

Momentum distribution function and short-range correlations in dense quantum plasmas – ab initio quantum Monte Carlo results

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Plasma Theory and Simulation, PTS–2022

pdf at www.theo-physik.uni-kiel.de/bonitz/research.html

DFG

HLRN



The momentum distribution function (thermodynamic equilibrium)

▶ Classical plasma

- ▶ ideal plasma: Maxwell distribution
- ▶ interacting plasma: Maxwell distribution
 - ⇒ exponential decay for large momenta

▶ Quantum plasma

- ▶ ideal plasma: Fermi/Bose function
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▶ What about nonideal Quantum plasmas?

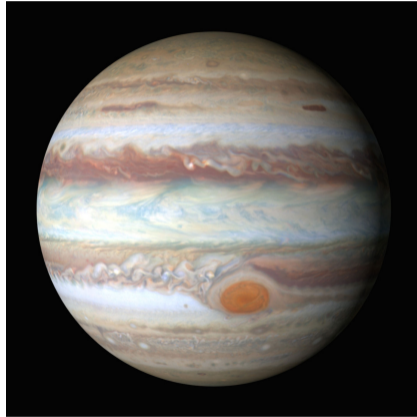
- ▶ slower non-exponential decay, $\sim p^{-8}$, predicted¹
 - ▶ relevant for threshold processes: dramatic increase of reaction rates, fusion rates could be possible
 - ▶ important for electrons under warm dense matter (WDM) conditions or ions in dense stars
- ▶ First *ab initio* Quantum Monte Carlo results for WDM available:
K. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021), arXiv:2101.00842
T. Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **103**, 205142 (2021)

¹ Daniel, Vosko (1960); Galitskii, Migdal (1967)

Warm Dense Matter: Occurrences and Applications [Andrew NG (2000): "missing link between CM, plasmas"]

▶ **Astrophysics:**

- ▶ Giant planet interiors (e.g. Jupiter)
- ▶ Brown dwarfs
- ▶ Earth interior, Meteor Impacts
- ▶ Recently discovered planets



[Source: Sci-News.com \[Img4\]](#)

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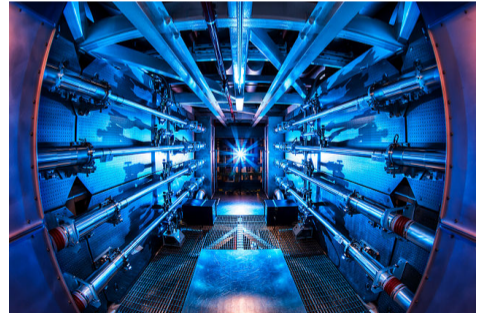
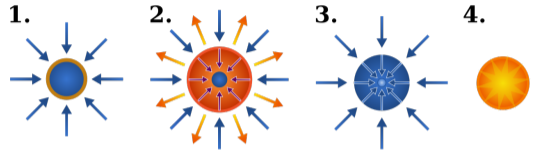
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▶ Laboratory Experiments, shock compression:

- ▶ Lasers, FELs, Z-pinch, ion beams
- ▶ Properties of matter under extreme conditions, e.g. Kritcher *et al.*, Nature 2020
- ▶ major driver: Inertial confinement fusion

Potential abundance of clean energy!



Source: en.wikipedia.org [Img5] and arstechnica.com [Img6]

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Potential abundance of clean energy!

US: NIF, Omega (Rochester), LCLS (Stanford): Fundamental research into WDM properties: → Equation of state, $S(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, conductivity etc.

National Ignition Facility (Livermore, California)

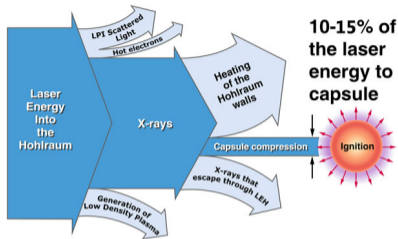


area: $70000m^2$

cost: ~ 1 billion Dollar

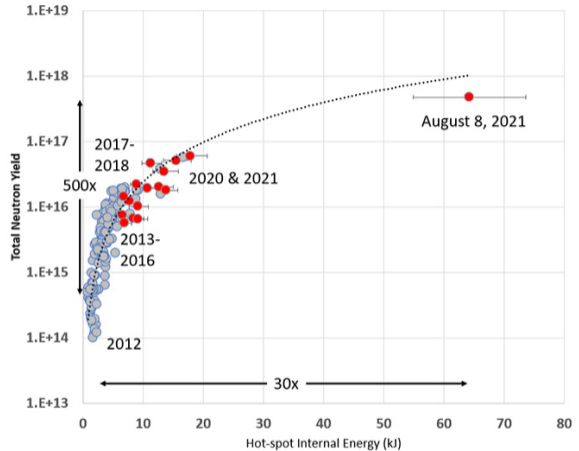
Source: C. Stolz, *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A* **370**, 4115 (2012) [Img7]

Progress in Inertial Confinement Fusion



continuous optimization of target design, pulse shape etc.

Record shot on August 8 2021: 1.92 MJ UV laser energy
source: <https://lasers.llnl.gov/news/hybrid-experiments-drive-nif-toward-ignition>

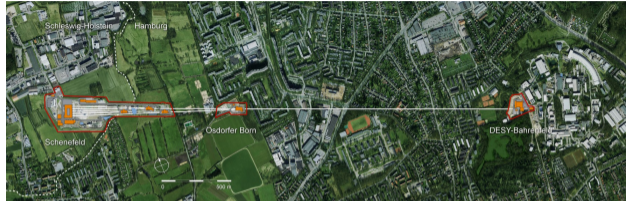


The “Hybrid-E experiment” on Aug. 8 achieved a hot-spot absorbed energy of about 65 kJ—about 20 kJ from the implosion, and the rest from compression “self-heating” from the fusion reactions (self-sustained burn). 1.35 MJ fusion energy yield, corresponds to 70% of ignition threshold (NAS criterion). Zylstra *et al.*, Nature (2022)

Facilities for WDM experiments in Europe and Asia:

Free electron lasers:

- ▶ **FLASH** (DESY, Hamburg)
- ▶ **European X-ray Free-Electron Laser**, Hamburg – Schenefeld
- ▶ **HIBEF Beamline and consortium. 2021 first successful experiments**
- ▶ **Fermi** (Triest, Italy)
- ▶ **SACLA** (Riken, Japan)

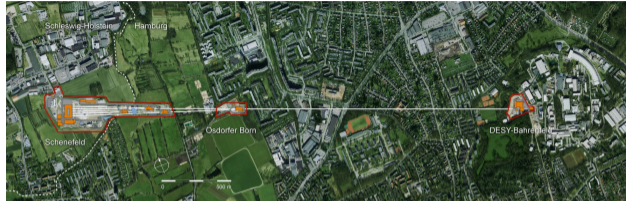


source: photon-science.desy.de

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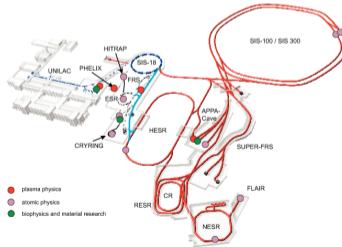
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Heavy ion beams:

- ▶ Facility for **Antiproton and Ion Research**, Darmstadt
- ▶ Construction started in 2017
- ▶ Heavy ion beams: Isochoric heating up to $\sim 10^6 K$



source: inspirehep.net



source: dw.com

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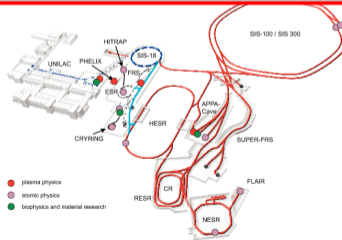
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Warm dense matter: indeed a HOT topic

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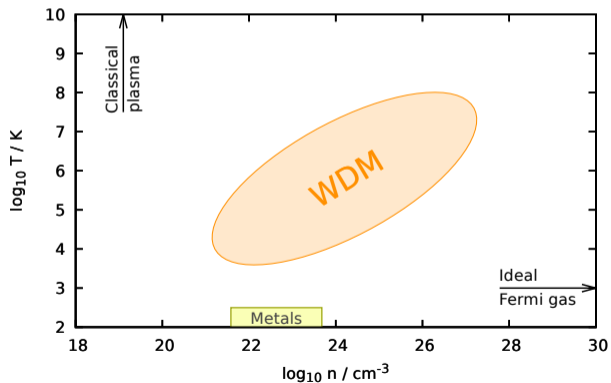
source: dw.com

Warm Dense Matter and quantum plasmas: relevant parameters

► Extreme and exotic state of matter:

- High temperature: $T \sim 10^3 - 10^8 \text{ K}$
- Extreme density: $n \sim 10^{21} - 10^{27} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Source: T. Dornheim, S. Groth, and M. Bonitz,
Phys. Reports **744**, 1-86 (2018)



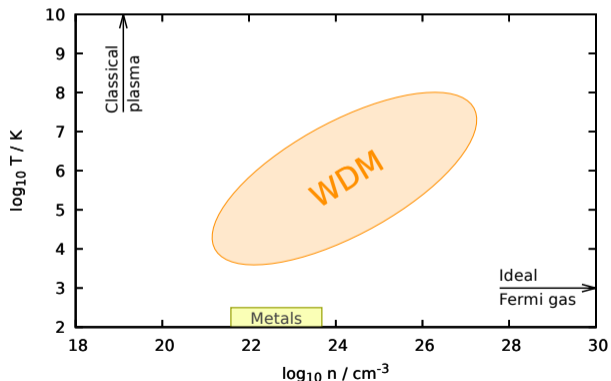
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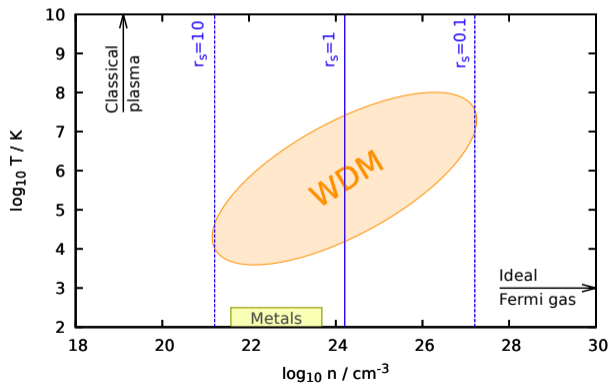
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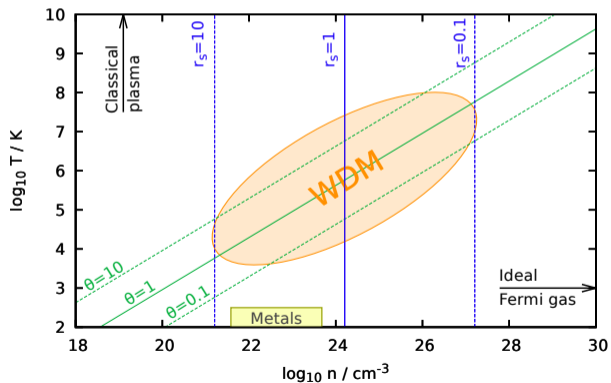
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- ▶ Degeneracy temperature $\theta = k_B T/E_F \sim 1$
 - $\theta < 1$: quantum plasma,
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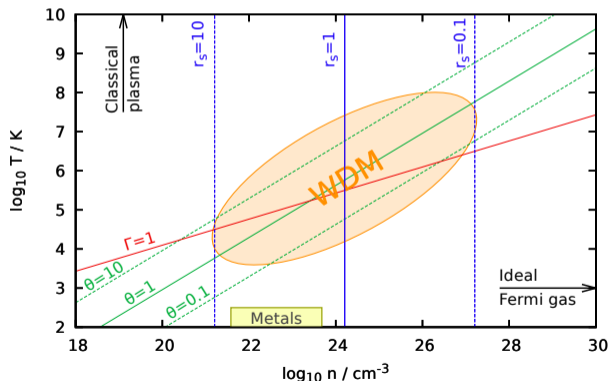
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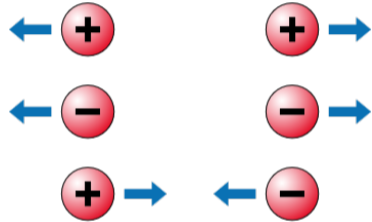
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▶ Classical coupling parameter $\Gamma = e^2/r_s k_B T \sim 1$

▶ Nontrivial interplay of many effects:

▶ Coulomb coupling (non-ideality)



[Source: bin-br.at \[Img1\]](#)

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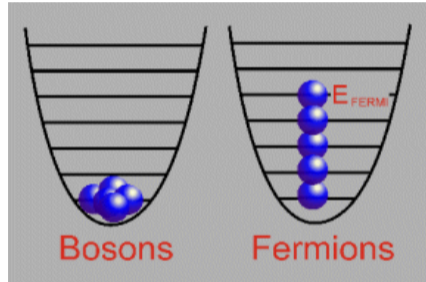
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Source: cidehom.com [Img2]

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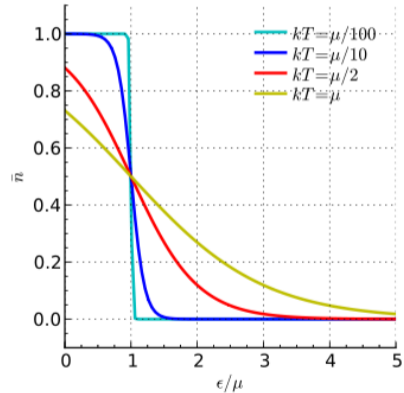
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▶ Nontrivial interplay of many effects:

- ▶ Coulomb coupling (non-ideality)
- ▶ Fermionic exchange (anti-symmetry)
- ▶ Thermal excitations (statistical description)



Source: en.wikipedia.org [lmg3]

Importance of the uniform electron gas (UEG)

Model system of Coulomb interacting quantum electrons in a uniform positive background

Ground state ($T = 0$):

- ▶ Simple model for conduction electrons in metals
- ▶ **Exchange-correlation (XC) energy:**

$$e_{xc}(r_s) = e_{tot}(r_s) - e_0(r_s)$$

- **Input for density functional theory (DFT) simulations (in LDA and GGA)**
- Parametrization¹ of $e_{xc}(r_s)$ from ground state quantum Monte Carlo data²
- this made DFT-MD the basis of modern atomic, molecular physics, chemistry, material science

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Warm dense matter ($T \sim T_F$):

- ▶ **Thermal DFT³:** minimize free energy $F = E - TS$
- **Requires parametrization of XC free energy of UEG:**

$$f_{xc}(r_s, \theta) = f_{tot}(r_s, \theta) - f_0(r_s, \theta)$$

- ▶ $f_{xc}(r_s, \theta)$ direct input for **Equation of state (EOS) models** of astrophysical objects⁴
- ▶ $f_{xc}(r_s, \theta)$ contains **complete thermodynamic information** of UEG

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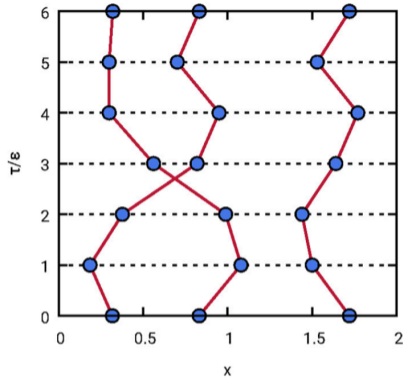
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Path Integral Monte Carlo (PIMC): Fermions

► Fermionic antisymmetry:

$$Z = \frac{1}{N!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_N} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \int d\mathbf{R} \langle \mathbf{R} | e^{-\beta \hat{H}} | \hat{\pi}_\sigma \mathbf{R} \rangle$$

⇒ We must include **permutation-cycles!**



PIMC configuration of $N = 3$ particles, $W(\mathbf{X}) < 0$

Taken from: T. Dornheim, S. Groth, A. Filinov, and M. Bonitz,
J. Chem. Phys. **151**, 014108 (2019)

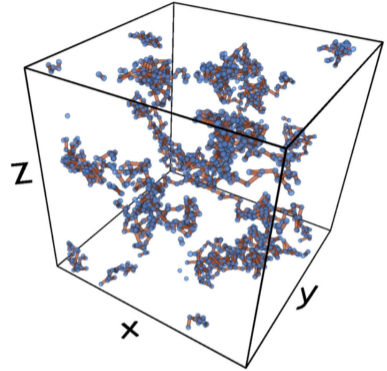
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⇒ We must include **permutation-cycles!**

- ▶ Randomly generate all possible paths **X** using the **Metropolis algorithm**



Snapshot of PIMC simulation of UEG with $N = 19$, $r_s = 2$, $\theta = 0.5$ (fluctuating probability density)

Taken from: T. Dornheim, S. Groth, A. Filinov, and M. Bonitz, *J. Chem. Phys.* **151**, 014108 (2019)

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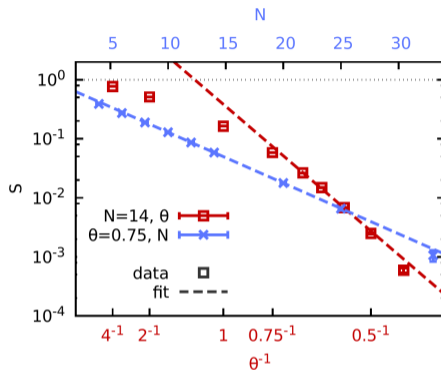
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⇒ We must include **permutation-cycles!**

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▶ Sign changes due to particle exchange lead to vanishing signal-to-noise ratio

⇒ Fermion Sign Problem (unsolved!)

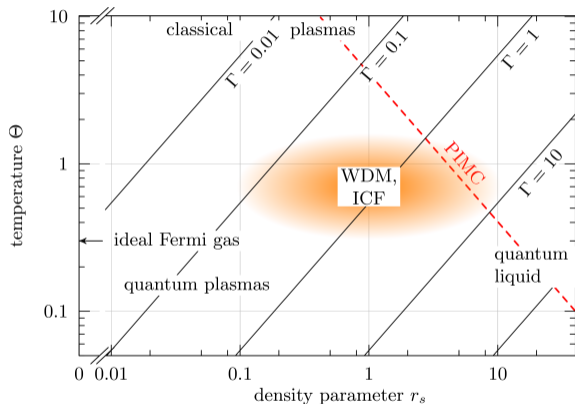


Exponential decrease of the average sign S with system size N and quantum degeneracy θ^{-1}

Taken from: T. Dornheim, *Phys. Rev. E* **100**, 023307 (2019)

Path integral Monte Carlo (PIMC) simulation of the warm dense UEG

- ▶ Standard PIMC in warm dense regime severely hampered by **fermion sign problem**:



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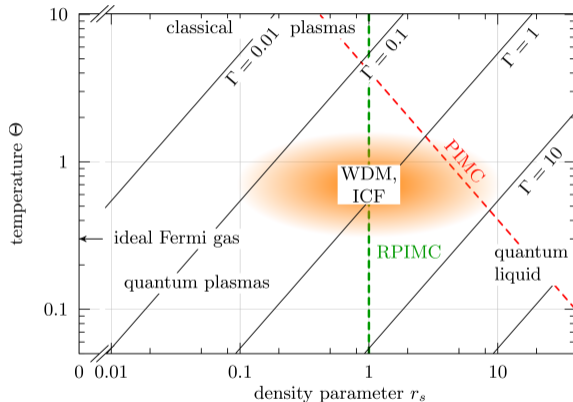
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 - ▶ **RPIMC** limited to $r_s \gtrsim 1$
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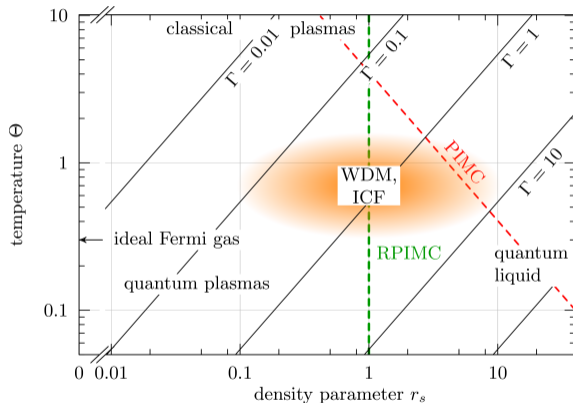
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Avoid fermion sign problem by combining two exact and complementary QMC methods:



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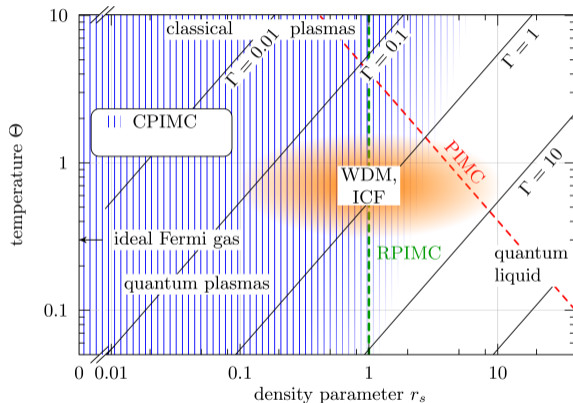
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1. Configuration PIMC (CPIMC)^{3,4}

→ Excels at high density $r_s \lesssim 1$ and strong degeneracy



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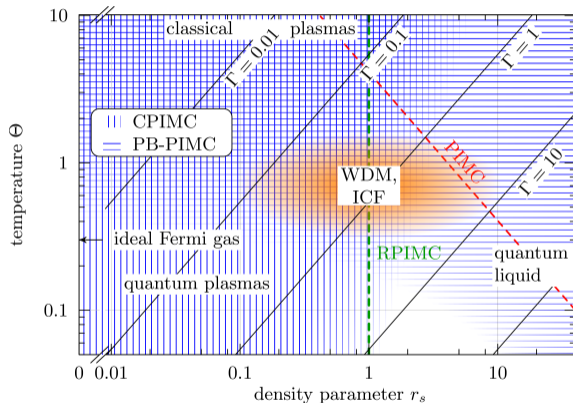
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 - Excels at high density $r_s \lesssim 1$ and strong degeneracy
2. **Permutation blocking PIMC (PB-PIMC)**^{5,6}
 - Extends standard PIMC towards stronger degeneracy



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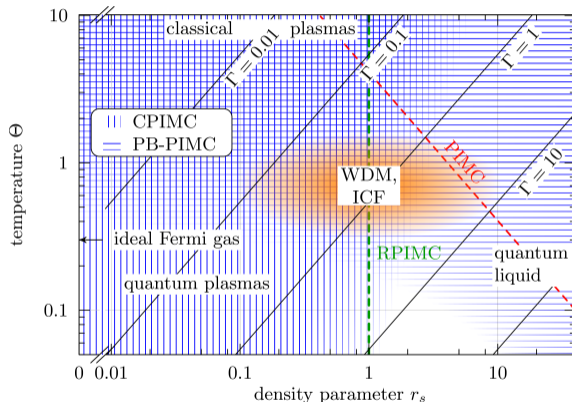
Path integral Monte Carlo (PIMC) simulation of the warm dense UEG

- ▶ Standard PIMC in warm dense regime severely hampered by **fermion sign problem**:
 - ▶ First results¹ by E. Brown, D. Ceperley *et al.* (2013) based on **fixed node approximation (RPIMC)**
 - ▶ Induces **systematic errors** of unknown magnitude
 - ▶ **RPIMC** limited to $r_s \gtrsim 1$
 - ▶ Fermionic **PIMC**: Filinov *et al.*² limited to $r_s \gtrsim 1$

Our approach:

Avoid fermion sign problem by combining two exact and complementary QMC methods:

1. **Configuration PIMC (CPIMC)**^{3,4}
 - Excels at high density $r_s \lesssim 1$ and strong degeneracy
2. **Permutation blocking PIMC (PB-PIMC)**^{5,6}
 - Extends standard PIMC towards stronger degeneracy



Ab initio simulations over broad range of parameters possible

¹ E.W. Brown *et al.*, PRL **110**, 146405 (2013)

³ T. Schoof *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett **115**, 130402 (2015)

⁴ T. Schoof *et al.*, Contrib. Plasma Phys. **51**, 687 (2011)

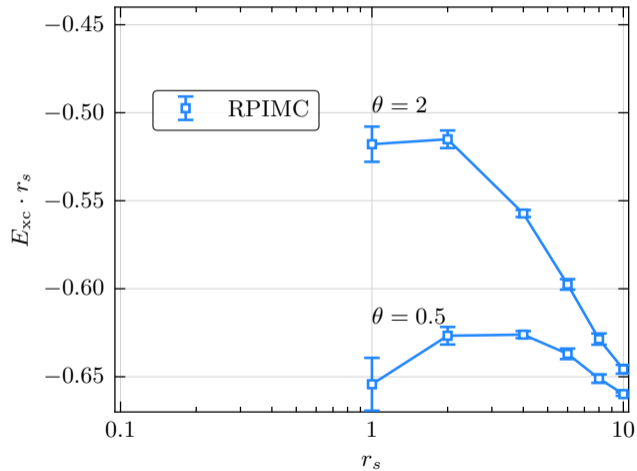
² V. Filinov *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **91**, 033108 (2015)

⁵ T. Dornheim *et al.*, New J. Phys. **17**, 073017 (2015)

⁶ T. Dornheim *et al.*, J. Chem. Phys. **143**, 204101 (2015)

1. Exact exchange-correlation energy $E_{xc} = E - E_0$ (E_0 : ideal energy)
($N = 33$ spin-polarized electrons, $\theta \geq 0.5, \forall r_s$)

► **RPIMC** limited to $r_s \geq 1$



¹S. Groth *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **93**, 085102 (2016)

²T. Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **93**, 205134 (2016)

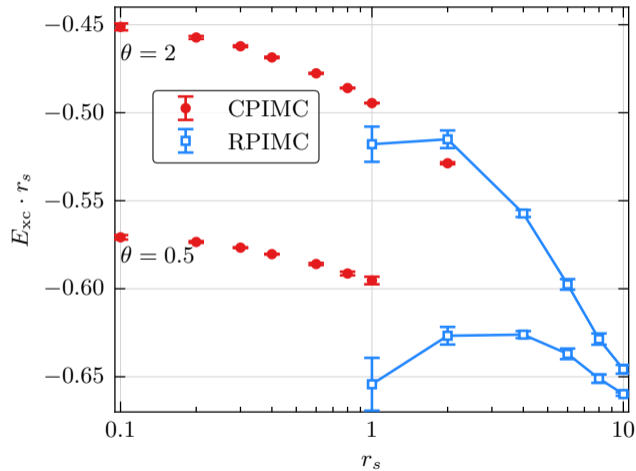
³F.D. Malone *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **117**, 115701 (2016)

⁴T. Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2016)

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- ▶ **CPIMC** excels at high density



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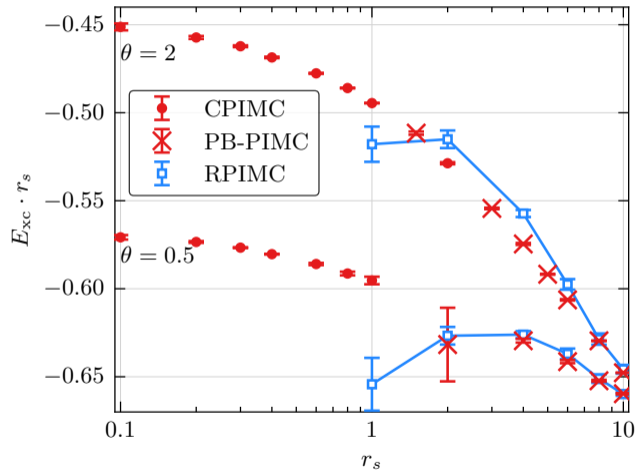
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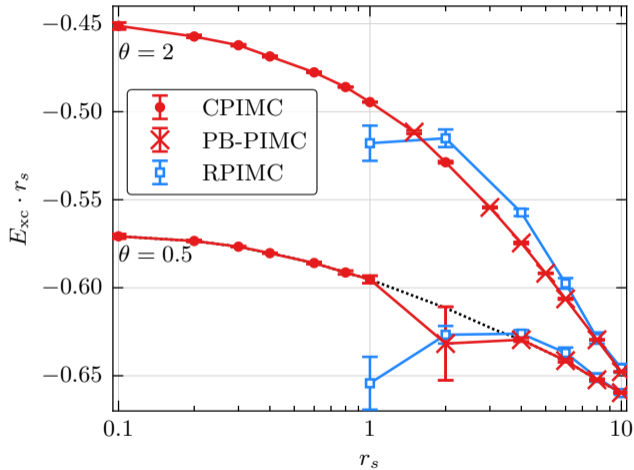
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- ▶ **PB-PIMC** applicable at $\theta \gtrsim 0.5$

Combination¹ yields exact results over entire density range down to $\theta \sim 0.5$

- ▶ Also applies to the **unpolarized** UEG²
- ▶ confirmed by independent **DMQMC** simulations³
- ▶ Extended to TD Limit⁴ and to the ground state⁵
- ▶ Analytical parametrization of $f_{xc}(r_s, \theta, \xi)$, "GDSMFB", with error below 0.3%, Integrated in standard DFT libraries⁵



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²T. Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **93**, 205134 (2016)

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⁵S. Groth *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2017)

Recognition for our work...

APS John Dawson Award 2021

Kiel group:

Tim Schoof (PhD 2016), **Simon Groth** (PhD 2018): CPIMC, finite size corrections etc.

Tobias Dornheim (PhD 2018): PB-PIMC now at CASUS Görlitz, **Extension to static and dynamic response, transport, DFT, machine learning, nonlinear density response etc.**

UK and US collaborators:

F. Malone, M. Foulkes and T. Sjostrom



63rd Annual Meeting of the
APS Division of Plasma Physics



2021 PRIZES & AWARDS

John Dawson Award for Excellence in Plasma Physics Research

For developing Monte Carlo methods that overcome the fermion sign problem, leading to the first ab initio data for an electron gas under warm dense matter conditions.

 <p>William Foulkes Imperial College London</p>	 <p>Simon Groth Christian-Albrechts University in Kiel</p>
 <p>Travis Sjostrom Los Alamos National Laboratory</p>	 <p>Tobias Dornheim Center for Advanced Systems Understanding (CASUS)</p>
 <p>Fionn Malone QC Ware</p>	 <p>Michael Bonitz Kiel University</p>
 <p>Tim Schoof DESY</p>	

Ab Initio PIMC approach to equilibrium response and transport properties

Quantities accessible in PIMC:

all thermodynamic functions from $F(r_s, \theta)$; structural properties: $g(r)$, $S(q)$

fluctuations in response to excitation: $\delta\hat{H}(\mathbf{q}) \rightarrow \delta\rho(\mathbf{q})$

correlation functions: e.g. $\langle \delta\rho(\mathbf{q}_1, \tau_1)\rho(\mathbf{q}_2, \tau_2) \rangle$ yield transport properties

Susceptibilities from linear response theory (LRT):

$\delta\rho(\mathbf{q}) = \chi(\mathbf{q})\delta H(\mathbf{q})$, χ : static density response \rightarrow comparison for PIMC to LRT/experiment

Correlation and exchange effects: encoded in “local field correction” $G(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$

straightforward connection to transport², optics etc.: $\chi(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, $S(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$ ³, $\epsilon(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, $\sigma(\mathbf{q}, \omega)$, plasmon dispersion⁴

PIMC: susceptibilities beyond validity limits of LRT⁵

Ab initio spectral properties, momentum distribution $n(p)$

²Hamann et al., Phys. Rev. B (2020)

³Dornheim et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. (2018)

⁴Hamann et al., Contrib. Plasma Phys. (2020)

⁵Dornheim et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. (2020)

Momentum distribution of correlated electrons in WDM⁶

▶ Key questions

1. Is the large momentum asymptotic of $n(p)$ indeed of order p^{-8} ?
2. How does the asymptotic depend on density and momentum?
3. How do correlations and quantum effects influence the low-momentum states?

▶ Earlier works

- ▶ **non-exponential decay**, $\sim p^{-8}$, predicted by Daniel, Vosko (1960); Galitskii, Migdal (1967) and others
- ▶ Many ground state results: analytical and QMC: Gori-Giorgi *et al.*, Calmels, Overhauser, Spink *et al.*
- ▶ Observed also in cold atoms, but there asymptotic $\sim p^{-4}$, e.g. Doggen, Kinnunen, (2015)
- ▶ importance for dense plasmas discussed e.g. by Starostin, Fisch and others
- ▶ recent QMC simulations: Militzer, V. Filinov *et al.*

⁶K. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021)

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- importance for dense plasmas discussed e.g. by Starostin, Fisch and others
- recent QMC simulations: Militzer, V. Filinov *et al.*
- **Asymptotic given by on-top pair distribution**, for all temperatures, via

$$\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} n(p) = \frac{4}{9} \left(\frac{4}{9\pi} \right)^{2/3} \left(\frac{r_s}{\pi} \right)^2 \frac{\rho_F^8}{p^8} g^{\uparrow\downarrow}(0),$$

Kimball (1975); Yasuhara, Kawazoe (1976)

► Tasks

- Develop CPIMC and fermionic PIMC simulations for $n(p)$ and $g^{\uparrow\downarrow}(0)$
- Compute $n(p)$ and $g^{\uparrow\downarrow}(0)$ for WDM parameters, explore density and temperature dependence
- Generate accurate benchmark data for $n(p)$ for all momenta. Input for models, reaction rates etc.

⁷K. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021)

CPIMC approach to the momentum distribution and the on-top PDF⁹

CPIMC is QMC in Fock space (second quantization)⁸

Exact description of quantum electrons at $r_s \lesssim 1$

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{ij} h_{ij} \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_j + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ijkl} w_{ijkl} \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_l \hat{a}_k, \quad \hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta \hat{H}},$$

Uniform electron gas: Use plane wave basis.

Generate paths C in Fock space with weight $W(C)$

Estimators for single-particle and two-particle density matrix:

$$n_i = \langle \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_i \rangle = -\frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial}{\partial h_{ii}} \ln Z = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_C \left(\sum_{\nu=0}^K n_i^{(\nu)} \frac{\tau_{i+1} - \tau_i}{\beta} \right) W(C)$$

$$d_{ijkl} = \langle \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_j^\dagger \hat{a}_k \hat{a}_l \rangle = -\frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{ijkl}} \ln Z,$$

$$g^{\uparrow\downarrow}(0, C) = \frac{1}{2N_{\sigma_1}(C)N_{\sigma_2}(C)} \sum_{ijkl} \delta_{s_i, s_l} \delta_{s_j, s_k} (1 - \delta_{s_i, s_j}) d_{ijkl}(C)$$

Illustration for 3 particles

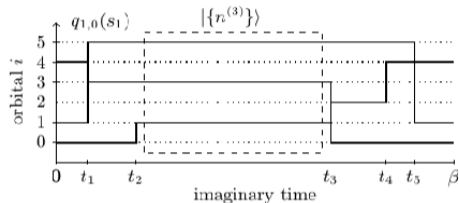


Figure: Continuous time representation of the path integral, for $N = 3$. Paths C are classified by the number K of kinks, their times and involved orbitals.

Ideal Fermi gas: one Slater determinant, corresponds to straight lines (no kinks).

Correlations: mix of Slater determinants, leads to increase or K .

⁸Schoof, Bonitz *et al.*, Contrib. Plasma Phys. (2011)

⁹K. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021)

Results for the momentum distribution – Overview¹⁰

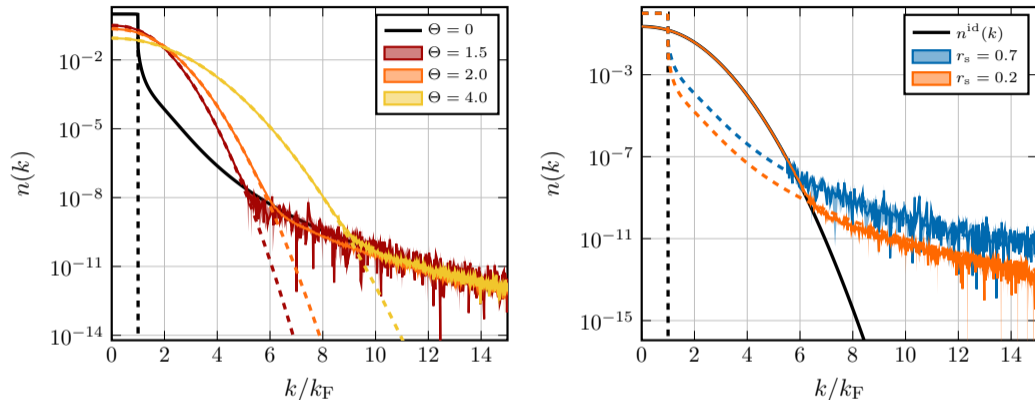
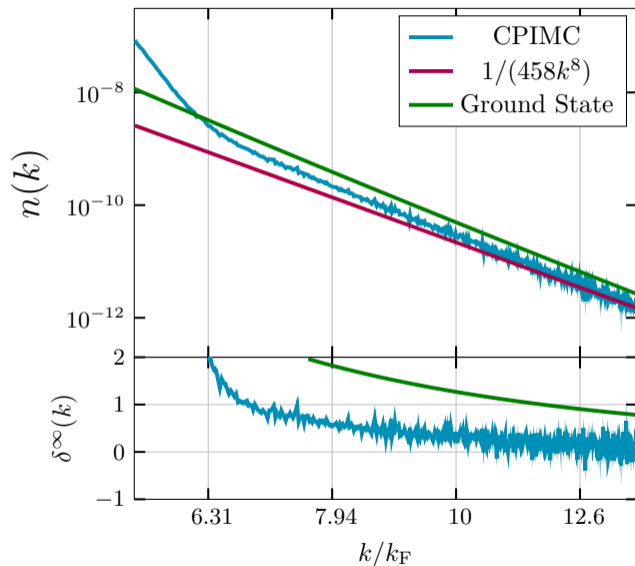


Figure: Left: Temperature dependence at $r_s = \bar{r}/a_B = 0.5$. Full lines: CPIMC, dashed: Fermi function n^{id} .

Right: Density dependence at $\Theta = k_B T/E_F = 2.0$. Full lines: CPIMC, dashed: ground state, black: n^{id} .

¹⁰K. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021)
ground state results: Gori-Giorgi *et al.* (2001)

Results for the momentum distribution – large- k asymptotic¹¹



Tail of $n(k)$,

$r_s = 0.5$ and $\Theta = 2$

pink: asymptotic $n^\infty(k)$,
using CPIMC result for
 $g^{\uparrow\downarrow}(0)$

δ^∞ : relative deviation from
asymptotic

$$\delta^\infty(k) = \frac{n(k)}{n^\infty(k)} - 1.$$

Ordering of curves
determined by $g^{\uparrow\downarrow}(0; \Theta)$

¹¹K. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021), ground state results: Gori-Giorgi *et al.* (2001)

Results for the momentum distribution – low- k states¹²

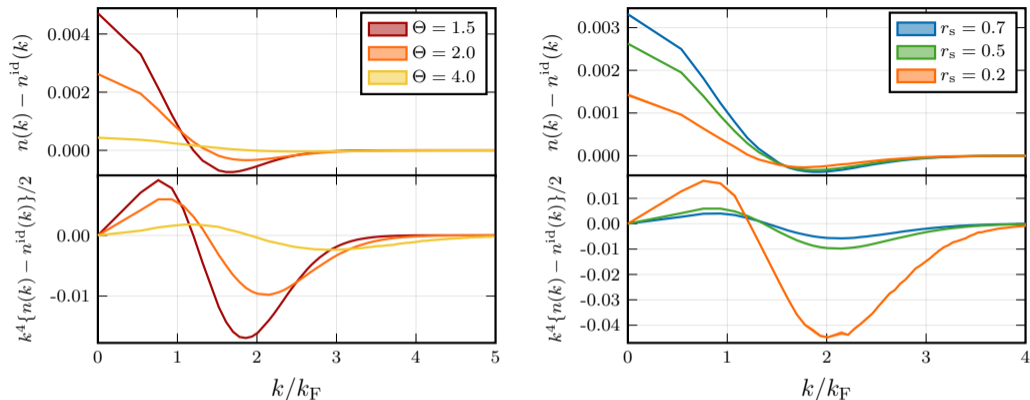
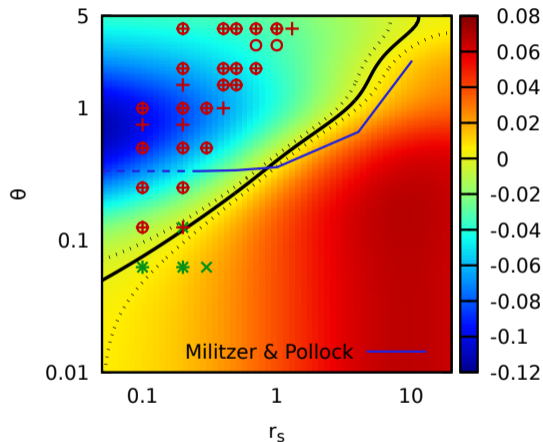


Figure: **Top:** Difference correlated (CPIMC) minus ideal distribution,
Bottom: Difference of kinetic energy densities. Total kinetic energy: area under curve
Left: Temperature dependence at $r_s = 0.5$. **Right:** Density dependence at $\Theta = 2$.

Explanation: negative energy shift of low-momentum states: $E(k) = \frac{k^2}{2m} + \Sigma_F(k) + \dots$

Interaction-induced lowering of the kinetic energy¹³



Exchange-correlation contribution to kinetic energy, K_{xc} ,

Black line: $K_{xc} = 0$,

symbols: CPIMC data points

blue line: Militzer *et al.* (2002)

heat map (and pluses):

$$K_{xc} = -f_{xc} - \theta \left. \frac{\partial f_{xc}}{\partial \theta} \right|_{r_s} - r_s \left. \frac{\partial f_{xc}}{\partial r_s} \right|_{\theta}$$

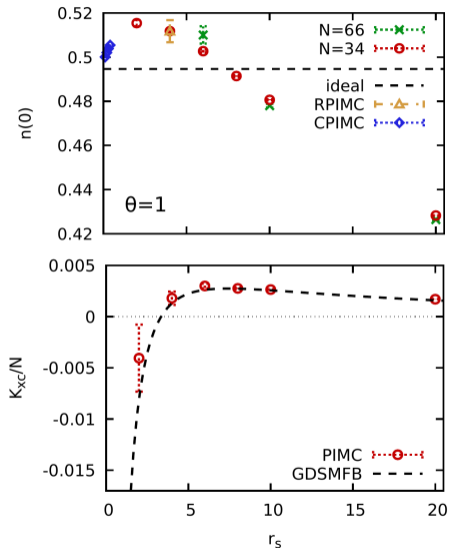
with f_{xc} : GDSMFB parametrization

red circles: $n(0) > n^{id}(0)$

green crosses: $n(0) < n^{id}(0)$

¹³predicted by Militzer *et al.* (2002), and Kraeft *et al.* (2002),
present results from: K. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021)

Interaction-induced lowering of the kinetic energy (contd.)¹⁴



Top: Occupation of lowest momentum orbital

red, green symbols: PIMC data
blue symbols: CPIMC data points

Bottom: Exchange-correlation contribution to kinetic energy, K_{xc} ,

CPIMC data: minimum at
 $r_s \approx 0.4^a$

^aK. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021)

¹⁴predicted by Militzer *et al.* (2002), and Kraeft *et al.* (2002),
from: T. Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Rev. B **103**, 205142 (2021)

On-top pair distribution function $g^{\uparrow\downarrow}(0)$

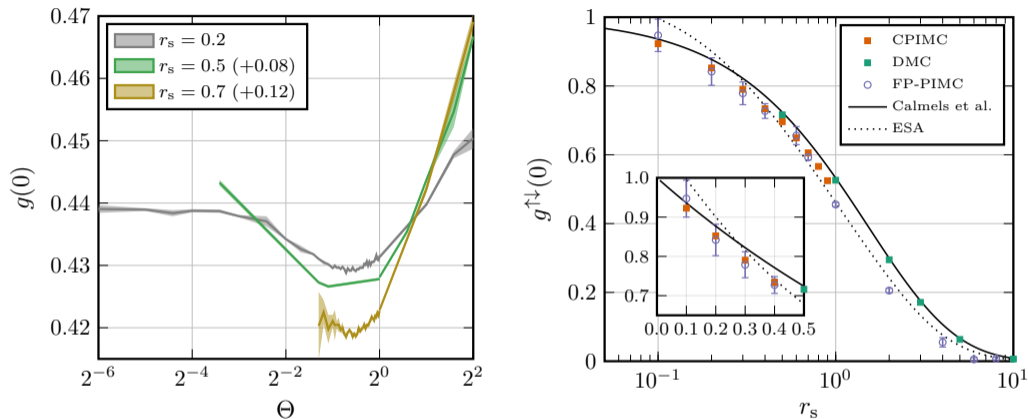


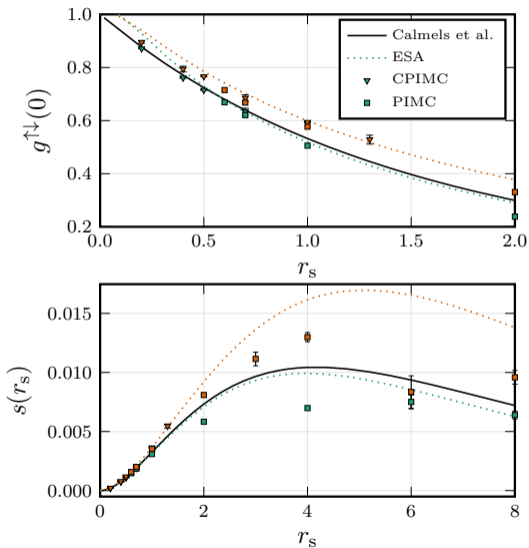
Figure: **Left:** Temperature dependence for three densities (CPIMC data where available, curves shifted vertically).

Right: Density dependence at $\Theta = 1$. **Red:** CPIMC, **blue circles:** fermionic propagator PIMC (A. Filinov), green and black line: ground state data of Spink *et al.* (2013) and Calmels *et al.* (1998)

ESA: "effective static approximation" by Dornheim *et al.* (2020)

Minimum due to competition between exchange and Coulomb correlations.

Particle number in the tail: temperature and density dependence



large-momentum asymptotic:

$$n(k) \rightarrow s(r_s, \Theta) \cdot \left(\frac{k_F}{k}\right)^{-8}$$

$$\sim r_s^2 \cdot g^{\uparrow\downarrow}(0, r_s, \Theta) \left(\frac{k_F}{k}\right)^{-8},$$

s depends non-monotonically on Θ and r_s

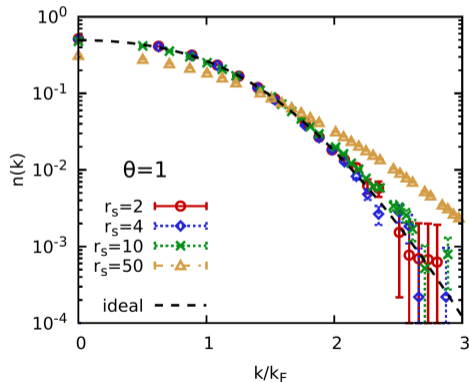
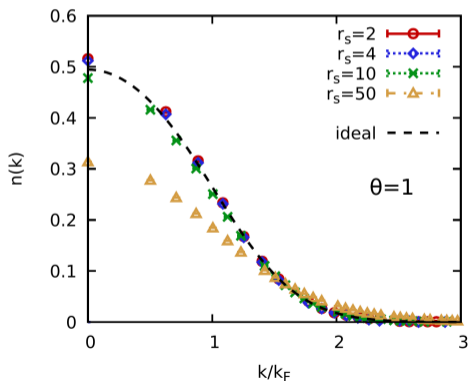
black line: $T = 0$
 green symbols: $\Theta = 2$
 orange symbols: $\Theta = 4$

minimum around $\Theta \sim 0.65$
 maximum around $4 \lesssim r_s \lesssim 5$

Momentum distribution for jellium at strong coupling. . . electron liquid¹⁵

- Fermionic PIMC simulations in grand canonical ensemble
- Extension of $n(k)$ results to $2 \leq r_s \leq 50$ and $\Theta \geq 0.75$
- Good agreement with RPIMC data of Militzer, Pollock, and Ceperley (HEDP 2019)
- Data limited to moderate k -values

linear vs. log scale



Extension to hydrogen plasma

Single-bound electron problem, $T = 0$

ground state wave function: $\psi_{100}(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a_B^3}} e^{-r/a_B}$, probability density: $g_{100}(r) = r^2 \frac{e^{-2r/a_B}}{\pi a_B^3}$

momentum probability density, p_r : radial momentum:¹⁶

$$|\langle \mathbf{p} | 100 \rangle|^2 = \tilde{\rho}_{100}(p_r) = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \frac{p_{\text{Ryd}}^{-3}}{\left(1 + \frac{p_r^2}{p_{\text{Ryd}}^2}\right)^4}, \quad E_{\text{Ryd}} = \frac{m_r}{2} p_{\text{Ryd}}^2.$$

normalization: $1 = 4\pi \int_0^\infty dp_r p_r^2 \tilde{\rho}_{100}(p_r)$, maximum of $p_r^2 \tilde{\rho}(p_r)$: $p_r^0 = p_{\text{Ryd}}/\sqrt{3}$

asymptotic: $\lim_{p_r \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\rho}(p_r) \sim \frac{8}{\pi^2 p_{\text{Ryd}}^3} \left(\frac{p_{\text{Ryd}}}{p_r}\right)^8$

¹⁶Podolski, Pauling, Phys. Rev. (1929)

Momentum distribution: hydrogen plasma versus jellium, $r_s = 6$

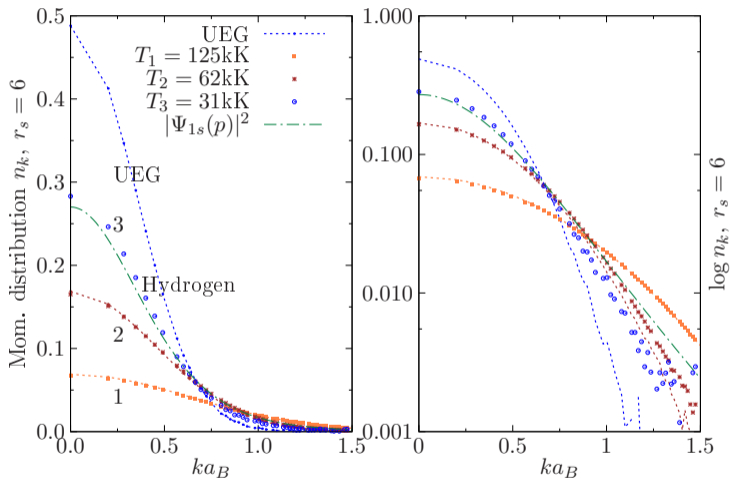


Figure: Grand canonical Fermionic propagator PIMC, A. Filinov

Pair distribution: hydrogen plasma, $r_s = 6$

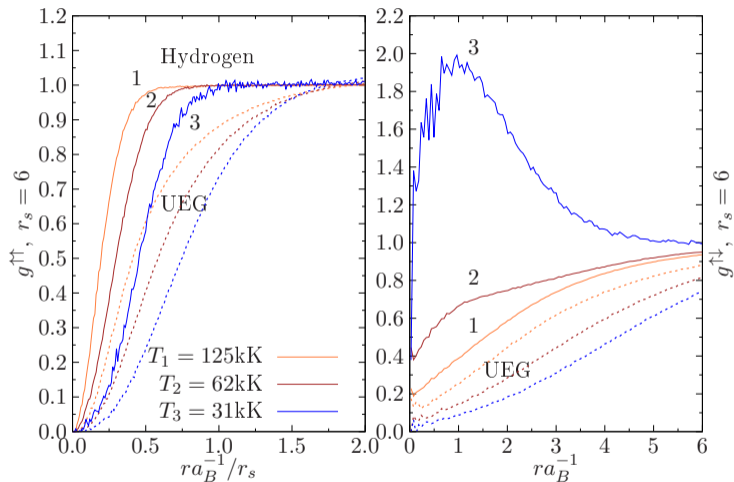


Figure: Grand canonical Fermionic propagator PIMC, A. Filinov

Electron-ion pair distribution: hydrogen plasma, $r_s = 6$

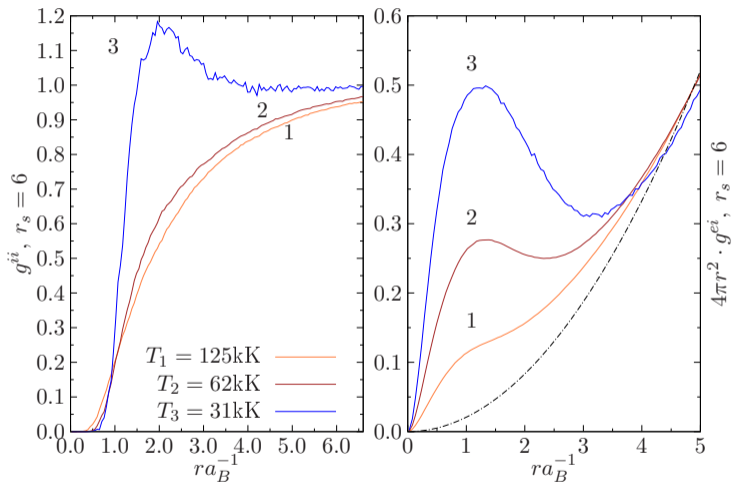


Figure: Grand canonical Fermionic propagator PIMC, A. Filinov

Summary and outlook

► momentum distribution of quantum electrons in WDM:

- tail crucial for rates of threshold processes (e.g. fusion)
- CPIMC: unprecedented accuracy. Benchmarks, input in analytical models

► First *ab initio* results^a for $n(k)$ and $g^{\uparrow\downarrow}$:

- based on combination of CPIMC and direct fermionic PIMC, thereby avoiding the fermion sign problem, extending previous thermodynamic results^b
- p^{-8} -asymptotic quantified via on-top PDF
- accurate FPIMC results for hydrogen

► Outlook:

- *ab initio* spectral function, energy dispersion
$$n(k) = \int d\omega a(k, \omega) f^{\text{EQ}}(\omega)$$
- further improvement of CPIMC, extension to two-component plasmas

^aK. Hunger *et al.*, Phys. Rev. E **103**, 053204 (2021)

^bT. Dornheim *et al.*, Phys. Reports (2018)

