

Surprises in Slow Spheroid Sedimentation



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Chajwa, Menon, SR, Govindarajan, Phys Rev X **10**, 041016 (2020)
Chajwa, Menon, SR PRL **122**, 224501 (2019)

₹: J C Bose Fellowship, SERB, India
Homi Bhabha Chair, Tata Edu & Dev Trust
Thanks: TCIS, TIFR Hyderabad

OUTLINE

- **Background**
 - instability and fluctuations in slow sedimentation
- **Two discs: Kepler orbits and more**
 - inertia from gravity; gravity from fluid mechanics
- **The delicate dynamics of disc arrays**
 - phantom springs and “stable sedimentation
 - non-normal dynamics and transient algebraic growth
- **Summary**

BACKGROUND



13 August 1819 - 1 February 1903

Stoked about Stokes: Nat Rev Phys 2019

density ρ , viscosity μ , velocity U , size a , $Re = \rho U a / \mu \ll 1$

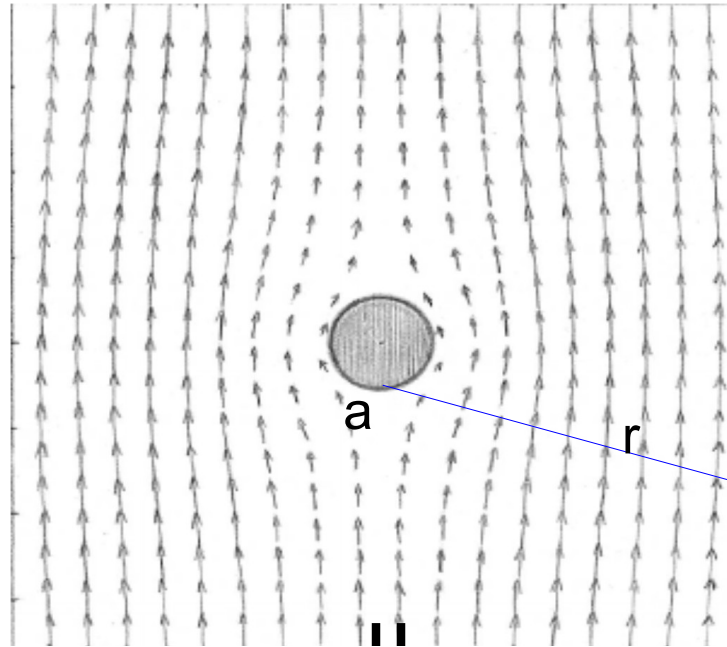
Ignore inertia: velocity field $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})$ obeys the Stokes equation

$$\mathbf{0} = -\underbrace{\nabla p}_{\text{pressure}} + \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \underbrace{\mathbf{F}}_{\text{forces}}$$

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

incompressibility

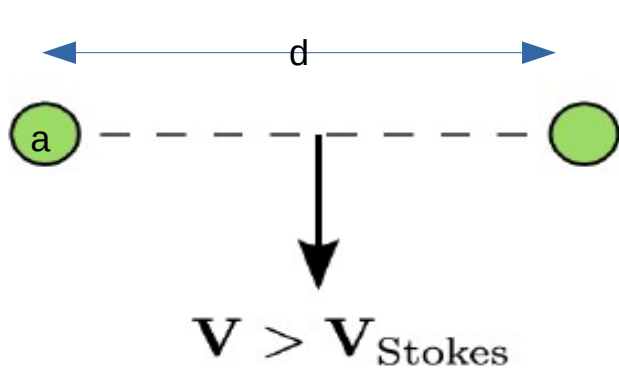
Flow around one sedimenting particle



Guazzelli & Morris (& Pic)
A Physical Introduction to
Suspension Dynamics

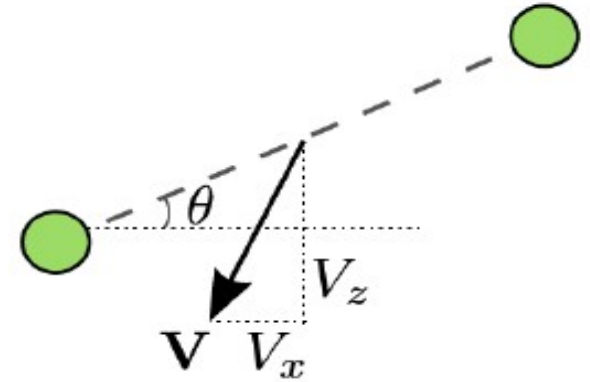
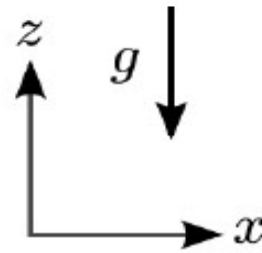
$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{U} \left(1 - \frac{3a}{4r} + \frac{a^3}{4r^3} \right) + \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{x}) \left(-\frac{3a}{4r^3} + \frac{3a^3}{4r^5} \right)$$

Two settling spheres: the line-of-centres force



$$F_D = 6\pi a\mu U \left[1 - \left(\frac{3}{4} \right) \left(\frac{a}{d} \right) \right]$$

Mutual drag reduction

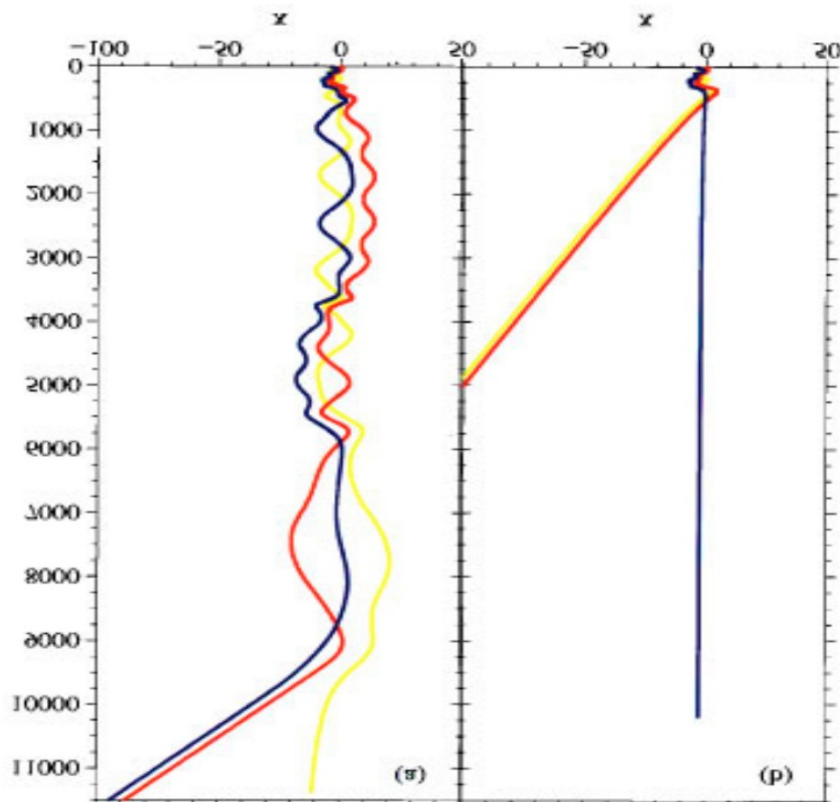


$$F_{LC} = 6\pi a\mu U \left(\frac{3}{4} \right) \left(\frac{a}{d} \right) \sin \theta$$

Line-of-centres force

Three-particle Stokesian sedimentation is chaotic

three discs



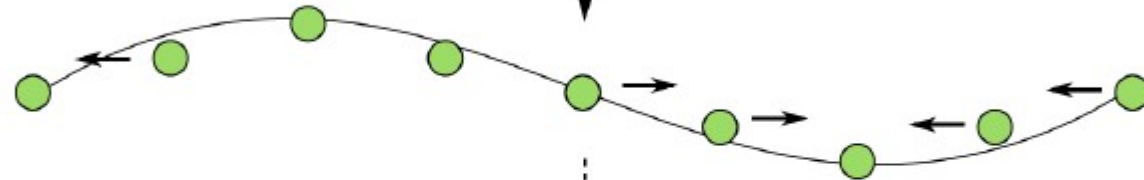
Janosi et al.
Phys Rev E 1997

CROWLEY'S INSTABILITY

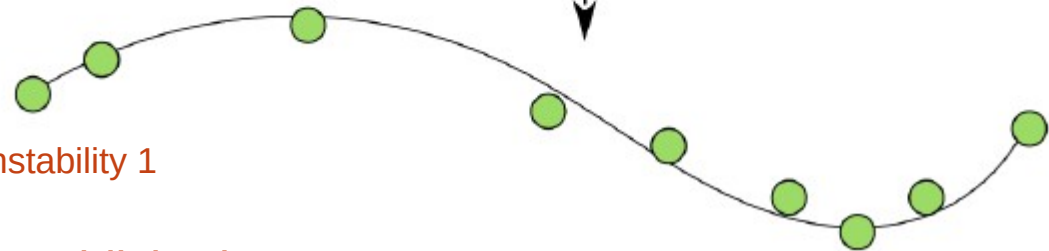
J.M. Crowley, JFM **45**, 151-159 (1971); Phys Fluids **19**, 1296 (1976)



ω



K Vijay Kumar, IISc PhD thesis 2010



Sphere array: Crowley instability 1

Rahul Chajwa, unpublished

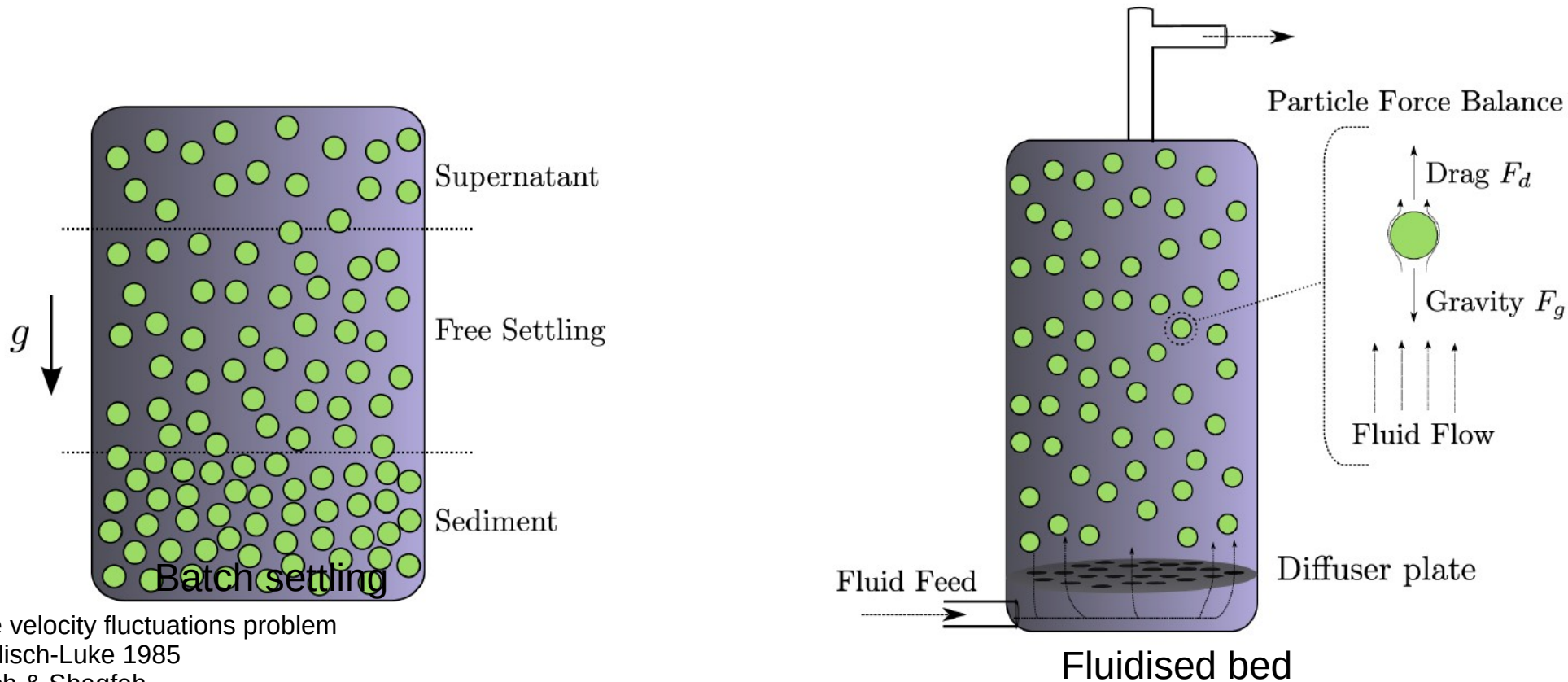
Pair dynamics is the building block

Sphere array: Crowley instability 2

Strong phase separation: Lahiri, Barma, SR 1997-2000

Sedimentation

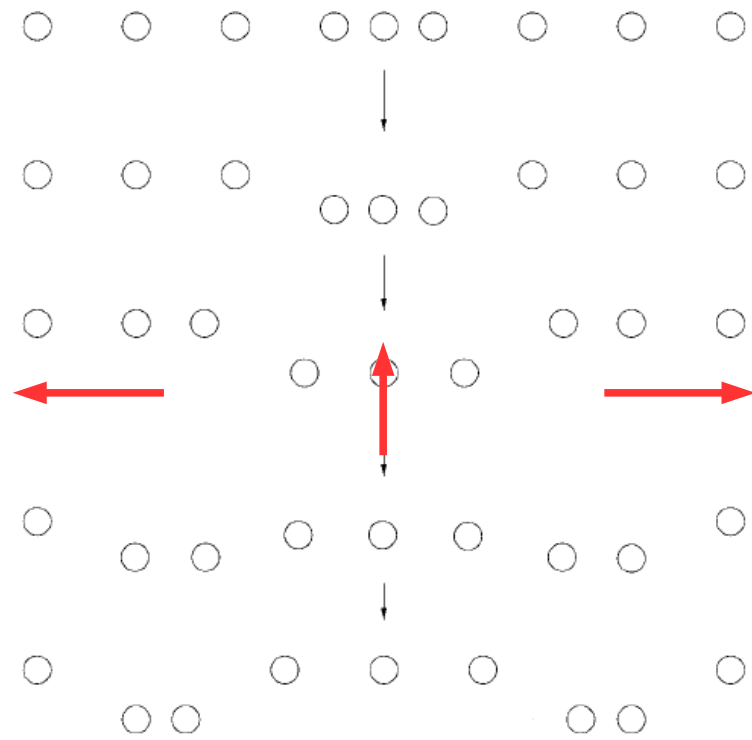
many-body long-range statistical mechanics



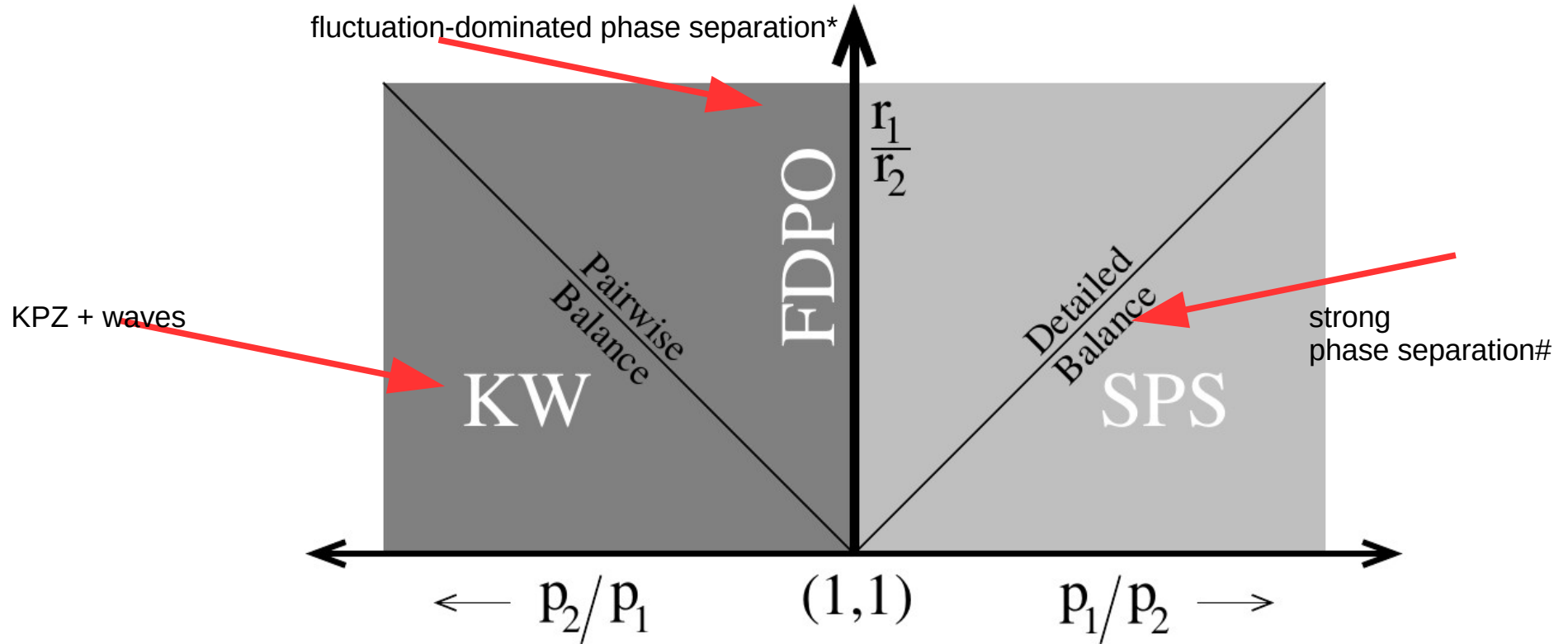
The velocity fluctuations problem
Caflisch-Luke 1985
Koch & Shaqfeh
Levine et al 1998; SR Adv Phys 2001
Ladd, Guazzelli, Hinch...

K Vijay Kumar, IISc PhD thesis 2010, modified from
<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/96/FluidisedBed.svg>

A stably settling array



Waves vs phase separation: exceptional point



#Lahiri-SR 1997; Lahiri, Barma, SR 2000; Barma, Das, Basu, SR 2002

*Das & Barma PRL 2000; Das, Barma & Majumdar PRE 2001

TWO DISCS

Kepler orbits and more

R. Chajwa et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **122**, 224501 (2019)

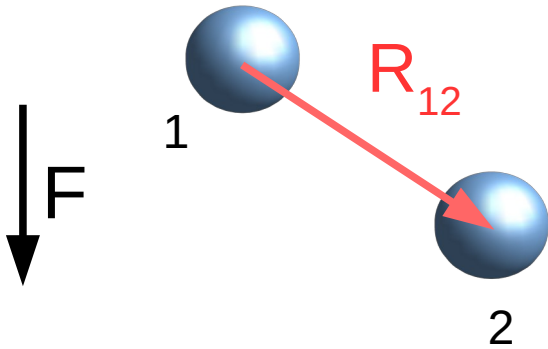


[#CoolVideo](#)

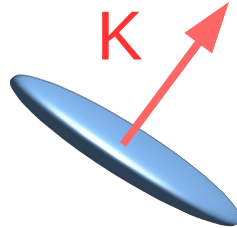
Two disks released in a viscous fluid perform graceful dances reminiscent of the motion of planets in Keplerian orbits.

Stokesian settling

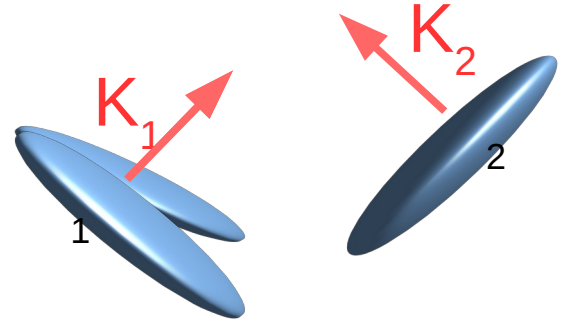
Isotropic pair



Oriented apolar



Oriented apolar pair



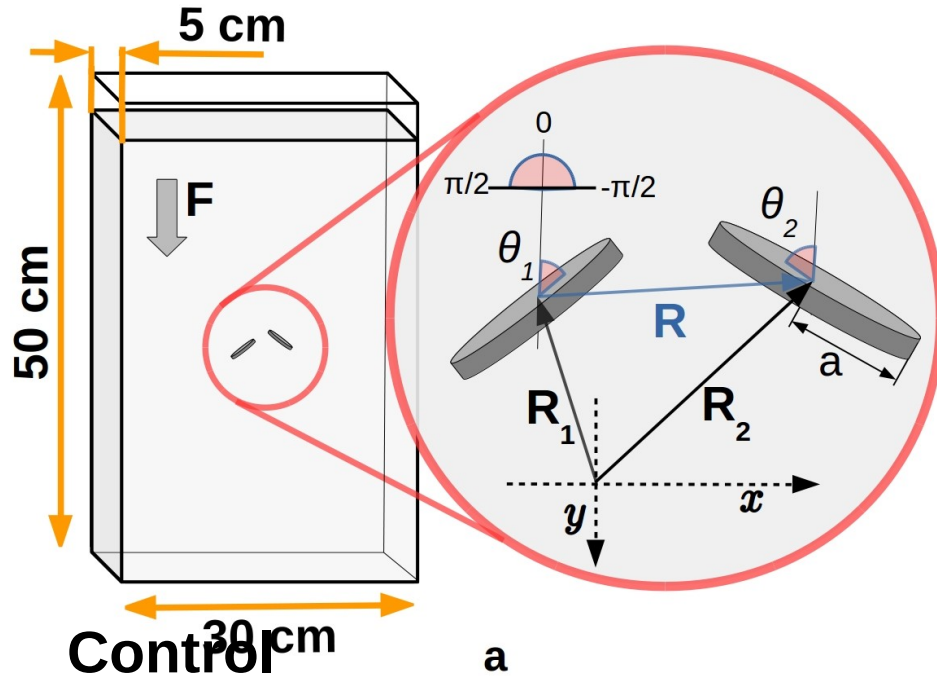
Time reversal symmetry ensures conservation of R_{12} and K

Role of shape: Witten & Diamant
arXiv:2003.03698

?

Much richer possibilities!

Settling pair of disks



Initial separation d and Orientation θ
cf. S. Jung et al. PRE (2006)

Experiments

Fluid : silicone oil
60,000 cSt, 0.97 gm/cc

Disk: aluminium
Diameter $2a=12\text{mm}$
Thickness $t=1\text{mm}$
Density 2.7m/cc

$Re \sim 10^{-4}$

System size:

Height 50 cm $\sim 80a$

Width 30 cm $\sim 48a$

Thickness 5 cm $\sim 7a$

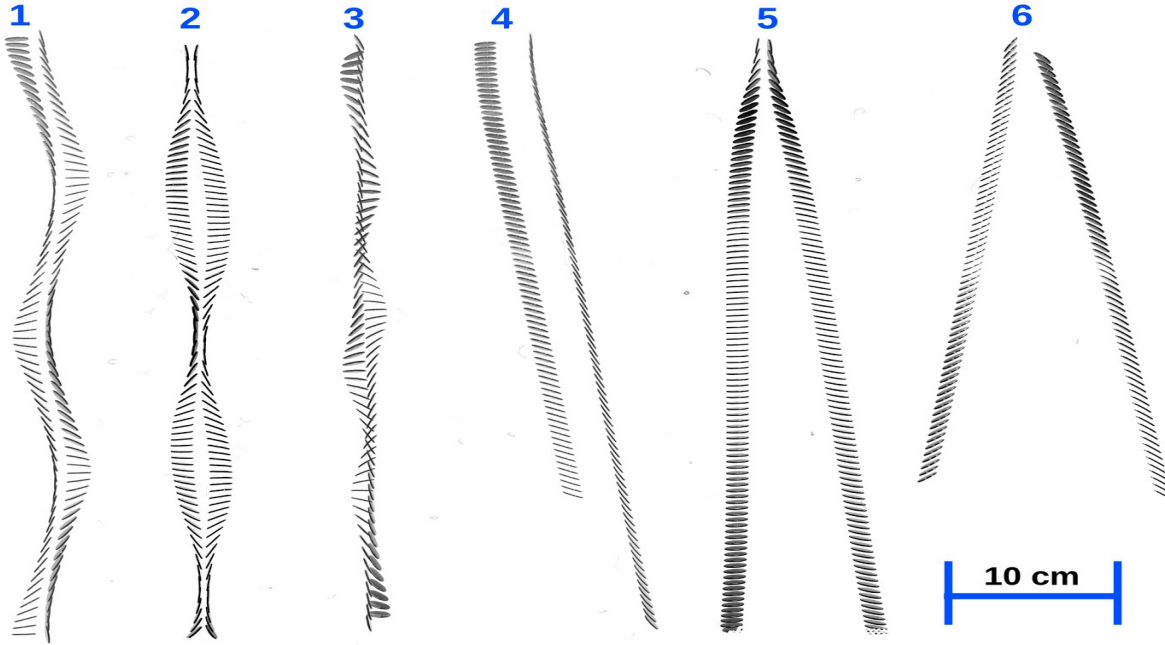
symmetric movie



Rich behaviour of pairs

We observe

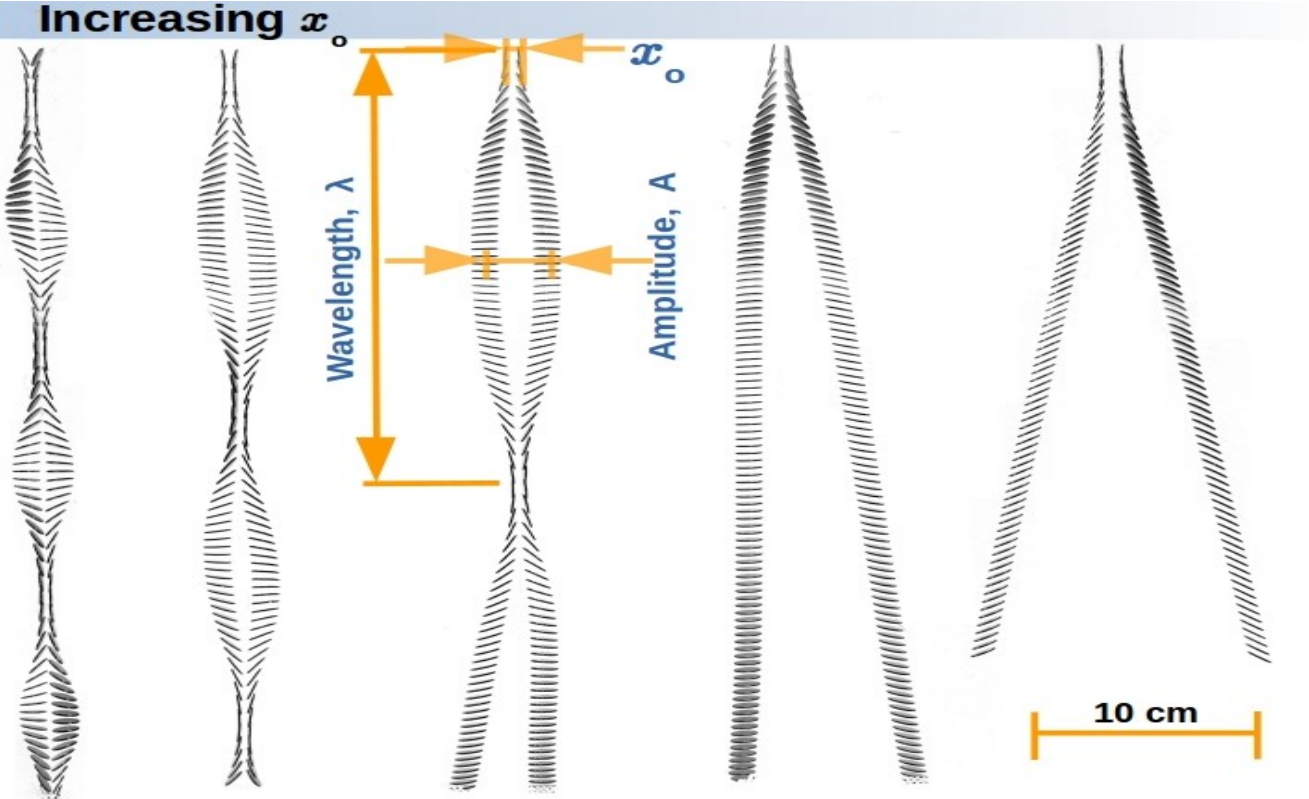
Bound period orbits (1-3) and scattering (4-6)



Our focus

- Quantify the transition from bound to scattering
- Demarcate the phase boundary in (R_i, θ_i) plane, $i = 1, 2$
- A theory based on hydrodynamic interactions

Symmetric settling

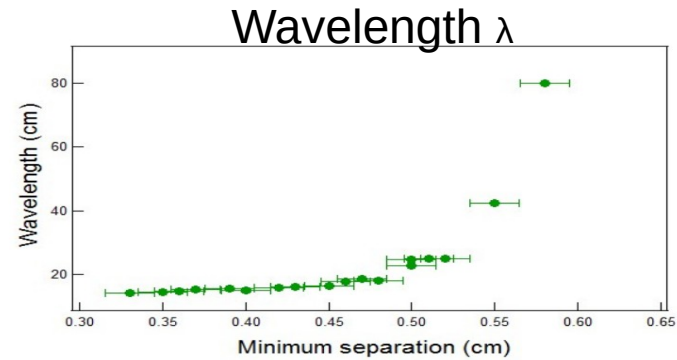
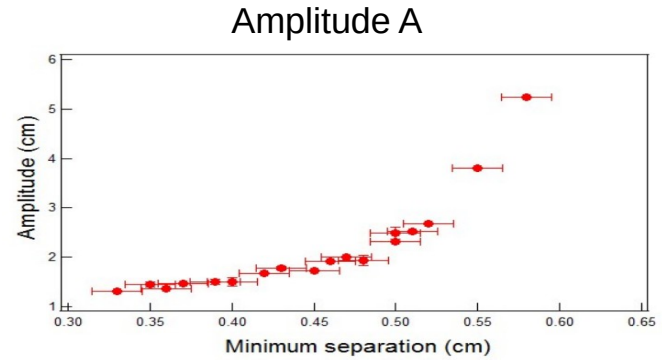
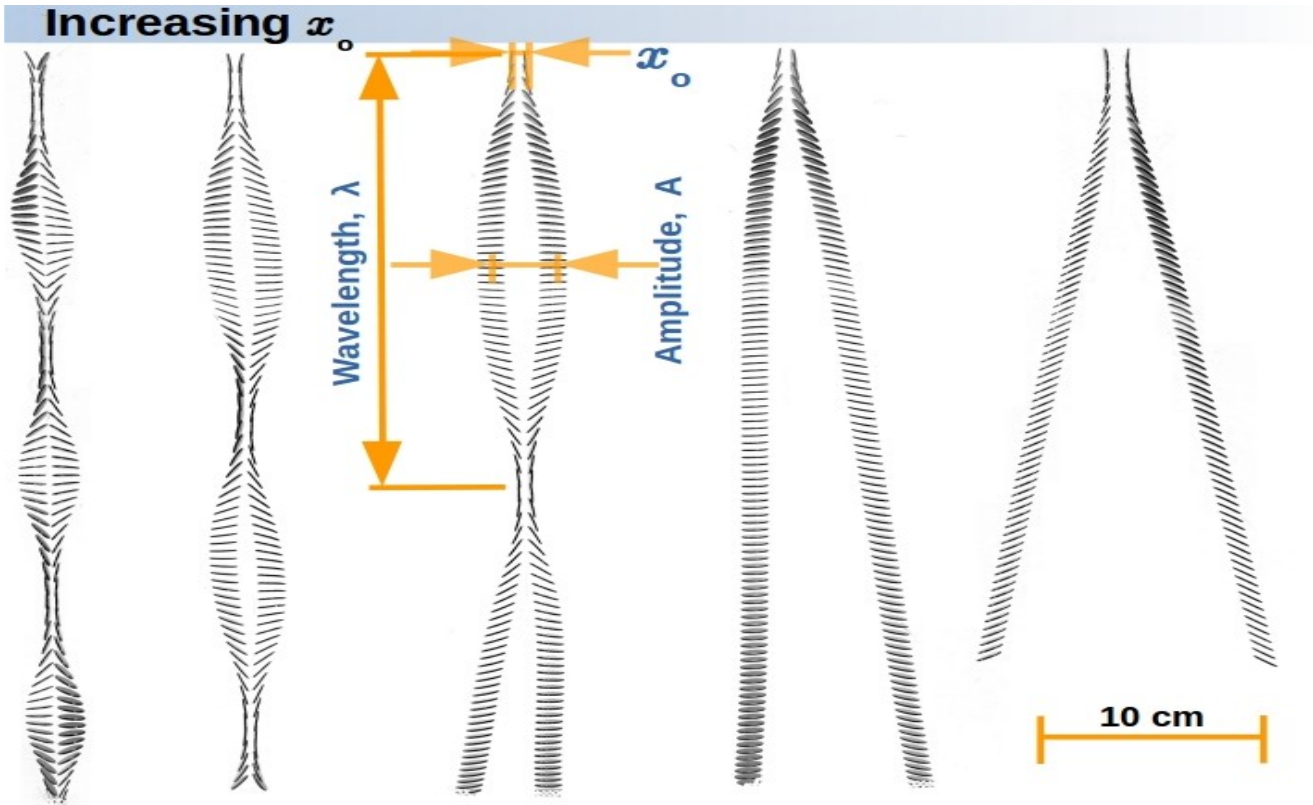


symmetric bound to scattering movie

Perp: bound to scattering movie

Rocking movie

Symmetric settling



symmetric bound to scattering movie

Perp: bound to scattering movie

Rocking movie

Bound-to-scattering transition?
 A, λ diverge at threshold min-sep?

Mapping to Kepler orbits: effective Hamiltonian

$$\theta^- \equiv \theta_2 - \theta_1 \qquad x \equiv x_2 - x_1$$

$$\mathcal{H} \equiv 4F\alpha \sin^2 \frac{\theta^-}{2} + 2F\gamma/x$$

$$\dot{x} = \partial_{\theta^-} \mathcal{H}$$

$$\dot{\theta}^- = -\partial_x \mathcal{H} \qquad \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x_o} = \frac{\alpha}{\gamma} (\cos \theta^- - \cos \theta_o^-)$$

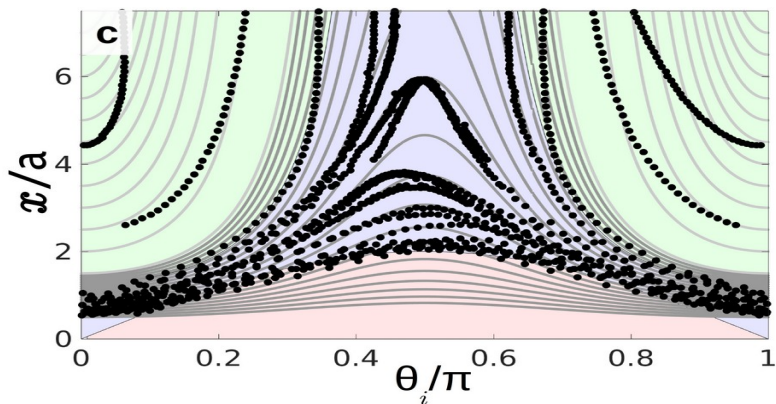
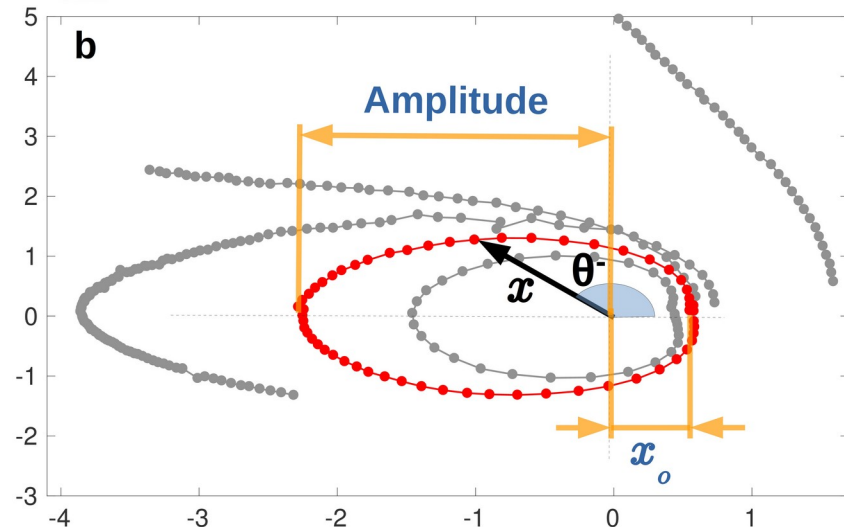
Mapping to Kepler orbits

Effective Hamiltonian

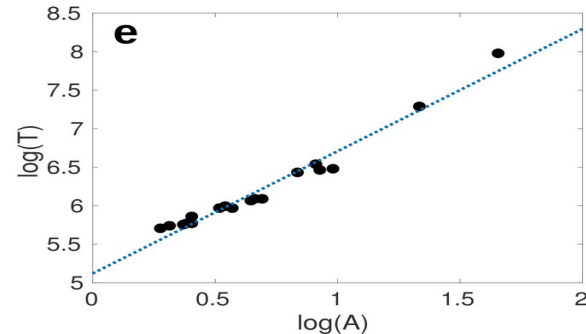
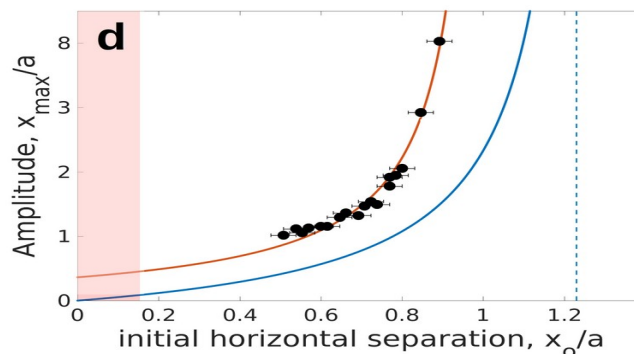
$$\mathcal{H} \equiv 4F\alpha \sin^2 \frac{\theta^-}{2} + 2F\gamma/x$$

Kepler orbits

$$\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x_o} = \frac{\alpha}{\gamma} (\cos \theta^- - \cos \theta_o^-)$$



Kepler's 3rd Law



Effective Hamiltonian for tilted pairs too

$$x \equiv x_2 - x_1, \quad y \equiv y_2 - y_1,$$

$$\theta^- \equiv \theta_2 - \theta_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \theta^+ \equiv \theta_1 + \theta_2$$

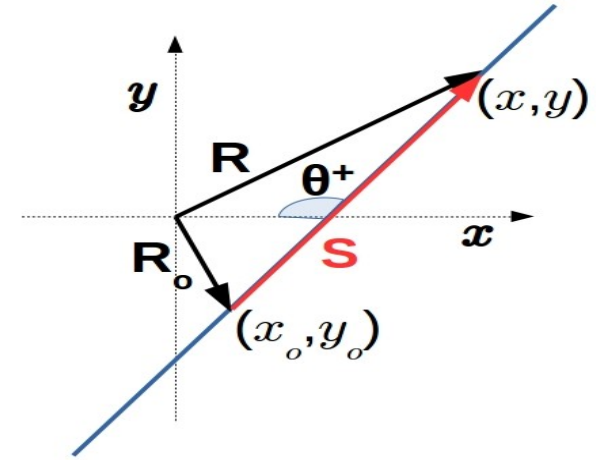
$$\dot{S} = \partial_{\theta^-} \mathcal{H}, \quad \dot{\theta}^- = -\partial_S \mathcal{H}$$

Effective Hamiltonian in (S, θ^-) plane

$$\mathcal{H} \equiv 4F\alpha \sin^2 \frac{\theta^-}{2} + 2F \frac{\bar{\gamma}(S)}{R(S)}$$

$$\bar{\gamma}(S) \equiv \gamma (y_o - S \sin \theta^+) / (y_o \cos \theta^+ + x_o \sin \theta^+)$$

$$R(S) = (S^2 + R_o^2 + 2Sx_o \cos \theta^+ + 2Sy_o \sin \theta^+)^{1/2}$$



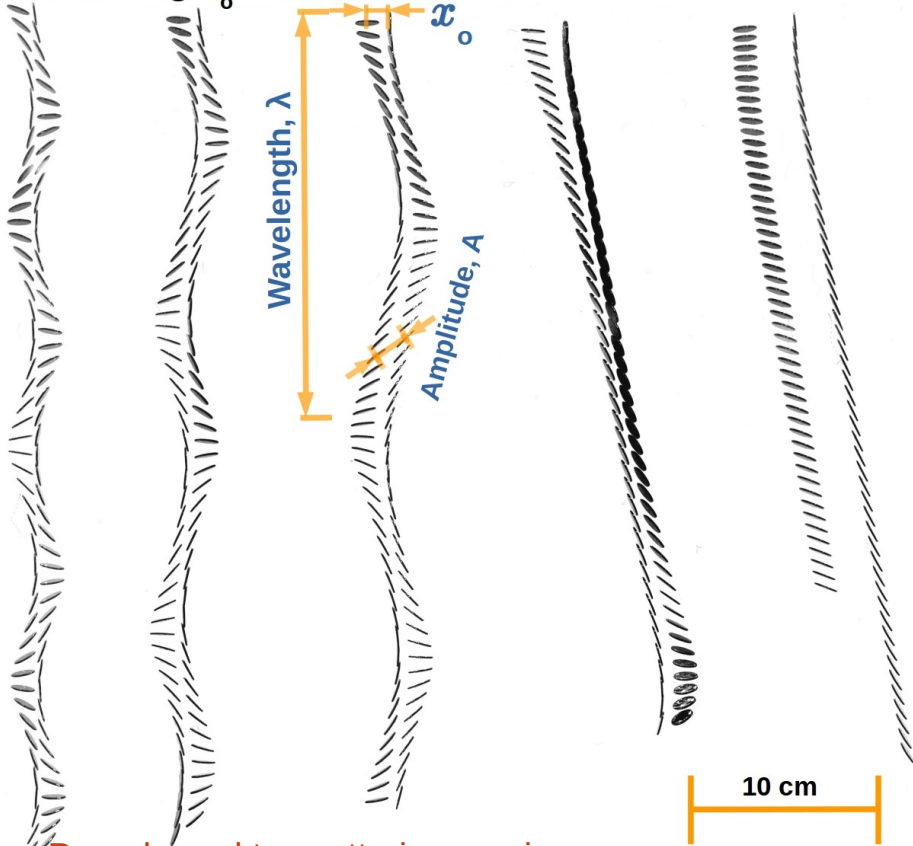
Keplerian limit: $\theta^+ \rightarrow 0, \pi$

Orientation θ^- mimics momentum

Richer than Kepler

$\theta^+ \rightarrow \pi/2$, Bound to scattering

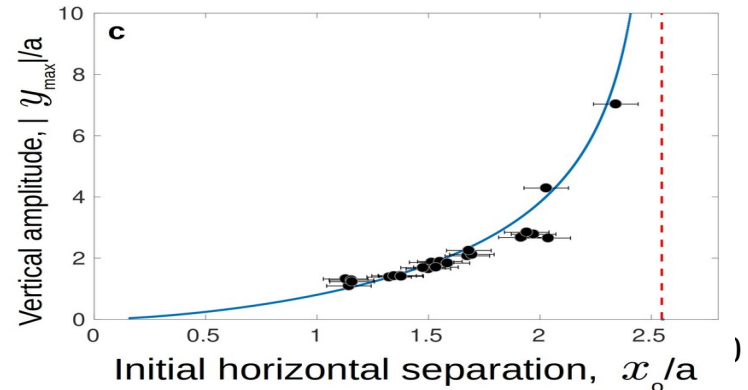
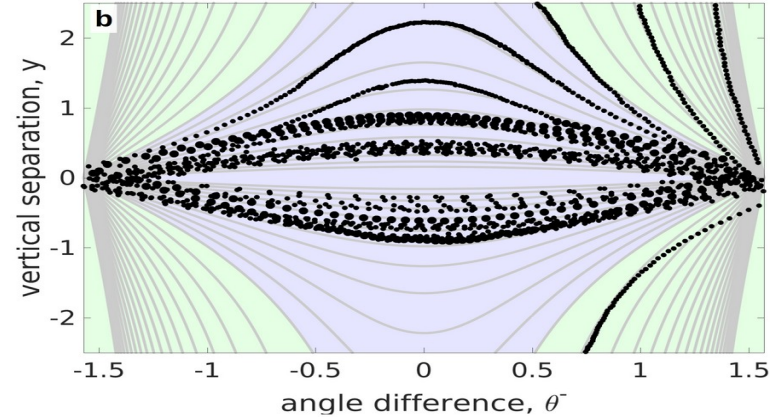
a Increasing x_o



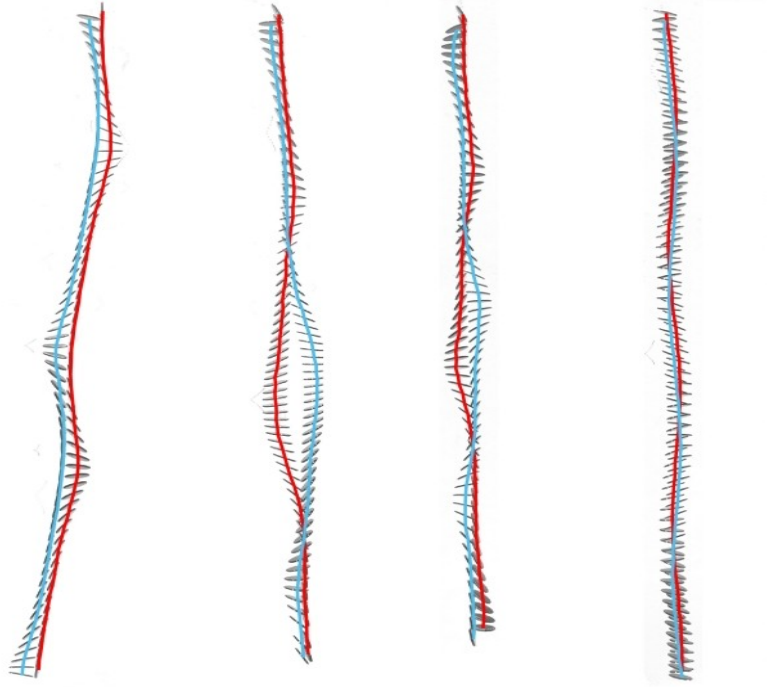
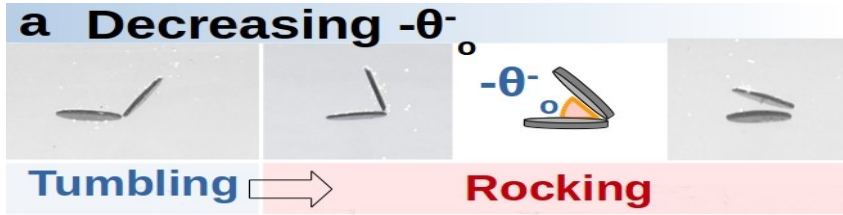
Perp: bound to scattering movie

period \sim amplitude³

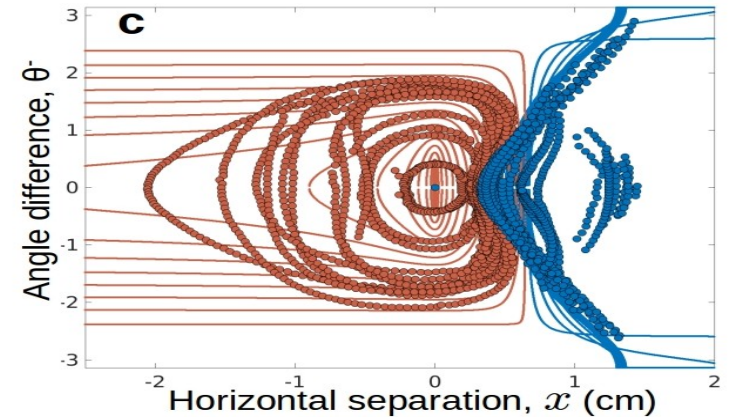
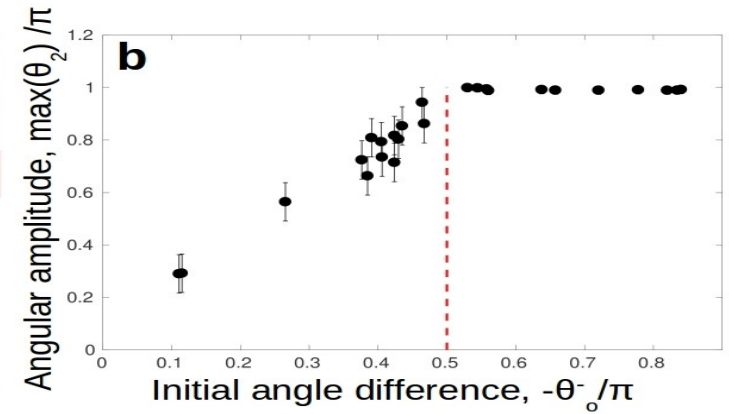
$$y = \pm x_o \cos \theta^- / \sqrt{(8a/\pi x_o)^2 - \cos^2 \theta^-}$$



Rocking dynamics



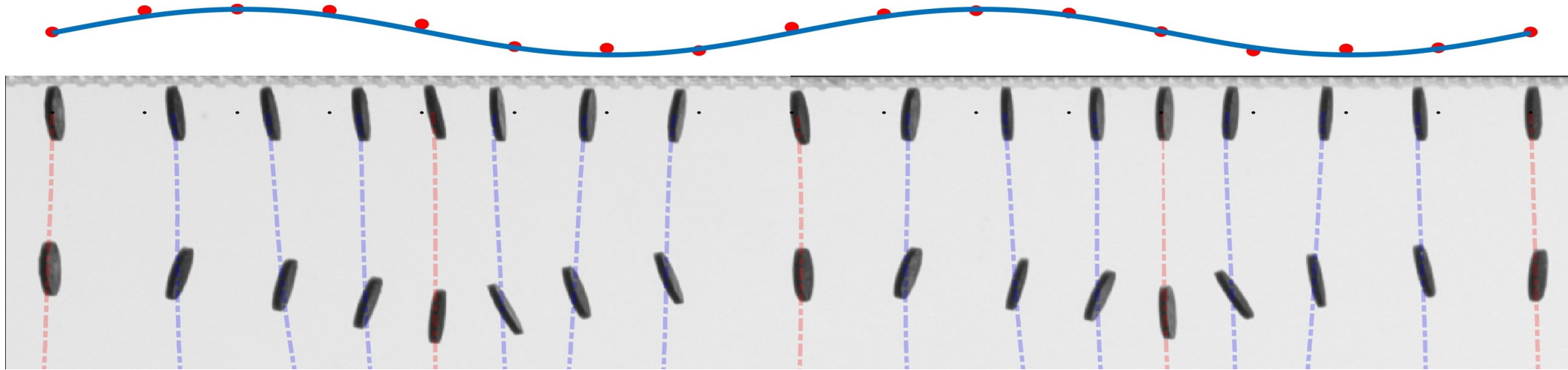
Rocking movie



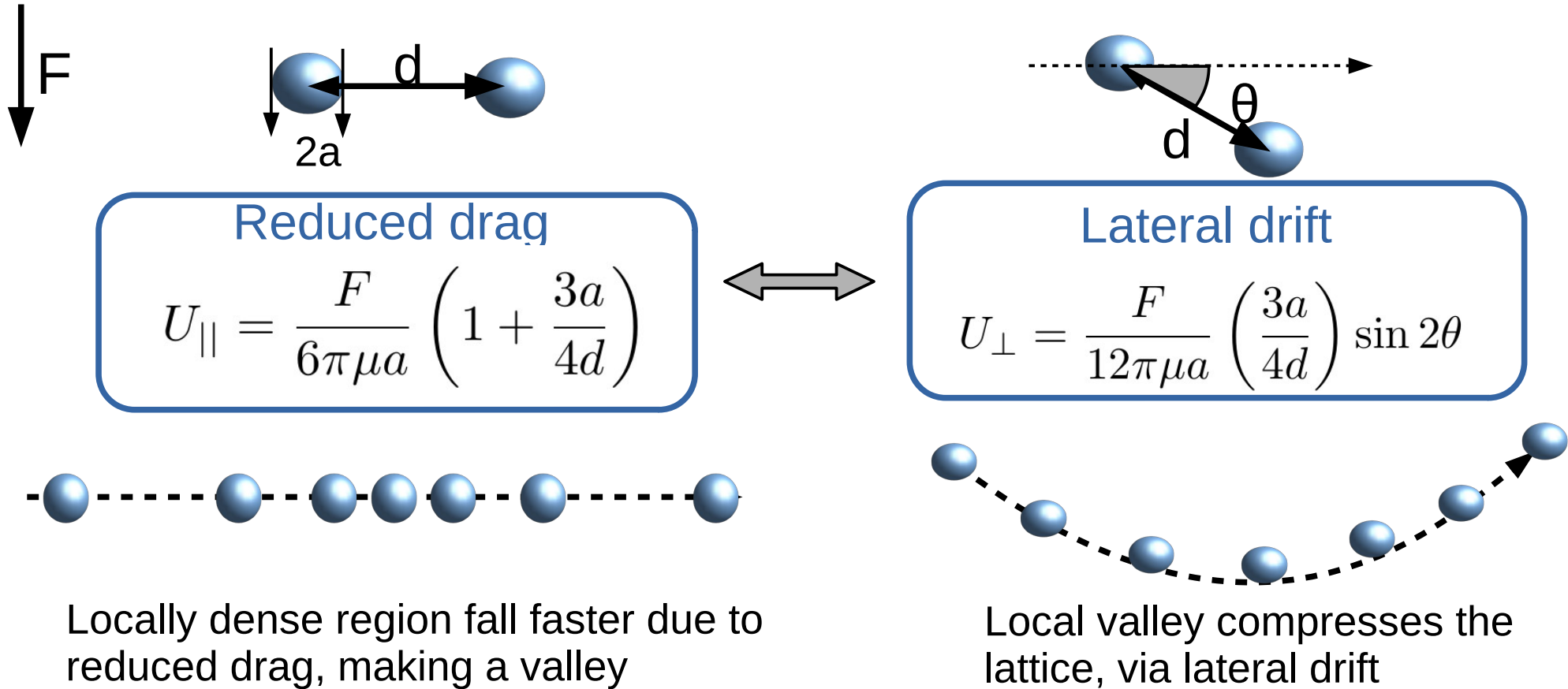
Summary of two-disc problem

- Under gravity, tilt \sim horizontal motility: “active”
- Emergent inertia and Hamiltonian
- Kepler and non-Kepler orbits
- Many discs, uniform: noisy

II. Sedimenting disk lattices

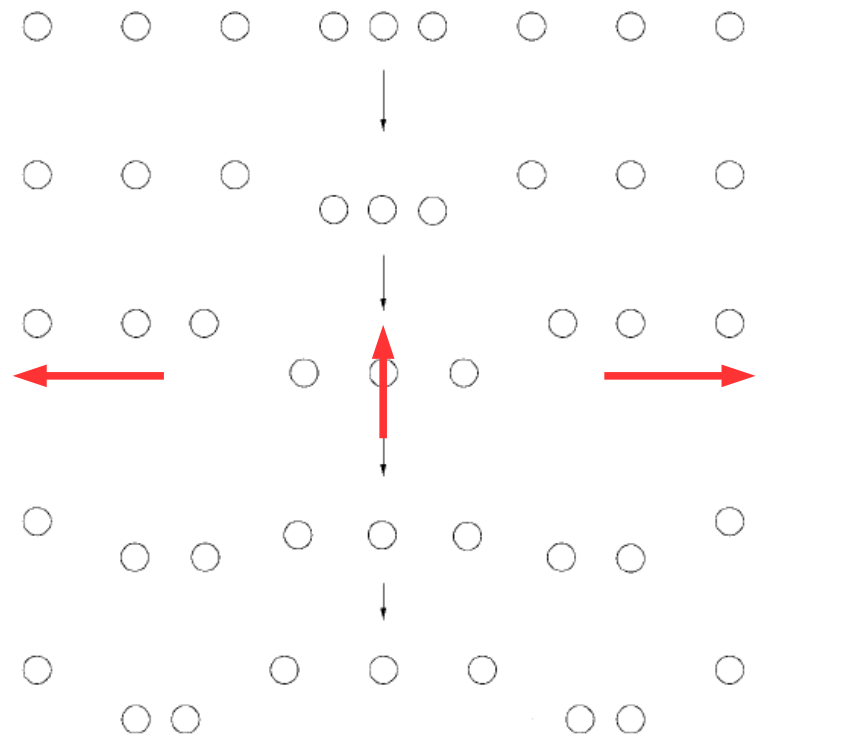


Recall Crowley's sphere array instability



Crowley_mechanism

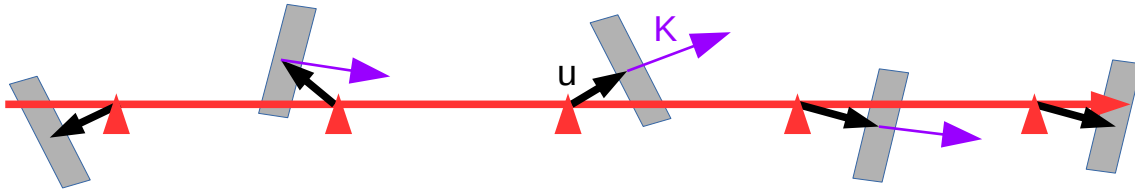
Challenge: stably sedimenting array



Change sign of line-of-centres drift? Compete with it? Discs instead of spheres?

Disc-array hydrodynamics from symmetry

Displacement field \mathbf{u} , orientation field \mathbf{K}
Only hydrodynamic interactions.
No pair potential, no elasticity



- Stokesian time reversal: velocities & forces
- Translational invariance
- Rotational invariance in perp subspace
- Symmetry under inversion of orientations

$$\frac{\partial u_x}{\partial t} = \lambda_1 \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial x} + \alpha K_x K_z,$$

$$\frac{\partial u_z}{\partial t} = \lambda_2 \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} + \beta K_z^2,$$

$$\frac{\partial K_z}{\partial t} = \gamma K_x \frac{\partial^2 u_x}{\partial x^2}.$$

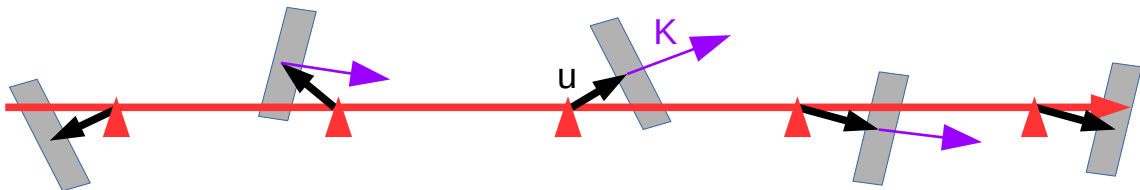
Linearize about standing discs

$$\omega_{\pm} = \pm k_x \sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 + \alpha \gamma}$$

Crowley: $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 < 0$; disc drift $\alpha \gamma$ can compete

Disc-array hydrodynamics from symmetry

Displacement field \mathbf{u} , orientation field \mathbf{K}
 Only hydrodynamic interactions.
 No pair potential, no elasticity



- Stokesian time reversal: velocities & forces
- Translational invariance
- Rotational invariance in perp subspace

Stokes time-reversibility + apolar:
 no restoring torque in \mathbf{K} equation for uniform or nonuniform \mathbf{K}

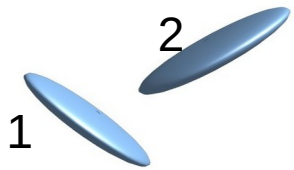
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$$\frac{\partial u_z}{\partial t} = \lambda_2 \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} + \beta K_z^2,$$

$$\frac{\partial K_z}{\partial t} = \gamma K_x \frac{\partial^2 u_x}{\partial x^2}.$$

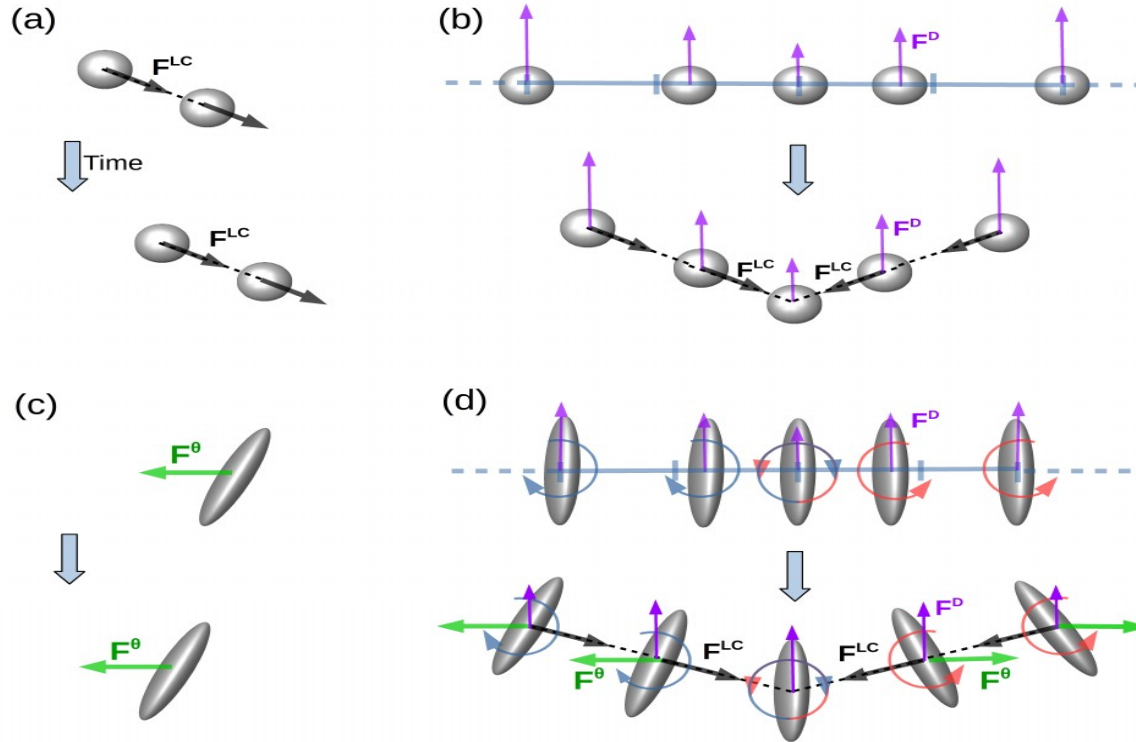
Linearize about standing discs

$$\omega_{\pm} = \pm k_x \sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 + \alpha \gamma}$$



Ingredients of lattice dynamics

Competing mechanism



- S. Wakiya, J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. 20, 1502 (1965)
- S. Kim, Int. J. Multiphase Flow 11, 699 (1985)
- S. Jung et. al., Phys. Rev. E 74, 035302(R) (2006).
- P. Chaiwa et. al., PRL 122, 224501 (2019)

1

2

Ingredients of lattice dynamics

depends on shape

- Orientational drift: $U_x^0 = \frac{F\alpha(e)}{12\pi\mu a} \sin 2\theta$
- Reduced drag:

$$U_z^1 = -\frac{F}{6\pi\mu a} \left(\frac{3a}{4r} \right) \left(1 + \frac{(y_1 - y_2)^2}{r^2} \right)$$

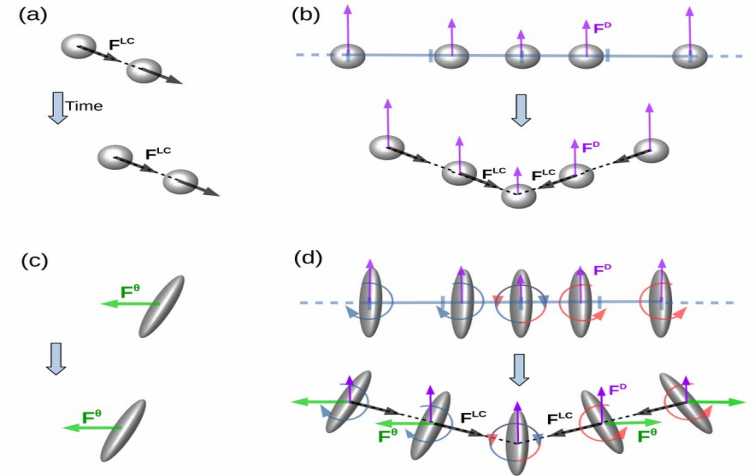
- Line of centres drift:

$$U_x^1 = -\frac{F}{6\pi\mu a} \left(\frac{3a}{4r^3} \right) (x_1 - x_2)(y_1 - y_2)$$

$$\dot{\theta}_1 = \frac{F(x_1 - x_2)}{8\pi\mu r^3}$$

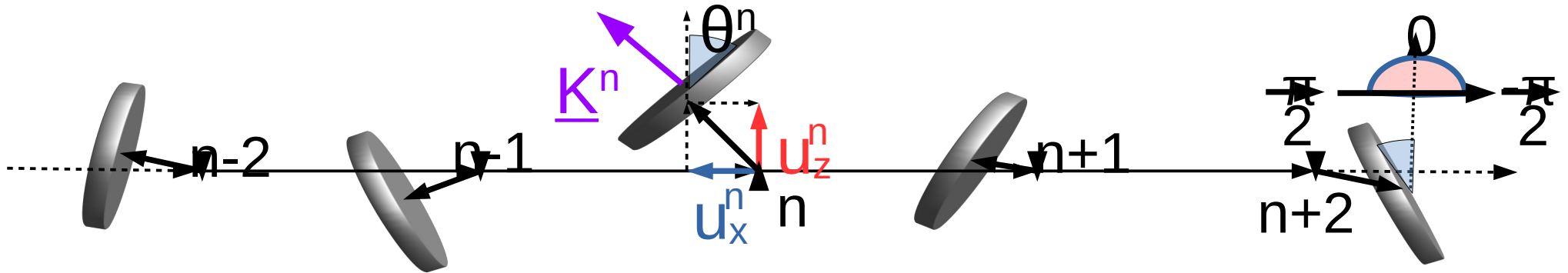
- Mutual rotation:

Competing mechanism



- S. Wakiya, J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. 20, 1502 (1965)
- S. Kim, Int. J. Multiphase Flow 11, 699 (1985)
- S. Jung et. al. , Phys. Rev. E 74, 035302(R) (2006).
- B. Chaiwa et al. PRL 122, 224501 (2019)

From pair to collective dynamics



$$\frac{du_x^n}{dt} = \underbrace{-\frac{3a^2}{4d^2} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{u_z^{n+l} - u_z^{n-l}}{l^2}}_{\text{Tilt}} + \underbrace{\frac{\alpha(e)}{2} \sin 2\theta^n}_{\text{Orientation glide}}$$

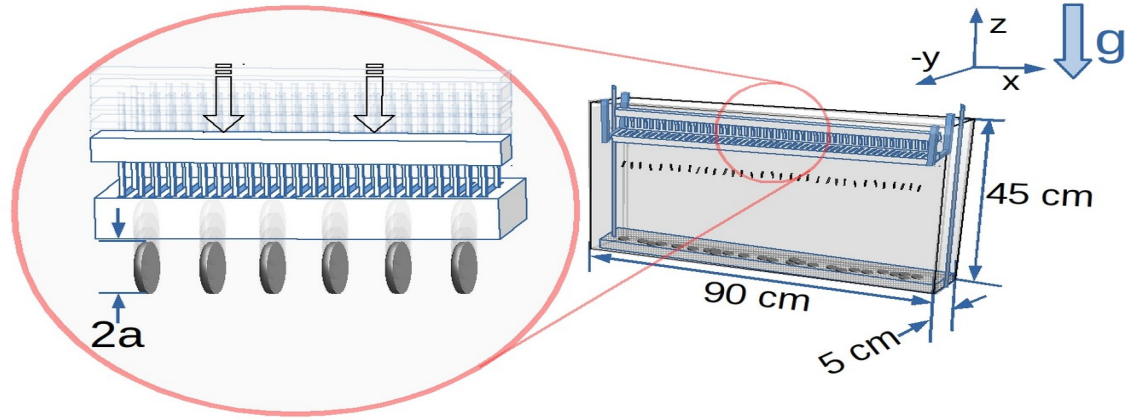
$$\frac{du_z^n}{dt} = \underbrace{+\frac{3a^2}{4d^2} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{u_x^{n+l} - u_x^{n-l}}{l^2}}_{\text{Reduced drag}} + \underbrace{\alpha(e) \sin^2 \theta^n}_{\text{Rotational coupling}}$$

$$\frac{d\theta^n}{dt} = \frac{3a^3}{2d^3} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{u_x^{n+l} + u_x^{n-l} - 2u_x^n}{l^3}$$

Lattice of masses and springs

No damping of “momentum” at zero or nonzero wavenumber (apolar + Stokes T-reversibility)

Experiments



Fluid: silicone oil, 5,000 cSt, 0.97 gm/cc

Disc: 3D printed with resin

Diameter $2a = 8$ mm

Thickness $t = 1$ mm

Density 1.12 gm/cc

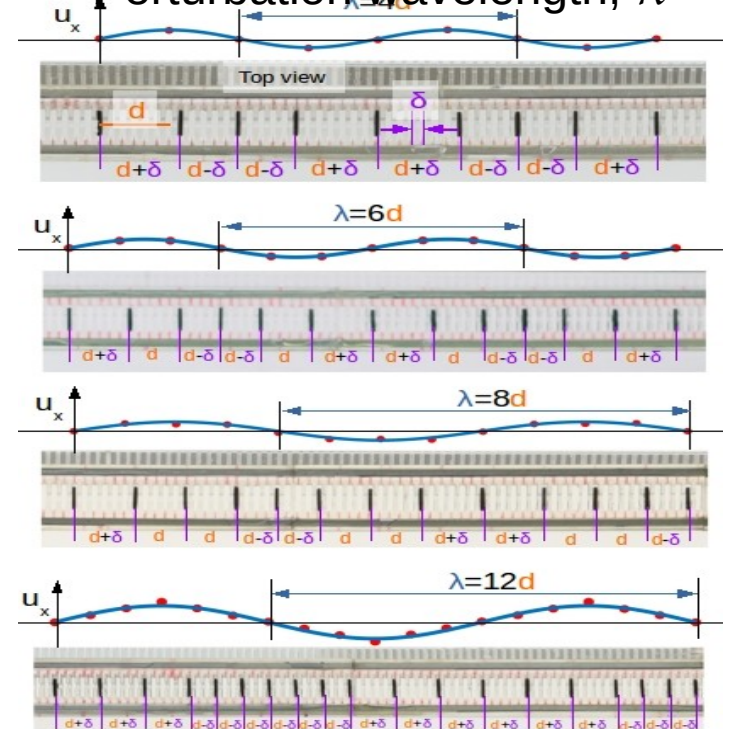
Typical $Re \sim 10^{-4}$

System size: Height 45 cm = 112.5 a ,
Width 90 cm = 225 a Depth 5cm = 12.5 a

Control:

Lattice spacing, d

Perturbation wavelength, λ



Two dynamical regimes in (q,d) plane

Wavelike modes

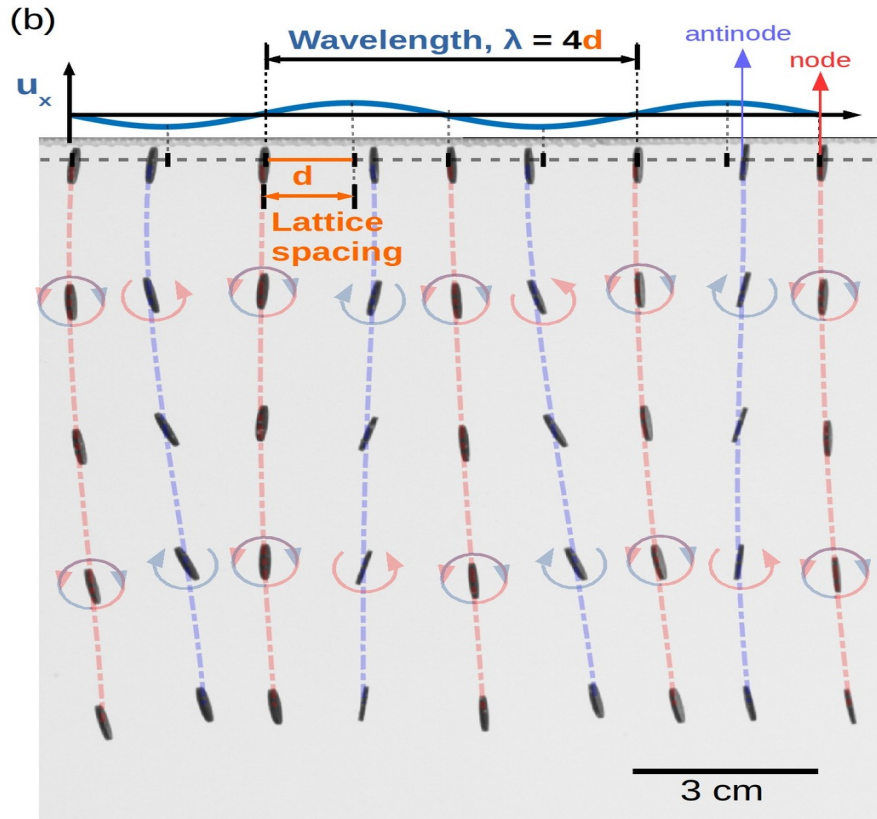
Clumping instability

wavelike mode movie

Unstable mode movie

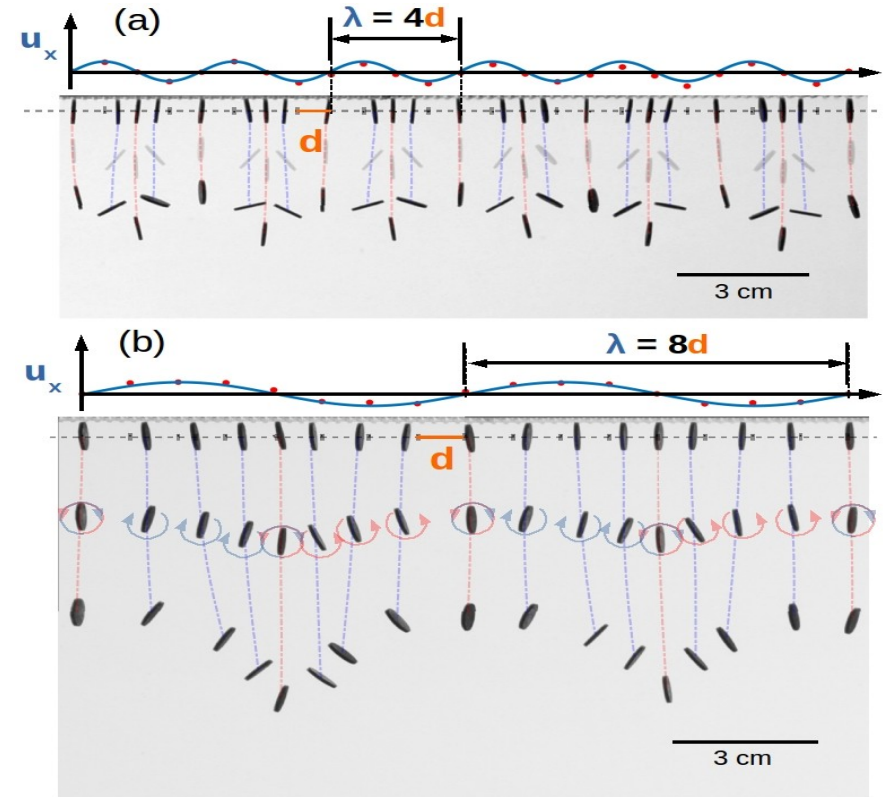
Two dynamical regimes in (q,d) plane

Wavelike modes



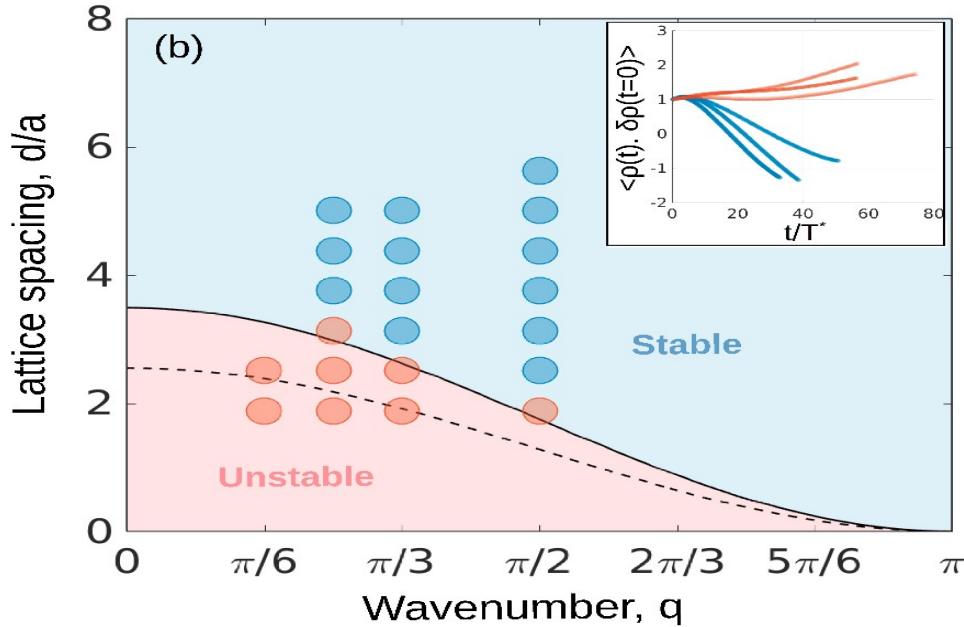
wavelike mode movie

Clumping instability



Unstable mode movie

A universal instability boundary

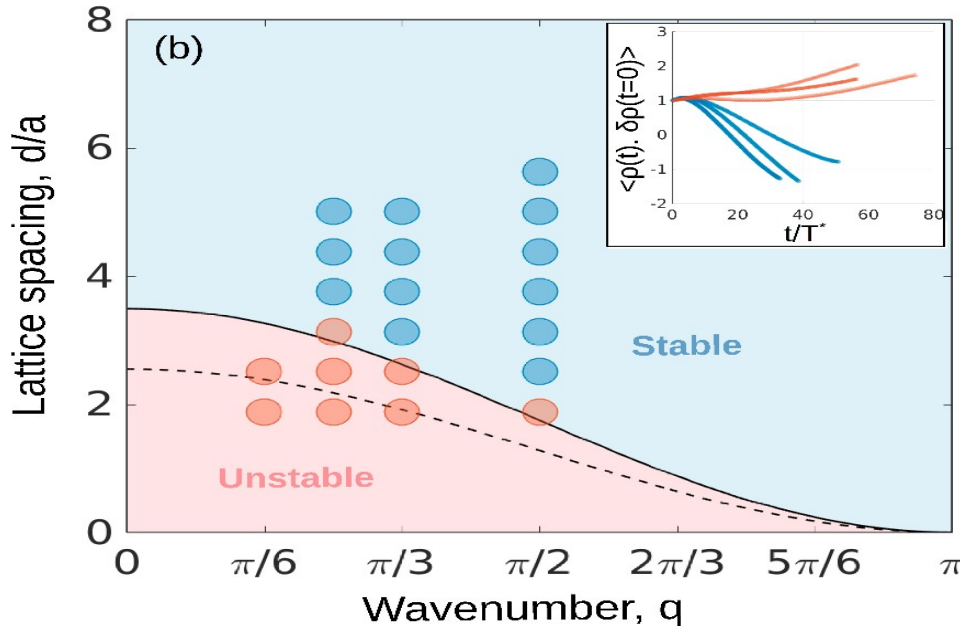


Inset: overlap of time-displaced concentration fields

Dynamical matrix in fourier space

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -(3ia^2/2d^2) \sin q & \alpha(e) \\ +(3ia^2/2d^2) \sin q & 0 & 0 \\ -(6a^3/d^3) \sin^2 q/2 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

A universal instability boundary



Dynamical matrix in fourier space

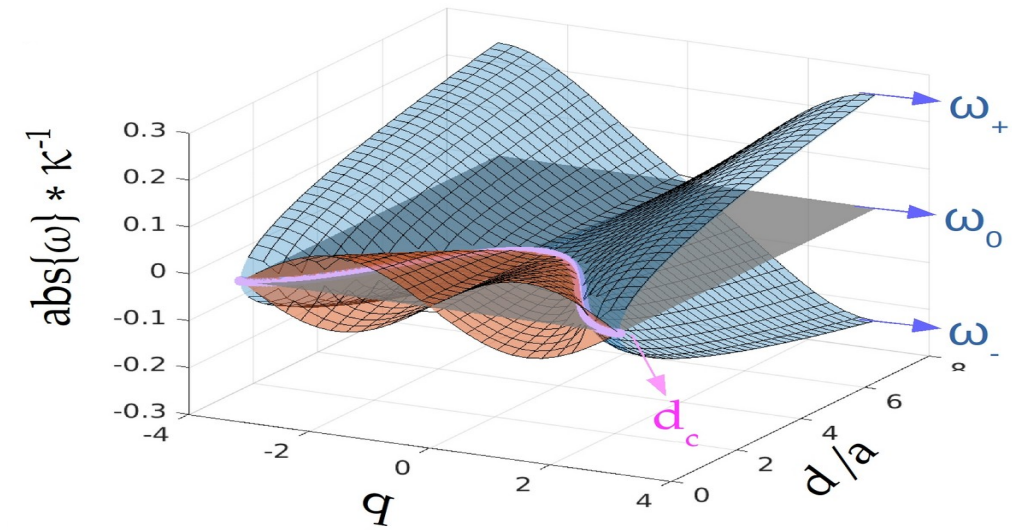
$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -(3ia^2/2d^2) \sin q & \alpha(e) \\ +(3ia^2/2d^2) \sin q & 0 & 0 \\ -(6a^3/d^3) \sin^2 q/2 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Rescaling lattice spacing, $\tilde{d} = 2d\alpha(e)/3a$

Universal linear stability condition

$$\tilde{d} \geq \cos^2 \frac{q}{2}$$

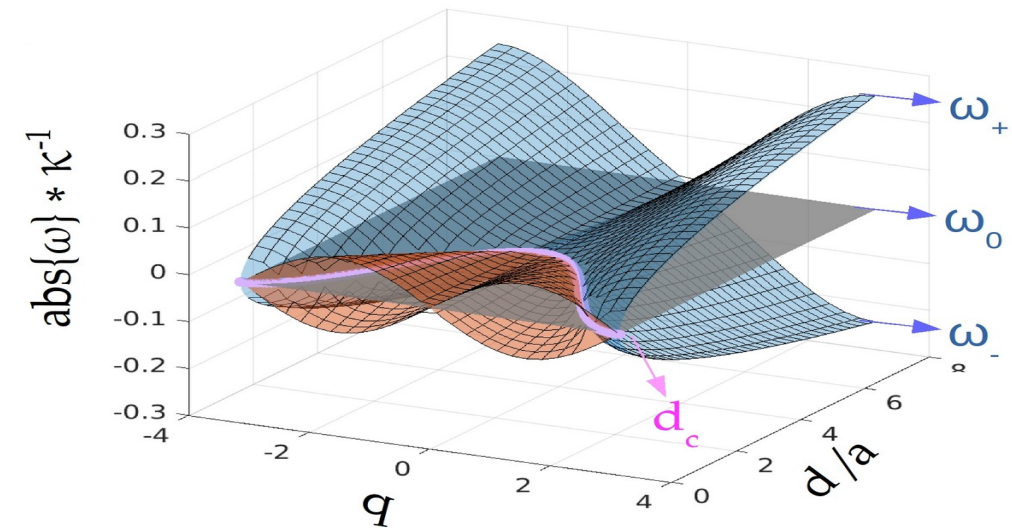
- α depends on geometry of apolar shape
- Known for oblate and prolate spheroids



$$i\omega_{\pm}(q) = \pm \frac{3a^2}{2d^2} \left| \sin \frac{q}{2} \right| \sqrt{\left(-\frac{d\pi}{2a} + 4 \cos^2 \frac{q}{2} \right)}$$

u_x : “broken-symmetry” mode

$$\kappa = 6\pi a^2/d^2$$

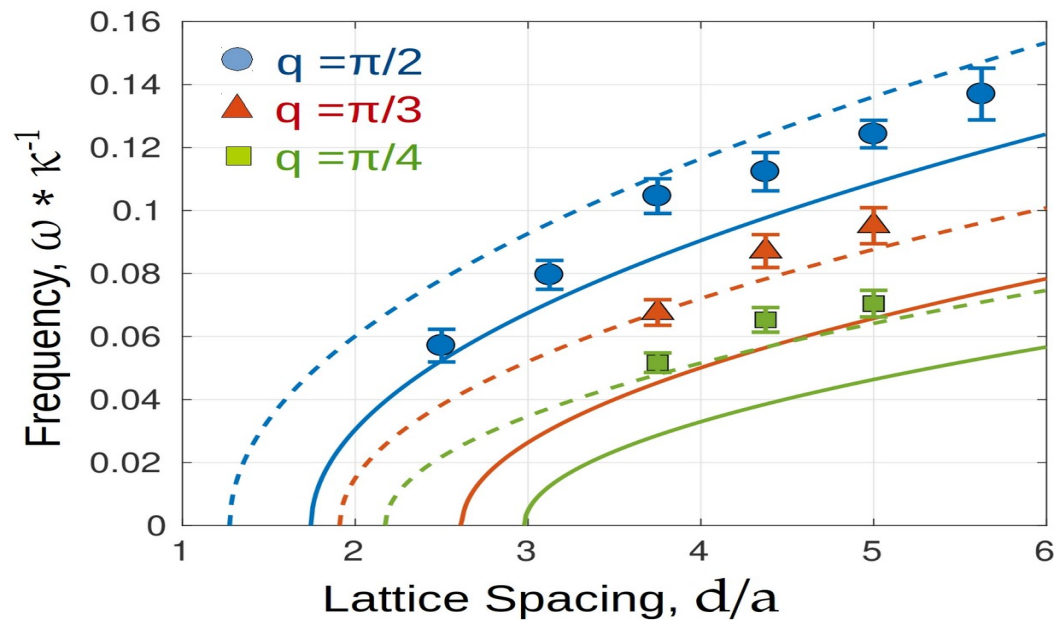


$$\kappa = 6\pi a^2/d^2$$

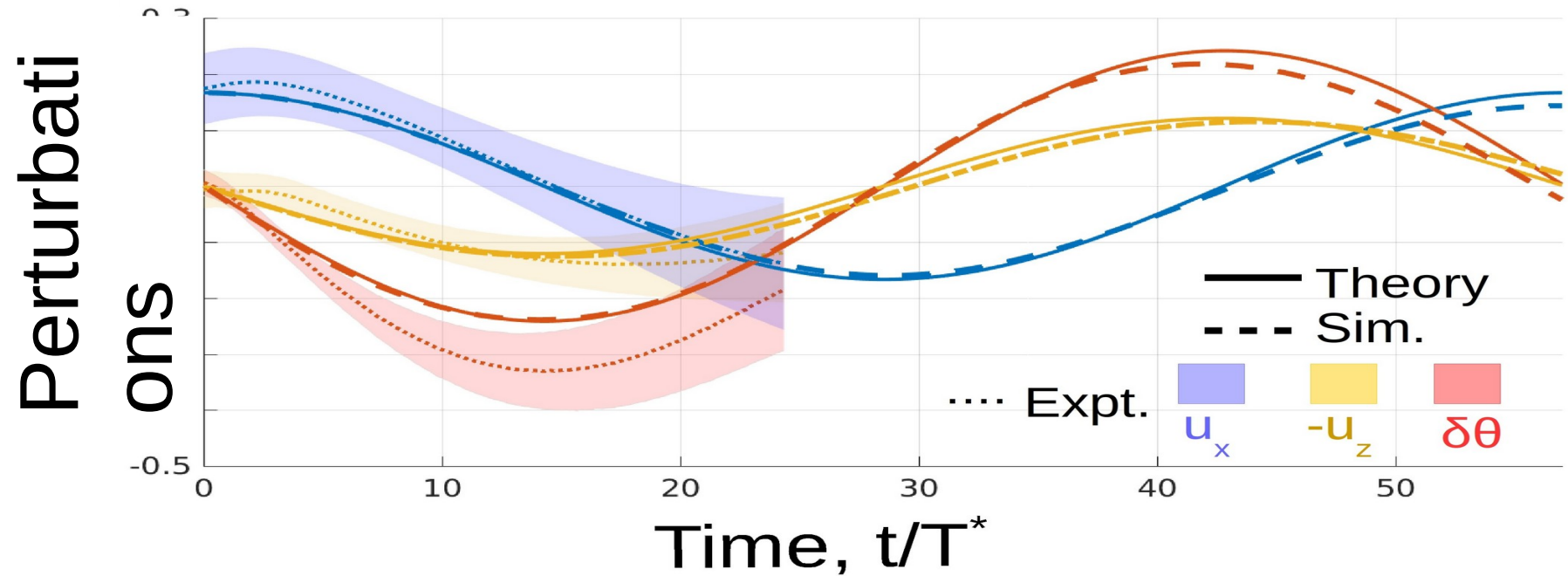
u_x : “broken-symmetry” mode

So: large-spacing disc arrays are stable??

$$i\omega_{\pm}(q) = \pm \frac{3a^2}{2d^2} \left| \sin \frac{q}{2} \right| \sqrt{\left(-\frac{d\pi}{2a} + 4 \cos^2 \frac{q}{2} \right)}$$



Non-linearly unstable wave



Late times movie

Sim wave movie

$u_z=0$ sector: emergent Hamiltonian dynamics

$$u_x^n = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \theta^n}, \quad \dot{\theta}^n = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial u_x^n}$$

$$H = \frac{\alpha(e)}{4} \sum_m (1 - \cos 2\theta^m) + \frac{3a^3}{4d^3} \sum_{l,m} \frac{(u_x^m - u_x^{m+l})^2}{l^3}$$

Mass = $1/\alpha(e)$

Conserved momentum = $\sum_n \theta^n$

Hookean spring stiffness = $3a^3/2d^3$

Rescaling to obtain a natural energy norm

$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_q \equiv [U_q, W_q, \Theta_q]^T$$

$$[\sqrt{3a^3/d^3} \sin(q/2)u_q^x, \sqrt{3a^3/d^3} \sin(q/2)u_q^z, \sqrt{\alpha(e)/2} \theta_q]^T$$

$$|U_q|^2 + |\Theta_q|^2 = H$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}(q) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i\lambda & 1 \\ i\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i\lambda & 0 \\ i\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Crowley elastic modes

Hermitian + real antisymmetric
Each is *normal*

Rescaling to obtain a natural energy norm

$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_q \equiv [U_q, W_q, \Theta_q]^T$$

$$[\sqrt{3a^3/d^3} \sin(q/2)u_q^x, \sqrt{3a^3/d^3} \sin(q/2)u_q^z, \sqrt{\alpha(e)/2} \theta_q]^T$$

$$|U_q|^2 + |\Theta_q|^2 = H$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}(q) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i\lambda & 1 \\ i\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i\lambda & 0 \\ i\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

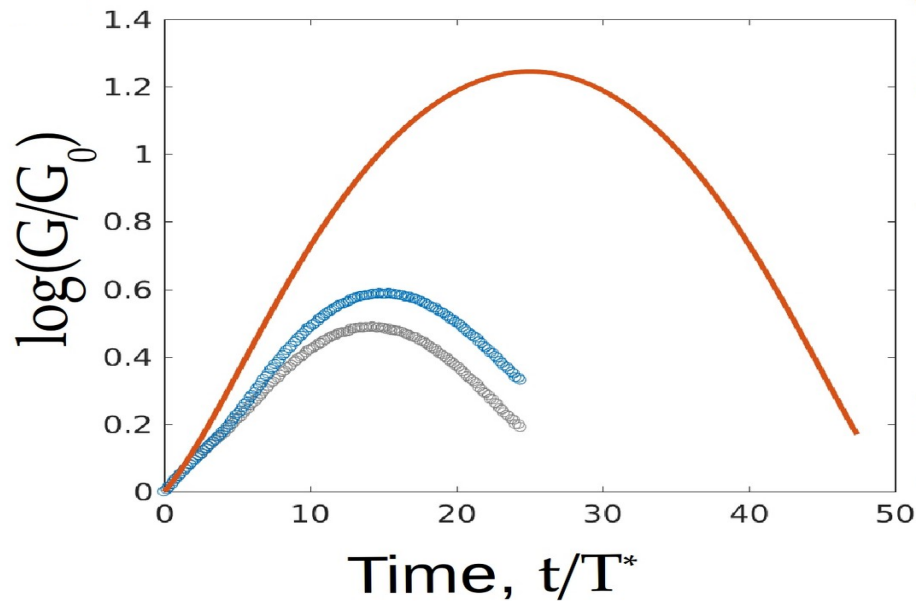
Crowley elastic modes

non-normal

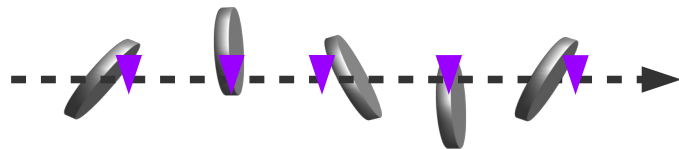
$$[\tilde{\mathbf{A}}(q), \tilde{\mathbf{A}}^\dagger(q)] \neq 0.$$

- Perturbation energy not conserved
- Modal analysis insufficient
- Expect algebraic growth

Algebraic growth



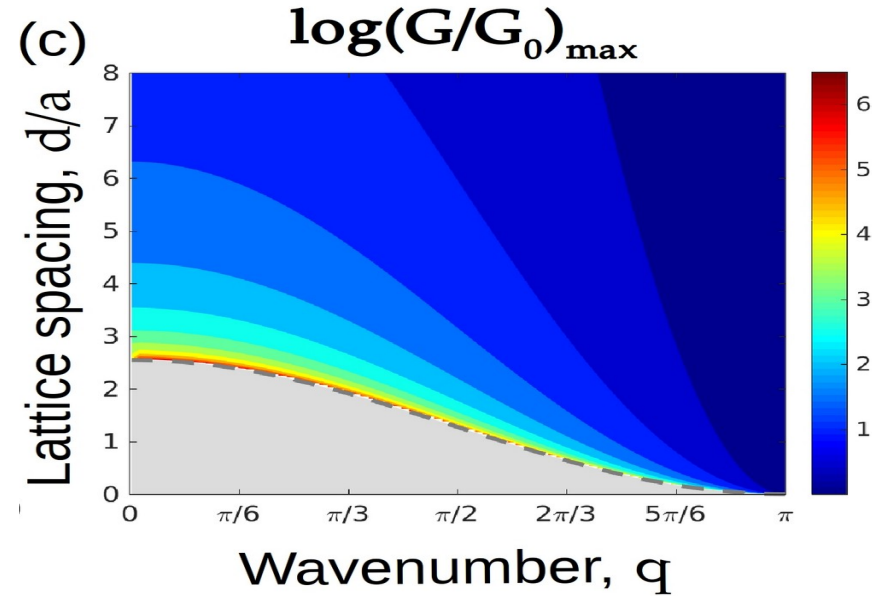
Maximally growing mode
(red curve)



$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_q | \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_q \rangle = 6 \frac{a^2}{d^2} \sin q \operatorname{Im}(U_q^* W_q)$$

Non-normal dynamics

- Amplitude grows algebraically even in the stable regime.
- Transient growth pushes the system to non-linear regime.
- Noise amplification.
- Numerics with tiny amplitude: algebraic growth without nonlinearity.



Late times movie

Clumping at late times movie

Noisy movie

Summary

- **Collective sedimentation: shape matters**
- **Emergent inertia and Hamiltonian**
- **Disc arrays: “energy conservation” suppresses linear instability**
 - elasticity from viscous hydro, waves in theory and expt
- **Beware non-normality**
 - eigenvalues are deceptive, transient algebraic growth beats linear stability

Challenge: in-plane polar particles, effectively motile system?