

# Droplet creation in the walking droplet pilot wave system and in Bose-Einstein condensates

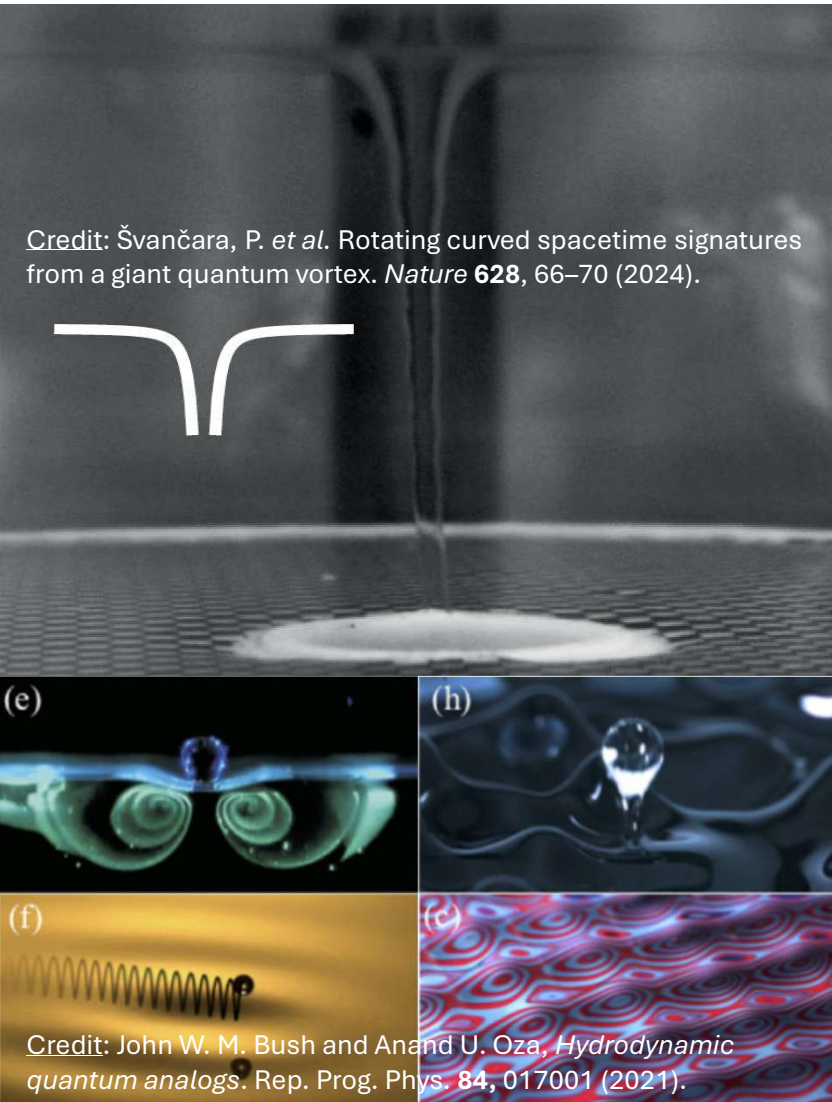
*Walking droplets, vortex molecules,  
and Faraday instability*

**Victoria Howse**

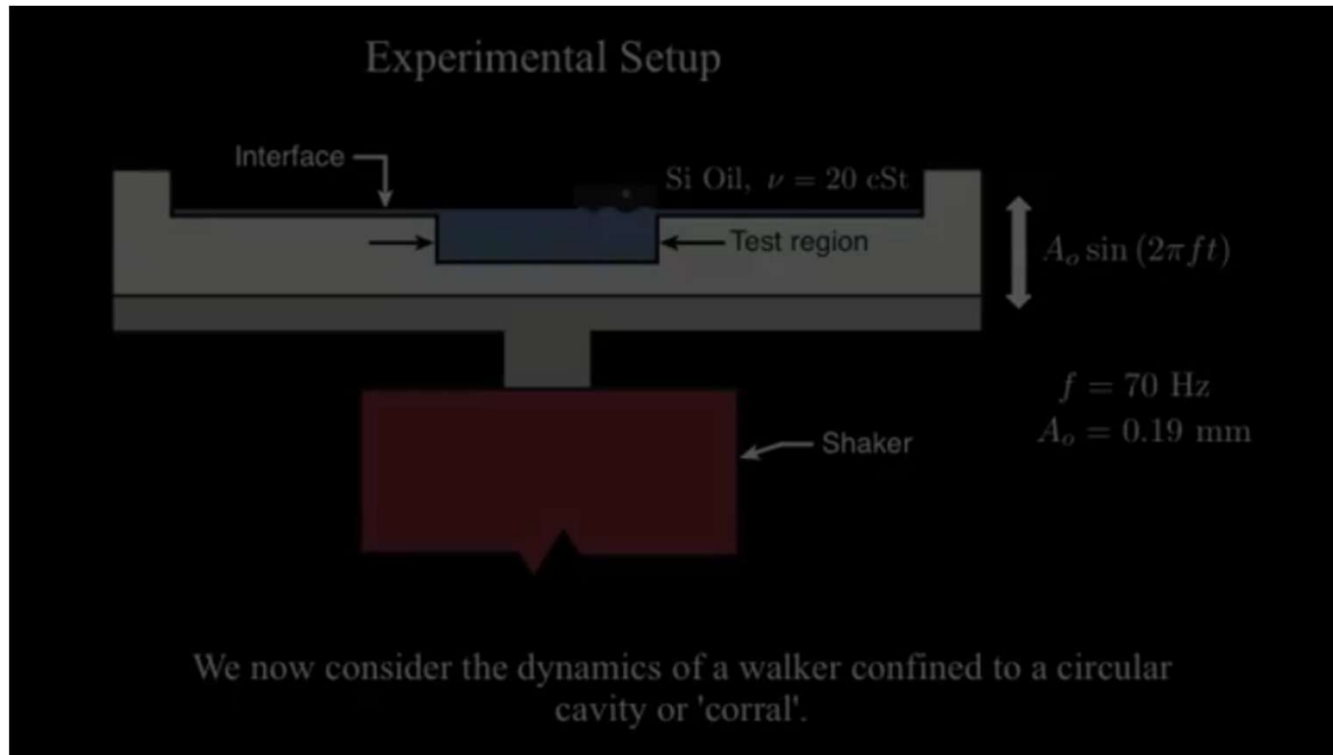
CAP Congress, June 2025  
University of Saskatchewan

# Analog models

- **Gravitational:** sonic black hole, Hawking radiation, superradiance, Penrose effect, ringdown, curved spacetime
- **Cosmological:** redshift, Hubble friction, false vacuum decay, cosmic strings
- **High energy:** electroweak & QCD theory, neutron stars
- **Quantum foundations (Hydrodynamic Quantum Analogs):** diffraction through slits, tunneling, entanglement, multi-modal statistics, Landau levels and Zeeman splitting, spin states, spin-spin correlations, ...



# Walking droplet system

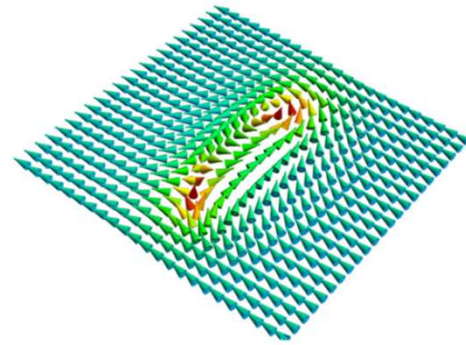


**Quantum behaviours:** single- and double-slit diffraction, tunneling, entanglement, quantized orbits, orbital-level splitting, multi-modal statistics, spin states, spin-spin correlations, ...

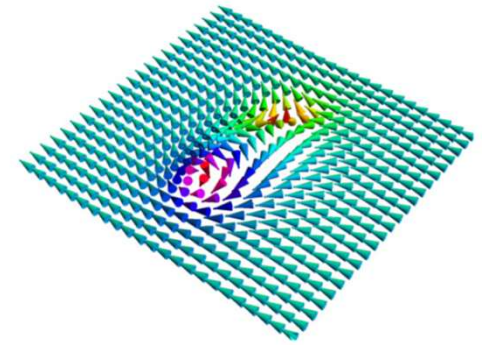
*The quantum-like behaviours appear most strongly in the “**high-memory**” regime, near the Faraday threshold. Walking droplet dynamics are **non-local (non-Markovian)**!*

# Rabi-coupled condensates

- BEC mixture of two different *hyperfine spin states* of same atom
- can introduce Rabi coupling, driven by external oscillatory EM field, at *transition frequency*  $\omega_{rf}$  between the two states
- E.g.  $^{87}\text{Rb}$   $|F,m\rangle = |1,1\rangle, |1,-1\rangle$
- **Vortices become bound into pairs**, with behaviour analogous to **quark color confinement**



(a) mesonic molecule  $\bar{u}u$



(b) baryonic molecule  $ud$

*Pseudospin plots. Credit: Eto, Ikeno, and Nitta. Physical Review Research 2, 033373 (2020).*

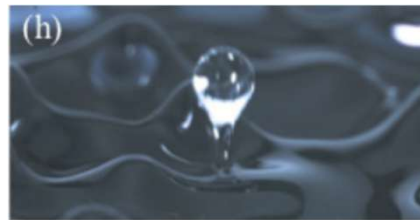
# Connection

## Walking droplet system

- exhibits quantum-like behaviours (of electrons / photons)
- vertically *driven*
- droplet ‘walks’ in resonance with its guiding wave field
- *Faraday instability*

## Rabi-coupled condensates

- simulates quark confinement
- *driven* by oscillatory EM field, in resonance with energy difference btwn the two states
- *Faraday instability*



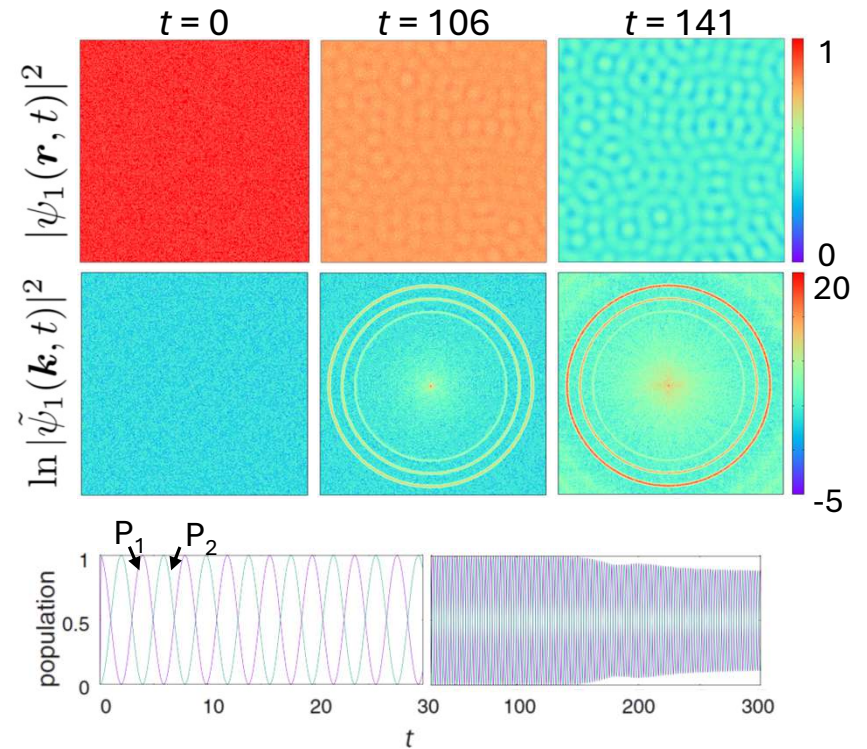
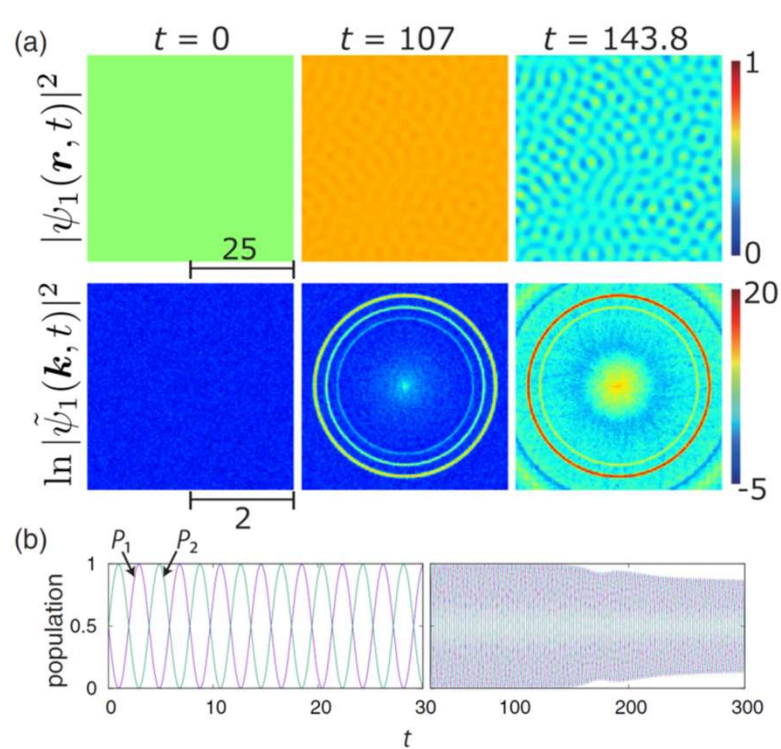
# Numerical Methods

GP  
eq'ns:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi_1 = \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V_1(\mathbf{x}) + (g_1 |\Psi_1|^2 + g_{12} |\Psi_2|^2) \right] \Psi_1 - \hbar\omega \Psi_2$$
$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi_2 = \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V_2(\mathbf{x}) + (g_2 |\Psi_2|^2 + g_{12} |\Psi_1|^2) \right] \Psi_2 - \hbar\omega \Psi_1$$

- Two components,  $\Psi_1$  and  $\Psi_2$  (“Condensate wave functions”)
- Inter- and intra-component couplings  $g_{12}$ ,  $g_1$ ,  $g_2$  (from *mean field* scattering amplitudes)
- Rabi frequency  $\omega$  (population transfer)
- Study real-time dynamics using a *time-splitting, pseudospectral method*

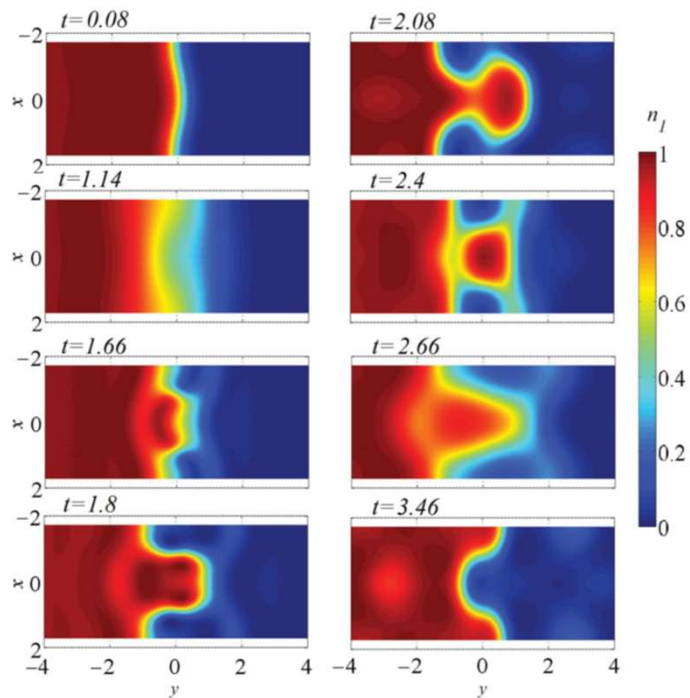
# Faraday waves from Rabi coupling



Credit: T. Chen et al, *Phys. Rev. A* **100**, 063610 (2019)

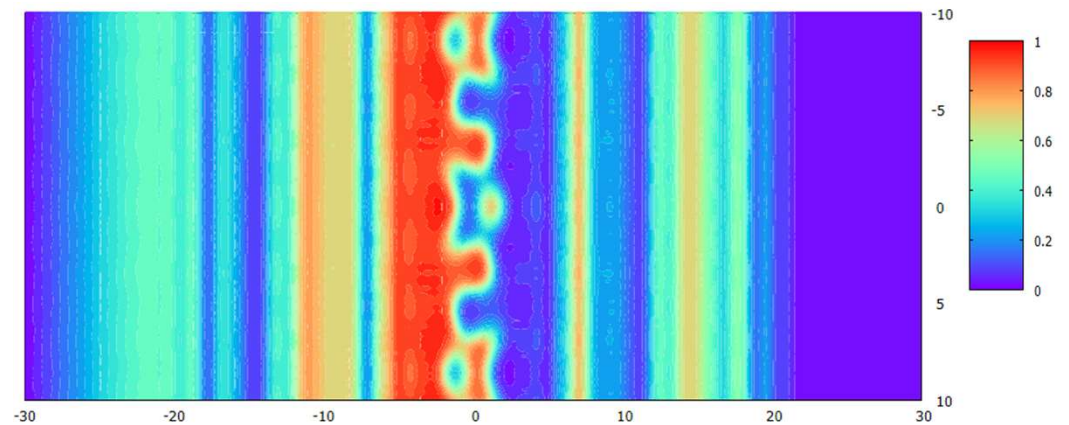
My results

# Parametric resonance and droplet creation



*Interface dynamics under an oscillatory driving force*

Credit: D. Kobayakov et al, *Phys. Rev. A* **86**, 023614 (2012)



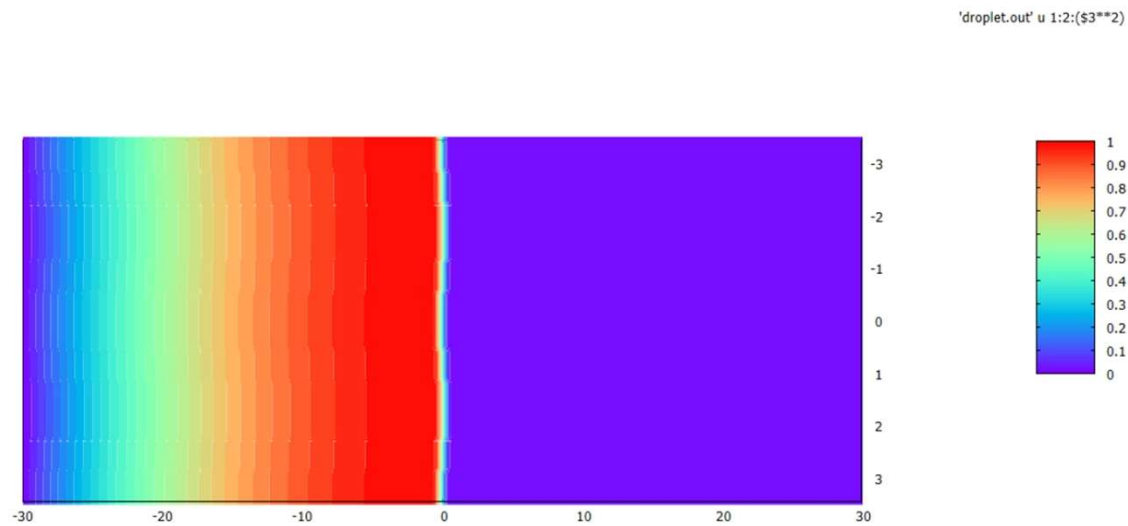
*Interface dynamics with Rabi coupling*  
My results

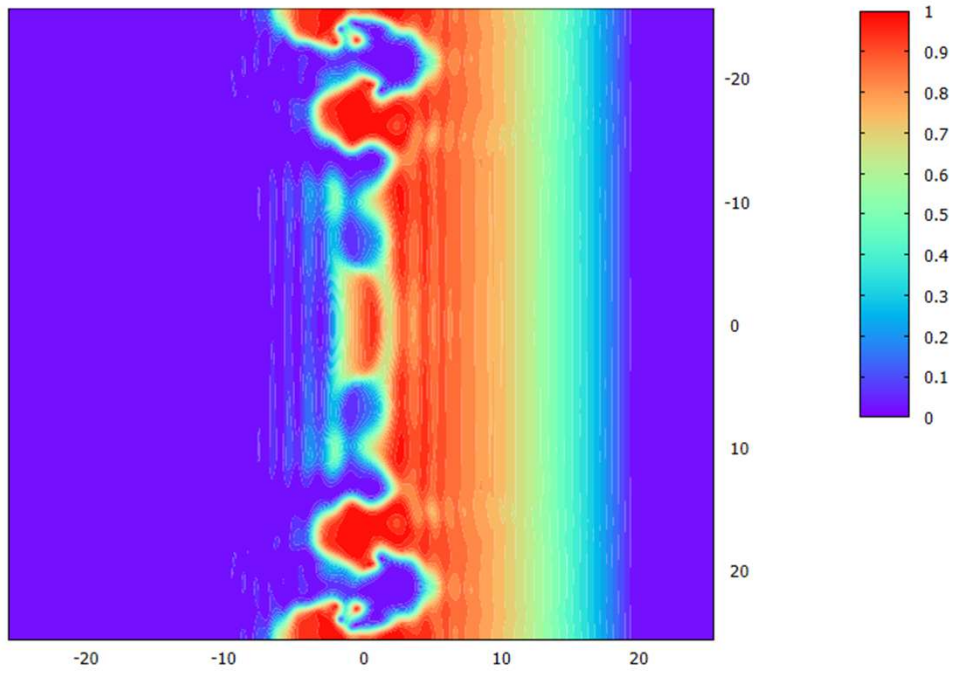
# Summary

- **Walking droplets** exhibit many *quantum-like behaviours* (electrons / photons)
  - *Faraday instability and “memory” is crucial for these behaviours*
- Condensates with Rabi coupling host “**vortex molecules**”, an analog for *quark confinement*
- *Both systems intrinsic Faraday instability and droplet creation*

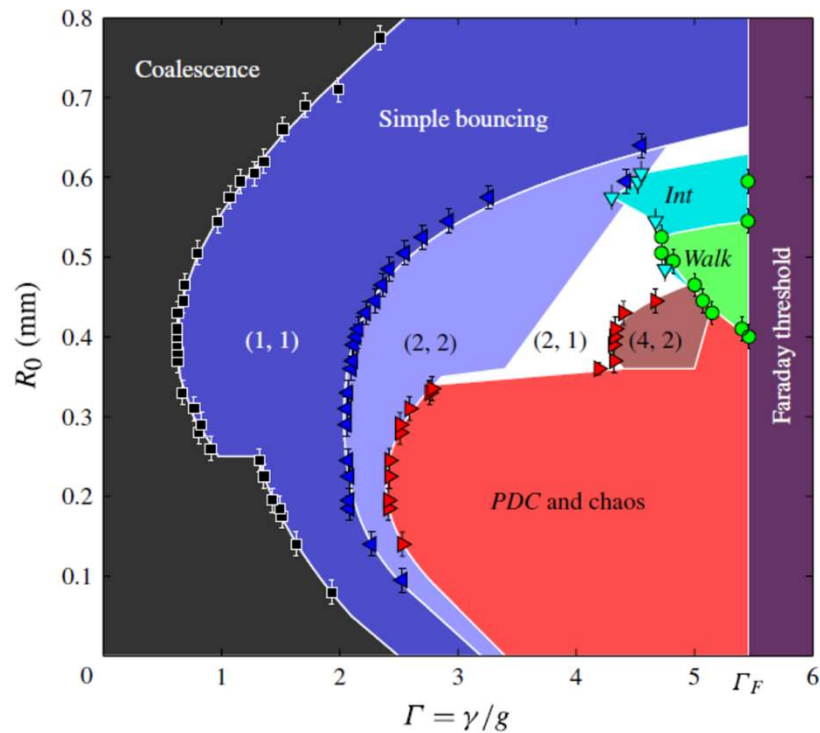
Thank you!

**gamma = 0.01, omega = 0.8**



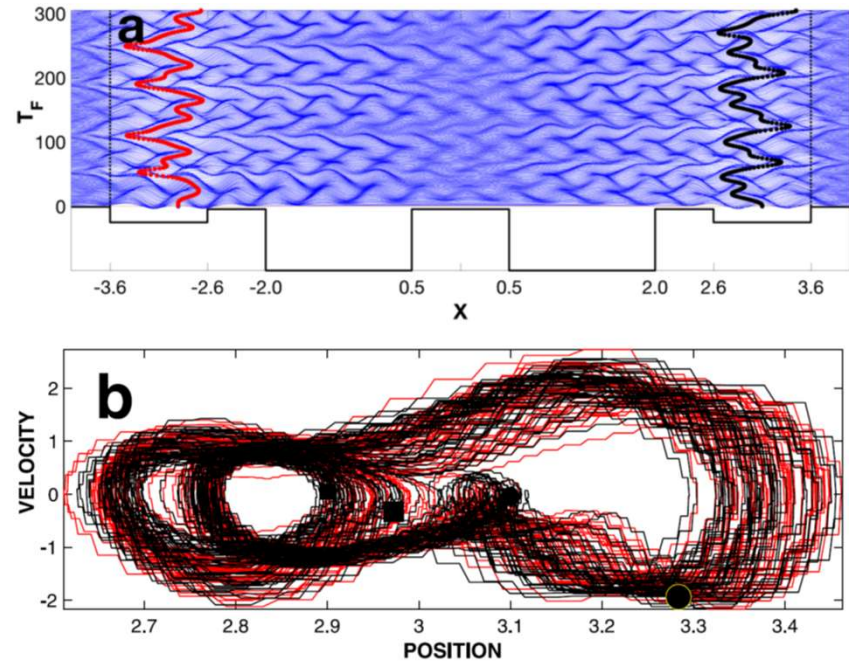


# Walking droplet system



Different bouncing / walking modes (50 cSt).  
 Period-doubling cascade and chaos.

Credit: Jan Moláček and John W. M. Bush, *J. Fluid Mech.*, 2013

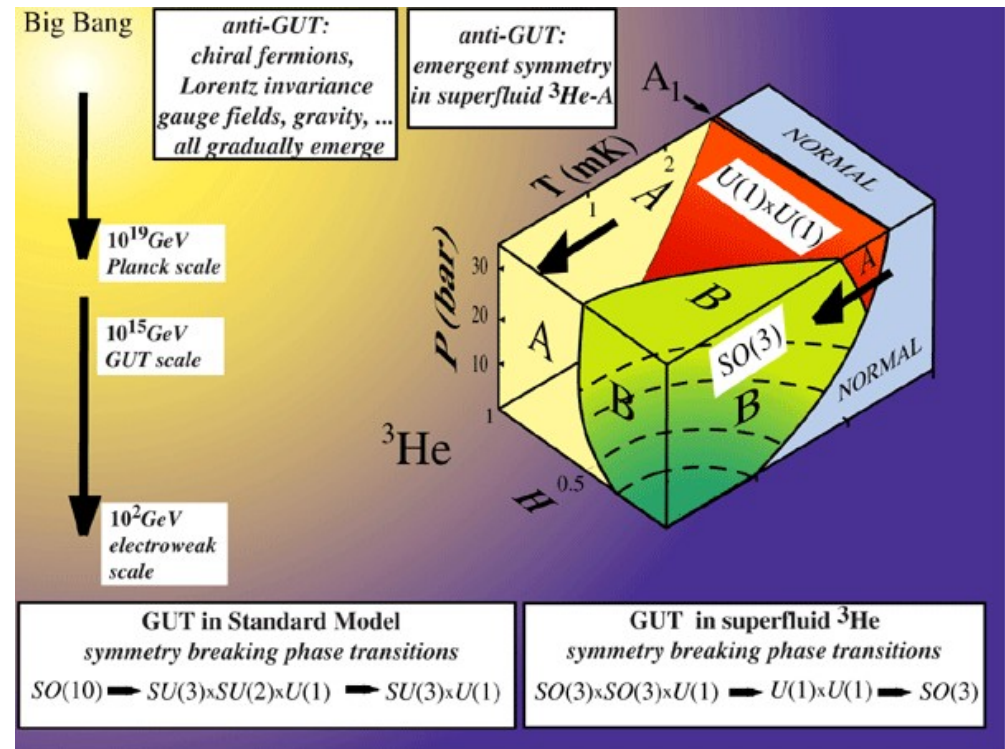


Phase-space locking (entanglement).

Credit: André Nachbin, *Chaos*, 2018

# Superfluid $^3\text{He-A}$ and the Standard Model

- **Grand Unification Theory (GUT):** symmetries emerge as energy increases (particle physics)
- **Anti-GUT:** symmetries emerge as energy decreases
- In superfluid  $^3\text{He-A}$ , as temperature reduced further, it acquires most of symmetries of the **Standard Model**
  - *Lorentz invariance, local gauge invariance, elements of general covariance, chiral fermions*



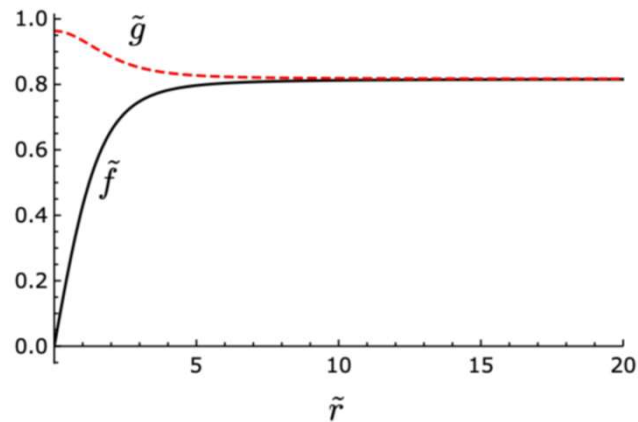
Credit: Volovik, *The Universe in a Helium Droplet*, 2003.

# u- and d-vortices

- When Rabi coupling  $\omega = 0$ , have separate u- and d-vortices (by analogy with up and down quarks)

u-vortex:

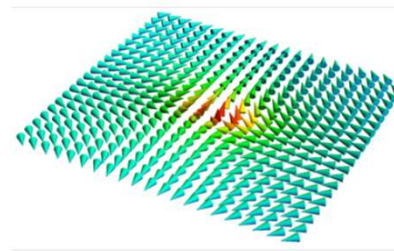
$$\tilde{\Psi}_1 = \tilde{f}(\tilde{r})e^{i\theta}, \quad \tilde{\Psi}_2 = \tilde{g}(\tilde{r})$$



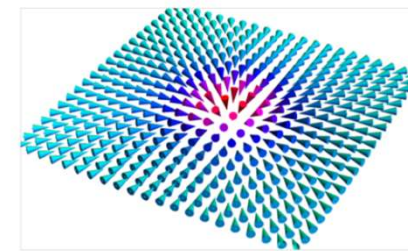
Vortex profile functions.

d-vortex:

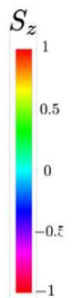
$$\tilde{\Psi}_1 = \tilde{g}(\tilde{r}), \quad \tilde{\Psi}_2 = \tilde{f}(\tilde{r})e^{i\theta}$$



(a) u-vortex



(b) d-vortex



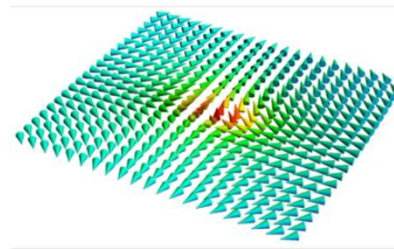
Pseudospin plots.

Credit: Eto, Ikeno, and Nitta. *Physical Review Research* **2**, 033373 (2020).

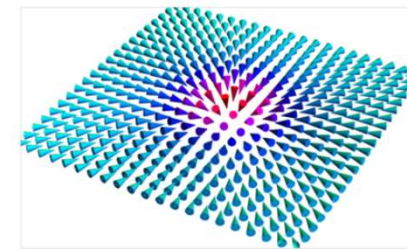
# Pseudospin

$$S = -\frac{\vec{\Psi}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\sigma} \vec{\Psi}}{\vec{\Psi}^\dagger \vec{\Psi}},$$

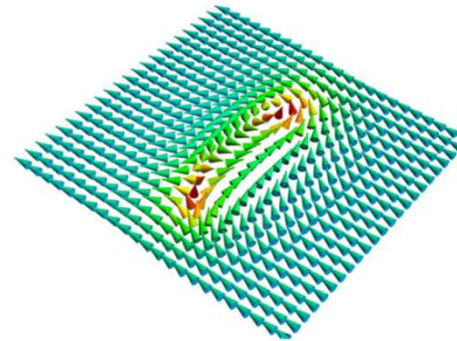
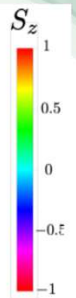
$$\vec{\Psi} = (\Psi_1, \Psi_2)^T$$



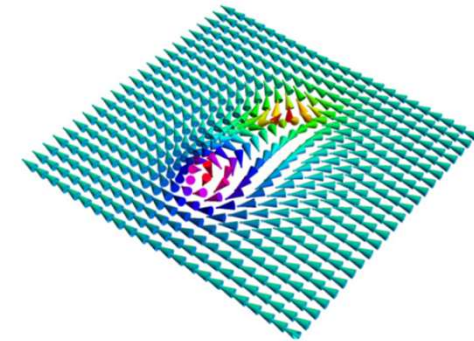
(a) u-vortex



(b) d-vortex



(a) mesonic molecule  $\bar{u}u$



(b) baryonic molecule  $ud$

# Symmetry breaking

GP  
eq'ns:

$$\left[ i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 - (g_i |\Psi_i|^2 + g_{12} |\Psi_{\hat{i}}|^2 - \mu_i) \right] \Psi_i = -\hbar\omega \Psi_{\hat{i}}, \quad i = 1, 2$$

- GP equations have full  **$SU(2)$**  symmetry only when  $g_1 = g_2 = g_{12}$  (and  $\omega = 0$ )
- When  $g_1$  or  $g_2 \neq g_{12}$ , symmetry broken to  **$U(1) \times U(1)$**
- When Rabi coupling  $\omega \neq 0$ , symmetry broken to  **$U(1)$**

# Symmetry breaking

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 U(1)_1 \times U(1)_2 : (\Psi_1, \Psi_2) \rightarrow (e^{i\alpha_1} \Psi_1, e^{i\alpha_2} \Psi_2) & \cong & [U(1)_S \times U(1)_R] / \mathbb{Z}_2 : (\Psi_1, \Psi_2) \rightarrow (e^{i\alpha} \Psi_1, e^{\pm i\alpha} \Psi_2) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 n_i = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C d\theta_i, & i = 1, 2 \longleftrightarrow & \begin{aligned} n_S &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C d\theta_S = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C \frac{1}{2} (d\theta_1 + d\theta_2) = \frac{n_1 + n_2}{2} \\ n_R &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C d\theta_R = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C \frac{1}{2} (d\theta_1 - d\theta_2) = \frac{n_1 - n_2}{2} \end{aligned}
 \end{array}$$

- Both  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  (or  $n_S$  and  $n_R$ ) are good *topological numbers* when  $\omega = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 U(1)_S &\equiv U(1)_{mass} \\
 U(1)_R &\equiv U(1)_{spin}
 \end{aligned}$$

$n_S$  is the total mass circulation or winding → baryon number!  
 $n_R$  is the total spin winding → color charge!

# Symmetry breaking

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 U(1)_1 \times U(1)_2 : (\Psi_1, \Psi_2) \rightarrow (e^{i\alpha_1} \Psi_1, e^{i\alpha_2} \Psi_2) & \cong & [U(1)_S \times U(1)_R] / \mathbb{Z}_2 : (\Psi_1, \Psi_2) \rightarrow (e^{i\alpha} \Psi_1, e^{\oplus i\alpha} \Psi_2) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 n_i = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C d\theta_i, \quad i = 1, 2 & \longleftrightarrow & \boxed{
 \begin{array}{l}
 n_S = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C d\theta_S = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C \frac{1}{2} (d\theta_1 + d\theta_2) = \frac{n_1 + n_2}{2} \\
 n_R = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C d\theta_R = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C \frac{1}{2} (d\theta_1 - d\theta_2) = \frac{n_1 - n_2}{2}
 \end{array}
 }
 \end{array}$$

- When  $\omega \neq 0$ , only  $n_S$  is a topological number

$$\begin{array}{l}
 U(1)_S \equiv U(1)_{mass} \\
 U(1)_R \equiv U(1)_{spin}
 \end{array}$$

$n_S$  is the total mass circulation or winding  $\longrightarrow$  baryon number!  
 $n_R$  is the total spin winding

# Topological numbers

- When  $\omega \neq 0$ ,  $n_R$  is not conserved, but instead is half the total **SG soliton number** (for curve  $C$ )
- Vortex molecules show **color confinement!**

	$n_1$	$n_2$	$n_S$ (baryon #)	$n_R$ (color charge)
u	1	0	1/2	1/2
d	0	1	1/2	-1/2
$\bar{u}$	-1	0	-1/2	-1/2
$\bar{d}$	0	-1	-1/2	1/2
$\bar{u}u$	0	0	0	0
$\bar{d}d$	0	0	0	0
ud	1	1	1	0
$\bar{u}\bar{d}$	-1	-1	-1	0
$\bar{u}d$	-1	1	0	-1
$\bar{d}u$	1	-1	0	1

↖ don't exist in BECs

# Low-energy effective theory

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{dp}} = \frac{g_c^2}{32\pi^2} \partial_\mu \vartheta \partial^\mu \vartheta + cg_c^2 m_{\text{dp}}^2 \cos(\vartheta)$$

dual photon

$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{GP}} = \frac{\hbar^2}{4(g + g_{12})} \dot{\varphi}_+^2 + \frac{\hbar^2}{4(g - g_{12})} \dot{\varphi}_-^2 - \frac{\hbar^2 n}{4m} (\nabla \varphi_+)^2 - \frac{\hbar^2 n}{4m} (\nabla \varphi_-)^2 + 2\hbar\omega n \cos \varphi_-$$

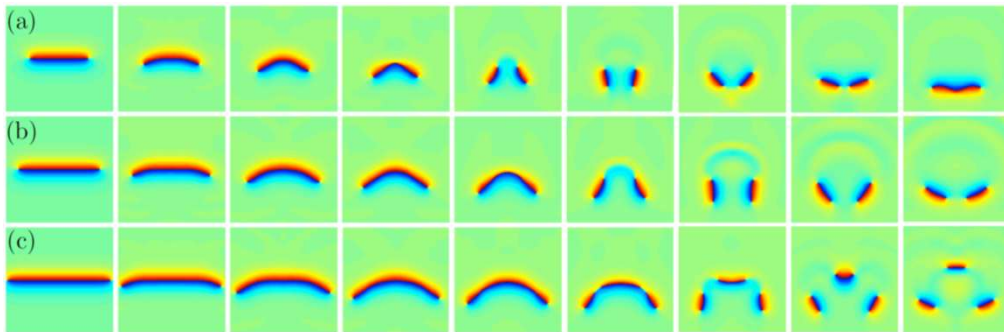
BEC  
( $\omega \neq 0$ )

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \frac{e^2}{4\pi} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho} \partial^\rho \vartheta, \quad F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$$

$$\vartheta(z) = \sum_a q_a \text{Im} \log(z - z_a)$$

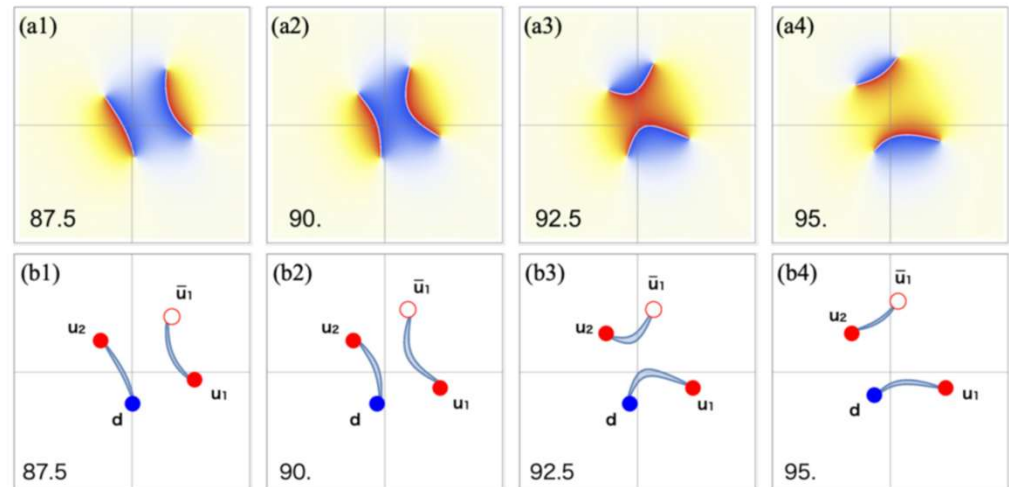
dual photon – electric charges  $q_a$  interchanged with vortices at points  $z_a$

# Vortex molecule dynamics



(a),(b) Meson splits into two baryons. (c) Longer meson splits into shorter meson and two baryons. Mesons travel in a straight line, and baryons rotate.

Credit: Minoru Eto and Muneto Nitta. *Physical Review A* **97**, 023613 (2018).



Collision between a baryon and a meson.

Credit: Eto, Ikeno, and Nitta. *Physical Review Research* **2**, 033373 (2020).



Tapio Simula

## From scalar BEC...

$$\mathcal{E} = \int \left( \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} |\nabla \Phi|^2 + \frac{c_0}{2} |\Phi|^4 + 2c_0 \tilde{n} |\Phi|^2 - \mu_{\text{DE}} |\Phi|^2 \right) d\mathbf{r}^2$$

## ...to superfluid universe

$$\mathcal{E} = \text{GEM} + \int \left[ \left( \frac{c_0}{2} \Psi_{\text{DM}}^2 + 2c_0 \Psi_{\text{NM}}^2 - \mu_{\text{DE}} \right) \Psi_{\text{DM}}^2 \right] d\mathbf{r}^2$$

$$\text{GEM} = \int \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} |\nabla S(\mathbf{r})|^2 |\Phi(\mathbf{r})|^2 + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} (\nabla |\Phi(\mathbf{r})|)^2 d\mathbf{r}^2$$