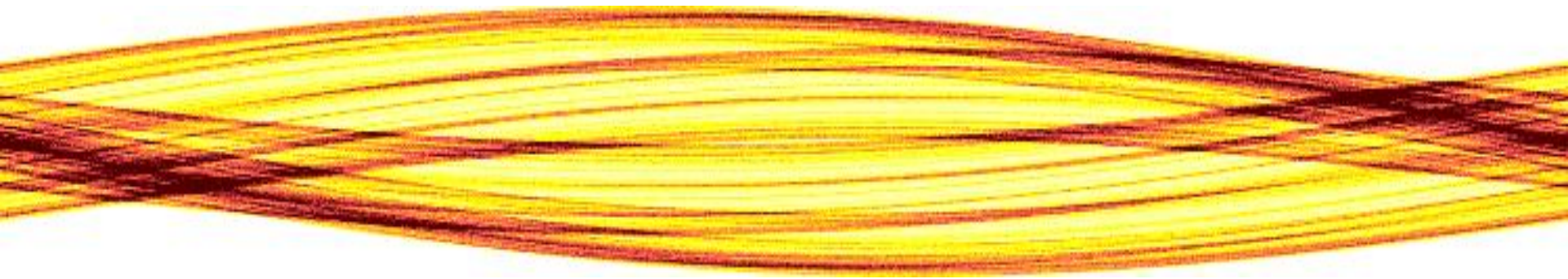


# Testing universality of topological defect formation: an update

Adolfo del Campo

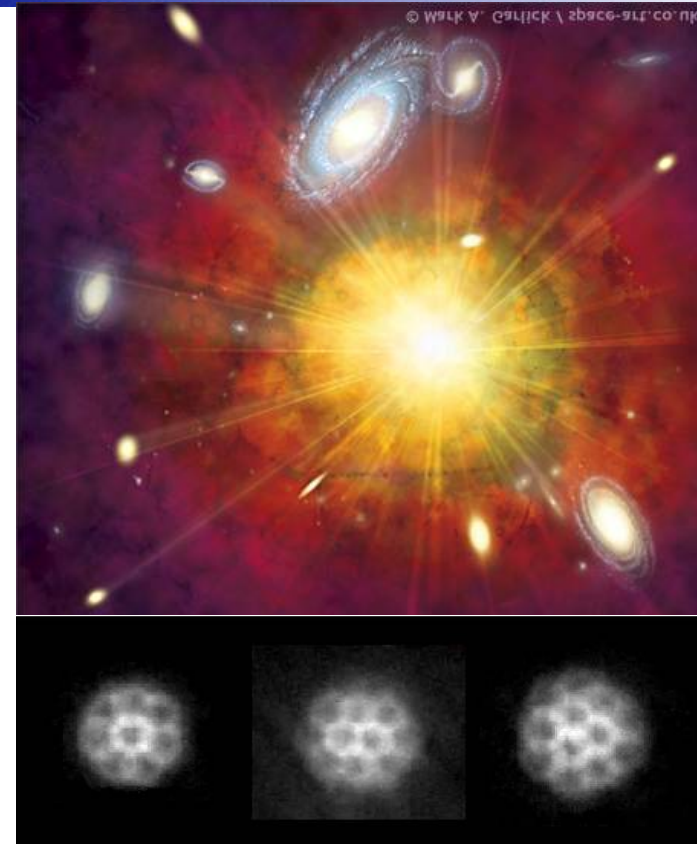
Theoretical Division  
Los Alamos National Laboratory



Cosmic Strings 2014, Phoenix, AZ  
Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 2014

# Cosmology in the lab

- Cosmology : symmetry breaking during expansion and cooling of the early universe
- Condensed matter:
  - Vortices in Helium
  - Liquid crystals
  - Superconductors
  - Superfluids



Landau theory: Similar free-energy landscape near a critical point

Kibble Zurek mechanism: formation of defects

T. W. B. Kibble, JPA 9, 1387 (1976); Phys. Rep. 67, 183 (1980)

W. H. Zurek, Nature (London) 317, 505 (1985); Acta Phys. Pol. B. 1301 (1993)

# References

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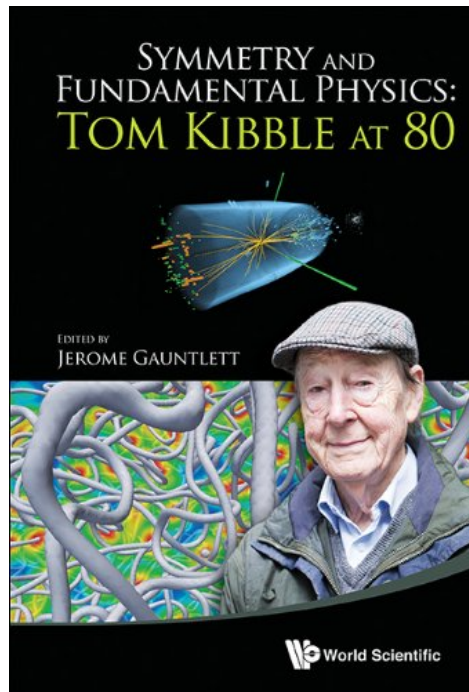
Tom Kibble and Ajit Srivastava 2013 *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* **25** 400301  
[Special section on condensed matter analogues of cosmology](#)

A. del Campo, T. W. B. Kibble, W. H. Zurek, *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* **25**, 404210 (2013)

# References

Tom Kibble and Ajit Srivastava 2013 *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* **25** 400301  
[Special section on condensed matter analogues of cosmology](#)

A. del Campo, T. W. B. Kibble, W. H. Zurek, *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* **25**, 404210 (2013)



A. del Campo, W. H. Zurek, arXiv:1310.1600 (2013)

# Contents

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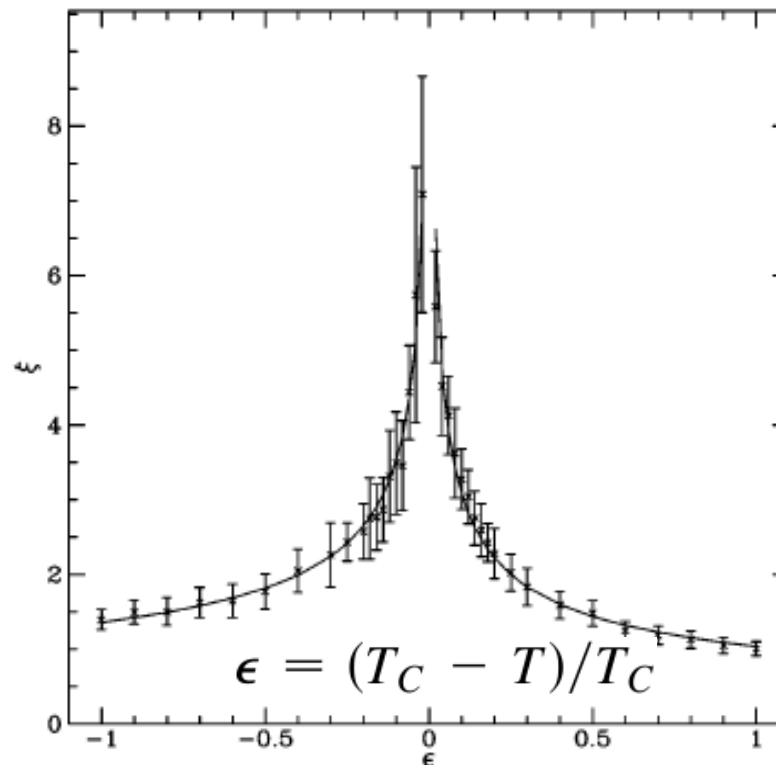
- The Kibble-Zurek mechanism
- Recent Experiments:  
Inhomogeneous phase transitions

# Second order phase transitions

Universal behaviour of the order parameter: divergence of

Correlation/healing length  $\xi(t) = \frac{\xi_0}{|\epsilon(t)|^\nu}$

Dynamical relaxation time  $\tau(t) = \frac{\tau_0}{|\epsilon(t)|^{z\nu}}$

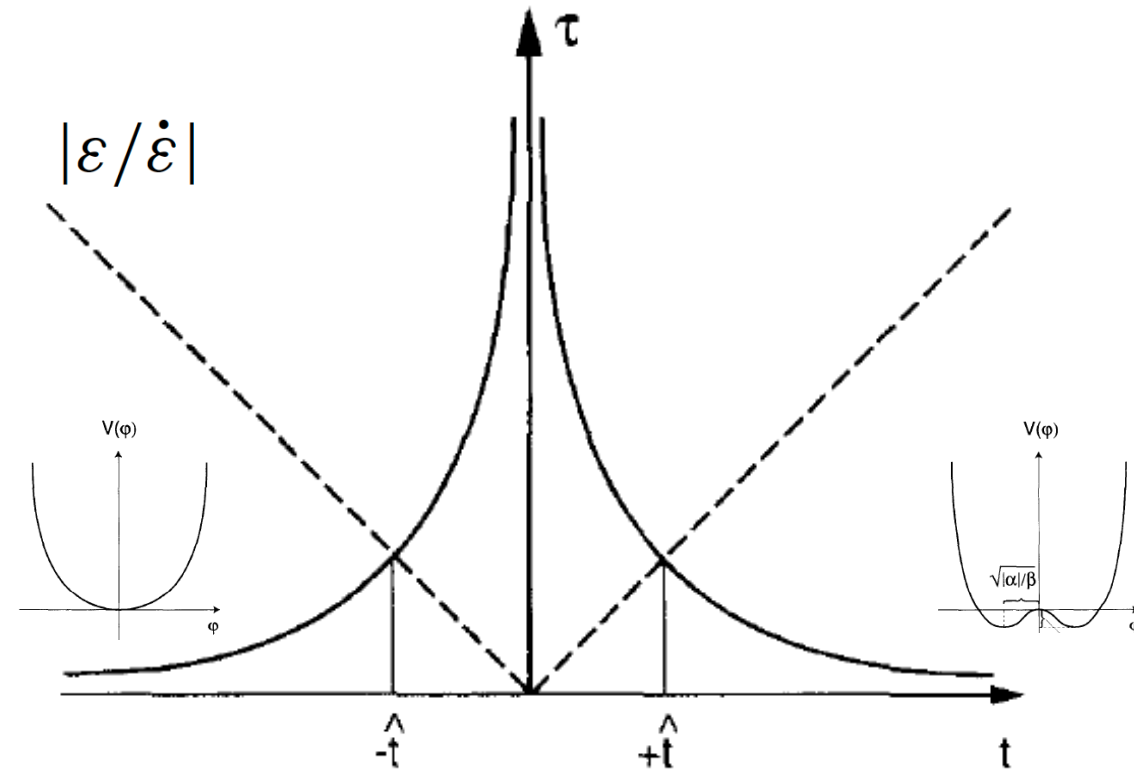


# The Kibble-Zurek mechanism

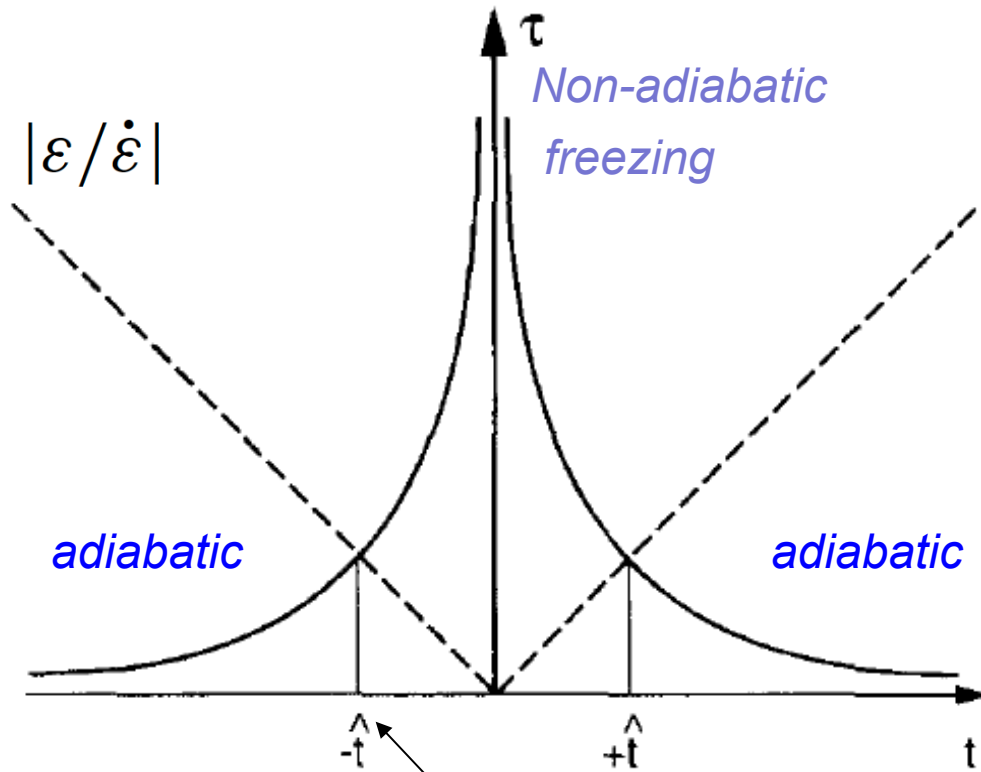
## Linear quench

$$\varepsilon(t) = t/\tau_Q$$

$$\tau(t) = \frac{\tau_0}{|\varepsilon(t)|^{z\nu}}$$



# The Kibble-Zurek mechanism



## Linear quench

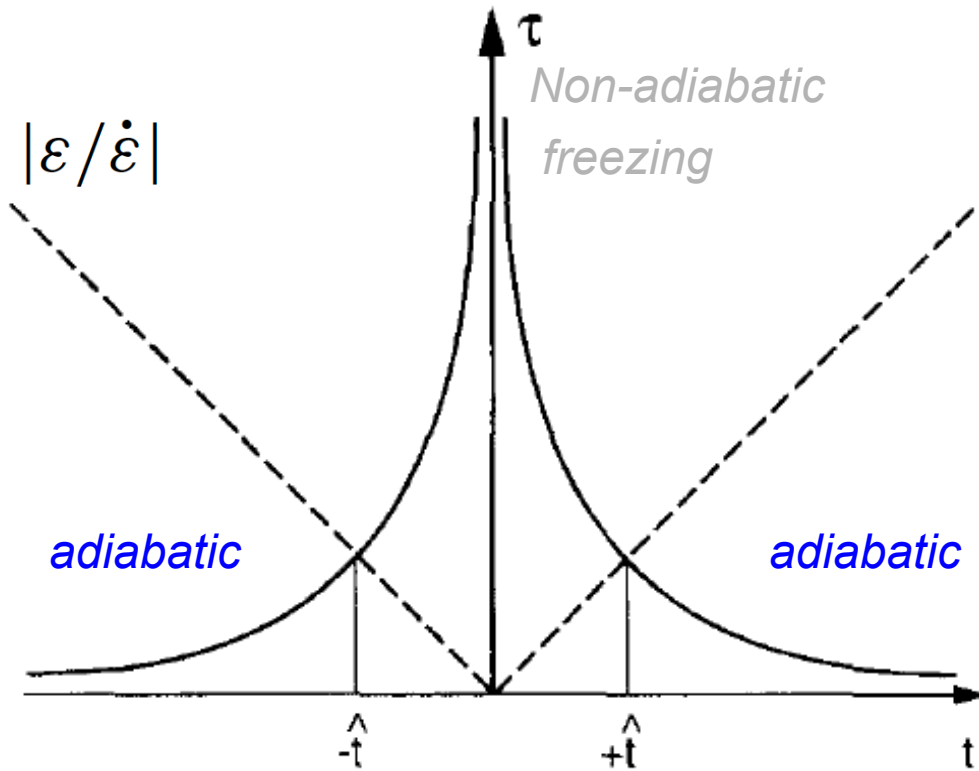
$$\varepsilon(t) = t/\tau_Q$$

$$\tau(t) = \frac{\tau_0}{|\varepsilon(t)|^{z\nu}}$$





# The Kibble-Zurek mechanism



## Linear quench

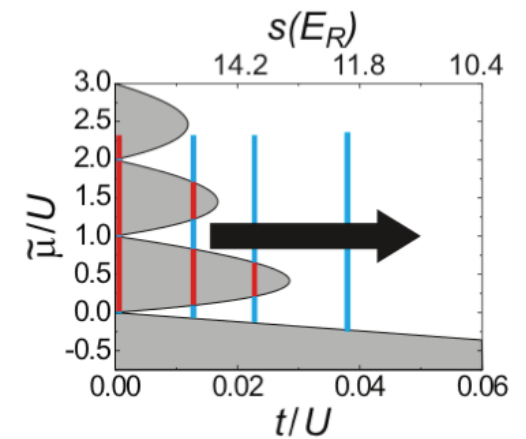
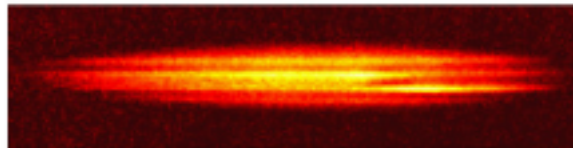
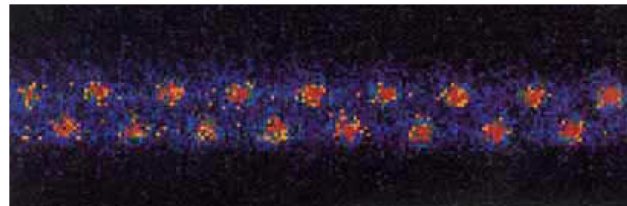
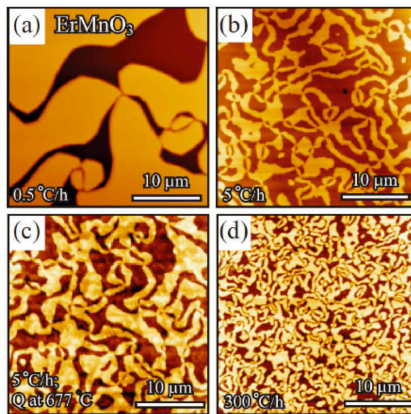
$$\varepsilon(t) = t/\tau_Q$$

$$\tau(t) = \frac{\tau_0}{|\varepsilon(t)|^{z\nu}}$$

The average domain size is given by the equilibrium correlation length at the freeze-out time

$$\xi(t) = \frac{\xi_0}{|\varepsilon(t)|^\nu} \quad \hat{\xi} = \xi(\hat{t}) = \xi_0 \left( \frac{\tau_Q}{\tau_0} \right)^{\frac{\nu}{1+z\nu}}$$

# Part 2 Recent experiments



# Kink formation in trapped ion chains



Classical inhomogeneous phase transitions:

T. W. B. Kibble, G.E. Volovik, *JETP Lett.* 65, 102 (1997).

W. H. Zurek, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 102, 105702 (2009)

A. del Campo et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 105, 075701 (2010)

A. del Campo et al. *New J. Phys.* 13, 083022 (2011)

A. del Campo, T. W. B. Kibble, W. H. Zurek, *J. Phys.: Condens. Matter* **25**, 404210 (2013)

# Structural phases in trapped ions

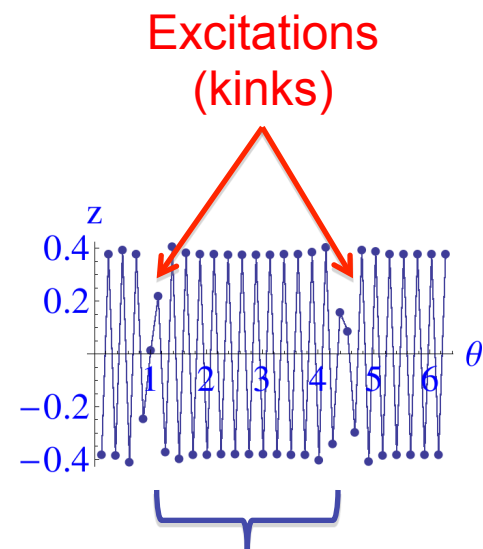
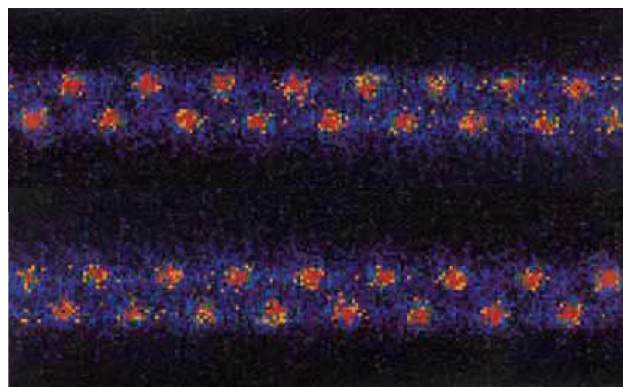
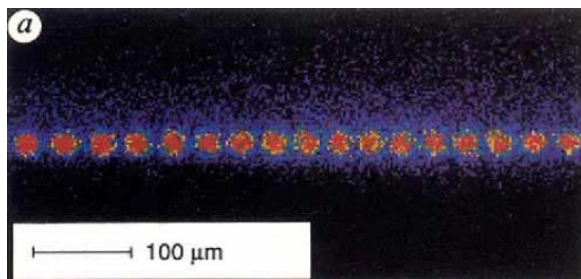
$N$  ions on a ring trap with harmonic transverse confinement

$$H = \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n \dot{\mathbf{r}}_n^2 + \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n (\nu_t^2 z_n^2) + \frac{Q^2}{2} \sum_{n \neq n'} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_n - \mathbf{r}'_n|}$$

Critical transverse frequency

Linear chain

Degenerated zig-zag chains



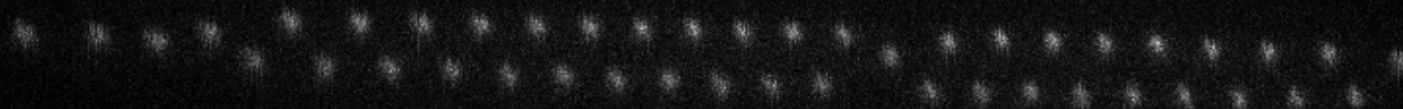
$$\nu_t^{(c)2} = 4 \frac{Q^2}{ma(0)^3}$$

Fishman PRB '08

$$\hat{\xi}_x = a\omega_0(\tau_Q/\delta_0)^{1/3}$$

# Kinks Zoo

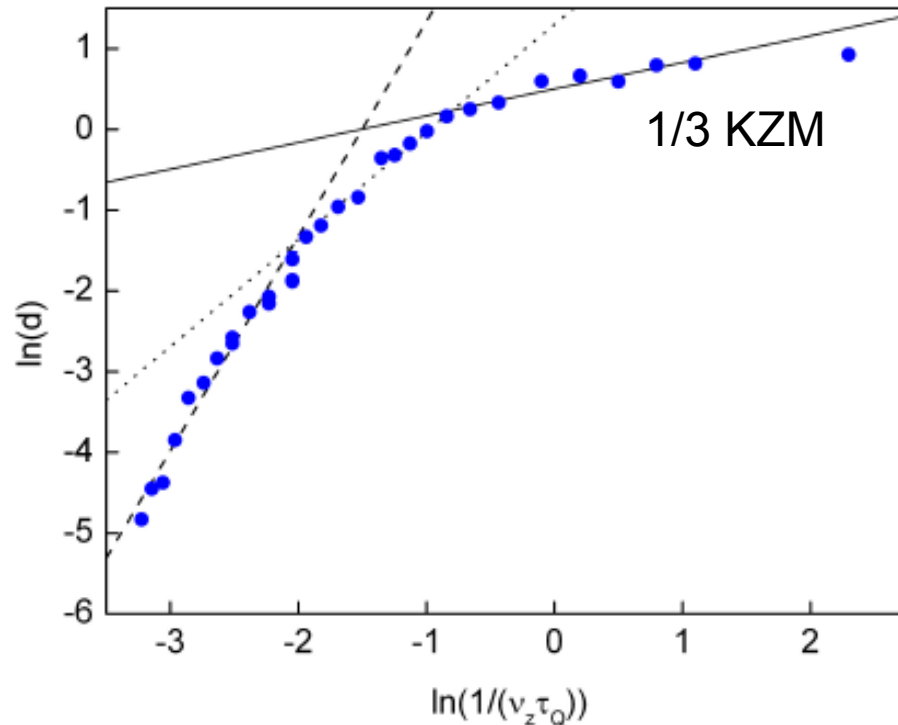
courtesy of Tobias Schaetz (MPQ)



# Testing KZM in the lab

Axial and transverse harmonic potential (instead of a ring trap)

$$H = \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n \dot{\mathbf{r}}_n^2 + \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n (\nu_t^2 z_n^2 + \nu^2 x_n^2) + \frac{Q^2}{2} \sum_{n \neq n'} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_n - \mathbf{r}'_n|}$$

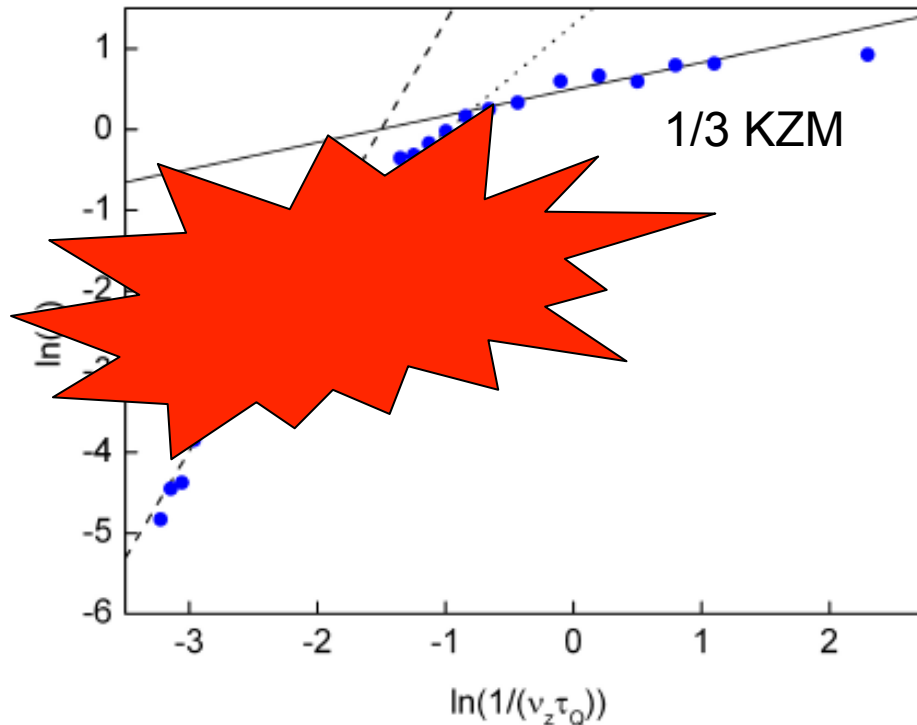


MD numerics: Langevin dynamics including laser cooling (damping)  
N=50, 2000 realizations, quench of the transverse trapping frequency

# Testing KZM in the lab

Axial and transverse harmonic potential (instead of a ring trap)

$$H = \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n \dot{\mathbf{r}}_n^2 + \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n (\nu_t^2 z_n^2 + \nu^2 x_n^2) + \frac{Q^2}{2} \sum_{n \neq n'} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_n - \mathbf{r}'_n|}$$



MD numerics: Langevin dynamics including laser cooling  
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# Inhomogeneous KZM

Axial and transverse harmonic potential (instead of a ring trap)

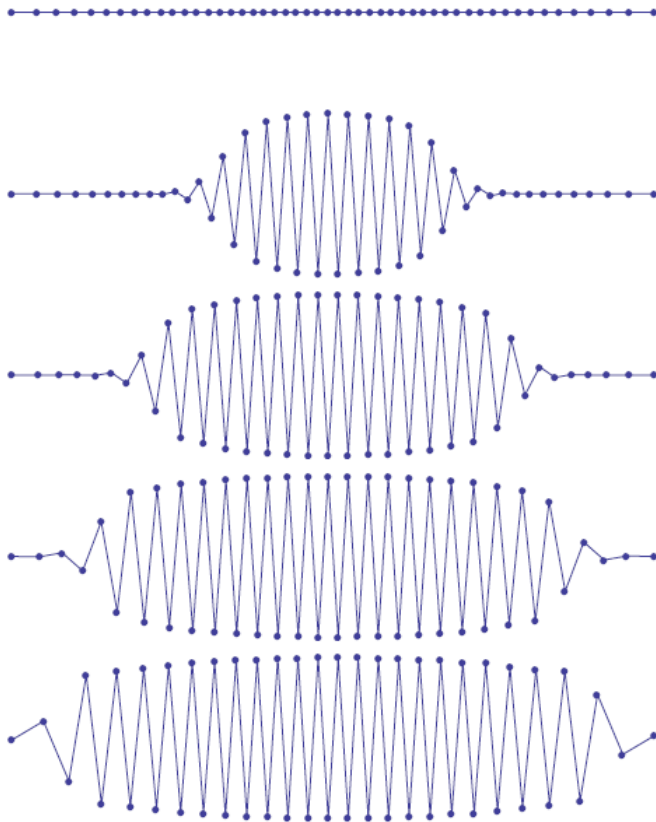
$$H = \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n \dot{\mathbf{r}}_n^2 + \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n (\nu_t^2 z_n^2 + \nu^2 x_n^2) + \frac{Q^2}{2} \sum_{n \neq n'} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_n - \mathbf{r}'_n|}$$



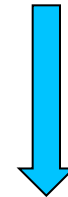
# Inhomogeneous KZM

Axial and transverse harmonic potential (instead of a ring trap)

$$H = \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n \dot{\mathbf{r}}_n^2 + \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n (\nu_t^2 z_n^2 + \nu^2 x_n^2) + \frac{Q^2}{2} \sum_{n \neq n'} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_n - \mathbf{r}'_n|}$$



$$\nu_t^{(c)2} = 4 \frac{Q^2}{ma(0)^3}$$



$$\nu_t^{(c)2}(x) = 4 \frac{Q^2}{ma(x)^3}$$

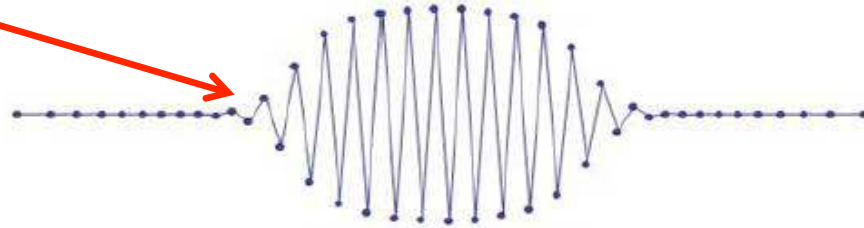
Spatially dependent critical frequency  
(within LDA)

# Inhomogeneous KZM

Causality restricts the effective size of the chain

Front velocity  $v_F$

Sound velocity  $\hat{v}_x$



Adiabatic dynamics  $v_F < \hat{v}_x$

Kink formation  $v_F > \hat{v}_x$

Chain effective system fraction  $2|\hat{X}_*|$

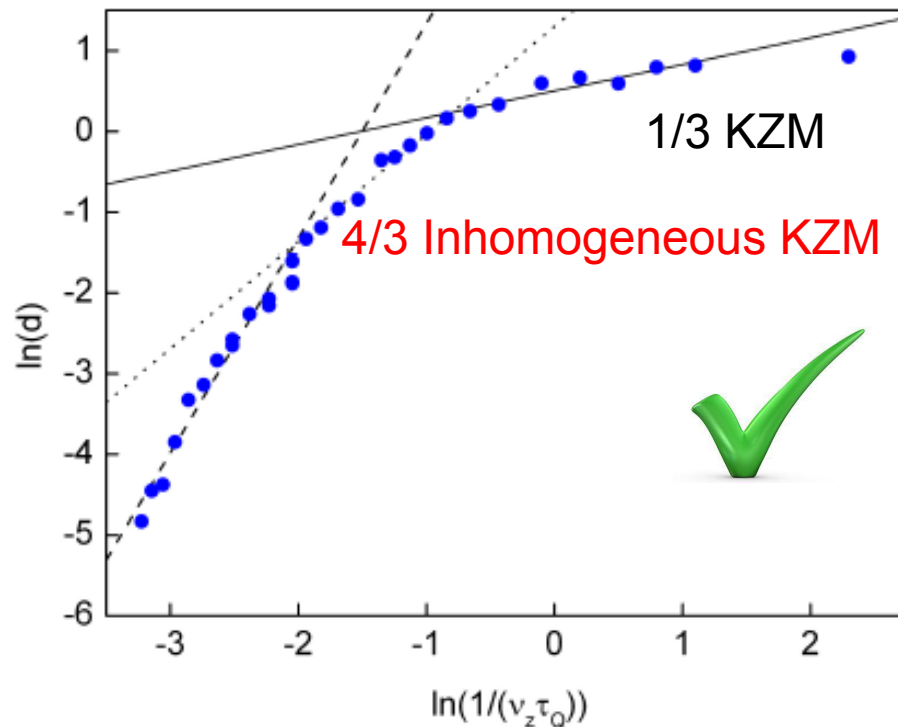
New power law

$$d_u \sim \frac{2|\hat{X}_*|}{\hat{\xi}} = \frac{L}{3\nu_t^{(e)}(0)^2 a^2 \omega_0^2} \left( \frac{\delta_0}{\tau_Q} \right)^{4/3}$$

# Testing KZM in the lab

Axial and transverse harmonic potential (instead of a ring trap)

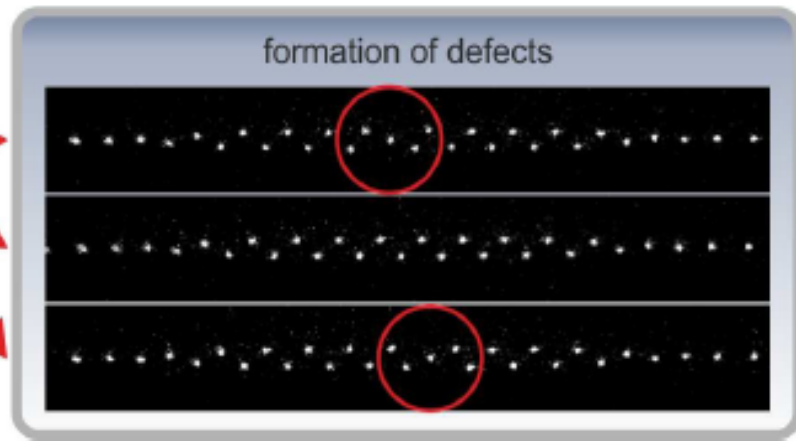
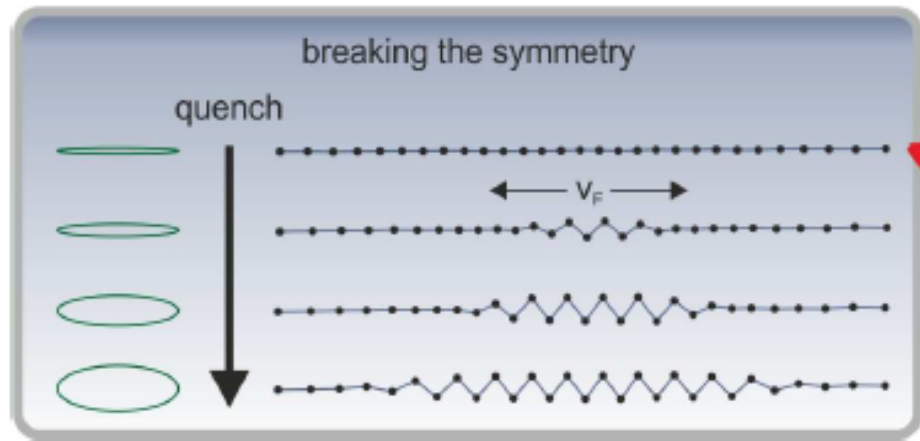
$$H = \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n \dot{\mathbf{r}}_n^2 + \frac{1}{2}m \sum_n (\nu_t^2 z_n^2 + \nu^2 x_n^2) + \frac{Q^2}{2} \sum_{n \neq n'} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_n - \mathbf{r}'_n|}$$



MD numerics: Langevin dynamics including laser cooling (damping)  
N=50, 2000 realizations, quench of the transverse trapping frequency

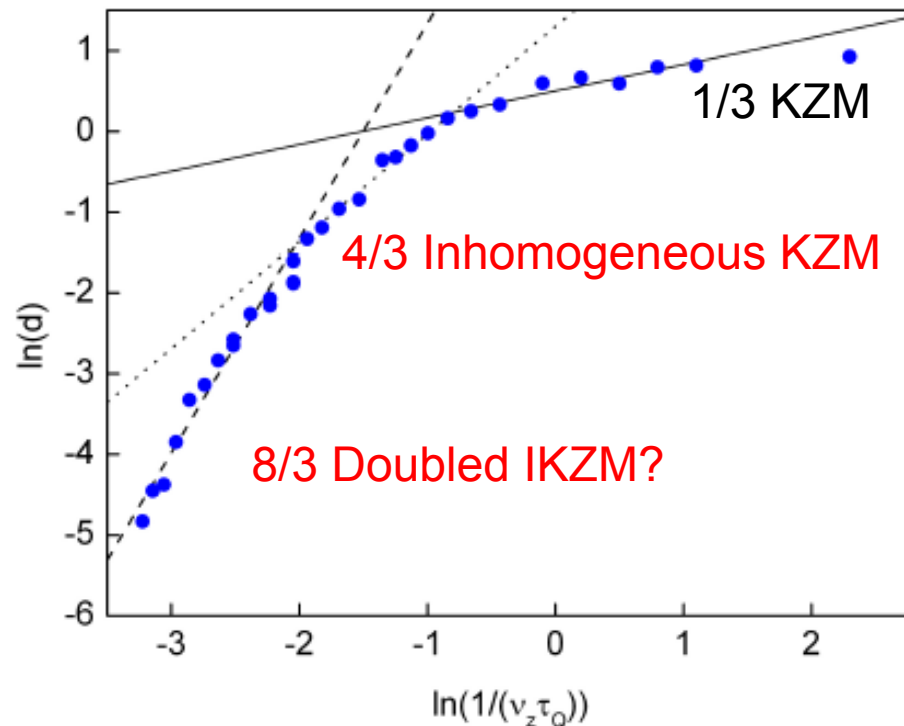
# First Experiment -

Collaboration with T. E. Mehlstaubler's group at PTB



With only  $\{0,1\}$  defects  
third scaling:  
Rivers et al. Doubling of IKZM?

$$p_1 \simeq \left[ \frac{2\hat{x}}{\hat{\xi}(0)} \right]^2 \propto \left( \frac{\tau_0}{\tau_Q} \right)^{\frac{2(1+2\nu)}{1+\nu z}} = \left( \frac{\tau_0}{\tau_Q} \right)^{\frac{8}{3}}$$



# First Experiment -

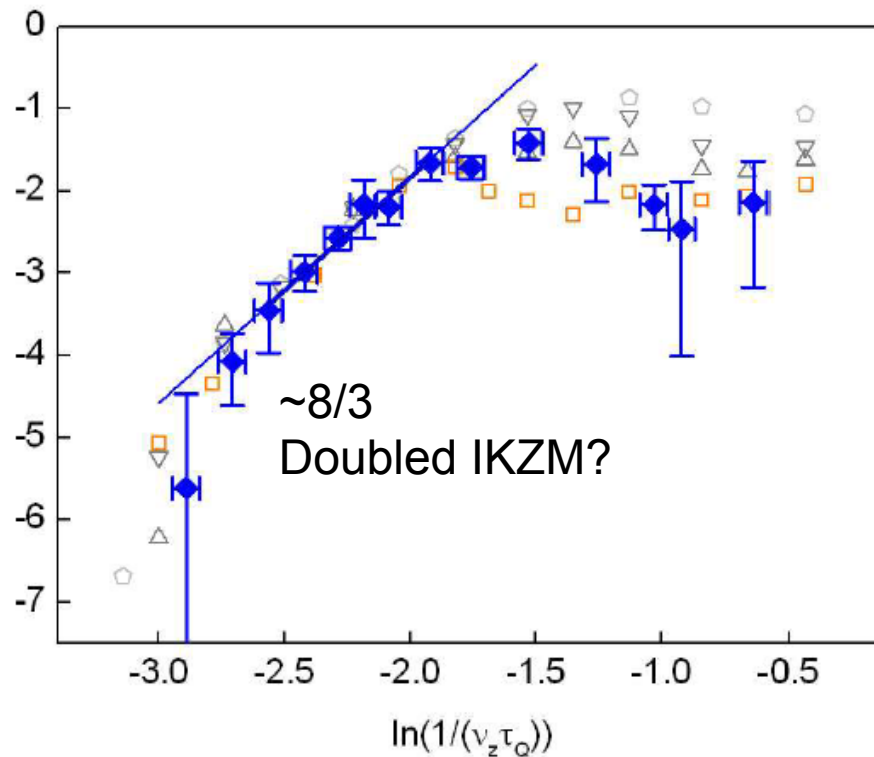
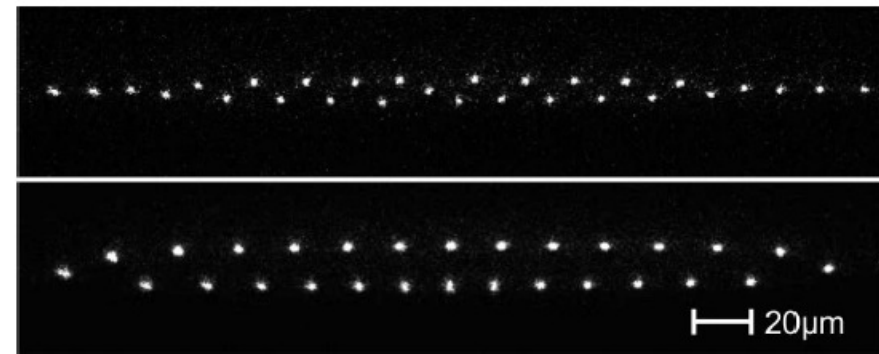
Collaboration with T. E. Mehlstaubler's group at PTB



32 ions, only  $\{0, 1\}$  defects per realization

Stabilization: mapping to extended kinks

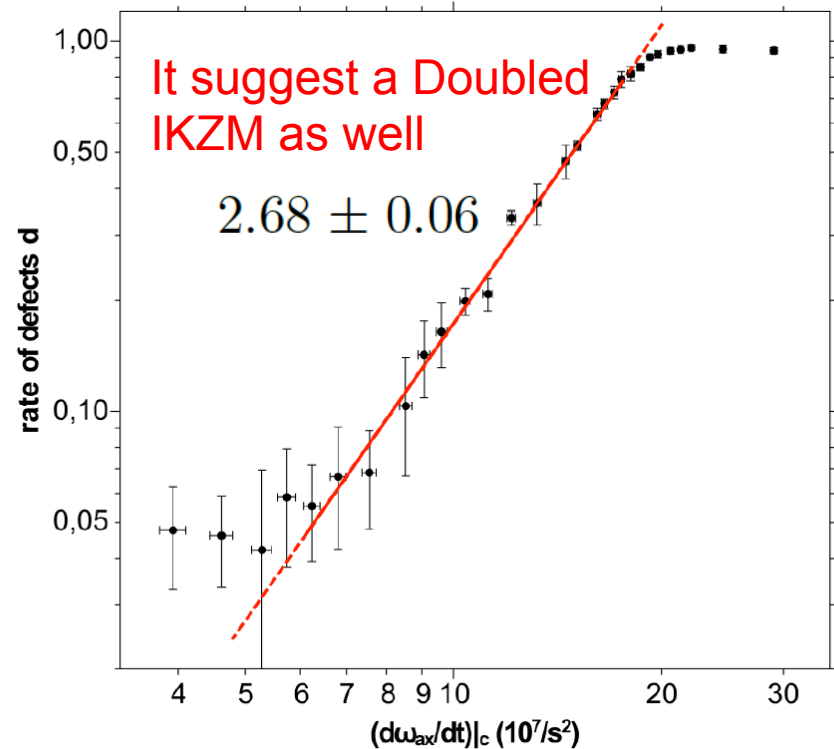
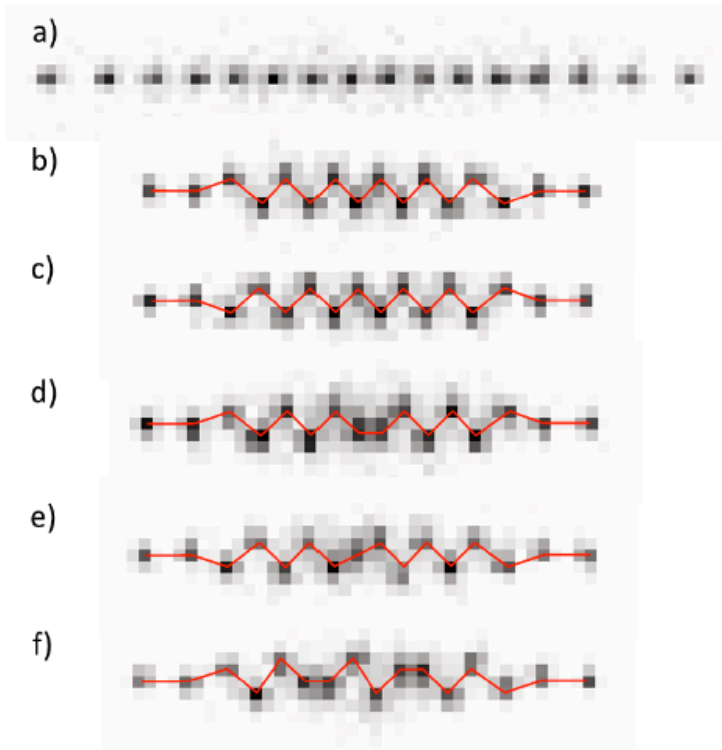
Counting where losses are minimized



# Second Experiment

Schmidt-Kahler's group at Mainz  
Nature Communications 4, 2290 (2013)

16 ions, only  $\{0,1\}$  defects per realization



# Third Experiment

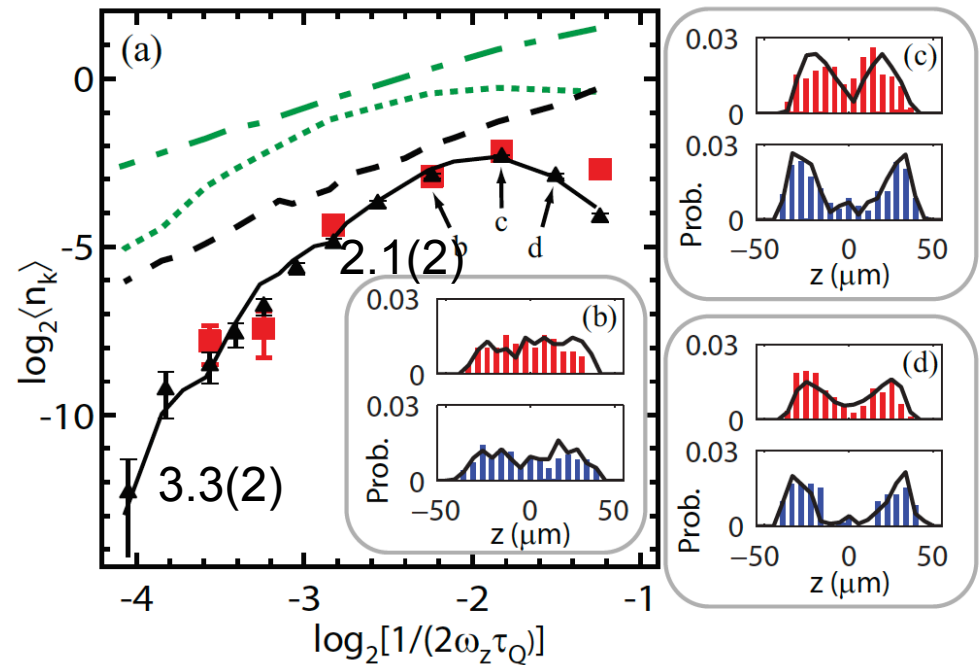
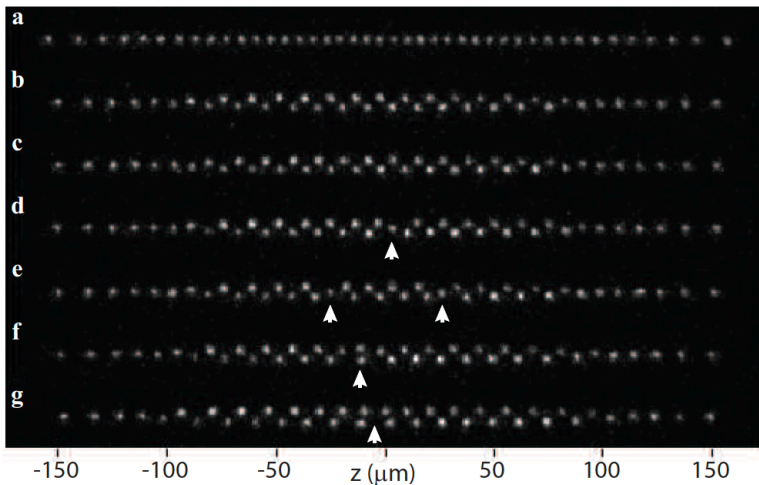
Haljan's group at Simon-Fraser University

Phys. Rev. A 87, 051401(R) (2013)

42 ions, only  $\{0,2\}$  defects per realization

Numerical agreement between KZM and simulations

Disagreement with experiment



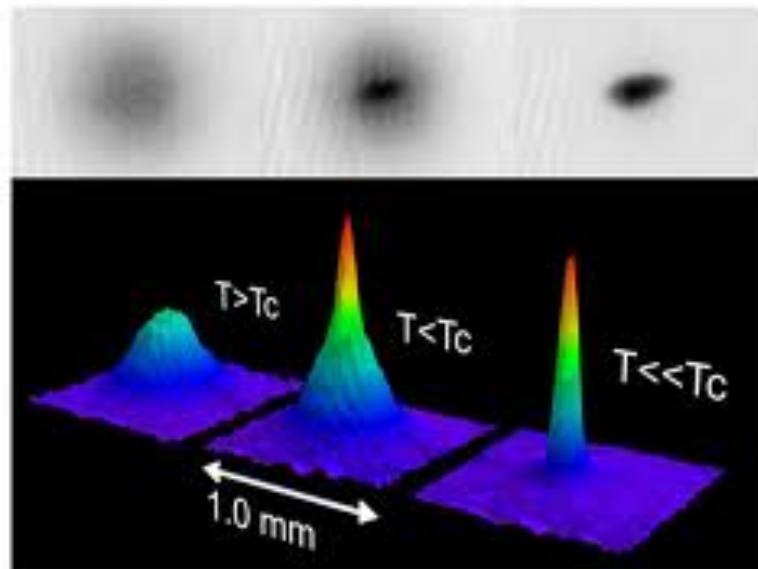
# Comparison

$$n \propto \tau_Q^{-\alpha}.$$

Group	Number of ions	Kink number	Fitted exponent $\alpha$
Mainz University <sup>14</sup>	16	{0, 1}	$2.68 \pm 0.06$
PTB <sup>15</sup>	$29 \pm 2$	{0, 1}	$2.7 \pm 0.3$
Simon Fraser University <sup>13</sup>	$42 \pm 1$	{0, 2}	$3.3 \pm 0.2$



# Soliton formation in Bose-Einstein condensation



# Soliton formation

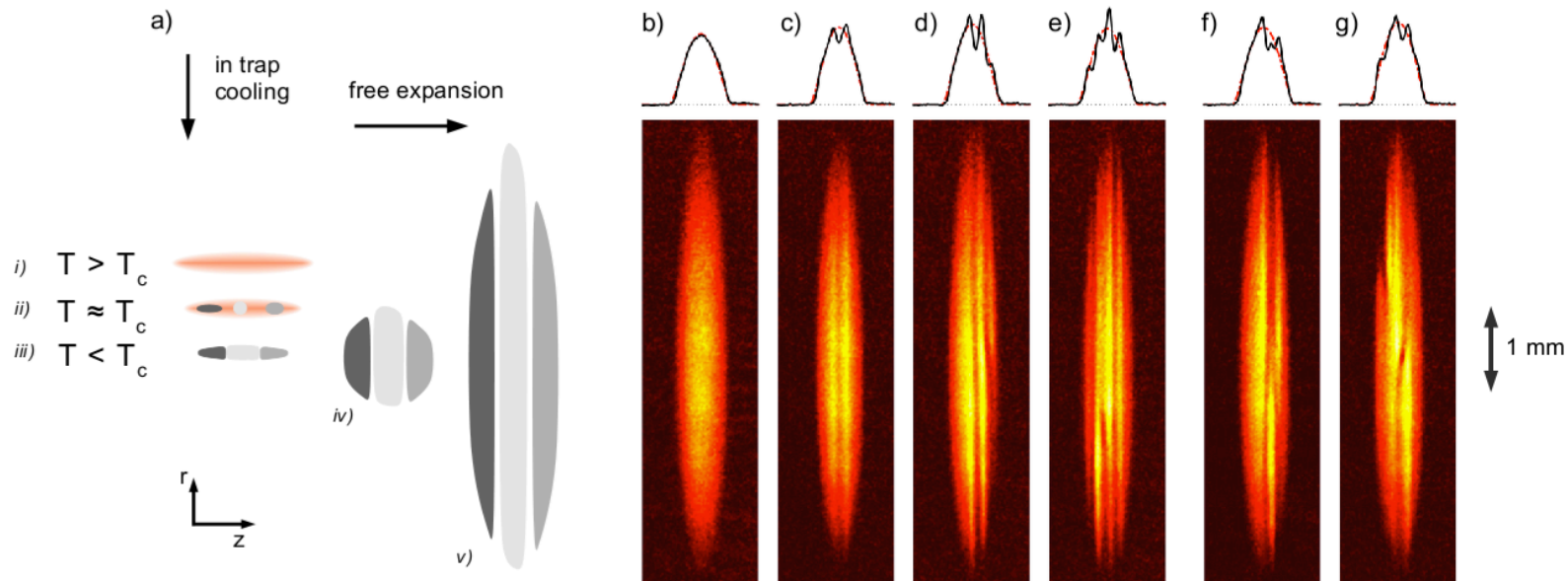
BEC in cigar-shaped traps, U(1) symmetry breaking, inhomogeneous transition

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{GP}}[\Phi] = \int \left( \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} |\nabla \Phi|^2 + [V(\mathbf{r}) - \mu] |\Phi|^2 + \frac{g}{2} |\Phi|^4 \right) d^3 \mathbf{r}$$

Proposal: W. H. Zurek Phys. Rev. Lett. **102**, 105702 (2009)

Detailed analysis: AdC, A. Retzker, M. B. Plenio, NJP 13, 083022 (2011)

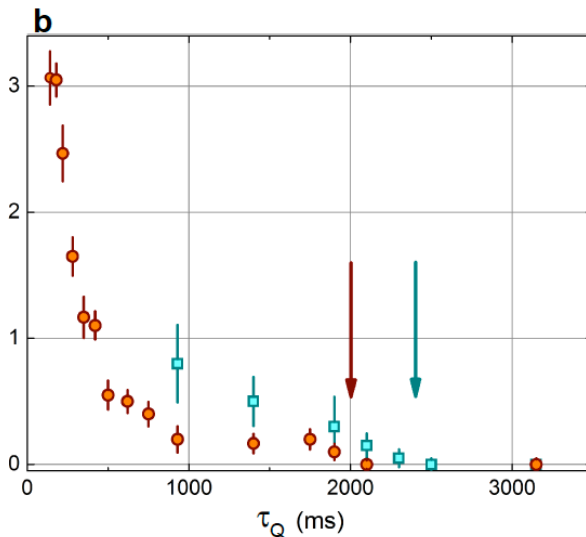
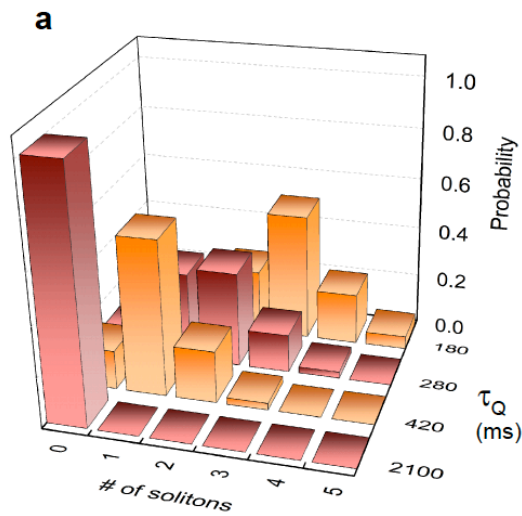
Experiment @ Trento: Nature Physics **9**, 656 (2013)



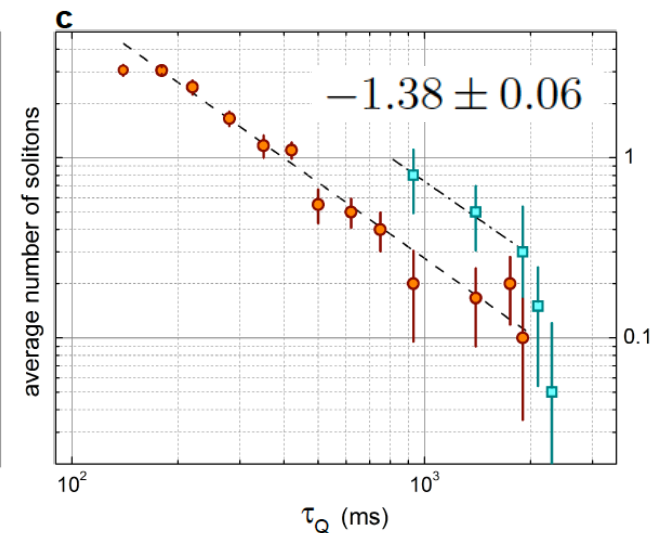
# Soliton formation

BEC in cigar-shaped traps

Experiment @ Trento: Nature Physics **9**, 656 (2013)



4/3 Inhomogeneous KZM



Unknown exact value of the dynamic critical exponent “z”

Power-law scaling consistent with the IKZM

# Vortex antivortex formation in ferrofluids

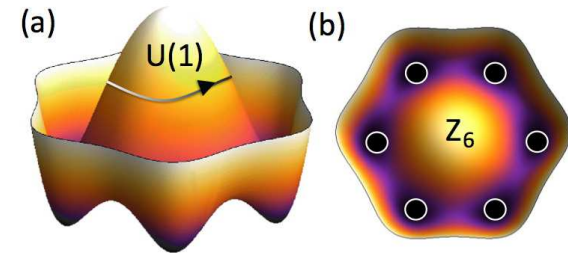


# Multiferroics

Multiple ferroic orders in hexagonal manganites

RE<sub>2</sub>MnO<sub>3</sub>

Thermal ferroelectric transition ~1700 K



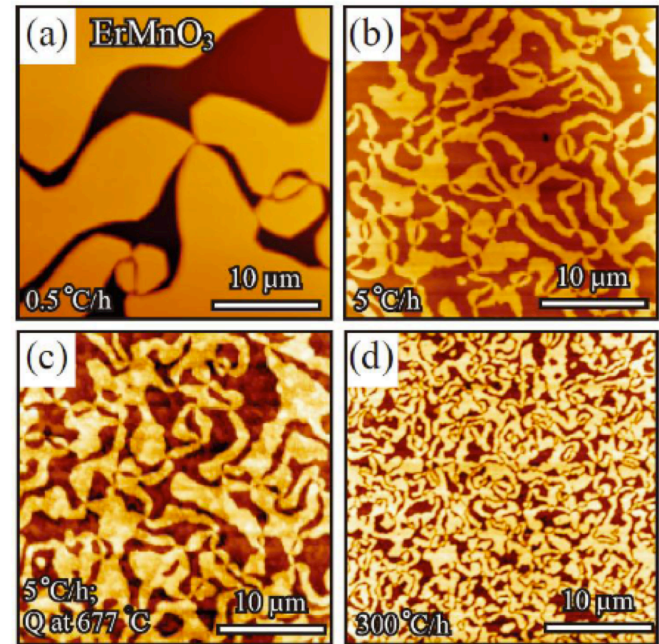
vortex-antivortex domain patterns

simulation:

2D six-state clock model

$$\mathcal{H} = J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) + J' \sum_{\langle\langle i,j \rangle\rangle} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

$$\theta_j = n2\pi / 6 \quad (0 \leq n \leq 5); \quad J, J' < 0$$

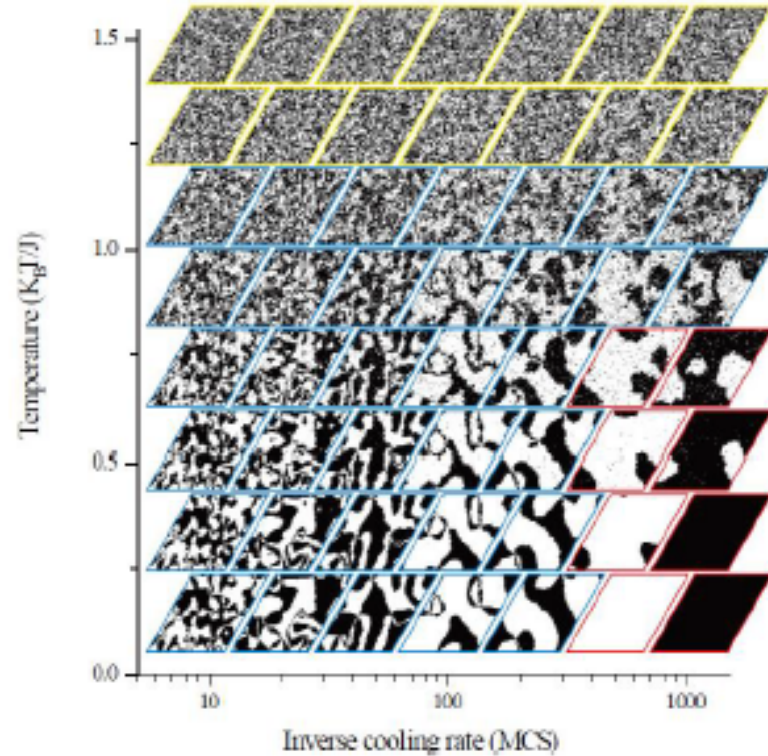
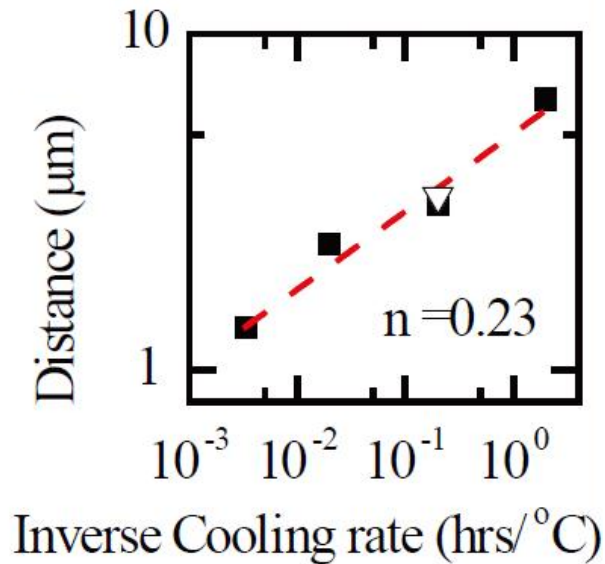


S. C. Chae, N. Lee, Y. Horibe, M. Tanimura, S. Mori, B. Gao, S. Carr, and S-W. Cheong, Phys. Rev. Lett. 108, 167603 (2012).

S. M. Griffin, M. Lilienblum, K. Delaney, Y. Kumagai, M. Fiebig, N. A. Spaldin, Phys. Rev. X 2, 041022 (2012)

# Multiferroics

power law exponent  
KZM prediction: 0.3  
Measured: 0.23

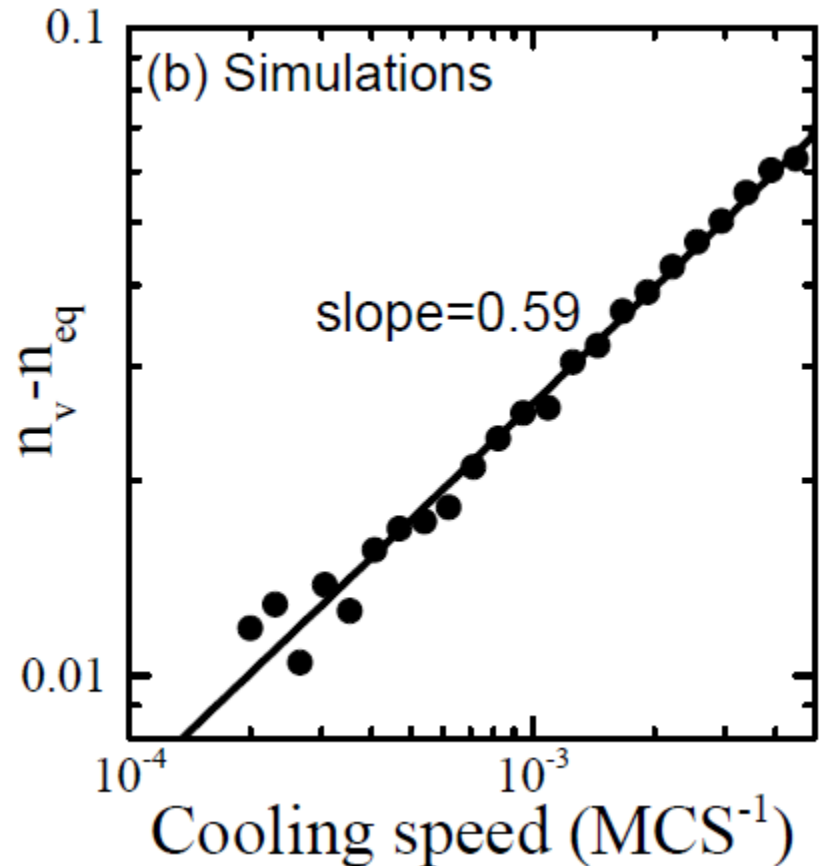
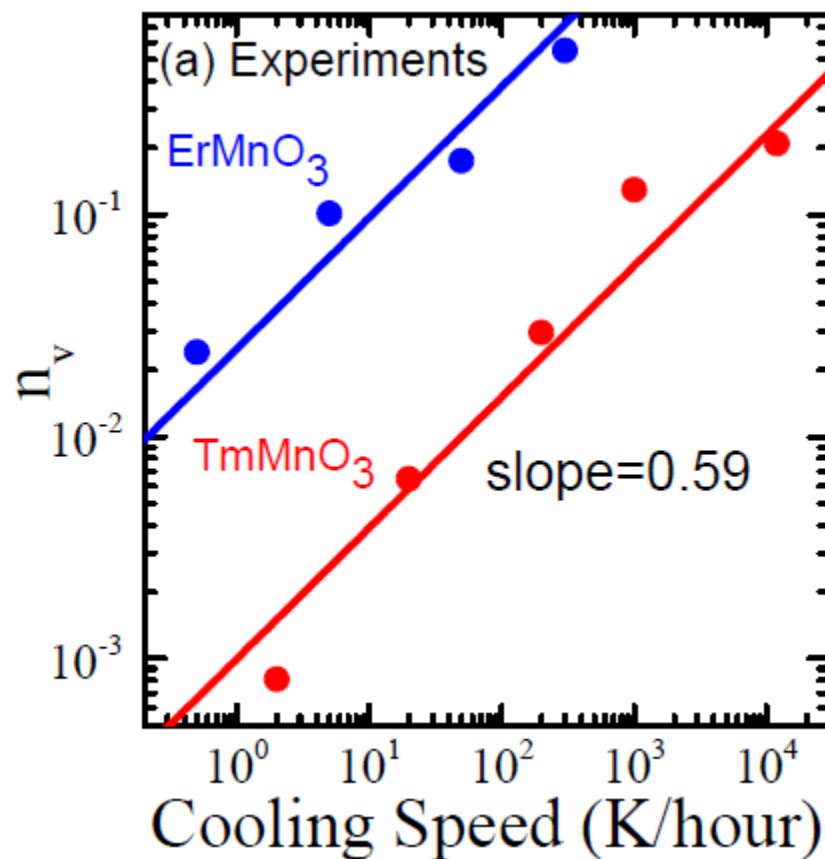


## Issues:

Unknown order of the transition

Long thermal quenches ( $\sim$ hours) hard to control (inhomogeneous cooling)

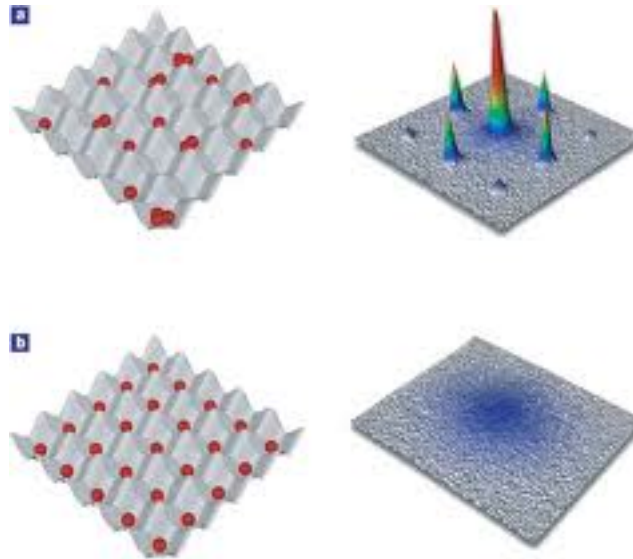
# Ongoing work - Multiferroics



3D XY universality, exponent for vortex density:  $2\nu / (1 + z\nu) \approx 0.6$

$z$  depends on the dynamics. Microscopic dynamics of RMnO<sub>3</sub> is expected to be local. We use the local Glauber dynamics in the simulations,  $z \approx 2$ .

# Nonequilibrium dynamics across the Mott insulator-superfluid transition



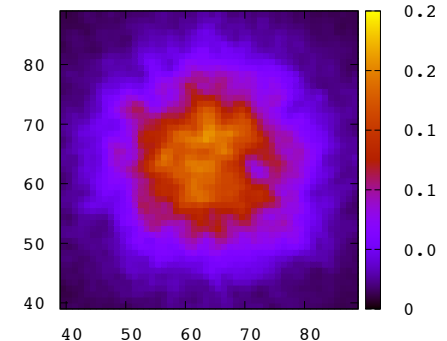
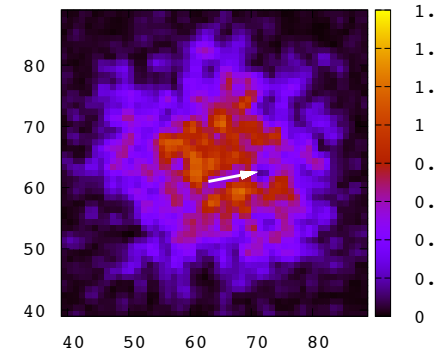
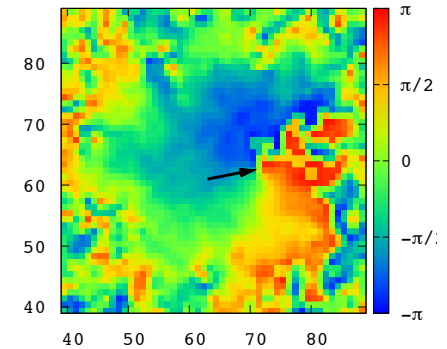
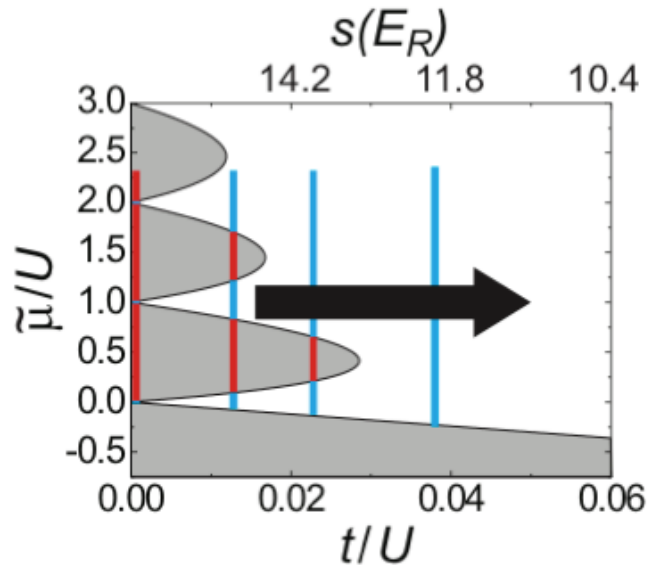


# Vortex formation in Mott Insulator-SF transition

Bose-Hubbard model

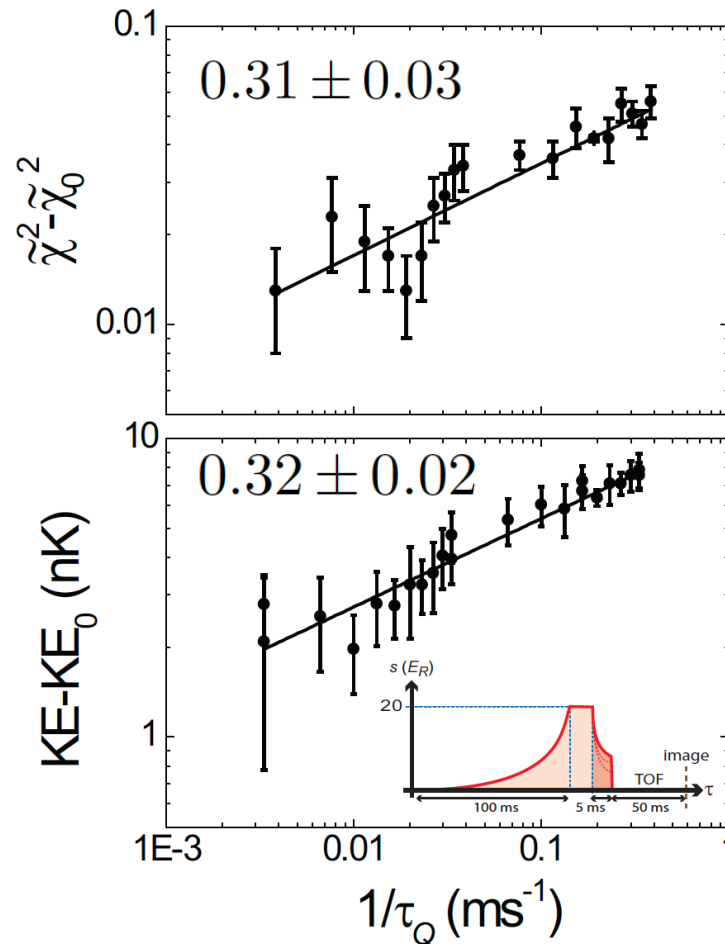
$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{BH} = - \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} J_{ij} (\hat{b}_i^\dagger \hat{b}_j + h.c.) + \frac{U}{2} \sum_i \hat{n}_i (\hat{n}_i - 1) - \mu \sum_i \hat{n}_i$$

Quenching  
the optical  
lattice depth



# Experiment: Mott Insulator-SF transition

Bose-Hubbard model



$$1/\tau_Q^{3\nu/(\nu z + 1)}$$

$$1/\tau_Q^{3/4}$$

Inhomogeneous, multiple crossing points in space, finite-size,  
 Indirect measurement of defects/excitations, unknown critical exponents

D. Chen, M. White, C. Borries, B. DeMarco, Phys. Rev. Lett. 106, 235304

# Summary

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**We have witnessed a flurry of experiments in 2012-2013**

**New ingredients: finite-size, inhomogeneous systems, etc.**

**Crystal clear conclusive experiments are still to be done**

- Technical experimental problems**
- Tests of equilibrium properties before studying nonequilibrium**

**High power law exponents to be explained**

**Onset of adiabatic dynamics**

# Collaborators

@ LANL

W. H. Zurek (T-4)

S. Kirmizialtin (T-6)

T. W. B. Kibble (Imperial College)

Ion traps

Experiments: T. E. Mehlstaubler's group

M. B. Plenio (Ulm)

A. Retzker (Jerusalem)

G. De Chiara (Belfast)

G. Morigi (Saarland)



Interested in visiting LANL?  
CNLS colloquium  
Quantum Seminar

A black and white photograph of a person walking across a vast, white sand dune landscape. The person is silhouetted against the bright sand and is walking away from the camera towards the horizon. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The dunes are smooth and undulating, creating a sense of vastness and solitude.

**Thanks  
for your  
attention!!**

