Contents

Preface to the English edition vii

Preface ix

1 Considerations involving model equations 1

1.1 Theory of overtaking waves 1
1.2 Physical examples 8
1.3 The limit of weak dissipation and shock waves 14

2 Wave equations 23

2.1 Linear wave equations and the method of characteristics 23
2.2 Hydrodynamics 32
2.3 Nonlinear hyperbolic equations—multi-component systems and characteristic curves 41
2.4 Shock waves in gas dynamics 55
2.5 Extension to the multi-dimensional case 72

3 Asymptotic methods 89

3.1 Far fields for hyperbolic equations 89
3.2 Dissipative systems 95
3.3 Weakly dispersive systems 99
3.4 The reductive perturbation method for long waves and its extension 107
3.5 A far field for linear wave modulation—the Schrödinger field 114
3.6 Strongly dispersive systems 116
3.7 Self-focusing of waves 130
3.8 Three-wave interaction 133
3.9 Self-induced transparency and the Sine–Gordon equation 151

4 The inverse scattering method for the initial value problem for a nonlinear evolution equation 159

4.1 The inverse scattering method for the Korteweg–de Vries equation 159
4.2 The conservation laws and the canonical form of the KdV equation 180
4.3 Periodic solutions and lattice dynamics 188
4.4 The theory of the Lax pair 197
4.5 Application of the inverse scattering method to the nonlinear Schrödinger equation 200
4.6 The Sine–Gordon equation and the Bäcklund transformation 211
4.7 Bäcklund transformation and the inverse scattering method 223
4.8 Hirota's method 231

Appendix Two-fluid model of a plasma (electron fluid and ion fluid) 242

Bibliography 245

Index 251