



# Contents

<b>Introduction . . . . .</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Chapter 1</b>	
The History of the Soliton . . . . .	1
1a. John Scott Russell's discovery . . . . .	1
1b. Fermi–Pasta–Ulam . . . . .	3
1c. Kruskal, Zabusky and discovery of the soliton . . . . .	5
1d. The conservation laws and the Miura transformation . . . . .	9
1e. The inverse scattering transform . . . . .	11
1f. The Lax equation . . . . .	15
1g. Simultaneous developments in nonlinear optics and Bäcklund transformations . . . . .	16
1h. Soliton factories and later developments of the 1970's . . . . .	18
1i. Soliton miracles and the need for a unifying point of view . . . . .	19
<b>Chapter 2</b>	
Derivation of the Korteweg–deVries, Nonlinear Schrödinger and Other Important and Canonical Equations of Mathematical Physics . . . . .	23
2a. An outline of what we are going to do . . . . .	23
2b. Small amplitude, long waves in a channel of slowly changing depth. Equations of the KdV type . . . . .	25
Exercises	32
2c. The nonlinear Schrödinger and other envelope equations . . . . .	32
Exercises	38
2d. The Benjamin–Feir instability . . . . .	43
Exercise	47
2e. Whitham theory . . . . .	48
Exercise	57
2f. Other canonical equations	57
<b>Chapter 3</b>	
Soliton Equation Families and Solution Methods . . . . .	61
3a. Introduction . . . . .	61
3b. The Korteweg–deVries equation family . . . . .	61
Exercises	65
3c. The AKNS hierarchy and its properties. . . . .	67
Exercises	70

3d. The direct transform for the Schrödinger equation, or scattering on the infinite line . . . . .	72
Exercises	77
3e. The inverse transform	78
3f. Time evolution of the scattering data and the effects of small variations in the potentials . . . . .	83
3g. Perturbation theory. Solitary waves in channels of slowly changing depth	87
Exercises . . . . .	97
3h. Multisoliton, rational and finite gap solutions	98

**Chapter 4**

The $\tau$ -Function, the Hirota Method, the Painlevé Property and Bäcklund Transformations for the Korteweg–deVries Family of Soliton Equations	113
4a. Introduction . . . . .	113
4b. The $\tau$ -function . . . . .	113
4c. Symmetries, conservation laws and constants of the motion . . . . .	117
4d. The Hirota story . . . . .	120
4e. The Painlevé property . . . . .	129
4f. Bäcklund transformations . . . . .	134
4g. The appearance of a Kac–Moody algebra . . . . .	140

**Chapter 5**

Connecting Links Among the Miracles of Soliton Mathematics . . . . .	145
5a. Overview . . . . .	145
5b. The Wahlquist–Estabrook approach . . . . .	150
Exercise	159
5c. Lax equations associated with $\widetilde{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$	159
Exercises	165
5d. Conservation laws, fluxes, potentials and the Hirota equations	169
Exercise	173
5e. The eigenvalue problem, asymptotic expansions and vertex operators	173
Exercise	177
5f. Iso-spectral, iso-Riemann surfaces and iso-monodromic deformations	181
5g. Gauge and Bäcklund transformations . . . . .	191
5h. The notion of grading . . . . .	206
5i. A second Hamiltonian structure . . . . .	209
5j. Inverse scattering and the Riemann–Hilbert problem, algebraic style	210
Exercises	222
5k. The “sine-Gordon” flows . . . . .	223
Exercises . . . . .	225
5l. The extension of $\widetilde{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ to $\hat{A}_1^{(1)}$	229
<b>References</b> . . . . .	237

