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# Analysis and comparative study of non-holonomic and quasi-integrable deformations of the nonlinear Schrödinger equation

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**Abstract** The non-holonomic deformation of the nonlinear Schrödinger equation, uniquely obtained from both the Lax pair and Kupershmidt's bi-Hamiltonian (Kupershmidt in *Phys Lett A* 372:2634, 2008) approaches, is compared with the quasi-integrable deformation of the same system (Ferreira et al. in *JHEP* 2012:103, 2012). It is found that these two deformations can locally coincide only when the phase of the corresponding solution is discontinuous in space, following a definite phase-modulus coupling of the non-holonomic inhomogeneity function. These two deformations are further found to be not gauge equivalent in general, following the Lax formalism of the nonlinear Schrödinger equation. However, the localized solutions corresponding to both these cases converge asymptotically as expected. Similar conditional correspondence of non-holonomic deformation with a non-integrable deformation, namely due to locally scaled amplitude

of the solution to the nonlinear Schrödinger equation, is further obtained.

**Keywords** Nonlinear Schrödinger equation · Quasi-integrable deformation · Non-holonomic deformation · Solitons

## 1 Introduction

Integrable partial differential equations appearing in field theory are best studied via the Lax pair method (zero-curvature condition). They are deemed integrable if they contain infinitely many conserved quantities responsible for the stability of the soliton solutions [1]. In particular, these constants of motion uniquely define the dynamics of the system, rendering the corresponding equations to be completely solvable. The nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) equation, in one space and one time (1+1) dimensions, is one such system that further incorporates semi-classical soliton solutions which are physically realizable [2]. These solitons have high degree of symmetry that mandates infinitely many conserved quantities. Such stable solutions of integrable models are subjected to the zero-curvature condition [3–5] involving connections that constitute the Lax pair which linearize the nonlinear system. New classes of such solutions are still being obtained [6, 7].

However, real physical systems do not possess infinite degrees of freedom, and thus, a corresponding field theoretical model cannot be integrable in principle.

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On the other hand, such systems do possess solitonic states very similar to those of integrable models, e.g., sine-Gordon [8]. Although infinite-dimensional models, especially of the NLS type [9, 10], have been successful in explaining real physical dynamics, they all enjoy the luxury of being an infinite limit to the latter. Therefore, the study of continuous physical systems as slightly deformed integrable models makes conceptual sense. Recently, it was shown that the sine-Gordon model can be deformed and following suitable approximation leads to a finite number of conserved quantities [11]. However, a class of deformed defocussing NLS [12] and SG [13] models display an infinite subset of the charges to be conserved, leaving out an infinite number of anomalous charges. In these systems, almost flat connection induces anomaly in the zero-curvature condition, rendering them to be *quasi-integrable*. Exact dark [12] and bright [14] soliton configurations of the quasi-NLS system have very recently been obtained, the latter having infinite towers of *exactly* conserved charges, making it very close to be integrable. Ferreira et al. [15] considered modifications of the NLSE to investigate the concept of quasi-integrability, where they perturbed the NLS potential (nonlinearity) as  $V(|\psi|^2)^{2+\varepsilon}$  by the parameter  $\varepsilon$  to show that such models possess an infinite number of charges which are conserved only asymptotically.

On the other hand, different systems which are completely integrable have been found to be related through certain deformations known as non-holonomic deformations (NHD). As a concrete example of this class of deformation, we momentarily digress to the work of Karasu-Kalkani et al. [16] who demonstrated that the integrable sixth-order KdV equation represented a NHD of the celebrated KdV equation. The equation is given as

$$(\partial_x^3 + 8u_x \partial_x + 4u_{xx})(u_t + u_{xxx} + 6u_x^2) = 0. \tag{1}$$

With the change of variables  $v = u_x$  and  $w = u_t + u_{xxx} + 6u_x^2$ , the above equation can be rewritten as a pair:

$$\begin{aligned} v_t + v_{xxx} + 12vv_x - w_x &= 0 \\ \text{and } w_{xxx} + 8vw_x + 4wv_x &= 0. \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

The authors of [16] obtained the Lax pair as well as an auto-Bäcklund transformation corresponding to Eq. 2 and claimed that these equations were different from a KdV equation having self-consistent sources. They

explored corresponding higher-order symmetries, conserved densities and Hamiltonian formalism. It is a recurring characteristic that the integrability properties of two systems can be completely different even if they are connected through NHD.

The terminology “non-holonomic deformation” was introduced by Kupershmidt [17], who re-scaled  $v$  and  $t$  to modify Eq. 2 as:

$$\begin{aligned} u_t - 6uu_x - u_{xxx} + w_x &= 0 \\ \text{and } w_{xxx} + 4uw_x + 2u_x w &= 0. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

The above pair of equations can now converted into a bi-Hamiltonian system as

$$\begin{aligned} u_t &= B_1 \left( \frac{\delta H_{n+1}}{\delta u} \right) - B_1(w) \\ &= B_2 \left( \frac{\delta H_n}{\delta u} \right) - B_1(w) \quad \text{and } B_2(w) = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

with the Hamiltonian operators,

$$B_1 \equiv \partial \equiv \partial_x \quad \text{and} \quad B_2 \equiv \partial^3 + 2(u\partial + \partial u), \tag{5}$$

where  $H_n$ s denote the conserved densities. First few of the conserved densities for the KdV case are given by  $H_1 = u$ ,  $H_2 = \frac{1}{2}u^2$ ,  $H_3 = u^3 - \frac{1}{2}u_x^2$ , etc., and  $w$  represents the deformation to obtain the sixth-order KdV system. Following Ref. [16], the formalism in Eq. 4 allows for NHD of *any* bi-Hamiltonian system. This understanding is carried forward to the NLS systems, in particular to those which model many well-known physical systems. However, we will further adopt a more convenient approach to obtain the corresponding NHD in the following, though it is to be noted that Kupershmidt’s formulation depicted above sets up the generic integrability structure of this class of deformation.

The NHD for field theoretical integrable models is known to be characterized by constraints in the form of nonlinear differential equation(s) involving *only*  $x$ -derivatives of the perturbing function(s), obtained by deforming the original integrable equation [18]. This type of integrable deformation is relatively new, which also allows to build infinite-dimensional framework of Euler–Poincaré–Suslov theory [19,20]. It is well known that actual physical systems can directly or indirectly be represented by nonlinear equations. For example, the NLS equation itself is the mean-field description of a four-Fermi interaction [21] responsible for phenomena like superconductivity, superfluidity and Bose–Einstein condensation. Further, the

same equation is the continuum representation of the one-dimensional Heisenberg XXX spin system [22] through the Hasimoto map [23]. Such maps further link more generalized systems like one-dimensional inhomogeneous Heisenberg XXX spin system to an integro-differential NLS-type equation [24, 25] which is integrable [26] and can be identified as an NHD of the standard NLS equation [27]. Further, a different NHD of the NLS system can be mapped [27] to quantum vortex filament moving with drag [28, 29]. It is also known that through Bethe ansatz the one-dimensional Heisenberg XXZ spin system can be related to the KdV equation [30]. These are compelling motivations toward the study of non-holonomic deformation of nonlinear equations, especially of the NLS type, as it is highly likely to correlate otherwise completely independent physical systems and thereby to improve their understanding. In all likelihood, recently obtained modified NLS systems as in references [31, 32] could be non-holonomically related to the standard NLS counterpart.

### 1.1 The purpose and structure of the paper

The purpose of the present work is to seek a connection between two different types of deformations explained above, non-holonomic and quasi-integrable, subjected to the NLS system. The demonstration of these two types of deformation for both NLS and derivative NLS (or DNLS) hierarchies was carried out by the present authors [33] wherein the possibility of a connection between the two for Kaup-Newell and other DNLS systems had been inferred. This is of interest owing to the fact that quasi-deformed systems retain integrability in the asymptotic limit, whereas NHD maintains integrability absolutely, albeit constraint at *higher* orders. In the present work, we *compare* these two deformations exclusively for the NLS system, which has a very wide range of application in different branch of mathematics and physics, to obtain a much clearer picture. Even *locally*, the quasi-integrable deformation (QID) could appear as local inhomogeneity of the NLS system, of the same form as in NHD. Therefore, though essentially different, these two deformations can be related under certain conditions. In doing so a clear cut demonstration of the distinction between the two deformations is further expected. It is found that they can indeed

be identified, both locally as the phase of the quasi-deformed solution becomes discontinuous in space, and asymptotically where moduli of the solutions in both cases as well as that of the deformation inhomogeneity become constants as the quasi-deformed system regains integrability. Locally, in general, these two deformations mandate distinct analytic and physical nature with a clear criteria as only one of them is integrable. In addition, the equivalence between the Lax pair and the Kupershmidt ansatz approaches for non-holonomic NLS system is further explicated in the process.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Sect. 2 demonstrates the NHD of the NLS system, by using both the Lax pair approach and the Kupershmidt's bi-Hamiltonian prescription and some further discussions in its successive subsections. Section 3 describes a few types of QIDs of the same system in the defocussing case. Section 4 deals with derivation of explicit condition(s) for correspondence between QID of the defocussing NLS system with the corresponding NHD. We further demonstrate in detail the extent of their general incompatibility. The conditional compatibility of NHD is further seen to extend to local scaling of the NLS amplitude. We conclude in Sect. 5 by pointing out possible outcomes.

## 2 NHD of the NLS equation

It would be pertinent to explain what exactly is meant by the non-holonomic deformation of integrable systems. Perturbation can change the system dynamics and in some systems it disturbs integrability [34, 35]. However, when we consider NHD of an integrable system, the perturbation is such that under suitable differential constraints on the perturbing function, the system maintains its integrability. The constraints are furnished in the form of differential relations which are non-holonomic in nature.

To impose a NHD, one starts with the concerned Lax pair of the system, keeping the space part  $U(\lambda)$  unchanged but modifying the temporal component  $V(\lambda)$ ,  $\lambda$  being the spectral parameter. This implies that the scattering problem remains unchanged, but the time evolution of the spectral data becomes different in the perturbed models. To retain integrability, the non-holonomic constraints have to be affine in velocities prohibiting explicit velocity dependence



after the deformation. This insists on the deformation being exclusive to the temporal Lax component as it is not acted upon by a time derivative to yield the dynamical equation [36]. The explication of this particular point will be provided in the next section by the exclusive time dependence of the parameters when NHD can be identified with QID. Corresponding to these deformed systems, it is possible to generate some kind of twofold integrable hierarchy. One method is to keep the perturbed equations the same but increase the order of the differential constraints in a recursive manner, thus generating a new integrable hierarchy for the deformed system. Alternatively, the constraint itself may be kept fixed at its lowest level, but the order of the original equation may be increased in the usual way, thereby leading to new hierarchies of integrable systems. Indeed, we will demonstrate in the next sections that one can derive the non-holonomic NLS equation in two equivalent methods, using Lax pair representation and the bi-Hamiltonian method, respectively.

The method of adding extra terms in the Lax pair (in this case, the temporal component of the Lax pair) has been adopted in some earlier cases also [37,38] wherein some integrable generalizations of the Toda system generated by flat connection forms taking values in higher  $\mathbb{Z}$ -grading subspaces of a simple Lie algebra were considered. However, in case of the non-holonomic deformation, the additional relations generated due to inclusion of extra terms in the temporal Lax component are treated as differential constraints imposed on the deformed systems and not as equations involving new field variables.

### 2.1 Non-holonomic deformation using Lax method

The spatial and temporal components of the Lax pair for the NLS equation are, respectively, given as

$$\begin{aligned}
 U &= i\lambda\sigma_3 + q\sigma_+ + r\sigma_-, \\
 V_O &= -i\left(\lambda^2 + \frac{1}{2}qr\right)\sigma_3 + \lambda(q\sigma_+ + r\sigma_-) \\
 &\quad + \frac{i}{2}(q_x\sigma_+ - r_x\sigma_-). \tag{6}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then, the paired NLS equation, in terms of both the dynamical variables  $q$  and  $r$ , takes the forms:

$$q_t - \frac{i}{2}q_{xx} + iq^2r = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad r_t + \frac{i}{2}r_{xx} - ir^2q = 0, \tag{7}$$

which can be obtained as consistency equations, by imposing the usual zero-curvature condition:

$$U_t - V_{O,x} + [U, V_O] = 0. \tag{8}$$

The only scale present in the system is the spectral parameter  $\lambda$ , defining the corresponding solution space. In order to deform the temporal component  $V_O$  so that integrability is preserved through the flatness condition (Eq. 8), it is intuitively obvious that the deformation part has to be a function of  $\lambda$ . We consider the following additive deformation term:

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_D &= \frac{i}{2}\lambda^{-1}G^{(1)}, \text{ where,} \\
 G^{(1)} &= a\sigma_3 + g_1\sigma_+ + g_2\sigma_-, \tag{9}
 \end{aligned}$$

so that the resultant overall temporal Lax component takes the form

$$\tilde{V} = V_O + V_D, \tag{10}$$

thereby changing zero-curvature condition to,

$$F_{tx} = U_t - \tilde{V}_x + [U, \tilde{V}] = 0, \tag{11}$$

in order to keep the system integrable. The adopted deformation of Eq. 9 contains only  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-1})$  terms. Deformation terms of  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{n \geq 0})$  only lead to additional perturbed dynamical systems at each order and vanish when the terms are substituted order by order. This is because the NLS equations arise from contributions at  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^0)$  in the flatness condition, and the presence of any higher-order contribution is decoupled from the corresponding dynamics. Therefore, the higher-order deformations end up yielding trivial identities that eventually eliminate all the NLS contributions at  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{n \geq 0})$  which can easily be verified. Hence, the deformation of Eq. 9 can be considered as a general one.

The  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^0)$  terms in the zero-curvature condition lead to the *deformed* pair of the NLS equations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_t - \frac{i}{2}q_{xx} + iq^2r &= -g_1 \\
 \text{and} \quad r_t + \frac{i}{2}r_{xx} - iqr^2 &= g_2. \tag{12}
 \end{aligned}$$

As expected trivially, inhomogeneous terms  $g_{1,2}$  are introduced in the NLS system. Such equations are already known to be integrable, and thus, the primary objective is achieved.

The  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-1})$  sector in the flatness condition, on equating the coefficients of the generators  $\sigma_3, \sigma_+$  and  $\sigma_-$ , yields the constraints:

$$a_x - qg_2 + rg_1 = 0, \quad g_{1x} + 2aq = 0$$

$$\text{and } g_{2x} - 2ar = 0, \tag{13}$$

on the functions  $a, g_1$  and  $g_2$ , respectively. The last two of the above set of three equations can be combined to yield the expression

$$rg_{1x} + qg_{2x} = 0.$$

Again, all these equations can be combined, through mutual substitution, to give rise to the *differential constraint*:

$$\hat{L}(g_1, g_2) = rg_{1xx} + q_x g_{2x} + 2qr(qg_2 - rg_1) = 0, \tag{14}$$

which can be used to eliminate the deforming functions  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  in Eq. 12, to obtain a new higher-order equation as

$$r \left( q_t - \frac{i}{2} q_{xx} + iq^2 r \right)_{xx} = q_x \left( r_t + \frac{i}{2} r_{xx} - iqr^2 \right)_x$$

$$+ 2qr \left[ q \left( r_t + \frac{i}{2} r_{xx} - iqr^2 \right) \right. \\ \left. + r \left( q_t - \frac{i}{2} q_{xx} + iq^2 r \right) \right]. \tag{15}$$

This equation is subjected to the dynamics of Eq. 12 and therefore does not yield any new dynamics. It eventually reflects only the constraint in a different form. This is in accord with the previous argument that no term, with power of  $\lambda$  other than that responsible for yielding Eq. 12, can yield dynamics of the NLS system, as it will violate the overall integrability of the system itself.

The constraint of Eq. 14, characterizing the deformation, is *non-holonomic* in nature as it contains differentials of corresponding variables. Noticeably, such a constraint solely arises from the terms with negative power of the spectral parameter. Further, explicit forms of the local functions  $a, g_1$  and  $g_2$  are not necessary to establish the integrability, and they represent a class that satisfies the constraint in Eq. 14. In other words, constraints arise from  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-1})$  contributions that *additionally* restrict the allowed values of  $q$  and  $r$  of the

deformed dynamics at  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^0)$ . The former is necessary for integrability, while the latter ensures that any solution of Eq. 12 is valid for Eq. 15. For the defocussing case  $r = q^*$ , which is of main interest in the present comparative study with QID, Eqs. 13, 14 and 15 exactly reduce to those found for NH NLS system in Ref. [39] where the exact solution was constructed in a phenomenological way. Therein, a further demonstration of *twofold integrable hierarchy* using the constraint Eq. 13 in defocussing case was performed, including a higher-order NLS equation with constrained perturbation. This is discussed in a general framework considering the  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-1})$  perturbation below. The other hierarchy appears as the tri-Hamiltonian formulation of self-induced transparency equations [40] with explicit integrability and isospectral flows, thereby establishing the same for the NLS counterpart. This is rather a special case of NHD where the flows regarding deformed equation and constraints do commute, unlike the general scenario where they do not, as demonstrated for the KdV6 system [17]. The non-holonomic deformation of DNLS equation for controlling the optical soliton in doped fiber media was discussed in Ref. [41], while the role of self-induced transparency of solitons in erbium-doped fiber waveguide is dealt with in Ref. [42]. The coexistence of two different types of solitons, *viz.* the self-induced transparency soliton and the nonlinear Schrodinger one, is examined in Ref. [43].

### 2.2 Non-holonomic deformation via bi-Hamiltonian method

We now apply the ansatz due to Kupershmidt [17] to derive the non-holonomic deformed NLS equations as well as the constraints on the deforming variables themselves. The NLS equations are written, after slight rescaling of the variables to resemble Kupershmidt's definitions, as:

$$q_t = q_{xx} - 2q^2 r,$$

$$\text{and } r_t = -r_{xx} + 2r^2 q.$$

The bi-Hamiltonian structures of the pair of NLS equations are given as:

$$B^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$B^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2q\partial_x^{-1}q & \partial_x - 2q\partial_x^{-1}r \\ \partial_x - 2r\partial_x^{-1}q & 2r\partial_x^{-1}r \end{pmatrix}, \tag{16}$$

and the corresponding conserved densities are:

$$H^1 = q_x r_x + q^2 r^2 \quad \text{and} \quad H^2 = q_x r. \tag{17}$$

Introducing  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  as the deforming variables and following the Kupershmidt ansatz, the pair of NLS equations under non-holonomic deformation can be written in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} q \\ r \end{pmatrix}_t &= B^1 \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\delta}{\delta q} \\ \frac{\delta}{\delta r} \end{pmatrix} H^1 - B^1 \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= B^2 \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\delta}{\delta q} \\ \frac{\delta}{\delta r} \end{pmatrix} H^2 - B^1 \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

leading to the final forms:

$$q_t = q_{xx} - 2q^2 r + w_2 \quad \text{and} \quad r_t = -r_{xx} + 2qr^2 - w_1. \tag{19}$$

The constraint conditions on the deforming variables  $w_{1,2}$ , which can easily be identified with  $g_{1,2}$  of the previous subsection, are obtained in the integro-differential form by setting

$$B^2 \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} = 0, \tag{20}$$

that leads to the conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} w_{1x} + 2r \partial_x^{-1} (r w_2 - q w_1) &= 0 \\ \text{and} \quad w_{2x} + 2q \partial_x^{-1} (q w_1 - r w_2) &= 0. \end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

On multiplying first of the above equations by  $q$  and the second by  $r$  and adding together, we obtain

$$q w_{1x} + r w_{2x} = 0. \tag{22}$$

This is exactly similar to the relation obtained among the field variables and deforming variables by using the Lax pair method. This is probably the first time that the equivalence between the Lax pair and the bi-Hamiltonian methods for the NHD of an integrable systems is explicitly obtained.

### 2.3 Further consideration of the non-holonomic deformation

Although we have considered only an  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-1})$  deformation of the NLS system, this process can be extended

to ones with higher negative power of  $\lambda$  as a hierarchical deformation structure [39] with additional constrained dynamics. To show that, we next consider a ‘higher’-order deformation by taking

$$V_D(\lambda) = \frac{i}{2} \left( \lambda^{-1} G^{(1)} + \lambda^{-2} G^{(2)} \right), \tag{23}$$

where the second-order contribution  $G^{(2)}$  has the form:

$$G^{(2)} = b\sigma_3 + f_1\sigma_+ + f_2\sigma_-. \tag{24}$$

As a consequence, the zero-curvature condition, with the new  $V_D$ , leads to the following results:

1. No change occurs in the deformed NLS equations, as the new contribution  $V_D$  is of order  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-2})$ .
2. Picking up the terms in  $\lambda^{-1}$  and equating the coefficients of the generators  $\sigma_3$ ,  $\sigma_+$  and  $\sigma_-$  successively, we are led to the following new set of conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} a_x - qg_2 + rg_1 &= 0, \\ g_{1x} + 2if_1 + 2aq &= 0, \\ g_{2x} - 2if_2 - 2ar &= 0, \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

finally yielding the extended differential constraint:

$$\hat{L}(g_1, g_2) + 2i(rf_{1x} - q_x f_2) = 0, \tag{26}$$

with  $\hat{L}(g_1, g_2)$  given in Eq. 14.

3. The additional presence of  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-2})$  terms in the zero-curvature condition yields a *second* constraint of the form

$$\hat{L}(f_1, f_2) = 0, \tag{27}$$

with  $f_{1,2}$  replacing  $g_{1,2}$ , respectively, in Eq. 14.

Thus, the perturbed NLS equations (Eq. 12) remain the same, although the order of the differential constraint is increased recursively, thereby creating a new integrable hierarchy for the corresponding system. This is possible as the NLS equations themselves are sensible exclusively to the  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-1})$  contribution of  $V_D(\lambda)$ . Any other *additional* deformations of  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-n})$ ,  $1 < n \in \mathbb{Z}$  only construct additional higher-order constraints.



In the above, a one-to-one correspondence is established between the NHDs of Lax pair and Kupershmidt's formalism. In case of the prior, the deformed equations and the constraint conditions both follow from a specific Lax pair which automatically points toward compatibility between the dynamical flows and the constraints imposed on them. Kupershmidt's method deals with the identification of such compatibility through several examples involving both continuous and discrete cases. In the next section, the QID of the NLS system will be discussed, which preserves integrability of the system only *partially*. A comparison of the same with the NH deformation will illustrate critical aspects of integrability conditions of the concerned system.

### 3 QID of the NLS equation

Certain non-integrable models are known to possess physical properties similar to the integrable ones. This distinct class is found to contain models that have solitonic solutions, with properties very similar to the integrable counterparts [11]. In 2+1 dimensions, such solitonic structures are observed in baby Skyrme model having many potentials and in Ward-modified chiral model [44]. Therefore, recent attempts were made to model such systems as deformed version of integrable ones, with partially conserved nature, called quasi-integrable (QI) systems [11, 15]. They are viewed as parametric generalizations of their integrable counterparts. Such a generalization manifests itself through the existence of the functions  $P_n$  [44] as:

$$\frac{dQ_n(t)}{dt} = P_n(t), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z},$$

wherein  $Q_n$ s are the 'charges' that would have been conserved for the corresponding integrable system with vanishing  $P_n$ s. In general, for quasi-integrable systems, only a subset of all  $P_n$ s vanish. However, *asymptotically*, all of them disappear rendering the systems integrable. In particular, the two soliton configuration has the property

$$Q_n(t \rightarrow +\infty) - Q_n(t \rightarrow -\infty) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt P_n(t) = 0, \tag{28}$$

corresponding to conserved asymptotic charges. For breather-like solutions, the corresponding asymptotic

condition is  $Q_n(t) = Q_n(t + T)$ . For other configurations, such as multi-soliton systems,  $P_n$ s do not vanish, but display interesting boundary properties of topological nature [44]. Recently, the concept of quasi-integrability has also been extended to supersymmetric models [45].

The quasi-deformed systems are usually obtained through deforming the 'potential' (nonlinear) term of the concerned integrable system perturbatively [11, 44]. However, this scheme of deformation may not be unique [15], especially for the NLS system. Then, the curvature function of Eq. 11 is obtained to identify the anomaly function  $\mathcal{X}$  such that  $F_{tx} \propto \mathcal{X} \neq 0$  [15]. In order to achieve this, gauge transformation is performed under the characteristic  $sl(2)$  loop algebra of the system and the equations of motion are utilized.

#### 3.1 The quasi-NLS construction

Our aim here is to obtain the analytic structure of the quasi-NLS equation that can be compared with its NHD counterpart in Eqs. 12, 14 and 15. Subjected to the liberty of choice in deformation of quasi-NLS system in Ref. [15], the deformation in the NLS potential:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}(q) &\rightarrow \mathcal{V}(q, \varepsilon) = \frac{1}{2 + \varepsilon} (|q|^2)^{2+\varepsilon}, \quad \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}, \\ \mathcal{V}(q) &\equiv \mathcal{V}(q, \varepsilon = 0) = \frac{1}{2} |q|^4, \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

is adopted. Moreover, in the NHD case, only the temporal Lax component  $V$  was deformed so that the reverse-scattering properties remain unaffected. This essentially amounts to identifying the term(s) in  $V$  responsible for the nonlinear term (potential) in the equation, which can naturally be interpreted as functional derivative(s) of the potential  $\mathcal{V}$  with respect to the modulus of the NLS solution. Considering the defocussing case, the Lax pair for the quasi-NLS system can be expressed as [15]:

$$\begin{aligned} U &= i\lambda\sigma_3 + q\sigma_+ + q^*\sigma_-, \\ V_Q &= -i \left( \lambda^2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\delta\mathcal{V}}{\delta|q|^2} \right) \sigma_3 + \lambda(q\sigma_+ q^*\sigma_-) \\ &\quad + \frac{i}{2} (q_x\sigma_+ - q_x^*\sigma_-), \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

where we have taken the self-coupling strength to be unity. Indeed, the derivative of the potential appears only in the temporal Lax component  $V_Q$ . The QID

can be induced by substituting the deformed potential  $\mathcal{V}(q, \varepsilon)$  in the expression.

Before going ahead with the formal comparison with NH deformation, it is fruitful to concisely review the QID performed in Ref. [15]. The anomalous charges were obtained through the standard Abelianization procedure by performing gauge transformations based on the characteristic  $sl(2)$  loop algebra of the NLS system, with the gauge-fixing condition that the new temporal Lax component is defined in the kernel subspace of the loop algebra. The quasi-conserved charges  $Q_n$  are found to satisfy:

$$\frac{dQ_n}{dt} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \mathcal{X}\alpha_n, \tag{31}$$

with  $\mathcal{X}$  being the anomaly from the deformed curvature condition and  $\alpha_n$ s being the expansion coefficients of the same in the kernel subspace, following the gauge transformation. Then, utilizing the  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  symmetry ( $sl(2)$  automorphism  $\otimes$  space-time parity) of the system, it was shown that all  $\alpha_n$ s are parity-even in time. Thus, for the NLS system, as  $\mathcal{X}$  is parity-odd by construction, the charges in Eq. 31 are conserved asymptotically (scattering limit) which ensures quasi-integrability of the system. This result is general up to the potential being dependent on the modulus  $|q|$ , the latter being parity-even, along with a phase that is parity-odd.

Following Eq. 29 (or Eq. 30), the NLS equation gets quasi-deformed as:

$$q_t - \frac{i}{2}q_{xx} + i|q|^{2+2\varepsilon}q = 0. \tag{32}$$

The preceding discussion of NHD in Sect. 2 suggests that the above system cannot be identified with QID absolutely. By definition, QID supports a subset (infinite or finite) of charges which are anomalous, whereas NHD preserves *all* the charges of the initial system, albeit subjected to additional constraints. Equivalently, if the exact identification was possible, then one should obtain  $V_Q = \tilde{V} = V_O + V_D$ . From Eq. 30 that is possible iff,

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{V}(q, \varepsilon)}{\partial |q|^2} \sigma_3 = |q|^2 \sigma_3 + i2V_D. \tag{33}$$

However, this contradicts with the prescription in Eq. 9 as  $V_D$  needs to be of  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-1})$  and  $g_{1,2} \neq 0$  to invoke

NHD. Even a wishful thinking like  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(\lambda)$  fails to compensate as one ends up with the requirement

$$G^{(1)} = -\lambda|q|^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\varepsilon^n}{n} (\log |q|^2)^n \sigma_3, \quad \varepsilon \rightarrow 0, \tag{34}$$

which was specifically required to be  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^0)$  for a meaningful NHD. However, the condition of asymptotic integrability for the QID, especially in case of NLS equation [15], strongly suggests a conditional equivalence. Therefore, it is logical to expect certain limits to exist under which the QID-NHD correspondence can be realized.

We take the lead from the single soliton solution for the deformed potential in Eq. 29 [15]:

$$q = \left[ (2 + \varepsilon)\rho^2 \operatorname{sech}^2 \{ (1 + \varepsilon)\rho(x - vt - x_0) \} \right]^{1/(1+\varepsilon)} \times \exp \left\{ i2 \left( \rho^2 t - \frac{v^2}{4}t + \frac{v}{2}x \right) \right\}, \tag{35}$$

with  $(\rho, v, x_0) \in \mathbb{R}$ , which falls back to the standard NLS bright soliton solution for  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . Even otherwise, the ‘deformed’ soliton has the same asymptotic behavior as the undeformed counterpart [15]. We consider the  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  approach to extract the NHD-QID correspondence *locally*. For comparison, the bright soliton solution for a non-holonomic NLS system is given as [39]:

$$q = 2\rho_d^2 \operatorname{sech}^2 [\rho_d(x - v_d t - x_0)] \exp \left[ i2 \left( \rho_d^2 t - \frac{v_d^2}{4}t + \frac{v_d}{2}x \right) \right], \tag{36}$$

having velocity  $v_d = v + v'$  with  $v' = \tilde{c}(t)/t|\lambda_1|^2$  and frequency  $\rho_d v_d = \rho v + \omega'$  with  $\omega' = -2\rho(x - vt)\tilde{c}(t)/t|\lambda_1|^2$ . Here,  $\lambda_1 = \rho(x - vt) + i\eta$ ,  $\eta$  being a parameter of deformation, and  $\tilde{c}(t)$  is the asymptotic value of the perturbing function. It is clear that all these parameters again approach their undeformed values asymptotically ( $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ ). Therefore, it complements the parametric limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  of QID asymptotically.

In the limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , the quasi-NLS system of Eq. 32 can be expanded as:

$$q_t - \frac{i}{2}q_{xx} + i|q|^2q = -i\varepsilon|q|^2q \log(|q|^2) - \frac{i}{2}\varepsilon^2|q|^2q \log^2(|q|^2) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3). \tag{37}$$

The singularity of logarithms for  $|q|^2 \rightarrow 0$  is effectively regulated by the term  $|q|^2q$  for first few values of  $n$ , the latter being the power of the logarithm

( $\log^n(|q|^2)$ ). Beyond that a singularity is still assured to be avoided due to the factor  $\varepsilon^n$ . In fact, asymptotically speaking, localized soliton solutions given in Eqs. 35 and 36 always attain infinitesimal but nonzero values in physical systems, avoiding such singularities altogether. However, the QID in Eq. 29 is *not* unique, as the following choices of deformation,

$$\mathcal{V}(q, \varepsilon) = \frac{1}{2}|q|^4 + \varepsilon|q|^6$$

or  $\mathcal{V}(q, \varepsilon) = \frac{1}{2}|q|^4 \exp(-\varepsilon|q|^2),$  (38)

also work [15]. Such deformations fall within the general premise of the Hamiltonian approach to QID [46]. From the above deformations, one obtains the following quasi-NLS equations:

$$q_t - \frac{i}{2}q_{xx} + i|q|^2q = -i\frac{3}{2}\varepsilon|q|^4q \quad \text{and} \quad (39)$$

$$q_t - \frac{i}{2}q_{xx} + i|q|^2q = i\frac{3}{2}\varepsilon|q|^4q - i\varepsilon^2|q|^6q + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^3), \quad (40)$$

respectively. It is to be noted that only for the second equation above, the limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  is necessary. In general, Eqs. 37, 39 and 40 can be written as:

$$q_t - \frac{i}{2}q_{xx} + i|q|^2q = -i\left(\frac{\delta\mathcal{V}(q, \varepsilon)}{\delta|q|^2} - |q|^2\right)q$$

$$= q \int^x \mathcal{X} \quad \text{where,}$$

$$\mathcal{X} = -i\partial_x \left(\frac{\delta\mathcal{V}(q, \varepsilon)}{\delta|q|^2} - |q|^2\right), \quad (41)$$

is the QID anomaly mentioned above.

The last two examples reveal an important aspect. To obtain a quasi-NLS system in the form  $q_t - \frac{i}{2}q_{xx} + i|q|^2q \neq 0$ , similar in form to the case of NHD of Eq. 8, it is not *always necessary* to take the  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  limit. However, when  $\varepsilon$  effects the *degree* of nonlinearity, this limit becomes important. It makes sense as a stable solution for a given nonlinear system depends on the counterbalance between dispersion and nonlinearity, and when the order of the latter is changed, the immediate stable structures that *still* survive are small deviations from the original. This crucial aspect was highlighted in Ref. [15] along with numerical support. However, except for the need of a localized solution that has ‘sensible’ asymptotic behavior, the perturbative limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  is not necessary for quasi-deformation in general [8, 11, 15, 45, 46]. This appears quite simply in case of the deformation of Eq. 39, wherein the  $\varepsilon$

does not appear in the power of the nonlinear term, and thus, the RHS is exact. Such a system with clearly *higher-order* nonlinearity can have stable solutions, but are expected to be very different from the undeformed ones. However, in case of localized solution, the system can always be expected to match asymptotically with the undeformed one in the limit  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  owing to the smallness of  $|q|$ .

#### 4 Comparison between NHD and QID

We have seen that NHD deforms the NLS system by introducing inhomogeneity yet preserves the integrability of the system through higher-order constraints among the deformation functions. On the other hand, QID is implemented by modifying the inherent nonlinearity in a way that the system remains ‘partially integrable’ in terms of remaining number of conserved charges. However, the fact that the latter deformation returns to complete integrability in the asymptotic limit renders the question whether these two classes of deformations have something in common. Albeit they cannot be absolutely identified, only NHD maintains absolute integrability.

From the Lax pair in Eq. 6, the NHD can be achieved for both focussing ( $r = -q^*$ ) and defocussing ( $r = q^*$ ) NLS systems. However, the quasi-NLS systems were derived specifically for the *defocussing* case [15] by modifying the self-interaction ‘potential’ which only effected the modulus  $|q|$  of the NLS solution but not its phase. For a comparison between NHD and QID of the NLS system, we will consider the *defocussing* case explicitly from hereon. The focussing case corresponds to somewhat different QID treatment, following different asymptotic behavior for  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$  [47].

*The phase discontinuity* For  $r = q^*$  in case of NHD, Eqs. 12 and 13 lead to simpler results,

$$g_2 = -g_1^*, \quad a \in \mathbb{R} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{g_{1x}}{q} \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (42)$$

not possible for the focussing analogue. The last of the above equations forces a constraint,

$$\theta_x = \frac{R_x}{R} \tan(\phi - \theta); \quad g_1 := R \exp(i\theta)$$

$$\text{and} \quad q = |q| \exp(i\phi), \quad (43)$$

which in essence is equivalent to Eqs. 14 and 15. Thus, the non-holonomic constraint in this case essentially becomes a *modulus-phase correlation* for the corresponding inhomogeneity parameter  $g_1 = -g_2^*$ . The parameter  $a$  is real and can be completely eliminated. Any function  $g_1$  that satisfies Eq. 43 is suitable for imposing NHD on the defocussing NLS system.

On eliminating the real parameter  $a$  in Eq. 15 for  $r = q^*$  and then separating real and imaginary parts eventually lead to a pair of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{|q|} \left( R_{xx} - (\theta_x)^2 R \right) - \frac{1}{|q|^2} (R_x |q|_x - \theta_x \phi_x |q| R) \\ &= -4R|q| \cos^2(\theta - \phi) \quad \text{and} \\ & \frac{1}{|q|} (2\theta_x R_x + \theta_{xx} R) - \frac{1}{|q|^2} (\theta_x R |q|_x + R_x \phi_x |q|) \\ &= 2R|q| \sin 2(\theta - \phi). \end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

These equations need to be satisfied simultaneously along with Eq. 43. This leaves enough room to choose  $R$  as  $R = R(|q|)$ , allowing for a possibility of identification with QID. One can hope that the RHS of the a quasi-NLS system of the type in Eq. 41 could be identified with  $-g_1$ . As the prior have the general form:

$$\begin{aligned} & i \times (\text{modulus}) \times \exp(i\phi) = (\text{modulus}) \\ & \times \exp \left[ i \left( \phi + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \right], \end{aligned}$$

such an identification would imply  $\theta = \phi + \pi/2$ . From Eq. 43 this will mean that the phase of the deformation inhomogeneity is discontinuous as  $\theta_x = \phi_x = \infty$ . For such singular behavior,  $R$  in Eq. 44 is now undetermined and one can chose it to match QID. This highly non-trivial analytic condition for the phase of  $g_1$  (and also that of the solution  $q$ ) demonstrates the incompatibility between QID and NHD in general. Even  $\theta_x = \infty$  the ‘identification’ of QID with NHD is superfluous as the quasi-integrability itself becomes undefined. This is because all the  $\alpha_n$ s in Eq. 31 for  $n \geq 3$  contain  $\phi_x$  (Appendix A of Ref. [15]) and become singular implying  $d_t Q_n = \infty$ .

Although rare, the observed overlap between non-holonomic and quasi-deformed NLS system mandates further clarification. This overlap can be straightforwardly verified for the higher-order NHD induced by the deformations in Eq. 23. The constraint conditions for NHD (Eq. 13), in principle, can be solved leaving

out only one independent function among  $a, g_1$  and  $g_2$ .<sup>1</sup> Quantitatively, for

$$g_1 = i \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{V}}{\delta |q|^2} - |q|^2 \right) q, \tag{45}$$

the QID anomaly function can be expressed as:

$$\mathcal{X} = -\partial_x \left( \frac{g_1}{q} \right) \equiv -i \partial_x \left( \frac{R}{|q|} \right). \tag{46}$$

As  $\mathcal{X}$  is parity-odd for parity-even  $|q|$  (soliton case) [15], we see that  $R$  also needs to be parity-even for the NHD-QID correspondence. This conclusion is of considerable importance subjected to the asymptotic behavior as we will see next. Also, the QID parameter  $\varepsilon$  could be a local function (both in space and time) in general [15] additionally requiring it to be parity-even.

*The perturbative limit* To illustrate the scenario more clearly, let us consider the perturbative limit of QID as it amounts to minimal deviation from integrability. In that case, an attempt to identify QID with NHD at the level of Lax pair, then from Eq. 34 one gets

$$G^{(1)} \approx -\lambda \varepsilon |q|^2 \log \left( |q|^2 \right) \sigma_3, \tag{47}$$

for  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . A simple redefinition  $\varepsilon \rightarrow \epsilon/\lambda$  then implies

$$a = -\varepsilon |q|^2 \log \left( |q|^2 \right), \quad g_{1,2} = 0. \tag{48}$$

These results are not compatible with the general conditions in Eq. 13 except for the trivial case  $q = 0$ .

*Gauge incompatibility* QID manifests through modification of the Lax pair (Eq. 30) exclusively in the kernel subspace of the  $SL(2)$  loop algebra which automatically implies  $g_{1,2} = 0$ . On the other hand, NHD maintains integrability through contribution from the image subspace supported by additional constraints. The deformed dynamical equations in both cases, however, belong to the image sector of the zero-curvature condition. This situation endorses the possibility that for  $\theta = \phi + \frac{\pi}{2}$  the respective Lax components for

<sup>1</sup> For the defocussing case, those three conditions reduce to two as  $g_2 = -g_1^*$ .

QID and NHD are gauge equivalent. In particular, this amounts to the conditions,

$$G\tilde{V}G^{-1} + G_tG^{-1} = V_Q$$

$$\text{and } GUG^{-1} + G_xG^{-1} = U, \tag{49}$$

to be satisfied. The element of the  $sl(2)$  gauge group can be parameterized as:

$$G = \exp(\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma})$$

with  $\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} = \alpha_3\sigma_3 + \alpha_+\sigma_+ + \alpha_-\sigma_-$ .

Further,  $G = \cosh|\boldsymbol{\alpha}| + \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \sinh|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|$

where  $|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|^2 = \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}$ . (50)

Therefore, the gauge transformations take the explicit forms:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_x \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$$

$$+ \left[ 2(U - \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot U\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}) + \frac{1}{|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|} (\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \times \boldsymbol{\alpha}_x) \right] \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \sinh^2|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|$$

$$+ \left[ i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \times U) + \frac{1}{2|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|} (\boldsymbol{\alpha}_x - \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_x \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}) \right] \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \sinh 2|\boldsymbol{\alpha}| = 0$$

and

$$V_D + \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$$

$$+ \left[ 2(\tilde{V} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \tilde{V}\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}) + \frac{i}{|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|} (\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \times \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t) \right] \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \sinh^2|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|$$

$$+ \left[ i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \times \tilde{V}) + \frac{1}{2|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|} (\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t - \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}) \right] \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \sinh 2|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int^x \mathcal{X} \sigma_3. \tag{51}$$

In the above  $U = U \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$  and  $\tilde{V} = \tilde{V} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}$ ,  $\tilde{V} = V_0 + V_D$  with  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}/|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|$ . Though the above equations look complicated enough to solve for  $|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|$ , on isolating coefficients of  $\sigma_{3,\pm}$  and then further isolating different orders of  $\lambda$  yield a set of simpler equations. Particularly, from the first equation at  $\mathcal{O}(\lambda)$  the coefficients of  $\sigma_3$  yield the result:

$$\sinh|\boldsymbol{\alpha}| = 0, \text{ implying } |\boldsymbol{\alpha}| = in\pi, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \tag{52}$$

This makes sense as being constructed out of  $sl(2)$  gauge parameters  $\alpha_{3,\pm}$ , which are ought to be complex in general, the Euclidean product  $|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|^2$  can very well be negative (e. g.,  $-n^2\pi^2$ ). This greatly simplifies Eq. 51 to

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_x \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad V_D + \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} = \frac{1}{2} \int^x \mathcal{X} \sigma_3, \tag{53}$$

where we have utilized Eq. 46. The first equation essentially is the identity that  $|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|_x = 0$  following Eq. 52. Since  $|\boldsymbol{\alpha}|$  is a constant, the coefficients of  $\sigma_{3,\pm}$  in the second of Eq. 53 lead to the null result,

$$a = -i\lambda \int^x \mathcal{X}, \quad g_{1,2} = 0 \quad \forall \alpha_{3,\pm}, \tag{54}$$

which is exactly same as Eq. 48. So we conclude that even for the most general case (i.e., arbitrary  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  and non-perturbatively) QID and NHD cannot be gauge equivalent.<sup>2</sup>

*Amplitude scaling* The comparison of local deformations like QID of the NLS system with NHD can be extended to more arbitrary classes of deformations in order to understand their proximity to the NHD. As an example, we consider the simple case of scaling the modulus of the NLS solution:

$$|q| \rightarrow [1 + f(\epsilon, |q|)]|q|$$

$$\text{and } |q|^2 \rightarrow [1 + g(\epsilon, |q|)]|q|^2; \tag{55}$$

that complements the QID of the defocussing NLS system with  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , where,

$$f(\epsilon, |q|) \approx \frac{1}{4}(\varphi - \frac{1}{2})\epsilon + \frac{1}{32}(\varphi^2 - \varphi + \frac{5}{4})\epsilon^2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3),$$

$$g(\epsilon, |q|) \approx \frac{1}{2}(\varphi - \frac{1}{2})\epsilon + \frac{1}{8}(\varphi^2 - \varphi + \frac{3}{4})\epsilon^2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3);$$

$$\varphi := \log(|q|^2). \tag{56}$$

Accordingly, the corresponding Lax pair components get deformed as:

$$U \rightarrow \tilde{U} = -i\lambda\sigma_3 + (1 + f)(q\sigma_+ + q^*\sigma_-),$$

$$V_O \rightarrow \tilde{V} = -i\lambda^2\sigma_3 + \lambda(1 + f)(q\sigma_+ + q^*\sigma_-)$$

$$- \frac{i}{2}(1 + g)|q|^2\sigma_3 + \frac{i}{2}(1 + f)(q_x\sigma_+ - q_x^*\sigma_-)$$

$$+ \frac{i}{2}f_x(q\sigma_+ - q^*\sigma_-). \tag{57}$$

This further effects the scattering properties of the original system, unlike in NHD, as the spatial Lax component is also deformed. As we will see in the following, this essentially means the correspondence to

<sup>2</sup> We have not considered the possibility  $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}(\lambda)$  here since gauge invariance of the NLS and non-holonomic-NLS system does not permit it. However, for a more generalized NLS-like system, this may be allowed which may disagree with the current null result but is highly unlikely.



NHD in this case will also be approximate. On imposing the zero-curvature condition, the independent equations turn out to be:

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_t - \frac{i}{2}q_{xx} + i(1 + g)|q|^2q & \\
 = (1 + f)^{-1} \left[ if_xq_x + \frac{i}{2}f_{xx}q - f_tq \right], & \\
 q_t^* + \frac{i}{2}q_{xx}^* - i(1 + g)|q|^2q^* & \\
 = -(1 + f)^{-1} \left[ if_xq_x^* + \frac{i}{2}f_{xx}q^* + f_tq^* \right] &
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\left[ (1 + f)|q|^2 \right]_x + f_x|q|^2 = (1 + f)^{-1} \left[ (1 + g)|q|^2 \right]_x. \tag{58}$$

The last equation above reduces to a mere identity for  $f, g = 0$ , and the first two equations reduces to the usual defocussing NLS equation and its complex conjugate. As  $f$  and  $g$  are small (Eq. 56), the explicit form of the deformed equations is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 q_t - \frac{i}{2}q_{xx} + i|q|^2q &\approx \epsilon\mathcal{A} + \epsilon^2\mathcal{B}; \quad \text{where,} \\
 \mathcal{A} = \left[ \frac{1}{4|q|^2} \left( i|q|_x^2q_x + \frac{i}{2}|q|_{xx}^2q - |q|_t^2q \right) \right. & \\
 \left. - \frac{i}{8|q|^4} \left( |q|_x^2 \right)^2 q - \frac{i}{2} \left( \log \left( |q|^2 \right) - \frac{1}{2} \right) |q|^2q \right], & \\
 \mathcal{B} = \frac{1}{8} \left[ \frac{i}{2|q|^4} \left( \log \left( |q|^2 \right) - 1 \right) \left( |q|_x^2 \right)^2 q \right. & \\
 \left. - \left( \log^2 \left( |q|^2 \right) - \log \left( |q|^2 \right) + \frac{3}{4} \right) |q|^2q \right], & \tag{59}
 \end{aligned}$$

and its complex conjugate. It is clear that if the deformation of Eq. 55 is kept only at the level of the potential (Eq. 29), then only the last terms in the square brackets on the RHS in Eq. 59 would have survived, which is the case for QID.

Though  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  contain singular functions like logarithms of the NLS modulus  $|q|$ , they are regulated by suitable powers of  $|q|$  in the denominators. Therefore, the expansion is indeed perturbative. This additionally ensures that the system will approach integrability asymptotically, as  $|q|$  is physically expected to be well behaved there.

Evidently, the RHS of Eq. 59 does not have the same phase  $\phi + \frac{\pi}{2}$  as for QID and therefore can satisfy the NHD constraint for  $\theta - \phi \neq \frac{\pi}{2}$  and thus can non-trivially be identified as modulus  $R$  of  $g_1$ . Therefore, similar to the quasi-NLS case, it is tempting to identify

this local scaling as a conditional NHD though the spatial Lax component  $\tilde{U}$  is also changed. For only  $|q|^2$  being scaled but not  $|q|$ , i.e.,  $f(\epsilon, |q|) = 0, g(\epsilon, |q|) \neq 0$ , this scaling can take the form of a QID as only the kernel sector of the temporal Lax component will be effected.

#### 4.1 The asymptotic behavior

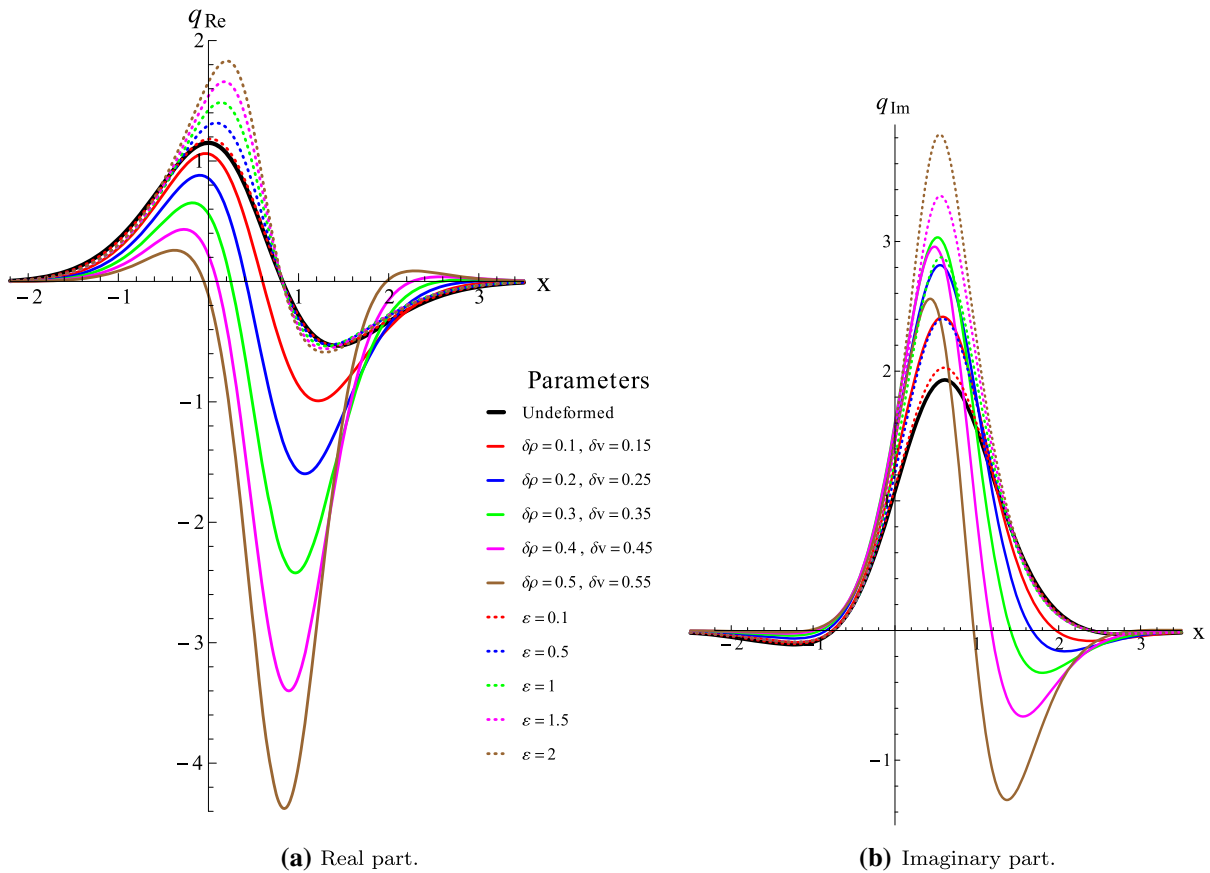
If  $g_1$  is localized and asymptotically well behaved, then for  $(x, t) \rightarrow \pm\infty, R$  assumes fixed value(s) and thereby  $R_x, R_t \rightarrow 0$ . This condition particularly effects Eq. 43 as now  $\theta_x = 0$  identically. Still, the phase  $\phi$  of the deformed solution cannot be space dependent as for  $R_x = 0, \theta_x = 0$  Eq. 44 implies:

$$\theta = \phi + (2n + 1)\frac{\pi}{2}, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \tag{60}$$

Hence, the non-holonomic NLS solution attains a constant phase at the spatial infinity and such a solution can now be identified with the integrable limit of a quasi-NLS system. Additionally, as now  $\theta = \phi + \frac{\pi}{2}$  modulo a multiple of  $2\pi$  for  $n$  being even, the quasi-NLS case stated before can be identified with the NHD. For a localized solution  $|q|_x(x \rightarrow \pm\infty) = 0$ , the QID anomaly in Eq. 41 vanishes and the charges  $Q_n$ s are trivially conserved. Therefore, the  $\epsilon$ -dependent part of the quasi-NLS equation can now be identified with the NHD inhomogeneity  $g_1$  safely. As for the scaling deformation, the RHS of Eq. 59 differs from  $\phi$  in a more complicated way than that for the QID case. Still it can be assumed that the deformation parameter  $\epsilon$  can take complex values so that there is an overall phase on the RHS of the form  $\phi + (2n + 1)\frac{\pi}{2}$  making the identification with NHD possible.

The above inferences are in conformity to the localized solutions for quasi-deformed and non-holonomic NLS system, given in Eqs. 35 and 36, respectively, which have been plotted for a clearer picture. In Fig. 1a the real parts of the localized (solitonic) solution for both the cases are plotted with respect to space coordinate  $x$ . As the respective deformation parameters for NHD ( $\delta\rho = \rho_d - \rho, \delta v = v_d - v$ ) and QID ( $\epsilon$ ) increase (from red to brown), the local parts of the solutions deviate more and more from the undeformed solution (solid black line) in ‘opposite’ directions depicting mutual incompatibility. However, they tend to converge more and more as  $x$  increases and can be expected to





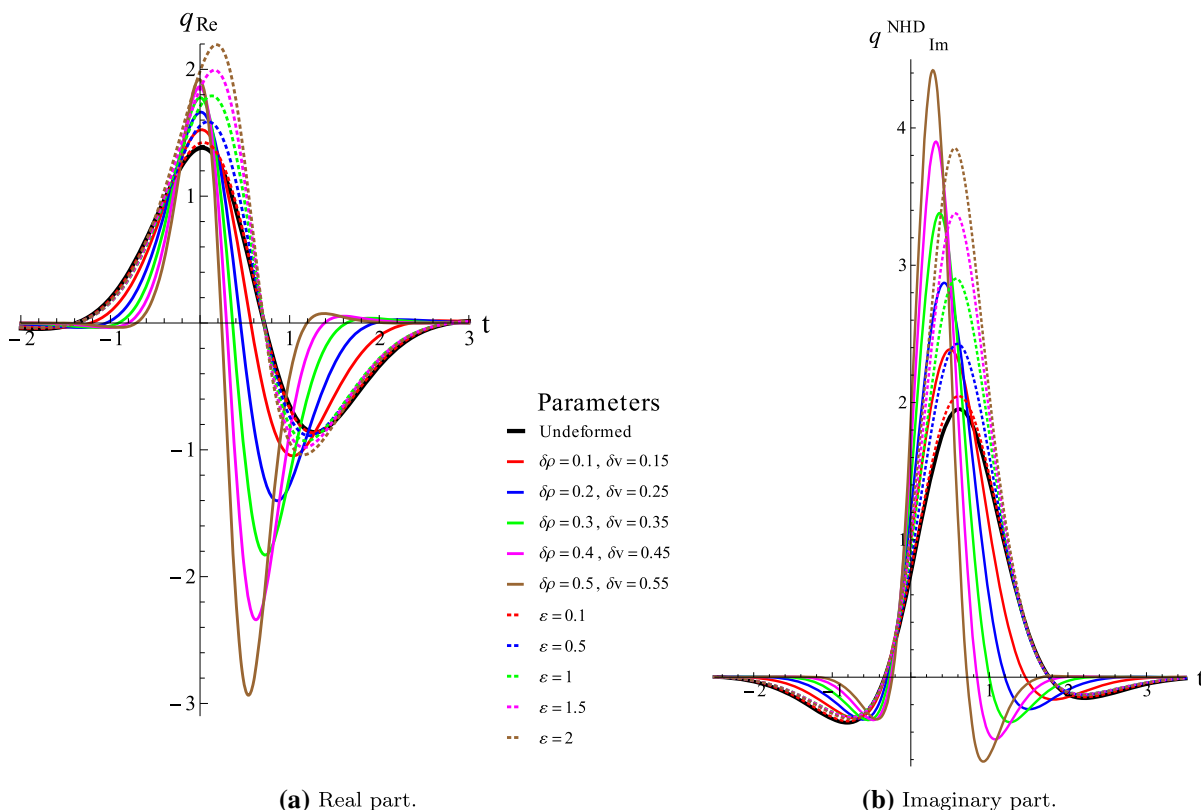
**Fig. 1** The real and imaginary parts of the localized solutions for both NHD (Eq. 35, solid lines) and QID (Eq. 36, dotted lines) of NLS system as functions of space ( $x$ ) where  $\rho = 1 = v$  and  $x_0 = 0$  with  $t = 0.5$

coincide for  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$ . The same behavior is seen for the respective imaginary parts in Fig. 1b. These plots have been made in Mathematica 8.

The case of temporal asymptote ( $t \rightarrow \infty$ ) is not as directly apparent as the spatial counterpart since NHD conditions do not contain time derivatives by construction. Still we may assume  $R_t(t \rightarrow \infty) = 0$  for a  $g_1$  that is also temporally localized. A further assumption of  $\theta(x, t \rightarrow \infty) = \theta(t)$  and  $\phi(x, t \rightarrow \infty) = \phi(t)$  for a system that deviates a little from a non-dissipative (integrable) system. This does not conflict with the restricted identifications we have encountered for QID and scaling deformation. Particularly, for QID as integrability is regained for  $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$ , the system is likely to be of non-holonomic NLS type at that limit in general. The NHD formalism is tailored not to effect the time evolution of the particular system, and thus, a non-holonomic system should not change at the temporal infinity. In that

case as  $\mathcal{X}$  is restricted to the kernel subspace of the algebra and as it does *not* vanish at  $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$  in general, it is viable to identify  $\mathcal{X}(x, t \rightarrow \pm\infty)$  as a non-holonomic deformation. This in effect translates to a complementing behavior of the deformation parameter  $\varepsilon$  at the temporal infinity.

The temporal behavior of the deformed solitons corresponding to QID and NHD, given in Eqs. 35 and 36, respectively, is plotted in Fig. 2 using Mathematica 8. Though both the solutions locally deform more and more (from red to brown) with the increase in the deformation parameters ( $\delta\rho$  and  $\delta v$  for NHD and  $\varepsilon$  for QID), these two types of deviations do *not* increase in the opposite sense unlike the case of  $x$ -variation. Both real and imaginary parts of the solution display this behavior. This might be attributed to the fact that NHD does not effect the time evolution of the system, whereas QID only effects the modulus  $|q|$  of the solution. There-



**Fig. 2** The real and imaginary parts of the localized solutions for both NHD (Eq. 35, solid lines) and QID (Eq. 36, dotted lines) as functions of time where  $\rho = 1 = v$  and  $x_0 = 0$  with  $x = 0.5$

fore, for certain fixed value of  $x$ , with suitable parameterization the time profile of the respective solutions may coincide even locally.<sup>3</sup> However, both the solutions tend to converge as  $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$  as inferred before.

In light of the preceding discussion, the deviation from integrability is compensated by suitable contribution from both image and kernel subspaces in case of NHD. For the case of QID and scaling deformation, there is no such compensation, the latter even effecting the scattering data through deforming  $U$ . What happens asymptotically is that all these three deformations converge to a simpler case. In case for NHD the kernel contribution  $a$  vanishes as the image one ( $g_1$ ) is fixed. This leaves a simple phase relation to be satisfied by QID and scaling deformation to get identified as NHD. Further, the non-holonomic constraints live at a *different* spectral order than the equation(s) of motion. In comparison, the QID anomaly  $\mathcal{X}$  lives in the *same*

spectral order as the scaling deformation. This supports the intuition that the deformation parameter for the latter two should be  $\epsilon = \epsilon(\lambda)$  and  $\epsilon = \epsilon(\lambda)$ , respectively, for identification with NHD. However, this requires an asymptotic limit as only then the kernel subspace contribution to NHD becomes trivial.

Therefore, we see that deformations (QID and the particular local scaling of the modulus) of the defocusing NLS system can *conditionally* be identified with the corresponding NHD. QID can locally be identified for the *exceptional* case of  $\theta_x = \infty$ <sup>4</sup> and asymptotically ( $x, t \rightarrow \pm\infty$ ) with a more relaxed condition (Eq. 60) as the required constraints become trivial. This is independent of whether the QID parameter  $\epsilon$  is perturbative or not. On the other hand, the scaling deformation needs to be perturbative to be identified with the NHD even asymptotically. Otherwise, it may even develop some non-local features (Eq. 58).

<sup>3</sup> The exceptional condition  $\theta_x = \infty$  for NHD-QID overlap could be demonstratively incorporated given  $x$  is fixed.

<sup>4</sup> Which might be in terms of the time profile.

## 5 Conclusion

We have demonstrated through explicit analysis for both NHD and QID of the defocussing NLS system that these two cases of deformation have distinct analytic structures. The NHD induces inhomogeneity in the dynamical equation in addition to higher-order differential constraints at a different spectral order, thereby preserving the integrability. We have shown the agreement between the bi-Hamiltonian and the Lax pair methods of inducing NHD to the NLS system. The QID disrupts integrability *locally* by making a subset of the charges anomalous. It can return to complete integrability as a NHD when the phases of NLS solution and non-holonomic inhomogeneity satisfy at exceptional condition of non-local phase which shows them to be not gauge equivalent. However, both these deformations can asymptotically be identified given the locality of the NLS solution and the NHD inhomogeneity. This was intuitively expected as the quasi-deformed systems are already known to regain integrability in the asymptotic limit. For DNLS hierarchy [33], it was seen that the quasi-integrable anomaly disappears from the equation of motion and thus, QID and NHD for such systems could be related much more closely. Therefore, it will be of considerable interest to extend this approach to those and other integrable systems, with additional focus on more general (multi-soliton) solution domains [48, 49], non-local counterparts [50] and higher-order hierarchies [31].

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### Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest concerning the publication of this manuscript.

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