

# Snaking of localized time-dependent oscillations

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Joint work with Hannes Uecker, Nicolas Verschueren,  
Saar Modai and Arik Yochelis

ICERM, Providence, 27 April 2026

# Wall and bulk modes in the Swift-Hohenberg equation

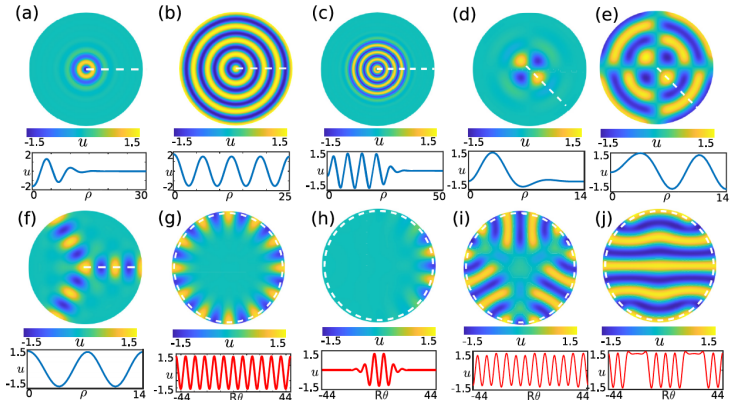
The Swift-Hohenberg equation RSHE35 on a disk

$$\partial_t u = \epsilon u + \nu u^3 - u^5 - (q^2 + \Delta)^2 u,$$

with  $\nabla u \cdot \hat{n}|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$ ,  $\nabla(\Delta u) \cdot \hat{n}|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$  is a gradient system on  $\Omega$  and hence possesses only steady states as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ :

VERSCHUEREN, KNOBLOCH, AND UECKER

PHYSICAL REVIEW E **104**, 014208 (2021)



# RSHE35: Eigenfunctions of the $u = 0$ solution

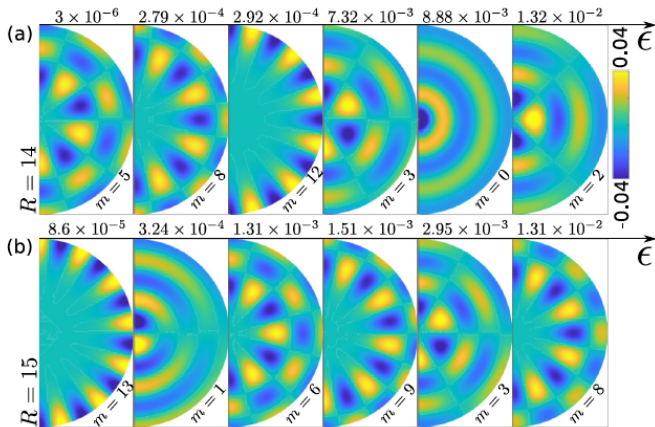
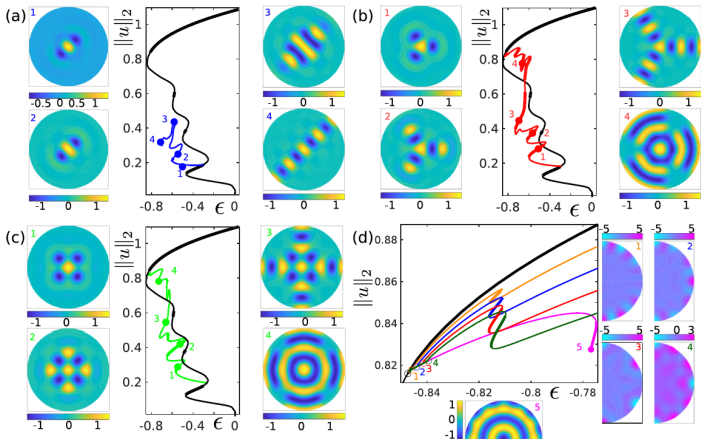


FIG. 3. The first six eigenfunctions on the half disk predicted by linear stability analysis of the  $u = 0$  state when (a)  $R = 14$  and (b)  $R = 15$ . The eigenfunctions are sorted according to the eigenvalues  $\epsilon$ . In each case,  $\epsilon$  and the corresponding azimuthal number  $m$  are specified.

# RSHE35: Wall and bulk modes with symmetry $D_m$

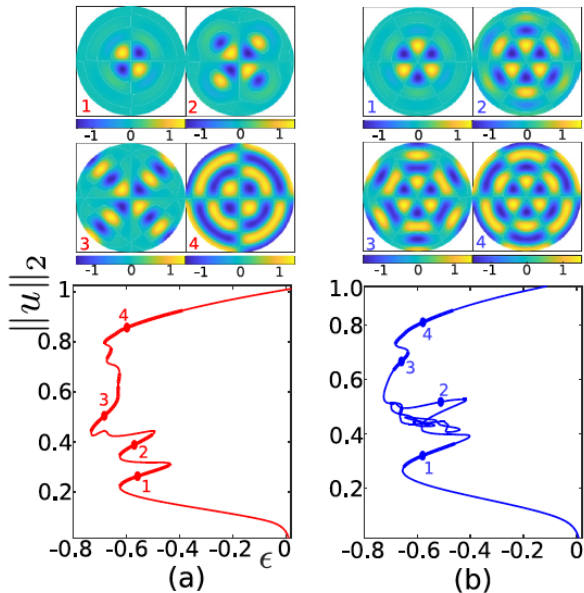
VERSCHUEREN, KNOBLOCH, AND UECKER

PHYSICAL REVIEW E **104**, 014208 (2021)

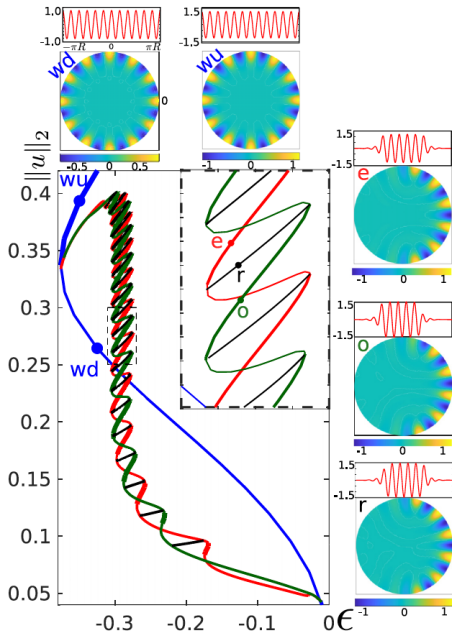


Verschueren et al., PRE **104**, 014208 (2021)

# RSHE35: Wall and bulk modes with symmetry $D_m^-$



# RSHE35: Wall modes and homoclinic snaking



Burke and Knobloch, *Chaos*  
**17**, 037102 (2007)

Beck et al., *SIAM J. Math. Anal.* **41**, 936 (2009)

Verschueren et al., *PRE*  
**104**, 014208 (2021)

# Complex Swift-Hohenberg equation in 1D and 2D

The complex Swift-Hohenberg equation CSHE35

$$\partial_t u = (\lambda + i\nu)u - (c_3 + i\gamma)|u|^2 u - |u|^4 u - (1 + \Delta)^2 u + i\delta\Delta u,$$

with  $u = u(x, t) \in \mathcal{C}$  and coefficients  $\lambda, \nu, \delta, c_3, \gamma \in \mathcal{R}$ , is not a gradient system and so admits oscillations. We consider two cases

$$\Omega_1 = [-\ell/2, \ell/2), \quad \Omega_2 = \{\mathbf{x} = r(\cos \vartheta, \sin \vartheta) : r \in [0, R], \vartheta \in [-\pi, \pi)\}.$$

with periodic boundary conditions (pBCs) on  $\Omega_1$

$$\partial_x^j u(-\ell/2) = \partial_x^j u(\ell/2), \quad j = 0, \dots, 3$$

for a domain of length  $\ell$ , and Neumann boundary conditions (NBCs)

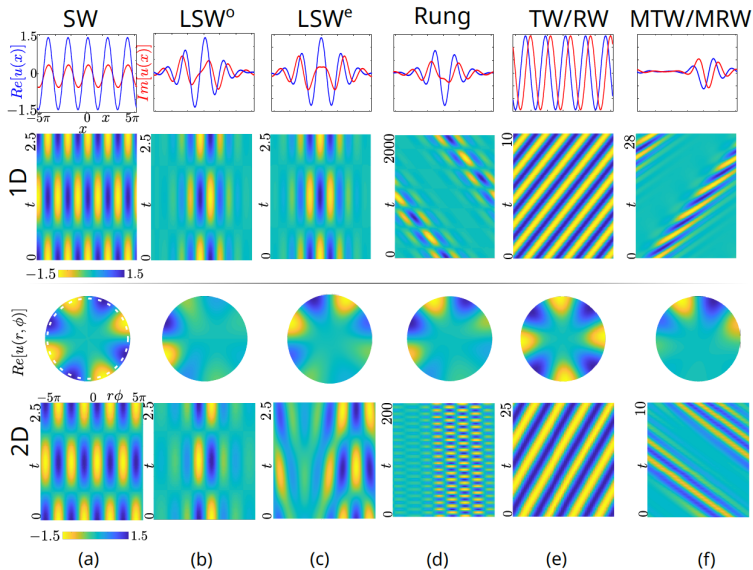
$$\nabla u \cdot \hat{n}|_{\partial\Omega_2} = 0, \quad \nabla(\Delta u) \cdot \hat{n}|_{\partial\Omega_2} = 0$$

on  $\Omega_2$ . Here  $\hat{n}$  represents the outward unit normal.

The equation is solved using `pde2path` written by Hannes Uecker.

# Complex Swift-Hohenberg equation in 1D and 2D

We are interested in the following solution types:



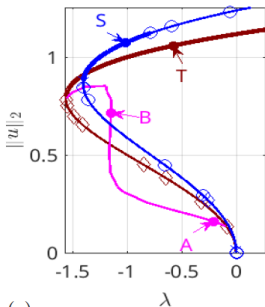
# Complex Swift-Hohenberg equation in 1D and 2D

[TABLE I. Solution classes, symmetries, and acronyms; in 2D (second block) we use  $(r, \vartheta)$  for the polar coordinates on the disk.

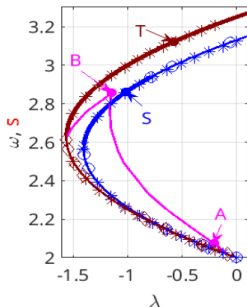
Type	order	origin, form and symmetries
TW	prim.	traveling wave, bifurcating from $u \equiv 0$ , $u_{\text{TW}}(x, t) = \alpha e^{i(kx - \omega_{\text{TW}}t)}$ , see (5); $ u $ constant in space and time, relative equilibrium in comoving frame with speed $s = \omega_{\text{TW}}/k$ .
SW	prim.	standing wave, bifurcating from $u \equiv 0$ , $u_{\text{SW}}(x, t) = v(x)e^{-i\omega_{\text{SW}}t}$ , see (34); $ u $ constant in time, relative equilibrium in gauge rotating frame.
MTW	second.	modulated TW, bifurcating from TWs, $u_{\text{MTW}}(x, t) = v(x - s_2t)e^{i(kx - \omega t)}$ , see (37), but (numerically) computed as relative PO in frame with (average) speed $s$ ; $ u $ constant in time in frame moving with speed $s_2$ , with $s_2 = \mathcal{O}(1)$ in general, in particular at onset.
LSW	second.	localized standing wave, bifurcating from SWs, same form as SW, with spatially localized $v$ .
LDW	tert.	localized drifting wave, $u_{\text{LDW}}(x, t) = v(x - st)e^{-i\omega t}$ , bifurcating from LSWs in a drift bifurcation, i.e., with speed $s = 0$ at onset; relative equilibrium in comoving and gauge rotating frame.
2-freq.LSW	tert.	two-frequency LSW, bifurcating from LSWs, $u(x, t) = v(x, t)e^{-i\omega t}$ with $v$ periodic in time with period $T > 0$ , $ u $ not constant in space or time. Similarly for 2-freq. SWs, which bifurcate from SWs.
RW	prim.	rotating wave, bifurcating from $u \equiv 0$ , $u_{\text{RW}}(x, t) = v(r)e^{i(m\vartheta - \omega_{\text{RW}}t)}$ , see (9); $ u $ constant in $\vartheta, t$ , relative equilibrium in corotating frame with speed $s = \omega_{\text{RW}}/m$ .
SW	prim.	standing wave, bifurcating from $u \equiv 0$ , like 1D (dimension-indep.), $u_{\text{SW}}(x, t) = v(x)e^{-i\omega_{\text{SW}}t}$ , see (34).
MRW	second.	modulated RW, bifurcating from RWs, $u_{\text{MRW}}(x, t) = v(r, \vartheta - s_2t)e^{i(m\vartheta - \omega_{\text{RW}}t)}$ , but (numerically) computed as relative PO in frame rotating with (average) speed $s$ ; $ u $ constant in time in frame rotating with speed $s_2$ .
LSW	second.	localized SW, bifurcating from SWs, with $v(x)$ localized in angle $\vartheta$ .
LDW	tert.	as in 1D, bifurcating from LSWs, with drift in $\vartheta$ .
2-freq.LSW	tert.	two-frequency LSW, as in 1D, bifurcating from LSWs.

# Complex Swift-Hohenberg equation in 1D: MTW

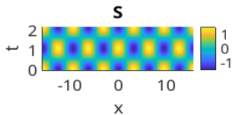
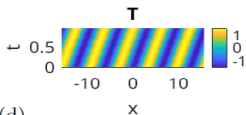
(a)



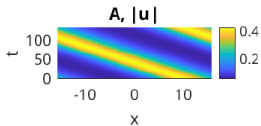
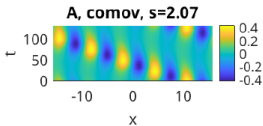
(b)



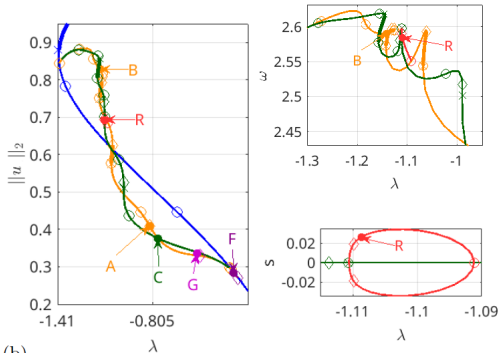
(c)



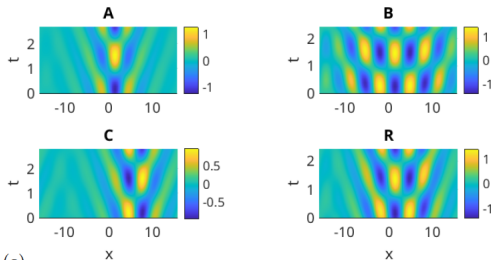
(d)



# Complex Swift-Hohenberg equation in 1D: LSW

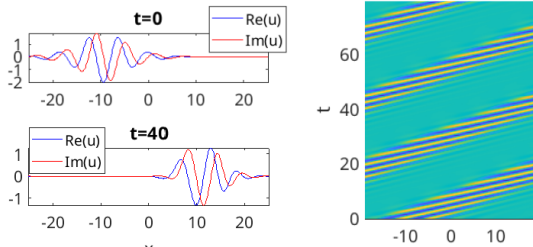
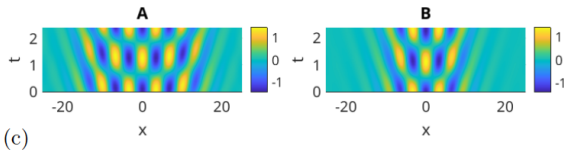
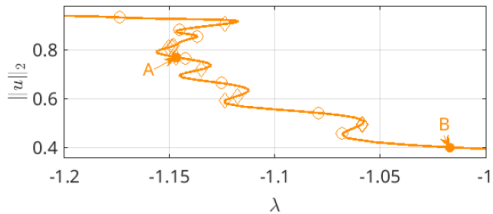


(b)

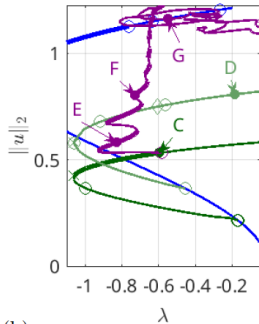


(c)

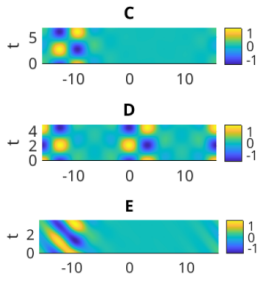
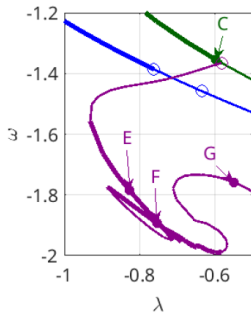
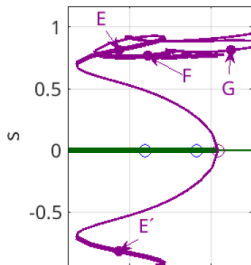
# CSHE35: LSW and MTW



# CSHE35: LSWs and DLSW

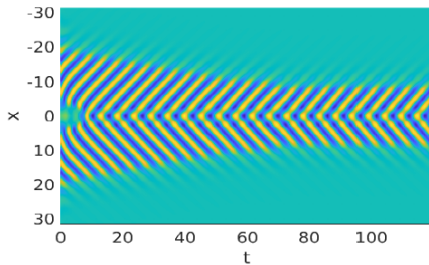
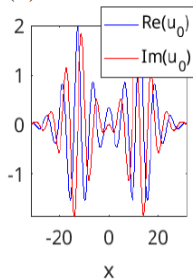


(b)

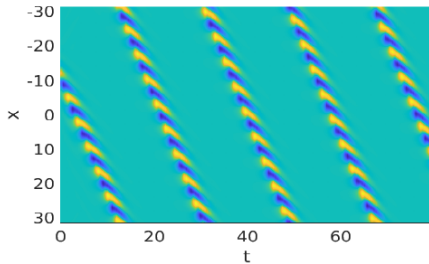
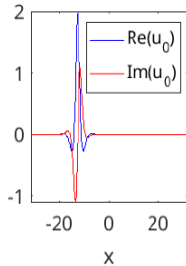


# CSHE35: DNS on a larger domain

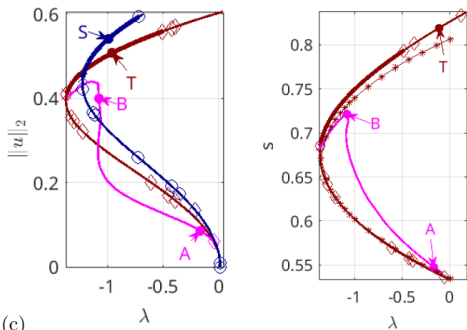
(a)



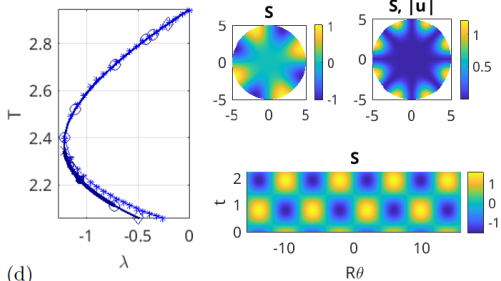
(b)



# CSHE35 on a disk: RW and SW

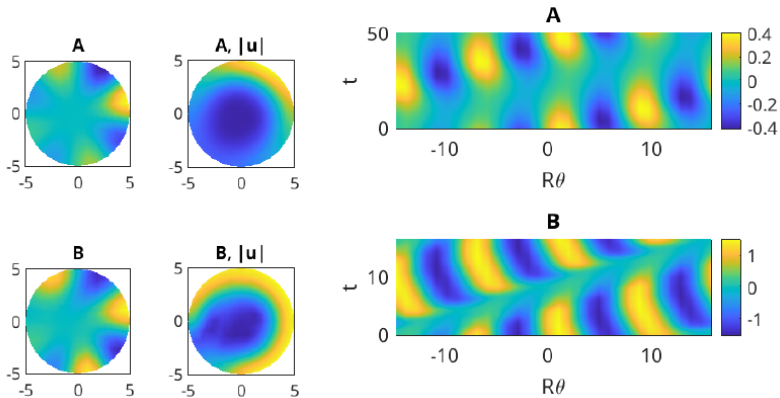


(c)



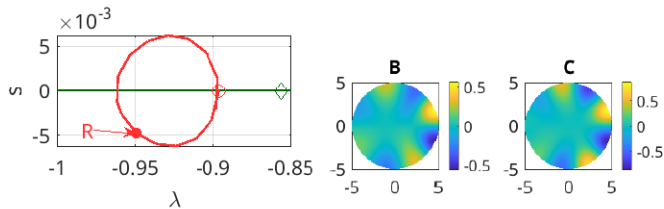
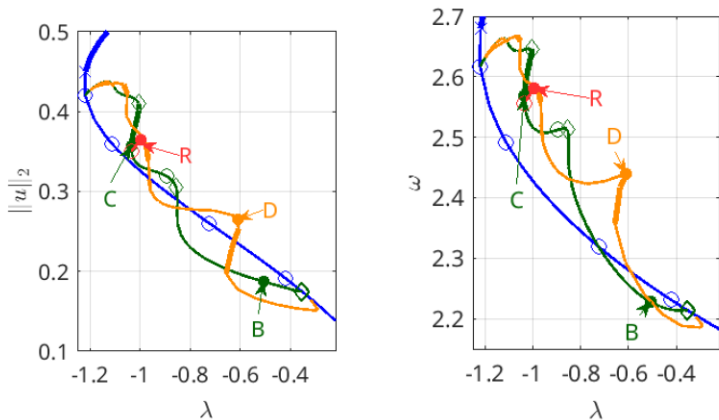
(d)

# CSHE35 on a disk: LRW

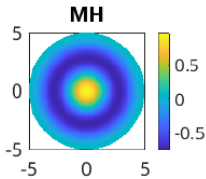
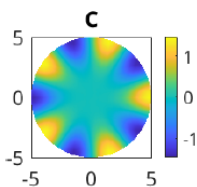
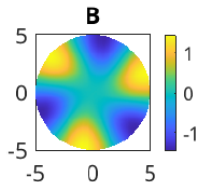
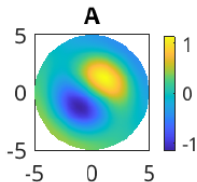
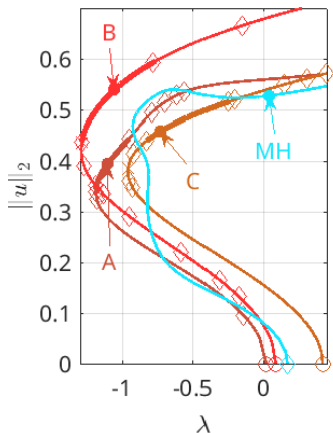


Uecker et al., preprint

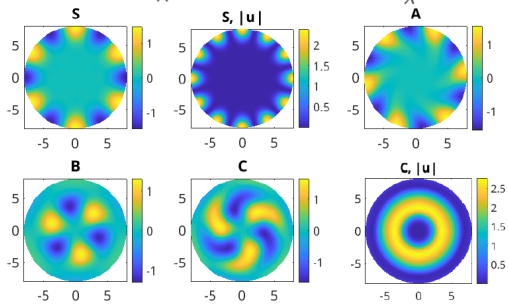
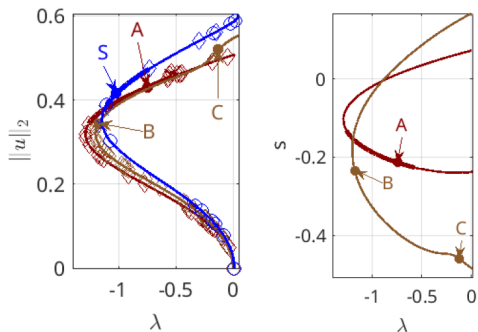
# CSHE35 on a disk: LSW and rungs



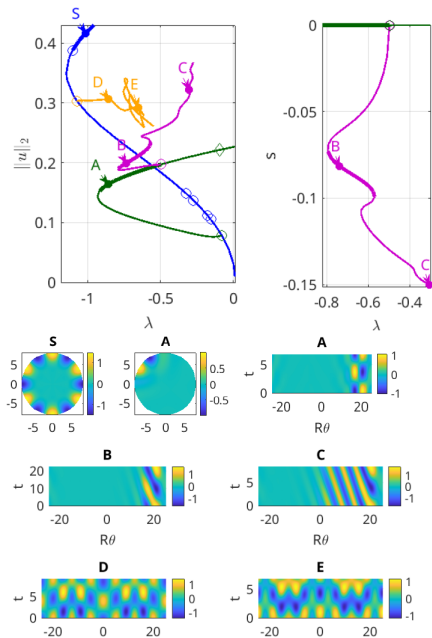
# CSHE35 on a disk: wall and bulk states



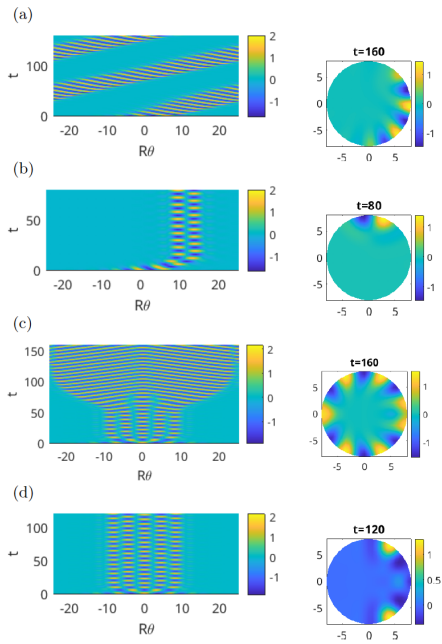
# CSHE35 on a disk: wall and bulk states



# CSHE35 on a disk: wall states



# CSHE35 on a disk: DNS

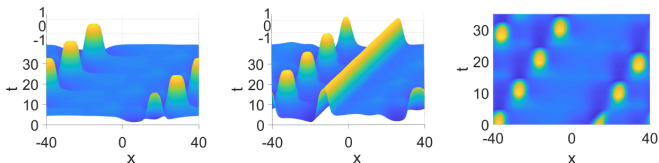


# Reaction-diffusion system

Purwins model

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t u &= k_1 + k_2 u - u^3 - k_3 v - k_4 w + D_u \nabla^2 u, \\ \theta \partial_t v &= u - v + D_v \nabla^2 v, \\ \vartheta \partial_t w &= u - w + D_w \nabla^2 w,\end{aligned}$$

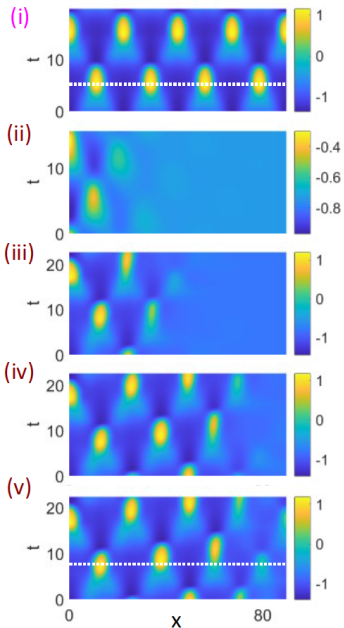
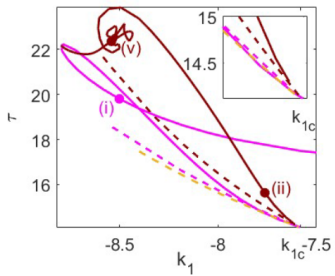
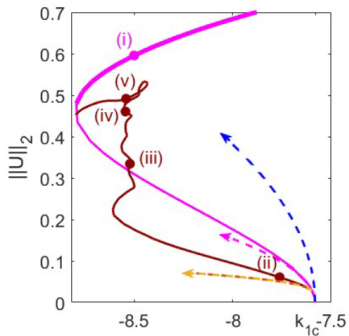
subject to NBCs. We are interested in solutions in the form of jumping oscillons (JOs)



**Figure 1.** Space-time profiles of a jumping oscillon (1JO, left panel), a bound pair of a jumping oscillon and a traveling pulse (1JP-1TP, middle panel) and a bound pair of jumping oscillons (2JO, right panel). Reused from [29].

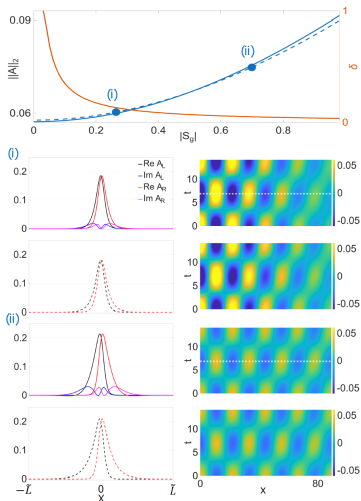
Wave instability occurs at  $k_1 = -7.585$  and creates subcritical TW/SW. Are the JOs related to this instability?

# SW and LSW

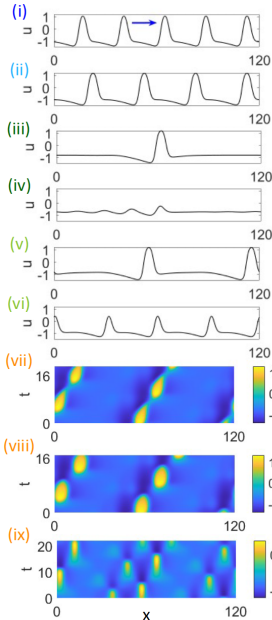
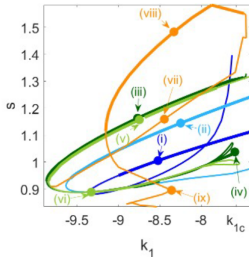
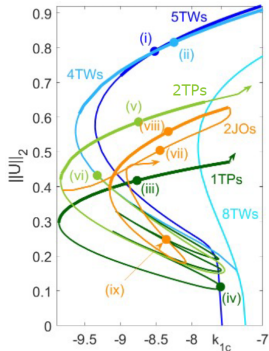


# Weakly nonlinear theory: CCGLE with $S_g \neq 0$

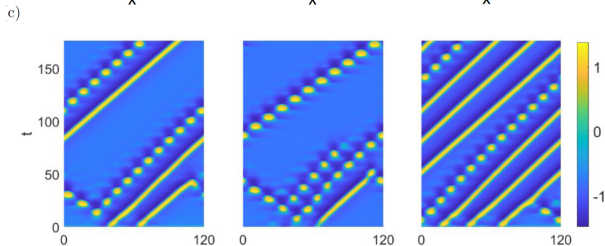
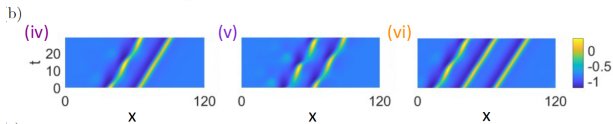
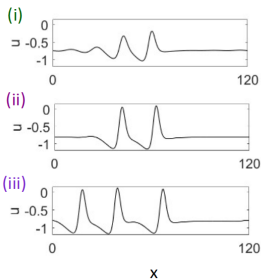
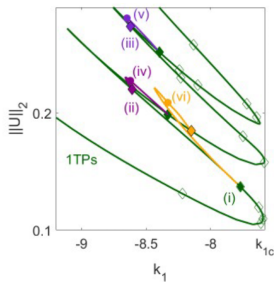
We use an exact solution of the CCGLE for  $S_g = 0$ ,  
 $A_{LSW} = \Lambda e^{i\Omega_{LSW}t} \text{sech}^{1+i\Theta} Kx$ , to initialize continuation in the  
 group velocity  $S_g$ :



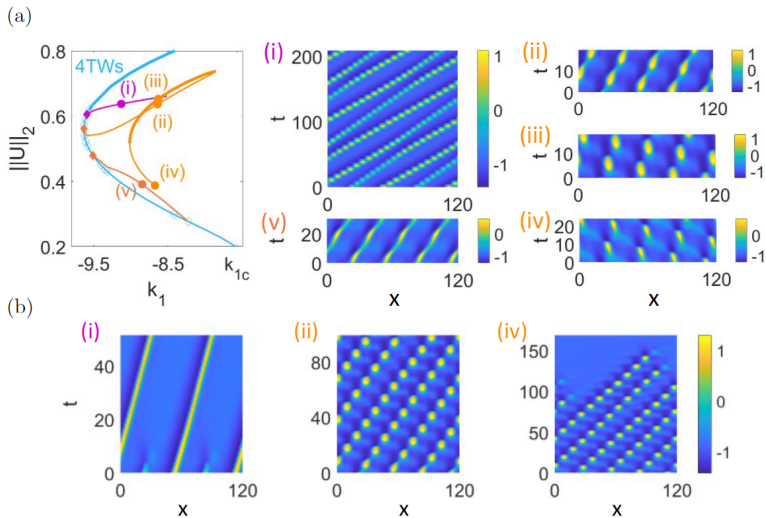
# Traveling pulses and JOs



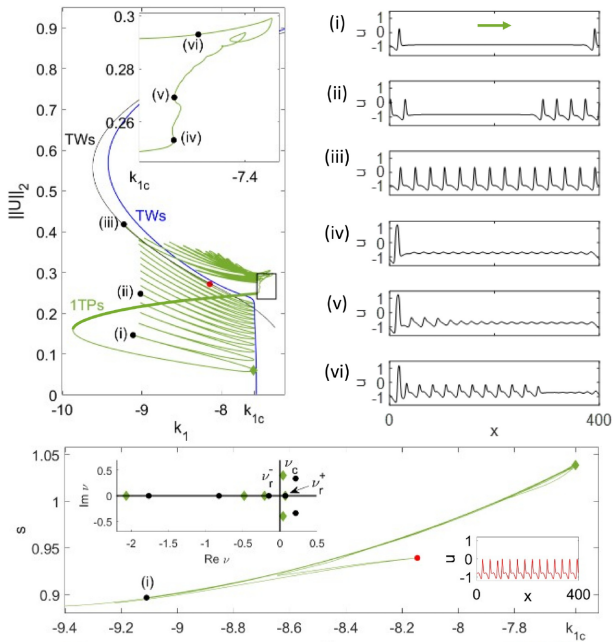
# Snaking of traveling pulses and DNS



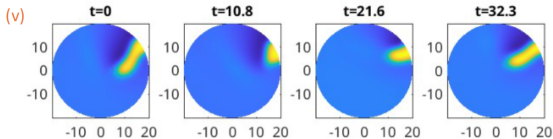
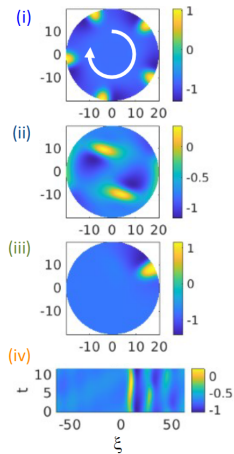
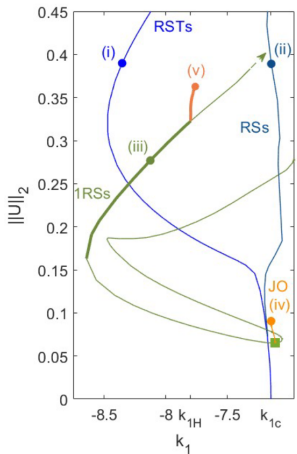
# Snaking of traveling pulses



# Snaking of traveling pulses: large domain

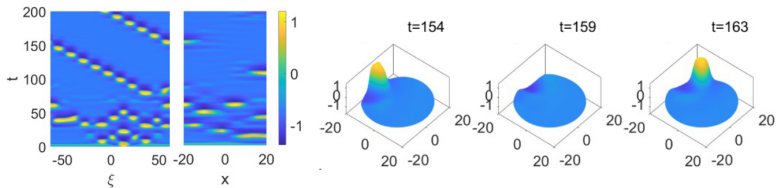


# Purwins model on a disk: $R = 20$

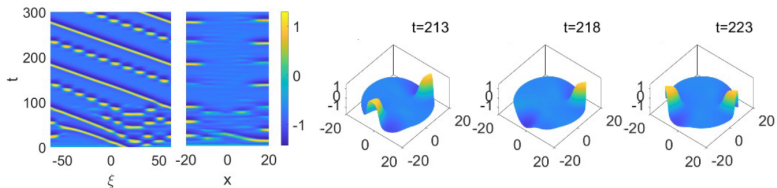


# DNS on a disk: $R = 20$

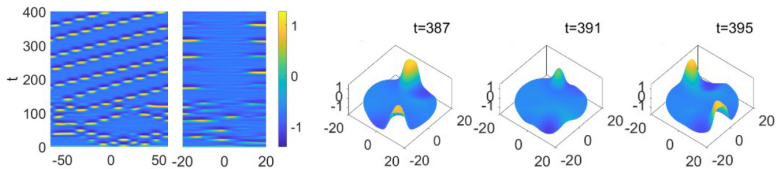
(a)



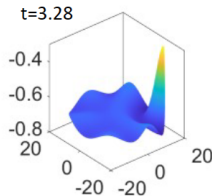
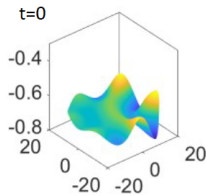
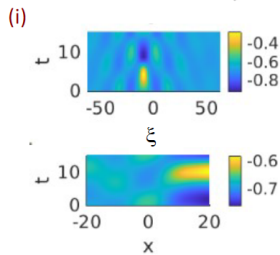
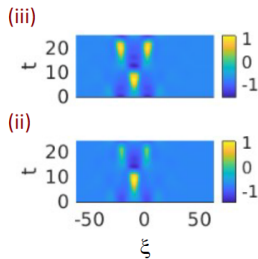
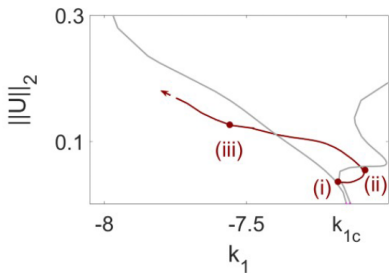
(b)



(c)

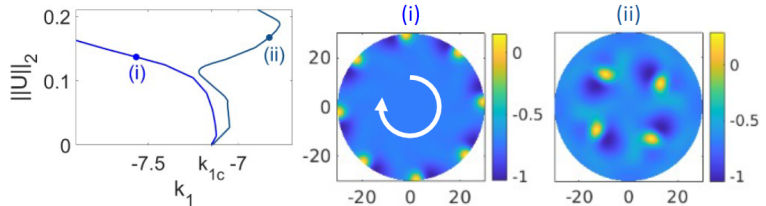


# Oscillating wall spot: $R = 20$

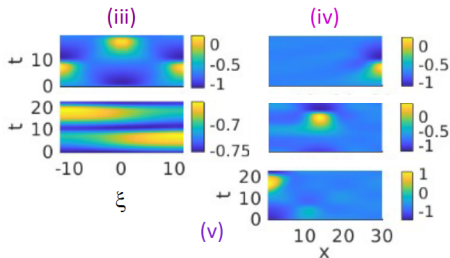
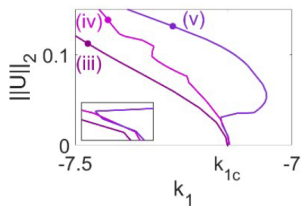


# Bifurcation diagram on a disk: $R = 30$

Rotating (blue) and standing (pink) spot arrays:



(b)

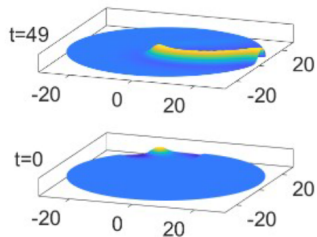
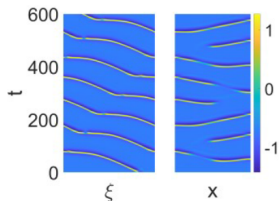


(c)

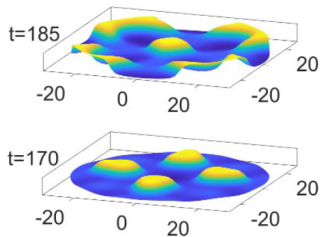
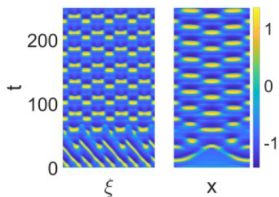
# DNS on a disk: $R = 30$

Wall-bulk rotating and oscillating states:

(a)

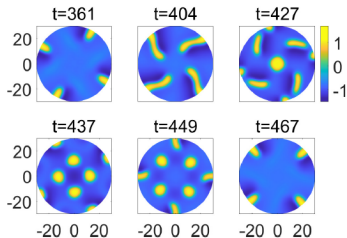


(b)

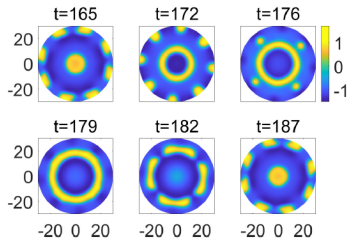


Oscillations with (a) stable, (b) unstable bulk:

(a)



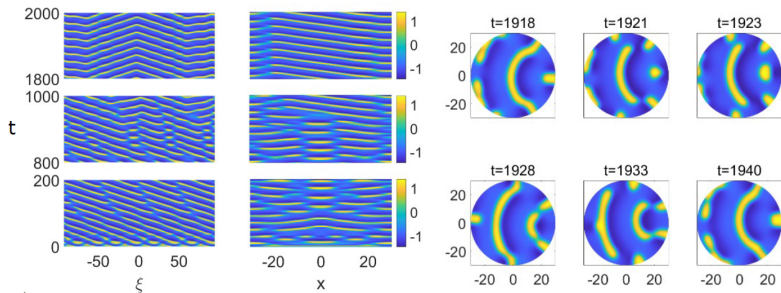
(b)



Knobloch et al., preprint

# DNS on a disk: $R = 30$

Oscillations with unstable bulk ( $k_1 = -7.0 > k_{1c}$ ):



Knobloch et al., preprint

# Convection is a spinning cylinder: wall modes precess



Fig. 4. - Shadowgraph image of the  $m = 5$  state for  $\Omega = 2145$  and  $\varepsilon = 2.6$ . The entire pattern precesses in the rotating frame at constant velocity.

Zhong et al., PRL**67** 2473 (1991); Ecke et al., EPL **19**, 177 (1992).

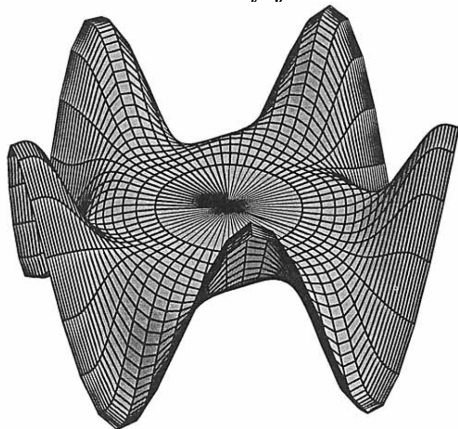


FIGURE 2. A plot of  $\Theta$  ( $z = \frac{1}{2}$ ) for an  $m = 5$  fast mode at  $\Omega = 500$ ,  $\sigma = 7.0$  in a  $\Gamma = 1$  cylinder, for boundary conditions A. For this mode  $R_c^{(5)} = 35989.6$ ,  $\omega_c^{(5)} = 26.884$ .

Goldstein et al., JFM **248**, 583 (1993)

# Linear theory: wall modes precess

590

*H. F. Goldstein, E. Knobloch, I. Mercader and M. Net*

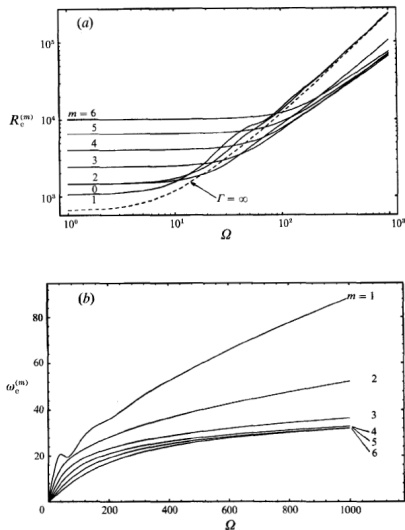
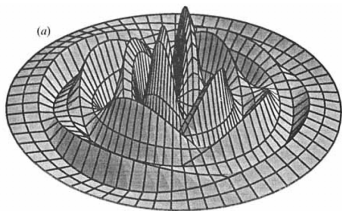
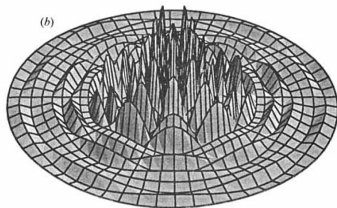


FIGURE 1. The linear stability results for the fast modes in a  $\Gamma = 1$  cylinder with boundary conditions A and  $\sigma = 7.0$ . (a) The critical Rayleigh number  $R_v^{(m)}$  and (b) the onset precession frequency  $\omega_c^{(m)}$  as functions of the rotation rate  $\Omega$  for several different values of the azimuthal wavenumber  $m$ . The dashed line in (a) indicates the corresponding result for an unbounded plane layer (Chandrasekhar 1961).

# Linear theory: bulk modes also precess

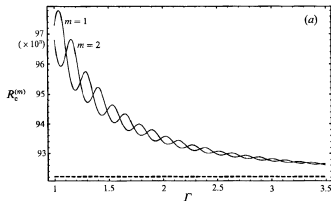
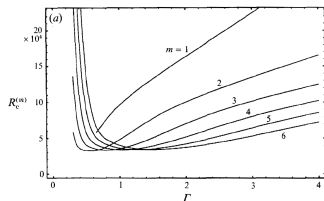


$$m = 2, \Gamma = 1.84$$

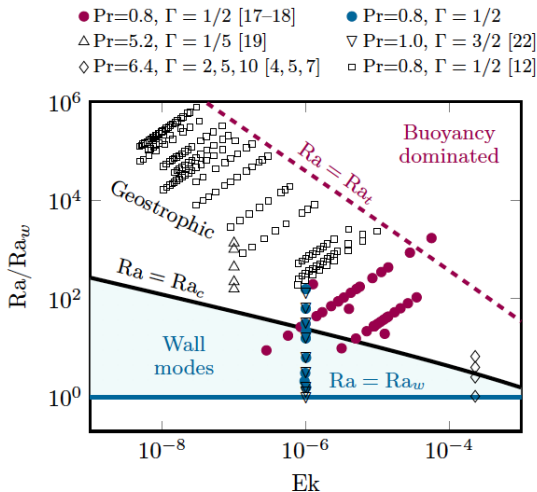


$$m = 5, \Gamma = 4.39$$

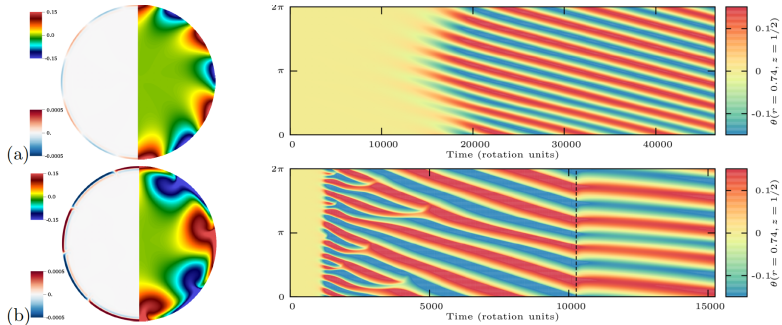
The wall and bulk modes display very different behavior with respect to the domain aspect ratio  $\Gamma$ :



# Convection in a spinning cylinder: robust boundary flow



# Robust boundary flow: $E = 10^{-6}$ , $\sigma = 1$ , $\Gamma = 1.5$

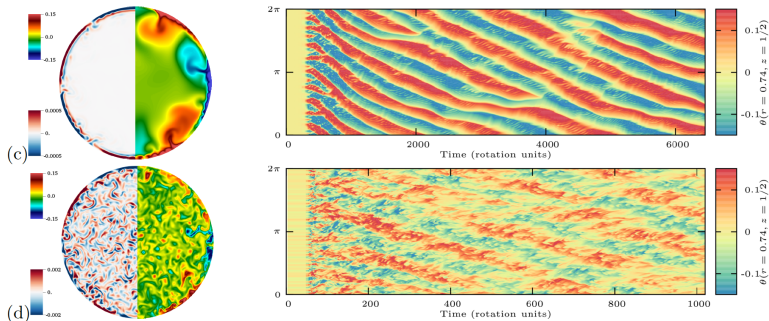


Midplane vertical velocity  $w$  (left) and fluctuating temperature  $\theta$  at  $r = 0.74$  (right) at (a)  $Ra = 5 \times 10^7$  and (b)  $Ra = 2 \times 10^8$ . In (b)  $Ra$  is reduced to  $Ra = 5 \times 10^7$  at the dashed line to demonstrate multistability.

Favier and Knobloch, JFM **895**, R1 (2020)

# Robust boundary flow: $E = 10^{-6}$ , $\sigma = 1$ , $\Gamma = 1.5$

Wall states persist in the presence of a turbulent bulk state in the interior:



Midplane vertical velocity  $w$  (left) and fluctuating temperature  $\theta$  (right) at (c)  $Ra = 5 \times 10^8$  and (d)  $Ra = 2 \times 10^9$ .

Favier and Knobloch, JFM **895**, R1 (2020).

# Robust boundary flow: $E = 10^{-6}$ , $\sigma = 1$ , $\Gamma = 1.5$

Wall states persist in the presence of a vertical barrier:

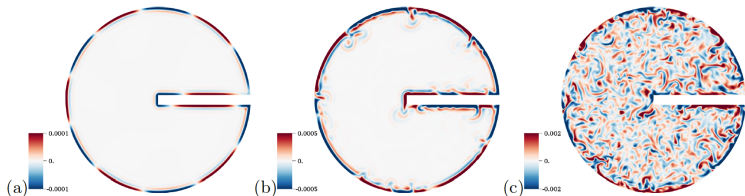


FIGURE 5. Vertical velocity in the mid-plane  $z = 0.5$  for a cylinder with a barrier. The Rayleigh number increases from left to right: (a)  $Ra = 5 \times 10^7$ , (b)  $Ra = 5 \times 10^8$  and (c)  $Ra = 2 \times 10^9$ . Parameters are  $\Gamma = 1.5$ ,  $E = 10^{-6}$  and  $Pr = 1$ .

# Sound waves in chiral systems with odd viscosity

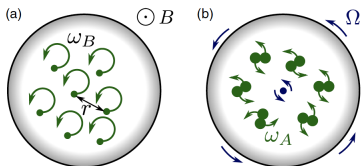


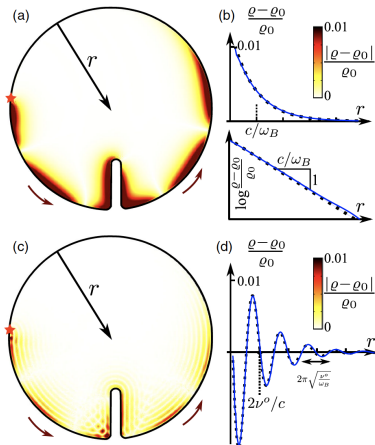
FIG. 1. Physical realizations of the minimal model for topological fluids with odd viscosity. (a) Two-dimensional plasma under magnetic field  $B$ , with cyclotron frequency  $\omega_B = qB/M$ . (b) Chiral active fluid with intrinsic rotation angular frequency  $\omega_A$ , subject to a global rotation with angular frequency  $\omega_B = -2\Omega$ .

penetration depths vanish while the other half retain a finite penetration depth set by the gap size.

*Model.*—Consider the odd Navier-Stokes equations describing a compressible time-reversal and parity violating fluid,

$$\partial_t \rho(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\rho_0 \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (1)$$

$$\partial_t \mathbf{v} = -c^2 \nabla \rho / \rho_0 + \omega_B \mathbf{v}^* + \nu^o \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}^*, \quad (2)$$



# Conclusions

We have exhibited a variety of localized standing and traveling states in two model systems: CSHE35 and the Purwins model. Both support wall and bulk states with similar properties. We constructed bifurcation diagrams for both cases. For this pde2path is an extremely helpful tool. In particular:

- LSW snake much like localized steady states in SHE
- LTW also exhibit snaking
- wall states on a disk closely resemble 1D states but with stronger forcing may interact with bulk states
- DNS starting from unstable states generate new states whose provenance remains unknown

H. Uecker, N. Verschueren and E. Knobloch, Localized dynamic patterns in the complex cubic-quintic Swift-Hohenberg equation in one and two dimensions, Chaos (2026)

E. Knobloch, S.O. Modai, H. Uecker and A. Yochelis, Localized spatiotemporal reaction-diffusion patterns on a line and a disk arising from a subcritical finite wavenumber Hopf instability, arXiv:2603.15161