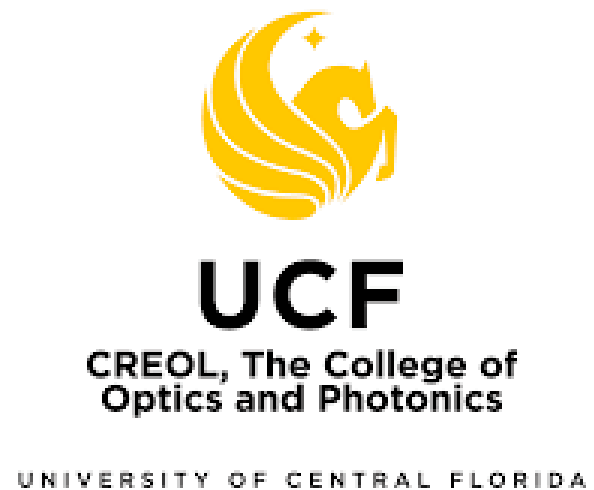


# Laser Propagation in Reactive Media

## *Existence and Computation*

Benjamin Akers  
Professor of Mathematics  
Air Force Institute of Technology  
[benjamin.akers@us.af.mil](mailto:benjamin.akers@us.af.mil)

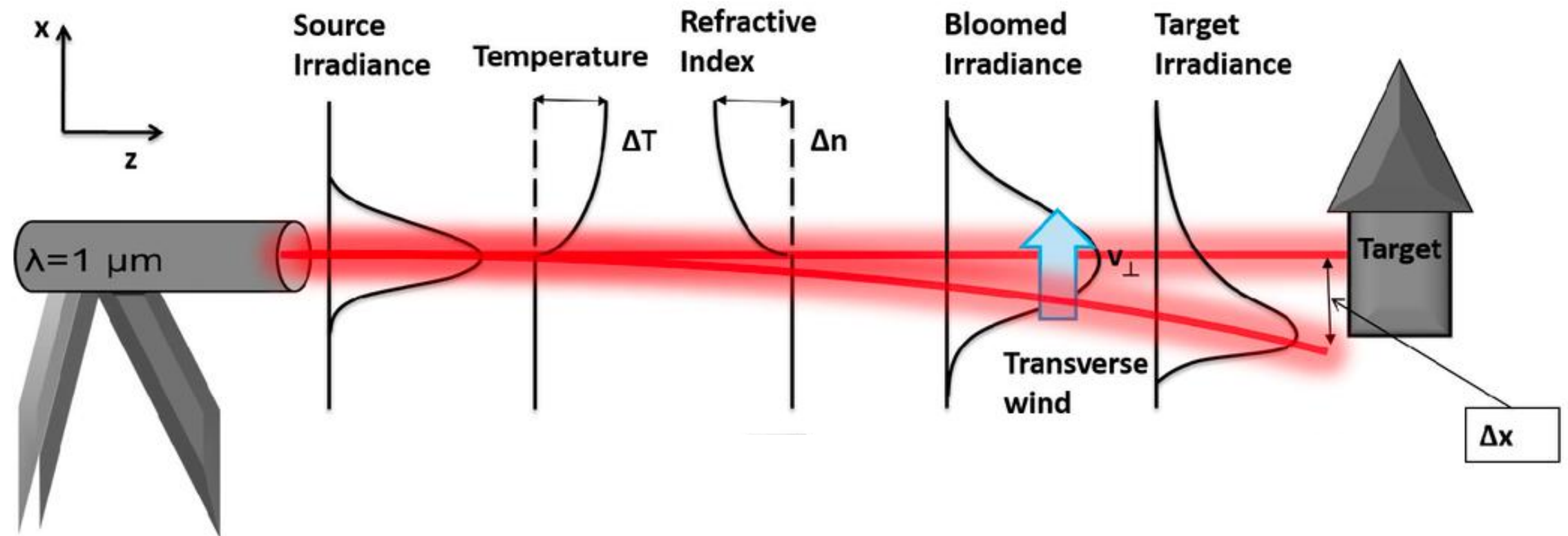
# Research Group



- Benjamin Akers
- Jonah Reeger
- Steven Fiorino
- Capt. Jeremiah Lane
- Capt. Wesley Coonradt

- Martin Richardson
- Justin Cook
- Josh Bryant

# Physical Problem



*(Spencer, 2020)*

Prescribed velocity: Smith 1970's, Gebhardt 1990's, Sprangle, Penano 2000's

# Experiments

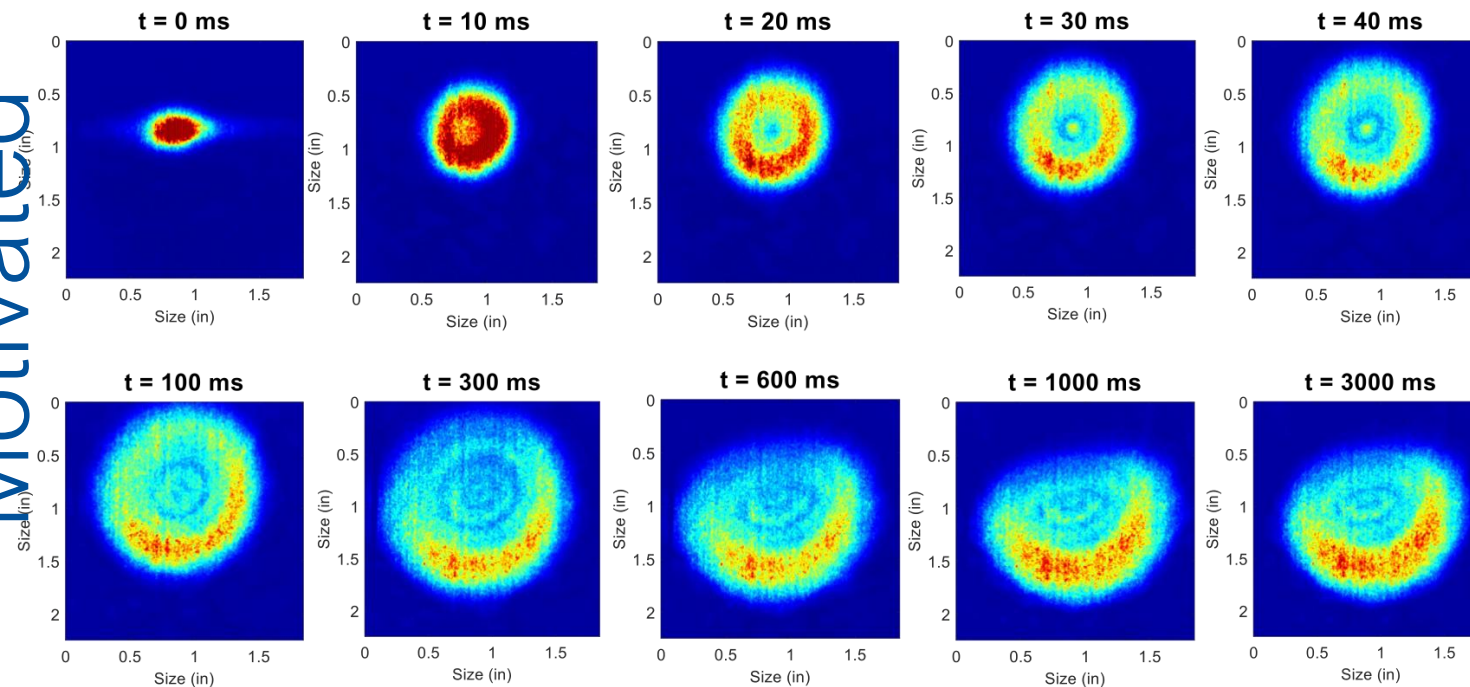
Motivating



*Wick and Lloyd, (2010)*

- 1cm spot (initially)
- 3m path
- 300W
- $1.07\mu m$
- Smoke

Motivated



*Cook and Richardson, (2020)*

- 1cm spot (initially)
- 5m path
- 5W
- 1944.867nm
- 50% humidity



# Laser Equations

Maxwell

+

$$E = \tilde{E}(x, y, z) \exp(i\omega t)$$



Helmholtz

+

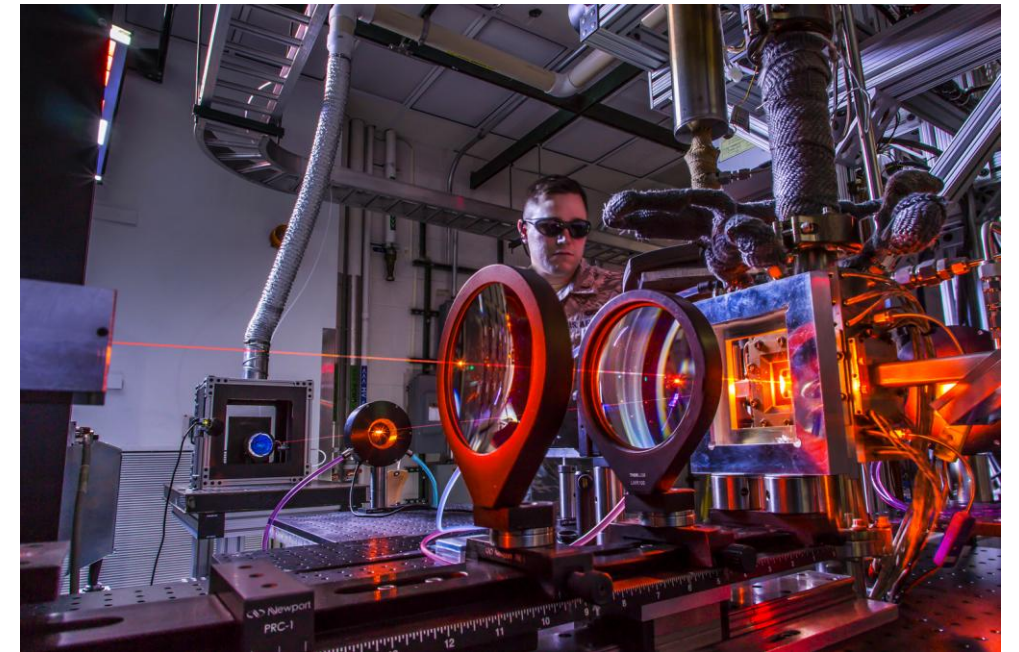
$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{E} &= A(\epsilon x, \epsilon y, \epsilon^2 z) \exp(ikz) \\ n &= n_0 + \epsilon^2 n_1 \end{aligned}$$



Paraxial

$$iA_z + \frac{1}{2k} (A_{xx} + A_{yy}) + 2n_0 n_1(T) A = 0$$

$$A(X, Y, 0) = f(X, Y)$$

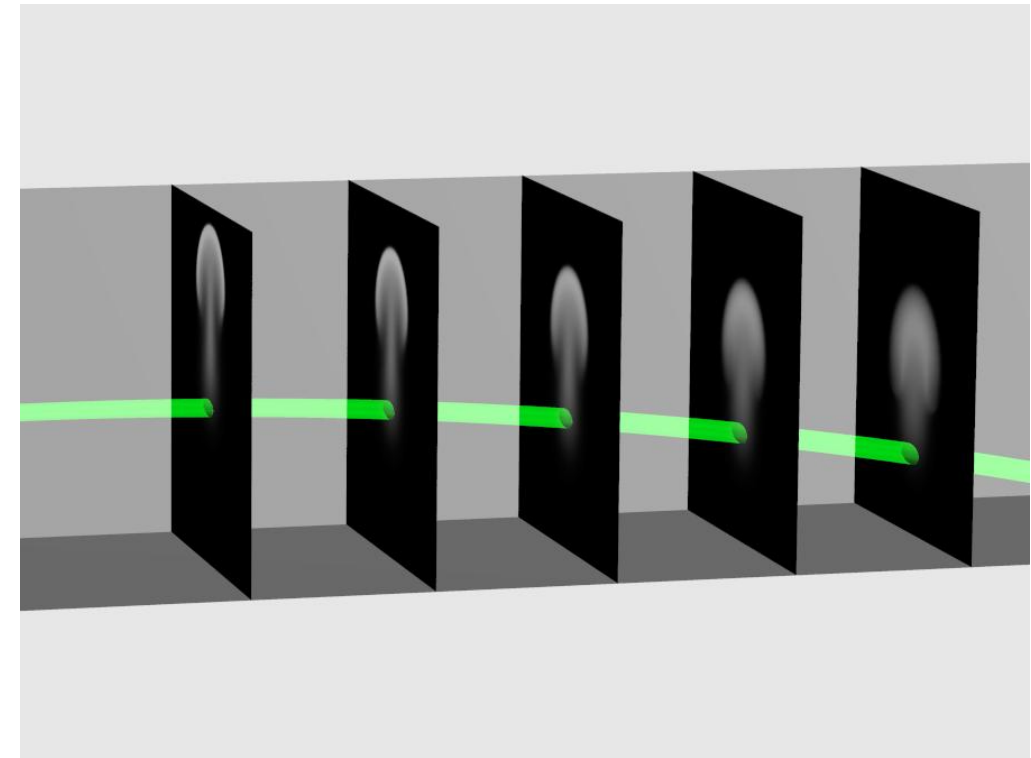


# Fluid Equations

$$\vec{u}_t + (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) \vec{u} = -\nabla p + \frac{1}{Re} \Delta \vec{u} + \frac{1}{Fr^2} T e_2$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

$$T_t + (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) T = \frac{1}{Pe} \Delta T + St |A|^2$$



$$Re = \frac{UL}{\nu}, Pe = \frac{UL}{\eta}, Fr^2 = \frac{U^2}{gL}$$

$$St = \frac{V_0^2 \beta L}{T_0}$$

Flow created by laser →

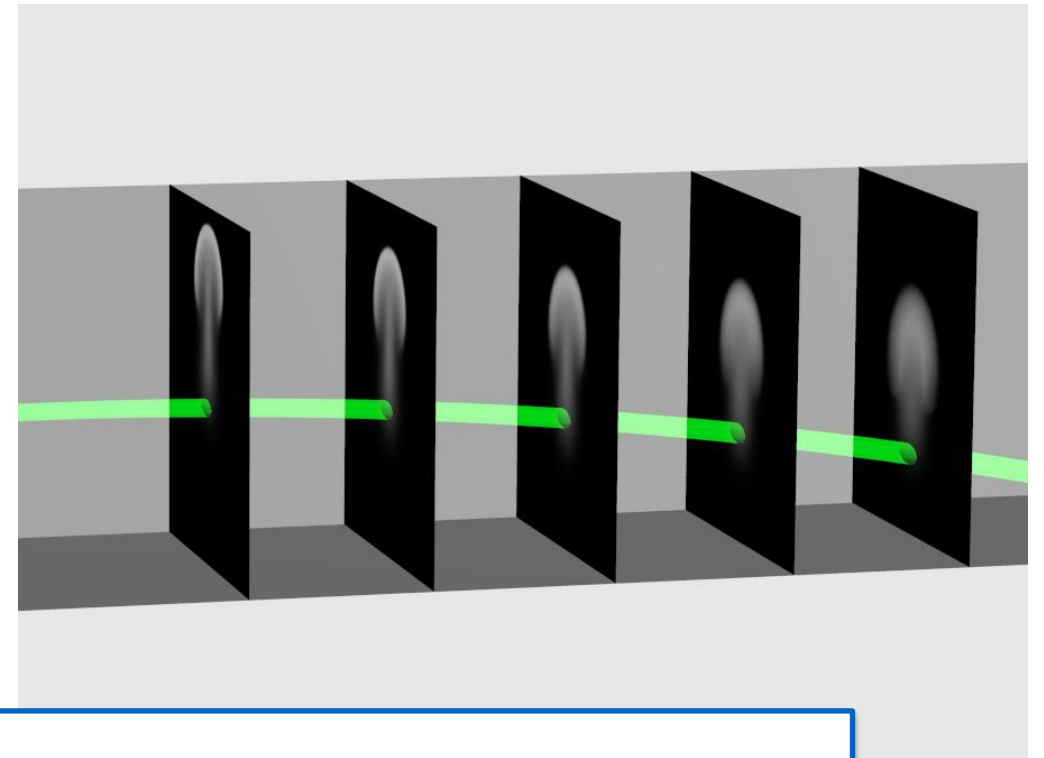
- $L = \text{Beam Diameter}$
- $\partial_z u = O(\epsilon^2)$
- *Quiescent initial conditions*

# Fluid Equations (Part II)

$$\omega_t + \psi_y \omega_x - \psi_x \omega_y = \frac{1}{Re} \Delta \omega + \frac{1}{Fr^2} T_x$$

$$T_t + \psi_y T_x - \psi_x T_y = \frac{1}{Pe} \Delta T + St |A|^2$$

$$\Delta \psi = \omega$$



Stream Function

$$\psi_y = u_1, \psi_x = -u_2$$

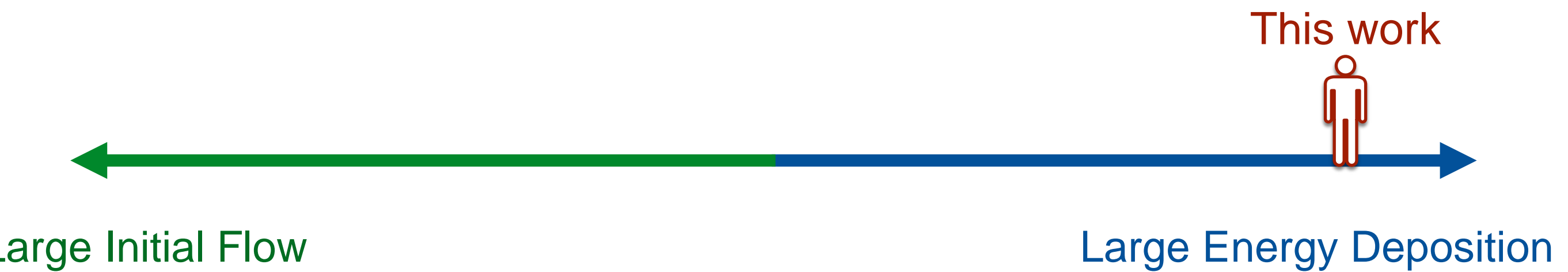
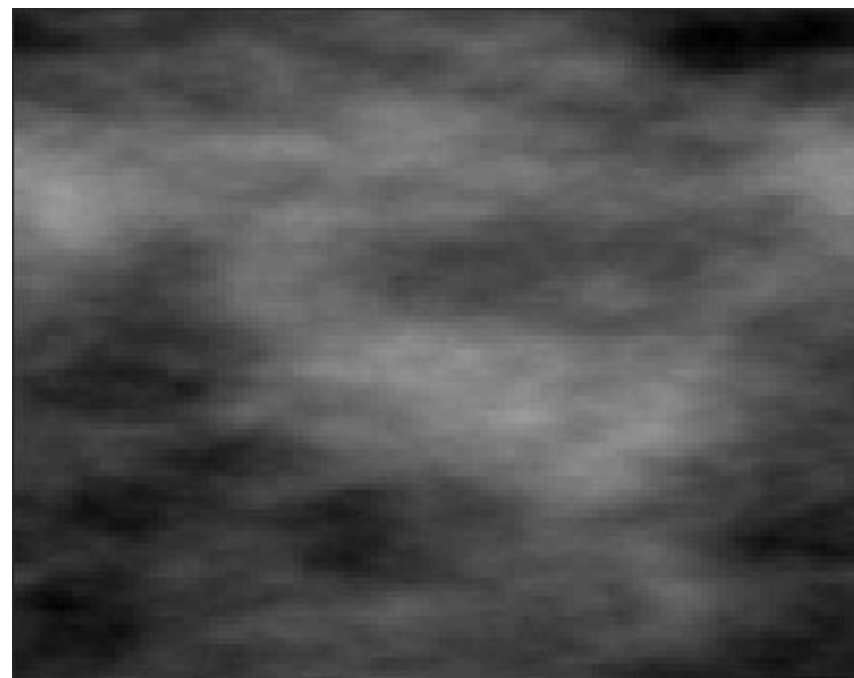
Vorticity

$$\omega = u_{2,x} - u_{1,y}$$

Flow created by laser →

- $\sigma_z u = O(\epsilon^2)$
- Quiescent initial conditions

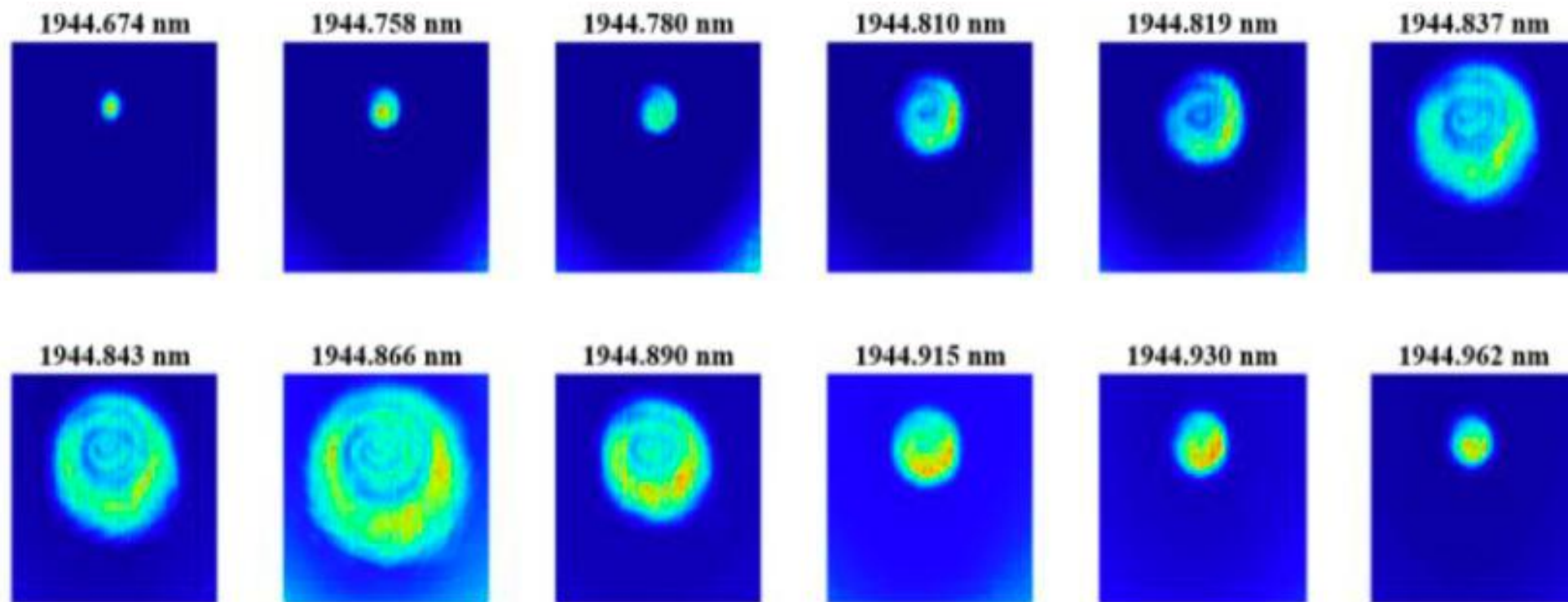
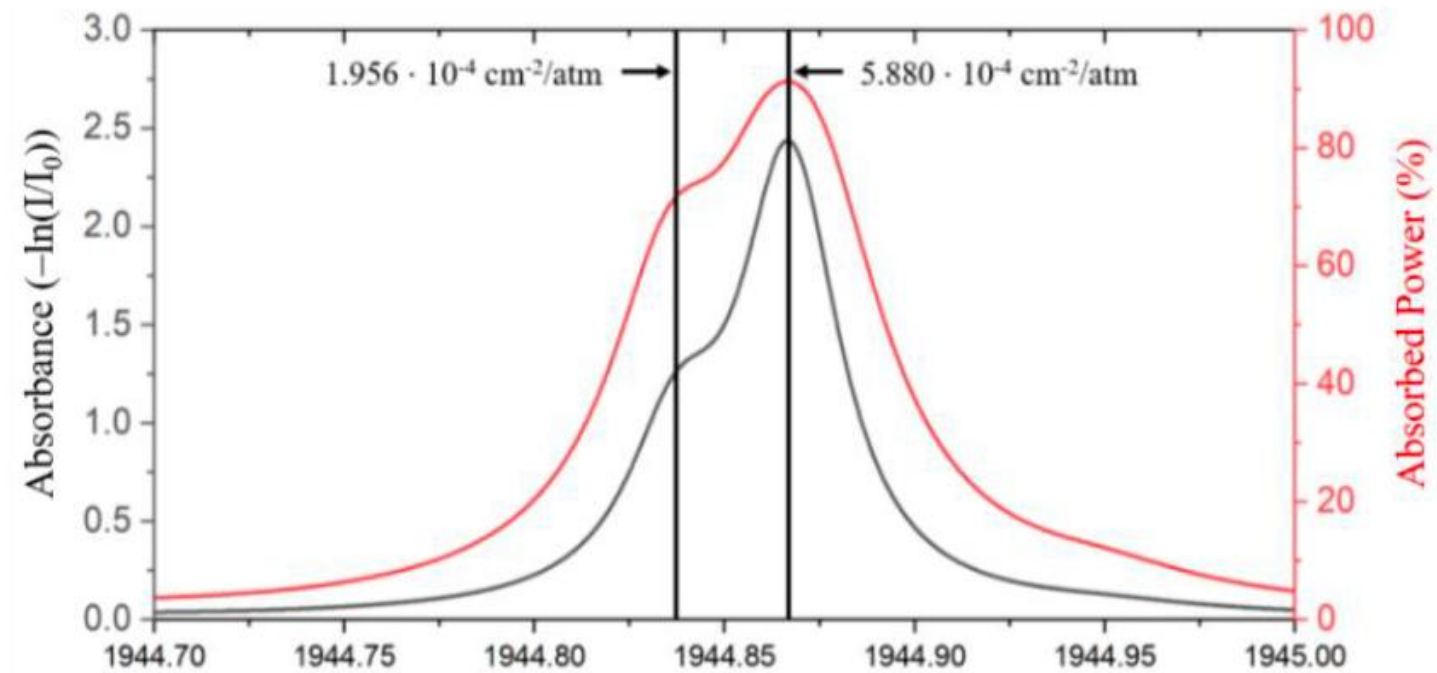
# Initial Data vs Forcing





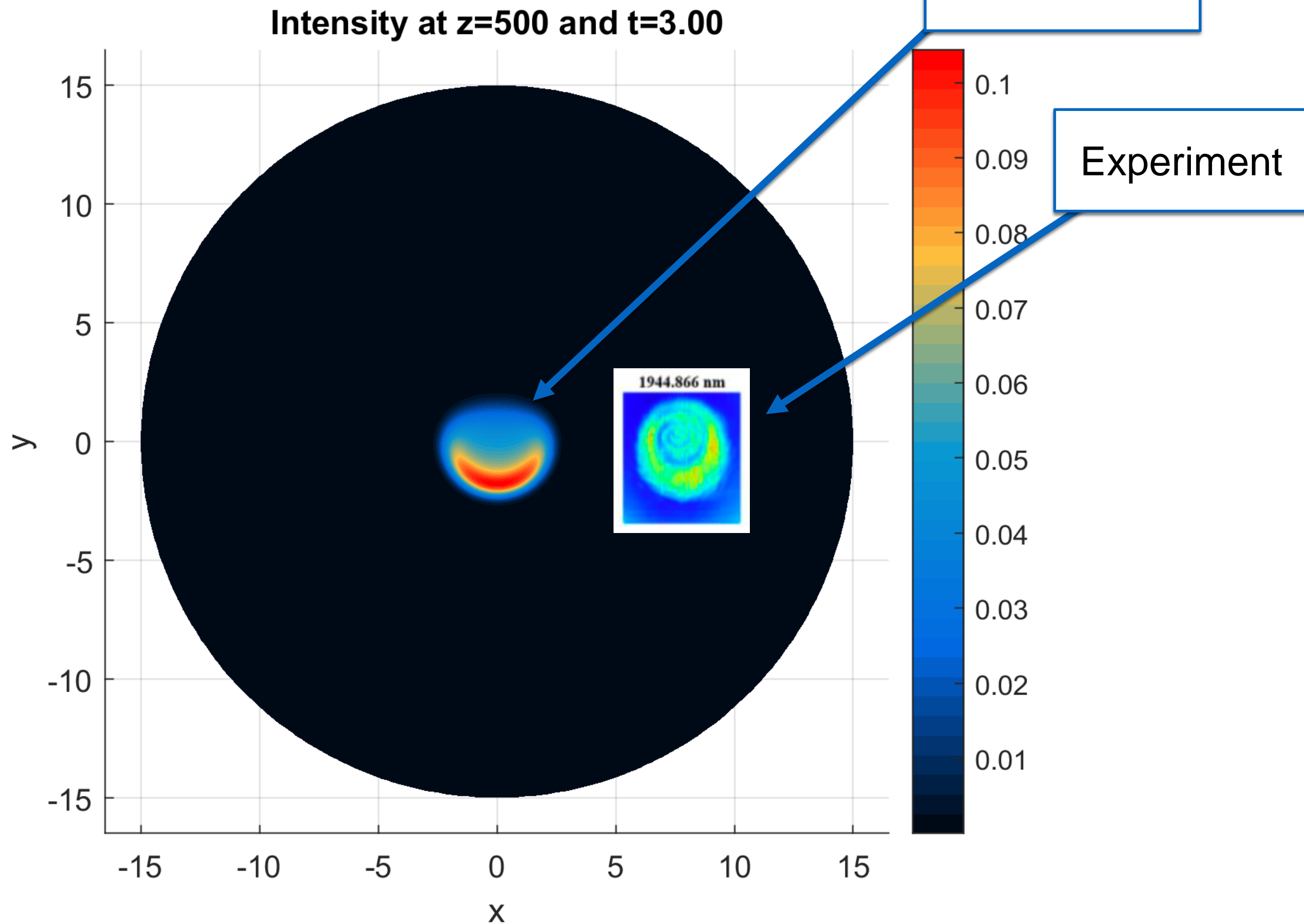
# Experiments at UCF

†

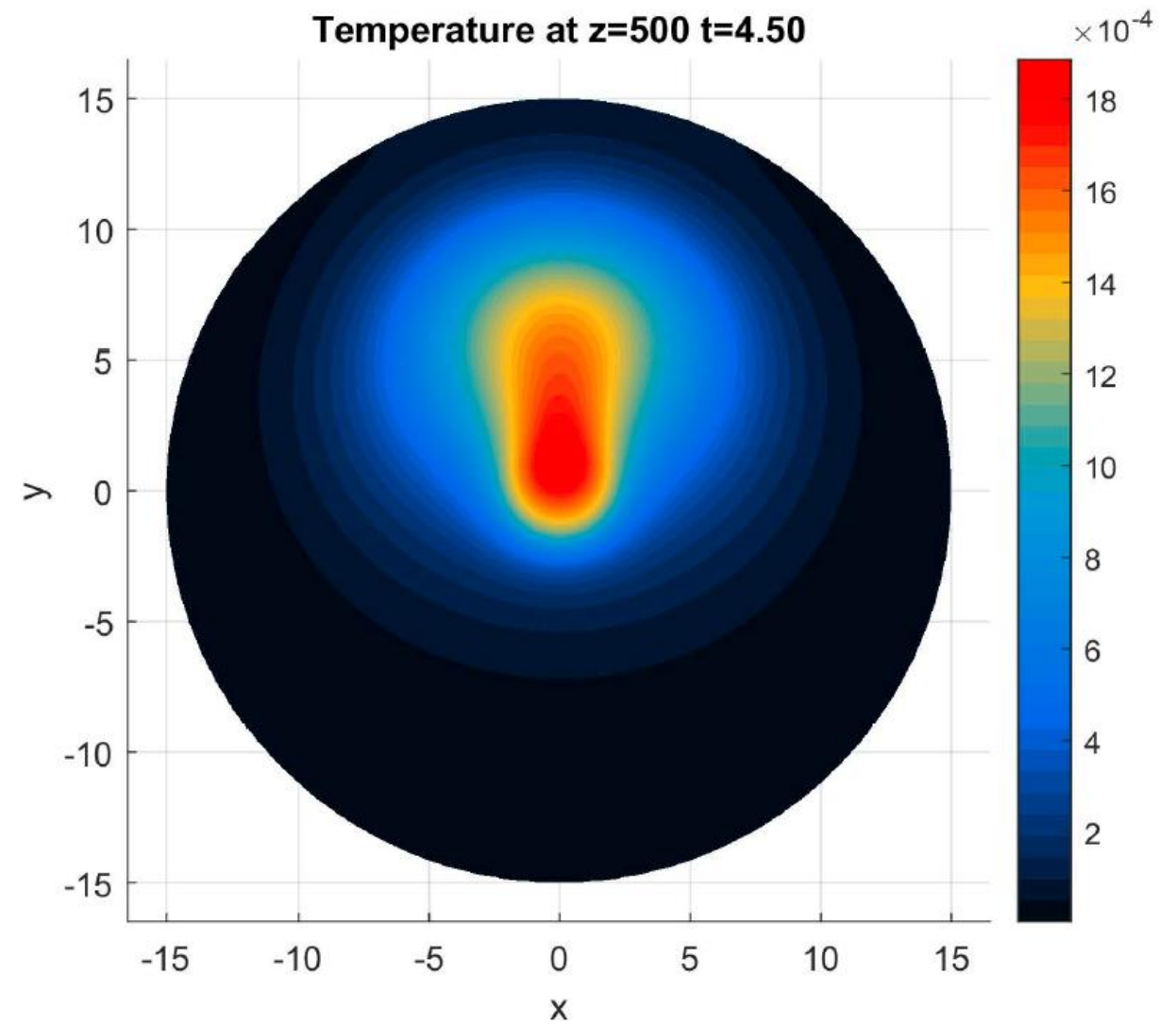
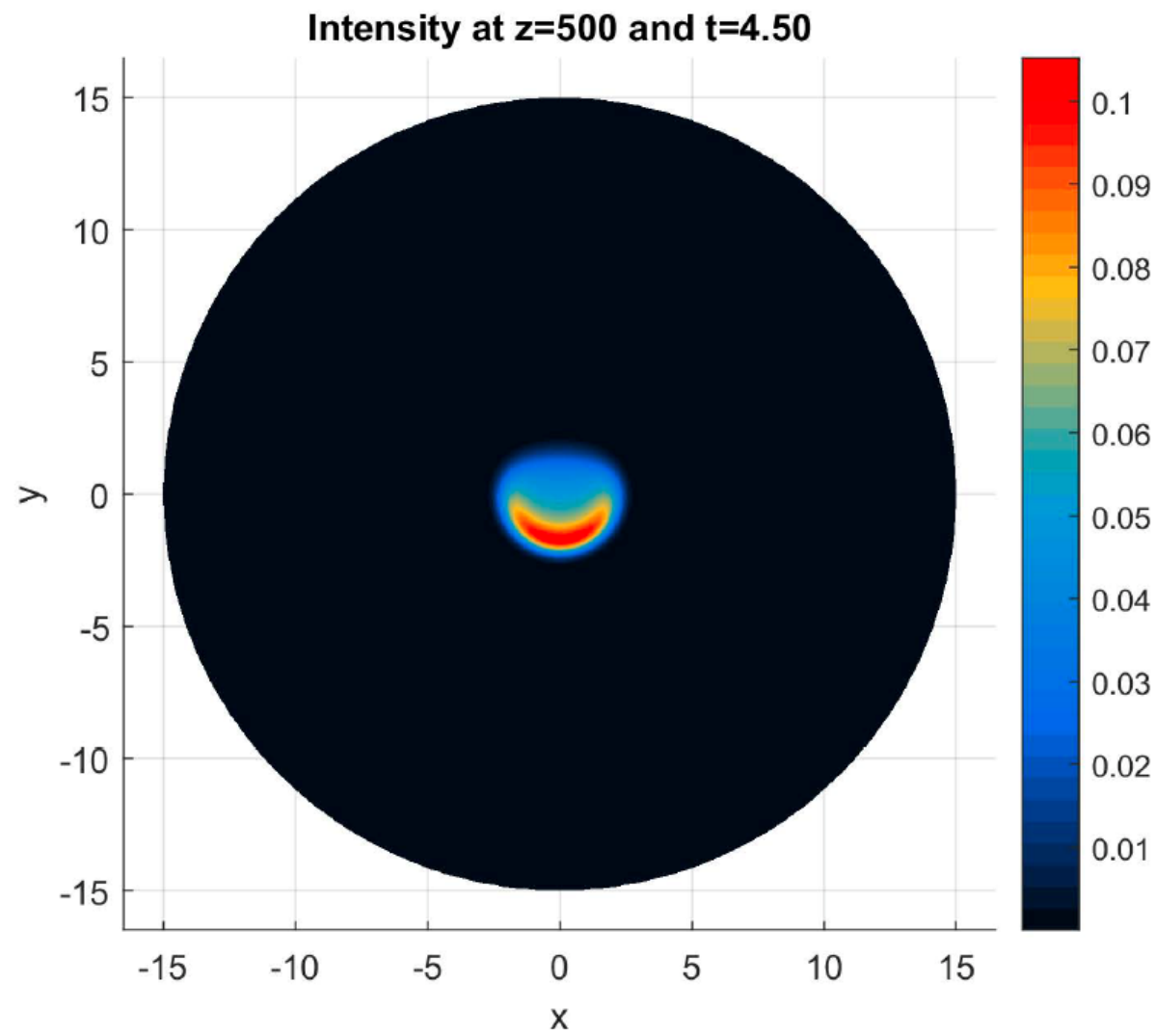


†Cook, et. al., “Narrow line width 80W tunable thulium-doped fiber laser”, *Optics and Laser Tech.* ( 2022)

# Convective Blooming Dynamics

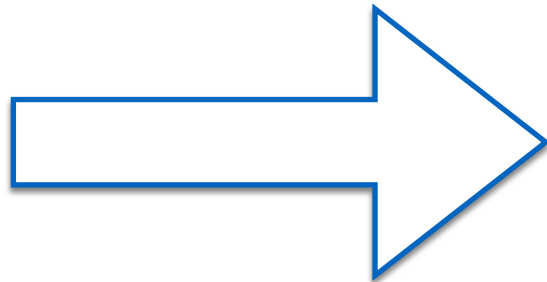


# Convective Blooming: Time Dynamics



# Steady State Convective Blooming

$$X_t = F(X)$$



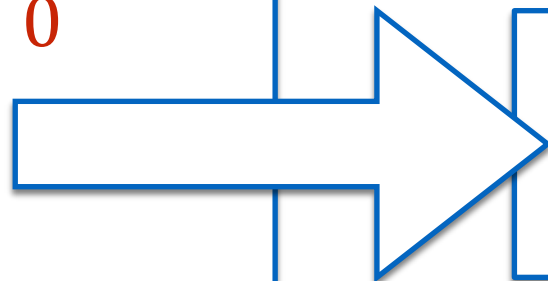
$$F(X) = 0$$

$$\psi_y \omega_x - \psi_x \omega_y - \frac{1}{Re} \Delta \omega - \frac{1}{Fr^2} T_x = 0$$

$$\psi_y T_x - \psi_x T_y - \frac{1}{Pe} \Delta T - St |A|^2 = 0$$

$$\Delta \psi = \omega$$

$$iA_z + \frac{1}{2k} \Delta_{\perp} A + 2n_0 n_1(T) A = 0$$



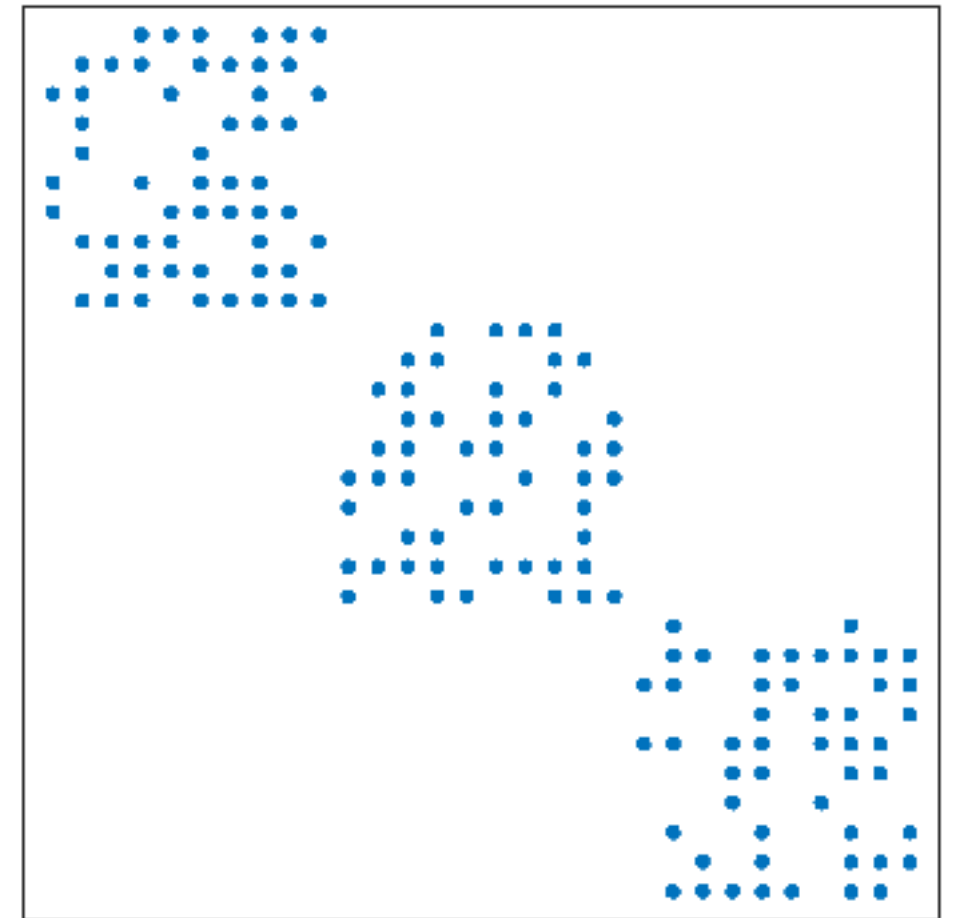
$$F(\psi, \omega, T, A) = 0$$

# A Fixed Point Iteration for $St=\epsilon$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{Pe}\Delta T_{n+1} &= \epsilon(\psi_{n,y}T_{n,x} - \psi_{n,x}T_{n,y} - |A|^2) \\ \frac{1}{Re}\Delta\omega_{n+1} &= \epsilon(\psi_{n,y}\omega_{n,x} - \psi_{n,x}\omega_{n,y}) - \frac{1}{Fr^2}T_{n,x} \\ \Delta\psi_{n+1} &= \omega_n\end{aligned}$$

$$A_0 x_n = b_n$$

- $A_0$  inverted only 1x
- $A_0$  is block (and sparse)
- Cost:  $O(M^2 \log M)$
- Computations for  $\epsilon < \epsilon_*$
- Existence by contraction mapping



# Stokes Expansion

$$T = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \epsilon^n T_n(x, y)$$

$$\omega = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \epsilon^n \omega_n(x, y)$$

$$\psi = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \epsilon^n \psi_n(x, y)$$

$$A_0 x_n = \tilde{b}_n$$

$$(\tilde{b}_n)_1 = Pe \sum_{\ell=1}^{n-1} (\partial_y \psi_\ell \partial_x T_{n-\ell} - \partial_x \psi_\ell \partial_y T_{n-\ell})$$

$$(\tilde{b}_n)_2 = Re[-Ri \partial_x T_n + \sum_{\ell=1}^{n-1} (\partial_y \psi_\ell \partial_x \omega_{n-\ell} - \partial_x \psi_\ell \partial_y \omega_{n-\ell})]$$

$$(\tilde{b}_n)_3 = -\omega_n$$

- Same  $A_0$  as fixed point

~

- Cost of  $\tilde{b}_n >$  Cost of  $b_n$

- Compute corrections once for all  $\epsilon < \epsilon^\dagger$



# Stokes Expansion

$$T = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \epsilon^n T_n(x, y)$$

Parametric Analyticity

$$\| T_n \|_{H^2} \leq C_1 \frac{D^{n-2}}{(n+1)^2}$$

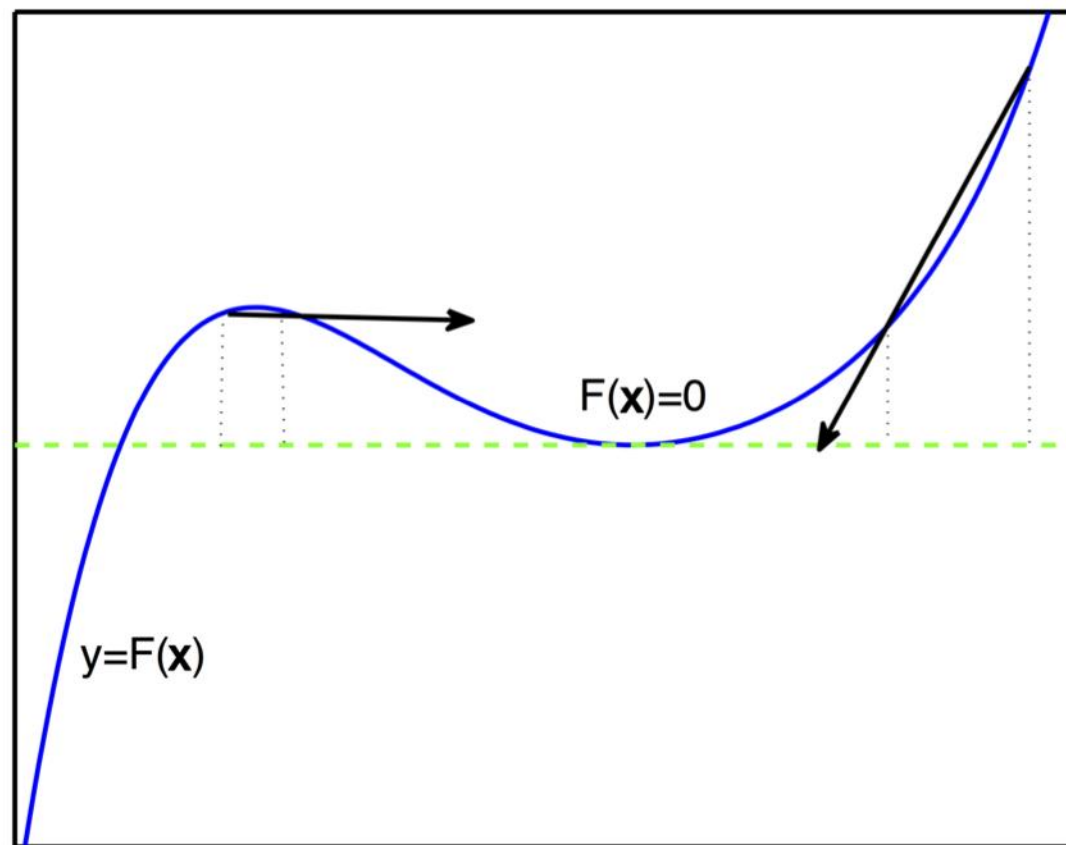
Padè Approximates

$$T(x, y, \epsilon) = \frac{\sum_n \epsilon^n p_n(x, y)}{\sum_n \epsilon^n q_n}$$

- Analytic for  $\epsilon < \epsilon^\dagger = \frac{1}{D}$
- Extends to first real pole of a Padè approximate
- Trefethen's SVD algorithm for  $p_n, q_n$

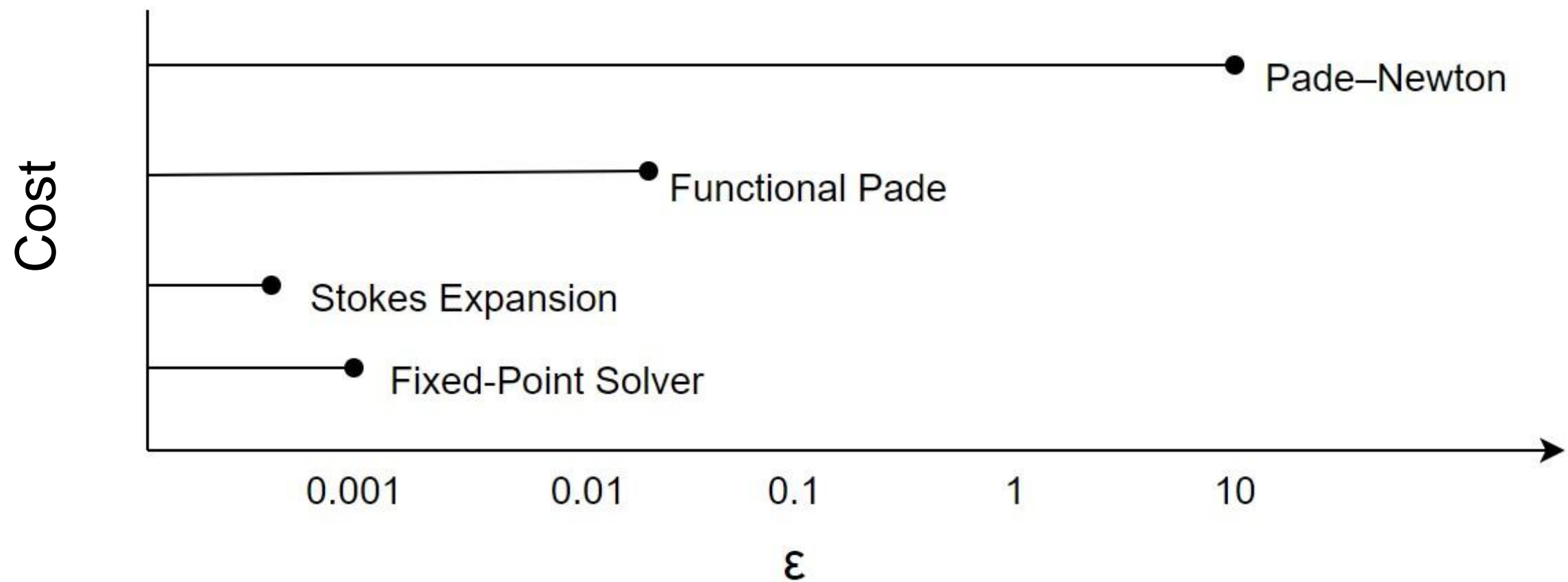
# Newton Iteration

$$X_{n+1} = X_n - J(x_n)^{-1}F(x_n)$$



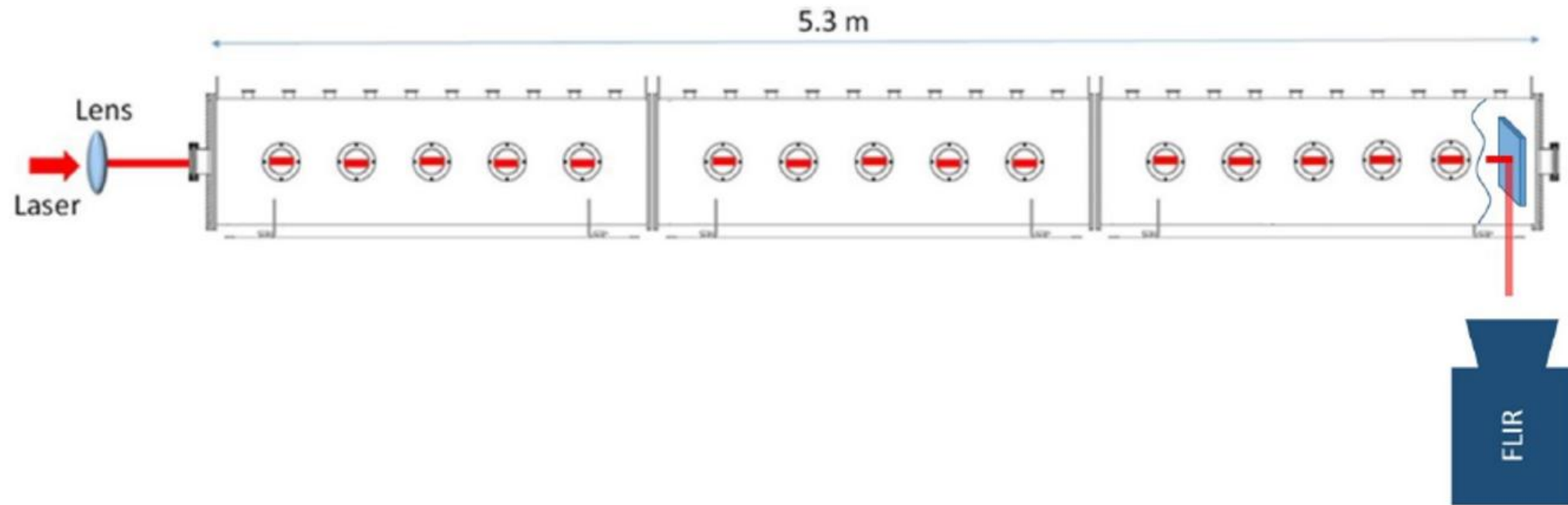
- Use Padè for initial guess
- Permuted Jacobian has bandwidth  $3M$ ,  
( $M = N_x = N_Y$ )
- Cost:  $O(M^4) \ll O(N_x^3 N_y^3) = O(M^6)$

# Method Comparison

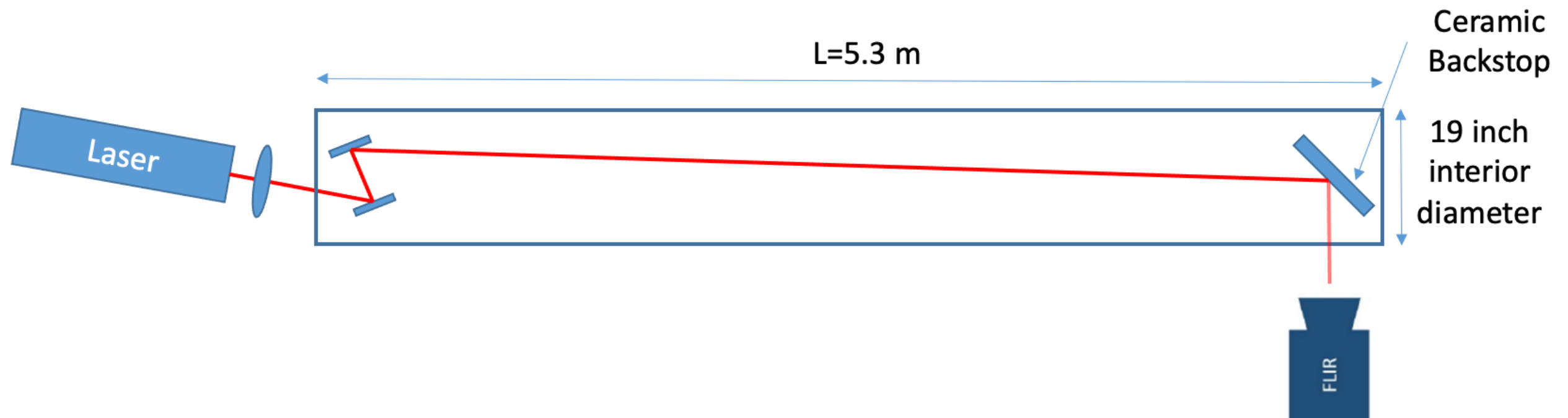


# Experimental Setup (UCF/Richardson)

## Side View



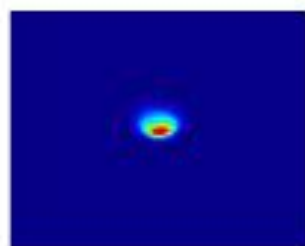
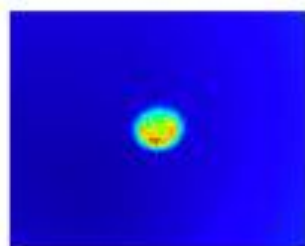
## Top View



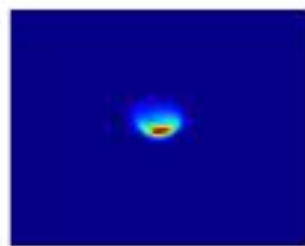
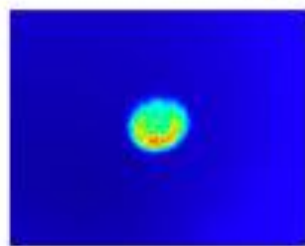
3m

Exp.

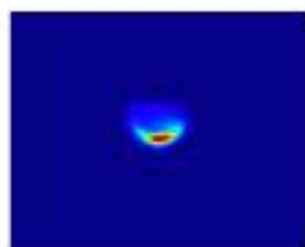
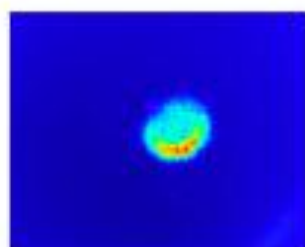
Sim.



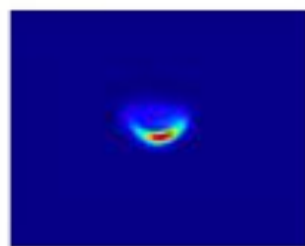
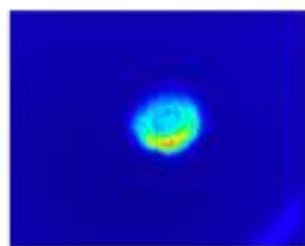
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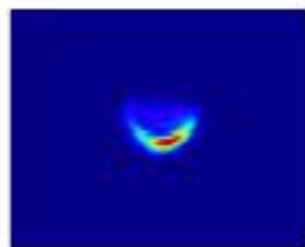
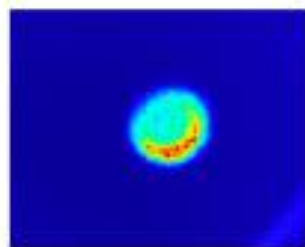
(b)  $P = 2.5$  W.



(c)  $P = 3.5$  W.



(d)  $P = 4.5$  W.

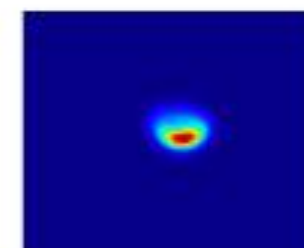
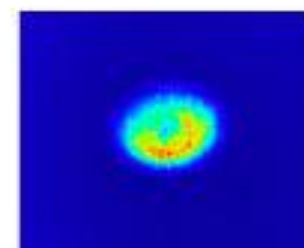


(e)  $P = 5.43$  W.

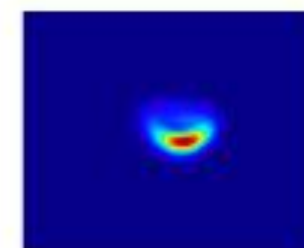
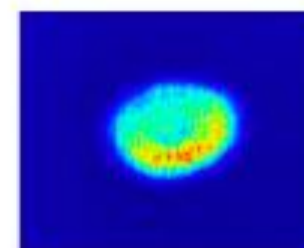
5m

Exp.

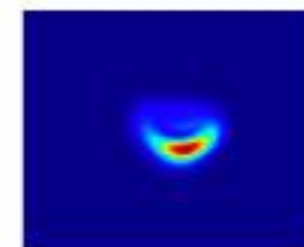
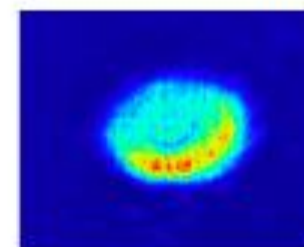
Sim.



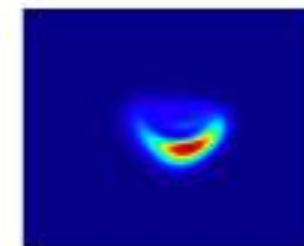
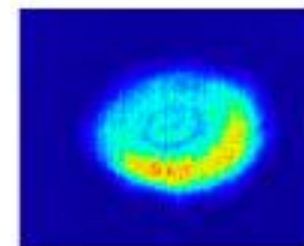
(a)  $P = 1.5$  W.



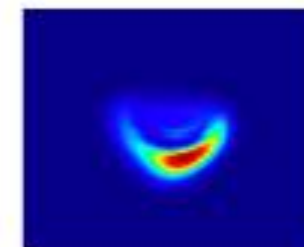
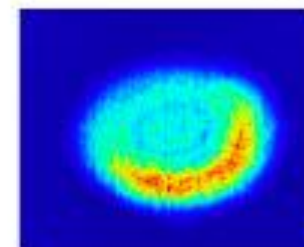
(b)  $P = 2.5$  W.



(c)  $P = 3.5$  W.



(d)  $P = 4.5$  W.



(e)  $P = 5.43$  W.

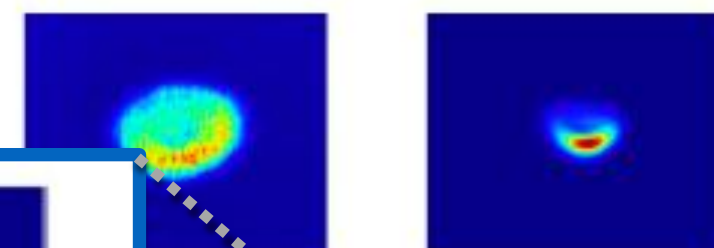
Exp. Sim.



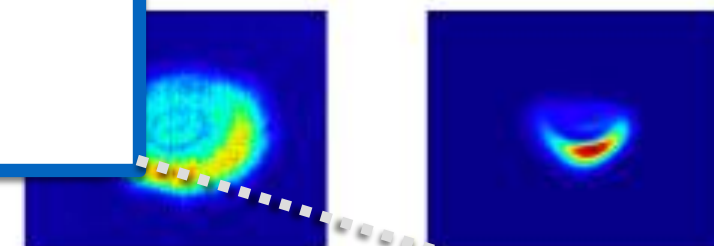
(a)  $P = 1.5 \text{ W.}$



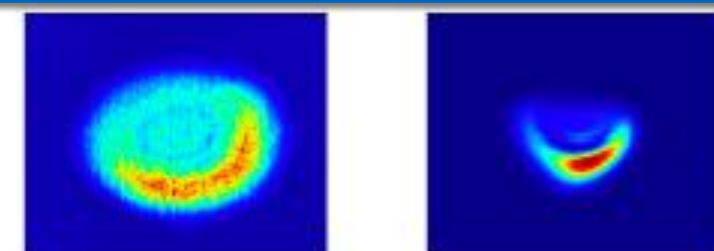
(b)  $P = 2.5 \text{ W.}$



(c)  $P = 3.5 \text{ W.}$

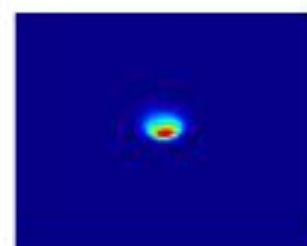


(d)  $P = 4.5 \text{ W.}$

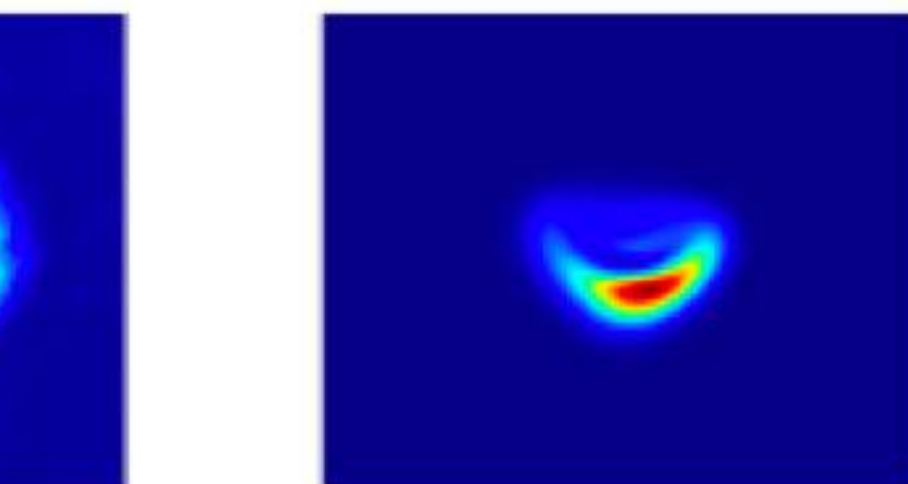


(e)  $P = 5.43 \text{ W.}$

Sim.



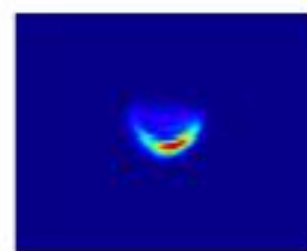
(a)  $P = 1.5 \text{ W.}$



(d)  $P = 4.5 \text{ W.}$

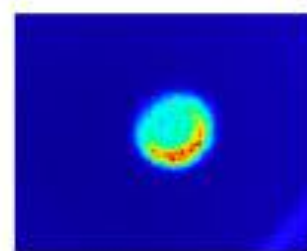
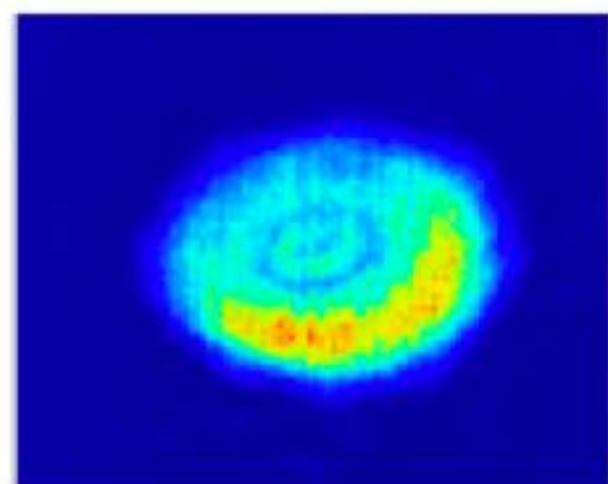
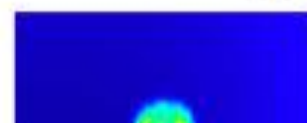
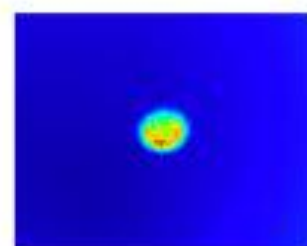


(d)  $P = 4.5 \text{ W.}$



(e)  $P = 5.43 \text{ W.}$

Exp.



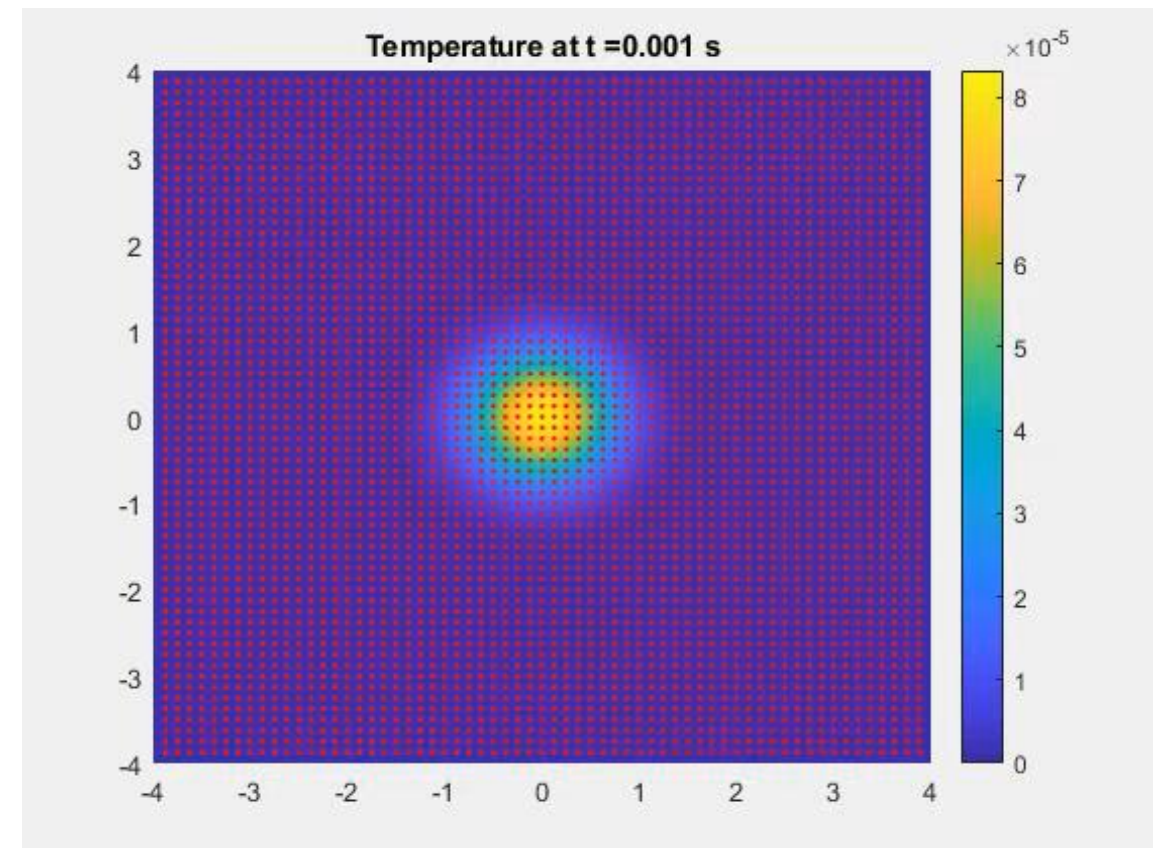
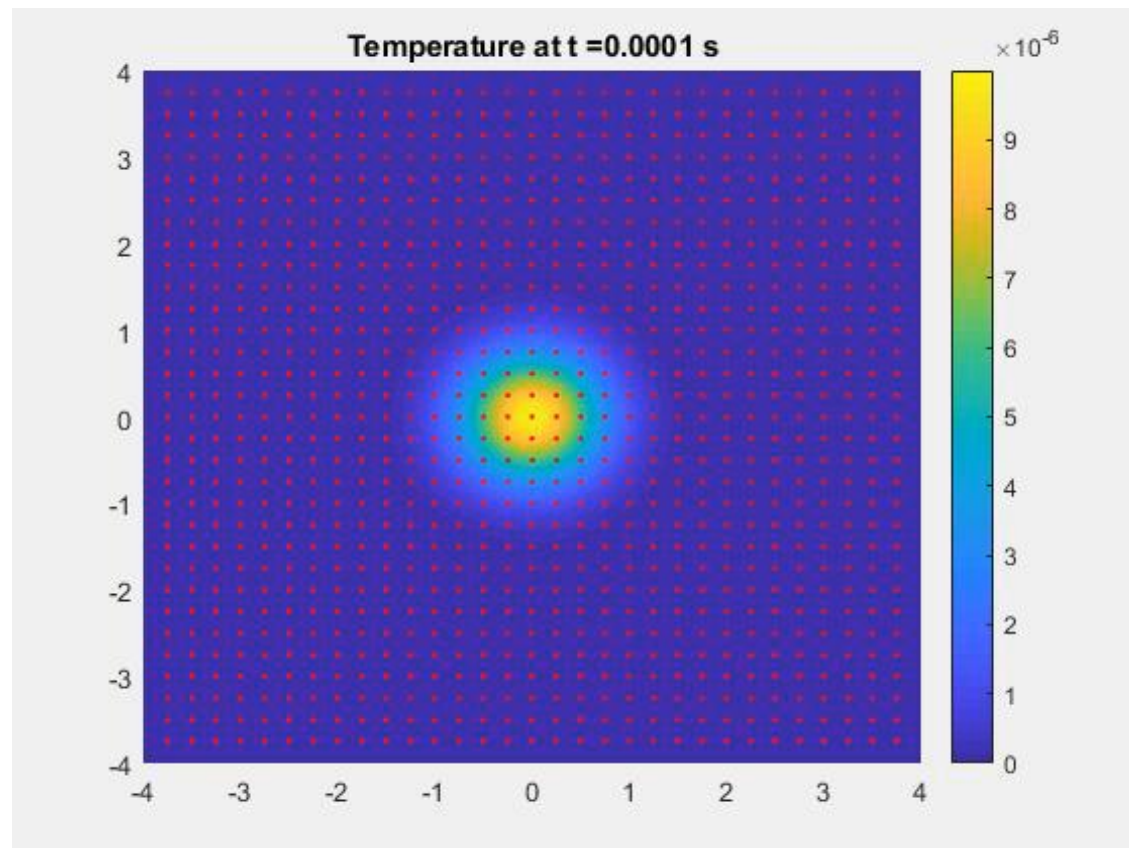
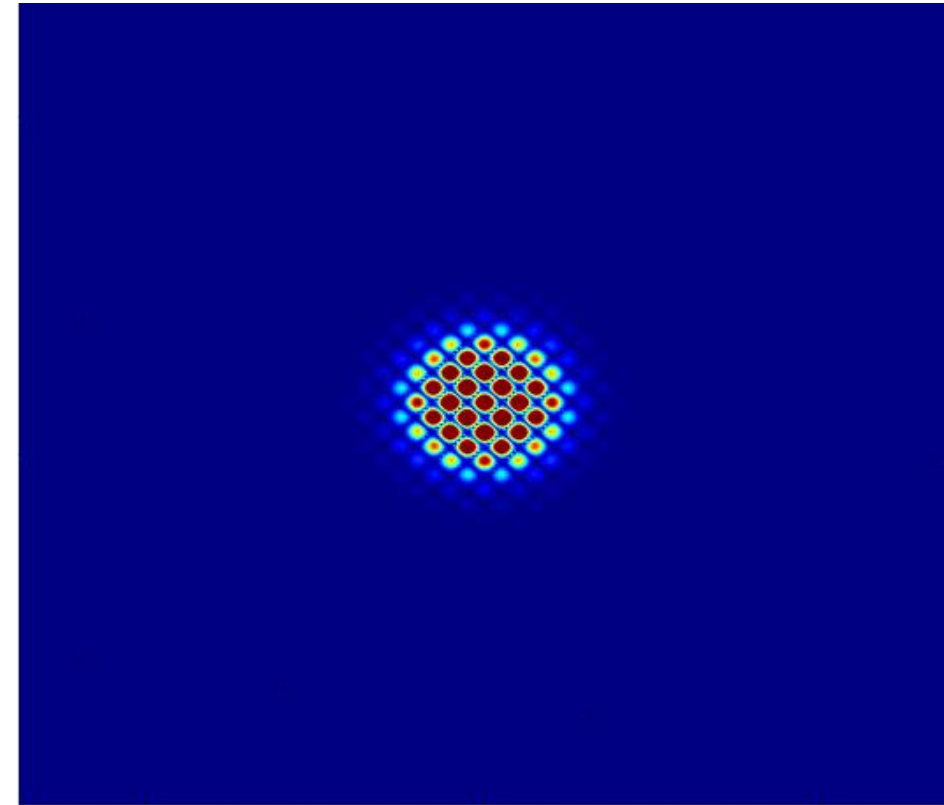
(e)  $P = 5.43 \text{ W.}$

3m



# Current & Future Work

- Shape dependence
- Aerosol Effects
- Scaling laws
- Beam Combining



# Thank You!

## References:

- Akers & Reeger, “Numerical Simulation of Thermal Blooming with Laser-Induced Convection”, *JEMWA* (2019)
- Akers & Lawrence, “Propagation of high energy lasers through clouds: modeling and simulation”, *Applied Optics* (2020)
- Lane & Akers, “Two dimensional Steady Boussinesq Convection: Existence, Computation and Scaling”, *Fluids* (2021)
- Cook, Roumayah, Shin, Thompson, Sincere, Vail, Bodnar, Richardson, “Narrow line width 80W tunable thulium doped fiber laser”, *Optics and Laser Tech.* (2022)
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- Akers & Williams, “Coarse Gridded Simulation of the Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation”, *Mathematics* (2024)
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- Lane, Akers, & Reeger “Asymmetric Steady Thermal Blooming” submitted to *Applied Optics*