Extension of continuum time-dependent Hartree-Fock method to proton states

C. I. Pardi* and P. D. Stevenson†
Department of Physics, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7XH, United Kingdom

K. Xu‡
Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 3LB, United Kingdom

This paper deals with the solution of the spherically symmetric time-dependent Hartree-Fock approximation applied to nuclear giant monopole resonances in the small amplitude regime. The problem is spatially unbounded as the resonance state is in the continuum. The practical requirement to perform the calculation in a finite-sized spatial region yields an artificial boundary, which is not present physically. The question of how to ensure the boundary does not interfere with the internal solution, while keeping the overall calculation time low is studied. Here we propose an absorbing boundary condition scheme to handle the conflict. The derivation, via a Laplace transform method, and implementation is described. An inverse Laplace transform required by the absorbing boundaries is calculated using a method of non-linear least squares. The accuracy and efficiency of the scheme is tested and results presented to support the case that they are an effective way of handling the artificial boundary.

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I. INTRODUCTION

As a quantum system the behaviour of a nucleus over a period of time obeys the N-particle time-dependent Schroedinger equation (TDSE). Solving the full many-body TDSE analytically or even numerically is generally not tractable. However, approximate solutions can be gained by solving the time dependent Hartree Fock (TDHF) equations [1, 2]. The simplification still does not allow analytic solutions, but numerical techniques can be applied and the computational cost kept manageable.

The TDHF equations are a coupled set of initial-boundary-value problems for which it is common to apply finite differencing methods in both spatial and temporal coordinates. In this scheme the equations can be solved by e.g. a series of matrix inversions. One difficulty with these types of computational solution is the limitation of calculating wave functions in a finite spatial region, which introduces an artificial boundary into calculations. Appropriate conditions for the boundary have to be chosen. In cases where the system can be fully contained in a region for all time, the values at the boundary can simply and correctly be set to zero. However, in many situations particles are emitted from a system into the continuum. This is common in the case of giant resonances, as most are above the particle decay threshold [3]. These particles move off into the continuum physically, yet computationally they will reach the artificial boundary [4, 5].

The most crude, and simple, way of tackling this problem is to use reflecting boundaries, which rebind any matter that comes into contact with them. A fully accurate solution with these boundary conditions can occur in the case that the reflecting boundary is sufficiently distant from the original nucleus that emitted flux does not reach the boundary within the simulation time. Although such reflecting boundaries are easy to implement, in some cases the large spatial domain required results in inefficient calculations [6, 7].

More efficient solutions have been sought in the form of absorbing potentials. These attempt to use reflecting boundaries in a sensibly sized region, and then use a complex potential to remove matter that approaches the boundary. This can prevent reflections taking place and work well in some situations [7]. However, in general a given absorbing potential will not work with perfect efficiency at all frequencies, and these potentials may still require considerable spatial extent to work very well [6, 8].

Here we present a method of implementing absorbing boundary conditions (ABCs) [9]. These rely on choosing the artificial boundary such that the potential outside of it has a simple form. The resulting equations in the exterior can be manipulated into a boundary condition for the interior problem which can be applied closer to the initial bulk of matter. The propagation of waves in the exterior region then does not have to be dealt with explicitly. In solving the TDHF equations, a simplified Skyrme interaction is used in the implementation which reproduces the magic numbers needed for $^2$He, $^{16}$O, and $^{40}$Ca to be seen without the complexity of the full interaction [10], as a reasonable proof-of-concept. Spherical symmetry is also assumed inside and outside of the artificial boundary. The calculations involve various forms of differential equation, each of which requiring their own absorbing boundary conditions. Here a continuous absorbing boundary condition is implemented [9] which improves on previous work [11] by accounting for the long-ranged Coulomb potential. The previous work is modified by

* chris_pardi@yahoo.co.uk
† p.stevenson@surrey.ac.uk
‡ kuan.xu@maths.ox.ac.uk
approximation of the required inverse Laplace transform via the use of a non-linear least squares method [12].

The structure of this paper is as follows. Section II gives a brief summary of the types of giant resonance and their properties. The theory and discretization for the time-dependent Hartree-Fock approach is described in section III. Section IV describes the absorbing boundary conditions, the non-linear least squares method and their application to TDHF. Testing of the ABCs implementation is given in section V and results of the TDHF and ABCs calculations are given in section VI.

II. GIANT MONPOLE RESONANCES

Giant monopole resonances (GMRs) are collective excitations of the nucleus, meaning most if not all particles are involved in the excitation [3]. They are well studied experimentally, being first observed in 1977 [13] and their study has continued to the present day [14–16]. Excitation of the monopole resonance is commonly performed with α-scattering [14]. The requirement for angular momentum conservation excludes the possibility of excitation by a photon, as is performed for the dipole resonant mode [17]. Aside from shedding light on the structure of individual nuclei, further interest in GMRs is provided by their relation to the incompressibility of nuclear matter and the consequent light they shed on the equation of state with consequent importance in understanding neutron stars, supernovae explosions and heavy-ion collision [18].

Our main interest in this phenomenon, however, is owing to the simplified analysis they allow for. Specifically they are a purely radial excitation and hence by considering only the subset of doubly magic nuclei we are able to take advantage of spherical symmetry in the calculations. As is common when developing new methods a simplified Skyrme potential, containing just the t0 and t3 terms, is used [10, 19–23]. As was commented on previously [11] this cannot be expected to give a detailed comparison with experiment, but is used to demonstrate the features of the new method.

The key quantity for comparison to experiment is the strength function, which can be related to the experimental cross section. This quantity has been noted to be particularly sensitive to the boundary conditions applied to the TDHF equations [6]. Therefore, we shall measure success as the accurate reproduction of this quantity, free of artefacts that may arise from the boundary conditions.

III. TIME-DEPENDENT HARTREE-FOCK (TDHF)

Originating with a formulation by Dirac [24], the time-dependent Hartree-Fock method became practical for realistic calculations in nuclei only with the advent of sufficiently advanced computational facilities [25–27]. It has been widely applied to heavy-ion collisions and giant resonances, as well as selected other problems. A recent review [28] covers many such applications.

A. Theory

The TDHF method relies on the time dependent variational principle in which the action, defined as

$$S[\Psi(t)] = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \langle \Psi(t) | i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \hat{H} | \Psi(t) \rangle \, dt,$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

is minimized. If one considers a trial wavefunction $| \Psi(t) \rangle$ belonging to a general Hilbert space it can be shown that the Schroedinger equation is retrieved upon minimising the above. The TDHF method considers a trial wavefunction in a restricted space of antisymmetric Slater determinants [29], given in the spatial-spin-isospin basis as

$$\Psi^{(A)}(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{N}, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N!}} \begin{vmatrix} \phi_1(z_1^\prime, t) & \ldots & \phi_1(z_N^\prime, t) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_N(z_1^\prime, t) & \ldots & \phi_N(z_N^\prime, t) \end{vmatrix}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

The coordinate $z_i^\prime = (\vec{r}_i, \sigma_i, \tau_i)$ describes spatial, spin and isospin degrees of freedom. The wanted result from minimising in this space of restricted wavefunctions is to produce a numerically tractable problem. The Hamiltonian, $\hat{H}$, for nuclear calculations is accepted to contain a kinetic operator and two and three body operators that describe the potential [1, 30, 31]. In the spatial-spin-isospin basis this takes the form

$$\hat{H}(z_1^\prime, \ldots, z_N^\prime) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \nabla_i^2 (\vec{r}_i^\prime) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \hat{v}_ij^{(2)}(\vec{r}_i^\prime, \vec{r}_j^\prime)$$
$$+ \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{k=1}^{N} \hat{v}_ijk^{(3)}(\vec{r}_i^\prime, \vec{r}_j^\prime, \vec{r}_k^\prime).$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

In this work we shall use the simplified $t_0 - t_3$ Skyrme interaction for the nuclear components of the potential and the electrostatic interaction for the Coulomb component. This yields the two body potential as [32, 33]

$$v_{ij}^{(2)}(\vec{r}_i^\prime, \vec{r}_j^\prime) = t_0 \delta \left(\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j\right) + \frac{\eta}{|\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j|} P_{ij},$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

where $\eta = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \approx 1.44 \, e^2 \, \text{MeV}^{-1} \, \text{fm}^{-1}$ and $P_{ij}$ is zero if $i$ and $j$ is a neutron and one if $i$ and $j$ are protons. The three body potential is given as [32, 33]

$$v_{ijk}^{(3)}(\vec{r}_i^\prime, \vec{r}_j^\prime, \vec{r}_k^\prime) = t_3 \delta (\vec{r}_i^\prime - \vec{r}_j^\prime) \delta (\vec{r}_j^\prime - \vec{r}_k^\prime).$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

The values $t_0 = -1090.0 \, \text{MeV} \, \text{fm}^3$ and $t_3 = 17288.0 \, \text{MeV} \, \text{fm}^6$ are used [11]. Performing the minimization of the action with the Hamiltonian as described above can
be shown to produce the following set of equations for the reduced radial single particle wavefunctions \[10, 25\]

\[
i\hbar \frac{\partial Q_{n,l}(r,t)}{\partial t} = \hat{H}_{HF} Q_{n,l}(r,t),
\]

(6)

where the Hartree-Fock Hamiltonian is given as

\[
\hat{H}_{HF} = \left[ -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial}{\partial r^2} + V(r, t, \rho_n, \rho_p) + \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} l(l+1) \right].
\]

(7)

The above equations are subject to the boundary conditions;

\[
Q_{n,l}(0, t) = 0, \quad Q_{n,l}(r, t) \to 0, \quad \text{as } r \to \infty,
\]

(8)

(9)

and an initial condition, described later. The spatial part of the three-dimensional single particle wavefunctions can be retrieved from the above from

\[
\phi(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{Q_{n,l}(r, t)}{r} Y_l^m(\theta, \varphi),
\]

(10)

where \(Y_l^m(\theta, \varphi)\) is a spherical harmonic and \(l\) and \(m\) are the orbital and magnetic quantum numbers respectively. When calculating a neutron single particle wavefunction the potential \(V(r, t, \rho_n, \rho_p)\) is equal to

\[
V_n(r, t, \rho_n, \rho_p) = t_0 \left( \rho_p + \frac{1}{2} \rho_n \right) + \frac{t_3}{4} \rho_p (\rho_p + 2\rho_n)
\]

(11)

and when calculating a proton

\[
V_p(r, t, \rho_n, \rho_p) = t_0 \left( \rho_n + \frac{1}{2} \rho_p \right) + \frac{t_4}{4} \rho_n (\rho_n + 2\rho_p) + V_c(r, t).
\]

(12)

The densities are given by

\[
\rho(r, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi r^2} \sum_{(n,l)\in S} (2l + 1) |Q_{n,l}(r,t)|^2,
\]

(13)

where the sets \(S_n\) and \(S_p\) replace \(S\), in the above, for the neutron and proton densities, \(\rho_n\) and \(\rho_p\), respectively. The sets \(S_p\) and \(S_n\) contains the values of \((n, l)\) for the protons and neutrons within the system. The particular \((n, l)\) values we take for each nuclei are shown in table I.

The Coulomb potential, \(V_c(r, t)\) can be found by solving the following differential equation:

\[
\frac{\partial^2 W_c(r,t)}{\partial r^2} = -4\pi \eta \rho_p(r, t),
\]

(14)

for \(W_c\), subject to the boundary conditions;

\[
W_c(0, t) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial W_c(r,t)}{\partial r} \bigg|_{r=R_{Coul}} = 0.
\]

(15)

(16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nucleus</th>
<th>((n,l)) in (S_n) or (S_p)</th>
<th>2l + 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helium-4</td>
<td>((0,0),(0,0))</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxygen-16</td>
<td>((0,0),(0,0))</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>((0,1),(0,1))</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium-40</td>
<td>((0,0),(0,0))</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>((1,0),(1,0))</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>((0,1),(0,1))</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>((0,2),(0,2))</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table I. Table showing the explicit elements of the set \(S_n\) and \(S_p\) for the nuclei considered here.

where \(\rho_p = 0\) for \(r \geq R_{Coul}\). The Coulomb potential can then be calculated from \(W_c(r, t)\) via

\[
V_c(r, t) = \frac{W_c(r, t)}{r}.
\]

(17)

It is noted that the minimization also produces an exchange term for the Coulomb potential which, for simplicity, is excluded in this analysis. Extension of the method to include the full Coulomb exchange would not be straightforward, partly due to the extra long-range component to the fields, but also due to the practice of making the difficult Coulomb exchange practical by using an oscillator basis \[34, 35\].

1. The Initial Condition

The initial condition in these calculation is defined to be the result from applying a boost operator on the ground state

\[
\Psi(z_1, \ldots, z_N, t = 0) = e^{i\eta t^2} \Psi_0(z_1, \ldots, z_N).
\]

(18)

The ground state, \(\Psi_0(z_1, \ldots, z_N)\), is found using the time-independent Hartree-Fock method in which the energy is minimized in a space of Slater determinants to produce

\[
\hat{H}_{HF} Q_{n,l}(r) = E_{n,l} Q_{n,l}(r),
\]

(19)

which relies on the the time-independent equivalents of equations (7) to (17).

B. Numerical Procedure

Equations (6), (14) and (19) are all solved numerically by finite difference methods. So the following discrete spatial variable is defined:

\[
r_m \equiv m \Delta r, \quad \Delta r = \frac{R}{M},
\]

(20)
where $m = 1, 2, \ldots, M$. Time is chosen to be discretised by the equidistant set of points,

$$
\begin{align*}
  t_n &= n \Delta t, \\
  \Delta t &= \frac{T}{N}, 
\end{align*}
$$

where $n = 0, 1, \ldots, N$.

We use the methods described previously [11] to calculate the ground state and time-dependent wavefunction on the spatial and temporal grid. Linear equations are produced for the stationary case through use of a self-consistent scheme, which can be expressed as a series of matrix eigen-value problems by using central differences. An intermediate step via the evolution operator is produced for the stationary case through use of a self-kernel by a sum of poles, whose inversion can be found in tables [40, 41]. Finally, discretization of the absorbing boundary condition for use with the Crank-Nicholson scheme is described.

### IV. BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

In this section we discuss the method of treating the TDHF equations in the continuum. The first part of the section discusses the derivation of an absorbing boundary condition, applicable to nuclear calculations. This will be seen to require the inverse Laplace transform of a kernel. A non-linear least squares approach [12, 38, 39] is then described to provide an accurate approximate of the kernel. A non-linear least squares approach [12, 38, 39] is then described to provide an accurate approximate of the kernel by a sum of poles, whose inversion can be found in tables [40, 41]. Finally, discretization of the absorbing boundary condition for use with the Crank-Nicholson scheme is described.

#### A. The Problem in the Exterior

Application of absorbing boundary conditions requires us to split the domain into two regions; an interior, and an exterior [9, 42]. In the nuclear problem we have two types of potential; short ranged Skyrme potentials, and the long ranged Coulomb and centrifugal potentials. We choose to split our domain so that the potential in the exterior contains just the long-ranged components.

In order to ensure the Skyrme potentials are only present in the interior, we assume that the density is zero in the exterior. So in our analysis we make the assumption

$$
\rho_p = \rho_n = 0, \quad (22)
$$

for $r \geq R$. Of course this will only be approximately true, as some of the density will move into the exterior during the calculation. However, as was shown previously in the linear regime the effect is not detrimental to the results [11]. Using the above we may write the potentials (11) and (12) in the exterior as

$$
\begin{align*}
  V_n(r, \rho_n, \rho_p, t) &= 0, \\
  V_p(r, \rho_n, \rho_p, t) &= V_c(r, t).
\end{align*}
$$

Assumption (22) and Gauss’ Law also allows for the Coulomb potential to be simplified to

$$
V_c(r) = \frac{\eta N_p}{r}. \quad (25)
$$

Assuming elementary charge units, $N_p$ is the number of protons. Using equations (23), (24) and (25) with equation (6) we can write the following form of equation that all general single particle wavefunctions obey in the exterior:

$$
\begin{align*}
i \hbar \frac{\partial Q(r, t)}{\partial t} &= -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 Q(r, t)}{\partial r^2} + \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} + \frac{\hbar^2 l(l+1)}{2m 2r^2} \right) Q(r, t), \\
&= \mathcal{L} Q(r, t).
\end{align*}
$$

which is subject to the boundary condition

$$
\lim_{r \to \infty} Q(r, t) = 0. \quad (27)
$$

Within equation (26) we use

$$
\sigma = \begin{cases}
  \eta N_p, & \text{for protons} \\
  0, & \text{for neutrons}
\end{cases} \quad (28)
$$

The $n,l$ values are kept implicit in the notation for $Q$ as we are considering the form of a general single particle wavefunction. We continue by deriving some absorbing boundary conditions for Schroedinger-like equations that have the above form in an exterior region.

#### B. Absorbing Boundary Conditions

Equation (26) may be written more compactly by letting $t \to \frac{\sigma}{\hbar^2} t$ and $\sigma \to \frac{\hbar^2}{\sigma} \sigma$, producing

$$
\begin{align*}
i \hbar \frac{\partial Q(r, t)}{\partial t} &= -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 Q(r, t)}{\partial r^2} + \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} + \frac{l(l+1)}{2r^2} \right) Q(r, t), \quad (29)
\end{align*}
$$

We now recall the definition of the Laplace transform,

$$
\hat{f}(s) = \int_0^\infty f(t) e^{-st} \, dt \quad (30)
$$

and its inverse, the Bromwich integral [43],

$$
\begin{align*}
f(t) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \hat{f}(s) e^{st} \, ds. \quad (31)
\end{align*}
$$

c is chosen such that the poles of $\hat{f}(s)$ are to the left of the contour. The hat notation is now used to imply the Laplace transform of a function. We proceed by multiplying equation (29) by $e^{-st}$ and integrating in time from
0 to ∞, to get the differential equation for the Laplace transform of \(Q(r, t)\)
\[
\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 \hat{Q}(r, s)}{\partial r^2} + \left( \frac{is - \sigma}{r} - \frac{l(l + 1)}{2r^2} \right) \hat{Q}(r, s) = 0. \tag{32}
\]
The above is simplified by assuming the initial condition is zero in the exterior region. This isn’t restrictive for our needs because the nuclear wavefunction is localised around the origin. Letting \(z = br\sqrt{s}\), where \(b = -2i\sqrt{2}\) and choosing the square root to be on the branch having positive real part, produces
\[
\frac{\partial^2 \hat{Q}(r, s)}{\partial z^2} + \left( -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\kappa(s)}{z} + \frac{\frac{\mu^2}{2}}{z^2} \right) \hat{Q}(r, s) = 0 \tag{33}
\]
where
\[
\kappa(s) = -\sigma \sqrt{\frac{1}{2s}}, \quad \mu = l + \frac{1}{2}. \tag{34}
\]
Equation (33) has Whittaker \(M\) and \(W\) functions as a satisfactory pair of solutions \([44]\) meaning the general solution is
\[
\hat{Q}(r, s) = A M_{\kappa, \mu}(z) + BW_{\kappa, \mu}(z). \tag{36}
\]
As the Laplace transform of boundary condition (27) is evaluated at infinity, its application can be achieved by inspection of appropriate asymptotic series. Assuming \(c > 0\) in the Bromwich integral implies that \(-\frac{1}{2}\pi < \arg z = \arg br\sqrt{s} < 0\) along the integration path, so the following equations are valid \([44]\) for \(z \to \infty\):
\[
M_{\kappa, \mu}(z) \sim \frac{\Gamma(1 + 2\mu)}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2} + \mu - \kappa)} z^{-\kappa} e^{\frac{\pi}{2}z} {}_2F_0 \left( \frac{1}{2} + \mu + \kappa, \frac{1}{2} - \mu + \kappa, \frac{1}{z} \right)
+ \frac{\Gamma(1 + 2\mu)}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2} + \mu + \kappa)} z^{-\kappa} e^{-\frac{\pi}{2}z} e^{\pi i(\kappa - \mu - \frac{1}{2})} {}_2F_0 \left( \frac{1}{2} + \mu - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} - \mu - \kappa, -\frac{1}{z} \right) \tag{37}
\]
and
\[
W_{\kappa, \mu}(z) \sim z^\kappa e^{-\frac{\pi}{2}z} {}_2F_0 \left( \frac{1}{2} + \mu - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} - \mu - \kappa, -\frac{1}{z} \right) \tag{38}
\]
where
\[
{}_2F_0(a_1, a_2, z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1)_n(a_2)_n}{n!} z^n. \tag{39}
\]
The Pochhammer notation, \((a)_n \equiv a(a+1)(a+2)\ldots(a+n-1)\) with \((a)_0 = 1\) has been used. The dominant terms in equations (37) and (38) are the exponential functions \(e^{\frac{\pi}{2}z}\) and \(e^{-\frac{\pi}{2}z}\) respectively. As \(\Re(z) > 0\) along the integration path then \(z \to \infty\) as \(r \to \infty\), so we must enforce \(A = 0\), in (36), in order for the boundary condition to be satisfied. So
\[
\hat{Q}(r, s) = BW_{\kappa, \mu}(br\sqrt{s}). \tag{40}
\]
Division of the above by its derivative and rearranging produces
\[
\hat{Q}(r, s) = \frac{1}{b\sqrt{s}} \left[ \frac{W_{\kappa, \mu}(br\sqrt{s})}{\partial W_{\kappa, \mu}(br\sqrt{s})/\partial r} \right] \frac{\partial \hat{Q}(r, s)}{\partial r}. \tag{41}
\]
Use of the convolution theorem \([43]\) and evaluating the result on \(r = R\) yields the absorbing boundary condition,
\[
Q(R, t) = \int_0^t G_{\kappa, \mu}(R, \tau) \frac{\partial Q(r, t - \tau)}{\partial r} \bigg|_{r=R} d\tau, \tag{42}
\]
where
\[
\hat{G}_{\kappa, \mu}(R, s) = \frac{1}{b\sqrt{s}} \left[ \frac{W_{\kappa, \mu}(br\sqrt{s})}{\partial W_{\kappa, \mu}(br\sqrt{s})/\partial r} \right] \bigg|_{r=R}. \tag{43}
\]
Once the inverse Laplace transform has been calculated to yield \(G_{\kappa, \mu}(R, t)\) from \(\hat{G}_{\kappa, \mu}(R, s)\), equation (42) can be discretised for use with the Crank-Nicholson scheme described in section III B. We also note that (42) is non-local, meaning it depends on wavefunction information from previous times, which will be seen to have consequences for its numerical implementation described later. To proceed to find the inverse Laplace transform an implementation of a non-linear least squares method is used.

C. Laplace Inversion of the Kernels

Previously \([11]\) we relied on deriving a partial fractions representation, containing a finite number of terms, for which there is a known inversion. Surveying the literature \([40, 44, 45]\) it can be seen that the same technique cannot be applied to the kernel \((43)\). Finding an exact inversion, then, appears unlikely. However, if we were to have an accurate approximate of the kernel given as a sum of some partial fractions, then an analytic inversion of the approximation could be performed. This can be achieved via a method of non-linear least squares \([46]\), where the mean square error,
\[
\int_a^b \left| \frac{P_d(z)}{Q_d(z)} - f(z) \right|^2 dz, \tag{44}
\]
which is minimised. \(P_d(z)\) and \(Q_d(z)\) are polynomials of degree \(d - 1\) and \(d\) respectively and \(a\) and \(b\) are two purely imaginary numbers. The particular values of \(a\) and \(b\) will be chosen later, when the non-linear least square method
is tested in section V A. The rational function can be expressed as the sum-of-poles,

$$\frac{P_d(z)}{Q_d(z)} = \sum_{k=1}^{d} \frac{w_k}{z - z_k}. \quad (45)$$

The Laplace inversion of the above is known to be the sum of exponentials [40],

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1} \left\{ \frac{P_d(z)}{Q_d(z)} \right\} = \sum_{k=1}^{d} w_k e^{z_k r}. \quad (46)$$

Finding an inverse Laplace transform is then reduced to calculating the values of the kernel function. However, for a Schrödinger equation’s ABC kernel it was shown [38, 39] that the method described in [46] could not be applied directly. This is due to the fact that more poles than can be calculated accurately with a numerical implementation of [46] are required to approximate it. As the kernel studied here also results from a Schrödinger equation then we expect the same to occur and so the modified bootstrap procedure given in [12, 38, 39] is used. We proceed by describing the non-linear least squares method, before explaining how it is embedded into a bootstrap procedure.

1. Method of Non-Linear Least Squares

We require a method for finding polynomials $P_d(z)$ and $Q_d(z)$, where $d = \deg P_d(z) + 1 = \deg Q_d(z)$, such that

$$\int_a^b \left| \frac{P_d(z)}{Q_d(z)} - f(z) \right|^2 dz \quad (47)$$

is minimized. As in the solution to the stationary Hartree-Fock equation, self consistency is used to linearize the problem and produce

$$\int_a^b \left| \frac{P_d^{(i+1)}(z)}{Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)} - f(z) \right|^2 Q_d^{(i)}(z) dz, \quad (48)$$

where $i \geq 1$ and

$$P_d^{(i+1)}(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} P_j^{(i+1)} z^j, \quad (49)$$

$$Q_d^{(i+1)}(z) = z^d + \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} Q_j^{(i+1)} z^j. \quad (50)$$

The scheme in equation (48) requires an initial guess, $Q_d^{(1)}(z)$, which we will describe later. It is hoped as we iterate through $i$ finding a minimum of (48), then the differences between the values of $\frac{P_d^{(i+1)}(z)}{Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)}$ and $f(z)$ become small.

To minimise equation (48), $2d$ freedoms are introduced for the coefficients of $P_d^{(i+1)}(z)$ and $Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)$ which can be shown to produce the equations

$$\int_a^b \bar{z}^n \frac{P_d^{(i+1)}(z) - f(z)Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)}{|Q_d^{(i)}(z)|^2} dz = 0, \quad (51)$$

$$\int_a^b \bar{z}^n \bar{f}(z) \frac{P_d^{(i+1)}(z) - f(z)Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)}{|Q_d^{(i)}(z)|^2} dz = 0, \quad (52)$$

where $n = 1, \ldots, d$, as sufficient conditions for a minimum. Defining the weighted inner product

$$\langle f | g \rangle = \int_a^b \frac{f(z)g(z)}{|Q_d^{(i)}(z)|^2} dz \quad (53)$$

and the basis

$$h_n(z) = \begin{cases} \frac{z^n}{n!} f(z), & n = 1, 3, \ldots, 2d + 1 \\ \frac{z^n}{n!}, & n = 2, 4, \ldots, 2d \end{cases} \quad (54)$$

allows equation (51) and (52) to be written simply as

$$\langle h_n | -P + fQ \rangle = 0, \quad (55)$$

for $n = 1, \ldots, 2d$. We see from the above that the numerator of (48) is orthogonal to the first $2d$ elements of the basis (54). By inspection we can see that the numerator is also a linear combination of the entire basis. So orthogonalising the $2d + 1$ functions in (54) will result in $-P(z) + f(z)Q(z)$ being the member of the resultant orthogonal basis that is in the span of $h_{2d+1}(z)$.

The restatement of this problem means we can apply the Gram-Schmidt process. This takes any set of linearly independent functions and produces a set of orthogonal functions, $g_n(z)$. The first two orthogonal functions given by the Gram-Schmidt process are

$$g_1(z) = h_1(z), \quad (56)$$

$$g_2(z) = h_2(z) - \langle g_1 | h_2 \rangle g_1(z). \quad (57)$$

Now instead of proceeding by orthogonalizing the set $\{h_1(z), h_2(z), \ldots, h_{2d+1}(z)\}$, we take advantage of the Gram-Schmidt process being applicable to any set of linearly dependent functions. The basis holds the property $h_n(z) = zh_{n-2}(z)$ allowing us to continue by orthogonalizing the set $\{h_1(z), h_2(z), zg_1(z), zg_2(z), \ldots, zg_{2d-1}(z)\}$, meaning for $n > 2$

$$g_n(z) = zg_{n-2}(z) - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{\langle g_j | zg_{n-2} \rangle}{\langle g_j | g_j \rangle} g_j(z). \quad (58)$$

This simplifies the orthogonalization and results in a recursion in terms of just $g_n(z)$ with two initial values. It can be shown that $\{h_1(z), h_2(z), zg_1(z), \ldots, zg_{n-2}(z)\}$ spans the same space as $\{h_1(z), h_2(z), \ldots, h_n(z)\}$ for all $n \geq 3$ via induction [47].
A final simplification is made by considering the value of the quantity $\langle g_j \mid z g_{n-2} \rangle$ along the integration path, where

$$\langle g_j \mid z g_{n-2} \rangle = \int_{\Omega(a)}^{\Omega(b)} \bar{g}_j(iy) (iyg_{n-2}(iy)) |Q_d^{(1)}(iy)|^2 idy$$

$$= \int_{\Omega(a)}^{\Omega(b)} - (iyg_j(iy)) g_{n-2}(iy) |Q_d^{(1)}(iy)|^2 idy$$

$$= -\langle zg_j \mid g_{n-2} \rangle.$$  

By insertion of equation (58), the quantity on the right hand side of the above can then be shown to be the following

$$\langle zg_j \mid g_{n-2} \rangle = -\left( \langle g_{n-2} \mid g_{j+2} \rangle + \sum_{k=1}^{j+1} \frac{\langle g_k \mid zg_j \rangle \langle g_{n-2} \mid g_k \rangle}{\langle g_k \mid g_k \rangle} \right).$$  

(60)

By the orthogonality of the functions $g_n(z)$ we see, from the equations above, that

$$\langle g_j \mid z g_{n-2} \rangle = 0,$$  

for $j < n - 4$. The index of the sum in equation (58) now runs from $n - 5$ to $n - 1$. Re-expressing the sum so that the index runs from 1 to 4 means the Gram-Schmidt process can be summarised as

$$g_n(z) = \begin{cases} 
  f(z), & n = 1 \\
  1 - c_{21} g_1(z), & n = 2, \\
  zg_{n-2}(z) - \sum_{j=1}^{\min(n-1,4)} c_{nj} g_{n-j}(z), & n \geq 3 
\end{cases}$$

(61)

where

$$c_{nj} = \frac{\langle g_{n-j} \mid z g_{n-2} \rangle}{\langle g_{n-j} \mid g_{n-j} \rangle}.$$  

(62)

We see $g_{2d+1}(z) = -P_d^{(i+1)}(z) + f(z)Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)$, as this is the only member in the span of $h_{2d+1}(z)$. Comparing with equation (48),

$$\langle g_{2d+1} \mid g_{2d+1} \rangle,$$  

(64)

is seen to be the mean square error.

The recursion (62) is used to find the set of values $c_{nj}$ and the mean square error, then by letting $g^{P,Q}_n(z) = g^{P,Q}_n(z) + f(z)g^{Q}_n(z)$ and setting it equal to (62) we can find $P_d^{(i+1)}(z)$ and $Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)$ by considering

$$g^{P,Q}_n(z) = zg_{n-2}(z) - \sum_{j=1}^{\min(n-1,4)} c_{nj} g_{n-j}(z),$$  

(65)

where

$$g^{P}_1(z) = 0, \quad g^{P}_2(z) = -1, \quad g^{P}_{2d+1}(z) = P_d^{(i+1)}(z),$$

$$g^{Q}_1(z) = 1, \quad g^{Q}_2(z) = -c_{21}, \quad g^{Q}_{2d+1}(z) = Q_d^{(i+1)}(z).$$

To find the pole weights, the derivative of $Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)$ is also required. Differentiation of (65) provides this via the formula:

$$\langle g^{Q}_n \rangle' = g^{Q}_{n-2}(z) + \sum_{j=1}^{\min(n-1,4)} c_{nj} g^{Q}_{n-j}(z),$$  

(66)

where

$$g^{Q}_1(z) = 0, \quad g^{Q}_2(z) = 0,$$  

(67)

$$\frac{dQ_d^{(i+1)}(z)}{dz}.$$  

(68)

The above formulae give us the ability to calculate $P_d^{(i+1)}(z)$, $Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)$ and $\frac{dQ_d^{(i+1)}(z)}{dz}$ at any point between $a$ and $b$ along the imaginary axis. This provides a way to calculate the $Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)$ for the next iteration and also to expand $P_d^{(i+1)}(z)$ as partial fractions,

$$P_d^{(i+1)}(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{d} w_k \frac{dz}{z - z_k}.$$  

(69)

Muller’s method [48] is used to provide the poles, $z_k$, which are the roots of $Q_d^{(i+1)}(z)$, while the residue theorem [49] yields the weights,

$$w_k = \frac{P_d^{(i+1)}(z_k)}{dQ_d^{(i+1)}(z_k)}.$$  

(70)

In the implementation of the least squares procedure the integral in equation (63) is discretised with the extended trapezium rule [50], using 41 points. We also choose to iterate equation (48) through $i = 1, i_{max}$ in all calculations, which is found to work well for $i_{max} = 5$.

The least squares method is reliant on access to a reasonable initial guess of the denominator $Q^{(0)}(z)$. Reference [46] used a continued fraction representation to gain a denominator. However, for equation (43) this isn’t available due to the square root in its argument. An initial guess is found by realising that an approximation with $d$ poles has to be calculated before we know the mean squared error. However, looping through $d = 1, 2, \ldots$ until the error is reduced sufficiently, gives an automatic way to produce an approximation with a given error. This can also be used to generate an initial guess from the previous step using [38, 39]

$$Q_d^{(0)}(z) = \begin{cases} 
  z - \frac{b + \alpha - i(b - a)}{(z - 2z_{d-1})Q_d^{(0)}(z)}, & d = 1 \\
  z - \frac{b + \alpha - i(b - a)}{(z - 2z_{d-1})Q_d^{(0)}(z)}, & d \geq 2 
\end{cases}.$$  

(71)

In the above $z_{d-1}$ is the zero furthest from the imaginary axis. Calculation of the above specifies the initial guess for $d = 1$, after which the results from the approximation with $d-1$ poles is used to give the guess for an approximation with $d$ poles. Algorithm 1 summarises the method so far.
Algorithm 1 Non-linear Least Squares Method

\begin{algorithm}
\textbf{d} = 1.
Set \( Q_d^{(1)}(z) = z - \left( \frac{b}{a} - i \frac{1}{a} \right) \).
\begin{algorithmic}
\While{\( g_{2d+1} | g_{2d+1} | < \epsilon \int_a^b |f(z)|^2 \, dz \)}
\For{\textbf{i} = 1, l_{max}}
\State Calculate the coefficients \( c_{nj} \) and \( g_{2d+1}(z) \) using (62).
\State Calculate the poles by applying Muller’s method to \( Q_d^{(1)}(z) \), which is calculated using (65).
\State Use the poles to calculate \( Q_d^{(1+1)}(z) \).
\EndFor
\State Calculate \( Q_d^{(1)}(z) \) from (71).
\State \( d = d + 1 \).
\State Calculate the mean square error, \( g_{2d+1} | g_{2d+1} \).
\EndWhile
\State Calculate each pole’s weight using equation (70).
\State Return the \( d \) poles and their corresponding weights.
\end{algorithmic}
\end{algorithm}

2. Bootstrap method of non-linear least squares

Now the ability to find a pole approximation on an interval has been gained, we look at how this can be embedded in the bootstrap procedure that allows for an accurate approximation to the kernel in equation (43).

The modification described in [38, 39] is to split up the interval on the imaginary axis into sub-intervals on which the function is smooth enough to be approximated well by the least squares method. There are three considerations that must be made for this to be successful.

First, we require some way of joining the approximations made on each sub-interval. The values of an approximation made on a particular sub-interval are non-zero outside of it and so simply adding the results means each approximation will interfere with one another. This can be solved by specifying some order to make the approximations. Then, by approximating the kernel on the first sub-interval, we continue by making approximations of the kernel with the previous results subtracted on the subsequent sub-intervals. In this way the current approximation takes account of the previous ones and adding the resultants will approximate the kernel.

Secondly, imagining the function on the complex plane then it may be the case that, in an interval, the kernel can be well approximated by poles which make a larger contribution elsewhere on the imaginary axis. To see this, consider an approximation where some poles are far away from the interval along the imaginary line on which the approximation was calculated. Generally these contributions to the current sub-interval are small, but can be large for other intervals which the poles are close to. So, approximations on the following sub-intervals will also have to describe these poles, not just the kernel. We therefore want to ensure poles located far from the sub-interval they were calculated on are excluded.

It may also be the case that the size of a sub-interval is much smaller than the absolute value of the real part of a pole. This time we would not expect the least square algorithm to calculate this pole accurately because its contribution is over a larger interval than what we are analysing. So poles holding this property are excluded to.

It seems sensible that only poles that are found near to the part of the imaginary axis they were calculated on should be included in the approximation. Therefore, a near pole is defined and we say that only the near poles should be included in the sum of poles approximation. Specifically a pole, \( z'_k \), is defined a near pole on the interval \([-1, 1]\] if

\[
12 \leq \int_{-1}^{1} \frac{1}{|x - z'_k|^2} \, dx = \frac{1}{3z_k} \left[ \arctan \left( \frac{\Re z'_k + 1}{3z'_k} \right) - \arctan \left( \frac{\Re z'_k - 1}{3z'_k} \right) \right].
\]

(72)

The notation \( z'_k \) used is to specify a pole, \( z_k \), that has been scaled onto \([-1, 1]\] using

\[
z'_k = \frac{z_k - \frac{1}{2}(a + b)}{\frac{1}{2}(b - a)}.
\]

(73)

The criterion (72) describes an elliptical area surrounding the \([-1, 1]\] interval [38, 39]. The value on the left hand side describes how tightly the ellipse is to enclose the interval, where a larger value would describe a smaller area. A value of 12 yields an ellipse that tightly surrounds the interval that has been found to be practical for our purposes.

Finally it may also be the case that a pole with a positive real part may also suffice to give a good approximation of the function on a sub-interval. Here we make an assumption that no poles with positive real part should be included, as this would violate the requirement that all poles should be to the left of the contour in the Bromwich integral (31).

a. Splitting the Imaginary Axis Now a method to split the imaginary axis up into sub-intervals, on which the kernel can be approximated well by the least squares method, is required. This can be done recursively, by considering an interval and splitting it into two equally sized sub-intervals. On each of the sub-intervals the Chebyshev polynomial approximation is made and a criterion of whether or not this approximation is accurate has to be specified. If the criterion is satisfied, then no further splitting is done, but if it not, we split the sub-interval into two further sub-intervals and repeat the procedure. Figure 1 gives a simple illustration on how we would like a interval to be split up.

3. The Splitting Criteria

Deciding whether or not a kernel on a interval is smooth can be done on the assumption that if the function can be well approximated by a low order polynomial
in that interval then the approximation will be successful. Therefore a Chebyshev polynomial approximation is calculated for the kernel on the interval and if the coefficients have got sufficiently small, implying convergence, we set the splitting criterion to false and the interval will not be split any further. A K-term Chebyshev approximation, \( f_{\text{approx}}(z) \), of a function, \( f(z) \), on \( z \in [a, b] \) can be calculated using the formula \([50]\),

\[
f_{\text{approx}}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \alpha_k T_k(z),
\]

(74)

The coefficients, \( \alpha_j \), are given by

\[
\alpha_0 = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{j=1}^{K} f(y_k),
\]

(75)

\[
\alpha_j = \frac{2}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} f(y_k)T_j(x_k).
\]

(76)

The values of \( x_k \), which are the roots of the Chebyshev polynomial, are given by

\[
x_k = \cos \left( \frac{\pi(k + \frac{1}{2})}{n} \right)
\]

(77)

and \( y_k \) scales \( x_k \) from \([-1, 1]\) to \([a, b]\):

\[
y_k = \frac{(b + a) + (b - a)x_k}{2}
\]

(78)

If \( f_{\text{approx}}(z) \) approximates \( f(z) \) well, the coefficients of final terms in the series (74) should be relatively small. So, in practise we only require the coefficients and calculate

\[
S = \frac{|\alpha_{K-1}| + |\alpha_{K-2}|}{\sum_{k=0}^{K-2} |\alpha_k|},
\]

(79)

which can be thought of as a measure of convergence. A \( \delta \) is defined so that if \( S \leq \delta \), the splitting criterion is set to false and if \( S > \delta \) the splitting criterion is set to true. For all the results in this work the values \( K = 10 \) and \( \delta = 10^{-3} \) are used.

\[a.\] Binary Tree Description of an Interval Information on the sub-intervals is stored in a binary tree \([51]\). A binary tree is a collection of nodes which contain at least an association to a parent node and associations to left and right child nodes. These associations are called branches and give the tree its structure. It can be that a node’s associations to both children are not specified, in which case we call it a leaf. There must be one and only one node without a parent, which we call the root. This defines a structure which has a single starting point, the root, and branches out to multiple endpoints, the leaves, like a tree.

To make the binary tree useful for storing the splitting of our interval, we must append some additional information to each node. We choose to append the boundaries of each interval and what is called the node depth. The node depth is equal to the node depth of its parent plus one. The root’s node depth is defined to be zero. For the interval split shown in figure 1 we would have a binary tree as shown in figure 2.

\[b.\] Creating the Binary Tree Now we have shown how we may use a binary tree to describe the splitting of an interval we go on to describe how the binary tree is created. The procedure relies heavily on recursion and is described in algorithm 2.

Following the algorithm through we see that when a node is split in two, we move to its left child and check whether is needs to be split. If it does, two children are created and we move to the left again, if not then we move the parents right child and repeat the procedure. This process begins at the root of the tree.

\[c.\] The Bootstrap Method How the previous results are used to create an approximation to a kernel function is now specified. First create the binary tree, then begin at the left-most sub-interval at the maximum depth, and approximate the kernel and keep only the near poles. Then move rightwards through the rest of the nodes at that depth and approximate the kernel with all the pre-
vius near poles subtracted. Then move up to the next
deepest and repeat the process, until the root is reached.
Approximate the root, and keep all found poles. The or-
der we would take for the tree shown in figure 2 would
be 8, 9, 10, 11, 4, 5, 6, 7, 2, 3, 1. To return the poles at
a certain depth a modified in-order tree transversal [51],
as shown in algorithm 3, is used to produce a linked-
list. The entire bootstrap procedure is summarised in
algorithm 4.

D. Boundary Kernel Calculation

How we calculate the proton kernel,

\[ \hat{G}_{\kappa,\mu}(R, s) = \frac{1}{b\sqrt{s}} \left( \frac{W_{\kappa,\mu}(br\sqrt{s})}{\partial W_{\kappa,\mu}(br\sqrt{s})/\partial s} \right) \bigg|_{r=R}, \quad (80) \]

is now described. The kernels studied in [38, 39] and [46]
had continued fraction representations which provided an
efficient and accurate means to calculate values over the
entire complex plane. We choose a similar strategy and
use the continued fraction [45],

\[ \frac{W_{\kappa,\mu}(z)}{\sqrt{\pi}W_{\kappa-\frac{1}{2},\mu-\frac{1}{2}}(z)} = 1 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1 + \ldots}} \], \quad (81) \]

where

\[ v_{2n+1} = \frac{1}{2} + \mu - \kappa + n, \quad (82) \]

\[ v_{2n} = \frac{1}{2} - \mu - \kappa + n. \quad (83) \]

The above converges for \(|\arg(z)| < \frac{1}{2}\) and \(\mu + \frac{1}{2} \pm (\kappa + 1) \not\in
\{-1, -2, \ldots\}\). From section IV B we know \(-\frac{1}{2}\pi < \arg z < 0\)
and so the above equation is valid for our considerations.
The use of the recurrence relation [44, 45, 52],

\[ \frac{W_{\kappa-\frac{1}{2},\mu-\frac{1}{2}}(z)}{(1-2\mu-2\kappa)\sqrt{\pi}W_{\kappa,\mu}(z)} = \frac{1-2\mu-z}{(1-2\mu-2\kappa)\sqrt{\pi}W_{\kappa,\mu}(z)} + \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{\kappa-\frac{1}{2}+\mu} \frac{dW_{\kappa,\mu}(z)}{dz}, \quad (84) \]

allows us to express (81) in terms of a Whittaker function
and its derivative as given in the kernel. To do this write
the reciprocal of equation (81) and substitute equation
(84) into it to produce

\[ \frac{1-2\mu-z}{(1-2\mu-2\kappa)} + \frac{z}{\kappa-\frac{1}{2}+\mu} \frac{dW_{\kappa,\mu}(z)}{dz} \]

\[ = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1 + \ldots}}}. \quad (85) \]

We are then able to rearrange to find \(\frac{dW_{\kappa,\mu}(z)}{\partial W_{\kappa,\mu}(z)}\) and therefore
its reciprocal \(\frac{W_{\kappa,\mu}(z)}{dW_{\kappa,\mu}(z)}\). Finally, upon multiplying by
\(\frac{1}{b\sqrt{s}}\) the following continued fraction can be written for the kernel:

\[ \hat{G}_{\kappa,\mu}(R, s) = \frac{1}{b\sqrt{s}} \left( \frac{2z}{1-2\mu-z + \frac{2(\kappa+\mu)-1}{1 + \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1 + \ldots}}} \right), \quad (86) \]
using $z$ as defined below equation (32). We calculate the above using Lentz’s algorithm [50, 53, 54]. It should be noted that this continued fraction does not terminate after a finite number of terms, therefore we are not able to use it to find a finite sum of poles for the kernel. Therefore, the least squares method is used to find an accurate sum-of-poles approximation with a finite number of terms.

In figure 3 the kernel is plotted for two different parameter sets: $l = 0, N_p = 0$ and $l = 0, N_p = 2$.

![Figure 3](image)

Figure 3. (Color online) A plot showing the values of the kernel (80) using the values shown and $R = 9.9$.

Figure 3 shows that the complicated behaviour of the functions is centred nearby the origin and that the $N_p = 0$ kernel appears less smooth than the one of $N_p = 2$. This occurs when $N_p = 0$ with small $l$ and will be shown to have consequences when the approximations are made for these kernels. Extending the plot’s x-axis outwards would show the function slowly decaying to zero.

E. Boundary Discretization

How we discretise the ABC with a proton kernel is now described. As $G_{\kappa,\mu}(R, \tau)$ and $\frac{\partial Q(r, t - \tau)}{\partial r} \bigg|_{r=R}$ are both continuous we expect their numerical integration, by the trapezium rule, to be accurate. However, we have observed this is not the case when the trapezium rule is applied directly. This can be resolved by considering the case of $\sigma = 0$ where it is known the analytic form of the kernel contains a square root singularity [55]. The sum-of-exponentials should accurately describe this behaviour and hence not be integrated accurately by the trapezium rule. So, in analogy with [11] integration by parts is used on equation (42), before it is discretized, to produce

$$Q(R, t) + \frac{\partial Q(R, t)}{\partial r} H_{\kappa,\mu}(R, 0) = - \int_0^t H_{\kappa,\mu}(R, \tau) \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \left( \frac{\partial Q(r, t - \tau)}{\partial r} \bigg|_{r=R} \right) d\tau,$$

During the by-part manipulation $G_{\kappa,\mu}(R, \tau)$ is integrated to give

$$H_{\kappa,\mu}(R, \tau) = \sum_{k=1}^d \frac{w_k}{s_k} e^{s_k \tau}, \quad (87)$$

which is also a sum-of-exponentials and can be easily evaluated.

1. Time and Space Discretization

A semi-discrete equation can be gained by evaluating $\tau$ at values on the temporal grid defined in section III B for which $\tau = t_n$ and $t = t_N$. Use of the extended midpoint rule [50],

$$\int_0^t f(\tau) d\tau = \Delta t \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} f \left( t_n + \frac{\Delta t}{2} \right) + O(\Delta t^2), \quad (88)$$

to evaluate the integral and the difference formulae;

$$f(r, t_{n-\frac{1}{2}}) = \frac{f(r, t_n) + f(r, t_{n-1})}{2} + O(\Delta t^2), \quad (89)$$

$$\frac{\partial f(r, t_{n-\frac{1}{2}})}{\partial t} = \frac{f(r, t_n) - f(r, t_{n-1})}{\Delta t} + O(\Delta t^2), \quad (90)$$

for functions evaluated at a half time step, allows us to write the semi-discrete equation

$$Q(R, t_N) + \frac{\partial Q(R, t_N)}{\partial r} H(R, 0) = - \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} H(R, t_{n+\frac{1}{2}}) \left[ \frac{\partial Q(R, t_{n+\frac{1}{2}}) - \partial Q(R, t_{n-\frac{1}{2}})}{\partial r} \right] + O(\Delta t^2). \quad (91)$$

For the spatial discretization the absorbing boundary is applied at $R = r_{M-\frac{1}{2}}$ between the penultimate and final spatial grid-points. The following difference formulae are used:

$$f(r_{M-\frac{1}{2}}, t) = \frac{f(r_M, t) + f(r_{M-1}, t)}{2} + O(\Delta r^2), \quad (92)$$

$$\frac{\partial f(r_{M-\frac{1}{2}}, t)}{\partial r} = \frac{f(r_M, t) - f(r_{M-1}, t)}{\Delta r} + O(\Delta r^2), \quad (93)$$

where
at the points between the spatial grid, yielding the following fully-discretised ABC:

\[(1 + B) Q(r_M, t_N) + (1 - B) Q(r_M-1, t_N)\]
\[= -AH(r_M-\frac{1}{2}, t_{\frac{1}{2}})\left(Q(r_M, t_{N-1}) - Q(r_M-1, t_{N-1})\right)\]
\[+ A \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} H(r_M-\frac{1}{2}, t_{n+\frac{1}{2}})\left(Q(r_M, t_{N-n}) - Q(r_M-1, t_{N-n})\right) + O(\Delta r^2, \Delta t^2),\]

(94)

where

\[A = \frac{2}{\Delta r},\]
\[B = A\left(H(r_M-\frac{1}{2}, 0) - H(r_M-\frac{1}{2}, t_{\frac{1}{2}})\right).\]

(95)

(96)

Once the poles and weights have been calculated by using algorithm 4, they can be used with equation (87) to calculate the integral of the kernel for any required time. In general, we are required to recalculate algorithm 4 for different values of l, \(N_p\), and \(R\). Replacement of the last equation of the matrix described in section III B will then impose the boundary condition (9) on the calculation.

The fully discrete equation shows the consequence of the temporal non-locality of the ABC, noted at the end of section IV B, as it contains a sum with upper bound \(N - 1\). This requires evaluating an increasing number of terms as the calculation progresses, which of course has implications on the computational cost. However, it has been noted that this can be remedied by a recursive evaluation of the absorbing boundary condition [56].

V. TESTING OF THE ABCS

In this section the implementations of the bootstrap non-linear least squares and the absorbing boundary conditions are tested separately from the TDHF calculations. We start with various tests of the bootstrap implementation and then move on to show the results of applying the ABCs to some simple calculations of Schroedinger equations.

A. Testing of the Bootstrap Implementation

The results of applying the least square approximation to the kernel (43) are now shown. We have found that algorithm 4 produces the smallest mean square error when used to make an approximation on an asymmetric interval. Therefore the values \(a = -10^3i\) and \(b = 10^3i\) are chosen, so that the interval considered encloses the one used in [38, 39] while being asymmetric. Firstly an example binary tree, produced by algorithm 2, is shown in figure 4 for \(l = 0\), \(N_p = 2\) and \(R = 9.9\).

By comparing figure 4 to figure 3 we can see that the width of the intervals become smallest around the complicated behaviour of the function, as wanted. It is noted that the tree depth is limited to 42 in the implementation, as for \(l = 0\) and \(N_p = 0\) we want to prevent over-splitting, which may compromise the accuracy of the method. Figure 3 shows why this occurs, as the \(N_p = 0\) kernel is not as smooth as the \(N_p \neq 0\) kernel.

A selection of results is shown in table II for values of \(l\), \(N_p\) and \(R\) required by the Hartree Fock calculations.

We see that for most cases the kernels are accurately approximated by the bootstrap method. Only for \(N_p = 0\) does the mean square error become significantly larger and as \(l\) increases the accuracy is recovered. This appears to be due to more complicated behaviour of the kernel around the origin, as shown in figure 3, as the mean square errors with a small interval around the origin excluded are all similar. The larger error at the origin is confirmed by figure 5 where examples are given to show how the relative error, between the approximation and the kernel, is distributed over the imaginary axis.

Both approximations have a similar magnitude of error away from the origin. However, in the approximation of \(N_p\) we see that the error between the approximation and the kernel spikes. It will be shown later that the results presented are accurate enough for our needs.

Figure 6 shows the pole locations in the complex plane of the poles found by the bootstrap least square procedure. We denote the poles of the kernel (80) by \(s_k\). We see that the real and imaginary parts of the poles are similar in magnitude, which is a result of the near pole criterion.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$R$</th>
<th>$N_p$</th>
<th>$l$</th>
<th>No. of poles</th>
<th>Error on $[a,b]$</th>
<th>Error on $[a,b]/(10^{-4},10^{-4})$</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>118</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>$2.25 \times 10^{-13}$</td>
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<td>112</td>
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<td>104</td>
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<td>$1.59 \times 10^{-16}$</td>
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<td>$2.54 \times 10^{-16}$</td>
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<td>101</td>
<td>$7.02 \times 10^{-17}$</td>
<td>$6.94 \times 10^{-17}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table II. Table showing the number of poles used to produce an approximation with the relative error specified. We show results for the values of $l$ and $N_p$ that are required by the Hartree-Fock calculations, for selected artificial boundaries. The first three approximations for each $R$ are used within calculations of the neutron single particle states and the remaining for the proton single particle states.

Figure 5. (Color online) A graph showing how the relative errors between two kernels and their approximations are distributed over the imaginary axis.

### B. Testing of the Absorbing Boundary Conditions

In this section the discretized ABC, equation (94), is tested for a simplified case of a Schroedinger equation with the same form within the interior as required by the exterior. Specifically the following will be solved:

$$i \frac{\partial Q_{l,N_p}(r,t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 Q_{l,N_p}(r,t)}{\partial r^2} + \left( \frac{\eta N_p}{r} + \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} \right) Q_{l,N_p}(r,t),$$  \hspace{1cm} (97)$$

subject to the initial and boundary conditions

$$Q_{l,N_p}(r,0) = Ae^{-(r-5)^2}, \quad (98)$$

$$Q_{l,N_p}(0,t) = 0, \quad \lim_{r \to \infty} Q_{l,N_p}(r,t) = 0. \quad (99)$$

In the above $A$ is chosen to normalise $Q(l,0)$. The values of $l$ and $N_p$ considered will be just those required by the TDHF calculations shown later.
shows the results for the various calculations with reflecting and absorbing boundaries respectively. The errors can be seen to be bounded similarly to those \(10^{-7}\), for \(\Delta r = 0.2\) and \(\Delta t = 0.2\). We see that in time, also, the error remains bounded. From the plots it appears the bound on the error is proportional to the grid spacings. With the errors coming from the ABCs being small for all test cases, we proceed to use them with confidence.

\[
\max_{t \in [0, 50]} |Q_{l,N_p}^{(\text{Ref})}(r, t) - Q_{l,N_p}^{(\text{ABC})}(r, t)| \tag{100}
\]

is plotted, where \(Q_{l,N_p}^{(\text{Ref})}(r, t)\) and \(Q_{l,N_p}^{(\text{ABC})}(r, t)\) are the calculations with reflecting and absorbing boundaries respectively.

We now test how the error evolves through time. This is done by calculating the probability of finding a particle inside the interior region over time. Mathematically

\[
P(t) = \int_{0}^{10} |Q_{l,N_p}(r, t)|^2 dr \tag{101}
\]

is calculated with reflecting and absorbing boundaries and the absolute value of the difference taken. Again the time interval of the calculation is \([0, 50]\) and we choose the reflecting boundary to be at \(r = 200\). Figure 7 shows the results.

We see that in time, also, the error remains bounded. From the plots it appears the bound on the error is proportional to the grid spacings. With the errors coming from the ABCs being small for all test cases, we proceed to use them with confidence.

\section{VI. RESULTS FROM THE TDHF}

In this section comparison will be made to reference solutions, calculated with reflecting boundaries on a grid with outer boundary at 700 fm to ensure reflection does not occur. Figure 9 shows the absolute error in the root
mean square radius

\[ \left( \int_0^8 4\pi r^4 \rho(r, t) \, dr \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \]

between the reference solution and a calculation made with ABCs at 30 fm. Placement of the cutoff for the integration in the above is a parameter within TDHF calculations [21], but 8 fm appears to work well.

We see in each case the errors are consistently small and appear to be bounded by \( 10^{-5} \) fm. We therefore conclude that the non-linear portion of the potential is not large enough to disturb this type of calculation. However, these results will be of no use if the strength function is particularly sensitive to these errors and cannot be resolved properly. Therefore, a comparison of the reference strength functions with those calculated using ABCs is shown in figure 10.

The plots show this is not the case and the strength function calculated with ABCs is indistinguishable by eye to the reference. Therefore, strength functions from calculations using ABCs should be accurate enough to be successfully compared to experiment.

Finally the times taken to calculate the results and references are shown in figure 10 are given in table III, as we wish to see if there is any improvement in efficiency.

The table shows us that the time for completion of each calculation has been drastically reduced. In this simplified case the absorbing boundary conditions approach has shown to be efficient and accurate.
Table III. Table showing the time taken to calculate the various stages of the time-dependent code using ABCs. The values in the column labelled by BNLS are the times taken to calculate the bootstrap method of non-linear least squares for all kernels required, by the time-dependent Hartree-Fock calculation. The column labelled TDHF+ABCs shows the times taken to calculate the solution to the TDHF equations with ABCs applied at 30 fm. The column labeled total contains the sum of the times for the BNLS and TDHF+ABCs calculations. Finally, the values in the column labeled Ref. Sol are the time taken to calculate reference solution of the TDHF equations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nucleus</th>
<th>BNLS (s)</th>
<th>TDHF+ABCs (s)</th>
<th>Total (s)</th>
<th>Ref. Sol (s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helium</td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>7.42</td>
<td>9.41</td>
<td>135.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxygen</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>13.64</td>
<td>16.43</td>
<td>267.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>24.12</td>
<td>27.90</td>
<td>475.12</td>
</tr>
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</table>

VII. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

In this work we have presented an application of ABCs to Hartree-Fock calculations of spherical nuclei. ABCs with a centrifugal barrier and Coulomb potential in an exterior domain were considered. It was shown the ABCs required an inverse Laplace transform that was too complex for an analytical expression to be found. So, a bootstrap non-linear least squares method was implemented to produce an accurate sum-of-poles approximation to the kernel within the inverse Laplace transforms. The approximation was shown to be accurate and had an inverse known as a textbook result. Results of the ABC’s application to TDHF calculations were similar to the Coulomb-less case considered previously [11], being accurate and efficient.

On the physical side the outlook for this work is to include the full Skyrme interaction, allowing realistic calculations to be carried out [32, 33]. It is expected that the ABCs would perform just as effectively for the full interaction, since the splitting between the interior and exterior regions is not affected. Secondly one would like to remove the restriction of spherical symmetry and extend the method to full three dimensional calculations [57–59]. This would allow other resonant modes to be studied and allow the calculation of non-spherical nuclei. Two possibilities under consideration to achieve this are via an expansion of the density in spherical harmonics, or an appropriate operator splitting method.

On the mathematical side we would like to offset some of the extra computational cost coming from physical improvements by increasing the efficiency of the implementation. A first improvement would be to change to a recursive evaluation of the ABCs, which is possible when using a sum-of-exponentials kernel [56]. This would result in boundary conditions requiring just O(1) evaluations at each timestep. As well as this, an implementation of a temporal discretization scheme that is more suited to non-linear equations is desired. The literature already provides some methods applicable to the non-linear Schroedinger equation [60], which offer the possibility to be generalised to the TDHF equations.

We conclude by remarking that the results presented highlight the ABC approach presented here as a valid method to handle the artificial boundary within TDHF calculations in the spatial basis. The current work also offers various avenues for improvement.