

# Spiral wave chaos: triggers, drivers, rotors, and wavelets

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**Georgia  
Tech**



# Outline

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- Interaction between spiral waves
- Topological analysis of fibrillation
- Can ablation make things worse?



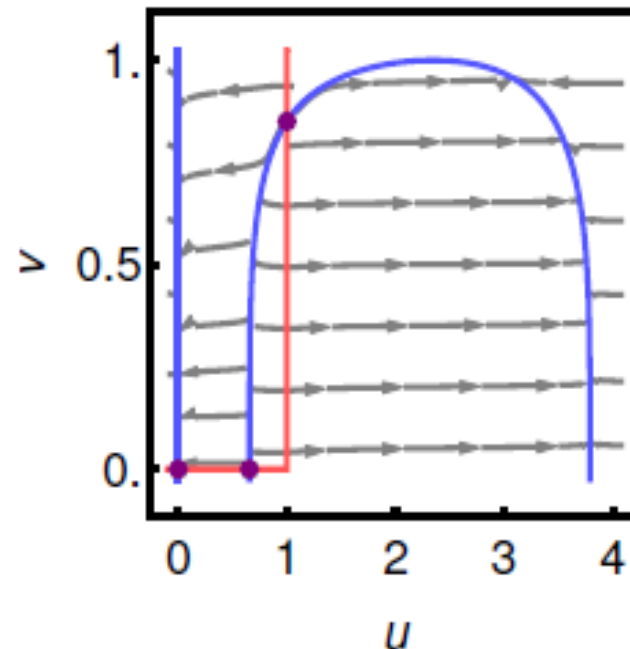
# The Karma model

$$\partial_t u = D_u \nabla^2 u + (u_0 - v^4) \left[ 1 - \tanh(u - 3) \right] \frac{u^2}{2} - v$$

$$\partial_t v = \varepsilon \left[ \beta \Theta_s(u - 1) - v \right]$$

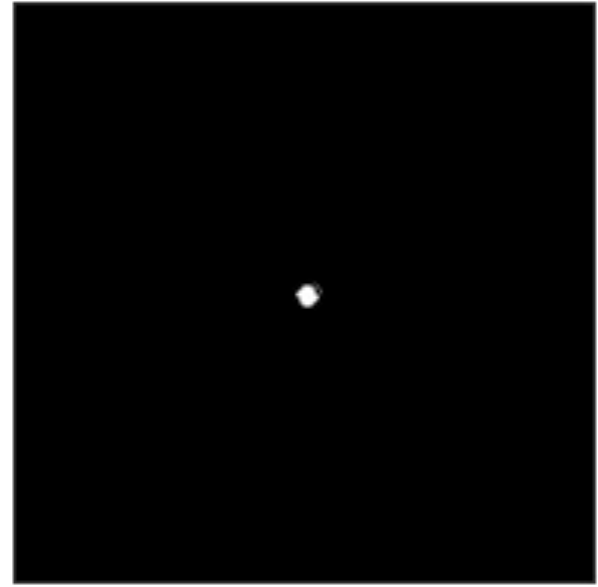
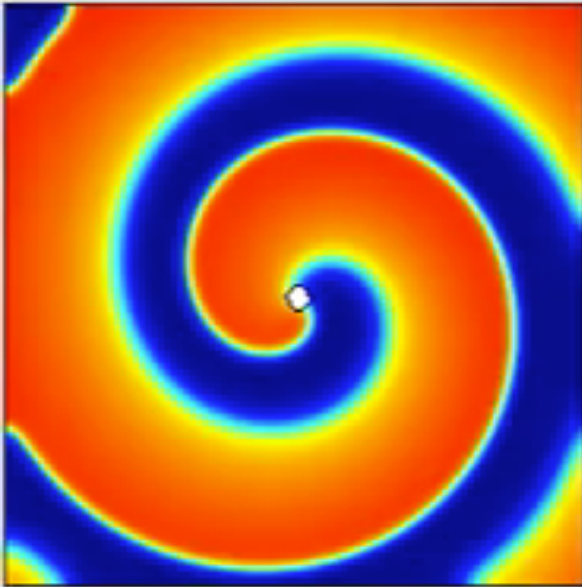
Restitution parameter:

$$\beta = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-R}}$$



# Breakups and mergers in the Karma model

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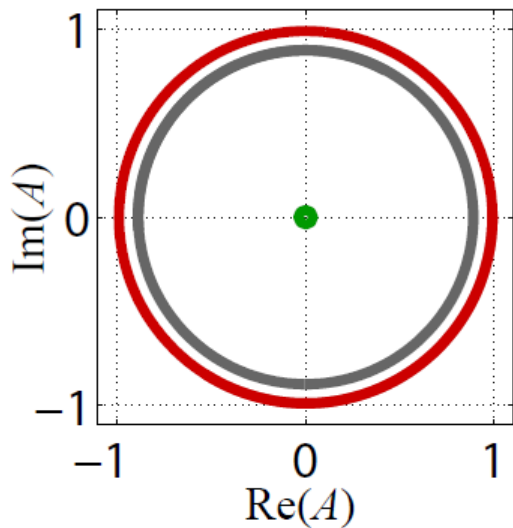


Plane and spiral waves unstable to alternans ( $R > 1$ )

# Tiling

Complex Ginzburg-Landau Equation:

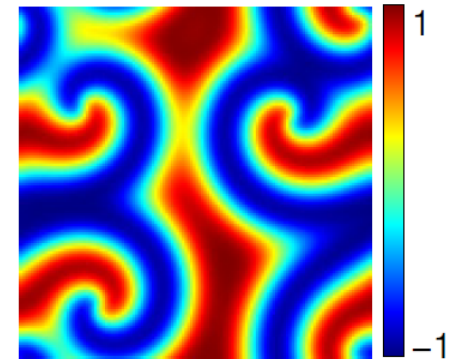
$$\partial_t A = A + (1 + i\alpha)\nabla^2 A - (1 + i\beta)|A|^2 A$$



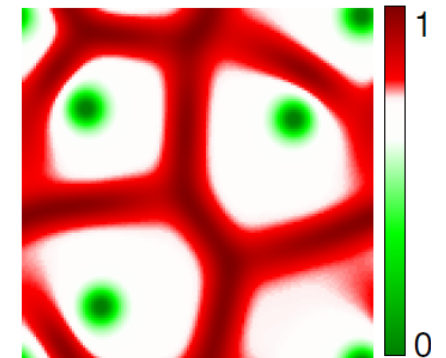
Amplitude/phase  
representation:

$$A = \rho e^{i\varphi}$$

Bohr, Huber, Ott (1996)



$\text{Re } A$

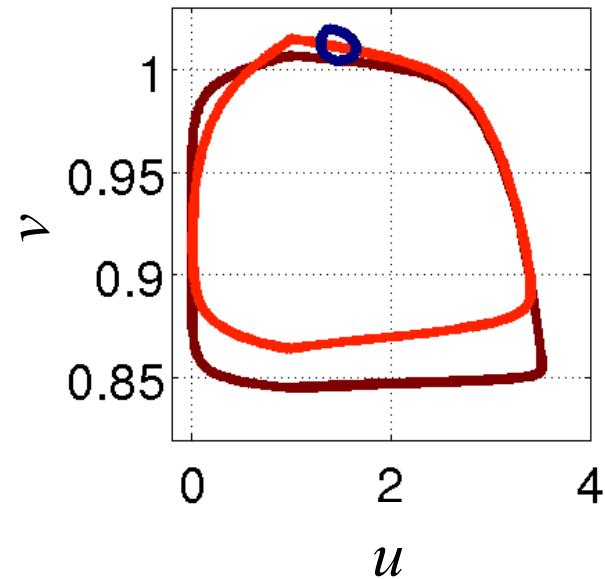
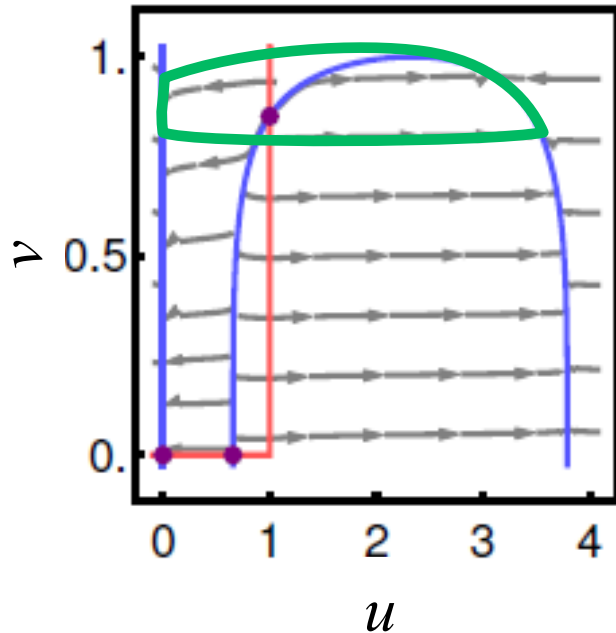


$|A|$

Amplitude Equation:

$$\partial_t \rho = [\nabla^2 - (\nabla \phi)^2] \rho - \alpha(2\nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \rho + \rho \nabla^2 \phi) + (1 - \rho^2) \rho$$

# Strongly nonlinear waves



Use cycle area instead of amplitude:

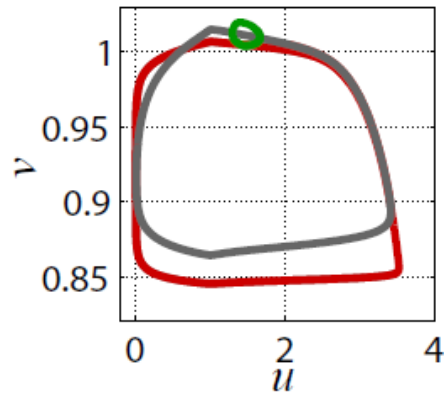
$$I = \oint v du = \int_0^T v \dot{u} dt$$

and elapsed time from crossing a Poincare section instead of phase:

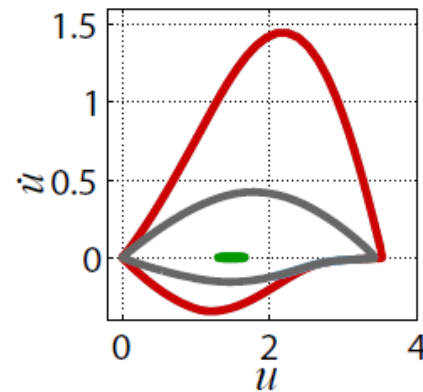
$$\theta = \int \omega dt, \quad \omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

# Alternative representations

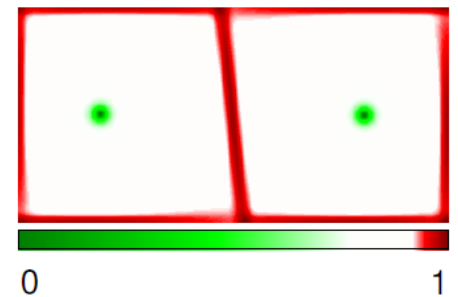
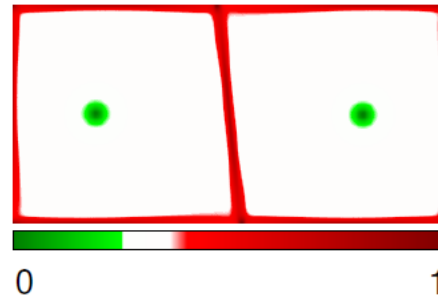
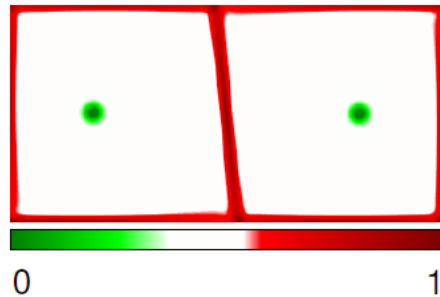
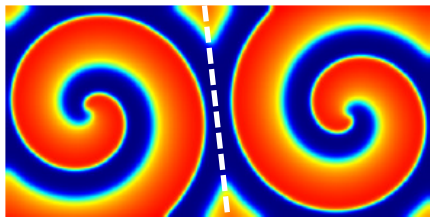
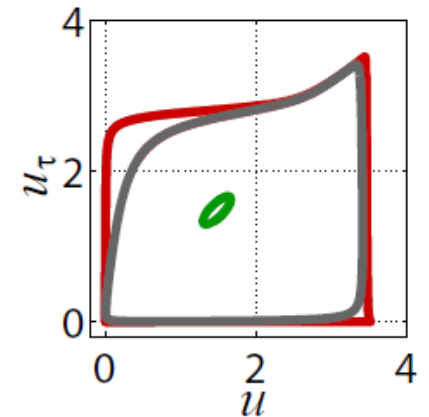
$$I = \int v du$$



$$I = \int u dv$$



$$I = \int u_\tau du$$

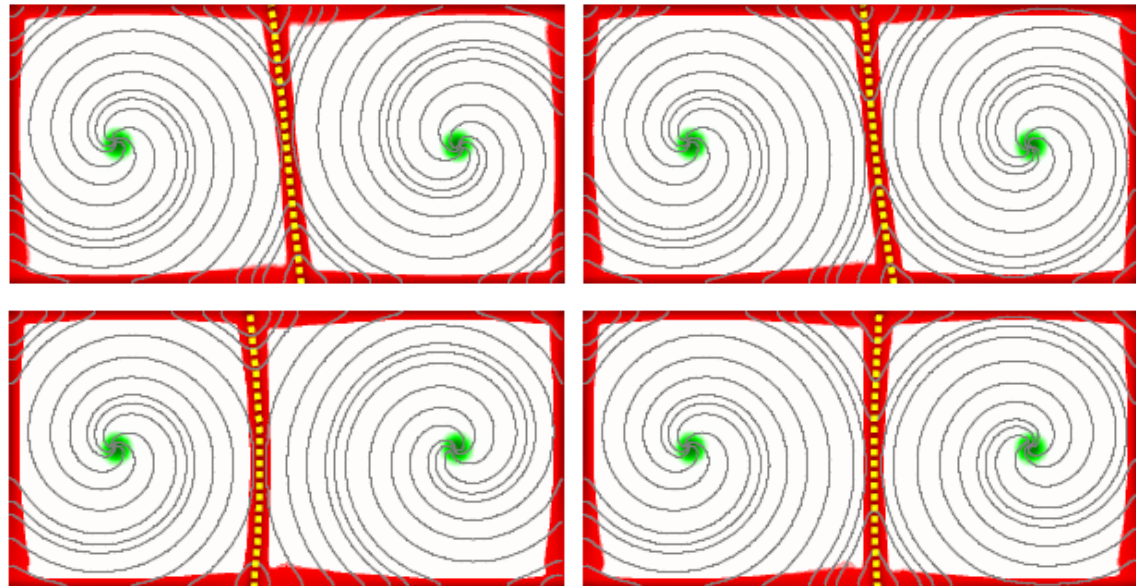
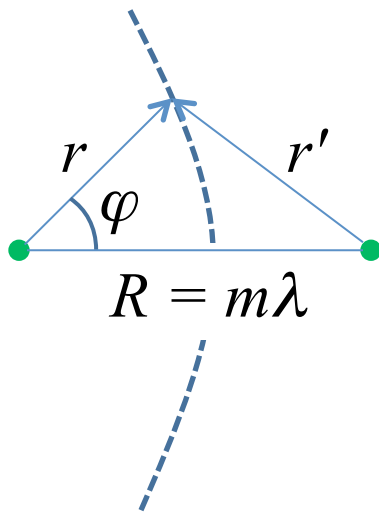


# Tile boundaries

Can describe tile boundaries analytically:

$$\frac{dr}{d\varphi} = \frac{-\sigma r'^2 - \sigma' r(R \cos \varphi - r) + 2\pi m r' r \sin \varphi}{\sigma' R^2 \sin \varphi + m(r'^2 - r'(r - R \cos \varphi))}$$

Luo, Zhang, Zhan (2009)

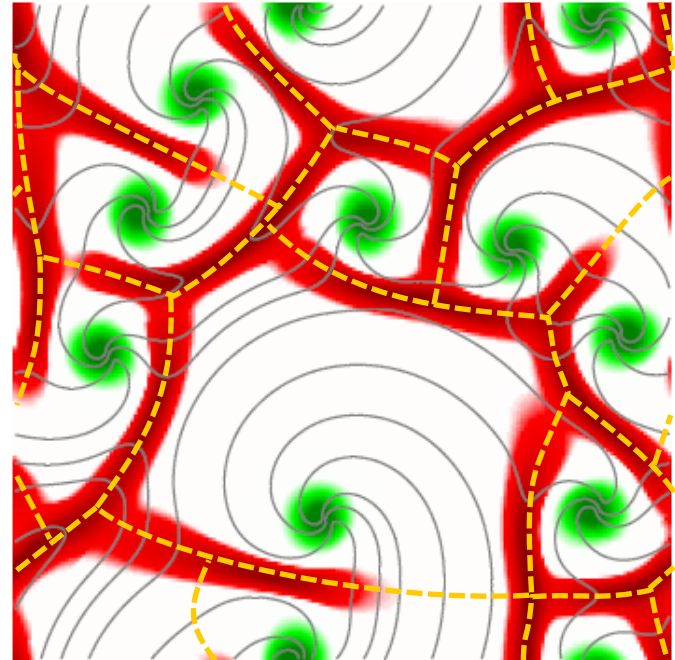
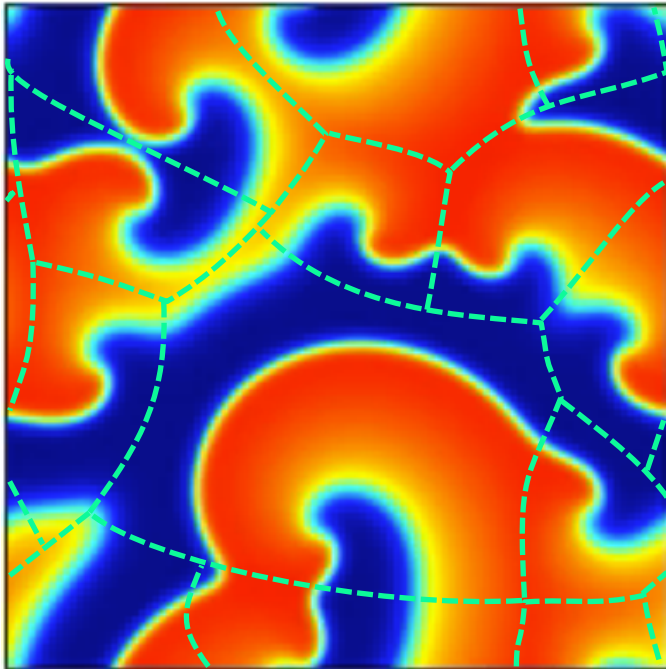




# Tiling spiral wave chaos

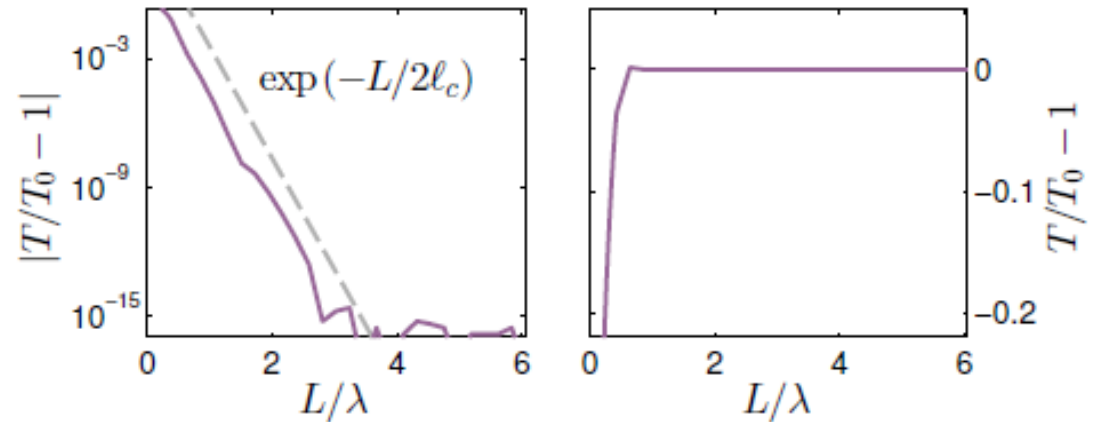
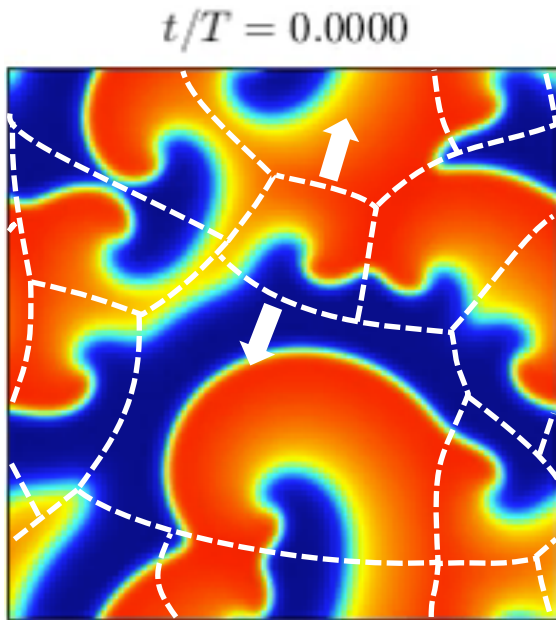
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$t/T = 0.0000$



- Tiles are noncircular
- Neumann boundary conditions

# Dynamics of the tiles



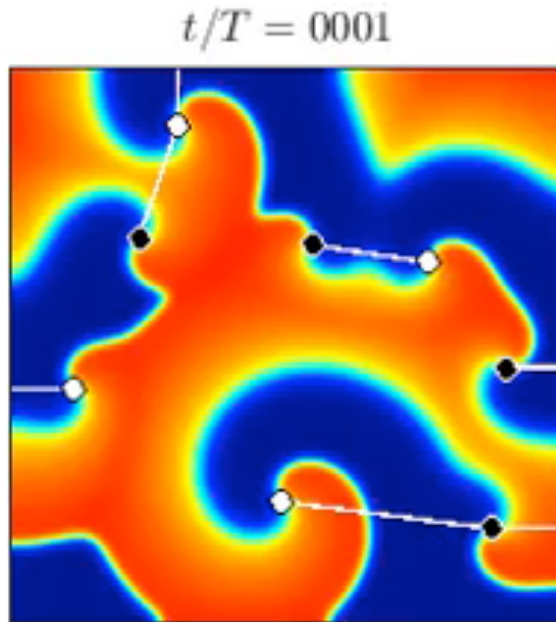
Motion of boundaries:

$$\mathbf{c} = (\omega_1 - \omega_2) \frac{\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_2}{|\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_2|^2}$$

Howard, Kopell (1977)

# Dynamics of the spirals

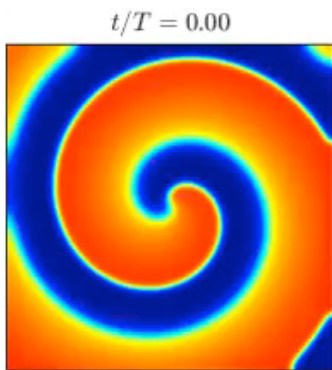
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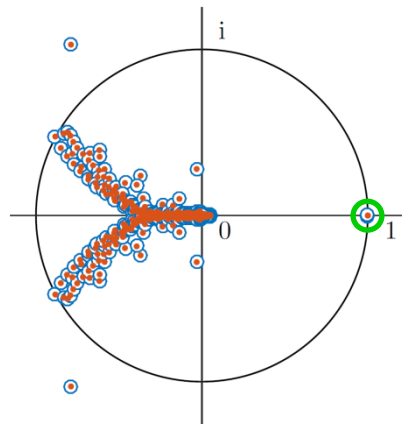
Stroboscopic map

- Why are some cores moving (and others are not)?
- Why is their motion so slow?
- What sets the distance between cores?

# Local Euclidean symmetries

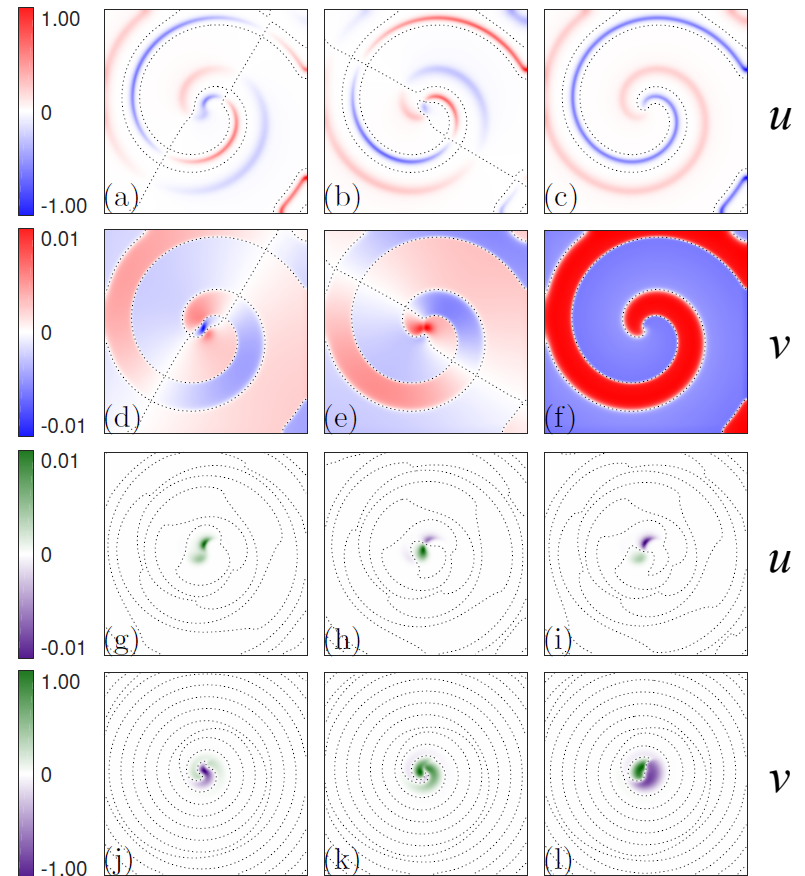


$u$



Floquet multipliers

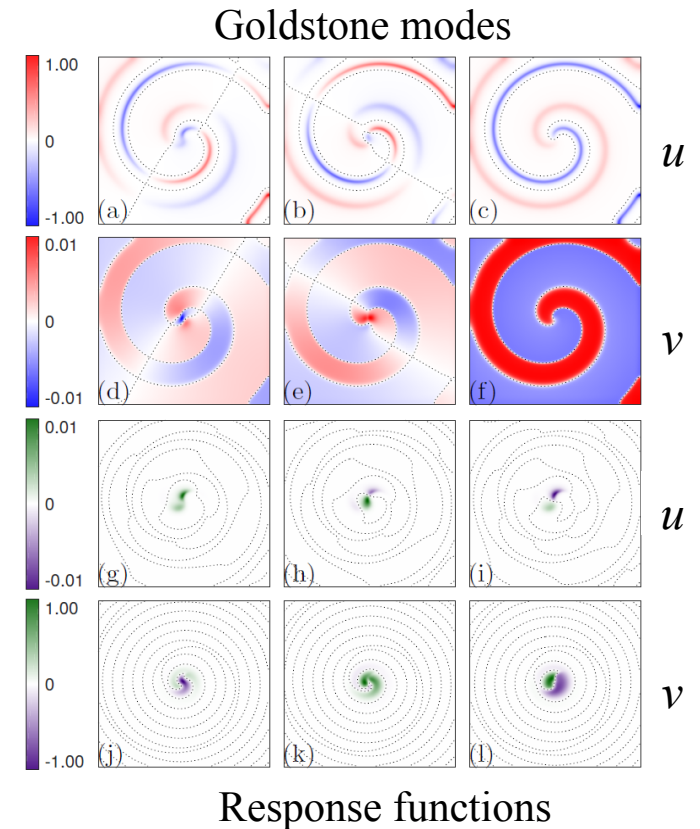
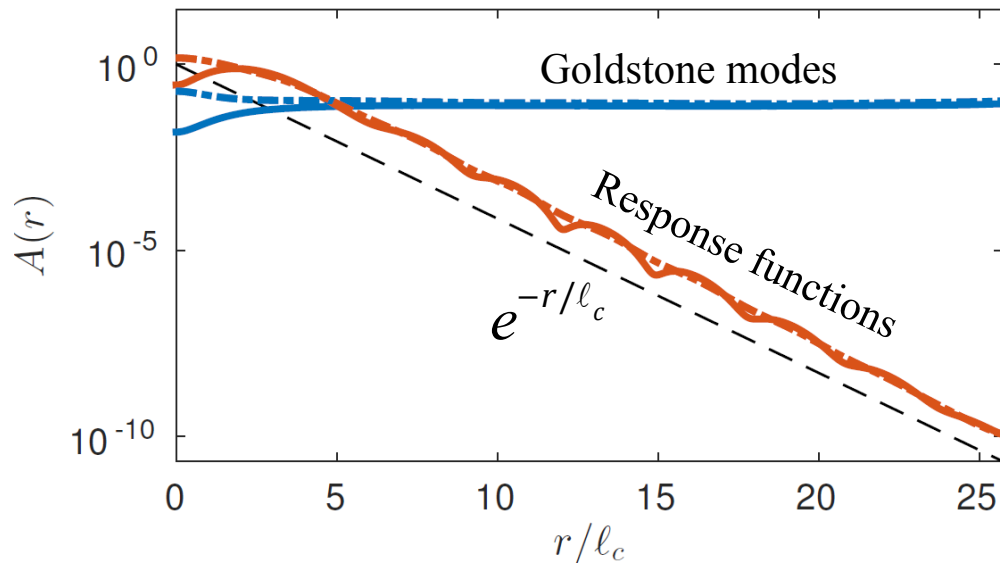
Goldstone modes



Response functions

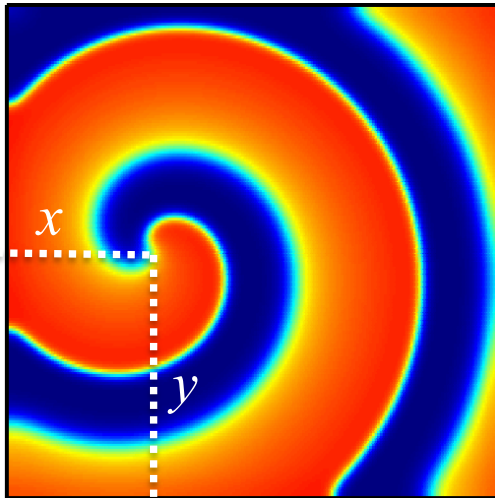
Marcotte, Grigoriev (2016)

# Local Euclidean symmetries



Marcotte, Grigoriev (2016)

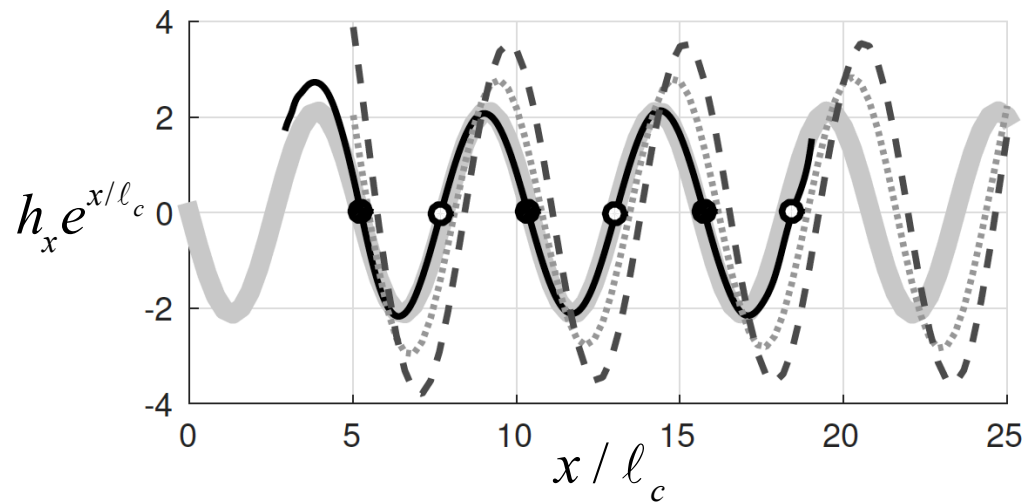
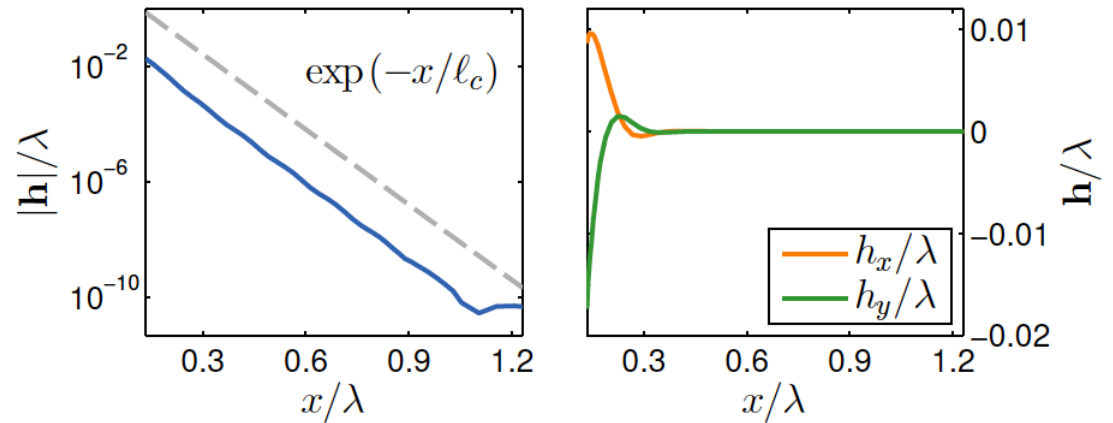
# Interaction of cores with boundaries



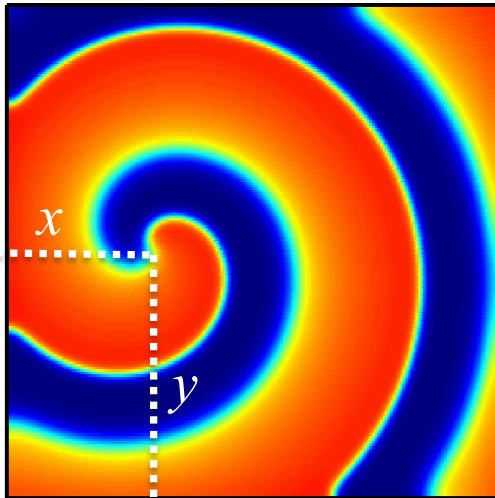
$$\mathbf{x}^{n+1} = \mathbf{x}^n + \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}^n),$$

$$\mathbf{x}^n = \mathbf{x}(nT)$$

Marcotte, Grigoriev (2016)



# Interaction of cores with boundaries

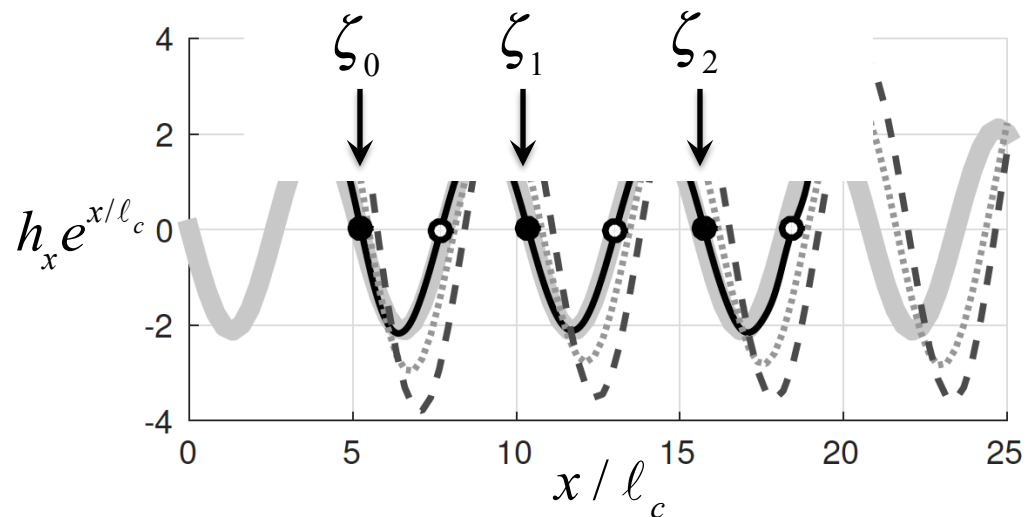


$$\mathbf{x}^{n+1} = \mathbf{x}^n + \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}^n),$$

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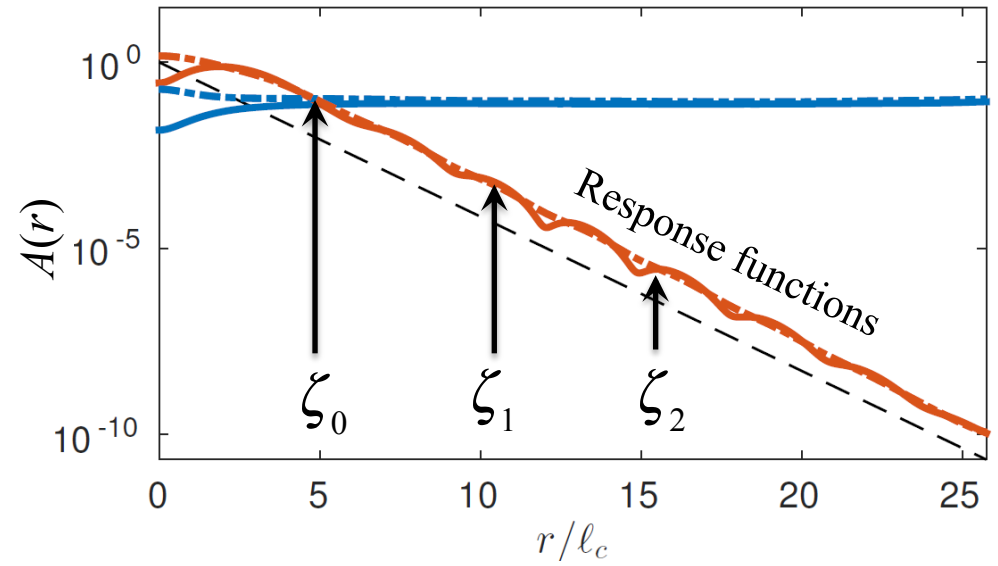
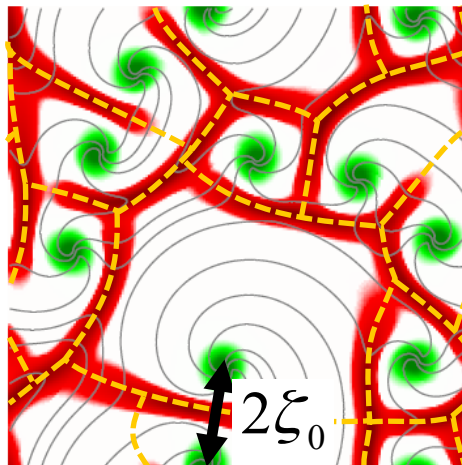
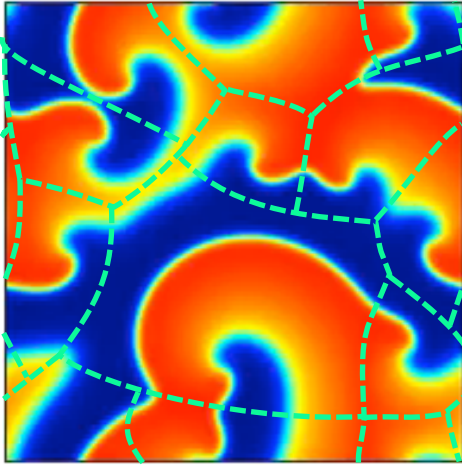
Marcotte, Grigoriev (2016)

- DNS
- $-2 \sin(2\pi x / (l_c \xi_0))$
- ⋯ Drift equation
- - - Saddle-point approximation



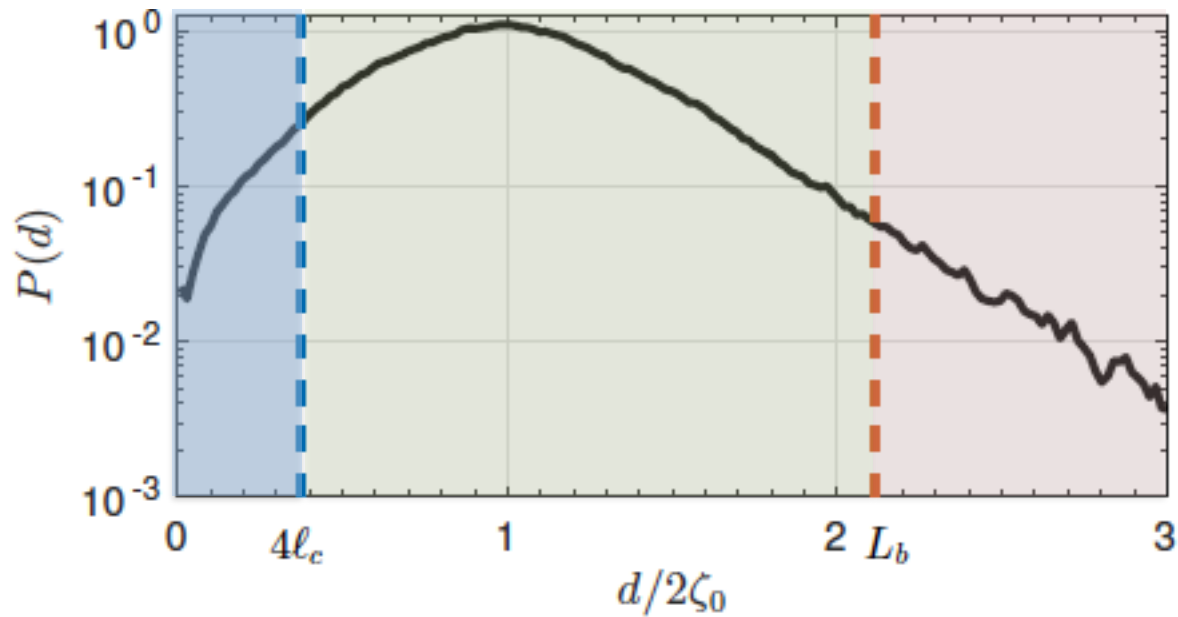
# Core-core interaction

$t/T = 0.0000$





# Core-core separation (& tile size)



No time-  
periodic  
solutions

Core drift/  
meander

Solutions  
unstable  
(alternans)

# The mechanism of spiral chaos

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Tiles

- The tiles are of different size
- The frequencies of spirals differ
- The tiles boundaries drift (slowly)
- Small (fast) spirals grow at the expense of big (slow) ones

Spirals

- The dynamics of spirals is fast
- Small spirals ( $L < 4l_c$ ) survive for less than one period
- Medium size spirals ( $4l_c < L < \lambda$ ) merge as a result of meandering instability
- Large spirals ( $L > \lambda$ ) break up due to alternans instability\*

\* for the Karma model

# Outline

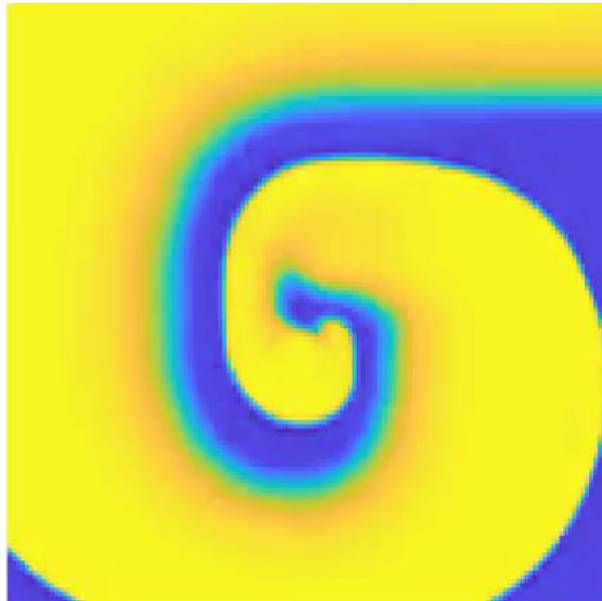
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- Interaction between spiral waves
- Topological analysis of fibrillation
- Can ablation make things worse?

# “Tachycardia” → “fibrillation” (2D)

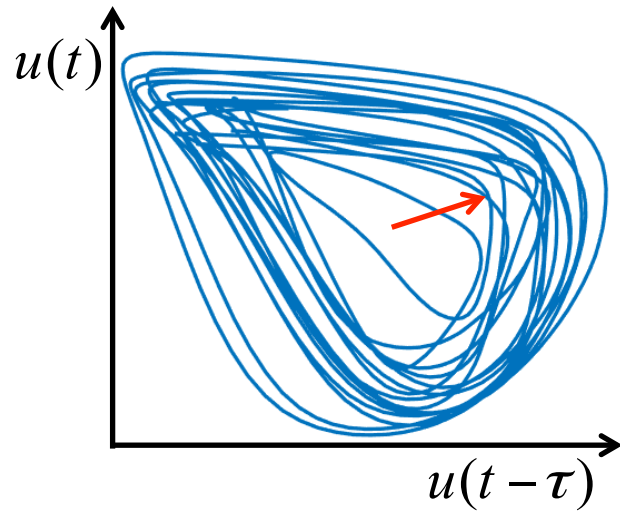
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Mitchell-Schaeffer model

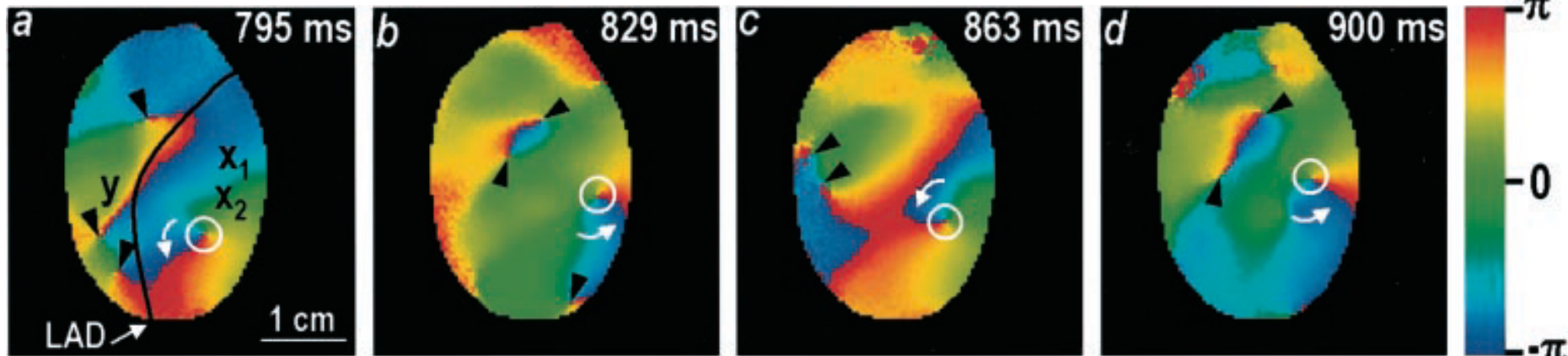


Stefanos Folias (2007)

# Phase singularities



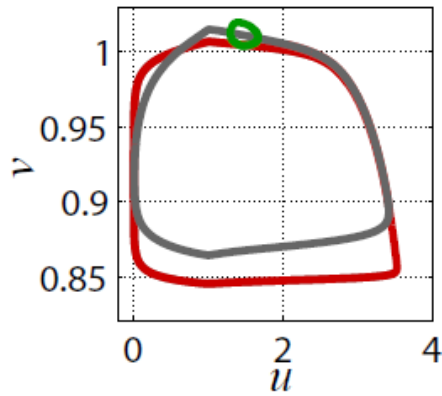
$$q = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint d\varphi = \begin{cases} -1, & \text{PS (clockwise)} \\ 0, & \text{no PS inside} \\ +1, & \text{PS (counter-clockwise)} \end{cases}$$



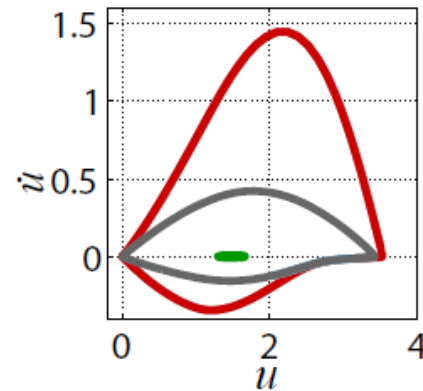
Wu et al. (2004)

# Amplitude description

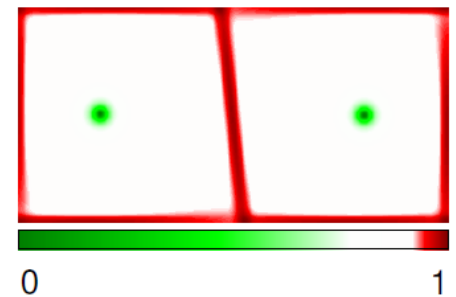
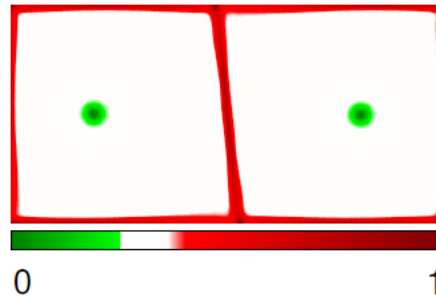
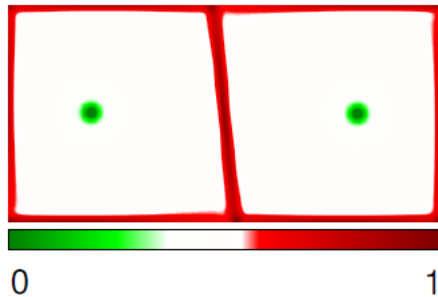
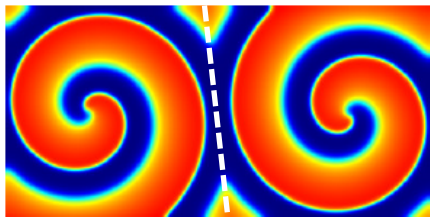
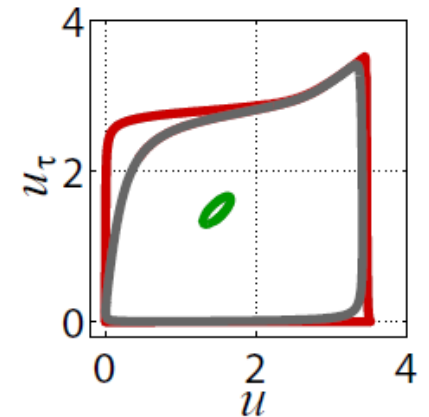
$$I = \oint v du$$



$$I = \oint u dv$$



$$I = \oint u_\tau du$$



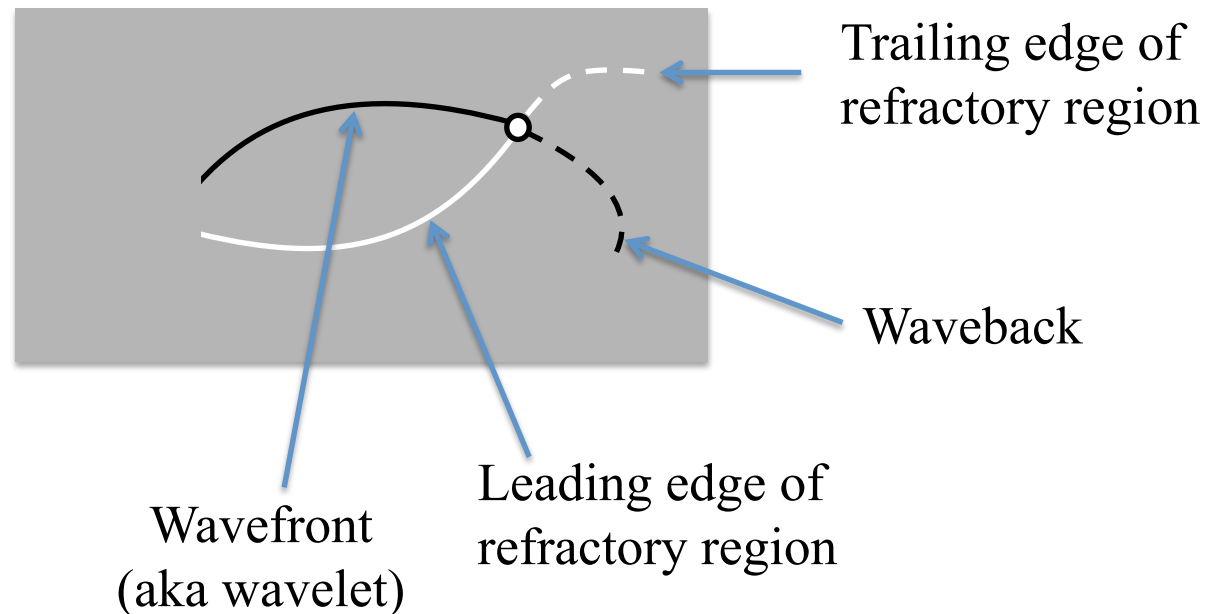
# Topological description

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- Complexity of the excitation pattern can be quantified by the number of phase singularities (PS)

# Topological description

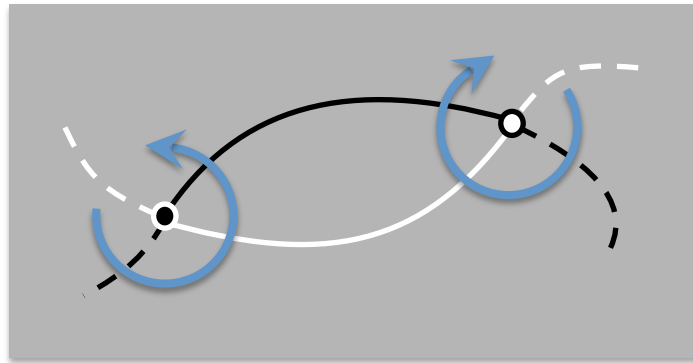
- Complexity of the excitation pattern can be quantified by the number of phase singularities (PS)
- Each PS lies at the intersection of two level sets (e.g.,  $\partial_t u = 0$  and  $\partial_t v = 0$  or  $\varphi = \varphi_1$  and  $\varphi = \varphi_2$  or  $\partial_t u = 0$  and  $\partial_t^2 u = 0$ ).





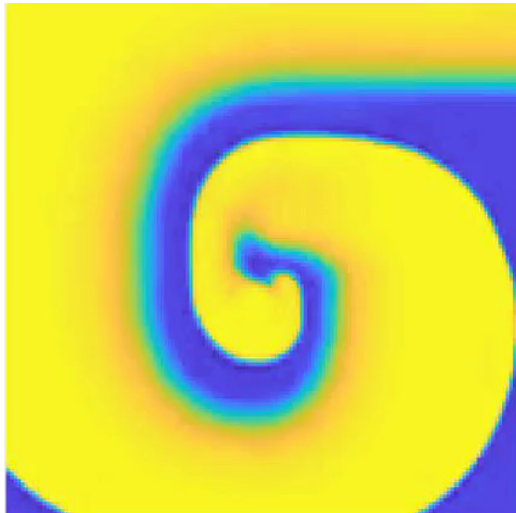
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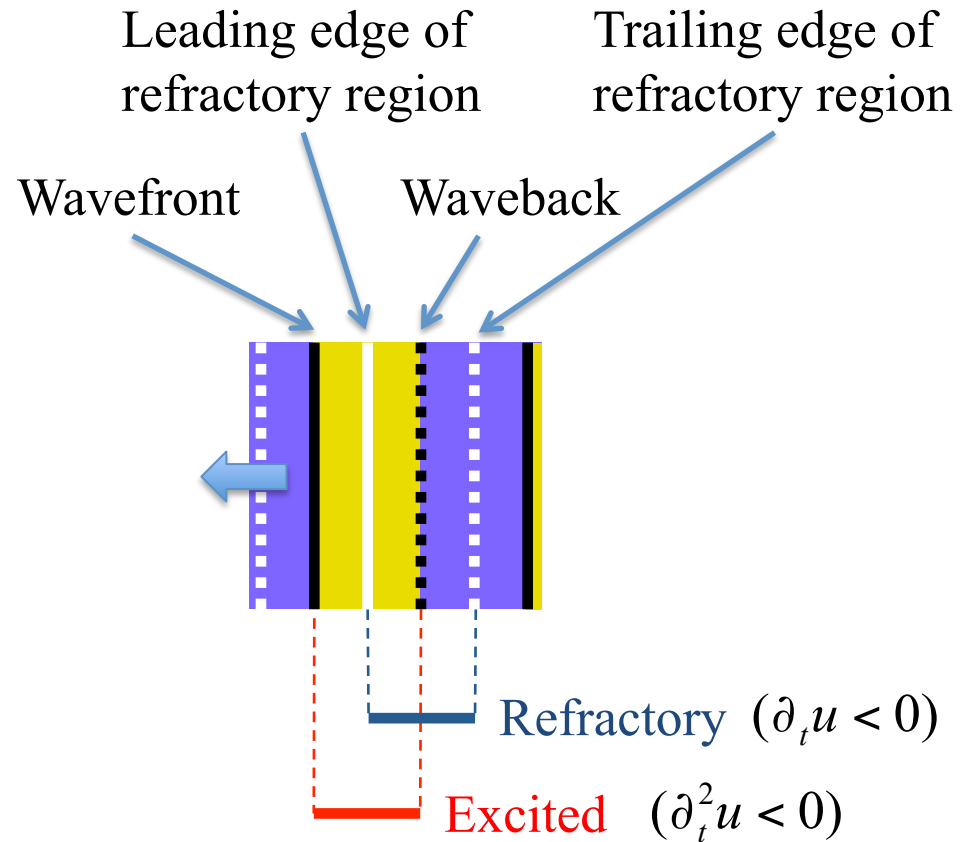


- Each PS has a topological charge:  $q = \text{sign}(\hat{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \nabla d_1 \times \nabla d_2) = \pm 1$
- The net topological charge is conserved\*:  $\sum_i q_i = 0$
- Phase singularities can only be created/destroyed in pairs\*

# Topological transitions

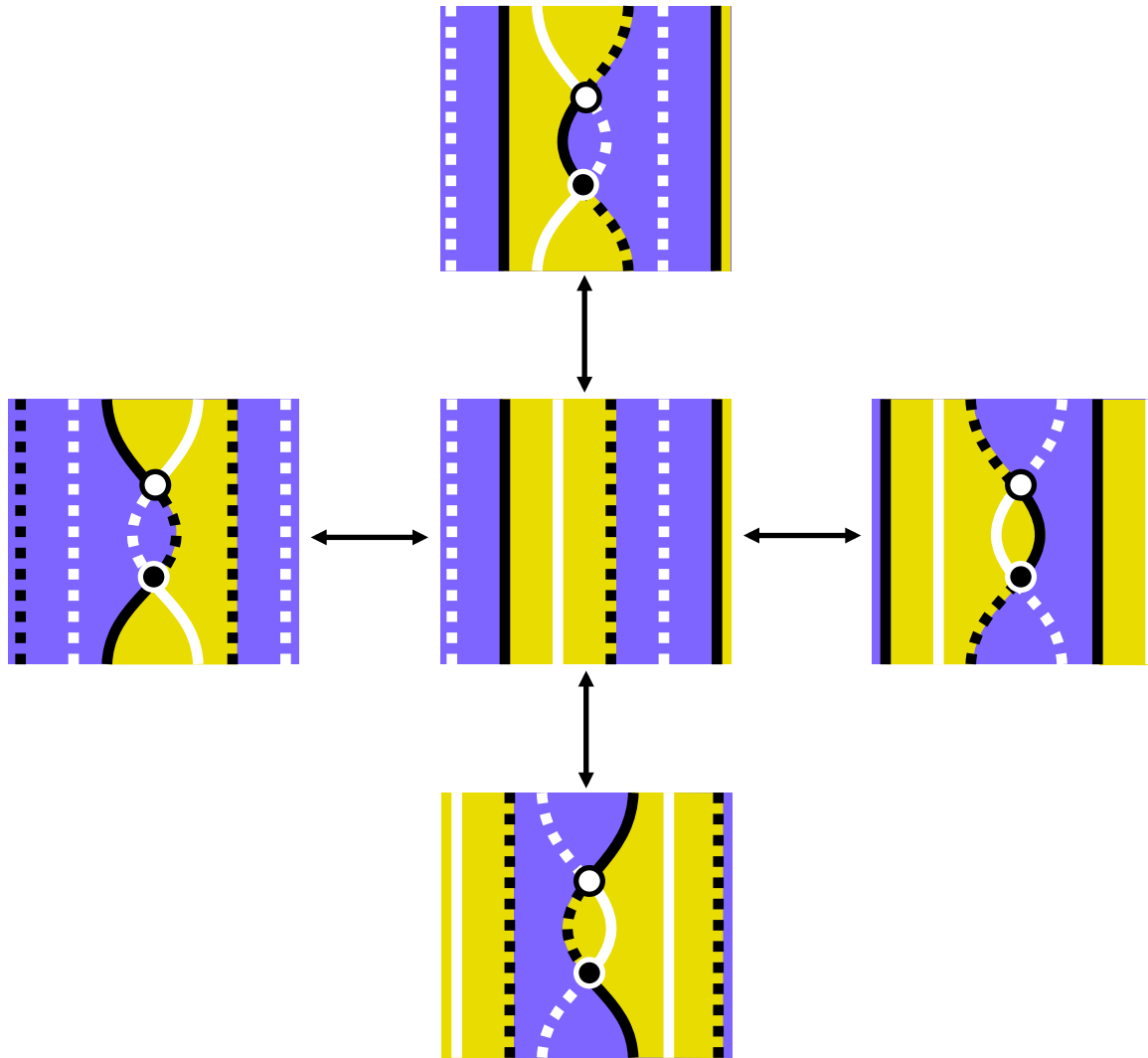


Mitchell-Schaeffer model

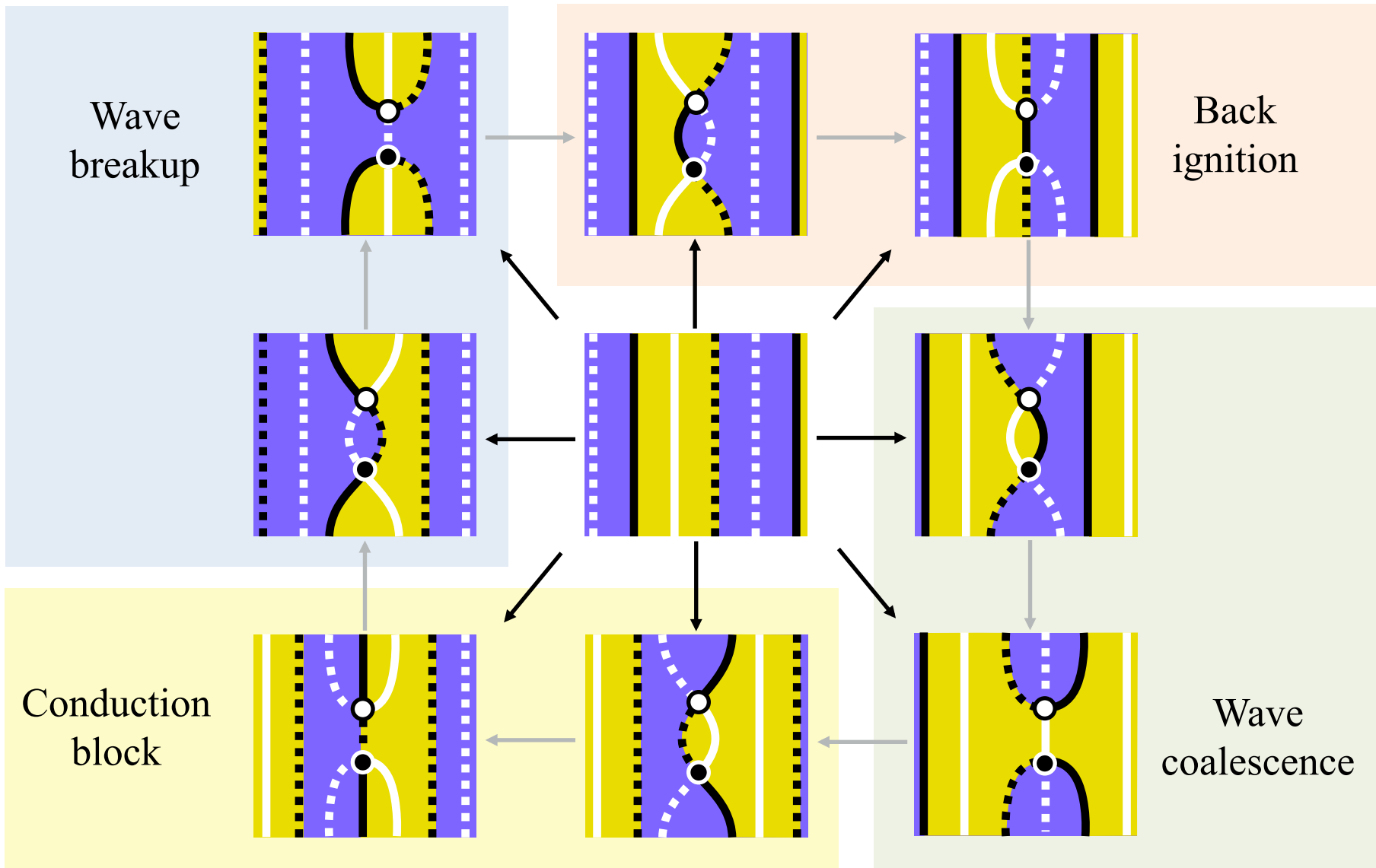


# Pair creation/destruction

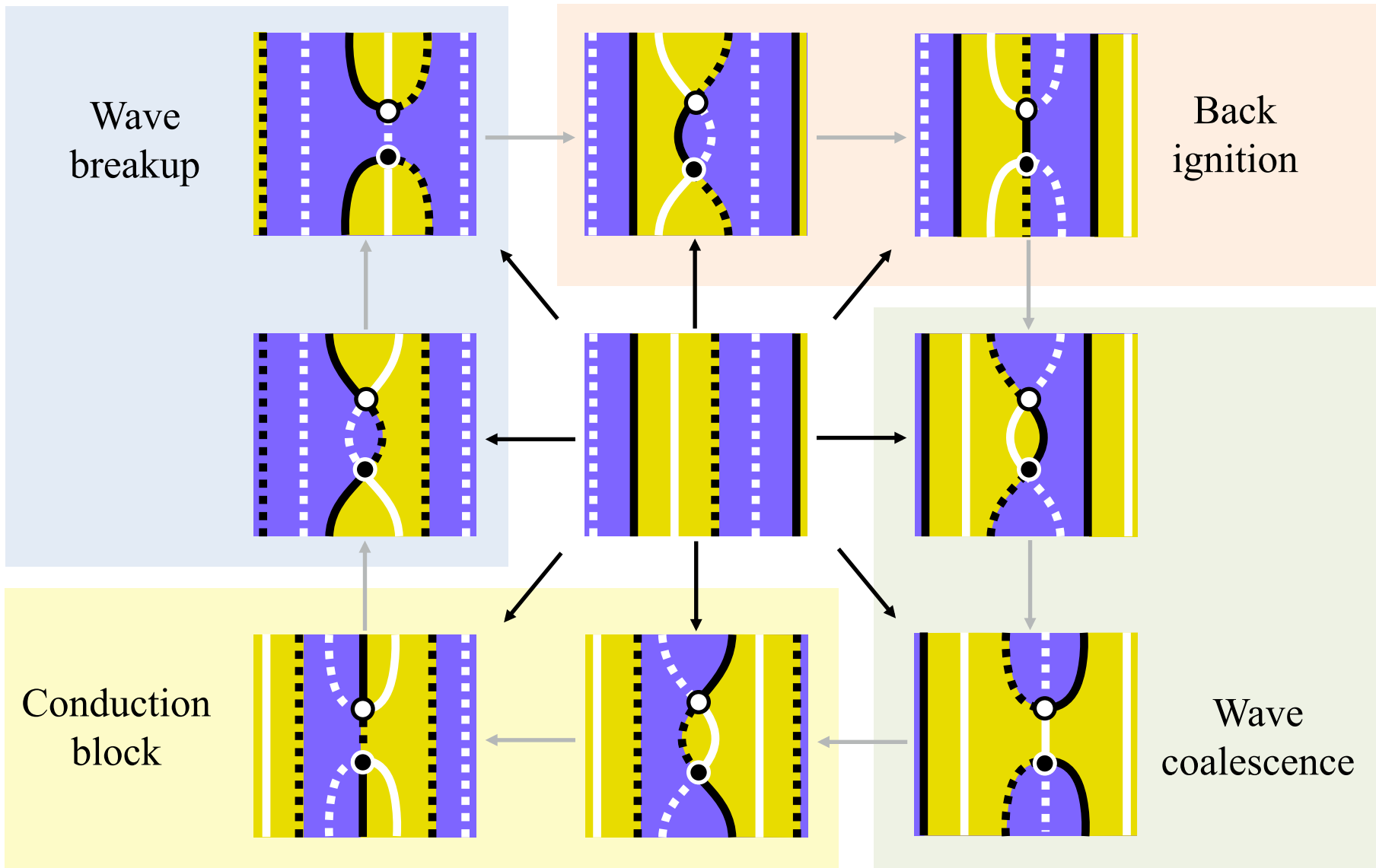
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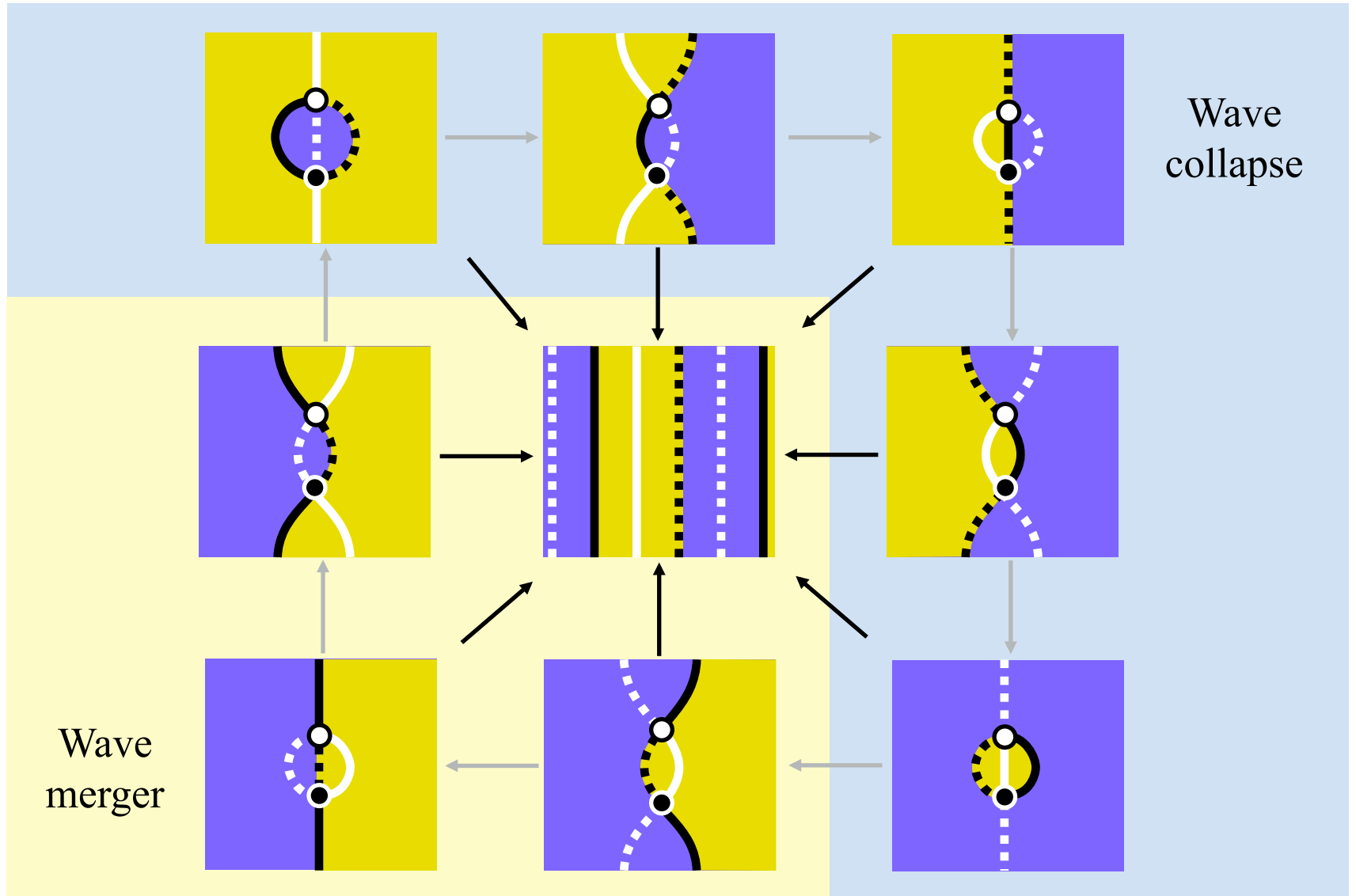
# Pair creation



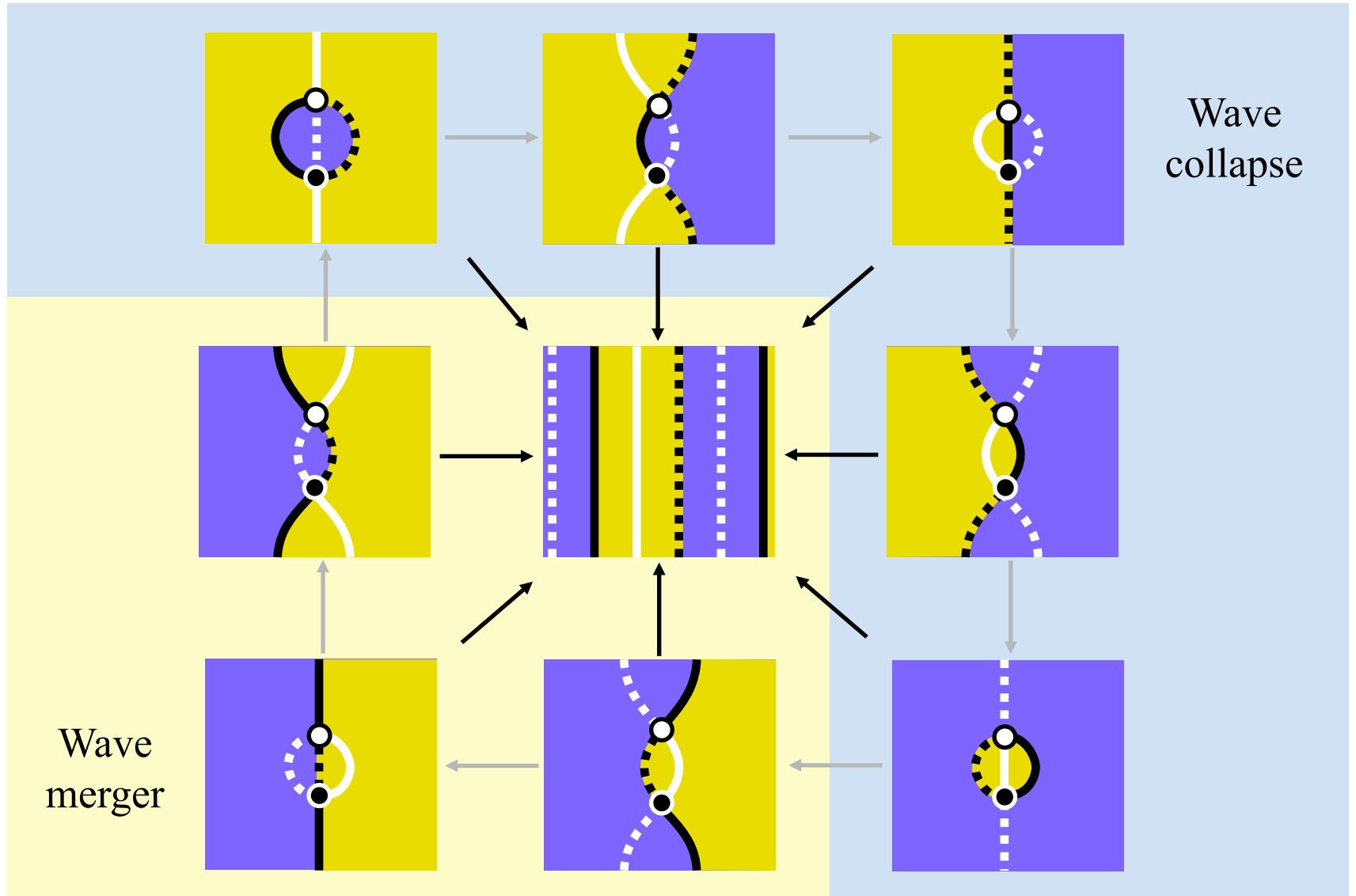
# Pair creation



# Pair destruction



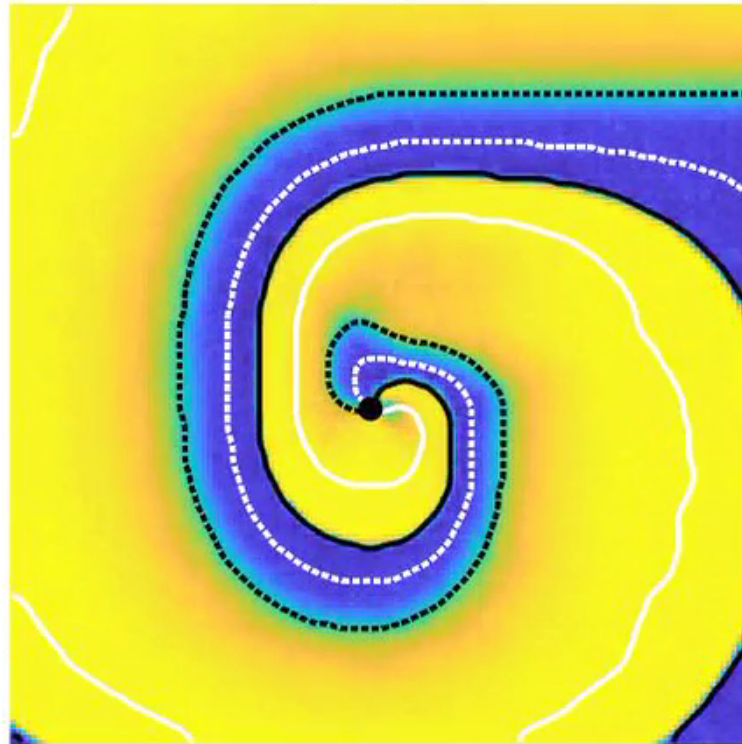
# Pair destruction



# “Atrial fibrillation” (MS)

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# PS: 1; Charge: 1; t=14

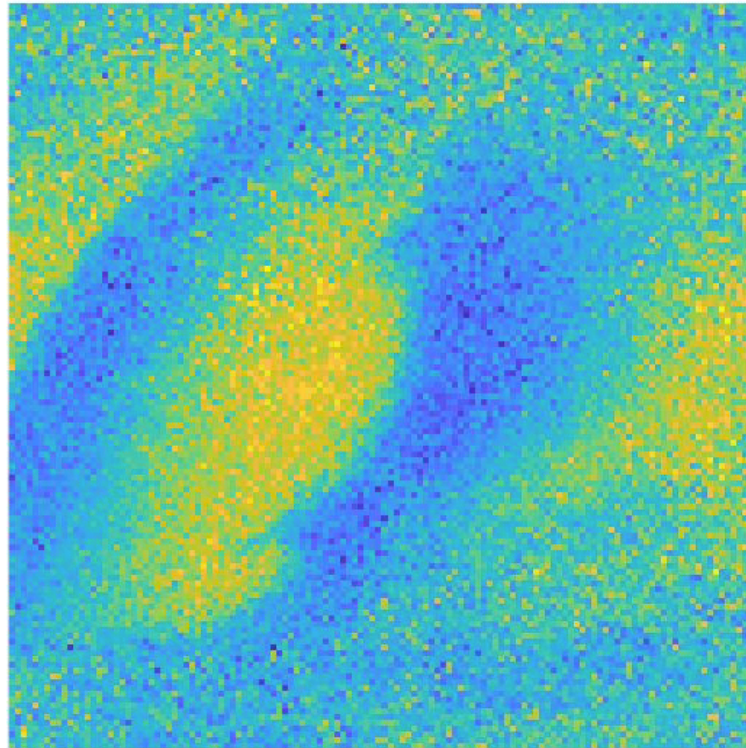


mpeg movie → jpeg frames (with artifacts) → mpeg movie



# Ventricular fibrillation (pig)

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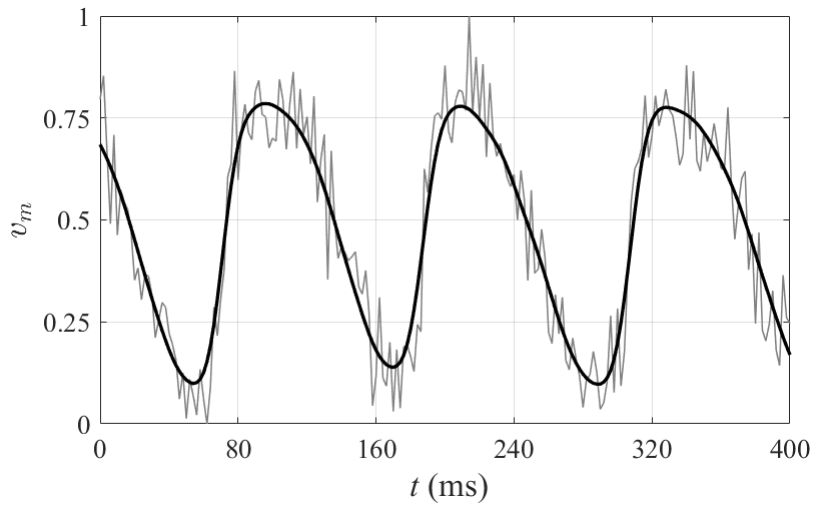


Herndon  
& Fenton

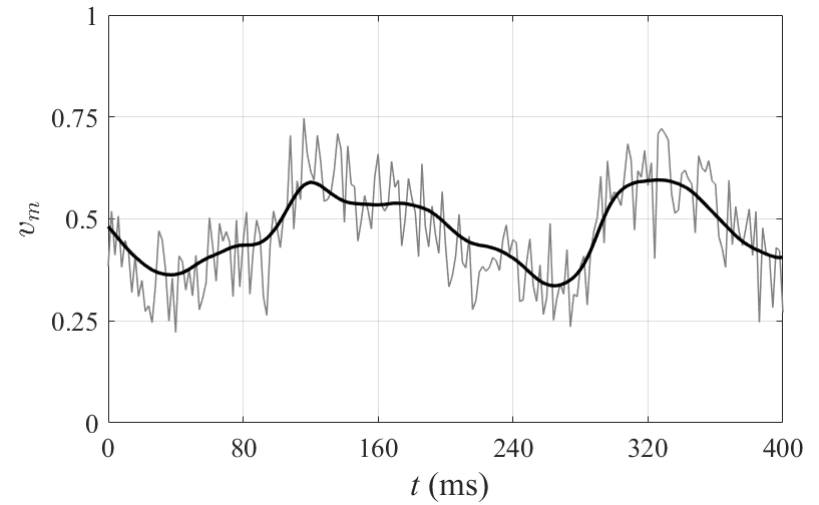
Optical mapping (voltage, epicardium)

# Data quality

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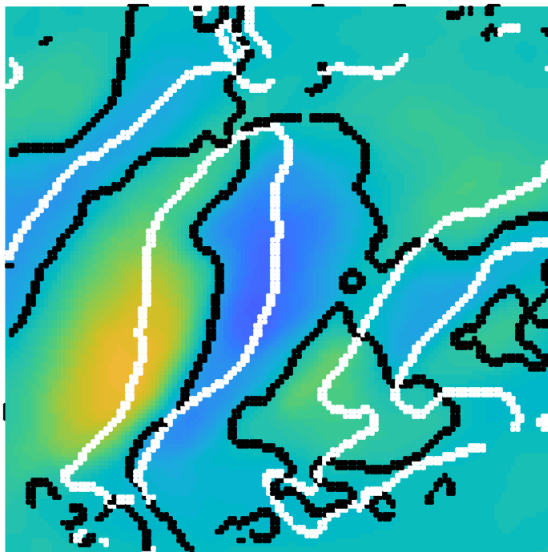
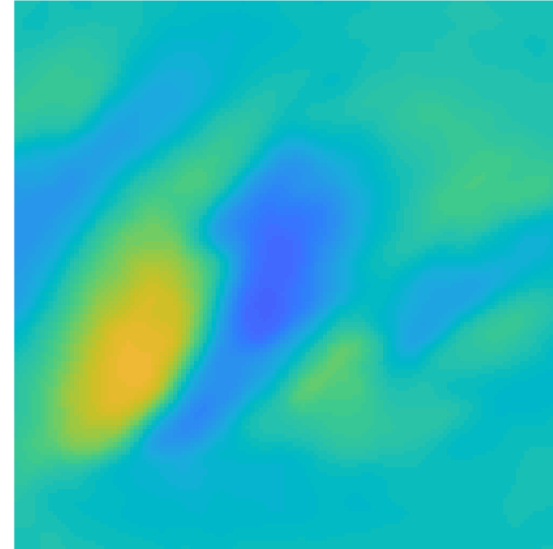
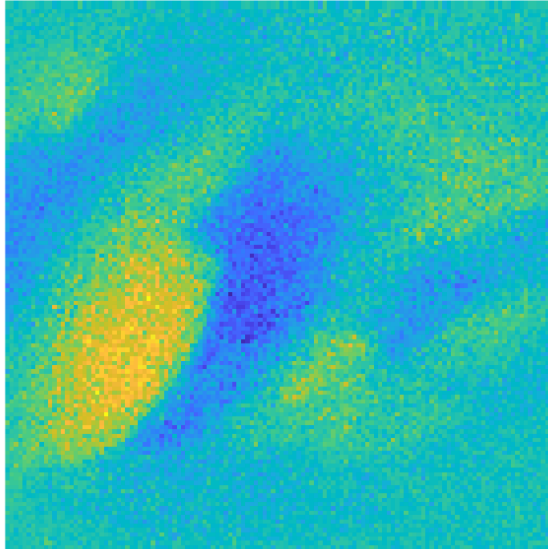
Far from PS



Near PS

# Level-set based approach

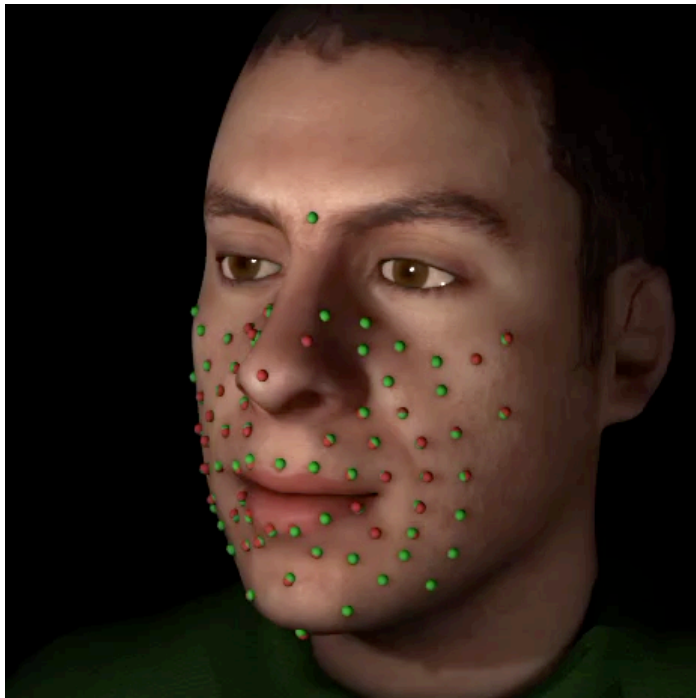
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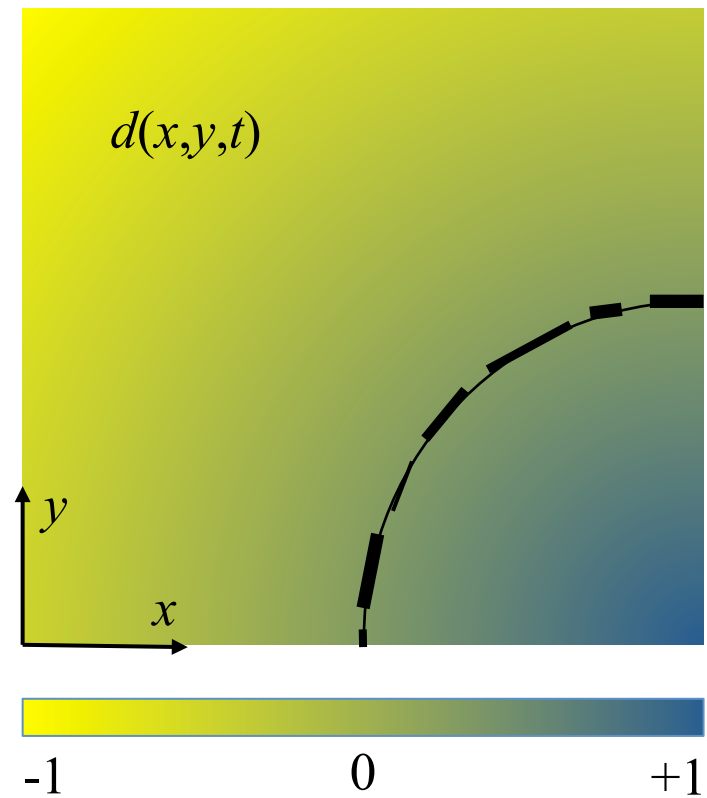
Gurevich *et al.* (2017)

# Signed distance function

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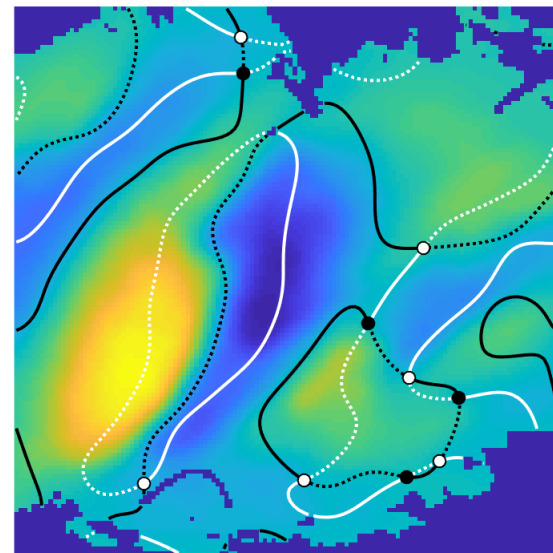
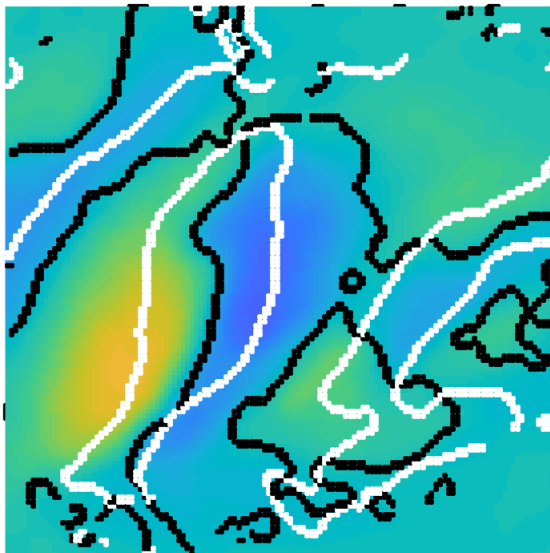
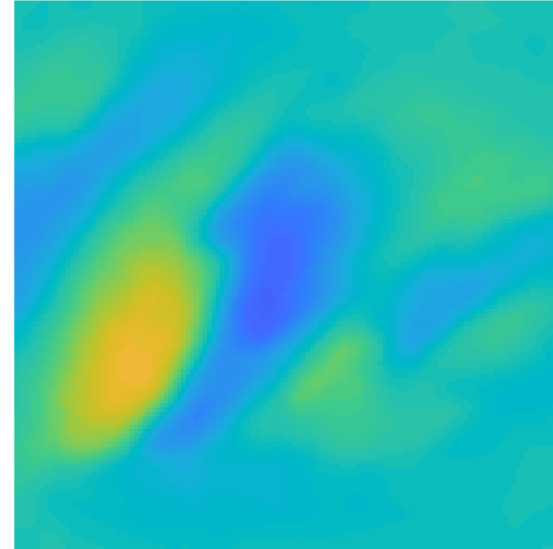
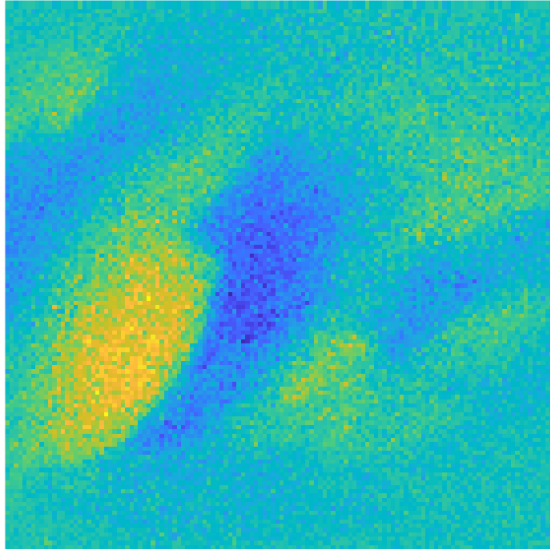


Ron Fedkiw



# Level-set based approach

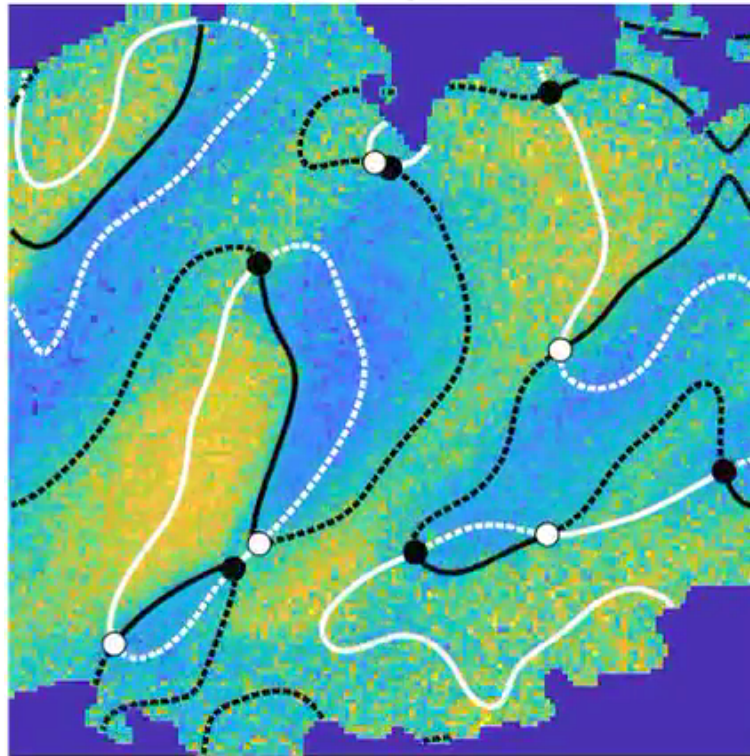
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# Ventricular fibrillation (3D)

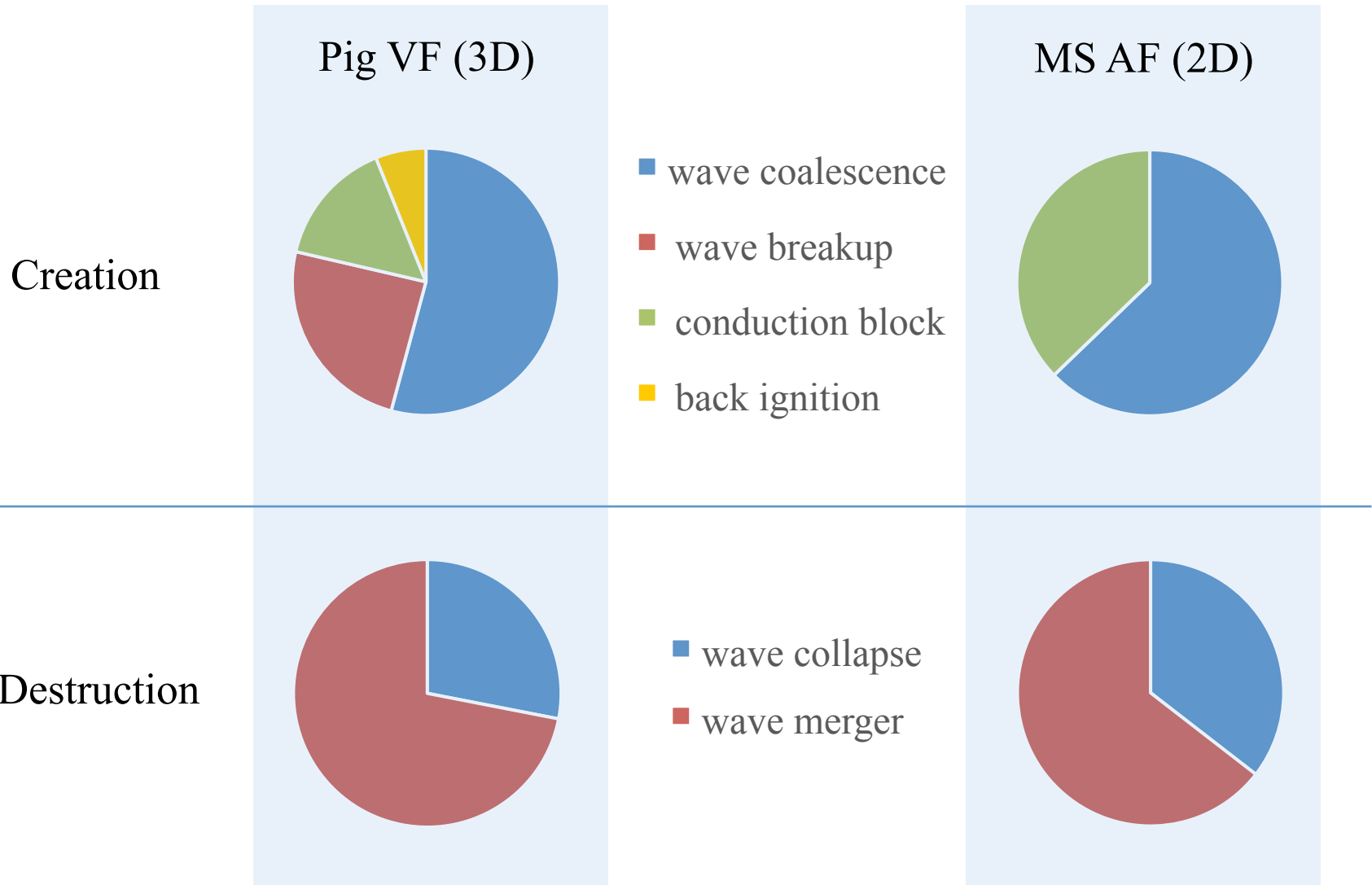
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# PS: 11; Charge: 1; t=1201



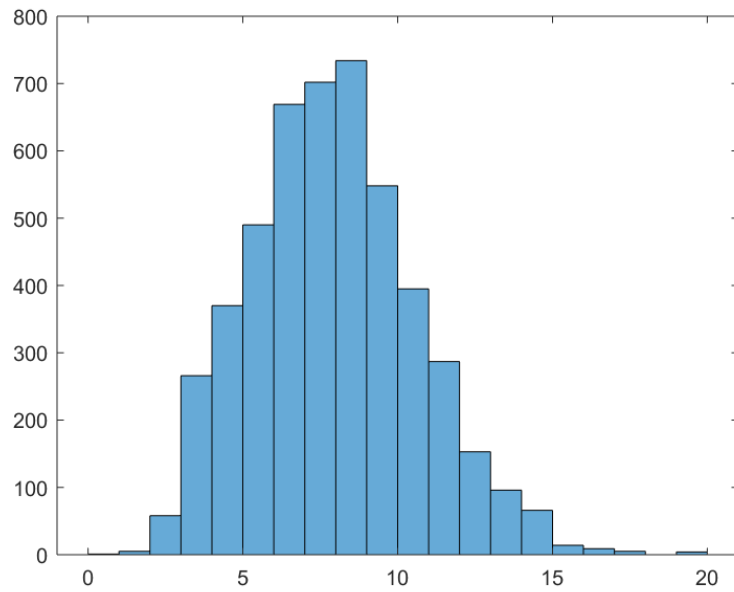
Gurevich *et al.* (2017)

# Event statistics

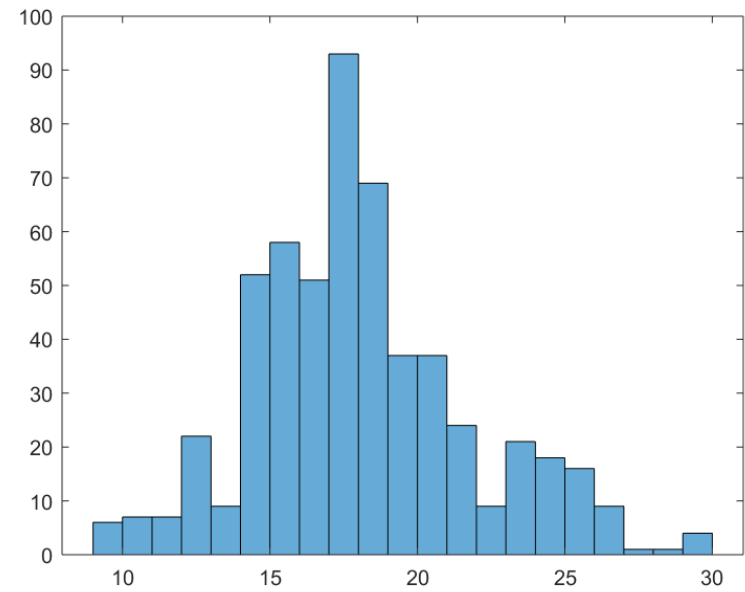


# Rotor number statistics

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Pig VF

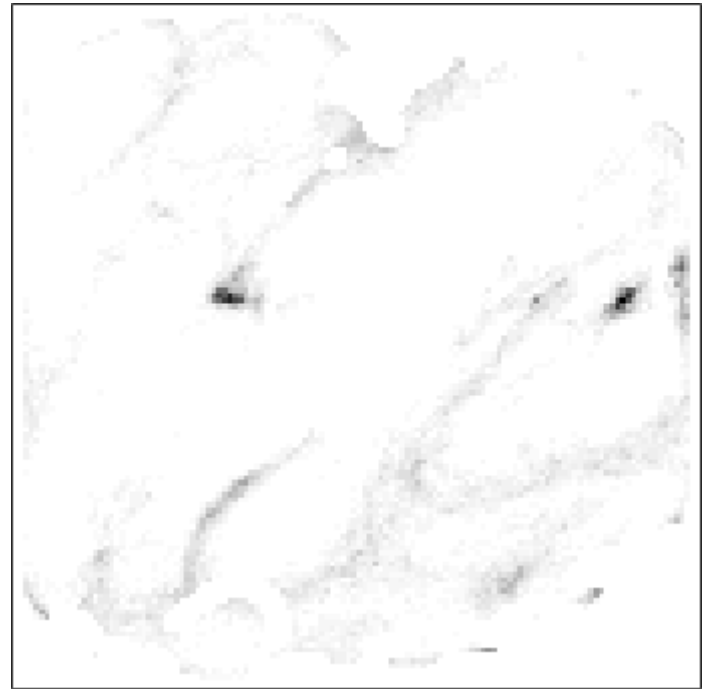
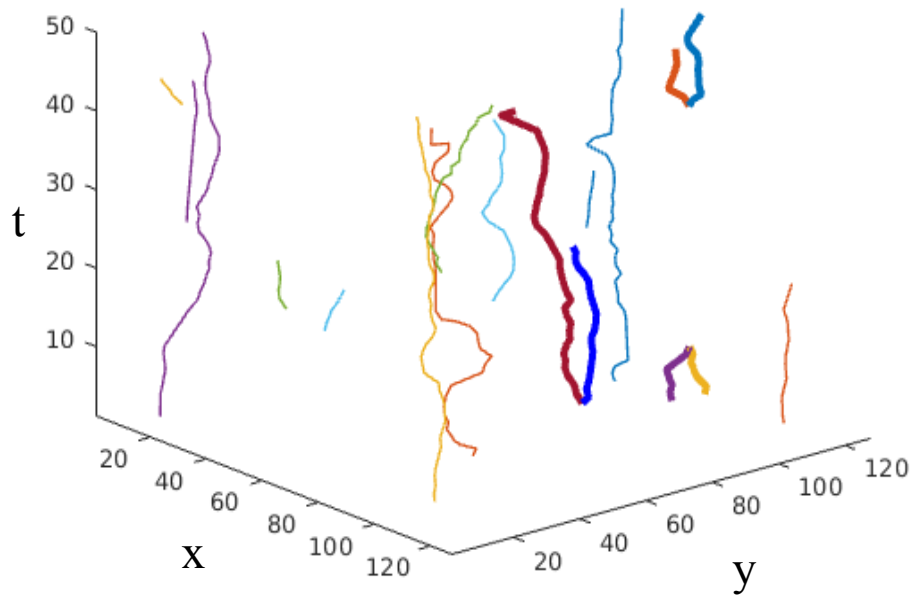


MS AF



# Rotor tracking

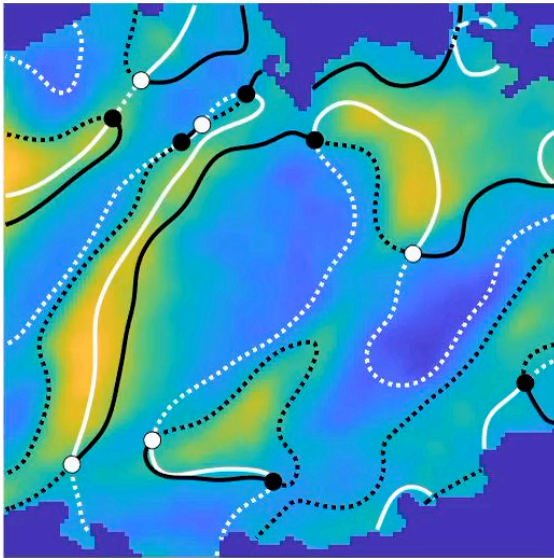
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# Rotor mapping from sparse recordings

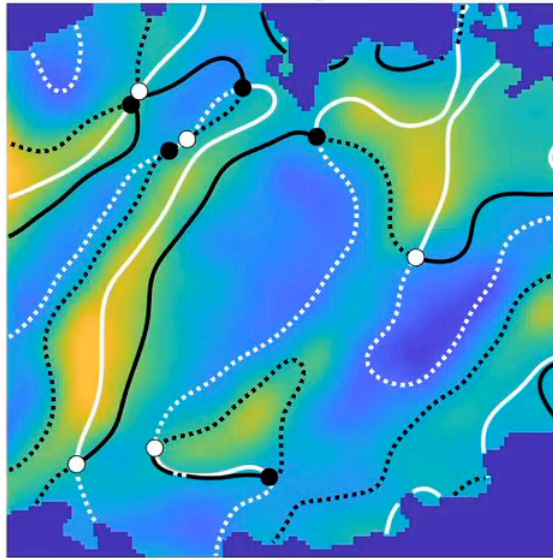
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# PS: 11; Charge: 1; t=1



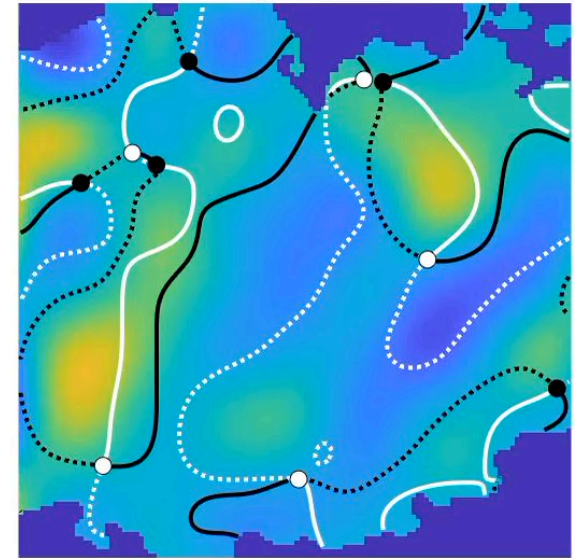
128 x 128

# PS: 10; Charge: 0; t=1



16 x 16

# PS: 10; Charge: 0; t=1



8 x 8

# Topological perspective

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- Topological analysis applies to both numerical simulations and experimental recordings
- It provided new insight into dynamical mechanisms underlying fibrillation.
- ***Initiation*** of fibrillation in 2D (AF), aka *the trigger*:
  - conduction block leading to wave breakup
- ***Sustained*** fibrillation, aka *the driver*, is a balance of:
  - wave coalescence
  - wave merger
- Similar results in 3D (VF)