

Functional Renormalization - from quantum gravity and
dark energy to ultracold atoms and condensed matter

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Fate of Kosterlitz-Thouless Physics in Driven Open Quantum Systems

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European Research Council



Universality in low dimensions: 2D

- continuous phase rotations:



- correlations

$$\langle \phi(r) \phi^*(0) \rangle \sim r^{-\alpha} \sim e^{-r/\xi}$$

- superfluidity

$$\rho_s \neq 0 \quad \rho_s = 0$$

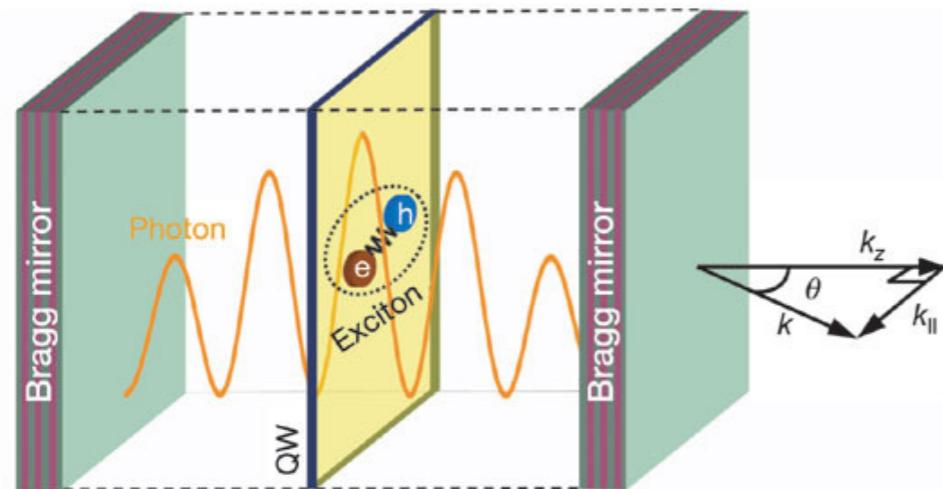
- KT transition: unbinding of vortex-antivortex pairs



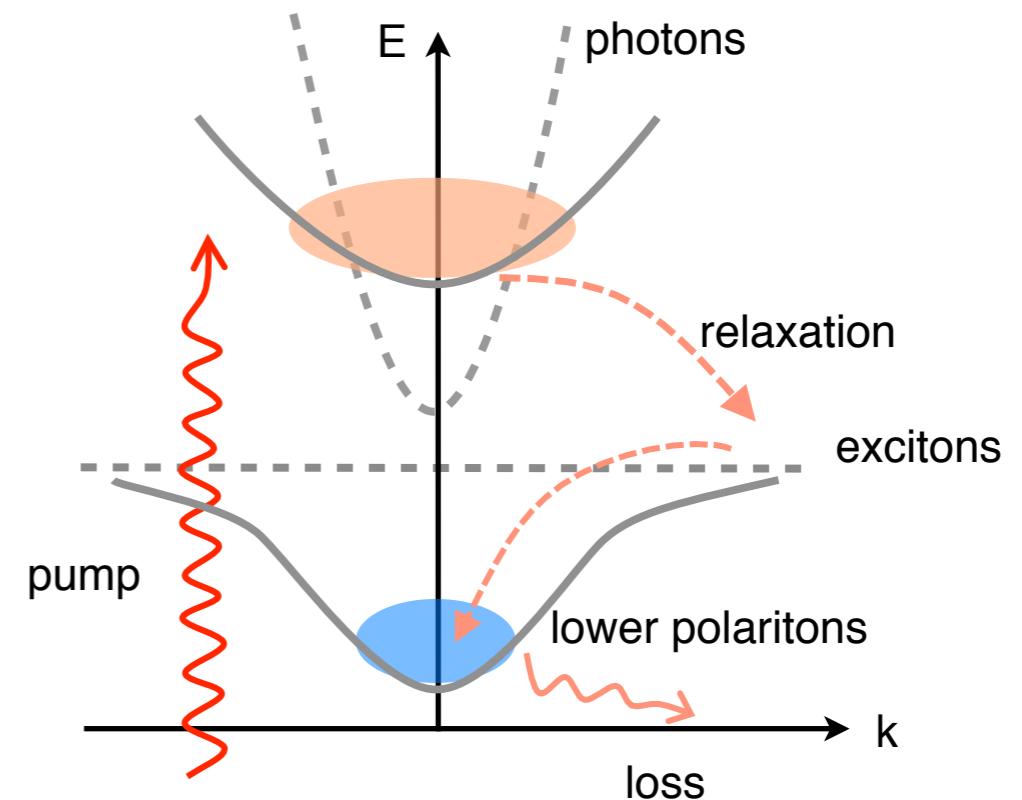
*... also for out-of-equilibrium systems?
... new universal phenomena tied to non-equilibrium?*

Experimental Platform: Exciton-Polariton Systems

Kasprzak et al., Nature 2006



Imamoglu et al., PRA 1996



- phenomenological description: stochastic driven-dissipative Gross-Pitaevskii-Eq

$$i\partial_t \phi = \left[-\frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - \mu + i(\gamma_p - \gamma_l) + (u - i\kappa) |\phi|^2 \right] \phi + \zeta$$

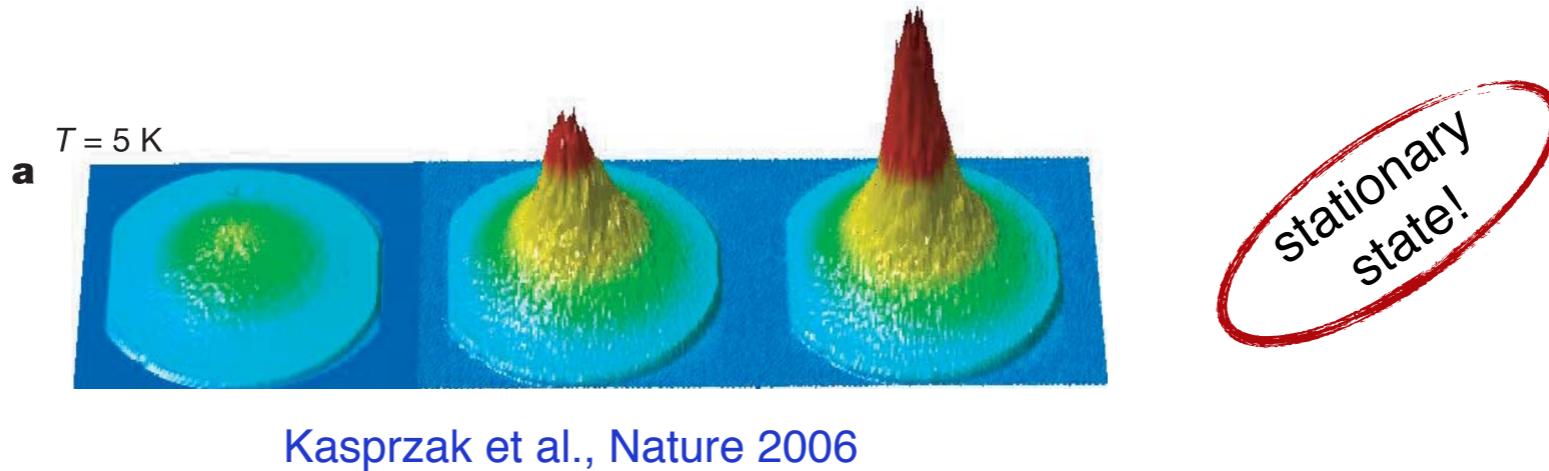
propagation pump & loss rates two-body loss
 elastic collisions

$$\langle \zeta^*(t, \mathbf{x}) \zeta(t', \mathbf{x}') \rangle = \gamma \delta(t - t') \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}')$$

microscopic derivation and linear fluctuation analysis:
 Szymanska, Keeling, Littlewood PRL (04, 06); PRB (07);
 Wouters, Carusotto PRL (07, 10)

Experimental Platform: Exciton-Polariton Systems

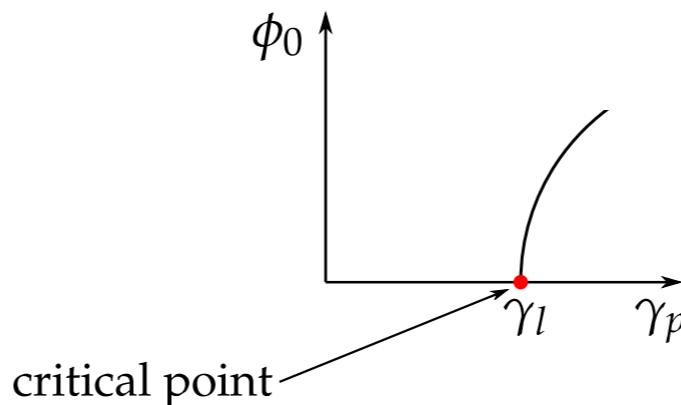
- Bose condensation seen despite non-equilibrium conditions



- stochastic driven-dissipative Gross-Pitaevskii-Eq

$$\cancel{i\partial_t \phi} = \left[-\frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - \mu + i(\gamma_p - \gamma_l) + (u - i\kappa) |\phi|^2 \right] \phi + \cancel{\zeta}$$

Szymanska, Keeling, Littlewood PRL (04, 06); PRB (07); Wouters, Carusotto PRL (07,10)



- mean field
 - neglect noise
 - homogeneous solution $\phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \phi_0$

- naively, just as Bose condensation in equilibrium!
- Q: What is “non-equilibrium” about it?

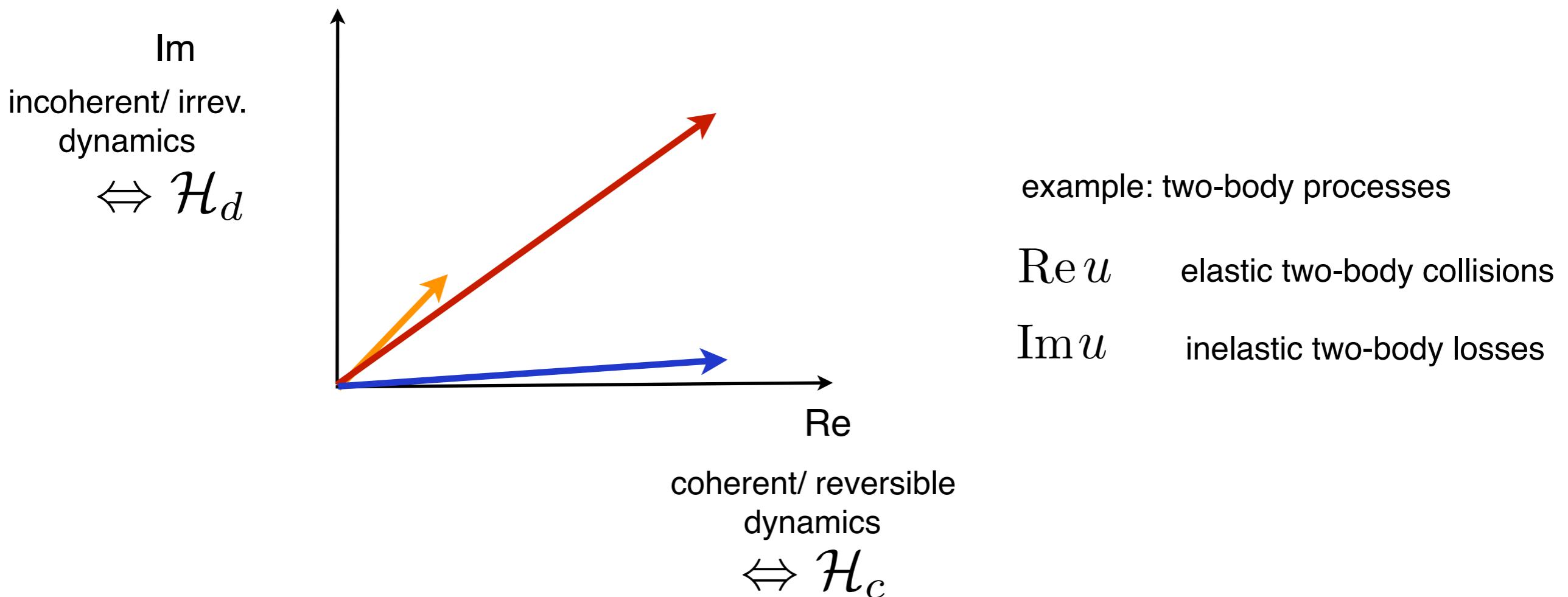
“What is non-equilibrium about it?”

- rewrite stochastic Gross-Pitaevski equation

$$i\partial_t \phi_c = \frac{\delta \mathcal{H}_c}{\delta \phi_c^*} - i \frac{\delta \mathcal{H}_d}{\delta \phi_c^*} + \xi$$

$$\mathcal{H}_\alpha = \int d^d x [r_\alpha |\phi_\alpha|^2 + K_\alpha |\nabla \phi_\alpha|^2 + u_\alpha |\phi_\alpha^* \phi_\alpha|^4], \quad \alpha = c, d$$

- couplings located in the complex plane:



“What is non-equilibrium about it?”: Field theory

- Representation of stochastic Langevin dynamics as MSRJD functional integral

$$i\partial_t \phi_c = \frac{\delta \mathcal{H}_c}{\delta \phi_c^*} - i \frac{\delta \mathcal{H}_d}{\delta \phi_c^*} + \xi \quad \iff \quad Z = \int \mathcal{D}[\phi_c, \phi_c^*, \phi_q, \phi_q^*] e^{iS[\phi_c, \phi_c^*, \phi_q, \phi_q^*]}$$

$$S = \int_{t, \mathbf{x}} \left\{ \phi_q^* \frac{\delta \bar{S}[\phi_c]}{\delta \phi_c^*} + c.c. + i2\gamma \phi_q^* \phi_q \right\} \quad \bar{S} = \int_{t, \mathbf{x}} \{ \phi_c^* i\partial_t \phi_c - \mathcal{H}_c + i\mathcal{H}_d \}$$

- Equilibrium conditions signalled by presence of symmetry under: H. K. Janssen (1976); C. Aron et al, J Stat. Mech (2011)

$$\mathcal{T}_\beta \phi_c(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_c^*(-t, \mathbf{x}),$$

generalisation to quantum systems
(Keldysh functional integral)

$$\mathcal{T}_\beta \phi_q(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_q^*(-t, \mathbf{x}) + \frac{i}{2T} \partial_t \phi_c^*(-t, \mathbf{x})$$

L. Sieberer, A. Chiochetta, U. Tauber, A. Gambassi, SD, PRB (2015)

- Implication 1 [equivalence]: (classical) fluctuation-dissipation

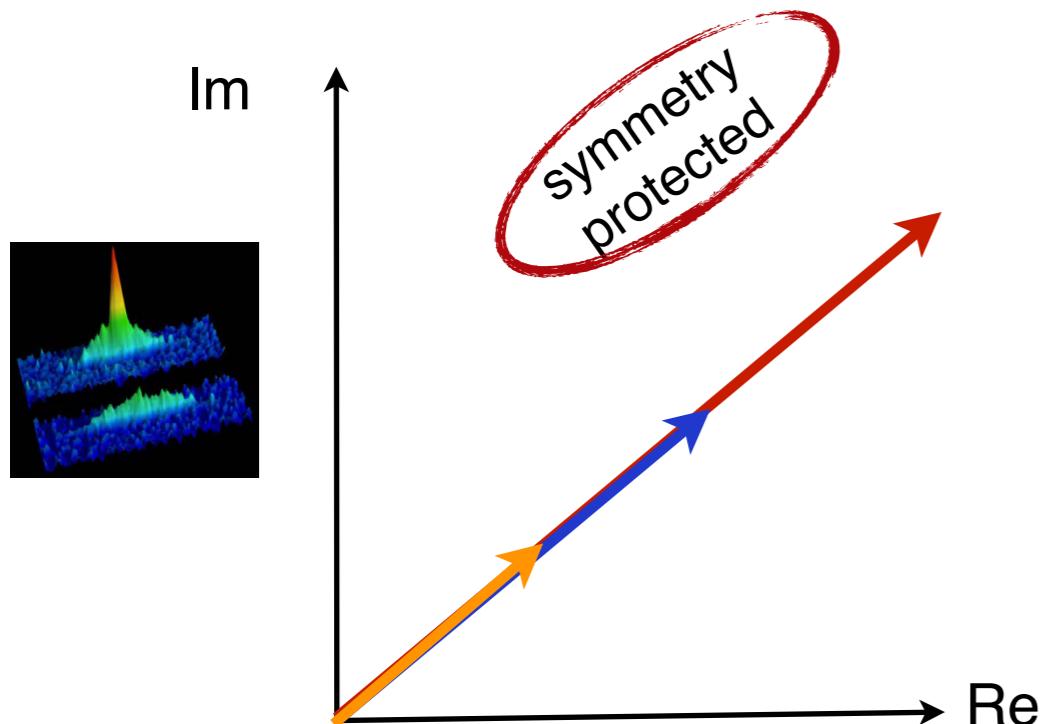
$$\underbrace{\langle \phi_c(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \phi_c^*(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \rangle}_{\text{correlations}} = \frac{2T}{\omega} \underbrace{[\langle \phi_c(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \phi_q^*(\omega, \mathbf{q}) - \langle \phi_c(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \phi_q^*(\omega, \mathbf{q}) \rangle}_{\text{responses (imaginary part)}}$$

→ equilibrium conditions as a symmetry

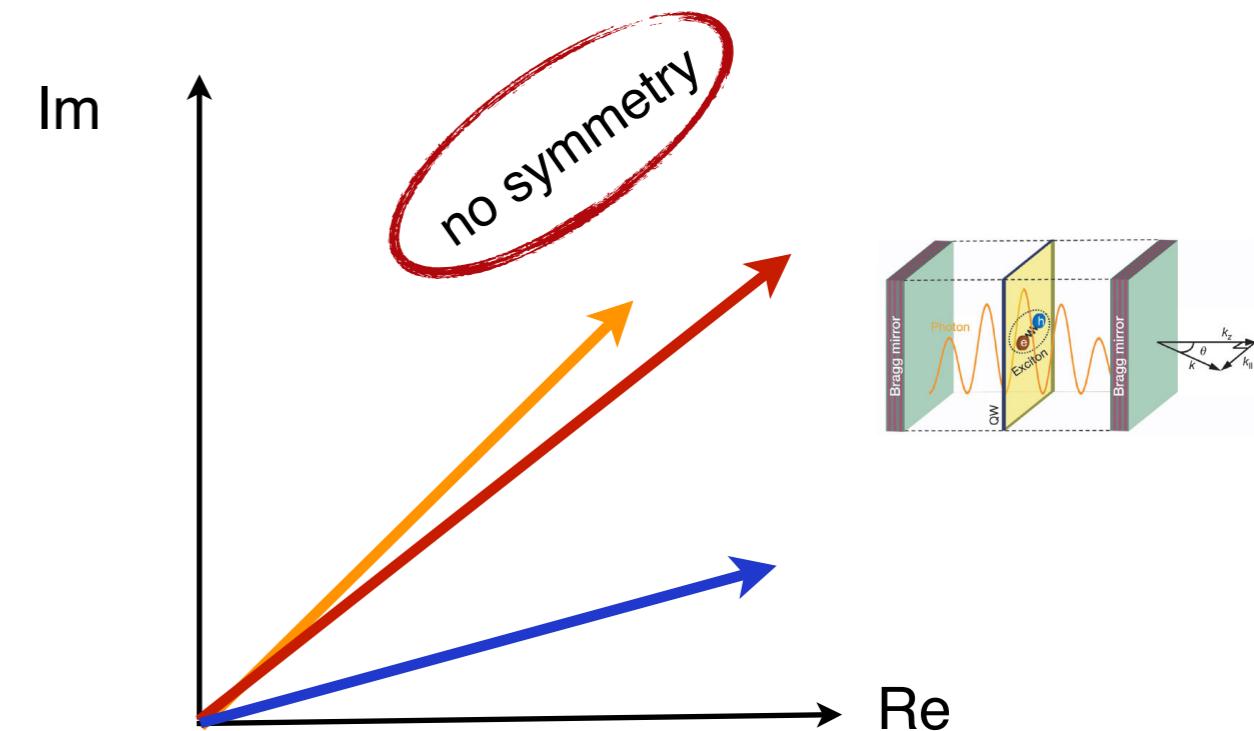
“What is non-equilibrium about it?”: Geometric interpretation

- Implication 2: geometric constraint

equilibrium dynamics



non-equilibrium dynamics



- coherent and dissipative dynamics may occur simultaneously
- but they are not independent

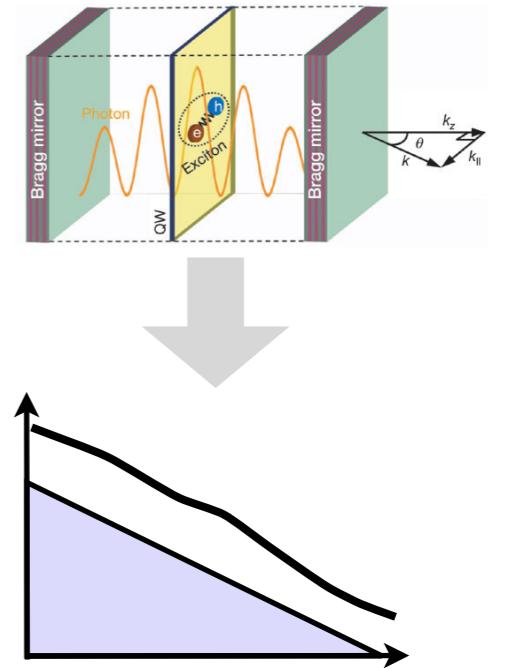
- coherent and driven-dissipative dynamics do occur simultaneously
- they result from **different** dynamical resources

➡ what are the physical consequences of the spread in the complex plane?

Outline

- mapping of the driven-dissipative GPE to KPZ-type equation
- fundamental difference to conventional context:

KPZ variable: condensate phase, **compact**



→ **weak** non-equilibrium drive: two competing scales

- smooth non-equilibrium fluctuations -> emergent KPZ length scale L_*
 - non-equilibrium vortex physics -> emergent length scale L_v
- **result:** different sequence in 2D and 1D

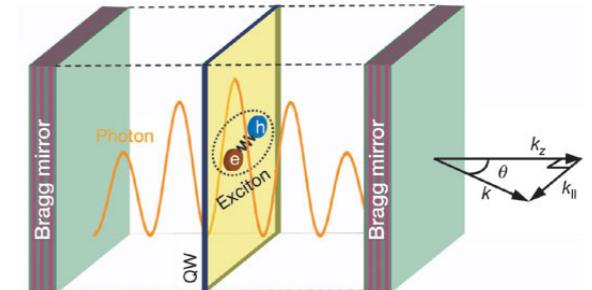
→ **strong** non-equilibrium drive: new first order phase transition (one dimension)

Low frequency phase dynamics

- driven-dissipative stochastic GPE

$$i\partial_t \phi = \left[-\frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - \mu + i(\gamma_p - \gamma_l) + (u - i\kappa) |\phi|^2 \right] \phi + \zeta$$

- integrate out fast amplitude fluctuations: $\phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = (M_0 + \chi(\mathbf{x}, t))e^{i\theta(\mathbf{x}, t)}$



see also: G. Grinstein
et al., PRL 1993

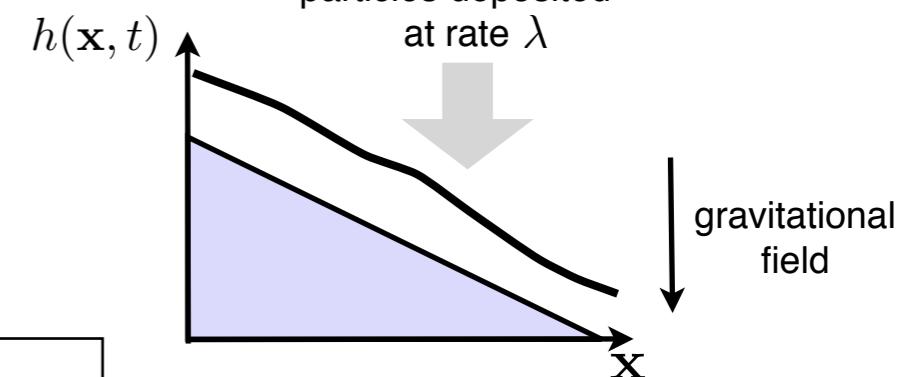
$$\partial_t \theta = D \nabla^2 \theta + \lambda (\nabla \theta)^2 + \xi$$

phase diffusion phase nonlinearity Markov noise

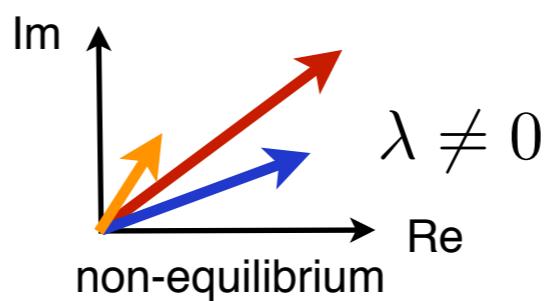
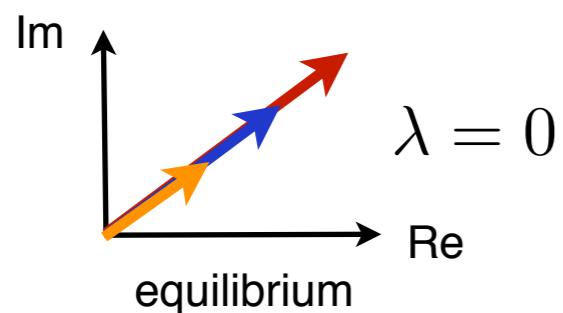
form of the KPZ equation

Kardar, Parisi, Zhang,
PRL (1986)

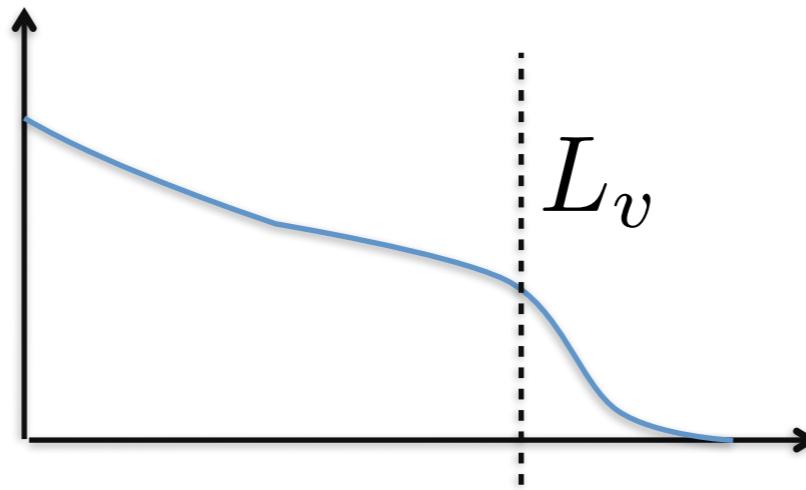
- spin wave becomes **non-linear**
- nonlinearity: **single-parameter measure of non-equilibrium strength**
(ruled out in equilibrium by symmetry)



surface roughening, fire spreading,
bacterial colony growth..



2 Dimensions

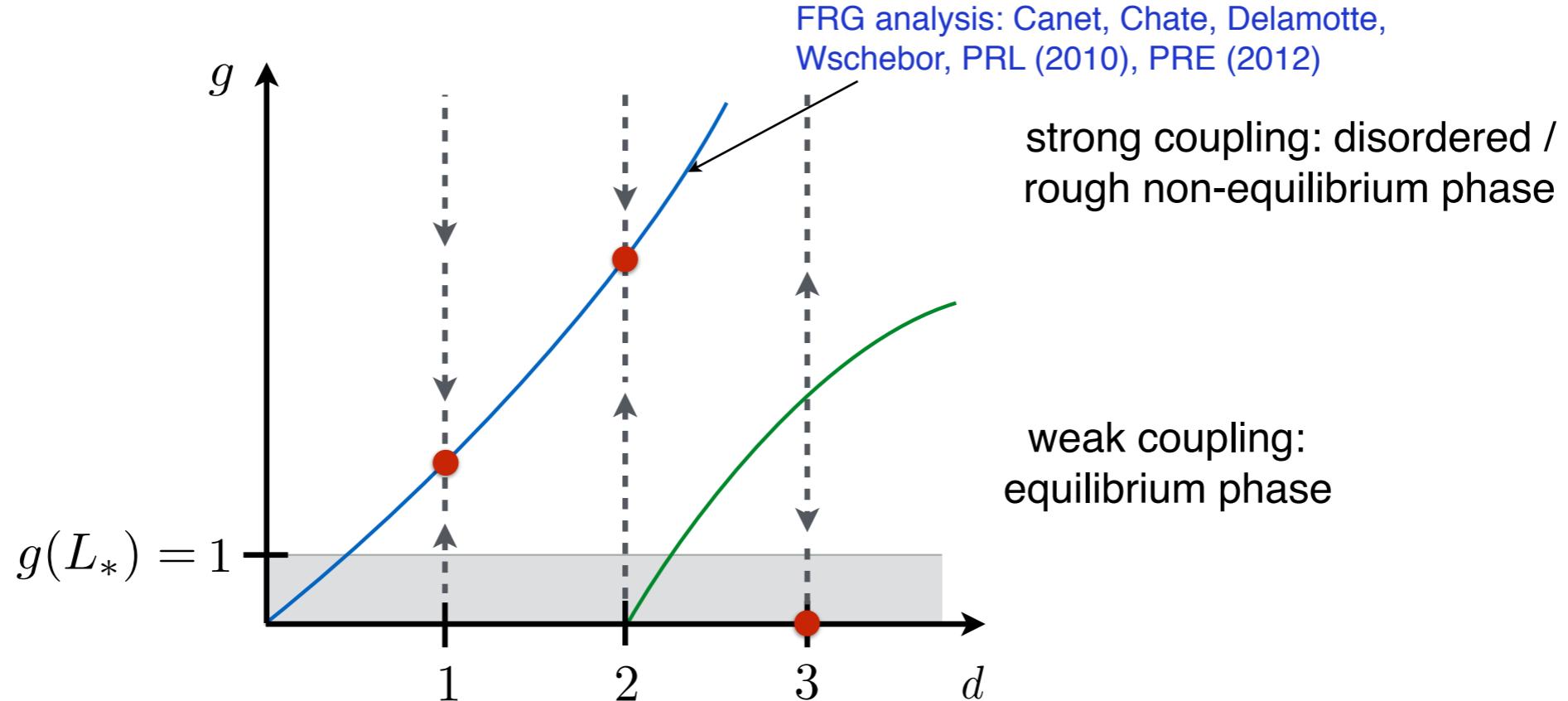
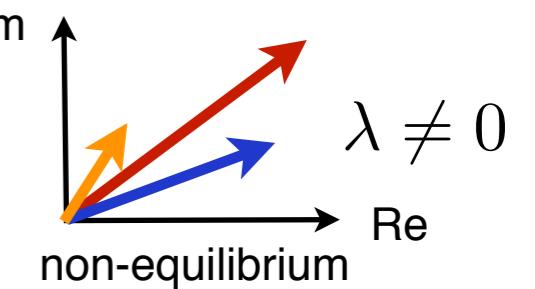


- E. Altman, L. Sieberer, L. Chen, SD, J. Toner, PRX (2015)
G. Wachtel, L. Sieberer, SD, E. Altman, PRB (2016)
L. Sieberer, G. Wachtel, E. Altman, SD, PRB (2016)

Physical implication I: Smooth KPZ fluctuations

- RG flow of the effective dimensionless KPZ coupling parameter

$$g^2 = \frac{\lambda^2 \Delta}{D^3}$$

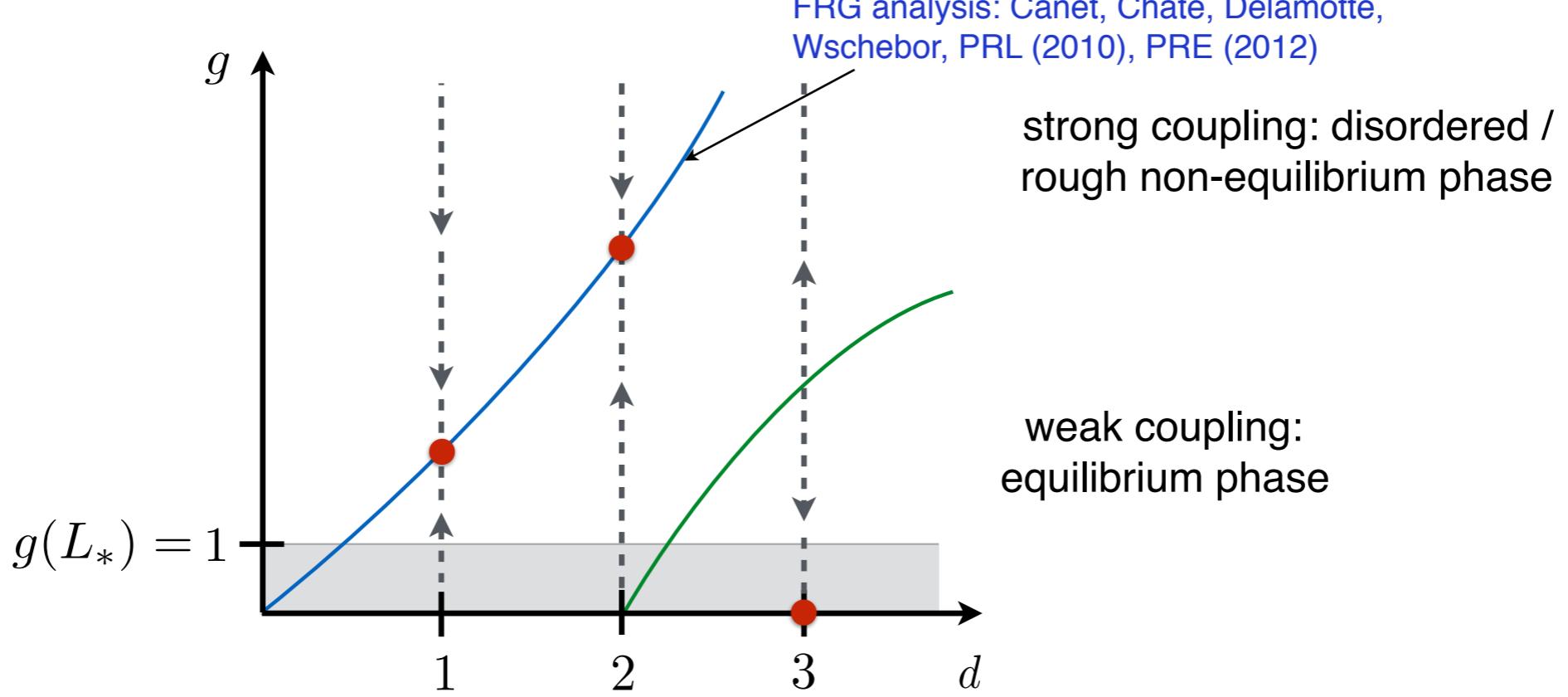
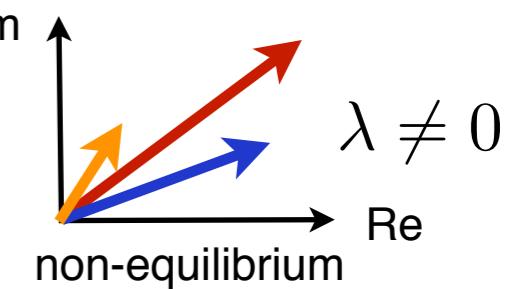


- general trend: non-equilibrium effects in systems with soft mode are
 - enhanced in $d = 1, 2$
 - softened in $d = 3$ (below a threshold)

Physical implication I: Smooth KPZ fluctuations

- RG flow of the effective dimensionless KPZ coupling parameter

$$g^2 = \frac{\lambda^2 \Delta}{D^3}$$



- 2D: implication: a length scale is generated

$$L_* = a_0 e^{\frac{16\pi}{g^2}}$$

microscopic (healing)
length

- exponentially large for
 - weak nonequilibrium
 - small noise level

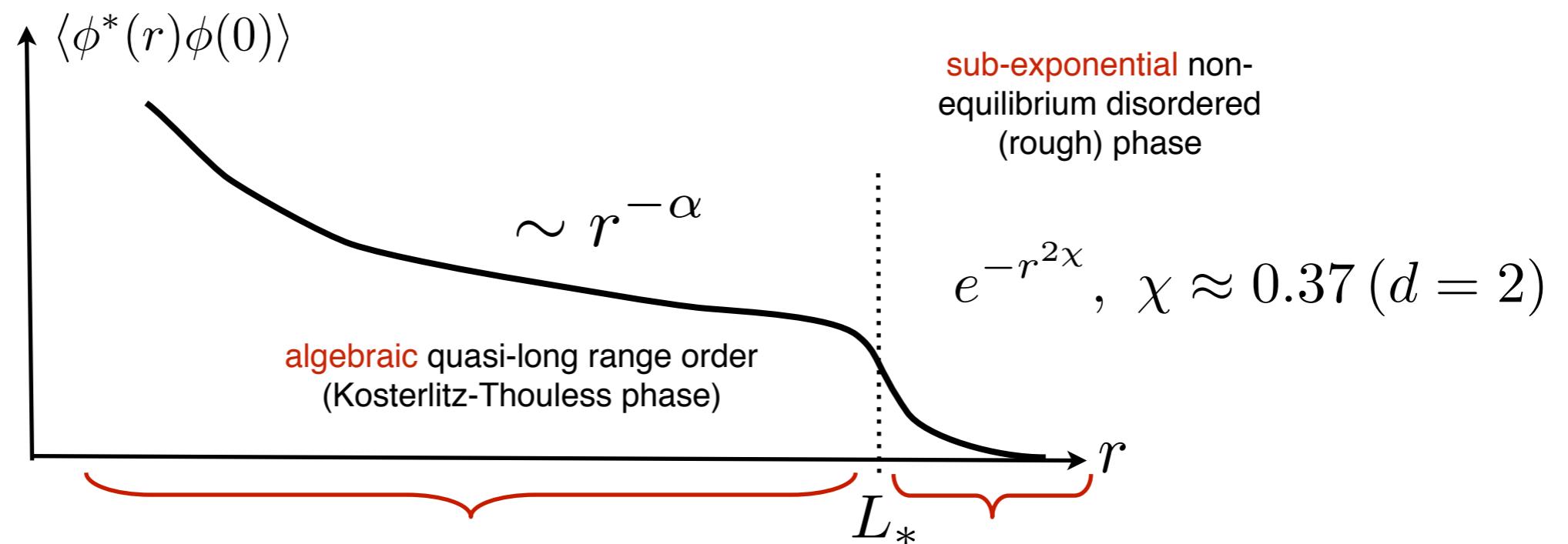
λ
 Δ

Physical implications I: Absence of quasi-LRO

- long-range behavior of two-point/ spatial coherence function:

$$\langle \phi^*(r)\phi(0) \rangle \approx n_0 e^{-\langle [\theta(\mathbf{x}) - \theta(0)]^2 \rangle} \quad \text{leading order cumulant expansion}$$

- generated length scale distinguishes two regimes: $L_* = a_0 e^{\frac{16\pi}{g^2}}$



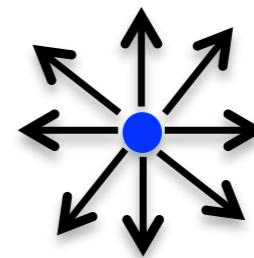
- algebraic order **absent** in any two-dimensional driven open system at the largest distances
- but crossover scale **exponentially large** for small deviations from equilibrium

Physical implications II: Non-equilibrium Kosterlitz-Thouless

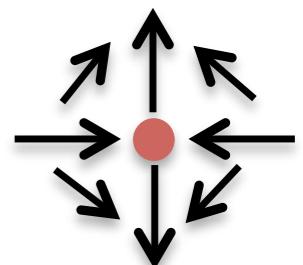
- KPZ equation for phase variable

$$\partial_t \theta = D \nabla^2 \theta + \lambda (\nabla \theta)^2 + \xi$$

- compact nature of phase allows for vortex defects in 2D!



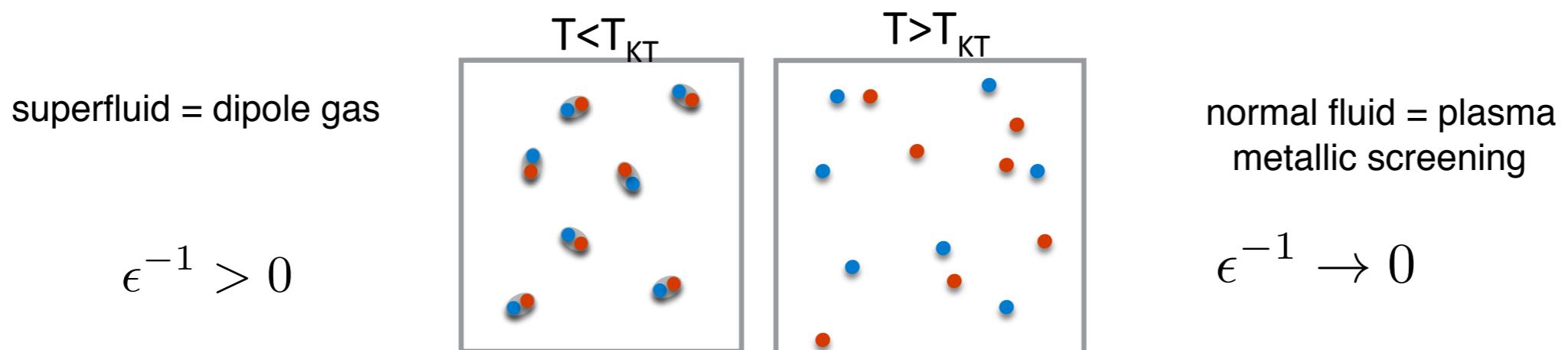
vortex



anti-vortex

- in 2D equilibrium: perfect analogy between vortices and electric charges

- $\log(r)$ interactions, $1/(\epsilon r)$ forces
- dielectric constant ϵ^{-1} = superfluid stiffness $\mathbf{P} = (\epsilon - 1) \mathbf{E}_{\text{ext}}$



→ how is this scenario modified in the driven system?

Duality approach

- KPZ equation for **phase variable**

$$\partial_t \theta = D \nabla^2 \theta + \lambda (\nabla \theta)^2 + \xi$$

- phase compactness = local discrete gauge invariance of $\psi_{t,\mathbf{x}} = \sqrt{\rho_{t,\mathbf{x}}} e^{i\theta_{t,\mathbf{x}}}$

$$\theta_{t,\mathbf{x}} \mapsto \theta_{t,\mathbf{x}} + 2\pi n_{t,\mathbf{x}} \quad \theta_{t,\mathbf{x}} \in [0, 2\pi), \quad n_{t,\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbf{Z}$$

- needs to be taught to the KPZ equation:

- **deterministic part:** lattice regularization

$$\partial_t \theta_{\mathbf{x}} = - \sum_{\mathbf{a}} \left[D \sin(\theta_{\mathbf{x}} - \theta_{\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{a}}) + \frac{\lambda}{2} (\cos(\theta_{\mathbf{x}} - \theta_{\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{a}}) - 1) \right] + \eta_{\mathbf{x}}$$

unit lattice
direction $=: \mathcal{L}[\theta]_{t,\mathbf{x}}$ deterministic noise

Duality approach

- KPZ equation for **phase variable**

$$\partial_t \theta = D \nabla^2 \theta + \lambda (\nabla \theta)^2 + \xi$$

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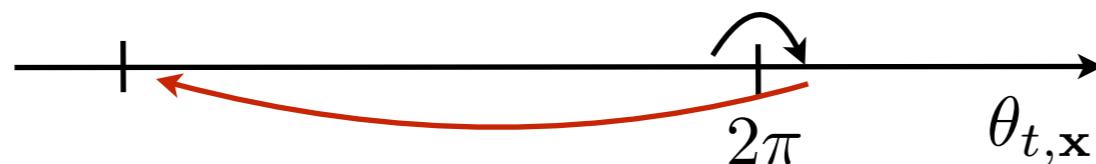
$$\theta_{t,\mathbf{x}} \mapsto \theta_{t,\mathbf{x}} + 2\pi n_{t,\mathbf{x}} \quad \theta_{t,\mathbf{x}} \in [0, 2\pi), \quad n_{t,\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbf{Z}$$

- needs to be taught to the KPZ equation:

- **temporal part:** stochastic update

$$\theta_{t+\epsilon,\mathbf{x}} = \theta_{t,\mathbf{x}} + \epsilon (\mathcal{L}[\theta]_{t,\mathbf{x}} + \eta_{t,\mathbf{x}}) + 2\pi n_{t,\mathbf{x}}$$

- NB: phase can jump, continuum limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ ill defined, derivatives discrete



Duality approach: Comparison to non-compact case

- KPZ equation for non-compact variable

$$\partial_t \theta = D \nabla^2 \theta + \lambda (\nabla \theta)^2 + \xi$$

stochastic differential
equation



$$Z = \int \mathcal{D}[\tilde{\theta}] \mathcal{D}[\theta] e^{iS[\theta, \tilde{\theta}]}$$

continuous noise MSRJD
functional integral

- KPZ equation for compact variable

$$\theta_{t+\epsilon, \mathbf{x}} = \theta_{t, \mathbf{x}} + \epsilon (\mathcal{L}[\theta]_{t, \mathbf{x}} + \eta_{t, \mathbf{x}}) + 2\pi n_{t, \mathbf{x}}$$

lattice regularized deterministic term

$$Z = \sum_{\{\tilde{n}_{t, \mathbf{x}}\}} \int \mathcal{D}[\theta] e^{iS[\theta, \tilde{n}]}$$

stochastic difference
equation



discrete noise MSRJD
functional integral

manifestly gauge invariant!

Duality approach

- discrete gauge invariant dynamical functional integral

$$Z = \sum_{\{\tilde{n}_{t,\mathbf{x}}\}} \int \mathcal{D}[\theta] e^{iS[\theta, \tilde{n}]}$$

$$S = \sum_{t,\mathbf{x}} \tilde{n}_{t,\mathbf{x}} [-\Delta_t \theta_{t,\mathbf{x}} + \epsilon (\mathcal{L}[\theta]_{t,\mathbf{x}} + i\Delta \tilde{n}_{t,\mathbf{x}})]$$

- introduce Fourier conjugate variables, use continuity equations to parameterise in terms of gauge fields, Poisson transform
- dual description:

$$Z \propto \sum_{\{n_{vX}, \tilde{n}_{vX}, \mathbf{J}_{vX}, \tilde{\mathbf{J}}_{vX}\}} \int \mathcal{D}[\phi, \tilde{\phi}, \mathbf{A}, \tilde{\mathbf{A}}] e^{iS[\phi, \tilde{\phi}, \mathbf{A}, \tilde{\mathbf{A}}, n_v, \tilde{n}_v, \mathbf{J}_v, \tilde{\mathbf{J}}_v]}$$

vortex density
and current

smooth spin wave fluctuations
(equivalent KPZ equation)

- interpretation: study the associated Langevin equations

Electrodynamic Duality

- Langevin equations = modified nonlinear noisy Maxwell equations

- formulated in electric and magnetic fields alone:

$$\mathbf{E} = -\nabla\phi - \mathbf{A},$$

$$\mathbf{B} = D\nabla \times \mathbf{A}$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{E}} = -\nabla\phi - \partial_t \tilde{\mathbf{A}},$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{B}} = \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{A}}$$

fixed by modified gauge invariance

irrotational flow

modified continuity eq

$$\partial_t \rightarrow 1/D$$

phase dynamics

phenomenologically added
vortex dynamics

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} &= 2\pi n_v \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{E} + \frac{1}{D} \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{B} - \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} &= 2\pi \mathbf{J}_v - \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \nabla \left(\frac{\lambda}{2} E^2 + \zeta \right) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \frac{d\mathbf{r}_i}{dt} &= \mu n_i \mathbf{E}(t, \mathbf{r}_i) + \xi_i \end{aligned}$$

- reproducing KPZ: identify $\mathbf{E} \equiv \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \nabla\theta$ & integrate out magnetic field, neglect vortices

$$\partial_t \theta = D\nabla^2 \theta + \lambda(\nabla\theta)^2 + \xi$$

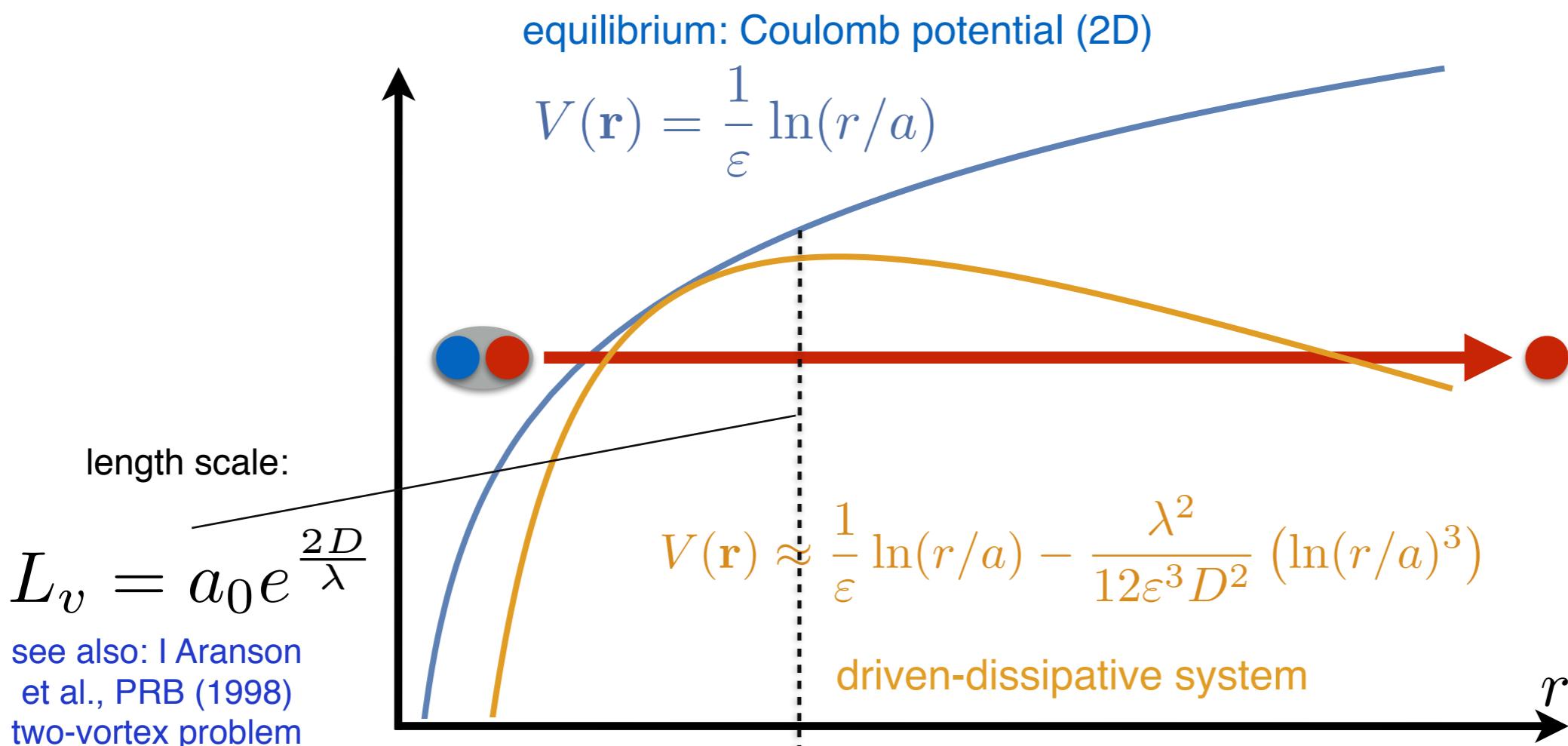
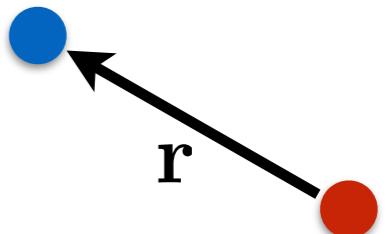
- next: integrate out gapless electric field degrees of freedom = phase fluctuations

- equilibrium $\lambda = 0$: exactly
- non-equilibrium: perturbatively in λ

A single vortex-antivortex pair

- equation of motion for a single vortex-antivortex pair

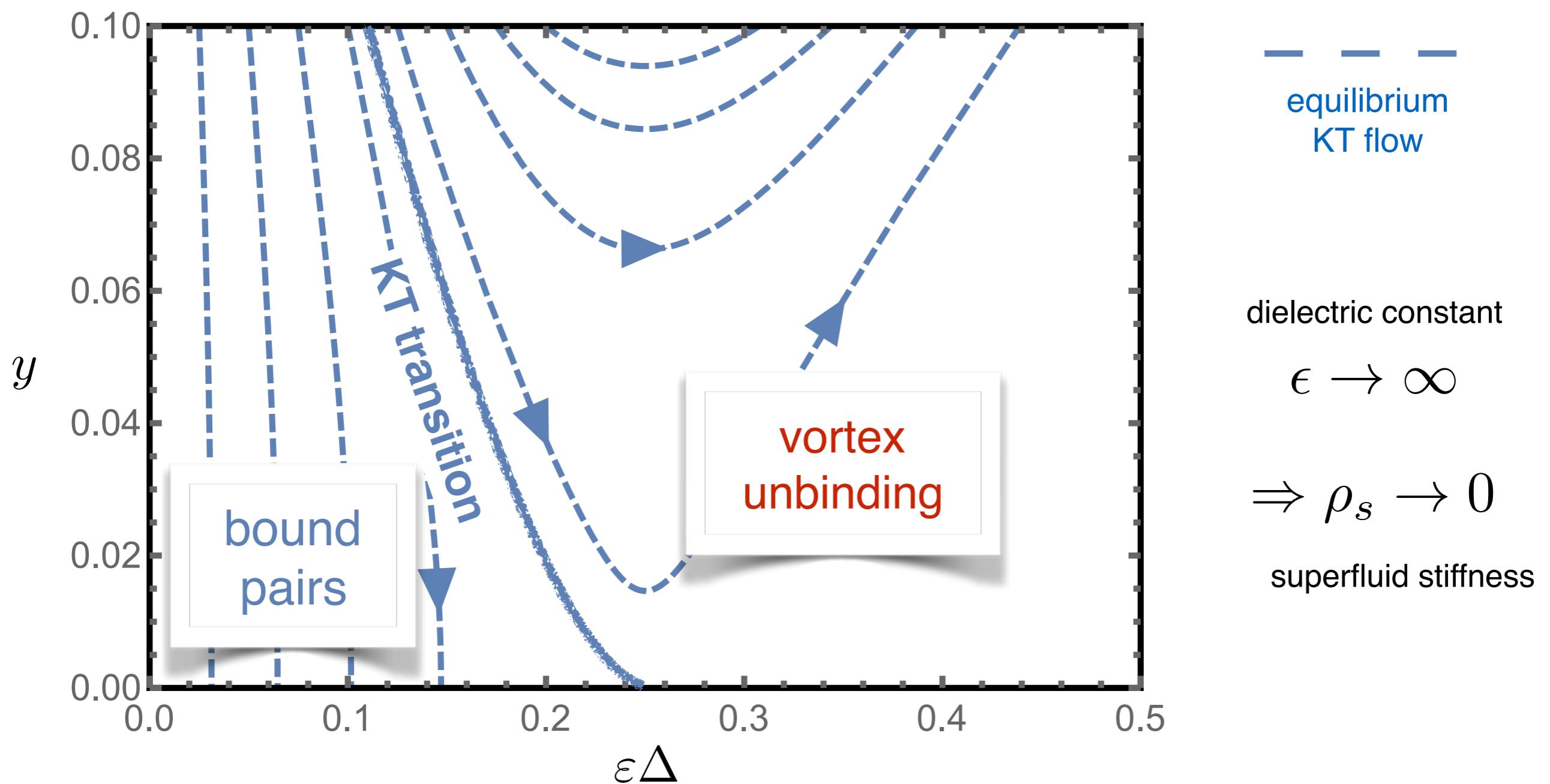
$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} = -\mu \nabla V(r) + \xi$$



→ noise-activated unbinding for a single pair (at exp small rate)

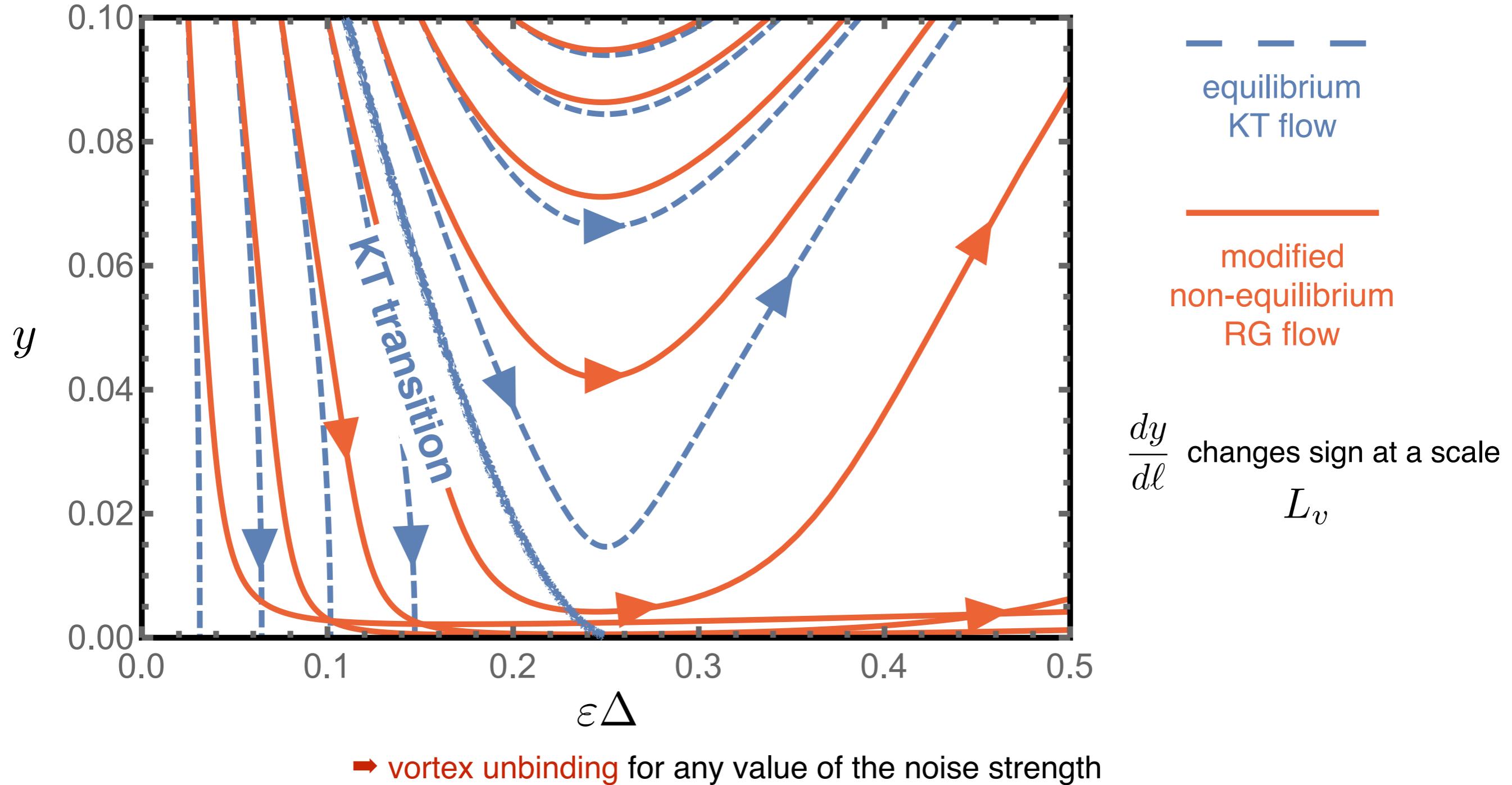
Many pairs: Modified Kosterlitz-Thouless RG flow

$$\frac{d\varepsilon}{d\ell} = \frac{2\pi^2 y^2}{T} \quad \frac{dy}{d\ell} = \left[2 - \frac{1}{2\varepsilon T} + \frac{\lambda^2}{4\varepsilon^2 D^2} \left(\frac{1}{4} + \ell \right) \right] y \quad \frac{dT}{d\ell} = \frac{\lambda^2 T}{2\varepsilon^2 D^2} \left(\frac{1}{4} + \ell \right)$$



Many pairs: Modified Kosterlitz-Thouless RG flow

$$\frac{d\varepsilon}{d\ell} = \frac{2\pi^2 y^2}{T} \quad \frac{dy}{d\ell} = \left[2 - \frac{1}{2\varepsilon T} + \frac{\lambda^2}{4\varepsilon^2 D^2} \left(\frac{1}{4} + \ell \right) \right] y \quad \frac{dT}{d\ell} = \frac{\lambda^2 T}{2\varepsilon^2 D^2} \left(\frac{1}{4} + \ell \right)$$



Summary: 2D

- two emergent length scales in complementary approaches:

$$L_* = a_0 e^{\frac{16\pi}{g^2}}$$

KPZ length

$$L_v = a_0 e^{\frac{2D}{\lambda}}$$

vortex length

- scaling for the relevant fixed points

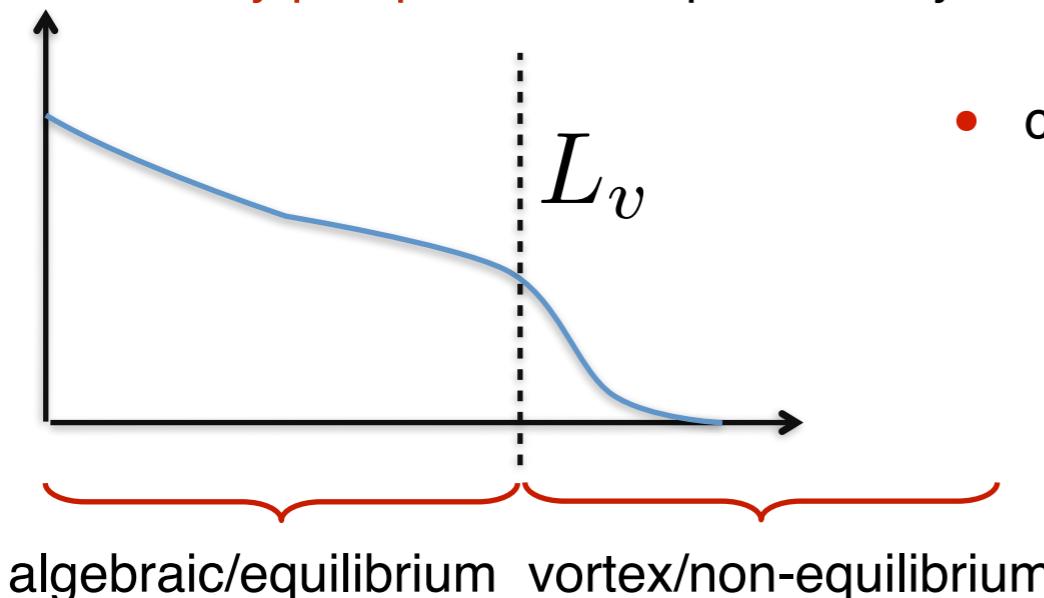
$$\langle \phi^*(r) \phi(0) \rangle \sim e^{-r^{2\chi}}, \quad \chi = 0.4$$

KPZ fixed point

$$\langle \phi^*(r) \phi(0) \rangle \sim e^{-r}$$

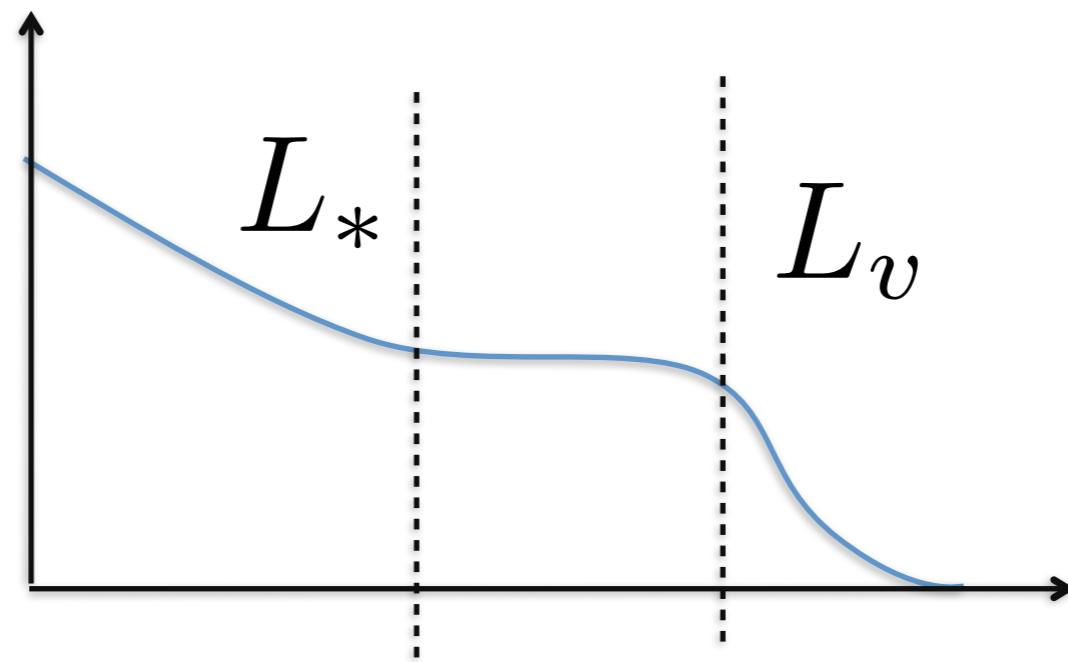
free vortex/disordered fixed point

- for **incoherently pumped** exciton-polariton systems, $L_v \ll L_*$



- caveats for observability:
 - length scales exponentially large
 - assumes stationary states (unknown non-universal vortex dynamics)

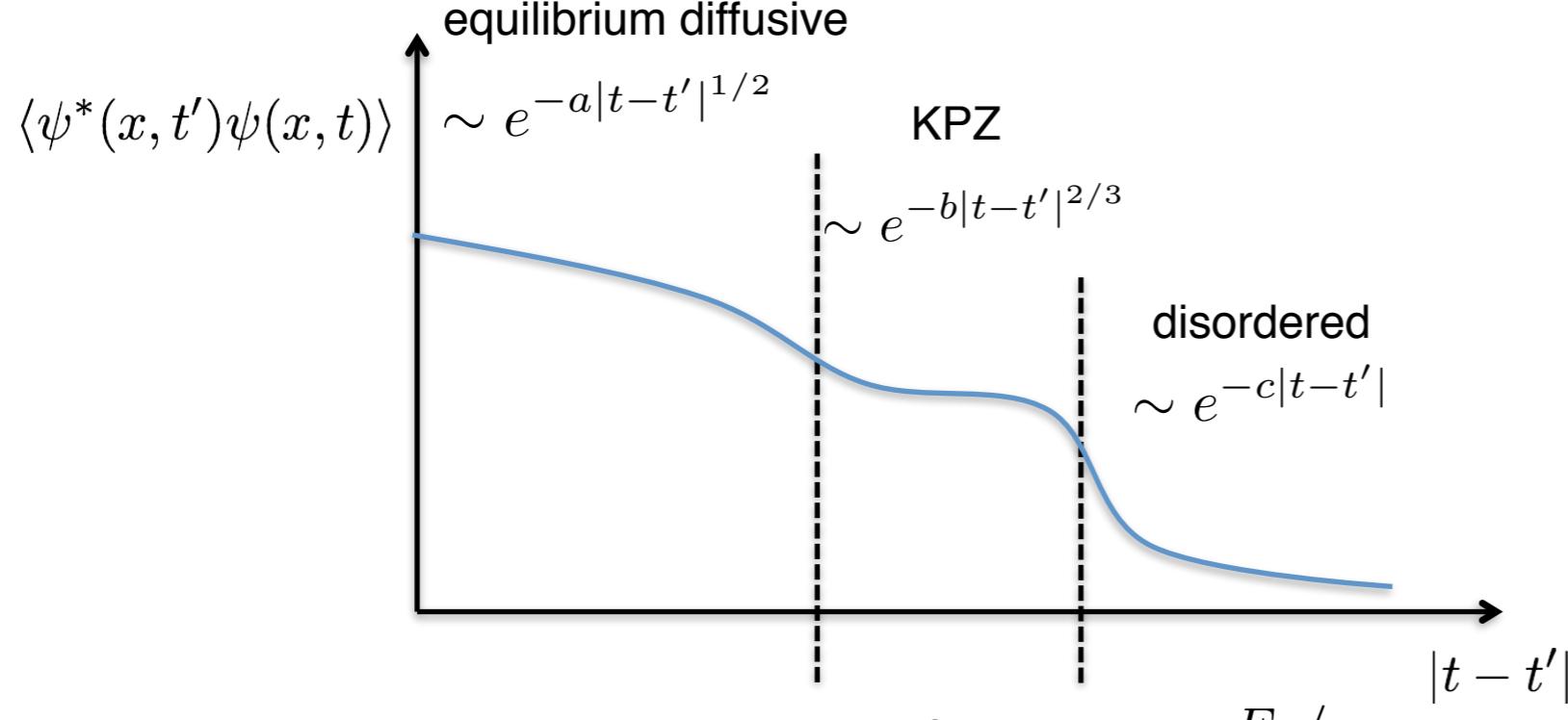
1 Dimension



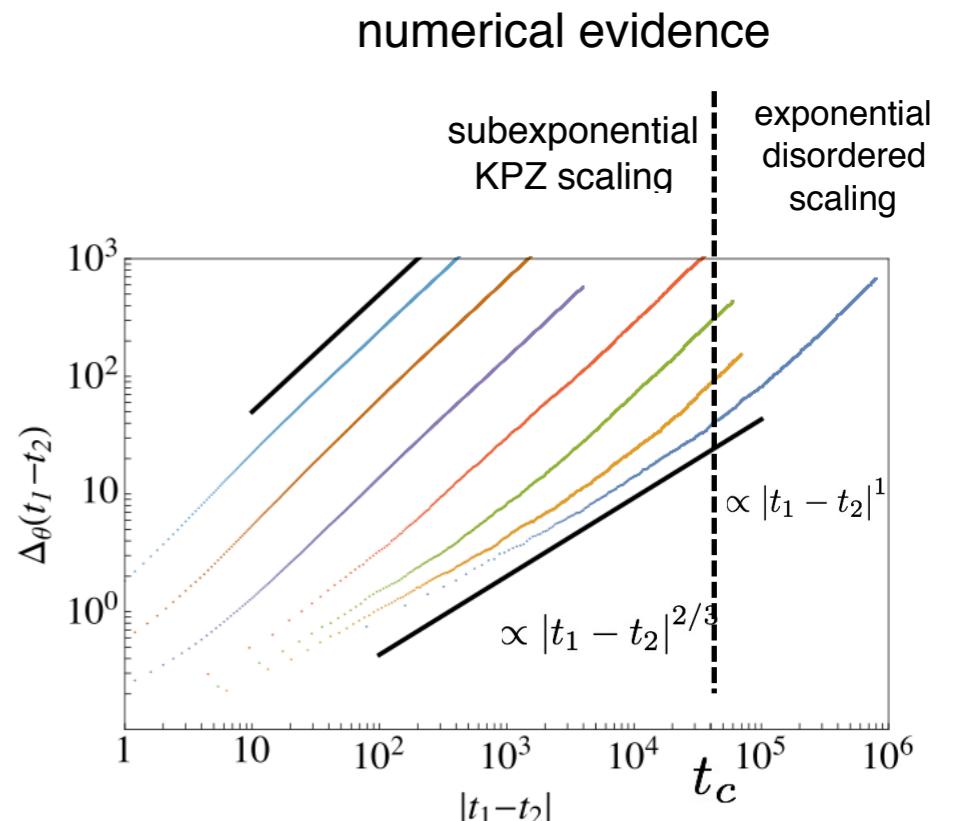
L. He, L. Sieberer, E. Altman, SD, PRB (2015)
L. He, L. Sieberer, SD, PRL (2017)

Sequence of Scales

- direct numerical solution of driven-dissipative GPE in one dimension
- Study temporal instead of spatial coherence function



- Crossover scale

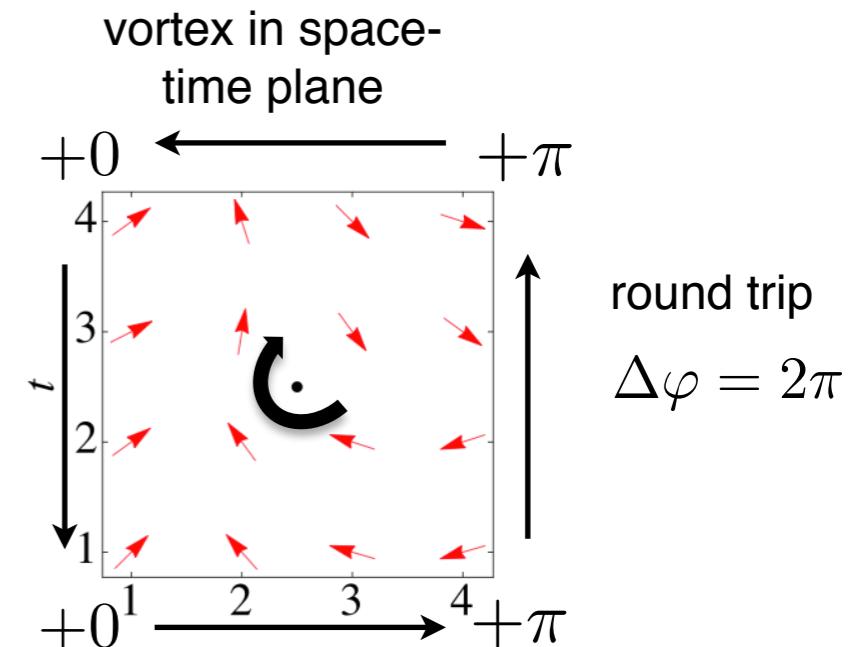
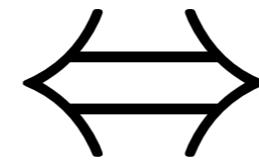
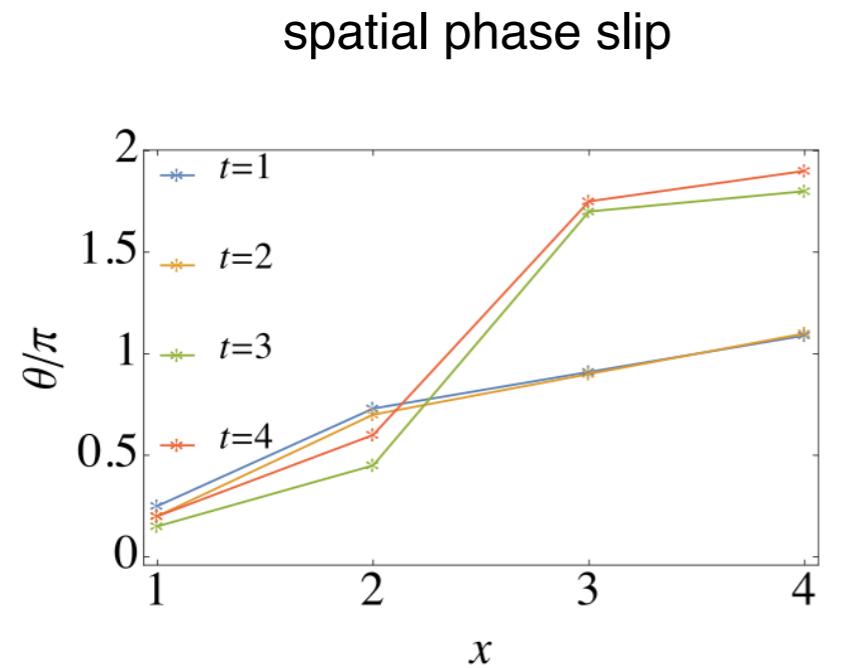


what causes the emergent length scale beyond KPZ?

- Situation reversed compared to 2D!
- KPZ scaling should be observable in exciton-polariton experiments in 1D (“bad cavity limit”, lifetime 1ps, system size 150 μm)

Space-time vortices in 1D XP condensate

- Physical origin: compactness of phase field



topologically nontrivial phase field configurations on (1+1)D space-time plane

- unbound at infinitesimal noise level (weak non-equilibrium)

- interaction potential: $(\partial_t + D\partial_x^2)^{-1} \sim (Dt)^{-1/2} e^{-x^2/(4Dt)}$

cf. 2D static equilibrium: $\nabla^{-2} \sim \log(|\mathbf{x}|)$

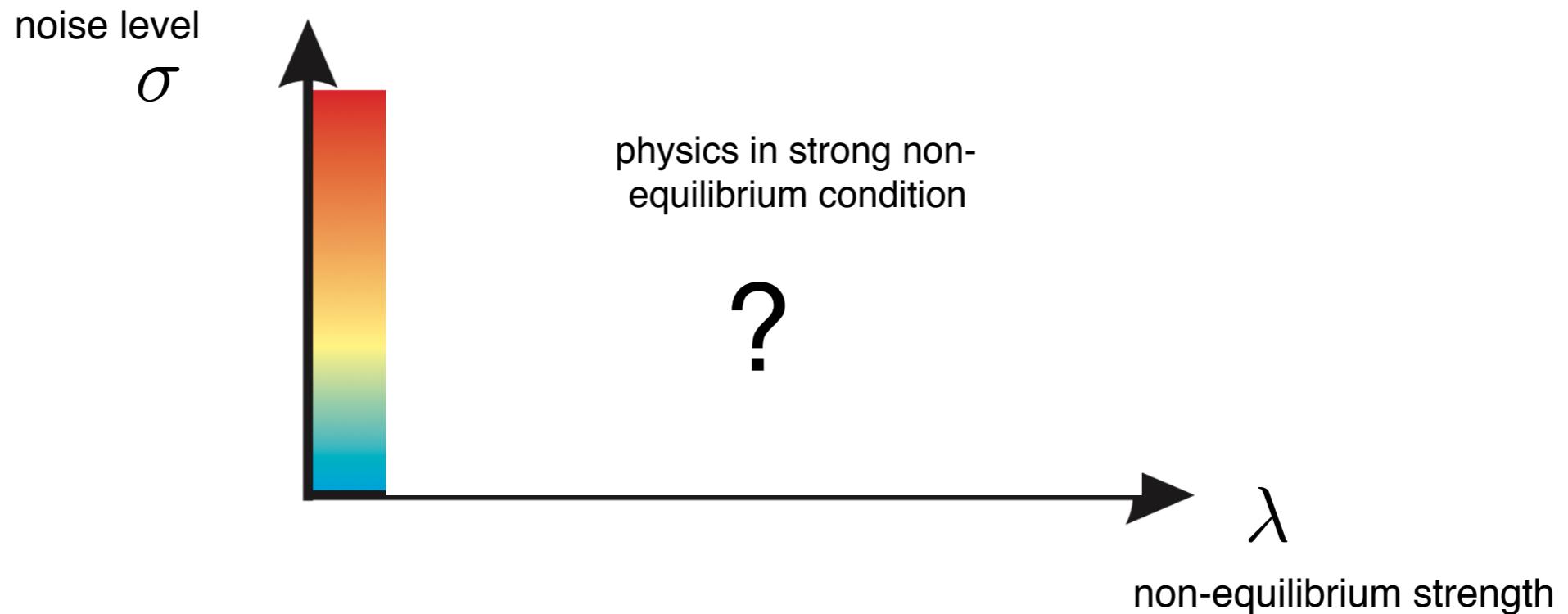
- explains qualitative features

- temporal scaling (random uncorrelated charges) $\langle \psi^*(x, t') \psi(x, t) \rangle \sim e^{-c|t-t'|}$

- noise level dependence of crossover scale $T_v \sim e^{E_c/\sigma}$ (mapping to static 2D active smectic A liquid crystal)

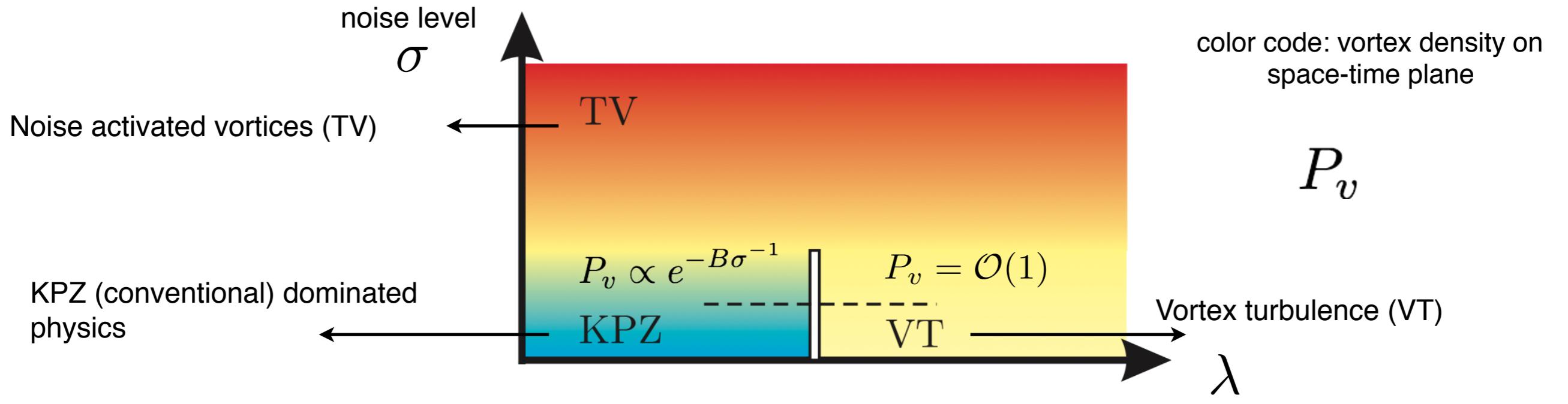
Strong non-equilibrium: Compact KPZ vortex turbulence

- In search of the phase diagram for XP condensates

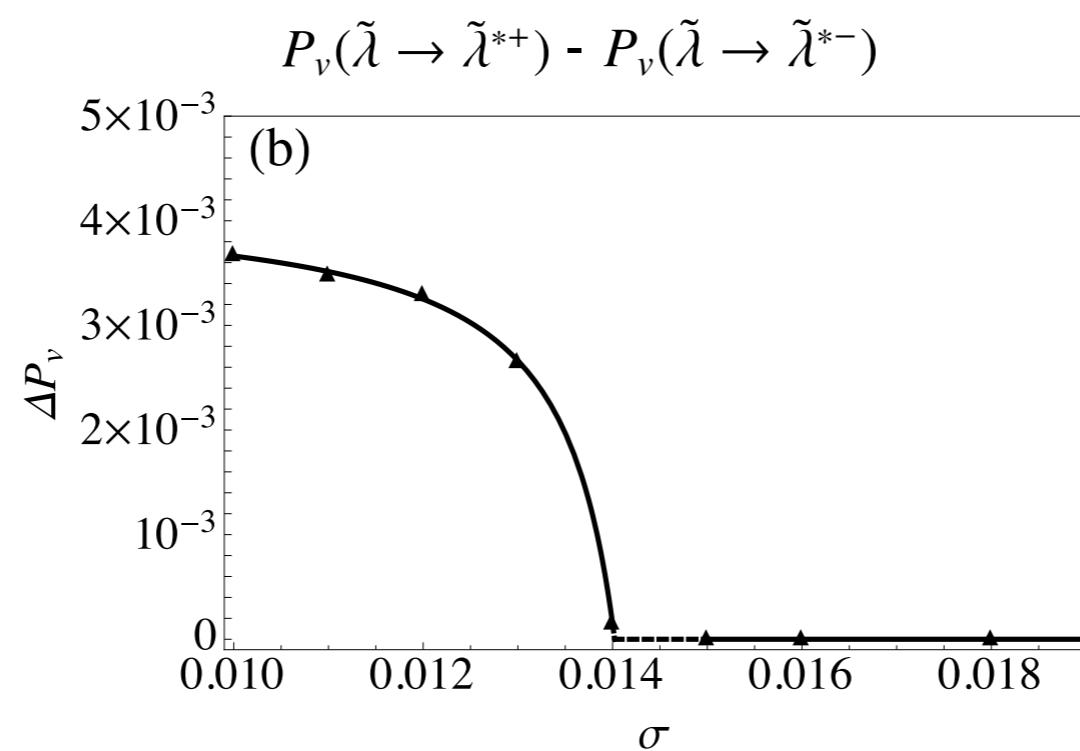


Strong non-equilibrium: Compact KPZ vortex turbulence

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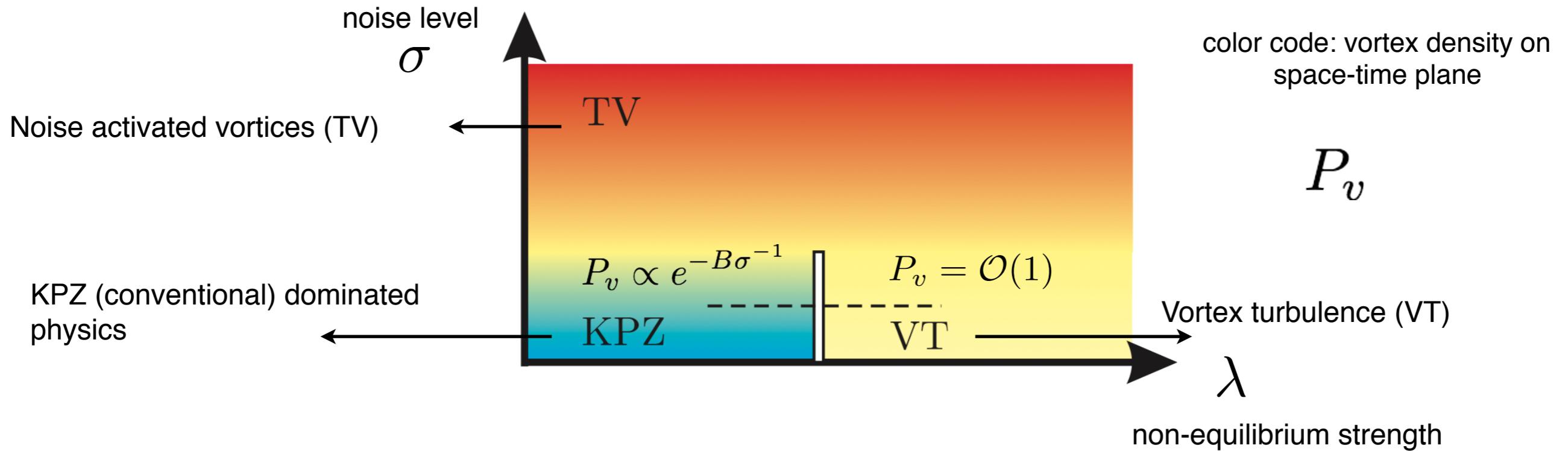


first order non-equilibrium phase transition



Strong non-equilibrium: Compact KPZ vortex turbulence

- In search of the phase diagram for XP condensates



- reason: **deterministic** dynamical instability in compact KPZ: evolution of phase differences

$$\partial_t \Delta_i \simeq -3D\Delta_i + \frac{\lambda}{4} \left((\Delta_{i-1})^2 - (\Delta_{i+1})^2 \right)$$

decreases amplifies

- $\lambda \gg D$ amplification even by small phase fluctuations

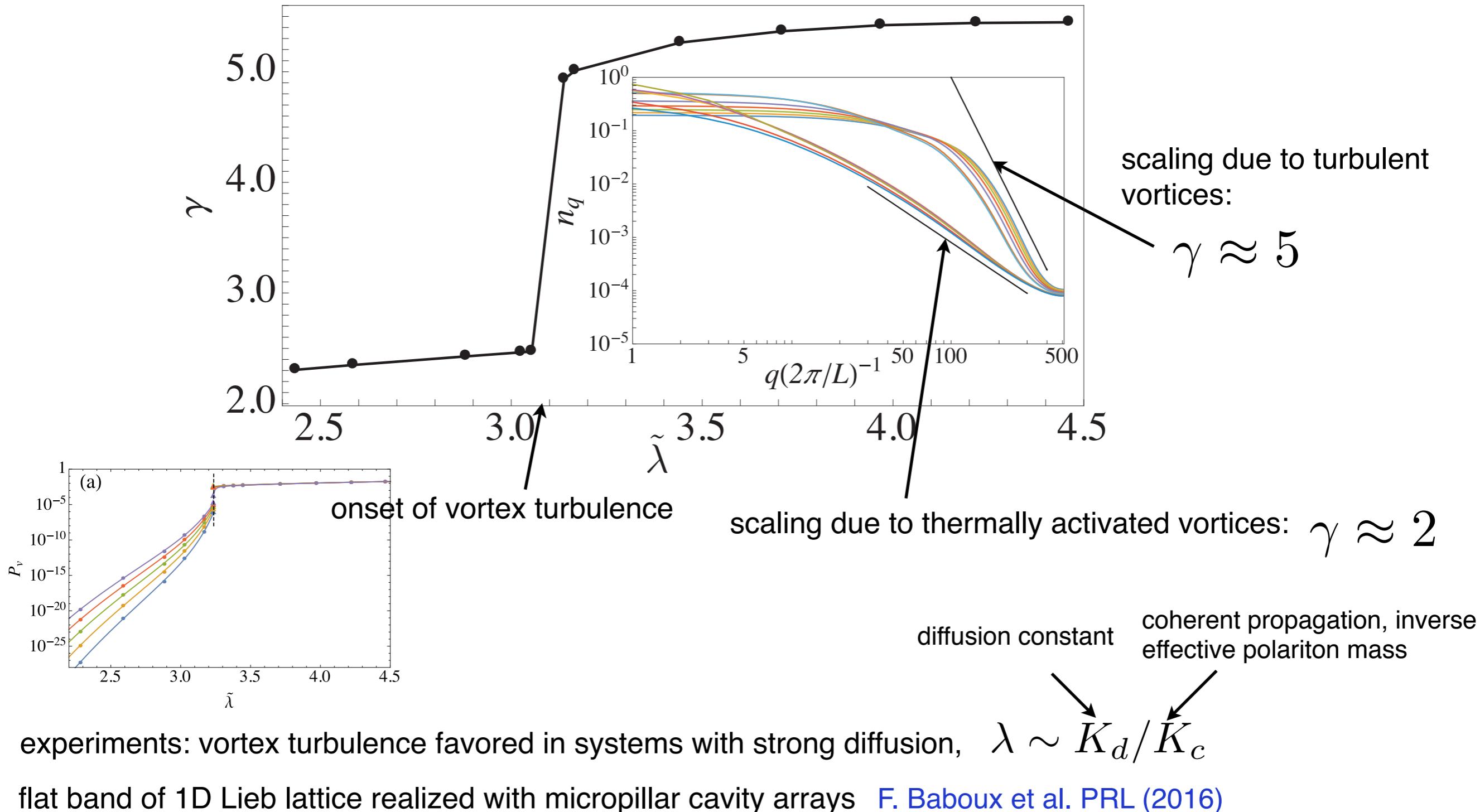
➡ Transition to chaos?

chaotic solutions nonlinear dynamics:
e.g. Aranson et al., RMP (2002)

Compact KPZ vortex turbulence: Signatures

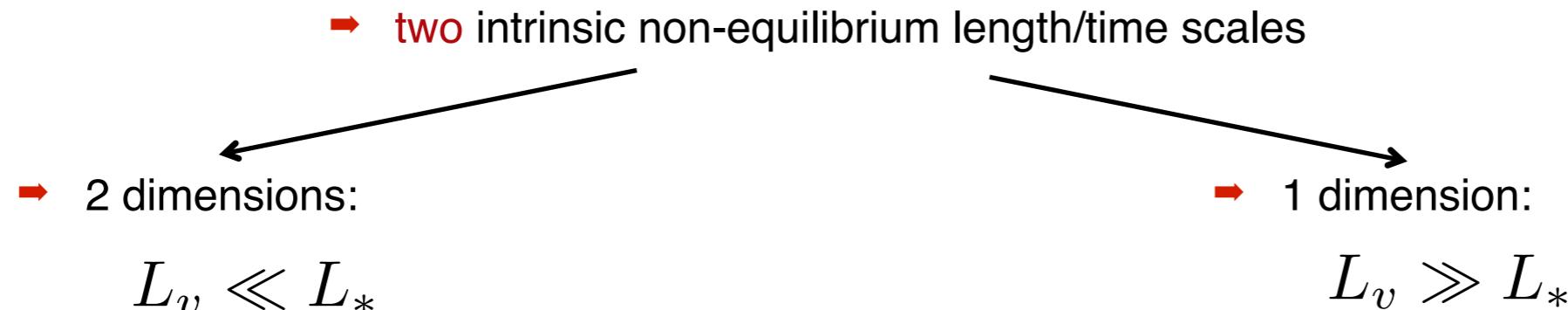
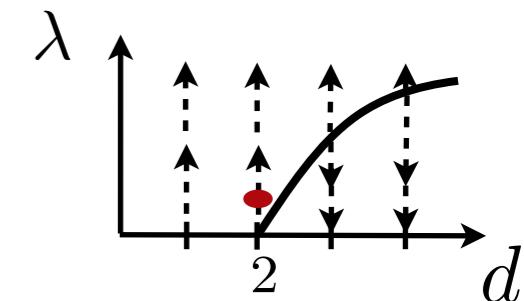
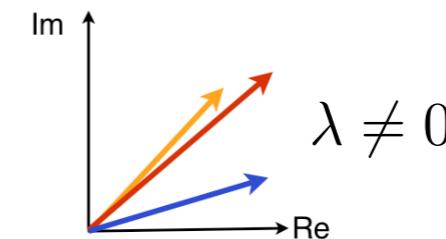
- scaling of the momentum distribution at intermediate momenta (full stochastic GPE)

$$n_q = \langle \psi^*(q) \psi(q) \rangle \sim q^{-\gamma}$$

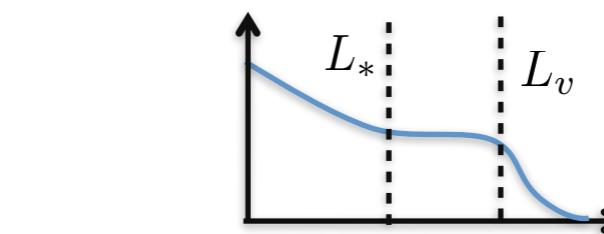


Summary

- low dimensional driven open quantum systems:
non-equilibrium always relevant at large distances
- phase dynamics: **compact** KPZ
- compactness crucial
- **weak** non-equilibrium conditions

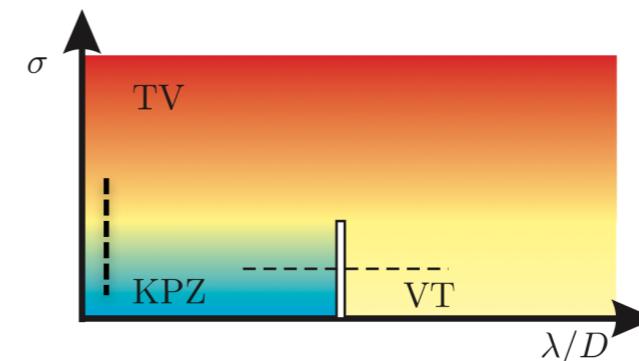


E. Altman, L. Sieberer, L. Chen, SD, J. Toner, PRX (2015)
L. Sieberer, G. Wachtel, E. Altman, SD, PRB (2016)
G. Wachtel, L. Sieberer, SD, E. Altman, PRB (2016)



L. He, L. Sieberer, E. Altman, SD, PRB (2015)
L. He, L. Sieberer, SD, PRL (2017)

- **strong** non-equilibrium conditions
 - phase transition to vortex turbulent regime
 - challenge: analytical understanding via duality?



L. He, L. Sieberer, SD, PRL (2017)
see also
R. Lauter, A. Mitra, F. Marquardt, arxiv (2016)