



The Abdus Salam
International Centre for Theoretical Physics



2239-6

**Workshop on Integrability and its Breaking in Strongly Correlated and
Disordered Systems**

23 - 27 May 2011

Weak Interaction Quenches and Thermalization in Quantum Many-Body Systems

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Non-Equilibrium Quantum Many-Body Systems: Universal Aspects of Weak Quenches

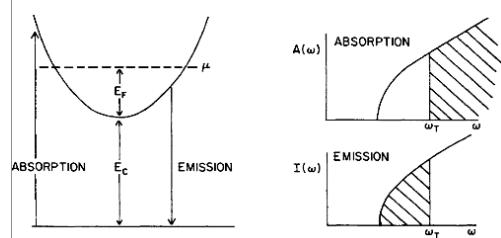
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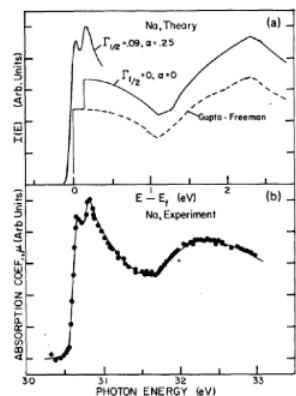
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X-Ray Edge Problem



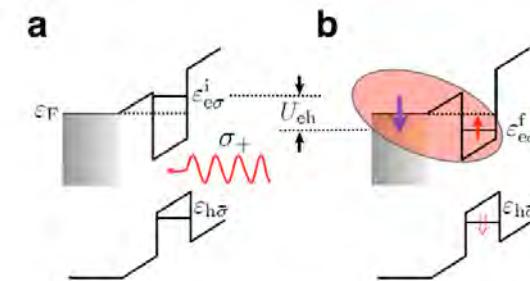
$$H_i = \sum \epsilon_k c_k^\dagger c_k$$

$$H_f = \sum_k \epsilon_k c_k^\dagger c_k + \sum_{k,k'} V_{kk'} c_{k'}^\dagger c_k$$



Mahan,
Many-Particle Physics

Kondo Excitons

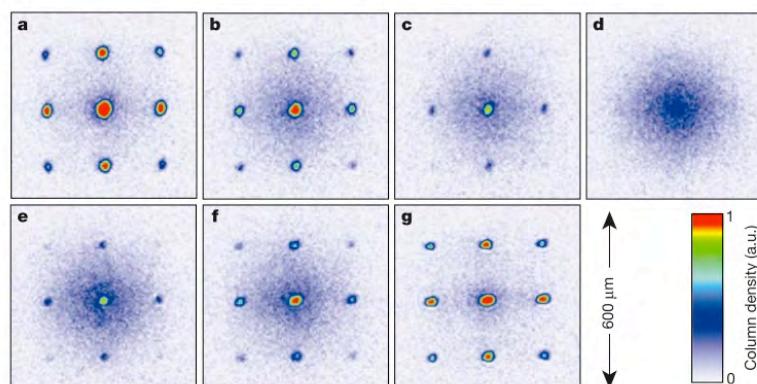


Türeci et al., PRL 106 (2011)
Latta et al., arXiv:1102.3982

Initial Hamiltonian H_i : defines state $|\Psi_i\rangle$

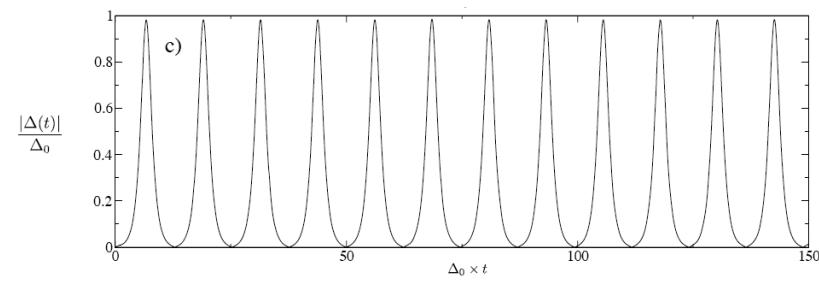
Final Hamiltonian H_f : defines time evolution $|\Psi(t)\rangle = \exp(-iH_f t) |\Psi_i\rangle$

Collapse and Revival

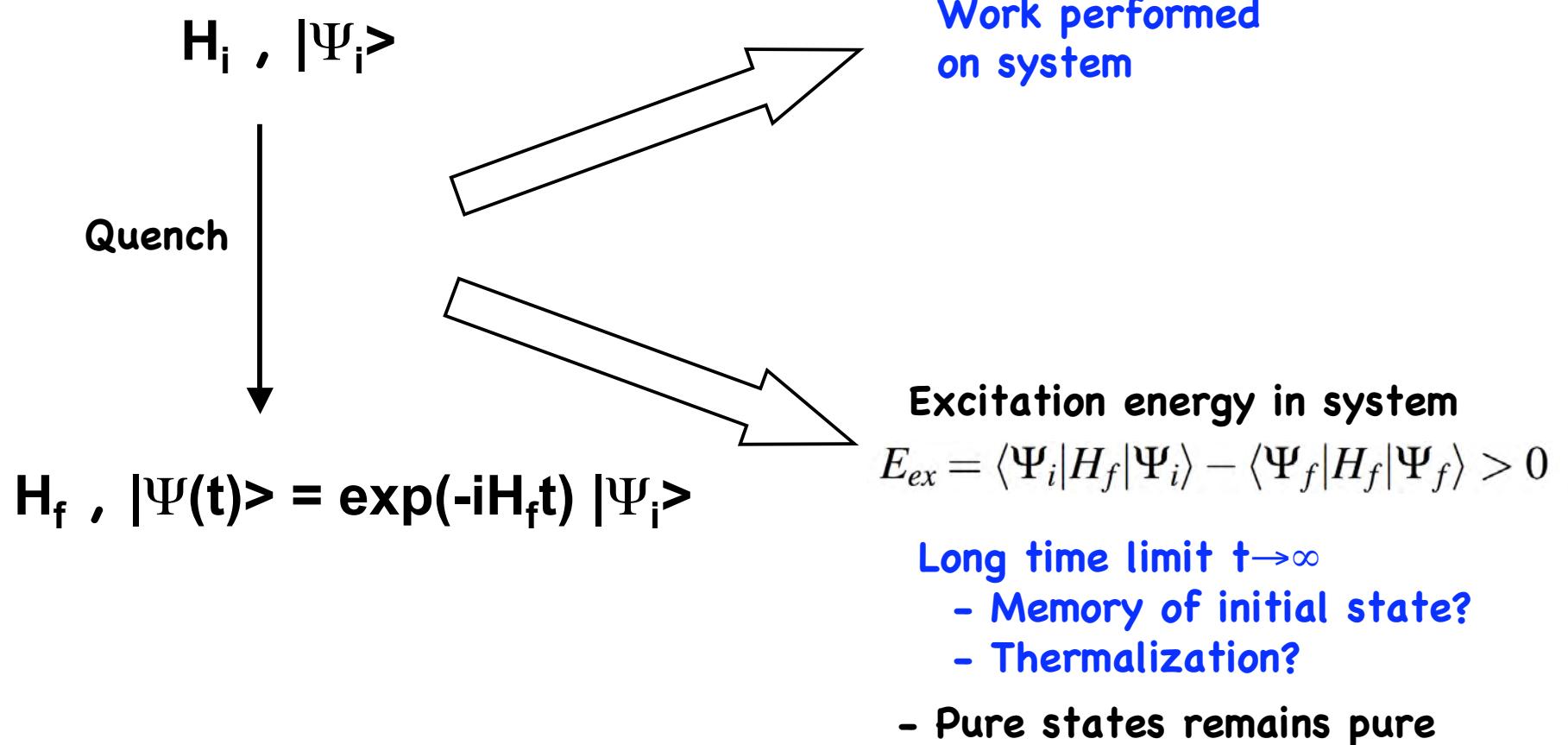


Greiner et al., Nature 419, 51 (2002)

Non-Equilibrium Cooper Pairing



Yuzbashyan et al., PRL 96 (2006)



Universal Aspects of Weak Quenches

Working definition:

“weak” = amenable to some (suitable) perturbation theory

Factor 2 enhancement

- I) Ferromagnetic Kondo model ($d=0$)
- II) Quenched Fermi gas ($d>1$)
(or: Beyond Landau adiabacity)
- III) What about $d=1$?

“Factor 2” for discrete Hamiltonians

- Perturbative Hamiltonian $H = H_0 + g H_{\text{int}}$
- Observable $O(t)$ with (i) $O|\Omega_0\rangle = 0$ (ii) $[O, H_0] = 0$
- Ground states of $H_0 |\Omega_0\rangle$ of $H |\Omega\rangle$

M. Moeckel and S. K., Ann. Phys. (NY) 324, 2146 (2009)

In second order perturbation theory:

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \langle \Omega_0(t) | O | \Omega_0(t) \rangle = 2 \langle \Omega | O | \Omega \rangle$$

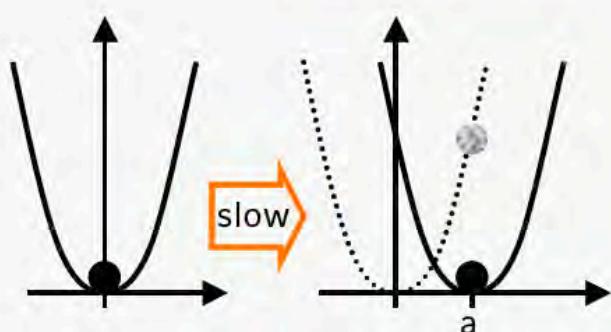
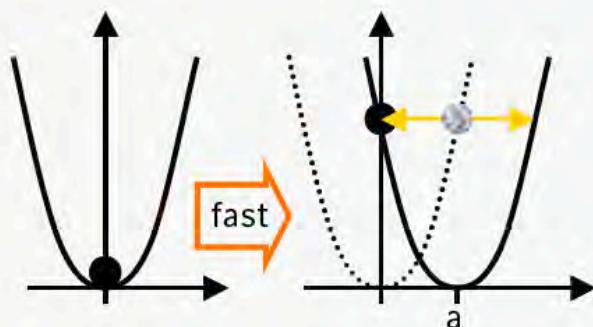
Expectation value
of excited state
(nonequilibrium)

Ground state
expectation value
(equilibrium)

Sudden shift

$$V^{(0)} = \frac{1}{2}x^2 \rightarrow V^{(S)} = \frac{1}{2}(x-a)^2$$

Adiabatic shift



Ferromagnetic Kondo Model

A. Hackl, D. Roosen, S. K., W. Hofstetter, Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 196601 (2009)

A. Hackl, M. Vojta and S. K., Phys. Rev. B 80, 195117 (2009)

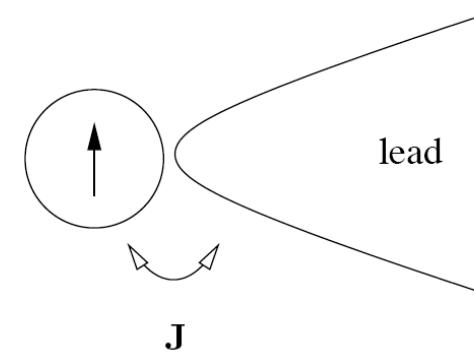
$$H_i = \sum_{k,\sigma} \varepsilon_k c_{k\sigma}^\dagger c_{k\sigma} - 0^+ S_z$$

↑
infinitesimal magnetic field

⇒ Product initial state: $|\Psi_i\rangle = |\uparrow\rangle \otimes |FS\rangle$

$$H_f = \sum_{k,\sigma} \varepsilon_k c_{k\sigma}^\dagger c_{k\sigma} - 0^+ S_z + J \vec{S} \cdot \sum_{k' \alpha} c_{k'\alpha} \vec{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta} c_{k\beta}$$

↑
ferromagnetic coupling ($J < 0$): Coupling constant flows to zero
 ⇒ Expansion becomes better
 (asymptotically exact) for long times



Nonequilibrium spin expectation value: $\langle S_z(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\ln(t) - \frac{1}{\rho J}} + 1 + \rho J + O(J^2) \right).$

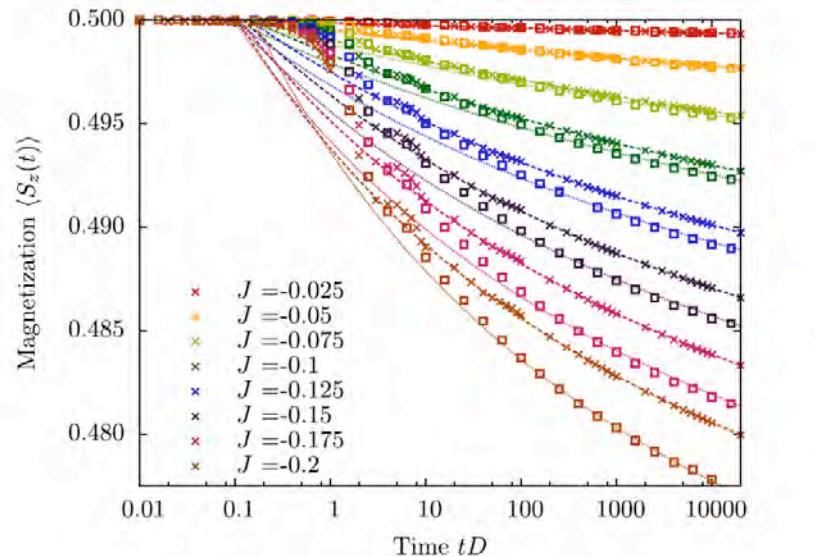
Equilibrium:

$$\langle S_z \rangle_{eq} = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{\rho J}{2} + O(J^2) \right)$$

Observable:
 $O = S_z - \frac{1}{2}$

Comparison with TD-NRG: (Hackl et al., PRL 102)

⇒ System remembers initial quantum state for all times



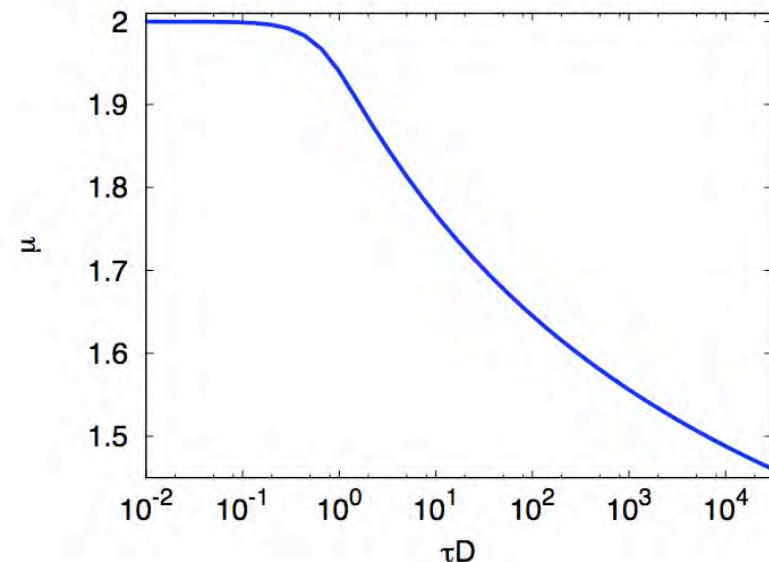
Crossover from adiabatic to instantaneous quenching:

Coupling J switched on on timescale τ

Measure of non-adiabacity:

$$\mu \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \langle O(t) \rangle_{neq} - \langle O \rangle_0}{\langle O \rangle_{eq} - \langle O \rangle_0}$$

⇒ Crossover timescale nonperturbative (exponentially large) due to RG flow



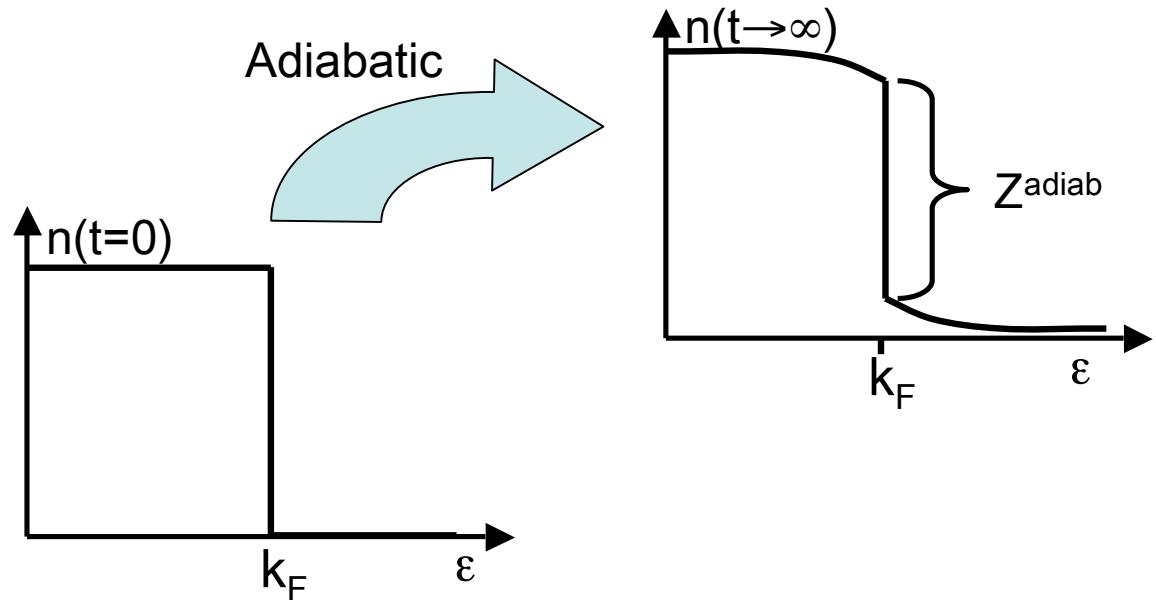
[C. Tomaras, S. K., Eur. Phys. Lett. 93, 47011 (2011)]

Sudden Interaction Fermi Liquid

Landau Fermi liquid theory:

Adiabatic switching on of interaction

→ 1 to 1 correspondence between physical electrons and quasiparticles

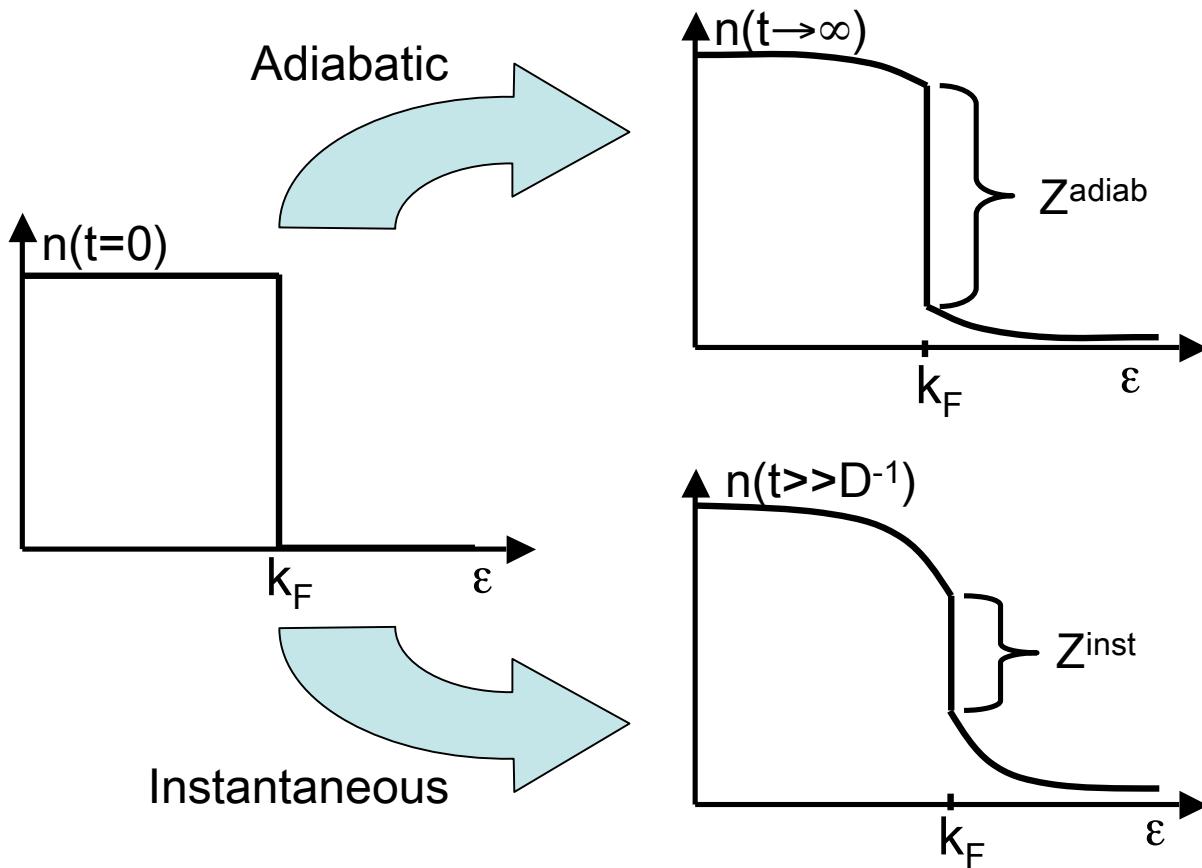


What happens for sudden switching?

Initial Hamiltonian: $H_i = \sum_{k,\alpha} \epsilon_k c_{k\alpha}^\dagger c_{k\alpha}$

Observable $O = \begin{cases} n_k & \text{for } k > k_F \\ 1 - n_k & \text{for } k < k_F \end{cases}$

Calculation to order U^2



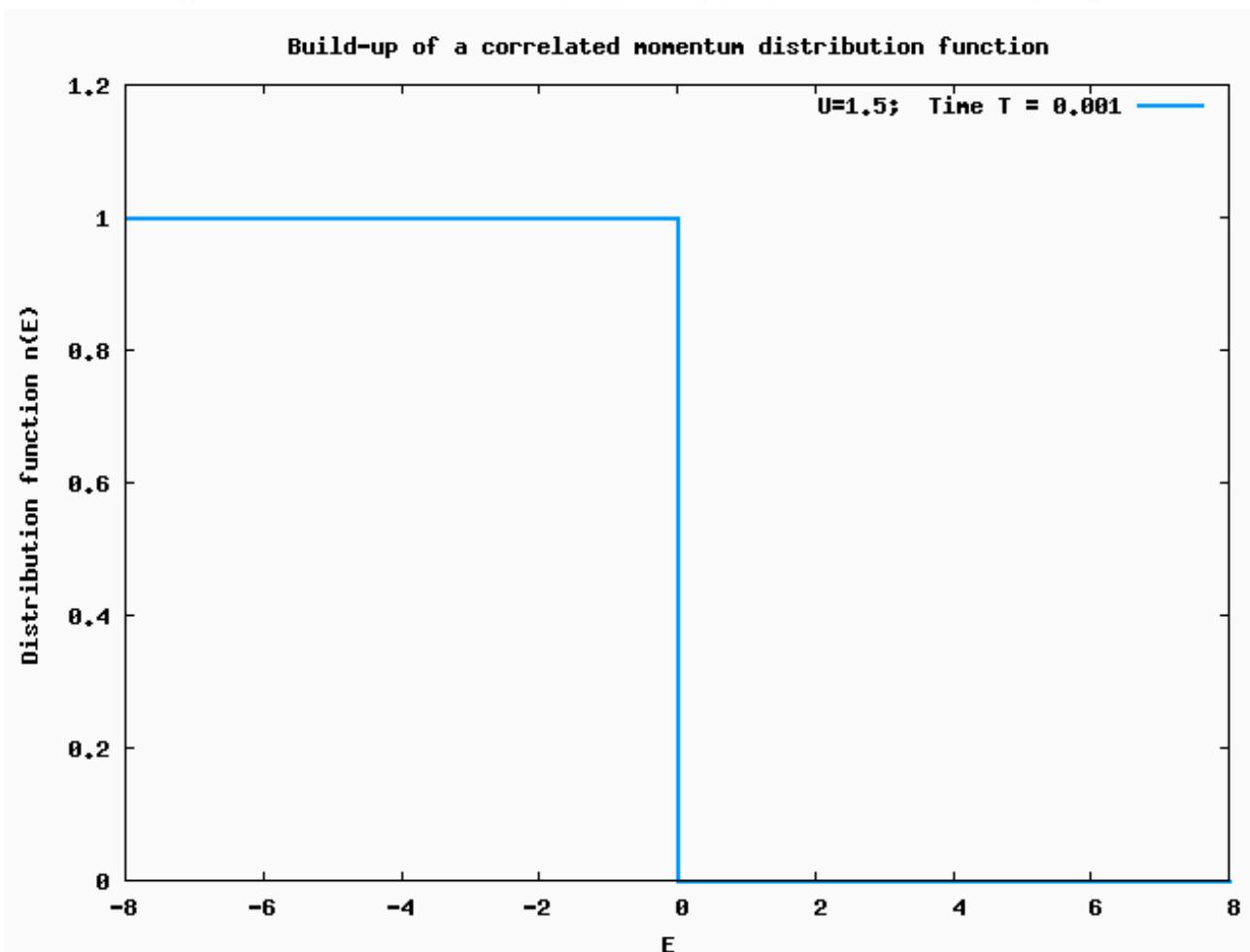
Sudden switching looks like $T=0$ Fermi liquid with “wrong” quasiparticle residue:

$$1 - Z^{\text{inst}} = 2(1 - Z^{\text{adiab}})$$

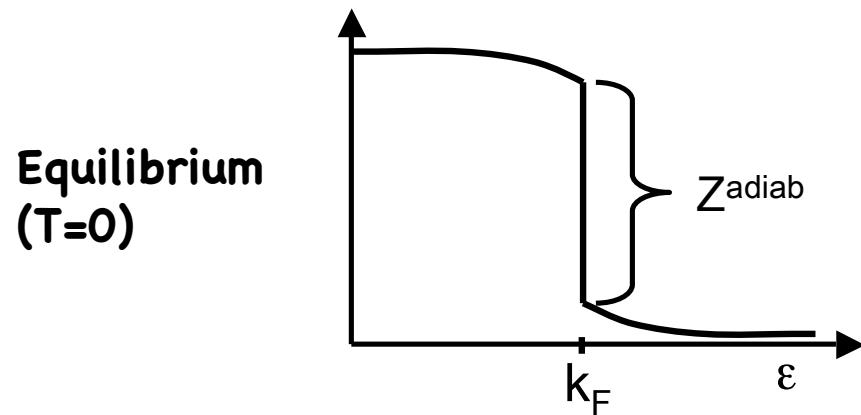
M. Möckel and S. K., Phys. Rev. Lett. 100, 175702 (2008);
Ann. Phys. 324, 2146 (2009)

Hubbard model in $d \geq 2$ dimensions:

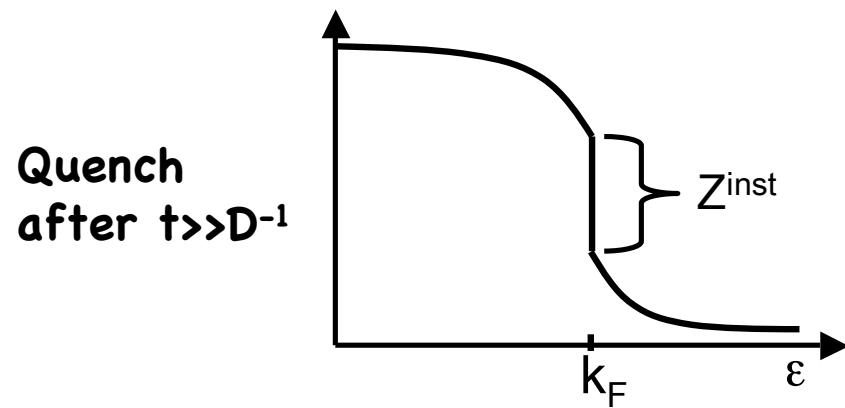
$$H = \sum_{k,\alpha} \varepsilon_k c_{k\alpha}^\dagger c_{k\alpha} + U \Theta(t) \sum_i \left(n_{i\uparrow} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \left(n_{i\downarrow} - \frac{1}{2} \right)$$



Physical electrons

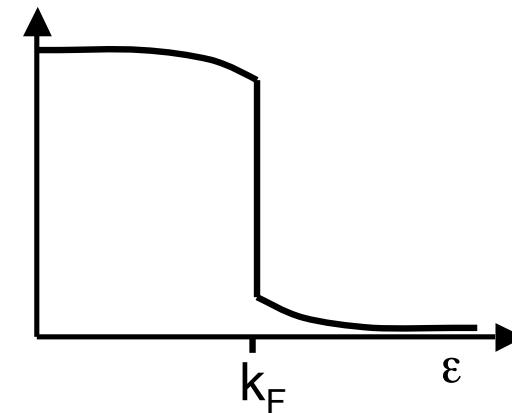
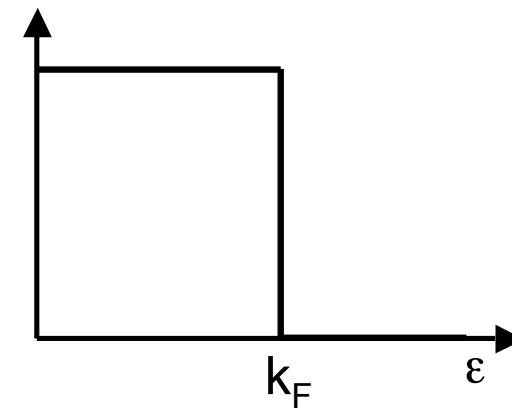


**Equilibrium
($T=0$)**



**Quench
after $t \gg D^{-1}$**

Quasiparticles



Nonthermal distribution function

- ⇒ unstable under Quantum Boltzmann equation dynamics
- ⇒ thermalization on timescale $t \propto U^{-4}$

Sudden quench (generic weak interaction g)

Time scale

$$t \propto D^{-1}$$

- Formation of quasiparticles

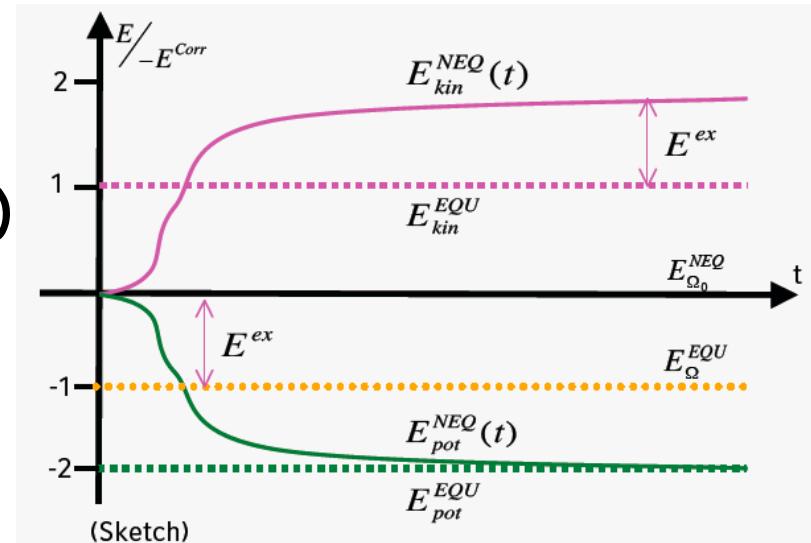
$$D^{-1} \ll t \ll g^{-2}$$

- T=0 Fermi liquid with “wrong” quasiparticle residue:

$$1 - Z^{\text{inst}} = 2(1 - Z^{\text{adiab}})$$

$$D^{-1} \ll t \ll g^{-4}$$

- Quasi-steady state
- Prethermalization
(Berges et al. 2004)



$$t \propto g^{-4}$$

- Quantum Boltzmann equation
(quasiparticles explore available phase space):

Thermalization with $T_{\text{eff}} \propto g$

Numerical Studies

M. Eckstein, M. Kollar and P. Werner, Phys. Rev. Lett. 103, 056403 (2009);
Phys. Rev. B 81, 115131 (2010)

Non-equilibrium DMFT with real time QMC for interaction quench in half-filled Hubbard model

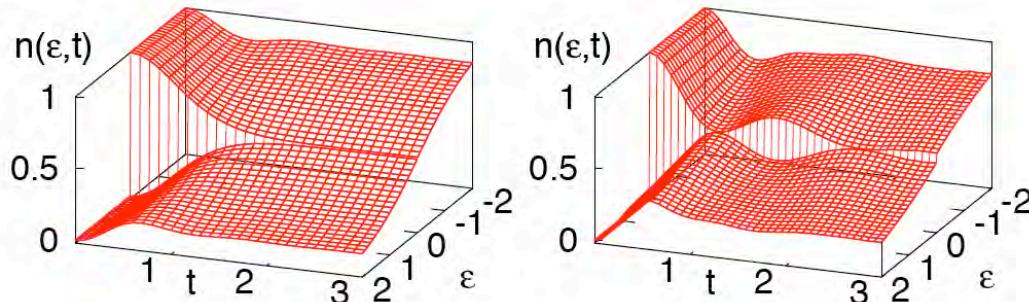
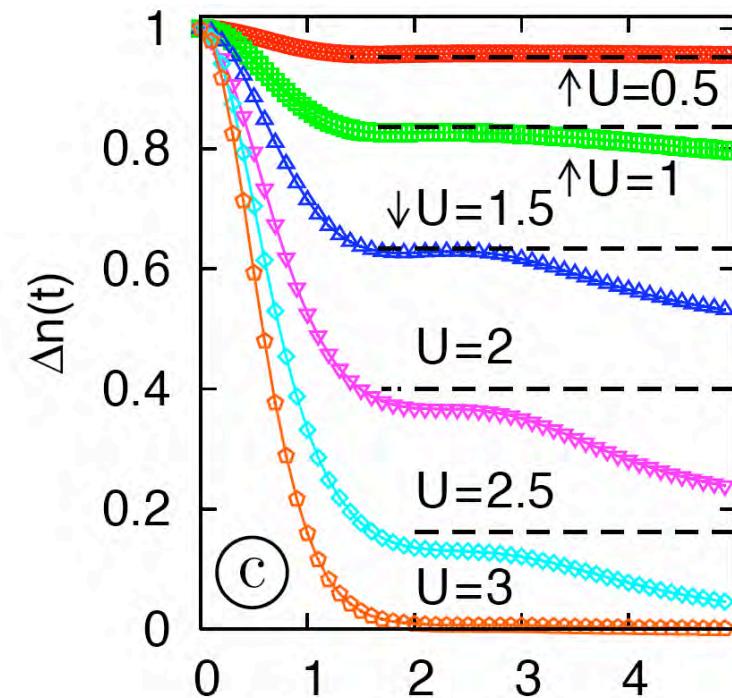


FIG. 1: Momentum distribution $n(\epsilon_k, t)$ for quenches from $U = 0$ to $U = 3$ (left panel) and $U = 5$ (right panel).

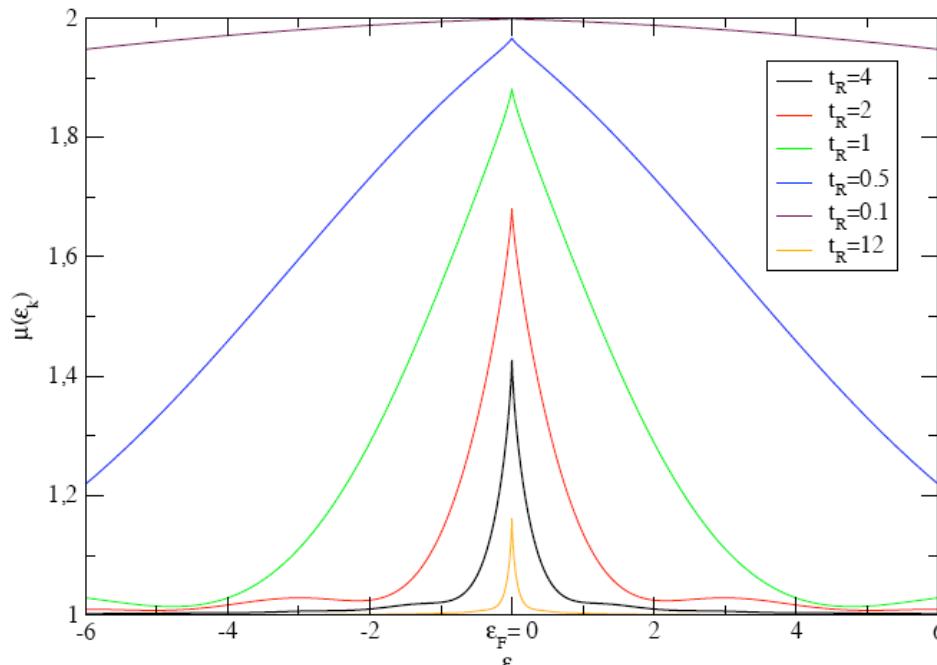


Crossover from adiabatic to instantaneous quenching

M. Moeckel and S. K., New J. Phys. 12, 055016 (2010)

Linear ramping on timescale t_R :

$$U(t) = U \begin{cases} 0 & t \leq 0 \\ t/t_R & 0 < t < t_R \\ 1 & t > t_R \end{cases}$$



Uniform approach
to equilibrium also
at Fermi surface!

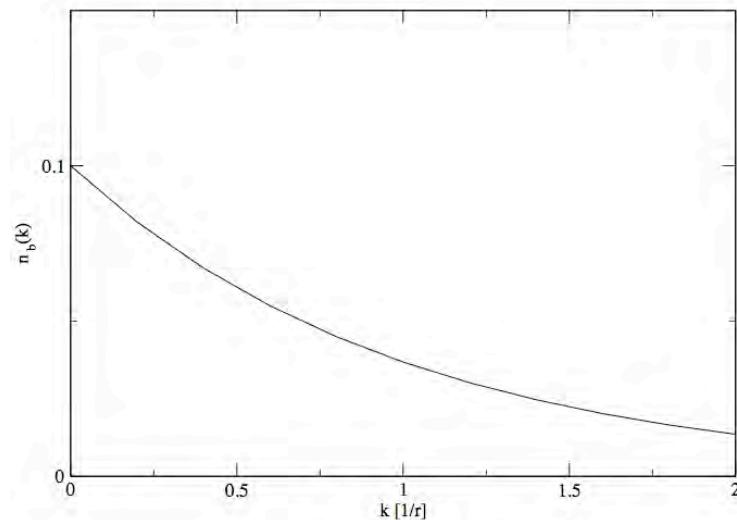


Interaction Quench in a Luttinger Liquid

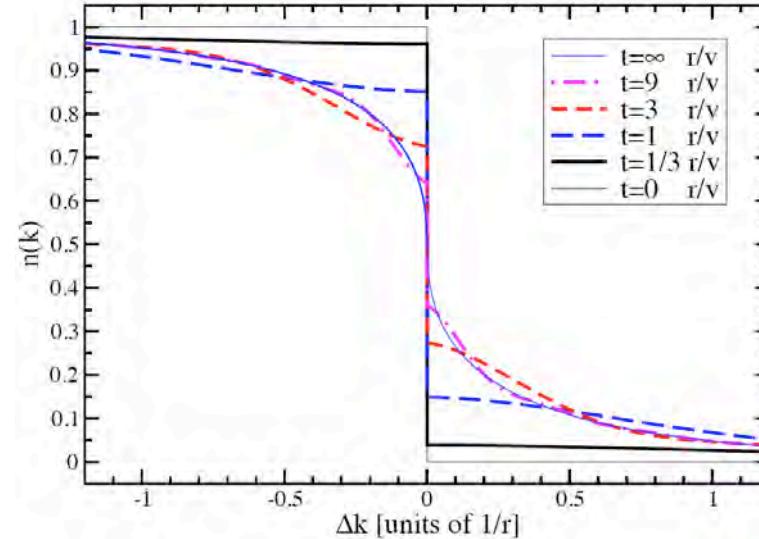
M. Cazalilla, Phys. Rev. Lett. 97 (2006):

Sudden forward scattering in 1d Fermi gas
⇒ Exact solution via Bogoliubov transformation to free bosons

No time evolution for
free bosons (quasiparticles)



Time evolution for physical
fermions (G. Uhrig, Phys. Rev. A 80)



Quasiparticle momentum distribution function time-invariant
due to lack of quasiparticle interaction.

However, even Boltzmann dynamics from 2-quasiparticle interaction
is generically ineffective in 1d!
(No time evolution beyond prethermalized regime.)

Systems with well-defined quasiparticles

Prethermalization:
Momentum-averaged quantities time-indep., but distribution over momentum modes non-thermal

- Weak quenches for $d > 1$:

- Fast prethermalization
- Thermalization with Boltzmann dynamics

- Weak quenches for $d = 1$:

- Fast prethermalization
- Long time limit?
(generically no 2-particle Boltzmann dynamics, constraints due to integrability, many-body localization)

No quasiparticle description possible

- Quench “to” Mott-Hubbard transition ($d = \infty$)
- Strong-coupling quantum critical points