

# Nonlinear Waves in Weakly-Coupled Lattices

Anton Sakovich

McMaster University

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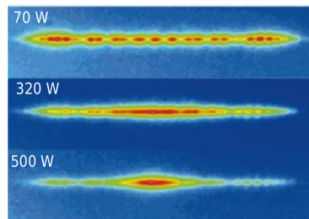
# Lattice equations

Lattice equations are systems of coupled ODE with discrete translation invariance. They arise as

- models for physical processes
- discretization of PDEs



Mechanical vibrations.



Optical waveguides [CLS03].

We consider lattice equations which support localized time-periodic solutions – **discrete breathers**.

# Equations

We consider the following one-dimensional lattices:

- Discrete Klein–Gordon (**dKG**) equation,

$$\ddot{u}_n + V'(u_n) = \epsilon(\Delta \mathbf{u})_n, \quad u_n(t) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

- Discrete nonlinear Schrödinger (**dNLS**) equation,

$$i\dot{u}_n(t) \pm |u_n|^{2p} u_n = \epsilon(\Delta \mathbf{u})_n, \quad u_n(t) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad p \in \mathbb{N},$$

where  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $(\Delta \mathbf{u})_n = u_{n-1} - 2u_n + u_{n+1}$ .

The main objective is to study existence and stability of discrete breathers near the **anti-continuum limit** ( $\epsilon = 0$ ).



# Thesis outline

## dNLS

- existence of breathers
- linear stability & **internal modes**
- **dispersive decay** & asymptotic stability

## dKG

- existence of breathers & **tail-to-tail interactions**
- **linear stability**
- numerical continuation of breathers
- **bifurcations**

# dNLS breathers near the anti-continuum limit

We look for discrete breathers in the dNLS equation,

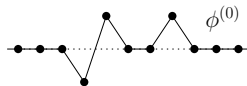
$$i\dot{u}_n + |u_n|^{2p} u_n + \epsilon(\Delta \mathbf{u})_n = 0, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad p \in \mathbb{N},$$

using the rotating wave approximation,  $u_n = \phi_n e^{it}$ , where the discrete soliton  $\phi$  satisfies

$$(1 - \phi_n^{2p}) \phi_n = \epsilon(\Delta \phi)_n.$$

Let  $S_{\pm}$  be disjoint compact subsets of  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  
then, in the anti-continuum limit,

$$\phi^{(0)} = \sum_{n \in S_+} \mathbf{e}_n - \sum_{n \in S_-} \mathbf{e}_n, \quad (\mathbf{e}_n)_m = \delta_{n,m}.$$



If  $\epsilon$  is small enough there exists a unique solution  $\phi \in l^2$  such that

$$\|\phi - \phi^{(0)}\|_{l^2} \leq C|\epsilon|.$$

# Linear stability of dNLS breathers

Linear stability of a discrete breather  $\phi$  is determined by the spectral problem

$$(\mathcal{L} - I\lambda) \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v} \\ \mathbf{w} \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad \mathcal{L} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & L_- \\ -L_+ & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

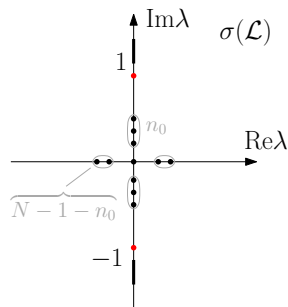
where  $L_{\pm}$  are discrete Schrödinger operators given by

$$\begin{aligned} (L_+ \mathbf{v})_n &= -\epsilon(\Delta \mathbf{v})_n + (1 - (2p + 1)\phi_n^{2p})v_n, \\ (L_- \mathbf{v})_n &= -\epsilon(\Delta \mathbf{v})_n + (1 - \phi_n^{2p})v_n. \end{aligned}$$

- Eigenvalue count: [PKF05], [CP10].
- Our focus: internal modes near the anti-continuum limit.

Limiting soliton  $\phi^{(0)}$ :

- $N$  excited sites
- $n_0$  sign changes



# Free resolvent

The free resolvent operator  $R_0(\lambda) \equiv (-\Delta - \lambda)^{-1}$  can be written explicitly [KKK06]

$$\forall \mathbf{f} \in l^2 : \quad (R_0(\lambda)\mathbf{f})_n = \frac{1}{2i \sin z(\lambda)} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-iz(\lambda)|n-m|} f_m,$$

where  $z(\lambda)$  is a unique solution of the transcendental equation

$$2(1 - \cos z(\lambda)) = \lambda, \quad \operatorname{Re} z(\lambda) \in [-\pi, \pi), \quad \operatorname{Im} z(\lambda) \leq 0.$$

Moreover,

- $R_0(\lambda) : l^2 \rightarrow l^2$  if  $\lambda \notin [0, 4] \equiv \sigma_c(-\Delta)$ ,
- $R_0^\pm(\lambda) : l^1 \rightarrow l^\infty$  if  $\lambda \notin \{0\} \cup \{4\}$  with poles at  $\lambda = 0$  and  $\lambda = 4$ .

# Spectral problem: leading order

Truncate the potential  $\{\phi_n^{2p}\}$  to the leading order and rewrite the spectral problem as

$$(L - I\Omega) \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad L = \begin{bmatrix} -\epsilon\Delta + I - (1+p)V & -pV \\ pV & \epsilon\Delta - I + (1+p)V \end{bmatrix},$$

where

$$\Omega = i\lambda, \quad \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{v} + i\mathbf{w}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{v} - i\mathbf{w},$$

and  $V : l^2 \rightarrow l^2$  is a compact potential defined by

$$(V\mathbf{u})_n = \sum_{m \in S_- \cup S_+} \delta_{n,m} u_m, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$



# Resolvent for the leading order operator

To study  $R_L(\Omega) = (L - I\Omega)^{-1}$  we reduce the infinite system

$$(L - I\Omega) \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{f} \\ -\mathbf{g} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g} \in l^2$$

to a square system of  $2N$  linear equations:

$$A(\Omega, \epsilon)c = h(\Omega, \epsilon), \quad h(\Omega, \epsilon) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-iz(\lambda_+)|n-m|} f_m \\ \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-iz(\lambda_-)|n-m|} g_m \end{array} \right\}_{n \in S},$$

where  $c = (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})^T|_S$  and  $\lambda_{\pm} = \frac{1}{\epsilon}(\pm\Omega - 1)$ .

- The operator  $L$  has  $2N$  small eigenvalues near  $\Omega = 0$ ,
- The continuous spectrum is  $\sigma_c(L) = [-1 - 4\epsilon, -1] \cup [1, 1 + 4\epsilon]$ .  
Is the resolvent singular at the endpoints?

# Resolvent on the continuous spectrum

Use asymptotic expansions to analyze the matrix  $A(\Omega, \epsilon)$  along the continuous spectrum:

- Matrix  $A(\Omega, \epsilon)$  is invertible for  $\Omega \in (1, 1 + 4\epsilon)$  provided the limiting configuration  $\phi^{(0)}$  has no “holes”.
- At  $\Omega \in \{1, 1 + 4\epsilon\}$ , the ends of the continuum spectrum, get

$$n_g = \dim \text{Null}A(\Omega, \epsilon) = N - 1 = n_a.$$

- Thank to some special properties of the system  $A(\Omega, \epsilon)c = h(\Omega, \epsilon)$  there is a bounded solution in the limits  $\Omega \rightarrow 1^+$  and  $\Omega \rightarrow (1 + 4\epsilon)^-$ .

# No internal modes for small couplings

Perturbation arguments for the full resolvent lead to

## Theorem (no internal modes)

Assume  $S_+ \cup S_-$  is simply connected. Given  $\mathbb{N} \ni p \geq 2$  and sufficiently small  $\epsilon > 0$  there is  $\delta > 0$  such that the resolvent operator

$$R(\Omega) = (\mathcal{L} - i\Omega\mathbf{I})^{-1} : l^2 \times l^2 \rightarrow l^2 \times l^2$$

- bounded for any  $\Omega \notin B_\delta(0) \cup \sigma_c(L)$  and has  $2N$  poles inside  $B_\delta(0)$ ,
- operators  $R^\pm(\Omega) = \lim_{\mu \downarrow 0} R(\Omega \pm i\mu)$  admit the bounds

$$\|R^\pm(\Omega)\|_{l_1^1 \times l_1^1 \rightarrow l^\infty \times l^\infty} \leq C\epsilon^{-1}, \quad \forall \Omega \in [1, 1 + 4\epsilon].$$

**Note:** Solitons in cubic dNLS ( $p = 1$ ) require at least second-order perturbation analysis.

# Scattering of small solutions: dNLS example

Consider the dNLS equation

$$\begin{cases} i\dot{u}_n(t) = -(\Delta \mathbf{u})_n \pm |u_n|^{\beta-1} u_n, \\ u_n(0) = u_{0,n}, \end{cases} \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad \beta \geq 3$$

- Using interpolation

$$\|e^{it\Delta} \mathbf{u}_0\|_{l^s} \leq C(s) t^{-\frac{s-2}{3s}} \|\mathbf{u}_0\|_{l^1}, \quad s \in (2, \infty).$$

- Applying methods of [MP10] establish a sharper result

$$\|e^{it\Delta} \mathbf{u}_0\|_{l^s} \leq C(s)(1+t)^{-\alpha_s} \|\mathbf{u}_0\|_{l^1}, \quad \alpha_s = \begin{cases} \frac{s-2}{2s}, & s \in [2, 4), \\ \frac{s-1}{3s}, & s \in (4, \infty]. \end{cases}$$

This estimate also holds in the nonlinear case if  $\beta > 4$ .

# Scattering of small solutions: dNLS example (contd)

We write the solution in a convolution form

$$u_n(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} G_k(t) u_{0, n-k}, \quad G_k(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{-i(\omega(\theta)t - k\theta)} d\theta,$$

where  $\omega(\theta) = 2(1 - \cos \theta)$  is the dispersion relation. We also have

$$\|\mathbf{u}(t)\|_{l^s} \leq \|\mathbf{G}(t)\|_{l^s} \|\mathbf{u}_0\|_{l^1}$$

In the limit of  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , norm  $\|\cdot\|_{l^s}^s$  is nearly a Riemann sum,

$$\|\mathbf{G}(t)\|_{l^s} = Ct^{1/s} \|g(t, \cdot)\|_{L^s} + \text{Error}(t),$$

where the grid is  $\{c_n = \frac{n}{t}\}$  and

$$g(t, c) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{it\phi(\theta, c)} d\theta, \quad \phi(\theta, c) = \omega(\theta) - c\theta.$$

# Klein–Gordon lattice

Consider the Klein–Gordon (KG) lattice

$$\ddot{u}_n + V'(u_n) = \epsilon(\Delta \mathbf{u})_n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z},$$

where  $u_n(t) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\epsilon$  is small, and  $V$  is even,

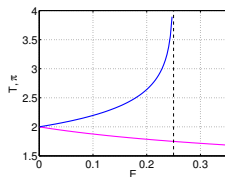
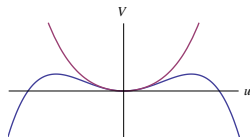
$$V'(u) = u \pm u^3 + \mathcal{O}(u^5), \quad (\text{hard/soft}).$$

At  $\epsilon = 0$  either  $u_n \in \{0, \varphi\}$ , where  $\varphi$  satisfies

$$\ddot{\varphi} + V'(\varphi) = 0, \quad \frac{1}{2}\dot{\varphi}^2 + V(\varphi) = E.$$

The period of  $\varphi$  is

$$T(E) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \oint \frac{dx}{\sqrt{E - V(x)}}.$$



# Existence of breathers

Let  $S \subset \mathbb{Z}$  be the set of excited sites so that

$$\mathbf{u}^{(0)}(t) = \sum_{k \in S} \sigma_k \varphi(t) \mathbf{e}_k \in I^2(\mathbb{Z}, H_{per}^2(0, T)),$$

where  $\sigma_k \in \{-1, +1\}$ , and  $(\mathbf{e}_k)_n = \delta_{k,n}$ .

Fix  $T \neq 2\pi n$  such that  $T'(E) \neq 0$ . For  $\epsilon$  small enough, there exists a unique solution  $\mathbf{u}^{(\epsilon)} \in I^2(\mathbb{Z}, H_{per}^2(0, T))$  of the dKG equation satisfying

$$\left\| \mathbf{u}^{(\epsilon)} - \mathbf{u}^{(0)} \right\|_{I^2(\mathbb{Z}, H^2(0, T))} \leq C|\epsilon|.$$

# Linear stability

Earlier results [MJKA02, ACSA03, KK09]: small amplitudes, no “holes”.

Linearization about the breather  $\mathbf{u}^{(\epsilon)}$  yields

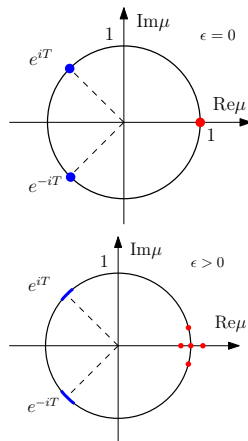
$$\ddot{w}_n + V''\left(u_n^{(\epsilon)}\right) w_n = \epsilon(\Delta \mathbf{w})_n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Stability is determined by Floquet multipliers, the eigenvalues of the monodromy matrix  $M$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_n(T) \\ \dot{w}_n(T) \end{bmatrix}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} = M \begin{bmatrix} w_n(0) \\ \dot{w}_n(0) \end{bmatrix}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}.$$

At  $\epsilon = 0$  the monodromy matrix  $M$  is block-diagonal with

- $\mu = e^{\pm iT}$  with  $n_g = n_a = 1$  at  $n \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus S$
- $\mu = 1$  with  $n_g = 1$ ,  $n_a = 2$  at  $n \in S$ .

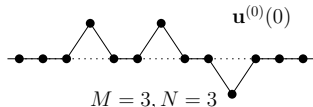




# Splitting of the unit multiplier

Suppose in the anti-continuum limit

$$\mathbf{u}^{(0)}(t) = \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \varphi(t) \mathbf{e}_{jM}.$$



## Theorem (splitting of the unit multiplier)

For small  $\epsilon > 0$  the linearized stability problem has  $2N$  small Floquet exponents  $\lambda = \epsilon^{M/2} \Lambda + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{(M+1)/2})$ , where  $\Lambda$  is determined from the eigenvalue problem

$$-\frac{T(E)^2}{T'(E)} \Lambda^2 c = K_M(T) \mathcal{M} c, \quad c \in \mathbb{C}^N.$$

Where  $\lambda$  is Floquet exponent ( $\mu = e^{\lambda T}$ ) and  $\mathcal{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  is the matrix

$$\mathcal{M}_{ij} = -\sigma_j (\sigma_{j-1} + \sigma_{j+1}) \delta_{ij} + \delta_{i,j-1} + \delta_{i,j+1}, \quad i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}.$$

# Stable breathers

Stability of multibreathers is determined by the sign of  $T'(E)K_M(T)$  and the number  $n_0$  of sign changes in  $\{\sigma_k\}_{k=1}^{N-1}$ , where

$$K_M(T) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}_{\text{odd}}} \frac{4\pi^2 T^{2M-3}(E) n^2 |\hat{\varphi}_n(E)|^2}{[T^2(E) - (2\pi n)^2]^{M-1}}.$$

Depending on the sign of  $T'(E)K_M(T)$  there are either  $n_0$  or  $N - 1 - n_0$  “unstable” pairs of Floquet multipliers. The following breathers are stable:

	$M$ odd	$M$ even
$V(u) = u + u^3$	in-phase	anti-phase
$V(u) = u - u^3$	anti-phase	anti: $2\pi < T < T_M^*$ in: $T_M^* < T < 6\pi$

# Three-site model: numerics

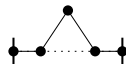
Consider existence and stability of  $T$ -periodic solutions in the truncated KG lattice

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{u}_0 + u_0 - u_0^3 = \epsilon(u_1 - 2u_0 + u_{-1}) \\ \ddot{u}_{\pm 1} + u_{\pm 1} - u_{\pm 1}^3 = \epsilon(u_0 - 2u_{\pm 1}) \end{cases}$$

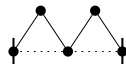
near the anti-continuum limit,  $\epsilon = 0$ .

Set initial conditions  $\mathbf{u}(0) = \mathbf{a}$ ,  $\dot{\mathbf{u}}(0) = 0$  and consider the following three-site symmetric breathers with  $u_{+1}(t) = u_{-1}(t)$ :

Fundamental breather  $u_0^{(0)} = \varphi$ ,  $u_{\pm 1}^{(0)} = 0$

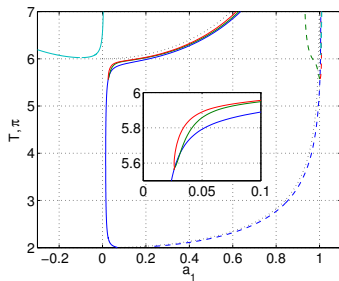
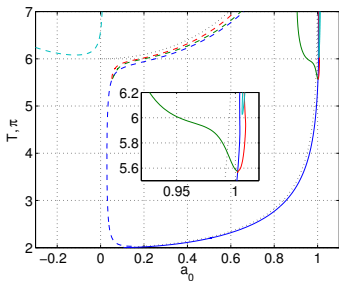


Breather with a “hole”  $u_0^{(0)} = 0$ ,  $u_{\pm 1}^{(0)} = \varphi$

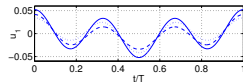
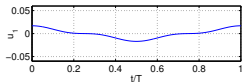
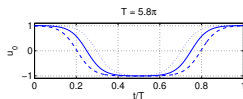
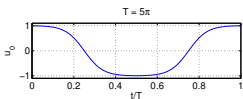


# Existence of breathers and bifurcations ( $\epsilon = 0.01$ )

Fundamental breather (solid) and the breather with a hole (dashed):



Symmetry-breaking  
bifurcation of the  
fundamental breather

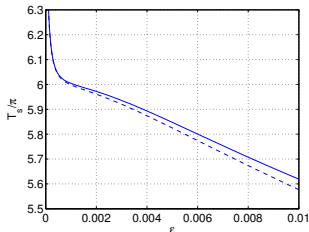
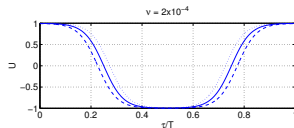


# Normal form of the symmetry-breaking bifurcation

The symmetry-breaking bifurcation is described by the Duffing equation

$$\ddot{U} + U - U^3 = \beta U + \nu \cos \tau,$$

where  $U(\tau)$  is  $6\pi$ -periodic,  $\beta = 1 - \frac{1+2\epsilon}{(1+\delta\epsilon^{2/3})^2}$ , and  $\nu = \frac{2\epsilon^{4/3}a(\delta)}{(1+\delta\epsilon^{2/3})^2}$ .



Period of the breather at the symmetry breaking bifurcation: normal form (solid), KG lattice (dashed).

# Main results

Main results near the anti-continuum limit:

- Non-existence of internal modes in the dNLS equation via resolvent analysis.
- General criteria for stability of multibreathers in the KG lattice via analysis of tail-to-tail interactions.
- Bifurcations and resonances in KG lattice.

# dNLS: asymptotic stability

Assume  $V \in l^1 \rightarrow l^1$  is exponentially decaying and  $H = -\Delta + V$  has the only eigenvalue  $\psi_0$  and  $H\psi_0 = \omega_0\psi_0$ . Consider

$$i\dot{u}_n = Hu_n + |u_n|^{2p}u_n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad p > 0.$$

There is a soliton bifurcating from  $\omega_0$ ,

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = e^{-i\omega t} \phi(\omega) = e^{-i\omega t} \|\psi_0\|_{l^{2p+2}}^{-1-\frac{1}{p}} (\omega - \omega_0)^{\frac{1}{2p}} \psi_0 + \text{h.o.t.}$$

## Theorem (MP12)

For any  $p > 2.75$ , there exist an  $\epsilon_0 > 0$  and a  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $\epsilon = \omega_* - \omega_0 \in (0, \epsilon_0)$  and  $\|\mathbf{u}_0 - \phi(\omega_*)\|_{l^1}$  is small enough, then there exist  $(\omega, \theta) \in C^1(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}^2)$  and a solution to dNLS equation

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = e^{-i\theta(t)} \phi(\omega(t)) + \mathbf{y}(t) \in C^1(\mathbb{R}_+, l^2)$$

such that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (\theta(t) - \int_0^t \omega(s) ds) = \theta_\infty$ ,  $\sup_{t \geq 0} |\omega(t) - \omega_*| \leq C\delta\epsilon$ , and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \omega(t) = \omega_\infty$ . Moreover, we have

$$\|\mathbf{y}(t)\|_{l^s} \leq C_s \delta \epsilon^{\frac{1}{2p}} (1+t)^{-\alpha_s}, \quad \forall s \in (2, 4) \cup (4, \infty].$$

# dKG: splitting of the unit multiplier

Linearizing with  $\mathbf{u} \mapsto \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{w}$  and setting  $\mathbf{w}(t) = \mathbf{W}(t)e^{\lambda t}$ , where  $\mathbf{W}$  is  $T$ -periodic, we get

$$\ddot{W}_n + V''(u_n)W_n + 2\lambda\dot{W}_n + \lambda^2 W_n = \epsilon(\Delta\mathbf{W})_n.$$

For the fundamental breather  $\phi^{(\epsilon)}$  generated by  $\mathbf{u}^{(0)} = \varphi(t)\mathbf{e}_0$  the expansion is

$$\mathbf{W} = \boldsymbol{\theta} + \lambda\boldsymbol{\mu} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^2): \quad \boldsymbol{\theta} = \dot{\phi}^{(\epsilon)}, \quad \ddot{\mu}_n + V''(u_n)\mu_n = \epsilon(\Delta\boldsymbol{\mu})_n - 2\dot{\theta}_n.$$

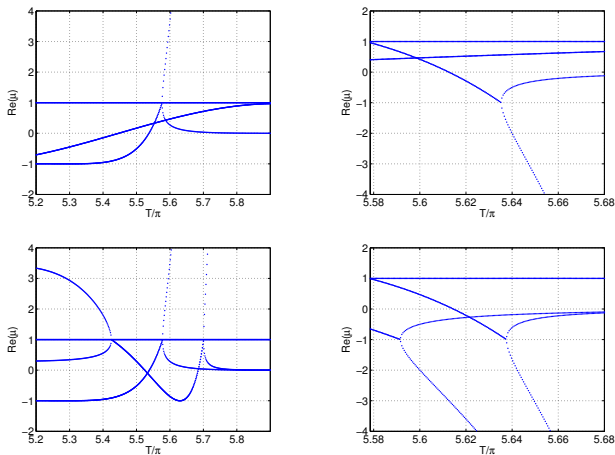
For the multibreather  $\mathbf{u}^{(0)} = \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j \varphi(t)\mathbf{e}_{jM}$  we have  $\lambda \approx \epsilon^{M/2}\tilde{\lambda}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{W} = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \left( \tau_{jM} \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(\epsilon, M)} - \epsilon^M (\mathbf{e}_{(j-1)M} + \mathbf{e}_{(j+1)M}) \dot{\phi}_M \right) \\ + \epsilon^{M/2} \tilde{\lambda} \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \tau_{jM} \boldsymbol{\mu}^{(\epsilon, M_*)} + \epsilon^M \tilde{\mathbf{W}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $(\partial_t^2 + 1)\varphi_m = \varphi_{m-1}$ ,  $m = 1, \dots, M$ , and  $\varphi_0 = \varphi$ .



## dKG Floquet multipliers



**Figure:** Floquet multipliers for a fundamental breather (top) and a breather with a hole (bottom).

## dNLS: well posedness

Consider the initial value problem for the dNLS equation

$$\begin{cases} i\dot{u}_n(t) = -(\Delta \mathbf{u})_n + V_n u_n + f(|u_n|^2)u_n, \\ u_n(0) = u_{0,n}, \end{cases} \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- Global well posedness in  $I_\alpha^2$  with  $\alpha \geq 0$  if  $\mathbf{V}$  is bounded and  $f$  is real analytic
- One can establish a bound

$$\|\mathbf{u}\|_{I_\alpha^2} \leq \|\mathbf{u}_0\|_{I_\alpha^2} e^{C_\alpha t}.$$

## dKG: well posedness

Consider the initial value problem for the dKG equation

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{u}_n(t) = (\Delta \mathbf{u})_n - m u_n - \chi u_n^{2p+1}, \\ u_n(0) = u_{0,n}, \\ \dot{u}_n(0) = u_{1,n}, \end{cases} \quad n \in \mathbb{Z},$$

where  $m \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\chi = \pm 1$ . This system admits conservation of energy

$$E(\mathbf{u}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} ((u_{n+1} - u_n)^2 + m u_n^2 + \dot{u}_n^2) + \frac{\chi}{2p+2} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} u_n^{2p+2}.$$

- Case  $\chi = +1$ : global well-posedness in  $l^2 \times l^2$ .
- Case  $\chi = -1$ : blow-up on  $[0, T^*]$  with

$$T^* = \frac{1}{p} \frac{\|\mathbf{u}_0\|_{l^2}^2}{\langle \mathbf{u}_0, \mathbf{u}_1 \rangle_{l^2}}$$

provided  $E < 0$  and  $\langle \mathbf{u}_0, \mathbf{u}_1 \rangle_{l^2} > 0$ .

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