

Painlevé analysis of the coupled nonlinear Schrödinger equation for polarized optical waves in an isotropic medium

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Using the Painlevé analysis, we investigate the integrability properties of a system of two coupled nonlinear Schrödinger equations that describe the propagation of orthogonally polarized optical waves in an isotropic medium. Besides the well-known integrable vector nonlinear Schrödinger equation, we show that there exists a set of equations passing the Painlevé test where the self and cross phase modulational terms are of different magnitude. We introduce the Hirota bilinearization and the Bäcklund transformation to obtain soliton solutions and prove integrability by making a change of variables. The conditions on the third-order susceptibility tensor $\chi^{(3)}$ imposed by these integrable equations are explained. [S1063-651X(99)05502-6]

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I. INTRODUCTION

The coupling between copropagating optical pulses in a nonlinear medium has led to many important applications in optical fiber systems such as optical switching and soliton-dragging logic gates [1]. The governing equation for the propagation of two orthogonally polarized pulses in a mono-mode birefringent fiber is given by the coupled nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) equation, where the nonlinear coupling terms are determined by the third-order susceptibility tensor $\chi^{(3)}$ of the fiber. In an isotropic medium, the tensor $\chi^{(3)}$ has three independent components $\chi_{xxyy}^{(3)}$, $\chi_{xyxy}^{(3)}$, and $\chi_{xyyx}^{(3)}$ and the nonlinear polarization components that account for the nonlinear coupling terms take the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_x &= \frac{3\epsilon_0}{2} [(\chi_{xxyy}^{(3)} + \chi_{xyxy}^{(3)} + \chi_{xyyx}^{(3)})|E_x|^2 + (\chi_{xxyy}^{(3)} \\
 &\quad + \chi_{xyxy}^{(3)})|E_y|^2]E_x + \chi_{xyyx}^{(3)}E_y^2E_x^*, \\
 P_y &= \frac{3\epsilon_0}{2} [(\chi_{xxyy}^{(3)} + \chi_{xyxy}^{(3)} + \chi_{xyyx}^{(3)})|E_y|^2 + (\chi_{xxyy}^{(3)} \\
 &\quad + \chi_{xyxy}^{(3)})|E_x|^2]E_y + \chi_{xyyx}^{(3)}E_x^2E_y^*.
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

In the case of silicic fibers, $\chi_{xxyy}^{(3)} \approx \chi_{xyxy}^{(3)} \approx \chi_{xyyx}^{(3)}$ and the nonlinear terms above have a ratio of 3:2:1. However, when the fiber is elliptically birefringent with the ellipticity angle $\theta \approx 35^\circ$, and also the beat length due to birefringence is much smaller than the typical propagation distances, the coupled NLS equation takes the form of the vector NLS equation the nonlinear terms of which have a ratio of 1:1:0 [2], which is known to be integrable via the inverse scattering method [3,4]. In general, the coupled NLS equations with arbitrary coefficients are not integrable. Mathematically, there exists a systematic way of generalizing the NLS equation to the multicomponent cases [5] and to the higher-order cases [6] using

group theory which preserves the integrability structure. This gives rise to various integrable, coupled NLS equations among N scalar fields $\psi_i; i=1, \dots, N$ with specific set of coupling parameters. For $N=2$, the vector NLS equation is the only nontrivial integrable equation in the group theoretic construction. However, it is not known whether there can be other cases of the integrable coupled NLS equation for $N=2$ with nonlinear coupling terms as in Eq. (1) except for the vector NLS equation.

In this paper, using the Painlevé analysis we investigate the integrability properties of the coupled NLS equation relevant to the propagation of orthogonally polarized optical waves in an isotropic medium. Motivated by Eq. (1), we consider the general form of the coupled NLS equation such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 i\bar{\partial}q_1 &= \partial^2 q_1 + q_1(\gamma_1|q_1|^2 + \gamma_2|q_2|^2) + \gamma_3 q_1^* q_2^2 + \gamma_4 q_1^2 q_2^*, \\
 i\bar{\partial}q_2 &= \beta \partial^2 q_2 + q_2(\gamma_2|q_1|^2 + \gamma_1|q_2|^2) + \gamma_3 q_2^* q_1^2 + \gamma_4 q_2^2 q_1^*,
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where $\beta = \pm 1$ signify the relative sign of the group-velocity dispersion terms and we use the notation $\partial = \partial/\partial z, \bar{\partial} = \partial/\partial \bar{z}$. We find that the system passes the Painlevé test whenever the parameters belong to one of the following four classes; (i) $\beta=1, \gamma_1=\gamma_2, \gamma_3=\gamma_4=0$, (ii) $\beta=1, \gamma_2=2\gamma_1, \gamma_3=-\gamma_1, \gamma_4$ arbitrary, (iii) $\beta=1, \gamma_2=2\gamma_1, \gamma_3=\gamma_1, \gamma_4=0$ and (iv) $\beta=-1, \gamma_1=-\gamma_2, \gamma_3=\gamma_4=0$. Case (i) [and (iv)] is the well-known vector NLS equation. The integrability of cases (i) and (iv) have been demonstrated by Zakharov and Schulman by deriving an appropriate inverse scattering formalism [4,7]. However, cases (ii) and (iii) are new as far as we know. In particular, case (ii) corresponds to the propagation in the isotropic nonlinear medium with the property that $\chi_{xxyy}^{(3)} + \chi_{xyxy}^{(3)} = -2\chi_{xyyx}^{(3)}$. We find the Hirota bilinearization and the Bäcklund transformation of cases (ii) and (iii), and compute soliton solutions. As for the integrability of cases (ii) and (iii), we prove that they are essentially identical to two independent NLS equations. This implies that in the case (ii), there are no physical interactions between two optical pulses with opposite circular polarizations. We also show

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that our Painlevé analysis is consistent with the group theoretical method of generalizing the integrable NLS equations when the group theoretical method is combined with the reduction procedure.

II. PAINLEVÉ ANALYSIS OF THE COUPLED NLS EQUATION

The Painlevé analysis for a partial differential equation was first introduced by Weiss, Tabor, and Carnevale [8] who defined that a partial differential equation has the Painlevé property if its general solution is single valued about the movable singularity manifold. This method is to seek a solution of a given differential equation in a series expansion in terms of $\phi(z, \bar{z}) = z - \psi(\bar{z})$, where $\psi(\bar{z})$ is an arbitrary analytic function of \bar{z} and $\phi = 0$ defines a noncharacteristic movable singularity manifold. Then, the equation has the Painlevé property, thus becomes integrable, if there exists a sufficient number of arbitrary functions in the series solution. For $\beta = 1$, we postulate a solution of the form

$$\begin{aligned} q_1 &= \sum_{m \geq 0} R_m(\bar{z})(z - \psi)^{m-\sigma}, \\ q_1^* &= \sum_{m \geq 0} S_m(\bar{z})(z - \psi)^{m-\sigma}, \\ q_2 &= \sum_{m \geq 0} T_m(\bar{z})(z - \psi)^{m-\sigma}, \\ q_2^* &= \sum_{m \geq 0} U_m(\bar{z})(z - \psi)^{m-\sigma}. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Substituting these *Ansätze* into Eq. (2) and looking at the leading order behavior, we find that $\sigma = 1$ and the following equations should be satisfied:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_1 U_0^2 T_0 + \gamma_2 R_0 S_0 U_0 + \gamma_3 S_0^2 T_0 + \gamma_4 U_0^2 R_0 + 2U_0 &= 0, \\ \gamma_1 T_0^2 U_0 + \gamma_2 R_0 S_0 T_0 + \gamma_3 R_0^2 U_0 + \gamma_4 T_0^2 S_0 + 2T_0 &= 0, \\ \gamma_1 R_0^2 S_0 + \gamma_2 R_0 T_0 U_0 + \gamma_3 T_0^2 S_0 + \gamma_4 R_0^2 U_0 + 2R_0 &= 0, \\ \gamma_1 S_0^2 R_0 + \gamma_2 S_0 T_0 U_0 + \gamma_3 U_0^2 R_0 + \gamma_4 S_0^2 T_0 + 2S_0 &= 0. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

In order to facilitate solving Eq. (4), we define $x \equiv U_0 R_0$, $y \equiv T_0 S_0$, $t \equiv R_0 S_0$, $s \equiv U_0 T_0$ so that the first two equations in Eq. (4) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_1 s + \gamma_2 t + 2 + \gamma_4 x &= -\gamma_3 \frac{ty}{x}, \\ \gamma_1 s + \gamma_2 t + 2 + \gamma_4 y &= -\gamma_3 \frac{tx}{y}, \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

while the last two as

$$\gamma_1 t + \gamma_2 s + 2 + \gamma_4 x = -\gamma_3 \frac{sy}{x}, \tag{6}$$

$$\gamma_1 t + \gamma_2 s + 2 + \gamma_4 y = -\gamma_3 \frac{sx}{y}.$$

Each pair can be combined to give $(x-y)[\gamma_4 - \gamma_3 t(x+y)/xy] = 0$, and $(x-y)[\gamma_4 - \gamma_3 s(x+y)/xy] = 0$. One can readily check that solutions of these equations can be classified in seven different cases:

(case 1) $x = y, \quad \gamma_1 = \gamma_2 + \gamma_3,$

(case 2) $x = y, \quad t = x,$

(case 3) $x = y, \quad t = -x,$

(case 4) $t = s, \quad \gamma_4 = \gamma_3 t \frac{x+y}{xy},$

(case 5) $x = -y, \quad \gamma_4 = 0, \quad \gamma_2 = \gamma_1 + \gamma_3, t + s = -2/\gamma_1,$

(case 6) $\gamma_3 = \gamma_4 = 0, \quad s = t = -2/(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2),$

(case 7) $\gamma_3 = \gamma_4 = 0, \quad \gamma_1 = \gamma_2, \quad t + s = -2.$

For each case, we check the powers, so called resonances, at which the arbitrary functions can arise in the series solution. Equating coefficients of the $(z - \psi)^{j-3}$ term in Eq. (2) with the ansätze in Eq. (3), we obtain a system of four linear algebraic equations in (R_j, S_j, T_j, U_j) which are given in a matrix form by

$$Q_j \begin{pmatrix} R_j \\ S_j \\ T_j \\ U_j \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} F_j \\ G_j \\ H_j \\ K_j \end{pmatrix}. \tag{7}$$

The 4×4 matrix

$$Q_j = (j-1)(j-2)I_{4 \times 4} + \begin{pmatrix} Q_j^{(1)} & Q_j^{(2)} \\ Q_j^{(3)} & Q_j^{(4)} \end{pmatrix}$$

has block components:

$$\begin{aligned}
Q_j^{(1)} &= \begin{pmatrix} 2\gamma_1 R_0 S_0 + \gamma_2 T_0 U_0 + 2\gamma_4 R_0 U_0 & \gamma_1 R_0^2 + \gamma_3 T_0^2 \\ \gamma_1 S_0^2 + \gamma_3 U_0^2 & 2\gamma_1 R_0 S_0 + \gamma_2 T_0 U_0 + 2\gamma_4 S_0 T_0 \end{pmatrix}, \\
Q_j^{(2)} &= \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_2 R_0 U_0 + 2\gamma_3 T_0 S_0 & \gamma_2 R_0 T_0 + \gamma_4 R_0^2 \\ \gamma_2 S_0 U_0 + \gamma_4 S_0^2 & \gamma_2 S_0 T_0 + 2\gamma_3 U_0 R_0 \end{pmatrix}, \\
Q_j^{(3)} &= \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_2 T_0 S_0 + 2\gamma_3 R_0 U_0 & \gamma_2 R_0 T_0 + \gamma_4 T_0^2 \\ \gamma_2 U_0 S_0 + \gamma_4 U_0^2 & \gamma_2 R_0 U_0 + 2\gamma_3 T_0 S_0 \end{pmatrix}, \\
Q_j^{(4)} &= \begin{pmatrix} 2\gamma_1 T_0 U_0 + \gamma_2 R_0 S_0 + 2\gamma_4 S_0 T_0 & \gamma_1 T_0^2 + \gamma_3 R_0^2 \\ \gamma_1 U_0^2 + \gamma_3 S_0^2 & 2\gamma_1 T_0 U_0 + \gamma_2 R_0 S_0 + 2\gamma_4 U_0 R_0 \end{pmatrix},
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
F_j &\equiv - \sum_{0 \leq l, m, n < j}^{l+m+n=j} (\gamma_1 R_l R_m S_n + \gamma_2 R_l T_m U_n + \gamma_3 S_l T_m T_n \\
&\quad + \gamma_4 R_l R_m U_n) + i R'_{j-2} - i(j-2)\psi' R_{j-1}, \\
G_j &\equiv - \sum_{0 \leq l, m, n < j}^{l+m+n=j} (\gamma_1 S_l S_m R_n + \gamma_2 S_l U_m T_n + \gamma_3 R_l U_m U_n \\
&\quad + \gamma_4 S_l S_m T_n) - i S'_{j-2} + i(j-2)\psi' S_{j-1}, \\
H_j &\equiv - \sum_{0 \leq l, m, n < j}^{l+m+n=j} (\gamma_1 T_l T_m U_n + \gamma_2 T_l R_m S_n + \gamma_3 U_l R_m R_n \\
&\quad + \gamma_4 T_l T_m S_n) + i T'_{j-2} - i(j-2)\psi' T_{j-1}, \\
K_j &\equiv - \sum_{0 \leq l, m, n < j}^{l+m+n=j} (\gamma_1 U_l U_m T_n + \gamma_2 U_l S_m R_n + \gamma_3 T_l S_m S_n \\
&\quad + \gamma_4 U_l U_m R_n) - i U'_{j-2} + i(j-2)\psi' U_{j-1}.
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

The resonances occur when $\det Q_j = 0$. Now, we compute the resonance values and check the Painlevé property of Eq. (2) for each seven cases as introduced above.

Case 1: $x=y$, $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2 + \gamma_3$.

In this case, we can solve for T_0, R_0 such that

$$T_0 = \frac{-2U_0}{\gamma_1(S_0^2 + U_0^2) + \gamma_4 S_0 U_0}, \quad R_0 = \frac{-2S_0}{\gamma_1(S_0^2 + U_0^2) + \gamma_4 S_0 U_0}. \tag{10}$$

When we substitute these solutions into the resonance condition, $\det Q_j = 0$, we find that the resonances do not occur at the integer values of j . Therefore, this case does not pass the Painlevé test for integrability:

Case 2 and Case 3: $x=y$, $t = \pm x$.

We have solutions

$$S_0 = \pm U_0 = \frac{-2}{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 \pm \gamma_4} \frac{1}{R_0}, \quad T_0 = \pm R_0, \tag{11}$$

where $+$ and $-$ sign correspond to case 2 and case 3, respectively. Substituting these solutions into the resonance condition $\det Q_j = 0$, we find that the resonance values $j = -1, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 4$ occur when $\gamma_2 = 2\gamma_1$, $\gamma_3 = \pm\gamma_4 + \gamma_1$. The resonance $j = -1$ is related with the arbitrariness of ψ , while the resonance $j = 0$ is related with the arbitrariness of R_0 . The recursion relation in Eq. (7) determines R_1, S_1, T_1, U_1 in terms of R_0, S_0, T_0, U_0, ψ . The degree of multiplicity of the resonance $j = 1$ is two and it turns out that there exist two arbitrary functions consistently only if $\gamma_4 = 0$. Therefore, the case where $\gamma_2 = 2\gamma_1$, $\gamma_3 = \gamma_1$ and $\gamma_4 = 0$ passes the Painlevé test:

Case 4: $t=s$, $\gamma_4 x y = \gamma_3 t(x+y)$.

Equation (4) together with the condition $t=s$, $\gamma_4 x y = \gamma_3 t(x+y)$ results in

$$t = \frac{-2}{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 - \gamma_3 + (\gamma_4^2/\gamma_3)}, \quad x = \left(\frac{\gamma_4}{2\gamma_3} \pm \sqrt{(\gamma_4/2\gamma_3)^2 - 1} \right) t, \tag{12}$$

and

$$S_0 = \frac{t^2}{x} \frac{1}{T_0}, \quad U_0 = \frac{t}{T_0}, \quad R_0 = \frac{x}{t} T_0. \tag{13}$$

When we substitute these solutions into the resonance condition $\det Q_j = 0$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&(j-4)(j-3)j(j+1) \left(j^2 - 3j + 2 \frac{\gamma_4^2 - 4\gamma_3^2}{\gamma_4^2 - \gamma_3^2 + \gamma_2\gamma_3 + \gamma_3\gamma_1} \right) \\
&\times \left(j^2 - 3j + 2 \frac{\gamma_4^2 - 2\gamma_3^2 + 2\gamma_2\gamma_3 - 2\gamma_1\gamma_3}{\gamma_4^2 - \gamma_3^2 + \gamma_2\gamma_3 + \gamma_1\gamma_3} \right) = 0. \tag{14}
\end{aligned}$$

Note that the Painlevé test requires the resonances j to be integers and the degeneracy of resonance at $j=0$ to be one since there is only one arbitrary function T_0 as in Eq. (13). This requirement leads to the result, $\gamma_2 = 2\gamma_1$, $\gamma_3 = -\gamma_1$ and γ_4 arbitrary, so that resonances are $j = -1, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 4$. The recursion relation in Eq. (7) determines T_1, U_1, T_2, U_2 such as

$$T_1 = \frac{1}{4}(\sqrt{\gamma_4^2 - 4} - \gamma_4)(2R_1 + i\sqrt{\gamma_4^2 - 4}T_0\psi_x),$$

$$U_1 = -\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{\gamma_4^2 - 4} + \gamma_4)\left(S_1 + \frac{i}{\sqrt{\gamma_4^2 - 4}}\frac{\psi_x}{T_0}\right),$$

$$T_2 = \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{\gamma_4^2 - 4} - \gamma_4)\left[R_2 + \frac{\sqrt{\gamma_4^2 - 4}}{12}\left(T_0\psi_x^2 + 2i\frac{\partial T_0}{\partial x}\right)\right],$$

$$U_2 = \frac{1}{12}(\sqrt{\gamma_4^2 - 4} + \gamma_4)\left[-6S_2 + \frac{i}{\sqrt{\gamma_4^2 - 4}}\left(\frac{\psi_x^2}{T_0} + 2i\frac{1}{T_0^2}\frac{\partial T_0}{\partial x}\right)\right].$$

Similarly, R_3, T_3, U_3 are determined in terms of $\psi, T_0, R_1, S_1, R_2, S_2$. In the same way, we can check that there exists one arbitrary function at the $j=4$ resonance and no more arbitrary functions in higher levels. All these facts have been confirmed with the symbolic manipulation program MACSYMA. Thus, the system passes the Painlevé test when $\gamma_2=2\gamma_1, \gamma_3=-\gamma_1$ and γ_4 arbitrary. We show that this case is indeed integrable in Sec. III.

Case 5: $x=-y, \gamma_4=0; \gamma_2=\gamma_1+\gamma_3, t+s=-2/\gamma_1$.

In this case, the resonances are at $j=-1, 0, 0, 3, 3, 4, \frac{3}{2} \pm \sqrt{9+16\gamma_3/\gamma_1}$, which in turn requires that $\gamma_1=-2\gamma_3, \gamma_2=-\gamma_3$. But inconsistency among the four equations in Eq. (7) arises at the $j=2$ level, so that the Painlevé test fails.

Case 6: $\gamma_3=\gamma_4=0, s=t=-2/(\gamma_1+\gamma_2)$.

The resonance condition $\det Q_j=0$, leads to the following solutions:

$$j = -1, 0, 0, 3, 3, 4, \frac{3}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2(\gamma_1+\gamma_2)}\sqrt{25\gamma_1^2+18\gamma_1\gamma_2-7\gamma_2^2}.$$

The integer resonances occur if (i) $\gamma_2=3\gamma_1$, or (ii) $\gamma_2=-\gamma_1$. The first case (i) leads to inconsistencies among four equations in Eq. (7) at $j=2$, while the second case (ii) similarly leads to inconsistency at $j=0$. Therefore, the Painlevé test fails in this case.

Case 7: $\gamma_3=\gamma_4=0, \gamma_1=\gamma_2, t+s=-2$.

This case corresponds to the well-known integrable vector NLS equation considered by Zakharov and Schulman [4]. Together with the parameters; $\gamma_1=\gamma_2, \gamma_3=\gamma_4=0$, Eq. (4) reduces to

$$2 + \gamma_1(T_0U_0 + R_0S_0) = 0.$$

The resonances are $j=-1, 0, 0, 0, 3, 3, 3, 4$, and it has been checked that the proper number of arbitrary functions exist. Thus, this case passes the Painlevé test.

So far, we have considered the case where $\beta=1$ in Eq. (2). For $\beta=-1$, using the notion of the degenerate dispersion law, Zakharov and Schulmann found another integrable

theory with anomalous dispersive term [7]. The Painlevé analysis for the $\beta=-1$ case can be done in the same way as for the $\beta=1$ case. Thus, we suppress the details of analysis and simply state the results. The leading order equation is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_1s + \gamma_2t - 2 + \gamma_4x &= -\gamma_3\frac{ty}{x}, \\ \gamma_1s + \gamma_2t - 2 + \gamma_4y &= -\gamma_3\frac{tx}{y}, \\ \gamma_1t + \gamma_2s + 2 + \gamma_4x &= -\gamma_3\frac{sy}{x}, \\ \gamma_1t + \gamma_2s + 2 + \gamma_4y &= -\gamma_3\frac{sx}{y}, \end{aligned}$$

the solutions of which can be grouped into five distinct cases:

- (case 1) $x=y$,
- (case 2) $\gamma_4=0, x=-y, \gamma_3=\gamma_1+\gamma_2$,
- (case 3) $\gamma_4=0, x=-y, t=-s$,
- (case 4) $\gamma_3=\gamma_4=0, \gamma_1=-\gamma_2$,
- (case 5) $\gamma_3=\gamma_4=0, t=-s$.

Here, only case 4 passes the Painlevé test. In this case, $S=(T_0U_0-2)/R_0$ and resonances are $j=-1, 0, 0, 0, 3, 3, 3, 4$. This is the integrable system found by Zakharov and Schulmann [4]. All other cases lead to inconsistencies at $j=1$ level thus failing the Painlevé test.

III. HIROTA BILINEARIZATION AND SOLITONS

One of the main results of the Painlevé test is to find a new case of coupled NLS equation in Eq. (2) with parameters given by $\gamma_2=2\gamma_1, \gamma_3=-\gamma_1$ and γ_4 arbitrary. With an appropriate scaling, we can always set the nonzero γ_1 to one. Also, as we show in Sec. IV, we can set γ_4 to zero. From now on, we restrict ourselves to the case ($\beta=1, \gamma_1=1, \gamma_2=2, \gamma_3=-1, \gamma_4=0$) and analyze its solution and integrability structures. It is well known that the Painlevé analysis in the preceding section can be related to the Bäcklund transformation (BT). In order to derive the BT, we truncate the series in Eq. (3) up to a constant level term and substitute $(z-\psi)$ by an arbitrary function $\phi(z, \bar{z})$ to be determined later. Then, the corresponding BT is given by

$$q_1 = \frac{R_0}{\phi} + R_1, \quad q_2 = \frac{T_0}{\phi} + T_1,$$

where the set (R_1, T_1) is a known solution of the coupled NLS equations, which we assume to be the trivial solution $R_1=T_1=0$. In order for the new set (q_1, q_2) to be also a solution, the following equations should hold [9]

$$\begin{aligned}
i\phi\bar{D}R_0\phi &= i\phi D^2R_0\phi - R_0D^2\phi\phi + R_0^2R_0^* \\
&\quad + 2R_0T_0T_0^* - R_0^*T_0^2, \\
i\phi\bar{D}T_0\phi &= i\phi D^2T_0\phi - T_0D^2\phi\phi + T_0^2T_0^* \\
&\quad + 2T_0R_0R_0^* - T_0^*R_0^2,
\end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

Here, Hirota's bilinears D and \bar{D} are defined by

$$\bar{D}^n D^m fg = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}'} \right)^n \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial}{\partial z'} \right)^m f(z, \bar{z}) g(z', \bar{z}') \Big|_{\substack{z=z' \\ \bar{z}=\bar{z}'}}. \tag{21}$$

Equation (20) can be decoupled as

$$\begin{aligned}
R_0D^2\phi\phi - (\gamma_1R_0^2R_0^* + \gamma_2R_0T_0T_0^* + \gamma_3R_0^*T_0^2) &= \lambda_1R_0\phi\phi, \\
T_0D^2\phi\phi - (\gamma_1T_0^2T_0^* + \gamma_2T_0R_0R_0^* + \gamma_3T_0^*R_0^2) &= \lambda_2T_0\phi\phi, \\
i\bar{D}R_0\phi &= D^2R_0\phi - \lambda_1R_0\phi, \\
i\bar{D}T_0\phi &= D^2T_0\phi - \lambda_2T_0\phi.
\end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

Now, explicit N solitons can be constructed in the usual way by solving ϕ, R_0, T_0 in terms of power series.

A. One-soliton

For one soliton solution, we choose $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$ and assume solutions in a series form in ϵ such that $\phi = 1 + \epsilon^2 h$, $R_0 = \epsilon R$, $T_0 = \epsilon T$. Then, by equating the coefficients of the polynomials to zero in Eq. (22) and solving them explicitly, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
R &= \alpha \exp[i(a^2 - b^2)\bar{z} + 2ab\bar{z} + ia z + bz], \\
T &= \beta \exp[i(a^2 - b^2)\bar{z} + 2ab\bar{z} + ia z + bz],
\end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

where α, β are arbitrary complex numbers while a, b are arbitrary real numbers. h is also obtained by solving the third-order equation such that

$$h = \frac{1}{8b^2} \left(|\alpha|^2 + 2|\beta|^2 - \frac{\alpha^* \beta^2}{\alpha} \right) \exp(2bz + 4ab\bar{z}). \tag{24}$$

Consistency requires that phases of the complex numbers α and β should be either the same, or differ by $\pi/2$. In the case of the same phase, we parameterize α and β by

$$\alpha = \sqrt{8b} \cos ke^{\Delta + i\theta}, \quad b = \sqrt{8b} \sin ke^{\Delta + i\theta}, \tag{25}$$

in terms of arbitrary real numbers k, θ, Δ . Then, the final form of the one soliton solution is given by substituting $\epsilon = 1$ in Eq. (19) such that

$$\begin{aligned}
q_1 &= \sqrt{2b} \cos ke^{i(a^2 - b^2)\bar{z} + ia z + i\theta} \operatorname{sech}(bz + 2ab\bar{z} + \Delta), \\
q_2 &= \sqrt{2b} \sin ke^{i(a^2 - b^2)\bar{z} + ia z + i\theta} \operatorname{sech}(bz + 2ab\bar{z} + \Delta).
\end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

In the case where phases differ by $\pi/2$, α and β are given by

$$\beta = \pm i\alpha = \pm i\sqrt{8b} e^{\Delta + i\theta}. \tag{27}$$

Then, the corresponding one-soliton solution is

$$\begin{aligned}
q_1 &= \sqrt{2b} e^{i(a^2 - b^2)\bar{z} + ia z + i\theta} \operatorname{sech}(bz + 2ab\bar{z} + \Delta), \\
q_2 &= \pm i\sqrt{2b} e^{i(a^2 - b^2)\bar{z} + ia z + i\theta} \operatorname{sech}(bz + 2ab\bar{z} + \Delta).
\end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

B. Two-soliton

The two-soliton solution can be obtained using the series expansion $\phi = 1 + \epsilon^2 h_1 + \epsilon^4 h_2$, $R_0 = \epsilon \rho_1 + \epsilon^3 \rho_2$, $T_0 = \epsilon \tau_1 + \epsilon^3 \tau_2$. Inserting these ansätze into Eq. (22), we obtain solutions

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho_1 &= f + g, \quad \tau_1 = i\rho_1; \quad f = e^{-ik^2\bar{z} + kz + \eta_f}, \quad g = e^{-il^2\bar{z} + lz + \eta_g}, \\
h_1 &= 2 \left(\frac{ff^*}{(k+k^*)^2} + \frac{fg^*}{(k+l^*)^2} + \frac{gf^*}{(l+k^*)^2} + \frac{gg^*}{(l+l^*)^2} \right),
\end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

where k, l, η_f, η_g are arbitrary complex numbers. Also, after a lengthy but straightforward calculation we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho_2 &= 2(l-k)^2 \left(\frac{ff^*g}{(k+k^*)^2(l+k^*)^2} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{fgg^*}{(k+l^*)^2(l+l^*)^2} \right), \quad \tau_2 = i\rho_2, \\
h_2 &= \frac{4(l-k)^2(l^*-k^*)^2 ff^* gg^*}{(k+k^*)^2(l+k^*)^2(k+l^*)^2(l+l^*)^2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

Finally, the two-soliton solution is obtained by taking $\epsilon = 1$ in the BT equation $q_1 = R_0/\phi, q_2 = T_0/\phi$.

Surprisingly, there exists a different type two-soliton solution that can be obtained by a simple linear superposition of the left-polarized one-soliton with the right-polarized one-soliton;

$$q_1 = \frac{f}{\phi_1} + \frac{g}{\phi_2}, \quad q_2 = i \frac{f}{\phi_1} - i \frac{g}{\phi_2}, \tag{31}$$

where $\phi_1 = 1 + 2ff^*/(k+k^*)^2, \phi_2 = 1 + 2gg^*/(l+l^*)^2$. The reason underlying the existence of such a linear superposition is explained in the following section.

IV. INTEGRABILITY

The Painlevé test in Sec. II suggests new integrable cases of coupled NLS equations. As we have shown in the preceding section, the coupled NLS equation with $\gamma_1 = 1, \gamma_2 = 2, \gamma_3 = -1, \gamma_4 = 0$ possesses exact soliton solutions, which reflects the integrability of the equation. Before proving the integrability by deriving the corresponding Lax pair, we first note that taking $\gamma_4 = 0$ is not essential. Make a change of variables such that

$$Q_1 = xq_1 + yq_2, \quad Q_2 = yq_1 + xq_2. \tag{32}$$

If (Q_1, Q_2) satisfy the coupled NLS equation in Eq. (2) with $\gamma_1 = 1, \gamma_2 = 2, \gamma_3 = -1, \gamma_4 = 0$, then (q_1, q_2) satisfy Eq. (2) but with parameters $\gamma_1 = 1, \gamma_2 = 2, \gamma_3 = -1, \gamma_4 = 4xy/(x^2$

$+y^2$). Thus, we set γ_4 to zero without loss of generality. The integrability and the Lax pair of the coupled NLS equation in Eq. (2) with $\gamma_1=1, \gamma_2=2, \gamma_3=\pm 1, \gamma_4=0$ follows from the observation that these equations can be embedded in the integrable coupled NLS equation based on the symmetric space $\text{Sp}(2)/\text{U}(2)$ given by [10]

$$\begin{aligned} i\bar{\partial}\psi_1 &= [\partial^2\psi_1 + 2\psi_1^2\psi_1^* + 4\psi_1\psi_2\psi_2^* + 2\psi_2^2\psi_3^*], \\ i\bar{\partial}\psi_2 &= [\partial^2\psi_2 + 2\psi_2\psi_1\psi_1^* + 2\psi_2^2\psi_2^* + 2\psi_3\psi_1\psi_2^* \\ &\quad + 2\psi_3\psi_2\psi_3^*], \\ i\bar{\partial}\psi_3 &= [\partial^2\psi_3 + 2\psi_3^2\psi_3^* + 4\psi_3\psi_2\psi_2^* + 2\psi_2^2\psi_1^*]. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Consistent reductions can be made if we take $\psi_1 = \pm\psi_3$, which are precisely the cases $\gamma_1=2, \gamma_2=4, \gamma_3=\pm 2, \gamma_4=0$ in Eq. (2). Furthermore, Eq. (33) arises from the Lax pair

$$\begin{aligned} L_z\Psi &\equiv [\partial + E + \lambda T]\Psi = 0, \\ L_{\bar{z}}\Psi &\equiv [\bar{\partial} + (\frac{1}{2}[E, \bar{E}] - \partial\bar{E}) - \lambda E - \lambda^2 T]\Psi = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

where the 4×4 matrices E and T are

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \psi_1 & \psi_2 \\ 0 & 0 & \psi_2 & \psi_3 \\ -\psi_1^* & -\psi_2^* & 0 & 0 \\ -\psi_2^* & -\psi_3^* & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ T &= \begin{pmatrix} i/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & i/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -i/2 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

By taking $\psi_1 = \pm\psi_3$ in Eqs. (34) and (35), we obtain the Lax pair for the coupled NLS equation in Eq. (2) with $\gamma_1=2, \gamma_2=4, \gamma_3=\pm 2, \gamma_4=0$.

More directly, the integrability can be shown by mapping the coupled NLS equation into two independent (decoupled) NLS equations as follows; if we substitute

$$\Psi_1 = q_1 + iq_2, \quad \Psi_2 = q_1 - iq_2, \quad (36)$$

in the two independent NLS equations, $i\bar{\partial}\Psi_k = \partial^2\Psi_k + 2|\Psi_k|^2\Psi_k; k=1,2$, we recover Eq. (2) with $\gamma_1=2, \gamma_2=4, \gamma_3=-2, \gamma_4=0$. Similarly using the substitution $\Psi_1 = q_1 + q_2, \Psi_2 = q_1 - q_2$, we obtain Eq. (2) with $\gamma_1=2, \gamma_2=4, \gamma_3=2, \gamma_4=0$. This explains why the linear superposition of two solitons was possible in the previous section. The decomposition of the coupled NLS equation into two independent NLS equations implies that the linear combination of solutions according to Eq. (36) becomes a solution of the coupled NLS equation. Group theoretically, such a decomposition corresponds to the embedding of symmetric spaces, $[\text{SU}(2)/\text{U}(1)] \times [\text{SU}(2)/\text{U}(1)] \subset \text{Sp}(2)/\text{U}(2)$. According to the group theoretic construction of the NLS equation using Hermitian symmetric spaces [14], the above embedding results in two decoupled NLS equations. It is interesting to see

that this decoupling behavior is also reflected in the Painlevé analysis. Besides the solution of the leading order equation (4) (case 4 in Sec. II) which enables the present coupled NLS equation to pass the Painlevé test, for the set of parameters $\gamma_2=2\gamma_1, \gamma_3=-\gamma_1$, we have another set of solutions of the leading order equation (4),

$$U_0 = \frac{-2T_0}{T_0^2 + R_0^2}, \quad S_0 = \frac{-2R_0}{T_0^2 + R_0^2}. \quad (37)$$

This has resonances at $j = -1, -1, 0, 0, 3, 3, 4, 4$. This solution also passes the test. Note that all resonances are double poles and each poles are precisely those of the NLS equation. This suggests that the systems under consideration are indeed two independent NLS systems.

So far, we have restricted to the case $\beta=1$. For $\beta=-1$, our Painlevé analysis showed that the only integrable case is the vector NLS equation considered by Zakharov and Schulmann,

$$i\bar{\partial}\Psi = \partial^2\Psi + \Psi\xi\Psi, \quad -i\bar{\partial}\xi = \partial^2\xi + \xi\Psi\xi, \quad (38)$$

where $\Psi = (\psi_1, \psi_2)$ and $\xi = (\chi_1, \chi_2)$. Using the reduction $\xi = \Psi^*A$ with $A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and substituting $q_1 = \psi_1, q_2 = \psi_2^*$, one can recover the vector NLS equation as in Eq. (2) with $\beta=-1, \gamma_1=-\gamma_2, \gamma_3=\gamma_4=0$.

In a similar vein, we construct a new integrable equation with $\beta=-1$ that resembles the previous decoupling NLS equation with $\beta=1$. We take

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} \chi_1 & \chi_2 \\ \chi_2 & -\chi_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad N = \begin{pmatrix} -\chi_1^* & \chi_2^* \\ \chi_2^* & \chi_1^* \end{pmatrix}, \quad (39)$$

and define the coupled NLS equation by

$$\begin{aligned} i\bar{\partial}M &= \partial^2M - 2MNM, \\ -i\bar{\partial}N &= \partial^2N - 2NMN. \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

We find that Eq. (40) arises from the Lax pair ($[L_z, L_{\bar{z}}] = 0$),

$$L_z = \partial + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & M \\ N & 0 \end{pmatrix} + i\frac{\lambda}{2} \begin{pmatrix} I_{2 \times 2} & 0 \\ 0 & -I_{2 \times 2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (41)$$

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\bar{z}} &= \bar{\partial} - i \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \partial M \\ -\partial N & 0 \end{pmatrix} - i \begin{pmatrix} MN & 0 \\ 0 & -NM \end{pmatrix} - \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 0 & M \\ N & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad - \frac{i}{2}\lambda^2 \begin{pmatrix} I_{2 \times 2} & 0 \\ 0 & -I_{2 \times 2} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

If we substitute $q_1 = \chi_1, q_2 = \chi_2^*$, we have an integrable equation with anomalous dispersion term and asymmetric coupling,

$$\begin{aligned} i\bar{\partial}q_1 &= \partial^2q_1 + 2(|q_1|^2q_1 - 2|q_2|^2q_1 - q_2^{*2}q_1^*), \\ i\bar{\partial}q_2 &= -\partial^2q_2 + 2(|q_2|^2q_2 - 2|q_1|^2q_2 - q_1^{*2}q_2^*). \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

This equation does not belong to the coupled NLS equation in Eq. (2), which has been Painlevé tested.

V. DISCUSSION

In this paper, we have performed a Painlevé analysis for coupled NLS equations with coherent coupling terms as given in Eq. (2). Besides the well-known vector NLS equation ($\beta = \pm 1; \gamma_2 = \pm \gamma_1, \gamma_3 = \gamma_4 = 0$), we have found integrable cases that are defined by the set of parameters with $\beta = 1$; (i) $\gamma_2 = 2\gamma_1, \gamma_3 = -\gamma_1, \gamma_4$ arbitrary, or (ii) $\gamma_2 = 2\gamma_1, \gamma_3 = \gamma_1, \gamma_4 = 0$. Painlevé analysis shows that these are the only integrable cases except the vector NLS equation. We have shown that these equations are essentially identical to two independent sets of NLS equations. Physically, the first case describes the propagation of optical pulses in an isotropic nonlinear medium in which the third-order susceptibility tensor satisfies that $\chi_{xxyy}^{(3)} + \chi_{xyxy}^{(3)} = -2\chi_{xyyx}^{(3)}$, while the second case does not have a similar interpretation. The linear transformation in Eq. (36), which decouples the interacting NLS equation [case (i)] into two independent NLS

equations, also maps two orthogonal linearly polarized lights into the left and the right circularly polarized lights. Thus, in such an isotropic medium, left and right circularly polarized lights do not interact each other thereby preserving circular polarizations. This case may be compared with a polarization preserving fiber where only one particular polarization direction is preserved. It would be interesting to know whether there exists nonlinear isotropic materials possessing this property.

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