

# Universality classes in growing interfaces: Reaction fronts in disordered flow

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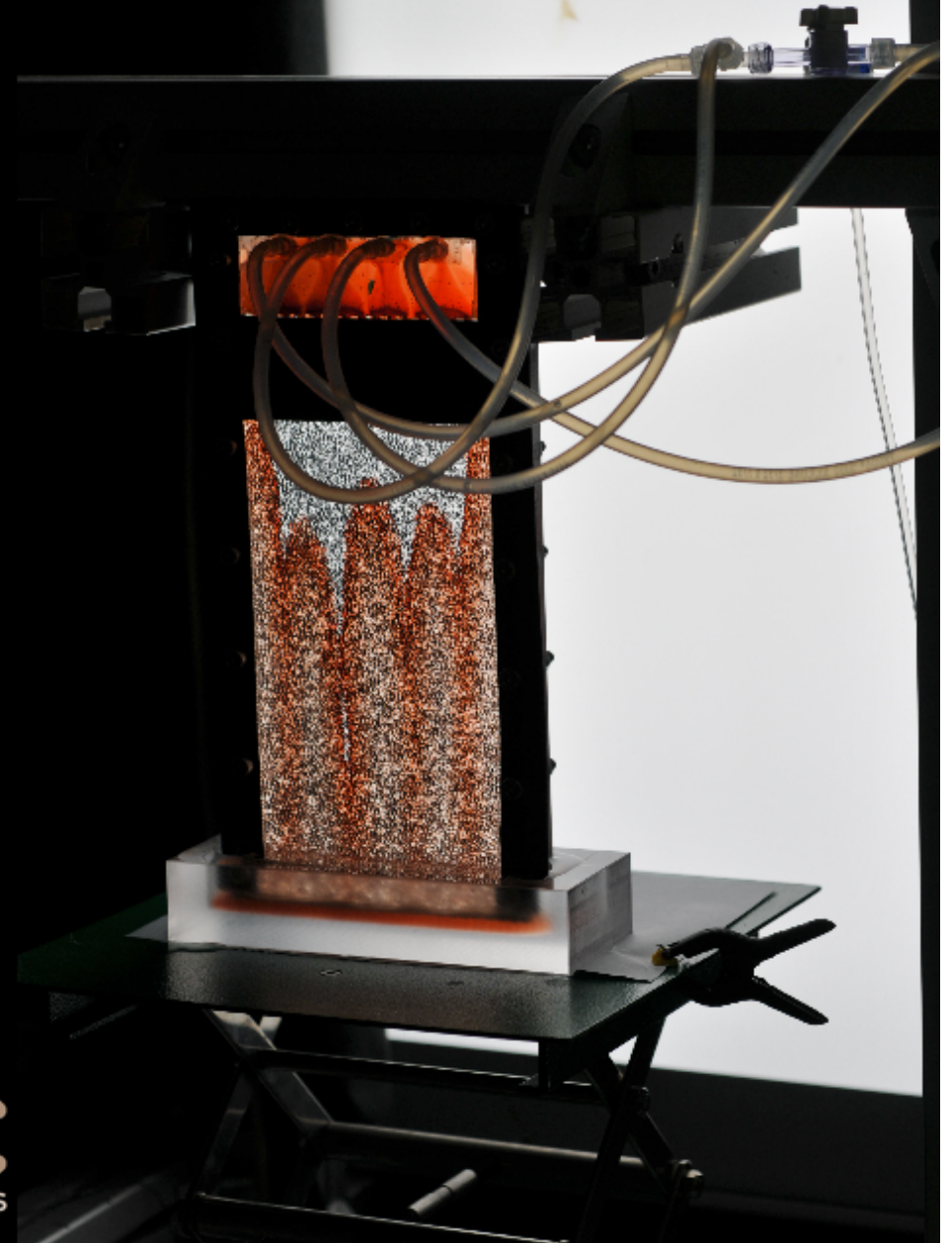
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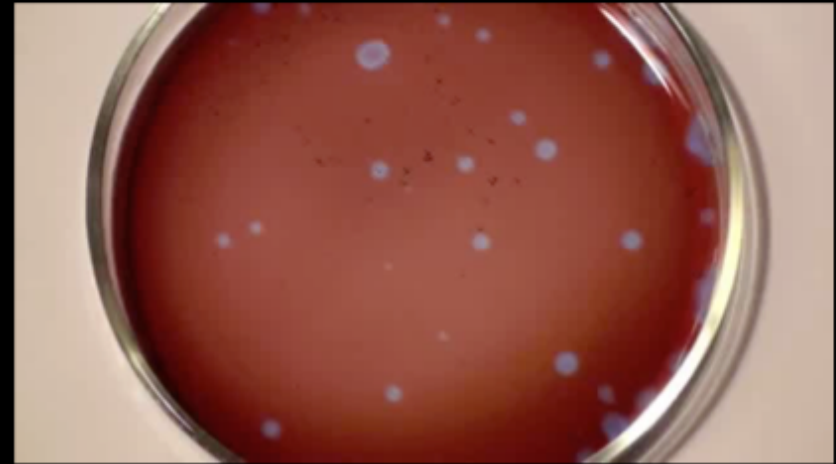
# Growing interfaces

## Out-of-equilibrium phenomena

Crystal growth in supercooled liquids



Belousov-Zhabotinsky reaction

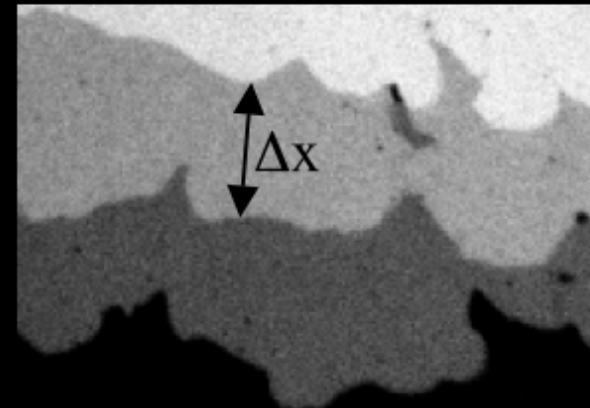


video S. Morris

Imbibition fronts



Magnetic domain wall avalanches



Repain et al., *EPL* 68 (2004)

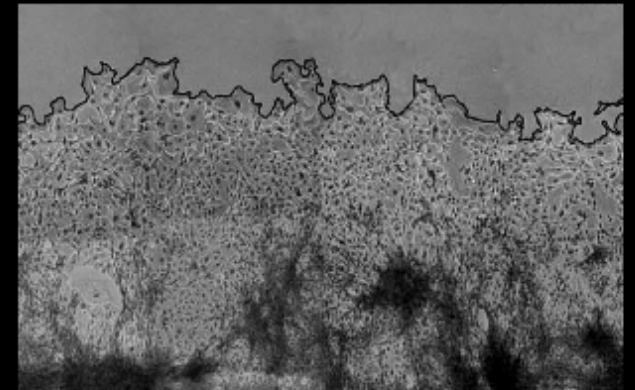
# Growing interfaces

## Living systems

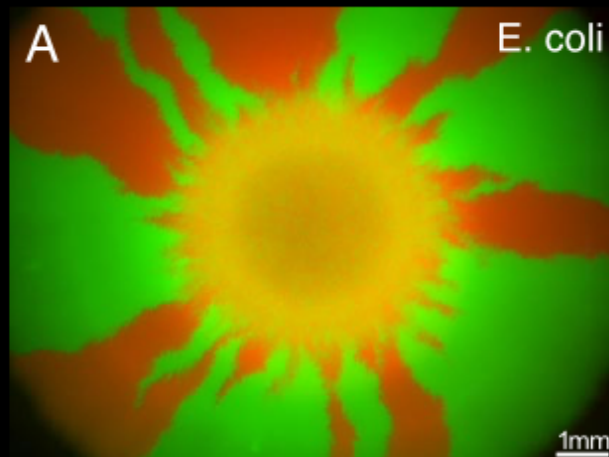
Lichen



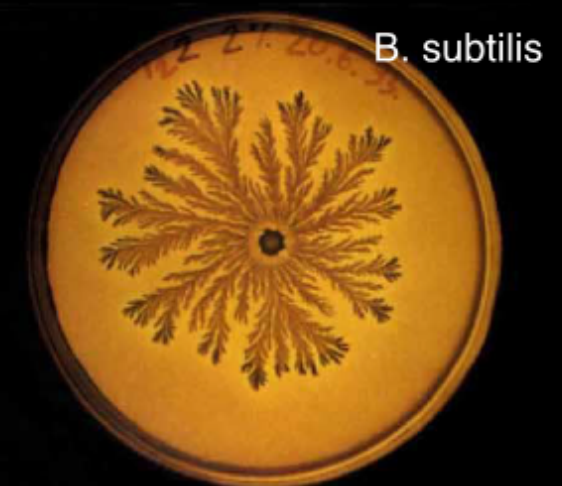
Vero cells colony



Huergo et al. (2010)



O. Hallatschek et al. (2007)



Benjacob et al. (1994)

# PLAN

- 1 - Kardar-Parisi-Zhang model in presence of quenched noise
- 2 - Experiments with reaction fronts in disordered flow
- 3 - Transition between different universal behaviors
- 4 - Conclusion and perspectives



# PLAN

- 1 - Kardar-Parisi-Zhang model in presence of quenched noise
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# Growing interfaces

## Kardar-Parisi-Zhang (KPZ) model:

a generic model for an interface growing along its local normal

$$\frac{\partial h(x, t)}{\partial t} = \nu \nabla^2 h(x, t) + \frac{\lambda}{2} [\nabla h(x, t)]^2 + \eta(x, t) + f$$

Kardar & al., *PRL* **56** (1986)

stochastic noise term:

$$\overline{\eta(x, t)\eta(x', t')} = 2D\delta(x - x')\delta(t - t')$$

random deposition

lateral growth

+ effective stiffness

+ applied force

# Growing interfaces

transformation:

$$h(x, t) = ft + \tilde{h}(x, t)$$

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{h}(x, t)}{\partial t} = \nu \nabla^2 \tilde{h}(x, t) + \frac{\lambda}{2} [\nabla \tilde{h}(x, t)]^2 + \eta(x, t)$$

invariant under  $\tilde{h}(x, t) \rightarrow -\tilde{h}(x, t)$

# Growing interfaces

Predicted exponents:  $d=1+1$

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \quad \beta = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$w(l, t) \sim l^\alpha \quad w(l, t) \sim t^\beta$$



# Growing interfaces

## Experimental observations

Predicted exponents:  $d=1+1$

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \quad \beta = \frac{1}{3}$$

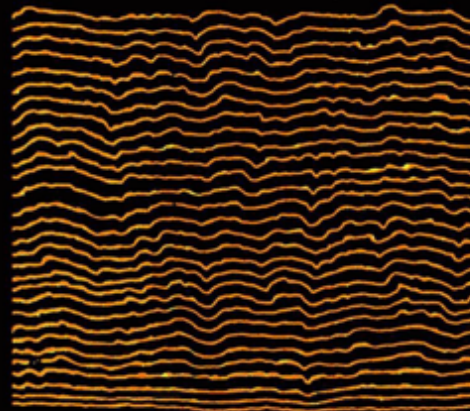
$$w(l, t) \sim l^\alpha \quad w(l, t) \sim t^\beta$$

colloidal suspension drying

Instead of flowing to and piling up near the edges, the elongated particles deform the droplet surface, which in turn causes them to clump all over the droplet surface.

Yunker et al. (2013)

paper combustion front



Myllys et al. (1993)

Turbulent liquid crystals



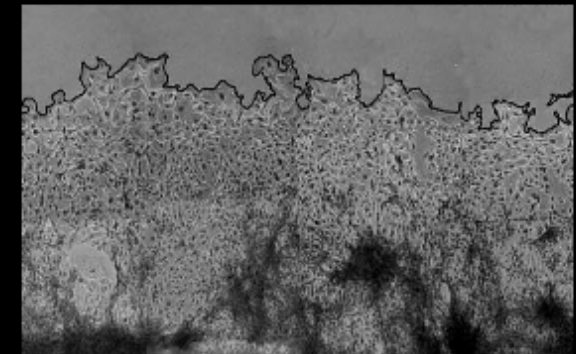
Takeuchi et al. (2010)

mutant *B. subtilis*



Wakita et al. (1997)

Vero cells colony



Huergo et al. (2010)

# Heterogeneous environment

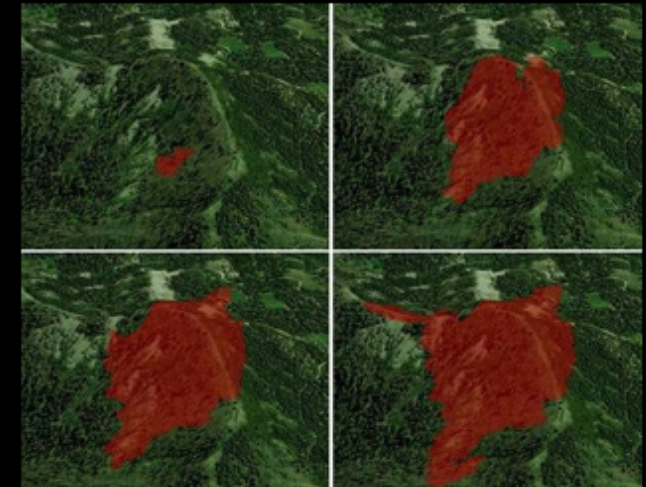
Quenched noise

Topology

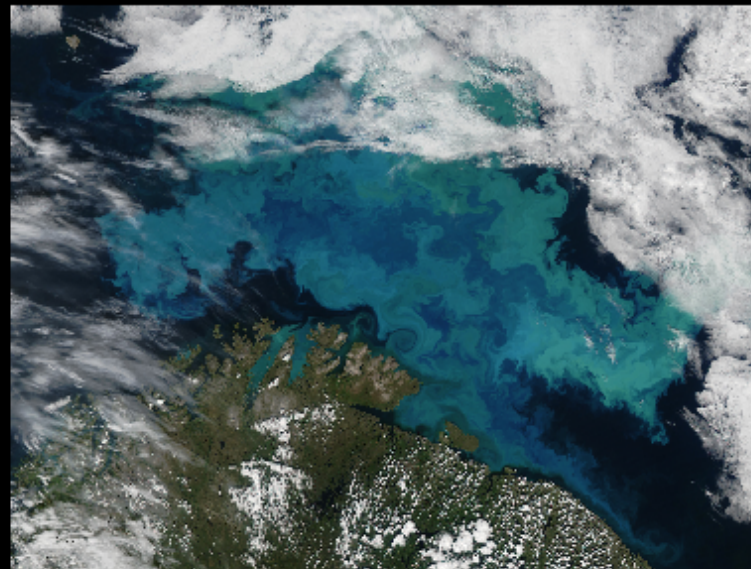
Black Death in Medieval Europe



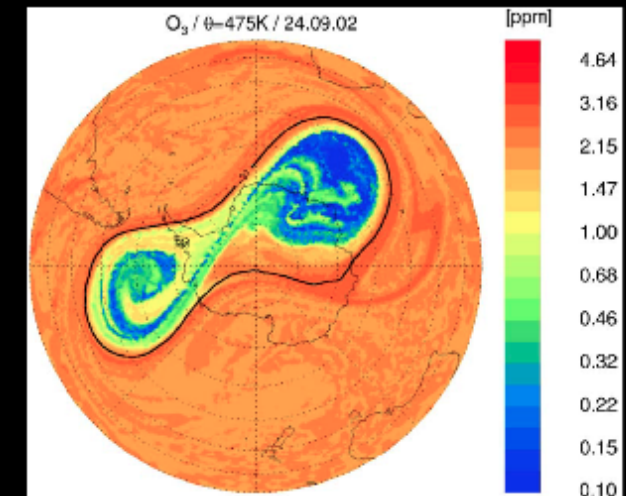
Forest fire



Plankton bloom in Barent Sea



Ozone hole



Flow

Gross et al. (2006)

# Heterogeneous environment

## positive quenched KPZ model

In a heterogeneous medium, the “noise” acquires a static quenched component

$$\frac{\partial h(x, t)}{\partial t} = \nu \nabla^2 h(x, t) + \frac{\lambda}{2} [\nabla h(x, t)]^2 + \bar{\eta}(x, h(x, t)) + f$$

quenched noise term:

$$\overline{\bar{\eta}(x, h)\bar{\eta}(x', h')} = 2\bar{D}\delta(x - x')\delta(h - h')$$

Kessler & al., *PRA* **43** (1991)

Amaral & al., *PRE* **51** (1995)

$\bar{\eta}(x, h(x, t))$  is no longer invariant with the transformation:

$$h(x, t) = ft + \tilde{h}(x, t)$$

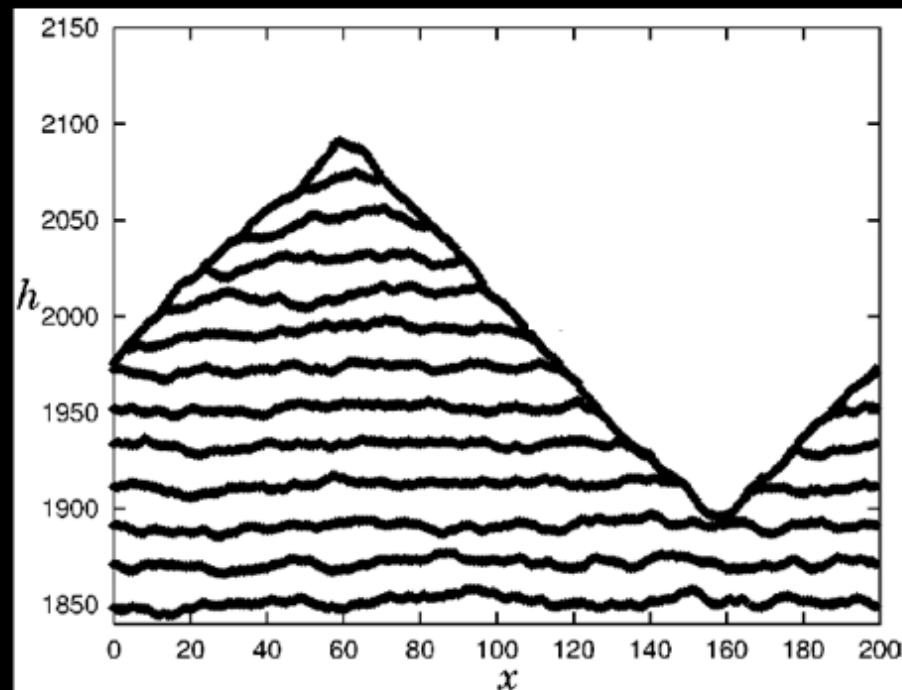
**The driving force  $f$  is a new parameter of the problem and its relative sign to  $\lambda$  matter!**



# Heterogeneous environment

negative quenched KPZ model

$$\frac{\partial h(x, t)}{\partial t} = \nu \nabla^2 h(x, t) - \frac{\lambda}{2} [\nabla h(x, t)]^2 + \bar{\eta}(x, h(x, t)) + f$$



Jeong & al., *PRL* 77(1996), *PRE* 59 (1999)



# Heterogeneous environment

Predicted exponents: **q-KPZ positive**

$$\alpha \simeq 0.63 \quad \beta \simeq 0.63$$

$$w(l, t) \sim l^\alpha \quad w(l, t) \sim t^\beta$$

# Heterogeneous environment

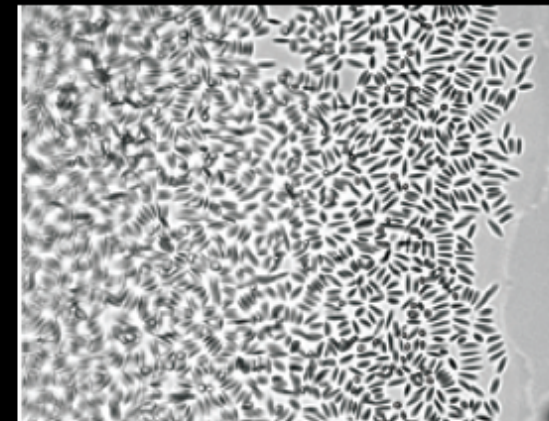
## Experimental observations

Predicted exponents: **q-KPZ positive**

$$\alpha \simeq 0.63 \quad \beta \simeq 0.63$$

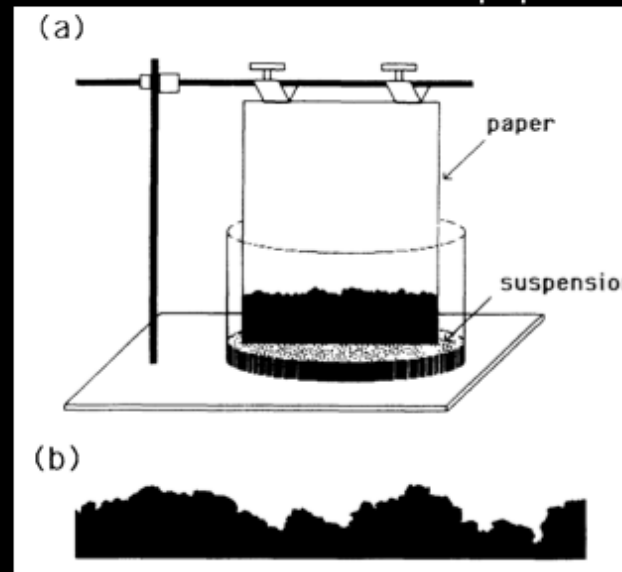
$$w(l, t) \sim l^\alpha \quad w(l, t) \sim t^\beta$$

colloidal suspension drying



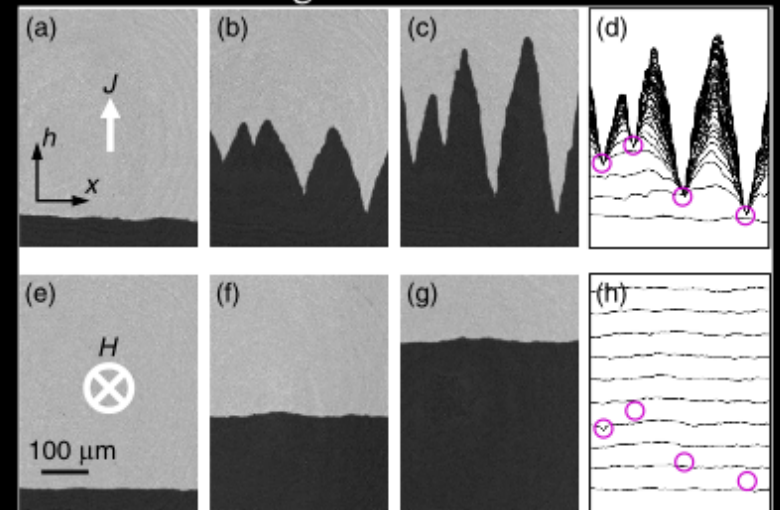
Yunker et al. (2013)

coffee or ink imbibition in paper



Buldyrev et al. (1992)

magnetic media



Moon et al. (2013)

# Heterogeneous environment

In the moving phase, quenched KPZ of either sign crosses over to KPZ at large scales.

$$\frac{\partial h(x, t)}{\partial t} = \nu \nabla^2 h(x, t) + \frac{\lambda}{2} [\nabla h(x, t)]^2 + \bar{\eta}(x, h(x, t)) + f$$

In the limit of large mean interface velocity:

$$v = \overline{\partial_t h(x, t)}$$

$$h(x, t) \rightarrow vt + \tilde{h}(x, t)$$

$$\bar{\eta}(x, vt + \tilde{h}(x, t)) \approx \bar{\eta}(x, vt)$$



$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \text{ and } \beta = \frac{1}{3}$$

# PLAN

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4 - Conclusion and perspectives

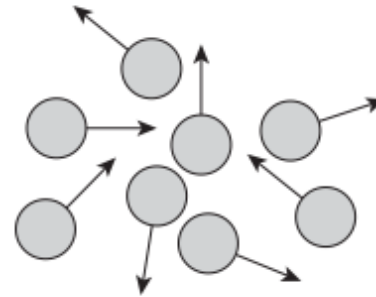


- Reaction Diffusion equation

$$u = [B]$$

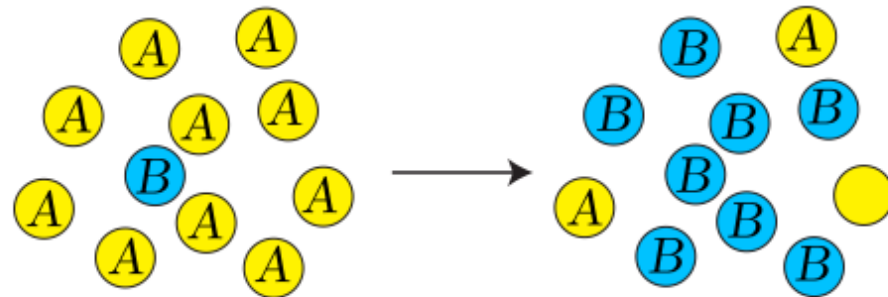
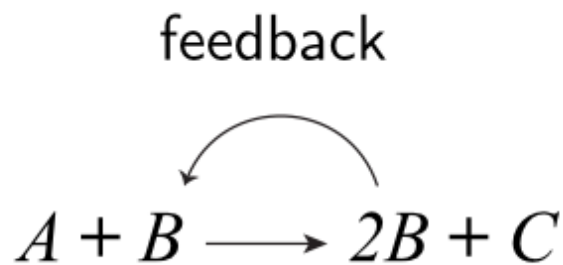
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \nabla^2 u + f(u)$$

→  $D \nabla^2 u$  diffusion term



→  $f(u)$  reaction term

autocatalytic process → nonlinearity  $f(u) = ru(1 - u)$



- Fisher-Kolmogorov equation (FKPP model)

[Kolmogorov et al. 1937, R. A. Fisher 1937]

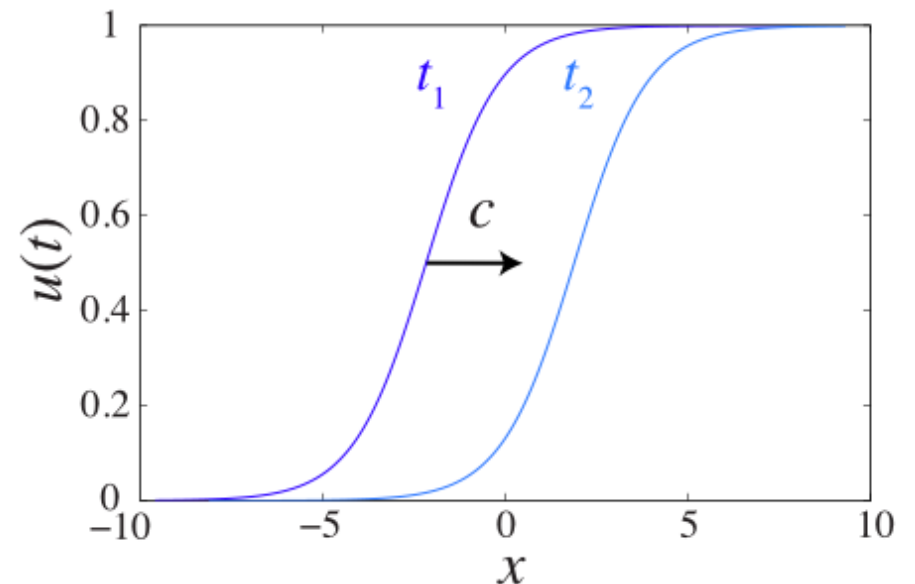
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + ru(1 - u)$$

$$X = x \pm ct \quad \longrightarrow \quad c \frac{\partial u}{\partial X} = D \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial X^2} + f(u)$$

- Progressive wave solutions

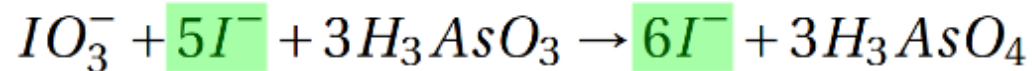
$$u(x, t) = u(x \pm ct)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{FKPP}} c = 2\sqrt{rD}$$

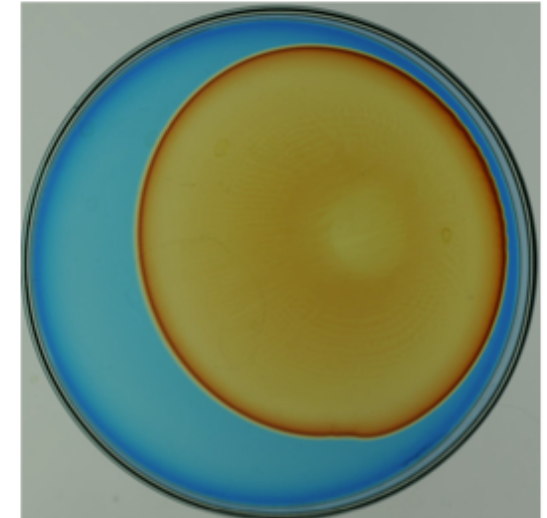


# Experimental setup

- Iodate acid arseneous reaction (IAA)



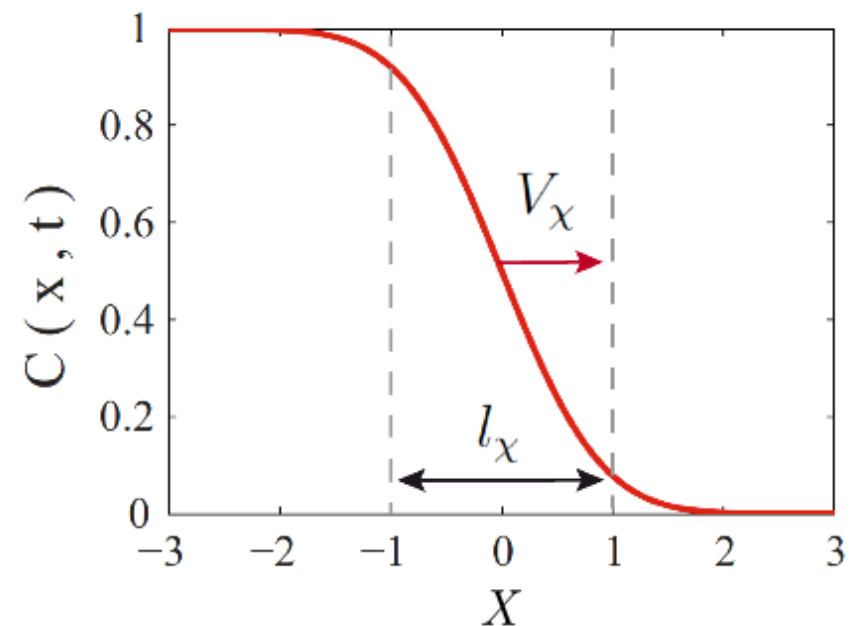
→ resulting from the balance between diffusion and reaction



IAA wave front [movie D. Salin]

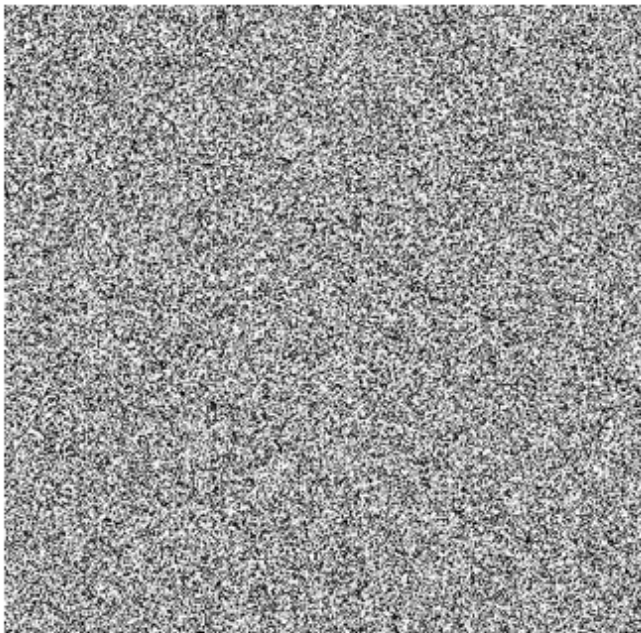
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} V_\chi = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha D_m}{2}} \approx 10 \mu\text{m/s} \\ l_\chi = \sqrt{\frac{2D_m}{\alpha}} \approx 100 \mu\text{m} \end{array} \right.$$

$$C(x, t) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp[(x - V_\chi t)/l_\chi]}$$

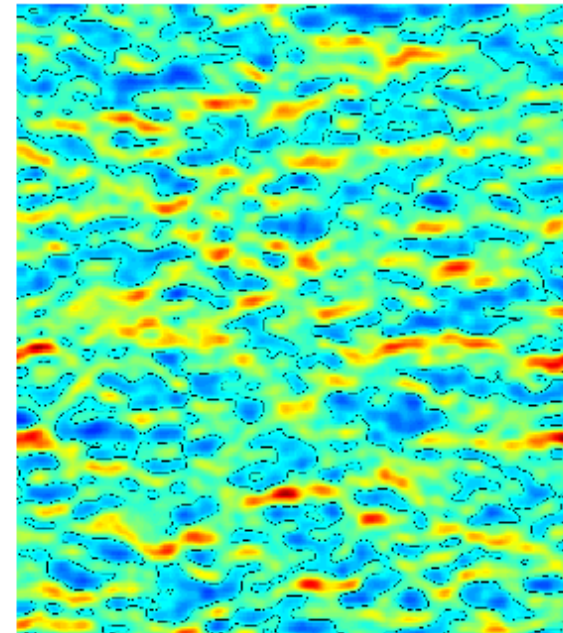


# Experimental setup

**What's happening in the presence of noise?**



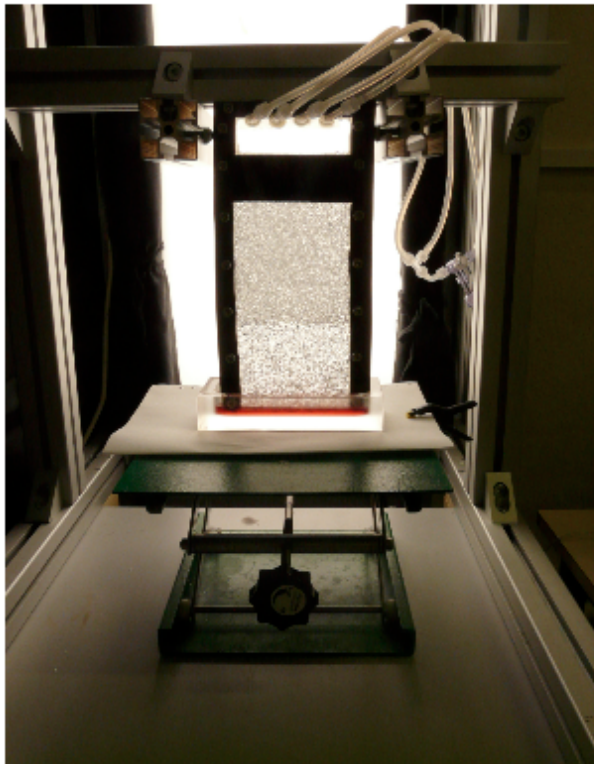
Disordered reactive flow field





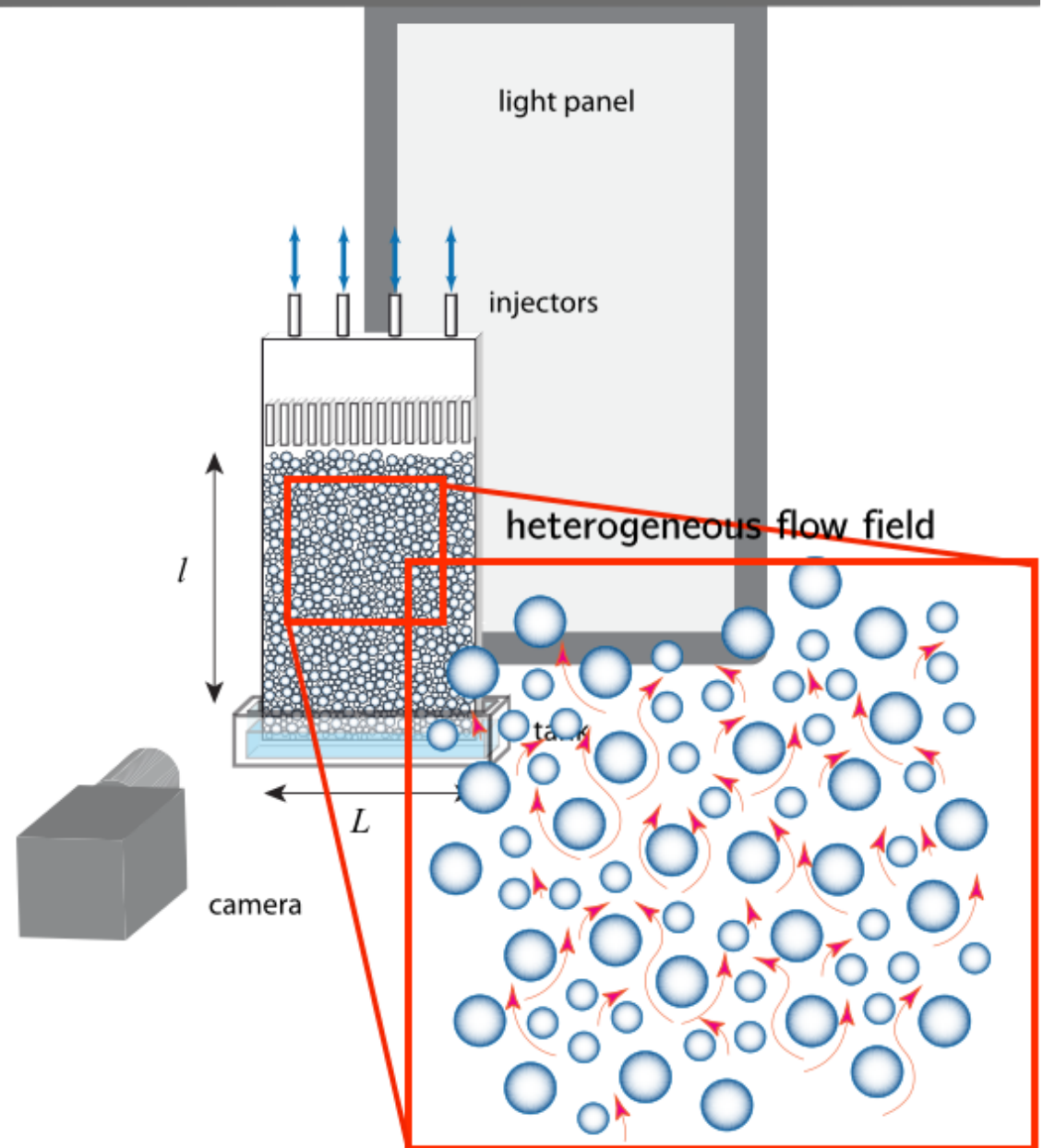
# Experimental setup

- Spatially disordered flow



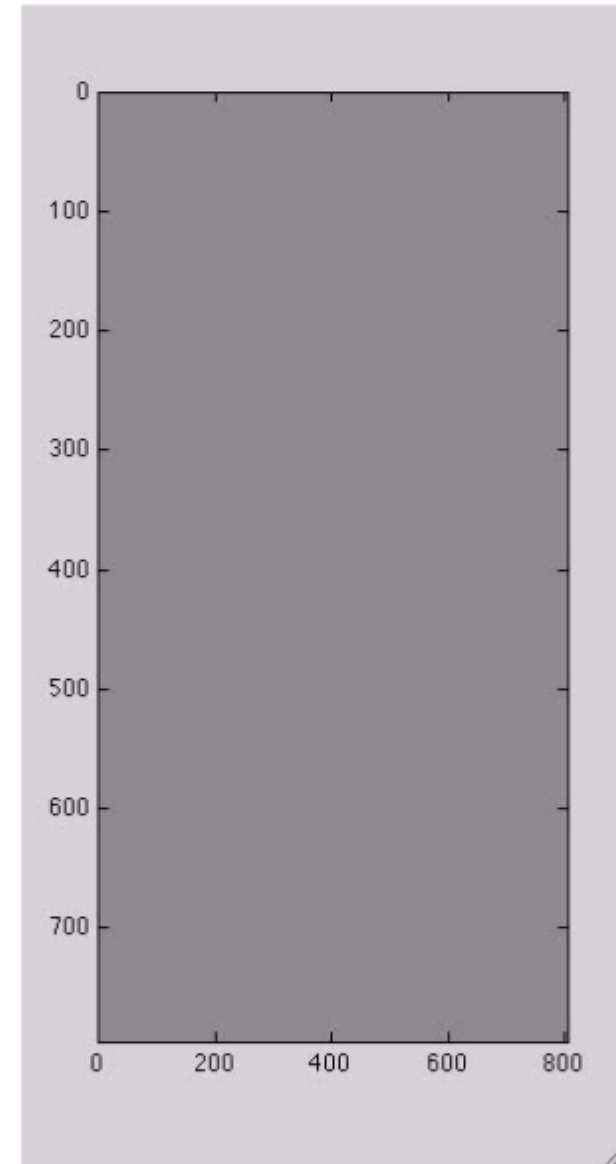
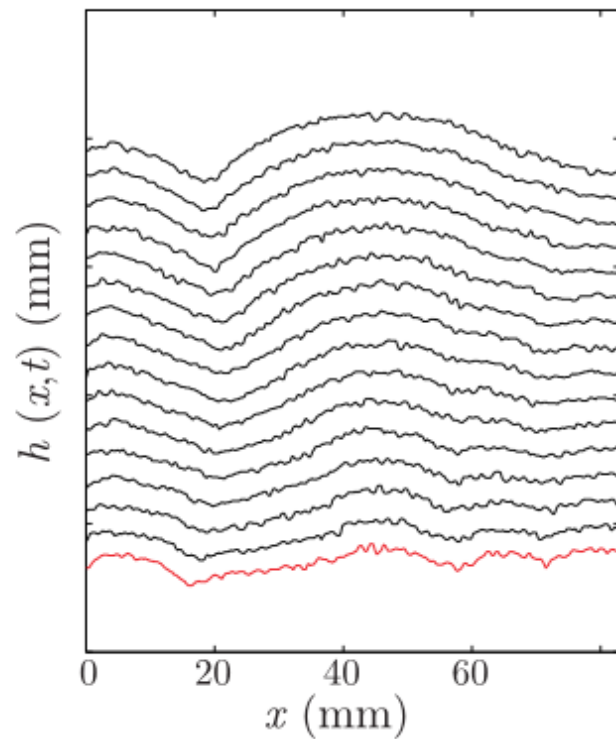
flow through a granular medium

**1.5 mm and 2 mm  
diameter glass  
beads**



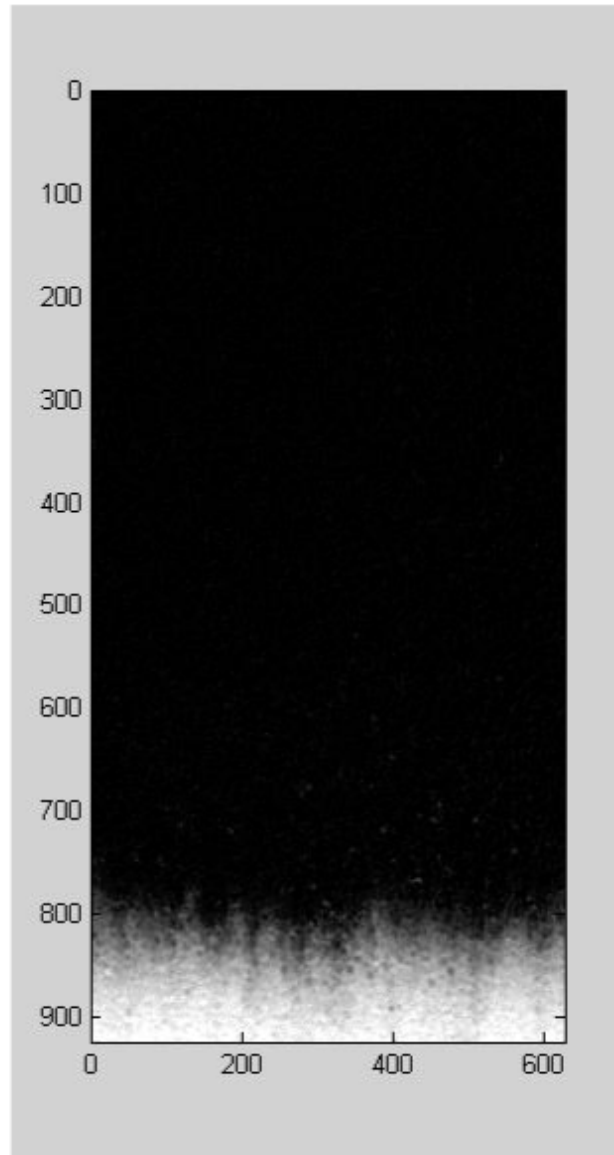
# Experimental setup

- **Reaction front propagation without disordered flow**



# Experimental setup

Tracers dispersion experiments:

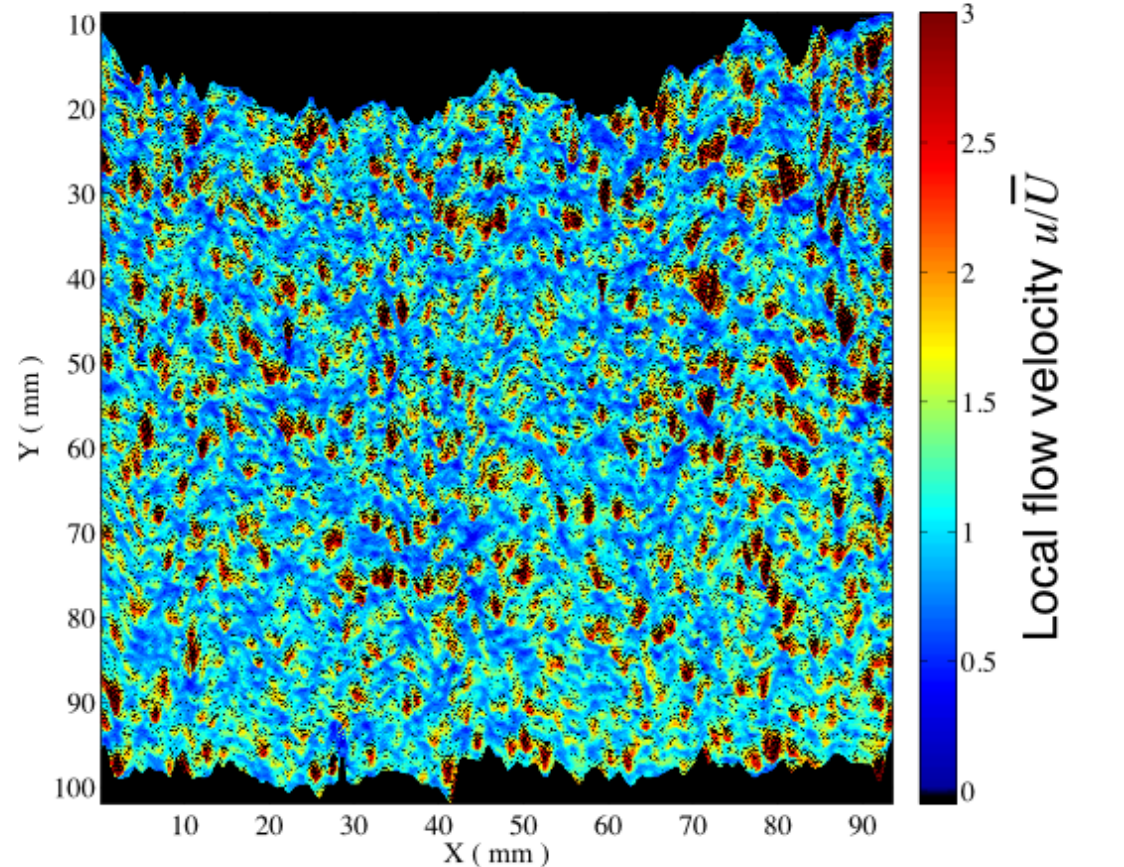


measurements of the local flow velocity

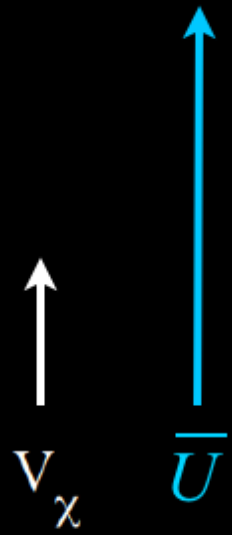
Fluctuations correlation length:

$$d_{\parallel} = 1.8 \pm 0.1 \text{ mm}$$

Disordered flow of mean velocity  $U$



## Supportive flow



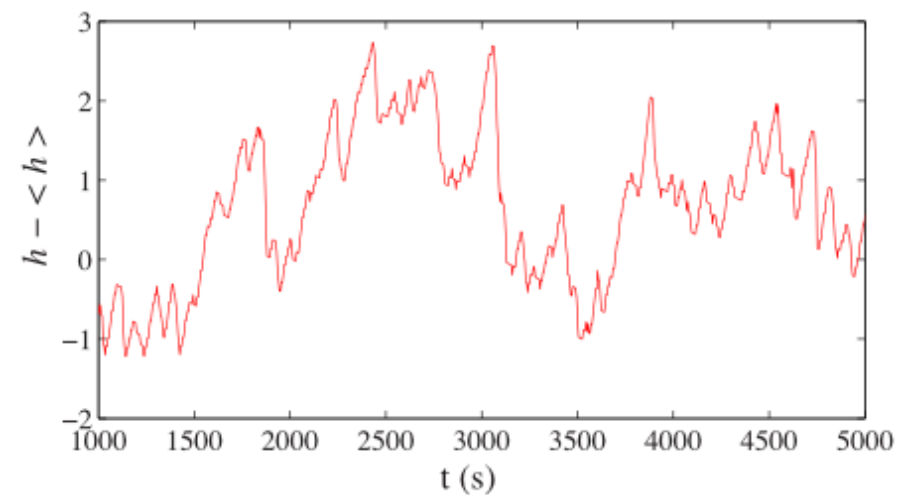
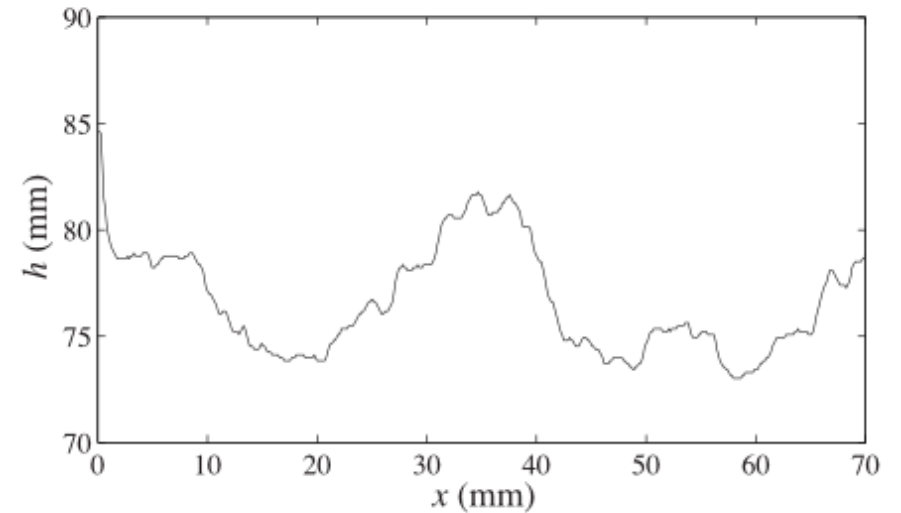
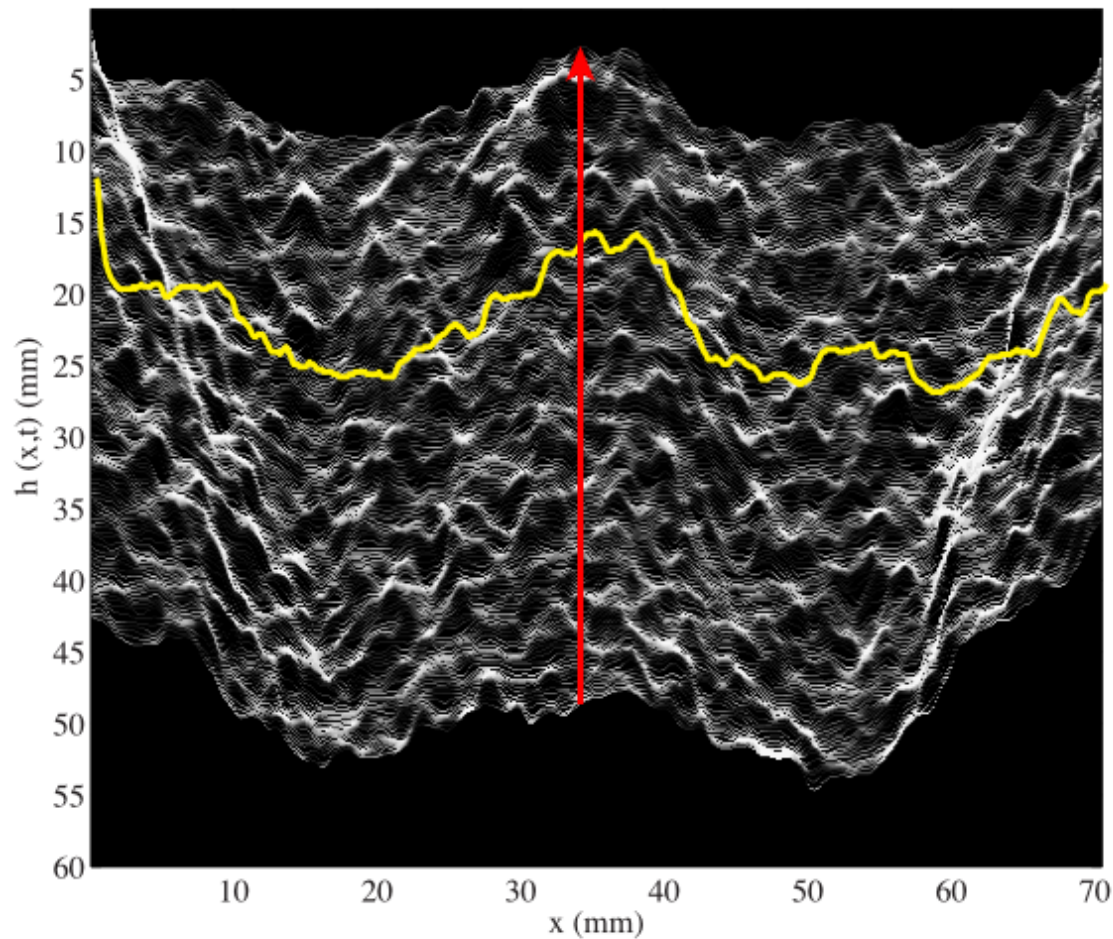
## Adverse flow





# Upstream propagating fronts

- Front height spatiotemporal fluctuations measurements





# Upstream propagating fronts

## roughness exponent

$$w(\Delta x, t) = \left\langle \sqrt{\langle [h(x, t) - \langle h \rangle_{\Delta x}]^2 \rangle_{\Delta x}} \right\rangle_L \sim \Delta x^\alpha$$

## growth exponent

$$w(x, \Delta t) = \left\langle \sqrt{\langle [h(x, t) - \langle h \rangle_{\Delta t}]^2 \rangle_{\Delta t}} \right\rangle_T \sim \Delta t^\beta$$

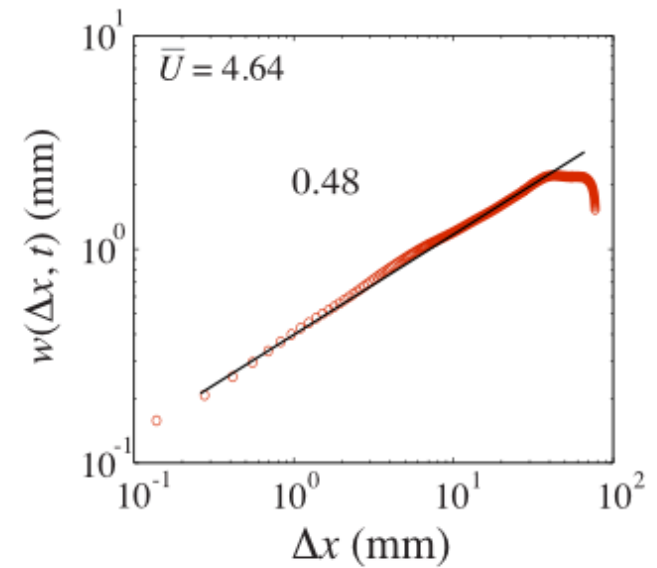
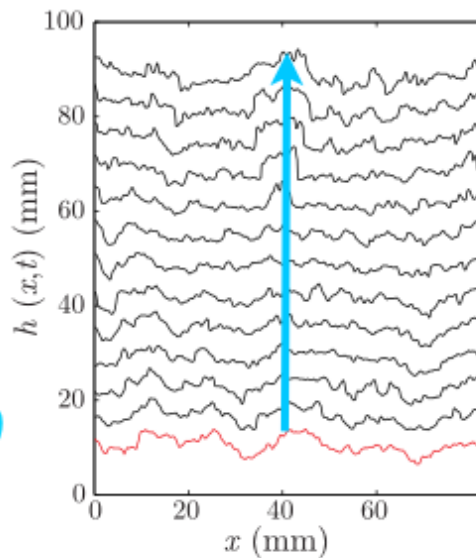
# Fast propagation

Roughness exponent

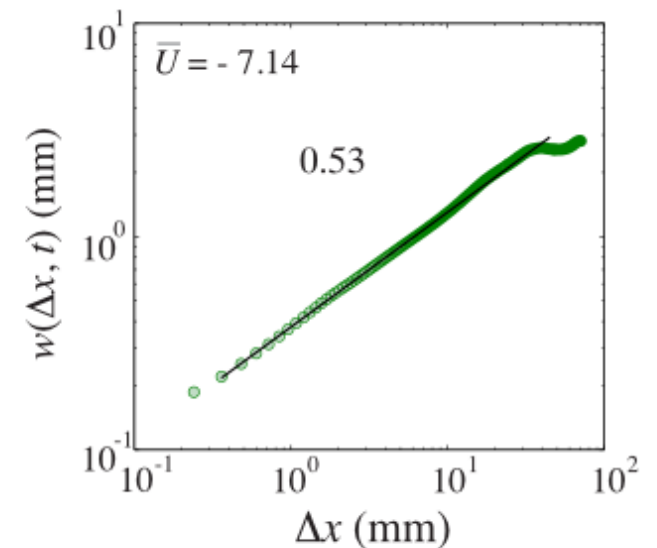
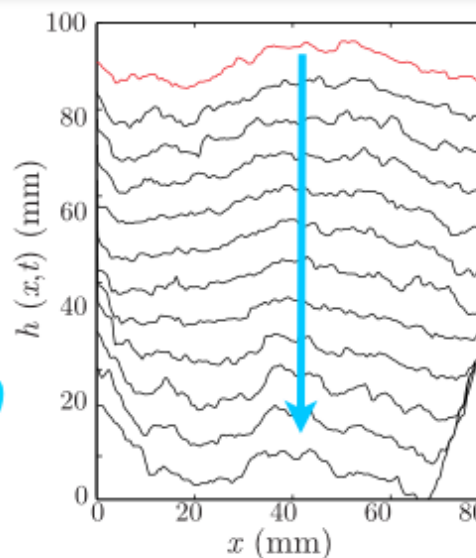
power law:

$$w(\Delta x, t) \sim \Delta x^\alpha$$

$$\bar{U} > 0$$



$$\bar{U} < 0$$



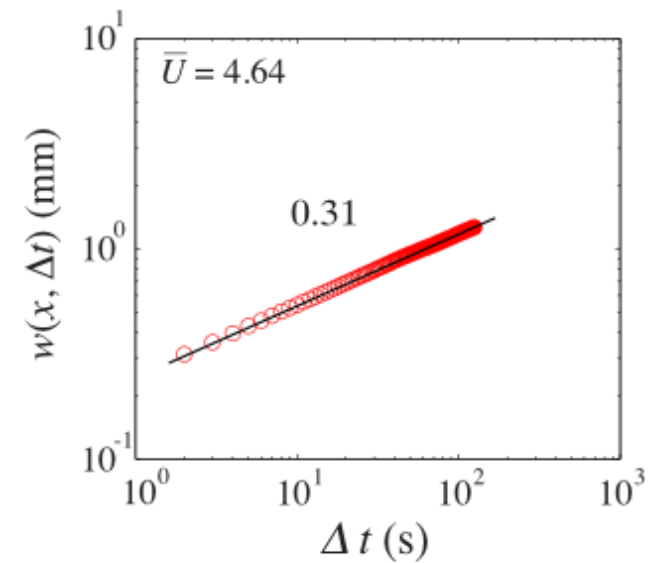
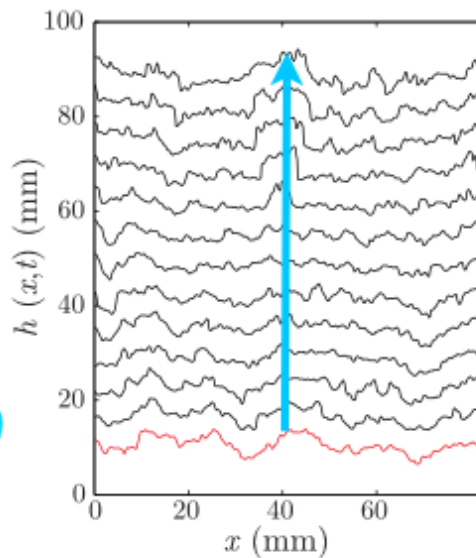
# Fast propagation

Growth exponent

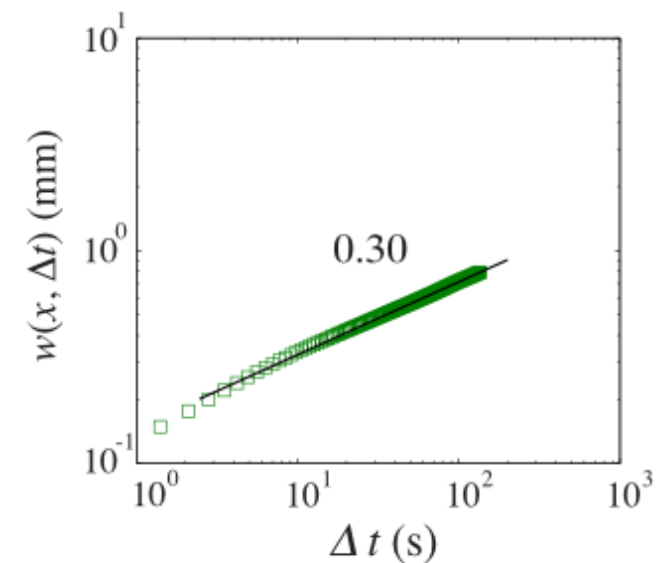
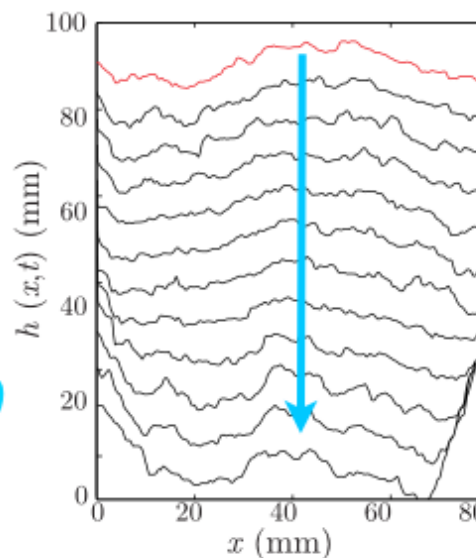
power law:

$$w(x, \Delta t) \sim \Delta t^\beta$$

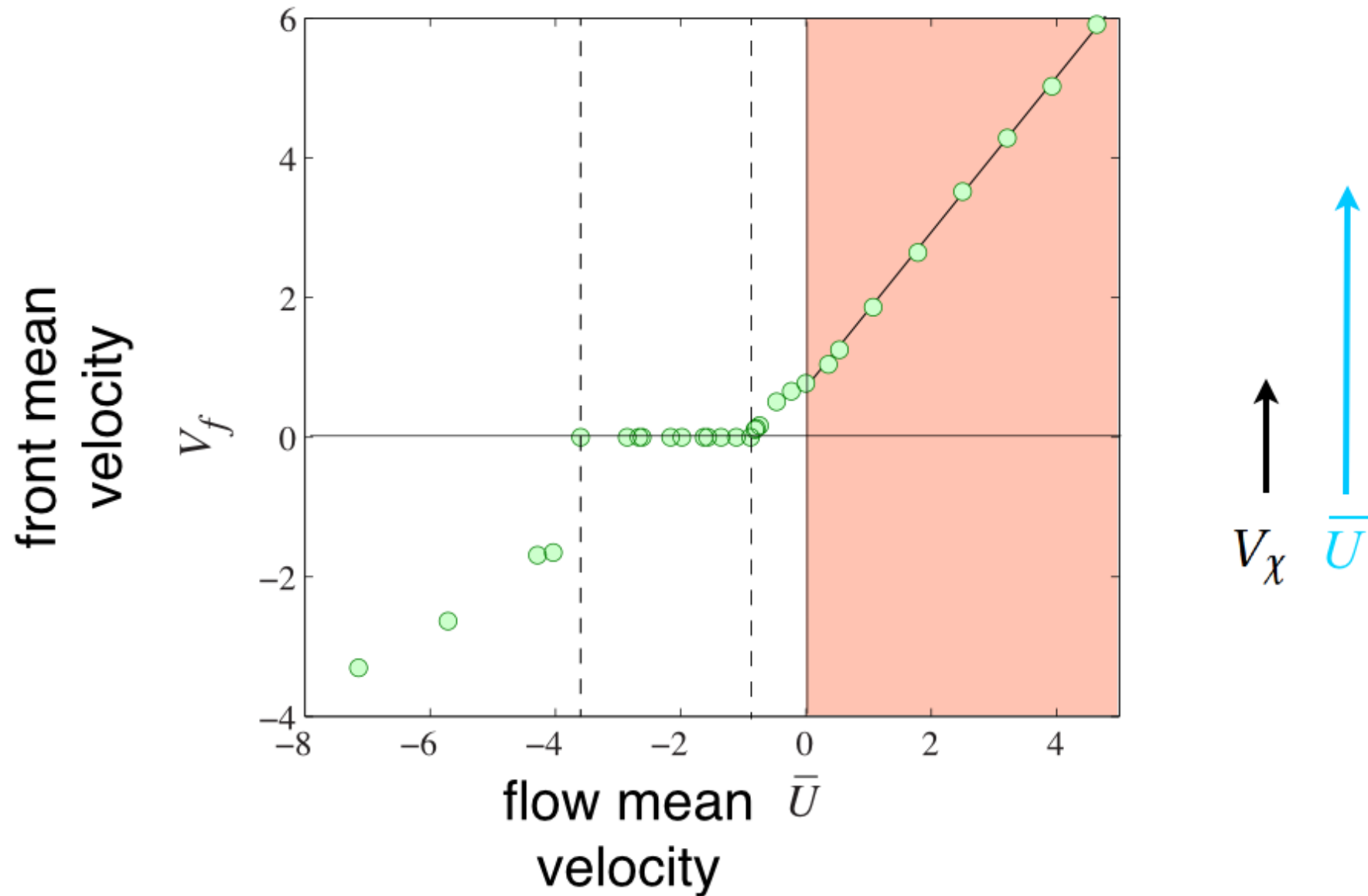
$$\bar{U} > 0$$



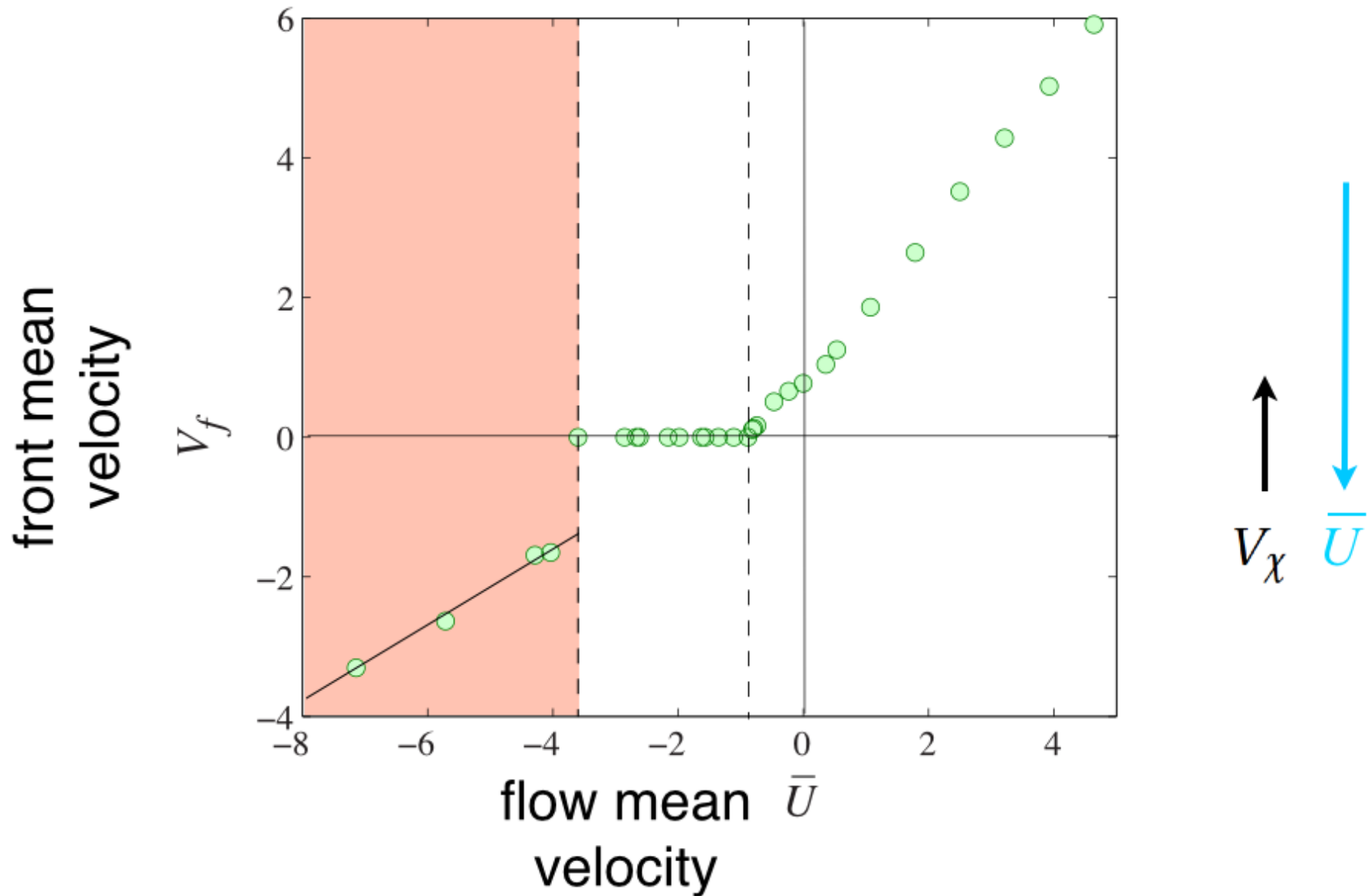
$$\bar{U} < 0$$



# Propagation regimes

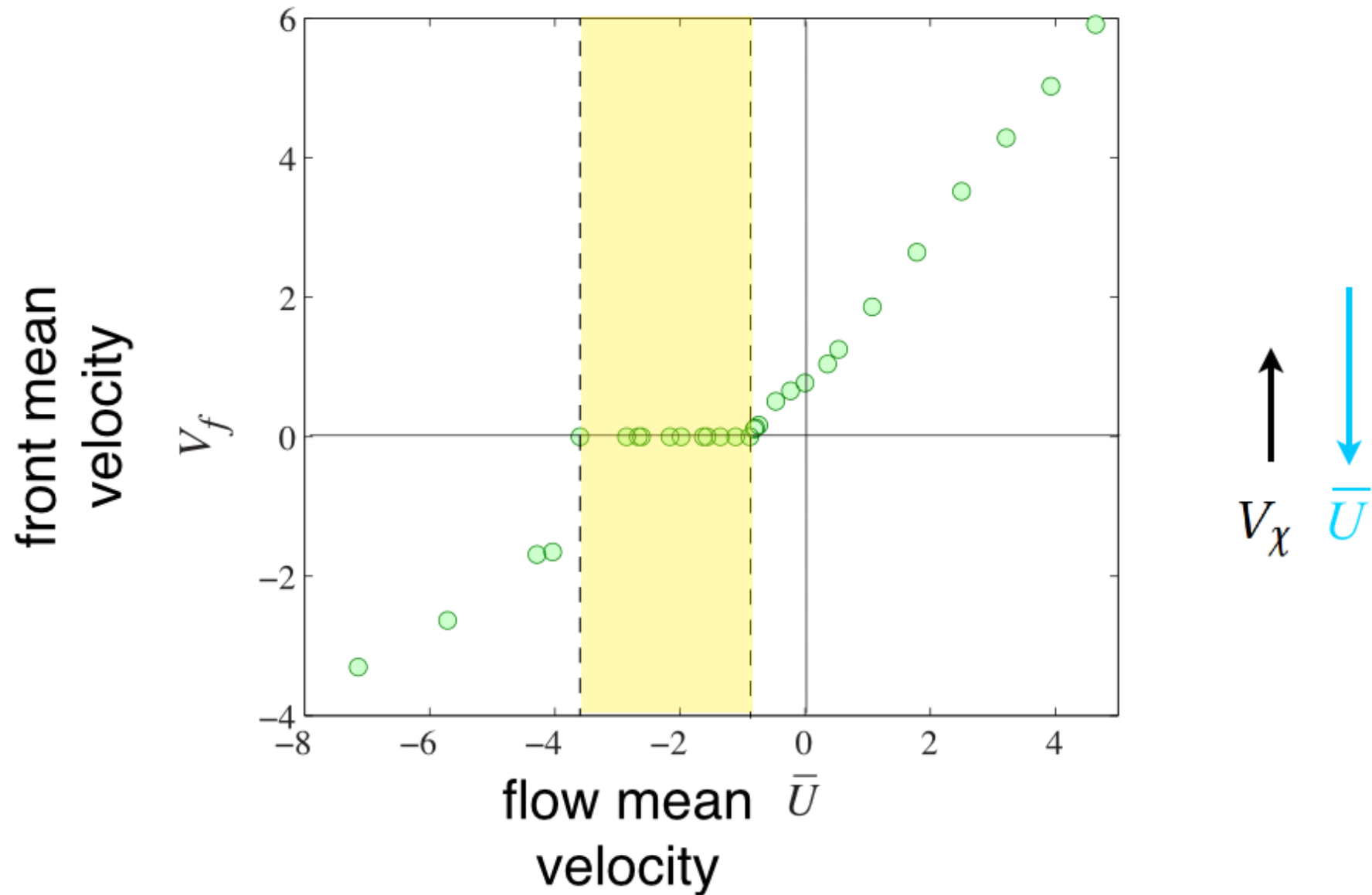


# Propagation regimes

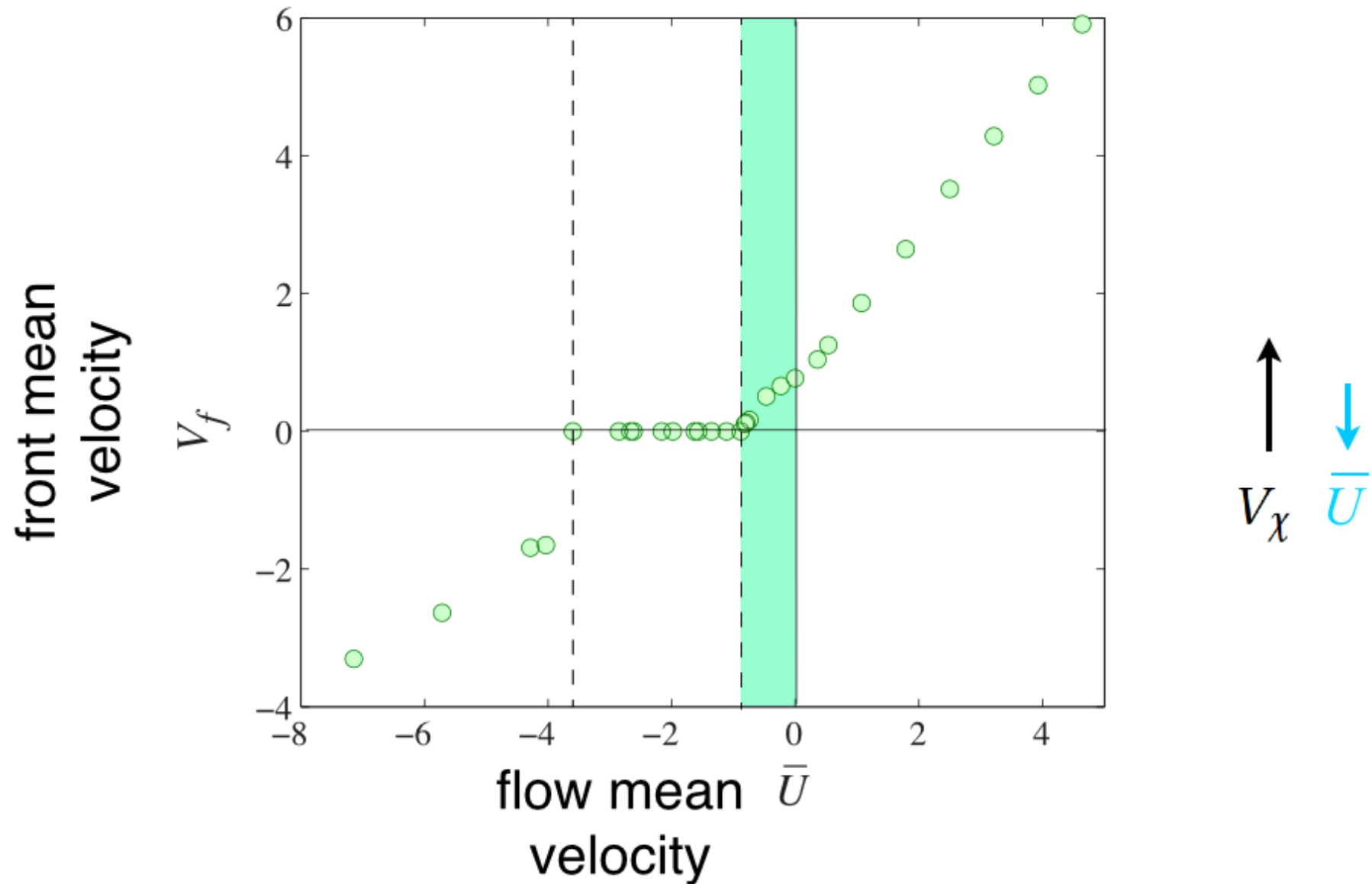




# Propagation regimes



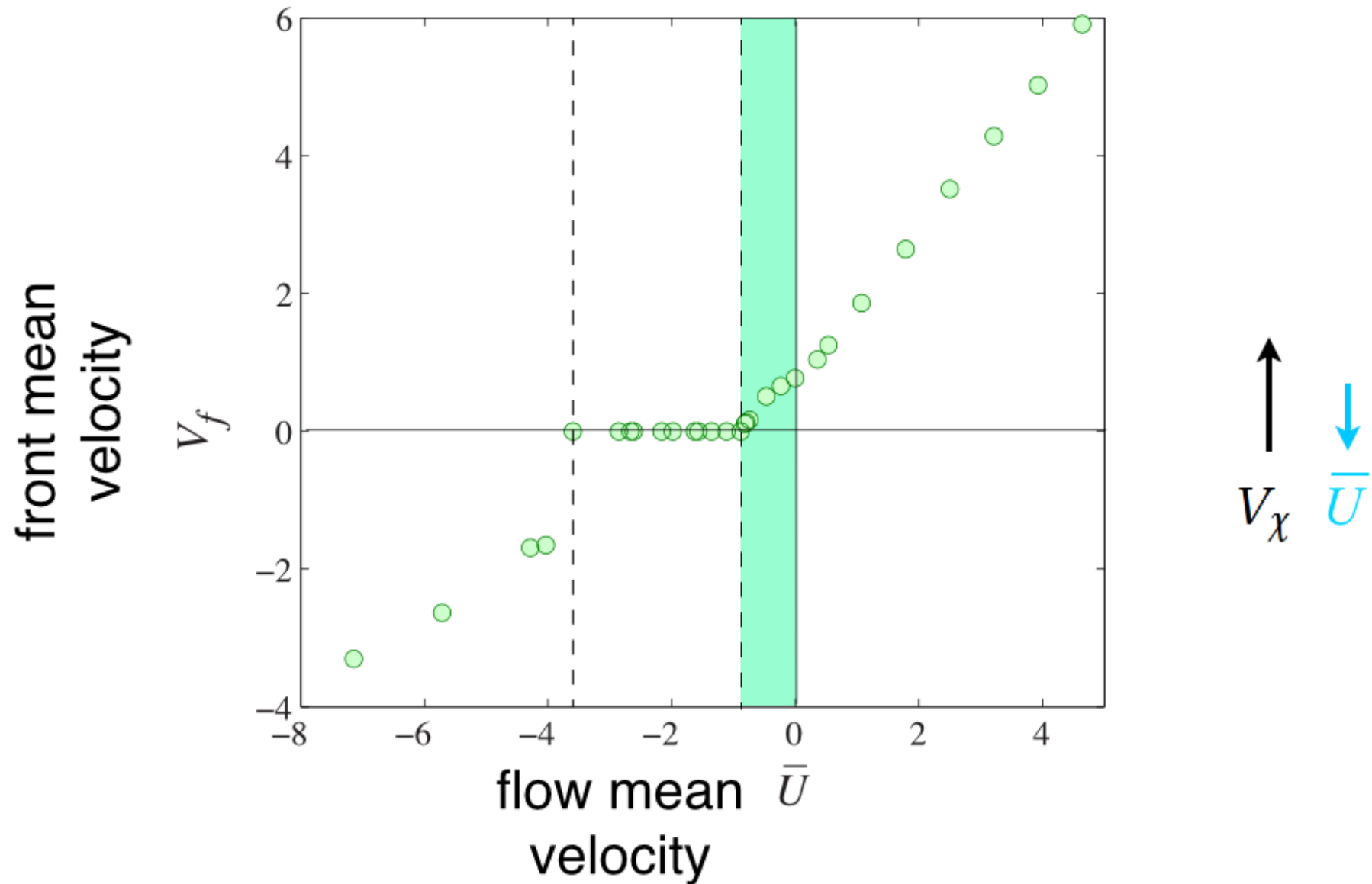
# Propagation regimes



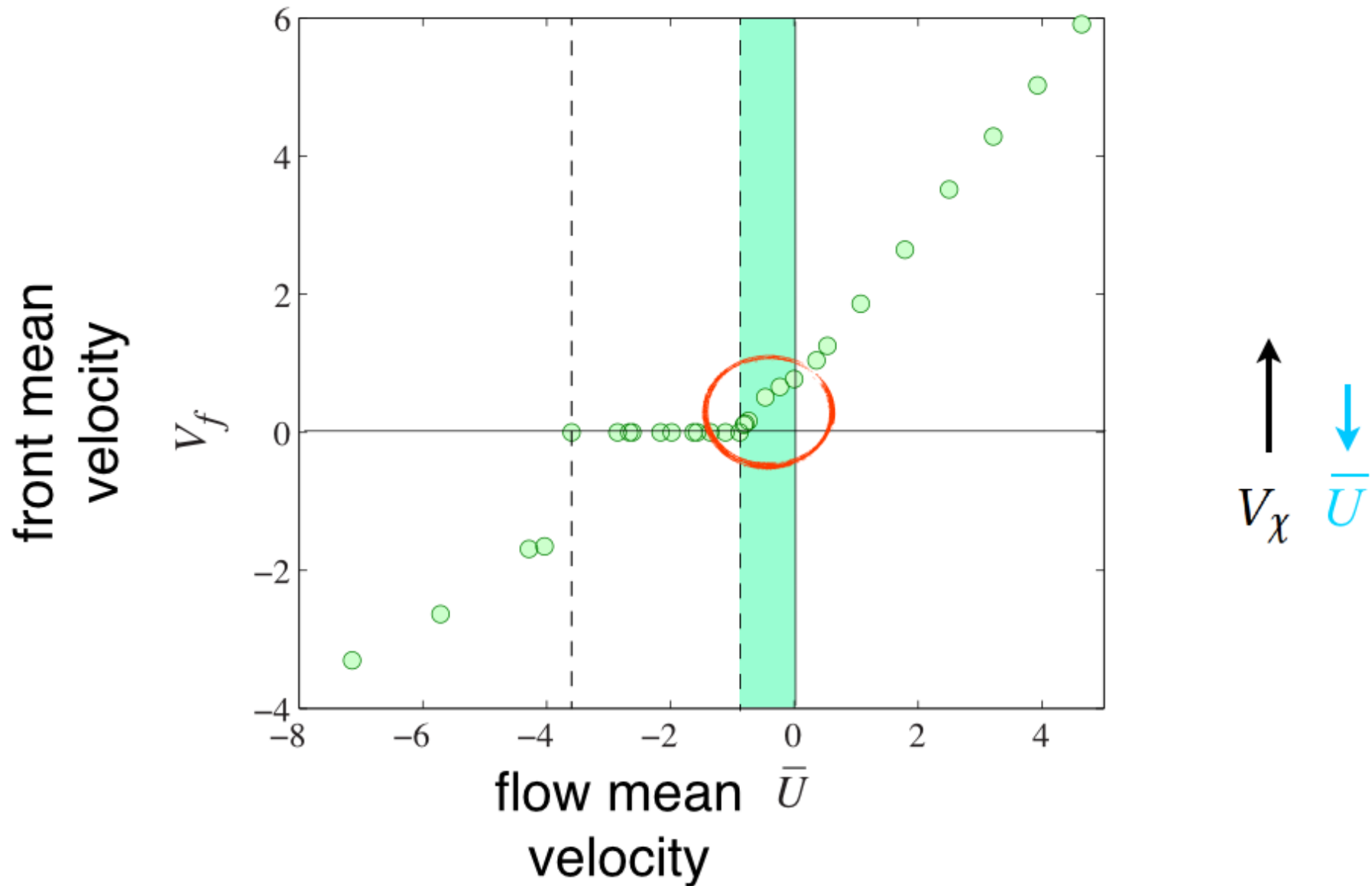
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# Propagation regimes

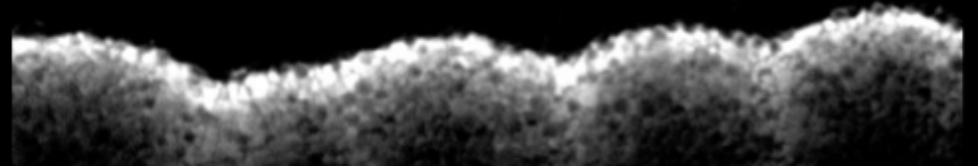
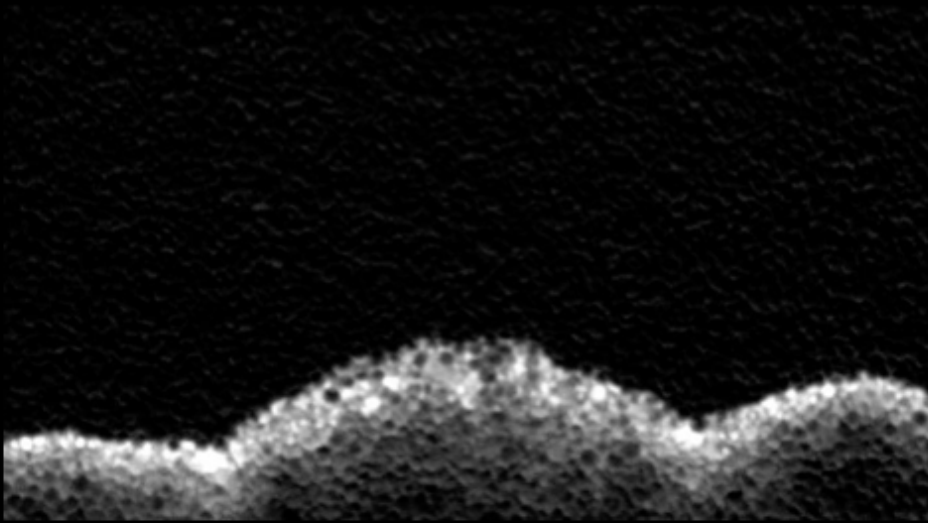


# Propagation regimes





# Adverse flow



# Upstream propagating fronts

## roughness exponent

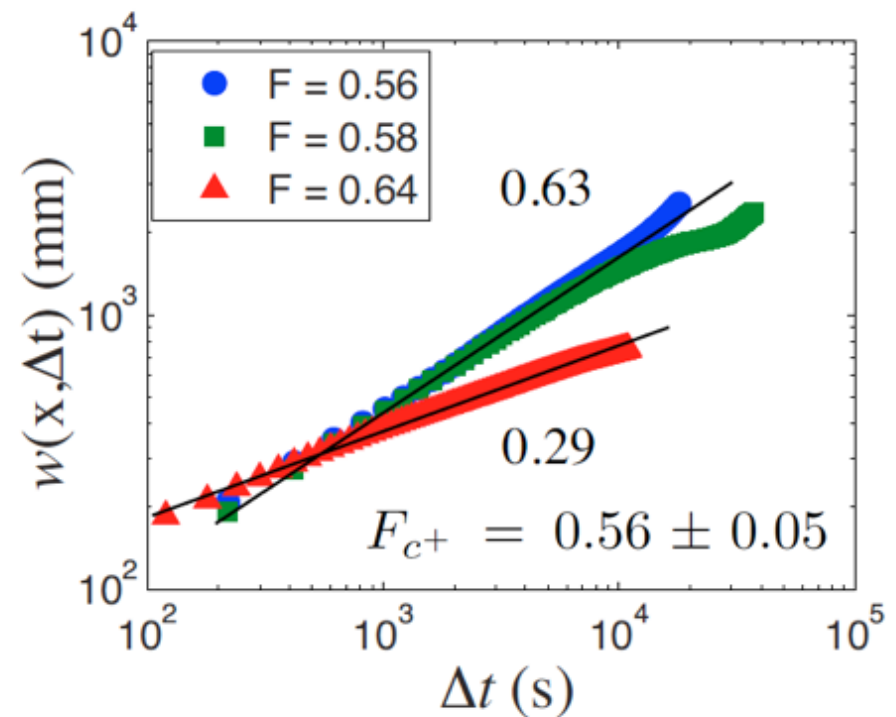
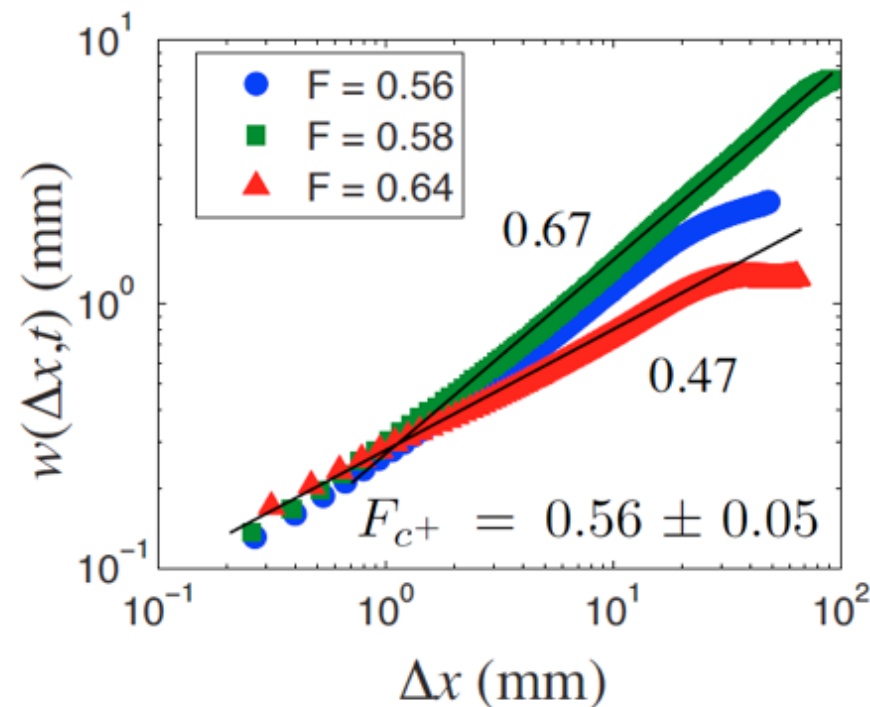
$$w(\Delta x, t) = \left\langle \sqrt{\langle [h(x, t) - \langle h \rangle_{\Delta x}]^2 \rangle_{\Delta x}} \right\rangle_L \sim \Delta x^\alpha$$

## growth exponent

$$w(x, \Delta t) = \left\langle \sqrt{\langle [h(x, t) - \langle h \rangle_{\Delta t}]^2 \rangle_{\Delta t}} \right\rangle_T \sim \Delta t^\beta$$

Control parameter:

$$F = \frac{\bar{U} + V_x}{V_x} + f_0$$



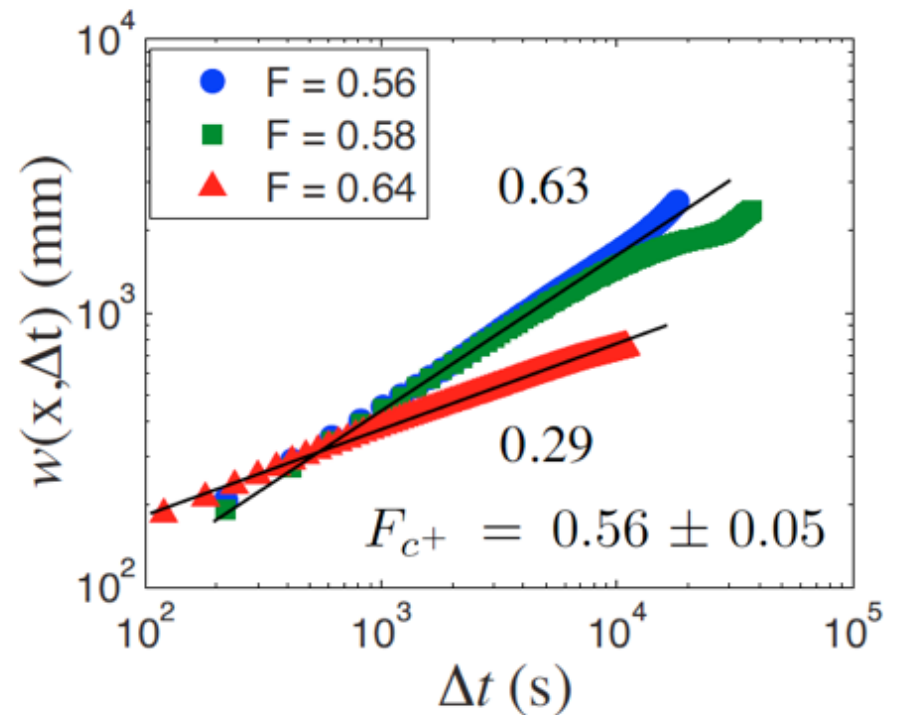
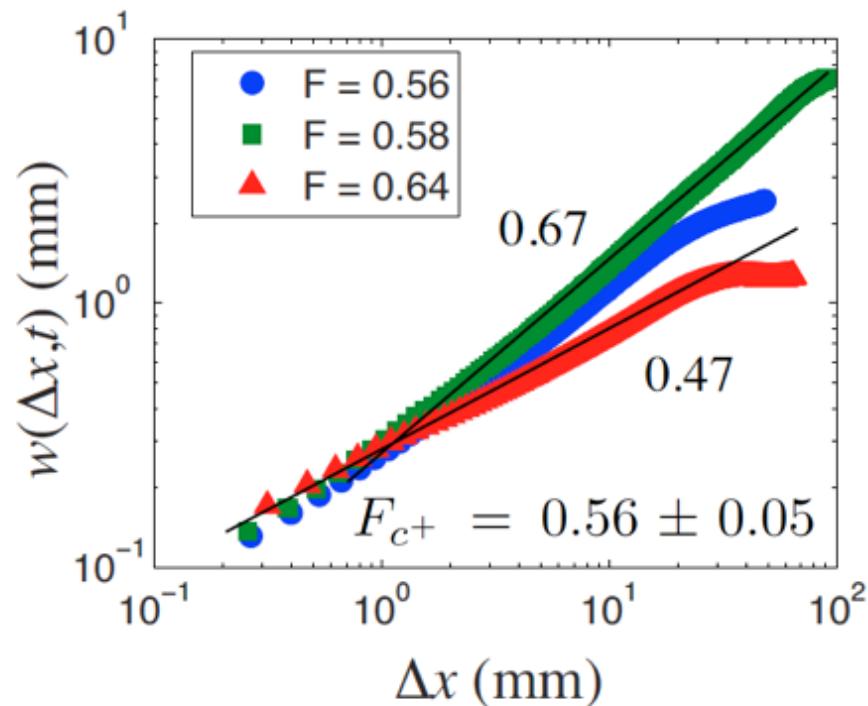
# Upstream propagating fronts

quenched KPZ model  
predicted exponent

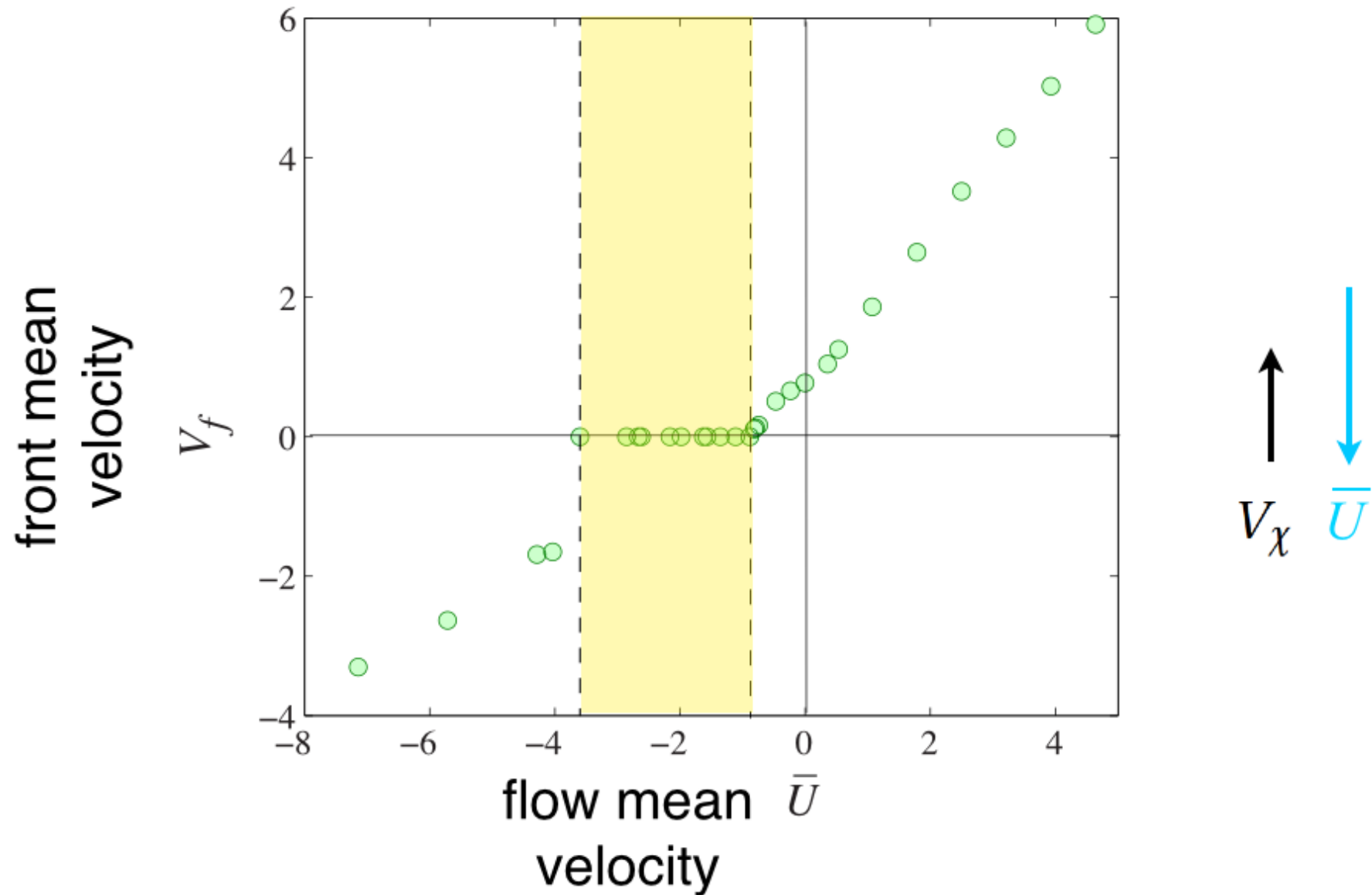
$$\alpha \simeq 0.63 \quad \beta \simeq 0.63$$

Control parameter:

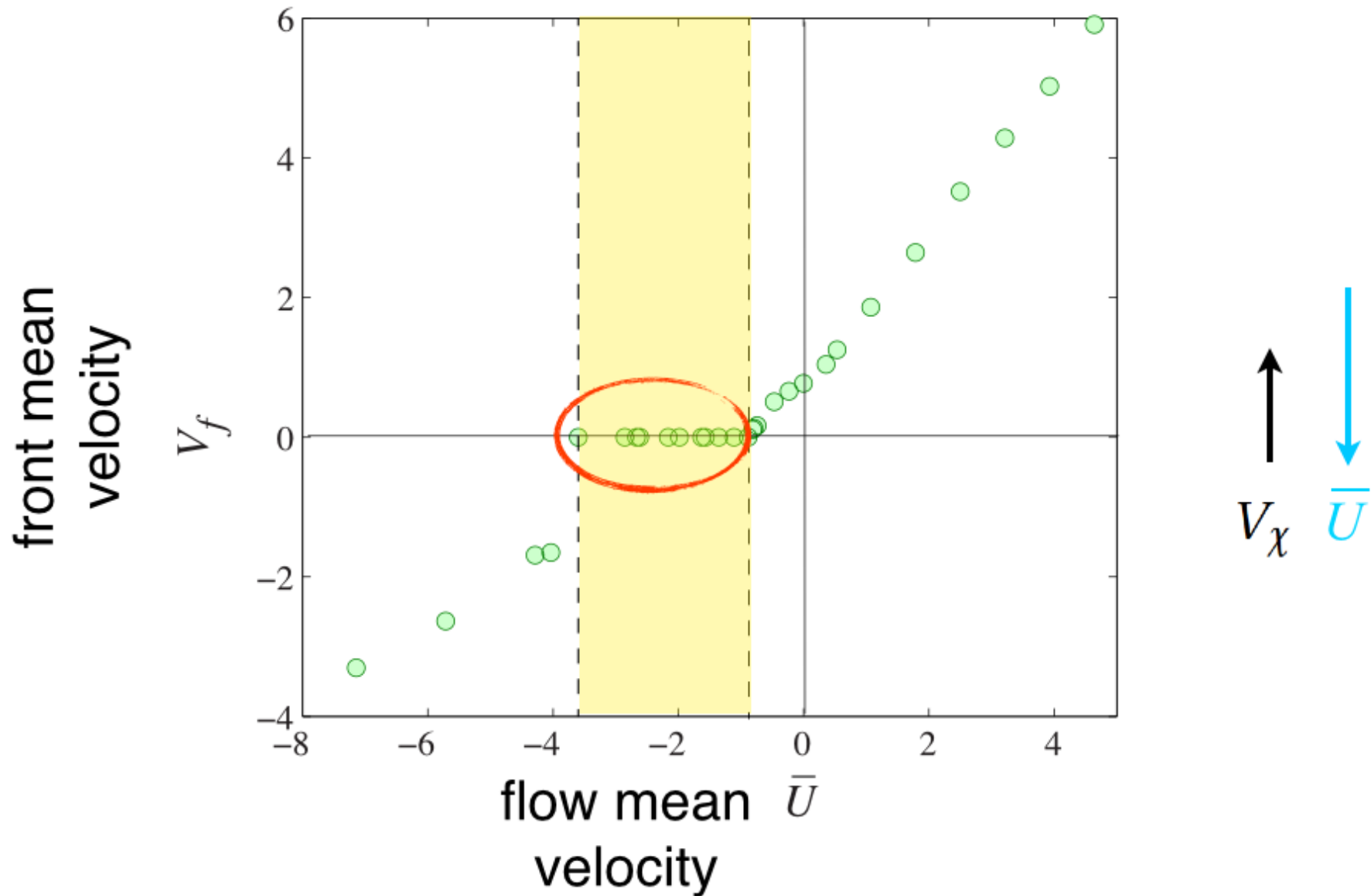
$$F = \frac{\bar{U} + V_x}{V_x} + f_0$$



# Propagation regimes



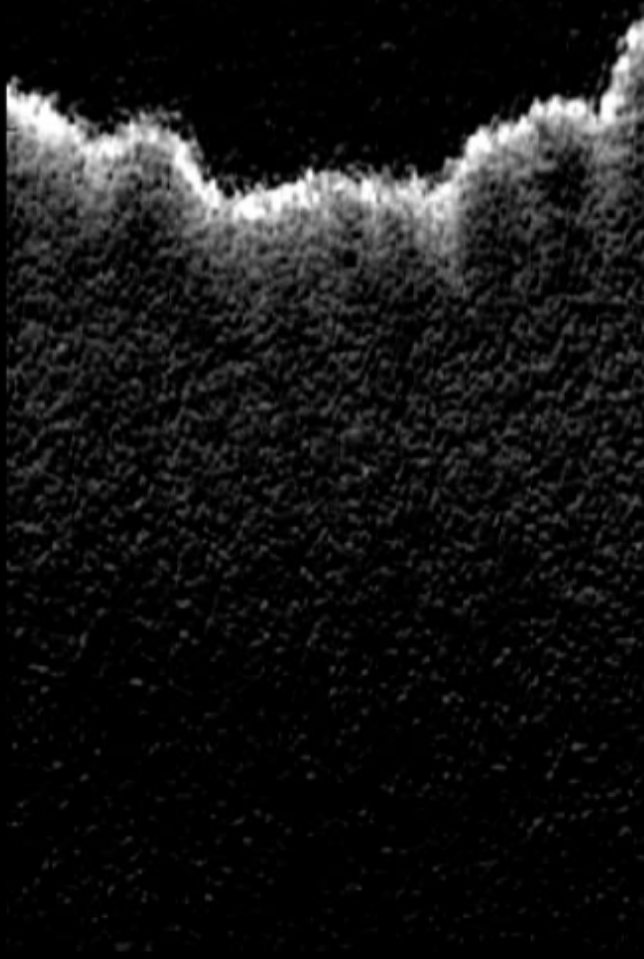
# Propagation regimes





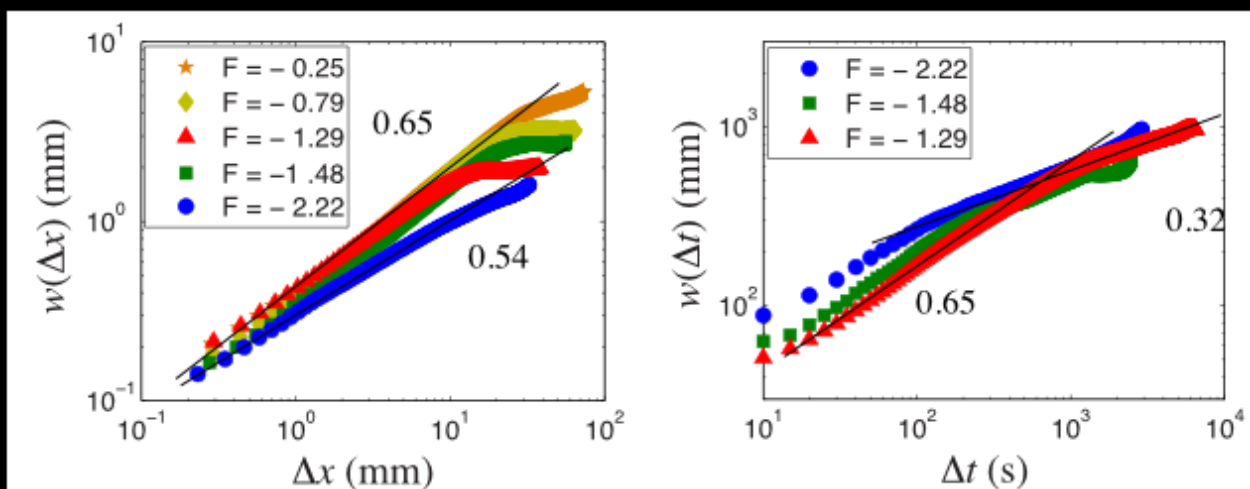
Adverse flow

backward



# Backward propagating fronts

scaling of the front before the formation of the sawtooth pattern



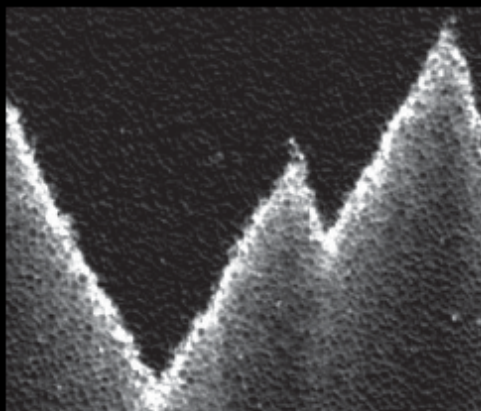
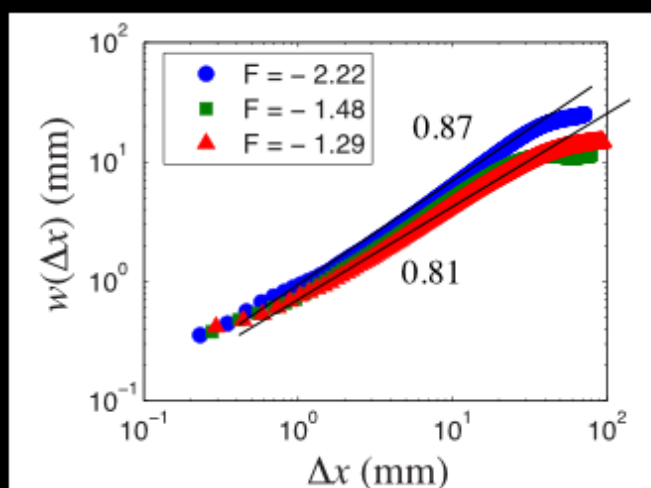
Predicted exponents:

**q-KPZ positive**

$$\alpha \simeq 0.63 \quad \beta \simeq 0.63$$

$$w(l, t) \sim l^\alpha \quad w(l, t) \sim t^\beta$$

roughness of the final sawtooth pattern



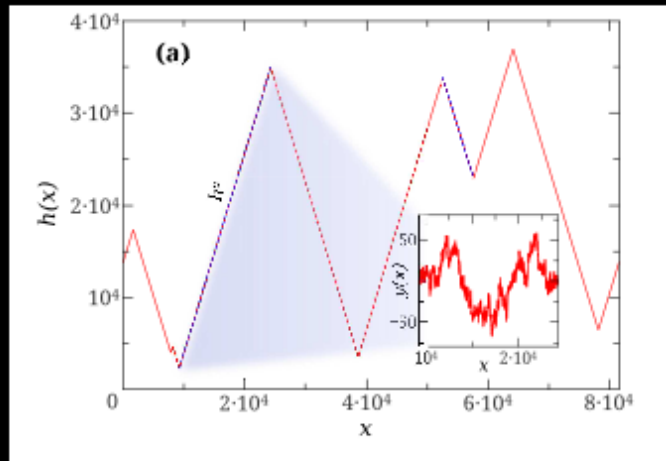
self-similar front

$$\alpha \rightarrow 1$$

Scaling in the negative qKPZ is altered by the large scale structures

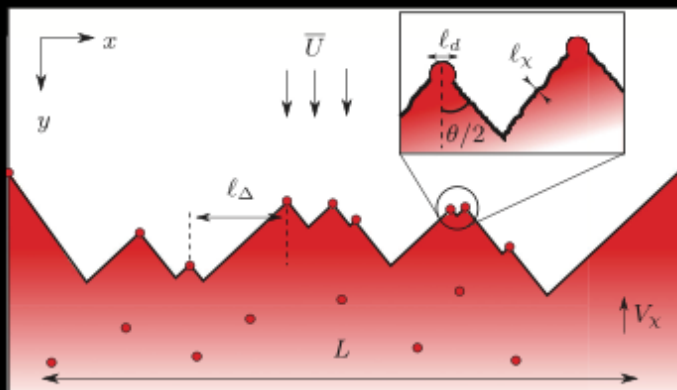
# Backward propagating fronts

## Alternative analysis



roughness of the front after subtracting the slope

Moglia et al. , *Stat. Mech* (2014)

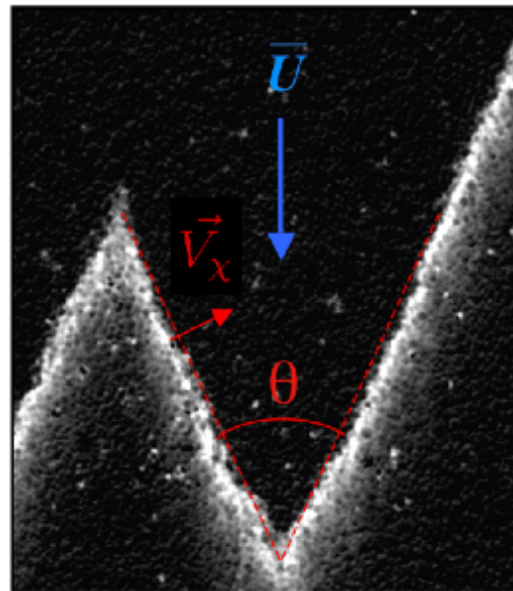


small-gradient qKPZ may not be quantitatively accurate. A more precise scenario was proposed based on the PNG model and extreme-value statistics.

T. Gueudré, A. K. Dubey, L. Talon, and A. Rosso, *PRES* (2014)

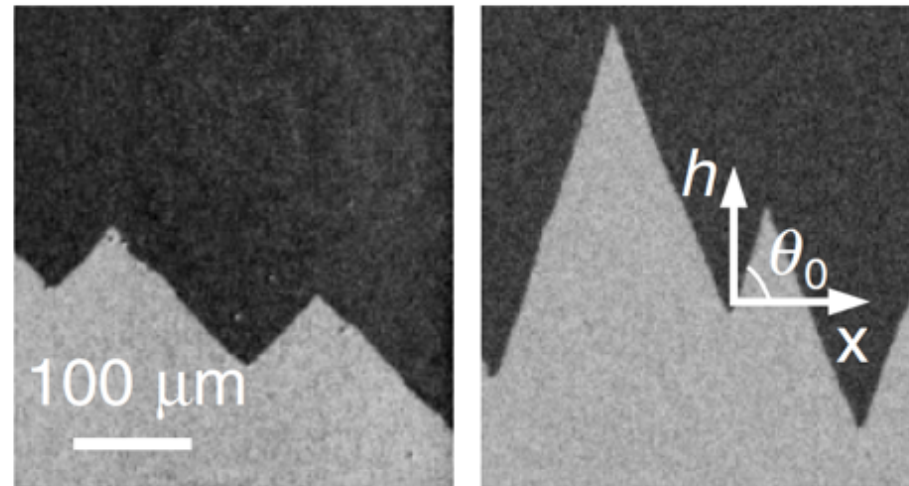
# Backward propagating fronts

- Magnetic domain wall frozen steady states



[Atis & al., *PRL* **110** (2013)]

$$V_x + \bar{U} \sin(\theta/2) = 0$$



[Moon & al., *PRL* **110** (2013)]

$$\epsilon (= H/J \cos\theta_0)$$

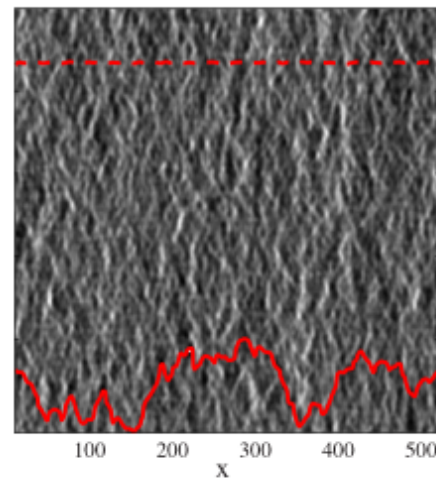
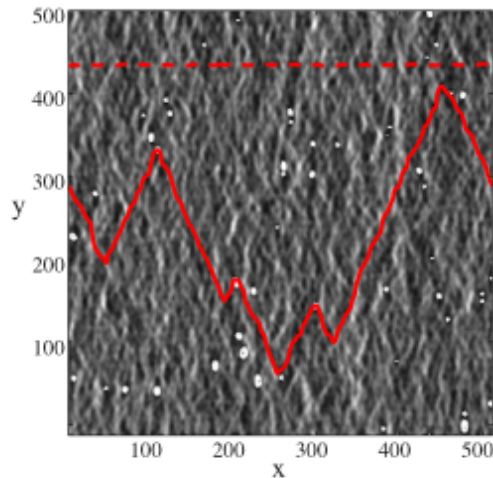
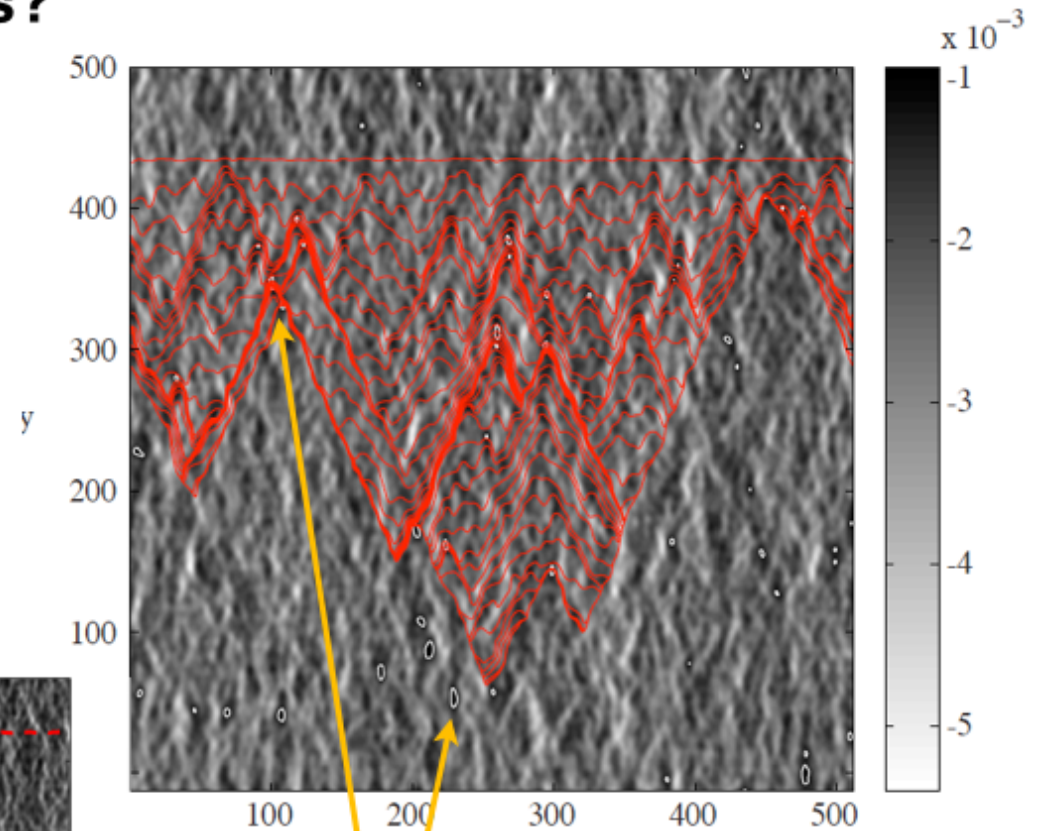
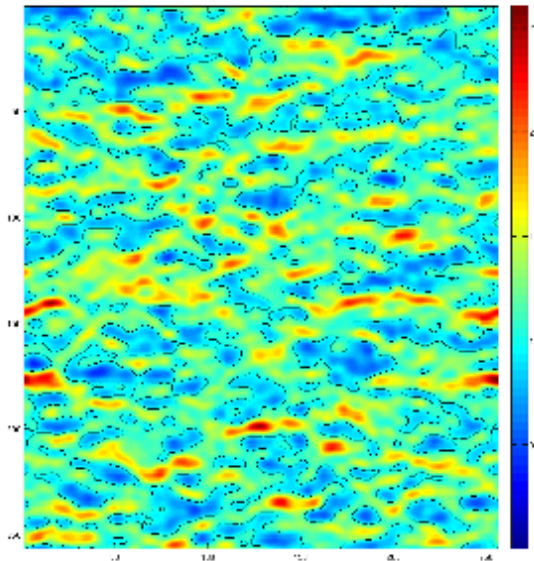
$H$ : applied magnetic field

$J$ : applied electric current



# Backward propagating fronts

- What is pinning reaction fronts?



low flow regions

$$U(x,y) \lesssim V_\chi$$

[Saha & al., *EPL* 101 (2013)]

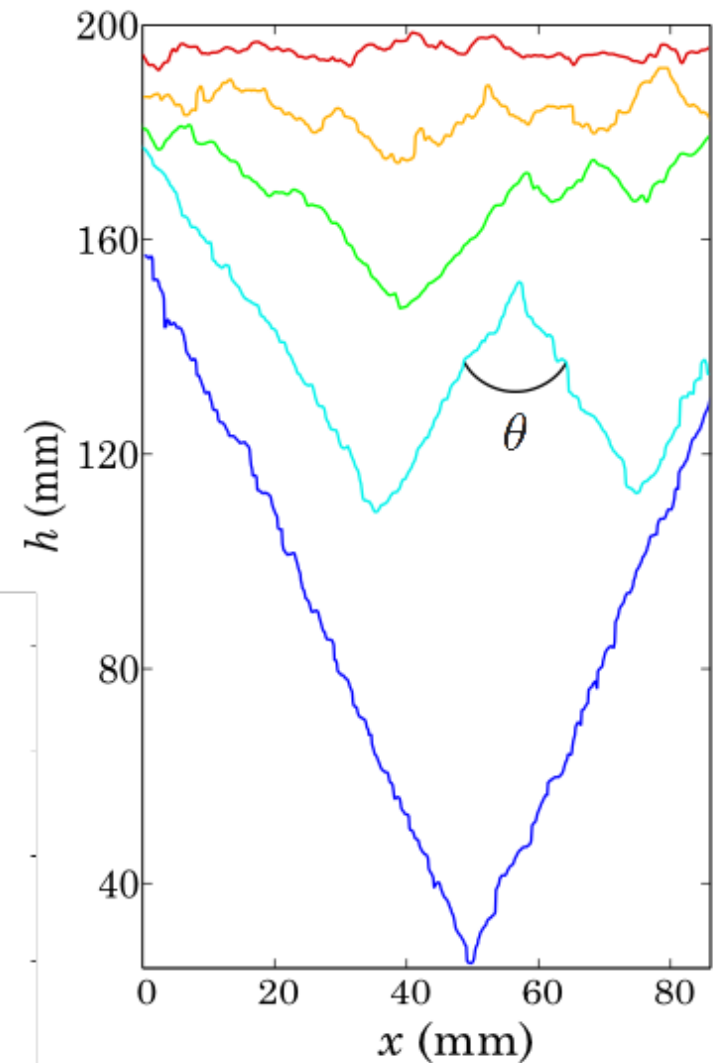
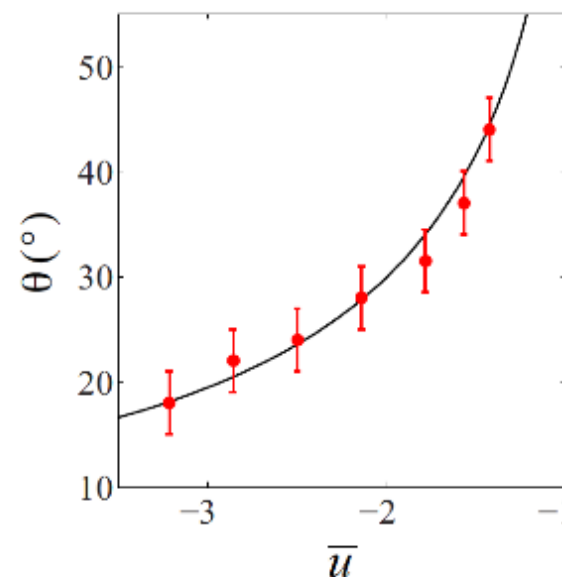
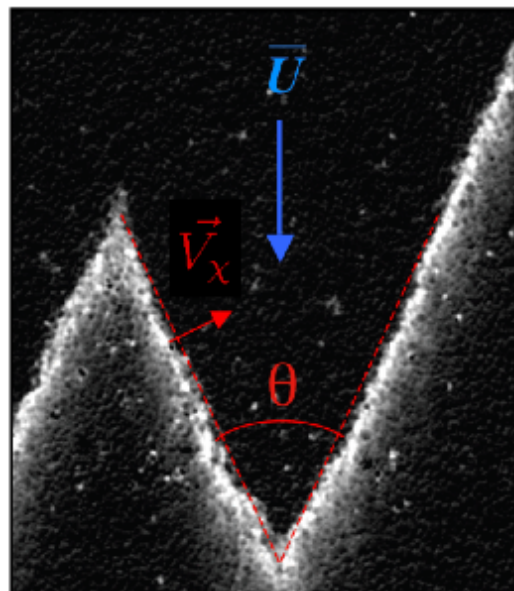
# Backward propagating fronts

**approximation eikonal**  $l_\chi \ll l_d$

$$\vec{V}_f(\vec{r}) \cdot \vec{n} = V_\chi + \vec{U}(\vec{r}) \cdot \vec{n} + D_m \kappa$$

**final static fronts**

$$V_\chi + \bar{U} \sin(\theta/2) = 0$$

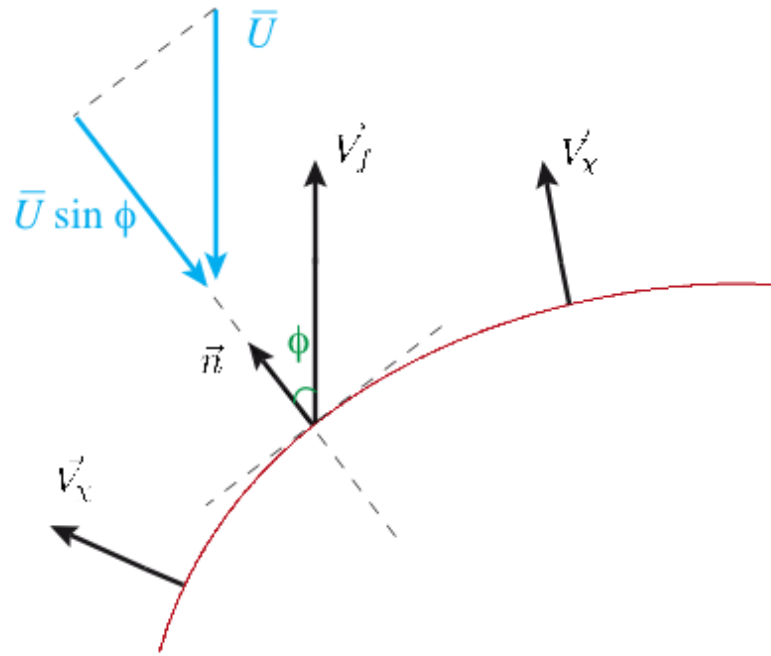




Advection - Reaction - Diffusion equation in thin front limit

Eikonal equation:

$$\vec{V}_f \cdot \vec{n} = V_\chi + D_m \kappa + \vec{U}(\vec{r}) \cdot \vec{n}$$



$$\vec{V}_f = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ V_f \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{U} = \begin{pmatrix} U_x \\ U_y \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{n} = \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \phi \\ \cos \phi \end{pmatrix}$$

$$V_f = \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} \quad \text{et} \quad \kappa = \frac{\partial^2 h / \partial x^2}{(1 + (\partial h / \partial x)^2)^{3/2}},$$

$$\tan \phi = \nabla_x h$$

$$\cos \phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (\nabla_x h)^2}}$$

with  $s = \nabla h$  and  $\vec{U}(\vec{r}) = \bar{U} \vec{e}_y + \delta \vec{U}(\vec{r})$

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \sqrt{1 + s^2} \left[ D_m \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} / (1 + s^2)^{3/2} + V_\chi + (\bar{U} + \delta U_y(\vec{r}) - s \delta U_x(\vec{r})) / \sqrt{1 + s^2} \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \sqrt{1 + s^2} \left[ D_m \partial_x^2 h / (1 + s^2)^{3/2} + V_\chi + (\bar{U} + \delta U_y(\vec{r}) - s \delta U_x(\vec{r})) / \sqrt{1 + s^2} \right]$$

small gradients limite  $|\nabla h| \ll 1$  :

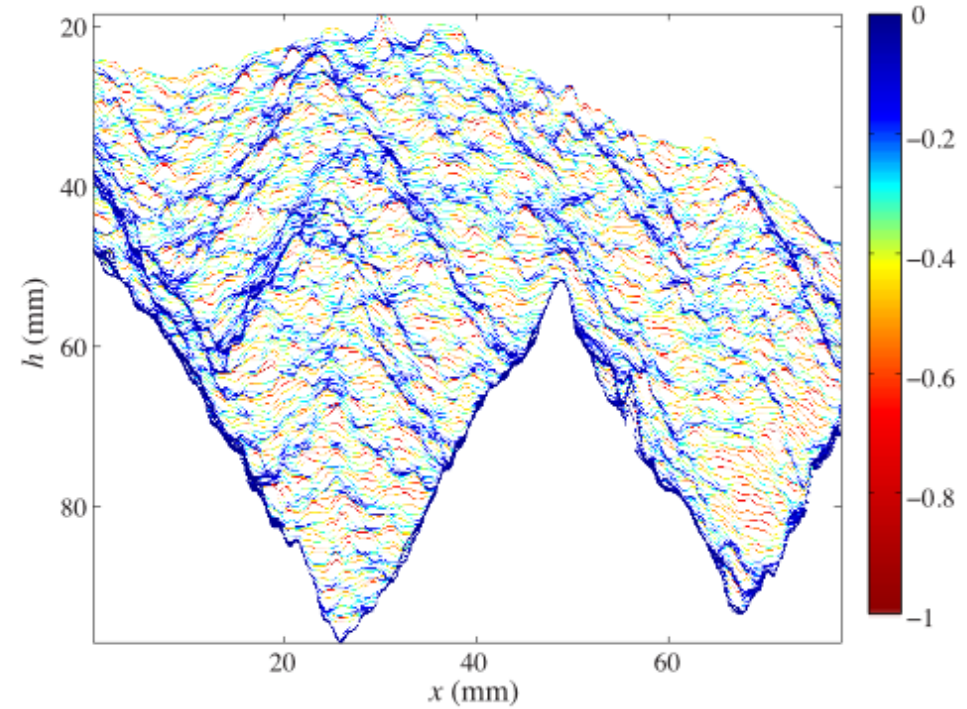
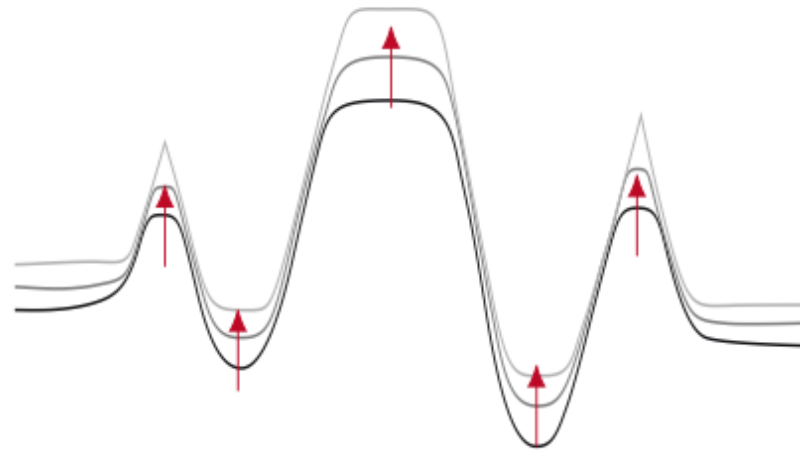
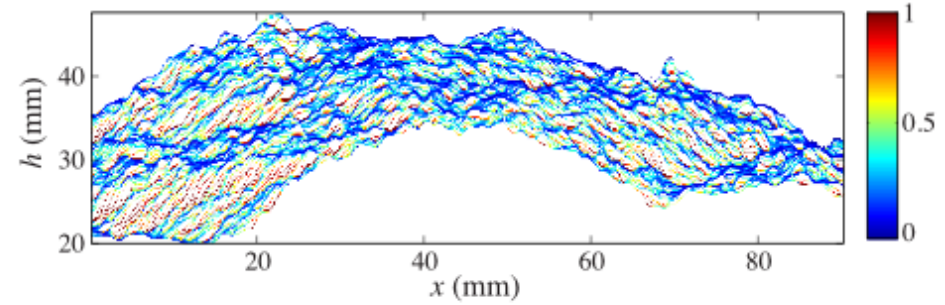
$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} \simeq \frac{D_m \nabla^2 h}{1 + (\nabla h)^2} + V_\chi \sqrt{1 + (\nabla h)^2} + \bar{U} + \delta U_y(\vec{r})$$

the flow is highly anisotropic  $\delta U_x \ll \delta U_y$

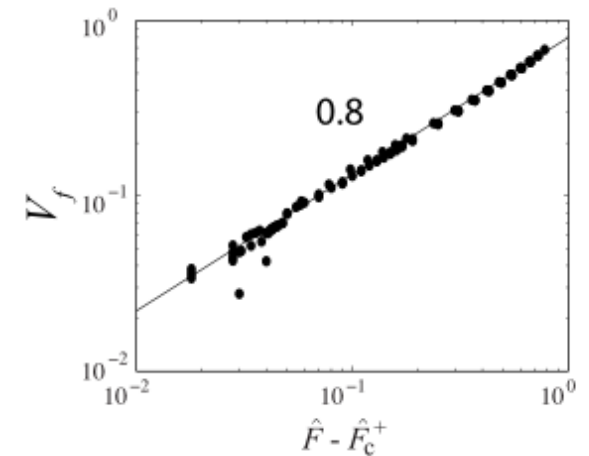
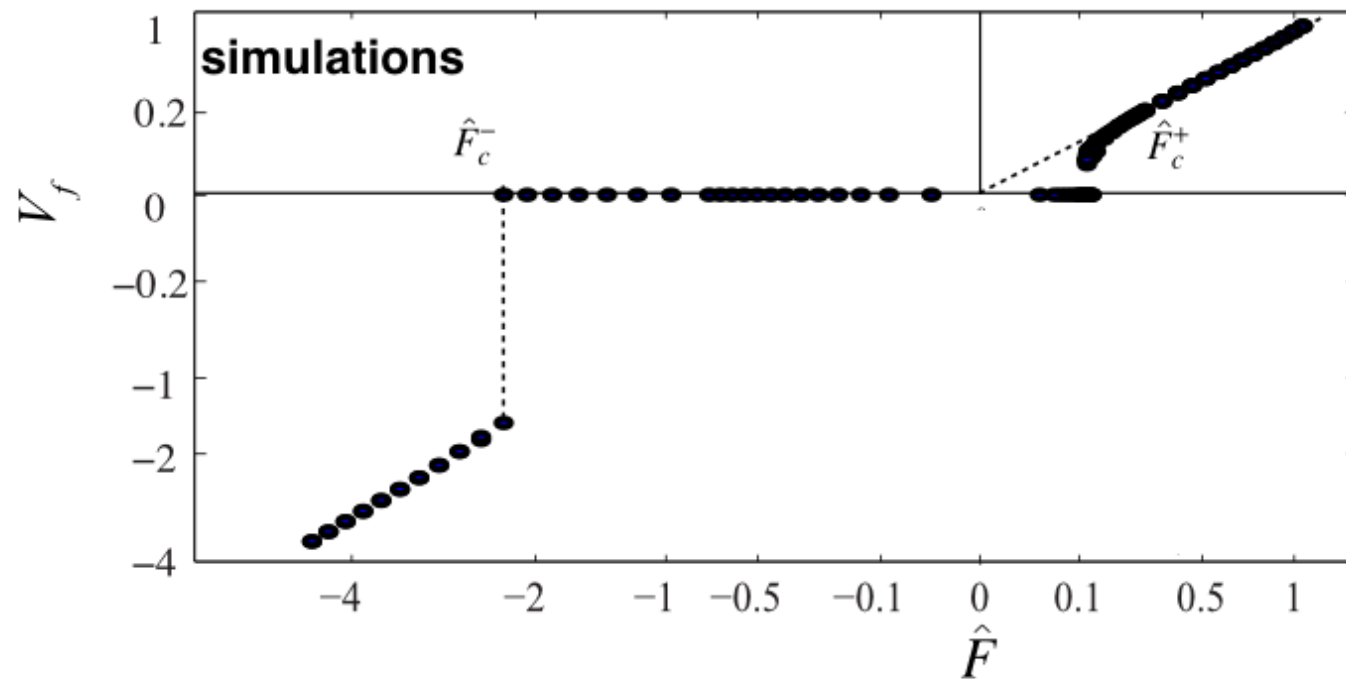
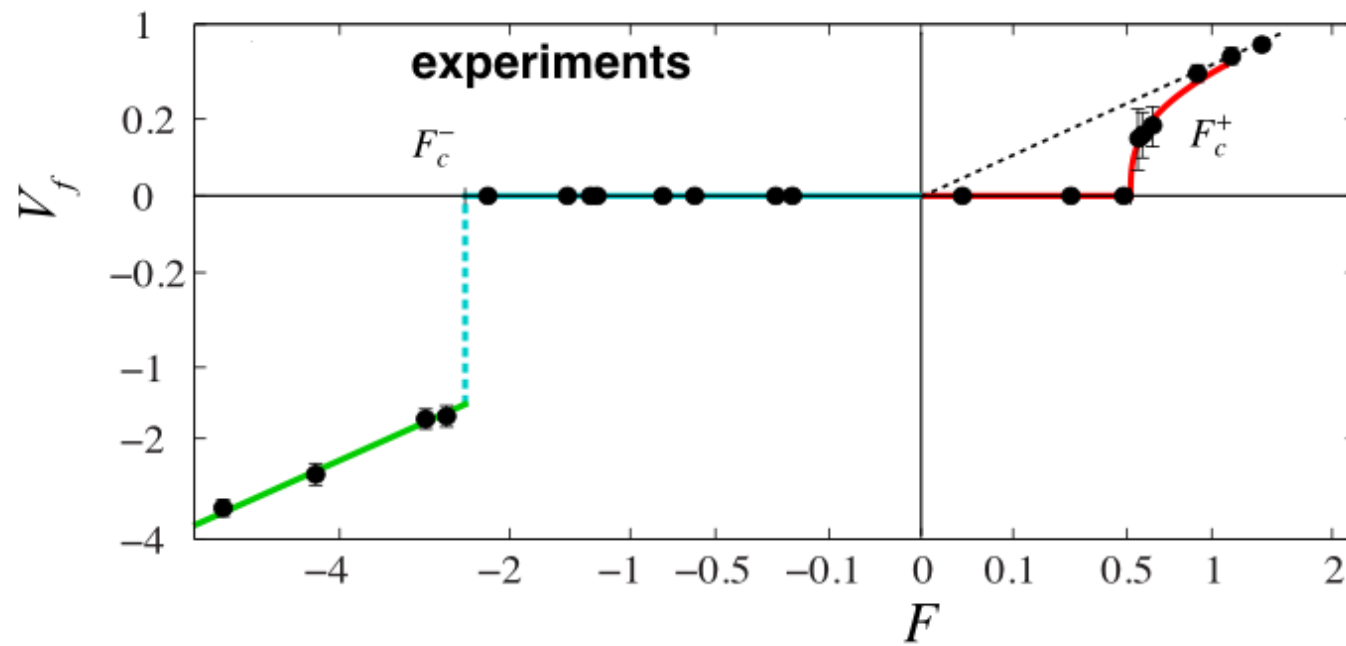
$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} \simeq D_m \nabla^2 h + \frac{V_\chi}{2} (\nabla h)^2 + \delta U_y(\vec{r}) + \bar{U} + V_\chi \quad \text{with } F = V_\chi + \bar{U}.$$

qKPZ equation :

$$\frac{\partial h(x, t)}{\partial t} = \nu \nabla^2 h(x, t) + \frac{\lambda}{2} [\nabla h(x, t)]^2 + \bar{\eta}(x, h(x, t)) + f$$



$$\frac{\partial h(x, t)}{\partial t} = D_m \nabla^2 h(x, t) - \frac{V_x}{2} [\nabla h(x, t)]^2 + \delta U_y(x, h(x, t)) + f$$



Amaral & al., *PRE* 51 (1995)

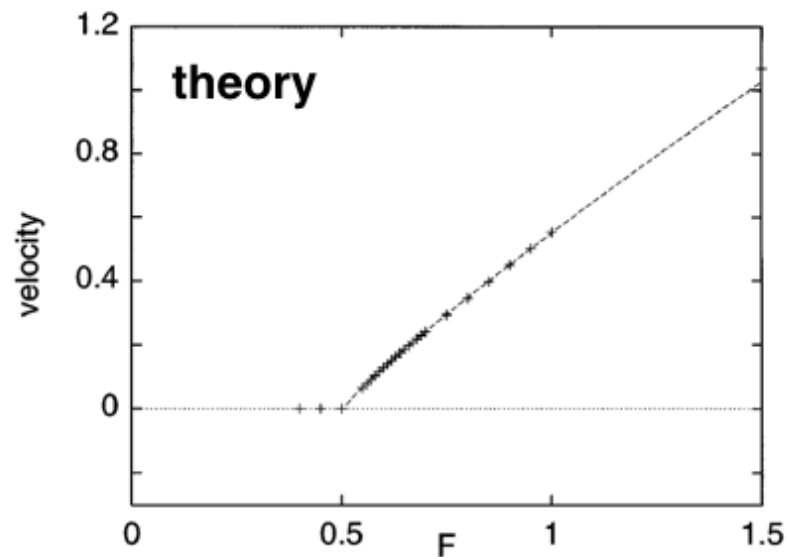
Control parameter:

$$F = \frac{\bar{U} + V_x}{V_x} + f_0$$

[S. Atis, K. D. Awadhesh, D. Salin, L. Talon,  
P. Le Doussal, K. Wiese, *PRL* (2015)]

positive quenched KPZ model

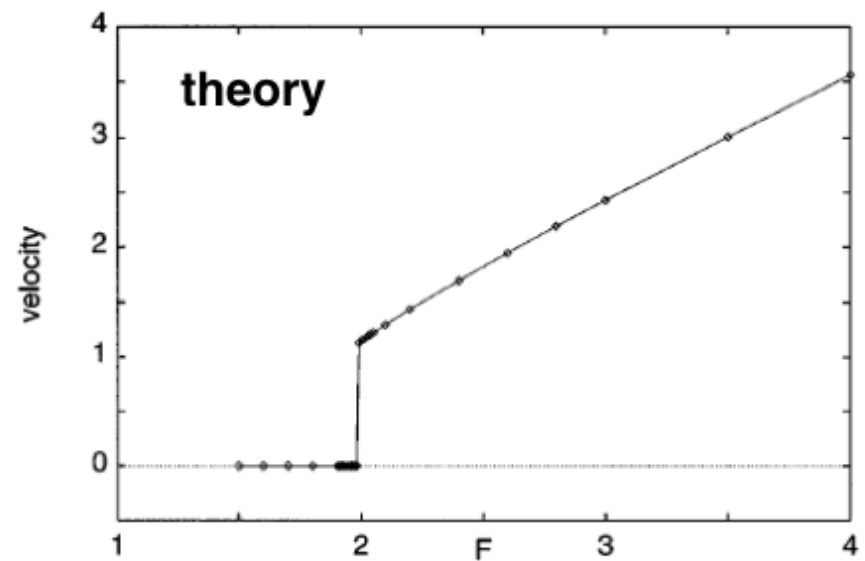
- 2<sup>nd</sup> order transition predicted



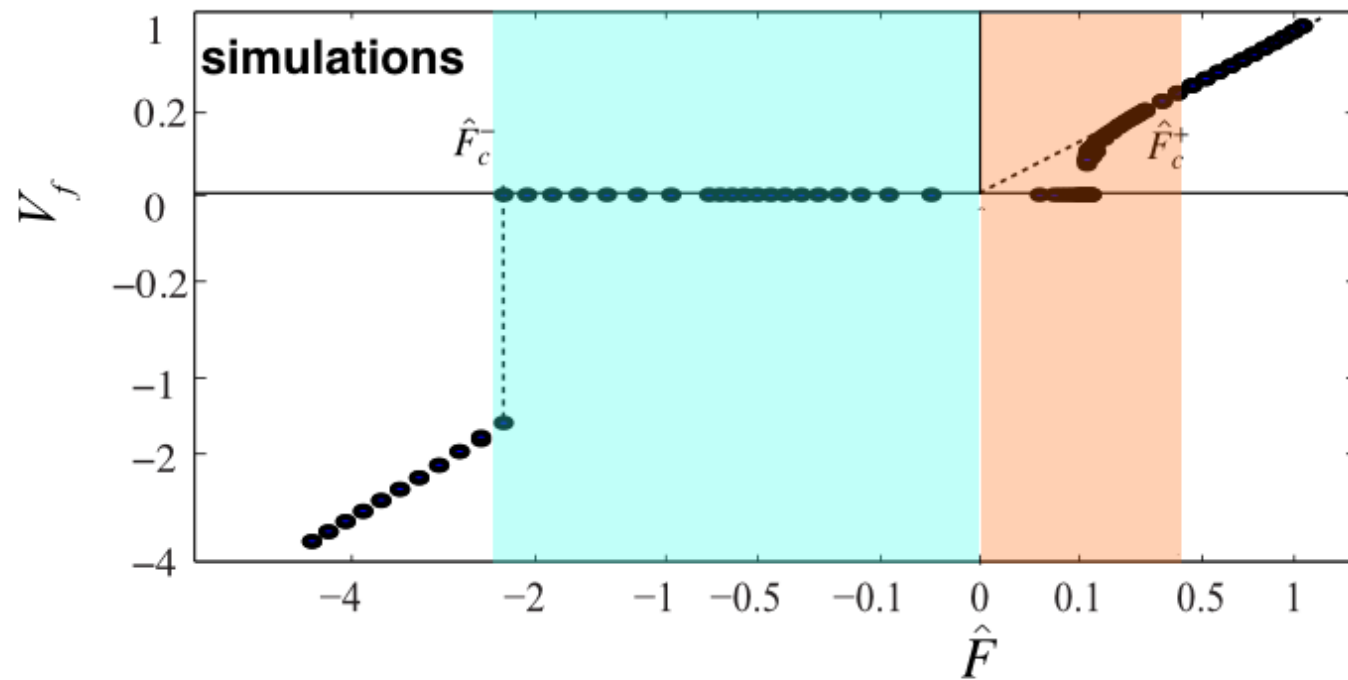
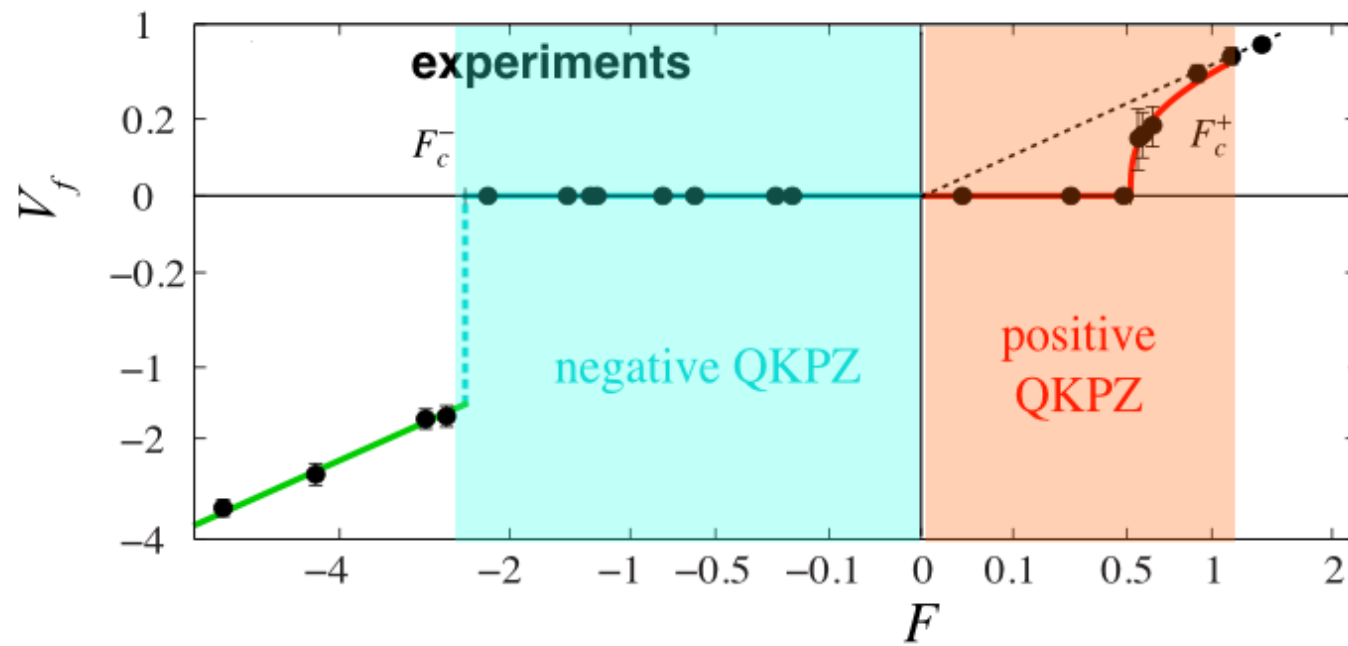
Amaral et al., *PRE* 51 (1995)

negative quenched KPZ model

- 1<sup>st</sup> order transition predicted



Jeong & al., *PRL* 77 (1996)

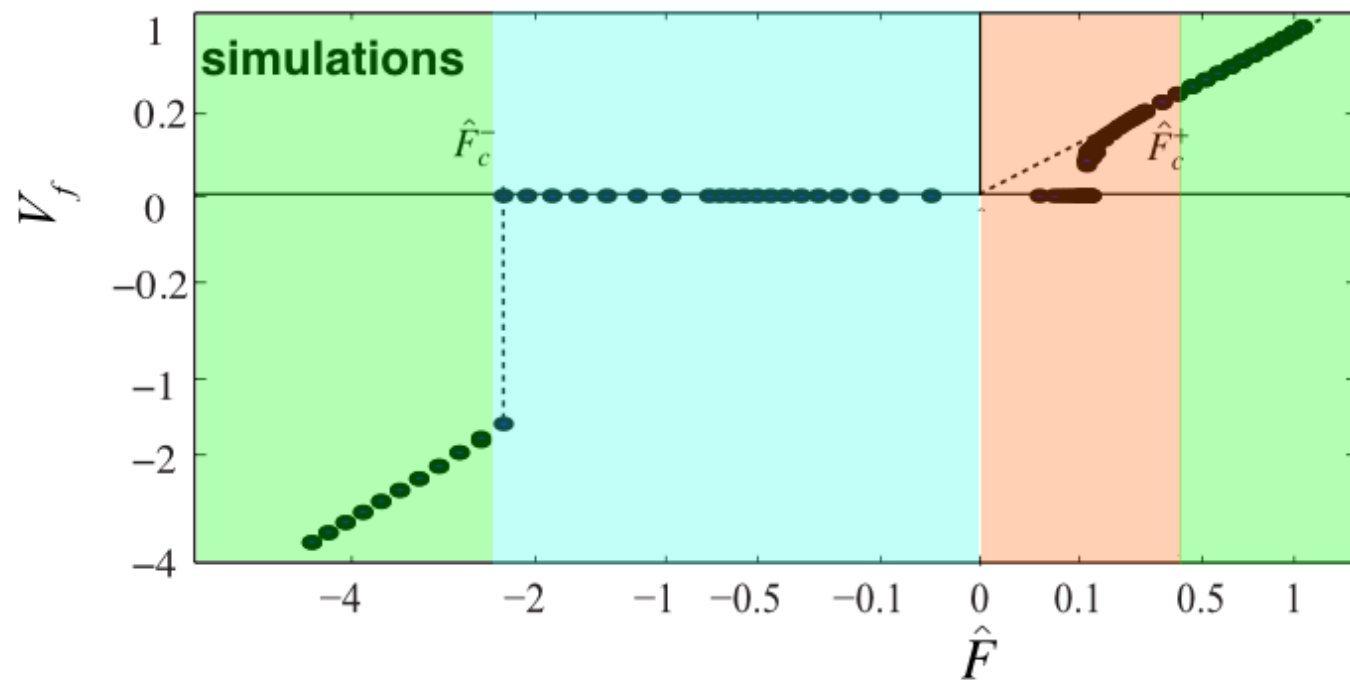
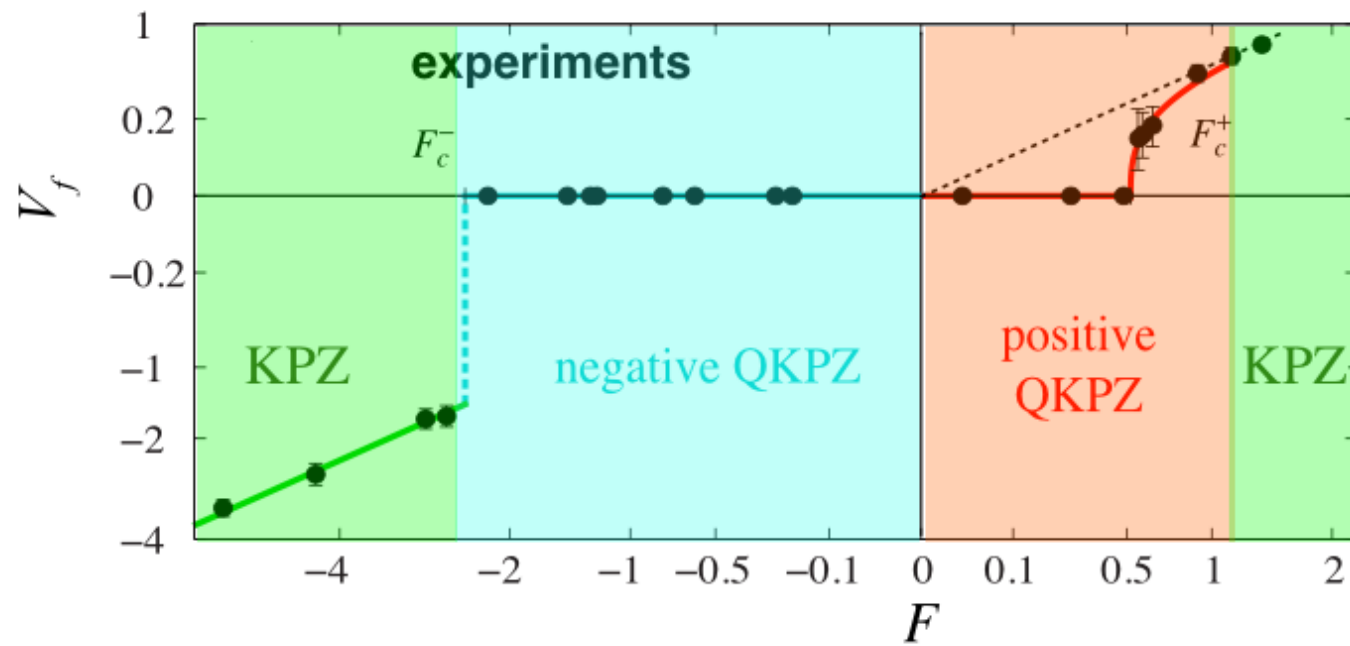


[S. Atis, K. D. Awadhesh, D. Salin, L. Talon,  
P. Le Doussal, K. Wiese, \*PRL\* \(2015\)](#)

Control parameter:

$$F = \frac{\bar{U} + V_x}{V_x} + f_0$$





[S. Atis, K. D. Awadhesh, D. Salin, L. Talon,  
P. Le Doussal, K. Wiese, \*PRL\* \(2015\)](#)

Control parameter:

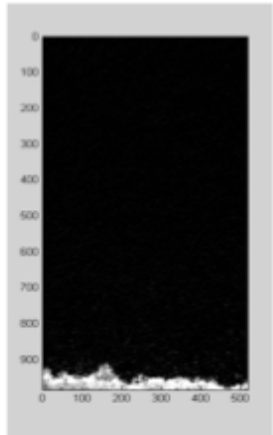
$$F = \frac{\bar{U} + V_x}{V_x} + f_0$$

# PLAN

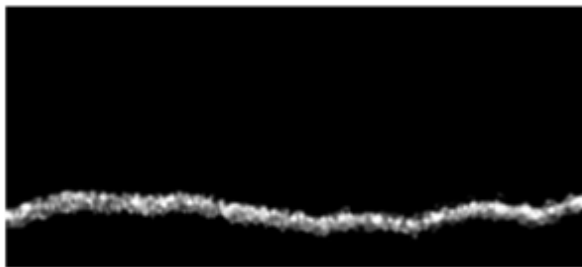
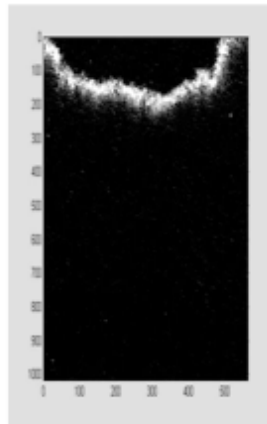
- 1 - Kardar-Parisi-Zhang model in presence of quenched noise
- 2 - Experiments with reaction fronts in disordered flow
- 3 - Transition between different universal behaviors
- 4 - Conclusion and perspectives

# Conclusion

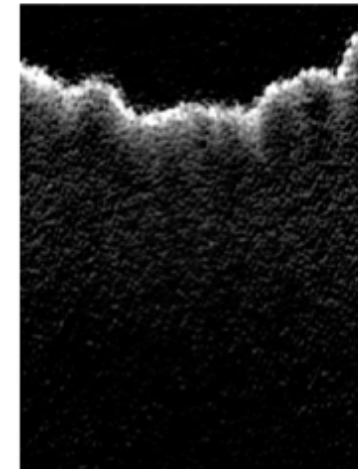
## 3 universality classes



KPZ behavior for moving phase



Positive qKPZ growth process  
for upward propagating fronts



Negative qKPZ growth with static  
sawtooth pattern formation for  
backward propagating fronts

**The flow rate is the unique control parameter**

## Conclusion & perspectives

- **Bacteria colonies dynamics in complex flows**
- **Reaction front pinning control in microfluidic devices**



# Conclusion & perspectives

Avalanches phenomena at the depinning transition

