

Localized time-periodic solutions of nonlinear wave equations

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Institute for Analysis



CRC 1173

Wave
phenomena

The problem

Find spatially localized, time-periodic $E : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that

$$\text{(quasi)} \quad \nabla \times \nabla \times E + \partial_t^2 (V(x)E + \Gamma(x)|E|^{p-1}E) = 0$$

$$\text{(semi)} \quad \nabla \times \nabla \times E + V(x)\partial_t^2 E + \Gamma(x)|E|^{p-1}E = 0$$

with $p > 1$ & suitable conditions on $V, \Gamma : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Outline:

- (A) physical background
- (B) results for semilinear wave equation
- (C) results for quasilinear wave equation

(A): Motivation for Curl-Curl wave equations

$$\nabla \times E + \partial_t B = 0,$$

$$\nabla \cdot D = 0,$$

$$\nabla \times H - \partial_t D = 0,$$

$$\nabla \cdot B = 0.$$

Material laws:

$$B = \mu_0 H, \quad D = \epsilon_0 E + P(x, E) = \epsilon_0(1 + \chi_1(x) + \chi_3(x)|E|^2 + \dots)E$$

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Quasilinear wave-equation:

$$\hookrightarrow \nabla \times \nabla \times E + \partial_t^2 \left(\underbrace{\mu_0 \epsilon_0 (1 + \chi_1(x))}_{=V(x) \geq 0} E + \underbrace{\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \chi_3(x) |E|^2 E + \dots}_{=f(x, |E|^2) E} \right) = 0$$

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Semilinear (approximative/toy-model) variant:

$$\hookrightarrow \nabla \times \nabla \times E + V(x) \partial_t^2 E + f(x, |E|^2) E = 0$$

(B): Semilinear wave-equations

Find solutions $U : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ such that

$$(*) \quad \begin{cases} \nabla \times \nabla \times U + V(x)U_{tt} + f(x, |U|^2)U & = 0 \\ U(x, t) & \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty \\ U(x, t + T) & = U(x, t) \end{cases}$$

under suitable conditions on V, f .

U (real-valued, time-periodic & spatially localized) is called „breather“

Motivation:

- i. The famous Sine-Gordon breather

$$u_{tt} - u_{xx} + \sin u = 0$$

- ii. The example by Blank, Chirilus-Bruckner, Lescaret, Schneider ('11) for

$$V(x)u_{tt} - u_{xx} + q(x)u = \Gamma(x)u^3$$

Source: Wikipedia

$$u(x, t) = 4 \arctan \left(\frac{m \sin(\omega t)}{\omega \cosh(mx)} \right)$$

$$m^2 + \omega^2 = 1$$

(B) A vector-valued breather example

$$(*) \quad V(x)\partial_t^2 U + \nabla \times \nabla \times U + q(x)U \pm \Gamma(x)|U|^{p-1}U = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}$$

$$\text{ansatz: } U(x, t) = \psi(r, t) \frac{x}{r}, \quad r = |x|.$$

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Theorem 1 (Plum, R. JEPE 2017)

Let $T = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{V(0)}{q(0)}}.$

- $V, q, \Gamma > 0$ radially symmetric C^2 -functions,
- $\sup \frac{q}{\Gamma} < \infty,$
- $\frac{q(r)}{V(r)} \leq \frac{q(0)}{V(0)}$ on $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\},$
-

$$\left| \frac{q(r)}{V(r)} - \frac{q(0)}{V(0)} \right|^{\frac{1}{p-1}} = \begin{cases} O(e^{-\alpha r}) \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty, \\ o(1) \text{ in } C^2\text{-sense as } r \rightarrow 0. \end{cases}$$

Then $\exists T$ -periodic, real-valued, exponentially decaying solution.

(B) The proof – solving an ODE

$$U(r, t) = \psi(r, t) \frac{x}{r}, \quad V(r) \ddot{\psi} + q(r) \psi \pm \Gamma(r) |\psi|^{p-1} \psi = 0$$

ODE in time with $r =$ parameter

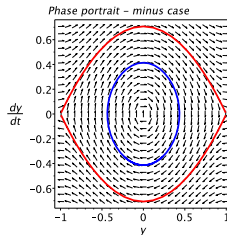
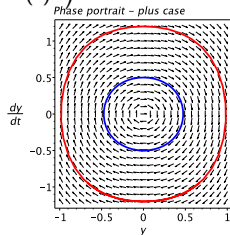
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ODE in time with $r = \text{parameter}$

$$\text{Rescale: } \psi(r, t) = \left(\frac{q(r)}{\Gamma(r)} \right)^{1/(p-1)} y \left(\sqrt{\frac{q(r)}{V(r)}} t \right)$$

$$\ddot{y} + y \pm |y|^{p-1} y = 0$$



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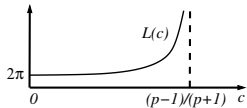
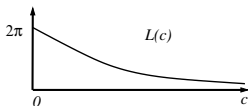
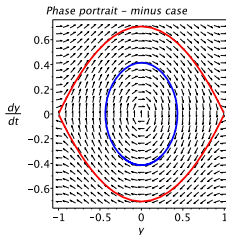
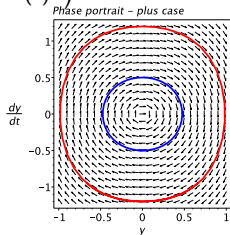
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periodic orbits $y(t; c)$, period $L(c)$

- $c = \text{value of first integral}$
- How to choose $c = c(r)$?

- Answer: $\underbrace{\sqrt{\frac{q(r)}{V(r)}} T}_{\leq 2\pi} = L(c)$



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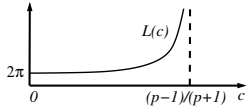
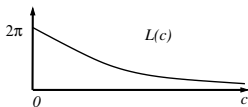
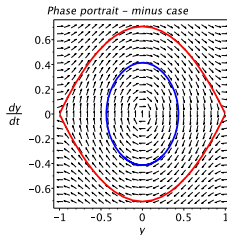
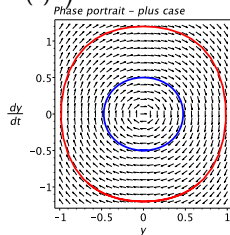
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by assumptions \Rightarrow result



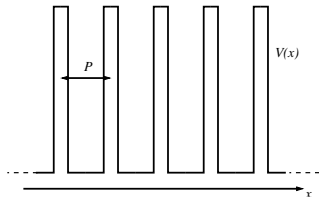
(B) Scalar breather examples via calc.var.

Ansatz:

$$E(x, t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ u(x_1, t) \end{pmatrix} \hookrightarrow \nabla \times \nabla \times E(x, t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -\partial_{x_1}^2 u(x_1, t) \end{pmatrix}$$

Scalar semilinear wave equation:

$$(*) \quad \begin{cases} V(x)u_{tt} - u_{xx} = \Gamma(x)|u|^{p-1}u \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \\ u(x, t) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty \\ u(x, t+T) = u(x, t) \end{cases}$$



Two approaches via calc.var.:

- A. Hirsch & W.R.: $\Gamma \equiv \gamma$, $1 < p < \frac{5}{3}$, $V(x) = \alpha + \beta \delta^{\text{per}, P}(x)$, $\beta = \frac{8\alpha P}{\pi}$
- W.R.: $\Gamma(x) = \gamma \delta_0(x)$, $p = 3$, $V(x) = \alpha + \beta \delta^{\text{per}, P}(x)$, $\beta > \frac{4\alpha P}{\pi}$

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Common features:

- $\delta^{\text{per},P}$ is the P -periodic extension of the $\delta_{P/2}$ -distribution on x -axis
- time-period $T = 4P\sqrt{\alpha}$
- Fourier-decomp. of solution $u(x, t) = \sum_{k \text{ odd}} u_k(x)e^{ik\omega t}$, $u_{-k} = \bar{u}_k$.
- Fourier-decomp. of wave operator $L = V(x)\partial_t^2 - \partial_x^2$:

$$\sigma(L) = \bigcup_{k \text{ odd}} \sigma(L_k) = \bigcup_{k \text{ odd}} \sigma(-\partial_x^2 - k^2\omega^2 V(x))$$

- choice of $\alpha, P, \beta > 4\alpha P/\pi \Rightarrow 0 \notin \sigma(L)$

(B) The case of δ_0 right-hand side

$$(*) \quad \begin{cases} V(x)u_{tt} - u_{xx} & = \gamma\delta_0(x)u^3 \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \\ u(x, t) & \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty \\ u(x, t + T) & = u(x, t) \end{cases}$$

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Even solutions $u(x, t) = u(-x, t) \Rightarrow$ nonlinear Neumann problem

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$$(nN) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} V(x)u_{tt} - u_{xx} = 0 \text{ in } (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}, \\ -2u_x(0, t) = \gamma u(0, t)^3, \\ u(x, t) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } x \rightarrow \infty \\ u(x, t + T) = u(x, t) \end{array} \right.$$

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Theorem 2 (R. 2016)

Let $V(x) = \alpha + \beta \delta^{\text{per}, P}(x)$ where $\alpha, P > 0, \beta > 4\alpha P/\pi$ and $\gamma \neq 0$. Then \exists a real-valued breather which is even in x , $T/2$ -antiperiodic in t with $T = 4P \sqrt{\alpha}$.

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Steps:

- $u(x, t) = \sum_{k \text{ odd}} a_k \phi_k(x) e^{ik\omega t}$
- $\phi_k =$ Bloch-mode
 $L_k \phi_k = 0$ on $(0, \infty)$, exp. decaying at $+\infty$, $\phi_k(0) = 1$
- variational problem for coefficients $(a_k)_{k \text{ odd}}$, $a_{-k} = \bar{a}_k$

(B) The variational problem

$$(nN) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} V(x)u_{tt} - u_{xx} = 0 \text{ in } (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}, \\ -2u_x(0, t) = \gamma u(0, t)^3, \\ u(x, t) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } x \rightarrow \infty \\ u(x, t + T) = u(x, t) \end{array} \right.$$

with Fourier-Bloch-decomposition $u(x, t) = \sum_{k \text{ odd}} a_k \phi_k(x) e^{ik\omega t}$

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$$u_x(0, t) = \sum_{k \text{ odd}} \phi'_k(0) a_k e^{ik\omega t}, \quad u(0, t)^3 = \sum_{k \text{ odd}} (a * a * \bar{a})_k e^{ik\omega t}$$

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u weakly solves (nN) $\Leftrightarrow J'[a] = 0$, $a \in H$ with

$$J[a] := \sum_{k=2l+1} \underbrace{\phi'_k(0)}_{\approx -(-1)^l |k|} |a_k|^2 - \frac{\gamma}{4} |(a * a)_k|^2, \quad H := \left\{ a_{-k} = \bar{a}_k, \sum_{k \text{ odd}} |k| |a_k|^2 < \infty \right\}$$

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abstract critical point theorem (Szulkin-Weth 2010):

$\Rightarrow \exists$ truly polychromatic ground state

(B) Summary on semilinear wave-equations

Polychromatic waves $E(x, t) = \sum_k U_k(x) e^{ik\omega t}$, $U_k = \bar{U}_{-k}$ for

(semi)
$$\nabla \times \nabla \times E + V(x) \partial_t^2 E = \Gamma(x) |E|^{p-1} E$$

- vector case: radial symmetry, $E(x, t) = \psi(|x|, t) \frac{x}{|x|}$, ODE in time
- scalar case: $p = 3$, $V(x) = \text{cst.} + \text{periodic delta}$, $\Gamma(x) = \gamma \cdot \text{delta at } 0$
 - $0 \notin \sigma(-\partial_x^2 + V(x) \partial_t^2)$
 - use Fourier-Bloch decomposition $\sum_{k \text{ odd}} a_k \phi_k(x) e^{ik\omega t}$
 - indefinite variational problem for $(a_k)_{k \text{ odd}}$
 - solve by abstract critical point theorem of Szulkin, Weth 2010
- scalar case: $1 < p < \frac{5}{3}$, $V(x) = \text{cst.} + \text{periodic delta}$, $\Gamma(x) = \text{cst.}$
-> details in talk by [Andreas Hirsch, Tuesday, 11:25](#)

(C) Quasilinear wave-equations

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times E + \partial_t^2 (V(x)E + f(x, |E|^2)E) = 0$$

Our approaches

- monochrom. \mathbb{C} -valued waves: $E(x, t) = U(x)e^{i\omega t}$

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times U + \tilde{V}(x)U = \tilde{f}(x, |U|^2)U \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3$$

with $\tilde{V} = -\omega^2 V$, $\tilde{f} = \omega^2 f$. **elliptic, variational**

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$$\nabla \times \nabla \times E + \partial_t^2 \left(V(x)E + f(x, |E|^2)E \right) = 0$$

Our approaches

- $E(x, t) = U(x) \cos(\omega t)$ works for time-averaged material response

$$f\left(x, \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |E|^2 dt\right)E$$

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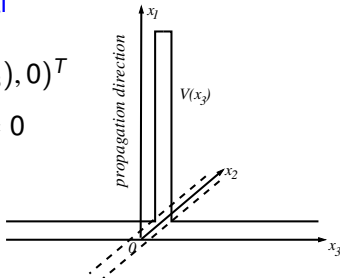
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- traveling waves: $E(x, t) = (0, u(x_1 - \sqrt{\lambda}t, x_3), 0)^T$

$$(-\Delta_{x_1, x_3} + \lambda V(x_3))u + \lambda(f(x_3, |u|^2)u)_{x_1 x_1} = 0$$

hyperbolic, bifurcation w.r.t. λ from guided modes. Talk by Piotr Idzik, Tuesday, 11:50



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- monochrom. \mathbb{C} -valued waves: $E(x, t) = U(x)e^{i\omega t}$

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with $\tilde{V} = -\omega^2 V$, $\tilde{f} = \omega^2 f$. **elliptic, variational**

- traveling waves: $E(x, t) = (0, u(x_1 - \sqrt{\lambda}t, x_3), 0)^T$

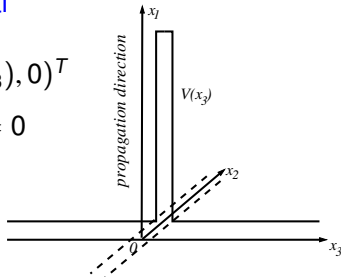
$$(-\Delta_{x_1, x_3} + \lambda V(x_3))u + \lambda (f(x_3, |u|^2)u)_{x_1 x_1} = 0$$

hyperbolic, bifurcation w.r.t. λ from guided modes. Talk by Piotr Idzik, Tuesday, 11:50

- standing waves: $E(x, t) = (0, u_t(x_1, t), 0)^T$

$$-u_{xx} + V(x)u_{tt} + (f(x_1, |u_t|^2)u_t)_t = 0$$

hyperbolic, variational



(C) Elliptic Curl-Curl problem

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times U + V(x)U = f(x, |U|^2)U \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3$$

- (0) $U(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (0, 0, u(x_1, x_2))^T$ leads to NLS (many results!)
 (1) Benci-Fort.('04) & Azzollini-B.-d'Aprile-F.('06) & d'A.-Siciliano('11),
 Zeng ('16):

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times U = f(|U|^2)U \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3$$

Existence of ground-states in subspaces of cylindrical symmetry

- (2) [Bartsch-Mederski \('15,'17\)](#), [survey \('17 J. Fixed Point Theory Appl.\)](#):

$$\nabla \times \mu(x)^{-1} \nabla \times U - \omega^2 \epsilon(x)U = \partial_U F(x, U) \text{ in } \Omega, \quad \nu \times U = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega.$$

- (3) Mederski('15): $f(s) \approx |s|^{\frac{p-1}{2}}$ near 0, $f(s) \approx |s|^{\frac{q-1}{2}}$ near ∞ , $1 < p < 5 < q$.

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times U + V(x)U = f(|U|^2)U \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3$$

- (4) Mederski ('16): Brezis-Nirenberg Curl-Curl problem: [Tuesday, 14:00](#)
 (5) [Bartsch-Dohnal-Plum-R. \('14\)](#) & [Hirsch-R. \('16\)](#) ... next

(C) Common variational set-up

$$J[U] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla \times U|^2 + \tilde{V}(x)|U|^2 - \tilde{F}(r, z, |U|^2) dx,$$

$$U \in X = H(\text{curl}; \mathbb{R}^3) \cap L^{p+1}(\mathbb{R}^3)$$

Here is the problem: $\|\nabla U\|_{L^2}^2 = \|\nabla \times U\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\nabla \cdot U\|_{L^2}^2$.

Constraint $\{U : \text{div } U = 0\}$ does not solve it \Rightarrow Lagrange-multiplier!

Symmetries! Look for cylindrical symmetry in coordinates (r, z) :

$$U(r, z) := u(r, z) \begin{pmatrix} -x_2 \\ x_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \text{div } U = 0.$$

$$-\Delta_5 u(r, z) + \tilde{V}(r, z)u = \tilde{f}(r, z, r^2 u^2)u \text{ for } r > 0, z \in \mathbb{R}.$$

This is a NLS-type equation in \mathbb{R}^5 !

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(C) Results I - (Bartsch-Dohnal-Plum-R., NoDeA 2016)

$$(*) \quad \nabla \times \nabla \times U + \tilde{V}(x)U = \tilde{\Gamma}(x)|U|^{p-1}U \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3$$

General assumption: $\tilde{V} = \tilde{V}(r, x_3), \tilde{\Gamma} = \tilde{\Gamma}(r, x_3), r = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}$

Theorem 3 (Defocusing case)

- $\tilde{\Gamma}(x) \leq -C(1 + |x|^\alpha), \alpha > \frac{3}{2}(p-1), p > 1,$
- $\tilde{V} \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3), \sup \tilde{V} < 0.$

Then $(*)$ has a (restricted) ground-state.

Theorem 4 (Focusing case)

- $\inf \tilde{\Gamma} > 0, \tilde{V}, \tilde{\Gamma} \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$ are 1-periodic in $x_3,$
- $1 < p < 5$
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(C) Results II - statements (Hirsch-R., ZAA 2017)

$$(*) \quad \nabla \times \nabla \times U + \tilde{V}(r, z)U = \tilde{f}(r, z, |U|^2)U \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3$$

Theorem 5 (Positive definite case, focusing)

- $0 < \min \sigma(\nabla \times \nabla \times + \tilde{V})$
- $0 \leq \tilde{f}(r, z, s) \leq C(1 + s^{\frac{p-1}{2}})$, $1 < p < 5$,
- $\tilde{f}(r, z, s) = o(1)$ as $s \rightarrow 0$ uniformly in r, z
- $s \mapsto \tilde{f}(r, z, s)$ strictly increasing in s
- $\tilde{F}(r, z, s)/s \rightarrow \infty$ as $s \rightarrow \infty$ uniformly in r, z
- $\tilde{V}(r, z)$ reverse Steiner-symmetric in z
- $\phi_\sigma(r, z, s) := \tilde{f}(r, z, (s + \sigma)^2)(s + \sigma)^2 - \tilde{f}(r, z, s^2)s^2$ is symmetrically decreasing in z for all $s \geq 0, \sigma \geq 0$

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$$\text{Ex.: } \tilde{f}(r, z, |U|^2) = \tilde{\Gamma}(r, z) \log(1 + |U|^2), = \tilde{\Gamma}(r, z)|U|^{p(z)-1}, \overline{\text{Rg}(p)} \subset (1, 5)$$

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(C) Sketch of variational existence proof

$$-\Delta_5 u(r, z) + V(r, z)u = f(r, z, r^2 u^2)u \text{ for } r > 0, z \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$J[u] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^5} |\nabla u|^2 + V(r, z)u^2 - \frac{F(r, z, r^2 u^2)}{r^2} dx^5, \quad u \in H_{cyl}^1(\mathbb{R}^5)$$

Minimize J over the Nehari-manifold [cf. Szulkin-Weth, '10]:

$$\mathcal{N} = \left\{ u \neq 0; N[u] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^5} |\nabla u|^2 + V(r, z)u^2 - f(r, z, r^2 u^2)u^2 dx^5 = 0 \right\}$$

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Changing from u to $|u|^*$ (Steiner symmetrization w.r.t. z) we get

$$J[|u|^*] \leq J[u], \quad N[|u|^*] \leq N[u]$$

because of the condition [Brock, '00]

$$\phi_\sigma(r, z, s) := f(r, z, (s + \sigma)^2)(s + \sigma)^2 - f(r, z, s^2)s^2 \quad \searrow_{\text{symm } z}.$$

Moreover: weak sequ. cont.'y along $(|u_k|^*)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ [inspired by Lions, '81, '82].

(C) Scalar breather with δ_0 right-hand side

$$(*) \quad \begin{cases} V(x)u_{tt} - u_{xx} & = \gamma\delta_0(x)(u_t^3)_t \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \\ u(x, t) & \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \rightarrow \infty \\ u(x, t + T) & = u(x, t) \end{cases}$$

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Even solutions $u(x, t) = u(-x, t) \Rightarrow$ nonlinear Neumann problem

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$$(nN) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} V(x)u_{tt} - u_{xx} = 0 \text{ in } (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}, \\ -2u_x(0, t) = \gamma(u_t(0, t)^3)_t, \\ u(x, t) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } x \rightarrow \infty \\ u(x, t + T) = u(x, t) \end{array} \right.$$

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Theorem 6 (R. 2016)

Let $V(x) = \alpha + \beta\delta^{\text{per}, P}(x)$ where $\alpha, P > 0, \beta > 4\alpha P/\pi$ and $\gamma \neq 0$. Then \exists a real-valued breather which is even in x , $T/2$ -antiperiodic in t with $T = 4P\sqrt{\alpha}$.

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Steps:

- $u(x, t) = \sum_{k \text{ odd}} \frac{a_k}{k} \phi_k(x) e^{ik\omega t}$, $\phi_k =$ normalized Bloch-mode
- variational problem for coefficients $(a_k)_{k \text{ odd}}$, $a_{-k} = -\bar{a}_k$

(C) The variational problem

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with Fourier-Bloch-decomposition $u(x, t) = \sum_{k \text{ odd}} \frac{a_k}{k} \phi_k(x) e^{ik\omega t}$

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$$u_x(0, t) = \sum_{k \text{ odd}} \phi'_k(0) \frac{a_k}{k} e^{ik\omega t}, \quad (u_t(0, t)^3)_t = \omega^4 \sum_{k \text{ odd}} (a * a * \bar{a})_k k e^{ik\omega t}$$

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u weakly solves (nN) $\Leftrightarrow J'[a] = 0$, $a \in H$ with

$$J[a] := \sum_{k=2l+1} \frac{\omega^4}{4} |(a * a)_k|^2 + \underbrace{\phi'_k(0)}_{\approx -(-1)^l |k|} \frac{|a_k|^2}{k^2 \gamma}, \quad H := \{a_{-k} = -\bar{a}_k, \|a * a\|_{l^2} < \infty\}$$

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minimizer = polychromatic ground state

(C) Summary on quasilinear wave-equations

(quasi)
$$\nabla \times \nabla \times E + \partial_t^2 (V(x)E + \Gamma(x)|E|^{p-1}E) = 0$$

- \exists monochromatic ground-state $E(x, t) = U(x)e^{i\omega t}$:
 - elliptic vector case in \mathbb{R}^3 with cylindrical symmetry
 - defocusing case: $\Gamma(x) \leq -C(1 + |x|^\alpha)$, $\alpha > \frac{3}{2}(p-1)$, $\inf V > 0$
 - focusing case: periodic structure in z , $0 \notin \sigma(\nabla \times \nabla \times -\omega^2 V(x))$
 - focusing case: Steiner symmetry in z , $0 < \sigma(\nabla \times \nabla \times -\omega^2 V(x))$

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- \exists scalar 1 + 1-dim \mathbb{R} -valued standing polychromatic waves:
 - $p = 3$, $V(x) = \text{cst.} + \text{periodic delta}$, $\Gamma(x) = \gamma \cdot \text{delta at } 0$
 - $0 \notin \sigma(-\partial_x^2 + V(x)\partial_t^2)$
 - use Fourier-Bloch decomposition $\sum_{k \text{ odd}} \frac{a_k}{k} \phi_k(x) e^{ik\omega t}$
 - coercive variational problem for $(a_k)_{k \text{ odd}} \hookrightarrow \text{minimizer} = \text{breather}$

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- \exists scalar 2 + 1-dim \mathbb{R} -valued traveling waves:
 $p = 3$, $V(x_3) = \text{delta at } 0$, $\Gamma(x_3) \in L^\infty$: use bifurcation theory
-> details in talk by [Piotr Idzik, Tuesday, 11:50](#)