

# Very Weak Turbulence for Certain Dispersive Equations

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# The 2D cubic NLS Initial Value Problem in $\mathbb{T}^2$

We consider the defocusing initial value problem:

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{cases} (-i\partial_t + \Delta)u = |u|^2 u \\ u(0, x) = u_0(x), \text{ where } x \in \mathbb{T}^2. \end{cases}$$

We have (see Lectures #1&#2)

## Theorem (Global well-posedness for smooth data)

*For any data  $u_0 \in H^s(\mathbb{T}^2)$ ,  $s \geq 1$  there exists a unique global solution  $u(x, t) \in C(\mathbb{R}, H^s)$  to the Cauchy problem (1.1).*

We also recall that

$$\text{Mass} = M(u) = \|u(t)\|^2 = M(0)$$

$$\text{Energy} = E(u) = \int \left( \frac{1}{2} |\nabla u(t, x)|^2 + \frac{1}{4} |u(x, t)|^4 \right) dx = E(0).$$

# Polynomial upper bounds

As mentioned in Vedran's seminar we have

## Theorem (Bourgain, Zhong, Sohinger)

*For the smooth global solutions of the periodic IVP (1.1) above we have:*

$$\|u(t)\|_{\dot{H}^s} \leq C_s |t|^{s+}.$$

But are there solutions for which such a growth occur? Unfortunately so far what we can prove is much weaker and we will state the precise theorem a little later.

# Can one show growth of Sobolev norms?

One should recall the following result of **Bourgain**:

## Theorem

Given  $m, s \gg 1$  there exist  $\tilde{\Delta}$  and a global solution  $u(x, t)$  to the modified wave equation

$$(\partial_{tt} - \tilde{\Delta})u = u^p$$

such that  $\|u(t)\|_{H^s} \sim |t|^m$ .

The weakness of this result is in the fact that one needs to modify the equation in order to make a solution exhibit a cascade.

# More references

Recently [Gerard](#) and [Grellier](#) obtained some growth results for Sobolev norms of solutions to the periodic 1D cubic Szegő equation:

$$i\partial_t u = \Pi(|u|^2 u),$$

where  $\Pi(\sum_k \hat{f}(k)e^{xk}) = \sum_{k>0} \hat{f}(k)e^{xk}$  is the Szegő projector.

- Physics: Weak turbulence theory due to [Hasselmann](#) and [Zakharov](#).
- Numerics (d=1): [Majda-McLaughlin-Tabak](#); [Zakharov et. al.](#)
- Probability: [Benney and Newell](#), [Benney and Saffman](#).

To show how far we are from actually solving the open problems proposed above I will present what is known so far for the 2D cubic defocusing NLS in  $\mathbb{T}^2$ .

# Very weak energy transfer to high frequencies

What we can prove

## Theorem (Colliander-Keel-Staffilani-Takaoka-Tao)

Let  $s > 1$ ,  $K \gg 1$  and  $0 < \sigma < 1$  be given. Then there exist a global smooth solution  $u(x, t)$  to the IVP (1.1) and  $T > 0$  such that

$$\|u_0\|_{H^s} \leq \sigma \quad \text{and} \quad \|u(T)\|_{H^s}^2 \geq K.$$

# Elements of the proof of the main theorem

- 1 Reduction to a resonant problem *RFNLS*
- 2 Construction of a special finite set  $\Lambda$  of frequencies
- 3 Truncation to a resonant, finite- $d$  *Toy Model*
- 4 “*Arnold diffusion*” for the Toy Model
- 5 *Approximation result* via perturbation lemma
- 6 A *scaling argument*



# The Ansatz

We consider the gauge transformation

$$v(t, x) = e^{-i2Gt} u(t, x),$$

for  $G \in \mathbb{R}$ . If  $u$  solves *NLS* above, then  $v$  solves the equation

$$((NLS)_G) \quad (-i\partial_t + \Delta)v = (2G + v)|v|^2.$$

We make the ansatz

$$v(t, x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^2} a_n(t) e^{i(\langle n, x \rangle + |n|^2 t)}.$$

Now the dynamics is all recast through  $a_n(t)$ :

$$-i\partial_t a_n = 2G a_n + \sum_{n_1 - n_2 + n_3 = n} a_{n_1} \overline{a_{n_2}} a_{n_3} e^{i\omega_4 t}$$

where  $\omega_4 = |n_1|^2 - |n_2|^2 + |n_3|^2 - |n|^2$ .

# The *FNLS* system

By choosing

$$G = -\|v(t)\|_{L^2}^2 = -\sum_k |a_k(t)|^2$$

which is constant from the conservation of the mass, one can rewrite the equation above as

$$-i\partial_t a_n = -a_n |a_n|^2 + \sum_{n_1, n_2, n_3 \in \Gamma(n)} a_{n_1} \overline{a_{n_2}} a_{n_3} e^{i\omega_4 t}$$

where

$$\Gamma(n) = \{n_1, n_2, n_3 \in \mathbb{Z}^2 / n_1 - n_2 + n_3 = n; n_1 \neq n; n_3 \neq n\}.$$

From now on we will be referring to this system as the *FNLS* system, with the obvious connection with the original *NLS* equation.

# The *RFNLS* system

We define the set

$$\Gamma_{res}(n) = \{n_1, n_2, n_3 \in \Gamma(n) / \omega_4 = 0\},$$

where again  $\omega_4 = |n_1|^2 - |n_2|^2 + |n_3|^2 - |n|^2$ .

The **geometric interpretation** for this set is the following: If  $n_1, n_2, n_3$  are in  $\Gamma_{res}(n)$ , then these four points represent the vertices of a rectangle in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ . We finally define the **Resonant Truncation *RFNLS*** to be the system

$$-i\partial_t b_n = -b_n |b_n|^2 + \sum_{n_1, n_2, n_3 \in \Gamma_{res}(n)} b_{n_1} \overline{b_{n_2}} b_{n_3}.$$

# Finite dimensional resonant truncation

- A finite set  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$  is **closed under resonant interactions** if

$$n_1, n_2, n_3 \in \Gamma_{res}(n), n_1, n_2, n_3 \in \Lambda \quad =: \quad n = n_1 - n_2 + n_3 \in \Lambda.$$

- A  **$\Lambda$ -finite dimensional resonant truncation** of *RFNLS* is

$$(RFNLS_\Lambda) \quad -i\partial_t b_n = -b_n |b_n|^2 + \sum_{(n_1, n_2, n_3) \in \Gamma_{res}(n) \cap \Lambda^3} b_{n_1} \bar{b}_{n_2} b_{n_3}.$$

- $\forall$  resonant-closed finite  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ , *RFNLS* $_\Lambda$  is an ODE.

We will construct a **special set**  $\Lambda$  of frequencies.

# Abstract Combinatorial Resonant Set $\Lambda$

Our goal is to have a resonant-closed  $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \cup \dots \cup \Lambda_N$ ,  $N$  to be fixed later, with the **properties** below.

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- **Existence and uniqueness of spouse and children:**  $\forall 1 \leq j < M$  and  $\forall n_1 \in \Lambda_j \exists$  unique nuclear family such that  $n_1, n_3 \in \Lambda_j$  are parents and  $n_2, n_4 \in \Lambda_{j+1}$  are children.

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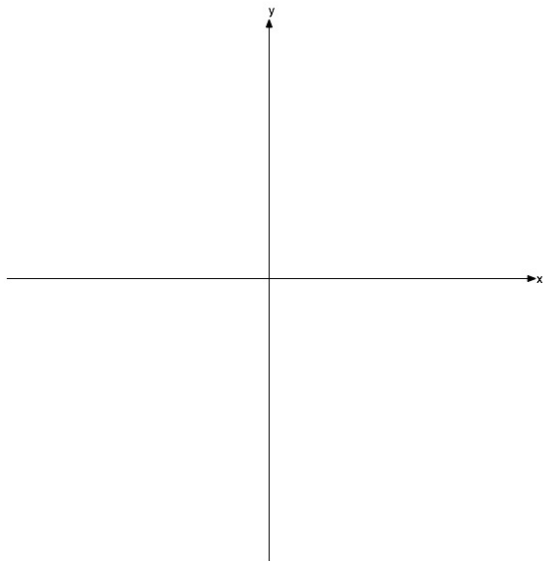
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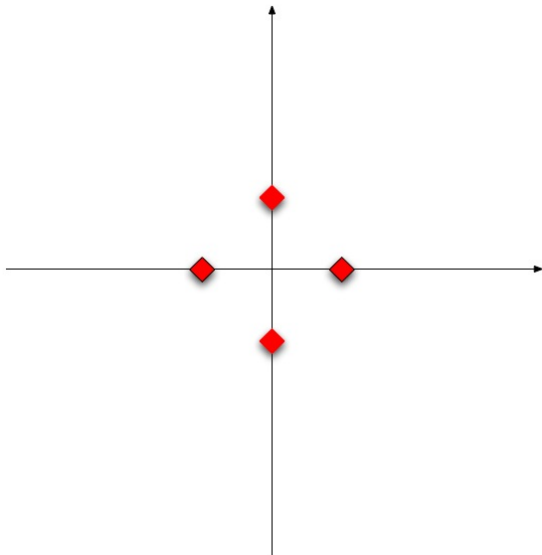
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- **Non degeneracy:** The sibling of a frequency is never its spouse.
- **Faithfulness:** Besides nuclear families,  $\Lambda$  contains no other rectangles.
- **Intergenerational Equality:** The function  $n \mapsto a_n(0)$  is constant on each generation  $\Lambda_j$ .

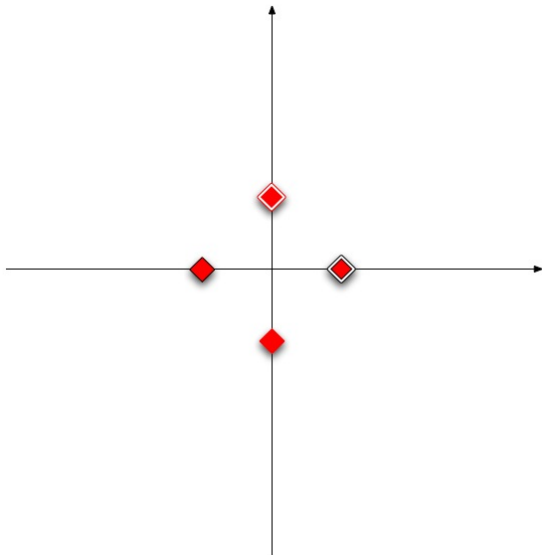
# Cartoon Construction of $\Lambda$



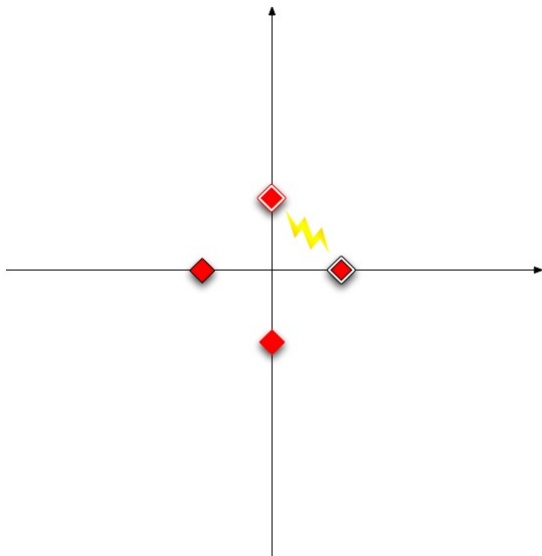
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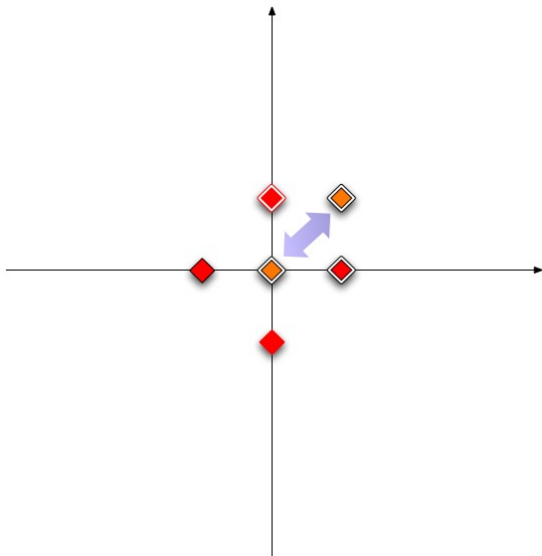
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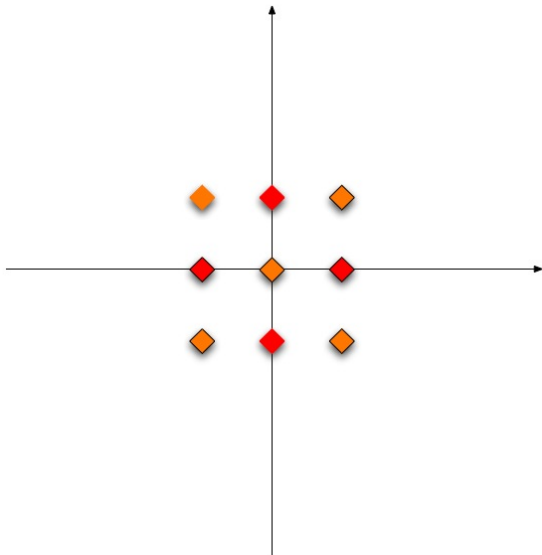


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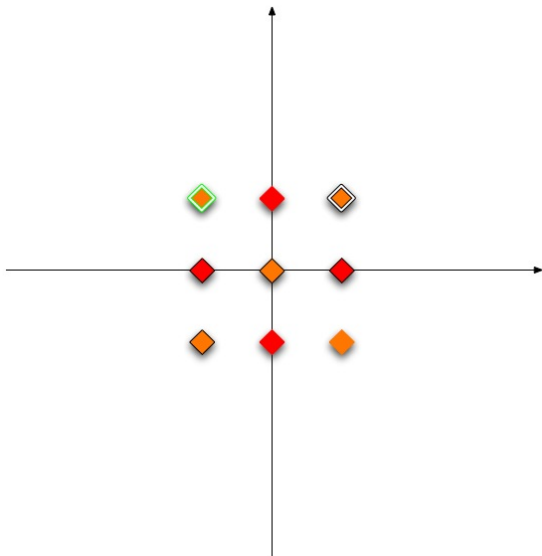




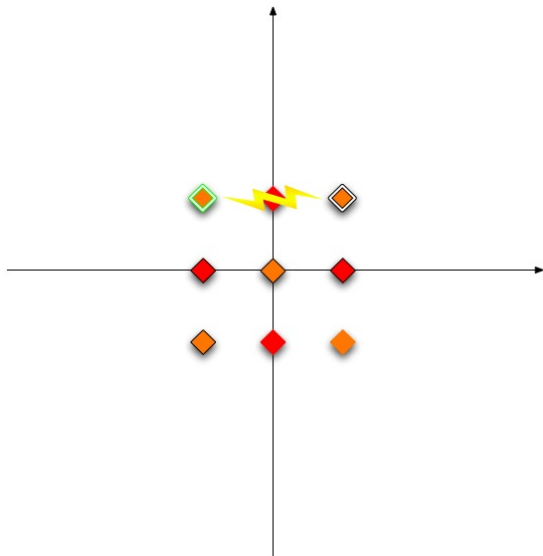
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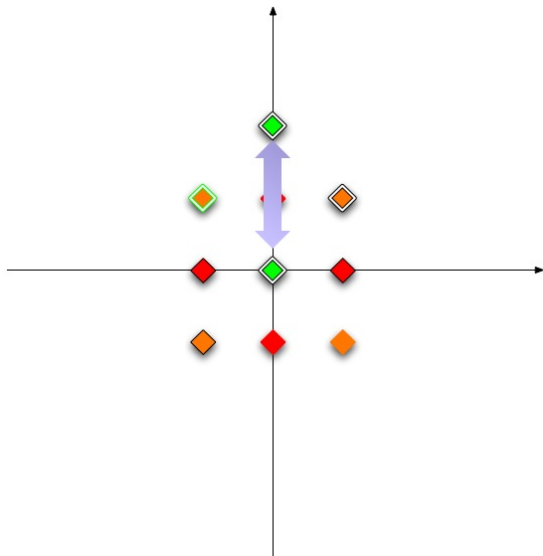
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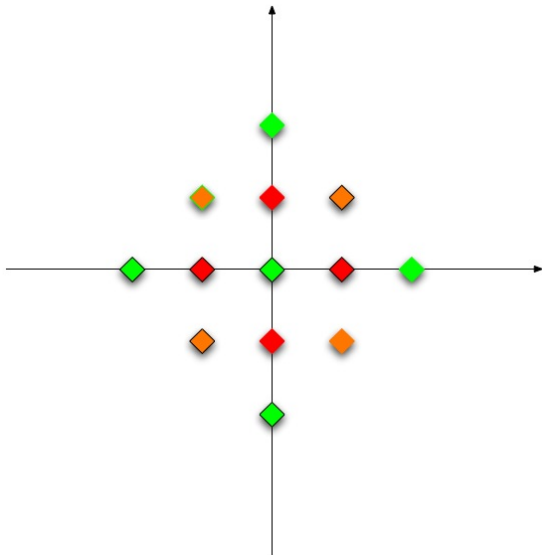
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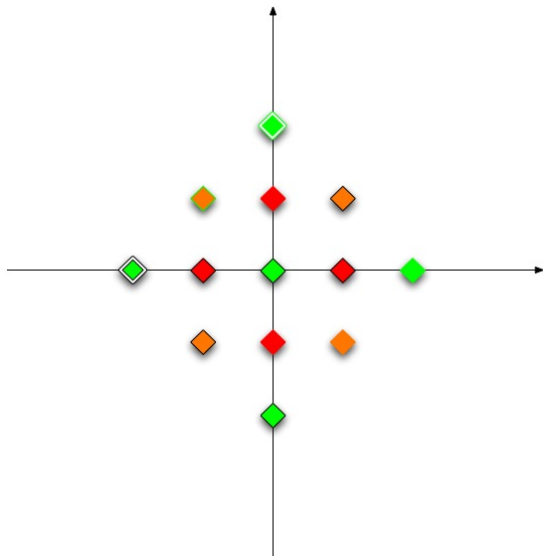
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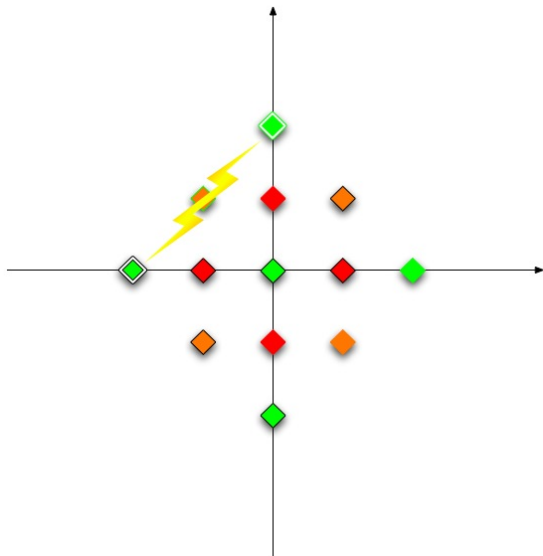
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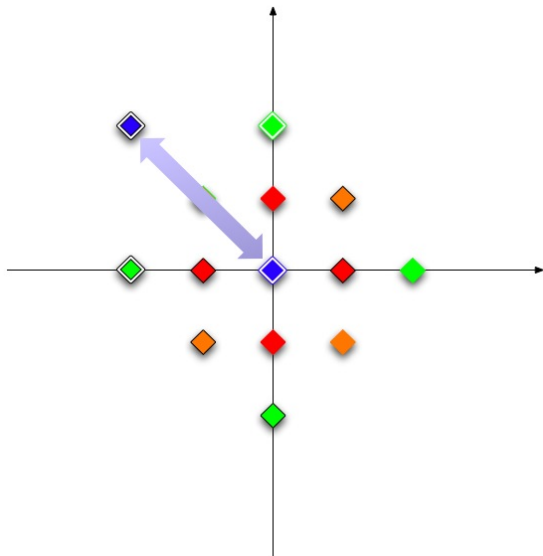
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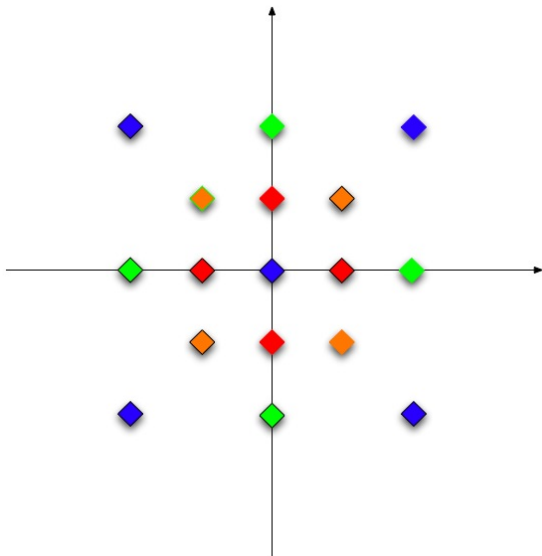


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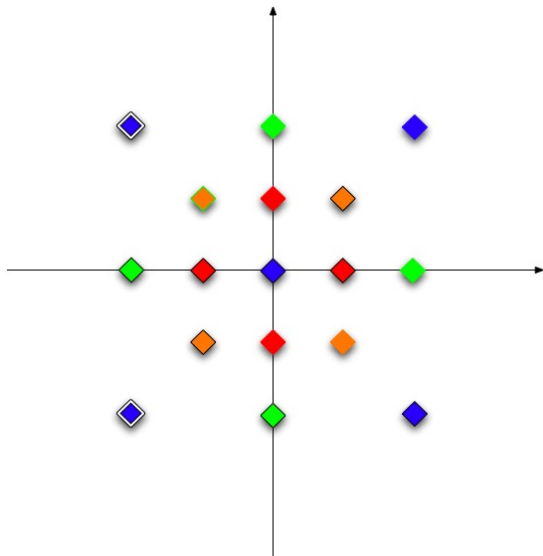




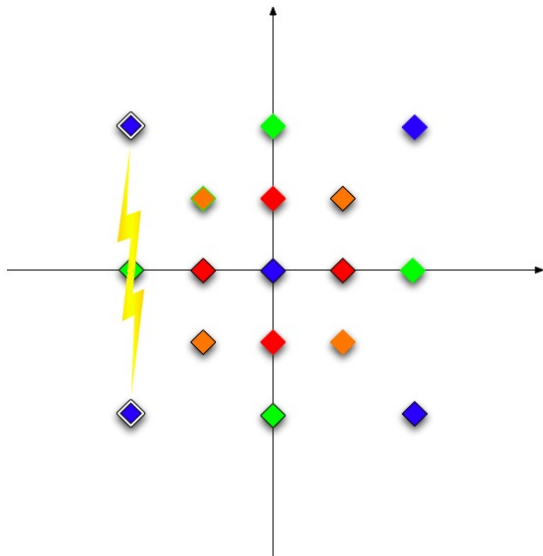
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# More properties for the set $\Lambda$

- **Multiplicative Structure:** If  $N = N(\sigma, K)$  is large enough then  $\Lambda$  consists of  $N \times 2^{N-1}$  disjoint frequencies  $n$  with  $|n| > N = N(\sigma, K)$ , the first frequency in  $\Lambda_1$  is of size  $N$  and we call  $N$  the **Inner Radius** of  $\Lambda$ .
- **Wide Diaspora:** Given  $\sigma \ll 1$  and  $K \gg 1$ , if  $N$  is large enough then  $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \cup \dots \cup \Lambda_N$  as above and

$$\sum_{n \in \Lambda_N} |n|^{2s} \geq \frac{K^2}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n \in \Lambda_1} |n|^{2s}.$$

- **Approximation:** If  $\text{spt}(a_n(0)) \subset \Lambda$  then *FNLS*-evolution  $a_n(0) \mapsto a_n(t)$  is nicely approximated by *RFNLS* $_{\Lambda}$ -ODE  $a_n(0) \mapsto b_n(t)$ .
- Given  $\epsilon, s, K$ , build  $\Lambda$  so that *RFNLS* $_{\Lambda}$  has weak turbulence.

# The Toy Model

- The truncation of *RFNLS* to the constructed set  $\Lambda$  is the ODE

$$(RFNLS_{\Lambda}) \quad -i\partial_t b_n = -b_n |b_n|^2 + \sum_{(n_1, n_2, n_3) \in \Lambda^3 \cap \Gamma_{res}(n)} b_{n_1} b_{n_2} b_{n_3}.$$

- The **intergenerational equality** hypothesis ( $n \mapsto b_n(0)$  is constant on each generation  $\Lambda_j$ .) persists under  $RFNLS_{\Lambda}$ :

$$\forall m, n \in \Lambda_j, \quad b_n(t) = b_m(t).$$

- $RFNLS_{\Lambda}$  may be reindexed by generation number  $j$ .  
The recast dynamics is the **Toy Model (ODE)**:

$$-i\partial_t b_j(t) = -b_j(t) |b_j(t)|^2 - 2b_{j-1}(t)^2 \overline{b_j(t)} - 2b_{j+1}(t)^2 \overline{b_j(t)},$$

with the boundary condition

$$(BC) \quad b_0(t) = b_{N+1}(t) = 0.$$

# Conservation laws for the *ODE* system

The following are conserved quantities for (*ODE*)

$$\text{Mass} = \sum_j |b_j(t)|^2 = C_0$$

$$\text{Momentum} = \sum_j |b_j(t)|^2 \sum_{n \in \Lambda_j} n = C_1,$$

and if

$$\text{Kinetic Energy} = \sum_j |b_j(t)|^2 \sum_{n \in \Lambda_j} |n|^2$$

$$\text{Potential Energy} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_j |b_j(t)|^4 + \sum_j |b_j(t)|^2 |b_{j+1}(t)|^2,$$

then

$$\text{Energy} = \text{Kinetic Energy} + \text{Potential Energy} = C_2.$$

# Toy model traveling wave solution

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<sup>1</sup>Maybe dynamical systems methods are useful here?

# Toy model traveling wave solution

Using direct calculation<sup>1</sup>, we will prove that our Toy Model ODE evolution  $b_j(0) \mapsto b_j(t)$  is such that:

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$$(b_1(0), b_2(0), \dots, b_N(0)) \sim (1, 0, \dots, 0)$$

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Bulk of conserved mass is transferred from  $\Lambda_1$  to  $\Lambda_N$ .

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**Bulk of conserved mass is transferred from  $\Lambda_1$  to  $\Lambda_N$ .** Weak turbulence lower bound follows from Wide Diaspora Property.

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# Instability for the *ODE*: the set up

Global well-posedness for *ODE* is not an issue. Then we define

$$\Sigma = \{x \in \mathbb{C}^N \mid |x|^2 = 1\} \text{ and } W(t) : \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma,$$

where  $W(t)b(t_0) = b(t + t_0)$  for any solution  $b(t)$  of *ODE*. It is easy to see that for any  $b \in \Sigma$

$$\partial_t |b_j|^2 = 4\Re(i\bar{b}_j^2 (b_{j-1}^2 + b_{j+1}^2)) \leq 4|b_j|^2.$$

So if

$$b_j(0) = 0 \Rightarrow b_j(t) = 0, \text{ for all } t \in [0, T].$$

If moreover we define the torus

$$\mathbb{T}_j = \{(b_1, \dots, b_N) \in \Sigma \mid |b_j| = 1, b_k = 0, k \neq j\}$$

then

$$W(t)\mathbb{T}_j = \mathbb{T}_j \text{ for all } j = 1, \dots, N$$

( $\mathbb{T}_j$  is invariant).

# Instability for the *ODE*

## Theorem (Sliding Theorem)

Let  $N \geq 6$ . Given  $\epsilon > 0$  there exist  $x_3$  within  $\epsilon$  of  $\mathbb{T}_3$  and  $x_{N-2}$  within  $\epsilon$  of  $\mathbb{T}_{N-2}$  and a time  $t$  such that

$$W(t)x_3 = x_{N-2}.$$

## Remark

$W(t)x_3$  is a solution of total mass 1 arbitrarily concentrated near mode  $j = 3$  at some time  $t_0$  and then arbitrarily concentrated near mode  $j = N - 2$  at later time  $t$ .



# The sliding process

To motivate the theorem let us first observe that when  $N = 2$  we can easily demonstrate that there is an orbit connecting  $\mathbb{T}_1$  to  $\mathbb{T}_2$ . Indeed in this case we have the explicit “slider” solution

$$(7.1) \quad b_1(t) := \frac{e^{-it\omega}}{\sqrt{1 + e^{2\sqrt{3}t}}}; \quad b_2(t) := \frac{e^{-it\omega^2}}{\sqrt{1 + e^{-2\sqrt{3}t}}}$$

where  $\omega := e^{2\pi i/3}$  is a cube root of unity.

This solution approaches  $\mathbb{T}_1$  exponentially fast as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ , and approaches  $\mathbb{T}_2$  exponentially fast as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . One can translate this solution in the  $j$  parameter, and obtain solutions that “slide” from  $\mathbb{T}_j$  to  $\mathbb{T}_{j+1}$ . Intuitively, the proof of the Sliding Theorem for higher  $N$  should then proceed by concatenating these slider solutions.....

This is a cartoon of what we have:

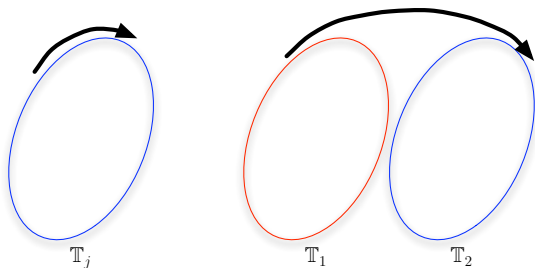


Figure: Explicit oscillator solution around  $\mathbb{T}_j$  and the slider solution from  $\mathbb{T}_1$  to  $\mathbb{T}_2$

This though cannot work directly because each solution requires an **infinite** amount of time to connect one circle to the next, but it turns out that a suitably perturbed or **“fuzzy”** version of these slider solutions can in fact be glued together.

# A Perturbation Lemma

## Lemma

Let  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$  introduced above. Let  $B \gg 1$  and  $\delta > 0$  small and fixed. Let  $t \in [0, T]$  and  $T \sim B^2 \log B$ . Suppose there exists  $b(t) \in I^1(\Lambda)$  solving  $RFNLS_\Lambda$  such that

$$\|b(t)\|_{I^1} \lesssim B^{-1}.$$

Then there exists a solution  $a(t) \in I^1(\mathbb{Z}^2)$  of  $FNLS$  such that

$$a(0) = b(0), \quad \text{and} \quad \|a(t) - b(t)\|_{I^1(\mathbb{Z}^2)} \lesssim B^{-1-\delta},$$

for any  $t \in [0, T]$ .

## Proof.

This is a standard perturbation lemma proved by checking that the “non resonant” part of the nonlinearity remains small enough. □

# Recasting the main theorem

With all the notations and reductions introduced we can now recast the main theorem in the following way:

## Theorem

For any  $0 < \sigma \ll 1$  and  $K \gg 1$  there exists a complex sequence  $(a_n)$  such that

$$\left( \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^2} |a_n|^2 |n|^{2s} \right)^{1/2} \lesssim \sigma$$

and a solution  $(a_n(t))$  of (FNLS) and  $T > 0$  such that

$$\left( \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^2} |a_n(T)|^2 |n|^{2s} \right)^{1/2} > K.$$

# A Scaling Argument

In order to be able to use “instability” to move mass from lower frequencies to higher ones and start with a **small data** we need to introduce **scaling**.

Consider in  $[0, \tau]$  the solution  $b(t)$  of the system  $RFNLS_\lambda$  with initial datum  $b_0$ . Then the rescaled function

$$b^\lambda(t) = \lambda^{-1} b\left(\frac{t}{\lambda^2}\right)$$

solves the same system with datum  $b_0^\lambda = \lambda^{-1} b_0$ .

We then first pick the complex vector  $b(0)$  that was found in the “instability” theorem above. For simplicity let’s assume here that  $b_j(0) = 1 - \epsilon$  if  $j = 3$  and  $b_j(0) = \epsilon$  if  $j \neq 3$  and then we fix

$$a_n(0) = \begin{cases} b_j^\lambda(0) & \text{for any } n \in \Lambda_j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise .} \end{cases}$$

# Estimating the size of $(a(0))$

By definition

$$\left( \sum_{n \in \Lambda} |a_n(0)|^2 |n|^{2s} \right)^{1/2} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \left( \sum_{j=1}^M |b_j(0)|^2 \left( \sum_{n \in \Lambda_j} |n|^{2s} \right) \right)^{1/2} \sim \frac{1}{\lambda} Q_3^{1/2},$$

where the last equality follows from defining

$$\sum_{n \in \Lambda_j} |n|^{2s} = Q_j,$$

and the definition of  $a_n(0)$  given above. At this point we use the properties of the set  $\Lambda$  to estimate  $Q_3 C(N) N^{2s}$ , where  $N$  is the inner radius of  $\Lambda$ . We then conclude that

$$\left( \sum_{n \in \Lambda} |a_n(0)|^2 |n|^{2s} \right)^{1/2} = \lambda^{-1} C(N) N^s \sim \sigma.$$

## Estimating the size of $(a(T))$

By using the perturbation lemma with  $B = \lambda$  and  $T = \lambda^2 \tau$  we have

$$\|a(T)\|_{H^s} \geq \|b^\lambda(T)\|_{H^s} - \|a(T) - b^\lambda(T)\|_{H^s} = I_1 - I_2.$$

We want  $I_2 \ll 1$  and  $I_1 > K$ . For the first

$$I_2 \leq \|a(T) - b^\lambda(T)\|_{H^s(\mathbb{Z}^2)} \left( \sum_{n \in \Lambda} |n|^{2s} \right)^{1/2} \lesssim \lambda^{-1-\delta} \left( \sum_{n \in \Lambda} |n|^{2s} \right)^{1/2}.$$

As above

$$I_2 \lesssim \lambda^{-1-\delta} C(N) N^s$$

At this point we need to pick  $\lambda$  and  $N$  so that

$$\|a(0)\|_{H^s} = \lambda^{-1} C(N) N^s \sim \sigma \quad \text{and} \quad I_2 \lesssim \lambda^{-1-\delta} C(N) N^s \ll 1$$

and thanks to the presence of  $\delta > 0$  this can be achieved by taking  $\lambda$  and  $N$  large enough.

# Estimating $I_1$

It is important here that at time zero one starts with a fixed non zero datum, namely  $\|a(0)\|_{H^s} = \|b^\lambda(0)\|_{H^s} \sim \sigma > 0$ . In fact we will show that

$$I_1^2 = \|b^\lambda(T)\|_{H^s}^2 \geq \frac{K^2}{\sigma^2} \|b^\lambda(0)\|_{H^s}^2 \sim K^2.$$

If we define for  $T = \lambda^2 t$

$$R = \frac{\sum_{n \in \Lambda} |b_n^\lambda(\lambda^2 t)|^2 |n|^{2s}}{\sum_{n \in \Lambda} |b_n^\lambda(0)|^2 |n|^{2s}},$$

then we are reduce to showing that  $R \gtrsim K^2/\sigma^2$ . Now recall the notation

$$\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \cup \dots \cup \Lambda_N \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n \in \Lambda_j} |n|^{2s} = Q_j.$$



# More on Estimating $I_1$

Using the fact that by the theorem on “instability” (approximately) one obtains  $b_j(T) = 1 - \epsilon$  if  $j = N - 2$  and  $b_j(T) = \epsilon$  if  $j \neq N - 2$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} R &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{n \in \Lambda_i} |b_i^\lambda(\lambda^2 t)|^2 |n|^{2s}}{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{n \in \Lambda_i} |b_i^\lambda(0)|^2 |n|^{2s}} \\ &\geq \frac{Q_{N-2}(1-\epsilon)}{(1-\epsilon)Q_3 + \epsilon Q_1 + \dots + \epsilon Q_N} \sim \frac{Q_{N-2}(1-\epsilon)}{Q_{N-2} \left[ (1-\epsilon) \frac{Q_3}{Q_{N-2}} + \dots + \epsilon \right]} \\ &\gtrsim \frac{(1-\epsilon)}{(1-\epsilon) \frac{Q_3}{Q_{N-2}}} = \frac{Q_{N-2}}{Q_3} \end{aligned}$$

and the conclusion follows from “large diaspora” of  $\Lambda_j$ :

$$Q_{N-2} = \sum_{n \in \Lambda_{N-2}} |n|^{2s} \gtrsim \frac{K^2}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n \in \Lambda_3} |n|^{2s} = \frac{K^2}{\sigma^2} Q_3.$$

# Where does the set $\Lambda$ come from?

Here we do not construct  $\Lambda$ , but we construct  $\Sigma$ , a set that has a lot of the properties of  $\Lambda$ . We define the *standard unit square*  $S \subset \mathbb{C}$  to be the four-element set of complex numbers

$$S = \{0, 1, 1 + i, i\}.$$

We split  $S = S_1 \cup S_2$ , where  $S_1 := \{1, i\}$  and  $S_2 := \{0, 1 + i\}$ . The combinatorial model  $\Sigma$  is a subset of a large power of the set  $S$ . More precisely, for any  $1 \leq j \leq N$ , we define  $\Sigma_j \subset \mathbb{C}^{N-1}$  to be the set of all  $N - 1$ -tuples  $(z_1, \dots, z_{N-1})$  such that  $z_1, \dots, z_{j-1} \in S_2$  and  $z_j, \dots, z_{N-1} \in S_1$ . In other words,

$$\Sigma_j := S_2^{j-1} \times S_1^{N-j}.$$

Note that each  $\Sigma_j$  consists of  $2^{N-1}$  elements, and they are all disjoint. We then set  $\Sigma = \Sigma_1 \cup \dots \cup \Sigma_N$ ; this set consists of  $N2^{N-1}$  elements. We refer to  $\Sigma_j$  as the  $j^{\text{th}}$  generation of  $\Sigma$ .

For each  $1 \leq j < N$ , we define a *combinatorial nuclear family connecting generations*  $\Sigma_j, \Sigma_{j+1}$  to be any four-element set  $F \subset \Sigma_j \cup \Sigma_{j+1}$  of the form

$$F := \{(z_1, \dots, z_{j-1}, w, z_{j+1}, \dots, z_N) : w \in S\}$$

where  $z_1, \dots, z_{j-1} \in S_2$  and  $z_{j+1}, \dots, z_N \in S_1$  are fixed. In other words, we have

$$F = \{F_0, F_1, F_{1+i}, F_i\} = \{(z_1, \dots, z_{j-1})\} \times S \times \{(z_{j+1}, \dots, z_N)\}$$

where  $F_w = (z_1, \dots, z_{j-1}, w, z_{j+1}, \dots, z_N)$ .

It is clear that

- $F$  is a four-element set consisting of two elements  $F_1, F_i$  of  $\Sigma_j$  (which we call the *parents* in  $F$ ) and two elements  $F_0, F_{1+i}$  of  $\Sigma_{j+1}$  (which we call the *children* in  $F$ ).
- For each  $j$  there are  $2^{N-2}$  combinatorial nuclear families connecting the generations  $\Sigma_j$  and  $\Sigma_{j+1}$ .

# Properties of $\Sigma$

One easily verifies the following properties:

- **Existence and uniqueness of spouse and children:** For any  $1 \leq j < N$  and any  $x \in \Sigma_j$  there exists a unique combinatorial nuclear family  $F$  connecting  $\Sigma_j$  to  $\Sigma_{j+1}$  such that  $x$  is a parent of this family (i.e.  $x = F_1$  or  $x = F_i$ ). In particular each  $x \in \Sigma_j$  has a unique spouse (in  $\Sigma_j$ ) and two unique children (in  $\Sigma_{j+1}$ ).
- **Existence and uniqueness of sibling and parents:** For any  $1 \leq j < N$  and any  $y \in \Sigma_{j+1}$  there exists a unique combinatorial nuclear family  $F$  connecting  $\Sigma_j$  to  $\Sigma_{j+1}$  such that  $y$  is a child of the family (i.e.  $y = F_0$  or  $y = F_{1+i}$ ). In particular each  $y \in \Sigma_{j+1}$  has a unique sibling (in  $\Sigma_{j+1}$ ) and two unique parents (in  $\Sigma_j$ ).
- **Nondegeneracy:** The sibling of an element  $x \in \Sigma_j$  is never equal to its spouse.

## Example:

If  $N = 7$ , the point  $x = (0, 1 + i, 0, i, i, 1)$  lies in the fourth generation  $\Sigma_4$ . Its spouse is  $(0, 1 + i, 0, 1, i, 1)$  (also in  $\Sigma_4$ ) and its two children are  $(0, 1 + i, 0, 0, i, 1)$  and  $(0, 1 + i, 0, 1 + i, i, 1)$  (both in  $\Sigma_5$ ). These four points form a combinatorial nuclear family connecting the generations  $\Sigma_4$  and  $\Sigma_5$ . The sibling of  $x$  is  $(0, 1 + i, 1 + i, i, i, 1)$  (also in  $\Sigma_4$ , but distinct from the spouse) and its two parents are  $(0, 1 + i, 1, i, i, 1)$  and  $(0, 1 + i, i, i, i, 1)$  (both in  $\Sigma_3$ ). These four points form a combinatorial nuclear family connecting the generations  $\Sigma_3$  and  $\Sigma_4$ . Elements of  $\Sigma_1$  do not have siblings or parents, and elements of  $\Sigma_7$  do not have spouses or children.