

# Laboratory observation of water surface polygon vortices

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1. Relevant parameters
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4. Water surface wave dispersion relation
5. Comparison

## **VI. Summary**

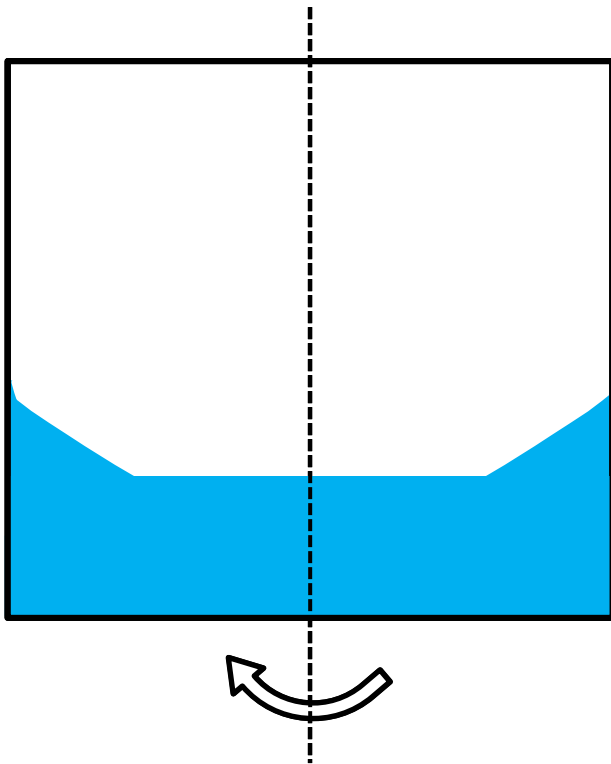


# I. Introduction

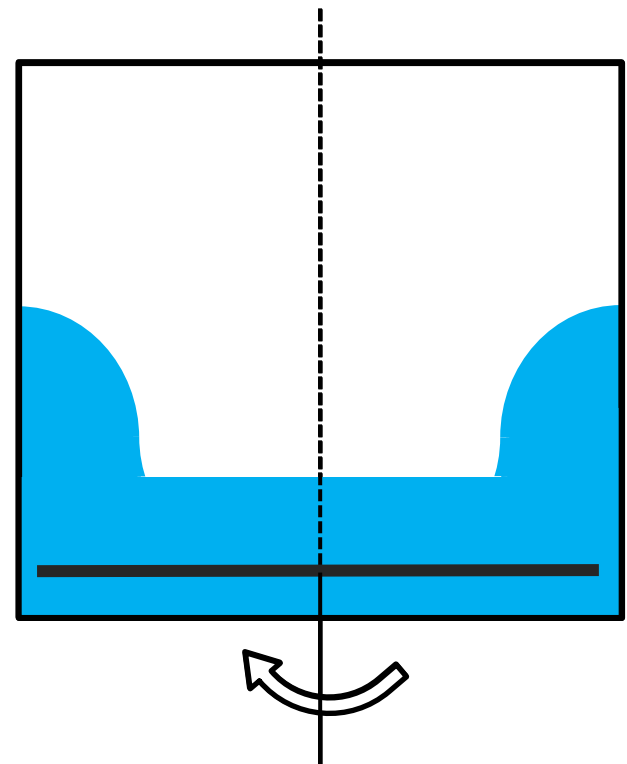
# I.1. Newton's bucket – polygon vortex

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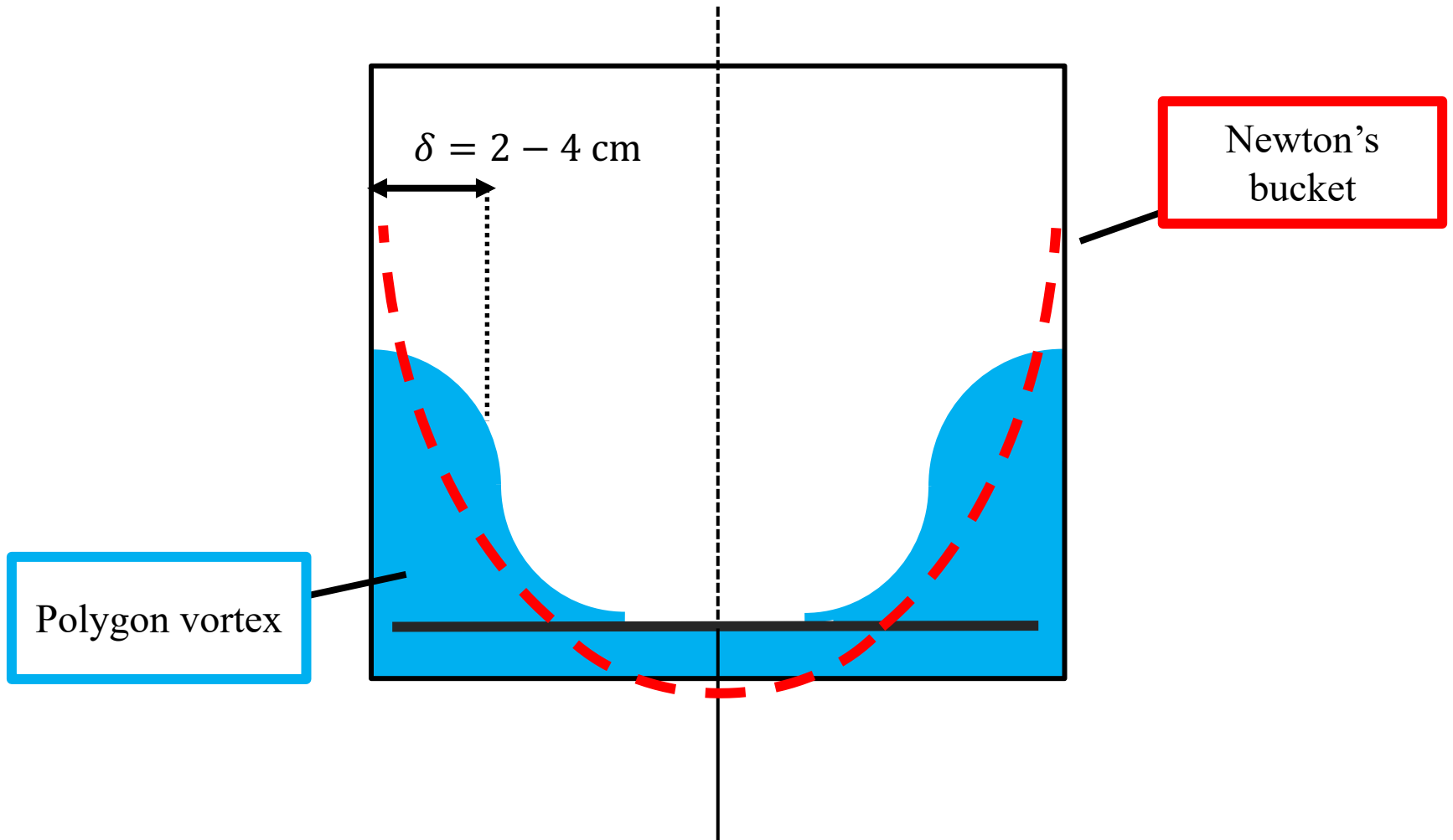
Newton's bucket



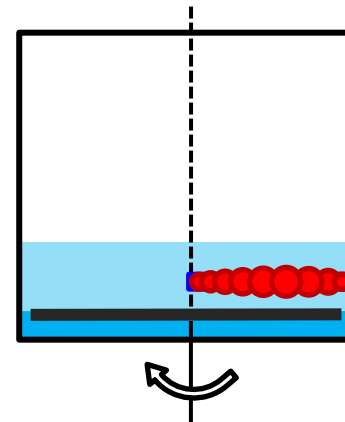
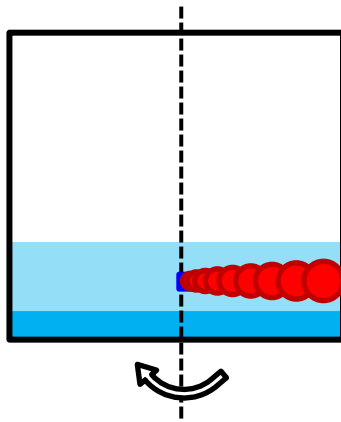
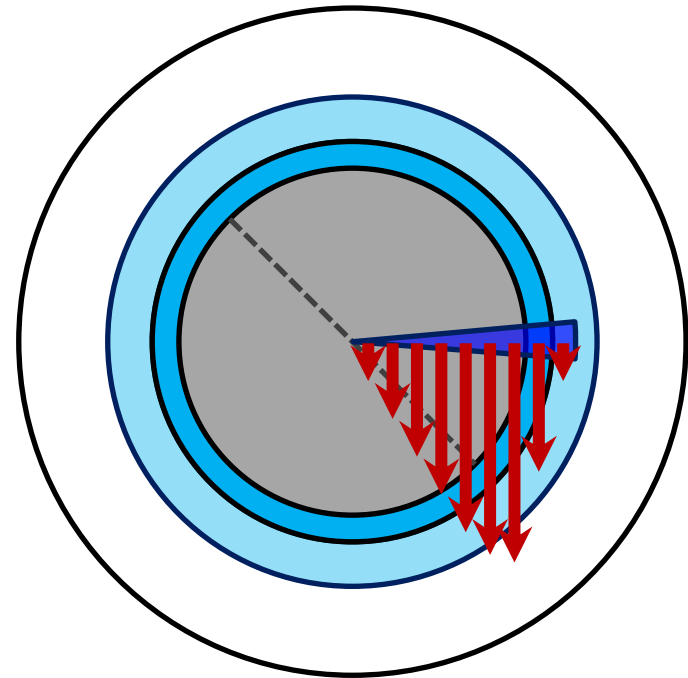
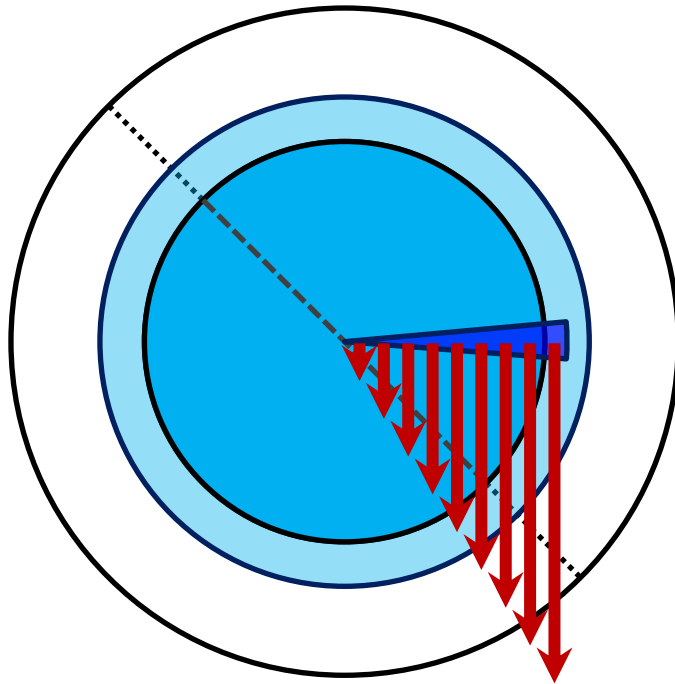
Polygon vortex



# I.1. Newton's bucket – polygon vortex



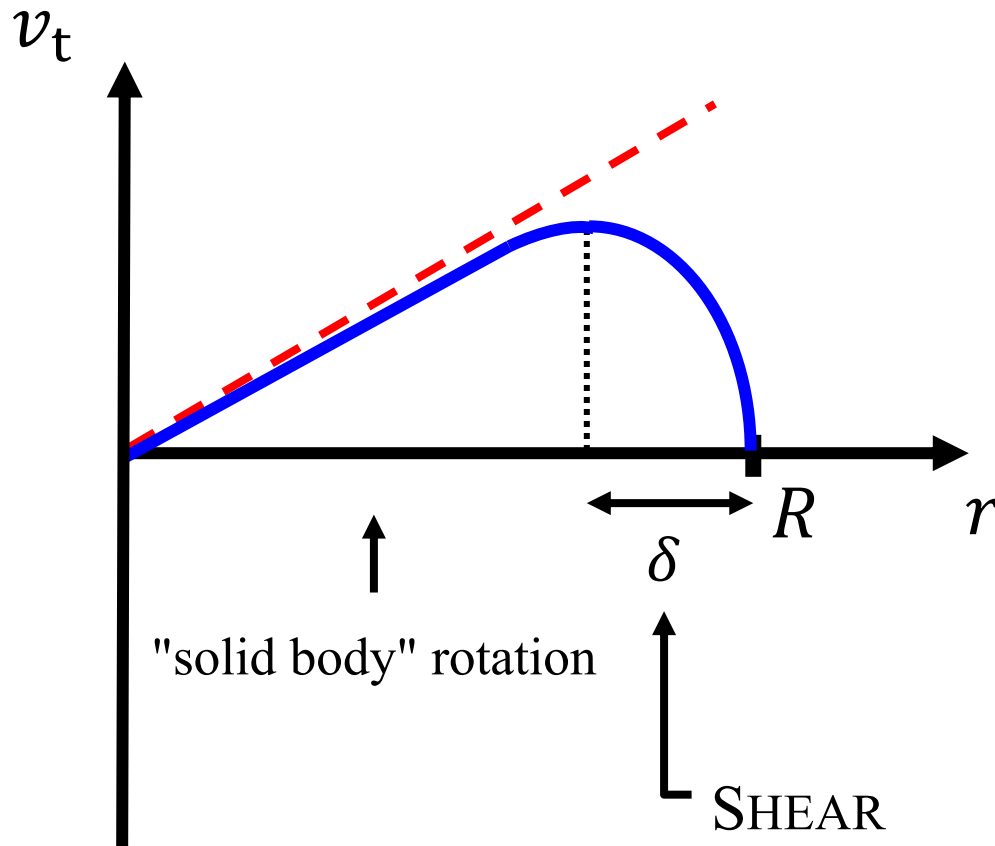
# I.1. Newton's bucket – polygon vortex



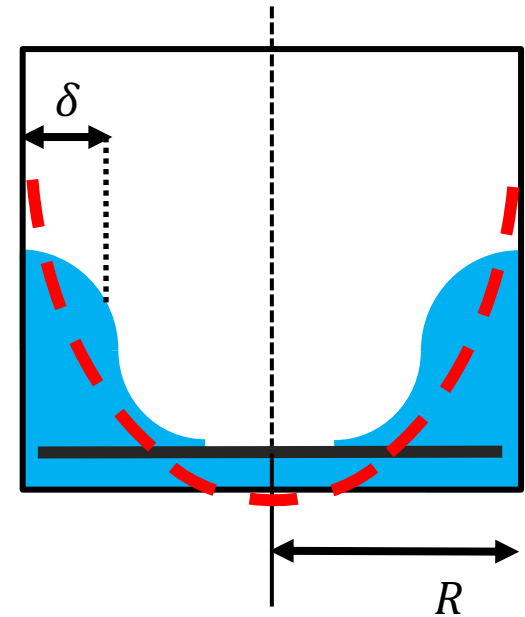
\*Only qualitative representation

# I.1. Newton's bucket – polygon vortex

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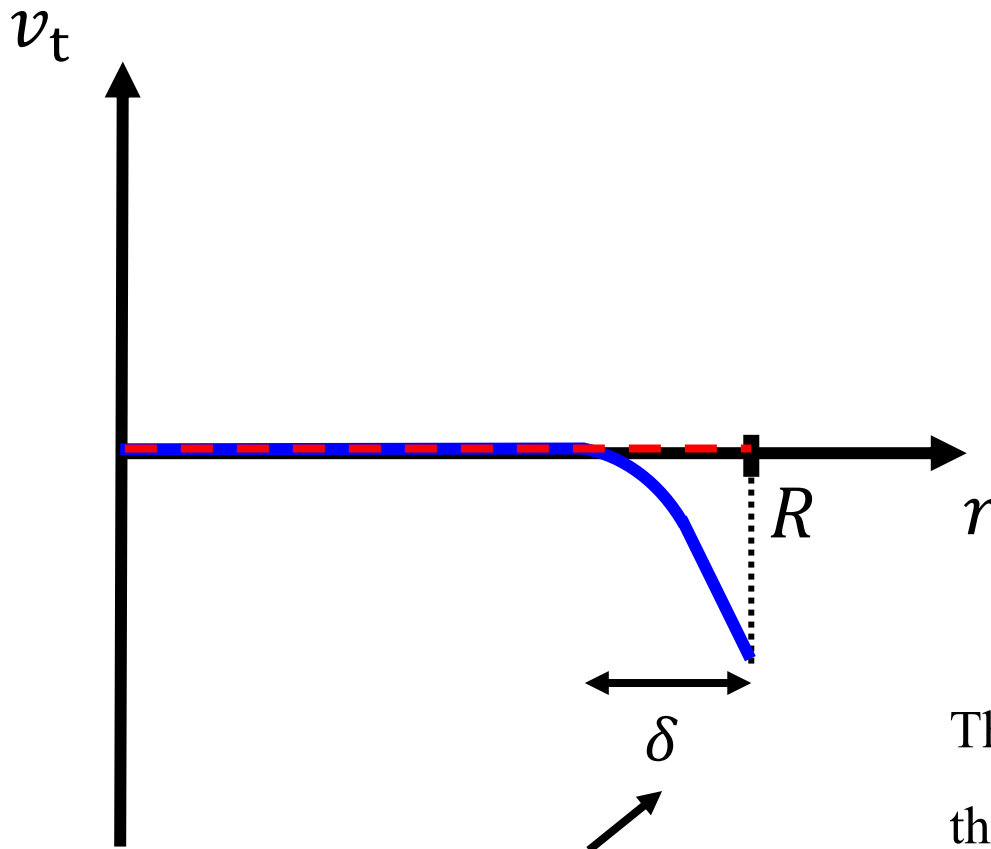
From the laboratory frame



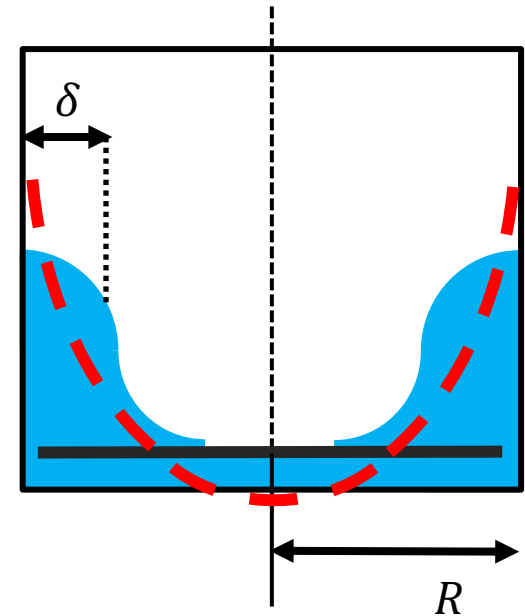
# I.1. Newton's bucket – polygon vortex

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From the co-rotating frame




Faster flow



This  $\delta$  is the reason that instead of the simple Newton's bucket we see more complex shapes.

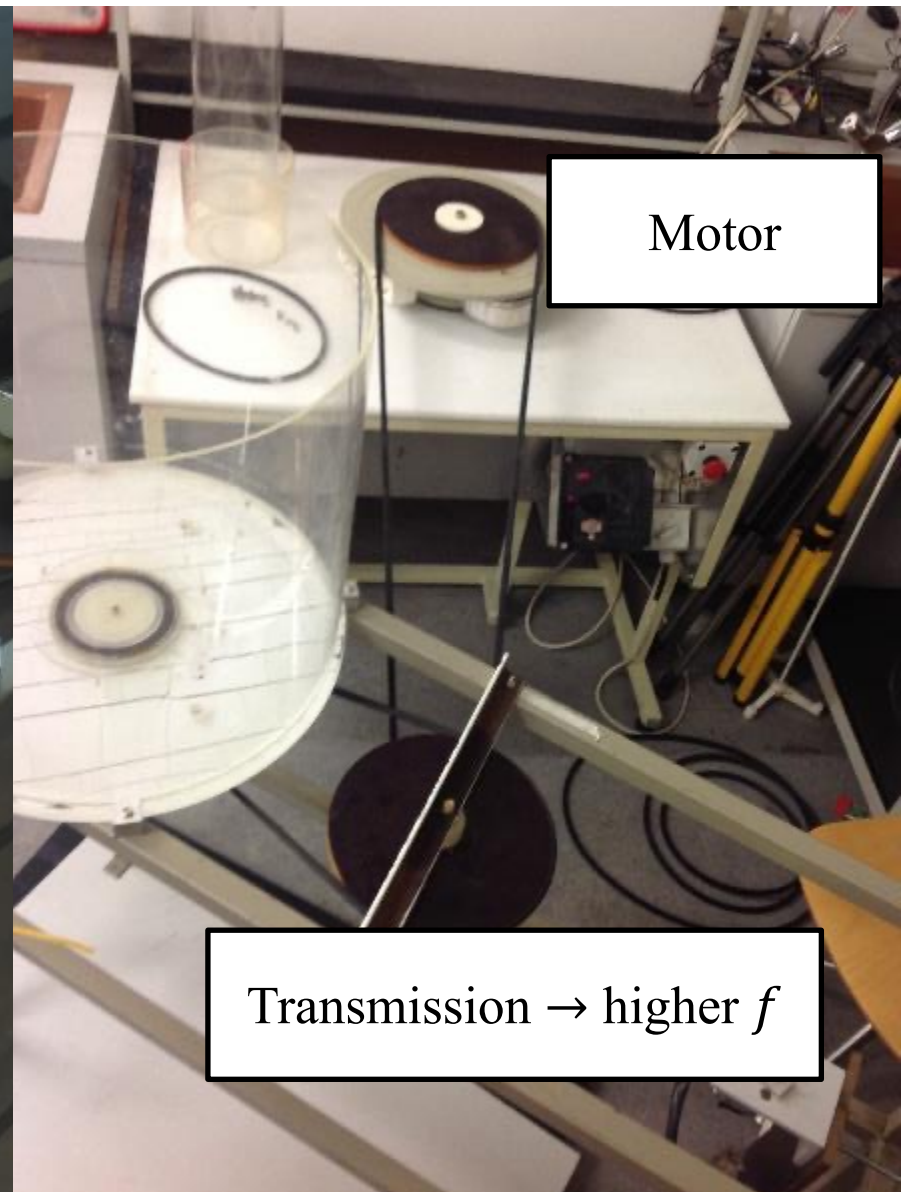
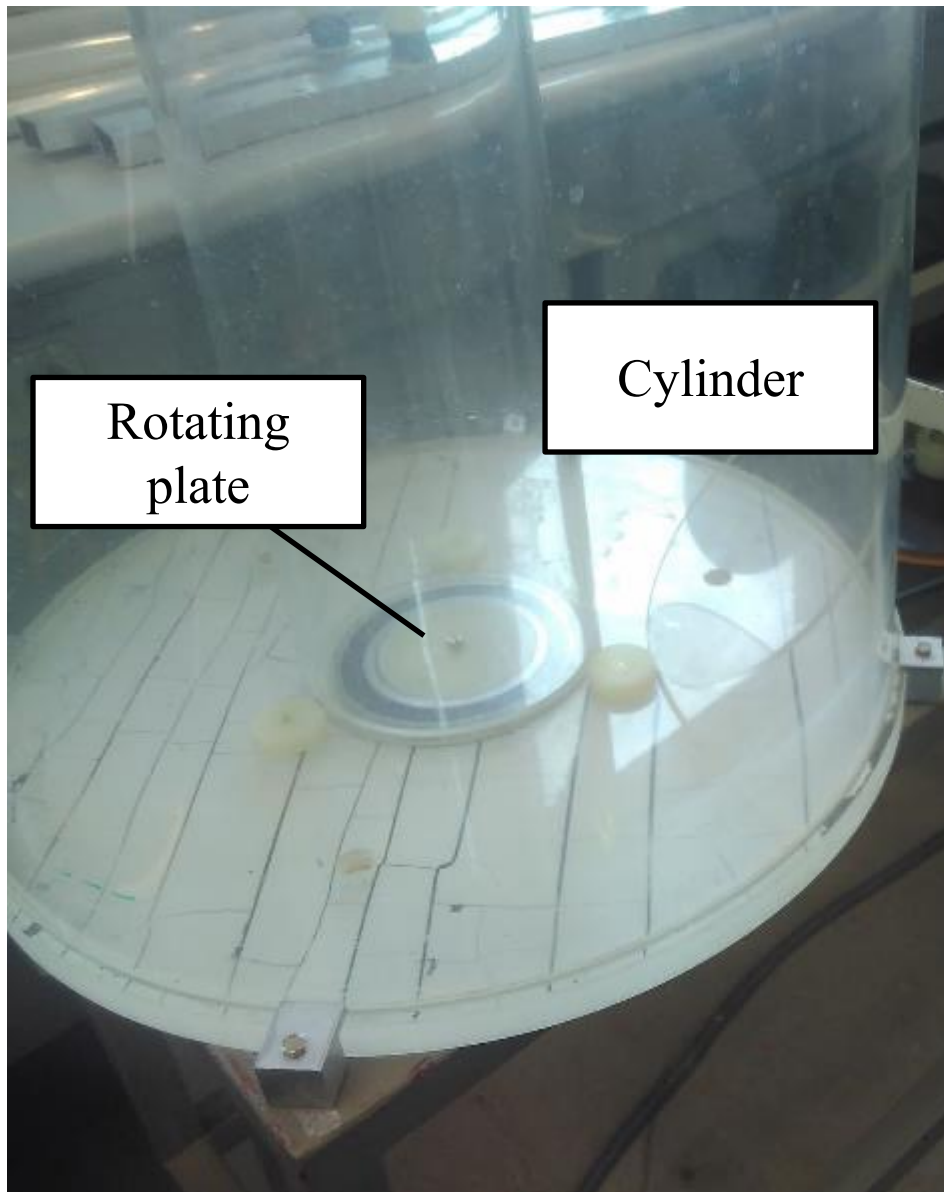




## II. Reproduction of the phenomenon

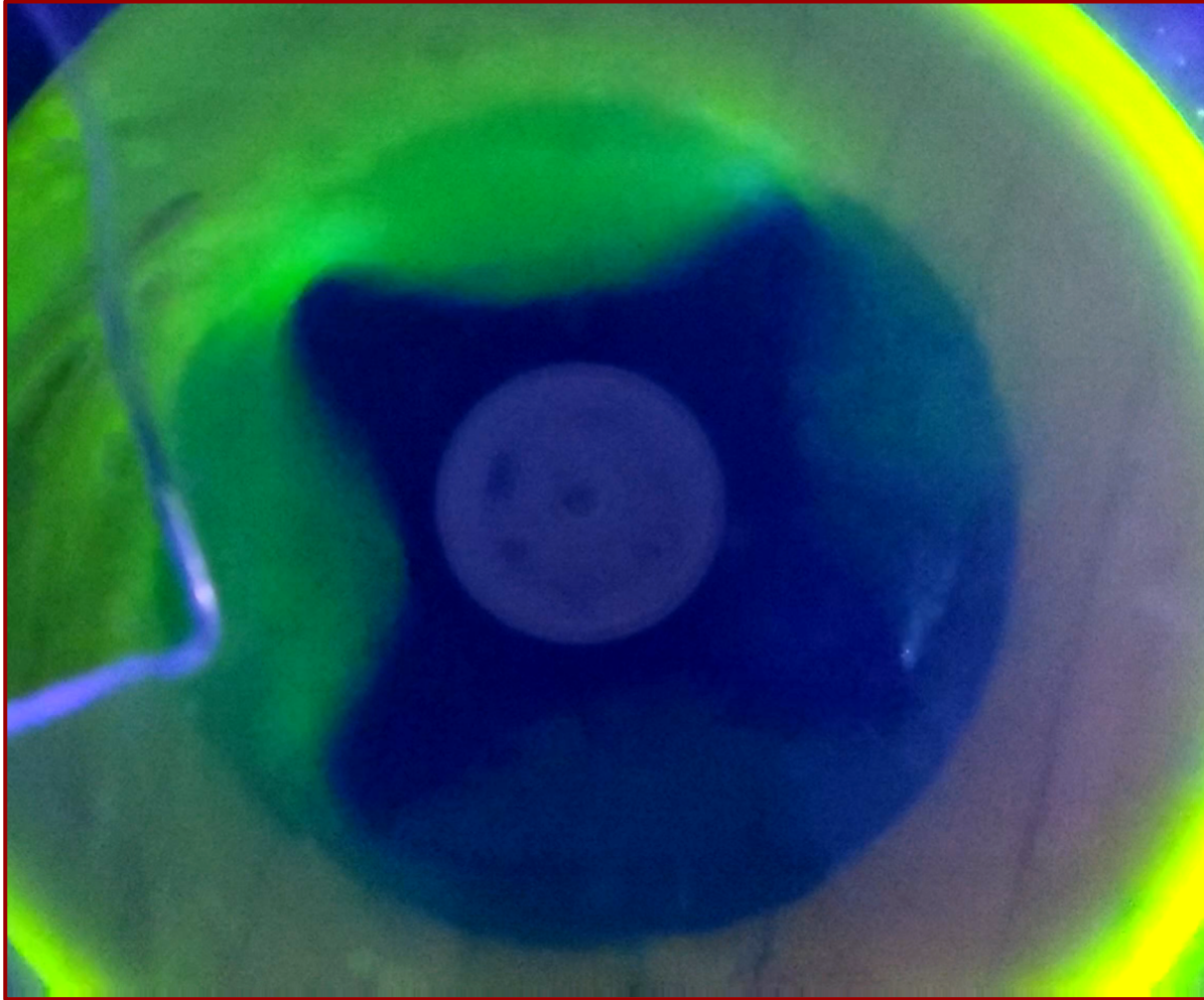
## II.1. Measurement setup

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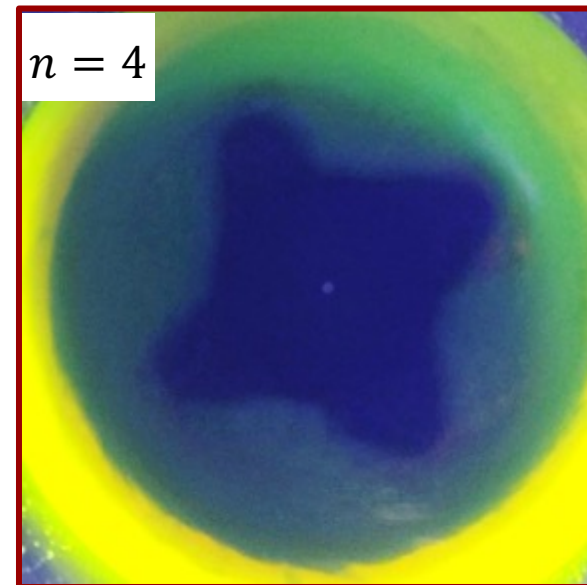
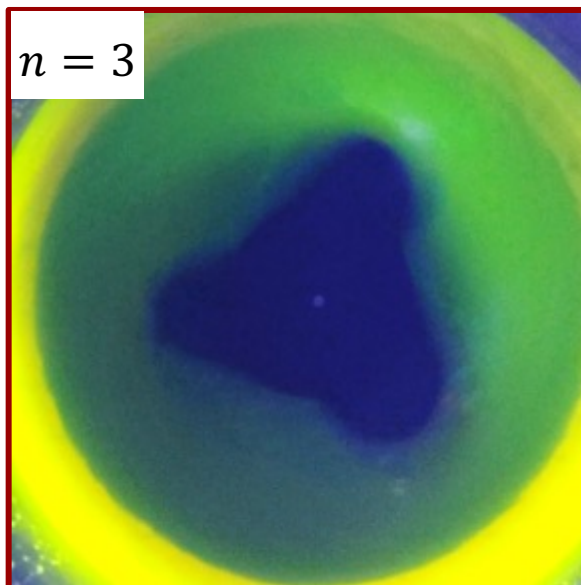
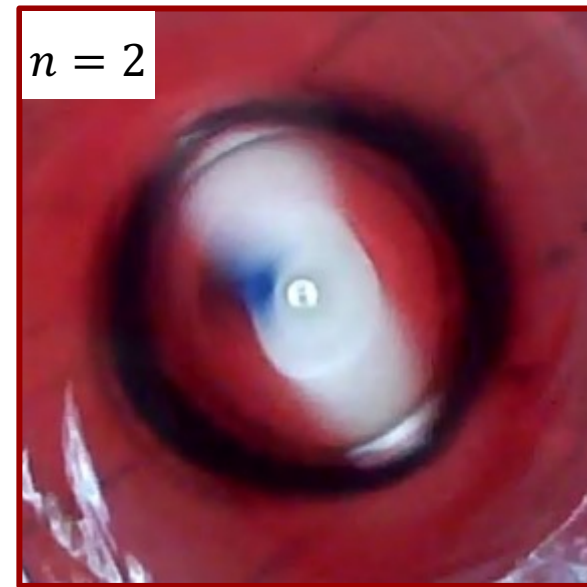
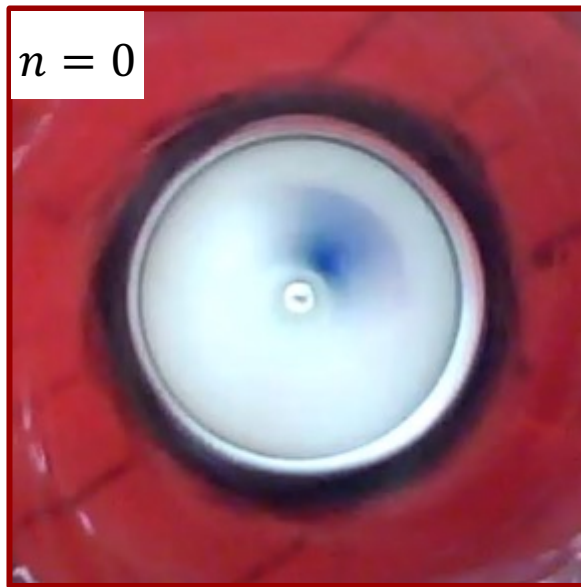


## II.2. The phenomenon

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## II.2. The phenomenon



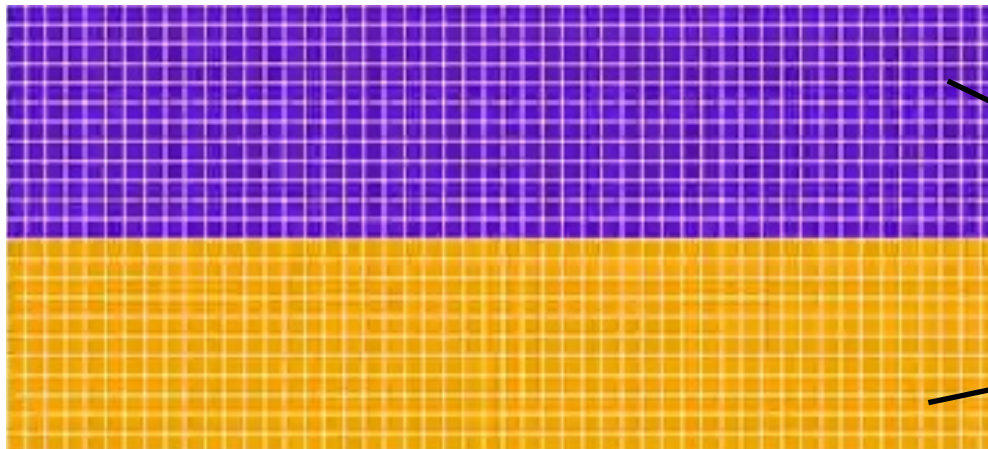


## **III. Qualitative explanation**

# III.1. Hydrodynamic instability

- **What do we see?**

- Hydrodynamic instability
- An example: Kelvin-Helmholtz-instability

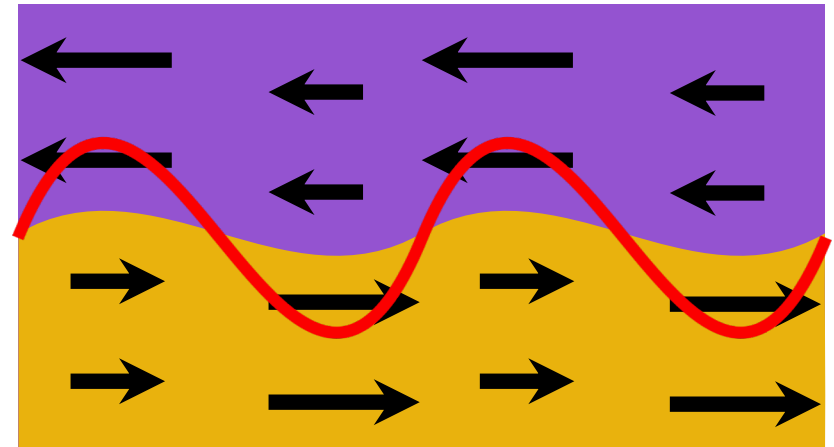
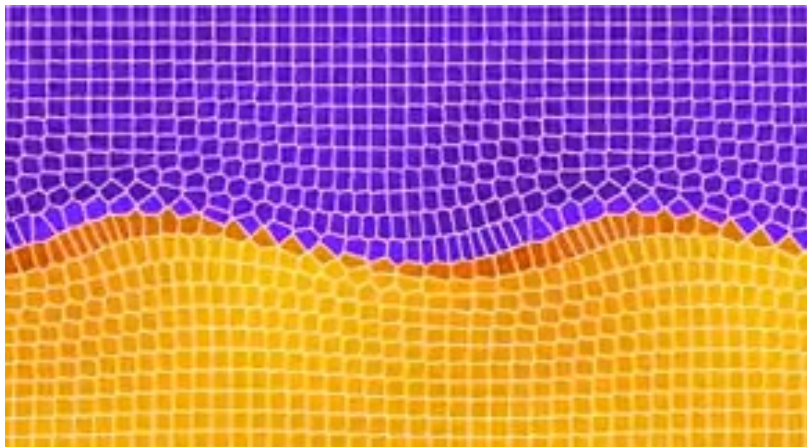
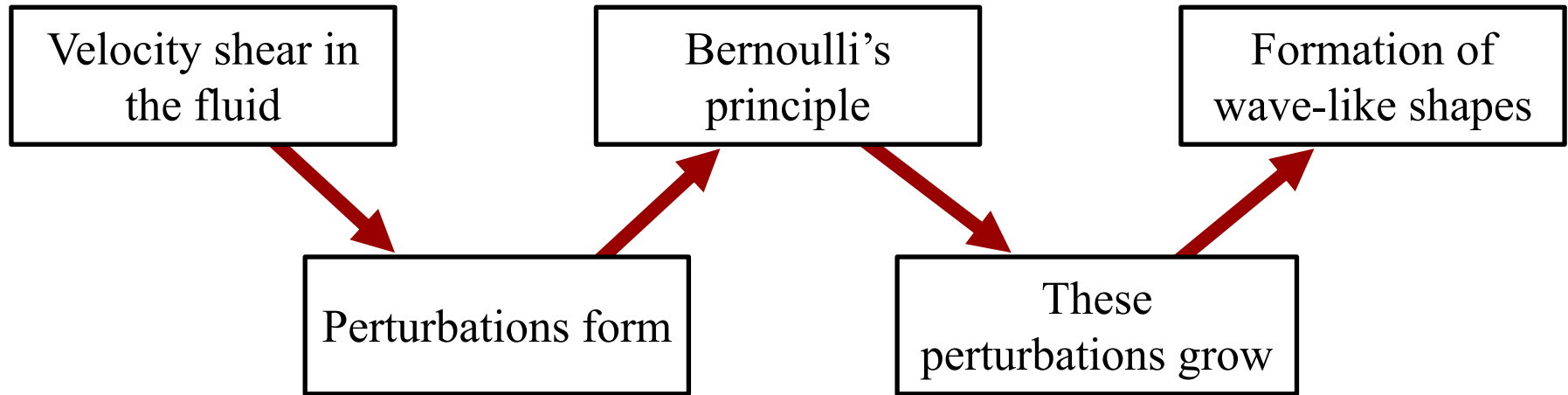


Different fluids  
with relative  
velocity difference

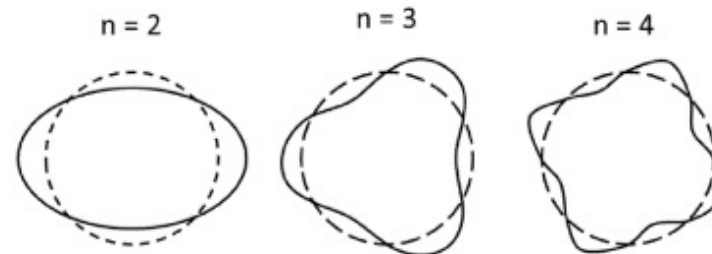
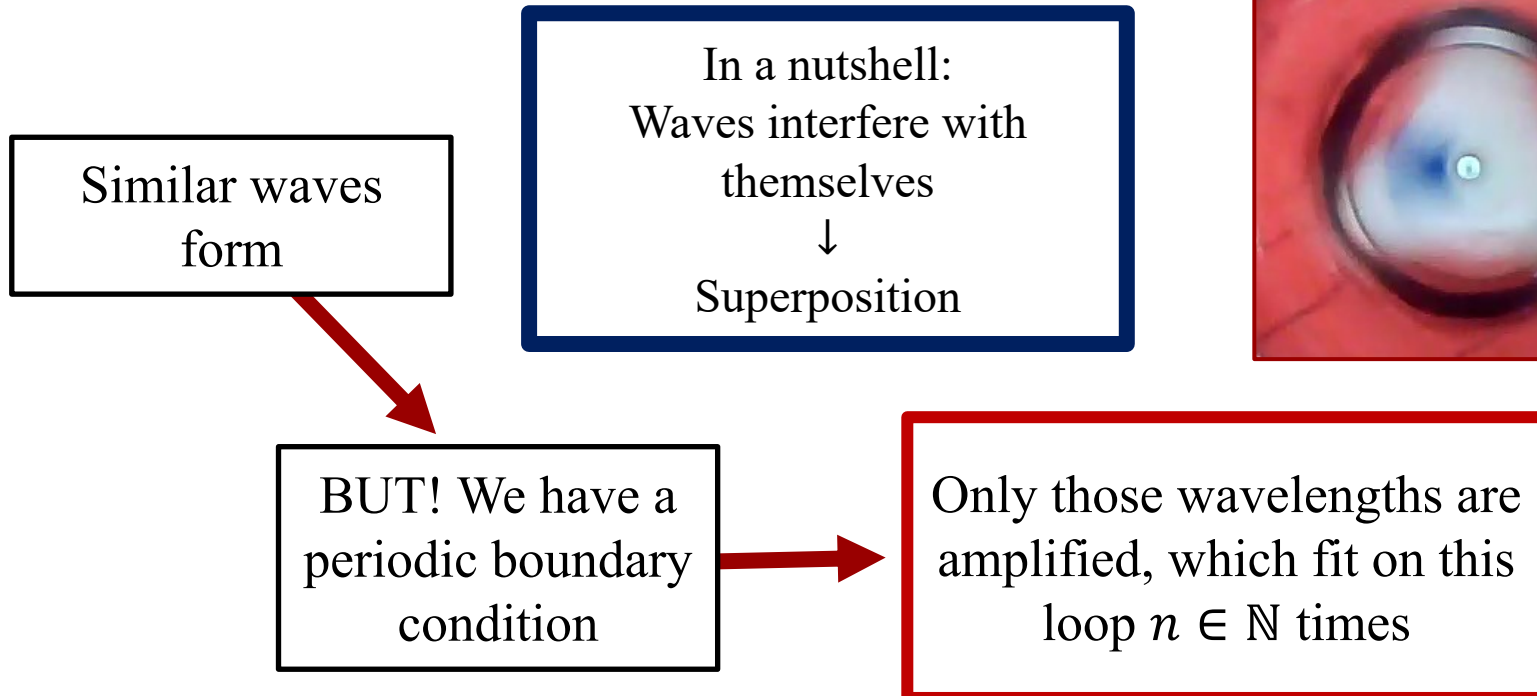
- In our case:

- No different fluids, only relative velocity difference  $\rightarrow$  velocity shear ( $\delta$ )

# III.1. Hydrodynamic instability



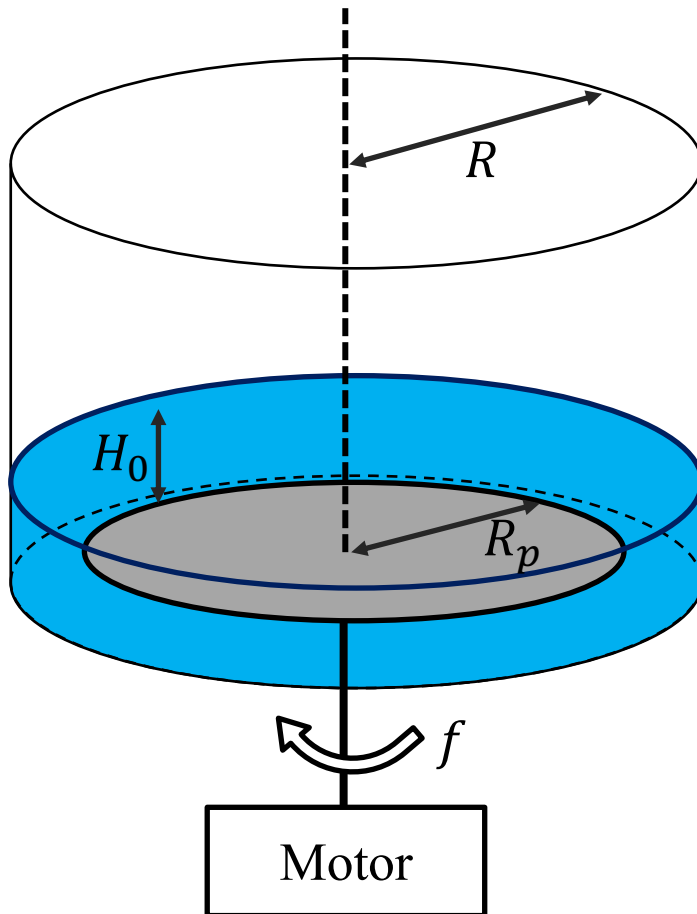
# III.1. Hydrodynamic instability







## IV. Relevant parameters



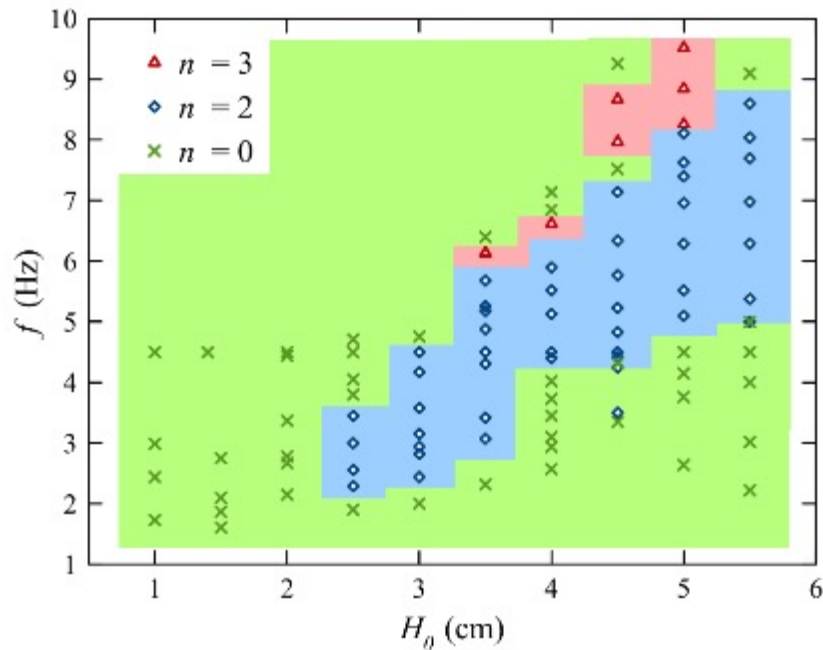
## Relevant parameters

Radius of the cylinder	$R$
Radius of the plate	$R_p$
Starting height of the water	$H_0$
Frequency of the rotation	$f$
Density	$\rho$
Kinematic viscosity	$\nu$
Height of water below the plate	

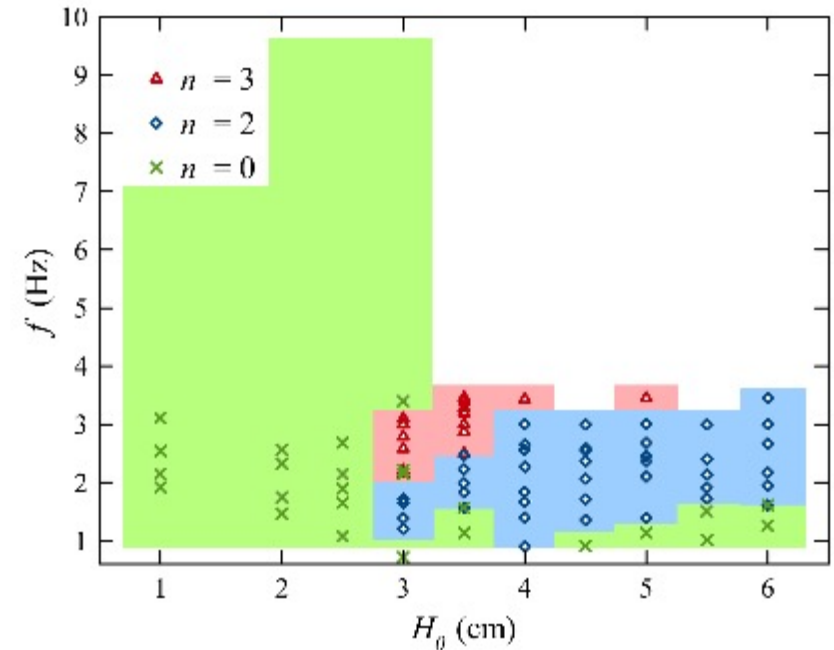
## IV.2. Phase diagram

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$R = 7.5 \text{ cm}$



$R = 13.5 \text{ cm}$



### ■ Conclusions

- Higher radius  $\rightarrow$  we get polygon-vortices „sooner”
- Higher water level  $\rightarrow$  lower  $n$
- Higher frequency  $\rightarrow$  higher  $n$
- Bottom and top limits



## V. Quantitative theory

- Navier-Stokes equation:

$$\rho \left[ \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \right] = \underbrace{-\nabla p}_{\text{Inner pressure differences}} + \underbrace{\mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}}_{\text{Viscosity}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{g}}_{\text{External force}}$$

- Equation of continuity

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = 0$$

- Reynolds number (in our measurements)

$$\text{Re} = \frac{\omega R^2}{\nu}$$

$$100\,000 \leq \text{Re} \leq 10\,000\,000$$

## V.2. Pilot simulations

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$$H_0 = 1 \text{ cm}$$

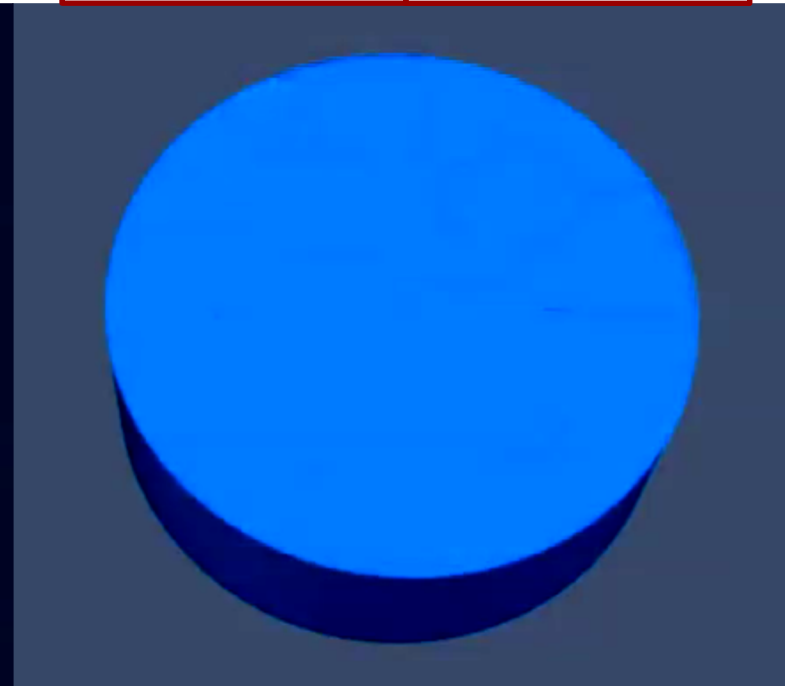
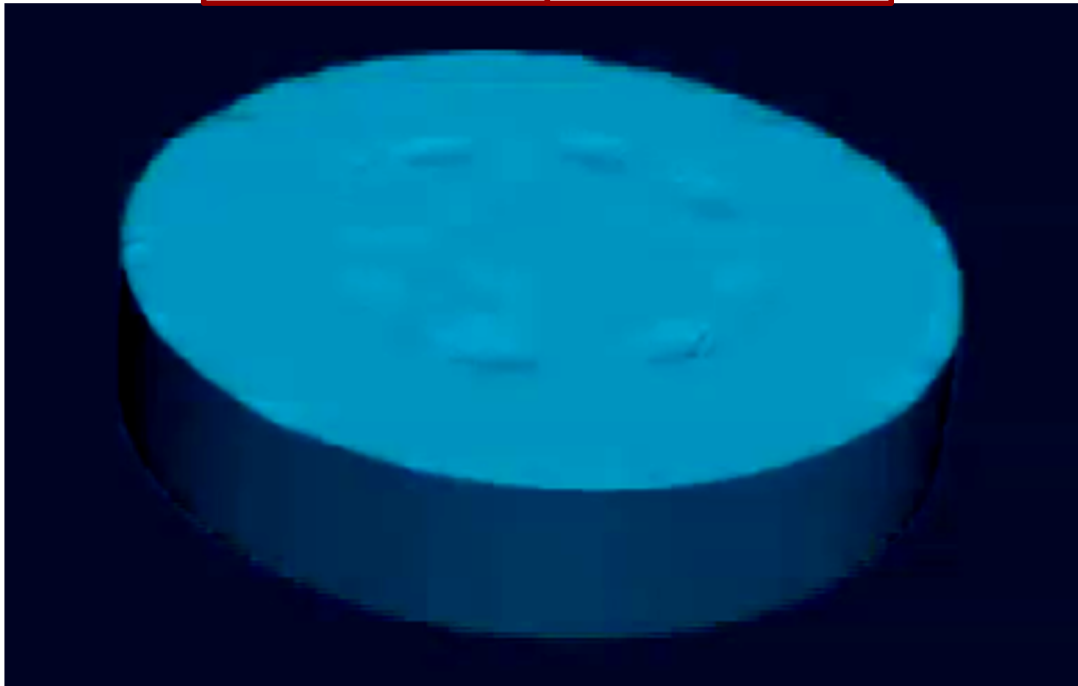
$$R = 2.5 \text{ cm}$$

$$f = 5 \text{ Hz}$$

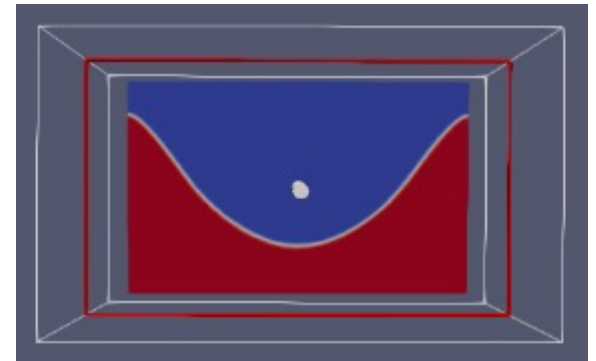
$$H_0 = 5 \text{ cm}$$

$$R = 7.5 \text{ cm}$$

$$f = 9 \text{ Hz}$$

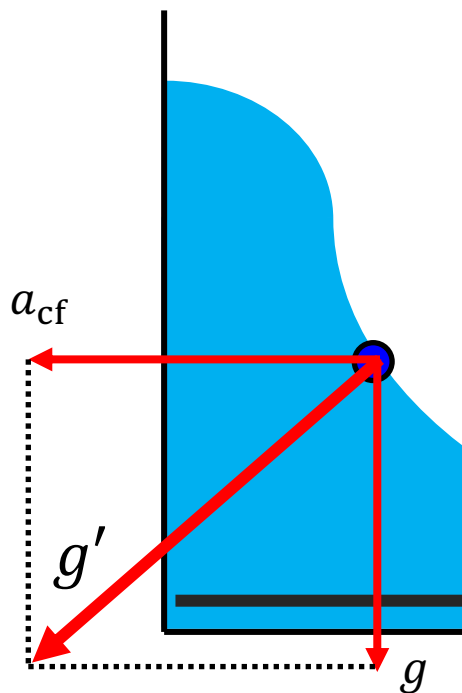


- The calculation takes days to compute
- GPU lab of Wigner Research Centre of Physics
  - 48 CPU core; 760 GB RAM
  - 16 CPU core; 16 GB RAM



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- Numerical simulations (Navier-Stokes)
    - Very complex:
      - Complex boundary conditions
      - Dynamic 3D system (very high time and spatial resolution needed)
      - Every single point on a phase diagram would need to be simulated
      - Even pilot simulations required days to calculate
    - Only a few articles touch this area (e.g.)
      - R. BERGMANN, L. TOPHØJ, T. A. M. HOMAN, P. HERSEN, A. ANDERSEN, & T. BOHR. 2011 Polygon formation and surface flow on a rotating fluid surface. *J. Fluid Mech.* **679**, 415–431.
      - L. TOPHØJ, J. MOUGEL, T. BOHR., D. FABRE. 2013 Rotating Polygon Instability of a Swirling Free Surface Flow. *PRL.* **110**, 194502-1 - 194502-5.
  - Generally with hydrodynamic instabilities the simulations are very complicated
    - Small perturbations grow immensely
    - Very detailed mesh required

From a co-rotating frame



$$g' = \sqrt{a_{cf}^2 + g^2}$$

### Polygon vortices:

Water surface waves on a tilted surface with an effective  $g'$



# V.4. Water surface wave dispersion relation

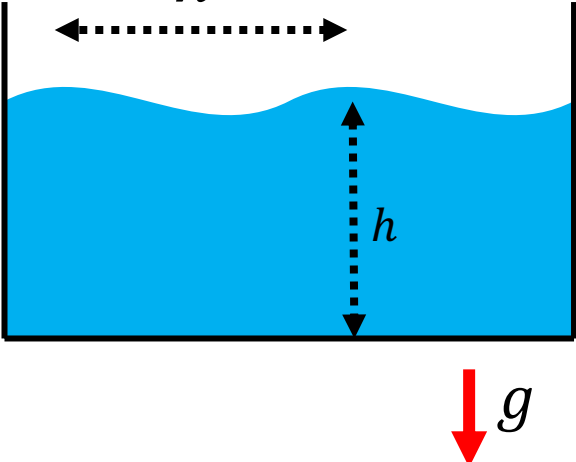
frequency of the wave  $f_{\text{wave}}$  =

$$\sqrt{\frac{g}{2\pi} \frac{1}{\lambda} \tanh\left(2\pi \frac{h}{\lambda}\right)}$$

gravitational acceleration  $g$

water depth  $h$

wavelength  $\lambda$



The diagram illustrates a rectangular tank containing blue water. A surface wave is shown on the water's surface, with a horizontal dashed line indicating the wavelength  $\lambda$  and a vertical dashed line indicating the water depth  $h$ . A red arrow labeled  $g$  points downwards from the bottom right of the tank, representing the direction of gravitational acceleration.

# V.4. Water surface wave dispersion relation

In our case:

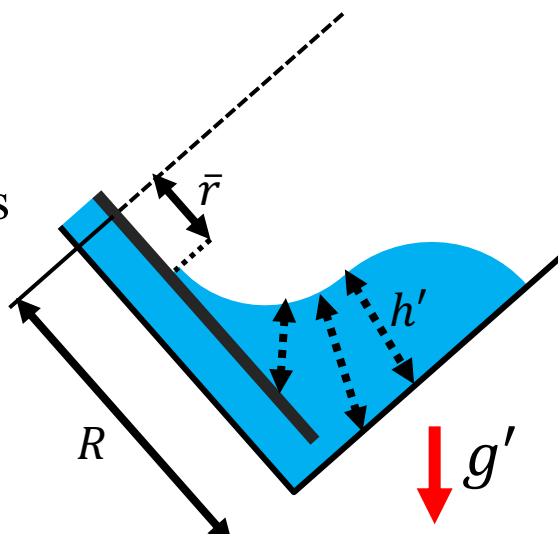
$$f_{\text{wave}} = \sqrt{\frac{g'}{2\pi} \frac{1}{\lambda} \tanh\left(2\pi \frac{h'}{\lambda}\right)}$$

frequency of the wave  
(In the co-rotating frame)

'effective'  $g$

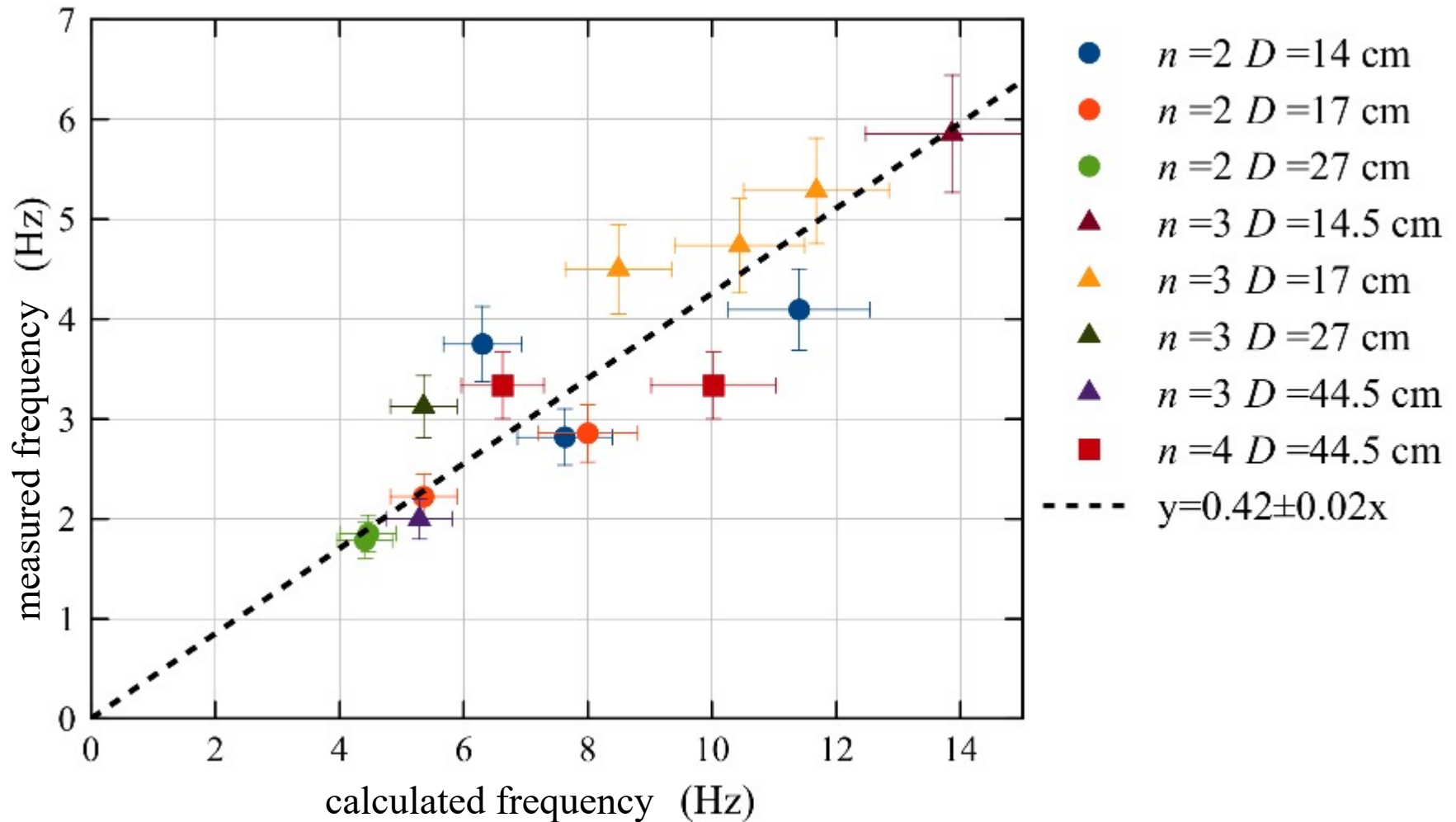
Wavelength of the polygons  
(at  $\bar{r}$ )

hard to determine  
 $h' \approx R - \bar{r}$  should  
be a good estimate  
for the order of  
magnitude



The diagram illustrates a wedge-shaped water body in a rotating frame. The wedge has a radius  $R$  and a central angle. The water surface is wavy. A dashed line indicates the radius  $\bar{r}$ . The effective gravity  $g'$  is shown as a red arrow pointing downwards. The height of the water surface is labeled  $h'$ .

# V.5. Comparison



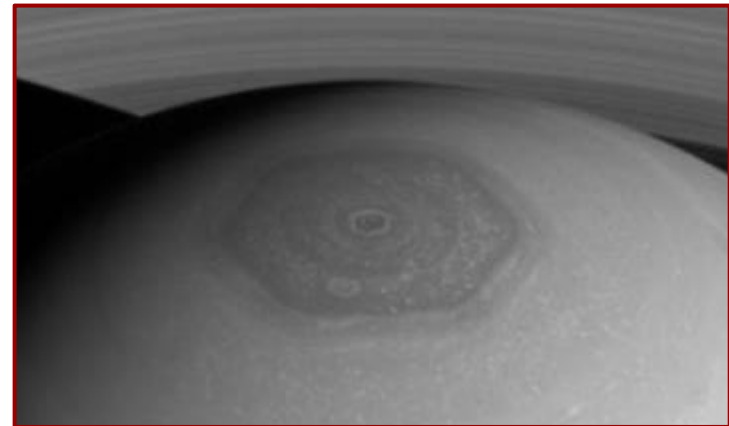
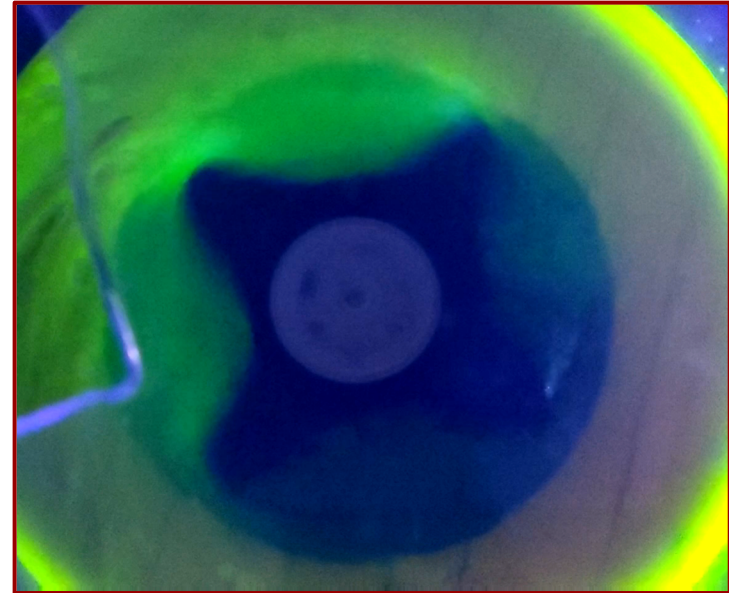


## VI. Summary

- Polygon vortices

- Shear instability
- Similar to surface waves
- Modified water surface wave dispersion relation

- $f_{\text{wave}} = \sqrt{\frac{g'}{2\pi} \frac{1}{\lambda} \tanh\left(2\pi \frac{h'}{\lambda}\right)}$



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# APPENDIX

- R. BERGMANN, L. TOPHØJ, T. A. M. HOMAN, P. HERSEN, A. ANDERSEN, & T. BOHR. 2011 Polygon formation and surface flow on a rotating fluid surface. *J. Fluid Mech.* 679, 415–431.
- B.BACH, E. C.LINNARTZ, M. H. VESTED, A. ANDERSEN AND T. BOHR. 2014 From Newton's bucket to rotating polygons:experiments on surface instabilities inswirling flows. *J. Fluid Mech.* 386-403.
- G. H. VATISTAS. A classical flow instability and its connection to gaseous galactic disk hydrodynamics.
- JANSSON, THOMAS R. N.; HASPANG, MARTIN P.; JENSEN, KÅRE H.; HERSEN, PASCAL; BOHR, TOMAS. 2006 Polygons on a Rotating Fluid Surface. *Physical Review Letters* 96, 174502.
- J. M. LOPEZ, F. MARQUES, A. H. HIRSA AND R. MIRAGHAIE. 2004 Symmetry breaking in free-surface cylinder flows. *J. Fluid Mech.* 502, 99-126.
- Kevin Schaal. „Kelvin-Helmholtz instability”. *Youtube*, 2012. Nov. 26., 1:20. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuK9PvlpUNg>

# Kelvin-Helmholtz-instability example

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$$\left| \frac{1}{T_{\text{pattern}}^{\text{lab}}} - \frac{1}{T_{\text{tank}}^{\text{lab}}} \right| = f_{\text{pattern}}^{\text{co-rot}}$$

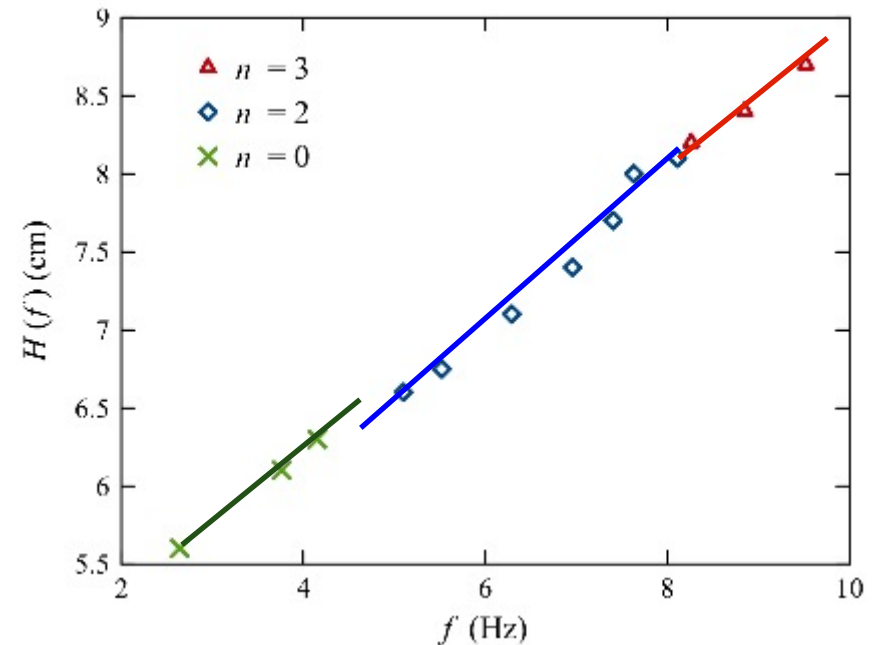
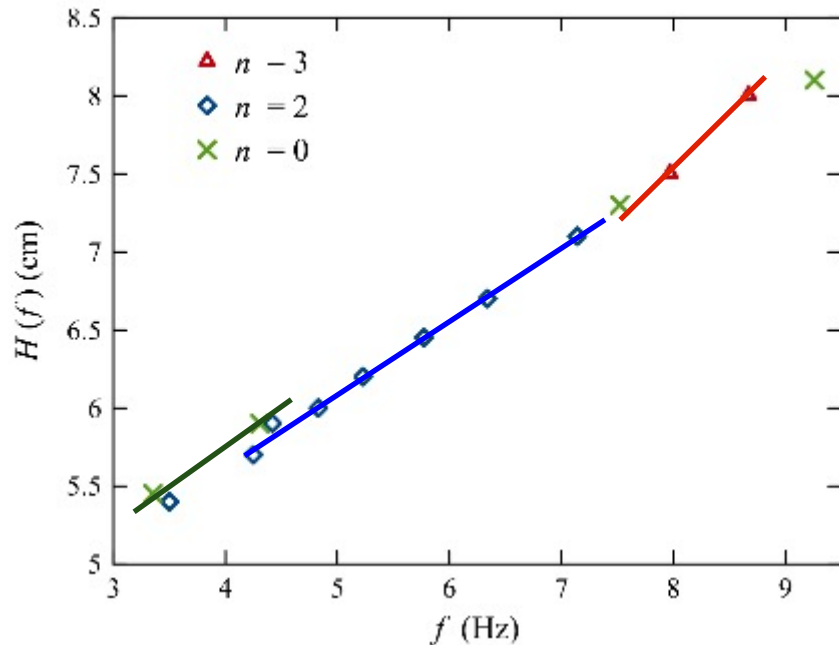
$$f_{\text{pattern}}^{\text{co-rot}} \cdot n = f_{\text{wave}}$$

Wave number (2, 3 or 4)

$$H_0 = 4.5 \text{ cm}$$

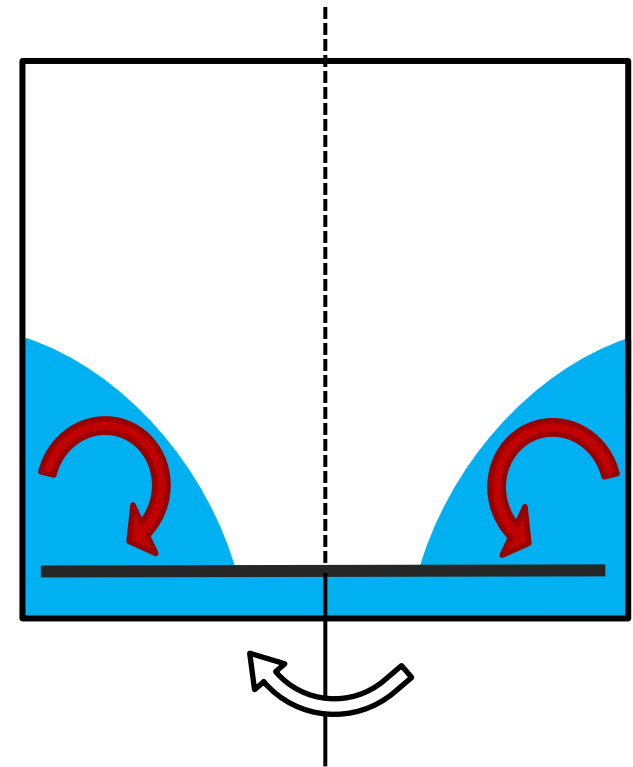
$$R = 7.5 \text{ cm}$$

$$H_0 = 5 \text{ cm}$$



## ■ Conclusions

- Jump to a higher  $n \rightarrow$  break in the line
- The system is at a lower potential
- There is a tendency, but not strong enough
- Further investigations required



- There are no stationary nodes, not even in a co-rotating frame