

# Course intro

18.354

# 18.354J Nonlinear Dynamics II: Continuum Systems

## Spring 2015 – Course Info

Lectures: TR 1-2:30 in E17-136  
Instructor: Jörn Dunkel  
Contact: [dunkel@mit.edu](mailto:dunkel@mit.edu) 253-7826 (office phone)  
Office Hours: R 2:30-3:30 (E17-412)  
Course website: [math.mit.edu/~dunkel/Teach/18.354/](http://math.mit.edu/~dunkel/Teach/18.354/)  
Teaching assistant: TBD, Office: TBD Email: tbd

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## GRADING

- 35%: Problem sets
- 30%: Mid-term exam
- 5%: Project proposal
- 30%: Final project presentation + report

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## TEXTBOOKS

Although there are no textbooks which follow the precise spirit of this course, there are literally hundreds of textbooks where the topics we will cover are discussed. For most lectures, typed notes can be downloaded from the course webpage. Additional material will be handed out in class. One book that will be useful frequently is: D. J. Acheson, *Elementary Fluid Dynamics*, Oxford University Press (1990).

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## HOMEWORK - PROBLEM SETS

Homework will be assigned roughly every two-three weeks. Each homework set will contain analytical and computational problems, and even the odd experiment. Assignments must be handed in by 1pm (start of class) on the due date. *First unexcused late homework score will be multiplied by 3/4. No subsequent unexcused late homework is accepted.* You are welcome to discuss solution strategies and even solutions, but please write up the solution on your own. Be sure to support your answer by listing any relevant Theorems or by explaining important steps. Be as clear and concise as possible. I strongly encourage the computational problems to be written in MATLAB.

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### MID-TERM EXAM

There will be a mid-term exam, which will take place about 3/4's of the way through the course. The exam will be a take home, and will be in place of a homework set. There will be no final exam.

### FINAL PROJECT

The ideas we will be discussing have applications to many fields, many of which we will not cover. To give you a chance to explore an area of interest to you, the course will require a final project, in which you explore in depth something of interest to you and within the course's scope. Final projects will be presented in class during the final two classes.

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### IMPORTANT DATES

- Tues Feb 24 - Problem Set 1: DUE
- Thur Mar 12 - Problem Set 2: DUE • Thur Mar 12 - Proposal (1 page) for final project.  
DUE
- Thur Apr 2 - Problem Set 3: DUE
- Tues Apr 14 - Problem Set 4: DUE
- Thur Apr 16 - Take-home Midterm exam. POSTED
- Thur Apr 23 - Take-home Midterm exam. DUE
- May 5/7 - Final project presentations.
- May 7 - Final project report. DUE


*Note: The exact due dates for the P-sets may be subject to change*

1.	T	Feb	3	Introduction, overview & mathematical basics	
2.	R	Feb	5	Dimensional analysis & scalings	
3.	T	Feb	10	Hamiltonian dynamics & Kepler's Laws	
4.	R	Feb	12	Random walkers	
—	T	Feb	17	MIT MONDAY (PRESIDENTS DAY)	
5.	R	Feb	19	Diffusion equation: Fourier method	
6.	T	Feb	24	Diffusion equation: Green's function method	<b>PS1 due</b>
7.	R	Feb	26	Linear stability analysis & pattern formation	
8.	T	Mar	3	Calculus of variations	
9.	R	Mar	5	Surface tension	
10.	T	Mar	10	Elasticity	
11.	R	Mar	12	Deformation of a thin beam	<b>PS2 &amp; proposal due</b>
12.	T	Mar	17	Towards hydrodynamics	
13.	R	Mar	19	Navier-Stokes equations I	
—	TR	Mar	23-27	SPRING VACATION	



14.	R	Apr	2	Stokes limit & Oseen tensor	<b>PS3 due</b>
15.	T	Apr	7	Navier-Stokes equations II	
16.	R	Apr	9	Singular perturbations	
17.	T	Apr	14	Rotating flows & Taylor columns	<b>PS4 due</b>
18.	R	Apr	16	2D hydrodynamics & conformal maps	<b>Mid-term posted</b>
—	T	Apr	20,21	MIT HOLIDAY (PATRIOTS DAY)	
19.	R	Apr	23	Hydrodynamic instabilities (overview)	<b>Mid-term due</b>
20.	T	Apr	28	Solitons	
21.	R	Apr	30	Active Matter	
22.	T	May	5	Final projects: student presentations	
23.	R	May	7	Final projects: student presentations	<b>Project report due</b>
24.	T	May	12	Bouncing droplets	
25.	R	May	14	Topological defects & summary	

Q: What is Physical Applied Maths?

A:  PAM is like cooking...

Often the ingredients (*physical principles*) are already known but not the way (*mathematics/equations/couplings*) to turn them into a nice dinner

With some creativity, many new dishes (*novel phenomena*) can be created (*discovered/understood*)

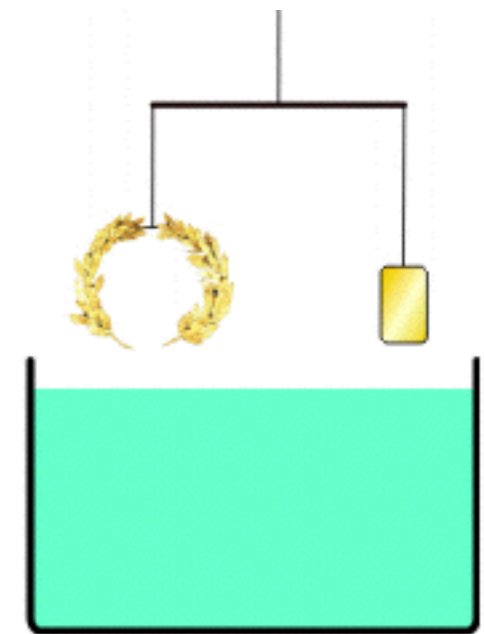
# Why study Applied Maths?

- intellectual challenge
- obtain general understanding of physical phenomena and the world around us
- be able to make prediction about physical processes
- development of general tools to be applied to other fields

Historical backdrop

# Some famous thoughts on Applied Maths

*'Eureka, Eureka'*  
(Archimedes)



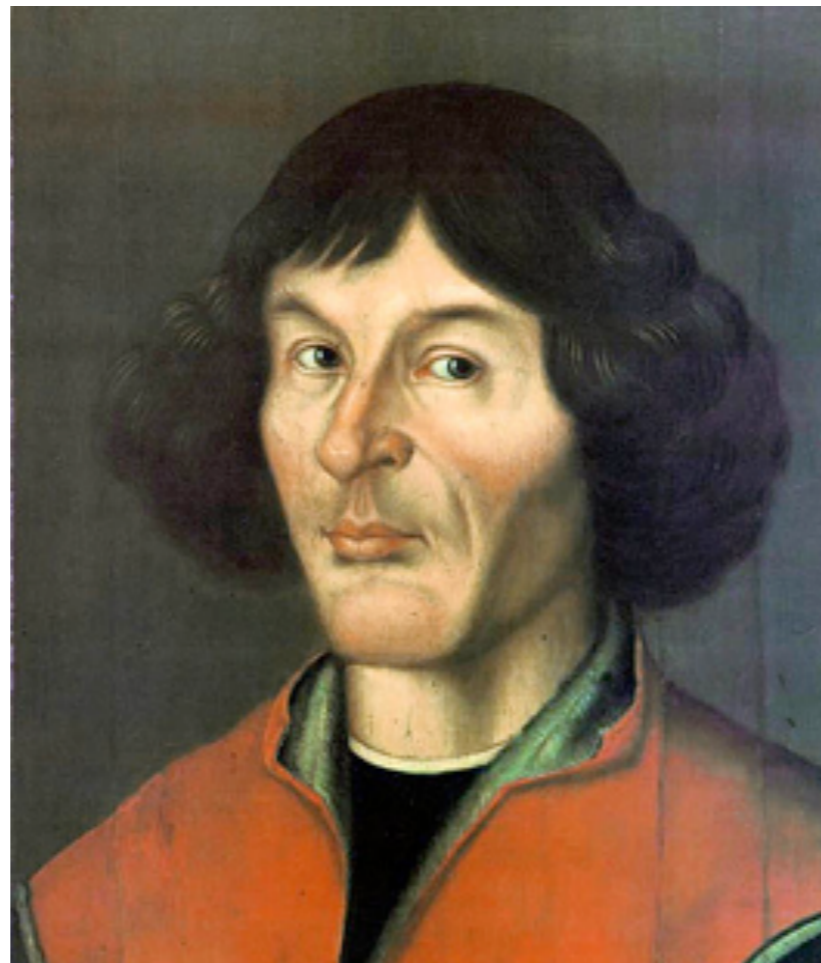
c. 287 BC - c. 212 BC

# Some famous thoughts on Applied Maths

*'Mathematic is written for mathematicians'*  
(Nicolaus Copernicus)



1543

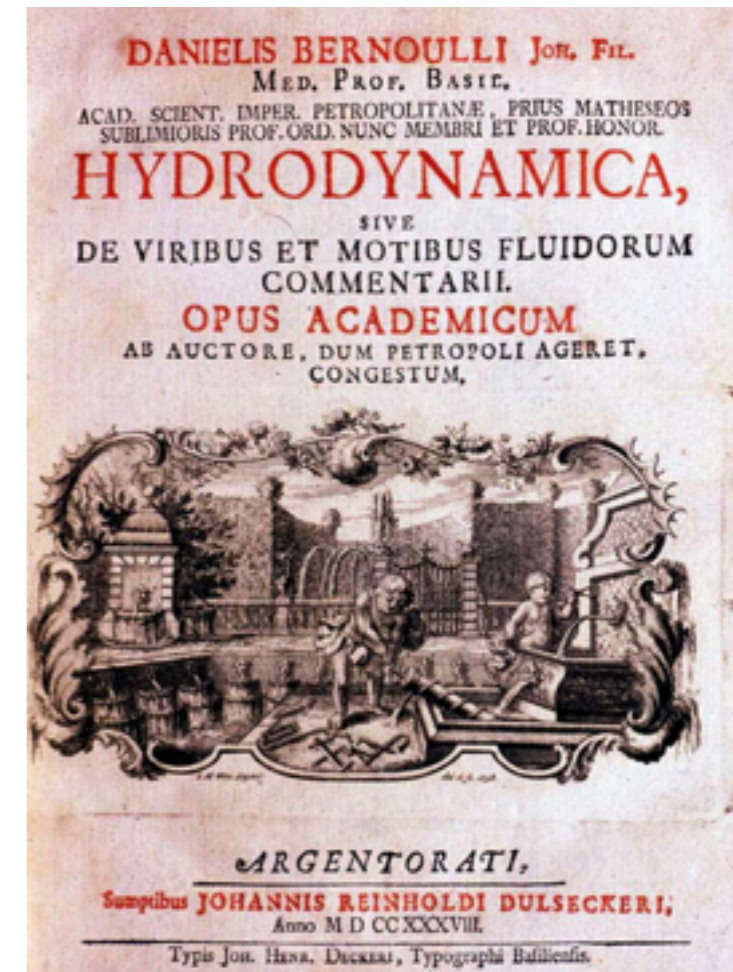


19 February 1473 – 24 May 1543

# Some famous thoughts on Applied Maths?

*'It would be better for the true physics  
if there were no mathematicians on  
earth'*  
(Daniel Bernoulli)

8 February 1700 – 17 March 1782



# Some famous thoughts on Applied Maths

*'Now I will have less distraction'*  
(Leonhard Euler, upon losing the use of his right eye)



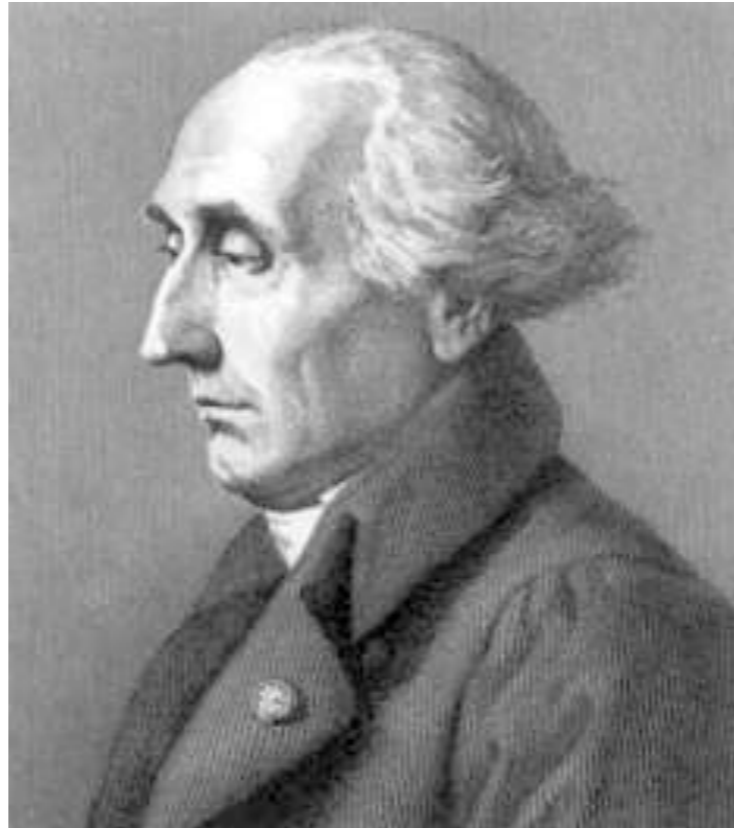
15 April 1707 – 18 September 1783



# Some famous thoughts on Applied Maths

*'I do not know'*

(Joseph-Louis Lagrange, summarizing his life's work)



25 January 1736 - 10 April 1813

# Some famous thoughts on Applied Maths

*'Nature laughs at the difficulties of integration'*  
(Pierre-Simon Laplace)



23 March 1749 – 5 March 1827

# Some famous thoughts on Applied Maths?

*'Mathematicians are born, not made'*  
(Henri Poincaré)



29 April 1854 – 17 July 1912

# Some famous thoughts on Applied Maths?

*'Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future'*  
(Niels Bohr)



7 October 1885 – 18 November 1962

# Some famous thoughts on Applied Maths?

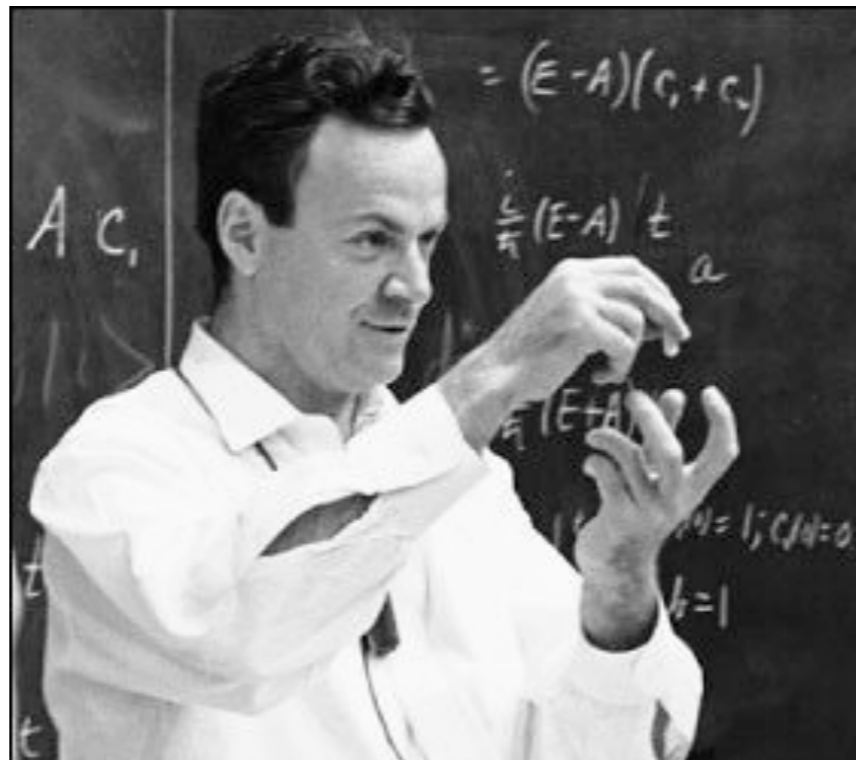


*'It is more important to have beauty in one's equations than to have them fit experiment' and 'This result is too beautiful to be false'*  
(Paul Dirac)

8 August 1902 – 20 October 1984

# Some famous thoughts on Applied Maths?

*'To those who do not know mathematics it is difficult to get across a real feeling as to the beauty, the deepest beauty, of nature'*  
(Richard Feynman)



May 11, 1918 – February 15, 1988

**BSc 1939**

# Course overview

18.354

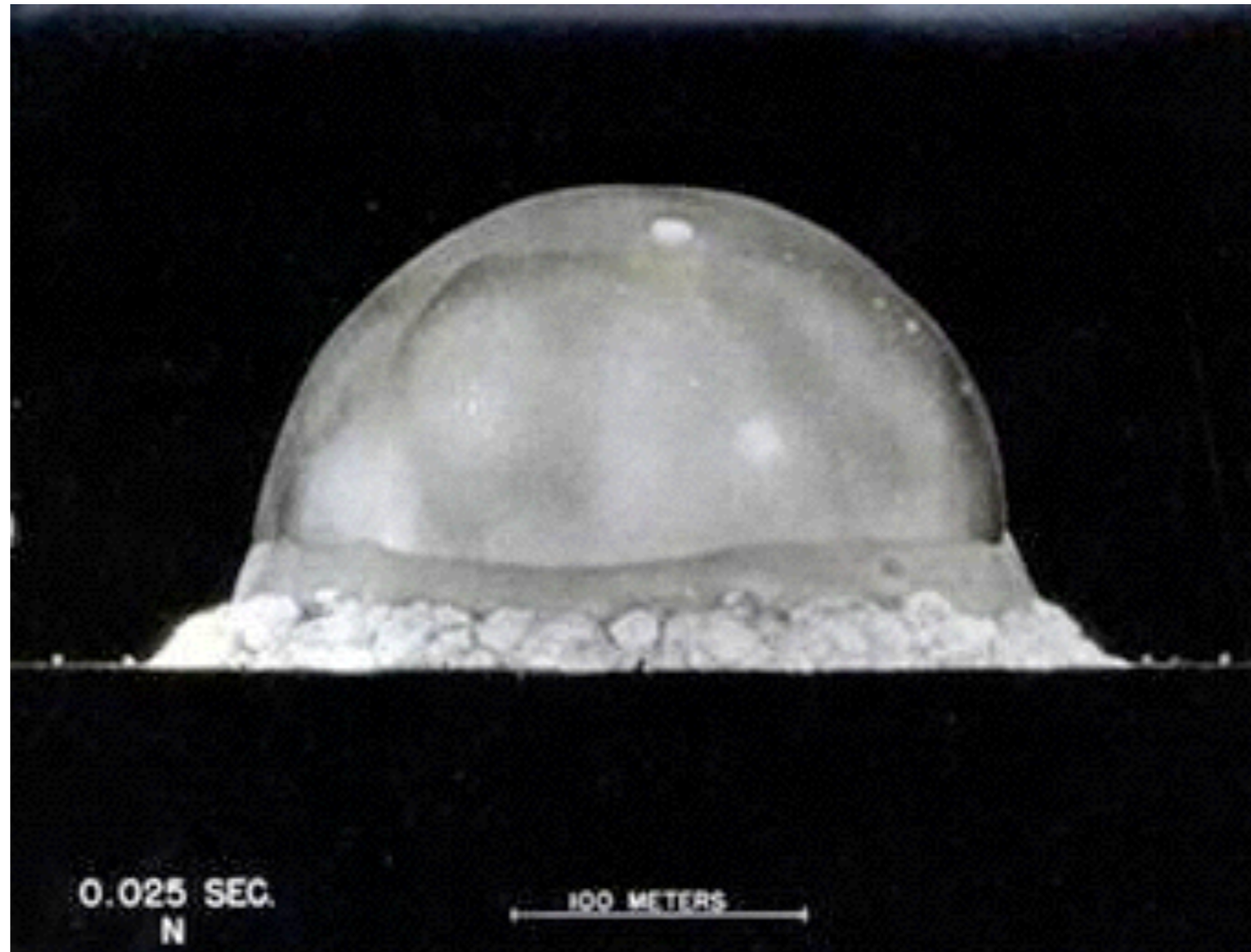
- ODEs
- linear/nonlinear PDEs for scalar & vector fields
- perturbation theory
- calculus of variations
- Fourier transformations
- complex numbers, conformal maps



# Dimensional analysis



G.I. Taylor  
1886-1975



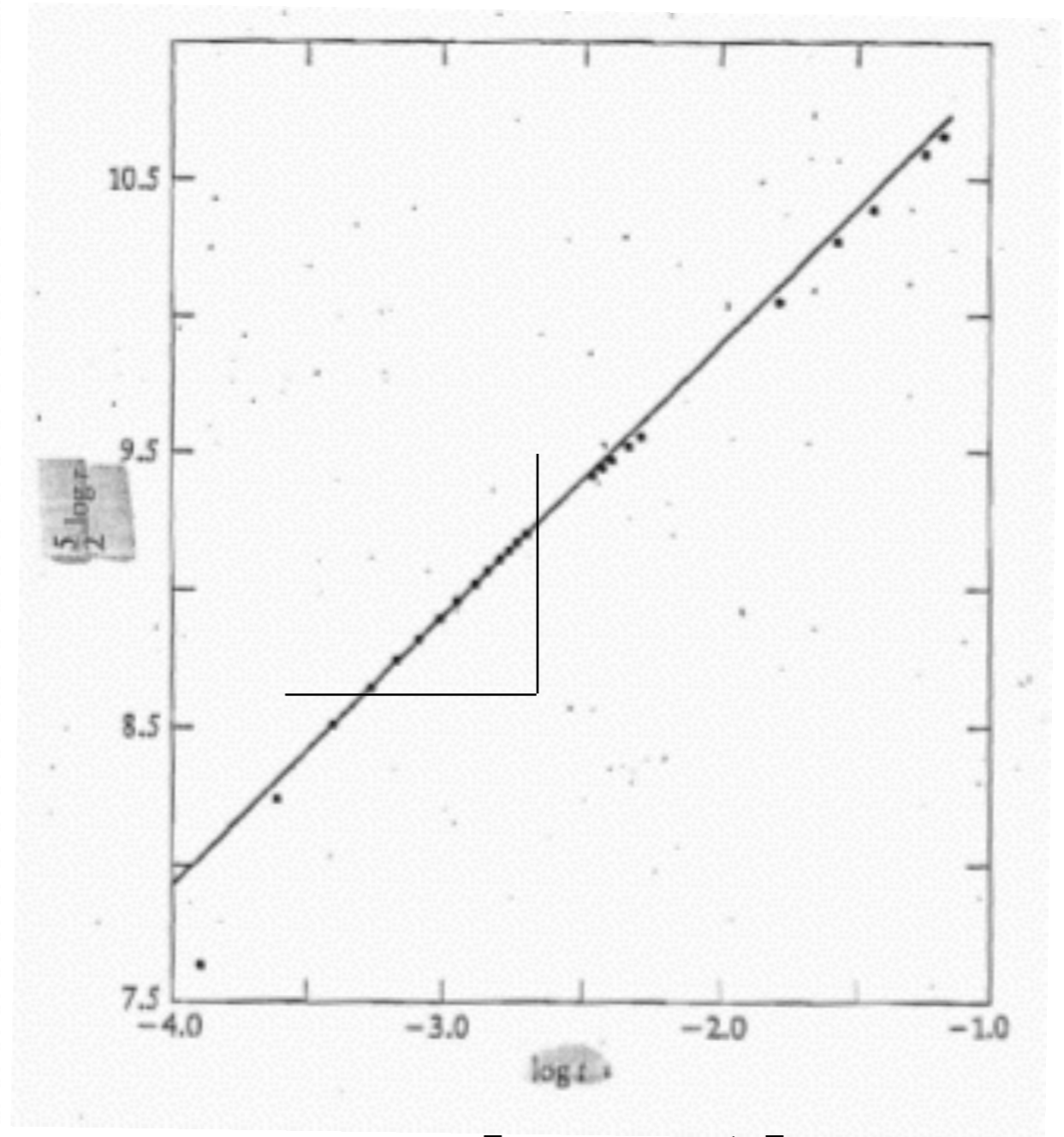
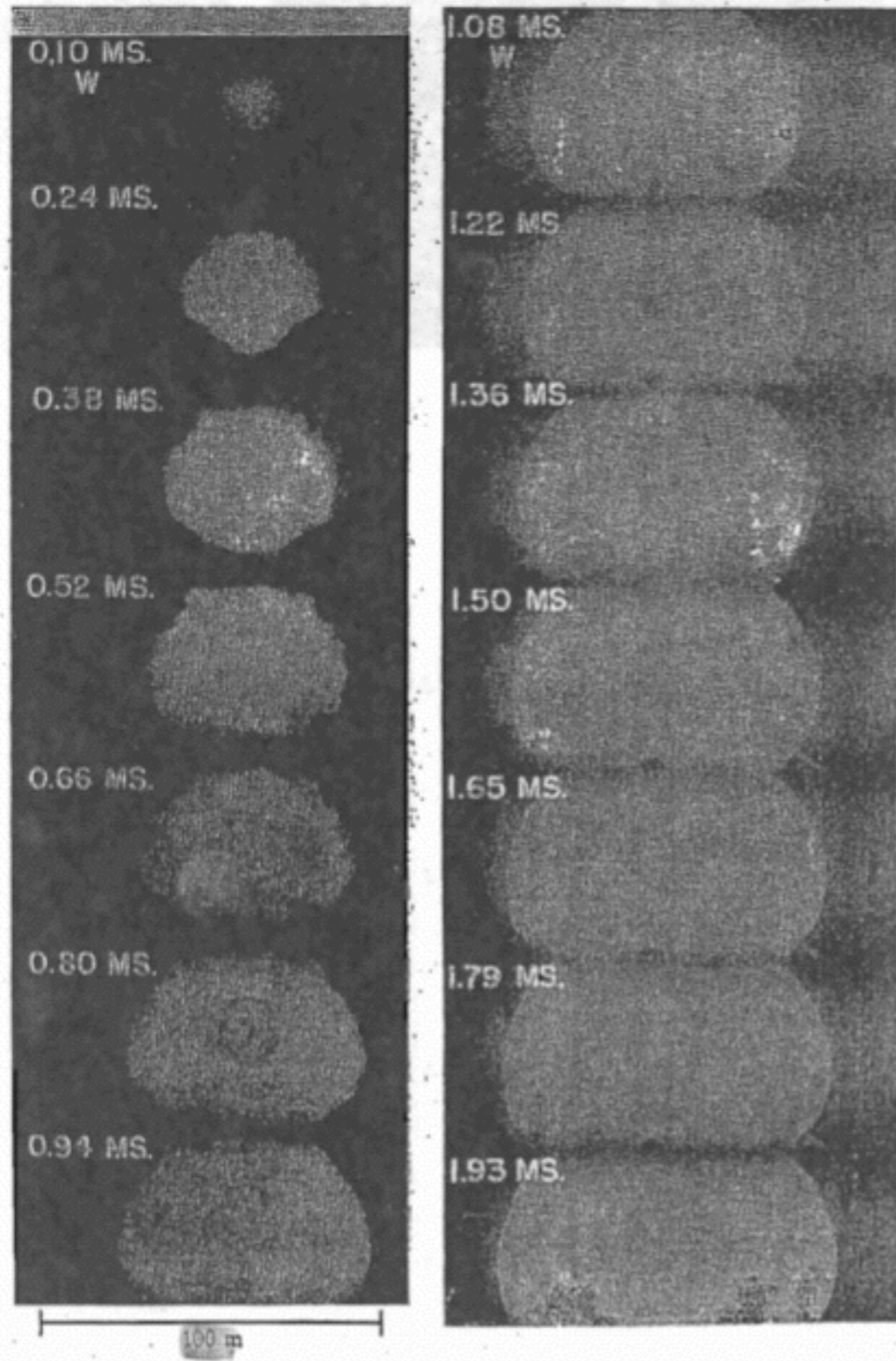
Trinity nuclear test, July 1945  
Life Magazine, August 20, 1945

The formation of a blast wave by a very intense explosion.

## II. The atomic explosion of 1945

BY SIR GEOFFREY TAYLOR, F.R.S.

(Received 10 November 1949)



$$\ln R = \ln \left[ c \left( \frac{E}{\rho} \right)^{1/5} \right] + \frac{2}{5} \ln t$$

# Hamiltonian dynamics & Kepler's problem

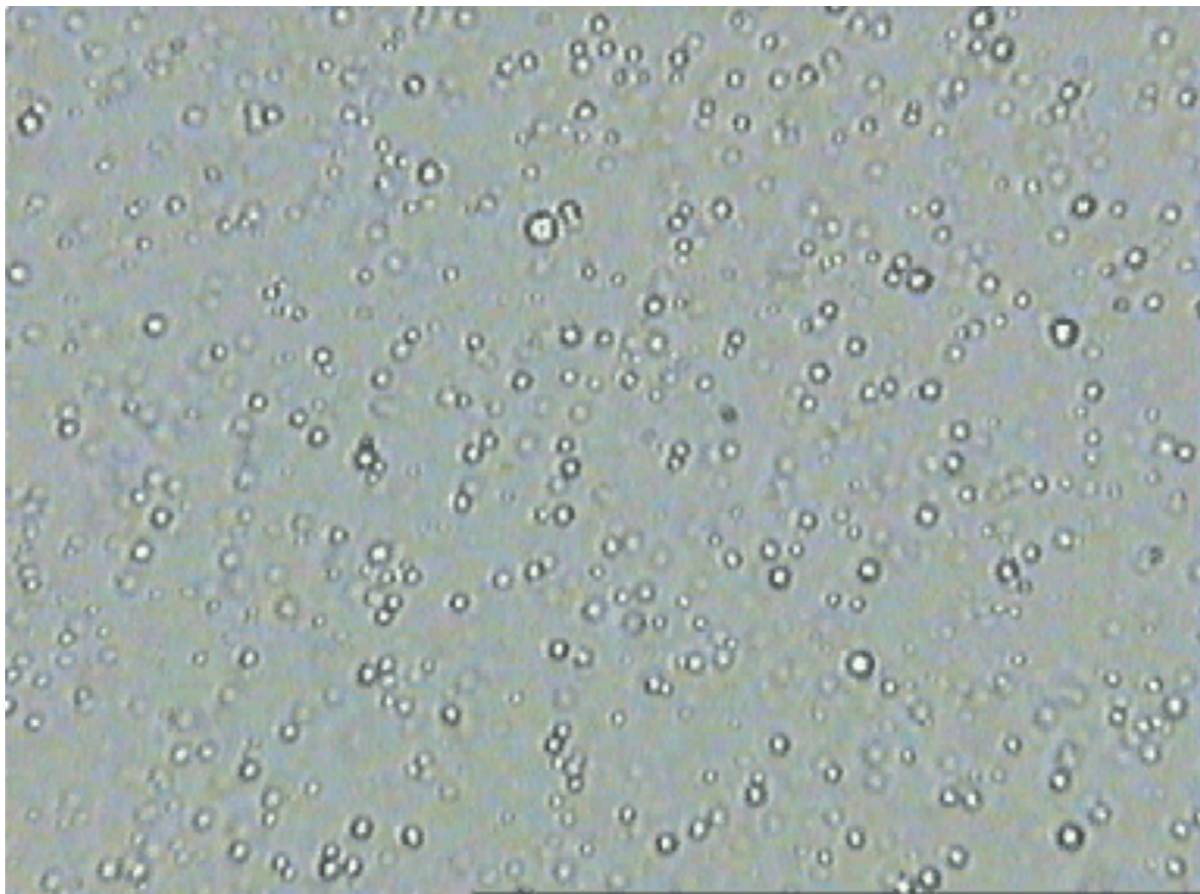
$$H = \sum_i \frac{p_i^2}{2m_i} + U(x_1, \dots, x_N)$$

$$\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{r} \times m \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt}$$

# Brownian motion

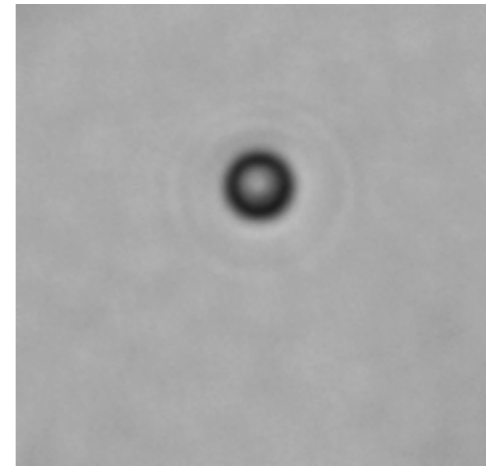


# Random walks & diffusion



David Walker

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial J_x}{\partial x} = D \frac{\partial^2 n}{\partial x^2},$$

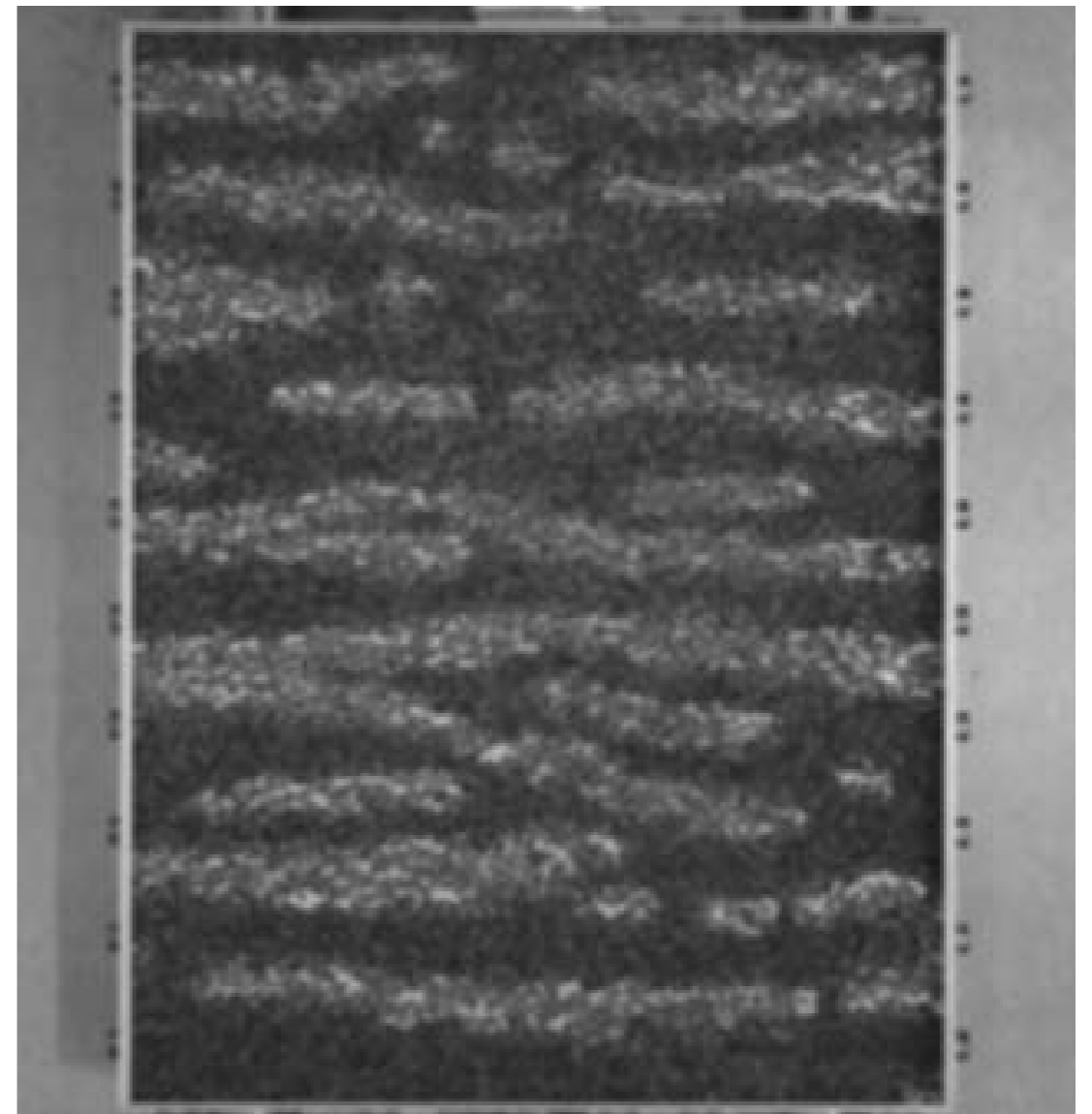


Mark Haw

# Pattern formation



# Zebra vs. granular media



# 2d Swift-Hohenberg model

$$\partial_t \psi = -U'(\psi) + \gamma_0 \nabla^2 \psi - \gamma_2 (\nabla^2)^2 \psi$$

reflection-symmetry

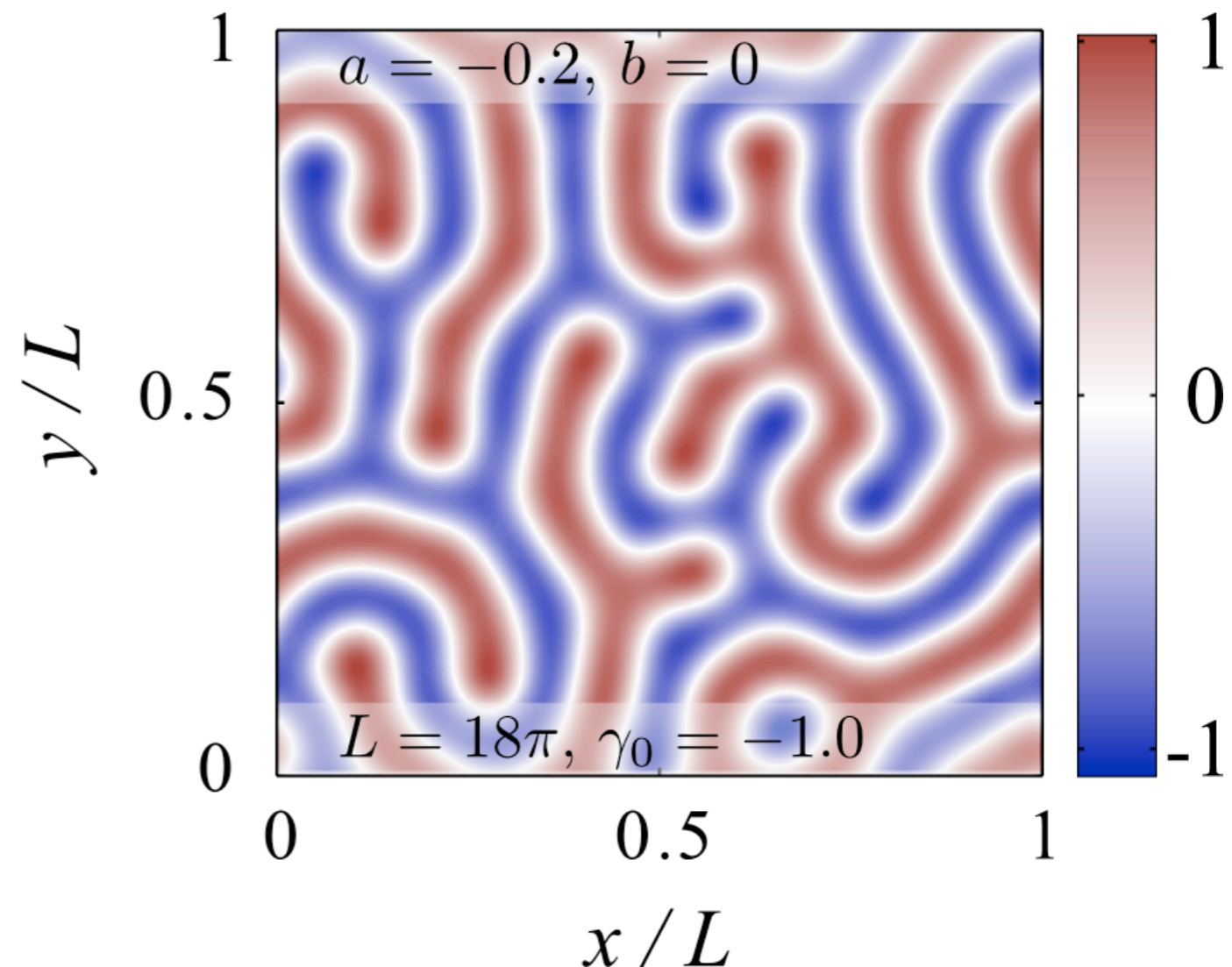
$$b = 0$$

$$\psi \mapsto -\psi$$

$$\psi / \psi_m$$

$$U(\psi) = \frac{a}{2} \psi^2 + \cancel{\frac{b}{3} \psi^3} + \frac{c}{4} \psi^4$$

$$\psi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \nabla \times \mathbf{v}$$





# 2d Swift-Hohenberg model

**broken**  
reflection-symmetry

$$b \neq 0$$

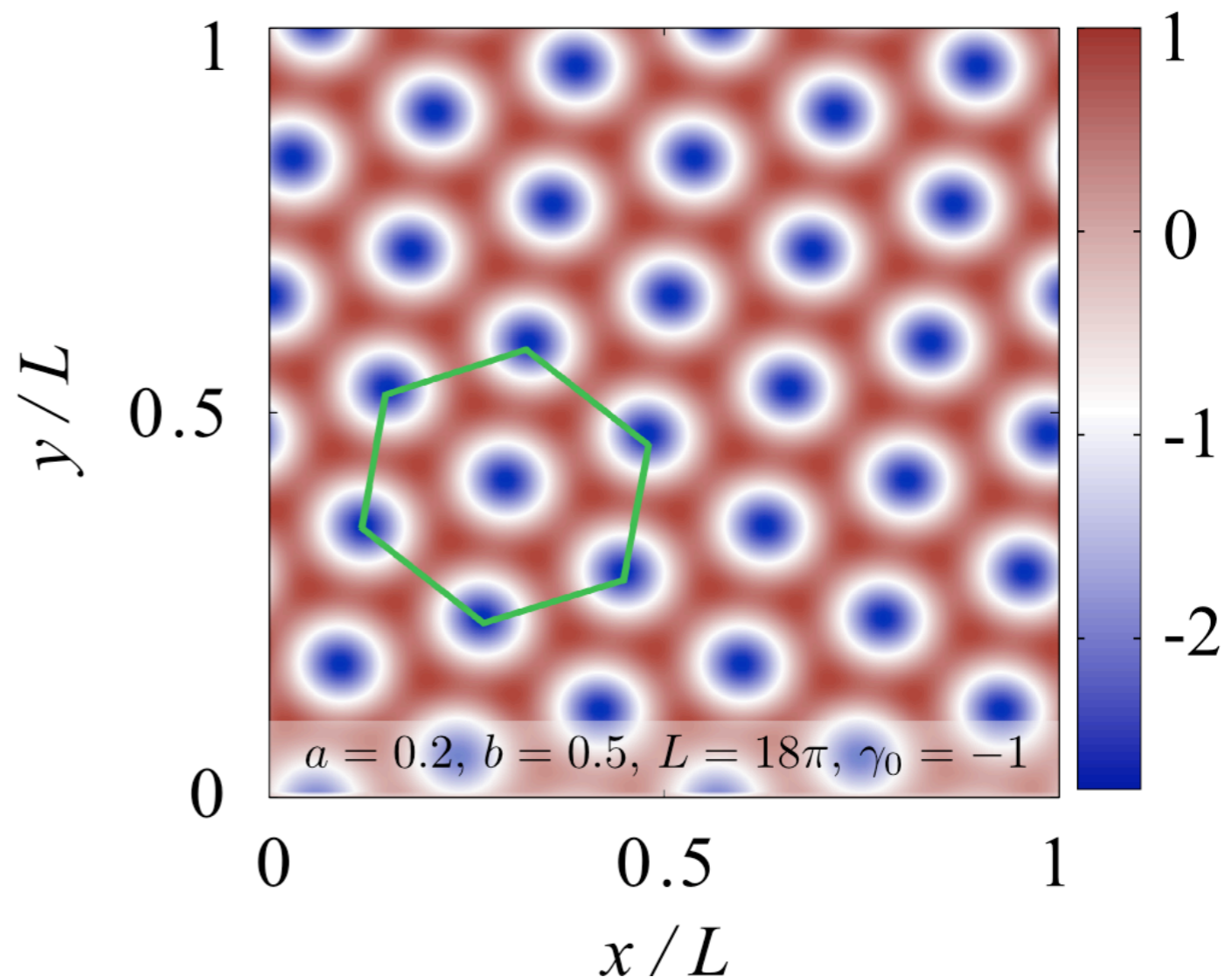
$$\psi \not\mapsto -\psi$$

$$\psi/\psi_m$$

$$\partial_t \psi = -U'(\psi) + \gamma_0 \nabla^2 \psi - \gamma_2 (\nabla^2)^2 \psi$$

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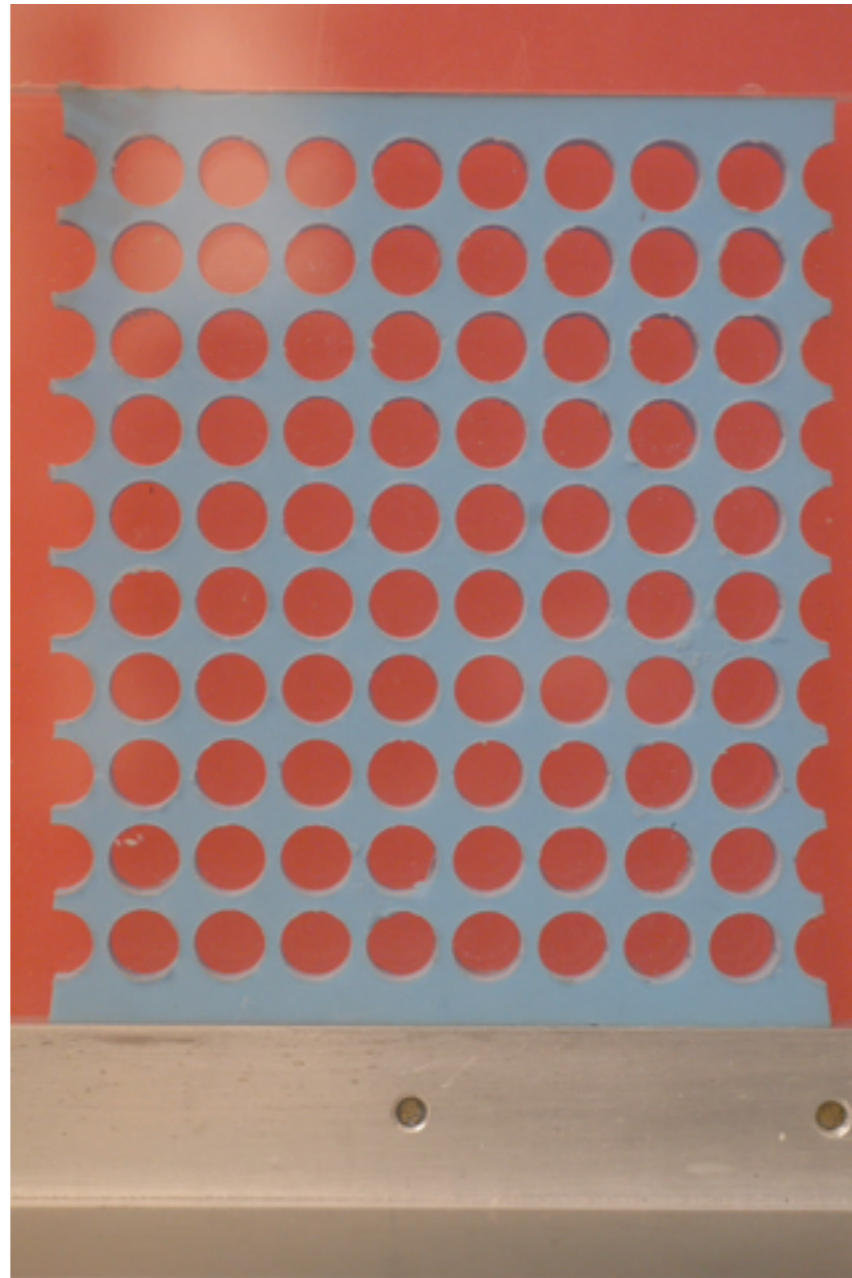


# Calculus of variations

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\delta I[Y]}{\delta Y} &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\epsilon} \{I[f(x) + \epsilon \delta(x - y)] - I[f(x)]\} \\ &= \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial Y} \delta(x - y) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial Y'} \delta'(x - y) \right] dx \\ &= \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial Y} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial f}{\partial Y'} \right] \delta(x - y) dx.\end{aligned}$$

$$0 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial Y} - \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\partial f}{\partial Y'}$$

# Elasticity



# Elasticity

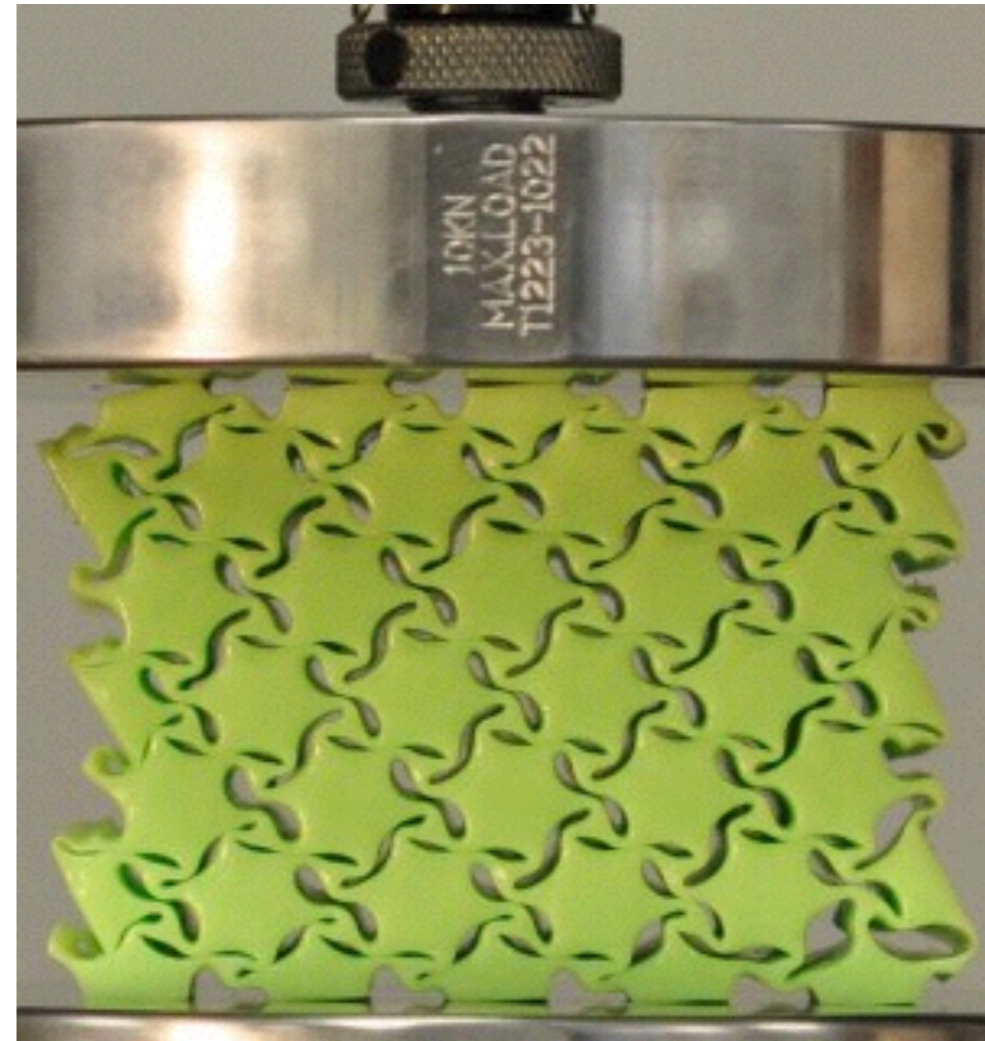
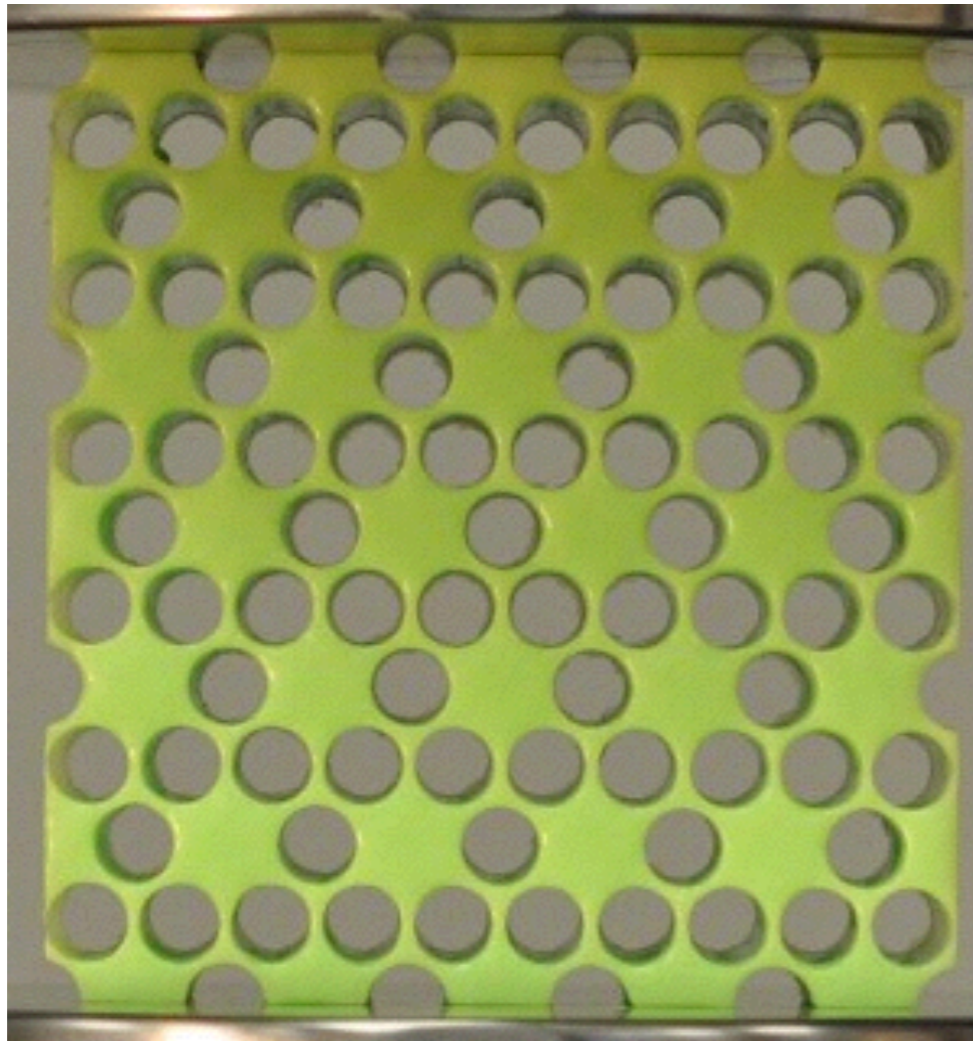
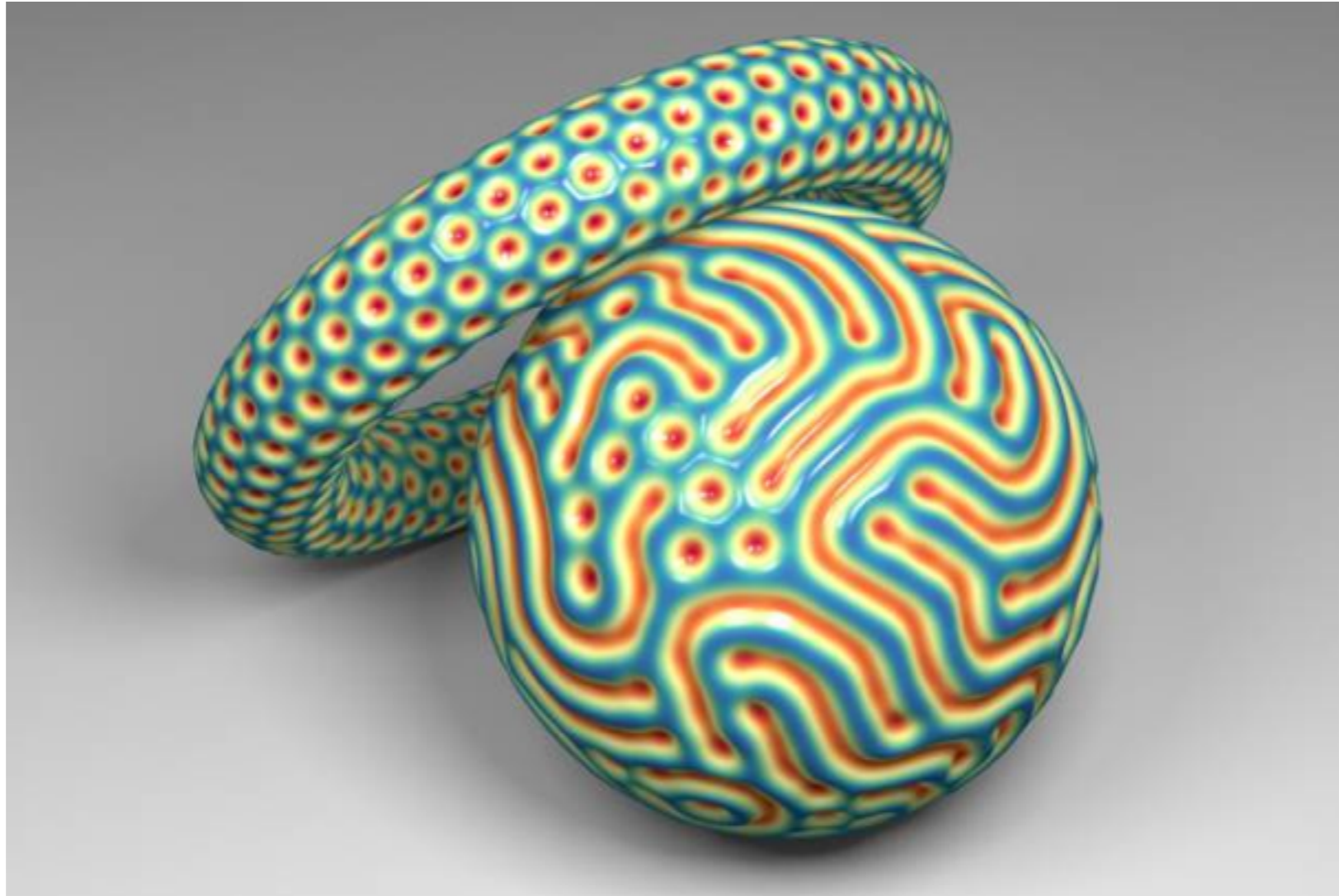


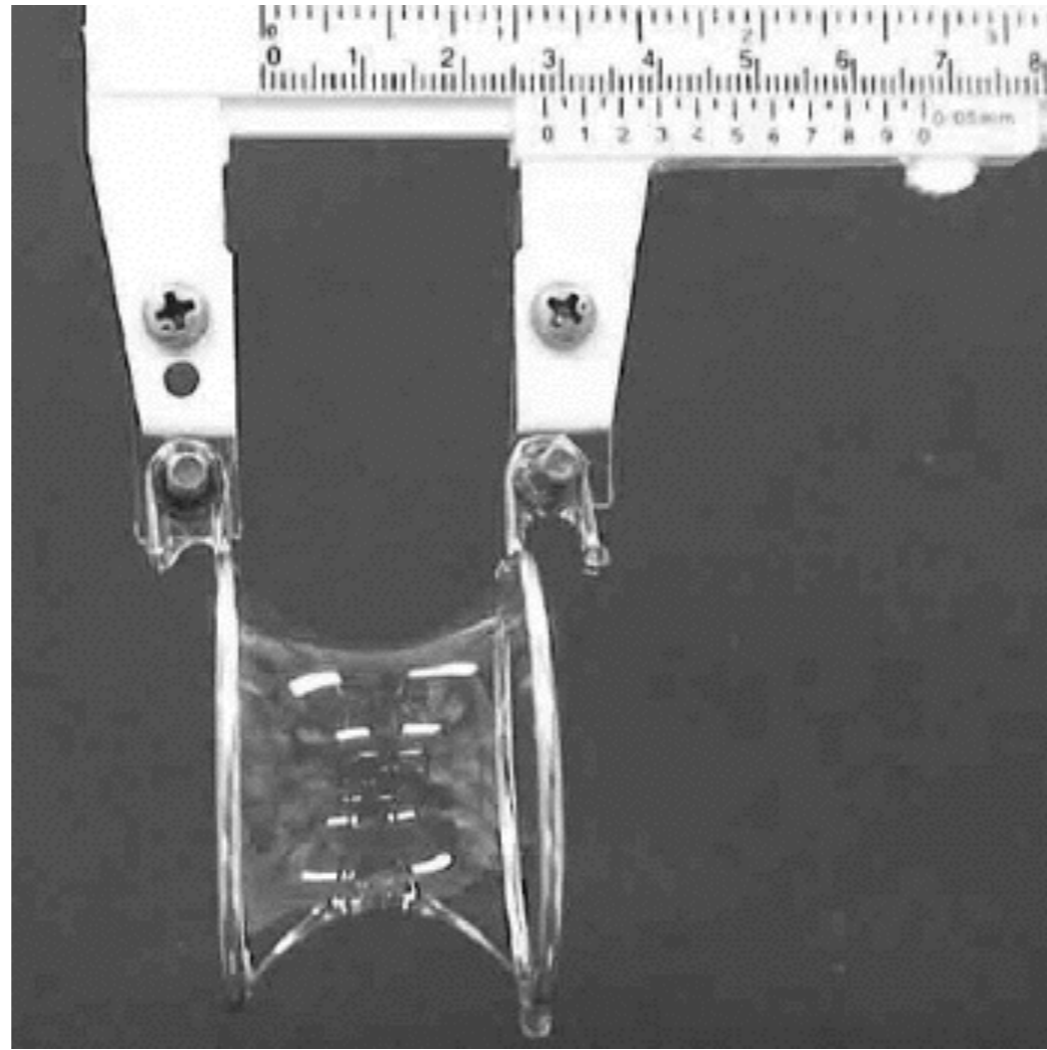
photo: Andrej Kosmrlj

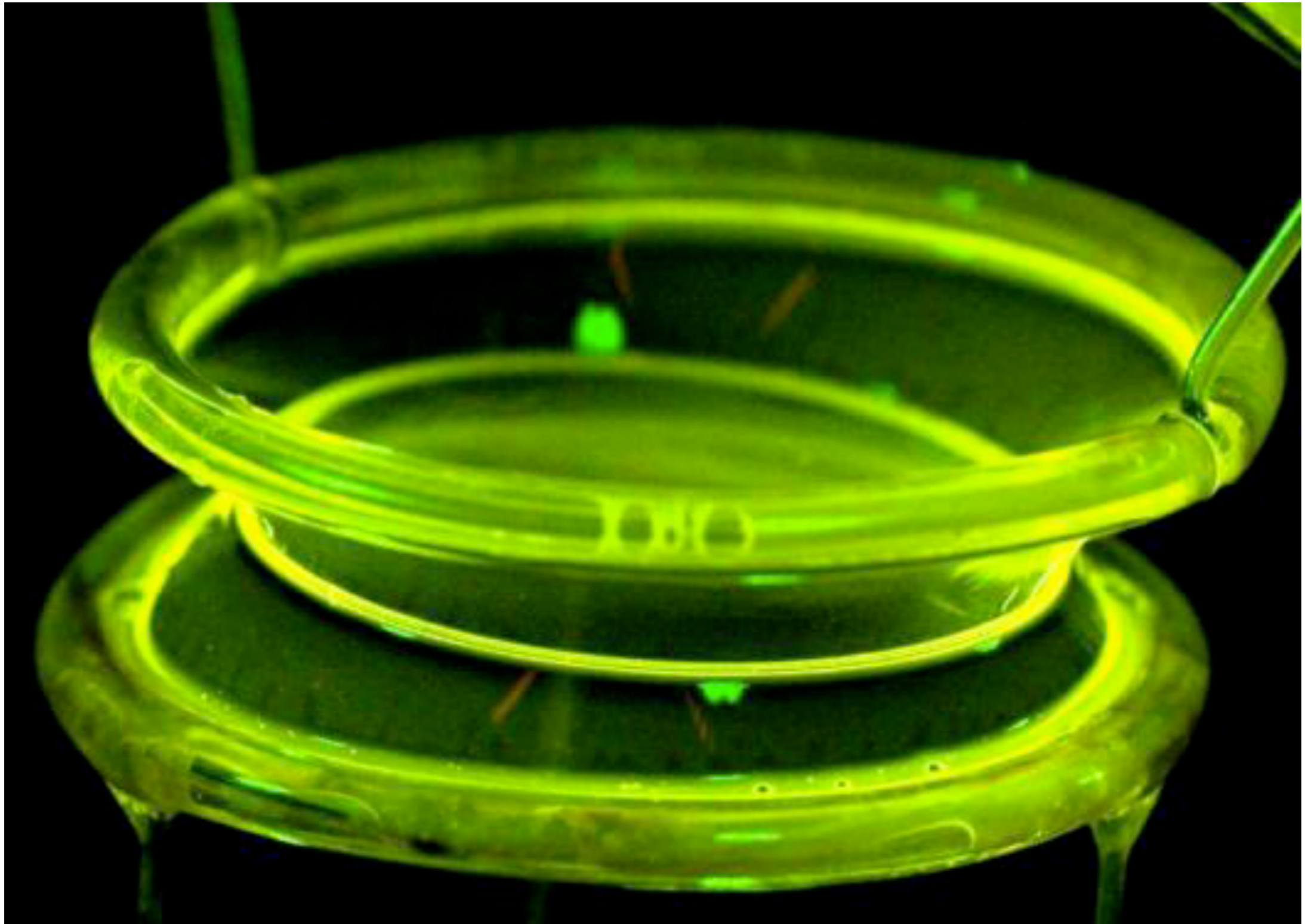
<http://newsoffice.mit.edu/2015/predicting-wrinkles-fingerprints-curved-surfaces-0202>



collaboration with Reis lab (MechE)

# Surface tension





Goldstein lab, Cambridge

# Large drop in microgravity





# Hydrodynamics

$$\int_V \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} dV = - \int_S \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} dS = - \int_V \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) dV.$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = 0.$$

$$\int_{V(t)} \rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} dV = \int_{V(t)} (-\nabla p + \rho \mathbf{g}) dV$$

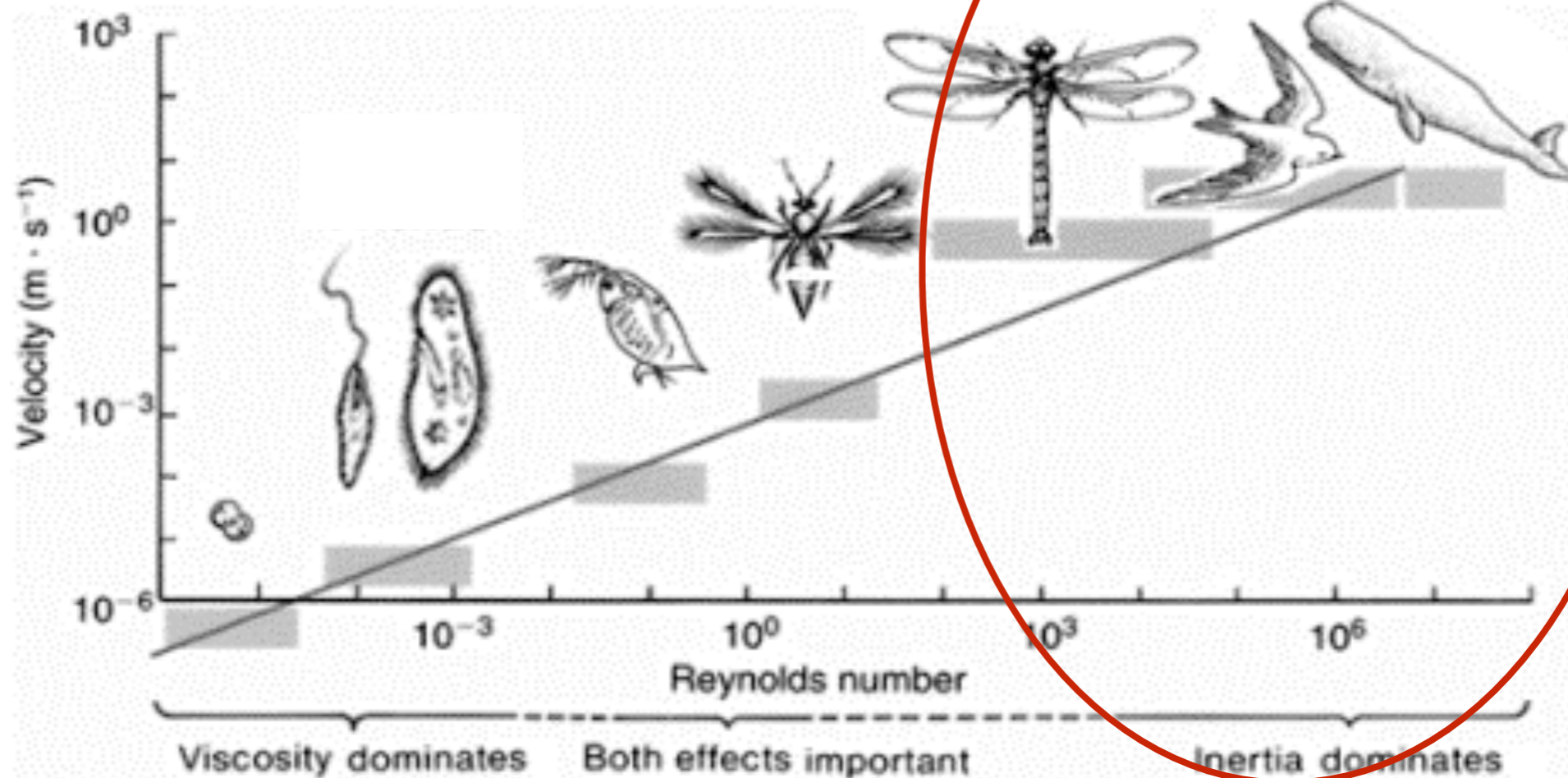
$$\frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \frac{-\nabla p}{\rho} + \mathbf{g}.$$

# Typical Reynolds numbers

$$\rho \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \right) = -\nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - \frac{2}{3} \mu \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) + \rho \mathbf{g}$$

$$Re = \frac{\rho U L}{\mu} = \frac{U L}{\nu}$$

Macro-  
world

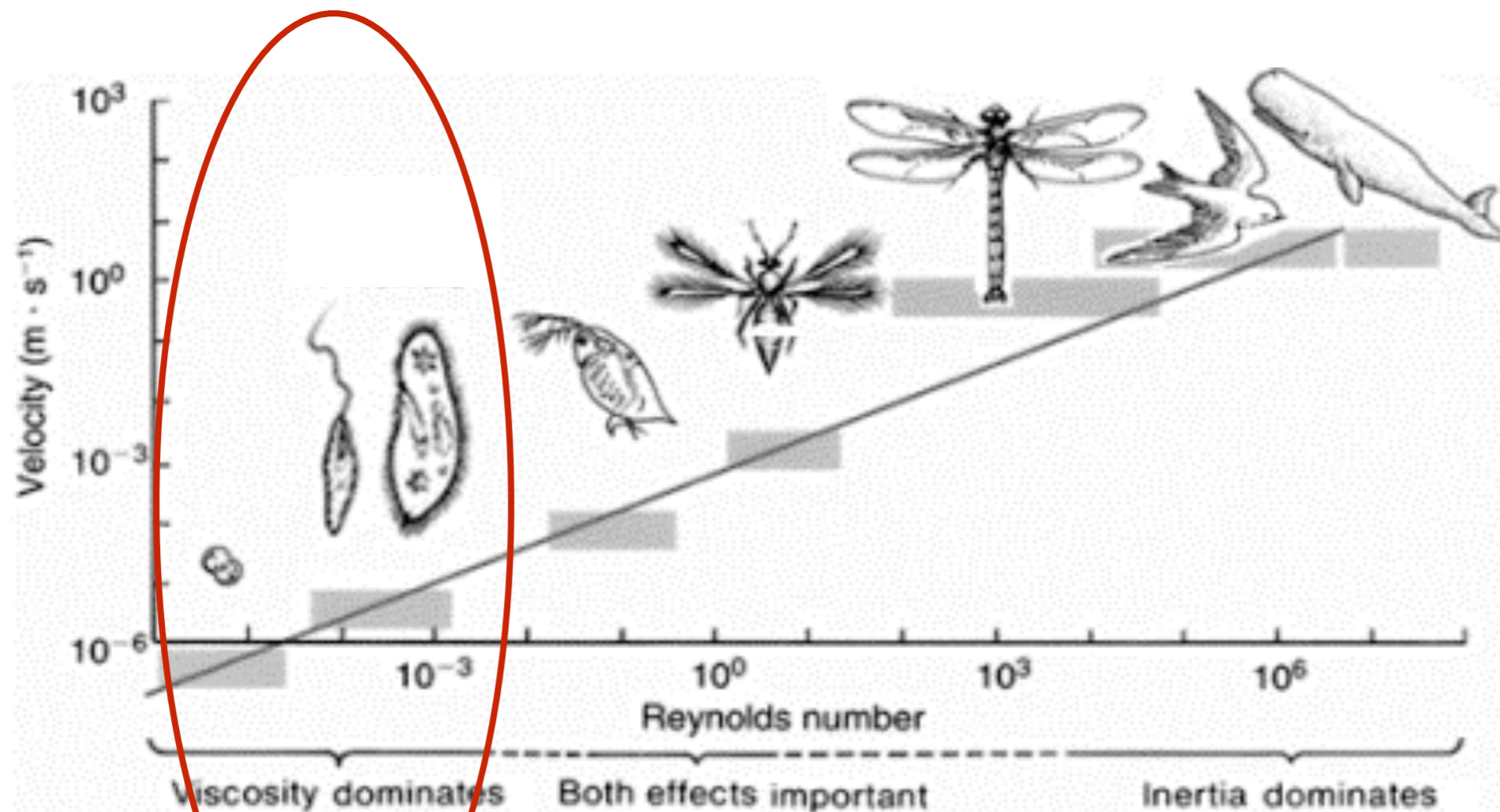


meters



# What happens at **low** Reynolds numbers ?

$$Re = \frac{\rho U L}{\mu} = \frac{U L}{\nu}$$



# Low-Re (laminar) flow



# Swimming at low Reynolds number

Navier - Stokes:

$$-\nabla p + \eta \nabla^2 \vec{v} = \cancel{\rho \frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t}} + \cancel{\rho (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{v}}$$

If  $\mathcal{R} \sim UL\rho/\eta \ll 1$

Time doesn't matter. The pattern of motion is the same, whether slow or fast, whether forward or backward in time.

The Scallop Theorem



American Journal of Physics, Vol. 45, No. 1, January 1977



Geoffrey Ingram Taylor



James Lighthill

$$0 = \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \mathbf{f},$$

$$0 = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}.$$

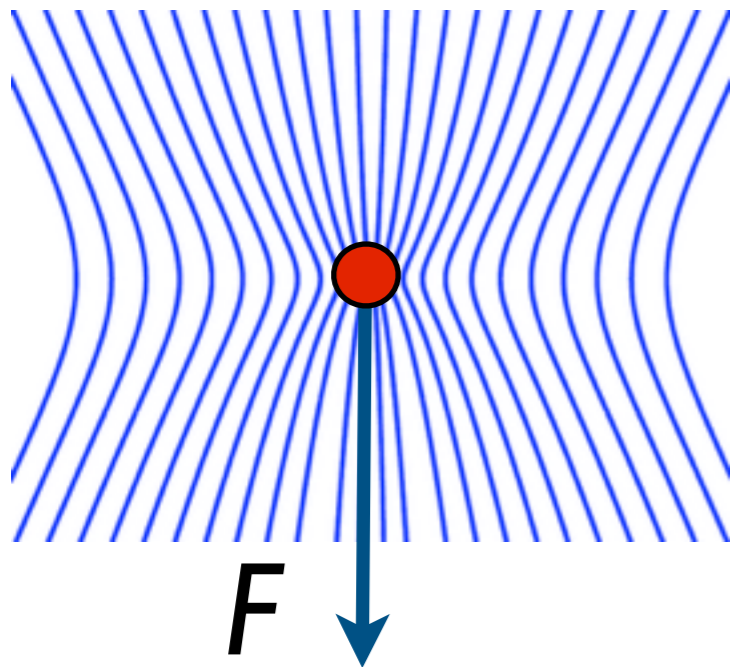
+ time-dependent BCs



Edward Purcell

# Superposition of singularities

stokeslet

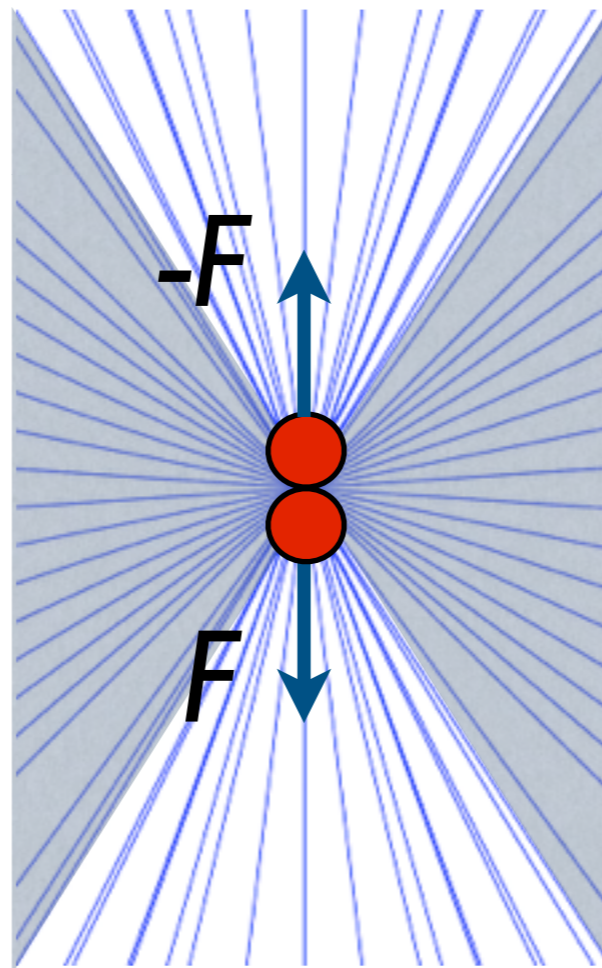


$$p(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \mathbf{F}}{4\pi r^2} + p_0$$

$$v_i(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{(8\pi\mu)^{-1}}{r} [\delta_{ij} + \hat{r}_i \hat{r}_j] F_j$$

flow  $\sim r^{-1}$

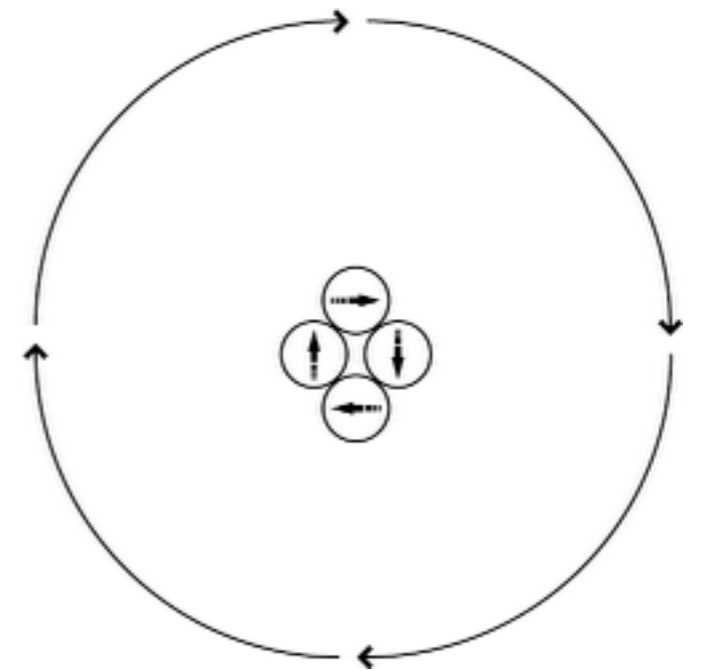
2x stokeslet =  
symmetric dipole



$r^{-2}$

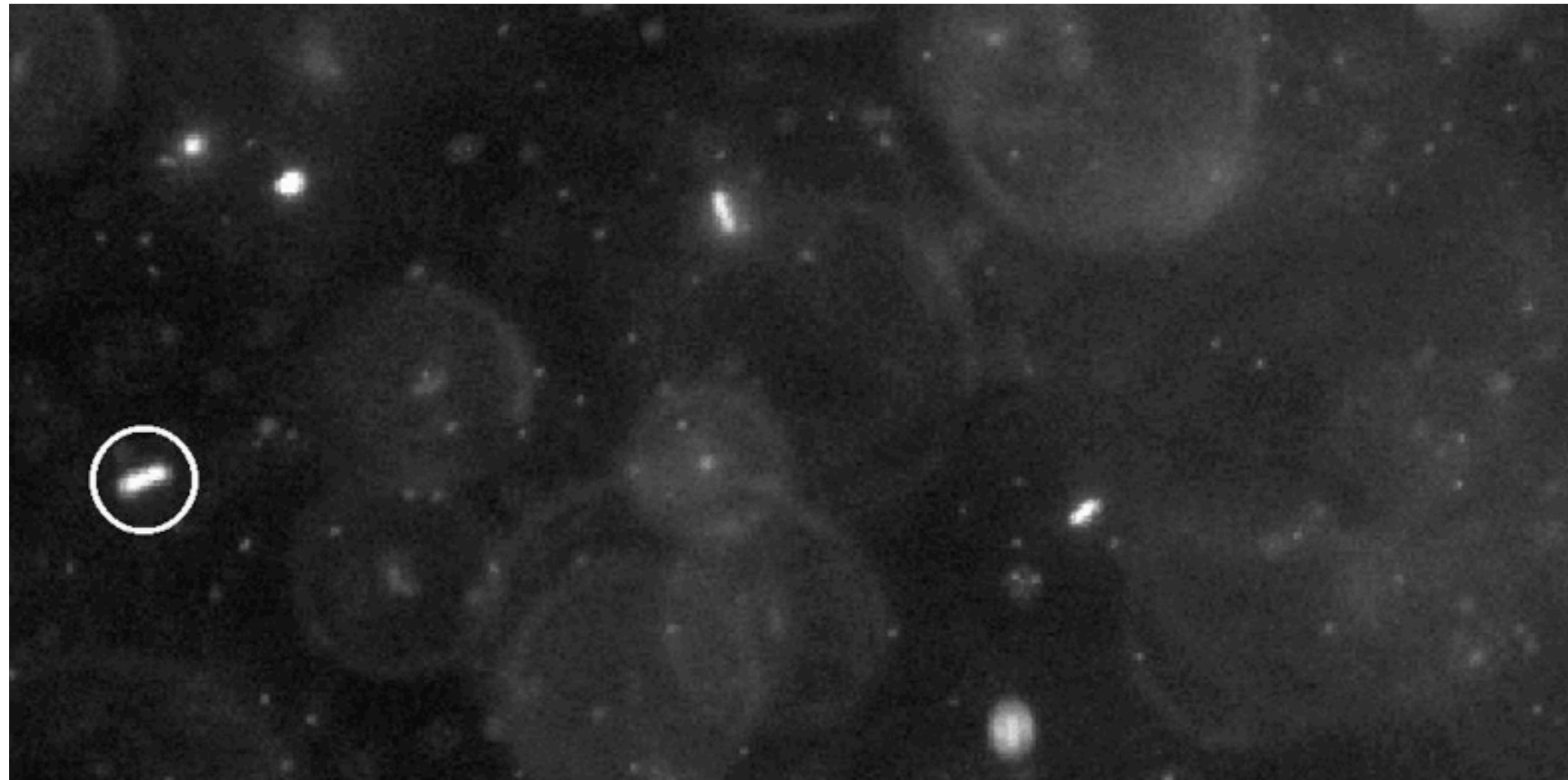
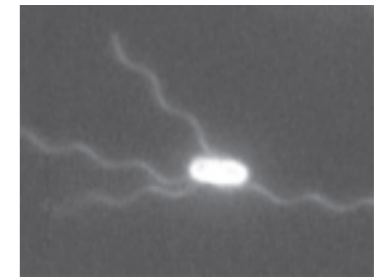
'pusher'

rotlet



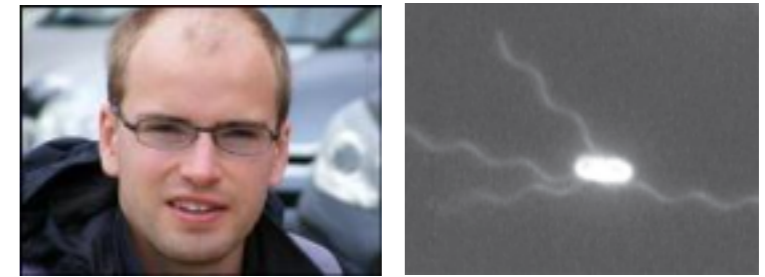
$r^{-2}$

# *E. coli* (non-tumbling HCB 437)

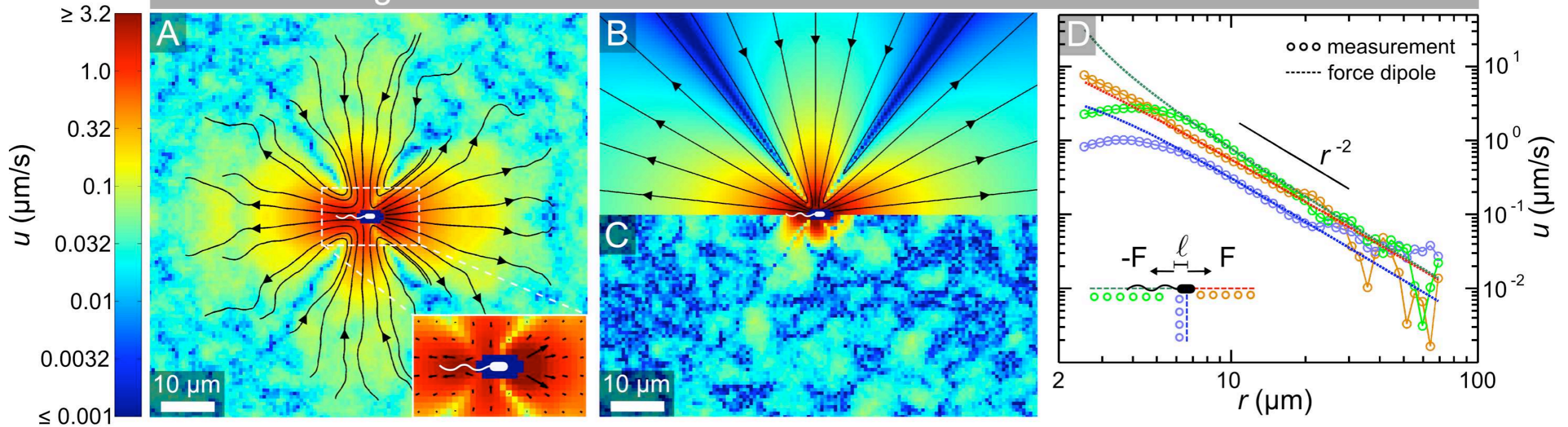




# E.coli (non-tumbling HCB 437)



Free swimming



$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{A}{|\mathbf{r}|^2} \left[ 3(\hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{d}})^2 - 1 \right] \hat{\mathbf{r}}, \quad A = \frac{\ell F}{8\pi\eta}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{r}} = \frac{\mathbf{r}}{|\mathbf{r}|}$$

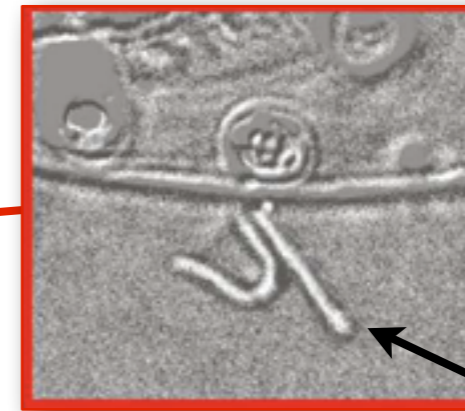
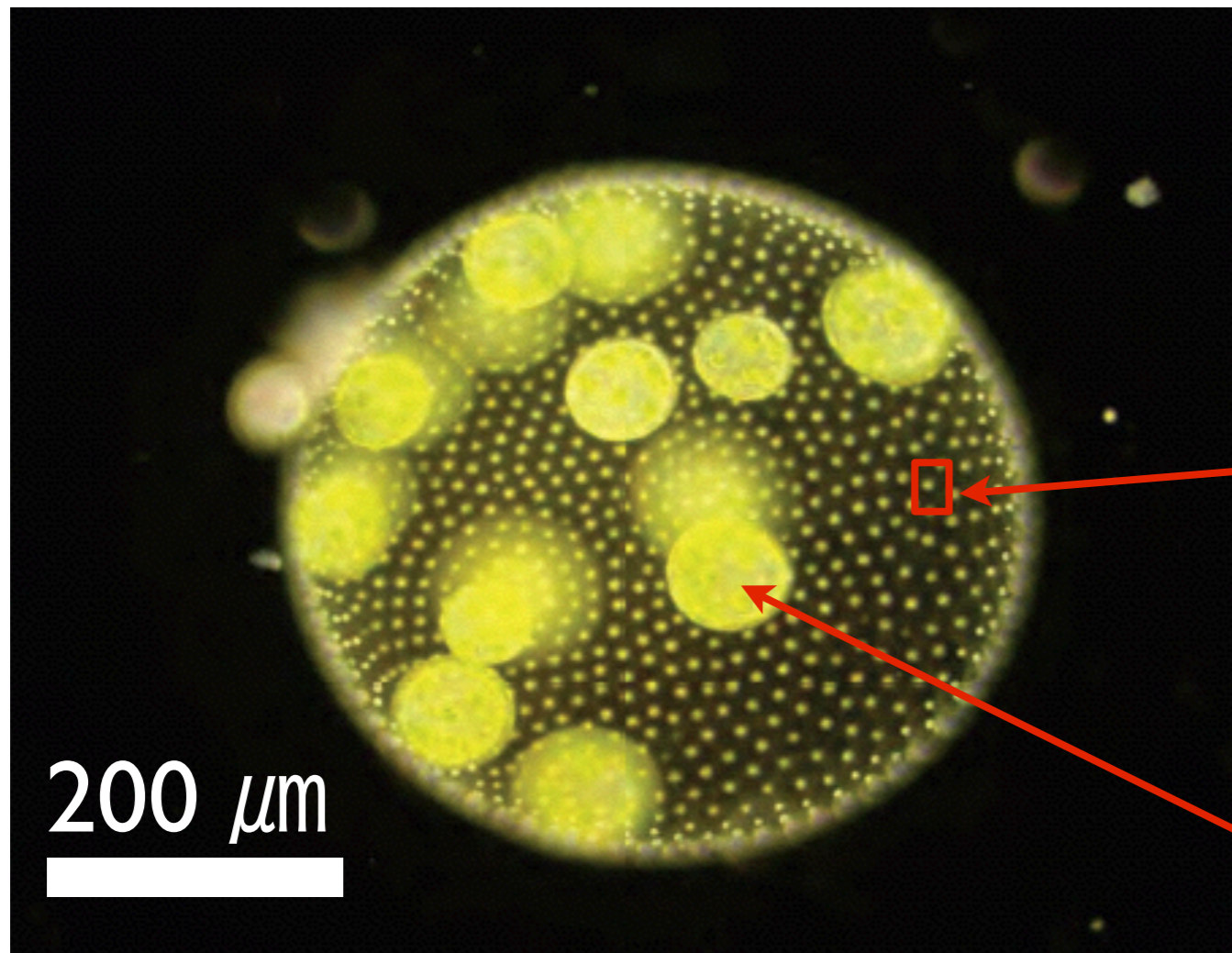
$$V_0 = 22 \pm 5 \text{ } \mu\text{m/s}$$

$$\ell = 1.9 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$$

$$F = 0.42 \text{ pN}$$

weak 'pusher' dipole

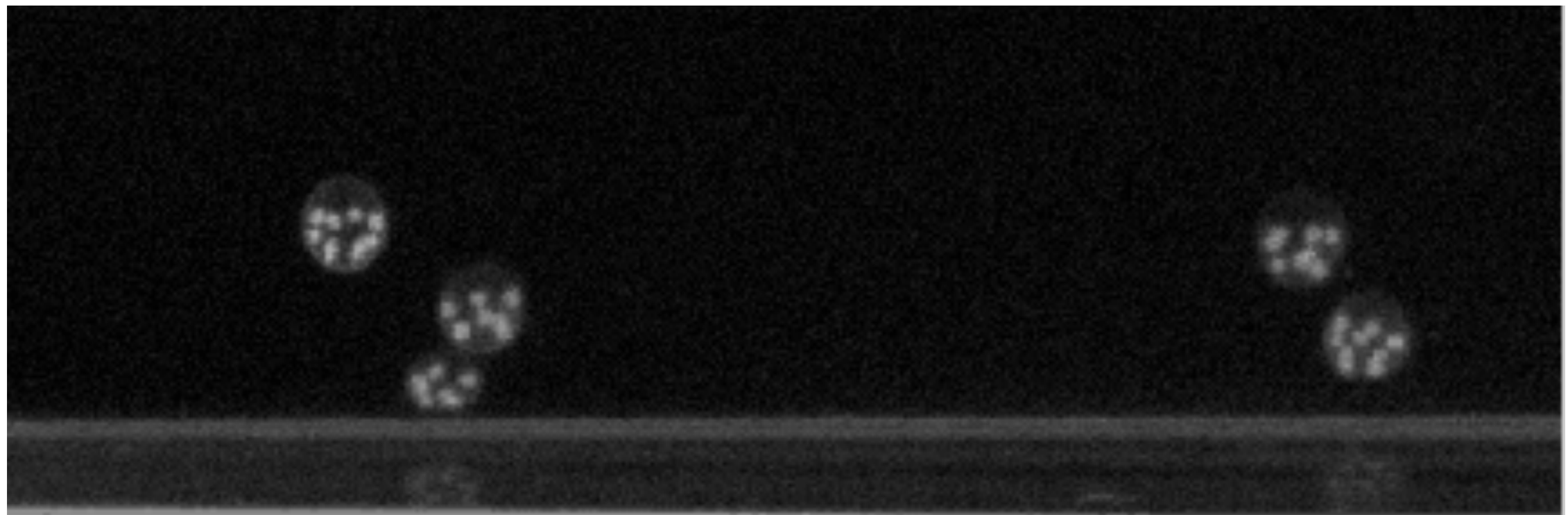
# Volvox carteri



somatic  
cell

cilia

daughter colony

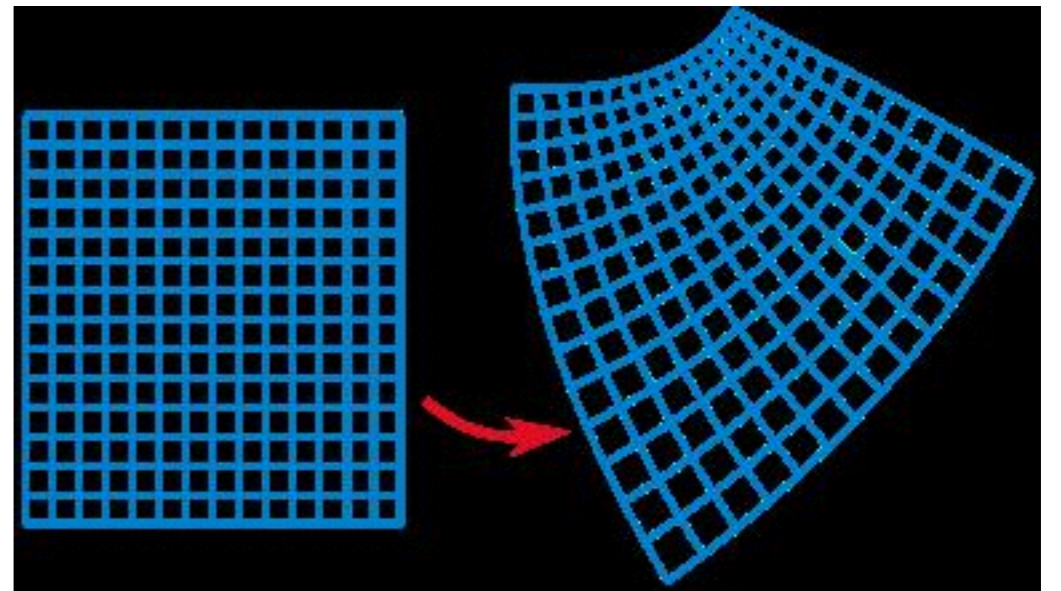


# Singular perturbations

$$\epsilon \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} + \frac{du}{dx} = 1.$$

# Conformal mappings

$$\frac{dw}{dz} = \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + i\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x} = u - iv.$$



$$W(Z) = u_0 \left( Ze^{-i\alpha} + \frac{R^2}{Z} e^{i\alpha} \right) - \frac{i\Gamma}{2\pi} \ln Z.$$

# Rotating flows

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times (\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}) &= -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p_{\Omega} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - 2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{u}, \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

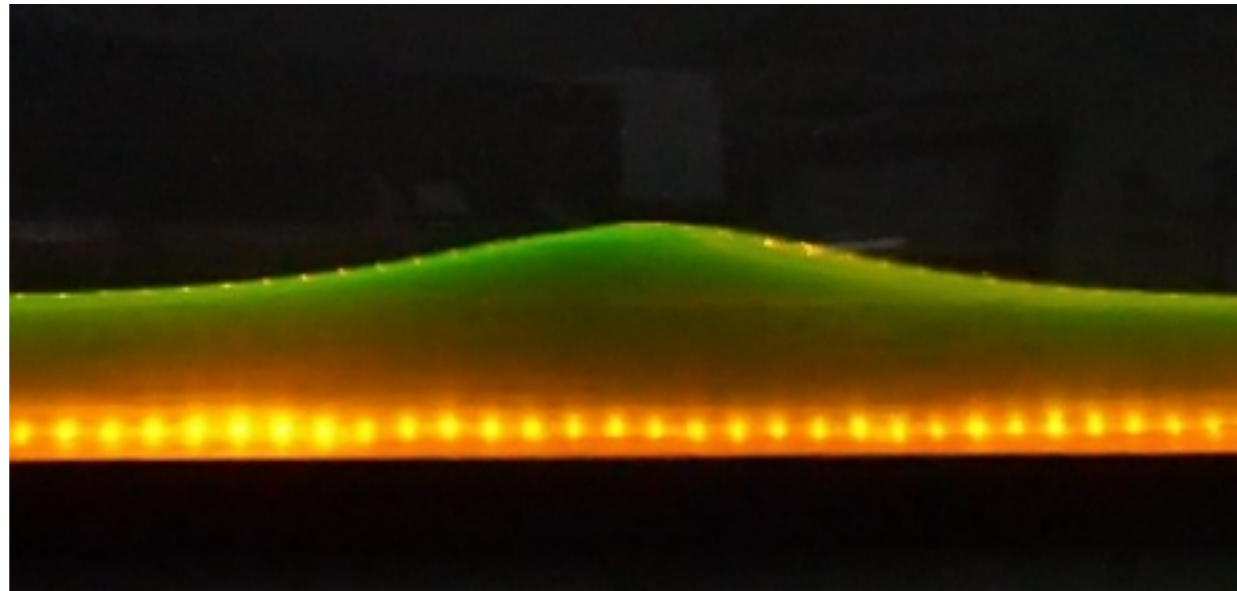
Taylor columns, etc

<http://ocw.mit.edu/>

## Taylor - column



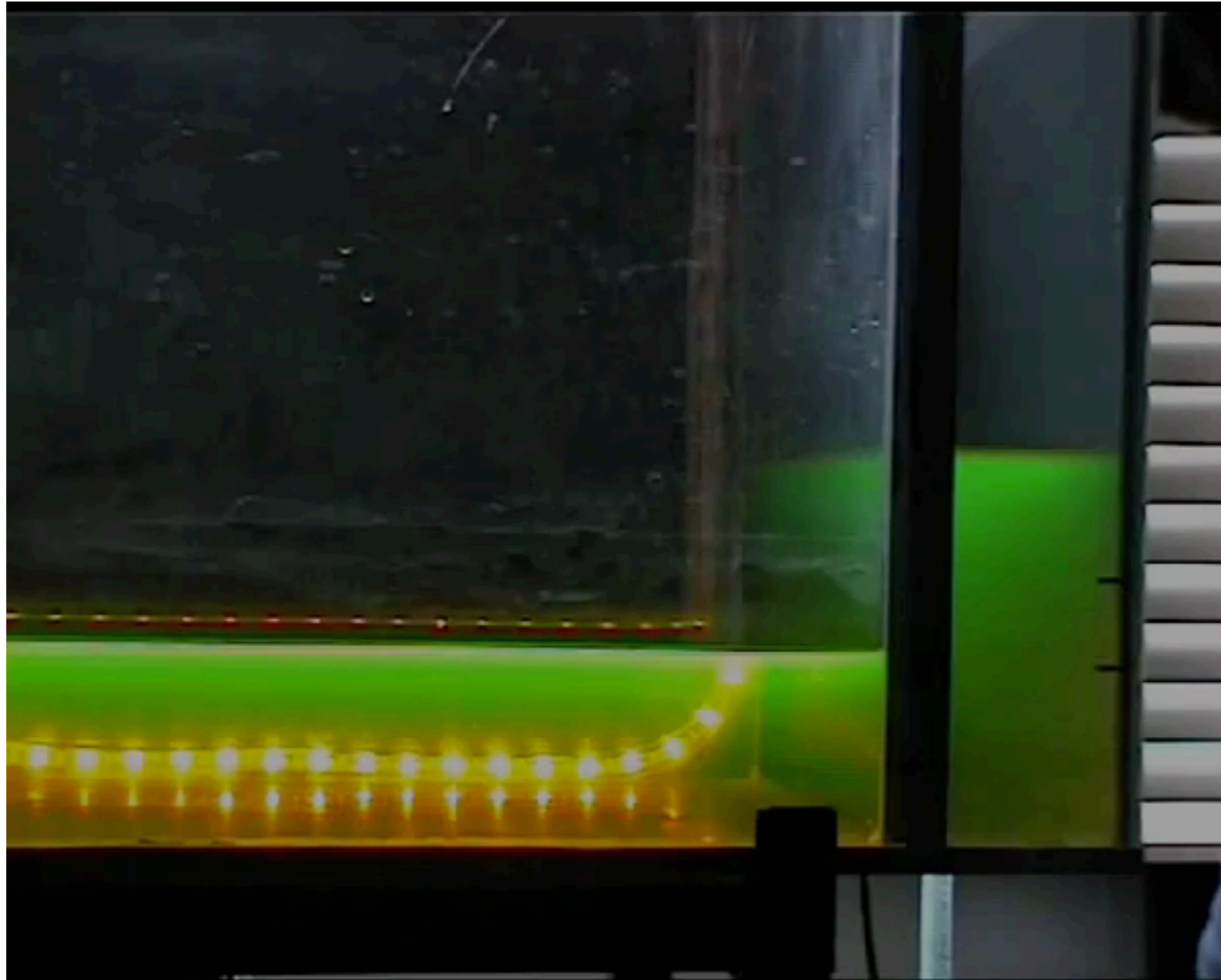
# Solitons



KdV equation

$$\partial_t \phi + \partial_x^2 \phi + 6\phi \partial_x \phi = 0$$

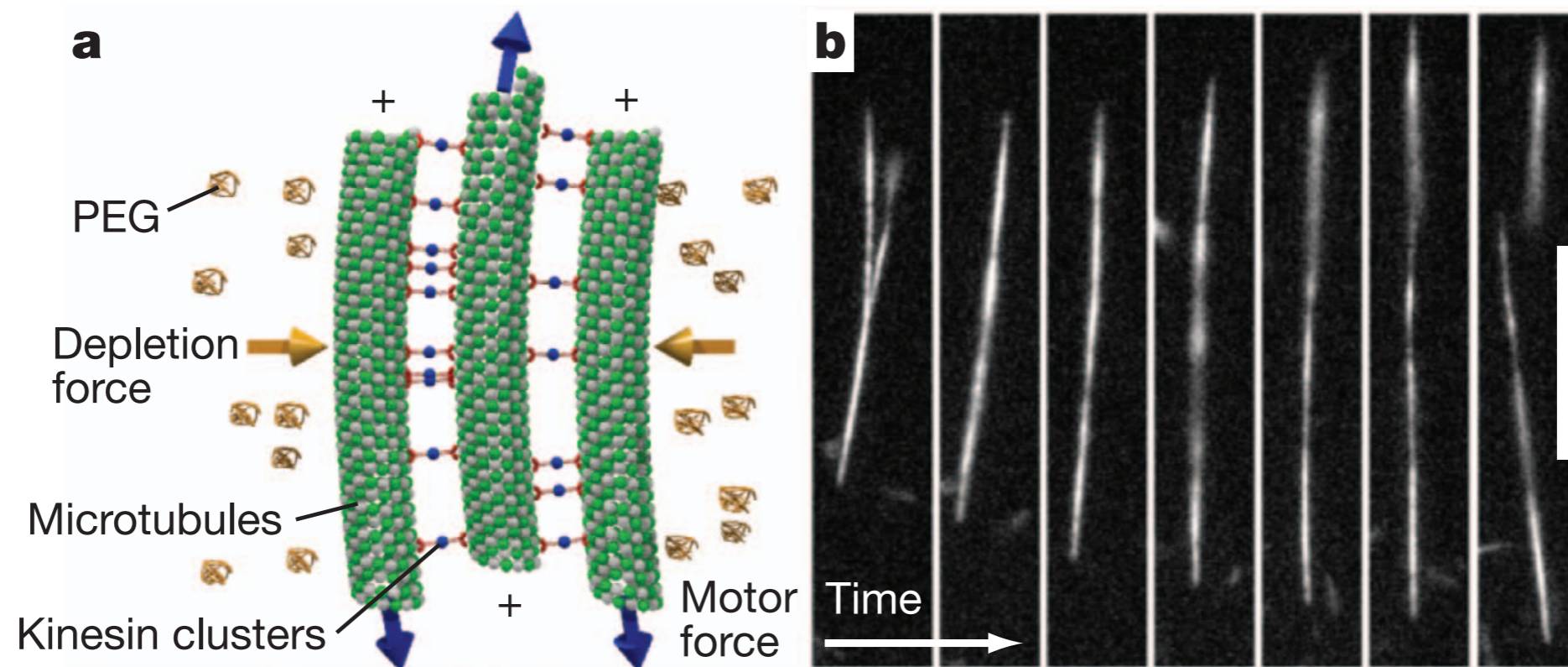
# Solitons



credit: Christophe Finot

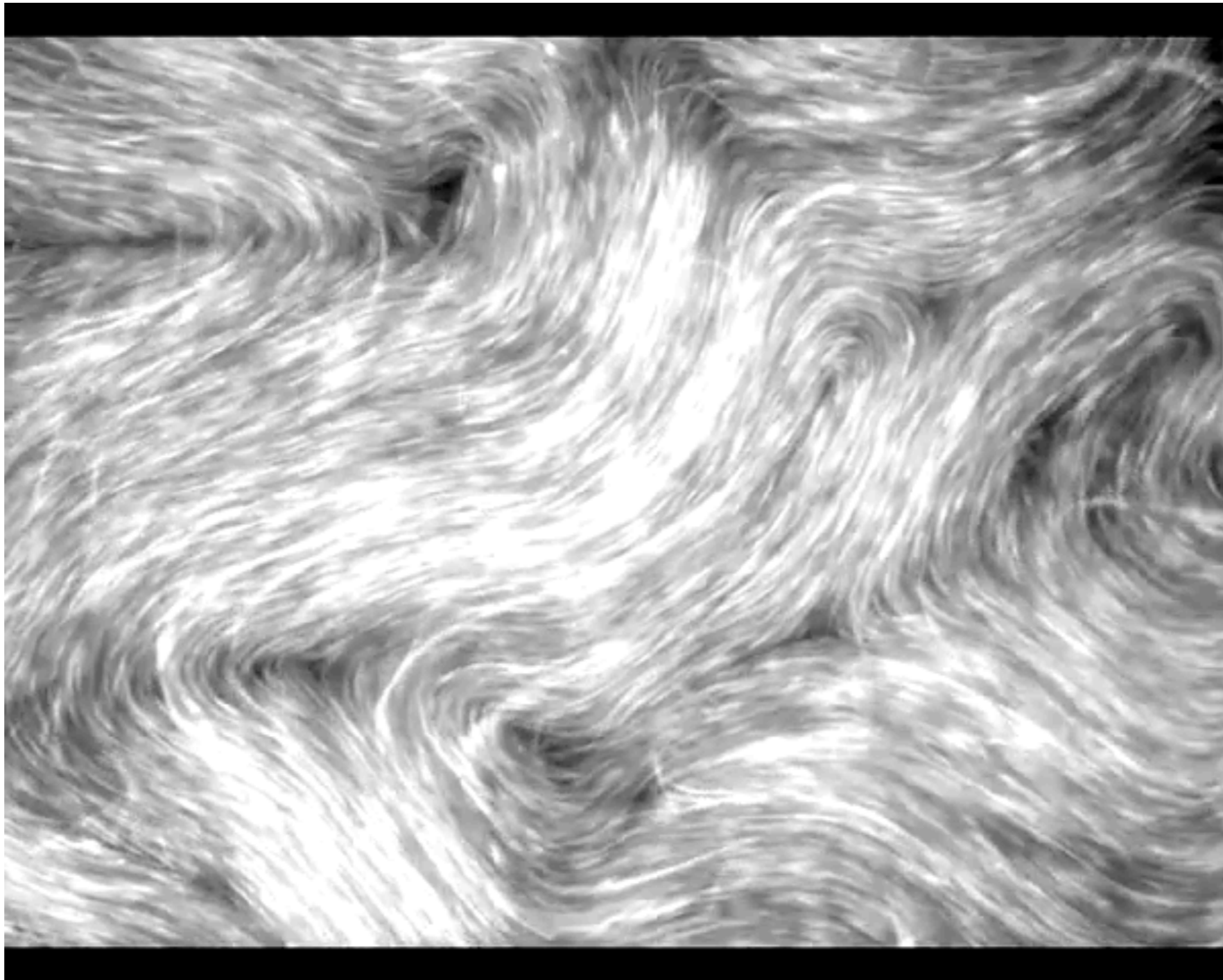


# Active matter

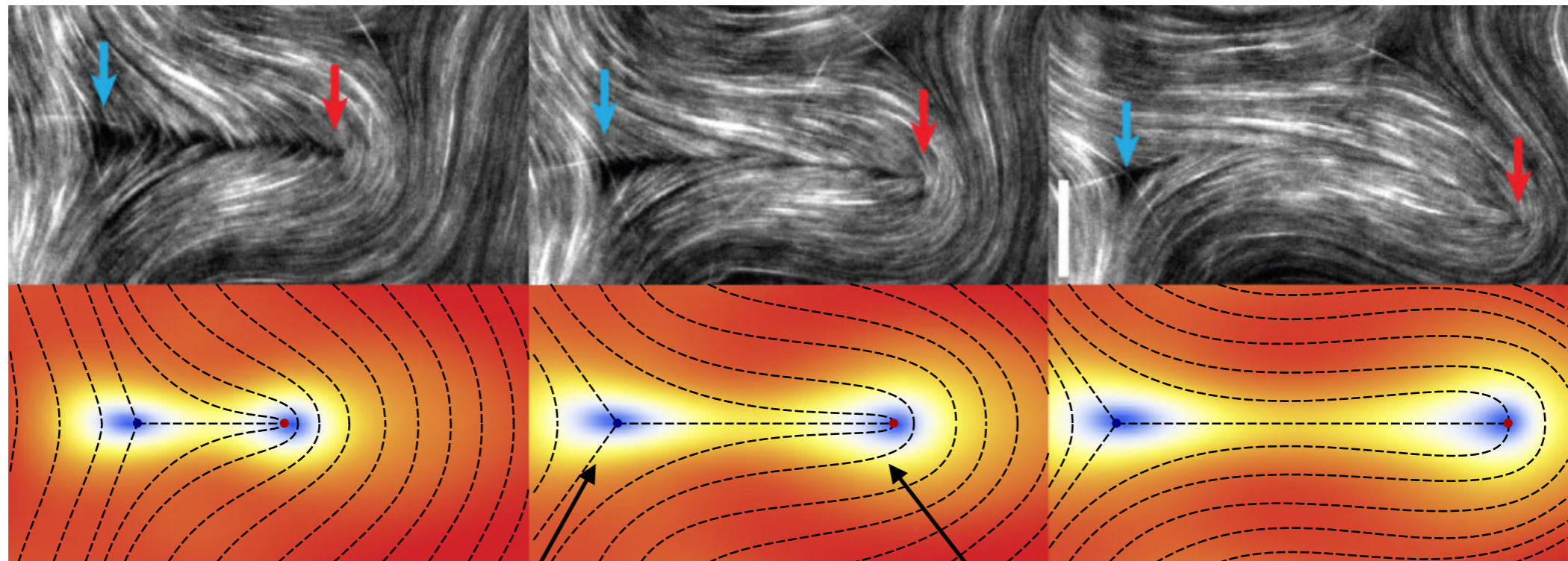


Dogic lab (Brandeis) Nature 2012

# Active matter



# Active nematics

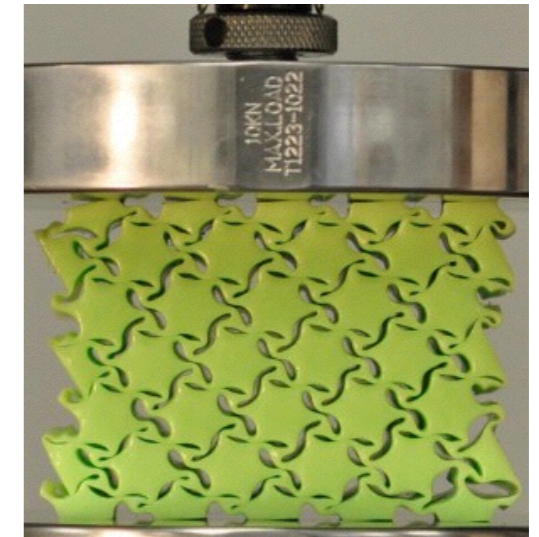
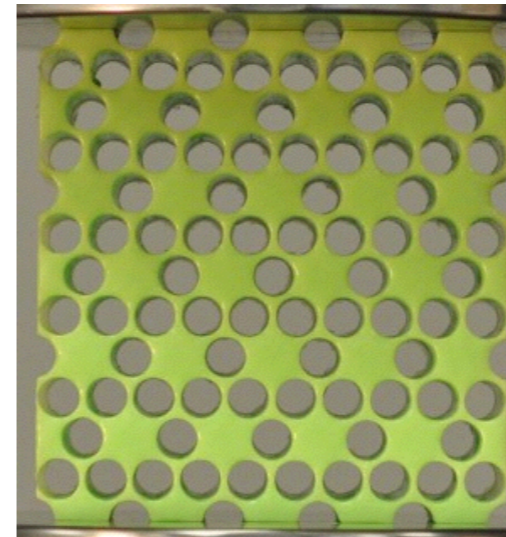
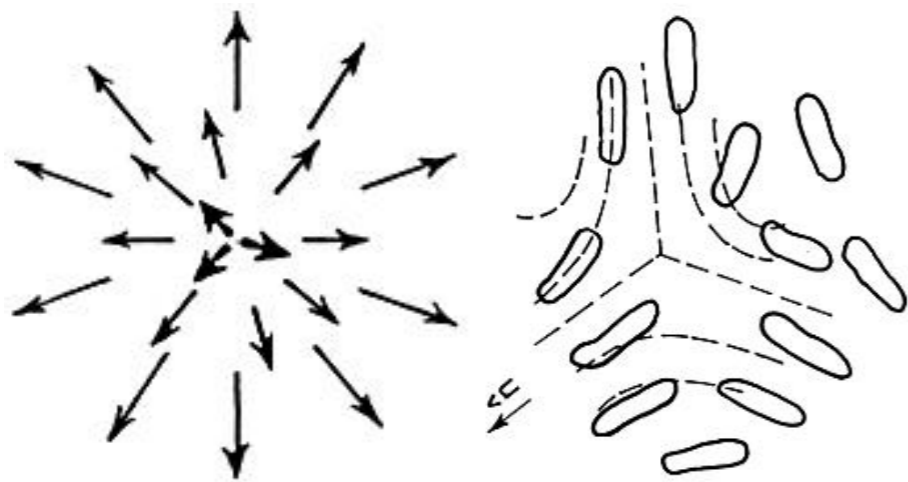


$-1/2$

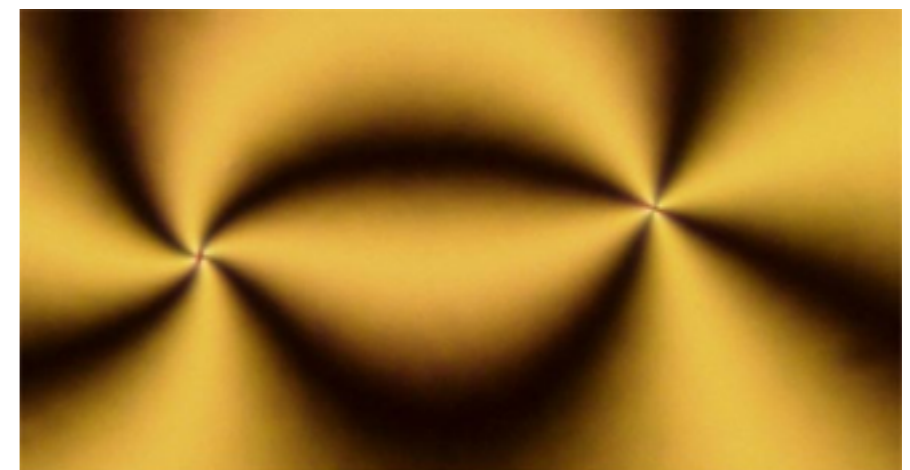
$+1/2$

Giomi et al PRL 2012

# Topological defects are discontinuities in order-parameter fields



- optical effects
- work hardening, etc



"umbilic defects" in a nematic liquid crystal

# “Quantum” HD



Couder lab (Paris)

Bush group

