

# Expansion of vortex clusters in a dissipative two-dimensional superfluid

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The University of Queensland, Australia\*



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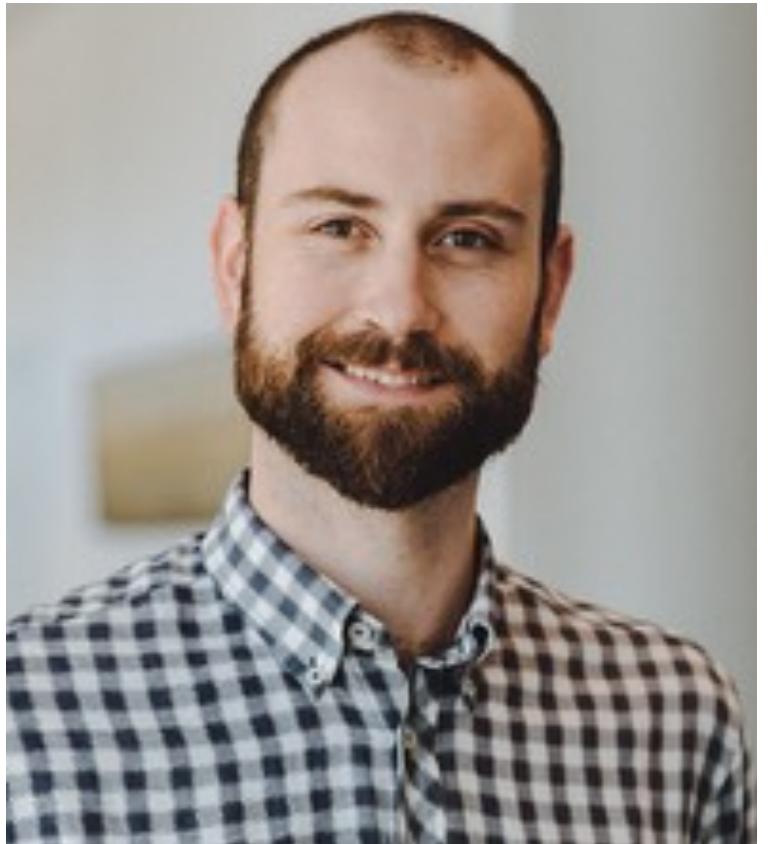


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AUSTRALIA

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# Acknowledgements



Matt Reeves



Xiaoquan Yu



Warwick Bowen



Matt Davis



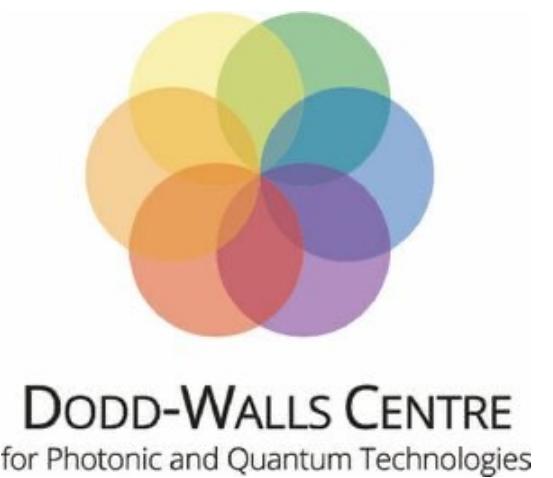
Kwan Goddard-Lee



Guillaume Gauthier

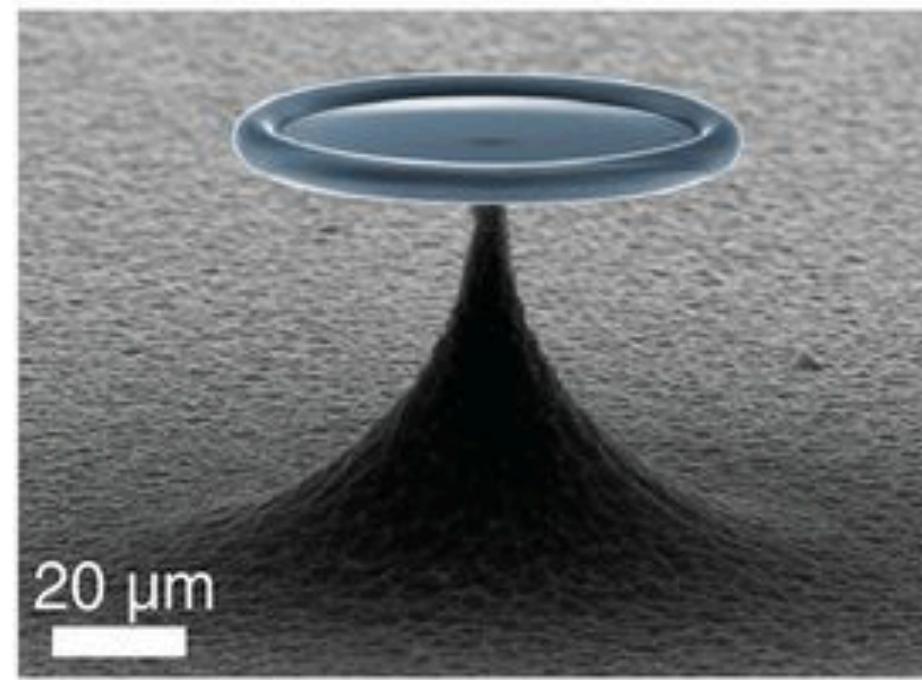


Tyler Neely



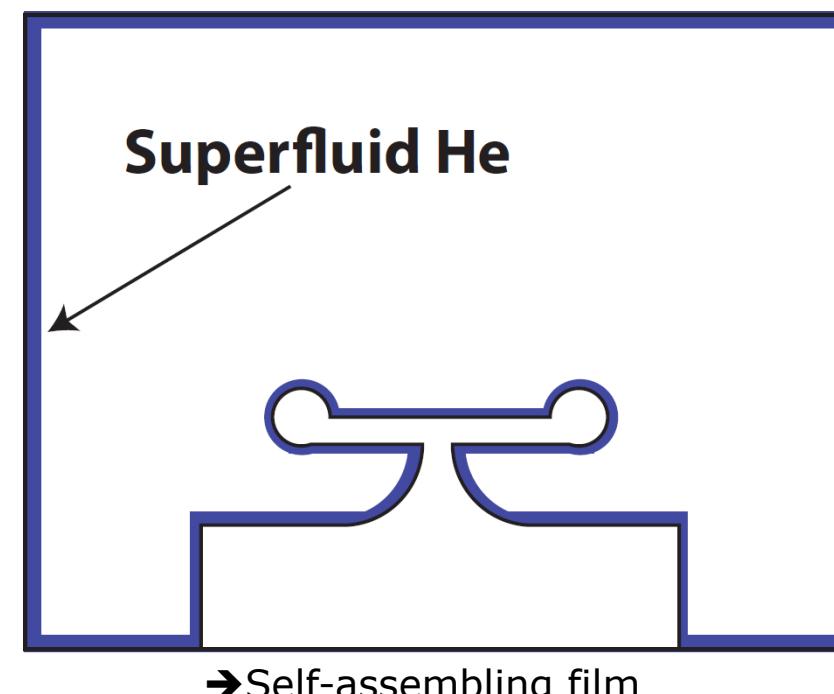
# Motivation: superfluid optomechanics at UQ

A disk of **thin-film superfluid helium**



Direct  
imaging  
not  
possible

Superfluid  
covers every  
surface



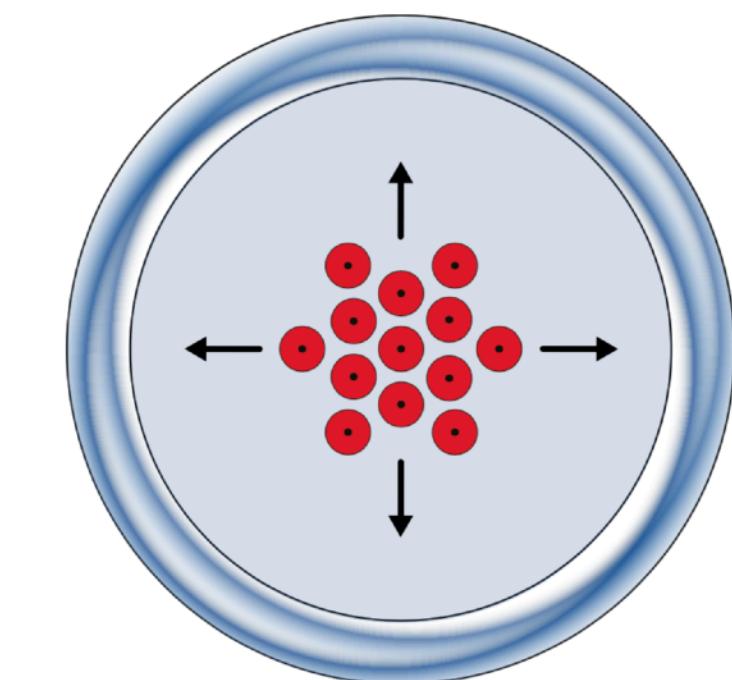
Observation: Superfluid is **rotating** and  
**rotation is decreasing**

Possible explanation

positive vortex



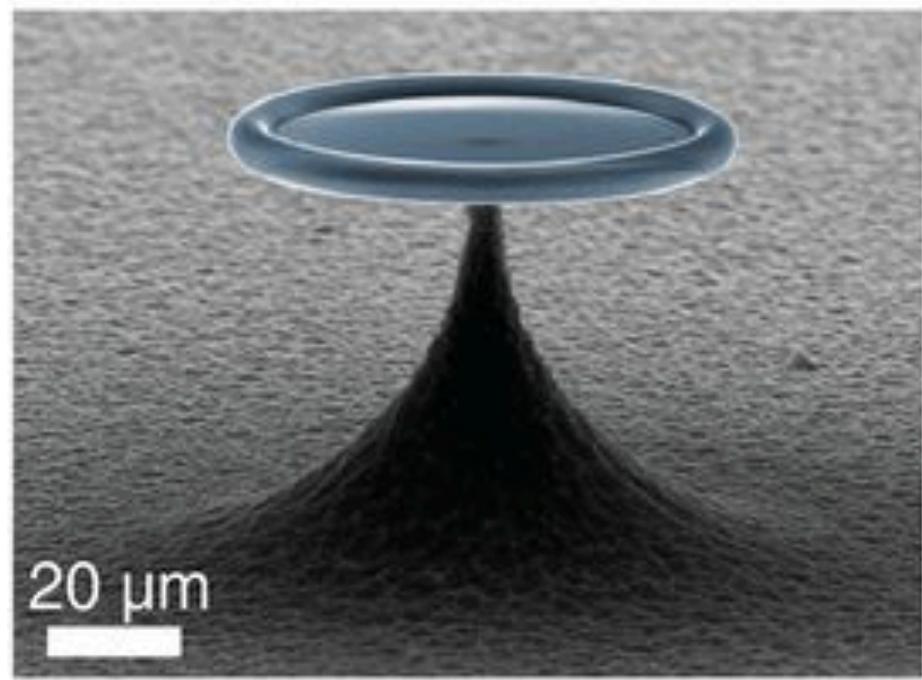
Superfluid vortices'  
circulation is  
quantised  
$$\Gamma = \kappa \frac{\hbar}{m}$$



Expanding cluster

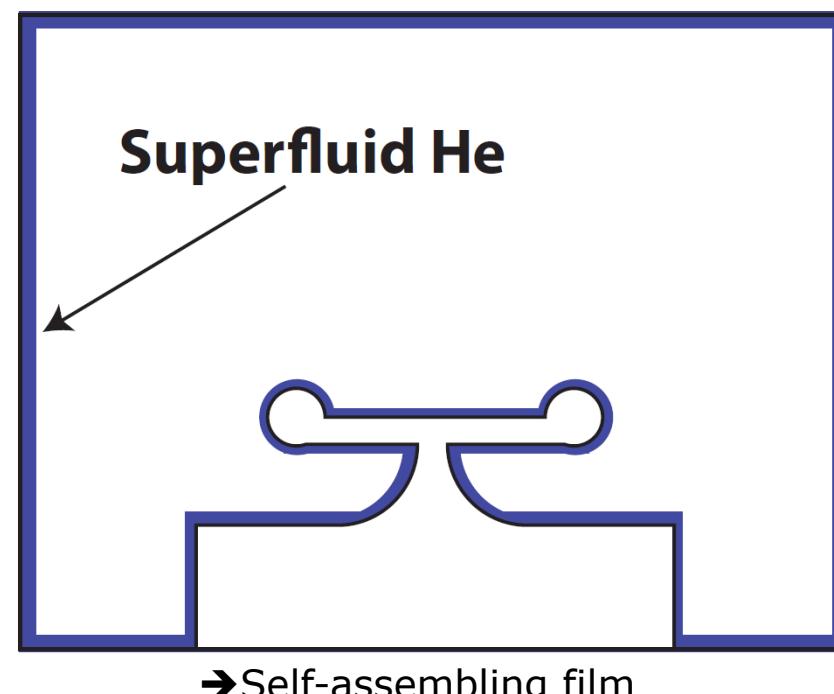
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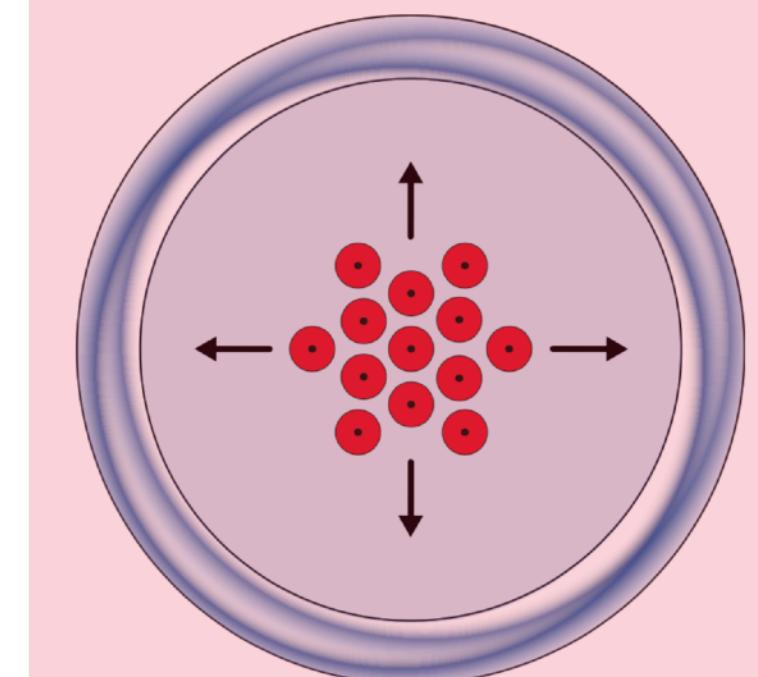
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This Talk



Expanding cluster

# Modelling a chiral vortex cluster

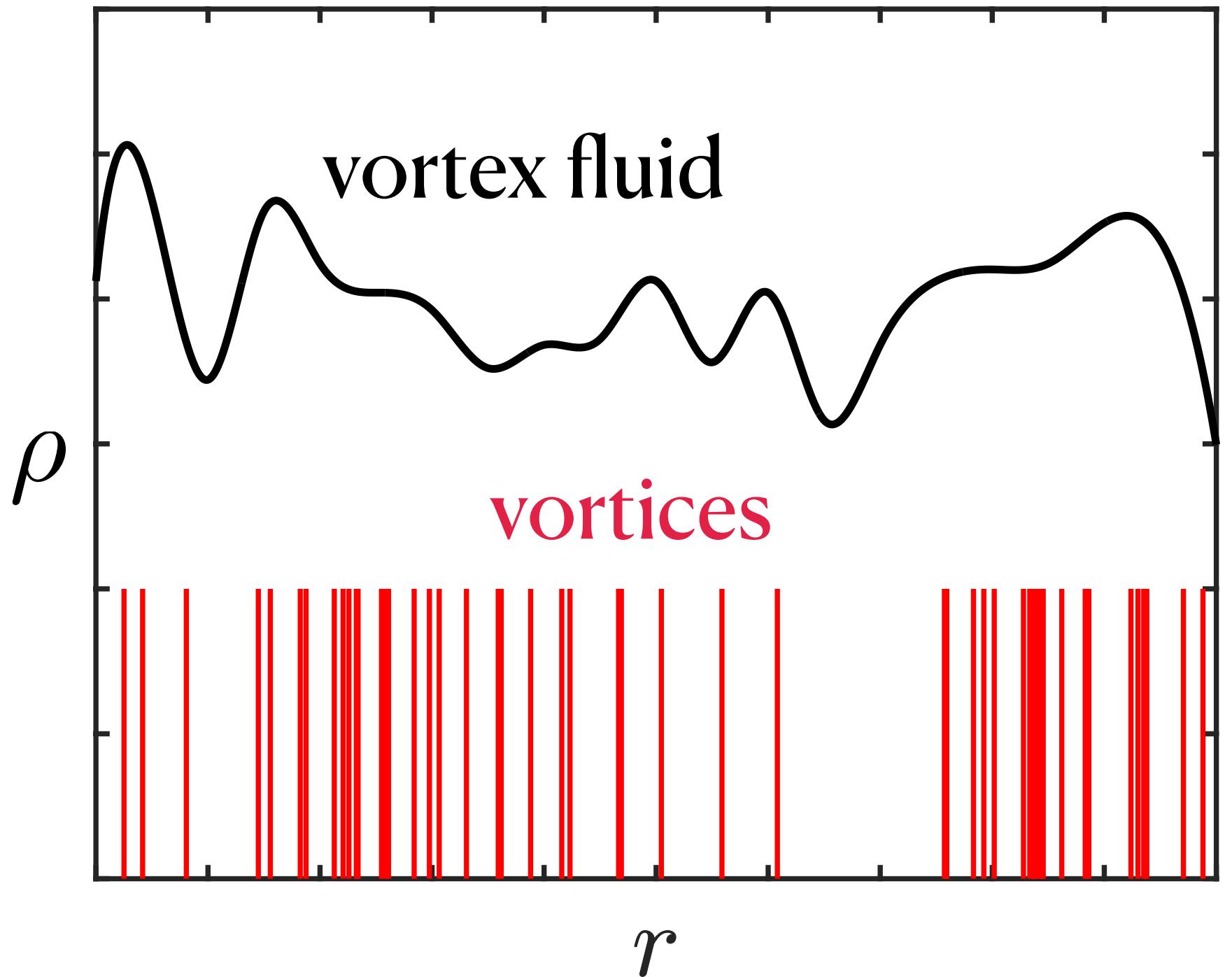
# Modelling the system: *anomalous* hydrodynamics

**Large** ( $N \gg 1$ ) collections of vortices  
can be modelled as a **fluid**

$$\rho \equiv \sum_i \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i) \longrightarrow \rho \approx f(\mathbf{r})$$

(Where  $f$  is smooth)

'Vortex fluid' dynamics = Euler equation + anomalous stresses



Conservative density evolution:

$$(\partial_t + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \rho = 0$$

Modelling hydrodynamics of  
*vortex fluid, NOT superfluid*  
hydrodynamics

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Wiegmann & Abanov, PRL **113**, 034501 (2014).

Yu & Bradley, PRL **119**, 18501 (2017).

# Dissipative anomalous hydrodynamics

Real systems are **dissipative** – how do **dissipative vortex fluids** behave?

$$(\partial_t + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \rho = -\gamma \left[ \Gamma \rho^2 + \frac{\Gamma}{8\pi} \nabla^2 \rho - \mathbf{v} \times \nabla \rho - \frac{\Gamma}{8\pi} \frac{|\nabla^2 \rho|}{\rho} \right]$$

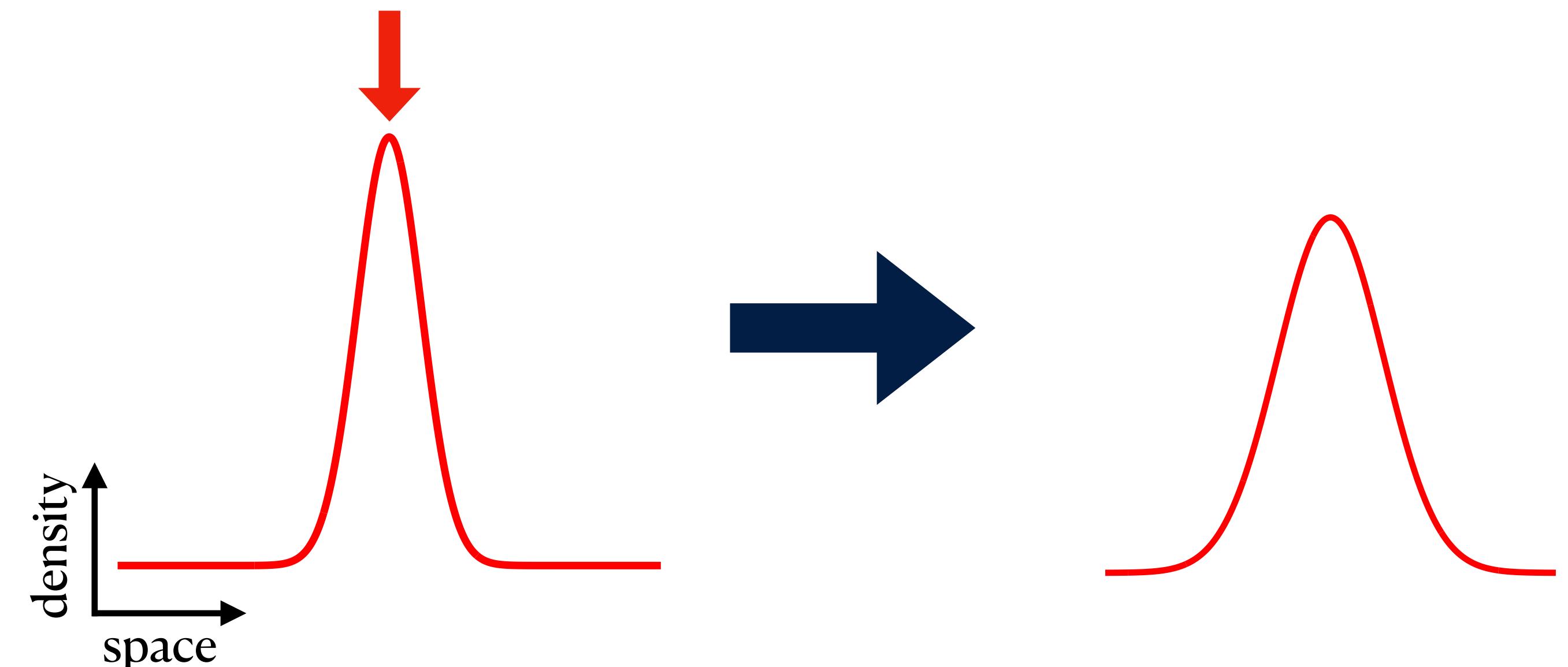
$\gamma$  = dissipation    $\rho$  = vortex density    $\mathbf{v}$  = vortex fluid velocity field    $\Gamma$  = vortex circulation

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Suppresses high density  
regions  $\rightarrow$  flattens  
distribution



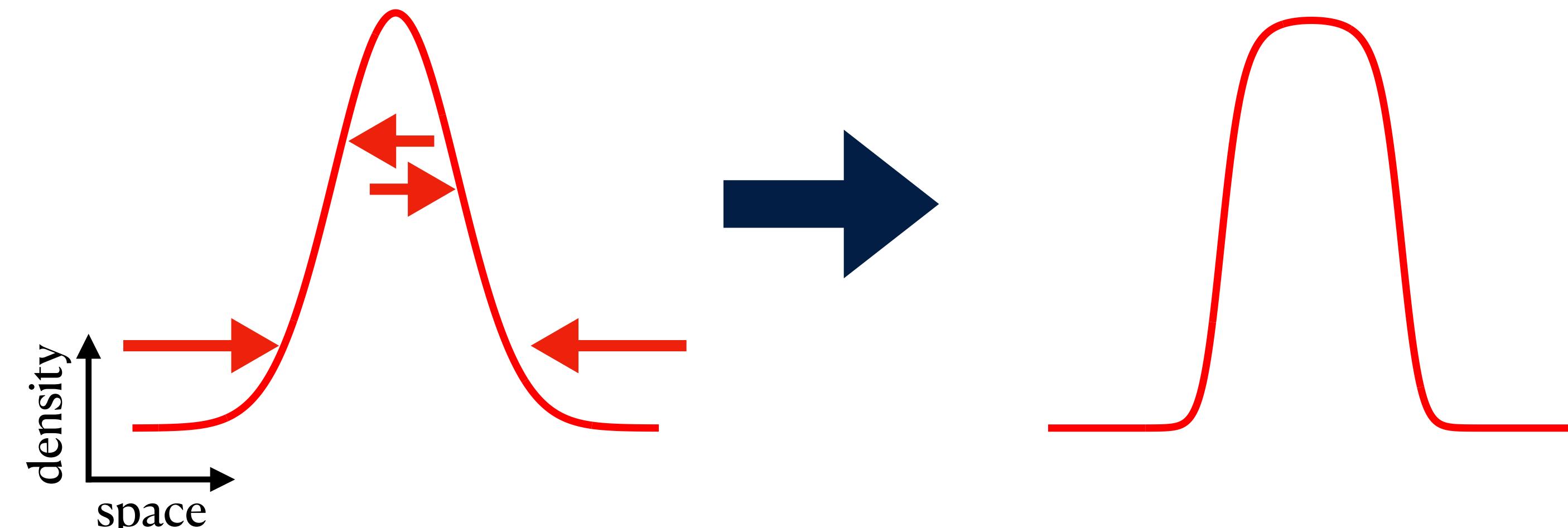
Yu & Bradley, PRL **119**, 18501 (2017).  
ORS, *et al.*, PRR **2**, 033138 (2020).

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*Negative viscosity, i.e.,  
**steepens** density  
gradients*



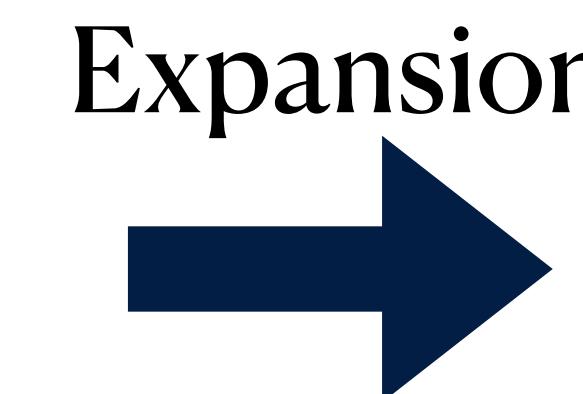
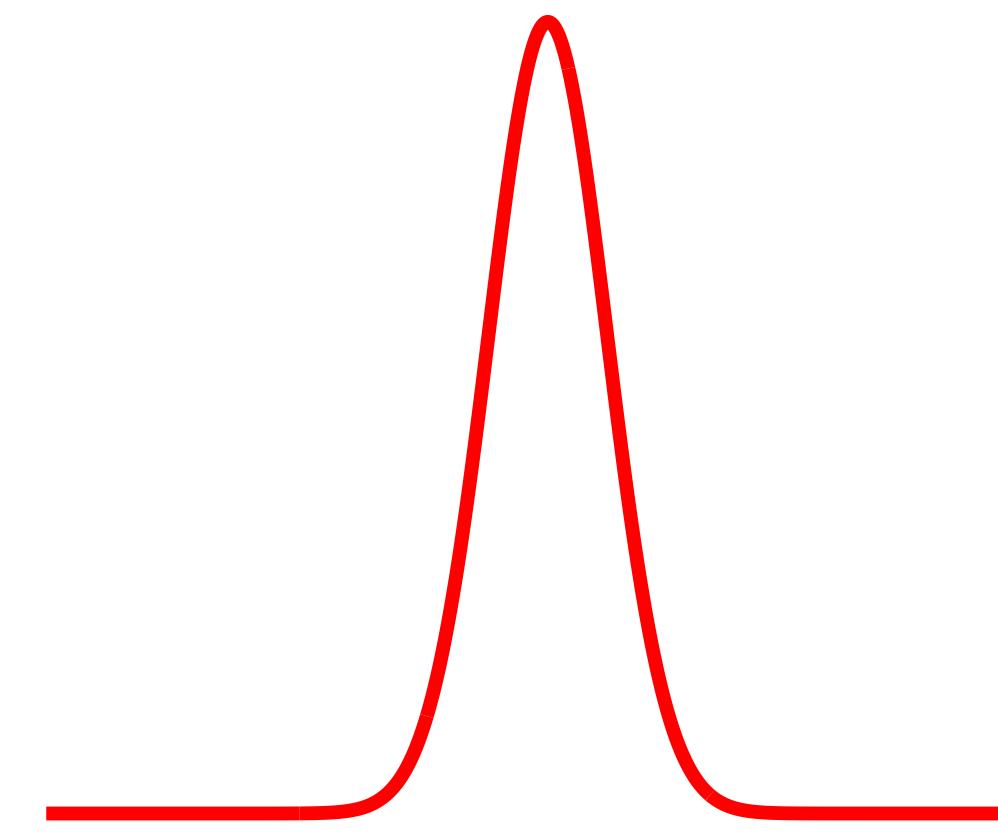
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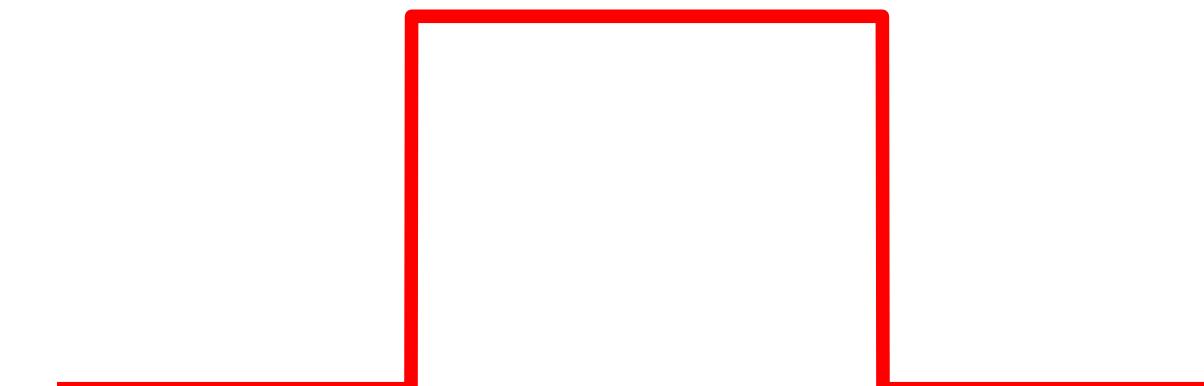
$$(\partial_t + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \rho = -\gamma \left[ \Gamma \rho^2 + \frac{\Gamma}{8\pi} \nabla^2 \rho - \mathbf{v} \times \nabla \rho - \frac{\Gamma}{8\pi} \frac{|\nabla^2 \rho|}{\rho} \right]$$

Let's (perhaps naively) assume:



Dissipation ( $\gamma$ ) is essential!

The '*Rankine vortex*'



# Dissipative anomalous hydrodynamics

**Rankine vortex** is a solution to dissipative vortex fluid theory

Assume  $\nabla \rho = 0$



$$\rho(t) = \frac{1}{\rho_0^{-1} + \gamma \Gamma t}$$

$$(\partial_t + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \rho = -\gamma \left[ \Gamma \rho^2 + \frac{\Gamma}{8\pi} \cancel{\nabla^2 \rho} - \mathbf{v} \times \cancel{\nabla \rho} - \frac{\Gamma}{8\pi} \frac{|\nabla^2 \rho|}{\rho} \right]$$

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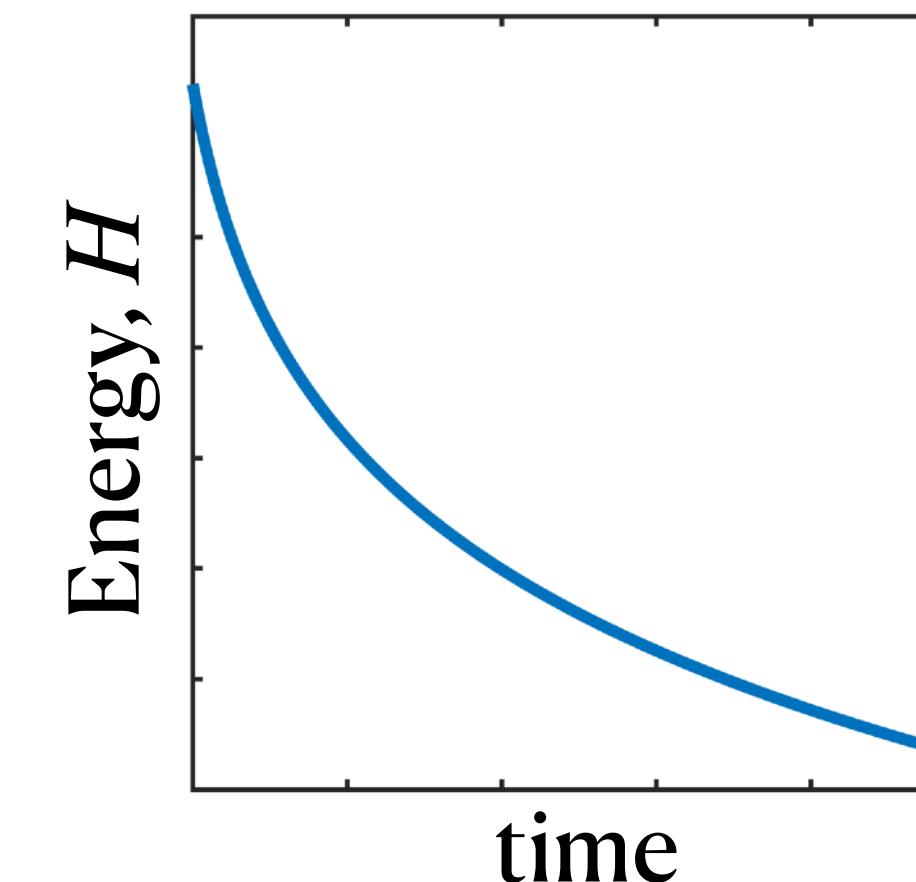
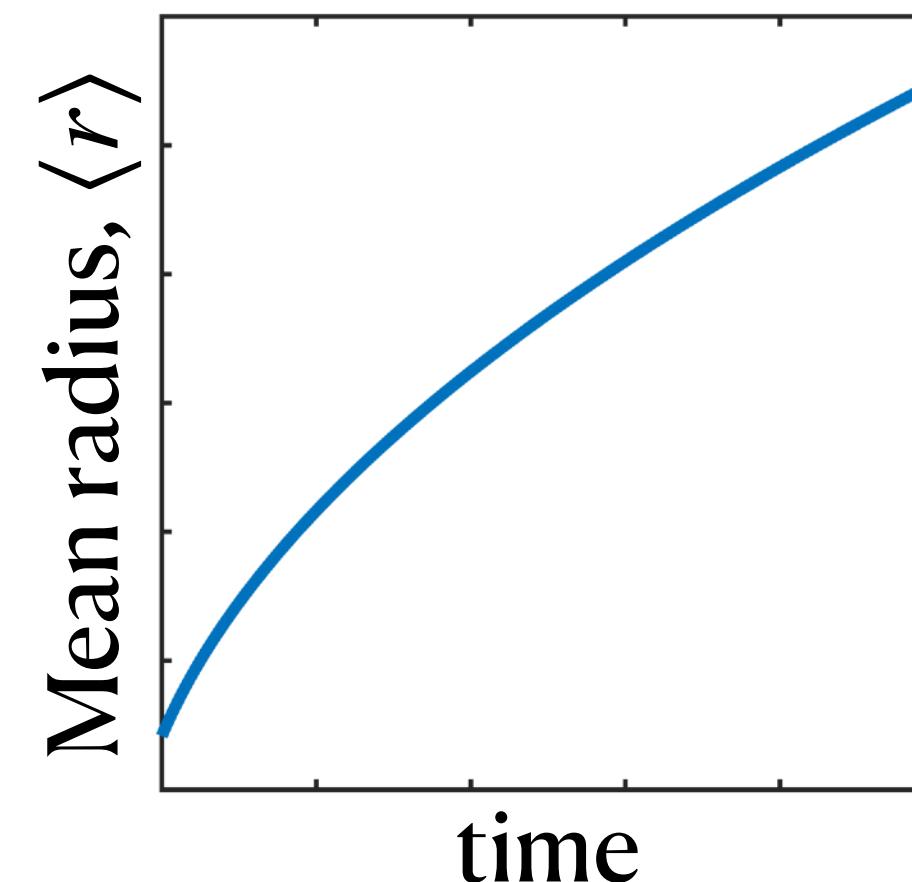


$$\rho(t) = \frac{1}{\rho_0^{-1} + \gamma \Gamma t}$$

Enter a **universal scaling regime**

$$\langle r \rangle \propto \sqrt{\rho_0^{-1} + \gamma \Gamma t}$$

Diffusive growth



$$H \propto -\log [\rho_0^{-1} + \gamma \Gamma t]$$

Logarithmic decay

# Dissipative anomalous hydrodynamics

Rankine vortex is a solution to dissipative vortex fluid theory

Perturbation analysis (with all terms)  
in universal regime

$$\rho + \delta\rho \rightarrow \rho$$

Rankine vortex is a **stable attractor** for  
*every initial condition*

$$\langle r \rangle \propto \sqrt{\rho_0^{-1} + \gamma \Gamma t}$$

Diffusive growth

Mean radius

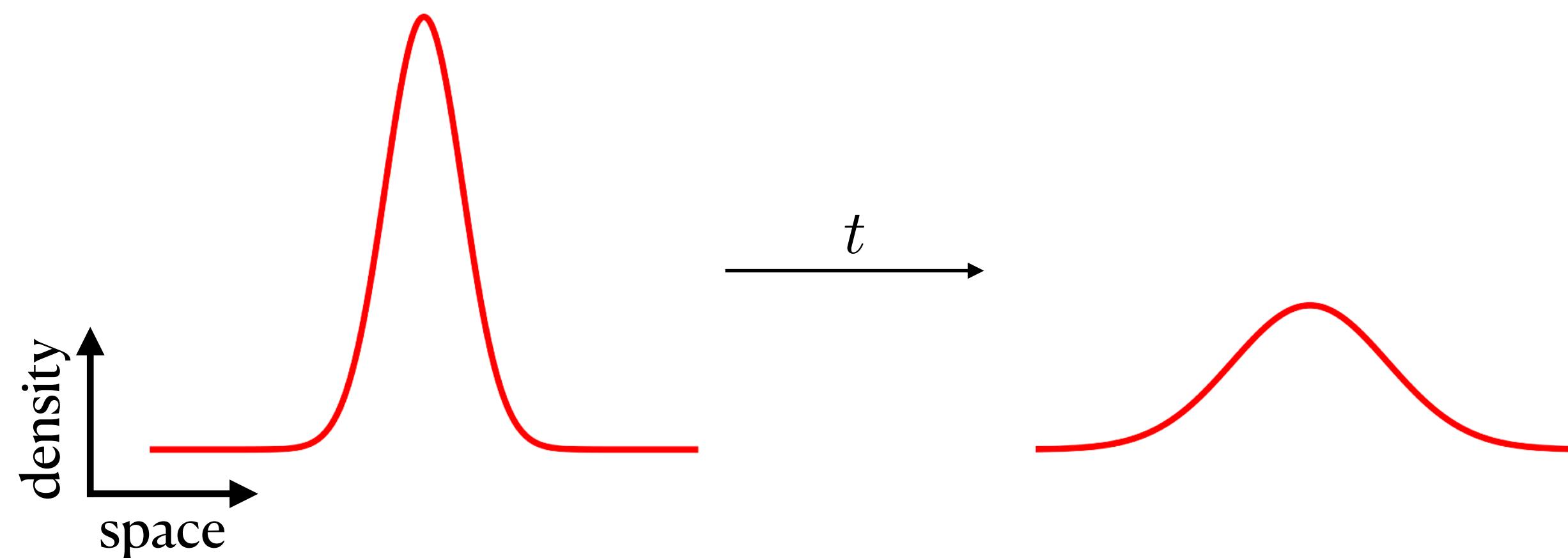
Numerical modelling of vortex  
dynamics in *excellent agreement*

$$H \propto -\log [\rho_0^{-1} + \gamma \Gamma t]$$

Logarithmic decay

# Why is this significant?

Classical fluids are *viscous* – they **dissipate energy differently**



Symmetric vortices in classical fluids expand to form a *Lamb-Oseen* vortex (Gaussian profile)

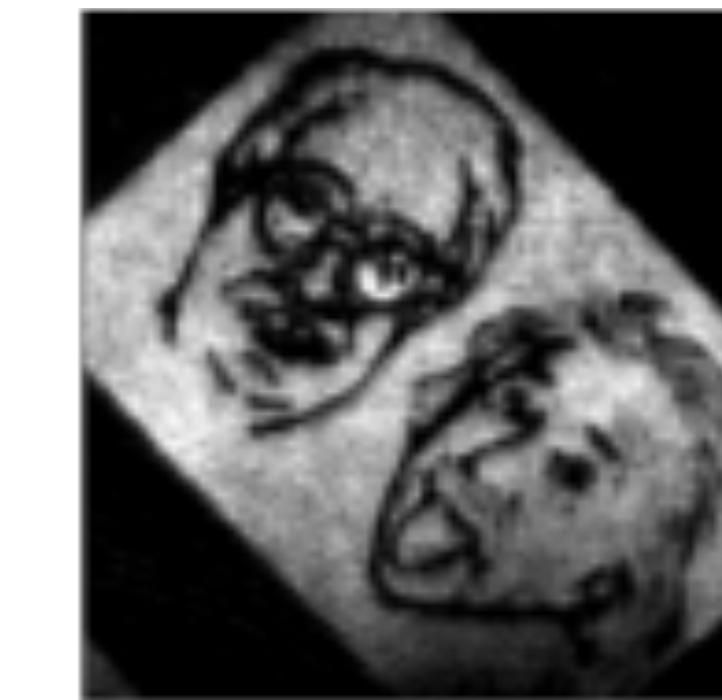
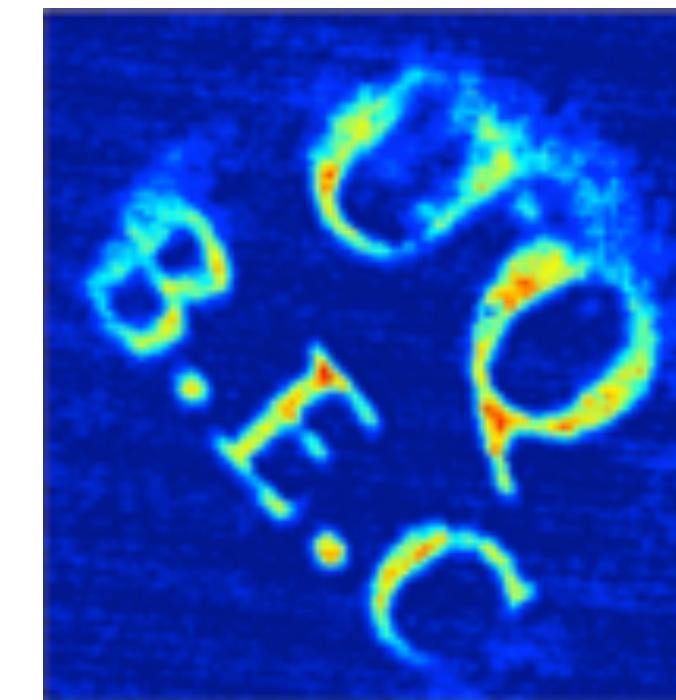
**Rankine vortex is forbidden  
in classical fluids!**



# Experimental comparison

# Experiment

We use a quasi-2D  
 $^{87}\text{Rb}$  Bose-Einstein  
condensate



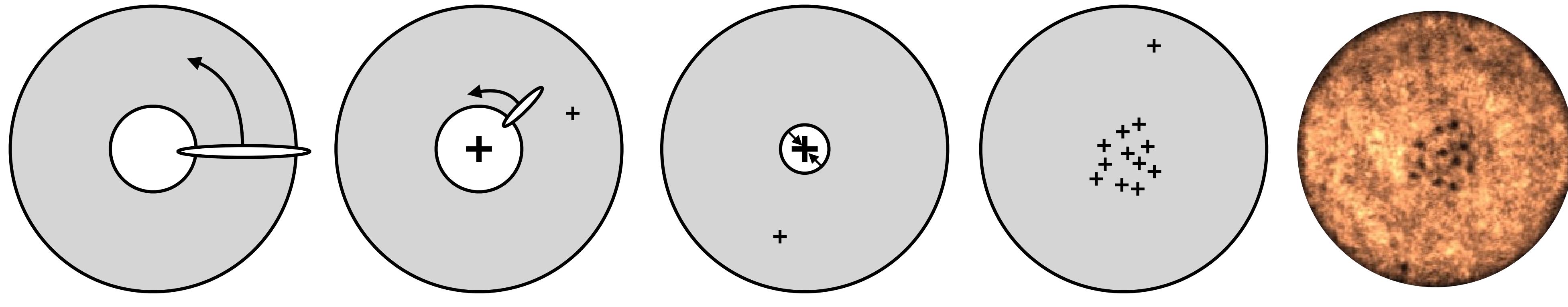
On average, the  
vortex cluster  
has  $N \sim 11$   
vortices

We take  $\sim 40$   
samples for  
each hold time

## Stirring protocol:

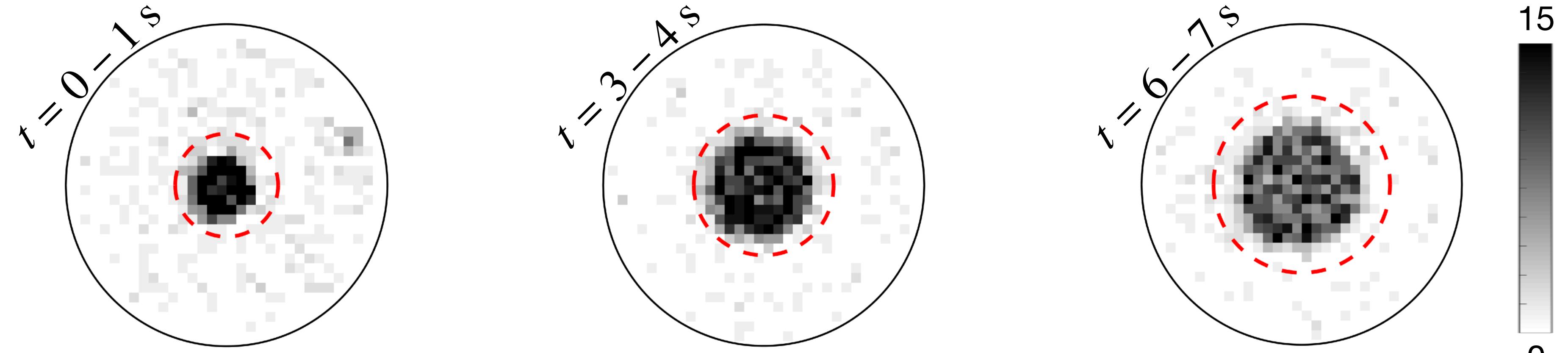
+ = vortices

= condensate

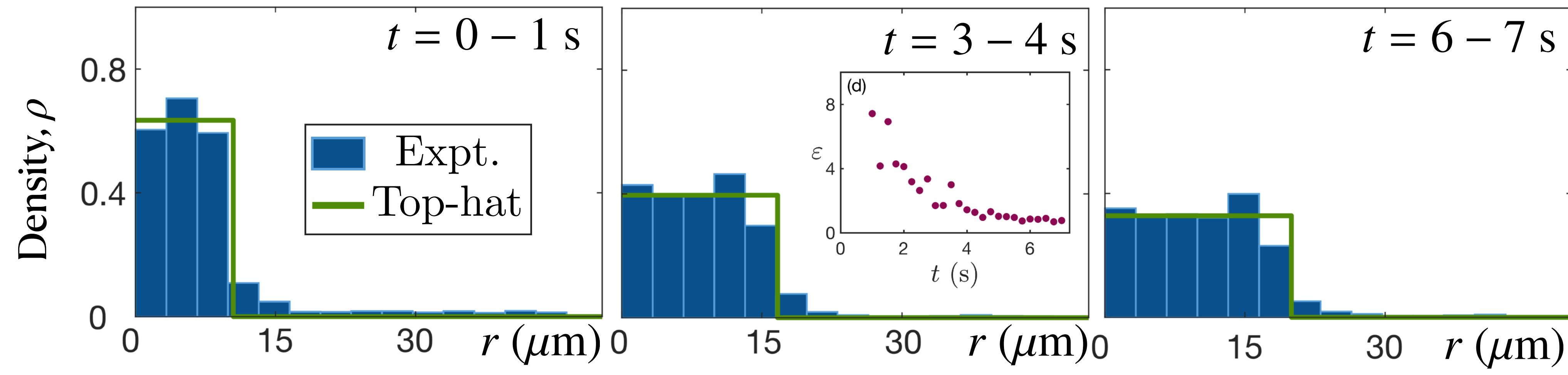


# Experimental expansion

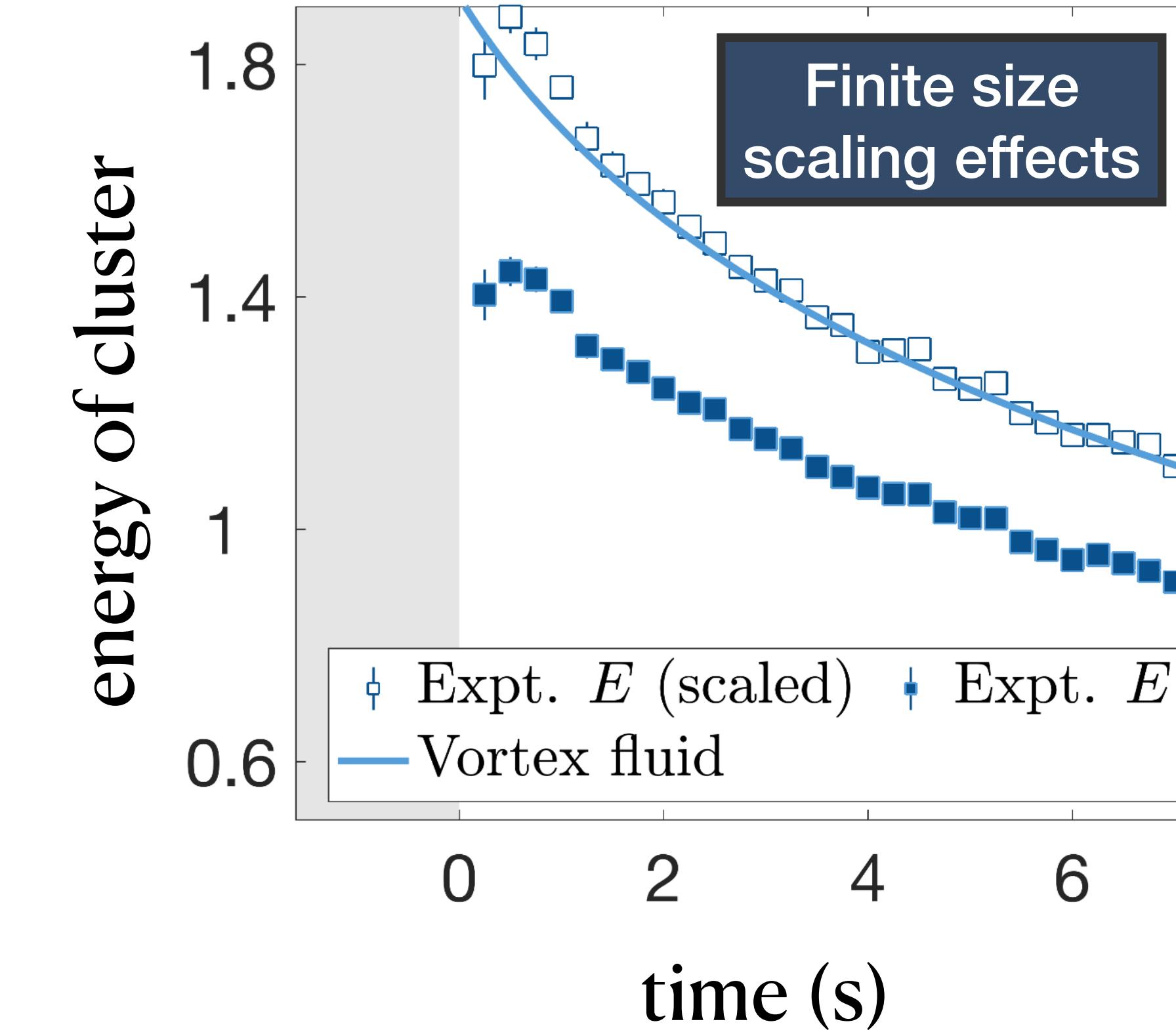
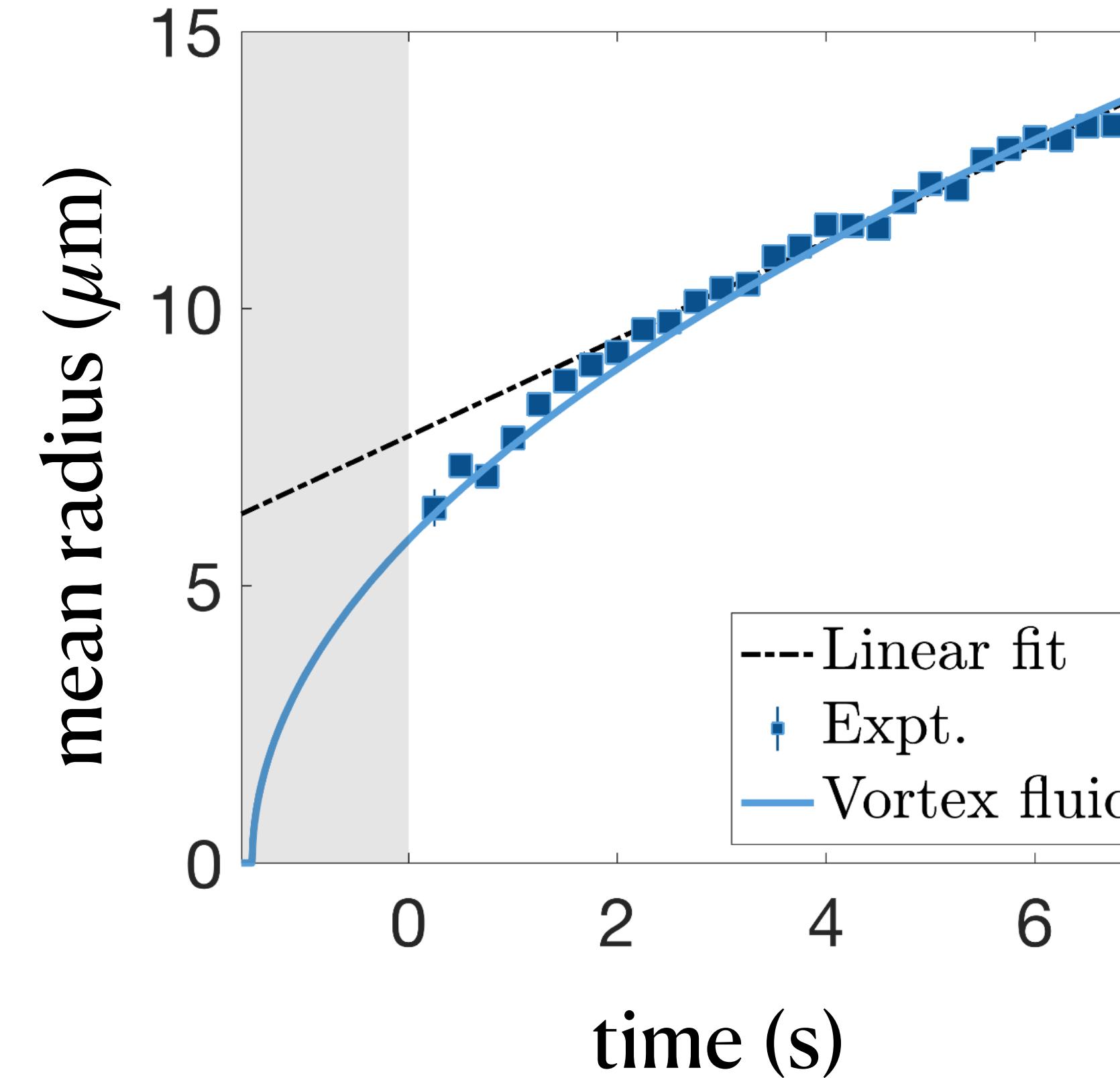
## 2D histogram of vortex positions



## 1D histogram of vortex positions



# Experimental parameters

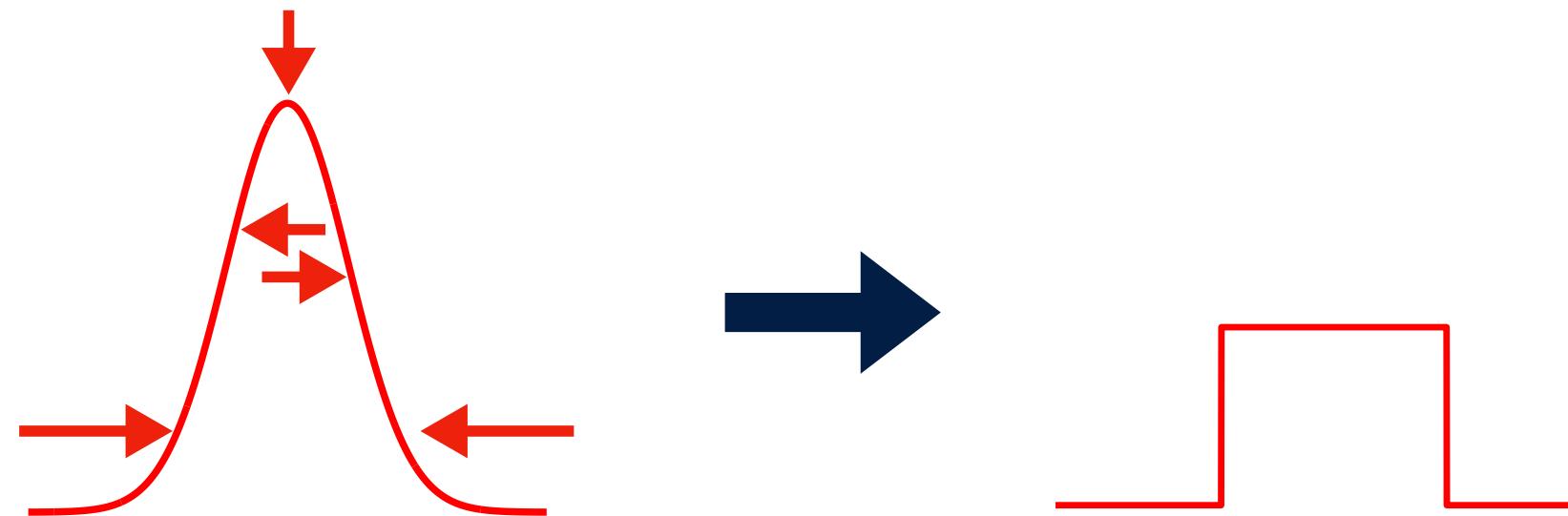


# Conclusions

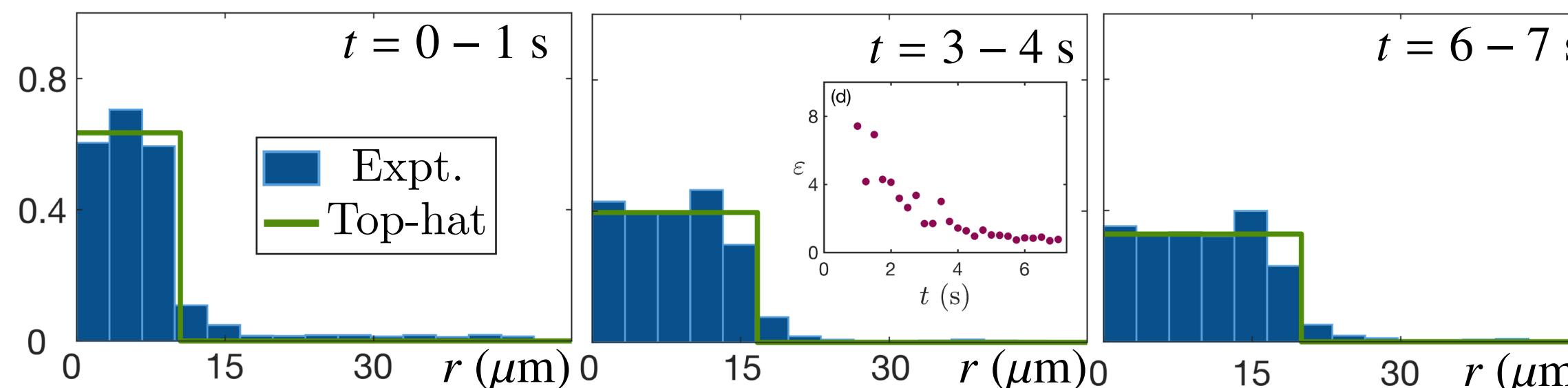
## Theory predicts universal expanding regime

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{D}_t^v \rho &= -\gamma \left( \Gamma \rho^2 + \frac{\Gamma}{8\pi} \nabla^2 \rho - \mathbf{v} \times \nabla \rho \right) \\ \mathcal{D}_t^v &= \partial_t + \left( \mathbf{v} - \frac{\gamma \Gamma}{8\pi} \nabla \rho \right) \cdot \nabla\end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow \partial_t \rho = -\gamma \Gamma \rho^2$$

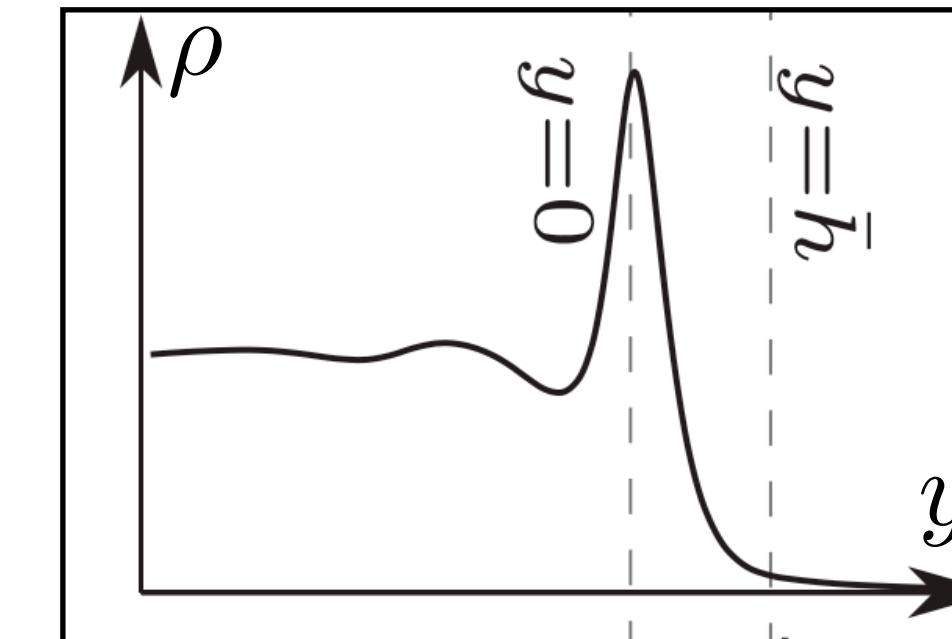


## Experimental evidence to support



# Outlook

## Edge waves



## Edge solitons in Rankine vortex

Bogatskiy & Wiegmann PRL  
122, 214505 (2019).

## Further Experiments

Fermi Gas  
 $N \sim 50$

Seoul, South Korea

SF Helium  
 $N \sim 1000$

UQ, Australia

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