

# Dynamics, Entropy Production & Defects in Active Matter

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# Outline

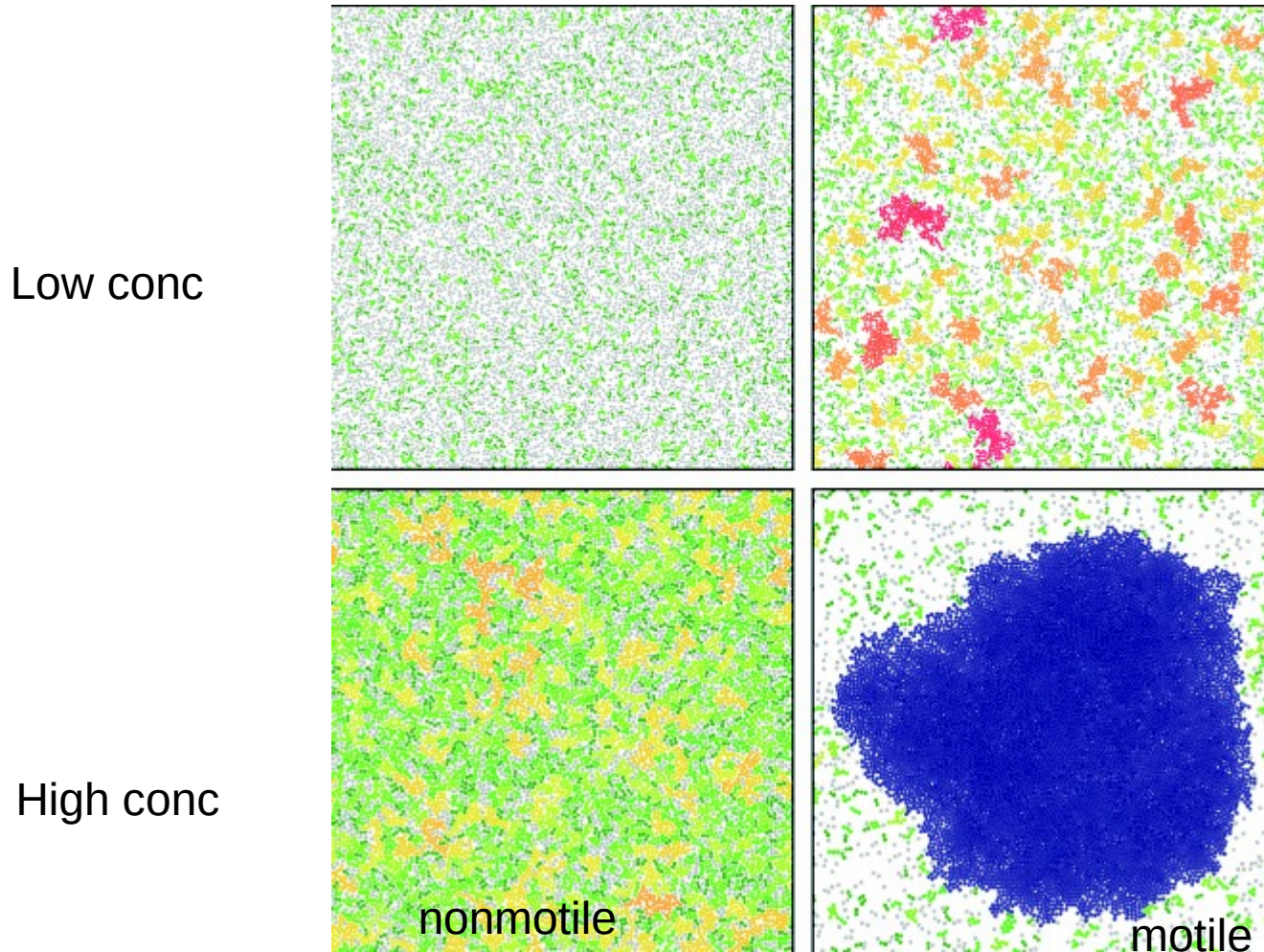
- Systems & phenomena
- Framework
- Entropy production
- Flocking, condensation, trapping
- Defect unbinding: an energy–entropy story
- Summary

# Systems and phenomema



Millipede Flock (S Dhara, U of Hyderabad)

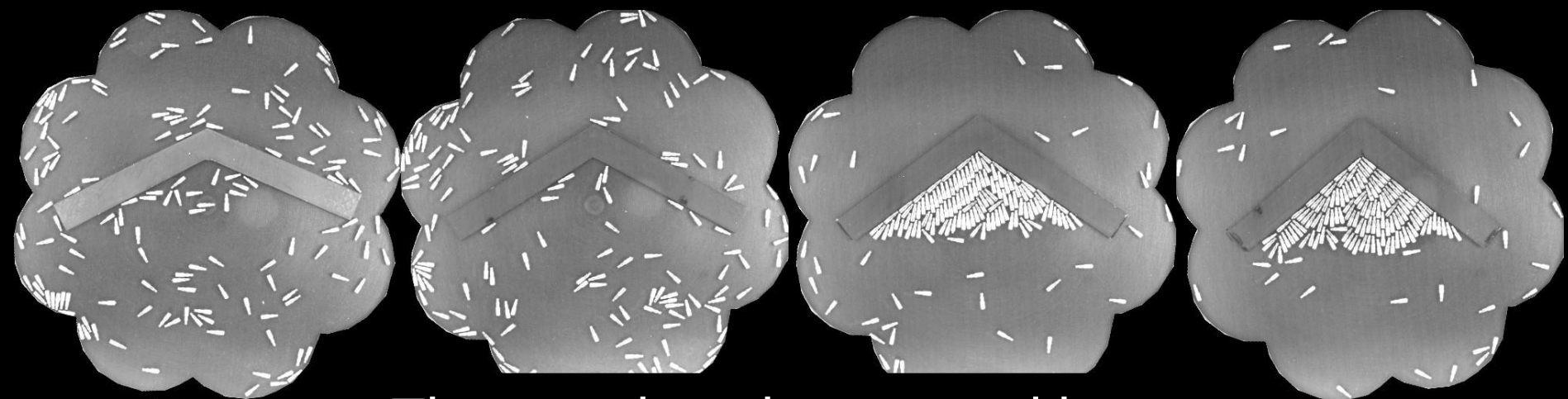
Persistent motion  $\rightarrow$  condensation without attraction



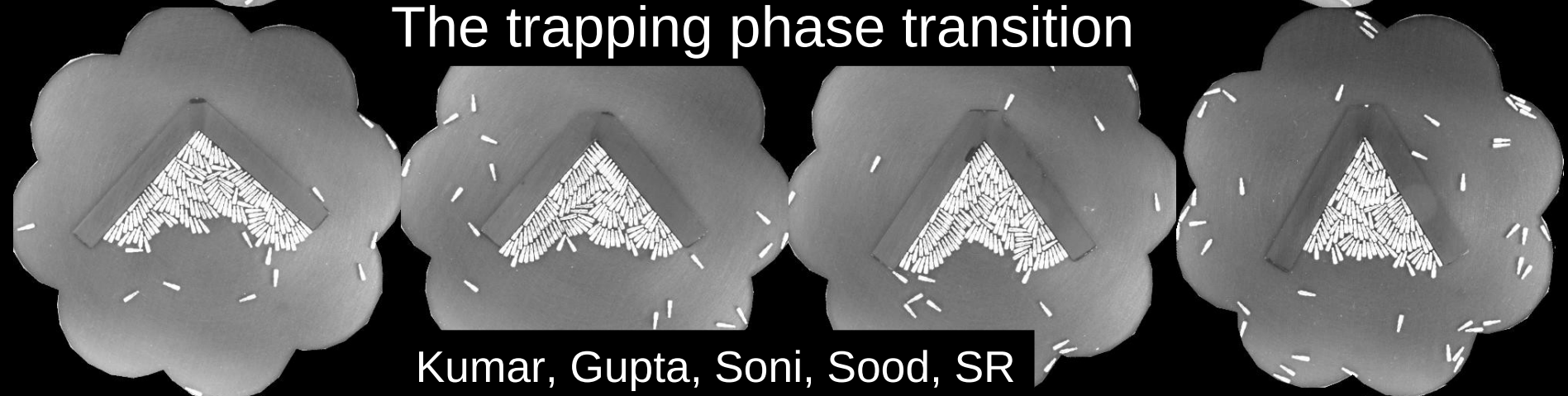
Motility-induced phase separation

Non-aligning SPPs: Fily & Marchetti; Redner, Hagan, Baskaran; Tailleur & Cates;

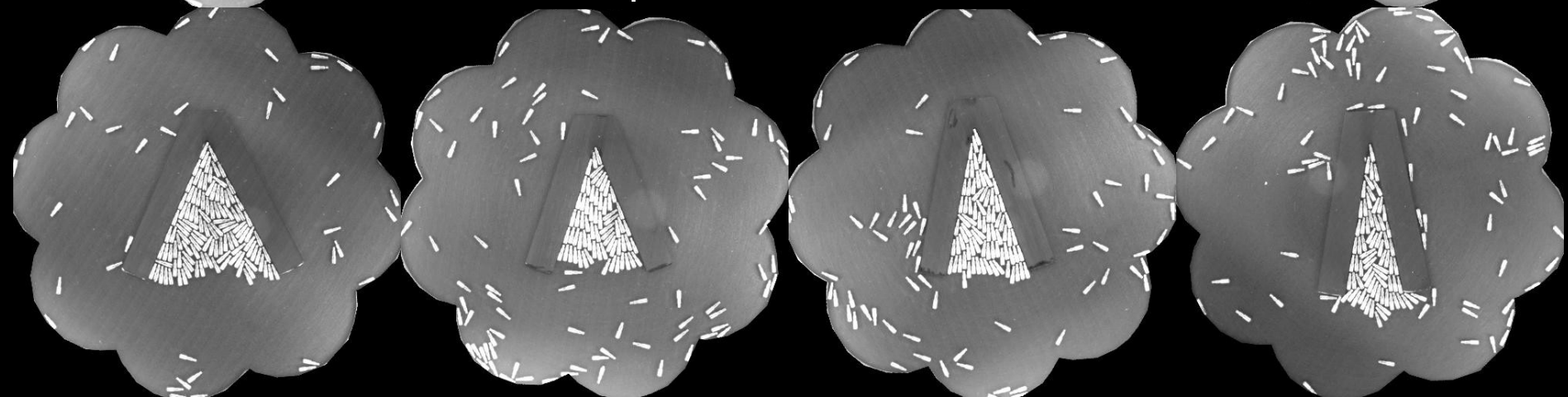
SP rods: S Weitz, A Deutsch, F Peruani



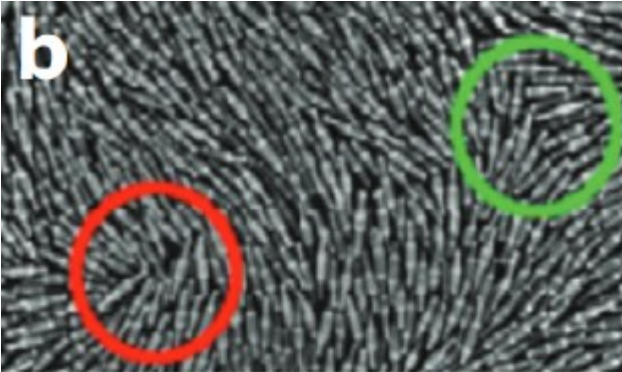
The trapping phase transition



Kumar, Gupta, Soni, Sood, SR



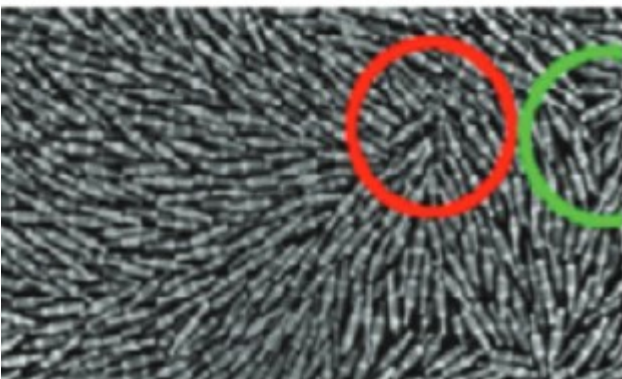
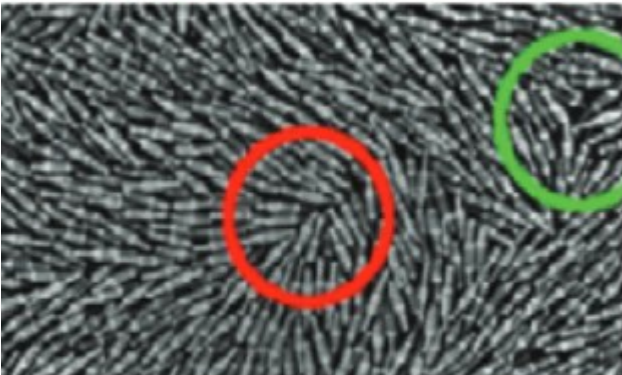
# Self-propelled defects



The symmetry of the field around the strength  $-1/2$  defect will result in no net motion, while the curvature around the  $+1/2$  defect has a well-defined polarity and hence should move in the direction of its “nose” as shown in the figure.

V Narayan et al., Science **317** (2007) 105

motile  $+1/2$  defect, static  $-1/2$  defect



Defects as particles:

$+1/2$  motile,  $-1/2$  not

$+1/2$  velocity  $\sim \text{div}Q$

Giomi, Bowick, Ma, Marchetti PRL 2013

Thampi, Golestanian, Yeomans PRL 2014

DeCamp et al NMat 2015 .....

# Active matter: definition

- Active particles are alive, or “alive”
  - living systems and their components
  - each constituent has dissipative Time’s Arrow
  - steadily transduces free energy to movement
  - detailed balance homogeneously broken
  - collectively: active matter
  - transient information: sensing and signalling
  - heritable information: self-replication

SR *J Stat Mech* 2017

Marchetti, Joanny, SR, Liverpool, Prost, Rao, Simha,  
*Rev. Mod. Phys.* **85** (2013) 1143-1189

Prost, Jülicher, Joanny, *Nat Phys* Feb 2015

SR: *Annu. Rev. Condens. Matt. Phys.* **1** (2010) 323

Toner, Tu, SR: *Ann. Phys.* **318** (2005) 170

So:

motile creatures

living tissue

membranes + pumps

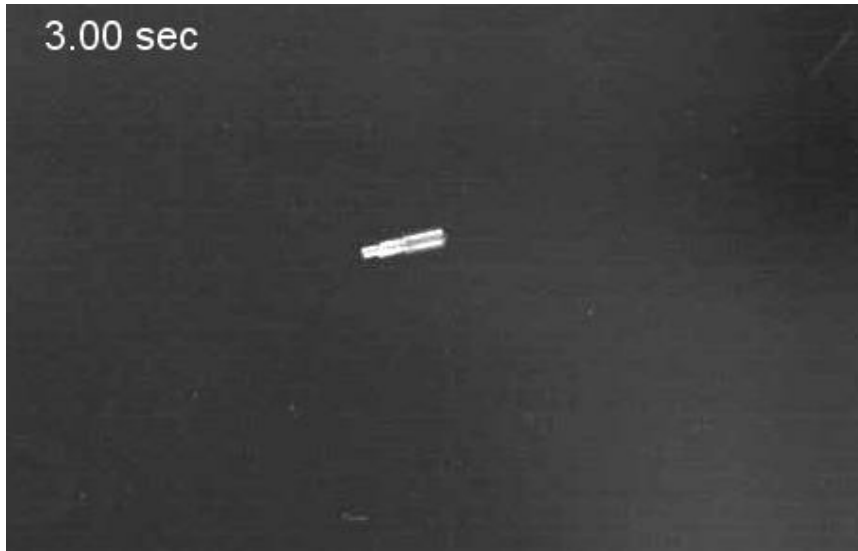
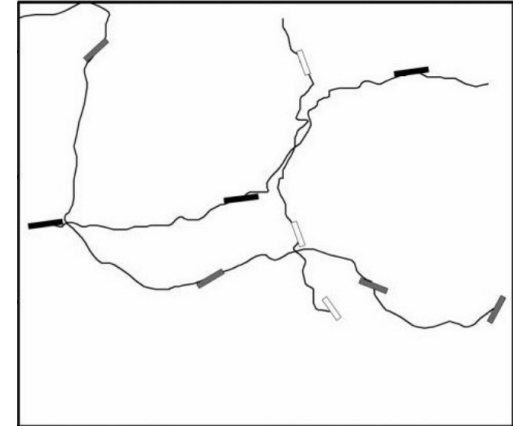
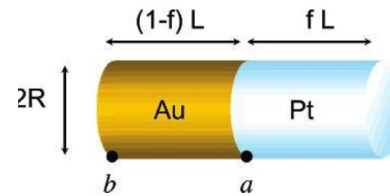
cytoskeleton + motors

....

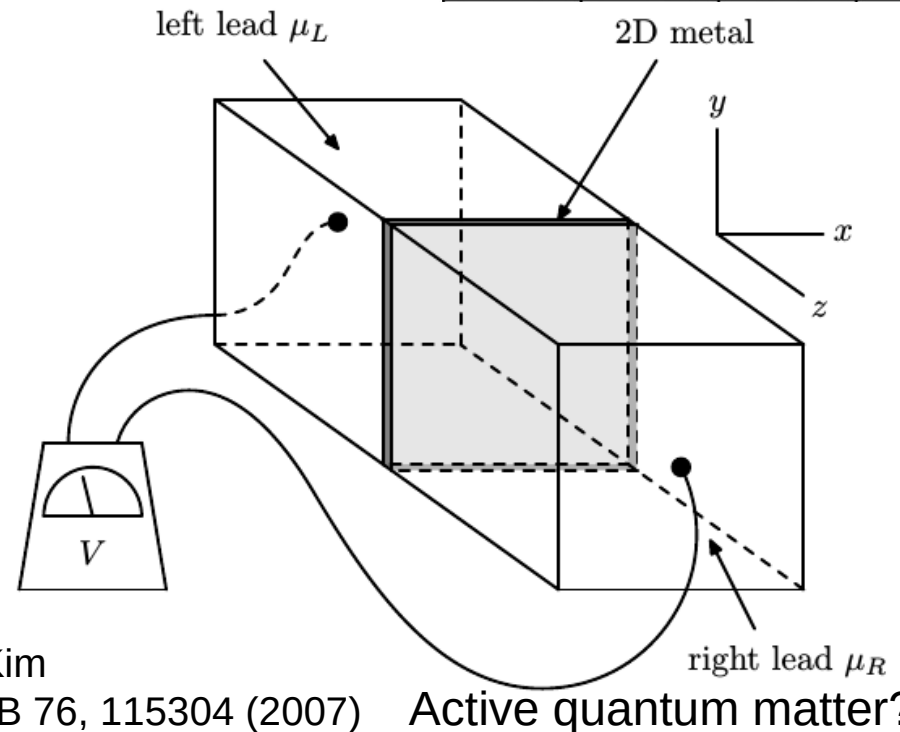
but also:

# Active matter: nonliving examples

Catalytic particle in reactant bath  
Golestanian et al., Paxton et al., Saha et al.



Motile brass rod  
Kumar et al. PRL 2011



Takei and Kim

Phys. Rev. B 76, 115304 (2007)

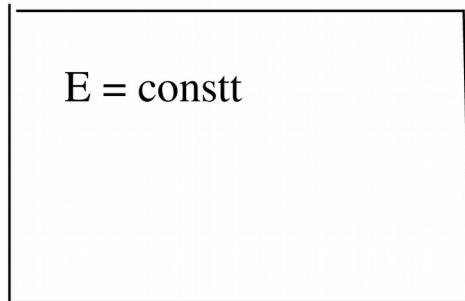
Active quantum matter?



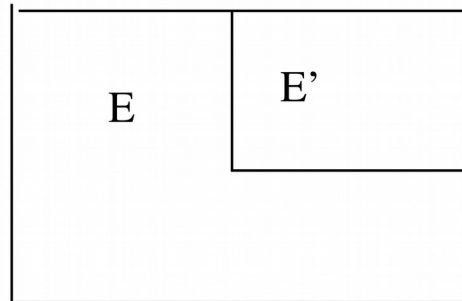
# INTRODUCTION

## framework

### Thermal equilibrium: “closed” systems



$$E = \text{constt}$$



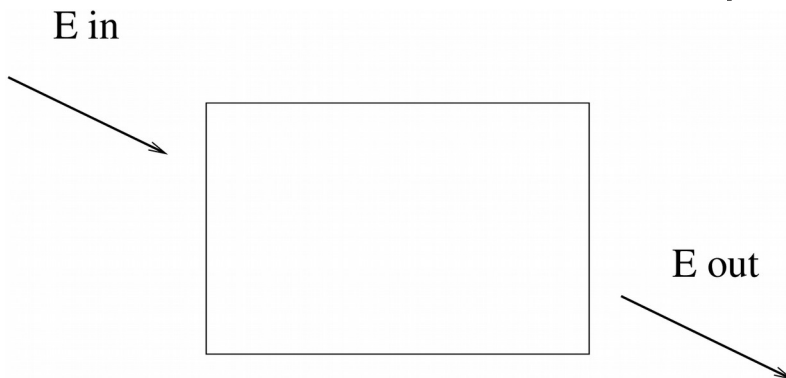
$$E + E' = \text{constt}$$

Temperature of subsystem = constt

$$t \leftrightarrow -t$$

Physics students  
know the rules

### Active matter: open systems (& questions)



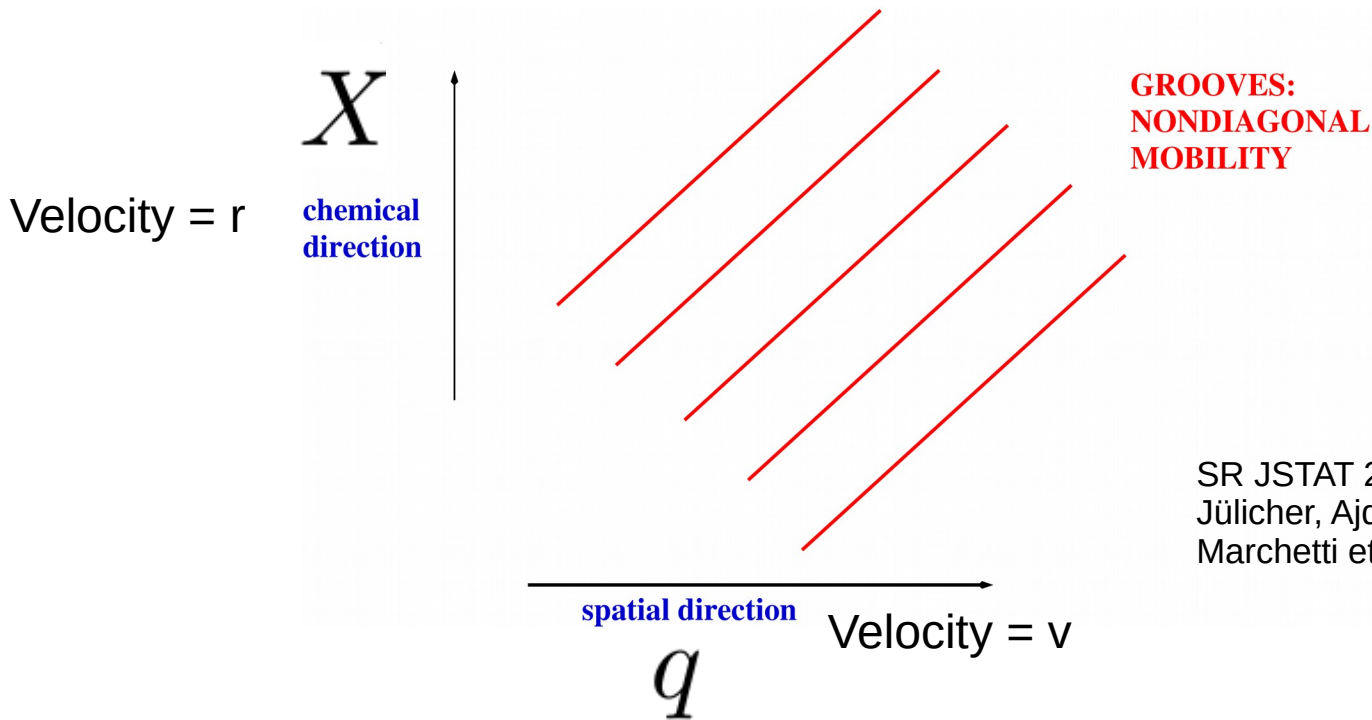
- running engine + fuel
- living organism + food

$$\cancel{t \leftrightarrow -t}$$

Physics students  
don't know the rules

# INTRODUCTION

## framework



SR JSTAT 2017  
Jülicher, Ajdari, Prost RMP Colloq 1993  
Marchetti et al. RMP 2013

Motor: catalyst for fuel breakdown; 2d configuration space

Driving force  $Dm = m_{\text{reactant}} - m_{\text{product}}$  in *chemical* direction

Mobility nondiagonal:  $\text{vel} = \text{Mob} * \text{Force}$  has *spatial* component

Use this to understand “new” terms, ruled out in equilibrium dynamics?

From Langevin equations to active dynamics

Temperature  $T$ ; effective Hamiltonian  $H(q,p,X,\Pi)$

$q$  (time-rev even),  $p$  (odd);  $X, \Pi$ : extra coord, momentum

Off-diagonal  $q$ -dependent Onsager coefficients

$$\dot{q} = \partial_p H$$

$$\dot{p} + \Gamma_{11} \partial_p H + \Gamma_{12}(q) \partial_{\Pi} H = -\partial_q H + \eta$$

$$\dot{\Pi} + \Gamma_{21}(q) \partial_p H + \Gamma_{22} \partial_{\Pi} H = -\partial_X H + \xi$$

eliminate  $\dot{X}$  from the  $p$  equation

$$\dot{X} = \partial_{\Pi} H$$

noises  $\eta, \xi$   $\langle \eta(0) \xi(t) \rangle = 2k_B T \Gamma_{12}(q) \delta(t)$

# From Langevin equations to active dynamics

Temperature  $T$ ; effective Hamiltonian  $H(q,p,X,\Pi)$

$q$  (time-rev even),  $p$  (odd);  $X, \Pi$ : extra coord, momentum

~~Off-diagonal  $q$ -dependent Onsager coefficients~~

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eliminate  $\dot{X}$  from the  $p$  equation

$$\dot{X} = \partial_\Pi H$$

From Langevin equations to active dynamics

$$\dot{q} = \partial_p H$$

$$\dot{p} + \Gamma \partial_p H - \frac{\Gamma_{12}(q)}{\Gamma_{22}} \partial_X H = -\partial_q H + f$$

$$\dot{X} + \frac{\Gamma_{12}(q)}{\Gamma_{22}} \partial_p H = -\frac{1}{\Gamma_{22}} \partial_X H + \frac{\xi}{\Gamma_{22}}$$

$$f \equiv \eta - (\Gamma_{12}/\Gamma_{22})\xi \quad \text{has variance } \propto \Gamma \equiv \Gamma_{11} - \Gamma_{12}^2(q)/\Gamma_{22}$$

Active? Hold  $-\partial_X H \equiv -\Delta\mu \neq 0$  fixed

From Langevin equations to active dynamics

$$\dot{p} + \Gamma \partial_p H - \frac{\Gamma_{12}(q)}{\Gamma_{22}} \Delta\mu = -\partial_q H + f$$
$$\dot{q} = \partial_p H$$

“New” terms, ruled out in equilibrium dynamics.  
In general can't hide by redefining H, temperature....

$$\dot{q} + \Gamma^{-1} \partial_q H = \frac{\Delta\mu}{\Gamma_{22}\Gamma} \Gamma_{12}(q) + \Gamma^{-1} f$$

No inertia: q-only equation of motion

# Framework

example: active interface

$q \rightarrow h(\mathbf{x}, t) = \text{height field of interface}$

Invariance:  $h \rightarrow h + \text{constant}$  **but not**  $h \rightarrow -h$

$$\dot{h} + \frac{1}{\zeta} \frac{\delta H}{\delta h} = \frac{\Delta \mu}{\Gamma_{22} \Gamma_{12}} \Gamma_{12}(h, \nabla h, \dots) + \sqrt{\frac{2k_B T}{\zeta}} f$$

Symmetries  $\rightarrow \Gamma_{12} = \text{constt} + (\nabla h)^2$

KPZ equation

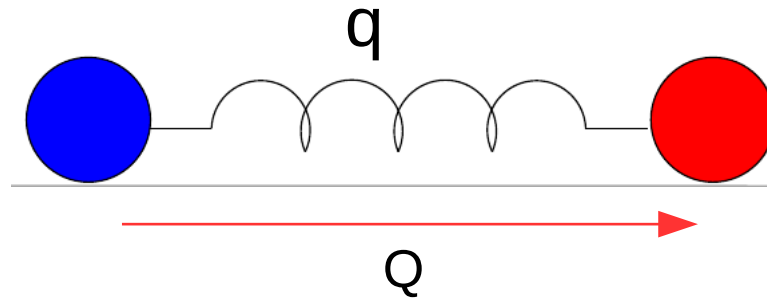
# ABP or AOUP from dimer + chemistry



LP Dadhichi  
A Maitra  
SR 2018



KV Kumar  
M Rao  
A Baule  
SR 2008



Joint & relative  $(q,p)$  &  $(Q,P)$ ; “chemical”  $(X,\Pi)$

$$\dot{p} + \gamma_{11} \partial_p H + \gamma_{12}(Q) \partial_{\Pi} H = -\partial_q H + \eta$$

$$\dot{\Pi} + \gamma_{21}(Q) \partial_p H + \gamma_{22} \partial_{\Pi} H = -\partial_X H + \xi$$

$$\dot{P} + \Gamma_{11} \partial_P H = -\partial_Q H + \bar{\eta}$$



ABP or AOUP from dimer + chemistry

$$\dot{q} + \frac{\gamma_{22}}{\mathcal{D}} \partial_q H = \frac{\gamma_{12}(Q)}{\mathcal{D}} \Delta \mu + \frac{\gamma_{22}}{\mathcal{D}} \eta - \frac{\gamma_{12}(Q)}{\mathcal{D}} \xi$$

$$\dot{Q} + \frac{1}{\Gamma_{11}} \partial_Q H = \bar{\eta} / \Gamma_{11} \quad \mathcal{D} = \gamma_{11} \gamma_{22} - \gamma_{12}(Q)^2$$

Choosing  $\gamma_{12}/\mathcal{D} \propto Q + \text{h.o.}$  propels particle along  $Q$

$$H \sim -Q \cdot Q + (Q \cdot Q)^2$$

Propulsion speed  $\sim |q| \simeq \text{const}$ : Active Brownian Particle ABP

$H$  harmonically binds  $Q$

$\Delta \mu$  term  $\sim$  coloured noise: Active Ornstein-Uhlenbeck Particle AOUP

Notice translation diffusion in  $q$  equation.

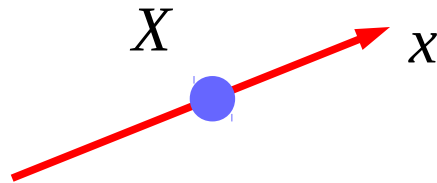
# Brownian inchworm

K Vijay Kumar  
M Rao  
SR 2008



many animals

# Entropy production of active dimer



$$v = \gamma_{12} \Delta\mu / \gamma_{22}$$

For a potential harmonic in  $X$ ,  $\partial H / \partial X = kX$

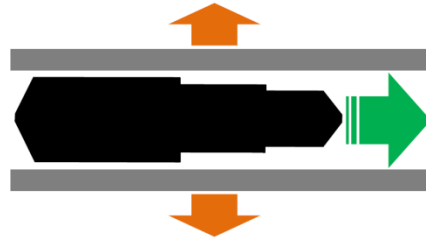
$$\sigma = \frac{v^2}{\gamma_{11} + \gamma_{33}k}$$

Without  $x$  reversal

$$\sigma = \frac{v^2 k \gamma_{33}}{\gamma_{11} (\gamma_{11} + \gamma_{33}k)}$$

With  $x$  reversal

# A single active particle



active, polar, motile, in a groove

active, apolar, non-motile, in a groove

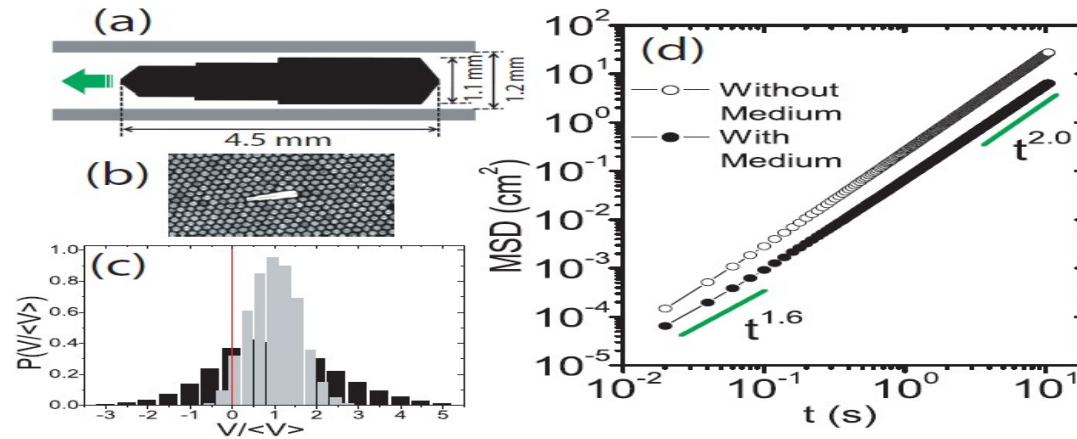
Vijay Narayan, PhD thesis, IISc 2008

one motile rod in a sea of beads

Nitin Kumar, A K Sood, SR 2011

Vijay Narayan, Narayanan Menon, Nitin Kumar, Ajay Sood

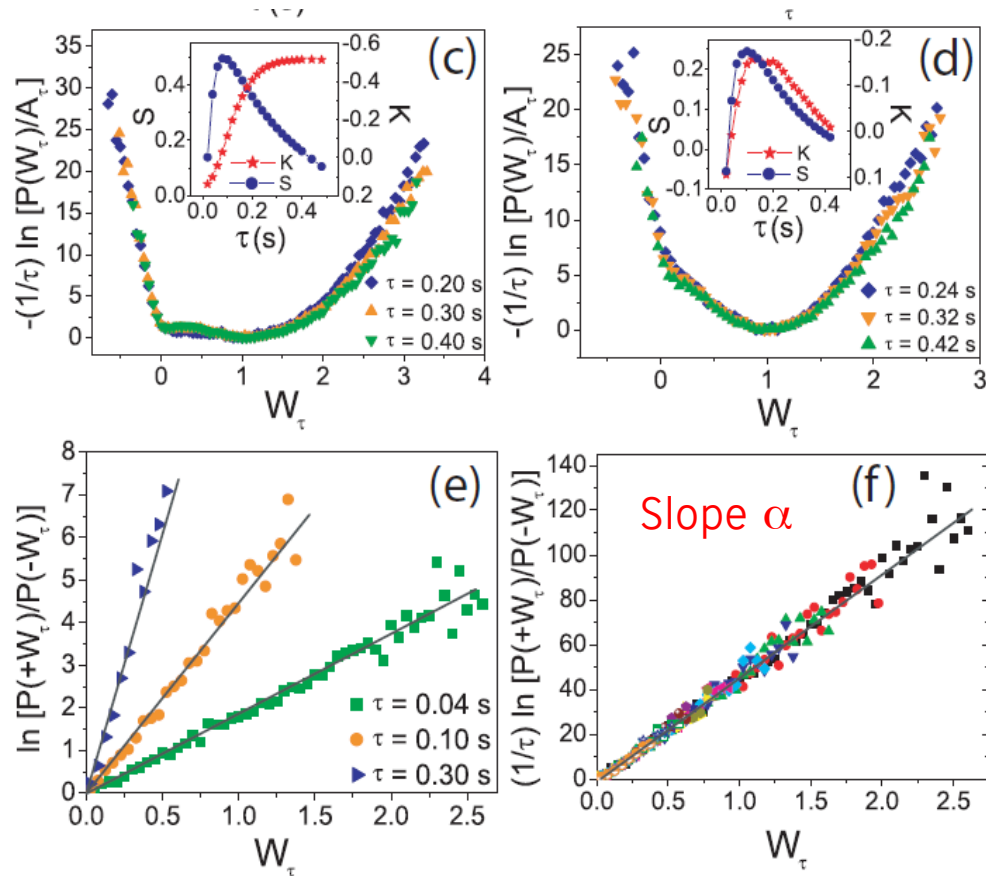
# Fluctuation relations in active matter



Polar rod  
self-propelled  
through bead-bed  
Nitin Kumar, A K Sood, SR  
PRL 2011

An imitation self-propelled system: laboratory for exploring stat-mech of active matter

# Symmetry properties of the large-deviation function of the velocity: a new “fluctuation relation”



$$V(t) \equiv \mathbf{v}(t) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}(t)$$

$$W_\tau(t) = (1/\tau) \int_t^{t+\tau} [V(t') / \langle V \rangle] dt'$$

$$F(W_\tau) \equiv \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} (-1/\tau) \ln P(W_\tau)$$

$$F(W_\tau) - F(-W_\tau) \propto W_\tau$$

Nitin Kumar, A K Sood, SR  
PRL 2011

# Notable features

Large deviation function  $F$ : statistics of extremes

Central Limit Theorem: behaviour near minimum of  $F$

Experiments:

- Strongly non-Gaussian
- Antisymmetric part linear
- kink at zero argument
- Slope  $a$ : relative persistence rates of + and - motion

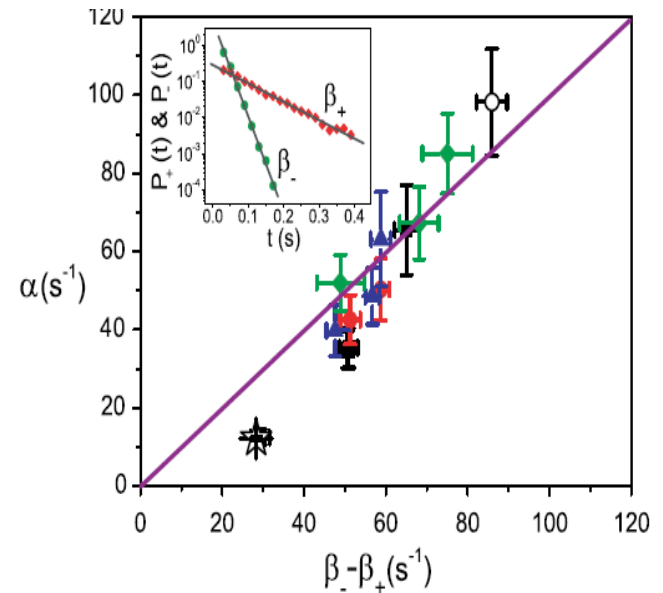
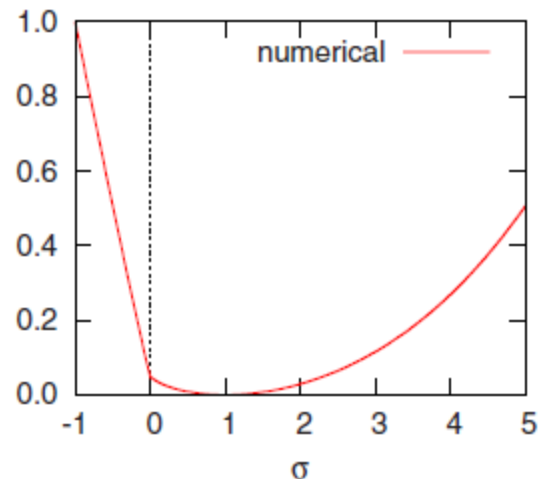


FIG. 4 (color online). Analogue of phase-space contraction rate  $\alpha$  vs  $\beta_- - \beta_+$ , the difference in persistence rates of negative and positive velocities. Solid squares:  $\Phi = 0.83$  ( $\Gamma =$

# Large-deviation function: theory

Mehl et al. Phys Rev E **78** (2008) 011123

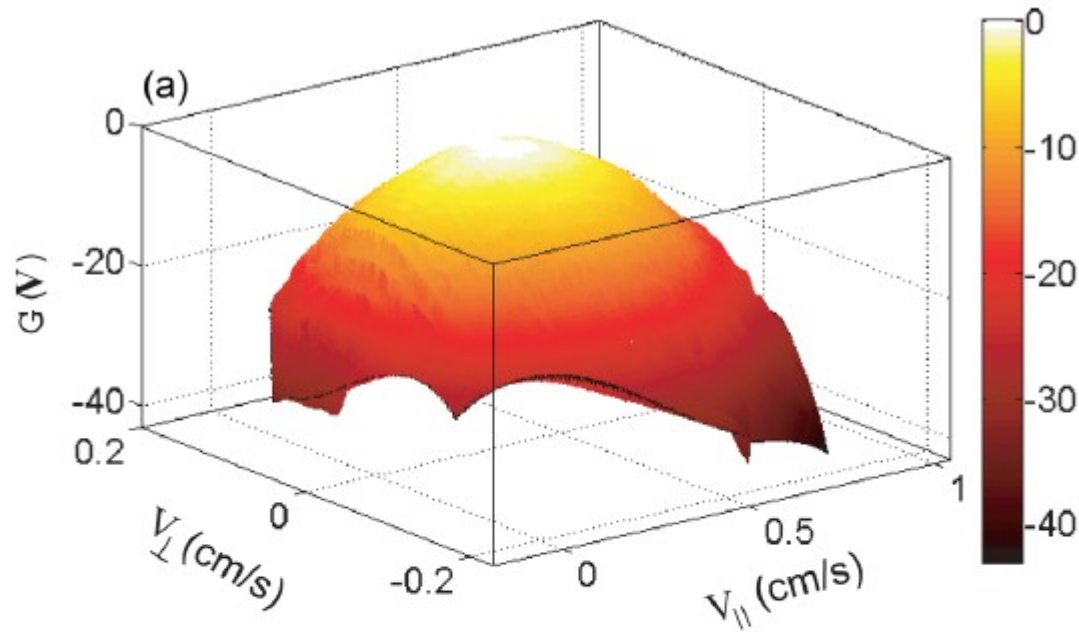
- Brownian particle: periodic potential + constant force
- pronounced deviations from Gaussian behavior
- characteristic kink at zero entropy production



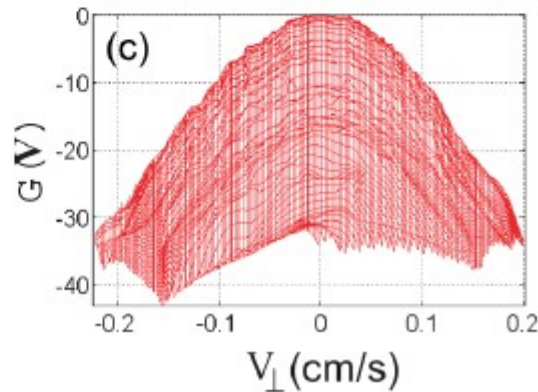
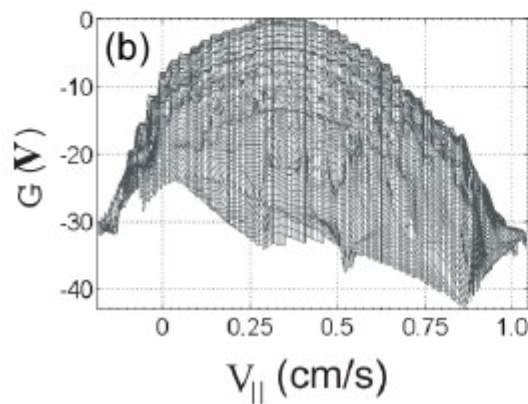


# Large-deviation function for velocity vector $\mathbf{V}$

Kumar, Soni, SR, Sood PRE 2015



Non-paraboloid  
Strong asymmetry along  $V_{\parallel}$



# Anisotropically isometric fluctuation relation

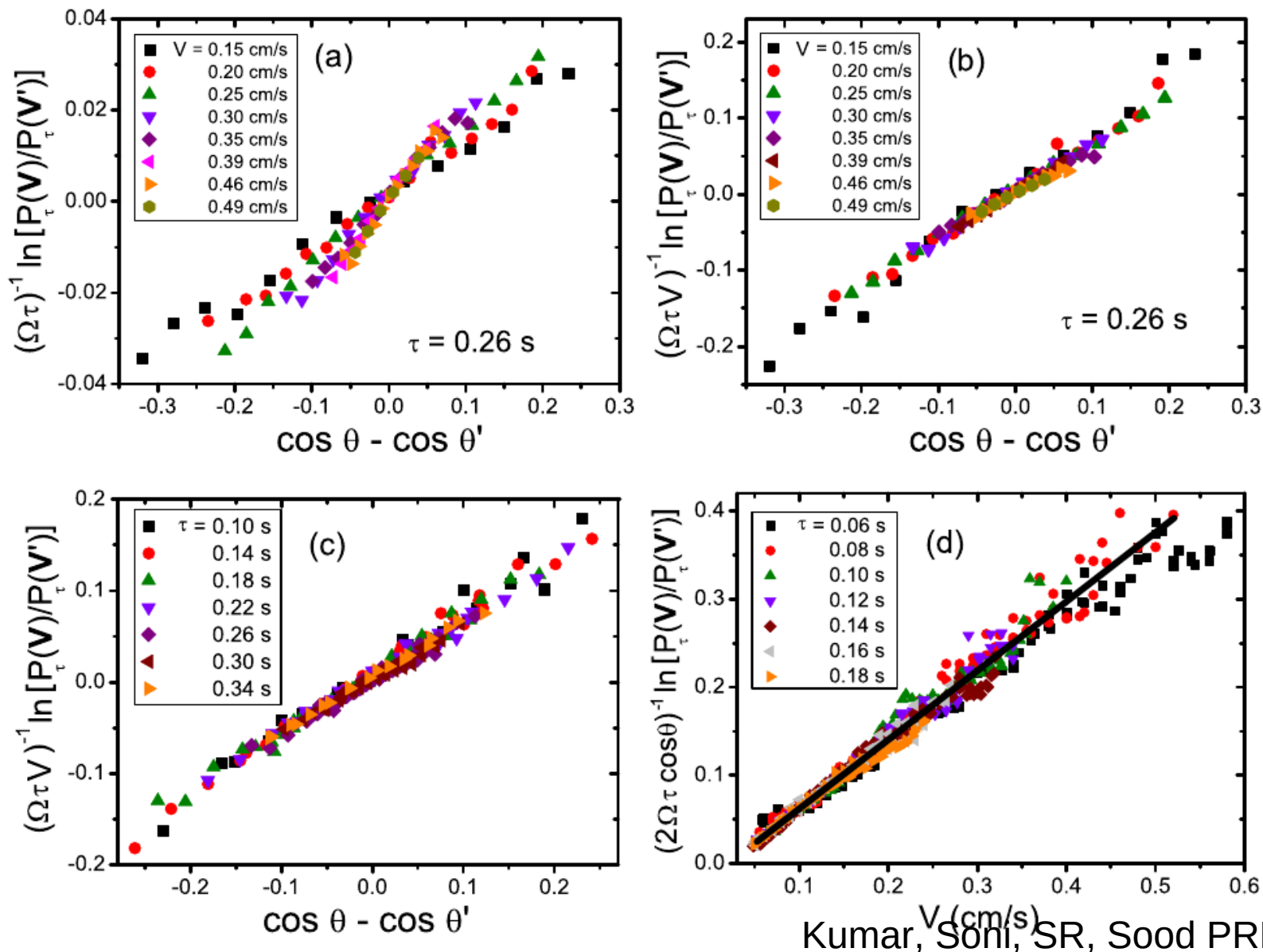
Kumar, Soni, SR, Sood PRE 2015

**D** = diffusivity tensor

Velocity vectors **V**, **V'** with

$$\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{V}'^T \mathbf{D}^{-1} \mathbf{V}'$$

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\tau} \ln \frac{P_{\tau}(\mathbf{V}_{\tau} = \mathbf{V})}{P_{\tau}(\mathbf{V}_{\tau} = \mathbf{V}')} = \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \cdot (\mathbf{V} - \mathbf{V}')$$



Kumar, Soni, SR, Sood PRE 2015

FIG. 2. (Color online) (a) A typical plot of  $(\Omega\tau)^{-1} \ln [P_\tau(V)/P_\tau(V')]$  vs  $\cos \theta - \cos \theta'$  over various constant-velocity contours for  $\tau = 0.26$  s showing a linear trend for all  $V$ . (b) Data scaling of  $(\Omega\tau V)^{-1} \ln [P_\tau(V)/P_\tau(V')]$  vs  $\cos \theta - \cos \theta'$ . (c) Scaling of  $(\Omega\tau V)^{-1} \ln [P_\tau(V)/P_\tau(V')]$  with  $\tau$  variation. Here each  $\tau$  line contains all the  $V$  values as in (b). (d) Plot of  $(2\Omega\tau \cos \theta)^{-1} \ln [P_\tau(V)/P_\tau(V')]$  vs  $V$  for various  $\tau$  for the special case when  $\theta - \theta' = 180^\circ$ . Here  $\theta$  varies between  $-30^\circ$  to  $30^\circ$  in steps of  $10^\circ$  for all  $\tau$ .

# Nonliving dry active matter



Nitin Kumar



Vijay Narayan

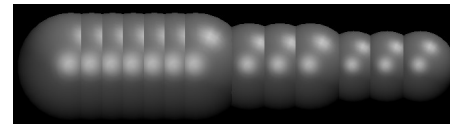
apolar medium, motile topological defect



Ajay Sood



Narayanan Menon



Granular dynamics simulations: Harsh Soni

active, apolar, non-motile, in a groove

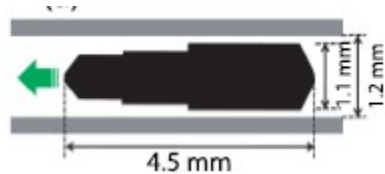
+ aluminium beads 0.8 diameter

one motile rod in a sea of bead

S

Confined quasi-2d geometry

active, polar, motile, in a groove



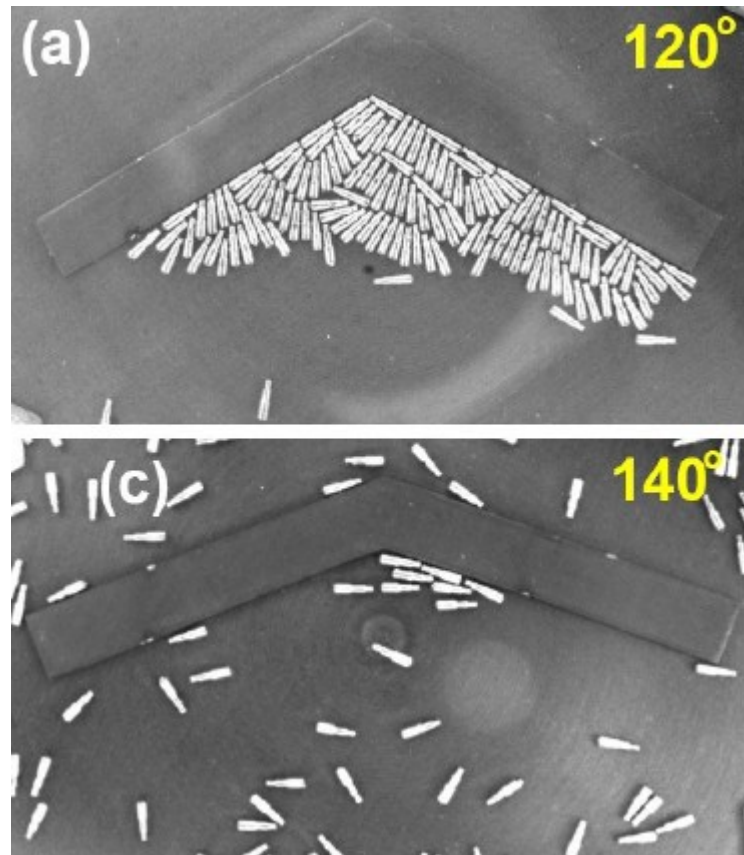
Active nematic: Narayan, SR, Menon Science 2007

Large deviations, flocking: Kumar, Soni, Sood, SR PRL 2011, PRE 2014, Nat Comm 2014 & in prep

Trapping: Kumar, Gupta, Soni, SR, Sood arXiv 2018

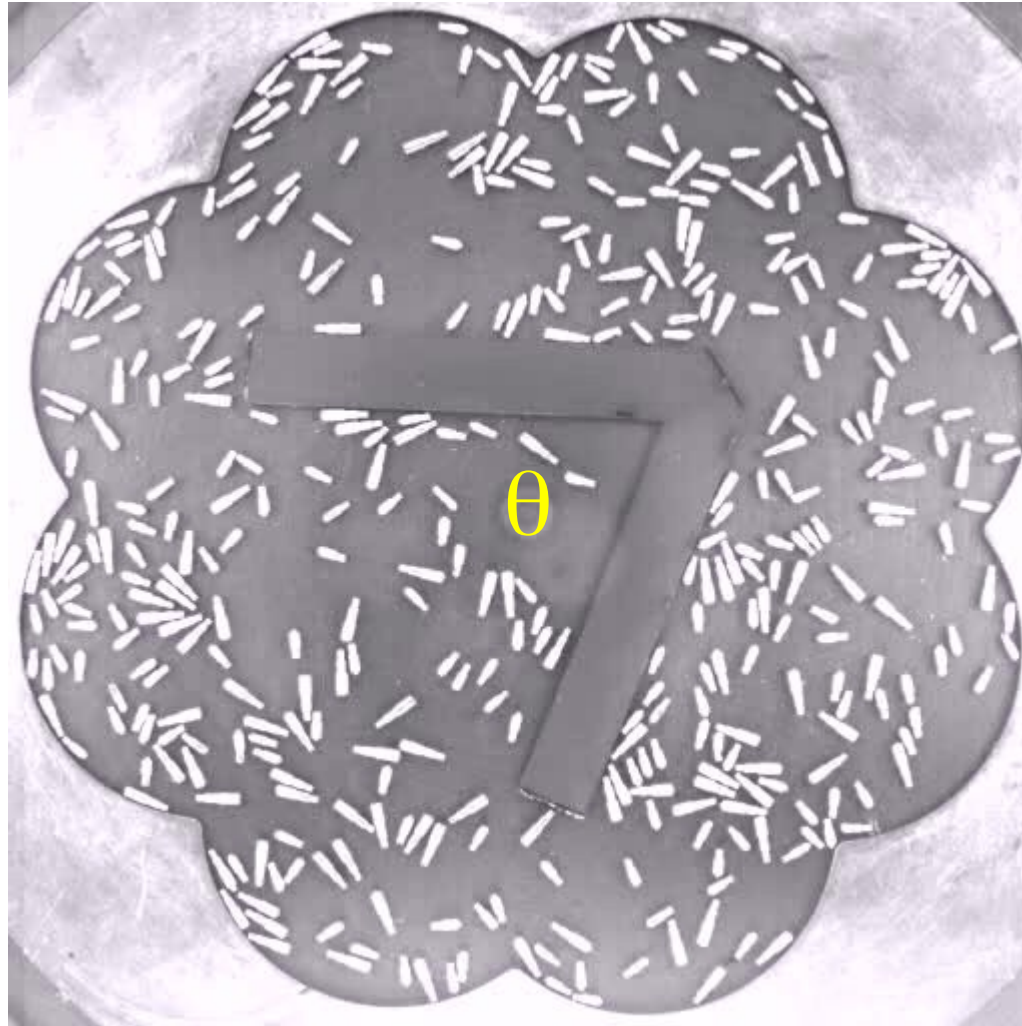
# Trapping active liquid crystals

N Kumar, R K Gupta, H Soni, S Ramaswamy, A.K. Sood arXiv:1803.02278



**Rahul Gupta**  
TCIS, TIFR Hyderabad

# The trap



Flower geometry  
Dauchot group

$$L = 10\ell \simeq 4.5 \text{ cm with } 20^\circ \leq \theta \leq 160^\circ \text{ in steps of } 10^\circ$$

# Mechanically faithful simulations

Rahul Gupta & Harsh Soni

Rod = tapered sphere array

Newtonian rigid body dynamics

Friction  $\mu$  restitution  $e$

Base, lid vertically vibrated

Rotational diffusion: random angular velocity,  $\omega = \varepsilon v_{\text{rel}}$   
 $\varepsilon = \pm 0.01$  (prob 1/2), at each rod-base or rod-lid collision  
(reproduces experimental angular diffusion)

$\mu$  &  $e$

0.05 & 0.3 particle-particle

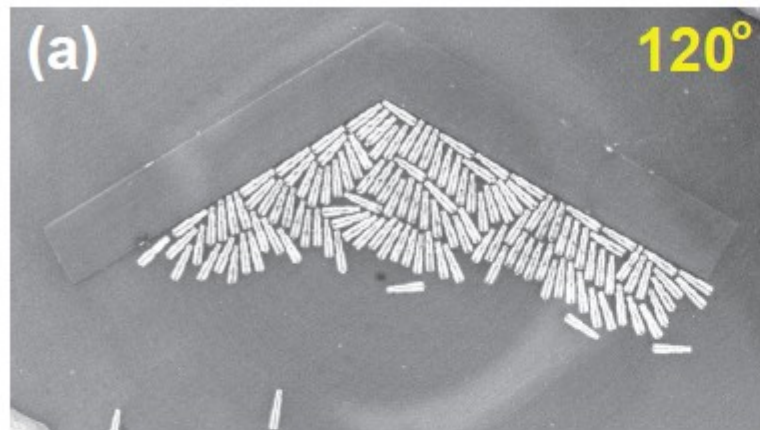
0.03 & 0.1 rod-base

0.01 & 0.1 rod-lid

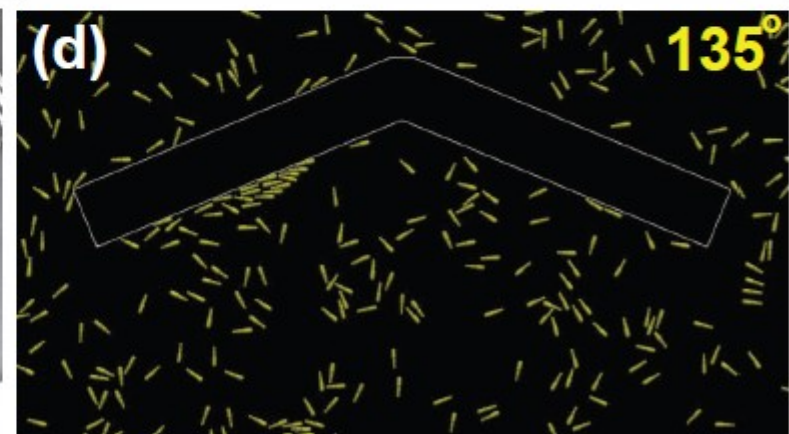
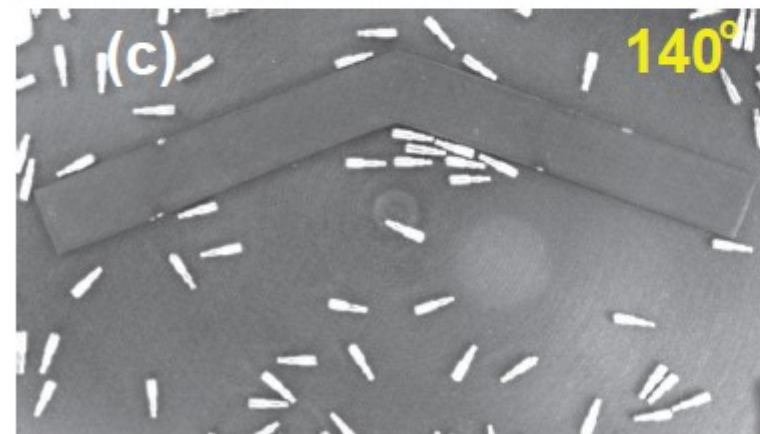
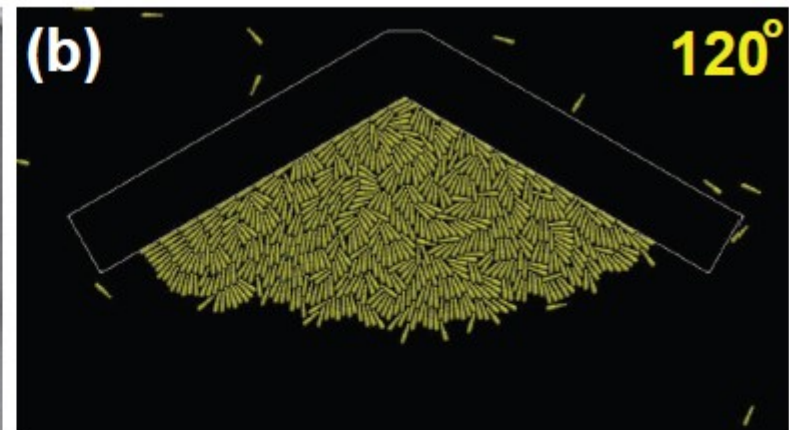
0.03 & 0.65 particle-V

# Trapped and untrapped states

Experiment



Simulation





# Trapping kinetics: experiments

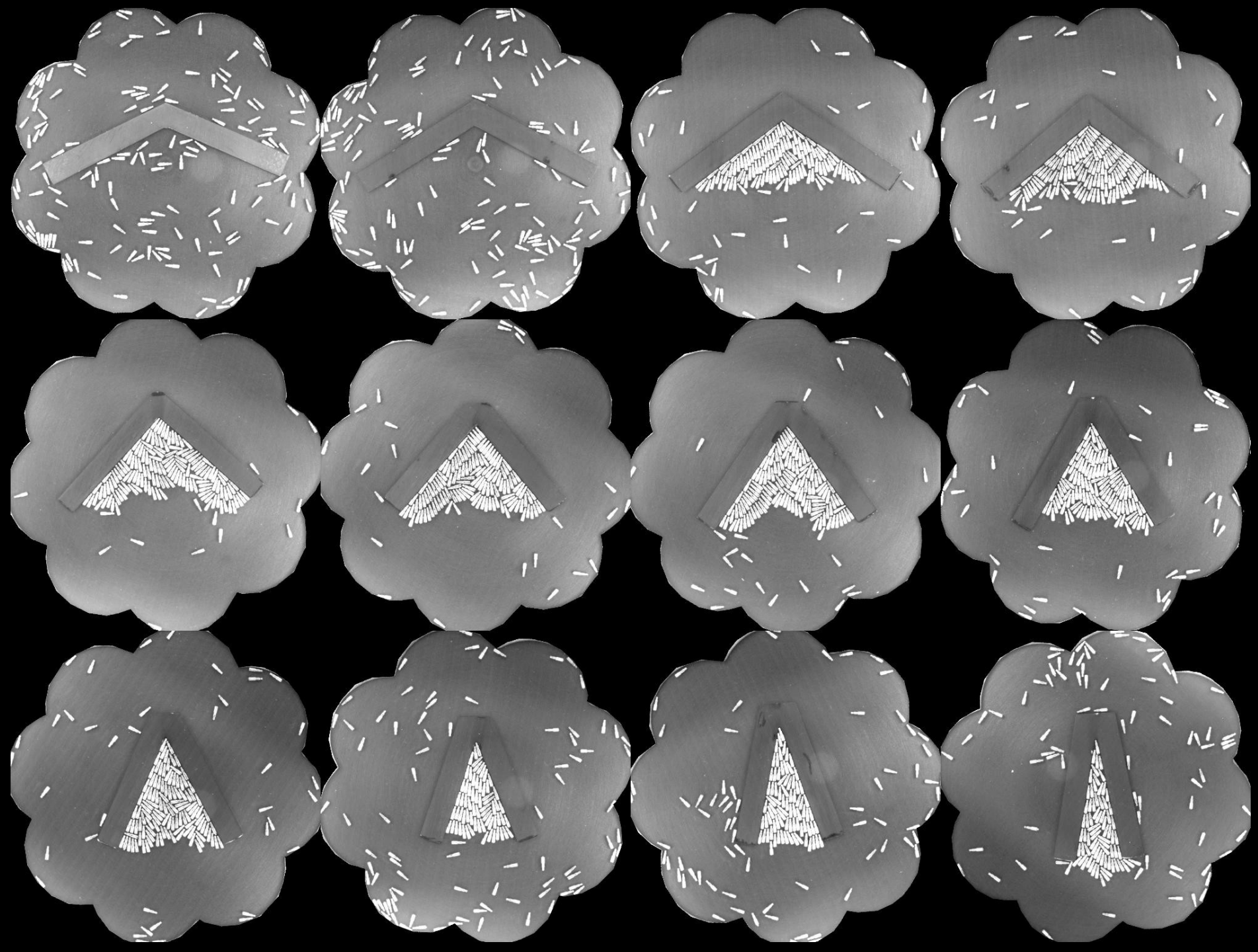
Single particle

</home/sriram/talks/activemattertalks/current/aps2016/nitin15Mar16/SM 6.avi>

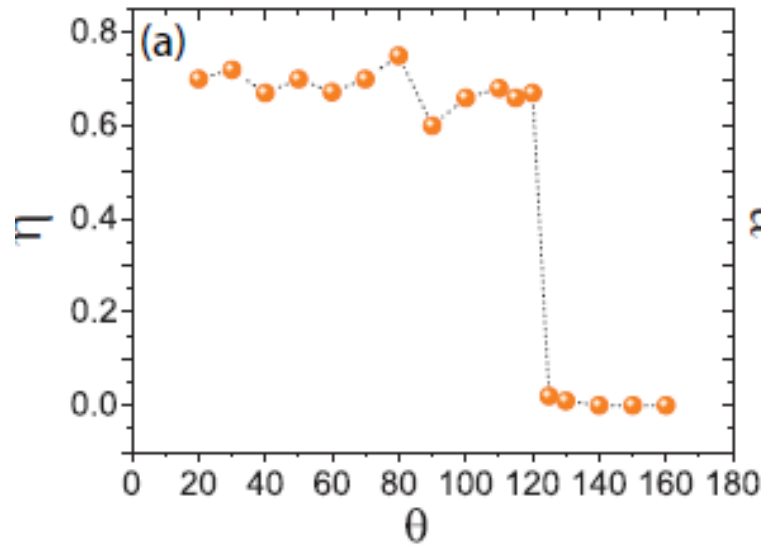
Collective

trapped and untrapped states

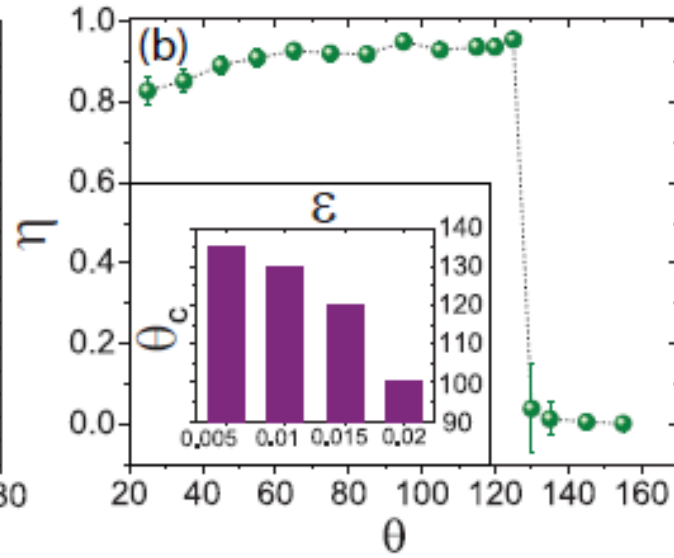
transient trapping



Experiment



Simulation



Trapping efficiency  $\eta \equiv N_0 a/A_t$

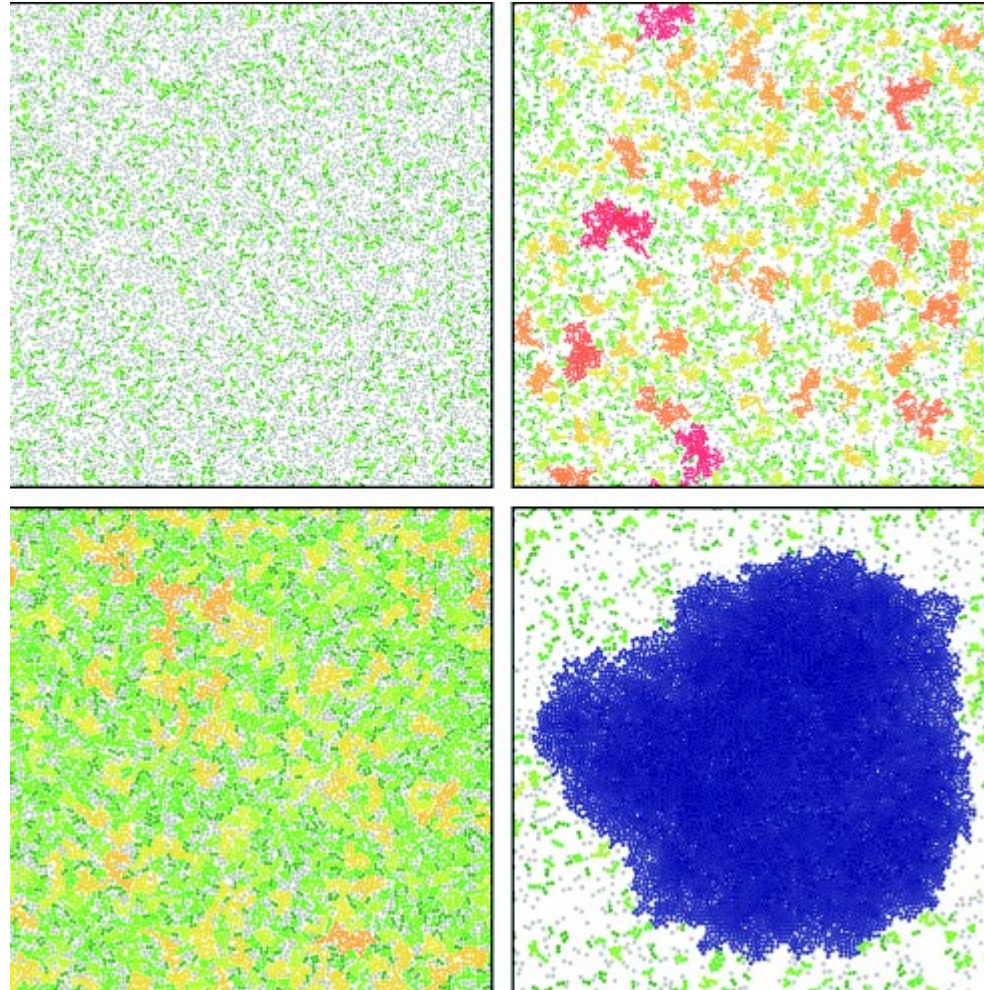
$N_0 = \#$  at zero velocity

$a =$  projected area of particle

$A_t =$  area of trap

INSET: trapping threshold angle decreases as noise increases

Persistent motion  $\rightarrow$  condensation without attraction

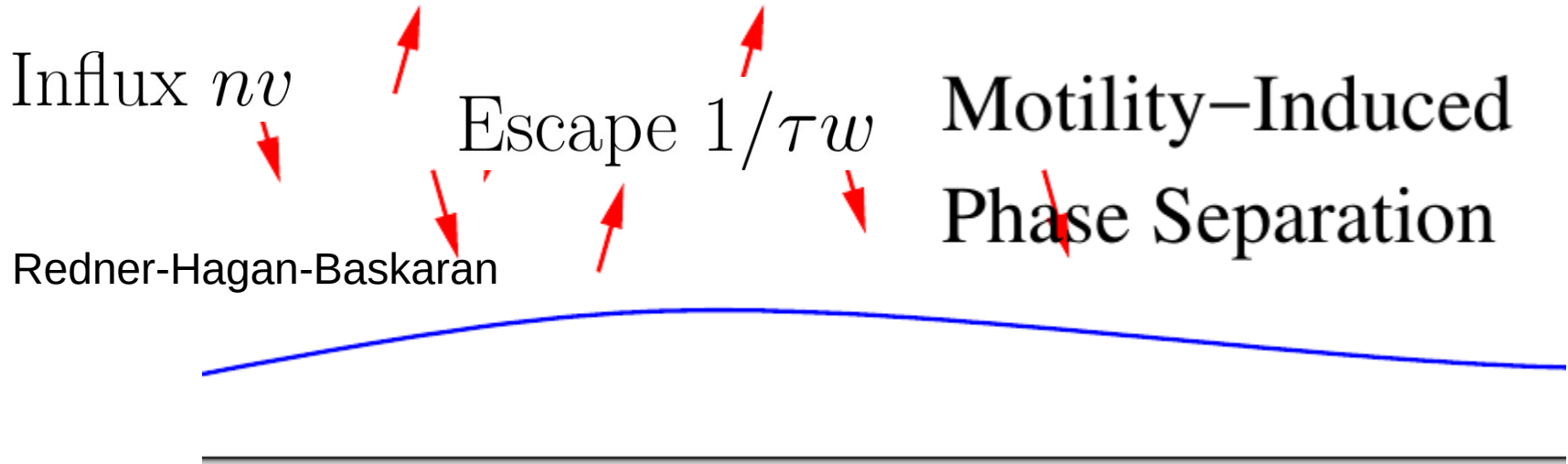


Motility-induced phase separation

Non-aligning SPPs: Fily & Marchetti; Redner, Hagan, Baskaran; Tailleur & Cates;

SP rods: S Weitz, A Deutsch, F Peruani

# Theory of trapping



self-propelling speed  $v$

persistence time  $\sim 1/D_{rot} = \tau$

concentration  $n$

particle dimensions  $\ell \times w$

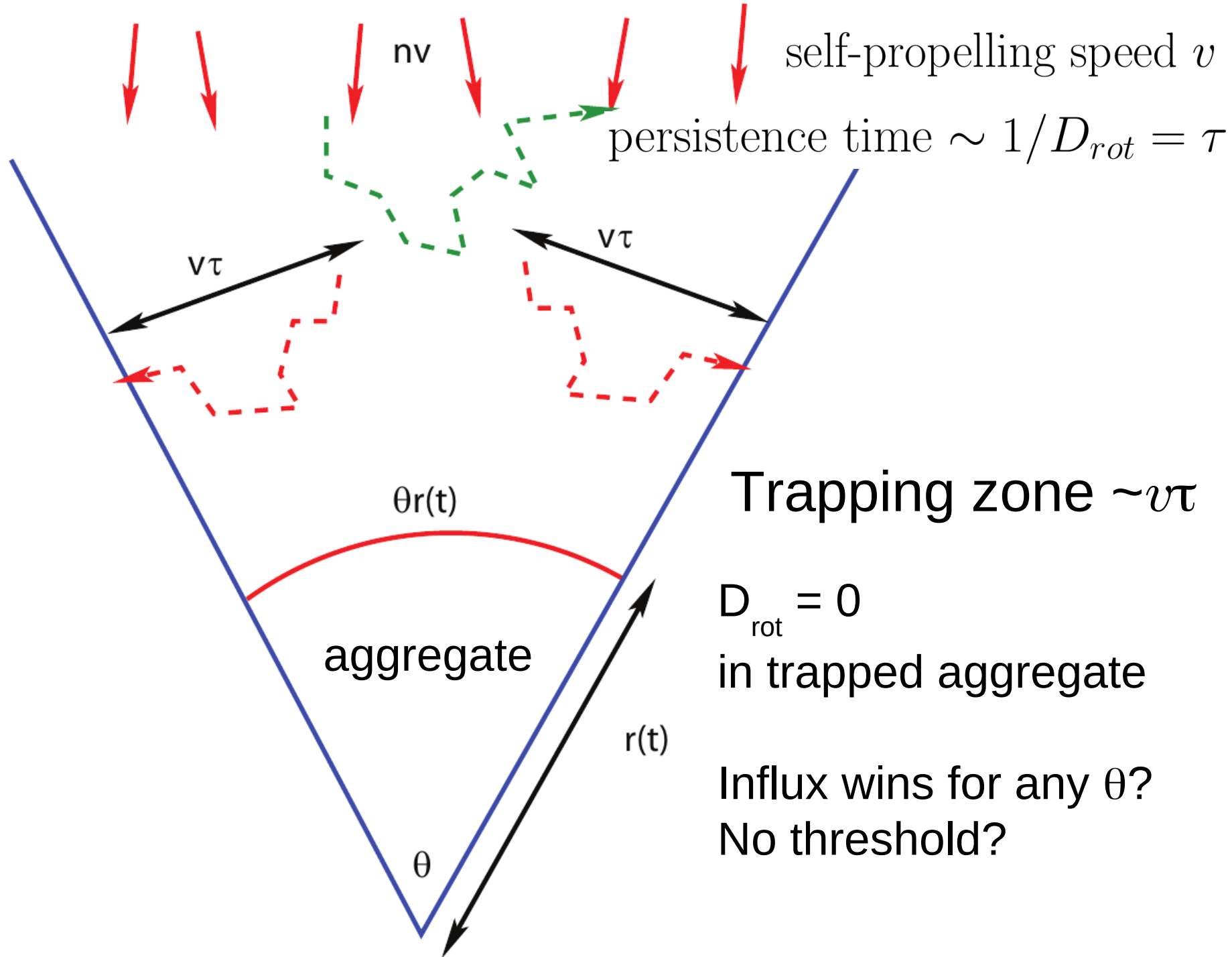
particle area fraction  $\phi = n\ell w$

Bulk, no MIPS:  $\phi v \tau / \ell \ll 1$

No condensation without traps

Clearly no bulk MIPS

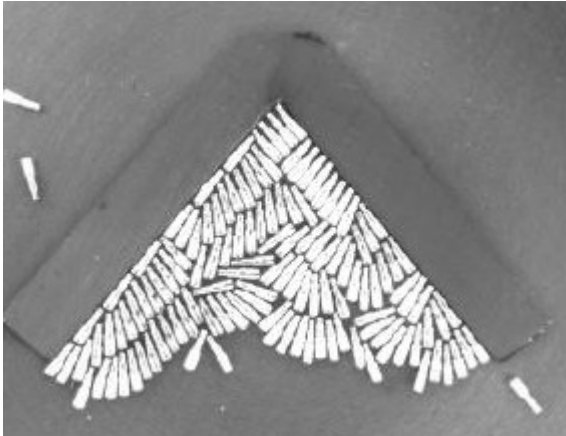
What do traps do?



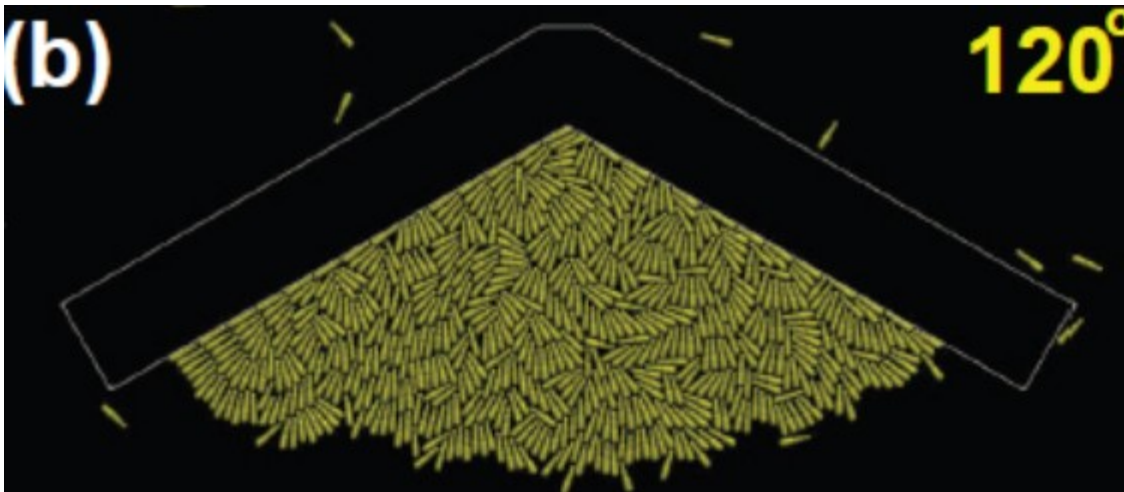
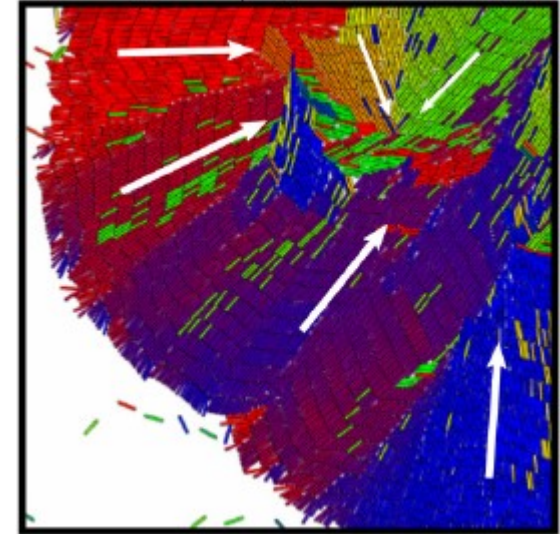
# Resistance to growth: defects?

Single disclination fragment? "energy"  $\sim \theta \log r$

Tilt wall  $\sim \theta r$

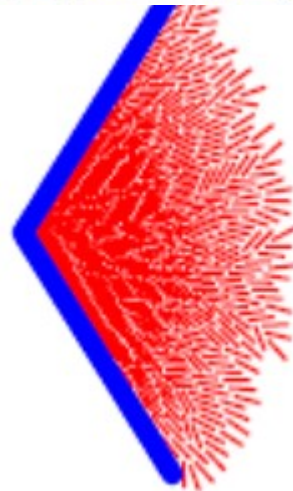


S Weitz et al 2015  
SP-rods

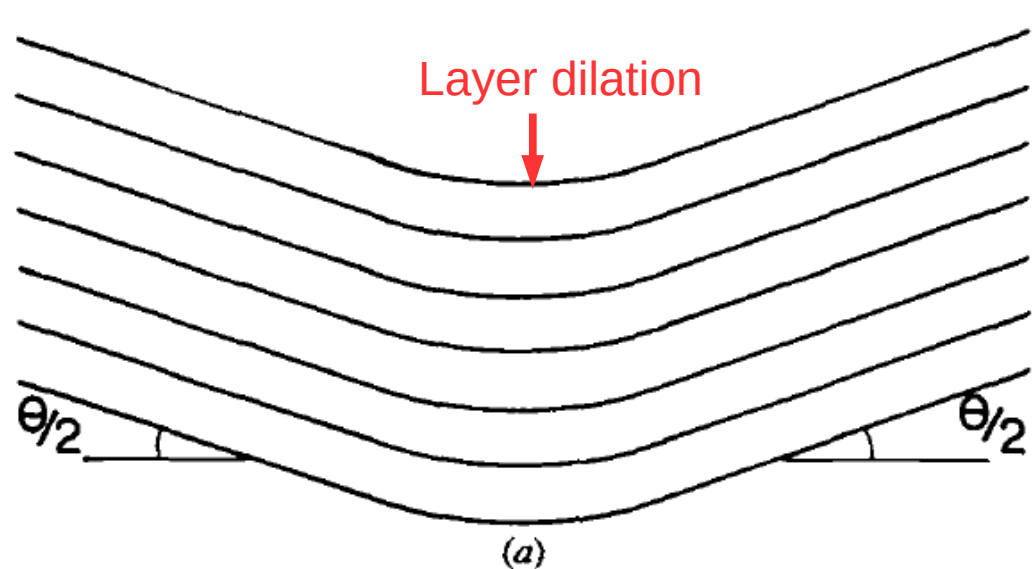


transient trapping

Kaiser et al

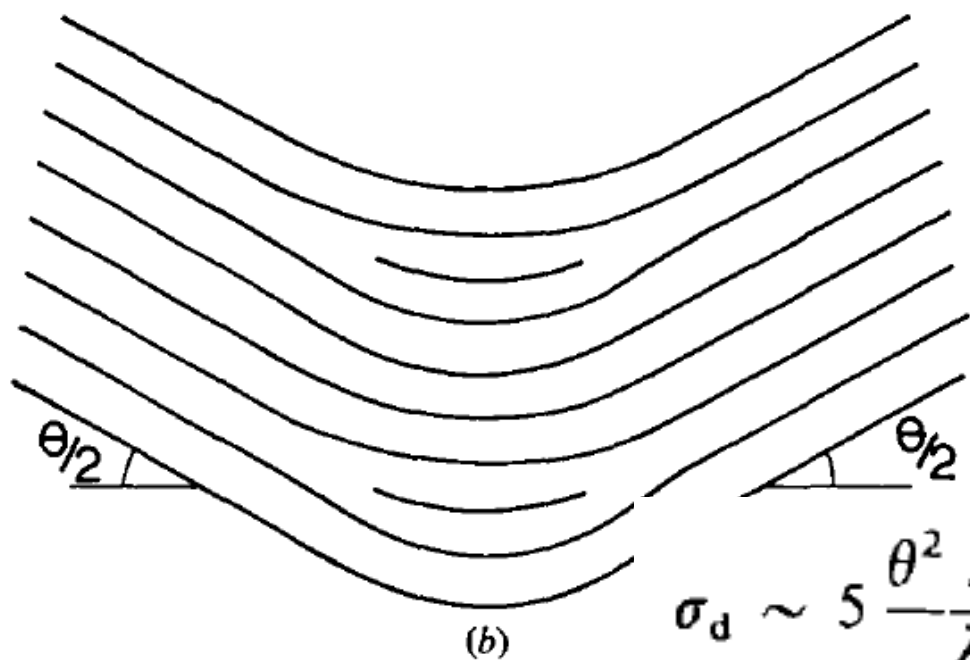


Gowrishankar & Rao asters



Energy per unit length

$$\sigma_w = \frac{16}{3} B\lambda\theta^3$$



$$\sigma_d \sim 5 \frac{\theta^2 K_1}{\lambda} + \frac{4 K_1}{\pi} \frac{\theta^2}{nd} \ln \frac{n}{2} + \frac{\theta^2}{2 nd} \tau'_c$$



# Dynamics of collective coordinate $r$

Effective flux:  $nv - 1/\ell\tau \rightarrow nv$

Capture zone width:  $W_\tau = v\tau$

Wedge “energy”  $\sim \theta^\alpha r$

Free edge length  $r\theta \rightarrow$  mobility  $M \sim 1/r\theta$

$\alpha = 2$  or  $3$

Influx

defect-induced expulsion

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = \phi v \frac{v\tau}{r\theta} - D_{eff} \frac{\theta^\alpha}{r} \quad D_{eff} \sim M B$$

$B =$  elastic constant for layered structure

# Predictions

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = \overset{\text{Influx}}{\phi v \frac{W_\tau}{r\theta}} - \overset{\text{defect-induced expulsion}}{D \frac{\theta^{\alpha-1}}{r}} \quad D \sim MB$$

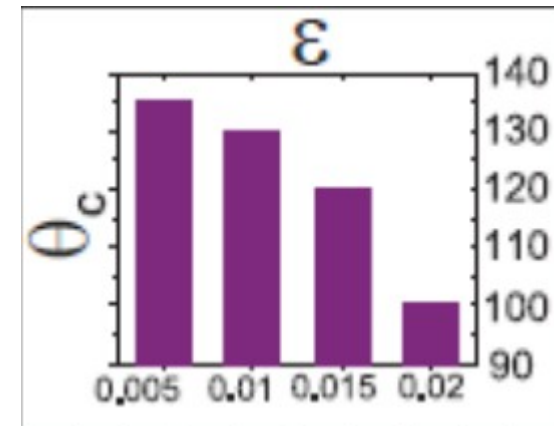
$B$  = effective smectic elastic constant

Trapping: all or nothing ✓

$t^{1/2}$  growth ?

Threshold  $\theta$  ↓ as rotational noise ↑ ✓

Simulation confirms

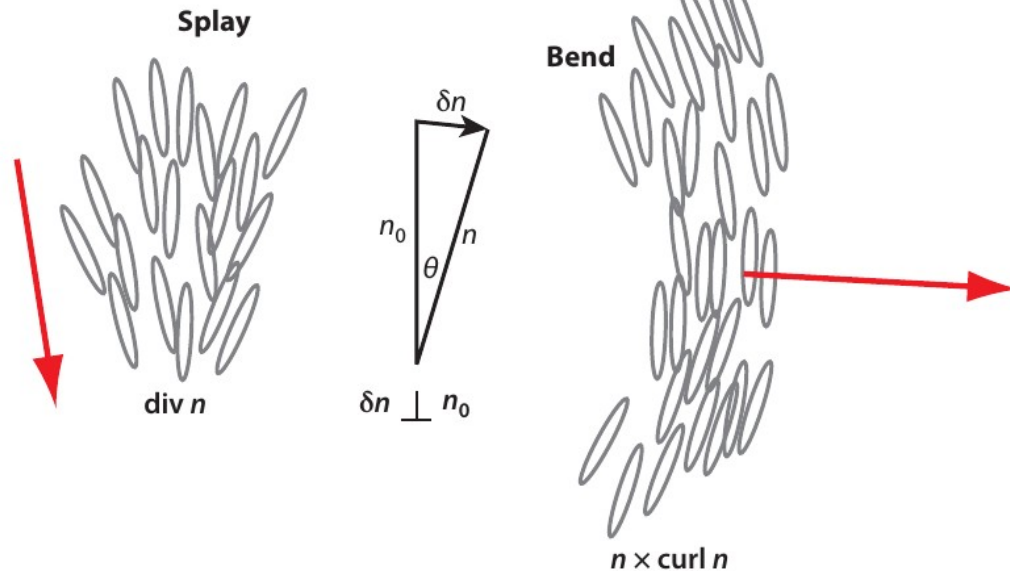


# ACTIVE NEMATICS II

## topological defects

Nematic: apolar, goes nowhere on average  
But curvature  $\rightarrow$  current

Shankar, Marchetti, SR, Bowick, arXiv 2018



$\mathbf{Q}$  = local alignment tensor

Gradients of  $\mathbf{Q}$ ; curvature

$\text{Div } \mathbf{Q}$ : vector

Active: local current  $\sim \text{div } \mathbf{Q}$

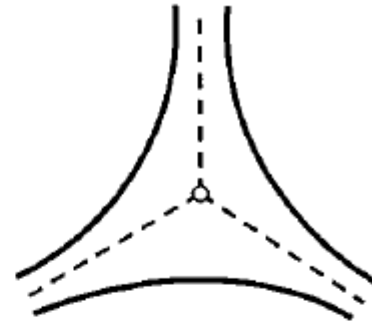
SR, Simha, Toner 2003

# Topological defects in a nematic



$$m = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \phi_0 = 0$$

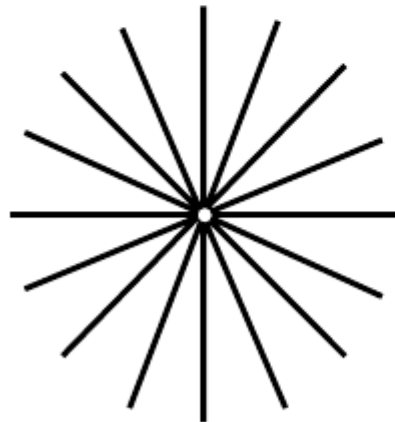
(a)



$$m = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad \phi_0 = 0$$

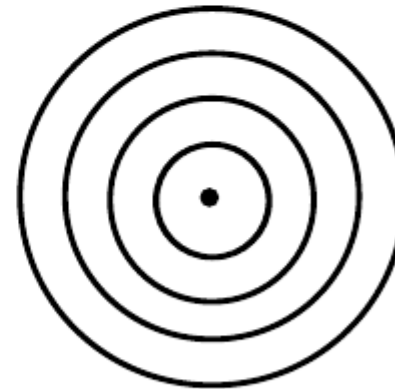
(b)

Kemkemer, R., Teichgräber, V., Schrank-Kaufmann, S. et al. Eur. Phys. J. E (2000) 3: 101.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s101890070023>



$$m = 1, \quad \phi_0 = 0$$

(c)

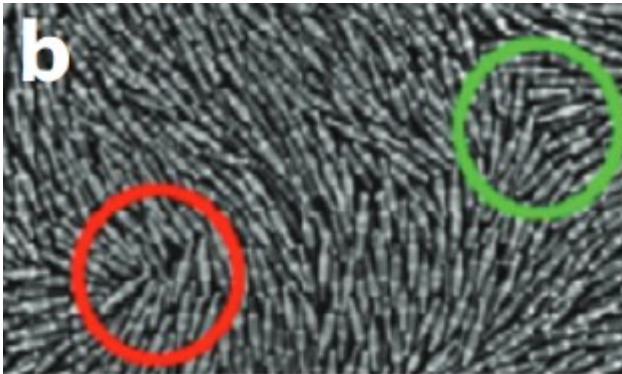


$$m = 1, \quad \phi_0 = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

(d)

# Defect unbinding in active nematics

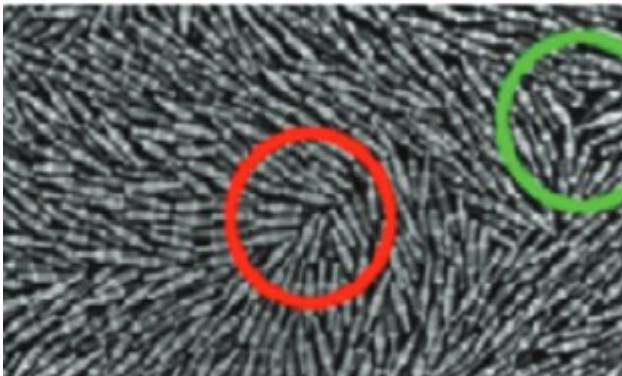
Suraj Shankar, M C Marchetti, SR, MJ Bowick



The symmetry of the field around the strength  $-1/2$  defect will result in no net motion, while the curvature around the  $+1/2$  defect has a well-defined polarity and hence should move in the direction of its “nose” as shown in the figure.

V Narayan et al., Science **317** (2007) 105

motile  $+1/2$  defect, static  $-1/2$  defect



Defects as particles:

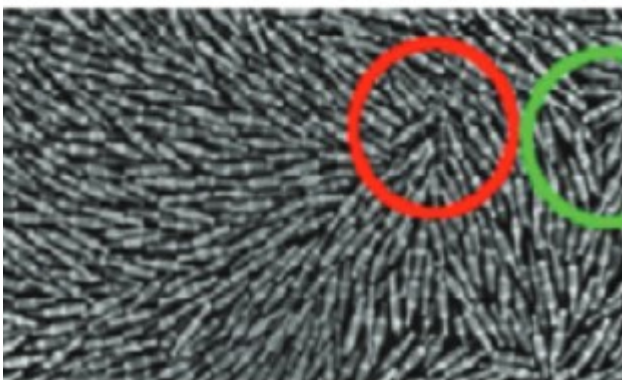
$+1/2$  motile,  $-1/2$  not

$+1/2$  velocity  $\sim \text{div}Q$

Giomi, Bowick, Ma, Marchetti PRL 2013

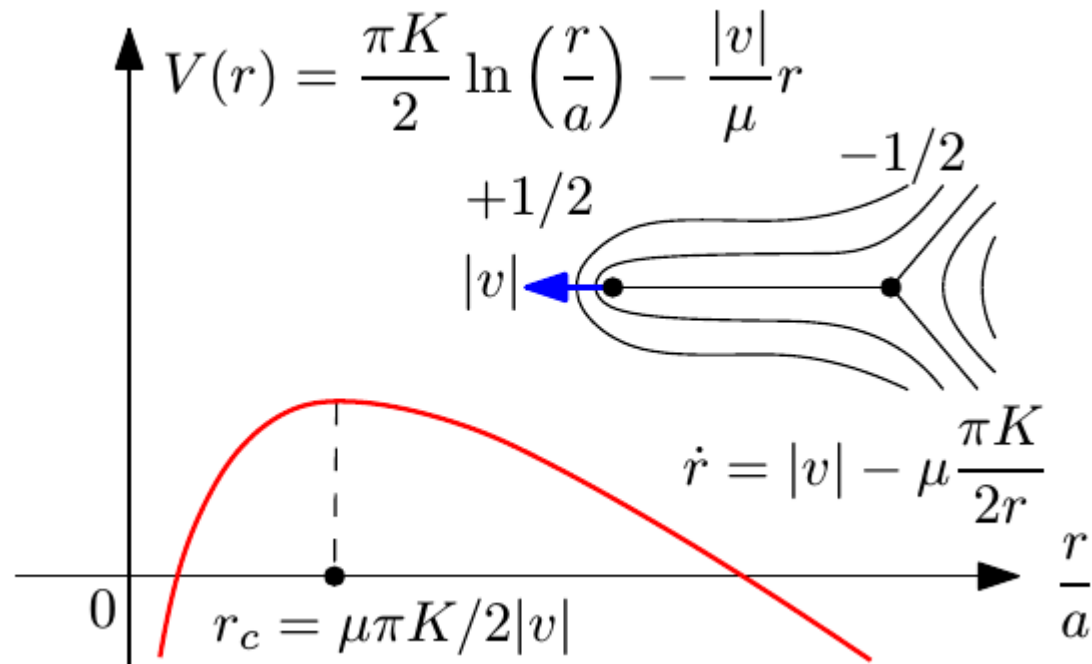
Thampi, Golestanian, Yeomans PRL 2014

DeCamp et al NMat 2015 .....



# Defect unbinding in active nematics

Shankar  
et al. arXiv 2018



Recall equil BKT transition: but  $+1/2$  defect is motile!

Like insulator in a field? Finite barrier?

Active nematic order always destroyed?

But active nematics exist!

Bertin et al., NJP **15**(8), 2013; Ngo et al., PRL **113**(3), 2014

Shi et al., NJP **16**(3), 2014 ...

# Langevin equations for + / - 1/2 defects: positions and polarization

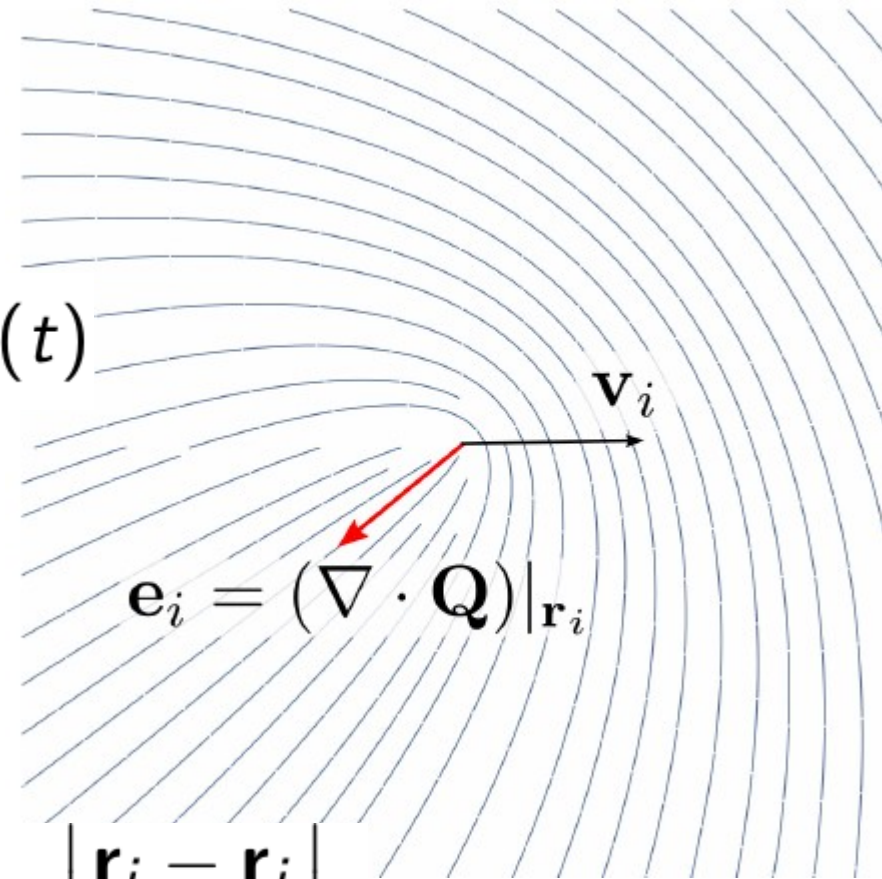
Shankar et al. arXiv 2018:

From active nematic dynamics

+1/2 self-velocity  $\propto$  polarization

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_i^+ = \mathbf{v}\mathbf{e}_i - \mu\nabla_{\mathbf{r}_i}\mathcal{U} + \sqrt{2\mu T}\boldsymbol{\xi}_i(t)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}_i^- = -\mu\nabla_{\mathbf{r}_i}\mathcal{U} + \sqrt{2\mu T}\boldsymbol{\xi}_i(t)$$



$$\mathcal{U} = -2\pi K \sum_{i \neq j} q_i q_j \ln \left| \frac{\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j}{a} \right|$$

# Langevin equations for + / - 1/2 defects: positions and polarization

Shankar et al. arXiv 2018:

$$\dot{\mathbf{e}}_i = -\frac{\mu\gamma}{8K} (\mathbf{1} + 4\hat{\mathbf{e}}_i\hat{\mathbf{e}}_i) \cdot [\mu\mathbf{e}_i|\nabla_i\mathcal{U}|^2 - v|\mathbf{e}_i|^2\nabla_i\mathcal{U}] + \sqrt{2D_R\epsilon} \cdot \mathbf{e}_i\eta_i(t) + \boldsymbol{\nu}_i(t)$$

Angular white noise    polarization noise

$$\mathbf{e}_i = |\mathbf{e}_i|(\cos\theta_i, \sin\theta_i)$$

$$\mathbf{F}_i \equiv -\nabla_i\mathcal{U} = |\mathbf{F}_i|(\cos\psi_i, \sin\psi_i)$$

$$\partial_t\theta_i = v|\mathbf{F}_i| \times \text{const.} \sin(\theta_i - \psi_i)$$



$$\mathbf{e}_i = (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{Q})|_{\mathbf{r}_i}$$

Alignment torque:  $v < 0$ : alignment;  $v > 0$ : anti-alignment



# Langevin equations for $+ / - 1/2$ defects: positions and polarization

Shankar et al. arXiv 2018:

Fokker-Planck steady state, single  $\pm 1/2$  pair, small-activity expansion

$$\rho_{ss}(r) \propto e^{-\mathcal{U}_{\text{eff}}(r)/T}$$

$$\mathcal{U}_{\text{eff}}(r) = \frac{\pi K}{2} \ln\left(\frac{r}{a}\right) - \frac{\bar{v}^2}{2} \ln\left(1 + \frac{r^2}{r_*^2}\right) + \mathcal{O}(v^4)$$

$$r_* \sim \sqrt{\mu K / D_R}$$

$$|v| / D_R \ll \mu K / |v|$$

Rotational diffusion  
dominates

$+1/2$  can't escape

Active nematic survives

$$\bar{v}^2 \sim v^2 / (\mu D_R)$$

# Langevin equations for $+ / - 1/2$ defects: positions and polarization

Shankar et al. arXiv 2018:

$$\mathcal{U}_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{r}) \simeq (\pi K_{\text{eff}}/2) \ln(r/a)$$

$$K_{\text{eff}}(v) = K - (2\bar{v}^2/\pi)$$

$$\Rightarrow T_{\text{BKT}}(v) < T_{\text{BKT}}(v=0)$$

$K_{\text{eff}} = 0 \Leftrightarrow$  persistence length of  $+1/2$  motion = location of barrier

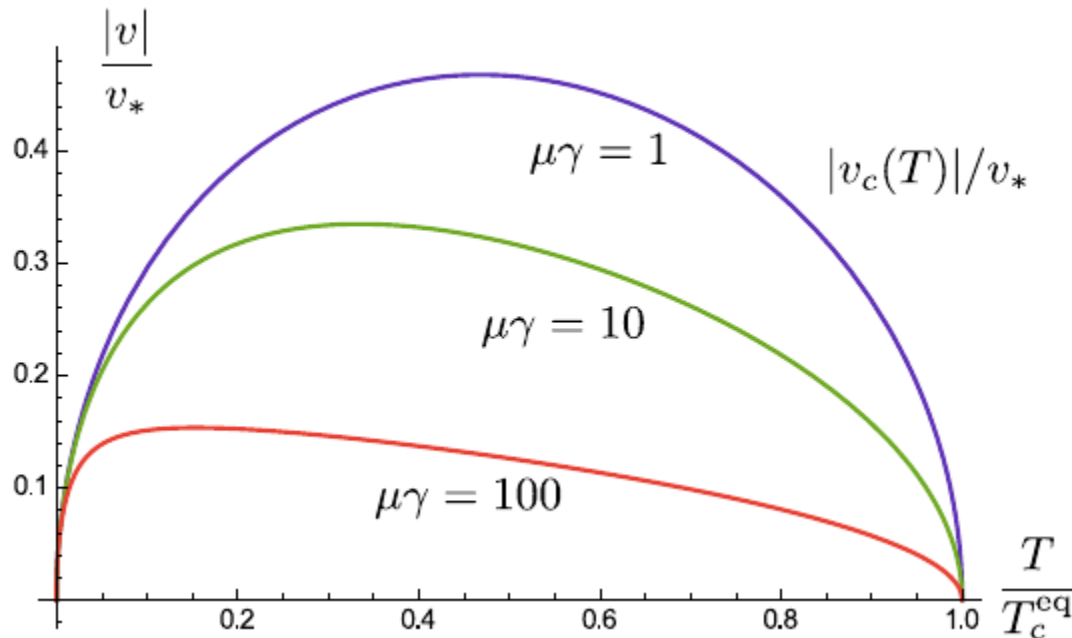
Threshold activity

$$|v_c| = \sqrt{\frac{2\mu K D_R}{[1 + \mu\gamma(3T/4K)]}}$$

# Re-entrance!

Shankar et al. arXiv 2018:

Threshold activity



$$\frac{|v_c(T)|}{v_*} = \sqrt{\frac{16 \tilde{T}(1 - \tilde{T})}{\pi \left[ 1 + (3\pi/32)\mu\gamma\tilde{T} \right]}}$$

At high T: conventional defect unbinding wins

At low enough T,  $D_R$  goes to zero, i.e., persistence length grows

Directed motion of  $+1/2$  wins, defects liberated, order destroyed  
(A Maitra)

# Summary

- Unified picture of fluctuating active dynamics
  - natural language to describe living materials

- Confined active fluids

- new force density: stable nematics
- polar: super-stable / -unstable

Maitra et al  
arXiv:1711.02407

- Artificial motile systems – a great test-bed

- a few motile particles can mobilize a big group
- trapping: motility-induced condensation vs defect energy

Kumar, Soni, Sood, SR  
NComm 2014 & in prep

Kumar et al  
arXiv:1803.02278

- Pair sedimentation of discs

- analogies with self-propelled systems

Chaiwa, Menon, SR arXiv:1803.10269