

***ERROR ESTIMATES FOR GALERKIN
APPROXIMATIONS TO THE PERIODIC
SCHRÖDINGER-POISSON SYSTEM***

**SEAN BOHUN, REINHARD ILLNER, HORST LANGE
AND P.F. ZWEIFEL**

DMS-642-IR

September 1993

ERROR ESTIMATES FOR GALERKIN APPROXIMATIONS TO THE PERIODIC SCHRÖDINGER-POISSON SYSTEM

by

Sean Bohun¹, Reinhard Illner¹, Horst Lange² and P.F. Zweifel³

Abstract

We establish convergence rates for a Galerkin approximation to the periodic Schrödinger-Poisson problem in the unit cube $[0, 1]^3$. The error estimates transform into corresponding L^∞ -error estimates for the Wigner distribution function.

¹ Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3P4, Canada

² FB Mathematik, Universität Köln, Weyertal 86-90, D 50931 Köln, Germany

³ Center for Transport Theory and Mathematical Physics, Virginia Tech., Blacksburg, VA 24061, U.S.A.

1. INTRODUCTION

We are concerned with the three-dimensional periodic Schrödinger-Poisson problem in the unit cube $Q = [0, 1]^3$; this problem has been studied in Ref. 1. The equations are

$$i \psi_{m,t} = -\frac{1}{2} \Delta \psi_m + V(\Psi) \psi_m \quad (1.1a)$$

$$\Delta V = q(x) - n \quad (1.1b)$$

$$n = \sum \lambda_m |\psi_m|^2 \quad (1.1c)$$

For simplicity, we have set $\hbar = 1$ and the particle mass $M = 1$. We also assume initial charge neutrality $\int_Q n(x) dx = \int_Q q(x) dx$. In the sequel, we confine our discussion to the case $q \equiv 1$, but our method generalizes to any sufficiently smooth, one-periodic q representing the density of positive background charge. We also assume, without restricting the generality, that $\lambda_m > 0$ for all m , and that $\sum \lambda_m = 1$.

The Schrödinger-Poisson system (SP), and its relation to the Wigner-Poisson system (WP), are discussed in detail in Refs. 2-6. The periodic Vlasov-Poisson is treated in Refs. 7 and 8. In Ref. 9, the quantum periodic case is studied.

(1.1a - 1.1c) are complemented by the initial conditions

$$\psi_m(x, 0) = \varphi_m(x) \quad (1.1d)$$

and periodic boundary conditions in Q . The φ_m 's form an orthonormal system in $L^2(Q)$.

In Ref. [1], it was shown by a suitable Galerkin approximation that Eqns. (1.1a-d) possess a unique, global-in-time, strong solution in the space

$$C([0, T]; X^2).$$

Here, we define

$$X^k = \{ \Psi = (\psi_m); \psi_m \in H_{\text{loc}}^k(\mathbb{R}^3), \quad \forall x \in Q$$

$$\forall m \in \mathbb{N} \quad \forall \ell \in \mathbb{Z}^3 \quad \psi_m(x + \ell) = \psi_m(x) \}$$

with the norm

$$\|\Psi\|_{X^k}^2 = \sum_{\substack{m \in \mathbb{N} \\ |\alpha| \leq k}} \lambda_m \|D^\alpha \psi_m\|_{L^2(Q)}^2.$$

We assume that $\Phi = (\varphi_m) \in X^2$, a necessary assumption for the existence proof of Ref. 1. Instead of X^0 we will just write X .

The objective of this paper is to obtain error estimates for Galerkin approximations of solutions of system (1.1a-d) obtained in Ref. 1. The Galerkin sequence $(\Psi^{(N)})_{N \in \mathbb{N}}$ is there defined by

$$\psi_m^{(N)}(x, t) = \sum_{|k| \leq N} d_{m,k}^{(N)}(t) h_k(x), \quad (1.2)$$

where $h_k(x) = e^{2\pi i k \cdot x}$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}^3$, and

$$\left(\left[i \partial_t \psi_m^{(N)}(x, t) + \frac{1}{2} \Delta \psi_m^{(N)} - V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \psi_m^{(N)} \right], h_k \right) = 0 \quad (1.3)$$

for $|k| \leq N$. Here,

$$V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \sum_{\substack{|k| \leq 2N \\ k \neq 0}} \frac{n_k^{(N)}}{k^2} h_k, \quad (1.4)$$

where we define:

$$\begin{aligned} n^{(N)}(x, t) &= \sum_m \lambda_m |\psi_m^{(N)}(x, t)|^2 \\ &= \sum_{|k| \leq 2N} n_k^{(N)} h_k(x). \end{aligned} \quad (1.5)$$

A short calculation shows

$$n_k^{(N)} = \sum_m \lambda_m \sum_{\substack{|\ell| \leq N \\ |\ell - k| \leq N}} d_{m,\ell}^{(N)} \bar{d}_{m,\ell-k}^{(N)}, \quad (1.6)$$

$$(|k| \leq 2N, \quad k \neq 0, \text{ and } n_0^{(N)} = 1).$$

$V^{(N)}$ is the explicit solution of

$$\Delta V^{(N)} = 1 - n^{(N)} \quad (1.7)$$

with periodic boundary conditions.

From Eqn. (1.3) and the subsequent formulas one sees that the coefficients $d_{m,k}^{(N)}$ in (1.2) must satisfy the first order differential system

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{d}_{m,\ell}^{(N)}(t) = & -2\pi^2 i \ell^2 d_{m,\ell}^{(N)}(t) \\ & - \frac{i}{4\pi^2} \sum_{\substack{0 < |k| \leq 2N \\ |\ell-k| \leq N}} \frac{n_k^{(N)}}{k^2} d_{m,\ell-k}^{(N)}(t) \end{aligned} \quad (1.8)$$

($|\ell| \leq N$) subject to the initial conditions

$$d_{m,\ell}^{(N)}(0) = (\varphi_m, h_\ell). \quad (1.9)$$

It is proved in Ref. 1 that for each $N \in \mathbb{N}$ the system (1.8-9) has a global unique classical solution such that $\|\Psi^{(N)}(\cdot, t)\|_{X^0} = \|\phi\|_{X^0} = 1$ (see Ref. 1, Lemma 2.1), and that the conservation law

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_Q \{ |\nabla \Psi^{(N)}(t)|^2 + |\nabla V^{(N)}(t)|^2 \} dx = 0$$

(where $|\nabla \Psi^{(N)}(t)|^2 \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_m |\nabla \psi_m^{(N)}|^2$) holds.

2. SOME AUXILIARY RESULTS

We begin by proving a generalization of a Lemma in Ref. 10 which is crucial for our error estimates. Recall that we are in three dimensions.

LEMMA 2.1. *Let $v \in H_p^k(Q)$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $k \geq 1$. Then, if*

$$\begin{aligned} v_n = & \sum_{|j| \leq n} (v, h_j) h_j, \quad h_j = e^{2\pi i j \cdot x}, \\ \|v - v_n\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 \leq & 3(2\pi)^{-2k} \left(\frac{3}{n}\right)^{2k} \|v\|_{H^k(Q)}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

Proof. Assume $v \in C_p^\infty(Q)$ (p for 1-periodic). By Pythagoras' Theorem,

$$\|v - v_n\|_{L^2(Q)}^2 = \sum_{|j| > n} |(v, h_j)|^2. \quad (2.2)$$

If $|j_1| + |j_2| + |j_3| > n$, there must be one index larger than $\frac{n}{3}$, so the sum on the right of (2.2) is bounded by

$$\sum_{j_2, j_3} \sum_{|j_1| > \frac{n}{3}} |(v, h_j)|^2 \quad (2.3)$$

plus two other sums of the same kind (with $|j_2| > \frac{n}{3}$, $|j_3| > \frac{n}{3}$ respectively). Writing

$$e^{-2\pi i j \cdot x} = (\partial_{x_1}^k e^{-2\pi i j \cdot x}) \cdot \frac{1}{(-2\pi i j_1)^k},$$

integrating by parts $k - 1$ times, using the periodicity assumption and the continuity, the expression (2.3) can be estimated by

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{j_2, j_3} \sum_{|j_1| > \frac{n}{3}} \left| \int_Q \partial_{x_1}^k v(x) e^{-2\pi i j \cdot x} dx \right|^2 \frac{1}{|2\pi j_1|^{2k}} \\ & \leq \frac{1}{|2\pi \frac{n}{3}|^{2k}} \sum_{|j_1| > \frac{n}{3}} \sum_{j_2, j_3} \left| (\partial_{x_1}^k v, h_j) \right|^2. \end{aligned}$$

The sum, being a sum of squares of Fourier coefficients, is bounded by $\|v\|_{H^k(Q)}^2$. The result follows for $v \in C_p^\infty(Q)$. It extends to $v \in H_p^k(Q)$ by a density argument. \blacksquare

COROLLARY 2.2. *Let $S = [0, T]$ and $w \in L^2(S, H_p^k(Q))$, such that for all $t \in S$ $D^\alpha w(\cdot, t)$, $|\alpha| \leq k - 1$, is periodic, and let $w_n(\cdot, t) = \sum_{|k| \leq n} (w(\cdot, t), h_k) h_k$. Then for $C = 3(2\pi)^{-2k} 3^{2k}$,*

$$\|w - w_n\|_{L^2(S, L^2(Q))}^2 \leq \frac{C}{n^{2k}} \|w\|_{L^2(S, H^k)}^2. \quad (2.4)$$

LEMMA 2.3. *Let $W^{(N)}(\cdot, t) = \Psi(\cdot, t) - \hat{\Psi}^{(N)}(\cdot, t)$ and let*

$$\hat{\Psi}_N = \left(\sum_{|j| \leq N} (\psi_m(\cdot, t), h_j) h_j \right)_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$$

be the projection of the true solution onto the span of $\{h_j, |j| \leq N\}$. Then there are constants C and C_T (independent of N , but C_T depending on T) such that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \|W^{(N)}(\cdot, t)\|_X^2 & \leq C \|\Psi(\cdot, t) - \hat{\Psi}_N(\cdot, t)\|_X \\ & + C_T \|W^{(N)}(\cdot, t)\|_X^2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

Proof. Let $D_m^{(N)} = i \psi_{m,t}^{(N)} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta \psi_m^{(N)} - V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \psi_m^{(N)}$ (cf. 1.3). Then, as $\hat{\psi}_{N,m} - \psi_m^{(N)} \in \text{span}\{h_j; |j| \leq N\}$, by the definition of the Galerkin approximation (1.3) we can write

$$\begin{aligned} (D_m^{(N)}, \psi_m - \psi_m^{(N)}) &= (D_m^{(N)}, \psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m} + \hat{\psi}_{N,m} - \psi_m^{(N)}) \\ &= (D_m^{(N)}, \psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Let $w_m^{(N)}$ be the m -th component of $W_m^{(N)}$, i.e. $w_m^{(N)} = \psi_m^{(N)} - \psi_m$. Note that $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi_m^{(N)} \in \text{span}\{h_k; |k| \leq N\}$, because the h_k 's are independent of t , and that $\Delta \psi_m^{(N)} \in \text{span}\{h_k; |k| \leq N\}$, because the h_k 's are eigenfunctions of Δ . Also, by construction

$$\psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m} \in \left(\text{span}\{h_j; |j| \leq N\} \right)^\perp,$$

and therefore, from (2.6)

$$(D_m^{(N)}, w_m^{(N)}) = (-V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \psi_m^{(N)}, \psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m}). \quad (2.7)$$

Using the fact that $\Psi(x, t)$ is the exact solution of (1.a-d), we can rewrite (2.7) as

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(i \psi_{m,t}^{(N)} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta \psi_m^{(N)} - V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \psi_m^{(N)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - i \psi_{m,t} - \frac{1}{2} \Delta \psi_m + V(\Psi) \psi_m, w_m^{(N)} \right) \\ &= - \left(V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \psi_m^{(N)}, \psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m} \right), \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \left(-i w_{m,t}^{(N)} - \frac{1}{2} \Delta w_m^{(N)}, w_m^{(N)} \right) &= \left(V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \psi_m^{(N)} - V(\Psi) \psi_m, w_m^{(N)} \right) \\ &\quad - \left(V^{(N)}(\psi^{(N)}) \psi_m^{(N)}, \psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \|w_m^{(N)}\|_{L^2}^2 &= 2\Re \int \overline{w_m^{(N)}} w_{m,t}^{(N)} dx \\ &= 2\Im \int \overline{w_m^{(N)}} i w_{m,t}^{(N)} dx. \end{aligned}$$

As $\Im \int \Delta w_m^{(N)} \cdot w_m^{(N)} dx = 0$, it follows from the previous identity (2.8) that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \|w_m^{(N)}\|_{L^2}^2 &= 2\Im \int \left(V(\Psi) \psi_m - V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \psi_m^{(N)} \right) \overline{w_m^{(N)}} dx \\ &\quad + 2\Im \int V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \psi_m^{(N)} \overline{(\psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m})} dx, \end{aligned}$$

i. e.

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt} \left\| w_m^{(N)} \right\|_{L^2}^2 &= 2 \Im \int \left(V(\Psi) - V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \right) \psi_m \overline{w_m^{(N)}} dx \\
&\quad + 2 \Im \int V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) w_m^{(N)} \cdot \overline{w_m^{(N)}} dx \\
&\quad + 2 \Im \int V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \psi_m^{(N)} \overline{(\psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m})} dx.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

The second term on the right vanishes as $V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)})$ is real (see Eqn. 1.7).

We remark that $\|V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)})\|_{L^\infty} \leq C$, where C depends only on $\|\Phi\|_X$ (see Ref. 1, Lemma 2.3). The third term in (2.9) can therefore be estimated by

$$C \left\| \psi_m^{(N)} \right\|_{L^2} \left\| \psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m} \right\|_{L^2},$$

(C is a generic constant) and as

$$\begin{aligned}
\left\| \psi_m^{(N)}(\cdot, t) \right\|_{L^2} &= \left\| \psi_m^{(N)}(\cdot, 0) \right\|_{L^2} \\
&= \left(\sum_{|j| \leq N} |(\varphi_m, h_j)|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq \|\varphi_m\|_{L^2} = 1,
\end{aligned}$$

we get a bound

$$C \left\| \psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m} \right\|_{L^2}$$

for this term.

To estimate the first term on the right of (2.9), note that by (1.4)

$$\left\| V(\Psi) - V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \right\|_{L^\infty} \leq C \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{Z}^3 \\ k \neq 0}} \frac{|n_k - n_k^{(N)}|}{k^2},$$

where n_k is defined by

$$n(x, t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^3} n_k(t) h_k.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|V(\Psi) - V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)})\|_{L^\infty} \\
& \leq C \left(\sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{Z}^3 \\ k \neq 0}} \frac{1}{(k^2)^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^3} |n_k - n_k^{(N)}|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
& \leq C \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^3} |n_k - n_k^{(N)}|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
& = C \|n - n^{(N)}\|_{L^2} \\
& = C \sqrt{\int_Q \left| \sum \lambda_r (|\psi_r|^2 - |\psi_r^{(N)}|^2) \right|^2 dx} \\
& = C \sqrt{\int_Q \left| \sum \lambda_r \left((\psi_r - \psi_r^{(N)}) \overline{\psi_r} + (\overline{\psi_r} - \overline{\psi_r^{(N)}}) \psi_r^{(N)} \right) \right|^2 dx} \\
& \leq C \left(\int_Q (\sum \lambda_r |\psi_r|^2) (\sum \lambda_r |\psi_r - \psi_r^{(N)}|^2) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
& \quad + C \left(\int_Q (\sum \lambda_r |\psi_r^{(N)}|^2) (\sum \lambda_r |\psi_r - \psi_r^{(N)}|^2) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
& \leq C_T \|\Psi - \Psi^{(N)}\|_X,
\end{aligned}$$

as

$$n = \sum \lambda_r |\psi_r|^2 \quad \text{and} \quad n^{(N)} = \sum \lambda_r |\psi_r^{(N)}|^2$$

are both bounded in the L^∞ -norm on $[0, T]$. See Ref. 1, Lemma 3.2.

Summarizing, we have proven that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \sum \lambda_m \int \left(V(\Psi) - V^{(N)}(\Psi^{(N)}) \right) \psi_m \overline{w_m^{(N)}} dx \right| \\
& \leq C_T \|\Psi - \Psi^{(N)}\|_X \sum_m \int \left| \lambda_m \psi_m \overline{w_m^{(N)}} \right| dx \\
& \leq C_T \|\Psi - \Psi^{(N)}\|_X \|W^{(N)}\|_X = C_T \|W^{(N)}\|_X^2,
\end{aligned}$$

and as

$$\sum \lambda_m \|\psi_m - \hat{\psi}_{N,m}\|_{L^2} \leq C \|\Psi - \hat{\Psi}_N\|_X,$$

it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \|W^{(N)}(t, \cdot)\|_X^2 &= \frac{d}{dt} \sum_m \lambda_m \|w_m^{(N)}(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &\leq C \|\Psi - \hat{\Psi}_N\|_X + C_T \|W^{(N)}(t, \cdot)\|_X^2. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 2.3.

3. THE MAIN THEOREM

We are now ready for the main result of this paper.

THEOREM 3.1. *If $\Phi \in X^2$, then the Galerkin sequence $\Psi^{(N)}$ associated with Φ as initial value (see (1.9)) satisfies, on $[0, T]$, the error estimates*

$$\|\Psi - \Psi^{(N)}\|_{L^\infty([0, T]; X)} \leq \frac{C_T}{N},$$

where C_T depends on T and on $\|\Phi\|_{X^1}$.

Proof. We denote generic constants by C and generic constants depending on T by C_T . Note that $\Phi^{(N)} = \hat{\Phi}_N$, i.e. the Fourier series for Φ gives the initial data for the Galerkin approximation. From Lemma 2.3,

$$\begin{aligned} \|W^{(N)}(\cdot, t)\|_X^2 &\leq \|W^{(N)}(\cdot, 0)\|_X^2 \\ &\quad + C \int_0^t \|\Psi(\cdot, \tau) - \Psi(\cdot, \tau)\|_X d\tau \\ &\quad + C_T \int_0^t \|W^{(N)}(\cdot, \tau)\|_X^2 d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.1,

$$\|W^{(N)}(\cdot, 0)\|_X^2 \leq \frac{C}{N^4} \|\Phi\|_{X^2}^2$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} C \int_0^t \|\Psi(\cdot, t) - \hat{\Psi}_N(\cdot, t)\|_X dt \\ \leq \frac{C}{N^2} \int_0^t \|\Psi(\cdot, t)\|_{X^2} dt \\ \leq \frac{C_T}{N^2} \end{aligned}$$

(because $\|\Psi(\cdot, t)\|_{X^2}$ is uniformly bounded on $[0, T)$, see Ref. 1.) So

$$\begin{aligned} \|W^{(N)}(\cdot, t)\|_X^2 &\leq \frac{C}{N^4} \|\phi\|_{X^2}^2 + \frac{C_T}{N^{\frac{3}{2}}} \\ &\quad + C_T \int_0^t \|W^{(N)}(\cdot, \tau)\|_X^2 d\tau, \end{aligned}$$

and by Gronwall's Lemma

$$\|W^{(N)}(\cdot, t)\|_X^2 \leq \frac{C_T}{N^2} (1 + \|\phi\|_{X^1}^2) e^{C_T t}.$$

This completes the proof.

Now we look at the periodic Wigner-Poisson problem (see Ref. 1) which is the system of equations

$$\partial_t \rho_{w,n} + v_n \nabla_x \rho_{w,n} - i \Theta(V) \rho_{w,n} = 0, \quad (3.1)$$

$$\Delta V = 1 - n(x, t), \quad (3.2)$$

$$\rho_{w,n}(x, 0) = \rho_{w,nI}(x) \quad (3.3)$$

where $(\rho_{w,n})$ is the sequence of Wigner functions given by $\rho_w(x, v_n, t)$ ($v_n = 2\pi n$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}^3$), $\Theta(V)$ is the pseudo-differential operator

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta(V) \rho_{w,k} &= \sum_{k'} \int_{Q'} \left[V\left(x + \frac{\eta}{2}, t\right) - V\left(x - \frac{\eta}{2}, t\right) \right] \\ &\quad \times \rho_{w,k'}(x, t) \cdot e^{2\pi i(k-k')\eta} d\eta \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \sum_m \lambda_m \int_{Q'} e^{2\pi i k \cdot z} \psi_m\left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t\right) \overline{\psi_m}\left(x + \frac{z}{2}, t\right) \\ &\quad \times \left[V\left(x + \frac{z}{2}, t\right) - V\left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t\right) \right] dz, \end{aligned}$$

$Q' = [-1, 1]^3$. Here we used that $\rho_{w,k}(x, t)$ is given by the Wigner transform

$$\rho_{w,k}(x, t) = \frac{1}{8} \sum_m \lambda_m \int_{Q'} e^{2\pi i k \cdot z} \psi_m\left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t\right) \overline{\psi_m}\left(x + \frac{z}{2}, t\right) dz. \quad (3.4)$$

We consider the Wigner transform of the Galerkin sequence

$$\rho_{w,k}^{(N)}(x, t) = \frac{1}{8} \sum_m \lambda_m \int_{Q'} e^{2\pi i k \cdot z} \psi_m^{(N)}\left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t\right) \overline{\psi_m^{(N)}}\left(x + \frac{z}{2}, t\right) dz. \quad (3.5)$$

This can be computed explicitly to give

$$\rho_{w,k}^{(N)}(x, t) = \sum \lambda_m \sum_{|\ell| \leq N, |2k-\ell| \leq N} d_{\ell,m}^{(N)} \bar{d}_{2k-\ell,m}^{(N)}(t) e^{4\pi i x(\ell-k)} \quad (3.6)$$

where $d_{\ell,m}^{(N)}(t)$ are the coefficients of the Galerkin approximation $\psi_m^{(N)}$. Finally, we write

$$\begin{aligned} & \rho_{w,k}(x, t) - \rho_{w,k}^{(N)}(x, t) \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \sum \lambda_m \int_{Q'} \left(\psi_m \left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t \right) \bar{\psi}_m \left(x + \frac{z}{2}, t \right) - \psi_m^{(N)} \left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t \right) \bar{\psi}_m^{(N)} \left(x + \frac{z}{2}, t \right) \right) \\ & \quad \cdot e^{2\pi i k \cdot z} dz \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \sum_m \lambda_m \int_{Q'} \left\{ \left(\psi_m \left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t \right) - \psi_m^{(N)} \left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t \right) \right) \bar{\psi}_m \left(x + \frac{z}{2}, t \right) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \left(\bar{\psi}_m \left(x + \frac{z}{2}, t \right) - \bar{\psi}_m^{(N)} \left(x + \frac{z}{2}, t \right) \right) \psi_m^{(N)} \left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t \right) \right\} e^{2\pi i k \cdot z} dz. \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

By the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and periodicity we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{Q'} \left| \left(\psi_m \left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t \right) - \psi_m^{(N)} \left(x - \frac{z}{2}, t \right) \right) \cdot \bar{\psi}_m \left(x + \frac{z}{2}, t \right) \right| dz \\ & \leq \sqrt{8} \left\| \psi_m(\cdot, t) - \psi_m^{(N)}(\cdot, t) \right\|_{L^2(Q)} \sqrt{8} \left\| \psi_m \right\|_{L^2(Q)} \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

and a similar estimate for the other term in the right hand side of (3.7). By using Theorem 3.1 and (3.8) we arrive at

$$\left\| \rho_{w,k} - \rho_{w,k}^{(N)} \right\|_{L^\infty(Q \times S)} \leq \frac{C_T}{N}$$

with the same constant C_T as in Theorem 3.1 and $S = [0, T]$.

Let us assume now that the initial function of the Wigner-Poisson system (3.1)-(3.3) is the Wigner transform of a suitable initial function $\Phi \in X^2$ of the SP system (1.1a)-(1.1d). Let us call this assumption condition (C).

It is well known (see Ref. 1) that the solution of the Wigner-Poisson system (3.1)-(3.3) is given by (3.4) where $\Psi = (\psi_m)$ is the unique strong 1-periodic solution of (1.1a)-(1.1d). Thus we have proved

THEOREM 3.2. *Let condition (C) be satisfied for the initial data $(\rho_{w,k,I})$. Then for the Wigner transform $\rho_{w,k}^{(N)}$ of the Galerkin sequence $(\Psi^{(N)})$ we have*

$$\|\rho_{w,k} - \rho_{w,k}^{(N)}\|_{L^\infty(Q \times S)} \leq \frac{C_T}{N}$$

for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $N \in \mathbb{N}$ where $(\rho_{w,k})$ is the unique strong 1-periodic solution sequence of the WP system, and C_T is the constant from Theorem 3.1.

Remark. If the solution Ψ of the (SP) system (1.1a)-(1.1d) is actually a strong X^k -solution, then one can prove similarly the error estimate

$$\|\Psi - \Psi^{(N)}\|_{L^\infty([0,T],X^k)} \leq \frac{C_T}{N^{\frac{k}{2}}}.$$

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research was supported by NATO Collaborative Research grant no. CRG 910979 and grant no. A-7847 from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. H. Lange and P. Zweifel wish to express their appreciation to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Victoria for its hospitality.

REFERENCES

- [1] Horst Lange and P.F. Zweifel, Periodic solutions to the Wigner-Poisson equation. Preprint (1993).
- [2] F. Brezzi and P. Markowich, The three-dimensional Wigner-Poisson problem: Existence, uniqueness and approximation, *Math. Meth. Appl. Sci.* **14**, 35-62 (1991).
- [3] Reinhard Illner, Horst Lange and P.F. Zweifel, Global existence, uniqueness and asymptotic behavior of solutions of the Wigner-Poisson and Schrödinger-Poisson systems, *Math. Meth. Appl. Sci.* (to appear).
- [4] P.A. Markowich, C. Ringhofer and C. Schmeiser, *Semiconductor Equations* Springer-Verlag, Wien (1990).

- [5] P.A. Markowich, On the equivalence of the Schrödinger and the quantum Liouville equations, *Math. Meth. Appl. Sci.* **11**, 459-469 (1989).
- [6] P.F. Zweifel, The Wigner transform and the Wigner-Poisson system, *Trans. Theor. Stat. Phys.* **22**, 459-484 (1993).
- [7] Jürgen Batt and Gerhard Rein, Global classical solutions of the periodic Vlasov-Poisson system in three dimensions. Preprint (1992).
- [8] Jürgen Batt and Gerhard Rein, A rigorous stability result for the Vlasov-Poisson system in three dimensions, *Anal. di Mat. Pura ed Appl.*, to appear.
- [9] A. Arnold and P.A. Markowich, The periodic quantum Liouville-Poisson problem, *Bull. U.M.I.* **4-B**, 449-484 (1990).
- [10] D. Jackson, *The Theory of Approximation*. AMS Colloq. Publ. XI, New York 1930 or G. Meinardus. *Approximation of Functions: Theory and Numerical Methods*, Springer, New York (1967).

