



# Energy dissipation caused by boundary layer instability at vanishing viscosity

Natacha Nguyen van yen, Marie Farge, *ENS Paris*,  
Kai Schneider, *Aix-Marseille Université*,  
Matthias Waidmann and Rupert Klein,  
*Freie Universität, Berlin*,

*Workshop on 'Mathematical and Computational  
Problems of Incompressible Fluid Dynamics'  
IMPA, Rio de Janeiro, August 10<sup>th</sup> 2018*



# What is the inviscid limit of Navier-Stokes?

Navier-Stokes equations with no-slip boundary conditions:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = -\nabla p + \frac{1}{\text{Re}} \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \\ \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{u}(0, \cdot) = \mathbf{v} \end{cases} \longrightarrow \mathbf{u}_{\text{Re}}(t, \mathbf{X}) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{for} \\ v \rightarrow 0 \\ \text{Re} \rightarrow +\infty \end{array}$$

$\text{Re} = VL\nu^{-1}$  the Reynolds number

Same initial conditions

?

Euler equations with slip boundary conditions:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = -\nabla p \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \\ \mathbf{u}|_{\partial\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{u}(0, \cdot) = \mathbf{v} \end{cases} \longrightarrow \mathbf{u}(t, \mathbf{X}) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{for} \\ v = 0 \\ \text{Re} = +\infty \end{array}$$

*Leonhard Euler*  
(1707-1783)



*Jean Le Rond d'Alembert*  
(1717-1783)



# 1750: Euler's problem

---

On 16 May 1748 Euler, president of the Prussian Academy of Sciences, read the problem he proposed for the Prize of Mathematics to be given in 1750 :

*'Deduce from new principles, as simple as possible,  
a theory to explain the resistance  
exerted on a body moving in a fluid,  
as a function of the body's velocity, shape and mass,  
and of the fluid's density and compressibility'.*

Six mathematicians, including d'Alembert, sent a manuscript, but Euler was not satisfied with them and decided to postpone the prize to 1752.

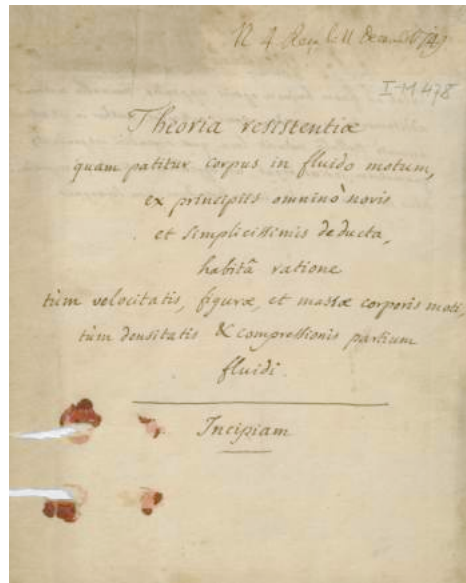
*Grimberg, D'Alembert et les équations  
aux dérivées partielles en hydrodynamique,  
Thèse de Doctorat, Université de Paris VII, 1998*



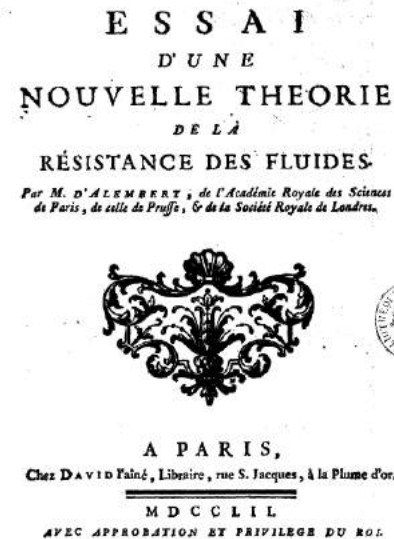
# 1752: d'Alembert's paradox

D'Alembert was upset and took back his manuscript of 1749, translated it into French and published it in 1752.

1749



1752



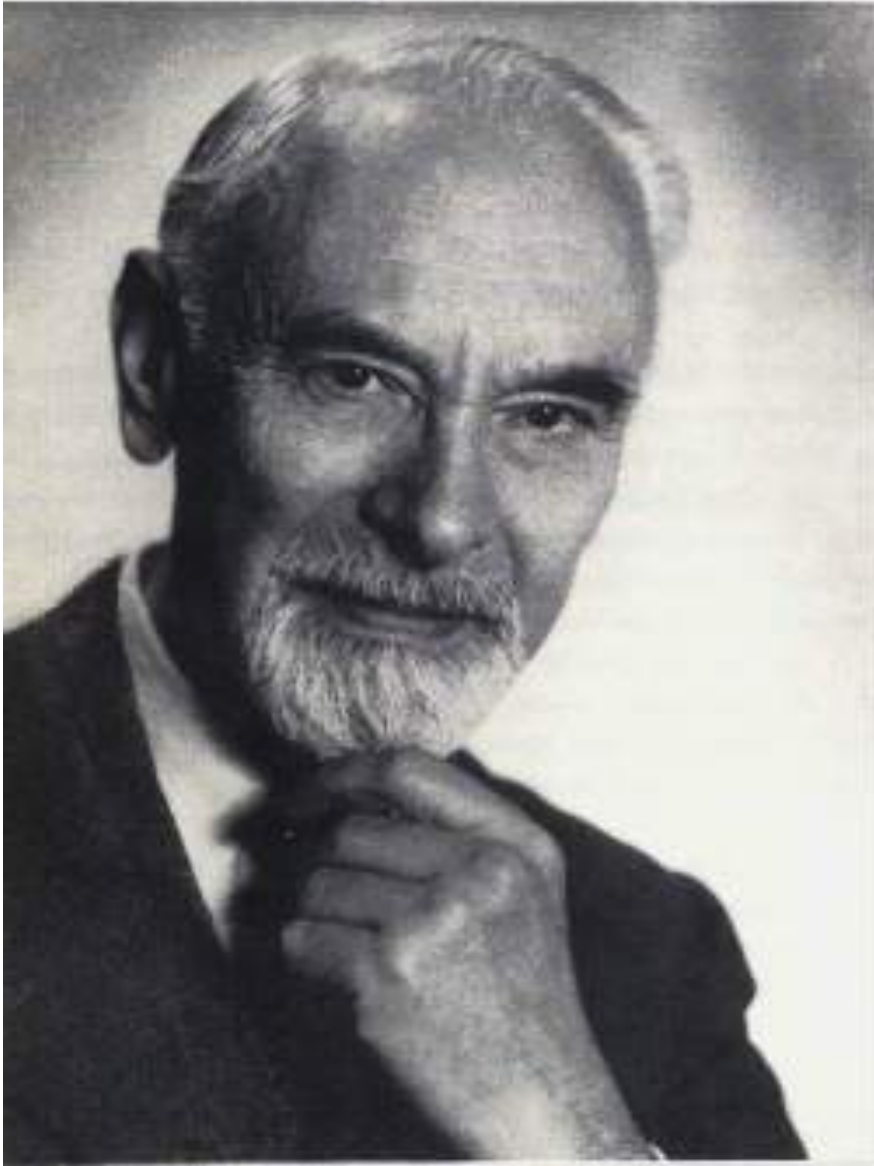
*'It seems to me that the theory, developed in all possible rigor, gives, at least in several cases, a strictly vanishing resistance, a singular paradox which I leave to future geometers to elucidate.'*

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k206036b>

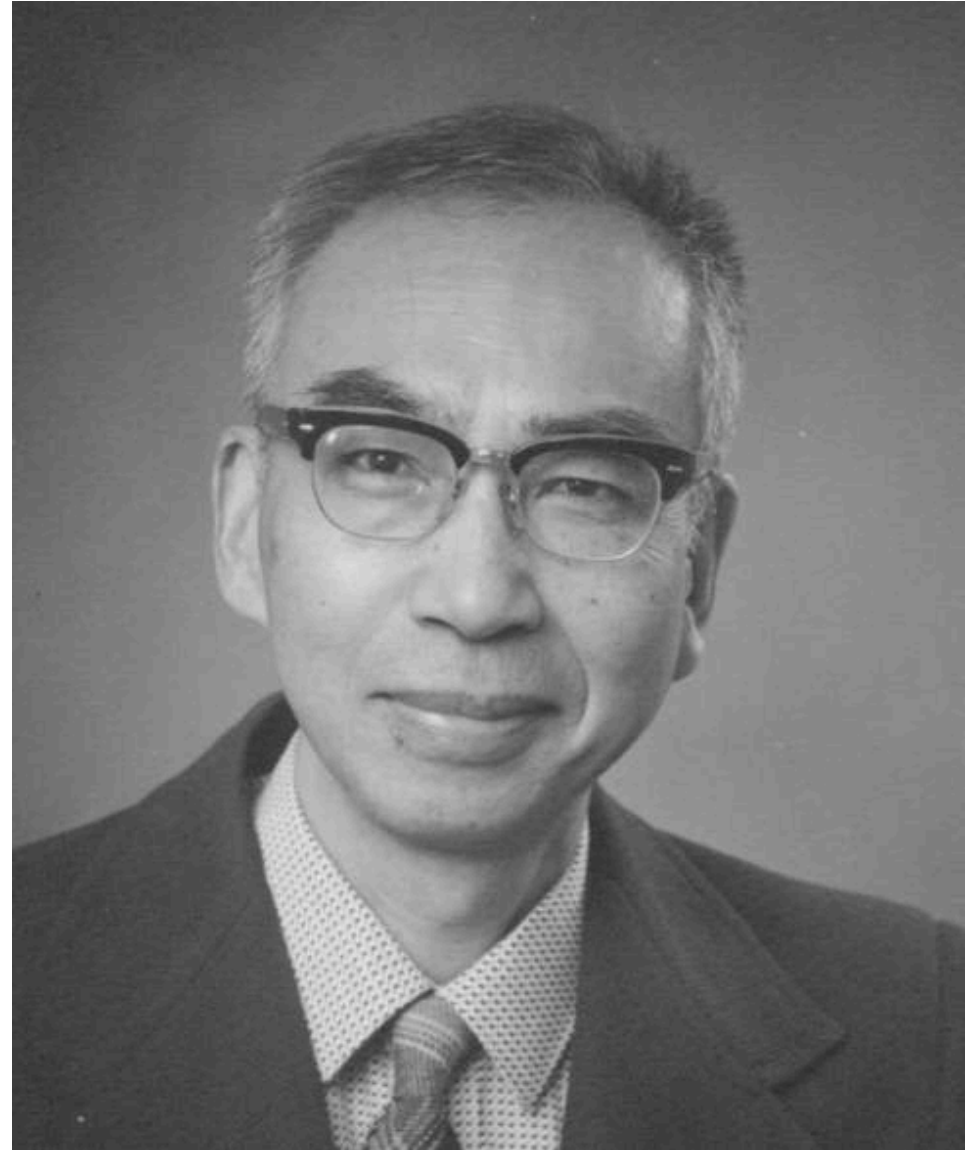




*Ludwig Prandtl*  
(1875-1953)



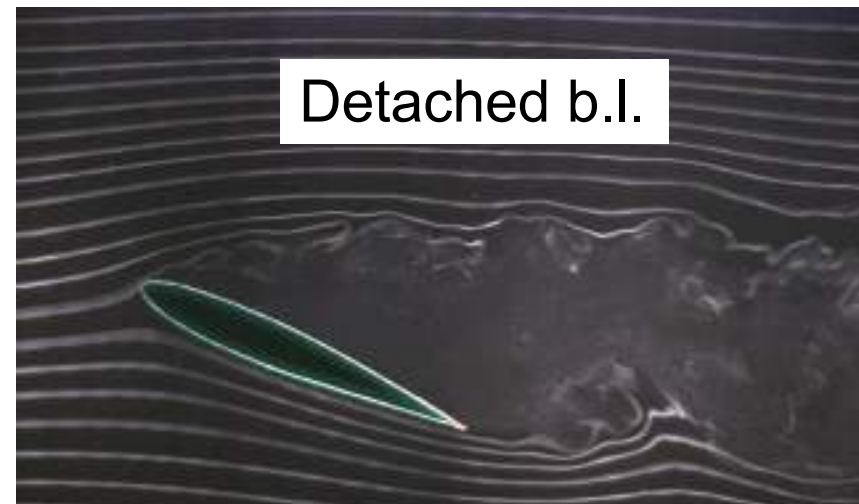
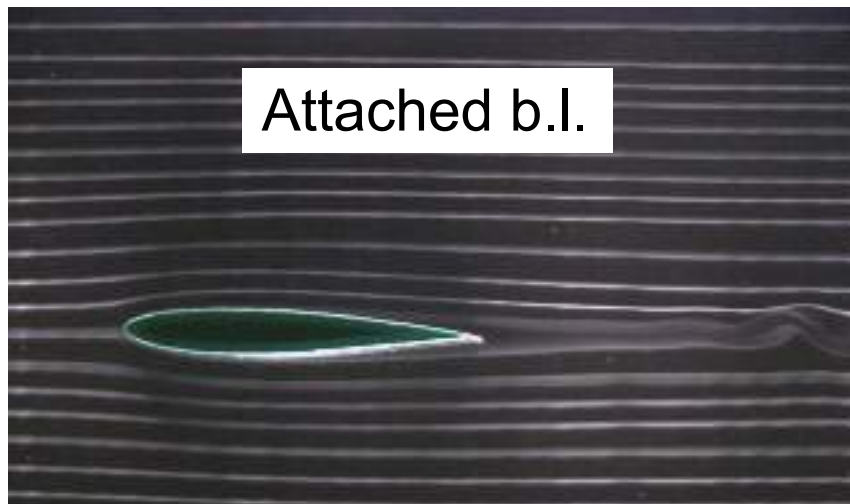
*Toshio Kato*  
(1917-1999)



# 1904: Prandtl's boundary layer theory

---

- Prandtl (1904) predicted that the thickness of the boundary layer in contact with a solid body (*left*) scales as  $Re^{-1/2}$ , the inverse square root of the Reynolds number  $Re$ ,
- But Prandtl's theory does not apply for separated flow regions where the boundary layer detaches from the solid body (*right*).



*Prandtl, Über Flüssigkeitsbewegung bei sehr kleiner Reibung,  
Proceedings of ICM in Heidelberg, 484-491, 1904*

# 1984: Kato's theorem

Navier-Stokes solution converges towards the Euler solution,  
if and only if, energy dissipation vanishes

$$\Delta E_{\text{Re}}(0, T) = \text{Re}^{-1} \int_0^T dt \int_{\Omega} d\mathbf{x} |\nabla \mathbf{u}(t, \mathbf{x})|^2 \xrightarrow[\nu \rightarrow 0]{\text{Re} \rightarrow \infty} 0,$$

and, if and only if, this happens in a boundary layer of  
thickness inversely proportional to the Reynolds number  $Re$

*Kato, 1984, Remarks on zero  
viscosity limit for non stationary  
Navier-Stokes flows with boundary,  
MSRI Berkeley*

~~$\delta x \propto \text{Re}^{-\frac{1}{2}}$~~



$\delta x \propto \text{Re}^{-1}$

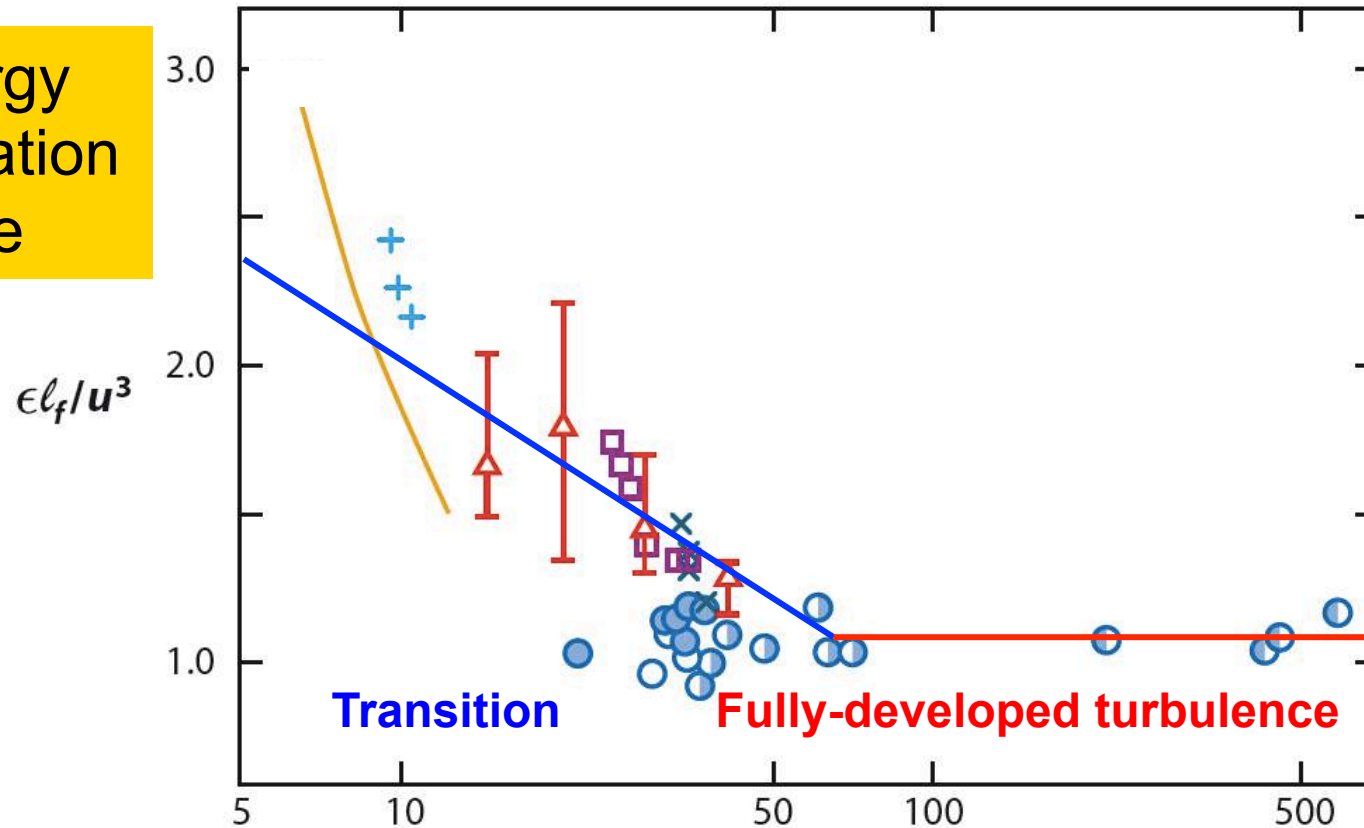
This requires using  
smaller resolution  
to compute high  
Reynolds flows  
than predicted by  
Prandtl's theory



# Laboratory experiments

Vassilicos, *Ann. Rev. Fluid Mech.*, 47, 2015

Energy  
dissipation  
rate



$$Re_\lambda = Re^{1/2}$$

For  $\nu \rightarrow 0$  or  $Re \rightarrow +\infty$   
energy dissipation does not vanish  
but becomes constant

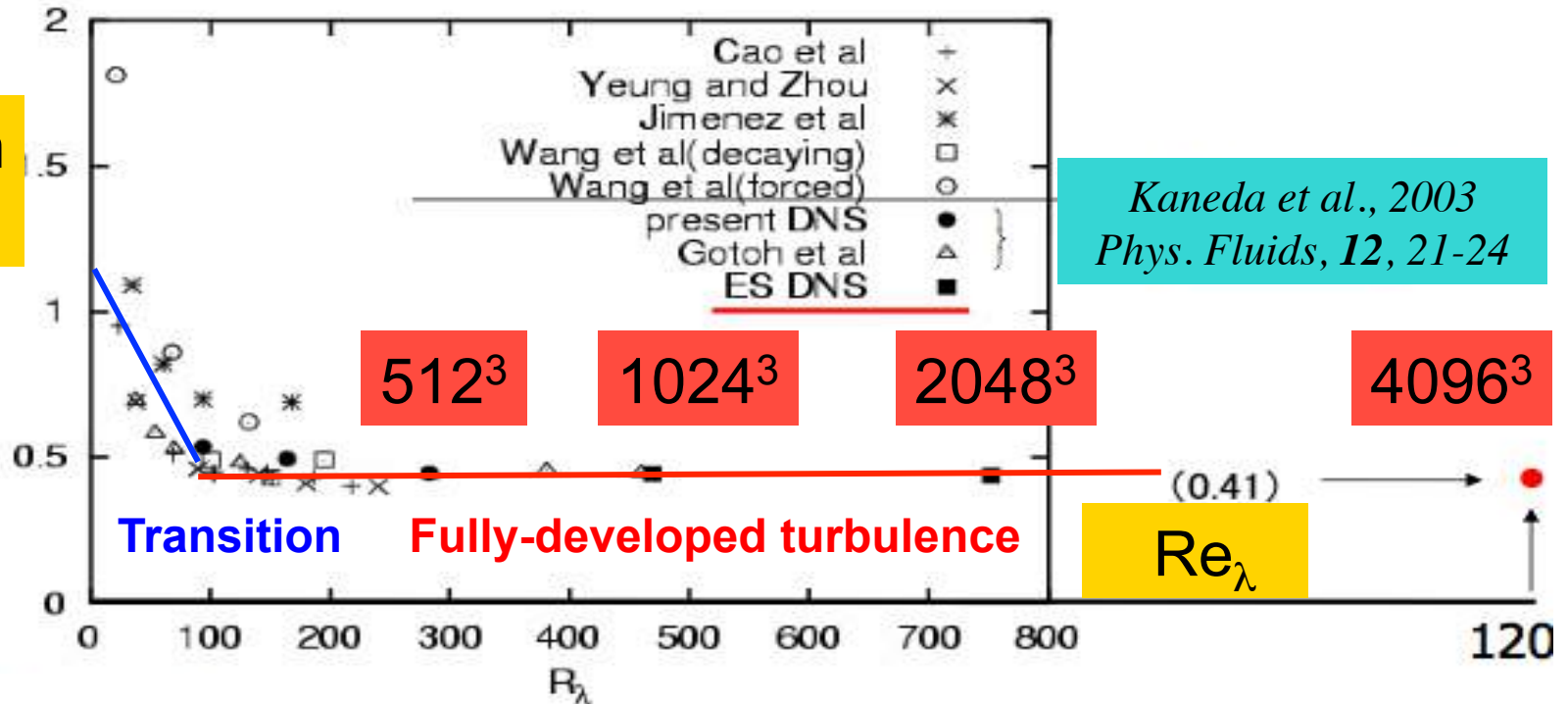


# Numerical experiments

Normalized energy dissipation  $\rightarrow ?$   
 as  $\nu \rightarrow 0$ , or  $Re \rightarrow \infty$

$$\epsilon L / u'^3$$

Dissipation rate



*Kaneda et al., 2003*  
*Phys. Fluids, 12, 21-24*

Both laboratory and numerical experiments show that the dissipation rate of turbulent flows becomes independent of the fluid viscosity for large  $Re$

# Dissipation of energy in the inviscid limit

- In an incompressible flow ( $\rho = 1$ )

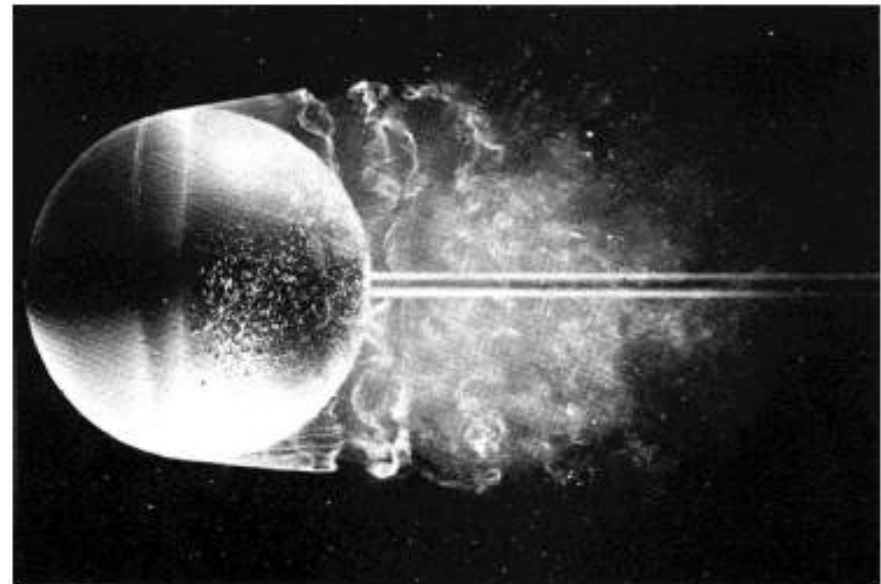
$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \int \frac{\mathbf{u}^2}{2} = -\nu \int \omega^2 = -2\nu Z$$

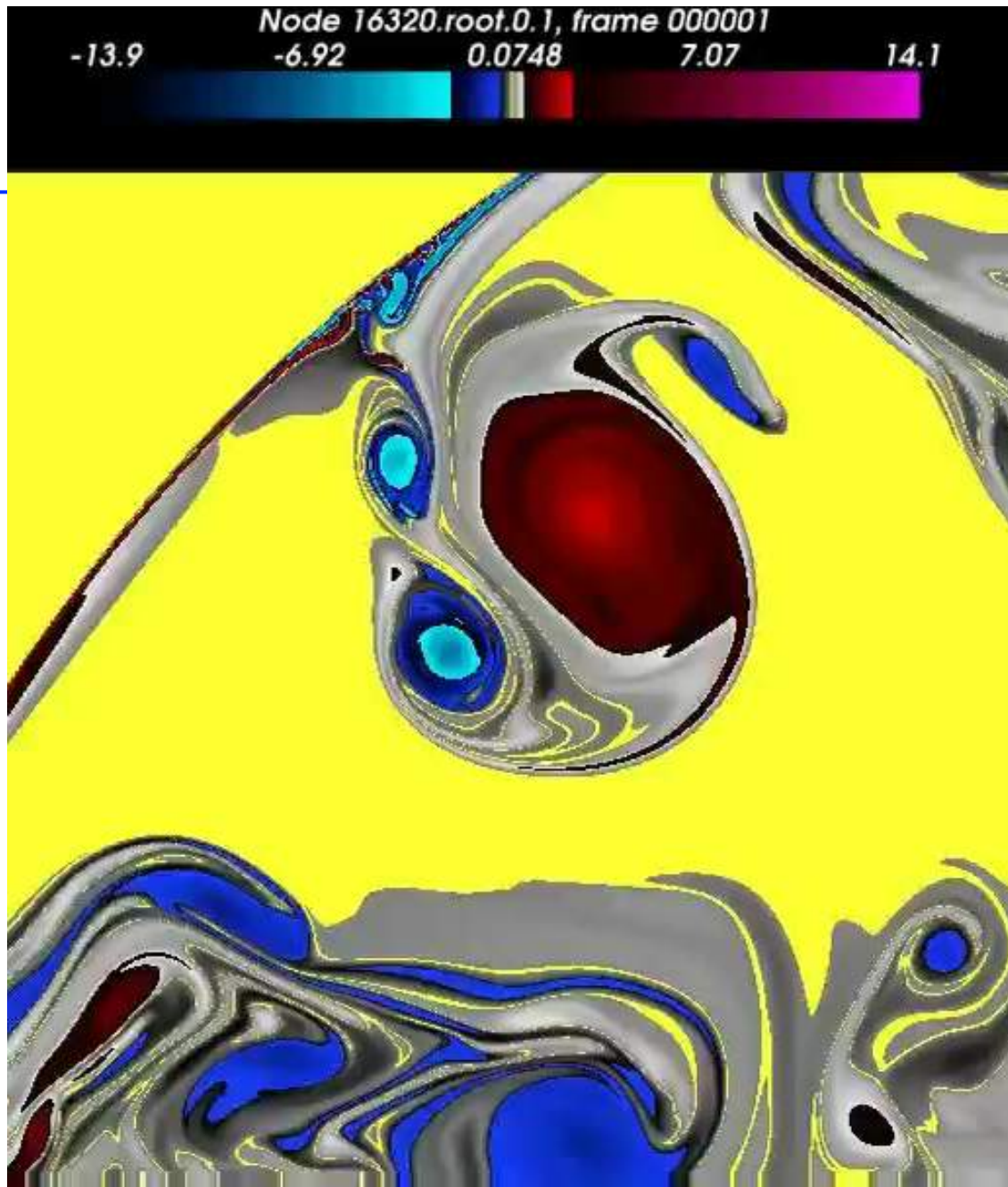
- To dissipate energy, vorticity needs to be **created** and/or **amplified**, in such a way that  $Z \sim \nu^{-1}$ .

Possible vorticity distributions:

$\omega \sim \nu^{-1/2}$  over  $O(1)$  area,  
 $\omega \sim \nu^{-1}$  over  $O(\nu)$  area.

with  $E$  energy,  $Z$  enstrophy,  
 $\nu$  fluid kinematic viscosity,  
 $\omega$  flow vorticity.





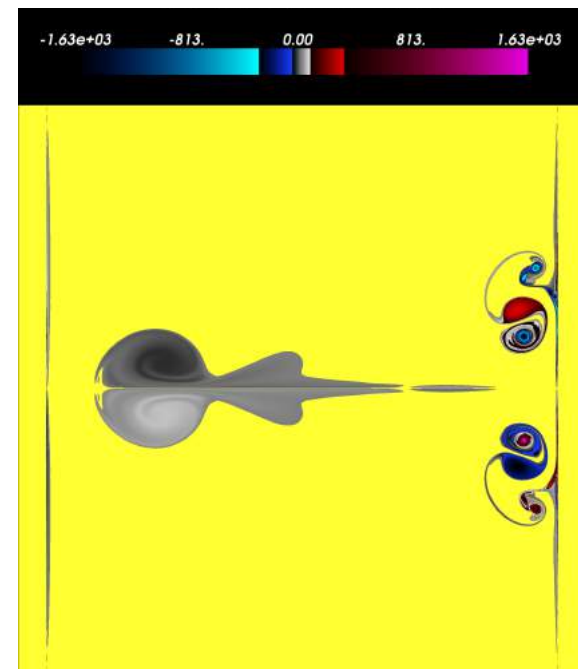
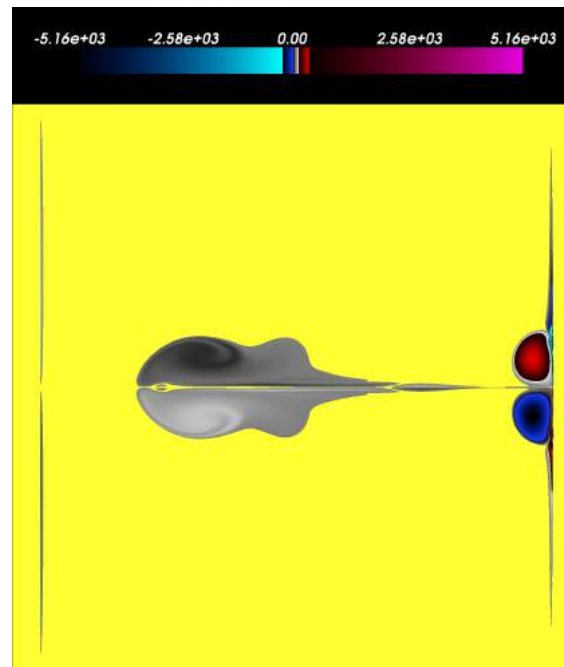
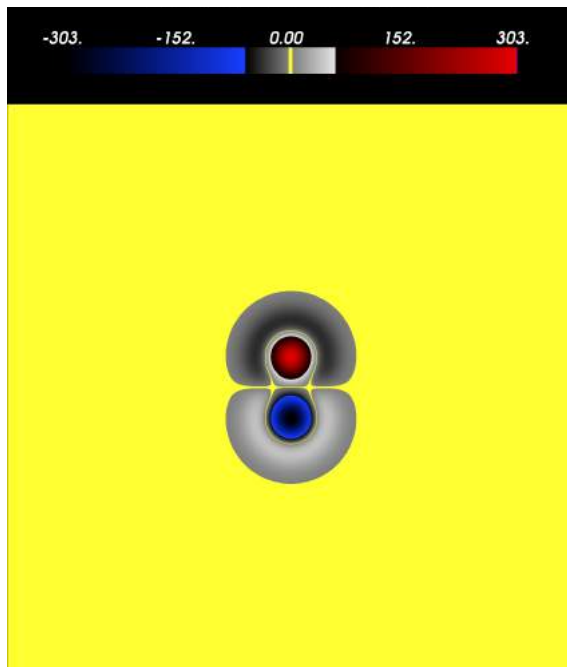
Resolution  
 $N=8192^2$

Nguyen van yen,  
M. F. and  
Schneider,  
2010



# Dipole crashing onto a plane wall

DNS  
Resolution  
 $N=8192^2$



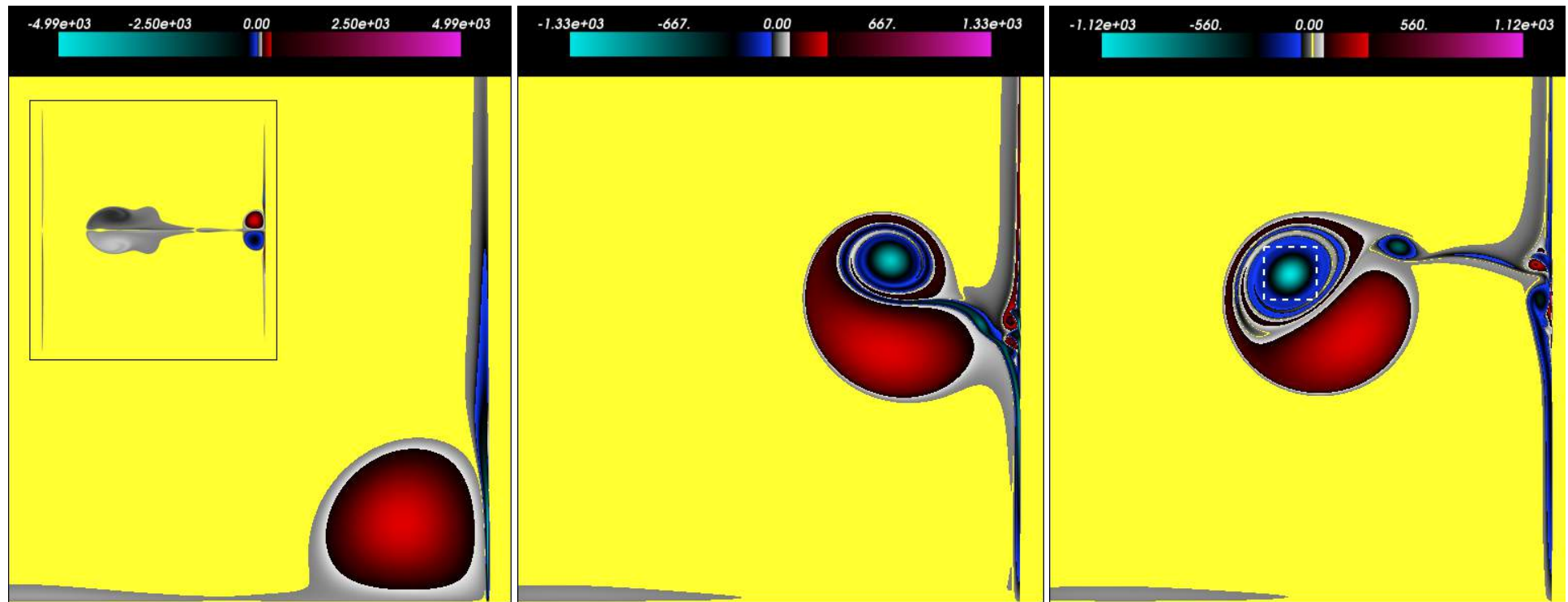


# Dipole crashing onto a wall in 2D

Resolution  
 $N=16384^2$

Navier-Stokes equations  
with volume penalization  
integrated using Fourier

*Nguyen van yen, M. F.  
and Schneider,  
PRL, 106(18), 2011*



$t=0.3$

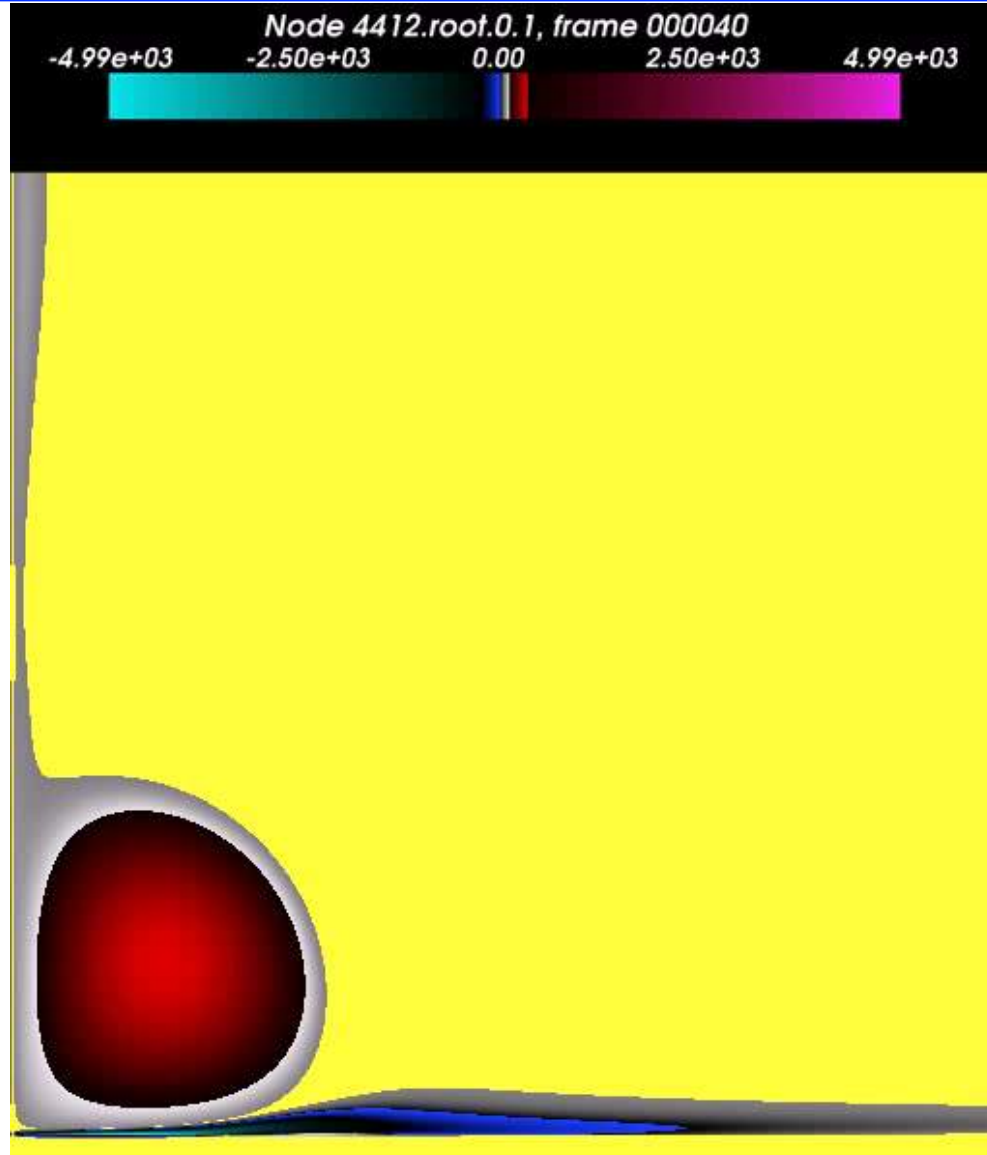
$t=0.4$

$t=0.5$



# Dipole crashing onto a wall

DNS  
Resolution  
 $N=8192^2$



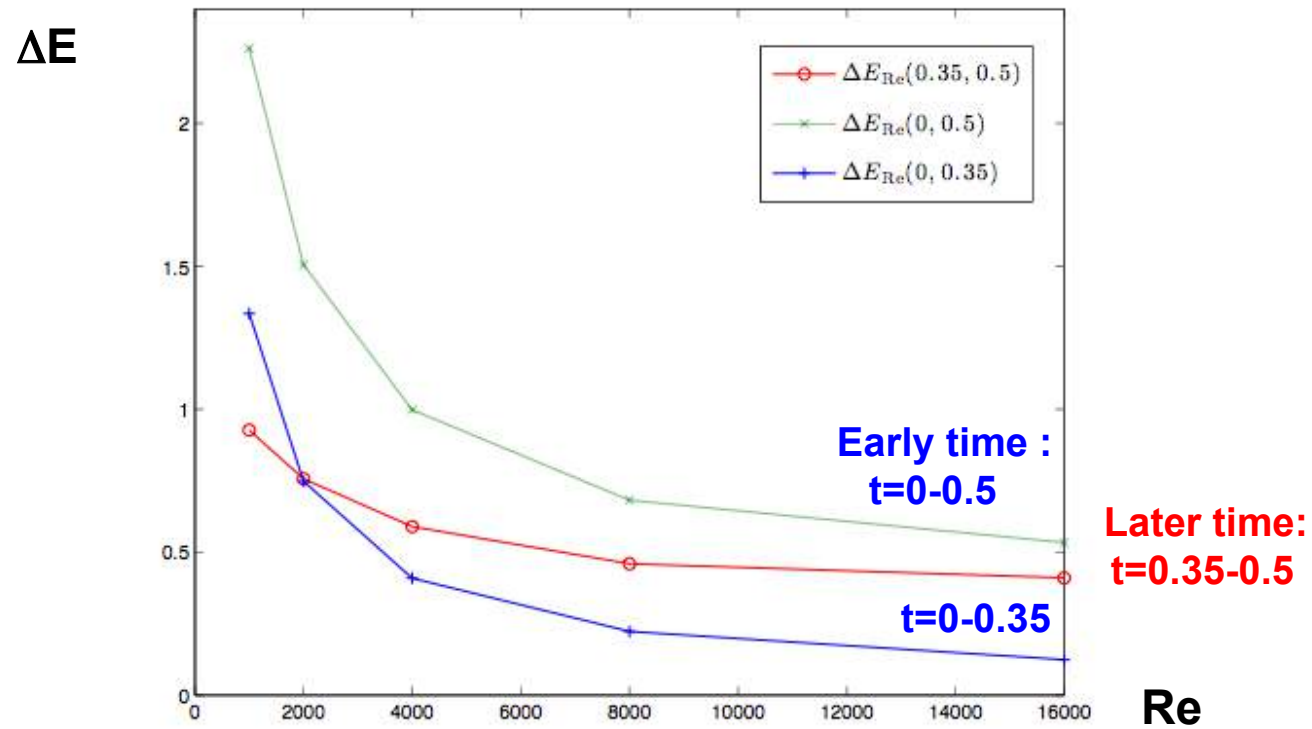
**Re=8000**

*Production of vortices where boundary layer detaches*

*Nguyen van yen, M. F.  
and Schneider,  
PRL, 106(18), 2011*

# Energy dissipation

Energy dissipated  
when the dipole crashes onto the wall  
at increasing Reynolds numbers



## 32. Dissipative structures

---

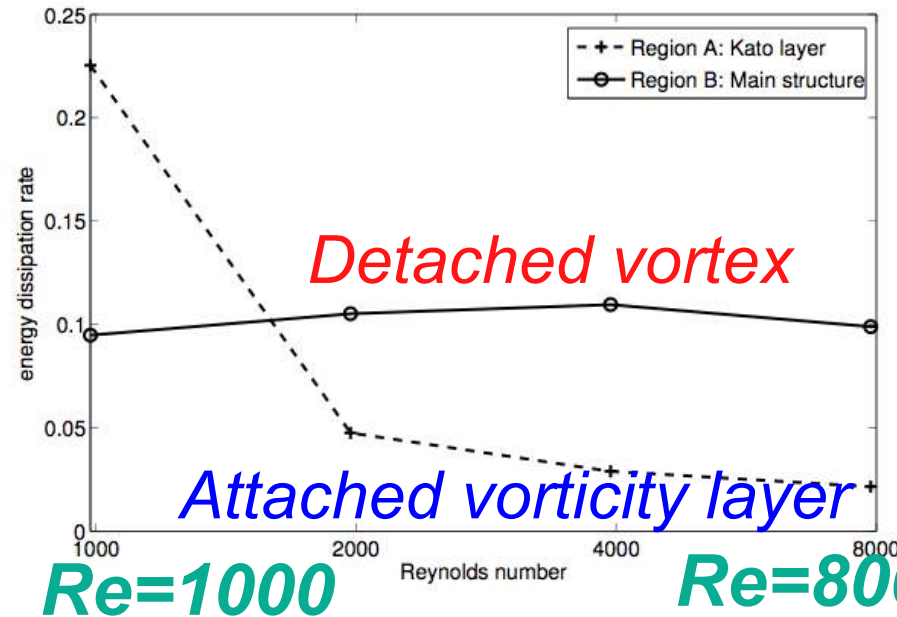
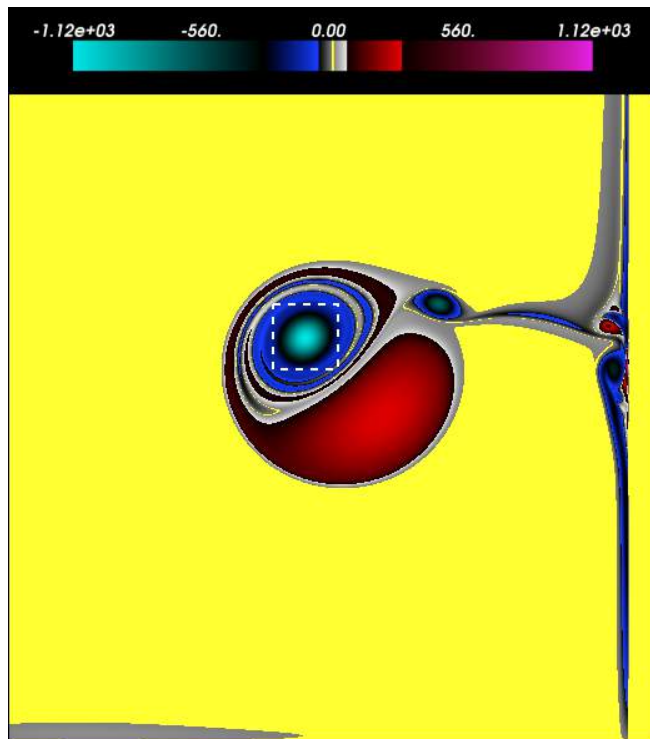
- Our experiments suggest that the flow remains dissipative in the inviscid limit,
- it is tempting to relate the observed structures to energy dissipation,
- the kinetic energy density  $e = \frac{|\mathbf{u}|^2}{2}$  obeys:

$$\partial_t e + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla(e + p) = \nu \Delta e - \nu |\nabla \mathbf{u}|^2$$

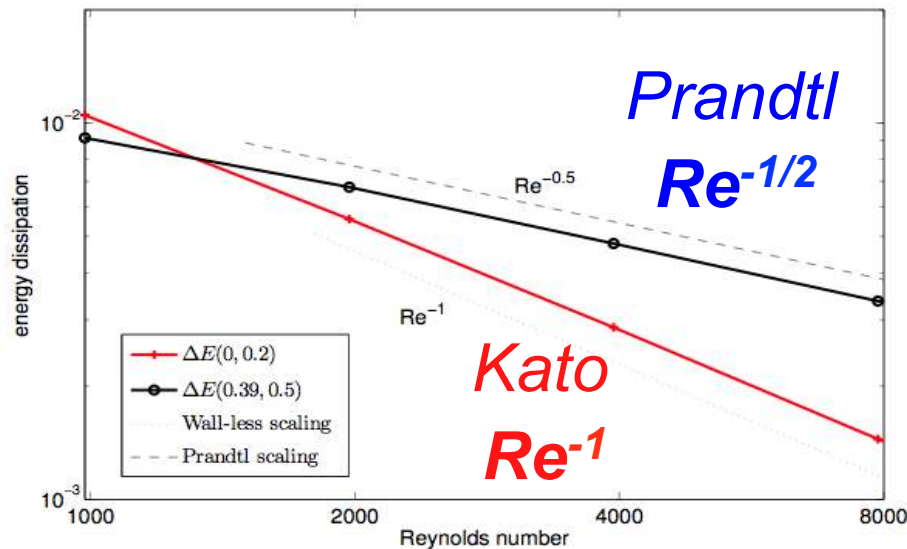
Local dissipation rate

# Production of dissipative structures

Nguyen van yen, M. F.  
and Schneider,  
*PRL*, 106(18), 2011



Energy  
dissipation  
rate ( $-2\nu Z$ )  
versus  $Re$

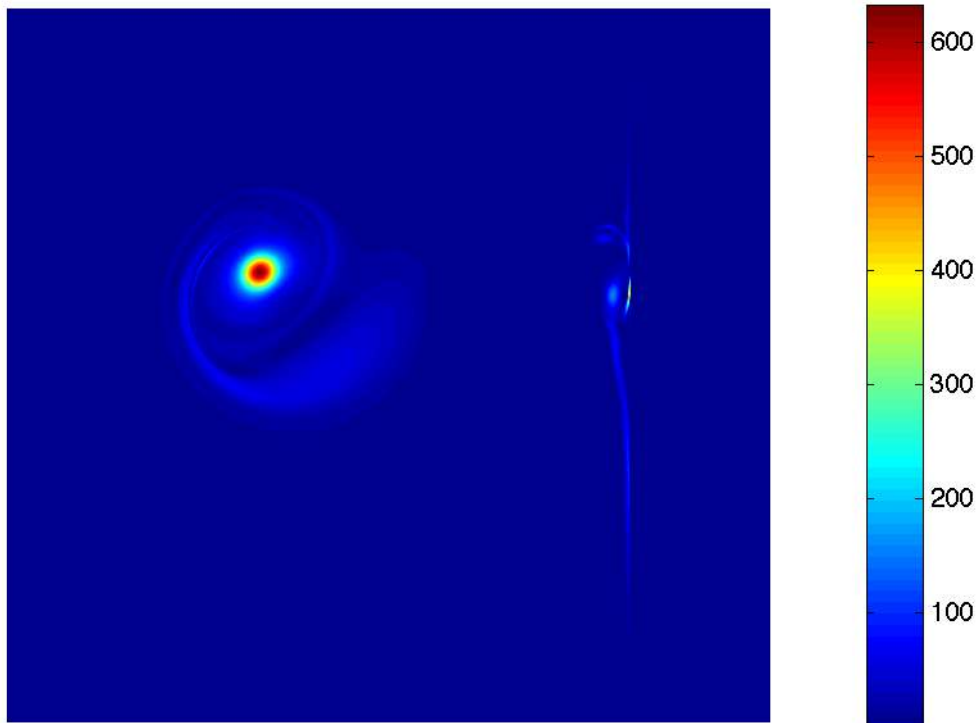


Energy  
Dissipation  
versus  $Re$



# Local dissipation rate

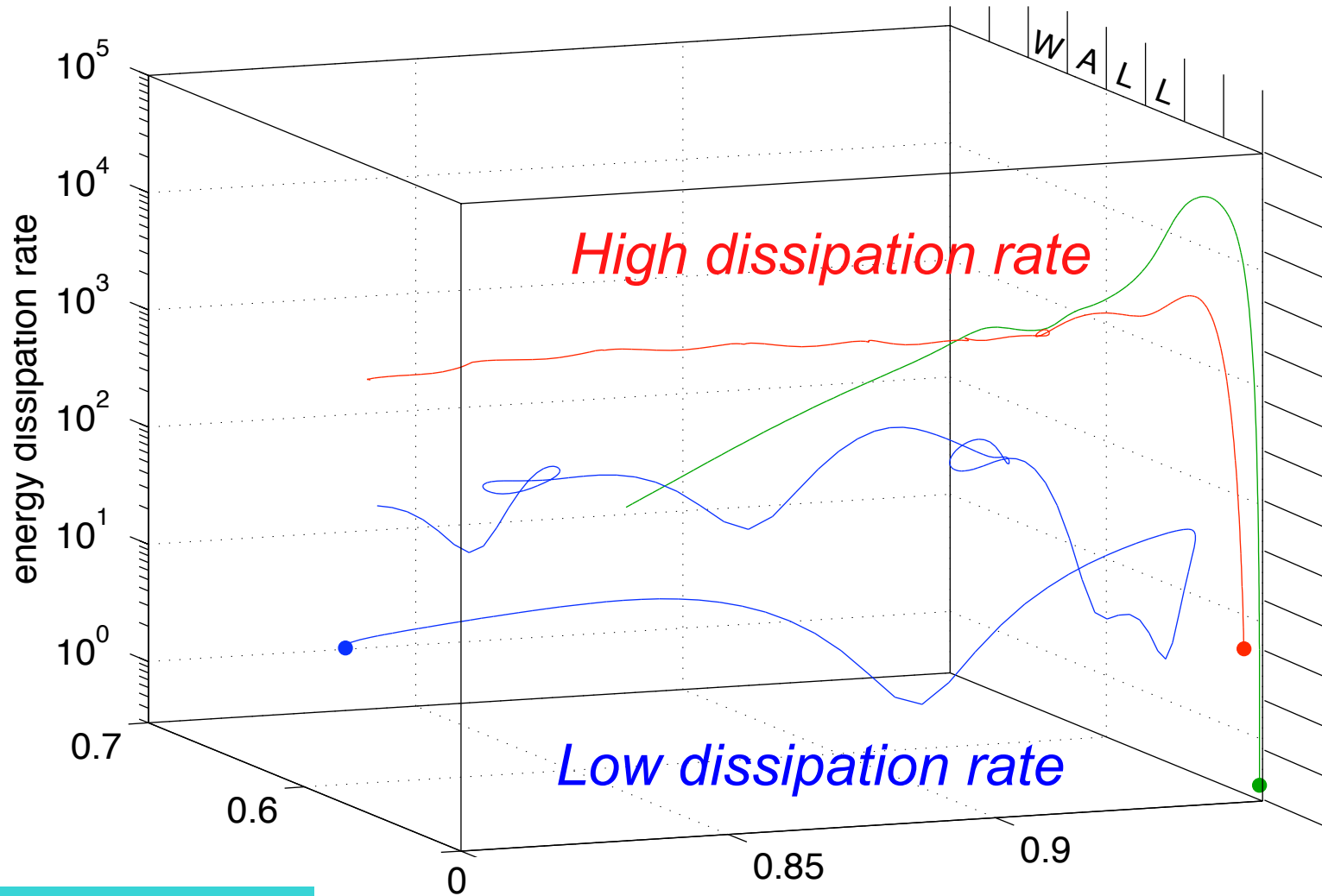
---



The strongest values of the energy dissipation rate is observed inside the main vortex that detached from the boundary layer, rather than inside the boundary layer itself.

*Local dissipation rate  
for the dipole-wall collision  
at  $t= 0.5$*

# Production of dissipative structures



R. Nguyen van yen, M. F.  
and K. Schneider,  
*PRL*, 106(18), 2011



2011

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

---

## Energy Dissipating Structures Produced by Walls in Two-Dimensional Flows at Vanishing Viscosity

Romain Nguyen van yen and Marie Farge

*LMD-CNRS-IPSL, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France*

Kai Schneider

*M2P2-CNRS and CMI, Université d'Aix-Marseille, Marseille, France*

(Received 13 October 2010; published 3 May 2011)

---

2013

PHYSICS OF FLUIDS **25**, 093104 (2013)

## The effect of slip length on vortex rebound from a rigid boundary

D. Sutherland,<sup>1,a)</sup> C. Macaskill,<sup>1</sup> and D. G. Dritschel<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Sydney, Sydney 2006, Australia*

<sup>2</sup>*School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews KY16 9SS, United Kingdom*

(Received 22 May 2013; accepted 16 August 2013; published online 23 September 2013)



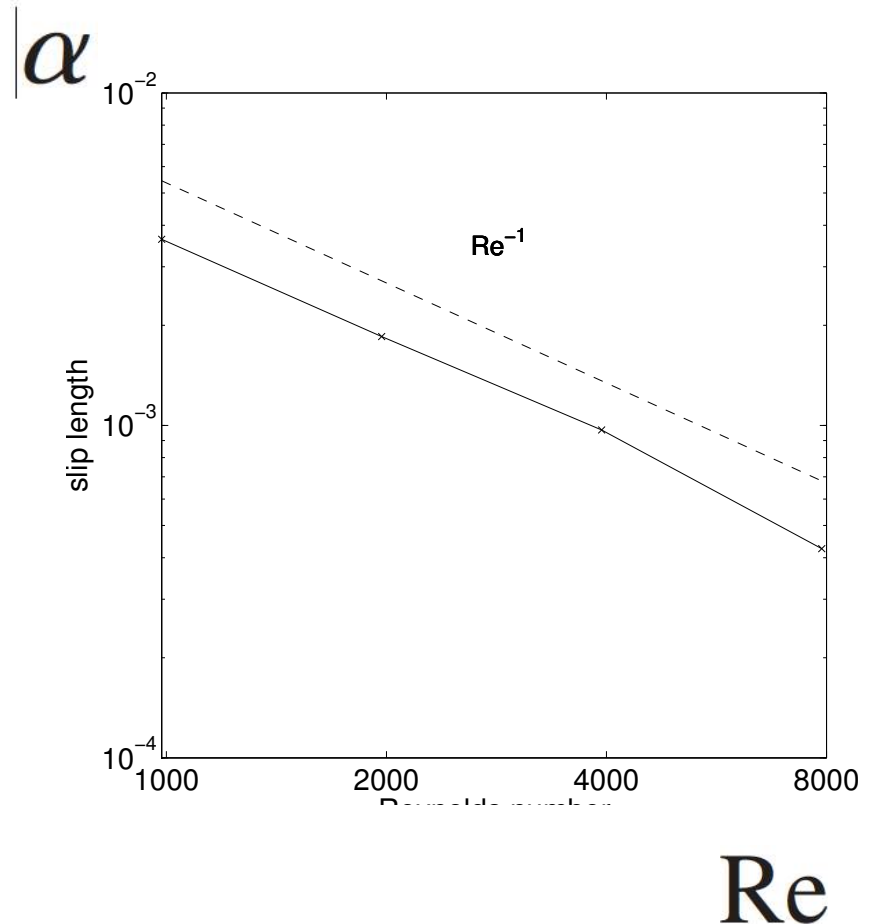
# Navier boundary conditions

The wall-normal velocity  $u_1$  is negligible,

The wall-parallel velocity  $u_2$  is much larger and such that

$$u_2 + \alpha(\text{Re}, \eta, N) \partial_1 u_2 \simeq 0,$$

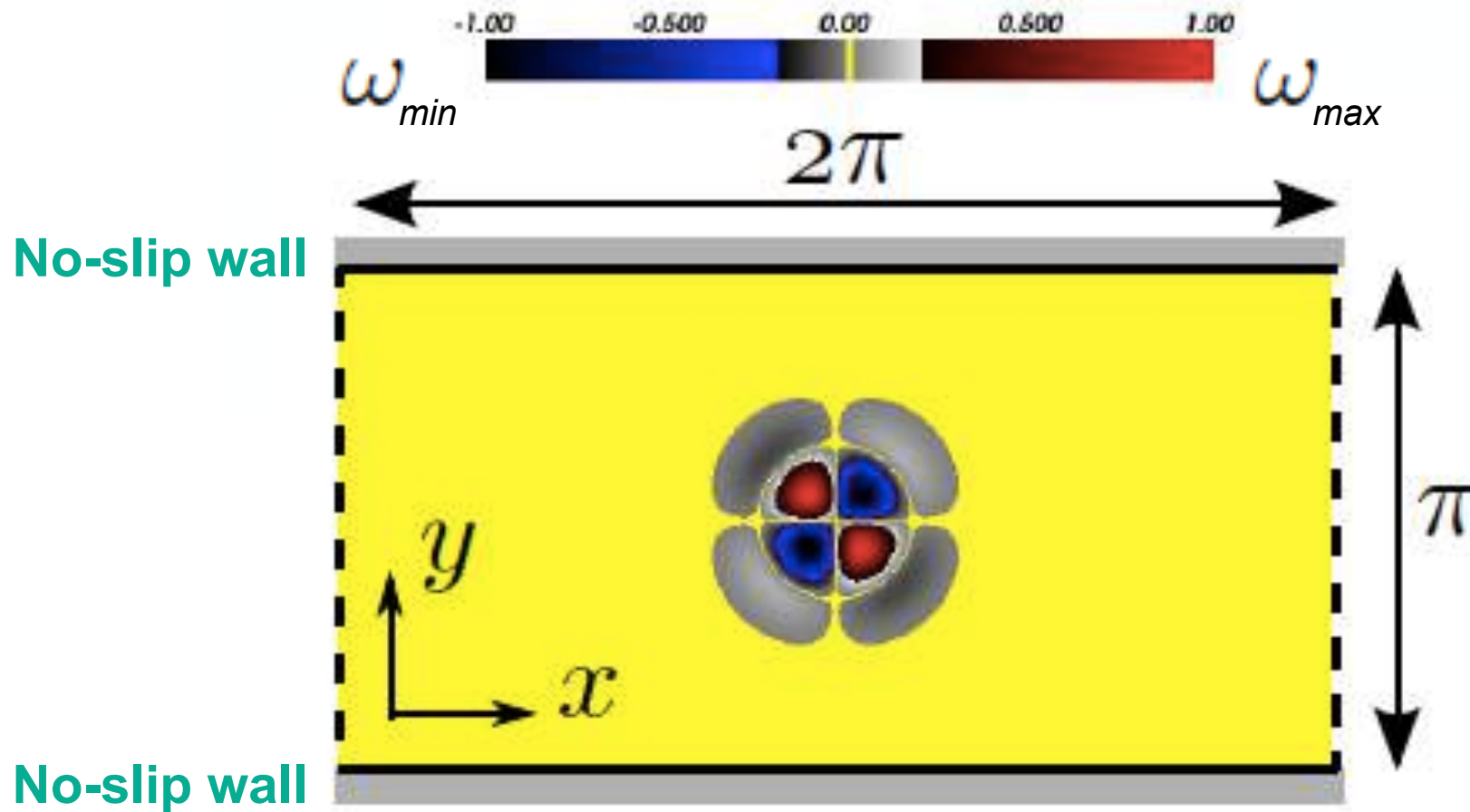
This correspond to Navier boundary conditions with a slip length  $\alpha$



*R. Nguyen van yen, M. F.  
and K. Schneider,  
PRL, 106(18), 2011*

# Comparison Navier-Stokes and Euler-Prandtl

## Initial vorticity field: vortex quadrupole



$$\psi_i(x, y) = Axy \exp\left(-\frac{(x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2}{2s^2}\right)$$



# Prandtl equation coupled to Euler

---

Ansatz for the vorticity field as  $Re \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$\omega(x, y) = \omega_E(x, y) + \nu^{-1/2} \omega_P(x, \nu^{-1/2} y) + \omega_R(x, y)$$

**Prandtl's variable :  $y_P = y / \nu^{1/2}$**

$$\partial_t \omega_P + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}_P \omega_P) = \partial_{y_P}^2 \omega_P$$

$$\omega_P(x, y_P, 0) = 0$$

$$\psi_P(x, y_P, t) = \int_0^{y_P} dy'_P \int_0^{y'_P} dy''_P \omega_P(x, y''_P, t)$$

$$\partial_{y_P} \omega_P(x, 0, t) = -\partial_x p_E(x, 0, t),$$

where  $p_E$  is the pressure calculated from  $\omega_E$   
which is the vorticity given by Euler equation

# Prandtl solver

---

- Artificial boundary condition:  $\partial_{y_P} \omega_P = 0$  at  $y_P = 64$
- Spatial discretization: **Fourier** in  $x$   
and **compact finite differences of 5th order** in  $y$
- Time discretization: low storage **third order Runge-Kutta** in  $t$

- **Neumann boundary condition for vorticity:**

$$\partial_{y_P} \omega_P = -\partial_x p_E \text{ at } y_P = 0$$

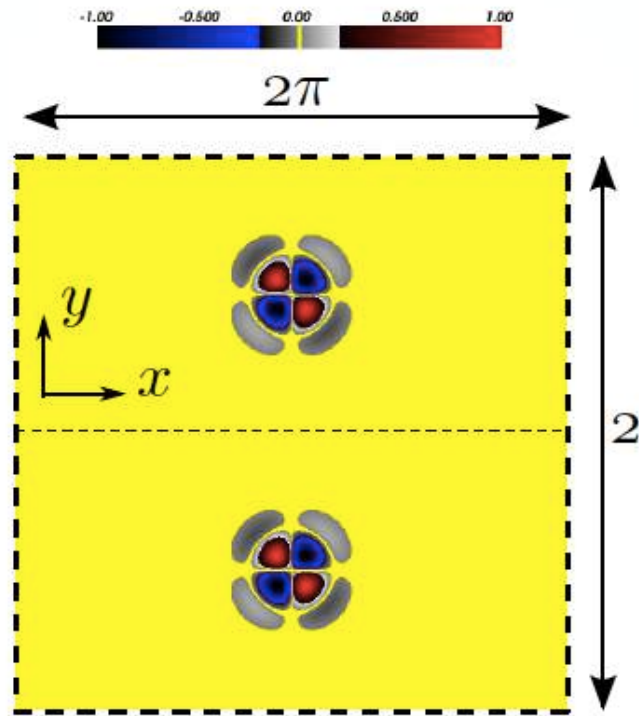
where  $p_E$  is the pressure calculated from  $\omega_E$

- To close the system we impose

$$\partial_{y_P}^2 \omega_P = 0 \text{ at } y_P = 64$$

which is consistent with the rapid decay of  $\omega_P$

# Euler solver



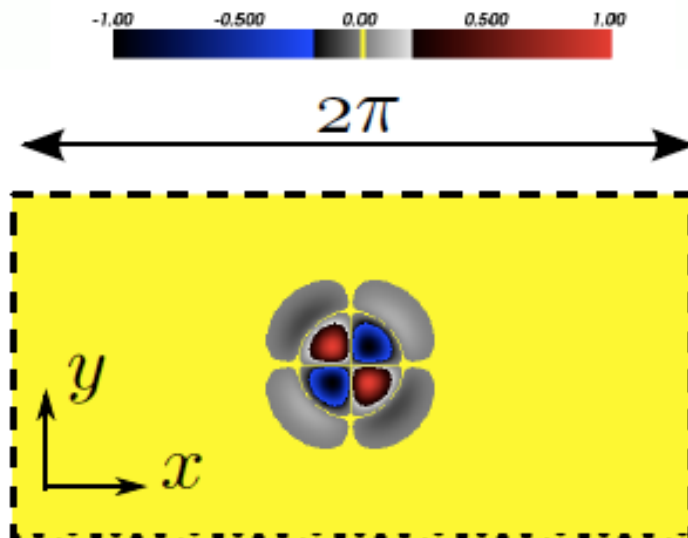
- Use mirror symmetry around  $y = 0$  to impose boundary condition.
- Spatial discretization: Fourier pseudo-spectral with hyperdissipation,  $k_{max} = 682$ .
- Time discretization: third order low storage Runge-Kutta, with exponential propagator for the viscous term.

# Navier-Stokes solver

---

## Fourier/compact finite differences (5th order)

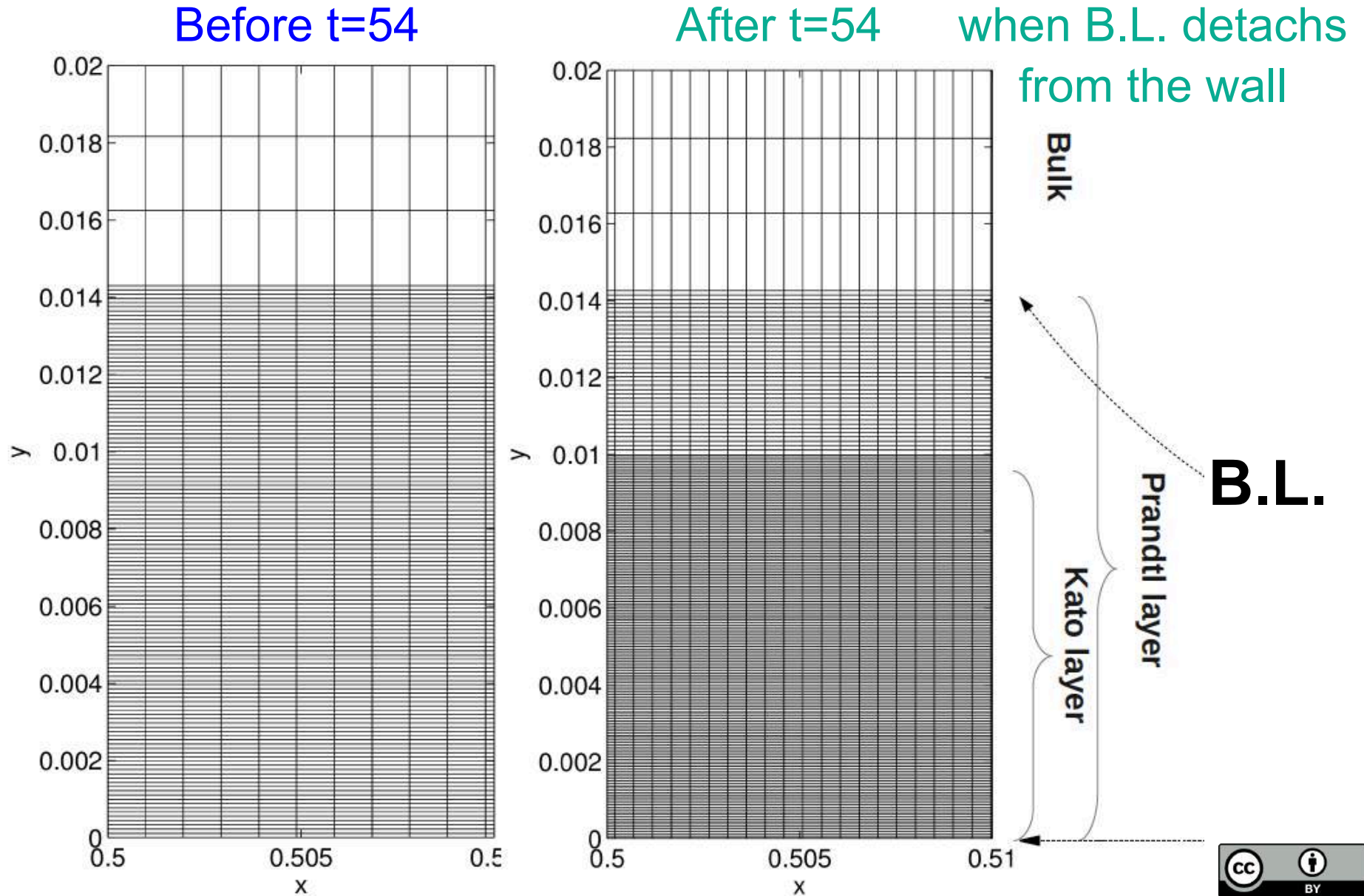
- Similar to the one for the Prandtl equations, except that non-uniform grids are used in the  $y$  direction.
- Two linear integral constraints are applied on vorticity to satisfy the no-slip boundary conditions in  $y$ .
- Integrating factor for the viscous term and 3rd order Runge-Kutta for the advection term.
- for the advection term.



$$N_x = 1024$$

$$N_y = 385 - 449$$

# Computational grid



# Comparison Navier-Stokes and Euler-Prandtl

---

## Navier-Stokes solver

- Fourier in  $x$  and compact finite differences of 5th order with non-uniform grid in  $y$ .
- Third order Runge-Kutta in  $t$ .
- Periodic in  $x$  and no-slip boundary conditions in  $y$ .

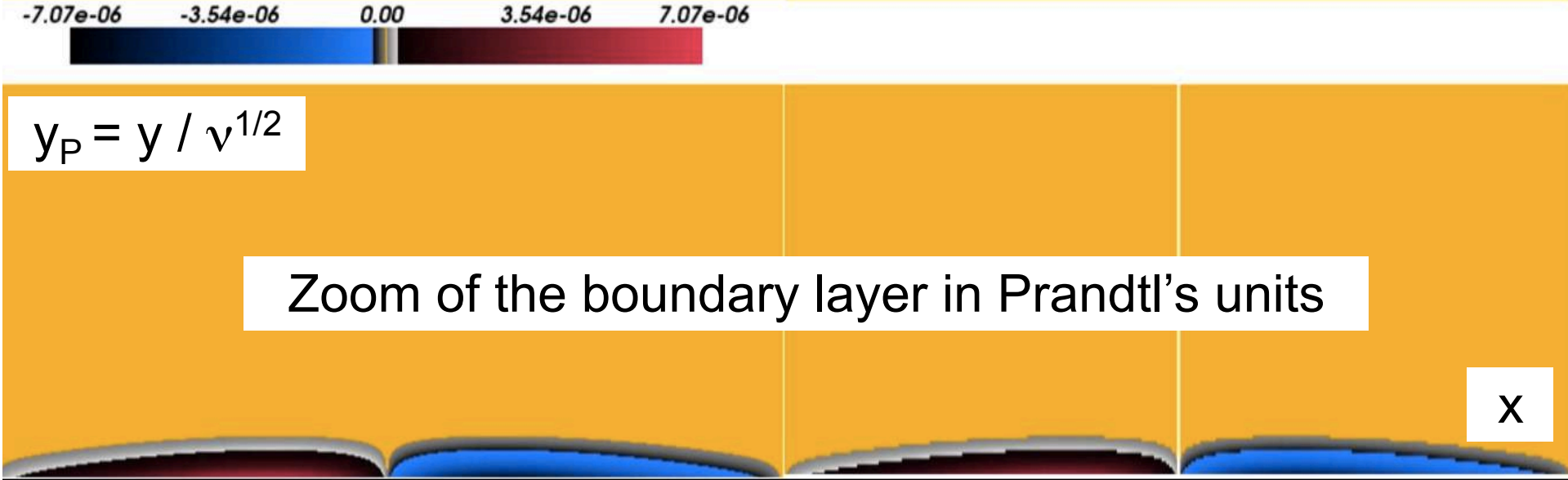
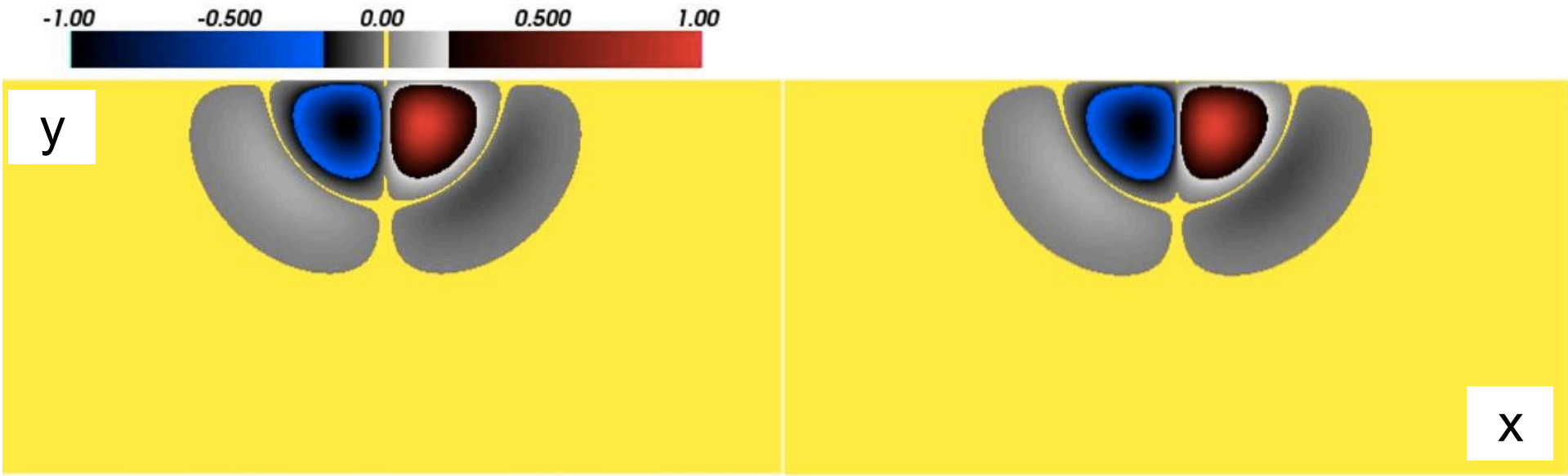
## Euler solver

- Fourier with hyperdissipation in  $x$  and  $y$ .
- Third order Runge-Kutta in  $t$ .
- Mirror-symmetry around  $y=0$  to impose boundary conditions.

## Prandtl solver

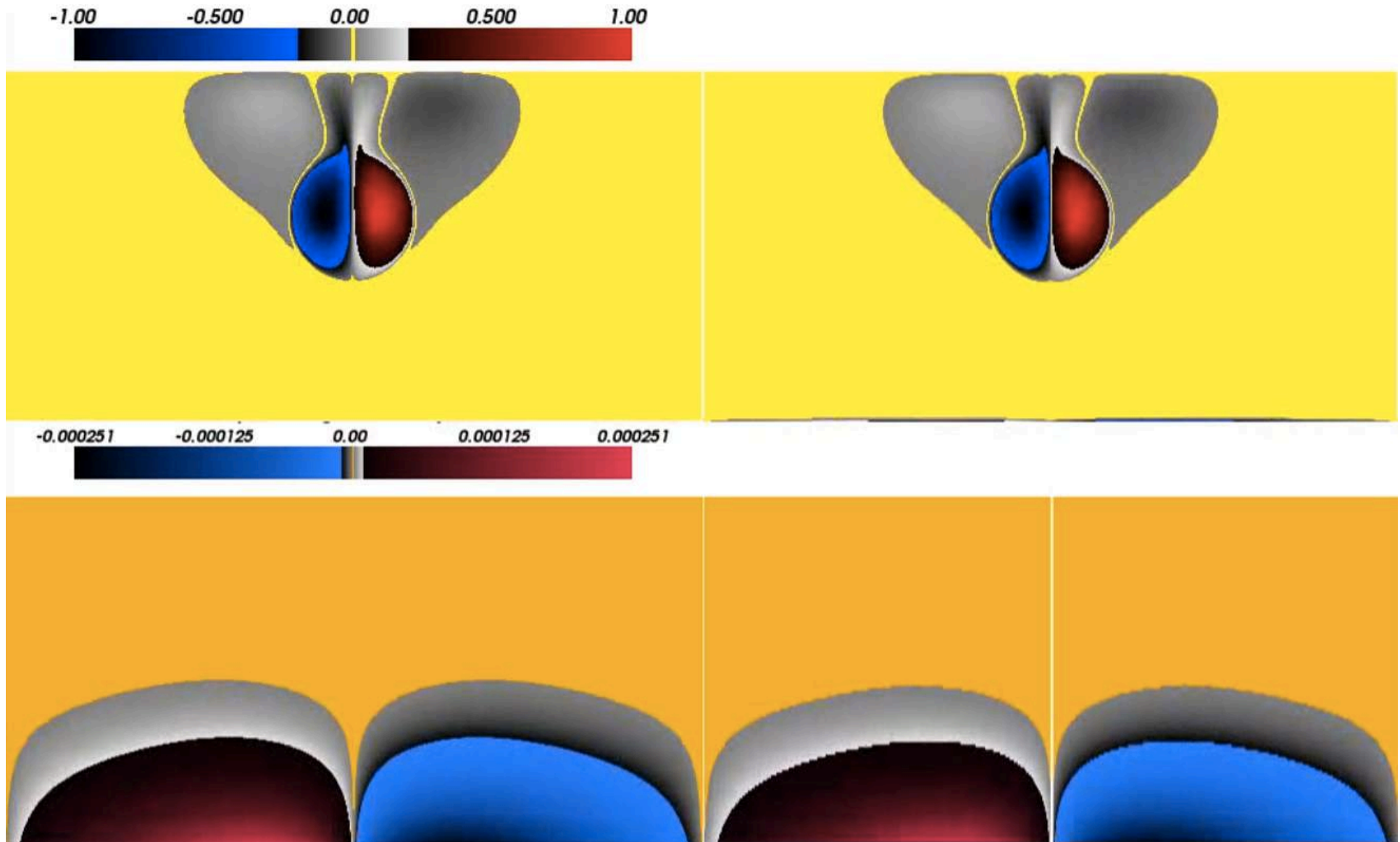
- Second order finite differences in  $x$  and  $y$ .
- Second order semi-implicit Runge-Kutta in  $t$ .
- Neumann boundary condition at  $y=0$  when inverting.





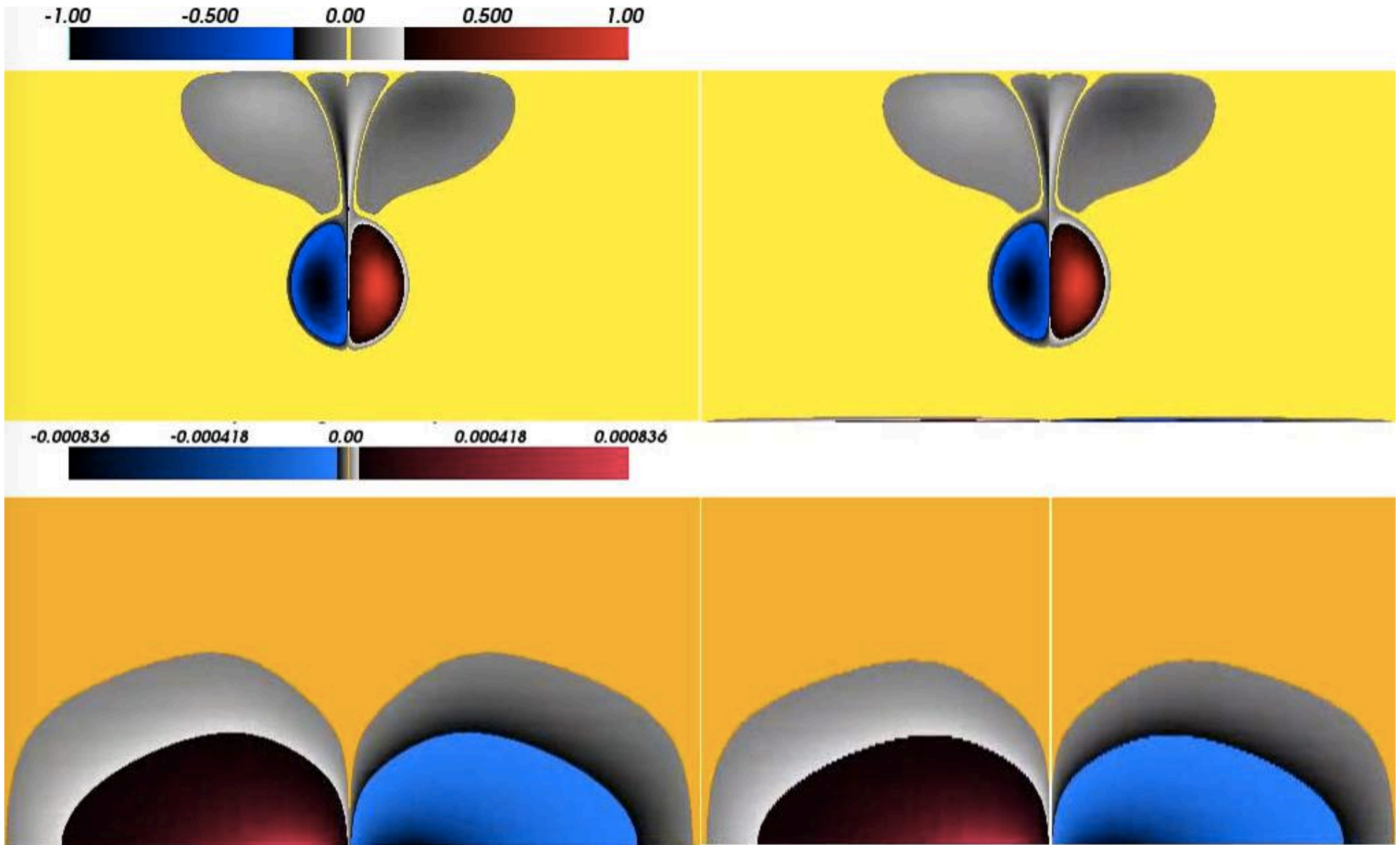
**Euler and Prandtl**

**Navier-Stokes**



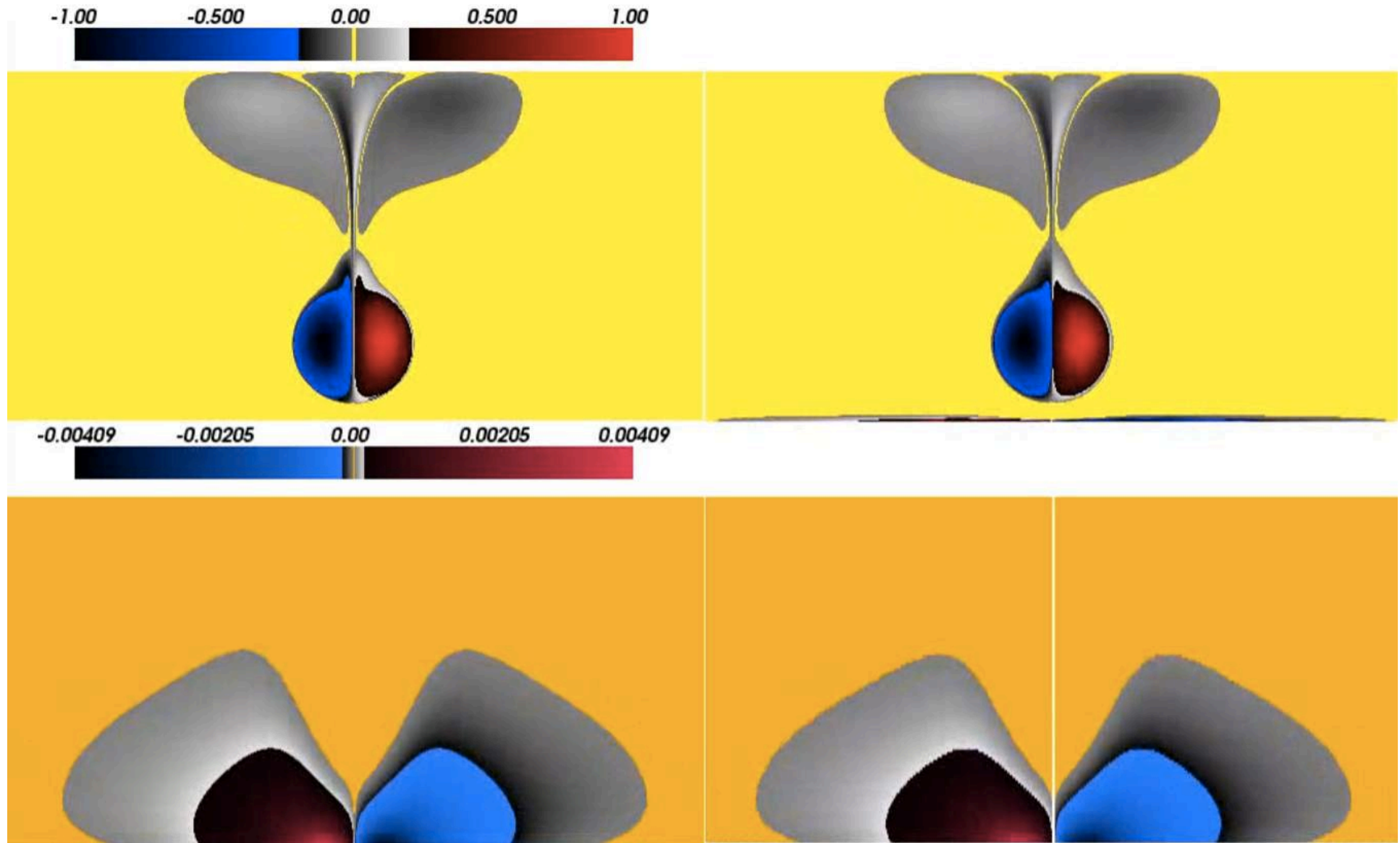
**Euler and Prandtl**

**Navier-Stokes**



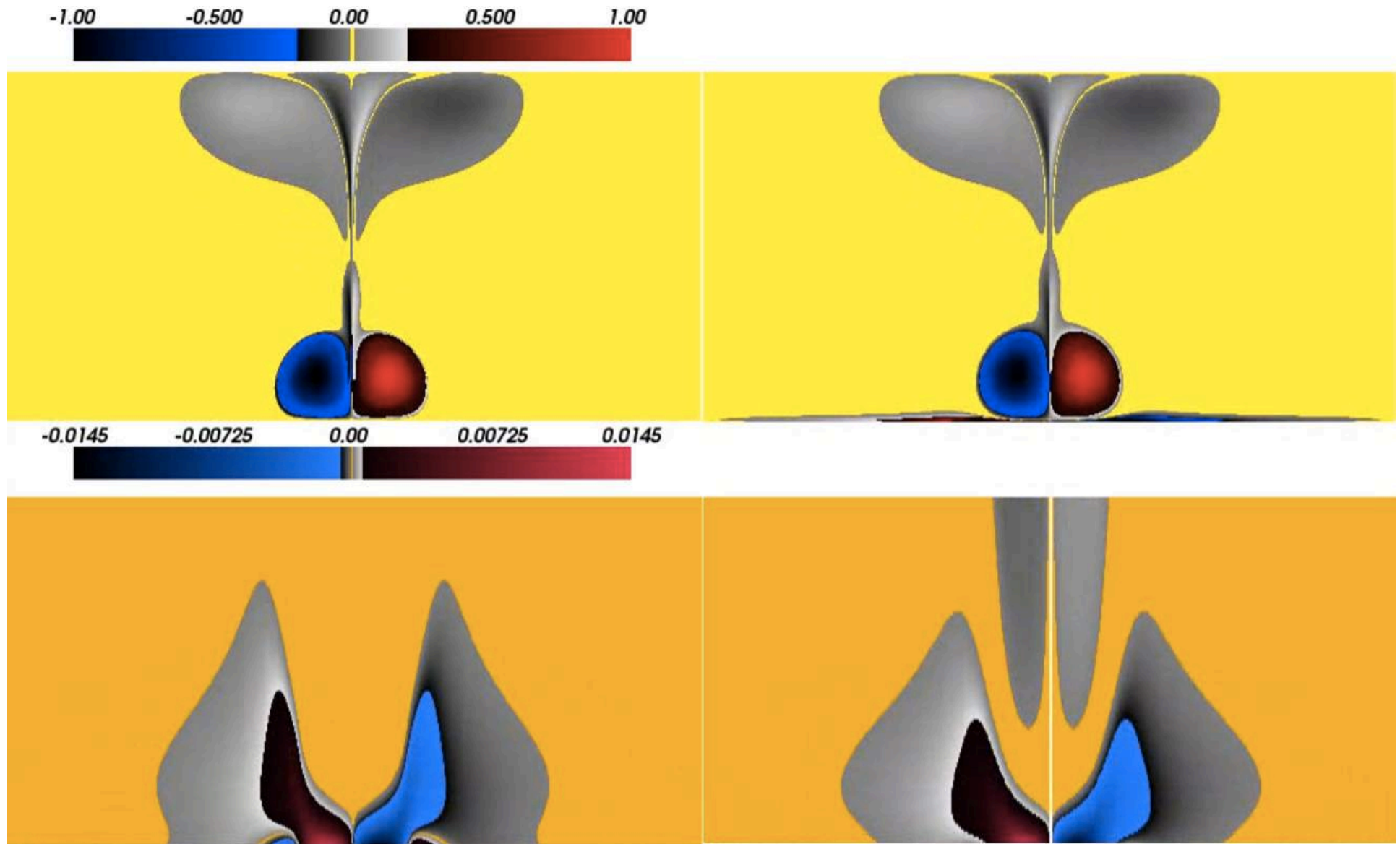
**Euler and Prandtl**

**Navier-Stokes**



**Euler and Prandtl**

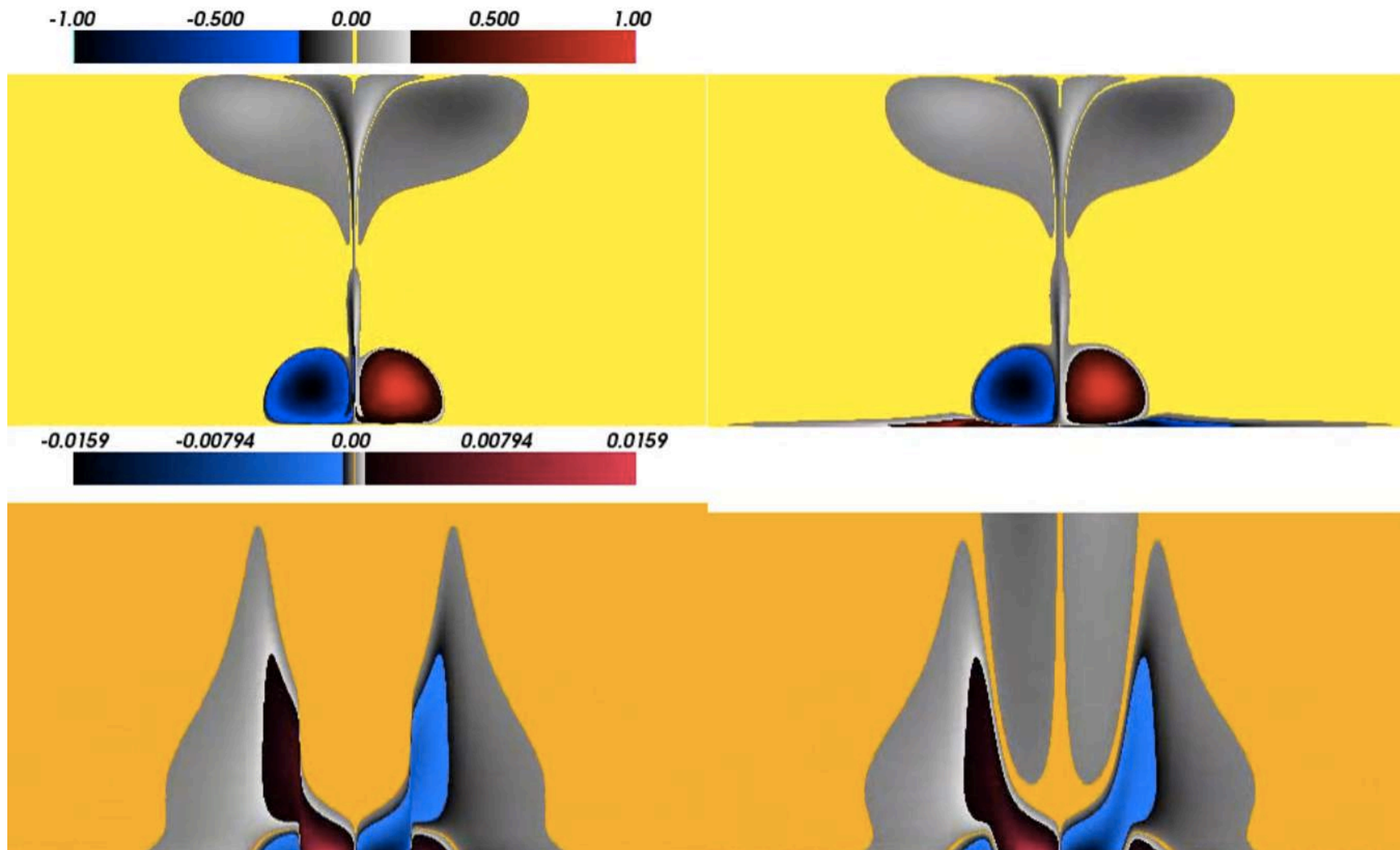
**Navier-Stokes**



**Euler and Prandtl**

**Navier-Stokes**

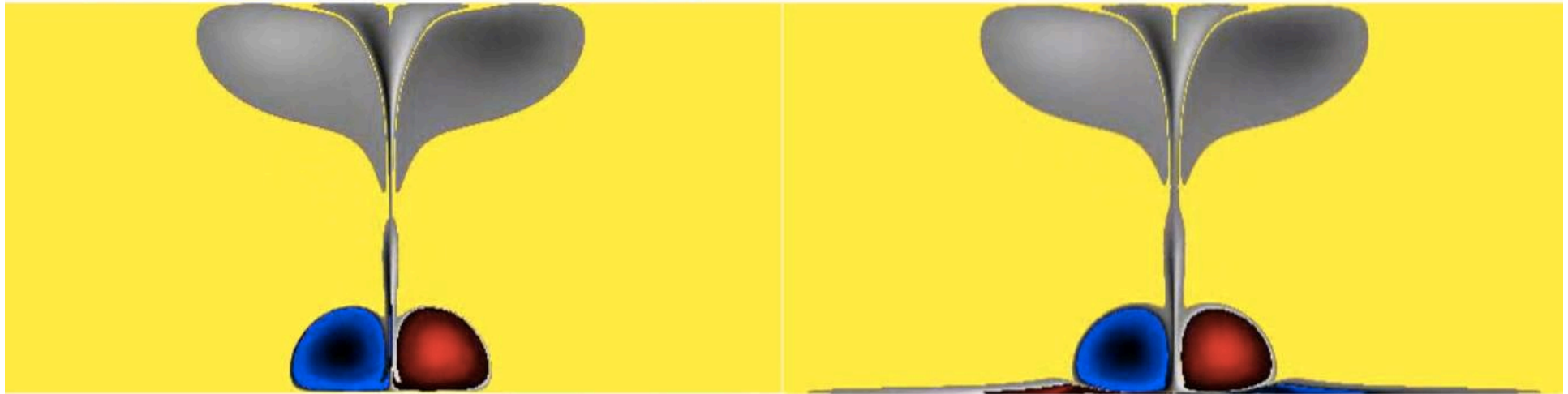




**Euler and Prandtl**

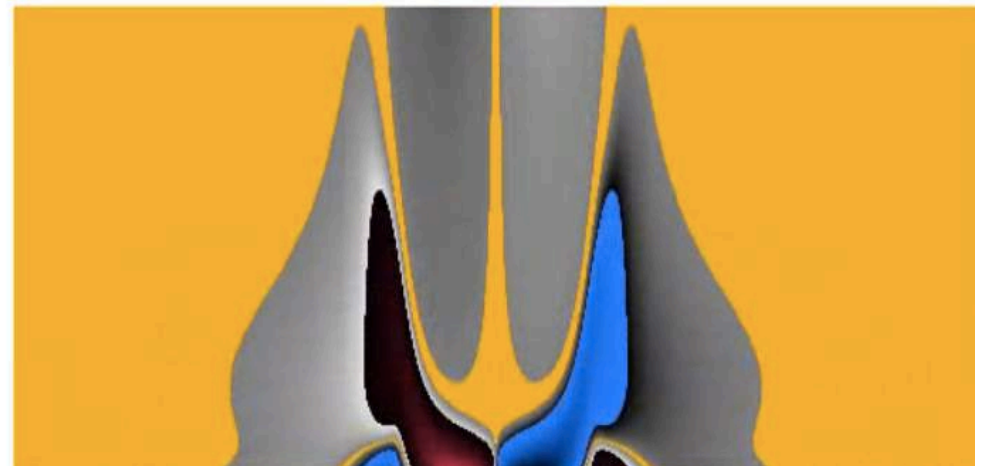
**Navier-Stokes**



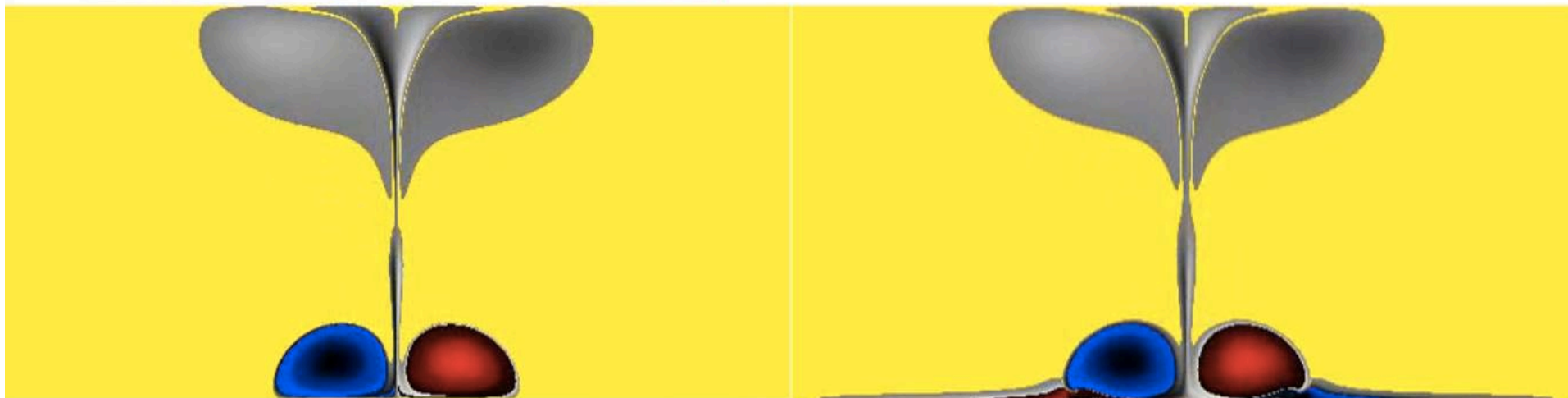


Prandtl's solution  
no more exists  
after  $t = 55.8$

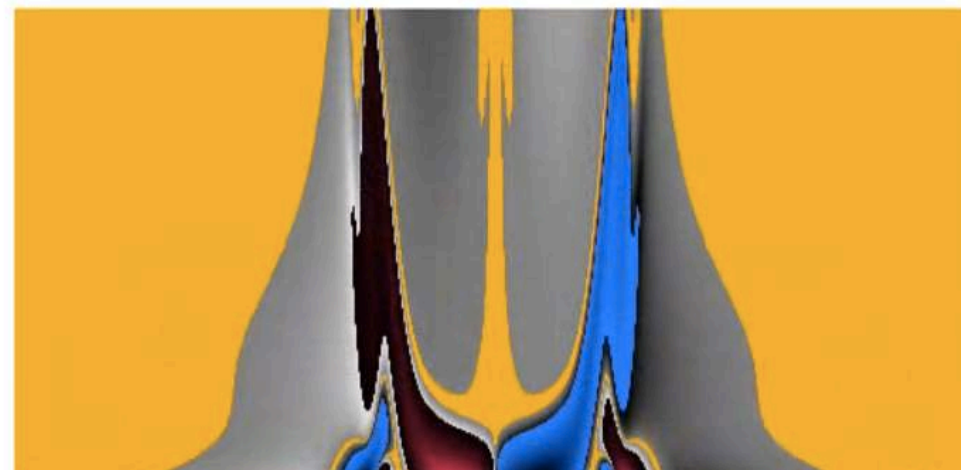
**Euler**



**Navier-Stokes**

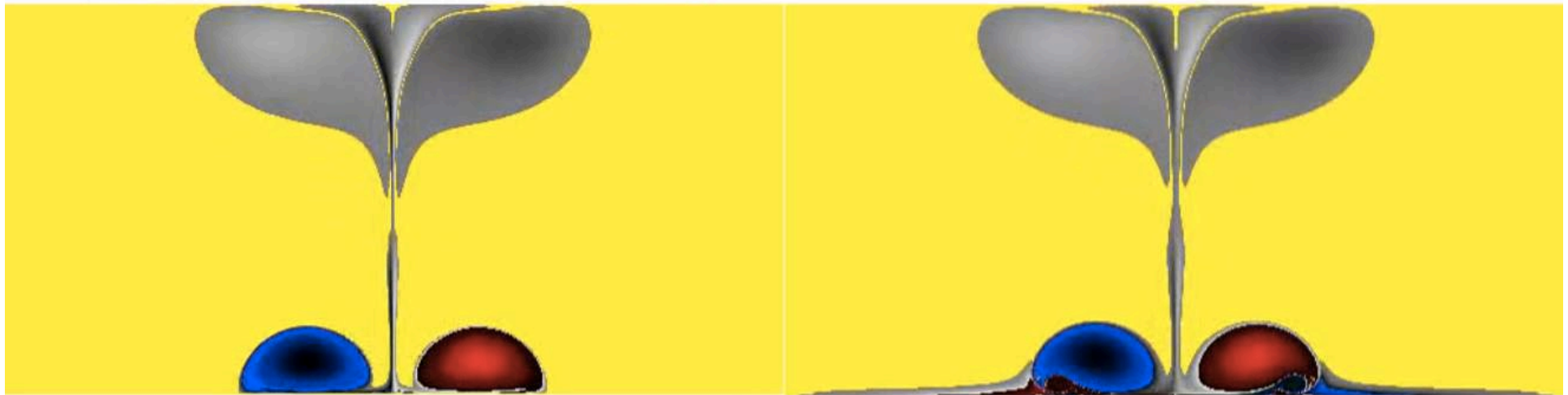


Prandtl's solution  
no more exists  
after  $t = 55.8$

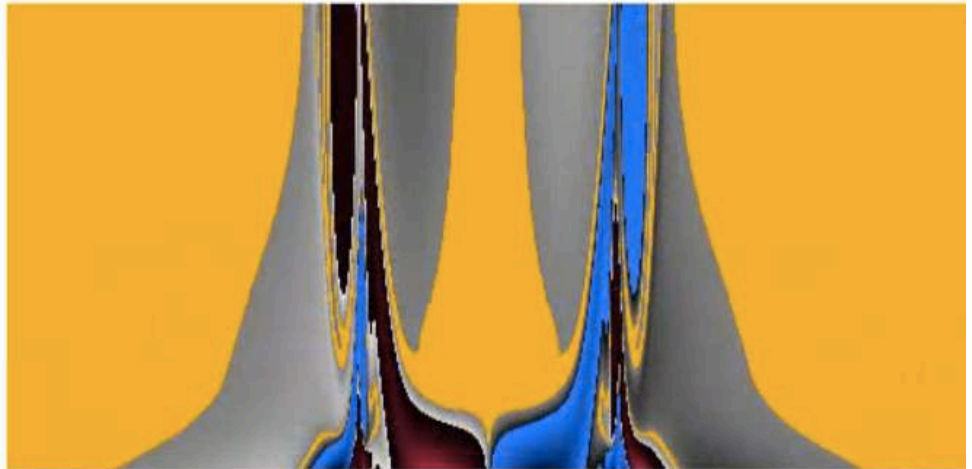


**Euler**

**Navier-Stokes**

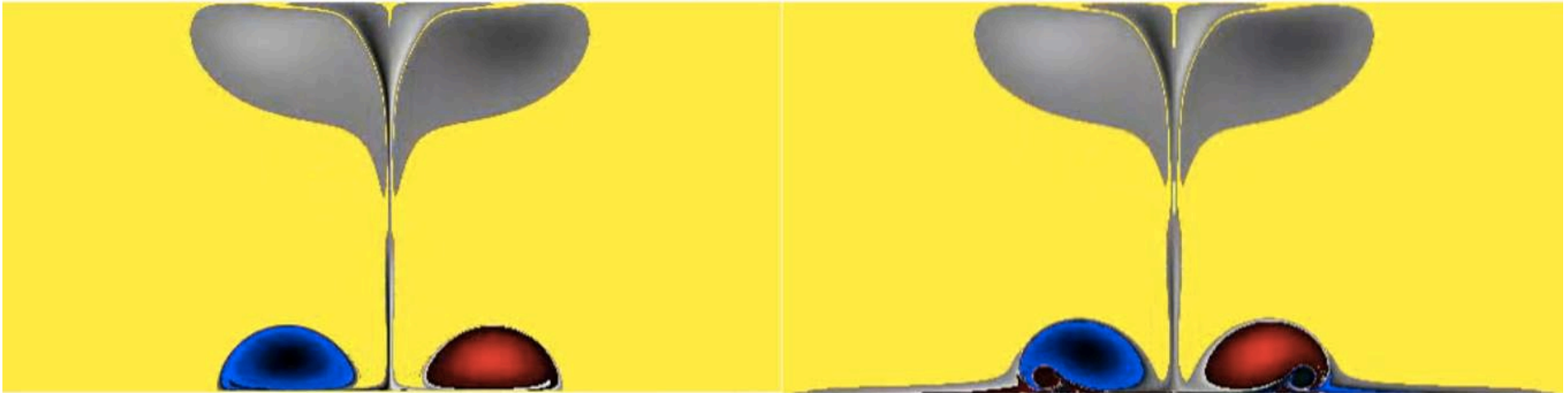


Prandtl's solution  
no more exists  
after  $t = 55.8$

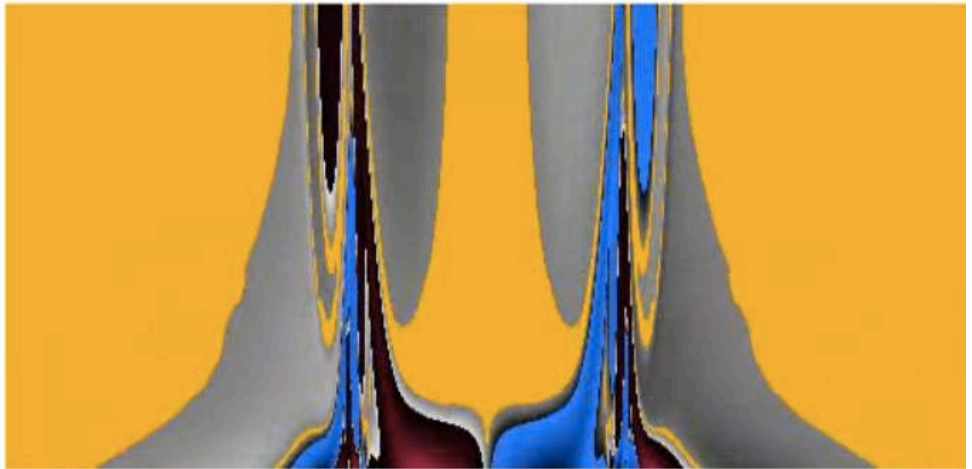


**Euler**

**Navier-Stokes**



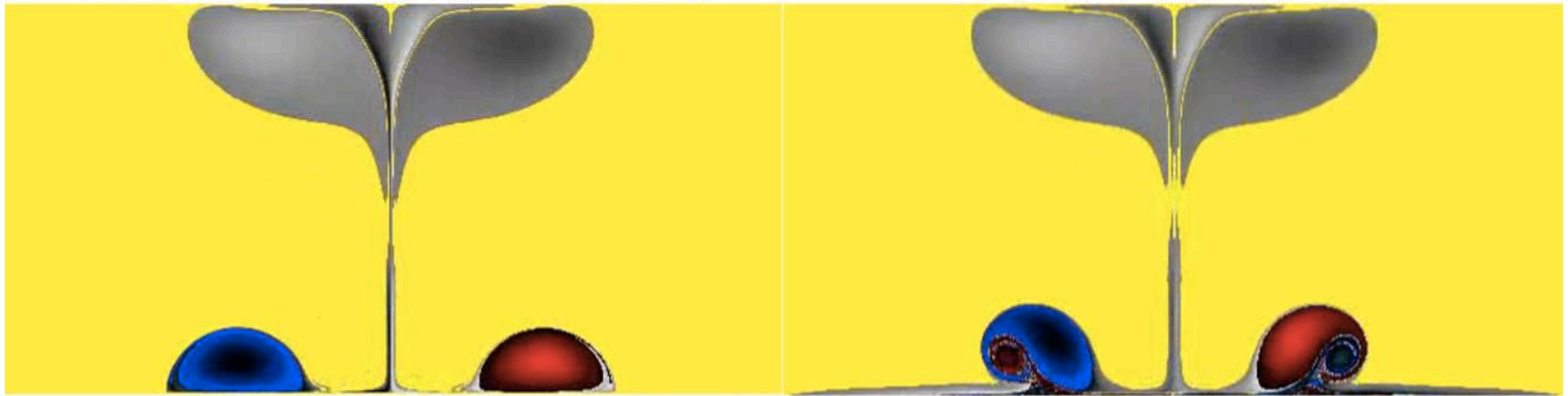
Prandtl's solution  
no more exists  
after  $t = 55.8$



**Euler**

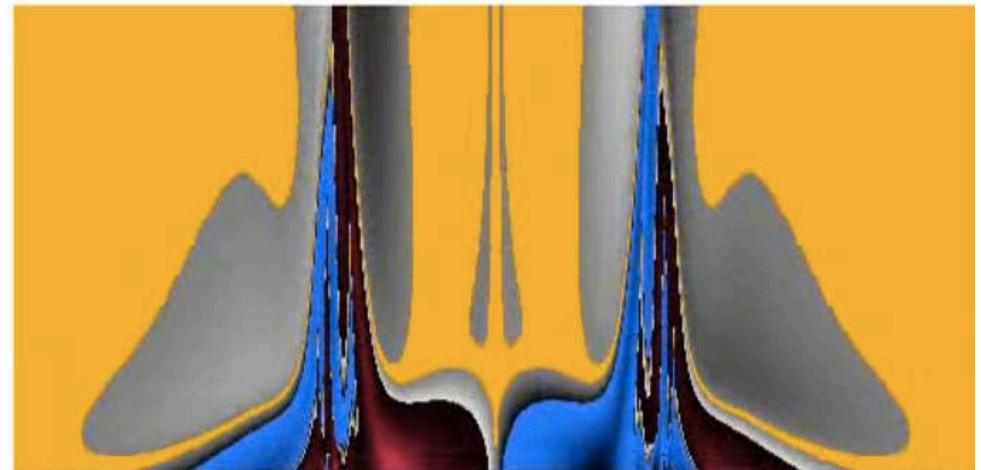
**Navier-Stokes**



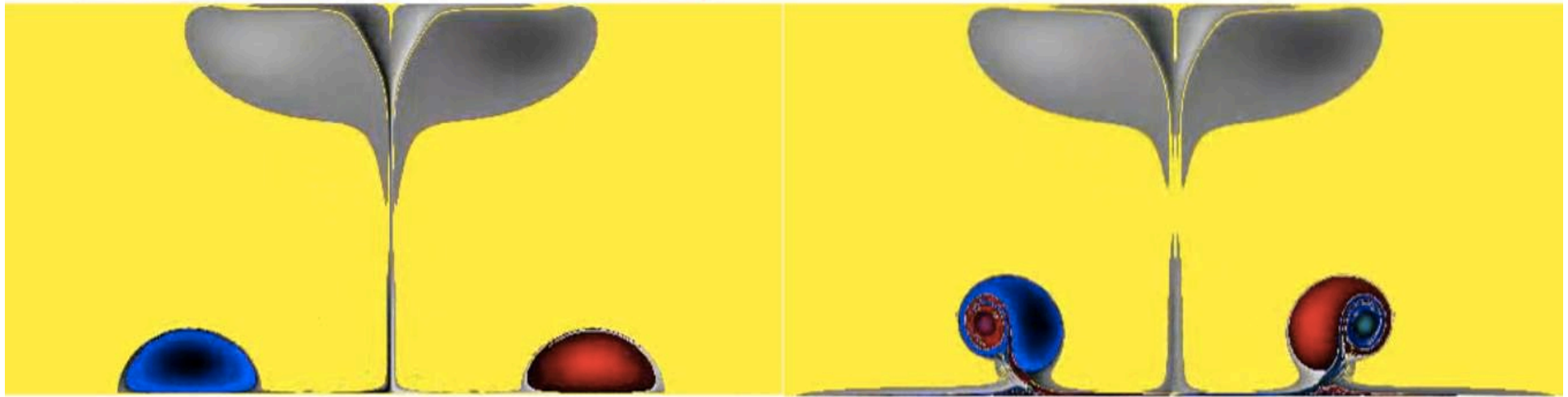


Prandtl's solution  
no more exists  
after  $t = 55.8$

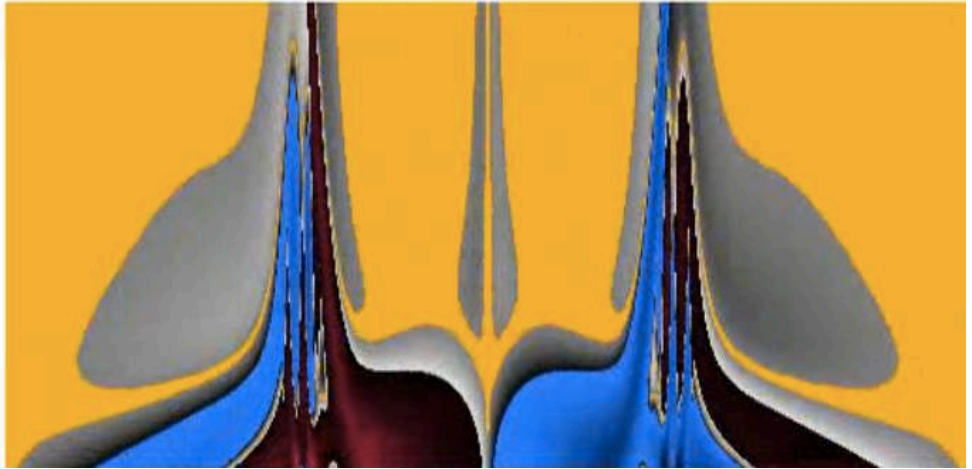
**Euler**



**Navier-Stokes**



Prandtl's solution  
no more exists  
after  $t = 55.8$

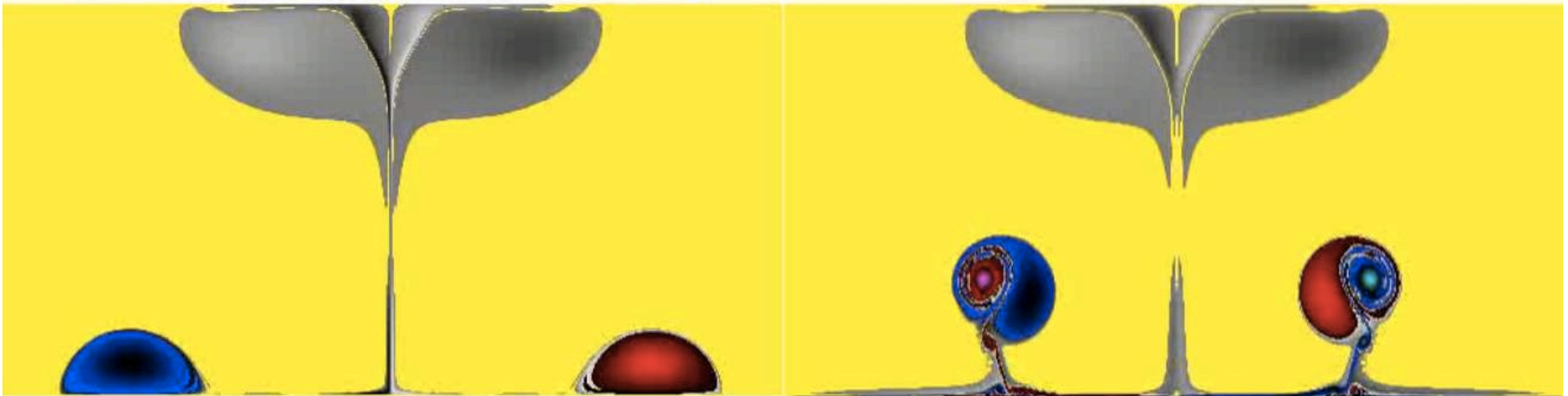


**Euler**

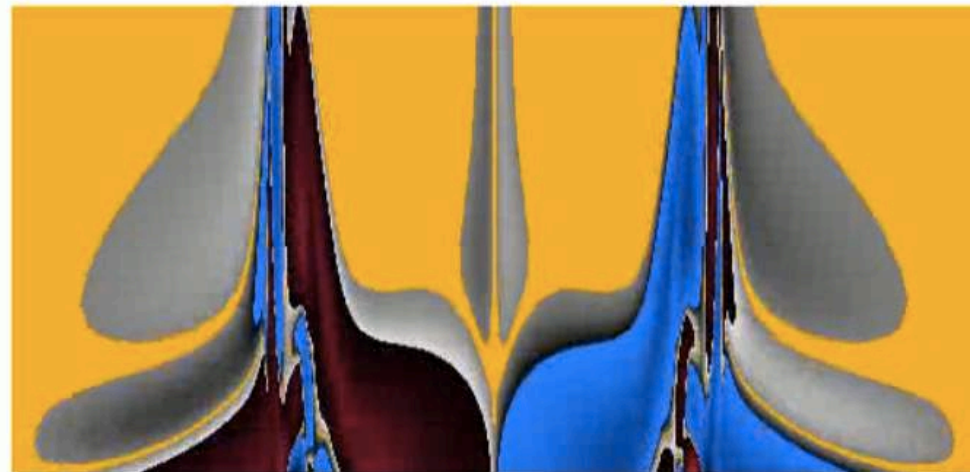
**Navier-Stokes**





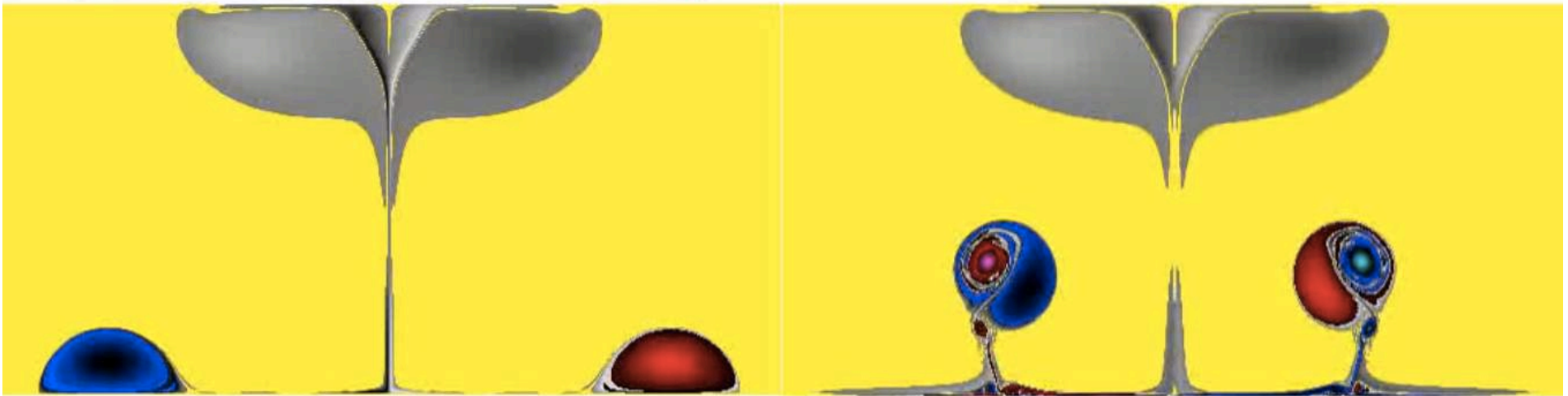


Prandtl's solution  
no more exists  
after  $t = 55.8$



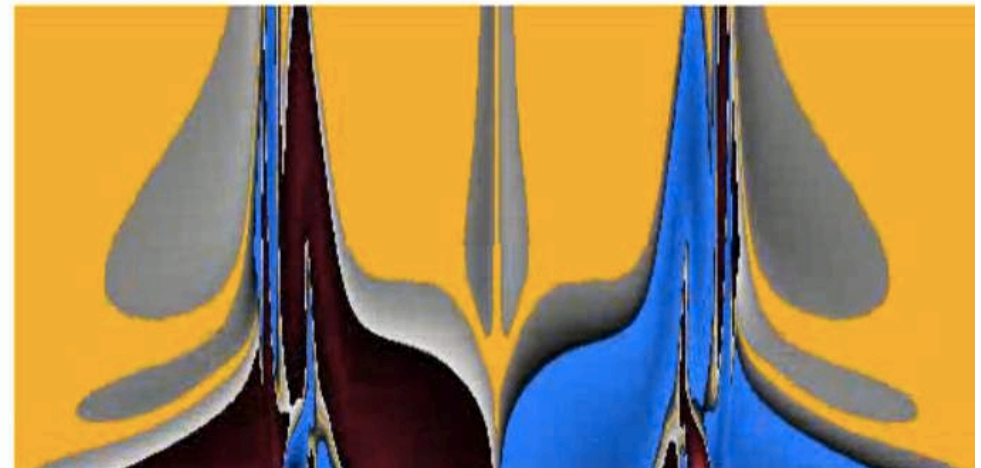
**Euler**

**Navier-Stokes**



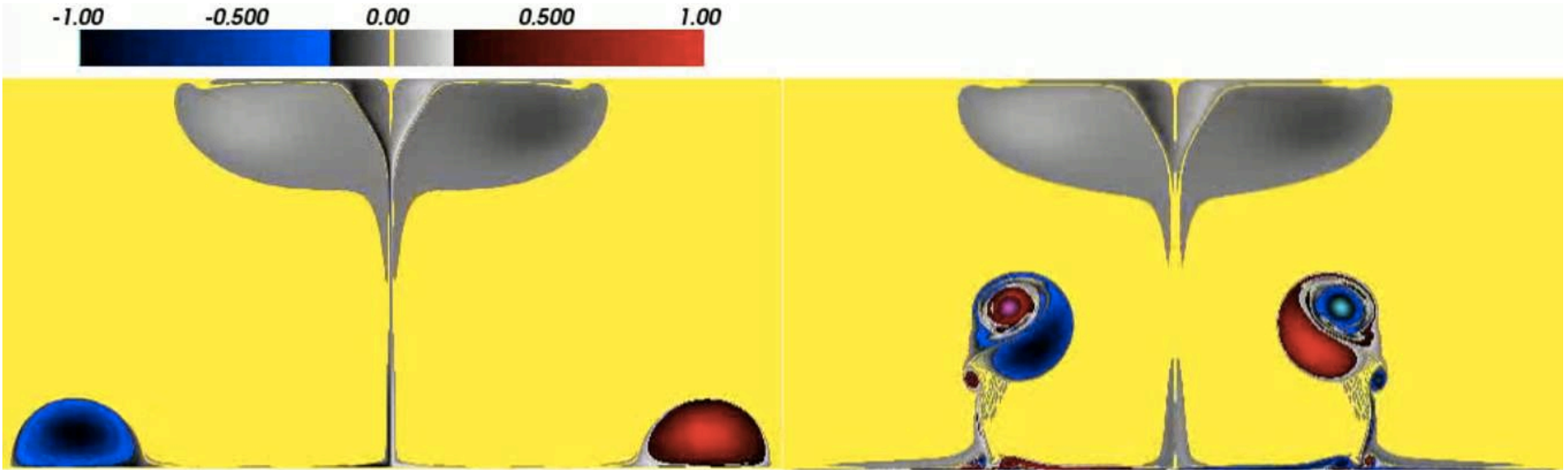
Prandtl's solution  
no more exists  
after  $t = 55.8$

**Euler**

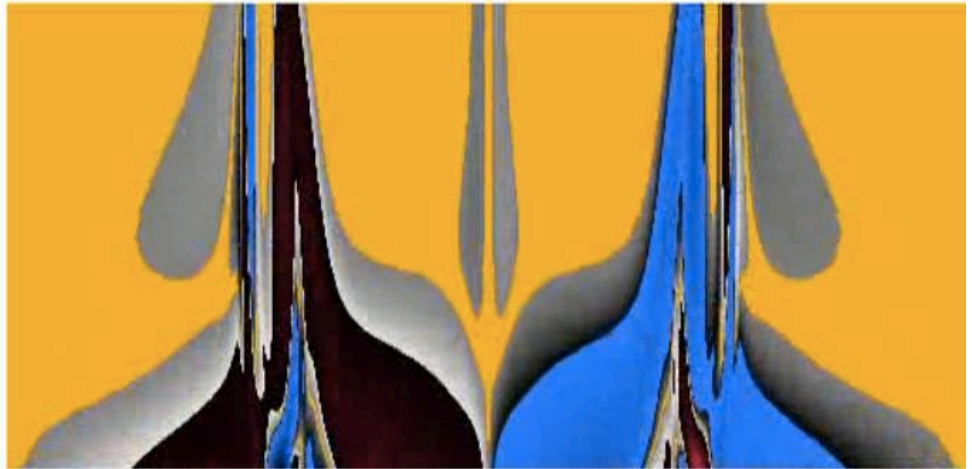


**Navier-Stokes**



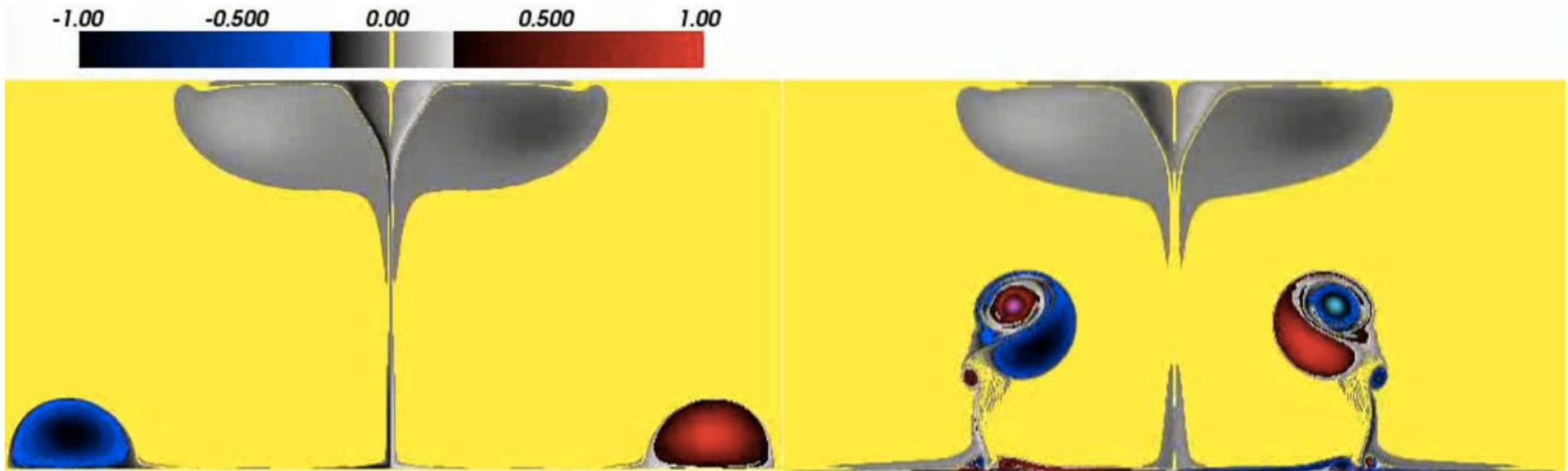


Prandtl's solution  
no more exists  
after  $t = 55.8$

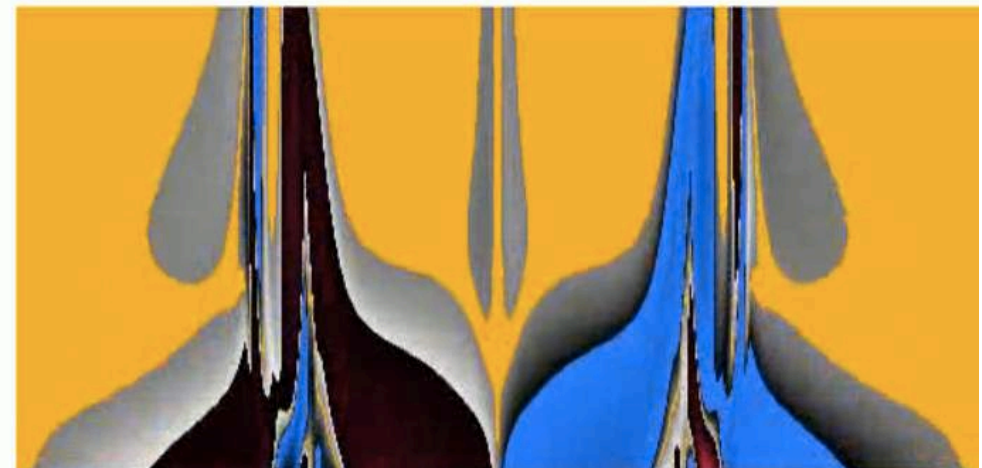


**Euler**

**Navier-Stokes**



Prandtl's solution  
no more exists  
after  $t = 55.8$



**Euler**

**Navier-Stokes**

# Prandtl's singularity

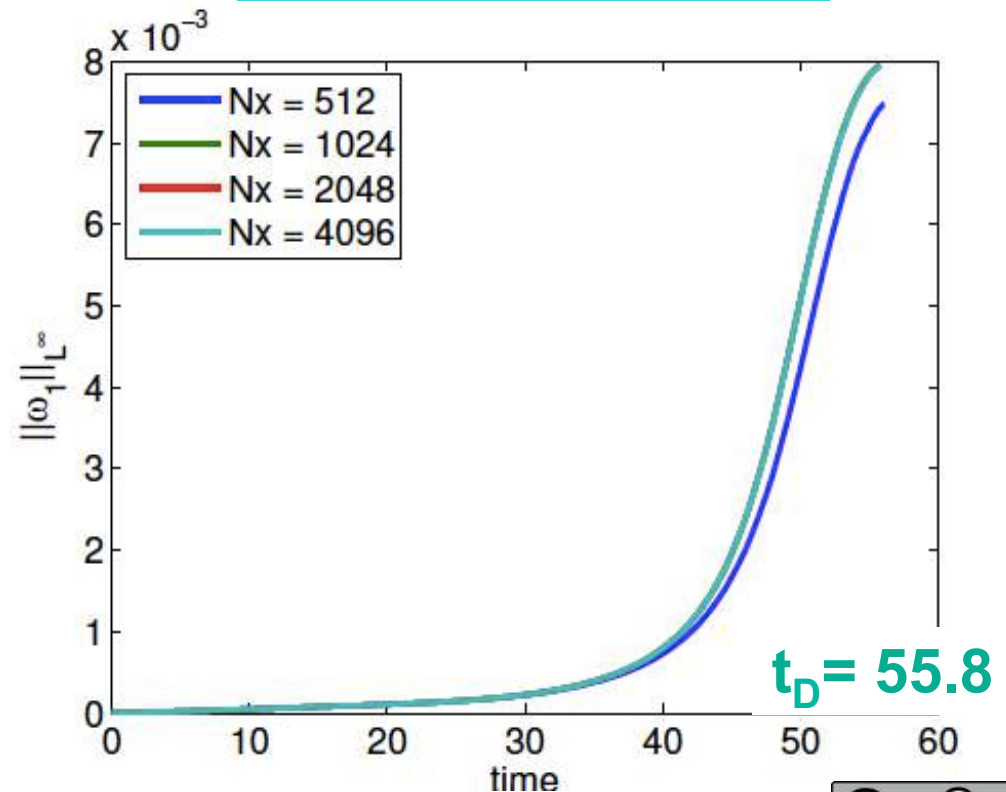
Prandtl equation has well-known finite time singularity

- $|\partial_x \omega_1|$  and  $u_{1,y}$  blows up,
- $\omega_1$  remains bounded.

*L. L. van Dommelen  
and S. F. Shen., 1980  
J. Comp. Phys., 38(2)*

This is observed  
in our computations  
as expected,

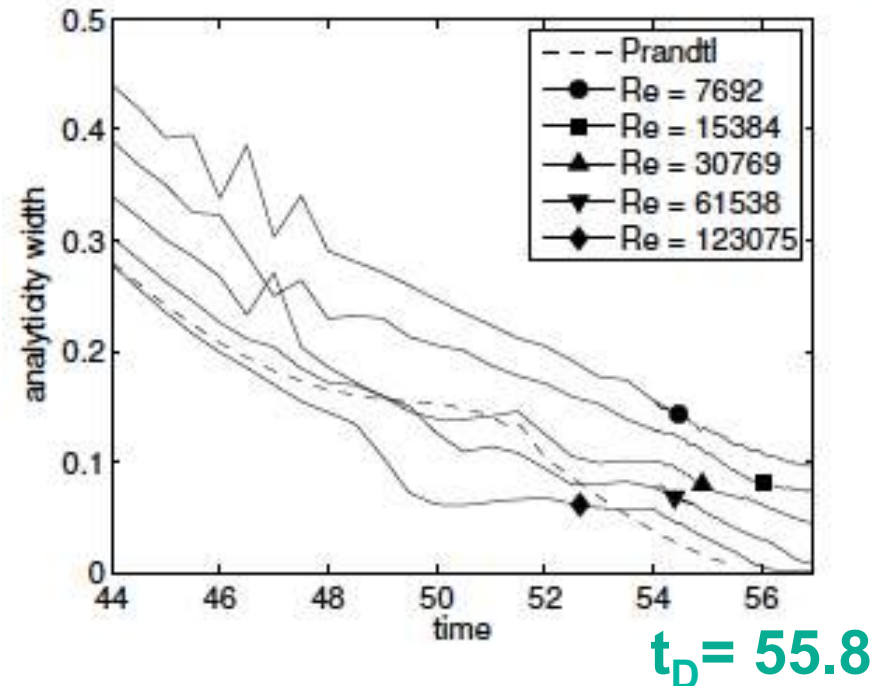
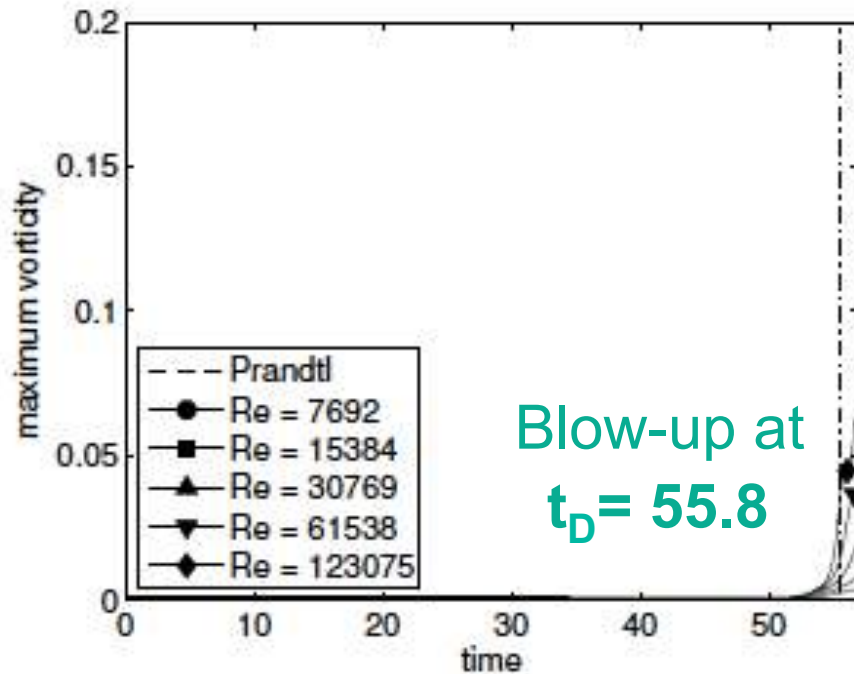
for  $t \rightarrow t_D \simeq 55.8$





# Prandtl solution's blow-up at $t_D=55.8$

According to Kato's theorem, and since  $\omega_1$  remains bounded uniformly until  $t_D$ , we expect that  $\mathbf{u}_\nu \xrightarrow[\nu \rightarrow 0]{L^2} \mathbf{u}_0$  uniformly on  $[0, t_D]$ .



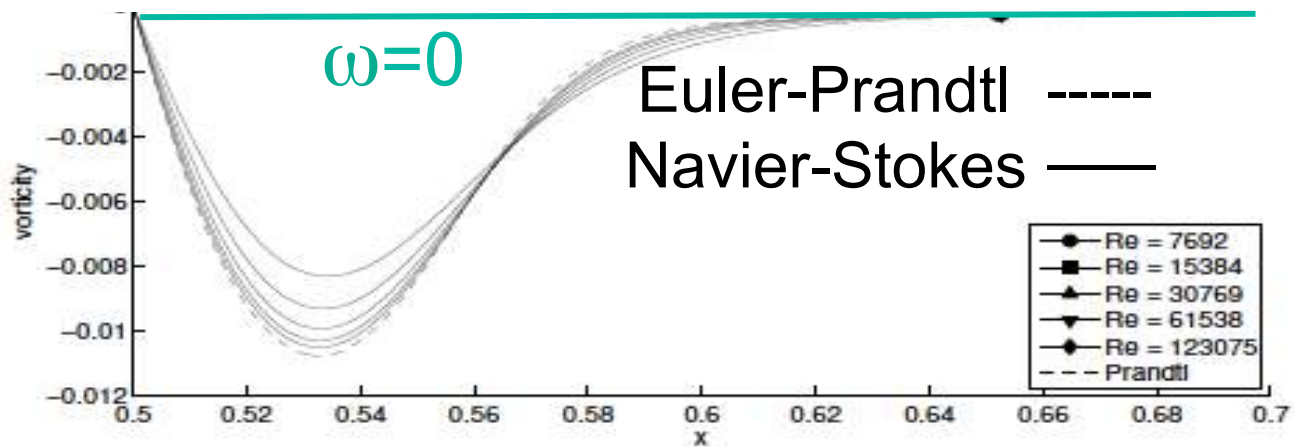
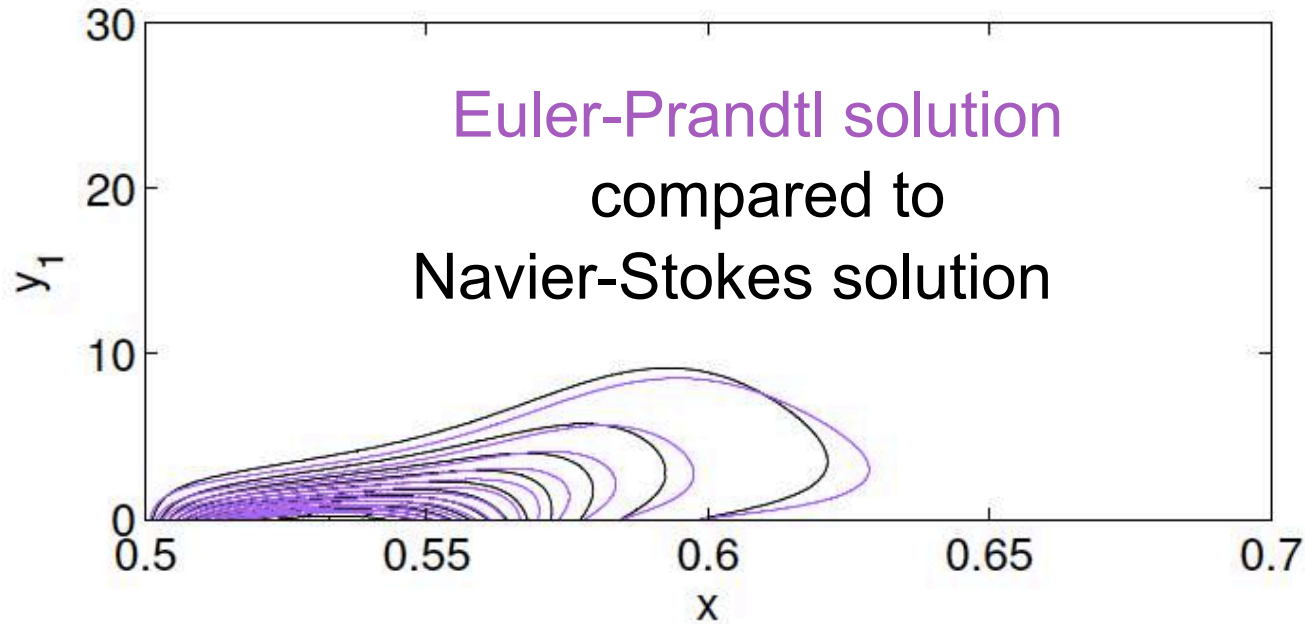
Evolution of vorticity max

Evolution of analyticity strip

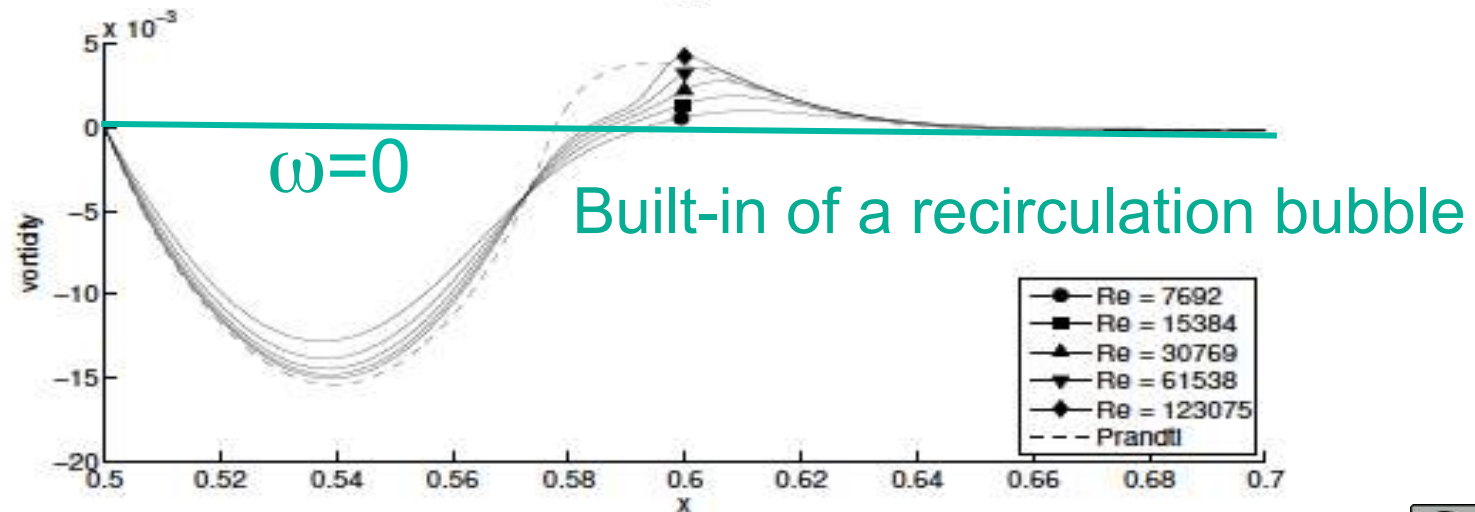
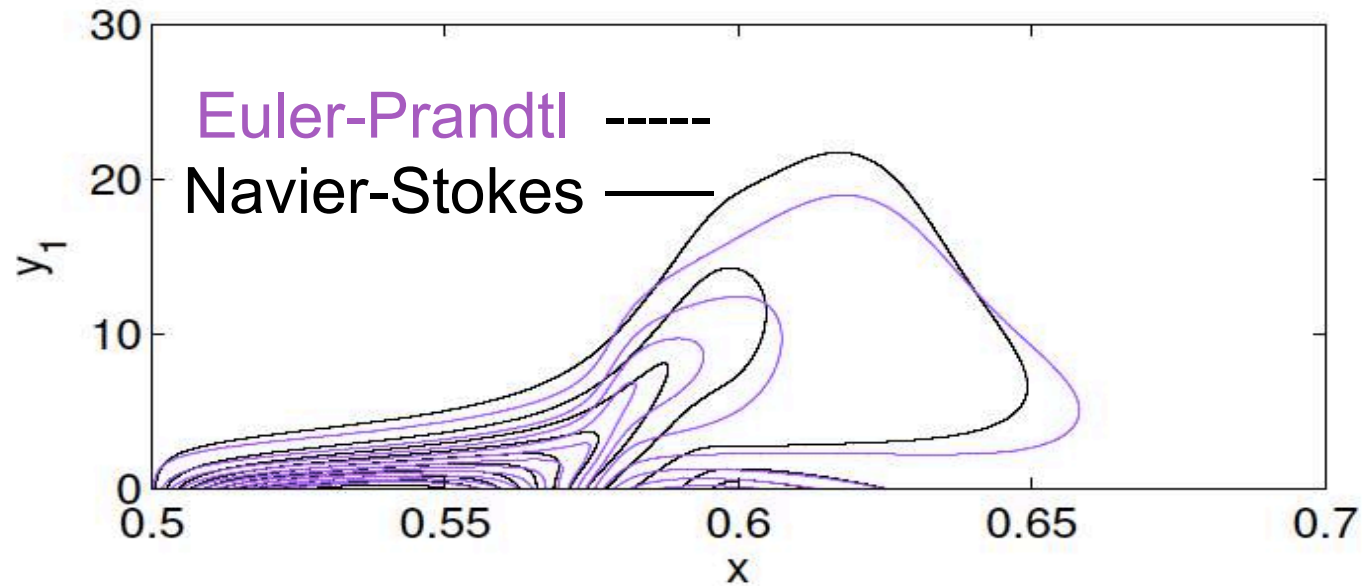
Show convergence!



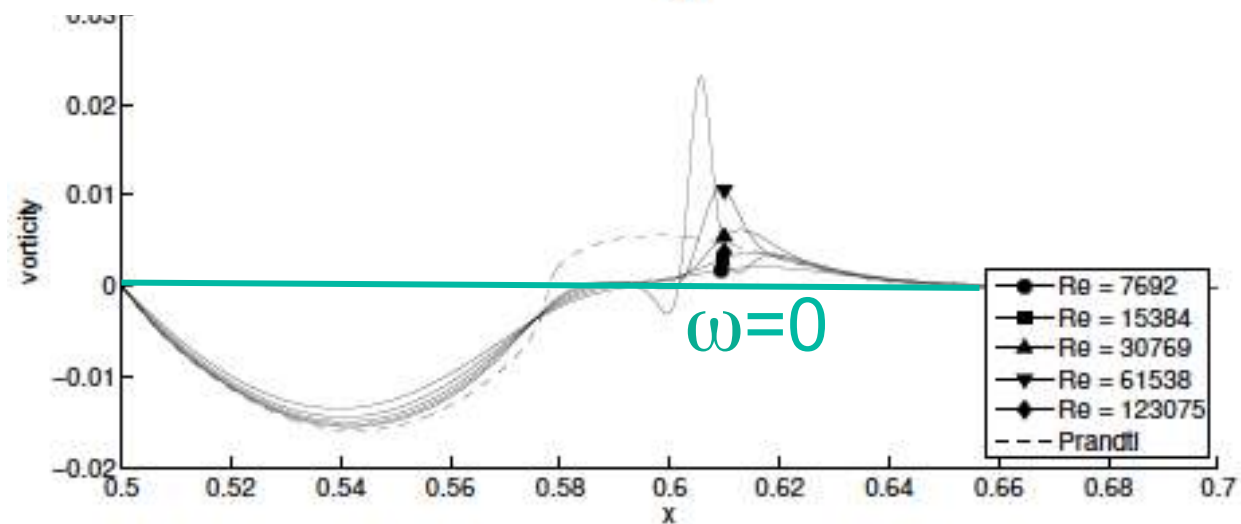
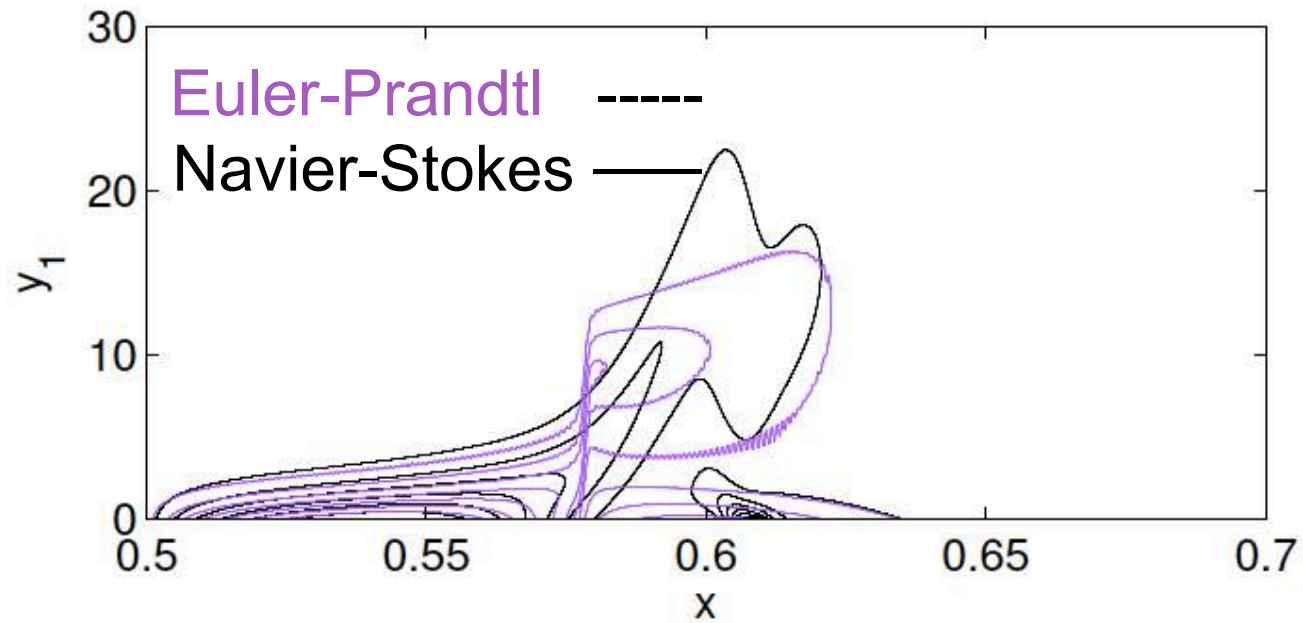
# Vorticity along the wall at $t=50 < t_D$



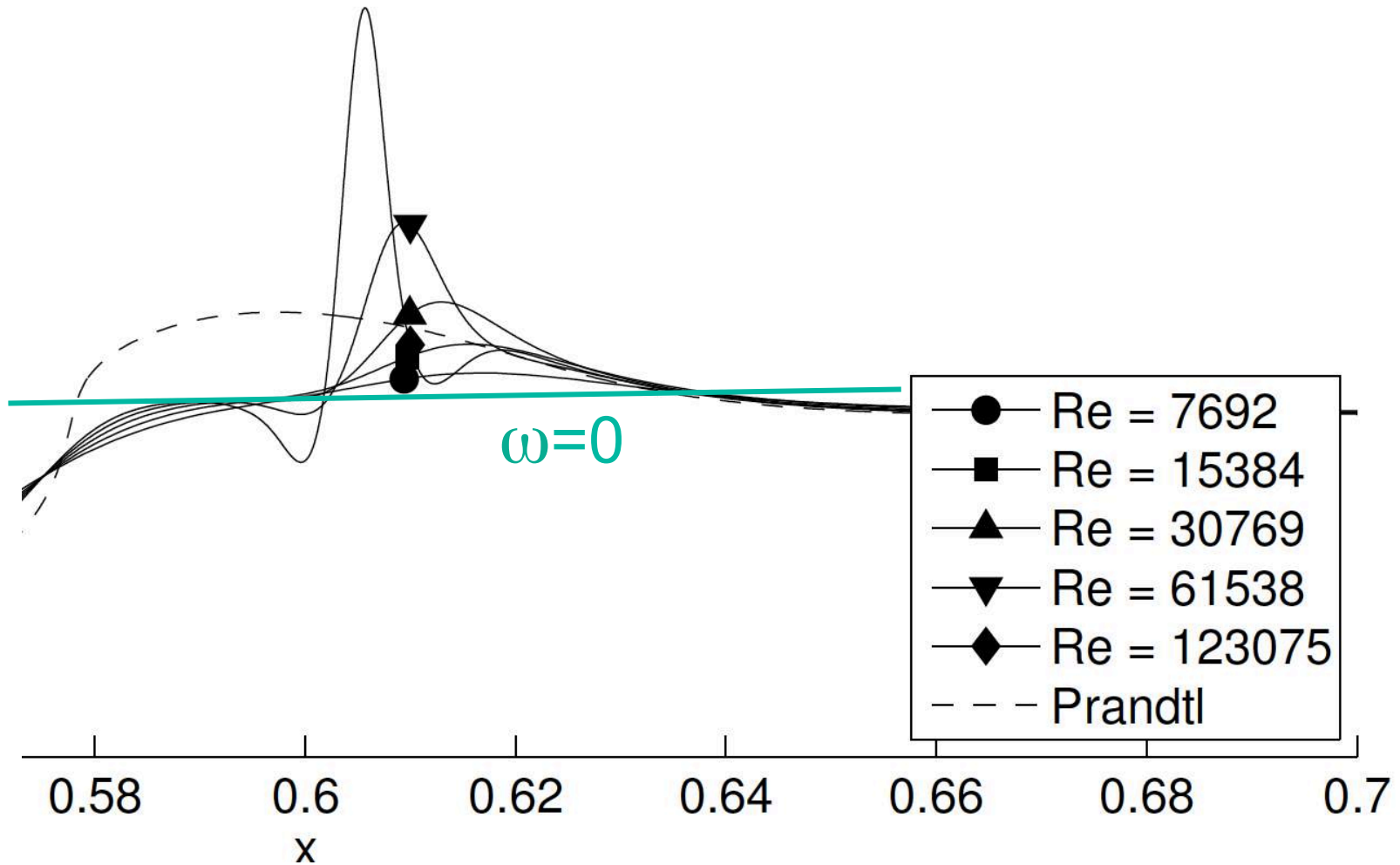
# Vorticity along the wall at $t=54 < t_D$



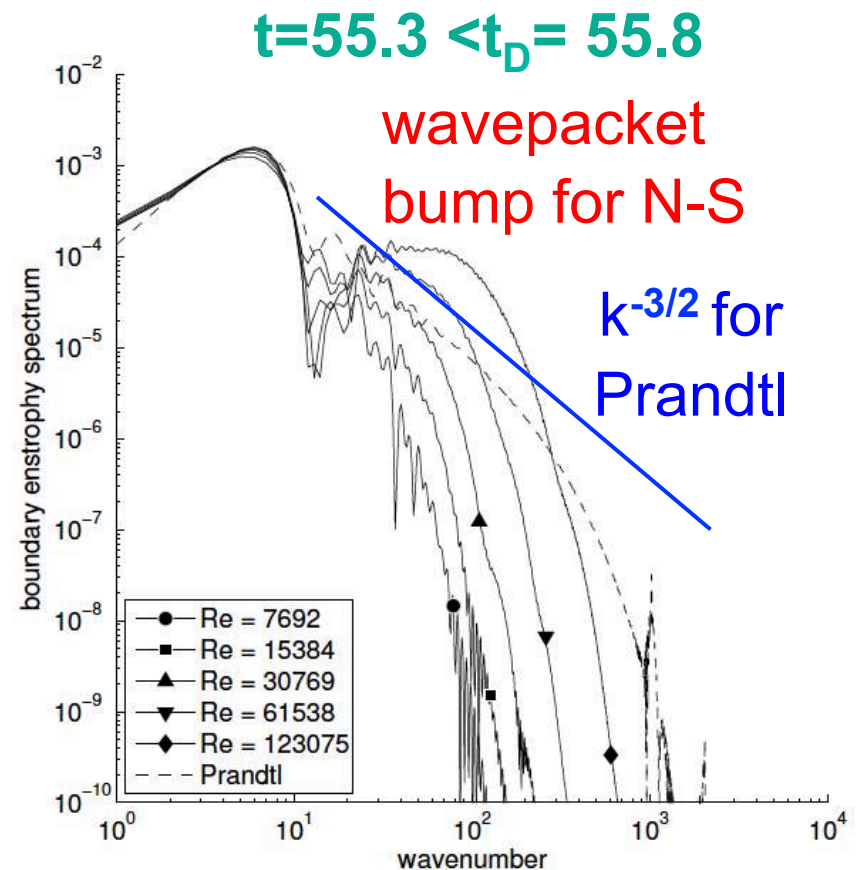
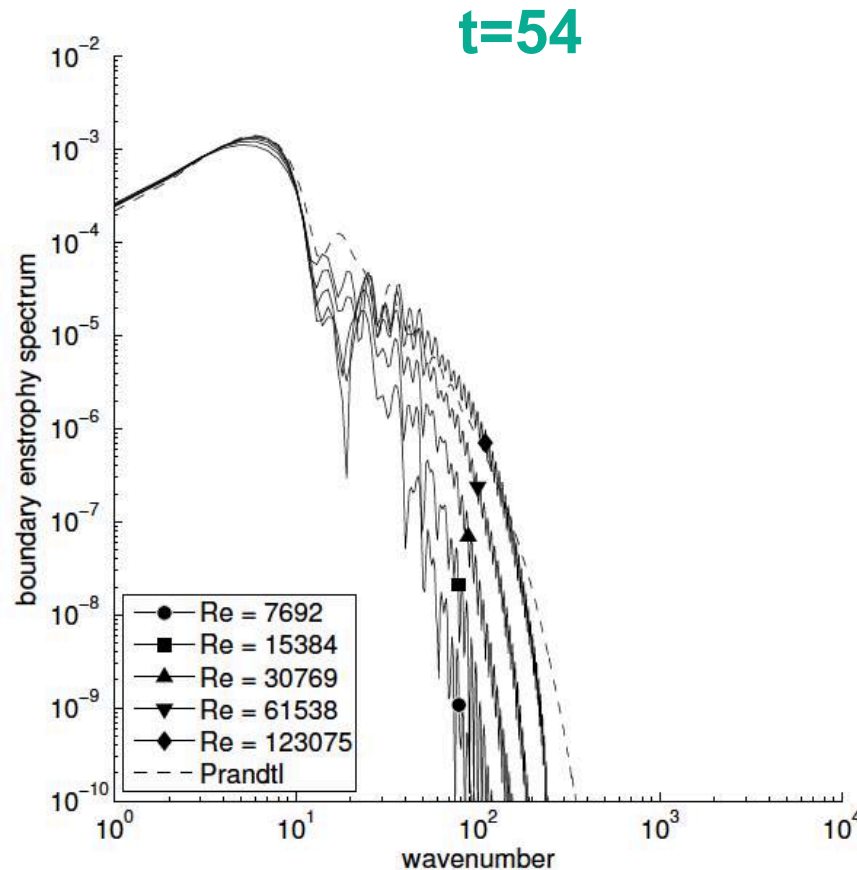
# Vorticity along the wall at $t=55 < t_D$



# Vorticity along the wall at $t=55.3 < t_D$

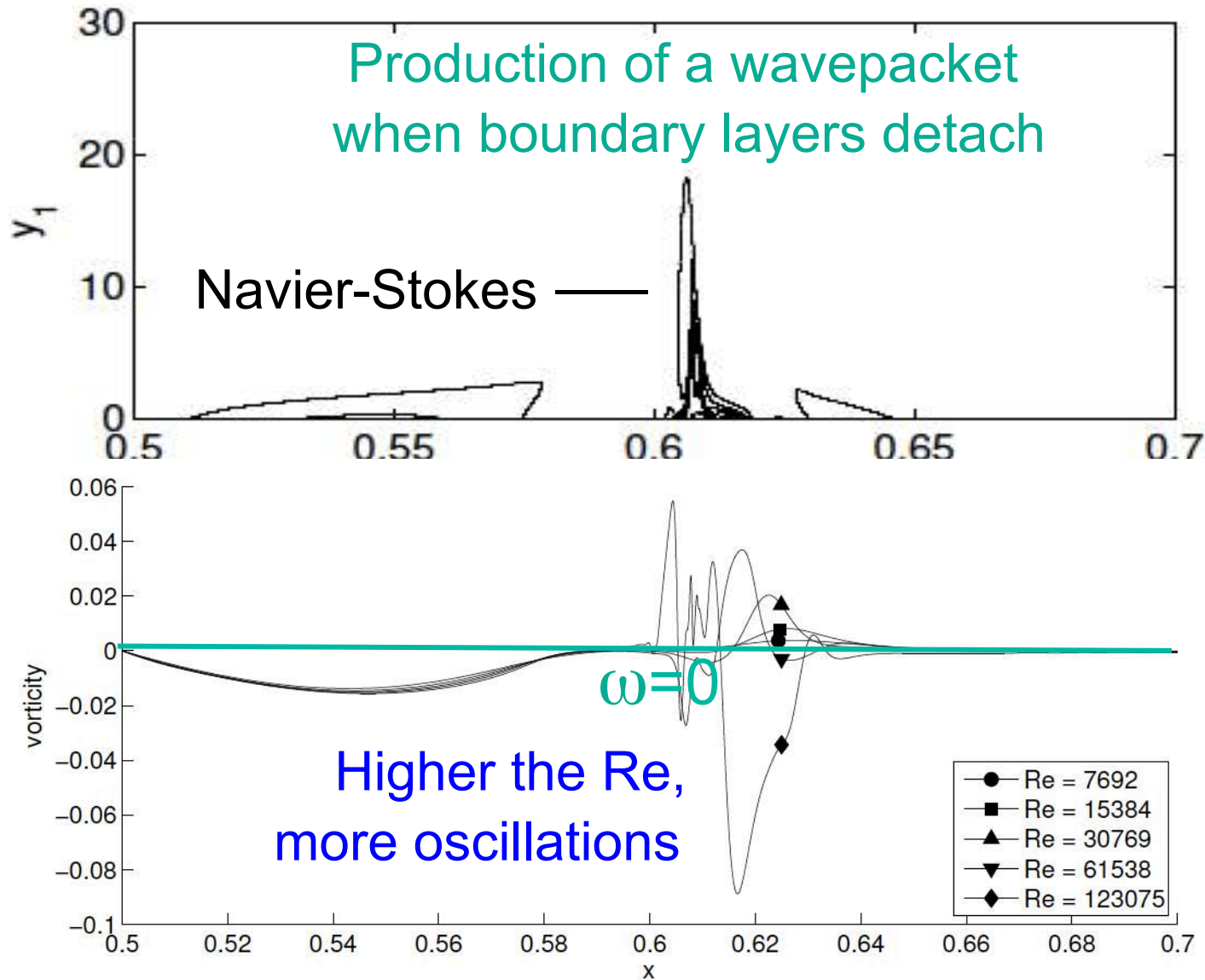


# Spectrum of the boundary vorticity



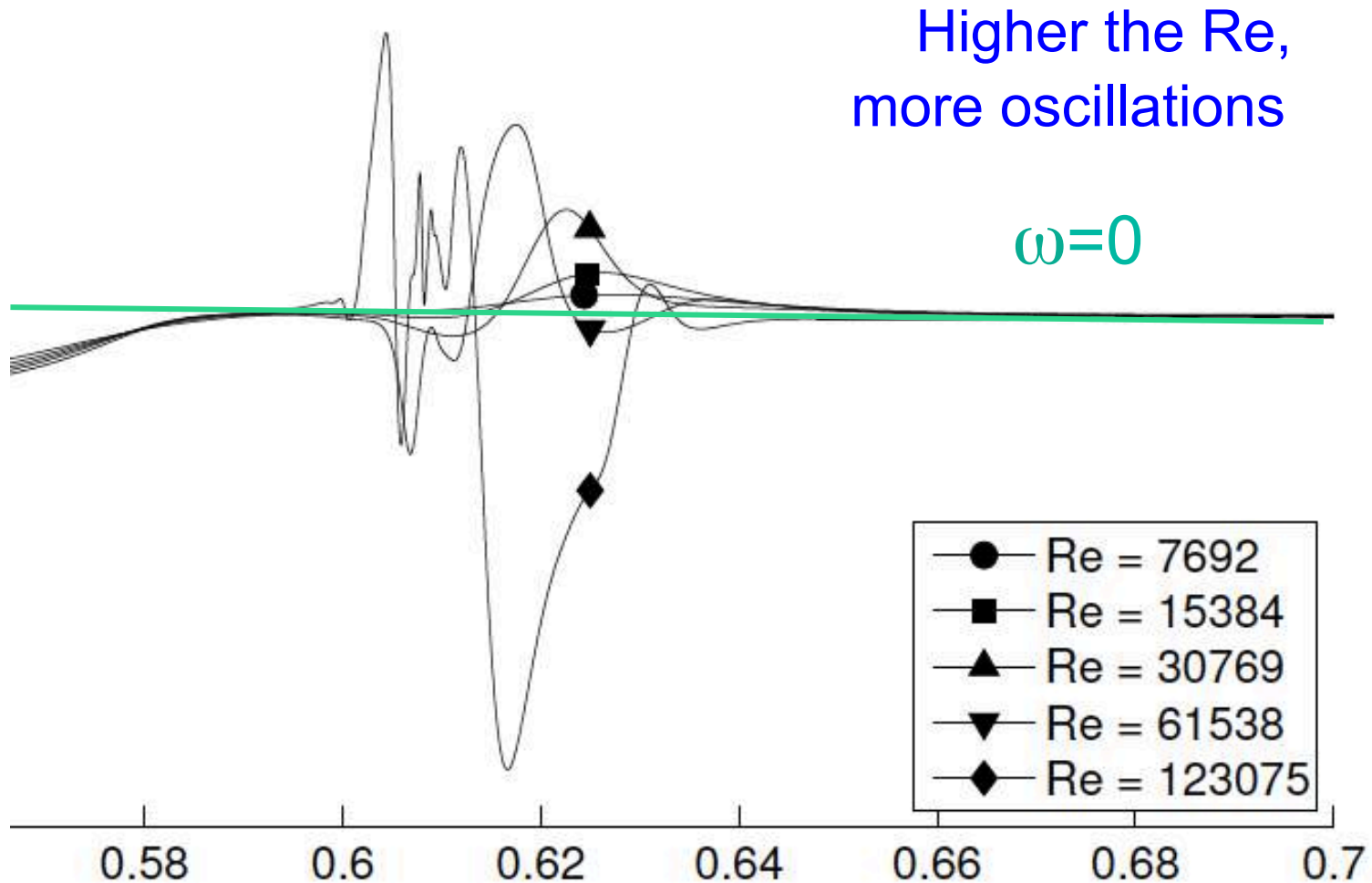
The Prandtl's solution behaves as  $k^{-3/2}$  for large  $k$ , consistent with the build-up of a jump singularity of vorticity along the wall, while Navier-Stokes develops a bump which spread in  $k$  with  $Re$ .

# Vorticity along the wall at $t=57 > t_D$



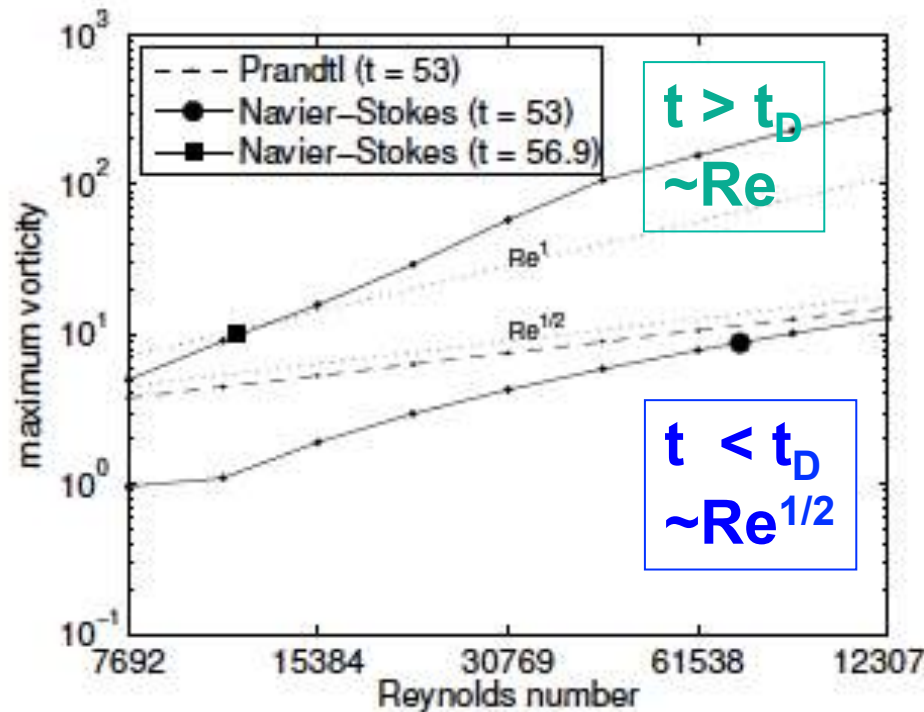


# Vorticity along the wall at $t=57.5 > t_D$

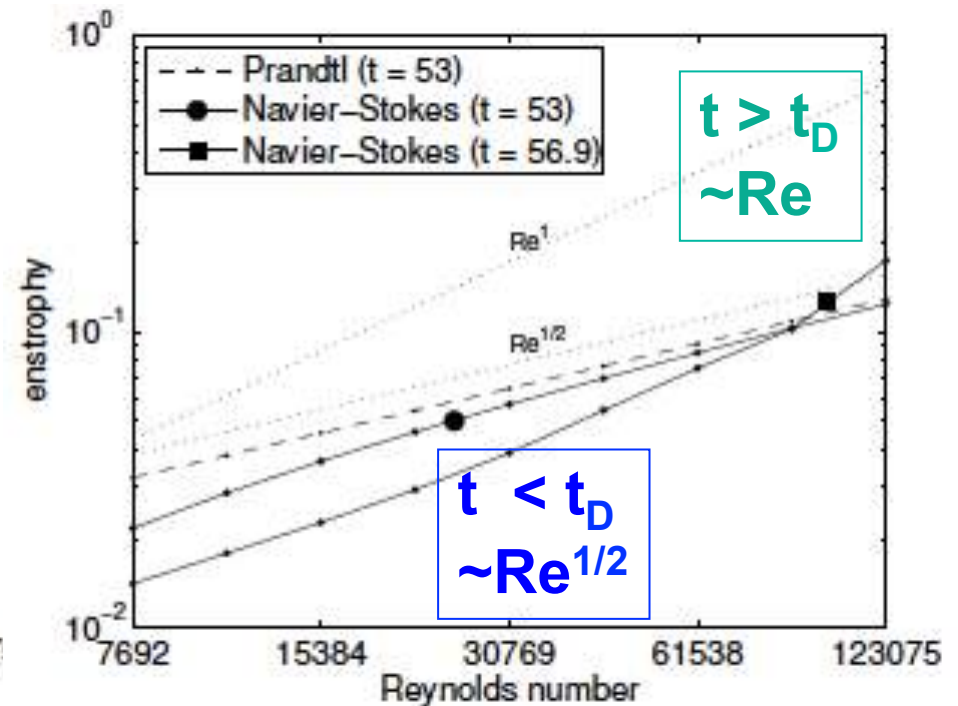


# Scaling from $Re=7692$ to $123075$

## Vorticity max



## Enstrophy



We observe Prandtl's scaling in  $Re^{1/2}$  before  $t_D \sim 55.8$  and Kato's scaling in  $Re$  after.

# What about the von Karman log law?

---

In turbulent boundary layers the **mean velocity profile** satisfies

$$\langle U(y) \rangle \simeq \frac{U_\tau}{K_{\text{karman}}} \log \left( \frac{yU_\tau}{\nu} \right)$$

the so called **log law**, where

$$U_\tau = \sqrt{\nu \left\langle \left. \frac{dU}{dy} \right|_{y=0} \right\rangle}$$

is the **friction velocity**

This shows that both the **bulk velocity** and  $U_\tau$  have the same **scaling with Re** (up to a logarithmic factor). This can be seen as a **statistical signature of a boundary layer thickness  $Re^{-1}$** , which is **consistent** in some sense **with the existence of a Kato layer**.

*T. von Karman, Uber laminare und turbulente Reibung. Z. ang. Math. Mech. 1 (4), 233{252., 1921*



# Conclusions

---

- The Prandtl solution becomes singular at  $t_D$  when BL detaches.
- The Navier-Stokes solution converges uniformly to the Euler solution before BL detaches and ceases to converge after BL detaches.
- The BL detachment involves spatial scales as fine as  $Re^{-1}$  produced in different directions, not only parallel to the wall, while attached BL is parallel to the wall and scales as  $Re^{-1/2}$ .
- The maximal vorticity of Navier-Stokes solution does not appear at the same location of the Prandtl singularity. This contradicts the picture of BL detachment seen as a local process coinciding with Prandtl singularity.

# Conclusions

---

- In regions with reversed flow near the wall, the width of the unstable wavenumber range scales like  $Re^{1/2}$ , while the **amplitude of vorticity continues to scale as  $Re^{1/2}$**  due to the presence of a Prandtl boundary layer.
- As soon as the buildup of the Prandtl singularity sufficiently excites those wavenumbers, **their superposition induces a  $Re$  scaling for the amplitude of vorticity.**

# Conclusions

---

- By introducing nonlinear Rayleigh-Tollmien-Schlichting waves, followed by roll-up and the injection of a dissipative structure into the bulk flow. However, an essential point to keep in mind is that the phase of these waves is very sensitive to Reynolds.
- In the linear phase, the thickness of the wall-normal sublayer scales like  $Re^{-2/3}$ , but when the instability becomes nonlinear, vorticity transport induces excitation of scales as fine as  $Re$ , leading to dissipation. The process of detachment is thus intricately linked to the occurrence of dissipation.



# Conclusions

---

- The velocity gradient  $du/dy$  at the wall scales like  $Re$  up to a logarithmic factor, which can be seen as the statistical signature of the existence of a boundary layer of thickness  $Re$  in the neighborhood of the wall. Hence, we see that the log-law, as an experimental result, is consistent in some sense with the existence of a Kato layer.
- This connection can be made in a phenomenological way without invoking the Kolmogorov scale and cascade. Our results may help in investigating rigorous foundations to the phenomenological theory of von Karman.

# Open questions

---

Numerical results suggest that a **new asymptotic description of the flow beyond the breakdown** of the Prandtl regime is possible. Studying it might help to answer the following questions:

- **Would Navier-Stokes solution loses smoothness** after  $t_D$ ?
- Would it **converges to a weak singular dissipative solution of Euler's equation** analog to dissipative shocks in Burgers solution?
- **How can such a weak solution be approximated numerically?**

This might lead to a **new resolution of d'Alembert's paradox** in terms of the **production of weak singular dissipative structures** due to the interaction of fully-developed turbulent flows with walls.

*J. Leray, 1934  
Sur le mouvement d'un fluide visqueux,  
Acta Mathematica, 63*

*C. de Lellis and L. Székelyhidi, 2010  
Archives Rational Mechanics and Analysis,  
195(1), 221-260*



This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted re-use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

doi:10.1017/jfm.2018.396

# Energy dissipation caused by boundary layer instability at vanishing viscosity

Natacha Nguyen van yen<sup>1</sup>, Matthias Waidmann<sup>1</sup>, Rupert Klein<sup>1</sup>,  
Marie Farge<sup>2,†</sup> and Kai Schneider<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institut für Mathematik, Freie Universität Berlin, Arnimallee 6, 14195 Berlin, Germany

<sup>2</sup>LMD-CNRS, Ecole Normale Supérieure, 24 rue Lhomond, 75231 Paris CEDEX 5, France

<sup>3</sup>Institut de Mathématiques de Marseille, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS, Marseille, France

(Received 12 July 2017; revised 4 March 2018; accepted 16 April 2018)

