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Title: Solitary waves in nonlinear Dirac equation: from field theory to Dirac materials

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# Solitary Waves in Nonlinear Dirac Equation

## FROM FIELD THEORY TO DIRAC MATERIALS

Avadh Saxena (Los Alamos National Lab)

1. **SOLITONS**: in nature and physics.
2. Balance between **nonlinearity** and **dispersion**.
3. Soliton bearing **systems** and **equations**: NLS, KdV, sine-Gordon.
4. Nonlinear Dirac solitons: **scalar & vector** interaction.
5. Stability **criteria** and simulations.
6. Conclusions (and comments on quantum elasticity).

F. Cooper, A. Khare, F.G. Mertens, B. Mihaila, N.R. Quintero, S. Shao



## SOLVAY CONFERENCE 1927

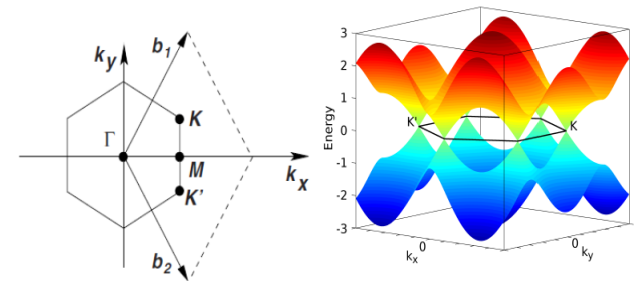
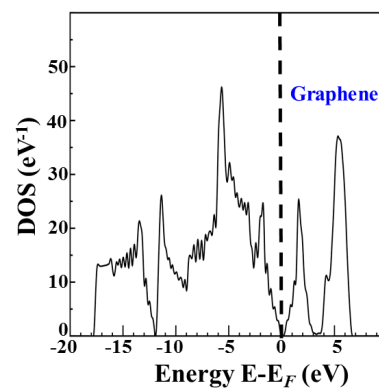
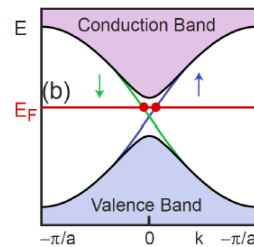
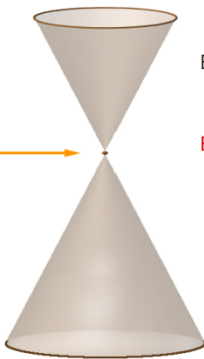
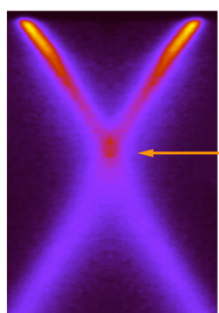
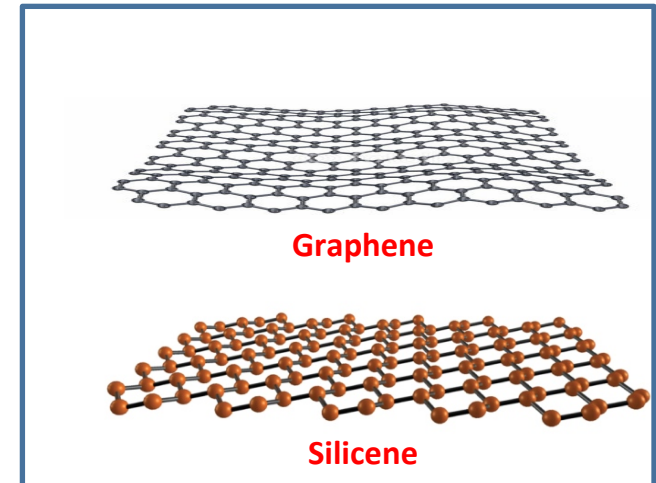
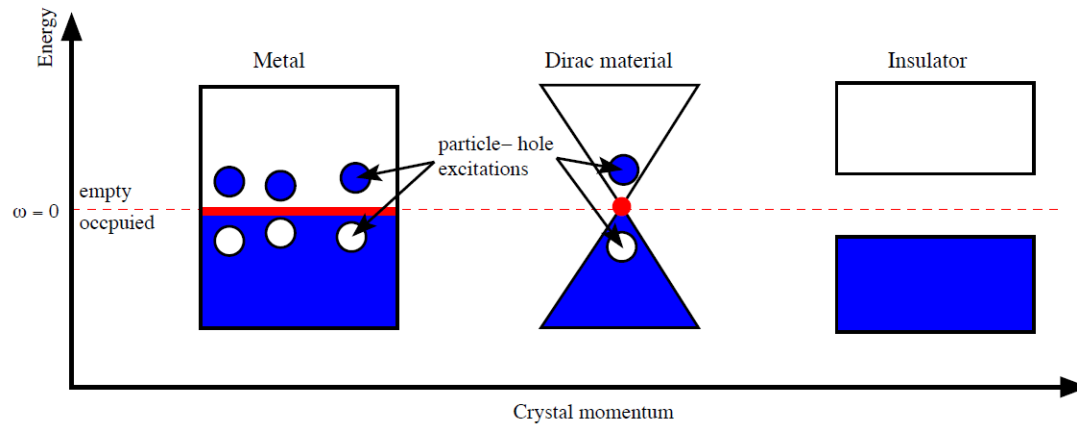
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Absents : Sir W.H. BRAGG, H. DESLANDRES et E. VAN AUBEL



# DIRAC MATERIALS



Lattice Structure and Dirac points  
In Hexagonal Dirac Materials

ARPES on Graphene:  
Advanced Light Source at LBNL

DFT Calculation of DOS:  
T-4 Division, LANL

## Possible Relevance

1. BE condensate in a honeycomb lattice in the long wavelength limit

Ref: Haddad and Car, Physics D238, Eurp Phys. Lett. 94

2. Multicomponent BEC order parameter has an exact spinor structure

3. Binary optical wave guide arrays

Ref. Ann. Phys. **340**, 179, J. Optics Soc. of Ame. B31, 1132

4. Nonlinear Dynamics in Honeycomb lattices  
PRA **84**, 021802(R)

5. Nonlinear Diffraction in Photonic Graphine  
Opt. Lett. **36**, 3762

# JOHN SCOTT RUSSELL (1808-1882)

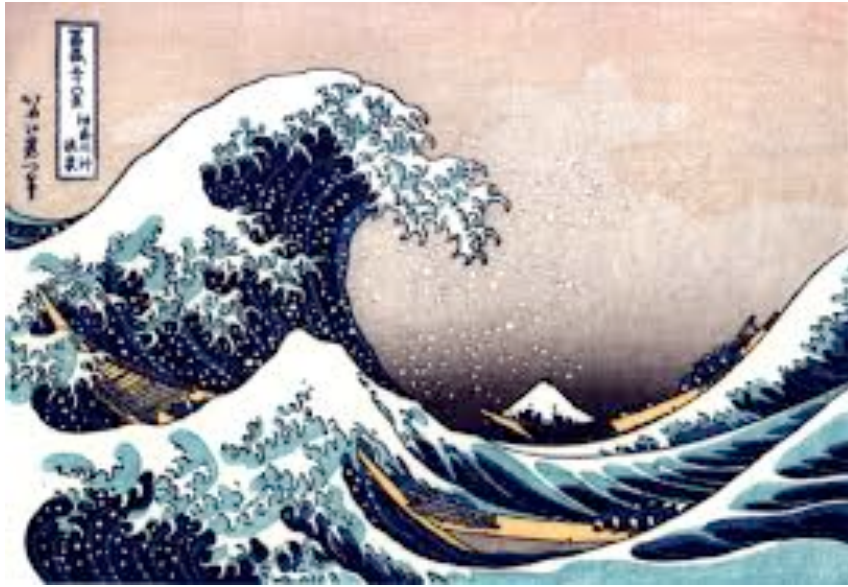


1834: First observation of solitons (Edinburgh).

“Report on Waves”: 1844

1895: Korteweg-de Vries (KdV)

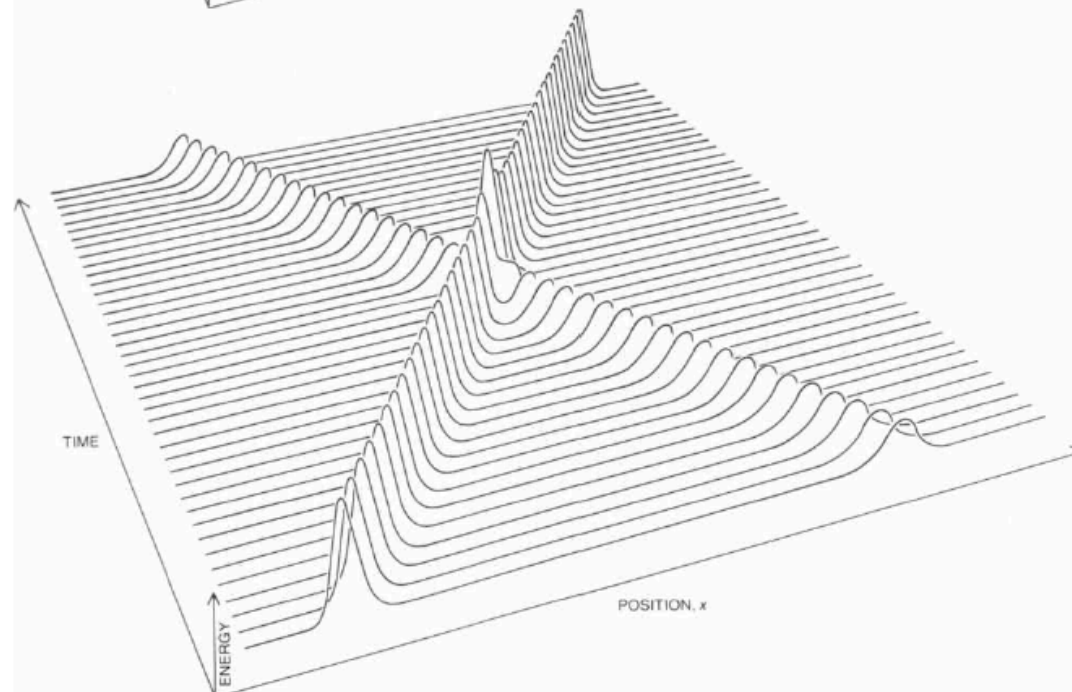
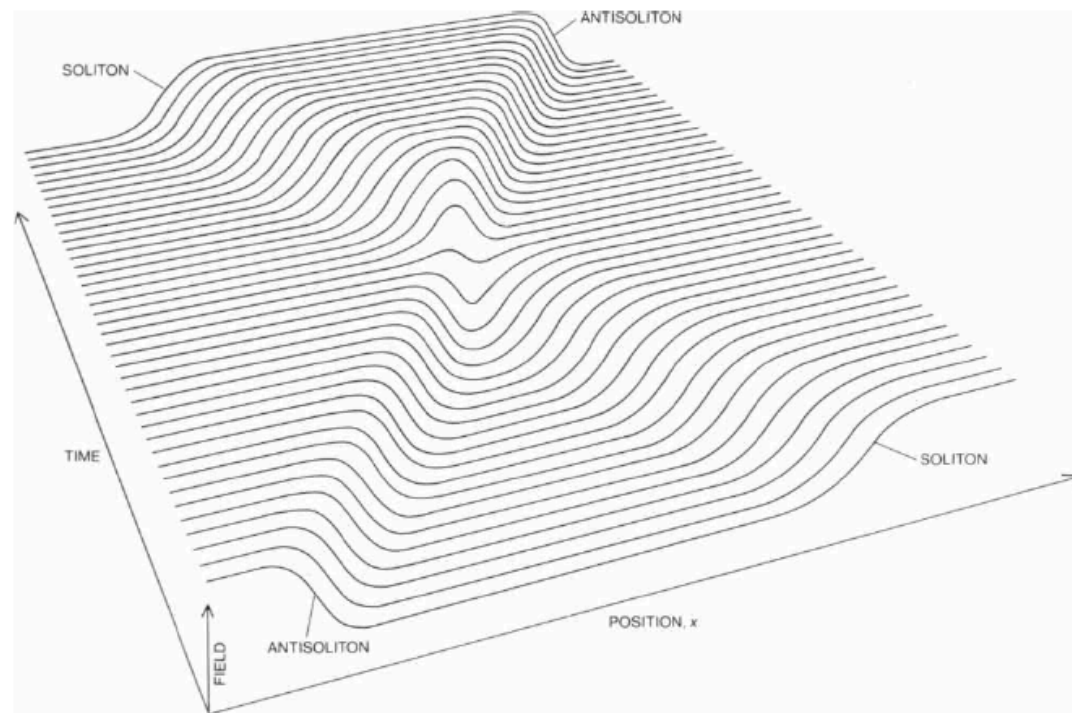
1965: Zabusky-Kruskal (numerics, FPU)

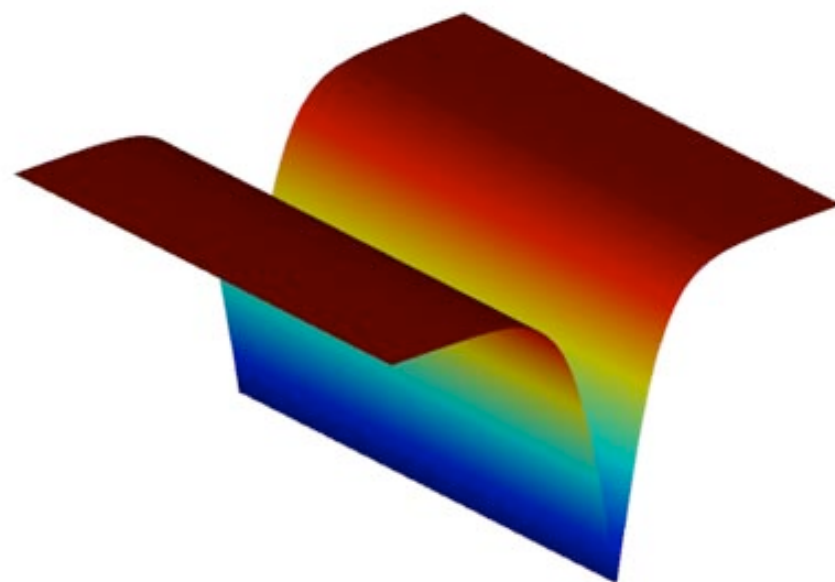
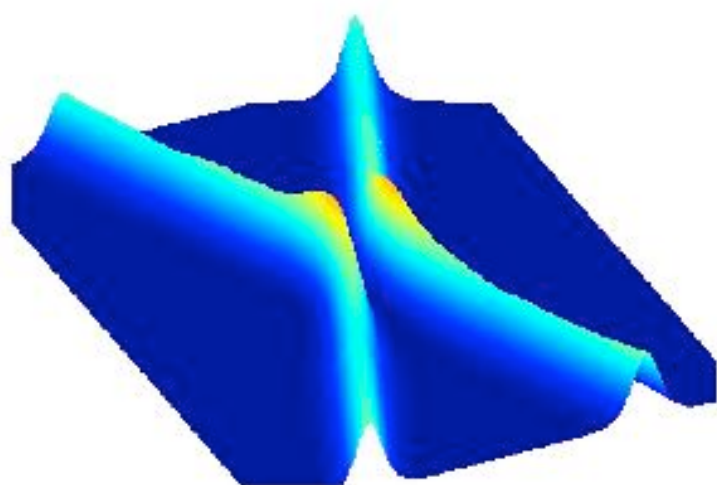




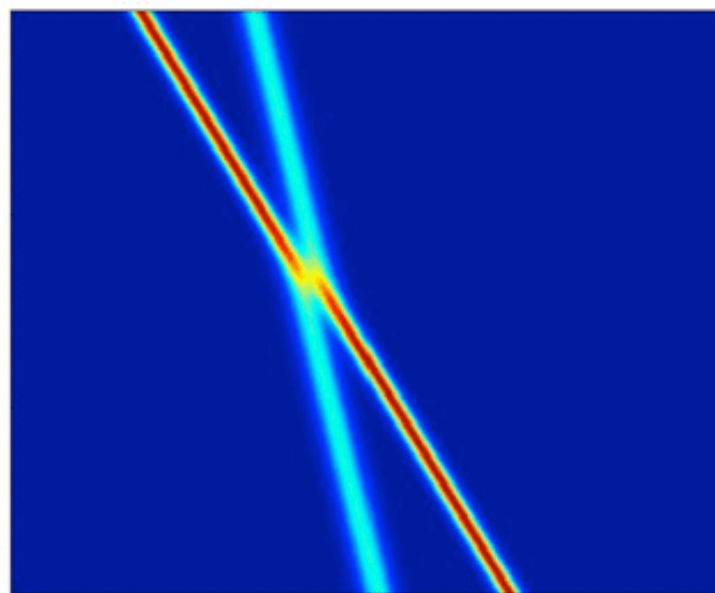
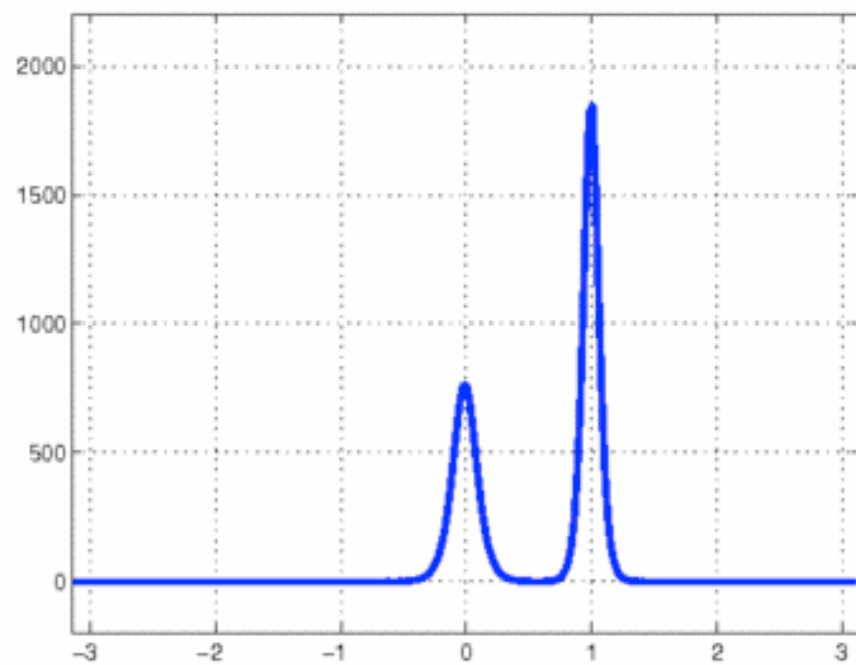
# Great Red Spot (storm) on Jupiter



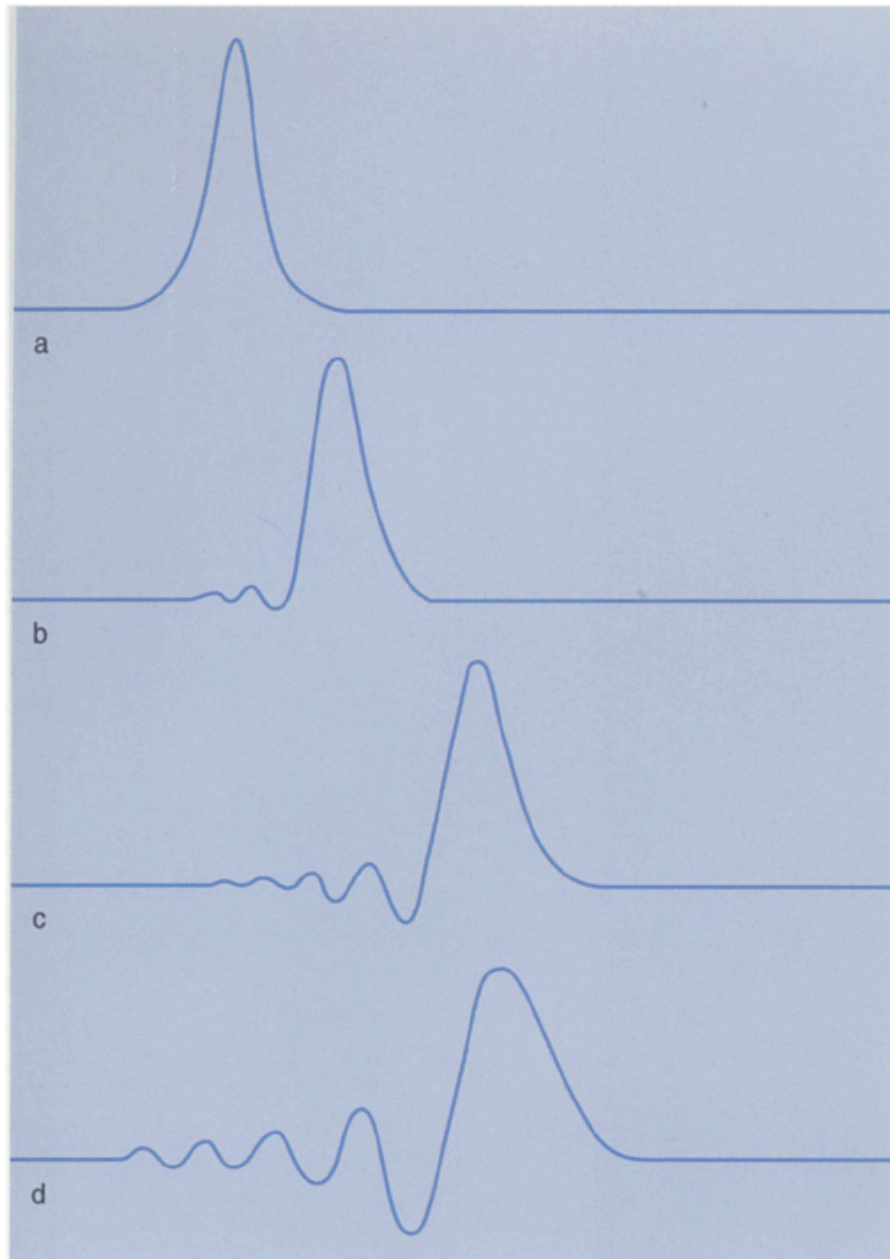




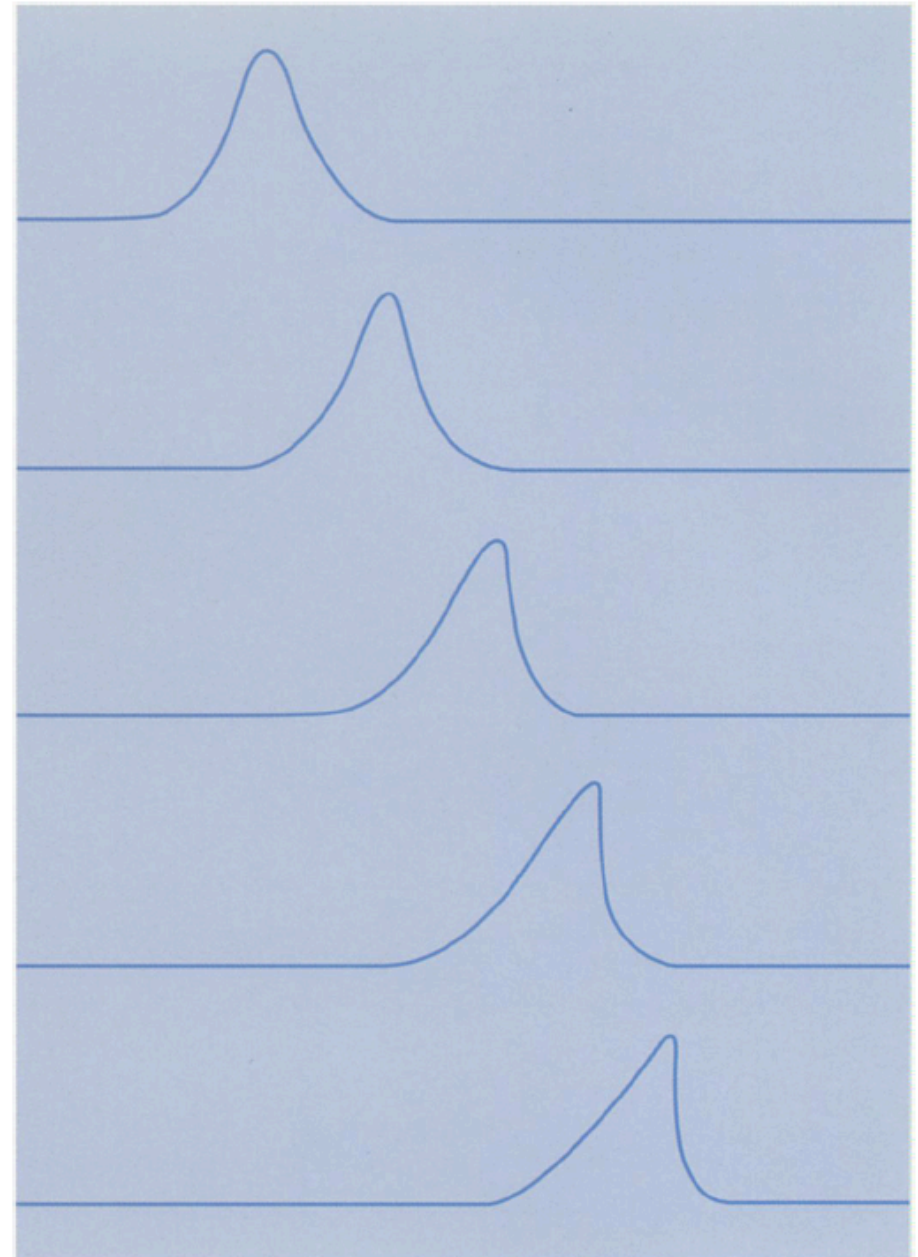
$t = 0.00460$



# DISPERSION

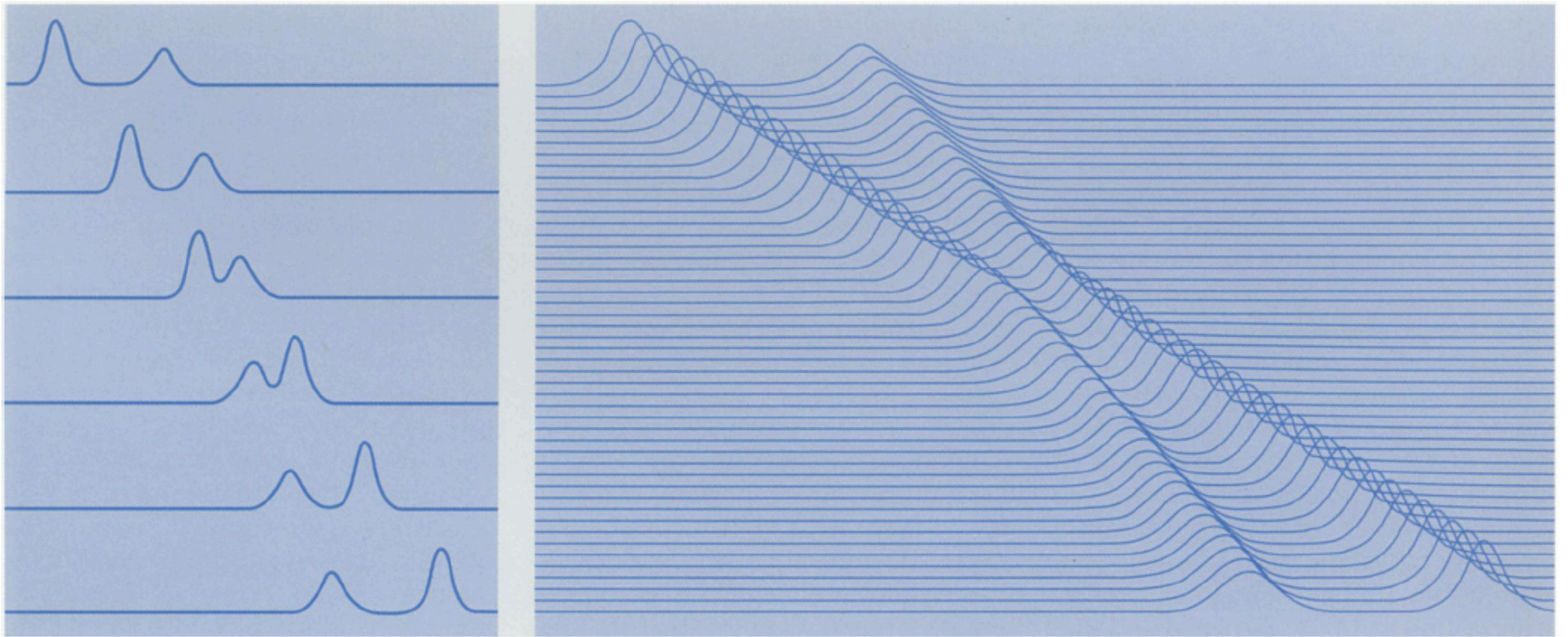


# NONLINEARITY





# SOLITONS GO THROUGH EACH OTHER WITHOUT SHAPE CHANGE



# I. SOLITON BEARING EQUATIONS

## EXACT KINK SOLUTIONS

Consider the Ginzburg-Landau free energy

$$F_{GL}(\phi, \phi') = V(\phi) + \frac{g}{2}\phi'^2,$$

After two integrations we get

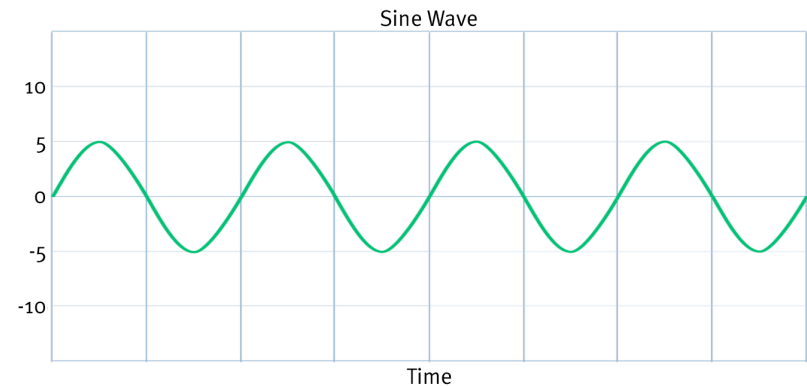
$$\pm\sqrt{\frac{2}{g}}(x - x_0) = \int_{\phi(x_0)}^{\phi(x)} \frac{d\phi}{\sqrt{V(\phi) - V_0}}.$$

**QUADRATURE**

# Sine-Gordon Equation

$$\phi_{tt} - \phi_{xx} + \sin \phi = 0$$

$$V(\phi) = 1 - \cos \phi$$



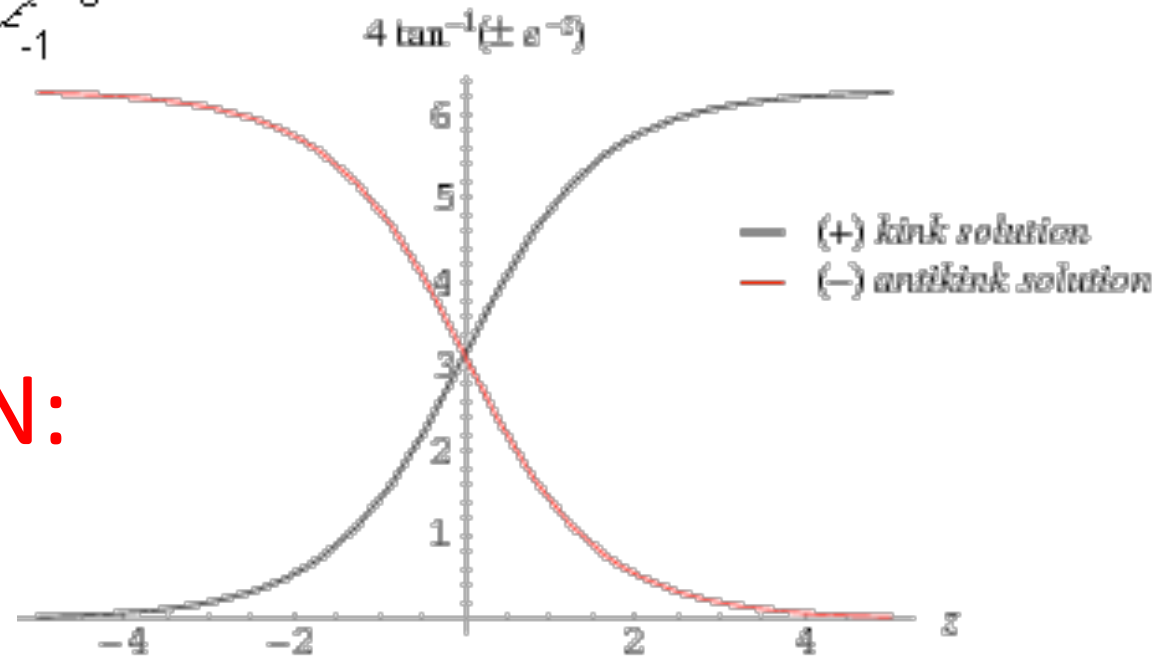
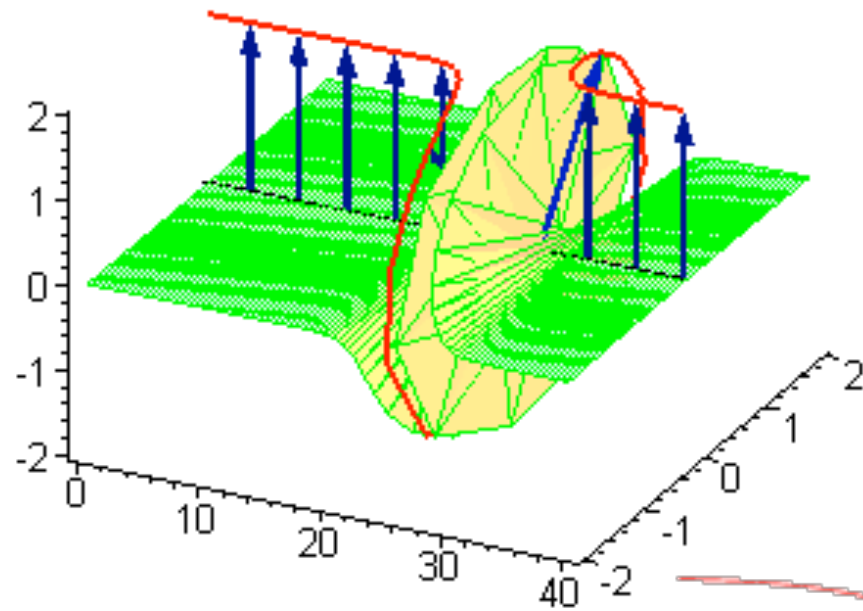
**Soliton solution:**

$$\phi(x, t) = 4 \arctan \exp[\gamma(x - vt)]$$

$$\gamma^2 = 1/(1 - v^2)$$



# NONLINEAR PENDULUM

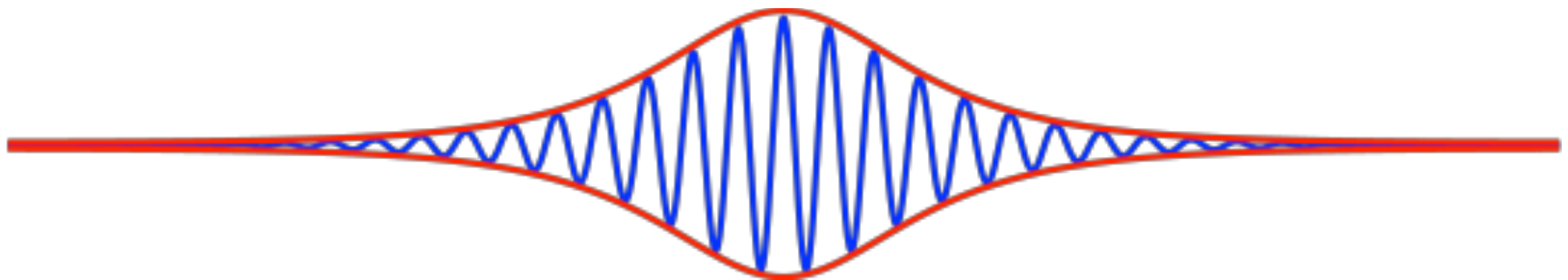


KINK SOLUTION:

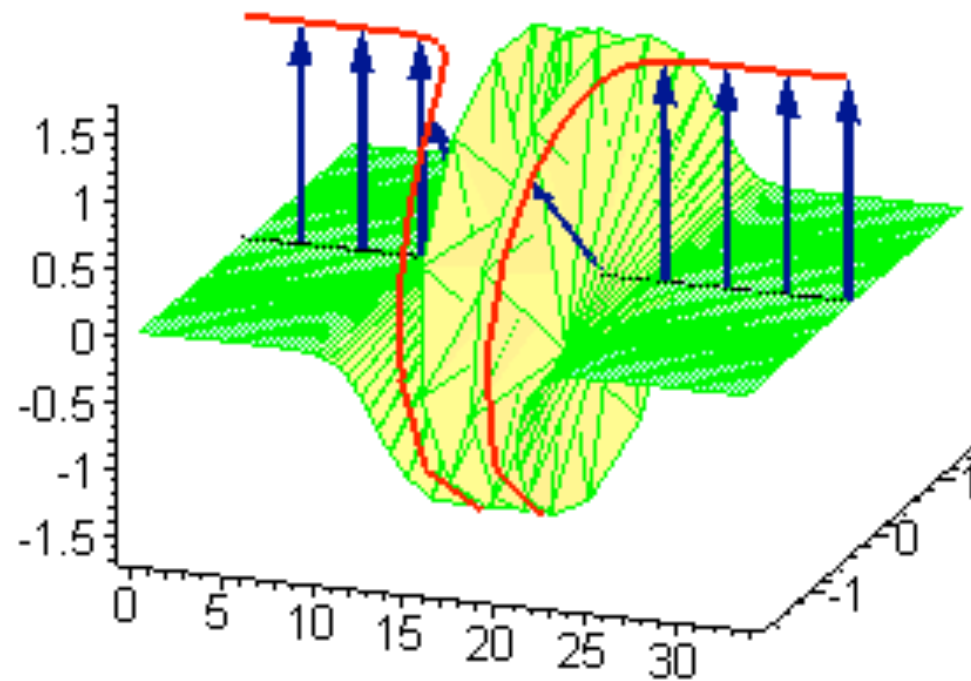
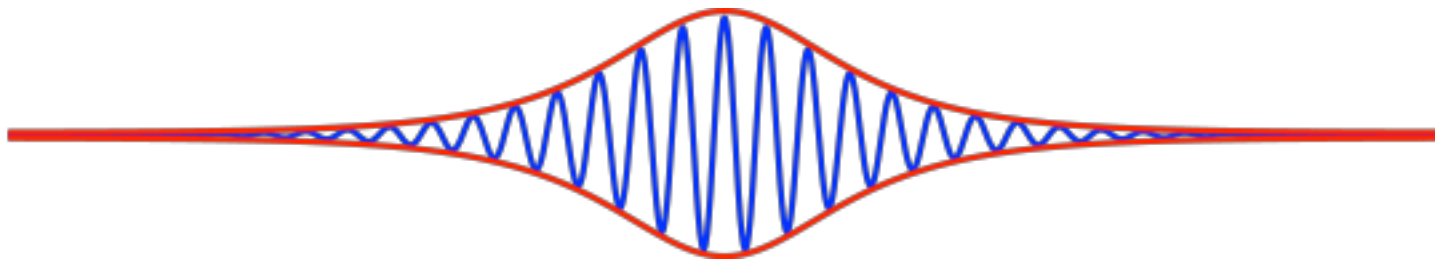
# Sine-Gordon breather

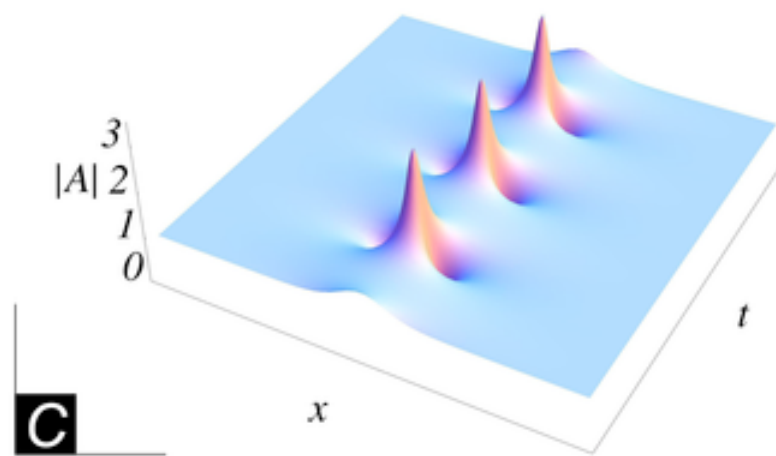
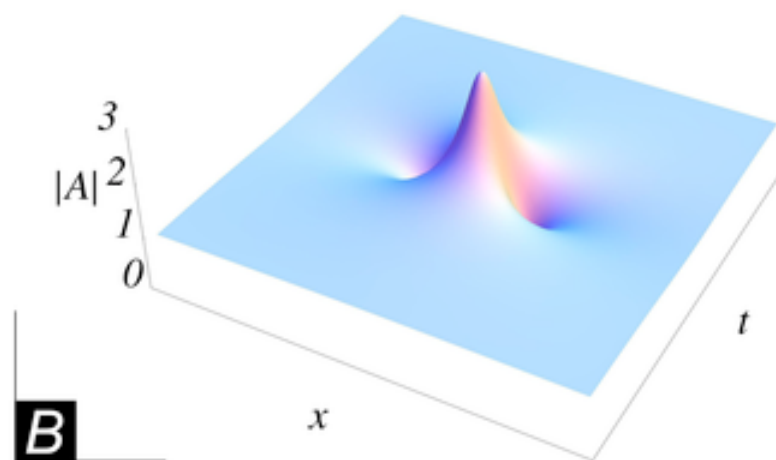
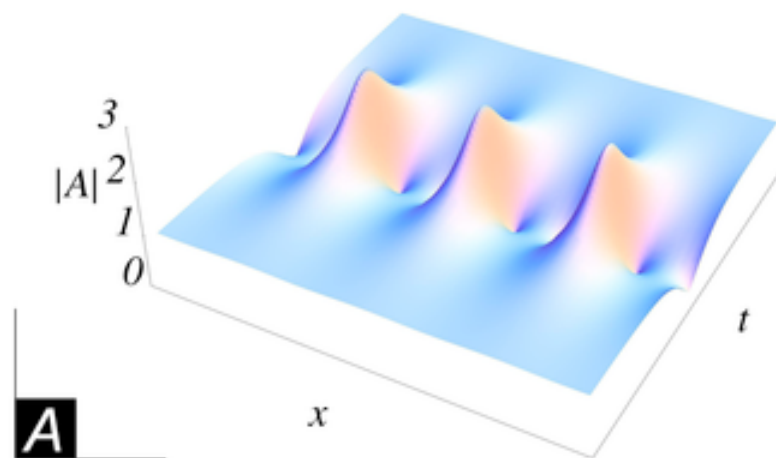
$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \sin u = 0,$$

$$u = 4 \arctan \left( \frac{\sqrt{1 - \omega^2} \cos(\omega t)}{\omega \cosh(\sqrt{1 - \omega^2} x)} \right),$$



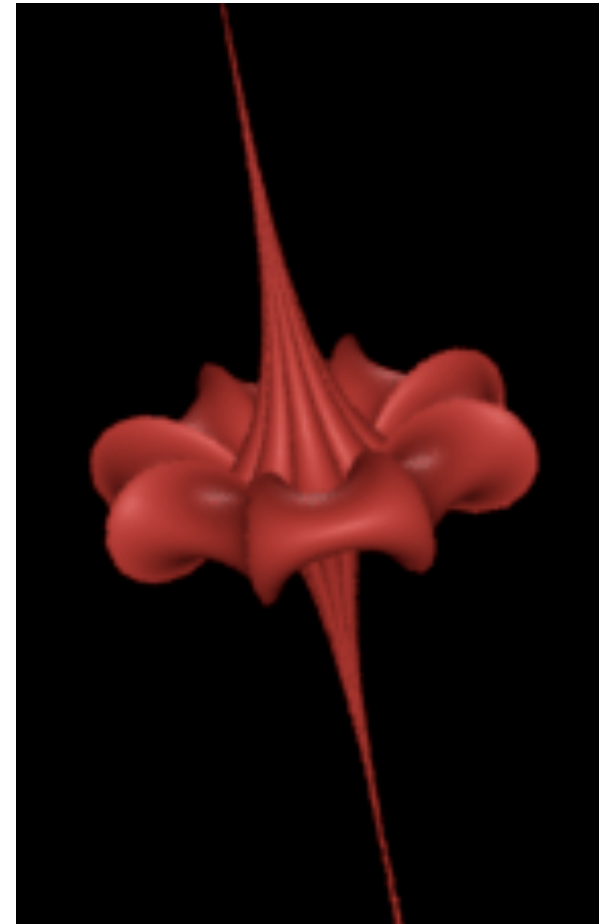
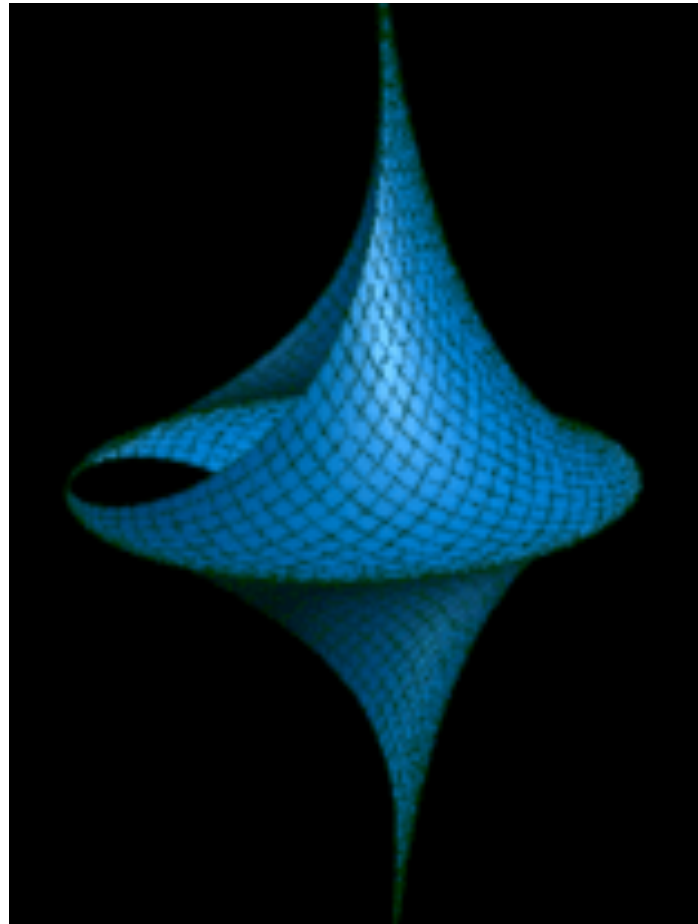
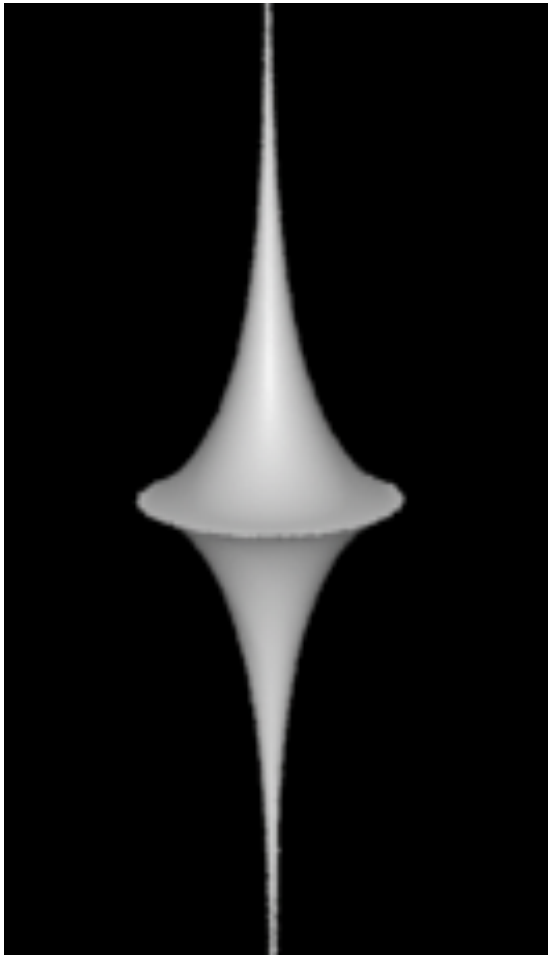
# BREATHERS, ILMs







$$\phi_{uv} = \sin \phi \quad \text{-ve Gaussian curvature}$$

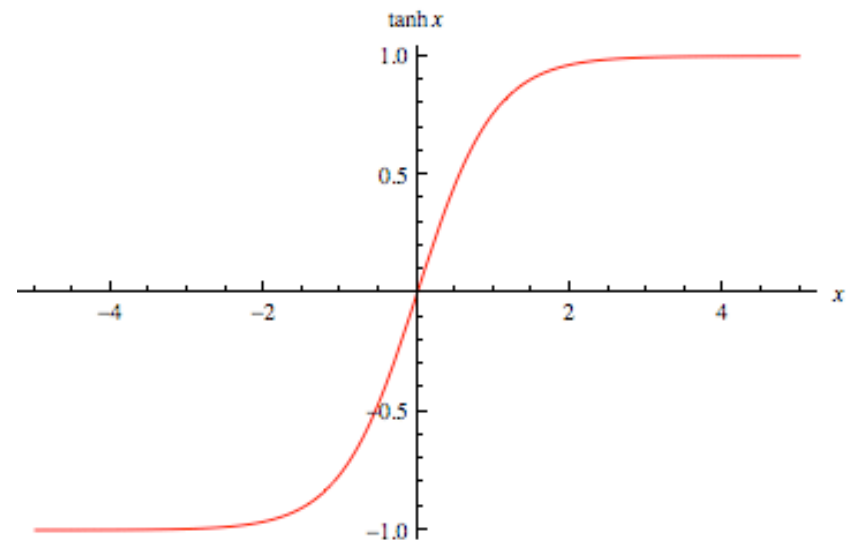
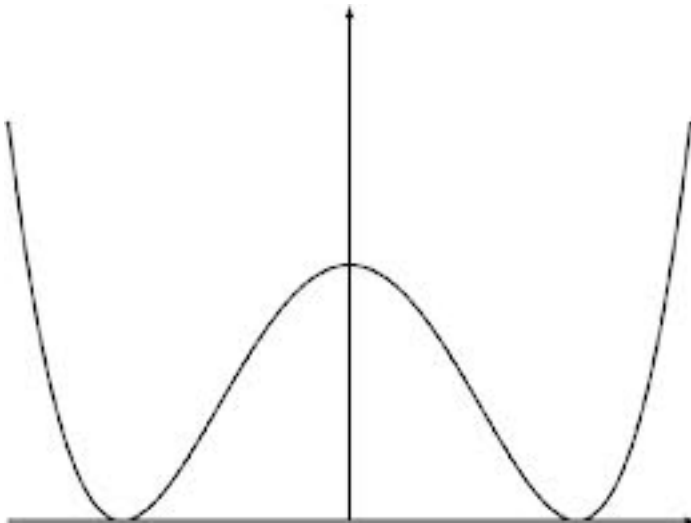


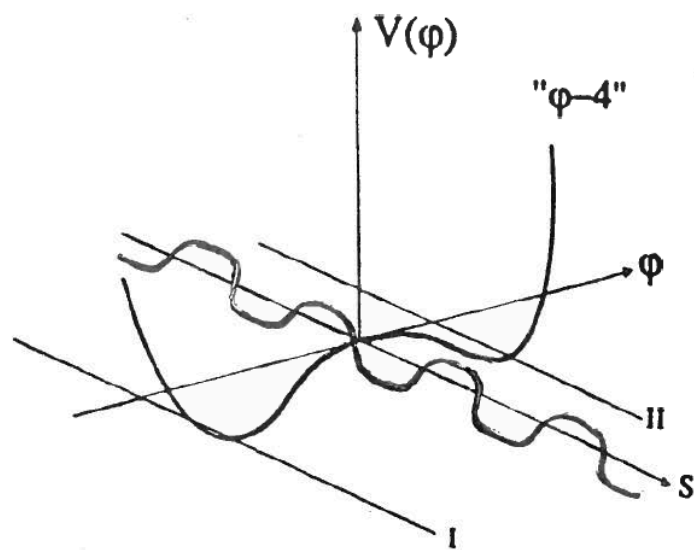
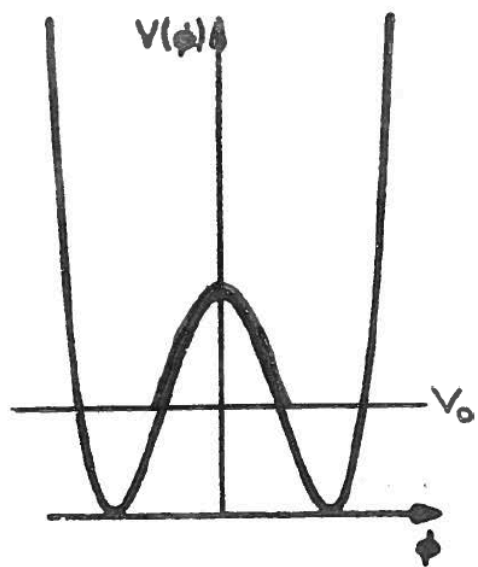
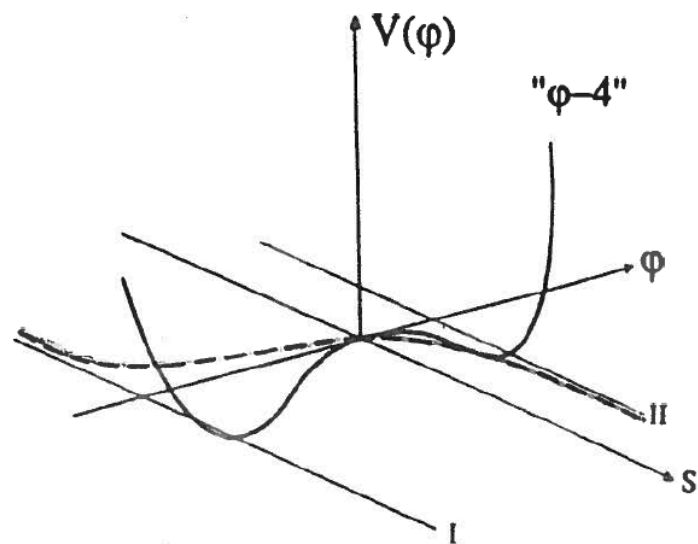
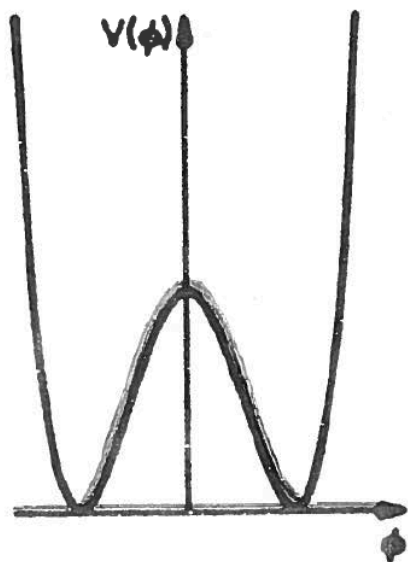
# DOUBLE WELL ( $\phi^4$ ) POTENTIAL

$$V(\phi) = \phi^2(\phi^2 - a^2)$$

SOLITON (second order transition):

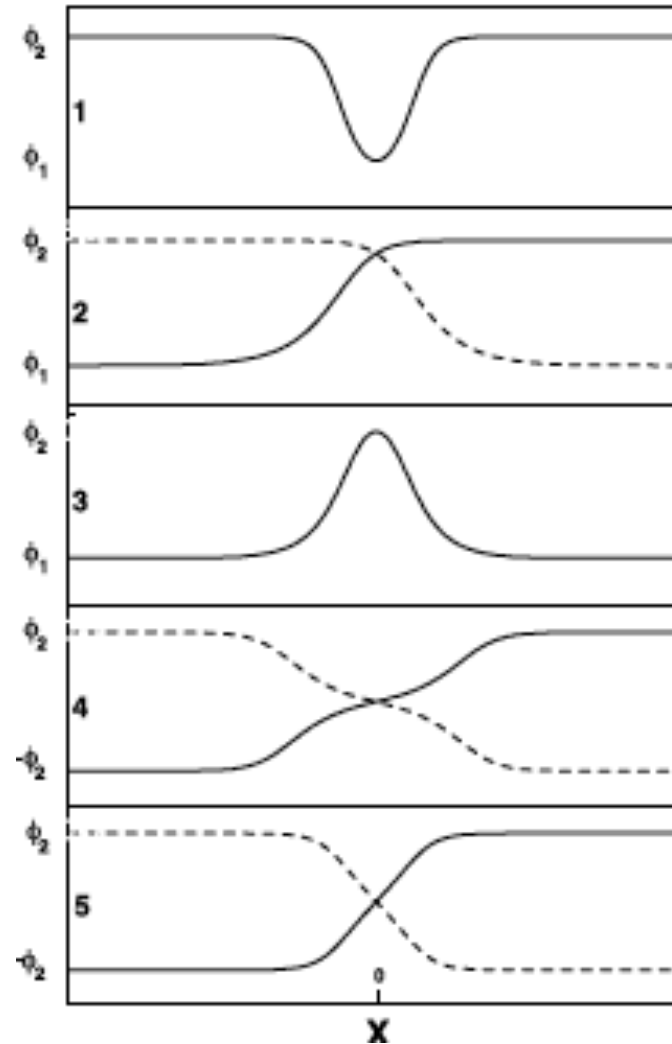
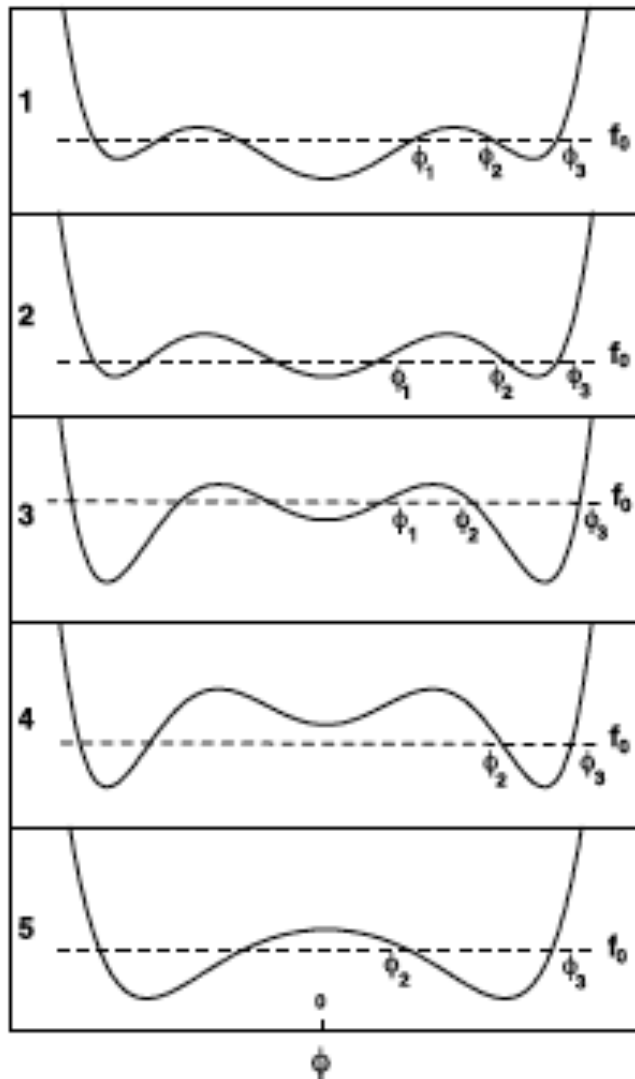
$$\phi(x) = \phi_0 \tanh(x/\xi)$$





# TRIPLE WELL ( $\phi^6$ ) POTENTIAL

$$V(\phi) = a\phi^2 + b\phi^4 + c\phi^6$$



# $\phi^6$ Model Soliton Solutions

First order transition

Pulse:

$$\phi(x) = \frac{\pm\phi_1}{\sqrt{1 - \alpha^2 \tanh^2\left(\frac{x-x_0}{\xi}\right)}}$$

Kink:

$$\phi(x) = \frac{\pm\phi_1 \gamma \tanh \frac{x-x_0}{\xi}}{\sqrt{1 - \gamma^2 \tanh^2 \frac{x-x_0}{\xi}}}.$$

HALF-KINK:

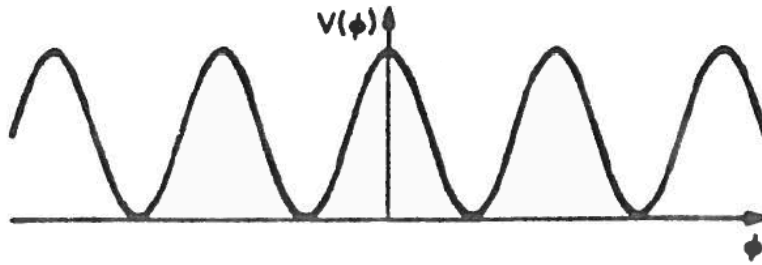
$$\phi(x) = \sqrt{3} \left[ 4 + \exp \left( \mp \frac{x - x_0}{2\sqrt{g/3}} \right) \right]^{-1/2}.$$

Pulse:

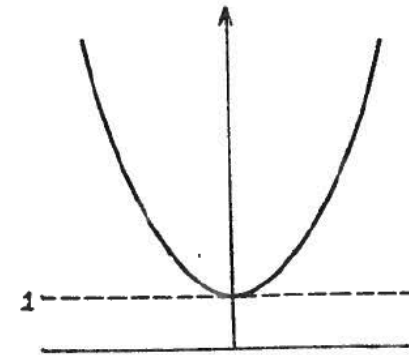
$$\phi(x) = \frac{\pm\phi_2 \operatorname{sech} \frac{x-x_0}{\xi}}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2 \tanh^2 \frac{x-x_0}{\xi}}}$$



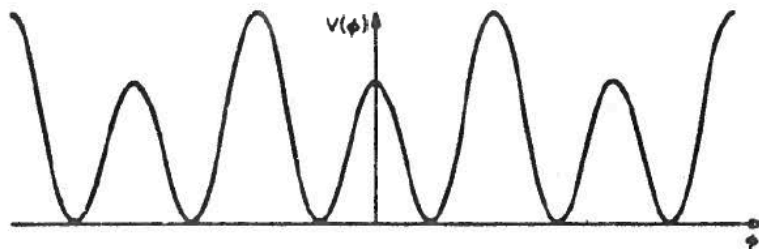
$$V_{SG}(\phi) = \cos \phi.$$



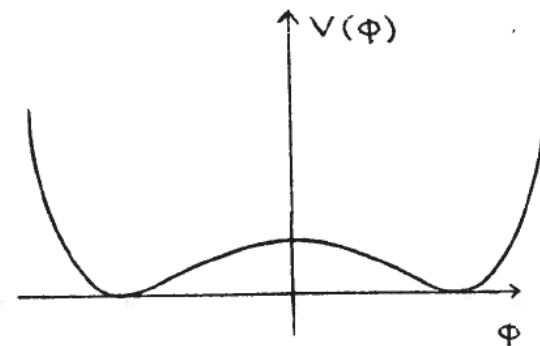
$$V_{SHG}(\phi) = \cosh \phi.$$



$$V_{DSG}(\phi) = \alpha \sin \phi + \beta \sin \frac{\phi}{2}.$$

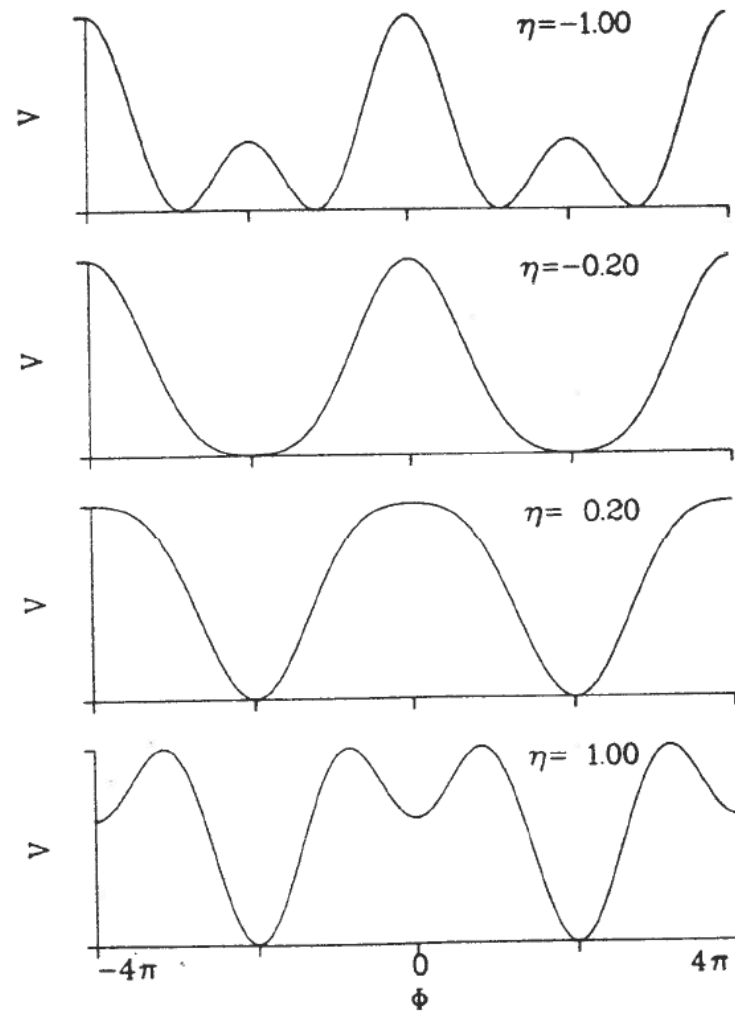


$$V_{DSHG}(\phi) = (\zeta \cosh 2\phi - n)^2$$



# DOUBLE SINE-GORDON

$$V_{DSG} = -\frac{4}{1 + |4\eta|} \left[ -\cos \frac{\phi}{2} + \eta \cos \phi \right].$$



# Nonlinear Schrodinger Equation (NLS)

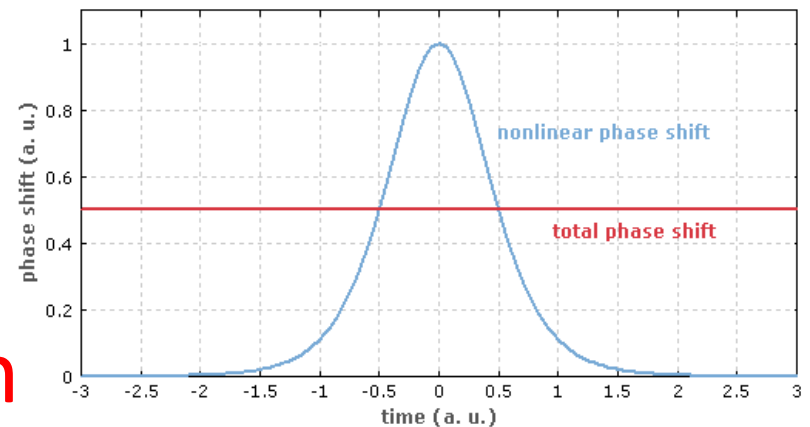
$$i\phi_t + \phi_{xx} - \kappa|\phi|^2\phi = 0$$

Envelope Soliton:

$$\phi(x, t) = \phi_0 \operatorname{sech}((x - vt)/\xi)$$

Nontopological  
soliton (pulse)

Nonlinear Dirac Equation



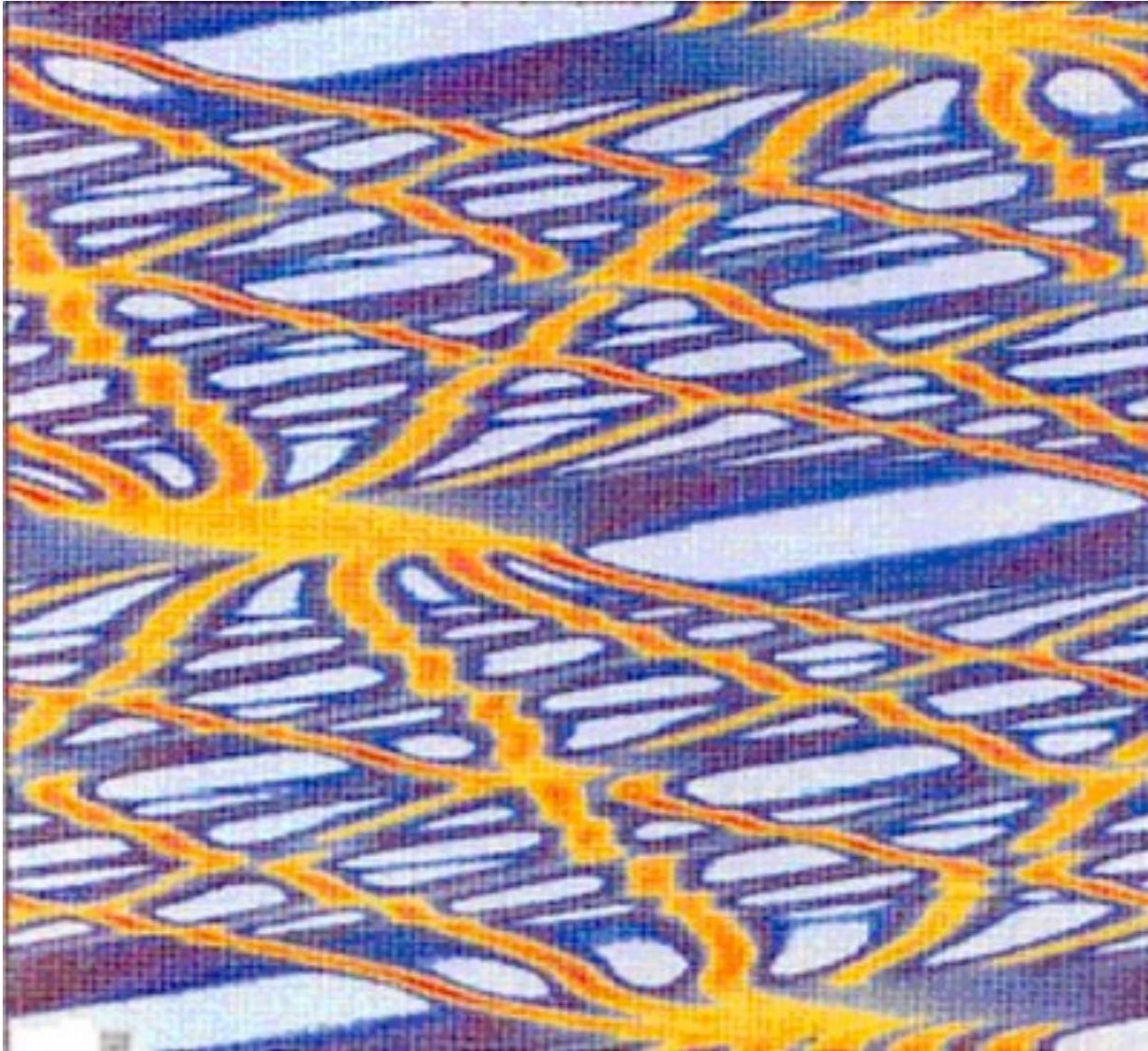
# Korteweg-de Vries (KdV) Equation

$$\phi_t + \phi_x^3 + 6\phi\phi_x = 0$$

**Soliton:**

$$\phi(x, t) = \frac{c}{2} \operatorname{sech}^2 \left[ \frac{\sqrt{c}}{2} (x - ct - a) \right]$$

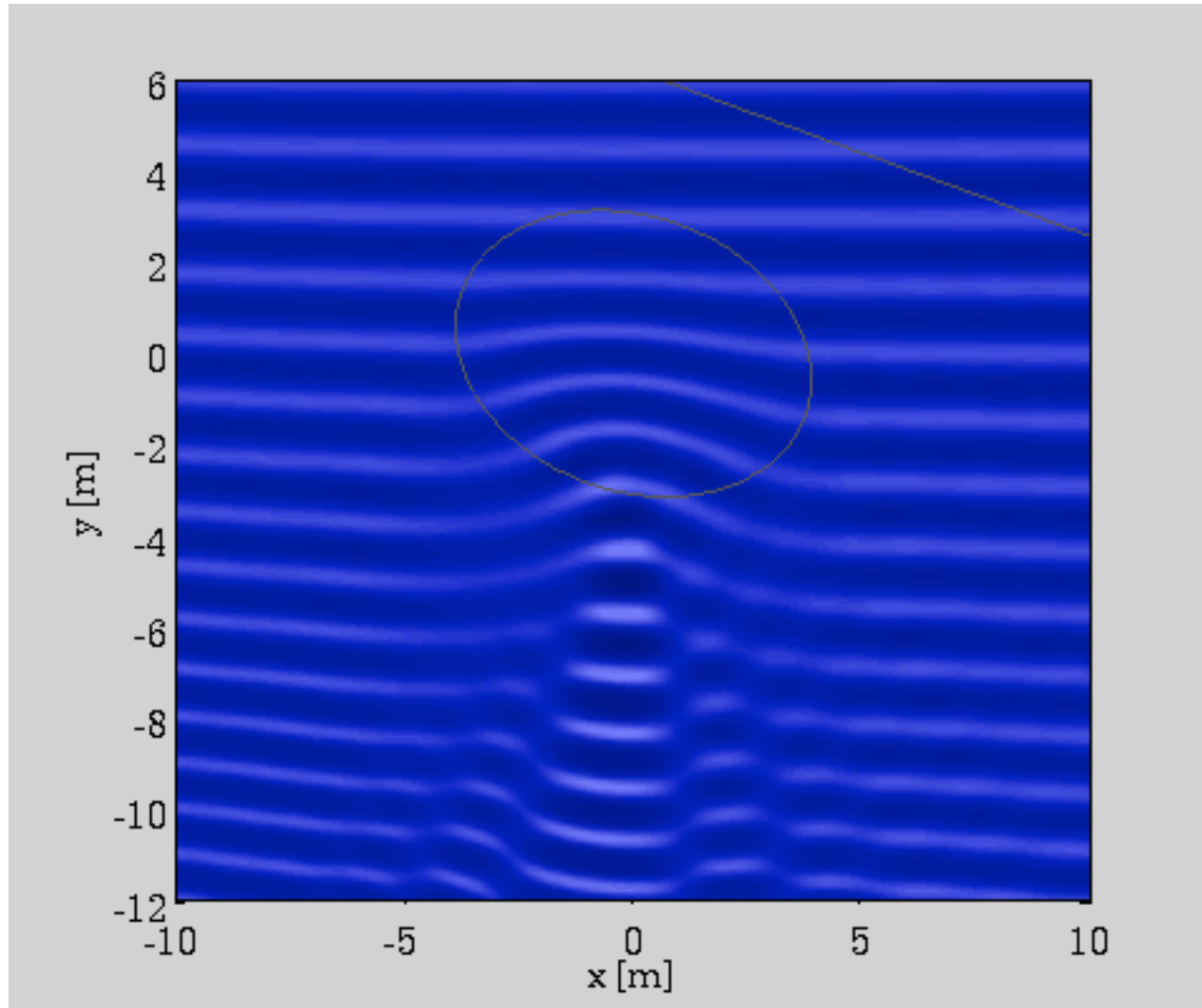
# KdV solitons: near-recurrence





## BOUSSINESQ EQUATION

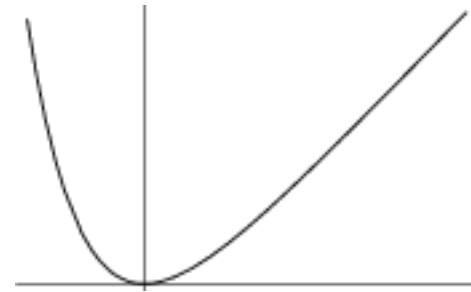
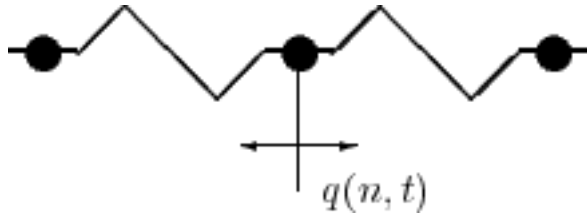
$$\phi_{ttt} - \phi_{xx} - \phi_{xxxx} + 3(\phi^2)_{xx} = 0$$



# DISCRETE SOLITON EQUATIONS

- Discrete sine-Gordon (Frenkel-Kontorova)
- Discrete nonlinear Schrodinger (DNLS)
- Discrete  $\phi^4, \phi^6$  models.
- Peierls-Nabarro barrier
- Exceptional discretization
- Conserved quantities; ILMs.

# The Toda Lattice: Discrete Solitons



$$p_t(n, t) = \exp -[q(n, t) - q(n - 1, t)] - \exp -[q(n + 1, t) - q(n, t)]$$

$$q_t(n, t) = p(n, t)$$

**SOLITON:**

$$q_1(n, t) = q_+ + \log \left( \frac{1 + \frac{\gamma}{1-e^{-2\kappa}} \exp(-2\kappa n + 2\sigma \sinh(\kappa)t)}{1 + \frac{\gamma}{1-e^{-2\kappa}} \exp(-2\kappa(n+1) + 2\sigma \sinh(\kappa)t)} \right),$$

## II. NONLINEAR DIRAC EQUATION (NLD)

# NONLINEAR DIRAC EQUATION: SOLITONS:

## Introduction

Not much work on Soliton solutions in fermionic theories

Exceptions

Gross-Neuve and Massive Thirring models (1+1)

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{j=1}^n (\bar{\psi}_j \psi_j)^2$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{j=1}^n (\bar{\psi}_j \gamma_\mu \psi_j \bar{\psi}_j \gamma^\mu \psi_j)$$



# Our Work

- 1 Generalization of these two models to arbitrary nonlinearity

$$\mathcal{L} = (\bar{\psi}\psi)^{\kappa+1}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = (\bar{\psi}\gamma_{\mu}\psi\bar{\psi}\gamma^{\mu}\psi)^{(\kappa+1)/2}$$

Ref. Cooper, Mihaila, Saxena and AK: **PRE 82** (2010) 036604

- 2 Stability of SS Solitons

Ref. Shao, Quintero, Mertens, Cooper, Saxena and AK, **PRE 90** (2014) 032915

- 3 Behaviour of Solitons in the Presence of Forcing Term and Damping

Ref. Mertens, Quintero, Cooper, Saxena and AK, **PRE 86** (2012) 046602

- 4 Solitary Waves in PT-symmetric Nonlinear Dirac Equation

Ref. Cuevas-Maraver, Kevrekidis, Saxena, Cooper, Comech, Bender and AK, arXiv:1508.00852

## Nonlinear Dirac Equation:

### Plan of the Talk

1. Solitary Wave Solutions for arbitrary  $\kappa$ 
  - (a) SS case (b) VV case
2. Nonrelativistic Limit: Generalized NLSE  $+O(1/2m)$
3. Various Stability Criteria (SS)
  - a. Derrick's Theorem
  - b. Vakhitov-Kolokolov (VK) Criterion
  - c. Bogolubsky Criterion: Stability to Changes in frequency at Fixed Charge
4. Numerical Simulation Results
5. PT-Symmetric NLD with SS Interaction
6. Open Questions

# The Solitary Wave Solutions

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi + \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{I}}$$

SS case:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{I}} = \frac{g^2}{\kappa + 1} (\bar{\psi}\psi)^{\kappa+1}$$

VV case:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{I}} = \frac{g^2}{\kappa + 1} (\bar{\psi}\gamma_\mu\psi\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\psi)^{(\kappa+1)/2}$$

$$D(\psi) = 1/2$$

$g$  dimensionless if  $\kappa = 1$

nonrenormalizable if  $\kappa > 1$

super renormalizable if  $\kappa < 1$

# The Solitary Wave Solutions

We treat as effective field theory and ignore the question of renormalizability

We look for stationary solutions of the form

$$\psi(x, t) = e^{-i\omega t} \psi(x)$$

$$\psi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

choose  $\gamma^0 = \sigma_3$ ,  $\gamma^1 = i\sigma_2$

$$\frac{du}{dx} + (m + \omega)v - g^2(|u|^2 - |v|^2)^\kappa v = 0$$

$$\frac{dv}{dx} + (m - \omega)u - g^2(|u|^2 - |v|^2)^\kappa u = 0$$

# The Solitary Wave Solutions

Look for bound states, i.e.  $0 < \omega < m$

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow \pm\infty$$

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

uniquely leads (in both SS and VV cases)

$$\tan \theta(x) = \alpha \tanh(\kappa\beta x)$$

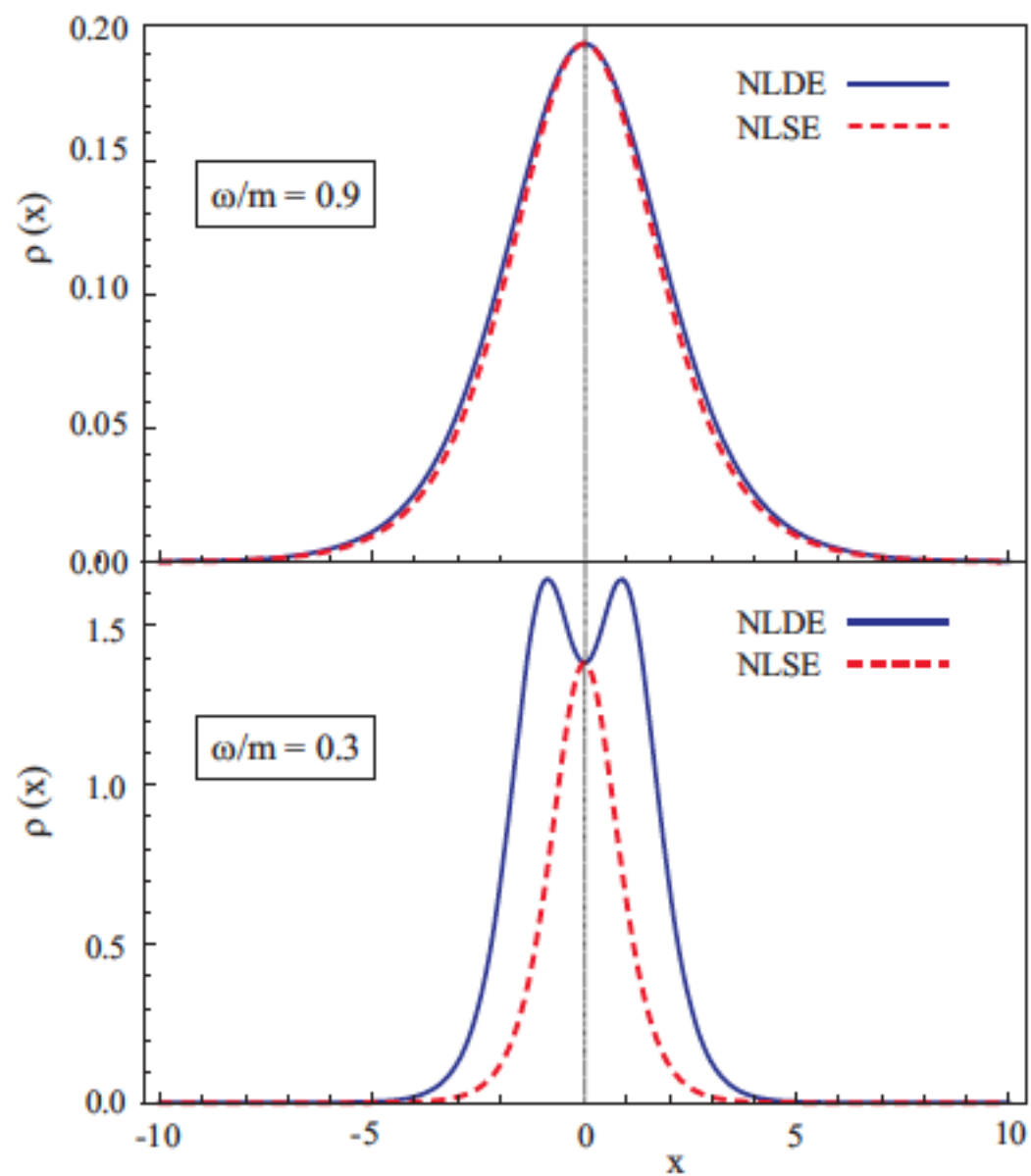
$$u = R \cos \theta, \quad v = R \sin \theta$$

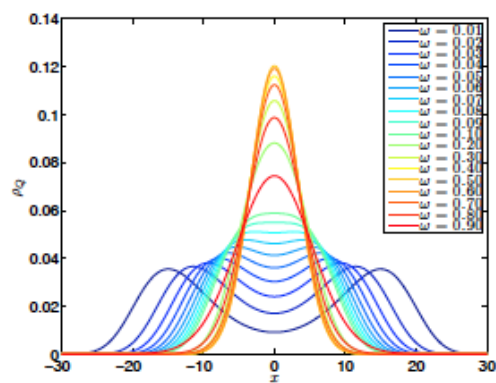
$$\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{m - \omega}{m + \omega}}, \quad \beta = \sqrt{m^2 - \omega^2}$$



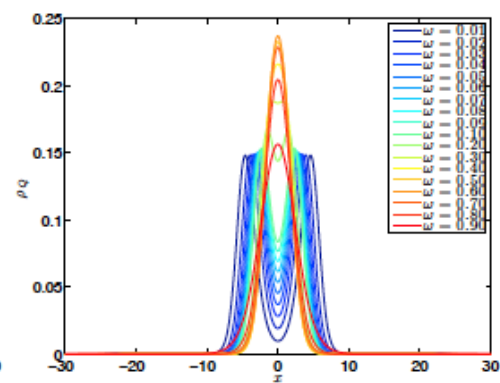
$$R_{SS}^2 = \left[ \frac{\omega + m \cosh(2\kappa\beta x)}{m + \omega \cosh(2\kappa\beta x)} \right] \left[ \frac{(1 + \kappa)\beta^2}{g^2(m + \omega \cosh(2\kappa\beta x))} \right]^{1/\kappa}$$

$$R_{VV}^2 = \left[ \frac{(1 + \kappa)\beta^2}{g^2(\omega + m \cosh(2\kappa\beta x))} \right]^{1/\kappa}$$

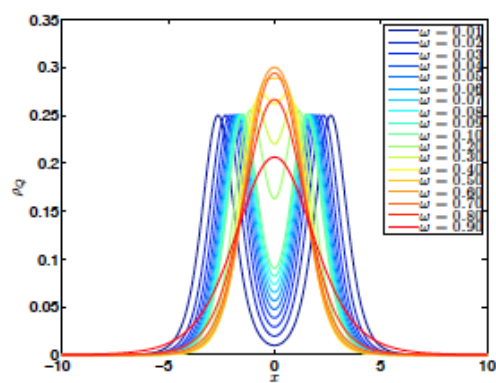




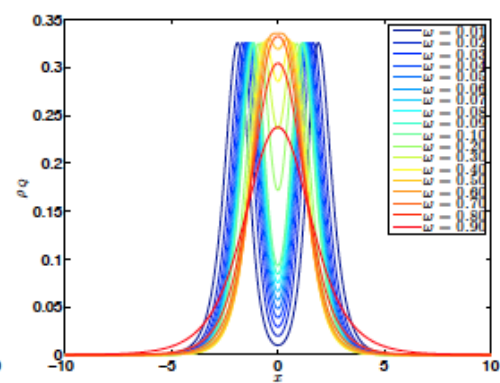
(a)  $\kappa = 0.1$



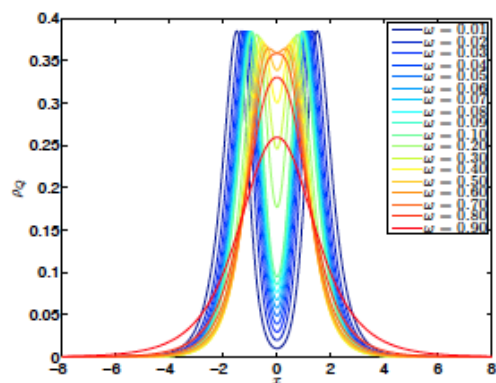
(b)  $\kappa = 0.5$



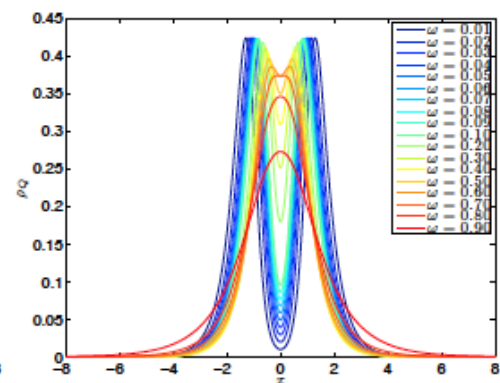
(c)  $\kappa = 1.0$



(d)  $\kappa = 1.5$



(e)  $\kappa = 2.0$



(f)  $\kappa = 2.4$

# Properties of Solutions

- ① In SS case, bound states exist for all values of  $\kappa$   
and  $g > g_{min}$
- ② IN VV case though bound states exist only if  $\kappa \leq 2.5$
- ③ Two conserved quantities  $Q, H$

$$Q = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dx \psi^+ \psi = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx R^2$$

$$H = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx h(x)$$

$$h = h_1 + h_2 + h_3$$

$$h_1 = -i\bar{\psi}\gamma^1\partial_1\psi$$

$$h_2 = m\bar{\psi}\psi$$

$$h_3 = -L_I$$

For the stationary solutions one can show that  $h_3 = \frac{h_1}{\kappa}$

# Nonrelativistic Reduction

gNLDE can be written as

$$i\sigma_3\partial_t\psi + i\sigma_2\partial_1\psi - m\psi - V_I\psi = 0$$

$$V_I = -\frac{\partial L_I}{\partial \bar{\psi}} = -g^2(\bar{\psi}\psi)^\kappa$$

## Moore's Decoupling Method

$$V_I(\lambda) = (1 + \sigma_3)/2 V_I + \lambda(1 - \sigma_3)/2 V_I$$

Perturbation theory in  $\lambda$

$$gNLDE \rightarrow gNLSE \mp O\left(\frac{m - \omega}{2m}\right)$$

# Stability of NLD Solitons

We apply same 3 criteria which work for gNLSE

$$i\psi_t + \psi_{xx} + g^2|\psi|^{2\kappa}\psi = 0$$

## Derrick's Theorem

$$x \rightarrow \lambda x$$

$$M = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi|^2 \psi \, dx \quad \text{Preserved}$$

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow (\lambda)^{1/2} \psi(\lambda x)$$

gNLSE soliton stable (unstable) if  $\kappa < (>) 2$

$\kappa = 2$  Marginal case

Blow up if  $M > M_c = 2.72$  ...Simulation Result

Our result using exact solution  $\text{sech}^{1/\kappa}(x)$  :  $M_c = 2.7207$

# Stability of NLD Solitons

## Vakhitov-Kolokolov Criterion

If  $\frac{dM}{d\omega} < 0$ ...Soliton is stable

For gNLSE we get the same result as above

## Bogolubsky (PLA 73 (1979) 87) Criterion

If energy increased (decreased) as  $\omega$  is varied for fixed  $M$  then soliton is stable (unstable)

Again *same* result as above for gNLSE

Thus for gNLSE all three criteria predict

gNLSE soliton stable (unstable) if  $\kappa < (>) 2$



# Stability of NLD Solitons

For NLD, 3 criteria give totally different answers

## 1 Derrick Theorem

$0 < \kappa < 1$  ( $\kappa > 1$ ) ...soliton stable (unstable) for any  $\omega$

## 2 Vakhitov-Kolokolov Criterion

$0 < \kappa < 2$  Soliton Stable for any  $\omega$

$\kappa > 2$  Soliton unstable except if  $\omega < \omega_c$

## 3 Bogolubsky Criterion

$0 < \kappa < 2$  soliton stable if  $\omega > \omega_b = 0.7$

$\kappa > 2$  soliton is unstable but for a tiny region of  $\omega$

# Stability of NLD Solitons

## Why 3 approaches give different results?

Perhaps because in NLD there is no lower bound on  $H$

Put another way, for NLD, one needs to prove that the stable solutions of Dirac eq. are not merely stationary sols. of variational principle but are actually minimum of  $H$

Results of Comech et al (Ann. Inst. Henri Poincare 31 (2014) 639)

For  $\omega$  close to  $m$ , NLD soliton stable for  $0 < \kappa < 2$

# Numerical Simulation Results

Using Fourth Order Operator splitting Integration method (Sihong Shao)

$0 < \kappa < 2$  soliton stable if  $\omega_c < \omega < m$

$\kappa = 0.1, \quad \omega_c = 0.35$

$\kappa = 0.75, \quad \omega_c = 0.53$

$\kappa = 1.75, \quad \omega_c = 0.89$

For  $\kappa > 2$  soliton unstable

# PT-symmetric NLD With SS Interaction

PT-symmetry playing Important role not only in QM but also in Optics

Eqs. for PT-invariant NLD with SS interaction are

$$\frac{du}{dx} + (m + \omega)v - g^2(|u|^2 - |v|^2)^\kappa v - i\gamma u = 0$$

$$\frac{dv}{dx} + (m - \omega)u - g^2(|u|^2 - |v|^2)^\kappa u + i\gamma v = 0$$

$$P: \quad x \rightarrow -x, \quad u \rightarrow u, \quad v \rightarrow -v$$

$$T: \quad t \rightarrow -t, \quad i \rightarrow -i$$

# PT-symmetric NLD With SS Interaction

Exact Solutions at  $m = 0$  and  $\kappa = 1$

1

$$u = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{g|\omega|}}[|\omega| + \beta \tanh \beta x - i\gamma]$$

$$v = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{g|\omega|}}[|\omega| - \beta \tanh \beta x - i\gamma]$$

2

$$u = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{g|\omega|}}[\beta - |\omega| \tanh \beta x + i\gamma \tanh \beta x]$$

$$v = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{g|\omega|}}[-\beta - |\omega| \tanh \beta x + i\gamma \tanh \beta x]$$

Not Localized Solitary Wave Solutions

Solutions Break  $PT$ -symmetry

# Open Problems

- 1 One criticism of our work is that perhaps the discretization is giving spurious instability for  $\kappa < 2$ ,  $\omega < \omega_c$  and may be VK criterion is correct, i.e. soliton is stable for  $0 < \kappa < 2$  for any  $\omega$
- 2 Stability of VV NLD solitons

# Conclusions

- Solitons: **balance** of dispersion with nonlinearity.
- **Breathers**: dynamical localization (ILMs).
- **Integrability**: inverse scattering and conserved quantities.
- NLD systems, solutions and **equations**.
- **Stability** of NLD solitons nontrivial.
- External **force driving** simulations.