



***Tuning time-domain pseudospectral  
computations of the self-force on a charged  
scalar particle***

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# Outlook

- *A brief introduction to the Extreme-Mass Ratio Inspiral (EMRI) problem*
- *Description of the Particle-without-Particle (PWP) scheme.*
  - ▶ *Application to EMRIs with circular orbits*
  - ▶ *Application to EMRIs with Eccentric orbits.*
- *Summary.*

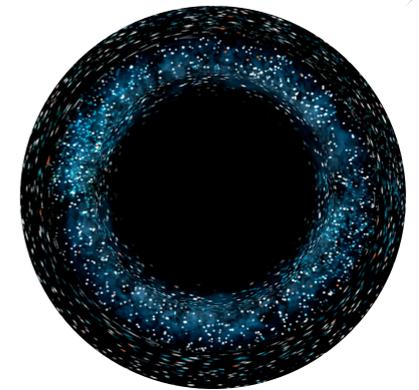
# EMRIs

- Extreme-Mass-Ratio Inspirals (EMRIs) are formed when a massive black hole (MBH) captures a stellar-mass compact object (SCO).

$$m \sim 1 - 50 M_{\odot}$$



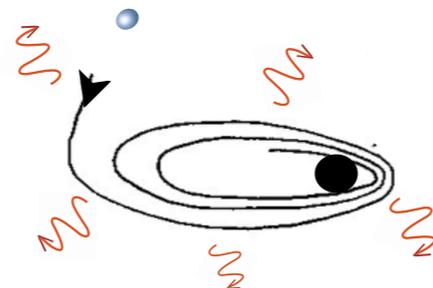
$$M \sim 10^4 - 10^7 M_{\odot}$$



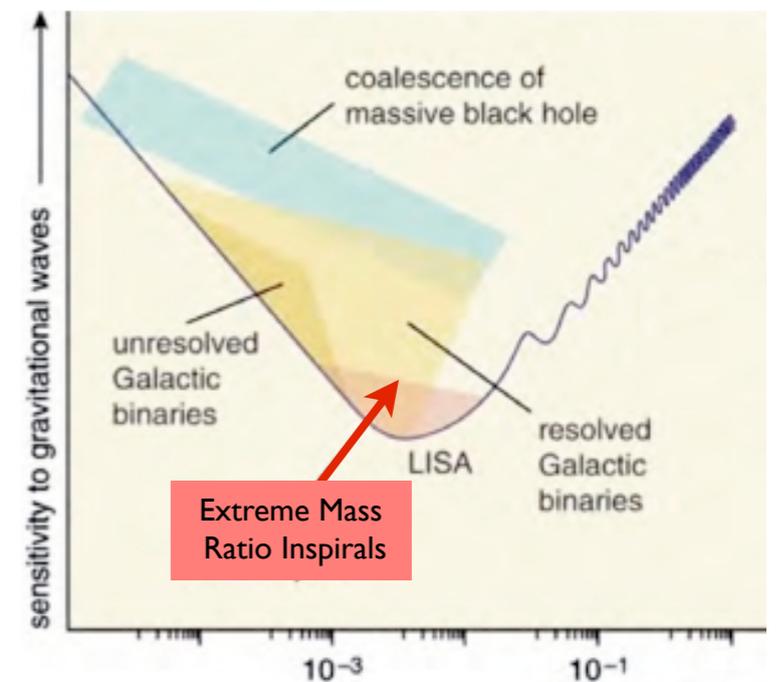
- These systems have extreme mass ratio:

$$\mu = m/M_{\bullet} \sim 10^{-7} - 10^{-3}$$

- They are one of the main sources of gravitational waves (GWs) for the future Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA)



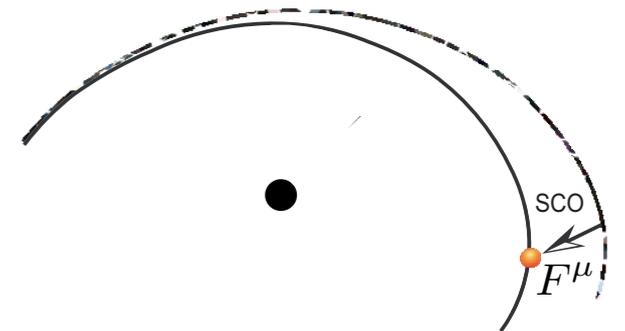
LISA sensitivity curve



Frequency (Hertz)

# Modelling EMRIs

- *Techniques to compute waveforms:*
  - ▶ *Frequency domain: They are efficient for  $e \ll 1$ , but they have convergence problems for high eccentric orbits.*
  - ▶ *Time domain: They handle in the same way circular and eccentric orbits.*
- *Modelling EMRIS implies deal with different spatial (SMBH and SCO) and temporal scales  $\longrightarrow$  Challenge for time-domain techniques.*
- *Perturbation theory: The SCO is pictured as point particle in a fixed SMBH background, which orbit is deviated by the action of a local self-force*



# The Particle without Particle technique

- *The PwP technique avoids working with the singularity associated with the SCO.*
- *It employs time-domain techniques which allows us to deal easily with eccentric orbits.*
- *We employ the mode-sum regularisation scheme for regularise the field modes.*
- *Runge-Kutta algorithm for the time evolution.*
- *To test our technique we use a toy problem: A scalar charged particle falling in a geodesic of a Schwarzschild MBH spacetime.*

$$\square\Phi^{ret} = -4\pi q \int \delta_4(x - z(\tau))d\tau$$

$$F^\mu = q(g^{\mu\nu} + u^\mu u^\nu)\nabla_\nu\Phi^{ret}$$

# Modelling EMRIs

- The retarded field can be decomposed into spherical harmonics:

$$\Phi^{ret} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \Phi^{lm}(t, r) Y^{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

- The  $l+l$  equation for each harmonic coefficient takes the form:

$$(-\partial_t^2 + \partial_{r^*}^2 - V_l)\psi^{lm} - S^{lm} = 0$$

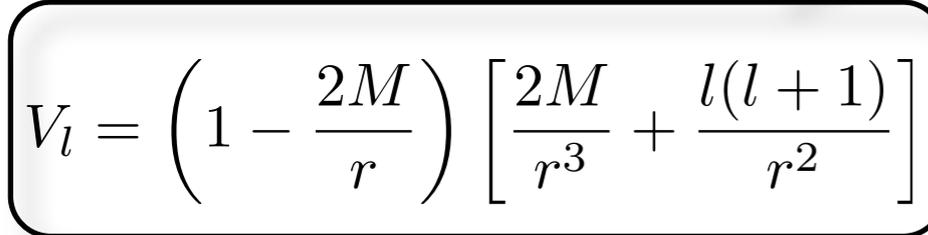
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$$V_l = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) \left[\frac{2M}{r^3} + \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2}\right]$$

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$$\Phi^{lm} = \psi^{lm} / r$$

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$$\Phi^{lm} = \psi^{lm} / r$$

$$S^{lm} = A^{lm} \delta[r^* - r_p^*(t)]$$

$$A^{lm} = -4\pi q \frac{1 - 2M/r_p}{r_p E_p}$$

# PwP technique

- We perform a division of the spatial computational domain into two disjoint regions or subdomains, one at the left of the particle  $r^* > r_p^*$  and other at the right of the particle  $r^* < r_p^*$



$$(-\partial_t^2 + \partial_{r^*}^2 - V_l)\psi^{lm} - S^{lm} = 0$$

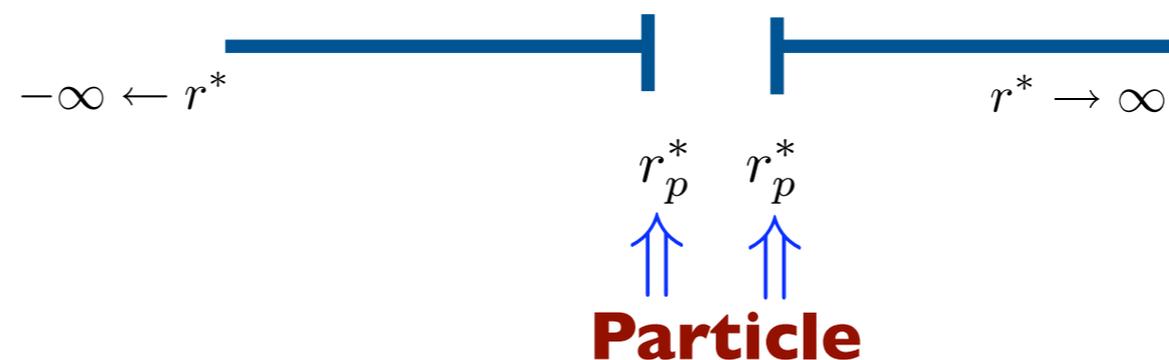
$$-\infty \leftarrow r^* \qquad r^* \rightarrow \infty$$

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$$(-\partial_t^2 + \partial_{r^*}^2 - V_l)\psi^{lm} - S^{lm} = 0$$



$$\partial_t \mathcal{U} = \mathbb{A} \cdot \partial_{r^*} \mathcal{U} + \mathbb{B} \cdot \mathcal{U} + \mathbf{S}$$

$$\mathbb{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbb{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -V_\ell & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{S} = (0, -A^{lm} \delta[r^* - r_p^*(t)], 0)$$

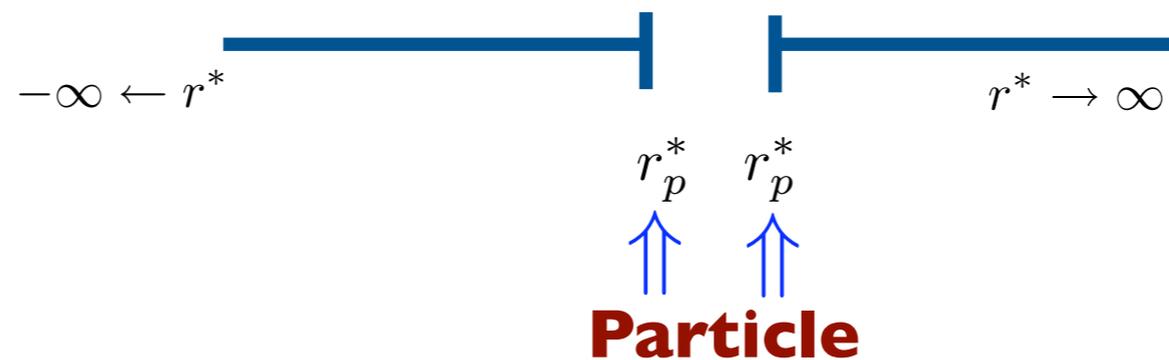
$$\psi^{lm} = r \Phi^{lm}$$

$$\phi^{lm} = \partial_t \psi^{lm}$$

$$\varphi^{lm} = \partial_{r^*} \psi^{lm}$$

↓

$$\mathcal{U} = (\psi^{lm}, \phi^{lm}, \varphi^{lm})$$



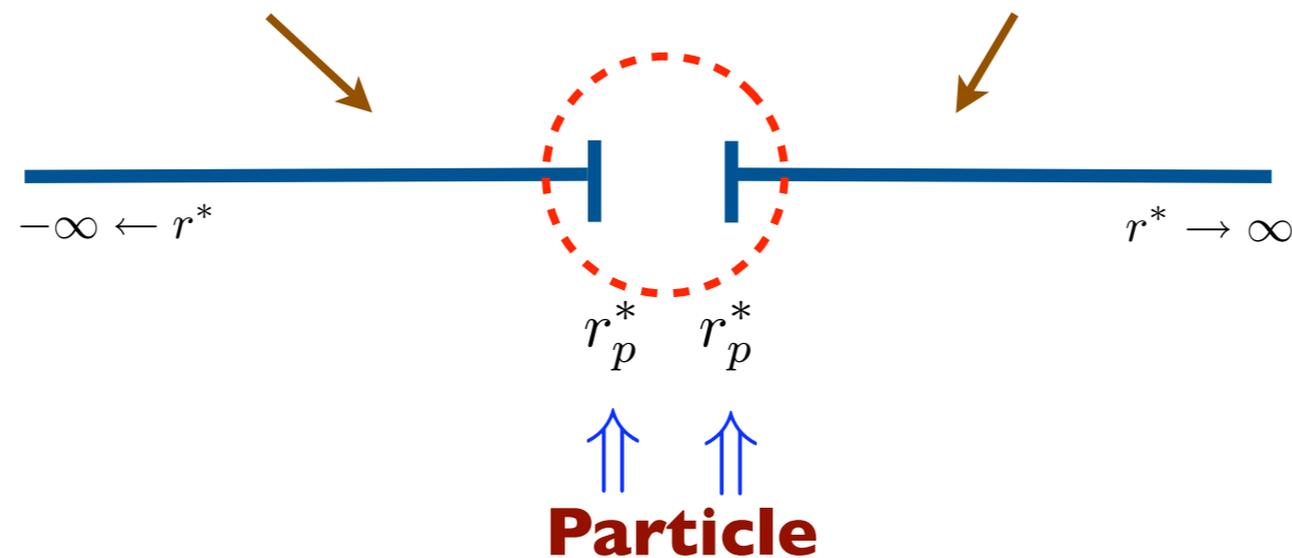
# PwP technique



- We solve homogeneous wave equation inside each subdomain.
- During the evolution, the solutions have to be communicated through the boundaries

$$\partial_t \mathcal{U}_- = \mathbb{A} \cdot \partial_{r^*} \mathcal{U}_- + \mathbb{B} \cdot \mathcal{U}_-$$

$$\partial_t \mathcal{U}_+ = \mathbb{A} \cdot \partial_{r^*} \mathcal{U}_+ + \mathbb{B} \cdot \mathcal{U}_+$$



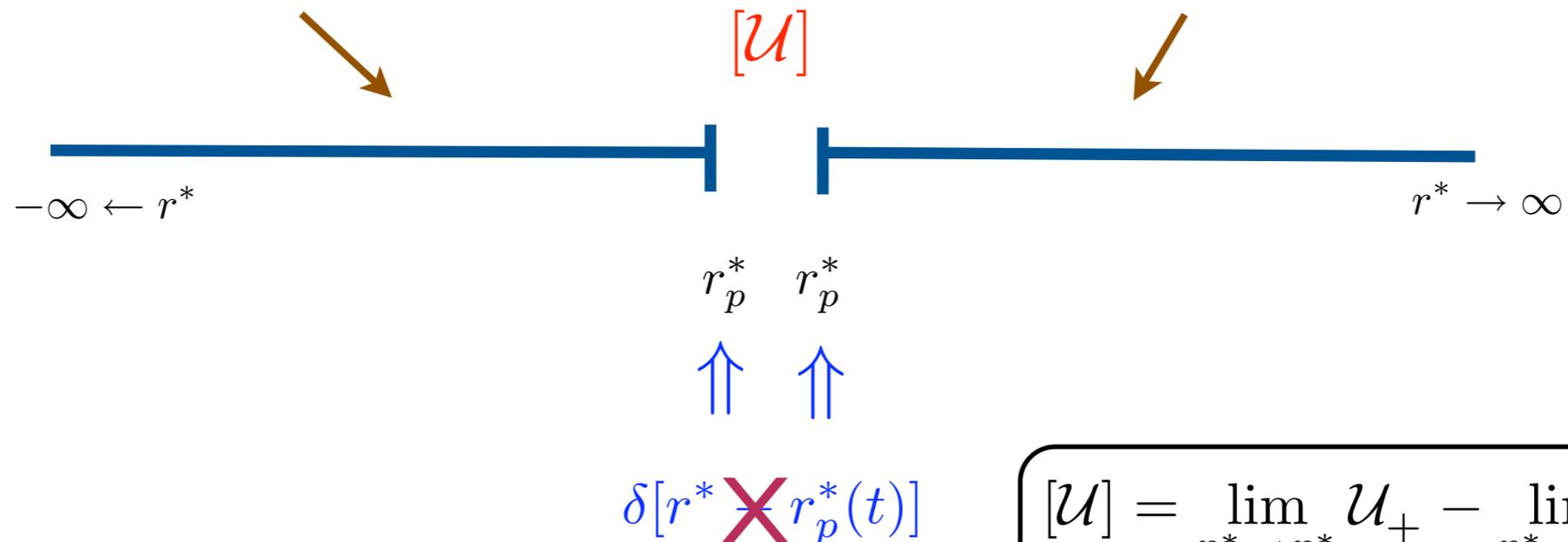
# PwP technique



- The source term is replaced with the jumps of the field variables

$$\partial_t \mathcal{U}_- = \mathbb{A} \cdot \partial_{r^*} \mathcal{U}_- + \mathbb{B} \cdot \mathcal{U}_-$$

$$\partial_t \mathcal{U}_+ = \mathbb{A} \cdot \partial_{r^*} \mathcal{U}_+ + \mathbb{B} \cdot \mathcal{U}_+$$



$$\mathbb{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbb{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -V_\ell & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[\mathcal{U}] = \lim_{r^* \rightarrow r_p^*} \mathcal{U}_+ - \lim_{r^* \rightarrow r_p^*} \mathcal{U}_-$$

**The PwP technique ensures smooth solutions**  
**since we got rid of the singularity associated with the particle**

# PwP technique

- *The boundary conditions are imposed in our evolution equations*

## **I. The penalty method:**

The system is dynamically driven to fulfil a set of additional conditions.

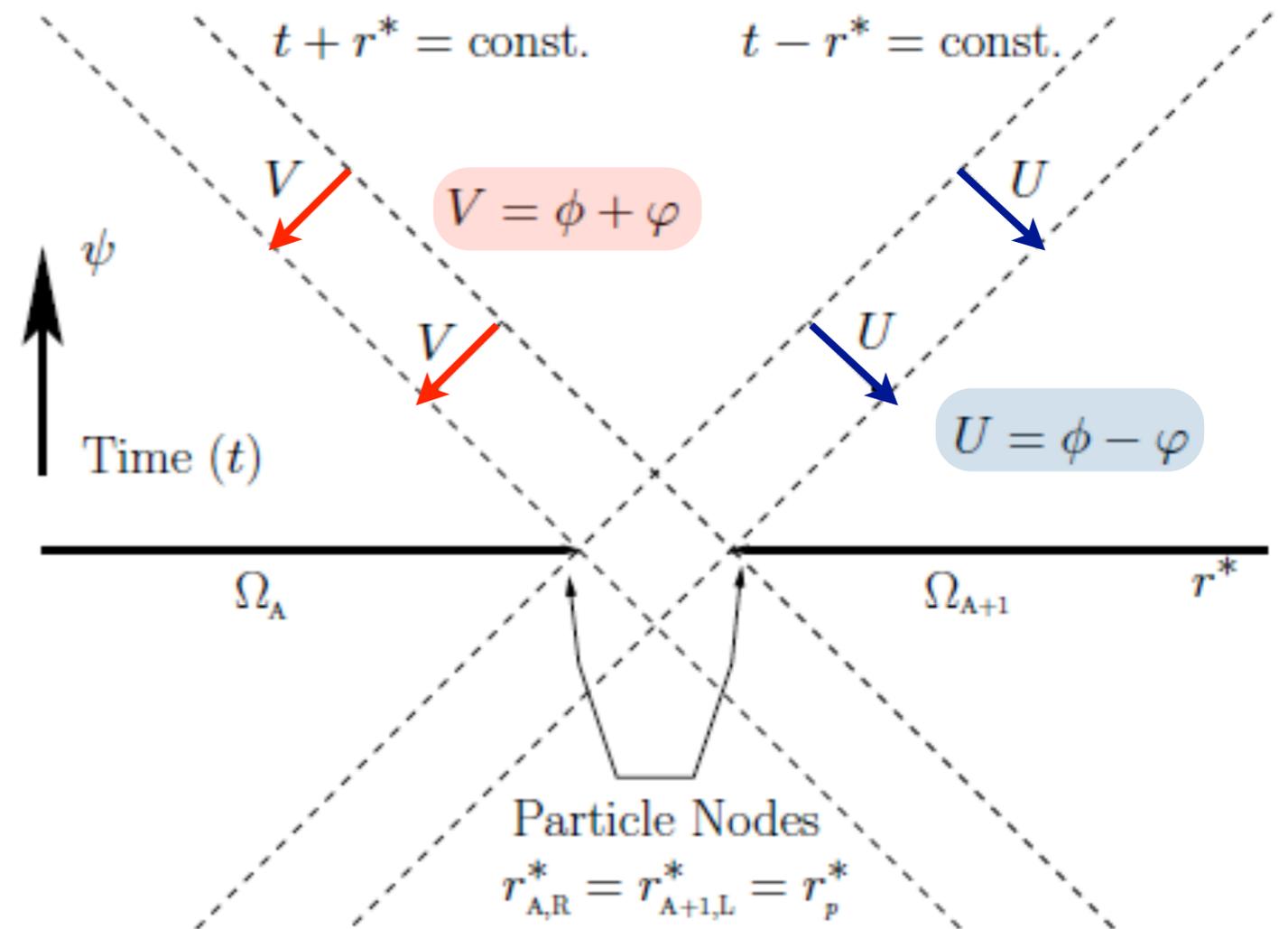
$$\partial_t \mathcal{U}_{\pm} = \mathbb{A} \cdot \partial_{r^*} \mathcal{U}_{\pm} + \mathbb{B} \cdot \mathcal{U}_{\pm} + \eta(\tau_u[\mathcal{U}])$$

# PwP technique

## 2. The direct communication of the characteristic fields:

We pass the value of the characteristic fields.

$$\begin{aligned}\psi^{lm} &= r \Phi^{lm} \\ U^{lm} &= \phi^{lm} - \varphi^{lm} \\ V^{lm} &= \phi^{lm} + \varphi^{lm} \\ &\downarrow \\ \mathcal{U} &= (\psi^{lm}, U^{lm}, V^{lm})\end{aligned}$$

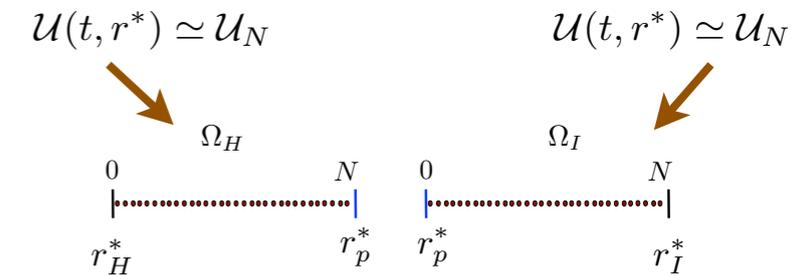


# Numerical implementation

- To implement the PwP scheme numerically we use the pseudospectral collocation (PSC)



$$\mathcal{U}_N(X_i) = \mathcal{U}(X_i)$$



## Discretisation points

$$X_i \in [-1, 1], i = 0, \dots, N$$

$$\text{Spectral coefficients } a_n(t)$$

$$\text{Chebyshev polynomials } \{T_n(X)\}$$

$$\text{Cardinal function } C_i(X_j) = \delta_{ij}$$

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## Chebyshev polynomials

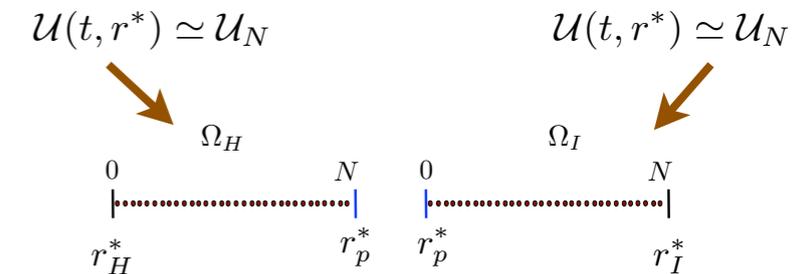
$$\{T_n(X)\}$$

## Cardinal function

$$C_i(X_j) = \delta_{ij}$$

$$\mathcal{U}_N(X_i) = \mathcal{U}(X_i)$$

$$\mathcal{U}_N = \sum_{n=0}^N a_n(t) T_n(X)$$



Spectral representation

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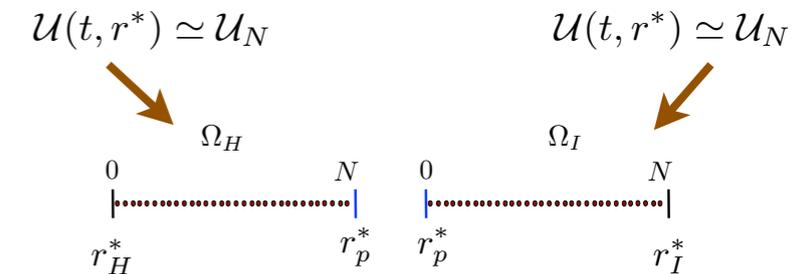
Chebyshev polynomials  $\{T_n(X)\}$

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Spectral representation

Physical representation

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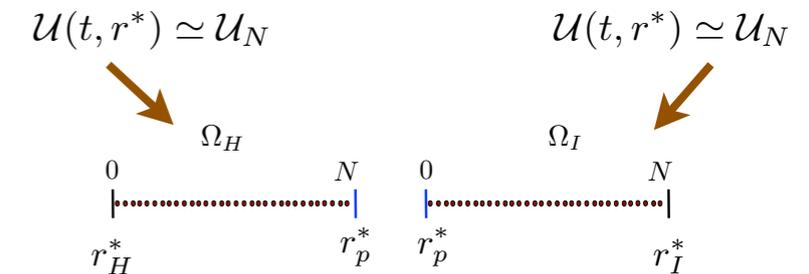
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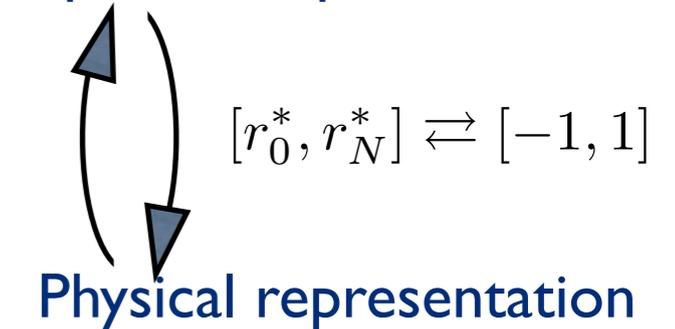
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Spectral representation



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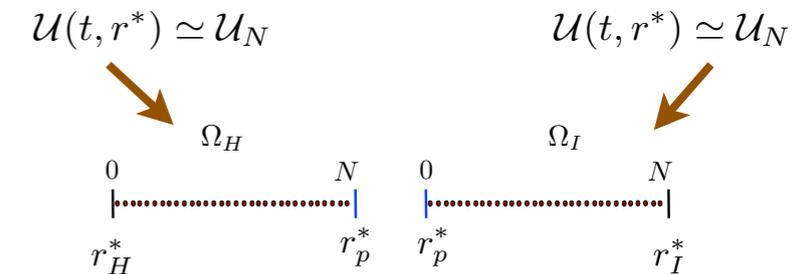
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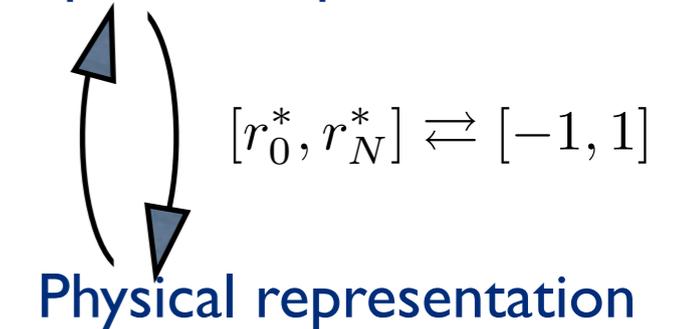
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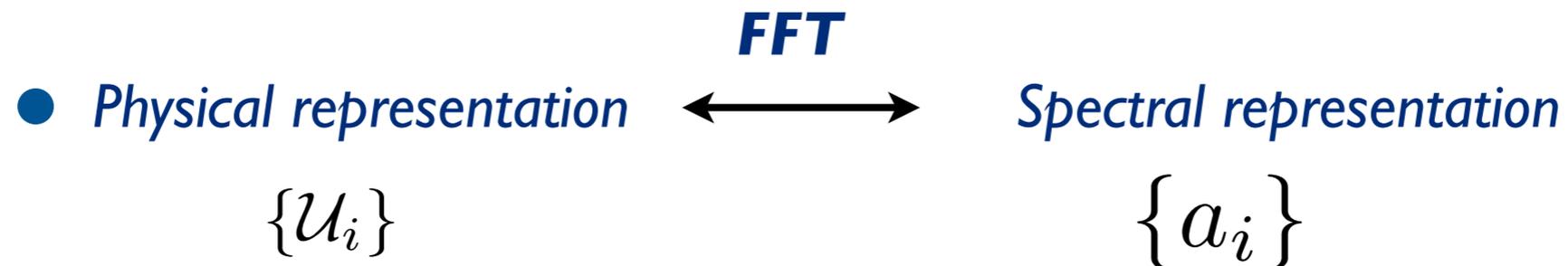
Spectral representation



**The PSC method converges exponentially with N for smooth functions**

# Numerical implementation

Employing a Chebyshev basis there are some paybacks:



- Differentiation is cheaper in the spectral domain:

$$\mathcal{U}'_N = \sum_{j=0}^N D_{ij} \mathcal{U}_j(X)$$

**$N^2$**  operations

$$\mathcal{U}'_N = \sum_{j=0}^N b_j T_j(X)$$

**$\sim N \ln(N)$**  operations

$$\partial_{r^*} : \{\mathbf{U}_i\} \xrightarrow{\text{FFT}} \{\mathbf{a}_n\} \xrightarrow{\partial_{r^*}} \{\mathbf{b}_n\} \xrightarrow{\text{FFT}} \{(\partial_{r^*} \mathbf{U})_i\}$$

# Number Computations

$$\Phi^{ret} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \Phi^{lm}(t, r) Y^{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

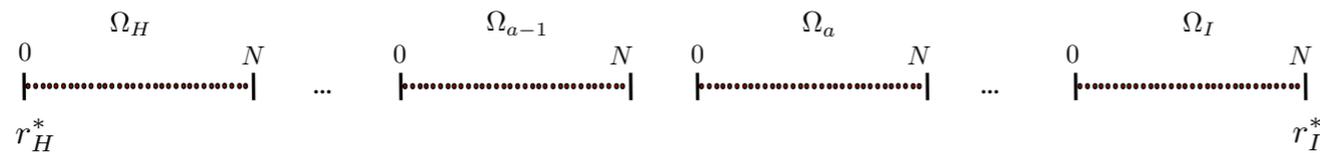
For a given  $\ell_{max}$  the number of modes of evolutions that we need to perform goes as:

$$N_{\text{evolutions}} = \frac{1}{2} (\ell_{\text{max}} + 1) (\ell_{\text{max}} + 2)$$

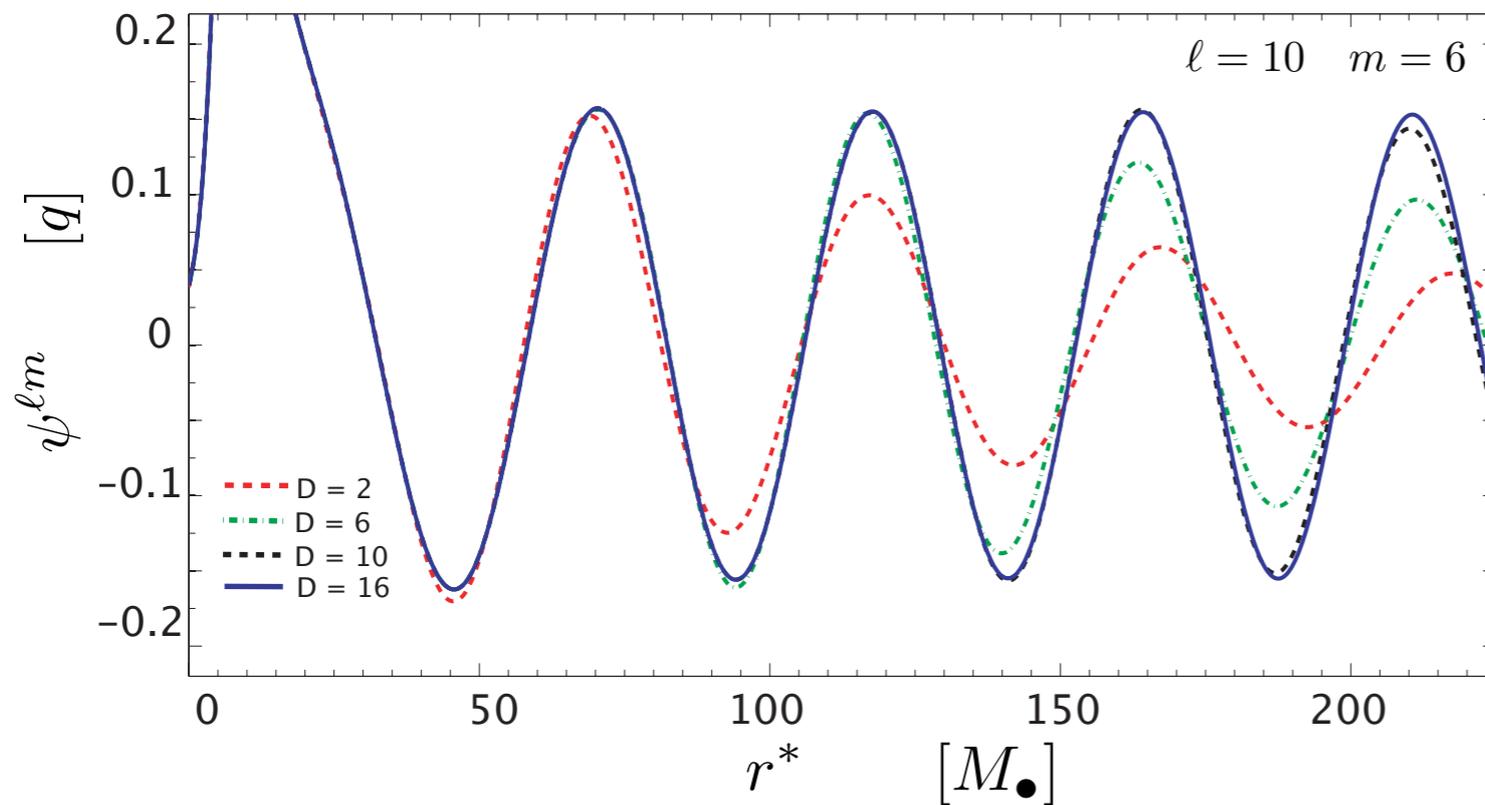
For instance for  $\ell_{max} = 20$ , we need 231 evolutions of the wave-type equations instead of  $N^2_{\text{evolutions}} = 400$ .

# Code Validation

- Covering the spatial domain with a given number of subdomains ( $D$ ) we improve the field resolution with a relatively small  $N$ .



$$\Delta r_a^* = r_N^* - r_0^*$$

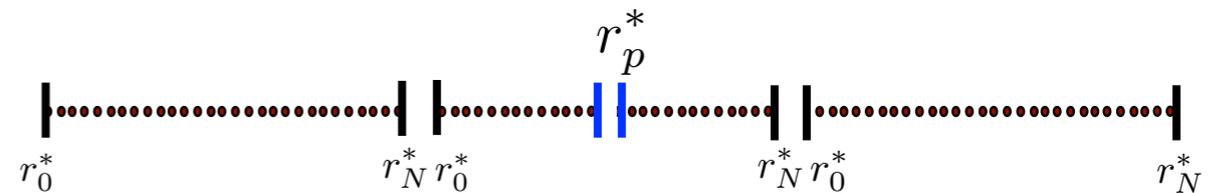
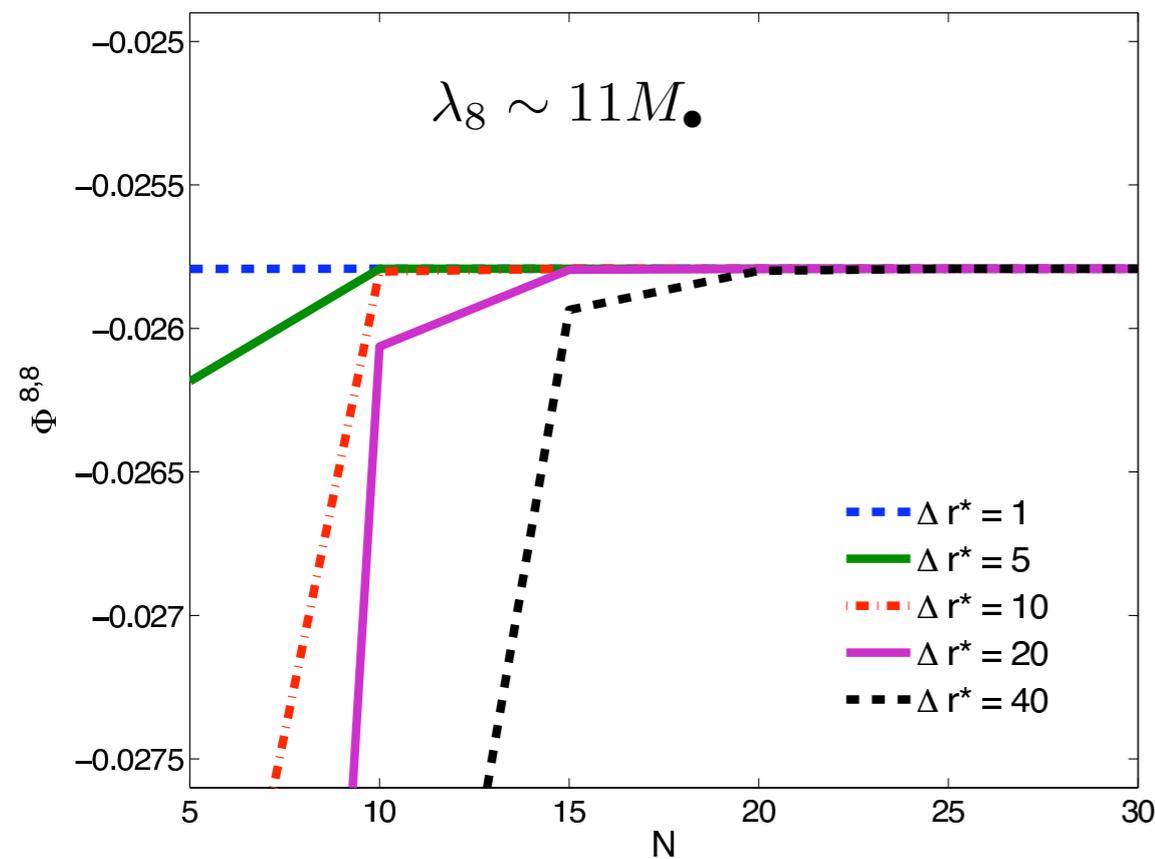


$$\text{Resolution} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} D \uparrow, \quad N \downarrow \\ D \downarrow, \quad N \uparrow \end{array} \right.$$

$$\Delta r^* = 50 M_\bullet \quad N = 50$$

# Improving the Mode Resolution

- Different harmonic modes need different resolution
- We adjust the size of the subdomain around the particle location to the smaller mode wavelength



$$\Delta r^* = r_N^* - r_0^*$$

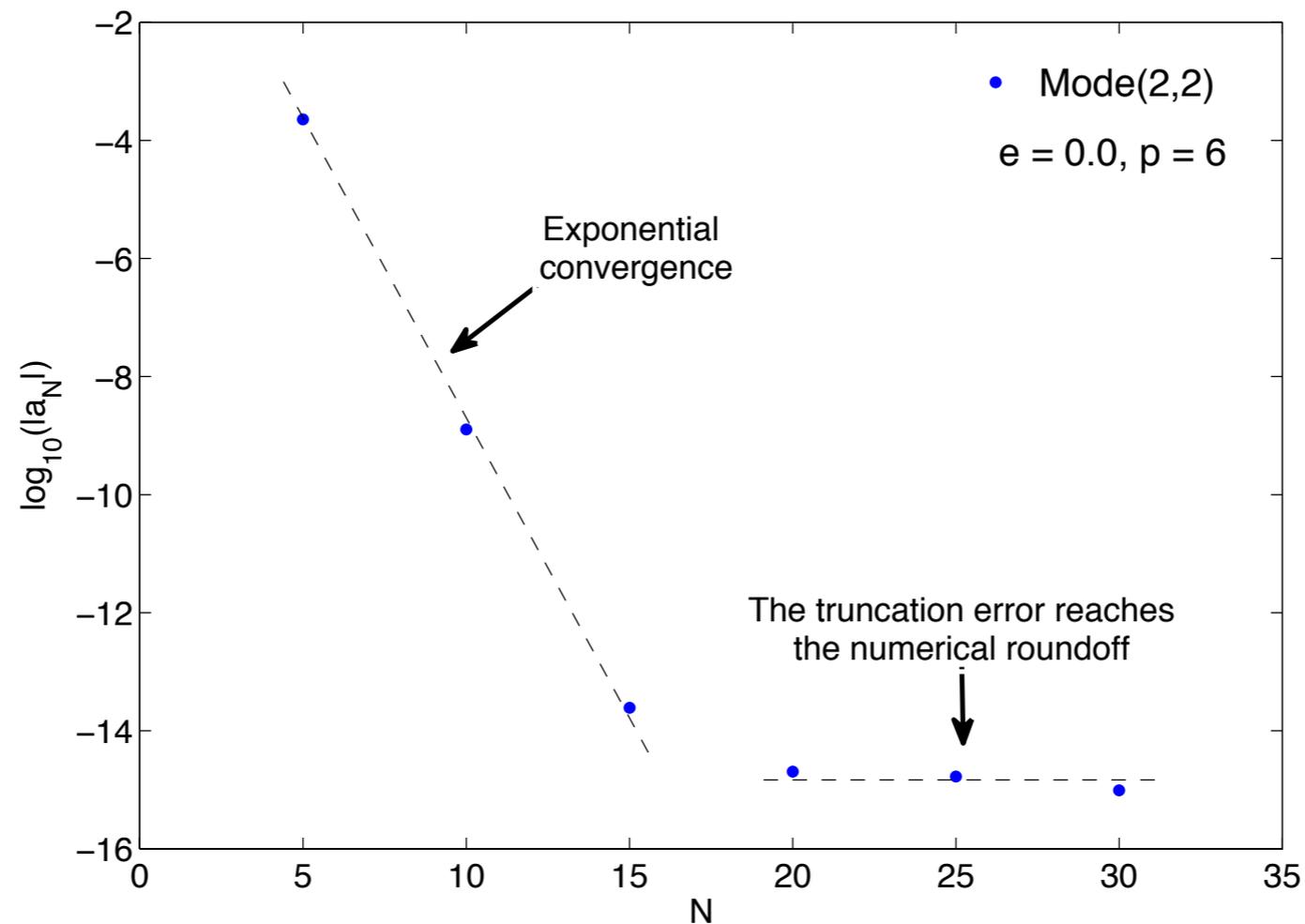
$$\Delta r^* \sim \lambda_m$$

$$\rho \sim \frac{\Delta r^*}{N}$$

[ P. Canizares & Carlos F. Sopuerta (2011)].

# Code Validation

The dependence of the truncation error ( $\sim |a_N|$ ) with respect increasing numbers of collocation points,  $N$ , give us an estimation of the exponential convergence of the code:  $e^{-N}$

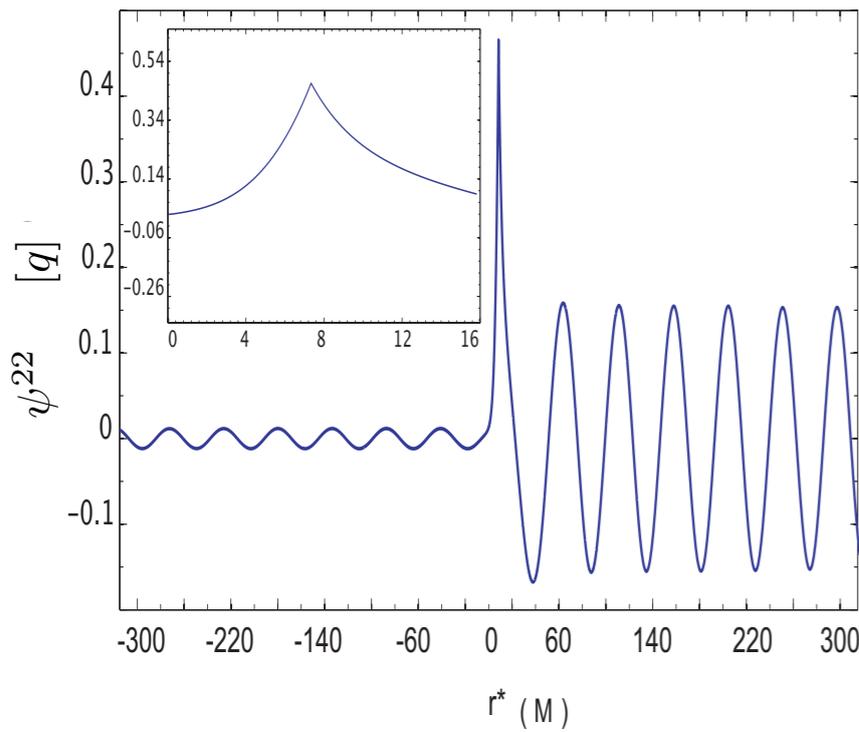


[ P. Canizares & Carlos F. Sopena (2011)].

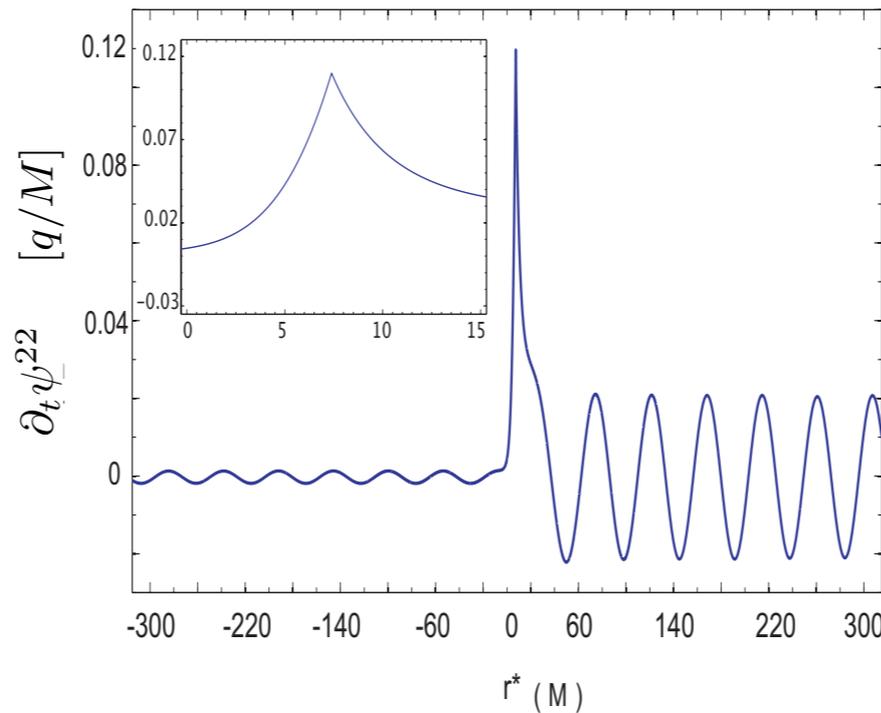
# Some numerical Results

## circular case

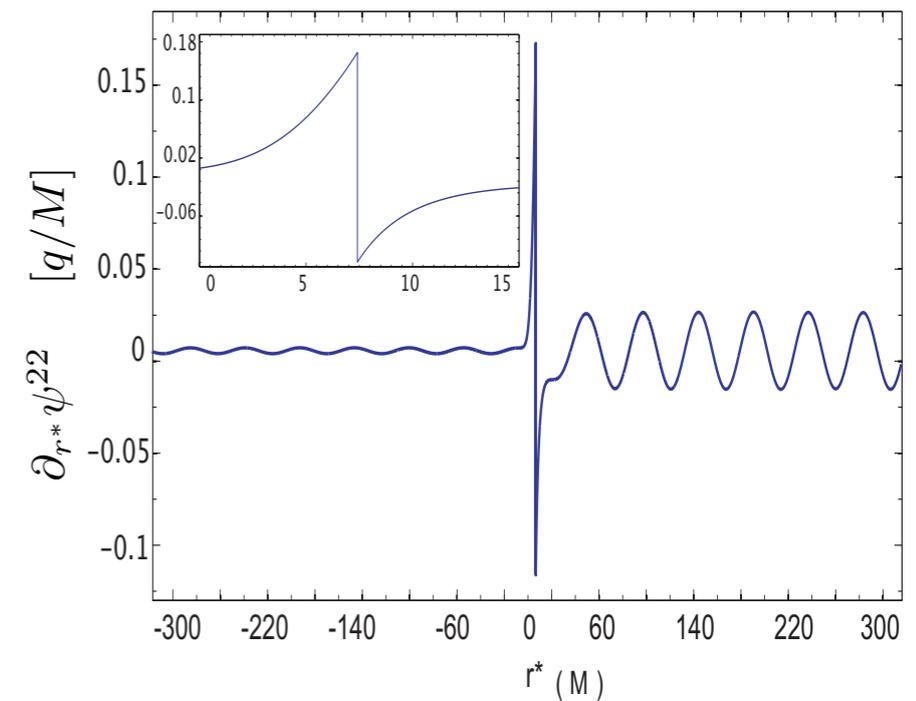
Snapshots from the Circular case ( $D=12, N=50$ )



$$[\psi^{\ell m}]_p = 0,$$



$$[\partial_t \psi^{\ell m}]_p = 0$$



$$[\partial_{r^*} \psi^{\ell m}]_p = A^{\ell m}$$

[ P. Canizares & Carlos F. Sopuerta (2009)].

# Some numerical Results:

## Circular case

- Results for the self-force components

$\ell_{max} = 40$	PwP scheme	Frequency domain (a,b)
$\mathcal{F}^t$	3.609002 E-4	3.609072 E-4
$\mathcal{F}^r$	1.677282 E-4	1.67728 E-4
$\mathcal{F}^\phi$	-5.304234 E-3	-5.304231 E-3

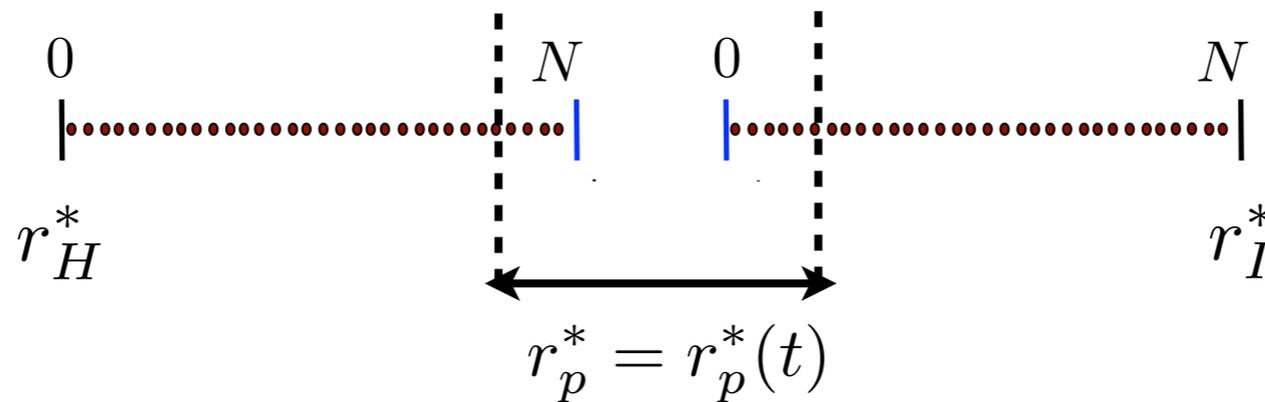
$$\Delta r_{min}^* \approx 2.5M. \quad D = 43 \quad N = 50$$

Our time domain results agree within  $10^{-4}\%$  with the frequency domain employing a small amount of computational resources.

(a) [Diaz-Rivera et al. PRD 70, 124018 (2004)] , (b) [Haas, Poisson. PRD 74, 044009 (2006)]

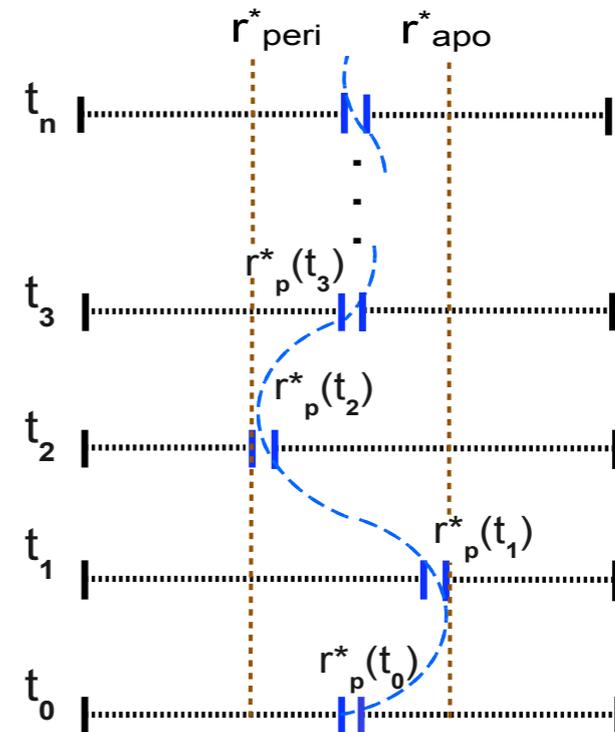
# PwP with eccentric generic orbits

- The key point of the PwP method is to keep the particle at the interface between subdomains:



**For eccentric orbits we use a time dependent linear mapping between the physical and spectral domains.**

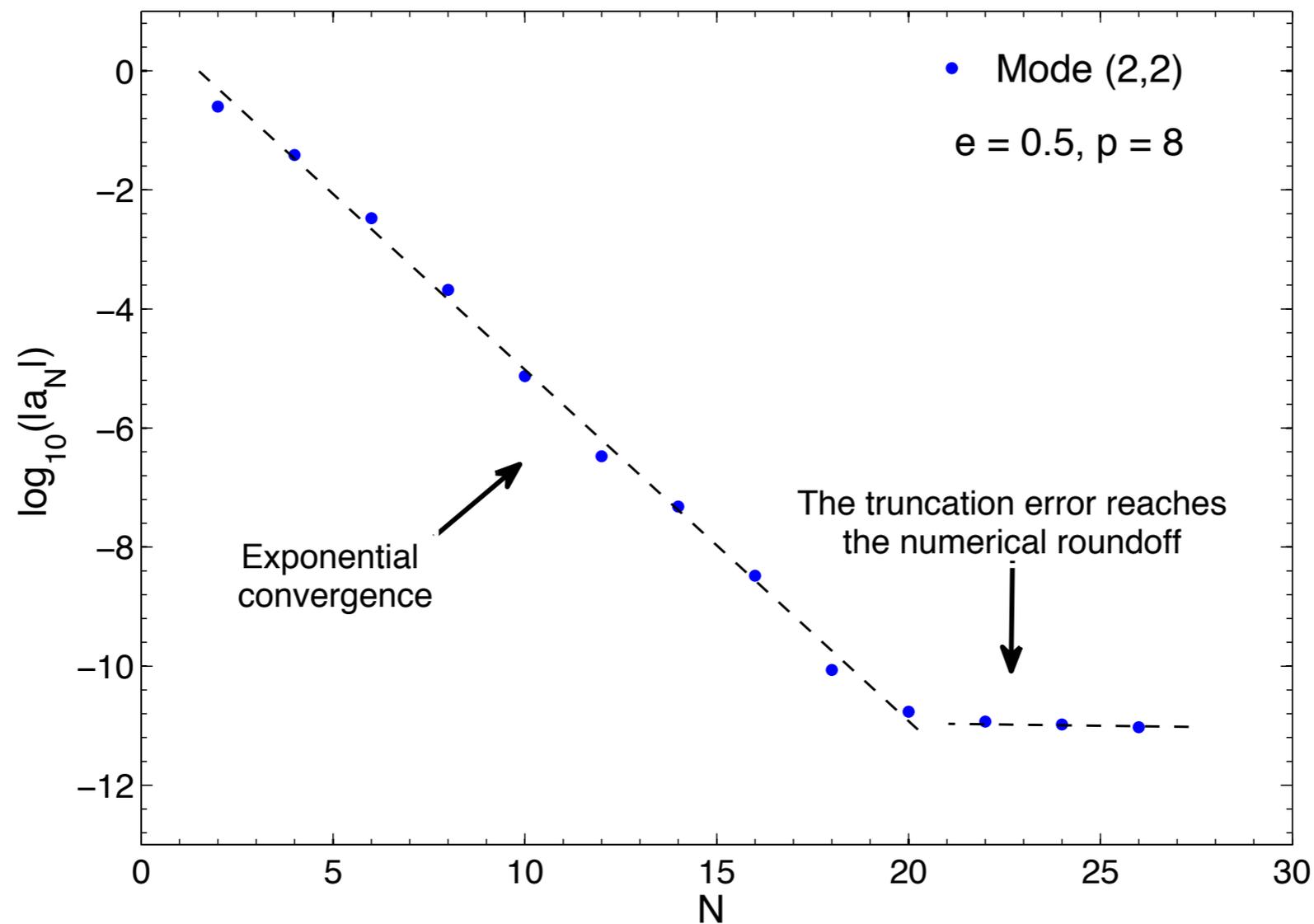
$$\mathcal{T} \times [r_0^*, r_N^*] \leftrightarrow \mathcal{T} \times [-1, 1]$$



[ P. Canizares, Carlos F. Sopena & José L. Jaramillo (2010)].

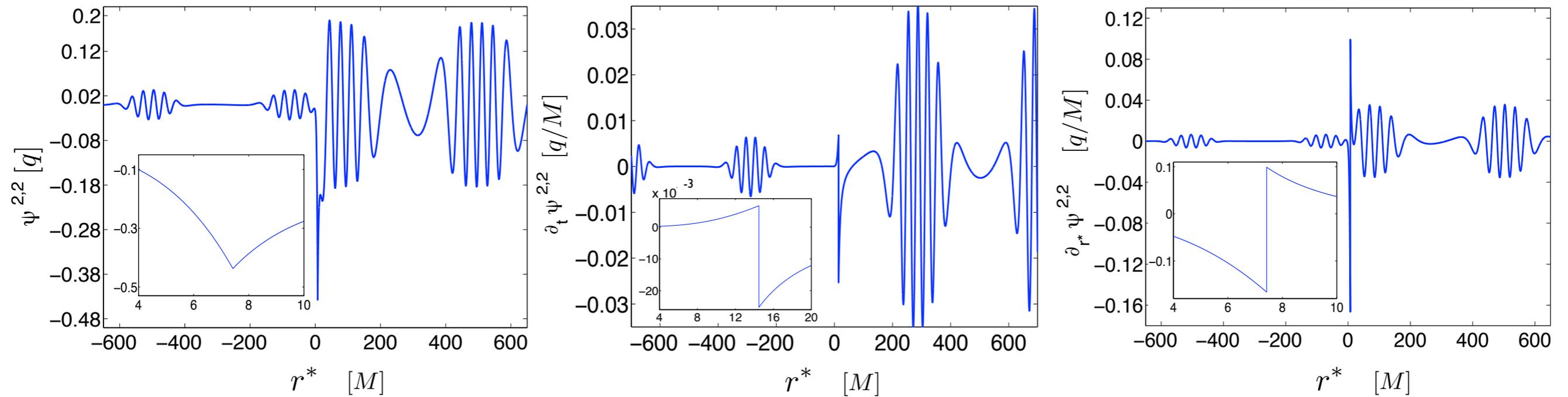
# Code Validation

The dependence of the truncation error ( $\sim |a_N|$ ) with respect increasing numbers of collocation points,  $N$ , give us an estimation of the exponential convergence of the code:  $e^{-N}$



# Code Validation

Snapshots from the Eccentric ( $e=0.5, p= 7.1$ ) case ( $D=10, N= 100$ )



$$[\psi^{\ell m}]_p = 0, \quad [\partial_t \psi^{\ell m}]_p = -\frac{\dot{r}_p^* A^{\ell m}}{(1 - \dot{r}_p^{*2})}, \quad [\partial_{r^*} \psi^{\ell m}]_p = \frac{A^{\ell m}}{(1 - \dot{r}_p^{*2})}$$

[ P. Canizares, Carlos F. Sopuerta & José L. Jaramillo (2010)].

# Some numerical Results:

## Eccentric case

$$(e,p) = (0.1, 63) \quad \ell_{max} = 17$$

### After tune modes

$$D = 80, N = 50$$

$$\partial_t \Phi = 4.5171 \cdot 10^{-4} q / M_{\bullet}^2$$

$$\partial_r \Phi = 2.1250 \cdot 10^{-4} q / M_{\bullet}^2$$

$$\partial_{\varphi} \Phi = -6.2040 \cdot 10^{-3} q / M_{\bullet}$$

### Before tune modes

$$D = 41, N = 50$$

$$\partial_t \Phi = 4.5284 \cdot 10^{-4} q / M_{\bullet}^2$$

$$\partial_r \Phi = 2.1227 \cdot 10^{-4} q / M_{\bullet}^2$$

$$\partial_{\varphi} \Phi = -6.2086 \cdot 10^{-3} q / M_{\bullet}$$

*The results differ with a fractional error of 0.2%, 0.1% and 0.07%*

[ P. Canizares & Carlos F. Sopuerta (2011)].

# Summary

*We have developed a robust time-domain technique for modelling EMRIs:*

- *Avoids the resolution of the small scale associated with the SCO,*
- *Provides precise determination of the retarded field and its derivatives near and on the SCO.*
- *It is suitable to deal with moderate to high eccentric EMRI orbits.*
- *It is an efficient method to make time-domain computations of the self-force.*