



# Breather-to-soliton conversions and nonlinear wave interactions in a coupled Hirota system



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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, a coupled Hirota system with higher-order effects is analytically investigated. The results show that the breather solutions can be converted into some types of nonlinear localized and periodic solutions on the plane-wave background. The exact relations for the conversions are presented, which depend on the higher-order effects, the background frequency and the eigenvalue. Via some graphic illustrations, the collisions between these nonlinear waves in the second-order conversions are displayed.

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## 1. Introduction

Recently, the inherent relations between the breather and soliton solutions have been investigated in several nonlinear evolution equations [1–6]. Under certain conditions, breathers can be converted into some types of localized and periodic waves, such as multi-peak soliton, antidark soliton, W-shaped soliton and periodic wave. Specifically, only when the equation possesses one or more free parameters can this transition happen.

The possibility of a breather decaying into solitons in the nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) equation has been demonstrated in Ref. [1]. By the modulational instability (MI), the results have indicated that the standard NLS cannot provide this process. Ref. [2] has revealed that many localized and periodic waves can be extracted from a unified exact solution under specific parameter conditions in the coupled NLS–MB equations. For the Hirota equation, Ref. [3] has presented an exact expression for the transformation. Furthermore, the state transition between the rogue wave and W-shaped wave has also been analyzed in Ref. [6]. In this paper, we consider the conversion in a coupled Hirota system

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$$u_z = i \left[ \frac{1}{2} u_{tt} + (|u|^2 + |v|^2)u + \epsilon [u_{ttt} + 3(2|u|^2 + |v|^2)u_t + 3uv^*v_t] \right], \tag{1.1a}$$

$$v_z = i \left[ \frac{1}{2} v_{tt} + (|u|^2 + |v|^2)v + \epsilon [v_{ttt} + 3(2|u|^2 + |v|^2)v_t + 3vu^*u_t] \right], \tag{1.1b}$$

where,  $u(z, t)$  and  $v(z, t)$  are the complex smooth envelop functions,  $z$  and  $t$  represent the longitudinal distance and retarded time respectively, and  $\epsilon$  denotes the coefficient of higher-order effects including the third-order dispersion, self-steepening and Raman scattering terms. The main aim of this paper is to construct the breather-to-soliton conversions, derive several kinds of localized and periodic waves, and to analyze the characteristics of the interactions among these nonlinear waves in System (1.1).

## 2. One-order breather-to-soliton conversions

Based on some known results of the Darboux transformation (DT) for System (1.1) [7,8], the new solutions in the first iteration can be given by

$$u^{[1]} = u^{[0]} - \frac{2i(\lambda_1 - \lambda_1^*)\phi_1\phi_2^*}{|\phi_1|^2 + |\phi_2|^2 + |\phi_3|^2}. \tag{2.1}$$

$\Phi_1 = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3)^T$  is a special solution corresponding to the spectral parameter  $\lambda_1$ . The component  $v$  in System (1.1) can be discussed in the same way. Choosing  $u^{[0]} = v^{[0]} = u_0 e^{i(kz+wt)}$  and separating the real and imaginary part of the variables and functions involved in the above expression, we can extend the one-breather solutions on the plane-wave background as

$$u^{[1]} = u_0 \left( 1 + 4b \frac{N_r + iN_i}{D} \right) e^{i(kz+wt)}, \tag{2.2}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa &= \kappa_r + i\kappa_i = \sqrt{2u_0^2 + (\lambda_1 + w/2)^2}, & \eta_1 &= (a + w/2)^2 + b^2 + 2u_0^2, \\ \eta_2 &= 2(a\kappa_i - b\kappa_r) + w\kappa_i, & \eta_3 &= 2(a\kappa_r + b\kappa_i) + w\kappa_r, & \lambda_1 &= a + ib, \\ N_r &= -b \cos[2A_r] - b \cosh[2A_i] - \kappa_i \sinh[2A_i] + \kappa_r \sin[2A_r], \\ N_i &= (a + w/2) \cos[2A_r] + (a + w/2) \cosh[2A_i] + \kappa_i \sin[2A_r] + \kappa_r \sinh[2A_i], \\ D &= (\eta_1 - |\kappa|^2) \cos[2A_r] + (\eta_1 + |\kappa|^2) \cosh[2A_i] + \eta_2 \sin[2A_r] + \eta_3 \sinh[2A_i], \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} A_r &= t\kappa_r + zV_r, & A_i &= t\kappa_i + zV_i, \\ V_r &= ((a - w/2)(1 + 2w\epsilon) + 4(u_0^2 - a^2 + b^2)\epsilon)\kappa_r - b(1 - 8a\epsilon + 2w\epsilon)\kappa_i, \\ V_i &= ((a - w/2)(1 + 2w\epsilon) + 4(u_0^2 - a^2 + b^2)\epsilon)\kappa_i + b(1 - 8a\epsilon + 2w\epsilon)\kappa_r. \end{aligned}$$

Solution (2.2) contains two kinds of functions: the trigonometric functions and the hyperbolic functions, which describe the propagation of periodic waves and localized solitons respectively.  $V_i/\kappa_i$  and  $V_r/\kappa_r$  are the corresponding velocities. The transformation of breather solutions into solitons becomes possible when the velocities are identical, that is  $V_i/\kappa_i = V_r/\kappa_r$ . Insertion of the detailed  $V_i$  and  $V_r$  into it yields the exact relation as

$$a = \frac{1 + 2w\epsilon}{8\epsilon}. \tag{2.3}$$

Relation (2.3) includes the higher-order coefficient  $\epsilon$ , the real parameter  $a$  and the background frequency  $w$ .  $\epsilon$  is necessary for this conversion, and its value cannot be zero. In Fig. 1, we convert a breather into the non-periodic solitons for System (1.1). Fig. 1(a) depicts a breather which is localized in spatial and periodic

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