

Are turbulent puffs and slugs (in pipes) and turbulent plugs (in He-II counterflow) similar ?

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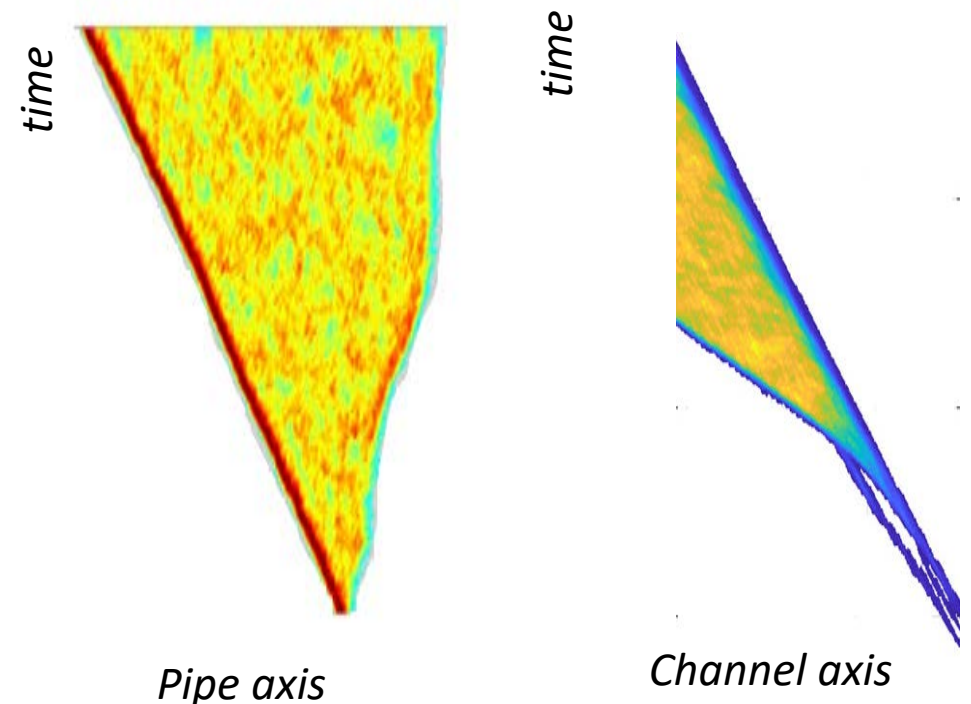
PHYS. REV. B **101**, 134515 (2020)

In classical fluid in pipes and ducts:

The **puffs** are localized turbulent patches that do not expand
The **slugs** are localized turbulent patches that expand

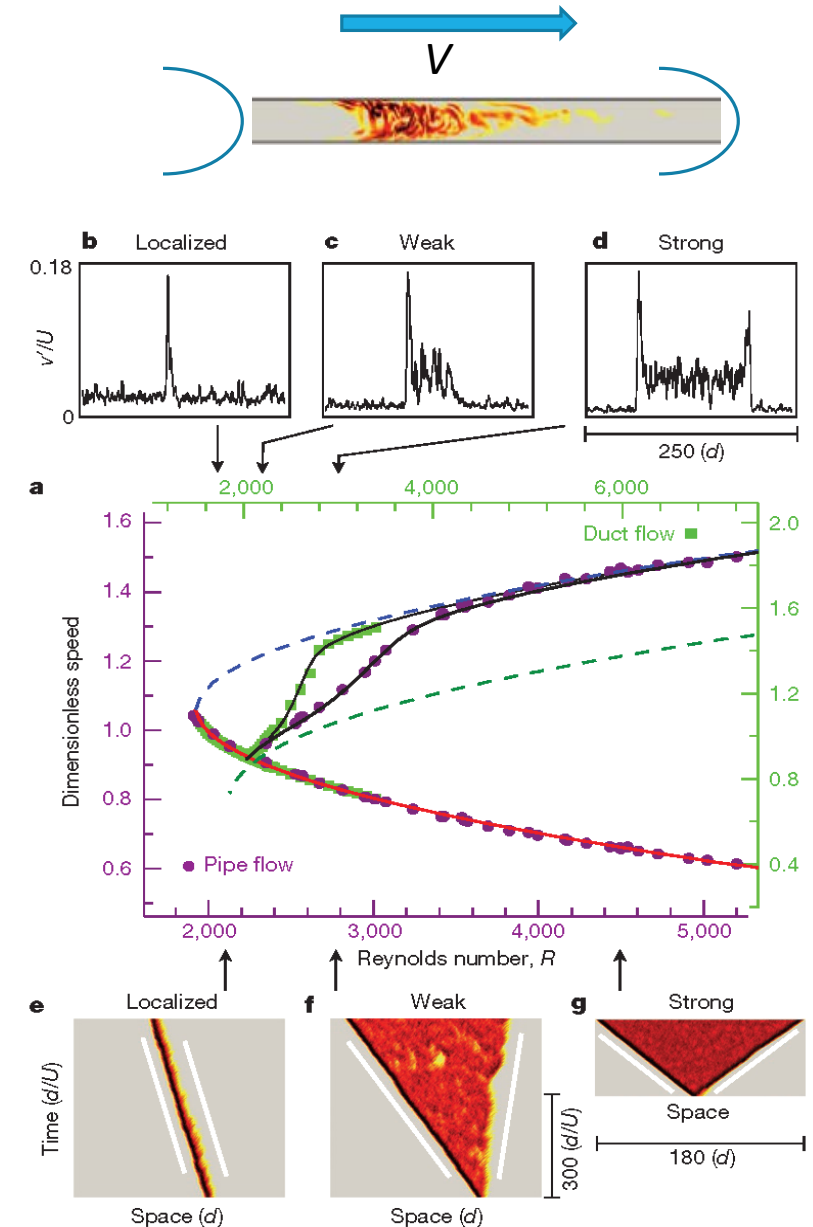
In superfluid He-4

The **plugs** are localized patches of vortex line density –
the turbulent state of superfluid He component



Turbulent fronts in pipes and ducts

- The turbulent intensity peaks at the leading (upstream) front
- At low Re – localized puffs, both fronts have the same speed
- At intermediate Re – growing slugs, mostly due to the upstream (leading) front lagging behind the advecting velocity
- At high Re – both fronts take energy from the flow, front speeds are symmetric around the advection speed
- Nonlinear dependence of on Re



Barkley *et al*, Nature, 15701 (2015)

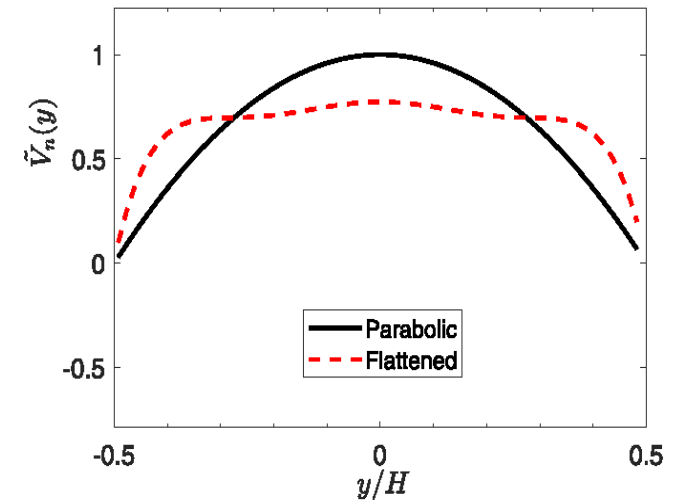
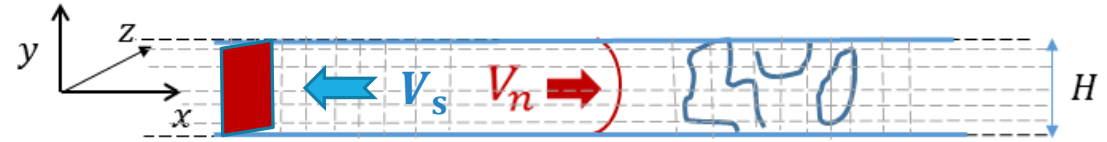
+ many more

Barkley JFM **803**, P1 (2016)

Song *et al*, JFM **813**, 1045 (2017)

He-II channel counterflow – parameters and geometry

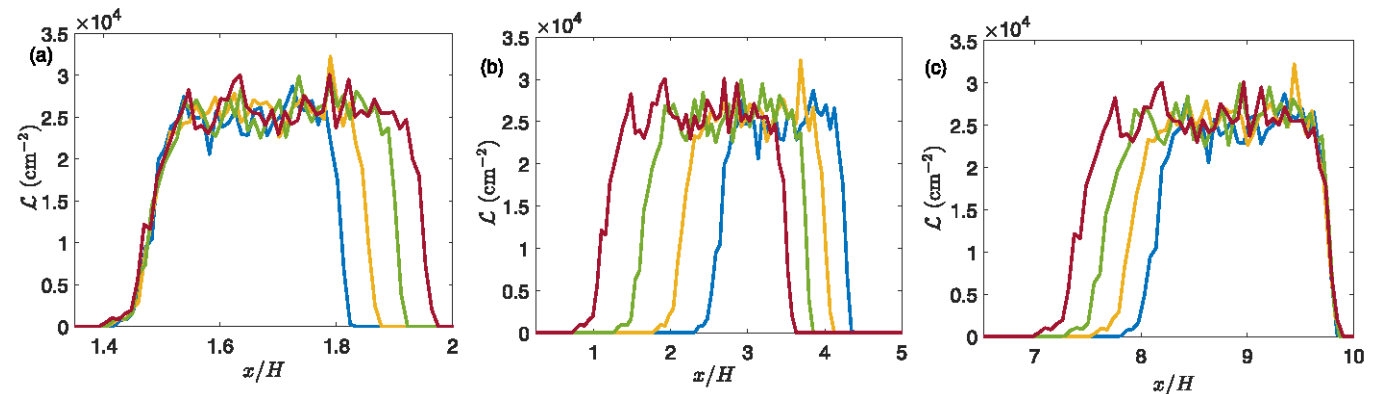
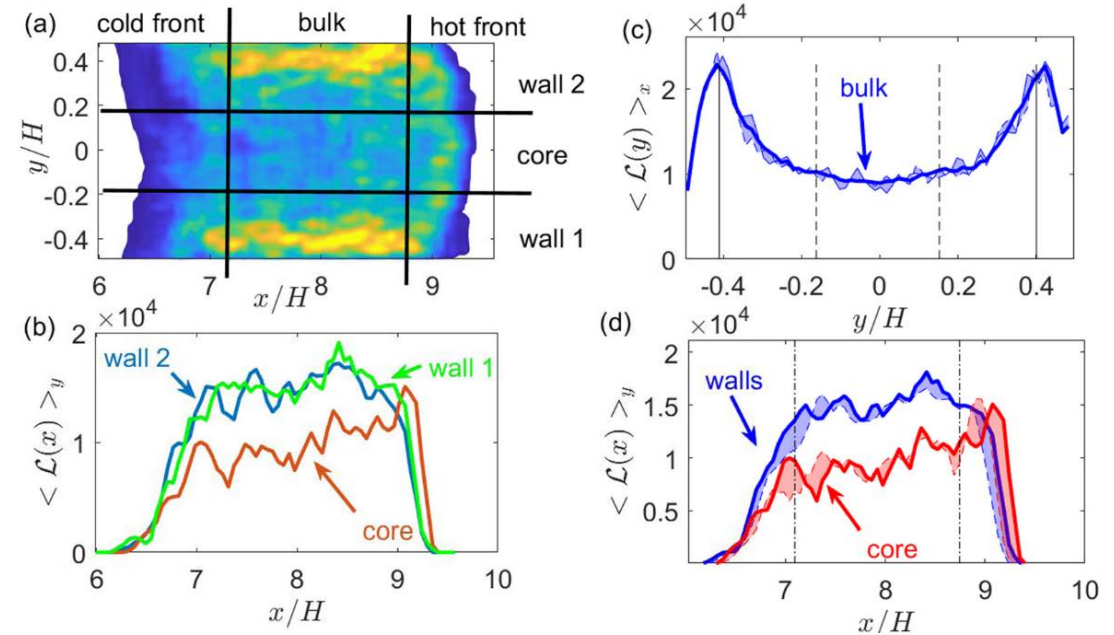
- Long planar channel of a square cross-section
- Imposed laminar normal fluid profile
- Flow in the channel is generated by a thermal gradient
- Zero net mass flux $\rho_n \langle V_n \rangle + \rho_s \langle V_s \rangle = 0$ condition leads to a counterflow – opposite movement of the normal fluid and superfluid
 - At high T the superfluid is faster
 - At low T the normal fluid is faster
- Fully non-local Vortex filament method for quantum vortex dynamics, line resolution $\Delta\xi = 0.001\text{cm}$
- Initial conditions: 8 rings, 4 at the walls, 4 in the bulk, $R_0 \ll H$
- Boundary conditions:
 - open conditions in x -direction
 - periodic conditions in z -direction
 - slip conditions at the solid walls in y -direction



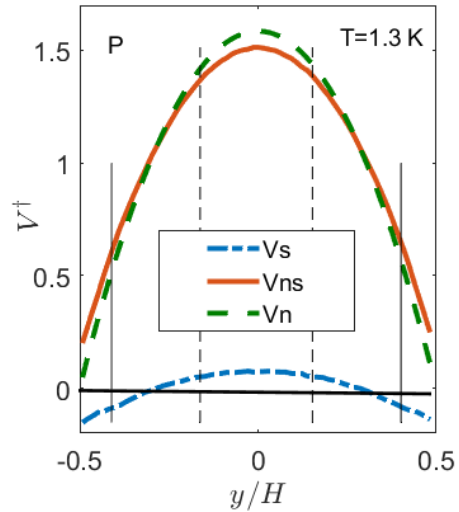
Back reaction of superfluid on the mean normal fluid profile – flattening of $V_n(y)$ profile

Vortex Tangle characterization

- 2D time-dependent maps of various properties are calculated on a course-grained grid $\Delta x = 0.011$ cm, $\Delta y = 0.0015$ cm by integrating over the volume $\Delta x \times \Delta y \times H$ ($H=0.1, 0.15, 0.2$).
- The profiles are calculated by integrating the maps over the bulk (for wall-normal profiles) and over core or wall regions (for stream-wise profiles).
- Front shapes and speeds are obtained by collapse of the tangle edges of last 1 s of evolution.



Vortex Line Density dynamics



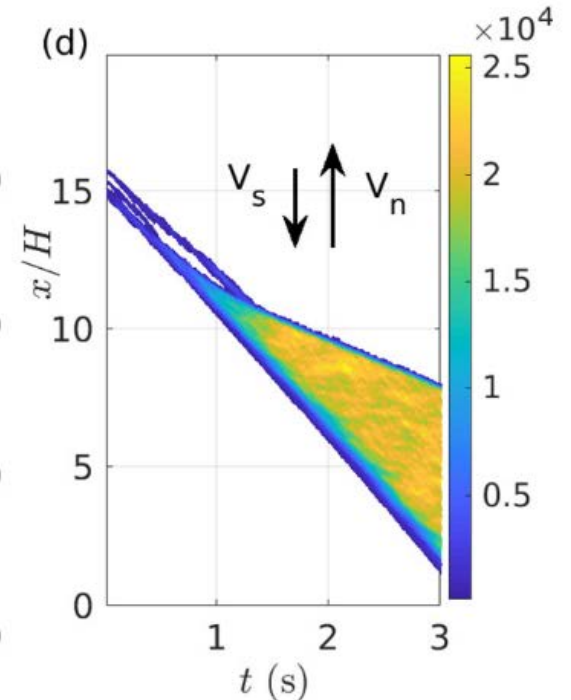
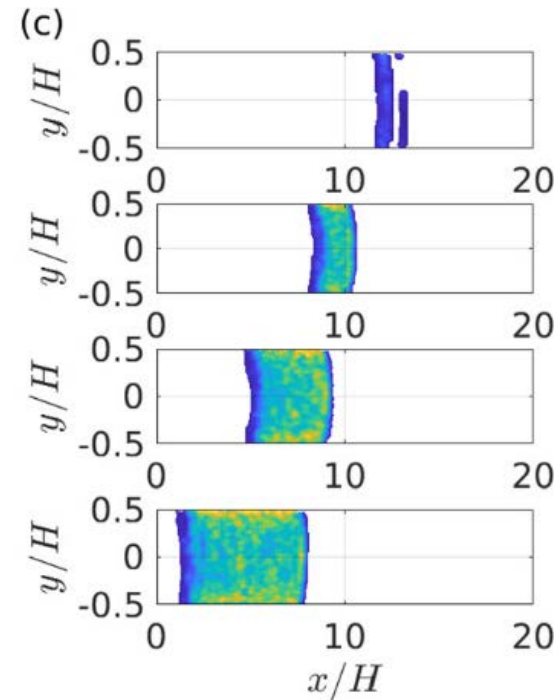
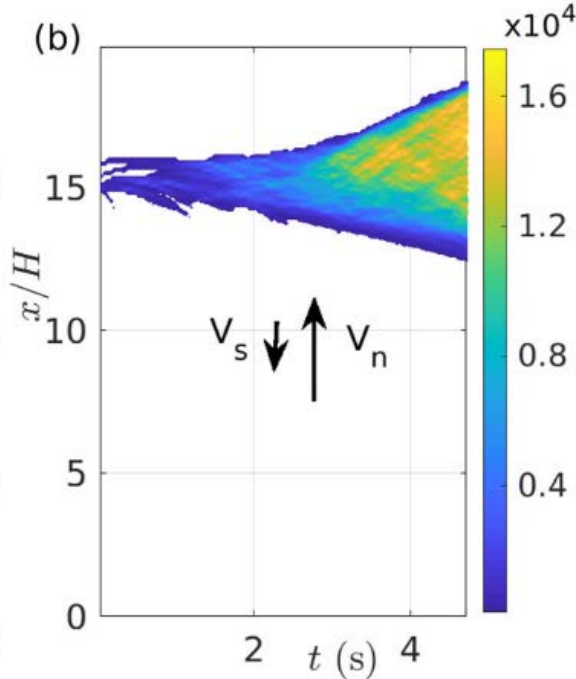
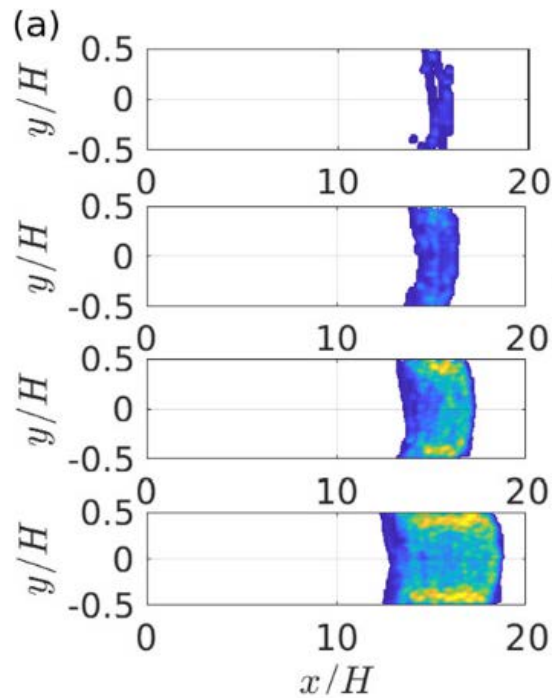
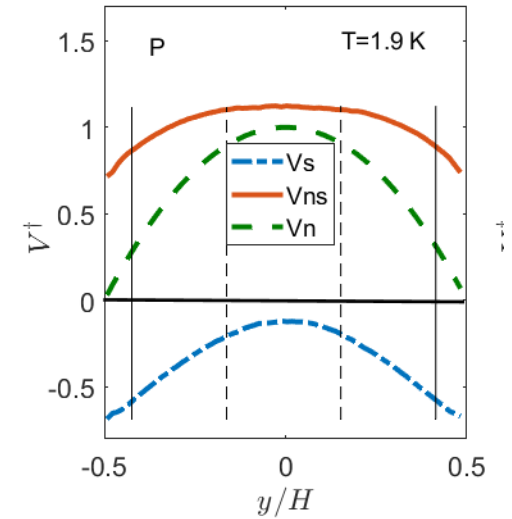
At low T the tangle grows faster in the direction of V_n

At high T the tangle grows faster in the direction of V_s

Which direction is upstream and which downstream?

The front moving along V_n - hot front

The front moving along V_s - cold front



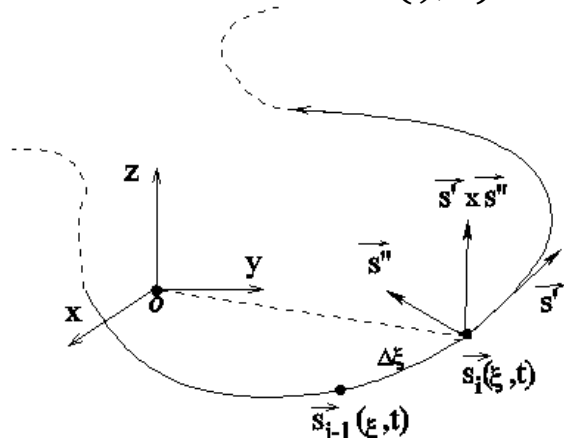
Advection-Diffusion-Reaction Dynamics for VLD

$$\frac{\partial L(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla[J(\mathbf{r}, t)] = D \nabla^2 L(\mathbf{r}, t) + F[L(\mathbf{r}, t)]$$

Vortex line density normalized by the bulk VLD

$$L(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{r}, t) / \mathcal{L}_0$$

Vortex line is parameterized by a directional curve $\mathbf{s}(\xi, t)$



$\mathbf{s}' \sim$ local tangent

$\mathbf{s}'' \sim$ local curvature

Contributions to the line point velocity

Velocity due to intra-tangle interactions

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{BS}}(\mathbf{s}, t) = \frac{\kappa}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} \frac{\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}_1}{|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}_1|^3} \times d\mathbf{s}_1 = \mathbf{V}_{\text{loc}} + \mathbf{V}_{\text{nl}},$$

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{loc}} = \beta(\mathbf{s}' \times \mathbf{s}''), \quad \beta = \frac{\kappa}{4\pi} \ln\left(\frac{1}{a_0 |\mathbf{s}''|}\right)$$

Velocity due to “mutual friction”

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{mf}} = (\alpha - \alpha' \mathbf{s}') \times \mathbf{s}' \times \mathbf{V}_{\text{ns}}$$

Counterflow velocity

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{ns}}^0 = \langle \mathbf{V}_{\text{n}} \rangle_y (1 + \rho_{\text{n}} / \rho_{\text{s}})$$

K. W. Schwarz, Phys. Rev. B, 31, 5782 (1985),
Phys. Rev. B, 38, 2398 (1988)

Advection-Diffusion-Reaction Dynamics for VLD

$$\frac{\partial L(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla[\mathcal{J}(\mathbf{r}, t)] = D \nabla^2 L(\mathbf{r}, t) + F[L(\mathbf{r}, t)]$$

$\mathbf{s}' \sim$ local tangent
 $\mathbf{s}'' \sim$ local curvature

$$F = \mathcal{P}_1 + \mathcal{P}_2 + \mathcal{P}_3 - \mathcal{D}$$

$$\mathcal{P}_1 = \frac{\alpha}{\mathcal{L}_0 V'} \int_{\Omega'} (\mathbf{V}_{\text{ns}}^0 - \mathbf{V}_{\text{nl}}) \cdot (\mathbf{s}' \times \mathbf{s}'') d\xi,$$

$$\mathcal{P}_2 = \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}_0 V'} \int_{\Omega'} \mathbf{s}' \cdot \mathbf{V}'_{\text{nl}} d\xi,$$

$$\mathcal{P}_3 = -\frac{\alpha'}{\mathcal{L}_0 V'} \int_{\Omega'} \mathbf{s}'' \cdot \mathbf{V}_{\text{ns}} d\xi,$$

VLD production

$$\mathcal{D} = \frac{\alpha}{\mathcal{L}_0 V'} \int_{\Omega'} \mathbf{V}_{\text{loc}} \cdot (\mathbf{s}' \times \mathbf{s}'') d\xi.$$

VLD decay

$$\mathcal{J} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}_0 V'} \int_{\Omega'} \mathbf{V}_{\text{drift}} d\xi = \mathbf{V}_s^0 L + \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}_0 V'} \int_{\Omega'} (\mathbf{V}_{\text{BS}} + \mathbf{V}_{\text{mf}}) d\xi.$$

VLD Flux

Contributions to the line point velocity

Velocity due to intra-tangle interactions

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{BS}}(\mathbf{s}, t) = \frac{\kappa}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} \frac{\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}_1}{|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}_1|^3} \times d\mathbf{s}_1 = \mathbf{V}_{\text{loc}} + \mathbf{V}_{\text{nl}},$$

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{loc}} = \beta(\mathbf{s}' \times \mathbf{s}''), \quad \beta = \frac{\kappa}{4\pi} \ln\left(\frac{1}{a_0 |s''|}\right)$$

Velocity due to “mutual friction”

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{mf}} = (\alpha - \alpha' \mathbf{s}') \times \mathbf{s}' \times \mathbf{V}_{\text{ns}}$$

Counterflow velocity

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{ns}}^0 = \langle \mathbf{V}_{\text{n}} \rangle_y (1 + \rho_{\text{n}}/\rho_{\text{s}})$$

$$\frac{\partial L(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla[J(\mathbf{r}, t)] = D \nabla^2 L(\mathbf{r}, t) + F[L(\mathbf{r}, t)]$$

3D tangle structure, 2D interface

Separate core and wall regions \implies 1D equations

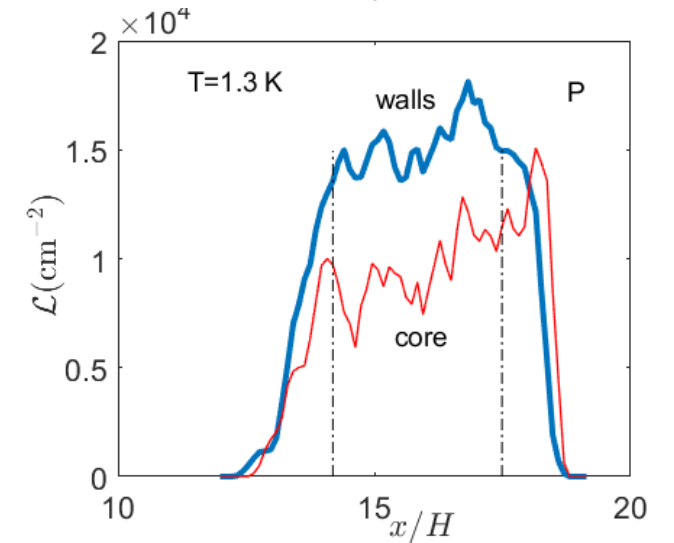
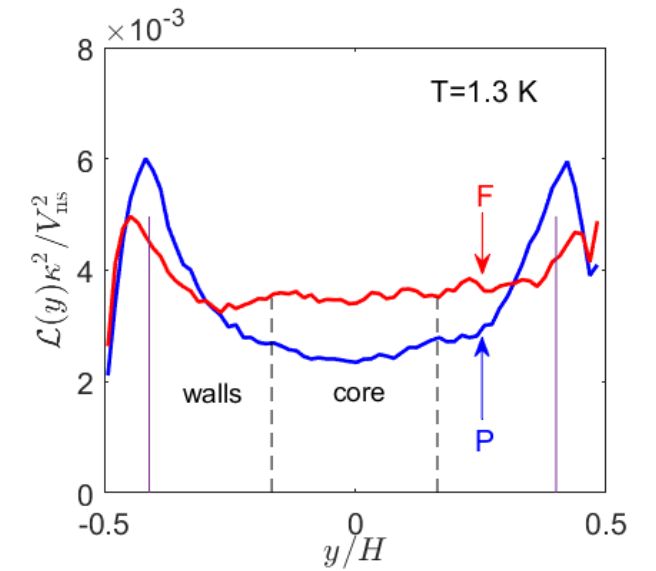
$$\frac{\partial L^j(x, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla[J^j(x, t)] = D^j \nabla^2 L^j(x, t) + \tilde{F}^j[L(x, t)]$$

$j = \text{core or wall}$

$$J_x^j(x, t) = V_s^x L^j(x, t) \quad \longleftarrow \text{Accounts for the flux along the tangle}$$

$$\tilde{F}^j[L(x, t)] = F^j[L(x, t)] - \frac{dJ_y^j(x, t)}{dy} \quad \uparrow$$

Transverse VLD flux accounts
for the exchange between the core and the walls



the core and the wall regions
have different but well-defined properties

Closure for $\tilde{F}^j[L(x, t)]$

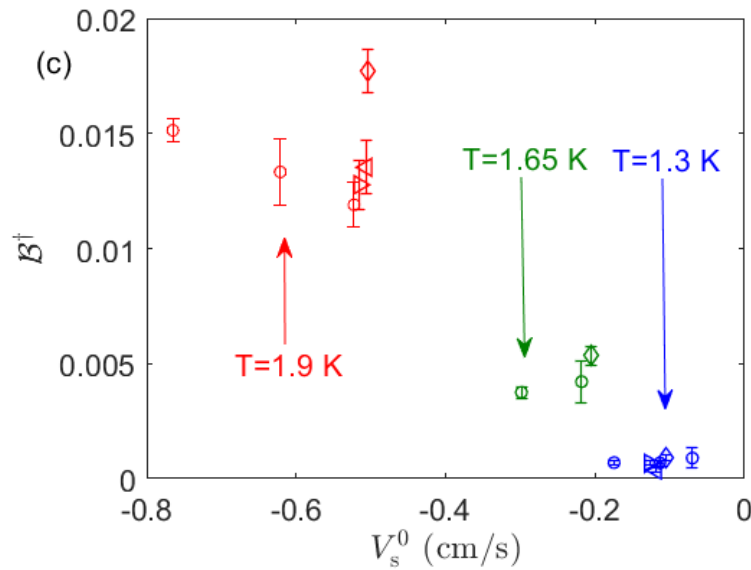
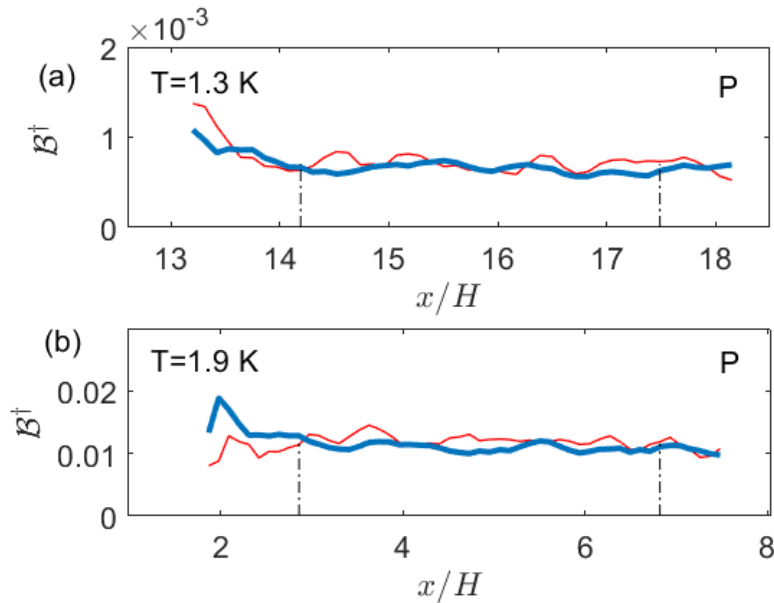
$$\tilde{F}[L(x, t)] = \mathcal{A}(x, t) L(x, t) - \frac{dJ_y^j(x, t)}{dy} - \mathcal{D}(x, t)$$

— walls
— core

$\mathcal{A}(x, t) L(x, t)$

$\mathcal{B}(x, t) L^2(x, t),$

$\mathcal{B}(x, t) = \alpha \beta c_2^2(x, t) \mathcal{L}_0$



- \mathcal{B} is almost constant along the tangle
- deviate in the cold front range
- T -dependent quantity in the tangle bulk

$$\tau_{\text{dec}} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{B}} \text{ characteristic decay time}$$

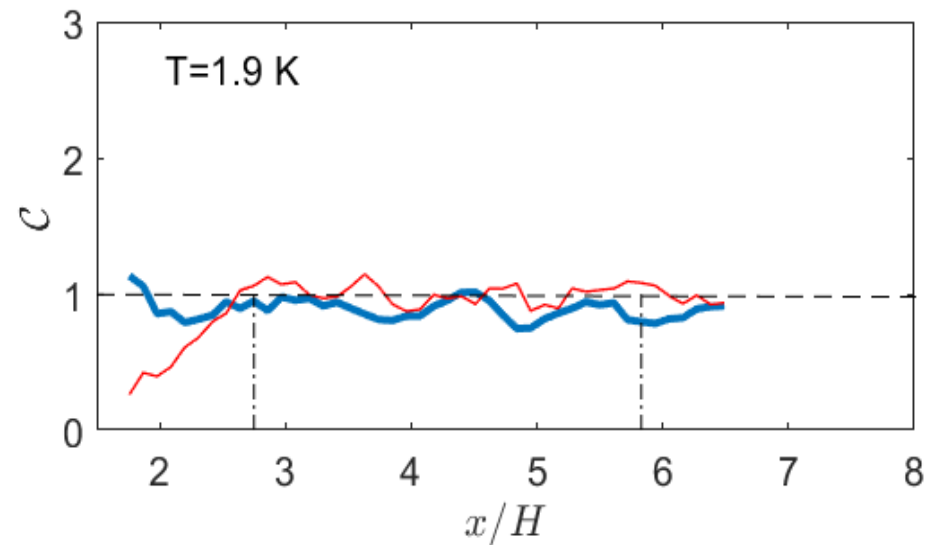
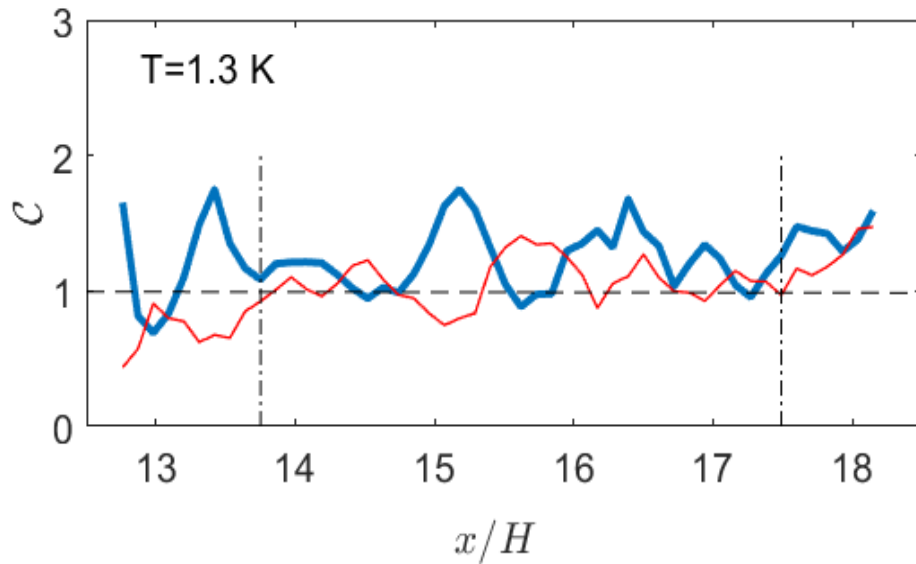
$$\tilde{F}[L(x, t)] = \mathcal{A}(x, t)L(x, t) - \mathcal{B}(x, t)L^2(x, t)$$

$$\tilde{F}[L] = \frac{L}{\tau}(\mathcal{C} - L), \quad \mathcal{C} = \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{B}$$

$\tau_{\text{dec}} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{B}}$ characteristic decay time

in the homogeneous tangle $\mathcal{C} = 1$

in the plug $\mathcal{C} \approx 1$



Useful review

M. Cencini, C. Lopez, D. Vergni ,
Lect. Notes Phys. 636 (2003)

Closed equation for each region separately (4 front regions)

$$\partial_t L^j(x, t) + V_s^x L^j(x, t) = D^j \partial_{x,x} L^j(x, t) + 1/\tau_{\text{dec}} L^j(x, t) [1 - L^j(x, t)]$$

To solve them analytically –

- change to inner variables $\tau = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{dec}}}, l = \frac{x}{\sigma}, \sigma = \sqrt{D\tau_{\text{dec}}}, w = V_s^x/V_{\text{diff}}, V_{\text{diff}} = \sigma/\tau_{\text{dec}}$
- and switch to the co-moving reference frame (for each front region separately) $\zeta = c (l - V_f \tau), V_f = v_f/V_{\text{diff}}$

$$[c v d_\zeta + c^2 d_{\zeta,\zeta}]L + L - L^2 = 0, \quad v = V_f - w$$

Finally, the analytic solution in the original variables (with \mathcal{C} as a constant parameter)

$$L^{j^c}(x, t) = \frac{1}{4} \left[1 + \tanh \left(\frac{1}{\lambda^{j,c}} [x - v_f^c t] \right) \right]$$
$$L^{j^h}(x, t) = \frac{1}{4} \left[1 - \tanh \left(\frac{1}{\lambda^{j,h}} [x - v_f^h t] \right) \right]$$

$$\lambda = 2\sigma\sqrt{6/\mathcal{C}}$$

The front width

$$v_f^c = -5V_{\text{diff}}\sqrt{6\mathcal{C}} + V_s^x$$

The front speed

$$v_f^h = 5V_{\text{diff}}\sqrt{6\mathcal{C}} + V_s^x$$

Finally, the analytic solution in the original variables (with \mathcal{C} as a constant parameter)

$$L^{j^c}(x, t) = \frac{1}{4} \left[1 + \tanh \left(\frac{1}{\lambda^{j,c}} [x - v_f^c t] \right) \right] \quad \lambda = 2\sqrt{6D\tau_{\text{dec}}/\mathcal{C}} \quad \text{The front width}$$

$$L^{j^h}(x, t) = \frac{1}{4} \left[1 - \tanh \left(\frac{1}{\lambda^{j,h}} [x - v_f^h t] \right) \right] \quad v_f^c = -5\sqrt{6D\mathcal{C}/\tau_{\text{dec}}} + V_s^x \quad \text{The front speed}$$

$$v_f^h = 5\sqrt{6D\mathcal{C}/\tau_{\text{dec}}} + V_s^x$$

The front shapes and speeds are obtained by collapsing the corresponding fronts for several time snapshots, the front widths- by fitting the averaged front shapes.

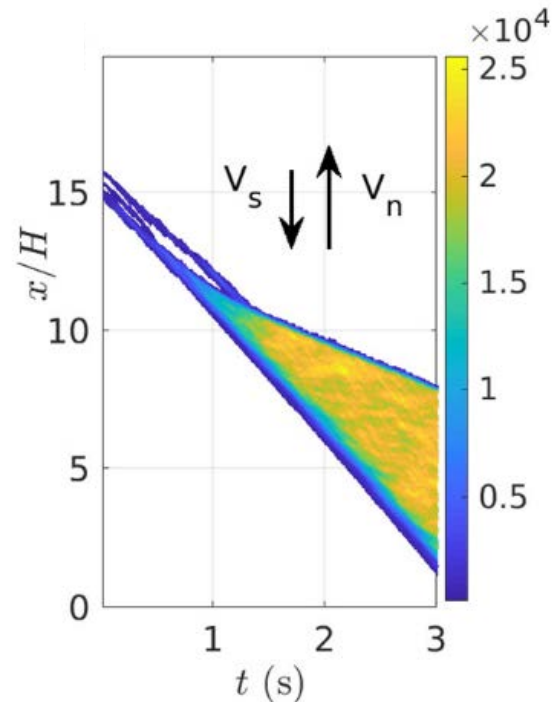
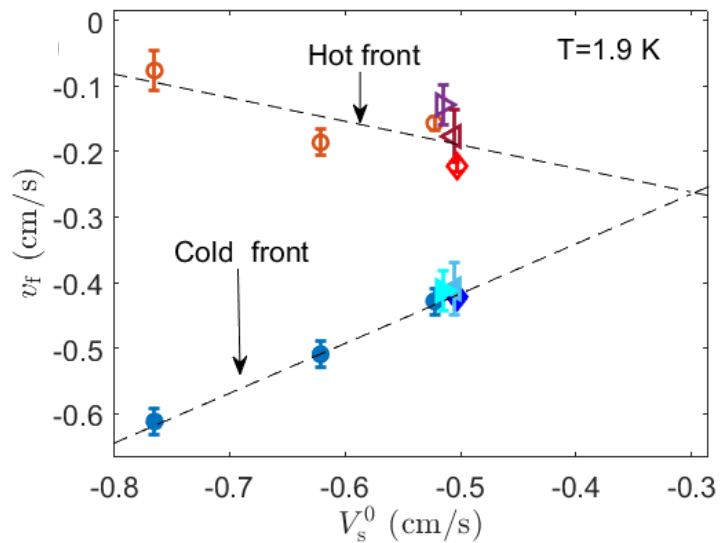
$$D = \frac{\lambda^2}{24\tau_{\text{dec}}} = \frac{\lambda^2 \mathcal{B}}{24}$$

Effective diffusivity, characterizes the dynamic spread of the front
 Calculated using $\mathcal{C} = 1 \pm 0.2$ and mean \mathcal{B} over the bulk

Front shape and speed

At high T

- Front speeds are linear in mean superfluid velocity for all conditions (including various H)
- The cold front is wider and faster
- The hot front is narrow and slow
- VLD peak in the core for the parabolic V_n
- Transverse flux play important role in the VLD dynamics

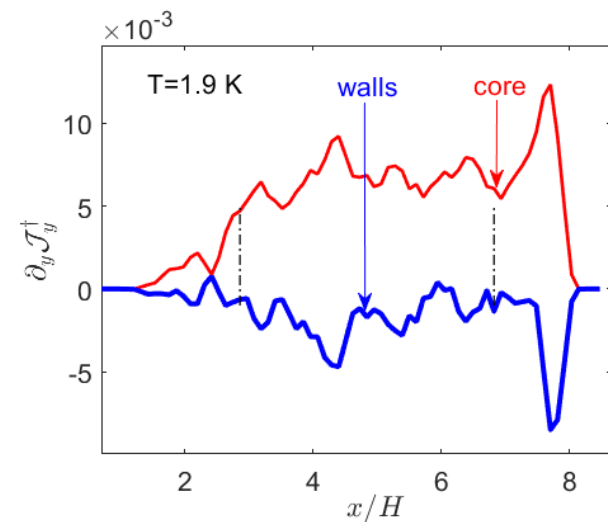
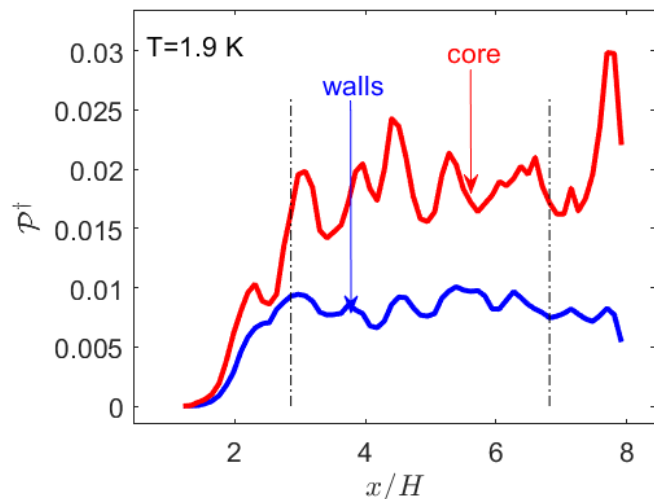
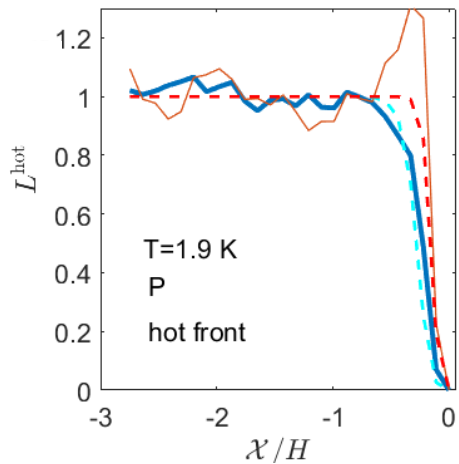
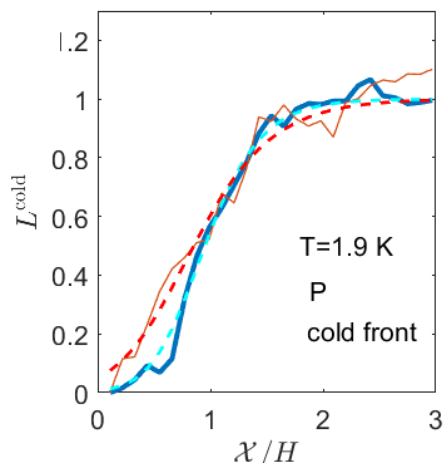


$$D/\kappa = 1.3 \pm 0.4$$

$$1.3 \pm 0.3$$

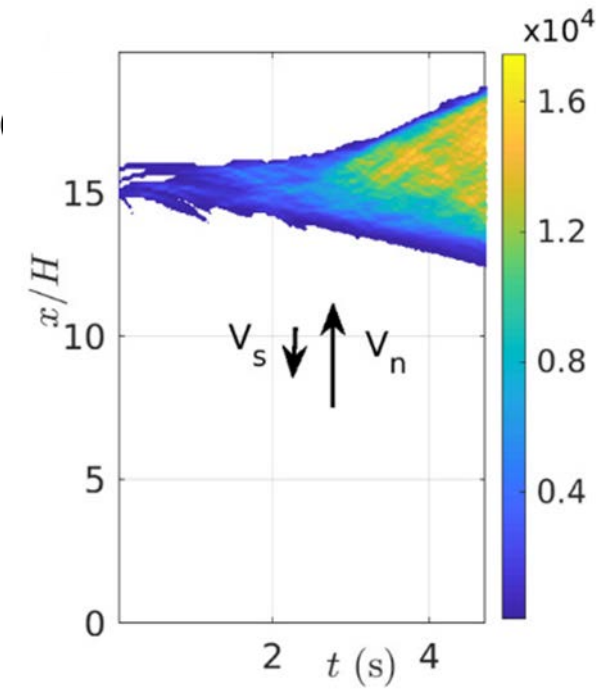
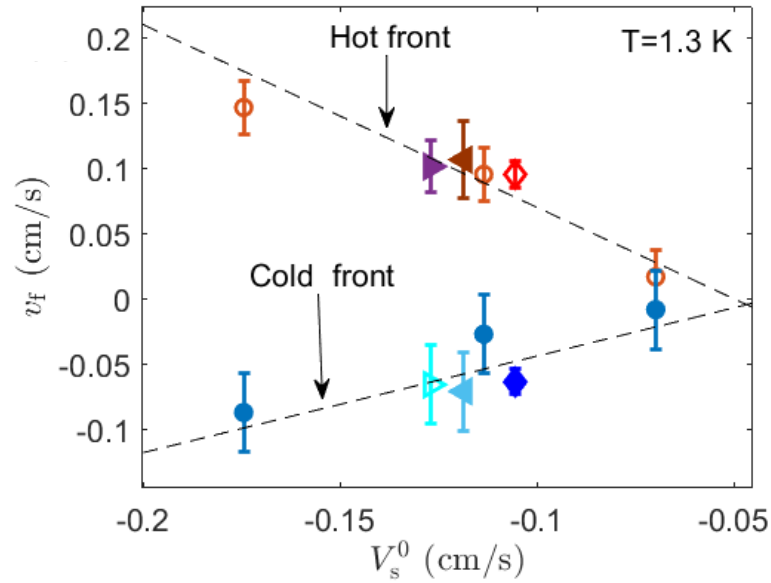
$$D/\kappa = 0.04 \pm 0.4$$

$$0.2 \pm 0.05$$



At low T

- Front speeds are linear in mean superfluid velocity for all conditions (including various H)
- The cold front is wider but slower
- The hot front is narrow and faster
- VLD peak in the core for the parabolic V_n
- No peak for flattened profile



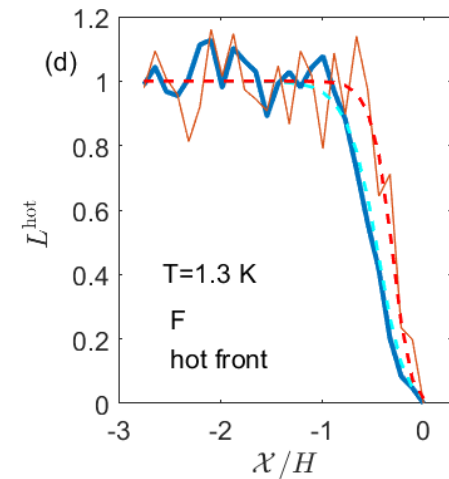
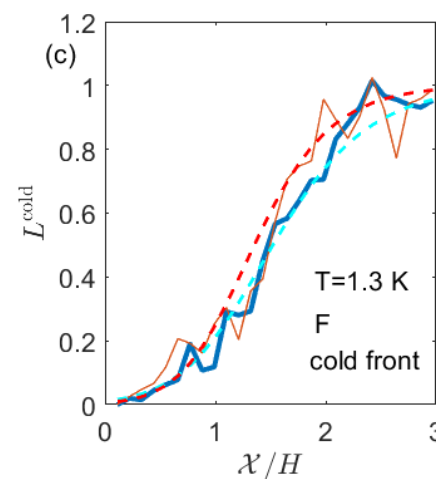
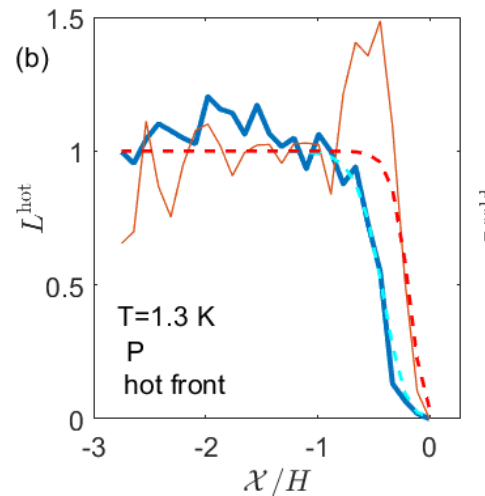
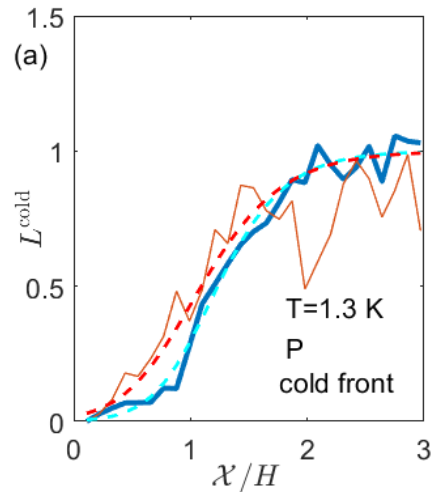
$$D/\kappa = 0.5 \pm 0.2$$

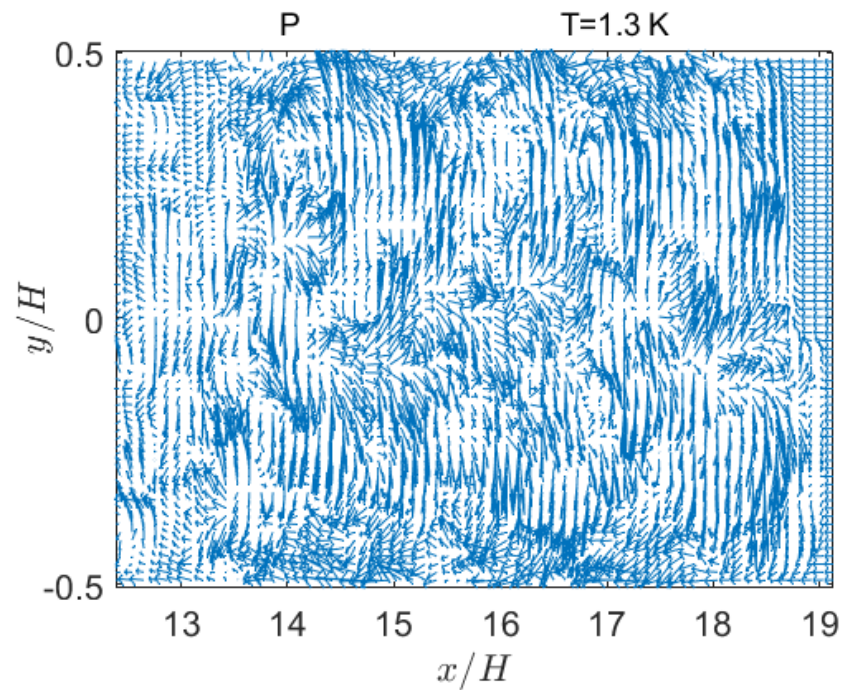
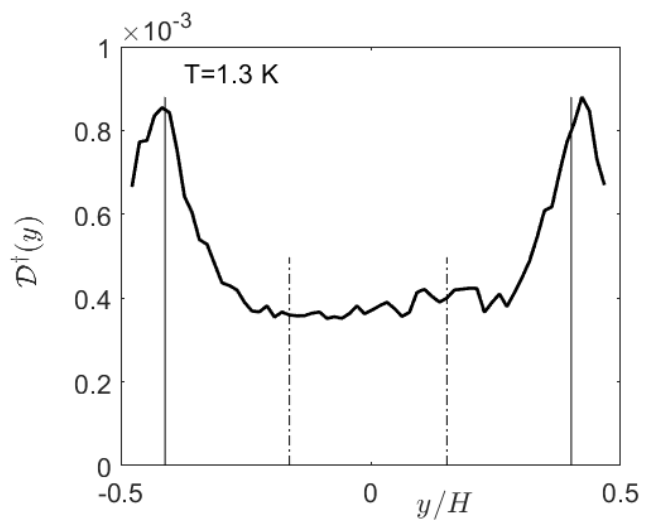
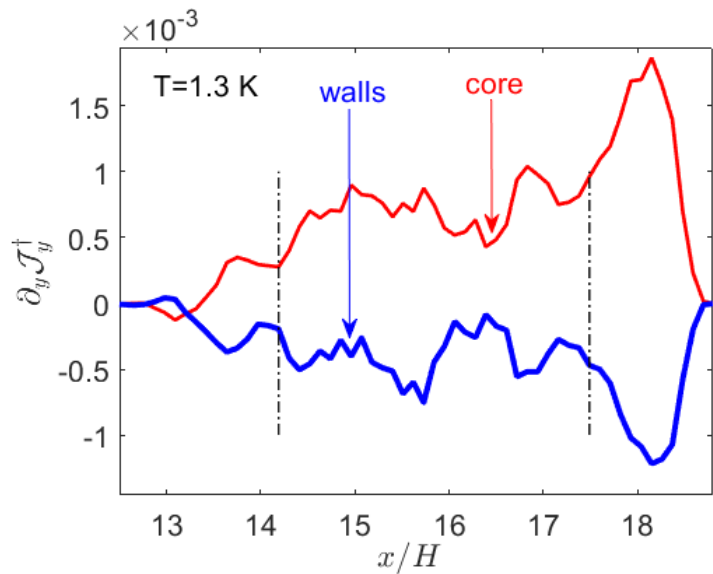
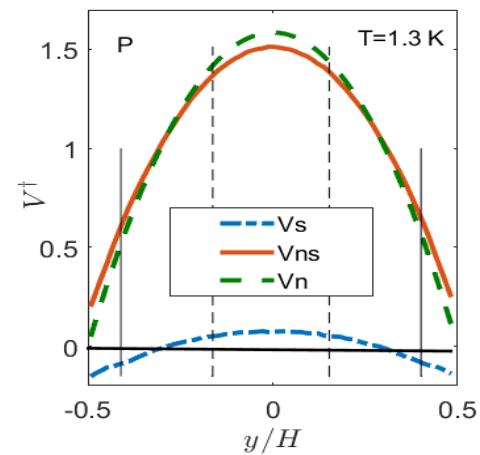
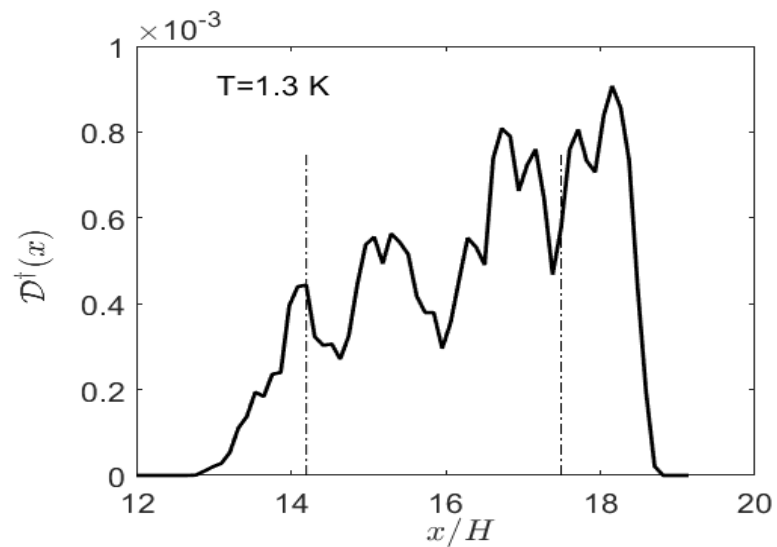
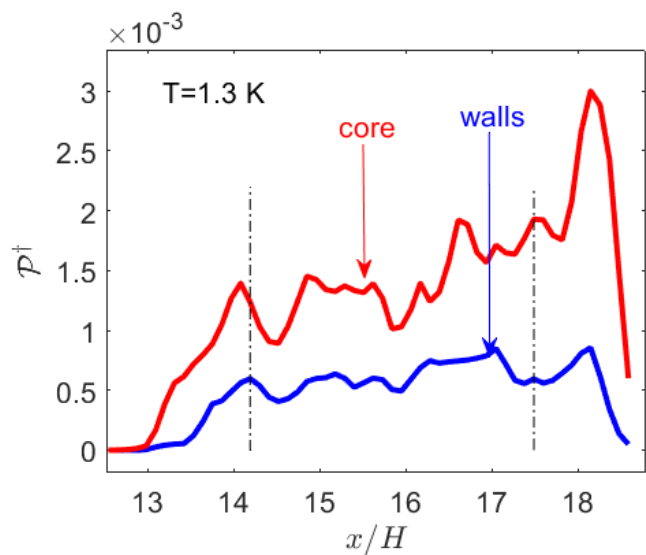
$$0.4 \pm 0.1$$

$$D/\kappa = 0.01 \pm 0.4$$










$$0.03 \pm 0.01$$

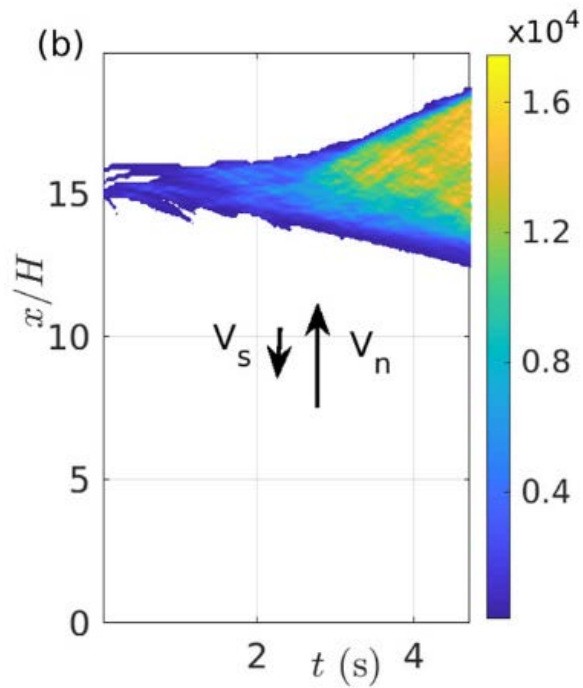
Flattened V_n





Are slugs and plugs similar?

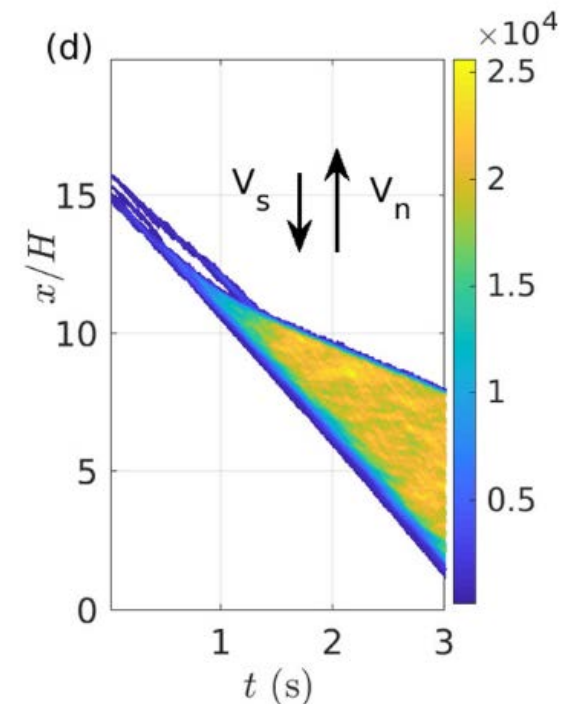
- The advection direction is defined by the mean superfluid velocity 
- The hot front is steep and has VLD peak = upstream front, Independent on the actual direction of propagation 
- The cold front is wide and always faster than the mean advection velocity= downstream front 
- At high T , the hot front is slower than the mean advection velocity 
- Temperature and applied heat flux ($= V_n$) decide the direction of the hot front 
- At low T , the hot front not only lags, it moves in the opposite direction 
- The speeds of both fronts are linear in mean advection velocity, for all conditions, various H and V_n profiles 
- Transverse VLD flux plays very important role in the VLD dynamics 
- The two fronts are driven by different types of nonlinearity  + many more ...



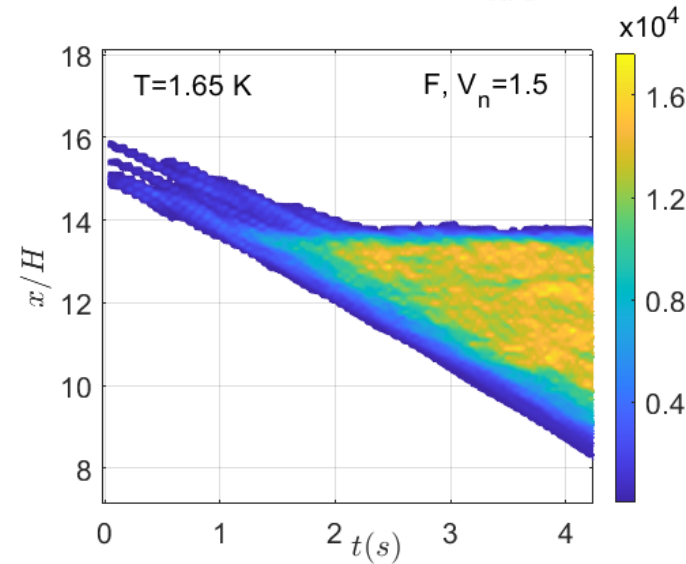
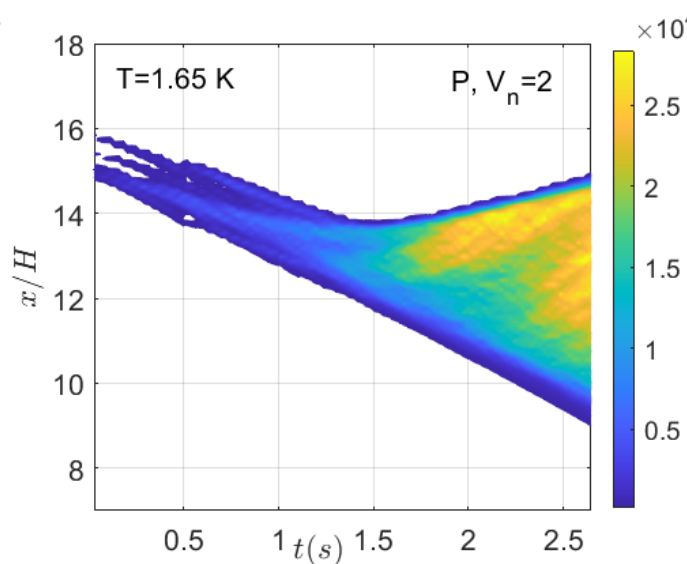
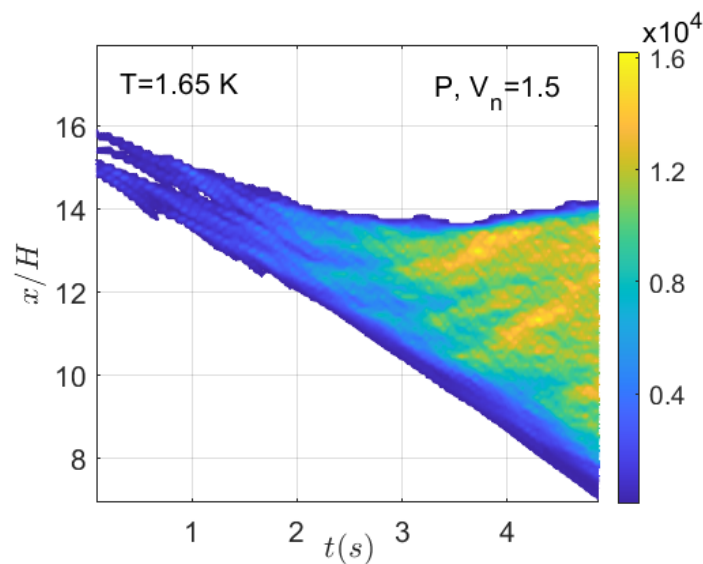
$T = 1.3 K$

The cold front is settled first at all conditions
 The hot front is formed only after a fully 3D tangle appears
 Puff-like localized structures are early-time transient

$T = 1.9 K$



$T = 1.65 K$



Advection-Reaction-Diffusion Dynamics

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} + \nabla[u(r, t) \cdot \theta] = D \nabla^2 \theta + F(\theta)$$

$\theta \in [0, 1]$ Reaction concentration,

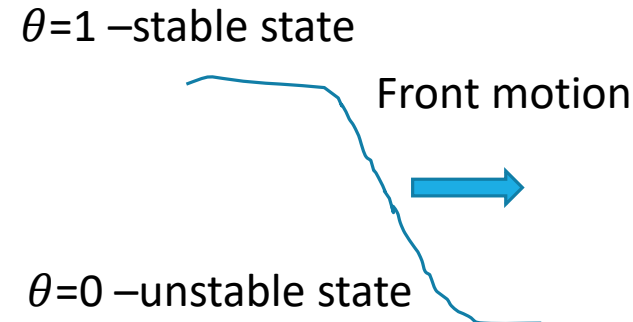
for laminar $u(r, t)$ ignore back reaction of θ on $u(r, t)$

$F(\theta) = f(\theta)/\tau$ Reaction term, typically nonlinear

$F(0) = F(1) = 0$,
 $F(\theta) > 0$ for $0 < \theta < 1$

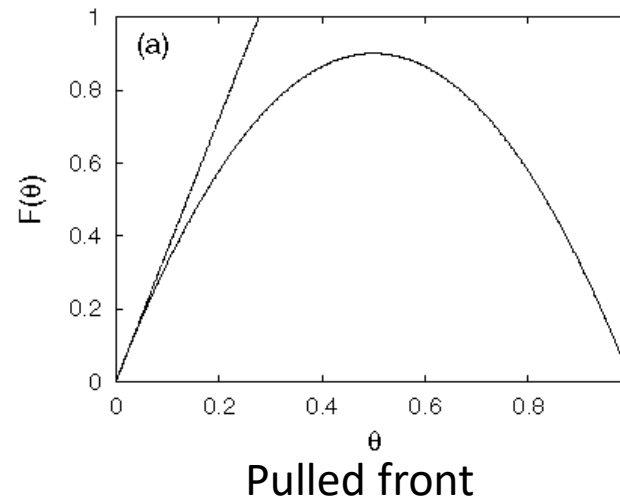
$F(\theta)/\theta$ is the measure of the growth rate

M. Cencini, C. Lopez, D. Vergni ,
 The Kolmogorov Legacy in Physics, 636 (2003)

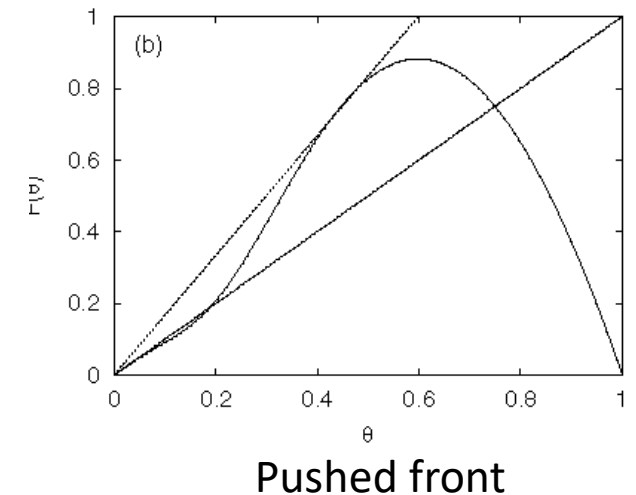


Chemical reaction fronts in liquids
 Population dynamics
 Combustion

$\sup_{\theta} [F(\theta)/\theta]$ at $\theta=0$

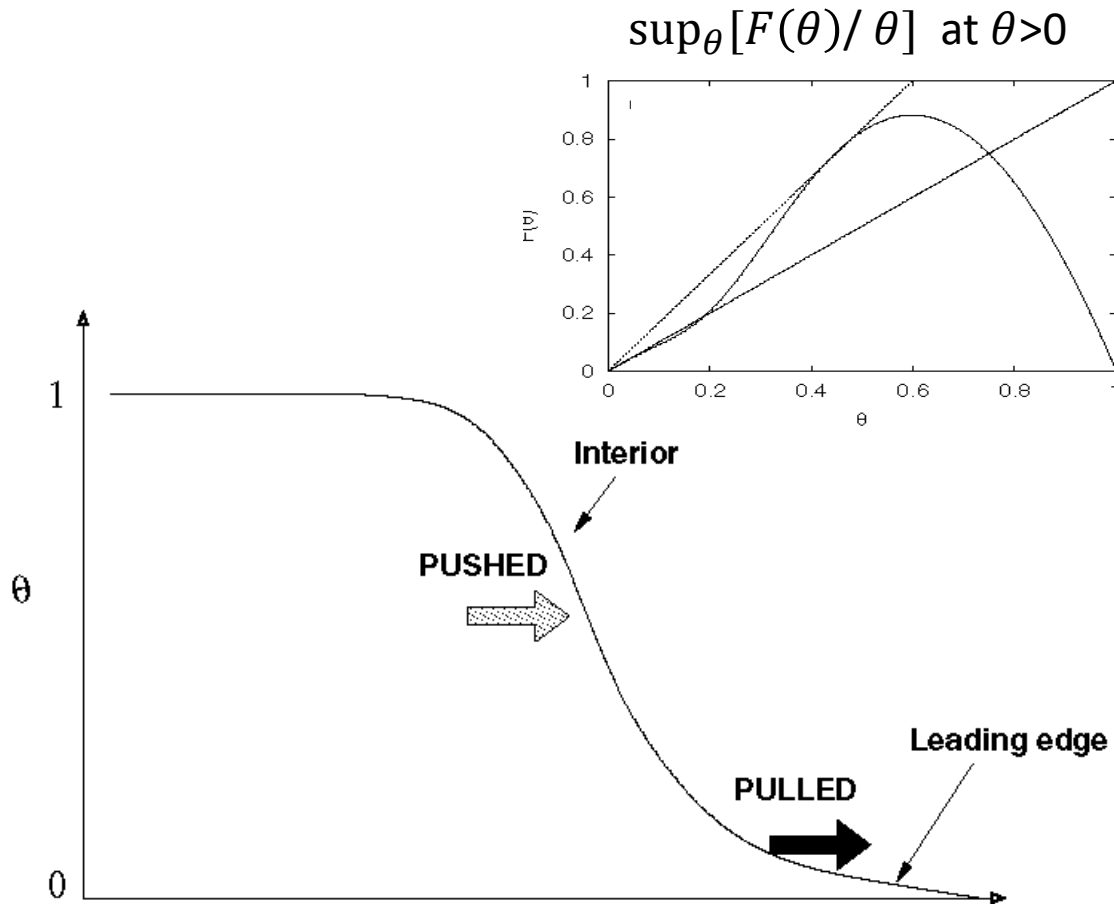


$\sup_{\theta} [F(\theta)/\theta]$ at $\theta>0$



Minimum front speed is bounded

$$2\sqrt{D F'(0)} \leq v_{\min} \leq \sqrt{D \sup_{\theta} [F(\theta)/\theta]}$$



R.A. Fischer, Proc. Annu. Symp. Eugen. Soc. 7, 355 (1937).

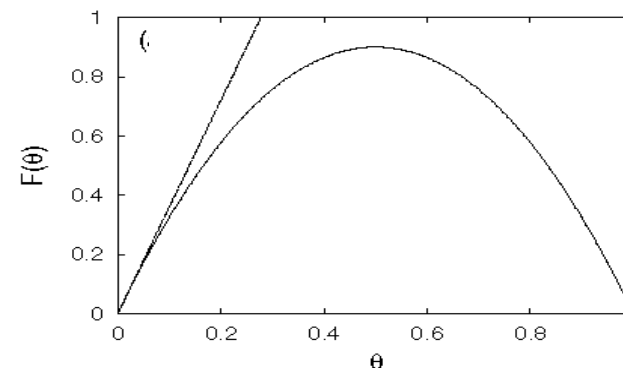
A.N. Kolmogorov, I. Petrovskii and N. Piskunov, Bull. Univ. Moscow, Ser. Int. A, 1, 1 (1937).

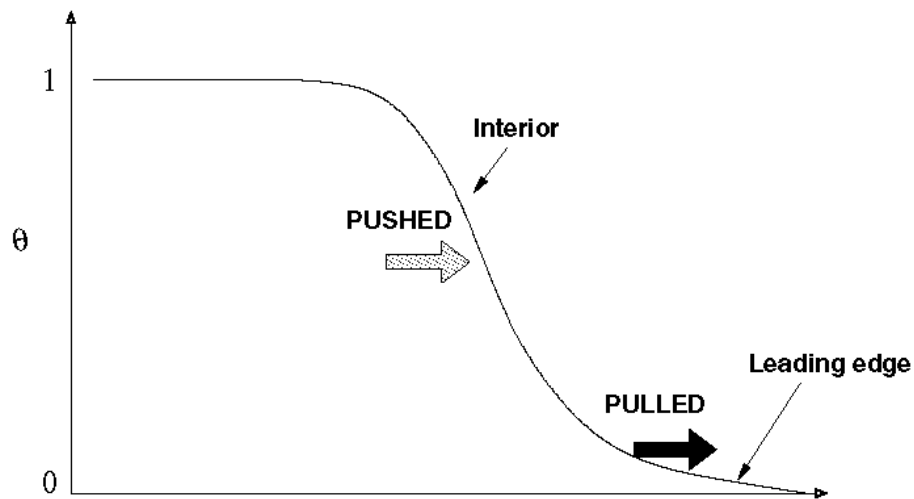
Y.B. Zeldovich and D.A. Frank-Kamenetskii, Acta Physicochimica U.R.S.S., Vol. XVII, 1-2 42 (1938).

Fischer-Kolmogorov-Petrovskii-Peskunov (FKPP)
nonlinearity $F(\theta)=\theta(1-\theta)$ or any convex function $F''(\theta)<0$

$\sup_{\theta} [F(\theta)/\theta]$ at $\theta=0$

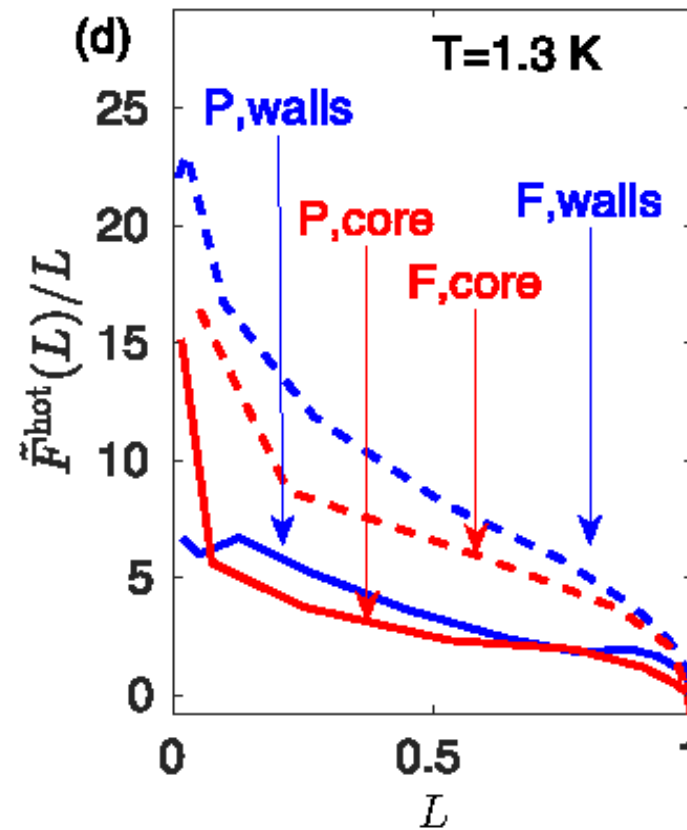
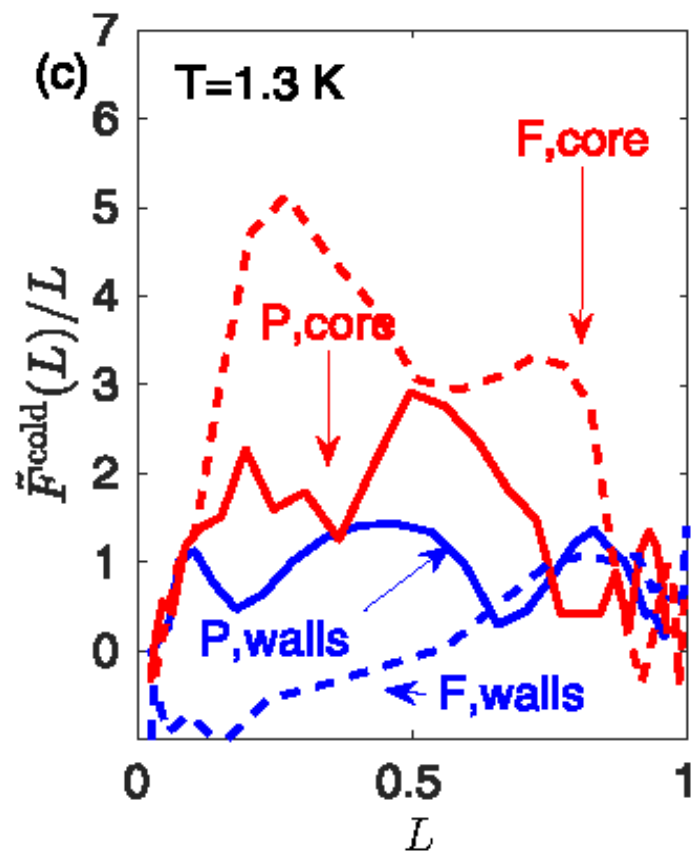
$$v_{\min}=2\sqrt{D F'(0)}$$





Cold front is pushed

Hot front is pulled



$\sup_{\theta} [F(\theta)/\theta]$ at $\theta > 0$

$\sup_{\theta} [F(\theta)/\theta]$ at $\theta = 0$