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ORBITAL STABILITY VS. SCATTERING IN THE CUBIC-QUINTIC SCHRÖDINGER EQUATION

RÉMI CARLES AND CHRISTOF SPARBER

ABSTRACT. We consider the cubic-quintic nonlinear Schrödinger equation in space dimension up to three. The cubic nonlinearity is thereby focusing while the quintic one is defocusing, ensuring global well-posedness of the Cauchy problem in the energy space. The main goal of this paper is to investigate the interplay between dispersion and orbital (in-)stability of solitary waves. In space dimension one, it is already known that all solitons are orbitally stable. In dimension two, we show that if the initial data belong to the conformal space, and have at most the mass of the ground state of the cubic two-dimensional Schrödinger equation, then the solution is asymptotically linear. For larger mass, solitary wave solutions exist, and we review several results on their stability. Finally, in dimension three, relying on previous results from other authors, we show that solitons may or may not be orbitally stable.

1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

1.1. **Basic setting.** We consider the nonlinear Schrödinger equation (NLS) with competing cubic-quintic nonlinearities,

$$(1.1) \quad i\partial_t u + \frac{1}{2}\Delta u = -|u|^2 u + |u|^4 u, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

in space dimension $d \leq 3$. The quintic nonlinearity was introduced in [44], and adopted in several physical situations: typically in optics (see e.g. [32]), or in Bose-Einstein condensation (e.g. [1, 21, 40]). We refer to the review [37] for more precise references. In particular, the incorporation of the defocusing quintic term is motivated by the stabilization of two- and three-dimensional vortex solitons.

Recall some of basic features of this nonlinearity in terms of criticality for the Cauchy problem. Depending on the space dimension, the NLS is seen to be:

- $d = 1$: focusing L^2 -subcritical plus defocusing L^2 -critical (and H^1 -subcritical).
- $d = 2$: focusing L^2 -critical plus defocusing L^2 -supercritical (and H^1 -subcritical).
- $d = 3$: focusing L^2 -supercritical plus defocusing H^1 -critical.

It is already known from the case of more general, gauge-invariant nonlinearities (see e.g. [9]), that equation (1.1) formally enjoys three basic conservation laws, namely:

- Mass: $M(u) = \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2$,
- Angular momentum: $J(u) = \text{Im} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \bar{u}(t, x) \nabla u(t, x) dx$,
- Energy: $E(u) = \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^4(\mathbb{R}^d)}^4 + \frac{1}{3} \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^6(\mathbb{R}^d)}^6$.

In dimensions 2 and 3, an effect of the quintic term is to *prevent finite time blow-up* which may occur in the purely cubic case (cf. [9]). Indeed, the conservation of the energy, combined with Hölder's inequality,

$$(1.2) \quad \|u\|_{L^4(\mathbb{R}^d)}^4 \leq \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \|u\|_{L^6(\mathbb{R}^d)}^3,$$

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shows that the cubic focusing part cannot be an obstruction to global well-posedness, at least in H^1 . For $d \leq 2$, global well-posedness then follows from classical results (see e.g. [9]). For $d = 3$, we refer to [56], as the quintic term is energy-critical.

Proposition 1.1 (Global well-posedness). *Let $d \leq 3$. For any $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, (1.1) has a unique global solution $u \in C(\mathbb{R}; H^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ such that $u|_{t=0} = u_0$. The solution obeys the conservation of mass, energy, and momentum. If in addition*

$$u_0 \in \Sigma := \{f \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d), x \mapsto |x|f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)\},$$

then $u \in C(\mathbb{R}; \Sigma)$.

Numerically, one observes a kind of oscillatory behavior within the solution u , which is due to the competition of focusing and defocusing effects within (1.1), cf. [49] for more details.

Remark 1.2. Recall that in dimension $d = 2$ or 3 , the quintic term is L^2 -supercritical, so we cannot hope to solve the Cauchy problem at this regularity level. Moreover, since the cubic-quintic nonlinearity stems from physics, it is sensible to work in H^1 , where the energy is well-defined.

Complementing the case of prescribed initial data, we may also want to prescribe asymptotic states (or scattering states) and an asymptotically linear behavior, provided that $d \geq 2$. We thereby recall that in the case $d = 1$, the cubic nonlinearity causes long-range effects, and no non-trivial solution to (1.1) can be asymptotically linear, cf. [4]. However, in dimensions $d = 2, 3$ one can rely on classical techniques (see e.g. [9]) or the results of [56], respectively, to obtain:

Proposition 1.3 (Scattering). *Let $d = 2$ or 3 . For any $u_- \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, (1.1) has a unique global solution $u \in C(\mathbb{R}; H^1(\mathbb{R}^d))$ such that*

$$\left\| u(t, \cdot) - e^{i\frac{t}{2}\Delta} u_- \right\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow -\infty} 0.$$

In particular,

$$M(u) = \|u_-\|_{L^2}^2, \quad E(u) = \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla u_-\|_{L^2}^2, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

If in addition $u_- \in \Sigma$, then $u \in C(\mathbb{R}; \Sigma)$ and

$$\left\| e^{-i\frac{t}{2}\Delta} u(t, \cdot) - u_- \right\|_{\Sigma} \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow -\infty} 0.$$

We recall that $e^{i\frac{t}{2}\Delta}$ is unitary on $H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, but not on Σ (see e.g. [9]), hence the final formula above.

As in the case with purely cubic nonlinearity, not every finite-energy solution of (1.1) is necessarily asymptotically linear. Finite time blow-up is of course ruled out in our case, but time-periodic solitary wave solutions also exist.

Definition 1.4. A *standing wave* or *soliton* of (1.1) is a solution of the form $e^{i\omega t} \phi(x)$, with $\omega \in \mathbb{R}$ and ϕ satisfying

$$(1.3) \quad -\frac{1}{2}\Delta\phi + \omega\phi - |\phi|^2\phi + |\phi|^4\phi = 0, \quad \phi \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d) \setminus \{0\}.$$

The associated action is given by

$$S(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla\phi\|_{L^2}^2 + \omega \|\phi\|_{L^2}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \|\phi\|_{L^4}^4 + \frac{1}{3} \|\phi\|_{L^6}^6.$$

A solution ϕ is a *ground state* if $S(\phi) \leq S(\varphi)$ for any solution φ of (1.3).

As we will see in Section 3, if $d \leq 3$, (1.3) admits a solution if and only if

$$0 < \omega < \frac{3}{16}.$$

It turns out that for $d = 1$, explicit solitary wave solutions are available for this range of ω , see below. In the present paper, we will review (and expand on) several results about the (in-)stability of solitary waves, a question which is closely related to dispersive effects in (1.1). Due to the invariants of the equations (in our case, translation in space and multiplication by $e^{i\theta}$ for a constant θ), it is customary to consider *orbital stability*, for which two approaches are available in the case of nonlinear Schrödinger equations: the first one historically, due to Cazenave and Lions [10], consists in showing that the set of energy minimizers, subject to a mass constraint, is stable under the flow of the equation. In some cases (typically, when the nonlinearity is homogeneous, as well as for the logarithmic nonlinearity [2, 8]), one is able to describe this set in more detail. The other one, known as Grillakis-Shatah-Strauss theory, was introduced in [23] (see also [17]), and generalized the ideas developed by M. Weinstein in [54, 55]. This approach has proven particularly useful in the case of homogeneous nonlinearities (or asymptotically homogeneous ones, see [17] and references therein) and in space dimension one (e.g. [26]). We will collect several results on both of these approaches (depending on $d = 1, 2, 3$), and accordingly introduce the following two notions of orbital stability.

Definition 1.5. For $\rho > 0$, denote

$$\Gamma(\rho) = \{u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d), M(u) = \rho\},$$

and assume that the minimization problem

$$(1.4) \quad u \in \Gamma(\rho), \quad E(u) = \inf\{E(v) ; v \in \Gamma(\rho)\}$$

has a solution. Denote by $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ the set of such solutions. We say that solitary waves are $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ -*orbitally stable*, if for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ satisfies

$$\inf_{\phi \in \mathcal{E}(\rho)} \|u_0 - \phi\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \delta,$$

then the solution to (1.1) with $u|_{t=0} = u_0$ satisfies

$$\sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \inf_{\phi \in \mathcal{E}(\rho)} \|u(t, \cdot) - \phi\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \varepsilon.$$

We note that if $\phi \in \mathcal{E}(\rho)$, then

$$\{e^{i\theta} \phi(\cdot - y); \theta \in \mathbb{R}, y \in \mathbb{R}^d\} \subset \mathcal{E}(\rho).$$

When the nonlinearity is homogeneous (and L^2 -subcritical), this inclusion becomes an equality, see [10, 9]. In this case, the above notion meets the following one, which is stronger, in general:

Definition 1.6. Let ϕ be a solution of (1.3). The standing wave $e^{i\omega t} \phi(x)$ is orbitally stable in $H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, if for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ satisfies

$$\|u_0 - \phi\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \delta,$$

then the solution to (1.1) with $u|_{t=0} = u_0$ satisfies

$$\sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \inf_{\substack{\theta \in \mathbb{R} \\ y \in \mathbb{R}^d}} \|u(t, \cdot) - e^{i\theta} \phi(\cdot - y)\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \varepsilon.$$

Otherwise, the standing wave is said to be unstable.

We emphasize that for “truly” non-homogeneous nonlinearities in dimensions $d \geq 2$ *only* $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ -orbitally stability is known; see e.g. [14, 48]. Moreover, it is not clear in general that ground states are members of $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$.

1.2. One-dimensional case. In the case $d = 1$, the overall picture is very neat. Firstly, for $0 < \omega < \frac{3}{16}$, solutions to (1.3) are given by ([44], see also [16])

$$(1.5) \quad \phi(x) = 2 \sqrt{\frac{\omega}{1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{16\omega}{3}} \cosh(2x\sqrt{2\omega})}}.$$

Note that in view of [6], this real-valued solution is unique, up to translation and change of sign. The orbital stability of these nonlinear ground states was established in [42, Theorem 3, case (1)].

Proposition 1.7 (Orbital stability in 1D). *Let $d = 1$, and $0 < \omega < \frac{3}{16}$. The solitary wave $e^{i\omega t}\phi(x)$, where ϕ is given by (1.5), is orbitally stable.*

The proof of this result combines the well-known Grillakis-Shatah-Strauss criterion [23] with the analysis of [26] and an explicit formula for second order ODEs without first order derivatives, a strategy which seems to be restricted to the 1D case and not suited for solutions to (1.3) in $d \geq 2$.

We note that in [42], more general nonlinearities are considered, including the following generalization of (1.1):

$$i\partial_t u + \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^2 u = -|u|^{p-1}u + |u|^{q-1}u, \quad q > p.$$

It is shown that if $p \leq 5$, then all ground states are orbitally stable. On the other hand, if $p > 5$, ground states with $\omega > 0$ sufficiently small become unstable, while if ω is sufficiently large (but not too large, since ground states have to exist), they remain stable. We note that the value $p = 5$ corresponds to an L^2 -critical, focusing nonlinearity. It is therefore natural to expect that in the case of the cubic-quintic nonlinearity (1.1), all ground states are orbitally stable when $d = 2$, while in $d = 3$ some will be stable and others unstable. We will give several pieces of rigorous evidence supporting this heuristics.

1.3. Two-dimensional case. We now turn to the case $d = 2$ and recall that the results of [50] show that for $\|u_0\|_{L^2}$ sufficiently small, the solution to (1.1) is asymptotically linear. It turns out that since the cubic term is L^2 -critical in 2D, we can in fact be more precise.

To this end, let Q be the *cubic nonlinear ground state*, i.e., the unique positive radial solution to

$$(1.6) \quad -\frac{1}{2}\Delta Q + Q - Q^3 = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

In view of [53], and noting that we have an extra factor $\frac{1}{2}$ in front of the Laplacian in (1.6) compared to [53], the sharp Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality reads

$$(1.7) \quad \|u\|_{L^4(\mathbb{R}^2)}^4 \leq \left(\frac{\|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)}}{\|Q\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)}} \right)^2 \|\nabla u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)}^2, \quad \forall u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^2).$$

In the focusing cubic case, i.e., without the quintic term, we know from [18] that if $u_0 \in L^2$ and $\|u_0\|_{L^2} < \|Q\|_{L^2}$, global existence and scattering hold (see also [31] for the case of radial data u_0). In the presence of (1.1), it was proved in [11] that for $u_0 \in H^1$ with $\|u_0\|_{L^2} < \|Q\|_{L^2}$, scattering holds as well, relying on the cubic case from [18]. In our first main result below, we shall show that the effect of the additional quintic term is not only to guarantee global well-posedness, but also to extend this dispersive result to the L^2 -sphere $\{\|u_0\|_{L^2} = \|Q\|_{L^2}\}$. We emphasize that we assume $u_0 \in \Sigma$, not simply $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$, see Section 2 for a more precise discussion of this aspect.

Theorem 1.8 (Mass (sub-)critical scattering in 2D). *Let $d = 2$. If $u_0 \in \Sigma$ with*

$$\|u_0\|_{L^2} \leq \|Q\|_{L^2},$$

then the solution $u \in C(\mathbb{R}; \Sigma)$ to (1.1) such that $u|_{t=0} = u_0$ is asymptotically linear, i.e. there exist $u_{\pm} \in \Sigma$ such that

$$\|e^{-i\frac{t}{2}\Delta}u(t, \cdot) - u_{\pm}\|_{\Sigma} \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \pm\infty]{} 0.$$

On a heuristic level, we may argue in the same fashion as in [25], and recall that the standard virial computation for (1.1) yields,

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |x|^2 |u(t, x)|^2 dx = 2E(u) + \frac{2}{3} \|u(t)\|_{L^6(\mathbb{R}^2)}^6 \geq 2E(u_0),$$

where $E(u) = E(u_0)$ is the conserved energy. In view of the sharp Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality, we have, under the assumptions of Theorem 1.8,

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |x|^2 |u(t, x)|^2 dx \geq \frac{2}{3} \|u_0\|_{L^6(\mathbb{R}^2)}^6.$$

The time-derivative of the virial of u is therefore increasing, a first hint that the solution is dispersive. In order to make this statement rigorous, especially in the limiting case $\|u_0\|_{L^2} = \|Q\|_{L^2}$, we rely on a conformal transform, and rigidity results regarding the concentration phenomenon in nonlinear Schrödinger equations, see Section 2.3 below.

Our second main result concerns the stability of solitary waves:

Theorem 1.9 (Nonlinear ground states in 2D). *Let $d = 2$. Then, for all $\omega \in]0, \frac{3}{16}[$, there exists a solitary wave solution $u(t, x) = e^{i\omega t} \phi_{\omega}(x)$ to (1.1). In addition, we have:*

- (1) *For any $\rho > \|Q\|_{L^2}^2$, there exists a ground state such that $\|\phi_{\omega}\|_{L^2}^2 = \rho$.*
- (2) *The ground state solution is unique, up to translation and multiplication by $e^{i\theta}$, for constant $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$.*
- (3) *There exists $0 < \omega_0 \leq \omega_1 \leq \frac{3}{16}$ such that for $\omega \in]0, \omega_0[\cup]\omega_1, \frac{3}{16}[$, ϕ_{ω} is orbitally stable.*
- (4) *For any $\rho > \|Q\|_{L^2}^2$, the set $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ is non-empty and solitary waves are $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ -orbitally stable.*

We emphasize the fact that for any mass *strictly larger* than that of the cubic ground state Q , we can find a soliton of the cubic-quintic NLS, while for a mass less or equal to that of Q , all solutions to (1.1) are asymptotically linear. This is in sharp contrast with the analogous situation in the case of a single pure power nonlinearity, where the critical sphere (in L^2 or other homogeneous Sobolev spaces) *always contains non-dispersive elements*, see e.g. [19, 28, 29, 51].

In view of numerical experiments showing that $\omega \mapsto M(\phi_{\omega})$ is an increasing map, and of the analogy with the one-dimensional case, it is natural to conjecture that $\omega_0 = \frac{3}{16}$, that is, all ground states are orbitally stable, see also [34]. Moreover, we expect that all ground states are energy minimizers.

1.4. Three-dimensional case. In $d = 3$, equation (1.1) has already been studied in [30]. However, no statement concerning the (in-)stability of solitary waves is given in there. Here, we shall state the following proposition, the proof of which relies on elements already present in [30]:

Proposition 1.10 (Soliton (in-)stability in 3D). *Let $d = 3$. For all $\omega \in]0, \frac{3}{16}[$, there exists a ground state solution ϕ_{ω} which is unique, up to translation and multiplication by $e^{i\theta}$, for constant $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$. Moreover:*

- (1) *There exists $\rho_0 > 0$ such that $M(\phi_{\omega}) \geq \rho_0$ for all $\omega \in]0, \frac{3}{16}[$.*

- (2) If $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ is such that $M(u_0) < \rho_0$, then the solution $u \in C(\mathbb{R}; H^1(\mathbb{R}^3))$ to (1.1) with $u|_{t=0} = u_0$ is asymptotically linear, i.e. there exists $u_{\pm} \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ such that

$$\|e^{-i\frac{t}{2}\Delta}u(t, \cdot) - u_{\pm}\|_{H^1} = \|u(t, \cdot) - e^{i\frac{t}{2}\Delta}u_{\pm}\|_{H^1} \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \pm\infty} 0.$$

- (3) There exists $0 < \omega_0 < \frac{3}{16}$ such that for all $0 < \omega < \omega_0$, ϕ_{ω} is unstable.
(4) There exists $\omega_0 \leq \omega_1 < \frac{3}{16}$ such that for all $\omega_1 < \omega < \frac{3}{16}$, ϕ_{ω} is orbitally stable.
(5) There exists $\rho_1 > \rho_0$ such that for $\rho \geq \rho_1$, solitary waves are $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ -orbitally stable.

The minimal mass ρ_0 is related to a specific ground state ϕ , which, unlike in the 2D case, cannot be directly described as the solution to some differential equation, but rather as the optimizer of a suitable Weinstein functional. More precisely, $\rho_0 = M(\phi)$ where

$$\phi = \inf_{u \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \setminus \{0\}} \frac{\|u\|_{L^2} \|u\|_{L^6}^{3/2} \|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^{3/2}}{\|u\|_{L^4}^4},$$

see [30] for more details (and, in particular, for the proof of items (1) and (2) in the last proposition). One again expects the equality $\omega_0 = \omega_1$ to hold. More precisely, Conjecture 2.3 from [30] (see also [34]), which is supported by numerics, states:

Conjecture. There exists $0 < \omega_* < \frac{3}{16}$ so that $\omega \mapsto M(\phi)$ is strictly decreasing for $\omega < \omega_*$, and strictly increasing for $\omega > \omega_*$.

If this indeed holds true, one can take $\omega_0 = \omega_1 = \omega_*$ in Proposition 1.10.

One may also wonder about the precise nature of instability. Recall, that in the case of a *single* power nonlinearity, instability is always due to the possibility of finite-time blow-up (see e.g. [9] and references therein). Very recently, Fukuya and Hayashi [20] have established instability results for NLS with a double power nonlinearity, but in their work the *focusing term dominates* the defocusing one (thereby extending the results of [12]). They rely on the possibility of blow-up or invoke the Grillakis-Shatah-Strauss theory, in which case the nature of the instability still remains unclear. For nonlinearly coupled *systems* of NLS, Correia, Oliveira and Silva [15] have shown that instability may correspond to a transfer of mass from one equation to the other. None of these former results, however, apply to our situation.

In our case, one may expect that the stable manifolds analyzed in [33, 46] become open neighborhoods, in the sense that in a full neighborhood of the unstable ground state (not only in a manifold with limited co-dimension), the solution u bifurcates from the solitary wave $e^{i\omega t}\phi(x)$, yielding a behavior of the form

$$u(t, x) = W(t, x) + e^{i\frac{t}{2}\Delta}u_+(x) + o_{L^2}(1) \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty,$$

for some $u_+ \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$, and where W is a (possibly different) ground state, modulated by a moving set of parameters (see [33, 46] for details). Typically, if $W = 0$, the solution becomes fully dispersive, while if $u_+ = 0$, u behaves like a solitary wave.

The rest of this paper is now organized as follows: In Section 2, we prove Theorem 1.8. In Section 3, we analyze some general results on solitary waves for (1.1). In Section 4, we recall further properties of the ground states related to the Grillakis-Shatah-Strauss theory. These will imply all the points in Theorem 1.9 except the fourth one, as well as items (3) and (4) of Proposition 1.10. The proof of the remaining statements on $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ -stability within Theorem 1.9 and Proposition 1.10 is given in Section 5.

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2. DISPERSIVE BEHAVIOR IN 2D

2.1. Space-time norms. In this section, our main goal is to prove Theorem 1.8. Recall that for two-dimensional Schrödinger equation, a *Strichartz-pair* (q, r) is *admissible* if

$$\frac{2}{q} + \frac{2}{r} = 1, \quad 2 \leq r < \infty.$$

We denote by

$$\|u\|_{S(I)} = \sup_{(q,r) \text{ admissible}} \|u\|_{L^q(I; L^r(\mathbb{R}^2))}.$$

In view of [50, Theorem 1.3], to prove Theorem 1.8 with Σ replaced by the larger space $H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$, it suffices to prove that for any $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$ with $\|u_0\|_{L^2} \leq \|Q\|_{L^2}$, the global solution u provided by Proposition 1.1 satisfies

$$(2.1) \quad \|u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} + \|\nabla u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty.$$

Remark 2.1. Note that Theorem 1.9 contains the particular information that one can find $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$ with $\|u_0\|_{L^2} - \|Q\|_{L^2} > 0$ arbitrarily small, such that $\|u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} = \infty$.

As a first, basic step, we show that (2.1) can be reduced to the following:

Lemma 2.2 (Reduction step). *Let $d = 2$ and $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$. If the global solution provided by Proposition 1.1 satisfies $\|u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty$, then we also have*

$$\|\nabla u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty,$$

and so u is asymptotically linear,

$$\exists u_{\pm} \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^2), \quad \left\| u(t) - e^{i\frac{t}{2}\Delta} u_{\pm} \right\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)} \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \pm\infty} 0.$$

If in addition $u_0 \in \Sigma$, then $u_{\pm} \in \Sigma$ and

$$\left\| e^{-i\frac{t}{2}\Delta} u(t) - u_{\pm} \right\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)} \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \pm\infty} 0.$$

Proof. From [50], we only have to check that $\|u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty$ implies $\|\nabla u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty$. Let $I = [t_0, t_1]$ be some time interval, with $t_1 \geq t_0 \geq 0$ to simplify notations. Considering the Duhamel's formula associated to (1.1), taking the gradient and applying Strichartz estimates, we find

$$\|\nabla u\|_{S(I)} \lesssim \|\nabla u(t_0)\|_{L^2} + \|u^2 \nabla u\|_{L^{4/3}(I \times \mathbb{R}^2)} + \|u^4 \nabla u\|_{L^{3/2}(I; L^{6/5})},$$

where we have considered the specific admissible pairs (4, 4) and (3, 6) for the cubic and quintic nonlinearities, respectively. Recall that we already know that $u \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}; H^1(\mathbb{R}^2))$, so the first term on the right hand side is bounded uniformly in time. Write

$$\frac{3}{4} = \frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4}, \quad \frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{12} + \frac{1}{3}, \quad \frac{5}{6} = \frac{4}{6} + \frac{1}{6},$$

in which case, Hölder's inequality yields

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla u\|_{S(I)} &\lesssim 1 + \|u\|_{L^4(I \times \mathbb{R}^2)}^2 \|\nabla u\|_{L^4(I \times \mathbb{R}^2)} + \|u\|_{L^{12}(I; L^6)}^4 \|\nabla u\|_{L^3(I; L^6)} \\ &\lesssim 1 + \|u\|_{L^4(I \times \mathbb{R}^2)}^2 \|\nabla u\|_{S(I)} + \|u\|_{L^{12}(I; L^6)}^4 \|\nabla u\|_{S(I)}. \end{aligned}$$

Recalling again that $u \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}; H^1(\mathbb{R}^2))$,

$$\|u\|_{L^{12}(I; L^6)}^4 \leq \|u\|_{L^\infty(I; L^6)}^3 \|u\|_{L^3(I; L^6)} \lesssim \|u\|_{L^\infty(I; H^1)}^3 \|u\|_{S(I)} \leq C \|u\|_{S(I)}.$$

Now since $\|u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty$, we can split \mathbb{R}_t into finitely many intervals on which the nonlinear terms in the above estimate can be absorbed by the left hand side, so we conclude $\|\nabla u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty$.

Now if $u_0 \in \Sigma$, we introduce the Galilean operator

$$J(t) = x + it\nabla,$$

which commutes with the free Schrödinger operator, i.e.

$$[J, i\partial_t + \frac{1}{2}\Delta] = 0.$$

Moreover,

$$(2.2) \quad J(t)u = ite^{i|x|^2/(2t)}\nabla\left(ue^{-i|x|^2/(2t)}\right),$$

which implies that $J(t)u$ can be estimated like ∇u above. Thus $\|Ju\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty$ and scattering in Σ follows along the same lines as scattering in H^1 (see e.g. [9]). \square

Next, in order to prove $\|u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty$ and thus (2.1), we shall in the following distinguish between the case of subcritical mass, i.e. $\|u_0\|_{L^2} < \|Q\|_{L^2}$, and the critical case, where $\|u_0\|_{L^2} = \|Q\|_{L^2}$.

2.2. Mass subcritical case. In this subsection, we suppose

$$(2.3) \quad \|u_0\|_{L^2}^2 = (1 - \eta)\|Q\|_{L^2}^2, \quad \text{for some } 0 < \eta < 1.$$

Since $u_0 \in \Sigma$, we can rely on the pseudo-conformal conservation law (derived initially in [22], see also [9]):

$$(2.4) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{2}\|J(t)u\|_{L^2}^2 - \frac{t^2}{2}\|u\|_{L^4}^4 + \frac{t^2}{3}\|u\|_{L^6}^6 \right) = -\frac{2t}{3}\|u\|_{L^6}^6.$$

In view of (2.2), we can rewrite

$$\|J(t)u\|_{L^2}^2 = t^2 \left\| \nabla \left(ue^{-i|x|^2/(2t)} \right) \right\|_{L^2}^2.$$

The sharp Gagliardo–Nirenberg inequality (1.7) when applied to $u(t, x)e^{-i|x|^2/(2t)}$, then yields, together with (2.3), that

$$\begin{aligned} \|J(t)u\|_{L^2}^2 - t^2\|u\|_{L^4}^4 &\geq \|J(t)u\|_{L^2}^2 - (1 - \eta)\|J(t)u\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &= \eta\|J(t)u\|_{L^2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the pseudo-conformal conservation law implies

$$J(t)u \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_t; L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)).$$

Invoking (2.2) and general Gagliardo–Nirenberg inequalities, for $2 \leq r < \infty$,

$$(2.5) \quad \|u(t)\|_{L^r(\mathbb{R}^2)} \lesssim \|u(t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)}^{1-\theta} \left(\frac{1}{t}\|J(t)u\|_{L^2} \right)^\theta, \quad \theta = 1 - \frac{2}{r},$$

we infer $u \in L^q(\mathbb{R}; L^r(\mathbb{R}^2))$ for all admissible pairs, i.e. $\|u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty$.

It was proved very recently in [11], that the assumption $u_0 \in \Sigma$ can be relaxed to $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$, by combining the Kenig–Merle roadmap ([28], see also [45]) with a profile decomposition in L^2 . Such a decomposition arises naturally, even though the nonlinearity is not homogeneous. Indeed, if the solution u is dispersive, with fixed $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$ norm, we expect it to behave like

$$|u(t, x)| \underset{t \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} \frac{1}{\lambda(t)} U \left(\frac{x}{\lambda(t)} \right),$$

with some fixed profile U and some scaling factor $\lambda(t) \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. In the case of scattering (i.e., asymptotically linear behavior), we have $\lambda(t) \approx t$. Equivalence, however, is difficult to establish. In general, for $\lambda(t) \rightarrow \infty$, we can only infer that

the quintic nonlinearity for large times t becomes negligible when compared to the cubic one. The large time stability estimate in [11] relies precisely on the solution to

$$(2.6) \quad i\partial_t v + \frac{1}{2}\Delta v = -|v|^2 v,$$

considered as a reference solution. Since this equation is L^2 -critical, we can follow [39] and expect a profile decomposition to arise at the L^2 -level (as opposed to \dot{H}^s -level for $s > 0$, see, e.g. [19, 25, 28]). The solution to (2.6) is guaranteed to be global in time and asymptotically linear if $\|v\|_{L^2} < \|Q\|_{L^2}$. We emphasize that this property, conjectured for a long time, is actually hard to prove (see [18], and [43] for the historical perspective), and, hence, moving from the assumption $u_0 \in \Sigma$ to $u_0 \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$ requires lots of technicalities.

In the case $\|u_0\|_{L^2} = \|Q\|_{L^2}$, the solution to the focusing cubic Schrödinger equation may develop singularities, so the approach of [11] seems doomed. Supposing that we know that u is dispersive, a critical aspect in our analysis below is to prove that $\lambda(t) \approx t$.

2.3. Mass critical case. Let now $u_0 \in \Sigma$ with $\|u_0\|_{L^2} = \|Q\|_{L^2}$. The pseudo-conformal conservation law yields

$$(2.7) \quad \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}\|J(t)u\|_{L^2}^2 - \frac{t^2}{2}\|u\|_{L^4}^4 + \frac{t^2}{3}\|u\|_{L^6}^6}_{\geq 0 \text{ from (1.7) and (2.2)}} = \frac{1}{2}\|xu_0\|_{L^2}^2 - \int_0^t \frac{2s}{3}\|u(s, \cdot)\|_{L^6}^6 ds,$$

hence

$$(2.8) \quad \|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^6}^6 \lesssim \frac{1}{1+t^2} \text{ and } \int_0^\infty t\|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^6}^6 dt < \infty.$$

This does not rule out a behavior of the form

$$\|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^6}^6 \approx \frac{1}{t^2(\log t)^2} \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty,$$

in which case $u \notin L_t^3 L_x^6$ (recall that (3, 6) is an admissible pair). In other words, a direct use of the pseudo-conformal conservation law seems hopeless in the mass critical case, since we cannot access a convenient bound on $\|J(t)u\|_{L^2}$. In fact, we do not even have a moderate growth of this quantity, like $\mathcal{O}(t^\gamma)$ for some $\gamma < 1/2$, as was exploited in [52].

Remark 2.3. Note that if the defocusing nonlinearity was weaker, for instance quartic,

$$i\partial_t u + \frac{1}{2}\Delta u = -|u|^2 u + |u|^3 u, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^2,$$

then the same approach as above would yield

$$\|u(t, \cdot)\|_{L^5}^5 \lesssim \frac{1}{1+t^2},$$

and so $u \in L_t^{10/3} L_x^5$, an admissible pair. We could then proceed as in the subcritical mass case.

We emphasize that in view of (2.5), it suffices to show $Ju \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_t; L^2(\mathbb{R}^2))$, which is actually a stronger property than $\|u\|_{S(\mathbb{R})} < \infty$. Suppose on the contrary that

$$(2.9) \quad \|J(t_n)u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \infty \text{ for some } t_n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Consider ψ given by

$$(2.10) \quad \psi(t, x) = \frac{1}{t} u \left(\frac{-1}{t}, \frac{x}{t} \right) e^{i|x|^2/(2t)}, \quad t \neq 0.$$

As is well-known, this transform exchanges the large time and finite time régimes. In the case of the L^2 -critical nonlinear Schrödinger equation, u and ψ solve the same equation. In the present case, ψ solves the non-autonomous equation

$$i\partial_t\psi + \frac{1}{2}\Delta\psi = -|\psi|^2\psi + t^2|\psi|^4\psi.$$

In view of (2.2) and (2.9),

$$(2.11) \quad \|\nabla\psi(\tau_n, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)} = \left\| J\left(\frac{-1}{\tau_n}\right)u \right\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \infty, \quad \tau_n := \frac{-1}{t_n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0^-.$$

We obviously have $\|\psi(t)\|_{L^2} = \|u_0\|_{L^2} = \|Q\|_{L^2}$. We use this property to rely on fine rigidity results associated to the L^2 -critical nonlinear Schrödinger equation (with critical mass), as first proved in [38], and revisited in [24]. More precisely, as will be proven below, (2.9) implies

$$\rho_n e^{i\theta_n} \psi(\tau_n, \rho_n x + x_n) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} Q(x) \text{ in } H^1(\mathbb{R}^2),$$

for some $\rho_n, \theta_n \in \mathbb{R}$ and $x_n \in \mathbb{R}^2$. The crucial aspect is that this convergence is strong in $H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$. We then show that $|\rho_n| \lesssim |\tau_n|$. This behavior rules out the first part of (2.8), and hence (2.9) cannot hold.

Step 1. A-priori estimates. The idea of this proof by contradiction is to rely on fine properties established for mass-critical, blowing-up solutions in the case of L^2 -critical nonlinear Schrödinger equations. We start with the fact that, in view of (2.7),

$$0 \leq \|J(t)u\|_{L^2}^2 - t^2\|u(t)\|_{L^4}^4 \leq \|xu_0\|_{L^2}^2.$$

Hence, in terms of ψ , defined via (2.10), we have

$$(2.12) \quad 0 \leq \|\nabla\psi(t)\|_{L^2}^2 - \|\psi(t)\|_{L^4}^4 \leq \|xu_0\|_{L^2}^2.$$

Next, we recall standard estimates on the virial quantity: The identity

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |x|^2 |u(t, x)|^2 dx = 2 \operatorname{Im} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \bar{u}(t, x) x \cdot \nabla u(t, x) dx,$$

together with Cauchy-Schwarz, and the boundedness $u \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}; H^1(\mathbb{R}^2))$, yields

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |x|^2 |u(t, x)|^2 dx \lesssim 1 + |t|, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

In turn, (2.10) implies

$$(2.13) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |x|^2 |\psi(t, x)|^2 dx \lesssim 1, \quad \forall t \in [-1, 0].$$

Recall that the (conserved) energy associated to the focusing cubic Schrödinger equation

$$i\partial_t v + \frac{1}{2}\Delta v = -|v|^2 v,$$

is

$$E_{\text{cub}}(v) = \|\nabla v\|_{L^2}^2 - \|v\|_{L^4}^4.$$

This will be used to prove a-priori estimates on truncated versions of the virial quantity. Following [24], we introduce a nonnegative radial $\chi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$, such that

$$\chi(x) = |x|^2 \quad \text{if } |x| < 1, \quad |\nabla\chi(x)|^2 \lesssim \chi(x),$$

and for $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and every $p \in \mathbb{N}^*$, we define

$$\chi_{p, \underline{x}}(x) := p^2 \chi\left(\frac{x - \underline{x}}{p}\right), \quad g_{p, \underline{x}}(t) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \chi_{p, \underline{x}}(x) |\psi(t, x)|^2 dx.$$

The function $g_{p,\underline{x}}$ is a truncated virial, centered at point $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$. A computation shows that

$$(2.14) \quad \dot{g}_{p,\underline{x}}(t) = 2 \operatorname{Im} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \bar{\psi}(t, x) \nabla \chi_{p,\underline{x}}(x) \cdot \nabla \psi(t, x) dx.$$

We now invoke an argument introduced by Valeria Banica in [3]: The fact that $\|\psi\|_{L^2} = \|Q\|_{L^2}$ and (1.7) imply that for every $t \in [-1, 0[$,

$$E_{\text{cub}}(e^{is\chi_{p,\underline{x}}}\psi(t)) \geq 0, \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

The above quantity is a polynomial of degree two in s ,

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{cub}}(e^{is\chi_{p,\underline{x}}}\psi(t)) &= E_{\text{cub}}(\psi(t)) - 2s \operatorname{Im} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \bar{\psi}(t, x) \nabla \chi_{p,\underline{x}}(x) \cdot \nabla \psi(t, x) dx \\ &\quad + s^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla \chi_{p,\underline{x}}(x)|^2 |\psi(t, x)|^2 dx, \end{aligned}$$

so its discriminant is non-positive, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} \left| 2 \operatorname{Im} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \bar{\psi}(t, x) \nabla \chi_{p,\underline{x}}(x) \cdot \nabla \psi(t, x) dx \right|^2 &\leq 4 E_{\text{cub}}(\psi(t)) \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla \chi_{p,\underline{x}}(x)|^2 |\psi(t, x)|^2 dx \\ &\lesssim \|xu_0\|_{L^2}^2 g_{p,\underline{x}}(t). \end{aligned}$$

Here we have used (2.12) and the definition of χ . Together with (2.14) this yields

$$|\dot{g}_{p,\underline{x}}(t)| \lesssim \sqrt{g_{p,\underline{x}}(t)},$$

and, hence, by integration,

$$(2.15) \quad \left| \sqrt{g_{p,\underline{x}}(t)} - \sqrt{g_{p,\underline{x}}(\tau)} \right| \lesssim |t - \tau|, \quad -1 \leq t \leq \tau < 0.$$

Step 2. Blow-up profile along the sequence τ_n . Following [24], we set

$$(2.16) \quad \rho_n = \frac{\|\nabla Q\|_{L^2}}{\|\nabla \psi(\tau_n, \cdot)\|_{L^2}}, \quad v_n(x) := \rho_n \psi(\tau_n, \rho_n x).$$

We have $\|v_n\|_{L^2} = \|Q\|_{L^2}$, $\|\nabla v_n\|_{L^2} = \|\nabla Q\|_{L^2}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. In view of (2.11),

$$E_{\text{cub}}(v_n) = \rho_n^2 E_{\text{cub}}(\psi(\tau_n)) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0,$$

since $E_{\text{cub}}(\psi(t))$ is bounded from (2.12). We have all the ingredients necessary to invoke Theorem 2.3 from [24], *along the sequence τ_n* : there exist $x_n \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $\theta_n \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$(2.17) \quad \rho_n e^{i\theta_n} \psi(\tau_n, \rho_n x + x_n) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} Q, \quad \text{strongly in } H^1(\mathbb{R}^2).$$

Step 3. Lower bound on $\|\nabla \psi(\tau_n, \cdot)\|_{L^2}$. The convergence (2.17) implies that, in the sense of measures,

$$|\psi(\tau_n, x)|^2 dx - Q(x) \delta_{x=x_n} \rightarrow 0.$$

This and the bound (2.13) imply that the sequence $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is bounded, hence we can extract a subsequence $(x_{n'})_{n' \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that

$$x_{n'} \rightarrow \underline{x}, \quad \underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Using $\chi_{p,\underline{x}}$ as a test function, the above convergence implies that $g_{p,\underline{x}}(\tau_{n'}) \rightarrow 0$, as $\chi_p(0) = 0$, and thus, (2.15) yields

$$\left| \sqrt{g_{p,\underline{x}}(t)} \right| \lesssim |t|, \quad -1 \leq t < 0.$$

Now letting $p \rightarrow \infty$, Fatou's lemma implies

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |x - \underline{x}|^2 |\psi(t, x)|^2 dx \lesssim t^2.$$

Using of the classical uncertainty principle, i.e.

$$\|\psi(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)}^2 \leq \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |x - \underline{x}|^2 |\psi(t, x)|^2 dx \right)^{1/2} \|\nabla \psi(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)},$$

allows us to conclude

$$\|\nabla \psi(t, \cdot)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)} \gtrsim \frac{1}{t}.$$

In particular, along the sequence τ_n , we find

$$0 < \rho_n \lesssim \tau_n.$$

Step 4. Conclusion. In view of (2.17), and since $H^1(\mathbb{R}^2) \hookrightarrow L^6(\mathbb{R}^2)$,

$$\|\psi(\tau_n, \cdot)\|_{L^6}^6 \underset{n \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} \frac{1}{\rho_n^4} \|Q\|_{L^6}^6 \gtrsim \frac{1}{\tau_n^4}.$$

Recalling that ψ and u are linked via (2.10), we find

$$\|u(t_n, \cdot)\|_{L^6}^6 = \frac{1}{t_n^4} \left\| \psi \left(\frac{-1}{t_n}, \cdot \right) \right\|_{L^6}^6 \gtrsim 1,$$

which is incompatible with the first part of (2.8). Therefore, (2.9) cannot hold, i.e. $Ju \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_t; L^2(\mathbb{R}^2))$, and hence Theorem 1.8 follows from Lemma 2.2.

3. EXISTENCE OF SOLITONS AND FIRST PROPERTIES

3.1. A priori estimates. Suppose we have a solution $u(t, x) = e^{i\omega t} \phi(x)$, with ϕ sufficiently smooth and localized. Then (1.1) becomes

$$(3.1) \quad -\frac{1}{2} \Delta \phi - |\phi|^2 \phi + |\phi|^4 \phi + \omega \phi = 0.$$

Proposition 3.1 (A priori estimates for solitary waves). *Let $1 \leq d \leq 3$. If $\phi \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ solves (3.1), then we have:*

(1) *Pohozaev identities:*

$$(3.2) \quad \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla \phi|^2 dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\phi|^4 dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\phi|^6 dx + \omega \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\phi|^2 dx = 0,$$

$$(3.3) \quad \frac{d-2}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla \phi|^2 dx - \frac{d}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\phi|^4 dx + \frac{d}{3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\phi|^6 dx + \omega d \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\phi|^2 dx = 0.$$

(2) *If $\phi \neq 0$, then $0 < \omega < \frac{3}{16}$.*

(3) *If $d = 2$ and $\phi \neq 0$, then $\|\phi\|_{L^2} > \|Q\|_{L^2}$, where Q is cubic ground state solution to (1.6).*

(4) *If in addition $\phi \in L^\infty \cap C^2$ is real-valued, then*

$$(3.4) \quad \|\phi\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq \sqrt{\frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4\omega}}{2}}.$$

Proof. For item (1), we quickly recall the method to derive Pohozaev identities formally, and refer to [6] for a rigorous justification via density type arguments. Firstly, multiplying (3.1) by $\bar{\phi}$ and integrating yields (3.2). In particular, we infer $\omega \in \mathbb{R}$. Secondly, by multiplying (3.1) with $x \cdot \nabla \bar{\phi}$ and integrating by parts we obtain (3.3). For $d = 2$, subtracting (3.3) from (3.2) yields

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla \phi(x)|^2 dx + \frac{1}{3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\phi(x)|^6 dx = \omega \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\phi(x)|^2 dx,$$

hence $\omega > 0$ unless $\phi \equiv 0$. In the case $d = 3$, we obtain similarly

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\phi(x)|^4 dx = 2\omega \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\phi(x)|^2 dx,$$

and thus we arrive at the same conclusion.

(2) From now on, we shall denote

$$F(s) = \frac{1}{4}s^4 - \frac{1}{6}s^6$$

and set

$$\omega^* = \sup \left\{ \omega > 0; \frac{\omega}{2}s^2 - F(s) < 0 \text{ for some } s > 0 \right\}.$$

A computation then shows $\omega^* = \frac{3}{16}$. In particular, if $\omega \geq \frac{3}{16}$, we have the pointwise relation

$$-\frac{1}{2}|\phi(x)|^4 + \frac{1}{3}|\phi(x)|^6 + \omega|\phi(x)|^2 \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

which, in view (3.3), implies $\phi \equiv 0$ for $d \geq 2$. In the case $d = 1$, the conclusion follows from ODE arguments, and more precisely [6, Theorem 5].

(3) We suppose $d = 2$ and introduce

$$\gamma = \frac{\|\phi\|_{L^4}^4}{\|\nabla\phi\|_{L^2}^2},$$

which allows us to rewrite (3.2) as

$$\left(\frac{1}{2} - \gamma\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla\phi|^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \phi^6 + \omega \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \phi^2 = 0,$$

Similarly, we can rewrite (3.3) for $d = 2$, by using γ , in the following form

$$\frac{\gamma}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla\phi|^2 - \frac{1}{3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\phi|^6 - \omega \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\phi|^2 = 0.$$

Combining these identities, we infer

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\phi|^6 = \frac{3(\gamma - 1)}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\nabla\phi|^2,$$

and in particular $\gamma > 1$, i.e. $\|\phi\|_{L^4}^4 > \|\nabla\phi\|_{L^2}^2$. In view of the sharp Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality (1.7), this consequently implies that the mass of the cubic-quintic ground states satisfies $\|\phi\|_{L^2} > \|Q\|_{L^2}$.

(4) Let $\phi \in C^2$ be a real-valued bounded solution to (3.1). Suppose that ϕ reaches its maximum at $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Then $\Delta\phi(x_0) \leq 0$, and hence

$$(-\phi^3 + \phi^5 + \omega\phi)|_{x=x_0} \leq 0.$$

Writing

$$\omega\phi - \phi^3 + \phi^5 = \phi \left(\phi^2 - \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4\omega}}{2} \right) \left(\phi^2 - \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4\omega}}{2} \right),$$

we see that

$$\phi(x_0) \leq \sqrt{\frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4\omega}}{2}}.$$

Reasoning similarly for a minimum of ϕ , we infer (3.4). \square

3.2. Existence and uniqueness. Denote $f(s) = s^3 - s^5$ and

$$F(s) = \int_0^s f(\tau) d\tau = \frac{1}{4}s^4 - \frac{1}{6}s^6,$$

as before. We have already seen that

$$\sup \left\{ \omega > 0; \quad \frac{\omega}{2}s^2 - F(s) < 0 \text{ for some } s > 0 \right\} = \frac{3}{16}.$$

Then according to [6] (treating the case $d = 1$ or $d = 3$) and [5] (treating the case $d = 2$), for all $\omega \in]0, \omega^*[$, there exists a solution ϕ_ω of (3.1). Uniqueness of ϕ_ω in $d = 1$ is proven in [6], while in $d = 3$ uniqueness follows from [47], as pointed out in [30]. Finally, for $d = 2$, we infer uniqueness from the results of [27], where we emphasize that the assumptions made there correspond more closely to those made to prove existence.

We recall that the action, defined in the introduction, is given by

$$S(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \phi\|_{L^2}^2 + \omega \|\phi\|_{L^2}^2 - 2V(\phi), \quad \text{where} \quad V(\phi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} F(\phi(x)) dx,$$

and satisfies

$$(3.5) \quad S(\phi) = E(\phi) + \omega \|\phi\|_{L^2}^2 = E(\phi) + \omega M(\phi).$$

As established in [13, Lemma 2.3] (which requires the nonlinearity to be energy-subcritical, i.e. $d \leq 2$ in our case), every minimizer of the action is of the form

$$\varphi(x) = e^{i\theta} \phi(x),$$

for some constant $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$, and where ϕ is a positive least action solution of (3.1). Then [7, Proposition 4] implies that

$$\phi(x) = \phi_\omega(x - x_0),$$

for some $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$, and we recall that ϕ_ω is the unique radial, positive minimizer of the action. The same is true for $d = 3$ (where the defocusing nonlinearity is energy-critical), as explained in [41]. We summarize all of these results in the proposition below.

Proposition 3.2 (Existence and uniqueness of ground states). *Let $1 \leq d \leq 3$. Suppose that*

$$0 < \omega < \frac{3}{16}.$$

Then (3.1) has a unique radial, real-valued solution ϕ_ω such that

- (1) $\phi_\omega > 0$ on \mathbb{R}^d .
- (2) ϕ_ω is radially symmetric, $\phi_\omega(x) = \phi(r)$, where $r = |x|$, and ϕ is a non-increasing function of r .
- (3) $\phi_\omega \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$.
- (4) *The derivatives of order at most two of ϕ_ω decay exponentially:*

$$\exists \delta > 0, \quad |\partial^\alpha \phi_\omega(x)| \lesssim e^{-\delta|x|}, \quad |\alpha| \leq 2.$$

- (5) *For every solution φ to (3.1),*

$$0 < S(\phi_\omega) \leq S(\varphi).$$

- (6) *Every minimizer φ of the action $S(\phi)$ is of the form*

$$\varphi(x) = e^{i\theta} \phi_\omega(x - x_0),$$

for some constants $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$, $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

4. FURTHER PROPERTIES OF THE GROUND STATES

4.1. **Asymptotic régimes for limiting values of ω .** The results below, regarding the asymptotic régimes $\omega \rightarrow 0$ and $\omega \rightarrow \frac{3}{16}$, are included in [30] or [34].

Proposition 4.1 (Asymptotics of the ground state mass). *Let $d = 2$ or 3 and Q denote the cubic nonlinear ground state. The map $\omega \mapsto \phi_\omega$ given by Proposition 3.2 is real analytic and admits the following asymptotic behavior:*

(1) *In the limit $\omega \rightarrow 0$, we have:*

(a) *If $d = 2$,*

$$M(\phi_\omega) = M(Q) + \frac{2\omega}{3} \|Q\|_{L^6}^6 + \mathcal{O}(\omega^2),$$

(b) *If $d = 3$,*

$$M(\phi_\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega}} M(Q) + \frac{\sqrt{\omega}}{2} \|Q\|_{L^6}^6 + \mathcal{O}(\omega^{3/2}).$$

(2) *In the limit $\omega \rightarrow \frac{3}{16}$, it holds*

$$M(\phi_\omega) + \frac{\partial M(\phi_\omega)}{\partial \omega} \xrightarrow{\omega \rightarrow \frac{3}{16}} \infty.$$

To turn the singular limit $\omega \rightarrow 0$ into a regular limit, one proceeds as in [41, 30] and changes the unknown function ϕ_ω into

$$\psi_\omega(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega}} \phi_\omega\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{\omega}}\right).$$

Then (3.1) is equivalent to

$$-\frac{1}{2} \Delta \psi_\omega + \psi_\omega - \psi_\omega^3 + \omega \psi_\omega^5 = 0.$$

We thereby note that the rescaling $\phi_\omega \mapsto \psi_\omega$ is L^2 -unitary exactly for $d = 2$. As before, we denote by Q the unique non-negative, radially symmetric ground state solution to

$$-\frac{1}{2} \Delta Q + Q - Q^3 = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

and consider the linearized operator

$$L : f \mapsto -\frac{1}{2} \Delta f - 3Q^2 f + f.$$

Then $L : H_{\text{rad}}^1 \rightarrow H_{\text{rad}}^{-1}$ is an isomorphism, where H_{rad}^1 denotes the Sobolev space of radial H^1 functions. Invoking the implicit function theorem, as well as uniqueness for (3.1), we have, in $H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and as $\omega \rightarrow 0$,

$$(4.1) \quad \psi_\omega(x) = Q(x) - \omega (L^{-1} Q^5)(x) + \mathcal{O}(\omega^2),$$

In particular, in the case $d = 2$, we infer

$$\|\phi_\omega\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)} = \|\psi_\omega\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)} \xrightarrow{\omega \rightarrow 0} \|Q\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)},$$

thus showing that ground states for the cubic-quintic NLS in 2D have mass strictly larger but arbitrarily close to that of the cubic ground state Q . Noting more precisely the relation ([54, Proposition B.1])

$$L(Q + x \cdot \nabla Q) = -2Q,$$

and recalling (4.1), we infer,

$$\begin{aligned}
M(\psi_\omega) &= \langle Q - \omega (L^{-1}Q^5), Q - \omega (L^{-1}Q^5) \rangle + \mathcal{O}(\omega^2) \\
&= M(Q) - 2\omega \langle Q, L^{-1}Q^5 \rangle + \mathcal{O}(\omega^2) \\
&= M(Q) + \omega \langle L(Q + x \cdot \nabla Q), L^{-1}Q^5 \rangle + \mathcal{O}(\omega^2) \\
&= M(Q) + \omega \langle Q + x \cdot \nabla Q, Q^5 \rangle + \mathcal{O}(\omega^2) \\
&= M(Q) + \omega \left(1 - \frac{d}{6}\right) \|Q\|_{L^6(\mathbb{R}^d)}^6 + \mathcal{O}(\omega^2).
\end{aligned}$$

Translating this in terms of ϕ_ω yields the first part of the proposition.

The second part of the proposition is proven in [34]. We also note that for $d = 3$, in [30, Theorem 2.2, (v)] the authors prove that

$$\left(\frac{3}{16} - \omega\right)^{-3} \lesssim M(\phi_\omega) \lesssim \left(\frac{3}{16} - \omega\right)^{-3},$$

which, however, does not rule out possible oscillations of $M(\phi_\omega)$.

The information provided by Proposition 4.1 is interesting in view of Grillakis-Shatah-Strauss theory: for $d = 2$, $\omega \mapsto M(\phi_\omega)$ is increasing near $\omega = 0$ and near $\omega = \frac{3}{16}$, while for $d = 3$, this map is decreasing near $\omega = 0$ and increasing near $\omega = \frac{3}{16}$. As mentioned in the introduction, we actually expect this map to be increasing on the full interval $]0, \frac{3}{16}[$ when $d = 2$, decreasing on $]0, \omega_0[$ and increasing on $] \omega_0, \frac{3}{16}[$ when $d = 3$.

4.2. Spectral properties. To take advantage of the above properties, we have to check the spectral Assumption 3 imposed in [23]. To state the spectral assumption, we write the second order derivative of the action as

$$\langle S''(\phi_\omega)w, w \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle L_1 u, u \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle L_2 v, v \rangle,$$

where $w = u + iv$. In our case, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
L_1 &= -\frac{1}{2}\Delta + \omega - 3\phi_\omega^2 + 5\phi_\omega^4, \\
L_2 &= -\frac{1}{2}\Delta + \omega - \phi_\omega^2 + \phi_\omega^4.
\end{aligned}$$

We then need to check:

Assumption 4.2. For each $\omega \in]0, \frac{3}{16}[$, the Hessian $S''(\phi_\omega)$ has exactly one negative eigenvalue; its kernel is spanned by $i\phi_\omega$ and $\nabla\phi_\omega$, and the rest of its spectrum is positive and bounded away from zero.

If this holds true, then:

- (a) If $\frac{\partial}{\partial\omega}M(\phi_\omega) > 0$, then the standing wave $e^{i\omega t}\phi_\omega(x)$ is orbitally stable.
- (b) If $\frac{\partial}{\partial\omega}M(\phi_\omega) < 0$, then the standing wave $e^{i\omega t}\phi_\omega(x)$ is unstable.

Indeed, the authors of [30] proved that Assumption 4.2 holds true for the cubic-quintic NLS in 3D. These properties are established in [34, 35] in a more general setting, covering (1.1) for $d = 2$.

Proposition 4.3 (Proposition 2.4 from [30]). *Fix $\ell = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, and consider the restriction of L_1 to functions of the form $f(|x|)Y(x/|x|)$, where Y is a spherical harmonic of degree ℓ .*

- (1) *When $\ell = 0$, the operator has exactly one negative eigenvalue; it is simple.*
- (2) *When $\ell = 1$, there are no negative eigenvalues. Zero is an eigenvalue and its eigenspace is spanned by the three components of $\nabla\phi_\omega$.*
- (3) *When $\ell \geq 2$, the operator is positive definite.*

The proof of this result relies on Sturm Oscillation Theorem, since the analysis boils down to second order ODEs for the radial function f . Note that the proof from [30] can be readily adapted to the 2D case, by replacing spherical harmonics with functions of the form $e^{i\ell\theta}$ in radial coordinates. The above proposition is complemented by the following one:

Proposition 4.4 (Proposition 2.5 from [30], Lemma 3 from [35]). *Let $\delta = \delta(r)$ be the solution to*

$$-\frac{1}{2}\delta'' - \frac{1}{r}\delta' + (5\phi_\omega^4 - 3\phi_\omega^2 + \omega)\delta = 0$$

obeying $\delta(0) = 1$. Then $\delta(r) \rightarrow -\infty$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$. Correspondingly, zero is not an eigenvalue of L_1 restricted to radial functions.

Thus, all conditions necessary to invoke the Grillakis-Shatah-Strauss theory are satisfied and one can infer (in-)stability of ground states from the properties of the map $\omega \mapsto M(\phi_\omega)$. At this stage, all items of Theorem 1.9 and Proposition 1.10 are proved, except the ones concerning $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ -stability of solitary waves.

5. ORBITAL STABILITY OF THE SET OF ENERGY MINIMIZERS

5.1. Two-dimensional case. We now prove the fourth point of Theorem 1.9.

First step. We show that for all $\rho > M(Q)$,

$$\inf \{E(u); u \in \Gamma(\rho)\} = -\nu,$$

for some finite $\nu > 0$. To prove that the infimum is finite, we use Hölder's inequality (1.2), to infer

$$E(u) \geq \frac{1}{2}\|\nabla u(t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)}^2 - \frac{\sqrt{\rho}}{2}\|u(t)\|_{L^6(\mathbb{R}^d)}^3 + \frac{1}{3}\|u(t)\|_{L^6(\mathbb{R}^d)}^6,$$

and thus $E(u)$ is bounded from below. To see that the infimum is negative, consider the L^2 -invariant scaling, for $\lambda > 0$,

$$u_\lambda(x) = \lambda^{d/2}u(\lambda x),$$

which, for $d = 2$, implies

$$E(u_\lambda) = \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \left(\|\nabla u\|_{L^2}^2 - \|u\|_{L^4}^4 + \frac{2}{3}\lambda^2\|u\|_{L^6}^6 \right).$$

In view of the sharp Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality, and since $\|u\|_{L^2}^2 > \|Q\|_{L^2}^2$, we may choose a profile $u \in H^1$ so that the terms independent of λ inside the parentheses become negative, e.g., take

$$u = \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{M(Q)}}Q, \text{ with } \lambda > 0 \text{ sufficiently small.}$$

Second step. Any minimizing sequence is bounded away from zero in L^4 . Let $(u_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be a minimizing sequence: for n sufficiently large, $E(u_n) \leq -\nu/2$, hence

$$\|u_n\|_{L^4}^4 \geq \nu > 0.$$

Third step. In view of [36] (see also [9, Proposition 1.7.6]), we have the standard trichotomy of concentration compactness. From the second step, vanishing is ruled out, so we have to rule out dichotomy to infer compactness. Arguing by contradiction, suppose that, after extraction of suitable subsequences, there exist $(v_k)_{k \geq 0}$, $(w_k)_{k \geq 0}$ in $H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$, such that

$$\text{supp } v_k \cap \text{supp } w_k = \emptyset, |v_k| + |w_k| \leq |u_{n_k}|, \|v_k\|_{H^1} + \|w_k\|_{H^1} \leq C\|u_{n_k}\|_{H^1},$$

satisfying

$$\|v_k\|_{L^2}^2 \xrightarrow[k \rightarrow \infty]{} \theta\rho, \quad \|w_k\|_{L^2}^2 \xrightarrow[k \rightarrow \infty]{} (1-\theta)\rho, \quad \text{for some } \theta \in]0, 1[,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(\int |\nabla u_{n_k}|^2 - \int |\nabla v_k|^2 - \int |\nabla w_k|^2 \right) &\geq 0, \\ \left| \int |u_{n_k}|^p - \int |v_k|^p - \int |w_k|^p \right| &\xrightarrow[k \rightarrow \infty]{} 0, \end{aligned}$$

for all $2 \leq p < \infty$. We infer

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} (E(u_{n_k}) - E(v_k) - E(w_k)) \geq 0,$$

hence

$$(5.1) \quad \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} (E(v_k) + E(w_k)) \leq -\nu.$$

Following an idea from [14], we then use a scaling argument rather than a multiplicative one as in [10]. Let

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{v}_k(x) &= v_k \left(\lambda_k^{-1/2} x \right), \quad \lambda_k = \frac{\rho}{\|v_k\|_{L^2}^2} \\ \tilde{w}_k(x) &= w_k \left(\mu_k^{-1/2} x \right), \quad \mu_k = \frac{\rho}{\|w_k\|_{L^2}^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since \tilde{v}_k and \tilde{w}_k have mass ρ ,

$$E(\tilde{v}_k), E(\tilde{w}_k) \geq -\nu.$$

On the other hand, we compute

$$E(\tilde{v}_k) = \lambda_k \left(\frac{1}{2\lambda_k} \int |\nabla v_k|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \int |v_k|^4 + \frac{1}{3} \int |v_k|^6 \right),$$

and so

$$E(v_k) = \frac{1}{\lambda_k} E(\tilde{v}_k) + \frac{1 - \lambda_k^{-1}}{2} \int |\nabla v_k|^2 \geq \frac{-\nu}{\lambda_k} + \frac{1 - \lambda_k^{-1}}{2} \int |\nabla v_k|^2.$$

Doing the same for $E(w_k)$, we find

$$\begin{aligned} E(v_k) + E(w_k) &\geq -\nu \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_k} + \frac{1}{\mu_k} \right) + \frac{1 - \lambda_k^{-1}}{2} \int |\nabla v_k|^2 + \frac{1 - \mu_k^{-1}}{2} \int |\nabla w_k|^2 \\ &\geq -\nu \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_k} + \frac{1}{\mu_k} \right) + \frac{1 - \lambda_k^{-1}}{2\|v_k\|_{L^2}^2} \|v_k\|_{L^4}^4 + \frac{1 - \mu_k^{-1}}{2\|w_k\|_{L^2}^2} \|w_k\|_{L^4}^4, \end{aligned}$$

where in the second step, we have used the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality. Passing to the limit, yields

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} (E(v_k) + E(w_k)) \geq -\nu + \frac{1}{2} \min \left(\frac{1-\theta}{\theta\rho}, \frac{\theta}{(1-\theta)\rho} \right) \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|u_{n_k}\|_{L^4}^4,$$

and hence a contradiction to (5.1), in view of the second step and $\theta \in]0, 1[$.

Conclusion. At this stage, we have all the arguments to conclude in the classical way. Assume, by contradiction, that there exist a sequence $(u_{0,n})_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$, such that

$$(5.2) \quad \|u_{0,n} - \phi\|_{H^1} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} 0,$$

and a sequence $(t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathbb{R}$, such that the sequence of solutions u_n to (1.1) associated to the initial data $u_{0,n}$ satisfies

$$(5.3) \quad \inf_{\varphi \in \mathcal{E}(\rho)} \|u_n(t_n, \cdot) - \varphi\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)} > \varepsilon,$$

for some $\varepsilon > 0$. Introducing $v_n = u_n(t_n, \cdot)$, the above inequality also reads

$$\inf_{\varphi \in \mathcal{E}(\rho)} \|v_n - \varphi\|_{H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)} > \varepsilon.$$

In view of (5.2),

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |u_{0,n}|^2 \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\phi|^2, \quad E(u_{0,n}) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} E(\phi) = \inf_{v \in \Gamma(\rho)} E(v).$$

The conservation laws for mass and energy imply

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |v_n|^2 \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} |\phi|^2, \quad E(v_n) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} E(\phi),$$

so $(v_n)_n$ is a minimizing sequence for the problem (1.4). From the previous steps, there exist a subsequence, still denoted by u_n , and a sequence $y_n \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $v_n(\cdot - y_n)$ has a strong limit u in $H^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$. In particular, u satisfies (1.4), hence a contradiction.

5.2. Three-dimensional case. It remains to address item (5) of Proposition 1.10

To this end, Theorem 4.1, (iv) from [30] ensures that for ρ sufficiently large

$$\inf \{E(u); u \in \Gamma(\rho)\} = [E_{\min}(m), \infty[,$$

with $E_{\min}(m) < 0$. It is then possible to resume the arguments presented in Section 5.1 above, and obtain $\mathcal{E}(\rho)$ -stability of three-dimensional solitary waves via the Cazenave-Lions argument.

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