

# A Bloch band based level set method for computing the semiclassical limit of Schrödinger equations

Hailiang Liu\*, Zhongming Wang

Iowa State University, Mathematics Department, Carver Hall 400, Ames, IA 50011, United States

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## ABSTRACT

A novel Bloch band based level set method is proposed for computing the semiclassical limit of Schrödinger equations in periodic media. For the underlying equation, subject to a highly oscillatory initial data, a hybrid of the WKB approximation and homogenization leads to the Bloch eigenvalue problem and an associated Hamilton–Jacobi system for the phase in each Bloch band, with the Bloch eigenvalue be part of the Hamiltonian. We formulate a level set description to capture multi-valued solutions to the band WKB system, and then evaluate total homogenized density over a sample set of bands. A superposition of band densities is established over all bands and solution branches when away from caustic points. The numerical approach splits the solution process into several parts: (i) initialize the level set function from the band decomposition of the initial data; (ii) solve the Bloch eigenvalue problem to compute Bloch waves; (iii) evolve the band level set equation to compute multi-valued velocity and density on each Bloch band; (iv) evaluate the total position density over a sample set of bands using Bloch waves and band densities obtained in steps (ii) and (iii), respectively. Numerical examples with different number of bands are shown to demonstrate the capacity of the method.

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## 1. Introduction

In this paper we are concerned with numerical computation of physical observables to the linear Schrödinger equation

$$i\epsilon \partial_t \psi^\epsilon = -\frac{\epsilon^2}{2} \partial_x \left( b \left( \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \partial_x \psi^\epsilon \right) + V \left( \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \psi^\epsilon + V_\epsilon(x) \psi^\epsilon, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}^+ \quad (1.1)$$

subject to the highly oscillatory function as initial data

$$\psi^\epsilon(0, x) = e^{iS_0(x)/\epsilon} g \left( x, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right), \quad \epsilon \ll 1. \quad (1.2)$$

Here  $\psi^\epsilon$  is the complex wave field and  $\epsilon$  is a re-scaled Planck constant. Both  $b(y) > 0$  and  $V(y)$  are smooth and periodic with respect to the regular lattice  $\Gamma = 2\pi\mathbb{Z}$ , i.e.,

$$b(y + 2\pi) = b(y), \quad V(y + 2\pi) = V(y) \quad \forall y \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (1.3)$$

The external potential  $V_\epsilon$  is a given smooth function.

This type of Schrödinger equations is a fundamental model in solid-state physics [2,20], and also models the quantum dynamics of Bloch electrons subjected to an external field [48]. This problem has been studied from a physical, as well as

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [hliu@iastate.edu](mailto:hliu@iastate.edu) (H. Liu).

from a mathematical point-of-view in, e.g., [1,7,34,40,47], resulting in a profound understanding of the novel dynamical features. An essential feature of the model, regardless of the point-of-view taken, is the energy band structure imposed on the model [6]. The mathematical asymptotic analysis as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  combining both semiclassical and homogenization limits has been a subject of intensive study in past decades, see e.g., [3,5,15,28,35,45,48].

In the semiclassical regime, where  $\epsilon$  is small, the external potential  $V_e(x)$  varies at larger spatial scales than periodic potential  $V(y)$  does and can be considered weak compared with periodic field. The wave function  $\psi^\epsilon$  and the related physical observables become oscillatory of wave length  $O(\epsilon)$ . A direct simulation of (1.1) using the Bloch wave decomposition was recently developed, see, e.g. [21], improving mesh sizes up to order  $O(\epsilon)$ . However, this system involves several different sources of oscillations, making direct numerical simulation prohibitively costly in the semiclassical regime.

A more realistic approach is to explore an asymptotic model by passing  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ . The periodic structure calls for the two scale expansion method [5,20] in which the electron coordinate  $y = \frac{x}{\epsilon}$  and the space variable  $x$  are regarded as independent variables:

$$\psi^\epsilon = A^\epsilon(t, x, y)e^{iS(t,x)/\epsilon},$$

where the amplitude  $A^\epsilon$  is assumed to admit an asymptotic expansion of the form

$$A^\epsilon(t, x, y) \sim A_0(t, x, y) + \epsilon A_1(t, x, y) + \epsilon^2 A_2(t, x, y) + \dots$$

The insertion of the above ansatz into (1.1) gives, to the leading orders of  $\epsilon$ , a band Hamilton–Jacobi equation for the phase  $S$  and the transport equation for the amplitude  $\rho$ :

$$S_t + E(S_x) + V_e(x) = 0, \tag{1.4}$$

$$\rho_t + (E'(S_x)\rho)_x = 0, \tag{1.5}$$

where  $E(k)$  is determined by solving the Bloch eigenvalue problem

$$H(k, y)z(k, y) = E(k)z(k, y), \quad z(k, y + 2\pi) = z(k, y), \tag{1.6}$$

where

$$H(k, y) := \frac{1}{2}(-i\partial_y + k)[b(y)(-i\partial_y + k)] + V(y)$$

is a differential operator parameterized by  $k$ .

Singularity formation ( $S_x$  becomes discontinuous) in solutions of (1.4) is a generic phenomena even when the initial phase is smooth. Before the singularity formation, the classical theory in [5] asserts that the wave function can be recovered by a superposition of wave patterns on each band

$$\left\| \psi^\epsilon(t, \cdot) - \sum_n \sqrt{\rho_n}(t, \cdot) z_n \left( S_n(x, \frac{x}{\epsilon}) \exp \left( \frac{iS_n(t, \cdot)}{\epsilon} \right) \right) \right\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})} \sim \mathcal{O}(\epsilon).$$

After the singularity formation standard schemes using shock capturing ideas will select the viscosity solution [11,12], which is inadequate in this context for describing the relevant physical phenomena. Multi-valued solutions for (1.4) are physically relevant ones. The first attempt to compute multi-valued solutions for (1.4) with  $b(y) \equiv 1$  was due to [17], using so called  $K$ -branch solutions, see also subsequent works [16,18].

Phase space based geometric methods were first introduced for tracking wave fronts in geometric optics, such as the segment projection method [14,13] and the level set method [38,9,42,8]. More recently, a level set framework has been developed for computing multi-valued phases in the *entire physical domain* in [8,24,29,23,22]; main developments have been summarized in the review article [30]. A key idea is to represent the  $n$ -dimensional bi-characteristic manifold of the Hamilton–Jacobi equation in phase space by an implicit vector level set function. Further developments are geared at handling more complex potentials [31–33] or recovery of the original wave field [25] for Schrödinger type equations. For level set approaches to paraxial geometrical optics we refer to [43,27,10,44,26].

The aim of this paper is to extend the level set method of [8,23] for linear Schrödinger equations to solve (1.1), (1.2) with periodic structures. We formulate level set description to solve the banded WKB system (1.4), (1.5) and then compute total averaged density over a sample set of Bloch bands. In order to illustrate the level set method developed in this paper, we let  $\phi(t, x, k)$  be a function in phase space  $(x, k) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , whose zero level set determines the multi-valued phase gradient  $u = S_x$ , i.e.,

$$u(t, x) \in \{k | \phi(t, x, k) = 0\}, \quad (t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}.$$

It is shown that on  $n$ th Bloch band,  $\phi$  solves

$$\phi_t + E'_n(k)\phi_x - V'_e(x)\phi_k = 0.$$

The initial data for the level set function  $\phi(t, x, k)$  is selected to uniquely imbed the initial phase gradient into its zero set.

Following [33], we compute the multi-valued density by

$$\rho_n(t, x) \in \left\{ \frac{f(t, x, k)}{|\phi_k|} \Big| \phi(t, x, k) = 0 \right\}, \quad (t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R},$$

where  $f$  is determined by solving the band Liouville equation

$$\begin{aligned} f_t + E'_n(k)f_x - V'_e(x)f_k &= 0, \\ f(0, x, k) &= \rho_n(0, x). \end{aligned} \quad (1.7)$$

Here  $E_n(k)$  is obtained from solving the associated Bloch eigenvalue problem (1.6), for which we apply a standard Fourier method.

The initial density on each band is calculated from  $\psi^\epsilon(0, x)$  in (1.2) through a projection procedure,

$$\rho_n(0, x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} |a_n(x)|^2,$$

where

$$a_n(x) = \int_0^{2\pi} g(x, y) \bar{z}_n(\partial_x S_0, y) dy.$$

Considering the possible phase shift, the wave profile in each Bloch band takes the form

$$\psi_n^\epsilon(t, x) = \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} \sqrt{\rho_n^j(t, x)} z_n \left( u_n^j(t, x), \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \exp \left( \frac{iS_n^j(t, x)}{\epsilon} \right) \exp \left( \frac{i\pi}{4} \mu_n^j \right),$$

where the phase shift  $\mu_n^j$  corresponds to the usual Keller–Maslov phase shift [36].

Finally, the total position density over all bands is evaluated using Bloch waves and multi-valued densities obtained on each band:

$$\bar{\rho}(t, x) = \sum_n \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} \rho_n^j.$$

Although the level set equation is formulated in phase space, the computational cost, when using a local level set method such as those in [37,38,41], is almost linear in the number of grid points in physical domain. In contrast to the method of using  $K$ -branch solutions in [17], the level set method developed here is simpler and more robust especially when the number of solution branches increase.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, we derive the level set algorithm and analyze the effective position density to be computed. Section 3 describes the numerical procedure in four steps. Finally in Section 4 a series of numerical tests is given to validate our level set algorithm.

## 2. Level set formulation

In this section we follow a hybrid of semiclassical approximation and homogenization to derive the Bloch eigenvalue problem and the Bloch banded WKB system for phase and amplitude, and then formulate the level set method for each Bloch band, followed by computation of position density over a sample set of Bloch bands.

### 2.1. Semiclassical homogenization and Bloch decomposition

We now sketch the asymptotic procedure to derive a limiting model for the Schrödinger equation

$$i\epsilon \frac{\partial \psi^\epsilon}{\partial t} = -\frac{\epsilon^2}{2} \partial_x \left( b \left( \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \partial_x \psi^\epsilon \right) + V \left( \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \psi^\epsilon + V_e(x) \psi^\epsilon, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}^+, \quad (2.1)$$

$$\psi^\epsilon(x, 0) = e^{iS_0(x)/\epsilon} g \left( x, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right). \quad (2.2)$$

We use, as illustrated in [5,20], the two scale expansion method in which the electron coordinate  $y = \frac{x}{\epsilon}$  and the space variable  $x$  are regarded as independent variables. Thus consider the following equation in the independent variables  $(t, x, y)$ :

$$i\epsilon \partial_t \psi = \left[ -\frac{1}{2} (\partial_y + \epsilon \partial_x) (b(y) (\partial_y + \epsilon \partial_x)) + V(y) + V_e(x) \right] \psi. \quad (2.3)$$

Note that if we let  $y = x/\epsilon$  in the solution  $\psi(t, x, y; \epsilon)$  of (2.3) we recover the solution of (2.1).

We now look for approximate solutions of the following form:

$$\psi(t, x, y; \epsilon) = e^{iS(t, x)/\epsilon} [A_0(t, x, y) + \epsilon A_1(t, x, y) + \dots], \quad (2.4)$$

where  $A_0, A_1, \dots$  are required to be  $2\pi$ -periodic function in  $y$ . A substitution of this ansatz into (2.3), collecting terms which are the same order in  $\epsilon$ , gives

$$0 = e^{iS(t, x)/\epsilon} [c_0(t, x, y) + \epsilon c_1(t, x, y) + \dots], \quad (2.5)$$

where the first two coefficients are

$$c_0(t, x, y) = -[S_t + H(k(t, x), y) + V_e(x)]A_0, \quad k(t, x) = S_x(t, x), \tag{2.6}$$

$$c_1(t, x, y) = iLA_0 - [S_t + H(k(t, x), y) + V_e(x)]A_1. \tag{2.7}$$

Here we have set

$$H(k, y) = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial_y + ik)[b(y)(\partial_y + ik)] + V(y), \tag{2.8}$$

$$L = \partial_t - \frac{i}{2}[(\partial_y + ik)[b(y)\partial_x] + \partial_x[b(y)(\partial_y + ik)]]. \tag{2.9}$$

It is known [46] that for smooth  $V(y)$  and  $b(y) > 0$ ,  $H(k, y)$  admits a complete set of (normalized) eigenfunctions  $z_n$  for each fixed  $k$ , in the sense that  $\{z_n(k, y)\}_{n=1}^\infty$  form an orthonormal basis in  $L^2(0, 2\pi)$  for any fixed  $k$ . Let  $z_n$  be the normalized eigenfunction corresponding to the eigenvalue  $E_n(k)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} H(k, y)z_n(k, y) &= E_n(k)z_n(k, y), \\ z_n(k, y + 2\pi) &= z_n(k, y), \quad k \in \mathcal{B}, \quad y \in \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.10}$$

Here  $k$  is confined to the reciprocal cell  $\mathcal{B} = [-0.5, 0.5]$  (or a Brillouin zone in physical literature) [5,46]. Correspondingly there exists a countable family of real eigenvalues which can be ordered according to

$$E_1(k) \leq E_2(k) \leq \dots \leq E_n(k) \leq \dots, \quad n \in \mathbb{N},$$

including the respective multiplicity. The set  $\{E_n(k) | k \in \mathcal{B}\}$  is called the  $n$ th energy band, which together with the corresponding Bloch functions characterizes the spectral properties of the operator  $H(k, y)$ . Standard perturbation theory shows that  $E_n(k)$  is a continuous function of  $k$  and is real analytic in a neighborhood of any  $k$  such that

$$E_{n-1}(k) < E_n(k) < E_{n+1}(k).$$

From now on we will suppress the index  $n$  whenever no confusion is caused.

We can thus satisfy  $c_0 = 0$  in (2.6) by choosing

$$S_t + E(S_x) + V_e(x) = 0 \tag{2.11}$$

and setting

$$A_0(t, x, y) = a(t, x)z(k(t, x), y).$$

Thus  $c_1 = 0$  in (2.7) becomes

$$iLA_0 - (H(k, y) - E(k))A_1 = 0.$$

By the Fredholm alternative, this equation has a solution  $A_1$  if and only if

$$\langle Lz, z \rangle = 0. \tag{2.12}$$

A substitution of  $A_0 = a(t, x)z(k(t, x), y)$  into (2.12) leads to the following transport equation for  $a$ :

$$\partial_t a + \frac{1}{2}a\partial_x E'(k(t, x)) + \partial_x a E'(k(t, x)) + \beta a = 0 \tag{2.13}$$

with

$$\beta = (\partial_t z, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x E'(k(t, x)) - \frac{i}{2}((\partial_y + ik(t, x))[b(y)\partial_x z] + b(y)\partial_x(\partial_y + ik(t, x))[z], z).$$

We now turn to show that the above  $\beta$  is purely imaginary so that  $\rho = |a|^2$  satisfies

$$\rho_t + (E'(S_x)\rho)_x = 0. \tag{2.14}$$

In fact, if we use  $H_k$ , then  $\beta$  can be recast as

$$\beta = \langle z_t, z \rangle - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x E'(k) + \langle H_k \cdot \partial_x z, z \rangle + \frac{k_x}{2}\langle b(y)z, z \rangle. \tag{2.15}$$

Let  $E(k)$  be a simple eigenvalue, then  $z(k, y)$  may be assumed analytic in  $k$ . Thus, differentiating  $H(k, y)z = E(k)z$  with respect to  $k$  we have

$$[E'(k) - H_k]z = [H - E]z_k, \tag{2.16}$$

which upon taking inner product with  $z$  gives

$$E'(k) = \langle H_k z, z \rangle. \tag{2.17}$$

Here we have used the fact that  $\langle z(k, \cdot), z(k, \cdot) \rangle = 1$  and  $H - E$  is self-adjoint. Further we differentiate (2.17) with respect to  $x$ , and noting that  $H_k$  is self-adjoint, to obtain

$$\partial_x E'(k) = \langle z, H_k \cdot \partial_x z \rangle + \langle H_k \cdot \partial_x z, z \rangle + \langle (\partial_x H_k) z, z \rangle = 2\text{Re} \langle H_k \cdot \partial_x z, z \rangle + k_x \langle b(y) z, z \rangle.$$

This combined with  $\langle z_t, z \rangle \in i\mathbb{R}$  (which follows from  $\langle z, z \rangle = 1$ ) when inserted into (2.15) yields

$$\text{Re}(\beta) = 0.$$

The superposition principle for linear Schrödinger equations suggests that the wave function has an asymptotic description of the form

$$\psi^\epsilon(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n(t, x) z_n \left( \partial_x S_n, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) e^{iS_n(t, x)/\epsilon} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \quad (2.18)$$

where  $S_n(t, x)$  satisfies the  $n$ th band Hamilton–Jacobi equation (2.11) with  $E = E_n$ .

Upon these equations for density (2.14), phase (2.11) as well as the Bloch waves (2.10), we proceed to formulate our Bloch band based level set method.

## 2.2. Bloch band based level set equation

Once we obtain the WKB system on  $n$ th Bloch band

$$S_t + E(S_x) + V_e(x) = 0,$$

$$\rho_t + (E'(S_x)\rho)_x = 0,$$

the next task is to solve them numerically to obtain multi-valued solutions (here again band indexes are suppressed). Here, multi-valued phase shall be sought in order to capture the relevant physical phenomena.

Let  $\phi(t, x, k)$  be a function in phase space, whose zero level set implicitly describes the phase gradient  $\partial_x S(t, x)$ , where  $S(t, x)$  solves (2.11), then  $\phi$  is proven to satisfy

$$\phi_t + E'(k)\phi_x - V'_e(x)\phi_k = 0, \quad (2.19)$$

$$\phi(0, x, k) = k - \partial_x S_0(x) \quad (2.20)$$

with  $E'(k)$  being solved from (2.10). The multi-valued velocity is then given by

$$u(t, x) \in \{k | \phi(t, x, k) = 0\} \quad \forall (t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}.$$

The corresponding multi-valued density can be evaluated as suggested in [33]

$$\rho(t, x) \in \left\{ \frac{f(t, x, k)}{|\phi_k|} \mid \phi(t, x, k) = 0 \right\} \quad \forall (t, x) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}, \quad (2.21)$$

where  $f$  solves

$$f_t + E'(k)f_x - V'_e(x)f_k = 0, \quad (2.22)$$

$$f(0, x, p) = \rho_0(x), \quad (2.23)$$

where  $\rho_0(x)$  is to be determined from the initial data  $\psi^\epsilon(0, x)$ , see (2.27). The averaged density can be evaluated as

$$\bar{\rho}(t, x) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t, x, k) \delta(\phi) dk. \quad (2.24)$$

Note that we need to compute  $E'(k)$  in the level set equation, which may also be evaluated based on  $\{z_n\}$  using (2.17).

**Remark 1.** The above procedure can be easily extended to more general case. For instance the case with coefficient  $b(x, x/\epsilon)$  and potential  $V(x, x/\epsilon)$  with no separation of two scales. However, in such case the Bloch eigenvalue problem becomes spatial dependent:

$$H(k, x, y)z(k, x, y) = E(k, x)z(k, x, y), \quad z(k, x, y) = z(k, x, y + 2\pi) \quad \forall (k, x) \in \mathcal{B} \times \mathbb{R}.$$

A level set formulation in multi-dimensional case can be derived in a straightforward manner.

## 2.3. Initial band configuration

We now discuss the recovery of the initial band density  $\rho_n(0, x)$  from the given initial data

$$\psi_0^\epsilon \left( x, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) = g \left( x, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \exp(iS_0(x)/\epsilon) \quad (2.25)$$

with a real-valued phase  $S_0 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  and a possible complex-valued amplitude  $g(x, \cdot) \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ .

From (2.18) it follows that one needs only to decompose  $g$  as follows:

$$g(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n(x) z_n(\partial_x S_0, y).$$

The orthonormality of  $z_n(\partial_x S_0, y)$  leads to the following formula for  $a_n$ :

$$a_n(x) = \int_0^{2\pi} g(x, y) \bar{z}_n(\partial_x S_0, y) dy.$$

The above decomposition ensures that

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_0^\epsilon(x, y)|^2 dy = \int_0^{2\pi} |g(x, y)|^2 dy = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|^2. \tag{2.26}$$

Hence  $\rho_n(x)$  can be evaluated by

$$\rho_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} |a_n(x)|^2, \tag{2.27}$$

so that  $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_0^\epsilon(x, y)|^2 dy = \sum_n \rho_n$ .

#### 2.4. Evaluation of position density

In this section, we evaluate the position density and the wave field based on the quantities computed from the level set algorithm.

Let  $\{u_n^j, j = 1, \dots, K_n\}$  be the multi-valued velocities,  $\{S_n^j, j = 1, \dots, K_n\}$  and  $\{a_n^j, j = 1, \dots, K_n\}$  be the corresponding phase and amplitude on  $n^{th}$  band, the wave function of two scales, associated with each  $u_n^j$ , is

$$\psi^\epsilon(t, x, y, u_n^j) = a_n^j(t, x) z_n(u_n^j(t, x), y) \exp\left(\frac{iS_n^j(t, x)}{\epsilon}\right).$$

The wave field on each band is thus calculated from its phase space counterpart as

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_n^\epsilon(t, x, y) &= \int \psi^\epsilon(t, x, y, k) \delta(\phi) \det(\phi_k) dk = \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} \int \psi^\epsilon(t, x, y, k) \delta(k - u_n^j(t, x)) dk = \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} \psi^\epsilon(t, x, y, u_n^j) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} a_n^j z_n(u_n^j, y) \exp\left(\frac{iS_n^j}{\epsilon}\right). \end{aligned} \tag{2.28}$$

This wave function is periodic in the lattice scale  $y$ , we thus only calculate the averaged band density as

$$\bar{\rho}_n^\epsilon(t, x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi_n^\epsilon(t, x, y)|^2 dy.$$

**Lemma 2.1.** *Away from caustics we have*

$$\bar{\rho}_n^\epsilon(t, x) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} |a_n^j|^2 \quad \text{as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0. \tag{2.29}$$

**Proof.** By a direct calculation we have

$$2\pi \bar{\rho}_n^\epsilon(t, x) = \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} |a_n^j|^2 + \sum_{j \neq j'} a_n^j a_n^{j'} \exp(i(S_n^j - S_n^{j'})/\epsilon) \int_0^{2\pi} z_n(u_n^j, y) \bar{z}_n(u_n^{j'}, y) dy.$$

The cross-terms over different  $j, j'$ , denoted by  $O_1(n)$ , will converge, when away from caustics, to zero weakly as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ . In fact, for any smooth test-function  $\Phi$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} O_1 \Phi(x) dx = \sum_{j \neq j'} \int_{\mathbb{R}} a_n^j a_n^{j'} \exp(i(S_n^j - S_n^{j'})/\epsilon) \int_0^{2\pi} z_n(u_n^j, y) \bar{z}_n(u_n^{j'}, y) dy \Phi(x) dx.$$

According to the stationary phase lemma,<sup>1</sup> the non-trivial contribution as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  comes from the stationary points of  $S_n^j(t, x) - S_n^{j'}(t, x)$ , i.e.,

$$\mathcal{A}_1 := \left\{ x \mid u_n^j(t, x) = u_n^{j'}(t, x), j \neq j' \right\}. \tag{2.30}$$

Note that for  $x \in \mathcal{A}_1$ ,  $\int z_n(u_n^j, y) \bar{z}_n(u_n^{j'}, y) dy = 1$ . According to our level set construction this only happens at the caustic points where  $j' = j + 1$  (or  $j - 1$ ), and at such points  $a_n^j = a_n^{j'}$ ,  $S_n^j = S_n^{j'}$  and  $\partial_x^2(S_n^j - S_n^{j'}) \neq 0$ . These terms will weakly converge to

$$O_1(n) \rightarrow \sum_{x^* \in \mathcal{A}_1} |a_n^j(x^*)|^2 \sqrt{\frac{2\pi\epsilon}{|\partial_x(u_n^j - u_n^{j'})(x^*)|}} e^{\frac{i\mu_n^j}{4}},$$

where  $\mu_n^j = 1$  or  $-1$  depending on the sign change of  $\partial_x(u_n^j - u_n^{j'})(x^*)$ . However, at caustic points both  $\partial_x u_n^j$  and  $\partial_x u_n^{j'} = -\phi_x / \phi_p$  become unbounded with different signs such that  $|\partial_x(u_n^j - u_n^{j'})| = \infty$ . On the other hand at caustics  $a_n^j$  also becomes unbounded. These together leave the above weak limit undefined at caustic points.  $\square$

We now consider all Bloch bands. Since the underlying equation is linear, the wave field over all bands is simply a superposition of wave filed on each band

$$\psi^\epsilon(t, x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} a_n^j z_n(u_n^j, y) \exp\left(\frac{iS_n^j}{\epsilon}\right).$$

**Lemma 2.2.** Let the total density be defined as

$$\rho^\epsilon(t, x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi^\epsilon(t, x, y)|^2 dy. \tag{2.31}$$

Then away from caustics, we have

$$\rho^\epsilon(t, x) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_n \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} |a_n^j|^2 \quad \text{as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0. \tag{2.32}$$

**Proof.** A direct calculation gives

$$\begin{aligned} 2\pi\rho^\epsilon(t, x) &= \sum_n \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} |a_n^j|^2 + \sum_n \sum_{j \neq j'} a_n^j \bar{a}_n^{j'} \exp(i(S_n^j - S_n^{j'})/\epsilon) \int_0^{2\pi} z_n(u_n^j, y) \bar{z}_n(u_n^{j'}, y) dy \\ &\quad + \sum_{m \neq n} \sum_{j, j'} a_n^j \bar{a}_m^{j'} \exp(i(S_n^j - S_m^{j'})/\epsilon) \int_0^{2\pi} z_n(u_n^j, y) \bar{z}_m(u_m^{j'}, y) dy \\ &\equiv \sum_n \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} |a_n^j|^2 + Q_1 + Q_2. \end{aligned}$$

As shown in Lemma 2.1 the term  $Q_1 = \sum_n O_1(n) \rightarrow 0$  away from caustics.

For the term  $Q_2$  we explore the stationary phase lemma again. The only  $O(1)$  contribution comes from the stationary points of  $S_n^j(t, x) - S_m^{j'}(t, x)$ , i.e.,

$$\mathcal{A}_2 := \left\{ x \mid u_n^j(t, x) = u_m^{j'}(t, x), m \neq n \right\}. \tag{2.33}$$

However for  $x \in \mathcal{A}_2$ , it holds

$$\int_0^{2\pi} z_n(u_n^j, y) \bar{z}_m(u_m^{j'}, y) dy = 0,$$

where we have used the fact  $\langle z_n(k, \cdot), z_m(k, \cdot) \rangle = \delta_{mn}$  for any fixed  $k$ . Therefore,  $Q_2 \rightarrow 0$  as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ . The proof is thus complete.  $\square$

Based on Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, the total position density  $\bar{\rho}(x)$  can be evaluated by

$$\bar{\rho}(x) = \sum_n \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} \rho_n^j, \tag{2.34}$$

where  $\rho_n^j = \frac{1}{2\pi} |a_n^j|^2$  is given by (2.21).

<sup>1</sup> Let  $x^*$  be the critical point of the phase  $\phi(x)$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . For any integrable function  $F(x)$ , the following asymptotic formula holds

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} F(x) e^{i\phi(x)/\epsilon} dx \simeq \sqrt{\frac{2\pi\epsilon}{|\phi_{xx}(x^*)|}} \exp\left(\text{sign}(\phi_{xx}(x^*)) \frac{\pi i}{4}\right) \exp\left(\frac{i\phi(x^*)}{\epsilon}\right) F(x^*).$$

**Remark 2.** The above analysis shows that in order to recover the wave field, one needs a caustic correction – the so called Keller–Maslov phase shift [36] such that

$$\psi^\epsilon(t, x) = \sum_n \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} a_n^j(t, x) z_n \left( u_n^j, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \exp \left( \frac{iS_n^j}{\epsilon} \right) \exp \left( \frac{i\pi}{4} \mu_n^j \right). \tag{2.35}$$

However, this modified wave profile is valid only before and after caustics. To obtain a uniformly valid wave field a globally bounded  $a_n^j$  needs to be constructed. This will be considered in a future publication.

2.5. 2D Strang splitting spectral method

This section is to present a spectral scheme to compute the solution of (2.3), i.e.,

$$i\epsilon \partial_t \psi = \left[ -\frac{1}{2} (\partial_y + \epsilon \partial_x) (b(y) (\partial_y + \epsilon \partial_x)) + V(y) + V_e(x) \right] \psi. \tag{2.36}$$

The computed solution will be used to compare with the solution computed from our level set method.

For simplicity, we assume  $V_e(x)$  to be a periodic function in  $x \in [a, b]$ . Then  $\psi(t, x, y)$  is a periodic solution to (2.36) in both  $x$  and  $y$ . We choose spatial meshes

$$\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{J}, \quad \Delta y = \frac{2\pi}{P},$$

where both  $J$  and  $P$  are even integers. Let the grid points be  $(x_j, y_p)$

$$x_j = a + j\Delta x, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, J-1; \quad y_p = p\Delta y, \quad p = 0, \dots, P-1.$$

Let  $\phi_{j,p}(t)$  be the numerical approximation of  $\phi(t, x_j, y_p)$ .

Given  $\phi_{j,p}(t)$  we shall compute  $\phi_{j,p}(t + \Delta t)$ . From  $t$  to  $t + \Delta t$  we follow [4] to solve Eq. (2.36) by a Strang Splitting Spectral method. For  $j = 0, \dots, J-1, p = 0, \dots, P-1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{j,p}^* &= \exp \left( -\frac{i\Delta t}{2\epsilon} (V(y_p) + V_e(x_j)) \right) \phi_{j,p}(t), \\ \hat{\psi}_{m,q}^{**} &= \left( G \hat{\psi}^* \right)_{m,q}, \quad G \text{ is defined in (2.38)}, \\ \psi_{j,p}^{**} &= \frac{1}{JP} \sum_{m=-J/2}^{J/2-1} \sum_{q=-P/2}^{P/2-1} \hat{\psi}_{m,q}^{**} \exp \left( im \frac{2\pi(x_j - a)}{b-a} + iqy_p \right), \\ \psi_{j,p}(t + \Delta t) &= \exp \left( -\frac{i\Delta t}{2\epsilon} (V(y_p) + V_e(x_j)) \right) \psi_{j,p}^{**}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.37}$$

Here  $\hat{\psi}_{m,q}$ , the Fourier coefficients of  $\psi_{j,p}$ , is defined as

$$\hat{\psi}_{m,q} = \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} \sum_{p=0}^{P-1} \psi_{j,p} \exp \left( -im \frac{2\pi(x_j - a)}{b-a} - iqy_p \right)$$

for  $m = -\frac{J}{2}, \dots, \frac{J}{2} - 1$  and  $q = -\frac{P}{2}, \dots, \frac{P}{2} - 1$ .

We now determine the operator  $G$  as follows: we insert the Fourier series

$$\psi(t, x, y) = \sum_{m,q} \hat{\psi}_{m,q}(t) \exp \left( im \frac{2\pi(x-a)}{b-a} + iqy \right), \quad b(y) = \sum_q \hat{b}_q \exp(iqy),$$

into the equation split from (2.36):

$$i\epsilon \partial_t \psi = -\frac{1}{2} (\partial_y + \epsilon \partial_x) (b(y) (\partial_y + \epsilon \partial_x)) \psi$$

and truncate to arrive at the following ODE system

$$i\epsilon \frac{d}{dt} \hat{\psi}_{m,q} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{q'=-P/2}^{P/2-1} \hat{\psi}_{m,q} \hat{b}_{q-q'} \left( q + m \frac{2\pi\epsilon}{b-a} \right) \cdot \left( q' + m \frac{2\pi\epsilon}{b-a} \right), \quad q = -\frac{P}{2}, \dots, \frac{P}{2} - 1.$$

Introduce a  $P \times P$  matrix  $\hat{H}$  with entries as

$$\hat{H}_{r,s} = \hat{b}_{r-s} \left( r - \frac{P}{2} - 1 + m \frac{2\pi\epsilon}{b-a} \right) \cdot \left( s - \frac{P}{2} - 1 + m \frac{2\pi\epsilon}{b-a} \right).$$

The solution operator  $G$  is thus given as

$$(G\hat{\psi})_{m,q} = \left( \exp\left(\frac{-i\Delta t}{2\epsilon} H\right) (\hat{\psi}_{m,-P/2}, \dots, \hat{\psi}_{m,P/2-1})^\top \right)_{q+P/2+1}. \tag{2.38}$$

If  $b \equiv 1$ , then operator  $G$  can be reduced to a simple formulation as

$$(G\hat{\psi}^*)_{m,q} = \exp\left(-\frac{i\Delta t}{2\epsilon} \left(q + m \frac{2\pi}{b-a} \epsilon\right)^2\right) \hat{\psi}_{m,q}^*.$$

### 3. Numerical procedures

In this section, we first examine the Bloch waves numerically and then show how to implement the level set method developed in this paper. The solution process is carried out in following steps.

**Step 1.** Solving Bloch eigenvalue problem.

We first evaluate  $E_n(k)$  from a sequence of the eigenvalue problems (2.10)

$$V(y)z_n + \frac{1}{2}(-i\partial_y + k)[b(y)(-i\partial_y + k)z_n] = E_n(k)z_n, \tag{3.1}$$

where  $E_n(k)$  is the  $n$ th energy band, and  $e^{iky}z_n$  is the  $n$ th Bloch function with  $k \in [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$ .

Since  $z_n(k, y)$ ,  $b(y)$  and  $V(y)$  are  $2\pi$ -periodic functions in  $y$ , we can expand them in Fourier series

$$V(y) = \sum_{q \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{V}_q \exp(iqy), \quad \hat{V}_q = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} V(y) \exp(-iqy) dy, \tag{3.2}$$

$$b(y) = \sum_{q \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{b}_q \exp(iqy), \quad \hat{b}_q = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} b(y) \exp(-iqy) dy, \tag{3.3}$$

$$z_n(k, y) = \sum_{q \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{z}_{n,q} \exp(iqy), \quad \hat{z}_{n,q} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} z_n(k, y) \exp(-iqy) dy. \tag{3.4}$$

Insertion of these into (3.1) leads to

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{q \in \mathbb{Z}} (k+m)(k+q) \hat{a}_{m-q} \hat{z}_{n,q} + \sum_{q \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{V}_{m-q} \hat{z}_{n,q} = E_n(k) \hat{z}_{n,m}, \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}. \tag{3.5}$$

Extracting  $2N + 1$  terms for  $q \in \{-N, \dots, N\}$ , we have the corresponding matrix  $H = (H_{m,q})$  of the eigenvalue problem with

$$H_{m,q} = \frac{1}{2} (k+m)(k+q) \hat{a}_{m-q} + \hat{V}_{m-q}, \quad -N \leq m, q \leq N.$$

This is a Hermitian matrix satisfying

$$H \begin{bmatrix} (\hat{z}_n)_{-N} \\ \vdots \\ (\hat{z}_n)_N \end{bmatrix} = E_n(k) \begin{bmatrix} (\hat{z}_n)_{-N} \\ \vdots \\ (\hat{z}_n)_N \end{bmatrix}. \tag{3.6}$$

Note that by a transform of  $\tilde{z}_n(y) = z_n(k, y)e^{imy}$  in (3.1), we obtain an equivalent eigenvalue problem to (3.5) for  $\tilde{z}_n$ , which shows that the eigenvalue problem is invariant under any integer shift in  $k$ . Taking  $m = 1$ , we have the following relation:

$$E_n(k+1) = E_n(k), \quad z_n(k+1, y) = z_n(k, y), \tag{3.7}$$

which implies that the fundamental domain of dual lattice,  $\bar{B} = [-0.5, 0.5]$ , is not restricted. Note that the eigen-matrix in (3.6) is independent of spatial grids and time, we only have to solve it once; therefore the computational complexity of this step is not a major concern. In our simulation,  $N = 50-100$ .

After solving the above Bloch eigenvalue problem at each grid point  $\{k_i \in [-0.5, 0.5], i = -M_k, \dots, M_k\}$  with mesh size  $\Delta k$ , we are equipped with discrete function values of  $E_n(k_i)$ .

We now evaluate  $\{E'_n(k_i), i = -M_k, \dots, M_k\}$  for any grid point  $k_i$ . A natural way of computing first order derivative to a certain order accuracy is by polynomial interpolation using nearby grid points. Note that, periodic boundary conditions are used due to the 1-periodicity of  $E(k)$ , (3.7). A second order approximation is

$$E'(k_i) = \frac{E(k_{i+1}) - E(k_{i-1}))}{2\Delta k} \tag{3.8}$$

and a fourth order approximation is given by

$$E'(k_i) = \frac{E(k_{i-2}) - 8E(k_{i-1}) + 8E(k_{i+1}) - E(k_{i+2}))}{12\Delta k}. \tag{3.9}$$

Note that in this case,  $E'(k)$  can also be computed from  $z(k,y)$  by the integral (2.17).

**Step 2.** Bloch band based decomposition of initial data.

Given the WKB-type wave function

$$\psi^\epsilon \left( x, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) = g \left( x, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \exp(iS_0(x)/\epsilon),$$

we compute the band density  $\rho_n$  defined in (2.27) by using different number of energy bands from the Bloch waves. We will check how many eigen-modes are needed to recover the density  $\rho = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi^\epsilon(x,y)|^2 dy$  at a desired accuracy. Here we measure the accuracy by  $L^1$  error

$$error = \left\| \rho - \sum_{n=1}^M \rho_n \right\|_{L^1}, \quad M = 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, \dots \tag{3.10}$$

The choice of  $M$  is studied numerically in Section 4.1. We find out that for smooth potential  $V(x)$  and initial  $\psi_0^\epsilon(x)$ , eight bands are sufficient for the numerical simulation.

**Step 3.** Solving the level set equation

$$\phi_t + E'(k)\phi_x - V'_e(x)\phi_k = 0 \tag{3.11}$$

subject to initial data (2.20).

We discretize space with uniform mesh size  $\Delta x$  and  $\Delta k$ , and use  $\phi(t, x_i, k_j)$  to denote the grid function value. Let  $\phi_{ij}(t) \approx \phi(t, x_i, k_j)$  be the numerical solution, computed from the upwind semi-discrete scheme

$$\frac{d}{dt} \phi_{ij}(t) = L(\phi_{ij}), \tag{3.12}$$

$$L(\phi_{ij}) := -E'(k_j) \frac{(\phi_{ij})_x^+ + (\phi_{ij})_x^-}{2} + |E'(k_j)| \frac{(\phi_{ij})_x^+ - (\phi_{ij})_x^-}{2} - V'_e(x_i) \frac{(\phi_{ij})_k^+ + (\phi_{ij})_k^-}{2} + |V'_e(x_i)| \frac{(\phi_{ij})_k^+ - (\phi_{ij})_k^-}{2}, \tag{3.13}$$

where  $E'(k)$  was evaluated in **Step 1**. Higher order spatial approximation can be achieved by high order ENO reconstruction applied to both  $\phi_x^\pm$  and  $\phi_k^\pm$  respectively, see [39]. Here we use a second order ENO reconstruction in our simulation.

In time, a two-stage, second order Runge–Kutta method [19] is used

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{ij}^* &= \phi_{ij}^n + \Delta t L(\phi_{ij}^n), \\ \phi_{ij}^{n+1} &= \frac{1}{2} \phi_{ij}^n + \frac{1}{2} \left( \phi_{ij}^* + \Delta t L(\phi_{ij}^*) \right). \end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

Now, we briefly summarize the procedure here:

- (i) Find high order approximation of  $(\phi_{ij})_{x,k}^\pm$  using ENO, and  $E'(k_j)$  using (3.8) or (3.9) at each grid point.
- (ii) Solve (3.11) by using (3.12) and (3.14).
- (iii) Project  $\phi = 0$  onto  $x - k$  plane to get  $S_x$ .

Note that in (ii), one may use interpolation to approximate  $E'(k)$  when grid point of  $E'(k_j)$  is not coincided with the grid point obtained in (3.8) or (3.9). In our computation, we simply choose the same grid points.

**Step 4.** Computing the density  $\rho$ .

We solve (2.22) with initial condition (2.23) using methods described in **Step 3** in each band to obtain  $f_n$  for  $n = 1, \dots, M$ , where  $M$  is the number of bands to be sampled.  $M$  is taken to be 10 in our numerical tests in next section.

The position density is to be computed by

$$\bar{\rho}(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^M \int f_n(t, x, k) \delta(\phi_n) dk = \sum_{n=1}^M \sum_{k_i} f_n(t, x, k_i) \delta_\eta(\phi_n(t, x, k_i)) \Delta k, \tag{3.15}$$

where  $\delta_\eta$  is an approximation of the  $\delta$ -function. Let  $\chi$  denote the characteristic function, our choice is

$$\delta_\eta(\phi) = \frac{1 + \cos(\pi\phi/\eta)}{2\eta} \chi_{[-\eta, \eta]}.$$

Finally, we compare the density obtained from (3.15) with

$$\rho(t, x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{p=0}^{p-1} |\psi(t, x, y_p)|^2 \Delta y, \tag{3.16}$$

where  $\psi(t, x, y)$  is computed by the Strang splitting spectral method (2.37) for different  $\epsilon$ .

### 4. Numerical examples

#### 4.1. Bloch band based initial decomposition

We first examine the accuracy of the Bloch band decomposition of the initial data

$$\psi_0(x) = g(x, x/\epsilon)e^{iS_0(x)/\epsilon}, \quad \epsilon \ll 1,$$

in terms of Bloch functions  $\{z_n\}$  obtained from (3.1) with  $V(y) = \cos(y)$  and  $b(y) \equiv 1$ . This internal potential  $V(y) = \cos(y)$  will be used in some numerical tests below.

The eigen-structure of this potential  $V(y)$  and  $b(y)$  is shown in Fig. 1, in which we observe that all five eigenvalues are distinct for any  $k \in B$ . It meets the assumption of the Bloch Band expansion in Section 2.

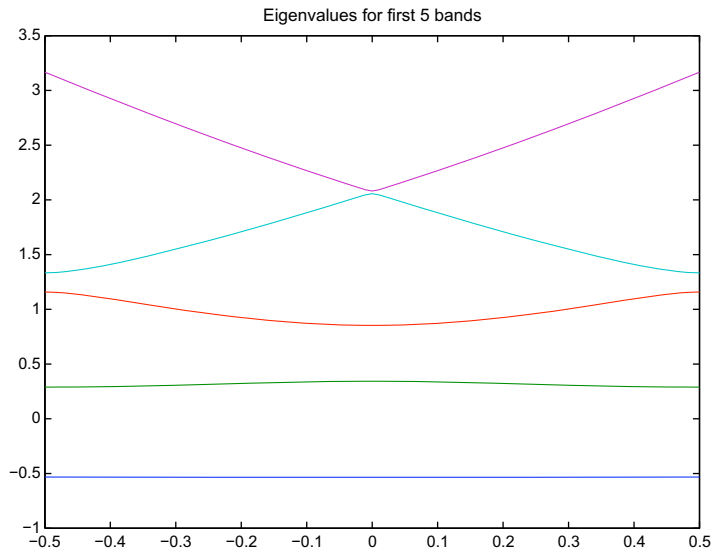


Fig. 1. Eigenvalues for  $V(y) = \cos(y)$  and  $b \equiv 1$  of  $n$ th band, with  $n = 1, \dots, 5$  (bottom to top).

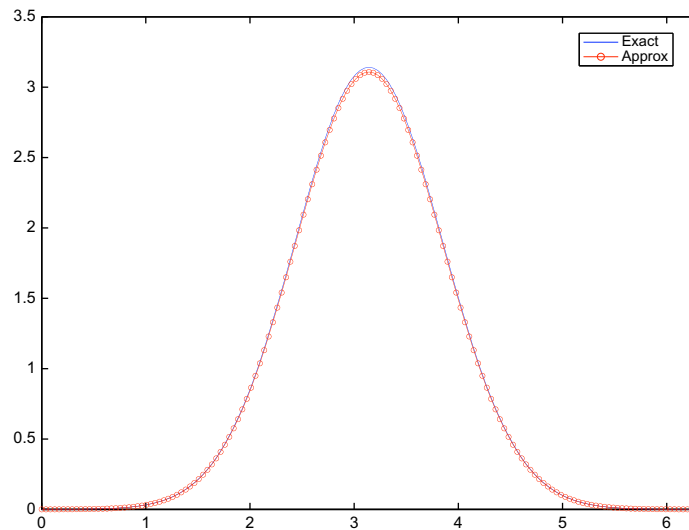


Fig. 2. Initial data (iii), Bloch decomposition of initial density, exact density vs. approximation with eight bands.

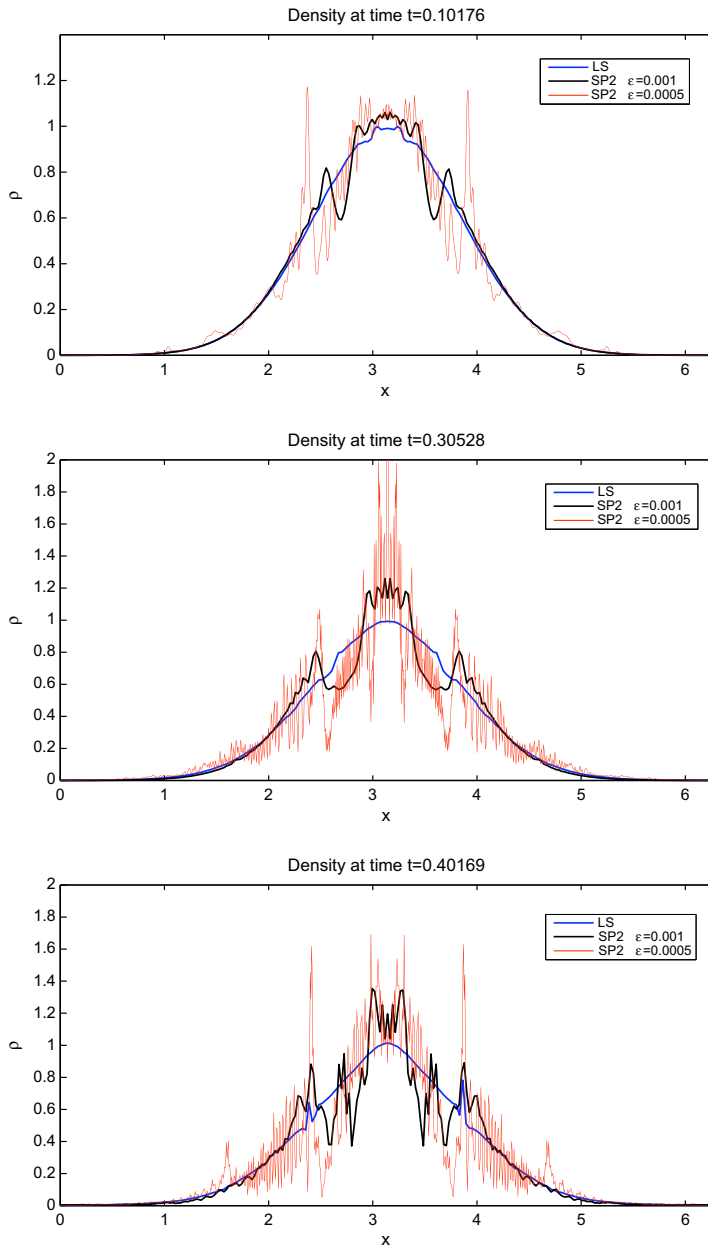


Fig. 3. Example 1, homogenized density at different times.

In all examples of this section the computation domain is chosen to be  $(x, k) \in [0, 2\pi] \times [-0.5, 0.5]$  with  $151 \times 101$  grid points and  $101 \times 101$  eigen-matrix.

We compare the  $L^1$  error of the Bloch decomposition, defined in (3.10), for the following data:

- (i)  $g(x, y) = \exp\left(\frac{-(x-\pi)^2}{2}\right)$ ,  $S_0(x) = 0$ ,
- (ii)  $g(x, y) = \exp\left(\frac{-(x-\pi)^2}{2}\right)$ ,  $S_0(x) = -0.3 \cos(x)$ ,
- (iii)  $g(x, y) = \exp\left(\frac{-(x-\pi)^2}{2}\right) \cos(y)$ ,  $S_0(x) = 0$ .

A comparison table is given below.

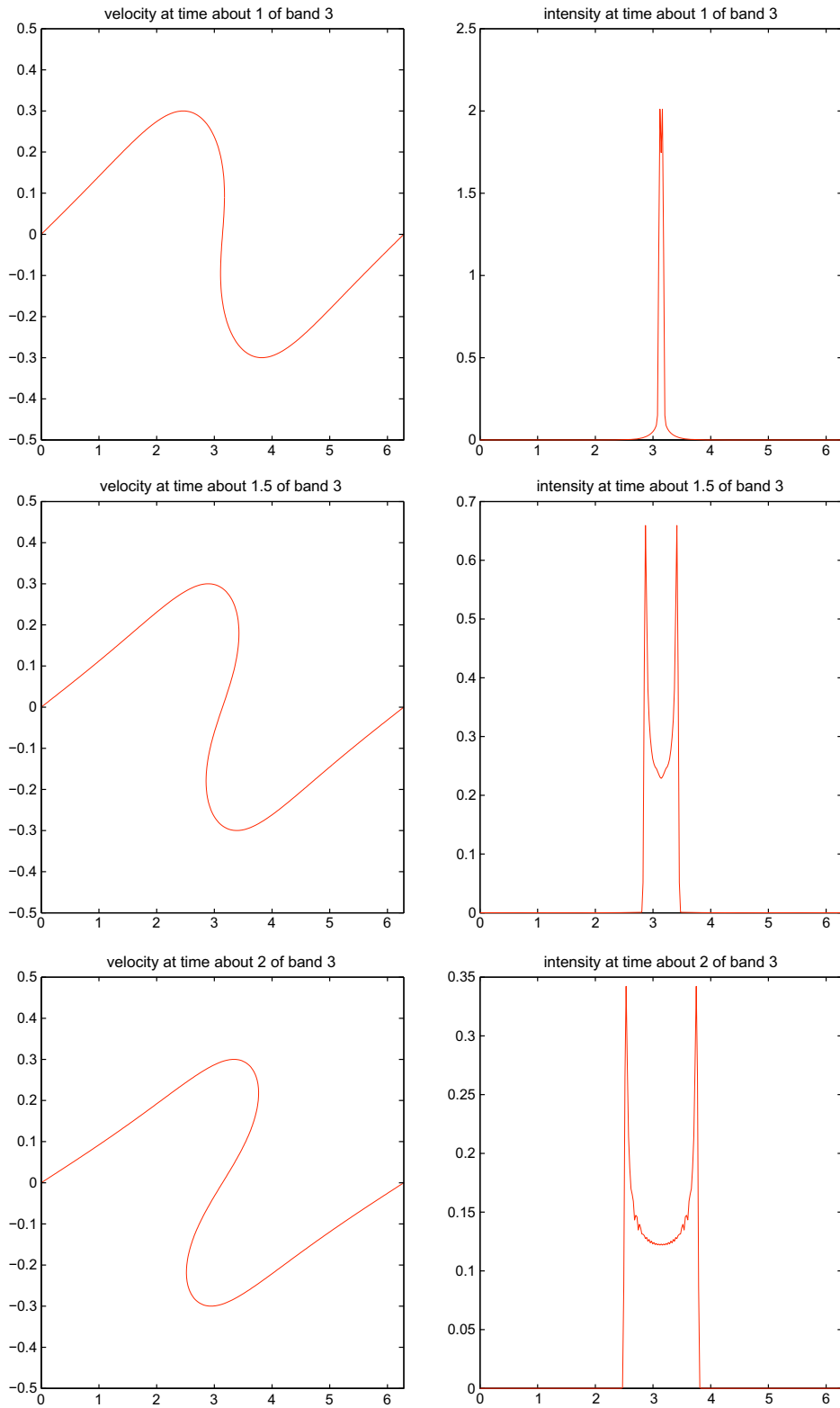


Fig. 4. Example 2,  $n = 3$ , velocity and density at different times.

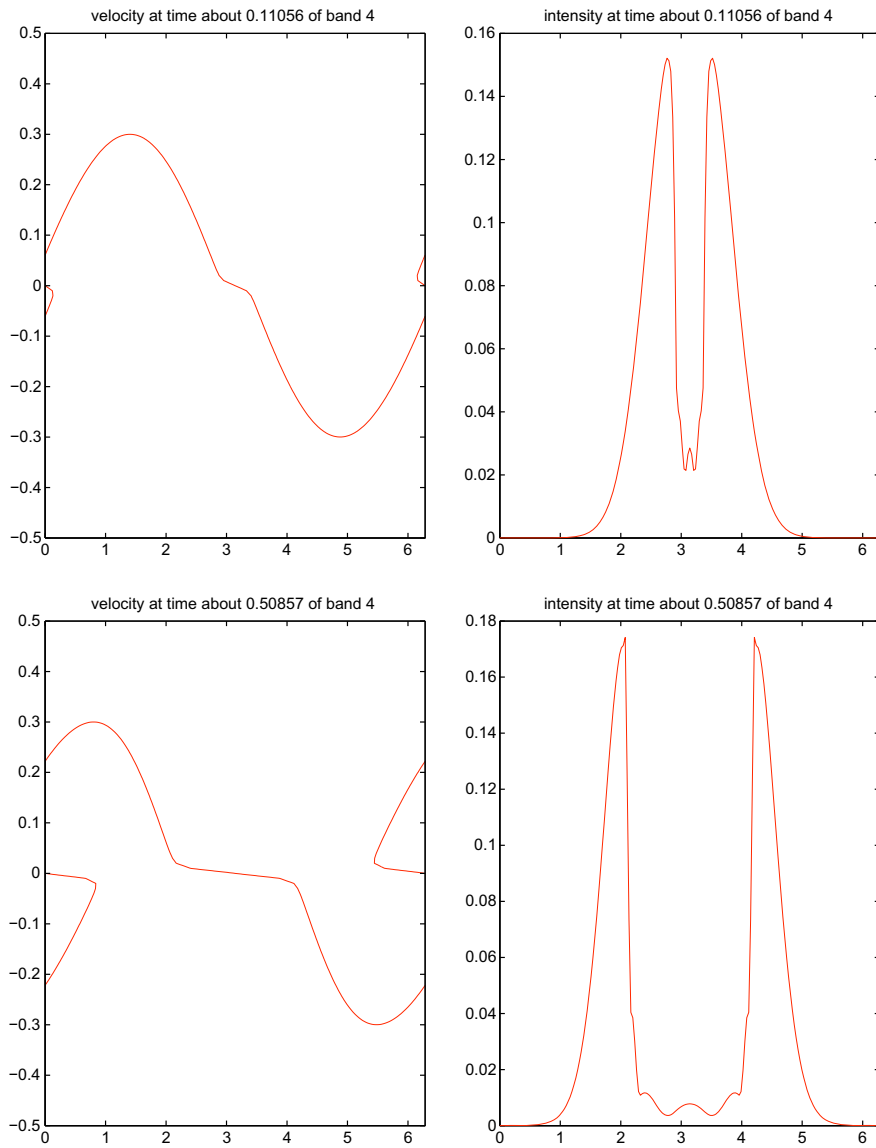


Fig. 5. Example 2,  $n = 4$ , velocity and density at different time.

# of bands	4	6	8	10	12
$L^1$ error of (i)	0.032843	0.009905	0.009879	0.009879	0.009879
$L^1$ error of (ii)	0.017008	0.008111	0.008101	0.008101	0.008101
$L^1$ error of (iii)	0.691181	0.062764	0.059332	0.059329	0.059329

From the above table we see that eight bands give a good approximation with  $L^1$  error of the order of  $10^{-2}$ , with  $\Delta x = 2\pi/150$  and  $\Delta k = 1/100$ . Including more bands does not seem to improve the accuracy of decomposition. Fig. 2 shows a comparison between the exact density and an approximation using eight bands of data (iii). We see that they match very well. This tells that, in solving level set equation 3.11, only a few bands are needed, which makes our level set method more practical.

#### 4.2. Numerical examples

We consider the periodic potential

$$V = \cos\left(\frac{x}{\epsilon}\right)$$

for all examples below.

**Example 1.**  $b = 1, V_e = 0$  and

$$\psi^\epsilon(0, x) = \exp\left(-\frac{(x - \pi)^2}{2}\right) \exp\left(\frac{-0.3i \cos(x)}{\epsilon}\right).$$

This example is to compare total averaged density computed from our level set (LS) algorithm with the corresponding quantity in 3.16. From Fig. 3, we observe that in these three plots each density computed by the level set algorithm predicts the correct trend as desired.

In what follows we shall test our level set algorithm for different choices of  $b$  and external potentials as well as of  $z_n(k, y)$ .

**Example 2.**  $b \equiv 1, V_e = 0$ , and

$$\psi^\epsilon(0, x) = e^{-\frac{0.3i \cos(x)}{\epsilon}} e^{-(x-\pi)^2} z_n(0.3 \sin(x), x/\epsilon), \quad n = 3, 4, 5.$$

This example is to test capacity of the level set algorithm to capture multi-valued velocities and associated densities in different bands.

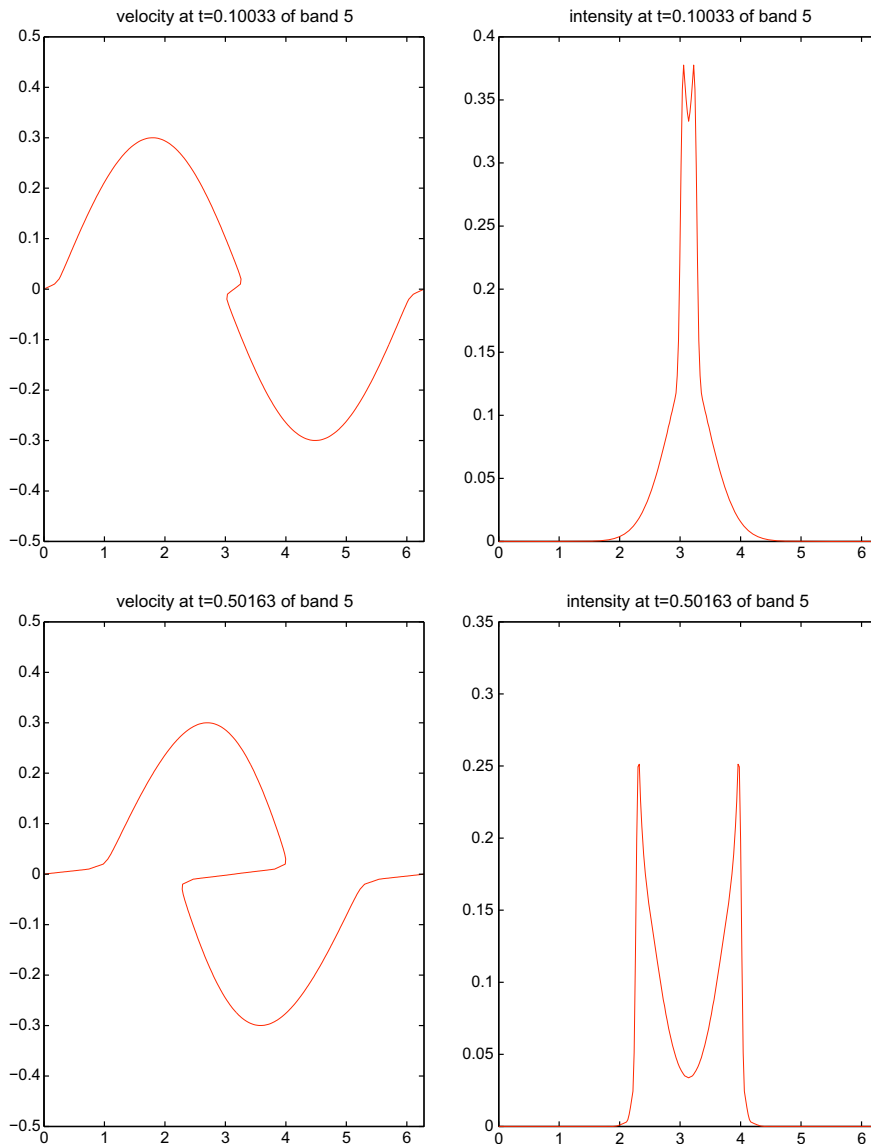


Fig. 6. Example 2,  $n = 5$ , velocity and density of band 5 at different times.

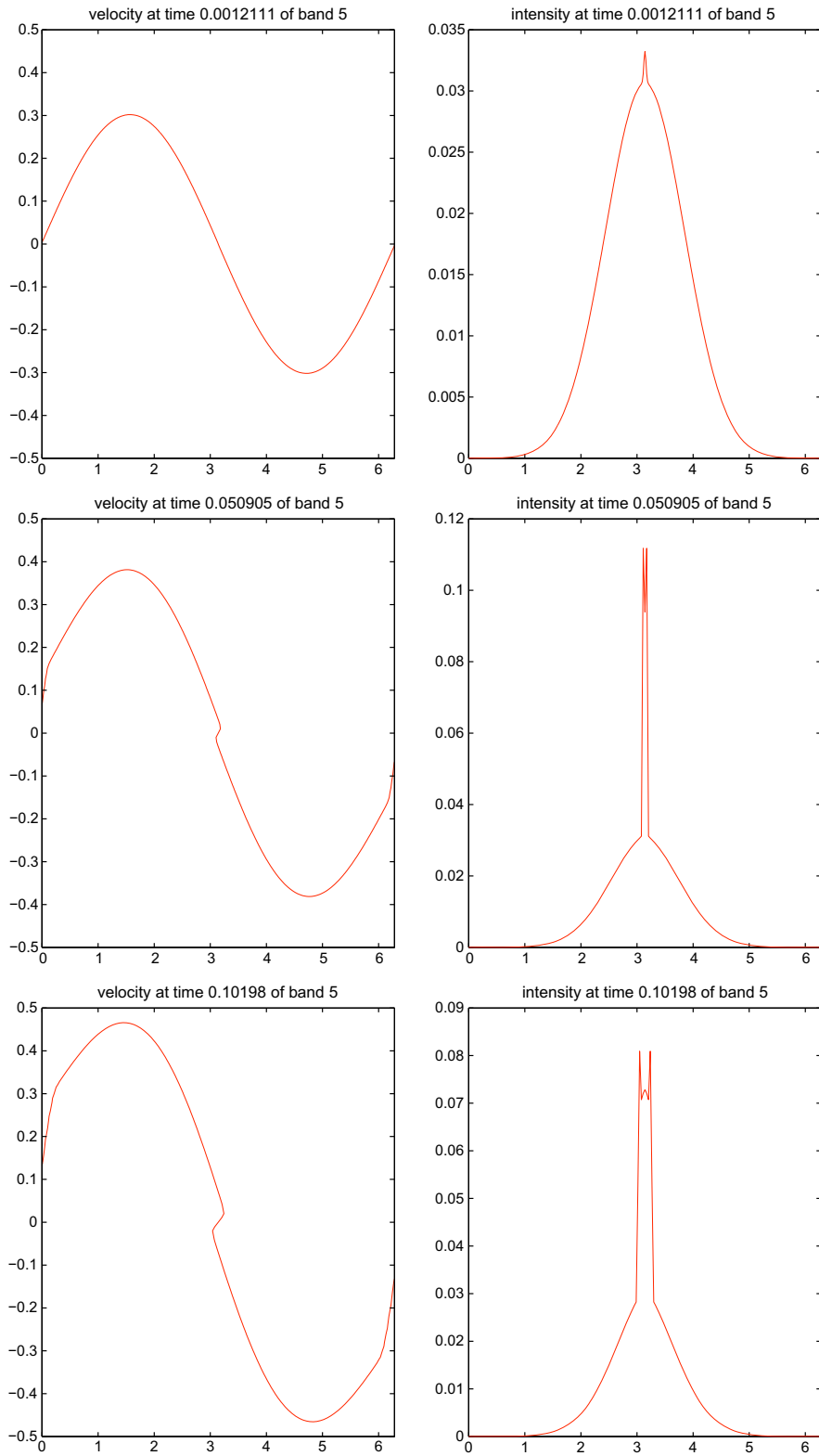


Fig. 7. Example 3, velocity and density of band 5 with  $V_e = \frac{|x-\pi|^2}{2}$  at different times.

From the Bloch eigenvalues given in Fig. 1 we see that when  $n = 3$ ,  $E'_3(k)$  is positive when  $k > 0$  and negative when  $k < 0$ ;  $|E_4(k)| \sim -2|k|$  and  $|E_5(k)| \sim 2|k|$ . Thus when initial velocity is a sine profile, both the third and fifth band will lead to multi-valued solutions to the corresponding equation for  $u = S_x$ :

$$u_t + E'_n(u)u_x = 0.$$

The fourth band leads to a smooth rarefaction profile in  $u$ . The density is calculated as (3.15).

The case  $n = 3$  is illustrated in Fig. 4 for multi-valued velocity and averaged density at different times. From these figures we see that the density becomes infinite where the velocity has turns.

The case  $n = 4$  is displayed in Fig. 5, in which we see that as the rarefaction appears around  $x = \pi$ , the averaged density tends to zero. Note that the multi-valued velocity at the boundaries are the waves from adjacent period, because of the periodic boundary condition.

When  $n = 5$ , multi-valuedness in velocity appears immediately when  $t > 0$ , see Fig. 6.

**Example 3.**  $b \equiv 1$ , the harmonic potential  $V_e = \frac{|x-\pi|^2}{2}$  and the initial data

$$\psi^\epsilon(0, x) = e^{-\frac{0.3i \cos(x)}{\epsilon}} e^{\frac{(x-\pi)^2}{2}} z_5\left(0.3 \sin(x), \frac{x}{\epsilon}\right).$$

This example is to show the level set method to be capable of dealing with non-trivial external potentials. In presence of a non-trivial  $V_e$ , both shapes and amplitudes of  $u$  will change, a larger computation domain may be needed so that the computed velocity remains to be observed in  $k$  direction. In Fig. 7 we observe the motion of peaks in intensity, which corresponds to the location of turning points in velocity.

**Example 4.**  $b = \frac{3}{2} + \sin(y)$ ,  $V_e = 0$ , and

$$\psi^\epsilon(0, x) = \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\pi)^2}{2}\right) \exp\left(\frac{-0.3i \cos(x)}{\epsilon}\right).$$

Here we test this initial data with the Mathieu potential  $V = \cos(y)$  [17]. The first eight Bloch eigenvalues for this potential are shown in Fig. 8. We first do the initial Bloch decomposition with  $L^1$  errors shown in Table 1, where  $\Delta x = 2\pi/100$  and  $\Delta k = 1/100$  have been used. In our level set method, we use 10 bands. In Fig. 9 with  $201 \times 101$  grid points, we see that the peaks first move toward center then concentrate at  $x = \pi$ .

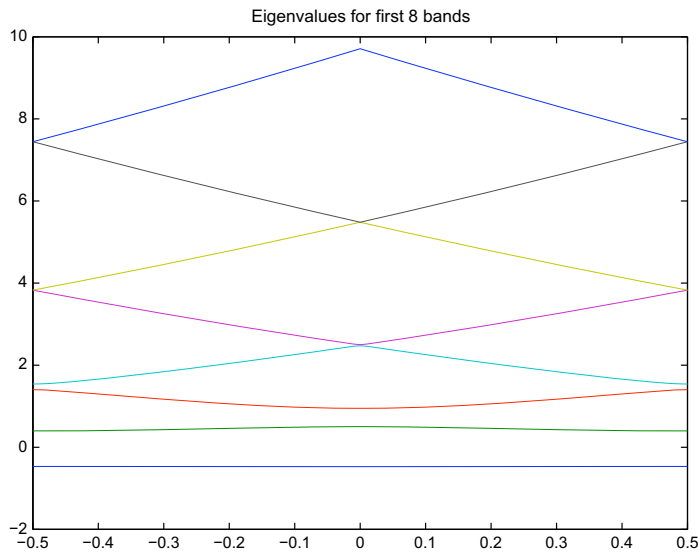


Fig. 8. Eigenvalues for  $V(y) = \cos(y)$  and  $b(y) = \frac{3}{2} + \sin(y)$  of band 1, 2, ..., 8 (bottom to top).

Table 1

$L^1$  error table for initial Bloch decomposition of Example 4 with  $101 \times 101$  grid points and  $101 \times 101$  eigen-matrix.

# of bands	2	4	6	8	10	12
$L^1$ error	0.480772	0.015661	0.007301	0.007233	0.007233	0.007233

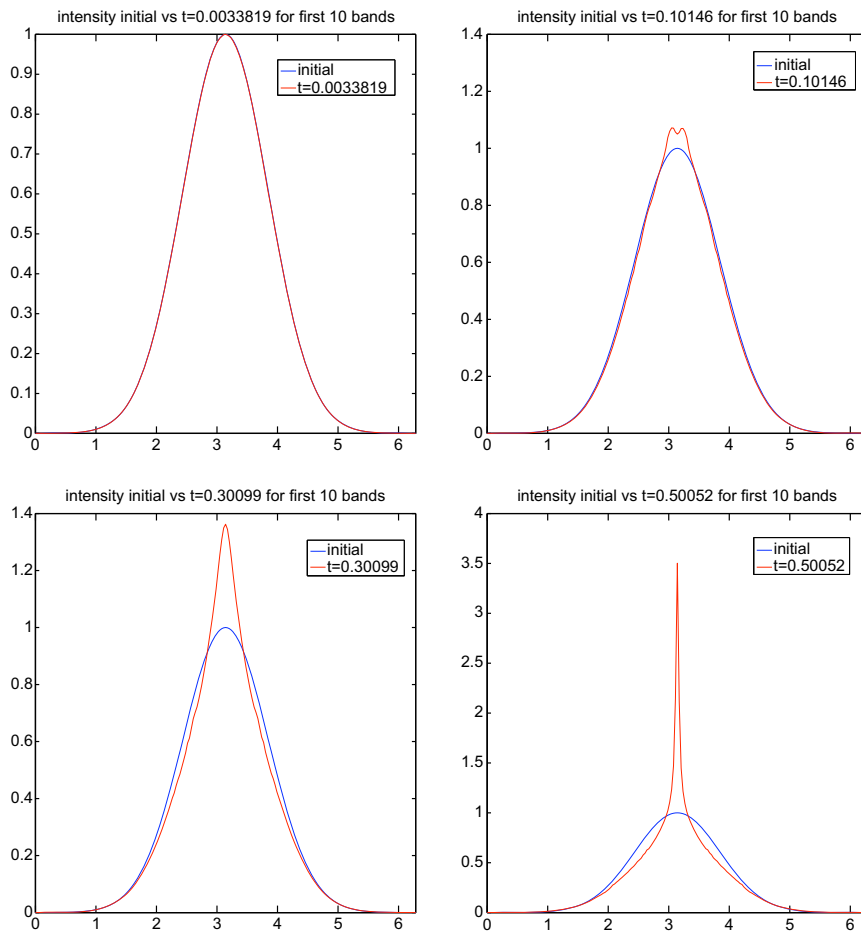


Fig. 9. Example 4, total averaged density with 10 bands when  $t = 0.003, 0.1$  in upper row (from left to right) and  $t = 0.3, 0.5$  in bottom row.

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