Soliton splitting in quenched classical integrable systems

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Abstract
We take a soliton solution of a classical non-linear integrable equation and quench (suddenly change) its non-linearity parameter. For that we multiply the amplitude or the width of a soliton by a numerical factor $\eta$ and take the obtained profile as a new initial condition. We find the values of $\eta$ for which the post-quench solution consists of only a finite number of solitons. The parameters of these solitons are found explicitly. Our approach is based on solving the direct scattering problem analytically. We demonstrate how it works for Korteweg–de Vries, sine-Gordon and non-linear Schrödinger integrable equations.

Keywords: quench, solitons, non-equilibrium dynamics

1. Introduction

One of the most remarkable phenomena of nonlinear dynamics is the existence of a soliton—a particle-like solitary wave packet propagating without changing its shape [1]. Solitons have been observed in a large variety of systems. They appear as optical pulses in semiconducting waveguides [2, 3] and optical fibers [4–6], waves in shallow fluids [7, 8], standing waves in mechanical systems [9], dissipative nonlinear waves in complex plasmas [10], excitations in molecular systems [11], magnetic flux quanta in Josephson junctions [12] and density excitations in cold atomic systems [13–19].

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Changing the parameters in non-linear equations leads to interesting dynamics and pattern formations [20, 21]. This can be used, in particular, to generate solitons. A promising class of systems for such kind of changes are cold atomic systems where control and manipulation of the microscopic parameters of the Hamiltonian have achieved remarkable results [22–25]. Significant efforts have been devoted to explore systems driven out of equilibrium by an instantaneous change of one or several parameters [26–29]. This process goes by the name of global quench. Post-quench relaxation of the system and the properties of its steady state were investigated [30–32]. It was shown, in particular, that relaxation in the case of an integrable system behaves in a rather unusual way due to the presence of an infinite number of conserved charges [33–53].

A quasiclassical description of the Bose–Einstein condensate (BEC) of cold atoms is provided by the Gross-Pitaevskii equation [54]. We refer to the Gross-Pitaevski equation in one spatial dimension (1D) as a non-linear Schrödinger equation (NLS). This equation is integrable and solitons are its most famous solutions [55–58]. Recently, the problem of quenching the soliton profile in 1D BEC at finite density has been investigated in [59, 60]. In [59] it was found that if the coupling in the BEC is quenched in such a way that the speed of sound in the condensate is increased by an integer number \( \eta \), then the initial soliton splits exactly into \( 2\eta - 1 \) solitons. These quenched solitons can be divided by the two groups of \( \eta \) and \( \eta - 1 \) solitons that are moving in the same and in the opposite direction of the initial soliton, correspondingly. For a short period of time these groups look like two bumps moving in the opposite directions. This short time dynamics of such structures was investigated in [60]. The shape and velocity of each bump were found for arbitrary \( \eta \) and its relation to a solution of the Korteweg–de-Vries equation (KdV) was discussed. A similar question for the bright soliton was explored in [61, 62].

In this paper we extend the approach of [59] to investigate quenches in arbitrary classical integrable systems. All our examples can be considered as certain reductions for a generic AKNS system [55]. We employ the fact that the general solution of such systems can be obtained by the inverse scattering transformation (IST) method [55–58]. In this method the non-linear equation is replaced by the consistency condition for the set of linear differential equations, one of which can be interpreted as a scattering problem on a given potential. It turns out that the time evolution of the scattering data (the transfer matrix) is quite simple due to the integrability. Thus, solving the Cauchy problem can be done in two steps. The first one, called the the direct scattering problem, is a calculation of scattering data on the initial field configuration. The second one is recovering the potential from the time evolved scattering data. The latter is an extremely difficult task for a generic initial condition as it involves the solution of a linear integral equation. However, there are special cases of solitonic solutions that correspond to the reflectionless potentials (diagonal transfer matrix) and the IST reduces to linear algebraic equations. In our approach, we solve analytically direct the scattering problem for a one-soliton profile quenched by an arbitrary factor \( \eta \). We find all values of \( \eta \) whose potential is reflectionless, and thus corresponds to the solitonic solution where the subsequent time dynamics can be found explicitly.

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we describe the general transfer matrix for scattering on a quenched soliton profile. Even though these results can be applied to a generic AKNS system, we later deal only with specific reductions. In section 3 using the general transfer matrix we find the conditions for quench to produce solitons in the KdV equation, and describe the parameters of these solitons. Briefly, we describe effects of generic \( \eta \). In section 4 we present the same analysis for the NLS equation at zero density and attractive interaction. In section 5 we analyse the sine-Gordon equation and section 6 is devoted to the the repulsive NLS equation at finite density. Our conclusions are presented in section 7.
2. General transfer matrix

We treat the solution of an integrable system by the methods described in textbook [56]. Namely, a non-linear equation is replaced by the compatibility condition for a linear system

\[
\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = U(x, t)F, \quad (1)
\]

\[
\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} = V(x, t)F. \quad (2)
\]

called zero curvature condition

\[
\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} + [U, V] = 0. \quad (3)
\]

Here \(U(x, t)\) and \(V(x, t)\) are 2 \(\times\) 2 matrices that are composed of the dynamical variables and act in a two-dimensional auxiliary space. For a given initial condition equation (1) defines a scattering problem. The corresponding scattering data (transfer matrix) evolves in time with respect to equation (2). Its evolution is remarkably simple because of the presence of the condition (3), which in this case is analogous to integrability. This way, solving the original problem reduces to finding the potential \(U(x, t)\) in equation (1) given a set of scattering data. Such a procedure is called the inverse scattering transformation (IST). As we have mentioned in the introduction, in the case of reflectionless potential (1) the IST is basically a linear algebraic problem which can be easily solved, and the obtained solution is called solitonic.

In this paper we consider a quenched one-solitonic solution as the initial condition. We find that it is more convenient to perform a change of variables from \(x \rightarrow z\) such that asymptotic regions \(x \rightarrow \mp \infty\) would correspond to \(z \rightarrow 0\) and \(z \rightarrow 1\), respectively. It turns out that we can always perform a gauge transformation to present the scattering problem (1) with our initial condition in a Fuchsian form

\[
\frac{dF}{dz} = \left(\frac{A_0}{z} + \frac{A_1}{1 - z}\right)F, \quad (4)
\]

with constant matrices \(A_0\) and \(A_1\). Moreover, we can always make these matrices degenerate, so they can be expressed as

\[
A_0 = G_0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_0 \end{pmatrix} G_0^{-1}, \quad A_1 = G_1 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_1 \end{pmatrix} G_1^{-1}. \quad (5)
\]

The Jost solutions of equation (4) are defined through their asymptotic behaviour at \(z \rightarrow 0\) and \(z \rightarrow 1\), by the constant matrices \(C_0\) and \(C_1\), namely

\[
T_0(z \rightarrow 0) = G_0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & z^{\lambda_0} \end{pmatrix} C_0, \quad T_1(z \rightarrow 1) = G_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & (1 - z)^{-\lambda_1} \end{pmatrix} C_1. \quad (6)
\]

All scattering data are contained in the transfer matrix \(T\) that connects these two Jost solutions

\[
T_0(z) = T_1(z)T. \quad (7)
\]

The general expression for the transfer matrix \(T\) for a given \(A_0, A_1, C_0\) and \(C_1\) can be extracted through the exact solution of equation (4). The latter can be found easily in the basis where \(A_0\) is diagonal. Namely, substituting \(F = G_0 V\) in equation (4), we obtain a linear system on the two component vector \(V\). From the first equation we can express the second component of \(V\)

\[ These matrices are uniquely defined by the required analytic dependence on the spectral parameter [56].
as a linear combination of the first component and its derivative. After substitution in the second equation of the system, we get a linear differential equation of the second order of the hypergeometric type. Once a solution of this equation is found it fixes both components of $V$. Since the hypergeometric equation is of the second order it has two independent solutions. We combine the corresponding vectors $V(1)$ and $V(2)$ into the fundamental matrix $\Phi = (V(1), V(2))$. The general solution is obtained by the multiplication of the fundamental matrix $\Phi$ by a constant matrix $C$ from the right $\Phi \rightarrow \Phi C$ [63, 64]. Therefore $F = G_0 \Phi C$ and as a fundamental matrix we choose the following\(^6\)

$$
\Phi(z) = \begin{pmatrix} w_1(a, b, c; z) & \frac{\alpha \beta \lambda_1}{\lambda_0 + 1} w_2(a, b, c; z) \\
\frac{\gamma \delta \lambda_1}{\lambda_0 - 1} w_1(\tilde{a}, \tilde{b}, \tilde{c}; z) & \frac{\gamma \delta \lambda_1}{\lambda_0 - 1} w_2(\tilde{a}, \tilde{b}, \tilde{c}; z) \end{pmatrix}
$$

(8)

where the coefficients are given by the conjugation matrices

$$
G = G_0^{-1} G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\
\gamma & (1 + \beta \gamma) / \alpha \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\
\gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix}.
$$

(9)

and $w_1(a, b, c, z)$ corresponds to the specific solution of the hypergeometric equation according to [65] (http://dlmf.nist.gov/15.10)

$$
w_1(a, b, c, z) = \frac{\alpha \beta \lambda_1}{\lambda_0 + 1} w_2(a, b, c; z), \\
w_2(a, b, c, z) = \frac{\gamma \delta \lambda_1}{\lambda_0 - 1} w_1(\tilde{a}, \tilde{b}, \tilde{c}; z).
$$

(10)

The corresponding values of the parameters read as

$$
a = \tilde{a} = 1 = \theta^+, \quad b = \tilde{b} = 1 = \theta^-, \quad c = -\text{tr} A_0, \quad \tilde{c} = 2 - \text{tr} A_0
$$

(11)

where

$$
\theta^\pm = \frac{\text{tr} A_1 - \text{tr} A_0}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(\text{tr} A_0 + \text{tr} A_1)^2 - 4\text{tr} A_0 A_1}.
$$

(12)

To express all parameters of the hypergeometric functions through the invariants of $A_0$ and $A_1$ we have used the identities

$$
\lambda_0 = \text{tr} A_0, \quad \lambda_1 = \text{tr} A_1, \quad (1 + \beta \gamma) \lambda_0 \lambda_1 = \text{tr} A_0 A_1.
$$

(13)

The asymptotic of equation (8) at $z \rightarrow 0$ can be easily found: $\Phi(z \rightarrow 0) = \text{diag}(1, \gamma^\lambda)$. Comparing it with the behaviour given by equation (6) we see that $T_0(z) = G_0 \Phi(z) C_0$. Therefore, using relation (7) we see that

$$
T = C_1^{-1} \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\
0 & (1 - z)^\lambda \end{pmatrix} G^{-1} \Phi(z) C_0.
$$

(14)

Using connectivity formulas for the hypergeometric functions [65] we can connect functions $w_{1,2}$ with $w_{3,4}$ that have a simple asymptotic at $z \rightarrow 1$. Namely,

$$
w_1(z) = \frac{\Gamma(c) \Gamma(c - a - b)}{\Gamma(c - a) \Gamma(c - b)} w_3(z) + \frac{\Gamma(c) \Gamma(a + b - c)}{\Gamma(a) \Gamma(b)} w_4(z),
$$

$$
z \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \Gamma(c) \Gamma(c - a - b) + \frac{\Gamma(c) \Gamma(a + b - c)}{\Gamma(a) \Gamma(b)} (1 - z)^{-\lambda},
$$

(15)

\(^6\) Any other choice can be corrected by the matrix $C$. 

and similarly,
\[ w_2(z) \sim \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-a)\Gamma(1-b)} \left( \Gamma(c-a-b) + \Gamma(c-b) \right) \left( 1-z^{-\lambda} \right). \] (16)

The asymptotic expressions for \( \tilde{w}_{1,2} \) are obtained from the above formulas by the corresponding change of parameters according to equation (11). All singular expressions in the limit (14) cancel out and, finally, we get
\[
T = C_1^{-1} \begin{pmatrix}
    \frac{\Gamma(c)\Gamma(c-a-b)}{\alpha\Gamma(c-a)\Gamma(c-b)} & \frac{\beta\lambda_1\Gamma(2-c)\Gamma(c-a-b)}{(1 + \lambda_0)\Gamma(1-a)\Gamma(1-b)} \\
    \frac{\Gamma(c)\Gamma(a+b-c)}{\beta\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)} & \frac{\lambda_0\alpha\Gamma(2-c)\Gamma(a+b-c)}{\Gamma(a-c+1)\Gamma(b-c+1)(1 + \lambda_0)}
\end{pmatrix} C_0. \] (17)

This is the general expression for the transfer matrix that describes scattering on a soliton like potential. Given a specific integrable system, one has to transform the scattering problem to the Fuchsian form (4) and find corresponding asymptotics of Jost solutions (6), after which the transfer matrix (17) forms immediately. We implement this program for various integrable systems in sections 3–6. We focus on the conditions when this matrix is diagonal, which means that the potential is reflectionless. In these cases we find specific solitonic form of the solutions.

3. Korteweg–De Vries equation

Let us first demonstrate how the procedure outlined above works for the famous KdV equation
\[
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - 6u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} = 0. \] (18)

The one-soliton solution of the KdV equation has a profile of a specific form that propagates without changing its shape with time, namely
\[ u(x, t) = -\frac{2\zeta^2}{\cosh^2(\zeta(x - 4\zeta^2t))}. \] (19)

Now assume that the initial condition corresponds to the quenched profile
\[ u(x, 0) \to u_0(x) = -\frac{2\zeta^2}{\cosh^2(\zeta x/\eta)}. \] (20)

Our main question is how the system evolves starting from this profile for different \( \eta \). Further, for simplicity we put \( \zeta = 1 \). Equation (18) is integrable by the means of IST and the corresponding direct scattering problem is given by the system [56]
\[
\frac{dF}{dx} = \begin{pmatrix}
    \frac{\lambda}{2i} & 1 \\
    u_\eta(x) & -\frac{\lambda}{2i}
\end{pmatrix} F.
\] (21)

The Jost solutions of this equation are determined by their asymptotic behaviour
\[ T_\pm \to \begin{pmatrix}
    1 & 1 \\
    0 & i\lambda
\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}
    e^{-ix\lambda/2} & 0 \\
    0 & e^{ix\lambda/2}
\end{pmatrix} \equiv Se^{-i\eta x\lambda/2}, \quad x \to \pm \infty. \] (22)
We can employ gauge transformation

\[
F \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{-x/\eta + i\lambda \eta^2/2} \cosh(x/\eta) \\ \omega^{1/2} \end{pmatrix} F,
\]

and use new coordinate \(z = (1 + \tanh(x/\eta))/2\) to present (21) in a Fuchsian form, namely

\[
\frac{dF}{dz} = \left( \frac{A_0}{z} + \frac{A_1}{1 - z} \right) F
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{z} G_0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - i\lambda \eta/2 \end{pmatrix} G_0^{-1} F + \frac{1}{1 - z} G_1 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -i \lambda \eta/2 \end{pmatrix} G_1^{-1} F,
\]

where

\[
G_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -i \lambda \eta/2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -2i/\lambda & 1 \end{pmatrix}.
\]

Matrices \(C_0\) and \(C_1\) for Jost solutions are be found by comparing the general asymptotic behaviour with the corresponding one for KdV. Namely, at \(x \to +\infty\), i.e. \(z = 1 - e^{-2x/\eta} \to 1\), the asymptotic for \(T_x\) from equation (22), combined with the gauge transformation (23) should be matched with the general asymptotic (6) for \(T_1\)

\[
S \begin{pmatrix} (1 - z)^{i\lambda \eta/4} & 0 \\ 0 & (1 - z)^{-i\lambda \eta/4} \end{pmatrix} = (1 - z)^{-i\lambda \eta/4} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1/2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} G_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & (1 - z)^{i\lambda \eta/2} \end{pmatrix} C_1.
\]

Here the matrix \(S\) is introduced in equation (22). This expression immediately gives

\[
C_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \lambda \\ 1/2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.
\]

The analogous procedure for \(C_0\) requires slight modification because of the specific form of the gauge transformation. Namely, to find a matching matrix at \(x \to -\infty\) and \(z = e^{2x/\eta} \to 0\) we have to take into account the next to leading order expansion terms, which can be easily done with the help of the exact solution (8)

\[
S \begin{pmatrix} z^{-i\lambda \eta/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1/(2z) \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} G_0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & z^{1-i\lambda \eta/2} \end{pmatrix} + z \begin{pmatrix} -\beta \gamma/\lambda_0 + 1 & 0 \\ \alpha \delta z^{1-i\lambda \eta/2}/\lambda_0 - 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} C_0.
\]

This relation implies that \(C_0 = C_1\).

With the given \(A_0, A_1, C_0, C_1\) the transfer matrix (17) takes the following form

\[
T = \begin{pmatrix} a(\lambda) & b(\lambda) \\ \bar{b}(\lambda) & \bar{a}(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}
\]

with

\[
a(\lambda) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{-i\lambda \eta}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{i\lambda \eta}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}(1 - i\lambda \eta - \sqrt{1 + 8\eta^2})\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}(1 - i\lambda \eta + \sqrt{1 + 8\eta^2})\right)}.
\]
and
\[ b(\lambda) = \frac{i \cos \left( \frac{\lambda}{2} \sqrt{1 + 8\eta^2} \right)}{\sinh \left( \frac{\lambda}{2} \right)}. \]  

(31)

The solitonic case corresponds to \( b(\lambda) = 0 \), which gives
\[ \sqrt{1 + 8\eta^2} = 1 + 2n \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \]  

(32)

This gives
\[ \eta^2 = \frac{n(n + 1)}{2}. \]  

(33)

Further, without loss of generality we can assume that \( n \geq 1 \). Then the diagonal component of the transfer matrix reads
\[ a(\lambda) = \frac{\Gamma \left( -\frac{\lambda}{2} \right) \Gamma \left( 1 - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right)}{\Gamma \left( -\frac{\lambda}{2} - n \right) \Gamma \left( -\frac{\lambda}{2} + 1 + n \right)} = \prod_{k=1}^{n} \frac{\lambda - 2ik/\eta}{\lambda + 2ik/\eta} = \prod_{k=1}^{n} \frac{\lambda - i\xi_k}{\lambda + i\xi_k}. \]  

(34)

Such a form corresponds to the \( n \)-solitonic solution. This way, we have found that if the quenching parameter satisfies the condition (33), after a certain amount of time, the quenched soliton profile splits exactly into \( n \) solitons.

The general solution of the IST for the reflectionless potential with coefficient \( a(\lambda) \) in the above form is given by [58]
\[ u(x, t) = -2 \partial_x^2 \ln \det A(x, t) \tag{35} \]

where \( A(x, t) \) is an \( n \times n \) matrix with elements
\[ A_{jk} = \delta_{jk} + \frac{\beta_j}{\xi_j + \xi_k} e^{-(\xi_j + \xi_k)x + 8\eta x^2}. \]  

(36)

Parameters \( \beta_j \) play a role of initial conditions that in our case must be chosen to satisfy equation (20). This can be done either by direct matching of the general solution with the initial condition or by taking the careful limit \( \beta_j \sim \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow -i\xi_j} b(\lambda)/(i\partial_\lambda a(\lambda)) \) [58]. The final result reads as
\[ A_{jk} = \delta_{jk} + \frac{(n + j)!}{(n - j)!} \frac{1}{(j!)^2} \frac{1}{j+k} e^{-(\xi_j + \xi_k)x + 8\eta x^2}, \quad \xi_j = \frac{2j}{\eta}. \]  

(37)

The time evolution's snapshots for \( n = 2 \) and \( n = 3 \) are shown in figures 1 and 2, respectively.

Integrability imposes the existence of an infinite set of integrals of motion. They can be presented as integrals of local polynomials in field variables. Therefore, calculating these integrals on the initial profile and comparing with those that correspond to the solitons, one can, in principle, guess under which condition the initial profile is a solitonic one. Unfortunately, the straightforward implementation of this task can be rather daunting as the explicit form of higher integrals of motion is rather complicated and unknown. On the other hand, knowing the exact answer (34), we can immediately find the value of all integrals of motion evaluated at the initial quenched soliton profile.
The integrals of motion can be presented as integrals of local polynomial densities

\[ I_n = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \chi_n(x) \, dx \]  

(38)

that are determined from the recurrence relation

\[ \chi_{n+1}(x) = \frac{\partial \chi_n(x)}{\partial x} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \chi_k(x) \chi_{n-k}(x), \]  

(39)

\[ \chi_1 = -u(x). \]  

(40)

All even densities are full derivatives, so they give zero integrals of motion. The values of first non-trivial integrals which correspond to the initial condition (20) are

\[ I_1 = 4\eta, \quad I_3 = \frac{16\eta}{3}, \quad I_5 = \frac{64(4\eta^2 - 1)}{15\eta}. \]  

(41)

An alternative way to get the integrals of motion is by using the asymptotic expansion of \( \ln a(\lambda) \), which is the generator of the local integrals of motion

\[ \ln a(\lambda) = 1 + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{I_j}{j(1+i\lambda)^j} + O(1/|\lambda|^\infty). \]  

(42)

This way, using the exact expression (34) we can easily deduce the general expression for the integrals of motion evaluated at the field configuration (20), namely

\[ I_j = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{(2k/\eta)^j}{j} (1 - (-1)^j), \]  

(43)

The asymptotic series (42), considered as a generating function for the integrals \( \{I_j\} \) can be replaced by a simpler one, by means of a Borel transformation with a slight readjusting of indices. Namely, let us introduce the function
Changing the summation order inside each $l_j$ we can easily get

$$S(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{l_j t^j}{(j - 1)!}.$$  \hfill (44)

So this ‘new’ generating function is expressed in terms of the elementary functions. Moreover, one can easily understand that $S(t)$ produces values for the integrals of motion not only for the reflectionless potentials but for generic $\eta$ as well.

Finally, let us comment on what happens if the parameter $n$ determined for the condition (33) is not an integer. Using the general considerations [58] and an exact asymptotic (see [66] and references therein) one can argue that, in this case, the post-quench profile contains a radiation part in a form of small oscillatory ripples in addition to $[n] + 1$ solitons, with $[n]$ being an integer part of $n$. For instance, for $0 < n < 1$ we have one soliton travelling on the oscillating background. Such a solution can be obtained numerically\(^7\) and an exemplary dynamics is shown in figure 3.

4. Non-linear Schrödinger equation. Attractive case

Our next example of an integrable system with two-dimensional auxiliary space is the non-linear Schrödinger equation (NLS) for a rapidly decreasing boundary condition. It is convenient to fix the following form of this equation

$$i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + 2 \kappa |\psi|^2 \psi, \quad \psi(x, t) \to 0, \quad |x| \to \infty.$$  \hfill (46)

The attractive case corresponds to the negative coupling constant $\kappa = -|\kappa| < 0$. The NLS is a universal way to describe the evolution of wave envelopes in a weakly interacting non-linear medium. It has many applications in non-linear optics, plasma physics, and ultra-cold atom systems and is the main theoretical tool used to describe bright solitons.

\(^7\) We have used standard finite elements methods for PDE solving implemented in Wolfram Mathematica.
The corresponding auxiliary linear problem for equation (46) is
\[
\frac{dF}{dx} = \begin{pmatrix}
\frac{\lambda}{2i} & i\sqrt{|x|} \psi(x) \\
i\sqrt{|x|} \psi(x) & -\frac{\lambda}{2i}
\end{pmatrix} F.
\] (47)

The Jost solutions \( T_{\pm}(x) \) are defined by their asymptotic
\[
T_{\pm}(x) \to e^{-i\eta_0 \lambda x/2}, \quad x \to \pm \infty.
\] (48)

Let us consider the following initial condition for the field \( \psi(x) \)
\[
\psi(x) = \frac{e^{i\phi}}{\sqrt{|x|}} \frac{e^{i\alpha}}{\cosh(x/\eta)}.
\] (49)

If \( \eta = 1 \), the whole profile moves with constant velocity without changing its shape. For generic \( \eta \), according to our strategy, we must first solve the direct scattering problem (47) on the solution (49), which can be done by reducing (47) to the Fuchsian form. To do this we perform a gauge transformation
\[
F \to e^{i\lambda x/2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{-x/\eta-ix} \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} F
\] (50)
and use a coordinate transformation \( z = (1 + \tanh(x/\eta))/2 \) to present our equations in the form of equation (4) with matrices \( A_0 \) and \( A_1 \) in a form (5) with
\[
\lambda_0 = \lambda_1 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}i(u - \lambda)\eta,
\]
\[
G_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & ie^{i\phi}/\lambda_0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & i \lambda_0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.
\] (51)

By matching the general asymptotic with equation (6) we recover matrices that specify the Jost solutions. Namely, as \( x \to -\infty \), meaning that \( z = e^{2x/\eta} \to 0 \), we see that Jost solution (48) along with the gauge transformation (50) behaves as
\[
e^{-i\lambda x/2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{-x/\eta-ix} \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}^{-1} T_{\pm}(x) \to x = -\infty \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ z_{\lambda_0} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.
\] (52)

This solution should be matched in the leading order with \( T_{0} \) from equation (6):
\[
\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ z_{\lambda_0} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \sim G_0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & z_{\lambda_0} \end{pmatrix} C_0
\] (53)
which gives
\[
C_0 = \begin{pmatrix} -ze^{i\lambda_0} \lambda_0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} z \to 0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.
\] (54)

Performing similar calculations at \( x \to \infty (z \to 1) \) we get
\[
C_1 = C_0.
\] (55)

Then the general transfer matrix that comes from (17) has a form of
\[
T(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} a(\lambda) & -b(\lambda) \\ b(\lambda) & a(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}
\] (56)
The solitonic solutions \( b(\lambda) = 0 \) correspond to
\[
\eta = n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.
\] (59)

Further, without any loss of generality we can assume that \( n > 0 \). The diagonal components then become equal to
\[
a(\lambda) = \prod_{k=1}^{n} \frac{\lambda - u - (2k - 1)i/\eta}{\lambda - u + (2k - 1)i/\eta}.
\] (60)

For this form of diagonal components, the exact solution given by the IST can be written as
\[
\psi(x, t) = -\exp(\text{something}) \frac{\det M_1(x, t)}{\det M(x, t)}
\] (61)

where \( M(x, t) \) is an \( n \times n \) matrix with elements
\[
M_{jk}(x, t) = \frac{i\eta}{2} \left( \gamma_j(x, t) \gamma_k(x, t) \right).
\] (62)

and \( \gamma_j \) are given by
\[
\gamma_j(x, t) = \gamma_j \exp\left( -\frac{2j - 1}{\eta} \left( x - 2ut \right) - \frac{(2j - 1)^2}{\eta^2} \right).
\] (64)

The constants \( \gamma_j \) should be determined from the initial conditions (49). At \( t = 0 \) we can introduce variable \( Z = e^{-i/\eta} \), such that \( \gamma_j(x, 0) = \gamma_j Z^{2j-1} \). Therefore, the initial condition takes a form of
\[
\frac{\det M_1(x, 0)}{\det M(x, 0)} = \frac{2Z}{Z^2 + 1},
\] which is just a restriction on the rational functions of \( Z \), from which all the coefficients \( \gamma_j \) can be determined. In our case this can be done explicitly and the answer is
\[
\gamma_j = i(-1)^{n+j-1}.
\] (65)

We see that unlike for the KdV case, the initial profile does not split into separate one-solitonic solutions, but rather all quench-produced solitons move with the same velocity and the enveloping shape is oscillating. The reason for this is that the velocity of the NLS soliton is not connected with its width and/or amplitude. Therefore, it is sufficient to consider the case of zero initial velocity \( u = 0 \), and the generic case can be obtain by the Galilean
transformation to the frame moving with velocity $2u$. The exemplary post-quench dynamics for $\eta = 2$ and $\eta = 3$ is shown in figures 4 and 5 respectively.

The integrals of motion are given by an integral of the local densities $w_n(x)$

$$I_n = \kappa \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \bar{\psi}(x) w_n(x),$$

which are defined recursively

$$w_{n+1}(x) = -i \frac{d w_n(x)}{dx} + \kappa \bar{\psi}(x) \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} w_k(x) w_{n-k}(x),$$

$$w_1 = \psi(x).$$
The first three integrals of motion computed from the profile (49), are

\[ I_1 = -2\eta, \quad I_2 = -2u\eta, \quad I_3 = -\frac{2}{3\eta} - 2u^2\eta + \frac{4\eta}{3}. \] (69)

Another way to deduce those integrals is to use the asymptotic expansion for \( \ln a(\lambda) \) [56]

\[ \ln a(\lambda) = i \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{I_j}{\lambda^j} + O(\lambda^{-\infty}), \] (70)

which produces the form for the \( I_j \) integral of motion

\[ I_j = \sum_{k=0}^{j} \left( u + \frac{2k - 1}{\eta} \right)^j - \left( u - \frac{2k - 1}{\eta} \right)^j. \] (71)

Similar, to the KdV case we can introduce a simple generating function for these integrals of motion, that after some resummations can be expressed in terms of elementary functions, namely

\[ S(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{I_j}{(j-1)!} = -2e^{u^2} \sin^2(t) \sin(t/\eta). \] (72)

This function is a bit simpler than \( \ln a(\lambda) \) and the values for the integrals of motion are valid for any \( \eta \).

5. Sine-Gordon equation

The sine-Gordon equation (SG)

\[ \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{m^2}{\beta} \sin \beta \varphi = 0 \] (73)

has numerous applications in various branches of physics, starting from dislocations in solids to phase dynamics in long Josephson junctions. The equivalence with a period \( 2\pi/\beta \) is assumed for a real function \( \varphi(x, t) \) along with the rapidly decreasing boundary conditions \( \lim_{|t|\to\infty} \varphi(x, t) = 0 \mod 2\pi/\beta \). The system is characterized by the topological charge

\[ Q = \frac{\beta}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\partial \varphi(x)}{\partial x} \, dx, \] (74)

which being an integer imposes certain restrictions to the possible quench.

To realize the quench program outlined in the previous sections it is useful to introduce light-cone coordinates

\[ u = \frac{t + x}{2}, \quad v = \frac{t - x}{2}, \] (75)

so equation (73) transforms into

\[ \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial u \partial v} + \frac{m^2}{\beta} \sin \beta \varphi = 0. \] (76)

In this form the SG equation appeared in the middle of the 19th century in the context of geometry problems of surfaces with constant negative curvature.
The one-soliton solution in \((x, t)\) coordinates has the form
\[
\varphi(x, t) = \frac{4Q}{\beta} \arctan \exp \left( \frac{m(x - ct)}{\sqrt{1 - c^2}} \right)
\] (77)
where \(|c| < 1\) is the velocity of the soliton and topological number \(Q\) for this solution acquires only two possible values \(Q = \pm 1\). The same solution in the light-cone coordinates is
\[
\varphi(u, v) = \frac{4Q}{\beta} \arctan \exp \left( \frac{mv}{\sqrt{1 + cv}} \right), \quad \varphi = \sqrt{\frac{1 - c}{1 + c}}.
\] (78)
We see that the width of the soliton is not connected with its amplitude as it was in all previous examples. Therefore, in this section we consider a scaling of the amplitude, which physically means that we perform quench in a parameter \(\beta \to \beta/\eta\), while fixing \(Q = +1\) and \(m = 1\). This way, our initial condition reads as
\[
\varphi_0(u, v = 0) = \frac{4\eta}{\beta} \arctan e^{au}.
\] (79)
The corresponding auxiliary linear problem for equation (76) is
\[
\frac{dF}{du} = \begin{pmatrix}
\frac{\beta}{4i} \frac{\partial \varphi_0}{\partial u} - \frac{\lambda}{2} e^{i3\varphi_0/2} \\
\frac{\lambda}{2} e^{-i3\varphi_0/2} - \frac{\beta}{4i} \frac{\partial \varphi_0}{\partial u}
\end{pmatrix} F.
\] (80)
One can consider transformation to the light-cone coordinates as a gauge transformation that involves not only matrix \(U\) but also a matrix \(V\) from the linear system equations (1), (2).
Performing additional gauge transformation
\[
F \to \begin{pmatrix}
0 & ie^{i3\varphi_0/4} \\
ie^{-i3\varphi_0/4} & 0
\end{pmatrix} F
\] (81)
we reduce system (80) to
\[
\frac{dF}{du} = \begin{pmatrix}
\frac{\lambda}{2i} & \frac{\beta}{2} \frac{\partial \varphi_0}{\partial u} \\
\frac{\beta}{2} \frac{\partial \varphi_0}{\partial u} & -\frac{\lambda}{2i}
\end{pmatrix} F = \begin{pmatrix}
\frac{\lambda}{2i} & \frac{\eta \varphi}{\cosh(u \varphi)} \\
\frac{\eta \varphi}{\cosh(u \varphi)} & -\frac{\lambda}{2i}
\end{pmatrix} F.
\] (82)
We see that this scattering problem is analogous to the attractive NLS (47) with some special choices of the initial condition (49) and an additional rescaling of the spatial coordinate. Therefore, the transfer matrix has the form (56) with
\[
a(\lambda) = \frac{\Gamma \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\lambda}{2\varphi} \right)^2}{\Gamma \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\lambda}{2\varphi} - \eta \right) \Gamma \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\lambda}{2\varphi} + \eta \right)},
\] (83)
\[
b(\lambda) = -\frac{\sin(\pi \eta)}{\cosh(\pi \lambda(2\varphi + i\eta))}.
\] (84)
So again for integer \(\eta\) we have reflectionless potential and the coefficient \(a(\lambda)\) reads as \((\eta = n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\varphi, 0})\).
Such a form corresponds to the $n$-solitonic solution. Here we would like to stress that this is the only possible choice of $\lambda$ to satisfy periodic boundary conditions.

The explicit solution of the IST is given by

$$\varphi = \frac{2i}{\beta} \ln \frac{\text{det}(1 + V)}{\text{det}(1 - V)}$$

where

$$V_k = \frac{\beta_k}{\gamma_j + \gamma_k} \exp \left( \gamma_j u - \frac{v}{\gamma_k} \right), \quad \gamma_k = \gamma(2k - 1),$$

$$\beta_k = \frac{-2\gamma_k}{((k - 1)!)^2} \frac{(n + k - 1)!}{(n - k)!}.$$ 

The time evolution’s snapshots for $n = 2$ are shown in figure 6. The local integrals of motion can be easily found via identification with the NLS model. Namely, they can be calculated by the recurrence procedure

$$I_n = i\beta^2/4 \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} du, \quad w_n(u) \frac{d\varphi(u)}{du},$$

$$w_{n+1}(u) = -i \frac{dw_n(u)}{du} + i \frac{\beta^2}{4} \frac{\varphi(u)}{u} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} w_k(u) w_{n-k}(u), \quad w_1(u) = i \frac{\varphi(u)}{du}.$$ 

All even densities are total derivatives so we consider only the odd integrals of motion. They can be explicitly computed from the initial profile (79) and the first three integrals of motion are

$$I_1 = -2\gamma^2 x, \quad I_2 = \frac{2}{3} (-\eta^2 + 2\eta^4) x^3, \quad I_5 = -\frac{2}{15} (7\eta^2 - 20\eta^4 + 16\eta^6) x^5.$$ 

Another way to compute these integrals is through the asymptotic expansion of $\ln a(\lambda)$, namely

$$\ln a(\lambda) = i \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \lambda^j I_j,$$

which gives, for an integer $\eta$,

$$I_j = i \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{(i\gamma(2k - 1))^j}{j} (1 - (-1)^j).$$
As in the previous cases we can rearrange the generating series for the integrals of motion to present them in terms of the elementary functions, namely

$$S(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{I_j t^j}{(j-1)!} = \frac{\cos(2\eta t x) - 1}{\sin(t x)}.$$  \hfill (94)

Again, we would like to emphasize, that even though this formula has been obtained for a solitonic $\eta$—it is also correct for the generic case.

### 6. Non-linear Schrödinger equation. Repulsive case at finite density

Finally, we present the solution for the NLS equation in the repulsive case at finite density. Main results of this section were obtained earlier in [59], and here we give a more detailed and coherent presentation based on the general scheme. The NLS equation at finite density is given by

$$i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + 2\kappa (|\psi|^2 - 1) \psi,$$  \hfill (95)

where we assume that $\kappa > 0$ so for our convenience and without loss of generality we can put $\kappa = 1/4$. The asymptotic conditions correspond to finite density $|\psi(x \to \pm \infty)| \to 1$ and the phase difference

$$\psi(x) \to e^{i\theta}, \quad x \to +\infty, \quad \psi(x) \to 1, \quad x \to -\infty.$$  \hfill (96)

The corresponding linear problem reads as

$$\frac{dF}{dx} = \left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{\lambda}{2i} \frac{\bar{\psi}(x)}{2} \\ \psi(x) - \frac{\lambda}{2i} \end{array} \right) F.$$  \hfill (97)

The Jost solutions are determined by their asymptotic (see [56])

$$T_-(x \to -\infty) = S e^{-ikx/2}, \quad T_+(x \to -\infty) = e^{-i\theta_0/2} S e^{-ikx/2}.$$  \hfill (98)

where

$$S = \left( \begin{array}{cc} 1 & i(k - \lambda) \\ i(\lambda - k) & 1 \end{array} \right), \quad k = \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 1}.$$  \hfill (99)

As the initial value we consider a scaled one-soliton solution

$$\psi(x) = \frac{1 + e^{i\theta_0/2}}{1 + e^{2\eta/\eta}}.$$  \hfill (100)

To solve the scattering problem (97) we perform a gauge transformation $F \to e^{-ikx/2} F$ and introduce the variable $z = (1 + \tanh(x/\eta))/2$, such that (97) takes the Fuchsian form (4) with matrices $A_0$ and $A_1$ given by (5) with

$$\lambda_0 = \lambda_1 = \frac{ik\eta}{2}, \quad G_0 = S, \quad G_1 = e^{-i\theta_0/2} S e^{ikx/2}$$  \hfill (101)

where $k$ and $S$ are defined in (99). By matching the asymptotic form (98) with (6) one can immediately find that...
\[
C_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad C_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{-i\theta/2} \\ e^{i\theta/2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}
\]

Then the transfer matrix (17) reads

\[
T = \begin{pmatrix} a(\lambda) & b(\lambda) \\ b(\lambda) & \bar{a}(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}
\]

with

\[
a(\lambda) = \frac{\Gamma(-ik\eta/2)^2}{\Gamma(-ik\eta/2 - \eta \sin \frac{\theta}{2})\Gamma(-ik\eta/2 + \eta \sin \frac{\theta}{2})} \frac{k}{k \cos(\theta/2) - i\lambda \sin(\theta/2)},
\]

\[
b(\lambda) = \frac{\sin \left( \frac{\pi \eta}{2} \sin \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \right)}{\sinh \left( \frac{\pi \eta}{2} \right)}
\]

The solitonic solutions correspond to

\[\eta = 2n/\sin(\theta/2),\]

for integer \(n\), which, further, without loss of generality we can assume to be positive. Then the form of the \(a(\lambda)\) reads as

\[a(\lambda) = \frac{ik + \sin \frac{\theta}{2}}{ik \cos \frac{\theta}{2} + \lambda \sin \frac{\theta}{2}} \prod_{s=1}^{n-1} \frac{k - 2is/\eta}{k + 2is/\eta},\]

which now constitutes the usual solitonic form [56] of \(2n - 1\) solitons with a set of the parameters \(\Theta\),

\[\Theta = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, ..., \theta_{2n-1}\} = \{\theta, \theta_1^+, ..., \theta_{n-1}^+, \theta_1^-, ..., \theta_{n-1}^-\}\]

where

\[\theta_j^+ = 2 \arcsin \frac{s}{n} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}, \quad \theta_j^- = 2\pi - \theta_j^+.
\]

The corresponding solution is given by the ratio of the determinants of two \((2n-1) \times (2n-1)\) matrices, namely

\[\Psi(x, t) = \frac{\det(1 + \hat{A})}{\det(1 + A)}\]

where

\[A_{jk} = \frac{2i\sqrt{\beta_j \beta_k}}{e^{i\theta/2} - e^{-i\theta/2}} \exp \left( \frac{\chi}{2} (\nu_j + \nu_k) - \frac{q_j + q_k}{4} \right), \quad \tilde{A}_{jk} = A_{jk} \exp \left( \frac{i\theta_j + \theta_k}{2} \right)\]
\( \nu_j = \sin \frac{\theta_j}{2}, \quad q_j = -t \sin \theta_j, \quad \beta_j = \left| \sin \frac{\theta_j}{2} \prod_{k \neq j} \frac{\sin \frac{\theta_j + \theta_k}{4}}{\sin \frac{\theta_j - \theta_k}{4}} \right|, \quad j = 1, 2, \ldots, 2n - 1. \) (113)

Another useful and more explicit combinatorial form for the coefficients \( \beta_j \) is

\[ \{ \beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_{2n-1} \} = \{ \beta_0, \beta^+_1, \beta^-_1, \beta^+_3, \beta^-_3, \ldots, \beta^+_n, \beta^-_n \}. \] (114)

\[ \beta_0 = \left| \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right| \frac{\Gamma(2n)}{\Gamma(n + 1) \Gamma(n)}, \] (115)

\[ \beta_j^\pm = \left| \frac{j|\sin \theta/2|}{\sqrt{n^2 - j^2}} \right| \frac{\Gamma(n + j)}{2 \Gamma(j + 1) \Gamma(n - j + 1)} \left| \frac{\sin \frac{\theta + \theta_j^\pm}{4}}{\sin \frac{\theta - \theta_j^\pm}{4}} \right|. \] (116)

Alternatively we can write the solution (111) in the following form

\[
\Psi(x, t) = \frac{1 + \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < \ldots < j_l \leq n-1} e^{i(\theta_j x - q_j t + i\theta_j)} \prod_{j=1}^{l} \prod_{k \neq j} \frac{\sin \frac{\theta_j + \theta_k}{4}}{\sin \frac{\theta_j - \theta_k}{4}}}{1 + \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < \ldots < j_l \leq n-1} e^{i(\theta_j x - q_j t - i\theta_j)} \prod_{j=1}^{l} \prod_{k \neq j} \frac{\sin \frac{\theta_j - \theta_k}{4}}{\sin \frac{\theta_j + \theta_k}{4}}}. \] (117)

Expressions (111) or (117) remain the solutions for equation (95) even if we add arbitrary real numbers to the \( q_j \). These numbers play a role of the initial positions of solitons and in our case we have chosen them to be zero to match the initial distribution (100). The exemplary post-quench dynamics is shown in figures 7 and 8 respectively.

The polynomial integrals of motion can be found in a similar manner as in previous sections. The first three integrals of motion evaluated from the initial field configuration (100) are

\[
I_1 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \left( |\Psi(x)|^2 - 1 \right) = -\eta(1 - \cos \theta), \] (118)

\[
I_2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \left( \frac{\partial \Psi(x)}{\partial x} \Psi(x) - \frac{\partial \Psi(x)}{\partial x} \Psi(x) \right) = \sin \theta, \] (119)
\[ I_3 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \left( \left( \frac{\partial \psi(x)}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \frac{(1 - |\psi(x)|^2)^2}{4} \right) = \frac{\sin^2(\theta/2)(\eta^2(1 - \cos(\theta)) + 8)}{6\eta}. \]  

(120)

Another way to generate these integrals of motion is to use the asymptotic expansion of the \( \ln a(\lambda) e^{-i\theta/2} \), namely,

\[ -i \ln a(\lambda) e^{-i\theta/2} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} I_k. \]  

(121)

\( a(\lambda) \) written in a form of equation (107) is obviously factorizable to the quench dependent and quench independent parts. The asymptotic expansion of the latter produces quench dependent integrals of motion, namely

\[ I_j^n = 4i \sum_{s=1}^{n-1} \frac{2i\eta}{\eta^2} \left( 1 - (-1)^j \right). \]  

(122)

The generating function for these integrals can be computed in a way similar to those that we have used in previous cases. We have

\[ S_n(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^j I_j^n}{(j - 1)!} = \frac{\cos \left( t \left( \frac{1}{\eta} - \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \right) - \cos \left( t/\eta \right)}{\sin(t/\eta)}. \]  

(123)

Note that this function is identically zero in the unquenched situation \( 1/\eta = 1/2 \sin(\theta/2) \) \((n = 1 \text{ in equation } (106))\). Therefore the total integrals of motion differ from the quenched ones only by adding one-soliton integrals of motion. One can find their explicit form in [56].

7. Concluding remarks

To conclude, we have considered the theoretical problem of quenching one-soliton solutions in classical integrable equations. We have noticed that the direct scattering problem that corresponds to the potential of a quenched soliton profile after gauge and coordinate transformations can be reduced to the Fuchsian differential equation with three regular singular points. Generic solutions of these equations can be expressed in terms of hypergeometric functions, which allows us to find an explicit form for the transfer matrix. Based on this result we have explored the case of KdV, NLS and SG equations. In each case we have found conditions on the quench such that obtained the transfer matrix is diagonal (the potential to be
reflectionless). The post-quench evolution of the initial profile in this case, contains only solitons and parameters of these solitons can be easily found.

We see, in particular, that when the width of the KdV or repulsive NLS soliton is quenched in the right way, it splits into solitons that travel with different velocities and after some time become manifestly distinct. The reason for that is the relation between the width, amplitude and velocity of such type of solitons. This is not the case for the attractive NLS soliton, for which geometric sizes and speed of propagation are independent. Therefore after quenching the width of a soliton, no real splitting occurs but rather the enveloping shape of the post-quenched solitons exhibits oscillating behaviour. For the SG soliton the width of the soliton is not related to its amplitude, and we find that splitting occurs when the amplitude is quenched appropriately. After such a quench, the initial one-soliton profile splits into solitons that become distinct after some time, this way, resembling quench in the KdV and repulsive NLS cases. When the quench parameter does not satisfy the quench condition then in addition to the solitons the radiation part is present, which has a form of small oscillating ripples. The fact that the scattering data are known precisely for any quench parameter allows us to formally present the solution as an infinite series of integrals. This follows from the iterative solution of the Gelfand–Levitan–Marchenko equation [67, 68].

It is interesting to note that the quench condition for the KdV equation involves triangular numbers. The same numbers appear when one considers pole dynamics in the complex plane of some special KdV solutions [69–75]. Also the same numbers appear in algebro-geometrical potentials that correspond to ‘singular solitons’ [76]. We hope to elaborate more on this subject in future.

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Note added Recently, we became aware of the paper [77] where the authors develop a general framework to deal with a quench in non-linear Schrödinger equations. They introduce the quench map that acts on the space of scattering data and study its analytic properties. We hope that using their methods it will be possible to obtain insights into the behaviour of quenched systems for a generic quench parameter and even generic profiles. It would be an important addition to the specific examples considered in this paper, qualitatively understanding of the general case and numerics.

Another important recent paper is [78] where the authors study similar quenches using a hydrodynamical approach.

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