

\mathcal{PT} -symmetry in nonlinear systems

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Lectures in Nonlinear Dynamics

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Outline

- (1) \mathcal{PT} -symmetric quantum mechanics
- (2) Nonlinear integrable systems

Why is Hermiticity a good property to have?

- Hermiticity ensures the reality of the energies

Schrödinger equation $H|\psi\rangle = E|\psi\rangle$, $\langle\psi|H^\dagger = E^*\langle\psi|$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \langle\psi|H|\psi\rangle &= E\langle\psi|\psi\rangle \\ \langle\psi|H^\dagger|\psi\rangle &= E^*\langle\psi|\psi\rangle \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow 0 = (E - E^*)\langle\psi|\psi\rangle$$

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- Hermiticity ensures conservation of probability densities

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-iHt} |\psi(0)\rangle$$

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- Thus when $H \neq H^\dagger$ one usually thinks of dissipation.
- However, these systems are in general open and do not possess a self-consistent description. (As much as QM is self-consistent.)

Both properties can be achieved in a non-Hermitian theory

- Wigner: Operators \mathcal{O} which are left invariant under an antilinear involution \mathcal{I} and whose eigenfunctions Φ also respect this symmetry,

$$[\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{I}] = 0 \quad \wedge \quad \mathcal{I}\Phi = \Phi$$

have a real eigenvalue spectrum.^a

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- By defining a new metric also a consistent quantum mechanical framework has been developed for theories involving such operators.^b

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In particular this also holds for \mathcal{O} being non-Hermitian.

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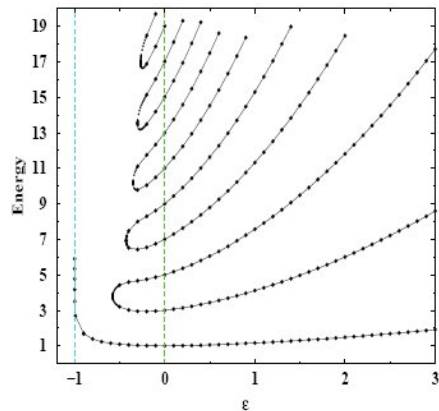
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The seminal classical example

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2}p^2 + x^2(ix)^\varepsilon \quad \text{for } \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}$$



- real eigenvalues for $\varepsilon \geq 0$
- exceptional points for $\varepsilon < 0$

Lattice Reggeon field theory

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\vec{i}} \left[\Delta a_{\vec{i}}^{\dagger} a_{\vec{i}} + i g a_{\vec{i}}^{\dagger} (a_{\vec{i}} + a_{\vec{i}}^{\dagger}) a_{\vec{i}} + \tilde{g} \sum_{\vec{j}} (a_{\vec{i}+\vec{j}}^{\dagger} - a_{\vec{i}}^{\dagger}) (a_{\vec{i}+\vec{j}} - a_{\vec{i}}) \right]$$

- $a_{\vec{i}}^{\dagger}, a_{\vec{i}}$ are creation and annihilation operators, $\Delta, g, \tilde{g} \in \mathbb{R}$ ^a

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- for one site this is almost $i\hat{x}^3$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} &= \Delta a^{\dagger} a + i g a^{\dagger} (a + a^{\dagger}) a \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\hat{p}^2 + \hat{x}^2 - 1) + i \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} (\hat{x}^3 + \hat{p}^2 \hat{x} - 2\hat{x} + i\hat{p}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{with } a = (\omega \hat{x} + i\hat{p}) / \sqrt{2\omega}, \quad a^{\dagger} = (\omega \hat{x} - i\hat{p}) / \sqrt{2\omega} \quad b$$

^a J.L. Cardy, R. Sugar, *Phys. Rev. D*12 (1975) 2514

^b P. Assis, A. Fring, *J. Phys.* A41 (2008) 244001

Quantum spin chains (c=-22/5 CFT)

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^x + \lambda \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z + ih \sigma_i^z \quad \lambda, h \in \mathbb{R}$$

G. von Gehlen, J. Phys. A24 (1991) 5371

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Field theories

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi + \frac{m^2}{\beta^2} \sum_{k=\mathbf{a}}^{\ell} n_k \exp(\beta \alpha_k \cdot \phi)$$

$a = 1 \equiv$ conformal Toda field theory (Lie algebras)

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Strings on $AdS_5 \times S^5$ -background

A. Das, A. Melikyan, V. Rivelles, JHEP 09 (2007) 104

Deformed space-time structures

- deformed Heisenberg canonical commutation relations

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$$\begin{aligned} [X, P] &= i\hbar q^{g(N)} (\alpha\delta + \beta\gamma) \\ &+ \frac{i\hbar(q^2 - 1)}{\alpha\delta + \beta\gamma} \left(\delta\gamma X^2 + \alpha\beta P^2 + i\alpha\delta XP - i\beta\gamma PX \right) \end{aligned}$$

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- limit: $\beta \rightarrow \alpha, \delta \rightarrow \gamma, g(N) \rightarrow 0, q \rightarrow e^{2\tau\gamma^2}, \gamma \rightarrow 0$

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$$[X, P] = i\hbar (1 + \tau P^2)$$

- representation: $X = (1 + \tau p_0^2)x_0, P = p_0, [x_0, p_0] = i\hbar$

- with the standard inner product X is not Hermitian

$$X^\dagger = X + 2\tau i\hbar P \quad \text{and} \quad P^\dagger = P$$

B. Bagchi and A. Fring, Phys. Lett. A373 (2009) 4307

D. Dey, A. Fring, B. Khantoul, J. Phys. A: Math. and Theor. 46 (2013) 335304



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- example harmonic oscillator:

$$\begin{aligned} H_{ho} &= \frac{P^2}{2m} + \frac{m\omega^2}{2} X^2, \\ &= \frac{p_0^2}{2m} + \frac{m\omega^2}{2} (1 + \tau p_0^2) x_0 (1 + \tau p_0^2) x_0 \\ &= \frac{p_0^2}{2m} + \frac{m\omega^2}{2} \left[(1 + \tau p_0^2)^2 x_0^2 + 2i\hbar\tau p_0 (1 + \tau p_0^2) x_0 \right] \end{aligned}$$

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- but also Hermitian representations exist:

$$X = x_0 \quad \text{and} \quad P = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\tau}} \tan(\sqrt{\tau} p_0)$$

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Dynamical noncommutative space-time

$$\begin{aligned}
 [x_0, y_0] &= i\theta, & [x_0, p_{x_0}] &= i\hbar, & [y_0, p_{y_0}] &= i\hbar, \\
 [p_{x_0}, p_{y_0}] &= 0, & [x_0, p_{y_0}] &= 0, & [y_0, p_{x_0}] &= 0,
 \end{aligned}$$

replaced by ($\theta \in \mathbb{R}$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 [X, Y] &= i\theta(1 + \tau Y^2) & [X, P_x] &= i\hbar(1 + \tau Y^2) \\
 [Y, P_y] &= i\hbar(1 + \tau Y^2) & [X, P_y] &= 2i\tau Y(\theta P_y + \hbar X) \\
 [P_x, P_y] &= 0 & [Y, P_x] &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

⇒ Non-Hermitian representation

$$X = (1 + \tau y_0^2)x_0 \quad Y = y_0 \quad P_x = p_{x_0} \quad P_y = (1 + \tau y_0^2)p_{y_0}$$

$$X^\dagger = X + 2i\tau\theta Y \quad Y^\dagger = Y \quad P_y^\dagger = P_y - 2i\tau\hbar Y \quad P_x^\dagger = P_x$$

A. Fring, L. Gouba, F. Scholtz, J. Phys. A: Math and Theor. 43 (2010) 345401

A. Fring, L. Gouba, B. Bagchi, J. Phys. A: Math and Theor. 43 (2010) 425202



How to explain the reality of the spectrum?

- 1 Pseudo/Quasi-Hermiticity
- 2 \mathcal{PT} -symmetry
- 3 Supersymmetry (Darboux transformations)

Pseudo/Quasi-Hermiticity

$$h = \eta H \eta^{-1} = h^\dagger = (\eta^{-1})^\dagger H^\dagger \eta^\dagger \Leftrightarrow H^\dagger \rho = \rho H \quad \rho = \eta^\dagger \eta \quad (*)$$

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$$h\phi = E\phi \Rightarrow \eta H \eta^{-1} \phi = E\phi \Rightarrow H \eta^{-1} \phi = E \eta^{-1} \phi \Rightarrow H\psi = E\psi \quad \psi := \eta^{-1} \phi$$

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| | $H^\dagger = \rho H \rho^{-1}$ | $H^\dagger \rho = \rho H$ | $H^\dagger = \rho H \rho^{-1}$ |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| positivity of ρ | ✓ | ✓ | × |
| ρ Hermitian | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| ρ invertible | ✓ | × | ✓ |
| terminology | (*) | quasi-Herm. ^a | pseudo-Herm. ^b |
| spectrum of H | real | could be real | real |
| definite metric | guaranteed | guaranteed | not conclusive |

^a J. Dieudonné, Proc. Int. Symp. (1961) 115

F. Scholtz, H. Geyer, F. Hahne, Ann. Phys. 213 (1992) 74

^b M. Froissart, Nuovo Cim. 14 (1959) 197

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Unbroken \mathcal{PT} -symmetry guarantees real eigenvalues

- \mathcal{PT} -symmetry: $\mathcal{PT} : x \rightarrow -x \quad p \rightarrow p \quad i \rightarrow -i$
($\mathcal{P} : x \rightarrow -x, p \rightarrow -p$; $\mathcal{T} : x \rightarrow x, p \rightarrow -p, i \rightarrow -i$)

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- \mathcal{PT} is an anti-linear operator:

$$\mathcal{PT}(\lambda\Phi + \mu\Psi) = \lambda^*\mathcal{PT}\Phi + \mu^*\mathcal{PT}\Psi \quad \lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{C}$$

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$$[\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{PT}] = 0 \quad \wedge \quad \mathcal{PT}\Phi = \Phi \quad \Rightarrow \quad \varepsilon = \varepsilon^* \quad \text{for } \mathcal{H}\Phi = \varepsilon\Phi$$

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The eigenvalues of Φ_1 and Φ_2 form a complex conjugate pair.

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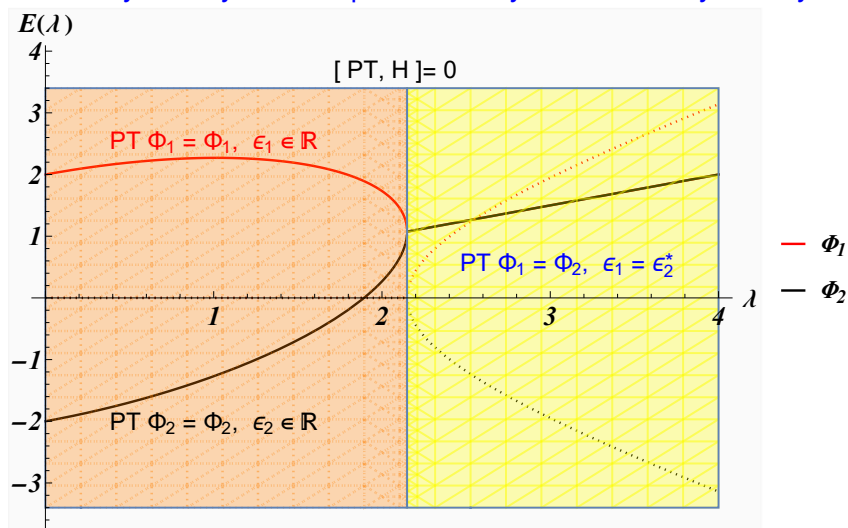
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\mathcal{PT} -symmetry is only an example of an antilinear operator.

\mathcal{PT} -symmetry versus spontaneously broken \mathcal{PT} -symmetry



real parts are solid lines, imaginary parts are dotted lines

Supersymmetry (Darboux transformation)

Decompose Hamiltonian \mathcal{H} as:

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 \Rightarrow isospectral Hamiltonians

$$H_{\pm}^m = -\Delta + V_{\pm}^m + E_m \quad H_{\pm}^m \Phi_n^{\pm} = E_n \Phi_n^{\pm} \quad \text{for } n > m$$

H_-^m non-Hermitian and H_+^m Hermitian when $\text{Re}W = \frac{1}{2} \partial_x \ln(\text{Im}W)$.

How to formulate a quantum mechanical framework?

- 1 orthogonality
- 2 observables
- 3 uniqueness
- 4 technicalities (new metric etc)

Orthogonality

- Take h to be a Hermitian and diagonalisable Hamiltonian:

$$\langle \phi_n | h \phi_m \rangle = \langle h \phi_n | \phi_m \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} |h\phi_m\rangle &= \varepsilon_m |\phi_m\rangle \\ \langle h\phi_n| &= \varepsilon_n^* \langle \phi_n| \end{aligned}$$

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$$\Rightarrow \quad n = m : \varepsilon_n = \varepsilon_n^* \quad n \neq m : \langle \phi_n | \phi_m \rangle = \mathbf{0}$$

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- Take H to be a non-Hermitian Hamiltonian:

$$H |\Phi_n\rangle = \varepsilon_n |\Phi_n\rangle$$

- reality and orthogonality no longer guaranteed. Define

$$\langle \Phi_n | \Phi_m \rangle_\eta := \langle \Phi_n | \eta^2 \Phi_m \rangle$$

- where $\langle \Phi_n | H \Phi_m \rangle_\eta = \langle H \Phi_n | \Phi_m \rangle_\eta \Rightarrow \langle \Phi_n | \Phi_m \rangle_\eta = \delta_{n,m}$

H is Hermitian with respect to new metric

- Assume pseudo-Hermiticity:

$$h = \eta H \eta^{-1} = h^\dagger = (\eta^{-1})^\dagger H^\dagger \eta^\dagger \Leftrightarrow H^\dagger \eta^\dagger \eta = \eta^\dagger \eta H$$

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Using the same reasoning as in the Hermitian case:

\Rightarrow **Eigenvalues of H are real, eigenstates are orthogonal**

Observables

- Observables are associated to self-adjoint (Hermitian) operators

$$\langle \psi | o \phi \rangle = \langle o \psi | \phi \rangle$$

- Observables in the non-Hermitian system are associated to self-adjoint (Hermitian) operators \mathcal{O} with a re-defined metric

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Examples: In $\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{2}p^2 + ix^3$ x, p are not observables,
but $X = \eta^{-1} x \eta, P = \eta^{-1} p \eta$ are.

General technique, construction of metric and Dyson maps

- Given H $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{either solve } \eta H \eta^{-1} = h \text{ for } \eta \Rightarrow \rho = \eta^\dagger \eta \\ \text{or solve } H^\dagger = \rho H \rho^{-1} \text{ for } \rho \Rightarrow \eta = \sqrt{\rho} \end{array} \right.$

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Given H the metric is not uniquely defined for unknown h .
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- Fixing one more observable achieves uniqueness. ^a

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Note:

- Thus, this is not re-inventing or disputing the validity of quantum mechanics. We only give up the restrictive requirement that Hamiltonians have to be Hermitian.

An example with a finite dimensional Hilbert space:

Two-level system

$$H = -\frac{1}{2} [\omega \mathbb{I} + \lambda \sigma_z + i \kappa \sigma_x]$$

with eigensystem

$$E_{\pm} = -\frac{1}{2}\omega \pm \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\lambda^2 - \kappa^2}, \quad \varphi_{\pm} = \begin{pmatrix} i(-\lambda \pm \sqrt{\lambda^2 - \kappa^2}) \\ \kappa \end{pmatrix}$$

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with \mathcal{PT} -symmetry $\mathcal{PT} = \tau \sigma_z$; $\tau : i \rightarrow -i$

$$[\mathcal{PT}, H] = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{PT}\varphi_{\pm} = -\varphi_{\pm} \quad \text{for} \quad |\lambda| > |\kappa|$$

An example with a finite dimensional Hilbert space:

Two-level system

$$H = -\frac{1}{2} [\omega \mathbb{I} + \lambda \sigma_z + i\kappa \sigma_x]$$

with eigensystem

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Claim: This system has real energies for $|\lambda(t)| < |\kappa(t)|$!

\mathcal{PT} symmetrically coupled harmonic oscillator (∞ - dim Hilbert space)

$$H_K = aK_1 + bK_2 + i\lambda K_3, \quad a, b, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

with Lie algebraic generators

$$K_1 = (p_x^2 + x^2)/2, \quad K_2 = (p_y^2 + y^2)/2, \quad K_3 = (xy + p_x p_y)/2$$

$$K_4 = (xp_y - yp_x)/2$$

$$\begin{aligned} [K_1, K_2] &= 0, & [K_1, K_3] &= iK_4, & [K_1, K_4] &= -iK_3, \\ [K_2, K_3] &= -iK_4, & [K_2, K_4] &= iK_3, & [K_3, K_4] &= i(K_1 - K_2)/2 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\mathcal{PT}_\pm : x \rightarrow \pm x, y \rightarrow \mp y, p_x \rightarrow \mp p_x, p_y \rightarrow \pm p_y, i \rightarrow -i$$

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- H_K is quasi-Hermitian: $h_K = \eta H_K \eta^{-1}$

$$h_K = (a + b)(K_1 + K_2)/2 + \sqrt{(a - b)^2 - \lambda^2}(K_1 - K_2)/2$$

Dyson map: $\eta = e^{2\theta K_4}$, $\theta = \operatorname{arctanh}[\lambda/(b - a)]$, \mathcal{PT} -symm. $|\lambda| < |a - b|$

Theoretical framework (key equations)

Time-dependent Schrödinger eqn for $h(t) = h^\dagger(t)$, $H(t) \neq H^\dagger(t)$

$$h(t)\phi(t) = i\hbar\partial_t\phi(t), \quad \text{and} \quad H(t)\Psi(t) = i\hbar\partial_t\Psi(t)$$

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$$\phi(t) = \eta(t)\Psi(t)$$

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$$h(t) = \eta(t)H(t)\eta^{-1}(t) + i\hbar\partial_t\eta(t)\eta^{-1}(t)$$

\Rightarrow Time-dependent quasi-Hermiticity relation

$$H^\dagger\rho(t) - \rho(t)H = i\hbar\partial_t\rho(t)$$

[from conjugating Dyson relation and $\rho(t) := \eta^\dagger(t)\eta(t)$]

The Hamiltonian $H(t)$ is nonobservable and not the energy operator

Recall: Observables $o(t)$ in the Hermitian system are self-adjoint.

Observables $\mathcal{O}(t)$ in the non-Hermitian system are quasi Hermitian

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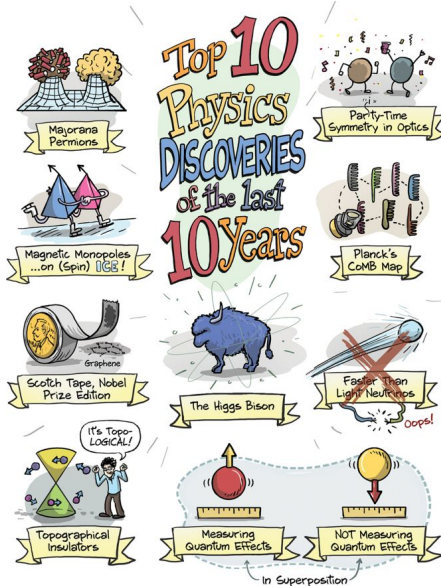
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$$\langle \phi(t) | o(t) \phi(t) \rangle = \langle \Psi(t) | \rho(t) \mathcal{O}(t) \Psi(t) \rangle .$$

Since $H(t)$ is not quasi/pseudo Hermitian it is not an observable.
The observable energy operator is

$$\tilde{H}(t) = \eta^{-1}(t)h(t)\eta(t) = H(t) + i\hbar\eta^{-1}(t)\partial_t\eta(t).$$

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Helmholtz equation
in paraxial approximation:

$$i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{2k} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + kv(x)\psi = 0$$

$\psi \equiv$ envelope function of E

$v(x) = n/n_0 - 1$

$n \equiv$ reflection index

$n_0 \equiv$ reflection index

$k = n\omega/c$

$\omega \equiv$ frequency

with $z \rightarrow t$

this becomes formally
the Schrödinger equation

Time-dependent coupled oscillators

$$H(t) = \frac{a(t)}{2} (p_x^2 + p_y^2 + x^2 + y^2) + i \frac{\lambda(t)}{2} (xy + p_x p_y), \quad a(t), \lambda(t) \in \mathbb{R}$$

Ansatz:

$$\eta(t) = \prod_{i=1}^4 e^{\gamma_i(t) K_i}, \quad \gamma_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

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Constraint:

$$\dot{\gamma}_1 = \dot{\gamma}_2 = \mathbf{q}_1, \quad \dot{\gamma}_3 = -\lambda \cosh \gamma_4, \quad \dot{\gamma}_4 = \lambda \tanh \gamma_3 \sinh \gamma_4,$$

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Solution: $\gamma_4 = \operatorname{arcsinh}(\kappa \operatorname{sech} \gamma_3)$, $\chi(t) := \cosh \gamma_3$, $\kappa = \text{const}$
with dissipative Ermakov-Pinney equation

$$\ddot{\chi} - \frac{\dot{\lambda}}{\lambda} \dot{\chi} - \lambda^2 \chi = \frac{\kappa^2 \lambda^2}{\chi^3}$$

Instantaneous energies are real even in the broken \mathcal{PT} regime !

Von Neumann entropy in \mathcal{PT} -symmetric systems

statistical ensemble of states (density matrix):

$$\varrho_h = \sum_j p_j |\phi_j\rangle \langle \phi_j|$$

partial traces (for subsystems)

$$\varrho_{h,A} = \text{Tr}_B(\varrho_h) = \sum_j \langle n_{i,B} | \varrho_h | n_{i,B} \rangle$$

$$\varrho_{h,B} = \text{Tr}_A(\varrho_h) = \sum_j \langle n_{i,A} | \varrho_h | n_{i,A} \rangle$$

$|n_{i,A}\rangle, |n_{i,B}\rangle \equiv$ eigenstates of the subsystems A, B

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Time evolution:

$$i\partial_t \varrho_h = [h, \varrho_h]$$

It follows

$$i\partial_t \varrho_H = [h, \varrho_H]$$

with

$$\varrho_h = \eta \varrho_H \eta^{-1}, \quad h = \eta H \eta^{-1} + i\partial_t \eta \eta^{-1}$$

Therefore

$$\varrho_H = \sum_i p_i |\psi_i\rangle \langle \psi_i| \rho$$

recalling that $\rho = \eta^\dagger \eta$, $|\phi_i\rangle = \eta |\psi_i\rangle$

Von Neumann entropy

$$S_h = -\text{tr}[\rho_h \ln \rho_h] = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \lambda_i = S_H$$

Entropy of a subsystem

$$S_{h,A} = -\text{tr}[\varrho_{h,A} \ln \varrho_{h,A}] = -\sum_i \lambda_{i,A} \ln \lambda_{i,A} = S_{H,A}$$

An example: bosonic system coupled to a bath

$$H = \nu a^\dagger a + \nu \sum_{n=1}^N q_n^\dagger q_n + (g + \kappa) a^\dagger \sum_{n=1}^N q_n + (g - \kappa) a \sum_{n=1}^N q_n^\dagger$$

energy eigenvalues

$$E_{m,N}^\pm = m \left(\nu \pm \sqrt{N} \sqrt{g^2 - \kappa^2} \right)$$

Standard behaviour:

Sudden Death of Entanglement

Ting Yu^{1*} and J. H. Eberly^{2,3*}

A new development in the dynamical behavior of elementary quantum systems is the surprising discovery that correlation between two quantum units of information called qubits can be degraded by environmental noise in a way not seen previously in studies of decoherence. This new route for disintegration attacks quantum entanglement, the essential resource for quantum information as well as the central feature in the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen so-called paradox, and in discussions of the fate of Schrödinger's cat. The effect has been labeled ESD, which stands for early-stage disentanglement or, more frequently, entanglement sudden death. We review recent progress in studies focused on this phenomenon.

Quantum entanglement is a special type of correlation that can be shared only among quantum systems. It has been the focus of foundational discussions of quantum mechanics since the time of Schrödinger (who gave it its name) and the famous EPR paper of Einstein, Podolsky, and Rosen (1, 2). The degree of correlation available with entanglement is predicted to be stronger as well as qualitatively different compared with that of any other known type of correlation. Entanglement may also be highly nonlocal—e.g., shared among pairs of atoms, photons, electrons, etc., even though they may be remotely located and not interacting with each other. These features have recently promoted the study of entanglement as a resource that we believe will eventually find use in new approaches to both computation and communication, for example by improving previous limits on speed and security, in some cases dramatically (3, 4).

Quantum and classical correlations alike always decay as a result of either holographic and decohering agents that reside in ambient environments (5), so the degradation of entanglement shared by two or more parties is unavoidable (6, 9). The background against which we are concerned here extends only slightly (effectively zero) internal correlation times themselves, and their action leads to the familiar law mandating that after each successive half-life of decay, there is still half of the prior quantity remaining, so that a diminishing factor always remains.

However, a theoretical treatment of two-qubit spontaneous emission (10) shows that quantum entanglement does not always obey the half-life law. Earlier studies of two-particle entanglement in different media forms also pointed to this fact (11–15). The term now used, entanglement sudden death (ESD), also called early-stage disentanglement, refers to the fact that in a very weakly dissipative environment one can degrade the specifically quantum portion of the correlation to zero

in a finite time (Fig. 1), rather than by successive halves. We will use the term “decoherence” to refer to the loss of quantum correlation, i.e., loss of entanglement.

This finite-time disintegration is a new form of decay (16), predicted to attack only quantum entanglement, and not previously encountered in the disintegration of other physical constituents. It has been found in numerous theoretical examinations to occur in a wide variety of entanglements involving pairs of atoms, photons, and spin qubits, continuous Gaussian states, and subsets of multiple qubits and spin chains (17). ESD has already been detected in the laboratory in two different contexts (18, 19), confirming its experimental reality and supporting its universal relevance (20). However, there is still no deep understanding of sudden death dynamics, and so far there is no generic preventive measure.

How Does Entanglement Decay?

An example of an ESD event is provided by the weakly dissipative process of spontaneous emission, if the dissipation is “shared” by two atoms (Fig. 1). To describe this we need a suitable notation.

The pair of states for each atom, sometimes labeled (+) and (−) or (1) and (0), are quantum analogs of “bits” of classical information, and hence such atoms (or any quantum systems with just two states) are called quantum two “qubits.” Unlike classical bits, the states of the atoms have the quantum ability to exist in both states at the same time. This is the kind of superposition used by Schrödinger when he introduced his famous cat, neither dead nor alive but both, in which case the state of his cat is cohesively coded by the bracket (+ −), to indicate equal simultaneous presence of the opposite + and − conditions.

The bracket notation can be extended to show entanglement. Suppose we have two qubits (conditioned for two cats, one large and one small,

and either waking (W) or sleeping (S). Entanglement of identical cats could be denoted with a bracket such as [(W) ⊗ (S)w], where we have chosen large and small letters to distinguish a big cat from a little cat. The bracket would signal via the term (W) that the big cat is awake and the little cat is sleeping, but the other term (S)w signals that the opposite is also true, that the big cat is sleeping and the little cat is awake.

One can see the essence of entanglement here: If we learn that the big cat is awake, the (S)w term must be discarded as incompatible with what we learned previously, and so the two-cat state reduces to (W). We immediately conclude that the little cat is sleeping. Thus, knowledge of the state of one of the cats conveys information about the other (21). The brackets are symbols of information about the cats' states, and do not belong to one cat or the other. The brackets belong to the reader, who can make predictions based on the information the brackets convey. The same is true of all quantum mechanical wave functions.

Entanglement can be more complicated, even for identical cats. In such cases, a two-particle joint state must be represented not by a bracket as above, but by a matrix, called a density matrix and denoted ρ in quantum mechanics [see (22) and Fig. S3]. When exposed to environmental noise, the density matrix ρ will change in time, becoming degraded, and the accompanying change in entanglement can be tracked with a quantum mechanical variable called concurrence (23), which is written for qubits such as the atoms A and B in Fig. 1 as

$$C(\rho) = \max\{0, Q(\rho)\} \quad (1)$$

where $Q(\rho)$ is an auxiliary variable defined in terms of entanglement formation, as given explicitly in Eq. S4. $C = 0$ means no entanglement and is achieved whenever $Q(\rho) \leq 0$, while for

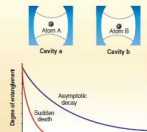
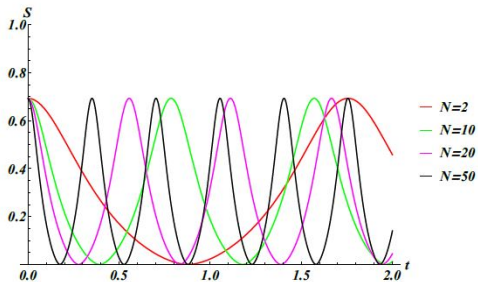


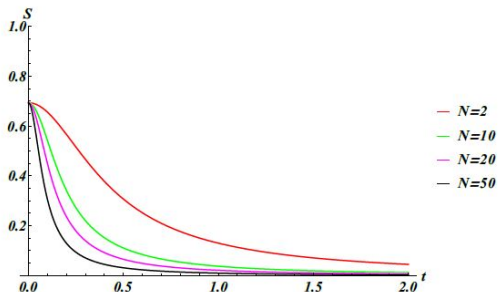
Fig. 1. Curves show ESD as one of two routes for relaxation of the entanglement, via concurrence $C(\rho)$, of qubits A and B that are located in separate overlapped cavities.

¹Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ 07030-2081, USA. ²Research Theory Center and Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627-0171, USA. ³E-mail: ting.yu@stevens.edu (T.Y.); eberly@physics.rochester.edu (J.H.E.)

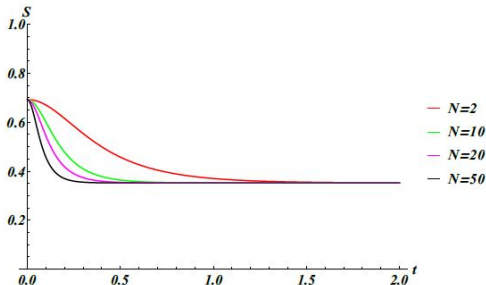
Von-Neumann entropy in the \mathcal{PT} symmetric regime



Von-Neumann entropy at the exceptional point



Von-Neumann entropy in the broken \mathcal{PT} regime



For more detail on this part of the talk see

A.Fring, "An introduction to \mathcal{PT} -symmetric quantum mechanics – time-dependent systems." arXiv:2201.05140 (2022).

Reality of N-Soliton charges

The **complex KdV equation** equals two coupled real equations

$$u_t + 6uu_x + u_{xxx} = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} p_t + 6pp_x + p_{xxx} - 6qq_x = 0 \\ q_t + 6(pq)_x + q_{xxx} = 0 \end{cases}$$

with $u(x, t) = p(x, t) + iq(x, t)$, $p(x, t), q(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}$

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- for $(pq)_x \rightarrow pq_x$: complex KdV \Rightarrow Hirota-Satsuma equations
- for $q_{xxx} \rightarrow 0$ complex KdV \Rightarrow Ito equations

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- **Integrability:**

Lax pair:

$$L_t = [M, L] \quad L = \partial_x^2 + \frac{1}{6}u, \quad M = 4\partial_x^3 + u\partial_x + \frac{1}{2}u_x$$

Solutions from Hirota's direct method

Convert KdV equation into Hirota's bilinear form

$$\left(D_x^4 + D_x D_t\right) \tau \cdot \tau = 0$$

with $u = 2(\ln \tau)_{xx}$. (D_x, D_t are Hirota derivatives)

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Expanding $\tau = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \lambda^k \tau^k$ gives multi-soliton solutions

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{\mu;\alpha}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= 1 + e^{\eta_{\mu;\alpha}} \\ \tau_{\mu,\nu;\alpha,\beta}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= 1 + e^{\eta_{\mu;\alpha}} + e^{\eta_{\nu;\beta}} + \varkappa(\alpha, \beta) e^{\eta_{\mu;\alpha} + \eta_{\nu;\beta}} \\ \tau_{\mu,\nu,\rho;\alpha,\beta,\gamma}(\mathbf{x}, t) &= 1 + e^{\eta_{\mu;\alpha}} + e^{\eta_{\nu;\beta}} + e^{\eta_{\rho;\gamma}} + \varkappa(\alpha, \beta) e^{\eta_{\mu;\alpha} + \eta_{\nu;\beta}} \\ &\quad + \varkappa(\alpha, \gamma) e^{\eta_{\mu;\alpha} + \eta_{\rho;\gamma}} + \varkappa(\beta, \gamma) e^{\eta_{\nu;\beta} + \eta_{\rho;\gamma}} \\ &\quad + \varkappa(\alpha, \beta) \varkappa(\alpha, \gamma) \varkappa(\beta, \gamma) e^{\eta_{\mu;\alpha} + \eta_{\nu;\beta} + \eta_{\rho;\gamma}} \end{aligned}$$

with $\eta_{\mu;\alpha} := \alpha x - \alpha^3 t + \mu$, $\varkappa(\alpha, \beta) := (\alpha - \beta)^2 / (\alpha + \beta)^2$

$$\mu, \nu, \rho \in \mathbb{C}, \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$$

One-soliton solution

We find

$$u_{i\theta;\alpha}(x, t) = \frac{\alpha^2 + \alpha^2 \cos \theta \cosh(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t)}{[\cos \theta + \cosh(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t)]^2} - i \frac{\alpha^2 \sin \theta \sinh(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t)}{[\cos \theta + \cosh(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t)]^2}$$

One-soliton solution

We find

$$u_{i\theta;\alpha}(x, t) = \frac{\alpha^2 + \alpha^2 \cos \theta \cosh(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t)}{[\cos \theta + \cosh(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t)]^2} - i \frac{\alpha^2 \sin \theta \sinh(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t)}{[\cos \theta + \cosh(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t)]^2}$$

The solution found by Khare and Saxena is the special case

$$u_{\pm i\frac{\pi}{2};\alpha}(x, t) = \alpha^2 \operatorname{sech}^2(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t) \mp i \alpha^2 \tanh(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t) \operatorname{sech}(\alpha x - \alpha^3 t)$$

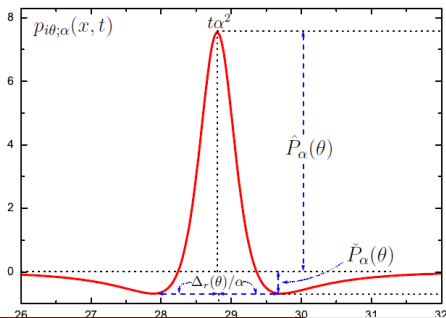
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$$\hat{P}_\alpha(\theta) = \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \sec^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\check{P}_\alpha(\theta) = \frac{\alpha^2}{4} \cot^2(\theta)$$

$$\Delta_r(\theta) = \operatorname{arccosh}(\cos \theta - 2 \sec \theta)$$

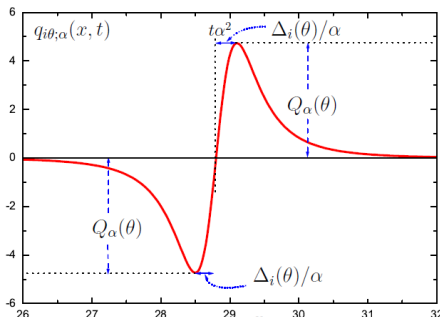
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$$Q_\alpha(\theta) = \frac{8\alpha^2 \sqrt{5 + \cos(2\theta) + \cos \theta} A}{[6 \cos \theta + A]^2 / \sin \theta}$$

$$\Delta_i(\theta) = \operatorname{arccosh} \left[\frac{1}{2} \cos \theta + \frac{1}{4} A \right]$$

$$A = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{17 + \cos(2\theta)}$$

Real charges from one-soliton solution

$$\text{Mass : } m_{\alpha} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u_{i\theta;\alpha}(x, t) dx = 2\alpha$$

$$\text{Momentum : } p_{\alpha} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u_{i\theta;\alpha}^2 dx = \frac{2}{3}\alpha^3$$

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Reality follows immediately from \mathcal{PT} -symmetry

$$E = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \mathcal{H}[\phi[x]] = - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \mathcal{H}[\phi[-x]] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \mathcal{H}^\dagger[\phi[x]] = E^*$$

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This is not possible for N-soliton solutions with $N > 2$.

Reality of complex N-soliton charges

Asymptotically complex N-solitons factor into N one-solitons

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Therefore

Reality condition

\mathcal{PT} -symmetry and integrability ensure the reality of all charges.

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Consider higher order nonlinear Schrödinger equation

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Integrable cases:

$\varepsilon = 0 \equiv$ nonlinear Schrödinger equation (NLSE)

$\alpha : \beta : \gamma = 0 : 1 : 1 \equiv$ derivative NLSE of type I

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$\alpha : \beta : \gamma = 1 : 6 : 0 \equiv$ Hirota equation

$$iq_t + \frac{1}{2}q_{xx} + |q|^2 q + i\varepsilon \left[q_{xxx} + 6 |q|^2 q_x \right] = 0$$

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$$\partial_t U - \partial_x V + [U, V] = 0$$

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$$A_x(x, t) = q(x, t)C(x, t) - r(x, t)B(x, t)$$

$$B_x(x, t) = q_t(x, t) - 2q(x, t)A(x, t) - 2i\lambda B(x, t)$$

$$C_x(x, t) = r_t(x, t) + 2r(x, t)A(x, t) + 2i\lambda C(x, t)$$

$$A(x, t) = -i\alpha qr - 2i\alpha\lambda^2 + \beta \left(rq_x - qr_x - 4i\lambda^3 - 2i\lambda qr \right)$$

$$B(x, t) = i\alpha q_x + 2\alpha\lambda q + \beta \left(2q^2 r - q_{xx} + 2i\lambda q_x + 4\lambda^2 q \right)$$

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$$q_t - i\alpha q_{xx} + 2i\alpha q^2 r + \beta [q_{xxx} - 6qrq_x] = 0$$

$$r_t + i\alpha r_{xx} - 2i\alpha qr^2 + \beta (r_{xxx} - 6qrr_x) = 0$$

Nonlocality from zero curvature condition

Complex conjugate pair: $r(x, t) = \kappa q^*(x, t)$ (Hirota equation)

$$iq_t = -\alpha \left(q_{xx} - 2\kappa |q|^2 q \right) - i\beta \left(q_{xxx} - 6\kappa |q|^2 q_x \right)$$

$$-iq_t^* = -\alpha \left(q_{xx}^* - 2\kappa |q|^2 q^* \right) + i\beta \left(q_{xxx}^* - 6\kappa |q|^2 q_x^* \right)$$

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\mathcal{P} conjugate pair: $r(x, t) = \kappa q^*(-x, t)$ (Nonlocal Hirota equationⁿ)

$$iq_t = -\alpha \left[q_{xx} - 2\kappa \tilde{q}^* q^2 \right] + \delta \left[q_{xxx} - 6\kappa q \tilde{q}^* q_x \right]$$

$$-i\tilde{q}_t^* = -\alpha \left[\tilde{q}_{xx}^* - 2\kappa q (\tilde{q}^*)^2 \right] - \delta \left(\tilde{q}_{xxx}^* - 6\kappa \tilde{q}^* q \tilde{q}_x^* \right)$$

$$\beta = i\delta, \alpha, \delta \in \mathbb{R}, q := q(x, t); \tilde{q} := q(-x, t)$$

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\mathcal{T} conjugate pair: $r(x, t) = \kappa q^*(x, -t)$

$$\begin{aligned} i q_t &= -i\hat{\delta} \left[q_{xx} - 2\kappa \hat{q}^* q^2 \right] + \delta \left[q_{xxx} - 6\kappa q \hat{q}^* q_x \right] \\ i \hat{q}_t^* &= i\hat{\delta} \left[\hat{q}_{xx}^* - 2\kappa q (\hat{q}^*)^2 \right] + \delta \left(\hat{q}_{xxx}^* - 6\kappa \hat{q}^* q \hat{q}_x^* \right) \end{aligned}$$

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Nonlocality in Hirota's direct method

Bilinearisation of the local Hirota equation ($q = g/f$)

$$f^3 \left[iq_t + \alpha q_{xx} - 2\kappa\alpha |q|^2 q + i\beta \left(q_{xxx} - 6\kappa |q|^2 q_x \right) \right] =$$

$$f \left[iD_t g \cdot f + \alpha D_x^2 g \cdot f + i\beta D_x^3 g \cdot f \right] + \left[3i\beta \left(\frac{g}{f} f_x - g_x \right) - \alpha g \right]$$

$$\times \left[D_x^2 f \cdot f + 2\kappa |g|^2 \right]$$

$$D_x^n f \cdot g = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} (-1)^k \frac{\partial^{n-k}}{\partial x^{n-k}} f(x) \frac{\partial^k}{\partial x^k} g(x)$$

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Solve by formal power series that becomes **exact**

$$f(x, t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \varepsilon^{2k} f_{2k}(x, t), \quad \text{and} \quad g(x, t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \varepsilon^{2k-1} g_{2k-1}(x, t)$$

Bilinearisation of the nonlocal Hirota equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 & f^3 \tilde{f}^* \left[iq_t + \alpha q_{xx} + 2\alpha \tilde{q}^* q^2 - \delta(q_{xxx} + 6q\tilde{q}^* q_x) \right] = \\
 & f \tilde{f}^* \left[iD_t g \cdot f + \alpha D_x^2 g \cdot f - \delta D_x^3 g \cdot f \right] + \left(\frac{3\delta}{f} D_x g \cdot f - \alpha g \right) \\
 & \times \left(\tilde{f}^* D_x^2 f \cdot f - 2fg\tilde{g}^* \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

not bilinear yet

$$iD_t g \cdot f + \alpha D_x^2 g \cdot f - \delta D_x^3 g \cdot f = 0, \quad \tilde{f}^* D_x^2 f \cdot f = 2fg\tilde{g}^*$$

Bilinearisation of the nonlocal Hirota equation

$$f^3 \tilde{f}^* \left[iq_t + \alpha q_{xx} + 2\alpha \tilde{q}^* q^2 - \delta(q_{xxx} + 6q\tilde{q}^* q_x) \right] =$$

$$f \tilde{f}^* \left[iD_t g \cdot f + \alpha D_x^2 g \cdot f - \delta D_x^3 g \cdot f \right] + \left(\frac{3\delta}{f} D_x g \cdot f - \alpha g \right)$$

$$\times \left(\tilde{f}^* D_x^2 f \cdot f - 2fg\tilde{g}^* \right)$$

not bilinear yet

$$iD_t g \cdot f + \alpha D_x^2 g \cdot f - \delta D_x^3 g \cdot f = 0, \quad \tilde{f}^* D_x^2 f \cdot f = 2fg\tilde{g}^*$$

introduce additional auxiliary function

$$D_x^2 f \cdot f = hg, \quad \text{and} \quad 2f\tilde{g}^* = h\tilde{f}^*$$

Solve again formal power series that becomes **exact**

$$h(x, t) = \sum_k \varepsilon^k h_k(x, t).$$

Two-types of nonlocal solutions (one-soliton)

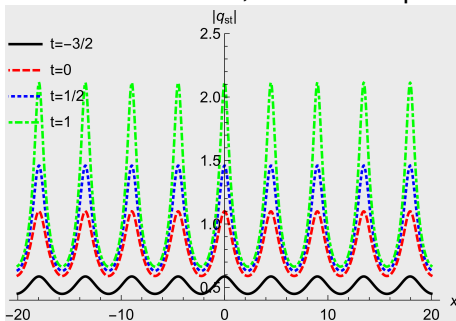
Truncated expansions: $f = 1 + \varepsilon^2 f_2$, $g = \varepsilon g_1$, $h = \varepsilon h_1$

$$0 = \varepsilon [i(g_1)_t + \alpha(g_1)_{xx} - \delta(g_1)_{xxx}] \\ + \varepsilon^3 [2(f_2)_x(g_1)_x - g_1[(f_2)_{xx} + i(f_2)_t] + if_2[(g_1)_t + i(g_1)_{xx}]]$$

$$0 = \varepsilon^2 [2(f_2)_{xx} - g_1 h_1] + \varepsilon^4 [2f_2(f_2)_{xx} - 2(f_2)_x^2]$$

$$0 = \varepsilon [2\tilde{g}_1^* - h_1] + \varepsilon^3 [2f_2\tilde{g}_1^* - \tilde{f}_2^* h_1]$$

Standard solution, solve six equations independently, then $\varepsilon \rightarrow 1$



$$q_{\text{st}}^{(1)} = \frac{\lambda(\mu - \mu^*)^2 \tau_{\mu, \gamma}}{(\mu - \mu^*)^2 + |\lambda|^2 \tau_{\mu, \gamma} \tilde{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma}^*}$$

$$\tau_{\mu, \gamma}(x, t) := e^{\mu x + \mu^2(i\alpha - \beta\mu)t + \gamma}$$

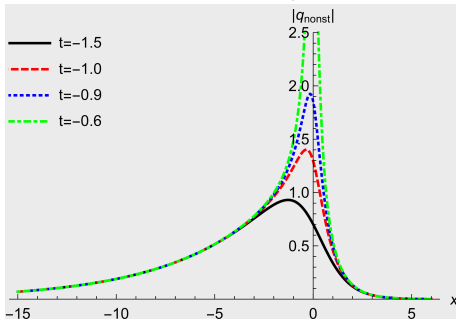
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Nonstandard solution, solve five equations, last one for $\varepsilon = 1$ 

$$q_{\text{nonst}}^{(1)} = \frac{(\mu + \nu)\tau_{\mu, i\gamma}}{1 + \tau_{\mu, i\gamma}\tilde{\tau}_{-\nu, -i\theta}^*}$$

$$\tau_{\mu, \gamma}(x, t) := e^{\mu x + \mu^2(i\alpha - \beta\mu)t + \gamma}$$

Two-soliton solution

Truncated expansions:

$$f = 1 + \varepsilon^2 f_2 + \varepsilon^4 f_4, \quad g = \varepsilon g_1 + \varepsilon^3 g_3, \quad h = \varepsilon h_1 + \varepsilon^3 h_3$$

$$q_{\text{nl}}^{(2)}(x, t) = \frac{g_1(x, t) + g_3(x, t)}{1 + f_2(x, t) + f_4(x, t)}$$

$$g_1 = \tau_{\mu, \gamma} + \tau_{\nu, \delta}$$

$$g_3 = \frac{(\mu - \nu)^2}{(\mu - \mu^*)^2 (\nu - \mu^*)^2} \tau_{\mu, \gamma} \tau_{\nu, \delta} \tilde{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma}^* + \frac{(\mu - \nu)^2}{(\mu - \nu^*)^2 (\nu - \nu^*)^2} \tau_{\mu, \gamma} \tau_{\nu, \delta} \tilde{\tau}_{\nu, \delta}^*$$

$$f_2 = \frac{\tau_{\mu, \gamma} \tilde{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma}^*}{(\mu - \mu^*)^2} + \frac{\tau_{\nu, \delta} \tilde{\tau}_{\nu, \delta}^*}{(\nu - \mu^*)^2} + \frac{\tau_{\mu, \gamma} \tilde{\tau}_{\nu, \delta}^*}{(\mu - \nu^*)^2} + \frac{\tau_{\nu, \delta} \tilde{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma}^*}{(\nu - \nu^*)^2}$$

$$f_4 = \frac{(\mu - \nu)^2 (\mu^* - \nu^*)^2}{(\mu - \mu^*)^2 (\nu - \mu^*)^2 (\mu - \nu^*)^2 (\nu - \nu^*)^2} \tau_{\mu, \gamma} \tilde{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma}^* \tau_{\nu, \delta} \tilde{\tau}_{\nu, \delta}^*$$

$$h_1 = 2\tilde{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma}^* + 2\tilde{\tau}_{\nu, \delta}^*$$

$$h_3 = \frac{2(\mu^* - \nu^*)^2}{(\mu - \mu^*)^2 (\nu^* - \mu)^2} \tilde{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma}^* \tilde{\tau}_{\nu, \delta}^* \tau_{\mu, \gamma} + \frac{2(\mu^* - \nu^*)^2}{(\mu^* - \nu)^2 (\nu - \nu^*)^2} \tilde{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma}^* \tilde{\tau}_{\nu, \delta}^* \tau_{\nu, \delta}$$

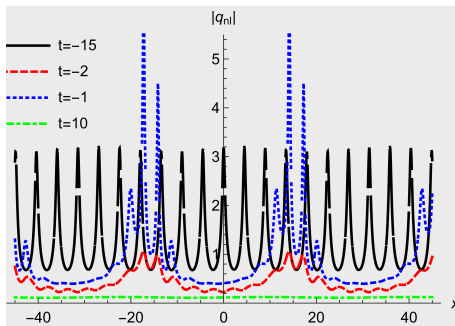
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Nonlocal regular two-soliton solution



Stability analysis – generalities

Consider systems of the general form

$$\mathcal{L} = \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi / 2 - V(\varphi)$$

Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\ddot{\varphi} - \varphi'' + \partial V(\varphi) / \partial \varphi = 0$$

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Linearise the Euler-Lagrange equation with $\varphi \rightarrow \varphi_s + \varepsilon \chi$, $\varepsilon \ll 1$

$$\ddot{\varphi}_s - \varphi_s'' + \left. \frac{\partial V(\varphi)}{\partial \varphi} \right|_{\varphi_s} + \varepsilon \left(\ddot{\chi} - \chi'' + \chi \left. \frac{\partial^2 V(\varphi)}{\partial \varphi^2} \right|_{\varphi_s} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^2) = 0$$

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With $\chi(x, t) = e^{i\lambda t} \Phi(x) \Rightarrow$ Sturm-Liouville eigenvalue problem

$$-\Phi_{xx} + \left. \frac{\partial^2 V(\varphi)}{\partial \varphi^2} \right|_{\varphi_s} \Phi = \lambda^2 \Phi,$$

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Energies

$$E[\varphi] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \varepsilon(\varphi), \quad \varepsilon(\varphi) = \left(\frac{1}{2} \dot{\varphi}^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\varphi')^2 + V(\varphi) \right),$$

Perturbed energy:

$$\begin{aligned} E[\varphi_s + \chi] &= E[\varphi_s] + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \left[\left(\frac{\partial V(\varphi)}{\partial \varphi} \Big|_{\varphi_s} - \varphi_s'' \right) \chi \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\chi}{2} \left(\frac{\dot{\chi}^2}{\chi} - \chi'' + \chi \frac{\partial^2 V(\varphi)}{\partial \varphi^2} \Big|_{\varphi_s} \right) \right] \\ &\quad + \chi (\chi' + \varphi_s') \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{BD}} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\mu} \varphi \partial^{\mu} \varphi - e^{\varphi} - \frac{1}{2} e^{-2\varphi} + \frac{3}{2} \quad \text{with } \varphi \in \mathbb{C}$$

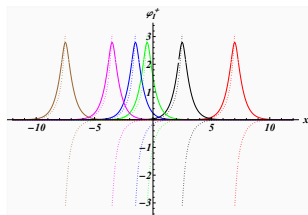
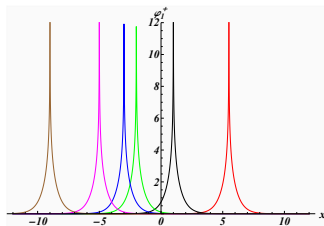
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Type I sol.: $\varphi_I^{\pm}(x, t) = \ln \left[\frac{\cosh \left(\beta + \sqrt{k^2 - 3t} + kx \right) \pm 2}{\cosh \left(\beta + \sqrt{k^2 - 3t} + kx \right) \mp 1} \right], \quad \beta \in \mathbb{C}$



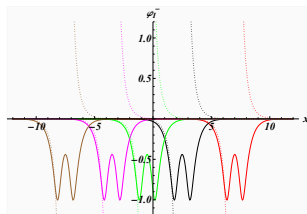
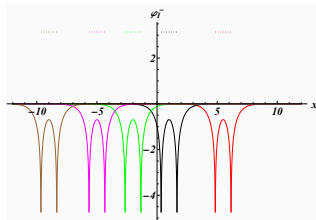
$\varphi_I^+, |k| > \sqrt{3}$:

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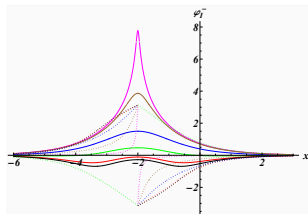
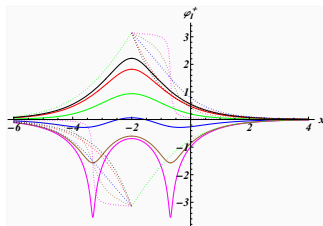
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$$\varphi_I^{\pm}, |k| < \sqrt{3}:$$

Sturm-Liouville auxiliary problem

with potential

$$V_1^+(x, \beta) = 1 - \frac{3}{1 - \cosh(\beta + \sqrt{3}x)} + \frac{8 \sinh^4 \left[\frac{1}{2} (\beta + \sqrt{3}x) \right]}{\left[2 + \cosh(\beta + \sqrt{3}x) \right]^2}$$

$$V_1^-(x, \beta) = V_1^+(x, \beta - i\pi)$$

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Darboux transformation \Rightarrow exactly solvable partner potential

$$V_2 = 3 - \frac{3}{2} \operatorname{sech}^2 \left(\frac{\beta}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}x}{2} \right).$$

We find one bound state with $\lambda = 3/2 \Rightarrow$ **the solution is stable.**

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Similarly for type II solutions

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Also the nonlocal solutions are found to be stable,
see J. Cen, F. Correa, F., A. Fring, T. Taira, *Stability in integrable nonlocal nonlinear equations* arXiv:2112.12206 (2021)

virtual seminar Pseudo-Hermitian Hamiltonians in Quantum Physics

XIX <v P H H Q P < X X

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This virtual seminar series is part of the regular real life seminar series on Pseudo-Hermitian Hamiltonians in Quantum Physics that was initiated by Miloslav Znojil in 2003. It is intended to bridge the gap, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, between the real life XIXth meeting and the upcoming XXth meeting in Santa Fe in 2021. For past events see the [PHHQ website](https://vphhq.com). The subject matter of this series is the study of physical aspects of non-Hermitian systems from a theoretical and experimental point of view. Of special interest are systems that possess a \mathcal{PT} -symmetry (a simultaneous reflection in space and time).

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Thank you for your attention