

Enforcing conservation laws and dissipation inequalities numerically via auxiliary variables

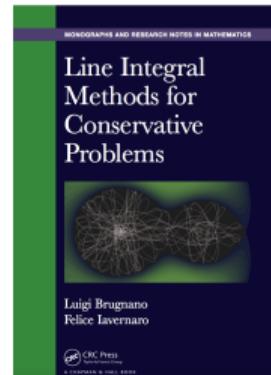
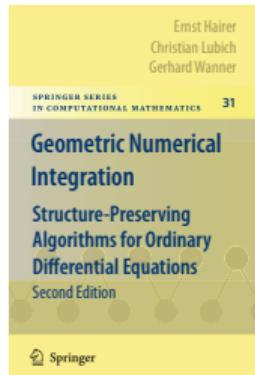
Patrick E. Farrell^{1,2} Boris Andrews¹



¹University of Oxford

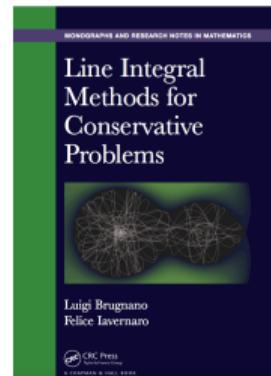
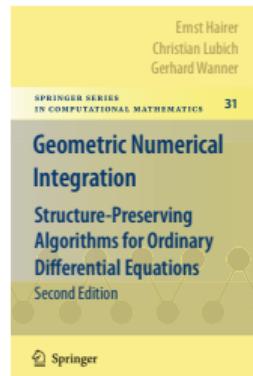
²Charles University

Here are four properties an initial value problem might have:



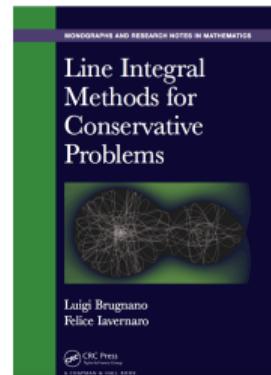
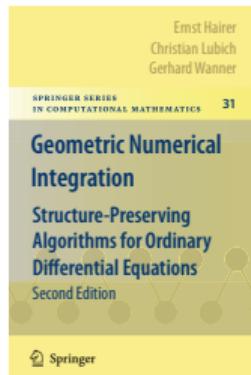
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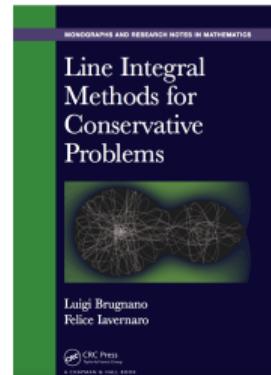
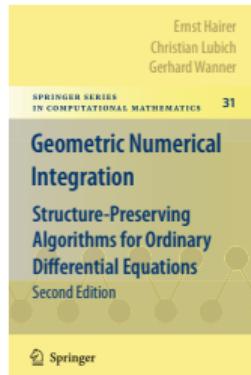


Symplecticity

The differential equation preserves the symplectic 2-form.

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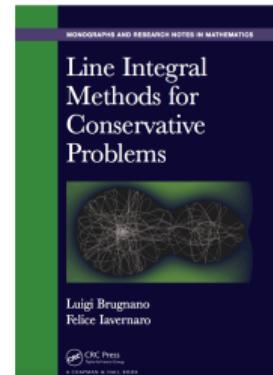
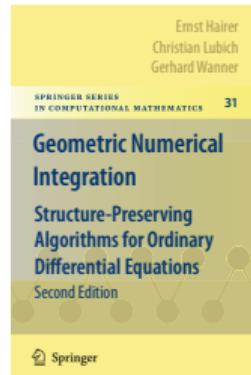


Symmetry

The system is invariant under e.g. translation, rotation, time reversal + momentum negation.

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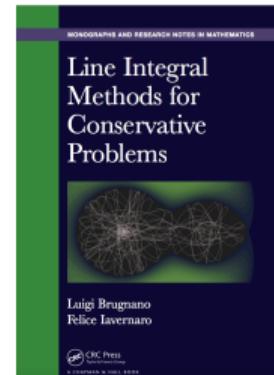
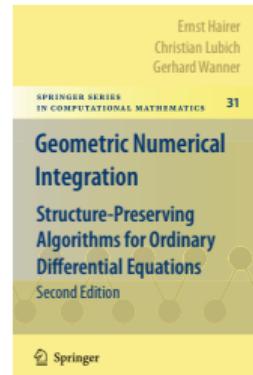


Conservation

The equation preserves invariants, like energy or angular momentum.

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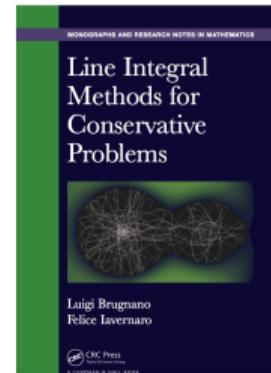
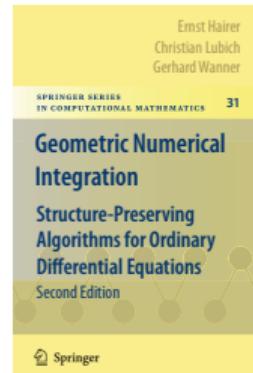


Dissipation

The equation dissipates certain quantities like entropy at a known, definite rate.

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This talk

We aim to **preserve conservation laws and dissipation inequalities** on discretisation . . .

. . . in a symmetric way, without projections onto manifolds or Lagrange multipliers.

Section 2

Examples

Consider the two-body Kepler problem with Hamiltonian

$$H(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{p}\|^2 - \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{q}\|},$$

inducing the differential equations

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = B \nabla H(\mathbf{x}), \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -I \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}].$$



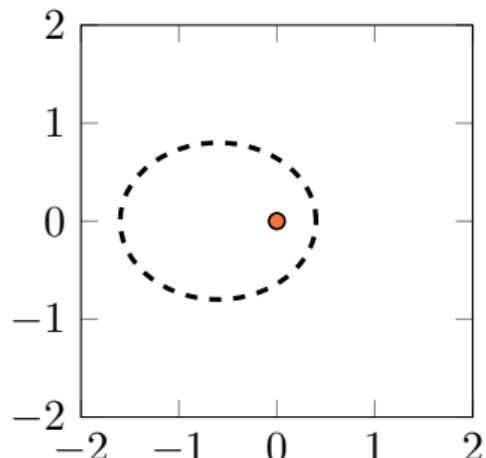
Johannes Kepler

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Keplerian orbits:

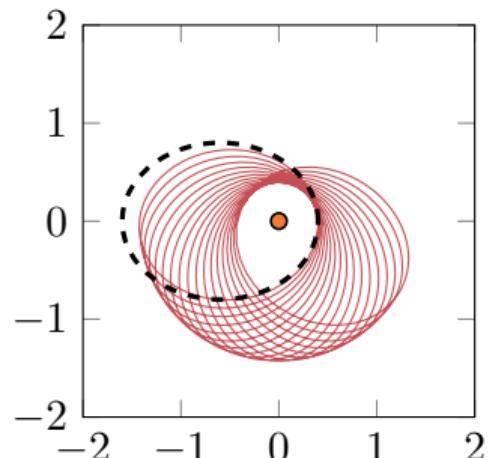
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- ✓ energy
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Implicit midpoint:

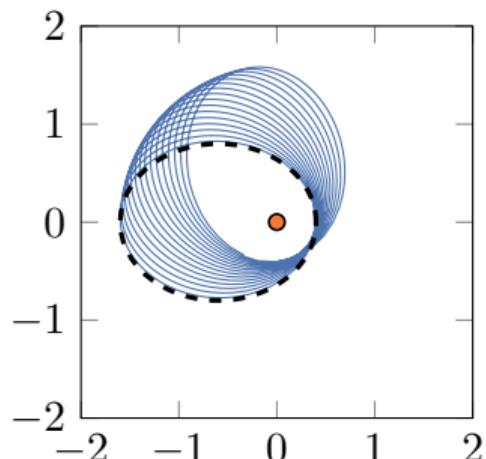
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LaBudde–Greenspan:

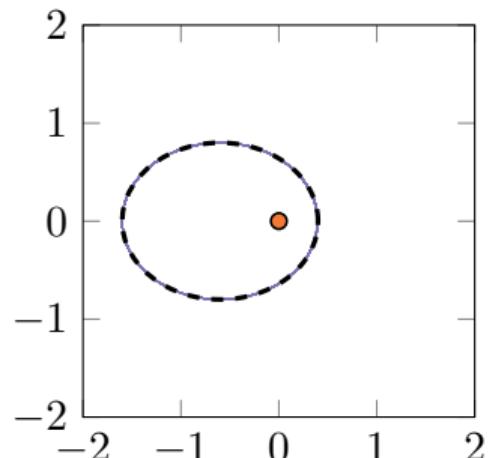
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Our discretisation:

- symplecticity
- angular momentum
- energy
- orientation (RL)

Can we do better? Can we have it all?



Jerrold Marsden



Can we do better? Can we have it all?



Theorem (Ge–Marsden, 1988)

Let H be a Hamiltonian which has no other conserved quantities in a given class, other than functions of H .

A symplectic integrator that conserves H exactly is the time advance map for the exact Hamiltonian system, up to a reparameterisation of time.

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Comment

Both properties are useful in different situations!

The Kovalevskaya top is described by

$$H(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{n}) = \frac{1}{2} (l_1^2 + l_2^2 + 2l_3^2) + n_1,$$

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Sofya Kovalevskaya

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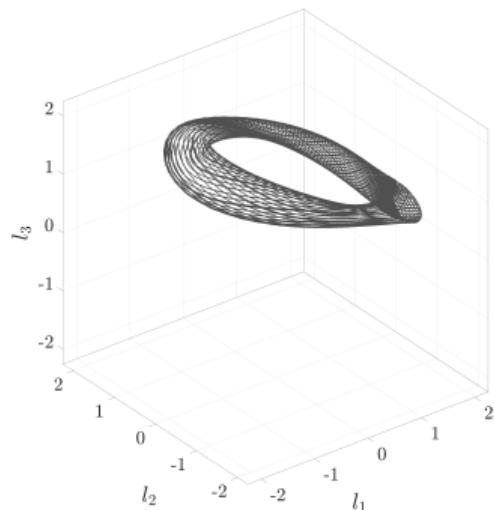
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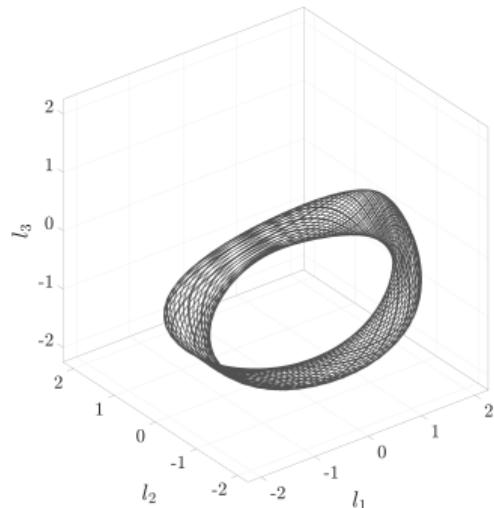
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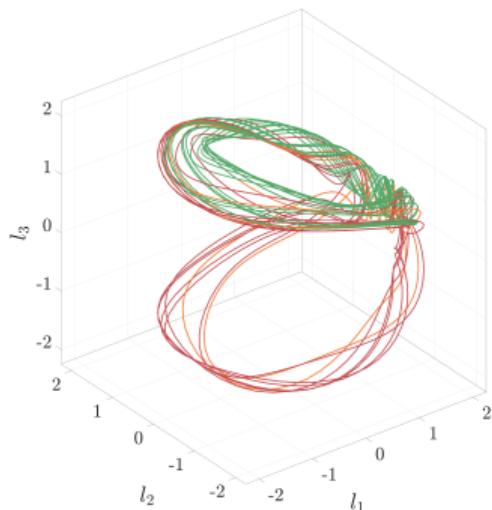
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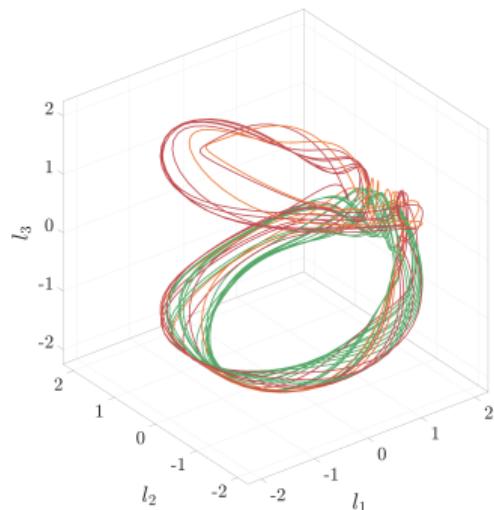
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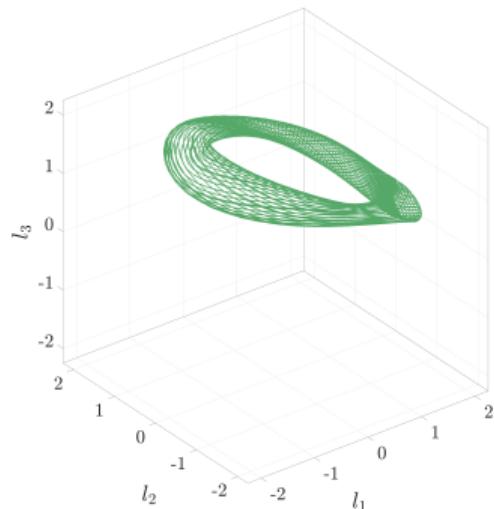
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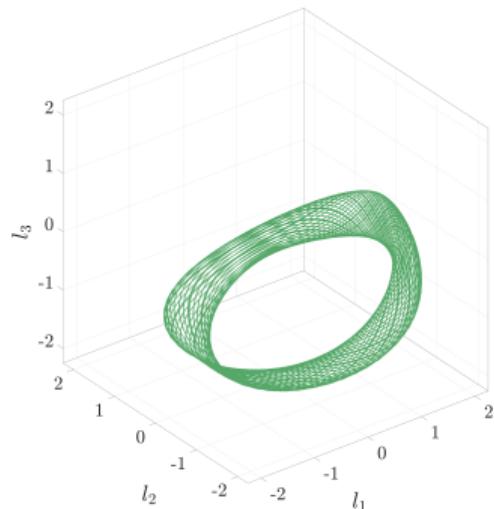
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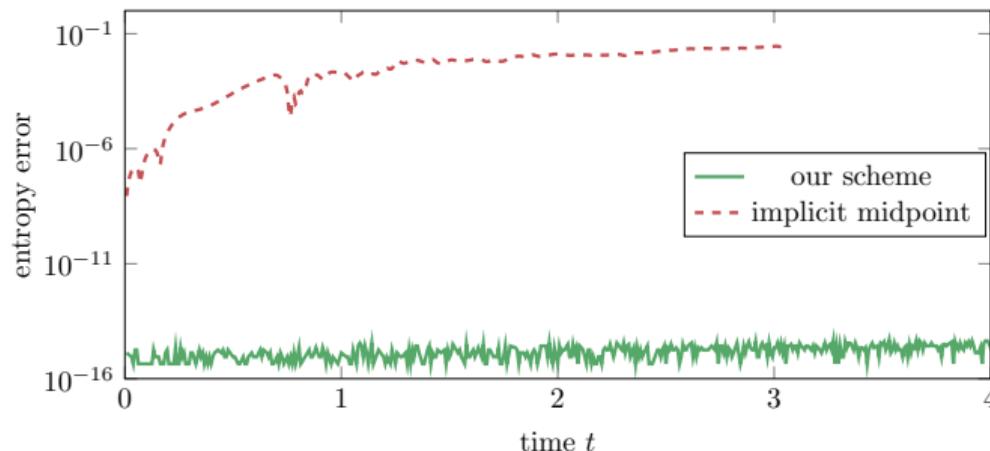
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Error in the entropy for implicit midpoint and our scheme.

Section 3

How it works

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Potential confusion

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To understand this variational viewpoint, let's first study general methods for solving

$$\dot{u} = f(u).$$

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General idea of many (single-step) schemes

Find $u \in P^s(t_n, t_{n+1})$, the space of degree- s polynomials on $[t_n, t_{n+1}]$, satisfying

$$u(t_n) = u_n,$$

and s other *test conditions*.

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Forward Euler

For $s = 1$, demand that

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Implicit midpoint

For $s = 1$, demand that

$$\dot{u} = f(u)$$

at the $s = 1$ test point $t = \frac{1}{2}t_n + \frac{1}{2}t_{n+1}$.

Of course, not all schemes use $s = 1$:

Collocation Runge–Kutta, e.g. Gauss–Legendre/RadauIIA/LobattoIIIC

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The natural finite element in time scheme instead chooses another test set:

Continuous Petrov–Galerkin (cPG) test conditions

Demand that

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \dot{u} v \, dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} f(u) v \, dt,$$

for all $v \in P^{s-1}(t_n, t_{n+1})$ ($= \dot{P}_s$).

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In other words, each conservation law has an

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Idea!

Compute an **approximation**

$$\widetilde{J'(u)} \approx J'(u), \quad \widetilde{J'(u)} \in P^{s-1}(t_n, t_{n+1}).$$

and modify the differential equation to use it.

Basic outline:

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- B. Identify the associated test functions for the structures to preserve.
- C. Introduce corresponding auxiliary variables.
- D. Modify the right-hand side of the weak formulation to use them.

Section 4

Navier–Stokes equations

To fix ideas, consider the incompressible Navier–Stokes equations in Lamb form:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{u} &= u \times (\nabla \times u) - \nabla p + \text{Re}^{-1} \nabla^2 u, \\ 0 &= \nabla \cdot u,\end{aligned}$$

on a bounded Lipschitz domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ with $u = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$.



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Here \mathbb{X} is continuous in time of degree s , while $\dot{\mathbb{X}}$ is discontinuous in time of degree $s - 1$.

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In this example, we care about the dissipation of energy

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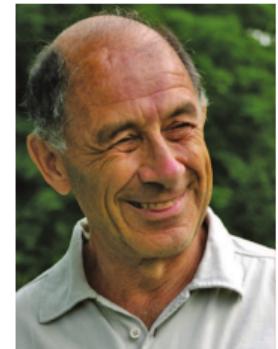
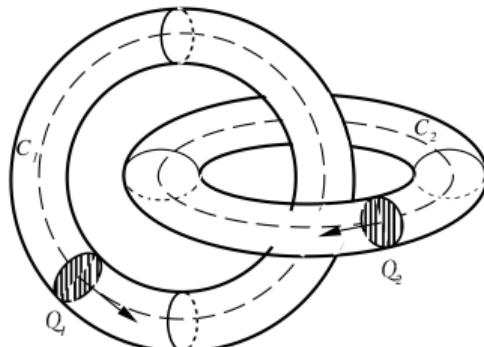
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and the change in *helicity*, a topological measure of the knottedness of the flow,

$$H(u) = \frac{1}{2}(u, \nabla \times u).$$



From Arnold & Khesin (1998).

Vladimir Arnold

The energy is given by

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so its associated test function is the L^2 Riesz representative of its Fréchet derivative

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Similarly, we derive a law for the helicity

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B. Identify test functions

To replicate these laws discretely, we need approximations of

$$u \text{ and } \nabla \times u$$

in our discrete test space $\dot{\mathbb{X}}$.

Our next step is to introduce variables approximating these associated test functions.

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C. Introduce auxiliary variables

Find $(u, w_1, w_2) \in \mathbb{X} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}$ such that

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (\dot{u}, v) \, dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} [(u \times (\nabla \times u), v) - \text{Re}^{-1}(\nabla u, \nabla v)] \, dt,$$

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (w_1, v_1) \, dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (u, v_1) \, dt,$$

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (w_2, v_2) \, dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (\nabla \times u, v_2) \, dt,$$

for all $(v, v_1, v_2) \in \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}$.

In order to derive a discrete version of the laws for energy and helicity, we must modify the right-hand side of our problem to use w_1 and w_2 .

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D. Final time discretisation

Find $(u, w_1, w_2) \in \mathbb{X} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (\dot{u}, v) \, dt &= \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} [(\underline{w_1} \times \underline{w_2}, v) - \text{Re}^{-1}(\nabla \underline{w_1}, \nabla v)] \, dt, \\ \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (w_1, v_1) \, dt &= \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (u, v_1) \, dt, \\ \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (w_2, v_2) \, dt &= \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (\nabla \times u, v_2) \, dt,\end{aligned}$$

for all $(v, v_1, v_2) \in \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}$.

This allows us to replicate the energy and helicity laws discretely!

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We therefore recover a conservation law in the ideal limit.

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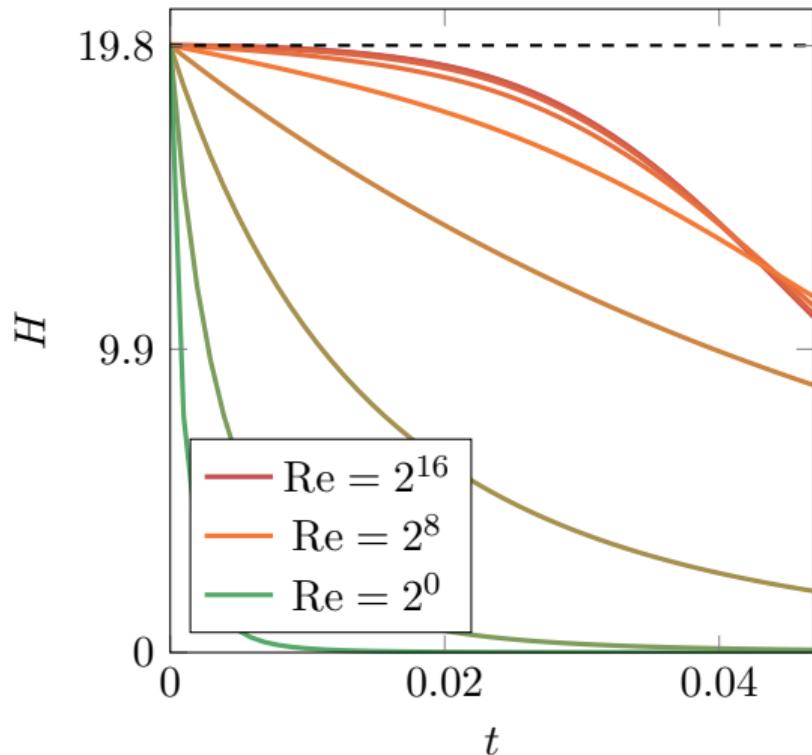
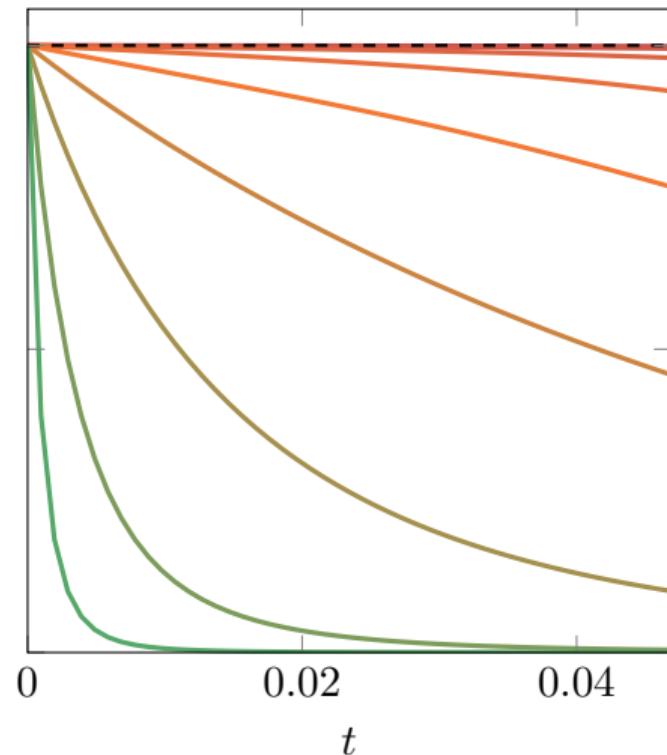
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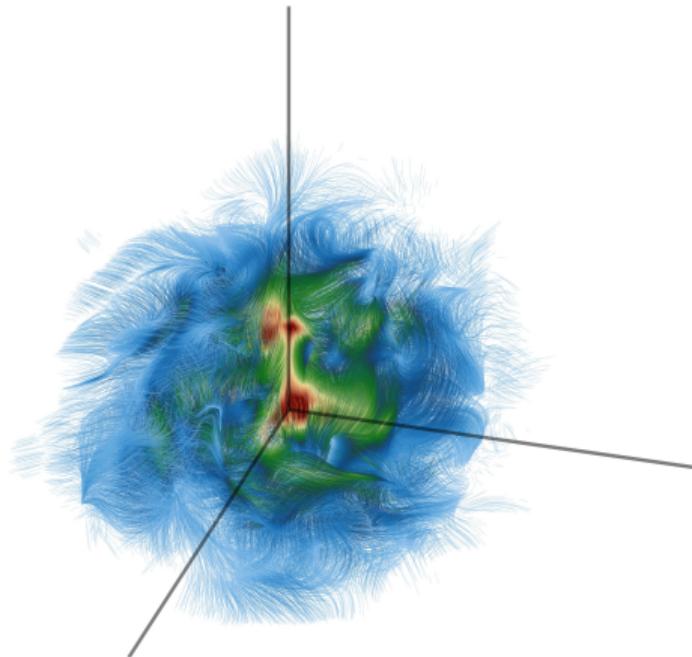
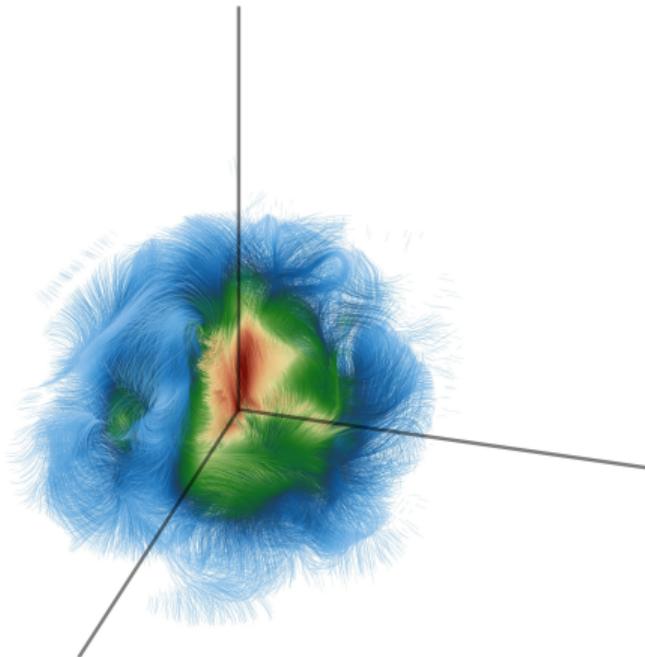
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Does helicity preservation matter?

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preserving E preserving E, H

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Streamlines of velocity at final time, coloured by $\|u\|$.

Good news

The auxiliary velocity can be computed explicitly.

Good news

The auxiliary velocity can be computed explicitly.

This analysis gives an arbitrary-order generalisation of



- L. G. Rebholz. “An energy- and helicity-conserving finite element scheme for the Navier–Stokes equations”. In: *SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis* 45.4 (2007), pp. 1622–1638. DOI: [10.1137/060651227](https://doi.org/10.1137/060651227).



Leo Rebholz

In fact, our scheme generalises . . .

French & Schaeffer (1990)

cPG sometimes conservative; proposes auxiliary variable for energy conservation in KdV.

Continuous Finite Element Methods Which Preserve Energy Properties for Nonlinear Problems

Donald A. French* and Jack W. Schaeffer[†]

*Department of Mathematics
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213-3890*

Transmitted by Melvin R. Scott

In fact, our scheme generalises . . .

Simo & Armero (1994)

Energy-dissipating timestepping schemes for Navier–Stokes.

Unconditional stability and long-term behavior of
transient algorithms for the incompressible
Navier–Stokes and Euler equations*

J.C. Simo and F. Armero

*Division of Applied Mechanics, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University, Stanford,
CA 94305, USA*

Received 8 October 1992

Revised manuscript received 14 April 1993

In fact, our scheme generalises . . .

McLachlan, Quispel & Robidoux (1999)

Lowest-order energy-conserving discrete gradient schemes.

Geometric integration using discrete gradients

BY ROBERT I. MCLACHLAN¹, G. R. W. QUISPEL²
AND NICOLAS ROBIDOUX¹

¹*Mathematics Department, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand*

²*Faculty of Science, LaTrobe University, Bundoora, Melbourne 3083, Australia*

This paper discusses the discrete analogue of the gradient of a function and shows how discrete gradients can be used in the numerical integration of ordinary differential equations (ODEs). Given an ODE and one or more first integrals (i.e. constants of the motion) and/or Lyapunov functions, it is shown that the ODE can be rewritten as a ‘linear-gradient system’. Discrete gradients are used to construct discrete approximations to the ODE which preserve the first integrals and Lyapunov functions exactly. The method applies to all Hamiltonian, Poisson and gradient systems, and also to many dissipative systems (those with a known first integral or Lyapunov function).

In fact, our scheme generalises . . .

Betsch & Steinmann (2000)

cPG is energy-conservative for Hamiltonian ODEs in canonical coordinates.

Inherently Energy Conserving Time Finite Elements for Classical Mechanics

P. Betsch* and P. Steinmann†

*Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Kaiserslautern, Postfach 3049,
67653 Kaiserslautern, Germany*

E-mail: *pbetsch@rhrk.uni-kl.de and †ps@rhrk.uni-kl.de

Received October 27, 1998; revised November 24, 1999

In fact, our scheme generalises . . .

Cohen & Hairer (2011)

Higher-order energy-conserving discrete gradient schemes.

Linear energy-preserving integrators for Poisson systems

David Cohen · Ernst Hairer

Received: 25 April 2010 / Accepted: 6 January 2011 / Published online: 20 January 2011
© Springer Science + Business Media B.V. 2011

In fact, our scheme generalises . . .

Egger, Habrich & Shashkov (2021)

cPG is energy-conservative for a particular formulation of Hamiltonian PDEs.

DE GRUYTER

Comput. Methods Appl. Math. 2021; 21(2): 335–349

Research Article

Herbert Egger*, Oliver Habrich and Vsevolod Shashkov

On the Energy Stable Approximation of Hamiltonian and Gradient Systems

<https://doi.org/10.1515/cmam-2020-0025>

Received February 29, 2020; revised August 27, 2020; accepted November 16, 2020

In fact, our scheme generalises . . .

. . . and many more besides.

For the compressible Navier–Stokes equations,

$$\dot{\rho} = -\operatorname{div}[\rho u],$$

$$\rho \dot{u} = -\rho u \cdot \nabla u - \nabla[\rho \theta] + \frac{2}{\operatorname{Re}_\mu} \operatorname{div}[\rho \varepsilon[u]] + \frac{1}{\operatorname{Re}_\zeta} \nabla[\rho \operatorname{div} u],$$

$$C\rho \dot{\theta} = -C\rho u \cdot \nabla \theta - \rho \theta \operatorname{div} u + \frac{1}{\operatorname{Pe}} \operatorname{div}[\rho \nabla \theta] + \frac{2}{\operatorname{Re}_\mu} \rho \|\varepsilon[u]\|^2 + \frac{1}{\operatorname{Re}_\zeta} \rho (\operatorname{div} u)^2,$$

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- ▶ mass conservation;

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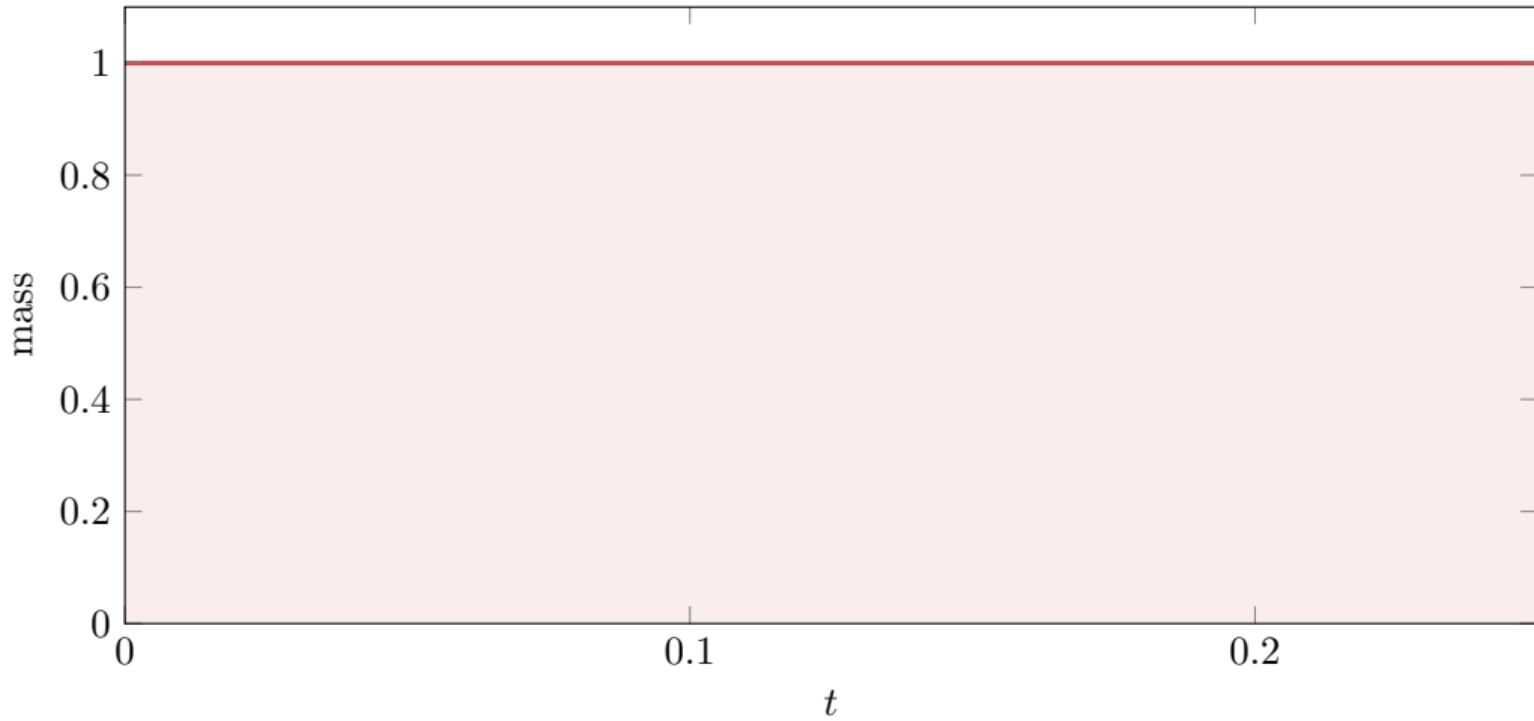
- ▶ mass conservation;
- ▶ momentum conservation;
- ▶ energy conservation;
- ▶ entropy dissipation.

The associated test function for mass conservation is

$$\tilde{\rho} = 1, \quad \tilde{u} = 0, \quad \tilde{\theta} = 0.$$

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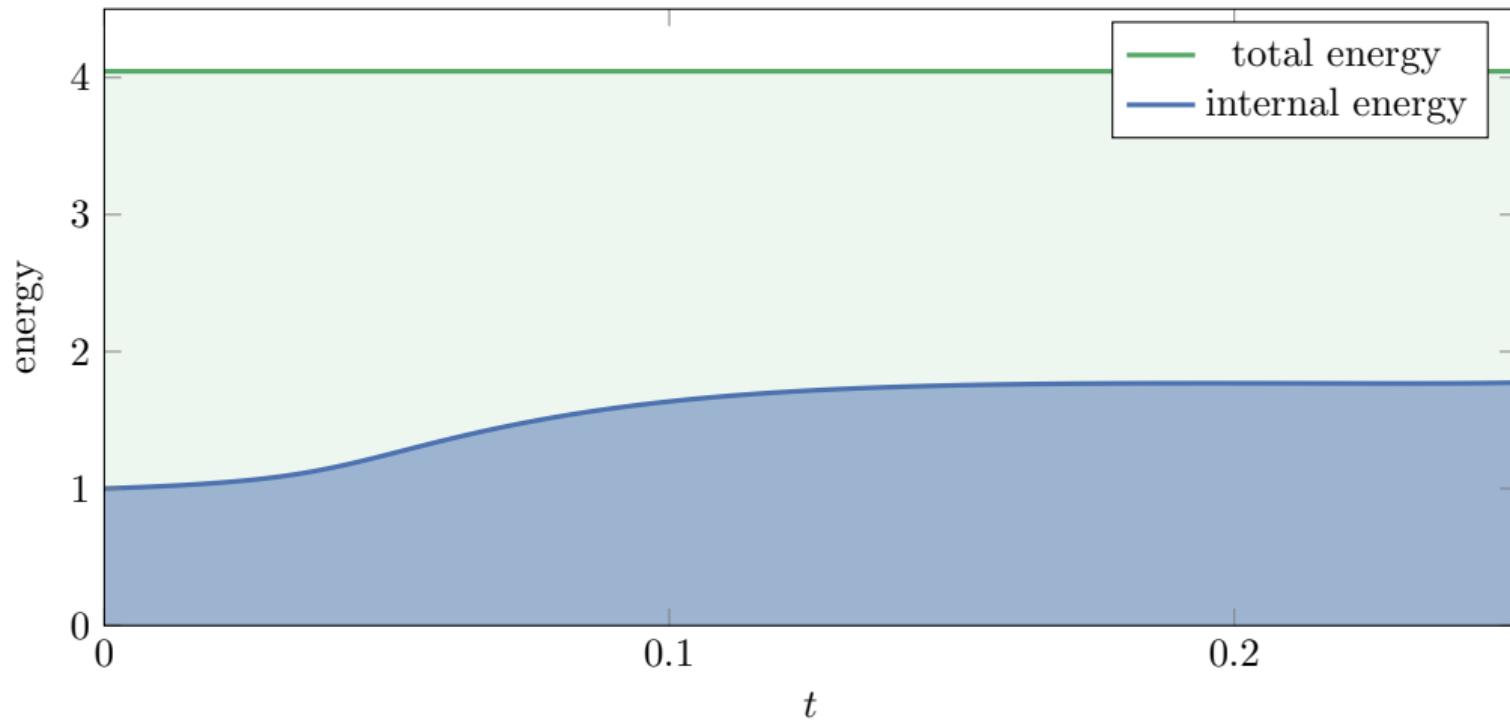


The associated test function for energy conservation is

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The associated test function for entropy dissipation is

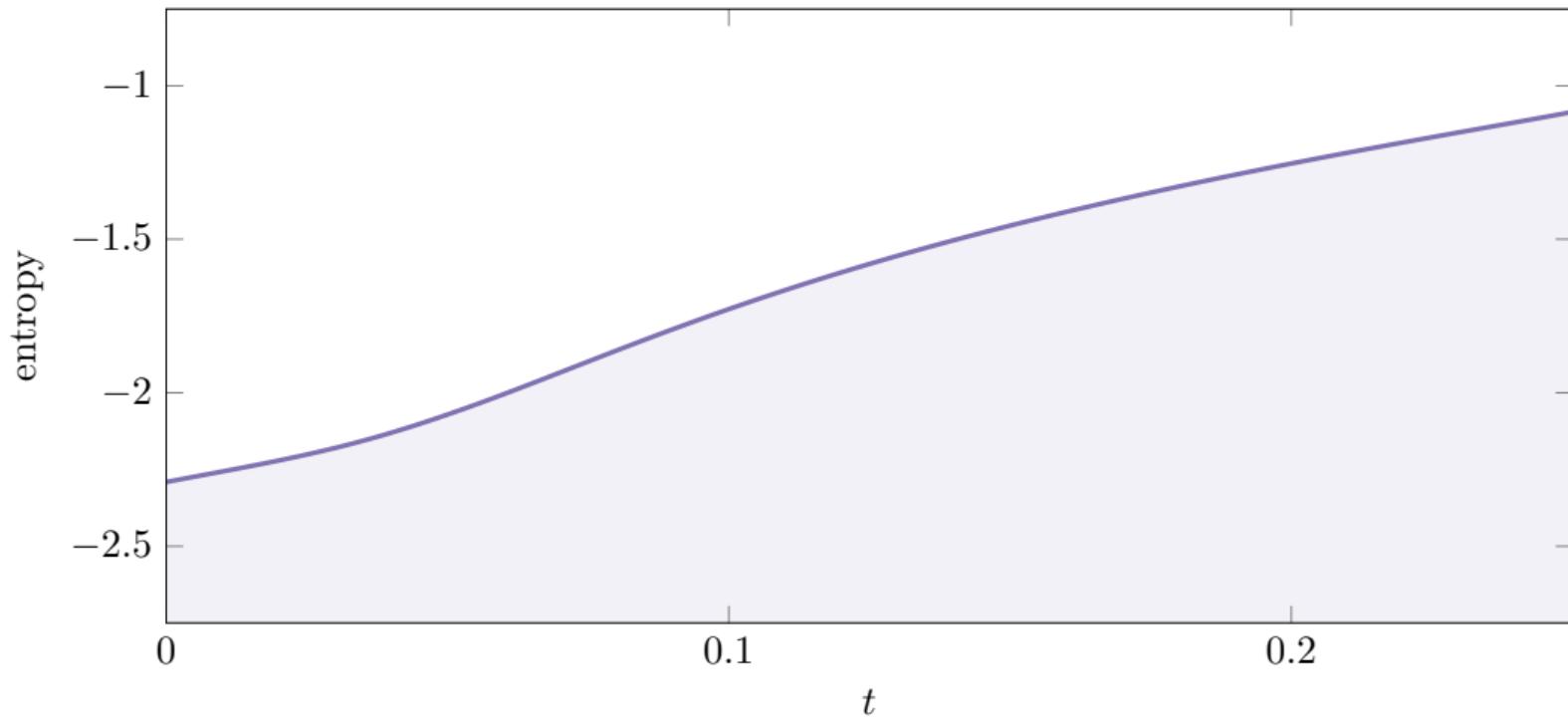
$$\tilde{\rho} = g, \quad \tilde{u} = 0, \quad \tilde{\theta} = \theta^{-1},$$

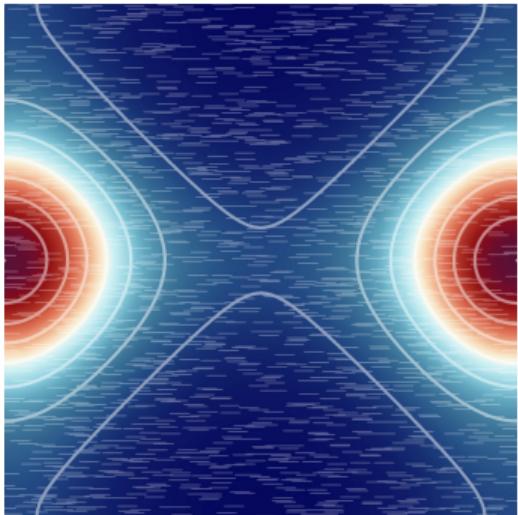
where $-g$ is the Gibbs free energy per unit mass per unit temperature.

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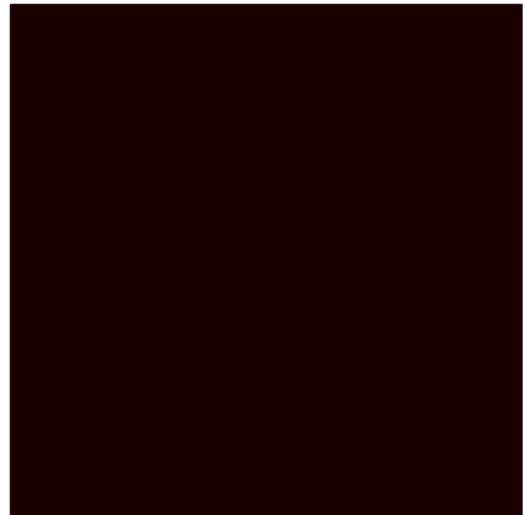




velocity

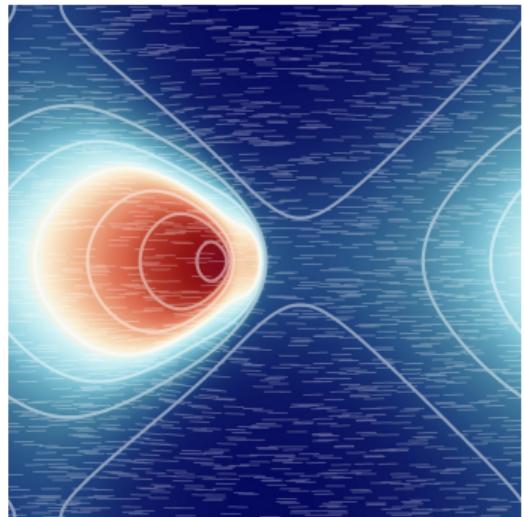


density

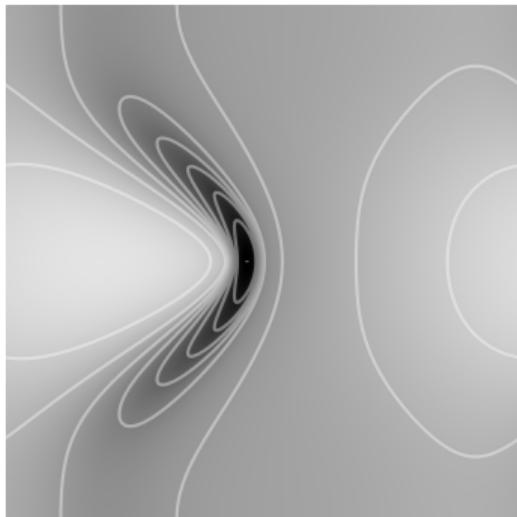


temperature

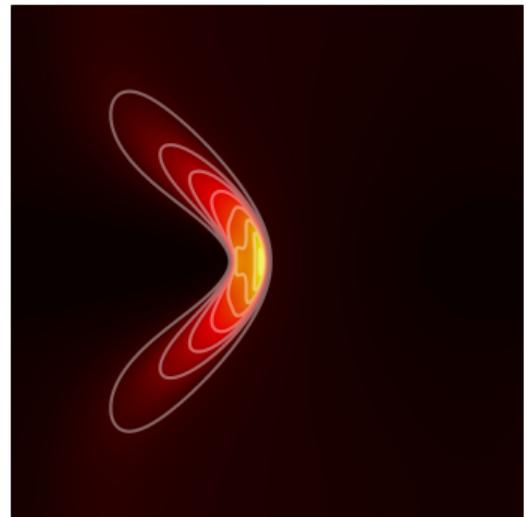
Supersonic compressible Navier–Stokes simulation at $\text{Pr} = 0.71, \text{Re} = 128$



velocity

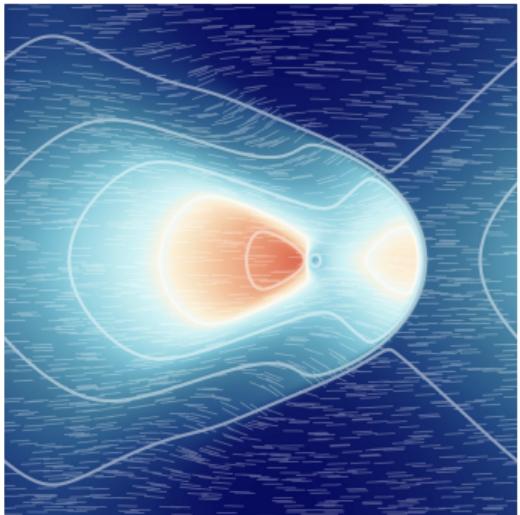


density

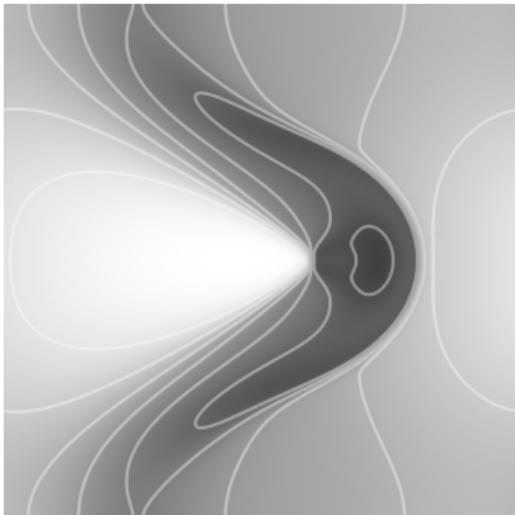


temperature

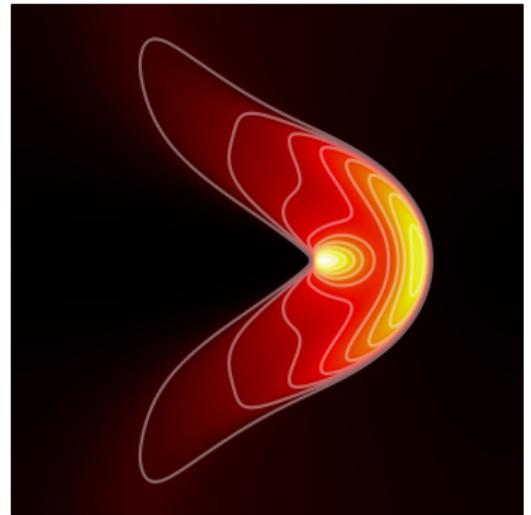
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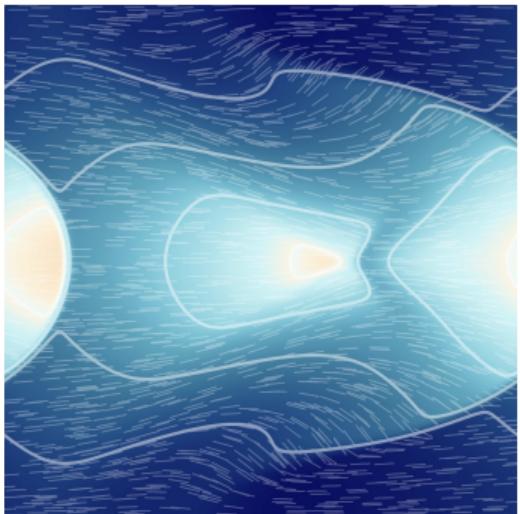


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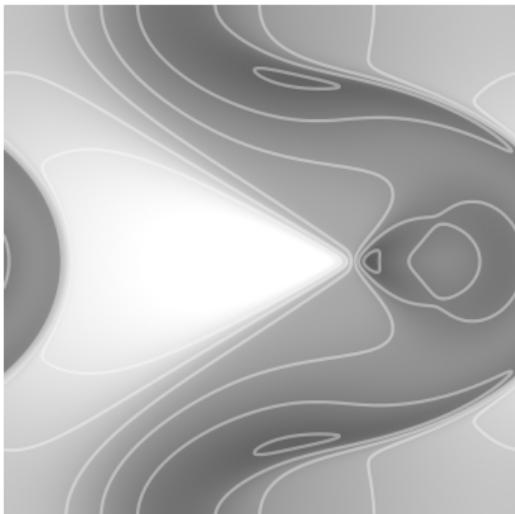


temperature

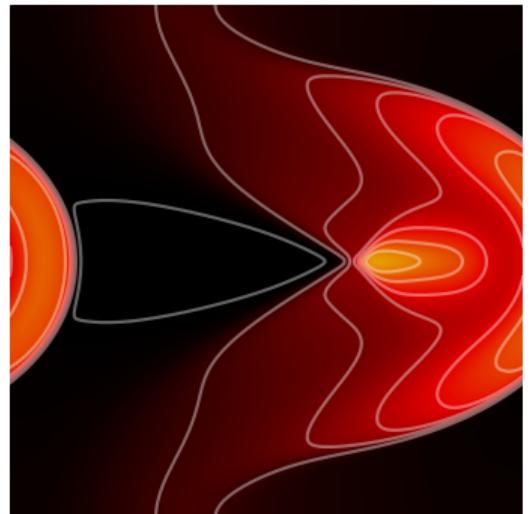
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velocity

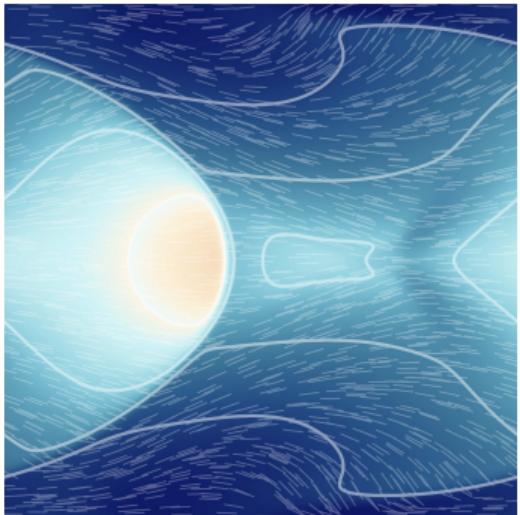


density

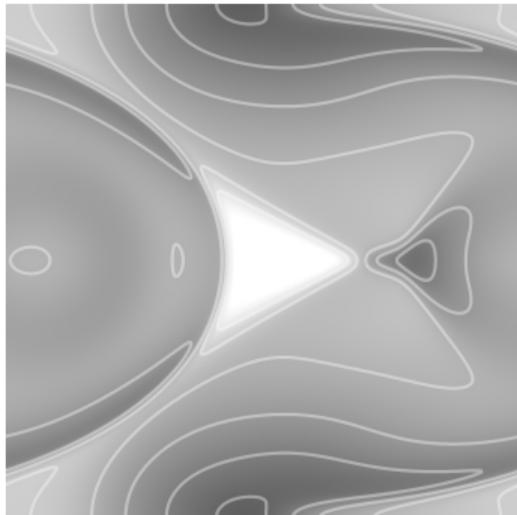


temperature

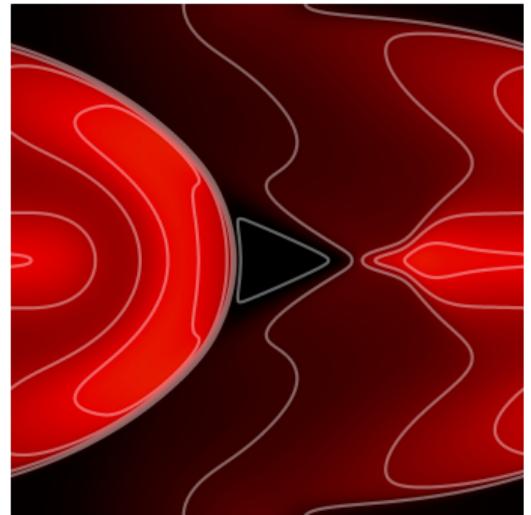
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velocity



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Section 7

The Kepler problem

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$$H(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{p}\|^2 - \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{q}\|},$$

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These invariants are related to each other, so in two dimensions it is enough to conserve H and \mathbf{A} to conserve all three.

The equations of motion are

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = B \nabla H(\mathbf{x}), \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -I \\ I & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}].$$

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The other invariants $Q(\mathbf{x})$ also have $\nabla Q^\top B \nabla H = 0$.

First consider a standard cPG discretisation of the Kepler problem:

Base cPG discretisation

Find $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{X} := \{\mathbf{y} \in P^s([t_n, t_{n+1}], \mathbb{R}^4) : \mathbf{y}(t_n) = \mathbf{x}_n\}$ such that

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}^\top \dot{\mathbf{x}} \, dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}^\top B \nabla H(\mathbf{x}) \, dt$$

for all $\mathbf{y} \in \dot{\mathbb{X}} := P^{s-1}([t_n, t_{n+1}], \mathbb{R}^4)$.

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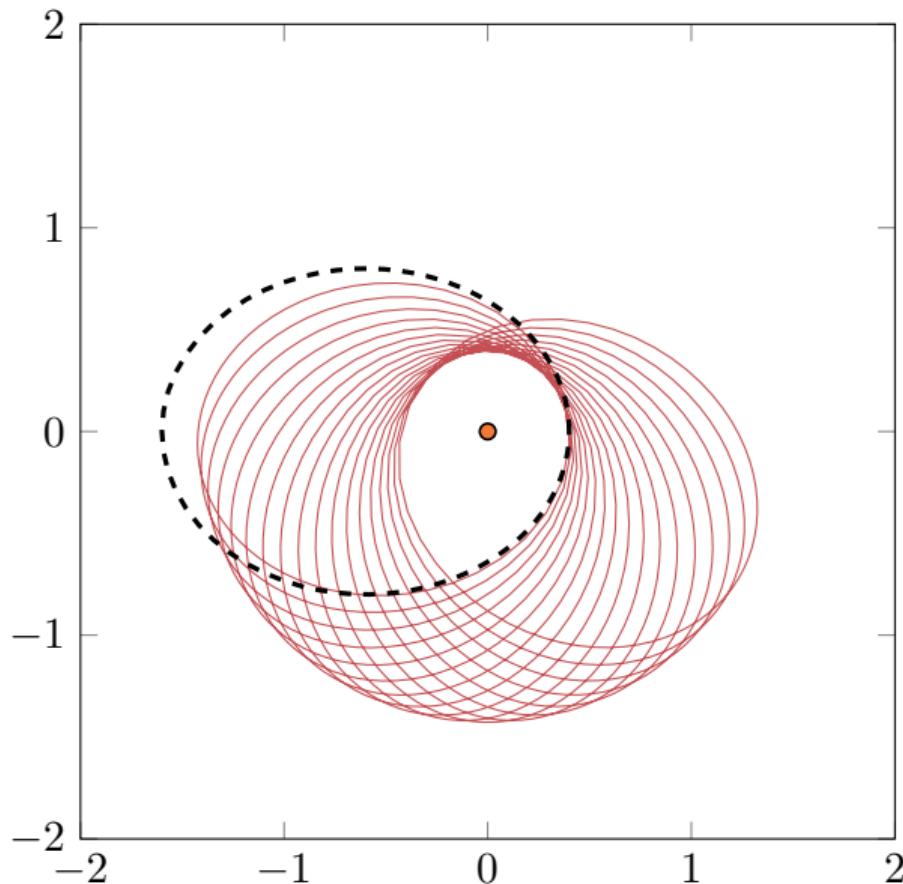
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Setting $s = 1$ and approximating the integrals with a one-point Gauss–Legendre quadrature rule yields the familiar implicit midpoint scheme.



Carl Friedrich Gauss

Implicit midpoint:

- ✓ symplecticity
- ✓ angular momentum
- ✓ energy
- ✗ orientation (LRL)

Let us first consider how to modify the scheme to conserve energy. We

- ▶ compute an approximate $\widetilde{\nabla H} \in \dot{\mathbb{X}}$;
- ▶ use it in the right-hand side of the ODE.

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Energy-conserving discretisation (formal)

Find $(\mathbf{x}, \widetilde{\nabla H}) \in \mathbb{X} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}$ such that

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}^\top \dot{\mathbf{x}} \, dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}^\top B \widetilde{\nabla H} \, dt$$

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}_1^\top \widetilde{\nabla H} \, dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}_1^\top \nabla H \, dt$$

for all $(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}_1) \in \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}$.

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for all $(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}_1) \in \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}$.

This is more expensive than necessary. The second equation states that $\widetilde{\nabla H}$ is the projection onto $\dot{\mathbb{X}}$ of ∇H ; in the discrete case, this can be evaluated exactly.

Using the explicit projection \mathbb{P} , we can write:

Energy-conserving discretisation (practical)

Find $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{X}$ such that

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}^\top \dot{\mathbf{x}} \, dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}^\top B\mathbb{P}[\nabla H(\mathbf{x})] \, dt$$

for all $\mathbf{y} \in \dot{\mathbb{X}}$.

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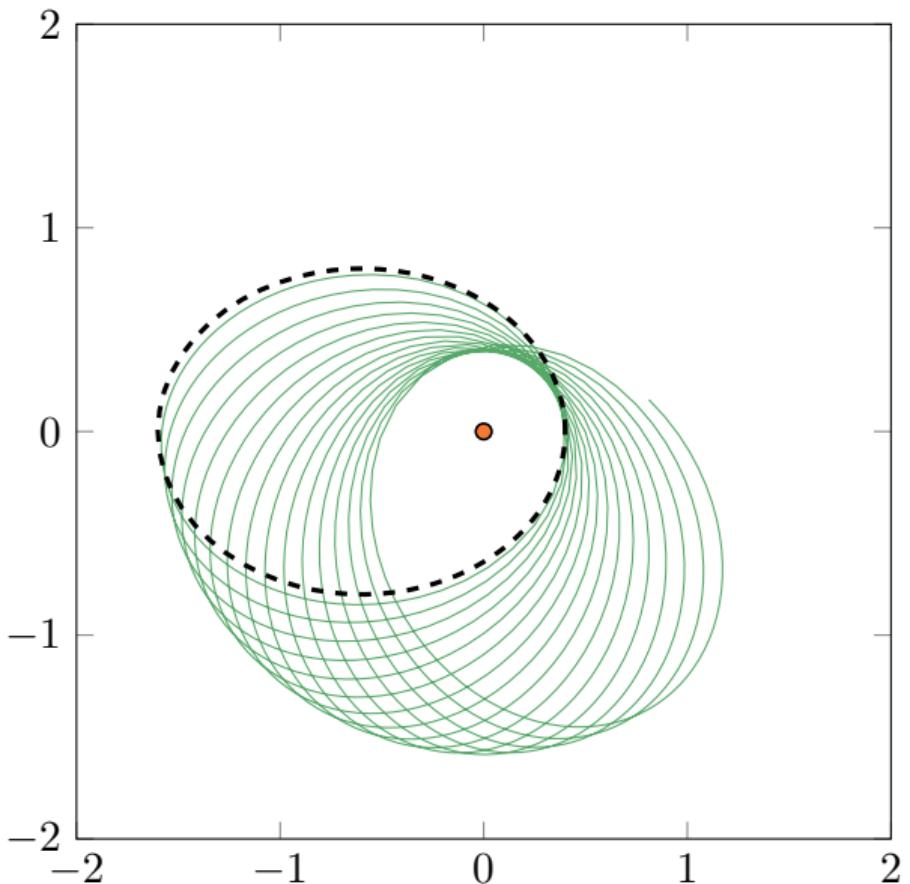
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for all $\mathbf{y} \in \dot{\mathbb{X}}$.

This is an alternative derivation of the energy-preserving scheme of Cohen & Hairer (2011) (when certain quadrature rules are used).



David Cohen



Ernst Hairer

Cohen & Hairer (2011):

- ✗ symplecticity
- ✗ angular momentum
- ✓ energy
- ✗ orientation (LRL)

Now let us modify the scheme to also preserve \mathbf{A} (and hence \mathbf{L}):

- ▶ compute approximate $\widetilde{\nabla A_1}, \widetilde{\nabla A_2} \in \dot{\mathbb{X}}$;
- ▶ modify the right-hand side.

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- ▶ modify the right-hand side.

How can we modify the right-hand side, though? It seems ∇A_1 and ∇A_2 don't appear.

It turns out we can rewrite the right-hand side to expose them:

Alternating form

There exists a scalar function $\lambda(\mathbf{x})$ such that

$$\mathbf{y}^\top B \nabla H(x) = \lambda(\mathbf{x}) \det \begin{pmatrix} \nabla H & \nabla A_1 & \nabla A_2 & \mathbf{y} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Theorem

For finite-dimensional Hamiltonian/Poisson systems, the right-hand side can be written as an alternating form of the test function and gradients of conserved quantities.

Energy- and orientation-conserving discretisation (formal)

Find $(\mathbf{x}, \widetilde{\nabla H}, (\widetilde{\nabla A_1}, \widetilde{\nabla A_2})) \in \mathbb{X} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}^2$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}^\top \dot{\mathbf{x}} \, dt &= \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \lambda(\mathbf{x}) \det \begin{pmatrix} \widetilde{\nabla H} & \widetilde{\nabla A_1} & \widetilde{\nabla A_2} & \mathbf{y} \end{pmatrix} \, dt \\ \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}_1^\top \widetilde{\nabla H} \, dt &= \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}_1^\top \nabla H \, dt \\ \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}_2^\top \widetilde{\nabla A_1} \, dt &= \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}_2^\top \nabla A_1 \, dt \\ \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}_3^\top \widetilde{\nabla A_2} \, dt &= \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \mathbf{y}_3^\top \nabla A_2 \, dt\end{aligned}$$

for all $(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}_1, (\mathbf{y}_2, \mathbf{y}_3)) \in \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}^2$.

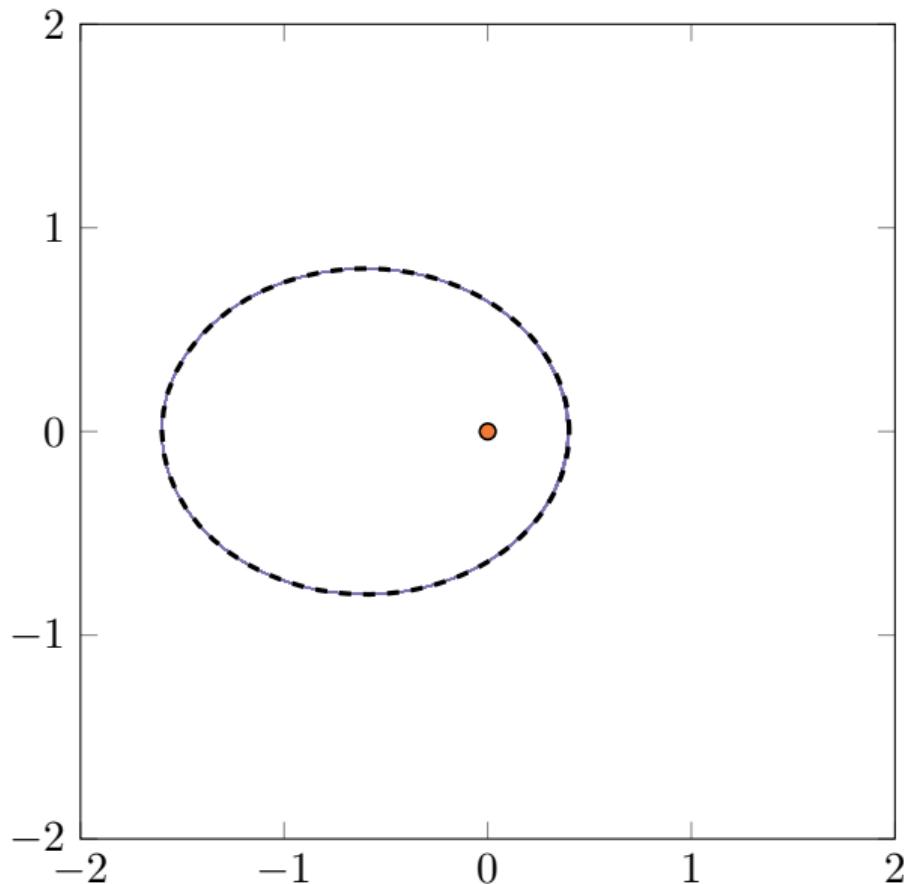
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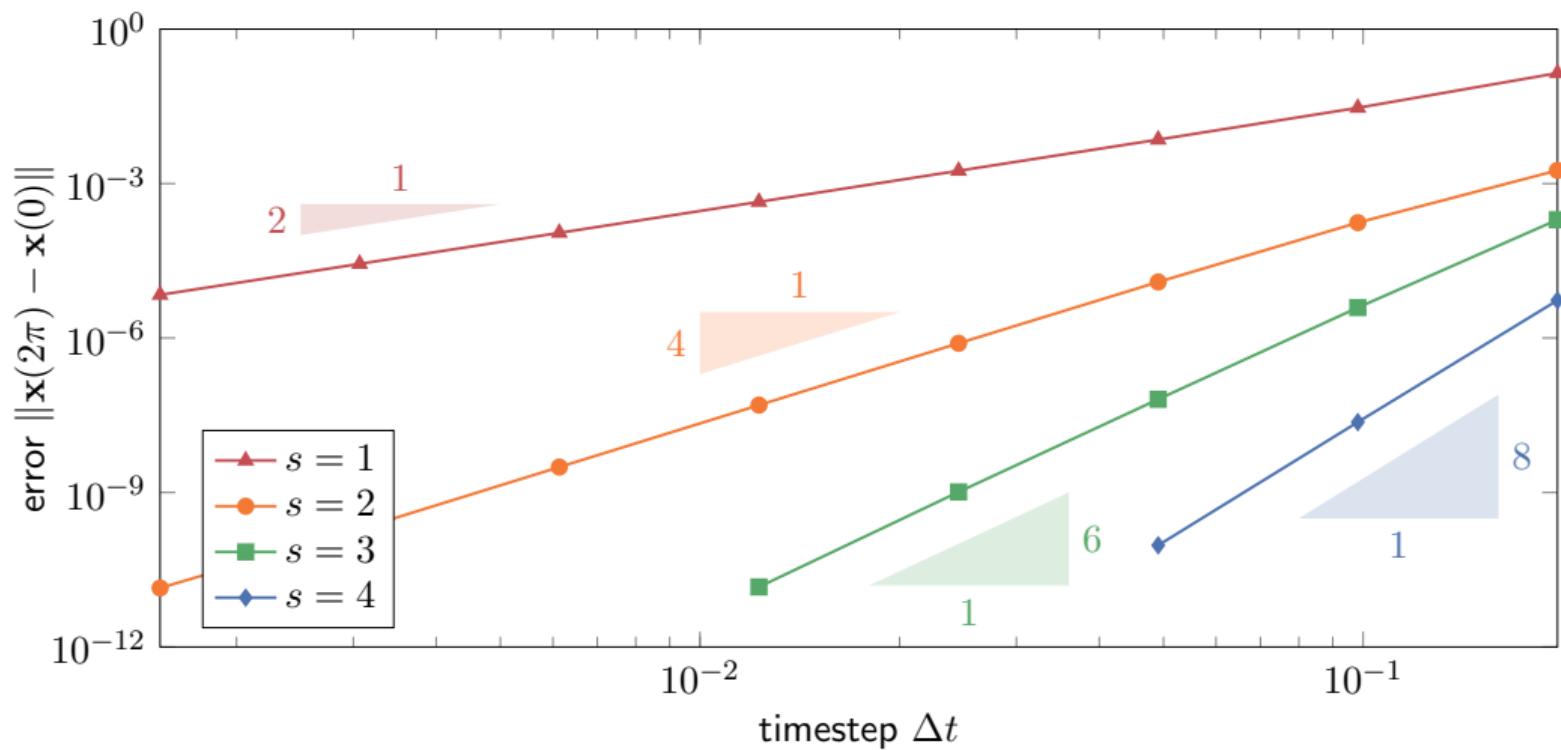
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Again, this can be rewritten purely as a problem in \mathbf{x} .



Our scheme:

- symplecticity**
- angular momentum**
- energy**
- orientation (LRL)**



Section 8

Hamiltonian PDE

The Benjamin–Bona–Mahony equation

$$u_t + u_x + uu_x - u_{xxt} = 0, \quad u(-50) = u(50),$$



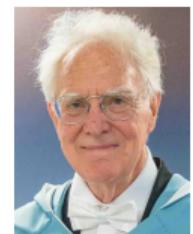
T. Brooke Benjamin

has a Hamiltonian structure:

$$(\text{id} - \partial_x^2) \dot{u} = -\partial_x H'(u),$$

with Hamiltonian

$$H(u) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2}u^2 + \frac{1}{6}u^3 \, dx.$$



Jerry Bona



John Joseph Mahony

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$$H(u) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2}u^2 + \frac{1}{6}u^3 \, dx.$$

The equation has exactly two other invariants:

$$I_1(u) = \int_{\Omega} u \, dx,$$

$$I_2(u) = \int_{\Omega} u^2 + u_x^2 \, dx.$$



T. Brooke Benjamin



Jerry Bona

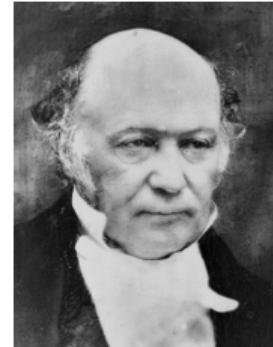


John Joseph Mahony

Our general formulation is

$$M[\dot{u}] = B[H'(u)],$$

where $M^{-1}B$ is skew-symmetric.



William Rowan Hamilton

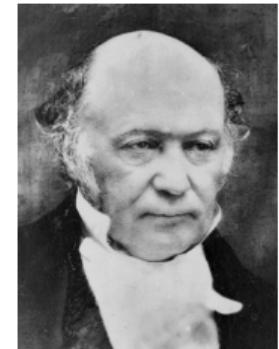
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This conserves the Hamiltonian, by the usual argument:

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William Rowan Hamilton

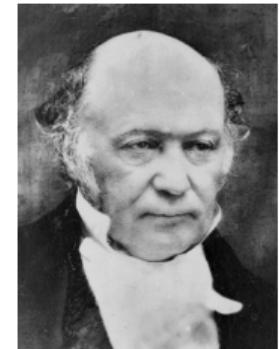
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William Rowan Hamilton

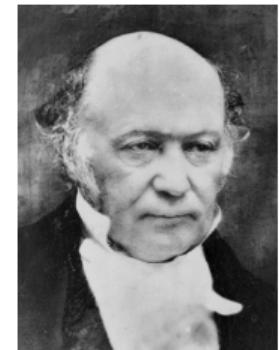
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William Rowan Hamilton

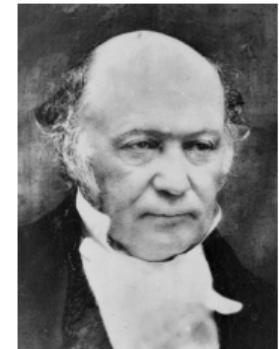
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William Rowan Hamilton

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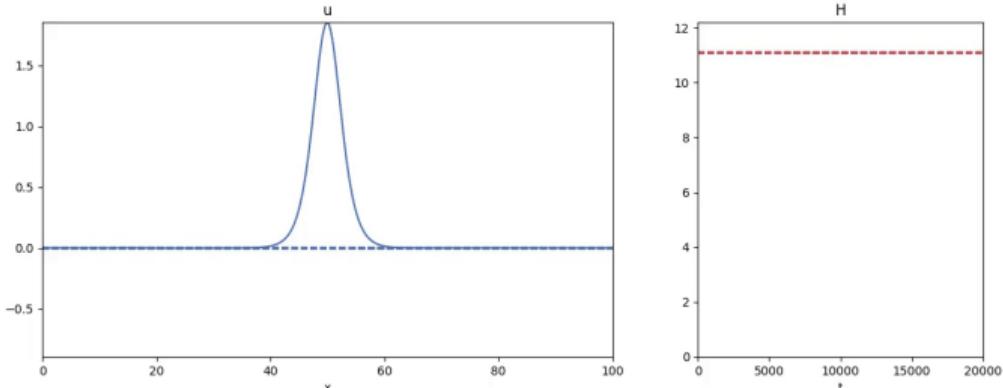
Energy-conserving discretisation

Find $(u, w_1) \in \mathbb{X} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}$ such that

$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} vM[\dot{u}] dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} vBM^*[w_1] dt$$
$$\int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} w_1 M[v_1] dt = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} H'[u]v_1 dt$$

for all $(v, v_1) \in \dot{\mathbb{X}} \times \dot{\mathbb{X}}$.

We simulate a soliton that travels rightwards at constant speed with a fourth-order scheme ($s = 2$).



Simulation near $t = 0$.

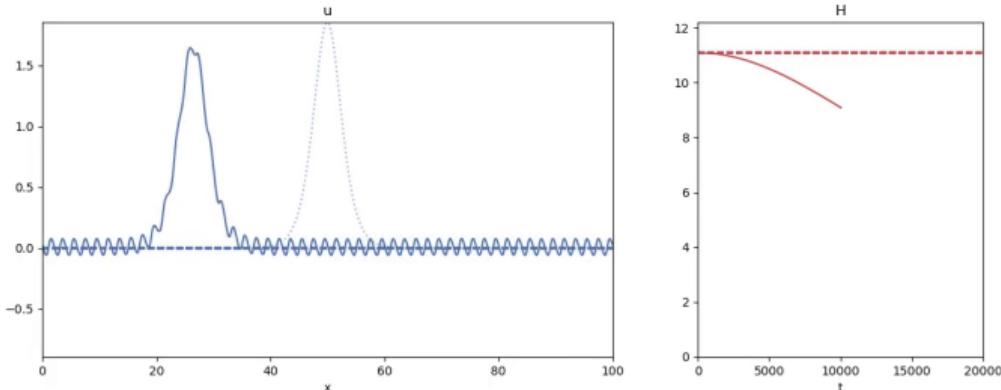


Carl Friedrich Gauss

Gauss method:

- ✓ symplecticity
- ✓ integral
- ✓ H^1 -norm
- ✓ energy

We simulate a soliton that travels rightwards at constant speed with a fourth-order scheme ($s = 2$).



Simulation near $t = 10000$.

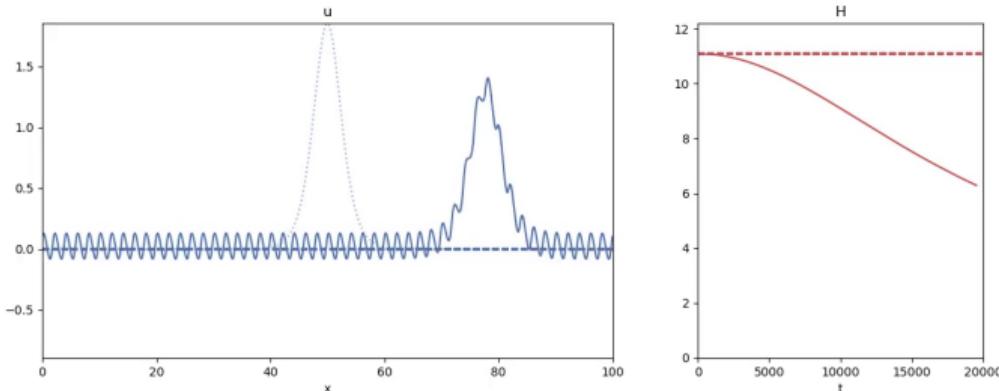


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Simulation near $t = 20000$.



Carl Friedrich Gauss

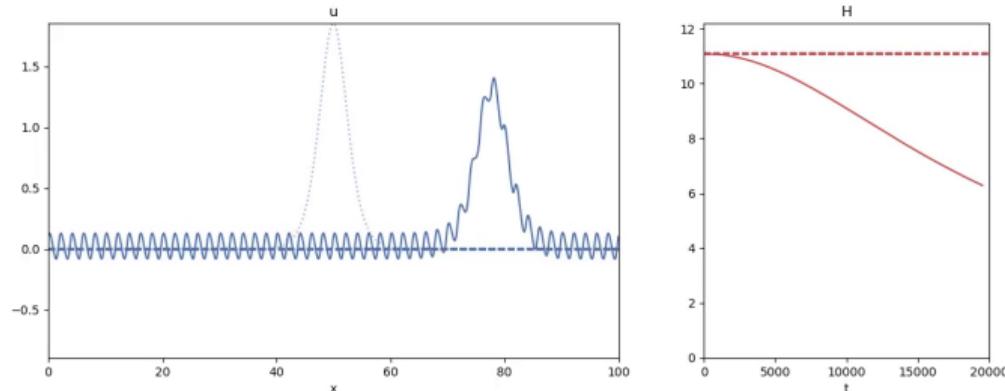
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Simulation near $t = 20000$.

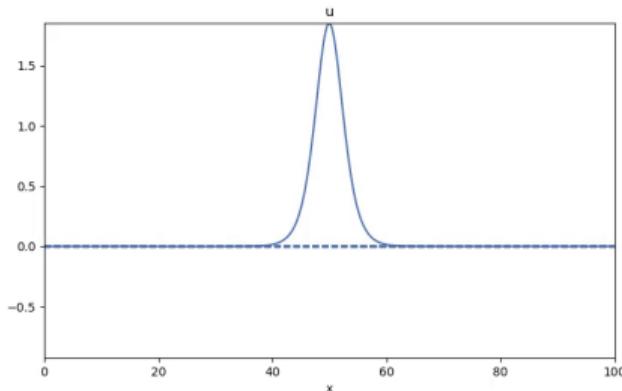
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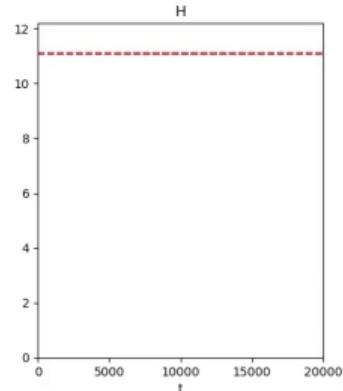
Spurious oscillations

H^1 norm conserved but L^2 norm decreases \rightarrow oscillation.

The same soliton, again:



Simulation near $t = 0$.

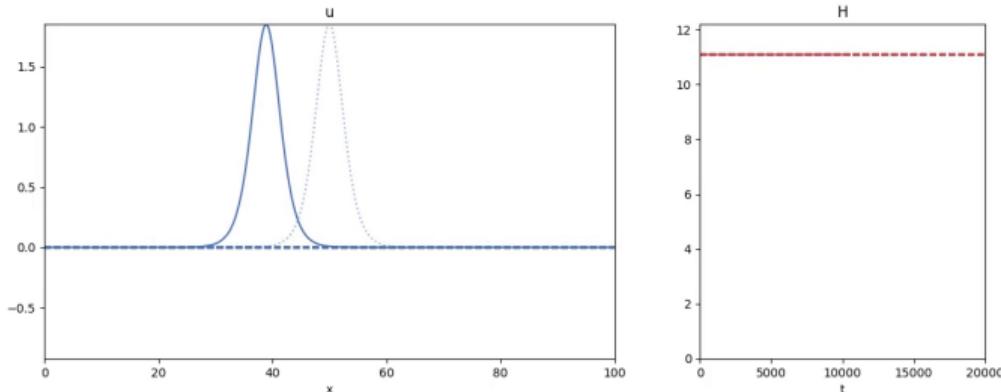


Boris Andrews

Our method:

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The same soliton, again:



Simulation near $t = 10000$.

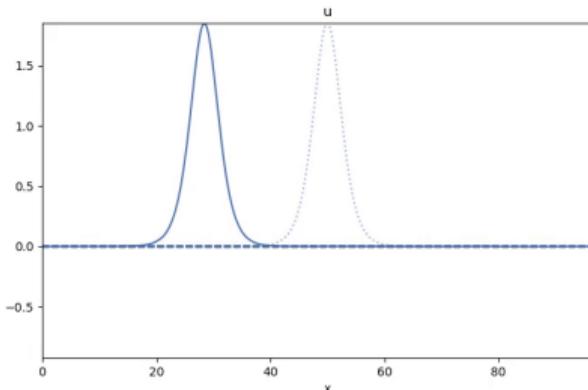


Boris Andrews

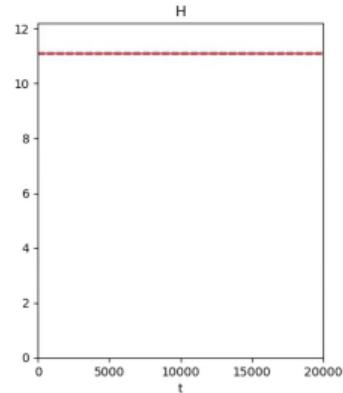
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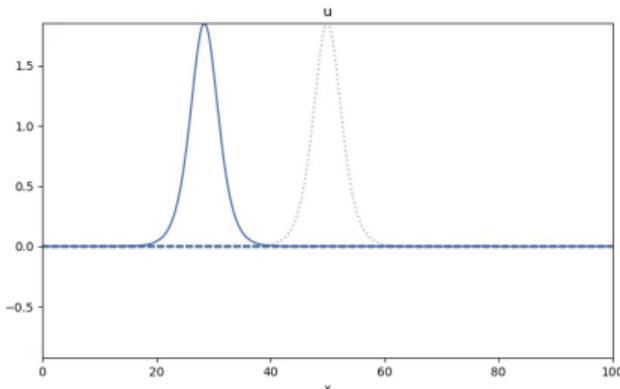


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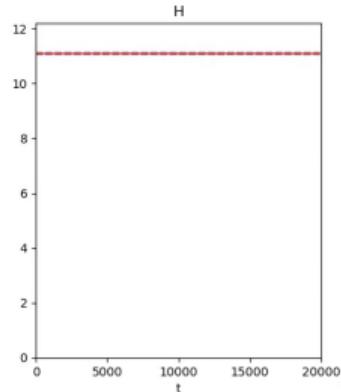
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Boris Andrews

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Good news

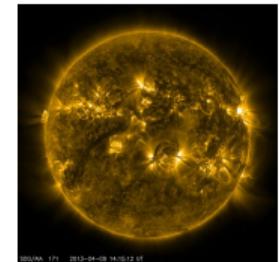
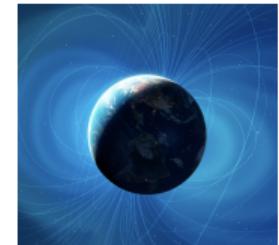
Soliton character is preserved even over very long timescales.

Section 9

The Parker problem

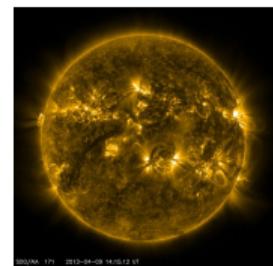
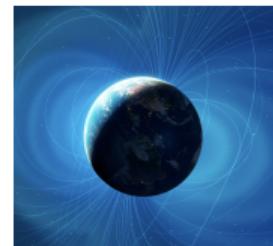
Ideal magnetohydrodynamics

$$\begin{aligned} u_t - \operatorname{div}(2\nu\varepsilon(u)) + \operatorname{div}(u \otimes u) + \operatorname{grad} p + SB \times (E + u \times B) &= f \quad \text{in } \Omega, \\ \operatorname{div} u &= 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \\ B_t + \operatorname{curl} E &= 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \\ E + u \times B &= 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega. \end{aligned}$$



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 E + u \times B &= 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.
 \end{aligned}$$



Two structures to preserve:

- ▶ energy $E = \|u\|^2 + \|B\|^2$ is dissipated;
- ▶ helicity $H = (A, B)_{L^2}$ is conserved, for any A s.t. $\operatorname{curl} A = B$.

The Parker conjecture (1972)

For almost all initial conditions, the magnetic field develops tangential discontinuities during ideal magnetic relaxation to a force-free equilibrium.



Eugene N. Parker

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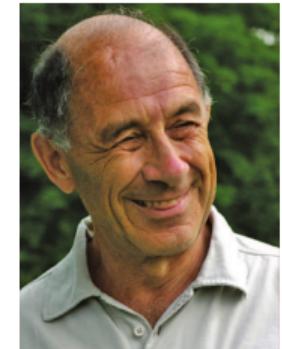
Parker conjectured the existence of the solar wind. The shape of the magnetic field in the outer solar system is now called a Parker spiral.

This conjecture has many important consequences in solar physics, including for the coronal heating problem (why is the corona millions of degrees hotter than the surface?).

There is a crucial relationship between helicity H and energy E :

The Arnold inequality

$$|H| \lesssim \|B\|_{L^2}.$$

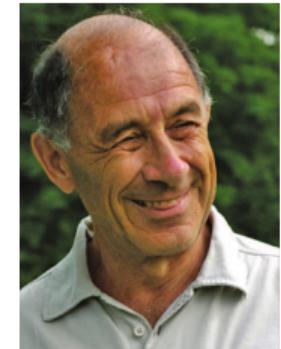


Vladimir Arnold

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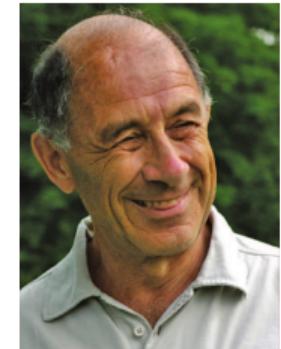
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This means that, while the system is dissipative, initial data with nonzero helicity cannot relax to the zero state.

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Vladimir Arnold

This means that, while the system is dissipative, initial data with nonzero helicity cannot relax to the zero state.

The helicity provides a *topological barrier* that is crucial for the physics of the problem.

The Parker conjecture can be investigated with the magneto-frictional equations:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} + \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{0},$$

$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0},$$

$$\mathbf{j} = \nabla \times \mathbf{B},$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \tau \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B},$$

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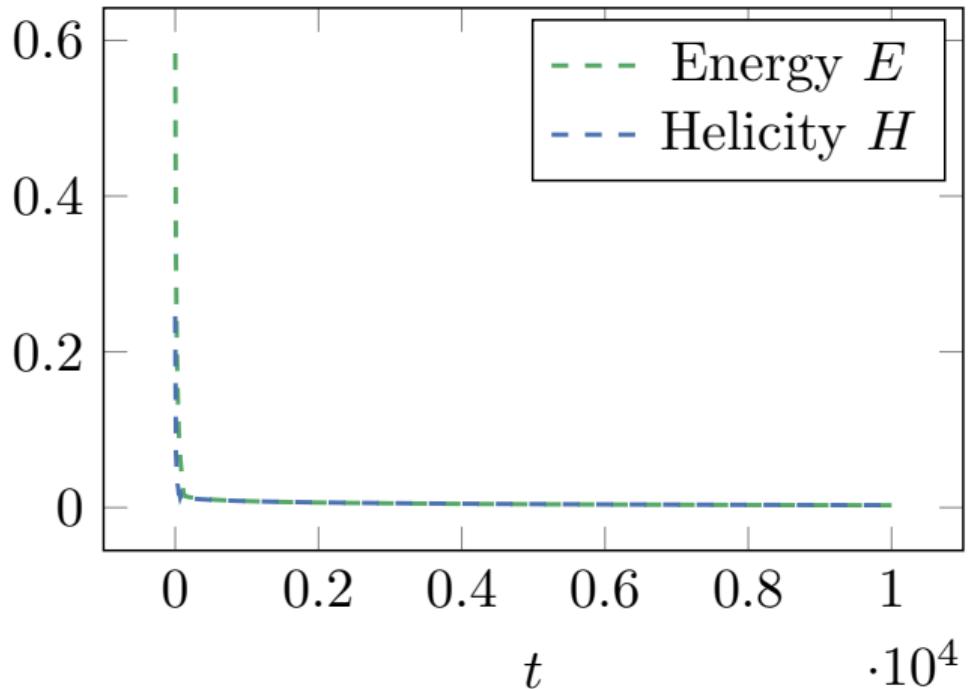
$$\mathbf{u} = \tau \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B},$$

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This system also dissipates energy, conserves helicity, satisfies the Arnold inequality, and has the same equilibria as the original MHD system.

We have devised a structure-preserving discretisation of these equations.

It requires both the ideas in this talk and finite element exterior calculus.



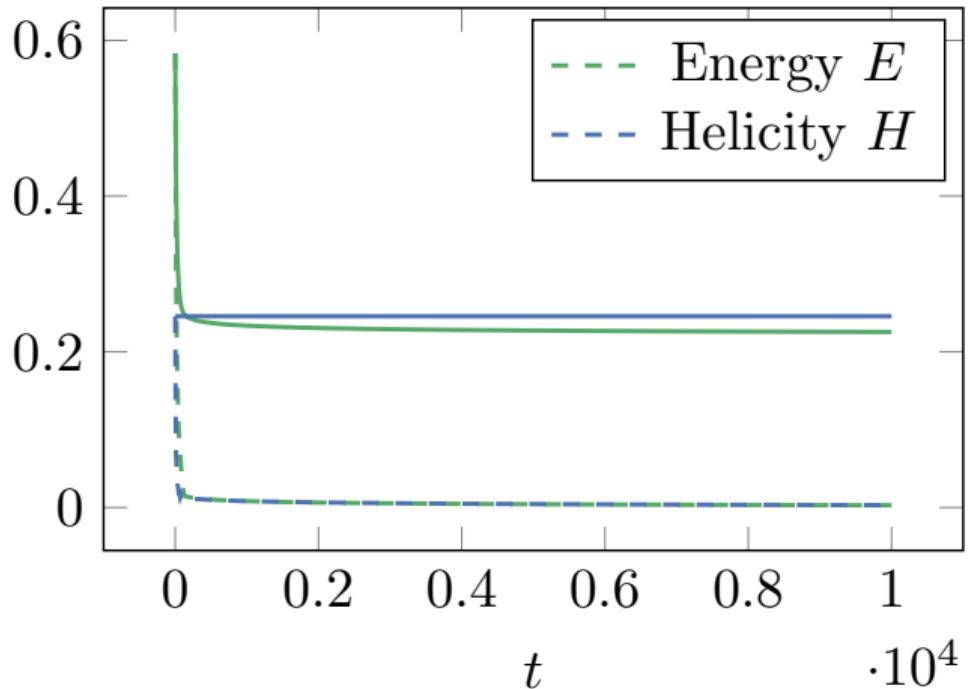
Kaibo Hu



Mingdong He

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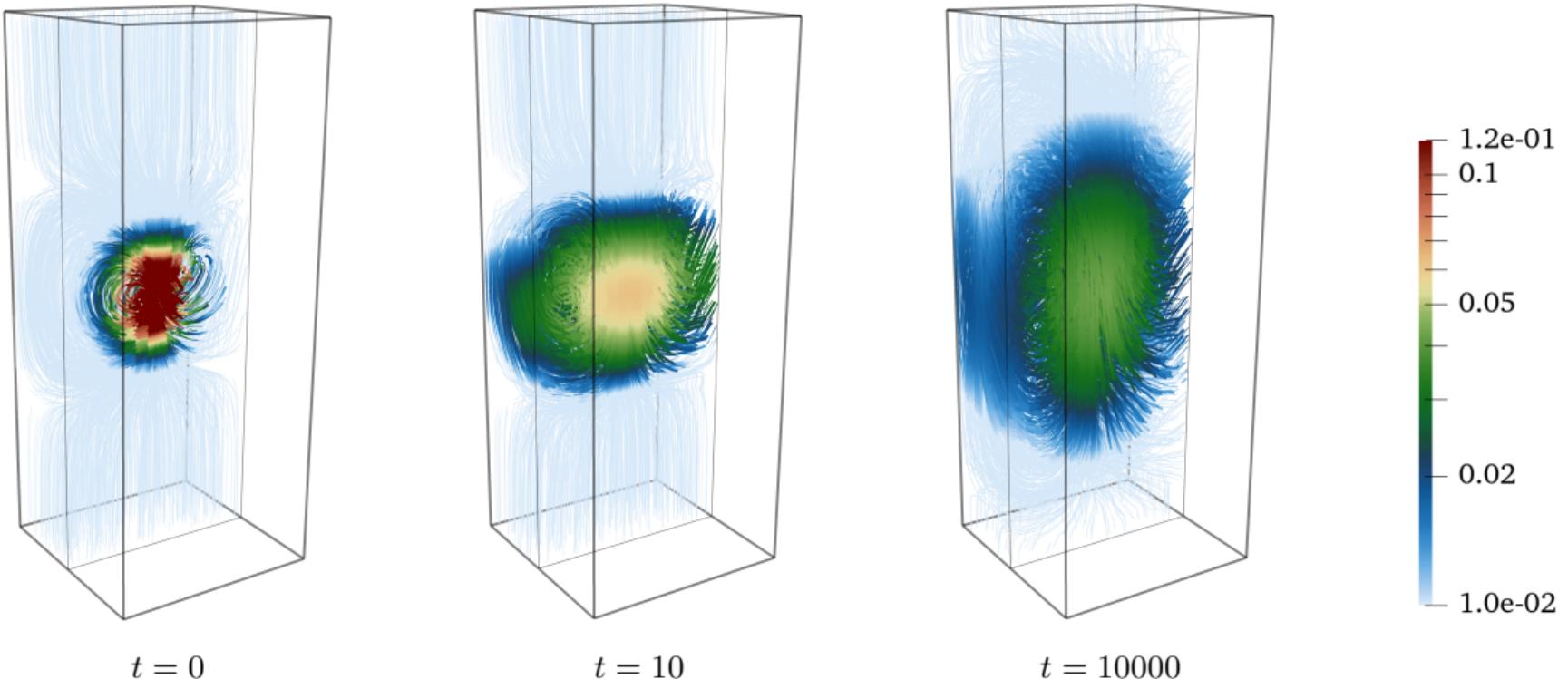
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Kaibo Hu



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Magnetic field lines for a large-scale simulation on ARCHER2, coloured by magnetic field strength $\|B\|$.

Section 10

Conclusions

Good news

We can now (with work) discretely replicate many conservation/dissipation laws.

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Potential applications

magnetohydrodynamics, multicomponent flows, viscoelastic fluids, geometric PDE, Hamiltonian systems, the Lorentz system, hyperelasticity, gradient flows