

# Waves on deep water, II

## Lecture 14

Main question: Are there stable wave patterns that propagate with permanent form (or nearly so) on deep water?

Main approximate model:

$$i\partial_{\tau}A + \alpha\partial_{\xi}^2A + \beta\partial_{\xi}^2A + \gamma|A|^2A = 0$$

Nonlinear Schrödinger equation (NLS)

# Waves on deep water

## 1. The story so far

- A uniform train of periodic waves is **unstable** on deep water, according to NLS and to experiments.

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# Waves on deep water

## 1. The story so far

- A uniform train of periodic waves is unstable on deep water, according to NLS and to experiments
- The 1-D NLS equation is completely integrable!
- For focussing NLS in 1-D on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ , arbitrary initial data evolve into a finite number of envelope solitons, plus a modulated wavetrain that disperses (so its amplitude decays) as  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$
- Envelope solitons are **stable** in 1-D NLS.  
[For defocussing NLS, “dark solitons” are stable.]

# Waves on deep water

## Chapter 2:

### Near recurrence of initial states

- a) Lake, Yuen, Rungaldier & Ferguson, 1977 proposed (correctly) that with periodic boundary conditions, focussing NLS should exhibit near recurrence of initial states, just as KdV does.

# Waves on deep water

b) What is “near recurrence of initial states” ?

Example from linearized equations on deep water, with periodic boundary conditions:

$$\eta(x,t) = \sum_{m=1}^N a_m \cos\{mx - \omega_m t + \phi_m\}, \quad \omega_m^2 = gm.$$

# Waves on deep water

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Frequencies are not rationally related:  $\omega_m = \omega_1 \sqrt{m}$

→  $\eta(x,t)$  is not periodic in time, but for finite  $N$  the solution returns close to its initial state, over and over again



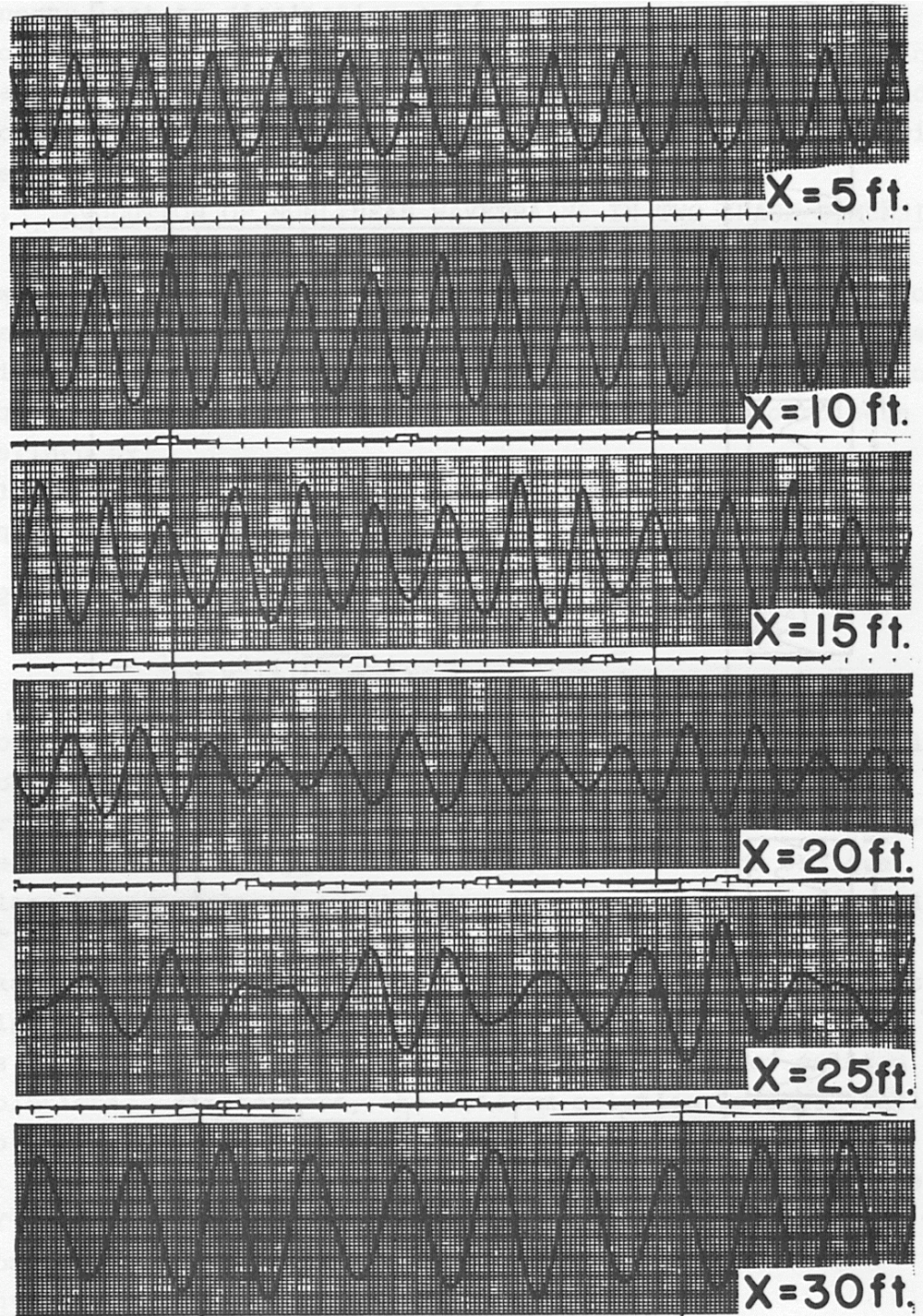
Experimental  
evidence of  
recurrence in  
deep water –  
Lake *et al*, 1977

Initial frequency:

$$\omega = 3.6 \text{ Hz}$$

$$\lambda = 12 \text{ cm}$$

[First physical observation  
of FPU recurrence?]



# Q: Stable wave patterns on deep water ?

A#1. NLS in 1-D with periodic b.c.:

- A uniform train of oscillatory plane waves is unstable
- But a continuous wave train exhibits near recurrence of initial states.

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- A uniform train of oscillatory plane waves is unstable
- But a continuous wave train exhibits near recurrence of initial states.

A#2. NLS in 1-D with localized initial data:

- Envelope solitons are stable  
(Envelope solitons have played an important role in communication through optical fibers)

# Q: What about a 2-D free surface? (so a 3-D fluid flow)

1. 2-D NLS: 
$$i\partial_{\tau}A + \partial_{\xi}^2 A + \beta\partial_{\xi}^2 A + 2\sigma |A|^2 A = 0$$
- $\sigma = +1$  for envelope solitons
  - $\sigma = -1$  for dark solitons



# Q: What about a 2-D free surface? (so a 3-D fluid flow)

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- $\sigma = -1$  for dark solitons

## 2. Zakharov & Rubenchik, 1974

- $\sigma = +1$ : for either sign of  $\beta$ , envelope solitons are **unstable** to 2-D perturbations
- $\sigma = -1$ : for either sign of  $\beta$ , dark solitons are **unstable** to 2-D perturbations
- The unstable perturbations have long transverse wavelengths  
(Problem in water waves, but not necessarily in optical fibers)

# Recall experiment by Hammack on envelope soliton

- (a) 6 m from  
wavemaker
- (b) 30 m from  
wavemaker

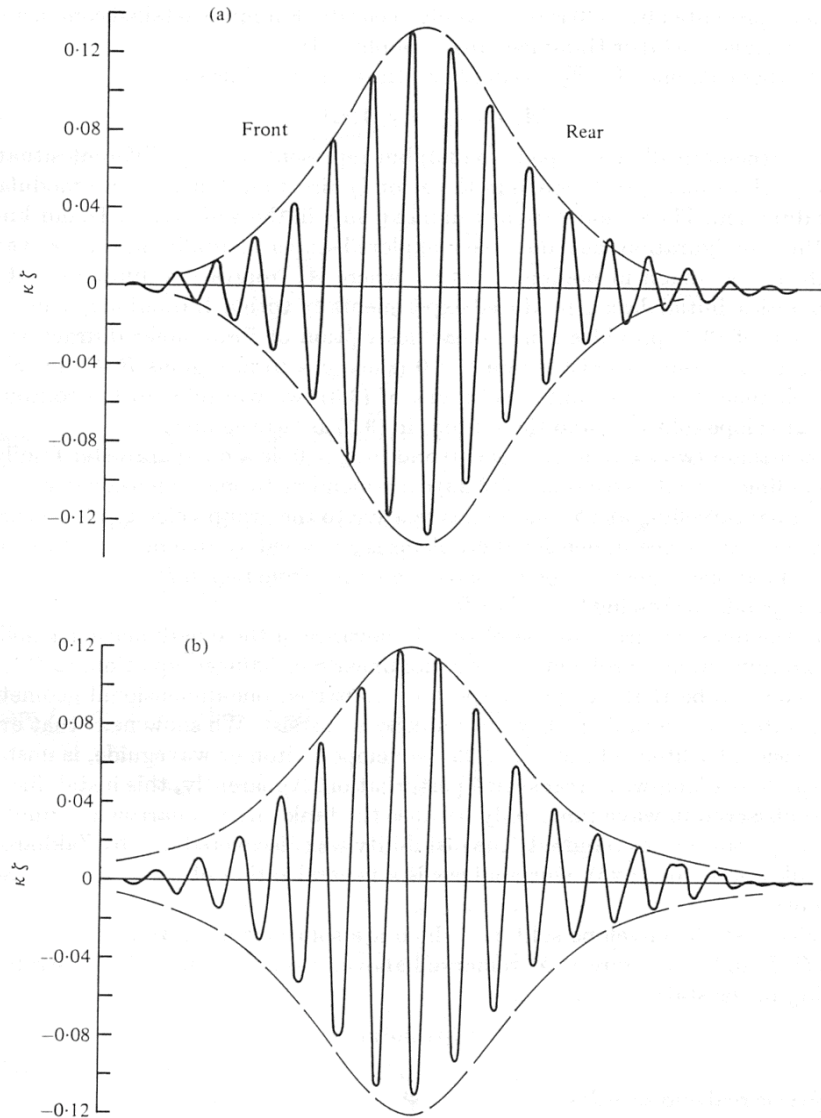


FIGURE 3. Measured surface displacement, showing evolution of envelope soliton at two downstream locations;  $h = 1$  m,  $kh = 4.0$ ,  $\omega = 1$  Hz,  $\bar{T} = 1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ ; —, measured history of surface displacement; ---, theoretical envelope shape;

$$\kappa \zeta = \kappa a \operatorname{sech}(z),$$

$$z = [ag/\omega] (\nu/8\lambda)^{\frac{1}{2}} (C_g t - x);$$

(a) 6 m downstream of wave maker,  $\kappa a = 0.132$ . (b) 30 m downstream of wave maker,  $\kappa a = 0.116$ .

Hammack repeated the experiment, using the same wavemaker, in a wider tank

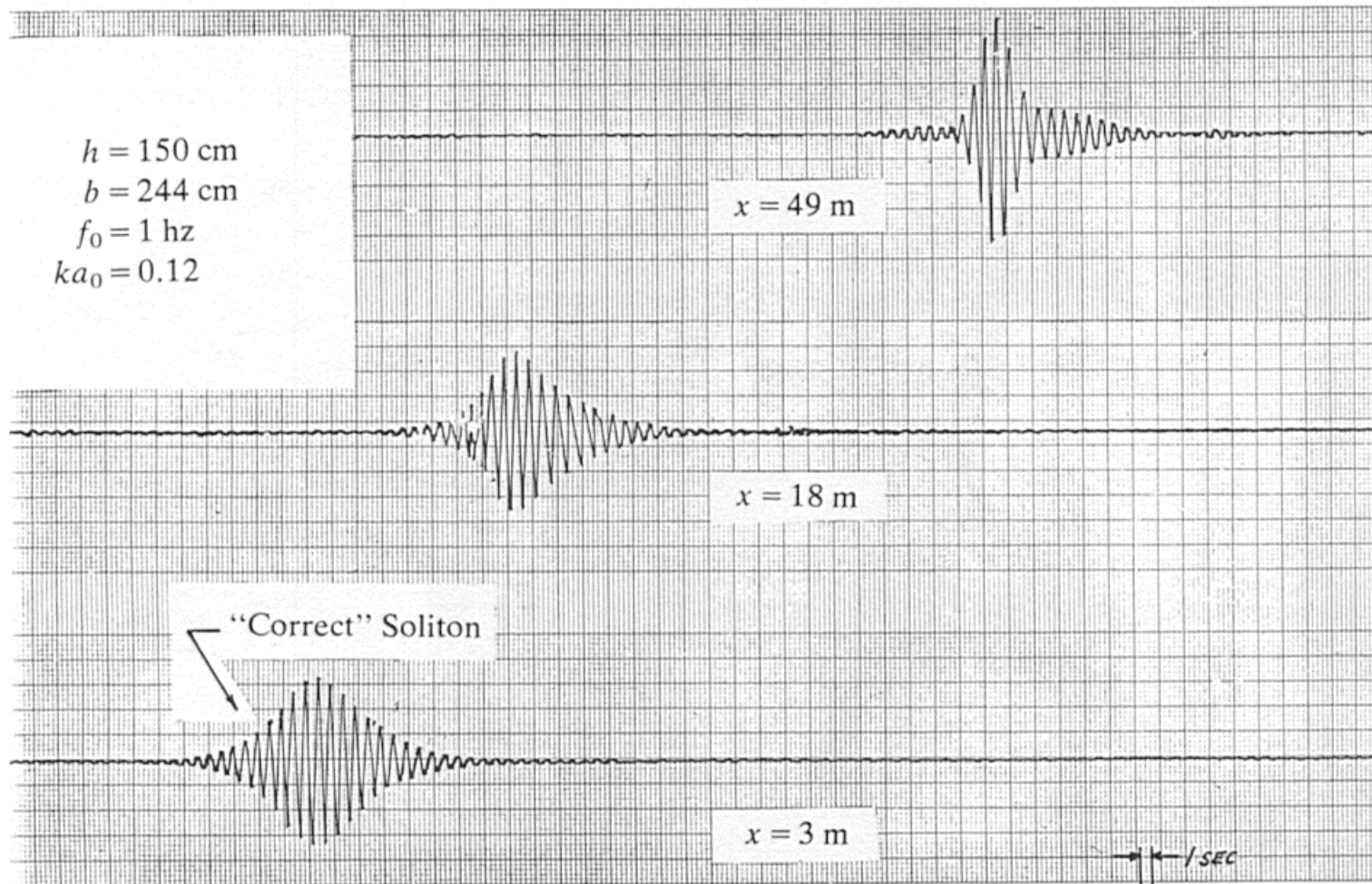


FIG. 4.18. Evolution of water wave packet in a wide tank, showing the transverse instability that was absent in Fig. 4.16. (Courtesy of J. L. Hammack).

Q: Stable patterns that propagate with (nearly) permanent form on 2-D surface in deep water?

A. The story continues - stay tuned



# Intermission: wave collapse in 2-d

Zakharov & Synakh, 1976:

- Consider elliptic, focusing NLS in 2-D

$$i\partial_{\tau}A + \partial_{\xi}^2 A + \partial_{\zeta}^2 A + 2|A|^2 A = 0$$

(same signs for all coefficients → not gravity waves)

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$$i\partial_\tau A + \partial_\xi^2 A + \partial_\zeta^2 A + 2|A|^2 A = 0$$

(same signs for all coefficients  $\rightarrow$  not gravity waves)

- Conserved quantities (finite list):

$$I_1 = \iint [|A|^2] d\xi d\zeta,$$

$$I_2 = \iint [A\partial_\xi A^* - A^*\partial_\xi A] d\xi d\zeta, \quad I_3 = \iint [A\partial_\zeta A^* - A^*\partial_\zeta A] d\xi d\zeta,$$

$$I_4 = H = \iint [|\nabla A|^2 - |A|^4] d\xi d\zeta.$$

# Intermission: wave collapse in 2-d

$$i\partial_\tau A + \partial_\xi^2 A + \partial_\zeta^2 A + 2|A|^2 A = 0$$

- Consider  $J(\tau) = \iint [(\xi^2 + \zeta^2) |A|^2] d\xi d\zeta$

If we interpret:

$|A|^2(\xi, \zeta, \tau)$  as “mass density”, then

$I_1 = \iint [|A|^2] d\xi d\zeta$  is “total mass”, and

$J(\tau)$  is “moment of inertia”.

$J(\tau) \geq 0$ .

# Intermission: wave collapse in 2-d

$$i\partial_\tau A + \partial_\xi^2 A + \partial_\zeta^2 A + 2|A|^2 A = 0$$

- Consider  $J(\tau) = \iint [(\xi^2 + \zeta^2) |A|^2] d\xi d\zeta$

- Compute  $\frac{dJ}{d\tau}$  and  $\frac{d^2J}{d\tau^2}$

- Find:  $\frac{d^2J}{d\tau^2} = 8H = 8 \iint [|\nabla A|^2 - |A|^4] d\xi d\zeta.$

➔ If  $H < 0$ , then  $J(\tau) < 0$  in finite time. (Bad!)

This happens while  $I_1, I_2, I_3, H$  are conserved.

[Wave collapse has been important in nonlinear optics.]

# Back to the main story

Q: Are there stable wave patterns that propagate with permanent form (or nearly so) on a 2-D free surface in deep water?

More complication:

Lake, Yuen, Rungaldier & Ferguson (1977)

Recall “near recurrence of initial states”

# Lake, Yuen, Rungaldier & Ferguson

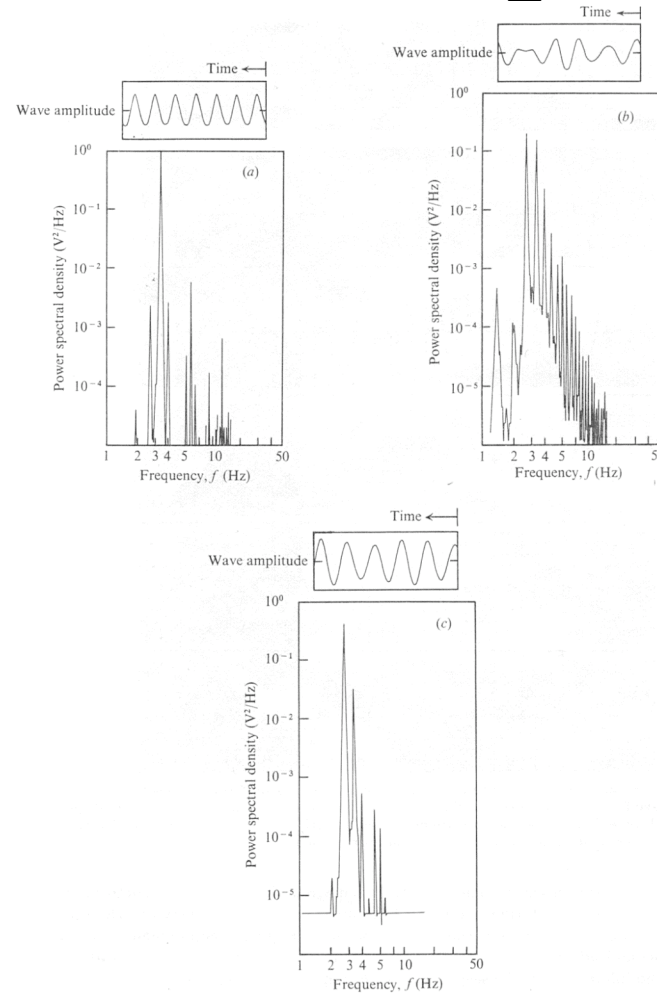
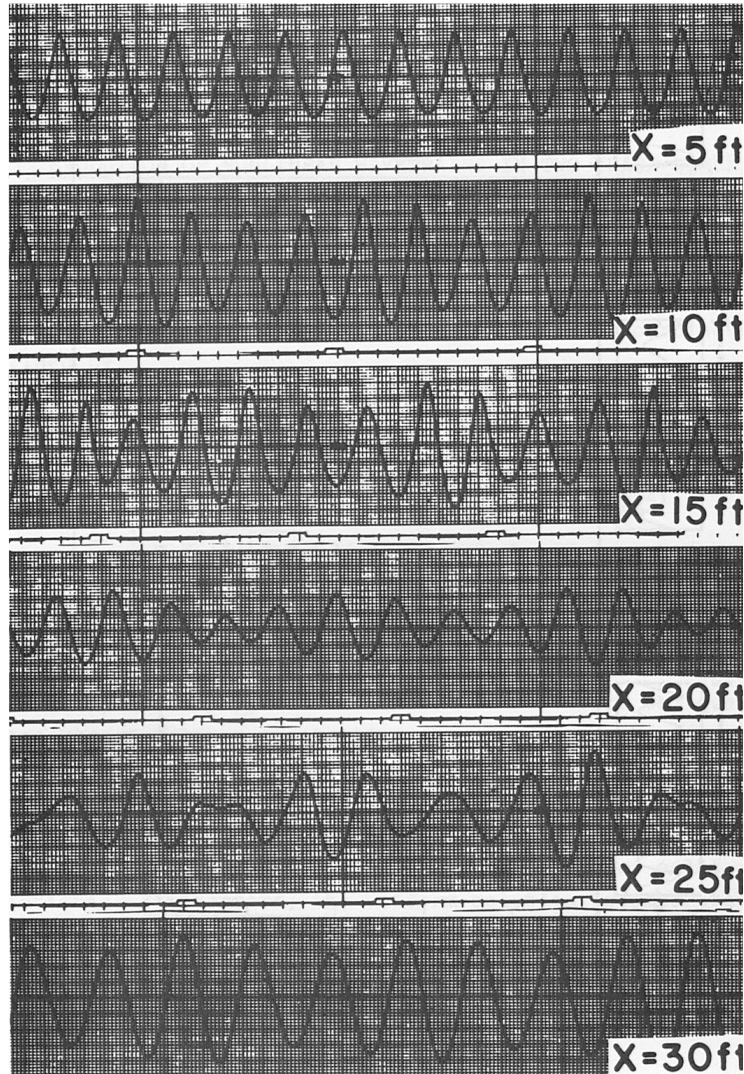


FIGURE 6. Evolution of a nonlinear finite amplitude wave train: wave forms and power spectral densities vs. propagation distance. (a) Initial stage of side-band growth,  $x = 5$  ft, carrier wave with small amplitude modulation. (b)  $x = 10$  ft, strong amplitude modulation, energy spread over many frequency components. (c)  $x = 25$  ft, reduced amplitude modulation, return of energy to frequency components of original carrier wave, its side bands and harmonics.  $f_0 = 3.25$  Hz,  $(ka)_0 = \delta = 0.23$ ,  $(ka)_{zn} = 0.29$ .

Frequency downshifting – also seen in optics

# Frequency downshifting – different from recurrence

- Frequency downshifting does **not** occur in simulations based on NLS, in 1-D or 2-D
- It does **not** occur in simulations based on Dysthe's (1979) generalization of NLS
- It has been observed & studied in optics (Mollenauer, 1986; Gordon, 1986)
- **My opinion:** No satisfactory model of the process has been found

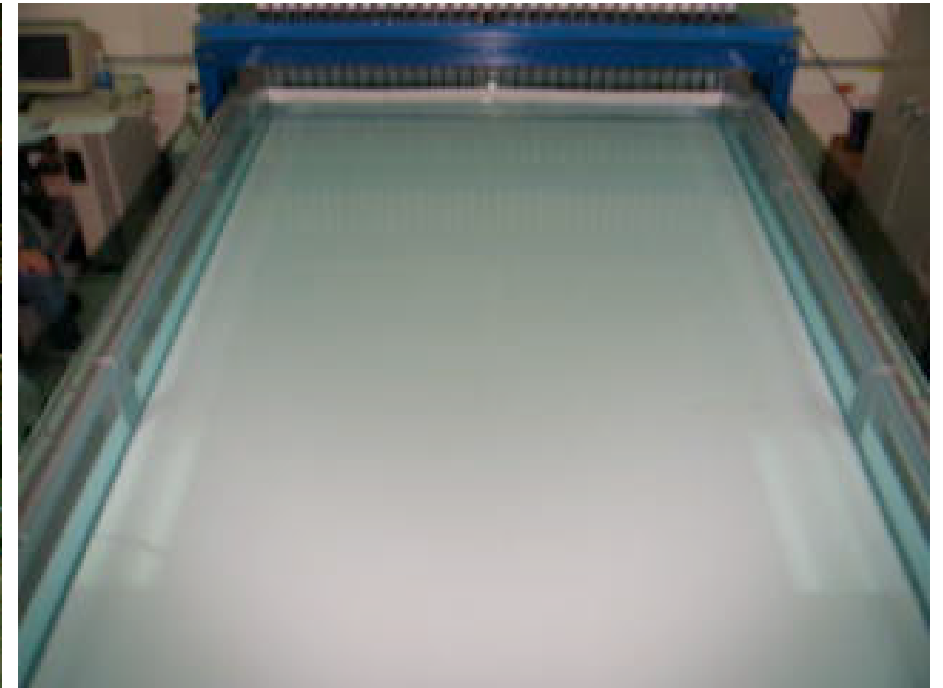
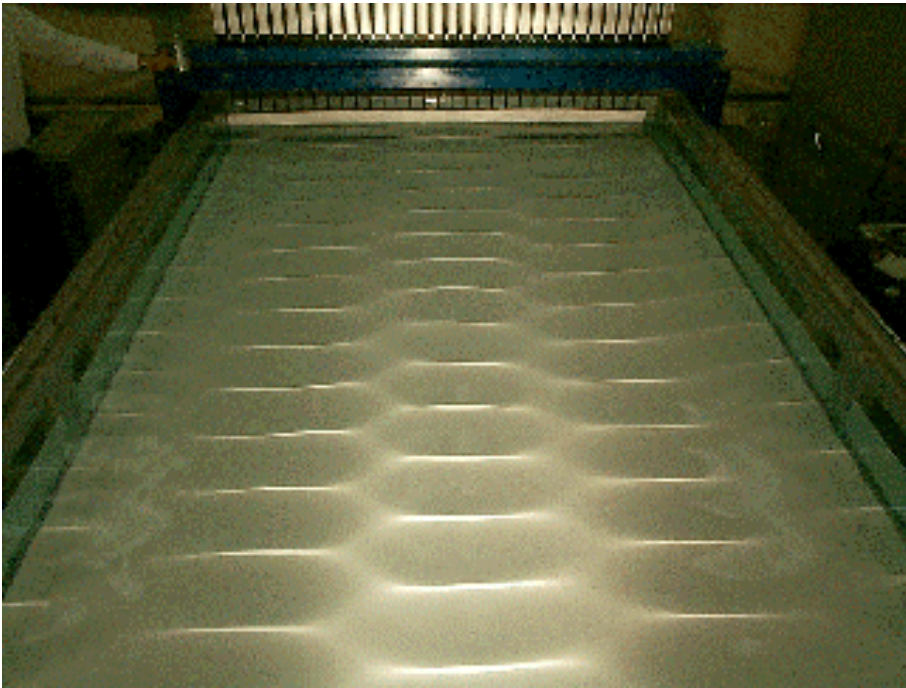
Q: Stable patterns that propagate with (nearly) permanent form on 2-D surface in deep water?

1990s – Joe Hammack built a new tank to study 2-D wave patterns (so 3-D fluid flows) on deep water



# Experimental evidence of apparently stable wave patterns in deep water

([www.math.psu.edu/dmh/FRG](http://www.math.psu.edu/dmh/FRG))



3 Hz

17.3 cm

frequency

wavelength

4 Hz

9.8 cm

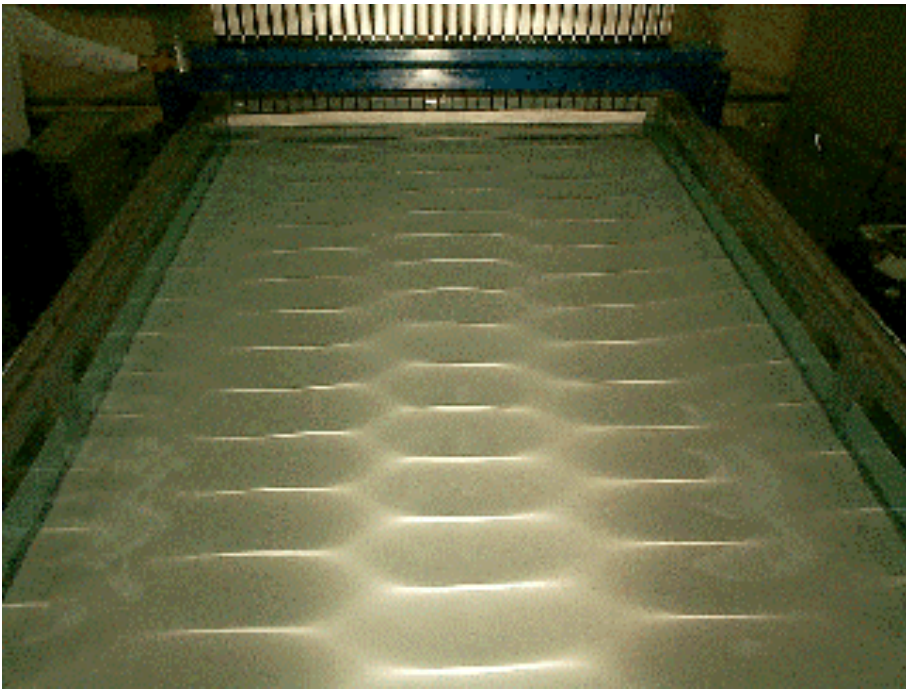
# How to reconcile the experimental observations with Benjamin-Feir instability?

## *Options*

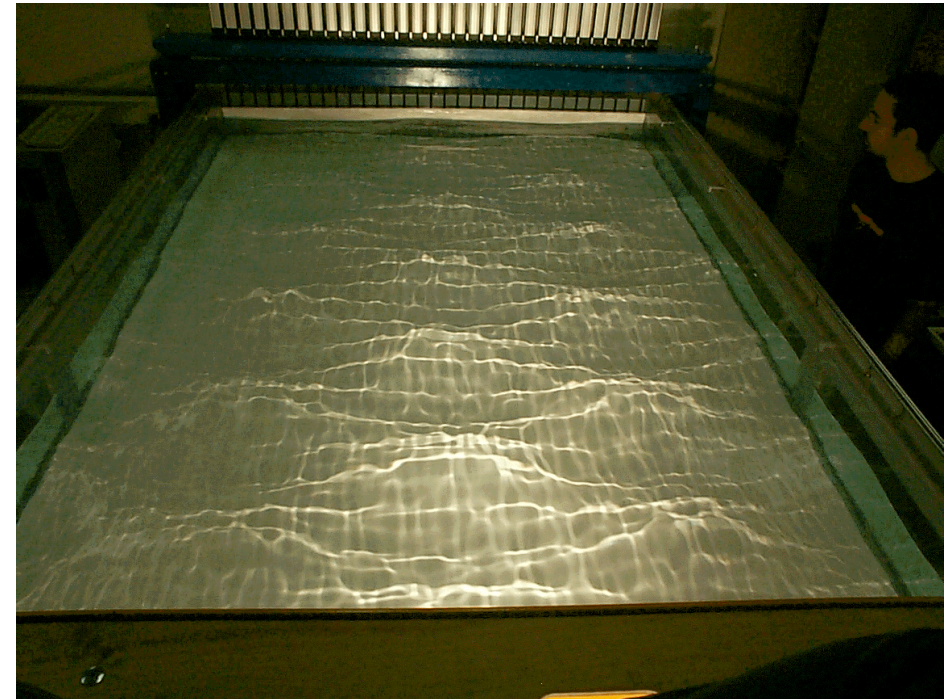
- Modulational instability afflicts 1-D plane waves, but not 2-D periodic patterns
- The Penn State tank is too short to observe the (relatively slow) growth of the instability
- Other (please specify)

# More experimental results

([www.math.psu.edu/dmh/FRG](http://www.math.psu.edu/dmh/FRG))



3 Hz  
old water



2 Hz  
new water

# Main results

- The modulational (or Benjamin-Feir) instability is valid for waves in deep water without dissipation

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- The modulational (or Benjamin-Feir) instability is valid for waves in deep water without dissipation
- But **any** amount of damping (of the right kind) stabilizes the instability (according to NLS & exp's)
- This dichotomy (with vs. without damping) applies to both 1-D plane waves and to 2-D periodic surface patterns
- Segur, Henderson, Carter, Hammack, Li, Pheiff, Socha, 2005
- Controversial

# Stability vs. existence in full water-wave equations

Recall:

- Craig & Nicholls (2000) prove that the full equations of (inviscid) water waves, with gravity and surface tension, admit solutions with 2-D, periodic surface patterns of permanent form on deep water.
- Iooss & Plotnikov (2008) prove the existence of such patterns for (some) pure gravity waves on deep water.

Neither paper considers stability.

# Reconsider stability of plane waves in 1-D

$$i(\partial_t A + c_g \partial_x A) + \varepsilon[\alpha \partial_x^2 A + \gamma |A|^2 A] = 0$$

$$[\xi = t - \frac{x}{c_g}, X = \varepsilon \frac{x}{c_g}]$$

$$i \partial_X A + \alpha \partial_\xi^2 A + \gamma |A|^2 A = 0$$

# Reconsider stability of plane waves in 1-D, with damping

$$i(\partial_t A + c_g \partial_x A) + \varepsilon[\alpha \partial_x^2 A + \gamma |A|^2 A + i\delta A] = 0$$

$$[\xi = t - \frac{x}{c_g}, X = \varepsilon \frac{x}{c_g}]$$

$$\delta \geq 0$$

$$i\partial_X A + \alpha \partial_\xi^2 A + \gamma |A|^2 A + i\delta A = 0$$

$$[A(\xi, X) = e^{-\delta X} \mathcal{A}(\xi, X)]$$

$$i\partial_X \mathcal{A} + \alpha \partial_\xi^2 \mathcal{A} + \gamma \cdot e^{-2\delta X} |\mathcal{A}|^2 \mathcal{A} = 0$$



## NLS in 1-D, cont'd

$$i\partial_X \mathcal{A} + \alpha \partial_\xi^2 \mathcal{A} + \gamma \cdot e^{-2\delta X} |\mathcal{A}|^2 \mathcal{A} = 0$$

Hamiltonian equation, but  $\frac{dH}{dX} \neq 0$

$$H = i \int [\alpha |\partial_\xi \mathcal{A}|^2 - \frac{\gamma}{2} e^{-2\delta X} |\mathcal{A}|^4] d\xi$$

Conjugate variables:  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}^*$

$$i\partial_X \mathcal{A} + \alpha \partial_\xi^2 \mathcal{A} + \gamma \cdot e^{-2\delta X} |\mathcal{A}|^2 \mathcal{A} = 0, \text{ cont'd}$$

- Uniform (in  $\xi$ ) wave train:

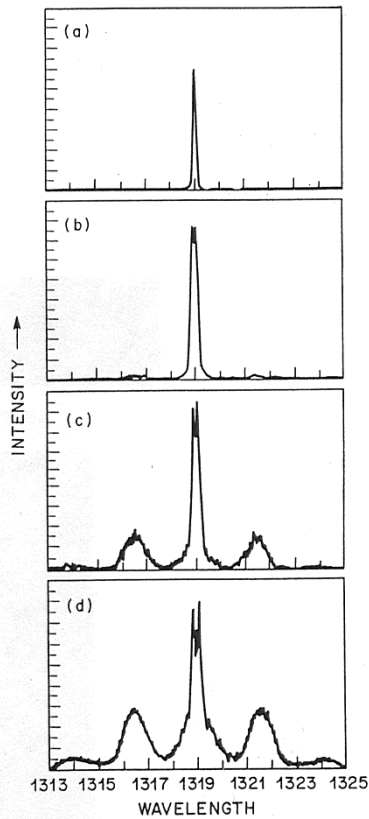
$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_0 \exp\left\{i\gamma |\mathcal{A}_0|^2 \left(\frac{1 - e^{-2\delta X}}{2\delta}\right)\right\}$$

- Perturb:

$$\mathcal{A}(\tau, X) = \exp\left\{i\gamma |\mathcal{A}_0|^2 \left(\frac{1 - e^{-2\delta X}}{2\delta}\right)\right\} [|\mathcal{A}_0| + \mu(u + iv)] + O(\mu^2)$$

- ...algebra..

$$\frac{d^2 \hat{u}}{dX^2} + [\alpha m^2 (\alpha m^2 - 2\gamma \cdot e^{-2\delta X} |\mathcal{A}_0|^2)] \cdot \hat{u} = 0$$



$$\frac{d^2 \hat{u}}{dX^2} + [\alpha m^2 (\alpha m^2 - 2\gamma \cdot e^{-2\delta X} |A_0|^2)] \cdot \hat{u} = 0$$

**Fig.15.1** Experimental observation of modulational instability (Tai *et al.* 1986a). Input power level low (a); 5.5 W (b); 6.1 W (c); 7.1 W (d). For details see text.

If we eliminate  $\sigma_1$  from (15.1.11) and (15.1.12) and construct the differential equation for the normalized side band amplitude  $\bar{\rho}_1 = \rho_1/\rho_0$  ( $\rho_0$  is given by (15.1.9)), we get

$$\frac{d^2 \bar{\rho}}{dZ^2} - \Omega^2 \left( \bar{\rho}_0 e^{-2\Gamma Z} - \frac{\Omega^2}{4} \right) \bar{\rho} = 0 \quad (15.2.1)$$

If we introduce a quantity  $R$  which designates the ratio of  $\Omega^2$  to  $\rho_0$ ,  $R = \Omega^2/\bar{\rho}_0$ ,  $R$  may be expressed in terms of engineering parameters as

$$R = \frac{\Omega^2}{\rho_0} = 1.1 \times 10^4 \frac{f^2 S}{P} (-\lambda^3 D) \quad (15.2.2)$$

*Hasegawa & Kodama*

(1995)

$$\frac{d^2 \hat{u}}{dX^2} + [\alpha m^2 (\alpha m^2 - 2\gamma \cdot e^{-2\delta X} | \mathcal{A}_0 |^2)] \cdot \hat{u} = 0, \text{ cont'd}$$

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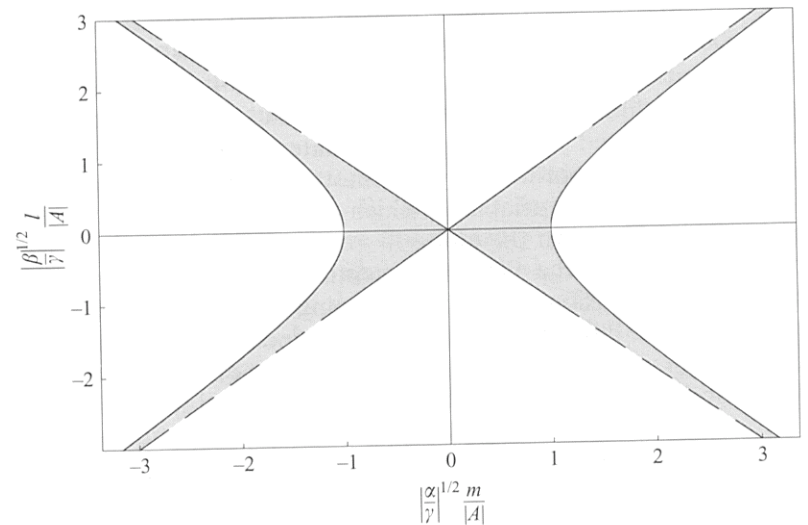
- There is a growing mode if

$$[\alpha m^2 (\alpha m^2 - 2\gamma \cdot e^{-2\delta X} | A_0 |^2)] < 0$$

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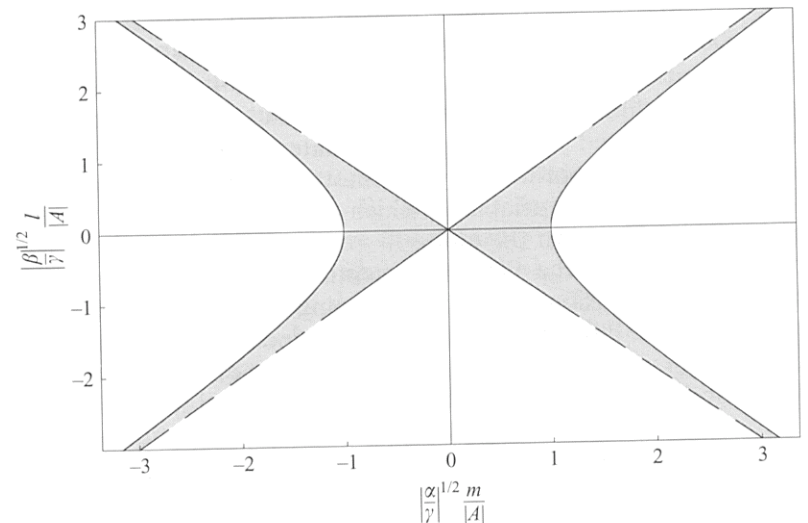
- There is a growing mode if

$$[\alpha m^2 (\alpha m^2 - 2\gamma \cdot e^{-2\delta X} |A_0|^2)] < 0$$

- For any  $\delta > 0$ , growth stops eventually

➔ No mode grows forever

➔ Total growth is bounded



# What is “linearized stability”? (Lyapunov)

A uniform wave train solution is linearly stable if for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a  $\Delta(\varepsilon) > 0$  such that if a perturbation  $(u, v)$  satisfies

$$\int [u^2(\xi, 0) + v^2(\xi, 0)] d\xi < \Delta(\varepsilon) \quad \text{at } X = 0,$$

then necessarily

$$\int [u^2(\xi, X) + v^2(\xi, X)] d\xi < \varepsilon \quad \text{for all } X > 0.$$



# 1-D NLS with damping, conclusion

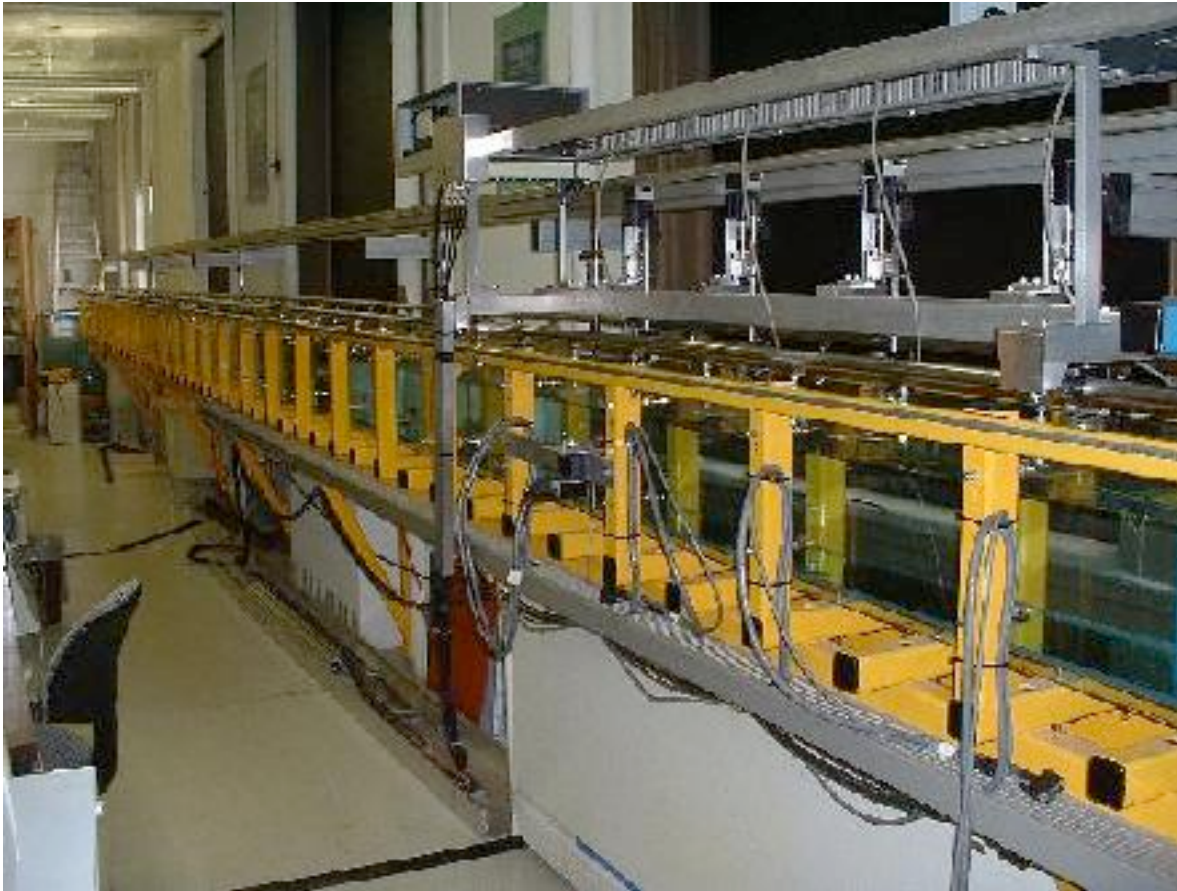
$$\frac{d^2 \hat{u}}{dX^2} + [\alpha m^2 (\alpha m^2 - 2\gamma \cdot e^{-2\delta X} |A_0|^2)] \cdot \hat{u} = 0$$

- There is a universal bound, B: the total growth of any Fourier mode cannot exceed B
- To demonstrate stability, choose  $\Delta(\varepsilon)$  so that

$$\Delta(\varepsilon) < \frac{1}{B^2} \cdot \varepsilon$$

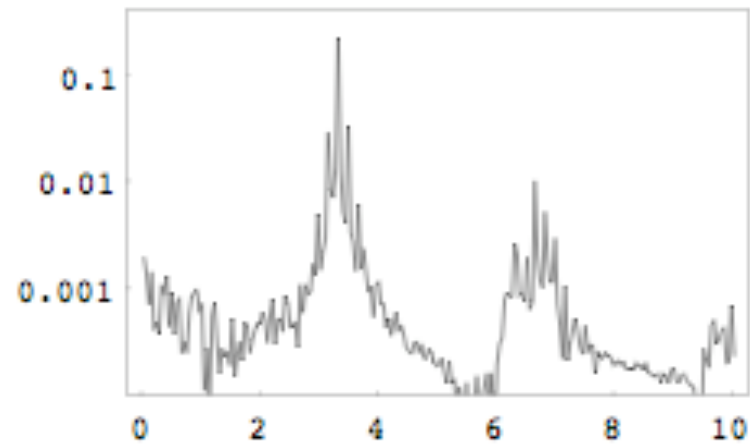
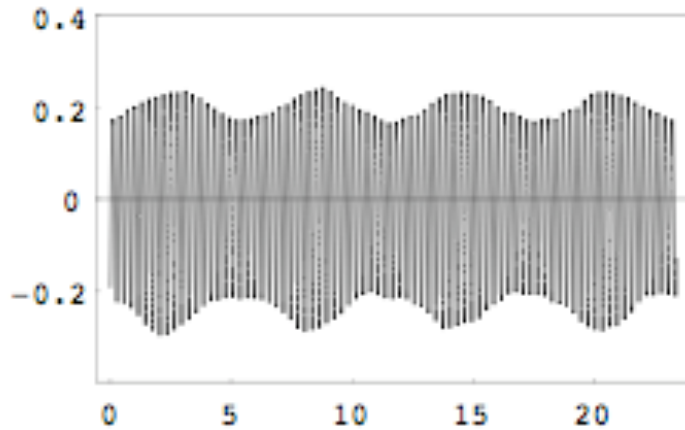
Nonlinear stability is similar, but more complicated

# Experimental verification of theory

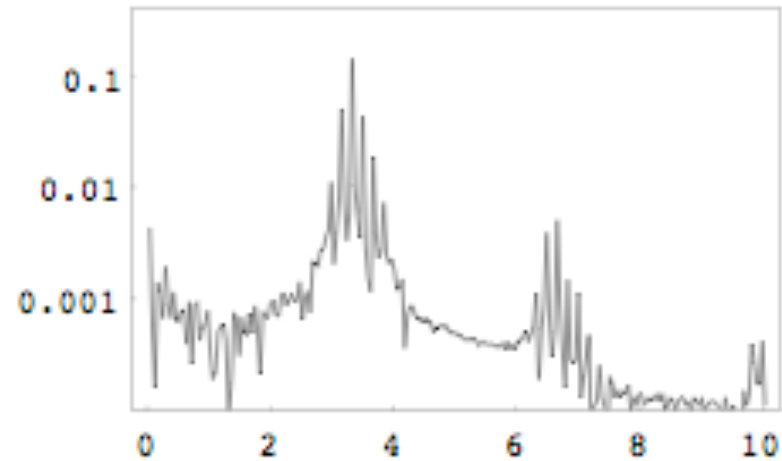
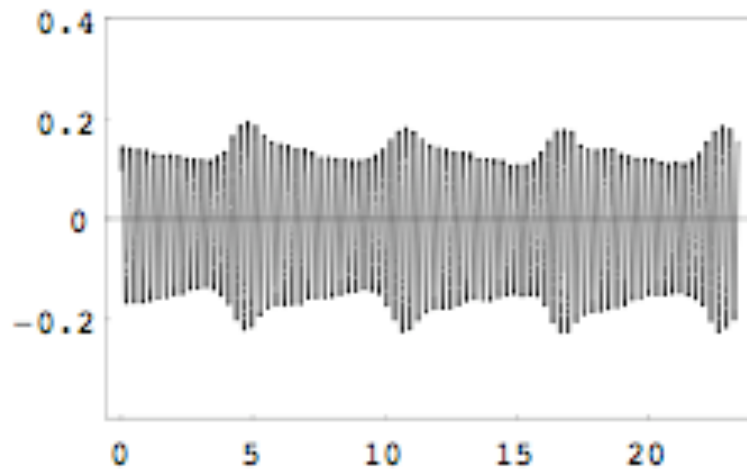


(old) 1-D tank at Penn State

# Experimental wave records

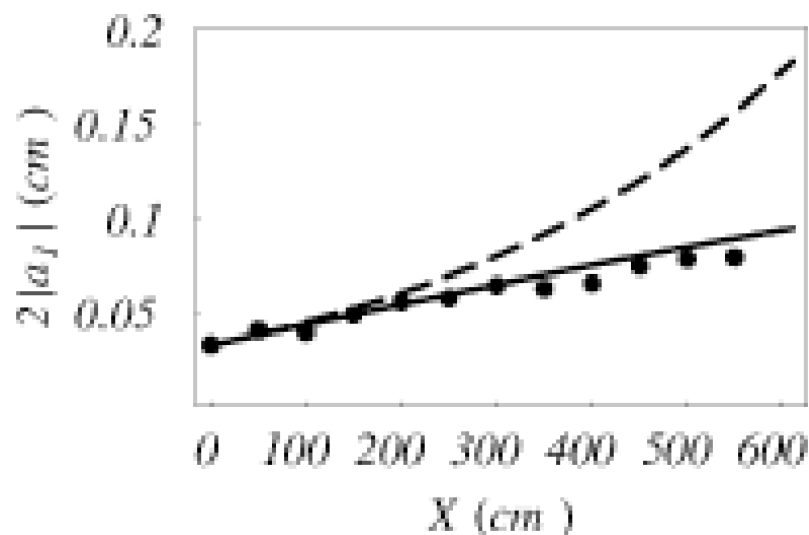
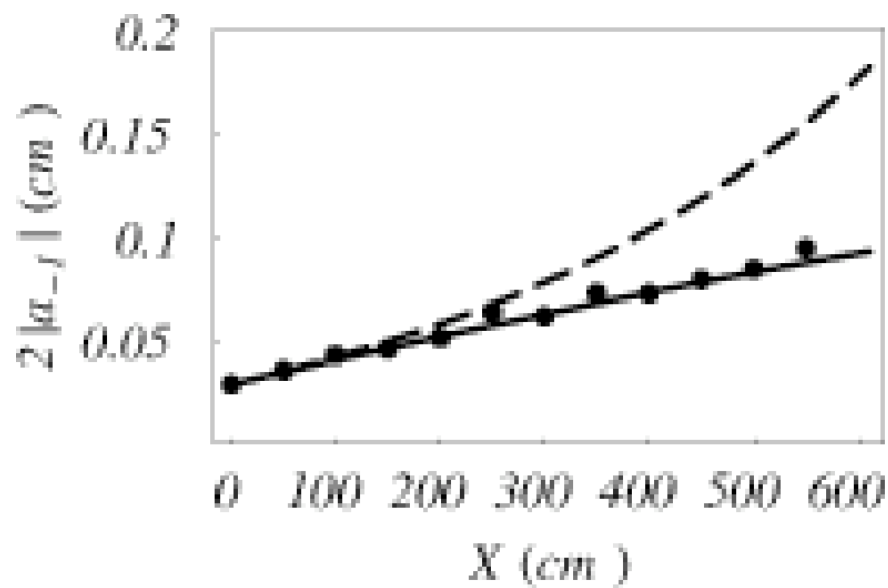


$X_1$



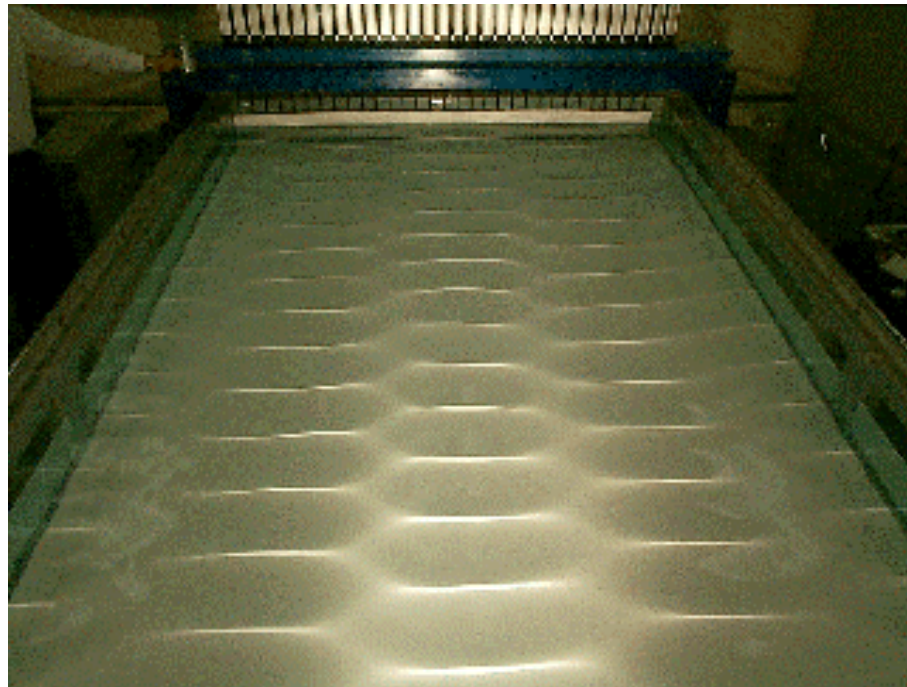
$X_8$

# Amplitudes of seeded sidebands (damping factored out of data)



- damped NLS theory
- - - Benjamin-Feir growth rate
- • • experimental data

Q: Are there stable wave patterns that propagate with permanent form (or nearly so) on deep water?



A: YES, in the presence of (weak) damping  
Apparently NO, with no damping

Q: Stable wave patterns that propagate with nearly permanent form on deep water?

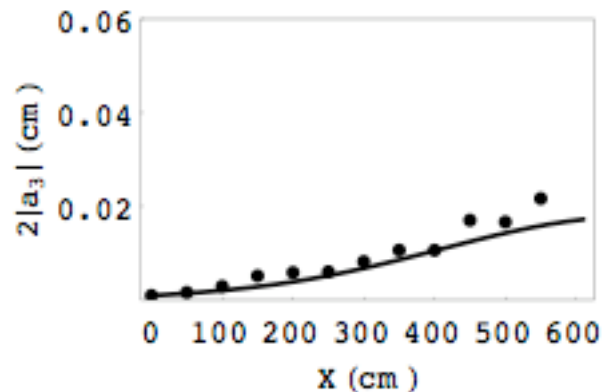
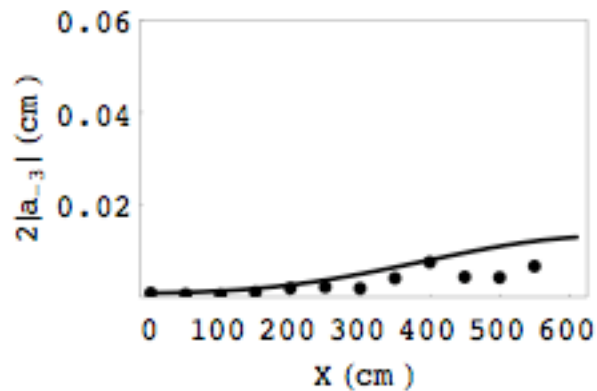
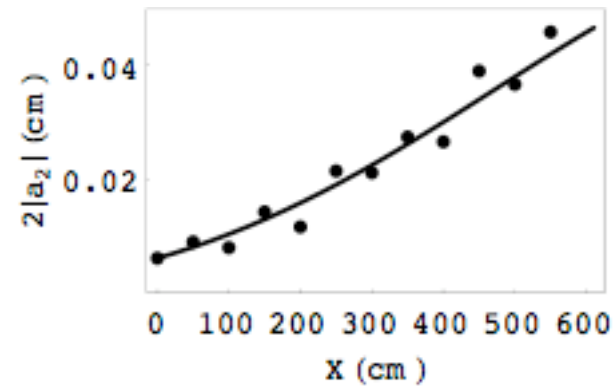
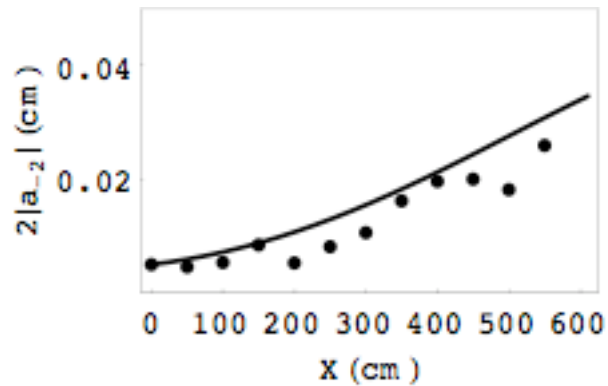
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Apparently NO, with no damping

Q: Is this the final chapter of this story?

A: Almost certainly not.

- Downshifting is still unexplained. Its physical importance is largely unexplored.
- More surprises?

# Amplitudes of unseeded sidebands (damping factored out of data)



           damped NLS theory  
• • • experimental data

# Numerical simulations of full water wave equations, plus damping

Wu, Liu & Yue  
2006

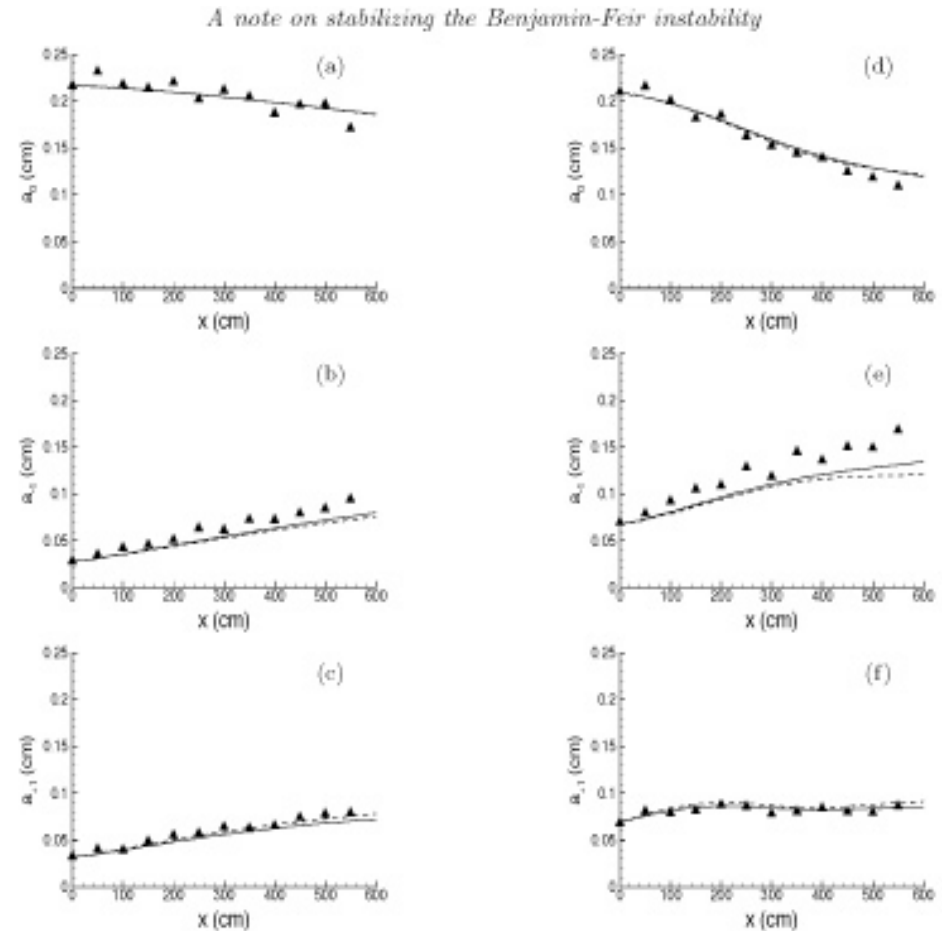


FIGURE 1. Comparisons of the HOS simulations (Model I: - - -; Model II: —) with the experiments of BF ( $\blacktriangle$ ) for wave amplitudes in the decaying frame. (a), (d): carrier wave  $a_0$ ; (b), (e): lower sideband  $a_{-1}$ ; and (c), (f): upper sideband  $a_{+1}$ ; as functions of distance from the wavemaker for the evolution of small-amplitude ((a), (b), (c)) and large-amplitude ((d), (e), (f)) wave trains. ( $x=0$  is 128 cm from the wavemaker.)