Symplectic methods for the time integration of the Schrödinger equation

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Numerical Solution of Differential and Differential-Algebraic Equations (NUMDIFF-13), Halle, September 10-14, 2012 Joint work with: Fernando Casas and Ander Murua

The Goal

The numerical integration of the time-dependent Schrödinger Equationt ($\hbar = 1$)

$$\begin{split} i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi(x,t) &= -\frac{1}{2\mu}\nabla^2\psi(x,t) + V(x)\psi(x,t)\\ \psi(x,0) &= \psi_0(x), \ x \in \mathbb{R}^D, \ t \in [0,T]. \end{split}$$

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One has to focus on the class of problems to solve in order to find or to develop the most efficient numerical scheme.

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The evolution problems in Quantum Mechanics can be extraordinarily involved (due to interactions between particles, or with external fields, etc.)

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The Numerical Integration of Differential Equations

The numerical integration of the IVP

$$x'=f(x,t), \qquad x(0)=x_0$$

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About 50 years ago, researchers had the hope to develop a few numerical methods to cover the numerical solution of most problems, i.e. to build a black box with a few number of methods implemented.

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About 50 years ago, researchers had the hope to develop a few numerical methods to cover the numerical solution of most problems, i.e. to build a black box with a few number of methods implemented.

Soon, it was clear that this was too optimistic due to the huge variety of problems of very different nature, and started to look for methods tailored for different classes of problems

Different families of methods

Runge–Kutta methods (explicit and implicit)

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- Multistep methods (explicit and implicit)
- Extrapolation methods
- etc.

Different families of methods

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- Multistep methods (explicit and implicit)
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However, most equations to be solved originate from physical problems obtained from First Principles, which makes the solutions to have very particular qualitative properties. Geometric Integration

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- Symplectic Integrators
- Lie group methods
- Volume-preserving methods
- etc.

The development of computers allowed to researchers in physics, chemistry, engineering, etc. to study more challenging problems from the computational point of view.

These problems can not be solved by the computer just by brute force, and tailored methods have to be developed.



- The numerical integration of the whole Solar System
- for 60 Myrs
- Backward in time
- to very high accuracy

This problem comes from a research collaboration between geologists and astronomers.

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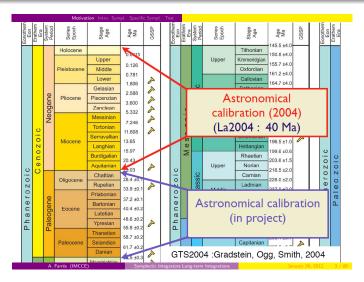


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This problem comes from a research collaboration between geologists and astronomers.

Actual methods (already tailored for this problem) allowed for a faithful integration over 40 Myrs, with good agreement with observations by geologists.

We were asked to develop new methods with better performance than the existing ones for this particular problem.



B, Casas, Farrés, Makazaga, Murua and Laskar. Two submitted papers.

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We present with some detail the steps to follow in order to look for efficient methods for some problems in Quantum Mechanics.

To define mathematically the physical problem

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- To look for The State of the Art on methods to solve the problem

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- Practical) To collaborate with experts on these fields

Back to the Physical Problem

We illustrate this procedure on the 1-dim SE

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi(x,t) = \left(-\frac{1}{2\mu}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V(x)\right)\psi(x) = \mathcal{H}\psi(x,t)$$

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$$\mathcal{H}\varphi_k(x) = \mathcal{E}_k \varphi_k(x), \qquad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

where $\{\mathcal{E}_k, \varphi_k(x)\}$ are the real eigenvalues and orthonormal eigenfunctions, and

$$\psi_0(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k \varphi_k(x) \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \psi(x,t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k e^{-it\mathcal{E}_k} \varphi_k(x)$$

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- $|\psi(x,t)|^2$: probability to find the quantum particle in (x,t)
- Then, $\psi(x, t) \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow \pm \infty$
- It suffices to consider a bounded region where the solution and all its derivatives vanishes at the boundaries (periodic problem)
- We can use spectral methods for the spatial discretisation

Back to the problem

A mesh with *d* points \Rightarrow *d*-dimensional linear problem

$$i \frac{d}{dt} u = H u \quad \Rightarrow \quad u(T) = e^{-i T H} u(0)$$

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where $u \in \mathbb{C}^d$ and $H \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ is a Hermitian matrix.

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$$Hv_k = E_k v_k, \qquad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, d-1$$

where we expect

$$E_k \simeq \mathcal{E}_k, \qquad V_{k,j} \simeq \psi_k(x_j)$$

for $k = 0, 1, ..., d_0 - 1$ with $d_0 \le d$, and

$$u_0 = \sum_{k=0}^{d-1} \hat{c}_k v_k, \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad u(T) = \sum_{k=0}^{d-1} \hat{c}_k e^{-iT E_k} v_k$$

In general, the eigenvalues, E_k , and eigenvectors, v_k , are not know.

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We look for polynomial approximations to the exponential.

In general, the eigenvalues, E_k , and eigenvectors, v_k , are not know.

We look for polynomial approximations to the exponential. Formally, the problem to solve is

$$i\frac{du}{dt} = P^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} E_0 & & \\ & E_1 & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & E_{d-1} \end{pmatrix} Pu = Hu$$

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which is just a set of *d* harmonic oscillators

The goal: To approximate the solution

$$u(T) = e^{-iTH} u_0$$

using an algorithm which involves vector-matrix products. Inputs:

- *T*: Time of integration.
- *u*₀: Initial conditions.
- *Hu*: A subroutine, to compute the product of a vector *u* with the matrix *H*.
- Emin, Emax, such that

$$E_{min} \leq E_0 < \ldots < E_{d-1} \leq E_{max}$$

(they are usually known).

• tol: The approximated solution, ũ, must satisfy

$$\|u(T) - \tilde{u}\| < tol$$

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We can take a shift to the center of the eigenvalues

$$e^{-itH} = e^{-iT\alpha}e^{-iT(H-\alpha I)}$$

with

$$\alpha = \frac{E_{\max} + E_{\min}}{2}$$

and a normalization

$$\exp\left(-iTH\right) = \exp\left(-iT\alpha\right) \ \exp\left(-iT\beta\tilde{H}\right)$$

where

$$\tilde{H} = \frac{H - \alpha I}{\beta}, \qquad \beta = \frac{E_{\max} - E_{\min}}{2}$$

so

$$-1 \leq \sigma(\tilde{H}) \leq 1$$

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The Mathematical Problem

To approximate

$$w(T) = e^{-i T \beta \tilde{H}} u_0$$

where

$$eta = rac{E_{ ext{max}} - E_{ ext{min}}}{2}, \qquad -1 \le \sigma(ilde{H}) \le 1$$
 $au = Teta \qquad (ext{effective time})$

using polynomial approximations (vector matrix products) such that

$$\|w(T) - w_{ap}\| < tol$$

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The State of the Art: Taylor method

$$(u = q + ip)$$
$$w_{T} = \sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{(-i T \beta)^{k}}{k!} \tilde{H}^{k} u_{0} = (T_{m}^{C} - iT_{m}^{S})(q_{0} + ip_{0})$$

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Horner's algorithm

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$$y_0 = u_0$$

do $k = 1, m$

$$y_k = u_0 - i \frac{T\beta}{m+1-k} \tilde{H} y_{k-1}$$

enddo

$$w_T = y_m$$

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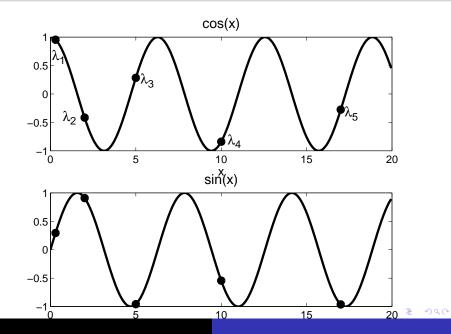
do $k = 1, m$
 $y_k = u_0 - i \frac{T\beta}{m+1-k} \tilde{H} y_{k-1}$
enddo
 $w_T = y_m$

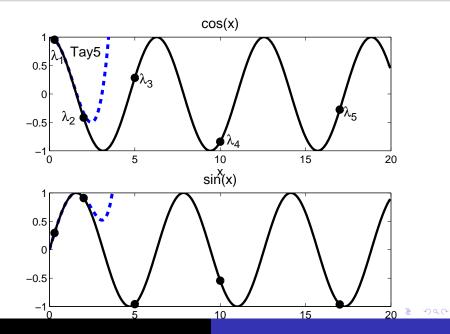
Error bounds

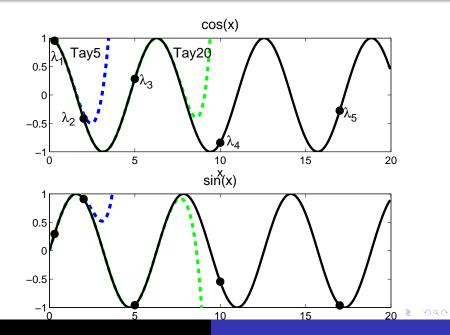
$$\|w(T)-w_T\| < \frac{(T\beta)^{m+1}}{(m+1)!}e^{T\beta}, \qquad \frac{T\beta}{m} \lesssim 0.3$$

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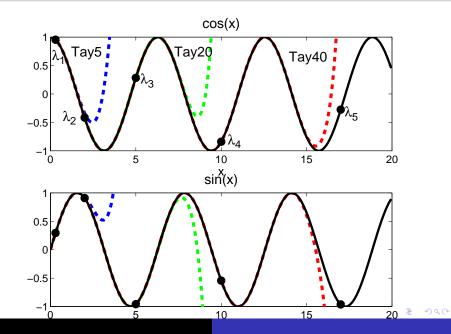
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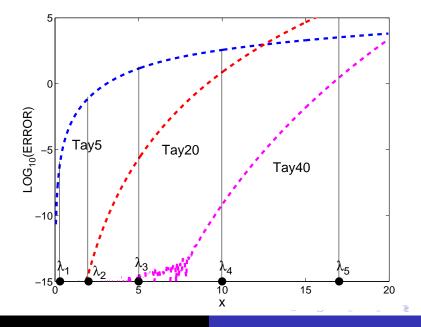




Example:



Example:



The State of the Art: Chebyshev method

$$w_{C} = \left(J_{k}(T\beta) + 2\sum_{k=1}^{m} (-i)^{k} J_{k}(T\beta) T_{k}(\tilde{H})\right) u_{0} = (C_{m}^{C} - iC_{m}^{S})(q_{0} + ip_{0})$$

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 $J_k(t)$: Bessel functions of the first kind $T_k(x)$: *k*th Chebyshev polynomial

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 $J_k(t)$: Bessel functions of the first kind $T_k(x)$: *k*th Chebyshev polynomial The Clenshaw algorithm ($c_k = (-i)^k J_k(\tau \beta)$):

$$d_{m+2} = 0, \quad d_{m+1} = 0$$

do $k = m, 0$
 $d_k = c_k u_0 + 2\tilde{H}d_{k+1} - d_{k+2}$
enddo
 $w_C \equiv P_{m-1}^C(\tau \tilde{H}) u_0 = d_0 - d_2$

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Error bounds

$$\|w(T) - w_C\| < 4 \left(e^{1 - (\beta \tau/2(m+1))^2} \frac{\beta \tau}{2(m+1)} \right)^{(m+1)}, \qquad \frac{T\beta}{m} < 1$$

The State of the Art: Symplectic methods

$$u = e^{-iT\beta\tilde{H}}u_{0} \Rightarrow q + ip = (\cos(T\beta\tilde{H}) - i\sin(T\beta\tilde{H}))(q_{0} + ip_{0})$$

$$\begin{cases} q \\ p \end{cases} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(T\beta\tilde{H}) & \sin(T\beta\tilde{H}) \\ -\sin(T\beta\tilde{H}) & \cos(T\beta\tilde{H}) \end{pmatrix} \begin{cases} q_{0} \\ p_{0} \end{cases}$$

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Splitting Symplectic methods

$$\left\{\begin{array}{c} q_{S} \\ p_{S} \end{array}\right\} = \prod_{k=1}^{m} \left(\begin{array}{cc} I & 0 \\ -\frac{b_{k}}{T}\beta\tilde{H} & I \end{array}\right) \left(\begin{array}{c} I & \frac{a_{k}}{D}T\beta\tilde{H} \\ 0 & I \end{array}\right) \left\{\begin{array}{c} q_{0} \\ p_{0} \end{array}\right\}$$

Gray & Manolopoulos J. Chem. Phys. (1996): m = 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12The algorithm:

do
$$k = 1, m$$

 $q := q + a_k T \beta \tilde{H} p$
 $p := p - b_k T \beta \tilde{H} q$
enddo
 $\frac{T \beta}{m} < 2$

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NO Error bounds

Numerical example 1

(Lubich, Blue book, 2008) To approximate

 $e^{-iH}u_0$

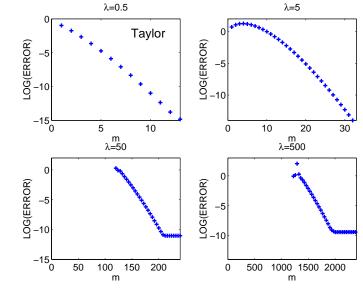
with u_0 a unitary random vector and

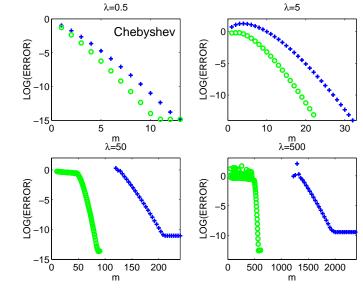
$$H = \frac{\lambda}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ & & & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}, \quad N = 10000$$

 $0 \le E_k \le 2\lambda, \ k = 1, 2, \dots, 10000$ After a shift, $H - \lambda I$, we can take: $T\beta = \lambda$ We approximate:

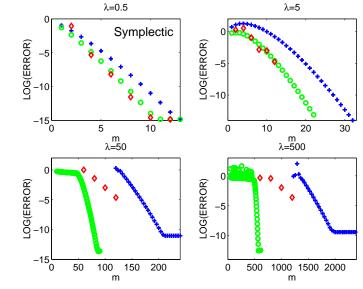
$$e^{-i\lambda}e^{-i\lambda\hat{H}}u_0, \qquad \hat{H}=(H-\lambda I)/\lambda$$

 $\lambda = 0.5, \quad \lambda = 5, \quad \lambda = 50, \quad \lambda = 500$





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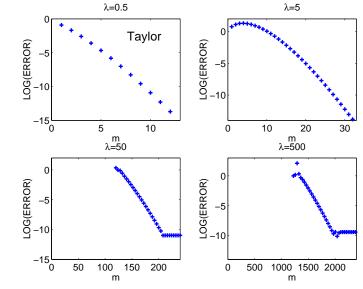
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Numerical example 2: The scalar problem

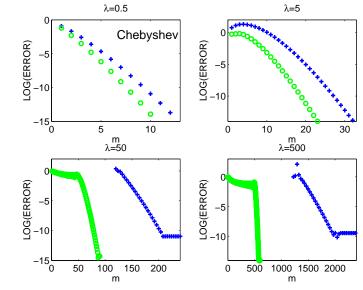
$$e^{-i\lambda}u_0, \qquad \lambda\in\mathbb{R}$$
 with $u_0=1$ $\lambda=0.5, \quad \lambda=5, \quad \lambda=50, \quad \lambda=500$

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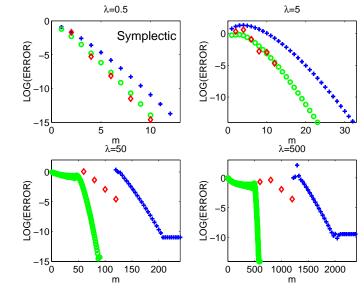
Example 2:



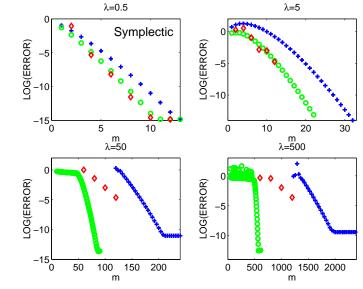
Example 2:



Example 2:



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The Simplified Model

$$u = e^{-iy}u_0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad q + ip = (\cos(y) - i\sin(y))(q_0 + ip_0)$$

$$\left\{\begin{array}{c} q\\ p\end{array}\right\} = \left(\begin{array}{c} \cos(y) & \sin(y)\\ -\sin(y) & \cos(y) \end{array}\right) \left\{\begin{array}{c} q_0\\ p_0\end{array}\right\}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} q_T \\ p_T \end{array} \right\} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} T_1^m & T_2^m \\ -T_2^m & T_1^m \end{array} \right) \left\{ \begin{array}{c} q_0 \\ p_0 \end{array} \right\} \qquad \qquad \frac{T\beta}{m} < 0.3$$

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 $\frac{T\beta}{m} < 0.3$

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Chebyshev method

$$\left\{\begin{array}{c} q_C\\ p_C\end{array}\right\} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} C_1^m & C_2^m\\ -C_2^m & C_1^m\end{array}\right) \left\{\begin{array}{c} q_0\\ p_0\end{array}\right\} \qquad \qquad \frac{T\beta}{m} < 1$$

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Chebyshev method

$$\left\{\begin{array}{c} q_{C} \\ p_{C} \end{array}\right\} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} C_{1}^{m} & C_{2}^{m} \\ -C_{2}^{m} & C_{1}^{m} \end{array}\right) \left\{\begin{array}{c} q_{0} \\ p_{0} \end{array}\right\} \qquad \qquad \frac{T\beta}{m} < 1$$

Symplectic methods

$$\left(\begin{array}{cc}1&0\\-b_ky&1\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{cc}1&a_ky\\0&1\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{cc}1&a_ky\\-b_ky&1-a_kb_ky^2\end{array}\right)$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} q_T \\ p_T \end{array} \right\} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} T_1^m & T_2^m \\ -T_2^m & T_1^m \end{array} \right) \left\{ \begin{array}{c} q_0 \\ p_0 \end{array} \right\} \qquad \qquad \frac{T\beta}{m} < 0.3$$

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$$K(y) \equiv \prod_{k=1}^{m} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a_k y \\ -b_k y & 1 - a_k b_k y^2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} K_1^{2m-2} & K_2^{2m-1} \\ K_3^{2m-1} & K_4^{2m} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} q_S \\ p_S \end{array} \right\} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} K_1^{2m-2} & K_2^{2m-1} \\ K_3^{2m-1} & K_4^{2m} \end{array} \right) \left\{ \begin{array}{c} q_0 \\ p_0 \end{array} \right\} \qquad \frac{T\beta}{m} < 2$$

If det $K(y) = K_1 K_4 - K_2 K_3 = 1$ then

$$\begin{pmatrix} K_1^{2k-2} & K_2^{2k-1} \\ K_3^{2k-1} & K_4^{2k} \end{pmatrix}$$

= $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & a_k y \\ -b_k y & 1 - a_k b_k y^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} K_1^{2(k-1)-2} & K_2^{2(k-1)-1} \\ K_3^{2(k-1)-1} & K_4^{2(k-1)} \end{pmatrix}$

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If the solution exists, it is unique and trivial to obtain.

If det $K(y) = K_1 K_4 - K_2 K_3 = 1$ then

$$\begin{pmatrix} K_1^{2k-2} & K_2^{2k-1} \\ K_3^{2k-1} & K_4^{2k} \end{pmatrix}$$

= $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & a_k y \\ -b_k y & 1 - a_k b_k y^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} K_1^{2(k-1)-2} & K_2^{2(k-1)-1} \\ K_3^{2(k-1)-1} & K_4^{2(k-1)} \end{pmatrix}$

If the solution exists, it is unique and trivial to obtain. In addition

$$\begin{pmatrix} K_1 & K_2 \\ K_3 & K_4 \end{pmatrix} = Q^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\phi(y)) & \sin(\phi(y)) \\ -\sin(\phi(y)) & \cos(\phi(y)) \end{pmatrix} Q$$

with $\phi(\mathbf{y}) = \arccos(\frac{1}{2}(K_1 + K_4))$

$$K(y)^{n} \begin{pmatrix} q_{0} \\ p_{0} \end{pmatrix} = O(n\phi(y)) \begin{pmatrix} q_{0} \\ p_{0} \end{pmatrix} + E(y) \begin{pmatrix} \sin(n\phi(y))q_{0} \\ \sin(n\phi(y))p_{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

with

$$E(y) = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon(y) & \gamma(y) - 1 \\ -\frac{1 + \epsilon(y)^2}{\gamma(y)} + 1 & -\epsilon(y) \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\epsilon(y) = \frac{K_1(y) - K_4(y)}{2\sin(\phi(y))}, \qquad \gamma(y) = \frac{K_2(y)}{\sin(\phi(y))}.$$

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$$\|u(n\tau) - u_n\| \le (n\mu(\theta) + \nu(\theta)) \|u_0\|$$

where

$$\mu(\theta) = \sup_{0 \le y \le \theta} |\phi(y) - y|, \qquad \nu(\theta) = \sup_{0 \le y \le \theta} ||E(y)||.$$

$$\|\boldsymbol{u}(\boldsymbol{n}\tau) - \boldsymbol{u}_{\boldsymbol{n}}\| \leq (\boldsymbol{n}\mu(\theta) + \nu(\theta)) \|\boldsymbol{u}_{\boldsymbol{0}}\|$$

where

$$\mu(\theta) = \sup_{0 \le y \le \theta} |\phi(y) - y|, \qquad \nu(\theta) = \sup_{0 \le y \le \theta} ||E(y)||.$$

т	θ'	$\sum_{j}(a_j + b_j)$	$\mu(heta)$	u(heta)
10	1	4.02	0.00093	0.037
20	1	3.05	0.00061	0.025
30	1	3.19	0.000084	0.037
30	1.4	3.09	0.000051	0.013
30	1	3.04	$2.9 \cdot 10^{-13}$	2.3 · 10 ⁻⁹
30	0.75	3.44	1.2 · 10 ^{−17}	$5.9 \cdot 10^{-14}$
30	0.5	3.84	$7.9 \cdot 10^{-24}$	$6.6 \cdot 10^{-18}$
40	1	3.21	$1.1 \cdot 10^{-15}$	$1.0 \cdot 10^{-12}$

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- S. Blanes, F. Casas, and A. Murua, Error analysis of splitting methods for the time dependent Schrodinger equation, SIAM J. Sci. Comput. 33 (2011), pp. 1525-1548
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Group webpage: http://www.gicas.uji.es

Schrödinger Equation with Poschl-Teller Potential

The one-dimensional problem

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\psi(x,t) = \left(-\frac{1}{2\mu}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V(x)\right)\psi(x,t)$$

with

$$V(x) = -\frac{\alpha^2}{2\mu} \frac{\lambda(\lambda - 1)}{\cosh^2(\alpha x)}$$

 $\mu =$ 1745, $\alpha =$ 2, $\lambda =$ 24.5, initial conditions

$$\psi(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{0})=\rho\mathrm{e}^{-9^2x^2}$$

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 $t \in [0, T], x \in [-5, 5], \Delta x = 10/N$

$$E_{min} = V_{min}(x), \quad E_{max} = rac{1}{2m} \left(rac{\pi}{\Delta x}
ight)^2 + V_{max}(x)$$
 $eta = rac{E_{max} - E_{min}}{2}$

	64							3 π
β	0.387	0.561	1.25	4.03	15.1	tol	10 ⁻⁸	10 ⁻¹²

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 $t \in [0, T], x \in [-5, 5], \Delta x = 10/N$

$$E_{min} = V_{min}(x), \quad E_{max} = \frac{1}{2m} \left(\frac{\pi}{\Delta x}\right)^2 + V_{max}(x)$$

$$\beta = \frac{\boldsymbol{\sqsubset}_{max} - \boldsymbol{\sqsubset}_{min}}{2}$$

Ν	64	128	256	512	1024	Т	15 π	3π
β	0.387	0.561	1.25	4.03	15.1	tol	10 ⁻⁸	10 ⁻¹²

	Taylor	Chebyshev	Symplectic		
$T \beta = 26.3$	118	50	30		
$tol = 10^{-8}$	1.5 · 10 ^{−15}	1.6 · 10 ^{−11}	$1.3 \cdot 10^{-10}$		
$T \beta = 37.9$	208	73	40		
$tol = 10^{-12}$	1.3 · 10 ^{−13}	$2.5 \cdot 10^{-15}$	$4.7 \cdot 10^{-14}$		

We have shown how to build a class of methods for the Schrödinger equation following the steps previously mentioned:

- We have define mathematically the physical problem
- We have reviewed the The State of the Art on methods to solve the problem
- We have used our knowledge on the physical problem, scientific computation, abstract and applied algebra, functional analysis, optimization, etc. to improve the existing methods

- To develop a fast and automatic algorithm which finds the optimal coefficients for each particular problem
- 2 To develop new methods when additional information on the problem is known: e.g. If $||H^k u_0|| \ll ||H||^k \cdot ||u_0||$.
- To extend the methods to problems with similar structure: Maxwell Equations or some linear Hyperbolic PDEs

Thank You

NUMDIFF - 13

Numerical Solution of Differential and Differential-Algebraic Equations

10 - 14 September 2012 Halle (Saale), Germany



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