

# The adiabatic limit of wave-map flow

Martin Speight<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Joint work with Mark Haskins

$$\varphi : M \rightarrow N \subset \mathbb{R}^k, \quad E(\varphi) = \frac{1}{2} \int_M |d\varphi|^2$$

$$(\Delta\varphi)(x) \perp T_{\varphi(x)}N$$

- Let's choose  $N = S^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  hereafter:

$$\Delta\varphi - (\varphi \cdot \Delta\varphi)\varphi = 0$$

- $\varphi : M \rightarrow S^2$  ( $M$ =compact Riemann surface)

$$E(\varphi) \geq 4\pi n, \quad \text{equality} \iff \varphi \text{ holomorphic}$$

(Belavin-Polyakov-Liechnerowicz)

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- Domain Lorentzian ( $E(\varphi)$  now  $S(\varphi)$ ).
- Let's choose  $(M, \eta) = (\mathbb{R} \times \Sigma, dt^2 - g_\Sigma)$

$$S(\varphi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} dt \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma} |\varphi_t|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma} |d\varphi|^2 \right\}$$

$$(\square\varphi)(t, x) \perp T_{\varphi(t, x)}N \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in M$$

where  $\square = \partial_t^2 - \Delta_\Sigma$ .

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- $\dim \Sigma = 2$ , most interesting to (my sort of) theoretical physicists:  
Have large families of static solutions

$$M_n = \text{hol}_n(\Sigma, S^2)$$

which saturate a topological energy bound, and satisfy a “Bogomolnyi” equation

$$\varphi_y = \varphi \times \varphi_x$$

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# Geodesic approximation (Ward, after Manton)

- Wave map flow conserves  $E_{\text{total}} = E(\varphi(t)) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma} |\dot{\varphi}_t|^2$
- Cauchy problem:  $\varphi(0) \in M_n$ ,  $\varphi_t(0) \in T_{\varphi(0)}M_n$ , small
- $E_{\text{total}}(t) = 4\pi n + \text{small}$  for all time:  
expect  $\varphi(t)$  remains “close” to  $M_n$  for all time.
- Consider **constrained** variational problem for  $S$ , where  $\psi(t) \in M_n$  for all  $t$ :

$$S = \int dt \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma} |\dot{\psi}_t|^2 - 4\pi n \right\}$$

$\psi(t)$  follows a **geodesic** in  $(M_n, \gamma)$

$$\gamma(X, Y) = \int_{\Sigma} X \cdot Y, \quad X, Y \in T_{\psi}M_n \subset \psi^{-1}TS^2.$$

- **Conjecture:**  $\psi(t)$  with initial data  $\psi(0) = \varphi(0)$ ,  $\psi_t(0) = \varphi_t(0)$  is a “good approximation” to wave map  $\varphi(t)$

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Two research strands

- 1 Study geometry of  $M_n$  (with metric  $\gamma$ )
- 2 Try to prove the conjecture

Recall  $M_n = \text{hol}_n(\Sigma)$

- $\text{hol}_n(\Sigma)$  is Kähler, formally (Ruback), rigorously for  $\Sigma = S^2$  all  $n$ ,  $\Sigma = T^2$   $n = 2$  (JMS)
- $\text{hol}_n(\Sigma)$  geodesically incomplete (Sadun-JMS)
- $\text{hol}_2(\mathbb{C}) = \text{Rat}_2^*$ , lump scattering numerics (Ward, Leese). Metric singular, foliation
- $\text{hol}_1(S^2) = \text{Rat}_1 = PL(2, \mathbb{C}) = SO(3) \times \mathbb{R}^3 = \dots$ , finite volume and diameter, Ricci positive, unbounded curvature, geodesic flow well understood (JMS, Baptista)

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- $\text{hol}_n^{\text{eq}}(S^2) = \mathbb{R} \times S^1$  volume, total Gauss curvature, lifted geodesic flow (McGlade-JMS)
- Spectral geometry of  $\text{hol}_1(S^2)$ : quantum dynamics of a lump on  $S^2$  (Krusch-JMS)

2nd strand: Prove conjecture (geodesic flow in  $M_n$  approximates wave map flow)

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# Precise conjecture

Consider one-parameter family of Cauchy problems for wave map flow  $\mathbb{R} \times \Sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^2$ :

$$\varphi(0) = \varphi_0, \quad \varphi_t(0) = \varepsilon \varphi_1$$

where  $\varphi_0 \in M_n$ ,  $\varphi_1 \in T_{\varphi_0} M_n$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

There exist  $T > 0$  and  $\varepsilon_* > 0$  (depending on  $(\varphi_0, \varphi_1)$ ) such that, for all  $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_*]$ , Cauchy problem has a unique solution for  $t \in [0, T/\varepsilon]$ .

Furthermore, the time re-scaled solution

$$\varphi_\varepsilon : [0, T] \times \Sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^2, \quad \varphi_\varepsilon(\tau, x) = \varphi(\tau/\varepsilon, x)$$

converges uniformly in  $C^0$  norm to  $\psi : [0, T] \times \Sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^2$ , the geodesic in  $M_n$  with the same initial data.

- Loosely: the geodesic approximation “works” for times of order  $1/\varepsilon$  when the initial velocities are of order  $\varepsilon$
- Can't do much better:  $M_n$  incomplete!

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- 1 Wave map eqn for  $\phi \leftrightarrow$  coupled ODE/PDE system for  $\phi = \psi + \varepsilon^2 Y$
- 2 Short time existence and uniqueness theorem for this system (in a suitable Sobolev space)
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- Moduli space (stereographic coord on  $S^2$ )

$$\psi(z) = \lambda \frac{\sigma(z - a_1) \cdots \sigma(z - a_n)}{\sigma(z - b_1) \cdots \sigma(z - b_n)}, \quad \begin{aligned} \sum a_i &= \sum b_i, \\ \{a_i\} \cap \{b_i\} &= \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} M_n = 2n$$

- Choose and fix initial data  $\varphi_0 \in M_n, \varphi_1 \in T_{\varphi_0} M_n$ .
- Choose and fix real local coords  $q: \mathbb{R}^{4n} \supset U \rightarrow M_n$   
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- Sobolev spaces:

$$\mathcal{H}^k = \{u : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid u \text{ and all partial derivs up to order } k \text{ are in } L^2\}$$

$$\|u\|_k^2 = \int_{\Sigma} u^2 + \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq k} \int_{\Sigma} (\partial_{\alpha} u)^2$$

$$H^k = \{Y : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \mid Y_1, Y_2, Y_3 \in \mathcal{H}^k\}$$

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Note  $H^0 = L^2$ .

- Fact:  $\mathcal{H}^k$  is a Banach algebra for  $k \geq 2$ , that is,

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# Projection to the moduli space

- Wave map equation

$$\varphi_{tt} - \varphi_{xx} - \varphi_{yy} + (|\varphi_t|^2 - |\varphi_x|^2 - |\varphi_y|^2)\varphi = 0$$

- Slow time  $\tau = \varepsilon t$  (book-keeping device)
- Decompose  $\varphi(t) = \psi(q(\tau)) + \varepsilon^2 Y(t)$ .
  - **Section:** map  $Z : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$
  - **Tangent section:**  $Z : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  s.t.  $Z \cdot \psi = 0$  everywhere $Y$  is **not** a tangent section (but it's close):

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where

$$J_\psi Y = -\Delta Y - (|\psi_x|^2 + |\psi_y|^2)Y - 2(\psi_x \cdot Y_x + \psi_y \cdot Y_y)\psi$$

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# The (improved) Jacobi operator

- **Fact:**  $J_\psi$  acting on tangent sections is the **Jacobi** operator for h-map  $\psi$

$$\text{Hess}_\psi(Y, Y) = \langle Y, J_\psi Y \rangle$$

Self-adjoint elliptic operator on  $\psi^{-1}TS^2$ ,  $T_\psi M_n = \ker J_\psi$

- **Annoying fact:**  $J$  not self-adjoint on general sections  
Self-adjointness of  $J$  is crucial for Stuart's method

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# Evolution of $q(\tau)$

- Recall  $L^2$  orthogonality constraint

$$\left\langle Y, \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial q^i} \right\rangle = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, 4n$$

since  $\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial q^i}$  span  $\ker J_\Psi$

- Differentiate w.r.t.  $t$  twice

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# Summary: the ODE/PDE system

$$\begin{aligned} Y_{tt} + LY &= k + \varepsilon j' \\ q_{\tau\tau}^i + \Gamma(q)_{jk}^i q_\tau^j q_\tau^k &= \varepsilon f^i(q, q_\tau, Y, Y_t, \varepsilon) \end{aligned}$$

## Short time existence theorem

There exist  $\varepsilon_*, T > 0$ , depending only on  $\Gamma$ , such that, for all  $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_*)$  and any initial data

$$\|Y(0)\|_3^2 + \|Y_t(0)\|_2^2 + |q(0)|^2 + |q_\tau(0)|^2 \leq \Gamma^2$$

the system has a unique solution

$$(Y, q) \in C^0([0, T], H^3 \oplus \mathbb{R}^{4n}) \cap \dots \cap C^3([0, T], H^0 \oplus \mathbb{R}^{4n})$$

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If  $Y \perp_{L^2} \ker J_\psi$ , and  $\psi \cdot Y = 0$ , then

$$\langle Y, J_\psi Y \rangle \geq c(\psi) \|Y\|_1^2.$$

The constant  $c(\psi) > 0$  and depends continuously on  $\psi$ .

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If  $Y \perp_{L^2} \ker J_\psi$ , and  $\psi \cdot Y = -\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^2 |Y|^2$ , then

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- Take a solution of the ODE/PDE system, and consider the quantity

$$Q_1(t) = \frac{1}{2} \|Y_t\|_0^2 + \frac{1}{2} \langle Y, LY \rangle$$

- This is "quasi-conserved":

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dQ_1}{dt} &= \langle Y_t, -LY + k + \varepsilon j' \rangle + \langle Y_t, LY \rangle + \varepsilon \langle Y, L_\tau Y \rangle \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} \langle Y, k \rangle + \varepsilon \{ -\langle Y, k_\tau \rangle + \langle Y_t, j' \rangle + \langle Y, L_\tau Y \rangle \} \\ Q_1(t) &\leq c + c(q)(|q_{\tau\tau}| + |q_\tau|^2) \|Y(t)\|_0 \\ &\quad + \varepsilon \int_0^t c(|q|, |q_\tau|, |q_{\tau\tau}|, |q_{\tau\tau\tau}|, \|Y\|_3, \|Y_t\|_2) \end{aligned}$$

$c$  denotes a cts bounding function, increasing in all its entries

# Energy estimates

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- Higher energy,

$$Q_2(t) = \frac{1}{2} \|(LY)_t\|_0^2 + \frac{1}{2} \langle LY, LLY \rangle$$

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- Key point: dominant term in growth of **quadratic** form  $Q_2$  (which controls  $\|Y\|_3^2$ ) is **linear** in  $\|Y\|_3$

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- Key point: dominant term in growth of **quadratic** form  $Q_2$  (which controls  $\|Y\|_3^2$ ) is **linear** in  $\|Y\|_3$

Can repeatedly apply short time existence theorem, whenever  $|q| + |q_\tau| + \|Y\|_3 + \|Y_t\|_2$  remains bounded. Produce maximally extended solution with  $Y(0) = Y_t(0) = 0$ .

- Let  $q(t) = q_0(\tau) + \varepsilon^2 \tilde{q}(t)$   
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- $M(t) = \max_{0 \leq s \leq t} \{|q(s)| + |\tilde{q}_t(s)| + \|Y(s)\|_3^2 + \|Y_t(s)\|_2^2\}$   
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a contradiction for  $M_*$  sufficiently large.

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“Precise conjecture” follows:

- There exists  $T_{**} = \inf\{\varepsilon t_\varepsilon : \varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_*]\} > 0$  such that, as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ ,

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# Concluding remarks

- Proved for  $\Sigma = T^2$ , but argument should immediately generalize to any compact RS
- Generalizing target space is much harder. Static model has right properties when  $N$ =compact Kähler, but what's analogue of  $\varphi(t) = \psi(\tau) + \varepsilon^2 Y(t)$ ?
- We first tried (even for  $N = S^2$ !)

$$\varphi(t) = \exp_{\psi(\tau)} \varepsilon^2 Y(t)$$

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## Geometry, Field Theory and Solitons

University of Leeds, 26-31 July 2009

- *The geometry of soliton moduli spaces*  
Prof. Nick Manton FRS (Cambridge)
- *Supersymmetry and solitons*  
Dr. David Tong (Cambridge)
- *ADHM, Nahm and Fourier-Mukai transforms*  
Prof. Jacques Hurtubise (McGill)
- Plus one-hour lectures by Prof. Richard Ward FRS (Durham) and Dr. Joost Slingerland (IAS Dublin)