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1996 J. Phys. A: Math. Gen. 29 L141

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The cusp solitons in optical fibres

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Received 14 November 1995

Abstract. We solve the higher-order nonlinear Schrödinger equation, which describes the propagation of femtosecond pulses in nonlinear fibres. A set of new soliton solutions is obtained.

For many years, much attention has been paid to soliton communication in optical fibres owing to its potential applications [1-4]. It is well known that the propagation of picosecond pulses in optical fibres is described by the nonlinear Schrödinger equation (NLS) [1,2]. However, for ultrashort femtosecond pulses, the NLS is invalid and is substituted with a higher-order nonlinear Schrödinger equation given by [3,4,6]

$$\mathbf{i}u_z - \frac{1}{2}\alpha u_{tt} + |u|^2 u + \mathbf{i}\epsilon u_{ttt} + \mathbf{i}\delta|u|^2 u_t + \mathbf{i}\rho u^2 u_t^* = 0$$
⁽¹⁾

where $u = (n_2\omega_0/c)^{1/2}q$, $\alpha = \pm \beta_{\omega\omega}$, $\epsilon = \pm \frac{1}{6}\beta_{\omega\omega\omega}$, $\delta = (4/\omega_0) + (2\gamma/b) > 0$, $\rho = (2/\omega_0) + (2\gamma/b) > 0$, q is the slowly-varying envelope of the electromagnetic field, c is light speed, n_2 is the nonlinear index of refraction, $\beta_{\omega\omega}$ and $\beta_{\omega\omega\omega}$ are the dispersion parameters evaluated at the carrier frequency ω_0 , b is the radius of the frequency-dependent electromagnetic mode propagation in the fibres, γ is a parameter depending on the fibre geometry and z and t represent the space and time coordinates, respectively. If $\rho = 0$, equation (1) becomes the Hirota equation [5], of which there exist *N*-soliton solutions at $\epsilon = -\frac{1}{6}\alpha\delta$. For $\rho \neq 0$, equation (1) is no longer integrable. However, the hyperbolic secant (bright) and hyperbolic tangent (dark) soliton solutions for equation (1) have been obtained [6]. In this letter, we present a set of cusp solitary wave solutions of equation (1). When the cusps are rounded off, we recover these solutions in [6].

We assume

$$u = e^{i(Rt + \Omega z + \Phi_0)} W(z, t)$$
⁽²⁾

where R, Ω and Φ_0 are real constants and W is the amplitude. Substituting equation (2) into equation (1), we have

$$\begin{cases} W_{tt} = AW + BW^3 \\ W_z + (\epsilon A - \alpha R - 3\epsilon R^2)W_t + (3\epsilon B + \delta + \rho)W^2W_t = 0 \end{cases}$$
(3)

where, A and B are real constants and

$$R = \frac{\frac{1}{2}\alpha B - 1}{\rho - \delta - 3\epsilon B} \qquad \Omega = \frac{1}{2}\alpha R^2 + \epsilon R^3 - A(\frac{1}{2}\alpha + 3\epsilon R).$$
(4)

For equations (3), we obtain the exact solutions when A is a parameter and $B = -(\delta + \rho)/3\epsilon$. Let $\xi = t + (\alpha R + 3\epsilon R^2 - \epsilon A)z$, then equations (3) can be rewritten as

$$W_{\xi\xi} = AW + BW^3. \tag{5}$$

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It is easy to find the first integral of equation (5)

$$W_{\xi} = \pm (AW^2 + \frac{1}{2}BW^4 - C)^{1/2}$$
(6)

where the integral constant $C = (AW^2 + \frac{1}{2}BW^4)|_{\xi=\pm\infty} = 0$ or $-A^2/2B$. From equation (6), we have following solutions.

(1) When A > 0, B > 0, (i.e. $\epsilon < 0$),

$$W = \frac{\sqrt{8AP/B}}{Pe^{\sqrt{A}|\xi - \xi_0|} - e^{-\sqrt{A}|\xi - \xi_0|}} \qquad P = \text{constant} > 1.$$
(7)

(2) When A > 0, B < 0 (i.e. $\epsilon > 0$),

$$W = \frac{\sqrt{-8AP/B}}{Pe^{\sqrt{A}|\xi - \xi_0|} + e^{-\sqrt{A}|\xi - \xi_0|}} \qquad P = \text{constant} > 0.$$
(8)

(3) When A < 0, B > 0,

$$W = \sqrt{-\frac{A}{B}} \frac{P e^{\sqrt{-A/2}|\xi - \xi_0|} + e^{-\sqrt{-A/2}|\xi - \xi_0|}}{P e^{\sqrt{-A/2}|\xi - \xi_0|} - e^{-\sqrt{-A/2}|\xi - \xi_0|}} \qquad P = \text{constant} > 1$$
(9)

and

$$W = \sqrt{-\frac{A}{B}} \frac{P e^{\sqrt{-A/2}|\xi - \xi_0|} - e^{-\sqrt{-A/2}|\xi - \xi_0|}}{P e^{\sqrt{-A/2}|\xi - \xi_0|} + e^{-\sqrt{-A/2}|\xi - \xi_0|}} \qquad P = \text{constant} \ge 1$$
(10)

where ξ_0 is an arbitrary real constant.

The solutions (7)–(10) are of the solitary wave shape with a cusp at ξ_0 . Obviously, equations (8) and (10) are nothing but the hyperbolic secant and hyperbolic tangent soliton solutions, respectively, presented previously, if the cusps are rounded off (i.e. P = 1) [6].

In summary, we have obtained a set of cusp soliton solutions of the higher-order nonlinear Schrödinger equation (1). These results are expected to have an important application in future optical communications and other research.

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