



SINE–GORDON SOLITONS, KINKS AND BREATHERS AS PHYSICAL MODELS OF NONLINEAR EXCITATIONS IN LIVING CELLULAR STRUCTURES

VLADIMIR G. IVANCEVIC AND TIJANA T. IVANCEVIC

Communicated by Ivaïlo M. Mladenov

Abstract. Nonlinear space-time dynamics, defined in terms of celebrated ‘solitonic’ equations, brings indispensable tools for understanding, prediction and control of complex behaviors in both physical and life sciences. In this paper, we review sine–Gordon solitons, kinks and breathers as models of nonlinear excitations in complex systems in physics and in living cellular structures, both intra–cellular (DNA, protein folding and microtubules) and inter–cellular (neural impulses and muscular contractions).

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Physical Theory of Sine–Gordon Solitons, Kinks and Breathers	3
2.1	Sine–Gordon Equation (SGE)	3
2.2	Momentum and Energy of SGE Solitons	8
2.3	SGE Solutions and Integrability	10
2.3.1.	SGE Solitons, Kinks and Breathers	10
2.3.2.	Lax–Pair and General SGE Integrability	13
2.4	SGE Modifications	16
2.4.1.	SGE with Positive Sine Term	16
2.4.2.	Perturbed SGE and π –Kinks	16
2.4.3.	SGE in (2+1) Dimensions	20
2.4.4.	Two Coupled SGEs	21
2.5	Sine–Gordon Chain and Discrete Breathers	23
2.5.1.	Frenkel–Kontorova Model	23
2.5.2.	Sine–Gordon Chain	23
2.5.3.	Continuum Limits	25
2.5.4.	Discrete Breathers	25
3	Sine–Gordon Solitons, Kinks and Breathers in Living Cellular Structures	27