



Non-linear control variate in δf methods using symplectic neural networks

Congrès National d'Analyse Numérique

Victor Fournet (victor.fournet@ipp.mpg.de)

with Martin Campos-Pinto (NMPP), Emmanuel Franck (IRMA), Victor Michel-Dansac (IRMA)

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR PLASMA PHYSICS, GARCHING

Introduction

Vlasov Poisson system: $f(t, x, v)$ distribution of particles, $\phi(t, x)$ electric potential

$$\partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f - \nabla_x \phi \cdot \nabla_v f = 0, \quad -\Delta \phi = \int f \, dv - 1.$$

Forward Flow $\Phi_{0,t}$ defined by characteristic curves

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dX}{dt} = V, & X(t=0) = x \\ \frac{dV}{dt} = -\nabla \phi(X), & V(t=0) = v \end{cases}$$

- The density can be expressed in terms of the initial density f_{init} and the flow map $\Phi_{0,t}$ as

$$f(t, x, v) = f_{init}(\Phi_{0,t}^{-1}(x, v).)$$

- If $0 = t_0 < \dots < t_n$ is a partition of $[0, t]$, and $\Phi_{t_i, t_{i+1}}$ is the flow map from t_i to t_{i+1} , then the density can be expressed as

$$f(t, x, v) = f_{init}(\Phi_{0,t}^{-1}(x, v).), \quad \Phi_{0,t}^{-1} = \Phi_{t_{n-1}, t_n}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \Phi_{t_0, t_1}^{-1}$$

Family of Flow based numerical methods

- Semi Lagrangian method: Gives approximation of backward flow
 $\Psi_h \approx \Psi = \Phi^{-1}$:

$$f(t, x, v) \approx f_{init}(\Psi_h(0, t; x, v)).$$

- Has many advantages but need a 6D phase space grid.
- Particles in Cell (PIC) method: Gives approximation $\Phi_h \approx \Phi$ and push markers:

$$f(t^{n+1}, x, v) \approx \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} w_k S_\varepsilon(x - x_k^{n+1}) \delta(v - v_k^{n+1}), \quad (x^{n+1}, v^{n+1}) = \Phi_h(x^n, v^n).$$

- Weight of the particles

$$w_k^n = \frac{f_{init}(x_k^0, v_k^0)}{N_p g(x_k^0, v_k^0)}$$

- Moments of f ,

$$I(a) = \int a(v) f^n(x, v) dv = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} \frac{f_{init}(x_k^0, v_k^0)}{g(x_k^0, v_k^0)} a(v_k^n) S_\varepsilon(x - x_k^n)$$

- Error scale as $\approx \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{N_p}}$

δf PIC with static bulk densities

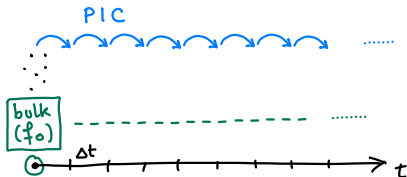
δf ansatz for the solution

$$f^n = f_0 + \delta f^n, \quad \rho^n = \underbrace{\int f_0 \, dv}_{\text{Analytical}} + \underbrace{\int (\delta f)^n \, dv}_{\text{Noisy but small}}$$

- f_0 : **Fixed** explicit bulk density (control variate) - typically a Maxwellian
- δf^n represented by numerical particles

$$\delta f^n(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} \delta w_k^n \varphi_\varepsilon(z - z_k^n), \quad \delta w_k^n = \frac{f_{init}(z_k^0) - f_0(z_k^n)}{N_p g(z_k^0)}$$

- If $\|\delta f^n\| \ll \|f_0\|$: denoising effect.



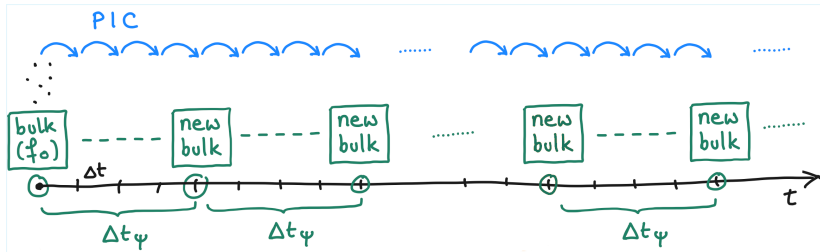
δf PIC with dynamic bulk densities

Alternative: evolve the bulk f_0 (control variate).

$$f^n = f_0^m + \delta f^n, \quad \rho^n = \int f_0^m dv + \int (\delta f)^n dv, \quad m = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N_\Psi} \right\rfloor$$

Two choices

- How to transport of the bulk itself
- How to compute the moments of the bulk



δf PIC with dynamic bulk densities

Alternative: evolve the bulk f_0 (control variate).

$$f^n = f_0^m + \delta f^n, \quad \rho^n = \int f_0^m dv + \int (\delta f)^n dv, \quad m = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N_\psi} \right\rfloor$$

- Common strategy: Assume f_0 is a Maxwellian and evolves its moments with fluid equations¹.
- Alternative: δf -FBL²:
 - Transport passive markers (without charge) on a grid.
 - Compute local Backward flow using linear or quadratic Taylor expansion
 - Reconstruct density on a grid.
 - Issue on high dimension.

¹Gyrokinetic flux-driven simulations in mixed TEM/ITG regime using a delta-f PIC scheme with evolving background M. Murugappan, L. Villard, S. Brunner, G. Di Giannatale, B. F. McMillan, and A. Bottino

²A δf PIC method with Forward-Backward Lagrangian reconstructions M. Campos Pinto, M. Pelz, and P.-H. Tournier

δf with neural flow-based bulk densities

- Recently, neural networks have shown promising results to avoid the curse of dimensionality while being good approximators.

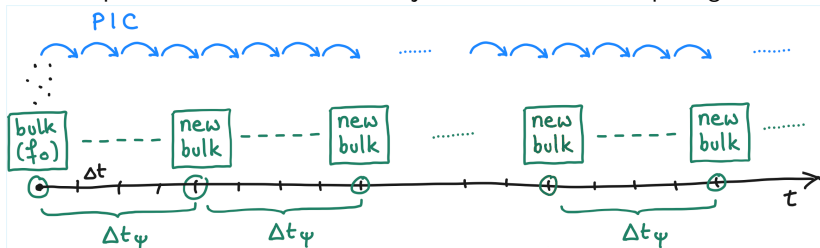
$$f^n = f_0^m + \delta f^n, \quad \rho^n = \int \widetilde{f}_0^m dv + \int \delta f^n dv, \quad m = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N_\Psi} \right\rfloor$$

$$\delta f^n(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} \delta w_k^n \varphi_\varepsilon(z - z_k^n), \quad \delta w_k^n = \frac{f_{init}(z_k^0) - \widetilde{f}_0^m(z_k^n)}{N_p g(z_k^0)}$$

- Transport of the density: Neural networks trained on particle trajectory

$$f_0^m(x, v) = f_0(\Psi_{\theta_1} \circ \dots \circ \Psi_{\theta_m}(x, v)).$$

- Computation of the moments: Projection on a coarse B-Spline grid.



Symplectic neural networks for the flow

$$f_{\text{up}}(x, v) = \begin{pmatrix} x + \nabla V_{\text{up}}(v) \\ v \end{pmatrix}, \quad f_{\text{down}}(x, v) = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v + \nabla V_{\text{down}}(x) \end{pmatrix},$$

Lemma: Any symplectic map can be approximated by composition of shear maps.

Definition 1: SympNet

Gradient module are functions of the form

$$\psi_{\text{up}}(x, v) = \begin{pmatrix} x + \tilde{\sigma}_{K,b}(v) \\ v \end{pmatrix}, \quad \psi_{\text{down}}(x, v) = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v + \tilde{\sigma}_{K,b}(x) \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_{K,b}(x) = K^T \sigma(Kx + b) \approx \nabla V : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, \quad K \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}, b \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

with σ activation function. A **symplectic neural network** is defined as

$$\Psi_{\theta}(x, v) = \psi_{\text{up}}^k \circ \psi_{\text{down}}^k \circ \dots \circ \psi_{\text{up}}^1 \circ \psi_{\text{down}}^1(x, v).$$

SympNets: Intrinsic structure-preserving symplectic networks for identifying Hamiltonian systems Pengzhan Jin, Zhen Zhang, Aiqing Zhu, Yifa Tang, George Em Karniadakis

Periodic symplectic neural network

$$\tilde{\sigma}_{K_1, K_2, b_1, b_2}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} -K_1 \text{diag}(\sin(2\pi x/L)) \\ K_2 \text{diag}(\cos(2\pi x/L)) \end{pmatrix} \cdot \sigma \left(\begin{pmatrix} K_1 & 0 \\ 0 & K_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos(2\pi x/L) \\ \sin(2\pi x/L) \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

with $K_1, K_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$, $b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n$. One has $\tilde{\sigma}_{K_1, K_2, b_1, b_2} \approx \nabla V_{\text{per}} : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Definition 2: Periodic SympNet

Gradient module are functions of the form

$$\psi_{\text{up}}(x, v) = \begin{pmatrix} x + \hat{\sigma}_{K, a, b}(v) \text{mod} L \\ v \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{\psi}_{\text{down}}(x, v) = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v + \tilde{\sigma}_{K_1, K_2, b_1, b_2}(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{K, a, b}(x) = K^T \sigma(Kx + b) \approx \nabla V : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, \quad K \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}, b \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

A **periodic symplectic neural network** is defined as

$$\Psi_{\theta}(x, v) = \psi_{\text{up}}^k \circ \tilde{\psi}_{\text{down}}^k \circ \dots \circ \psi_{\text{up}}^1 \circ \tilde{\psi}_{\text{down}}^1(x, v).$$

Algorithm: Neural δf -PIC with symplectic flow

$$f^n = f_0^m + \delta f^n, \quad m = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N_\Psi} \right\rfloor$$

- 1 **Initial condition:** set $f_0^0 := f_{init}$, compute and store $\int f_0^0 dv$, initialize particles $\{(x_k^0, v_k^0)\}_{k=1}^{N_p}$

- 2 **Time-stepping:**

- For each $n < N$: push particles and update weights (*PIC timescale* Δt)

$$(x_k^n, v_k^n) \xrightarrow{\text{VP}} (x_k^{n+1}, v_k^{n+1}), \quad \delta w_k^{n+1} = \frac{f_{init}(z_k^0) - f_0^m(z_k^{n+1})}{N_p g(z_k^0)}$$

- If $n = mN_\Psi$ Train SympNet and update bulk:

$$\theta^m = \operatorname{argmin}_\theta \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_k \left| \Psi_\theta(x_k^n, v_k^n) - (x_k^{n-N_\Psi}, v_k^{n-N_\Psi}) \right|^2$$

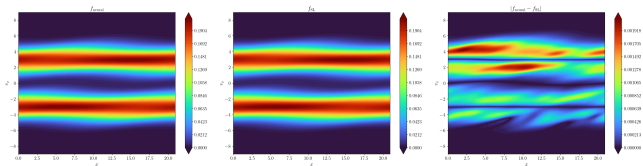
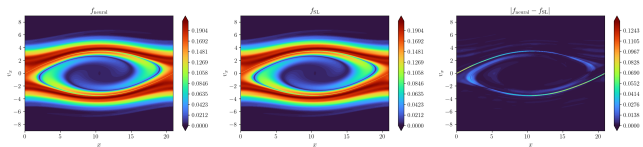
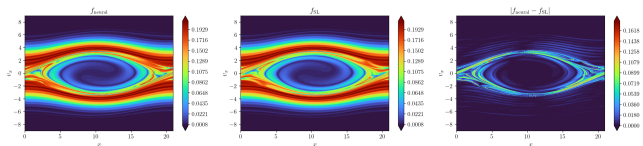
$$f_0^m(x, v) = f_0(\Psi_{\theta^1} \circ \dots \circ \Psi_{\theta^m}(x, v))$$

Compute and store

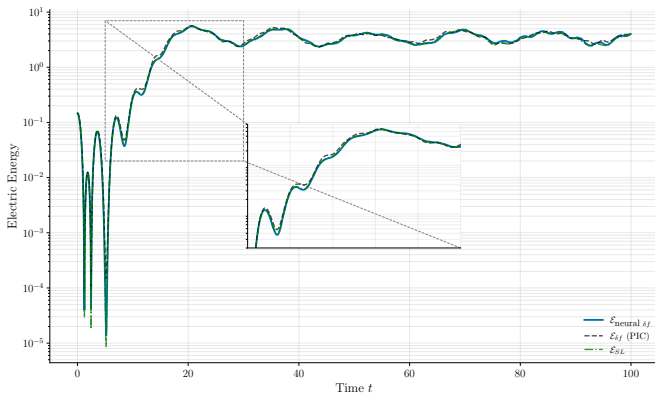
$$\int \widetilde{f_0^m} dv$$

1D1V Two-stream instability: Phase space density

$$f_{init}(x, v) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2\pi}} (e^{-(v-3)^2/2} + e^{-(v+3)^2/2}) (1 + 0.05 \cos(0.5x))$$

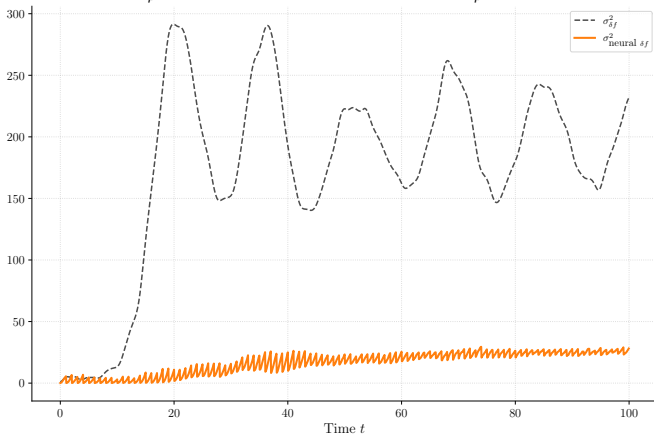
Comparison at $t = 25.05$ Comparison at $t = 50.05$ 

Two-stream instability: Electric energy



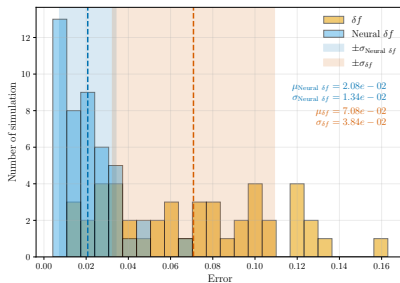
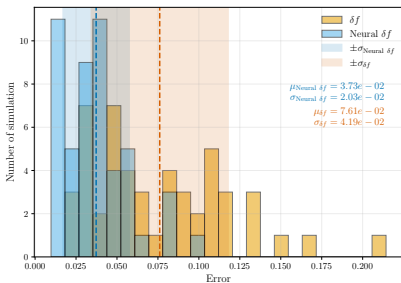
Two-stream instability: Weight Variance

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} (\delta w_k - \delta \bar{w}_k)^2, \quad \delta \bar{w}_k = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \delta w_k$$

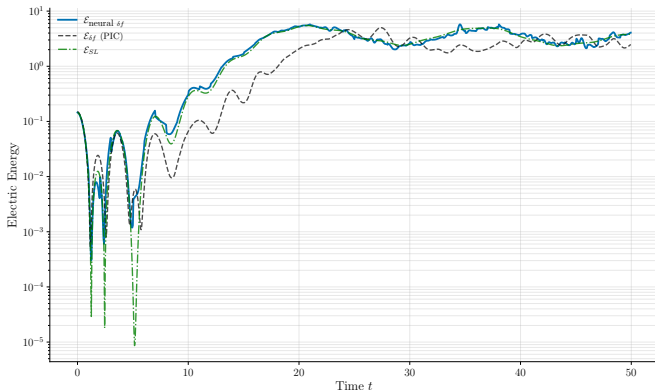


Statistics of error on 50 runs: \mathcal{E}_{PIC} vs \mathcal{E}_{neural}

$$\mathcal{E}_{PIC} = \sqrt{\int |E_{PIC} - E_{BSL}|^2 dt}, \quad \mathcal{E}_{neural} = \sqrt{\int |E_{neural} - E_{BSL}|^2 dt}$$

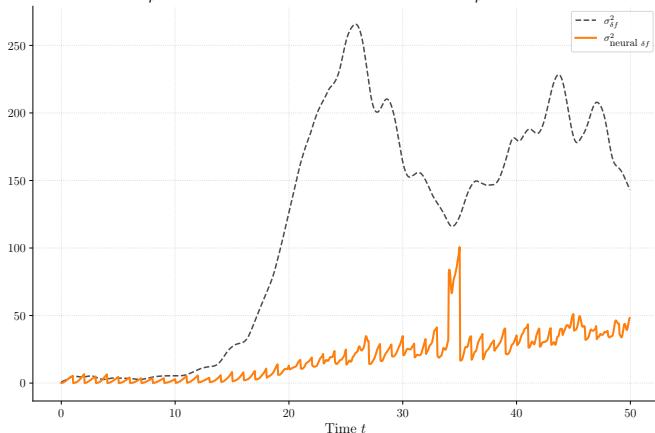


Two-stream instability: Electric energy with $N_p = 1000$

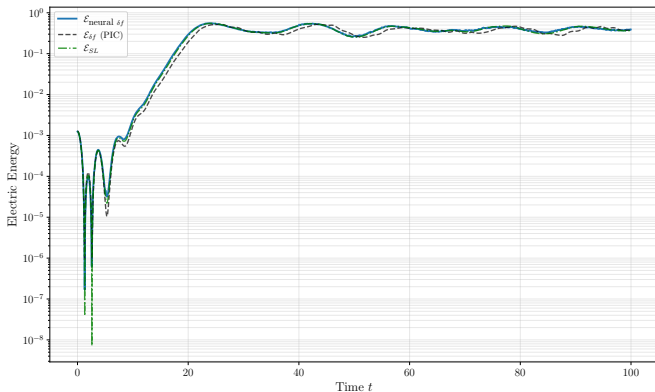


Two-stream instability: Weight Variance

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} (\delta w_k - \delta \bar{w}_k)^2, \quad \delta \bar{w}_k = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \delta w_k$$

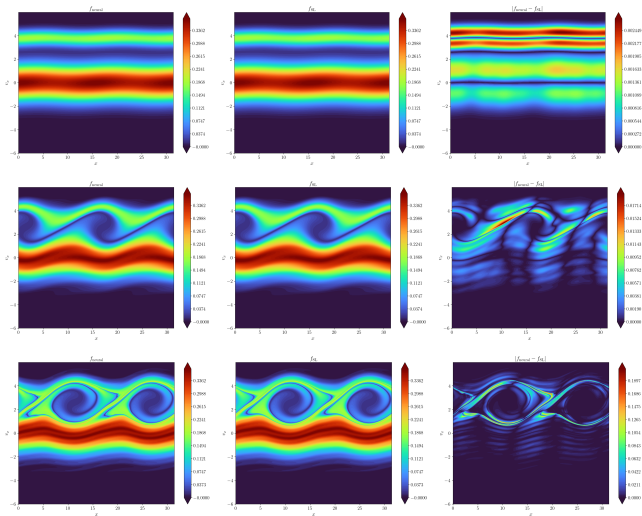


Two-stream instability: Electric energy, lower perturbation

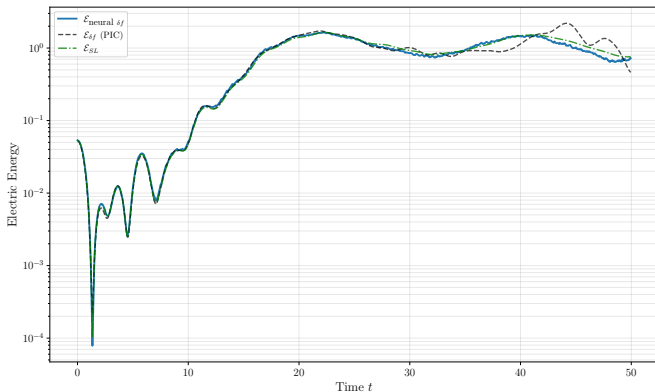


1D1V Bump-on-tail instability: Phase space density

$$f_{init}(x, v) = \left(\frac{0.9}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-v^2/2} + \frac{0.2}{\sqrt{10\pi}} e^{-\frac{(v-3.8)^2}{10}} \right) (1 + 0.03 \cos(0.4x))$$

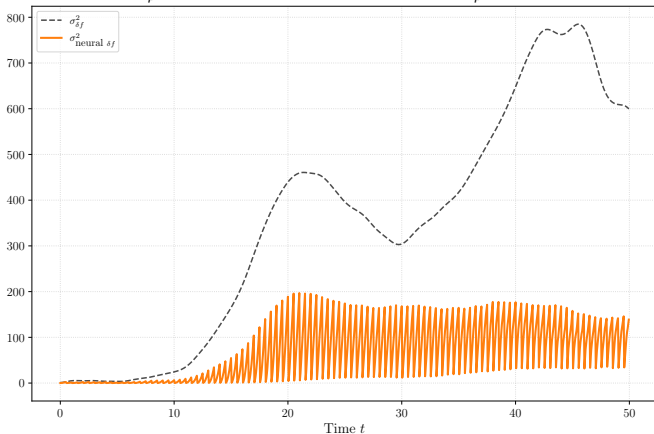


Bump-on-tail instability: Electric energy



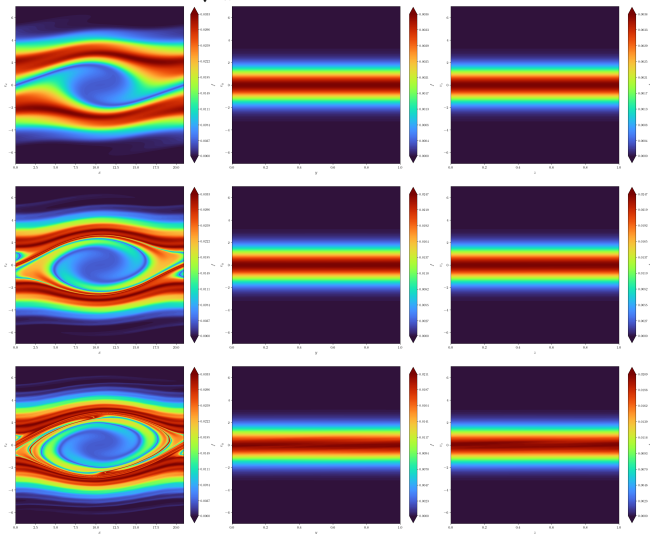
Bump-on-tail instability: Weight Variance

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} (\delta w_k - \delta \bar{w}_k)^2, \quad \delta \bar{w}_k = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \delta w_k$$

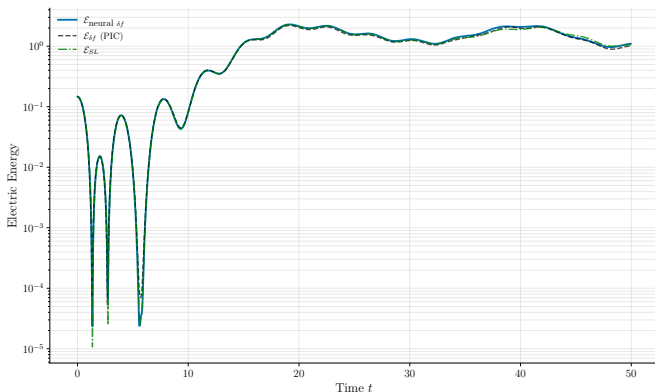


3D3V Two stream instability

$$f_{init}(x, v) = \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-(v_y+v_z)^2/2} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2\pi}} (e^{-(v_x-2.4)^2/2} + e^{-(v_x+2.4)^2/2}) (1 + 0.05 \cos(0.5x))$$



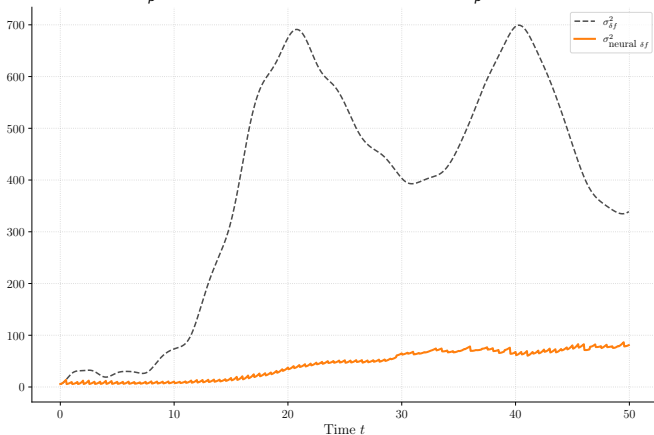
3D Two-stream instability: Electric energy



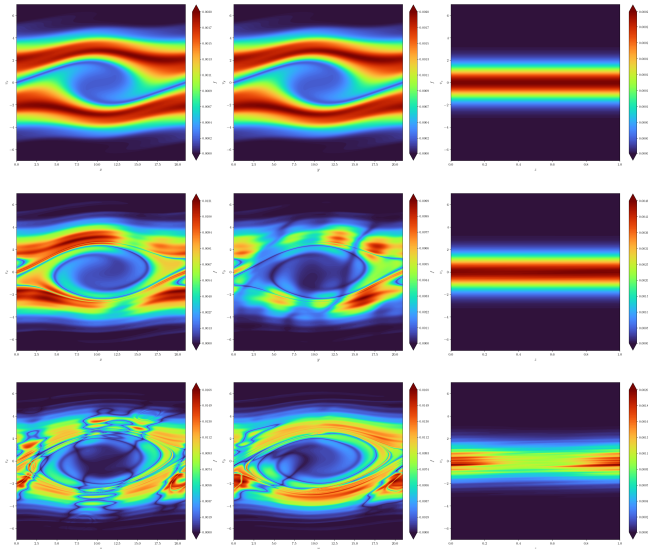
Plot SL: courtesy of Nils Schild. BSL6D: Nils Schild, Mario R ath, Sebastian Eibl, Klaus Hallatschek, Katharina Kormann, A performance portable implementation of the semi-Lagrangian algorithm in six dimensions, Computer Physics Communications, Volume 295, 2024, 108973, ISSN 0010-4655, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpc.2023.108973>.

3D Two-stream instability: Weight Variance

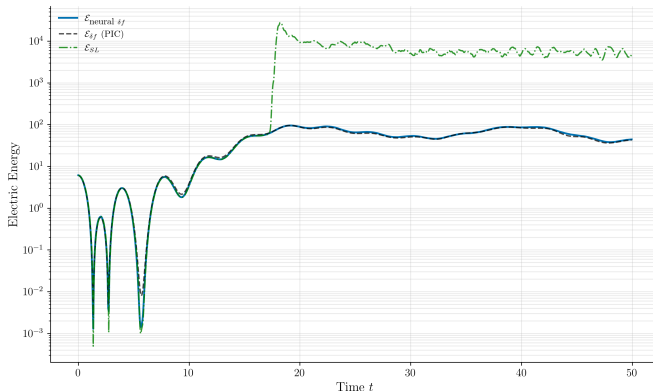
$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} (\delta w_k - \delta \bar{w}_k)^2, \quad \delta \bar{w}_k = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \delta w_k$$



3D3V Four stream instability



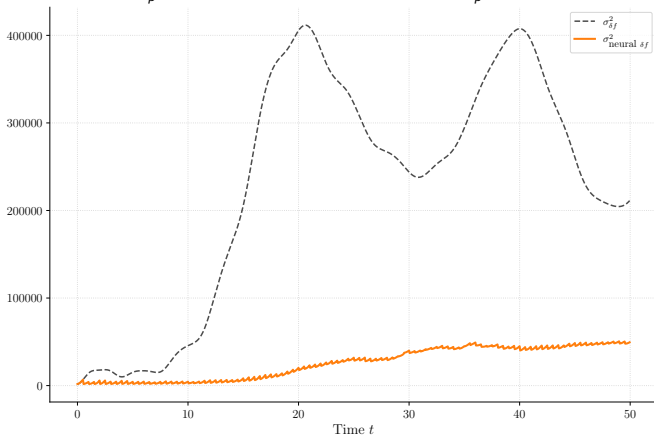
3D Four-stream instability: Electric energy



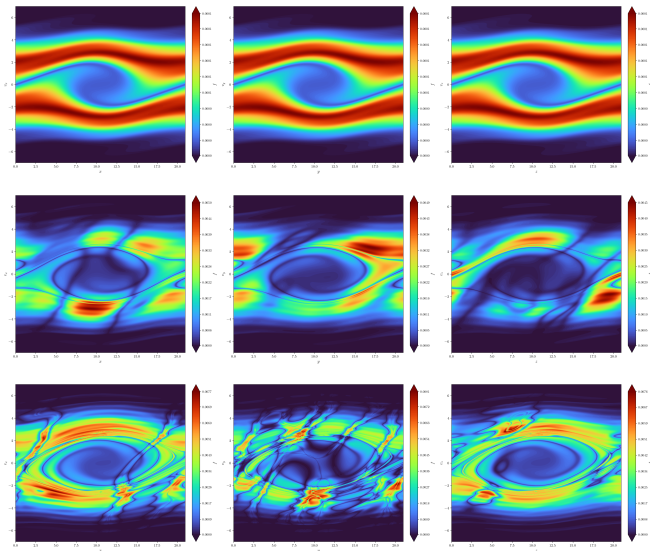
Plot SL: courtesy of Nils Schild. BSL6D code: Nils Schild, Mario R ath, Sebastian Eibl, Klaus Hallatschek, Katharina Kormann, A performance portable implementation of the semi-Lagrangian algorithm in six dimensions, Computer Physics Communications, Volume 295, 2024, 108973, ISSN 0010-4655, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpc.2023.108973>.

3D Four-stream instability: Weight Variance

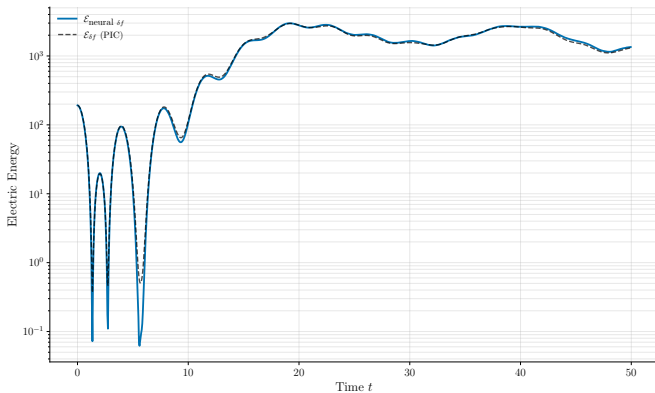
$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} (\delta w_k - \delta \bar{w}_k)^2, \quad \delta \bar{w}_k = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \delta w_k$$



3D3V Six stream instability

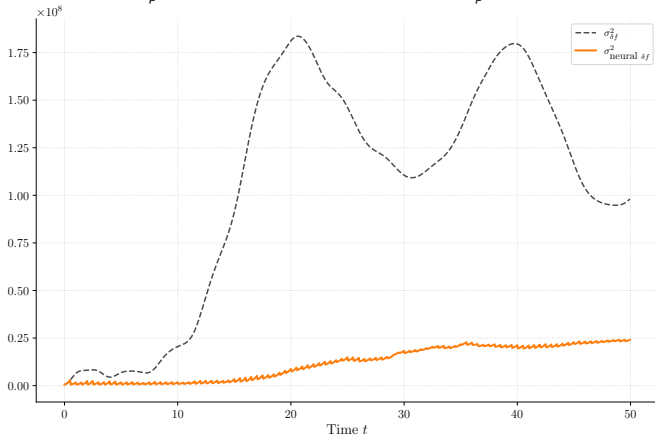


3D Six-stream instability: Electric energy



3D Six-stream instability: Weight Variance

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} (\delta w_k - \delta \bar{w}_k)^2, \quad \delta \bar{w}_k = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \delta w_k$$



Conclusion

Summary

- **δf -PIC with neural control variate:** use a symplectic neural network Ψ_θ to evolve the bulk f_0^m along the flow, reducing the noisy part δf^n .
- **Structure-preserving:** symplecticity of Ψ_θ is enforced by construction, with periodic boundary conditions built into the architecture.
- **Numerical result:** Validation against semi Lagrangian code, variance reduction of δw_k resulting in a decreased error for the electric energy.

Next steps include

- Extend to gyrokinetic models (with Alberto Bottino and Thomas Hayward-Schneider).