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Numerical solution of the generalized Kadomtsev-Petviashvili equations with compact finite difference schemes

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Abstract. We propose compact finite difference schemes to solve the KP equations $u_t + u_{xxx} + u^p u_x + \lambda \partial_x^{-1} u_{yy} = 0$. When $p = 1$, this equation describes the propagation of small amplitude long waves in shallow water with weak transverse effects. We first present the numerical schemes which are compared to the Fourier spectral method. After establishing the numerical convergence, the scheme is validated. We then depict the behavior of solutions in the context of solitons instabilities and the blow-up.

Keywords. Kadomtsev-Petviashvili equations, compact finite difference schemes, blow-up, transverse instabilities, Zaitsev solitons, line-soliton.

MS Codes. 35Q53, 65M06, 65M70, 35G25, 76B15

1 Introduction

The Kadomtsev–Petviashvili equations

$$u_t + u_{xxx} + uu_x \pm \partial_x^{-1} u_{yy} = 0$$

were proposed to describe the propagation of long dispersive waves in shallow water taking into account weakly transverse effect in the y -direction [12, 17, 18]. Here ∂_x^{-1} denotes the antiderivative and is defined by the Fourier transform

$$\widehat{\partial_x^{-1} u}(\xi_1, \xi_2) = \frac{\hat{u}(\xi_1, \xi_2)}{i\xi_1}.$$

This antiderivative is introduced from the one-dimensional transport operator $\partial_t + \partial_x$ by considering weakly transverse perturbations, *i.e.* in the frequency region $|\xi_2/\xi_1| \ll 1$.

In this paper, we are concerned with the generalized Kadomtsev-Petviashvili equations

$$u_t + u_{xxx} + u^p u_x + \lambda \partial_x^{-1} u_{yy} = 0, \tag{1}$$

with $p \geq 1$. Here the equation is called KP-I when $\lambda = -1$ and KP-II when $\lambda = 1$.

It is well known that sufficiently smooth solutions vanishing at infinity preserve the following mass

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} u^2(x, y, t) dx dy$$

and energy

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left(\frac{u^{p+2}}{(p+1)(p+2)} - \frac{u_x^2}{2} + \frac{\lambda(\partial_x^{-1} u_y)^2}{2} \right) (x, y, t) dx dy.$$

Note also that one has a mass-zero constraint on x due to the equation itself, more precisely we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} u(x, y, t) dx = 0, \quad y \in \mathbb{R}, t \neq 0,$$

without any restraint on the initial data [26]. This condition is of paramount importance in the construction of numerical schemes.

Numerical behavior of the KP equations has been intensely studied recently [6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 22, 35]. Due to the definition of the antiderivative, spectral methods has been privileged. This needs to impose periodic boundary conditions. In our work, compact finite difference schemes are proposed [19]. Their benefits are to easily adapt to all boundary conditions, and also to increase the order. Remark that, we can prove [23] that the antiderivative in a bounded domain is equivalently given by an integration in space

$$\partial_x^{-1}u(x, y, t) = \int_{-\infty}^x u(x', y, t)dx'.$$

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 deals with the numerical schemes. It consists of building compact finite difference and spectral-compact schemes of arbitrary large order. These new schemes are validated in Section 3 with the Zaitsev soliton [36]

$$\psi_c(x, y, t) = 12\alpha^2 \frac{1 - \beta \cosh(\alpha x - \omega t) \cos(\delta y)}{(\cosh(\alpha x - \omega t) - \beta \cos(\delta y))^2}, \beta = \sqrt{\frac{\delta^2 - 3\alpha^4}{\delta^2}}, 3\alpha^4 < \delta^2, \omega = \frac{\delta^2 + \alpha^4}{\alpha}, c = \frac{\omega}{\alpha}.$$

as the exact solution of the KP-I equation. Finally, the robustness of the compact scheme is tested through three classical experiments and is compared to fully spectral method. First, the instability of the Zaitsev soliton is established using Schwartzian perturbations [15]. Then transverse instabilities of the Korteweg-de Vries line-soliton

$$\Phi_c(x, t) = \left(\frac{(p+1)(p+2)}{2} c \right)^{1/p} \operatorname{sech}^{2/p} \left(\frac{p\sqrt{c}}{2} (x - ct) \right),$$

under the KP-I flow is studied [1, 2, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31]. We conclude with the blow-up in finite time [20, 21, 32, 33] of the solution starting from the initial data

$$u_0(x) = 3\partial_{xx}e^{-\alpha(x^2+y^2)}.$$

2 Time and space discretization of KP equations

The numerical schemes are introduced. We focus on the compact schemes. Then we remind the spectral scheme used in [6, 7, 9, 14, 15].

2.1 The time discretization

Let $\Delta t > 0$ be the time step. In order to preserve the mean and the L^2 -norm, we use a Sanz-Serna scheme. It is written

$$\frac{u(t_{n+1}) - u(t_n)}{\Delta t} + \partial_{xxx} \left(\frac{u(t_n) + u(t_{n+1})}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{p+1} \partial_x \left(\frac{u(t_n) + u(t_{n+1})}{2} \right)^{p+1} + \lambda \partial_x^{-1} \partial_{yy} \left(\frac{u(t_n) + u(t_{n+1})}{2} \right) = 0. \quad (2)$$

Theorem 2.1. *For solutions smooth enough, the scheme (2) conserves the mean and the L^2 -norm.*

Proof. The mass conservation is showed by integrating (2) over space. The L^2 -norm conservation is obtained by multiplying (2) with $\frac{u(t_n) + u(t_{n+1})}{2}$, then integrating over space. \square

2.2 The space discretization

From (2), we write the discretization in space as

$$\frac{U_{n+1} - U_n}{\Delta t} + A_{x,3} \left(\frac{U_{n+1} + U_n}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{p+1} A_{x,1} \left(\frac{U_{n+1} + U_n}{2} \right)^{p+1} + \lambda A_{x,-1} A_{y,2} \left(\frac{U_{n+1} + U_n}{2} \right) = 0, \quad (3)$$

where $A_{x,k}$, $A_{y,k}$, is the matrix associated to the discretization of the k -th derivative in the x direction and the y direction, respectively. Here, U_n denotes the approximation of u at time $t_n = n\Delta t$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We now mention different ways to compute these matrices, namely through compact schemes and Fourier transform.

Theorem 2.3. *The scheme (4) preserves the mean and the mass zero constraint.*

Proof. We verify that $\sum_i (U_{n+1})_i = \sum_i (U_n)_i$. We write the 1D discretization matrices as

$$D_x = P_1^{-1}Q_1, \quad D_{yy} = P_2^{-1}Q_2, \quad D_{xxx} = P_3^{-1}Q_3 \text{ and } (\overline{D_x})^{-1} = (\overline{Q_1})^{-1}\overline{P_1}.$$

First $\sum_i \left(I_y \otimes D_{xxx} \frac{U_{n+1} + U_n}{2} \right)_i = 0$. Indeed, the matrix Q_3 is antisymmetric, P_3 is symmetric and $\forall j$

$$\sum_i (Q_3)_{i,j} = 0, \quad \sum_i (P_3)_{i,j} = C, \quad C \neq 0.$$

Let us verify that $\sum_i (D_{xxx}X)_i = 0$ for any vector X . We set $Y = D_{xxx}X = P_3^{-1}Q_3X$, thus $P_3Y = Q_3X$. We have

$$\sum_i (Q_3X)_i = \sum_i \sum_k [(Q_3)_{i,k} X_k] = \sum_k \left[\sum_i (Q_3)_{i,k} \right] X_k = 0,$$

and

$$\sum_i (P_3Y)_i = \sum_i \sum_k [(P_3)_{i,k} Y_k] = \sum_k \left[\sum_i (P_3)_{i,k} \right] Y_k = C \sum_k Y_k.$$

We infer that

$$\sum_k Y_k = \sum_i (P_3^{-1}Q_3X)_i = \sum_i (D_{xxx}X)_i = 0.$$

We therefore obtain $\sum_i \left(I_y \otimes D_{xxx} \frac{U_{n+1} + U_n}{2} \right)_i = 0$.

In the same way, we have $\sum_i [(I_y \otimes D_x)X]_i = 0$ and $\sum_i [(D_{yy} \otimes I_x)X]_i = 0$ for any vector X . Since

$$\left(I_y \otimes (\overline{D_x})^{-1} \right) (D_{yy} \otimes I_x) = D_{yy} \otimes (\overline{D_x})^{-1} = (D_{yy} \otimes I_x) \left(I_y \otimes (\overline{D_x})^{-1} \right),$$

(4) implies $\sum_i (U_{n+1})_i = \sum_i (U_n)_i$. □

The conservation of the L^2 -norm

$$\left\langle I_y \otimes D_x \left(\frac{U_{n+1} + U_n}{2} \right)^{p+1}, \frac{U_{n+1} + U_n}{2} \right\rangle = 0$$

is more difficult to reach with high order schemes. Nevertheless, the precision of compact schemes will ensure a good conservation of the L^2 -norm, as shown in the numerical simulations.

Remark 2.4. *In order to solve the linear system $AX = b$, where*

$$A = I_y \otimes \left(I_x + \frac{\Delta t}{2} D_{xxx} \right) + \lambda \frac{\Delta t}{2} \left(D_{yy} \otimes (\overline{D_x})^{-1} \right),$$

we use a diagonal preconditioner and a GMRES method.

2.2.2 Fourier spectral method

Because of the definition of the antiderivative $\partial_x^{-1} = \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{i\xi} \right)$, the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) is the most common way to solve the KP equation with periodic boundary conditions in space. We define the Fourier modes $k_x = \frac{2\pi k}{L_x}$ and $k_y = \frac{2\pi l}{L_y}$ in the domain $[-L_x, L_x] \times [-L_y, L_y]$. The Fourier transform applied to the KP equation, gives $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^*, l \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\frac{d\hat{u}}{dt}(k, l, t) - i \left[k_x^3 - \lambda \frac{k_y^2}{k_x} \right] \hat{u}(k, l, t) + \frac{ik_x}{p+1} \mathcal{F} (u^{p+1})(k, l, t) = 0.$$

The mass zero constraint is translated as $\hat{u}(0, l, t) = 0$.

In order to conserve the L^2 -norm, a Sanz-Serna scheme is used again

$$\frac{\hat{u}_{n+1} - \hat{u}_n}{\Delta t} - i \left[k_x^3 - \lambda \frac{k_y^2}{k_x} \right] \frac{\hat{u}_{n+1} + \hat{u}_n}{2} + i \frac{k_x}{p+1} \mathcal{F} \left(\left(\frac{u_n + u_{n+1}}{2} \right)^{p+1} \right) = 0. \quad (5)$$

With the following matrices (where N_x and N_y are powers of 2)

$$K_\star = \frac{2\pi}{L_\star} \text{diag} \left(0, 1, \dots, \frac{N_\star}{2} - 1, -\frac{N_\star}{2}, \dots, -1 \right), \quad \star = x \text{ or } y,$$

$$(\overline{K_x})^{-1} = \frac{2\pi}{L_x} \text{diag} \left(0, 1, \dots, \frac{1}{\frac{N_x}{2} - 1}, -\frac{2}{N_x}, \dots, -1 \right),$$

we solve thanks to a Picard fixed-point method

$$\frac{\hat{U}_{n+1} - \hat{U}_n}{\Delta t} - i \left[I_y \otimes K_x^3 - \lambda K_y^2 \otimes (\overline{K_x})^{-1} \right] \frac{\hat{U}_{n+1} + \hat{U}_n}{2} + i \left(I_y \otimes (\overline{K_x})^{-1} \right) \frac{1}{p+1} \mathcal{F} \left(\left(\frac{U_{n+1} + U_n}{2} \right)^{p+1} \right) = 0. \quad (6)$$

It is worth to notice that the matrix K_x is not invertible. The average in x being zero, we can define the matrix $(\overline{K_x})^{-1}$.

2.2.3 Mixed spectral-compact schemes

The wave, solution of the KP equation, propagates mainly in the x -direction. For realistic configurations or less consuming computational, it is natural to consider a large domain in the x -direction and to restrict the spatial domain in the y -direction. In this case, we combine FFT in the x -direction and compact schemes with Dirichlet and/or Neumann condition in y as follows

$$\frac{\hat{U}_{n+1} - \hat{U}_n}{\Delta t} - i (I_y \otimes K^3) \frac{\hat{U}_{n+1} + \hat{U}_n}{2} + \frac{i}{p+1} (I_y \otimes K) \mathcal{F} \left(\left(\frac{U_n + U_{n+1}}{2} \right)^{p+1} \right) - i\lambda (D_{yy} \otimes K^{-1}) \frac{\hat{U}_{n+1} + \hat{U}_n}{2} = 0.$$

Gathering \hat{U}^{n+1} and \hat{U}^n gives

$$\left[I_d - i \frac{\Delta t}{2} (I_y \otimes K^3 + \lambda \Delta t D_{yy} \otimes K^{-1}) \right] \hat{U}_{n+1} = \left[I_d + i \frac{\Delta t}{2} (I_y \otimes K^3 + \lambda \Delta t D_{yy} \otimes K^{-1}) \right] \hat{U}_n + i \frac{\Delta t}{p+1} (I_y \otimes K) \mathcal{F} \left(\left(\frac{U_n + U_{n+1}}{2} \right)^{p+1} \right).$$

3 Numerical results

After establishing the convergence, the schemes are tested and validated according to three well known behaviors of the KP equations, namely, the perturbations of Zaitsev soliton, transverse instabilities and blow-up in finite time [15]. The codes are written in python.

3.1 Order estimates and comparison

We consider the Zaitsev travelling waves as exact solution the KP-I equation with $p = 1$. It is defined by

$$\Psi(x, y, t) = 12\alpha^2 \frac{1 - \beta \cosh(\alpha x - \omega t) \cos(\delta y)}{(\cosh(\alpha x - \omega t) - \beta \cos(\delta y))^2}, \quad (7)$$

where

$$\beta = \sqrt{\frac{\delta^2 - 3\alpha^4}{\delta^2}}, \quad 3\alpha^4 < \delta^2, \quad \omega = \frac{\delta^2 + \alpha^4}{\alpha}, \quad c = \frac{\omega}{\alpha}.$$

The computational domain is $\Omega = [-L_x; L_x] \times [-L_y; L_y] = [-89.6; 89.6] \times [-21; 21]$ and we take $\alpha = 0.0174$, $\delta = \frac{\pi}{L_y} = \frac{\pi}{21}$ and $c = 0.76$ [6], and the time step $dt = 10^{-4}$. The initial datum is represented in Figure 1.

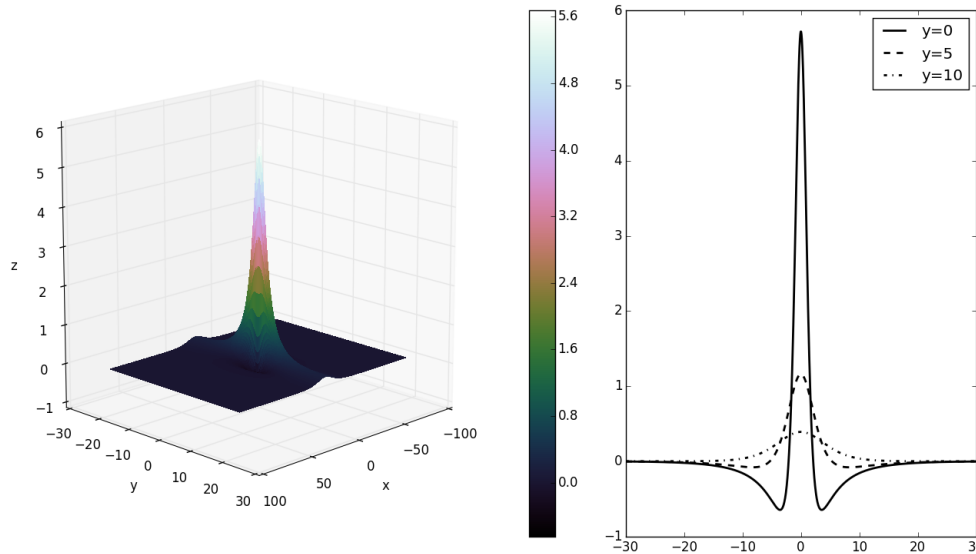


Figure 1: At left, 3-dimensional representation of the Zaitsev travelling wave. At right, 1-dimensional projection for $y = 0$ (-), 5 (- -), 10 (- - -).

We compare the L^2 -norm error obtained by the schemes presented in section 2 with varying space discretization. The results are listed in Table 1. It is not surprising that the classical Fourier scheme gives the best result. Nevertheless, the error given by compact scheme is well decreasing and the results are quite good from the fourth order.

Method	N_x	N_y	L^2 -norm error
full FFT	2^9	200	$7.74 \cdot 10^{-7}$
full 2^{nd} order compact schemes	601	160	$9.94 \cdot 10^{-2}$
full 4^{th} order compact schemes	601	160	$1.45 \cdot 10^{-2}$
full 6^{th} order compact schemes	601	160	$5.03 \cdot 10^{-4}$
FFT in x and 2^{nd} order compact scheme in y	2^9	100	$5.35 \cdot 10^{-2}$
		150	$2.37 \cdot 10^{-2}$
		200	$1.33 \cdot 10^{-2}$
FFT in x and 4^{th} order compact scheme in y	2^9	100	$9.38 \cdot 10^{-4}$
		150	$1.92 \cdot 10^{-4}$
		200	$6.04 \cdot 10^{-5}$
FFT in x and 6^{th} order compact scheme in y	2^9	100	$4.59 \cdot 10^{-5}$
		150	$3.98 \cdot 10^{-6}$
		200	$1.03 \cdot 10^{-6}$

Table 1: L^2 -norm error for different settings

Figure 2 presents the numerical order obtained from mixed schemes with respect to N_y .

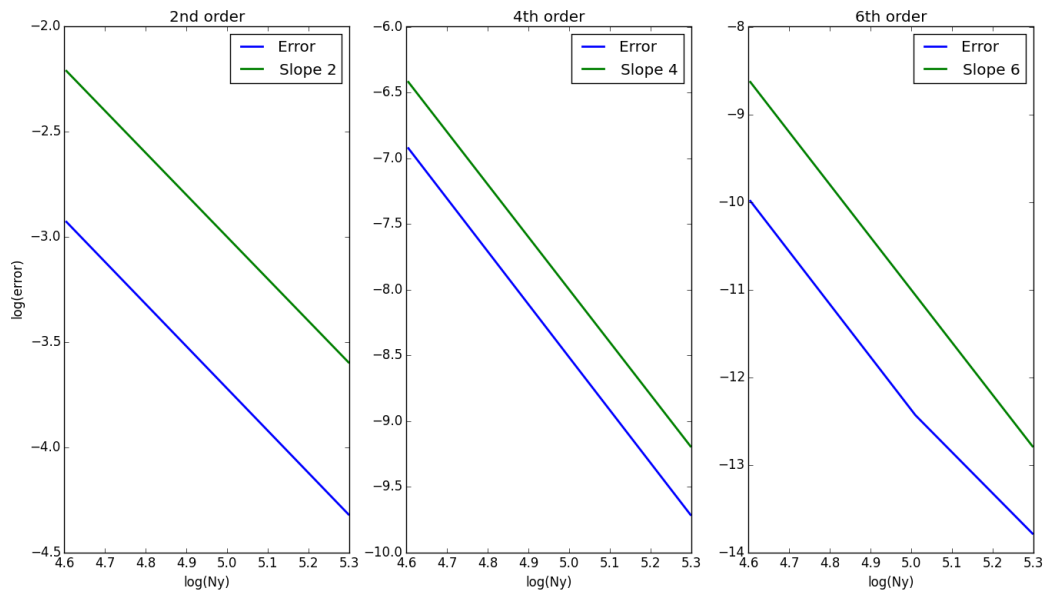


Figure 2: L^2 -norm error with respect to the discretization step computed from mixed schemes. Here we have mixed schemes.

To verify the mass zero constraint, we choose as initial datum (Figure 3)

$$u_0(x, y) = A(1 - 2sx^2)e^{-sx^2 - ty^2} \text{ with } s = 0.25, t = 7.5 \text{ and } A = 5.$$

Here, the domain is $[-25, 25] \times [-5, 5]$ and $dt = 10^{-4}$ and other parameters are sum up in Table 2.

Method	N_x	N_y
full 4 th order compact scheme	501	100
FFT in x and 4 th order compact scheme in y	2^9	100
full FFT	2^9	2^7

Table 2: Parameters for a Gaussian as initial datum.

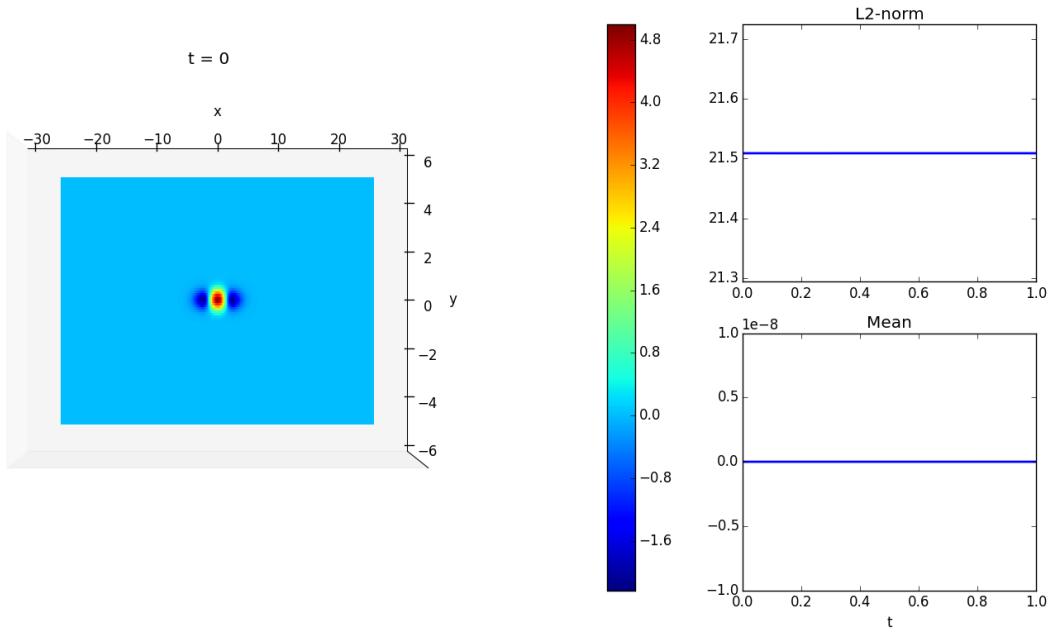


Figure 3: At left, the Gaussian initial datum with $A = 5$, $s = 0.25$ and $t = 7.5$. At right, the time evolution of the L^2 -norm and mean computed with the 4^{th} order compact scheme.

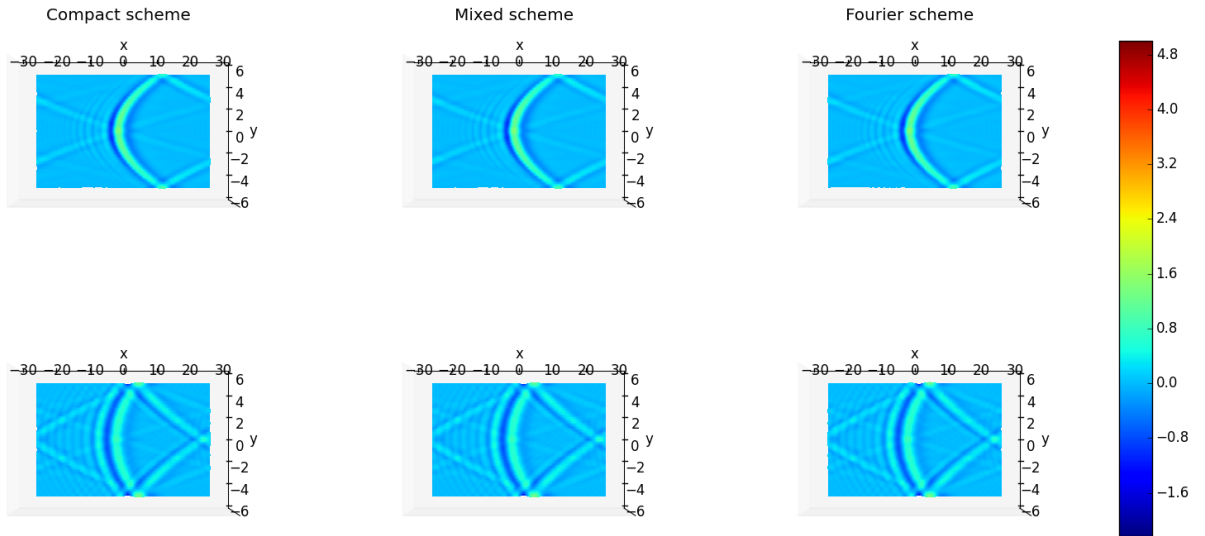


Figure 4: Solutions of KP-I equations at time $t = 0.5$ (first row) and $t = 1$ (second row). The first column denotes 4^{th} order compact scheme, the second column is 4^{th} order mixed scheme and third column represents the FFT.

3.2 Perturbations of the Zaitsev soliton

The Zaitsev soliton (7) is perturbed with a Gaussian function. More precisely, the simulation starts from the following initial datum

$$u_0(x, y) = \Psi \left(x + \frac{L_x}{2}, y, 0 \right) + 6 \left(x + \frac{L_x}{2} \right) e^{-(x + \frac{L_x}{2})^2 - y^2}.$$

Here we take $\alpha = 1$, $\beta = 0.5$ and $\delta = 3$ in the domain $[-25, 25] \times [-5, 5]$. We present in Figure 5 the simulation performed with 4th order compact schemes with $N_x = 501$, $N_y = 100$ and $dt = 10^{-4}$. The L^2 -norm, the mean are well conserved and the L^∞ -norm has a consistent behaviour (Figure 6). As expected [15], Figure 5 shows that peaks are appearing and the Zaitsev soliton develops into a lump.

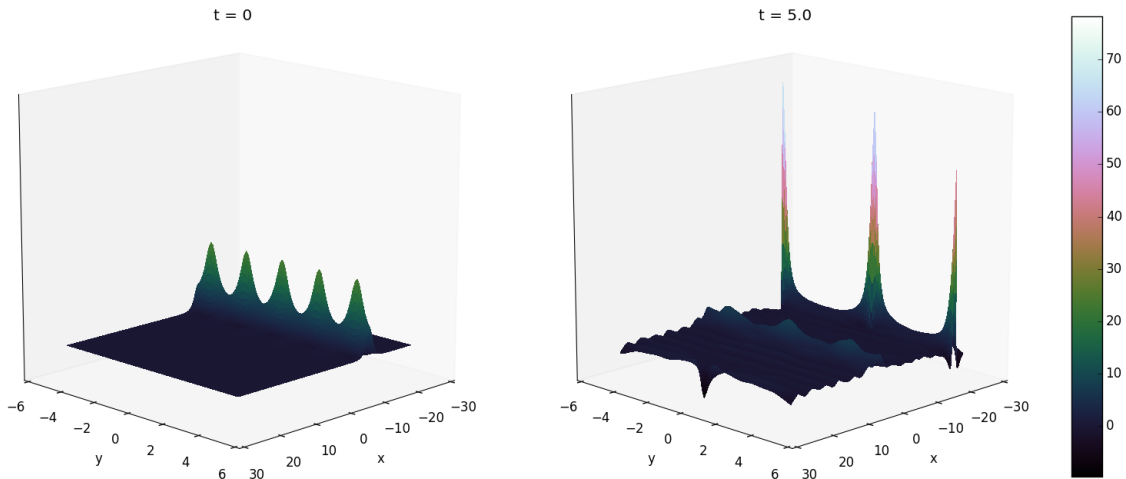


Figure 5: At left, perturbed Zaitsev soliton as initial datum. At right, solution of the KP-I equation with $p = 1$ at time $t = 5$.

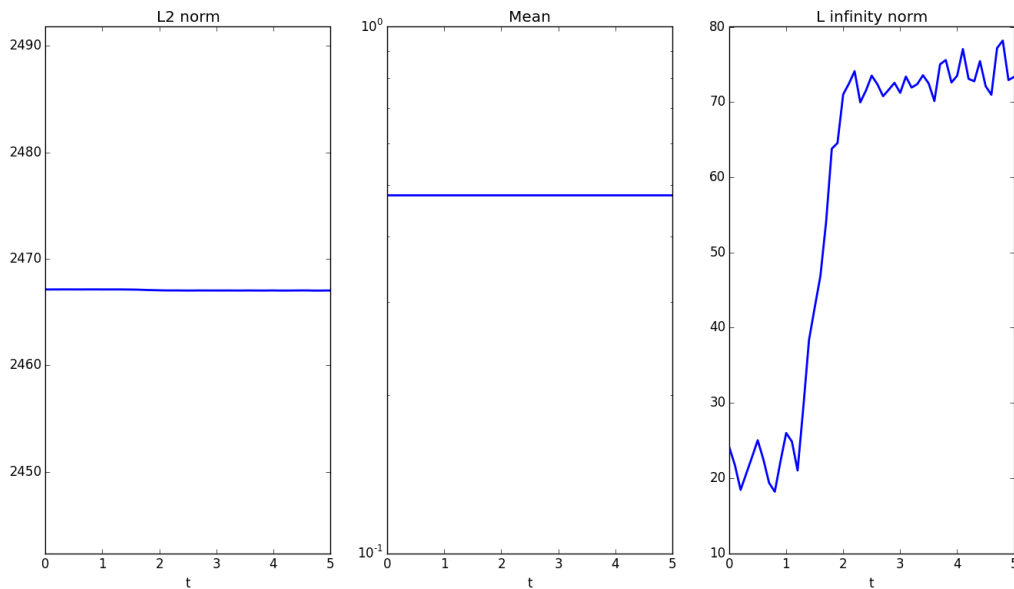


Figure 6: L^2 -norm, mean and L^∞ -norm with respect to time of the solution of the KP-I equation starting from perturbed Zaitsev.

3.3 Transverse instabilities of the line-soliton

We investigate the transverse instabilities [1, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31] of the Korteweg-de Vries soliton. We consider the perturbed line-soliton

$$u_0(x, y) = 12 \operatorname{sech}^2 \left(x + 0.4 \cos \left(\frac{2y}{L_y} \right) \right).$$

In Figure 7, we use 4th order compact schemes with $N_x = 501$, $N_y = 100$ and $dt = 10^{-4}$. In Figure 8, we can observe that the norms are well conserved and that the L^∞ -norm is increasing, translating that the line-soliton is unstable as shown in Figure 7 [6, 7, 15].

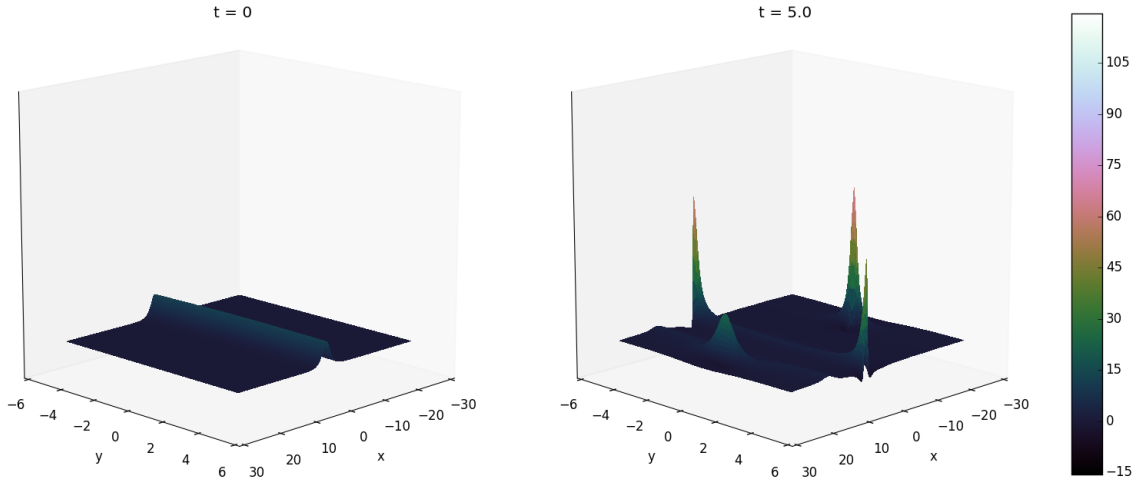


Figure 7: At left, perturbed KdV soliton as initial datum. At right, solution of the KP-I equation with $p = 1$ at time $t = 5$.

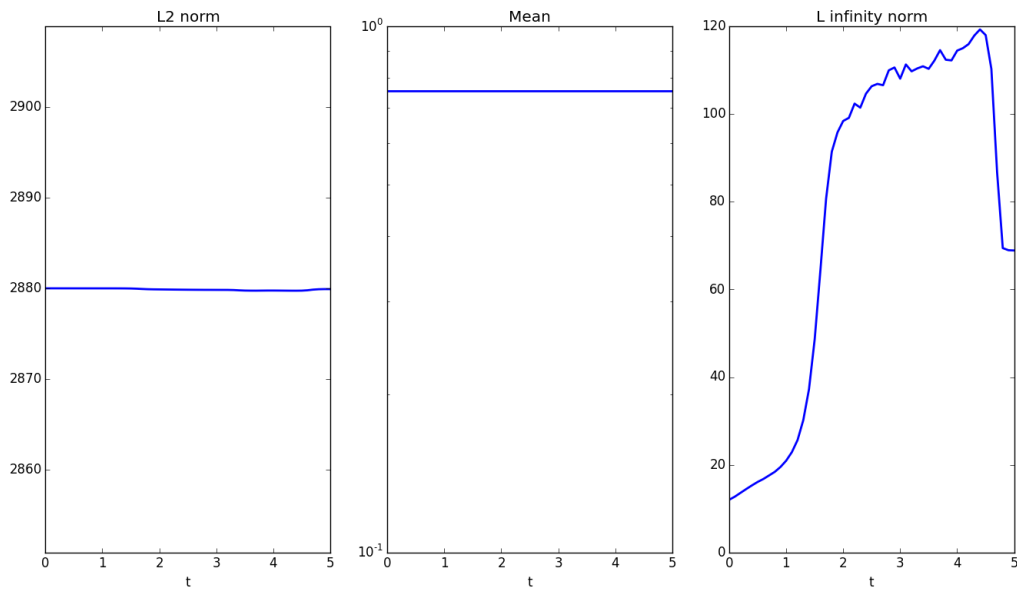


Figure 8: L^2 -norm, mean and L^∞ -norm with initial datum equal to a perturbed KdV soliton (cf Figure 7)

3.4 Blow-up in finite time

To illustrate the blow-up in finite time of the KP-I equation when $p = 2$, we consider the initial datum

$$u_0(x, y) = 3\partial_{xx}e^{-(x^2+y^2)}.$$

We use 6th order compact schemes in the domain $[-10, 10] \times [-2.5, 2.5]$ with $N_x = 201$, $N_y = 50$ and $dt = 10^{-6}$. Figure 9 shows that the minimum blows up. We see in Figure 10 that the L^2 -norm and the mean are conserved, whereas the L^∞ -norm becomes singular.

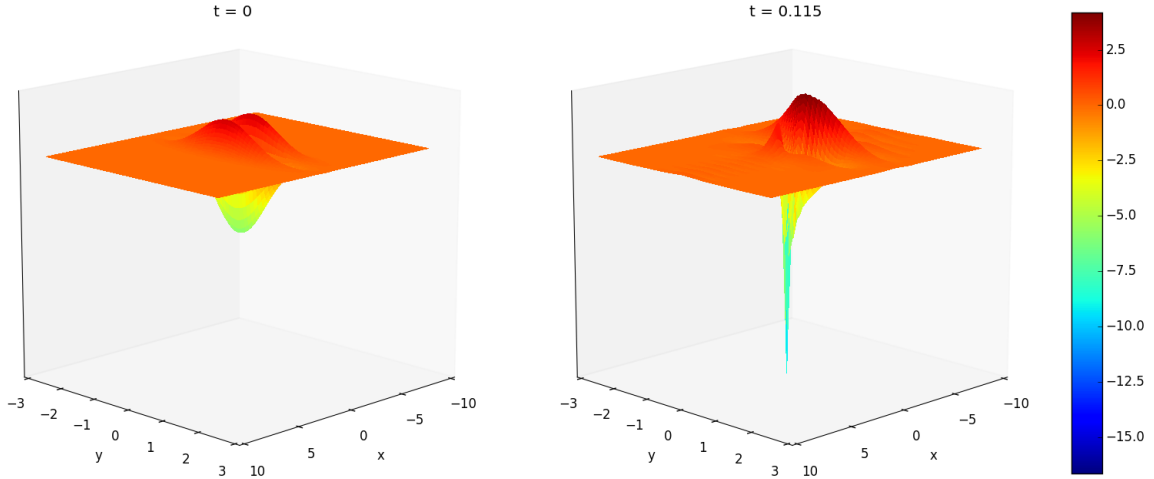


Figure 9: At left, second derivative of a Gaussian as initial datum. At right, blow-up of the solution of KP-I with $p = 2$ at time $t = 0.115$.

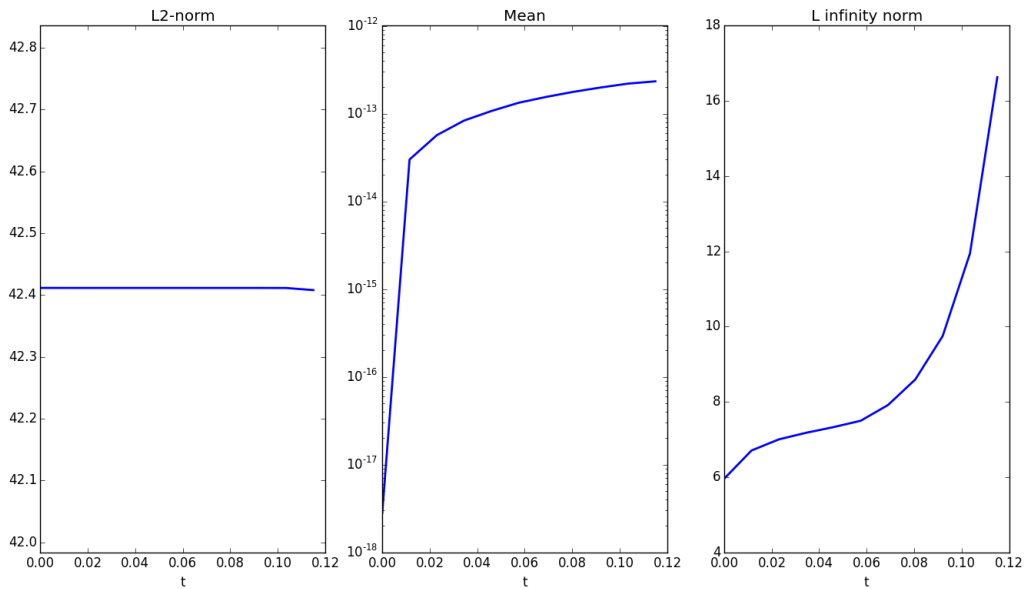


Figure 10: Evolution with time of the L^2 -norm, mean and L^∞ -norm with the second derivative of a Gaussian as initial datum.

4 Conclusion

In this paper, we propose new compact schemes to solve the Kadomtsev-Petviashvili equations. We planned to do the simulations with periodic boundary conditions, these schemes can be easily adapted to other boundary conditions. This allows to find the expected results in terms of error, blow-up and transverse instabilities with high precision schemes.

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