

Split step Fourier method for non-linear Schroedinger equation

Andres Urquijo¹

¹Affiliation not available

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The non-linear Schroedinger equation can be written as:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) + [V(r) + \alpha |\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t)|^2] \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (1)$$

Where $V(r)$ is the potential energy function and α is the nonlinear parameter. This equation can be divided in two parts. Linear and non-linear components. i.e.

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = \alpha |\Psi|^2 \quad (2)$$

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 + V(r) \right] \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (3)$$

The solution of first equation is:

$$\bar{\Psi}(\mathbf{r}, t_0 + \Delta t) = e^{-i\alpha |\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t_0)|^2 \Delta t} \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t_0) \quad (4)$$

and for the second equation

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}, t) = e^{-i[\hat{T} + \hat{V}](t-t_0)} \Psi(\mathbf{r}, t_0) \quad (5)$$

By using spectral techniques it is possible to write that (one dimensional):

$$\Psi(x, t_0 + \Delta t) = e^{-iV(x)\Delta t} \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left\{ e^{ik^2 \Delta t} \mathcal{F} \left\{ e^{-iV(x)\Delta t} \bar{\Psi}(x, t_0 + \Delta t) \right\} \right\} \quad (6)$$

Replacing (3) on (5), finally we obtain:

$$\Psi(x, t_0 + \Delta t) = e^{-iV(x)\Delta t} \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left\{ e^{ik^2 \Delta t} \mathcal{F} \left\{ e^{-iV(x)\Delta t} e^{-i\alpha |\Psi(x, t_0)|^2 \Delta t} \Psi(x, t_0) \right\} \right\} \quad (7)$$