

Formation and evolution of cosmic domain walls

Blau Abel, Matteo Marrone.
(Institut de Física d'Altes Energies)

Tutors: Dr. Oriol Pujolàs and Dr. Fabrizio Rompineve.

Summer Fellowship
on Beyond the Standard Model Physics
and Cosmology

July 2025

- Introduction to domain walls.
 - Dynamical equations.
- Numerical results
 - Scaling regime
 - Bias
- Numerical resolution
 - Fattening
- Conclusions

Motivation

Gravitational wave stochastic background  Primordial Universe

Possible sources:

- Binary black hole/neutron star mergers.
- Supernovae.
- Phase transitions (domain walls).



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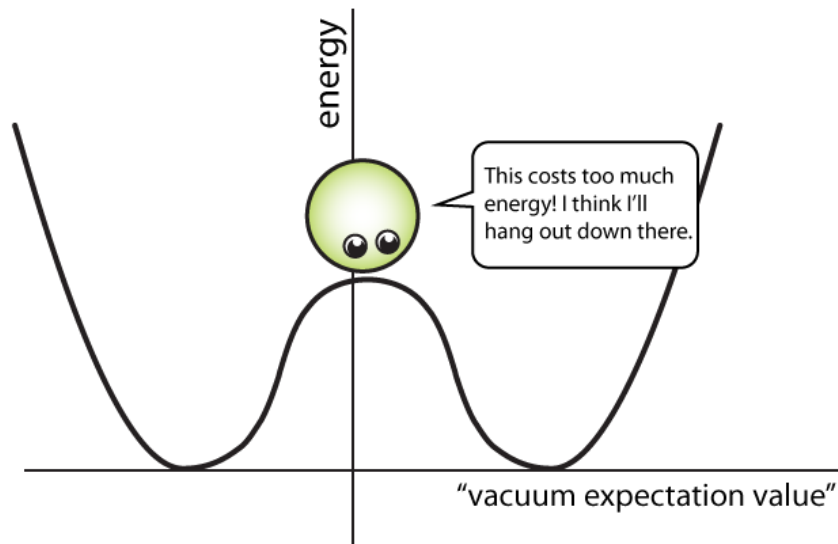
Introduction to domain wall physics

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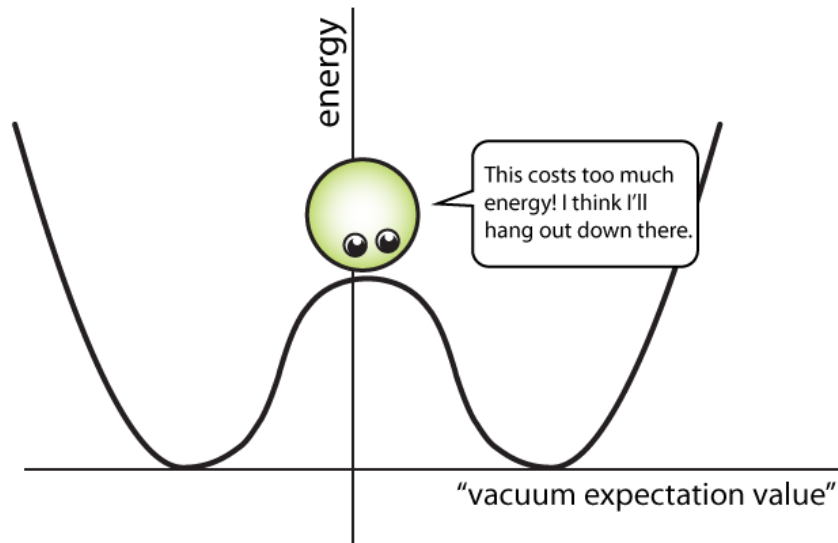
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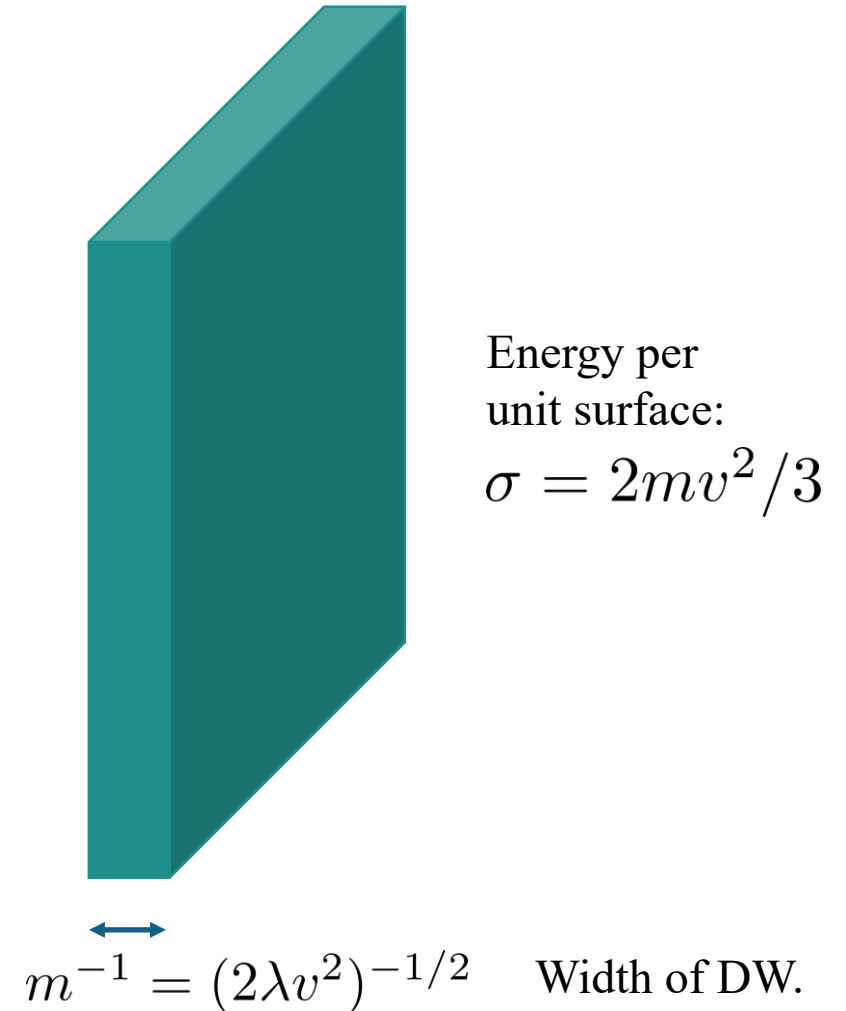
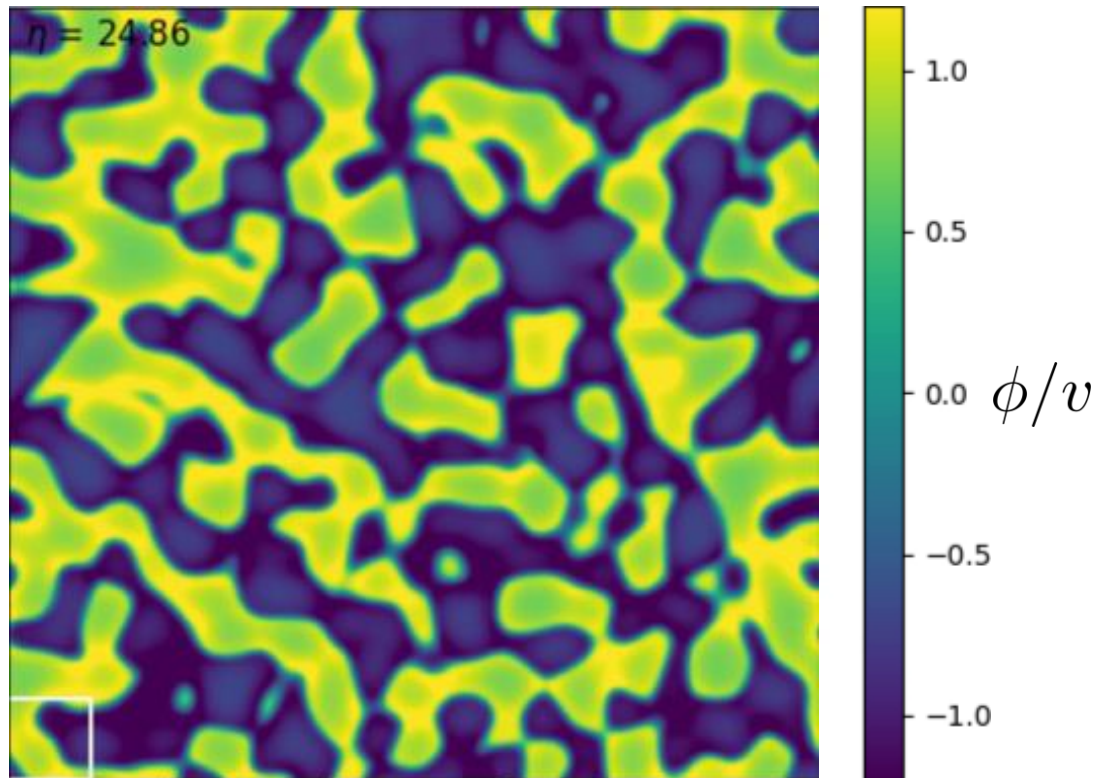
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The thin boundaries between both vacua are precisely the **Domain Walls**.

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Dynamical equations

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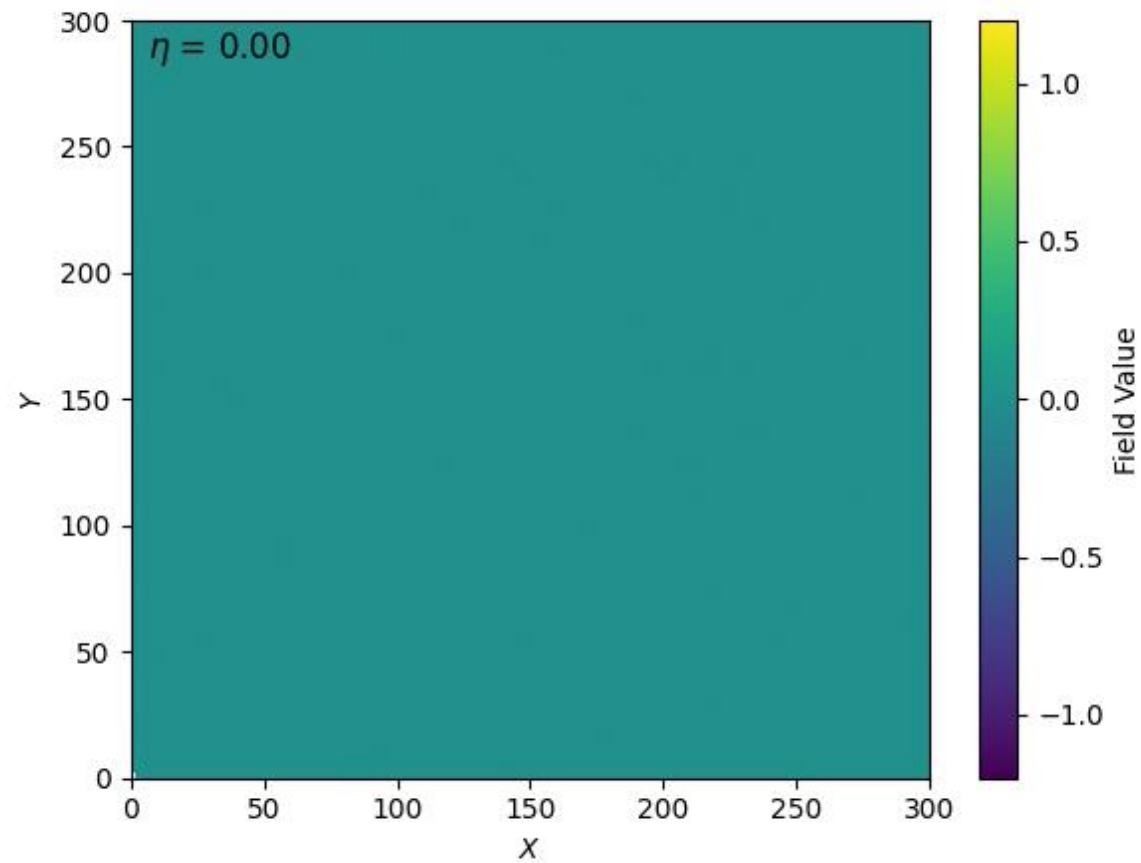
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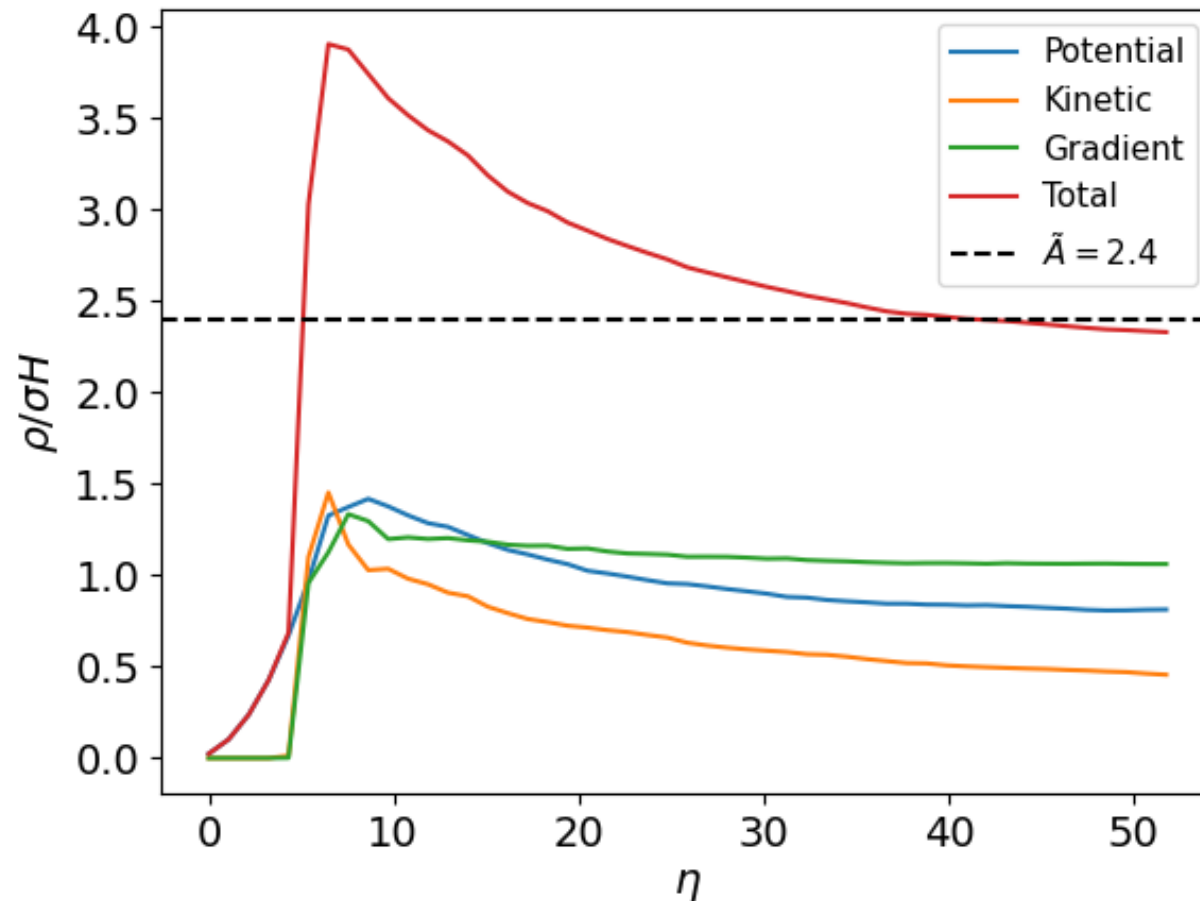

vacuum
expectation value

Evolution of the field

Evolution of ϕ for $N=1024$ and $L=300.0$. $a(\eta) = (1 + \eta)^{1.0}$ fattening



Numerical results



$$\rho \approx \sigma \frac{A}{V} \approx \sigma \frac{H^{-2}}{H^{-3}} \propto a^{-2}$$

Domain wall problem

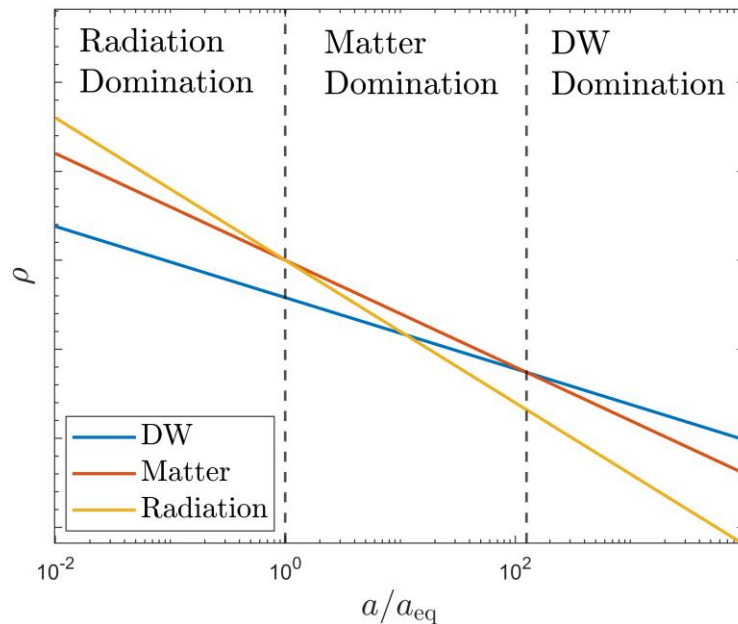
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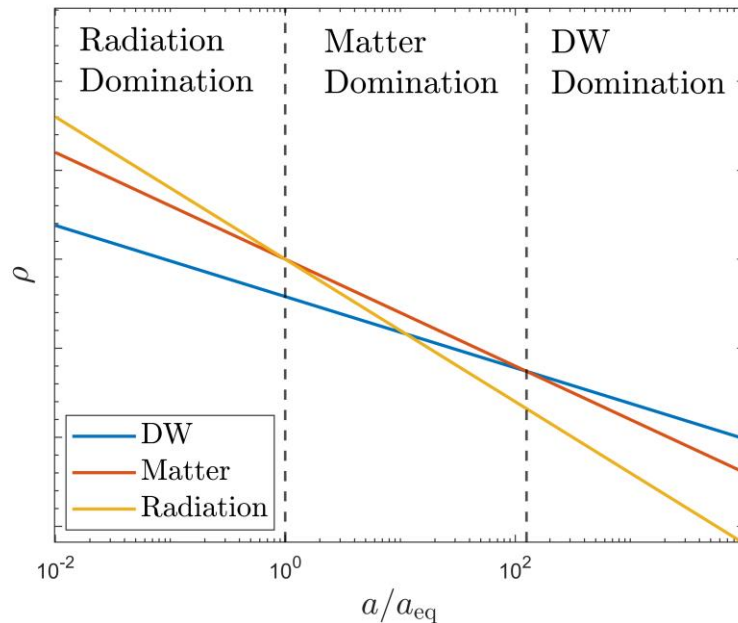
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There will exist a cosmological epoch where domain walls are the dominant substance in the Universe. **Violation of isotropy.**

This is known as the **Domain Wall Problem.**

Bias

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There are different types:

1. $\langle \phi \rangle \neq 0$ initially. Field will evolve non-linearly towards one of the minima.
2. $V(\phi_0^+) \neq V(\phi_0^-)$. One of the minima will be a false vacuum. The dynamics are more interesting.

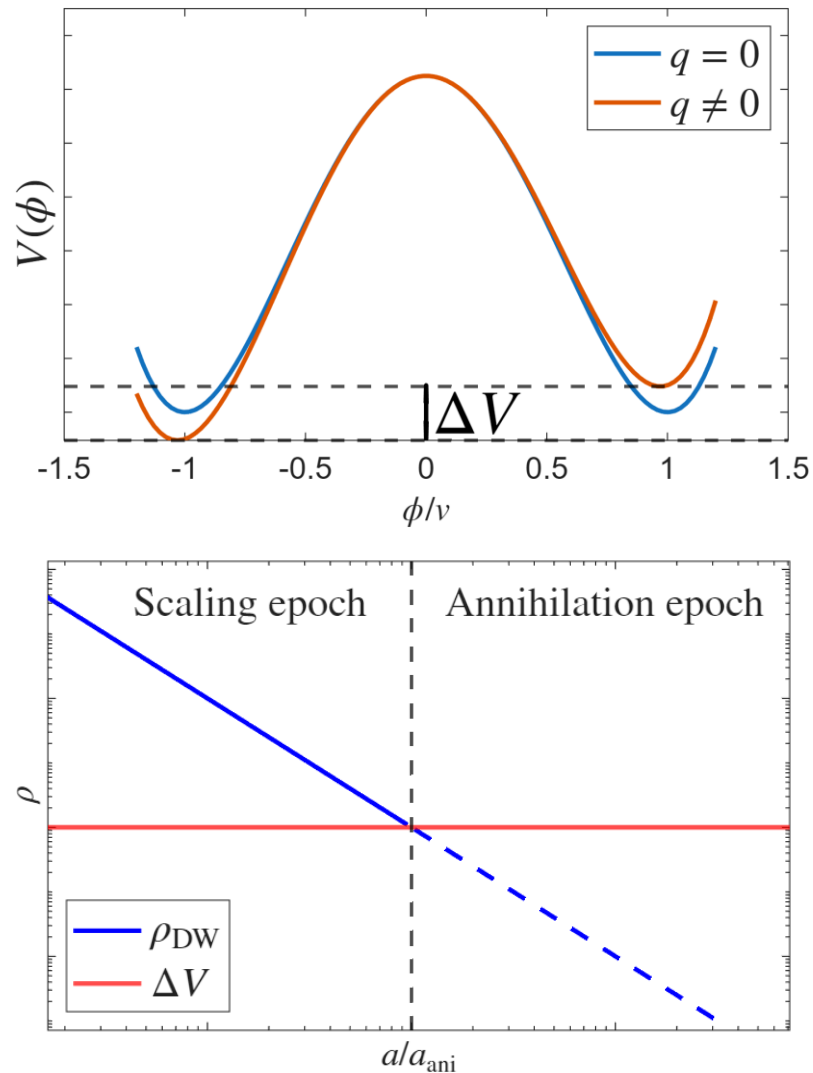
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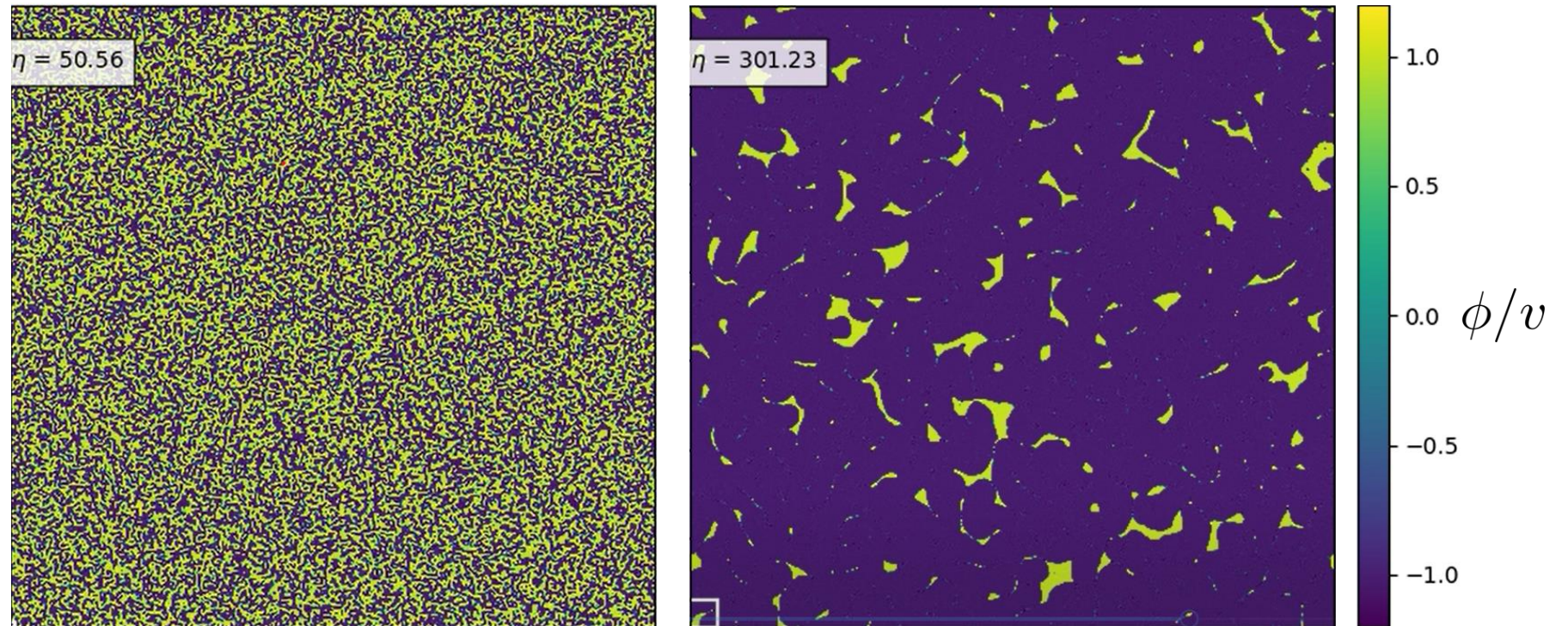


Example: cubic potential

$$V_b = qv\phi^3$$

1. If $a \ll a_{\text{ani}} = a(\eta_{\text{ani}})$, bias is subdominant. Scaling regime.
2. When $a \geq a_{\text{ani}}$, bias dominates. Annihilation.

Annihilation mechanisms. There is no scaling regime.

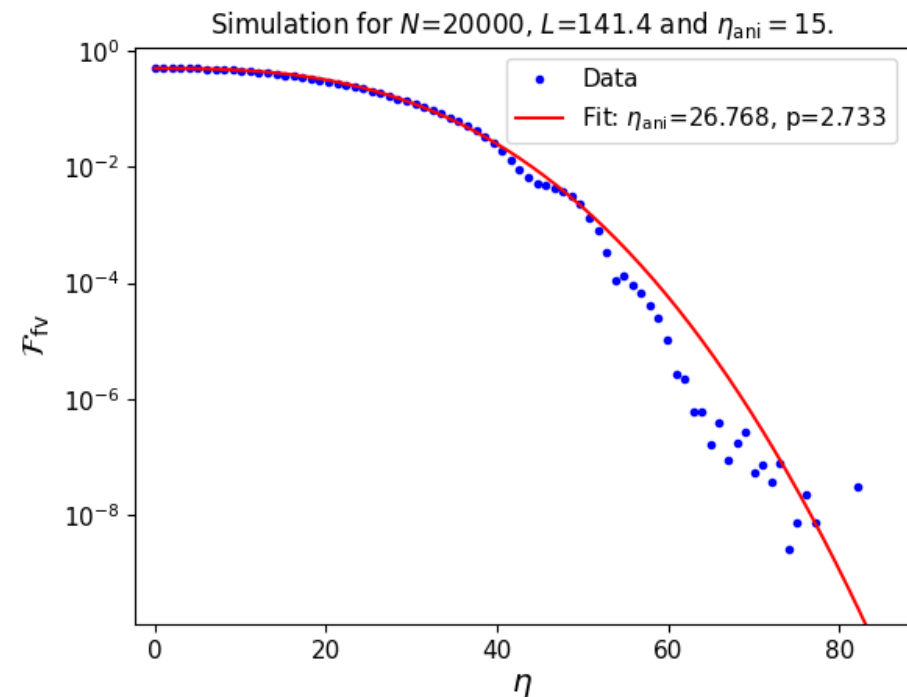
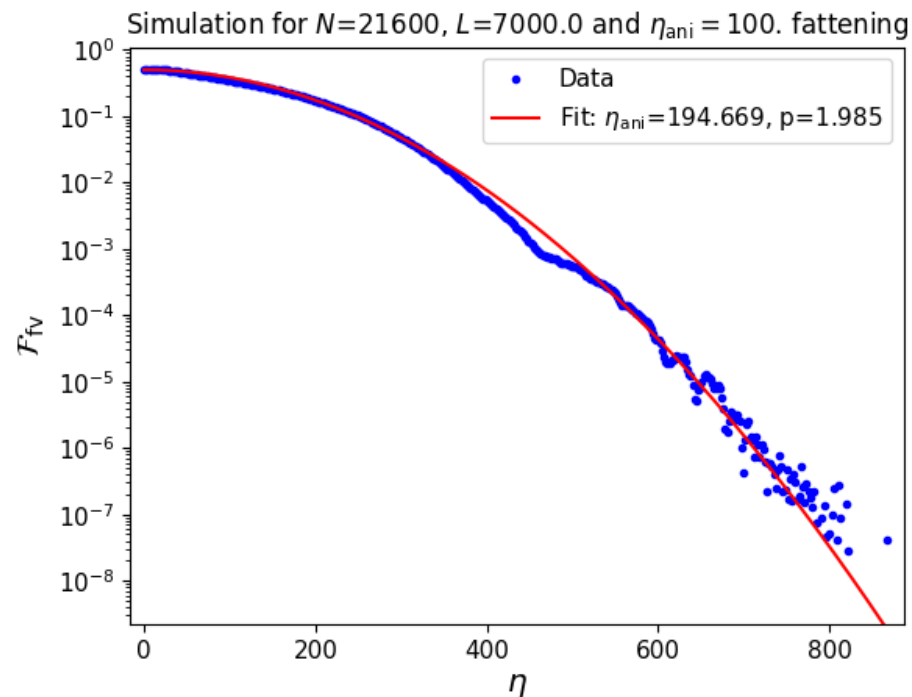


(Simulation for $N=21600$, $L=7000$, $\eta_{\text{ani}} \approx 100$)

False vacuum fraction

The false vacuum fraction can be fitted to $\mathcal{F}_{\text{fv}} = \frac{1}{2}e^{-(\eta/\eta_{\text{ani}})^p}$ with $p \approx 2 - 3$.

Cross-check with literature (Correia et. al. 2014).



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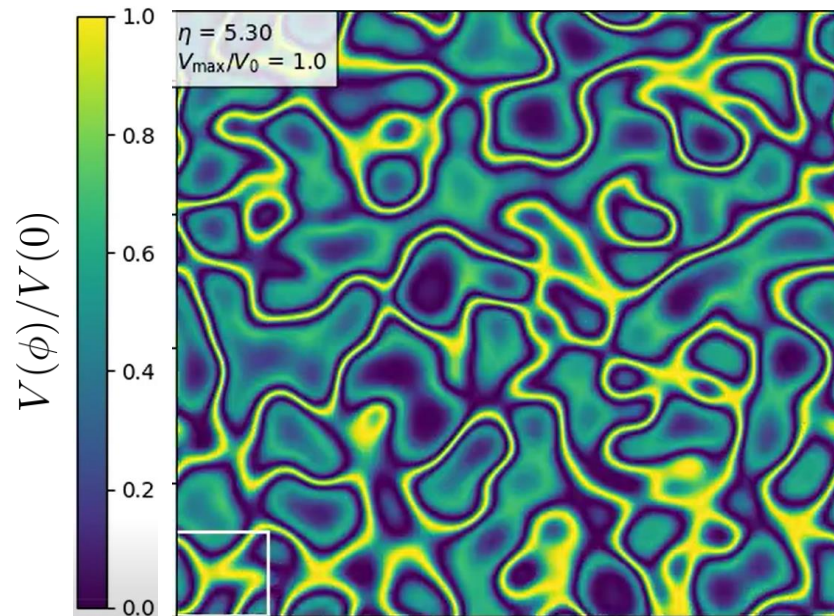
- Domain wall problem → Bias!
- Numerical resolution problem → Fattening + cluster.

Numerical resolution

The physical width of domain walls is constant, $\sim m^{-1}$, due to internal dynamics. In comoving coordinates, the width decreases.

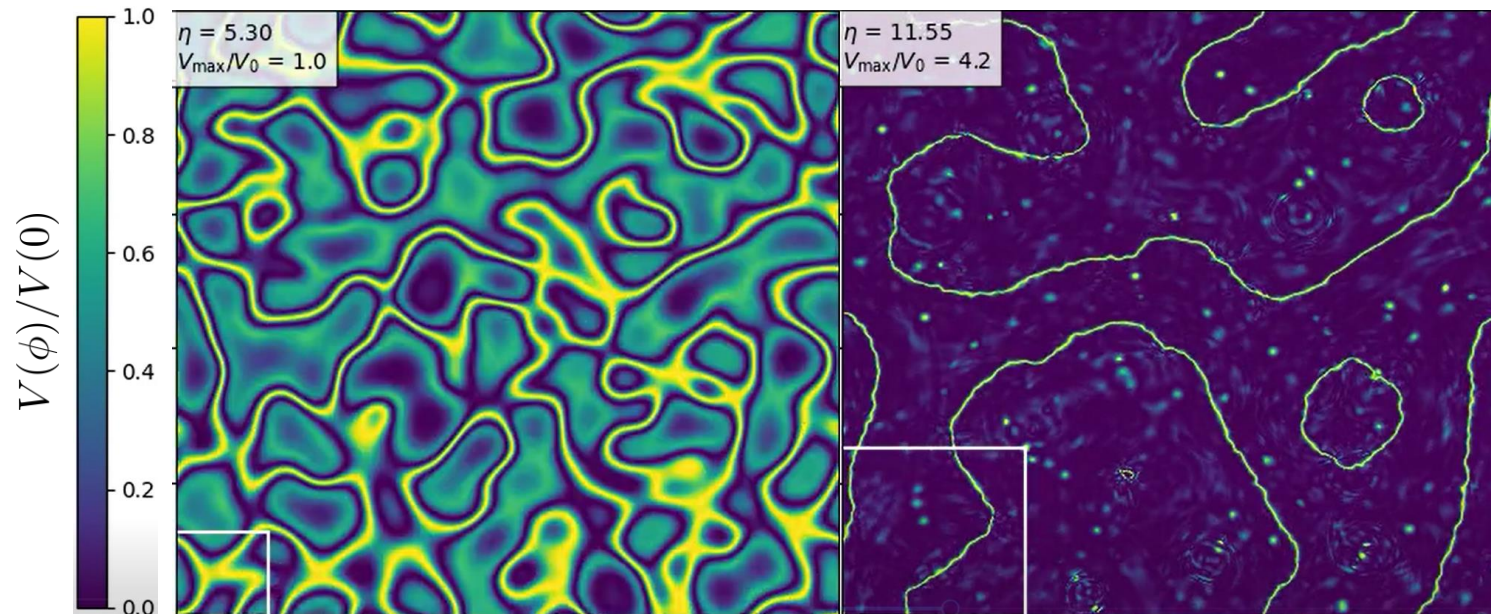
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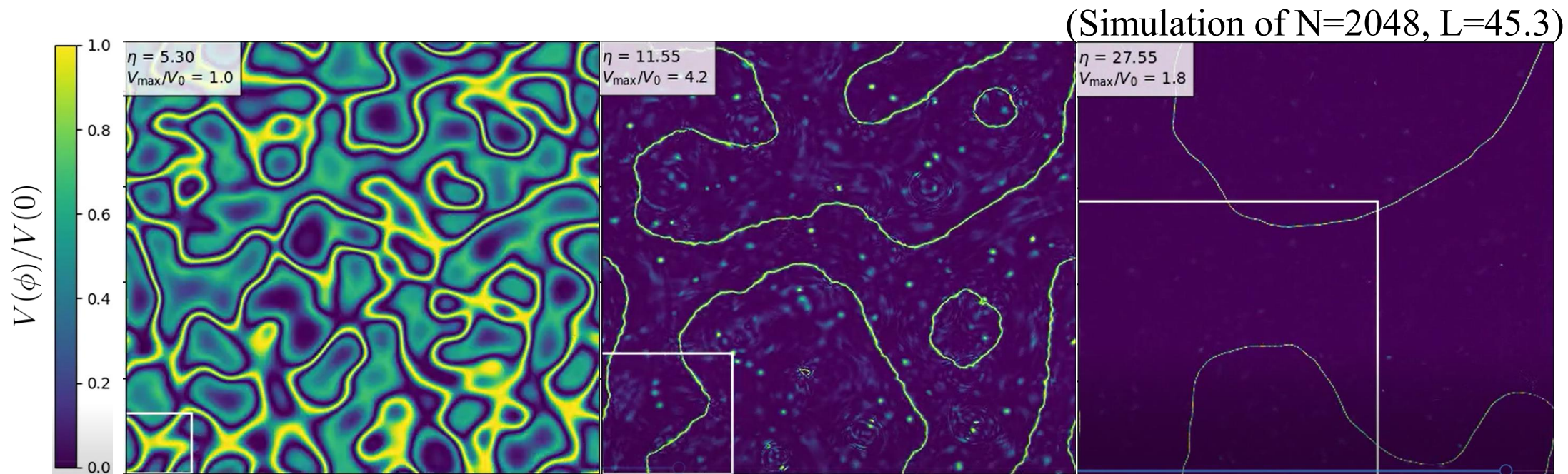
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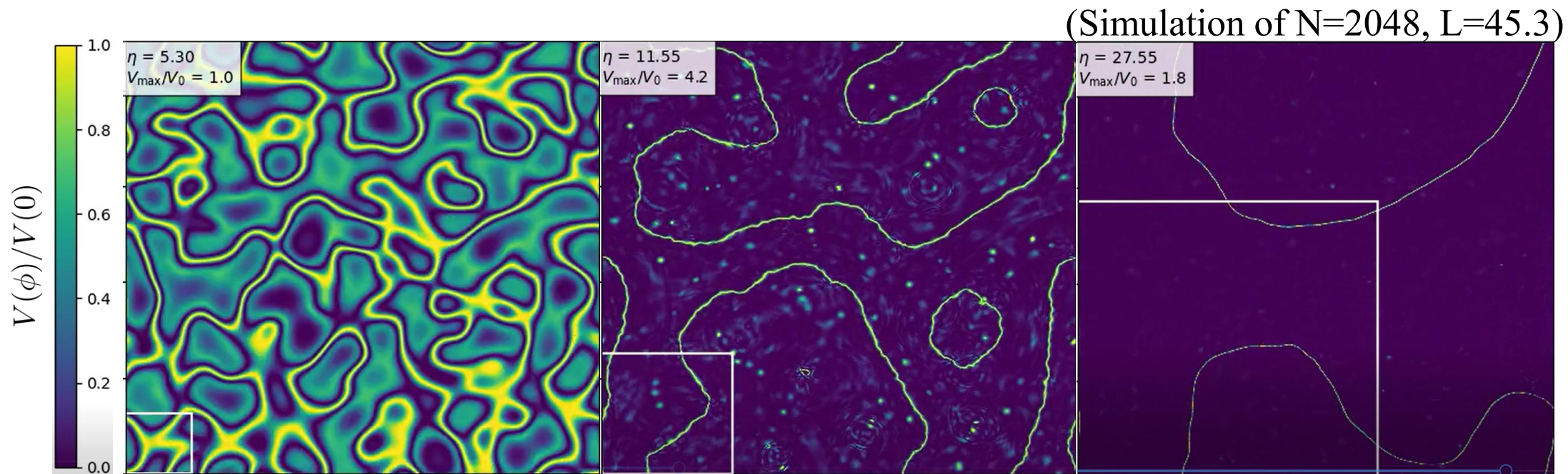
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We need a lot of points! $\longrightarrow$ Fattening

Numerical resolution - Fattening

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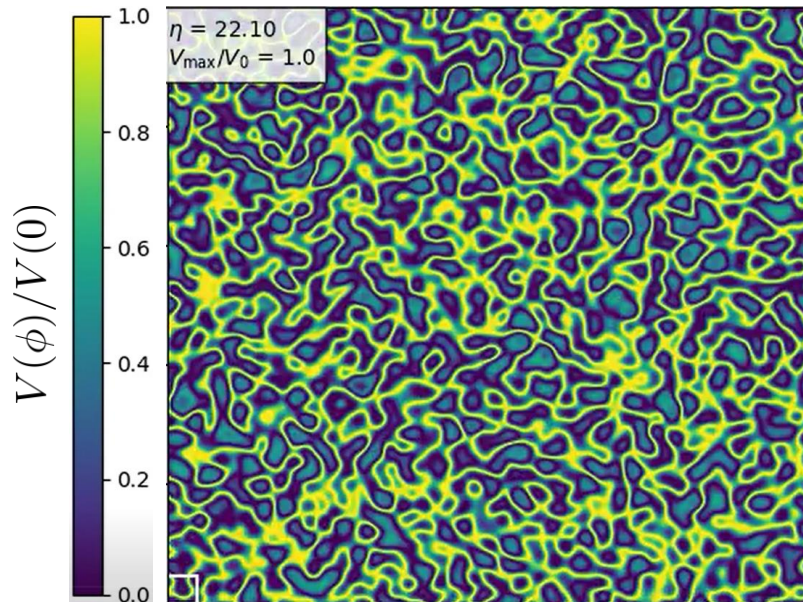
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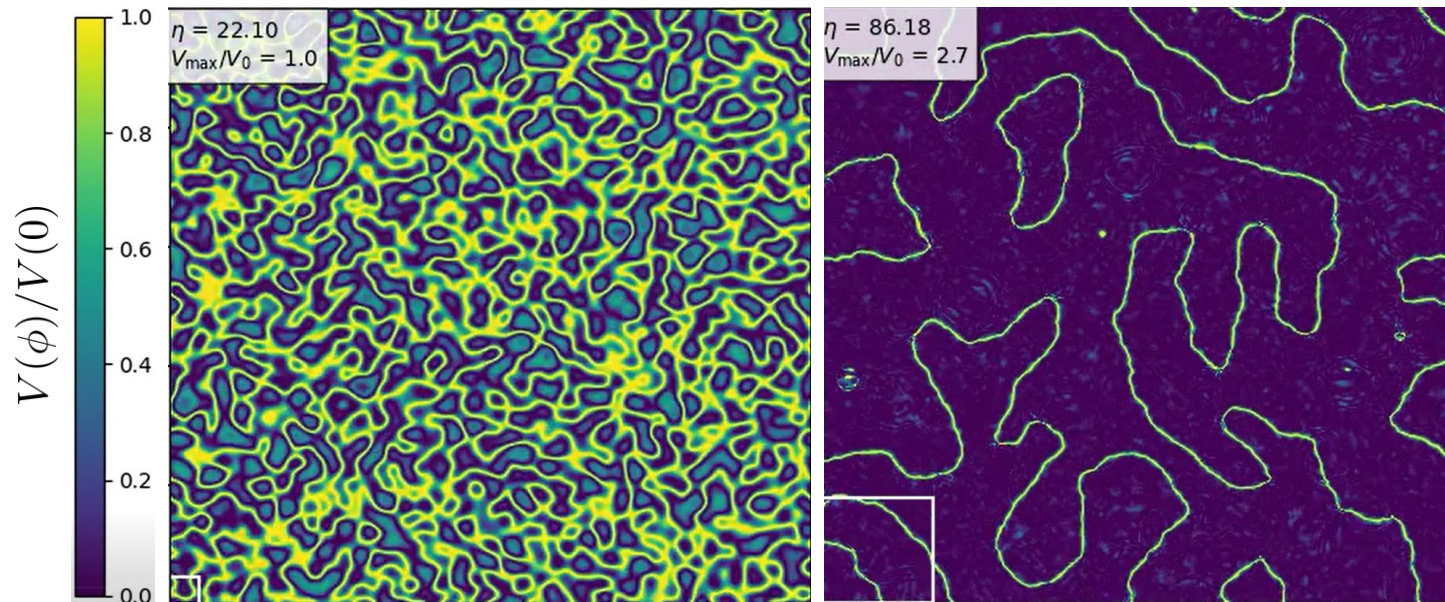
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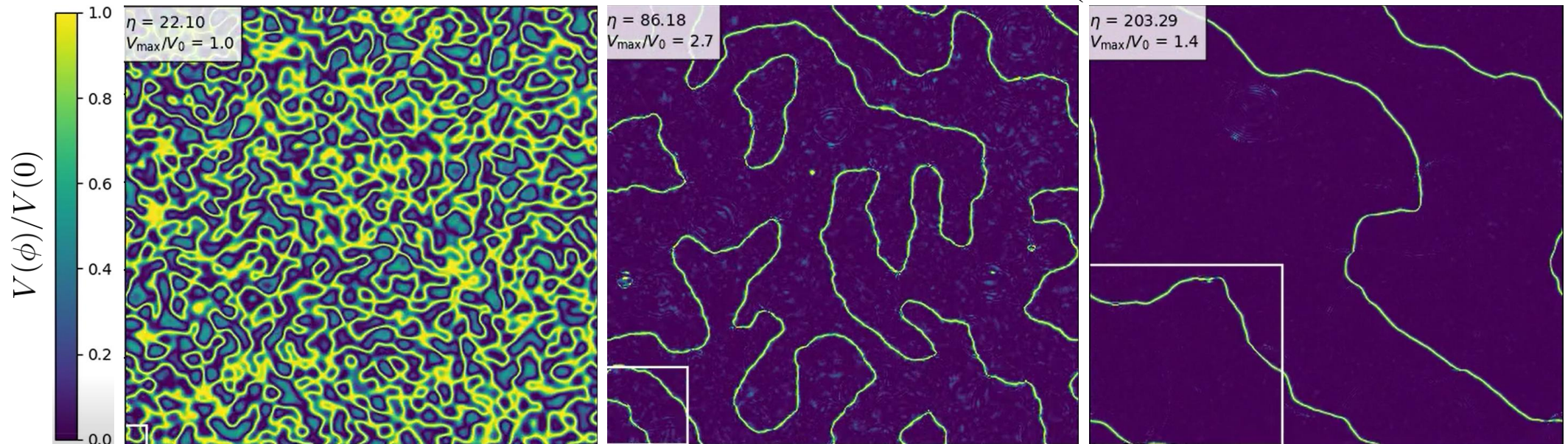


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(Simulation for N=2048 and L=500)



We worked in collaboration with PIC to carry out the heaviest simulations.

To take the most of the cluster's potential...

CLUSTEREASY

A Program for Simulating Scalar Field Evolution on Parallel Computers

Gary Felder

Department of Physics, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063, USA

(Dated: October 24, 2018)

We describe a new, parallel programming version of the scalar field simulation program LATTICEEASY. The new C++ program, CLUSTEREASY, can simulate arbitrary scalar field models on distributed-memory clusters. The speed and memory requirements scale well with the number of processors. As with the serial version of LATTICEEASY, CLUSTEREASY can run simulations in one, two, or three dimensions, with or without expansion of the universe, with customizable parameters and output. The program and its full documentation are available on the LATTICEEASY website at <http://www.science.smith.edu/departments/Physics/fstaff/gfelder/latticeeasy/>. In this paper we provide a brief overview of what CLUSTEREASY does and the ways in which it does and doesn't differ from the serial version of LATTICEEASY.

We have reached resolution of 2D simulations of
 $N^2 = (50000)^2 = 2.5 \times 10^9$ points.

Equivalent to a simulation of 25 GB of RAM.

We could cross-checked our results with state-of-the-art results of the literature (Correia et. al. 2014) where $N=8000$.

Implications

In a complete unbiased scenario, domain walls pose a problem in our understanding of cosmology.

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How can we possibly measure its effects?

1. Gravitational waves.
2. Primordial black holes.
3. ...

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2. We could overcome the numerical problems related to the resolution of the simulations.
3. We accomplished results comparable to those of the literature.

**Thank
you!**



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