

# On nonlocal reductions of the multi-component nonlinear Schrödinger equation on symmetric spaces

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## Abstract

The aim of this paper is to develop the inverse scattering transform (IST) for multi-component generalisations of nonlocal reductions of the nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) equation with  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetry related to symmetric spaces. This includes: the spectral properties of the associated Lax operator, Jost function, the scattering matrix and the minimal set of scattering data, the fundamental analytic solutions. As main examples we use the Manakov vector Schrödinger equation (related to **A.III**-symmetric spaces) and the multi-component NLS (MNLS) equations of Kullish-Sklyanin type (related to **BD.I**-symmetric spaces). Furthermore, the 1- and 2-soliton solutions are obtained by using an appropriate modification of the Zakharov-Shabat dressing method. It is shown, that the MNLS equations of these types allow both regular and singular soliton configurations. Finally, we present here different examples of 1- and 2-soliton solutions for both types of models, subject to different reductions.

## 1 Introduction

One of the most important and popular completely integrable nonlinear PDE is the nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) equation [65, 17, 63, 41]:

$$iq_t + q_{xx} + 2|q|^2q(x, t) = 0. \quad (1)$$

Here  $q(x, t)$  is a complex valued function, tending fast enough to zero as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$  [41, 6]. It has been derived as a governing equation describing processes and phenomena in such diverse fields as deep water waves, plasma physics and nonlinear fibre optics. For instance, in optics, NLS models wave propagation in Kerr media, where the nonlinearity is proportional to the intensity of the field.

The NLS equation (1) appeared at the early stage of the development of the inverse scattering method (ISM) and the theory of solitons [6, 15, 17, 41, 63], and exhibits all remarkable properties of PDEs and systems of PDEs, integrable by the ISM: it allows soliton solutions, infinite set of integrals of motion, multi-Hamiltonian formulation and so on [41, 17]. The key tool in studying integrability by the ISM is the existence of Lax representation of the nonlinear evolutionary equation (NLEE), that is, the NLEE can be represented as a compatibility condition of two linear operators [63, 17, 65, 41, 22]. The scattering problem for (1) is given by the Zakharov-Shabat system (related to  $sl(2, \mathbb{C})$  algebra):

$$L\chi \equiv \left( i \frac{d}{dx} + q(x, t) - \lambda \sigma_3 \right) \chi(x, t, \lambda) = 0, \\ q(x, t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & q^+ \\ q^- & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

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The first integrable multi-component generalisation of the scalar NLS equation (1) is the Manakov vector NLS equation:

$$\begin{aligned} iq_{1,t} + q_{1,xx} + 2(|q_1|^2 + |q_2|^2)q_1(x, t) &= 0; \\ iq_{2,t} + q_{2,xx} + 2(|q_1|^2 + |q_2|^2)q_2(x, t) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Here,  $q(x, t)$  is a 2-component vector-valued function. It is associated with a scattering problem of Zakharov-Shabat type related to the algebra  $sl(3, \mathbb{C})$ . It was proposed by S. V. Manakov [53] as an asymptotic model for the propagation of the electric field in a waveguide. Subsequently, this system was derived as a key model for light propagation in optical fibres [54, 7].

The Manakov model (3) can be generalised to  $n$ -component vectors (see [63])

$$i\mathbf{v}_t + \mathbf{v}_{xx} + 2(\mathbf{v}^\dagger, \mathbf{v})\mathbf{v} = 0, \quad \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}(x, t). \quad (4)$$

Here  $\mathbf{v}$  is an  $n$ -component complex-valued vector and  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is the standard scalar product. It is again integrable by the ISM [6, 63, 17, 41].

The classical ZS system can be generalised to a matrix (multi-component) form in a number of ways. One of the standard ways for doing this is by considering Lax operators taking values in a simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ :

$$L = i\partial_x + Q - \lambda J. \quad (5)$$

Here,  $J$  is a constant element of simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  [48, 42]. Generalizations of the NLS equation to symmetric spaces related to Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  are proposed in [19, 8, 18]. This includes coupled NLS systems with Lax pairs related the symmetric spaces **A.III**, **C.I**, **D.III** and **BD.I** types in the Cartan classification [48, 52]. Among this class, one can get as a special case the Manakov vector NLS equation and the one studied by Kulish and Sklyanin [50]. All these generalizations are solvable by the ISM [50, 19, 41].

When the rank  $r$  of the underlying simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  grows, the corresponding generic NLEE (or systems) will contain as many independent complex-valued functions as the number of all roots of  $\mathfrak{g}$  [16, 29, 30]. They are solvable for any  $r$  but their possible applications to physics for large  $r$  do not seem realistic. However one still may extract new integrable and physically useful NLEE by imposing reductions on  $L(t)$ , i.e. algebraic restrictions on  $Q(x, t)$  which diminish the number of independent functions in them and the number of equations [57]. Of course, such restrictions must be compatible with the dynamics of the NLEE [29, 30].

Recently, in [2] was proposed a nonlocal integrable equation of nonlinear Schrödinger type

$$iq_t + q_{xx} + V(x, t)q(x, t) = 0, \quad V(x, t) = 2q(x, t)q^*(-x, t). \quad (6)$$

with  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetry, due to the invariance of the so-called self-induced potential  $V(x, t)$  under the combined action of parity and time reversal symmetry. In the same paper, the 1-soliton solution for this model is derived and it was shown that it develops singularities in finite time. Soon after this, nonlocal  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric generalisations are found for the Ablowitz-Ladik model in [3]. All these models are integrable by the Inverse Scattering Method (ISM) [4, 40, 64, 65]. Such nonlocal reductions of the NLS equation and its multi-component generalisations are of particular interest in regards to applications in  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric optics, especially in developing of theory of electromagnetic waves in artificial heterogenic media [1, 9, 10, 60]. For an up-to-date review, see for example [66].

Historically the first pseudo-hermitian hamiltonian with real spectrum is the  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric one in [11]. Pseudo-hermiticity here means that the Hamiltonian  $\mathcal{H}$  commutes with the operators of spatial reflection  $\mathcal{P}$  and time reversal  $\mathcal{T}$ :  $\mathcal{PT}\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}\mathcal{PT}$  [55, 56]. The action of these operators is defined as

follows:  $\mathcal{P} : x \rightarrow -x$  and  $\mathcal{T} : t \rightarrow -t$  [12, 21]. Supposing that the wave function is a scalar, this leads to the following action of the operator of spatial reflection on the space of states:  $\mathcal{P}\psi(x, t) = \psi(-x, t)$  and  $\mathcal{T}\psi(x, t) = \psi^*(x, -t)$ . As a result, the Hamiltonian and the wave function are  $\mathcal{PT}$ -symmetric, if  $\mathcal{H}(x, t) = \mathcal{H}^*(-x, -t)$  and  $\psi(x, t) = \psi^*(-x, -t)$  [20]. Here we used also, that the parity operator  $\mathcal{P}$  is linear and unitary while the time reversal operator  $\mathcal{T}$  is anti-linear and anti-unitary.

The aim of this paper is study nonlocal reductions and to derive the corresponding soliton solutions for multi-component NLS models related to symmetric spaces of **A.III**-type and **BD.I**-type. This will be done based on examples of the vector NLS equations related to symmetric spaces of **A.III**  $\simeq SU(s+p)/S(U(s) \otimes U(p))$  type and the Kulish-Sklyanin model related to symmetric spaces of **BD.I**  $\simeq SO(2r+1)/SO(2) \otimes SO(2r-1)$  type.

The structure of this paper is as follows: In Section 2 we outline the form of the Lax operators and the general form of the NLEEs as well as the nonlocal symmetries (involutions) of interest. In Section 3 we present the direct scattering problem: the Jost solutions, the scattering matrix and the minimal set of scattering data and the fundamental analytic solutions (FAS). Furthermore, In Section 4, based on appropriate modification of the Zakharov-Shabat dressing method, we derive 1- and 2-soliton solution of the corresponding NLEE equation related to **A.III** and **BD.I** symmetric spaces and study the effect on nonlocal reductions on them.

## 2 Preliminaries

### 2.1 Lax pair and general form of the equations

Let us start with the generic Lax pair for the MNLS equations on symmetric spaces [23], it can be represented by the following form:

$$L\chi(x, t, \lambda) \equiv i\partial_x\chi + (Q(x, t) - \lambda J)\chi(x, t, \lambda) = 0, \quad U(x, t, \lambda) = Q(x, t) - \lambda J, \quad (7a)$$

$$M\chi(x, t, \lambda) \equiv i\partial_t\chi + (V_0(x, t) + \lambda V_1(x, t) - \lambda^2 J)\chi(x, t, \lambda) = 0, \quad (7b)$$

$$V_1(x, t) = Q(x, t), \quad V_0(x, t) = i\text{ad}_J^{-1} \frac{dQ}{dx} + \frac{1}{2}[\text{ad}_J^{-1}Q, Q(x, t)]. \quad (7c)$$

Here  $\chi(x, t, \lambda)$  are the eigenfunction of the Lax operators,  $U(x, t, \lambda)$  and  $V(x, t, \lambda)$  are chosen to take values in a simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  of rank  $r$ , while the eigenfunctions  $\chi(x, t, \lambda)$  belong to the corresponding Lie group  $\mathfrak{G}$ . Here also  $J$  is a constant element of the Cartan subalgebra  $\mathfrak{h} \subset \mathfrak{g}$  (which can be always chosen to be represented by a diagonal matrix) and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  is a spectral parameter. On the **A.III**  $\simeq SU(p+s)/S(U(p) \times U(s))$  symmetric spaces the potential of  $L(\lambda)$  (7a) reads:

$$Q(x, t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{q}^+ \\ \mathbf{q}^- & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad J = \frac{2}{s+p} \begin{pmatrix} p\mathbb{1}_s & 0 \\ 0 & -s\mathbb{1}_p \end{pmatrix}, \quad (8)$$

where  $\mathbf{q}^+(x, t)$  and  $(\mathbf{q}^-)^T(x, t)$  are  $s \times p$  matrix-valued functions belonging to the simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ ,  $\mathbb{1}_s$  and  $\mathbb{1}_p$  are the  $s \times s$  and  $p \times p$  identity matrices, respectively,  $s+p=n$ .

The NLEE can be written as a compatibility condition

$$[L(\lambda), M(\lambda)] = 0, \quad (9)$$

of the two Lax operators (7a)-(7b). In particular, if  $L(\lambda)$  and  $M(\lambda)$  are related to **A.III**  $\simeq SU(p+1)/S(U(1) \otimes U(p))$  - symmetric spaces [19], the explicit parametrisation (8) of the **A.III** symmetric spaces will give the system

$$i\mathbf{q}_t^+ + \mathbf{q}_{xx}^+ + 2\mathbf{q}^+ \mathbf{q}^- \mathbf{q}^+(x, t) = 0, \quad (10)$$

$$-i\mathbf{q}_t^- + \mathbf{q}_{xx}^- + 2\mathbf{q}^- \mathbf{q}^+ \mathbf{q}^-(x, t) = 0. \quad (11)$$

The particular choice  $s = 1$  and  $p = 2$  (assuming also the standard involution  $\mathbf{q}^- = (\mathbf{q}^+)^*$  for the NLS type of models) corresponds to the well-know Manakov system [53]. Its generalisations for  $n$ -dimensional vectors  $\mathbf{q}^\pm$  is known as vector nonlinear Schrödinger equation [41].

Another class of the multi-component NLS (MNLS) equations is known as Kulish and Sklyanin (KS) models and are related to the symmetric spaces of **BD.I**  $\simeq SO(2r + 1)/SO(2) \otimes SO(2r - 1)$  type [36, 25, 24, 28, 26]. The generic NLEEs of this class can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} i\vec{\mathbf{q}}_t^+ + \vec{\mathbf{q}}_{xx}^+ + 2(\vec{\mathbf{q}}^+, \vec{\mathbf{q}}^-) \vec{\mathbf{q}}^+ - (\vec{\mathbf{q}}^+, s_0 \vec{\mathbf{q}}^+) s_0 \vec{\mathbf{q}}^- &= 0, \\ i\vec{\mathbf{q}}_t^- - \vec{\mathbf{q}}_{xx}^- - 2(\vec{\mathbf{q}}^+, \vec{\mathbf{q}}^-) \vec{\mathbf{q}}^- + (\vec{\mathbf{q}}^-, s_0 \vec{\mathbf{q}}^-) s_0 \vec{\mathbf{q}}^+ &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

which is associated with  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq so(2r + 1, \mathbb{C})$  linear system (7a) where

$$Q(x, t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & (\mathbf{q}^+)^T & 0 \\ \mathbf{q}^- & \mathbf{0} & s_0 \mathbf{q}^+ \\ 0 & (\mathbf{q}^-)^T s_0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad J = \text{diag}(1, \mathbf{0}, -1). \quad (13)$$

Here  $\mathbf{q}^\pm$  are  $2r - 1$ -component vectors, and  $s_0$  is the matrix that defines the orthogonal algebra  $\mathbf{B}_r \simeq so(2r + 1)$ :

$$X \in so(2r + 1) \text{ iff } X + S_0 X^T S_0^{-1} = 0, \quad S_0 = \sum_{s=1}^{2r+1} (-1)^{s+1} E_{s, 2r+2-s}^{(2r+1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -s_0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (14)$$

where  $E_{s,p}^{(2r+1)}$  is a  $2r + 1 \times 2r + 1$  matrix with matrix elements given by  $(E_{s,p}^{(2r+1)})_{ij} = \delta_{si} \delta_{pj}$ .

## 2.2 Symmetries of the Lax operator and reductions

A systematic way of description and classification of the class of admissible reductions for a given Lax pair is introduced by A. Mikhailov in [57]. This is done by the so-called reduction group. The reduction group is a finite group which preserves the Lax representation, i.e. it ensures that the reduction constraints are automatically compatible with the evolution [29, 43, 30, 62]. The reduction constrains diminish the number of independent functions and the number of equations. Here we will restrict ourselves with  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  reductions of the following two types:

$$(A) \quad U(x, t, \lambda) = B(U(x, t, \lambda^*))^\dagger B^{-1}, \quad (15)$$

$$(B) \quad -U(x, t, \lambda) = B(U(-x, t, -\lambda^*))^\dagger B^{-1}, \quad (16)$$

where  $B$  is constant block-diagonal matrix of the form  $B = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{B}_+ & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{B}_- \end{pmatrix}$  for **A.III** symmetric spaces.

For symmetric spaces of type **BD.I** it can be written in the form:

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{B}_+ & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{B}_\pm & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{B}_- \end{pmatrix}. \quad (17)$$

Here we assume also that the blocks  $\mathbf{B}_+$  and  $\mathbf{B}_-$  are nonsingular matrices. Note also, that the involution of type (B) in (16) results in nonlocal reduction conditions.

Recalling the standard block-structure on **A.III** symmetric spaces (8) one can write explicitly the reductions conditions for the matrix blocks:

$$(A) \quad \mathbf{q}^-(x, t) = \mathbf{B}_-(\mathbf{q}^+(x, t))^\dagger (\mathbf{B}_+)^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{q}^+(x, t) = \mathbf{B}_+(\mathbf{q}^-(x, t))^\dagger (\mathbf{B}_-)^{-1}, \quad (18)$$

$$(B) \quad \mathbf{q}^-(x, t) = -\mathbf{B}_-(\mathbf{q}^+(-x, t))^\dagger (\mathbf{B}_+)^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{q}^+(x, t) = -\mathbf{B}_+(\mathbf{q}^-(-x, t))^\dagger (\mathbf{B}_-)^{-1}. \quad (19)$$

Using the the local and nonlocal involutions (18) and (19) respectively, one can write the resulting Kulish-Sklyanin models. The local involution(18) will give the following equations:

$$i\mathbf{q}_t^+ + \mathbf{q}_{xx}^+ + 2 (\mathbf{q}^+(x, t), (\mathbf{q}^+(x, t))^*) \mathbf{q}^+ - (\mathbf{q}^+, s_0\mathbf{q}^+) s_0(\mathbf{q}^+(x, t))^* = 0, \quad (20)$$

while the nonlocal involution (19) will result in:

$$i\mathbf{q}_t^+ + \mathbf{q}_{xx}^+ + 2 (\mathbf{q}^+(x, t), (\mathbf{q}^+(-x, t))^*) \mathbf{q}^+ - (\mathbf{q}^+, s_0\mathbf{q}^+) s_0(\mathbf{q}^+(-x, t))^* = 0. \quad (21)$$

**Example A. [Manakov model]** If  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq sl(3, \mathbb{C})$ ,  $p = 1$  and  $s = 2$ , then  $\mathbf{q}^+(x, t)$  and  $\mathbf{q}^-(x, t)$  are 2-component vector functions. In addition, If we apply a (local) reduction of type (A) with  $B = \mathbb{I}$ , this will reproduce the standard Manakov VNLs equation:

$$\begin{aligned} -iq_{1,t} + q_{1,xx} + 2 (|q_1(x, t)|^2 + |q_2(x, t)|^2) q_1(x, t) &= 0, \\ -iq_{2,t} + q_{2,xx} + 2 (|q_1(x, t)|^2 + |q_2(x, t)|^2) q_2(x, t) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Taking an involution of type (B) with  $\mathbf{B}_+ = \mp 1$  and  $\mathbf{B}_- = \text{diag}(\pm 1, \pm 1)$ , then we obtain the following nonlocal reduction of Manakov model:

$$\begin{aligned} -iq_{1,t} + q_{1,xx} + 2 (q_1(x, t) q_1^*(-x, t) + q_2(x, t) q_2^*(-x, t)) q_1(x, t) &= 0, \\ -iq_{2,t} + q_{2,xx} + 2 (q_1(x, t) q_1^*(-x, t) + q_2(x, t) q_2^*(-x, t)) q_2(x, t) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

**Example B. [Kulish-Sklyanin model]** In the simplest case of Lax operators related to  $SO(5)/SO(2) \otimes SO(3)$  ( $\text{rank } \mathfrak{g} = 2$ ), we can set  $\mathbf{q}^+ = (q_{12}^+, q_{13}^+, q_{14}^+)$  and  $\mathbf{q}^- = (q_{12}^-, q_{13}^-, q_{14}^-)$ . After assuming also the standard involution of type (A) with  $B = \mathbb{I}$ , the compatibility condition (9) will lead to the following 3-component NLS system:

$$\begin{aligned} i(q_t^+)_{12} + (q_{xx}^+)_{12} + 2 (|q_{12}|^2 + 2|q_{13}|^2) q_{12} + 2(q_{14}^+)^*(q_{13}^+)^2 &= 0, \\ i(q_t^+)_{13} + (q_{xx}^+)_{13} + 2 (|q_{12}|^2 + |q_{13}|^2 + |q_{14}|^2) q_{13} + 2(q_{13}^+)^* q_{14}^+ q_{12}^+ &= 0, \\ i(q_t^+)_{14} + (q_{xx}^+)_{14} + 2 (|q_{14}|^2 + 2|q_{13}|^2) q_{14} + 2(q_{12}^+)^*(q_{13}^+)^2 &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

This appears to be a model describing  $\mathcal{F} = 1$  spinor Bose-Einstein condensates in one-dimensional approximation [50, 26, 37, 45].

### 3 Direct Scattering Transform for $L(\lambda)$

#### 3.1 Jost solutions and scattering matrix

The starting point here are the so-called Jost solutions, which are determined by their asymptotics for  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{i\lambda Jx} \psi(x, t, \lambda) = \mathbf{1}_{s+p}, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} e^{i\lambda Jx} \phi(x, t, \lambda) = \mathbf{1}_{s+p}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (25)$$

Along with these functions, one can also use "normalised to unity" Jost solutions

$$\xi(x, t, \lambda) = \psi(x, t, \lambda) e^{i\lambda Jx}, \quad \varphi(x, t, \lambda) = \phi(x, t, \lambda) e^{i\lambda Jx}, \quad (26)$$

satisfying the following equation

$$i \frac{d\xi}{dx} + Q(x, t) \xi(x, t, \lambda) - \lambda [J, \xi(x, t, \lambda)] = 0, \quad (27)$$

provided that (25) satisfy (7a).

On the continuous spectrum of  $L(\lambda)$  the two Jost solutions  $\psi(x, t, \lambda)$  and  $\phi(x, t, \lambda)$  are related via scattering matrix  $T(\lambda)$

$$\phi(x, t, \lambda) = \psi(x, t, \lambda)T(\lambda), \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (28)$$

The scattering matrix  $T(\lambda)$  belongs to the Lie group  $\mathfrak{G}$  corresponding the Lie algebra /symmetric space of  $L(\lambda)$ . For symmetric spaces of type **A.III** in the Cartan classification, it has the following block structure:

$$T(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}^+(\lambda) & -\mathbf{b}^-(\lambda) \\ \mathbf{b}^+(\lambda) & \mathbf{a}^-(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (29)$$

where,  $\mathbf{a}^+(\lambda)$  and  $\mathbf{a}^-(\lambda)$  are square matrices, while  $\mathbf{b}^+(\lambda)$  and  $\mathbf{b}^-(\lambda)$  are rectangular matrices. The block structure of the inverse of  $T(\lambda)$  can be written as:

$$\hat{T}(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}^-(\lambda) & \mathbf{d}^-(\lambda) \\ -\mathbf{d}^+(\lambda) & \mathbf{c}^+(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{T}(\lambda) = T^{-1}(\lambda), \quad (30)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{c}^\pm(\lambda) &= \hat{\mathbf{a}}^\mp(\lambda)(\mathbf{1} + \rho^\pm \rho^\mp)^{-1} = (\mathbf{1} + \tau^\mp \tau^\pm)^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{a}}^\mp(\lambda), \\ \mathbf{d}^\pm(\lambda) &= \hat{\mathbf{a}}^\mp(\lambda) \rho^\pm(\lambda) (\mathbf{1} + \rho^\mp \rho^\pm)^{-1} = (\mathbf{1} + \tau^\mp \tau^\pm)^{-1} \tau^\mp(\lambda) \hat{\mathbf{a}}^\pm(\lambda). \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Here  $\rho^\pm(\lambda)$  and  $\tau^\pm(\lambda)$  are the reflection and transmission coefficients respectively:

$$\rho^\pm(\lambda) = \mathbf{b}^\pm \hat{\mathbf{a}}^\pm(\lambda) = \hat{\mathbf{c}}^\pm \mathbf{d}^\pm(\lambda), \quad \tau^\pm(\lambda) = \hat{\mathbf{a}}^\pm \mathbf{b}^\mp(\lambda) = \mathbf{d}^\mp \hat{\mathbf{c}}^\pm(\lambda). \quad (32)$$

For symmetric spaces of **BD.I** type, the block structure of  $T(t, \lambda)$  and its inverse take the form:

$$T(t, \lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} m_1^+ & -\vec{\mathbf{B}}^{-T} & c_{(1)}^- \\ \vec{\mathbf{b}}^+ & \mathbf{T}_{22} & -s_0 \vec{\mathbf{b}}^- \\ c_{(1)}^+ & \vec{\mathbf{B}}^{+T} s_0 & m_1^- \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{T}(t, \lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} m_1^- & \vec{\mathbf{b}}^{-T} & c_{(1)}^- \\ -\vec{\mathbf{B}}^+ & \hat{\mathbf{T}}_{22} & s_0 \vec{\mathbf{B}}^- \\ c_{(1)}^+ & -\vec{\mathbf{b}}^{+T} s_0 & m_1^+ \end{pmatrix}. \quad (33)$$

Here,  $\vec{\mathbf{B}}^\pm(t, \lambda)$  and  $\vec{\mathbf{b}}^\pm(t, \lambda)$  are  $2r-1$ -component vectors and  $c_{(1)}^\pm(\lambda)$  and  $m_1^\pm(\lambda)$  are scalar functions. The reflection coefficients  $\bar{\rho}^\pm(\lambda)$ , the transmission coefficients  $\bar{\tau}^\pm(\lambda)$  and the functions  $c_{(1)}^\pm(\lambda)$  are determined by the generalised Gauss decomposition of  $T(t, \lambda)$ :

$$T(t, \lambda) = T_J^-(t, \lambda) D_J^+(t, \lambda) \hat{S}_J^+(t, \lambda) = T_J^+(t, \lambda) D_J^-(t, \lambda) \hat{S}_J^-(t, \lambda). \quad (34)$$

Here,  $S_J^\pm$  and  $T_J^\pm$  are upper- and lower- block-triangular matrices, which can be written in the form:

$$S_J^\pm = e^{(\pm(\bar{\tau}^\pm(\lambda, t) \cdot \vec{E}_1^\pm))}, \quad T_J^\pm = e^{(\mp(\bar{\rho}^\mp(\lambda, t) \cdot \vec{E}_1^\pm))}, \quad (35)$$

where

$$\bar{\tau}^\pm(\lambda, t) = \vec{\mathbf{B}}^\mp / m_1^\pm, \quad \bar{\rho}^\pm(\lambda, t) = \vec{\mathbf{b}}^\pm / m_1^\pm, \quad c_{(1)}^\pm = \frac{m_1^\pm}{2} (\bar{\rho}^{\pm, T}, s_0 \bar{\rho}^\pm) = \frac{m_1^\mp}{2} (\bar{\tau}^{\mp, T}, s_0 \bar{\tau}^\mp), \quad (36)$$

and  $D_J^\pm(t, \lambda)$  is the block-diagonal factor in (34):

$$D_J^+ = \begin{pmatrix} m_1^+ & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{m}_2^+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/m_1^+ \end{pmatrix}, \quad D_J^- = \begin{pmatrix} 1/m_1^- & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{m}_2^- & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & m_1^- \end{pmatrix}. \quad (37)$$

Here,  $m_k^\pm(t, \lambda)$  are the upper/lower rank  $k$  principal minors of the scattering matrix  $T(t, \lambda)$  (34) and

$$\mathbf{m}_2^+ = \mathbf{T}_{22} + \frac{\vec{b}^+ \vec{B}^{-,T}}{m_1^+}, \quad \mathbf{m}_2^- = \mathbf{T}_{22} + \frac{s_0 \vec{B}^- \vec{b}^{+,T} s_0}{m_1^-}. \quad (38)$$

If the potential matrix  $Q(x, t)$  satisfies the NLEE (9) then the associated scattering matrix  $T(t, \lambda)$  evolves in time linearly, i.e. it satisfies the equation

$$i \frac{dT}{dt} + [f(\lambda), T(t, \lambda)] = 0. \quad (39)$$

Here  $f(\lambda)$  is the dispersion law of the NLEE (9). For the NLS type of equations, we have  $f(\lambda) = -\lambda^2 J$ .

### 3.2 Fundamental Analytic Solutions (FAS)

In this section, we will briefly outline the construction of the Fundamental Analytic Solutions (FAS)  $\chi(x, t, \lambda)$  of the generalised Zakharov-Shabat system (7) [23, 41]. The FAS can be directly obtained from Jost solutions of (7):

$$\chi^\pm(x, t, \lambda) = \phi(x, t, \lambda) S_J^\pm(t, \lambda) = \psi(x, t, \lambda) T_J^\mp(t, \lambda) D_J^\pm(t, \lambda), \quad (40)$$

by using the generalised Gauss decomposition (34) of the scattering matrix  $T(t, \lambda)$ .

On the real axis (i.e. on the continuous spectrum of  $L(\lambda)$ ), the two FAS are linearly dependent:

$$\chi^+(x, t, \lambda) = \chi^-(x, t, \lambda) G_0(t, \lambda), \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (41)$$

where the sewing function  $G_0(t, \lambda)$  can be expressed in terms of the generalised Gauss factors  $S_J^\pm(t, \lambda)$ :

$$G_{0,J}(t, \lambda) = \hat{S}_J^-(t, \lambda) S_J^+(t, \lambda)|_{t=0}. \quad (42)$$

The independent matrix elements of  $G_0(t, \lambda)$ , together with the discrete spectrum of  $L(\lambda)$  form up the minimal set of scattering data of  $L$ . Based on the completeness relations of the associated square solution and Wronskian type of relation, one can recover the potential  $Q(x, t)$  out of the minimal set of scattering data [39].

We end up this section with the remark that, although the general form of the Gauss decomposition (34) holds true for any symmetric space, for symmetric spaces of type **A.III** one can simplify the form of the matrix block by slightly modifying the Gauss decomposition of  $T(\lambda)$ <sup>4</sup>:

$$T(\lambda) = \mathbf{T}_J^-(\lambda) \hat{\mathbf{S}}_J^+(\lambda) = \mathbf{T}_J^+(\lambda) \hat{\mathbf{S}}_J^-(\lambda). \quad (43)$$

Now,  $\mathbf{S}^\pm(\lambda)$  and  $\mathbf{T}^\pm(\lambda)$  are the block-triangular matrices:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{S}_J^+(\lambda) &= \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_s & \mathbf{d}^-(\lambda) \\ 0 & \mathbf{c}^+(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}, & \mathbf{T}_J^-(\lambda) &= \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}^+(\lambda) & 0 \\ \mathbf{b}^+(\lambda) & \mathbf{1}_p \end{pmatrix}, \\ \mathbf{S}_J^-(\lambda) &= \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}^-(\lambda) & 0 \\ -\mathbf{d}^+(\lambda) & \mathbf{1}_p \end{pmatrix}, & \mathbf{T}_J^+(\lambda) &= \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_s & -\mathbf{b}^-(\lambda) \\ 0 & \mathbf{a}^-(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

<sup>4</sup>Decomposition of type (43) are known as LU decomposition of  $T(\lambda)$ , while a decomposition of type (34) is known as LDU decomposition of  $T(\lambda)$ .

Using the Gauss decomposition (43) one can write explicitly the sewing function  $G_{0,j}(t, \lambda)$  (42) in terms of the blocks of  $T(t, \lambda)$  and its inverse:

$$G_0(\lambda) = \hat{D}^-(\lambda)(\mathbb{1} + K^-(\lambda)), \quad \hat{G}_0(\lambda) = \hat{D}^+(\lambda)(\mathbb{1} - K^+(\lambda)). \quad (45)$$

Here the block-diagonal factors  $D^\pm(\lambda)$  and block-off-diagonal  $K^\pm(\lambda)$  factors are expressed in terms of the blocks  $\mathbf{a}^\pm(\lambda)$ ,  $\mathbf{b}^\pm(\lambda)$  of  $T(\lambda)$  (29) and in terms of the blocks  $\mathbf{c}^\pm(\lambda)$ ,  $\mathbf{d}^\pm(\lambda)$  (30) of its inverse  $\hat{T}(\lambda)$ , respectively;

$$D^-(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{c}^-(\lambda) & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{a}^-(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}, \quad K^-(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{d}^-(\lambda) \\ \mathbf{b}^+(\lambda) & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (46)$$

$$D^+(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}^+(\lambda) & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{c}^+(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}, \quad K^+(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{b}^-(\lambda) \\ \mathbf{d}^+(\lambda) & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (47)$$

The superscripts “ $\pm$ ” in the expressions  $D^\pm(\lambda)$  above mean analyticity for  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}_\pm$ .

## 4 Dressing method and soliton solutions

### 4.1 The Zakharov-Shabat Dressing Method

The main idea of the Zakharov-Shabat dressing method is to start with a regular solution  $\eta_0^\pm(x, t, \lambda)$  of (7a) and to perform a "dressing" by adding singularities at two prescribed points  $\lambda_k^\pm$  [49, 36, 31, 27, 23, 63, 61, 13]. The new singular solution will have the form:

$$\eta^\pm(x, t, \lambda) = u_k(x, t, \lambda) \eta_0^\pm(x, t, \lambda) w_{k,\pm}^{-1}(\lambda). \quad (48a)$$

Here, the matrices  $w_{k,\pm}(\lambda)$  can be given by:

$$w_{k,+}(\lambda) = \mathbb{1}, \quad w_{k,-}(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} u_{11,k}^+ & 0 \\ 0 & u_{22,k}^- \end{pmatrix}, \quad (49)$$

where the limits of the dressing factor can be obtained by:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} u_k(x, t, \lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} u_{11,k}^+ & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbb{1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad u_{11,k}^+ = \mathbb{1} + (c_k(\lambda) - 1)P_{11,k}^+, \quad (50)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} u_k(x, t, \lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{1} & 0 \\ 0 & u_{22,k}^- \end{pmatrix}, \quad u_{22,k}^- = \mathbb{1} + (c_k(\lambda) - 1)P_{22,k}^-. \quad (51)$$

For Lax operators related to A.III symmetric spaces, the dressing factors have the form:

$$u_k(x, t, \lambda) = \mathbb{1} + (c_k(\lambda) - 1)P_k(x, t), \quad c_k(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda - \lambda_k^+}{\lambda - \lambda_k^-}. \quad (52)$$

Here  $u_k(x, t, \lambda)$  is the dressing factor,  $P_k(x, t)$  is a projector of rank 1 has the form:

$$P_k(x, t) = \frac{|n_k(x, t)\rangle \langle m_k(x, t)|}{\langle m_k(x, t)|n_k(x, t)\rangle}, \quad (53)$$

where  $|n_k(x, t)\rangle = \chi_0^+(x, t, \lambda_1^+) |n_{0,1}\rangle$  is a column vector and  $\langle m_k(x, t)| = \langle m_{0,1}| \hat{\chi}_0^-(x, t, \lambda_1^-)$  is a row vector and both of them are eigenvector. The projectors  $P_k(x, t)$  automatically satisfy the condition  $P_k^2(x, t) = P_k(x, t)$ . The functions  $\eta^\pm(x, t, \lambda)$  satisfies the linear system:

$$\left( i \frac{d\eta^\pm}{dx} + Q(x, t) \eta^\pm(x, t, \lambda) - \lambda [J, \eta^\pm(x, t, \lambda)] \right) = 0. \quad (54)$$

where  $\eta^\pm(x, t, \lambda)$  are related to the ZS system with an unknown potential  $Q(x, t)$ , which can be found later, while  $\eta_0^\pm(x, t, \lambda)$  is related to the ZS system with a known potential  $Q_0(x, t)$ :

$$i \frac{d\eta_0^\pm}{dx} + Q_0(x, t)\eta_0^\pm(x, t, \lambda) - (\lambda) [J, \eta_0^\pm(x, t, \lambda)] = 0. \quad (55)$$

Now, from (48a) and (55), we find that the dressing factor  $u_k(x, t, \lambda)$  satisfies the following equation:

$$i \frac{du_k}{dx} + Q(x, t)u_k(x, t, \lambda) - u_k(x, t, \lambda)Q_0(x, t) - \lambda [J, u_k(x, t, \lambda)] = 0, \quad (56)$$

since the ansatz for the dressing factor  $u_k(x, t, \lambda)$  in (52) and (56) are compatible with respect to  $\lambda$ , then there are two conditions can be applied to the left-hand side of (56) which are the limit for  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  and the residue at  $\lambda = \lambda_k^-$  and both of them are vanish. The first condition leads to the potential:

$$Q(x, t) - Q_0(x, t) = -(\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-)[J, P_k(x, t)], \quad (57)$$

and the second condition gives the following nonlinear equation for  $P_k(x, t)$ :

$$i \frac{dP_k}{dx} + Q_0(x, t)P_k(x, t) - P_k(x, t)Q_0(x, t) - \lambda_k^+ J P_k(x, t) + \lambda_k^- P_k(x, t) J \quad (58)$$

$$+ (\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-) P_k(x, t) J P_k(x, t) = 0. \quad (59)$$

In addition, we have the normalization condition  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} u_k(x, t, \lambda) = \mathbb{1}$ .

In the case of **BD.I** symmetric spaces the dressing factor  $u_k(x, t, \lambda)$  can be written in the form:

$$u_k(x, t, \lambda) = \mathbb{1} + (c_k(\lambda) - 1)P_k(x, t) + \left( \frac{1}{c_k(\lambda)} - 1 \right) \bar{P}_k(x, t), \quad \bar{P}_k = S_0 P_k^T S_0^{-1}, \quad (60)$$

where  $P_k(x, t)$  and  $\bar{P}_k(x, t)$  are mutually orthogonal projectors with rank 1 [30]. In a similar fashion, one can write the dressed potential  $Q(x, t)$  as:

$$Q(x, t) = Q_0(x, t) - (\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-)[J, P_k(x, t) - \bar{P}_k(x, t)]. \quad (61)$$

## 4.2 One Soliton Solutions

**Example 1.** If we take  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq sl(3, \mathbb{C})$  and a dressing factor in the form (52) satisfying the nonlocal reduction conditions (16), this will imply the following involution on the dressing factor:

$$B u_1(-x, t, -\lambda^*)^\dagger B^{-1} = u_1^{-1}(x, t, \lambda), \quad (62)$$

where  $B$  is constant block-diagonal matrix. As a result, the projector  $P_1$  must satisfy:

$$P_1(x, t) = B P_1^\dagger(-x, t) B^{-1}, \quad (-\lambda^\pm)^* = \lambda^\mp. \quad (63)$$

That means the projector  $P_1(x, t)$  and  $c_1(\lambda)$  become:

$$P_1(x, t) = \frac{|n_1(x, t)\rangle \langle n_1^*(-x, t)| B}{\langle n_1^*(-x, t)| B |n_1(x, t)\rangle}, \quad \langle m_1(x, t)| = (B |n_1(-x, t)\rangle)^\dagger, \quad (64)$$

$$c_1(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda - \lambda_1^+}{\lambda + (\lambda_1^+)^*}. \quad (65)$$

So, from (57), the components of the one-soliton solution can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} q_{1j}(x, t) &= -2(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) \frac{n_{0,1}^1 (n_{0,1}^j)^* e^{-i(\tilde{M}_1^+(x,t) + (\tilde{M}_1^+)^*(-x,t))}}{2R_{0,1} \cosh(2\nu_1 x + 2\tilde{\mu}_1 t + \xi_{0,1})}, \quad j = 2, 3, \\ q_{j1}(x, t) &= -2(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) \frac{n_{0,1}^j (n_{0,1}^1)^* e^{i(\tilde{M}_1^+(x,t) + (\tilde{M}_1^+)^*(-x,t))}}{2R_{0,1} \cosh(2\nu_1 x + 2\tilde{\mu}_1 t + \xi_{0,1})}, \quad j = 2, 3. \end{aligned} \quad (66a)$$

Here,

$$\tilde{M}_1^\pm(x, t) = \lambda_1^\pm x + 2f_{0,1}^\pm t, \quad (\tilde{M}_1^+(-x, t))^* = (-\lambda_1^+)^*(-x) + 2(f_0(-\lambda_1^+)^*)t, \quad (66b)$$

$$\nu_1 = i((-\lambda_1^+)^* - \lambda_1^+)/2, \quad \tilde{\mu}_1 = i(f(-\lambda_1^+)^* - f(\lambda_1^+)), \quad (66c)$$

$$R_{0,1} = \sqrt{(n_{0,1}^1)^* n_{0,1}^1 ((n_{0,1}^2)^* n_{0,1}^2 + (n_{0,1}^3)^* n_{0,1}^3)}, \quad \xi_{0,1} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{(n_{0,1}^1)^* n_{0,1}^1}{(n_{0,1}^2)^* n_{0,1}^2 + (n_{0,1}^3)^* n_{0,1}^3}. \quad (66d)$$

**Example 2.** If we take again  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq sl(3, \mathbb{C})$  and the involution automorphism to be the Weyl reflection with respect to the second simple root  $e_2 - e_3$  of  $sl(3, \mathbb{C})$  and impose a reduction of type (B) in (16).

This will correspond to another block matrix  $B = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{B}_+ & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{B}_- \end{pmatrix}$  where  $\mathbf{B}_-$  is a block off-diagonal matrix. The blocks can be written as

$$\mathbf{B}_+ = \mp 1, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{B}_- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \pm 1 \\ \pm 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (67)$$

The reductions conditions for the matrix blocks can be written as:

$$(C) \quad \mathbf{q}^-(x, t) = -\mathbf{B}_-(\mathbf{q}^+(-x, t))^\dagger (\mathbf{B}_+)^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{q}^+(x, t) = -\mathbf{B}_+(\mathbf{q}^-(-x, t))^\dagger (\mathbf{B}_-)^{-1}. \quad (68)$$

Now, if we apply the involution of type (C) with using (67), then the standard Manakov VNLS equation reproduced as:

$$\begin{aligned} -iq_{1,t} + q_{1,xx} + 2(q_1(x, t) q_2^*(-x, t) + q_2(x, t) q_1^*(-x, t)) q_1(x, t) &= 0, \\ -iq_{2,t} + q_{2,xx} + 2(q_1(x, t) q_2^*(-x, t) + q_2(x, t) q_1^*(-x, t)) q_2(x, t) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (69)$$

Also, we can write one-soliton solution of the Manakov VNLS equation for this type of involution as the dressing factor (52) is satisfied by the involution (62) with (63). So, from (57), the components of the one-soliton solution can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} q_{12}(x, t) &= -2(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) n_{0,1}^1 e^{-i\tilde{M}_1^+(x,t)} R_1^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,1}^3)^* e^{-i\tilde{M}_1^{+,*}(-x,t)}, \\ q_{13}(x, t) &= -2(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) n_{0,1}^1 e^{-i\tilde{M}_1^+(x,t)} R_1^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,1}^2)^* e^{-i\tilde{M}_1^{+,*}(-x,t)}, \\ q_{21}(x, t) &= -2(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) n_{0,1}^2 e^{i\tilde{M}_1^+(x,t)} R_1^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,1}^1)^* e^{i\tilde{M}_1^{+,*}(-x,t)}, \\ q_{31}(x, t) &= -2(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) n_{0,1}^3 e^{i\tilde{M}_1^+(x,t)} R_1^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,1}^1)^* e^{i\tilde{M}_1^{+,*}(-x,t)}. \end{aligned} \quad (70a)$$

Here,

$$\tilde{M}_1^\pm(x, t) = \lambda_1^\pm x + 2f_{0,1}^\pm t, \quad (\tilde{M}_1^+(-x, t))^* = (-\lambda_1^+)^*(-x) + 2(f_0(-\lambda_1^+)^*)t, \quad (70b)$$

$$R_1(x, t) = 2R_{0,1} \cosh(2\nu_1 x + 2\tilde{\mu}_1 t + \xi_{0,1}), \quad (70c)$$

$$\nu_1 = i((-\lambda_1^+)^* - \lambda_1^+)/2, \quad \tilde{\mu}_1 = i(f(-\lambda_1^+)^* - f(\lambda_1^+)), \quad (70d)$$

$$R_{0,1} = \sqrt{(n_{0,1}^1)^* n_{0,1}^1 ((n_{0,1}^3)^* n_{0,1}^2 + (n_{0,1}^2)^* n_{0,1}^3)}, \quad \xi_{0,1} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{(n_{0,1}^1)^* n_{0,1}^1}{(n_{0,1}^3)^* n_{0,1}^2 + (n_{0,1}^2)^* n_{0,1}^3}. \quad (70e)$$

**Example 3.** If we take  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq so(5, \mathbb{C})$ , then the dressing factor will take the form (60). If we impose the nonlocal reduction conditions (16):

$$B u_1(-x, t, -\lambda^*)^\dagger B^{-1} = u_1^{-1}(x, t, \lambda), \quad (71)$$

this will lead to the following reduction condition:

$$P_1(x, t) = B P_1^\dagger(-x, t) B^{-1}, \quad (-\lambda^\pm)^* = \lambda^\mp. \quad (72)$$

That means the projector  $P_1(x, t)$  and  $c_1(\lambda)$  become:

$$P_1(x, t) = \frac{|n_1(x, t)\rangle \langle n_1^*(-x, t)| B}{\langle n_1^*(-x, t)| B |n_1(x, t)\rangle}, \quad \langle m_1(x, t)| = (B |n_1(-x, t)\rangle)^\dagger, \quad (73)$$

$$c_1(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda - \lambda_1^+}{\lambda + (\lambda_1^+)^*}. \quad (74)$$

Thus, taking the trivial solution  $Q_0(x, t) = 0$ , the components of one soliton solution can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} q_{12}^+(x, t) = q_{45}^+(x, t) &= -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) R_1^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,1}^1 (n_{0,1}^2)^* e^{-iM_1^+(x,t)} - n_{0,1}^4 (n_{0,1}^5)^* e^{-i(M_1^+(-x,t))^*}), \\ q_{13}^+(x, t) = -q_{35}^+(x, t) &= -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) R_1^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,1}^1 (n_{0,1}^3)^* e^{-iM_1^+(x,t)} + n_{0,1}^3 (n_{0,1}^5)^* e^{-i(M_1^+(-x,t))^*}), \\ q_{14}^+(x, t) = q_{25}^+(x, t) &= -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) R_1^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,1}^1 (n_{0,1}^4)^* e^{-iM_1^+(x,t)} - n_{0,1}^2 (n_{0,1}^5)^* e^{-i(M_1^+(-x,t))^*}), \\ q_{21}^-(x, t) = q_{54}^-(x, t) &= -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) R_1^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,1}^2 (n_{0,1}^1)^* e^{i(M_1^-(-x,t))^*} - n_{0,1}^5 (n_{0,1}^4)^* e^{iM_1^+(x,t)}), \\ q_{31}^-(x, t) = -q_{53}^-(x, t) &= -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) R_1^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,1}^3 (n_{0,1}^1)^* e^{i(M_1^-(-x,t))^*} + n_{0,1}^5 (n_{0,1}^3)^* e^{iM_1^+(x,t)}), \\ q_{41}^-(x, t) = q_{52}^-(x, t) &= -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*) R_1^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,1}^4 (n_{0,1}^1)^* e^{i(M_1^+(-x,t))^*} - n_{0,1}^5 (n_{0,1}^2)^* e^{iM_1^+(x,t)}). \end{aligned} \quad (75a)$$

Here,

$$(M_1^+(-x, t))^* = (-\lambda_1^+)^*(-x) + 2(f(-\lambda_1^+)^*)t, \quad R_1(x, t) = 2R_{0,1} \cosh(2\nu_1(x) + 2\tilde{\mu}_1 t + \xi_{0,1}) + S, \quad (75b)$$

$$\nu_1 = i((-\lambda_1^+)^* - \lambda_1^+)/2, \quad \tilde{\mu}_1 = i(f(-\lambda_1^+)^* - f(\lambda_1^+)), \quad (75c)$$

$$S = (n_{0,1}^2)^* n_{0,1}^2 + (n_{0,1}^3)^* n_{0,1}^3 + (n_{0,1}^4)^* n_{0,1}^4, \quad (75d)$$

$$R_{0,1} = \sqrt{(n_{0,1}^1)^* n_{0,1}^1 + (n_{0,1}^5)^* n_{0,1}^5}, \quad \xi_{0,1} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{(n_{0,1}^1)^* n_{0,1}^1}{(n_{0,1}^5)^* n_{0,1}^5}. \quad (75e)$$

**Example 4.** If we take again  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq so(5, \mathbb{C})$  and another  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  reduction of type (B) (16) with a block matrix  $B$  containing an off-diagonal block  $\mathbf{B}_\pm$ :  $\mathbf{B}_+ = \mathbf{B}_- = \mp 1$  and  $\mathbf{B}_\pm = \text{off-diag}(\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1)$ . In this case, the reductions conditions for the matrix blocks can be written as:

$$\mathbf{q}^-(x, t) = -\mathbf{B}_-(\mathbf{q}^+(-x, t))^\dagger (\mathbf{B}_+)^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{q}^+(x, t) = -\mathbf{B}_+(\mathbf{q}^-(-x, t))^\dagger (\mathbf{B}_-)^{-1}. \quad (76)$$

Now, recall example A from Section 2, if we apply the involution of type (B) with using  $\mathbf{B}_+ = \mathbf{B}_- = \mp 1$  and  $\mathbf{B}_\pm = \text{off-diag}(\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1)$ , then the 3-component NLS system in (24) can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{aligned} i(q_t^+)_{12} + (q_{xx}^+)_{12} + 2(q_{12}(x, t)q_{14}^*(-x, t) + 2q_{13}(x, t)q_{13}^*(-x, t))q_{12} + 2q_{12}^{+,*}(-x, t)(q_{13}^+)^2 &= 0, \\ i(q_t^+)_{13} + (q_{xx}^+)_{13} + 2(q_{12}(x, t)q_{14}^*(-x, t) + q_{13}(x, t)q_{13}^*(-x, t) + q_{14}(x, t)q_{12}^*(-x, t))q_{13} \\ + 2q_{13}^{+,*}(-x, t)q_{14}^+q_{12}^+ &= 0, \\ i(q_t^+)_{14} + (q_{xx}^+)_{14} + 2(q_{14}(x, t)q_{12}^*(-x, t) + 2q_{13}(x, t)q_{13}^*(-x, t))q_{14} + 2q_{14}^{+,*}(-x, t)(q_{13}^+)^2 &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (77)$$

Also, we can write one-soliton solution of this system for this type of involution as the dressing factor (60) is satisfied by the involution (71) with (72). So, from (61), the components of the one-soliton solution can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
q_{12}^+(x, t) = q_{45}^+(x, t) &= -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*)R_1^{-1}(x, t)(n_{0,1}^1(n_{0,1}^4)^*e^{-iM_1^+(x,t)} - n_{0,1}^4(n_{0,1}^5)^*e^{-i(M_1^+(-x,t))^*}), \\
q_{13}^+(x, t) &= -q_{35}^+(x, t) = -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*)R_1^{-1}(x, t)(n_{0,1}^1(n_{0,1}^3)^*e^{-iM_1^+(x,t)} + n_{0,1}^3(n_{0,1}^5)^*e^{-i(M_1^+(-x,t))^*}), \\
q_{14}^+(x, t) = q_{25}^+(x, t) &= -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*)R_1^{-1}(x, t)(n_{0,1}^1(n_{0,1}^2)^*e^{-iM_1^+(x,t)} - n_{0,1}^2(n_{0,1}^5)^*e^{-i(M_1^+(-x,t))^*}), \\
q_{21}^-(x, t) = q_{54}^-(x, t) &= -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*)R_1^{-1}(x, t)(n_{0,1}^2(n_{0,1}^1)^*e^{i(M_1^-(-x,t))^*} - n_{0,1}^5(n_{0,1}^2)^*e^{iM_1^+(x,t)}), \\
q_{31}^-(x, t) &= -q_{53}^-(x, t) = -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*)R_1^{-1}(x, t)(n_{0,1}^3(n_{0,1}^1)^*e^{i(M_1^-(-x,t))^*} + n_{0,1}^5(n_{0,1}^3)^*e^{iM_1^+(x,t)}), \\
q_{41}^-(x, t) = q_{52}^-(x, t) &= -(\lambda_1^+ + (\lambda_1^+)^*)R_1^{-1}(x, t)(n_{0,1}^4(n_{0,1}^1)^*e^{i(M_1^+(-x,t))^*} - n_{0,1}^5(n_{0,1}^4)^*e^{iM_1^+(x,t)}).
\end{aligned} \tag{78a}$$

Here,

$$(M_1^+(-x, t))^* = (-\lambda_1^+)^*(-x) + 2(f(-\lambda_1^+)^*)t, \quad R_1(x, t) = 2R_{0,1}\cosh(2\nu_1(x) + 2\tilde{\mu}_1t + \xi_{0,1}) + S, \tag{78b}$$

$$\nu_1 = i((-\lambda_1^+)^* - \lambda_1^+)/2, \quad \tilde{\mu}_1 = i(f(-\lambda_1^+)^* - f(\lambda_1^+)), \tag{78c}$$

$$S = (n_{0,1}^4)^*n_{0,1}^2 + (n_{0,1}^3)^*n_{0,1}^3 + (n_{0,1}^2)^*n_{0,1}^4, \tag{78d}$$

$$R_{0,1} = \sqrt{(n_{0,1}^1)^*n_{0,1}^1 + (n_{0,1}^5)^*n_{0,1}^5}, \quad \xi_{0,1} = \frac{1}{2}\ln \frac{(n_{0,1}^1)^*n_{0,1}^1}{(n_{0,1}^5)^*n_{0,1}^5}. \tag{78e}$$

### 4.3 Two Soliton Solution

**Example 5.** For  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq sl(3, \mathbb{C})$ , in order to get the 2-soliton solution, the dressing factor  $c$  (48) can be rewritten as:

$$\eta^+(x, t, \lambda) = u_{1,2}(x, t, \lambda)\eta_0^+(x, t, \lambda)(\omega_{1,2}^\pm(\lambda))^{-1}, \tag{79a}$$

$$u_{1,2}(x, t, \lambda) = \mathbb{1} + (c_1(\lambda) - 1)P_1(x, t) + (c_2(\lambda) - 1)P_2(x, t). \tag{79b}$$

Thus, the singular solution (two soliton solution) with singularities located at  $\lambda_1^\pm$  and  $\lambda_2^\pm$  can be obtained as follows:

$$Q(x, t) = Q_0(x, t) - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-)[J, P_k(x, t)]. \tag{80}$$

Assuming a canonical reduction of type (B) (16) with  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbb{I}$ , from (80) the components of the two-soliton solution can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
q_{1j}(x, t) &= -2 \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) \frac{n_{0,k}^k (n_{0,k}^j)^* e^{-i(\tilde{M}_k^+(x,t) + (\tilde{M}_k^+)^*(-x,t))}}{2R_{0,k} \cosh(2\nu_k x + 2\tilde{\mu}_k t + \xi_{0,k})}, \quad j = 2, 3, \\
q_{j1}(x, t) &= 2 \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) \frac{n_{0,k}^j (n_{0,k}^1)^* e^{i(\tilde{M}_k^+(x,t) + (\tilde{M}_k^+)^*(-x,t))}}{2R_{0,k} \cosh(2\nu_k x + 2\tilde{\mu}_k t + \xi_{0,k})}, \quad j = 2, 3.
\end{aligned} \tag{81a}$$

Here,

$$\tilde{M}_k^\pm(x, t) = \lambda_k^\pm x + 2 f_{0,k}^\pm t, \quad (\tilde{M}_k^+(-x, t))^* = (-\lambda_k^+)^*(-x) + 2 (f(-\lambda_1^+)^*)t, \quad (81b)$$

$$\nu_k = i((-\lambda_k^+)^* - \lambda_k^+)/2, \quad \tilde{\mu}_k = i(f(-\lambda_k^+)^* - f(\lambda_k^+)), \quad (81c)$$

$$R_{0,k} = \sqrt{(n_{0,k}^1)^* n_{0,k}^1 ((n_{0,k}^2)^* n_{0,k}^2 + (n_{0,k}^3)^* n_{0,k}^3)}, \quad \xi_{0,k} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{(n_{0,k}^1)^* n_{0,k}^1}{(n_{0,k}^2)^* n_{0,k}^2 + (n_{0,k}^3)^* n_{0,k}^3}. \quad (81d)$$

**Remark 1.** Alternatively, in order to obtain 2-soliton solution, one can apply dressing method again on the 1-soliton solution used as a seed solution:

$$\eta^+(x, t, \lambda) = u_2(x, t, \lambda) \eta_1^+(x, t, \lambda) (\omega_2^\pm(\lambda))^{-1}, \quad u_2(x, t, \lambda) = \mathbb{1} + (c_2(\lambda) - 1) P_2(x, t). \quad (82)$$

**Example 6.** In the case of the involution of Example 2, the 2-soliton dressing factor (79a) is automatically compatible with the involution. Therefore, from (80), the components of the two-soliton solution can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} q_{12}(x, t) &= -2 \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) n_{0,k}^1 e^{-i\tilde{M}_k^+(x,t)} R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^3)^* e^{-i\tilde{M}_k^{+,*}(-x,t)}, \\ q_{13}(x, t) &= -2 \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) n_{0,k}^1 e^{-i\tilde{M}_k^+(x,t)} R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^2)^* e^{-i\tilde{M}_k^{+,*}(-x,t)}, \\ q_{21}(x, t) &= -2 \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) n_{0,k}^2 e^{i\tilde{M}_k^+(x,t)} R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^1)^* e^{i\tilde{M}_k^{+,*}(-x,t)}, \\ q_{31}(x, t) &= -2 \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) n_{0,k}^3 e^{i\tilde{M}_k^+(x,t)} R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^1)^* e^{i\tilde{M}_k^{+,*}(-x,t)}. \end{aligned} \quad (83a)$$

Here,

$$\tilde{M}_k^\pm(x, t) = \lambda_k^\pm x + 2 f_{0,k}^\pm t, \quad (\tilde{M}_k^+(-x, t))^* = (-\lambda_k^+)^*(-x) + 2 (f(-\lambda_1^+)^*)t, \quad (83b)$$

$$R_1(x, t) = 2R_{0,1} \cosh(2\nu_1 x + 2\tilde{\mu}_1 t + \xi_{0,1}), \quad (83c)$$

$$\nu_k = i((-\lambda_k^+)^* - \lambda_k^+)/2, \quad \tilde{\mu}_k = i(f(-\lambda_k^+)^* - f(\lambda_k^+)), \quad (83d)$$

$$R_{0,k} = \sqrt{(n_{0,k}^1)^* n_{0,k}^1 ((n_{0,k}^3)^* n_{0,k}^2 + (n_{0,k}^2)^* n_{0,k}^3)}, \quad \xi_{0,k} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{(n_{0,k}^1)^* n_{0,k}^1}{(n_{0,k}^3)^* n_{0,k}^2 + (n_{0,k}^2)^* n_{0,k}^3}. \quad (83e)$$

**Example 7.** If we take  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq so(5, \mathbb{C})$ , then the 2-soliton dressing factors  $u(x, t, \lambda)$  can be considered with two more poles in the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{1,2}(x, t, \lambda) &= \mathbb{1} + (c_1(\lambda) - 1) P_1(x, t) + \left( \frac{1}{c_1(\lambda)} - 1 \right) \bar{P}_1(x, t), \\ &+ (c_2(\lambda) - 1) P_2(x, t) + \left( \frac{1}{c_2(\lambda)} - 1 \right) \bar{P}_2(x, t), \end{aligned} \quad (84)$$

$$c_k(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda - \lambda_k^+}{\lambda - \lambda_k^-}, \quad P_k(x, t) = \frac{|n_k(x, t)\rangle \langle m_k(x, t)|}{\langle m_k(x, t) | n_k(x, t) \rangle}, \quad \bar{P}_k = S_0 P_k^T S_0^{-1}, \quad k = 1, 2. \quad (85)$$

Thus, the new potential  $Q(x, t)$  corresponding to a given trivial solution  $Q_0(x, t) = 0$  can be obtained by the following form:

$$Q(x, t) = - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-) [J, P_k(x, t) - \bar{P}_k(x, t)]. \quad (86)$$

The components of new potential  $Q(x, t)$  can be obtained by:

$$\begin{aligned} q_{12}^+(x, t) &= q_{45}^+(x, t) = - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^1 m_{0,k}^2 e^{-iM_k^+(x,t)} + n_{0,k}^4 m_{0,k}^5 e^{-iM_k^-(x,t)}), \\ q_{13}^+(x, t) &= -q_{35}^+(x, t) = - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^1 m_{0,k}^3 e^{-iM_k^+(x,t)} - n_{0,k}^3 m_{0,k}^5 e^{-iM_k^-(x,t)}), \\ q_{14}^+(x, t) &= q_{25}^+(x, t) = - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^1 m_{0,k}^4 e^{-iM_k^+(x,t)} + n_{0,k}^2 m_{0,k}^5 e^{-iM_k^-(x,t)}), \\ q_{21}^-(x, t) &= q_{54}^-(x, t) = - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (-n_{0,k}^2 m_{0,k}^1 e^{iM_k^-(x,t)} - n_{0,k}^5 m_{0,k}^4 e^{iM_k^+(x,t)}), \\ q_{31}^-(x, t) &= -q_{53}^-(x, t) = - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (-n_{0,k}^3 m_{0,k}^1 e^{iM_k^-(x,t)} + n_{0,k}^5 m_{0,k}^3 e^{iM_k^+(x,t)}), \\ q_{41}^-(x, t) &= q_{52}^-(x, t) = - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ - \lambda_k^-) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (-n_{0,k}^4 m_{0,k}^1 e^{iM_k^-(x,t)} - n_{0,k}^5 m_{0,k}^2 e^{iM_k^+(x,t)}). \end{aligned} \quad (87a)$$

Here

$$M_k^\pm(x, t) = \lambda_k^\pm x + 2f_{0,k}^\pm t, \quad R_k(x, t) = 2R_{0,k} \cosh(2\nu_k x + 2\tilde{\mu}_k t + \xi_{0,k}) + S, \quad (87b)$$

$$\nu_k = i(\lambda_k^- - \lambda_k^+)/2, \quad \tilde{\mu}_k = i(f(\lambda_k^-) - f(\lambda_k^+)), \quad S = m_{0,k}^2 n_{0,k}^2 + m_{0,k}^3 n_{0,k}^3 + m_{0,k}^4 n_{0,k}^4, \quad (87c)$$

$$R_{0,k} = \sqrt{m_{0,k}^1 n_{0,k}^1 + m_{0,k}^5 n_{0,k}^5}, \quad \xi_{0,k} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{m_{0,k}^1 n_{0,k}^1}{m_{0,k}^5 n_{0,k}^5}. \quad (87d)$$

**Example 8.** Again in the case when  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq so(5, \mathbb{C})$ , if we impose a nonlocal involution of the form (16) then the dressing factor in (84) will satisfy the following reduction condition:

$$B \prod_{k=1}^2 u_k(-x, t, -\lambda^*)^\dagger B^{-1} = \prod_{k=1}^2 u_k^{-1}(x, t, \lambda), \quad (88)$$

where  $B$  is constant block-diagonal matrix. This involution is satisfied if:

$$P_k(x, t) = B P_k^\dagger(-x, t) B^{-1}, \quad (-\lambda^\pm)^* = \lambda^\mp. \quad (89)$$

That means the projector  $P_k(x, t)$  and  $c_k(\lambda)$  become:

$$P_k(x, t) = \frac{|n_k(x, t)\rangle \langle n_k^*(-x, t)| B}{\langle n_k^*(-x, t)| B |n_k(x, t)\rangle}, \quad \langle m_k(x, t)| = (B |n_k(-x, t)\rangle)^\dagger, \quad c_k(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda - \lambda_k^+}{\lambda + (\lambda_k^+)^*}. \quad (90)$$

So, from (61), it follows that

$$Q(x, t) = Q_0(x, t) - (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) [J, B P_k^\dagger(-x, t) B^{-1}]. \quad (91)$$

Thus, the components of two soliton solution can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
q_{12}^+(x, t) = q_{45}^+(x, t) &= - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^1 (n_{0,k}^2)^* e^{-iM_k^+(x,t)} - n_{0,k}^4 (n_{0,k}^5)^* e^{-i(M_k^+(-x,t))^*}), \\
q_{13}^+(x, t) = -q_{35}^+(x, t) &= - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^1 (n_{0,k}^3)^* e^{-iM_k^+(x,t)} + n_{0,k}^3 (n_{0,k}^5)^* e^{-i(M_k^+(-x,t))^*}), \\
q_{14}^+(x, t) = q_{25}^+(x, t) &= - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^1 (n_{0,k}^4)^* e^{-iM_k^+(x,t)} - n_{0,k}^2 (n_{0,k}^5)^* e^{-i(M_k^+(-x,t))^*}), \\
q_{21}^-(x, t) = q_{54}^-(x, t) &= - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^2 (n_{0,k}^1)^* e^{i(M_k^-(-x,t))^*} - n_{0,k}^5 (n_{0,k}^4)^* e^{iM_k^+(x,t)}), \\
q_{31}^-(x, t) = -q_{53}^-(x, t) &= - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^3 (n_{0,k}^1)^* e^{i(M_k^-(-x,t))^*} + n_{0,k}^5 (n_{0,k}^3)^* e^{iM_k^+(x,t)}), \\
q_{41}^-(x, t) = q_{52}^-(x, t) &= - \sum_{k=1}^2 (\lambda_k^+ + (\lambda_k^+)^*) R_k^{-1}(x, t) (n_{0,k}^4 (n_{0,k}^1)^* e^{i(M_k^-(-x,t))^*} - n_{0,k}^5 (n_{0,k}^2)^* e^{iM_k^+(x,t)}).
\end{aligned} \tag{92a}$$

Here,

$$(M_k^+(-x, t))^* = (-\lambda_k^+)^*(-x) + 2(f(-\lambda_1^+)^*)t, \quad R_k(x, t) = 2R_{0,k} \cosh(2\nu_k(x) + 2\tilde{\mu}_k t + \xi_{0,k}) + S, \tag{92b}$$

$$\nu_k = i((-\lambda_k^+)^* - \lambda_k^+)/2, \quad \tilde{\mu}_k = i(f(-\lambda_k^+)^* - f(\lambda_k^+)), \tag{92c}$$

$$S = (n_{0,k}^2)^* n_{0,k}^2 + (n_{0,k}^3)^* n_{0,k}^3 + (n_{0,k}^4)^* n_{0,k}^4, \tag{92d}$$

$$R_{0,k} = \sqrt{(n_{0,k}^1)^* n_{0,k}^1 + (n_{0,k}^5)^* n_{0,k}^5}, \quad \xi_{0,k} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{(n_{0,k}^1)^* n_{0,k}^1}{(n_{0,k}^5)^* n_{0,k}^5}. \tag{92e}$$

## 5 Conclusions

We have studied here multi-component generalisations of NLS models on **A.III** and **BD.I** symmetric spaces. Our study is based on two types of main examples: the Manakov vector NLS equation, related to symmetric spaces of **A.III** type and Kulish-Sklyanin models, related to symmetric spaces of **BD.I** type. Firstly, we formulated the direct scattering problem for both models. This includes: the construction of the Jost solutions, the scattering matrix and the minimal set of scattering data. Based on the Gauss decomposition of the scattering matrix, we have also constructed the fundamental analytic solutions (FAS).

It turns out that the spectral properties of the Lax operator depend crucially on the choice of representation of the underlying Lie algebra or symmetric space while the minimal set of scattering data is provided by the same set of functions [28].

Finally, we have presented a modification of the dressing method and obtained 1- and 2-solitons for both models with nonlocal reductions. Depending on the positions of the discrete eigenvalues  $\lambda_j^\pm$  in the spectral plane, there are two regimes for the 2-soliton solution: if two of the discrete eigenvalues are in the upper half of the complex plane, while the other two are in the lower half, then the nonlocal involution will preserve their number inside each of the contours, so it will result

in a Riemann-Hilbert problem with balanced number of singularities and therefore the corresponding 2-soliton solutions will be regular for all  $t$ . Otherwise, the 2-soliton solution will develop again a singularity in finite time as in the case, studied in [2, 3, 4].

The results of this paper can be extended in several directions:

- To construct gauge covariant formulation of the multi-component NLS hierarchies on symmetric spaces, including the Wronskian relations, the “squared solutions” and their completeness relations, the descriptions of the class of NLEEs associated to a given scattering problem, the generating (recursion) operator and its spectral decomposition, the description of the infinite set of integrals of motion, the hierarchy of Hamiltonian structures and the  $r$ -matrix formulation.
- To study the gauge equivalent systems of multi-component ferromagnetics on symmetric spaces [31, 34, 35].
- To study different types of reductions of multi-component integrable systems on symmetric spaces [44, 46, 47].
- To study the associated Darboux transformations and their generalizations for NLS equations over Hermitian symmetric spaces and to obtain multi-soliton solutions via such generalizations. This includes also rational solutions [13].
- To extend our results for the case of non-vanishing boundary conditions (a non-trivial background) [5, 51]. The considerations required in this case are more complicated and will be discussed elsewhere.
- To study other types of integrable hierarchies on symmetric spaces, e.g. quadratic bundles (related to the derivative NLS equation, the Kaup-Newell equation or Gerdjikov-Ivanov equation) [32, 33, 41, 58, 59, 38] or rational bundles [34, 35].

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