

Super compact equation for water waves

A. I. Dyachenko^{1,2,†}, D. I. Kachulin² and V. E. Zakharov^{1,2,3,4,5}

¹Landau Institute for Theoretical Physics, 142432, Chernogolovka, Russia

²Novosibirsk State University, 630090, Novosibirsk-90, Russia

³Department of Mathematics, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 857201, USA

⁴Physical Institute of RAS, Leninskiy prospekt, 53, Moscow, 119991, Russia

⁵Space Research Institute of RAS, 84/32 Profsoyuznaya Str, Moscow, 117997, Russia

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Mathematicians and physicists have long been interested in the subject of water waves. The problems formulated in this subject can be considered fundamental, but many questions remain unanswered. For instance, a satisfactory analytic theory of such a common and important phenomenon as wave breaking has yet to be developed. Our knowledge of the formation of rogue waves is also fairly poor despite the many efforts devoted to this subject. One of the most important tasks of the theory of water waves is the construction of simplified mathematical models that are applicable to the description of these complex events under the assumption of weak nonlinearity. The Zakharov equation, as well as the nonlinear Schrödinger equation (NLSE) and the Dysthe equation (which are actually its simplifications), are among them. In this article, we derive a new modification of the Zakharov equation based on the assumption of unidirectionality (the assumption that all waves propagate in the same direction). To derive the new equation, we use the Hamiltonian form of the Euler equation for an ideal fluid and perform a very specific canonical transformation. This transformation is possible due to the ‘miraculous’ cancellation of the non-trivial four-wave resonant interaction in the one-dimensional wave field. The obtained equation is remarkably simple. We call the equation the ‘super compact water wave equation’. This equation includes a nonlinear wave term (à la NLSE) together with an advection term that can describe the initial stage of wave breaking. The NLSE and the Dysthe equations (Dysthe *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A*, vol. 369, 1979, pp. 105–114) can be easily derived from the super compact equation. This equation is also suitable for analytical studies as well as for numerical simulation. Moreover, this equation also allows one to derive a spatial version of the water wave equation that describes experiments in flumes and canals.

Key words: Hamiltonian theory, surface gravity waves, wave breaking

1. Introduction

A potential flow of an ideal incompressible fluid with a free surface in a gravity field is described (Zakharov 1968) by the following Hamiltonian system:

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{\delta H}{\delta \eta}, \quad \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} = \frac{\delta H}{\delta \psi}. \quad (1.1a,b)$$

† Email address for correspondence: alex@itp.ac.ru

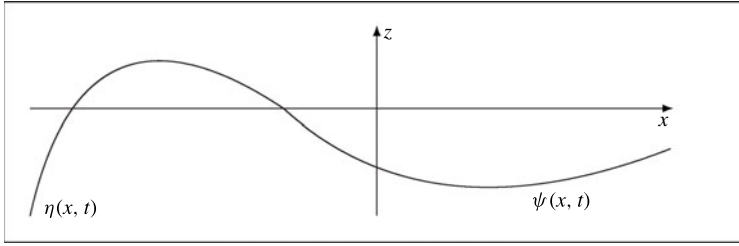


FIGURE 1. One-dimensional surface profile and velocity potential.

Hereafter, we study only the case of one horizontal direction: unidirectional waves. Now,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \eta &= \eta(x, t) - \text{shape of the surface,} \\ \psi &= \psi(x, t) = \phi(x, \eta(x, t), t) - \text{potential on the surface,} \\ &\quad \phi(x, z, t) - \text{potential inside the fluid.} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (1.2)$$

The Hamiltonian H is

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \int dx \int_{-\infty}^{\eta} |\nabla\phi|^2 dz + \frac{g}{2} \int \eta^2 dx. \quad (1.3)$$

The potential $\phi(x, z, t)$ satisfies the Laplace equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial z^2} = 0, \quad (1.4)$$

with the asymptotic boundary conditions:

$$\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{at } z \rightarrow -\infty. \quad (1.5)$$

If the steepness of the surface is small, $|\eta_x| \ll 1$, the Hamiltonian can be represented by the infinite series

$$\left. \begin{aligned} H &= H_2 + H_3 + H_4 + \dots, \\ H_2 &= \frac{1}{2} \int (g\eta^2 + \psi \hat{k} \psi) dx, \\ H_3 &= -\frac{1}{2} \int \{(\hat{k}\psi)^2 - (\psi_x)^2\} \eta dx, \\ H_4 &= \frac{1}{2} \int \{\psi_{xx} \eta^2 \hat{k} \psi + \psi \hat{k} (\eta \hat{k} \psi)\} dx, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (1.6)$$

where $\hat{k}\psi$ means multiplication by $|k|$ in k -space ($\hat{k} = \sqrt{-\partial^2/\partial x^2}$).

Equations (1.1), although truncated according to (1.6), even for the full three-dimensional (3-D) case, can be efficiently used for numerical simulations of water wave dynamics (see, for instance, (Korotkevich *et al.* 2008)). However, they are not convenient for analytic study because $\eta(x, t)$ and $\psi(x, t)$ are not ‘optimal’ canonical variables. One can choose better Hamiltonian variables by performing a

proper canonical transformation. This transformation can be achieved in two steps. In the first step, we eliminate all third-order terms and some fourth-order terms – all so-called ‘non-resonant’ cubic and quartic terms in the Hamiltonian. What we obtain as a result of this transformation is the so-called Zakharov equation, which has been widely used in recent years by many researchers (see, for instance Crawford *et al.* 1980; Debnath 1994) and more recent publications (Annenkov & Shrira 2011, 2013). In the second step, one can ‘improve’ the Zakharov equation by applying an appropriate canonical transformation to simplify the only remaining resonant fourth-order term. This ‘improvement’ is possible due to a very special property of the quartic Hamiltonian in the Zakharov equation, specifically, an unexpected cancellation (Dyachenko & Zakharov 1994) of non-trivial four-wave interactions. This cancellation only occurs in the one-dimensional case and makes it possible to replace the ‘generic’ Zakharov equation by a substantially more suitable ‘compact equation’, (Dyachenko & Zakharov 2012), which was intensively used as a base for both numerical simulations (Fedele & Dutykh 2012a,b; Dyachenko, Kachulin & Zakharov 2013a, 2014; Fedele 2014a,b; Dyachenko, Kachulin & Zakharov 2015a,b, 2016) and an analytical proof of the non-integrability of the Zakharov equation (Dyachenko, Kachulin & Zakharov 2013b).

In this paper, we analysed this second step in the canonical transformation, which is not a unique procedure. One can accomplish this in many different ways, thereby obtaining different forms of the compact equation. Here, we present the most optimal (in our opinion) version of the compact equation, which we call ‘the super compact equation’ for water waves. In addition, we present some preliminary results of the numerical simulations of the super compact equation.

It should be mentioned that this new equation enables a remarkably straightforward derivation of the spatial version of the equation. The spatial compact equation solves the Cauchy problem in space and is an exceptionally convenient tool for comparison of the theory and experimental study in laboratory flumes for nonlinear gravity waves (Dyachenko & Zakharov 2016).

2. The Zakharov equation

For a detailed derivation of the Zakharov equation, see references Zakharov (1968), Krasitskii (1990), Zakharov, Lvov & Falkovich (1992). A brief outline starting with the Hamiltonian (1.6) is given as follows:

(i) We introduce complex normal variables a_k :

$$\eta_k = \sqrt{\frac{\omega_k}{2g}}(a_k + a_{-k}^*), \quad \psi_k = -i\sqrt{\frac{g}{2\omega_k}}(a_k - a_{-k}^*). \tag{2.1a,b}$$

Here, $\omega_k = \sqrt{g|k|}$ is the dispersion law for the gravity waves, g is the gravitational acceleration constant and the Fourier transformations $\psi(x) \rightarrow \psi_k$ and $\eta(x) \rightarrow \eta_k$ are defined as follows:

$$f_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int f(x)e^{-ikx} dx, \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int f_k e^{+ikx} dk. \tag{2.2a,b}$$

In the new variables a_k , the Hamiltonian takes the following form:

$$\left. \begin{aligned}
 H_2 &= \int \omega_k a_k a_k^* dk, \\
 H_3 &= \int V_{k_1 k_2}^k \{a_k^* a_{k_1} a_{k_2} + a_k a_{k_1}^* a_{k_2}^*\} \delta_{k-k_1-k_2} dk dk_1 dk_2 \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{3} \int U_{kk_1 k_2} \{a_k a_{k_1} a_{k_2} + a_k^* a_{k_1}^* a_{k_2}^*\} \delta_{k+k_1+k_2} dk dk_1 dk_2, \\
 H_4 &= \frac{1}{2} \int W_{k_1 k_2}^{k_3 k_4} a_{k_1}^* a_{k_2}^* a_{k_3} a_{k_4} \delta_{k_1+k_2-k_3-k_4} dk_1 dk_2 dk_3 dk_4 \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{3} \int G_{k_1 k_2 k_3}^{k_4} (a_{k_1}^* a_{k_2}^* a_{k_3}^* a_{k_4} + \text{c.c.}) \delta_{k_1+k_2+k_3-k_4} dk_1 dk_2 dk_3 dk_4 \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{12} \int R_{k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4} (a_{k_1}^* a_{k_2}^* a_{k_3}^* a_{k_4}^* + \text{c.c.}) \delta_{k_1+k_2+k_3+k_4} dk_1 dk_2 dk_3 dk_4.
 \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{2.3}$$

For our purposes, the exact expressions for the coefficients V , U , W , G and R of the Hamiltonian are unimportant. Nevertheless, a careful reader can find them in Zakharov (1998, 1999), Dyachenko *et al.* (2015b).

The equations of motion (1.1) now yield the following:

$$\frac{\partial a_k}{\partial t} + i \frac{\delta H}{\delta a_k^*} = 0. \tag{2.4}$$

- (ii) In the variables a_k , the Hamiltonian contains non-resonant three-wave interactions, and hence, the variables are still suboptimal. We introduce yet another set of variables b_k by another canonical transformation $a_k \rightarrow b_k$ to cancel all the non-resonant cubic and quartic terms in the new Hamiltonian. An efficient way to construct this transformation was offered in Zakharov *et al.* (1992) and can be written as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_k &= b_k + \int [2\tilde{V}_{kk_2}^{k_1} b_{k_1} b_{k_2}^* \delta_{k_1-k-k_2} - \tilde{V}_{k_1 k_2}^k b_{k_1} b_{k_2} \delta_{k-k_1-k_2} - \tilde{U}_{kk_1 k_2} b_{k_1}^* b_{k_2}^* \delta_{k+k_1+k_2}] dk_1 dk_2 \\
 &\quad + \int [A_{k_1 k_2 k_3}^k b_{k_1} b_{k_2} b_{k_3} + A_{k_2 k_3}^{kk_1} b_{k_1}^* b_{k_2}^* b_{k_3} + A_{k_3}^{kk_1 k_2} b_{k_1}^* b_{k_2}^* b_{k_3} + A^{kk_1 k_2 k_3} b_{k_1}^* b_{k_2}^* b_{k_3}^*] \\
 &\quad \times dk_1 dk_2 dk_3,
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

where the exact expressions for the coefficients of the transformation (2.5) can be found in Dyachenko *et al.* (2015b). The resulting Hamiltonian after the transformation yields

$$H = \int \omega_k b_k b_k^* dk + \frac{1}{2} \int T_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3} b_k^* b_{k_1}^* b_{k_2} b_{k_3} \delta_{k+k_1-k_2-k_3} dk dk_1 dk_2 dk_3 + \tilde{H}, \tag{2.6}$$

where \tilde{H} is an infinite series in b_k , b_k^* starting from the fifth-order terms. The explicit (and cumbersome) expression for $T_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3}$ can be found in (Zakharov 1968, 1998, 1999). The motion equation

$$\frac{\partial b_k}{\partial t} + i \frac{\delta H}{\delta b_k^*} = 0, \tag{2.7}$$

(neglecting \tilde{H}) is the traditional Zakharov equation.

3. Canonical transformation for the Zakharov equation

A possibility for further simplification of (2.7) is based on the following remarkable fact, established in Dyachenko & Zakharov (1994). Let us consider the resonance conditions for the four-wave interactions:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} k + k_1 &= k_2 + k_3, \\ \omega_k + \omega_{k_1} &= \omega_{k_2} + \omega_{k_3}. \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{3.1}$$

In the 1-D case, all solutions of this system of (3.1) can be divided into two parts – so-called ‘trivial’ and ‘non-trivial’ parts. The ‘non-trivial’ solution can be solved as follows:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} k &= a(1 + \zeta)^2, \\ k_1 &= a(1 + \zeta)^2 \zeta^2, \\ k_2 &= -a\zeta^2, \\ k_3 &= a(1 + \zeta + \zeta^2)^2 \quad \text{here } 0 < \zeta < 1. \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{3.2}$$

Notice the product $kk_1k_2k_3 < 0$. Now,

$$T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} = F(a, \zeta) = a^3 f(\zeta). \tag{3.3}$$

Direct calculation shows that for the ‘non-trivial’ resonance (3.2),

$$f(\zeta) \equiv 0. \tag{3.4}$$

This fact means that ‘non-trivial’ four-wave resonances are absent!

Moreover, $T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} \equiv 0$ if the product $kk_1k_2k_3 \leq 0$. In addition, it has a very simple form:

$$T_{k_2k_3}^{kk_1} = \theta(kk_1k_2k_3) \frac{(kk_1k_2k_3)^{1/2}}{4\pi} \left[\left(\frac{\omega\omega_1}{\omega_2\omega_3} \right)^{1/2} + \left(\frac{\omega_2\omega_3}{\omega\omega_1} \right)^{1/2} \right] \min(k, k_1, k_2, k_3) \tag{3.5}$$

min(k, k_1, k_2, k_3) is minimum of (k, k_1, k_2, k_3).

Here, $\theta(k)$ is the step function

$$\theta(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \leq 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } x > 0. \end{cases} \tag{3.6}$$

Obviously, for positive k_i with resonant condition

$$k + k_1 = k_2 + k_3, \tag{3.7}$$

$$\min(k, k_1, k_2, k_3) = \frac{1}{4}(k + k_1 + k_2 + k_3 - |k - k_2| - |k - k_3| - |k_1 - k_2| - |k_1 - k_3|). \tag{3.8}$$

This means that a system initially consisting of unidirectional waves retains this property for all times. Indeed, a wave with negative k can appear only from the following equation with all positive k on the right-hand side:

$$i \frac{\partial b_k}{\partial t} = \omega_k b_k + \int T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} b_{k_1}^* b_{k_2} b_{k_3} \delta_{k+k_1-k_2-k_3} dk_1 dk_2 dk_3. \tag{3.9}$$

However, $T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ for such a selection of k is identically zero.

Now, one can see that the Zakharov equation is a compact equation but it can be further ‘improved’. In other words, the coefficient (3.5) can be simplified even further.

The system (3.1) also has the following ‘trivial’ solution:

$$k_2 = k_1, \quad k_3 = k, \quad \text{or} \quad k_2 = k, \quad k_3 = k_1. \tag{3.10a-d}$$

We introduce T_{kk_1} (diagonal part) as the value of the four-wave coefficient on the trivial manifold (3.10). This was calculated in Zakharov (1968) and is equal to

$$T_{kk_1} = T_{kk_1}^{kk_1} = \frac{1}{4\pi} |k| |k_1| (|k + k_1| - |k - k_1|) = \frac{1}{2\pi} |k| |k_1| \min(|k|, |k_1|). \tag{3.11}$$

Let us introduce $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3}$ as follows:

$$\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3} = \theta(kk_1 k_2 k_3) \left[\frac{1}{2} (T_{kk_2} + T_{kk_3} + T_{k_1 k_2} + T_{k_1 k_3}) - \frac{1}{4} (T_{kk} + T_{k_1 k_1} + T_{k_2 k_2} + T_{k_3 k_3}) \right]. \tag{3.12}$$

A canonical transformation of the second step replaces Zakharov’s $T_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3}$ from (2.6) with the simpler $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3}$ while keeping their diagonal part the same.

The simple method to construct the canonical transformation is based on the fact that a Hamiltonian system (with variable $\tilde{c}_k(t)$) is invariant under translation in time and that the transformation $\tilde{c}_k(0) \rightarrow \tilde{c}_k(\tau)$ is canonical. Let us construct this transformation (as a power series) using an auxiliary Hamiltonian $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ (starting from the quartic term) of the form:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = \frac{1}{2} \int \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3} \tilde{c}_k^* \tilde{c}_{k_1}^* \tilde{c}_{k_2} \tilde{c}_{k_3} \delta_{k+k_1-k_2-k_3} dk dk_1 dk_2 dk_3 + \dots, \tag{3.13}$$

where the symmetry relations

$$\tilde{\mathbf{B}}_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3} = \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_{k_1 k}^{k_2 k_3} = \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_{kk_1}^{k_3 k_2} = (\tilde{\mathbf{B}}_{k_2 k_3}^{kk_1})^* \tag{3.14}$$

are necessary to obtain a real-valued $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$. Using a Taylor series, we can express the old canonical $b_k(\tau) = \tilde{c}_k(\tau)$ in terms of $\tilde{c}_k(0)$:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \tilde{c}_k(\tau) &= \tilde{c}_k(0) + \tau \left. \frac{\partial \tilde{c}_k(\tau)}{\partial \tau} \right|_{\tau=0} + \dots, \\ \left. \frac{\partial \tilde{c}_k(\tau)}{\partial \tau} \right|_{\tau=0} &= -i \left. \frac{\delta \tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\tilde{c}_k(\tau), \tilde{c}_k^*(\tau))}{\delta \tilde{c}_k^*(\tau)} \right|_{\tau=0}, \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{3.15}$$

and

$$b_k = \tilde{c}_k - i \int \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3} \tilde{c}_{k_1}^* \tilde{c}_{k_2} \tilde{c}_{k_3} \delta_{k+k_1-k_2-k_3} dk_1 dk_2 dk_3 + \dots \tag{3.16}$$

is a canonical transformation. Now, we plug this transformation into the Hamiltonian (2.6) of the Zakharov equation and obtain the new Hamiltonian:

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \int \omega_k \tilde{c}_k \tilde{c}_k^* dk + \frac{1}{2} \int \left[T_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3} - i(\omega_k + \omega_{k_1} - \omega_{k_2} - \omega_{k_3}) \tilde{\mathbf{B}}_{kk_1}^{k_2 k_3} \right] \\ &\quad \times \tilde{c}_k^* \tilde{c}_{k_1}^* \tilde{c}_{k_2} \tilde{c}_{k_3} \delta_{k+k_1-k_2-k_3} dk dk_1 dk_2 dk_3 + \dots \end{aligned} \tag{3.17}$$

The coefficient $\tilde{B}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ of the auxiliary Hamiltonian is the same as the coefficient of the canonical transformation. It controls the four-wave coefficient $T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ in the Hamiltonian of the Zakharov equation (3.17). To replace Zakharov's $T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ by the simpler $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$, the coefficient $\tilde{B}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ has to be equal to

$$\tilde{B}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} = i \frac{\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} - T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}}{\omega_k + \omega_{k_1} - \omega_{k_2} - \omega_{k_3}}. \tag{3.18}$$

One can check that $\tilde{B}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ has no singularities at $k + k_1 = k_2 + k_3$. Indeed, in the region where the product $kk_1k_2k_3 \leq 0$, the singularities are cancelled by virtue of the identity (3.4). In the region where the product $kk_1k_2k_3 > 0$, the singularities are cancelled due to the special choice of $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$. The exact expression for $\tilde{B}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ was published in Dyachenko, Lvov & Zakharov (1995). This leads to the derivation of the ‘compact water wave equation’ (not yet the super compact).

Due to the absence of non-trivial resonances, waves moving in the same direction do not generate waves moving in the opposite direction, and hence, we can assume without loss of generality that for all wavenumbers $k_i > 0$, this leads to the following simplification:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} = & \left[-\frac{1}{8\pi} (kk_2|k - k_2| + kk_3|k - k_3| + k_1k_2|k_1 - k_2| + k_1k_3|k_1 - k_3|) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{8\pi} (kk_1(k + k_1) + k_2k_3(k_2 + k_3)) \right] \theta(k)\theta(k_1)\theta(k_2)\theta(k_3). \end{aligned} \tag{3.19}$$

Returning from the Fourier space, we can write the following compact expression for the Hamiltonian in x -space:

$$H = \int \tilde{c}^* \hat{\omega} \tilde{c} \, dx + \frac{1}{2} \int \left| \frac{\partial \tilde{c}}{\partial x} \right|^2 \left[\frac{i}{2} \left(\tilde{c} \frac{\partial \tilde{c}^*}{\partial x} - \tilde{c}^* \frac{\partial \tilde{c}}{\partial x} \right) - \hat{k} |\tilde{c}|^2 \right] \, dx, \tag{3.20}$$

where $\hat{\omega}$ denotes multiplication by $\sqrt{g|k|}$ in Fourier space. The compact equation, with Hamiltonian (3.20), was used for the numerical simulations in Dyachenko & Zakharov (2012), Fedele & Dutykh (2012a,b).

4. Super compact equation

Note that the choice of (3.12) is not unique for introducing the new Hamiltonian. The conditions imposed on $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ are rather loose:

- (i) the symmetry conditions require that

$$\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} = \tilde{T}_{k_1k}^{k_2k_3} = \tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_3k_2} = \tilde{T}_{k_2k_3}^{kk_1}; \tag{4.1}$$

- (ii) the diagonal part must be strictly defined as

$$\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} = T_{kk_1} = \frac{1}{4\pi} |k||k_1| (|k + k_1| - |k - k_1|) = \frac{1}{2\pi} |k||k_1| \min(|k|, |k_1|). \tag{4.2}$$

The symmetry conditions suggest that $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ may be invariant under permutations of all k_i . Let us choose $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ as follows:

$$\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} = \frac{(kk_1k_2k_3)^{1/2}}{2\pi} \min(k, k_1, k_2, k_3) \theta_k \theta_{k_1} \theta_{k_2} \theta_{k_3},$$

θ_k is the step function, $\theta_k = \theta(k)$

(4.3)

and $\min(k, k_1, k_2, k_3)$ is defined in (3.5) and (3.8). We substitute the new $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ (4.3) into the coefficient $\tilde{B}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ (3.18) and apply the canonical transformation (3.16). After that transformation, the functions \tilde{c}_k satisfy the following equation:

$$i\dot{\tilde{c}}_k = \frac{\delta H}{\delta \tilde{c}_k^*} = \omega_k \tilde{c}_k + \frac{k^{1/2} \theta_k}{2\pi} \times \int \min(k, k_1, k_2, k_3) (k_1^{1/2} \theta_{k_1} \tilde{c}_{k_1}^*) (k_2^{1/2} \theta_{k_2} \tilde{c}_{k_2}) (k_3^{1/2} \theta_{k_3} \tilde{c}_{k_3}) \delta_{k+k_1-k_2-k_3} dk_1 dk_2 dk_3. \tag{4.4}$$

It is convenient to introduce a new Hamiltonian variable:

$$c_k = k^{1/2} \theta_k \tilde{c}_k. \tag{4.5}$$

c_k is the Fourier transform of a function analytic in the upper complex half-plane. Note, the nonlinear term in (4.4) preserves the analyticity property. Multiplying (4.4) by $ik^{1/2}$ and using the definition of c_k (4.5) results in

$$\dot{c}_k + ik\theta_k \left[\frac{\omega_k}{k} c_k + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \min(k, k_1, k_2, k_3) c_{k_1}^* c_{k_2} c_{k_3} \delta_{k+k_1-k_2-k_3} dk_1 dk_2 dk_3 \right] = 0 \tag{4.6}$$

which is exactly the super compact equation written in k -space.

The expression in square brackets of (4.6) is the variational derivative of the following Hamiltonian:

$$H = \int \frac{\omega_k}{k} |c_k|^2 dk + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \min(k, k_1, k_2, k_3) c_k^* c_{k_1}^* c_{k_2} c_{k_3} \delta_{k+k_1-k_2-k_3} dk dk_1 dk_2 dk_3. \tag{4.7}$$

Using the following relations between k -space and x -space,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} kc_k^* &\Leftrightarrow i \frac{\partial}{\partial x} c^*(x), & kc_k &\Leftrightarrow -i \frac{\partial}{\partial x} c(x), \\ |k - k_2| c_k^* c_{k_2} &\Leftrightarrow \hat{k}(|c(x)|^2), & (k + k_1) c_k c_{k_1} &\Leftrightarrow -i \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (c(x)^2), \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{4.8}$$

and definition of $\min(k, k_1, k_2, k_3)$ (3.8), the new Hamiltonian, whose fourth order is defined by the new coefficient $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ (4.3) can be written in x -space:

$$H = \int c^* \hat{V} c dx + \frac{1}{2} \int \left[\frac{i}{4} \left(c^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} c^{*2} - c^{*2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} c^2 \right) - |c|^2 \hat{k}(|c|^2) \right] dx. \tag{4.9}$$

Here, the operator \hat{V} is in k -space so that $V_k = \omega_k/k$. If one also introduces a bracket similar to the Gardner–Zakharov–Faddeev one (see Zakharov & Faddeev 1971), then

$$\partial_x^+ \Leftrightarrow ik\theta_k. \tag{4.10}$$

Then, the equation of motion is the following:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + \partial_x^+ \frac{\delta H}{\delta c^*} = 0. \tag{4.11}$$

We introduce the advection velocity

$$\mathcal{U} = \hat{k}|c|^2, \tag{4.12}$$

and taking a variational derivative, one can write (4.11) in the following form:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + i\hat{\omega}c - i\partial_x^+ \left(|c|^2 \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \right) = \partial_x^+ (\mathcal{U}c). \tag{4.13}$$

Note that $|c|^2$ has dimensions of potential. One can recognize two terms in the equation:

- (i) nonlinear wave term: $i\hat{\omega}c - i\partial_x^+ (|c|^2(\partial c/\partial x))$;
- (ii) advection term: $\partial_x^+ (\mathcal{U}c)$.

Along with the usual quantities, such as energy and both momenta, equation (4.13) conserves the action, or the number of waves:

$$N = \int_0^\infty \frac{|c_k|^2}{k} dk. \tag{4.14}$$

Equation (4.13) has an exact self-similar solution:

$$c(x, t) = g(t_0 - t)^{3/2} C \left(\frac{x}{g(t_0 - t)^2} \right). \tag{4.15}$$

It is easy to check that $C(\xi)$ satisfies the following condition:

$$\frac{3}{2}C - 2\xi \frac{\partial C}{\partial \xi} + i\hat{K}^{1/2}C - i \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \left(|C|^2 \frac{\partial C}{\partial \xi} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} ((\hat{K}|C|^2)C), \tag{4.16}$$

where $C(\xi)$ is a dimensionless function that is analytic in the upper half-plane and \hat{K} is a dimensionless operator.

In k -space, this solution (according to (4.6)) has the following form:

$$c(k, t) = g^2(t_0 - t)^{7/2} F(gk(t_0 - t)^2).$$

It is easy to check that the dimensionless function $F(\xi)$ satisfies the following equation:

$$\frac{7}{2}F + 2\xi \frac{\partial F}{\partial \xi} = i\xi^{1/2}F + \frac{i\xi}{2\pi} \int \min(\xi, \xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3) F^*(\xi_1) F(\xi_2) F(\xi_3) \delta_{\xi+\xi_1-\xi_2-\xi_3} d\xi_1 d\xi_2 d\xi_3. \tag{4.17}$$

This equation may have a solution with singularities, but this has not been studied yet.

5. Back to η and ψ

The physical variables, η_k and ψ_k , are hidden in the normal complex variable c_k and must be recovered. This is necessary when comparing the theory with experiment.

According to canonical transformation (2.5), η_k and ψ_k are power series of b_k . On the other hand, using (3.16), the definition of $\tilde{B}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ (3.18) with $\tilde{T}_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ (4.3) and relation (4.5), can be easily written as power series of c_k . The accuracy of the super compact equation provides power series up the third order:

$$\eta_k = \eta_k^{(1)} + \eta_k^{(2)} + \eta_k^{(3)}, \quad \psi_k = \psi_k^{(1)} + \psi_k^{(2)} + \psi_k^{(3)}. \tag{5.1a,b}$$

The details on recovering the physical quantities $\eta(x, t)$ and $\psi(x, t)$ are given in Dyachenko *et al.* (2015b). Here, we present only the linear and second-order terms. All of these terms can be written in k -space in a compact form. This is an important property that allows one to recover physical values without multidimensional integrals.

$$\eta^{(1)}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}g^{1/4}}(\hat{k}^{-1/4}c(x) + \hat{k}^{-1/4}c(x)^*), \quad \psi^{(1)}(x) = -i\frac{g^{1/4}}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{k}^{-3/4}c(x) - \hat{k}^{-3/4}c(x)^*). \tag{5.2a,b}$$

The operators \hat{k}^α act in the Fourier space as multiplication by $|k|^\alpha$.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \eta^{(2)}(x) &= \frac{\hat{k}}{4\sqrt{g}}[\hat{k}^{-1/4}c(x) - \hat{k}^{-1/4}c(x)^*]^2, \\ \psi^{(2)}(x) &= \frac{i}{2}[\hat{k}^{-1/4}c(x)^*\hat{k}^{1/4}c(x)^* - \hat{k}^{-1/4}c(x)\hat{k}^{1/4}c(x)] + \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}\hat{H}[\hat{k}^{-1/4}c(x)\hat{k}^{1/4}c(x)^* + \hat{k}^{-1/4}c(x)^*\hat{k}^{1/4}c(x)]. \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{5.3}$$

Here, \hat{H} is the Hilbert transformation with eigenvalue $i \operatorname{sign}(k)$.

This accuracy (second-order power series) is sufficient to compare numerical data with the data in a flume.

6. Numerical simulation

6.1. Breather

The super compact equation (4.13) has a localized breather-type solution:

$$c(x, t) = C(x - \mathcal{V}t)e^{i(k_0x - \omega_0t)} \quad \text{or} \quad c_k(t) = e^{i(\Omega + \mathcal{V}k)t} \phi_k \tag{6.1a,b}$$

where ϕ_k satisfies the following equation:

$$(\Omega + \mathcal{V}k - \omega_k)\phi_k = \frac{1}{2} \int T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} \phi_{k_1}^* \phi_{k_2} \phi_{k_3} \delta_{k+k_1-k_2-k_3} dk_1 dk_2 dk_3. \tag{6.2}$$

Here, \mathcal{V} is the group velocity and k_0 and ω_0 are the wavenumber and frequency of the carrier wave, respectively. Ω is close to $\omega_0/2$. This solution can be found numerically by the Petviashvili method (see Petviashvili 1976). A uniform grid is introduced in the

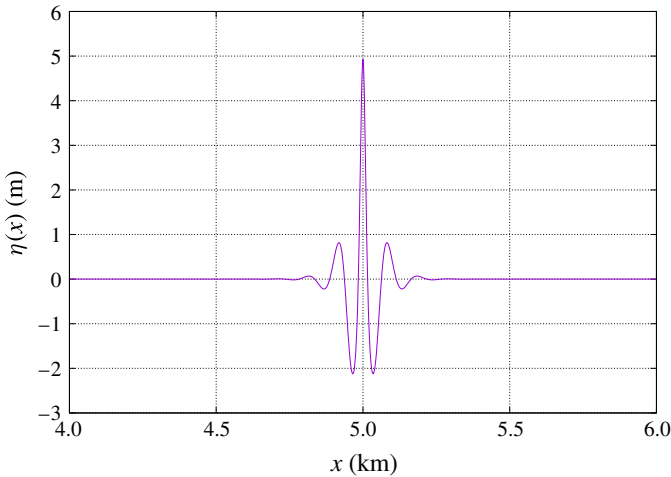


FIGURE 2. (Colour online) Narrow breather with three crests. Free surface profile.

periodic domain $x \in [0, L]$. Therefore, the wavenumbers k become discrete, with a step size of $\Delta k = 2\pi/L$, and all integrals over k transform to sums over k .

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \phi_k^{n+1} &= \frac{NL_k^n}{M_k} \left[\frac{\sum_{k'} (\phi_{k'}^n NL_{k'}^n)}{\sum_{k'} (\phi_{k'}^n M_{k'} \phi_{k'}^n)} \right]^{-3/2}, & M_k &= \Omega + \mathcal{V}k - \omega_k, \\ NL^n &= -\frac{\partial^+}{\partial x} \left(|\phi^n|^2 \frac{\partial \phi^n}{\partial x} \right) + i \frac{\partial^+}{\partial x} (\hat{k}(|\phi^n|^2) \phi^n). \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (6.3)$$

Here, n is the number of iterations. $C(x - \mathcal{V}t)$ has an obvious association with a soliton for the nonlinear Schrödinger equation.

A free surface profile of the breather solution of this equation in the periodic domain $L = 10$ km with $k_0 = (2\pi/L)100$ is shown in figure 2. The gravity acceleration $g = 9.81 \text{ m s}^{-2}$. A breather is a very stable structure. A collision of two breathers moving with different velocities (or with $k_0 = (2\pi/L)100$ and $k_0 = (2\pi/L)200$) is shown in figure 3. An animation of this collision can be viewed in supplementary movie 1, available at <https://doi.org/10.1017/jfm.2017.529>.

6.2. Modulational instability

A freak wave appearing from a slowly modulated Stokes wave of small amplitude ($\eta \simeq \eta_0 \cos(k_0 x - \omega_{k_0} t)$), with $k_0 = (2\pi/L)100$ and $\eta_0 \simeq 1.35$ m, is shown in figure 4.

One can see the beginning of the wave breaking in figure 5: the wave is going to break to the right (the right slope of the wave is steeper than the left slope).

The animation of a typical freak wave arising can be found in supplementary movies 2 and 3.

The analytical study of the small-scale instabilities by the ‘frozen coefficient’ method allows one to conclude that the Cauchy problem for the super compact equation is a well-posed problem.

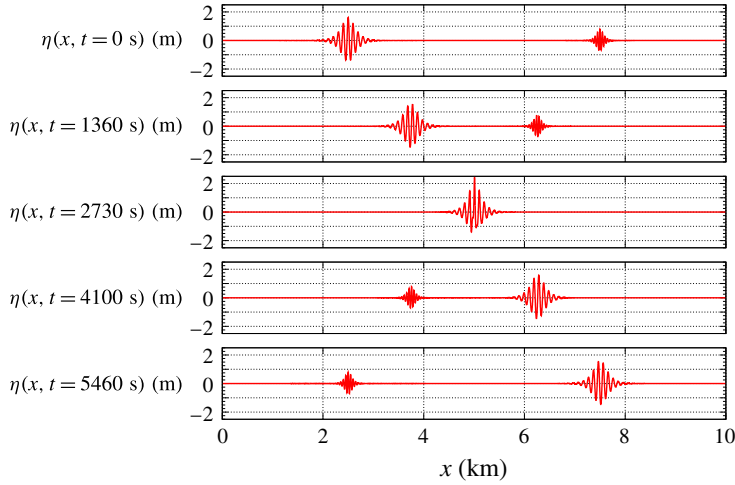


FIGURE 3. (Colour online) Snapshots of breathers collision.

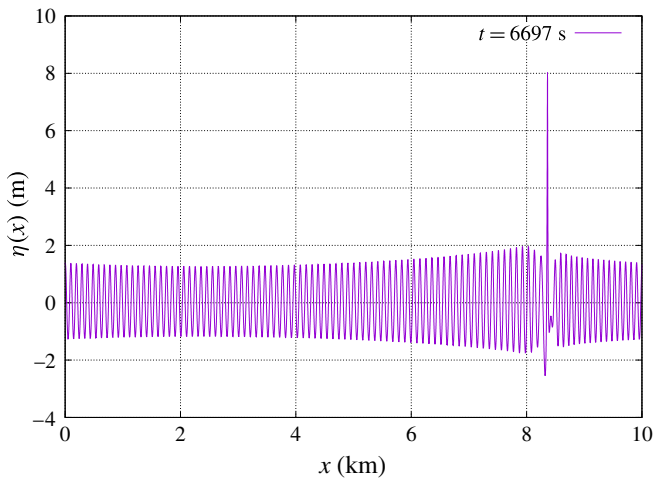


FIGURE 4. (Colour online) Amplitude of freak wave in the periodic domain $L = 10$ km.

7. Spatial compact equation

The simplicity of the super compact equation enables an easy derivation of the spatial version of the equation. The details of this derivation can be found in Dyachenko & Zakharov (2016). The idea of the derivation is based on the fact that the Fourier image (after transforming equation (4.13) in both space and time) $c_{k\omega}$ is supported on the shadowed area in the vicinity of the dispersion curve, as shown in figure 6. Note that for unidirectional waves, both k and ω are positive. This equation (after multiplying by $(\omega + \sqrt{gk})$) looks like the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\omega^2 - gk)c_{k\omega} = & \frac{(\omega + \omega_k)k\theta_k}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{k_i, \omega_i > 0} T_{k_2 k_3}^{k k_1} c_{k_1 \omega_1}^* c_{k_2 \omega_2} c_{k_3 \omega_3} \\
 & \times \delta_{k+k_1-k_2-k_3} \delta_{\omega+\omega_1-\omega_2-\omega_3} dk_1 dk_2 dk_3 d\omega_1 d\omega_2 d\omega_3.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{7.1}$$

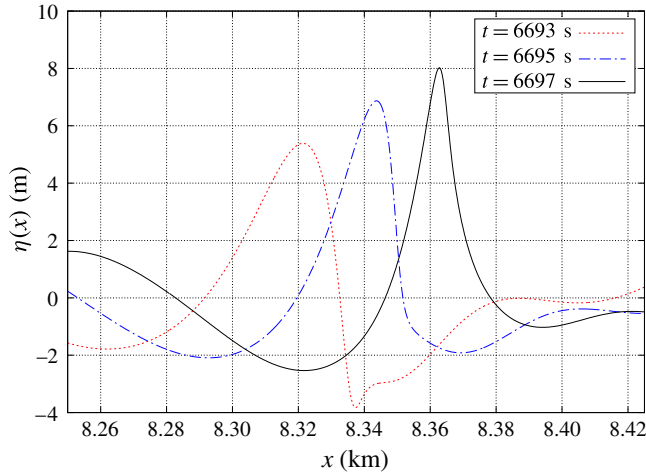


FIGURE 5. (Colour online) Three snapshots showing the beginning of the wave breaking (zoomed near $x = 8.34$ km).

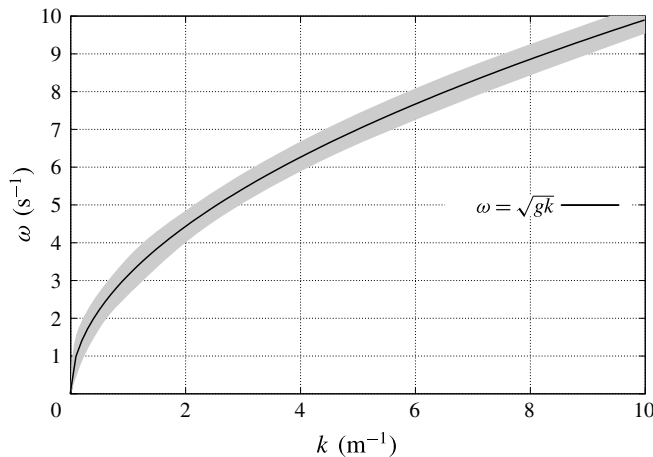


FIGURE 6. Domain (grey) in k - ω space where all waves evolve.

For all $c_{k_i\omega_i}$, the following relations for their arguments are valid:

$$\omega_i = \sqrt{gk_i} + \tilde{\omega}_{nl}. \tag{7.2}$$

Here, $\tilde{\omega}_{nl}$ is a nonlinear frequency shift, which can be estimated from (7.1) as

$$\tilde{\omega}_{nl} \sim |c|^2. \tag{7.3}$$

Then, one can replace $T_{k_2k_3}^{kk_1}$ in $T_{\omega_2^2\omega_3^2}^{\omega^2\omega_1^2}$ and drop all the terms with $\tilde{\omega}_{nl}$. After performing the backward Fourier transformation in k -space, the following equation is derived:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial c_\omega}{\partial x} - i\frac{\omega^2}{g}c_\omega &= -\frac{2\omega^3\theta_\omega}{g^3} \frac{i}{2\pi} \int T_{\omega_2^2\omega_3^2}^{\omega^2\omega_1^2} c_{\omega_1}^* c_{\omega_2} c_{\omega_3} \delta_{\omega+\omega_1-\omega_2-\omega_3} d\omega_1 d\omega_2 d\omega_3, \\ T_{\omega_2^2\omega_3^2}^{\omega^2\omega_1^2} &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \theta_\omega \theta_{\omega_1} \theta_{\omega_2} \theta_{\omega_3} \min(\omega^2, \omega_1^2, \omega_2^2, \omega_3^2). \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{7.4}$$

This is the Hamiltonian spatial equation for water waves with the Hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{1}{g} \int \frac{1}{\omega} |c_\omega|^2 d\omega - \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{g^3} \int T_{\omega_2^2 \omega_3^2}^{\omega^2 \omega_1^2} c_\omega^* c_{\omega_1}^* c_{\omega_2} c_{\omega_3} \delta_{\omega+\omega_1-\omega_2-\omega_3} d\omega d\omega_1 d\omega_2 d\omega_3. \tag{7.5}$$

The equation of motion $(\partial/\partial x)c_\omega = i\omega^3\theta_\omega(\delta H/\delta c_\omega^*)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial c}{\partial x} + \frac{i}{g} \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial t^2} = & \frac{\hat{P}^-}{2g^3} \frac{\partial^3}{\partial t^3} \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} (|c|^2 c) + 2|c|^2 \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial t^2} + c^2 \frac{\partial^2 c^*}{\partial t^2} \right] \\ & + \frac{i\hat{P}^-}{g^3} \frac{\partial^3}{\partial t^3} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (c\hat{\omega}|c|^2) + \frac{\partial c}{\partial t} \hat{\omega}|c|^2 + c\hat{\omega} \left(c^* \frac{\partial c}{\partial t} - c \frac{\partial c^*}{\partial t} \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{7.6}$$

The operator \hat{P}^- is the projection operator:

$$\hat{P}^- = \frac{1}{2}(1 - i\hat{H}), \text{ here, } \hat{H} \text{ is the Hilbert transformation,} \tag{7.7}$$

and it is equal to θ_ω in Fourier space.

An analytical study of the small-scale instabilities by the ‘frozen coefficient’ method also allows one to conclude that the Cauchy problem for the compact spatial equation is a well-posed problem (although it includes a fifth derivative).

8. Some numerics for spatial equation

8.1. Breather

A breather is the localized solution of a spatial equation of the following type:

$$c(x, t) = C \left(t - \frac{x}{\mathcal{V}} \right) e^{i(k_0 x - \omega_0 t)}. \tag{8.1}$$

Fourier transforming over time, one can obtain:

$$c_\omega(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int C \left(t - \frac{x}{\mathcal{V}} \right) e^{ik_0 x - i(\omega_0 - \omega)t} dt = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int C(\xi) e^{-i(\omega_0 - \omega)\xi} e^{ik_0 x - i(\omega_0 - \omega)x/\mathcal{V}} d\xi, \tag{8.2}$$

or

$$c_\omega(x) = \phi_\omega e^{i(\mathcal{K} + \omega/\mathcal{V})x}. \tag{8.3}$$

Here, $\mathcal{K} = k_0 - (\omega_0/\mathcal{V})$ is close to $-\omega_0^2/g$ and ϕ_ω satisfies the following equation:

$$\left(\mathcal{K} + \frac{\omega}{\mathcal{V}} - \frac{\omega^2}{g} \right) \phi_\omega = -\frac{2\omega^3\theta_\omega}{g^3} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int T_{\omega_2^2 \omega_3^2}^{\omega^2 \omega_1^2} \phi_{\omega_1}^* \phi_{\omega_2} \phi_{\omega_3} \delta_{\omega+\omega_1-\omega_2-\omega_3} d\omega_1 d\omega_2 d\omega_3. \tag{8.4}$$

This can be found by use of the iterative Petviashvili method (n is the number of iterations). A uniform grid is introduced in the periodic domain $t \in [0, T]$. Therefore, the frequencies ω become discrete, with a step size of $\Delta\omega = 2\pi/T$, and all integrals

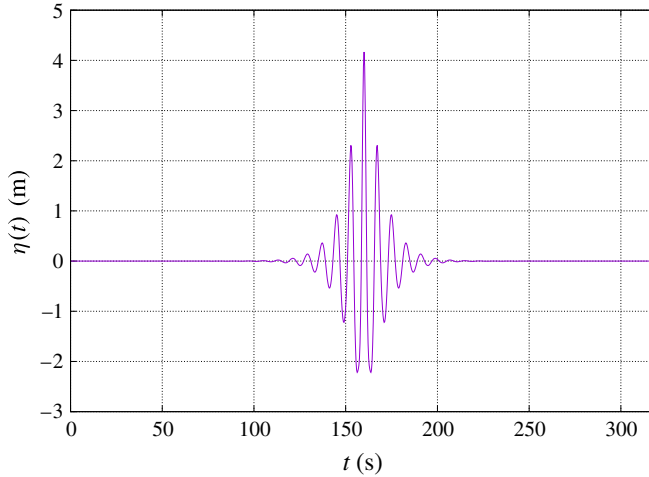


FIGURE 7. (Colour online) Breather solution. Free surface profile.

over ω transform to sums over ω .

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \phi_{\omega}^{n+1} &= \frac{NL_{\omega}^n}{M_{\omega}} \left[\frac{\sum_{\omega'} (\phi_{\omega'}^n NL_{\omega'}^n)}{\sum_{\omega'} (\phi_{\omega'}^n M_{\omega'} \phi_{\omega'}^n)} \right]^{-3/2}, & M_{\omega} &= \mathcal{K} + \frac{\omega}{\mathcal{V}} - \frac{\omega^2}{g}, \\ NL^n &= \frac{-i\hat{P}^-}{2g^3} \frac{\partial^3}{\partial t^3} \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} (|\phi^n|^2 \phi^n) + 2|\phi^n|^2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi^n}{\partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi^{n*}}{\partial t^2} \phi^{n2} \right] \\ &+ \frac{\hat{P}^-}{g^3} \frac{\partial^3}{\partial t^3} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\phi^n \hat{\omega} |\phi^n|^2) + \frac{\partial \phi^n}{\partial t} \hat{\omega} |\phi^n|^2 + \phi^n \hat{\omega} \left(\frac{\partial \phi^n}{\partial t} \phi^{n*} - \phi^n \frac{\partial \phi^{n*}}{\partial t} \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (8.5)$$

A free surface profile of the breather solution of this equation, in the periodic domain $T = 320$ s, with $\omega_0 = 0.78$ (s⁻¹) and $\mathcal{K} = -6.428 \times 10^{-2}$, is shown in figure 7. The Fourier harmonics ($|c_{\omega}|$) of the breather solution in a logarithmic scale are shown in figure 8.

An animation of breather generation in a ‘digital’ flume can be found in supplementary movie 4.

8.2. Modulational instability

In the spatial equation, modulational instability of a monochromatic wave also occurs. The monochromatic wave

$$c(x, t) = c_0 e^{ik_0 x - i\omega_0 t}, \quad \text{or} \quad c(x, \omega) = \sqrt{2\pi} c_0 e^{ik_0 x} \delta(\omega - \omega_0) \quad (8.6a, b)$$

is the simplest solution of (7.6) and (7.4). Substituting (8.6) into (7.4) yields the following relation:

$$k_0 = \frac{\omega_0^2}{g} - \frac{2\omega_0^5}{g^3} |c_0|^2, \quad (8.7)$$

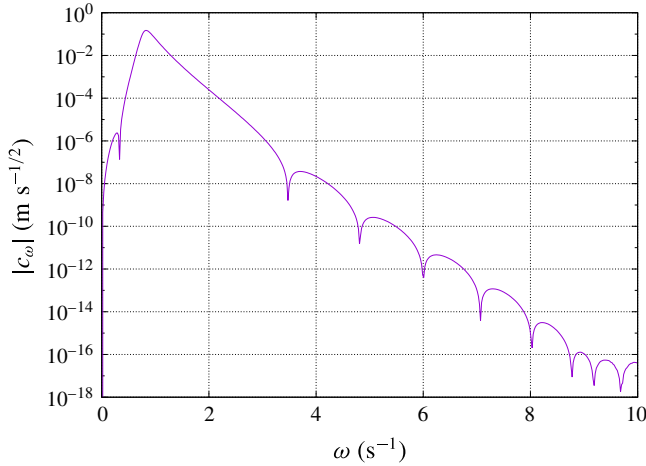


FIGURE 8. (Colour online) The Fourier harmonics ($|c_\omega|$) of the breather solution.

$(-2\omega_0^5/g^3|c_0|^2$ could be called a ‘nonlinear wavelength shift’). The perturbed solution has the following form:

$$c(x, \omega) = \sqrt{2\pi} \left(c_0\delta(\omega - \omega_0) + c_+(x)\delta(\omega - \omega_+)e^{ik_+x} + c_-(x)\delta(\omega - \omega_-)e^{ik_-x} \right) e^{ik_0x}. \quad (8.8)$$

Here, $\omega_\pm = \omega_0 \pm \omega$ and $k_+ = -k_-$ with the following condition:

$$|c_+|, |c_-| \ll |c_0|. \quad (8.9)$$

Substituting (8.8) into (7.4), one can obtain the sum of two independent equations:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\frac{\partial c_+}{\partial x} + i(k_0 + k_+)c_+ - \frac{i}{g}\omega_+^2 c_+ + \frac{4i\omega_+^3}{g^3} T_{\omega_+^2 \omega_0^2}^{\omega_+^2 \omega_0^2} |c_0|^2 c_+ + \frac{2i\omega_+^3}{g^3} T_{\omega_0^2 \omega_0^2}^{\omega_+^2 \omega_0^2} c_0^2 c_+^* \right] e^{ik_+x} \\ & + \left[\frac{\partial c_-}{\partial x} + i(k_0 + k_-)c_- - \frac{i}{g}\omega_-^2 c_- + \frac{4i\omega_-^3}{g^3} T_{\omega_-^2 \omega_0^2}^{\omega_-^2 \omega_0^2} |c_0|^2 c_- + \frac{2i\omega_-^3}{g^3} T_{\omega_0^2 \omega_0^2}^{\omega_-^2 \omega_0^2} c_0^2 c_-^* \right] e^{ik_-x} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (8.10)$$

Expressions for $T_{\omega_+^2 \omega_0^2}^{\omega_+^2 \omega_0^2}$, $T_{\omega_0^2 \omega_0^2}^{\omega_+^2 \omega_0^2}$ and $T_{\omega_-^2 \omega_0^2}^{\omega_-^2 \omega_0^2}$ can be easily obtained from (4.3). Suppose that c_\pm grow according to

$$c_\pm \Rightarrow c_\pm e^{\gamma\omega x}. \quad (8.11)$$

Then, we can obtain the formula for γ_ω given by a tenth-degree polynomial. By introducing steepness for the monochromatic wave $\eta(x) = \eta_0 \cos k_0x$ as $\mu = \eta_0 k_0$, one can easily find (see § 5) that in terms of $c(x) = c_0 e^{ik_0x}$,

$$\mu = \frac{\sqrt{2}|c_0|\omega_0^{3/2}}{g}. \quad (8.12)$$

The growth rate squared $\gamma^2(\omega)$ for $\omega_0 = 0.78$ (s^{-1}), and the steepness of the carrier wave $\mu = 0.1$ is shown in figure 9. Perturbations whose frequencies ω are such that $\gamma^2(\omega) > 0$ are unstable, and they grow as $c_\pm \sim e^{\gamma(\omega)x}$. Perturbations whose frequencies ω are such that $\gamma^2(\omega) < 0$ are stable; therefore, they only change phase $c_\pm \sim e^{i\sqrt{-\gamma^2(\omega)x}}$.

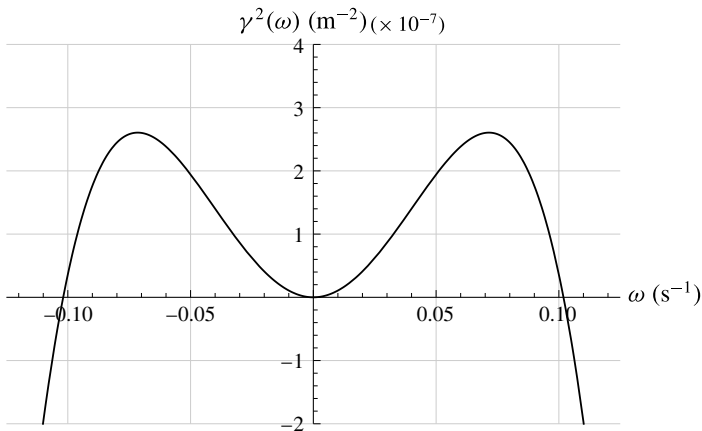


FIGURE 9. The growth rate squared $\gamma^2(\omega)$ of the perturbation c_{\pm} of the monochromatic wave solution of the spatial equation (7.4). Here, $\omega_0 = 0.78 \text{ (s}^{-1}\text{)}$ and the steepness of the carrier wave $\mu \approx 0.1$.

9. Conclusion

We derived and discussed a new compact and elegant form of the Hamiltonian and equation for the gravity waves at the surface of deep water. Starting with the classical canonical variables (η_k, ψ_k) , the equation was derived in four steps.

First, the normal complex variable a_k was introduced in § 2. Second, a canonical transformation was applied to eliminate the non-resonant terms (third and fourth order) in the Hamiltonian. As the result, we obtained the Zakharov equation and observed that the four-wave coefficient has a remarkable property in the 1-D case:

$$T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3} \equiv 0 \quad \text{if the product } kk_1k_2k_3 \leq 0. \tag{9.1}$$

The fact that $T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ is zero on the resonant manifold is just part of the above. Third, this property allowed us to simplify $T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ by applying another canonical transformation. As a result, the compact equation with an explicit form for $T_{kk_1}^{k_2k_3}$ in x -space was derived (see (3.20)).

Fourth, we derived probably the simplest form of the Hamiltonian and equation for 1-D water waves, where the order of the differential equation was reduced from 3 to 2. We call this the super compact equation.

The equation allows one to obtain a spatial version of the water wave equation that is suitable for the simulation of a laboratory experiment whereby the free surface is governed by wavemakers. Cauchy problems for both temporal and spatial equations are well-posed problems.

Thus,

- (i) the Hamiltonian of the super compact equation, in both k -space (4.7) and x -space (4.9), is very simple;
- (ii) the equation itself is very straightforward, consisting of only two terms - nonlinear waves and advection;
- (iii) advection is obviously responsible for wave breaking and the super compact equation can describe the pre-breaking wave; and
- (iv) it can be easily implemented for numerical simulations.

The equation can be generalized for ‘almost’ 2-D waves, just as the Korteweg–de Vries equation is generalized to the Kadomtsev–Petviashvili equation:

$$H = \int c^* \hat{V} c \, dx \, dy + \frac{1}{2} \int \left[\frac{i}{4} \left(c^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} c^{*2} - c^{*2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} c^2 \right) - |c|^2 \hat{k}_x (|c|^2) \right] dx \, dy. \quad (9.2)$$

Here, the operator \hat{V} in k -space is $V_k = \omega_k/k_x$.

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Supplementary movies

Supplementary movies are available at <https://doi.org/10.1017/jfm.2017.529>.

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