



PDE Topics

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Chapter 1 Lecture 1

here we go.

Course overview

We will be discussing the nonlinear Schrodinger equations, which is a subcategory of nonlinear pde's, nonlinear dispersive equations, and infinite speed of propagation,

Let's start with the linear Schrodinger equation.

$$i\partial_t u + \Delta u = 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n, u(t=0) = u_0$$

The fundamental solution to a Schrodinger equation, is the $K(t, x)$ is such that $u_0 = \delta_0$.

Instead, one could look at other initial data, for example, $\hat{u}_0 = \delta_{\xi_0}$, or $u_0 = e^{ix\xi_0}$.

Remark If you localize the initial data in the physical space, then the fourier transform is constant and therefore cannot be localized in the Fourier space. The reverse is also true if you try to localize in the Fourier space.

If we have

$$u_0 = e^{-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{2}} e^{i(x-x_0)\cdot\xi_0}$$

For this type of initial data, we call it the coherent state, localized at (x_0, ξ_0)

In non-coherent state, the solution spreads out immediately; in the coherent state, the solution remains nicely behaved and coherent for a period of time, then it spreads out eventually.

Remark This is the idea of group velocity, waves with frequency ξ_0 move with velocity $2\xi_0$. This $2\xi_0$ is called the group velocity.

Dispersive equation: waves with different frequencies travel in different directions.

1.1 Nonlinear

We will start with the nonlinear case now.

$$i\partial_t u + \Delta u = \lambda u \cdot |u|^p$$

We will ask the following standard pde questions.

1. existence
2. uniqueness
3. continuous dependent
4. global in time behavior, i.e. linear vs nonlinear effects

Remark If one just observes the RHS, then there is linear and nonlinear contributions, and one probably would expect that one dominates over the other over time.

linear: scattering. nonlinear solution looks like the linear solution

nonlinear: solitons (solutions that remain concentrated for a very long time, such as a bump function), blow-ups.

We will comment on the dispersive aspect of the Schrodinger equation before the nonlinear aspect.

1.2 Dispersion

Here are ways to measure dispersion. Given nicely behaved initial data, $u(t=0) = u_0 \in H^s$.

1. dispersive estimates $\|u\|_{L^\infty} \leq t^{O(1)} \|u_0\|_{L^1}$
2. Strichartz estimates $\|u\|_{L_t^p L_x^q} \leq \|u_0\|_{L^2}$
3. Lateral Strichartz estimates, exchanging the role of t, x .

4. Improved function spaces (Bourgain spaces, U^p, V^p)
5. Local energy decay. If you have a dispersive solution, instead of measuring the solution everywhere, say, you measure it in the vertical cylinder.

Back to NLS.

$$i\partial_t u + \Delta u = \lambda u|u|^p$$

We will talk about the following:

1. local well-posedness
2. global well-posedness for small initial data
3. large initial data problem
4. energy critical problem $\int |\nabla u|^2$ and the mass critical problem $\int |u|^2$

Remark The exponent p that we put on the RHS plays an important role in the above questions.

Some topics in the foreseeable future: Littlewood-Paley theory, Bessel's problem, etc

References: Tao's on nonlinear and dispersive pde.

Now we will talk about Schrodinger maps

$$u : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow (M, g)$$

Sasy we have $u_t = i\Delta u$, then $u_t \in TM$, where T stands for tangent, as we have rotated Δu 90 degrees hence should live in the tangent of the manifold.

$$u_t = P\Delta u, P \text{ projection on } TM$$

The RHS $P\Delta u$ is called the heat flow. Let M be a kahlan manifold.

Spherical case, $(M, g) = \mathbb{S}^2$. One can identify \mathbb{S}^2 as the complex plane and compactified. Hence if we would like an object that is perpendicular to both u and Δu , and rotate by 90 degrees, then we look at the following equation

$$u_t = u \times \Delta u, u(t=0) = u_0$$

Then we come to the next section of the class, Quasilinear Schrodinger equations.

$$iu_t + g^{jk}(u)\partial_j\partial_k(u) = N(u, \nabla u), u(t=0) = u_0$$

Suppose g^{jk} is a positive definite matrix, and the N stands for nonlinear We will look at the local solvability.

If we start with a simple guess, $N = \partial_j u$, and this becomes a ill-posed linear problem due to exponential growth (by taking the Fourier transform). Then we can probably replace $N = (\nabla u)^2, N = (\nabla)^3$.

Another difficulty is how waves propagate, and "trapping" refers to when waves are localized eternally and do not propagate (sit in the vertical cylinder for example). This leads to the discussion of local well-posed theory.

For the **last part of the course**, we will look at global solutions for quasilinear Schrodinger equations for small initial data, if $n \geq 3$, then somehow you can use the dispersive estimates mentioned above, via Strichartz. In higher dimension, the decay is faster, than the estimate is stronger, and the linear component plays more role. In low dimension, the nonlinear interactions are more prominent.

In $n = 1$, there exists a following conjecture.

Proposition 1.1 (Conjecture)

If one has 1 - d dispersive problem, that is defocusing, then there exists a global solution for small data u_0 .



In the case of QNLS, there is a proved theorem as above in 2023.