

Integrable Systems: A bird's-eye view

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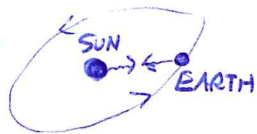
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* Review of Classical integrable systems - finite dimensional

Beginning of XIX century: some problems were analytically solved:

Kepler problem



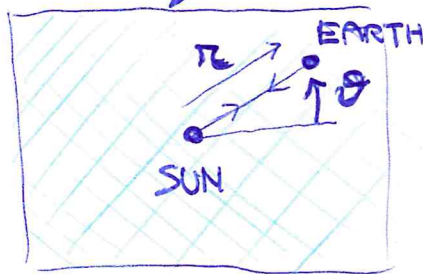
Euler top



Lagrange top



EXAMPLE:



Motion in a plane.

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\theta}^2) - V(r)$$

$$V(r) = -\frac{K}{r}$$

↓ Lagrange eqs, integrated once:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} m (\dot{r}^2 + r^2 \dot{\theta}^2) + V(r) = E \\ m r^2 \dot{\theta} = L \end{cases}$$

Energy

↖ constant!

Angular momentum

$$t - t_0 = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} \int_{r_0}^r \frac{dr'}{\sqrt{E - (L^2/2mr'^2 - K/r')}} \quad \square$$

The solution reduces to an integration

↓
"Integrable system"

Hamiltonian Formulation (Hamilton, Jacobi, Liouville XIX century)

• $(q, p) = (q_1, \dots, q_m, p_1, \dots, p_m) \in M \approx \mathbb{R}^{2m}$ phase space

Motion: $\frac{d}{dt} q_j = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_j}$, $\frac{d}{dt} p_j = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q_j}$, $j=1, \dots, m$

$H = H(q, p, t)$ Hamiltonian

• $(M, \{, \cdot\})$

$$\{f, g\} = \sum_{i=1}^m \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial q_i} \frac{\partial g}{\partial p_i} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial p_i} \frac{\partial g}{\partial q_i} \right) \quad \text{Poisson brackets}$$

$$\frac{dq_i}{dt} = \{q_i, H\}, \quad \frac{dp_i}{dt} = \{p_i, H\}$$

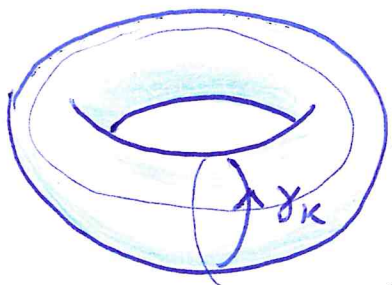
• Integrable system

- $\exists f_1(q, p) = H(q, p), f_2(q, p), \dots, f_n(q, p)$ independent
- $\frac{df_j}{dt} = 0$ "First integrals"
- $\{f_i, f_j\} = 0 \quad \forall 1 \leq i \neq j \leq n$

How?

$$\text{Invert: } \begin{cases} f_1(q,p) = A_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_m(q,p) = A_m \end{cases} \begin{matrix} \swarrow \\ \searrow \end{matrix} \text{constant} \implies p = p(q, A)$$

$\{(q,p) \in M \mid f_i(q,p) = A_i\}$
is a torus \mathbb{T}^m [Arnol'd]



ANGLE-ACTION

$$\begin{cases} (q,p) \mapsto (\phi, J) \\ \text{is canonical.} \\ H = H(J) \end{cases} \implies$$

$$\begin{cases} \phi_k(t) = \frac{\partial H(J)}{\partial J_k} \cdot t + \phi_k(0) \\ J_k \text{ constant} \end{cases} \quad k=1, \dots, m.$$

* The system is "integrable".

Integrability implies "regularity": motion is quasi-periodic on \mathbb{T}^n

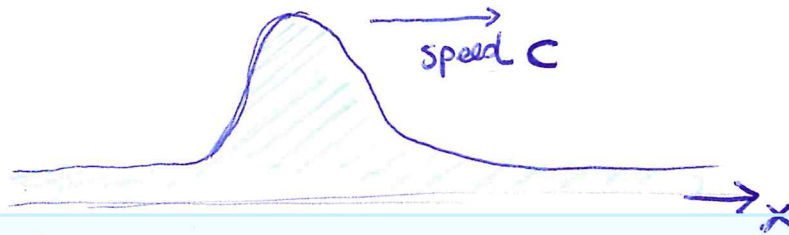
It does not mean that we can write explicitly the solutions ...

*
compute integrals

$$\begin{cases} J_k = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_{\gamma_k} \sum_{j=1}^m p_j(q, A) dq_j \\ \phi_k = \frac{\partial}{\partial J_k} \int^q \sum_{j=1}^m p_j(q, A(J)) dq^j \end{cases}$$

• There are ∞ -dimensional integrable systems.

- In 1834 J.S. Russel observed a solitary wave in Union canal
(Edinburgh \rightsquigarrow Glasgow)



- Korteweg and de Vries in 1895 :

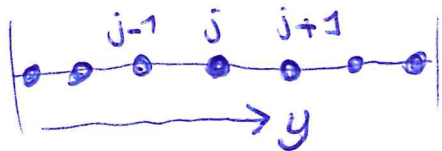
$$u_t + 6u \cdot u_x + u_{xxx} = 0 \quad (\text{KdV})$$

If you look for a solution $f(x-ct)$, you find

$$u(x,t) = \frac{c/2}{ch^2\left(\frac{\sqrt{c}}{2}(x-ct)\right)}$$

- Around 1965, Zabusky and Kruskal

Fermi-Pasta-Ulam



$$m \frac{d^2 y_j}{dt^2} = f(y_{j+1} - y_j) - f(y_j - y_{j-1})$$

$$f(x) = x + \alpha x^2$$

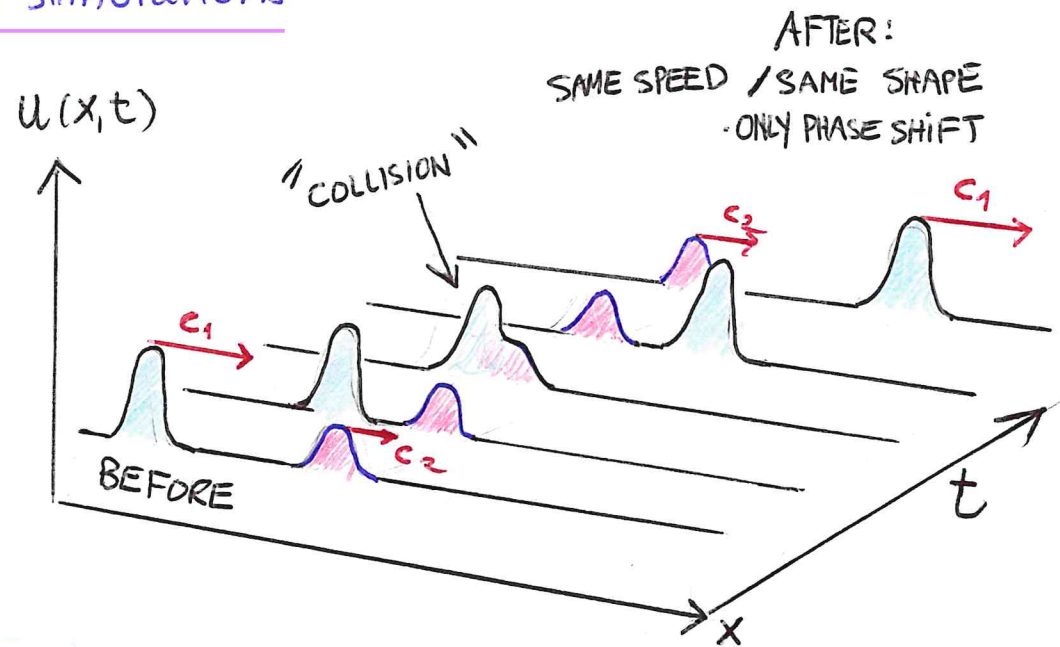
continuous
limit

(KdV)

Zabuski - Kruskal did numerical simulations

They found solutions of (KdV) with "elastic collision" of solitary waves

↳ called solitons



"Integration" of (KdV)

• Put $u = \frac{\psi_{xx}}{\psi} + \lambda, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$.

$\rightsquigarrow -\psi_{xx} + u\psi = \lambda\psi$

Naive idea: write an equation for ψ , equivalent to (KdV)

• Lax (1968):
$$\begin{cases} L\psi = \lambda\psi \\ \psi_t = M\psi \end{cases}$$

where:
$$\begin{aligned} L\psi &:= -\psi_{xx} + u(x,t)\psi \\ M\psi &:= -4\psi_{xxx} + 6u\psi_x + 3u_x\psi \end{aligned}$$

LAX PAIR

$$\begin{cases} L\psi = \lambda\psi \\ \psi_t = M\psi \end{cases}$$

has solution \Leftrightarrow compatibility
 $\partial_t L = L\partial_t$

$$\partial_t L = [M, L]$$

with $\partial_t \lambda = 0$



$$u \text{ satisfies (KdV)}$$

• How to use this to solve (KdV)?

Gardner, Green, Kruskal, Miura (1967)

\hookrightarrow INVERSE SCATTERING TRANSFORM (IST)

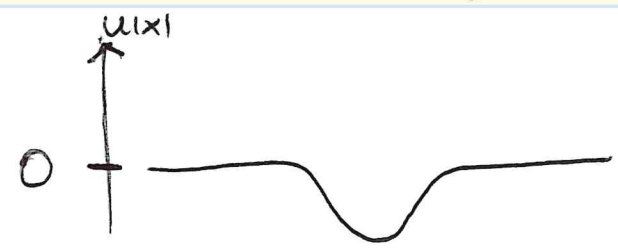
$u_t - 6uu_x + u_{xxx} = 0$

$u \rightarrow -u$ We have changed sign...

$$-\psi_{xx} + u(x)\psi = \lambda\psi \quad \text{Schrödinger eq.}$$

- DISCRETE SPECTRUM : $\lambda_m = -k_m^2, m=1, \dots, N$
- CONTINUUM : $\lambda = k^2, k \in \mathbb{R}$

- $\psi_m(x)$ eigenfunctions
- $\psi(x, k)$ generalized eigenfunctions



u rapidly decreasing at $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$.

$$\psi(x, k) \sim \begin{cases} a_+(k) e^{ikx} + a_-(k) e^{-ikx}, & x \rightarrow -\infty \\ b_+(k) e^{ikx}, & x \rightarrow +\infty \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} u(x) \rightarrow 0 \\ -\psi_{xx} \approx \lambda \psi \end{cases} \text{ for } x \rightarrow \infty$$



Write $\psi(x, t) = b_+(x) e^{ikx} + \int_x^{+\infty} K(x, z) e^{ikz} dz$.

Imposing that it is a solution, we find:

$$\begin{cases} u(x) = -2 \left(\frac{\partial K(x, z)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial K(x, z)}{\partial z} \right) \Big|_{z=x} \\ K(x, z) + F(x+z) + \int_x^{+\infty} K(x, y) F(y+z) dy = 0, \quad x > z > -\infty \end{cases}$$

(1951)
GEL'FAND - LEVITAN
MARCHENKO (1955)
EQUATION

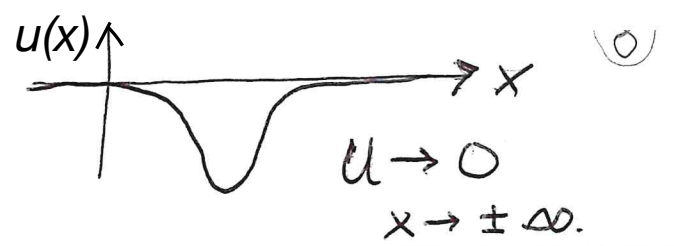
Including also

$$\psi_m(x) \sim \begin{cases} e^{k_m x}, & x \rightarrow -\infty \\ c_m e^{-k_m x}, & x \rightarrow \infty \end{cases} \text{ in } L^2(-\infty, \infty)$$

$$F(\xi) := \sum_{m=1}^N c_m^2 e^{-k_m \xi} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{a_-(k)}{a_+(k)} e^{ik\xi} dk$$

Solve initial value problem for KdV

$u(x)$
 $t=0$



a) $-\psi_{xx} + u(x)\psi = \lambda\psi$

$t=0$

$\psi(x,k) \sim \begin{cases} a_+(k)e^{ikx} + a_-(k)e^{-ikx}, & x \rightarrow -\infty \\ b_+(k)e^{ikx}, & x \rightarrow +\infty \end{cases}$

$\psi_m(x) \sim \begin{cases} e^{k_m x}, & x \rightarrow -\infty \\ C_m e^{-k_m x}, & x \rightarrow +\infty \end{cases}$

b) ψ evolves: use Lax pair!

$\psi_t = M\psi = -4\psi_{xxx} + 6u(x,t)\psi_x + 3u(x,t)\psi$

$\sim -4\psi_{xxx}$ linear, without $u(x,t)$

Substitute

$\frac{da_{\pm}}{dt} = \pm 4ik^3 a_{\pm}$
 $\frac{db_+}{dt} = 4ik^3 b_+$
 $\frac{dC_m}{dt} = 4k_m^3 C_m$

$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} a_{\pm}(k,t) = a_{\pm}(k) e^{\pm 4ik^3 t} \\ b_+(k,t) = b_+(k) e^{4ik^3 t} \\ C_m(t) = C_m \cdot e^{4k_m^3 t} \end{cases}$

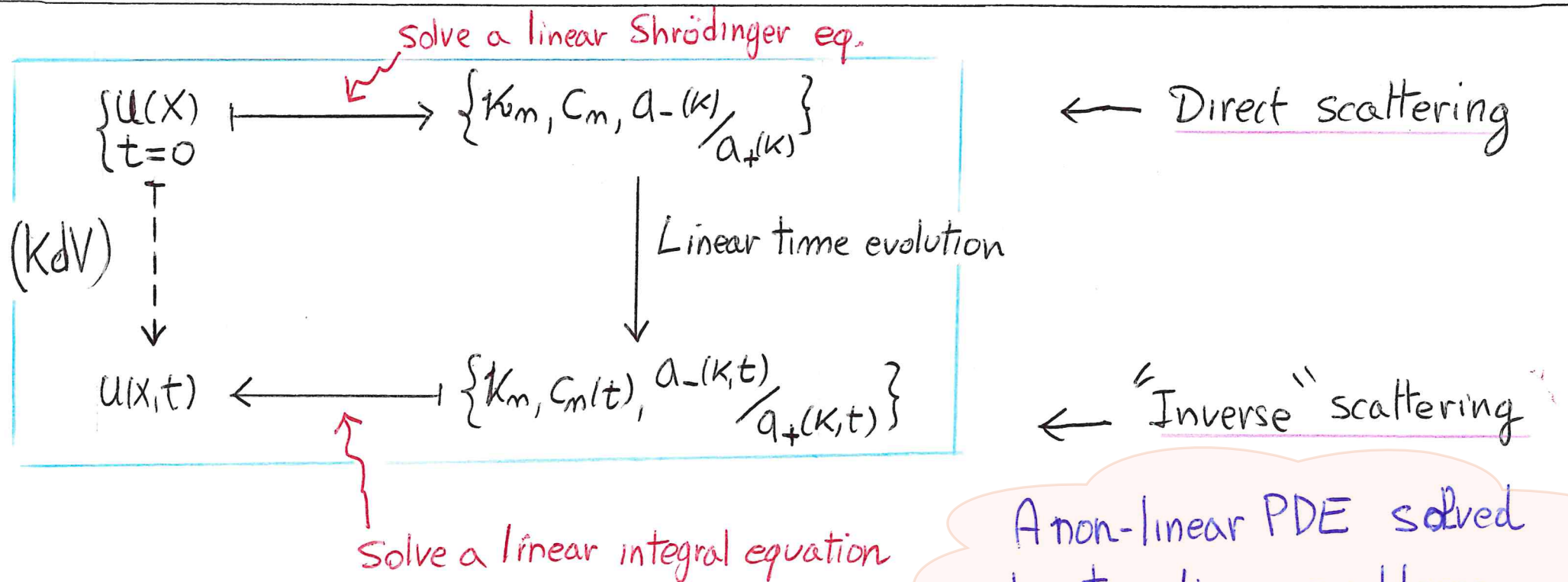
Compute $K(x, z, t)$ from:
$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} & \int_x K(x, z, t) + F(x+z, t) + \int_x K(x, y, t) F(y+z, t) dy = 0, \\ & \text{where } F(\xi) = \sum_{m=1}^N c_m(t) e^{-k_m \xi} + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{a_-(k, t)}{a_+(k, t)} e^{ik\xi} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \end{aligned} \right.$$

at time t

Then, we receive:

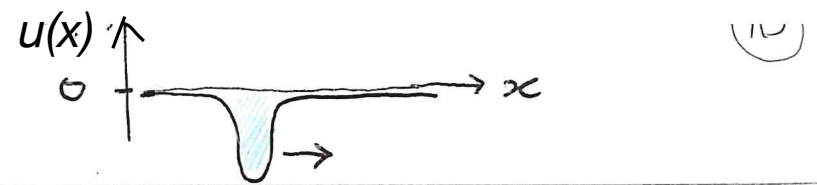
$$u(x, t) = -2 \left(\frac{\partial K(x, z, t)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial K(x, z, t)}{\partial z} \right) \Big|_{z=x}$$

solution of i.v.p. For (KdV).



A non-linear PDE solved by two linear problems.

This has been applied.

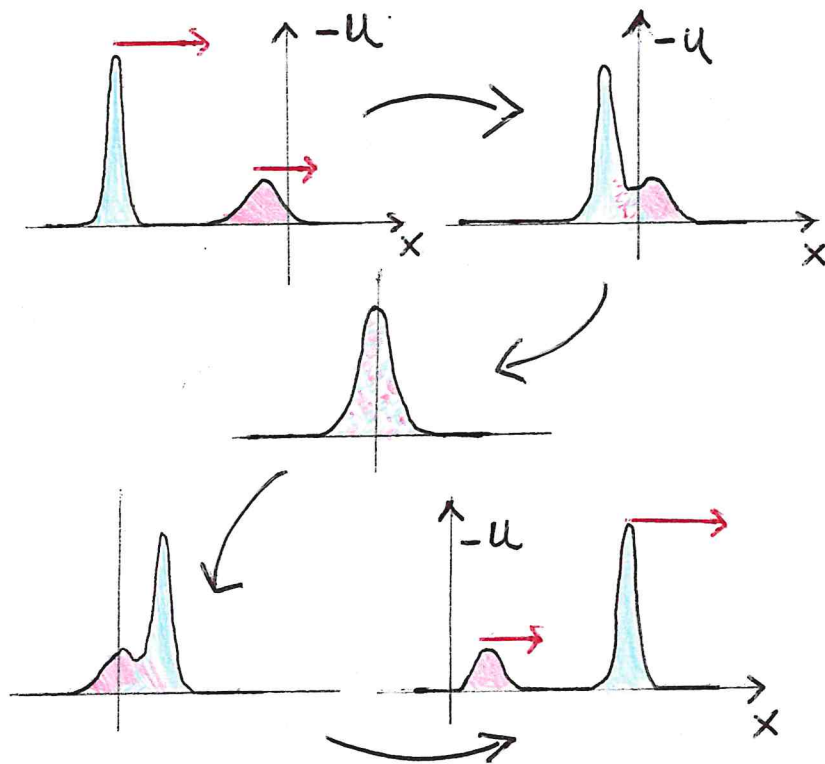


EXAMPLE: * N=1 Only one bound state K_1 \rightarrow
 $a_- = 0$

$$u(x,t) = \frac{-2K_1^2}{\text{ch}^2(K_1(x - 4K_1^2 t) + \delta)}$$

1-soliton.

* N=2, two bound states K_1, K_2



$$u(x,t) = -2(K_2^2 - K_1^2) \frac{\frac{K_2^2}{\text{sh}^2 \eta_2} + \frac{K_1^2}{\text{ch}^2 \eta_1}}{(K_2 \coth \eta_2 - K_1 \tanh \eta_1)^2}$$

2-solitons.

$$\eta_j = K_j x - 4K_j^3 t + \delta_j$$

* For any N:

We get a N-solitons solution.

Another point of view of integrability

(m)

(∞)

$(q_1, \dots, q_m, p_1, \dots, p_m)$
 $\sum_{j=1}^m (\dots)$
 $f(q, p)$
 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial q}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial p}$

$u(x, t)$
 $\int dx (\dots)$
 $F[u] = \int dx f(x, u, u_x, u_{xx}, \dots)$ Functional.
 $\frac{\delta F[u]}{\delta u(x)} := \sum (-1)^k \frac{\partial^k}{\partial x^k} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u^{(k)}}$
 $= \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_x} + \dots$

$\{f, g\}$

$\{F, G\}_0 = \int \frac{\delta F}{\delta u(x)} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\delta G}{\delta u(x)} dx$
 $\{F, G\}_1 = \int \frac{\delta F}{\delta u(x)} \left(-\frac{\partial^3}{\partial x^3} + 4u \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 2u_x \right) \frac{\delta G}{\delta u(x)} dx$

(KdV) is a bi-Hamiltonian system:

$u_t = 6uu_x - u_{xxx}$

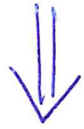
\swarrow
 $u_t = \{u(x), H_1[u]\}_0$

\searrow
 $u_t = \{u(x), H_0[u]\}_1$

$H_1[u] := \int \left(\frac{u_x^2}{2} + u^3 \right) dx$

$H_0[u] := \int (u_{xx} - u^2) dx$

Observe that $\{u, H_0\}_1 = \{u, H_1\}_0 \implies \{F, H_0\}_1 = \{F, H_1\}_0 \quad \forall F[u]$



We can define Hamiltonians $H_2, H_3, \dots, H_m, \dots$ by

$$\begin{aligned} H_2: \quad & \{F, H_2\}_0 = \{F, H_1\}_1 \\ & \vdots \\ H_m: \quad & \{F, H_m\}_0 = \{F, H_{m-1}\}_1 \\ & \text{etc...} \end{aligned}$$

← The explicit construction is due to **Magri** (1978)

They are independent and commute

$$\underline{\{H_m, H_m\}_{0,1} = 0}$$

Solution of (KdV) satisfies a hierarchy of commuting Flows

$$u_{t_m} = \{u, H_m\}_0 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\delta H_m}{\delta u}$$

A remark: Zakharov and Faddeev (1971)

proved that the inverse scattering method allows to construct (explicitly) a canonical transformation

$$u \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} P = P(k), p_1, \dots, p_N \\ Q = Q(k), q_1, \dots, q_N \end{pmatrix}$$

~~$\{P, P\}_0 \neq \{Q, Q\}_0$~~
 ~~$\{P, Q\}_0 \neq 0$~~

s.t

$$H[u] = 8 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} k^3 P(k) dk - \frac{32}{5} \sum_{e=1}^N p_e^{5/2}$$

(KdV) is a

COMPLETELY INTEGRABLE

HAMILTONIAN SYSTEM.

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{dp_e}{dt} = 0 \\ \frac{dQ}{dt} = 8k^3, \quad \frac{dq_e}{dt} = -8k_e^3 \end{cases}$$

AGAIN ON LAX PAIRS

For (KdV):

$$\begin{cases} L\psi = \lambda\psi \\ \psi_t = M\psi \end{cases}$$

It is:

$$\begin{cases} \psi_{xx} = (u(x,t) - \lambda)\psi \\ \psi_t = -4\psi_{xxx} + 3u\psi_x + 6u_x\psi \end{cases}$$

Define $\begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 \\ \phi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \vec{\phi}$ by $\begin{cases} \phi_1 = \psi \\ \phi_2 = \psi_x \end{cases}$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \vec{\phi} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ u-\lambda & 0 \end{pmatrix} \vec{\phi} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{\phi} = \begin{pmatrix} * & * \\ * & * \end{pmatrix} \vec{\phi} \end{cases}$$

This is in general the
"structure" of integrability

: there is a pair:
Lax Pair

$$\begin{cases} \partial_x \Phi = A(x,t,u,\lambda) \Phi \\ \partial_t \Phi = B(x,t,u,\lambda) \Phi \end{cases}$$

Matrices

More general

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} = A(x, \vec{t}, u_1, \dots, u_k) \Phi \\ \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t_j} = B_j(x, \vec{t}, u_1, \dots, u_k) \Phi \end{cases} \quad A, B \text{ are } m \times m \text{ matrices}$$

$j=1, \dots, p, \vec{t} = (t_1, \dots, t_p)$

Compatible system (\exists a fundamental matrix solution $\Phi(x, t)$)
 \updownarrow
invertible, $m \times m$ matrix.

$j=1, \dots, m$

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t_j} - \frac{\partial B_j}{\partial x} + [A, B_j] = 0$$

\uparrow When written explicitly, they are non-linear PDEs (or ODEs)
for u_1, \dots, u_k .

\uparrow
"integrable"

EXAMPLE:

Preliminary: - a linear ODE has branch points determined by the equation

$$\frac{d}{dt} y - \frac{1}{2(t-a)} y = 0 \rightarrow y(t) = c \cdot \sqrt{t-a}$$

- a non-linear ODE, in general, has branch point not fixed by the equation

$$y \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow y(t) = \sqrt{t-c}$$

$t=c$ "movable" branch point

- Thus: Linear ODE allow to define special functions.

- The 2nd - order non-linear ODEs with branch points determined by equation are classified \rightsquigarrow Painlevé equations [beginning of XX century]

There are 6:
of them

$$(1) y'' = 6y^2 + t$$

$$(2) y'' = 2y^3 + ty + \alpha, \alpha \in \mathbb{C}$$

\vdots

\vdots

$$(6) y'' = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{y-1} + \frac{1}{y-t} \right) y'^2 - \left(\frac{1}{t} + \frac{1}{t-1} + \frac{1}{y-t} \right) y' + \mathbb{Q}(y, t)$$

← rational

- Painlevé equations define non-linear special functions

- They appear in applications

Ex: (KdV) $u_t - 6uu_x + u_{xxx} = 0$

Find $u(x,t) = y(\underbrace{x+3ct^2}_z) + ct$

substitute: $\frac{d^3y}{dz^3} = 6y \frac{dy}{dz} - c$

Integrate: $\frac{d^2y}{dz^2} = 3y^2 - cz + \alpha$
Painlevé (1).

- They are "integrable": there is a Lax Pair for each of them:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} = A(x,t,y) \Phi \\ \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} = B(x,t,y) \Phi \end{cases}$$

A, B 2×2 matrices

compatibility \Leftrightarrow solvability

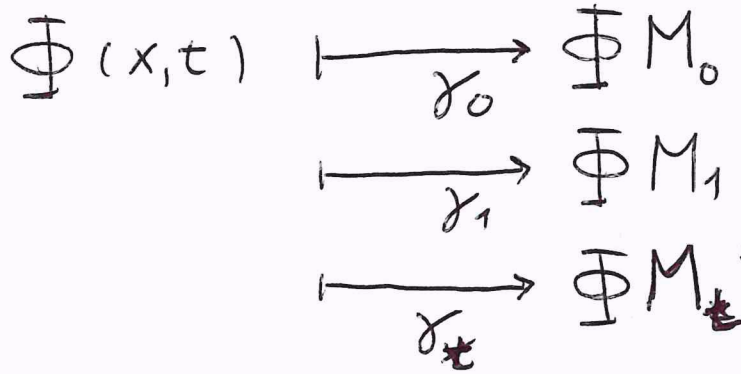
$$\partial_t A - \partial_x B + [A, B] = 0$$

This reduces to a Painlevé eq. for $y(t)$.

Example : Equation (6).

$$A(x, t, y) = \frac{A_0(t)}{x} + \frac{A_1(t)}{x-1} + \frac{A_*(t)}{x-t}$$

Matrix solution

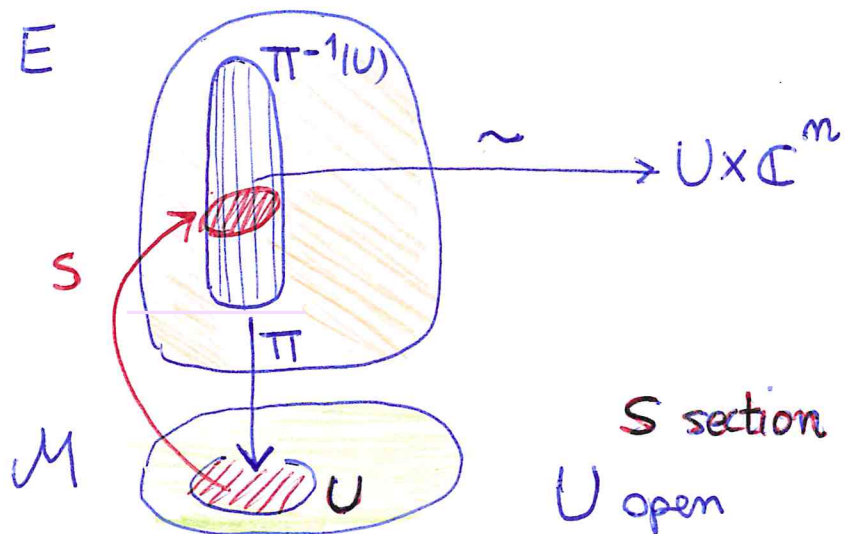


Lax Pair implies that the monodromy matrices M_0, M_1, M_t are constant (of the motion for the Painlevé eq.)

Techniques to find analytic properties of $y(t) = y(t, \underbrace{M_0, M_1, M_t}_{\text{the "constants of integration"}}$

Method of monodromy preserving deformations
or isomonodromy deformations

Last remark: Our Lax Pairs are a particular instance of Flat connections on vector bundles



Vector bundle (E, \mathcal{M}, π)

∇ connection

X, Y vector fields on \mathcal{M} .

$$\begin{cases} \nabla_{fX+gY} s = f \nabla_X s + g \nabla_Y s, & f, g \in C^\infty. \\ \nabla_X (as_1 + bs_2) = a \nabla_X s_1 + b \nabla_X s_2, & a, b \in \mathbb{C}. \\ \nabla_X (fs) = \underbrace{X(f)}_{df(X)} s + f \nabla_X s, \end{cases}$$

- Independent vector

fields: $\frac{\partial}{\partial x^1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x^m}$

- Independent sections:

$$e_1, \dots, e_m \quad \Rightarrow \quad s = \sum_{j=1}^m \Phi^j e_j$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}} \left(\sum_j \Phi^j e_j \right) &= \sum_j \frac{\partial \Phi^j}{\partial x^i} e_j + \underbrace{\Phi^j \nabla_{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}} e_j}_{\Gamma_{ij}^k e_k} \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial \Phi^k}{\partial x^i} + \Gamma_{ij}^k \Phi^j \right) e_k \end{aligned}$$

Equation

$$\underline{\nabla s = 0}$$

is:

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x^i} + \Gamma_i \Phi = 0, \quad i=1, \dots, m$$

$$\Gamma_i := \left(\Gamma_{ij}^k \right)_{j,k=1}^m$$

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \Phi^1 \\ \vdots \\ \Phi^m \end{pmatrix}$$

Let

$$\begin{cases} d\Phi = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x^i} dx^i \\ \Gamma := \sum_{i=1}^m \Gamma_i dx^i \end{cases}$$

It is

$$d\Phi + \Gamma\Phi = 0 \quad (*)$$

If a solution exists, then $d^2\Phi = 0 \Rightarrow d\Gamma + \Gamma \wedge \Gamma = 0 \quad (**)$

• Theorem: $(*)$ has n independent solutions $\Leftrightarrow (**)$

EXAMPLE: $(x^1, \dots, x^m) = (x, t), \quad \Gamma_1 = A, \quad \Gamma_2 = B$

Then: $\begin{cases} (*) \text{ is } & \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} = A\Phi, \quad \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} = B\Phi \\ (**) \text{ is } & \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial B}{\partial x} + [A, B] = 0 \end{cases}$