

SciComp Project 1

Weeks 1+2

September 2, 2020
To be handed in September 14 before 12:00 noon

1 Background

Many of you will know the phenomenon that a prism refracts light, i.e. splits it up in different colors, because the refractive index of the prism varies with the frequency ω of light. The underlying property of the molecules forming the material is the frequency dependent polarizability, $\alpha(\omega)$. The polarizability, like many other properties of molecules and materials, can be calculated from the basic laws of physics, here the time-dependent Schrödinger equation.

In the end, the polarizability for a given frequency ω of the incoming light is obtained as the following scalar product of two column vectors \mathbf{z} and \mathbf{x} :

$$\alpha(\omega) = \mathbf{z}^T \mathbf{x} \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{z} is a vector that can be calculated from the Schrödinger equation, and \mathbf{x} is the solution to the following system of linear equations:

$$(\mathbf{E} - \omega \mathbf{S}) \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{z} \quad (2)$$

Here, \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{S} are two square matrices, and ω is the frequency of the incoming light. Like the column vector \mathbf{z} , the matrices \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{S} are calculated from the Schrödinger equation, which we will not discuss further in this course.

2 Data

In this project we consider the water molecule, H_2O , and its frequency dependent polarizability, $\alpha(\omega)$. It turns out that the matrices \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{S} , and the column vector \mathbf{z} , have a structure that lets us decompose the matrices into submatrices as follows:

$$\mathbf{E} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{A} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{z} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y} \\ -\mathbf{y} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

The Python-file `watermatrices.py` and the Matlab-file `watermatrices.mat` contain the submatrices \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} , and the subvector \mathbf{y} for a water molecule, obtained by an approximate solution to the Schrödinger equation.

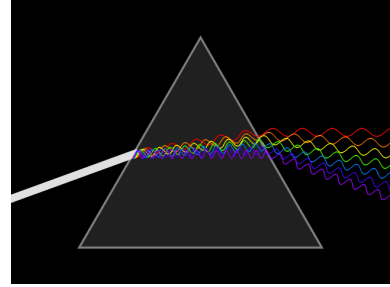


Figure 1: A dispersive prism slows light at different rates depending on the wave-length, causing refraction.

3 Questions for Week 1

- a. (1) Write a small function that computes the condition number of a matrix under the max-norm:

$$\text{cond}_{\infty}(\mathbf{M}) = \|\mathbf{M}\|_{\infty} \|\mathbf{M}^{-1}\|_{\infty}$$

Use a library matrix inversion routine¹ for \mathbf{M}^{-1} , but do program the max-norm yourself using `sum`, `abs`, and `max`. (2) For three frequencies, $\omega = \{0.800, 1.146, 1.400\}$, calculate the condition number for the matrix $\mathbf{E} - \omega\mathbf{S}$. The right-hand-side \mathbf{z} is given with 8 significant digits. How many digits in the solution \mathbf{x} could we trust if everything else were exact? Why?

- b. (1) For each of the three ω , determine a bound on the relative forward error in the max-norm:

$$\frac{\|\Delta\mathbf{x}\|_{\infty}}{\|\hat{\mathbf{x}}\|_{\infty}} \leq \text{cond}_{\infty}(\mathbf{E} - \omega\mathbf{S}) \frac{\|\delta\omega\mathbf{S}\|_{\infty}}{\|\mathbf{E} - \omega\mathbf{S}\|_{\infty}}$$

for the perturbation that the frequency ω is changed by $\delta\omega = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^{-3}$. (2) As ω is given with 3 digits after the comma, how many digits in \mathbf{x} could we be guarantee are valid if everything else were exact? Why?

- c. Implement three separate functions

1. `L,U = lu_factorize(A)`, which takes a square matrix \mathbf{M} as input and returns two square matrices: A triangular matrix \mathbf{L} and upper triangular matrix \mathbf{U} such that $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{U}$.
2. `y = forward_substitute(L,z)`, which takes a square lower triangular matrix \mathbf{L} and a vector \mathbf{b} as input, and returns the solution vector \mathbf{y} to $\mathbf{L}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{b}$.
3. `x = back_substitute(U,y)`, which takes a square upper triangular matrix \mathbf{U} and a vector \mathbf{y} as input, and returns the solution vector \mathbf{x} to $\mathbf{U}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$.

and test them with the linear equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & 1 & 4 \\ -6 & -5 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 11 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

You can test your solution against a library routine.²

If you know how, try to use vector operations instead of for-loops where possible (orders of magnitude faster in Python and Matlab).

- d. Implement a function `alpha = solve_alpha(omega)` for calculating the frequency-dependent polarizability $\alpha(\omega) = \mathbf{z}^T \mathbf{x}$ for water in the given approximation. This routine should solve Equation (2) by LU-factorization using your own three routines from (c). (1) Using your routine, make a table of the polarizabilities for the frequencies given in (a) and their perturbations, i.e. for $\omega = \{0.800 \pm \delta\omega, 1.146 \pm \delta\omega, 1.400 \pm \delta\omega\}$, with $\delta\omega = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^{-3}$ as before. (2) Which error-bound is the correct one to understand the variation of the calculated polarizabilities due to the perturbation: (a) or (b) or both? Do your calculated values fall within the bounds you calculated above?
- e. (1) Compute a table of $\alpha(\omega)$ for 1000 evenly spaced values in the interval $[1.2, 4]^3$ using your routine from (d), and plot the values. (2) What happens to the linear system of Equation (2) around the frequency $\omega = 1.60686978$, and how is this reflected in $\alpha(\omega)$?

¹E.g. `inv` from `numpy.linalg` for Python, `inv` for Matlab. But only here.

²E.g. `numpy.linalg.solve` in Python, or `linsolve` in Matlab.

³Use `linspace` in both Python and Matlab.