THE CAUCHY PROBLEM FOR SCHRÖDINGER-DEBYE EQUATIONS

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In this article we study the local-in-time Cauchy problem for the Schrödinger-Debye equations. This model occurs in nonlinear optics and describes the non-resonant delayed interaction of an electromagnetic wave with a medium. We extend the study to nonphysical cases such as the three-dimensional case or more general nonlinearities.

1. Introduction

The modeling of the propagation of an electromagnetic wave in a non-resonant medium where the material response time is relevant is usually (see Ref. 6) given by Schrödinger-Debye equations

$$\begin{cases} i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}A + \frac{c}{2kn_0}\Delta A = \frac{\omega_0}{n_0}\nu A,\\ \tau\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\nu + \nu = n_2|A|^2. \end{cases}$$
(1.1)

In these equations, A denotes the envelope of a light wave that goes through a medium which response is non-resonant. However a change ν is induced in its refraction index (initially n_0 for an electromagnetic wave of frequency ω_0) with a slight delay τ . The magnitude (and the sign) of the nonlinear coupling of the matter with the wave is described by the parameter n_2 . The light velocity in the vacuum is denoted by c and k is the wave vector of the incident electromagnetic wave.

In order to simplify proofs, we will use the following dimensionless equations keeping, however, a parameter τ which for applications has to be thought as small although this fact is of no consequence in this paper, and replacing n_2 by $\varepsilon = \pm 1$ to model both focusing and defocusing situations. Results will be exactly the same for the physical system.

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$$\begin{cases} i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}A + \Delta A = \nu A, \\ \tau \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\nu + \nu = \varepsilon |A|^2. \end{cases}$$
(1.2)

This problem has already been studied in Refs. 1 and 2. Here we will enlarge the results obtained in these references. For the sake of completeness let us first cite these results, which are valid in the case of a two-dimensional space:

Theorem 1 (i) For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $H^s \times H^s$ with s > 1, Eq. (1.2) for the initial data $A(0) = A_0$, $\nu(0) = \nu_0$, has a unique solution in $X = L^{\infty}(0, T; H^s)$ for a small enough T and solutions depend continuously on the initial data.

(ii) For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $H^1 \times H^1$, Eq. (1.2) has a unique solution in $X' = L^{\infty}(0,T;H^1)$ for a small enough T.

(iii) For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $L^2 \times L^2$, Eq. (1.2) has a unique solution in $X^{"} = L^4(0,T;L^4) \cap \mathcal{C}([0,T];L^2)$ for a small enough T.

These results have been obtained — thanks to a fixed-point procedure applied on a Duhamel formulation. To obtain this Duhamel formulation the system (1.2)has first been written as an integro-differential equation using the fact that

$$\nu(t) = e^{-t/\tau}\nu_0 + \frac{\varepsilon}{\tau} \int_0^t e^{-(t-s)/\tau} |A(s)|^2 ds.$$
(1.3)

Hence (1.2) may read

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}A + \Delta A = \left(e^{-t/\tau}\nu_0 + \frac{\varepsilon}{\tau}\int_0^t e^{-(t-s)/\tau}|A(s)|^2 ds\right)A \tag{1.4}$$

and the fixed-point procedure is performed on

$$A(t) = S(t)A_0 - i\int_0^t S(t-s)\left(e^{-s/\tau}\nu_0 + \frac{\varepsilon}{\tau}\int_0^s e^{-(s-\theta)/\tau}|A(\theta)|^2d\theta\right)A(s)ds,$$
(1.5)

where S is the semigroup associated to the linear Schrödinger equation

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}A + \Delta A = 0. \tag{1.6}$$

The integro-differential formulation is optional in the case of smooth solutions. In this case the fixed-point procedure could as well have been performed on both A and

 ν . This formulation becomes necessary as soon as weaker solutions are concerned.

Let us first give the equivalent of Theorem 1 in dimensions N = 1, 2, 3.

Theorem 2 (i) For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $H^s \times H^s$ with s > N/2, Eq. (1.2) for the initial data $A(0) = A_0$, $\nu(0) = \nu_0$, has a unique solution in $X = L^{\infty}(0, T; H^s)$ for a small enough T and solutions depend continuously on the initial data.

(ii) For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $H^1 \times H^1$, Eq. (1.2) has a unique solution in $X' = L^{\infty}(0,T;H^1)$ for a small enough T.

(iii) For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $L^2 \times L^2$, Eq. (1.2) has a unique solution in $X^{"} = L^{8/N}(0,T;L^4) \cap \mathcal{C}([0,T];L^2)$ for a small enough T.

Proofs are so similar to the two-dimensional case that we do not give them here but refer to Ref. 2.

Although the fixed-point procedure is performed on variable A only, Eq. (1.3) leads to $\nu(T) \in H^1$ in case (ii) and $\nu(T) \in L^2$ in case (iii). Nevertheless, unlike the cubic nonlinear Schrödinger equation, there is no conservation law (other than the L^2 norm of A) which enables us to transform these local-in-time results into global ones in the one-dimensional case, for example. Numerical experiments are in progress to give us an idea of how the long-time behavior may look like. These experiments are of course not performed on the integro-differential form but on the coupled equations.

2. Another Integral Formulation.

We use here a trick already applied to the full nonlinear wave equation or the Zakharov equations (see Refs 8 and 7). It consists in setting $F = \partial A/\partial t$ and in writing the equation on F through a formal differentiation of the equation for A. We therefore obtain

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}F + \Delta F = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\nu A + \nu F.$$
(2.1)

In Eq. (2.1) we will replace $\partial \nu / \partial t$ by $-\nu / \tau + \varepsilon |A|^2 / \tau$ and then replace A by $A_0 + \int_0^t F(s) ds$. Thus we obtain the Duhamel formulation

$$F(t) = N_1[F,\nu] \equiv S(t)F_0 - i\int_0^t S(t-s)\left\{\left(-\frac{\nu}{\tau} + \frac{\varepsilon|A(s)|^2}{\tau}\right) \times \left(A_0 + \int_0^s F(\theta) \, d\theta\right) + \nu F\right\} ds,$$
(2.2)

$$\nu(t) = N_2[F,\nu] \equiv e^{-t/\tau}\nu_0 + \frac{\varepsilon}{\tau} \int_0^t e^{-(t-s)/\tau} |A(s)|^2 ds, \qquad (2.3)$$

$$A(t) = (-\Delta + 1)^{-1} \left\{ iF - \nu \left(A_0 + \int_0^t F(s) ds \right) + \left(A_0 + \int_0^t F(s) ds \right) \right\}. (2.4)$$

Since we formally have $iF + \Delta A = \nu A$, we set at time t = 0, $iF_0 = \nu_0 A_0 - \Delta A_0$.

This formulation is only derived formally, we will a *posteriori* prove that solutions to this system yield solutions to (1.2).

We shall perform a fixed-point procedure for $N = (N_1, N_2)$ on the following functional space:

$$X = [L^{\infty}(I; L^2) \cap L^{8/N}(I; L^4)] \oplus [L^{\infty}(I; L^4)].$$

Using the same sort of estimates as in Ref. 7, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \|A\|_{L^{\infty}(I;H^{2})} &\leq C \|F\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} + C \|\nu\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{4})} \|A_{0}\|_{L^{4}} \\ &+ CT^{1-N/8} \|\nu\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{4})} \|F\|_{L^{8/N}(I;L^{4})} + \|A_{0}\|_{L^{2}} + T \|F\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})}, \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{split} \|N_{1}(t)\|_{L^{4}} &\leq \|S(t)F_{0}\|_{L^{4}} \\ &+ \int_{0}^{t} C|t - s|^{-N/4} \bigg\{ \frac{1}{\tau} \|\nu\|_{L^{4}} \left(\|A_{0}\|_{L^{2}} + \int_{0}^{s} \|F(\theta)\|_{L^{2}} d\theta \right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{\tau} \||A(s)|^{2}\|_{L^{2}} \left(\|A_{0}\|_{L^{4}} + \int_{0}^{s} \|F(\theta)\|_{L^{4}} d\theta \right) \\ &+ |\nu\|_{L^{4}} \|F\|_{L^{2}} \bigg\} ds, \\ \|N_{1}\|_{L^{8/N}(I;L^{4})} &\leq \delta \|F_{0}\|_{L^{2}} + C \frac{T^{1-N/8}}{\tau} \|\nu\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{4})} \|F\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} \\ &+ C \frac{T^{2-N/8}}{\tau} \|\nu\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} \|F\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} \\ &+ C \frac{T^{1-N/8}}{\tau} \||A|^{2}\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} \|F\|_{L^{8/N}(I;L^{4})} \\ &+ C T^{1-N/8} \|\nu\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} \|F\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})}, \\ \|N_{1}\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} &\leq \|F_{0}\|_{L^{2}} + C \bigg\| \frac{1}{\tau} \|\nu\|_{L^{4}} \left(\|A_{0}\|_{L^{2}} + \int_{0}^{s} \|F(\theta)\|_{L^{2}} d\theta \right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{\tau} \||A(s)|^{2}\|_{L^{2}} \left(\|A_{0}\|_{L^{4}} + \int_{0}^{s} \|F(\theta)\|_{L^{4}} d\theta \right) \\ &+ \|\nu\|_{L^{4}} \|F\|_{L^{2}} \bigg\|_{L^{8/(6-N)}(I)} \\ &\leq \|F_{0}\|_{L^{2}} + C \frac{T^{1-N/8}}{\tau} \|\nu\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{4})} \|F\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} \\ &+ C \frac{T^{2-N/8}}{\tau} \|\nu\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} \|F\|_{L^{8/N}(I;L^{4})} \\ &+ C \frac{T^{2-N/8}}{\tau} \||A|^{2}\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} \|F\|_{L^{8/N}(I;L^{4})} \\ &+ C \frac{T^{1-N/8}}{\tau} \||A|^{2}\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} \|F\|_{L^{8/N}(I;L^{4})} \\ &+ C T^{1-N/8} \|\nu\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{4})} \|F\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})}, \\ \|N_{2}\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{4})} &\leq \|\nu_{0}\|_{L^{4}} + \frac{T}{\tau} \||A|^{2}\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{4})} \|F\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})}. \end{split}$$

Unlike estimates obtained in Ref. 1, these estimates are not uniform with respect to τ , but this is not our goal here. To obtain a uniform estimate with respect to τ for $||N_2||_{L^{\infty}(I;L^4)}$ would prevent us from getting a T in the estimate and completing the proof, which ends as follows:

Let us suppose that $(A_0, \nu_0) \in H^2 \times L^4$, and let us set

$$a = \max\left\{\|A_0\|_{L^2}, \|A_0\|_{L^4}, \|\nu_0\|_{L^4}, \|\nu_0A_0 - \Delta A_0\|_{L^2}\right\}$$

which is finite. Let Y be the subset of X defined by

$$Y = \{ (F,\nu) \in X / \|F\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^2)} \le 2a, \|F\|_{L^{8/N}(I;L^4)} \le 2\delta a, \|\nu\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^4)} \le 2a \}.$$

The above estimates show that N maps Y into Y. Indeed,

$$\begin{split} \|A\|_{L^{\infty}(I;H^{2})} &\leq 2C(a+a^{2}) + 4CT^{1-N/8}\delta a^{2} + a + 2Ta, \\ \|N_{1}\|_{L^{8/N}(I;L^{4})} &\leq \delta a + 2C\frac{T^{1-N/8}}{\tau}a^{2} + 4C\frac{T^{2-N/8}}{\tau}a^{2} + C\frac{T^{1-N/8}}{\tau}\|A\|_{L^{\infty}(I;H^{2})}^{2}a \\ &\quad + 2C\frac{T^{2-N/4}}{\tau}\|A\|_{L^{\infty}(I;H^{2})}^{2}\delta a + 4CT^{1-N/8}a^{2}, \\ \|N_{1}\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{2})} &\leq a + 2C\frac{T^{1-N/8}}{\tau}a^{2} + 4C\frac{T^{2-N/8}}{\tau}a^{2} + C\frac{T^{1-N/8}}{\tau}\|A\|_{L^{\infty}(I;H^{2})}^{2}a \\ &\quad + 2C\frac{T^{2-N/8}}{\tau}\|A\|_{L^{\infty}(I;H^{2})}^{2}\delta a + 4CT^{1-N/8}a^{2}, \\ \|N_{2}\|_{L^{\infty}(I;L^{4})} &\leq a + \frac{T}{\tau}\|A\|_{L^{\infty}(I;H^{2})}^{2}. \end{split}$$

For some small enough $T, N[F, \nu] \in Y$.

The same sort of estimates applied on $N[F,\nu] - [F,\nu]$, where both (F,ν) and (F',ν') are solution to (2.2)-(2.4) with the same initial data lead us to show that N is a contraction from Y into Y. Hence N has a unique fixed-point in Y, and

$$F(t) = S(t)F_0 - i\int_0^t S(t-s) \left\{ \left(-\frac{\nu}{\tau} + \frac{\varepsilon |A(s)|^2}{\tau} \right) \left(A_0 + \int_0^s F(\theta) d\theta \right) + \nu F \right\} ds,$$

$$\nu(t) = e^{-t/\tau} \nu_0 + \frac{\varepsilon}{\tau} \int_0^t e^{-(t-s)/\tau} |A(s)|^2 ds,$$

$$A(t) = (-\Delta + 1)^{-1} \left\{ iF - \nu \left(A_0 + \int_0^t F(s) ds \right) + \left(A_0 + \int_0^t F(s) ds \right) \right\}.$$

Setting t = 0 in the above equations leads immediately to $F(0) = F_0$, $\nu(0) = \nu_0$, $A(0) = A_0$.

For more convenience in the following computations we set

$$B(s) = \left(-\frac{\nu}{\tau} + \frac{\varepsilon |A(s)|^2}{\tau}\right) \left(A_0 + \int_0^s F(\theta) d\theta\right) + \nu F.$$

For the results used on the regularization property of operator S(t), the reader may refer to Ref. 4. Since $F_0 \in L^2$, $S(t)F_0 \in \mathcal{C}(I;L^2) \cap \mathcal{C}^1(I;H^{-2})$ and $\partial_t S(t)F_0 = iS(t)\Delta F_0 = i\Delta(S(t)F_0)$. Moreover $B \in L^{\infty}(I;L^{4/3}) \hookrightarrow L^1(I;H^{-1})$ hence

$$\int_0^t U(t-s)B(s)ds \in \mathcal{C}(I;H^{-1}) \cap W^{1,1}(I;H^{-3}).$$

Since

$$\partial_t \int_0^t U(t-s)B(s)ds = i\Delta \int_0^t U(t-s)B(s)ds + B(t),$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t F(t) &= i\Delta \left(U(t)F_0 + \int_0^t U(t-s)B(s)ds \right) + iB(t) \\ &= i\Delta F(t) + iB(t), \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $i\partial_t F(t) + \Delta F(t) = -B(t)$ which is the differential form of (2.2) and is valid in $\mathcal{C}(I; H^{-1})$.

Since $\nu_0 \in L^4$ and $|A|^2 \in L^{\infty}(I; L^4), \nu \in \mathcal{C}(I; L^4) \cap W^{1,\infty}(I; L^4)$ and moreover

$$\partial_t \nu = -\frac{1}{\tau} e^{-t/\tau} \nu_0 + \frac{\varepsilon}{\tau} \int_0^t -\frac{1}{\tau} e^{-(t-s)/\tau} |A(s)|^2 ds + \varepsilon |A(t)|^2$$
$$= -\frac{\nu}{\tau} + \frac{\varepsilon}{\tau} |A|^2.$$

This means that $\tau \partial_t \nu + \nu = \varepsilon |A|^2$, which is the differential form of (2.3), is valid in $\mathcal{C}(I; L^4)$.

Moreover, we know that B is indeed in $L^{8/(8-N)}(I; L^{4,3})$, which enables us to conclude that $\int_0^t S(t-s)B(s)ds \in \mathcal{C}(I; L^2)$ and therefore $F(t) \in \mathcal{C}(I; L^2)$. All these results lead to $A \in \mathcal{C}(0,T; H^2)$. Differentiating Eq. (2.4) with respect to time we obtain:

$$(-\Delta+1)\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = \left\{ i\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \nu}{\partial t} \left(A_0 + \int_0^t F(s)ds\right) + \nu F + F \right\}$$

which is a priori valid in $\mathcal{C}(I; H^{-1})$. Together with the differential equation on F, this gives that $\partial A/\partial t = F$ in $\mathcal{C}(I; H^{-2})$. Furthermore

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = (-\Delta + 1)^{-1} \left\{ i \frac{\partial F}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \nu}{\partial t} \left(A_0 + \int_0^t F(s) ds \right) + \nu F + F \right\}$$

and $A \in \mathcal{C}^1(I; L^2)$. Equation (2.4) together with the fact that $\int_0^t F(s) ds = A(t) - A_0$, give

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}A + \Delta A = \nu A_{t}$$

which is valid in $\mathcal{C}(I; L^2)$.

Hence this formulation has enabled us to prove the following theorem:

Theorem 3 For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $H^2 \times L^4$, Eq. (1.2) for the initial data $A(0) = A_0$, $\nu(0) = \nu_0$, as a unique solution in $X = \mathcal{C}(0, T; H^2) \times \mathcal{C}(0, T; L^4)$ for small enough T and solutions depend continuously on the initial data.

We may compare this result with the above results. Here we need some strong regularity on A and week regularity on ν . This theorem may also be considered as intermediate between the regular and the weak cases of Theorem 2. The L^4 regularity for ν is, however, very different from the H^1 or L^2 regularities asked for in Theorem 2, (ii) and (iii). The fact that we recover some continuity with respect to time for ν will also be important in some applications (see Ref. ?) as the proof of convergence for numerical schemes.

In the case of the Zakharov system, this huge difference between the regularity for both variables is needed. Here the H^2 -regularity for A is mostly needed because H^2 is an algebra for all dimensions. H^1 in dimension 1 and H^s in dimension 2 and 3 with $2 \ge s > N/2$ would have been sufficient. It is however impossible to recover more than a H^2 -regularity on A. We may think of higher regularities, using the same approach as above and introducing the new variable $G = \partial_t^2 A$.

Here estimates are not uniform with respect to τ as we noticed earlier. One drawback is the fact that we are not able to perform a limit as this parameter tends to 0.

3. A more General Case.

Going a little further from applications, we may think of studying the following system

$$\begin{cases} i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}A + \Delta A = \nu A, \\ \tau \frac{\partial}{\partial t}\nu + \nu = f(x, |A|^2), \end{cases}$$
(3.1)

where $|f(x,u)| \leq C(1+|u|^{\sigma})$ and $\sigma > 0$. This might not be so far from actual models for optics since Kerr media are not the only ones to be studied. Nevertheless we have never seen the model (3.1) in the literature. Of course it is inspired from the general nonlinear Schrödinger equations and results are as well easy to find as soon as we deal with algebras. Otherwise we have to consider the notion of critical value for the nonlinearity. This is the maximal value of σ for which one may hope to find local-in-time estimates. In H^1 , this value is $\sigma = 2/(N-2)$, which is indeed the critical value for which $H^1 \hookrightarrow L^{\sigma+2}$ (N > 3). In L^2 , the critical value is $\sigma = 2/(N-2)$ as well.

Using the same methods than above or in Ref. 2, it is possible to prove :

Theorem 4 (i) For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $H^s \times H^s$ with s > N/2, Eq. (3.1) for the initial data $A(0) = A_0$, $\nu(0) = \nu_0$, has a unique solution in $L^{\infty}(0,T;H^s)$ for a small enough T and solutions depend continuously on the initial data.

(ii) For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $H^1 \times H^1$ and $\sigma < 2/(N-2)$, Eq. (3.1) has a unique solution in $L^{\infty}(0,T;H^1)$ for a small enough T.

(iii) For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $L^2 \times L^2$ and $\sigma < 2/(N-2)$, Eq. (3.1) has a unique solution in $L^{8/N}(0,T;L^{2(1+\sigma)}) \cap C([0,T];L^2)$ for a small enough T.

(iv) For all (A_0, ν_0) belonging to $H^2 \times L^4$, Eq. (3.1) for the initial data $A(0) = A_0$, $\nu(0) = \nu_0$, has a unique solution in $\mathcal{C}(0, T; H^2) \times \mathcal{C}(0, T; L^4)$ for a small enough T and solutions depend continuously on the initial data.

We will not give any detailed proof of this result since, as we mentioned above, the methods have already been used. The only difference is that estimates are a little more awkward.

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4. Perspectives.

As stressed in the Introduction, the main goals to find new results on the Cauchy problem for Schrödinger-Debye equations were first to give a theoretical background for a numerical approach and second to make a step towards the study of the long time behavior of solutions to these equations. This second aim seems difficult to achieve and numerics would be helpful to give us a first guess of what the result may be.

In the context of Theorem 1(i) for example (see Ref.1), we already know that, as τ tends to zero, solutions to (1.2) tend to the solutions to the cubic nonlinear Schrödinger equation

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}A + \Delta A = \varepsilon |A|^2 A. \tag{4.1}$$

In the case when ε is positive, solutions to (4.1) exist for all time, whereas in the case when ε is negative, (4.1) exhibits solutions that blow up in finite time. (Both signs are physical depending on the type of medium we consider). We may expect to find a similar behavior for the Schrödinger-Debye equations. There is no hope to find different results for small τ and for greater ones since a rescaling of the equations show that the behavior will be the same.

We might think of a Viriel-type identity to prove a finite-time blow-up result. Here we do not dispose of a conservation law but only of a relation like

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{1}{2}\int |\nabla A(t)|^2 dx + \varepsilon \int |A(t)|^4 dx - \frac{\tau^2}{\varepsilon}\int \left|\frac{\partial\nu}{\partial t}\right|^2 dx\right) = \frac{2\tau}{\varepsilon}\int \left|\frac{\partial\nu}{\partial t}\right|^2 dx. \quad (4.2)$$

Using this formulation we might think of obtaining a partial result like the one obtained by Merle ⁵ for the Zakharov equation. All such attempts have been unsuccessful until now.

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