

**Microscopic and Macroscopic Rayleigh – Bénard Flows :  
Continuum and Particle Simulation --  
Fluctuations, Time Reversibility, Uniqueness and  
Lyapunov Instability**

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# Talk Outline

- 1. What is Turbulence ; Why is it important ?**
- 2. The Rayleigh-Bénard problem :**  
**Dimensionless Control Parameters and**  
**Scale Models**
- 3. Numerical Methods and Results**  
**Molecular Dynamics**  
**SPAM**  
**Fixed-Grid Continuum Mechanics**
- 4. Summary, Conclusions, Research Directions**

# **1.1 Turbulence is Violent --- it is the unsteady and Lyapunov unstable motion of a fluid .**



**Windmills near LLNL**



**British Airways Photo**

## **1.2 Cloud Streets off the Coast of Hokkaido**



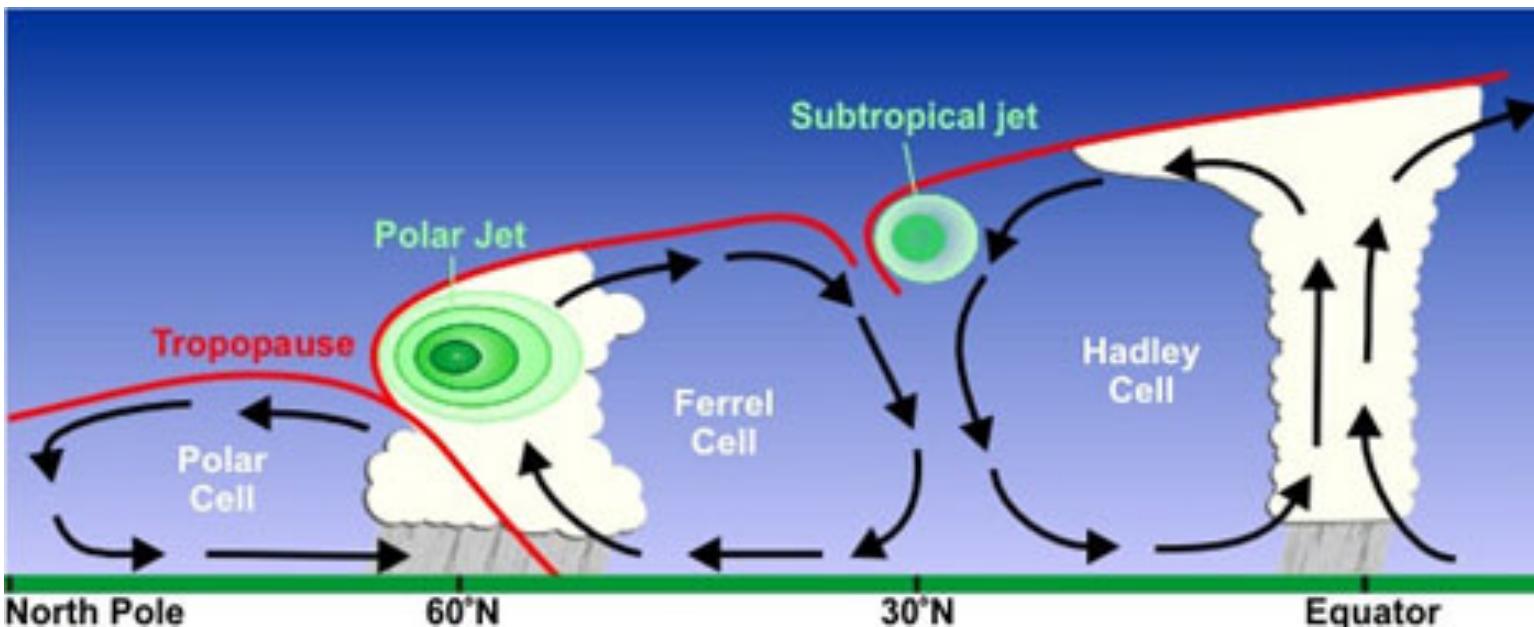
**Cumulus clouds 300 meters high and 100 kilometers long ;  
Japanese Coast Guard photograph .**

# 1.3 Turbulence is important in Real-Life situations .

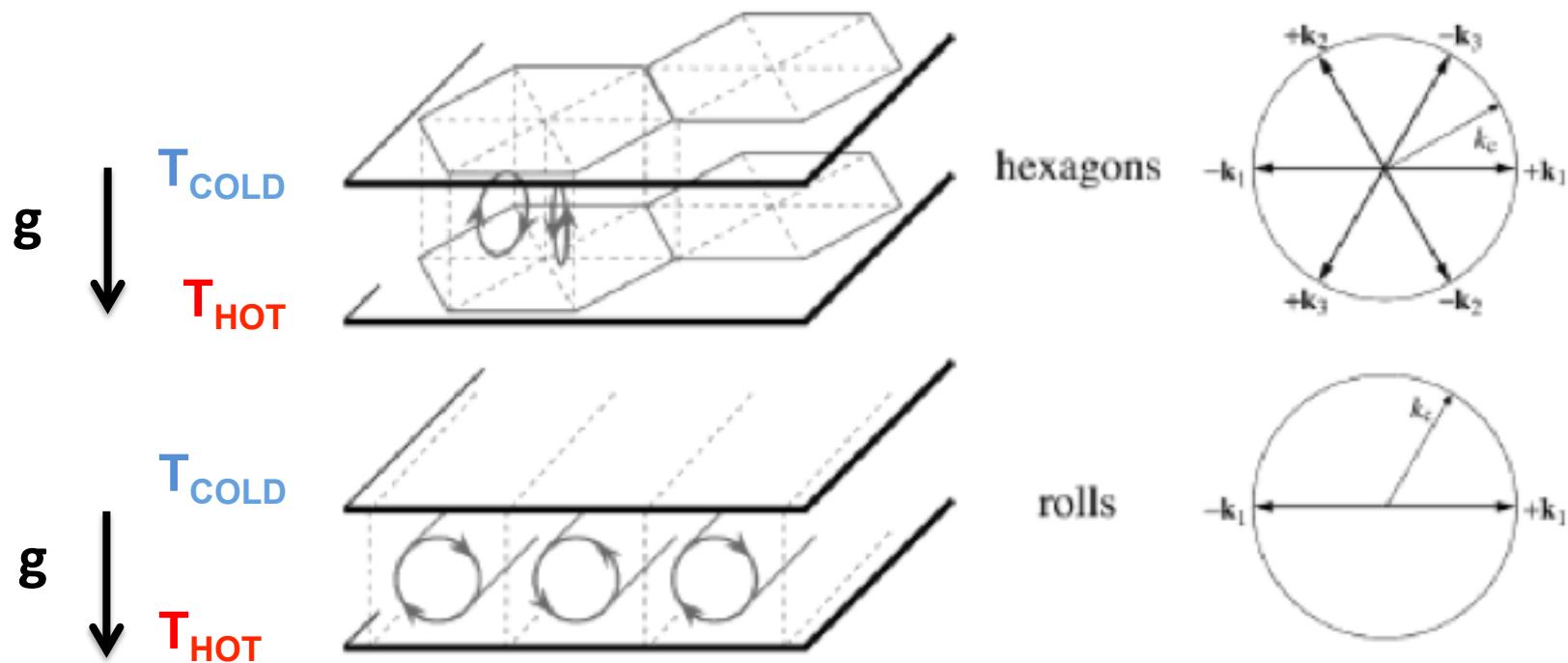


1. Thunderstorms
2. Flow around mountains
3. Jet stream boundary layers
4. Flow in the Earth and Sun

Pictures from NASA Langley Research Center  
Printed in Popular Mechanics, August 7, 2009



## 2.1 Rayleigh-Bénard Flow is a Simpler model problem with which to study Turbulence .



P. Manneville, Rayleigh-Bénard convection, thirty years of experimental, theoretical, and modeling work in Dynamics of Spatio-Temporal Cellular Structures – Henri Benard Centenary Review, 2005.

## 2.2 Fluid Flow is usefully characterized by several Dimensionless Control parameters

The *Rayleigh Number*  $\mathcal{R}$  includes four mechanisms for energy density change with  $\Delta T$  and  $g$ .

1. Gravitational Energy :  $\rho g v$  ,  $v$  is flow velocity .

2. Viscous Work :  $\eta(v/h)^2$  .

Ratio (1/2) :  $gh^2/(v v)$  , where  $v = \eta/\rho$  .

3. Convective Heat Transport:  $\rho C \Delta T v / h$  .

4. Differential Heat Flux:  $\kappa T / h^2$  .

Ratio (3/4) :  $v h \Delta T / D T$  , where  $D = \kappa / (\rho C)$  .

Ratio Product : (1/2)(3/4) :  $\mathcal{R} = g(\Delta T/T)h^3/(Dv)$  .

## 2.3 Kolmogorov's famous idea :

Spectrum  $e(k)$  [ with units of  $L^3/t^2$  ]  
depends upon only two things (for an inviscid  
fluid) :

energy rate [  $L^2/t^3$  ] and  
wavenumber  $k$  [  $1/L$  ].



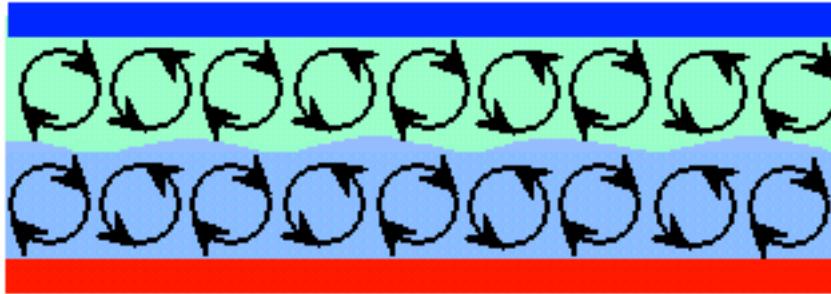
Dimensional Analysis gives the form of the Spectrum :

$$[ L^3/t^2 ] = [ L^2/t^3 ]^{2/3} [ 1/L ]^{-5/3}$$

There is a 3D **ultraviolet** catastrophe :  
the energy in the range  $dk$  is  $k^2/k^{5/3} = k^{1/3}$

There is a 2D **infrared** catastrophe :  
the energy in the range  $dk$  is  $k/k^{5/3} = k^{-2/3}$

## 2.4 Rayleigh-Bénard Length Scaling



Making Scaled Flow Models, all with the Same Rayleigh Number :

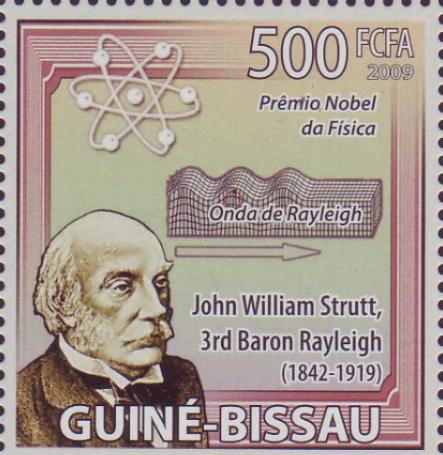
$$\mathcal{R} = gL^3(d\ln V/d\ln T)_P / (\nu D) ;$$

$P = \rho kT$  and constant  $\rho \rightarrow g = kT/mL$  ;

Choose  $\Delta T = \langle T \rangle$  ;  
 $\nu, D$  proportional to  $L$

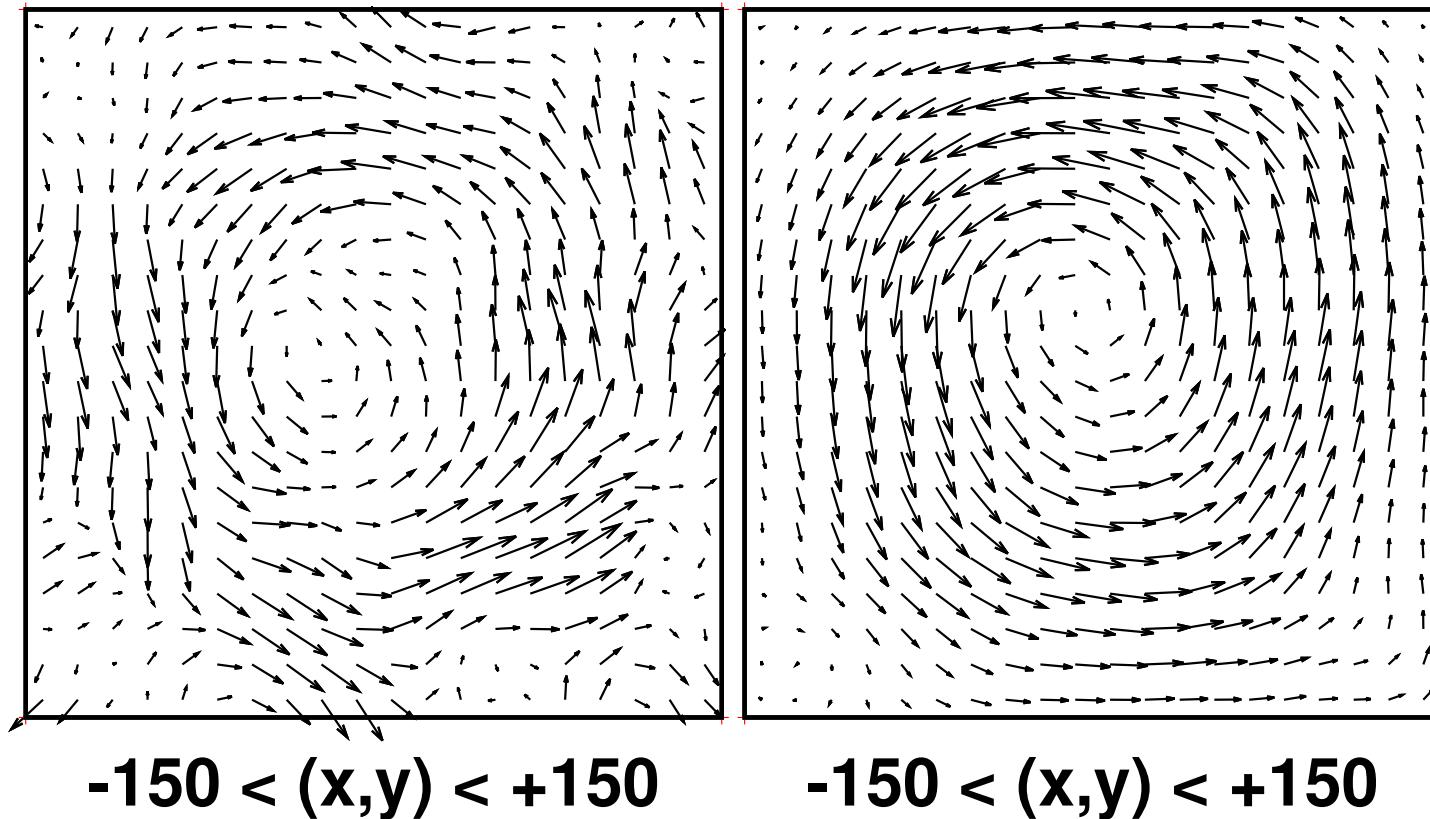
gives

$$v(y/L), Q(y/L), \rho(y/L)$$



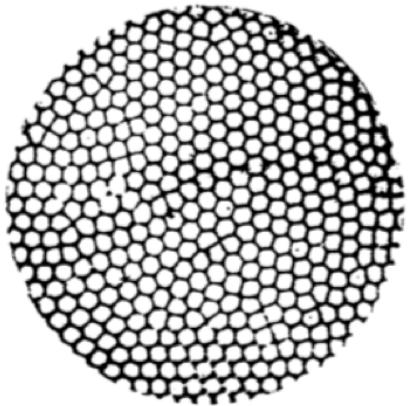
### 3.1 Numerical Methods and Results: Two-Dimensional Molecular Dynamics using SPAM for Spatial Averages .

Last Snapshot ( $N=23,700$ ) Averaged Flow

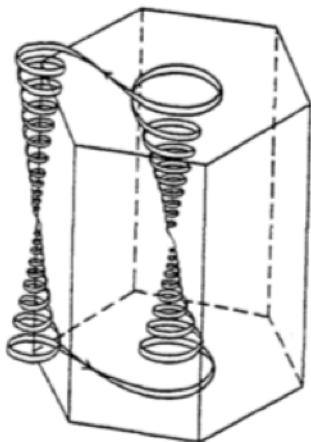


Fluctuations dominate Molecular Dynamics ,  
Making Comparisons Complicated .

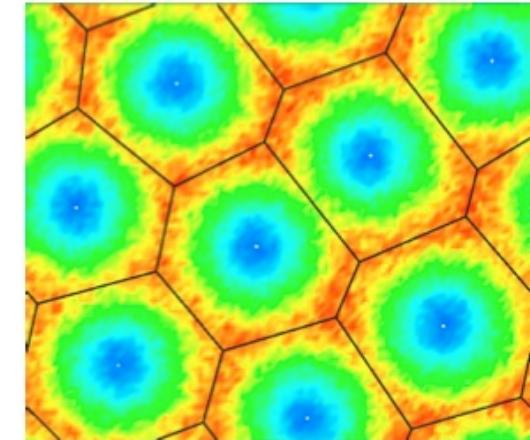
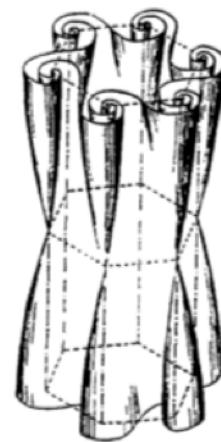
### 3.2 Rayleigh-Bénard flows in three dimensions can form Hexagonal cells or Longitudinal rolls .



Bénard's experiment

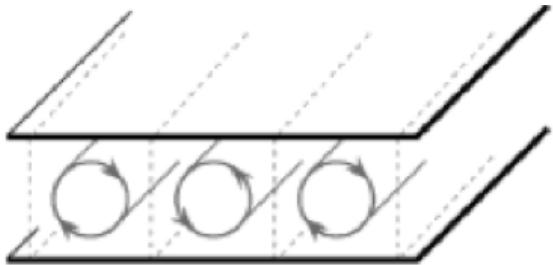


Chandrasekhar



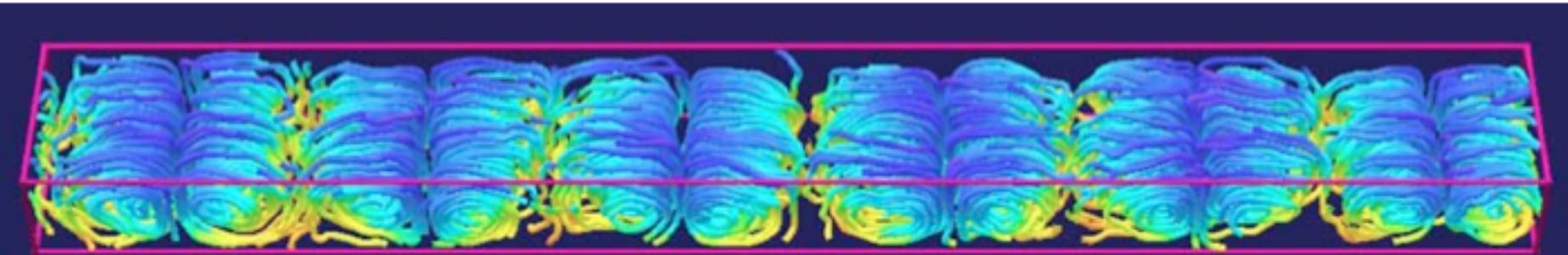
Rappaport

3 507 170 atoms ↑



Rappaport

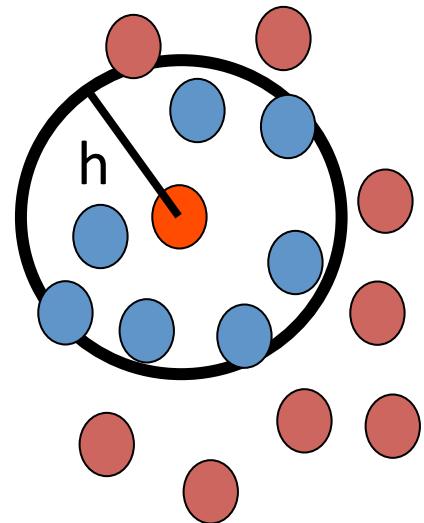
506 696 particles ↓



### 3.3 SPAM is a Particle Method .

Particle density from neighbors within a smoothing length

$$\rho_J = \sum_K m_K w(|r_J - r_K|), \quad |r_J - r_K| \leq h$$



Properties of the weight function:

Normalized; Continuous first and second derivatives

Lucy's weight function

$$w_{2D}(r < h) = (5/\pi h^2)(1 + 3x)(1 - x)^3, \quad x = r / h ; \quad h = 3$$

Function approximation

$$f_R = \sum f_J m_J w_{RJ} / \rho_R, \quad |r_J - r_R| \leq h$$

## 3.4 Smooth-Particle Equations

Continuity Equation is automatically satisfied.

Equation of Motion:

$$m_J(du_J/dt) = - \sum m_J m_K [ (P/\rho^2)_J + (P/\rho^2)_K ] \cdot \nabla w_{JK}$$

Energy Equation:

$$m_J(de_J/dt) = \text{heat in} - \text{work done}$$

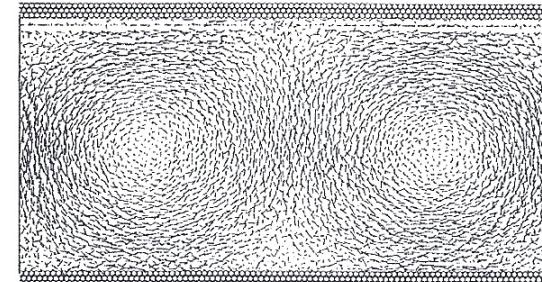
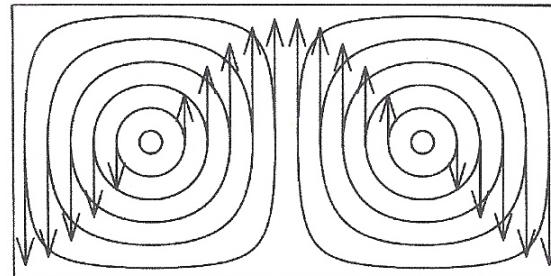
Work and heat are computed from pressure and gradients of the velocity, temperature, and heat flux .

Time integration with 4<sup>th</sup> order Runge-Kutta

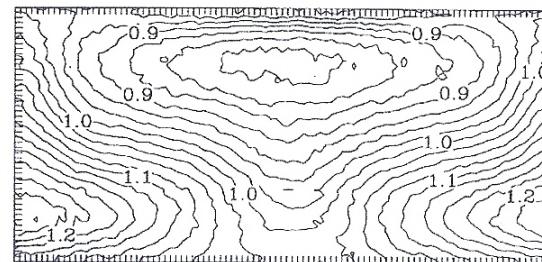
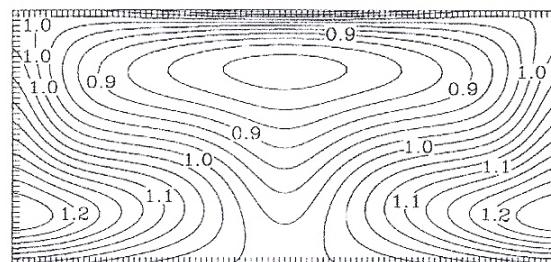
Wm. G. Hoover, et ux, *SPAM-Based Recipes for Continuum Simulations*, Computing in Science & Engineering, p. 78 (2001) .

## 3.5 Rayleigh-Bénard Flow (Gravity & T gradient) Finite-Difference (left) & Smooth Particles (right)

Velocity

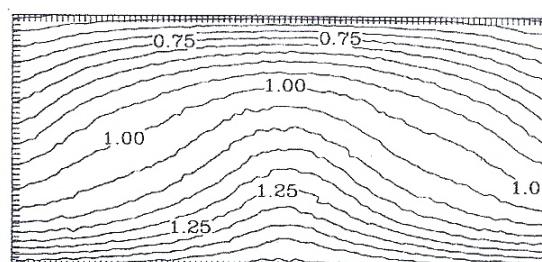
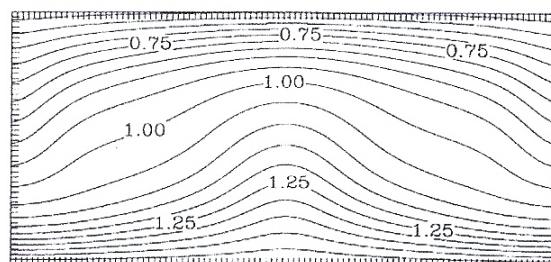


Density



Gravity  
↓

Temperature



$T = 0.5$

$T = 1.5$

Rolls form for  $R_c = \frac{gL^4(d\ln T / dy)}{\nu D_T}$  & 5000 smooth particles

Kum, Hoover, & Posch, PRE 52, 4899-4908 (1995) .

## Conclusions: **Molecular Dynamics and SPAM**

Molecular Dynamics is *not* Appropriate .

MD requires *both* Time *and* Space Averages .

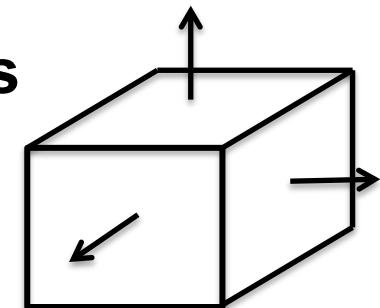
SPAM is Much Better , but still Tedious .

Both Methods are Correct in Principle (only) .

Continuum Mechanics is a Better Way .

### 3.6 Back to Basics ! Continuum Mechanics from the three Conservation laws .

Mass, momentum, energy flow through surfaces in a fixed volume



Eulerian ( fixed frame )

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (\rho u)$$

Lagrangian ( comoving frame )

$$\frac{d}{dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla$$

Continuity equation

$$d\rho/dt = -\rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

Equation of motion

$$\rho du/dt = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} + \rho g$$

Energy equation

$$\rho de/dt = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} : \mathbf{P} - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{Q}$$

Constitutive equations

$$\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{P}(\rho, \mathbf{e}, \nabla \mathbf{u}) ; \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{Q}(\rho, \mathbf{e}, \nabla T)$$

## 3.7 Newton-Fourier Constitutive Model

Ideal-Gas Equation of State with Newtonian Shear viscosity  $\eta$  and with zero Bulk Viscosity .

$$P_{eq} = \rho e = NkT/V \text{ with } \eta + \lambda = 0 .$$

$$P_{xx} = P_{eq} - \eta [ (du_x/dx) - (du_y/dy) ]$$

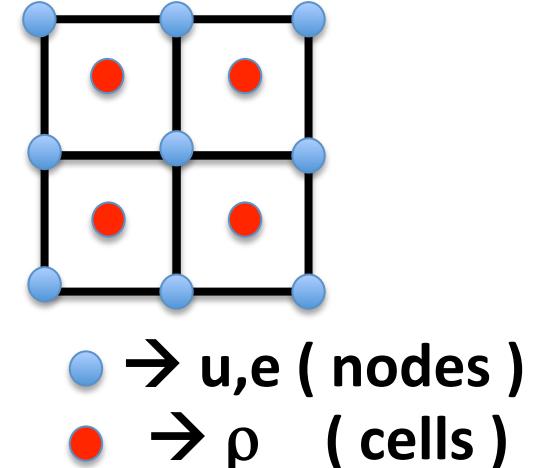
$$P_{yy} = P_{eq} - \eta [ (du_y/dy) - (du_x/dx) ]$$

$$P_{xy} = -\eta [ (du_x/dy) + (du_y/dx) ]$$

$$Q_x = -\kappa (dT/dx)$$

$$Q_y = -\kappa (dT/dy)$$

## 3.8 Finite-Difference Method



0. [ Single-Grid Solutions are not Stable . ]
1. Use Linear Interpolation throughout .
2. Use Centered Differences for  $(u,e)$  Gradients .
3. Get  $P$  and  $Q$  from the  $(u,e)$  Gradients .
4. Get Gradients for the  $(\rho,u,e)$  Evolutions .
5. Integrate  $(\rho,u,e)$  with Runge-Kutta Integration .

### 3.9 Simplest Possible Numerical Approach

Ideal gas:  $P = \rho kT = \rho e$        $L \times L$  box

$$\rho g = -dP/dy = -\rho k dT/dy \longrightarrow g = [T_{\text{hot}} - T_{\text{cold}}]/L$$

Boundary Values

$$u_x = u_y = 0 ; e = [T_{\text{hot}} + T_{\text{cold}}]/2 + (y/L)[T_{\text{cold}} - T_{\text{hot}}]$$

$$\mathcal{R} = gL^4(d \ln T / dy) / \nu D_T$$

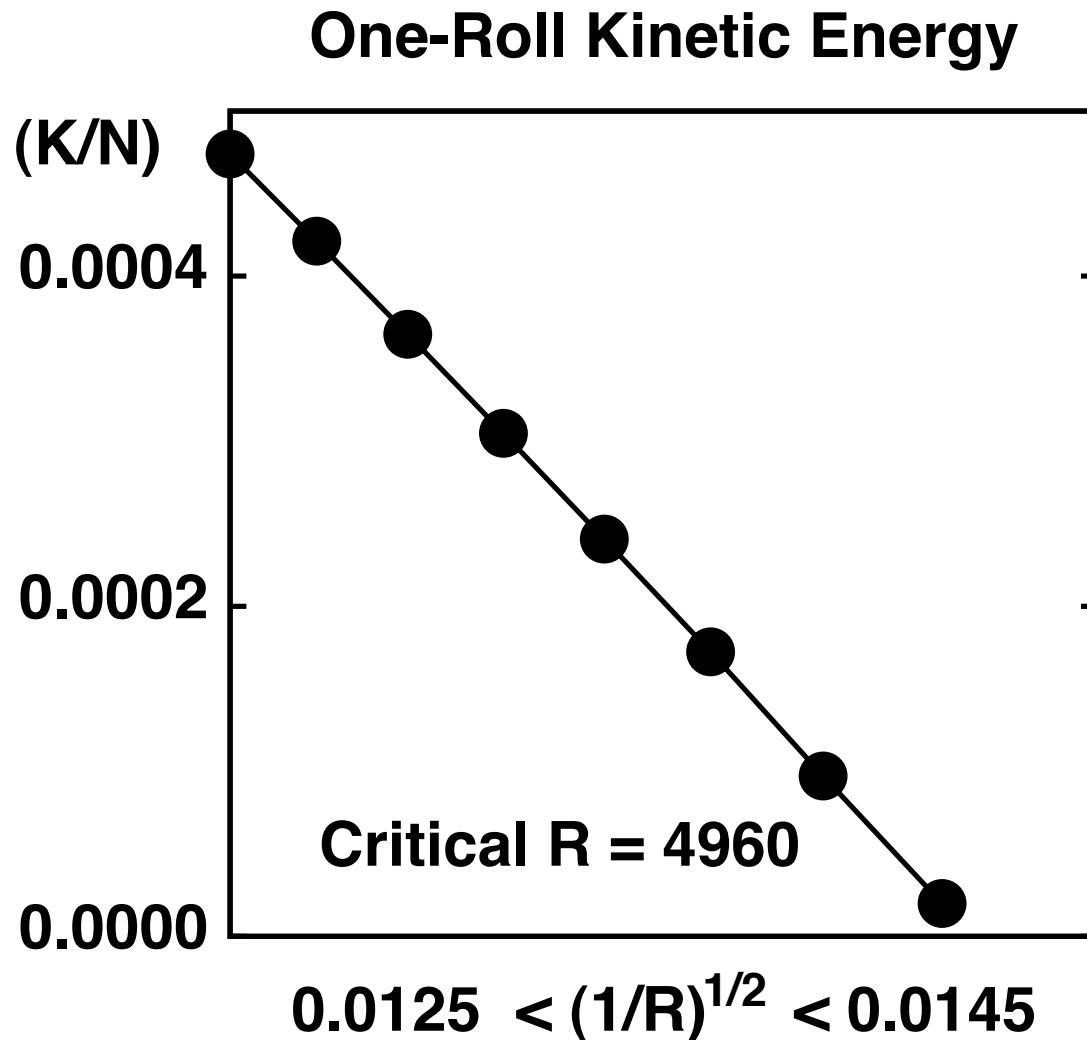
Choose  $T_{\text{hot}} = 1.5$   $T_{\text{cold}} = 0.5$  ;  $T = 1.0$

$$\mathcal{R} = gL^3 / \nu D_T$$

Note: We can scale up the problem size (L) by keeping the Rayleigh number the same , changing either temperature or transport properties .

### 3.10 Results: Critical Rayleigh Number

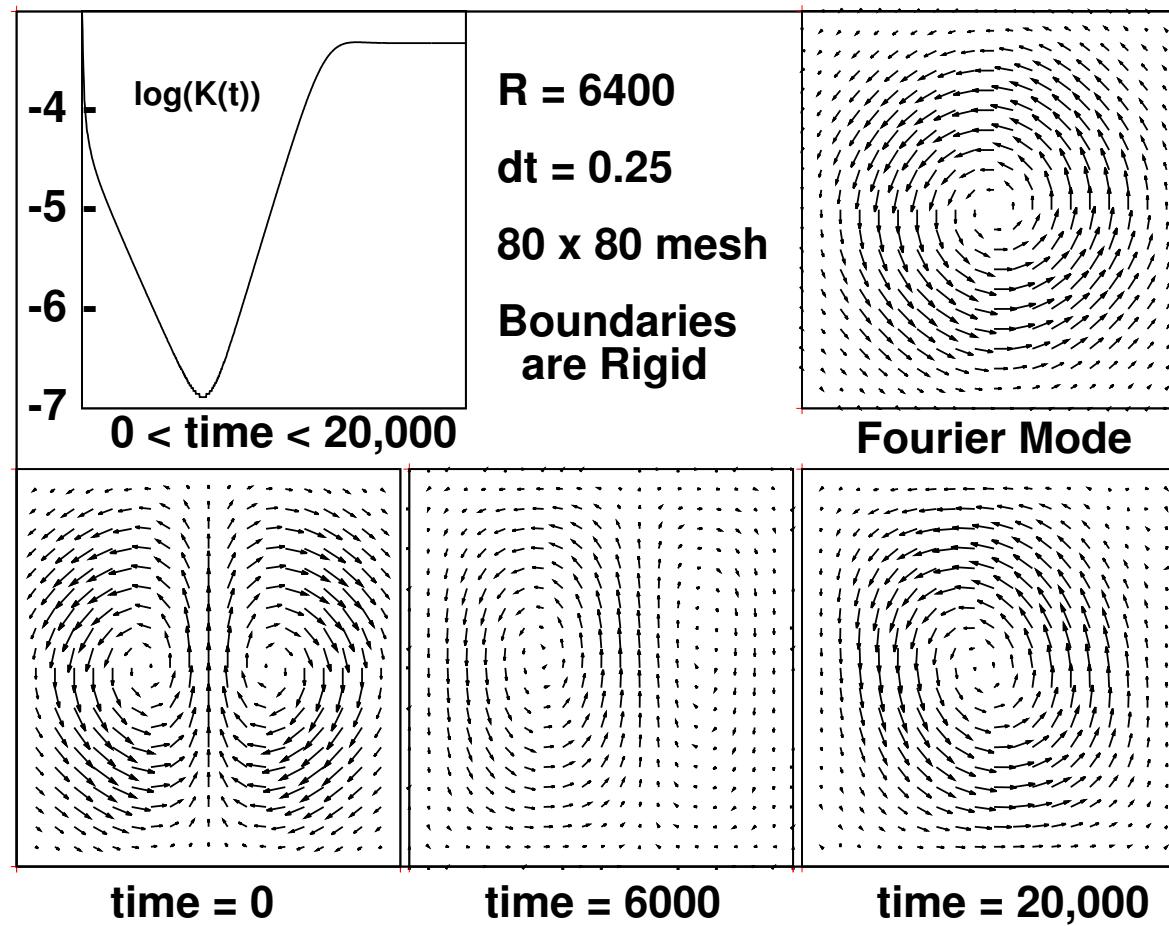
The “Critical” Rayleigh number for Convection gives  
A Linear variation of Kinetic energy with  $(1/R)^{1/2}$ .



### 3.11 Comparison: Analytic Mode with Simulation

Lowest k Fourier mode :

$$\{ u_x \propto \cos(kx) \sin(2ky) ; u_y \propto -\sin(2kx) \cos(ky) \} ; k = (\pi/L)$$



### 3.12 Kinetic energy as a function of $\mathcal{R}$ reveals degeneracy [ multiple solutions ] .

$\mathcal{R} = 10\,000$

“ One Roll ”

$\mathcal{R} = 32\,000$

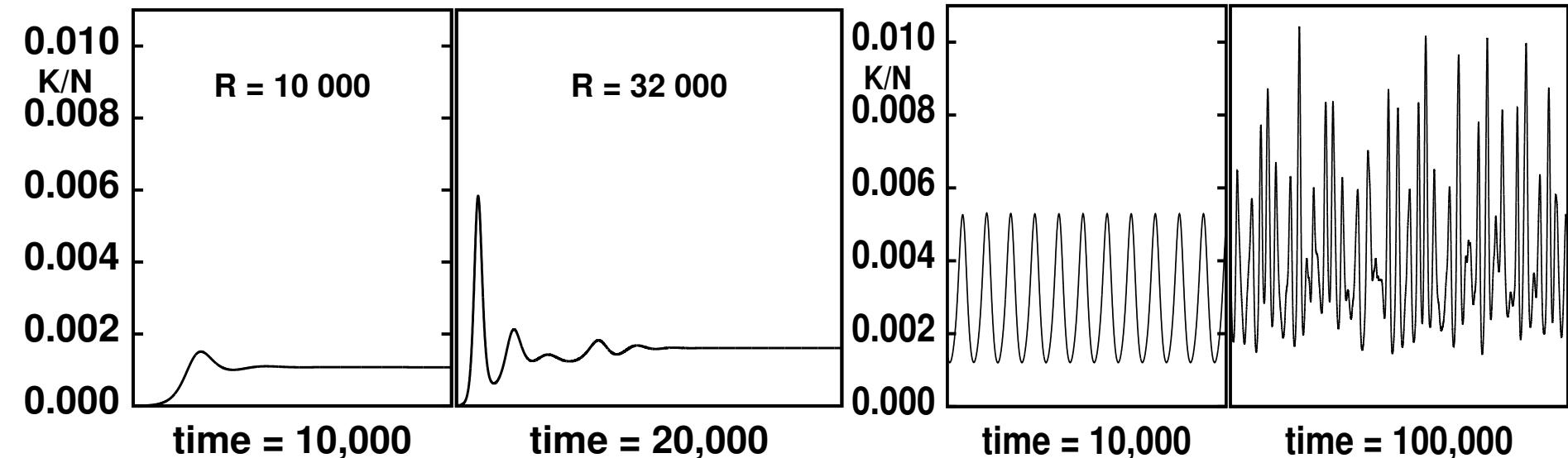
Two Rolls

$\mathcal{R} = 160\,000$

Periodic

$\mathcal{R} = 800\,000$

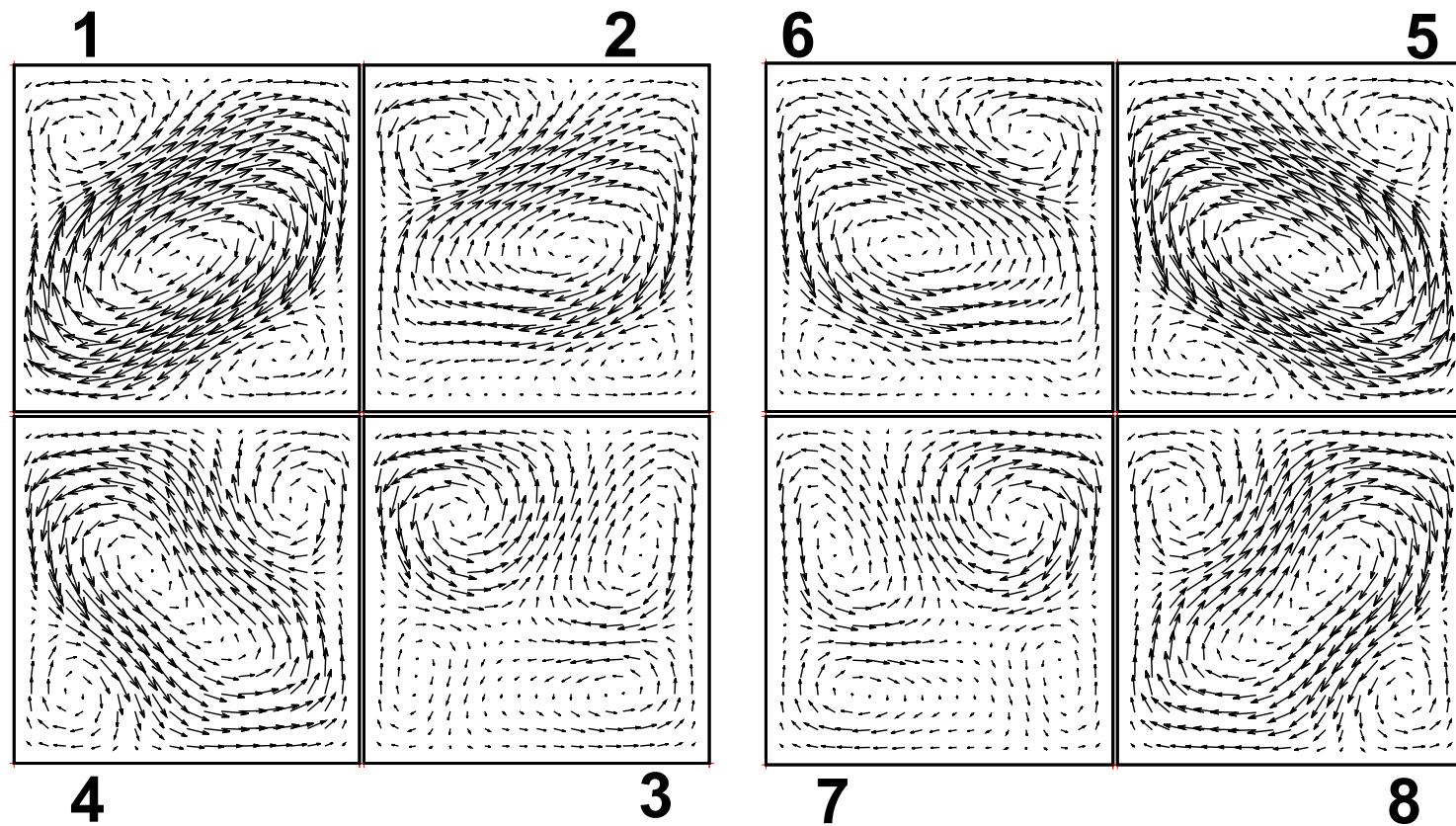
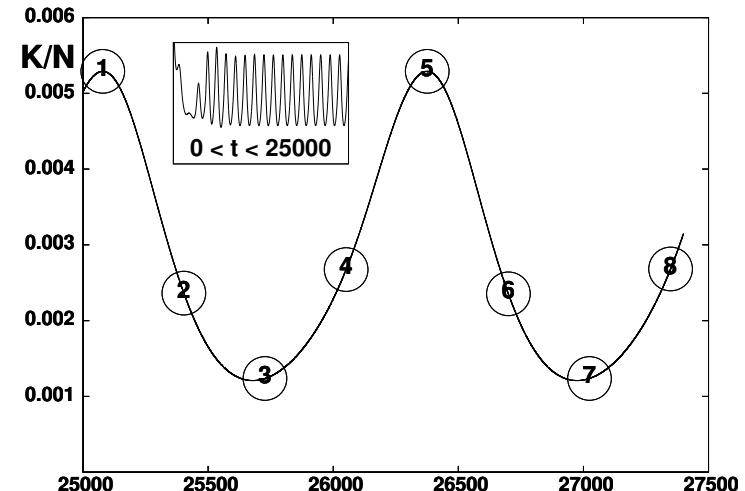
Chaotic



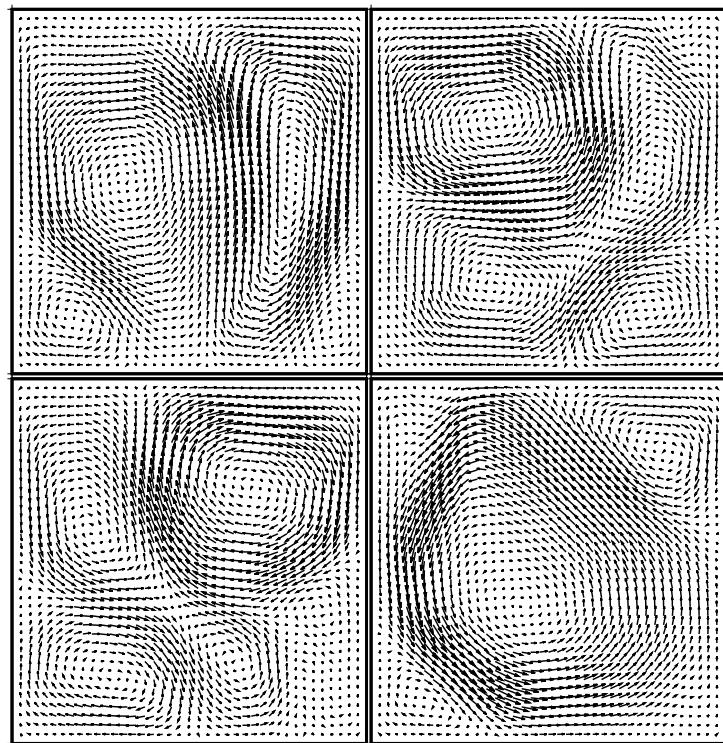
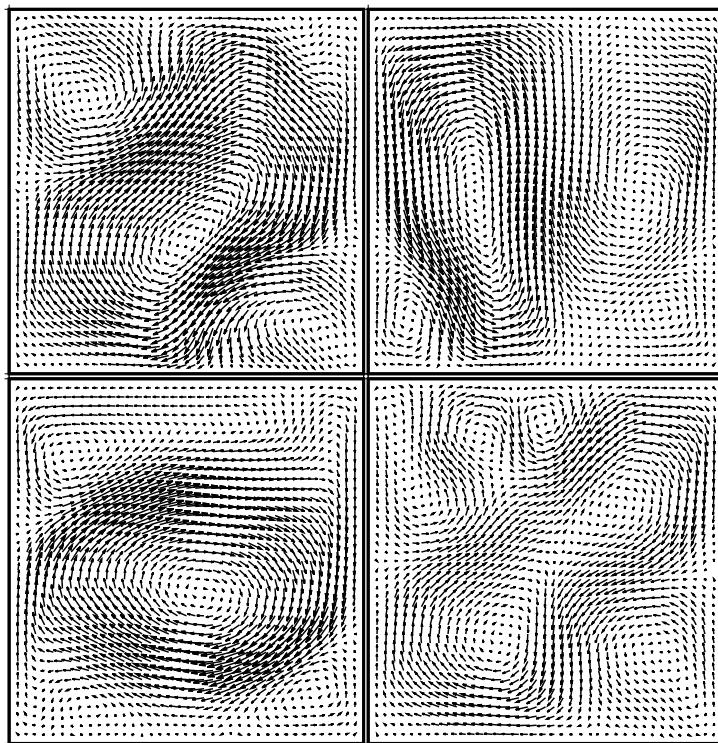
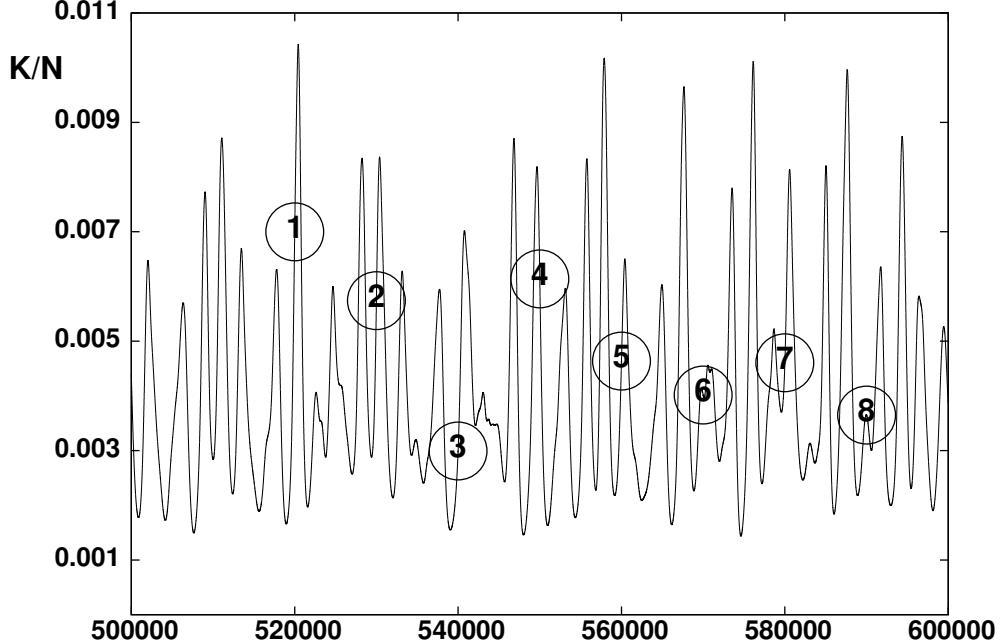
## 3.13 PERIODIC SOLUTIONS

Periodic solutions display mirror symmetry.  
At  $\mathcal{R} = 160\,000$  the period is 2596.

Morphologies below correspond to points labeled on the kinetic energy curve.



$\mathcal{R} = 800\,000$  ;  
Is this chaotic?



### **3.14 How do the solutions depend on $\mathcal{R}$ ?**

**There are at least five different solution types :**

- 1. Static ( below the critical  $\mathcal{R}$  ) ,**
- 2. “1-roll” stationary ,**
- 3. 2-roll stationary , perhaps “2-roll” ,**
- 4. multiple roll periodic ,**
- 5. multiple roll chaotic(?)**

**[ 2 and 3 Coexist when  $\mathcal{R} = 21,000 .$  ]**

**How do Solutions depend on the mesh ? How can we locate Regions where the relative stabilities change ?**

### 3.15 How do the solutions depend on $\mathcal{R}$ ?

Maximum  $\mathcal{R}$  for a given Mesh :

715K	810K	840K	860K	905K	940K
16x16	24x24	32x32	48x48	64x64	96x96

Searching for Morphological Changes :

Use  $(K/N)$  versus  $\mathcal{R}$  to find  $\mathcal{R}_c$

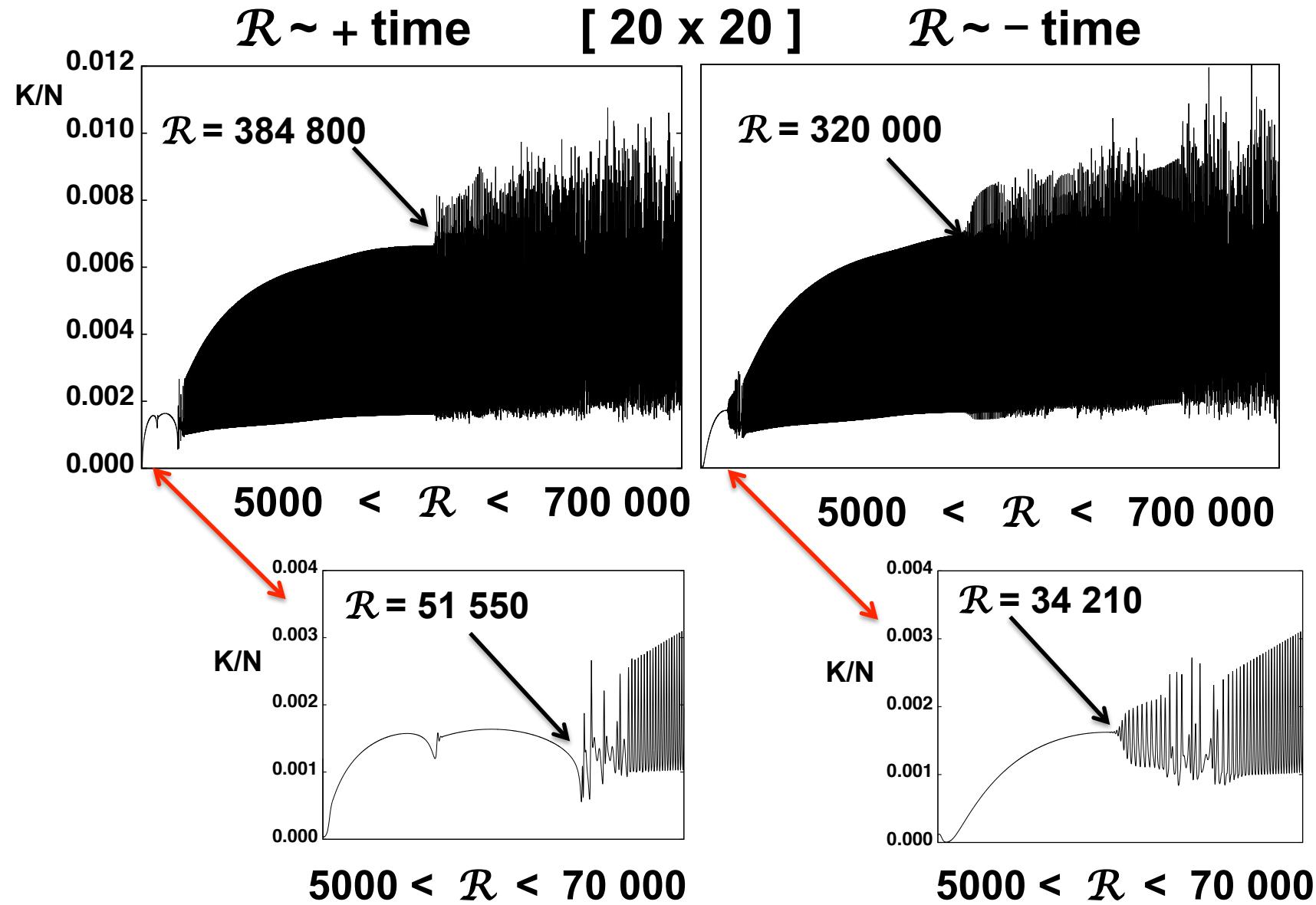
Make  $\mathcal{R}$  a function of time .

Check the *reversibility* of the path .

Check the *mesh size dependence* .

Check the *rate dependence* .

**3.16 Vary  $\mathcal{R}$  with time. Use the kinetic energy (K/N) profile to characterize the solution . Compare with finer mesh solutions .**

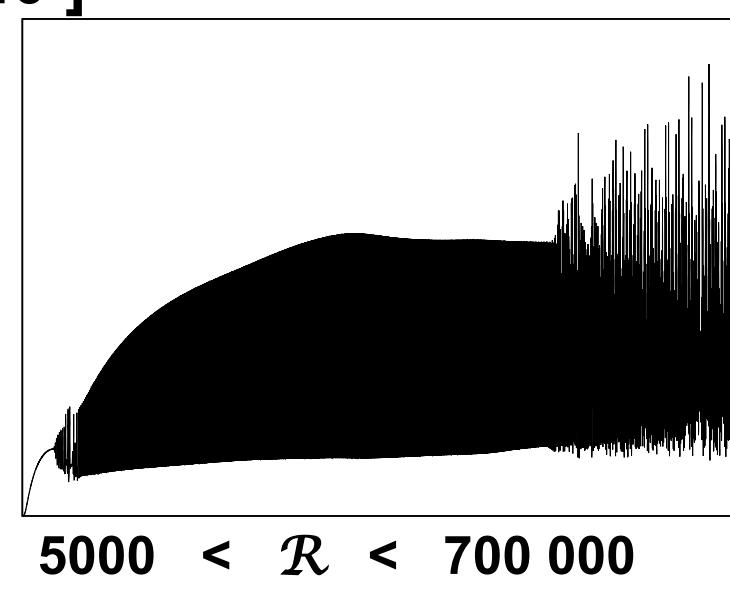
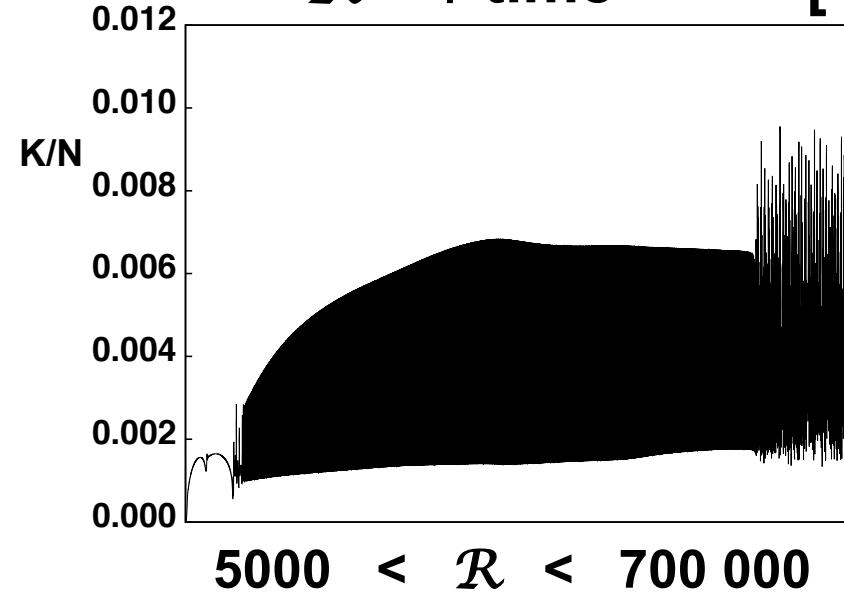


### 3.16 Kinetic Energy Profile Dependence on Mesh .

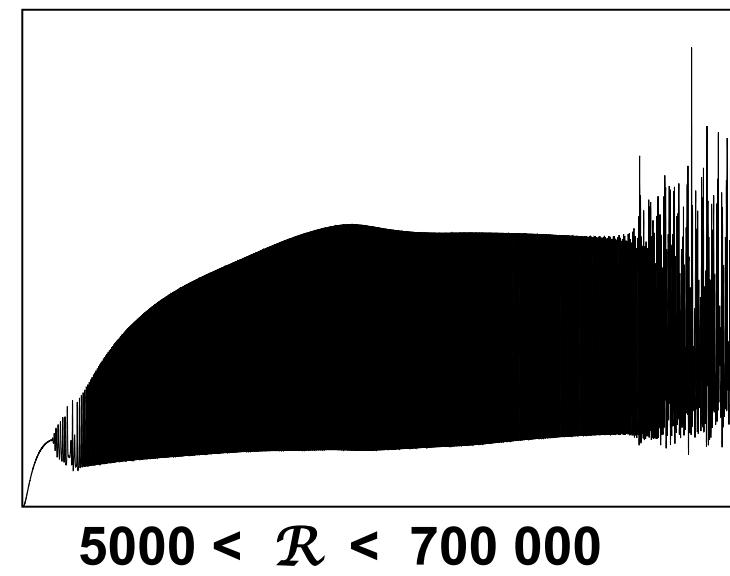
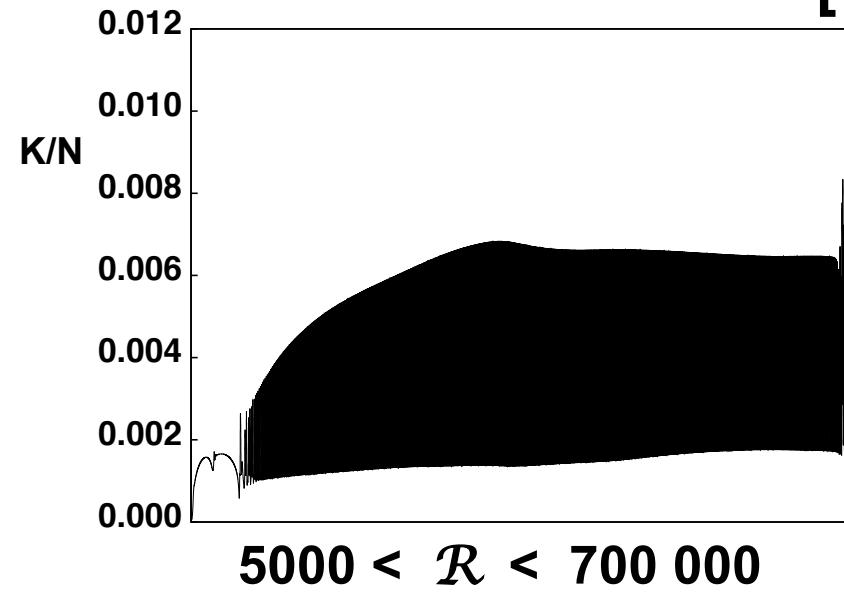
$\mathcal{R} \sim + \text{time}$

[ 40 x 40 ]

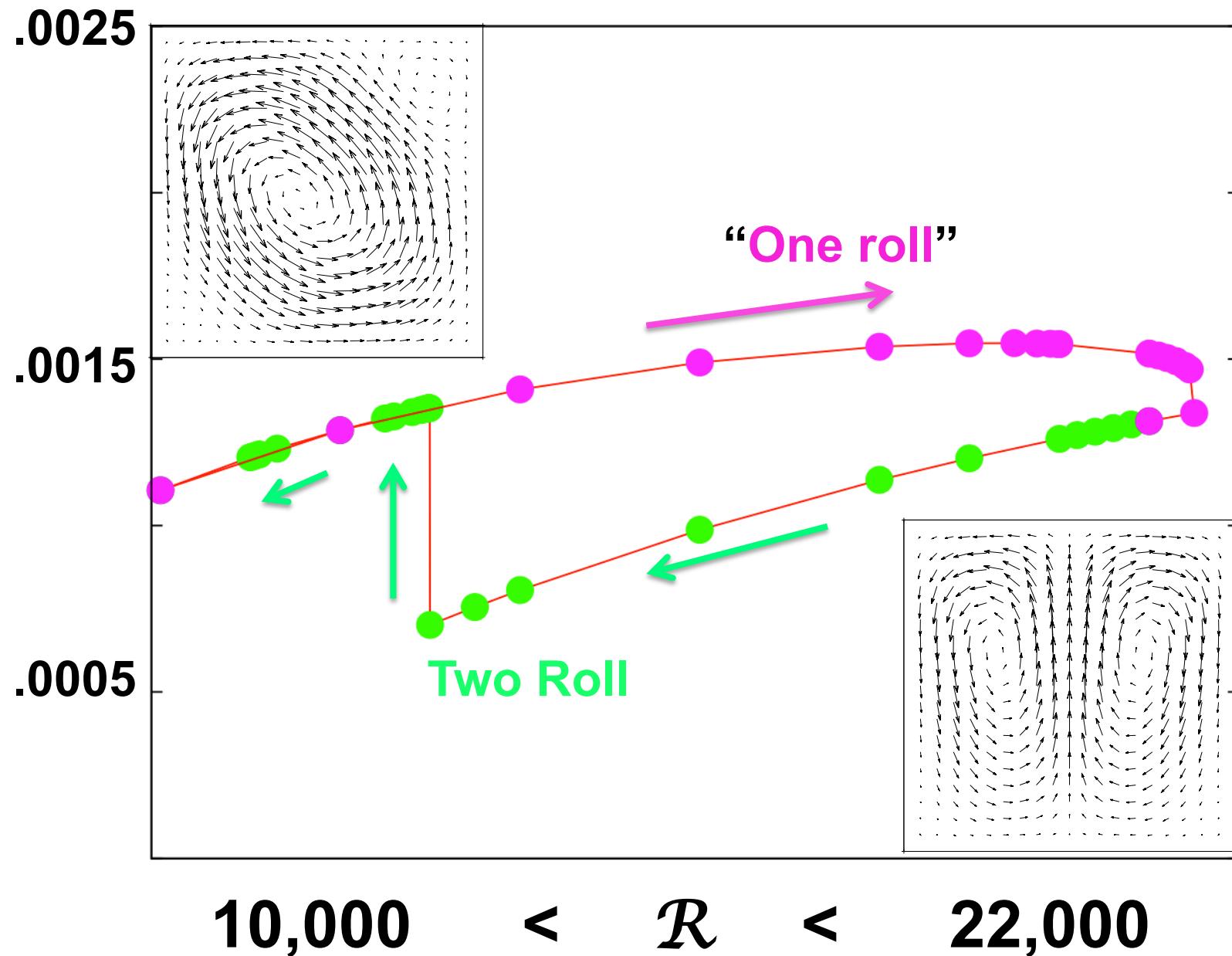
$\mathcal{R} \sim - \text{time}$



[ 60 x 60 ]



### 3.17 $K(\mathcal{R})/N$ Exhibits Hysteresis .

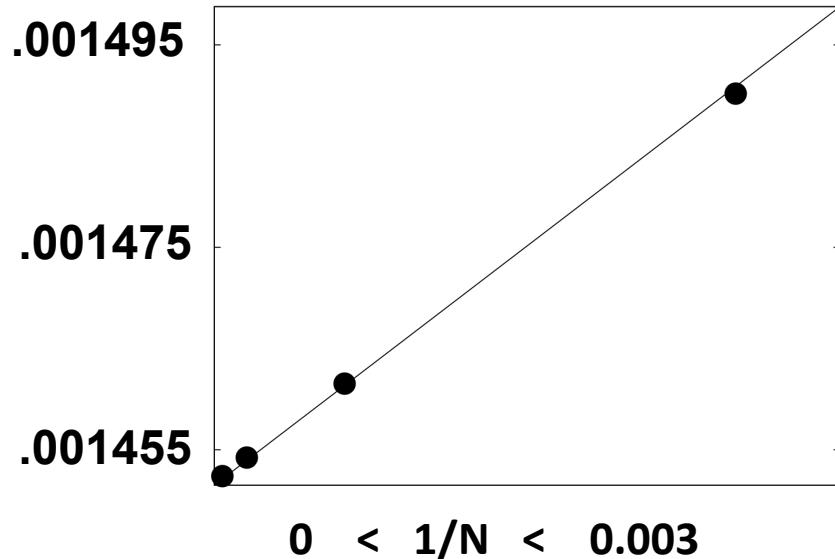


# 3.17 Mesh Convergence Tests, $\mathcal{R} = 16,000$

Solutions converging to machine accuracy show that the kinetic energy varies linearly with the inverse of the system size for system sizes .

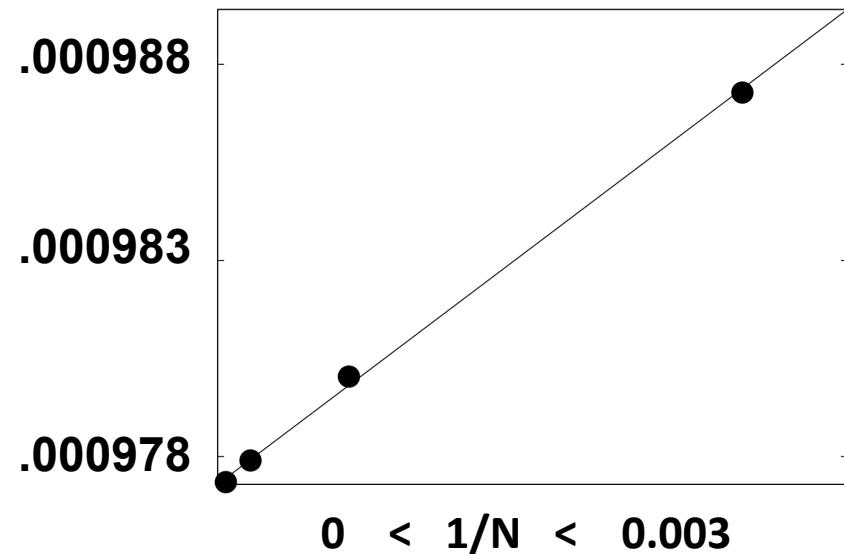
{ 20 x 20 , 40 x 40 , 80 x 80 , 160 x 160 }

“One-Roll” Convergence



Kinetic Energy in the continuum limit is  $(K/N) = 0.00145150$  .

Two-Roll Convergence

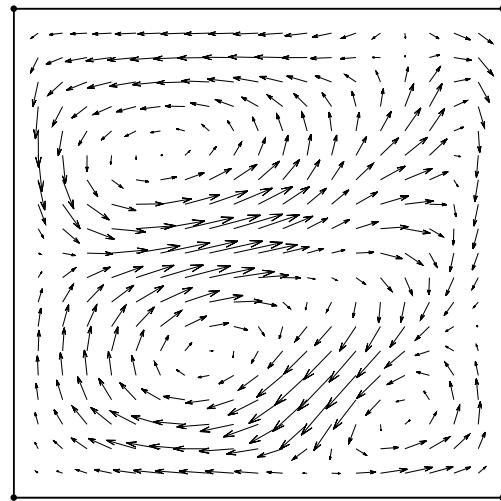


Kinetic Energy in the continuum limit is  $(K/N) = 0.000977293$  .

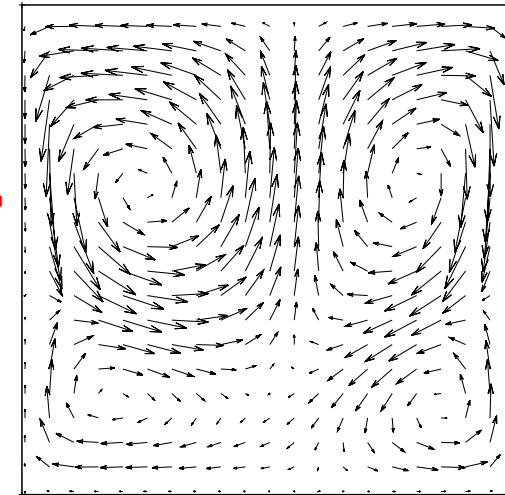
### 3.18 Time averages reveal a 4-roll solution

$$\mathcal{R} = 800\,000$$

**u**

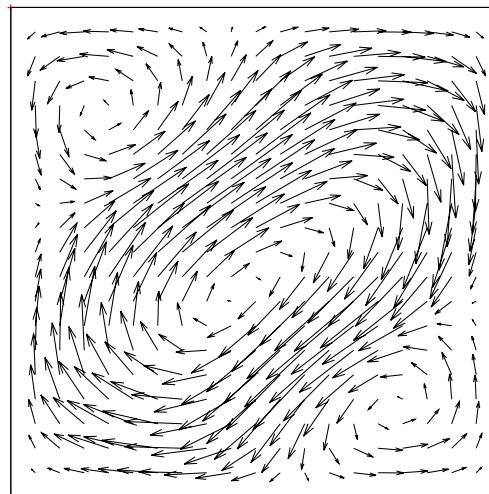


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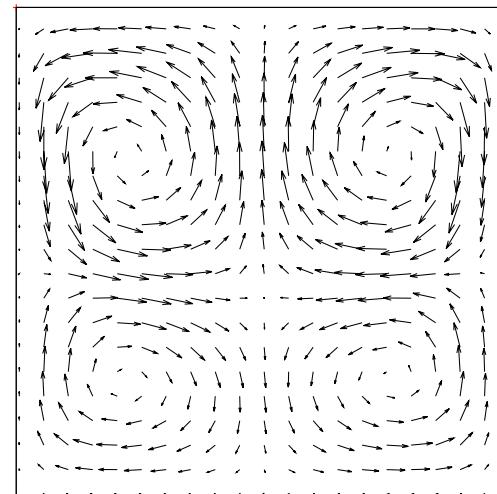


$$\mathcal{R} = 160\,000 ; \text{ Mirror Symmetry}$$

**u**



**< u >**



## **3.19 Summary of These Results**

- 1. Use  $\mathcal{R}(t)$  to generate a  $K(\mathcal{R})$  profile;**

**Check Rate and Mesh dependence .**

- 2. Time averaged solutions reveal the underlying solutions as :**

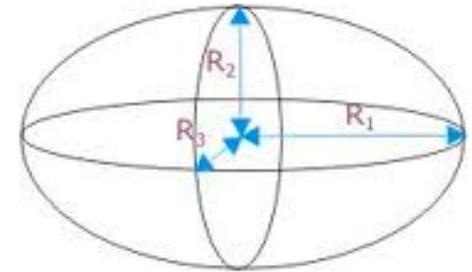
**“1-roll” , 2 roll , and 4 roll .**

- 3. “One-” and two-roll stationary solutions coexist at the same  $\mathcal{R}$  and form a hysteresis loop .**

**Different approaches to the starting conditions make it possible to generate one- or two-roll stationary solutions for the same  $\mathcal{R}$  .**

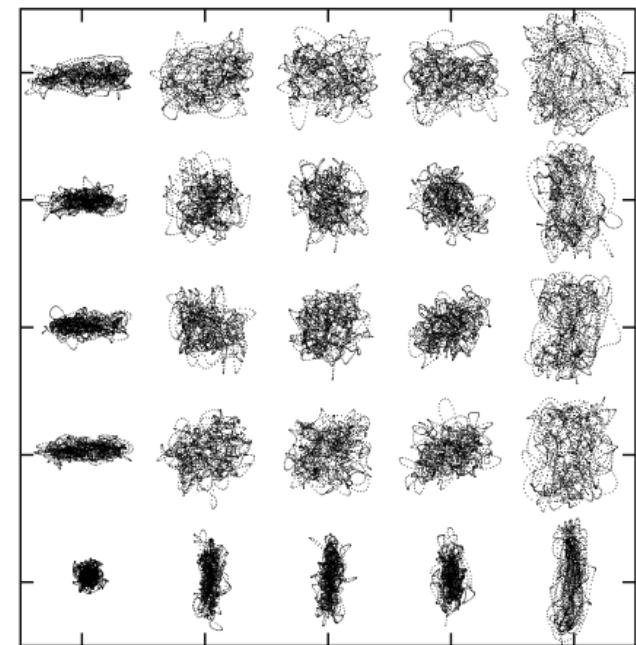
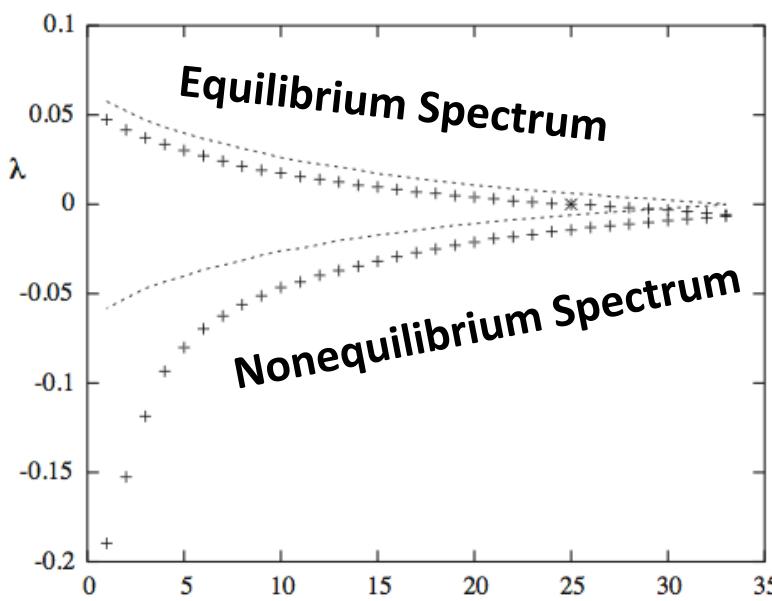


# Lyapunov Instability

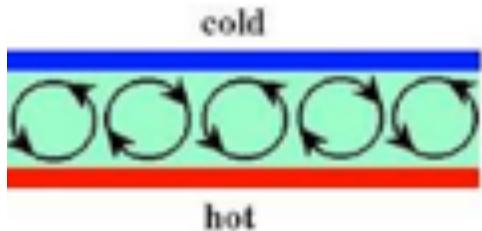


$$\delta = \delta_0 e^{+\lambda t}$$

In Molecular Dynamics with N Degrees of Freedom there are 2N Exponents Defining the Phase-Space Growth Rates. In Continuum Mechanics there is an Infinite Number!



## 3.20 Scale Models with Fixed Temperatures



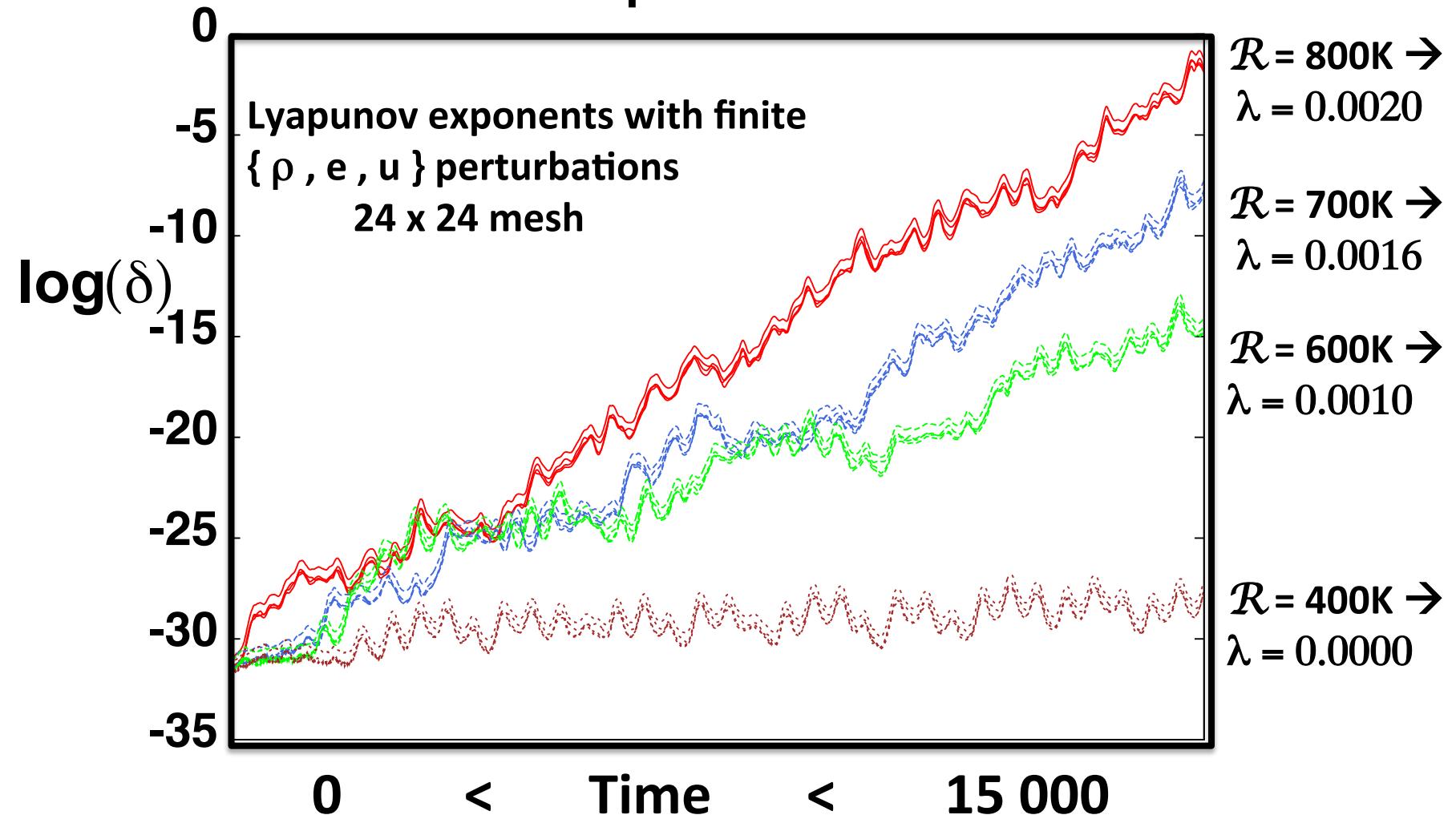
$$0.5 < T < 1.5 ; \langle \rho \rangle = 1 ; \\ g = 1/L ; R = L^2 / (\nu D)$$

The flow variables depend upon space and time :  
 $\{ \rho(y/L), v(y/L), T(y/L) , P(y/L) , Q(y/L) \}$  with  $L \approx \tau$

The **transport coefficients** are proportional to  $L$  so that the fluxes match and transit times are proportional to  $L$  . The time required for any feature to double in size is likewise proportional to  $L$  . Thus the **Lyapunov spectrum** of e-folding rates are frequencies ;  $\{ \lambda \}$  , varies as  $(1/L)$  .

### 3.21 Calculate separation from a reference trajectory .

Initial perturbation  $\delta \sim 10^{-16}$



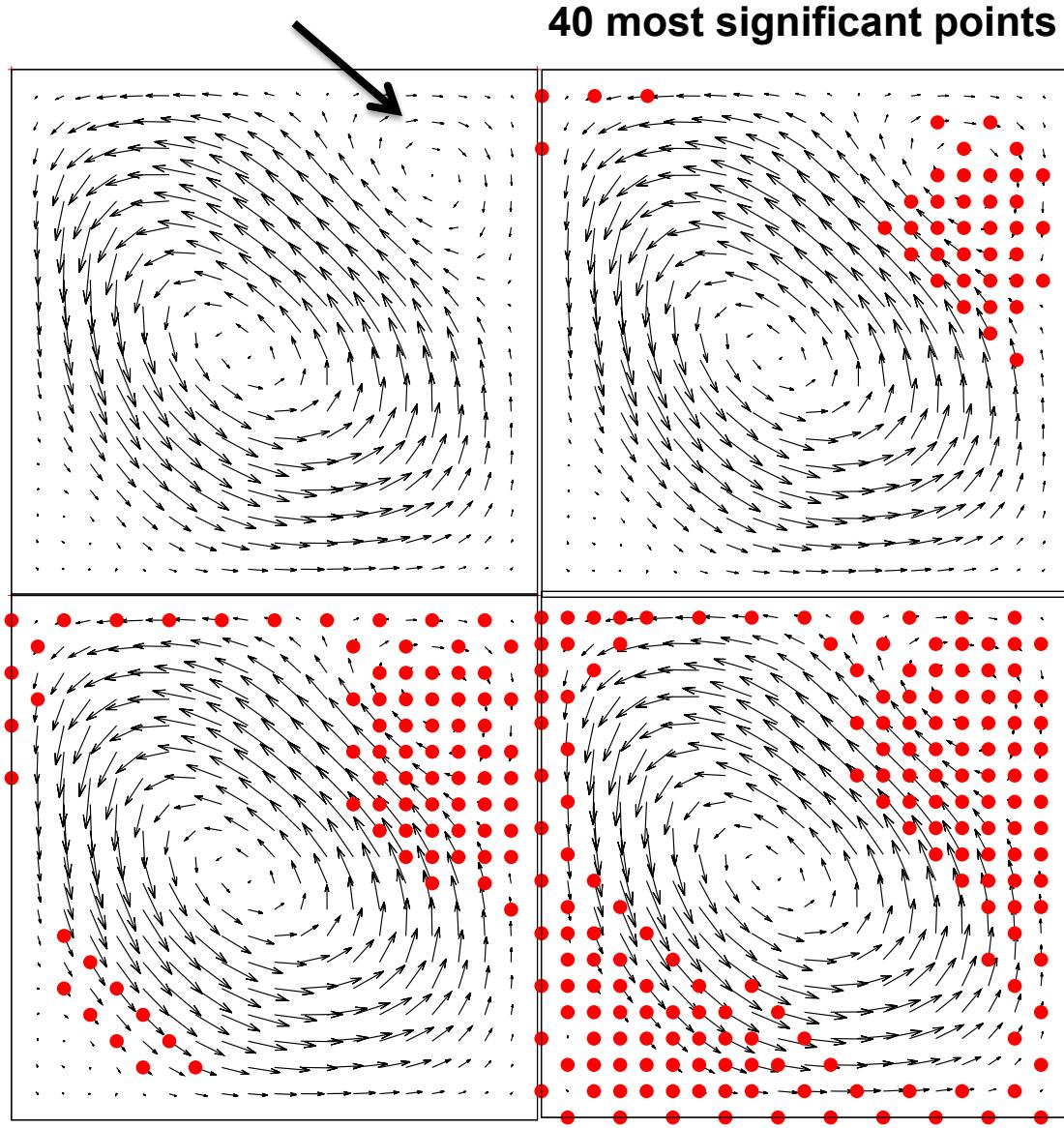
## 3.22 Measure the Lyapunov exponent for a “one-roll” solution with a weaker secondary roll

Strong single roll with a secondary weaker roll

441 mesh points

169 points with above average Lyapunov exponents

The largest growth is in the vicinity of the secondary roll

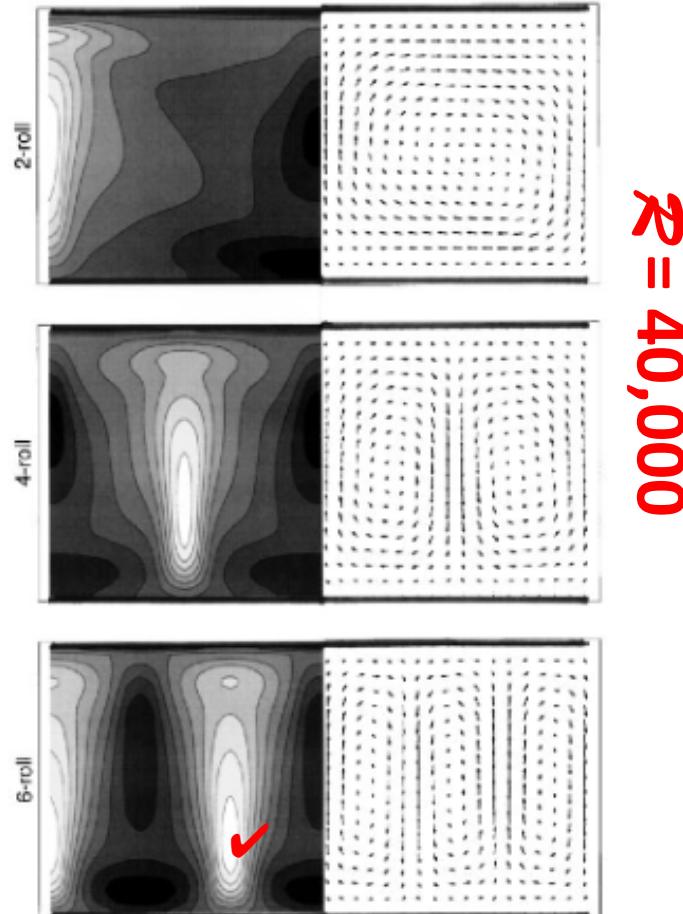


80 most significant points ; 169 most significant points

## 3.23 What Accounts for Rolls' Stability ?

Maximum Local ( $dS/dt$ ) , Internal Energy ,  
Kinetic Energy , Total Heat Flux , Growth Rate ?

Rolls	$K_x / Nm$	$K_y / Nm$	$E / Nm$	$Q_{\text{boundary}}$	$W / \tau$
2	0.003730	0.00357	1.014	0.0120	1.42
4	0.001139	0.00410	1.018	0.0118	1.70 ✓
6	0.000274 ✓	0.00226 ✓	1.012 ✓	0.0106 ✓	1.25



Except for the 4-Roll Growth Rate ,  
these Criteria Favor the ( *Unstable* )  
6-Roll Pattern ! Evidently Stability  
Isn't a Simple Question !

From Vic Castillo's PhD thesis,  
available online

FIG. 1. For the (2, 4, 6)-roll flows, the local entropy production (left) and velocity field (right) is shown. The region of maximum local entropy production (white) corresponds to compression of the cooler fluid.

## **4.0 Summary , Conclusions , and New Directions**

**Even 2D Rayleigh-Bénard is Challenging :**

**Scale Models Connect with Fractals .**

**Characterization of Solutions .**

**Flows are Fundamentally *Continuum* Problems .**

**Hydrodynamic and Lyapunov Instability .**

**Many Research Problems are Possible :**

**Relating Hydrodynamic & Lyapunov Instabilities .**

**Sources of Vorticity & Enstrophy .**

**Scaling of the Lyapunov Spectrum .**

**Spectrum of Turbulence  $2D \neq 3D$  .**