



# Glimpses of Soliton Theory: The Algebra and Geometry of Nonlinear Pdes (Student Mathematical Library)

*Alex Kasman*

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Solitons are explicit solutions to nonlinear partial differential equations exhibiting particle-like behavior. This is quite surprising, both mathematically and physically. Waves with these properties were once believed to be impossible by leading mathematical physicists, yet they are now not only accepted as a theoretical possibility but are regularly observed in nature and form the basis of modern fiber-optic communication networks. *Glimpses of Soliton Theory* addresses some of the hidden mathematical connections in soliton theory which have been revealed over the last half-century. It aims to convince the reader that, like the mirrors and hidden pockets used by magicians, the underlying algebro-geometric structure of soliton equations provides an elegant and surprisingly simple explanation of something seemingly miraculous. Assuming only multivariable calculus and linear algebra as prerequisites, this book introduces the reader to the KdV Equation and its multisoliton solutions, elliptic curves and Weierstrass  $w_p$ -functions, the algebra of differential operators, Lax Pairs and their use in discovering other soliton equations, wedge products and decomposability, the KP Equation and Sato's theory relating the Bilinear KP Equation to the geometry of Grassmannians. Notable features of the book include: careful selection of topics and detailed explanations to make this advanced subject accessible to any undergraduate math major, numerous worked examples and thought-provoking but not overly-difficult exercises, footnotes and lists of suggested readings to guide the interested reader to more information, and use of the software package Mathematica® to facilitate computation and to animate the solutions under study. This book provides the reader with a unique glimpse of the unity of mathematics and could form the basis for a self-study, one-semester special topics, or "capstone" course.

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