

Turbulence in superfluids: waves and vortices

Romain Dubessy & BEC group

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Physics of Wave Turbulence and beyond

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PARIS NORD



anr[®] QUANTiP>

1) introduce *dilute* atomic **superfluids**

basic properties, experiments, measurements, orders of magnitude

2) show some experimental results

equilibrium, linear dynamics, nonlinear

3) explain what we do at LPL

and why it may be relevant for superfluid turbulence

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- write wake kinetic equations
- cite all litterature

(and I apologize for that)

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Wave turbulence and vortices in Bose–Einstein condensation

Sergey Nazarenko^a, Miguel Onorato^{b,*}

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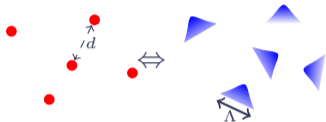
Received 25 July 2005; received in revised form 6 April 2006; accepted 5 May 2006

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Communicated by A.C. Newell

What is a Bose-Einstein condensate ?

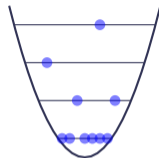
Quantum mechanics:
particles behave as waves.



De Broglie (1923)

Quantum statistics:
bosons accumulate in
the lowest energy level

$$n\Lambda^3 > 2.61$$



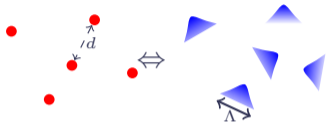
Bose & Einstein (1925)

$$n \sim \frac{1}{d^3} \quad \Lambda = \frac{h}{\sqrt{2\pi M k_B T}}$$

Need a trap and advanced cooling techniques

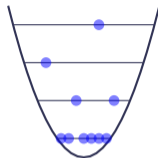
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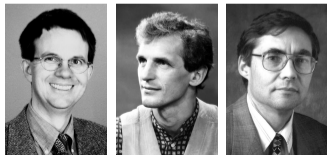
$$n\Lambda^3 > 2.61$$

- ⇒ laser cooling
- ⇒ magnetic / optical traps
- ⇒ evaporation



Chu, Cohen-Tannoudji & Phillips (Nobel 1997)

Need a trap and advanced cooling techniques



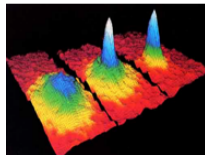
Cornell, Ketterle & Wieman (Nobel 2001)

R. Dubessy

First BEC achieved in 1995

Sodium & Rubidium

Since then: Li, H, He, K, Cs, Cr, Yb, Ca, Sr, Dy, Er, molecules, ...



Quantum fluids are superfluids:

⇒ no viscosity

⇒ irrotational flow

critical velocity v_c
quantum vortices

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2M} + g|\psi|^2 + V(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mu \right) \psi$$

Superfluid properties ?

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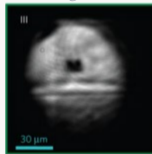
Classical fluid



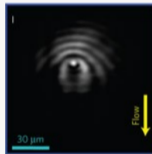
Wikimedia: wake of a boat

Quantum fluid

$v < v_c$



$v > v_c$

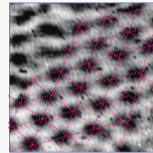
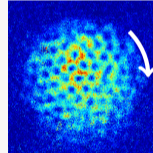


[Amo et al., Nat. Phys. (2009)]

No wake for $v < v_c$!

(generally: $v_c \leq$ sound)

Vortex lattices:



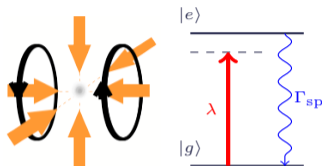
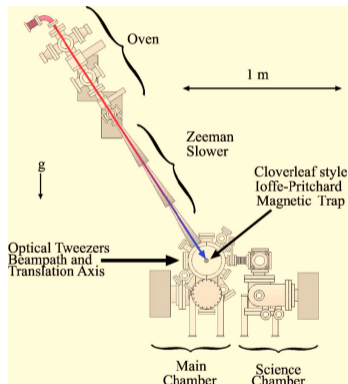
rotating superfluid, LPL

superconductor
[Guillamón et al., Nat. Phys. (2009)]

Superfluid flow **without dissipation**
Rotating superfluid is analogous to a **superconductor**

How to produce a ultra-cold gaz ?

Path: MOT \Rightarrow optical molasses \Rightarrow conservative trap \Rightarrow evaporative cooling to BEC



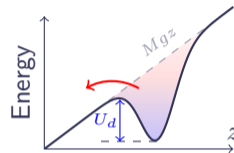
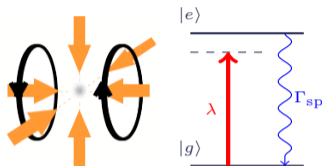
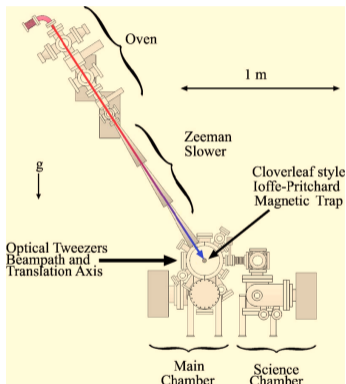
Stage	$n \text{ (cm}^{-3}\text{)}$	$v \text{ or } T$	$\text{PSD} = n\Lambda^3$
Oven @400 K	10^{13}	350 m/s	10^{-14}
Slowed beam	10^7	40 m/s	10^{-18}
MOT	10^{10}	150 μK	10^{-7}
c-MOT	10^{11}	300 μK	4×10^{-7}
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Magnetic trap	10^{11}	500 μK	2×10^{-7}
BEC	3×10^{13}	<500 nK	2.61

MIT, 2006, Rubidium

[Ketterle et al., *Making, probing and understanding BECs* (1999)]

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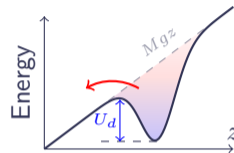
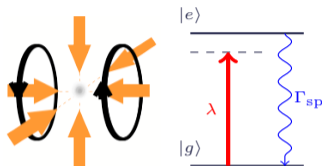
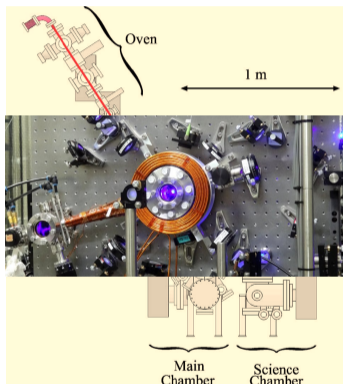
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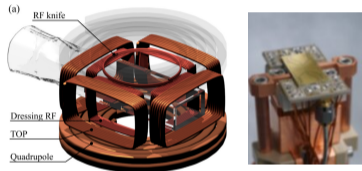
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Examples of traps for ultra-cold atoms

Magnetic traps

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = -\langle \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}} \cdot \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \propto |\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r})|$$

⇒ trap near a local minimum of B-field



$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{M}{2} (\omega_x^2 x^2 + \omega_y^2 y^2 + \omega_z^2 z^2)$$

pros

- ⇒ easy & stable
- ⇒ extremely smooth

cons

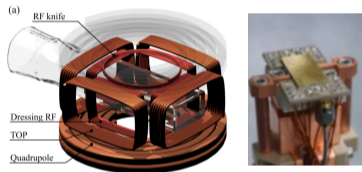
- ⇒ large scale only
- ⇒ bulky

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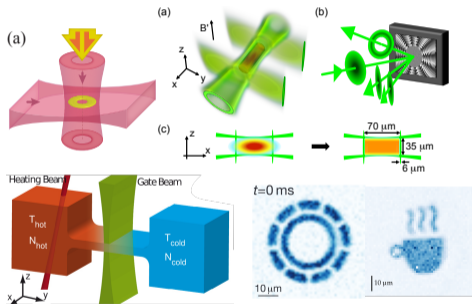


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Optical traps

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = -\langle \hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \propto I(\mathbf{r})$$

⇒ trap near local extrema of intensity



pros

- ⇒ easy & stable
- ⇒ extremely smooth

[Oxford, Paris, ...]

R. Dubessy

cons

- ⇒ large scale only
- ⇒ bulky

pros

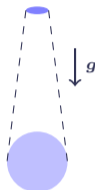
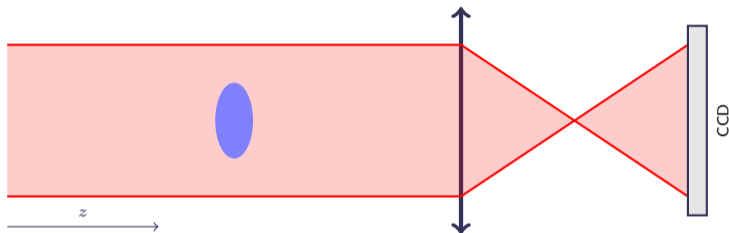
- ⇒ highly versatile
- ⇒ scalable

cons

- ⇒ heating & stability
- ⇒ rugosity

[NIST, Cambridge, Zurich, Paris, ...]

How to probe a quantum gas ?



Record the *shadow* of the cloud on the camera.

⇒ in situ

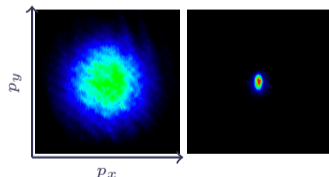
⇒ after a time-of-flight

mapping: $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_0 + \mathbf{v}t \Rightarrow$ access to momentum distribution.

$$n_{2D}(x, y) = \int dz n(\mathbf{r})$$

Thermal gas: $\Delta p_x = \Delta p_y = \sqrt{Mk_B T}$

Condensate: $\Delta p_x = \frac{\hbar}{2\Delta x} \neq \Delta p_y$



Orders of magnitude

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2M} + g|\psi|^2 + V(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mu \right) \psi, \quad N = \int d\mathbf{r} |\psi|^2, \quad g = \frac{4\pi\hbar^2}{M} a_s$$

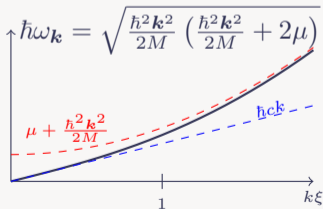
two-body scattering length: a_s

healing length: $\xi = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2M\mu}}$

speed of sound: $c = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{M}}$

homogeneous system

$$V(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0$$



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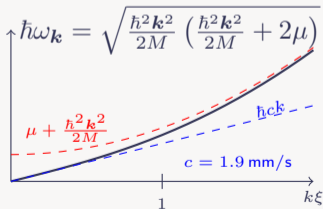
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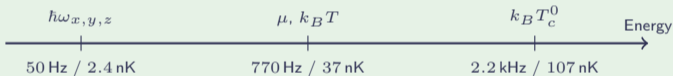
$$V(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0$$



Harmonic trap

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{M}{2} (\omega_x^2 x^2 + \omega_y^2 y^2 + \omega_z^2 z^2)$$

Take $N = 10^5$ ^{87}Rb atoms in a isotropic trap $M = 1.44 \times 10^{-25}$ kg



$$\Rightarrow n(\mathbf{r}) = |\psi|^2 = \frac{\mu - V(\mathbf{r})}{g}$$

Thomas-Fermi inverted parabola

Orders of magnitude

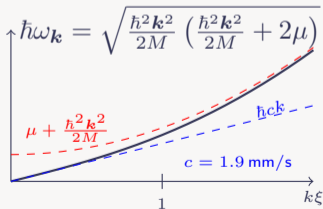
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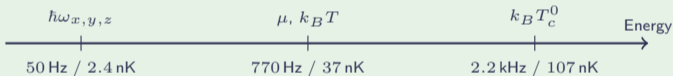
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For an anisotropic trap $\omega_{x,y} \ll \omega_z$, if $\hbar\omega_{x,y} \ll \mu, k_B T \leq \hbar\omega_z$

z degree of freedom is frozen \Rightarrow **2D dynamics**

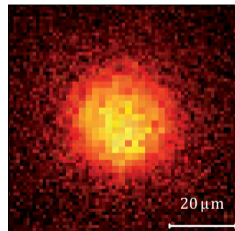
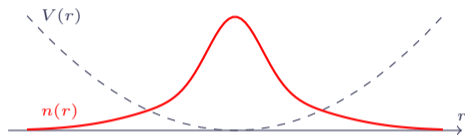
What can we do with a superfluid ? (I)

Equilibrium properties

Example: measurement of the equation of state of a many-body system.

- ⇒ in-situ density profile $n(\mathbf{r})$
- ⇒ knowledge of the trap $V(\mathbf{r})$
- ⇒ local density approximation

$$\mu_{\text{loc}}(\mathbf{r}) = \mu_0 - V(\mathbf{r})$$



[Desbuquois et al., PRL (2014)]

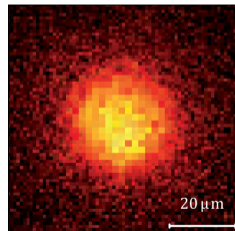
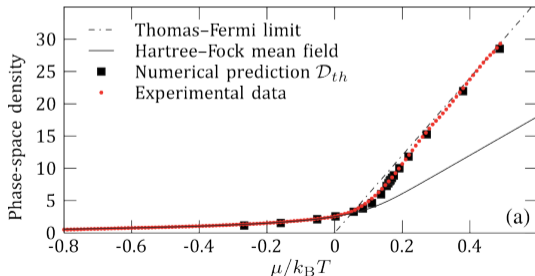
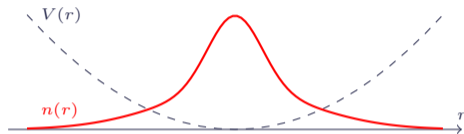
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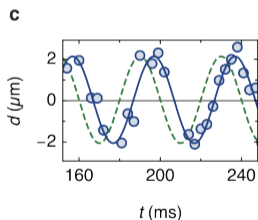
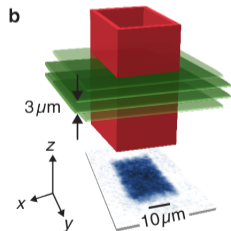
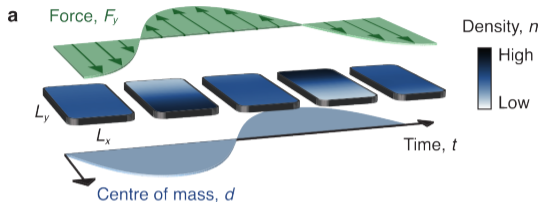
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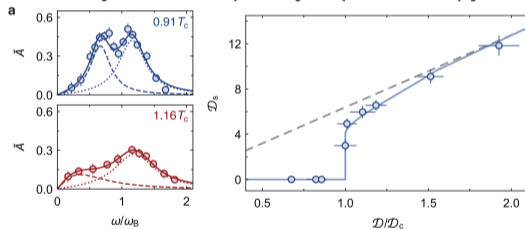
[Desbuquois et al., PRL (2014)]

What can we do with a superfluid ? (II)

Weak excitations



- \Rightarrow apply weak oscillating force to excite sound waves
- \Rightarrow record center-of-mass oscillations
- \Rightarrow vary drive frequency: spectroscopy



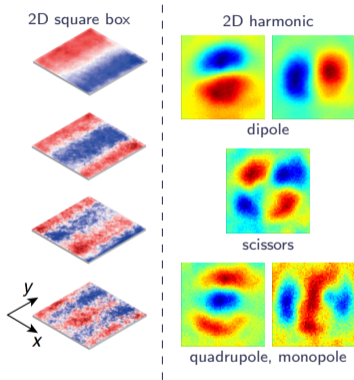
- \Rightarrow two peaks \Leftrightarrow two speeds of sound
- \Rightarrow measure of the superfluid fraction

[Christodoulou et al., Nature (2021)]

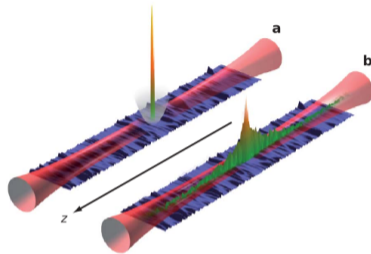
What can we do with a superfluid ? (III)

Wave propagation

Small amplitude waves

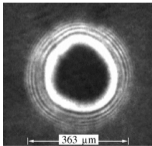


Anderson localization



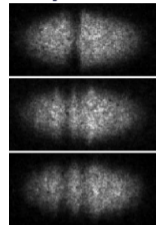
[Billy et al., Nature (2008)]

Nonlinear dispersive shock waves



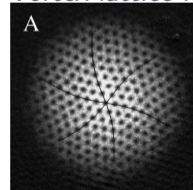
[Hofer et al., PRA (2006)]

Grey solitons



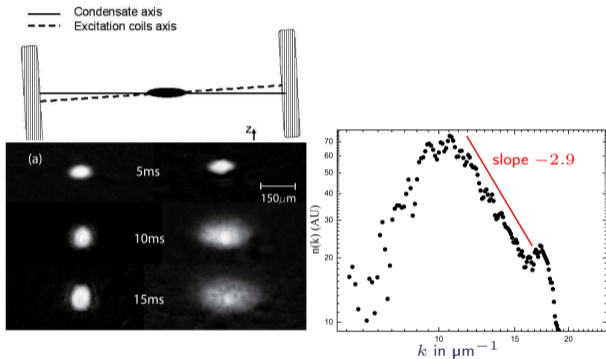
[Burger et al., PRL (1999)]

Vortex lattice modes



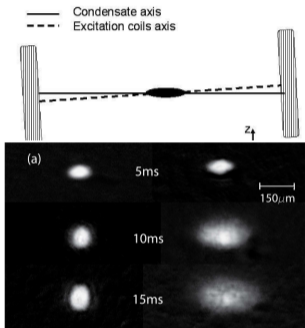
[Coddington et al., PRL (2003)]

Pioneering work in São Carlos



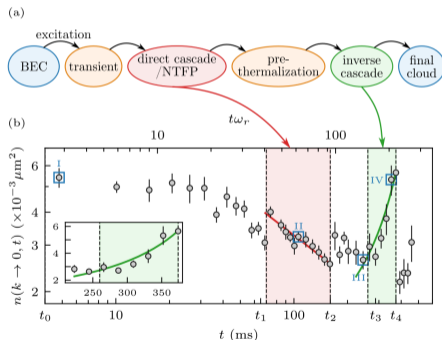
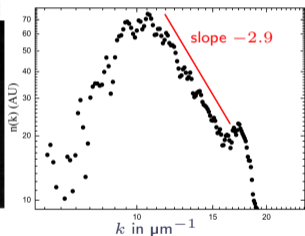
[Henn et al., PRL (2009), Thompson et al., Laser Phys. Lett. (2014), arXiv:2407.11237]

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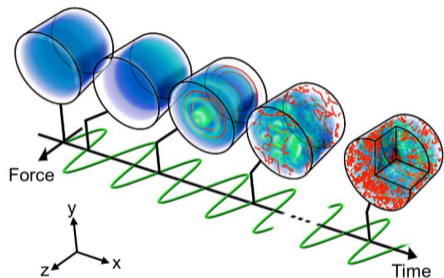
Observation of relaxation stages in a non-equilibrium closed quantum system: decaying turbulence in a trapped superfluid

M. A. Moreno-Armijos,^{1,*} A. R. Fritsch,¹ A. D. García-Orozco,¹ S. Sab,¹ G. Telles,¹
Y. Zhu,² L. Madeira,¹ S. Nazarenko,² V. I. Yukalov,^{1,3} and V. S. Bagnato^{1,4,5}

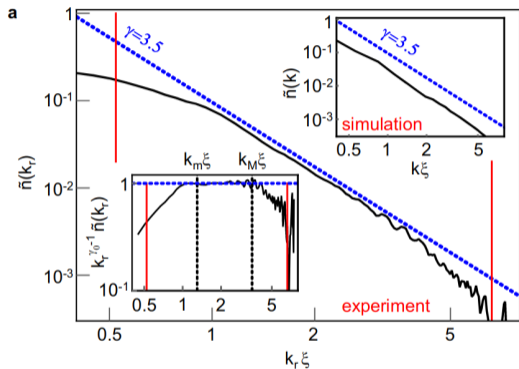


[Henn et al., PRL (2009), Thompson et al., Laser Phys. Lett. (2014), arXiv:2407.11237]

The Cambridge experiment: turbulence in a box



- ⇒ $\omega_{\text{drive}} = 2\pi \times 9 \text{ Hz}$ & $U_d \sim k_B \times 60 \text{ nK}$
- ⇒ steady-state $n(k)$ for $2 \text{ s} \leq t \leq 4 \text{ s}$
- ⇒ consistent with numerical simulations

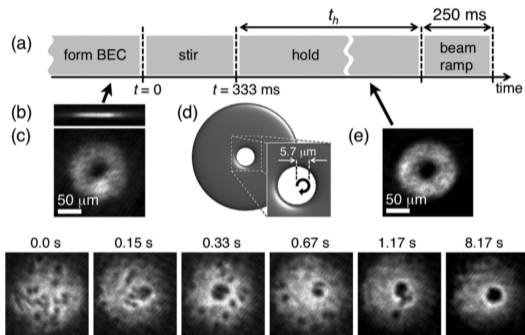


Similar experiment in a 2D square box $\gamma = 2.9$

Contribution of waves versus vortices in this scenario ?

Vortex turbulence ?

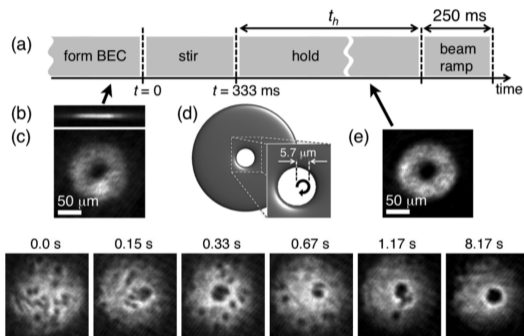
Hard to see a 3D vortex tangle in experiments: 2D is better \Rightarrow test Onsager's predictions



- \Rightarrow random initial vortex distribution
- \Rightarrow emergence of large scale flow

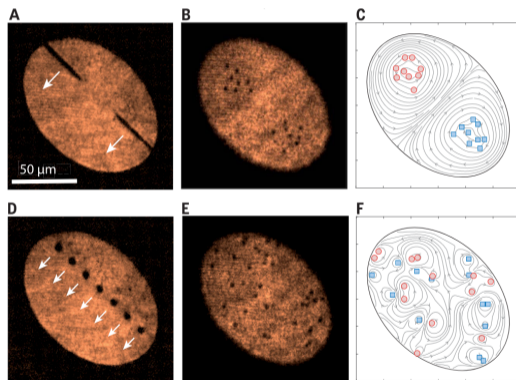
[Neely et al., PRL (2013)]

Hard to see a 3D vortex tangle in experiments: 2D is better \Rightarrow test Onsager's predictions



\Rightarrow random initial vortex distribution
 \Rightarrow emergence of large scale flow

[Neely et al., PRL (2013)]



\Rightarrow control over the vortex injection

[Gauthier et al., Science (2019)]



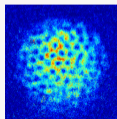
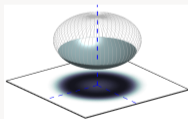
H. Perrin



<http://bec.lpl.univ-paris13.fr>

Bubble trap experiment

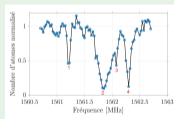
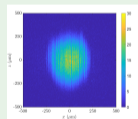
Rb



Thermal melting of a vortex lattice
arXiv:2404.05460

Atomchip experiment

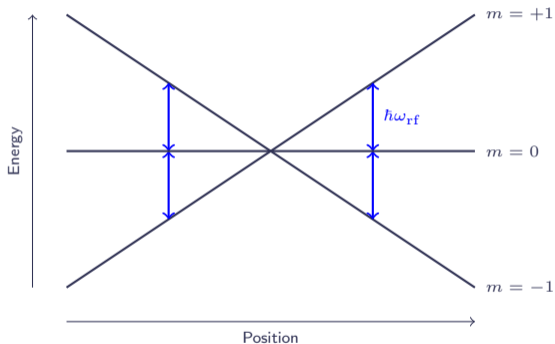
Na



Fast manipulation of a quantum gas on an atom chip with a strong microwave field
arXiv:2405.07583

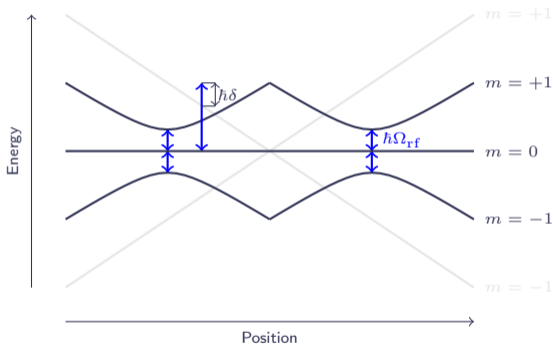
Main interest: study quantum gases dynamics in low dimensions

quadrupole field: $\mathbf{B}_0 = b'(xe_x + ye_y - 2ze_z)$ & rf photons



Energy levels of a groundstate
 ^{87}Rb atom ($F = 1$)

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Energy levels of a groundstate
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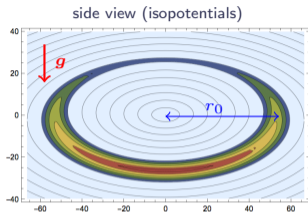
The atom-field coupling results
 in an energy minimum on the
isomagnetic surface

$$\hbar\omega_{\text{rf}} = \mu|\mathbf{B}_0|.$$

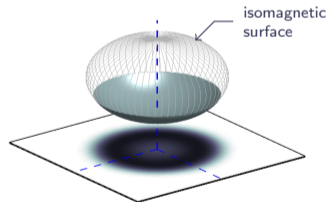
[Zobay & Garraway PRL (2001)]

$$\text{Adiabatic potential: } V(\mathbf{r}) = \hbar\sqrt{\delta(\mathbf{r})^2 + \Omega_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{r})^2}$$

$$\delta(\mathbf{r}) = \omega_{\text{rf}} - \mu|\mathbf{B}_0|/\hbar$$



The motion of the atoms is constrained on a 2D curved surface “bubble geometry”.



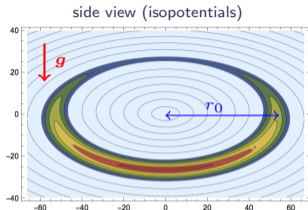
$$\Omega_{\text{rf}} \sim 20 - 100 \text{ kHz}$$

$$r_0 \propto \omega_{\text{rf}}/b' \sim 20 - 200 \mu\text{m}$$

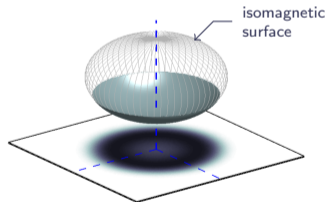
$$\omega_{x,y} \propto \sqrt{g/r_0} \sim 20 - 50 \text{ Hz}$$

$$\omega_z \propto b'/\sqrt{\Omega_{\text{rf}}} \sim 0.3 - 2 \text{ kHz}$$

\Rightarrow very thin $\omega_z \gg \omega_{x,y}$



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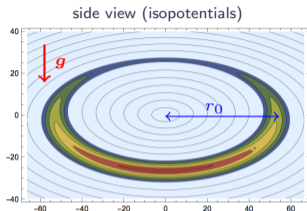
Superfluid on a curved space

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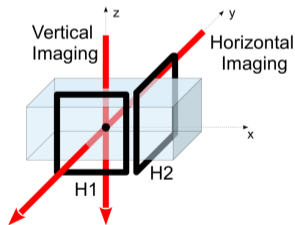


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⇒ very thin $\omega_z \gg \omega_{x,y}$

⇒ rf polarization controls the ω_x / ω_y anisotropy

- **rotationally invariant** ($\omega_x = \omega_y$) for σ^+
- **anisotropic** ($\omega_x \neq \omega_y$) in general

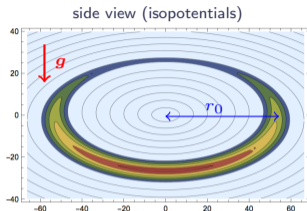


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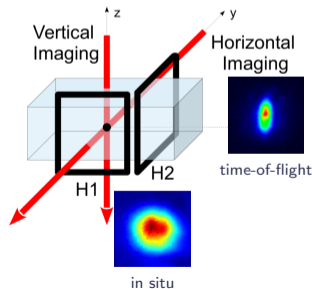
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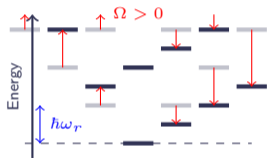
We measure the cloud properties by comparing **pictures of the density profiles** to models.



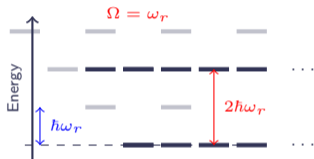
Rotation in a 2D harmonic trap: simulation of quantum Hall physics



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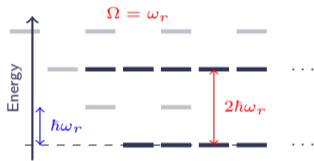


When $\Omega = \omega_r$: the centrifugal force
cancels the trapping force

Landau levels hamiltonian

[Schweikhard et al. PRL (2004),
Fletcher et al. Science (2021)]

Rotation in a 2D harmonic trap: simulation of quantum Hall physics



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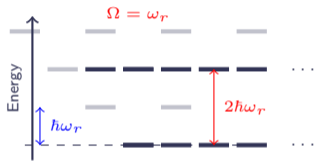
When $\Omega = \omega_r$: the centrifugal force
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Add a **quartic term** : stabilizes the cloud

$$V(r) = \frac{M\omega_r^2}{2}r^2(1 + \kappa r^2)$$

[Bretin et al. PRL (2004)]

Rotation in a 2D harmonic trap: simulation of quantum Hall physics



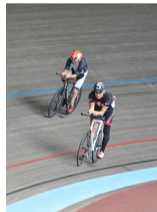
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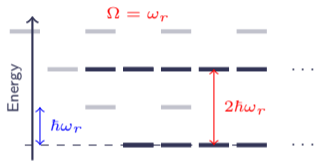
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omnium, wikimedia

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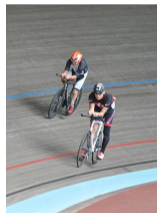
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omnium, wikimedia

Highly degenerate groundstate means also higher sensitivity to fluctuations !

⇒ use a weakly elliptic rf polarization

⇒ angle & amplitude are fully controlled

$$\theta(t) = \Omega_{\text{stir}} t.$$

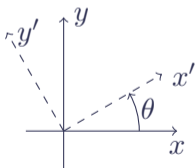
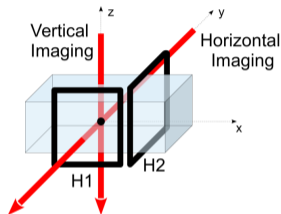
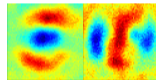
$$V_{\text{trap}} \simeq \frac{M}{2} \omega_r^2 [(1 + \epsilon)x'^2 + (1 - \epsilon)y'^2]$$

⇒ couples to the BEC quadrupole mode

⇒ resonant coupling for:

$$\Omega_{\text{stir}} = \frac{\omega_r}{\sqrt{2}} \simeq 2\pi \times 24 \text{ Hz}$$

[Chevy et al. PRL 2000, Abo-Shaeer et al. Science 2001]



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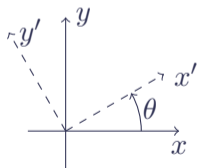
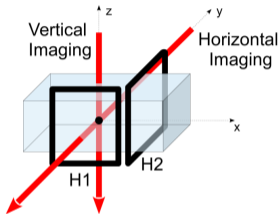
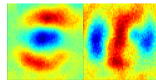
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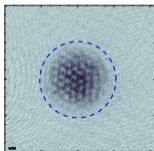
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Increasing $\Omega_{\text{rot}} \dots$



$$\Omega_{\text{rot}} / (2\pi) = 20 \text{ Hz}$$

Blue dashed circle: Thomas-Fermi radius after 27 ms time-of-flight

$\epsilon = 0.18$

⇒ use a weakly elliptic rf polarization

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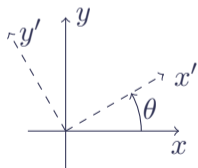
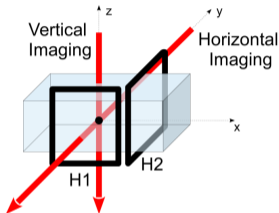
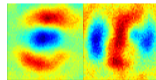
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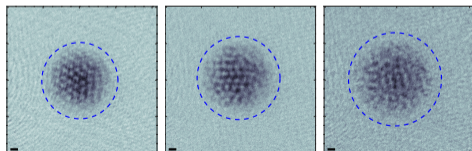
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Increasing Ω_{rot} ... **disordered lattice**...



$\Omega_{\text{rot}}/(2\pi) = 20 \text{ Hz}$

21 Hz

24.5 Hz

Blue dashed circle: Thomas-Fermi radius after 27 ms time-of-flight

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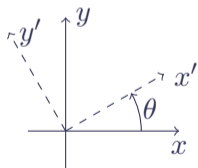
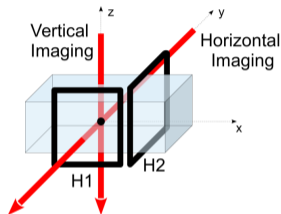
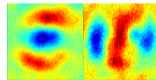
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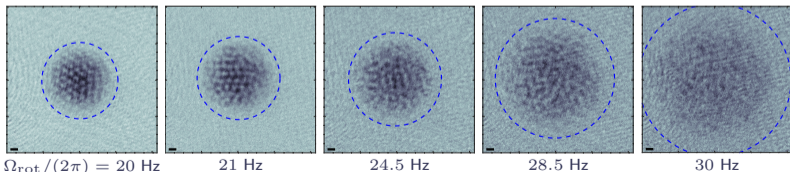
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Increasing Ω_{rot} ... disordered lattice... melting ?

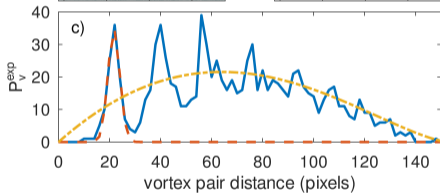
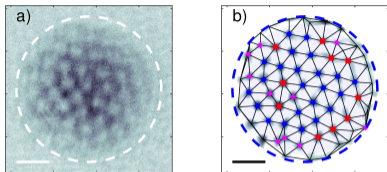


Blue dashed circle: Thomas-Fermi radius after 27 ms time-of-flight

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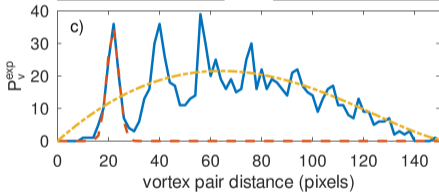
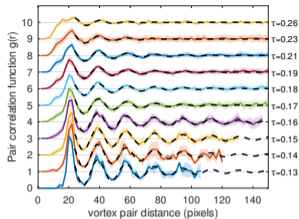
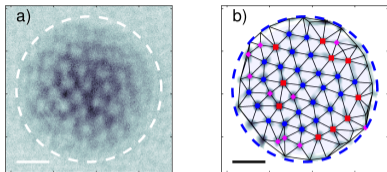
Thermal melting of a vortex lattice

arXiv:2404.05460



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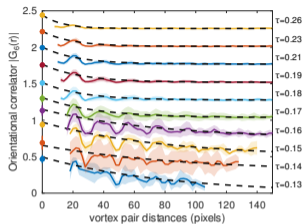
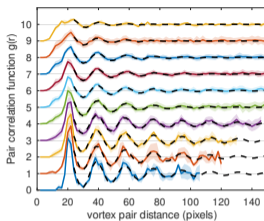
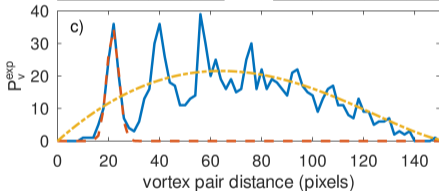
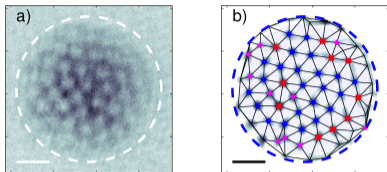
Study vortex lattice order:

⇒ pair correlation function decay $g(r)$

[Sharma et al., arXiv:2404.05460, accepted in PRL]

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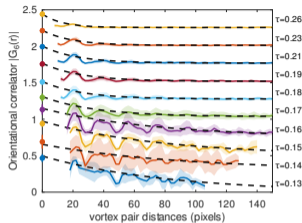
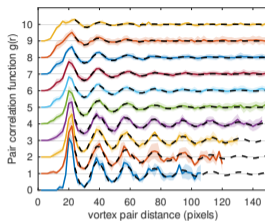
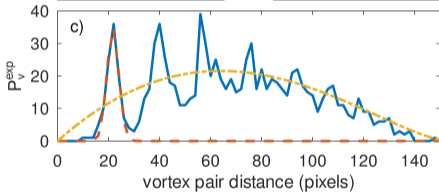
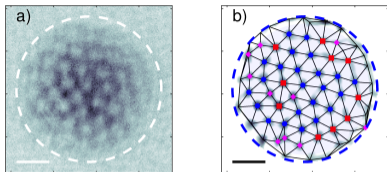
⇒ lattice order parameter: $\psi_6(\mathbf{r}_k) = \frac{1}{N_v} \sum_{j=1}^{N_v} e^{i6\theta_{kj}}$

⇒ orientational correlator

$$G_6(r) = \langle \psi_6(\mathbf{r}_k)^* \psi_6(\mathbf{r}_p) \rangle_{|\mathbf{r}_k - \mathbf{r}_p| \sim r}$$

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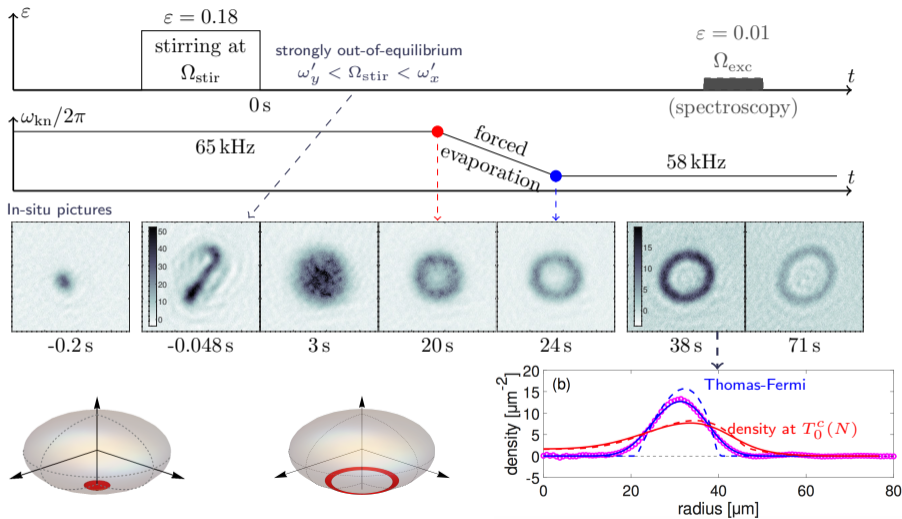
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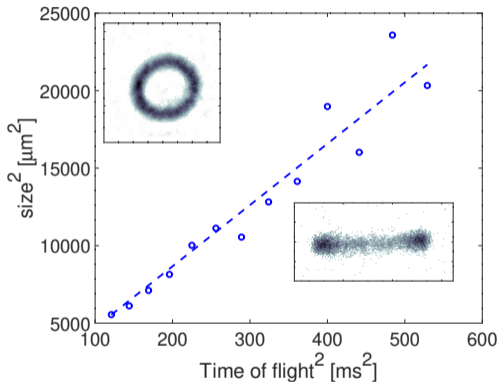
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We evidence a transition from a hexatic phase to a liquid (of vortices)

Rotating faster: the dynamical ring regime



[Guo et al., PRL (2020)]



- ⇒ size² scales as t_{ToF}^2 (ballistic expansion)
- ⇒ fit gives: $\Omega \sim 1.05\omega_r$ i.e. $v = 7.4$ mm/s
- ⇒ peak density is $n_0 \sim 15 \mu\text{m}^{-2} \Rightarrow c_0 \sim 0.4$ mm/s

A degenerate gaz flowing at **Mach 18** !

[Guo et al., PRL (2020)]

For atoms located on the **resonant surface** $\delta(\mathbf{r}) \simeq 0$,
the trap potential becomes very simple:

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \hbar\sqrt{\delta(\mathbf{r})^2 + \Omega_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{r})^2} + Mgz \quad \Rightarrow \quad V(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{2} + \left(Mg - \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{r_0}\right) z$$

(for a circular σ^+ rf polarization)

We may define an *effective gravity*:

$$g_{\text{eff}} = g \left(1 - \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{Mgr_0}\right)$$

where $r_0 = \omega_{\text{rf}}/\alpha \propto \omega_{\text{rf}}/b'$

Changing r_0 enables a **compensation** of the
gravitational potential...

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the trap potential becomes very simple:

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \hbar\sqrt{\delta(\mathbf{r})^2 + \Omega_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{r})^2} + Mgz \quad \Rightarrow \quad V(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{2} + \left(Mg - \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{r_0}\right)z$$

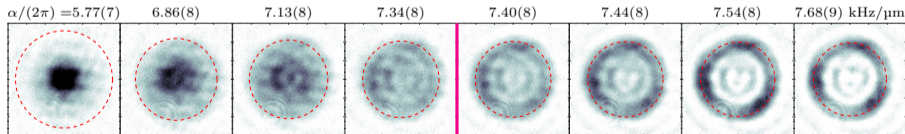
(for a circular σ^+ rf polarization)

We may define an *effective gravity*:

$$g_{\text{eff}} = g \left(1 - \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{Mgr_0}\right)$$

where $r_0 = \omega_{\text{rf}}/\alpha \propto \omega_{\text{rf}}/b'$

Changing r_0 enables a **compensation** of the
gravitational potential...

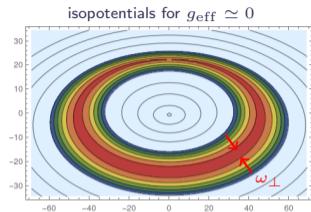


[Guo et al. NJP (2022)]



E. Mercado, V. Bagnato

Why do we see a **ring** ?

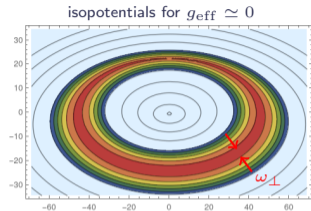


$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{2} + Mg_{\text{eff}}z + \frac{\hbar\omega_{\perp}(z)}{2}$$

$$\omega_{\perp}(z) \simeq \alpha(z) \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{M\Omega(z)}}$$

Confinement to the surface **increases** near the top:
atoms are repelled \Rightarrow **stable ring** shape.

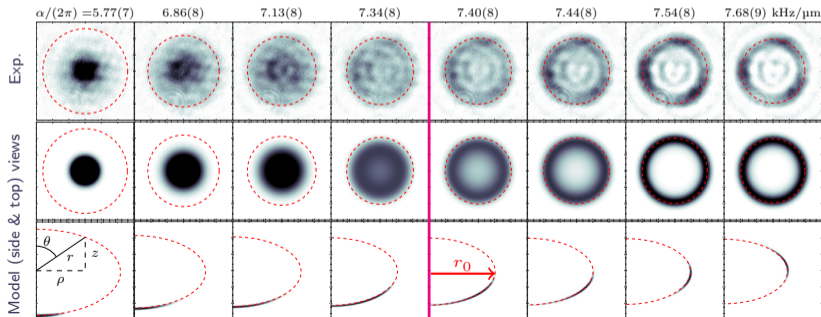
The unexpected contribution of the third dimension



$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\hbar\Omega_0}{2} + Mg_{\text{eff}}z + \frac{\hbar\omega_{\perp}(z)}{2}$$

$$\omega_{\perp}(z) \simeq \alpha(z) \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{M\Omega(z)}}$$

Confinement to the surface **increases** near the top:
atoms are repelled \Rightarrow **stable ring shape**.



Modelisation

Using:

\Rightarrow a refined $V(\mathbf{r})$

Floquet expansion

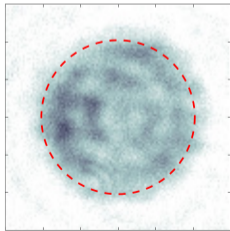
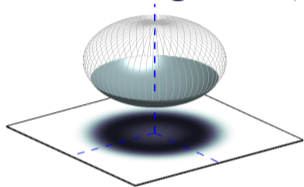
$\Rightarrow T = 0$ superfluid
density model

(Gross-Pitaevskii equation)

[Guo et al. NJP (2022)]

So we have a curved superfluid, should we expect new physics ?

⇒ yes, in a **rotating frame**: β -effect, Rossby waves, zonal flows, ... even turbulence ?



We aim for:

⇒ a large area 2D superfluid $d \gg \xi$

$d \sim 100 \mu\text{m}$, $\xi \sim 1 \mu\text{m}$

⇒ a very low temperature $T \leq 20 \text{ nK}$

⇒ high imaging resolution $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$

Collaboration with Ying, Simon, Éric & Sergey



- **ultracold atom** platforms are interesting to study **nonlinear physics**
with a *bottom-up* approach
- ⇒ some experiments are really close to implementing **textbook models**
- we do need intensive **numerical simulations** to help guide the experiments
especially *far from equilibrium*
- at LPL we have a unique platform to study rotating superfluids in a curved space



front: [M. Cassus](#), B. Mirmand, M. Ballu, L. Longchambon, R.D., [R. Sharma](#), S. Bereta
behind: A. Perrin, H. Perrin, T. Badr



M. De Goër, Y. Guo, D. Rey

Thank you for your attention !