

A BLOCH BAND BASED LEVEL SET METHOD FOR COMPUTING THE SEMICLASSICAL LIMIT OF SCHRÖDINGER EQUATIONS

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ABSTRACT. It is now known that one can use level set description to accurately capture multi-phases in computation of high frequency waves. In this paper, we develop a Bloch band based level set method 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, with Hamiltonian being the Bloch eigenvalues. We evolve a level set description to capture multi-valued solutions to the band WKB system, and then evaluate total position 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 step ii) and iii), respectively. Numerical results with different number of bands are provided to demonstrate the good quality of the method.

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Level Set Formulation	4
2.1. Semi-classical homogenization and Bloch decomposition	4
2.2. Bloch band based level set equation	6
2.3. Initial band configuration	7
2.4. Evaluation of position density	8
3. Numerical Procedures	10
4. Numerical Examples	12
4.1. Bloch band based initial decomposition	12
4.2. Solving the level set equation	15
Acknowledgments	25
References	25

1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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subject to the highly oscillatory function as initial data

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

Here ψ^ϵ is the complex wave field, and ϵ 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.,

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

The external potential V_ϵ is a given smooth function.

This type of Schrödinger equations is a fundamental model in solid-state physics [2] and also models the quantum dynamics of Bloch electrons subject to an external field. This problem has been studied from both physical and mathematical aspects in the literature, see e.g. [1, 5, 28, 34, 39]. The mathematical asymptotic analysis as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ combining both semiclassical and homogenization limits has been of interest in many references [3, 4, 11, 22, 29, 37].

In the semiclassical regime, where ϵ is small, the external potential $V_\epsilon(x)$ varies at larger spatial scales than periodic potential $V(y)$ does and can be considered weak compared with periodic field. The wave function ψ^ϵ 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. [17], improving mesh sizes up to order $O(\epsilon)$. In the semiclassical regime where ϵ tends to zero, direct numerical simulation can be prohibitively costly.

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 [4, 16] in which the electron coordinate $y = \frac{x}{\epsilon}$ and the space variable x are regarded as independent variables.

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

in which the amplitude A^ϵ 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 ϵ , a band Hamilton-Jacobi equation for the phase S and the transport equation for the amplitude ρ :

$$(1.4) \quad S_t + E(S_x) + V_\epsilon(x) = 0,$$

$$(1.5) \quad \rho_t + (E'(S_x)\rho)_x = 0,$$

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

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

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 [4] asserts that the wave function can be recovered by a superposition of wave patterns on each band

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

After the singularity formation standard schemes using shock capturing ideas will select the viscosity solution [8, 9], 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 (1.1) with $b(y) \equiv 1$ was due to [13], see also subsequent works [12, 14].

Phase space based geometric methods were first introduced for tracking wave fronts in geometric optics, such as the segment projection method [10] and the level set method [32, 7, 36, 6]. More recently, a level set framework has been developed for computing multi-valued phases in the *entire physical domain* in [6, 20, 23, 19, 18]; main development has been summarized in the review article [24]. 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 or recovery of the original wave field, see [21, 25, 26, 27].

The aim of this paper is to extend the level set method of [6, 19] 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 position 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.,

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

It is shown that on n^{th} Bloch band, ϕ 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 [27], we compute the multi-valued density by

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

where f is determined by solving the band Liouville equation

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

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,

$$\rho_n(0, x) = |a_n(x)|^2,$$

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

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

where the phase shift μ_n^j corresponds to the usual Keller-Maslov phase shift [30].

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 [31, 32, 35], is almost linear in the number of grid points in physical domain. In contrast to the method of using K-branch solutions in [13], the level set method developed here is simple and more robust especially when the number of solution branches is large.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: in §2, we derive the level set algorithm and analyze the effective position density to be computed. §3 describes the numerical procedure in four steps. Finally in §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 formulate the level set method for each Bloch band, followed by computation of position density over a sample set of Bloch bands.

2.1. Semi-classical homogenization and Bloch decomposition. We now sketch the asymptotic procedure to derive a limiting model for the Schrödinger equation

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

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

We use, as illustrated in [4, 16], 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) :

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

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 solution of the following form

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

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

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

where the first two coefficients are

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

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

Here we have set

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

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

It is known [38] 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

$$(2.10) \quad H(k, y)z_n(k, y) = E_n(k)z_n(k, y),$$

$$z_n(k, y + 2\pi) = z_n(k, y), \quad k \in \mathcal{B}, \quad y \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Here k is confined to the reciprocal cell $\mathcal{B} = [-0.5, 0.5]$ (or a Brillouin zone in physical literature)[4, 38]. 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 $\{E_n(k) \mid k \in \mathcal{B}\}$ 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

$$(2.11) \quad S_t + E(S_x) + V_e(x) = 0$$

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

$$(2.12) \quad \langle Lz, z \rangle = 0.$$

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

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

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 β is purely imaginary so that $\rho = |a|^2$ satisfies

$$(2.14) \quad \rho_t + (E'(S_x) \rho)_x = 0.$$

In fact, if we use H_k , then β can be recast as

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

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

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

which upon taking inner product with z gives

$$(2.17) \quad E'(k) = \langle H_k z, z \rangle.$$

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

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

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

$$Re(\beta) = 0.$$

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

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} S_t + E(S_x) + V_e(x) &= 0, \\ \rho_t + (E'(S_x) \rho)_x &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

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 ϕ is proven to satisfy

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

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

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

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

The corresponding multi-valued density can be evaluated as suggested in [27]

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

where f solves

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

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

where $\rho_0(x)$ is to be determined from the initial data $\psi^\epsilon(0, x)$, see (2.25).

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 $a(x, x/\epsilon)$ and potential $V(x, x/\epsilon)$. 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

$$(2.24) \quad \psi_0^\epsilon \left(x, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) = g \left(x, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \exp(iS_0(x)/\epsilon),$$

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

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

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

$$(2.25) \quad \rho_n = |a_n(x)|^2 = \left| \int_0^{2\pi} g(x, y) \bar{z}_n(\partial_x S_0, y) dy \right|^2.$$

The above decomposition ensures that

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} (2.27) \quad \psi_n^\epsilon(t, x, y) &= \int \psi^\epsilon(t, x, y, k) \delta(\phi) \det(\phi_k) dk \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} \int \psi^\epsilon(t, x, y, k) \delta(k - u_n^j(t, x)) dk \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} \psi^\epsilon(t, x, y, u_n^j) = \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} a_n^j z_n(u_n^j, y) \exp\left(\frac{iS_n^j}{\epsilon}\right). \end{aligned}$$

This wave function is periodic in the lattice scale y , we thus only calculate the averaged band density (the factor $1/(2\pi)$ is to be absorbed into the normalized eigen-functions $z(k, y)$) as

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

Lemma 2.1. *Away from caustics we have*

$$(2.28) \quad \bar{\rho}_n^\epsilon(t, x) \rightarrow \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} |a_n^j|^2 \quad \text{as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

Proof. By a direct calculation we have

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

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 Φ

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

According to the stationary phase lemma*, 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.,

$$(2.29) \quad \mathcal{A}_1 := \{x | u_n^j(t, x) = u_n^{j'}(t, x), \quad j \neq j'\}.$$

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

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

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

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

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*

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

Then away from caustics, we have

$$(2.30) \quad \rho^\epsilon(t, x) \rightharpoonup \sum_n \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} |a_n^j|^2 \quad \text{as } \epsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

Proof. A direct calculation gives

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

As shown in Lemma 2.1 the term $Q_1 = \sum_n O_1(n) \rightharpoonup 0$ 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.,

$$(2.31) \quad \mathcal{A}_2 := \{x | u_n^j(t, x) = u_m^{j'}(t, x), \quad m \neq n\}.$$

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, $Q_2 \rightharpoonup 0$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$. The proof is thus complete. \square

Based on Lemma 2.1 and 2.2, in our numerical simulation the total position density $\bar{\rho}(x)$ is evaluated by

$$(2.32) \quad \bar{\rho}(x) = \sum_n \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} \rho_n^j,$$

where $\rho_n^j = |a_n^j|^2$ is given by (2.21).

Remark 2.3. The above analysis shows that in order to recover the wave field, one needs a caustic correction — the so called Keller-Maslov phase shift [30] such that

$$(2.33) \quad \psi^\epsilon(t, x) = \sum_n \sum_{j=1}^{K_n} a_n^j(t, x) z_n \left(u_n^j, \frac{x}{\epsilon} \right) \exp \left(\frac{iS_n^j}{\epsilon} \right) \exp \left(\frac{i\pi}{4} \mu_n^j \right).$$

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.

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)

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

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 2π -periodic functions in y , we can expand them in Fourier series

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

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

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

Insertion of these into (3.1) leads to

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

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

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

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,

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

which implies that the fundamental domain of dual lattice, $\bar{\mathcal{B}} = [-0.5, 0.5]$, 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 is usually taken to be 50.

After solving the above Bloch eigenvalue problem at each grid point $\{k_i \in [-0.5, 0.5], i = -M, \dots, M\}$ with mesh size Δk , we are equipped with discrete function values of $E_n(k_i)$. We now evaluate $\{E'_n(k_i), i = -M \dots M\}$ 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

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

and a fourth order approximation is given by

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

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 ρ_n defined in (2.25) by using different number of energy bands from the Bloch waves. We will check how many eigen-modes are needed to recover the density $\rho = \int_0^{2\pi} |\psi^\epsilon(x, y)|^2 dy$ at a desired accuracy. Here we measure the accuracy by L^2 error

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

The choice of M is studied numerically in section 4.1. We find out that for smooth potential $V(x)$ and initial $\psi_0^\epsilon(x)$, 8 bands are enough for the numerical simulation.

Step 3. Solving the level set equation

$$(3.11) \quad \phi_t + E'(k)\phi_x - V'_e(x)\phi_k = 0,$$

subject to initial data (2.20).

We discretize space with uniform mesh size Δx and Δk , 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

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

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

where $E'(k)$ was evaluated in **Step 1**. High order spatial approximation can be achieved by high order ENO reconstruction applied to both ϕ_x^\pm and ϕ_k^\pm respectively, see [33]. Here we use a second order ENO reconstruction in our simulation.

In time, a two-stage, second order SSP Runge-Kutta method [15] is used

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

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 ρ

We solve (2.22) with initial condition (2.23) using methods described in **step 3** in each band for f_n . We compute the total density by (2.32)

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

where ρ_n^j and u_n^j are given by (2.21).

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 $V(y) = \cos(y)$ arises in Mathieu's model.

The eigen-structure of this potential $V(y)$ and $b(y)$ is shown in Fig.1, in which we observe that all 5 eigenvalues are distinct for any k . It meets the assumption of the Bloch Band expansion in Section 2.

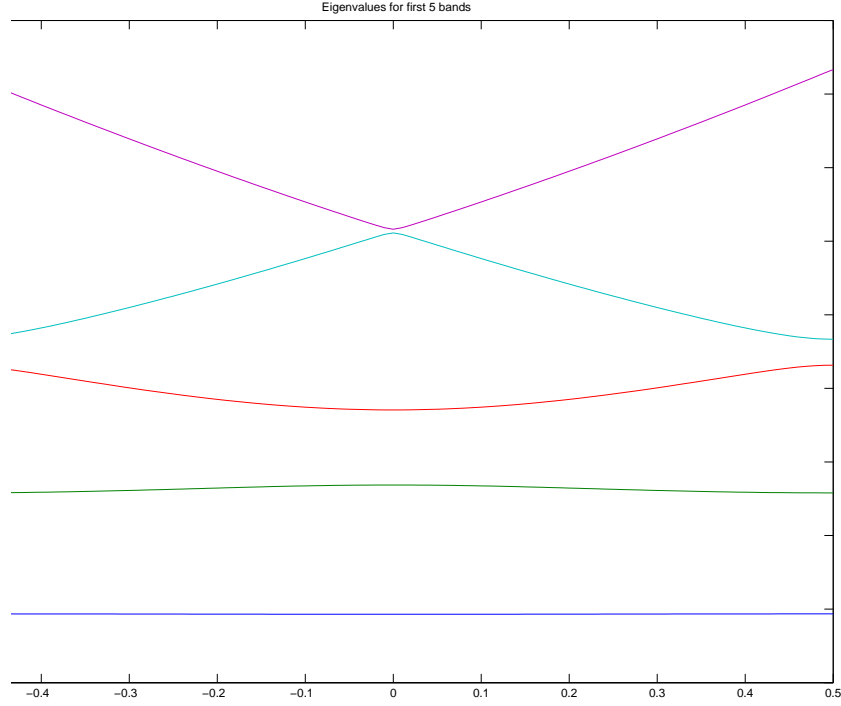


FIGURE 1. Eigenvalues for $V(y) = \cos(y)$ and $a \equiv 1$ of band 1, 2, \dots , 5 (bottom to top).

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

Example 1. Initial data with

$$g(x, y) = \exp\left(\frac{-(x - \pi)^2}{2}\right), \quad S_0(x) = 0.$$

A table of L^2 error defined in (3.10) is shown below.

# of bands	4	6	8	10	12
L^2 error	0.017099	0.001555	0.001547	0.001547	0.001547

Example 2. Initial data with

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

Similarly, a table of L^2 error is listed below.

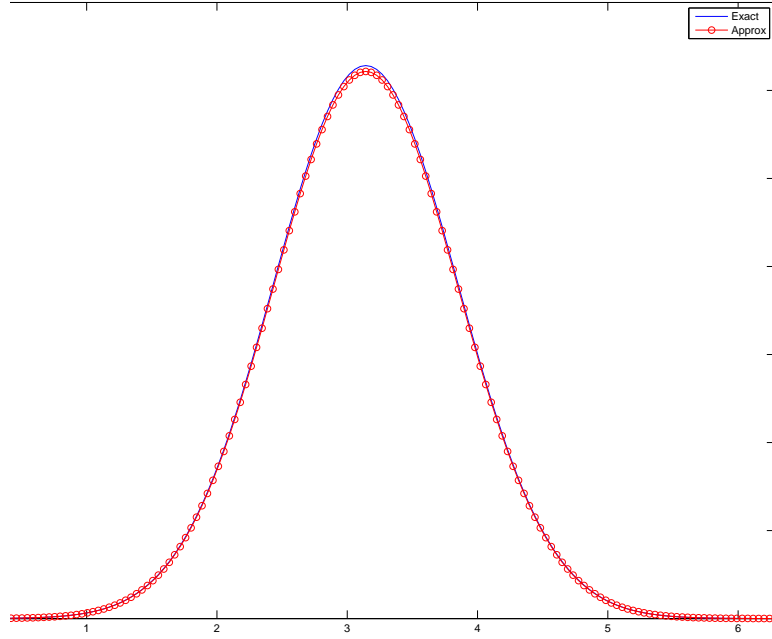


FIGURE 2. Example 3, Bloch decomposition of initial density, exact density vs approximation with 8 bands

# of bands	4	6	8	10	12
L^2 error	0.005762	0.001179	0.001177	0.001177	0.001177

Example 3. Initial data with a general initial amplitude

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

Similarly, a table of L^2 error is also listed below.

# of bands	4	6	8	10	12
L^2 error	0.190590	0.001572	0.001404	0.001404	0.001404

From these three examples, we see that 8 bands give a good approximation with L^2 error in the order of 10^{-3} , while $\Delta x = 2\pi/150$ and $\Delta k = 1/100$. More bands do not seem to improve the accuracy of decomposition. Fig.2 shows a comparison between the exact density and an approximation using 8 bands of Example 3. 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. Solving the level set equation. We test our algorithm using the Mathieu's potential

$$V = \cos(x).$$

Case I: $b \equiv 1$ and $V_e = 0$

Example 1.

$$\psi^\epsilon(0, x) = e^{\frac{-0.3i \cos(x)}{\epsilon}} e^{-(x-\pi)^2} z_3(0.3 \sin(x), x/\epsilon).$$

When initial velocity is a sine profile, both the third and fifth bands will lead to multi-valued solutions, since $E'_3(k)$ is positive when $k > 0$ and negative when $k < 0$. For the third band, the $|E'_3(k)|$ is approximately a parabola. Thus it has a finite time singularity. See Fig.3 for multi-valued velocity and density at different time. Here the density is calculated as (2.32).

From these figures we see that the density becomes infinite where the velocity has turns.

Example 2.

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

For fifth band, $|E'_5(k)|$ is like $|k|$; thus the sine profile just moves left/right when the velocity is negative/positive. Moreover, we observe multi-valuedness in velocity immediately after the evolution starts. See Fig.4.

Example 3.

$$\psi^\epsilon(0, x) = e^{\frac{-0.3i \cos(x)}{\epsilon}} e^{-(x-\pi)^2} (z_4(0.3 \sin(x), x/\epsilon)).$$

Previous examples show the formation of multi-valued solutions due to caustics. In this example, the case of rarefaction is also studied. In Fig. 5 and 6, we see that as the rarefaction appears around $x = \pi$, a vacuum is created there. Note that the multi-valued velocity at the boundaries are the waves from adjacent period, because of the periodic boundary condition.

Case II: $b \equiv 1$, $V_e \neq 0$

Example 4.

Now we test an example of harmonic potential $V_e = \frac{|x-\pi|^2}{2}$ with initial data

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

Due to V_e , the velocity increases while singularity forms immediately. This phenomenon is observed in Fig.7. Besides the increment of velocity, we observe the motion of peak in intensity, which corresponds to the location of turning point in velocity. Clearly, the level set method is capable of dealing with any nonzero external potential V_e . However, in the case of $V_e \neq 0$, one needs to choose proper computation domain so that the computed velocity remains to be observed.

Case III: general b and $V_e = 0$

Example 5.

$$b\left(\frac{x}{\epsilon}\right) = \frac{3}{2} + \sin\left(\frac{x}{\epsilon}\right)$$

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

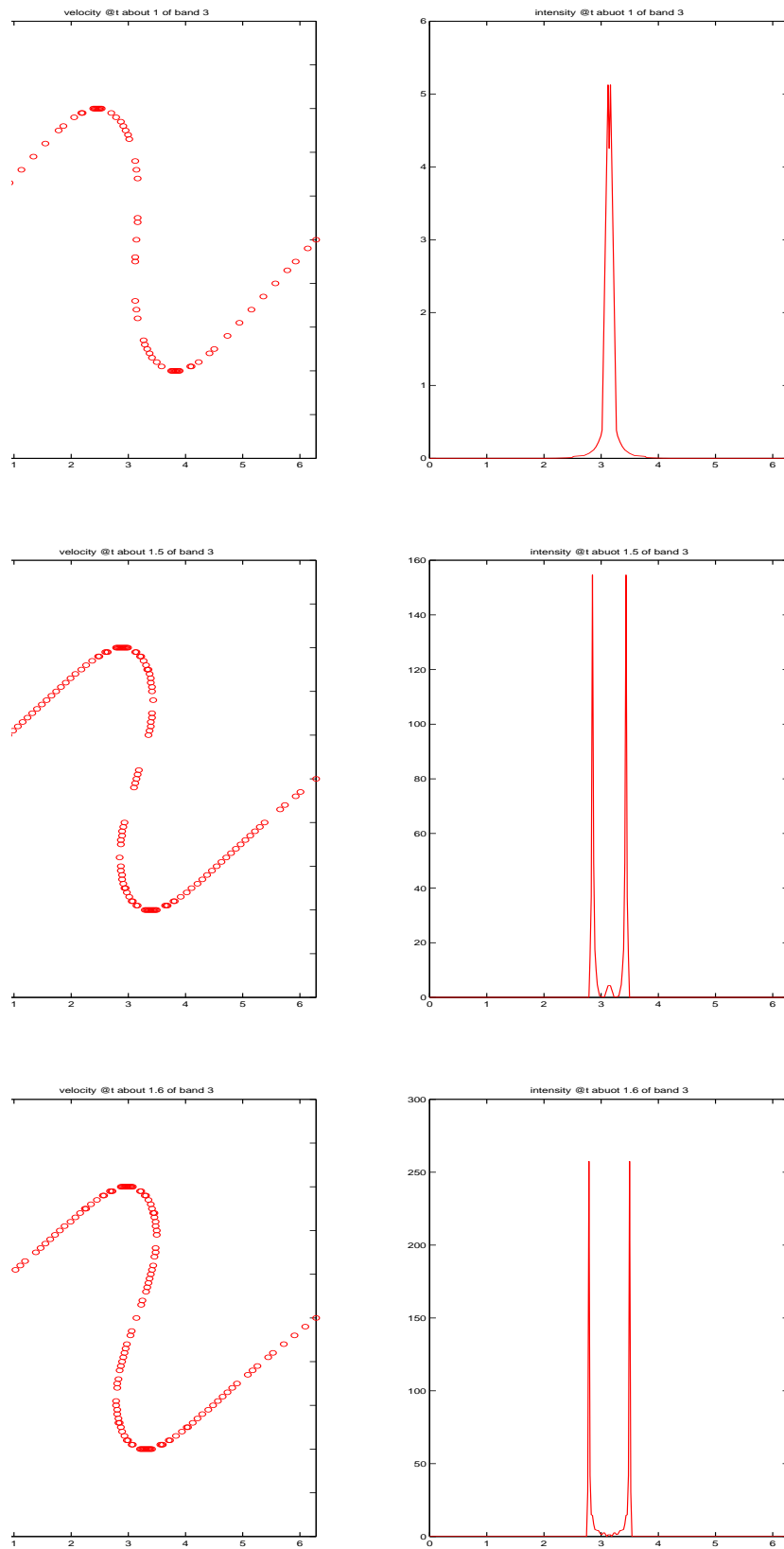
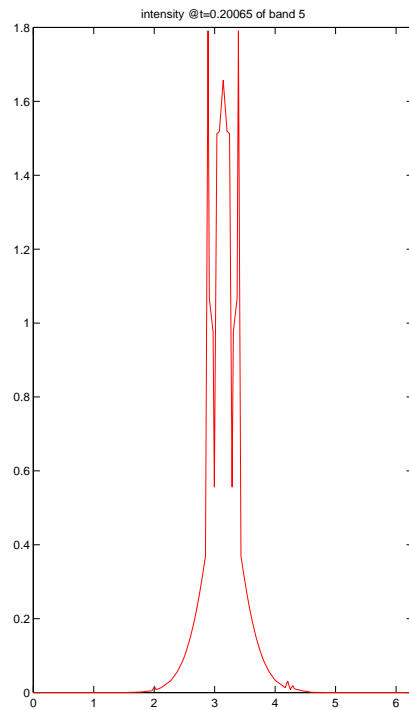
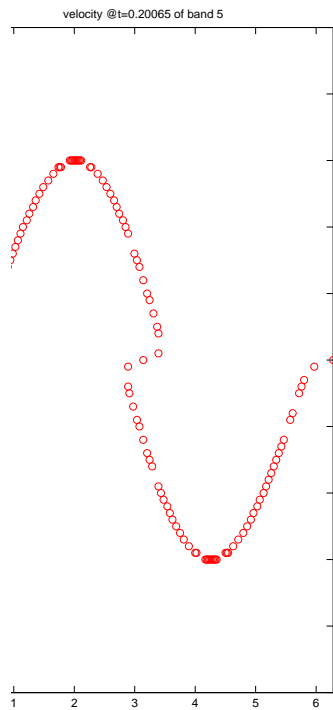
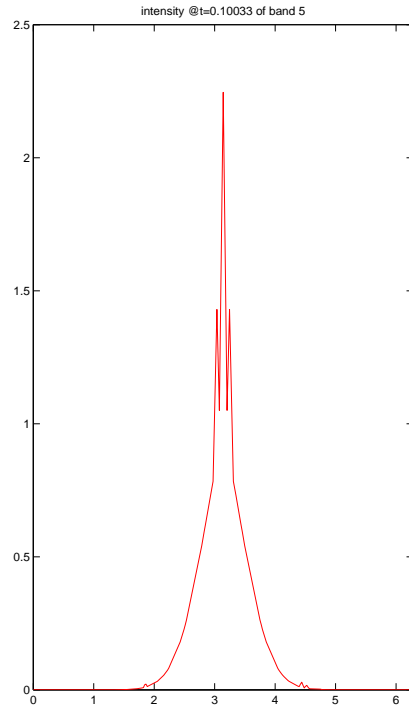
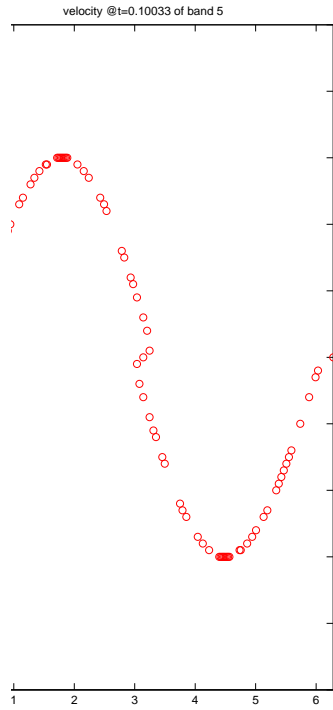


FIGURE 3. Example 1, velocity and density of band 3 at different times



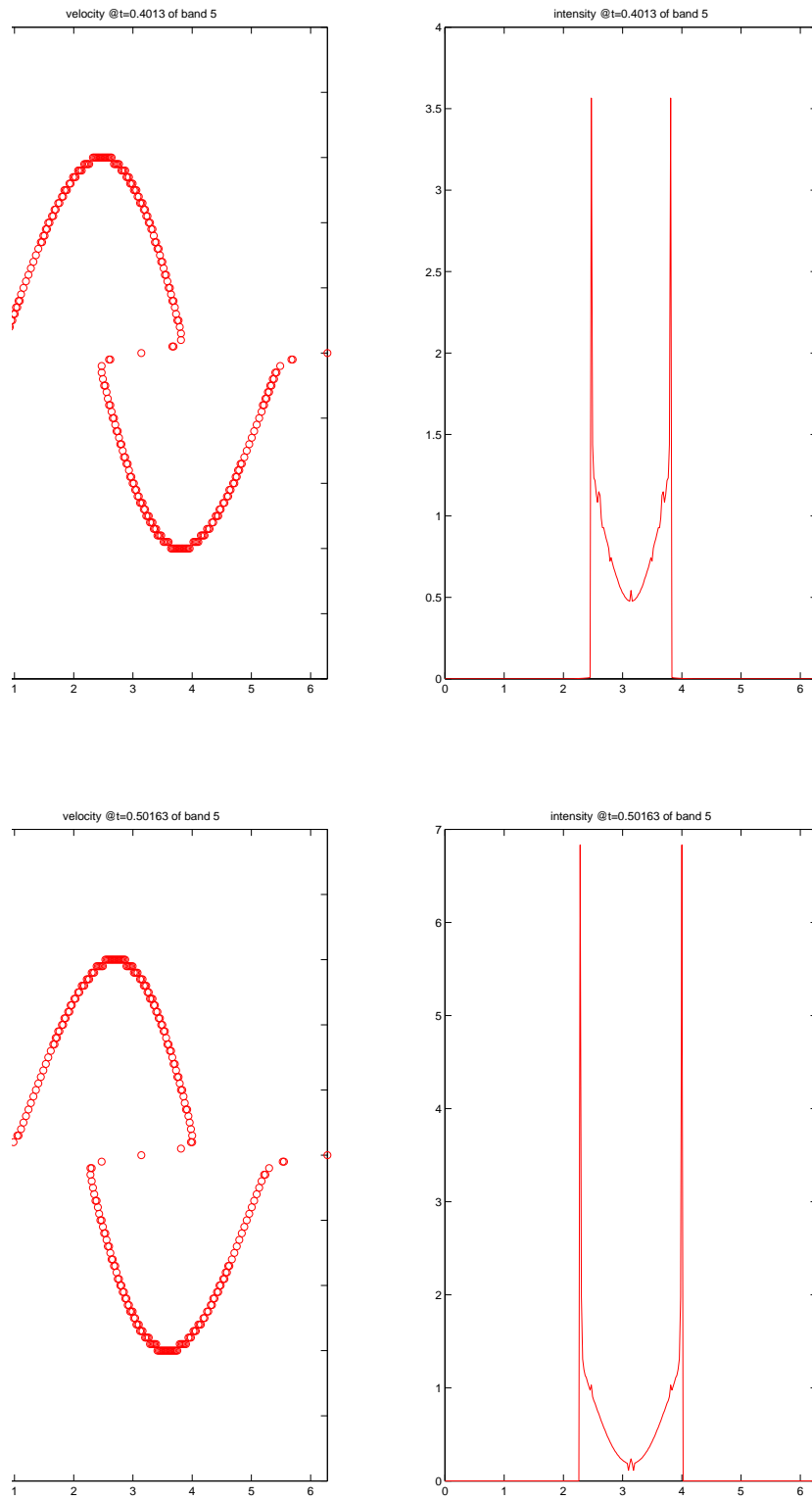


FIGURE 4. Example 2, velocity and density of band 5 at different time

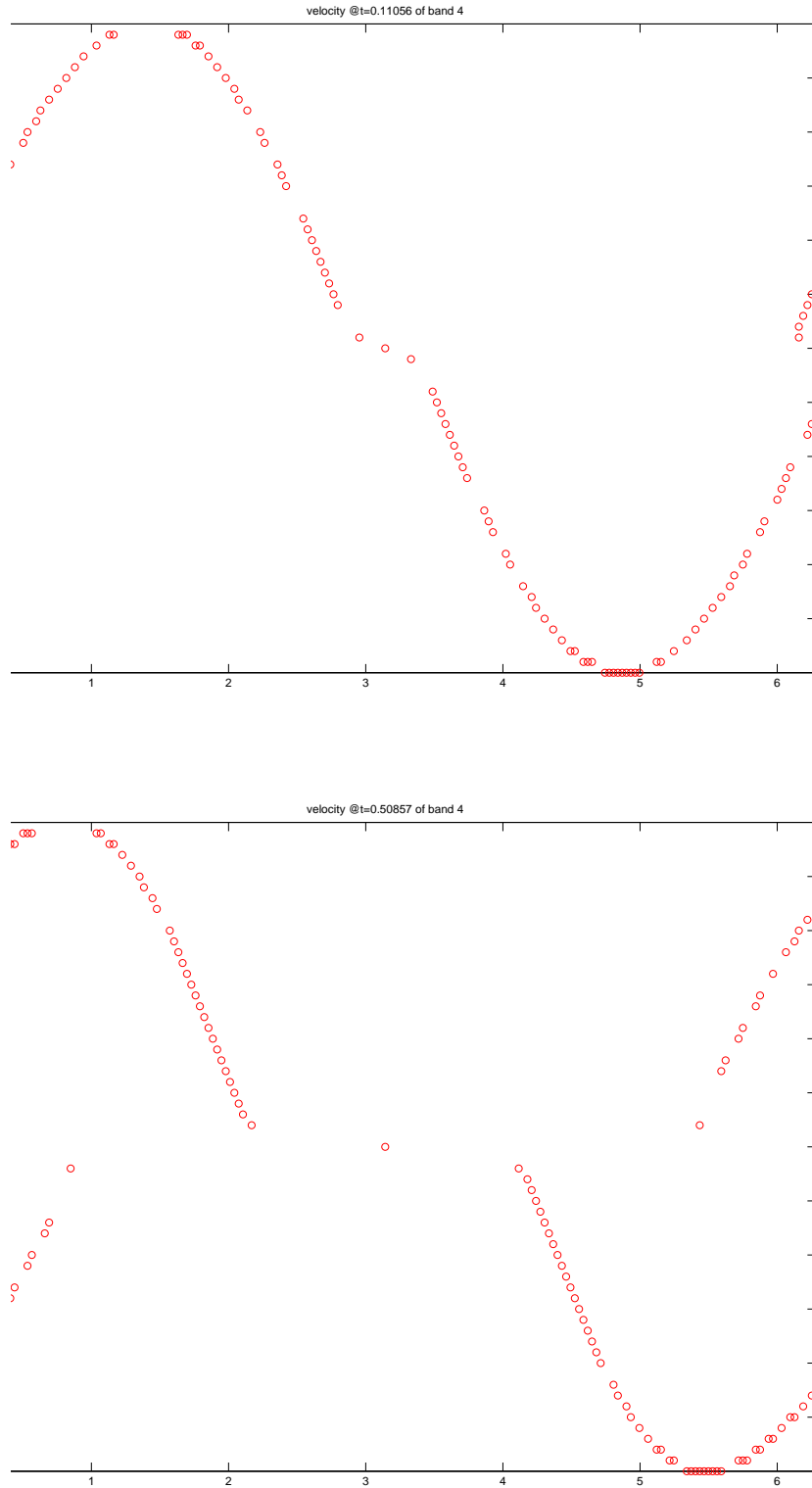


FIGURE 5. Example 3, velocity of band 4 at different time

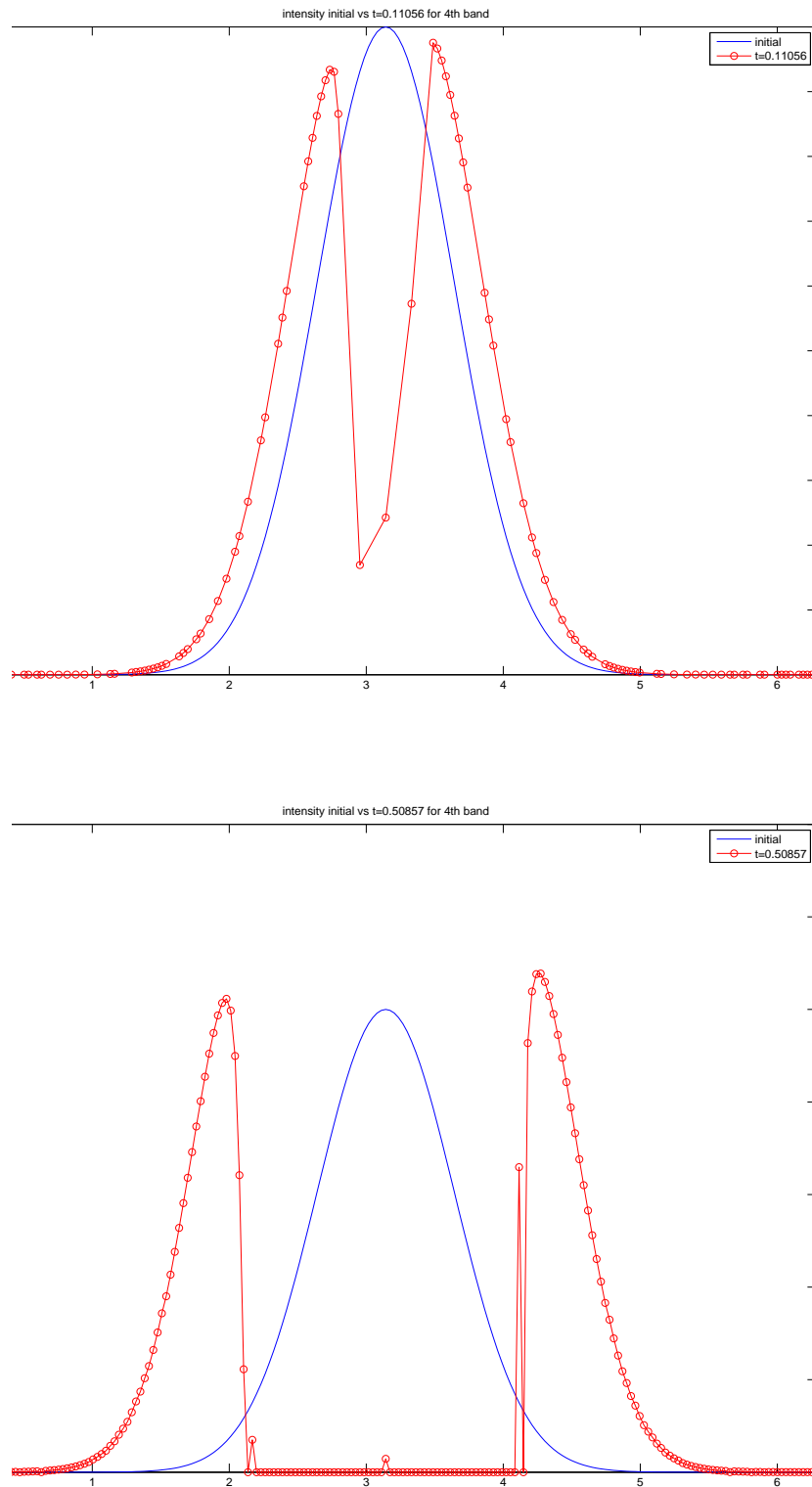


FIGURE 6. Example 3, density of band 4 at different time

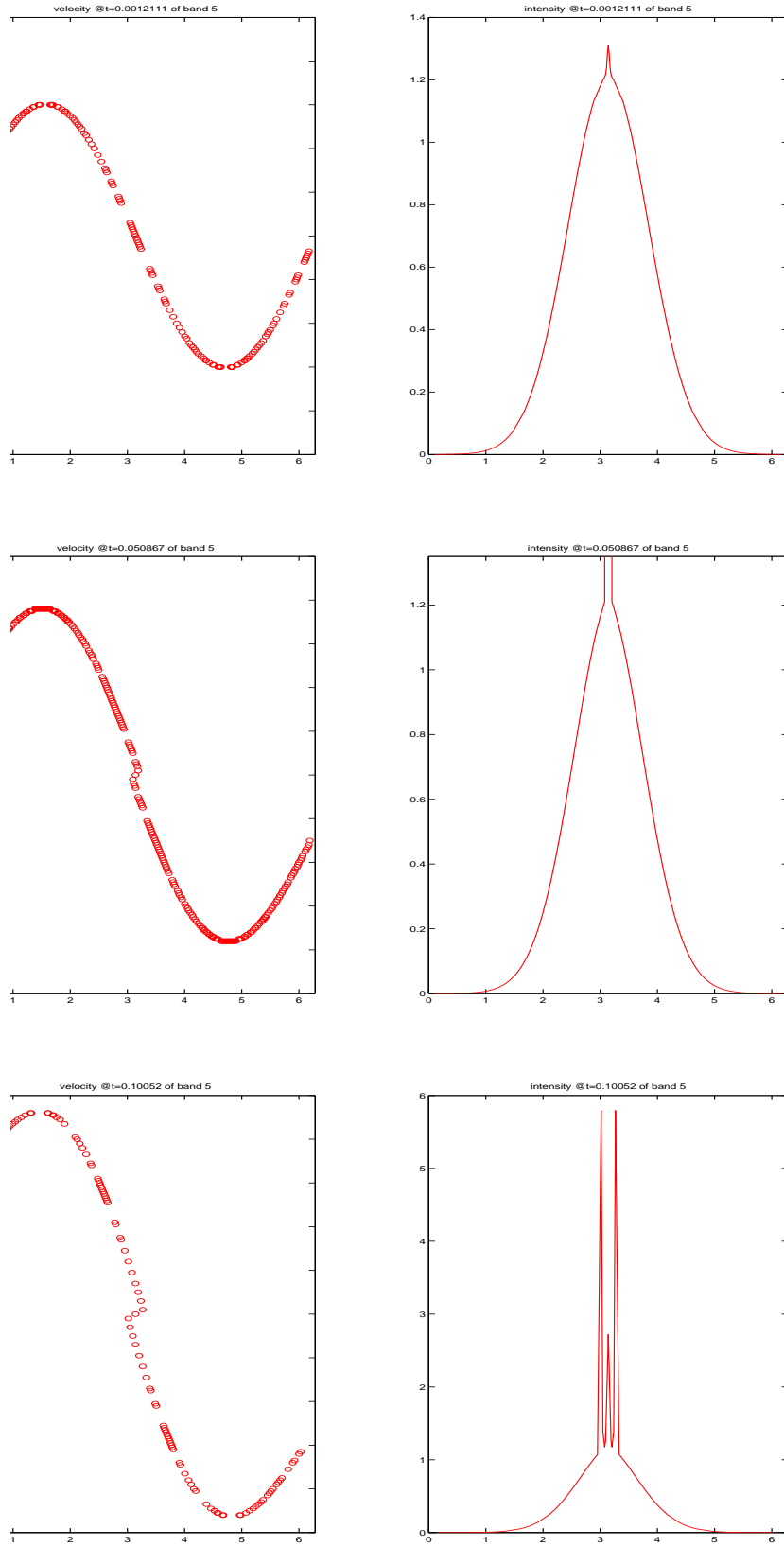


FIGURE 7. Example 4, velocity and density of band 5 with $V_e = \frac{|x-\pi|^2}{2}$ at different times

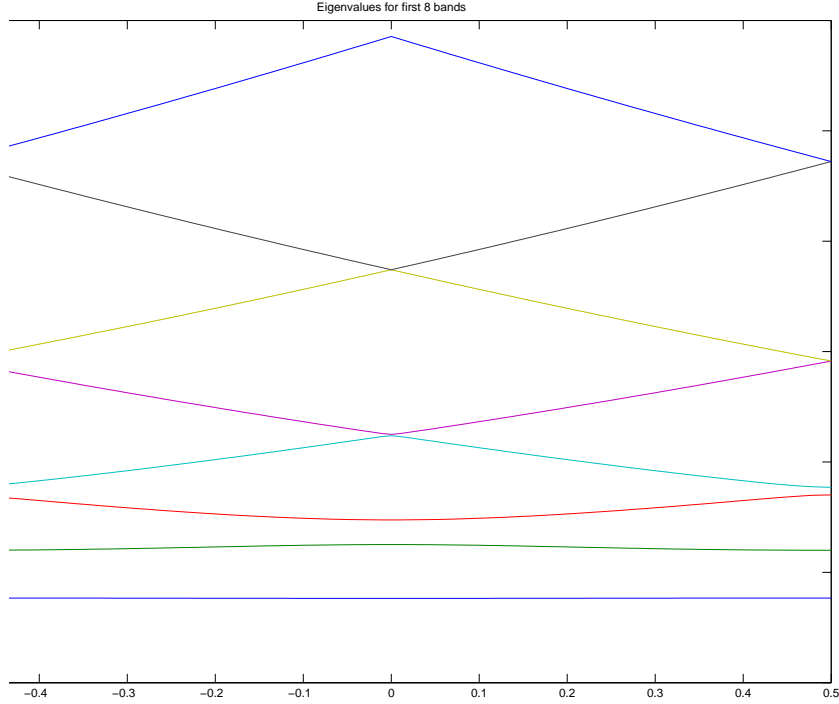


FIGURE 8. Eigenvalues for $V(y) = \cos(y)$ and $b(y) = \frac{3}{2} + \sin(y)$ of band 1, 2, \dots , 8 (bottom to top).

# of bands	4	6	8	10	12
L^2 error e_2	0.004515	0.000967	0.000950	0.000950	0.000950

TABLE 1. L^2 error table for initial Bloch decomposition of example 5 with 101×101 grid points and 101 eigen-matrix.

Here we test this initial data with Mathieu's potential. The eigen-structure for this potential and $b(y) = \frac{3}{2} + \sin(y)$ is shown in Fig.8.

We first do the initial Bloch decomposition with error shown in Table 1. Here, we see that with $\Delta x = 2\pi/100$ and $\Delta k = 1/100$, decomposition with 8 bands already gives a good approximation, i.e., L^2 error is 0.000950 and introducing more band would not increase the accuracy, either. So in our simulation, we only use 8 bands, in which there are at least 3 caustics and 3 rarefactions. In Fig. 9 and 10 with 201×101 grid points, we clearly see the movement of the wave, where peaks are corresponding to turning points of the multi-valued solution while valleys are corresponding to the rarefaction waves. Near $x = \pi$ there are oscillations due to the interactions of caustics and rarefactions.

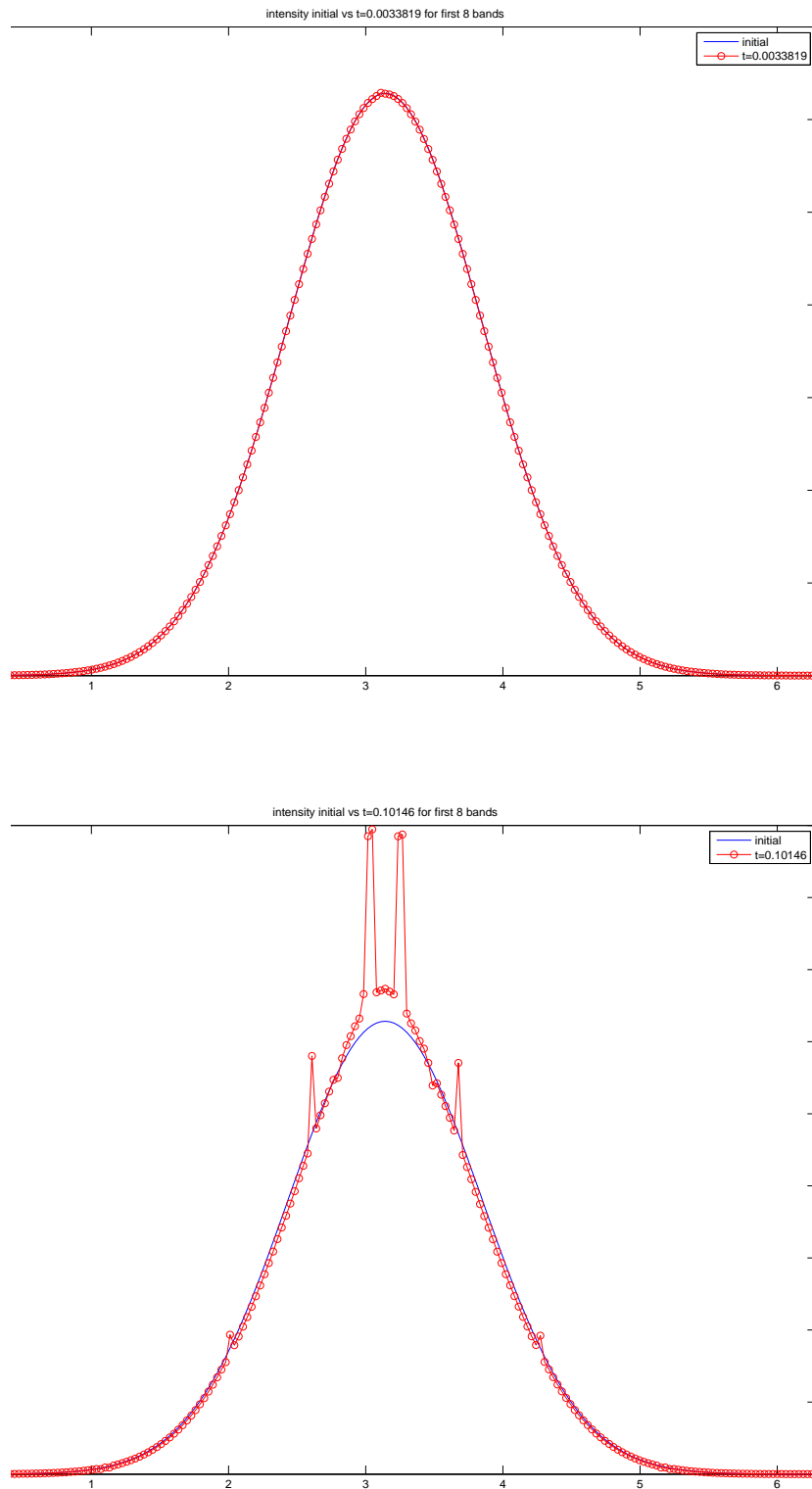


FIGURE 9. Example 5, approximation density with 8 bands at time about 0.003 and 0.1

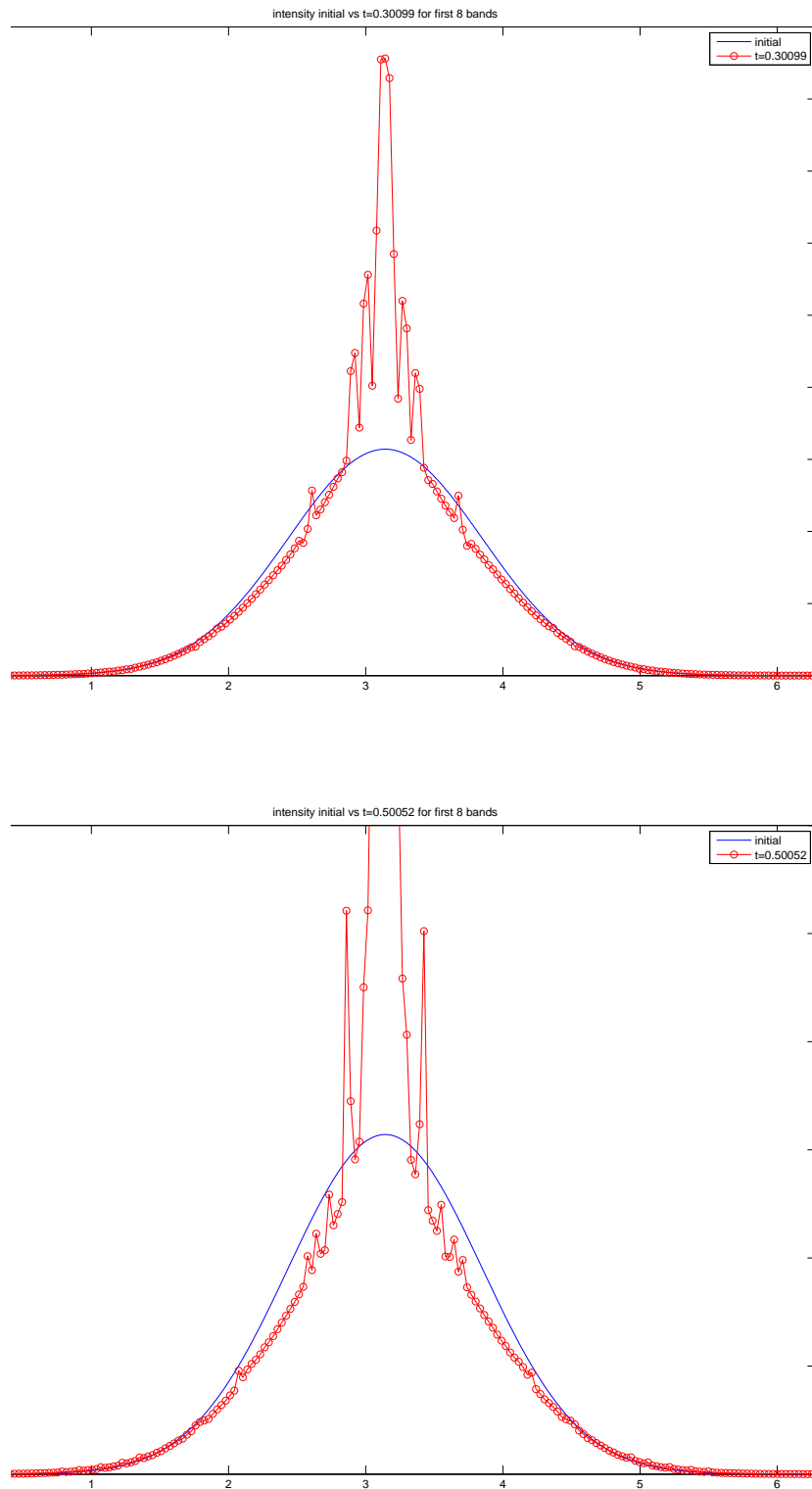


FIGURE 10. Example 5, approximation density with 8 bands at time about 0.3 and 0.5

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