Full Bargmann gas solutions of the mKdV equation



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joint with Bob Jenkins (UCF) and Ken T-R McLaughlin (Tulane U.)



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The mighty "wave of translation"

• KdV equation [Scott-Russell, 1834; Korteweg, de Vries, 1895]

 $q_t - 6qq_x + q_{xxx} = 0$

Shallow-water waves, internal waves in the ocean, ion acoustic waves in plasma, acoustic waves on a crystal lattice, \dots

 Modified KdV equation [Zabusky, '67; Miura, '68]

$$q_t + 6q^2q_x + q_{xxx} = 0$$

Electric circuits, multi-component plasmas, ...



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The Spirited Horse, the Engineer, and the Mathematician: Water Waves in Nineteenth-Century Hydrodynamics

OLIVIER DARRIGOL

Communicated by J.Z. BUCHWALD

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Classical solutions

Travelling wave ansatz:

$$q(x,t) = \varphi\left(x - vt\right)$$

the PDE becomes an ODE in the variable $\xi = x - vt$: $-v\varphi' - 6\varphi\varphi' + \varphi''' = 0$.

• rapidly decreasing, localized travelling wave (*soliton*):

$$q_{\rm sol}(x,t) = \pm \kappa \operatorname{sech}\left(2\kappa(x-4\kappa^2 t - x_0)\right)$$

with $\kappa > 0$.



with wave parameters $\{\beta_j\}$ and $\operatorname{cn}(z \mid m)$ Jacobi elliptic function of modulus $m \in (0, 1)$.

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 $\begin{array}{l} \textcircled{9} \quad periodic \ travelling \ wave \ solutions: \ q_{ell}(x,t) = \\ & -\beta_1 - \beta_2 - \beta_3 + 2 \frac{(\beta_2 + \beta_3)(\beta_1 + \beta_3)}{\beta_2 + \beta_3 - (\beta_2 - \beta_1) \operatorname{cn}^2 \left(\sqrt{\beta_3^2 - \beta_1^2}(x - 2(\beta_1^2 + \beta_2^2 + \beta_3^2)t) + x_0 \mid m\right) \end{array}$

with wave parameters $\{\beta_j\}$ and $\operatorname{cn}(z \mid m)$ Jacobi elliptic function of modulus $m \in (0, 1)$.





The general solution

Recipe (for fast decaying or step-like IC):



Integrable PDEs

The procedure applies to a vast class of PDEs (KdV, Boussinesq, mKdV, cubic NLS, etc.) that are integrable:

the equation arises as the compatibility condition between two linear differential operators – Lax pair [Tanaka, '72; Wadati, '73]:

 $\dot{\mathcal{L}} = [\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{B}]$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} D - \mathbf{i} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & q \\ q & 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad D := \partial_x \\ \mathcal{B} &= -4 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} D^3 + 3D \begin{bmatrix} -q^2 & \mathbf{i}q_x \\ \mathbf{i}q_x & -q^2 \end{bmatrix} + 3 \begin{bmatrix} -q^2 & \mathbf{i}q_x \\ \mathbf{i}q_x & -q^2 \end{bmatrix} D \;. \end{aligned}$$

Equivalently, the compatibility condition can be presented as the existence of simultaneous solutions to

$$\mathcal{L}\psi = \lambda\psi, \qquad \psi_t = \mathcal{B}\psi.$$

The Direct Scattering

Consider the Lax pair with initial profile q(x, t = 0).

From the equation

$$\mathcal{L}\psi = \lambda\psi$$

solving the eigenvalue-eigenfunction problem means to find the

scattering data,

which describe the solution space of the Schrödinger/Dirac operator:

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{S}_0 = \left\{ -\kappa_1^2, \dots, -\kappa_n^2 \text{ eigenvalues (discrete spectrum)}, \\ \chi_1, \dots, \chi_n \text{ norming constants of the eigenfunctions,} \\ \rho(k) \text{ reflection coefficient (continuum spectrum) } \right\} \end{split}$$

Turning on time

If q(x, t) depends on a parameter t, one expects S_t to vary with t as well.

If the t dependence of q(x, t) is given in terms of the mKdV equation:

$$q_t = -6q^2q_x - q_{xxx} \; ,$$

- the discrete eigenvalues are constant of motion: $-\kappa_i^2$;
- the norming constants satisfies: $\chi_j(t) = \chi_j(0)e^{A\kappa_j^3 t}, A \in \mathbb{R};$
- the reflection coefficient satisfies $\rho(k;t) = \rho(k;0)e^{iBk^3t}, B \in \mathbb{R}.$

Finally, there exist standard spectral theory techniques to reconstruct the potential q(x, t) from S_t (we'll be using a Riemann-Hilbert problem).

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Where is the soliton?

If q(x,0) yields only one eigenvalue $\lambda = -\kappa^2$ and no reflection coefficient $\rho(k) \equiv 0$ for the Schrödinger equation.

The solution q(x,t) is a 1-soliton solution:

$$q_{\rm sol}(x,t) = \pm \kappa \operatorname{sech} \left(2\kappa (x - 4\kappa^2 t - x_0) \right)$$

with phase shift

$$x_0 = \frac{1}{2\kappa} \log \frac{2\kappa}{|\chi|}$$

In general,

- Multi-soliton solutions correspond to the discrete eigenvalues $\{-\kappa_j^2\}$ of the operator \mathcal{L} .
- **2** The reflection coefficient $\rho(k)$ corresponds to a radiative part that propagates to the left and decays at rate t^{-1} .

What's so special about solitons?

- Solitons = localized travelling wave solutions.
- Solitons = discrete eigenvalues of the \mathcal{L} operator; they arise in the long-time behaviour.
- Soliton interaction is elastic: they "survive" collisions [Zabusky-Kruskal, '65]



pairwise interaction yields logarithmic phase shifts $\delta_j^+ - \delta_j^- \sim \log \left| \frac{\kappa_j + \kappa_i}{\kappa_j - \kappa_j} \right|$

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What is a soliton gas?

Definition (informal)

A soliton gas/ensemble is a -random- configuration of a large number of solitons.



Figure: Initial distribution of the soliton gas (left). (t, x)-diagram of soliton field (right). From [Shurgalina, Pelinovski, '16].

Several numerical experiments: [Gelash, Agafontsev, '18]. [Bonnemain, Congy, El, Roberti et al., '18–'24], [Pelinovsky, Didenkulova et al., '16–'24], etc.

Soliton gasses have been observed *experimentally*

in water waves [Costa *et al.*, '14; Redor *et al.*, '19; Suret *et al.*, '20; ...] and in optics [Marcucci *et al.*, '19; ...]



A soliton gas:

- Continuum limit of solitons: gas solutions belong to the closure of the set of multisoliton potentials [Marchenko '88–'91], [Zaitsev, Whitham, '83], [Boyd, '84], [Gesztesy, Karwowski, Zhao, '92]
- **3** Kinetic theory: soliton gas as a special large genus (thermodynamic) limit of a finite gap (*N*-phase nonlinear wave) solution to the PDE

and a trial soliton velocity satisfies kinetic+continuity equations (nonlinear dispersive relations)

$$v(\kappa) = 4\kappa^2 + \frac{1}{\kappa} \int_0^\infty \ln \left| \frac{s+\kappa}{s-\kappa} \right| \left(v(\kappa) - v(s) \right) \varrho(s;x,t) \,\mathrm{d}s \;, \quad \varrho_t + (v\varrho)_x = 0$$

[Zakharov, El, Tovbis, etc.]

- These two approaches are equivalent [Jenkins, '24+].
- We focus on the former approach.

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- - Free Trial Soliton

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 $t^{*} = 0$

f = 0.048; n = 0.65; n = 0.30

From [Carbone, Dutvk, El, '16].

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(a, t*) 10.2 • These two approaches are 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 equivalent [Jenkins, '24+]. $t^* = 660$ (,t,), • We focus on the former 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 approach. $t^* = 1330$ n(x, t*) 1500 2000





- \blacksquare construct a limiting 2N-soliton solution to the (m)KdV equation as $N\to\infty,$ via RH problem
- **2** analyze its asymptotic profile at t = 0 for $x \to \pm \infty$ and at $t \gg 1$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$



 $q(x,t) = q_{\rm lead}(x,t) + \{{\rm error}\}$

Full gas

To be continued...

Multi-soliton potential

Given the scattering data for $q_t + 6q^2q_x + q_{xxx} = 0$

$$S = \left\{ \{ i\kappa_j \}_{j=1}^{2N} , \{ c_j \}_{j=1}^{2N} , \rho(k) \right\}$$

the solution [Wadati, '72; Deift-Zhou, '93]

$$q_{2N}(x,t) = \lim_{k \to \infty} 2ik \boldsymbol{M}_{12}(k;x,t)$$





 To be continued... 00

Blaschke factor trick

Define:

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{M}}(k) := \boldsymbol{M}(k) \left(\prod_{j=1}^{N} rac{k - \mathrm{i} \mu_j}{k + \mathrm{i} \mu_j}
ight)^{\sigma_3}$$

the same 2N-solitons solution:

 $q_{2N}(x,t) = \lim_{k \to \infty} 2ik \widetilde{M}_{12}(k;x,t)$



Intuition: at t = 0, the λ_j -bumps are located "on the right" and the μ_j -bumps are located "on the left".



Assume the eigenvalues are accumulating uniformly within a bounded interval $\Sigma := [i\eta_1, i\eta_2]$:

• Rescale

$$c_j \mapsto \frac{c_j}{N^{\gamma}}$$
 and $\chi_j \mapsto \frac{\chi_j}{N^{\gamma}}$,

where $\gamma = 1$ in the bulk and $\gamma = \frac{3}{2}$ at the edges.

- The norming constants c_j , χ_j are discretization of smooth functions $r_1(k), r_2(k)$ (positive-valued, sufficiently regular, $r_1(k)r_2(k) < 1$ on Σ).
- Take the limit $N \to +\infty$...



This 2N-soliton solution has very broad support. For $N \gg 1$, it decays only for |x| > CN for some $C \in \mathbb{R}_+$.

 To be continued... 00

The limit RH problem



Theorem

The limiting RH problem has a unique solution and the corresponding mKdV (classical) solution

$$q(x,t) := \lim_{k \to \infty} 2ik \boldsymbol{X}_{12}(k;x,t)$$

is the uniform limit of the 2N-soliton solution $q_{2N}(x,t)$ for $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+$.

Sketch of the proof:

- Existence and uniqueness of the solution to the limiting RHP follows from the Vanishing Lemma [Zhou, '89].
- Uniform limit follows from standard Stirling formula expansion.

Properties:

- this gas is an instance of a *condensate* gas [El, Tovbis, '20];
- this gas is *smooth* and *dense* (due to the scaling of the norming constants);
- and deterministic.

 To be continued... 00

The dispersionless gas

In the case where the reflection coefficient $\rho \equiv 0$, we recover a primitive/Bargmann potential. [Dyachenko, Nabelek, Zakharov, Zakharov, '16–'20].

These potentials are constructed via *formal* limiting procedure from a scalar $\bar{\partial}$ -problem with dressing operator [Zakharov, Manakov, '85] and they are encoded in the solution of a scalar *nonlocal* RH problem.



Figure: (left) periodic potential $r_1 = r_2 = \frac{1}{\pi}$; (right) one-sided dressing $r_2 = 0$.

Conjecture

All primitive/Bargmann potentials are regular, dense soliton gasses.

Intro	Full gas	To be continued
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The half-gas		

The case where $\rho \equiv 0$ and one of the limiting norming constant $r_2 \equiv 0$ has already been analyzed in [Girotti, Grava, Jenkins, McLaughlin, Minakov, '23].



• Long-time asymptotic analysis:



gas-soliton interaction and derivation of the kinetic equations:

$$\dot{x}_{\text{peak}} = -\frac{2\varphi_t(i\kappa_0) - \partial_t \ln \Psi(x,t;\kappa_0,\eta_1)}{2\varphi_x(i\kappa_0) - \partial_x \ln \Psi(x,t;\kappa_0,\eta_1)}\Big|_{x=x_{\text{peak}}(t)} + \mathcal{O}\left(t^{-1}\right)$$

and

$$\bar{v}_{\rm sol}(\kappa_0) = 4\kappa_0^2 + \frac{1}{\kappa_0} \int_{\eta_1}^{\alpha} \ln \left| \frac{\kappa_0 - s}{\kappa_0 + s} \right| (v_{\rm group}(s) - \bar{v}_{\rm sol}(\kappa_0)) \,\partial_x \varrho(\mathrm{i}s) \,\mathrm{d}s \;.$$

where \bar{v}_{sol} is the *average velocity* of the soliton peak over one period of the background.

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 To be continued... 00

Asymptotic analysis



 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm continuum \ limit \ of \ solitons} \\ {\rm with \ a \ spectral \ gap} \end{array}$

The full gas

- q(x,0) has elliptic behaviour at both $\pm\infty$: $q(x,t) = (\eta_1 + \eta_2) \operatorname{dn} ((\eta_1 + \eta_2)(x - x_{0,\pm}) \mid m_1) + \mathcal{O}(x^{-\infty})$ as $x \to \pm\infty$
- as $t \to +\infty$, q(x,t) looks like a genus-1 solution at both $x \to \pm\infty$, with a connecting region that is phase-modulating.



To be continued... 00



 To be continued... 00

The limit RH problem



The core of the RH problem analysis relies on

9 Small Norm Theorem: if we have a RHP of the type

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{X}_{+}(k) &= \boldsymbol{X}_{-}(k) \underbrace{\left(\boldsymbol{I} + \{\text{small terms}\}\right)}_{\text{(almost) no jumps}} & \text{on the contours} \\ \boldsymbol{X}(k) &= \boldsymbol{I} + \mathcal{O}\left(k^{-1}\right) & k \to \infty. \end{aligned}$$

then, the solution is $X = I + \{\text{small terms}\}$ (the approximation can be explicitly estimated!).

Deift–Zhou Steepest Descent method: perform a sequence of invertible transformations of the original RH problem **X**

$$X \mapsto T \mapsto U \mapsto \ldots \mapsto S$$

in such away that, in the appropriate regime, the final RH problem S can be solved by an approximating solution W (the "model problem"):

 $oldsymbol{S}\sim oldsymbol{W}$

(i.e. $\mathcal{E} = S^{-1}W$ fits into the Small Norm theorem setting).

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A closer look at the jumps

The jump on the bands and the phase:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{X}_{+}(k)\mathbf{X}_{-}^{-1}(k) &= \frac{1}{1+r_{1}(k)r_{2}(k)} \begin{bmatrix} 1-r_{1}(k)r_{2}(k) & 2ir_{2}(k)e^{-2i\theta(k;x,t)} \\ 2ir_{1}(k)e^{2i\theta(k;x,t)} & 1-r_{1}(k)r_{2}(k) \end{bmatrix} \\ \theta(k;x,t) &= 4k^{3}t + kx = 4tk\left(k^{2} + \frac{x}{4t}\right) \end{aligned}$$

At each point along Σ , and for any value of $\xi := \frac{x}{t}$, we always have one of the two exponentials $e^{\pm 2i\theta(k;x,t)}$ asymptotically large ...

The DZ steepest descent business

Massage the RH problem [Deift, Zhou, '92]:

$$\boldsymbol{T}(k) = \boldsymbol{X}(k)e^{-\mathrm{i}g(k)\sigma_3}f(k)^{\sigma_3}$$

The dynamic is driven by the g-function

$$g(k;x,t) = \int_{\Sigma \cup \overline{\Sigma}} \log(k-s) \varrho(s;x,t) \,\mathrm{d}s \;, \quad \Sigma = [\mathrm{i}\eta_1, \mathrm{i}\eta_2] \;.$$

The measure $\rho(s) ds$ is given explicitly

$$\varrho(s;x,t)\mathrm{d}s = -\frac{1}{\pi\mathrm{i}}\frac{12t(s^4 + \frac{1}{2}(\eta_1^2 + \eta_2^2)s^2 + c_2) + x(s^2 + c_0)}{\sqrt{(s^2 + \eta_2^2)(s^2 + \eta_1^2)}}\mathrm{d}s$$

for some constants c_0,c_2 depending on $\eta_1,\eta_2,$ uniquely determined by a suitable normalization.

Remark

This is the same *g*-function that was constructed in [Girotti, Grava, Jenkins, McLaughlin, Minakov, '23].

- for $\frac{x}{t} < v_1$ and $\frac{x}{t} > v_2$: q(x,t) is a periodic travelling wave with fixed parameters (*elliptic regions* S_E).
- $v_1 < \frac{x}{t} < v_2$: q(x,t) is a periodic travelling wave with fixed parameters, but with slowly varying phase (connecting region S_C).
- for $\frac{x}{t} < v_0$: contribution of the dispersive tails is present.



To be continued... 00



Full gas

To be continued... 00

The model problem

• Construct the outer parametric W with ϑ_3 -function associated to the genus-1 Riemann surface $\mathfrak{X} = \left\{ (k, \eta) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid \eta^2 = (k^2 + \eta_1^2)(k^2 + \eta_2^2) \right\}$



• Construct local parametrices at the endpoints $P_{\pm \eta_j}$ and at the inflection points $P_{\pm \mu}$ (and $P_{\pm \nu}$):



Full gas

To be continued... 00

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② Construct local parametrices at the endpoints $P_{\pm \eta_j}$ and at the inflection points $P_{\pm \mu}$ (and $P_{\pm \nu}$):



Theorem (large time asymptotics)

The mKdV full gas has the following asymptotic behaviour:

$$q(x,t) = (\eta_1 + \eta_2) \operatorname{dn} \left((\eta_1 + \eta_2) (x - 2(\eta_1^2 + \eta_2^2)t - x_0(\frac{x}{t})) \mid m_1 \right) + \mathcal{O} \left(t^{-\frac{1}{4} + \epsilon} \right) ,$$
$$x_0(\frac{x}{t}) = \frac{K(m_1)}{\eta_1 + \eta_2} \left(\Delta(\frac{x}{t}) - 1 \right) ,$$

for any $\epsilon > 0$, where $dn(x \mid m_1)$ is the Jacobi elliptic function with modulus $m_1 = \frac{4\eta_1\eta_2}{(\eta_1+\eta_2)^2}$, $K(m) = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{d\theta}{\sqrt{1-m\sin^2(\theta)}}$ is the complete elliptic integral of first kind, and $\Delta(\xi)$ is an explicit modulation term:

$$\begin{split} \Delta(\xi) &= \frac{\eta_2}{K(m)} \left[\int_{\Sigma_1^+(\xi)} \frac{\log\left(\frac{2r_2(z)}{1+r_1(z)r_2(z)}\right)}{R_+(z)} \mathrm{d}z - \int_{\Sigma_1^-(\xi)} \frac{\log\left(\frac{2r_1(z)}{1+r_1(z)r_2(z)}\right)}{R_+(z)} \mathrm{d}z \right. \\ &+ \int_{\mathcal{L}^0(\xi)} \frac{\log(1+|\rho(z)|^2)}{R(z)} \mathrm{d}z \right]. \end{split}$$

Remarks:

() The solution is equivalent to the elliptic solution

$$\begin{aligned} q_{\text{ell}}(x,t) &= \\ -\beta_1 - \beta_2 - \beta_3 + \frac{2(\beta_2 + \beta_3)(\beta_1 + \beta_3)}{\beta_2 + \beta_3 - (\beta_2 - \beta_1)\operatorname{cn}^2\left(\sqrt{\beta_3^2 - \beta_1^2}(x - 2(\beta_1^2 + \beta_2^2 + \beta_3^2)t) + x_0 \mid m\right)} \end{aligned}$$

here $\beta_1 = 0$, $\beta_2 = \eta_1$ and $\beta_3 = \eta_2$.

 ${\it @}$ The error term ${\cal O}(t^{-\frac{1}{4}+\epsilon})$ is due to the hyperbolic cylinder parametrix -when present-.

Otherwise, the error term is $\mathcal{O}(t^{-1/2})/\mathcal{O}(e^{-t})$ (resp. when $\rho \neq 0/\rho = 0$).

Indeed, in our construction we have $r_j(k) \sim |k - i\eta_j|^{1/2}$ and the local parametrices near the fixed end points are not needed.





Conclusive overlook

What we have so far:

- We constructed a new class of solutions to the mKdV equation. This gas is
 - regular
 - dense (condensate)
 - deterministic
- Description of the full soliton gas in the large time regime, over the whole spatial domain.



Figure: Snapshot of the Bargmann gas asymptotics

Conclusive overlook

What would be cool to analyze:

- Interaction of the full gas with a big soliton: long time behaviour, kinetic equations, phase shifts, etc.
 - conjecture: we'll get kinetic equations for a condensate...
 - problem: where do we "initialize" the soliton?
- construct new gasses from soliton+antisoliton limit (i.e. r_1, r_2 may have zeros)
- construct new (full) gasses from different scaling limits as $N \to \infty$ (e.g. reflection coefficients do not scale like $\mathcal{O}(N^{-1})$)
 - conjecture: we may be able to recover gasses that are not condensate

$$\begin{split} &\int_{\Sigma} \ln \left| \frac{s+\kappa}{s-\kappa} \right| u(s) |\mathrm{d}s| + \sigma(k) u(k) = \frac{\pi}{2} \\ &\int_{\Sigma} \ln \left| \frac{s+\kappa}{s-\kappa} \right| v(s) |\mathrm{d}s| + \sigma(k) v(k) = -2\pi\kappa^2 \end{split}$$

where u is the density of states, v is the density of velocities.

- asymptotic behaviour (a.k.a. g-function) will be different
- adding randomness to reflection coefficients/position of the poles (see Ken's talk!)

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