

# AN ENERGY PRESERVING METHOD FOR THE SCHRÖDINGER-POISSON SYSTEM

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Retreat for Women in Applied Mathematics 2025

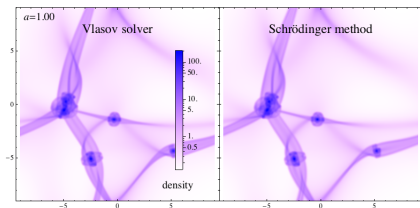


13 – 17 January 2025, ICMS, Bayes Centre, Edinburgh

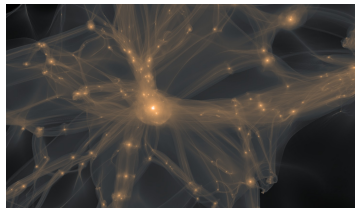
# Why Schrödinger - Poisson system (SPS)?

## ○ PHYSICAL APPLICATIONS

- Semiconductor modelling; Plasma physics
- Cosmology; in particular galaxy formation



Kopp, Vattis & Scordis, 2017



From the page of Dr. R. Kaehler

2d & 3d simulations for galaxy formation

## ○ CHALLENGES

- Interesting physical quantities (e.g., position density) develop *sharply localised features*
- Accurate numerical approximations with uniform meshes would require *extremely fine spatial & temporal mesh sizes*
- Uniform meshes in 2d & 3d: *hardly practical*

# The continuous problem

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u - i \frac{\varepsilon}{2\alpha^2} \Delta u + i \frac{\beta}{\varepsilon\alpha} v u = 0, & \Delta v = |u|^2 & \text{in } \Omega \times [0, T], \\ u = 0, \quad v = 0 & & \text{on } \partial\Omega \times [0, T], \\ u(\cdot, 0) = u_0 & & \text{in } \Omega, \end{cases}$$

- $\Omega$ : convex polygonal domain in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d = 1, 2, 3$
  - $u_0 : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  given initial value;  $u_0 \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$
  - $\alpha, \varepsilon > 0$
  - $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$  ( $\beta > 0 \Rightarrow$  focusing (or attractive),  $\beta < 0 \Rightarrow$  defocusing (or repulsive))
- Existence of a unique smooth solution  $(u, v)$  (Castella, 1997; Bourgain, 1999)
- Often in the *PDE literature*:  $v = |u|^2 * K$ ,  $K$  appropriate Green's function

# Time discretisation: A relaxation scheme

- ① Rewrite SPS as the following system:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u - i \frac{\varepsilon}{2\alpha^2} \Delta u + i \frac{\beta}{\varepsilon \alpha} v u = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T] \\ \Delta v = \phi, \quad \phi = |u|^2 & \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T], \end{cases}$$

## ○ Notation:

- $0 =: t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_N := T$  a partition of  $[0, T]$ ,  $I_n := (t_n, t_{n+1}]$ ,

$$k_n := t_{n+1} - t_n \text{ the variable time steps, } k := \max_{0 \leq n \leq N-1} k_n$$

- $\bar{\partial} U^n := \frac{U^{n+1} - U^n}{k_n}$ ,  $U^{n+\frac{1}{2}} := \frac{U^{n+1} + U^n}{2}$ ,  $t_{n+\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{t_{n+1} + t_n}{2}$

- ② **New relaxation-type numerical scheme:** For  $0 \leq n \leq N-1$ ,

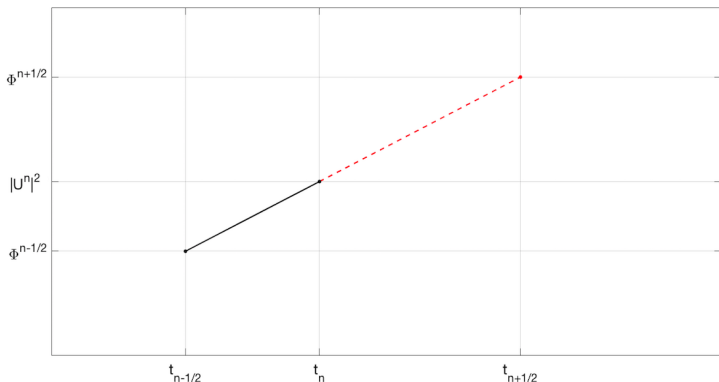
$$\begin{cases} \bar{\partial} U^n - i \frac{\varepsilon}{2\alpha^2} \Delta U^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + i \frac{\beta}{\varepsilon \alpha} V^{n+\frac{1}{2}} U^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = 0, \\ \Delta V^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = \Phi^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \Phi^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{k_n + k_{n-1}}{k_{n-1}} |U^n|^2 - \frac{k_n}{k_{n-1}} \Phi^{n-\frac{1}{2}}, \end{cases}$$

with  $k_{-1} := k_0$ ,  $U^0 = u_0$  and  $\Phi^{-\frac{1}{2}} = |u_0|^2$

# Motivation behind the relaxation scheme

- How do we approximate  $\phi(t_{n+\frac{1}{2}})$ ?

At step  $n$ ,  $\Phi^{n-\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $U^n$  are known  $\Rightarrow$  Compute  $\Phi^{n+\frac{1}{2}}$  by *linear extrapolation* between  $\Phi^{n-\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $|U^n|^2$ :  $\Phi^{n+\frac{1}{2}} := \frac{k_n + k_{n-1}}{k_{n-1}} |U^n|^2 - \frac{k_n}{k_{n-1}} \Phi^{n-\frac{1}{2}}$



- Use  $\Phi^{n+\frac{1}{2}}$  to obtain an approximation for  $v$ :  $\Delta v = \phi \rightsquigarrow \Delta V^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = \Phi^{n+\frac{1}{2}}$

# New relaxation-type scheme

○ For  $0 \leq n \leq N - 1$ ,

$$\begin{cases} \Phi^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{k_n + k_{n-1}}{k_{n-1}} |U^n|^2 - \frac{k_n}{k_{n-1}} \Phi^{n-\frac{1}{2}}, & \Delta V^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = \Phi^{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \\ \bar{\partial} U^n - i \frac{\varepsilon}{2\alpha^2} \Delta U^{n+\frac{1}{2}} + i \frac{\beta}{\varepsilon\alpha} V^{n+\frac{1}{2}} U^{n+\frac{1}{2}} = 0, \end{cases}$$

with  $k_{-1} := k_0$ ,  $U^0 = u_0$  and  $\Phi^{-\frac{1}{2}} = |u_0|^2$  (for now)

○ **INSPIRED BY:**

- Besse (2004); Katsaounis & K. (2018); Besse, Descombes, Dujardin, Lacroix-Violet (2021)
- In Katsaounis & K. (2018) the *first a posteriori error estimator* was constructed for the NLS equation with power nonlinearity

○ **ADVANTAGES:**

- Expected to be *second order accurate*
- *Explicit* with respect to the *nonlinearity*  $\Rightarrow$  No need to solve a nonlinear equation to obtain the next approximation
- Satisfies a *discrete version* of *mass & energy conservation*

# Conservation Laws

## ○ Continuous conservation laws

- **Mass conservation:**  $\mathcal{M}(t) = \mathcal{M}(0)$  with  $\mathcal{M}(t) := \|u(t)\|^2$
- **Energy conservation:**  $\|\mathcal{E}(t)\| = \|\mathcal{E}(0)\|$  with

$$\mathcal{E}(t) := \frac{\varepsilon^2}{\alpha} \|\nabla u(t)\|^2 - \beta \|\nabla v(t)\|^2 = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{\alpha} \|\nabla u(t)\|^2 + \beta \int_{\Omega} v(x, t) |u(x, t)|^2 dx$$

## ○ Discrete conservation laws

- **Discrete mass conservation:**  $\mathcal{M}^n = \mathcal{M}^0$  with  $\mathcal{M}^n := \|U^n\|^2$
- Non-standard **discrete energy conservation:**  $\|\mathcal{E}^n\| = \|\mathcal{E}^0\|$  with

$$\mathcal{E}^n := \frac{\varepsilon^2}{\alpha} \|\nabla U^n\|^2 + \beta \left( 2 \int_{\Omega} V^{n-\frac{1}{2}}(x) |U^n(x)|^2 dx + \|\nabla V^{n-\frac{1}{2}}\|^2 \right)$$

and constant time-steps

- ▶ What happens for **variable time-steps**? It holds

$$\mathcal{E}^{n+1} = \mathcal{E}^n + \mathcal{R}^n \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{R}^n := \frac{\beta(k_n - k_{n-1})}{2(k_n + k_{n-1})} k_n \left\| \frac{\nabla V^{n+\frac{1}{2}} - \nabla V^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{k_n} \right\|^2$$

# Numerical verification of the discrete conservation laws

## ○ TOY MODEL 1: Constant time-steps

- $d = 2$ ,  $\Omega = (-1, 1)^2$ ,  $T = 3$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = 5$
- $u_0(x, y) = \left( \sin\left(\frac{x}{\pi}\right) + i \cos\left(\frac{y}{\pi}\right) \right) (1 - x^2)(1 - y^2)$
- spatial discretisation: linear FE,  $h = 0.015625$ ,  $k = 10^{-3}$
- $\mathcal{M}_e^n := |\mathcal{M}^n - \mathcal{M}(0)|$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_{e,gl}^n := |\mathcal{E}^n - \mathcal{E}(0)|$

	$\varepsilon = 1$		$\varepsilon = 0.1$		$\varepsilon = 0.01$	
$t_n$	$\mathcal{M}_e^n$	$\mathcal{E}_{e,gl}^n$	$\mathcal{M}_e^n$	$\mathcal{E}_{e,gl}^n$	$\mathcal{M}_e^n$	$\mathcal{E}_{e,gl}^n$
0	4.55e-15	2.39e-16	7.22e-16	2.58e-15	3.94e-15	9.57e-15
1	2.06e-14	3.29e-16	4.11e-15	1.39e-15	3.55e-15	1.60e-14
2	4.33e-14	1.75e-16	1.66e-15	2.36e-15	8.55e-15	1.54e-14
3	5.97e-14	3.03e-16	7.32e-15	2.01e-15	1.44e-14	2.56e-14

Table: Errors in the conservation laws.

\* Conservation of discrete mass & energy up to double precision accuracy



# Numerical verification of the discrete conservation laws

## ○ TOY MODEL 2: Variable time-step

- $d = 2$ ,  $\Omega = (-1, 1)^2$ ,  $T = 2$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = 5$ ,  $\varepsilon = 0.01$

- $u_0(x, y) = \left( \sin\left(\frac{x}{\pi}\right) + i \cos\left(\frac{y}{\pi}\right) \right) (1 - x^2)(1 - y^2)$

- spatial discretisation: cubic FE,  $h = 0.015625$

- $[0, T] = \cup_{j=0}^7 [T_j, T_{j+1}]$ ;  $T_j = j/4$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq 8$

In each  $[T_j, T_{j+1})$ ,  $k_n = 1.25(j+1) \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq 7$

- $\mathcal{M}_e^j := |\mathcal{M}^j - \mathcal{M}(0)|$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_{e,gl}^j := |\mathcal{E}^j - \mathcal{E}(0)|$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_{e,loc}^j := |\mathcal{E}^j - \mathcal{E}^{j-1}|$

$T_j$	$k_{j-1}$	$k_j$	$\mathcal{M}_e^j$	$\mathcal{E}_{e,gl}^j$	$\mathcal{E}_{e,loc}^j$	$\mathcal{R}^j$
0.25	1.250e-03	2.500e-03	2.99e-15	3.11e-15	2.88e-11	1.28e-11
0.50	2.500e-03	3.750e-03	7.54e-14	2.93e-11	1.92e-10	1.22e-10
0.75	3.750e-03	5.000e-03	9.30e-14	2.21e-10	6.09e-10	4.42e-10
1.00	5.000e-03	6.250e-03	1.07e-13	8.31e-10	1.40e-09	1.09e-09
1.25	6.250e-03	7.500e-03	1.23e-13	2.23e-09	2.69e-09	2.20e-09
1.50	7.500e-03	8.750e-03	1.28e-13	4.92e-09	4.66e-09	3.92e-09
1.75	8.750e-03	1.000e-02	1.39e-13	9.59e-09	7.37e-09	6.32e-09
2.00	1.000e-02	-	1.41e-13	1.70e-08	-	-

Table: Errors in the conservation laws: variable time-step

# New relaxation-type scheme: EOC

## ○ TOY MODEL 3:

- $d = 2$ ,  $\Omega = (-1, 1)^2$ ,  $T = 1$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = \varepsilon = 1$
- $v(x, y, t) = e^{-t} \sin(\pi(x^2 - 1)(y^2 - 1))$ ,  $u(x, y, t) = (1 + i)v(x, y, t)$  and appropriate right-hand side in the SPS
- spatial discretisation: FE with polynomial degree  $r = 9$ ,  $h = 0.0625$
- $e(u; k) := \max_{0 \leq n \leq N} \|u(\cdot, t_n) - U^n\|$ ,  $e(v; k) := \max_{0 \leq n \leq N} \|v(\cdot, t_n) - V^n\|$

$k$	$e(u; k)$	Rate	$e(v; k)$	Rate
0.04	3.72233e-4	-	9.60801e-4	-
0.02	9.49430e-5	1.971	2.51017e-4	1.936
0.01	2.39046e-5	1.990	6.41950e-5	1.967

Table: Temporal experimental orders of convergence.

## Generalisation: SPS with time-dependent coefficients

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u - ip(t)\Delta u + iq(t)vu = 0 & \text{in } \Omega \times (\tau, T), \\ \Delta v = |u|^2 - \mu & \text{in } \Omega \times (\tau, T), \\ u(x, \tau) = u_0(x) & \text{in } \Omega, \\ \{\mu = 0 \text{ and } u = v = 0\}, \text{ OR } \{\mu = \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2 \text{ and } u, v \text{ periodic}\} & \text{on } \partial\Omega \times (\tau, T], \end{cases}$$

- The above SPS satisfies the following **energy balance law**

$$p(t) \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}_k(t) - \frac{q(t)}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}_v(t) = 0 \quad (\text{instead of the energy conservation})$$

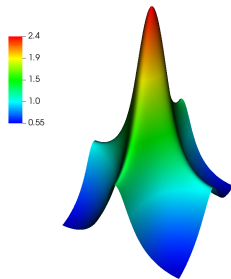
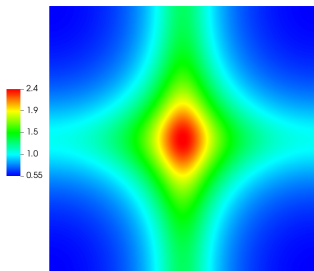
- Our **new relaxation-type scheme** satisfies a **discrete version**:

$$p(t_{n-\frac{1}{2}}) \bar{\partial} \mathcal{E}_k^n - \frac{q(t_{n-\frac{1}{2}})}{2} \bar{\partial} \mathcal{E}_v^n = 0$$

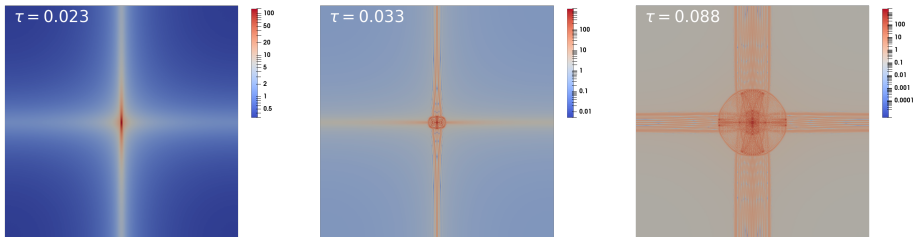
- **More details can be found in** A. Athanasoulis, Th. Katsaounis, I.K., S. Metcalfe, “A novel, structure-preserving, second-order-in-time relaxation scheme for Schrödinger-Poisson systems”, J. Comput. Phys. 490 (2023)

# A Cosmological Example: “Sine Wave Collapse”

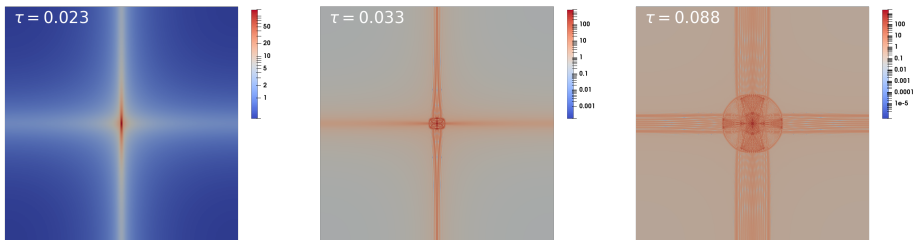
- $d = 2$ ,  $\Omega = (-0.5, 0.5)^2$ ,  $\tau = 0.01$ ,  $T = 0.088$ ,  $\mu = \|u_0\|^2 = 1$
- $p(t) = \frac{\varepsilon}{2t^{3/2}}$ ,  $q(t) = \frac{\beta}{\varepsilon t^{1/2}}$ ,  $\beta = 1.5$ ,  $\varepsilon = 6 \times 10^{-5}$
- Spatial discretisation via **linear FE**,  $k = 5 \times 10^{-5}$
- Initial density  $|u_0|^2$ :



# “Sine Wave Collapse”: Simulations



Numerical density  $|U^N|^2$  (logarithmic scale) at  $t_n = 0.0023, 0.033, 0.088$ :  $1024 \times 1024$  grid



Numerical density  $|U^N|^2$  (logarithmic scale) at  $t_n = 0.0023, 0.033, 0.088$ :  $2048 \times 2048$  grid

# A posteriori estimates

○ *What is an a posteriori estimate?* If  $U$  is a numerical approximation to  $u$ , then for some norm  $\|\cdot\|_A$ ,

$$(1) \quad \|u - U\|_A \leq \eta(U)$$

- $\eta(U)$ : *computable quantity* depending *only* on  $U$  and the data of the problem
- $\eta(U)$ : decreases with *optimal order* (i.e., converges with the same order as the numerical method)

## ○ ADVANTAGES

- 1 Error control through a posteriori estimates provide **mathematical guarantees** on how **accurate** the approximate solution is



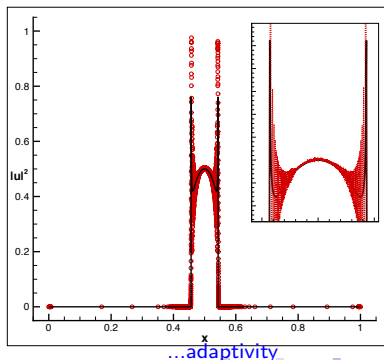
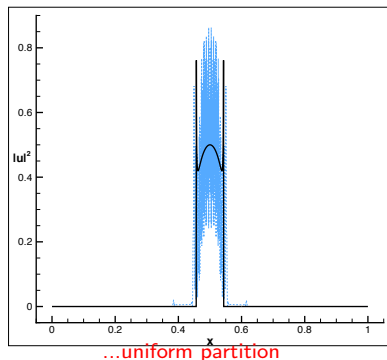
Provide **reliable numerical computations**

- 2  $\eta(U) = \sum_i \eta_i(U) \Delta x_i + \sum_j \eta_j(U) \Delta t_j$  gives an understanding *where the error is coming from*  $\rightsquigarrow$  Construction of **adaptive algorithms**

- 3 A posteriori error control is a way to **overcome** the **limitations of ad hoc adaptivity**

# Adaptivity

- What is an *adaptive algorithm*? Construction of *non-uniform grids* in a *systematic way*
- Essential tool for:
  - 1 Detecting regions where the solution exhibits *singular behaviour* (e.g., blowup, caustics, boundary layers)
  - 2 Capturing *disparate space-time scales efficiently* (e.g., fluid structure interaction)
  - 3 Adaptive algorithms typically lead to *reduced computational cost*



# A posteriori error control: Reconstruction Technique

(Akrivis, Makridakis & Nochetto, 2005)

- **AIM:** Derivation of optimal order a posteriori error estimates for the new relaxation-type scheme for both  $u$  (in the  $L^\infty(L^2)$ -norm) and  $v$  ( $L^\infty(H^1)$ -norm)
- New relaxation-type scheme is *second order accurate*
- The equation for the potential *does not include any time-derivative* ✓
- $U(t) := \ell_0^n(t)U^n + \ell_1^n(t)U^{n+1}$ ,  $t \in I_n$ ,  $\ell_0^n(t) := \frac{t_{n+1} - t}{k_n}$ ,  $\ell_1^n(t) := \frac{t - t_n}{k_n}$ 
  - Using  $U$  in the a posteriori error analysis leads to suboptimal bounds (Dörfler, 1996)
  - Introduce a *reconstruction*  $\hat{U}$  of  $U$ , work with  $u - U = (u - \hat{U}) + (\hat{U} - U)$

## Reconstruction Technique: Main idea

- 1 Find a *continuous projection or interpolant*  $\hat{U}$  of  $U$
- 2  $\hat{U} - U$  is of *optimal order*
- 3  $\hat{U}$  satisfies a *perturbation of the original PDE*
- 4 The perturbation term (*residual*) is a *computable quantity* or can be estimated by computable quantities of *optimal order* of accuracy
- 5 Use *PDE stability arguments* to obtain the final a posteriori estimates



# A posteriori error control: Reconstruction Technique

- $U(t)$  &  $V(t)$ ,  $t \in I_n$ : linear interpolants between  $U^n, U^{n+1}$  &  $V^n, V^{n+1}$ 
  - ▶ Using  $U$  in the a posteriori error analysis  $\Rightarrow$  first order bounds (Döfler, 1996)
  - ▶ Introduce a *reconstruction*  $\hat{U}$  of  $U$ ; work with  $(u - \hat{U}) + (\hat{U} - U)$  (Akrivis, Makridakis & Nochetto, 2005)

## New relaxation-type scheme reconstruction & its properties

For  $0 \leq n \leq N - 1$  and  $t \in I_n$ ,

$$\hat{U}(t) := U^n + i \frac{\varepsilon}{2\alpha^2} \int_{t_n}^t \Delta U(s) ds - i \frac{\beta}{\varepsilon\alpha} \int_{t_n}^t \mathcal{I}_{n+\frac{1}{2}}(VU)(s) ds,$$

with  $\mathcal{I}_{n+\frac{1}{2}}$  the linear interpolant of  $VU$  at  $t_n, t_{n+\frac{1}{2}}$

### PROPERTIES:

- 1  $\hat{U}$  is a time-continuous function;  $\hat{U}(t_n) = U(t_n) = U^n$
- 2  $\hat{U} - U$  is second order accurate
- 3  $\partial_t \hat{U} - i \frac{\varepsilon}{2\alpha^2} \Delta \hat{U} + i \frac{\beta}{\varepsilon\alpha} V \hat{U} = \hat{r}_1$  and  $\Delta V - |\hat{U}|^2 = \hat{r}_2$  in  $I_n$ ,  
with the residuals  $\hat{r}_1, \hat{r}_2$  computable and of second order

## An a posteriori error estimate

For  $d = 1, 2$  and  $0 \leq n \leq N - 1$  and  $t \in I_n$ , it holds

$$\begin{aligned} \|(u - \hat{U})(t)\| &\leq \eta(t) \quad \text{and} \\ \|\nabla(v - V)(t)\| &\leq \mathcal{H}(\hat{U}, u_0; t)\eta(t) + \|\hat{r}_2(t)\|, \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \eta(t) := & \exp\left(\frac{|\beta|}{\varepsilon\alpha} \int_{t_n}^t \mathcal{H}(\hat{U}, u_0; \tau) \|\hat{U}(\tau)\|_{L^\infty} d\tau\right) \\ & \times \left( \|(u - \hat{U})(t_n)\| + \int_{t_n}^t \left( \frac{|\beta|}{\varepsilon\alpha} \|\hat{U}(\tau)\|_{L^\infty} \|\hat{r}_1(\tau)\|_{H^{-1}} + \|\hat{r}_2(\tau)\| \right) d\tau \right) \end{aligned}$$

and  $(u - \hat{U})(0) = 0$

○ **PROOF:** ...Very Technical!...

○ **MAIN INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 Energy techniques for the continuous problem
- 2 Continuous mass & energy conservation
- 3 Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality
- 4 Sobolev embeddings +  $H^2$ -regularity estimate for the Poisson equation

# A numerical implementation: EOC of the residuals

- $d = 1$ ,  $[a, b] = [-1, 1]$ ,  $T = 1$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ ,  $\varepsilon = 0.1$
- B-splines of degree 3, 1000 grid points
- $v(x, t) = e^t(1 - x^2)^3 \sin(\pi(1 - x^2))$ ,  $u(x, t) = (1 + i)v(x, t)$
- For  $\|\hat{r}_1(t)\|$ :

$k$	$\int_{t_{N-1}}^T \ \hat{r}_1(\tau)\  d\tau$	Rate	$\int_0^T \ \hat{r}_1(\tau)\  d\tau$	Rate
1.00e-4	7.58e-6	–	2.67e-4	–
8.00e-3	4.62e-6	2.218	1.70e-4	2.017
4.00e-3	4.80e-7	3.267	4.20e-5	2.020
2.00e-3	5.98e-8	3.005	1.04e-5	2.009
1.00e-3	7.46e-9	3.002	2.60e-6	2.004
8.00e-4	3.82e-9	3.002	1.66e-6	2.003

- For  $\|\hat{r}_2(t)\|$ :

$k$	$\int_{t_{N-1}}^T \ \hat{r}_2(\tau)\  d\tau$	Rate	$\int_0^T \ \hat{r}_2(\tau)\  d\tau$	Rate
1.00e-4	9.60e-6	–	2.94e-4	–
8.00e-3	4.90e-6	3.009	1.87e-4	2.031
4.00e-3	6.08e-7	3.010	4.60e-5	2.020
2.00e-3	7.58e-8	3.004	1.14e-5	2.008
1.00e-3	9.47e-9	3.002	2.87e-6	1.995
8.00e-4	4.85e-9	3.000	2.85e-6	1.980

# Ongoing & Future Work

- 1 A posteriori error analysis for *fully discrete schemes*
- 2 Further numerical implementations
- 3 A posteriori error estimates for  $d = 3$  (other Sobolev embedding inequalities)
- 4 Design of adaptive algorithms, based on the a posteriori error estimators
- 5 Extension of the a posteriori error analysis and adaptivity to SPS with time-dependent coefficients
- 6 Higher order time-discretisations???

**Thank you very much!**