

Research Article

Symplectic Schemes for Linear Stochastic Schrödinger Equations with Variable Coefficients

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This paper proposes a kind of symplectic schemes for linear Schrödinger equations with variable coefficients and a stochastic perturbation term by using compact schemes in space. The numerical stability property of the schemes is analyzed. The schemes preserve a discrete charge conservation law. They also follow a discrete energy transforming formula. The numerical experiments verify our analysis.

1. Introduction

Differential equations (DEs) are important models in sciences and engineering. By theoretical and numerical analysis of DEs, we can yield some mathematical explanation of many phenomena in applied sciences [1–5]. Time-dependent Schrödinger equations arise in quantum physics, optics, and many other fields [6, 7]. Some numerical methods for such equations, such as symplectic scheme and multisymplectic schemes, have been proposed in [8–14]. The schemes possess good numerical stability. Compact schemes are popular recently due to high accuracy, compactness, and economic resource in scientific computation [15–17]. In this paper, applying compact operators, we construct symplectic methods to the initial boundary problems of the linear Schrödinger equation with a variable coefficient and a stochastic perturbation term (denoted by LSES):

$$\begin{aligned} iu_t + u_{x^4} + f(x)u &= \epsilon u \circ \dot{\chi}, \quad x \in [0, L], \\ u(x, 0) &= u_0(x), \quad t \in [0, T], \\ u(0, t) &= u(L, t), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $i^2 = -1$, $f(x)$ is a real differential function, $u_0(x)$ is a differential function, ϵ is a small real number, and \circ means

Stratonovich product. $\dot{\chi}$ is a real-valued white noise which is delta correlated in time and either smooth or delta correlated in space. For an integer m , u_{x^m} and u_{t^m} mean the m -order partial derivatives of u with respect to x and t , respectively. The system (1) with $\epsilon = 0$ is a deterministic system. When ϵ is small, we can think that (1) is perturbed by the stochastic term.

By multiplying (1) by \bar{u} or \bar{u}_t and then integrating it with respect to t and x , it is easy to verify the following result.

Proposition 1. *Under the periodic boundary condition,*

(a) *the solution of (1) satisfies the charge conservation law*

$$\mathcal{Q}(t) = \int_0^L |u(x, t)|^2 dx = \mathcal{Q}(0), \quad (2)$$

(b) *the corresponding deterministic system ($\epsilon = 0$) of (1) possesses the energy conservation law*

$$\mathcal{E}(t) = \int_0^L |u_{xx}|^2 + f(x)|u|^2 dx = \mathcal{E}(0). \quad (3)$$

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we give a symplectic structure of the LSES. In Section 3, we present the

new symplectic methods to the LSES. First, we use a kind of compact schemes in discretization of spatial derivative. Then, in temporal discretization, we adopt the symplectic midpoint method. The new methods are denoted by LSC schemes. We also analyze the numerical stability of LSC schemes. We give two numerical examples to support our theory in Section 4. At last, we make some conclusions.

2. Symplectic Structure of the LSES

Let $u = p + iq$. The LSES (1) can be written in

$$\begin{aligned} p_t + q_{x^4} + f(x)q &= \epsilon q \circ \dot{\chi}, \\ -q_t + p_{x^4} + f(x)p &= \epsilon p \circ \dot{\chi}. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Introducing the variable $z = (p, q)^T$, (4) reads in stochastic symplectic context

$$z_t = J^{-1} \nabla_z H(z) + \epsilon J^{-1} \nabla_z S(z) \circ \dot{\chi}, \tag{5}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} H(z) &= \frac{1}{2} (p_{xx}^2 + q_{xx}^2) + \frac{f(x)}{2} (p^2 + q^2), \\ S(z) &= -\frac{1}{2} (p^2 + q^2), \\ J &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

The system satisfies the symplectic conservation law [7, 12, 18]:

$$\omega_t = 0, \quad \omega = dp \wedge dq. \tag{7}$$

Numerical methods which preserve the discrete symplectic conservation law are called symplectic methods. Symplectic methods have good numerical stability.

3. LSC Schemes

3.1. Compact Scheme. Introduce the following uniform mesh grids:

$$x_k = kh, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, N; \quad t_n = n\tau, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, \tag{8}$$

where $h = L/N$ and τ are spatial and temporal step sizes, respectively. Denote the numerical values of $u(x_k, t_n)$ at the nodes (x_k, t_n) by u_k^n . The symbols u^n and u_k mean the numerical solution vectors at $t = t_n$ and $x = x_k$ with components u_k^n , respectively. Furthermore, we denote

$$u_k^{n+(1/2)} := \frac{u_k^{n+1} + u_k^n}{2}, \quad \delta_t u_k^{n+(1/2)} := \frac{u_k^{n+1} - u_k^n}{\tau}. \tag{9}$$

Introducing the following linear operators

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}u_k &= \alpha u_{k-1} + u_k + \alpha u_{k+1}, \\ \mathcal{B}u_k &= b \frac{u_{k+3} - 9u_{k+1} + 16u_k - 9u_{k-1} + u_{k-3}}{6h^4} \\ &\quad + a \frac{u_{k+2} - 4u_{k+1} + 6u_k - 4u_{k-1} + u_{k-2}}{h^4}, \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

we adopt formula [19]

$$\delta_x^4 u_k = \mathcal{A}^{-1} \mathcal{B}u_k \tag{11}$$

to approximate u_{x^4} , which means that

$$\mathcal{A} \delta_x^4 u_k = \mathcal{B}u_k. \tag{12}$$

By Taylor expansion, we can derive a family of fourth-order schemes with

$$a = 2(1 - \alpha), \quad b = 4\alpha - 1. \tag{13}$$

The leading term of the truncation error of the method is $((7 - 26\alpha)/240)(u_{x^8})_k h^4$. If $b = 0$, we get a scheme with smaller stencil. A sixth-order scheme is obtained with

$$\alpha = \frac{7}{26}, \quad a = \frac{19}{13}, \quad b = \frac{1}{13}. \tag{14}$$

Denote two symmetric and cyclic matrices by

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \alpha & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & \alpha \\ \alpha & 1 & \alpha & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha & 1 & \alpha & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \alpha & 1 & \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \alpha & 1 & \alpha \\ \alpha & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & \alpha & 1 \end{bmatrix}_{N \times N},$$

$$B = \frac{1}{6h^4} \begin{bmatrix} c_0 & c_1 & 6a & b & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & b & 6a & c_1 \\ c_1 & c_0 & c_1 & 6a & b & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & b & 6a \\ 6a & c_1 & c_0 & c_1 & 6a & b & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & b \\ b & 6a & c_1 & c_0 & c_1 & 6a & b & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & b & 6a & c_1 & c_0 & c_1 & 6a & b & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & b & 6a & c_1 & c_0 & c_1 & 6a & b & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & b & 6a & c_1 & c_0 & c_1 & 6a & b \\ b & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & b & 6a & c_1 & c_0 & c_1 & 6a \\ 6a & b & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & b & 6a & c_1 & c_0 & c_1 \\ c_1 & 6a & b & 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & b & 6a & c_1 & c_0 \end{bmatrix}_{N \times N}, \tag{15}$$

where $c_0 = 16b + 36a$ and $c_1 = -9b - 24a$. Then the matrix form of (11) is

$$\delta_x^4 u^n = A^{-1} B u^n. \tag{16}$$

3.2. *Discretization of the LSES.* Applying the approximation (11) to linear system (4), we obtain the following semidiscretization stochastic Hamiltonian system:

$$(z_k)_t = J^{-1} \nabla_z \bar{H}(z_k) + \epsilon J^{-1} \nabla_z \bar{S}(z_k) \circ \dot{\chi}_k, \tag{17}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{H}(z) &= \frac{f(x_k)}{2} (p_k^2 + q_k^2) + \frac{1}{2} \delta_x^4 (p_k^2 + q_k^2), \\ \bar{S}(z) &= -\frac{1}{2} (p_k^2 + q_k^2). \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

In temporal discretization of (17), we apply the symplectic midpoint method

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_t z_k^{n+(1/2)} &= J^{-1} \nabla_z \bar{H}(z_k^{n+(1/2)}) + \epsilon J^{-1} \nabla_z \bar{H}(z_k^{n+(1/2)}) \\ &\quad \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+(1/2)}. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

Its componentwise formulation is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p_k^{n+1} - p_k^n}{\tau} &= -f(x_k) q_k^{n+(1/2)} - \delta_x^4 q_k^{n+(1/2)} \\ &\quad + \epsilon q_k^{n+(1/2)} \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+(1/2)}, \\ \frac{q_k^{n+1} - q_k^n}{\tau} &= f(x_k) p_k^{n+(1/2)} + \delta_x^4 p_k^{n+(1/2)} \\ &\quad - \epsilon p_k^{n+(1/2)} \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+(1/2)}. \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

According to the Fourier analysis, the LSC schemes (19) are unconditionally stable. In fact, we can derive

$$\delta_x^4 z_k^n = \mu z_k^n, \tag{21}$$

where

$$\mu = \frac{4(\omega - 1)^2 (3a + 2b + b\omega)}{3h^4 (1 + 2\alpha\omega)}, \quad \omega = \cos \beta h. \tag{22}$$

Then, with (19) and (21), we can obtain $z^{n+1} = Gz^n$ with

$$\left(1 + \frac{c^2 \tau^2}{4}\right) G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \frac{c^2 \tau^2}{4} & -c\tau \\ c\tau & 1 - \frac{c^2 \tau^2}{4} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{23}$$

where $c = \mu + f(x_k) - \epsilon \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+(1/2)}$. By direct computation, we can derive that the spectral radius of the matrix G is 1 and $\|G\|_2 = 1$. Therefore, the scheme (19) is unconditionally stable. Moreover, by symmetry, they are nondissipative.

Theorem 2. *Let $\|z^n\|^2 = h \sum_k z_k^n \bar{z}_k^n$. Then, $\|z^n\|$ is the discrete charge invariant of the LSC schemes (19), which implies the discrete charge conservation law of (2).*

Scheme (19) can be rewritten in compact form

$$\begin{aligned} i\mathcal{A} \frac{u_k^{n+1} - u_k^n}{\tau} + \mathcal{B} u_k^{n+(1/2)} + \mathcal{A} f(x_k) u_k^{n+(1/2)} \\ = \epsilon \mathcal{A} u_k^{n+(1/2)} \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+(1/2)}. \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

Multiplying (24) by $(\bar{u}_k^{n+1} - \bar{u}_k^n)$ and summing over k , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{i\tau}{2} \sum_k \left[\mathcal{B} u_k^{n+1} \bar{u}_k^{n+1} - \mathcal{B} u_k^n \bar{u}_k^n \right] \\ + \frac{i\tau}{2} \sum_k \mathcal{A} f(x_k) \left[u_k^{n+1} \bar{u}_k^{n+1} - u_k^n \bar{u}_k^n \right] \\ - \frac{i\tau\epsilon}{2} \sum_k \left[\mathcal{A} u_k^{n+1} \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+(1/2)} \bar{u}_k^{n+1} - \mathcal{A} u_k^n \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+(1/2)} \bar{u}_k^n \right] \\ + \frac{i\tau}{2} \sum_k \left[\mathcal{B} u_k^n \bar{u}_k^{n+1} - \mathcal{B} u_k^{n+1} \bar{u}_k^n \right] \\ + \frac{i\tau}{2} \sum_k \mathcal{A} f(x_k) \left[u_k^n \bar{u}_k^{n+1} - u_k^{n+1} \bar{u}_k^n \right] \\ - \frac{i\tau\epsilon}{2} \sum_k \left[\mathcal{A} u_k^n \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+(1/2)} \bar{u}_k^{n+1} - \mathcal{A} u_k^{n+1} \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+(1/2)} \bar{u}_k^n \right] \\ = \sum_k \left[\mathcal{A} (u_k^{n+1} - u_k^n) (\bar{u}_k^{n+1} - \bar{u}_k^n) \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

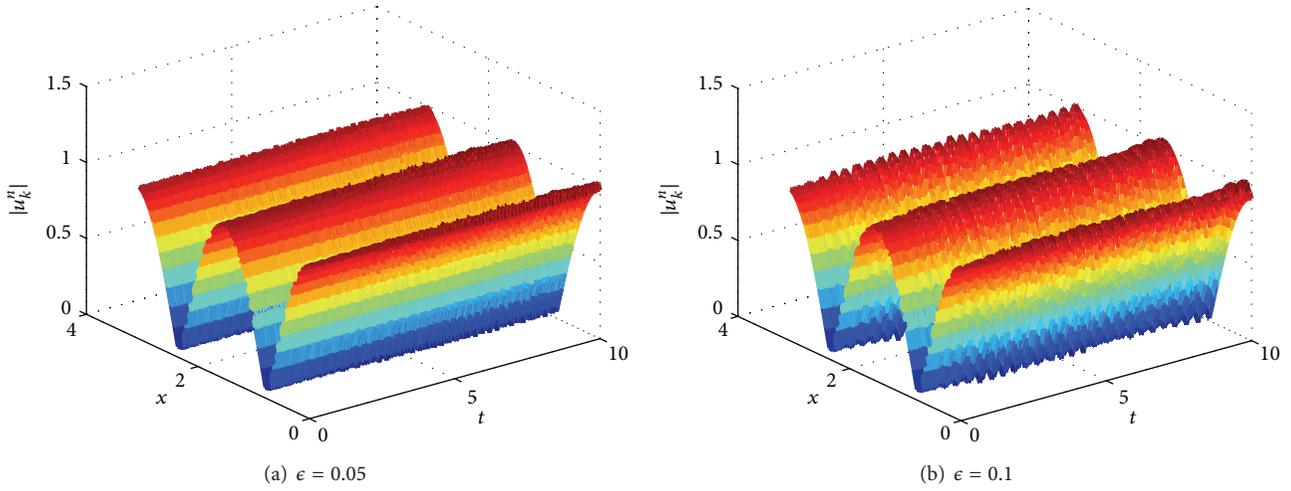


FIGURE 1: $|u_k^n|$ for one trajectory.

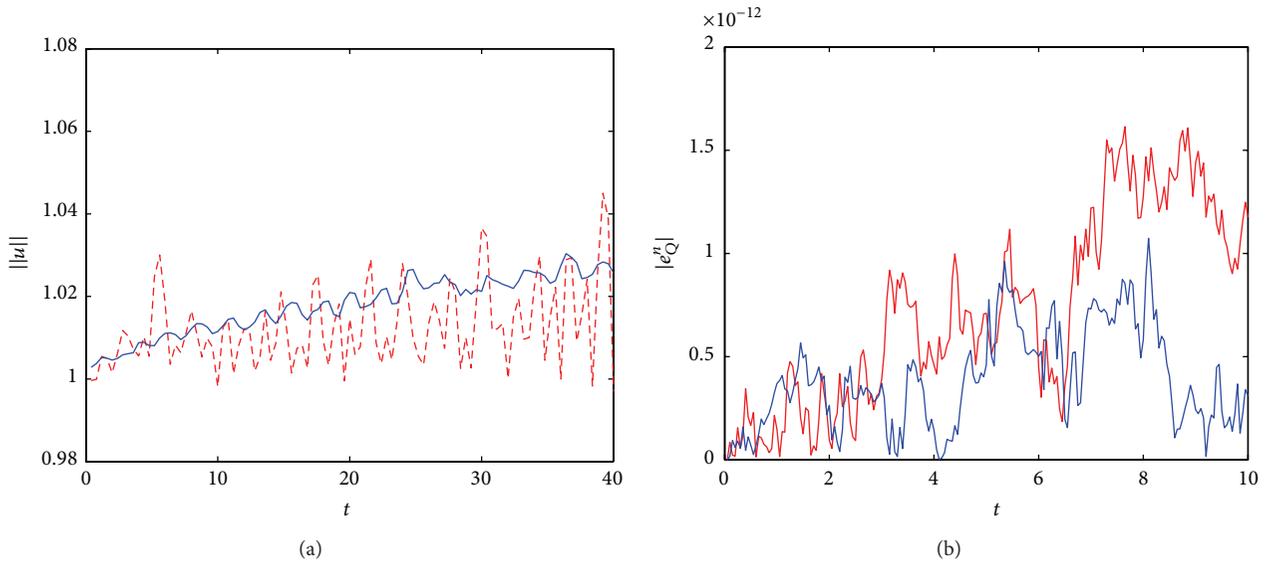


FIGURE 2: $\|u\|_\infty$ for one trajectory and the average norm over 50 trajectories (a). Residuals of discrete charge for one trajectory (b).

Since \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are symmetric, the first three summation terms in the above equality are purely imaginary, while the last four summation terms are real. Denote

$$E^n = h \sum_k [\mathcal{B} u_k^n \overline{u_k^n}] + h \sum_k [\mathcal{A} f(x_k) u_k^n \overline{u_k^n}] - \frac{h}{2} \epsilon \sum_k [\mathcal{A} u_k^n \circ \dot{\chi}_k^n \overline{u_k^n}]. \quad (26)$$

Now, taking the imaginary parts of (25), we can get that

$$E^{n+1} - E^n = \frac{h}{2} \epsilon \sum_k [\mathcal{A} u_k^{n+1} \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+1} \overline{u_k^{n+1}} - \mathcal{A} u_k^n \circ \dot{\chi}_k^{n+1} \overline{u_k^n}]. \quad (27)$$

Denote

$$\begin{aligned} v_k^n &= \sqrt{\frac{b}{6}} \frac{u_{k+3}^n - u_k^n}{h^2}, & \tilde{v}_k^n &= \sqrt{\frac{3b}{2}} \frac{u_{k+1}^n - u_k^n}{h^2}, \\ w_k^n &= \sqrt{a} \frac{u_{k+2}^n - u_k^n}{h^2}, \\ \bar{w}_k^n &= 2\sqrt{a} \frac{u_{k+1}^n - u_k^n}{h^2}, & y_k^n &= \mathcal{A} f(x_k) u_k^n, \\ \tilde{y}_k^n &= \mathcal{A} u_k^n \circ \dot{\chi}_k^n, \\ \langle u^n, y^n \rangle &= h \sum_k u_k^n \overline{y_k^n}, & \|u^n\|^2 &= \langle u^n, u^n \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

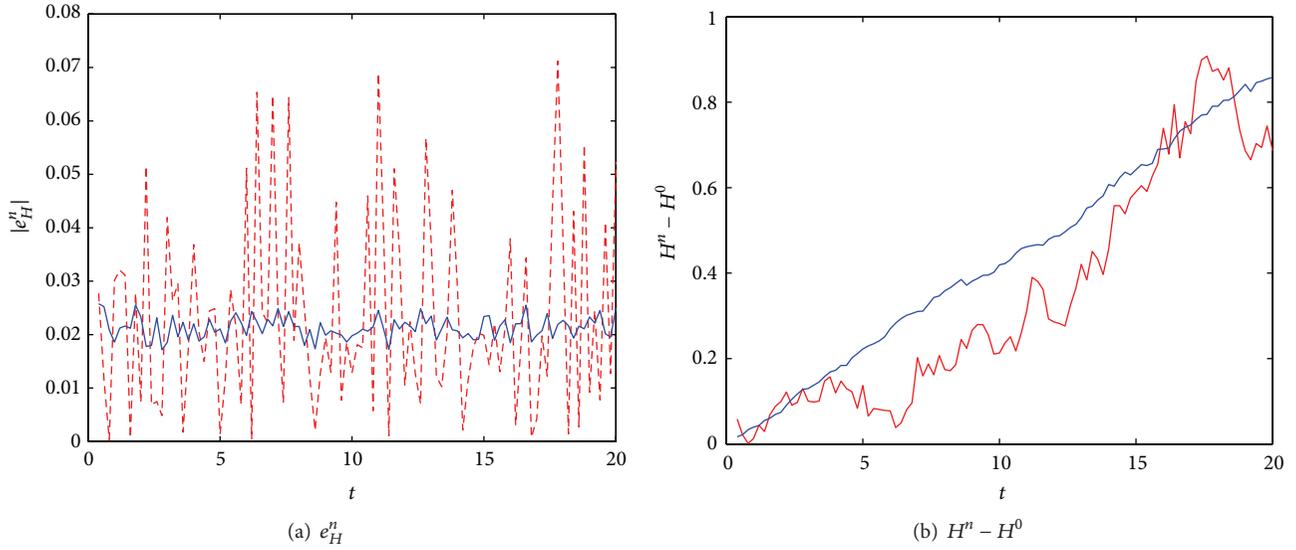


FIGURE 3: Residuals of discrete energy for one trajectory and the average energy over 50 trajectories.

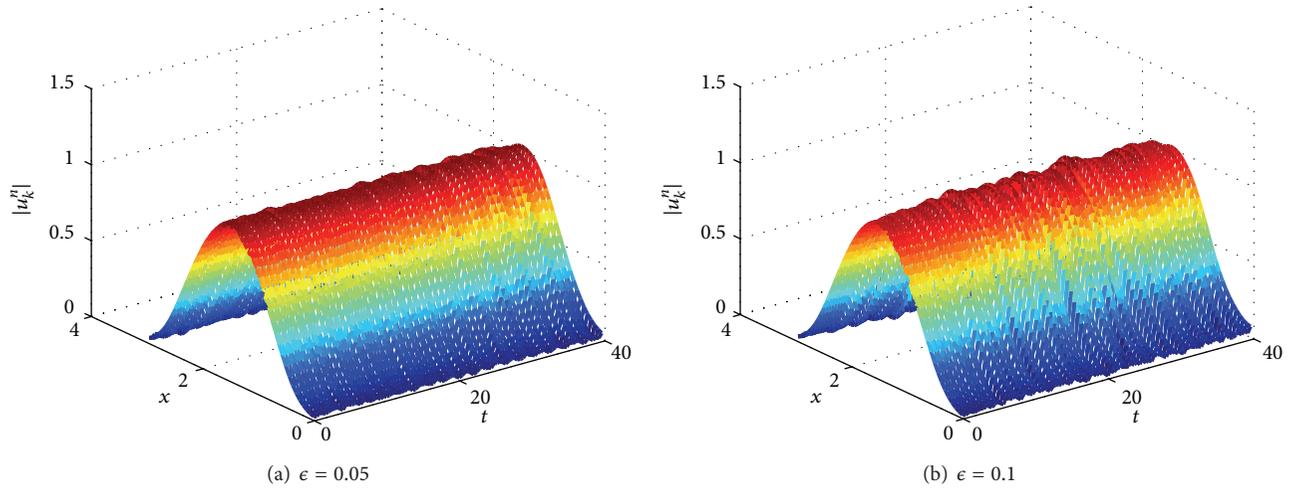


FIGURE 4: $|u_k^n|$ for one trajectory.

According to the Green formula, we obtain that

$$h \sum_k [\mathcal{B}u_k^n \overline{u_k^n}] = \|\tilde{v}^n\|^2 - \|v^n\|^2 + \|\tilde{w}^n\|^2 - \|w^n\|^2. \tag{29}$$

Then,

$$E^n = \|\tilde{v}^n\|^2 - \|v^n\|^2 + \|\tilde{w}^n\|^2 - \|w^n\|^2 + \langle y^n, u^n \rangle - \frac{\epsilon}{2} \langle \tilde{y}^n, u^n \rangle. \tag{30}$$

Therefore, from the above analysis, we give the following result.

Theorem 3. *Under the periodic boundary condition, the LSC schemes (19) satisfy the discrete energy transforming law (27).*

4. Numerical Examples

We use the LSC scheme to solve the LSEs and investigate its numerical behavior. According to the precise mathematical definition of the white noise [13, 14], we can simulate the noise as $\dot{\chi}_k^{n+(1/2)} = (1/\sqrt{h\tau})\chi_k^{n+(1/2)}$, where $\chi_k^{n+(1/2)}$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, N$ is a sequence of independent random variables with normal law $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ at each time increment. Denote

$$\|u^n\|_\infty = \max_{1 \leq k \leq N} |u_k^n|, \quad e_Q^n = Q^n - Q^0, \tag{31}$$

$$e_H^n = H^n - H^{n-1}.$$

The numerical residuals of $\mathcal{Q}(t)$ and $\mathcal{H}(t)$ are measured by e_Q^n and e_H^n , respectively. For numerical computation, we take $\tau = 0.01$, $h = \pi/50$, and $\epsilon = 0.05, 0.1$.

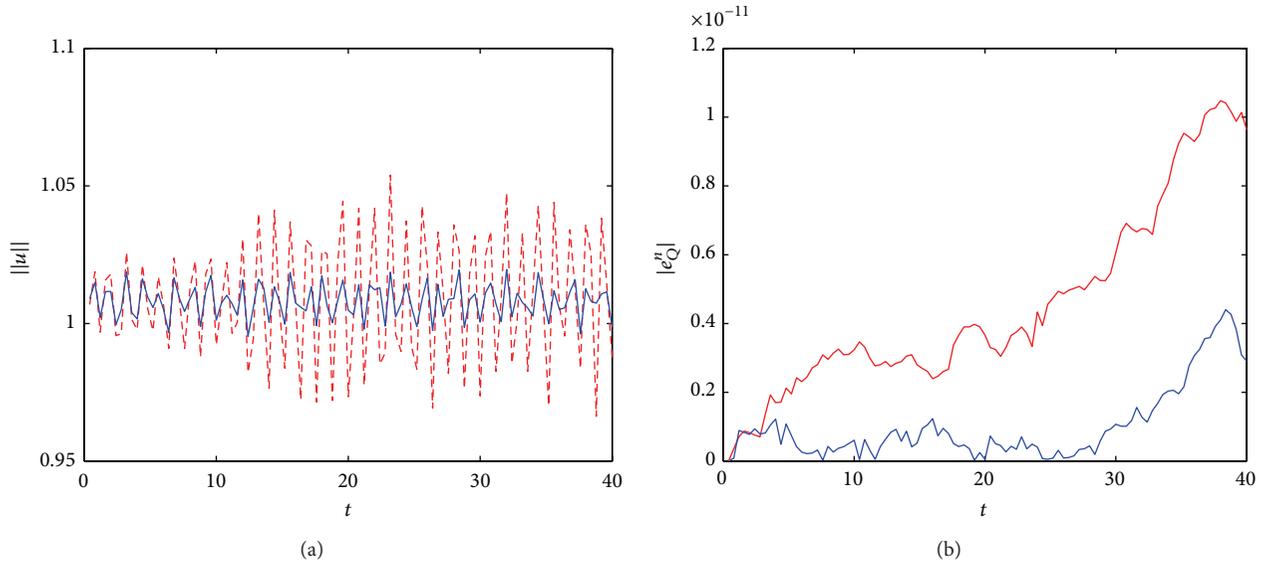


FIGURE 5: $\|u\|_\infty$ for one trajectory and the average norm over 50 trajectories (a). Residuals of discrete charge for one trajectory (b).

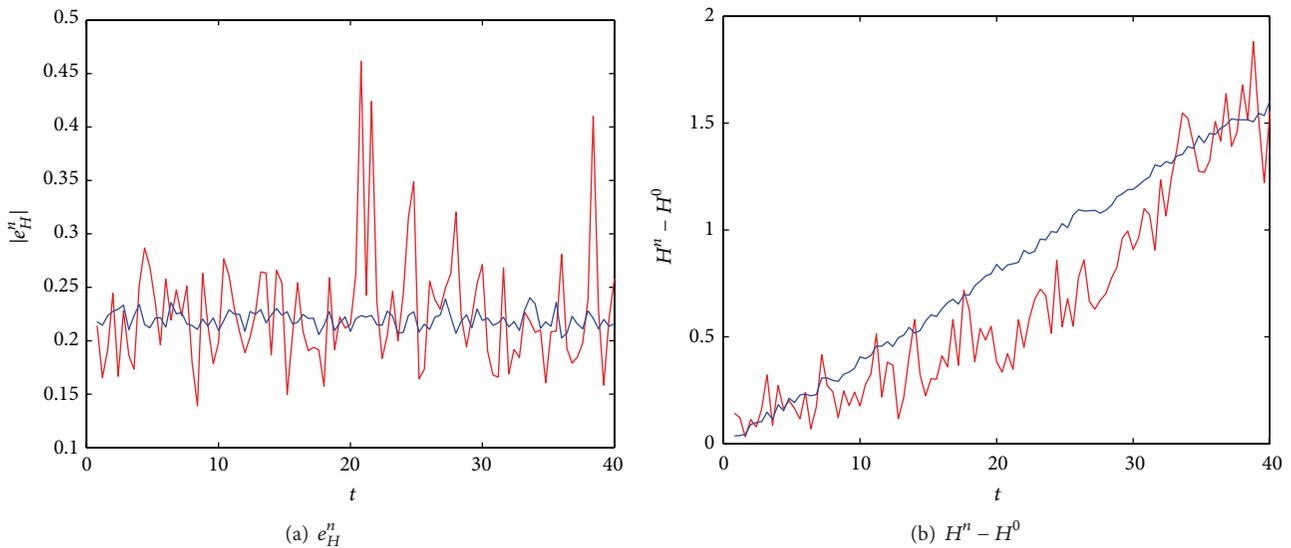


FIGURE 6: Residuals of discrete energy for one trajectory and the average energy over 50 trajectories.

Example 1. LSE with constant coefficients and periodic boundary condition.

Consider

$$\begin{aligned}
 iu_t + u_{x^4} - 15u &= \epsilon u \circ \dot{\chi}, \quad x \in [0, \pi], \quad t > 0, \\
 u(x, 0) &= \exp\left(\frac{i\pi}{3}\right) \cos 2x.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{32}$$

The exact solution of its deterministic system is $u(x, t) = \exp[i(t + (\pi/3))] \cos 2x$. The right side in the above system can be seen as a stochastic perturbation term.

Figure 1 plots the amplitude $|u_k^n|$ for one trajectory. Figure 2 shows the evolution of $\|u\|_\infty$ for one trajectory and the average norm over 50 trajectories. We see that the white noise produces stochastic perturbation on the solitary wave and the size of perturbation depends on the size of noise. Figure 2 plots the residuals of discrete charge of one

trajectory, which verifies the conservation of discrete charge of the compact schemes. Figure 3 plots the residuals of discrete energy for one trajectory and the average norm over 50 trajectories. The figure tells us that the stochastic noise makes residuals of discrete energy increase linearly over time.

Example 2. LSE with a variable coefficient and periodic boundary condition.

Consider

$$\begin{aligned}
 iu_t + u_{x^4} + (8 * \cot^2 x - 7)u &= \epsilon u \circ \dot{\chi}, \quad x \in (0, \pi), \quad t > 0, \\
 u(x, 0) &= \sin^2 x.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{33}$$

The exact solution of its deterministic system is $u(x, y, t) = e^{it} \sin^2 x$.

Figure 4 plots the amplitude $|u_k^n|$ for one trajectory. Figure 5 shows the evolution of $\|u\|_\infty$ for one trajectory and the average norm over 50 trajectories. We see that the white noise produces stochastic perturbation on the solitary wave and the size of perturbation depends on the size of noise. Figure 5 plots the residuals of discrete charge of one trajectory, which verifies the conservation of discrete charge of the compact schemes. Figure 6 plots the residuals of discrete energy for one trajectory and the average norm over 50 trajectories. The figure tells us that the stochastic noise makes residuals of discrete energy increase linearly over time.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we apply a symplectic scheme in time and a kind of compact difference schemes in space to solve the LSES. The methods are unconditionally stable. Under periodic boundary conditions, they preserve a discrete charge invariant and satisfy a discrete energy transforming law.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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