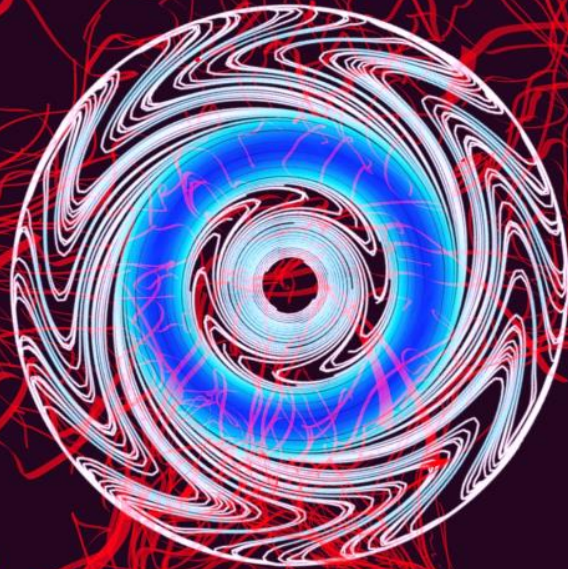


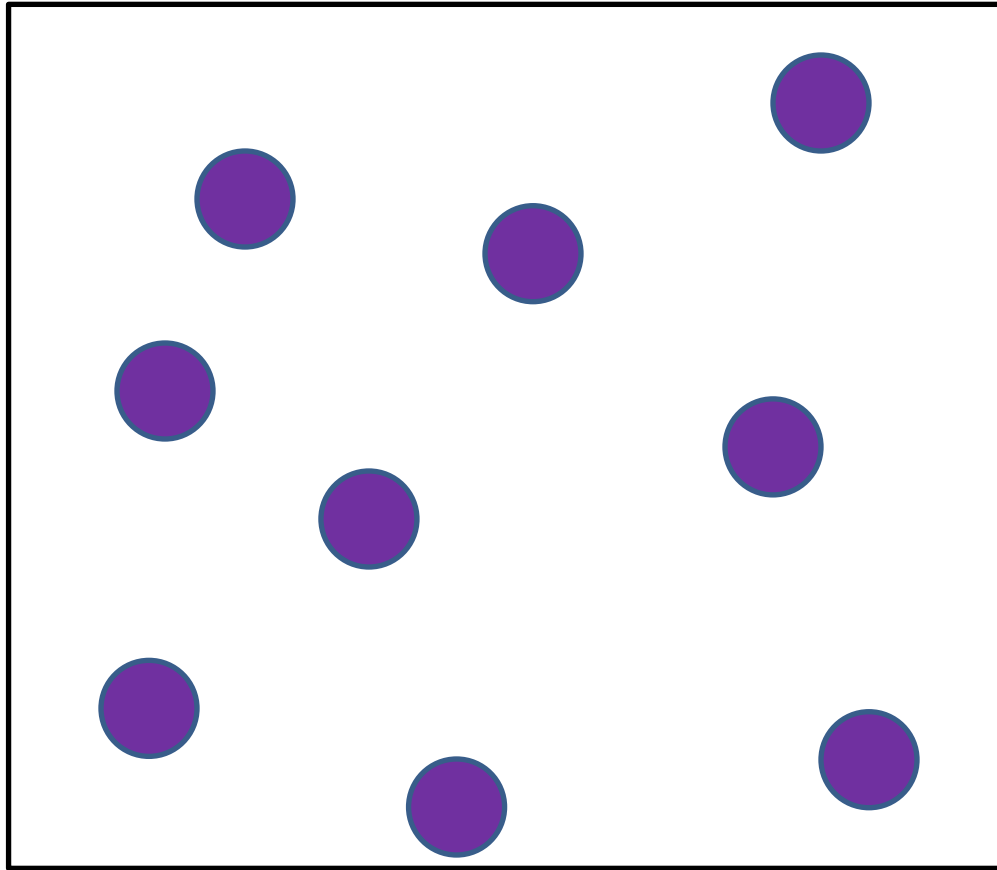


# Statistical mechanics of the phase transition to turbulence: zonal flows, ecological collapse and extreme value statistics

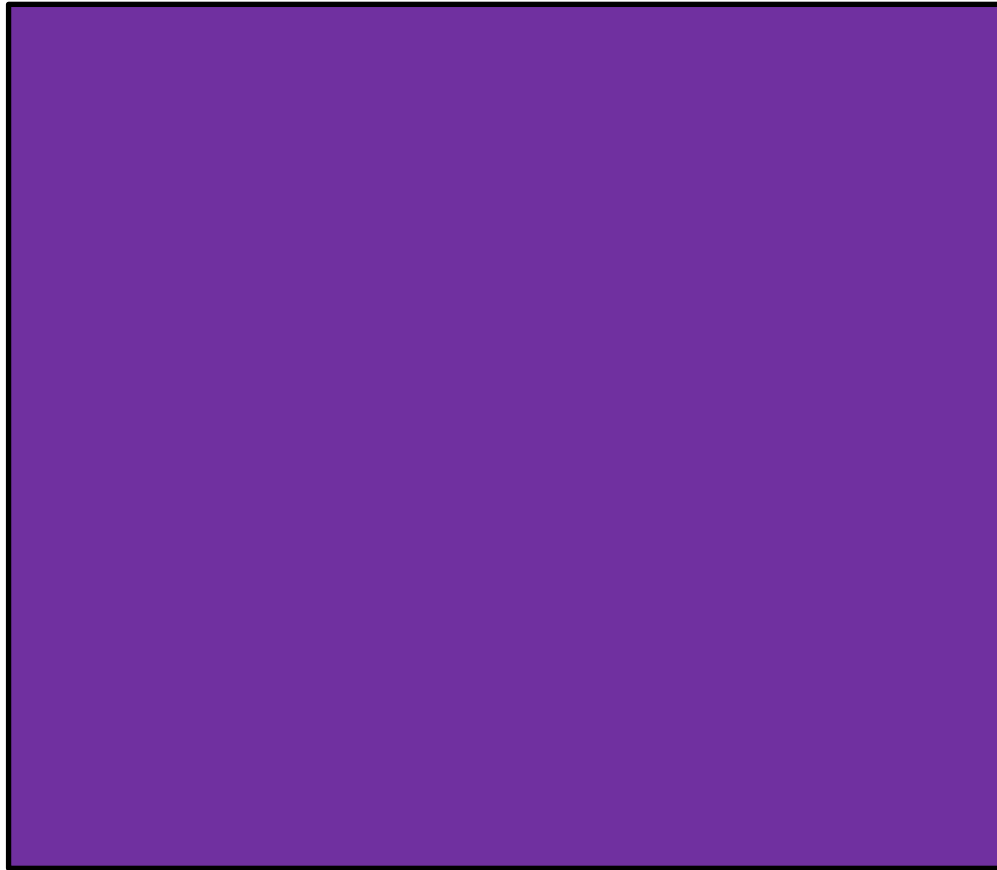


Hong-Yan Shih, Tsung-Lin Hsieh, Nigel Goldenfeld  
Grudgingly Partially supported by NSF-DMR-1044901

Nature Physics, March 2016: Advance Online Publication 15 Nov 2015



Deterministic classical mechanics of many particles in a box → statistical mechanics



Deterministic classical mechanics of infinite number of particles in a box

= Navier-Stokes equations for a fluid

→ statistical mechanics

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

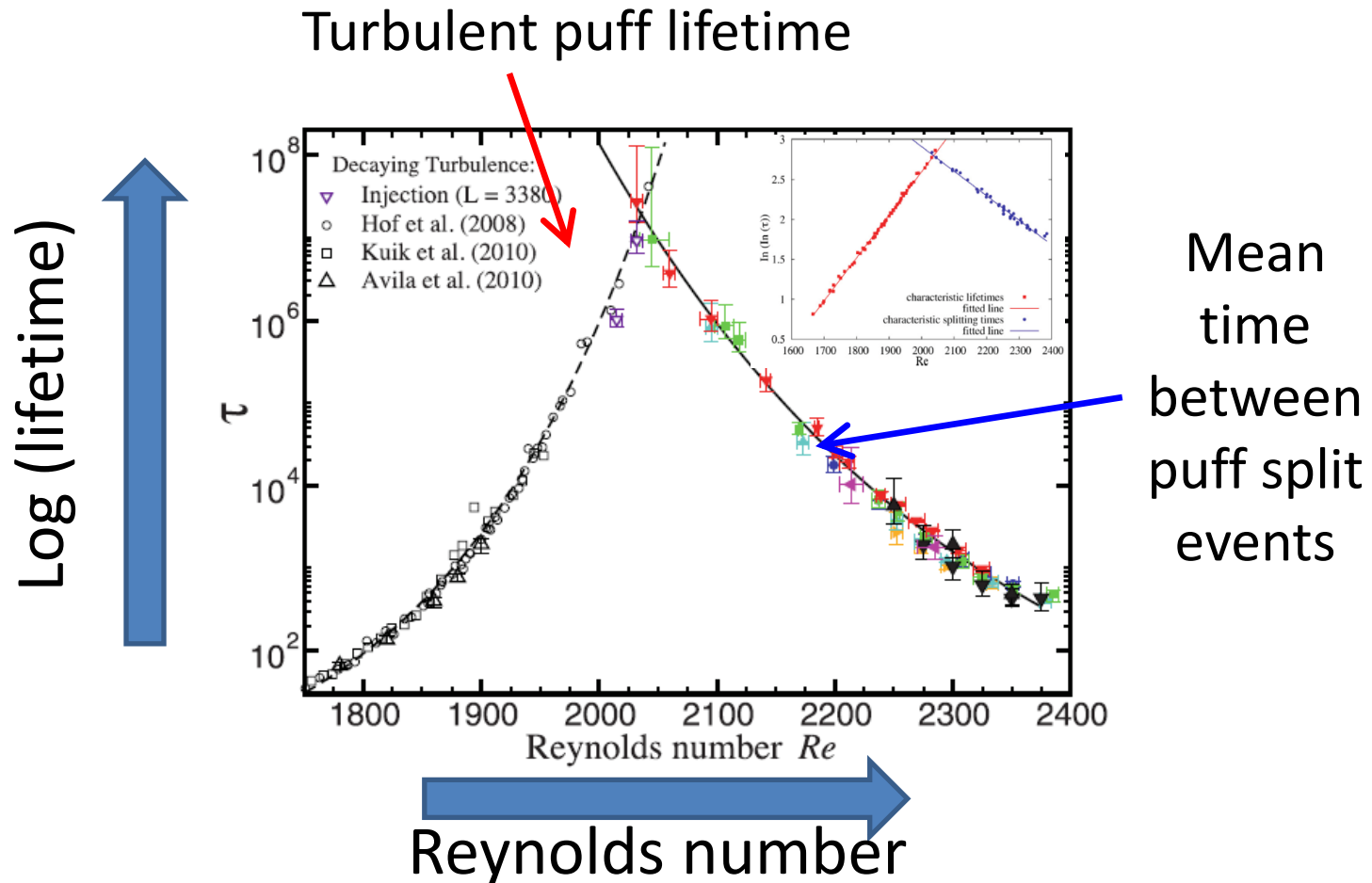
$$\rho \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \right) = -\nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$$

Deterministic classical mechanics of infinite number of particles in a box

= Navier-Stokes equations for a fluid

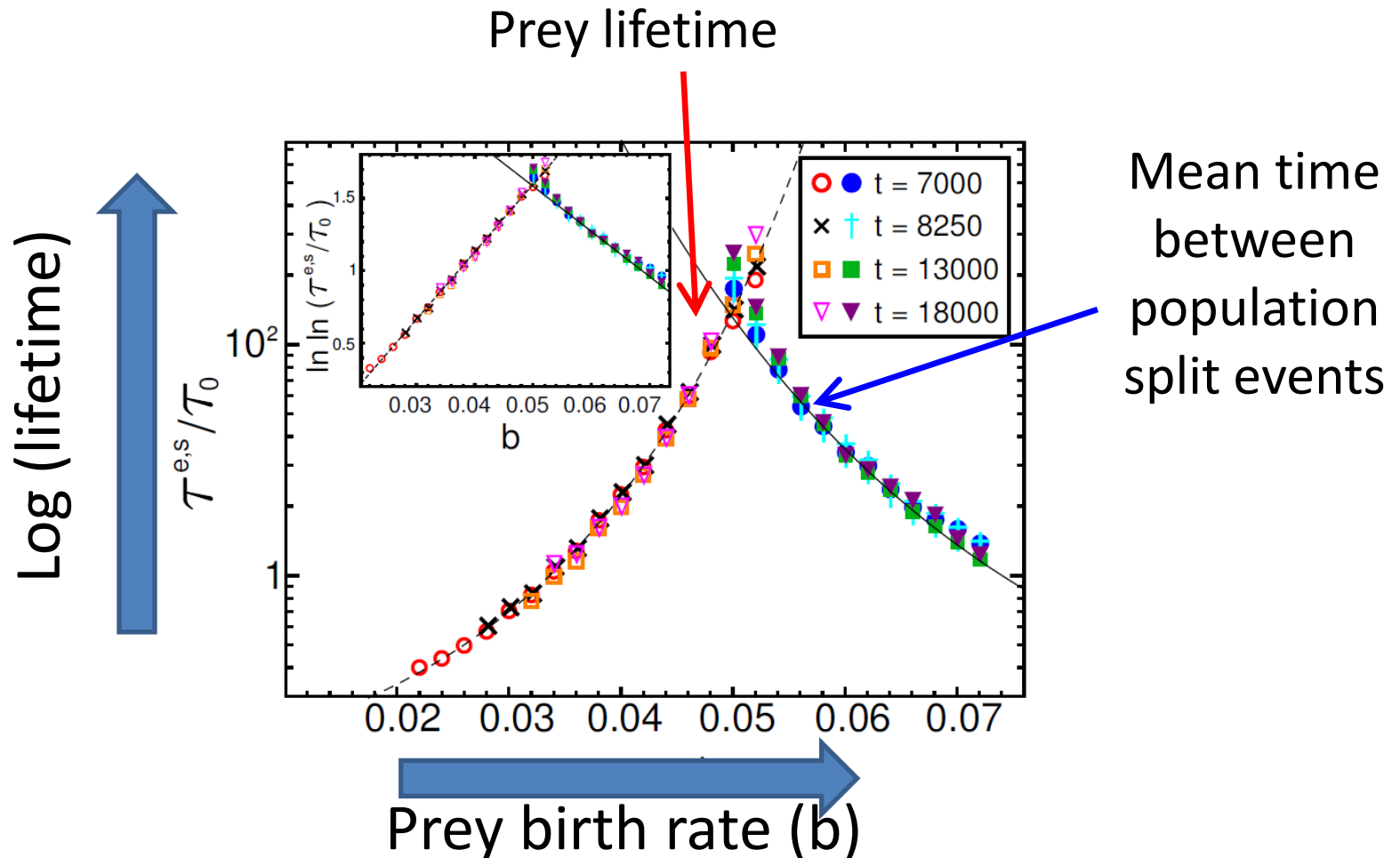
→ statistical mechanics

# Fluid in a pipe near onset of turbulence



Super-exponential scaling:  $\frac{\tau}{\tau_0} \sim \exp(\exp Re)$

# Predator-prey ecosystem in a pipe near extinction

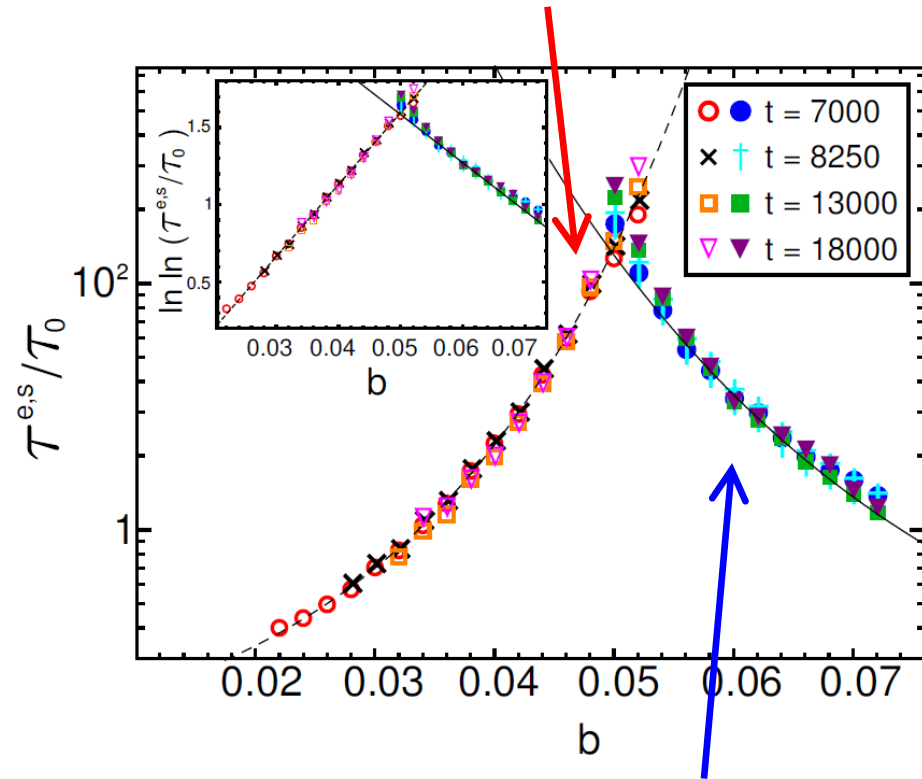


Super-exponential scaling:  $\frac{\tau}{\tau_0} \sim \exp(\exp b)$

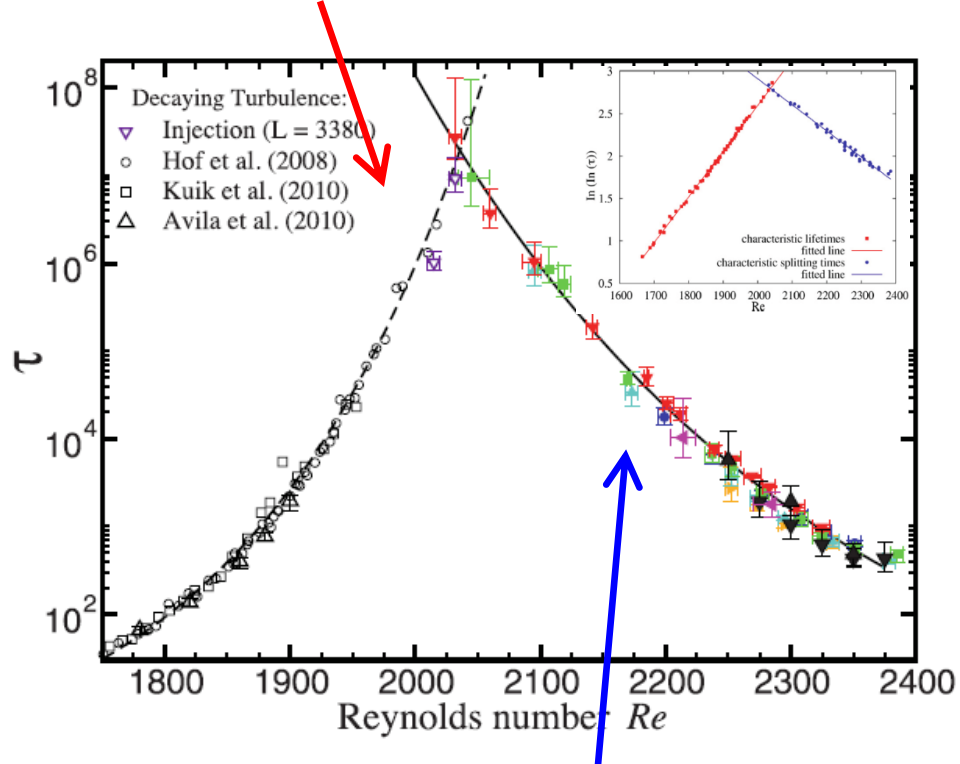
# Predator-prey vs. transitional turbulence

Prey lifetime

Turbulent puff lifetime



Mean time between population split events



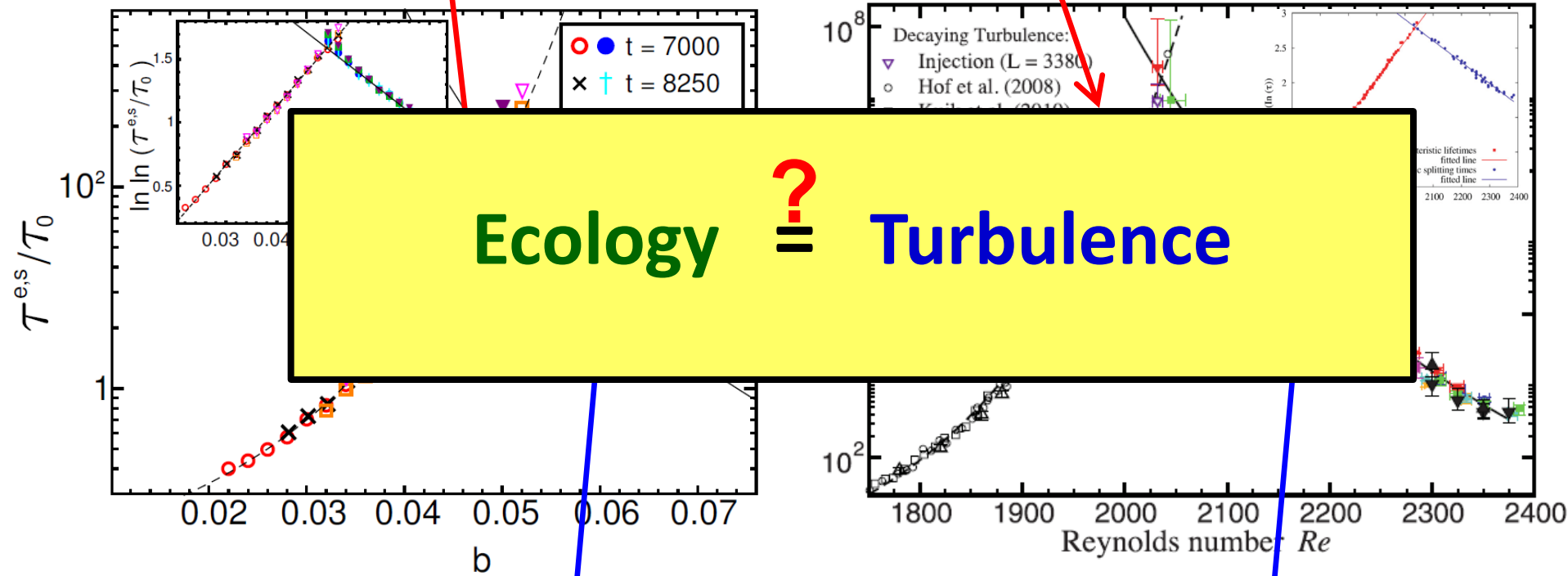
Mean time between puff split events



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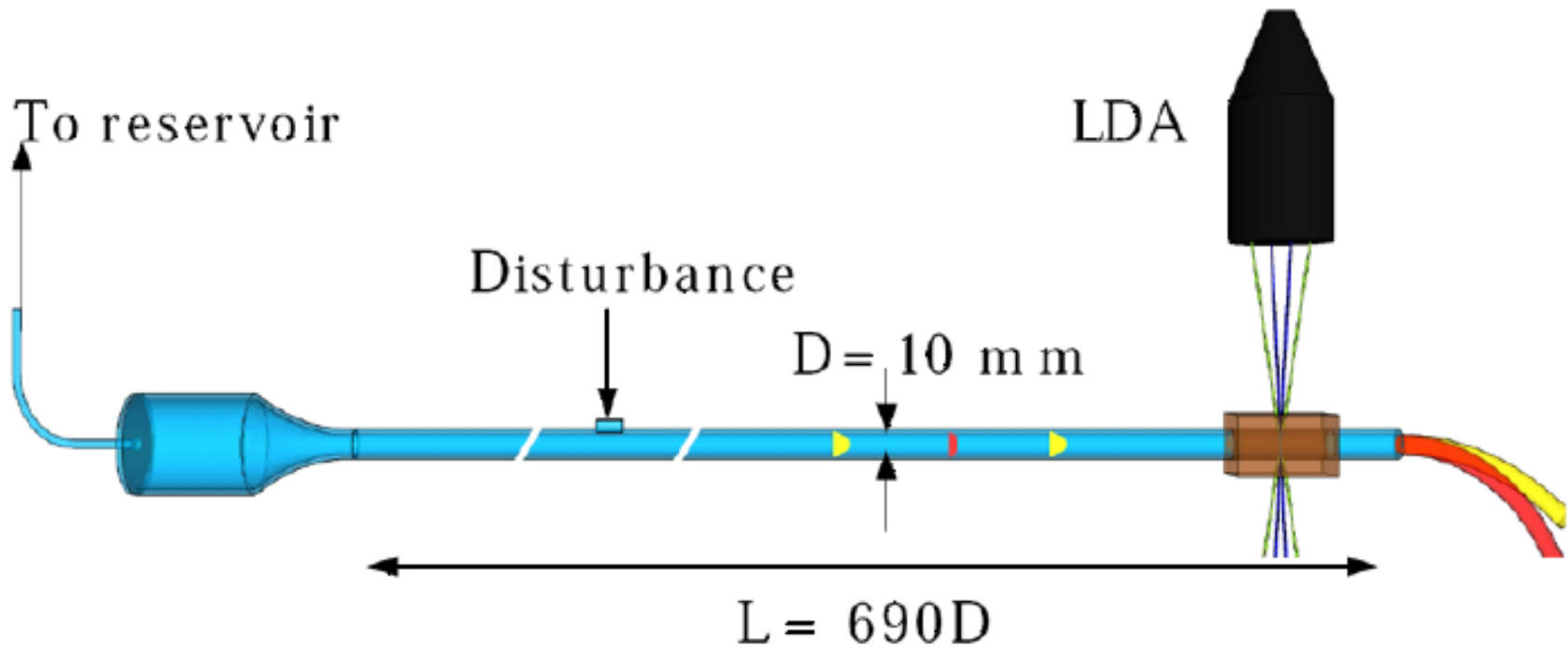
# Interpretation of super-exponential

Super-exponential scaling:  $\frac{\tau}{\tau_0} \sim \exp(\exp \text{Re})$

- Lifetime of turbulence is always finite
  - No critical Reynolds number for laminar-turbulence transition
- Naïve interpretation: turbulence is long-lived transient
  - Such phenomena seen in simplified models of spatio-temporal complex patterns

# Precision measurement of turbulent transition

Q: will a puff survive to the end of the pipe?

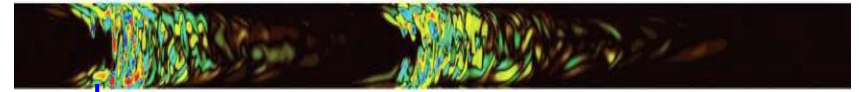


Many repetitions  $\rightarrow$  survival probability  $P(\text{Re}, t)$

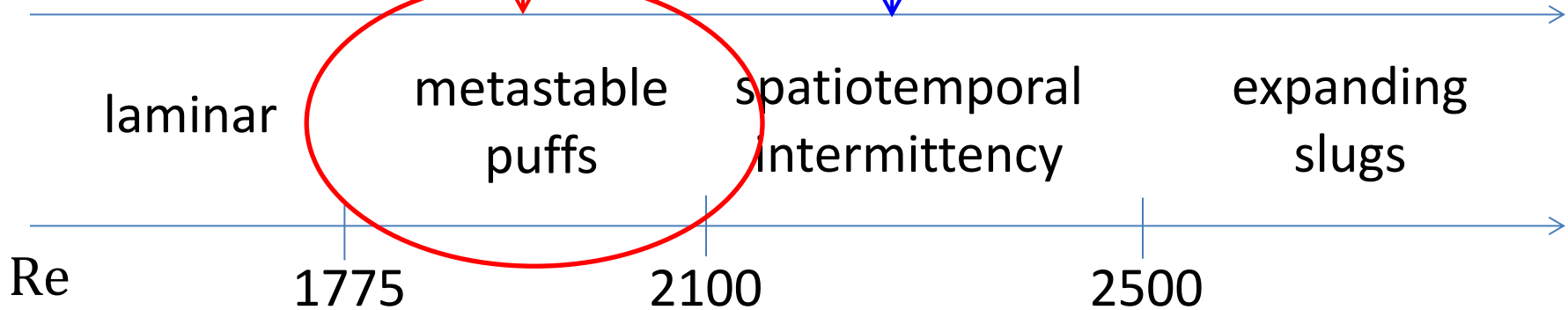
# Phase diagram of pipe flow



Single puff spontaneously decays

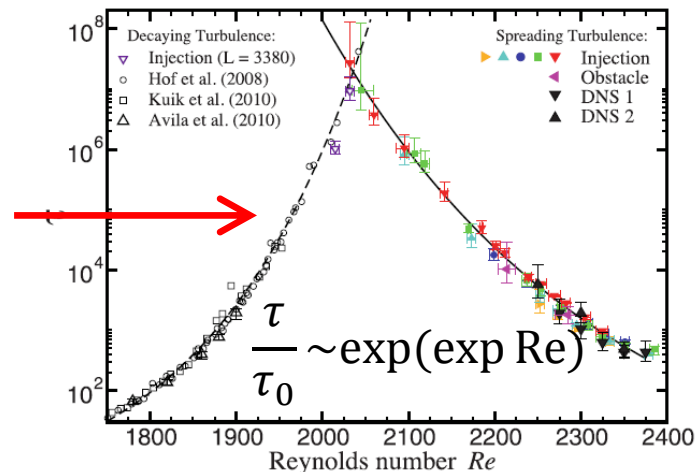
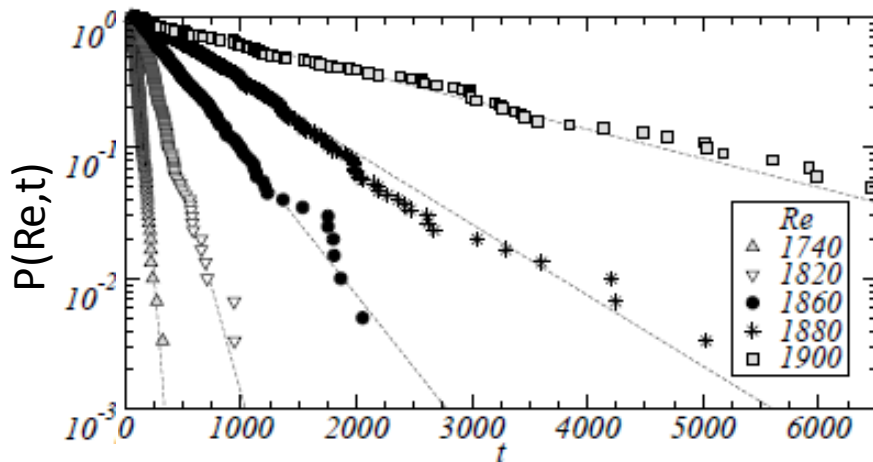


Splitting puffs



Survival probability  $P(Re, t) = e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{\tau(Re)}}$

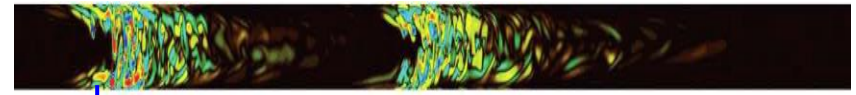
Avila *et al.*, *Science* **333**, 192 (2011)  
 Hof *et al.*, *PRL* **101**, 214501 (2008)



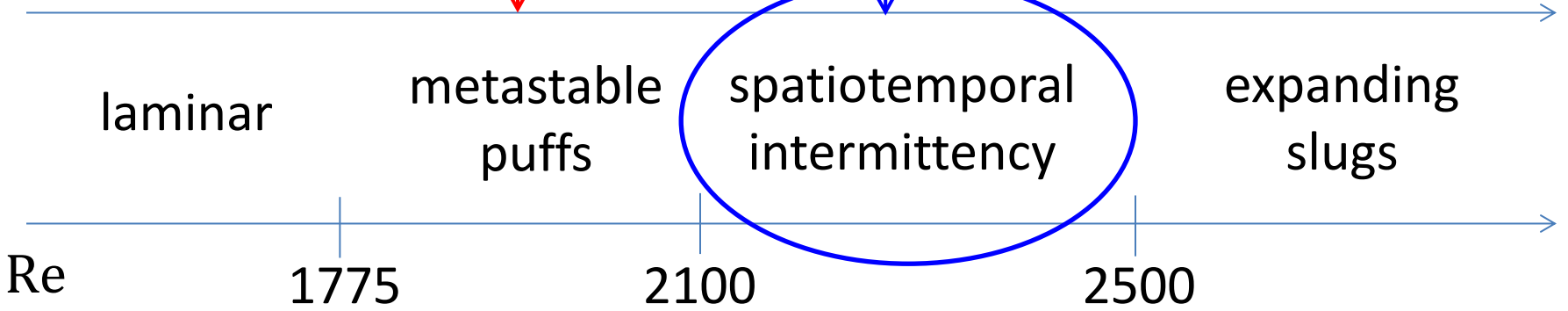
# Phase diagram of pipe flow



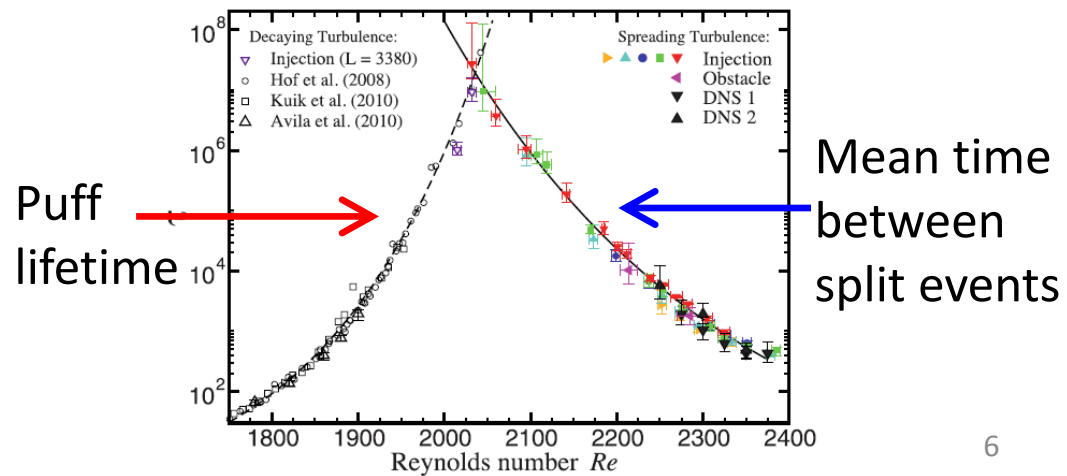
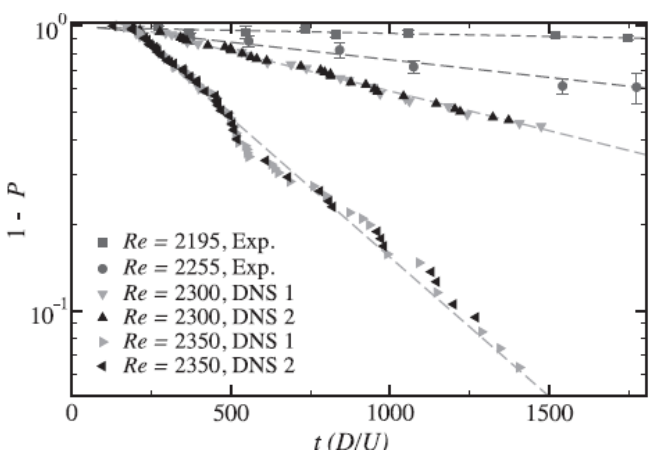
Single puff spontaneously decays



Splitting puffs



Survival probability  $1 - P(\text{Re}, t) = e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{\tau(\text{Re})}}$       Avila *et al.*, *Science* **333**, 192 (2011)  
 Hof *et al.*, *PRL* **101**, 214501 (2008)

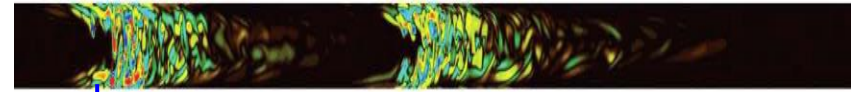




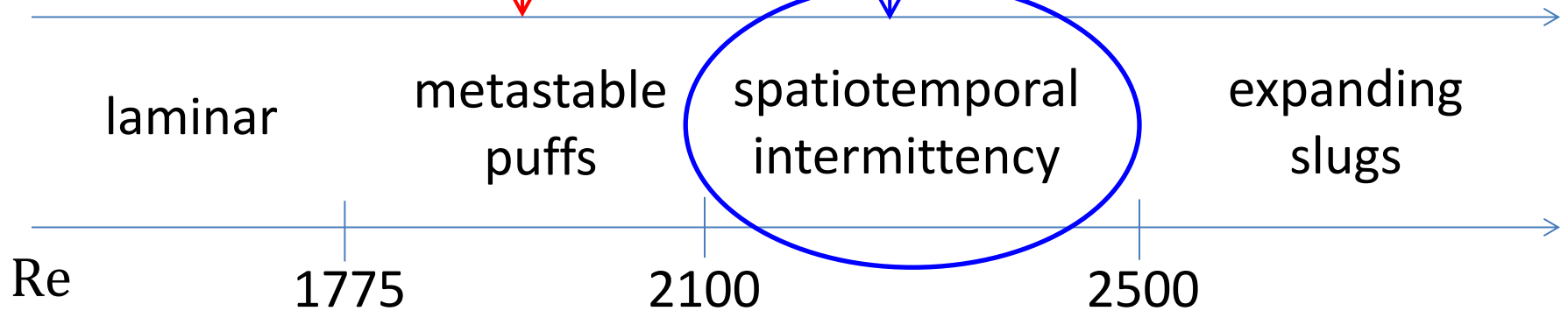
# Phase diagram of pipe flow



Single puff spontaneously decays

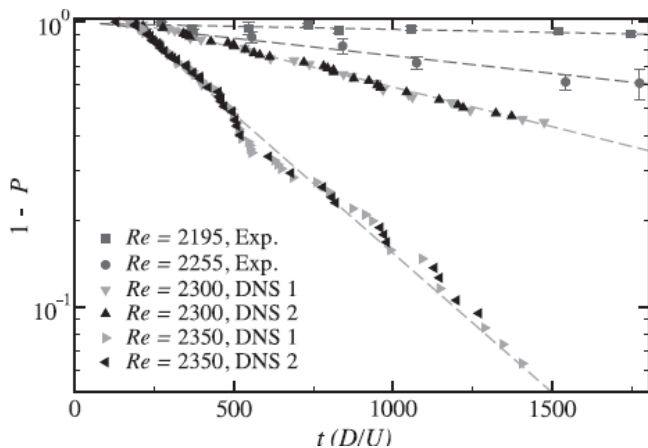


Splitting puffs

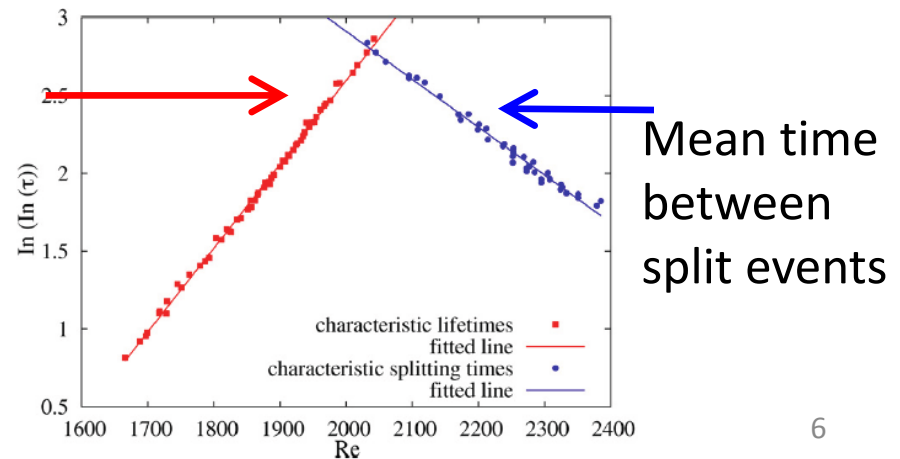


Survival probability  $1 - P(\text{Re}, t) = e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{\tau(\text{Re})}}$

Avila *et al.*, *Science* **333**, 192 (2011)  
 Hof *et al.*, *PRL* **101**, 214501 (2008)  
 Song *et al.*, *J. Stat. Mech.* 2014(2), P020010



Puff lifetime

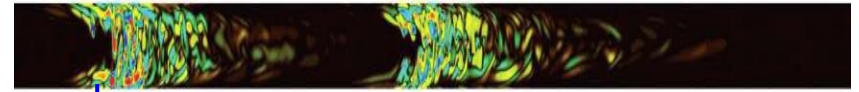


Mean time between split events

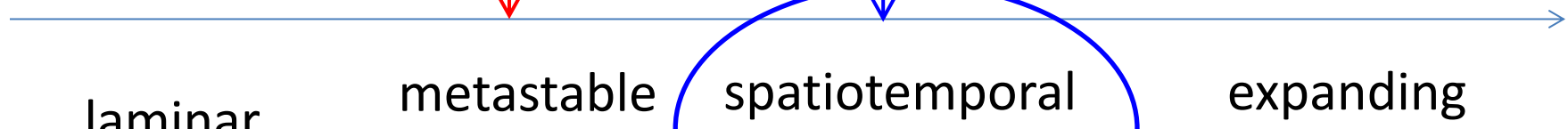
# Phase diagram of pipe flow



Single puff spontaneously decays



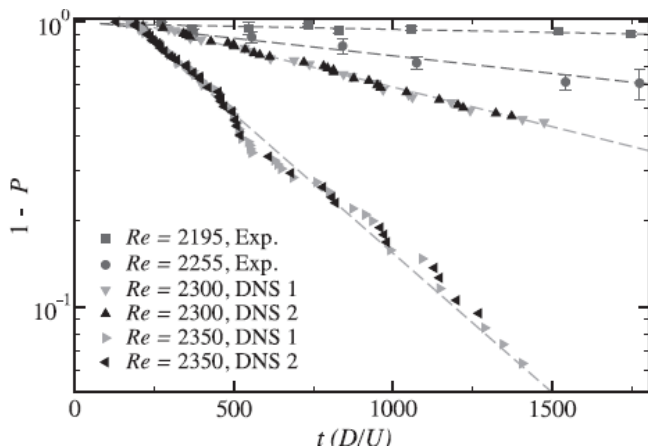
Splitting puffs



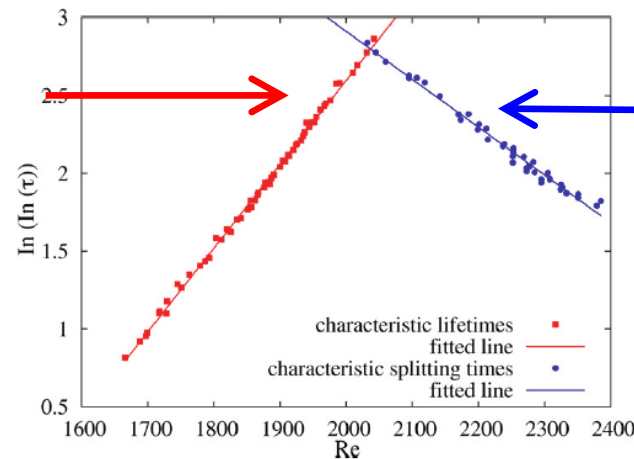
Super-exponential scaling:

$$\frac{\tau}{\tau_0} \sim \exp(\exp Re)$$

Song et al., J. Stat. Mech. 2014(2), P020010

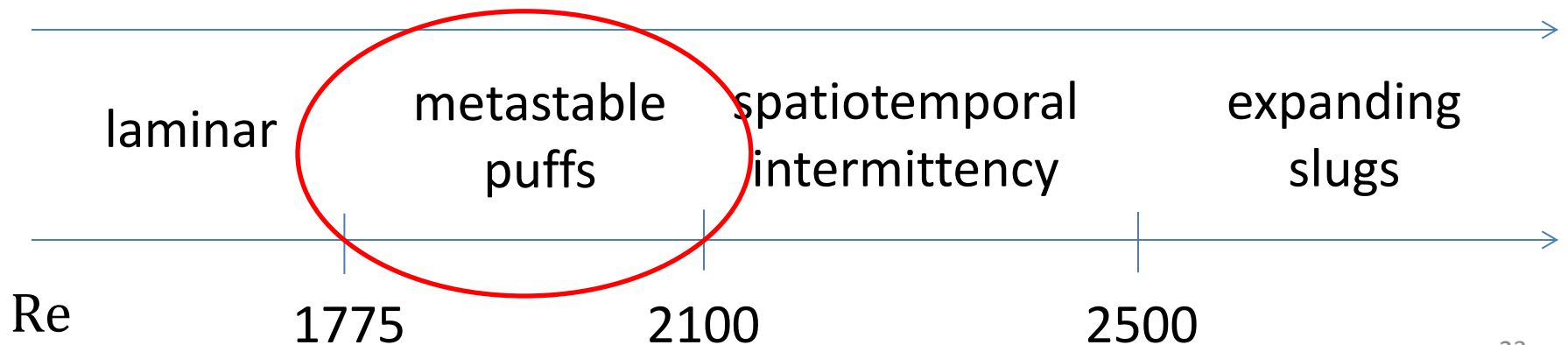


Puff lifetime



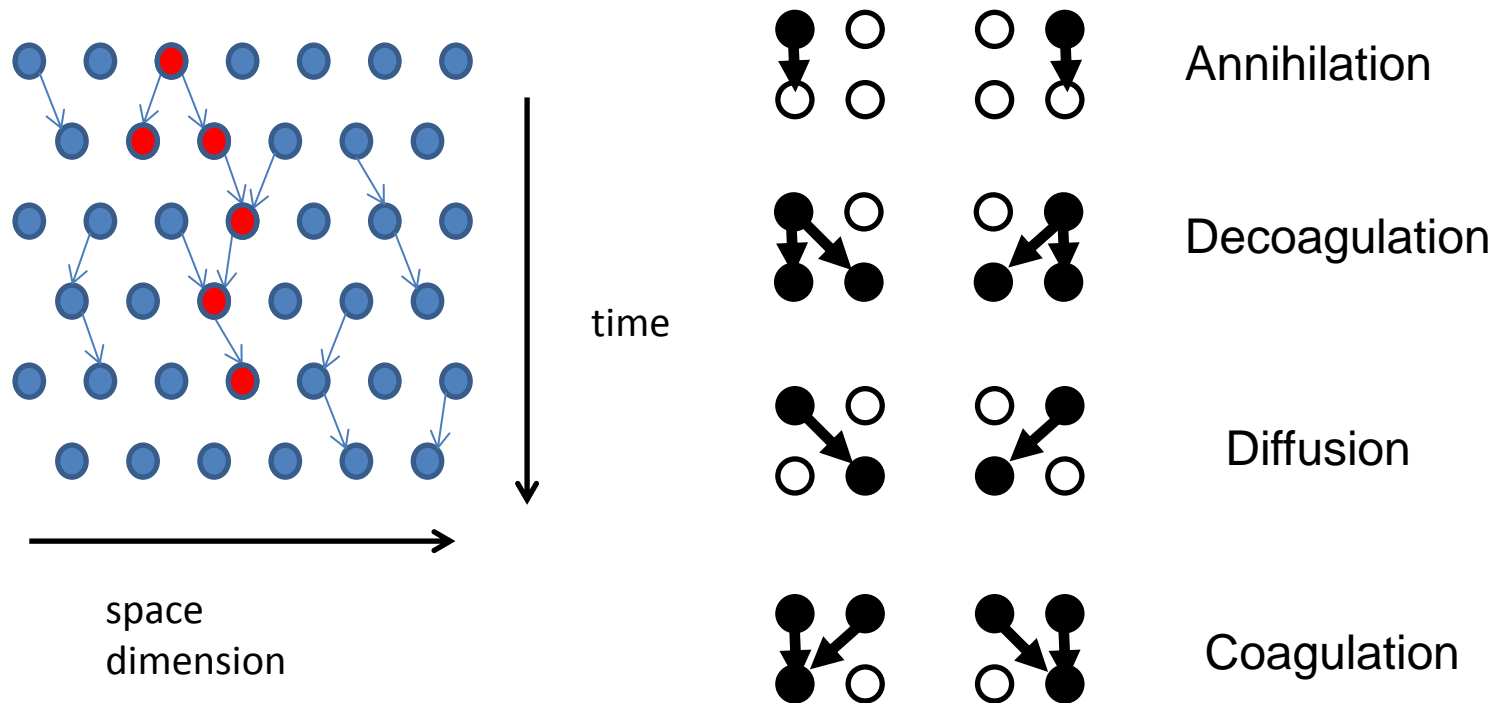
Mean time between split events

# MODEL FOR METASTABLE TURBULENT PUFFS



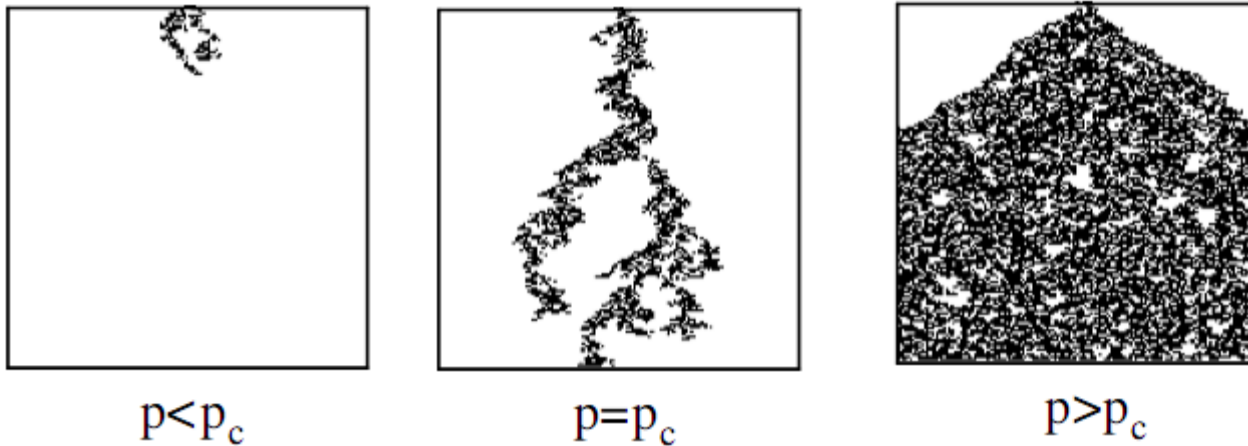
# DP & the laminar-turbulent transition

- Turbulent regions can spontaneously relaminarize (go into an absorbing state).
- They can also contaminate their neighbourhood with turbulence. (Pomeau 1986)



# Directed Percolation Transition

- A continuous phase transition occurs at  $p_c$ .



Hinrichsen (Adv. in Physics 2000)

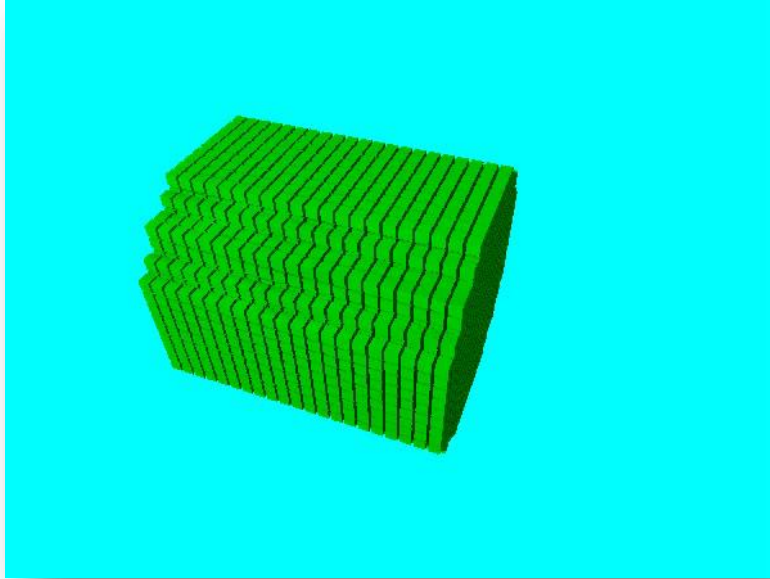
- Phase transition characterized by universal exponents:

$$\rho \sim (p - p_c)^\beta \quad \xi_\perp \sim (p - p_c)^{-\nu_\perp} \quad \xi_\parallel \sim (p - p_c)^{-\nu_\parallel}$$

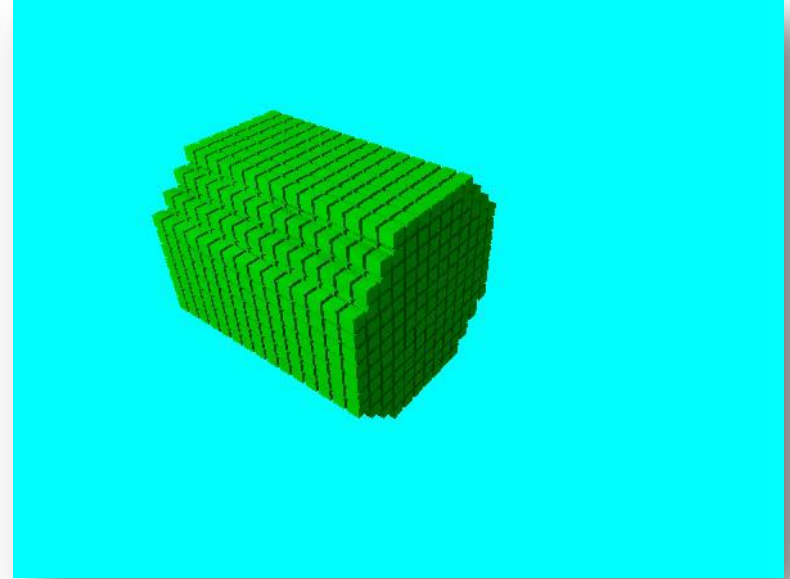
to DP models



# DP in 3 + 1 dimensions in pipe



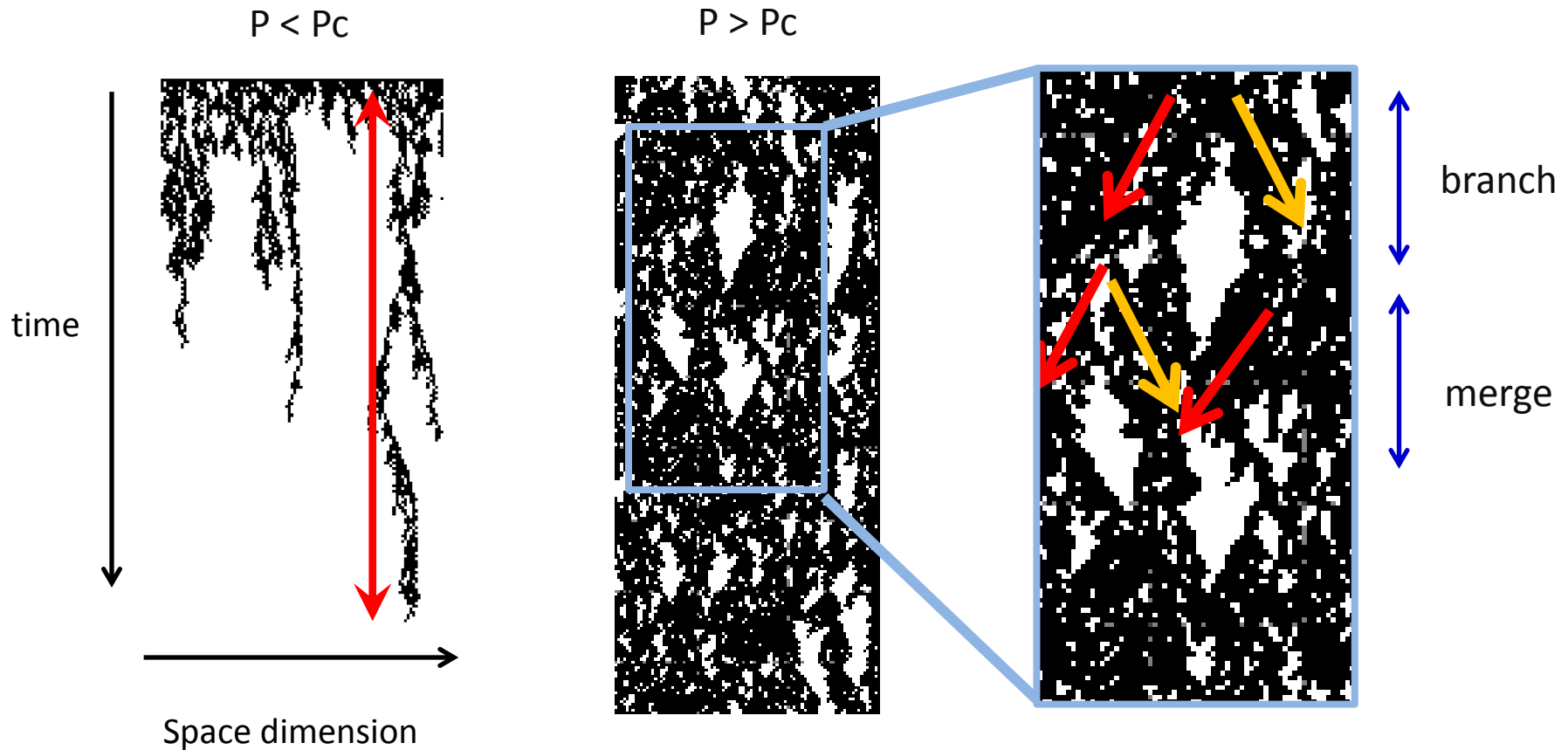
Puff decay



Slug spreading

# 1+1 Directed Percolation

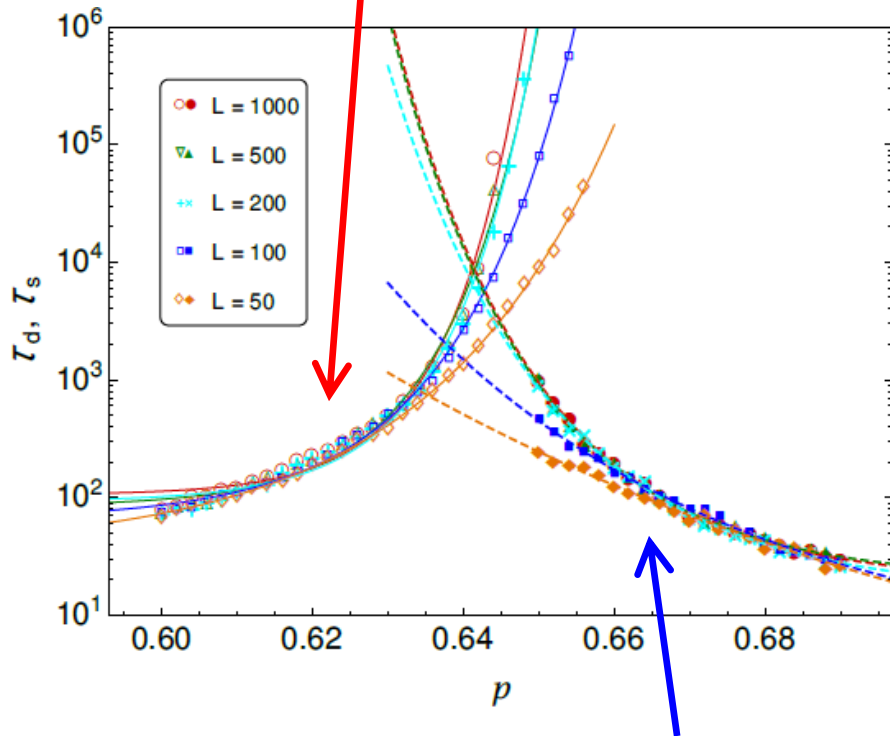
- Turbulent puff lifetime  $\rightarrow$  longest percolation path
- Turbulent puff splitting time  $\rightarrow$  longest length of empty site



# Directed percolation vs. transitional turbulence

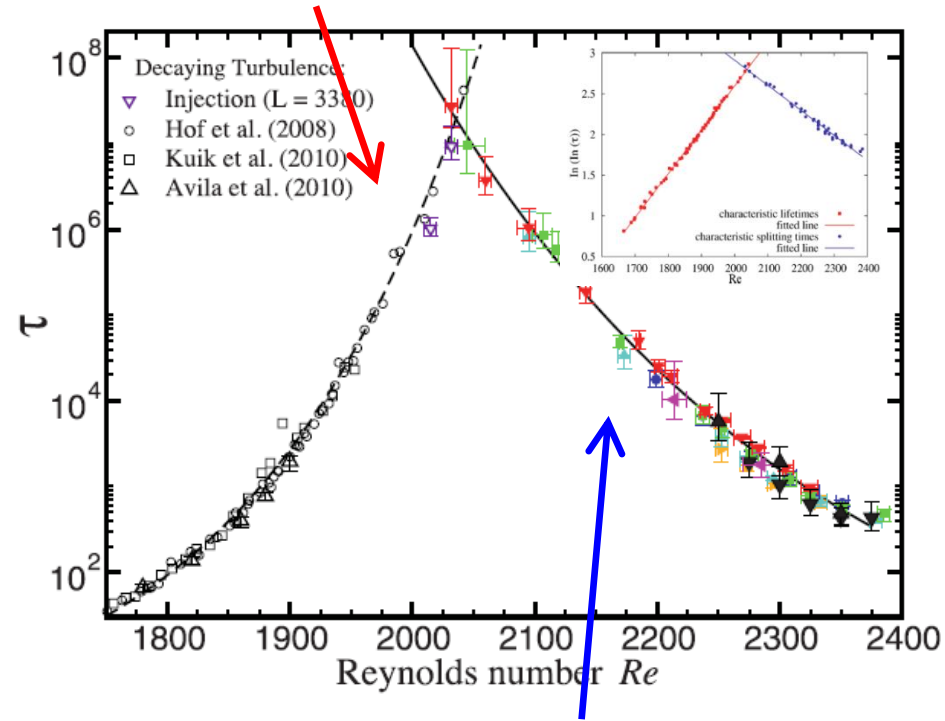
Survival probability  $P(\text{Re}, t) = e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{\tau(\text{Re})}}$

Longest percolation path



Longest length of empty site

Turbulent puff lifetime

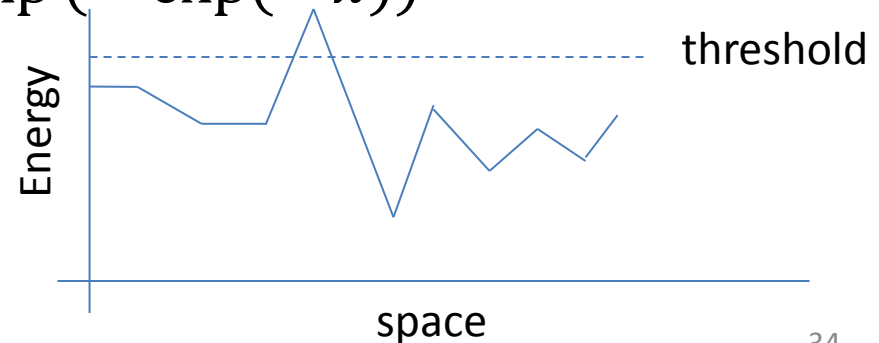
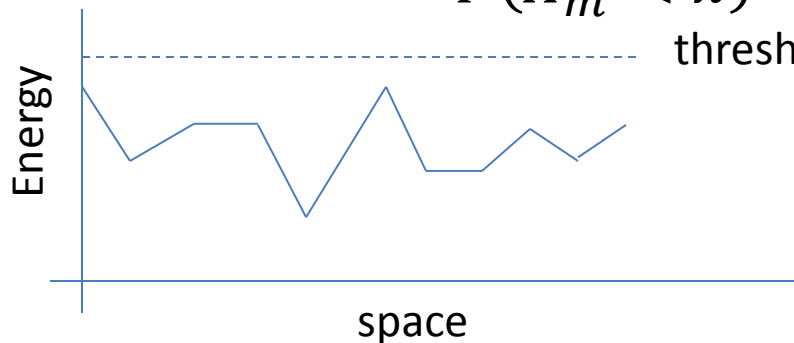


Mean time between puff split events

# Super-exponential scaling and extreme statistics

- Consider identical and independently distributed random variables  $X_i$  whose distribution decays sufficiently fast at infinity
- Their mean  $\bar{X} \propto \sum_i X_i$  is normally distributed (Central limit theorem). more on FT
- Their maximum  $X_m \propto \max X_i$  is distributed according to the Fisher-Tippett type I distribution: more on FT 2

$$P(X_m < x) = \exp(-\exp(-x))$$



# Mean lifetime has extreme value distribution

- Probability of puff decay per unit time = probability largest turbulent energy fluctuation exceeds a Re-dependent threshold
- Taylor expand near critical Re.

there is a probability  $p$  that the puff will be suppressed within each time interval  $\tau_0$ . Then, the lifetime statistics will be Poisson. The probability  $P$  that turbulence persists to a time  $t$  after becoming established at a time  $t_0$  is  $P=(1-p)^M$ , where the number of intervals is  $M=(t-t_0)/\tau_0$ . Therefore

$$\ln(P) = M \ln(1-p) = \frac{1}{\tau_0}(t-t_0)\ln(1-p), \quad (1)$$

and so it follows that  $\tau_0/\tau = -\ln(1-p)$ . Since  $1 \gg p > 0$ , we can estimate  $\ln(1-p) = -p$  and therefore express the lifetime in the form

$$\tau = \tau_0/p, \quad (2)$$

where  $p$  depends on Re.

$$F(X) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^X P_M(x) dx = \exp\{-\exp[-(X-\mu)/\beta]\}.$$

Thus,  $p=F(B_c)$ , where  $B_c$  is the threshold.

$$\tau = \tau_0 \exp[\exp\{-[B_c^0 + B_c^1(\text{Re} - \text{Re}_0) + O((\text{Re} - \text{Re}_0)^2)]\}]$$



# Super-exponential scaling and extreme statistics

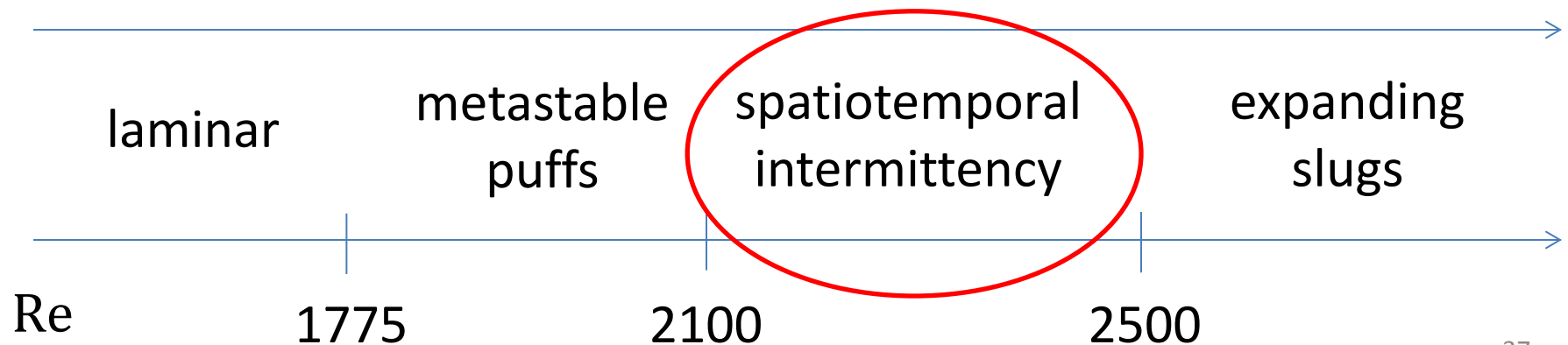
- Active state persists until the most long-lived percolating “strands” decay.
  - extreme value statistics
- Why do we not observe the power law divergence of lifetime of DP near transition?
- Close to transition, transverse correlation length diverges, so initial seeds are not independent
  - Crossover to single seed behaviour
  - Asymptotically will see the power law behavior in principle



$$\xi_{\perp} \sim (p - p_c)^{-\nu_{\perp}}$$

# MODEL FOR SPATIOTEMPORAL INTERMITTENCY

Very complex behavior and we need to understand precisely what happens at the transition, and where the DP universality class comes from.



# Logic of modeling phase transitions

Magnets

Electronic structure



Ising model



Landau theory



RG universality class

# Logic of modeling phase transitions

Magnets

Electronic structure



Ising model



Landau theory



RG universality class

Turbulence

Kinetic theory



Navier-Stokes eqn

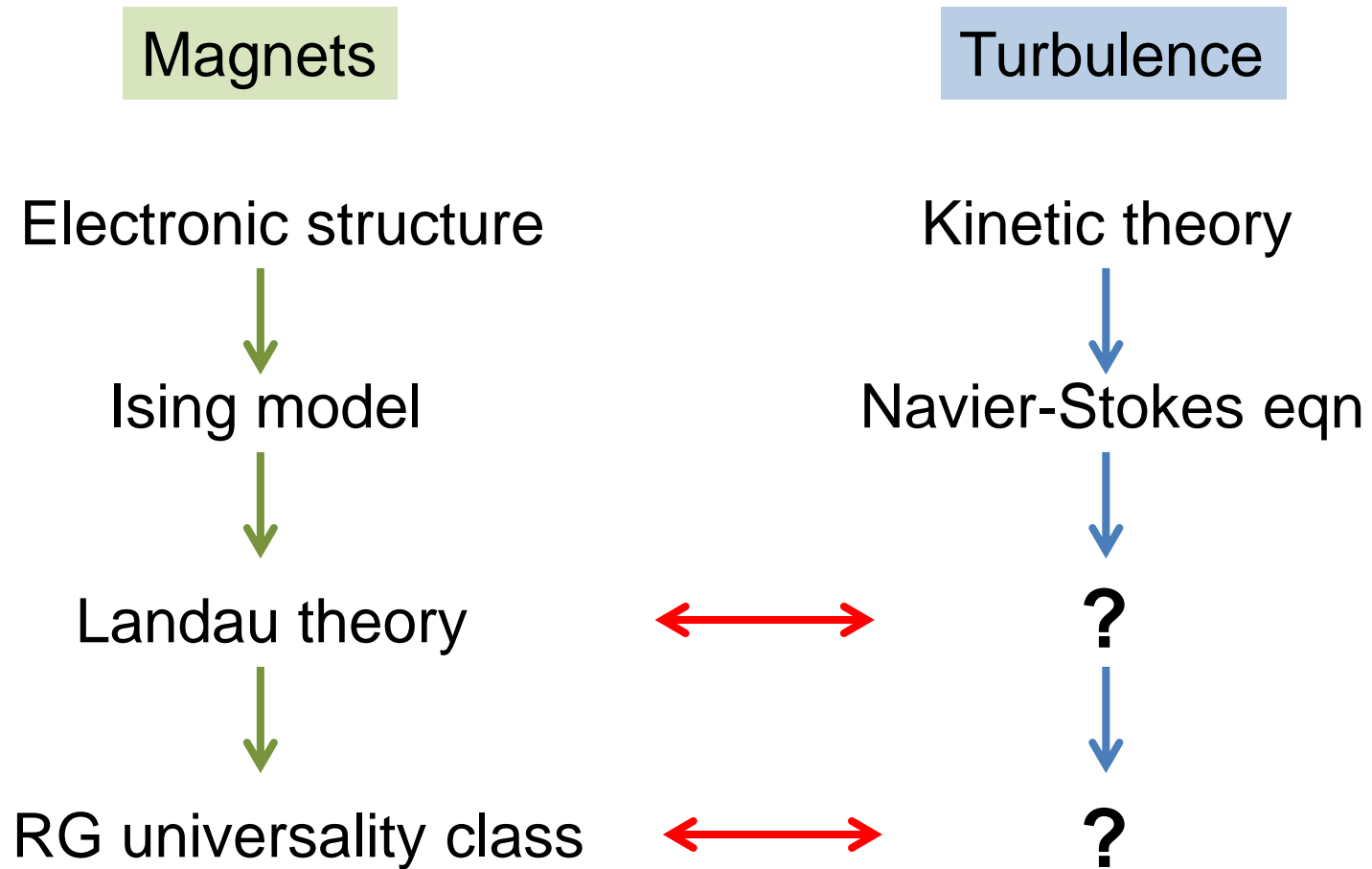


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?

# Logic of modeling phase transitions



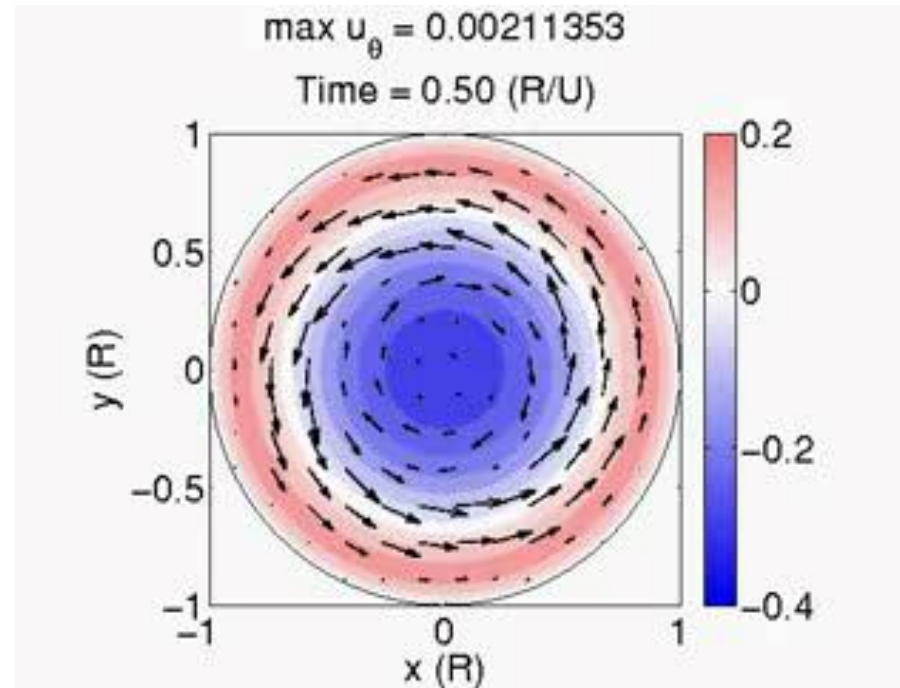
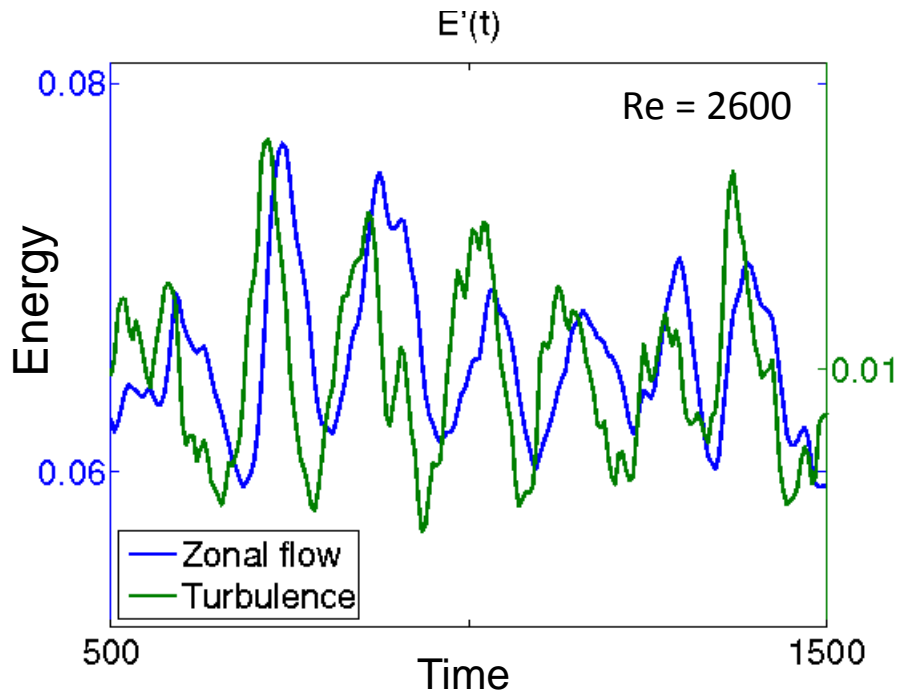
# Identification of collective modes at the laminar-turbulent transition

To avoid technical approximations,  
we use DNS of Navier-Stokes

# Observation of predator-prey oscillations in numerical simulation of pipe flow



# Predator-prey oscillations in pipe flow

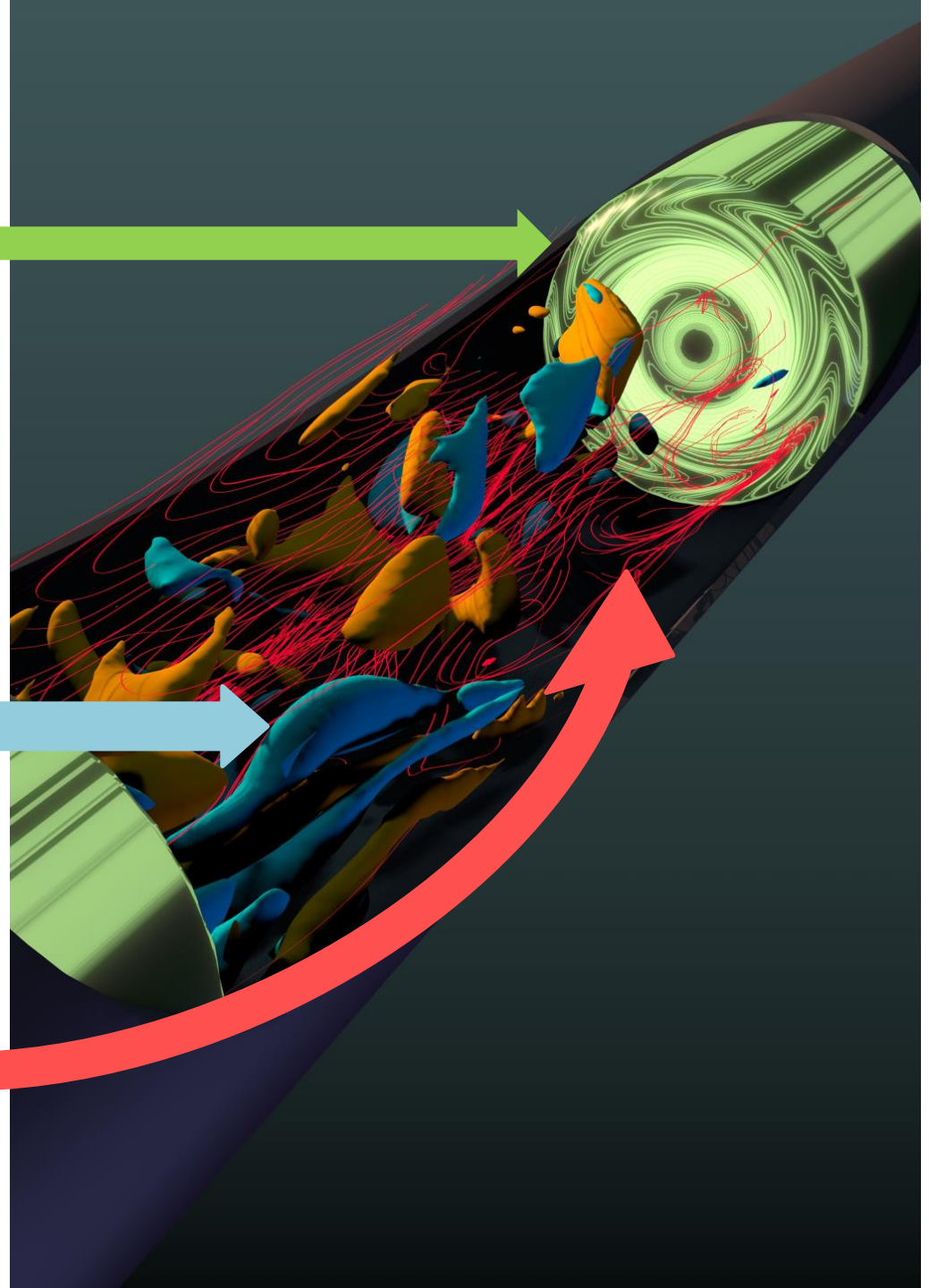




Zonal flow

Reynolds stress

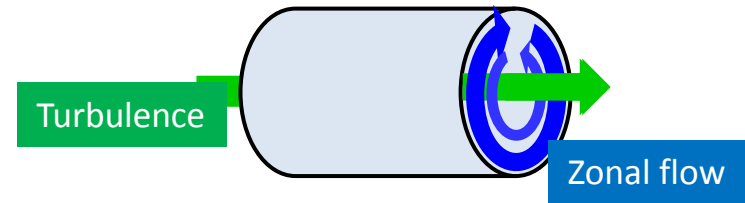
Streamlines



# What drives the zonal flow?

- Interaction in two fluid model

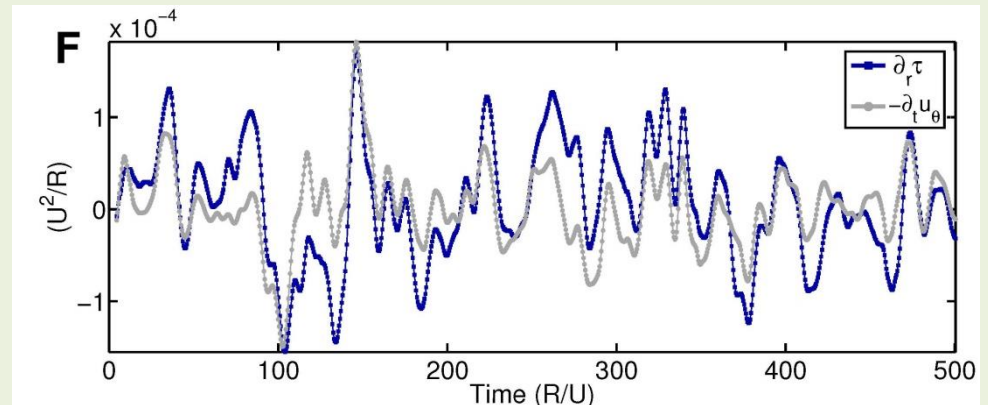
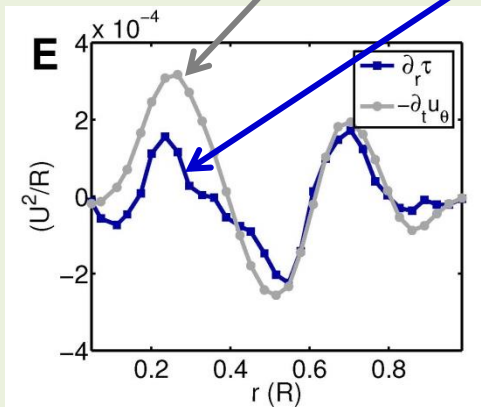
- Turbulence, small-scale ( $k>0$ )
- Zonal flow, large-scale ( $k=0, m=0$ ): induced by turbulence and creates shear to suppress turbulence



- 1) Anisotropy of turbulence creates Reynolds stress which generates the mean velocity in azimuthal direction

$$\partial_t \langle v_\theta \rangle = -\partial_r \langle (\tilde{v}_\theta \cdot \tilde{v}_r) \rangle - \mu \langle v_\theta \rangle$$

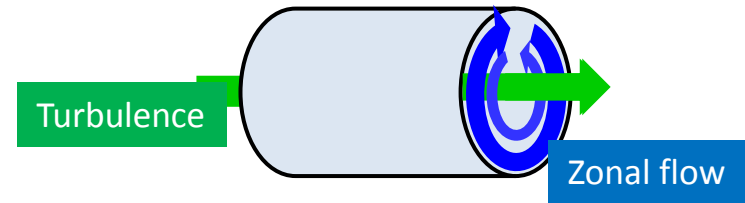
- 2) Mean azimuthal velocity decreases the anisotropy of turbulence and thus suppress turbulence



# What drives the zonal flow?

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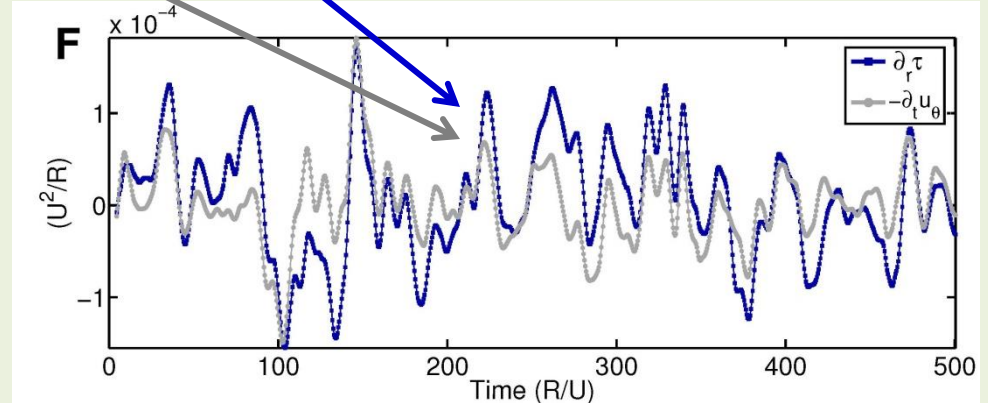
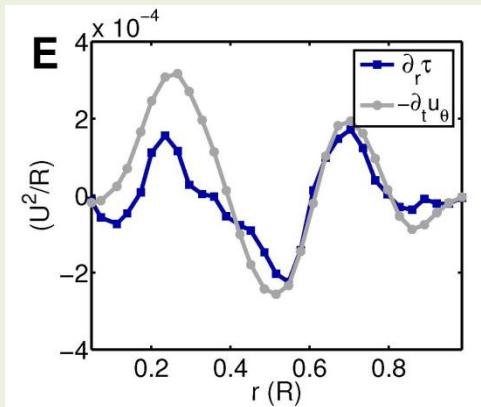
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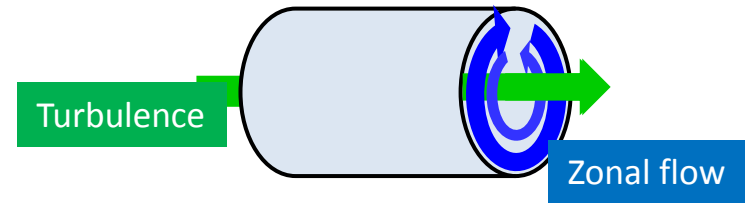
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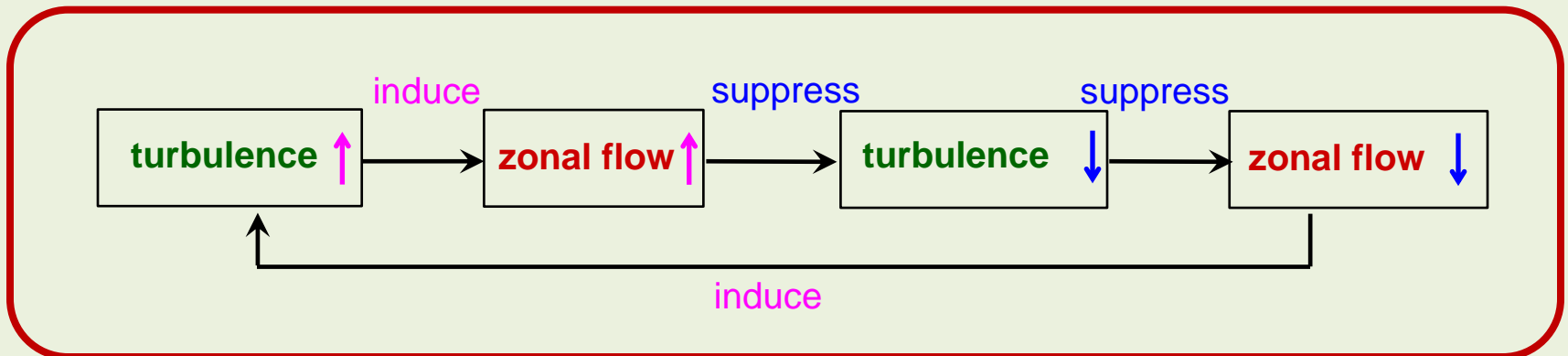
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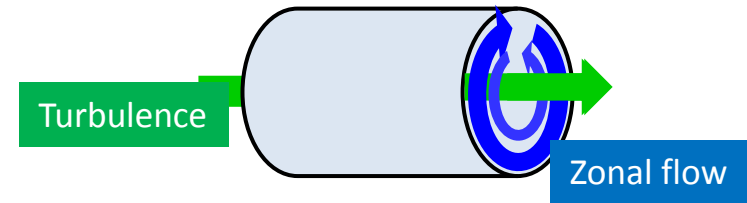
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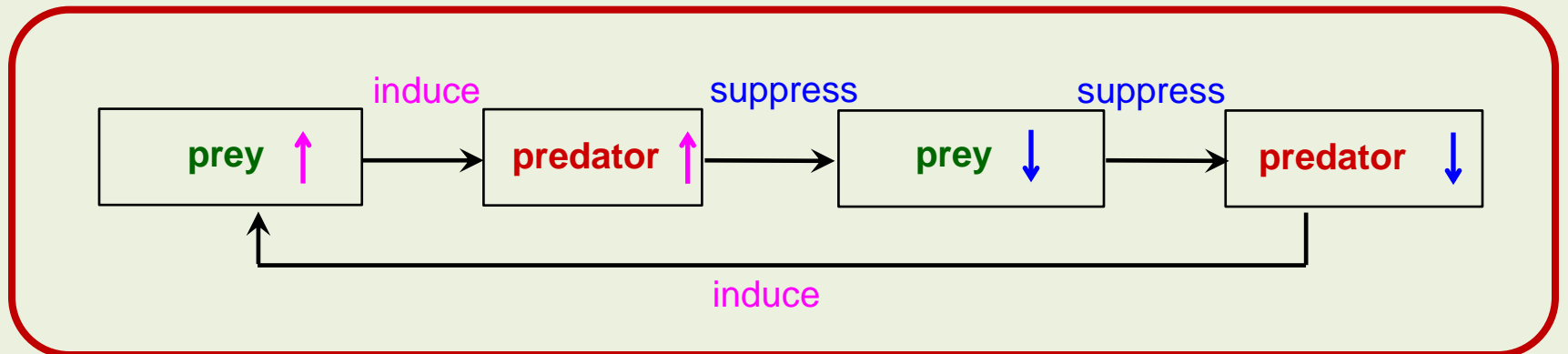
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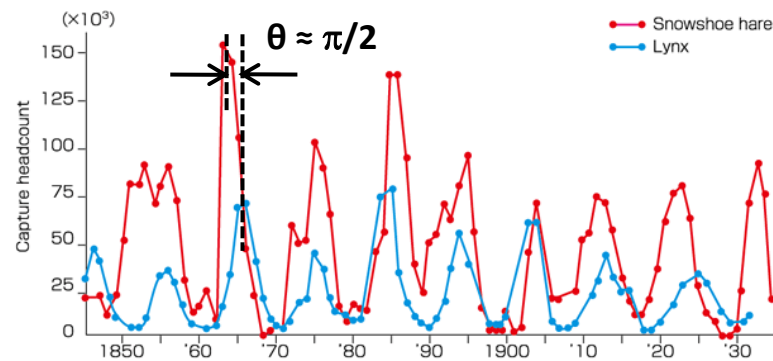
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# Normal population cycles in a predator-prey system



$\pi/2$  phase shift between prey and predator population



**Persistent oscillations  
+  
Fluctuations**

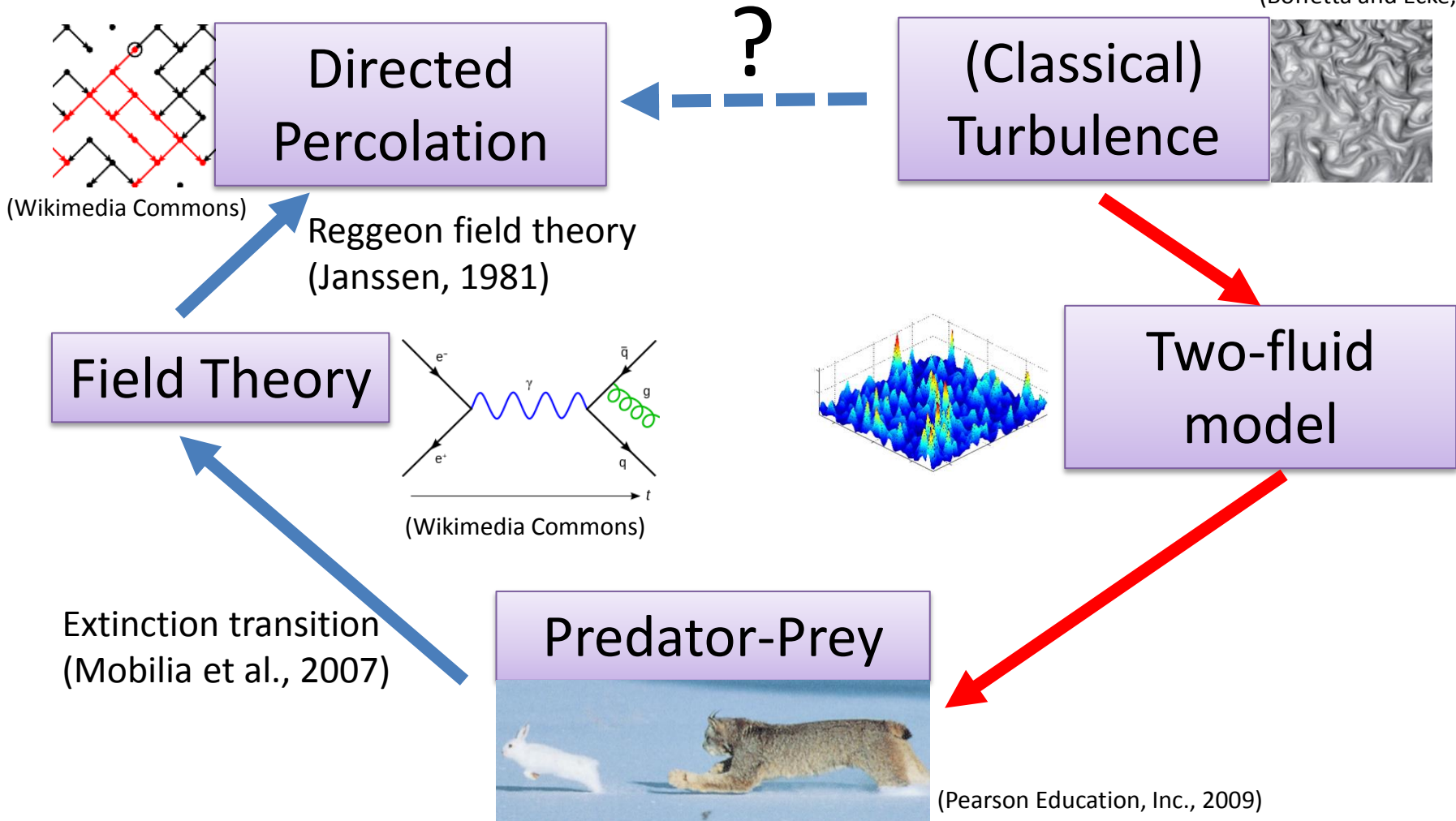
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**Q. What is the universality class of the transition to turbulence?**

Tentative answer: directed percolation ... but why?

# Strategy: transitional turbulence to directed percolation

(Boffetta and Ecke, 2012)



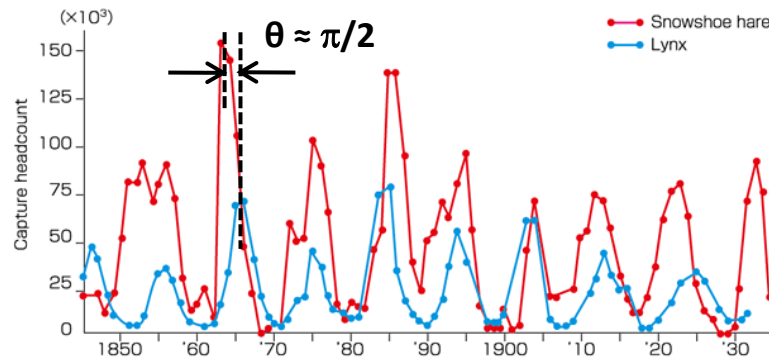


# **Introduction to stochastic predator-prey systems**

# Normal population cycles in a predator-prey system



$\pi/2$  phase shift between prey and predator population



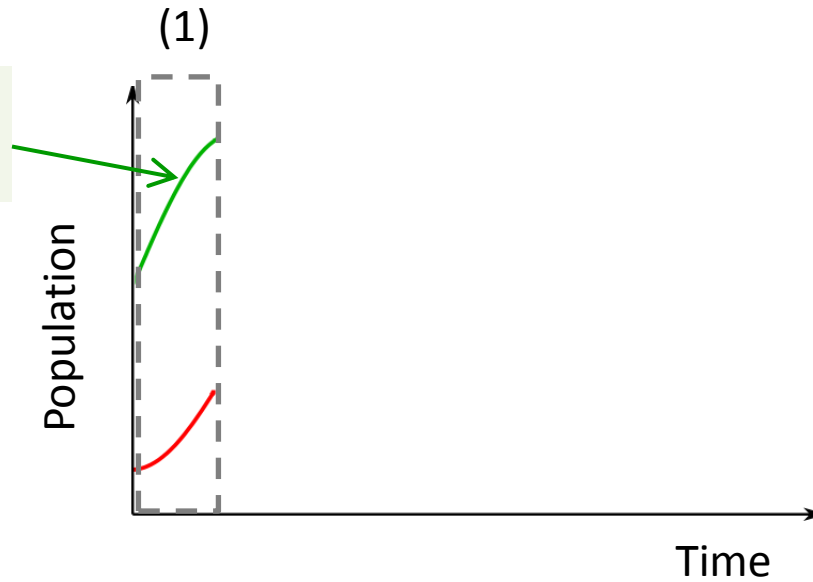
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# Cartoon picture for normal cycles ( $\pi/2$ phase shift)



**Prey** consumes resource and grows

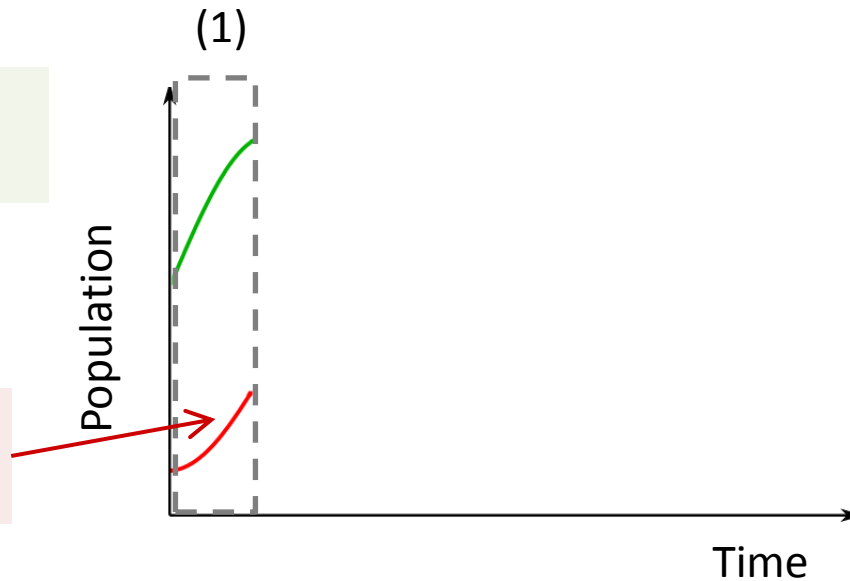


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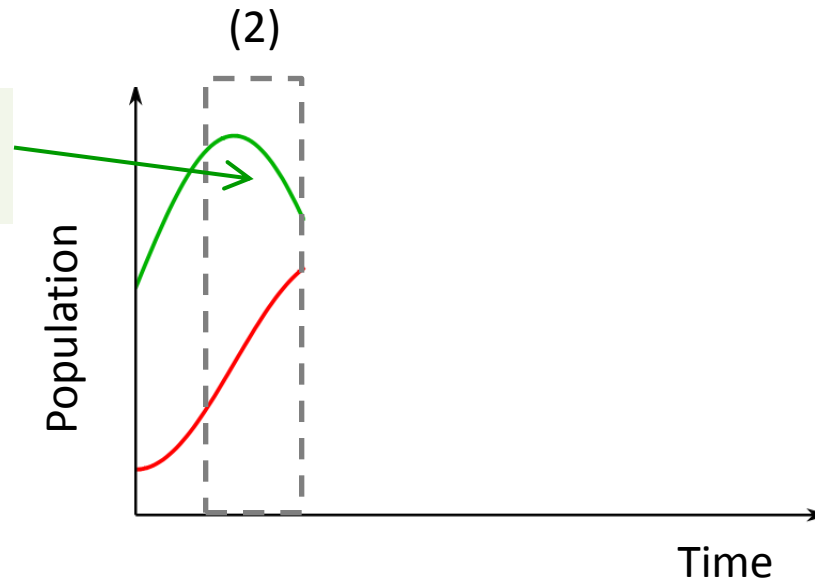
**Predator** eats prey and grows



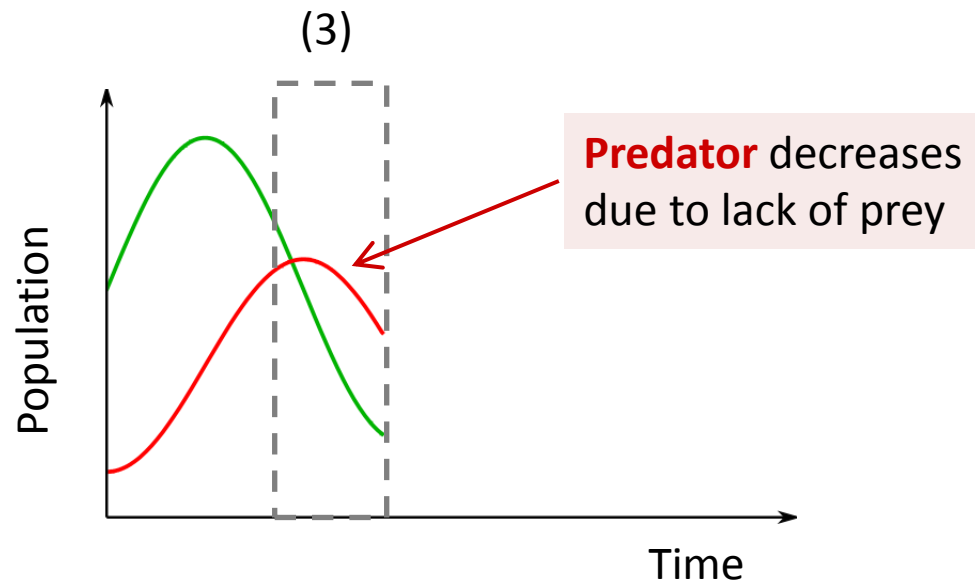
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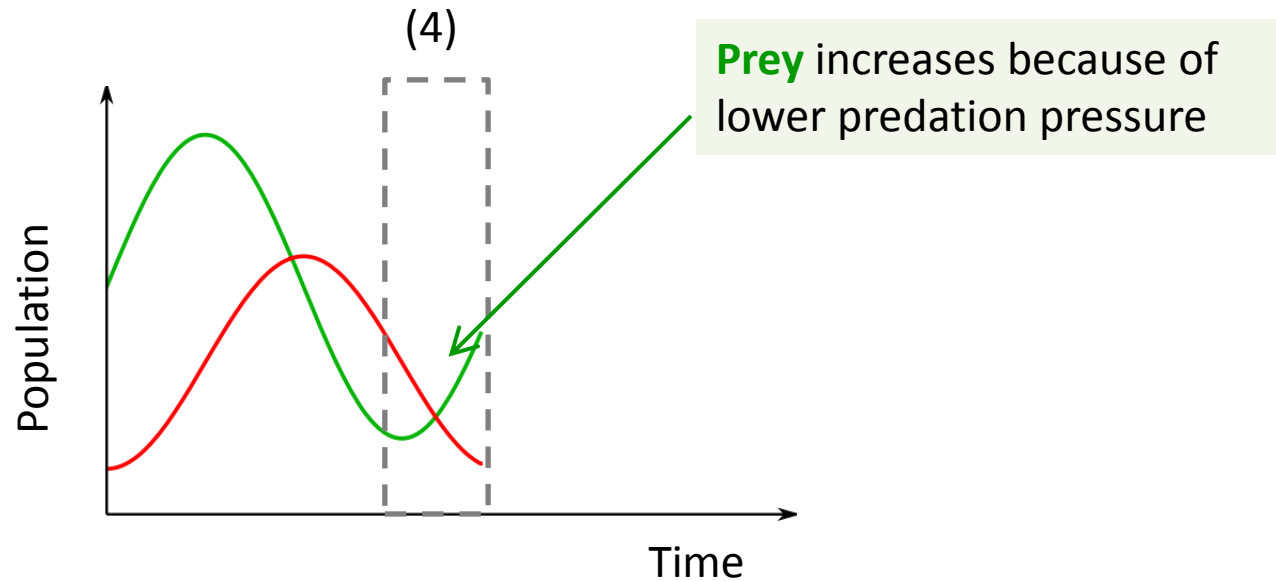
**Prey** decreases due to predation by predator



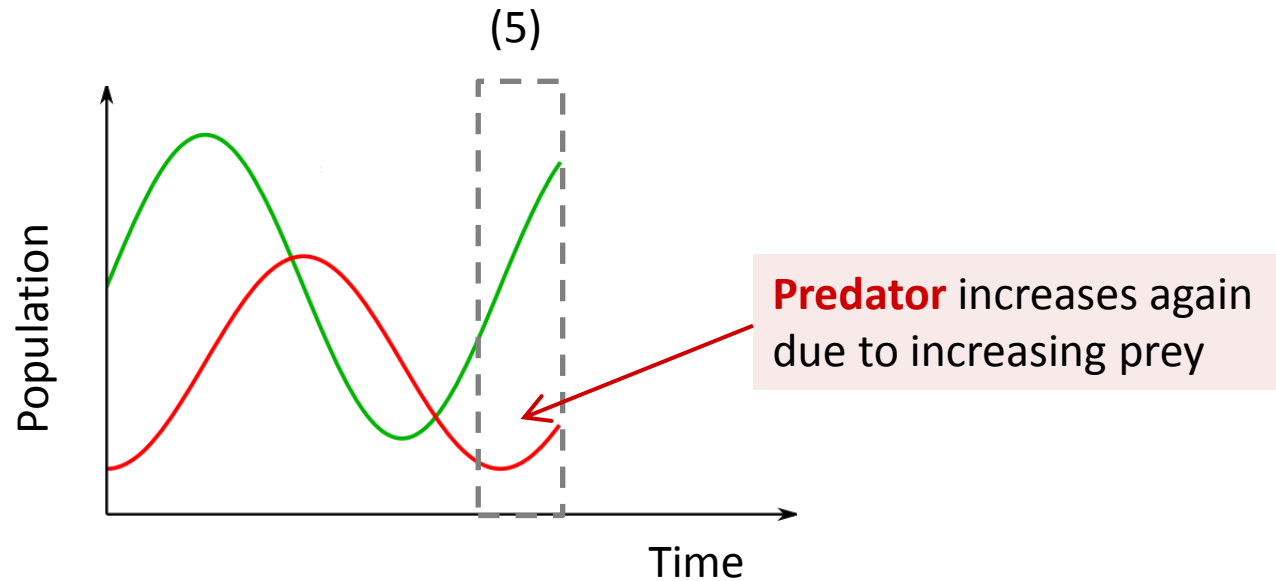
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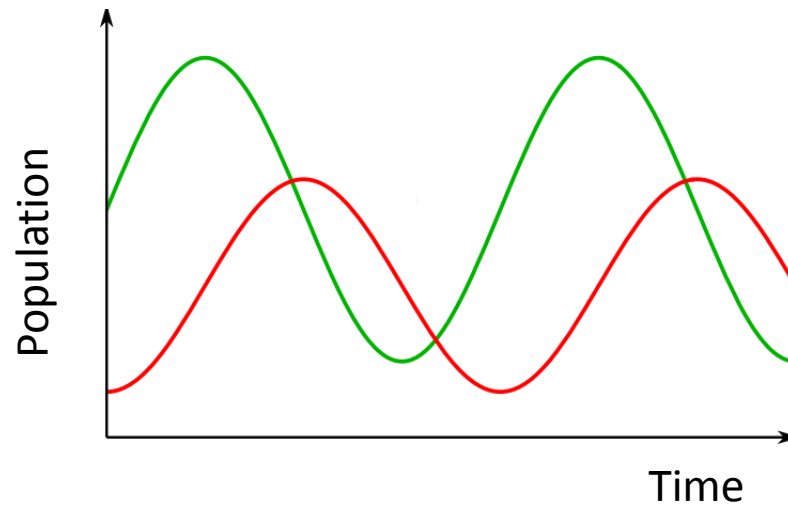


# Cartoon picture for normal cycles ( $\pi/2$ phase shift)





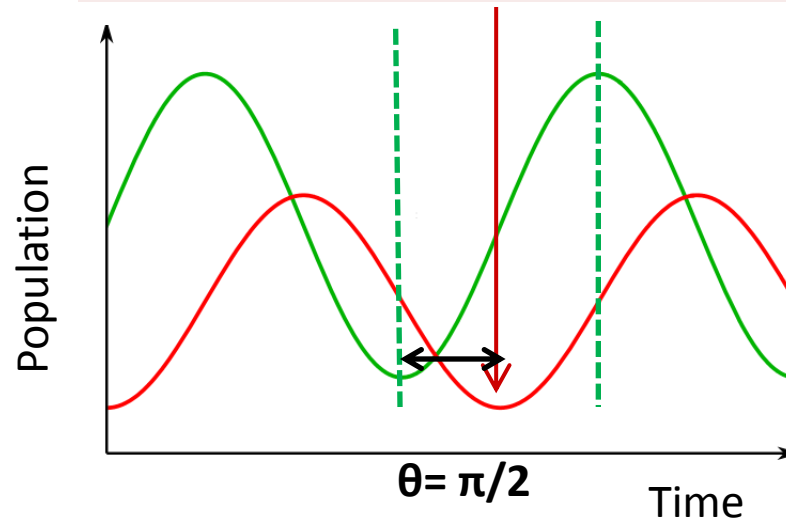
# Cartoon picture for normal cycles ( $\pi/2$ phase shift)



# Cartoon picture for normal cycles ( $\pi/2$ phase shift)



**Predator** can only start to grow after **prey** grows and before **prey** declines

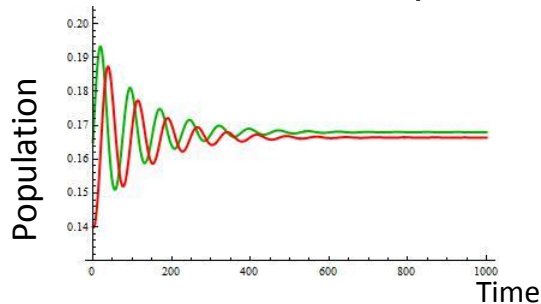


Phase shift is a quarter period

# Models for predator-prey ecosystem

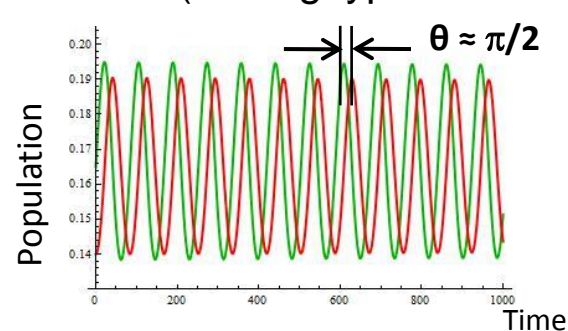
- **Deterministic models**

Lotka-Volterra equations



**No persistent oscillations**

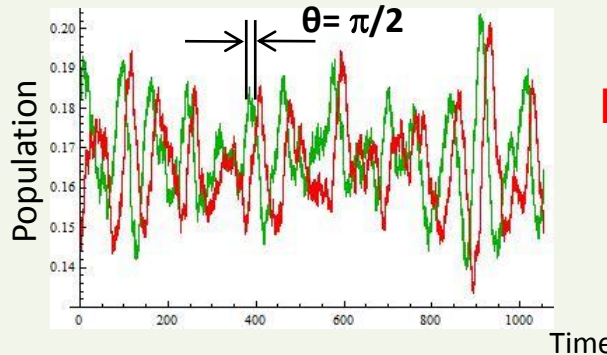
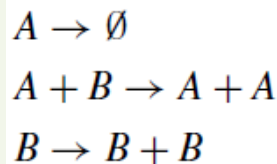
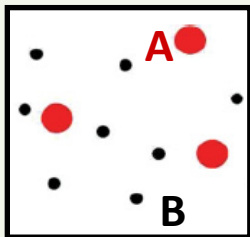
Satiation model (Holling type II function)



**No fluctuations**

- **Stochastic individual level model**

fluctuations in number → **demographic stochasticity** that induces **quasi-cycles**

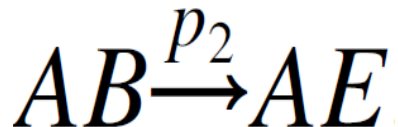
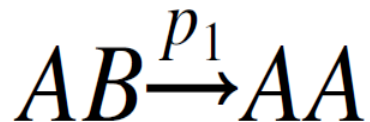
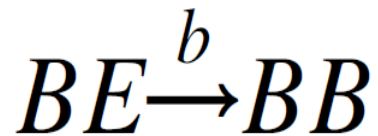
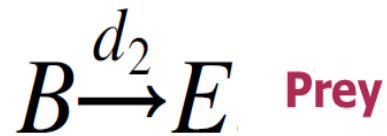


**Persistent oscillations**  
+  
**Fluctuations**

# Master equation as a quantum field theory

- Individuals in a population are quantized, so use annihilation and creation operators to count them and describe their interactions
  - When adding a new individual **to** the system, there is only **one** to chose
  - When removing an individual **from** the system there are **many** to chose
- Result: even classical identical particles obey commutation relations familiar from quantum field theory

# Individual-level stochastic model of predator-prey dynamics



$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t P(m, n) = & d_1(-nP(m, n) + (n + 1)P(m, n + 1)) \\ & + c(-n^2P(m, n) + (n + 1)^2P(m, n + 1)) \\ & + b_1(-nP(m, n) + (n - 1)P(m, n - 1)) \\ & + p_1(-mnP(m, n) + (n + 1)mP(m, n + 1)) \\ & + p_2(-mnP(m, n) + (m - 1)(n + 1)P(m - 1, n + 1)) \\ & + d_2(-mP(m, n) + (m + 1)P(m + 1, n)) \end{aligned}$$

# Master equation as a quantum field theory

- Individuals in a population are quantized, so use annihilation and creation operators to count them and describe their interactions
- Time evolution given by Liouville equation

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum P(m, n) |m, n\rangle$$

$$\partial_t |\psi\rangle = -\hat{H}(a, \hat{a}, b, \hat{b}) |\psi\rangle$$

$$a|m, n\rangle = m|m - 1, n\rangle$$

$$\hat{a}|m, n\rangle = |m + 1, n\rangle$$

$$[a, \hat{a}] = 1$$

$$b|m, n\rangle = n|m, n - 1\rangle$$

$$\hat{b}|m, n\rangle = |m, n + 1\rangle$$

$$[b, \hat{b}] = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H} = & b_1(\hat{b}b - \hat{b}^2b) + d_1(\hat{b}b - b) + \frac{c}{V}(\hat{b}^2b^2 - \hat{b}b^2) \\ & + \frac{p_1}{V}(\hat{a}a\hat{b}b - \hat{a}ab) + \frac{p_2}{V}(\hat{a}a\hat{b}b - \hat{a}^2ab) \\ & + d_2(\hat{a}a - a) \end{aligned}$$

# Resonance from demographic noise

- Expand the number of predators and prey about average values in  $\sqrt{N}$  expansion

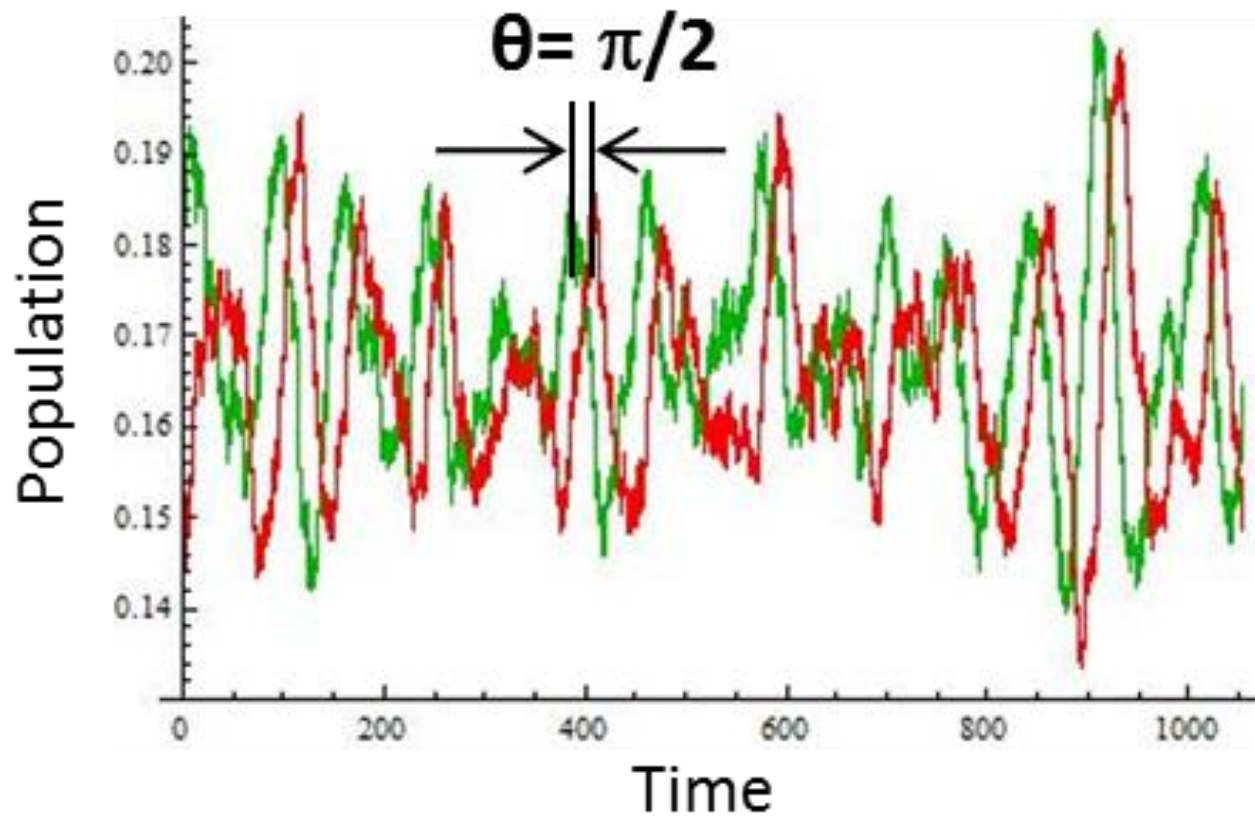
$$n/N = f_1 + x/\sqrt{N}$$

$$m/N = f_2 + y/\sqrt{N}$$

- Resulting equation is a linear stochastic equation in  $x, y$  with Langevin noise and power spectrum, sharply peaked about an internally-generated natural frequency

$$P(\omega) = \frac{\alpha + \beta\omega^2}{[(\omega^2 - \Omega_0^2)^2 + \Gamma^2\omega^2]}$$

# Quasi-cycles





# **Extinction/decay statistics for stochastic predator-prey systems**

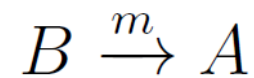
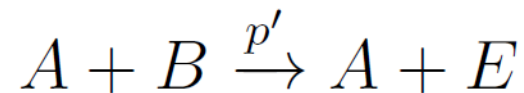
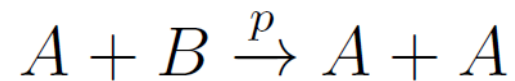
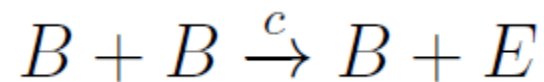
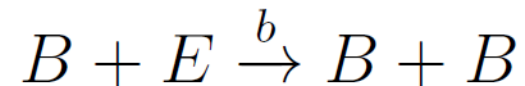
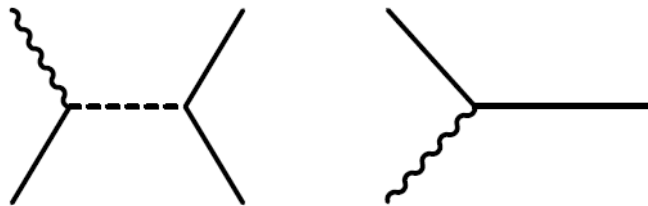
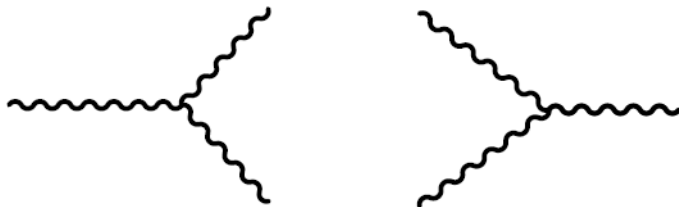
# Derivation of predator-prey equations

———— Predator/Zonal flow

~~~~~ Prey/Turbulence

**Zonal flow-turbulence**

**Predator-prey**



# Derivation of predator-prey equations

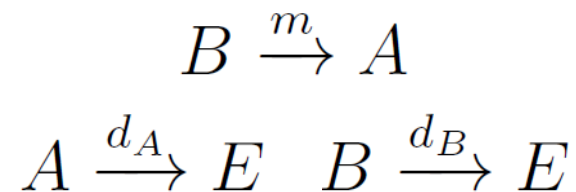
Zor

This phenomenological derivation of predator-prey dynamics is valid near critical point – it's Landau theory.

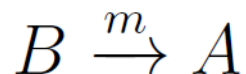
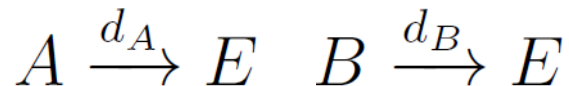
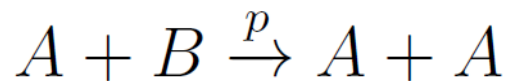
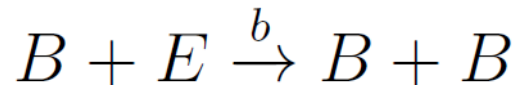
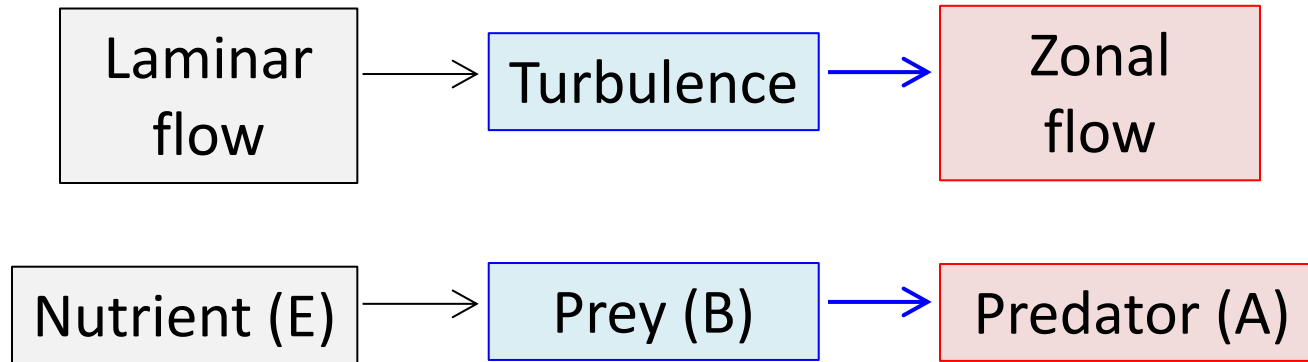
Can we motivate the predator-prey dynamics from mean field considerations?

nce

E



# Ecology model for turbulence



mean-field rate equation:

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = pAB - d_A A + mB$$

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = b(1 - A - B)B - pAB - d_B B - mB$$

# Heuristic derivation of predator-prey equation

Energy of turbulent  
fluctuations

$$E = \int |\tilde{v}|^2 dV$$

Shear at zonal flow

$$\Omega \equiv \partial \langle \bar{u}_\theta(r) \rangle / \partial r$$

Energy of sheared  
zonal flow

$$U \equiv \Omega^2$$

Turbulence  
dynamics

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \gamma_0 E - \alpha_1 E^2 - \alpha_2 EU$$

Primary  
instability

Eddy  
interaction

Suppression by  
zonal flow

# Heuristic derivation of predator-prey equation

Reynolds momentum  
balance equation

$$\frac{\partial \langle \bar{u}_\theta(r) \rangle}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial \langle \tilde{v}_r \tilde{v}_\theta \rangle}{\partial r} - \mu \langle \bar{u}_\theta(r) \rangle$$

damping

Radial derivative

$$\partial_t \Omega = \underbrace{-\partial_r^2 \langle \tilde{v}_r \tilde{v}_\theta \rangle}_{\propto E} - \mu \Omega$$

$$\propto E$$

$$\propto +\Omega + O(\Omega^2)$$

Zonal flow  
dynamics

$$\partial_t U = \alpha_3 E U - 2\mu U$$

# Heuristic derivation of predator-prey equation

Turbulence  
dynamics

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \gamma_0 E - \alpha_1 E^2 - \alpha_2 EU$$

Zonal flow  
dynamics

$$\partial_t U = \alpha_3 EU - 2\mu U$$

Prey  
dynamics

$$\dot{B} = bB(1 - B/\kappa) - pAB$$

Predator  
dynamics

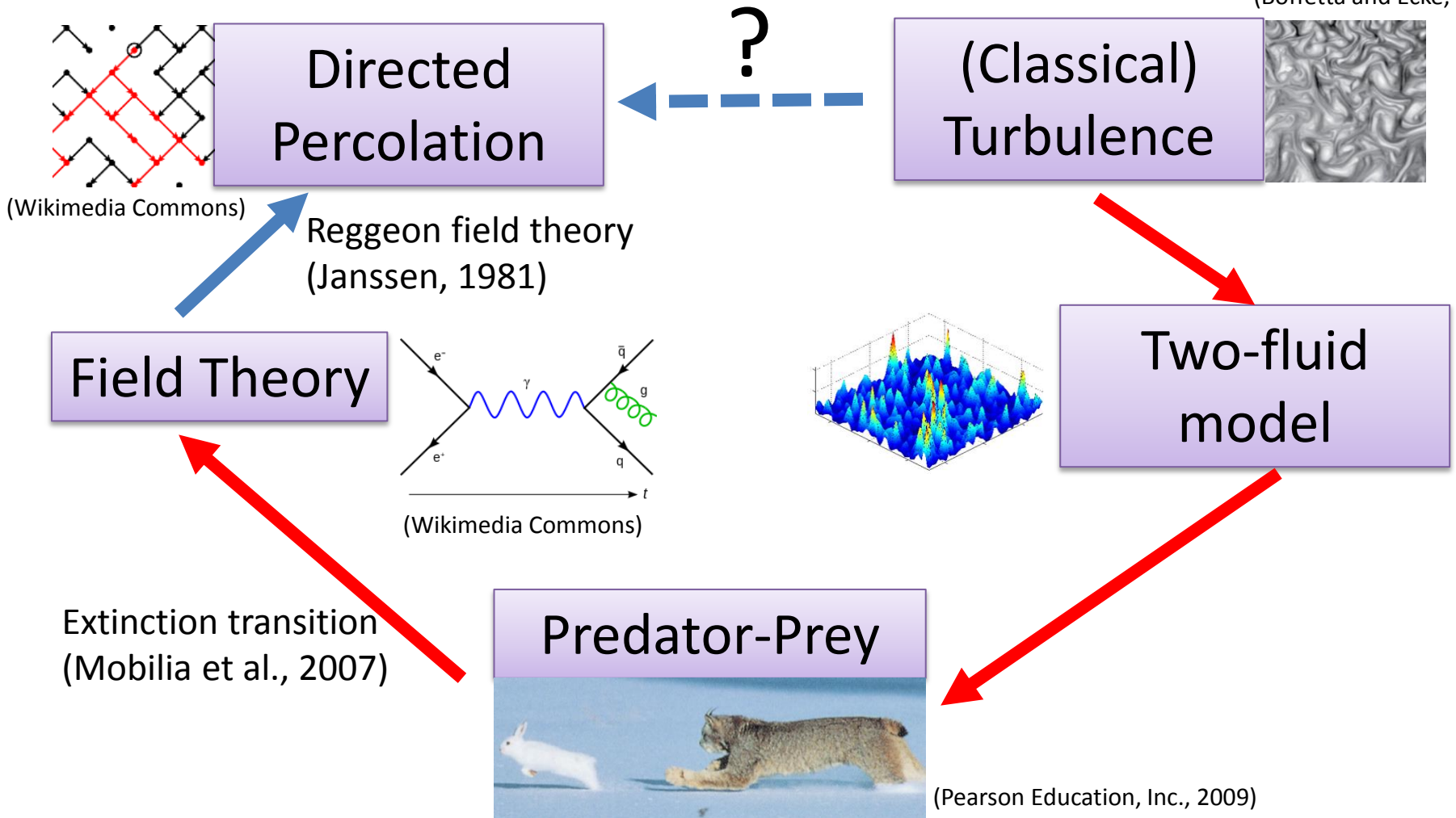
$$\dot{A} = pAB - dA$$

Universality class of the transition



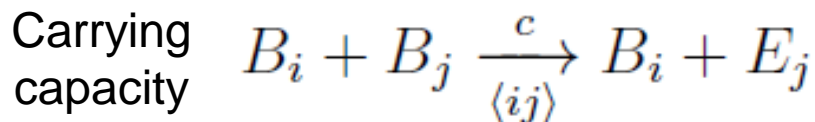
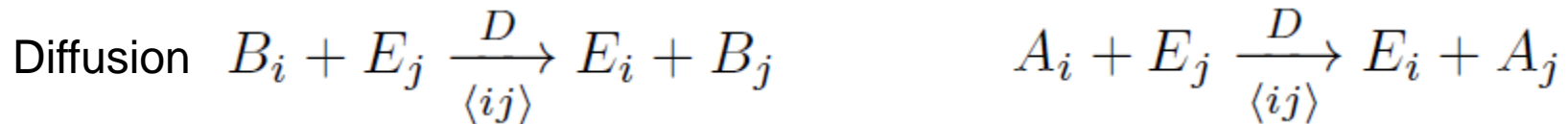
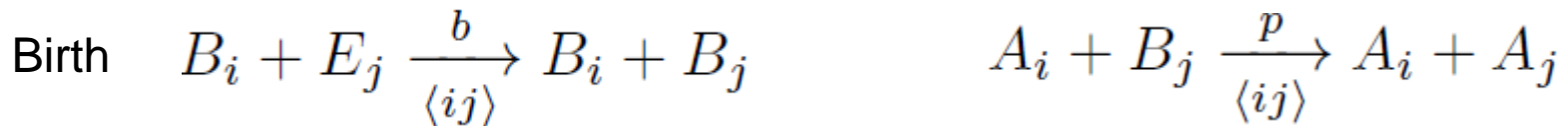
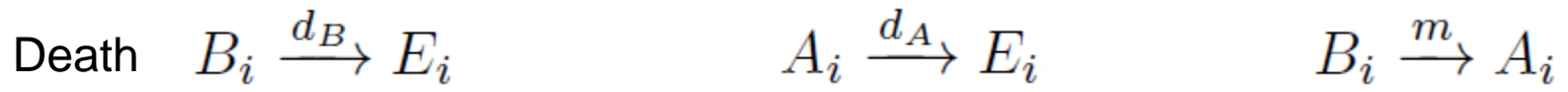
# Strategy: transitional turbulence to directed percolation

(Boffetta and Ecke, 2012)



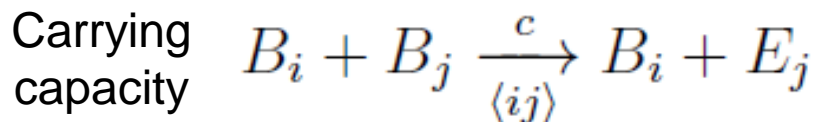
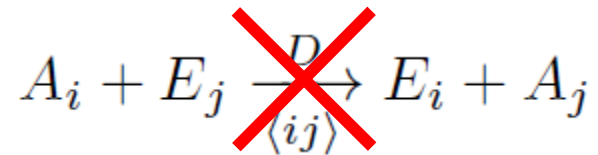
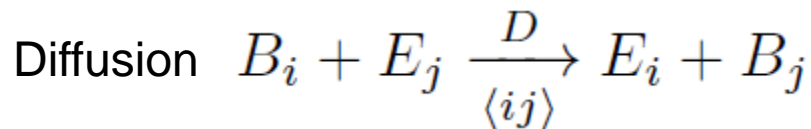
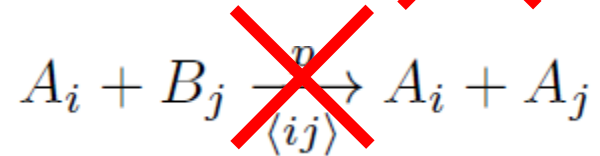
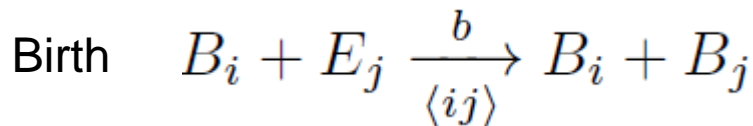
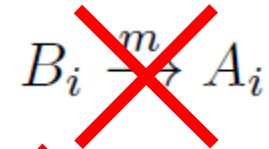
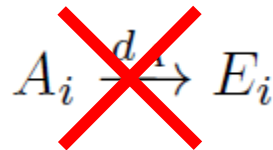
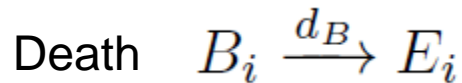
# Universality class of predator-prey system near extinction

Basic individual processes in predator (A) and prey (B) system:



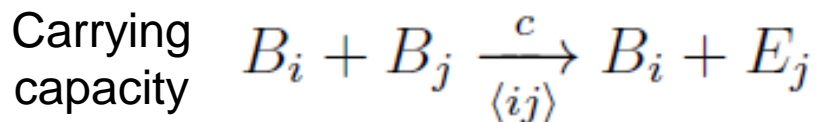
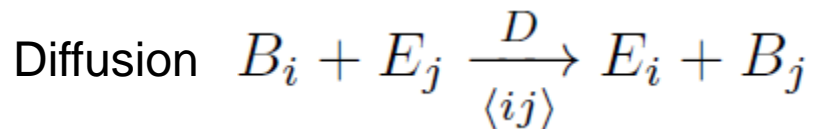
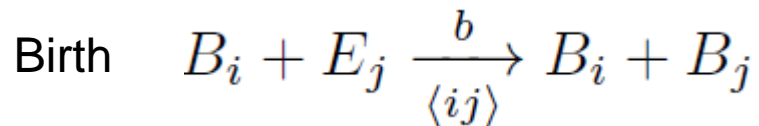
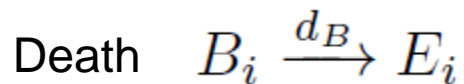
# Universality class of predator-prey system near extinction

Near the transition to prey extinction, the prey (B) population is very small and no predator (A) can survive;  $A \sim 0$ .



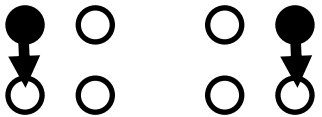
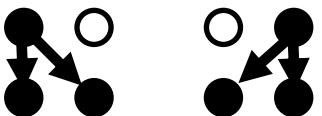
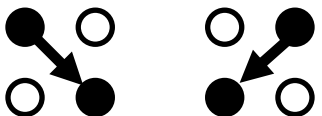
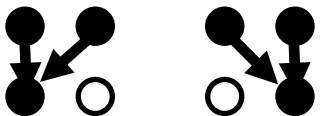
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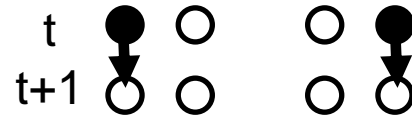
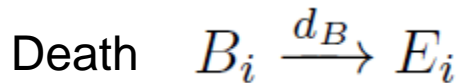
# Universality class of predator-prey system near extinction

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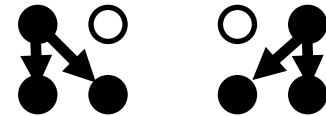
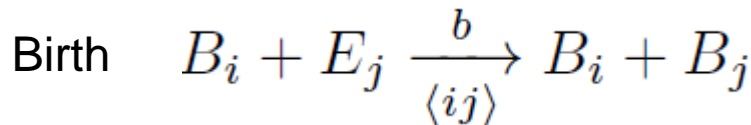
|                   |                                                              |                                                                                         |               |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Death             | $B_i \xrightarrow{d_B} E_i$                                  | $t$  | Annihilation  |
| Birth             | $B_i + E_j \xrightarrow[b_{\langle ij \rangle}]{} B_i + B_j$ |      | Decoagulation |
| Diffusion         | $B_i + E_j \xrightarrow[D_{\langle ij \rangle}]{} E_i + B_j$ |     | Diffusion     |
| Carrying capacity | $B_i + B_j \xrightarrow[c_{\langle ij \rangle}]{} B_i + E_j$ |    | Coagulation   |

# Universality class of predator-prey system near extinction

Near the transition to prey extinction, the prey (B) population is very small and no predator (A) can survive;  $A \sim 0$ .

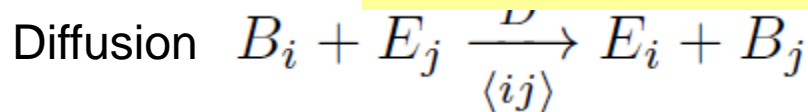


Annihilation

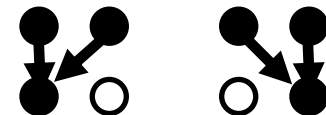
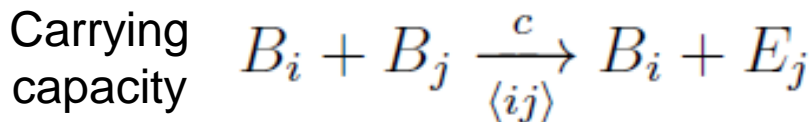


Decoagulation

Predator-prey = Directed percolation



Diffusion



Coagulation

# Field theory for predator-prey model

- Near extinction model reduces to simpler system
 

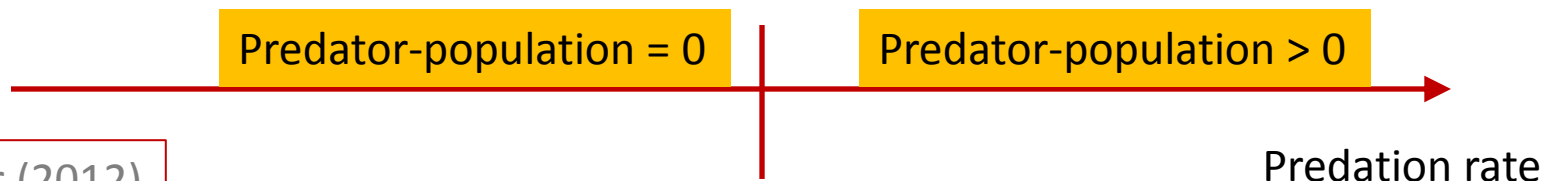
|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| $A \rightarrow \emptyset$ | with rate $\mu$ ,      |
| $A + B \rightarrow A + A$ | with rate $\lambda'$ , |
| $B \rightarrow B + B$     | with rate $\sigma$ .   |
- Express as Hamiltonian

$$H_{\text{reac}} = - \sum [ \mu (1 - a_i^\dagger) a_i + \sigma (b_i^\dagger - 1) b_i^\dagger b_i + \lambda' (a_i^\dagger - b_i^\dagger) a_i^\dagger a_i b_i ]$$

- Map into a coherent state path integral

$$S[\hat{a}, \hat{b}; a, b] = \int d^d x \int dt \left[ \hat{a} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - D_A \nabla^2 \right) a + \hat{b} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - D_B \nabla^2 \right) b \right. \\ \left. + \mu (\hat{a} - 1) a - \sigma (\hat{b} - 1) \hat{b} b e^{-a_0^d \hat{b} b} + \nu (\hat{b} - 1) \hat{b} b^2 - \lambda (\hat{a} - \hat{b}) \hat{a} a b \right]$$

- Phase diagram



# Extinction in predator-prey systems

- This field theory can be reduced to

$$\begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow \emptyset \\ A + B \rightarrow A + A \\ B \rightarrow B + B \end{array} \quad S'_\infty[\tilde{\psi}, \psi] = \int d^d x \int dt \left[ \tilde{\psi} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + D_A(r_A - \nabla^2) \right) \psi - u \tilde{\psi} (\tilde{\psi} - \psi) \psi + \tau \tilde{\psi}^2 \psi^2 \right]$$

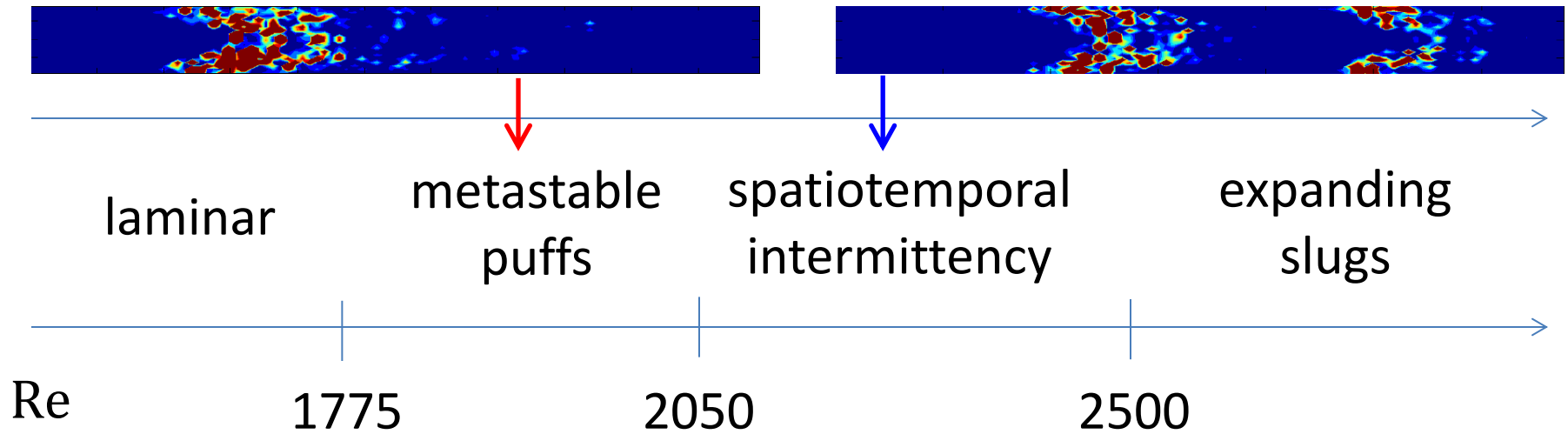
- Reggeon field theory  $\leftrightarrow$  Extinction transition in predator-prey model (Mobilia et al (2007))
- Reggeon field theory  $\leftrightarrow$  DP universality class: non-equilibrium critical dynamics with absorbing state
- **Summary: ecological model of transitional turbulence predicts the DP universality class**



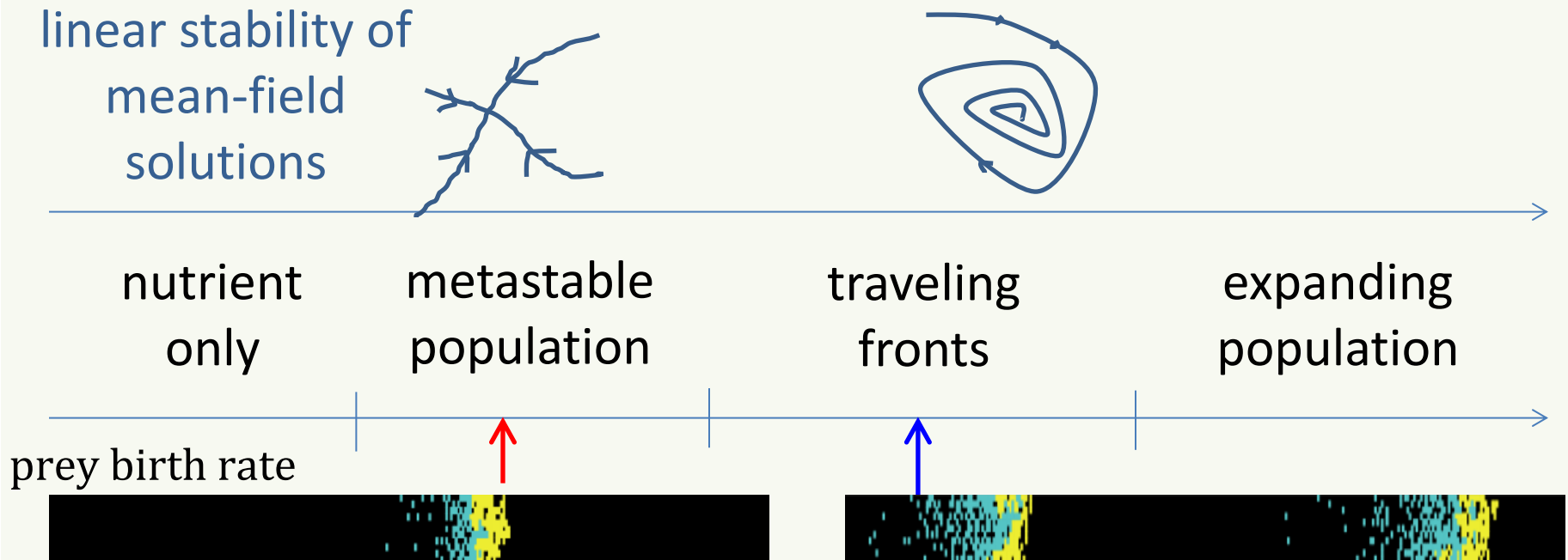
# Puff splitting in ecology model

Driven by emerging traveling waves  
of populations

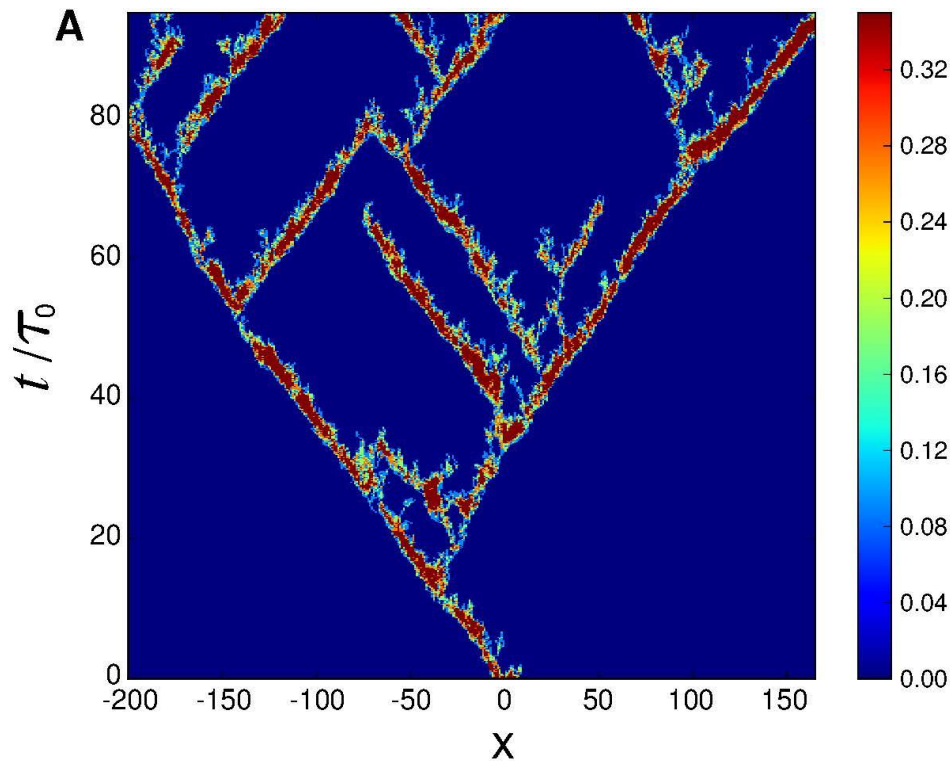
# Pipe flow turbulence



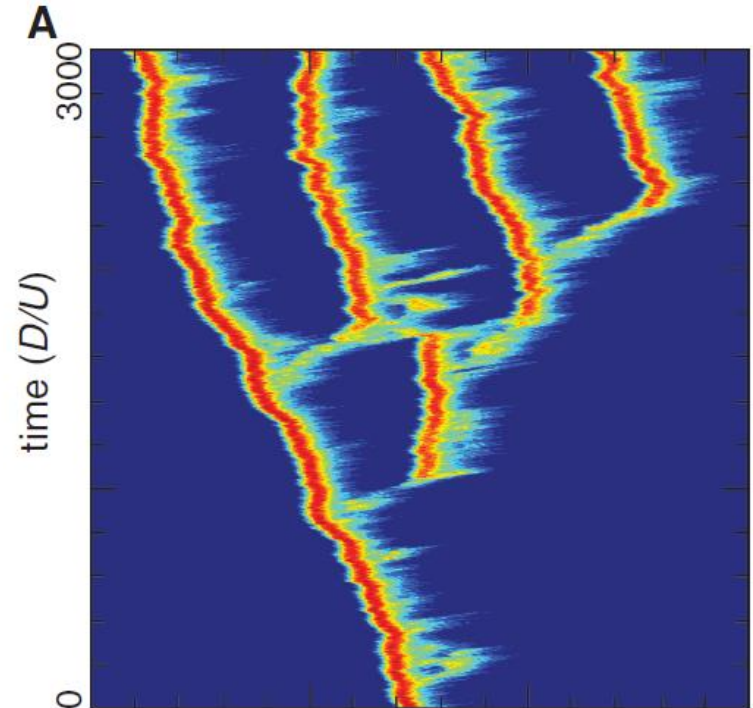
# Predator-prey model



# Puff splitting in predator-prey systems



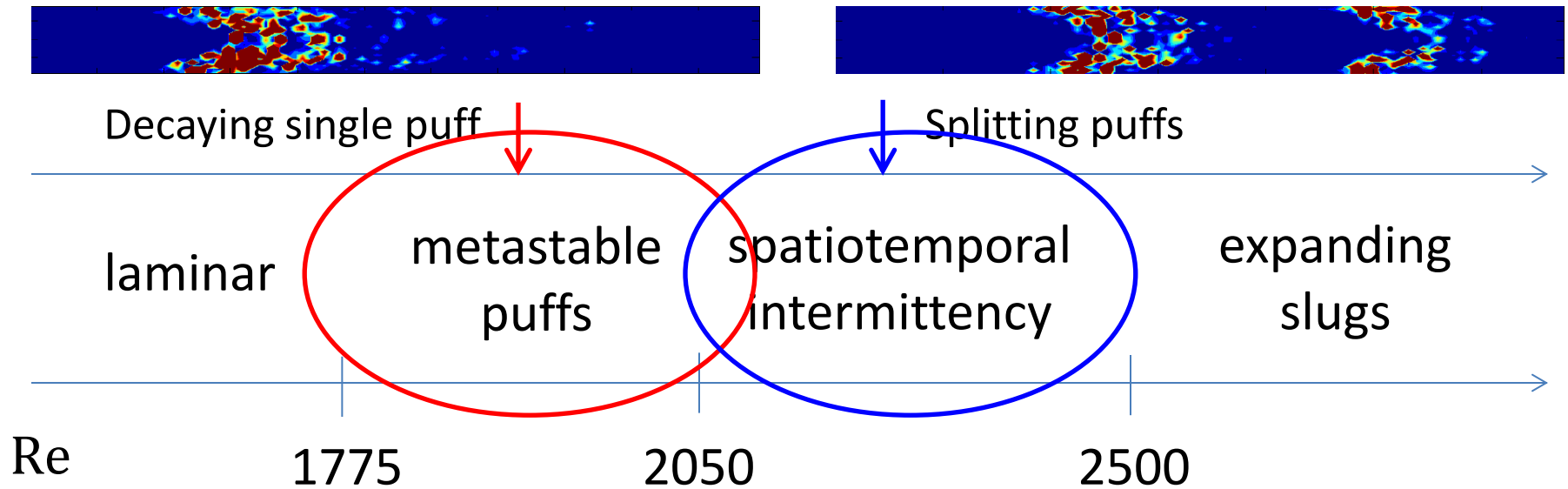
Puff-splitting in predator-prey ecosystem  
in a pipe geometry



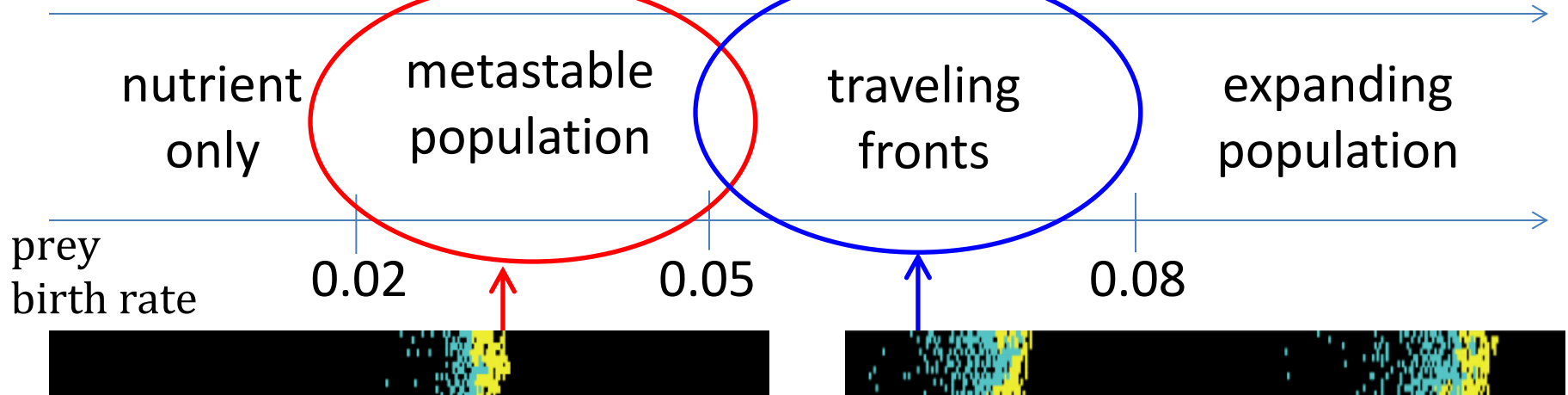
Puff-splitting in pipe turbulence

Avila et al., Science (2011)

# Pipe flow turbulence



# Predator-prey model



# Pipe flow turbulence



Decaying single puff

Splitting puffs

laminar

metastable

spatiotemporal

expanding

Re

Measure the **extinction time** and the **time between split events** in predator-prey system.

nutrient only

metastable population

traveling fronts

expanding population

prey birth rate

0.02

0.05

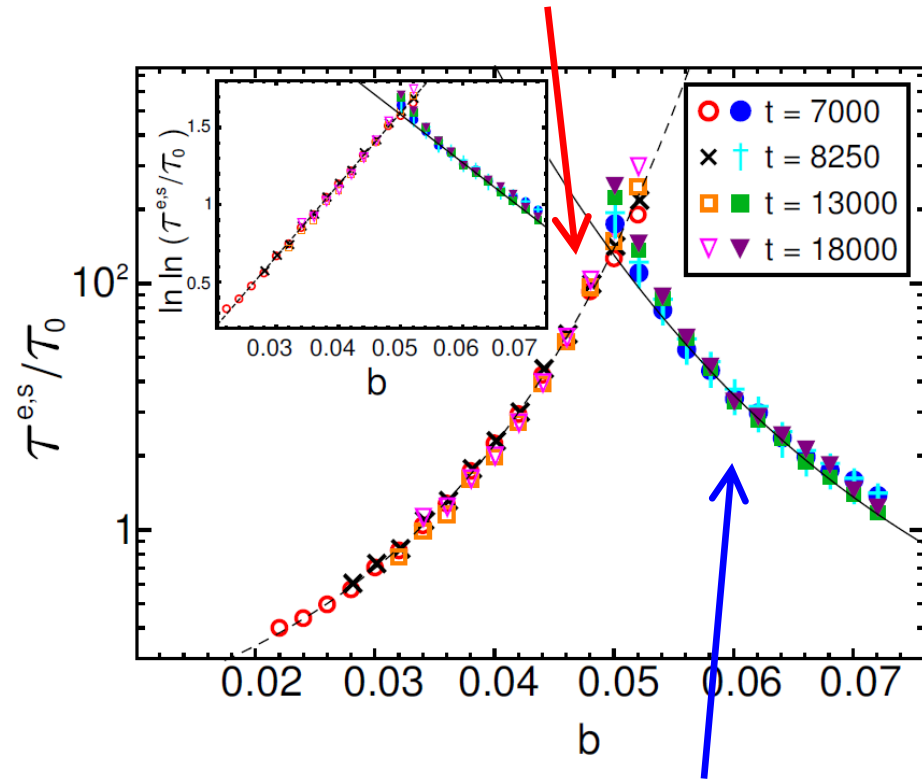
0.08



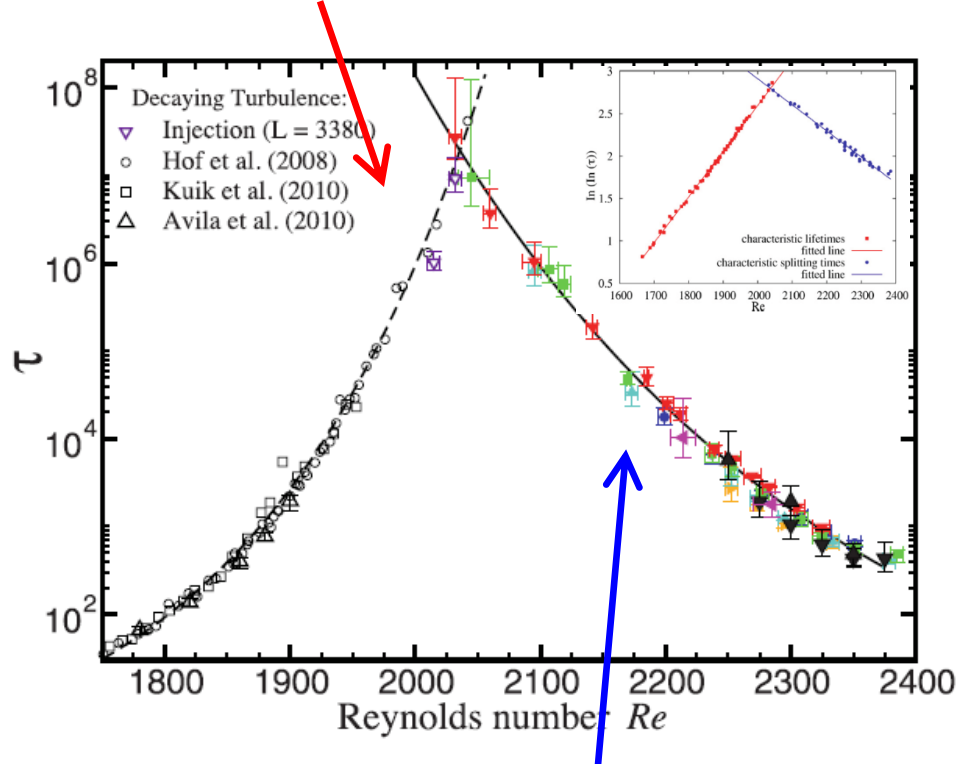
# Predator-prey vs. transitional turbulence

Prey lifetime

Turbulent puff lifetime



Mean time between population split events

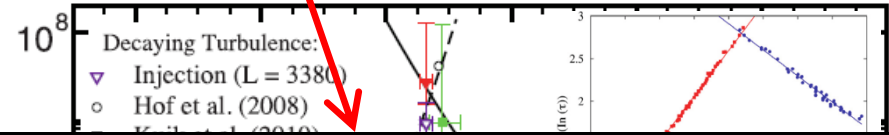
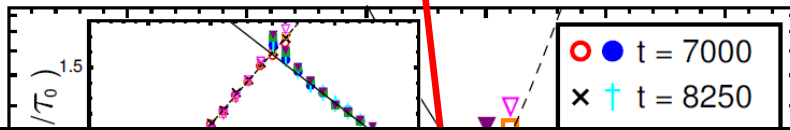


Mean time between puff split events

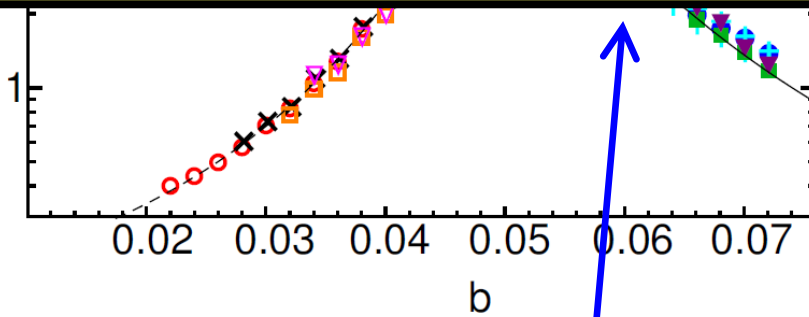
# Predator-prey vs. transitional turbulence

Prey lifetime

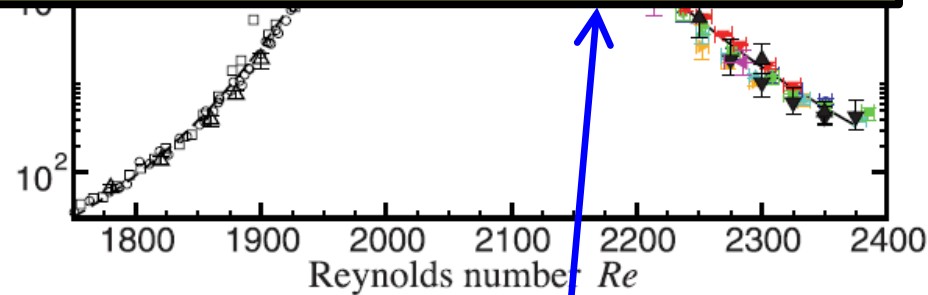
Turbulent puff lifetime



**Extinction in Ecology = Death of Turbulence**

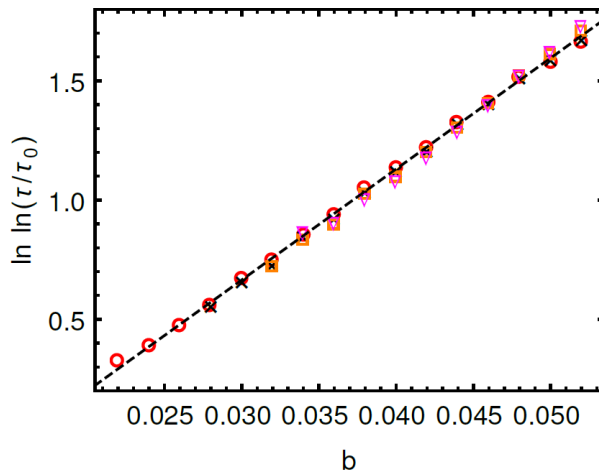
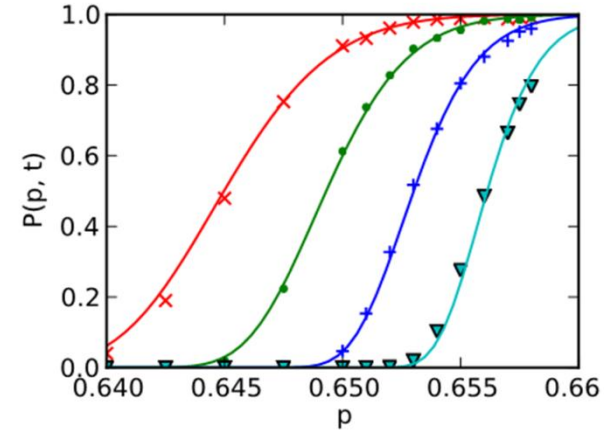
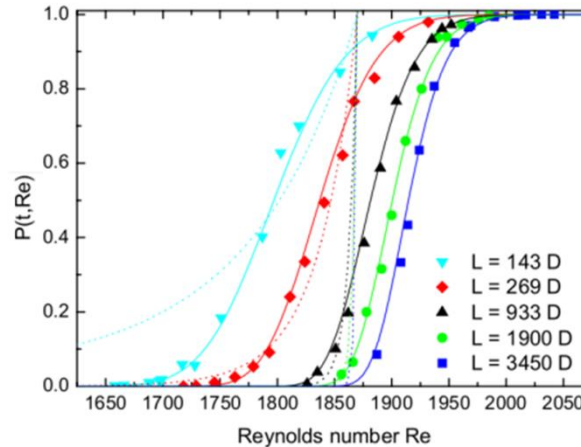
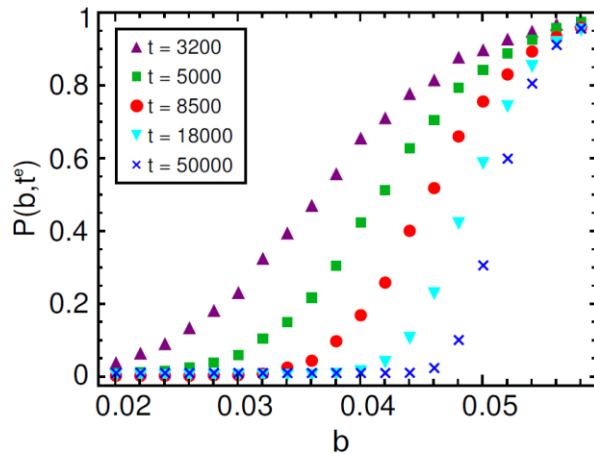


Mean time between population split events

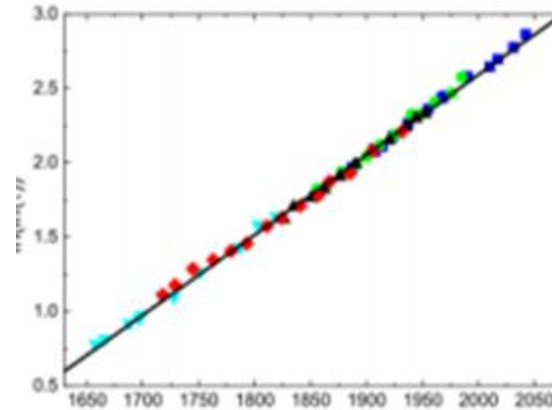


Mean time between puff split events

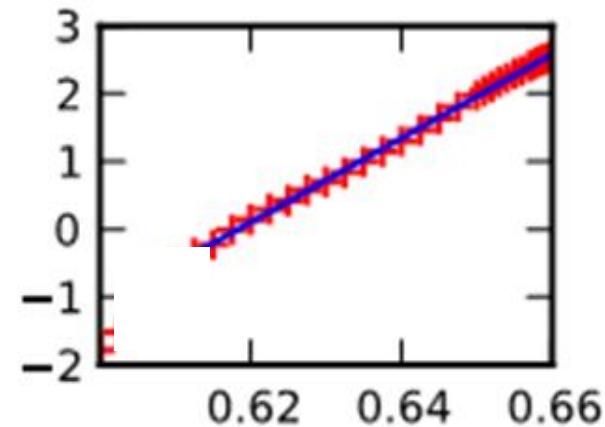
# Ecology = turbulence = DP



Shih, Hsieh, NG (2015)



Hof et al., *PRL* **101**, 214501 (2008)

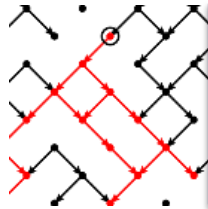


Sipos and Goldenfeld, *PRE* **84**, 035304(R) (2011)



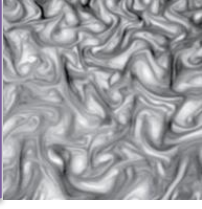
# Summary: universality class of transitional turbulence

(Boffetta and Ecke, 2012)



Directed Percolation

(Classical) Turbulence

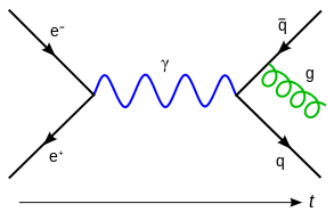


(Wikimedia Commons)

Reggeon field theory  
(Janssen, 1981)

Direct Numerical Simulations  
of Navier-Stokes

Field Theory

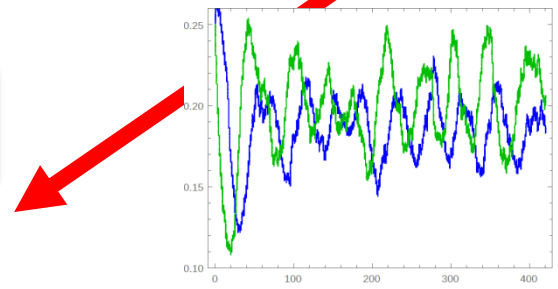


(Wikimedia Commons)

Two-fluid model

Extinction transition  
(Mobilia et al., 2007)

Predator-Prey



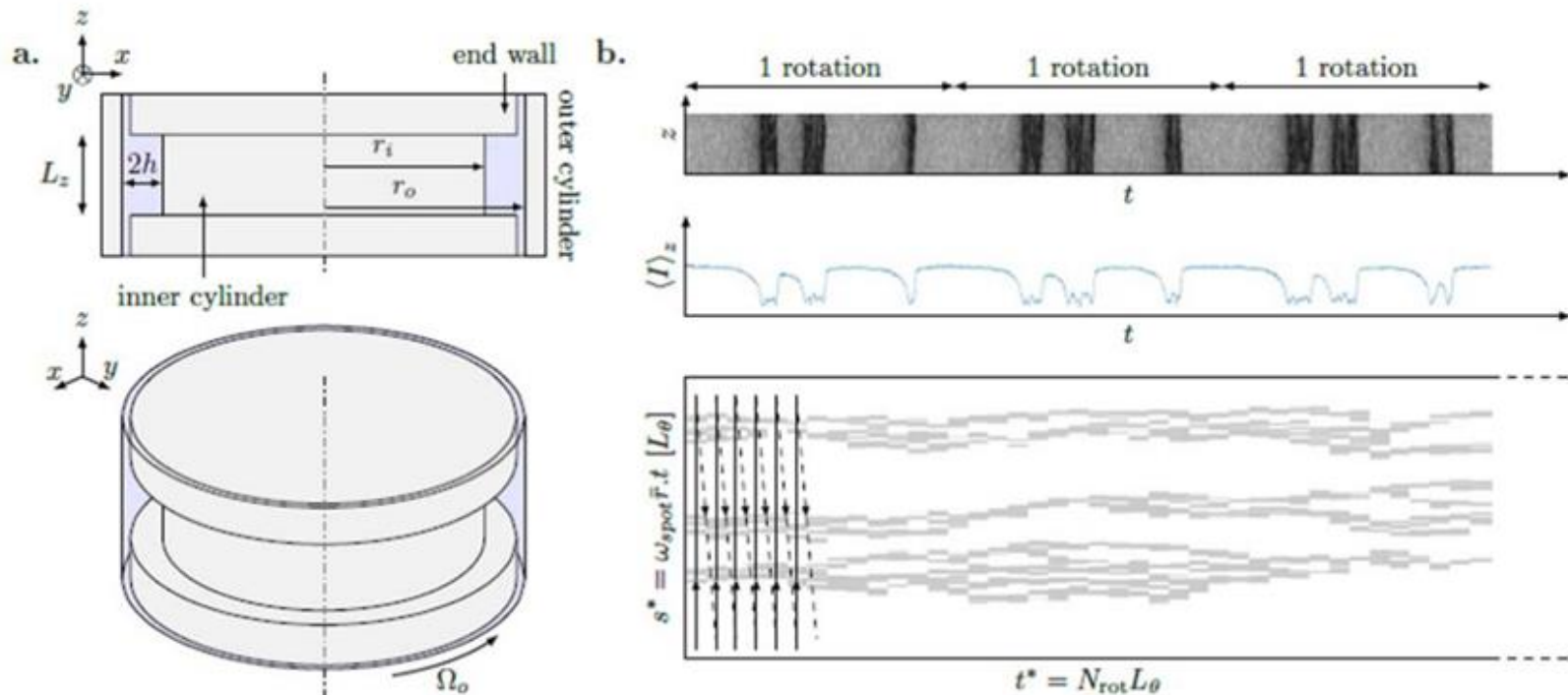
(Pearson Education, Inc., 2009)

# Precise measurements of DP

# Turbulence and directed percolation

Fluid between concentric cylinders, outer one rotating

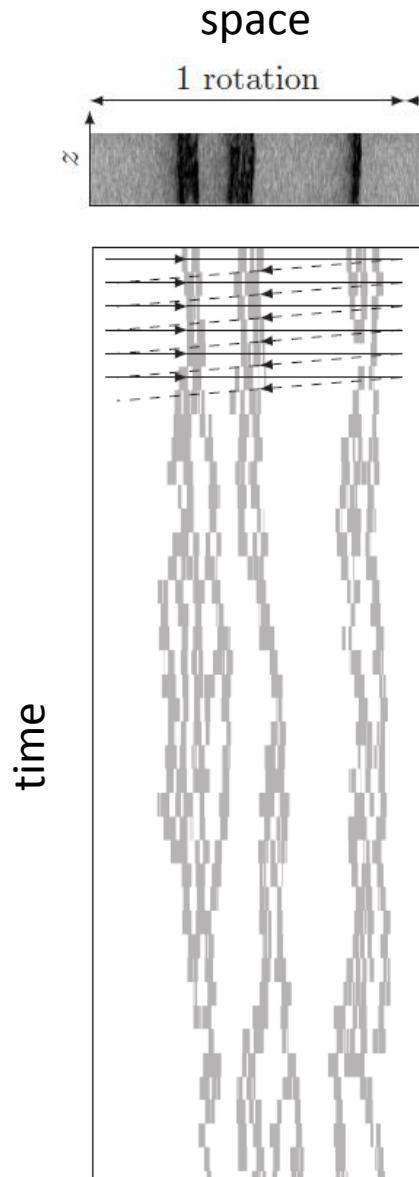
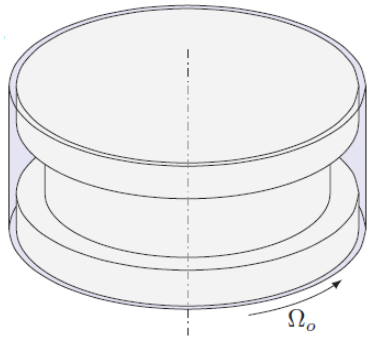
Turbulent patches



Position of turbulent patches changes in time

# Turbulence and directed percolation

**Couette**



space



**Ecology**



# Turbulence and directed percolation

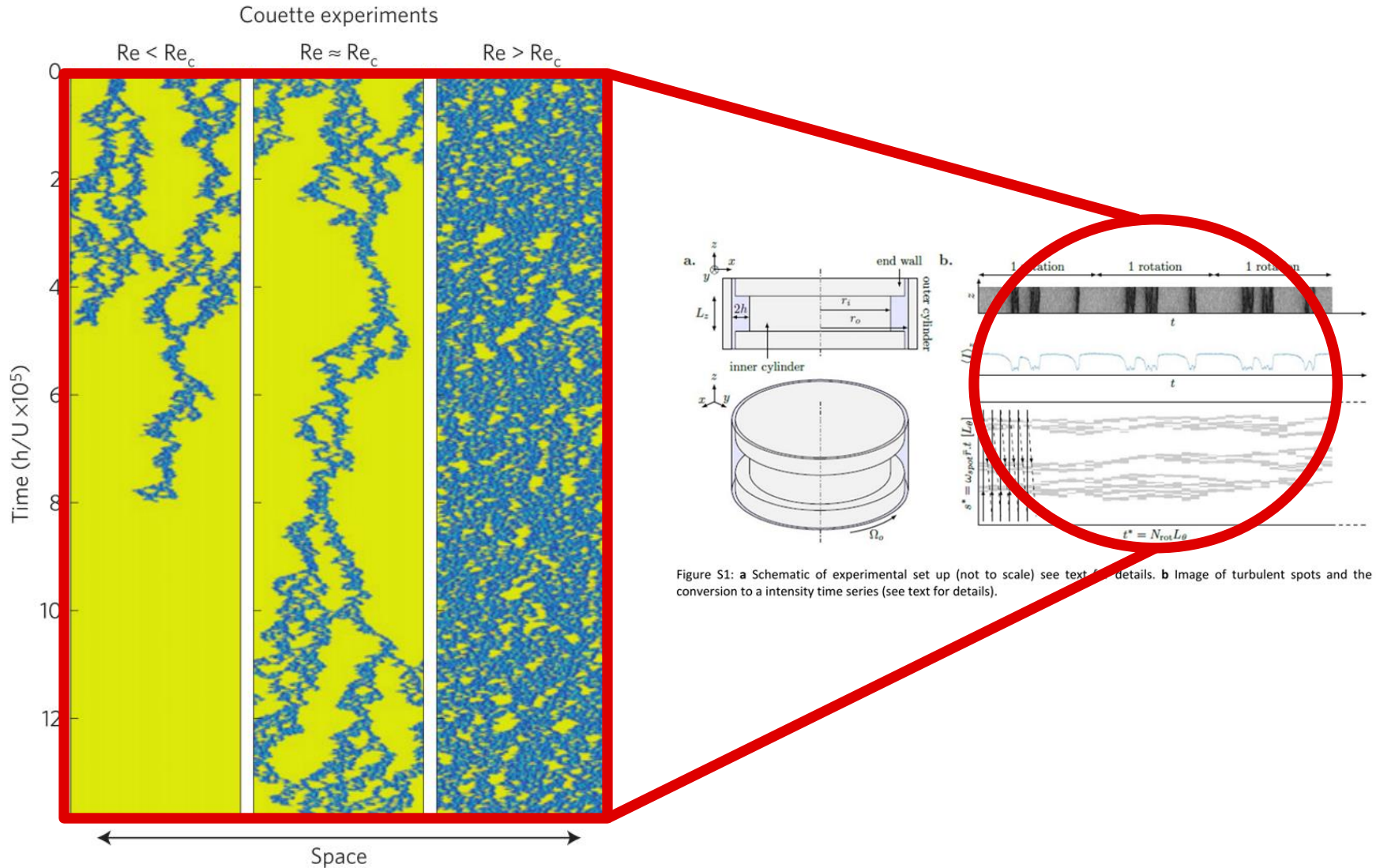


Figure S1: **a** Schematic of experimental set up (not to scale) see text for details. **b** Image of turbulent spots and the conversion to a intensity time series (see text for details).

# DP in large aspect ratio Taylor-Couette

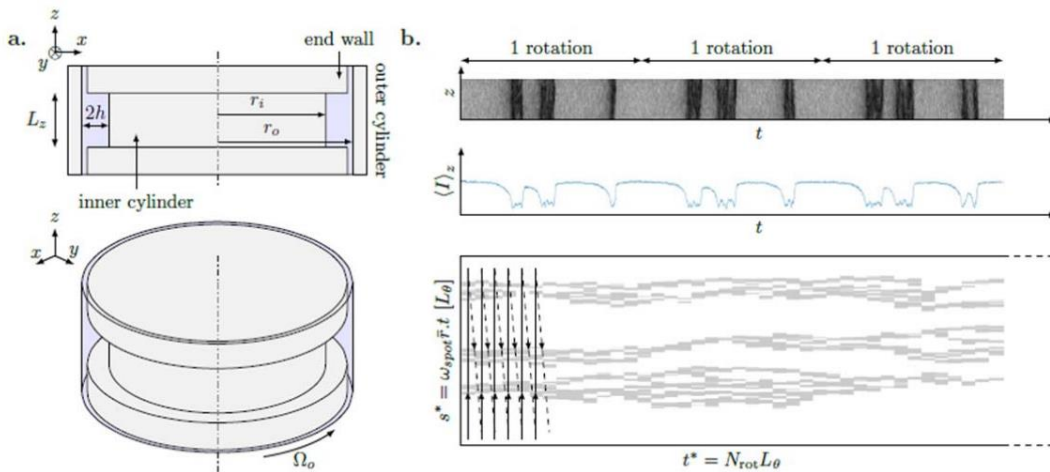
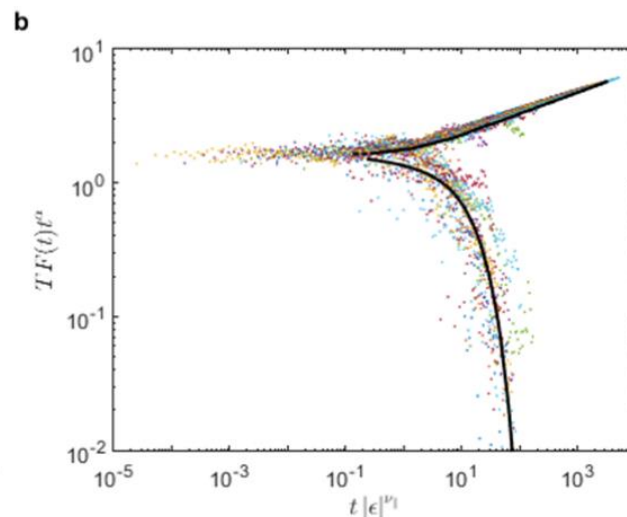
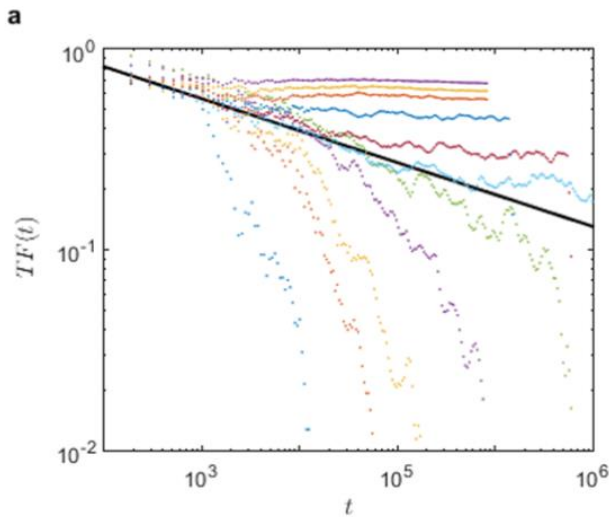
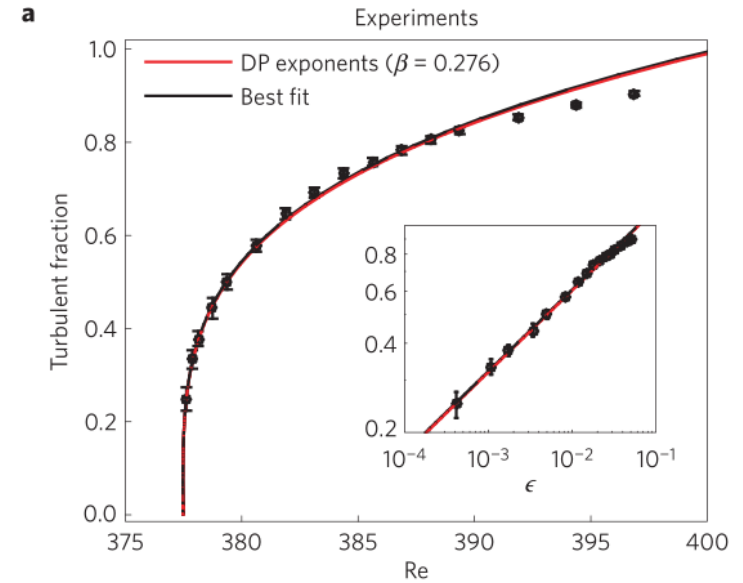


Figure S1: **a** Schematic of experimental set up (not to scale) see text for details. **b** Image of turbulent spots and the conversion to an intensity time series (see text for details).



Dynamic scaling of turbulent fraction following a critical quench from  $Re > Re_c$

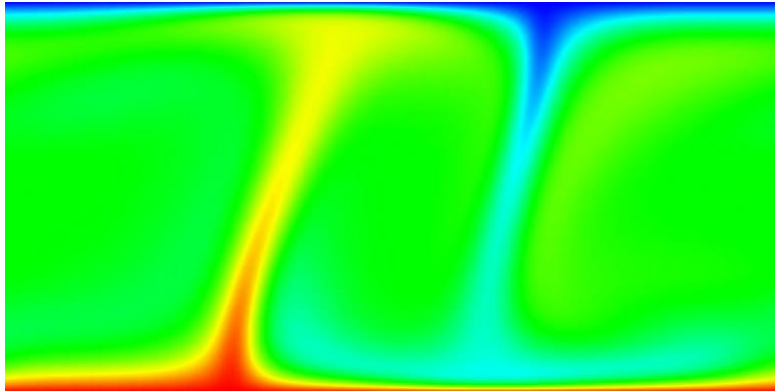
$$TF(t) \simeq t^{-\alpha} f(\epsilon t^{1/\nu_{\parallel}})$$



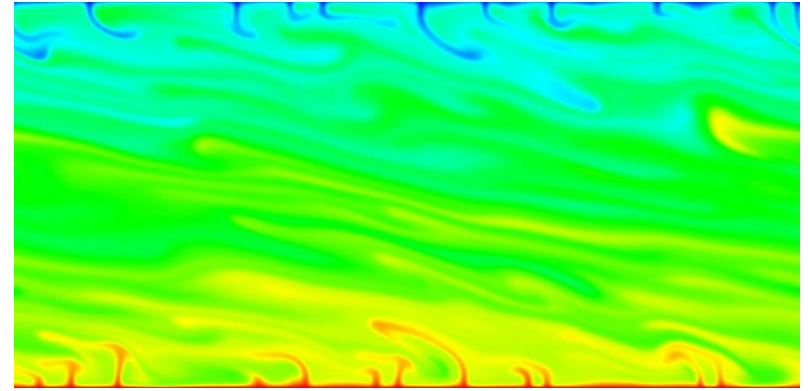
But Nigel, is this  
the transition  
to turbulence or  
a transition  
to turbulence?



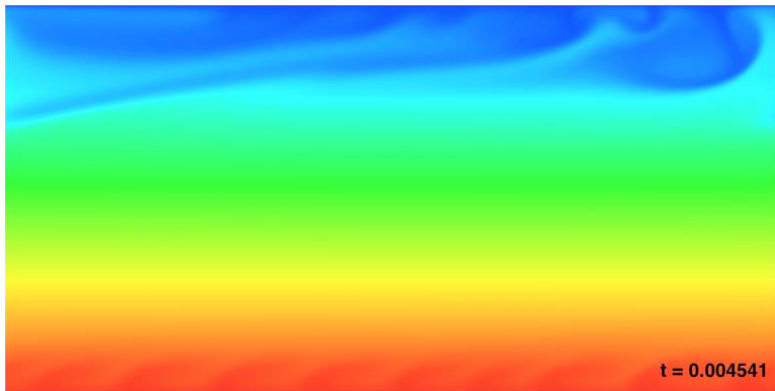
# Predator-prey oscillations in convection



Pr=10 Ra=2 x 10<sup>5</sup> Sustained shearing convection



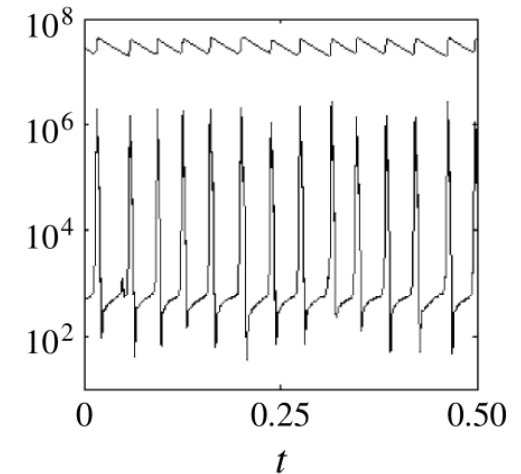
Pr=10 Ra=2 x 10<sup>8</sup>



Pr = 1 Ra=2 x 10<sup>8</sup> Bursty shearing convection

Energy in zonal flow and vertical plumes shows predator-prey oscillations

$E_x$  = Horizontal component of KE

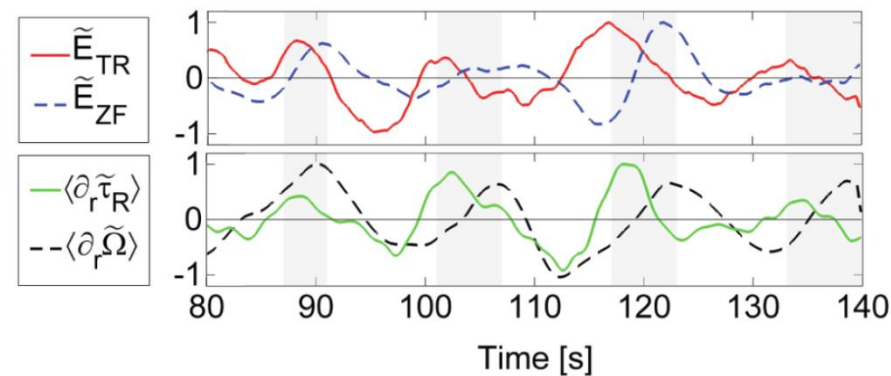
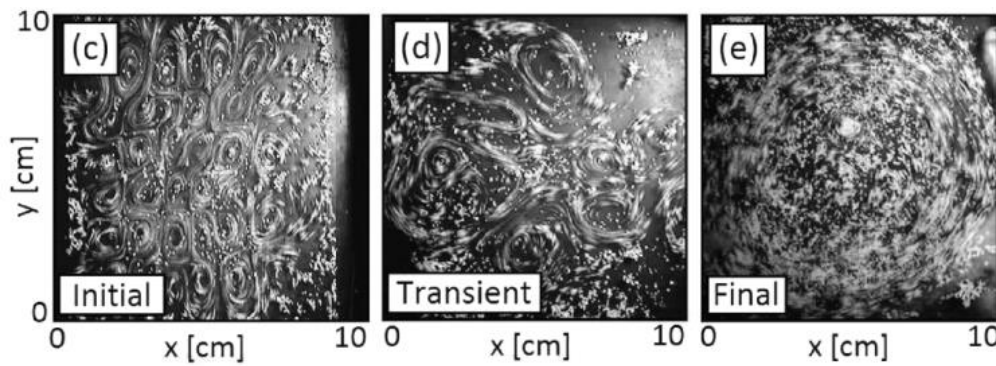


$E_z$  = Vertical component of KE

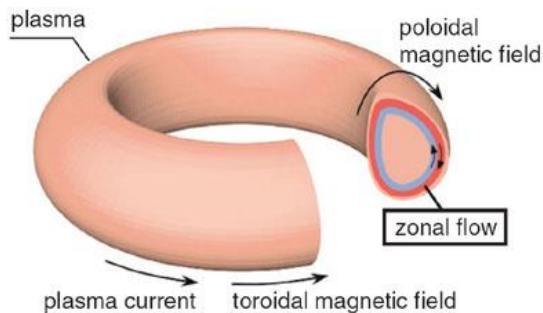


# Universal predator-prey behavior in transitional turbulence

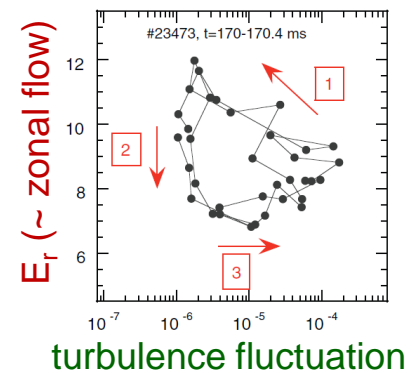
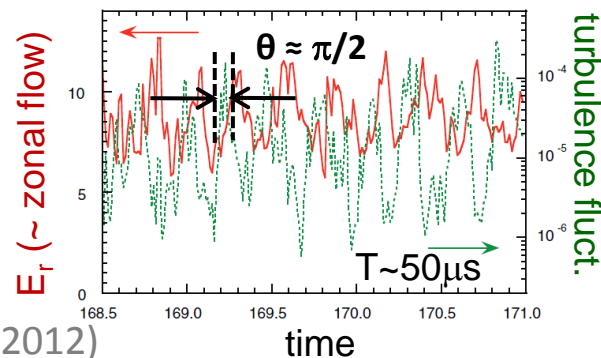
- Experimental observations
  - L-H mode transition in fusion plasmas in tokamak
  - 2D magnetized electroconvection



Bardoczi et al. Phys. Rev E (2012)



Estrada et al. EPL (2012)



# Transition to turbulence in Taylor-Couette flow

PHYSICAL REVIEW E **81**, 025301(R) (2010)

## Transient turbulence in Taylor-Couette flow

Daniel Borrero-Echeverry and Michael F. Schatz

*Center for Nonlinear Science and School of Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0430, USA*

Randall Tagg

*Department of Physics, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado 80217-3364, USA*

(Received 4 May 2009; revised manuscript received 2 December 2009; published 19 February 2010)

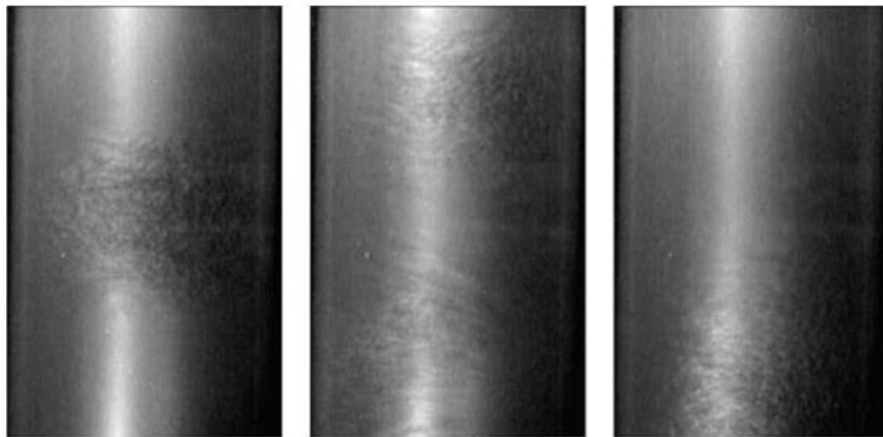
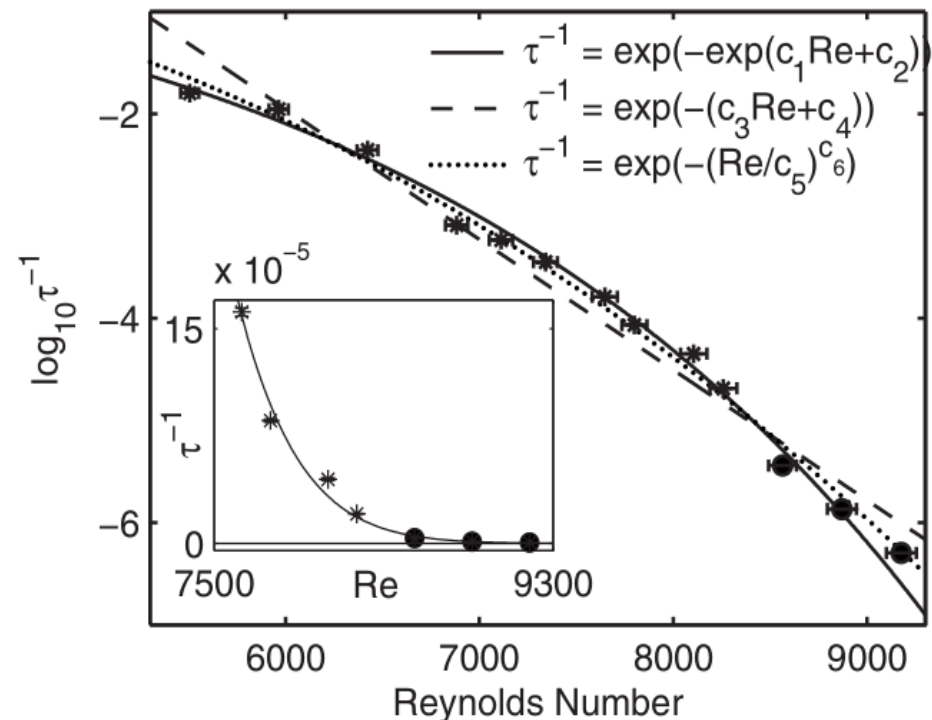


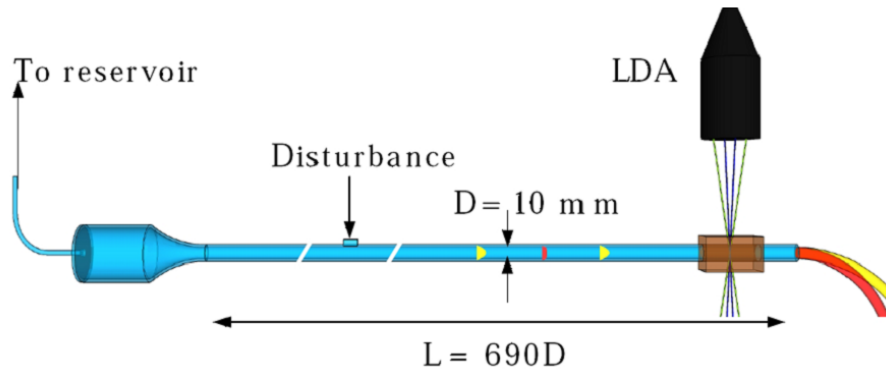
FIG. 1. Photographs of turbulent patches in TCF at  $Re=7500$  with only the outer cylinder rotating. In this regime, turbulent patches coexist with the laminar flow and evolve in space and time. For all  $Re$  studied, these patches decay away in a probabilistic manner with a characteristic time scale  $\tau$  dependent on  $Re$ . The photographs show a 25 cm high region of the flow.



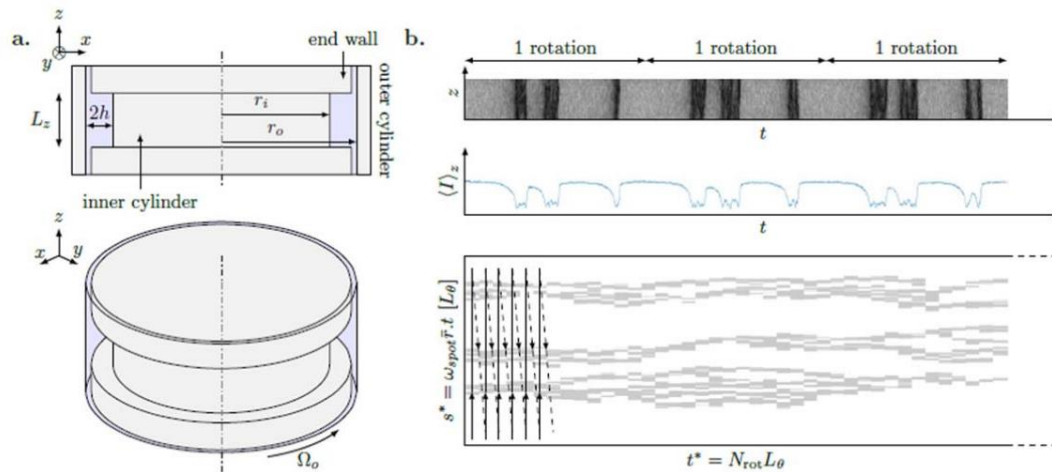
# Is there a well-defined sharp transition in turbulence?

If so, why do we see superexponential scaling rather than asymptotic criticality like in directed percolation?

# Superexponential vs critical



**Superexponential but no critical Re or critical exponents**

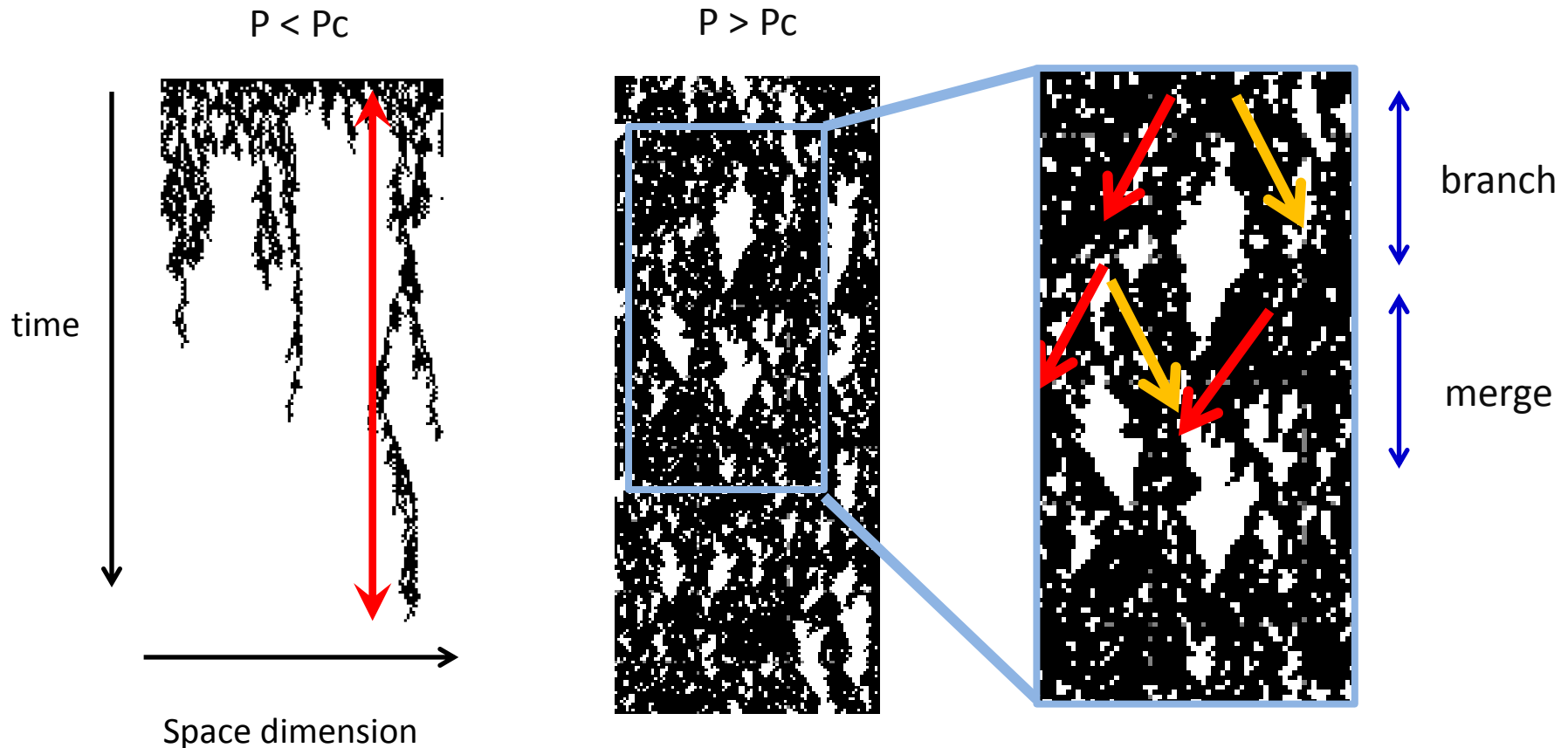


**Critical Re, critical exponents and scaling functions but no superexponential**

Figure S1: **a** Schematic of experimental set up (not to scale) see text for details. **b** Image of turbulent spots and the conversion to an intensity time series (see text for details).

# Survival probability in 1+1 DP

- Turbulent puff lifetime  $\rightarrow$  longest percolation path
- Turbulent puff splitting time  $\rightarrow$  longest length of empty site



# Super-exponential scaling from extreme value statistics

- Calculate survival probability from extreme value statistics

$$P(t_d > t) = 1 - P(t_d < t) = 1 - e^{-e^{-(t-\mu_d)/\beta_d}}$$

- Define decay rate by fitting survival probability with exponential

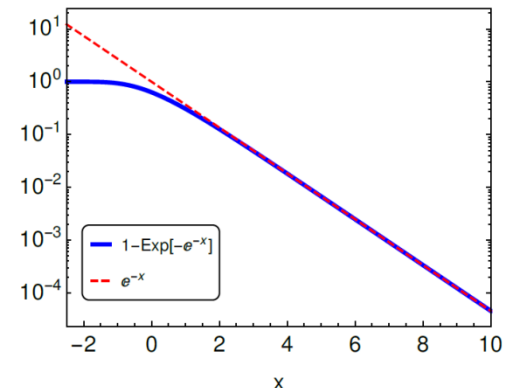
$$P(t_d > t) \equiv e^{-(t-t_0)/\tau_d}$$

$$\Rightarrow e^{-(t-t_0)/\tau_d} = 1 - e^{-e^{-(t-\mu_d)/\beta_d}}$$

$$t_1 \equiv t - t_0 \quad t_2 \equiv t - \mu_d(p)$$

$$\Rightarrow -t_1/\tau_d = \ln(1 - e^{-e^{-t_2/\beta_d}}) \sim -e^{-t_2/\beta_d}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\tau_d(p)}{t_1} = e^{e^{bt_2p - at_2} + \mathcal{O}(p^2)}$$



**Decay rate  $\tau$**  scales **super-exponentially** due to extreme value statistics

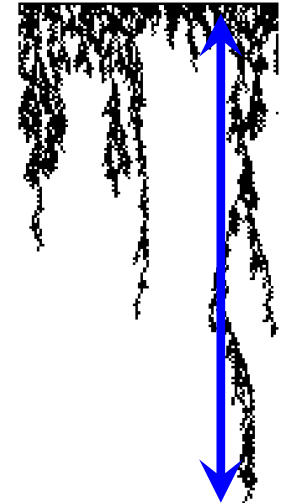
# Coexistence of super-exponential and power law

- **Decay rate  $\tau$**  from survival probability scales **super-exponentially**:

$$P(p, t) = e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{\tau(p)}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \tau \sim \exp(\exp p)$$

- **Mean lifetime  $\langle t_{max} \rangle$**  scales in power law:

$$\langle t_{max} \rangle \sim \xi_{||}(p) \sim |p - p_c|^{-\nu_{||}}$$

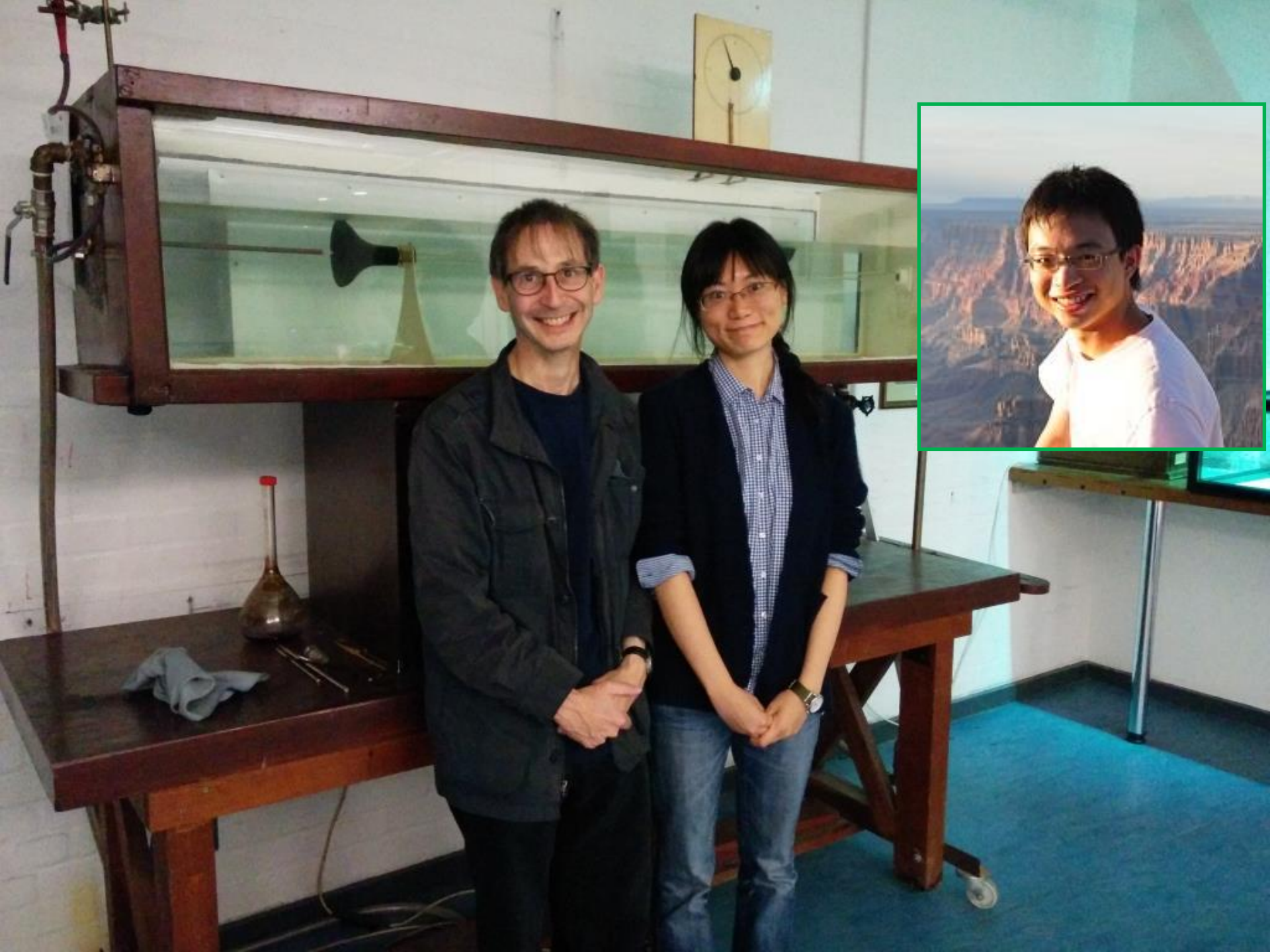


# Summary

- Transitional turbulence is governed by predator-prey interactions leading to directed percolation
  - Turbulence is the prey
  - Zonal (azimuthal) flow is the predator
  - Heuristic derivation of zonal flow-Reynolds stress interaction in mean field theory
- Is there a sharp well-defined transition even though the measured lifetime scales super-exponentially?
  - Yes. The survival probability lifetime reflects extreme value statistics (longest-lived path or turbulent patch)
  - The mean value of the lifetime scales with the DP critical exponents

**Superexponential scaling and power-law critical scaling coexist**





# References

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- Nigel Goldenfeld, N. Guttenberg and G. Gioia. Extreme fluctuations and the finite lifetime of the turbulent state. *Phys. Rev. E Rapid Communications* **81**, 035304 (R):1-3 (2010)
- Maksim Sipos and Nigel Goldenfeld. Directed percolation describes lifetime and growth of turbulent puffs and slugs. *Phys. Rev. E Rapid Communications* **84**, 035305 (4 pages) (2011)
- Hong-Yan Shih, Tsung-Lin Hsieh, Nigel Goldenfeld. Ecological collapse and the emergence of traveling waves at the onset of shear turbulence. *Nature Physics* **12**, 245–248 (2016); DOI: 10.1038/NPHYS3548

## QUASI-CYCLES AND FLUCTUATION-INDUCED PREDATOR-PREY OSCILLATIONS

- T. Butler and Nigel Goldenfeld. Robust ecological pattern formation induced by demographic noise. *Phys. Rev. E Rapid Communications* **80**, 030902 (R): 1-4 (2009)
- T. Butler and Nigel Goldenfeld. Fluctuation-driven Turing patterns. *Phys. Rev. E* **84**, 011112 (12 pages) (2011)
- Hong-Yan Shih and Nigel Goldenfeld. Path-integral calculation for the emergence of rapid evolution from demographic stochasticity. *Phys. Rev. E Rapid Communications* **90**, 050702 (R) (7 pages) (2014)

**Turbulence is a life force. It is opportunity.  
Let's love turbulence and use it for change.**

**Lucky Numbers 34, 15, 28, 4, 19, 20**

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