

# Current status of absorbing-state transitions & connections to reversible-irreversible transitions

Kazumasa A. Takeuchi (Univ. Tokyo)

@YITP focus meeting on  
Rheology of disordered particles - suspensions, glassy and granular materials

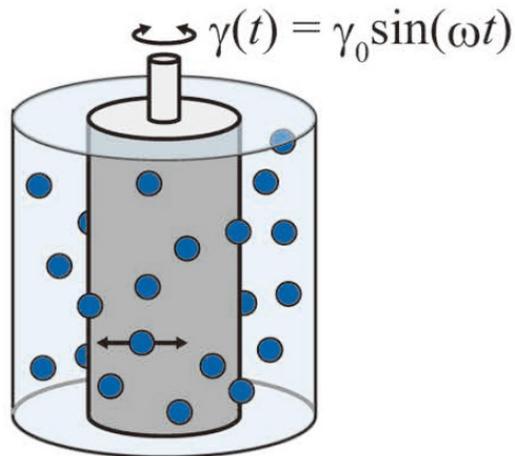
A review talk including:

- KaT, [M. Kuroda](#), [H. Chaté](#) & [M. Sano](#),  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 234503 (2007); Phys. Rev. E 80, 051116 (2009).
- [M. Takahashi](#), [M. Kobayashi](#) & KaT, arXiv:1609.01561

# Reversible-Irreversible Transitions (RIT) & Absorbing-State Transitions (AST)

## RIT in suspensions

discovered by Pine et al. (Nature 2005)  
in a Couette cell experiment



small  $\gamma_0$ : particles motion reversible  
large  $\gamma_0$ : particles motion irreversible

concerns rheological properties

## AST in stat phys

- Non-equilibrium phase transitions into “absorbing states”
- A few universality classes established. “test bed of physics of noneq critical phenomena”  
[Hinrichsen, *Adv. Phys.* **49**, 815 (2000);  
Henkel et al., *Noneq Phase Transitions* (2009)]
- Established based on toy models, but relevance in real systems has been recognized recently.
- RIT is a type of AST.

# Absorbing-State Transitions

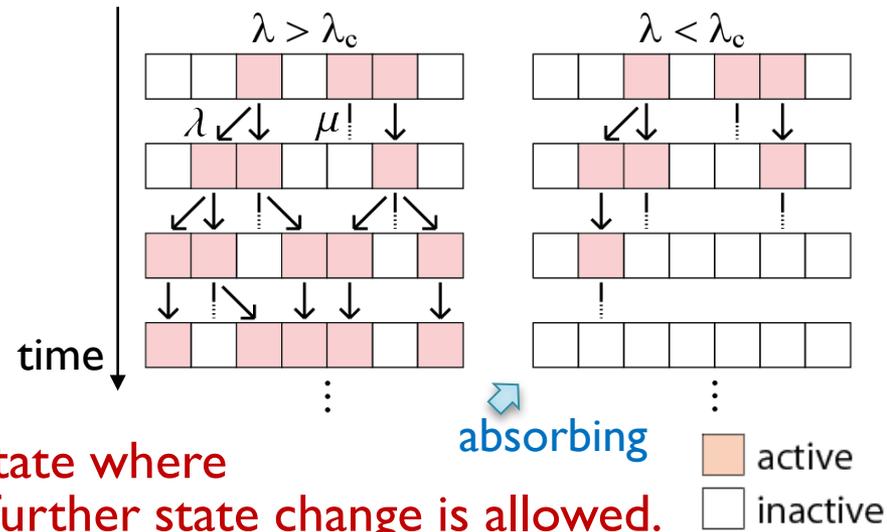
[Hinrichsen, Adv. Phys. 49, 815 (2000)]

Prototypical model: **contact process**

Active sites can stochastically

- (1) activate a neighbor (at rate  $\lambda$ )
- (2) become inactive (at rate  $\mu$ )

$\lambda > \lambda_c$  : active sites persist  
 $\lambda < \lambda_c$  : active sites die out



**absorbing state = a global state where no further state change is allowed.**

Order parameter: density of active sites

$$\rho \sim \begin{cases} (\lambda - \lambda_c)^\beta & (\lambda \geq \lambda_c) \\ 0 & (\lambda \leq \lambda_c) \end{cases}$$

Critical exponents are universal.

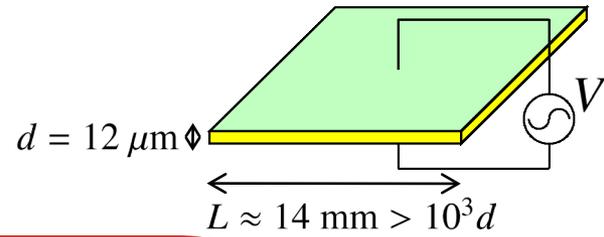
⇒ universality class

**Directed percolation (DP) universality class:** most fundamental case

“DP conjecture”: [Janssen 1981, Grassberger 1982]

**AST are usually DP**, in the absence of symmetry, conservation law, long-range interactions, quenched disorder.

# Real Example



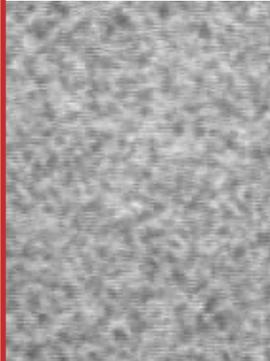
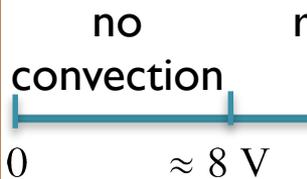
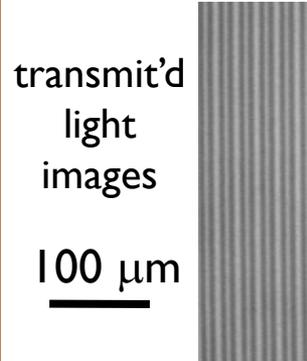
## Electro-convection of nematic liquid crystal

Anisotropic m...

→ Convection

... transition?

topological defects (disclinations)



... turbulence (SM2)



72V, 200Hz, speed x3  
voltage will be turned off

DSM1

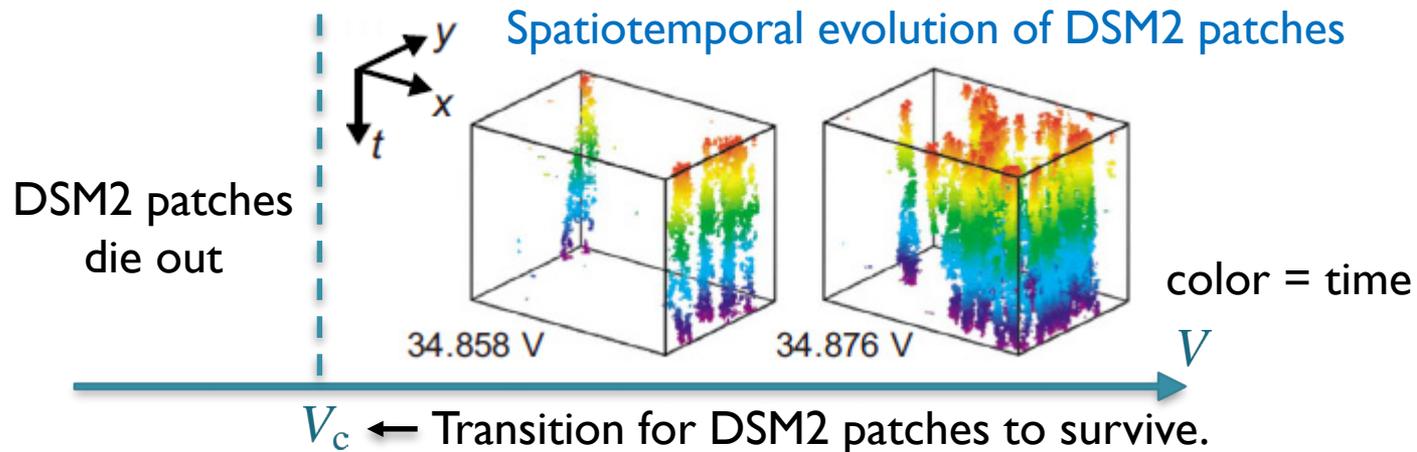
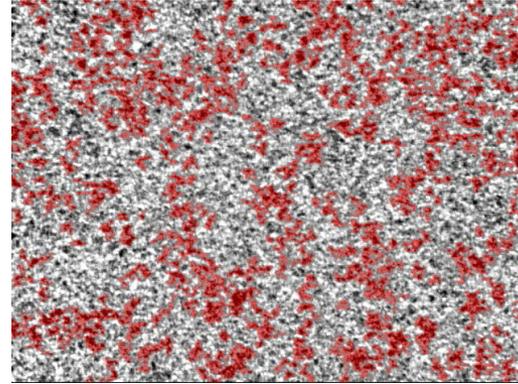
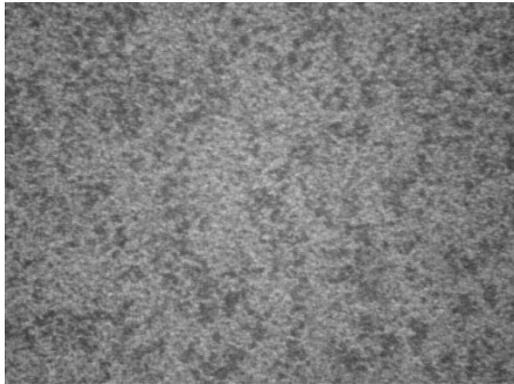
DSM1



# Near the Transition

DSMI & DSM2 coexist (DSM2 patches amid DSMI)

DSM2 painted in red



Absorbing-state transition (DSM2 nucleation is very rare)

Order parameter  $\rho = \text{DSM2 area fraction}$

# Critical Phenomena

[KaT et al. PRL 99, 234503 (2007);  
PRE 80, 051116 (2009)]

- Steady state

$$\rho_{\text{steady}} \sim (V^2 - V_c^2)^\beta$$

$$\beta = 0.59(4)$$

$$\beta^{\text{DP}} \approx 0.583$$

agreement with (2+1)d DP class

- Relaxation from fully active state

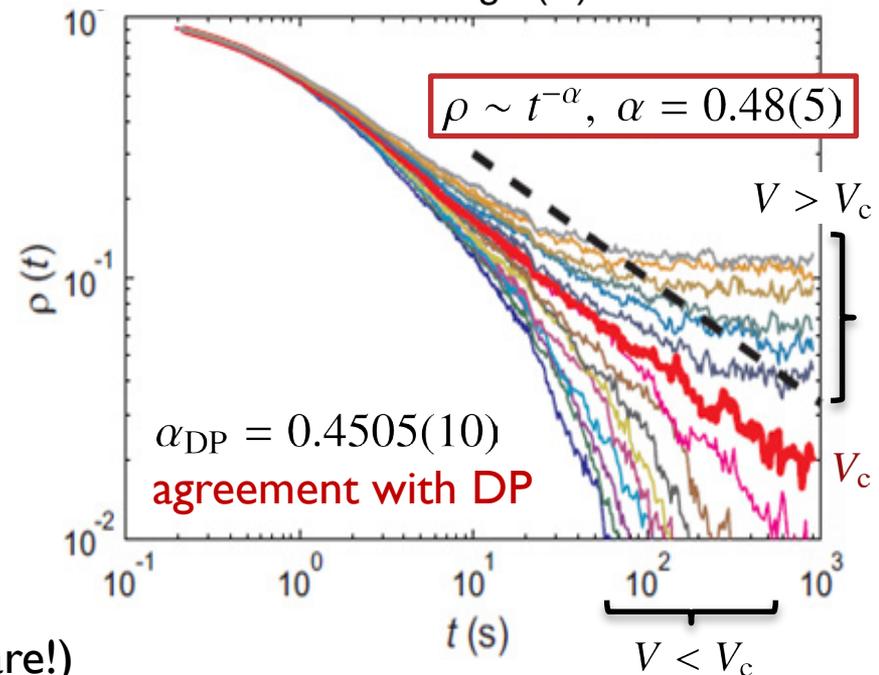
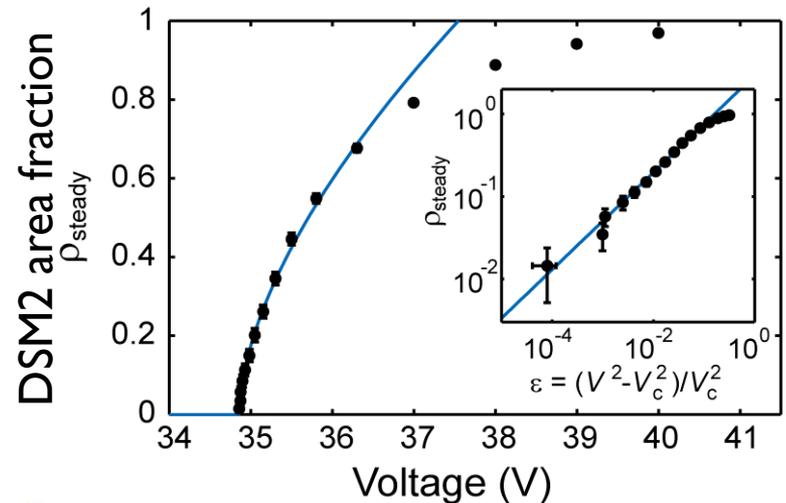
Agreement in 12 exponents.

“first successful realization of directed percolation in nature”

[Hinrichsen, Viewpoint in Physics, 2009]

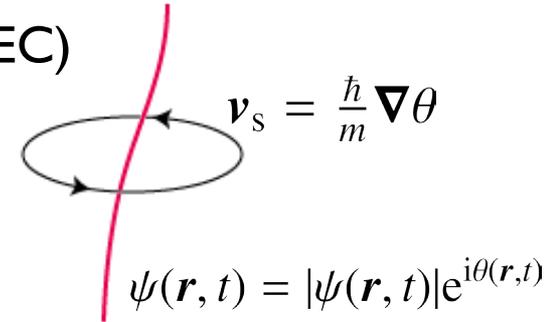
Why DP?

- short-range interaction:  $Re \approx 10^{-4} \ll 1$
- (almost perfectly) abs.-state transition.  
(∴ generation of topological defects is rare!)



# Quantum Turbulence: Another Topological-Defect Turbulence

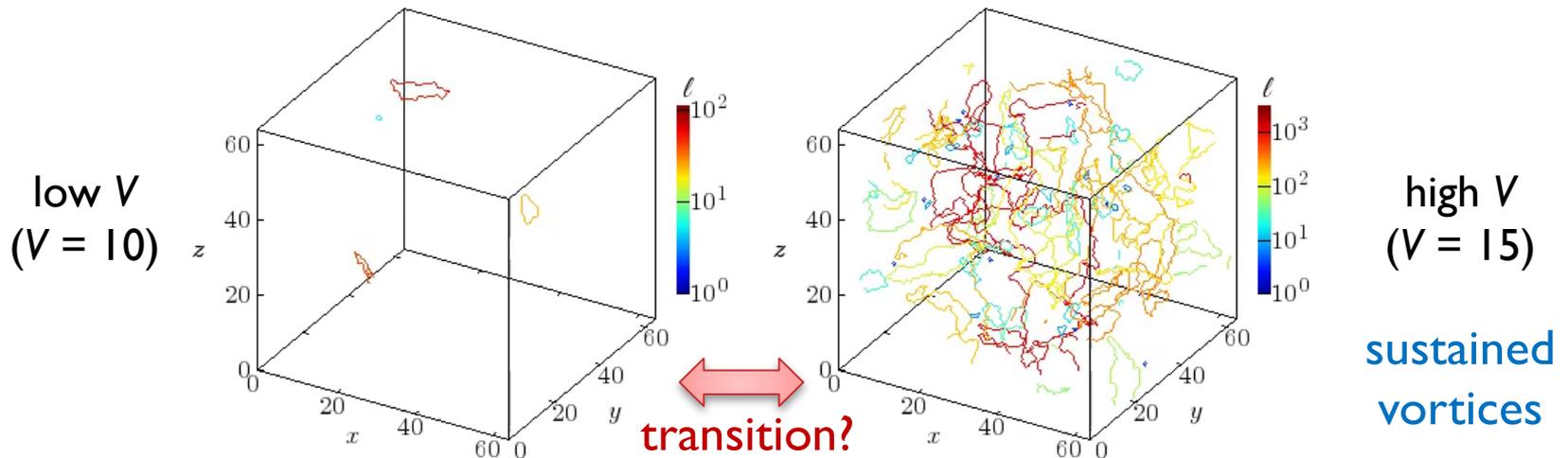
- In quantum fluids (e.g., superfluid He, cold atom BEC) vortices are quantized (= topological defects).



- Quantum turbulence = turbulence made of quantum vortices

- In silico example: Gross-Pitaevskii eq. with dissipation + random potential (potential amplitude =  $V$ )

$$(i\hbar - \gamma) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\frac{\nabla^2}{2m} \psi + [V(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mu] \psi + g|\psi|^2 \psi$$



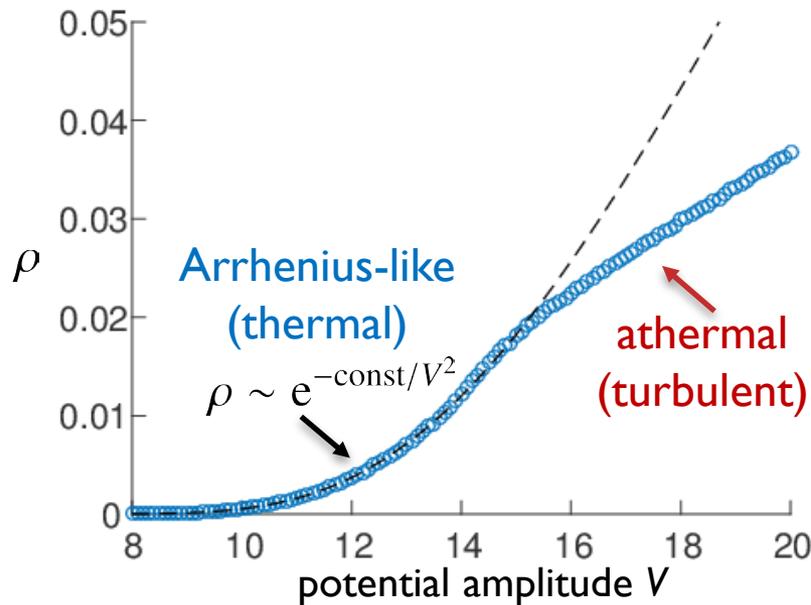
[Takahashi, Kobayashi  
& KaT, arXiv:1609.01561]

# Transition to Quantum Turbulence

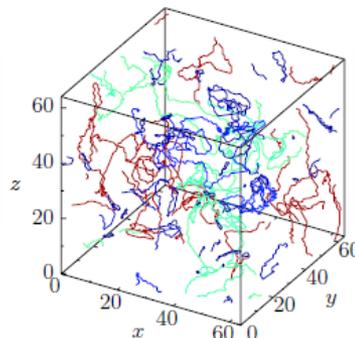
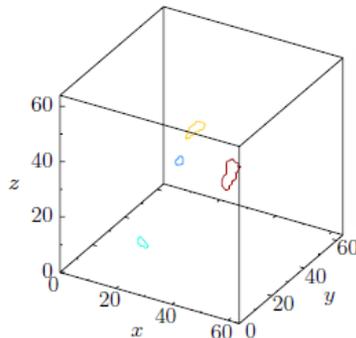
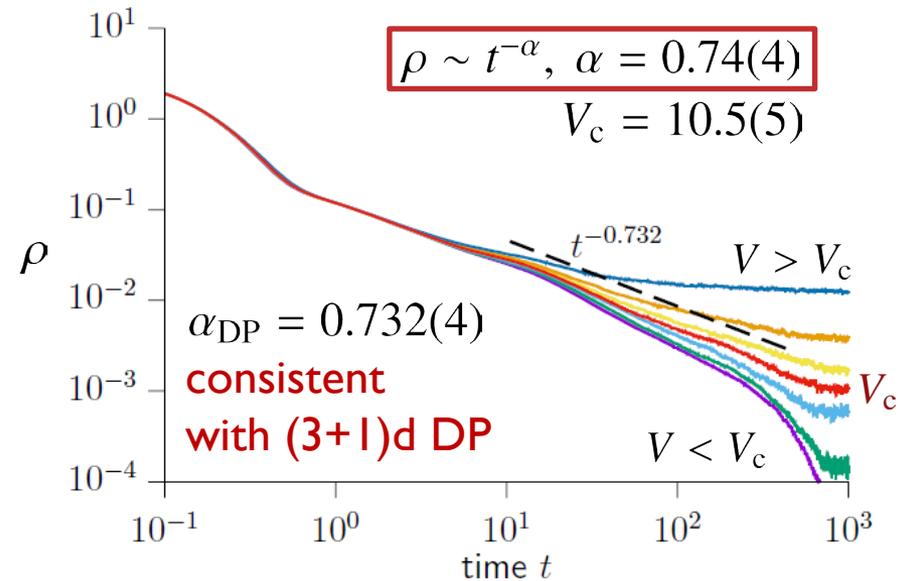
[Takahashi, Kobayashi & KaT, arXiv:1609.01561]

Order parameter  $\rho$  = density of quantum vortices

steady state



relaxation from developed turbulence



- Data suggest (3+1)d DP class.
- “Absorbing state” underlying, thanks to energy barrier for defect generation, but smeared by thermal excitation.

# Newtonian Fluids

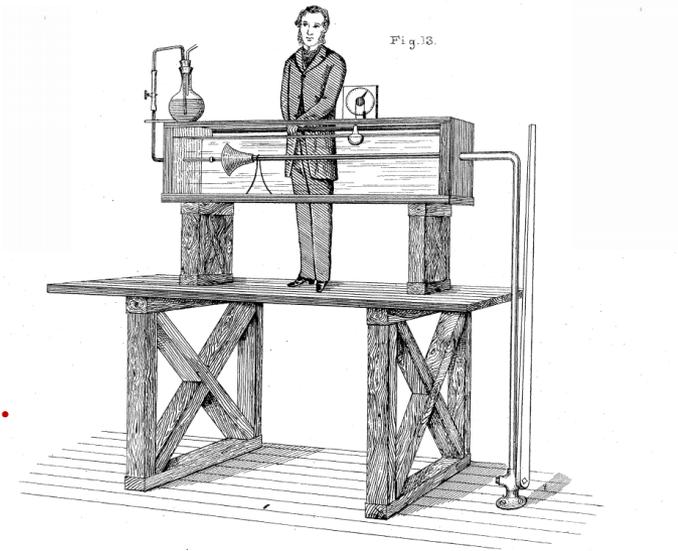
## Transition to turbulence in pipe flow

- Experimentally, transition near  $Re \approx 2000$ .
- **Laminar flow is linearly stable up to  $Re = \infty$ .**  
(nonlinear effect is crucial)



Question:

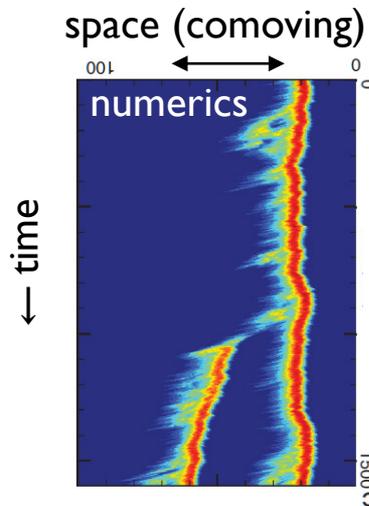
**Turbulence generated by a nonlinear perturbation can persist or decay?**  
(at a given Reynolds number)



[Reynolds 1883]

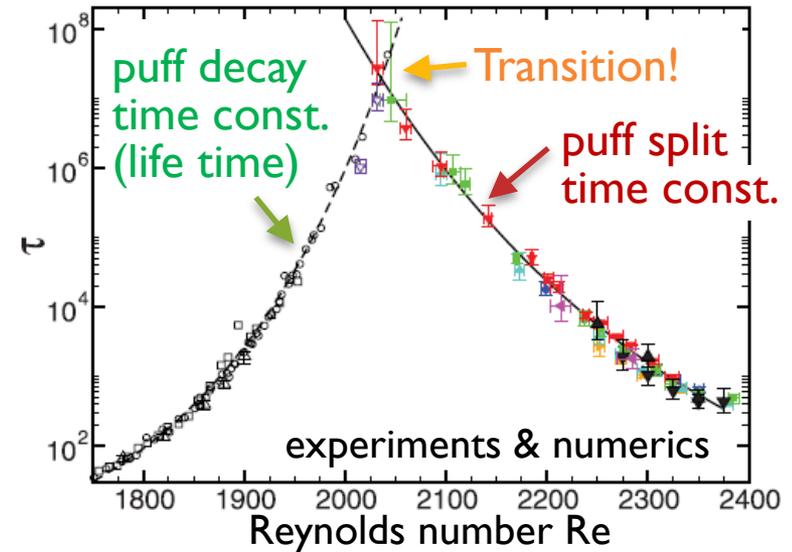
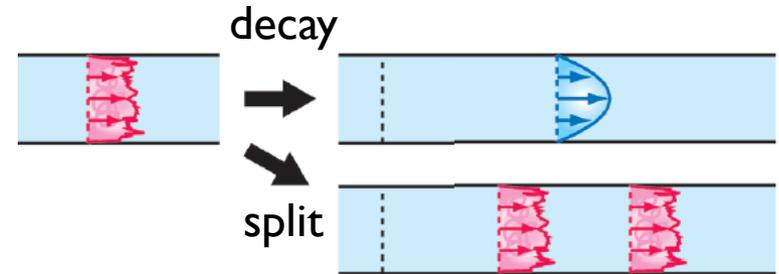
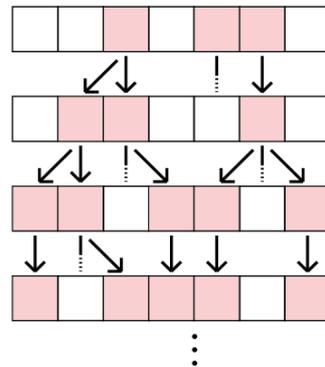
# Near the Transition to Turbulence in Pipe

Turbulence localized: “turbulent puff” [see; Hof group, Science 2011 & refs therein]



Puffs decay / split stochastically.

↑ contact process?  
DP class?



For pipe,  
direct test of DP is unrealistic...

However,

similar transition in channel flow/Taylor-Couette → DP-class exponents!

[Sano & Tamai, Nat. Phys. 12, 249 (2016); Lemoult et al., Nat. Phys. 12, 254 (2016)]

# Current Status of DP-class Transitions

- 4 real / realistic examples, where all independent exponents were checked & agreed. (at least barely)

Systems	why absorbing?
liquid-crystal turbulence (exp)	topological defect
quantum turbulence (num)	topological defect
Newtonian turbulence (exp & num)	laminar stability
active matter turbulence (num)	? (numerically checked)

[Yeomans group,  
Nat. Comm. 8,  
15326 (2017)]

but further studies needed to answer why DP in those systems.

- So what?

DP continuum equation

- Unified description near the transition  $\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = a\rho - b\rho^2 + D\nabla^2\rho + \sqrt{\rho}(\text{noise})$
- Not only the dependence on the control parameter, but how it ages, how it reacts against perturbations, etc., are known.
- Theory & analysis & techniques developed for AST may be employed.

- Other classes:

voter (with  $Z_2$  symmetry), C-DP (with conservation law), etc.

# So... Reversible-Irreversible Transition (RIT)

Couette cell experiment by Pine et al. [Nature 438, 997 (2005)]

➤ diameter  $230\mu\text{m}$  ➡ Brownian motion negligible

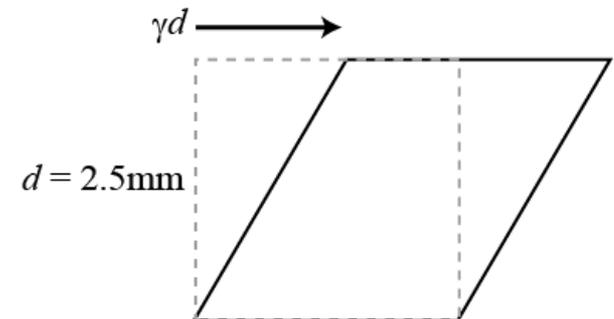
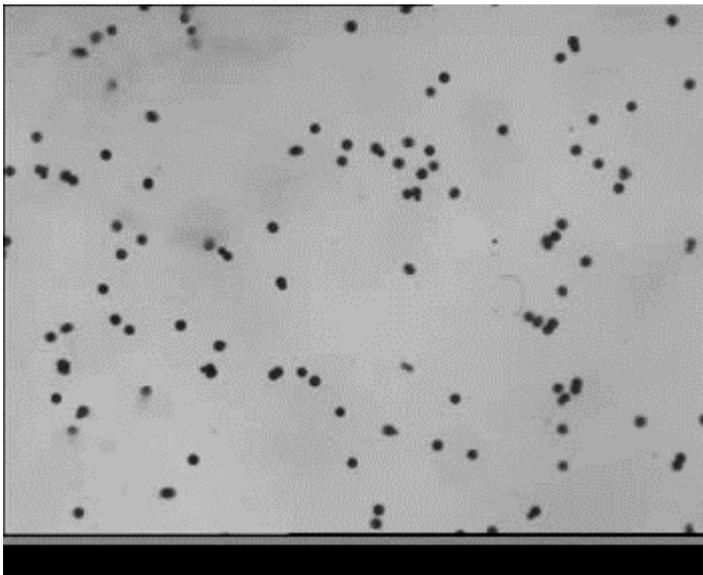
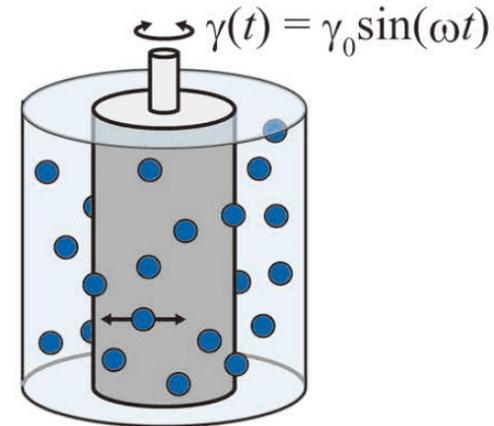
➤ oscillatory shear  $\gamma(t) = \gamma_0 \sin \omega t$

➤  $\text{Re} = 10^{-3}$  ➡ Stokes flow

$$-\nabla p + \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} = 0 \text{ \& boundary reversible}$$

➤ volume fraction  $\phi = 0.1-0.4$  ➡ no jamming

➤ density & index matching, some particles are dyed.



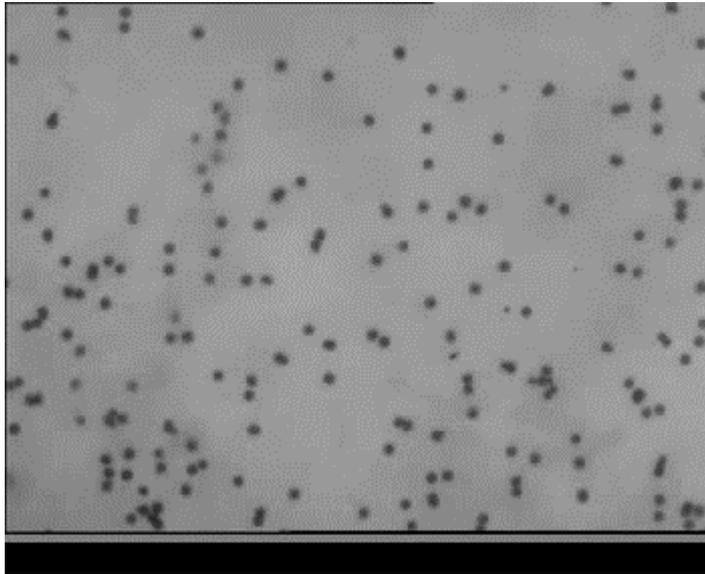
# Stroboscopic Imaging

[Pine et al., Nature 438, 997 (2005)]

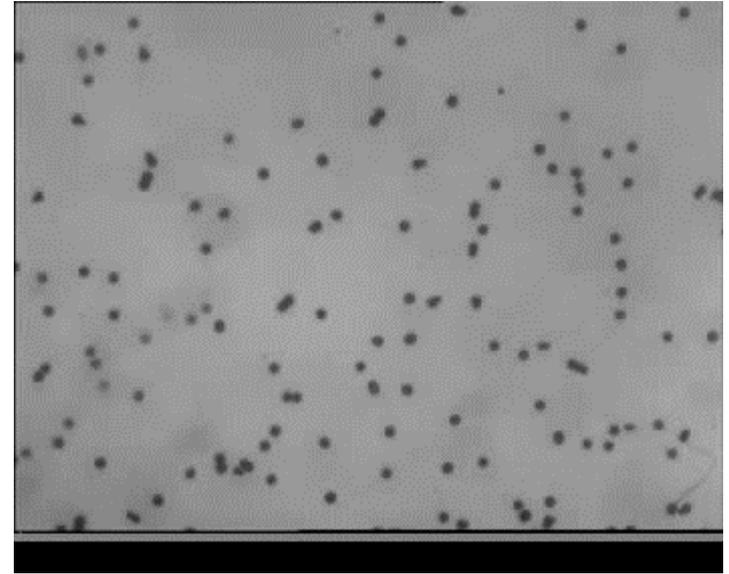
$$\gamma_0 = 1.0$$

$$(\phi = 0.3)$$

$$\gamma_0 = 2.5$$



reversible motion



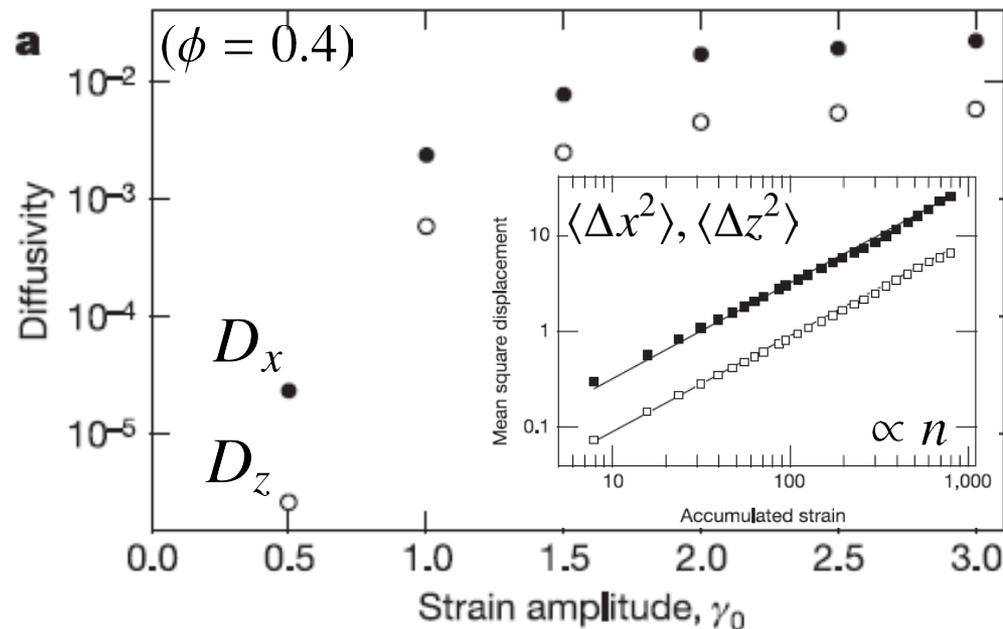
irreversible motion

“reversible-irreversible transition”

# An Order Parameter

[Pine et al., Nature 438, 997 (2005)]

diffusion coefficient  
(in stroboscopic imaging)



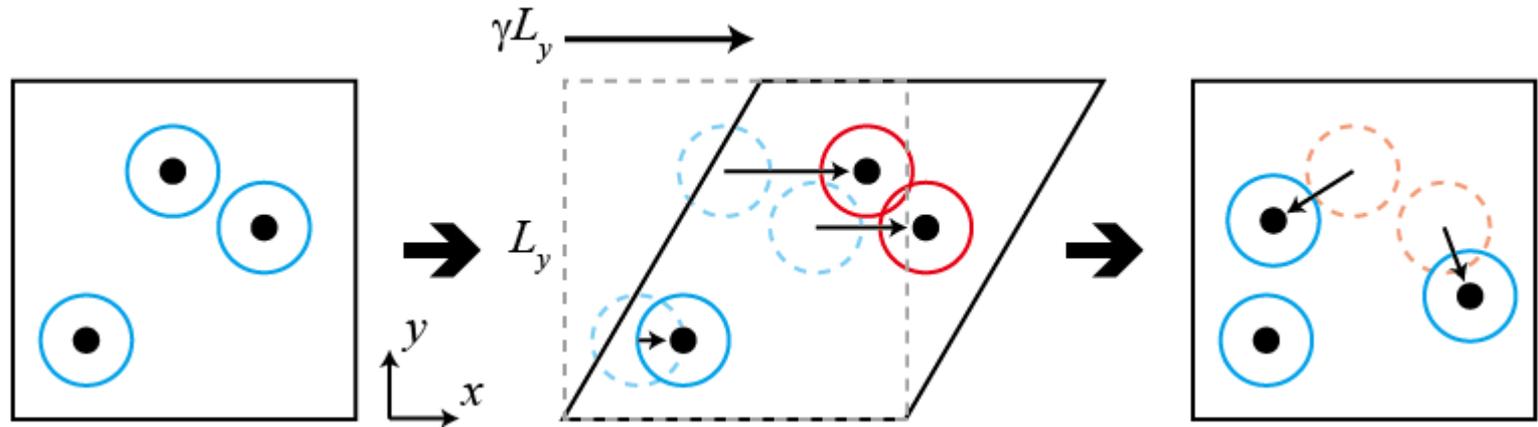
$$\langle \Delta x^2 \rangle = 2D_x n$$
$$\langle \Delta z^2 \rangle = 2D_z n$$

x: flow direction  
z: axial direction  
 $n$  = cycle number

Suggested the existence of a well-defined transition point.

# Possible Mechanism

Model by Corté et al. [Nat. Phys. 4, 420 (2008)]



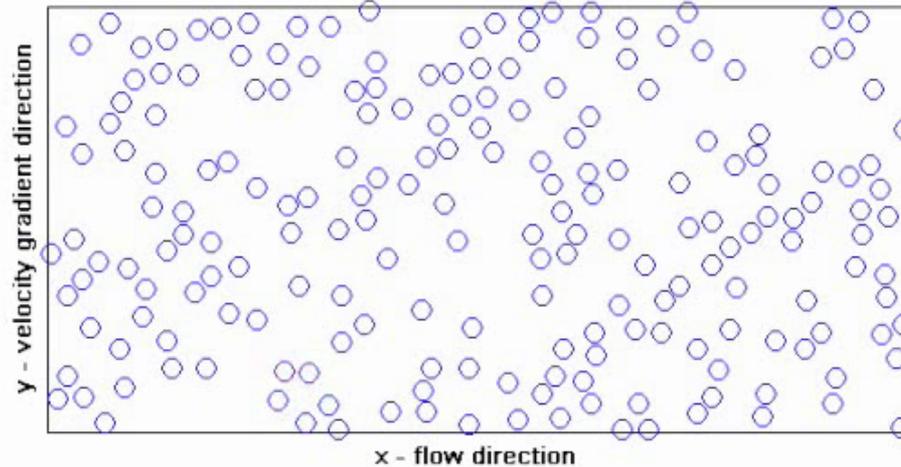
- Finite range of interaction.
- Oscillatory shear:  $\gamma(t) = \gamma_0 \sin \omega t$
- When particles collide  $\Rightarrow$  random displacements
- Model for the dilute case.

# RIT in Corté et al.'s Model

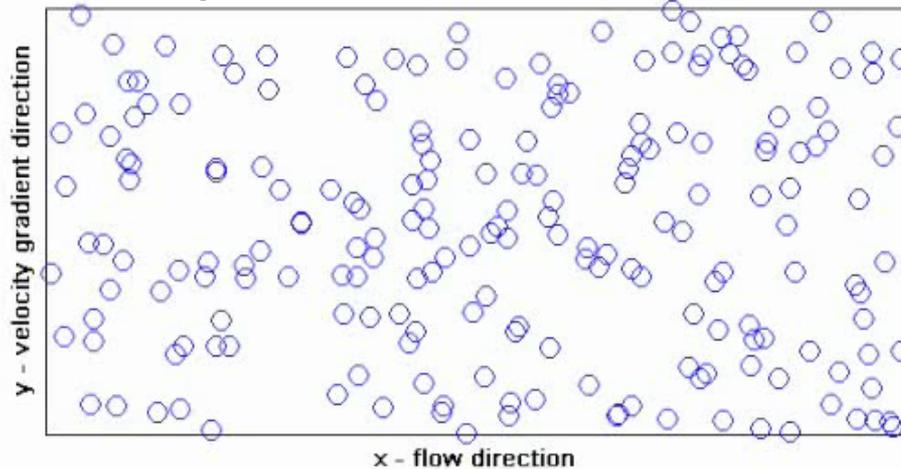
[Corté et al., Nat. Phys. 4, 420 (2008)]

## Stroboscopic sampling

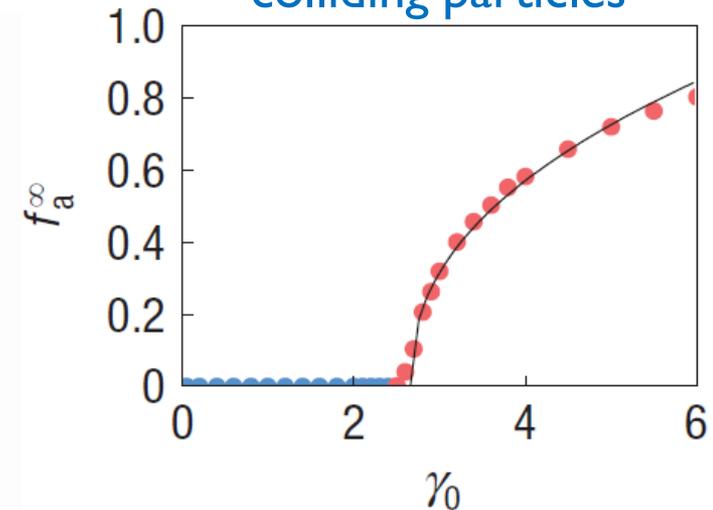
$\gamma_0 = 1.0 < \gamma_0^c$  2D simulation  $\gamma_0 < \gamma_0^c$  cycle# 362 reversible



$\gamma_0 = 3.0 > \gamma_0^c$  2D simulation  $\gamma_0 > \gamma_0^c$  cycle# 0 irreversible



fraction of colliding particles



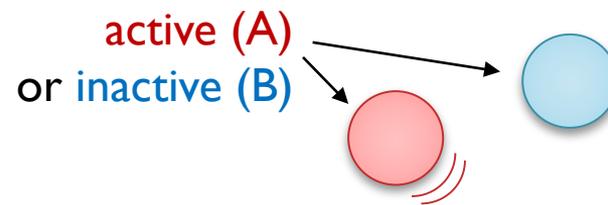
RIT is an AST!

“Random organization”

Total particle number  
is conserved.

➔ C-DP class?

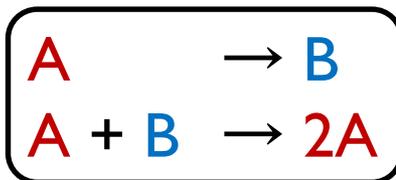
# C-DP Class



(# of active (colliding) particles) + (# of inactive particles) = const.

**A (diffusive)**

**B (non-diffusive)**



$$\rho(x, t) = [A]$$

$$\phi(x, t) = [A] + [B]$$

C-DP continuum equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = a\rho - b\rho^2 + D\nabla^2 \rho + \sqrt{\rho}(\text{noise}) + c\rho\phi \\ \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = D_\phi \nabla^2 \rho \end{cases}$$

- **Infinitely many absorbing states** (any  $\phi(x, t)$  with  $\rho(x, t) = 0$  is absorbing)
- **Critical exponents are different from DP**, but **unfortunately close...**

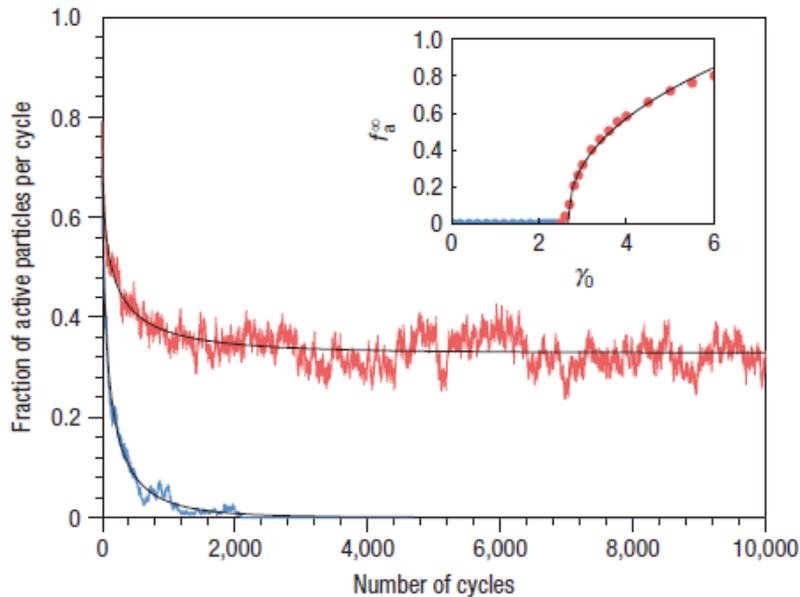
	(2+1)d DP	(2+1)d C-DP	(3+1)d DP	(3+1)d C-DP
$\beta$	0.584(3)	0.624(29)	0.813(11)	0.840(12)
$\nu_\perp$	0.733(3)	0.799(14)	0.584(6)	0.593(13)
$\nu_\parallel$	1.295(6)	1.225(29)	1.11(1)	1.081(27)

surface critical behavior is useful to distinguish them [Bonachela & Munoz 2007]

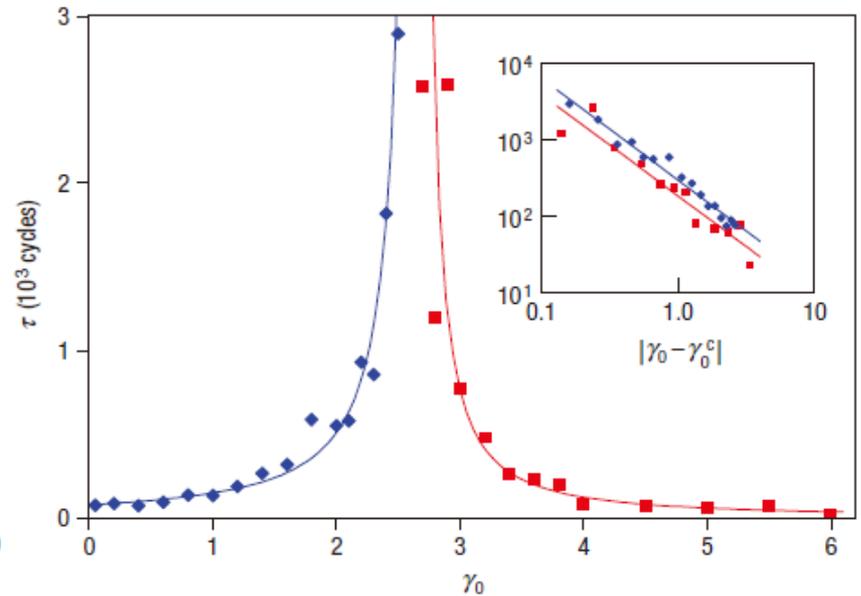
# Critical Behavior in Corté et al.'s Model

[Corté et al., Nat. Phys. 4, 420 (2008)]

order parameter  
(fraction of colliding particles)



relaxation time



$$\Rightarrow \beta = 0.45(2)$$

$$\beta^{\text{CDP}} = 0.639(9), \beta^{\text{DP}} = 0.584(3)$$

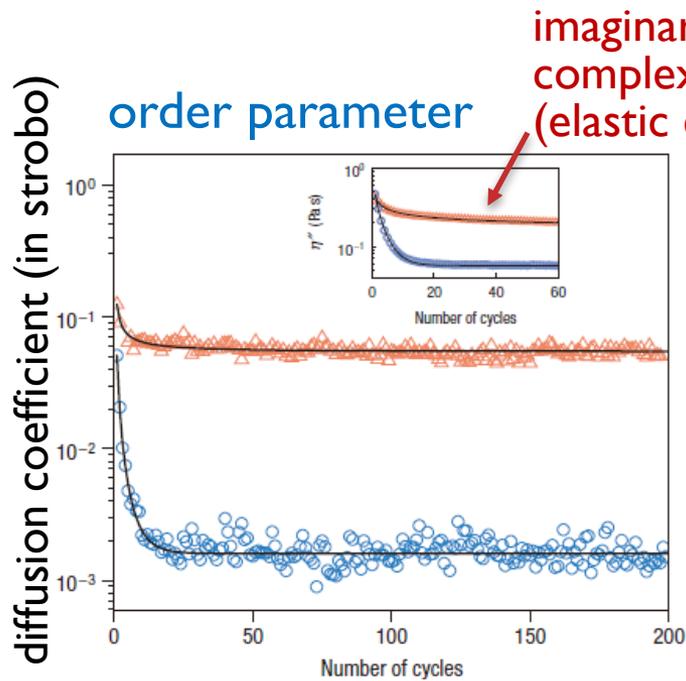
$$\Rightarrow \nu_{\parallel} = 1.33(2)$$

$$\nu_{\parallel}^{\text{CDP}} = 1.225(29), \nu_{\parallel}^{\text{DP}} = 1.295(6)$$

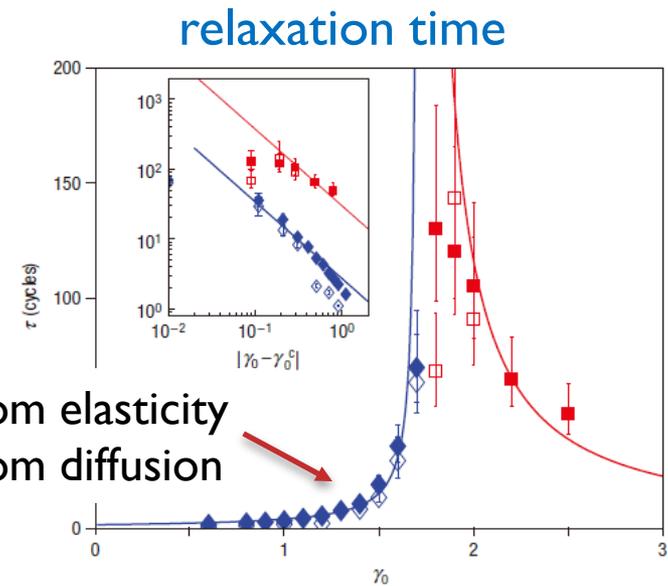
*not in quantitative agreement with C-DP or DP...*

# Critical Behavior in Experiment

[Corté et al., Nat. Phys. **4**, 420 (2008)]



imaginary part of  
complex viscosity  
(elastic component)



$$\Rightarrow \beta = 0.45(10)$$

$$\beta_{(2+1)d}^{\text{CDP}} = 0.639(9), \beta_{(2+1)d}^{\text{DP}} = 0.584(3)$$

$$\beta_{(3+1)d}^{\text{CDP}} = 0.840(12), \beta_{(3+1)d}^{\text{DP}} = 0.813(11)$$

$$\Rightarrow \nu_{\parallel} = 1.1(3)$$

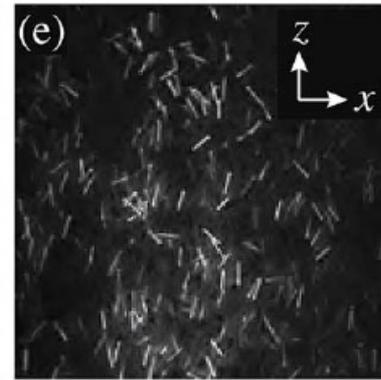
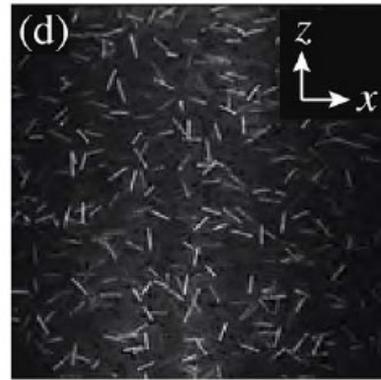
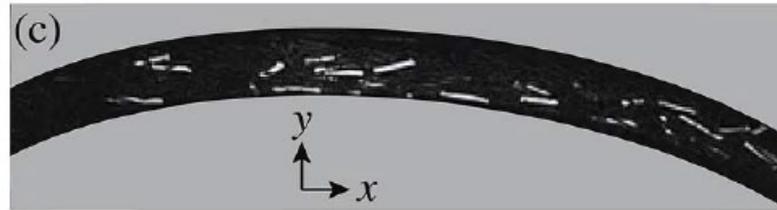
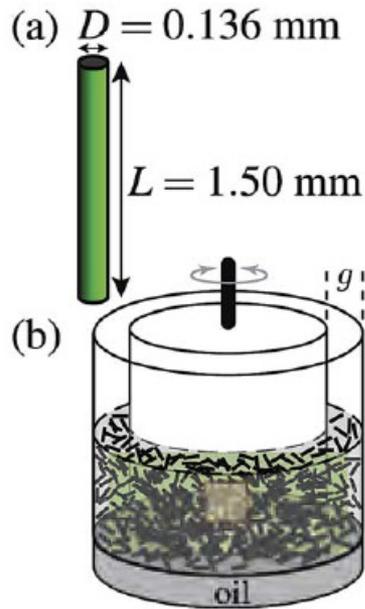
$$\nu_{\parallel,(2+1)d}^{\text{CDP}} = 1.225(29), \nu_{\parallel,(2+1)d}^{\text{DP}} = 1.295(6)$$

$$\nu_{\parallel,(3+1)d}^{\text{CDP}} = 1.081(27), \nu_{\parallel,(3+1)d}^{\text{DP}} = 1.11(1)$$

- **Not in agreement with C-DP/DP.** Hydrodynamic long-range interactions?
- **Elastic component behaves like order parameter. Rheological consequence!**  
purely viscous (reversible)  $\Rightarrow$  viscoelastic (irreversible)

# With Rods...

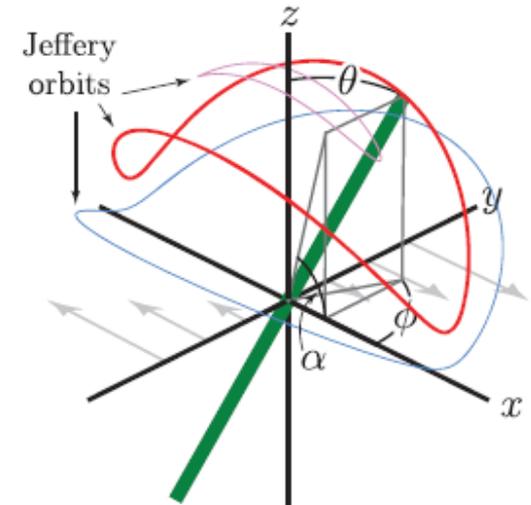
[Franceschini et al., PRL 107, 250603 (2011);  
Soft Matter 10, 6722 (2014)]



before

after

motion of a rod  
Jeffery orbit



affects  
effective volume fraction

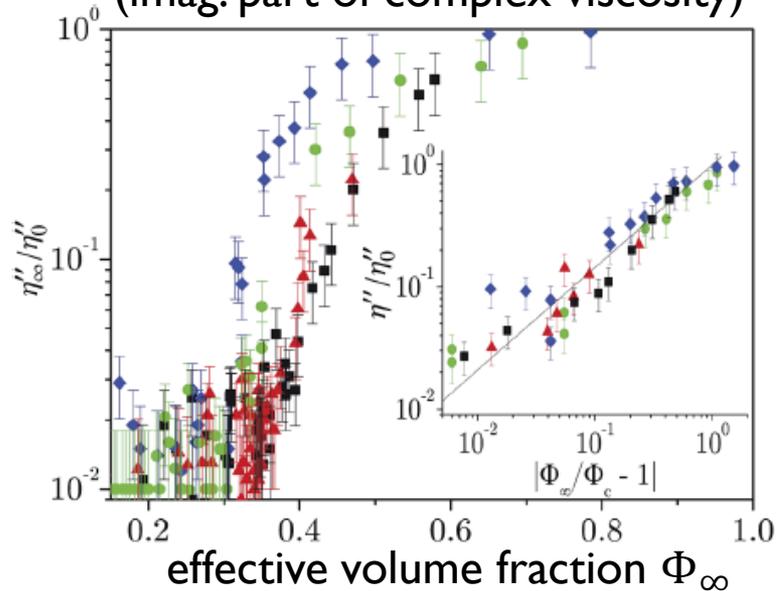
Rods get aligned through interactions.

➔ Tilting of Jeffery orbit changes in time,  
so does the effective volume fraction.

# With Rods...

[Franceschini et al., PRL 107, 250603 (2011);  
Soft Matter 10, 6722 (2014)]

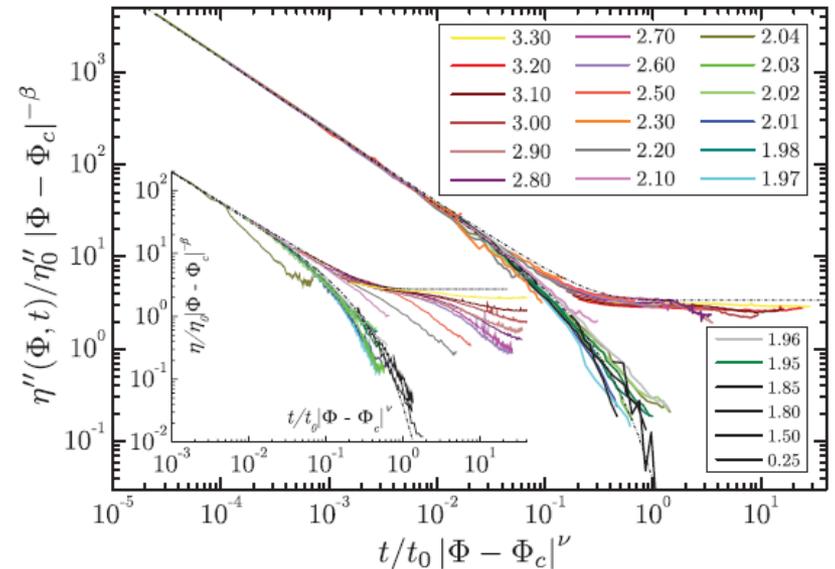
steady-state order parameter  
(imag. part of complex viscosity)



⇒  $\beta = 0.84(4)$   
 $\beta_{(3+1)d}^{\text{CDP}} = 0.840(12), \beta_{(3+1)d}^{\text{DP}} = 0.81(1)$

relaxation process

(inset: with constant volume fraction)



⇒  $\beta = 0.86(7), \nu_{\parallel} = 1.09(5)$   
 $\beta_{(3+1)d}^{\text{CDP}} = 0.840(12), \beta_{(3+1)d}^{\text{DP}} = 0.81(1)$   
 $\nu_{\parallel, (3+1)d}^{\text{CDP}} = 1.081(27), \nu_{\parallel, (3+1)d}^{\text{DP}} = 1.105(5)$

**Agreement with C-DP class!** (also with DP class)

Why different from spheres? Hydrodynamic long-range effect?

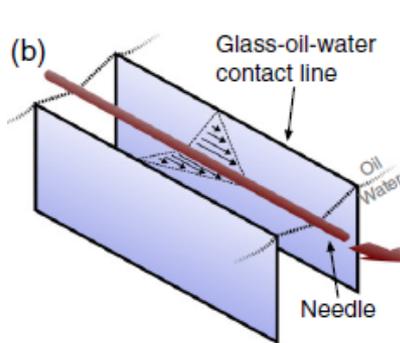
# Dense Case

high volume fraction, particles jammed  $\Rightarrow$  all particles interact & cage effect

- Less well understood, different observations from different systems, but reversible-irreversible transition seems to exist as well.
- **Three regimes** [Keim & Arratia, PRL 112, 028302 (2014); see also Regev et al., PRE 2013]

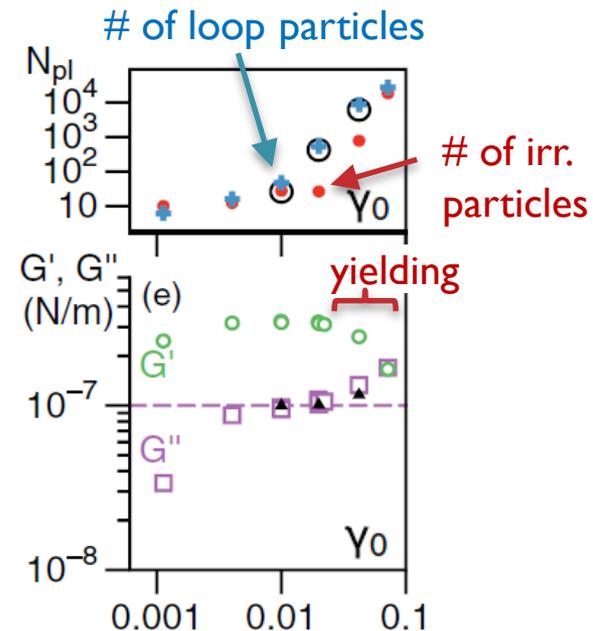
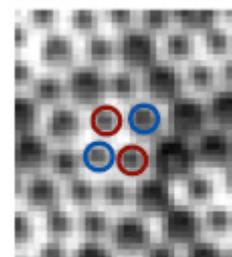
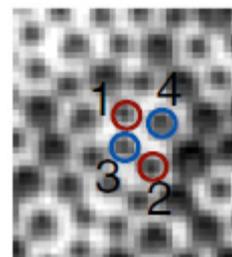
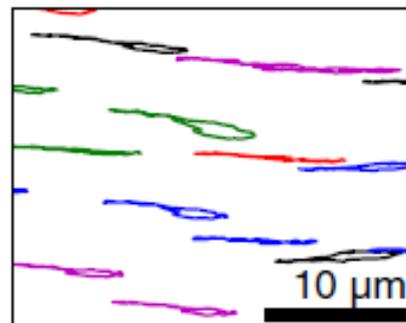
- $\gamma_0 \ll \gamma_c$ : **reversible (back & forth)**, nearly affine deformation, **elastic**
- $\gamma_0 \lesssim \gamma_c$ : **reversible (loop)**, non-affine with TI events, **viscosity emerges**
- $\gamma_0 \gtrsim \gamma_c$ : **irreversible**, plastic deformation, **related to yielding?**

(Keim & Arratia, PRL 2014)



bidisperse PS particles, electrostatically jammed

loop-reversibility regime

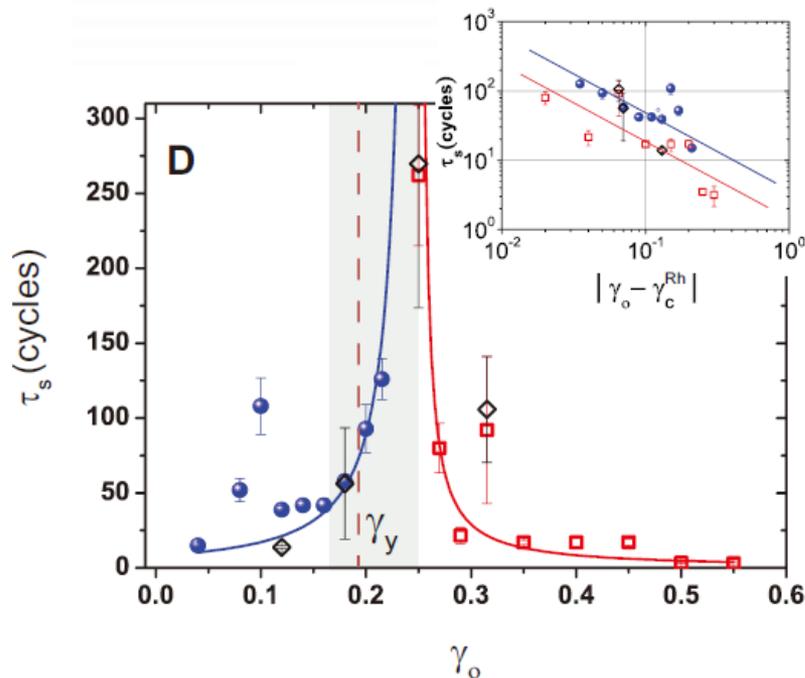


# Question I: Continuous vs Discontinuous

confocal rheometer experiment

bidisperse PNIPAM particles,  $\phi \approx 0.67$

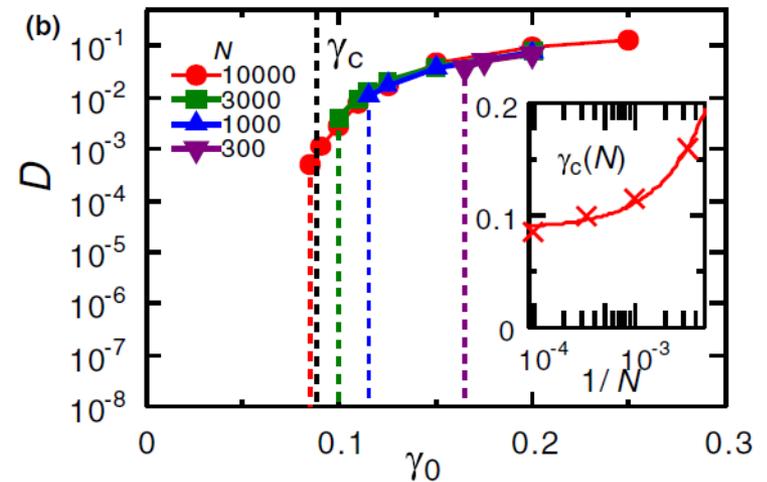
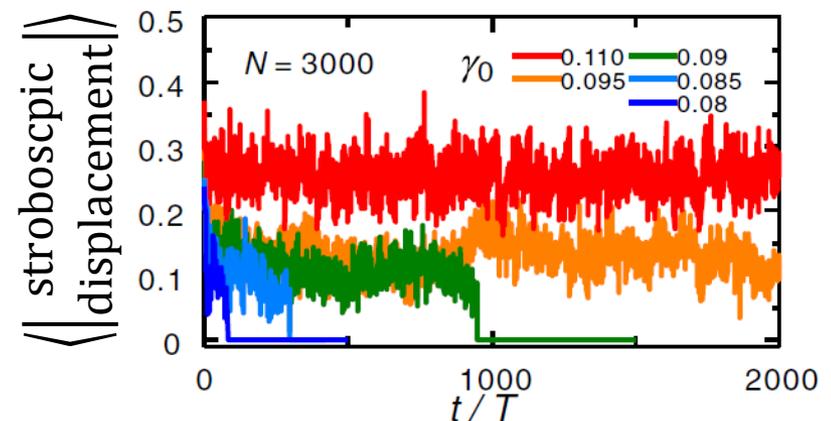
[Hima Nagamanasa et al., PRE 2014]



simulations

soft repulsive particles,  $\phi \approx 0.80$

[Kawasaki & Berthier, PRE 2016]

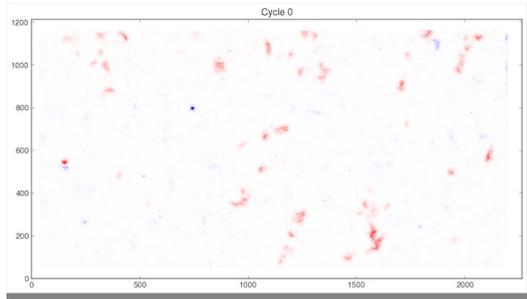


# Question 2: Homogenous vs Inhomogeneous

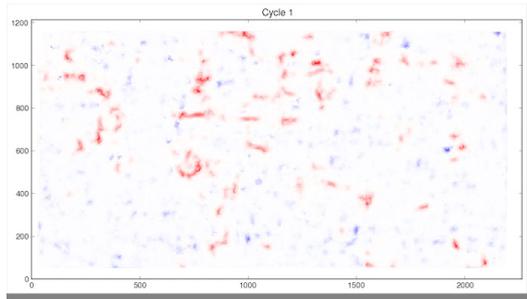
## interfacial rheometer experiment

bidisperse PS particles, electrostatically jammed  
[Keim & Arratia, PRL 2014]

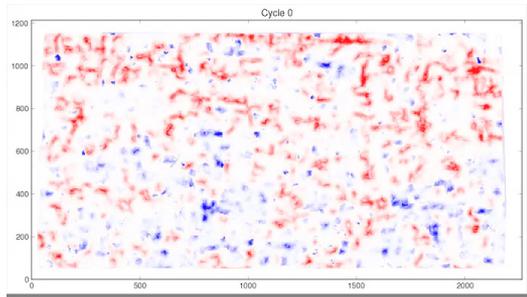
color = non-affine deformation events



$\gamma_0 = 0.01$   
reversible  
(back & forth)



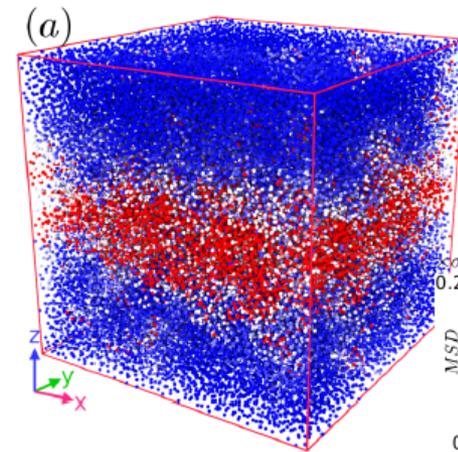
$\gamma_0 = 0.02$   
reversible  
(loop)



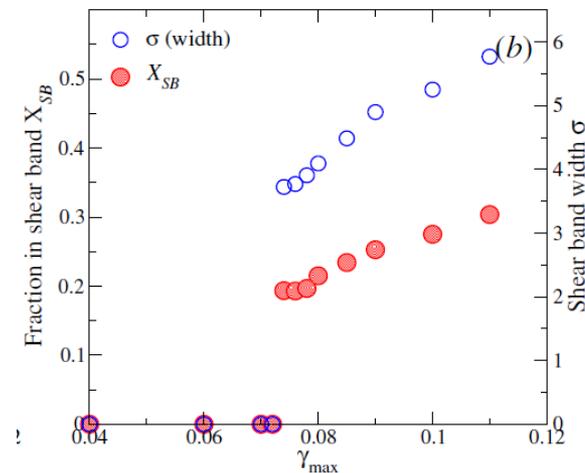
$\gamma_0 = 0.04$   
irreversible

## simulations

bidisperse Lennard-Jones w/ cut-off  
[Parmar, Kumar, Sastry, arXiv:1806.02464]



shear banding  
for  $\gamma_0 \gtrsim \gamma_{\text{yield}}$



# Question 3: Connection to the Dilute Limit

Tendencies (there may be counter-examples!)

		dilute ( $\phi \ll \phi_J$ )	dense ( $\phi \gtrsim \phi_J$ )
Particle motion (as $\gamma_0 \nearrow$ )		reversible → irreversible	reversible (back & forth) [→ reversible (loop)] → irreversible
Rheology		purely viscous → elasticity emerges	purely elastic → viscosity emerges → yielding
RIT	continuity	continuous	discontinuous? continuous?
	homogeneity	homogeneous	shear banding? homogeneously disordered?
	as an absorbing-state transition	?? (spheres) C-DP class (rods)	?? (even if continuous & homogeneous)

How can those be connected?

[cf. phase diagram in  
Schreck et al., PRE 2013]

↑ AST with disorder?  
any possibility of  
“activated scaling” ??  
[see Vojta, PRE 2012]

# Summary

## Current status of absorbing-state transitions

- Transitions into an absorbing state (no further state change allowed)
- Most fundamental = directed percolation (DP) class.
  - Established based on toy models (mostly decades ago)
  - Now relevant in real experiments & realistic models: turbulence in liquid crystal, quantum fluid, Newtonian flow, active matter
  - Practical criteria for being in the DP class?

## Connections to reversible-irreversible transitions

- Transition between reversible & irreversible particle motion in suspensions under oscillatory shear.
- A kind of AST (almost by definition), rheological consequences.
- Dilute case: relation to C-DP class (DP with conserved field), but confirmed with rods only.
- Dense case: largely unsettled, intriguing features (loop reversibility, relation to yielding, ...) and many open problems!