

Turbulence Through the Lens of Dynamical Systems and Chaos Theory

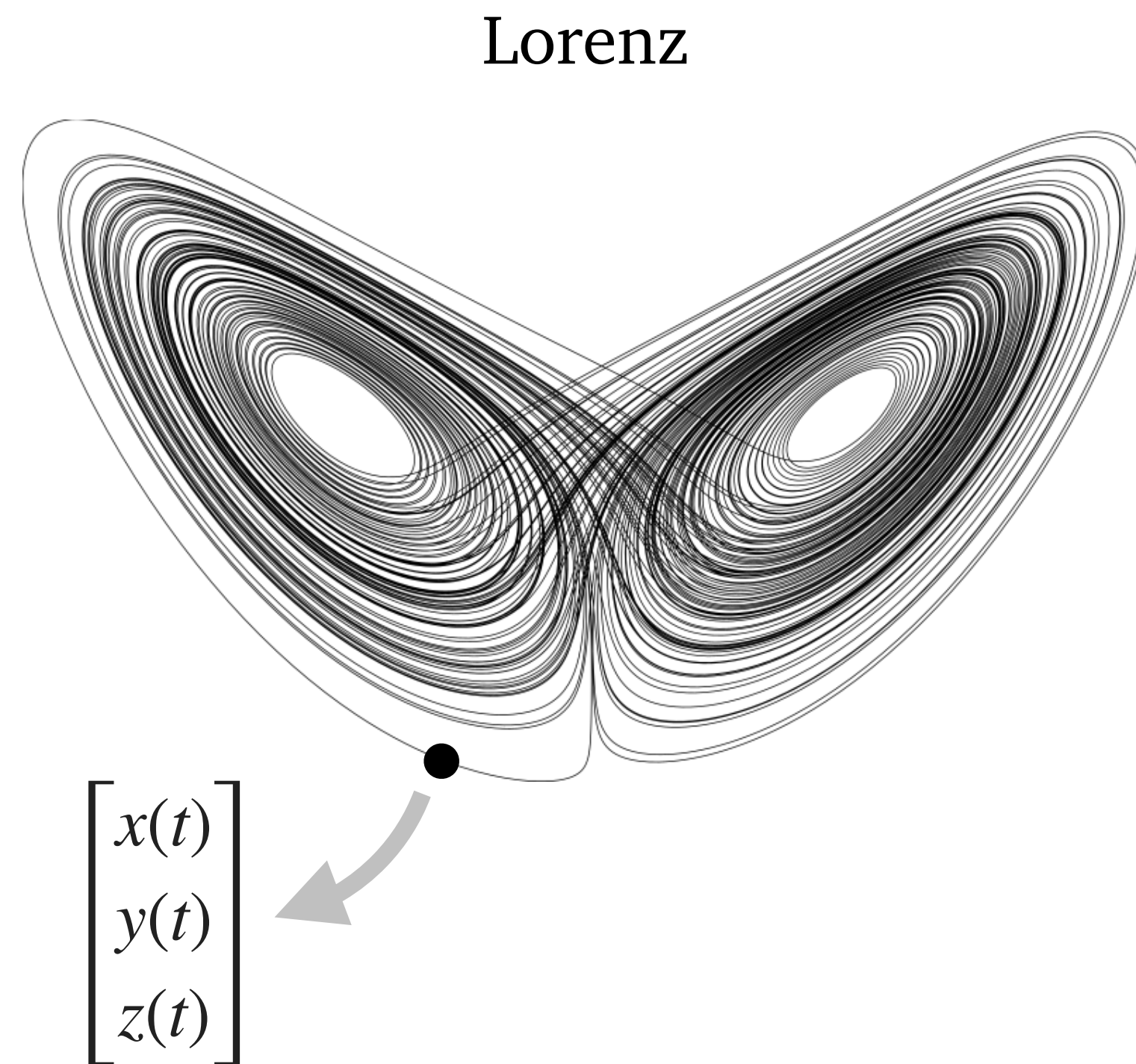
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ME467—Turbulence
May 9, 2025

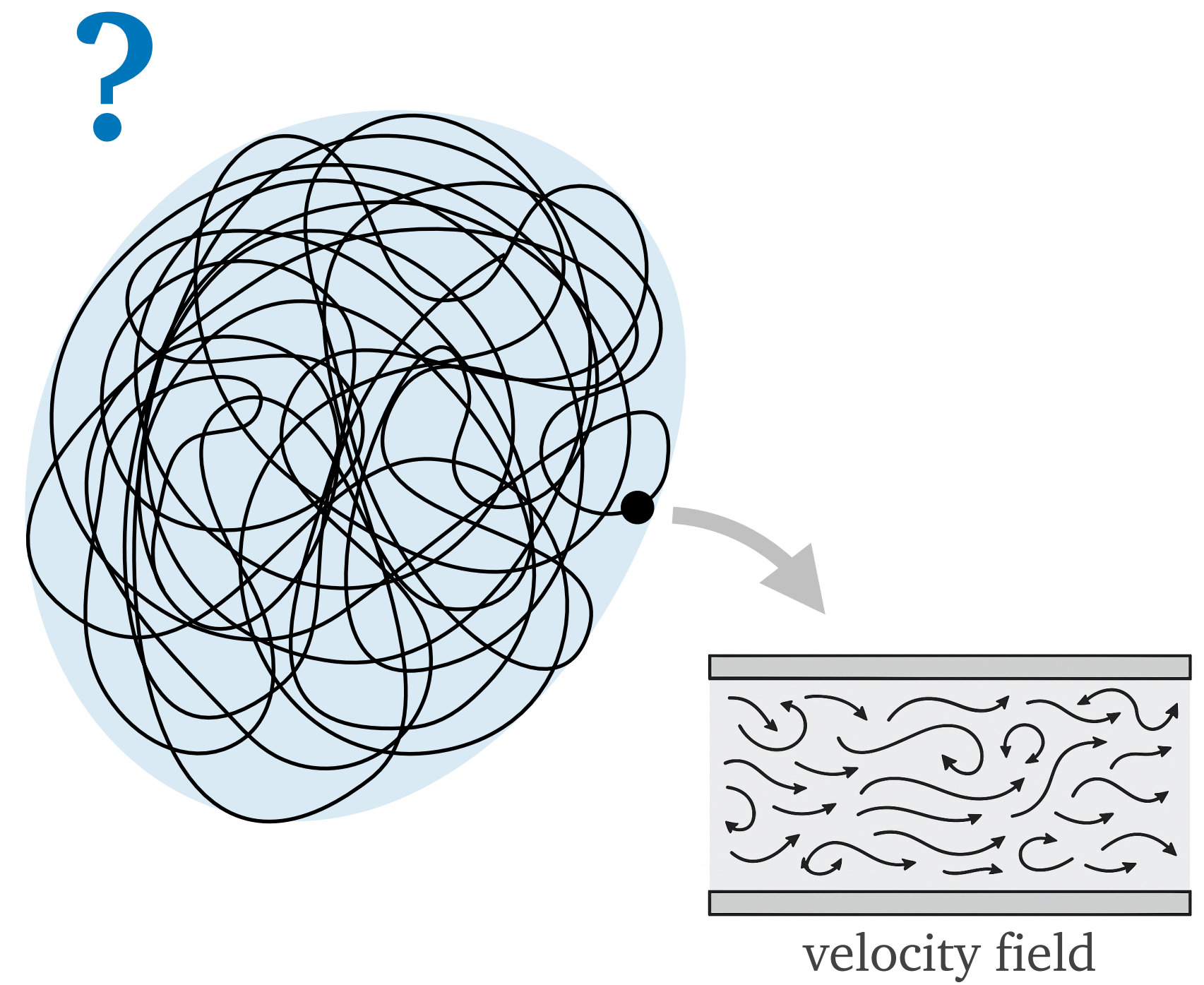


Recap

- *Chaotic attractor*

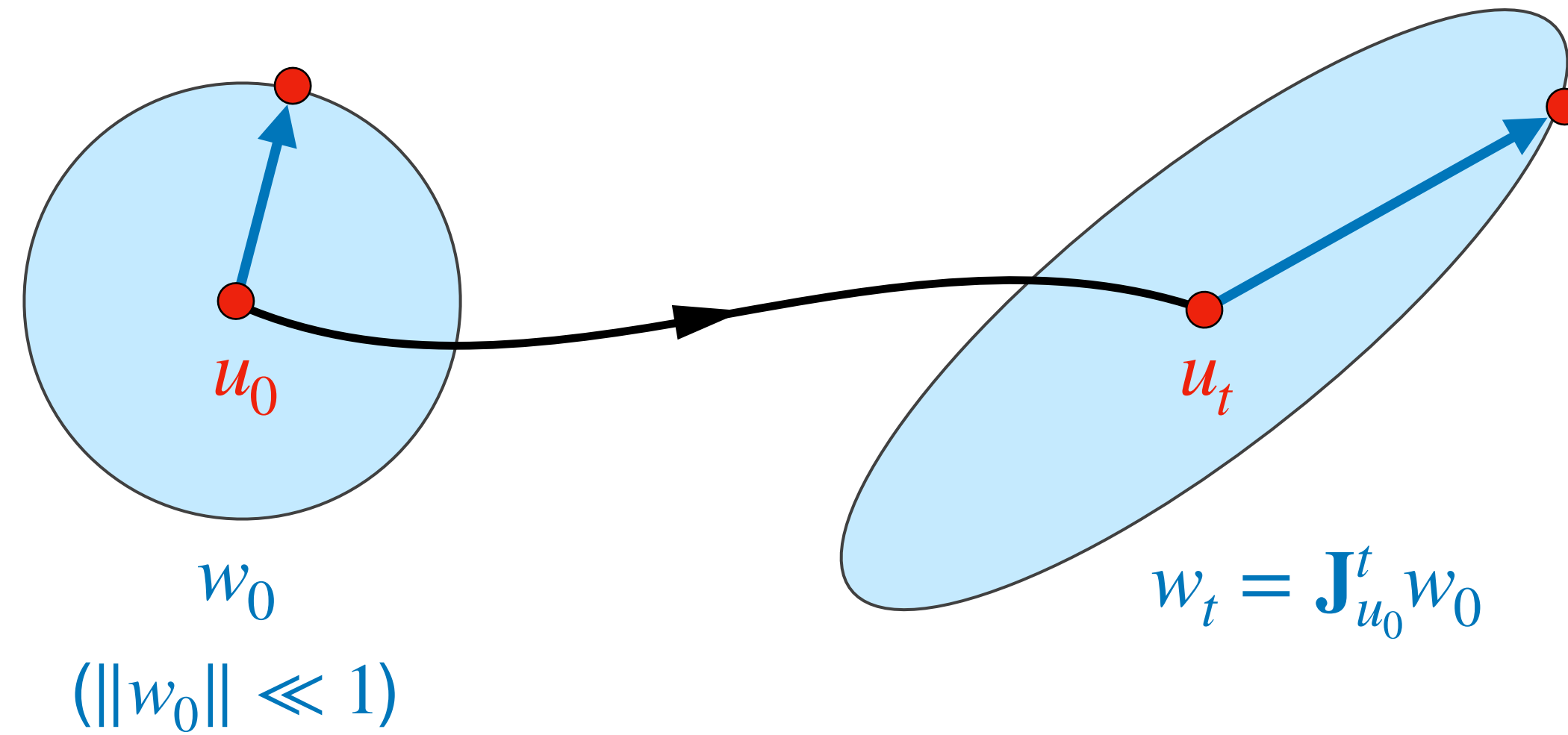


Navier—Stokes equations



Recap

- **Jacobian** $\mathbf{J}_{u_0}^t := \frac{du_t}{du_0}$
 - maps infinitesimal *neighborhoods* under the evolution.



Recap

- **Lyapunov exponents**
 $\chi_1 \geq \chi_2 \geq \dots \geq \chi_n$
$$\sum_{i=1}^p \chi_i = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \ln \frac{\text{vol}(t)}{\text{vol}(0)}$$

 $\text{vol}(0)$: initial ‘volume’ in any p -dim. subspace
- Necessary condition for chaos $\chi_1 > 0$
- **Lyapunov time** $t_L^* := 1/\chi_1$
 - smaller $t_L^* \Rightarrow$ faster perturbation growth $\Rightarrow$ less predictable
- Zero Lyapunov exponents: corresponding to
 - perturbation along the orbit
 - each continuous translational symmetry $\Rightarrow$ unless prevented by a discrete symmetry.

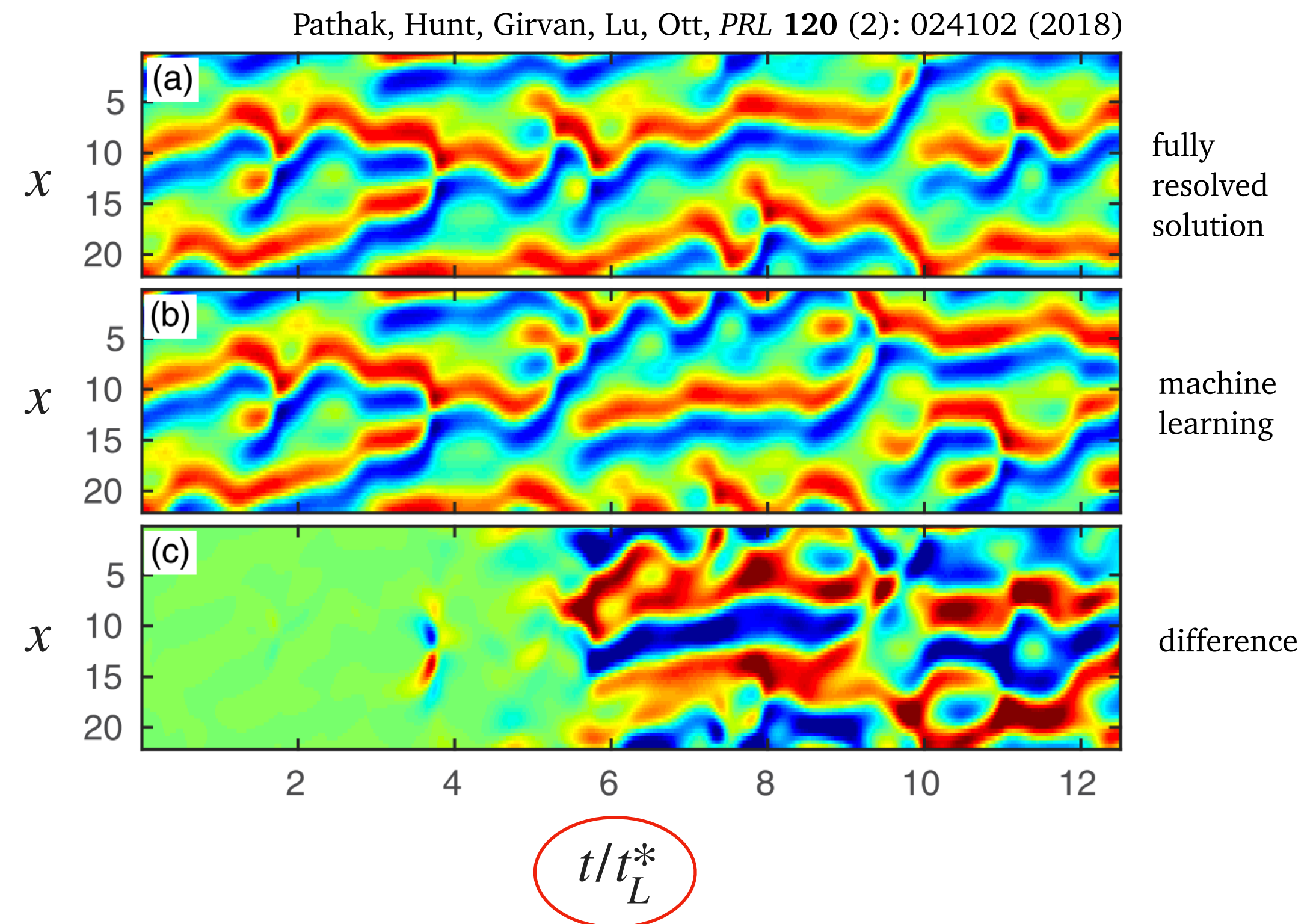
Quiz 1

- “An AI model replicates chaotic trajectories **for a long time** at a lower computational cost than fully resolved simulations.”

how many Lyapunov times?

Any red flags?

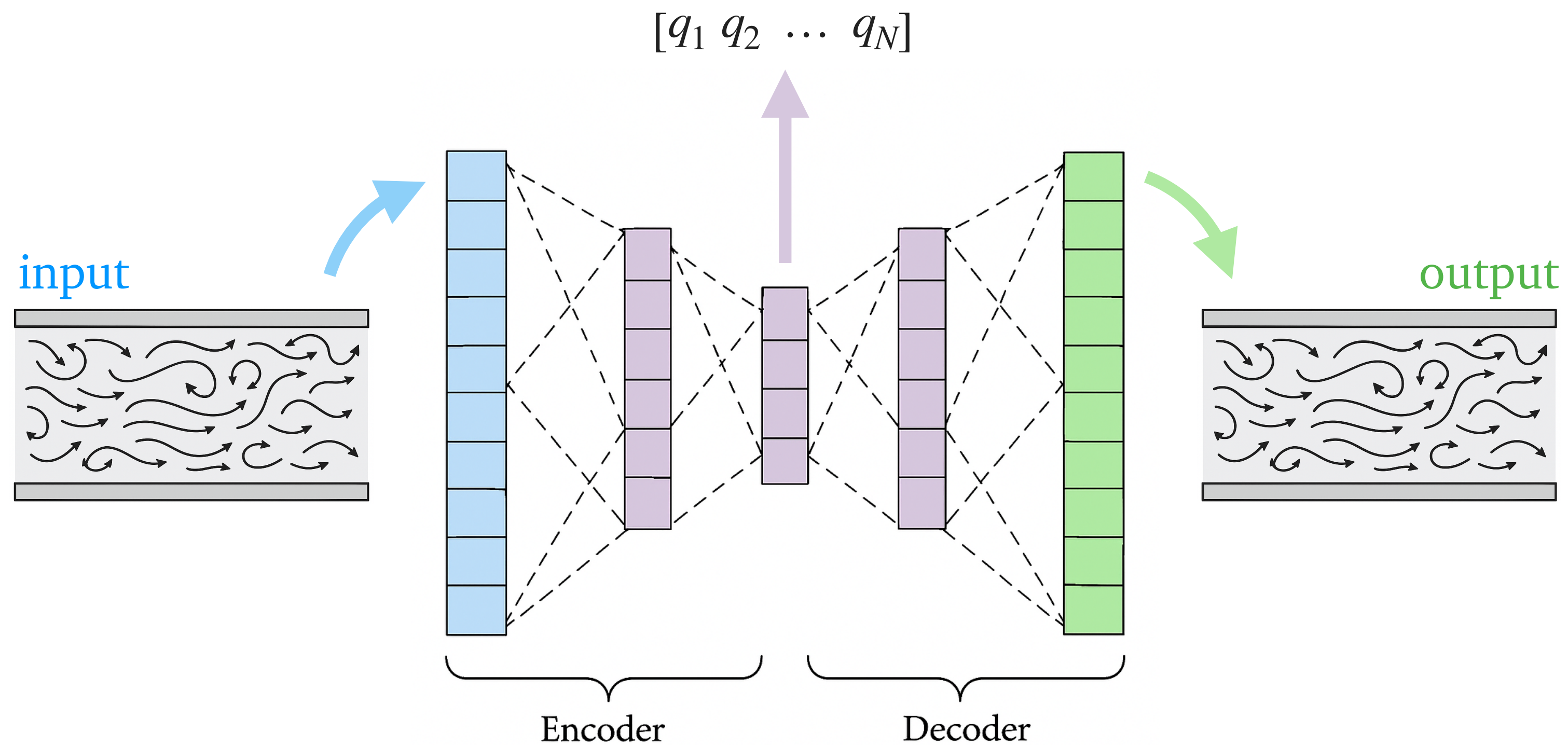
- a) AI model
- b) chaotic dynamics
- c) long time
- d) lower computational cost



Quiz 2

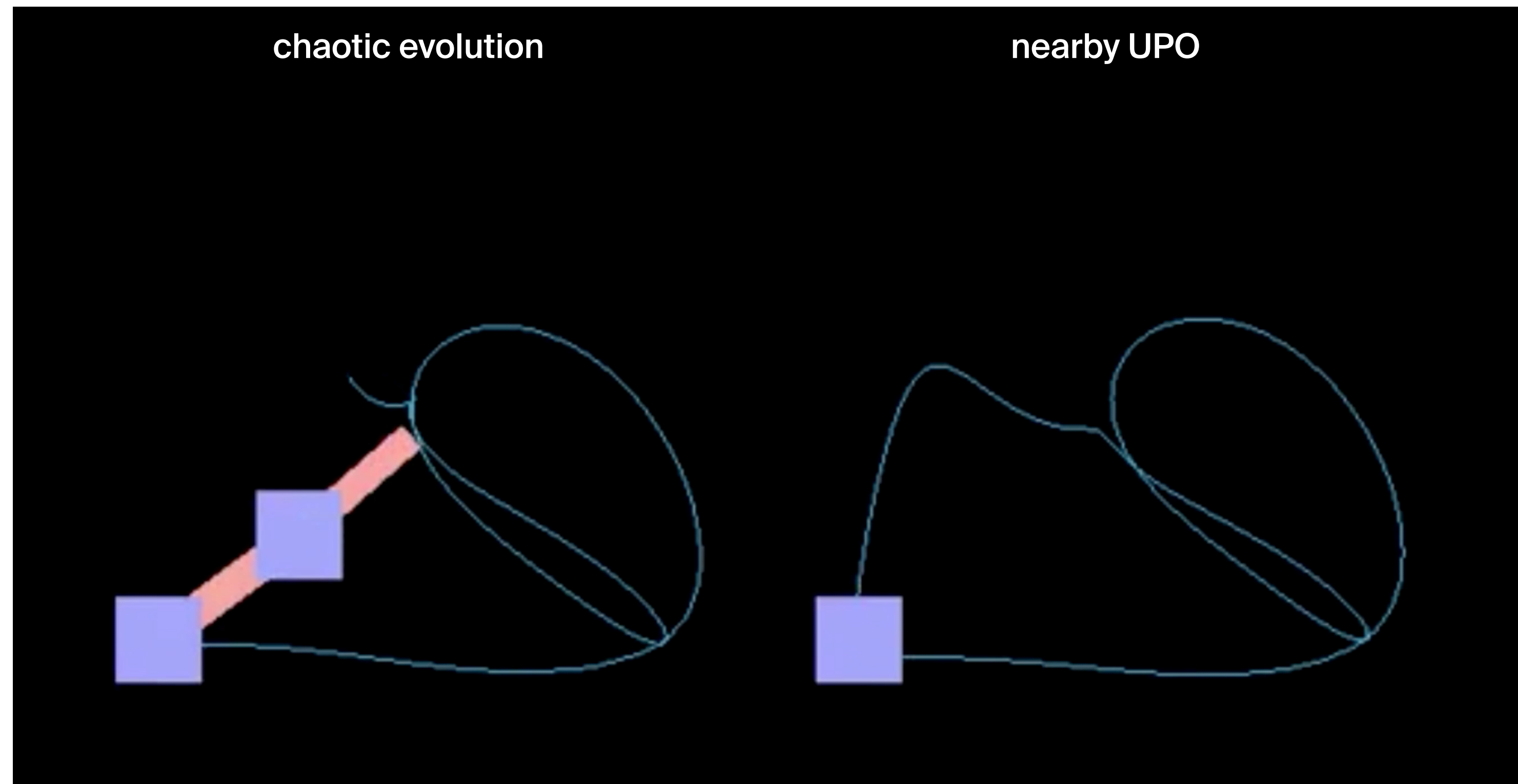
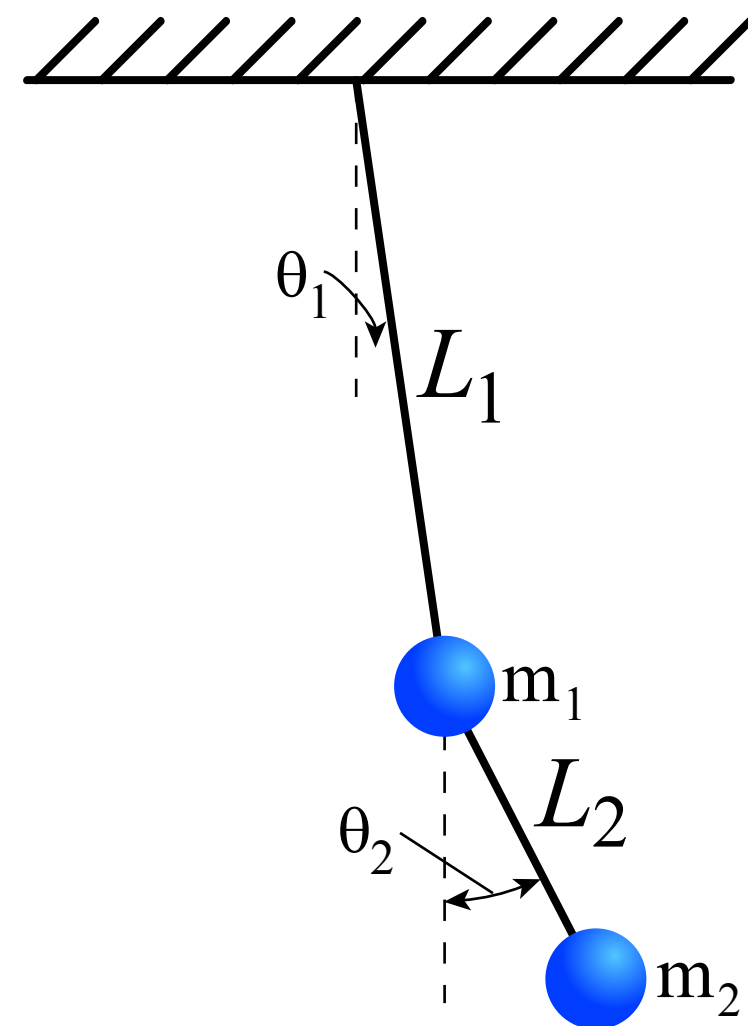
- “A neural network is developed to learn some chaotic dynamics. The chaotic attractor is known to have a fractal dimension between j and $j + 1$.”

What is a good starting point for choosing the autoencoder's latent dimension N ?



Chaotic trajectories shadow unstable periodic orbits

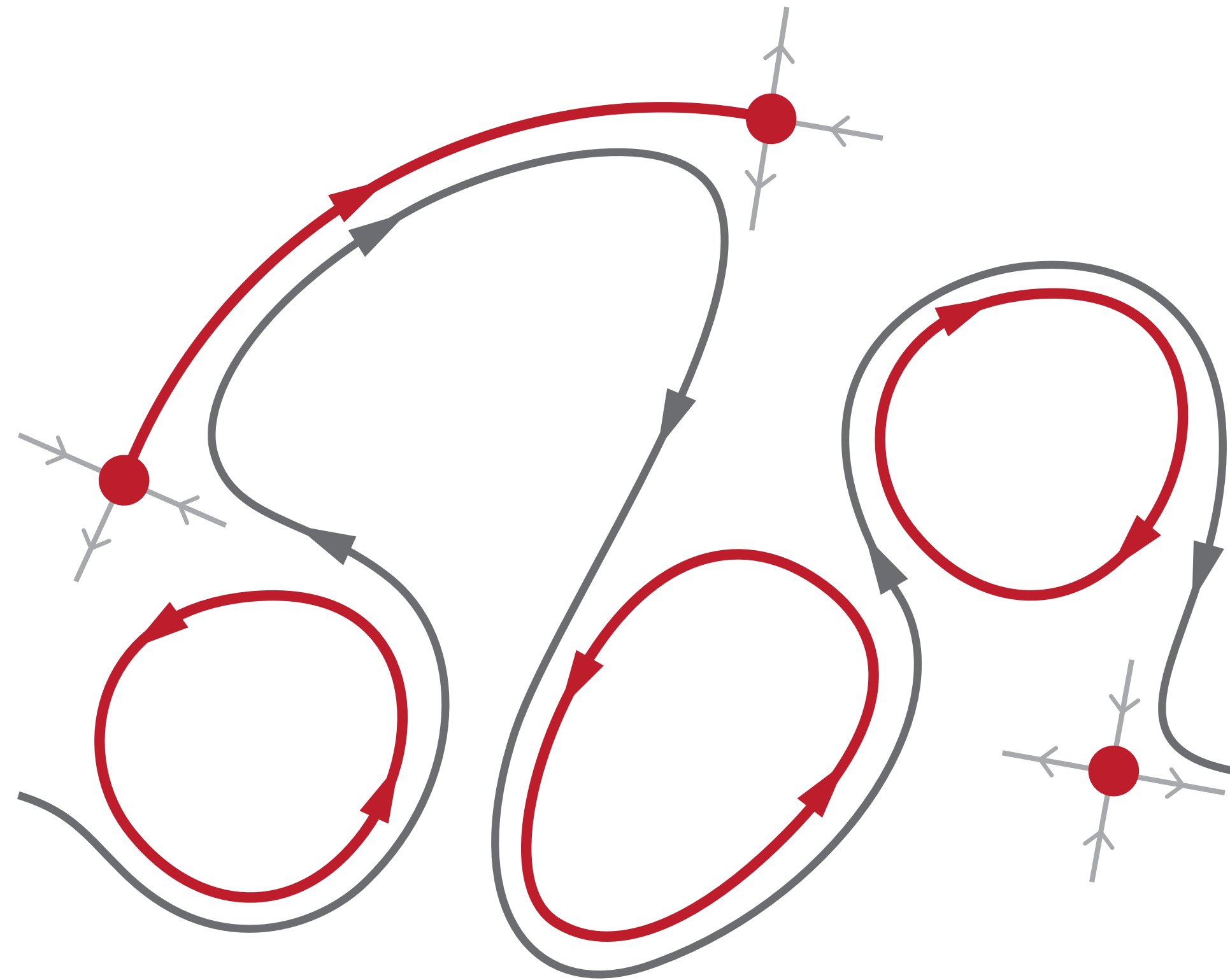
- Example: double pendulum



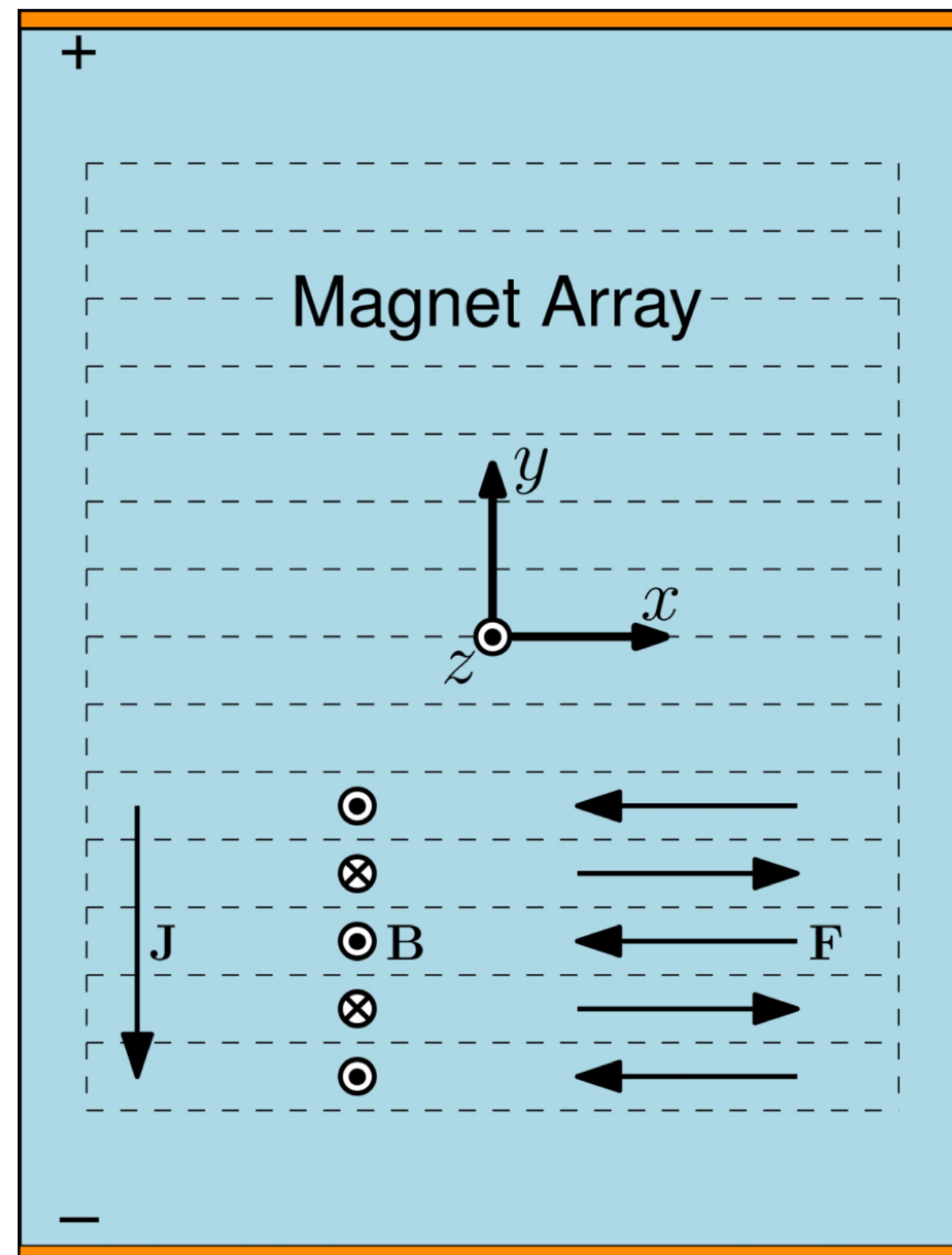
Double Double-Pendulum Android app. (by Ashley Willis)

The significance of unstable invariant solutions

- Individually
- Collectively



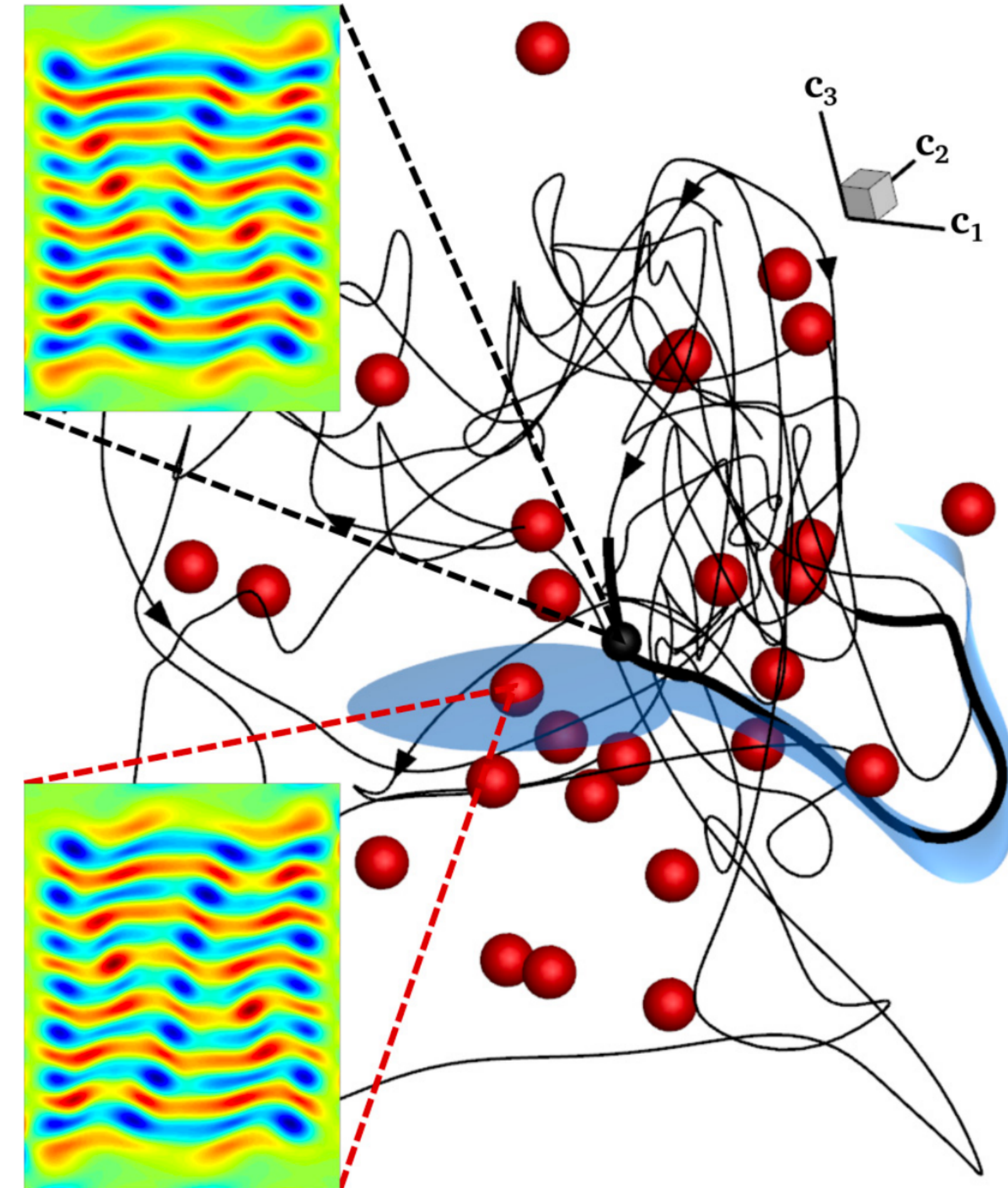
Example: 2D Kolmogorov flow



$\mathbf{J}$: electric current

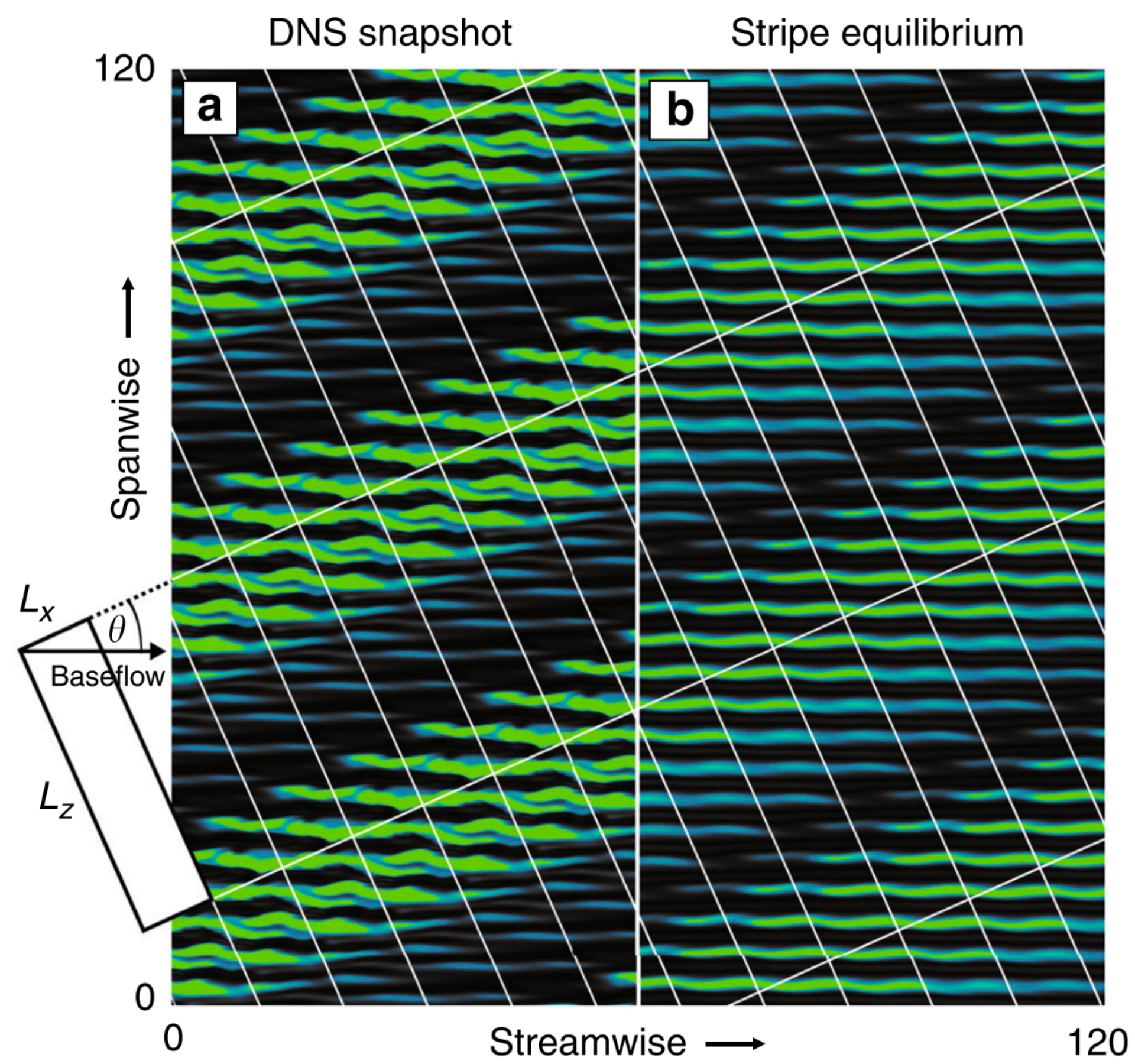
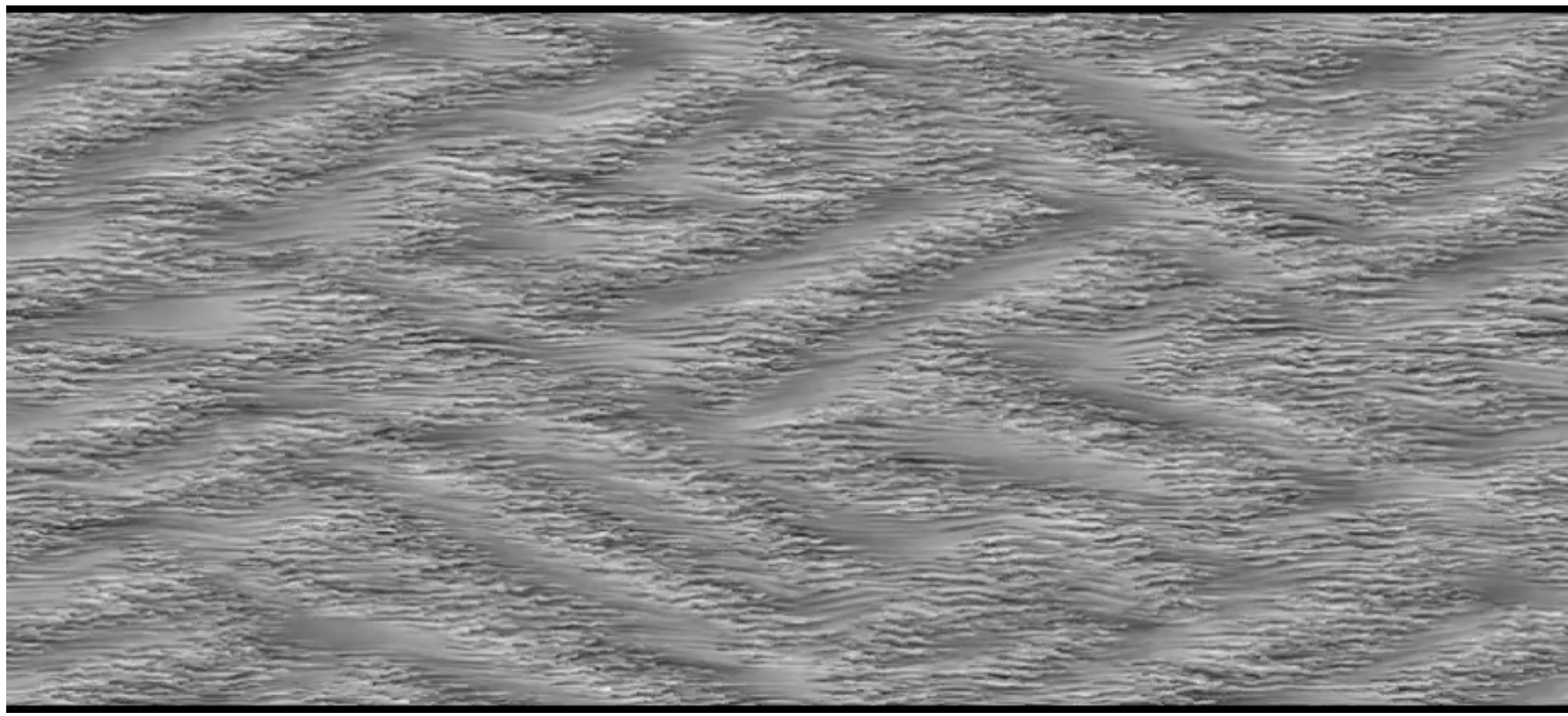
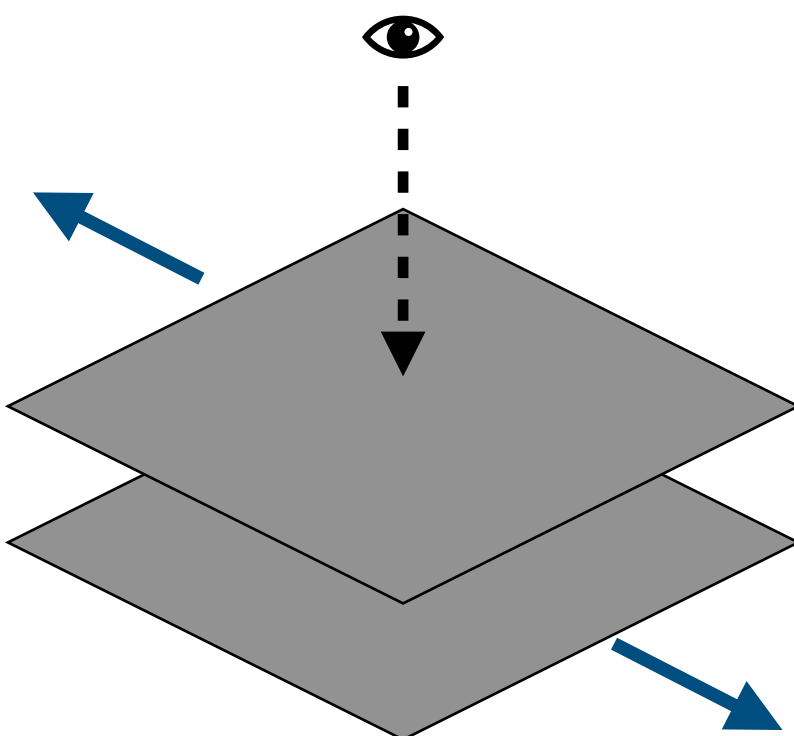
$\mathbf{B}$: magnetic field

$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$: electromagnetic body force



contour plots: vorticity $(\nabla \times \mathbf{u}) \cdot \hat{z}$

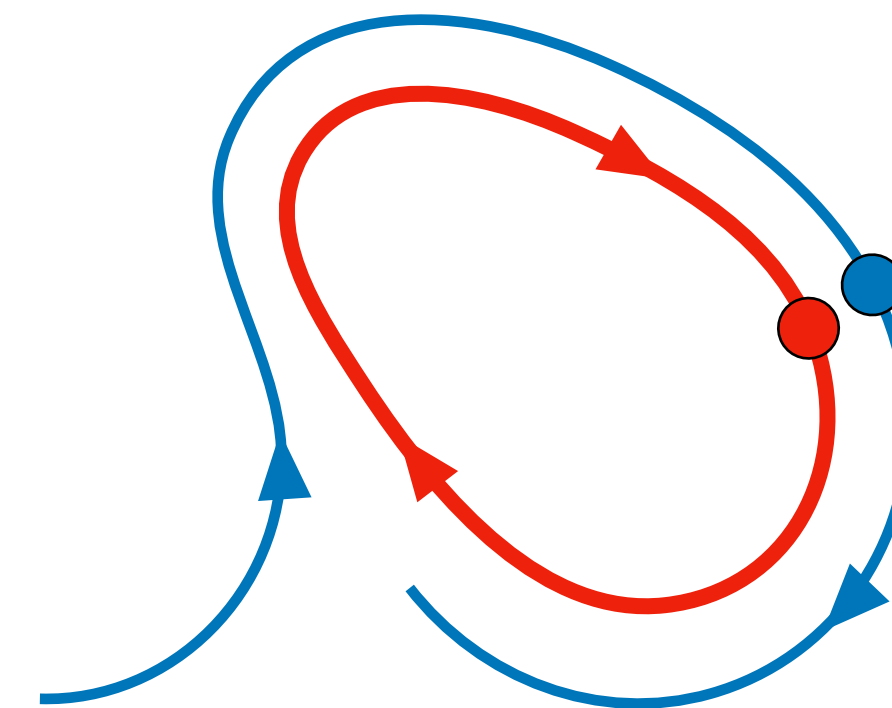
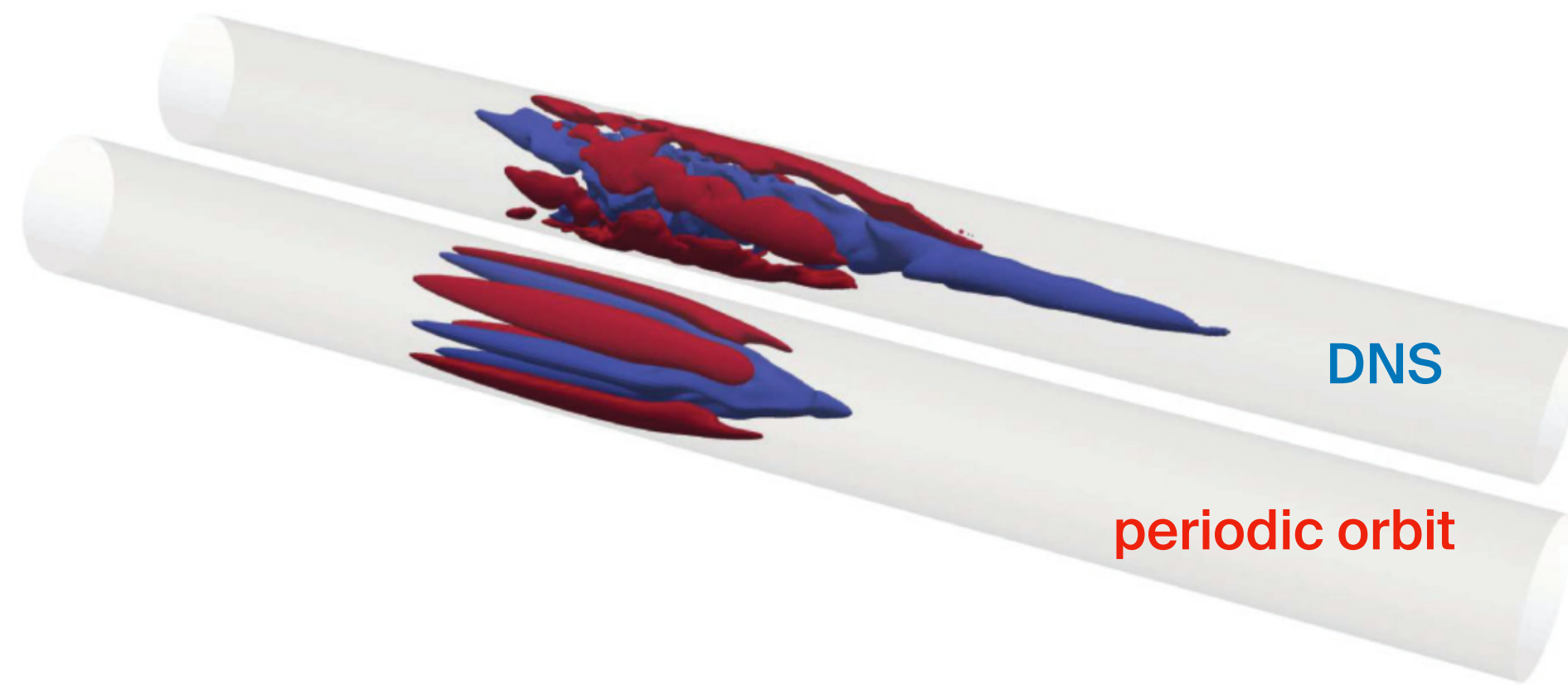
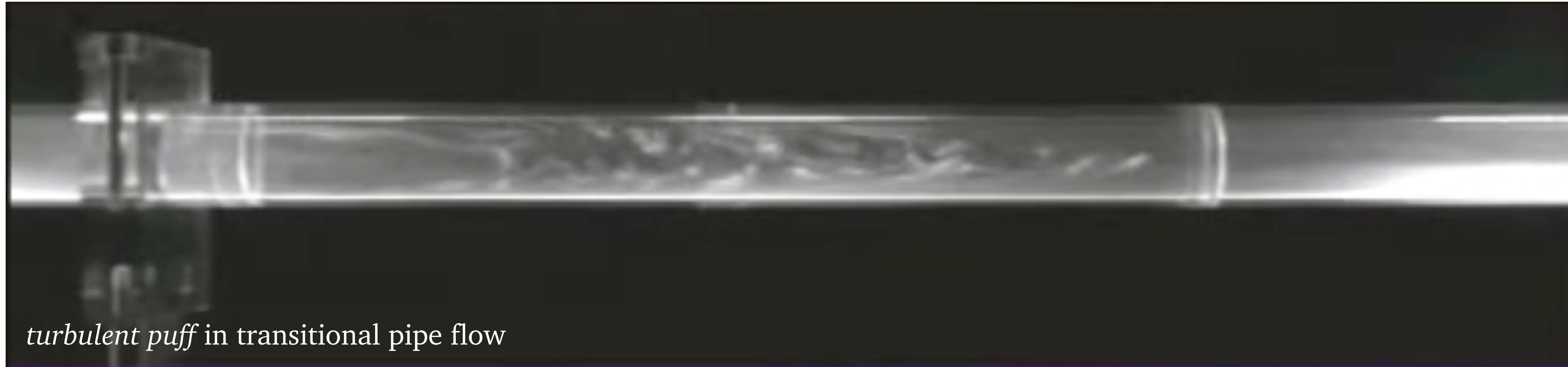
Example: Plane Couette flow



Reetz, Kreilos, Schneider, *Nature Com.* **10**: 2277 (2019)

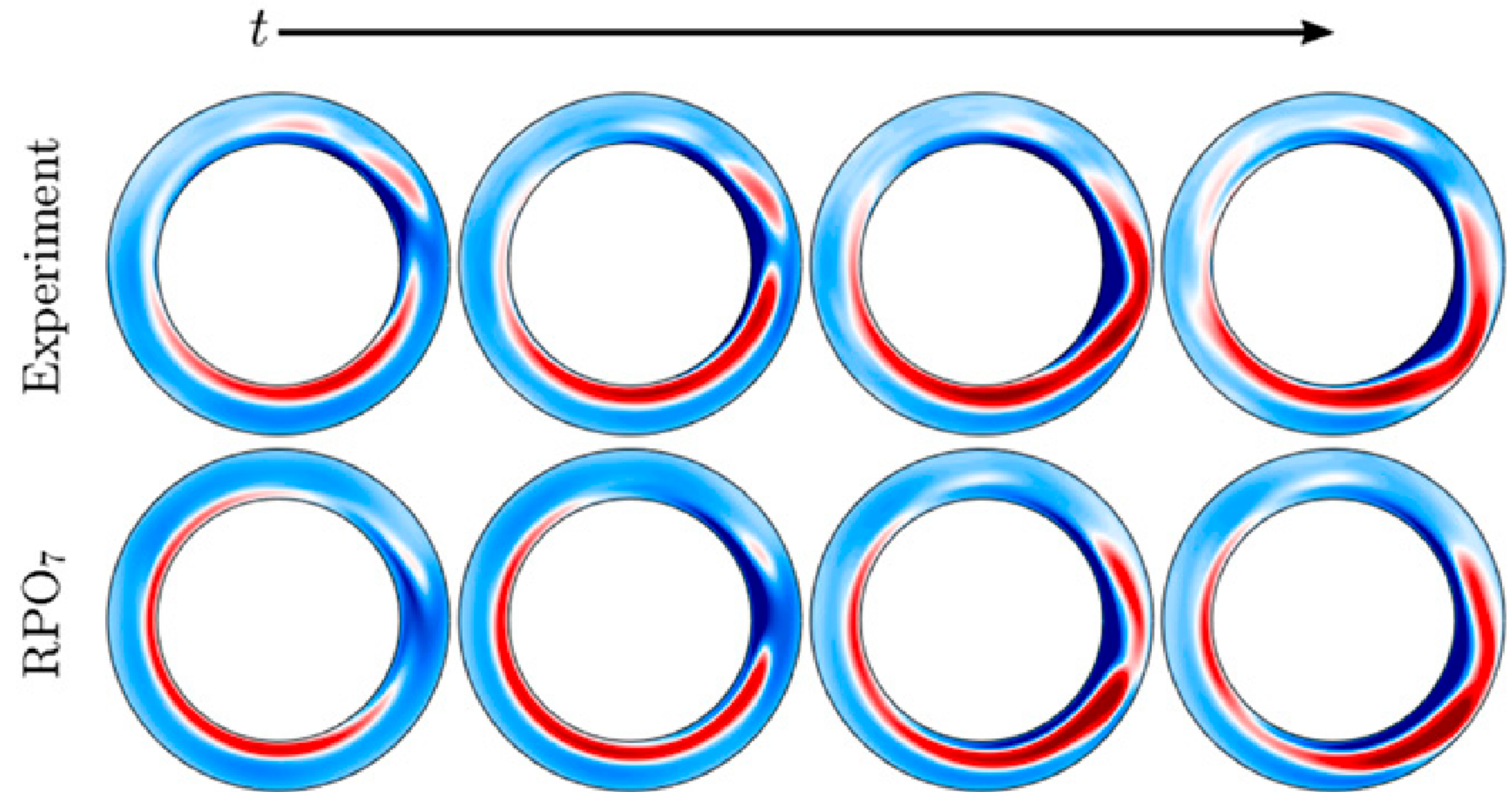
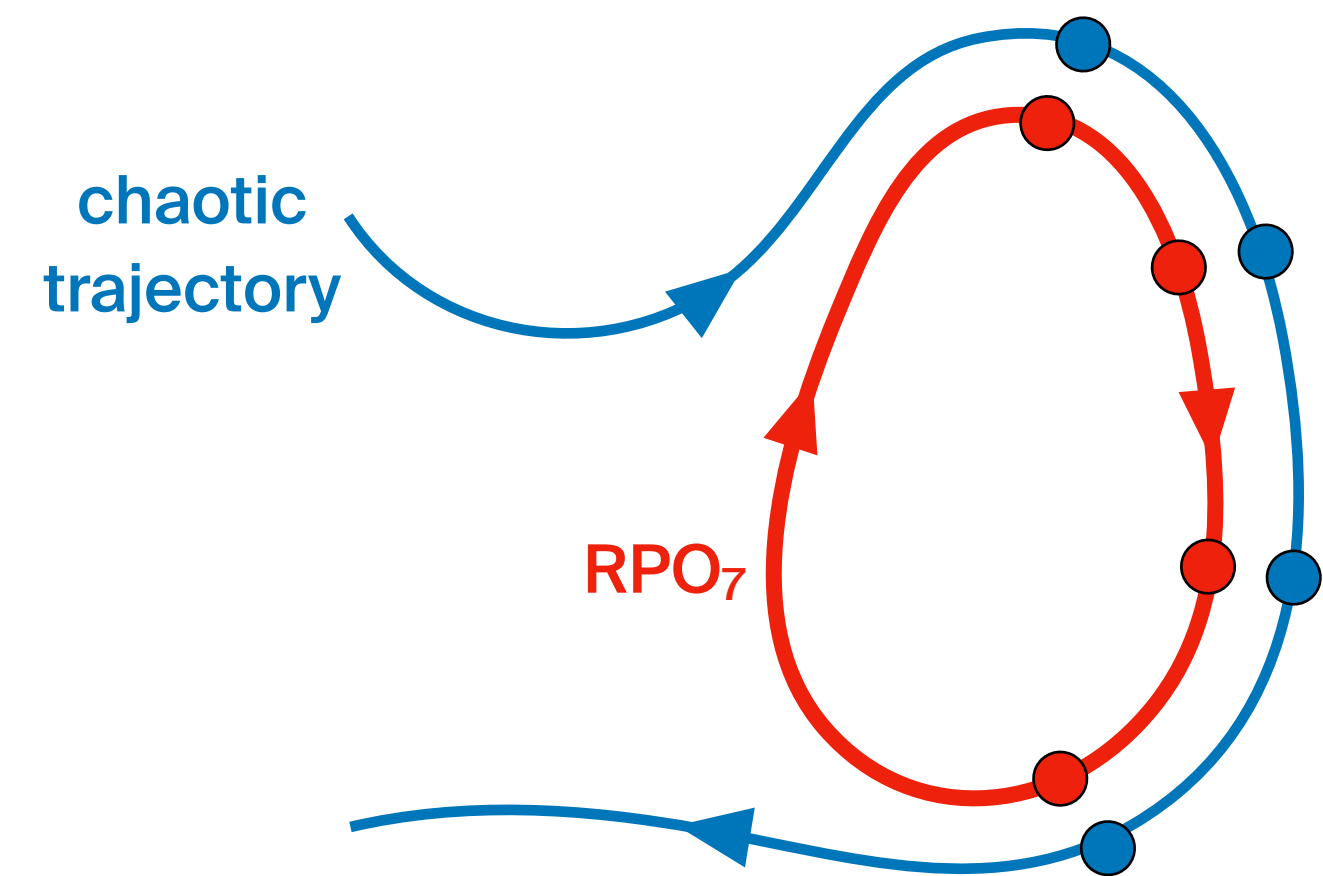
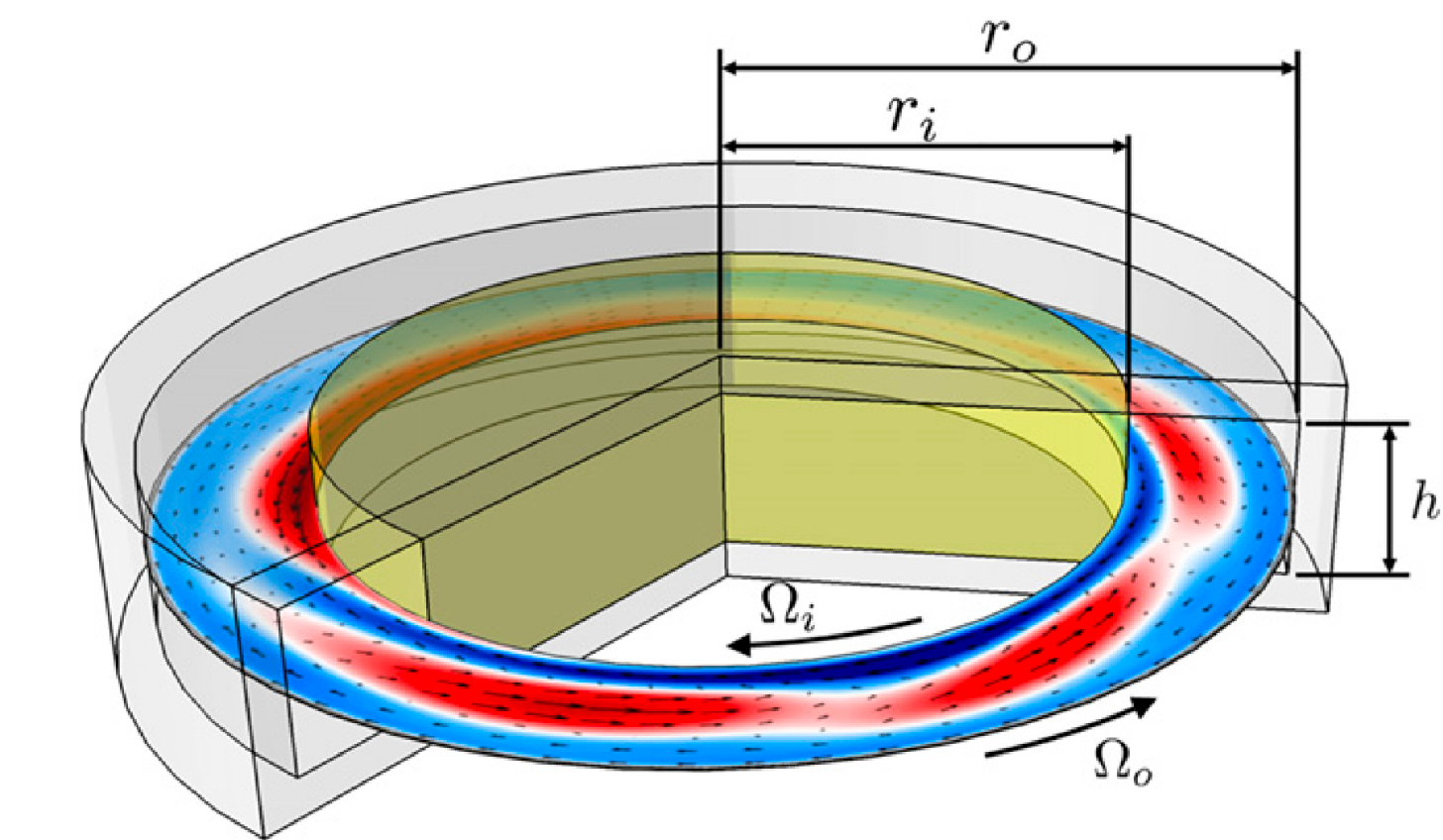
 Laminar—turbulent patterns in plane Couette flow $Re = 350$

Example: Pipe flow



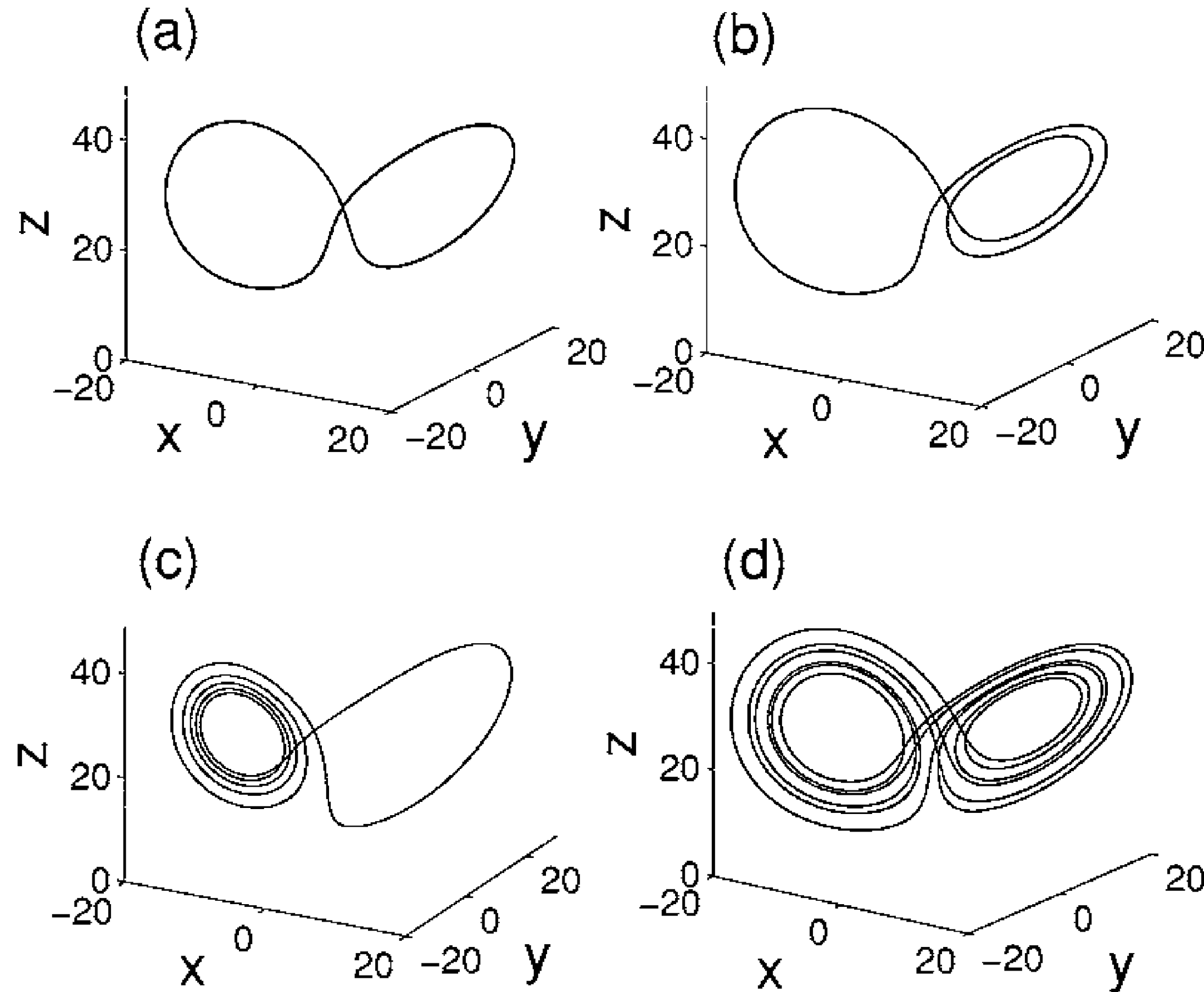
Avila, Mellibovsky, Roland, Hof, *PRL* **110** (22): 224502 (2013)

Example: Taylor—Couette flow



contour plots: deviation of the azimuthal velocity component u_θ from the mean

The significance of the ensemble of UPOs (Periodic Orbit Theory)



Zhao, Lai, Shih, *PRE* 72: 036212 (2005)

the union of **all** UPOs
or
an **infinite-time trajectory**

$$\Gamma = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} w_i \Gamma_i$$

Γ : any statistical quantity of the flow
 w_i : a single set of weights
 Γ_i : the same statistical quantity for the i-th UPO

- Example: mean velocity

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \mathbf{u}(t) dt = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} w_i \left(\frac{1}{T_i} \int_0^{T_i} \mathbf{u}_i(t) dt \right)$$

The significance of the ensemble of UPOs (Periodic Orbit Theory)

- Periodic orbit theory: the determination of w_i based on the stability properties of the UPOs
 - different from fitting!
 - hierarchy of UPOs $\Rightarrow$ truncate the infinite sum

