

Reviewing Time Evolution Methods for Quantum Systems

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Gefördert durch



Deutsche
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Suzuki-Trotter decompositions,
aka splitting methods or (Lie) product formulae

[Suzuki *CommunMathPhys* **51** (1976); Trotter *ProcAMS* **4** (1959)]

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Error estimation and efficiency [Omelyan + *CPC* **146** (2002), *CPC* **151** (2003)]

$$e^{(A+B)h + \mathcal{O}_1 h + \mathcal{O}_3 h^3 + \mathcal{O}_5 h^5 + \dots} = e^{Aa_1 h} e^{Bb_1 h} \dots e^{Bb_q h} e^{Aa_{q+1} h}$$

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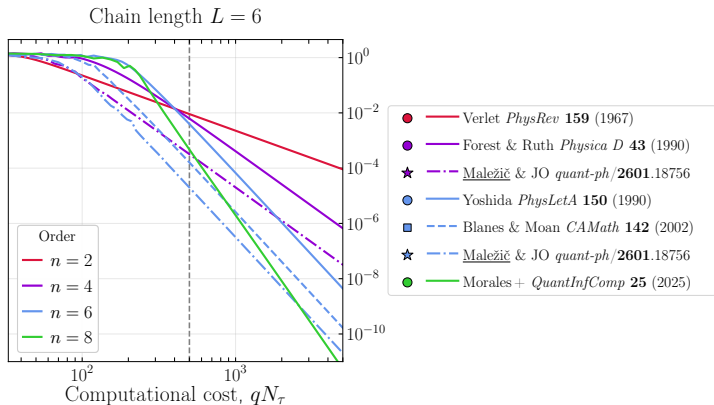
$$\text{Eff}_2 = \frac{1}{q^2 \sqrt{|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2}}$$

$$\text{Eff}_4 = \frac{1}{q^4 \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^6 |\gamma_j|^2}}$$

Scheme construction and efficiency verification

[[Maležič & JO quant-ph/2601.18756](#); [Maležič Qiskit \(2026\)](#)]

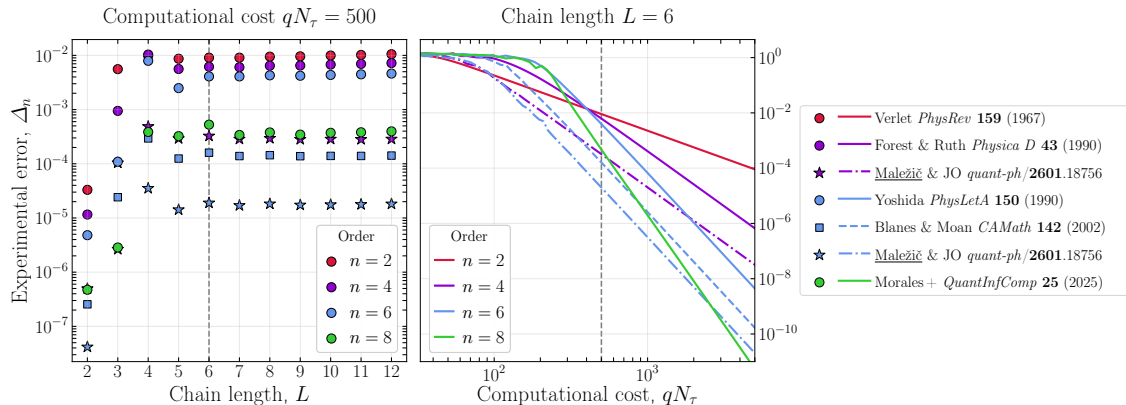
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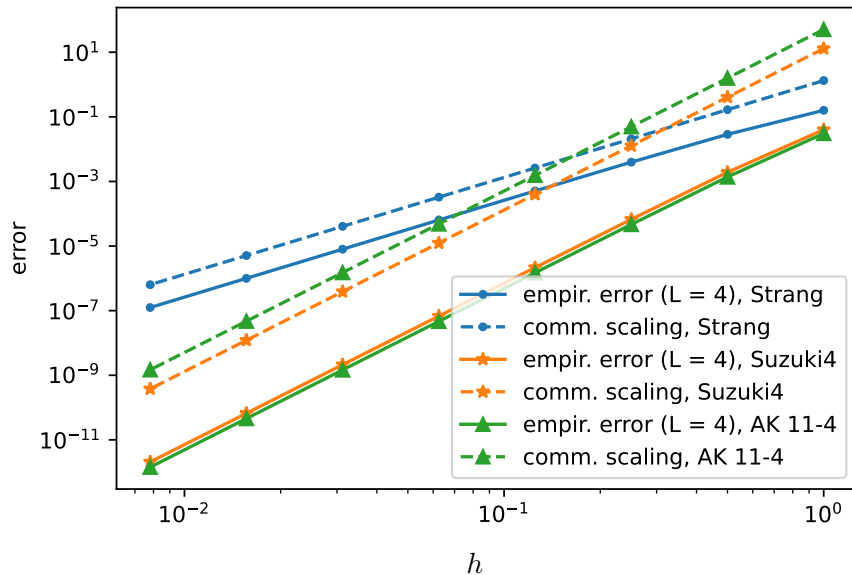
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$$\begin{aligned} \|S_n(h) - e^{Hh}\|_2 \leq & \frac{|h|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \left(\sum_{j=2}^s \sum_{\substack{p_j + \dots + p_s = n \\ p_j \neq 0}} \binom{n}{p_j, \dots, p_s} \left\| \text{ad}_{A_s}^{p_s} \dots \text{ad}_{A_j}^{p_j} B_j \right\|_2 \right. \\ & \left. + \sum_{j=s+1}^K \sum_{\substack{p_{s+1} + \dots + p_j = n \\ p_j \neq 0}} \binom{n}{p_{s+1}, \dots, p_j} \left\| \text{ad}_{A_{s+1}}^{p_{s+1}} \dots \text{ad}_{A_j}^{p_j} B_j \right\|_2 \right), \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{ad}_C^p D := \underbrace{[C, \dots [C, D] \dots]}_{p\text{-times}} \quad \text{and} \quad B_j := \sum_{\ell=1}^{j-1} A_\ell, \quad j = 2, \dots, K.$$

Bound application [Schubert & Mendl *GitHub* (2023), *PRB* 108 (2023)]



Error accumulation [Chen *PRA* **111** (2025); Poster: [Marko Maležič](#)]

- ▶ Total time $t = Nh$

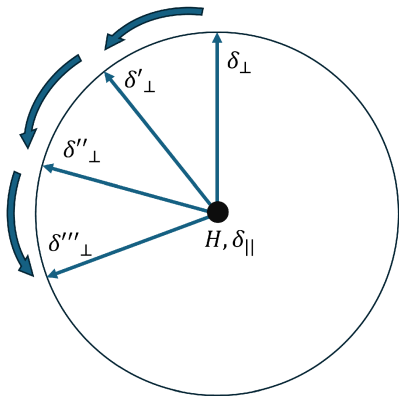
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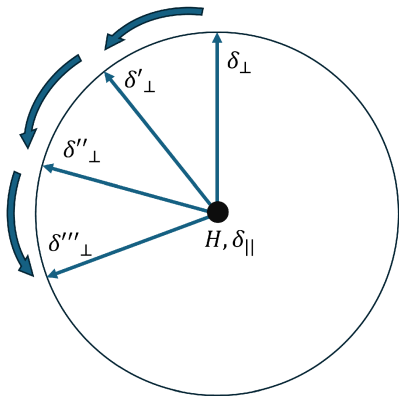
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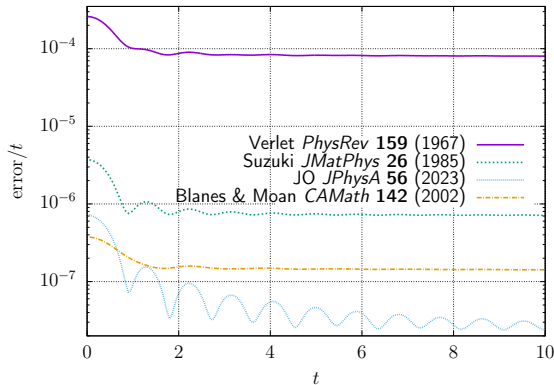
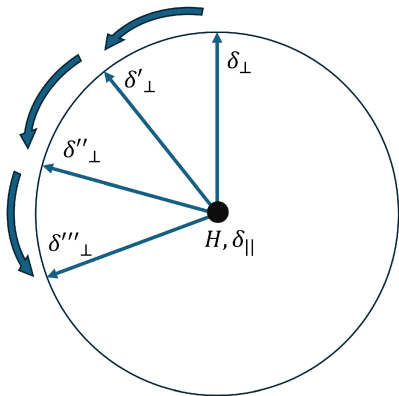
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Worst case errors [Burgarth + *PRR* 6 (2024)]

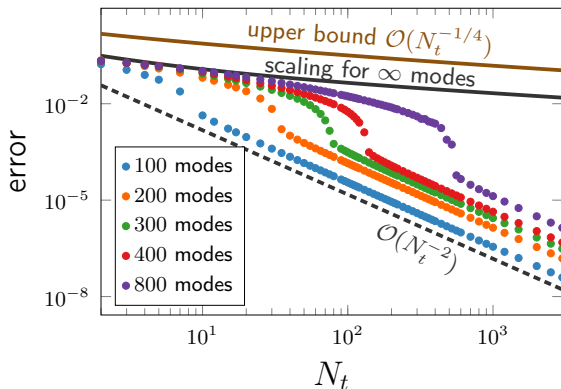
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- ▶ Finite modes (discrete space) act as regulator.



Lower error bounds [Hahn + PRA 111 (2025)]

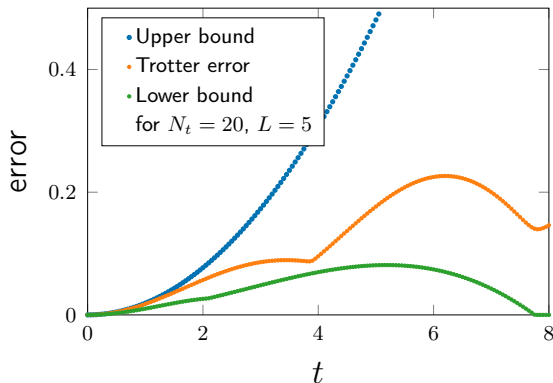
$$\left\| \left(e^{-i \frac{t}{n} A} e^{-i \frac{t}{n} B} \right)^n - e^{-i t(A+B)} \right\| \geq \frac{t^2}{2n} \left(1 - \frac{t}{2n} \|A\| \right)$$

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Decompositions into 2 operators [JO *JPhysA* **56** (2023); McLachlan *JSciComp* **16** (1995)]

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$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow e^{h \sum_{k=1}^{\Lambda} A_k + \mathcal{O}(h^{n+1})} \\ = \left(\prod_{k=1}^{\Lambda} e^{A_k c_1 h} \right) \left(\prod_{k=\Lambda}^1 e^{A_k d_1 h} \right) \dots \left(\prod_{k=1}^{\Lambda} e^{A_k c_q h} \right) \left(\prod_{k=\Lambda}^1 e^{A_k d_q h} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Time-dependent Hamiltonian [Ikeda + *Quantum* **7** (2023); Suzuki *ProcJapAcB* **69** (1993)]

$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = H(t) |\psi(t)\rangle$$

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Generalised Trotter formula for $H(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\Lambda} A_k(t)$

[Suzuki *ProcJapAcB* **69** (1993); Hatano & Suzuki *math-ph/0506007*]

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{T} \left\{ e^{-i \int_t^{t+h} ds H(s)} \right\} &= e^{-i(H(t) + \mathcal{T})h} \\ &= S_n(t, h) + \mathcal{O}(h^{n+1})\end{aligned}$$

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Asymmetric Trotterization

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- ▶ Interaction picture [Low & Wiebe *quant-ph/1805.00675*; Rajput, Roggero + *Quantum* **6** (2022); Ciavarella & Bauer *PRL* **133** (2024); Bosse + *NatCommun* **16** (2025)]:

$$H_1 = \sum_{\gamma=1}^{\Gamma} H_1^{\gamma},$$
$$e^{-ihH} = e^{-ihH_0} \prod_{\gamma} \left(e^{ihH_0} e^{-ih(H_0 + \varepsilon H_1^{\gamma})} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2 h^2)$$

Choose your own adventure!

1. Processed methods
2. Multi-product formulae
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Processed methods

[Butcher *ConfNumDiffEq* (1969); Blanes + *ApplNumMat* **204** (2024); Morales + *QuantInfComp* **25** (2025)]

$$\begin{aligned} S(h) &= P(h) \hat{S}(h) P(h)^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow S(h)^N &= P(h) \hat{S}(h)^N P(h)^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

- Kernel $\hat{S}$ cheap, processor P rarely needed

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- ▶ Kernel $\hat{S}$ cheap, processor P rarely needed
- ▶ Can help with efficient long-time evolution
- ▶ Useless if intermediate measurements are required

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Multi-product formulae

[Blanes + *CelMechDynAst* **75** (1999); Chin *CelMechDynAst* **106** (2008); Low + *quant-ph*/**1907.11679**]

- Linear combinations of order n_0 product formula S_{n_0}

$$S_{n,n_0}^{(s)}(h) = \sum_{j=1}^m a_j S_{n_0} \left(\frac{h}{k_j} \right)^{k_j}$$

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Quantum computing post-processing:

[Carrera Vazquez + *Quantum* **7** (2023); Childs & Wiebe *QantInfComp* **12** (2012); Park + *quant-ph/2602.01713*]

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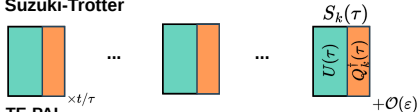
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Randomised methods

[Campbell *PRL* **123** (2019); Granet & Dreyer *QuantInf* **10** (2024); Kiss, Roggero + *Quantum* **7** (2023); Kiumi & Koczor *QuantSciTech* **10** (2025); Hayata & Kikuchi *quant-ph/2604.02854*; Wang, Sun + *quant-ph/2607.11856*]

[Murota, Rinaldi + *quant-ph/2606.29741*]

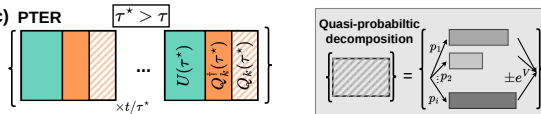
(a) Suzuki-Trotter



(b) TE-PAI



(c) PTER



Circuit complexity

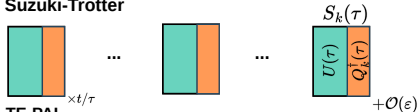
► Sample few gates randomly, repeat many times

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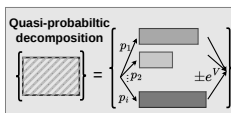
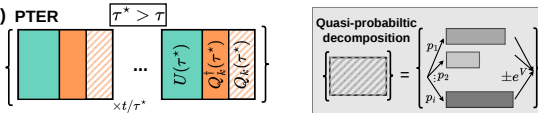
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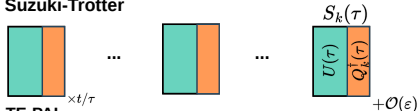
- ▶ Sample few gates randomly, repeat many times
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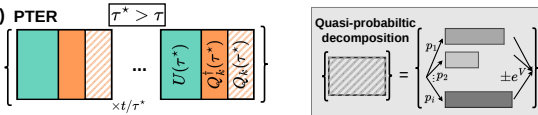
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Circuit complexity

- ▶ Sample few gates randomly, repeat many times
- ▶ Reduces circuit depth
- ▶ Can eliminate Trotter error (continuous formulation)

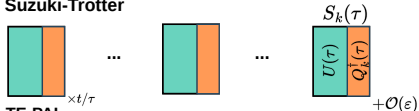
[Granet & Dreyer *QuantInf* **10** (2024); Murota, Rinaldi + *quant-ph/2606.29741*; Hayata & Kikuchi *quant-ph/2604.02854*]

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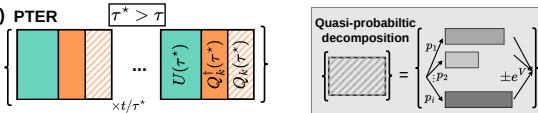
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- ▶ Introduces stochastic error

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Symplectic integrators [Omelyan + CPC 151 (2003)]

- Numerically solve equations of motion

$$\dot{x} = p$$

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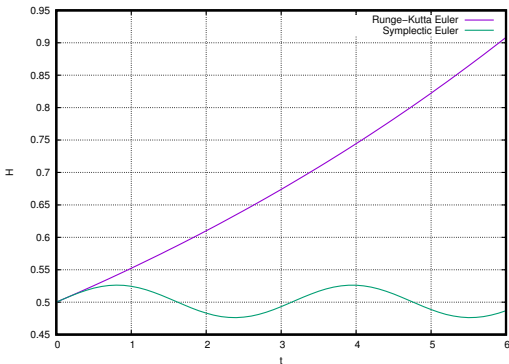
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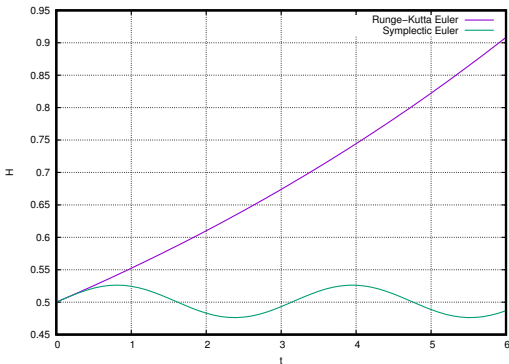
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$$x_1 = x_0 + a_1 h p_0$$

$$p_1 = p_0 - b_1 h V'(x_1)$$

$$x_2 = x_1 + a_2 h p_1$$

$$\vdots$$

Comparison to Runge-Kutta

$$H = T(p) + V(x) ,$$

$$\dot{x} = T'(p)$$

$$\dot{p} = -V'(x)$$

Explicit Runge-Kutta	Symplectic	Implicit Runge-Kutta
$x_{n+1} = x_n + hT'(\textcolor{red}{p}_n)$	$x_{n+1} = x_n + hT'(\textcolor{red}{p}_n)$	$x_{n+1} = x_n + hT'(\textcolor{blue}{p}_{n+1})$
$p_{n+1} = p_n - hV'(\textcolor{red}{x}_n)$	$p_{n+1} = p_n - hV'(\textcolor{blue}{x}_{n+1})$	$p_{n+1} = p_n - hV'(\textcolor{blue}{x}_{n+1})$

Special case of Trotterization [Omelyan + *CPC* **151** (2003)]

$$\begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ p(t) \end{pmatrix} = e^{t(p\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - V'(x)\frac{\partial}{\partial p})} \begin{pmatrix} x(0) \\ p(0) \end{pmatrix}$$

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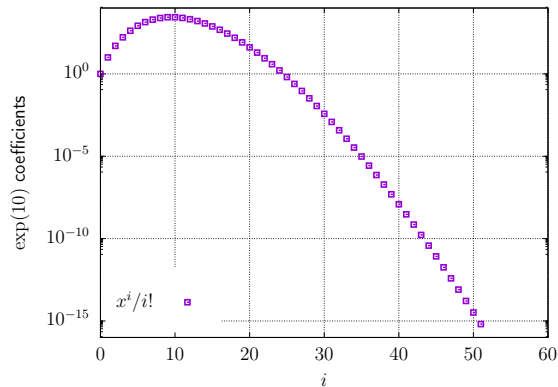
$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \mathcal{O}_5 = & \gamma_1[A, [A, [A, [A, B]]]] + \gamma_2[A, [A, [B, [A, B]]]] \\ & + \gamma_3[B, [A, [A, [A, B]]]] + \gamma_4[B, [B, [B, [A, B]]]] \\ & + \gamma_5[B, [B, [A, [A, B]]]] + \gamma_6[A, [B, [B, [A, B]]]] \end{aligned}$$

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Polynomial expansions

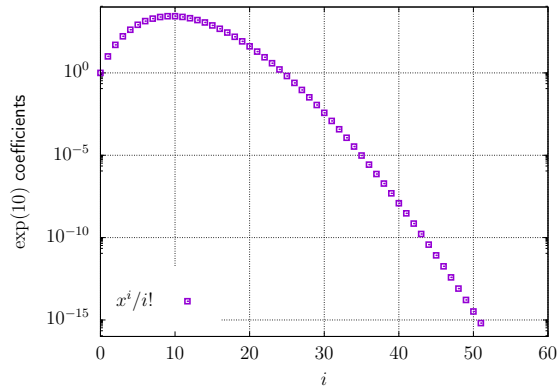
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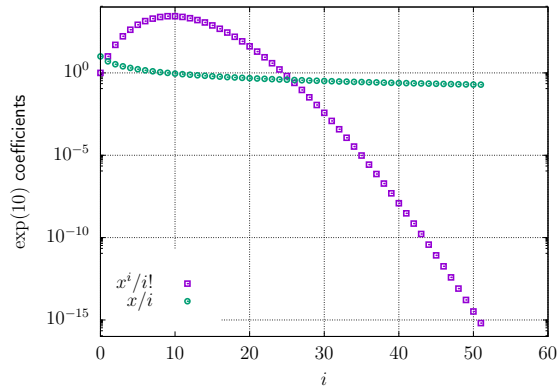
$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow e^{Hh} |\psi\rangle &= |\psi\rangle + (hH(|\psi\rangle + \dots \\ &+ \frac{h}{n-1} H \left(|\psi\rangle + \frac{h}{n} H |\psi\rangle \right) \dots)) \\ &+ \mathcal{O}(h^{k+1}) \quad \textbf{(Horner)} \end{aligned}$$



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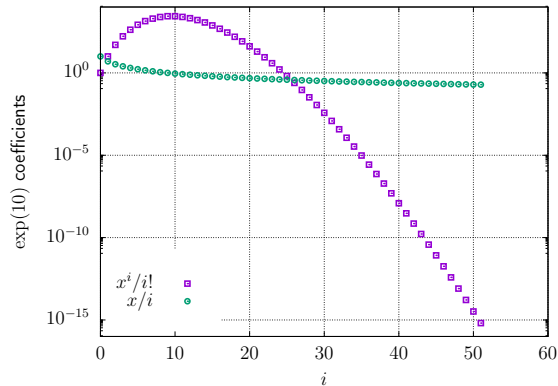


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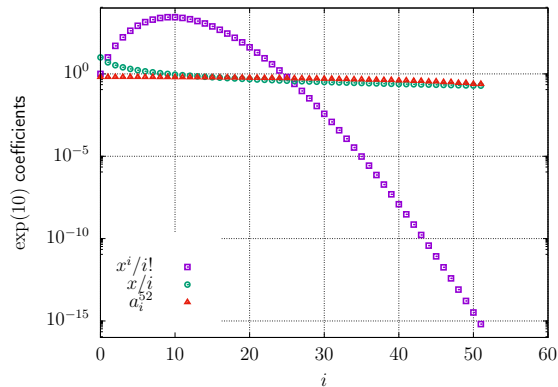


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Taylor vs. Chebyshev expansion [JO PoS LATTICE (2023)]

$$e^{Hh} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=0}^k \mu_i T_i \left(\frac{H}{\Gamma} \right) ,$$
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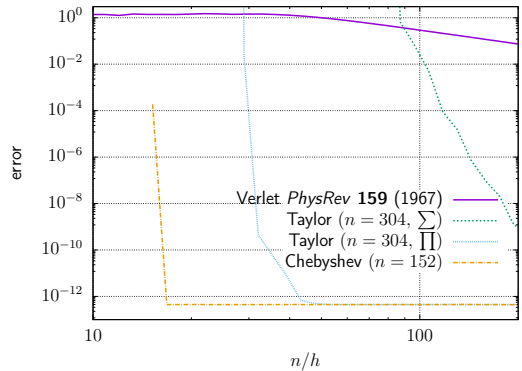
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Choose your own adventure!

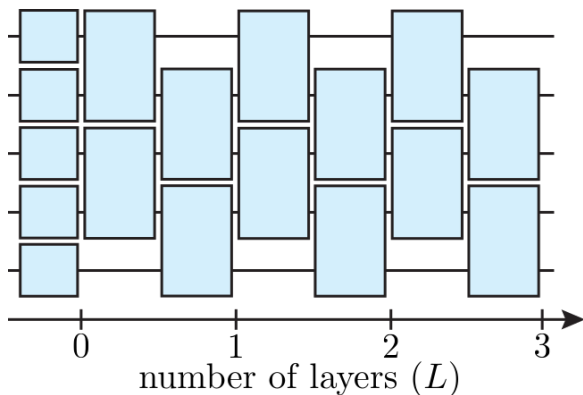
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Quantum circuit optimisation

[Le + *Quantum* **9** (2025); Mansuroglu + *QuantSciTech* **8** (2023); Tepaske + *SciPostPhys* **14** (2023)]

[Mc Keever & Lubasch *PRR* **5** (2023)]

Ansatz: brickwall circuit

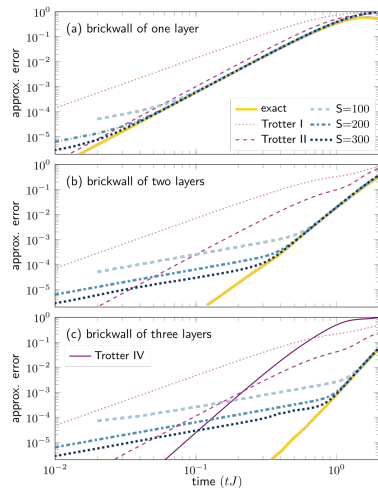
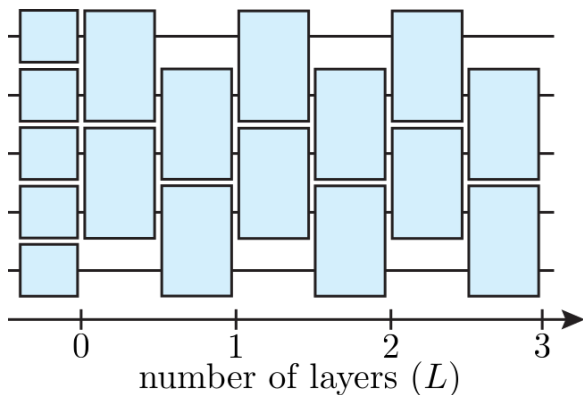


Quantum circuit optimisation

[Le + *Quantum* **9** (2025); Mansuroglu + *QuantSciTech* **8** (2023); Tepaske + *SciPostPhys* **14** (2023)]

[Mc Keever & Lubasch *PRR* **5** (2023)]

Ansatz: brickwall circuit



Choose your own adventure!

1. Processed methods
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8. Integration on manifolds

Time-dependent variational principle (TDVP)

[Haegeman + *PRL* **107** (2011), *PRB* **94** (2016); Paeckel + *AnnalsPhys* **411** (2019)]

- ▶ Tensor network state $\psi(X)$ parametrised by X of limited dimension D

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- ▶ Tensor network state $|\psi(X)\rangle$ parametrised by X of limited dimension D
- ▶ Trotterization “time-evolving block decimation (TEBD)” increases D with every step

$$-i H |\psi(X)\rangle = \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(X)\rangle$$

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$$\begin{aligned} -i H |\psi(X)\rangle &= \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(X)\rangle \\ &= |\nabla_X \psi(X)\rangle \cdot \dot{X} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} -i H |\psi(X)\rangle &= \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(X)\rangle \\ &= |\nabla_X \psi(X)\rangle \cdot \dot{X} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \nabla_{\bar{X}} \psi(\bar{X}) | \nabla_X \psi(X) \rangle \cdot \dot{X} = -i \langle \nabla_{\bar{X}} \psi(\bar{X}) | H |\psi(X)\rangle$$

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Numerical integration on manifolds

[Crouch & Grossman *JNonLinSci* **3** (1993); Munthe-Kaas *Ap/NumMat* **29** (1999)]

	Runge-Kutta	Crouch-Grossman
ODE	$\dot{z} = f(t, z)$	$\dot{\psi} = H(t, \psi) \cdot \psi$

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	Runge-Kutta	Crouch-Grossman
ODE	$\dot{z} = f(t, z)$	$\dot{\psi} = H(t, \psi) \cdot \psi$
step	$z(t + h) = z(t) + h \sum_{i=1}^s b_i k_i$	$\psi(t + h) = e^{h \sum_{i=1}^s \tilde{b}_i k_i} \cdot \psi(t)$

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	Runge-Kutta	Crouch-Grossman
ODE	$\dot{z} = f(t, z)$	$\dot{\psi} = H(t, \psi) \cdot \psi$
step	$z(t + h) = z(t) + h \sum_{i=1}^s b_i k_i$ $u_i = h \sum_{j=1}^s a_{ij} k_j$	$\psi(t + h) = e^{h \sum_{i=1}^s \tilde{b}_i k_i} \cdot \psi(t)$ $u_i = h \sum_{j=1}^s \tilde{a}_{ij} k_j$

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	$u_i = h \sum_{j=1}^s a_{ij} k_j$	$u_i = h \sum_{j=1}^s \tilde{a}_{ij} k_j$
	$k_i = f(t + c_i h, z(t) + u_i)$	$k_i = H(t + \tilde{c}_i h, e^{u_i} \cdot \psi(t))$

Numerical integration on manifolds

[Crouch & Grossman *JNonLinSci* **3** (1993); Munthe-Kaas *Ap/NumMat* **29** (1999)]

	Runge-Kutta	Munthe-Kaas
ODE	$\dot{z} = f(t, z)$	$\dot{\psi} = H(t, \psi) \cdot \psi$
step	$z(t + h) = z(t) + h \sum_{i=1}^s b_i k_i$	$\psi(t + h) = e^{h \sum_{i=1}^s b_i \tilde{k}_i} \cdot \psi(t)$
	$u_i = h \sum_{j=1}^s a_{ij} k_j$	$u_i = h \sum_{j=1}^s a_{ij} k_j$
	$k_i = f(t + c_i h, z(t) + u_i)$	$k_i = H(t + c_i h, e^{u_i} \cdot \psi(t))$
		$\tilde{k}_i := \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} \frac{B_l}{l!} \text{ad}_{u_i}^l k_i$

Choose your own adventure!

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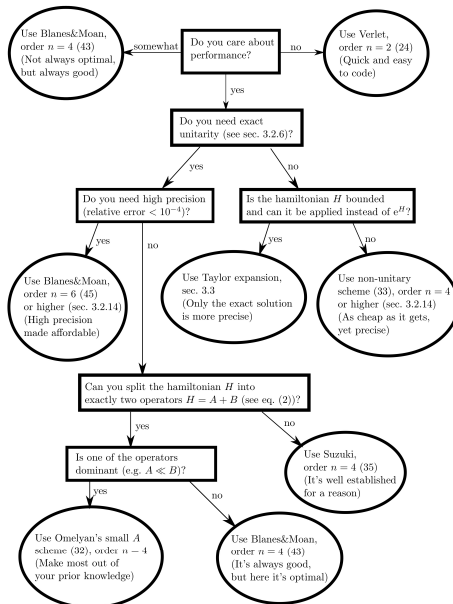
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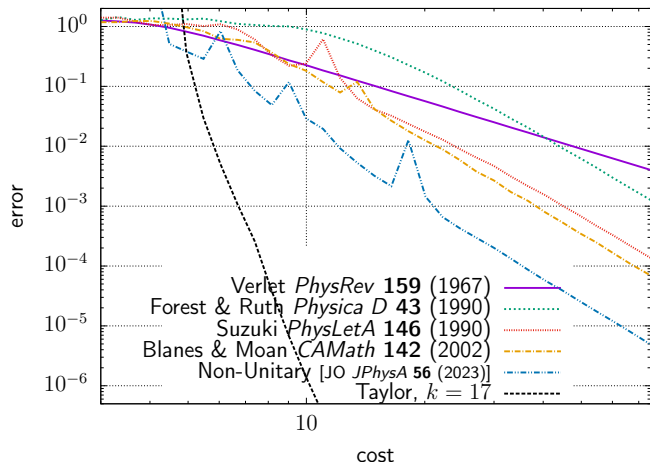
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How to choose... [JO *JPhysA* 56 (2023)]



Three simple tricks for better Trotterization



0. Don't use Forest & Ruth.
1. Use 2-operator methods for Λ operators.
2. Use complex coefficients.
3. Consider alternatives.

Heisenberg model and error estimation

[Childs + *PRX* **11** (2021); Heyl, [Hauke](#) + *SciAdv* **5** (2019); Schubert & Mendl *PRB* **108** (2023)]

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^L \left(\sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x + \sigma_i^y \sigma_{i+1}^y + \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z + h_i \sigma_i^z \right) ,$$

$$e^{iHt} \equiv U(t) = U(h)^{t/h}$$

$$= S(h)^{t/h} + \mathcal{O}(h^n) ,$$

$$S(h) = e^{iH_1^x c_1 h} e^{iH_1^y c_1 h} e^{iH_1^z c_1 h} e^{iH_2^x c_1 h} e^{iH_2^y c_1 h} e^{iH_2^z c_1 h} \dots e^{iH_1^z d_q h} e^{iH_1^y d_q h} e^{iH_1^x d_q h} ,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{error} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \left\| U(t) - S(h)^{t/h} \right\|_F \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sqrt{\sum_v |U(t) \cdot v - S(h)^{t/h} \cdot v|^2} \end{aligned}$$

Proof of validity of Λ -operator decomposition I

For every $i \in \{1, \dots, q\}$ (setting $d_0 = 0$)

$$\begin{aligned}c_i + d_{i-1} &= a_i - d_{i-1} + d_{i-1} \\ &= a_i ,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}d_i + c_i &= b_i - c_i + c_i \\ &= b_i ,\end{aligned}$$

i.e. decomposition works trivially for $\Lambda = 2$.

Proof of validity of Λ -operator decomposition II

Use the Baker–Campbell–Hausdorff formula:

$$\left(\prod_{k=1}^{\Lambda} e^{A_k c_i h} \right) = e^{C_1 c_i h + C_2 (c_i h)^2 + C_3 (c_i h)^3 + \dots}$$
$$\left(\prod_{k=\Lambda}^1 e^{A_k d_i h} \right) = e^{D_1 d_i h + D_2 (d_i h)^2 + D_3 (d_i h)^3 + \dots}$$

where $C_1 = D_1 = \sum_{k=1}^{\Lambda} A_k$ and the remaining operators C_l, D_l are some linear combinations of l th order commutators $[A_{k_1}, [A_{k_2}, \dots [A_{k_{l-1}}, A_{k_l}] \dots]]$.

Proof of validity of Λ -operator decomposition III

C_l, D_l are independent of i and for every $\Lambda \geq 2$ all the C_l (D_l) are mutually non-commuting and linearly independent in general. Thus, the right hand side is completely independent of Λ .

For $\Lambda = 2$:

$$\begin{aligned} e^{h \sum_{k=1}^{\Lambda} A_k + \mathcal{O}(h^{n+1})} &= e^{C_1 c_1 h + C_2 (c_1 h)^2 + \dots} e^{D_1 d_1 h + D_2 (d_1 h)^2 + \dots} \\ &\quad \dots e^{C_1 c_q h + C_2 (c_q h)^2 + \dots} e^{D_1 d_q h + D_2 (d_q h)^2 + \dots} \end{aligned}$$

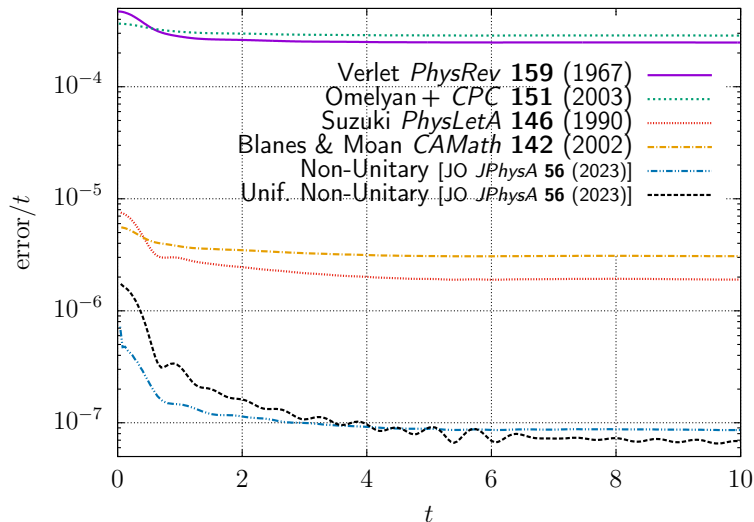
Since the c_i, d_i fulfil this condition for every C_i, D_i (they solve the corresponding system of polynomial equations), they automatically fulfil it for every Λ .

Derivation time-dependent Hamiltonian evolution

Effective Hamiltonian $H_{\text{eff}}(t) \equiv \sum_k A_k(t) + \mathcal{T}$, Trotterize:

$$\begin{aligned} S_n(t, h) &= e^{c_1 \mathcal{T} h} \left(\prod_{k=1}^{\Lambda} e^{c_1 A_k(t) h} \right) \left(\prod_{k=\Lambda}^1 e^{d_1 A_k(t) h} \right) e^{d_1 \mathcal{T} h} \dots \\ &\quad \left(\prod_{k=\Lambda}^1 e^{d_{q-1} A_k(t) h} \right) e^{d_{q-1} \mathcal{T} h} e^{c_q \mathcal{T} h} \left(\prod_{k=1}^{\Lambda} e^{c_q A_k(t) h} \right) \left(\prod_{k=\Lambda}^1 e^{d_q A_k(t) h} \right) e^{d_q \mathcal{T} h} \\ &= e^{\mathcal{T} h} \left(\prod_{k=1}^{\Lambda} e^{c_1 A_k(t + (1-c_1)h) h} \right) \left(\prod_{k=\Lambda}^1 e^{d_1 A_k(t + (1-c_1)h) h} \right) \dots \\ &\quad \left(\prod_{k=\Lambda}^1 e^{d_{q-1} A_k(t + (d_q + c_q + d_{q-1})h) h} \right) \left(\prod_{k=1}^{\Lambda} e^{c_q A_k(t + d_q h) h} \right) \left(\prod_{k=\Lambda}^1 e^{d_q A_k(t + d_q h) h} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Error accumulation II



$$c_1 = 0.1 + 0.025i$$

$$d_1 = 0.1 + 0.025i$$

$$c_2 = 0.1 - 0.066i$$

$$d_2 = 0.1 - 0.066i$$

$$c_3 = 0.1 + 0.082i$$

$$\text{order} = 4,$$

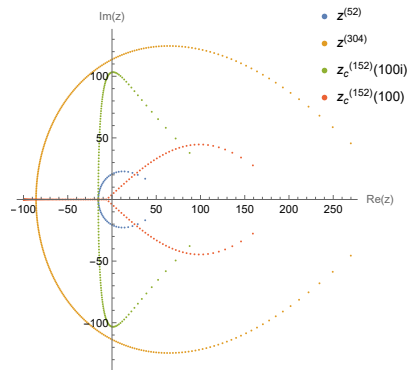
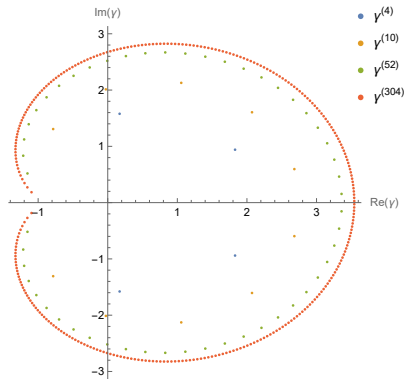
$$\text{cycles} = 5,$$

$$\text{Eff}_4 = 6.38$$

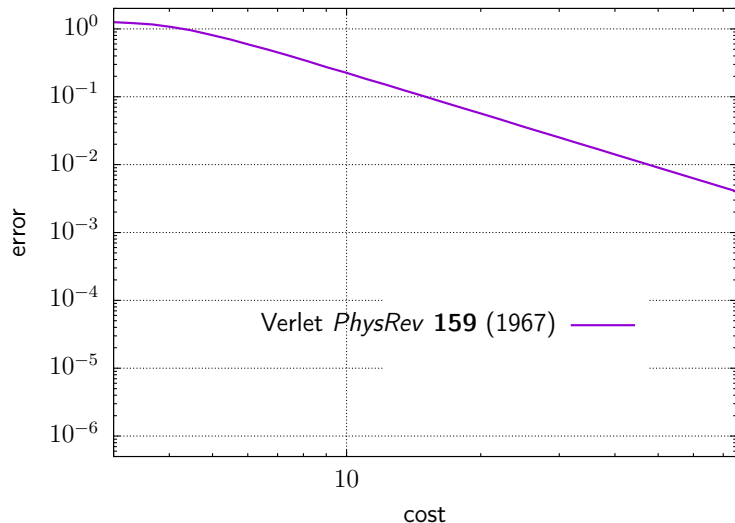
Convergence regions [JO PoS LATTICE (2023)]

$$e^{Hh} = \prod_{i=1}^k \left(1 + \frac{\gamma_i^{(k)}}{k} Hh \right) + \mathcal{O}(h^{k+1})$$

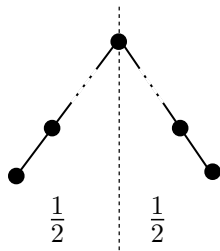
$$\propto \prod_{i=1}^k \left(Hh - z_i^{(k)} \right) + \mathcal{O}(h^{k+1})$$



Benchmarking the Heisenberg model

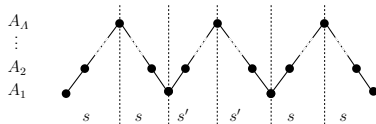
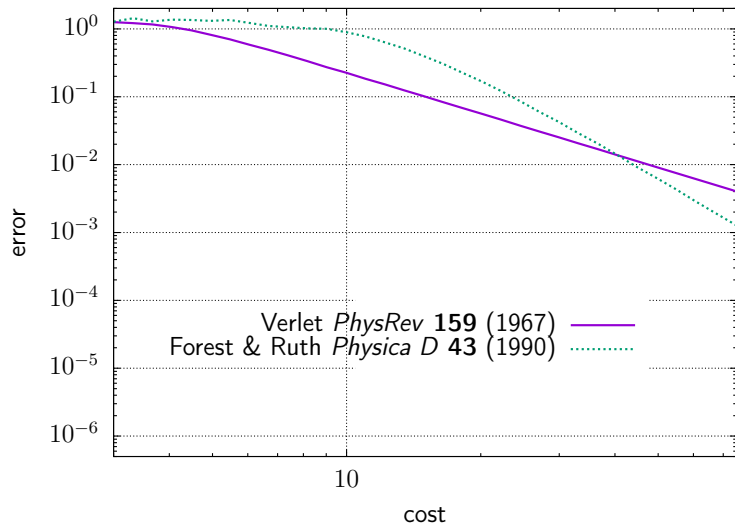


A_Λ
 $\vdots$
 A_2
 A_1



order = 2,
cycles = 1

Benchmarking the Heisenberg model



$$s = \frac{1}{2(2 - \sqrt[3]{2})}$$

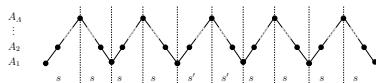
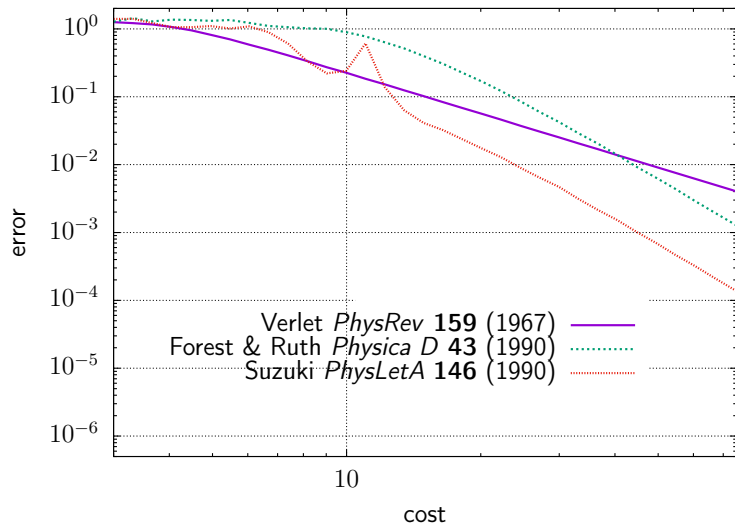
$$s' = \frac{1}{2} - 2s$$

$$\text{order} = 4,$$

$$\text{cycles} = 3,$$

$$\text{Eff}_4 = 0.315$$

Benchmarking the Heisenberg model



$$s = \frac{1}{2(4 - \sqrt[3]{4})}$$

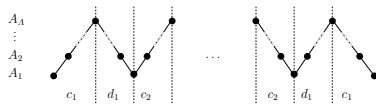
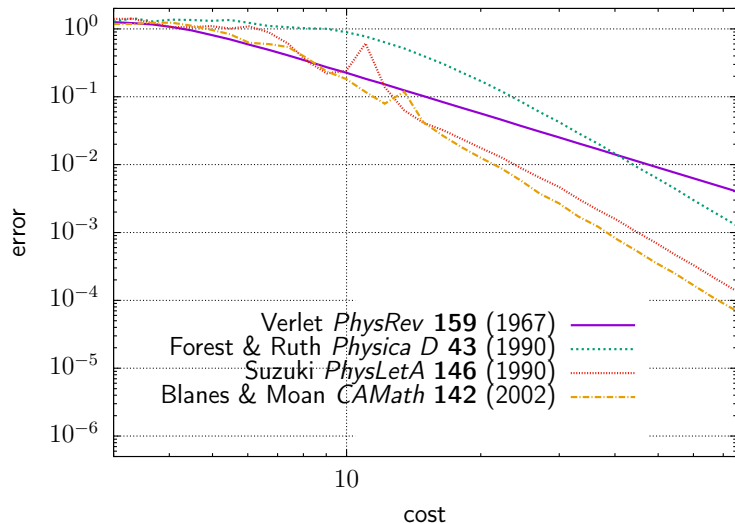
$$s' = \frac{1}{2} - 4s$$

order = 4,

cycles = 5,

$$\text{Eff}_4 = 1.10$$

Benchmarking the Heisenberg model



$$c_1 \approx 0.08 \quad d_1 \approx 0.13$$

$$c_2 \approx 0.22 \quad d_2 \approx -0.36$$

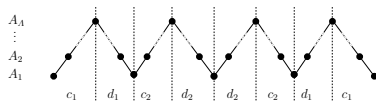
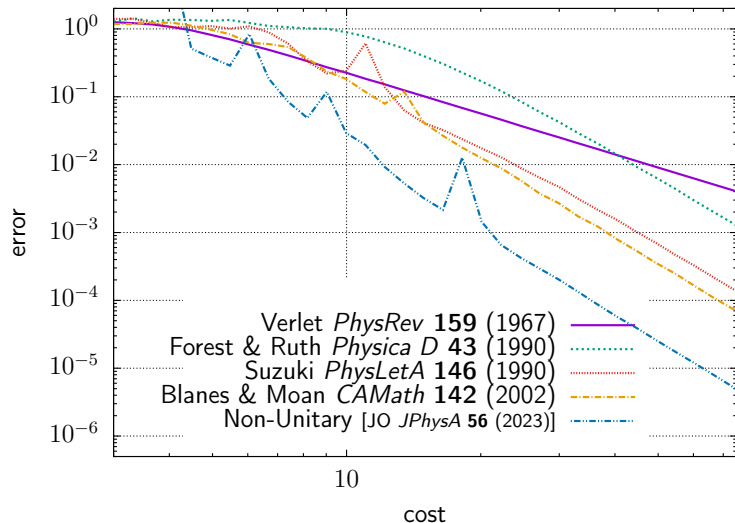
$$c_3 \approx 0.32 \quad d_3 \approx 0.11$$

$$\text{order} = 4,$$

$$\text{cycles} = 6,$$

$$\text{Eff}_4 = 10.2$$

Benchmarking the Heisenberg model



$$c_1 \approx 0.10 + 0.02i$$

$$d_1 \approx 0.15 + 0.07i$$

$$c_2 \approx 0.14 + 0.07i$$

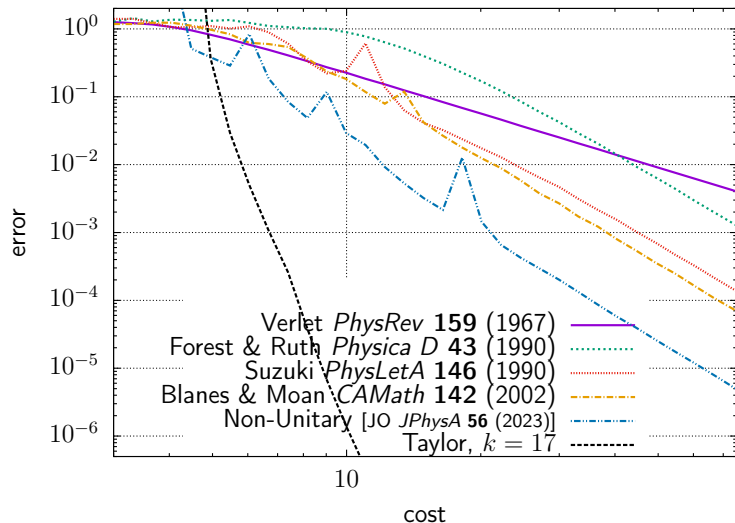
$$d_2 \approx 0.11 - 0.16i$$

$$\text{order} = 4,$$

$$\text{cycles} = 4,$$

$$\text{Eff}_4 = 29.9$$

Benchmarking the Heisenberg model



$$e^{Hh} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{(Hh)^i}{i!}$$

$$\left| \frac{(\lambda_{\max}(H)h)^k}{(k+1)!} \right| < \varepsilon$$

Adaptive step size [Blanes + *ApJNumMat* **146** (2019); Zhao + *PRXQ* **4** (2023)]

ZHAO, BUKOV, HEYL, and MOESSNER

PRX QUANTUM **4**, 030319 (2023)

