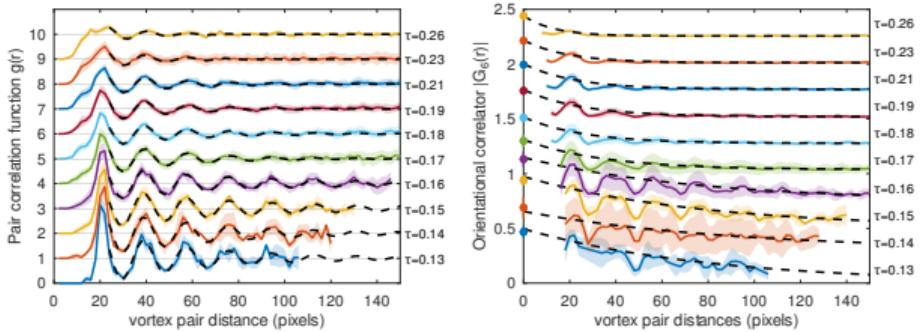
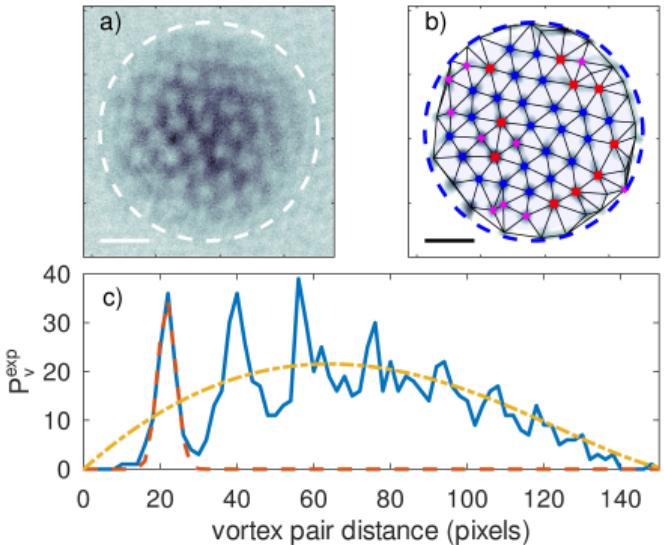
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Study vortex lattice order:
⇒ pair correlation function decay $g(r)$

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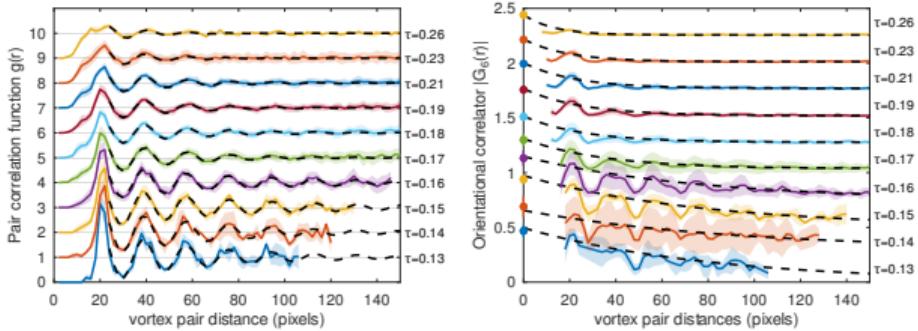
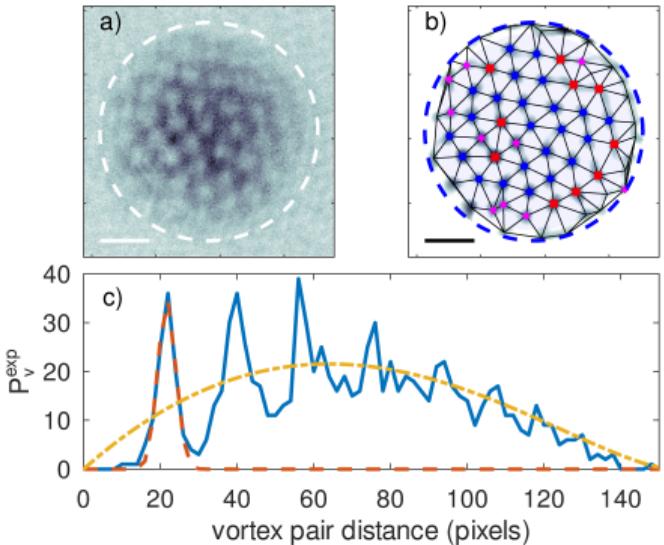
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- ⇒ orientational correlator

$$G_6(r) = \langle \psi_6(\mathbf{r}_k)^* \psi_6(\mathbf{r}_p) \rangle_{|\mathbf{r}_k - \mathbf{r}_p| \sim r}$$

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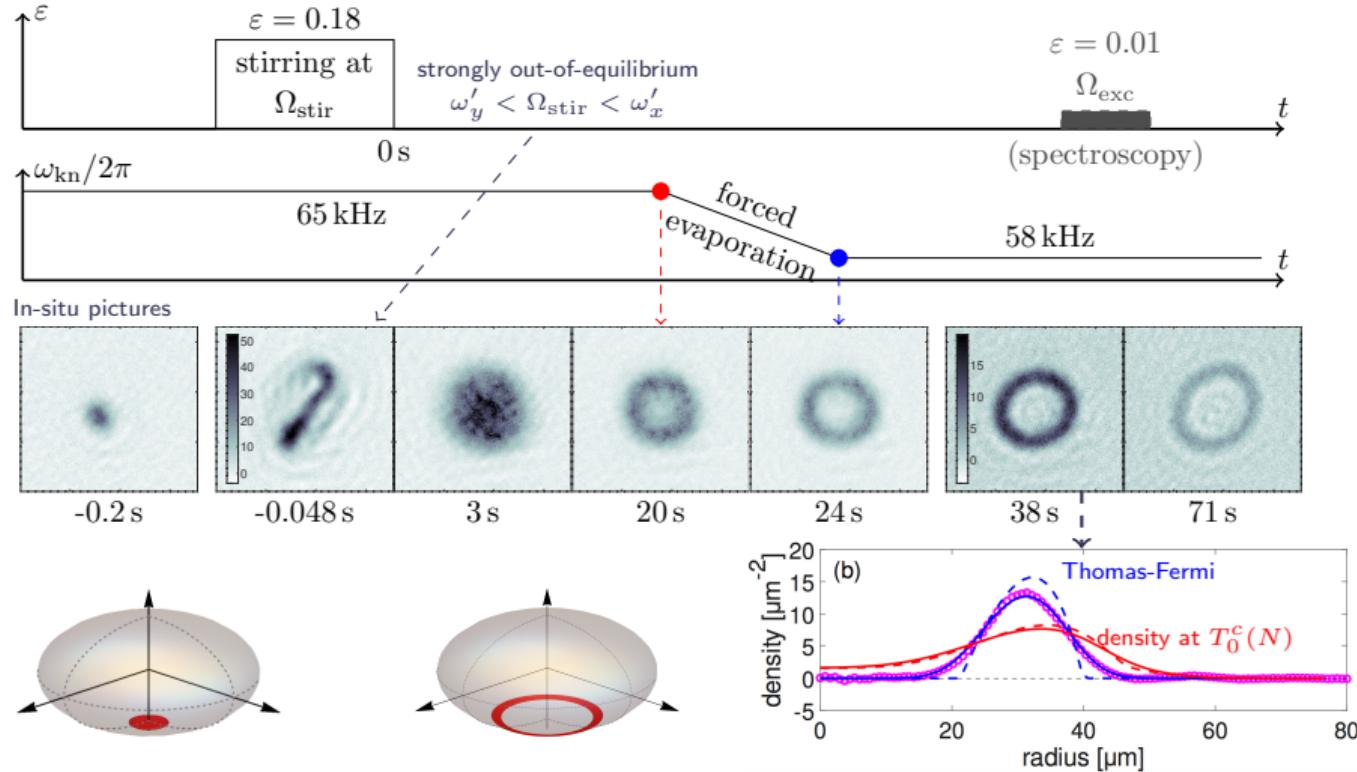
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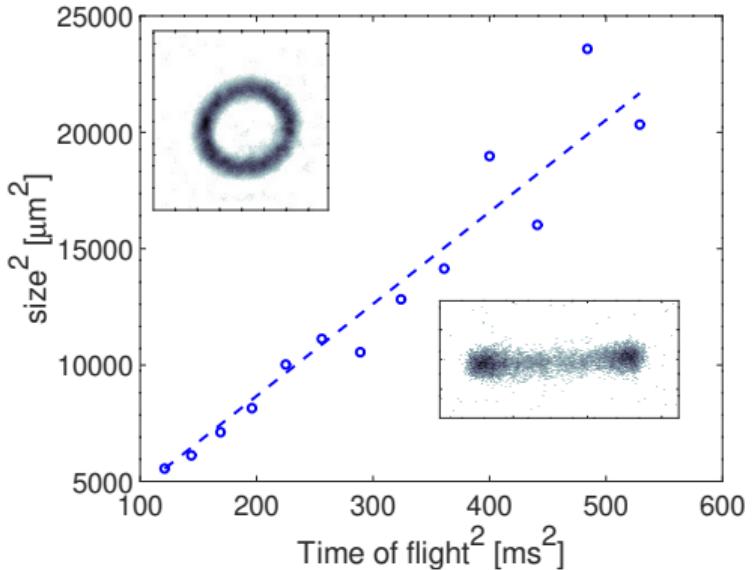
We evidence a transition from a hexatic phase to a liquid (of vortices)

Rotating faster: the dynamical ring regime



[Guo et al., PRL (2020)]

A supersonic flow



- ⇒ size 2 scales as t_{ToF}^2 (ballistic expansion)
- ⇒ fit gives: $\Omega \sim 1.05\omega_r$ i.e. $v = 7.4 \text{ mm/s}$
- ⇒ peak density is $n_0 \sim 15 \mu\text{m}^{-3} \Rightarrow c_0 \sim 0.4 \text{ mm/s}$

A degenerate gaz flowing at **Mach 18** !

[Guo et al., PRL (2020)]

For atoms located on the **resonant surface** $\delta(\mathbf{r}) \simeq 0$,
the trap potential becomes very simple:

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \hbar\sqrt{\delta(\mathbf{r})^2 + \Omega_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{r})^2} + Mgz \quad \Rightarrow \quad V(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{2} + \left(Mg - \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{r_0}\right)z$$

(for a circular σ^+ rf polarization)

We may define an *effective gravity*:

$$g_{\text{eff}} = g \left(1 - \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{Mgr_0}\right)$$

where $r_0 = \omega_{\text{rf}}/\alpha \propto \omega_{\text{rf}}/b'$

Changing r_0 enables a **compensation** of the gravitational potential...

Gravity compensation

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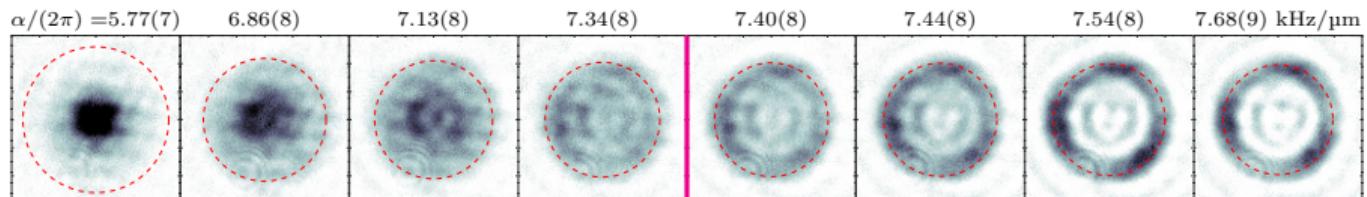
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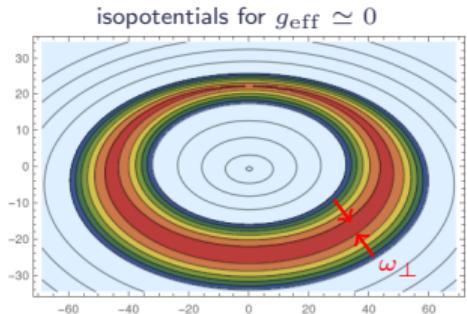
[Guo et al. NJP (2022)]

Why do we see a **ring** ?



E. Mercado, V. Bagnato

The unexpected contribution of the third dimension

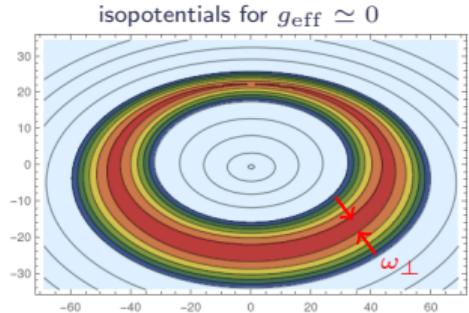


$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{2} + Mg_{\text{eff}}z + \frac{\hbar\omega_{\perp}(z)}{2}$$

$$\omega_{\perp}(z) \simeq \alpha(z) \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{M\Omega(z)}}$$

Confinement to the surface **increases** near the top:
atoms are repelled \Rightarrow **stable ring shape**.

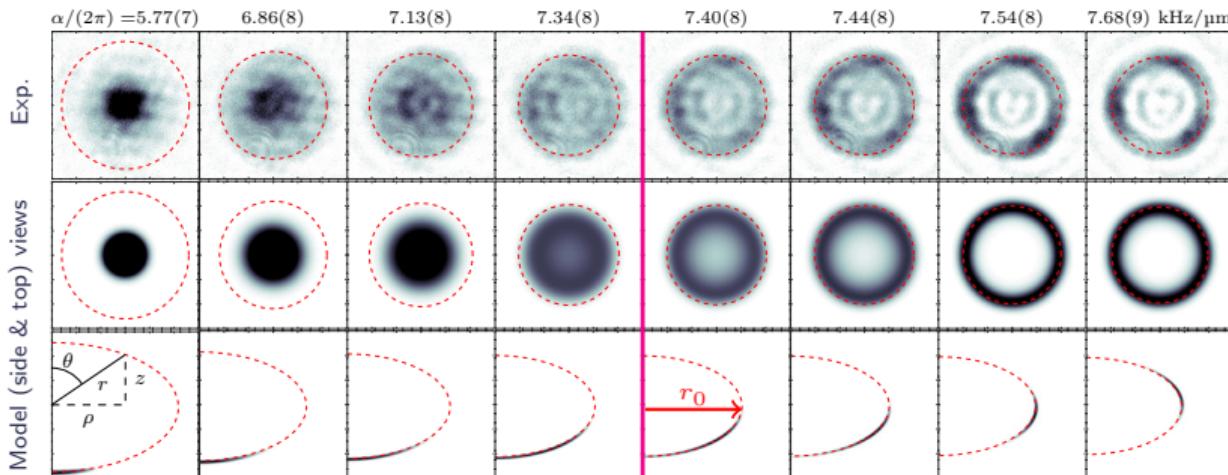
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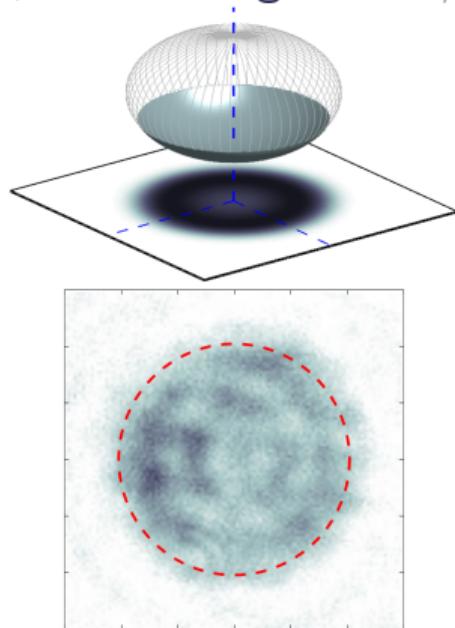
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Modelisation
Using:
 \Rightarrow a refined $V(\mathbf{r})$
Floquet expansion
 $\Rightarrow T = 0$ superfluid
density model
(Gross-Pitaevskii equation)
[Guo et al. NJP (2022)]

So we have a curved superfluid, should we expect new physics ?

⇒ yes, in a **rotating frame**: β -effect, Rossby waves, zonal flows, ... even turbulence ?



We aim for:

⇒ a large area 2D superfluid $d \gg \xi$

$d \sim 100 \mu\text{m}$, $\xi \sim 1 \mu\text{m}$

⇒ a very low temperature $T \leq 20 \text{ nK}$

⇒ high imaging resolution $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$

Collaboration with Ying, Simon, Éric & Sergey



- ultracold atom platforms are interesting to study **nonlinear physics**
with a *bottom-up* approach
- ⇒ some experiments are really close to implementing **textbook models**
- we do need intensive **numerical simulations** to help guide the experiments
especially *far from equilibrium*
- at LPL we have a unique platform to study rotating superfluids in a curved space

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Thank you for your attention !