

Erratum: Defect annihilation and proliferation in active nematics
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The purpose of this Erratum is to clarify some of the information presented in the original Letter, especially a misleading statement in the abstract: “While contractile systems enhance the annihilation dynamics of passive systems, extensile systems act to drive defects apart . . .” We stress that this statement referred solely to the pair geometry studied in the paper. In general, however, activity can yield repulsion of a defect-antidefect pair in both extensile and contractile systems, depending on the relative orientation of the two defects. As described in the paper, the flow velocity induced by active backflow vanishes at the core of $-1/2$ disclinations, while it is proportional to the activity parameter α at the core of $+1/2$ defects. Its direction depends on the sign of α . In extensile systems ($\alpha < 0$), the active backflow at the core points towards the head of the cometlike $+1/2$ defect. In contractile systems ($\alpha > 0$), the active backflow at the core points towards the tail of the cometlike defect. As a result, activity will induce attraction of a pair of defects with relative orientation as in Fig. 1(a) in contractile systems, and repulsion in extensile systems. Conversely, if the positions of the two defects is interchanged, then activity will induce repulsion in contractile systems, and attraction in extensile systems.