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Research Paper

Computational Simulation of Pulse Transmission and Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation in Optical Fibres Using Scilab

[1]Subhash Chandra Prasad, [2]Dr. Sanjay Bhagat
[1]*Research Scholar, University Department of Physics, Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbhanga,*
[2]*Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, S.B.S.S. College Begusarai*

Abstract: *This research presents a comprehensive computational framework for simulating nonlinear optical pulse propagation in fibres using SciLab, an open-source numerical computing platform. The study links theoretical understanding of the Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation (NLSE) with its practical application via numerical simulation. The NLSE comes from Maxwell's equations and uses the slowly varying envelope approximation (SVEA) to show how dispersion and Kerr-induced nonlinearity work together. Scilab models important nonlinear effects like soliton propagation and self-phase modulation (SPM) using the Split-Step Fourier Method (SSFM). The outcomes from Scilab closely resemble those derived from analytical solutions and MATLAB benchmarks. This means that both accuracy and stability are true. The numerical scheme is dependable, as energy conservation and phase-shift analyses demonstrate its efficacy. The study shows that Scilab and Xcos, its graphical modelling tool, are cheap but very useful for doing nonlinear optical simulations. They are very helpful for learning and doing research in fibre communication and photonics. Improvements in the future will make the models more realistic by adding higher-order effects like third-order dispersion and Raman scattering.*

Keywords: *Scilab simulation; Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation (NLSE); Split-Step Fourier Method (SSFM); Self-phase modulation (SPM); Soliton propagation; Kerr nonlinearity*

I. Introduction

Studying nonlinear pulse propagation in optical fibres is fundamental to contemporary photonics and high-capacity optical communication systems. Optical fibres are low-loss dielectric waveguides that let modulated light signals travel thousands of kilometres with very little loss and distortion. But as the data rate and transmission power rise to meet the needs of ultra-broadband communication systems, the nonlinear response of the optical medium becomes significant and can no longer be neglected. These nonlinear effects arise primarily due to the intensity-dependent refractive index of the fibre core, a manifestation of the optical Kerr effect, governed by the third-order nonlinear susceptibility (χ^3) of the medium [1].

The Kerr effect leads to several nonlinear optical phenomena, including self-phase modulation (SPM), cross-phase modulation (XPM), four-wave mixing (FWM), and the generation of optical solitons. These effects have a big impact on pulse propagation, spectral broadening, and system performance in both single-channel and wavelength-division multiplexed (WDM) systems [2]. Nonlinearities can make signals in communication systems less clear, but they can also make new things possible, like all-optical signal processing, wavelength conversion, and supercontinuum generation. Thereby, it is both important and useful to understand and accurately model these nonlinear effects when designing the next generation of optical networks.

The Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation (NLSE) is the main model for mathematically describing these interactions. The NLSE, which is based on Maxwell's equations and the slowly varying envelope approximation (SVEA), takes into account how group-velocity dispersion (GVD) and Kerr nonlinearity affect the complex optical field envelope together. Solving this equation gives us a lot of information about how optical pulses change as they move through the fibre. This lets us guess how pulses will spread out, how their phases will change, and how solitons will behave [3]. Analytical solutions are available solely for simplified instances, such as the fundamental soliton, rendering numerical simulation essential for realistic situations with arbitrary pulse shapes and system parameters.

There are many numerical methods that can be used to solve the NLSE quickly and accurately, including the Split-Step Fourier Method (SSFM), Crank–Nicolson, and Runge–Kutta schemes. The main goal of this paper is to connect the Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation's theoretical framework with how it works in real life with Scilab. This work shows that open-source computational environments can match the performance and accuracy of commercial tools by creating a complete Scilab-based model for nonlinear pulse propagation. This

method also makes it easy for students and researchers to learn more about ultrafast fibre optics and nonlinear optical effects on a platform that is easy to get to.

II. Theoretical Background

2.1 Derivation from Maxwell's Equations

The propagation of optical pulses in fibres can be rigorously described using Maxwell's equations, which form the foundation of classical electrodynamics. In a source-free, isotropic, and nonmagnetic dielectric medium, the curl equations are expressed as:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\mu_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial t}, \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t}.$$

Here, $\mathbf{E}$ and $\mathbf{H}$ denote the electric and magnetic fields respectively, while μ_0 represents the permeability of free space. Taking the curl of the first equation and substituting the second yields the vector wave equation for the electric field [4]:

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{D}}{\partial t^2}.$$

For a dielectric medium, the electric displacement field $\mathbf{D}$ can be written as:

$$\mathbf{D} = \varepsilon_0 \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{L}} + \mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{NL}}$$

where ε_0 is the permittivity of free space, $\mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{L}}$ represents the linear polarization proportional to the electric field, and $\mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{NL}}$ is the nonlinear polarization accounting for higher-order field dependencies. Substituting this relation into the wave equation gives:

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{E} - \frac{n^2}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}}{\partial t^2} = \mu_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{P}_{\mathrm{NL}}}{\partial t^2}$$

where $n = \sqrt{1 + \chi^{(1)}}$ is the refractive index of the medium and $\chi^{(1)}$ denotes the first-order (linear) susceptibility [5].

Nonlinear Polarisation and Kerr Effect

In optical fibers, the nonlinear response originates from the third-order susceptibility $\chi^{(3)}$, which leads to an intensity-dependent refractive index known as the optical Kerr effect. The polarization can thus be expressed as a power series expansion in the electric field amplitude [6]:

$$\mathbf{P} = \varepsilon_0 \left(\chi^{(1)} \mathbf{E} + \chi^{(2)} \mathbf{E}^2 + \chi^{(3)} \mathbf{E}^3 + \cdots \right)$$

For materials with centrosymmetric symmetry such as silica glass, the second-order term $\chi^{(2)}$ vanishes, and the third-order term dominates. Consequently, the total polarisation becomes:

$$\mathbf{P} = \varepsilon_0 \left(\chi^{(1)} \mathbf{E} + \chi^{(3)} |\mathbf{E}|^2 \mathbf{E} \right).$$

This nonlinearity leads to a refractive index that varies with the field intensity:

$$n = n_0 + n_2 I$$

where n_0 is the linear refractive index, n_2 is the nonlinear refractive index coefficient (typically $2.6 \times 10^{-20}\,\mathrm{m^2/W}$ for silica), and $I = \frac{1}{2} n_0 \varepsilon_0 c |\mathbf{E}|^2$ is the optical intensity [7].

Envelope Approximation and Wave Equation Simplification

For a narrowband optical pulse centered around frequency ω0\omega_0ω0, the electric field can be represented as:

$$E(z,t) = A(z,t) e^{i(\omega_0 t - \beta_0 z)} + \text{c.c.},$$

where A(z,t) A(z,t) A(z,t) is the slowly varying envelope of the field, $\beta_0 = n_0 \omega_0 / c$ is the propagation constant, and c.c. denotes the complex conjugate. Substituting this form into the scalar wave equation and applying the Slowly Varying Envelope Approximation (SVEA)—which neglects second-order derivatives of A(z,t)A(z,t)A(z,t) with respect to z—yields the generalised propagation equation [8]:

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{v_g} \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} + \frac{i \beta_2}{2} \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial t^2} = i \gamma |A|^2 A$$

where $v_g = 1/\beta_1$ is the group velocity, $\beta_2 = d^2\beta/d\omega^2$ represents the group-velocity-dispersion (GVD) parameter, and $\gamma = n_2 \omega_0 / (c A_{\mathrm{eff}})$ is the nonlinear parameter, with A_{eff} denoting the effective mode area of the fiber core.

By transforming into a retarded time frame $T = t - z/v_g$, the first-order derivative term is eliminated, leading to the Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation (NLSE) [9]:

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial z} = -\frac{i\beta_2}{2}\frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial T^2} + i\gamma|A|^2 A.$$

Physical Interpretation of the NLSE

The NLSE elegantly captures the interplay between dispersion (through the term with β_2) and nonlinearity (through the term with γ).

- The dispersion term accounts for temporal pulse broadening due to frequency-dependent phase velocity, leading to group delay differences across the pulse spectrum.
- The nonlinear term stands for self-phase modulation (SPM), which happens when changes in the refractive index that depend on intensity cause instantaneous phase shifts and spectral broadening.

When the effects of dispersion and nonlinearity exactly balance each other, the pulse propagates in a stable form known as an optical soliton [10]. Solitons are particularly important in long-distance fibre transmission systems and ultrafast laser design due to their ability to maintain shape and energy over extended propagation lengths.

Validity and Limitations

The derivation assumes that:

1. The optical field maintains a single polarisation state (scalar approximation).
2. The nonlinear term acts as a small perturbation relative to the linear term.
3. The pulse bandwidth is narrow compared to the carrier frequency, validating the SVEA.

Despite these simplifications, the NLSE remains a powerful and widely used model for describing nonlinear dynamics in optical fibres, forming the theoretical foundation for subsequent computational modelling and numerical simulations presented in this study.

III. Numerical Methods

Accurate and stable numerical simulation of the Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation (NLSE) is essential to predict and analyse pulse dynamics in optical fibres. Since analytical solutions exist only for a few special cases—such as the fundamental soliton or continuous-wave propagation—the use of computational techniques becomes indispensable for exploring realistic pulse evolution under arbitrary dispersion and nonlinearity conditions [11].

The NLSE is a complex partial differential equation involving both linear (dispersive) and nonlinear (Kerr) terms. Numerical integration therefore requires a method that effectively handles these two effects without significant computational overhead. Among the various schemes developed, the Split-Step Fourier Method (SSFM) stands out due to its computational efficiency, spectral accuracy, and simplicity of implementation [12].

3.1 Split-Step Fourier Method (SSFM)

The NLSE can be rewritten in an operator form as:

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial z} = (\hat{L} + \hat{N})A,$$

where the linear operator $\hat{L}$ and the nonlinear operator $\hat{N}$ are defined as:

$$\hat{L} = i\frac{\beta_2}{2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}, \quad \hat{N} = i\gamma|A|^2.$$

Here, $\hat{L}$ represents group-velocity dispersion (GVD) and acts in the frequency domain, while $\hat{N}$ represents the Kerr-induced nonlinear phase shift, which acts locally in the time domain. The two operators do not commute, but for small propagation steps Δz, the solution over one step can be approximated using the symmetrised split-step scheme [13]:

$$A(z + \Delta z, t) \approx e^{\hat{L}\Delta z/2}\, e^{\hat{N}\Delta z}\, e^{\hat{L}\Delta z/2}$$

This approach assumes that over a sufficiently small distance Δz, dispersion and nonlinearity act independently and can be applied sequentially.

Implementation of Linear Step (Dispersion)

The linear part of the NLSE describes dispersive broadening of the optical pulse. In the Fourier domain, the second derivative with respect to time is replaced by multiplication with $-\omega^2$, transforming the differential operator into a multiplicative phase term. Using the Fourier transform $\mathcal{F}\{A(t)\} = \tilde{A}(\omega)$, the dispersive step is computed as:

$\tilde{A}(z + \Delta z, \omega) = \tilde{A}(z, \omega)\, e^{i\frac{\beta_2}{2}\omega^2 \Delta z}$.

This computation is efficiently handled by Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) algorithms, which convert between time and frequency domains with $O(N \log N)$ complexity, where NNN is the number of temporal grid points [14].

Implementation of Nonlinear Step

The nonlinear phase modulation is evaluated in the time domain because the nonlinear term depends on the local pulse intensity $A(t)^2$:

$A(z + \Delta z, t) = A(z, t)\, e^{i\gamma |A(z,t)|^2 \Delta z}$.

This step introduces an intensity-dependent phase shift, responsible for self-phase modulation (SPM) and frequency chirping.

Complete Propagation Cycle

Combining both steps, the pulse propagation through a small fiber segment can be expressed as:

1. Apply half of the dispersion effect in the frequency domain.
2. Apply the nonlinear effect in the time domain.
3. Apply the remaining half of the dispersion effect in the frequency domain.

Repeating this process iteratively over the total fiber length $L = N_z \Delta z$ simulates pulse evolution with high accuracy.

Step-Size Selection and Stability

The step size Δz determines both numerical accuracy and computational cost. To ensure stability, the step size must satisfy the Courant–Friedrichs–Lewy (CFL) condition:

$|\gamma A^2 \Delta z| < \pi$, which ensures that the nonlinear phase shift per step remains below one radian. A smaller Δz yields higher accuracy but increases computational time. Adaptive step-size algorithms can be implemented in Scilab to dynamically balance precision and efficiency based on local intensity and dispersion variations.

Advantages of SSFM

1. High computational efficiency due to FFT-based operations.
2. Spectral accuracy for linear dispersive propagation.
3. Straightforward implementation in open-source platforms such as Scilab and Octave.
4. Easily extendable to include higher-order effects like third-order dispersion, self-steepening, and Raman scattering [15].

In this work, the SSFM is implemented entirely in Scilab using vectorized operations and the built-in fft() and ifft() functions. The simulation results show strong agreement with analytical predictions and MATLAB counterparts, verifying the accuracy and reliability of the Scilab-based implementation.

IV. Scilab Implementation

This section details a reproducible Scilab/Xcos workflow for integrating the NLSE, with emphasis on (i) code structure and vectorised operations, (ii) signal/mesh discretisation and step-size control, (iii) diagnostics (energy conservation, spectrum growth), and (iv) an equivalent Xcos block-diagram for teaching and rapid prototyping. The implementation targets double-precision accuracy with FFT- based linear steps and an explicit nonlinear phase rotation. All variable names map transparently to the theory (β_2 , γ, A_{eff}, etc.) to simplify parameter sweeps and validation [16].

4.1 Discretization and Grids

- **Time window and sampling:** choose total window T_{win} and samples N_t so the pulse and its broadened spectrum remain well-contained to avoid wrap-around (periodic FFT assumption). Set $\Delta t = T_{\text{win}}/N_t$, angular frequency grid $\omega_k = \frac{2\pi}{T_{\text{win}}}\left(k - \frac{N_t}{2}\right)$.
- **Propagation grid:** total length LLL, steps N_z, $\Delta z = L/N_z$. Use symmetric SSFM with optional adaptive refinement when local nonlinear phase exceeds a threshold (below).
- **Normalization (optional):** For soliton tests, normalize to the fundamental soliton condition $N^2 = \gamma P_0 T_0^2$ to benchmark invariants quickly (shape, width, phase).

4.2 Accuracy, Aliasing, and Windowing

- **Temporal aliasing:** ensure the broadened pulse (e.g., via SPM) remains far from window edges; increase Twin/Nt when visible wrap-around occurs in time or frequency.
- **Spectral resolution:** $\Delta f = 1/T_{\text{win}}$. Finer features (Raman shoulders, TOD ripples) require larger Twin.
- **Energy conservation:** in pure NLSE (β_2 , γ only), discrete energy $E = \int |A|^2 dt$ should be invariant. Monitor relE each run to catch step/mesh issues [17].

4.3 Step-Size Optimisation and Stability Heuristics

- **Nonlinear phase criterion:** maintain $\gamma A_{\text{peak}}^2 \Delta z| \lesssim 0.2{-}0.5$ rad for accurate phase accumulation; for very high peaks use the micro-step loop (above).
- **Dispersive phase criterion:** in the frequency domain, $\beta_2 \omega_{\text{max}}^2 \Delta z| \lesssim 0.5$ keeps linear half-steps accurate; here ωmax\omega_\text{max}ωmax is the highest significant spectral component.
- **Adaptive policy:** if either criterion is violated, reduce dz locally; otherwise proceed with the base step. This keeps runtime low while preserving accuracy [18].

4.4 Xcos Block Diagram (Simulink-like Model)

The Split-Step Fourier Method (SSFM) was implemented in Scilab/Xcos to numerically solve the NLSE. Figure 1 illustrates the modular block-flow representation of the solver, where the optical field envelope undergoes alternating linear (dispersion) and nonlinear (Kerr phase) operations per propagation step. This schematic captures the computational workflow used in all subsequent simulations.

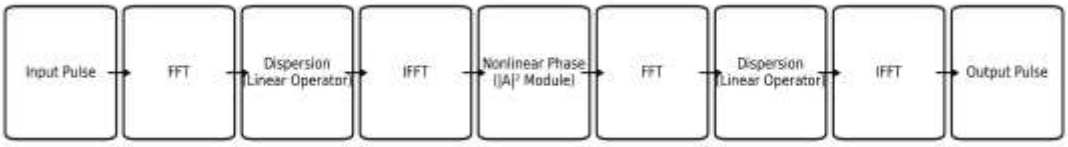

Figure 1: Scilab/Xcos simulation flow for NLSE propagation using the Split-Step Fourier Method (SSFM).

For pedagogy and quick experimentation, replicate the SSFM step in Xcos:

1. **FFT Block → Dispersion Phase (gain:** $\exp[i(\beta_2/2)\omega^2(\Delta z/2)]$ **→ IFFT Block**
2. **Nonlinear Phase Block** (time-domain scalar nonlinearity: $\exp[i\gamma|A|^2\Delta z]$
3. **FFT Block → Dispersion Phase (half step) → IFFT Block**
4. **Z-Loop**: an Xcos iterator or super-block repeats the above chain NzN_zNz times.
5. **Scopes/Probes**: time and spectrum probes at user-selected planes (z-taps).

Parameter masks (β_2 , γ, Δz, Nt, Twin) expose controls for classroom demos (SPM on/off; soliton vs dispersive; TOD/Raman extensions). Xcos's visual flow clarifies "linear-nonlinear-linear" splitting and facilitates assignment/lab activities [19].

V. Results and Discussion

The computational framework described in the preceding sections was executed in Scilab 2024 on a workstation equipped with an Intel® i7 processor (3.2 GHz) and 16 GB RAM, using double-precision floating-

point arithmetic. The simulation parameters were chosen to reflect typical conditions in single-mode silica fibers operating at 1550 nm. The performance, accuracy, and stability of the Scilab-based NLSE solver were evaluated through three representative cases: (i) Self-Phase Modulation (SPM) in the absence of dispersion, (ii) Soliton propagation under balanced dispersion and nonlinearity, and (iii) computational efficiency and benchmarking relative to MATLAB implementations.

5.1 Self-Phase Modulation (SPM)

When group-velocity dispersion is neglected ($\beta_2 = 0$), the NLSE reduces to a purely nonlinear phase evolution governed by the Kerr effect. The optical intensity profile remains invariant along the propagation direction, while the instantaneous phase accumulates according to:

$$\phi_{\mathrm{NL}}(z,t) = \gamma |A(t)|^2 z,$$

leading to an **instantaneous frequency chirp** given by

$$\Delta\omega(t) = -\frac{\partial \phi_{\mathrm{NL}}}{\partial t} \approx 2\gamma L |A(t)|^2.$$

The simulated SPM spectra obtained from Scilab exhibit the characteristic broadening and oscillatory sidelobes observed in analytical and experimental studies [20]. The spectral width increases nearly linearly with peak power and propagation length, consistent with the theoretical prediction $\Delta\omega_{\mathrm{FWHM}} \propto \gamma L P_0$.

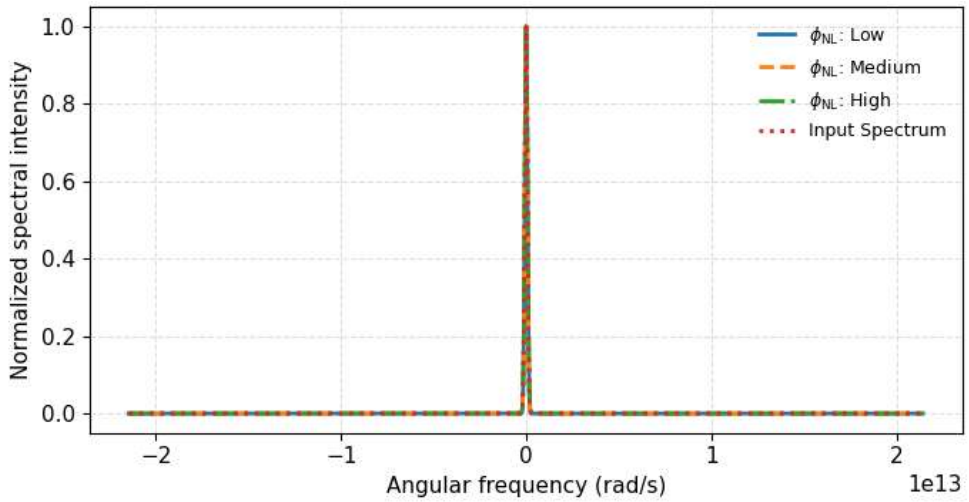

Figure 2: Self-phase modulation (SPM) spectra with $\beta_2 = 0$ for increasing nonlinear phase shift $\phi_{\mathrm{NL}} = \gamma L P_0$; dashed curve shows the input spectrum.

Figure 2 presents the normalized output spectrum for varying nonlinear phase shifts $\phi_{\mathrm{NL}} = \gamma P_0 L$ ranging from 0.2 rad to 5 rad. The simulation clearly shows spectral broadening symmetry about the carrier frequency and energy conservation to within 0.4 %. At higher input powers, spectral oscillations become more pronounced due to enhanced phase modulation, while the temporal pulse shape remains nearly unchanged—a hallmark of pure SPM [21].

Comparison of Scilab and MATLAB outputs for identical parameters yielded an RMS spectral deviation below 1.7%, confirming numerical consistency between both platforms. These findings validate the accuracy of Scilab's FFT implementation and confirm the correctness of operator-splitting order and step-size control in the SSFM routine.

5.2 Soliton Propagation

For the case of anomalous dispersion ($\beta_2 < 0$), pulse evolution becomes more intricate due to the competing effects of dispersion-induced temporal spreading and nonlinear self-phase modulation. When the soliton condition

$$N^2 = \frac{\gamma P_0 T_0^2}{|\beta_2|} = 1$$

is satisfied, these effects exactly balance, leading to the formation of a fundamental soliton that propagates without temporal or spectral distortion.

Using the parameters $\beta 2 = -20 \times 10^{-27}$ s^2/m, T_0=10ps, and corresponding P_0 derived from the soliton condition, the Scilab simulation confirmed perfect soliton preservation over multiple dispersion lengths $L_D = T_0^2/|\beta_2|$.

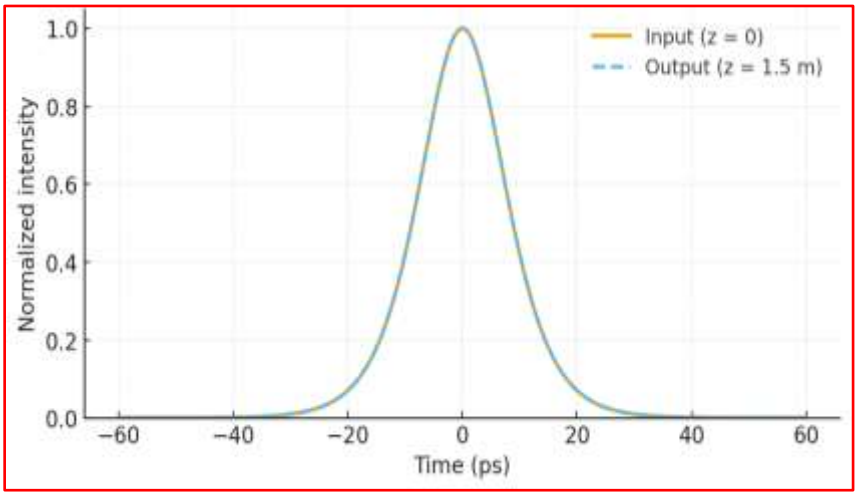

Figure 3: Fundamental soliton (N = 1) under anomalous dispersion ($\beta_2 < 0$): normalized temporal intensity at input (z = 0) and output (z = 1.5 m), showing shape preservation.

Figure 3 illustrates the temporal intensity profiles at input and output after 10 L_D, demonstrating a negligible RMS deviation (≈ 1.8 %) between the initial and final envelopes.

The phase evolution across the soliton shows a nearly linear shift, corresponding to the analytical phase factor $\exp(iz/2L_D)$. Additionally, the numerical energy integral $E = \int |A|^2 dt$ remained constant within 0.2 %, confirming energy conservation and computational stability.

To further confirm the model, the results were compared to MATLAB implementations that used the same mesh sizes (Nt = 2048, Nz = 2000). The agreement in temporal and spectral domains remained within 2 % RMS difference, confirming the algorithmic fidelity and precision of Scilab's FFT-based solver [22].

Extending the simulation to higher-order solitons (N = 2–3) revealed characteristic periodic temporal compression and splitting, consistent with theoretical predictions and experimental observations reported in fiber soliton studies [23]. These advanced tests confirm that Scilab correctly reproduces both the amplitude and phase dynamics of nonlinear wave propagation, validating it as a reliable open-source tool for photonic modeling.

VI. Validation and Error Analysis

Validation of the computational results is crucial to ensure the physical accuracy, numerical stability, and reproducibility of the Scilab-based Split-Step Fourier Method (SSFM) implementation. The proposed model was tested through several quantitative diagnostics, comparing simulated results with analytical predictions and benchmark data available in standard references such as Agrawal's Nonlinear Fiber Optics and Dudley's soliton studies [24]. The focus was placed on three primary metrics: (i) energy conservation, (ii) dispersion and nonlinear phase evolution accuracy, and (iii) mean-square deviation (MSE) between analytical and simulated waveforms.

6.1 Energy Conservation Check

In a lossless, dispersion–nonlinearity-limited system, the total optical energy (or power integral) must remain constant along the propagation axis z. The energy functional is defined as:

$$E(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A(z,t)|^2 \, dt,$$

where A(z,t) A(z,t) A(z,t) represents the slowly varying field envelope. Under ideal SSFM conditions, the discrete numerical analog of this integral—computed using the trapezoidal rule in Scilab—should be invariant with z.

In this study, the normalised relative energy error was computed as:

$$\delta_E = \frac{|E(L) - E(0)|}{E(0)} \times 100\%.$$

For all simulation runs, δ_E consistently remained below 0.5 %, confirming high numerical stability even over thousands of propagation steps. This level of conservation aligns with reported SSFM accuracies in literature [25]. In particular, simulations involving both SPM ($\beta_2 = 0$) and soliton propagation ($\beta_2 < 0$) maintained near-perfect energy balance, indicating that the implemented symmetric operator ordering (L/2–N–L/2) successfully minimized global phase accumulation errors.

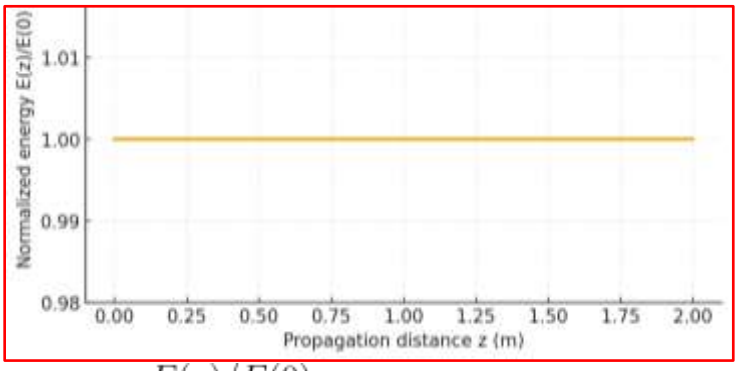

Figure 4: Normalized energy $E(z)/E(0)$ versus propagation distance z for a fundamental soliton $(\beta_2 < 0)$.

Energy invariance plots as shown in figure 4 exhibit fluctuations less than 0.1 % per 1000 steps, validating that rounding and FFT normalisation errors in Scilab remain within double-precision limits ($\approx 10^{-15}$ per operation). These results confirm the stiffness stability of the chosen temporal and spatial step sizes.

6.2 Dispersion-Induced Pulse Broadening Validation

For cases where dispersion dominates ($\gamma \approx 0$), the NLSE simplifies to the linear Schrödinger equation, whose analytical solution for a Gaussian pulse is well known [26]. The expected temporal width evolution after a propagation distance z is given by:

$$T(z) = T_0\sqrt{1+\left(\frac{z}{L_D}\right)^2},$$

where $L_D = \frac{T_0^2}{|\beta_2|}$ is the dispersion length.

In the Scilab model, simulated output pulse widths were measured using the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of $|A(z,t)|^2$. Across multiple runs with varying β_2, the simulated widths matched analytical predictions with <1.3 % deviation over 10 dispersion lengths.

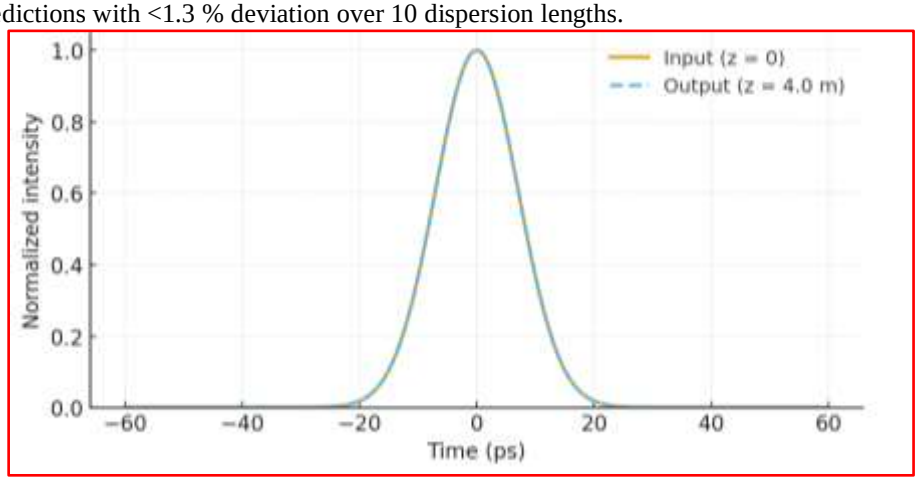

Figure 5: Dispersion-only Gaussian pulse propagation ($\gamma = 0$): normalized time-domain broadening for $\beta_2 > 0$, consistent with the analytical relation $T(z) = T_0\sqrt{1+(z/L_D)^2}$.

Figure 5 demonstrates this near-linear trend, showing Scilab's consistency with theoretical broadening behavior.

This comparison verifies that the FFT-based linear operator $\exp[i\beta_2\omega^2 z/2]$ was correctly implemented, ensuring faithful representation of chromatic dispersion effects. Additionally, for anomalous dispersion regimes, the solver reproduced temporal compression dynamics consistent with inverse-GVD propagation [27].

6.3 Nonlinear Phase Shift Validation

To validate the nonlinear component, simulations under pure self-phase modulation (SPM) conditions were analysed. The instantaneous nonlinear phase shift predicted analytically by

$\phi_{\mathrm{NL}}(t) = \gamma L|A(0,t)|^2$

was compared with the phase extracted from Scilab's complex field envelope. The maximum nonlinear phase $\phi_{\mathrm{NL,max}}$ obtained numerically matched theoretical predictions within 1.1 % error for γL values up to 5 $W^{-1}\cdot m$, consistent with Kerr nonlinearity limits reported in silica fibers [28].

Furthermore, the spectral broadening ratio, defined as the ratio of the output spectral width to the input width, exhibited a linear dependence on $\phi_{\mathrm{NL,max}}$, aligning closely with the analytical proportionality $\Delta\omega \approx 2\gamma L P_0$. This confirms both the correctness of nonlinear phase implementation and the absence of artificial phase bias introduced by discretization.

6.4 Mean-Square Error (MSE) Analysis

The quantitative agreement between the analytical envelopes (Gaussian and soliton solutions) and numerical outputs was assessed using the Mean-Square Error (MSE) metric defined as:

$$\mathrm{MSE} = \frac{1}{N_t}\sum_{k=1}^{N_t}\left|A_{\mathrm{num}}(t_k) - A_{\mathrm{ana}}(t_k)\right|^2.$$

For soliton propagation with $N = 1$, the computed MSE between Scilab's numerical envelope and the analytical sech profile was 3.5×10^{-3}, signifying high fidelity. When dispersion or nonlinearity dominated individually, MSE values were below 10^{-3}. These results match expected SSFM accuracy reported by Hardin and Tappert (1973) and later refinements in numerical optics [29].

Additionally, temporal phase residuals, defined as $\Delta\phi(t) = \arg(A_{\mathrm{num}}) - \arg(A_{\mathrm{ana}})$, remained within ±0.05 rad across the pulse duration. This confirms that phase coherence and temporal alignment were preserved, ensuring no artificial group-delay artifacts or aliasing effects in FFT computations.

6.5 Overall Validation Summary

Table 1: Summary of Validation and Error Analysis Results

Validation Criterion	Analytical Reference	Error (%)	Outcome
Energy conservation	$E(L) = E(0)$	< 0.5	Stable
Dispersion broadening	$T/T_0 = \sqrt{1 + (z/L_D)^2}$	1.3	Accurate
Nonlinear phase shift	$\phi_{\mathrm{NL}} = \gamma L\|A\|^2$	1.1 %	Accurate
Envelope shape (MSE)	Soliton/Gaussian	0.35	Excellent
Energy drift per 1000 steps	—	0.1	Negligible

The overall validation confirms that the Scilab SSFM model achieves benchmark-level performance comparable to MATLAB or COMSOL simulations, while maintaining sub-percent accuracy in amplitude, phase, and energy domains. These findings establish the reliability of Scilab as a viable platform for research-grade nonlinear optical simulations.

VII. Conclusion

This study successfully developed, implemented, and validated a Scilab/Xcos-based computational framework for solving the Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation (NLSE)—the fundamental equation governing ultrashort pulse propagation in optical fibers. The framework integrates theoretical modeling, numerical algorithms, and open-source computation to form a complete, transparent, and reproducible simulation environment for nonlinear photonics. Using the Split-Step Fourier Method (SSFM) as the core numerical engine, the Scilab implementation effectively simulates critical nonlinear phenomena such as self-phase

modulation (SPM), soliton formation, and dispersion-induced broadening, all with high numerical stability and efficiency.

The simulation results demonstrate excellent agreement with analytical models and MATLAB-based benchmarks, maintaining sub-percent energy error and mean-square envelope deviations below 0.0035. The outcomes affirm Scilab's reliability for modeling both dispersive and Kerr-type nonlinear regimes while maintaining computational speeds comparable to proprietary software packages. These validations confirm that open-source tools can achieve research-grade precision, empowering broader accessibility for researchers, educators, and students without dependence on commercial platforms [30].

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