

# Numerical Challenges in the Propagation of the KBEs

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Jan-Philip Joost

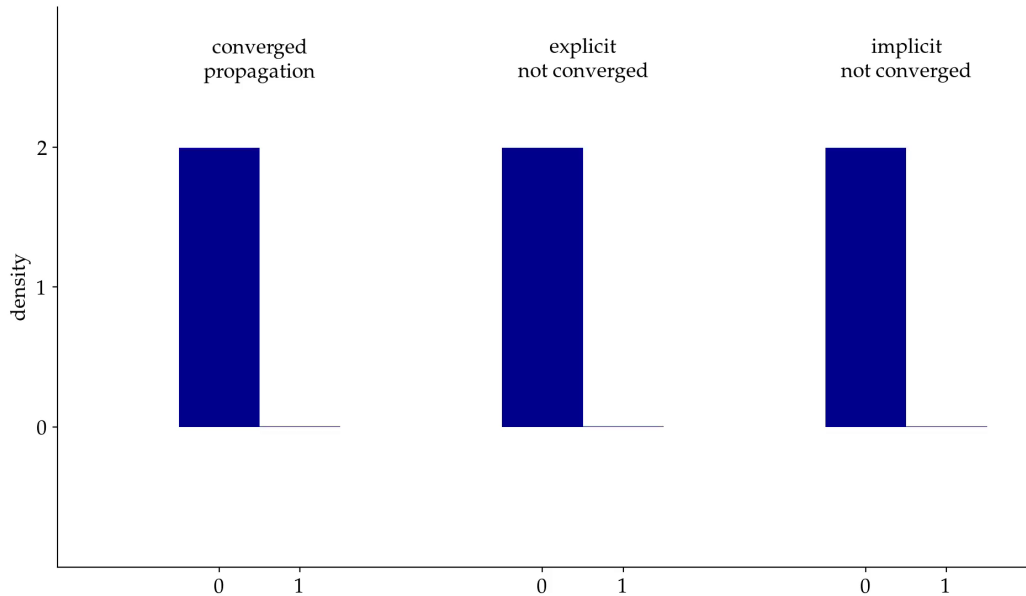
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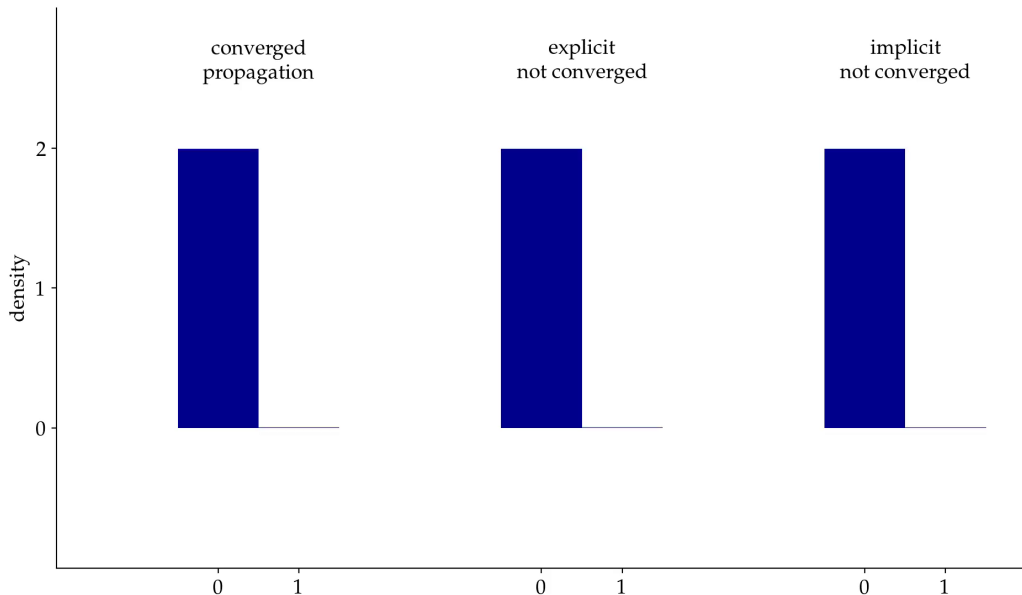
Niclas Schlünzen and Michael Bonitz



*KBE<sup>2</sup> workshop, Kiel*

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## Comment on “On the unphysical solutions of the Kadanoff-Baym equations in linear response: Correlation-induced homogeneous density-distribution and attractors”

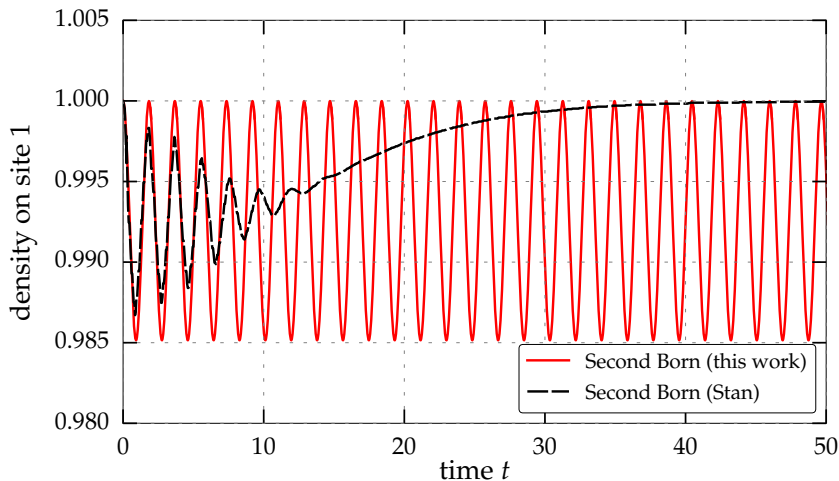
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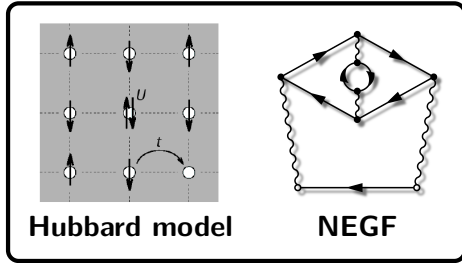
In a recent Rapid Communication [A. Stan, *Phys. Rev. B* **93**, 041103(R) (2016)], the reliability of the Keldysh-Kadanoff-Baym equations (KBE) using correlated self-energy approximations applied to linear and nonlinear response has been questioned. In particular, the existence of a universal attractor has been predicted that would drive the dynamics of any correlated system towards an unphysical homogeneous density distribution regardless of the system type, the interaction, and the many-body approximation. Moreover, it was conjectured that even the mean-field dynamics would be damped. Here, by performing accurate solutions of the KBE for situations studied in that paper, we prove these claims wrong, being caused by numerical inaccuracies.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevB.96.117101](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.96.117101)



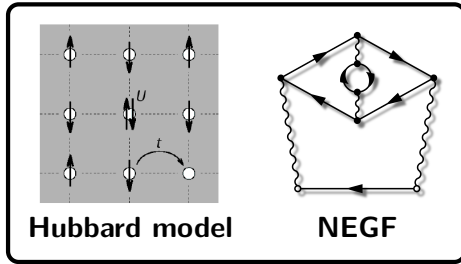
- numerical damping mistaken for artificial damping of the KBEs

## Theory



## Theory

## Numerics



$$\frac{dG}{dt}$$

KBEs

$$I_{\text{coll}} = \int_C \Sigma G$$

Collision integral



$$\hat{H}(t) = J \sum_{ij, \alpha} h_{ij} \hat{c}_{i\alpha}^\dagger \hat{c}_{j\alpha} + U \sum_i \hat{c}_{i\uparrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{i\uparrow} \hat{c}_{i\downarrow}^\dagger \hat{c}_{i\downarrow} + \sum_{ij, \alpha\beta} f_{ij, \alpha\beta}(t) \hat{c}_{i\alpha}^\dagger \hat{c}_{j\beta}$$

$h_{ij} = -\delta_{\langle i, j \rangle}$  and  $\delta_{\langle i, j \rangle} = 1$ , if  $(i, j)$  nearest neighbors,  $\delta_{\langle i, j \rangle} = 0$  otherwise;  
 on-site repulsion ( $U > 0$ ) or attraction ( $U < 0$ ),  $U$  favors *doublons* (correlations)

- $f$ : **excitation** (1-particle hamiltonian): EM field, quench, particle impact etc.
- finite inhomogeneous system, size and geometry dependence



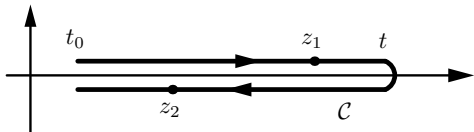
# Keldysh Green Functions (NEGF)

two times  $z, z' \in \mathcal{C}$  ("Keldysh contour"), arbitrary one-particle basis  $|\phi_i\rangle$

$$G_{ij}(z, z') = \frac{i}{\hbar} \left\langle \hat{T}_{\mathcal{C}} \hat{c}_i(z) \hat{c}_j^\dagger(z') \right\rangle \quad \text{average with } \rho^N$$

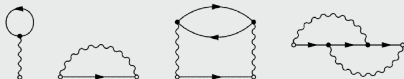
Keldysh–Kadanoff–Baym equations (KBE) on  $\mathcal{C}$  ( $2 \times 2$  matrix):

$$\sum_k \left\{ i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \delta_{ik} - h_{ik}(z) \right\} G_{kj}(z, z') = \delta_{\mathcal{C}}(z, z') \delta_{ij} - i\hbar \sum_{klm} \int_{\mathcal{C}} d\bar{z} w_{iklm}(z^+, \bar{z}) G_{lmjk}^{(2)}(z, \bar{z}; z', \bar{z}^+)$$



KBE: first equation of Martin–Schwinger hierarchy for  $G, G^{(2)} \dots G^{(n)}$

- $\int_{\mathcal{C}} w G^{(2)} \rightarrow \int_{\mathcal{C}} \Sigma G$ , Selfenergy
- Nonequilibrium Diagram technique  
 Example: Hartree–Fock + Second Born selfenergy



- Contour Green function mapped to real-time matrix Green function

$$\mathbf{G}_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} G_{ij}^R & G_{ij}^< \\ 0 & G_{ij}^A \end{pmatrix}$$

$$G_{ij}^<(t_1, t_2) = \mp i \langle \hat{c}_j^\dagger(t_2) \hat{c}_i(t_1) \rangle$$

$$G_{ij}^>(t_1, t_2) = -i \langle \hat{c}_i(t_1) \hat{c}_j^\dagger(t_2) \rangle$$

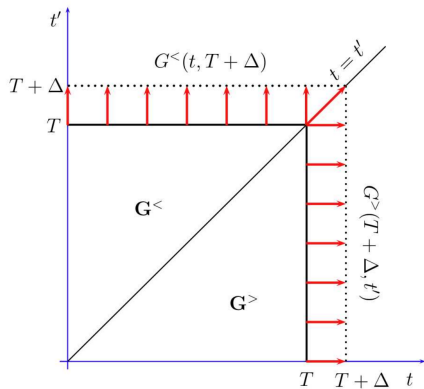
- Propagators (spectral properties)

$$G^{R/A}(t_1, t_2) = \pm \theta[\pm(t_1 - t_2)] \{G^>(t_1, t_2) - G^<(t_1, t_2)\}$$

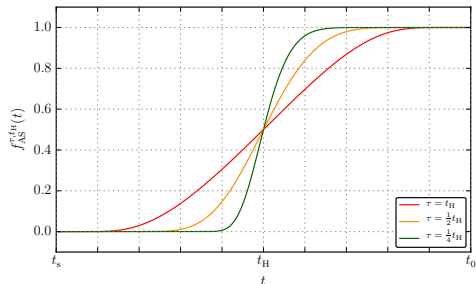
- Correlation functions  $G^{\gtrless}$  (statistical properties) obey real-time KBE

$$[i\partial_{t_1} - h_0(t_1)] G^<(t_1, t_2) = \int dt_3 \Sigma^R(t_1, t_3) G^<(t_3, t_2) + \int dt_3 \Sigma^<(t_1, t_3) G^A(t_3, t_2),$$

$$G^<(t_1, t_2) [-i\partial_{t_2} - h_0(t_2)] = \int dt_3 G^R(t_1, t_3) \Sigma^<(t_3, t_2) + \int dt_3 \Sigma^A(t_1, t_3) G^<(t_3, t_2)$$



- propagate  $G^{\geq}(t, t')$  in  $t - t'$  plane
- cubic scaling in time and basis size



- Uncorrelated initial state ( $t \rightarrow -\infty$ )
- adiabatically slow switch-on of interaction for  $t, t' \leq t_0$

$$f_{AS}^{\tau, t_H}(t) = \exp\left(-\frac{A_{t_H}^{\tau}}{t/(2t_H)} \exp\left(\frac{B_{t_H}^{\tau}}{t/(2t_H) - 1}\right)\right)$$

$$B_{t_H}^{\tau} := \frac{t_H}{\tau \ln(2)} - \frac{1}{2}, \quad A_{t_H}^{\tau} := \frac{\ln(2)}{2} e^{2B_{t_H}^{\tau}}$$

- solve KBE in  $t - t'$  plane for  $G^{\geq}(t, t')$

A. Rios et al., Ann. Phys. **326**, 1274 (2011)

S. Hermanns et al., Phys. Scr. **T151**, 014036 (2012)

M. Watanabe and W. P. Reinhardt, Phys. Rev. Lett. **65**, 3301 (1990)

- equations of motion in the two time directions and along the diagonal

$$-i\hbar \frac{d}{dt'} G_{ij}^{<}(t, t') = \sum_l G_{il}^{<}(t, t') h_{lj}^{\text{eff}}(t) + I_{ij}^{(1),<}(t, t'),$$

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} G_{ij}^{>}(t, t') = \sum_l h_{il}^{\text{eff}}(t) G_{lj}^{>}(t, t') + I_{ij}^{(2),>}(t, t'),$$

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} G_{ij}^{<}(t, t) = \left[ h^{\text{eff}}(t), G^{<}(t, t) \right]_{ij} + I_{ij}^{(2),>}(t, t) - I_{ij}^{(1),<}(t, t)$$

- for the missing components

$$G_{ij}^{\geq}(t, t') = - \left[ G_{ji}^{\geq}(t', t) \right]^*$$

- effective hamiltonian  $h^{\text{eff}}$

$$h^{\text{eff}}(t) = -J\delta_{\langle i,j \rangle} + \delta_{i,j}U(t)n_i(t)$$

$J$  : hopping amplitude,       $U$  : interaction strength

- components of the collision integral

$$I_{il}^{(1),<}(t < T) = \int_{t_s}^t d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ G_{ik}^>(t > \bar{t}) \Sigma_{kl}^<(\bar{t} < T) - (G_{ki}^<(\bar{t} < t) \Sigma_{lk}^>(T > \bar{t}))^* \right\} \\ + \int_t^T d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ G_{ik}^<(t < \bar{t}) \Sigma_{kl}^<(\bar{t} < T) + G_{ik}^<(t < \bar{t}) (\Sigma_{lk}^>(T > \bar{t}))^* \right\},$$

$$I_{lj}^{(2),>}(T > t') = \int_{t_s}^{t'} d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ \Sigma_{lk}^>(T > \bar{t}) G_{kj}^<(\bar{t} < t') - (\Sigma_{kl}^<(\bar{t} < T) G_{jk}^>(t' > \bar{t}))^* \right\} \\ + \int_{t'}^T d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ \Sigma_{lk}^>(T > \bar{t}) G_{kj}^>(\bar{t} > t') + G_{kj}^>(\bar{t} > t') (\Sigma_{kl}^>(\bar{t} < T))^* \right\}$$

- self-energy in 2B (second Born) approximation

$$\Sigma_{ij}^>(t > t') = U(t)U(t')G_{ij}^>(t > t')G_{ij}^>(t > t')G_{ji}^<(t' < t),$$

$$\Sigma_{ij}^<(t < t') = U(t)U(t')G_{ij}^<(t < t')G_{ij}^<(t < t')G_{ji}^>(t' > t)$$

- propagation of the KBE requires two integration procedures
  - (A) the time propagation of the equations of motion, e.g.

$$-i\hbar \frac{d}{dt'} G_{ij}^<(t, t') = \sum_l G_{il}^<(t, t') h_{lj}^{\text{eff}}(t) + I_{ij}^{(1),<}(t, t')$$

- (B) the evaluation of the collision integral in every time step, e.g.

$$I_{il}^{(1),<}(t < T) = \int_{t_s}^t d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ G_{ik}^>(t > \bar{t}) \Sigma_{kl}^<(\bar{t} < T) - (G_{ki}^<(\bar{t} < t) \Sigma_{lk}^>(T > \bar{t}))^* \right\} \\ + \int_t^T d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ G_{ik}^<(t < \bar{t}) \Sigma_{kl}^<(\bar{t} < T) + G_{ik}^<(t < \bar{t}) (\Sigma_{lk}^>(T > \bar{t}))^* \right\}$$

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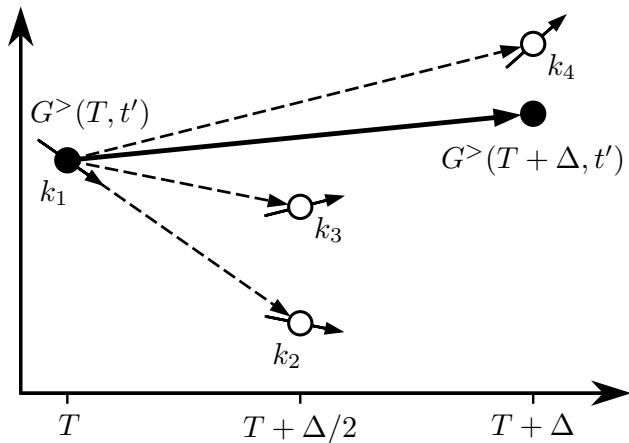
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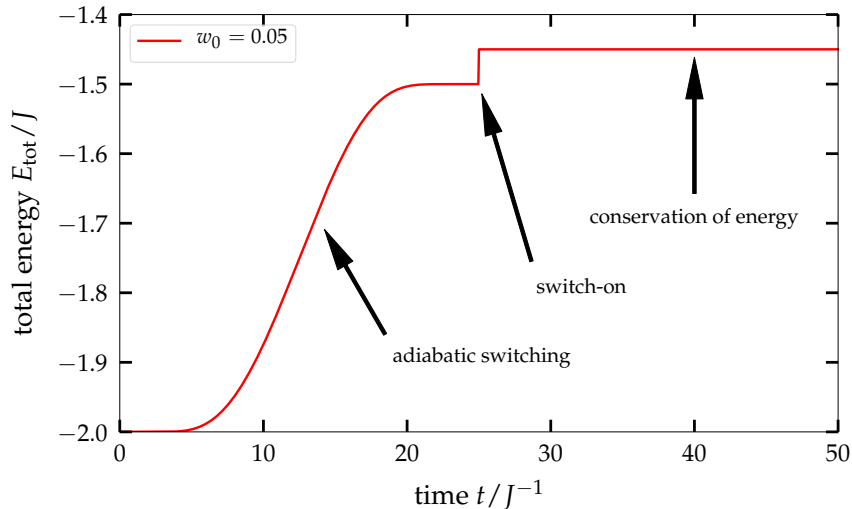
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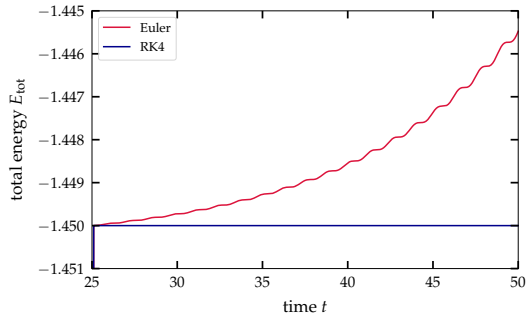
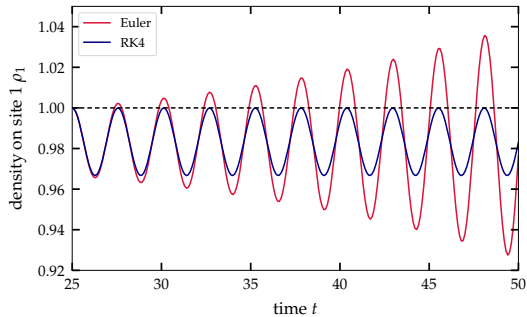
- propagation equation for the Runge Kutta 4 (RK4) method

$$G_{ij}^>(T + \Delta, t') = G_{ij}^>(T, t') + \frac{\Delta}{6} (k_1 + 2k_2 + 2k_3 + k_4)$$

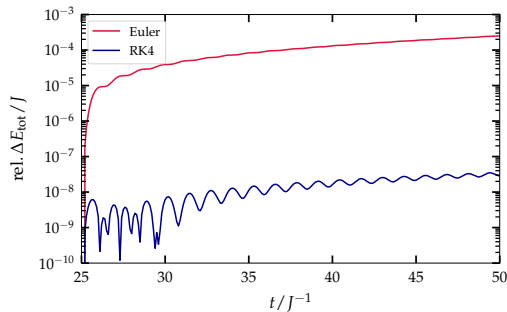
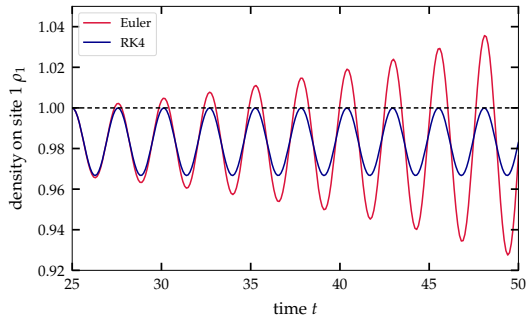




- use conservation of energy to test the quality of the numerical calculations
- two-site setup at half filling



- time step  $\Delta = 0.1J^{-1}$
- RK4 shows huge improvement over Euler
- density and energy are conserved better by several orders of magnitude



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- (B) the evaluation of the collision integral in every time step, e.g.

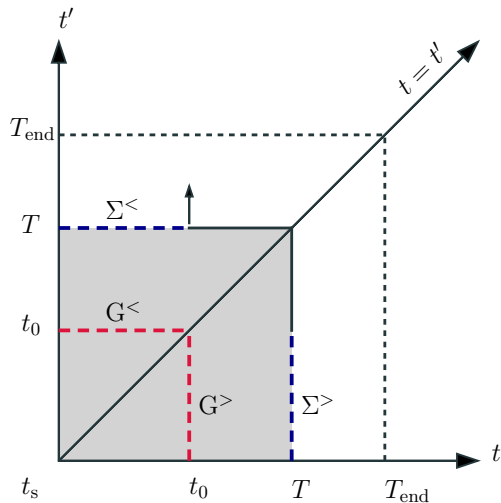
$$I_{il}^{(1),<}(t < T) = \int_{t_s}^t d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ G_{ik}^>(t > \bar{t}) \Sigma_{kl}^<(\bar{t} < T) - (G_{ki}^<(\bar{t} < t) \Sigma_{lk}^>(T > \bar{t}))^* \right\} \\ + \int_t^T d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ G_{ik}^<(t < \bar{t}) \Sigma_{kl}^<(\bar{t} < T) + G_{ik}^<(t < \bar{t}) (\Sigma_{lk}^>(T > \bar{t}))^* \right\}$$

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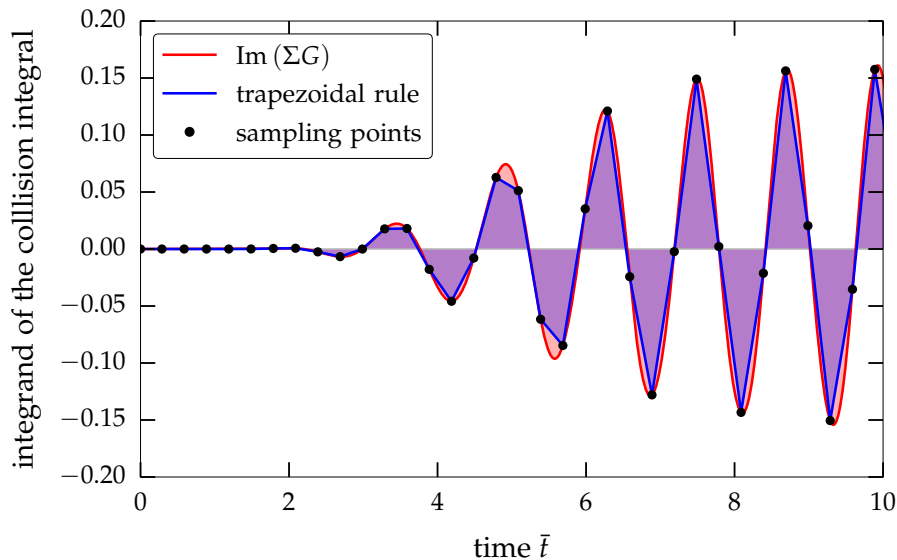
$$-i\hbar \frac{d}{dt'} G_{ij}^{\leq}(t, t') = \sum_l G_{il}^{\leq}(t, t') h_{lj}^{\text{eff}}(t) + I_{ij}^{(1), <}(t, t')$$

- (B) the evaluation of the collision integral in every time step, e.g.

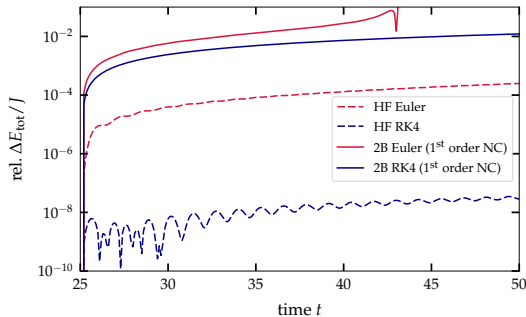
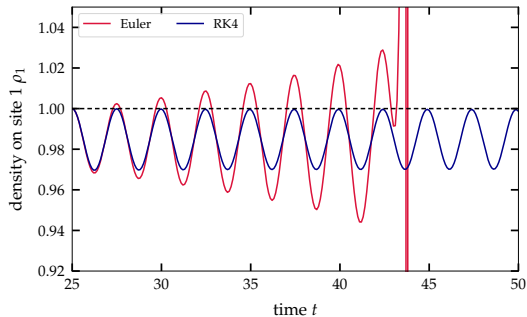
$$I_{il}^{(1), <}(t < T) = \int_{t_s}^t d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ G_{ik}^{\geq}(t > \bar{t}) \Sigma_{kl}^{\leq}(\bar{t} < T) - (G_{ki}^{\leq}(\bar{t} < t) \Sigma_{lk}^{\geq}(T > \bar{t}))^* \right\} \\ + \int_t^T d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ G_{ik}^{\leq}(t < \bar{t}) \Sigma_{kl}^{\leq}(\bar{t} < T) + G_{ik}^{\leq}(t < \bar{t}) (\Sigma_{lk}^{\geq}(T > \bar{t}))^* \right\}$$



$$I_{il}^{(1),<}(t_0 < T) = \int_{t_s}^{t_0} d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ G_{ik}^>(t_0 > \bar{t}) \Sigma_{kl}^<(\bar{t} < T) - (G_{ki}^<(\bar{t} < t_0) \Sigma_{lk}^>(T > \bar{t}))^* \right\} + \dots$$







- time step  $\Delta = 0.1J^{-1}$
- Euler calculation becomes unstable at  $t \approx 43J^{-1}$
- RK4 barely improves the accuracy of the calculation
- numerical error due to the integral is huge  
 → trapezoidal rule is not sufficient

- integral to be calculated

$$I(f) = \int_a^b dx f(x)$$

- with Newton–Cotes integration  $I(f)$  can be approximated by an expression that only depends on values for discrete sampling points  $f_i := f(x_i)$

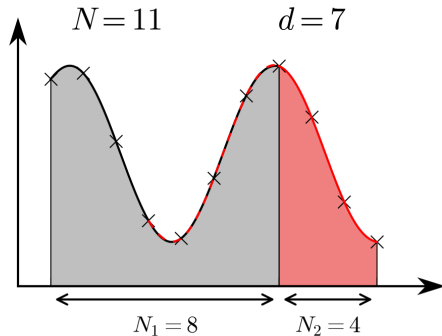
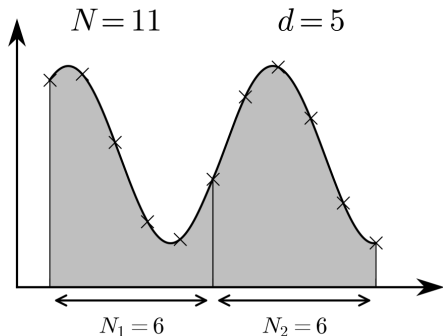
$$I(f) \approx dh \sum_{i=0}^d f_i w_i^d \quad \text{with}$$

$$w_i^d := \int_0^1 d\hat{x} \prod_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq i}}^d \frac{\hat{x}d - j}{i - j}$$

where  $h := \frac{x_n - x_0}{d}$  and order  $d$ .

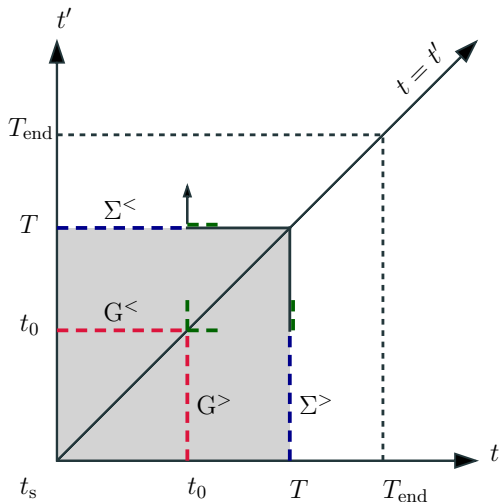
- the error is of the order  $\mathcal{O}\left(h^{d+2} \left|f^{(d+1)}\right|\right)$ , if  $d$  is odd and of the order  $\mathcal{O}\left(h^{d+3} \left|f^{(d+2)}\right|\right)$ , if  $d$  is even

Two different way of integrating long integrands with Newton–Cotes:



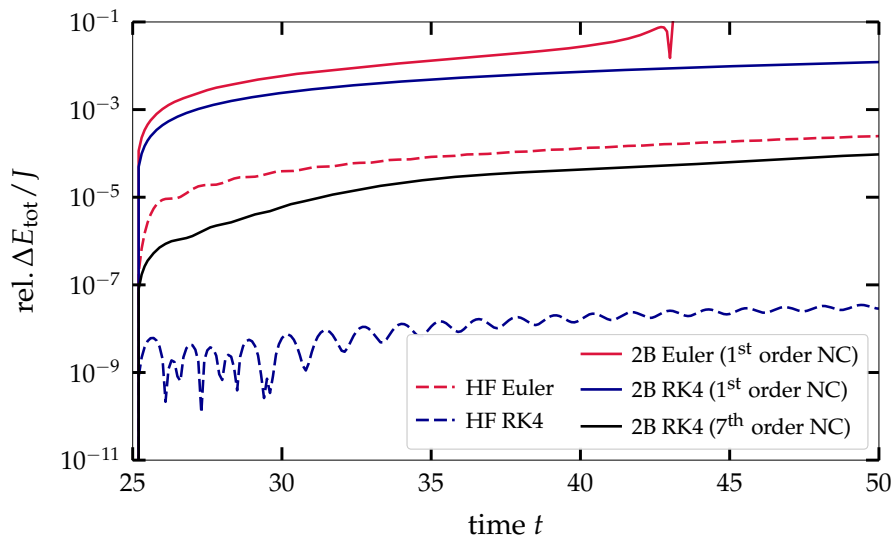
- divide the integrand into smaller parts
- choose the length of the integrals in a way so that the smallest order is optimal

- divide the integrand into parts of the highest order
- integrate the remaining integral by reusing points of the adjacent interval

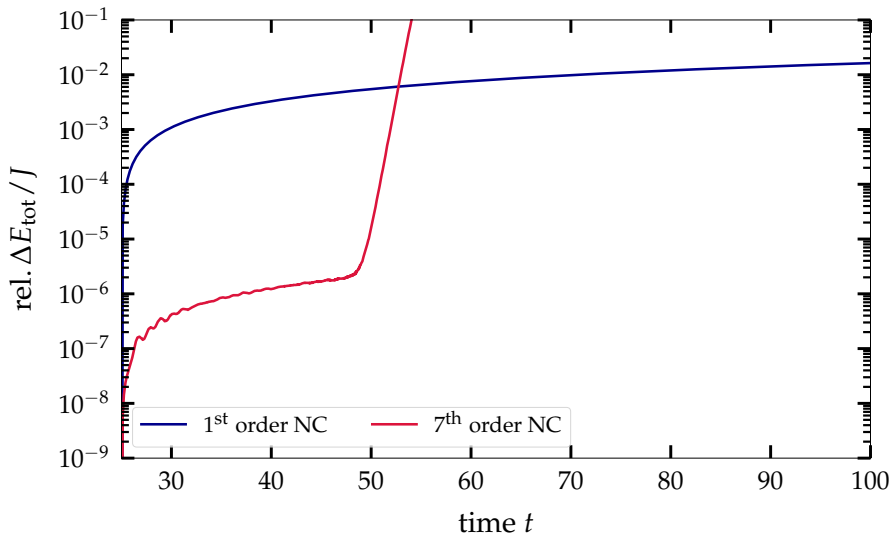


- problem: high order integrals require many sampling points
- short integrals can be expanded by adding additional points
- this way all integrals are calculated in the highest possible order

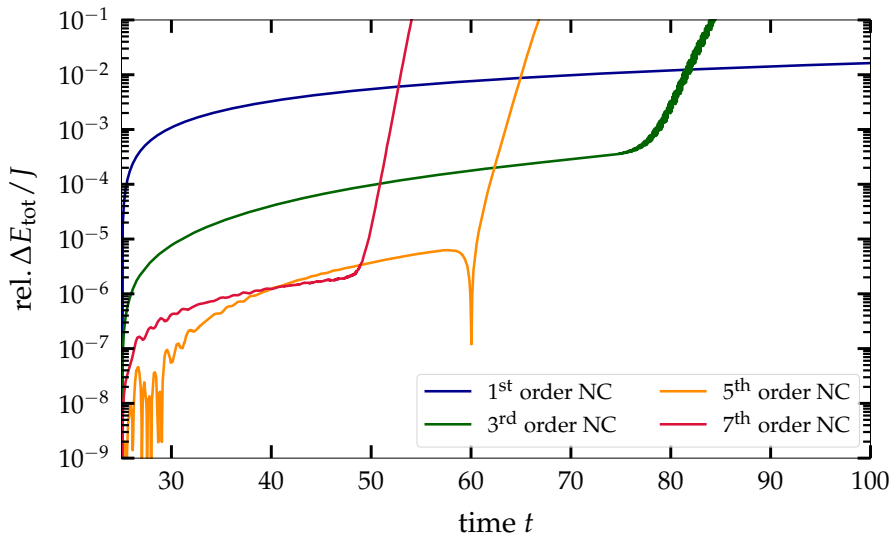
$$I_{il}^{(1),<}(t_0 < T) = \int_{t_s}^{t_0} d\bar{t} \sum_k \left\{ G_{ik}^>(t_0 > \bar{t}) \Sigma_{kl}^<(\bar{t} < T) - (G_{ki}^<(\bar{t} < t_0) \Sigma_{lk}^>(T > \bar{t}))^* \right\} + \dots$$



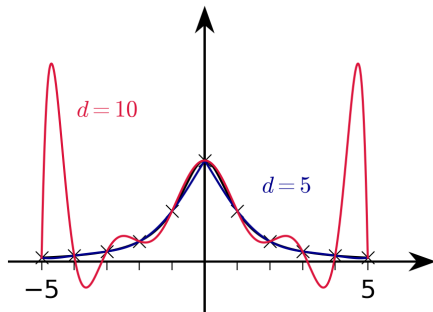
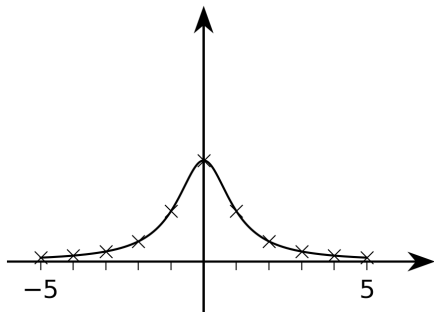
- high-order integration increases accuracy by two orders of magnitude



- high-order integration diverges despite time step of  $\Delta = 0.04J^{-1}$



- all high-order integrals show instability: can we do something about this?

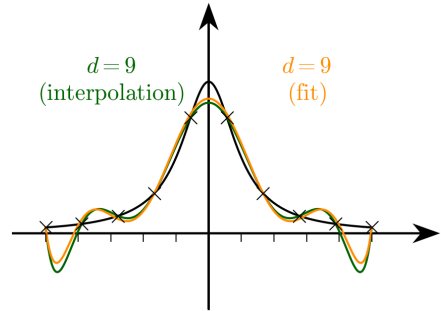
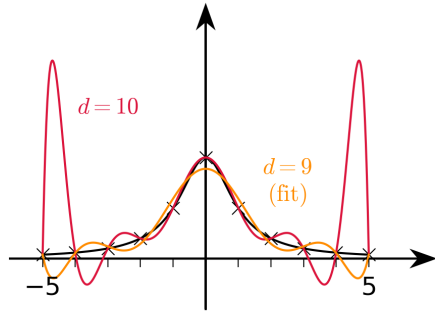


- Runge function

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

- high order interpolation polynomials show strong oscillations at the edges of the interval
- most common way to mitigate the effect is using non-equidistant points  
→ not possible here





- another solution is using regression instead of interpolation
- advantage: weights can be calculated in advance as in the Newton–Cotes method
- a fit of order 9 shows better behavior than the interpolation polynomial of order 9
- another way: use Fourier basis functions (Fourier extension)

- new weights for regression

$$w_i^d := \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} q_j(x_i) \int_0^1 d\hat{x} q_j(\hat{x})$$

with orthogonal polynomials

$$q_n(x) = \frac{1}{\|p_n\|_u} p_n(x), \quad \|f\|_u := \sqrt{u(f, f)}, \quad u(f, g) = \sum_{j=1}^N f(x_j)g(x_j)$$

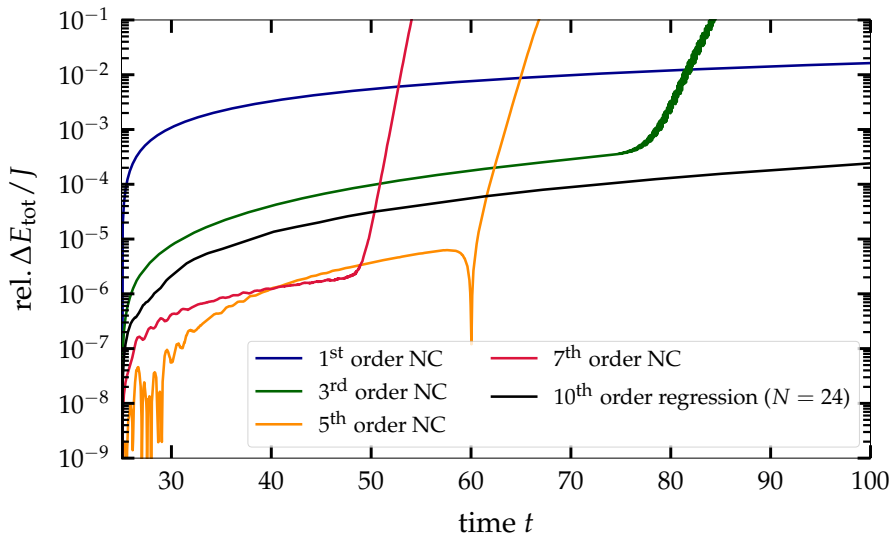
- obtainable by solving the recurrence relation

$$p_n(x) = (x - \alpha_n)p_{n-1}(x) - \beta_n p_{n-2}(x), \quad n = 2, 3, \dots, N - 1$$

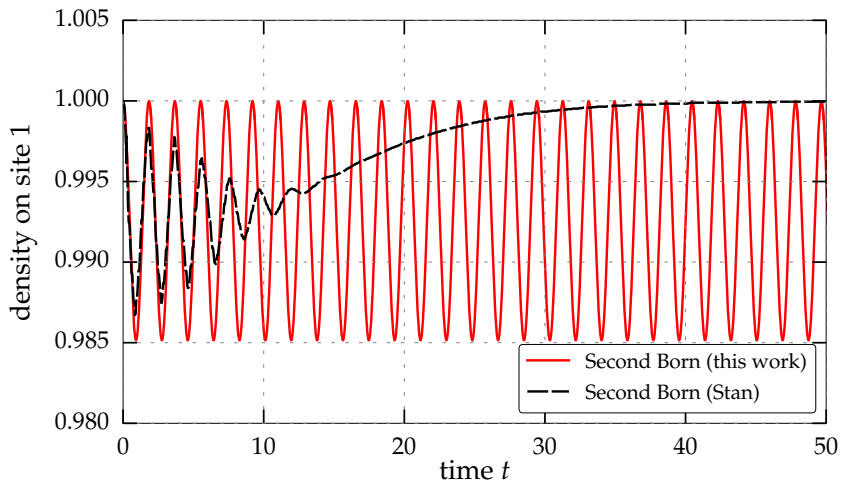
with the coefficients

$$\alpha_n(x) = \frac{v(xp_{n-1}, p_{n-1})}{v(p_{n-1}, p_{n-1})}, \quad \beta_n(x) = \frac{v(xp_{n-1}, p_{n-2})}{v(p_{n-2}, p_{n-2})}$$

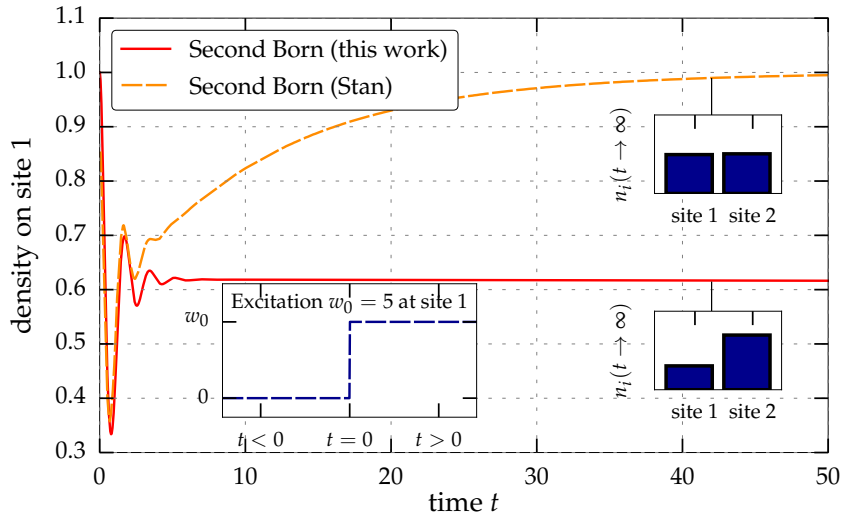
$$p_{-1}(x) \equiv 0 \quad \text{and} \quad p_0(x) = 1$$



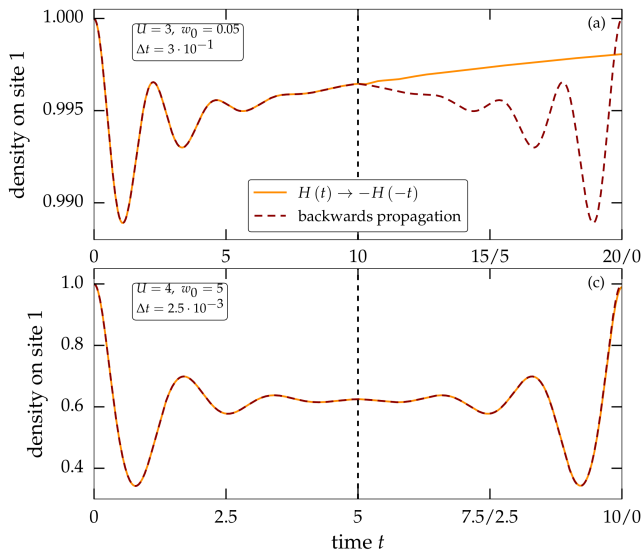
- regression method shows slightly worse energy conservation but no instability



- numerical damping mistaken for artificial damping of the KBEs



- inaccurate calculation leads to wrong steady state



- if done correctly, time reversibility is an ideal check for your numerics
- sign of Hamiltonian has to be changed
- top: weak excitation, numerical damping, correct time reversion fails
- bottom: strong excitation, intrinsic damping, correct time reversion succeeds

N. Schlünzen, J.-P. Joost and M. Bonitz, Phys. Rev. B **96**, 117101 (2017).

M. Scharnke, N. Schlünzen and M. Bonitz, Journal of Mathematical Physics **58**, 061903 (2017).

## optimizations:

- RK4 method (or  $U$ -equivalent) is sufficient for the propagation of the KBEs
- integration in the collision integral is far more error-prone  
→ high-order Newton–Cotes integration rules
- short integrals can be improved with additional data points
- mitigating the effect of the Runge phenomenon for high-order integrals by using regression polynomials or Fourier extension

## advantages:

- conservation of energy is 2 – 3 orders of magnitude better than for trivial approaches  
→ perform more precise calculations in a shorter time

## not shown:

- also applicable for the integration in the self-energy ( $GW$ ,  $T$ -matrix)