



Collisions of Solitons

Fully kinetic simulation of plasmas

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Marseille, France



Solitary waves



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in 1834 by John Scott Russell (Scottish civil
engineer) accidentally



Soliton on the Scott Russell Aqueduct on the Union Canal
near Heriot-Watt University, 12 July 1995.)

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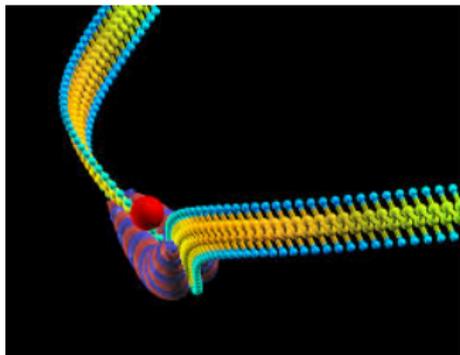
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Solitons in Modern Physics



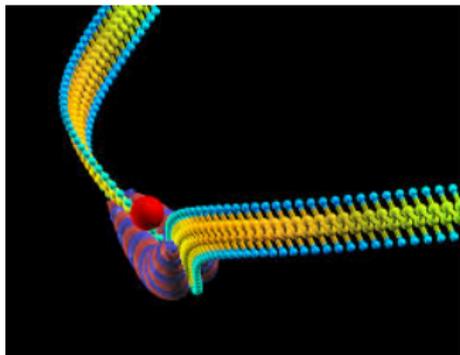
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- fundamental mode of nonlinear regime
- building block for our understanding of nonlinear world



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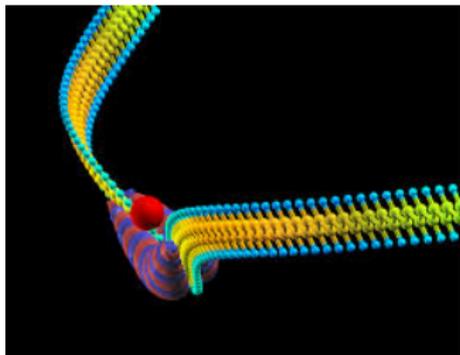
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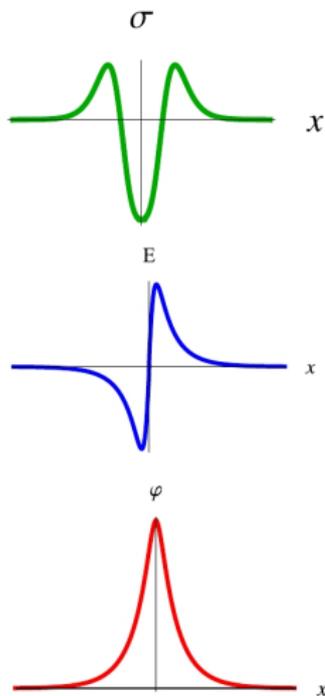
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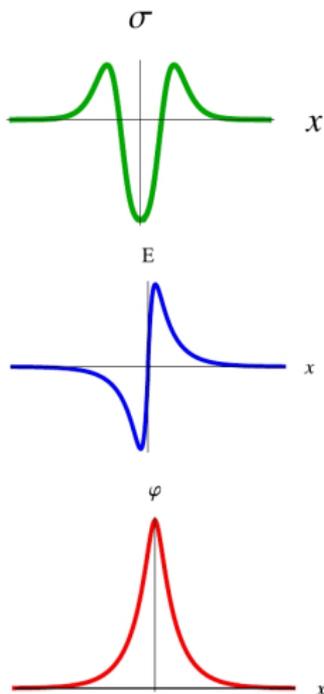
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Soliton profiles in three different quantities, e.g. n E ϕ).

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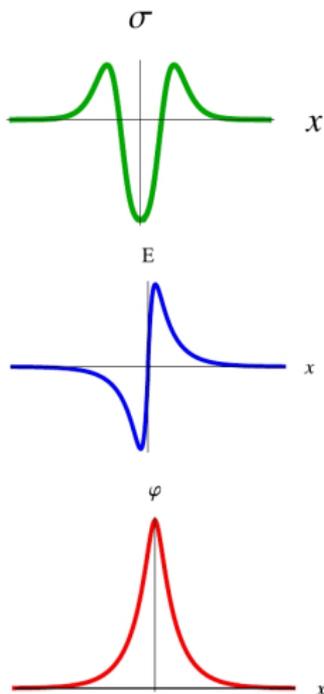
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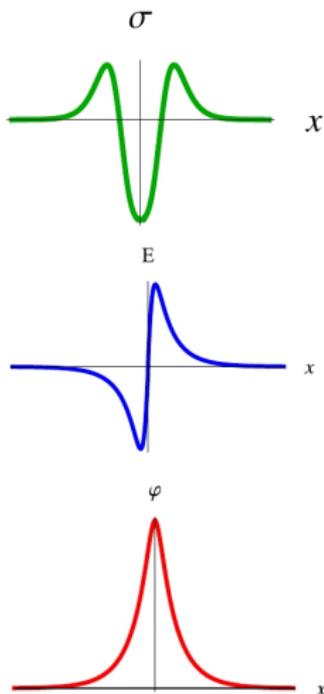
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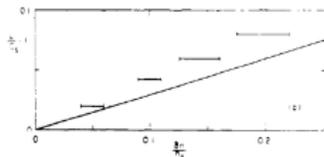
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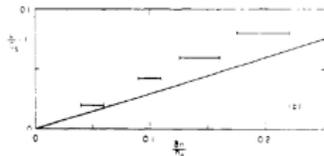


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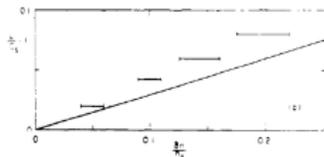
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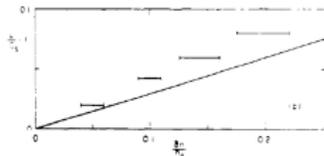
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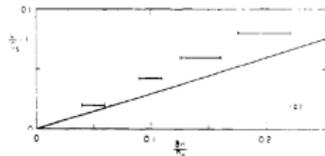
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◆ Equations:

The set of Vlasov-Poisson equations:

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$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi(x, t)}{\partial x^2} = n_e(x, t) - n_i(x, t)$$

coupled with the density integral over distribution function:

$$n_s(x, t) = n_{0s} N_s(x, t), N_s(x, t) = \int f_s(x, v, t) dv$$

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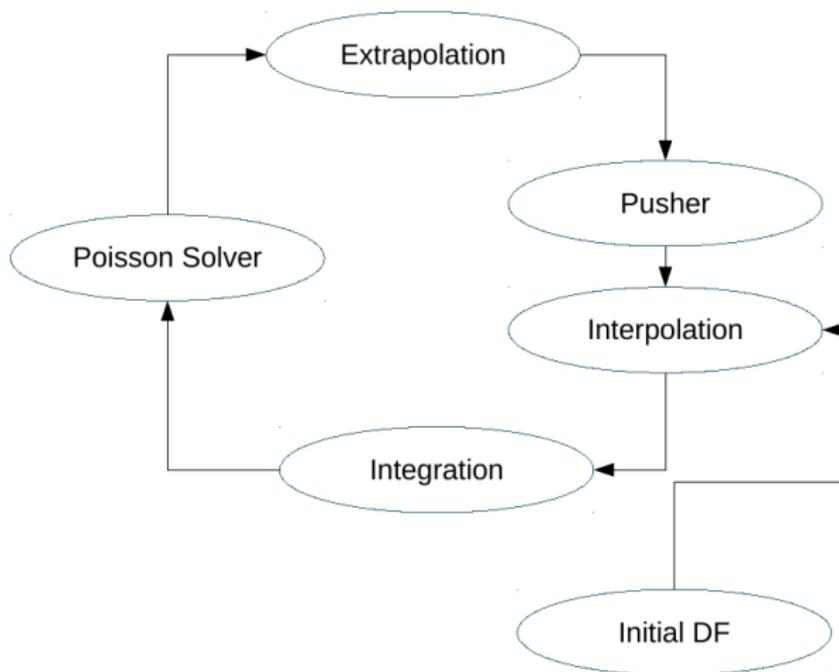
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Schematic representation of one time step.

Adopting the code to study solitons



◆ Initial condition:

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Schamel Distribution Function

◆ Definition:

$$f_s(v) = \begin{cases} A \exp \left[- \left(\sqrt{\frac{\xi_s}{2}} v_0 + \sqrt{\varepsilon(v)} \right)^2 \right] & \text{if } \begin{cases} v < v_0 - \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon\phi}{m_s}} \\ v > v_0 + \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon\phi}{m_s}} \end{cases} \\ A \exp \left[- \left(\frac{\xi_s}{2} v_0^2 + \beta_s \varepsilon(v) \right) \right] & \text{if } \begin{cases} v > v_0 - \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon\phi}{m_s}} \\ v < v_0 + \sqrt{\frac{2\varepsilon\phi}{m_s}} \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

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$$\varepsilon(v) = \frac{\xi_s}{2} (v - v_0)^2 + \phi \frac{q_s}{T_s} \text{ (energy of particles)}$$

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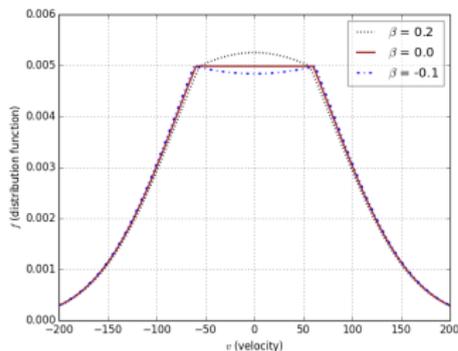
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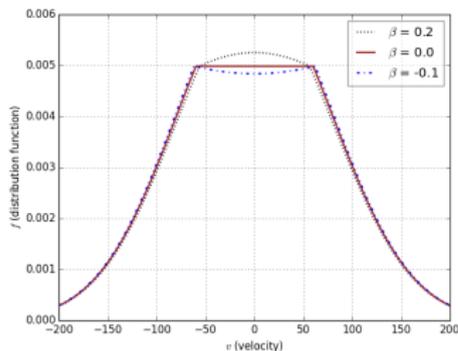
cross section of distribution function on the velocity direction.

◆ trapping parameters:

β controls the shape of trapped particles distribution functions,

- hollow ($\beta < 0$)
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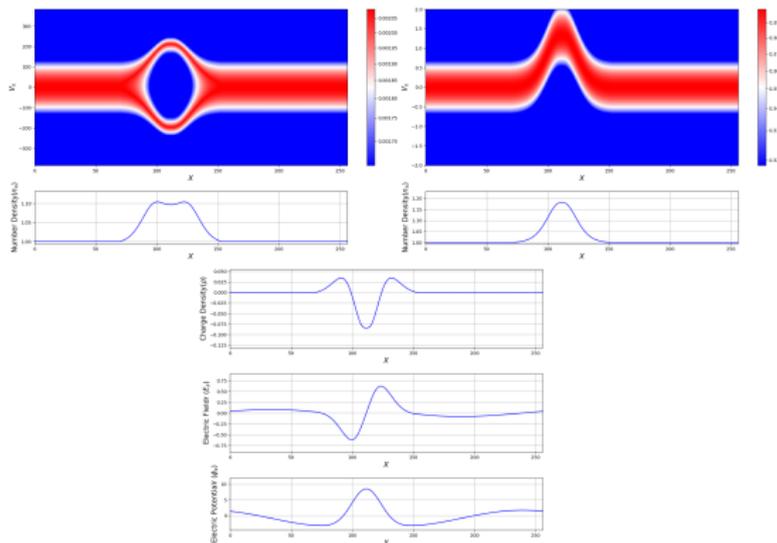
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One soliton

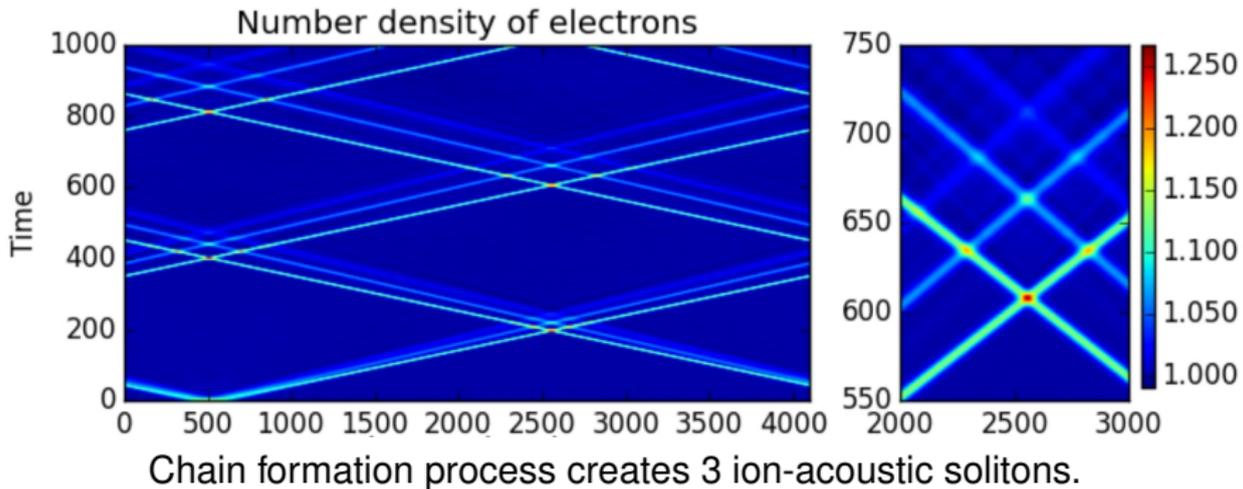
Time = 0



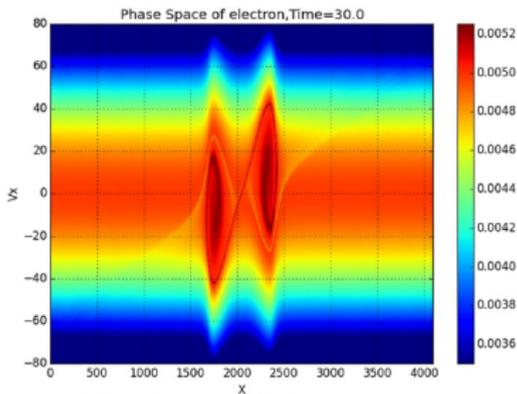
what soliton looks like on kinetic and fluid level.

2_one_soliton_propagation.avi

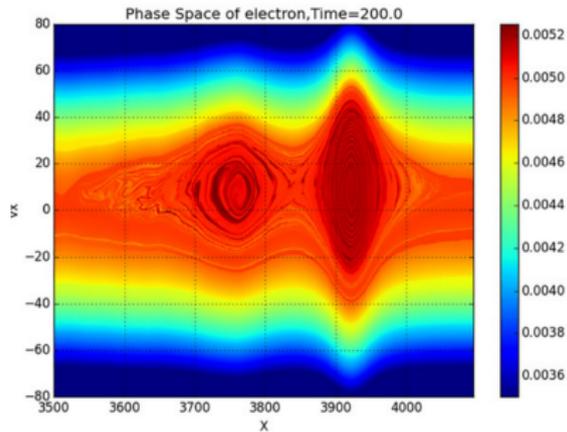
Chain formation process



Evolution in Phase Space



First Step: break up of the stationary hole into two counter-propagating holes

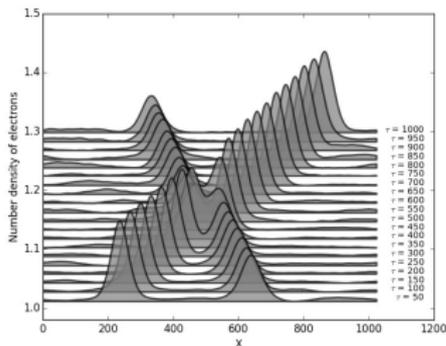


Second Step: break up of the moving hole into number of holes (chain formation)

1) Overtaking Collisions

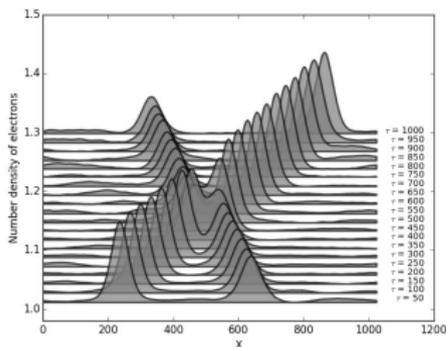
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Collision of solitons propagating in the same direction with large relative velocity.



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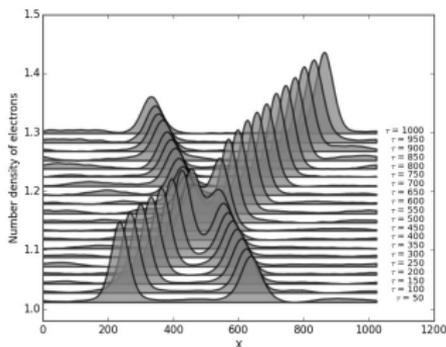
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◆ Findings:

- stability against mutual collisions
- exchange of trapped populations
- phase shift can be understood as a consequence of exchange of trapped populations

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temporal evolution of number density.

◆ Scenario:

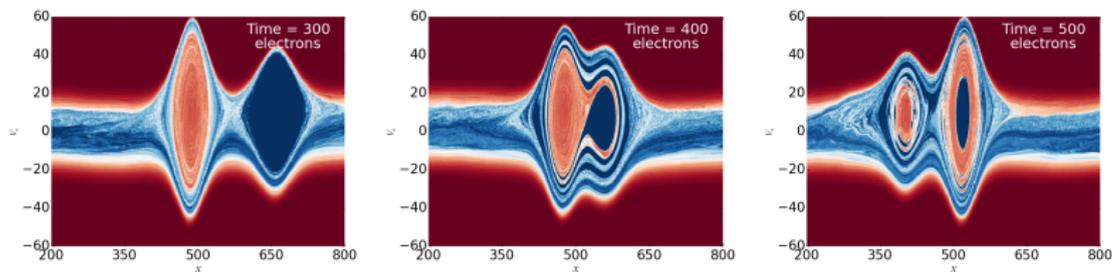
Collision of solitons propagating in the same direction with large relative velocity.

◆ Findings:

- stability against mutual collisions
- exchange of trapped populations
- phase shift can be understood as a consequence of exchange of trapped populations

1) Overtaking Collisions:

Evolution of electron holes



temporal evolution in phase space during overtaking collision.

2) Head-on Collisions

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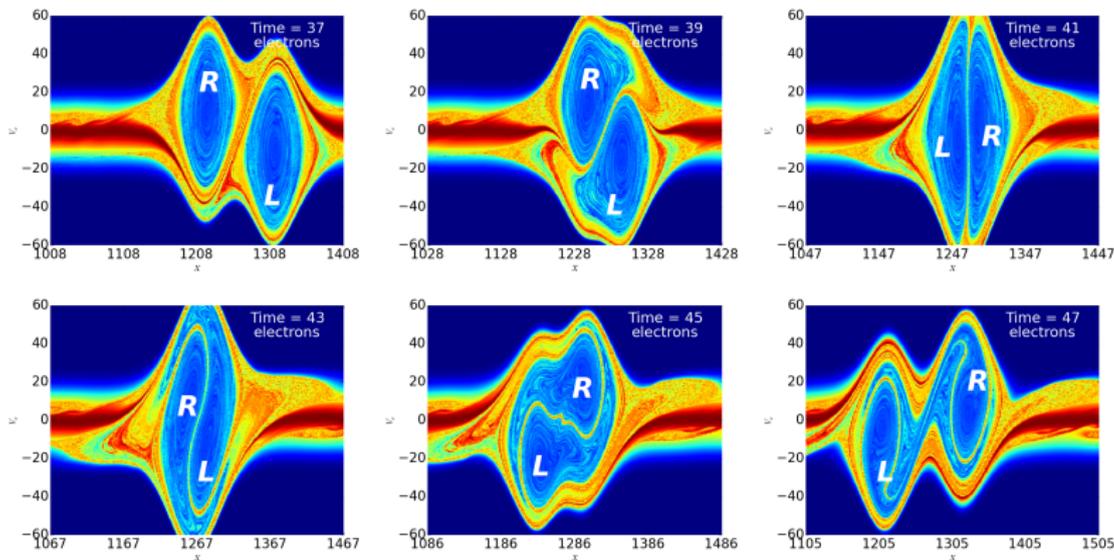
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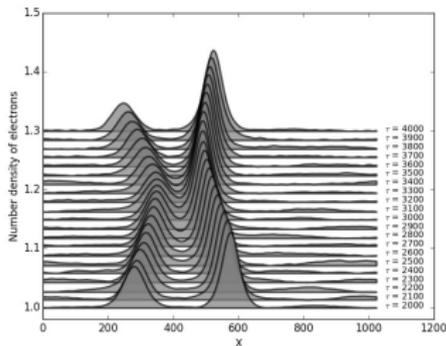
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Trapped populations rotate around each other during head-on collisions, some parts of trapped populations being exchanged [3].

Scattering Collisions

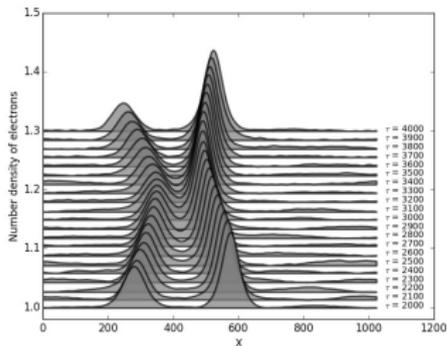


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Scattering Collisions



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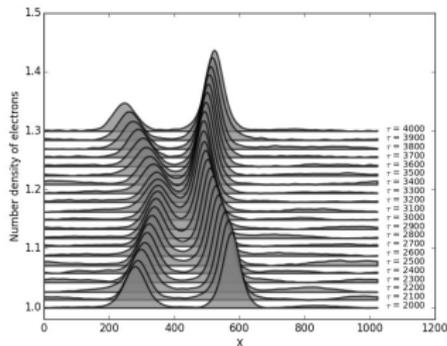
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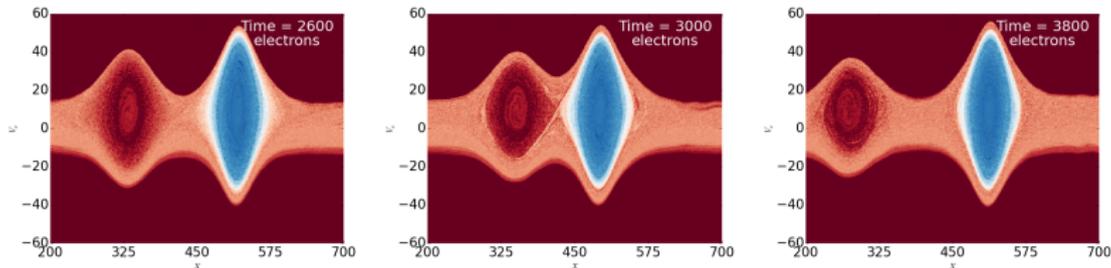
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Evolution of electron holes



In case of overtaking collisions and **small relative velocity** the effect of trapped population cause two solitons to repel each other.
Solitons scatter from each other instead of passing through.

Future steps:

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- unusual solitons: **Supersolitons** are solitons with more complicated profile than usual solitons

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