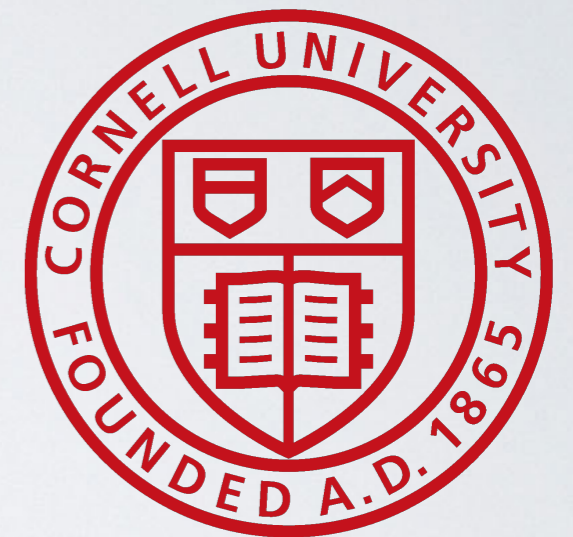


# Spectral Methods Without Discretization Woes

Alex Townsend  
Cornell University  
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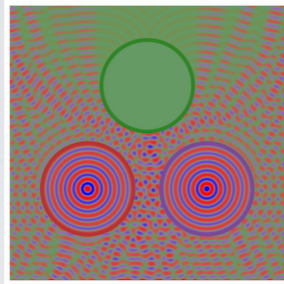
Colleagues that cure discretization woes:



Dan Fortunato Marc Gilles Nick Hale Andrew Horning Sheehan Olver Nick Trefethen Geoff Vasil Grady Wright Heather Wilber

# Algorithms, adaptivity, & encapsulation

Julia logo



**ApproxFun**

[Olver, Slevinsky, & others]

Algorithms



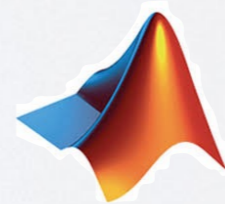
[Burns, Vasil, Oishi, Lecoanet, & Brown]



Adaptivity

Encapsulation

W c h e b f u n



[Trefethen, Driscoll, Hale, & many others]

Functions

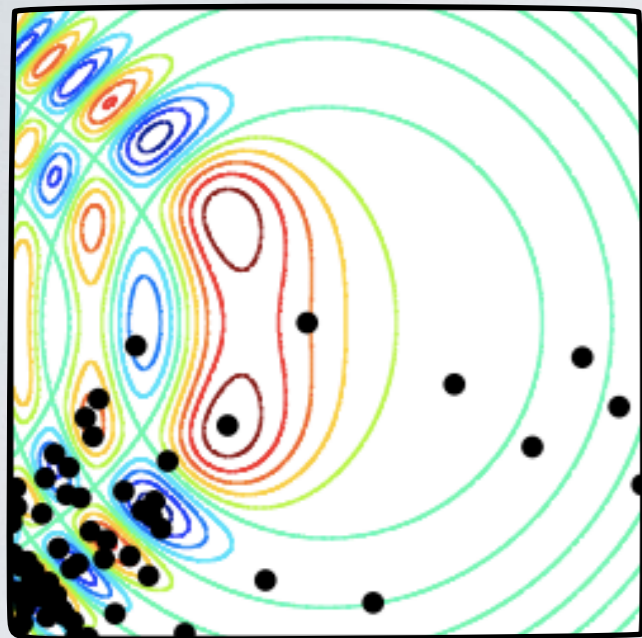
DEs

(Geometry)

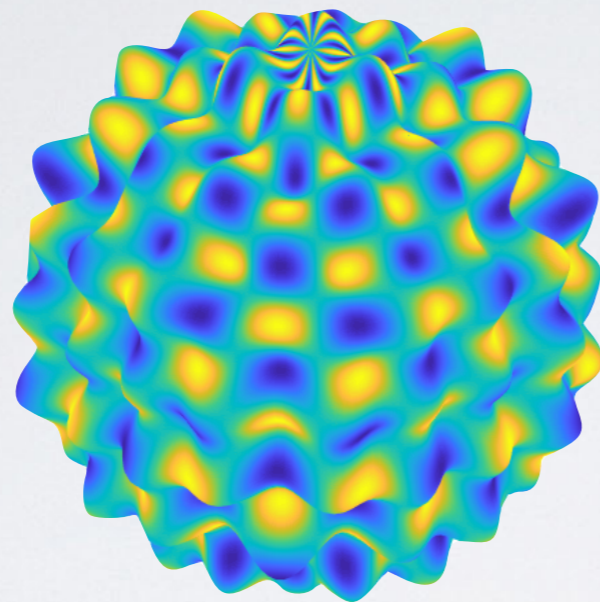
**Goal:** Discretization oblivious users.

# Highlight reel: functions

Adaptive 2D approximation

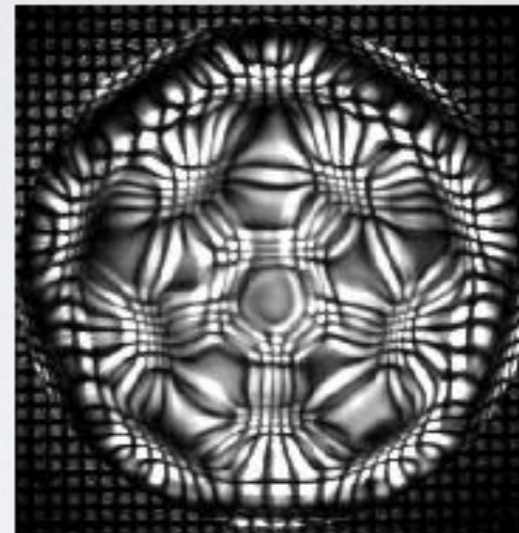


with Trefethen



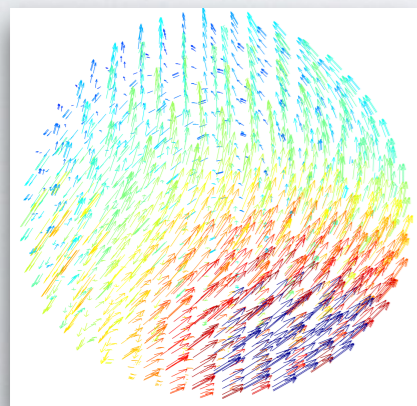
with Platte

Fast rotate on hemisphere

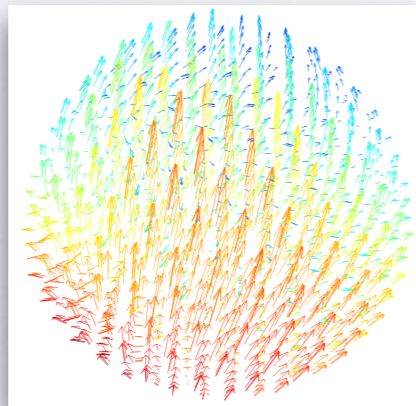


with Bostwick, Steen, & Zhao

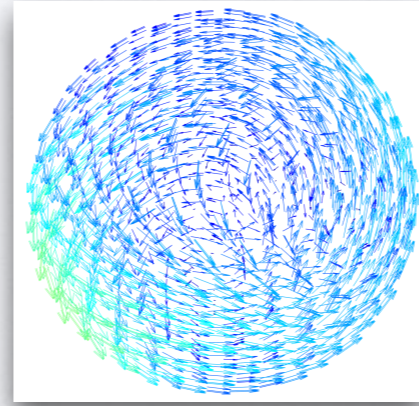
Helmholtz decomposition in ball



=



+



$\underline{v}$

=

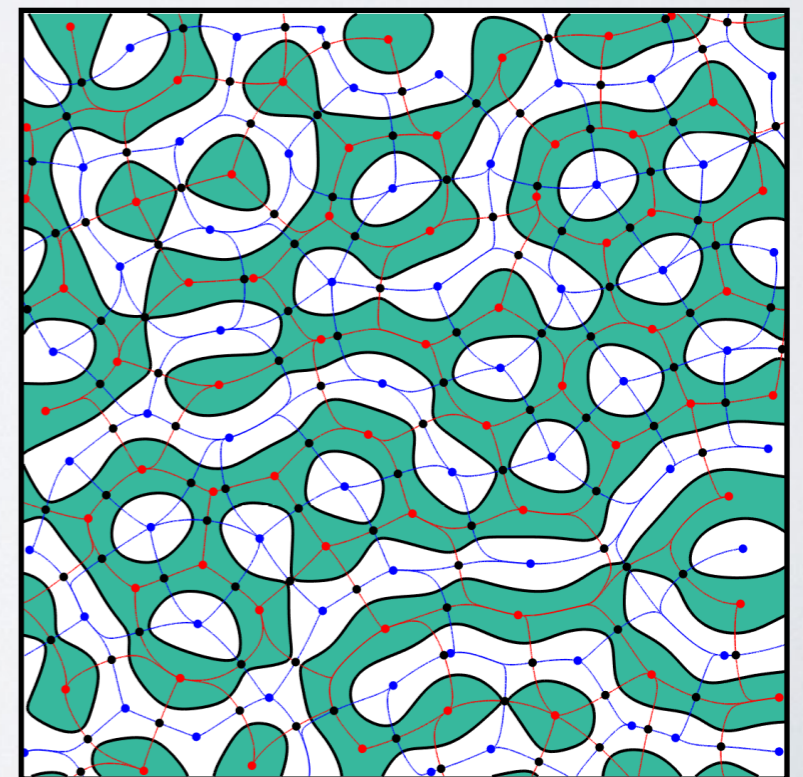
$\nabla f$

+

$\nabla \times \psi$

with Boulle

Robust rootfinders



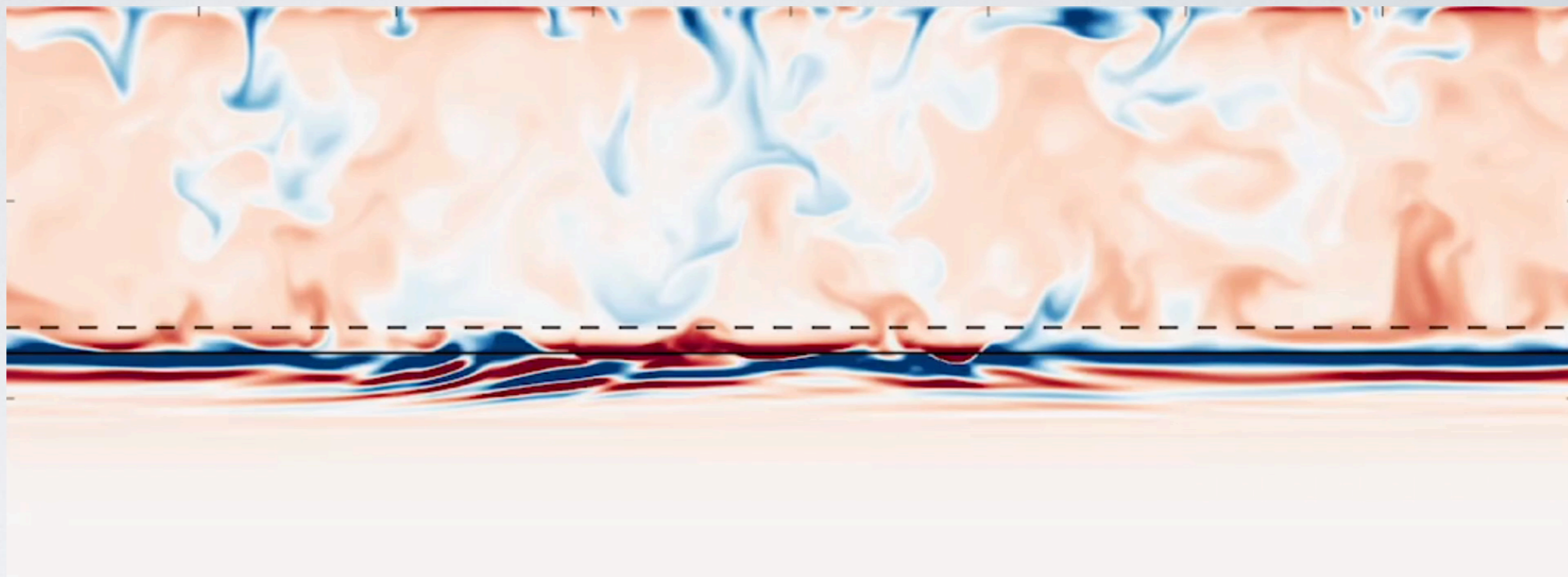
with Belyaev

# Highlight reel: DEs

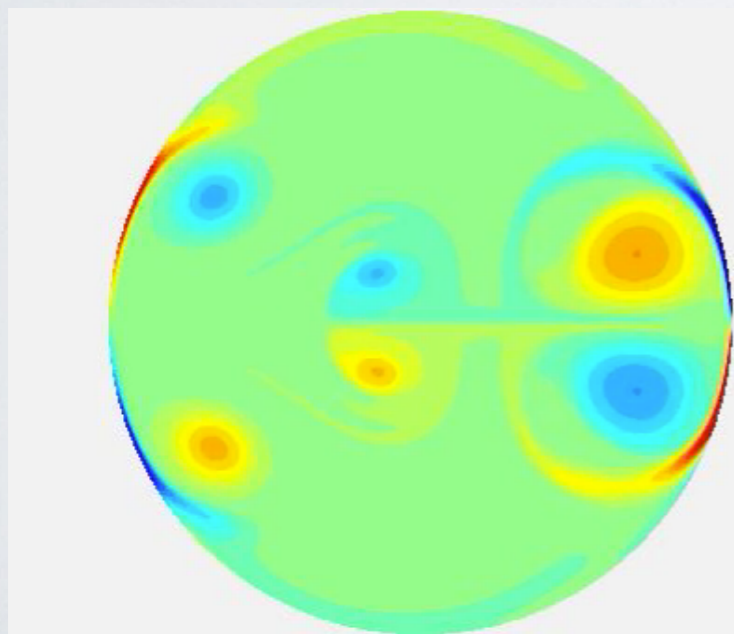
Convection waves



Keaton Burns, Geoff Vasil

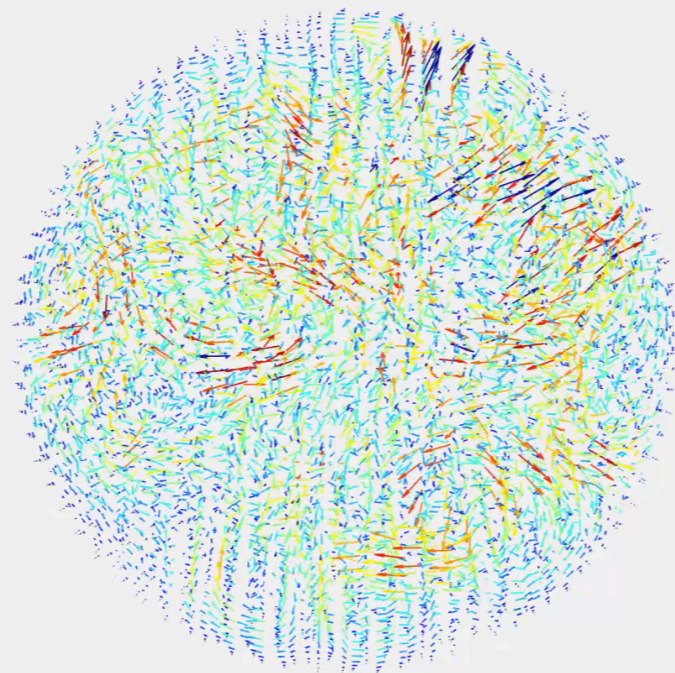


Navier-Stokes on disk



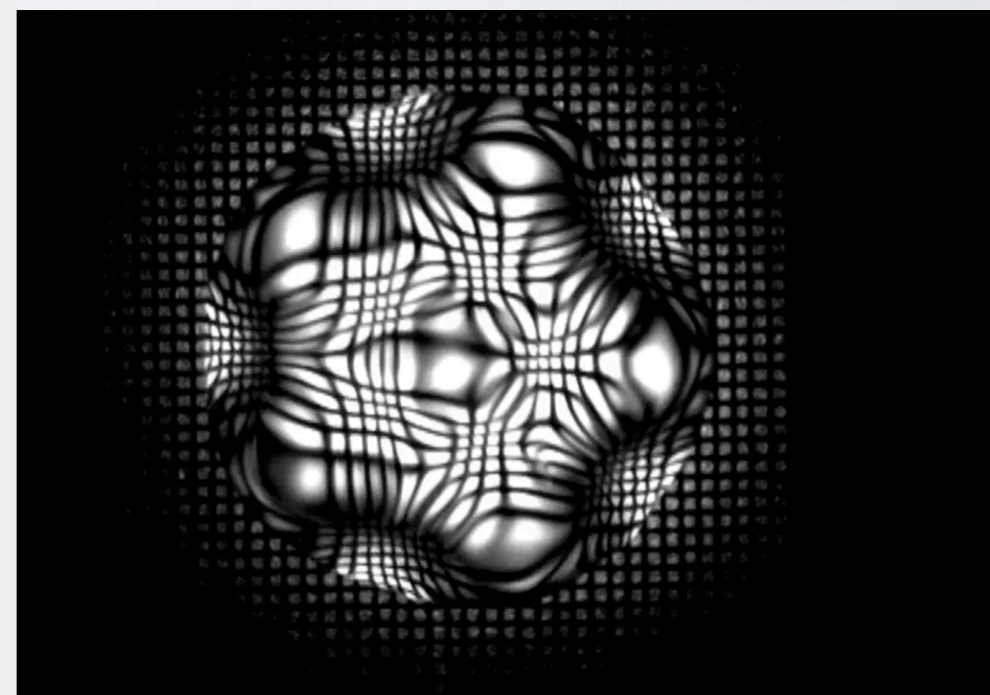
18.336, Fall 2015

Active fluids in 3D ball



with Boulle, Słomka, & Dunkel

Sessile drops (hemisphere)



with Bostwick, Steen, & Wesson

# Timeline

W c h e b f u n



2004

2011

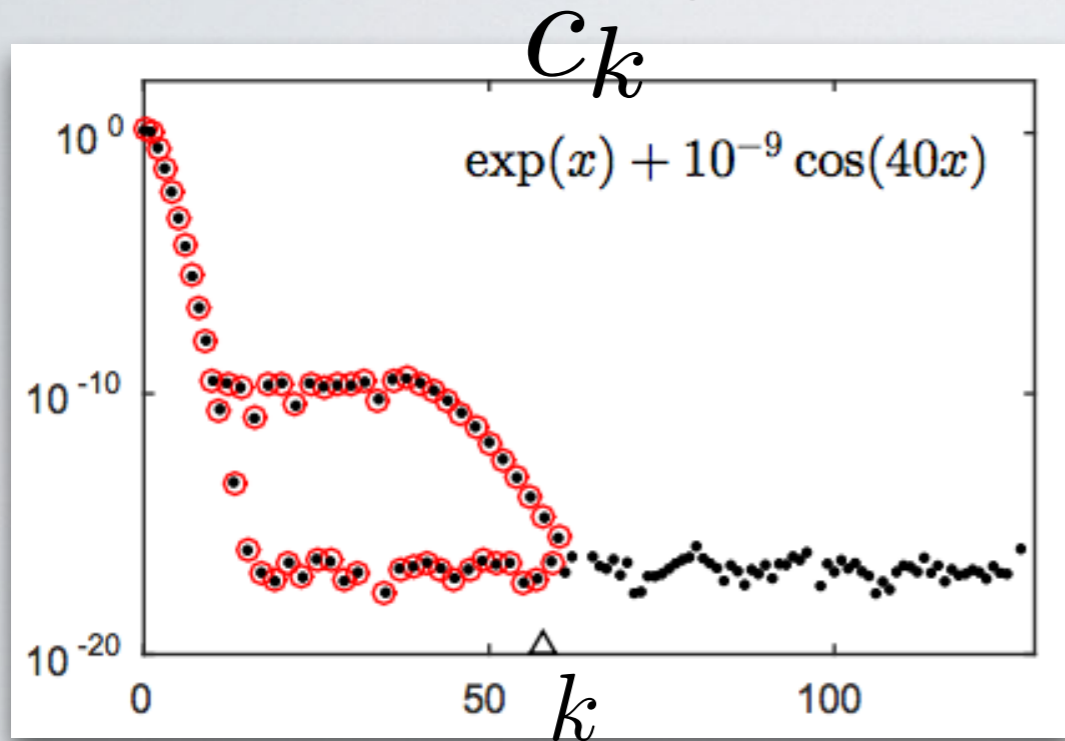
2018

The ID era

# The ID era: functions

Continuous analogue of MATLAB: e.g.  $\text{sum}(\mathbf{f}) = \int_{-1}^1 f(x) dx$

$$\text{diff}(\mathbf{f}) = f'(x)$$



Chebyshev expansions

$$f(x) \approx \sum_{k=0}^n c_k T_k(x)$$

or piecewise  
or weighted  
or mapped

```
>> f = chebfun(@(x) abs(4*cos(3*pi*x))./(x-.2));
chebfun column (8 smooth pieces)
   interval      length  endpoint values  endpoint exponents
[   -1,   -0.83]      13      -3.3 -7.6e-16      [0      0]
[  -0.83,  -0.5]      16     -4.8e-15 -1.6e-14      [0      0]
[  -0.5,  -0.17]      20      1.3e-14   6e-16      [0      0]
[  -0.17,  0.17]      59      2.9e-14  -2.6e-14      [0      0]
[   0.17,   0.2]       9     -2.6e-13   -Inf      [0     -1]
[   0.2,   0.5]      15           Inf -4.8e-14      [-1     0]
[   0.5,   0.83]      21      6.3e-14  1.4e-14      [0      0]
[   0.83,    1]      13     -1.3e-14      5      [0      0]
vertical scale = Inf      Total length = 166
```



Nick Hale



Rodrigo Platte



LNT

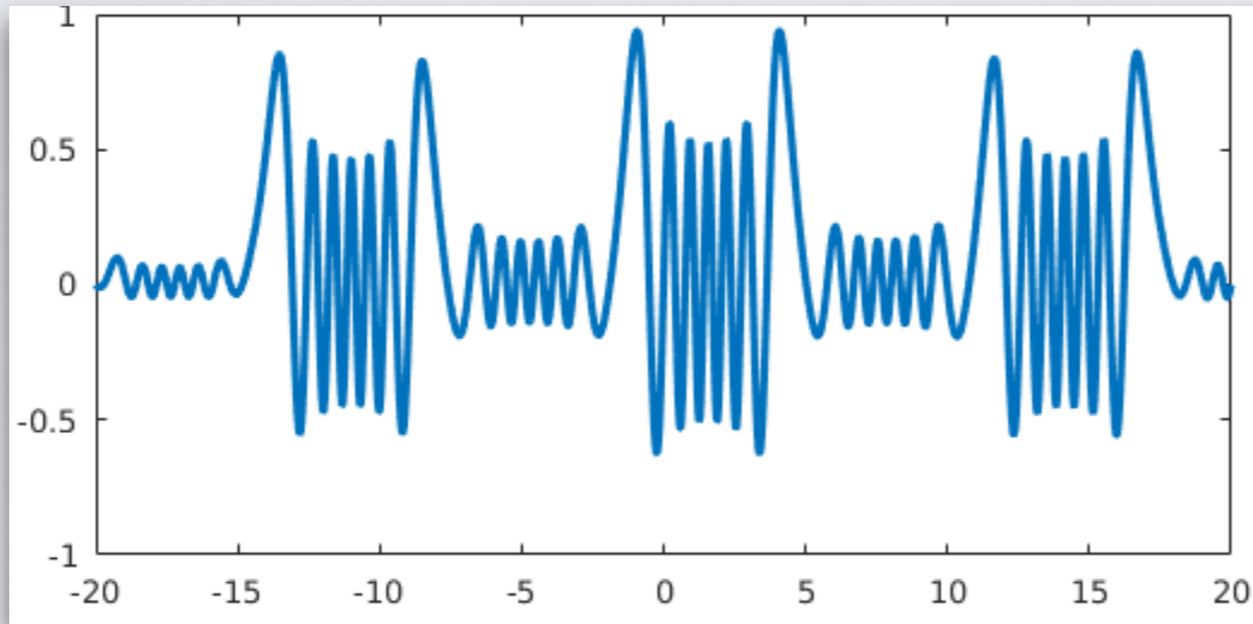


Ricardo Pachon

# The ID era: DEs

Linear and nonlinear systems of BVPs:

```
plot( chebop(@(x,u) diff(u,2)+50*(1+sin(x)).*u, [-20,20], 0, 0)\1 )
```



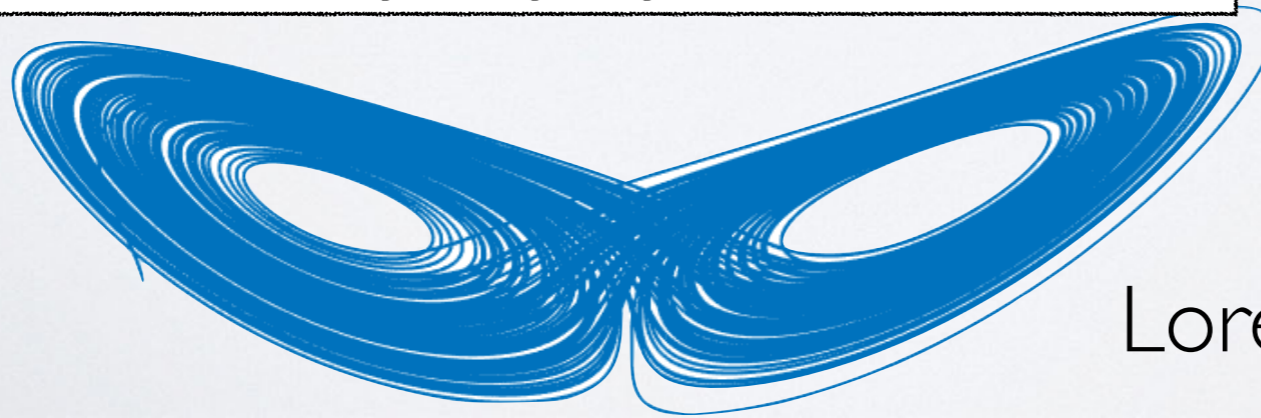
Ásgeir Birkisson



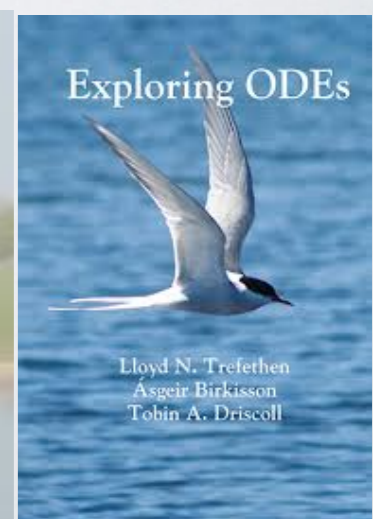
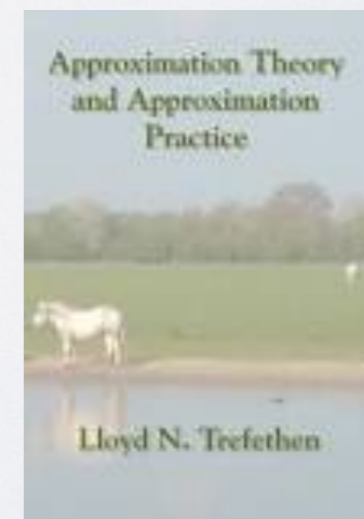
Toby Driscoll

Linear and nonlinear systems of IVPs:

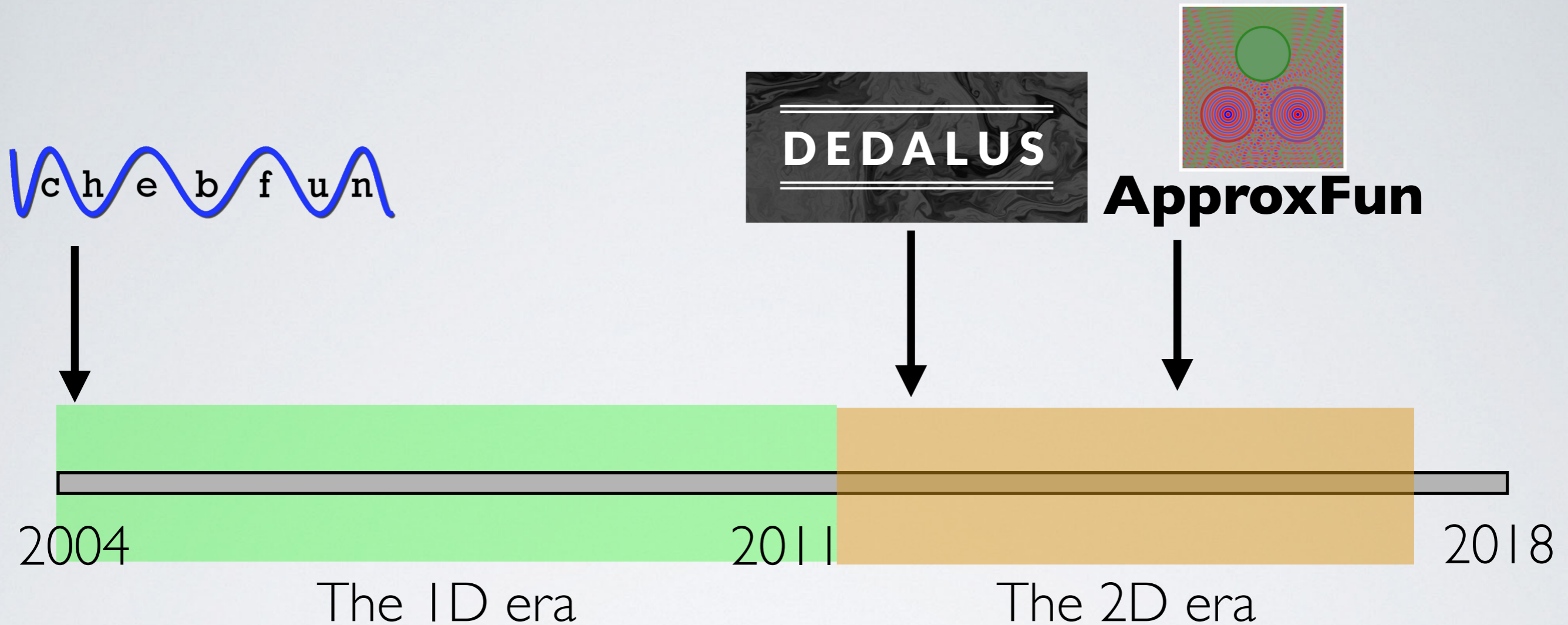
```
fun = @(t,u) [10*(u(2)-u(1)) ; ...  
             28*u(1)-u(2)-u(1)*u(3) ; ...  
             u(1)*u(2)-(8/3)*u(3)];  
u = chebfun.ode113(fun, [0,5], [-14 -15 20]);
```



Lorenz



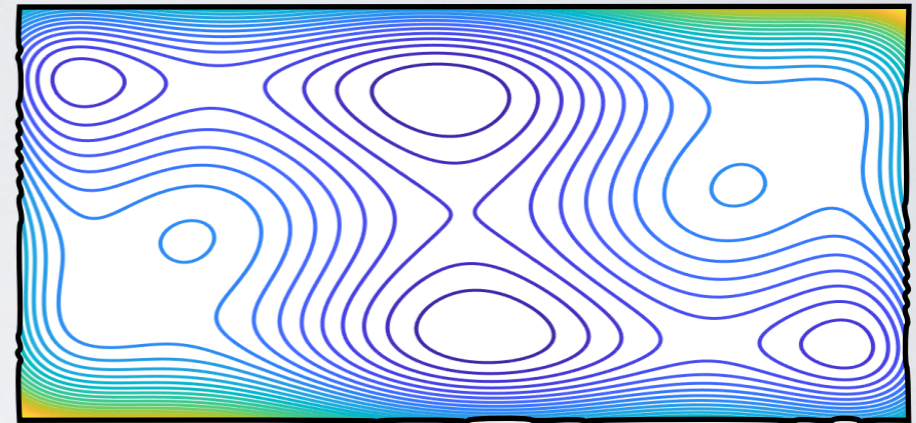
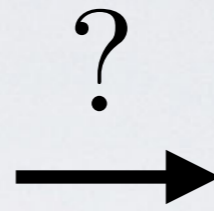
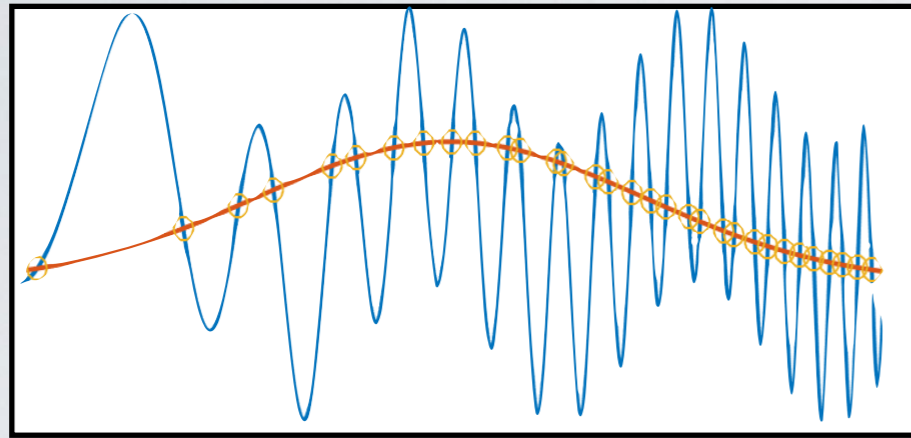
# Timeline



What happened between 2012-2017?  
I will partly summarize five years with five ideas.



# Idea 1: Leverage ID technology for code maintenance



## Low rank approximation

$$A \approx u_1 v_1^T + \dots + u_r v_r^T$$

$$f(x, y) \approx g_1(y)h_1(x) + \dots + g_r(y)h_r(x)$$

(Can also be a more efficient representation.)

**Why?** Integration, differentiation, evaluation, etc.

$$\int_{-1}^1 \int_{-1}^1 f(x, y) dx dy \approx \int_{-1}^1 g_1(y) dy \int_{-1}^1 h_1(x) dx + \dots + \int_{-1}^1 g_r(y) dy \int_{-1}^1 h_r(x) dx$$

# Computing low rank function approximants

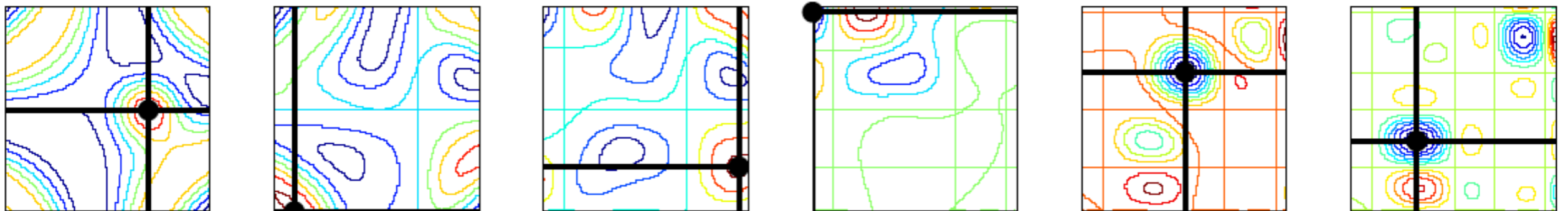
$$f(x, y) = g_1(y)h_1(x) + g_2(y)h_2(x) + \dots$$

**Ideally, SVD:**

```
>> f = chebfun2( @(x,y) cos(x.*y) );  
>> svd(f)  
ans =  
1.896743902392399  
0.088177729243591  
0.000483326329607  
0.000001024831401  
0.000000001154335  
0.0000000000000806  
0.0000000000000000
```

For s.v. decay  
of functions:  
[Smithies, 1937]  
[Reade, 1981],  
[Beckermann, 2004]  
[Sabino, 2006]  
[Beckermann & T., 2017]

**How to compute it?** Gaussian elimination

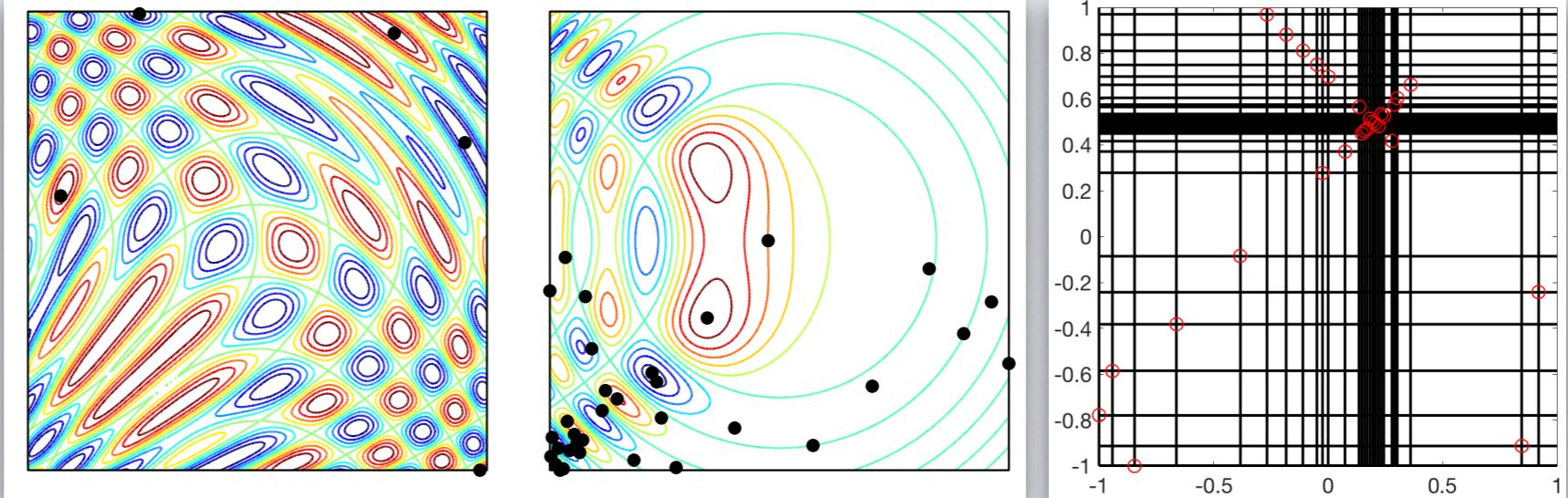


$$f \leftarrow f - f(x_0, \cdot) f(\cdot, y_0) / f(x_0, y_0)$$

**Highly related to:** ACA, two-sided IDs, skeleton decomp., Geddes-Newton

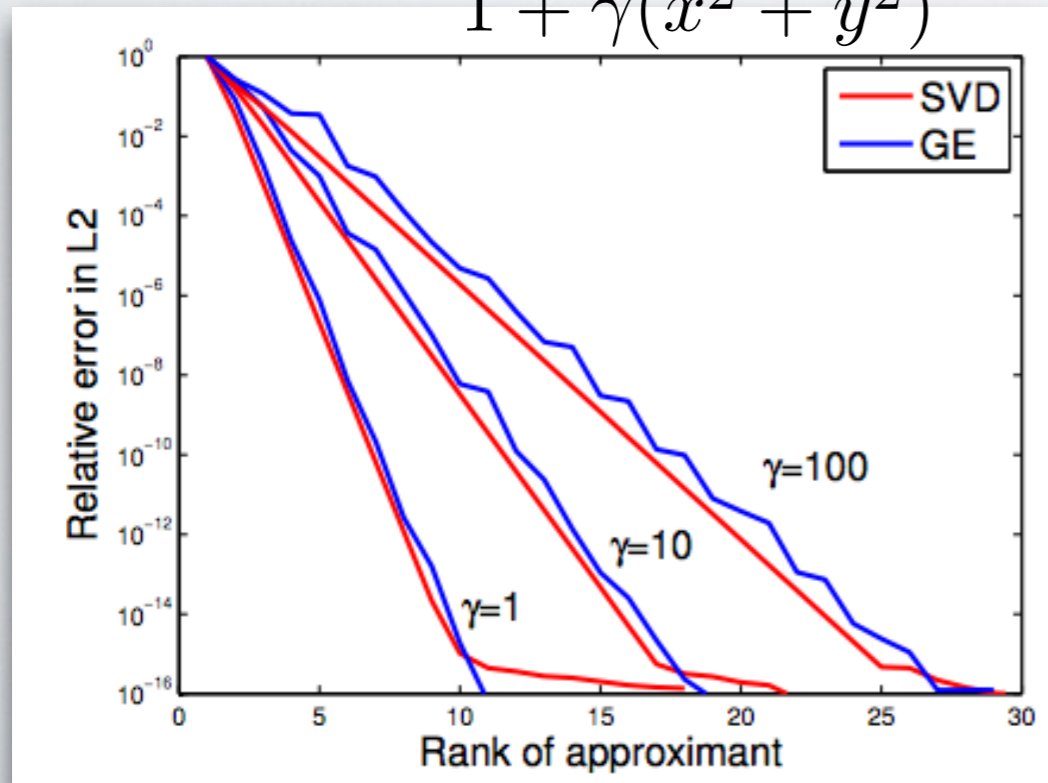
# Gaussian elimination on functions

## Pivot locations:



## GE is a rank revealer for smooth functions:

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



### Theorem [T. & Trefethen, 2013]

If  $f$  on  $[-1, 1]^2$  is cont. and  $f(x, \cdot)$  analytic and bounded in stadium of radius  $4\rho$  (with  $\rho > 1$ ). Then,

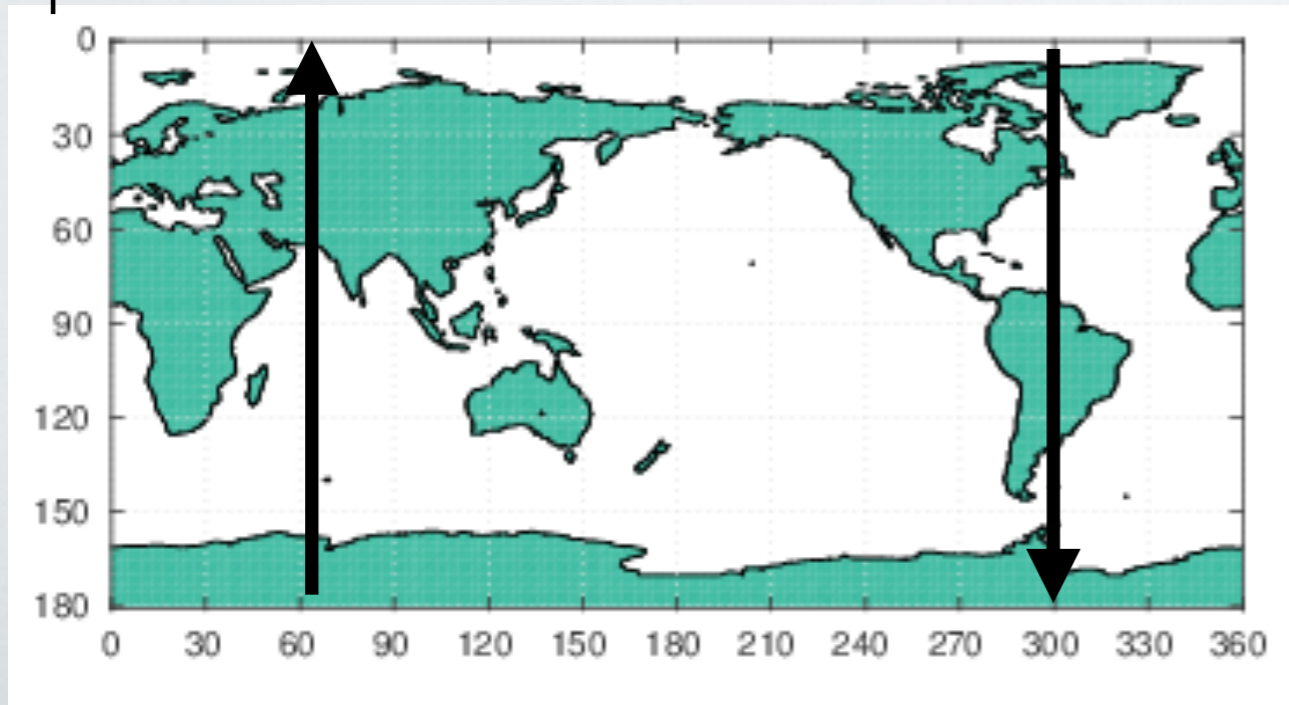
$$\left\| f - \sum_{j=1}^r g_j h_j^T \right\|_{\infty} \leq C \rho^{-r}$$

GE is robust to pivoting mistakes [T. 2016]

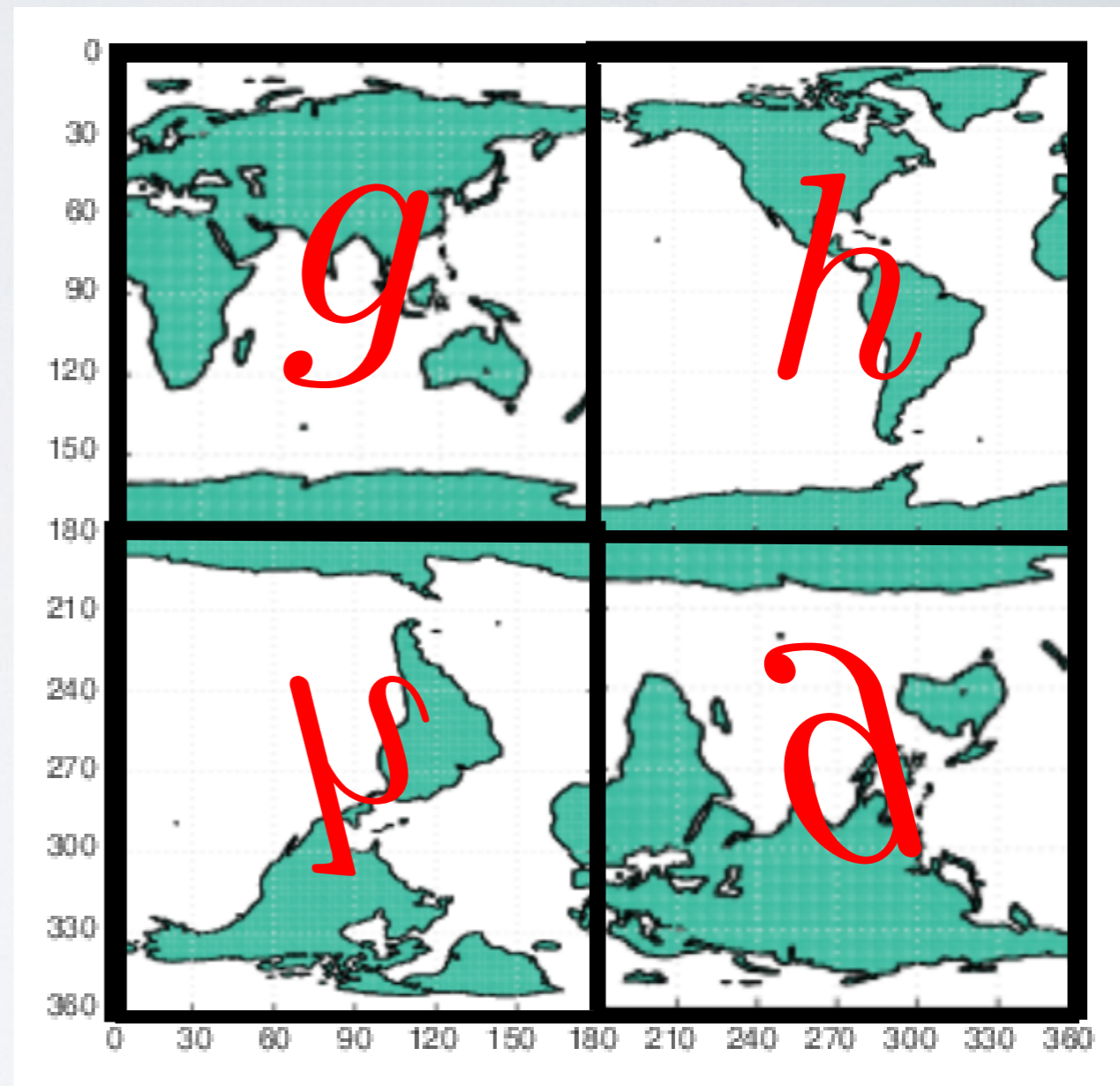
# Idea 2: Fast transforms for highly adaptive algorithms



Spherical coordinates



Double Fourier sphere method



$$\mathcal{S}^2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \simeq \text{Torus}$$

[Merilees, 1973], [Orszag, 1974], [Fornberg, 1995]

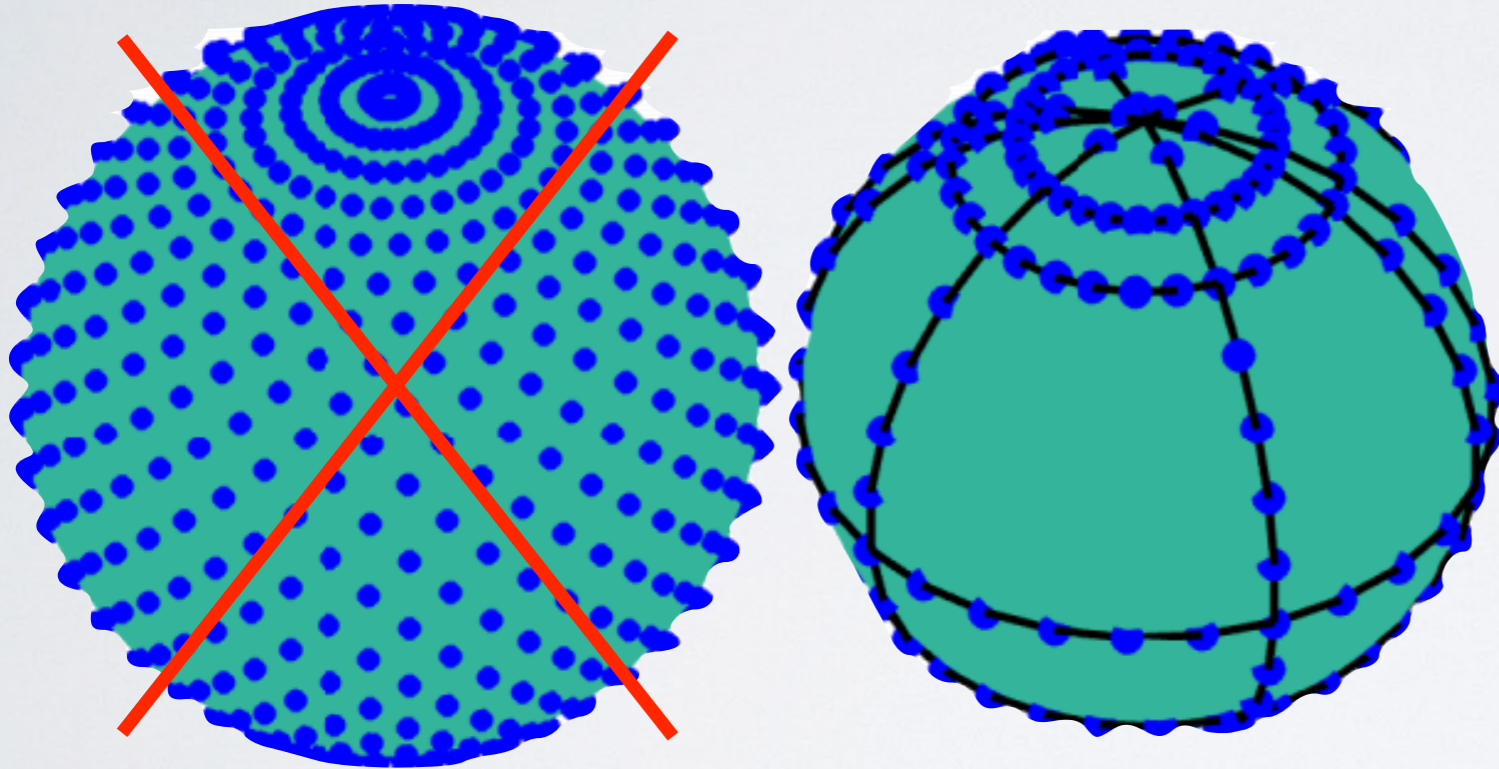
# Sphere and disk

We use double Fourier sphere with structure-preserving GE.

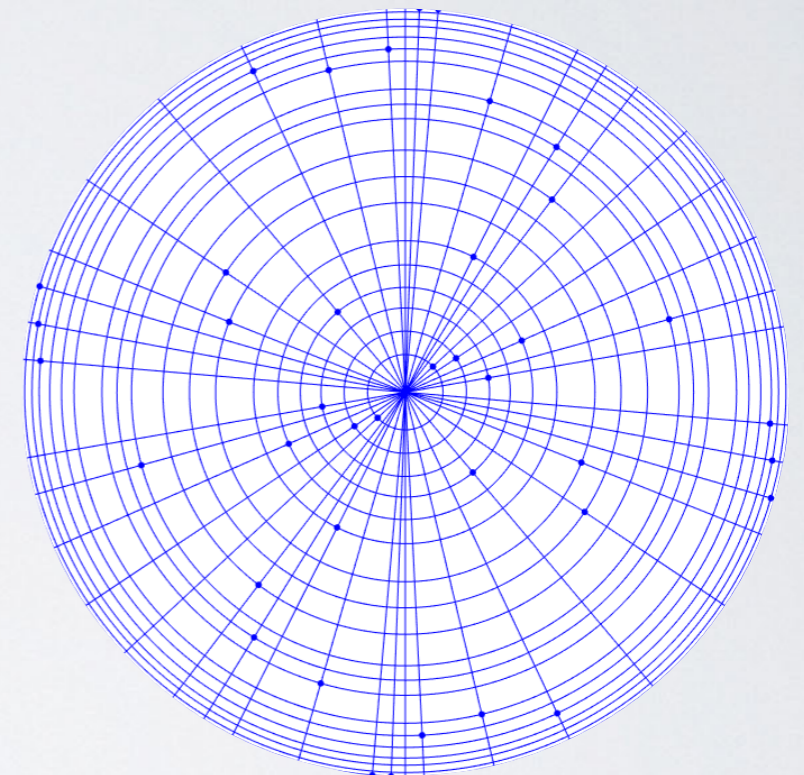
[T., Wright, Wilber, 2016]

## Spherefun:

```
f = spherefun(@(x,y,z) cos(5*x.*y.*z));
```



## Diskfun:



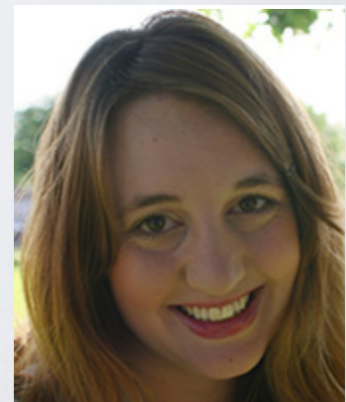
## Why double Fourier sphere?

*We need fast transforms.*

(While Slevinsky's SHT is fast it's not FFT speed.)



Grady Wright



Heather Wilber

# Selection of FFT-based fast transforms

Discrete Fourier transform

`trigtech.vals2coeffs, trigtech.coeffs2vals`

Discrete Chebyshev transform

`coeffs2vals, vals2coeffs`

Chebyshev-to-Legendre transform

`cheb2leg, leg2cheb`

Discrete Legendre transform

`dlt, idlt`

`chebcoeffs2legvals`

Nonuniform FFTs [Ruiz & T., 2018]

`nufft, inufft`



Nick Hale



Marcus Webb



Mikael Slevinsky



Diego Ruiz

All based on FFTW so tunes to individual hardware.

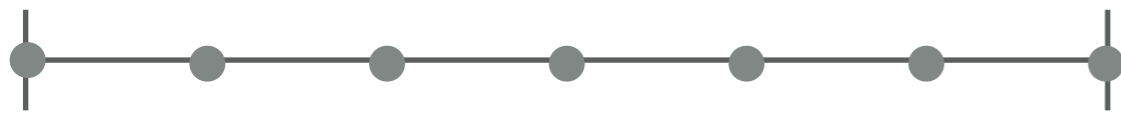
**Other approaches:** oversampling and conv., H-matrices, asymptotics.

# Idea 3: Nonperiodic analogue of the Fourier spectral method for flexibility and speed

## Second-order FD

$$u''(x) = f(x), \quad u(\pm 1) = 0$$

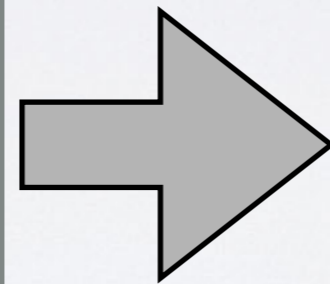
$h$



$$u''(x_k) \approx \frac{u_{k-1} - 2u_k + u_{k+1}}{h^2}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \times & \times & \times & & & \\ & \times & \times & \times & & \\ & & \times & \times & \times & \\ & & & \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_0 \\ u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \\ u_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ f(x_1) \\ f(x_2) \\ f(x_3) \\ f(x_4) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

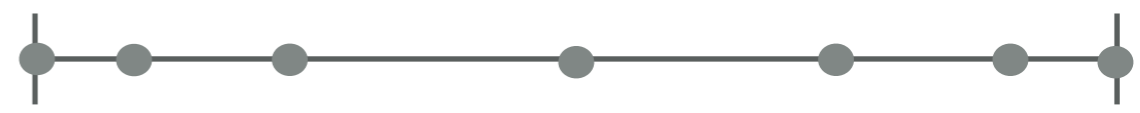
High-order limit



## Spectral collocation

$$u''(x) = f(x), \quad u(\pm 1) = 0$$

Chebyshev grid



$$u(x) \approx p(x), \quad u''(x_k) \approx p''(x_k)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times & \times & \times & \times \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_0 \\ u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \\ u_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ f(x_1) \\ f(x_2) \\ f(x_3) \\ f(x_4) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

[Fornberg, 1998], [Trefethen, 2000]

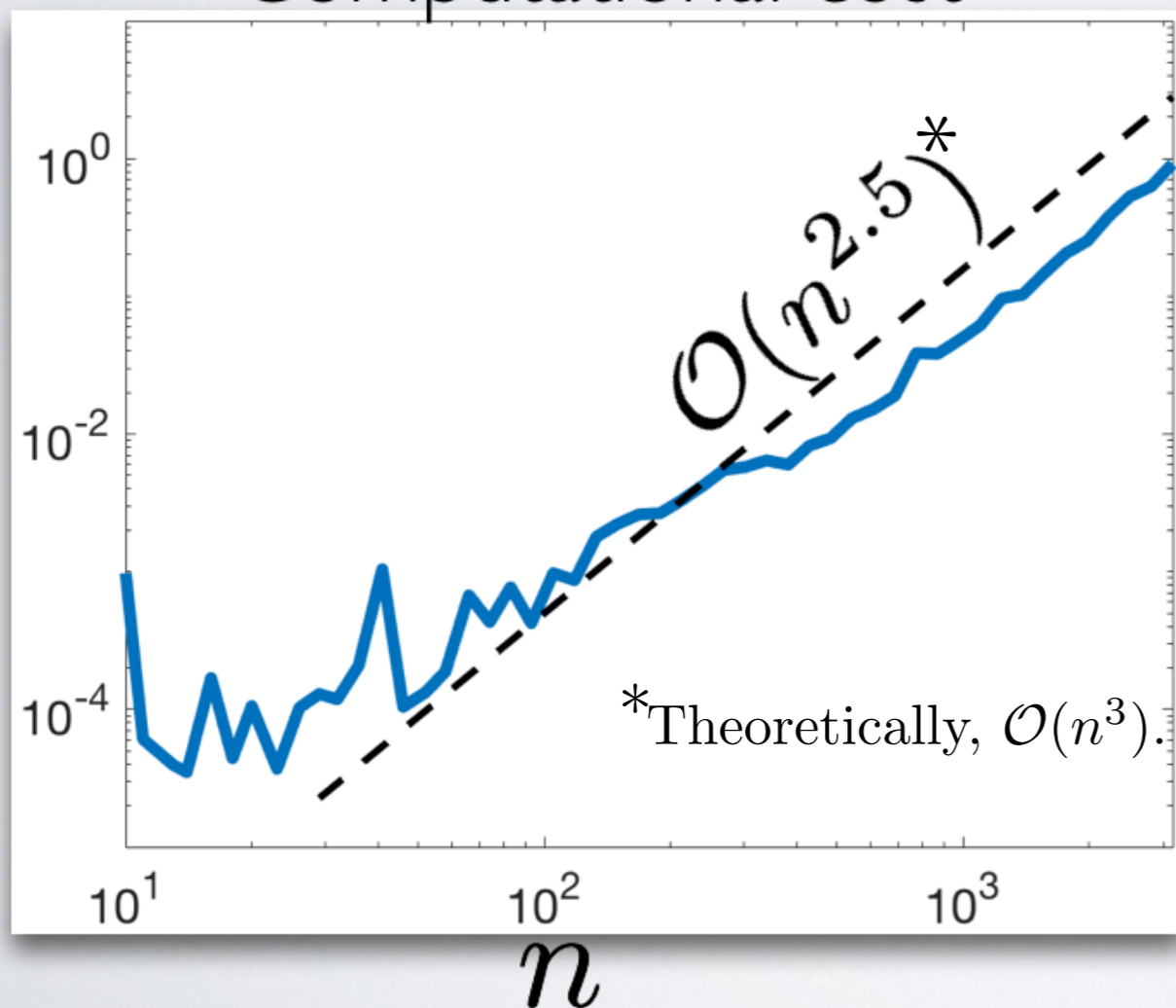
Modern version: rectangular spectral collocation [Driscoll & Hale, 2015], [Du, 2015]

# Spectral collocation

“It is well-known that matrices generated by spectral methods are dense and ill-conditioned.” [Chen, 2005]

## Typically dense matrices

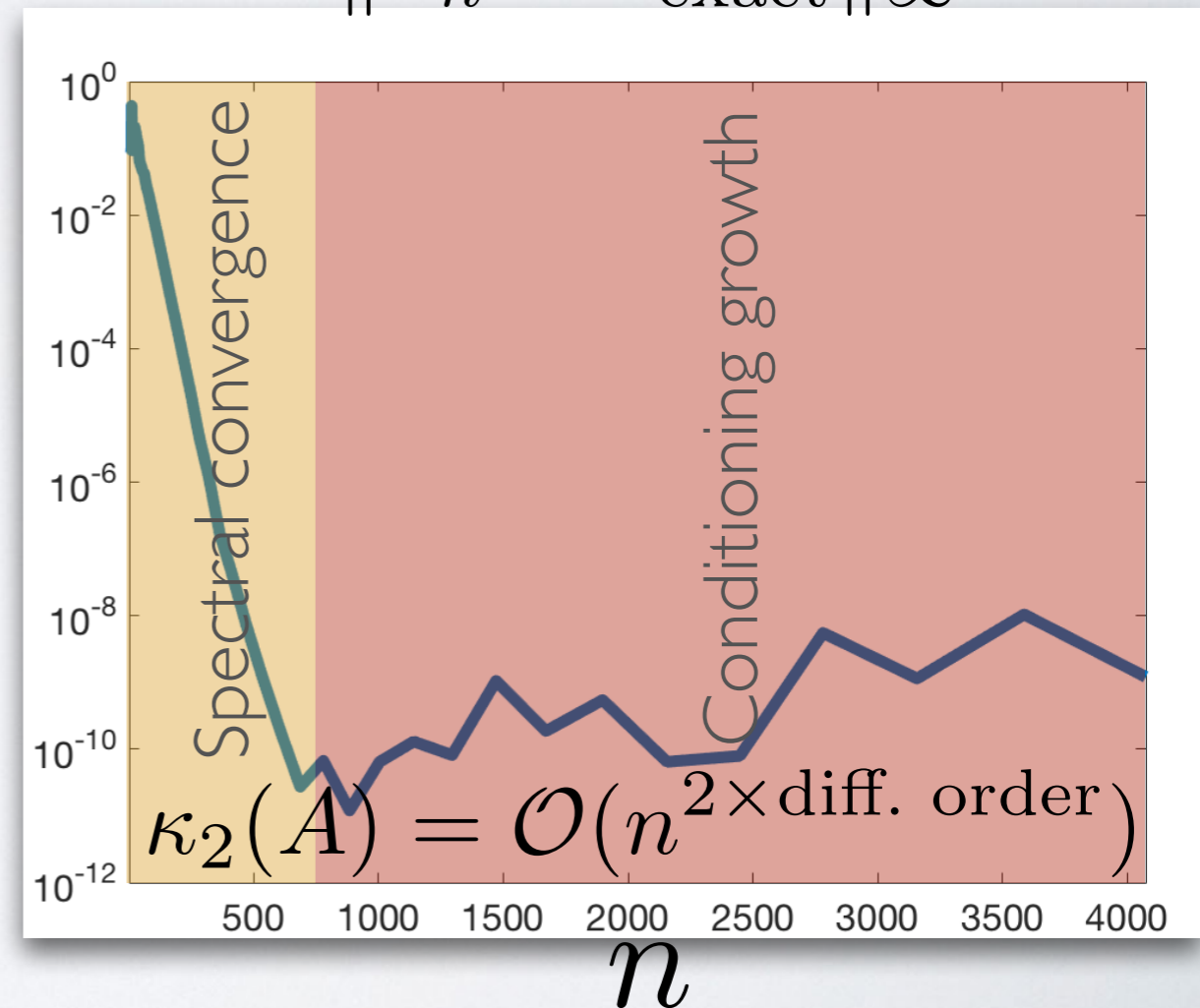
Computational cost



Off-diagonal structure [Shen, Wang, & Xia, 2016].

## Typically ill-conditioned

$\|u_n - u_{\text{exact}}\|_{\infty}$



Ideas: [Du, 2015], [Wang, Samson, & Zhao, 2013]



# The Fourier spectral method

## Fourier spectral method

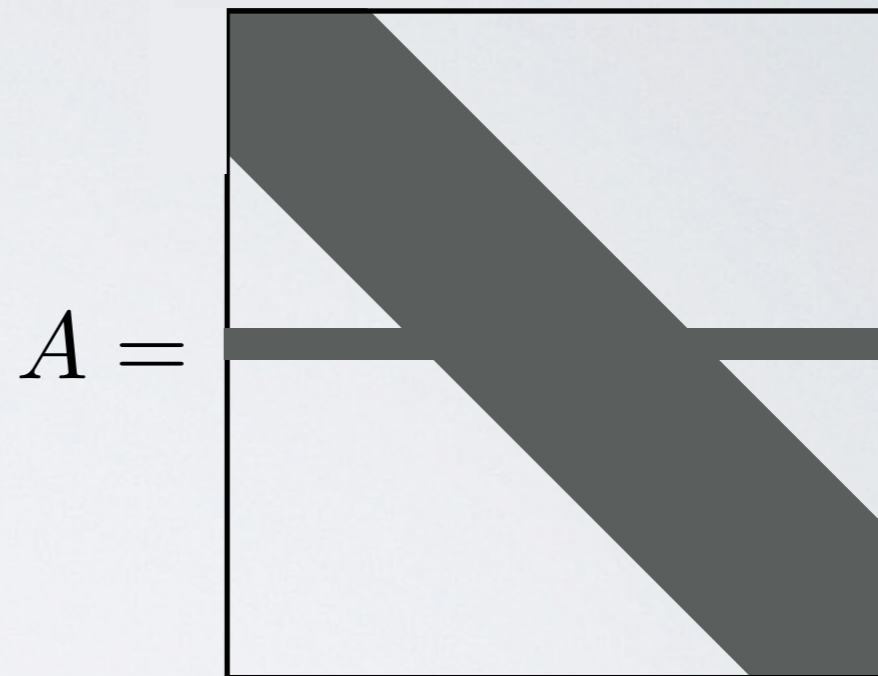
$$u''(\theta) = f(\theta), \text{ periodic}$$

$$u(\pi) = 0$$

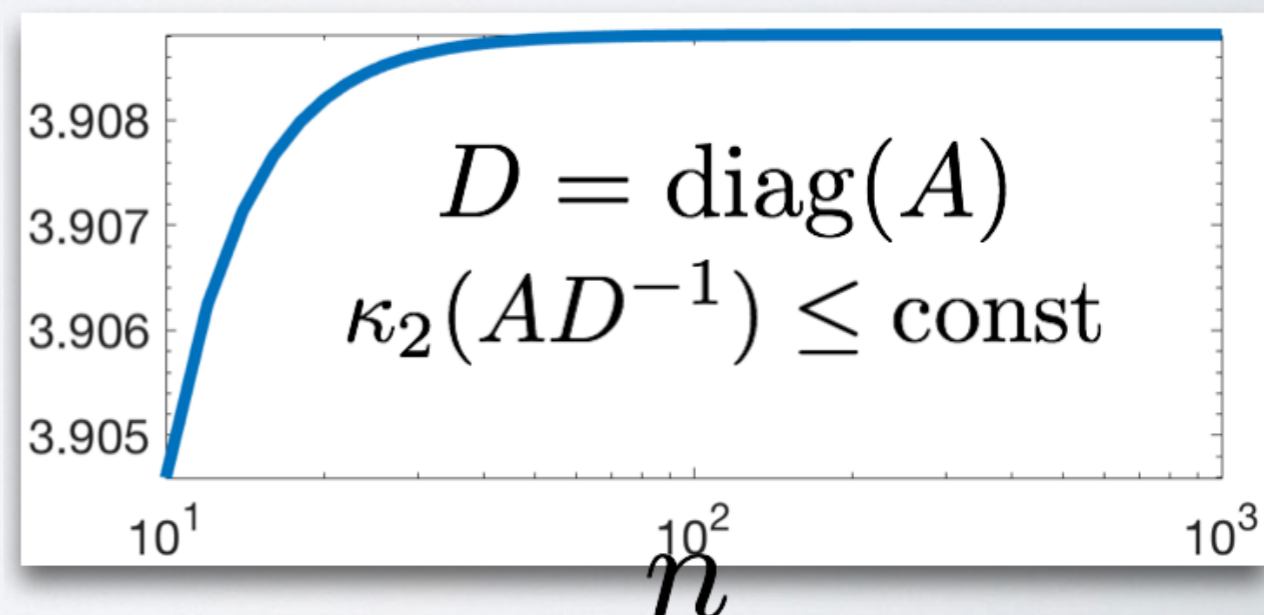
$$u(\theta) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} u_k e^{ik\theta}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \ddots & & & & & & \\ & -4 & & & & & \\ & & -1 & & & & \\ \dots & e^{-2\pi i} & e^{-\pi i} & 1 & e^{\pi i} & e^{2\pi i} & \dots \\ & & & -1 & & & \\ & & & & -4 & & \\ & & & & & \ddots & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ u_{-2} \\ u_{-1} \\ u_0 \\ u_1 \\ u_2 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ f_{-2} \\ f_{-1} \\ 0 \\ f_1 \\ f_2 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

## Almost-banded matrices



## Well-conditioned matrices



Qu: What is the non-periodic analogue?

# Sparse recurrence relations

## High-order derivatives:

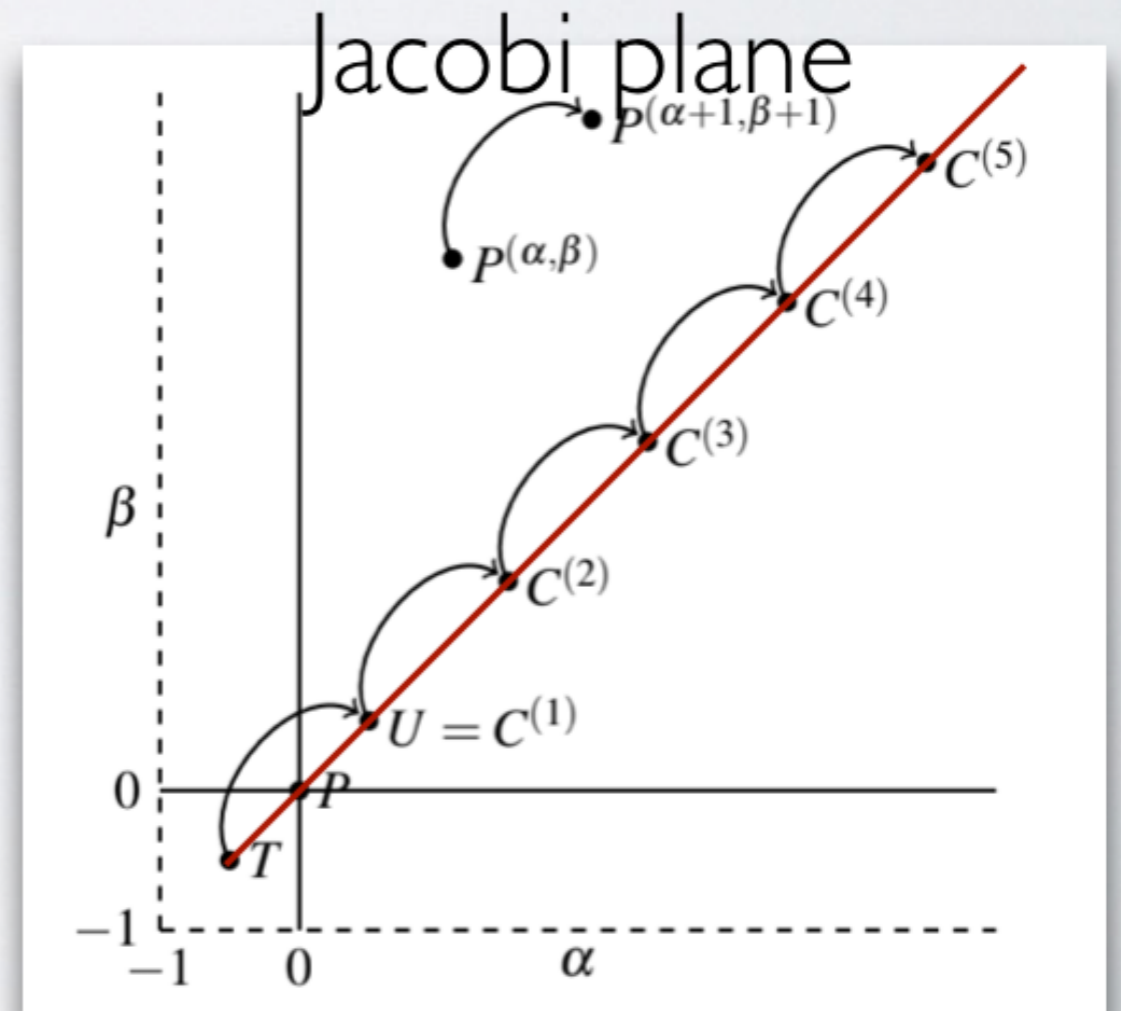
$$T'_k(x) = kU_{k-1}(x)$$

$$T''_k(x) = 2kC_{k-2}^{(2)}(x)$$

$$T'''_k(x) = 8kC_{k-3}^{(3)}(x)$$

$$T''''_k(x) = 48kC_{k-4}^{(4)}(x)$$

$$T''''''_k(x) = 384kC_{k-5}^{(5)}(x)$$

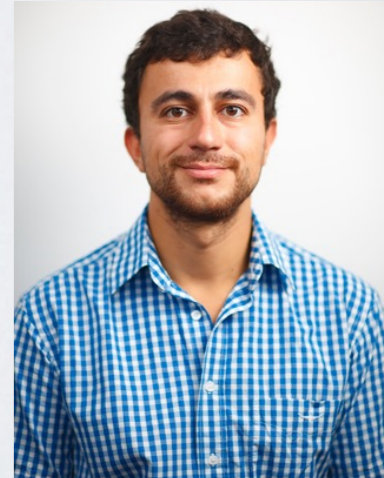


## 1st order recurrences:

$$T'_k(x) = kU_{k-1}(x) \quad xT_k(x) = \frac{1}{2} (T_{k+1}(x) + T_{k-1}(x))$$

$$T_n(x) = \frac{1}{2} (U_n(x) - U_{n-2}(x))$$

[DMLF, Chap. 18]



Sheehan Olver

[Olver & T., 2013]

# The ultraspherical spectral method

## Ultraspherical method

$$\frac{du}{dx} + 4xu = 0, \quad u(-1) = c$$

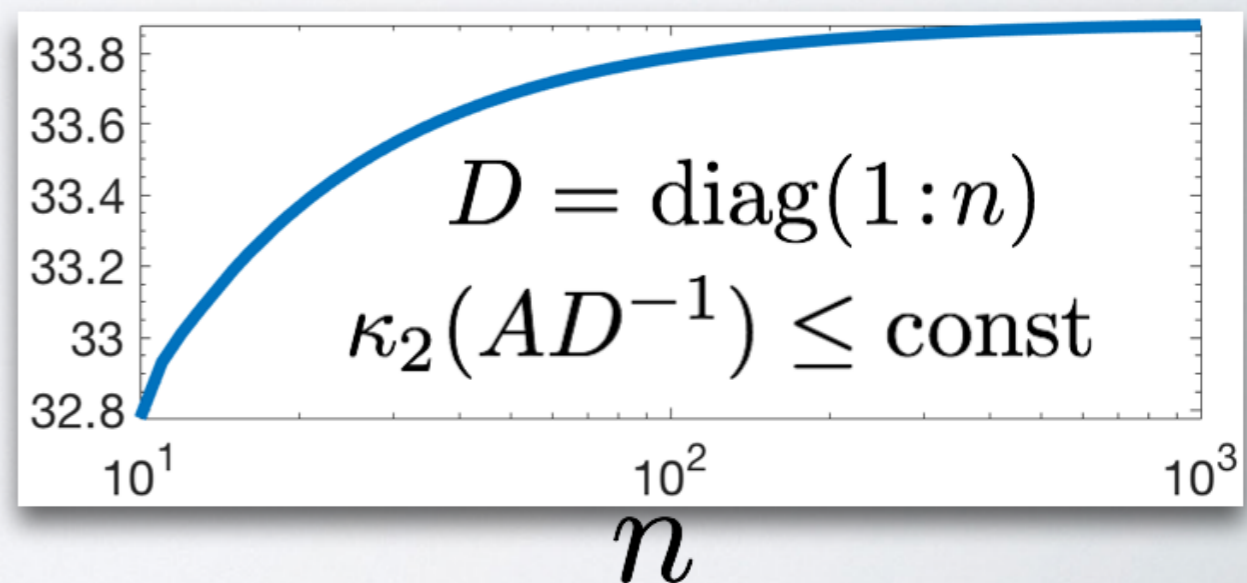
$$u(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} u_k T_k(x)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 & 1 & \cdots \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & -1 & & & & \\ 2 & & 2 & & -1 & & & \\ & 1 & & 3 & & -1 & & \\ & & 1 & & 4 & & -1 & \\ & & & 1 & & \ddots & & \ddots \\ & & & & \ddots & & \ddots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_0 \\ u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

## Almost-banded matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \text{shaded diagonal band} \end{bmatrix}$$

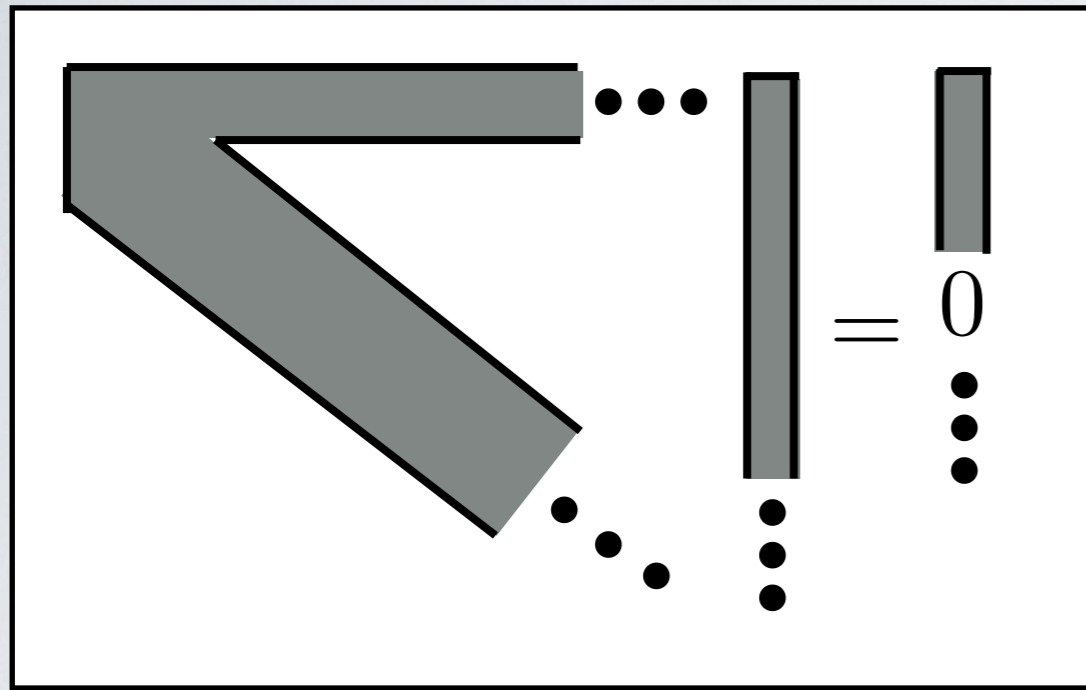
## Well-conditioned matrices



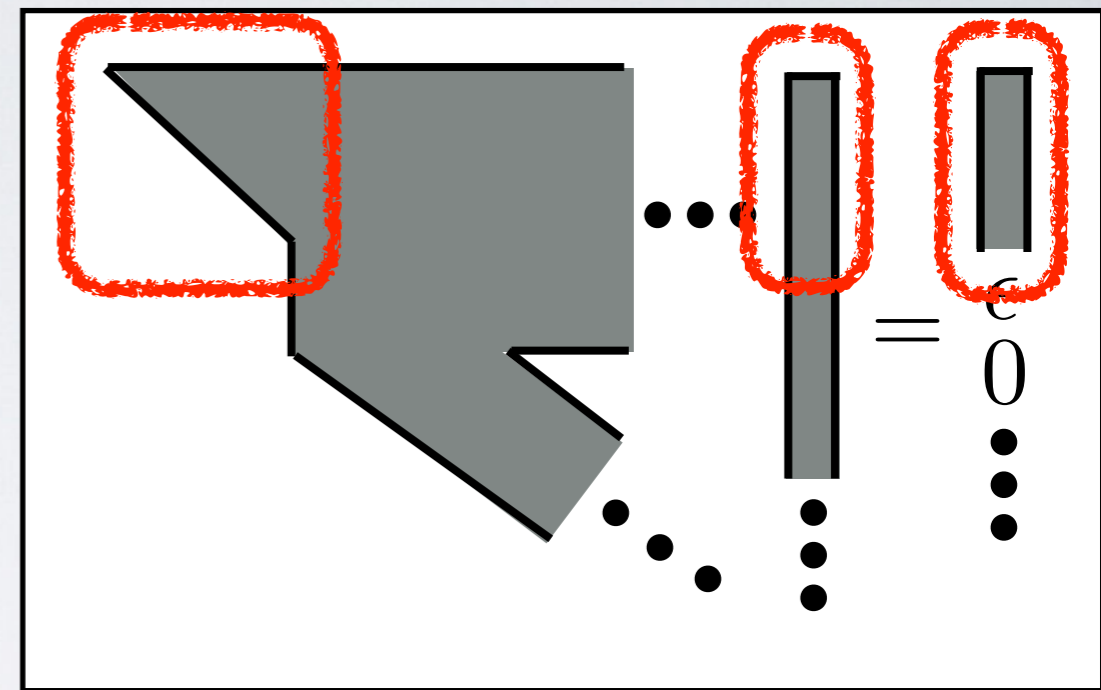
**Highly related to:** Petrov-Galerkin, Integral Reformulation, Integral preconditioning, Clenshaw's method, Tuckermann's lin. alg., etc.

# Idea 4: Infinite-dimensional algebra for robustness

## Adaptive QR



Givens  
rotations



What will the backward error be? The norm of the tail:  $\epsilon$



Lanczos tau method  
[Lanczos, 1938]

+



F.W.J. Olver's algorithm  
[Olver, 1967]

+



Givens' rotation  
[Givens, 1958]

=

adaptive  
QR

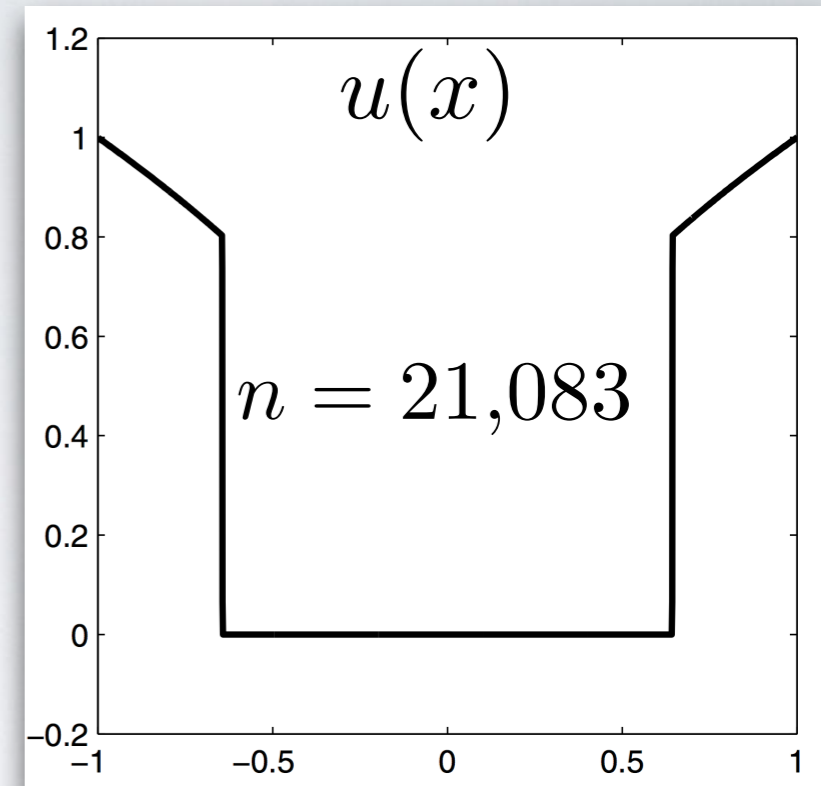
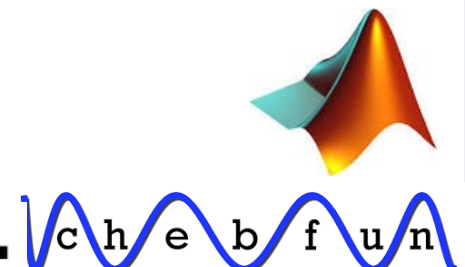
Linear complexity comes from careful data structures [Olver & T., 2014].

# Two types of differential equations

## 1) Singularly perturbed problems

Code snippet (“Bucket equation”)

```
N = ultraop(@(x,u) 1e-7*diff(u,2) - ...  
            2*x*(cos(x)-.8)*diff(u,1) + ...  
            (cos(x)-.8)*u);  
N.lbc = 1; N.rbc = 1;  
tic, u = N \ 0; toc  
Elapsed time is 0.033404 seconds.
```



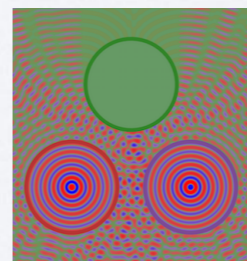
Also, adaptive subdivision: [Lee & Greengard, 1997].

## 2) High-order ODEs

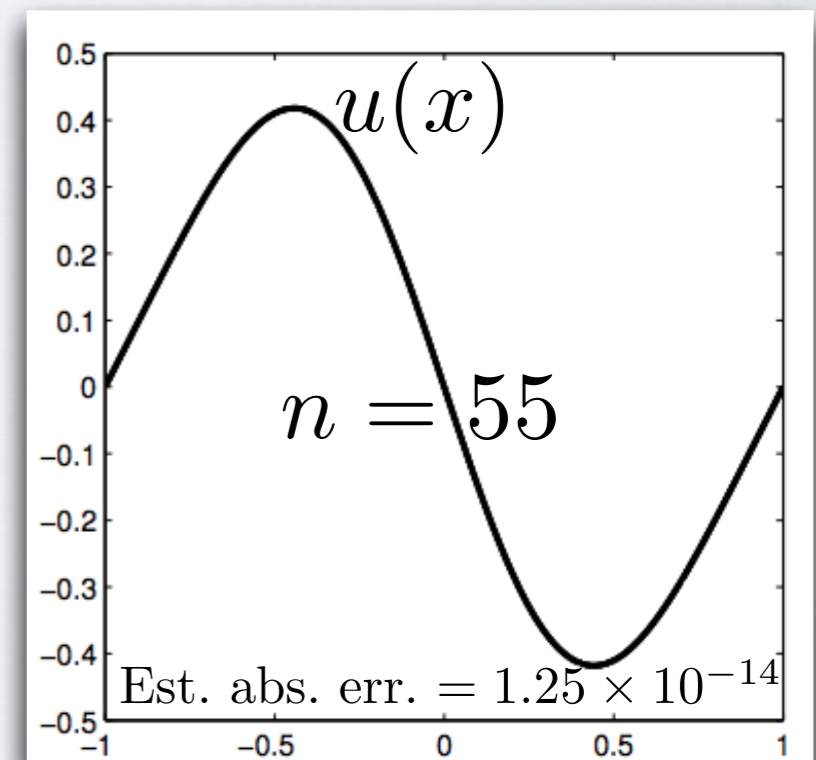
Code snippet (“10th order ODE”)

```
x = Fun()  
D = Derivative()  
L=D^10 + cosh(x)*D^8 + x^3*D^6 + x^4*D^4 + cos(x)*D^2 + x^2  
d = Interval()  
B = [Dirichlet(d) ;  
     Neumann(d)-1 ;  
     [Evaluation(Interval(),first,k) for k=2:4]... ;  
     [Evaluation(Interval(),last,k) for k=2:4]...]  
u = [B; L] \ [ [0.,0.], [1.,1.], zeros(6)..., exp(x)]
```

Julia logo



ApproxFun



# Active fluids: automatic code generation

Generalized Navier-Stokes equations: [Słomka & Dunkel, 2015]

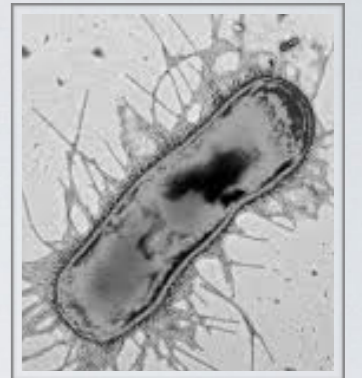
$$\nabla \cdot v = 0 \quad \text{Navier-Stokes} \quad \text{activity} \quad \text{damping}$$

$$\partial_t v + (v \cdot \nabla)v = -\nabla p + \Gamma_0 \nabla^2 v + \Gamma_2 \nabla^4 v + \Gamma_4 \nabla^6 v$$

$v$  = velocity field,  $p$  = internal pressure,  $\Gamma_0, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_4 > 0$

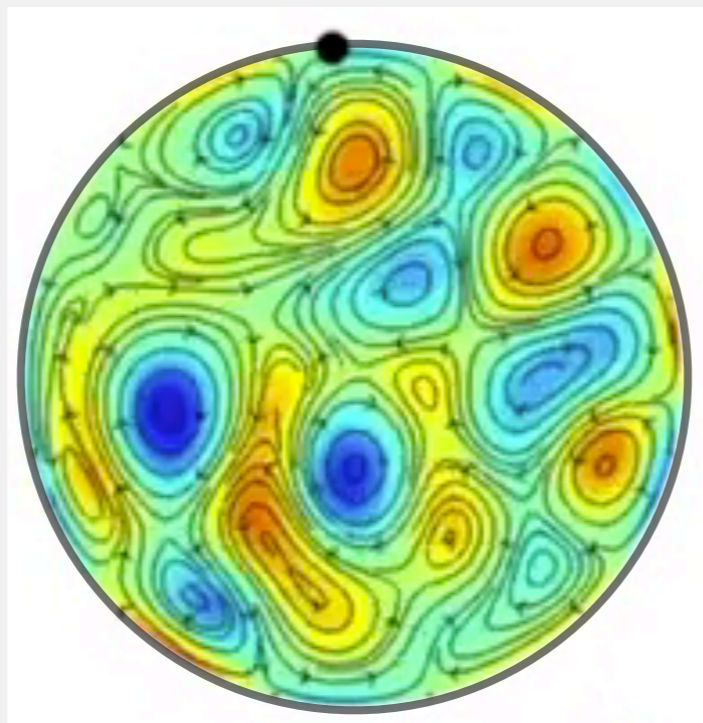
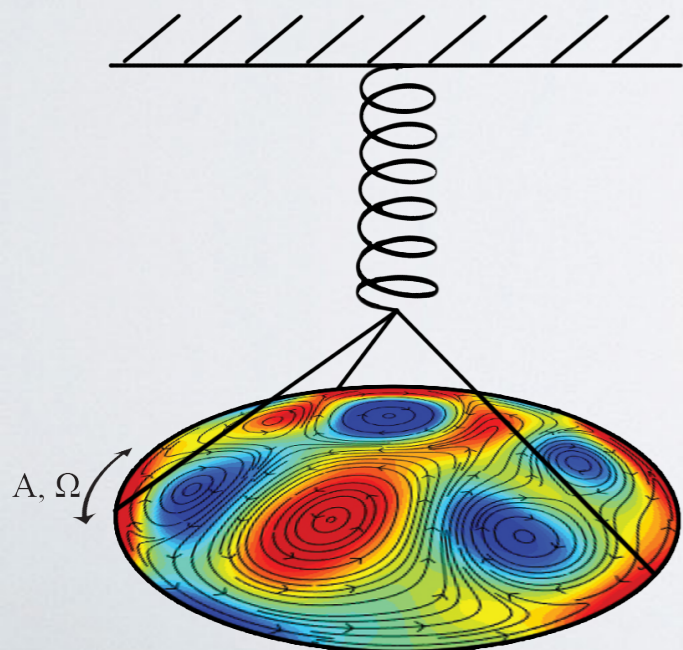
No-slip and h.o. bcs

E. Coli

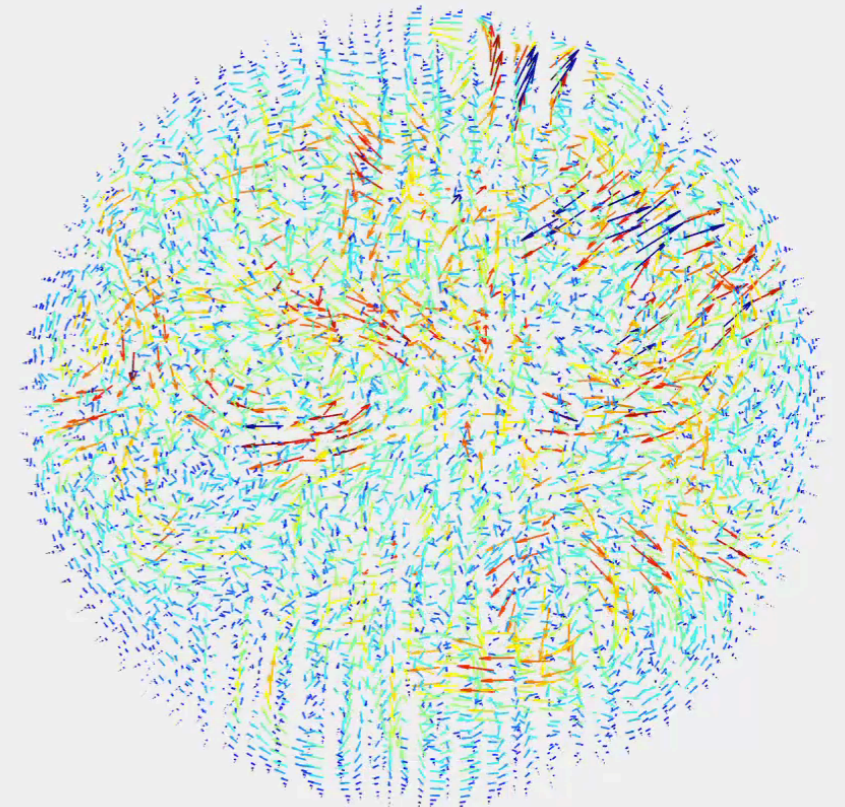


2  $\mu\text{m}$

Disk, vorticity



Solid ball, velocity field



# Idea 5: Exploratory PDE solvers

## Separable representation

$$\mathcal{L} \approx \mathcal{L}_1^x \otimes \mathcal{L}_1^y + \dots + \mathcal{L}_r^x \otimes \mathcal{L}_r^y$$

(e.g.  $\nabla^2 u + \cos(xy)u$  well-approx. when  $r = 7$ )

Computed via  
a tensor-train  
decomposition  
[T. & Olver, 2014]

Chebfun2 code

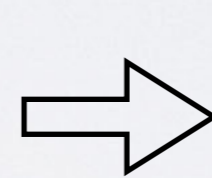
```
cheb.xy  
N = chebop2(@(x,y,u) lap(u) + 10000*y.^2.*u);  
N.bc = 0;  
u = N \ cos(x.*y);
```

Low-rank rep. of operator

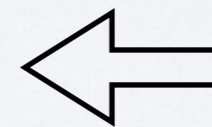
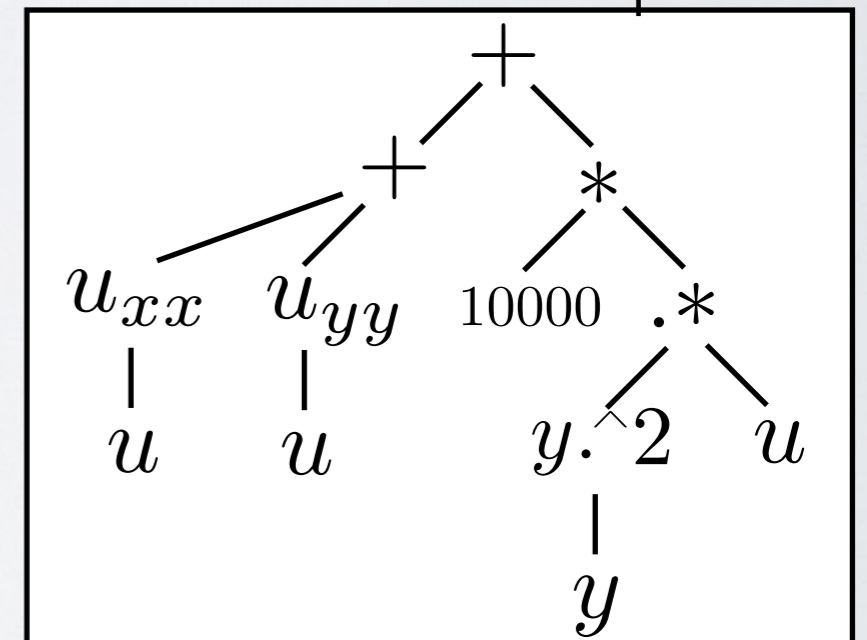
$$\mathcal{L}u = u_{xx} + u_{yy} + 10000y^2u$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \otimes \mathcal{I} + \mathcal{I} \otimes \left( \frac{d^2}{dy^2} + 10000y^2 \right)$$

Individually discretized  
by ultraspherical  
spectral method



AD tree for diff operator



# Exploratory solvers

Solve  $\left( \sum_{j=1}^r A_j \otimes B_j \right) \text{vec}(X) = \text{vec}(F)$   
under constraints (e.g. bcs)

$r = 2$

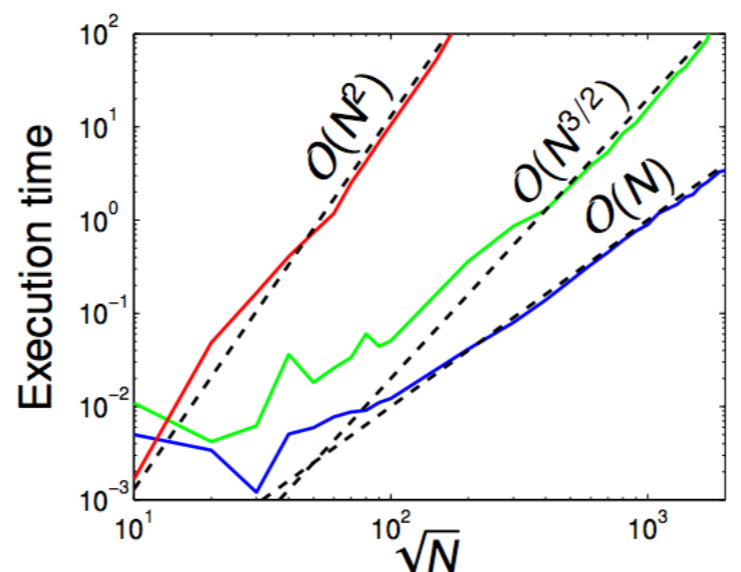
$$A_1 X B_1 + A_2 X B_2 = F$$

with bcs

$r \neq 2$

Kron

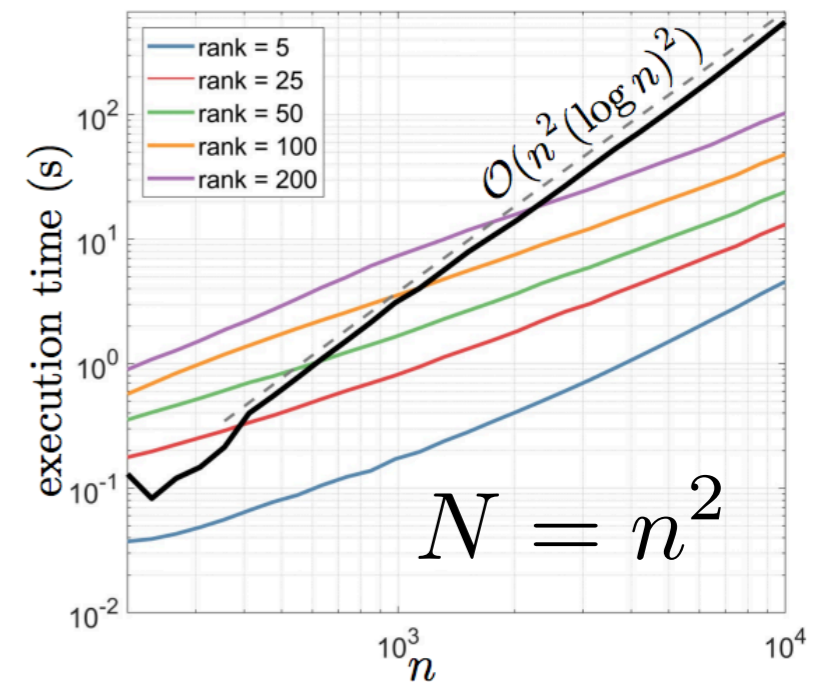
Kronecker  
Bartels-Stewart  
Lyapunov



Direct solvers

ADI-friendly?

## FI-ADI



Dan Fortunato



Heather Wilber

**In the future:** damped Newton, automatic IMEX splitting



# Software for solving PDEs on simple geometries

## Simple geometries

Rectangle

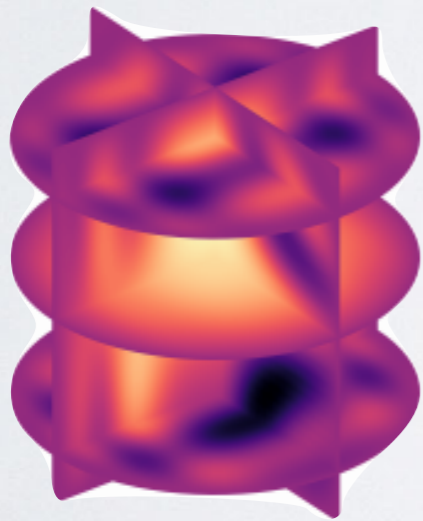
Disk

Sphere

Cylinder

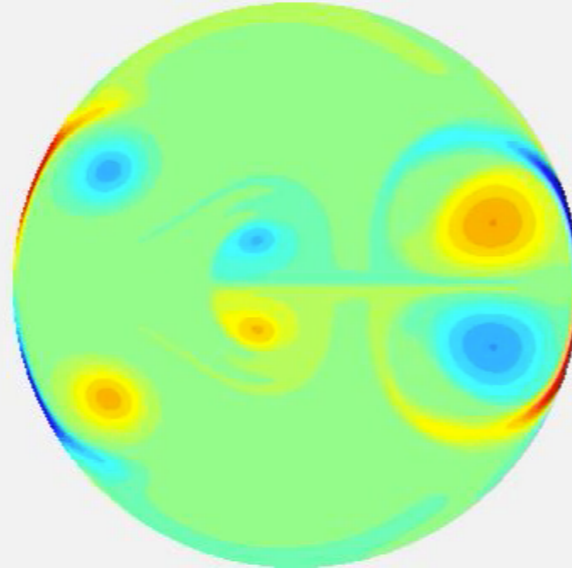
Solid ball

Poisson

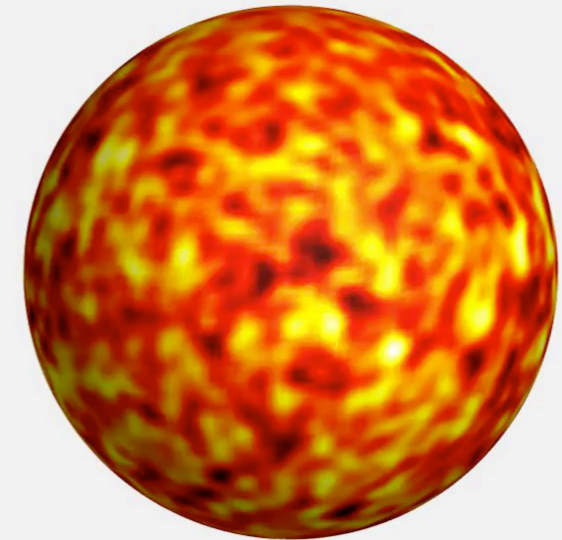


by Dan Fortunato

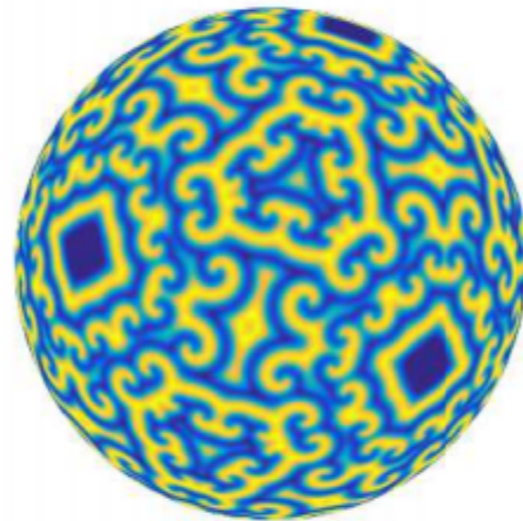
Navier-Stokes



Reaction-diffusion (Turing patterns)

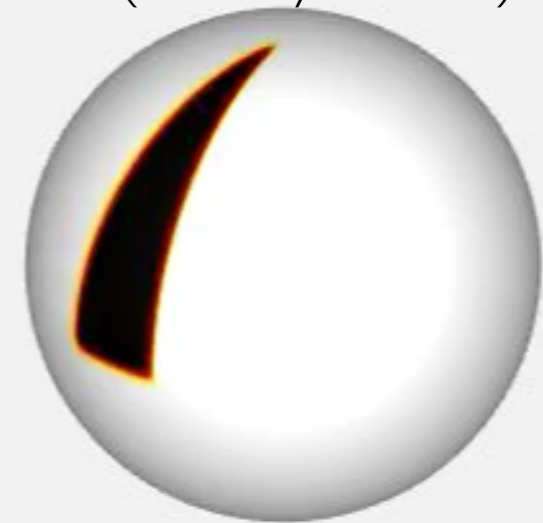


Ginzberg-Landau



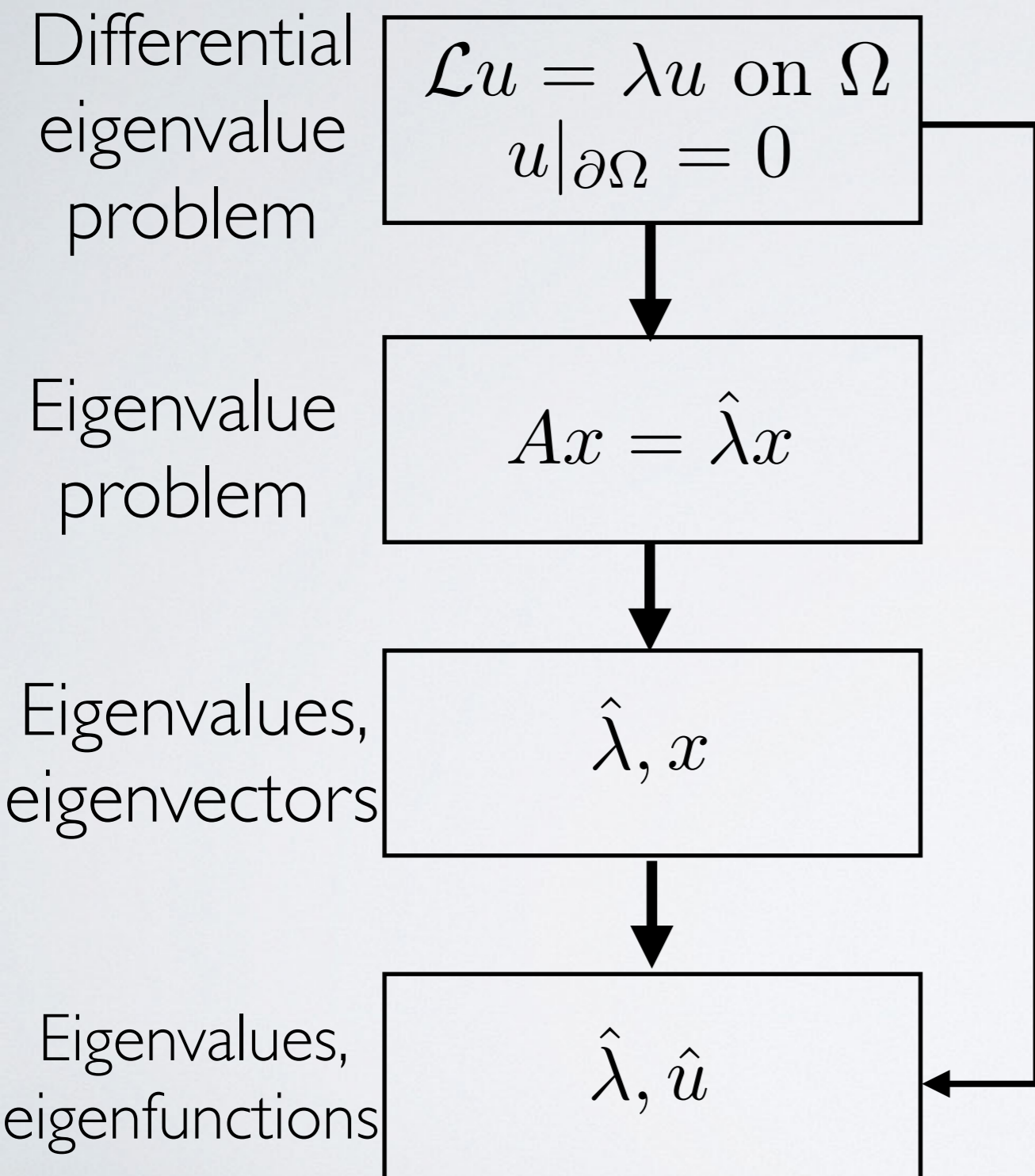
by Hadrien Montanelli

Spiral waves (Barkley model)

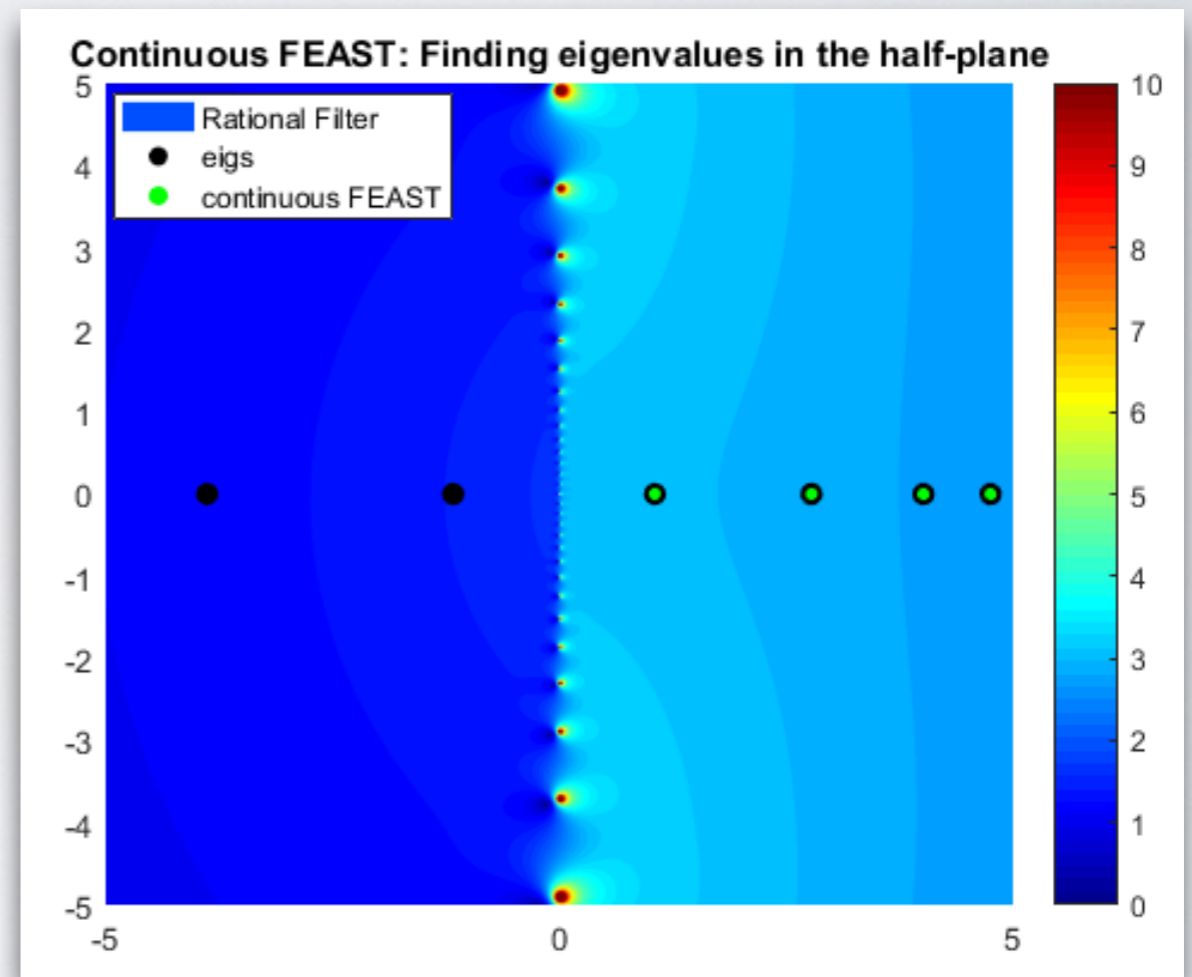


by Grady Wright

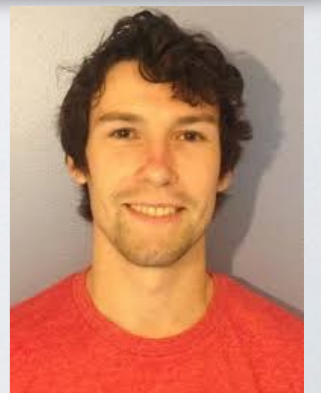
# Bonus idea: Discretization oblivious algorithms



- Discretizing can increase the sensitivity of eigenvalues.



Anthony Austin



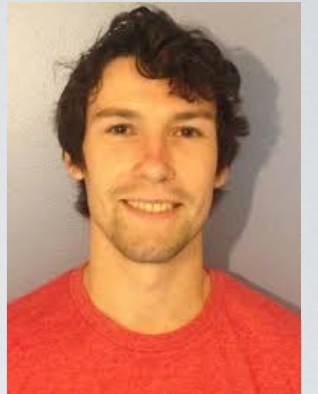
Andrew Horning

# Thank you

## Advertisement:

"A continuous analogue of FEAST for differential eigenvalue problems".

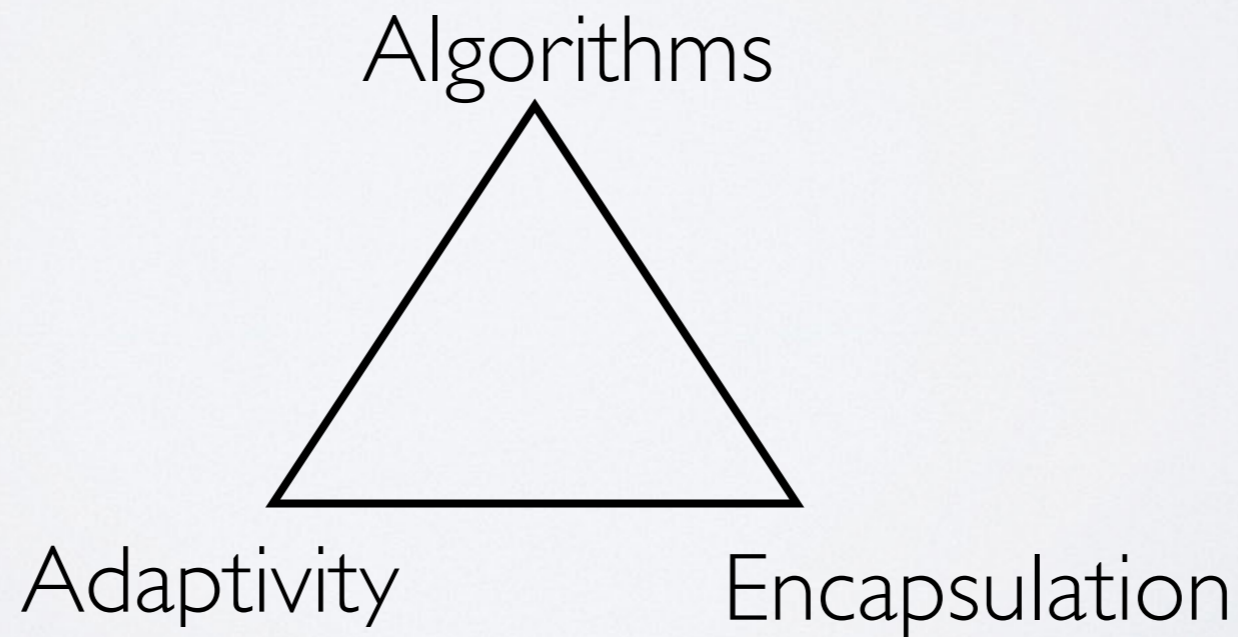
9:00-11:30am, Room 750



Andrew Horning

What if all you had to do to solve an ODE were just to write it down?

Opening line of "Exploring ODEs" [Trefethen, Driscoll, & Birkisson, 2018]



Thanks to

