

# **Trace formula and new form of** *N***-soliton to the Gerdjikov–Ivanov equation**

**Hui Nie1 · Junyi Zhu<sup>1</sup> · Xianguo Geng<sup>1</sup>**

Received: 11 August 2016 / Revised: 29 May 2017 / Accepted: 6 June 2017 / Published online: 19 June 2017 © Springer International Publishing AG 2017

**Abstract** The Gerdjikov–Ivanov equation is investigated by the Riemann–Hilbert approach and the technique of regularization. The trace formula and new form of *N*soliton solution are given. The dynamics of the stationary solitons and non-stationary solitons are discussed.

**Keywords** Gerdjikov–Ivanov equation · Riemann–Hilbert approach · trace formula · soliton

## **Mathematics Subject Classification** 35Q15 · 37K15

## **1 Introduction**

The main purpose of this paper is to study the following Gerdjikov–Ivanov (GI) equation [\[14](#page-10-0)]

<span id="page-0-0"></span>
$$
iq_t + q_{xx} - iq^2 q_x^* + \frac{1}{2} q^3 q^{*2} = 0
$$
 (1)

by Riemann–Hilbert methods [\[1](#page-10-1),[2,](#page-10-2)[6](#page-10-3)[,11](#page-10-4)[,22](#page-10-5),[24,](#page-10-6)[27](#page-10-7)[,30](#page-11-0)] and the technique of regularization. Here ∗ denotes the complex conjugation. This method is a generalization of the dressing methods [\[28,](#page-11-1)[29\]](#page-11-2), which now have many development, such as [\[3](#page-10-8)[,12](#page-10-9)[,13](#page-10-10)].

In this paper, we construct a nonregular Riemann–Hilbert problem, and give a new form of *N*-soliton solution. For the present Riemann–Hilbert problem, the determina-

 $\boxtimes$  Junyi Zhu jyzhu@zzu.edu.cn

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> School of Mathematics and Statistics, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450001, Henan, China

tion of its solution, which is sectionally analytic, has zeroes in each analytic domain. So the Riemann–Hilbert problem, whose index is not zero, is called a nonregular one. Note that it is very difficult to solve a matrix nonregular Riemann–Hilbert problem. The method of regularization is an efficient way to solve the problem. The regularization of the Riemann–Hilbert problem can be fulfilled by introducing a rational matrix, named the soliton matrix. In this procedure, the zeroes of the Riemann–Hilbert problem are transformed into the poles of the soliton matrix, which plays an important role in deriving the solitons.

The GI equation [\(1\)](#page-0-0) is the generalization of the derivative nonlinear Schrödinger equation [\[19](#page-10-11)[–21\]](#page-10-12), and is usually called the third type of derivative nonlinear Schrödinger equation, while the second type of derivative nonlinear Schrödinger equation is Chen–Lee–Liu equation [\[4](#page-10-13)]. The GI equation is an important integrable model in physics and mathematics, and has been studied extensively. For example, it has been studied via Darboux transformation  $[8-10,15,25]$  $[8-10,15,25]$  $[8-10,15,25]$  $[8-10,15,25]$  $[8-10,15,25]$ , the nonlinearization  $[5,16,26]$  $[5,16,26]$  $[5,16,26]$  $[5,16,26]$ , and others [\[17,](#page-10-21)[18](#page-10-22)[,23](#page-10-23)[,31](#page-11-3)]. As a result, many properties, such as Hamiltonian structures, *N*-soliton solution, rogue wave, algebro-gemetric solutions, were investigated. In this work, we give the trace formula and the new form of *N*-soliton solution of the GI equation. Here, the *N*-soliton solution is derived by using the block matrix decomposition.

An outline of this paper is as follows: In Sect. [2,](#page-1-0) we study the direct scattering problems of the GI spectral problem. In Sect. [3,](#page-3-0) the trace formula and Riemann–Hilbert problem are constructed, and solitons of the GI equation are derived. In addition, for one-soliton, dynamic behaviors of the stationary solitons and non-stationary solitons are investigated.

### <span id="page-1-0"></span>**2 Spectral analysis**

In this section, we present the scattering and inverse scattering methods for GI equation using the Riemann–Hilbert formulation. The Lax equations of Eq. [\(1\)](#page-0-0) are

<span id="page-1-1"></span>
$$
J_x = -ik^2[\sigma_3, J] + XJ,
$$
  
\n
$$
J_t = -2ik^4[\sigma_3, J] + YJ,
$$
\n(2)

where  $[\sigma_3, J] = \sigma_3 J - J \sigma_3$  is the commutator and

$$
X = kQ - \frac{i}{2}Q^2\sigma_3, \quad Q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & q(x, t) \\ -q^*(x, t) & 0 \end{pmatrix},
$$
  

$$
Y = 2k^3Q - ik^2Q^2\sigma_3 - ikQ_x\sigma_3 + \frac{1}{2}(Q_xQ - QQ_x) + \frac{i}{4}Q^4\sigma_3,
$$

with  $\sigma_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) are classical Pauli matrices.

As usual, in the direct scattering process, we only concentrate on the *x*-part of the Lax pair [\(2\)](#page-1-1), where *t* enters as a dummy variable and is omitted. Now we introduce matrix Jost solutions  $J_{\pm} = J_{\pm}(x, t, k)$  for the *x*-part of the Lax pair [\(2\)](#page-1-1) with the asymptotic conditions

<span id="page-2-0"></span>
$$
J_{\pm} \to I, \quad x \to \pm \infty. \tag{3}
$$

Here I is the  $2 \times 2$  identity matrix. Since  $J_+$  and  $J_-$  are both solutions of [\(2\)](#page-1-1), they are linearly related:

<span id="page-2-1"></span>
$$
J_{-}(x, t, k) = J_{+}(x, t, k)e^{-i\theta(x, t, k)\sigma_{3}}T(k)e^{i\theta(x, t, k)\sigma_{3}},
$$
\n(4)

where

$$
\theta(x, t, k) = k^2 x + 2k^4 t, \quad T(k) = \begin{pmatrix} a(k) - b(k) \\ b(k) & \tilde{a}(k) \end{pmatrix}.
$$
 (5)

Since  $tr(Q) = 0$ , det  $J_+(x, t, k)$  are independent of *x*, we have det  $J_+(x, t, k) = 1$  in view of [\(3\)](#page-2-0), and det  $T(k) = 1$  from [\(4\)](#page-2-1).

We note that *X*(*x*, *t*, *k*) in [\(2\)](#page-1-1) admits the relations  $X^{\dagger}(x, t, k^*) = -X(x, t, k)$  and  $\sigma_3 X(x, t, -k)\sigma_3 = X(x, t, k)$ , and  $Y(x, t, k)$  has the same properties. So, it is readily verified that the Jost functions  $J_{+}(x, t, k)$  satisfy the following symmetry conditions

<span id="page-2-2"></span>
$$
J_{\pm}^{\dagger}(k^*) = J_{\pm}^{-1}(k), \quad \sigma_3 J_{\pm}(-k)\sigma_3 = J_{\pm}(k). \tag{6}
$$

In fact, if the function  $J_{+}(k)$  admits the Eq. [\(2\)](#page-1-1) and boundary condition [\(3\)](#page-2-0), then the function  $\sigma_3 J_{\pm}(-k)\sigma_3$  also does. The unique solution of the boundary problem implies the second equation in [\(6\)](#page-2-2). In addition, the functions  $J_{\pm}^{\dagger}(k^*)$  and  $J_{\pm}^{-1}(k)$  satisfy the adjoint equation of  $(2)$  and boundary condition  $(3)$ , so the first equation in  $(6)$  is produced. We note that Eq. [\(6\)](#page-2-2) implies that

$$
T^{\dagger}(k^*) = T^{-1}(k), \quad \sigma_3 T(-k)\sigma_3 = T(k), \tag{7}
$$

in terms of [\(4\)](#page-2-1). Thus, we have

<span id="page-2-4"></span>
$$
\tilde{a}(k) = a^*(k^*), \quad a(-k) = a(k), \quad \tilde{a}(-k) = \tilde{a}(k), \n\tilde{b}(k) = b^*(k^*), \quad b(-k) = -b(k), \quad \tilde{b}(-k) = -\tilde{b}(k).
$$
\n(8)

Using the large-*x* asymptotic condition  $(3)$ , we can turn the *x*-part of  $(2)$  into the Volterra integral equations

<span id="page-2-3"></span>
$$
J_{\pm}(x,t,k) = I + \int_{\pm\infty}^{x} e^{ik^2 \sigma_3(y-x)} X(y,t,k) J_{\pm}(y,t,k) e^{ik^2 \sigma_3(x-y)} dy.
$$
 (9)

By performing the standard procedures on the Volterra integral equations [\(9\)](#page-2-3), one can prove the existence and uniqueness of the Jost solutions  $J_{+}$ . Moreover, it is important that  $[J-]_1$ ,  $[J+]_2$  can be analytically extended into  $D_+$ , and  $[J-]_1$ ,  $[J+]_2$  into  $D_-$ , where the regions  $D_{+}$  are defined by

$$
D_{+} = \{k \in \mathbb{C} | \arg k \in (0, \pi/2) \cup (\pi, 3\pi/2) \},\
$$
  

$$
D_{-} = \{k \in \mathbb{C} | \arg k \in (\pi/2, \pi) \cup (3\pi/2, 2\pi) \}.
$$

Here  $[J_{\pm}]_l$  ( $l = 1, 2$ ) denote the *l*th column of  $J_{\pm}$ .

To construct the Riemann–Hilbert problem on <sup>R</sup>∪*i*<sup>R</sup> by using the analytic properties of the Jost solutions  $J_{\pm}$ , it is important to introduce a matrix function  $P_1 = P_1(x, k)$ which is analytic in  $D_+$ 

<span id="page-3-1"></span>
$$
P_1 = ([J_{-}]_1, [J_{+}]_2), \tag{10}
$$

and solves the linear spectral problem [\(2\)](#page-1-1). Furthermore, by considering the large-*k* asymptotic behavior of  $P_1$ , we have

$$
P_1 \to I, \quad k \in D_+ \to \infty. \tag{11}
$$

On the other hand, we can define a matrix function  $P_2 = P_2(x, k)$  which is analytic for  $k$  in  $D$ −

<span id="page-3-2"></span>
$$
P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} [J_-^{-1}]^1 \\ [J_+^{-1}]^2 \end{pmatrix},\tag{12}
$$

in terms of [\(4\)](#page-2-1) and [\(6\)](#page-2-2). Here each superscript denotes the row of a matrix. Moreover, the large- $k$  asymptotic behavior of  $P_2$  can be shown to be

$$
P_2 \to I, \quad k \in D_- \to \infty. \tag{13}
$$

Note that the sectionally analytic functions  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  admit the following symmetry condition

$$
P_1^{\dagger}(k^*) = P_2(k),\tag{14}
$$

in view of the definition  $(10)$ ,  $(12)$  and the symmetry condition in  $(6)$ .

Let us consider the asymptotic expansion of *P*<sup>1</sup>

<span id="page-3-3"></span>
$$
P_1(k) = 1 + k^{-1} P_1^{(1)} + k^{-2} P_1^{(1)} + \cdots, \quad k \to \infty,
$$
 (15)

and substitute this expansion into  $(2)$ , then we find that

$$
Q = i[\sigma_3, P_1^{(1)}].
$$
 (16)

Thus, the potential *q* can be reconstructed as

$$
q = 2i(P_1^{(1)})_{12},\tag{17}
$$

where  $(P_1^{(1)})_{12}$  is the (1, 2)-entry of  $P_1^{(1)}$ .

## <span id="page-3-0"></span>**3 Trace formula and solitons**

From the definitions of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  as well as the scattering relations between  $J_+$  and *J*<sub>−</sub>, we see that

$$
\det P_1(k) = a(k), \quad k \in D_+, \tag{18}
$$

$$
\det P_2(k) = \tilde{a}(k), \quad k \in D_-, \tag{19}
$$

which means that the zeros of det  $P_1$  and det  $P_2$  are the same as  $a(k)$  and  $\tilde{a}(k)$ , respectively.

From [\(8\)](#page-2-4), we find that if  $k_j$  is a zero of det  $P_1$ , then– $k_j$  is also a zero of det  $P_1$ and  $k_j = k_j^*$  is a zero of det  $P_2$ . Thus we first assume that det  $P_1$  has 2*N* simple zeros  $\{k_j\}_1^{2N}$  satisfying  $k_{N+j} = -k_j$ ,  $1 \le j \le N$ , which all lie in  $D_+$ . Hence, det  $P_2$ possesses 2*N* simple zeros  $\{\hat{k}_j\}_{1}^{2N}$  satisfying  $\hat{k}_j = k_j^*$ ,  $1 \le j \le 2N$ , which all lie in *D*<sub>−</sub>. By virtue of analyticity, we know that  $a(k)$  is independent of the variables *x* and *t*, so that the zeros  ${k_i}$  are constants. Thus, the generating function for the conservation laws is just  $a(k)$ , and  $\log a(k)$  is the generating function for local integrals of the motion [\[7\]](#page-10-24). We note that the latter gives the trace formula.

In the following, we discuss the associated trace formula. To this end, we introduce the sectionally analytic functions

$$
\Omega^{+}(k) = a(k) \prod_{j=1}^{N} \frac{k^2 - \hat{k}_j^2}{k^2 - k_j^2}, \quad \Omega^{-}(k) = \tilde{a}(k) \prod_{j=1}^{N} \frac{k^2 - k_j^2}{k^2 - \hat{k}_j^2},
$$
(20)

which imply that  $\Omega^+(k)\Omega^-(k) = a(k)\tilde{a}(k)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{R} \cup i\mathbb{R}$ . From det  $T(k) = 1$ , we find

$$
\Omega^+(k)\Omega^-(k) = \frac{1}{1 + \rho(k)\tilde{\rho}(k)}, \quad k \in \mathbb{R} \cup i\mathbb{R},
$$
\n(21)

where

$$
\rho(k) = \frac{b(k)}{a(k)}, \quad \tilde{\rho}(k) = \frac{\tilde{b}(k)}{\tilde{a}(k)}.
$$

From  $(8)$ , we find

$$
\tilde{\rho}(k) = \rho^*(k^*), \quad \rho(-k)\tilde{\rho}(-k) = \rho(k)\tilde{\rho}(k).
$$

We note that this equation can be used to construct a jump condition on the curve <sup>R</sup> <sup>∪</sup> *<sup>i</sup>*R. Taking logarithms and applying the Cauchy projectors

$$
\mathcal{P}_{\pm}[f](k) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - (k \pm i0)} dz,
$$

we have

$$
\log \Omega^{\pm}(k) = \mp \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{1 + \rho(z)\rho^*(z^*)}{z - k} dz, \quad k \in D^{\pm},
$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the path consisting of lines from *i* $\infty$  to 0, from 0 to  $\infty$ , from  $-i\infty$  to 0, and from 0 to  $-\infty$ . Substituting  $\Omega^+(k)$  for  $a(k)$ , we obtain the trace formula

$$
a(k) = \prod_{j=1}^{N} \frac{k^2 - k_j^2}{k^2 - \hat{k}_j^2} \exp\left[ -\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{1 + \rho(z)\rho^*(z^*)}{z - k} dz \right], \quad k \in D^+.
$$
 (22)

Now, it is time to construct the Riemann–Hilbert problem. In fact,  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  satisfy the jump condition on the curve  $\mathbb{R} \cup i\mathbb{R}$ 

<span id="page-5-2"></span>
$$
P_{-}(x,t,k)P_{+}(x,t,k) = E_1 G(k) E_1^{-1}, \quad k \in \Gamma
$$
 (23)

where  $E_1 = \exp(-i(k^2x + 2k^4t))$  and

$$
G(k) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \tilde{b}(k) \\ b(k) & 1 \end{pmatrix}.
$$
 (24)

In this case, each of ker $[P_1(k_i)]$  and ker $[P_2(k_i)]$  contains only a single column vector  $v_i = v_i(x, t)$  and a row vector  $\hat{v}_i = \hat{v}_i(x, t)$ , respectively

$$
P_1(k_j)v_j = 0, \quad \hat{v}_j P_2(\hat{k}_j) = 0, \quad 1 \le j \le 2N. \tag{25}
$$

It is noted that these vectors satisfy the following relations

$$
v_j = \sigma_3 v_{j-N}, \quad N+1 \le j \le 2N. \tag{26}
$$

$$
\hat{v}_j = v_j^{\dagger}, \quad 1 \le j \le 2N. \tag{27}
$$

Now we shall get the spatial evolutions of the vectors  $v_j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq N$ . For this purpose, we take the *x*-derivative of  $P_1(k_i)v_i = 0$ . Then utilizing the *x*-part of [\(2\)](#page-1-1), we obtain the particular spatial evolution

<span id="page-5-0"></span>
$$
v_{j,x} = (\alpha_j I - ik_j^2 \sigma_3) \cdot v_j,\tag{28}
$$

in terms of the fact that the rank of the matrix  $P_1(k_i)$  is 1. On the other hand, taking the *t*-derivative of  $P_1(k_i)v_i = 0$  and using the *t*-part of [\(2\)](#page-1-1), we have the special temporal evolution

<span id="page-5-1"></span>
$$
v_{j,t} = (\beta_j I - 2ik_j^4 \sigma_3) \cdot v_j. \tag{29}
$$

Here  $\alpha_i$  and  $\beta_i$  are arbitrary constant. By solving [\(28\)](#page-5-0) and [\(29\)](#page-5-1) explicitly, we get

$$
v_j = e^{(\alpha_j I - i k_j^2 \sigma_3)x + (\beta_j I - 2ik_j^4 \sigma_3)t} \cdot v_{j,0}, \quad 1 \le j \le N,
$$
 (30)

where each  $v_{j,0}$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq N$  is a nonzero complex constant vector. If we set  $k_j =$  $\xi_i + i\eta_i$  and  $v_{i,0} = (e^{\alpha_{j0} + i\beta_{j0}}, 1)^T$ , where  $\alpha_{j0}$  and  $\beta_{j0}$  are some real constants, then  $v_i$  is denoted in the following form

$$
v_j = e^{\epsilon_j} \left( e^{(z_j + i\varphi_j)/2}, e^{-(z_j + i\varphi_j)/2} \right)^T, \quad 1 \le j \le N,
$$
 (31)

where

$$
\epsilon_j = \alpha_j x + \beta_j t + (\alpha_{j0} + i\beta_{j0})/2,
$$
  
\n
$$
z_j = 4\xi_j \eta_j [x + 4(\xi_j^2 - \eta_j^2)t] + \alpha_{j0},
$$
  
\n
$$
\varphi_j = -2(\xi_j^2 - \eta_j^2)x - 4(\xi_j^4 - 6\xi_j^2 \eta_j^2 + \eta_j^4)t + \beta_{j0}.
$$
\n(32)

It is known that utilizing the methods in Refs. [\[24](#page-10-6)[,27](#page-10-7)] the Riemann–Hilbert problem [\(23\)](#page-5-2) with the canonical normalization condition can be transformed to a Riemann– Hilbert problem without zeros. we note that the index , 2*N*, of the non-regular Riemann–Hilbert problem is given by its zeroes. By introducing the soliton matrix, (see  $P_2(k)$  below), we get a regular Riemann–Hilbert problem, whose index is zero. To obtain soliton solutions for the GI equation [\(1\)](#page-0-0), we choose the jump matrix *G* to be the  $2 \times 2$  identity matrix which corresponds to the reflection-less case. In this case, the solution of the regular Riemann–Hilbert problem is holomorphic, and can be chosen as the identity matrix in view of the canonical normalization. Consequently, the unique solution for this particular Riemann–Hilbert problem is represented by the soliton matrix and its inverse

<span id="page-6-0"></span>
$$
P_1(k) = \mathbf{I} - \sum_{m=1}^{2N} \sum_{j=1}^{2N} \frac{v_m v_j^{\dagger} (M^{-1})_{mj}}{k - \hat{k}_j}
$$
  
\n
$$
P_2(k) = \mathbf{I} + \sum_{m=1}^{2N} \sum_{j=1}^{2N} \frac{v_m v_j^{\dagger} (M^{-1})_{mj}}{k - k_m}
$$
\n(33)

where  $M = (M_{mi})_{2N \times 2N}$  is a matrix whose entries are

<span id="page-6-3"></span>
$$
M_{mj} = \frac{v_m^{\dagger} v_j}{k_j - \hat{k}_m}, \quad 1 \le m, j \le 2N.
$$
 (34)

In order to eliminate the inverse matrix  $M^{-1}$  in [\(33\)](#page-6-0), we introduce the following vectors

$$
f_{\alpha} = (v_{1,\alpha}, v_{2,\alpha}, \cdots, v_{2N,\alpha}),
$$
  
\n
$$
g_{\beta} = (v_{1,\beta}^{\dagger}, v_{2,\beta}^{\dagger}, \cdots, v_{2N,\beta}^{\dagger})^{T},
$$
  
\n
$$
\tilde{g}_{\beta} = \left(\frac{v_{1,\beta}^{\dagger}}{k - k_{1}}, \frac{v_{2,\beta}^{\dagger}}{k - k_{2}}, \cdots, \frac{v_{2N,\beta}^{\dagger}}{k - k_{2N}}\right)^{T},
$$
\n(35)

where  $v_{m,\alpha}$  and  $v_{j,\beta}^{\dagger}$ , ( $\alpha, \beta = 1, 2$ ) denote the elements. Then each element of the matrix  $P_1$  in [\(33\)](#page-6-0) can be rewritten as

<span id="page-6-1"></span>
$$
(P_1)_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\det(\tilde{M}^a_{\alpha\beta})}{\det M}, \quad \tilde{M}^a_{\alpha\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{\alpha\beta} & \hat{f}_{\alpha} \\ \tilde{g}_{\beta} & M \end{pmatrix}.
$$
 (36)

Furthermore, each element of the matrix  $P_1^{(1)}$  in [\(15\)](#page-3-3) takes the form

<span id="page-6-2"></span>
$$
(P_1^{(1)})_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\det(M^a_{\alpha\beta})}{\det M}, \quad M^a_{\alpha\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \hat{f}_{\alpha} \\ g_{\beta} & M \end{pmatrix}.
$$
 (37)

Note that the representations [\(36\)](#page-6-1) and [\(37\)](#page-6-2) can be derived in terms of the following block matrix decomposition

$$
\begin{pmatrix}\nA_{m \times m} & B_{m \times n} \\
C_{n \times m} & D_{n \times n}\n\end{pmatrix} =\n\begin{pmatrix}\nA & 0 \\
C & I_{n \times n}\n\end{pmatrix}\n\begin{pmatrix}\nI_{m \times m} & A^{-1}B \\
0 & D - CA^{-1}B\n\end{pmatrix}
$$
\n
$$
= \begin{pmatrix}\nI_{m \times m} & B \\
0 & D\n\end{pmatrix}\n\begin{pmatrix}\nA - BD^{-1}C & 0 \\
D^{-1}C & I_{n \times n}\n\end{pmatrix}.
$$

In fact, one may find

$$
(P_1)_{\alpha\beta} = \delta_{\alpha\beta} - \sum_{m=1}^{2N} \sum_{j=1}^{2N} v_{m,\alpha} (M^{-1})_{mj} \frac{v_{j,\beta}^{\dagger}}{k - \hat{k}_j} = \delta_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{f}_{\alpha} (M^{-1}) \tilde{g}_{\beta},
$$
  

$$
(P_1^{(1)})_{\alpha\beta} = - \sum_{m=1}^{2N} \sum_{j=1}^{2N} v_{m,\alpha} (M^{-1})_{mj} v_{j,\beta}^{\dagger} = -\hat{f}_{\alpha} (M^{-1}) g_{\beta}.
$$

Since

$$
\tilde{M}^a_{\alpha\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \hat{f}_{\alpha} \\ 0 & M \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{f}_{\alpha} (M^{-1}) \tilde{g}_{\beta} & 0 \\ M^{-1} \tilde{g}_{\beta} & I \end{pmatrix},
$$

and det( $\tilde{M}^a_{\alpha\beta}$ ) = det( $M$ )( $\delta_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{f}_\alpha(M^{-1})\tilde{g}_\beta$ ). Thus Eq. [\(36\)](#page-6-1) is proved. Equation [\(37\)](#page-6-2) can be shown similarly.

Hence the *N*-soliton solution of GI equation has the new form

<span id="page-7-0"></span>
$$
q = 2i \frac{\det(M_{12}^a)}{\det M},
$$
\n(38)

where the matrix *M* is defined by [\(34\)](#page-6-3) and  $M_{12}^a$  by [\(37\)](#page-6-2). We note that the *N*-fold Darboux transformation of the GI equation was discussed in [\[9,](#page-10-25)[10\]](#page-10-15), and one soliton and two soliton were presented, but no explicit *N*-soliton solition.

For  $N = 1$  in formula [\(38\)](#page-7-0). Consequently, one-soliton solution of the GI equation [\(1\)](#page-0-0) takes the form

<span id="page-7-1"></span>
$$
q = \frac{8\xi_1\eta_1 e^{i\varphi_1}}{k_1 e^{-z_1} + k_1^* e^{z_1}}
$$
(39)

where  $k_1 = \xi_1 + i\eta_1 \in D_+$  and

$$
z_1 = 4\xi_1 \eta_1 [x + 4(\xi_1^2 - \eta_1^2)t] + \alpha,
$$
  
\n
$$
\varphi_1 = -2(\xi_1^2 - \eta_1^2)x - 4(\xi_1^4 - 6\xi_1^2 \eta_1^2 + \eta_1^4)t + \beta.
$$

Here, we have chosen  $v_{1,0} = (e^{\alpha_0 + i\beta_0}, 1)^T$ .

Thus,  $\xi_1 \eta_1 > 0$  if  $k_1 \in D^+$ . Moreover, in the subregion  $\{\xi_1 < \eta_1\}$  of  $D^+$ , the one-soliton is a right traveling wave (see Fig. [1\)](#page-8-0), and in the subregion  $\{\xi_1 > \eta_1\}$  of  $D^+$ , the one-soliton is a left traveling wave (see Fig. [2\)](#page-8-1). On the line  $\xi_1 = \eta_1$ , the one-soliton is a stationary wave (see Fig. [3\)](#page-8-2).



<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Fig. 1** One-soliton  $q(x, t)$  in [\(39\)](#page-7-1) with the parameters chosen as  $\xi_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\eta_1 = 1$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = 0$ . Red line absolute value of *q*, *yellow line* real part of *q* and *green line* imaginary of *q* (colour figure online)



<span id="page-8-1"></span>**Fig. 2** One-soliton  $q(x, t)$  in [\(39\)](#page-7-1) with the parameters chosen as  $\xi_1 = 1$ ,  $\eta_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = 0$ 



<span id="page-8-2"></span>**Fig. 3** One-soliton  $q(x, t)$  in [\(40\)](#page-8-3) with the parameters chosen as  $\xi_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\eta_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = 0$ 

The stationary soliton can be derived by letting  $k_1 = \xi(1 + i)$ ,

<span id="page-8-3"></span>
$$
q = 2\xi e^{i\phi} \frac{\cosh(z) + i \sinh(z)}{\cosh(2z)},
$$
\n(40)

where

$$
z = 4\xi^2 x + \alpha, \quad \phi = 16\xi^4 t + \beta.
$$

Hence  $|q|^2 = 4\xi^2/\cosh(2z)$ .



<span id="page-9-0"></span>**Fig. 4** One-soliton  $q(x, t)$  in [\(39\)](#page-7-1) with the parameters chosen as  $\xi_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\eta_1 = 1$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = 0$ 



<span id="page-9-1"></span>**Fig. 5** One-soliton  $q(x, t)$  in [\(39\)](#page-7-1) with the parameters chosen as  $\xi_1 = 1$ ,  $\eta_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = 0$ 



<span id="page-9-2"></span>**Fig. 6** One-soliton  $q(x, t)$  in [\(40\)](#page-8-3) with the parameters chosen as  $\xi_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\eta_1 = 0.5$ ,  $\alpha = \beta = 0$ 

We note that the real part and imaginary part of the one-soliton have some interesting behaviors (see Figs. [4,](#page-9-0) [5,](#page-9-1) [6\)](#page-9-2). For non-stationary solitons, the wave forms of the real part and imaginary part do not change (see Figs. [1,](#page-8-0) [2\)](#page-8-1). However, for stationary soliton, the waves of the real part and imaginary part are changing over time, but the wave form of the absolute value does not change (see Fig. [3\)](#page-8-2).

**Acknowledgements** Projects 11471295 and 11331008 were supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

#### **Compliance with ethical standards**

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

## **References**

- <span id="page-10-1"></span>1. Ablowitz, M.J., Clarkson, P.A.: Solitons, Nonlinear Evolution Equations and Inverse Scattering. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (1991)
- <span id="page-10-2"></span>2. Ablowitz, M.J., Fokas, A.S.: Complex Variables: Introduction and Applications, 2nd edn. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (2003)
- <span id="page-10-8"></span>3. Beals, R., Coifman, R.R.: Linear spectral problems, non-linear equations and the deltamacr-method. Inverse Probl. **5**, 87–130 (1989)
- <span id="page-10-13"></span>4. Chen, H.H., Lee, Y.C., Liu, C.S.: Integrability of nonlinear Hamiltonian systems by inverse scattering method. Phys. Scr. **20**, 490–492 (1979)
- <span id="page-10-18"></span>5. Dai, H.H., Fan, E.G.: Variable separation and algebro-geometric solutions of the Gerdjikov–Ivanov equation. Chaos Soliton. Fract. **22**, 93–101 (2004)
- <span id="page-10-3"></span>6. Doktorov, E.V., Leble, S.B.: Solitons, Nonlinear Evolution Equations and Inverse Scattering. Springer, Dordrecht (2007)
- <span id="page-10-24"></span>7. Faddeev, L.D., Takhtajan, L.A.: Hamiltonian Methods in the Theory of Solitons. Springer, Berlin (1987)
- <span id="page-10-14"></span>8. Fan, E.G.: Darboux transformation and soliton-like solutions for the Gerdjikov–Ivanov equation. J. Phys. A Math. Gen. **33**, 6925–6933 (2000)
- <span id="page-10-25"></span>9. Fan, E.G.: Integrable evolution systems based on Gerdjikov–Ivanov equations, bi-Hamiltonian structure, finite-dimensional integrable systems and N-fold Darboux transformation. J. Math. Phys. **41**, 7769–7782 (2000)
- <span id="page-10-15"></span>10. Fan, E.G.: Explicit N-fold Darboux transformations and soliton solutions for nonlinear derivative Schrödinger equations. Commun. Theor. Phys. **35**, 651–656 (2001)
- <span id="page-10-4"></span>11. Geng, X.G., Wu, J.P.: Riemann–Hilbert approach and N-soliton solutions for a generalized Sasa– Satsuma equation. Wave Motion **60**, 62–72 (2016)
- <span id="page-10-9"></span>12. Gerdjikov, V.S.: Algebraic and analytic aspects of N-wave type tquations. Contemp. Math. **301**, 35–68 (2002)
- <span id="page-10-10"></span>13. Gerdjikov, V.S.: Basic aspects of soliton theory. In: Mladenov, I.M., Hirshfeld, A.C. (eds.) Geometry, Integrability and Quantization. Sofetex, Sofia (2005)
- <span id="page-10-0"></span>14. Gerdjikov, V.S., Ivanov, I.: A quadratic pencil of general type and nonlinear evolution equations. II. Hierarchies of Hamiltonian structures. Bulg. J. Phys. **10**, 130–143 (1983)
- <span id="page-10-16"></span>15. Guo, L.J., Zhang, Y.S., Xu, S.W., Wu, Z.W., He, J.S.: The higher order rogue wave solutions of the Gerdjikov–Ivanov equation. Phys. Scr. **89**, 035501 (2014)
- <span id="page-10-19"></span>16. Hou, Y., Fan, E.G., Zhao, P.: Algebro-geometric solutions for the Gerdjikov–Ivanov hierarchy. J. Math. Phys. **54**, 073505 (2013)
- <span id="page-10-21"></span>17. Kakei, S., Kikuchi, T.: Affine Lie group approach to a derivative nonlinear Schrödinger equation and its similarity reduction. Int. Math. Res. Not. **78**, 4181–4209 (2004)
- <span id="page-10-22"></span>18. Kakei, S., Kikuchi, T.: Solutions of a derivative nonlinear Schrödinger hierarchy and its similarity reduction. Glasg. Math. J. **47**, 99–107 (2005)
- <span id="page-10-11"></span>19. Kakei, S., Sasa, N., Satsuma, J.: Bilinearization of a generalized derivative nonlinear Schrödinger equation. J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. **64**, 1519–1523 (1995)
- 20. Kaup, D.J., Newell, A.C.: An exact solution for a derivative nonlinear Schrödinger equation. J. Math. Phys. **19**, 798–801 (1978)
- <span id="page-10-12"></span>21. Kundu, A.: Exact solutions to higher-order nonlinear equations through gauge transformation. Phys. D **25**, 399–406 (1987)
- <span id="page-10-5"></span>22. Lenells, J., Fokas, A.S.: On a novel integrable generalization of the nonlinear Schrödinger equation. Nonlinearity **22**, 11–27 (2009)
- <span id="page-10-23"></span>23. Lu, X., Ma, W.X., Yu, J.: A new (2+1)-dimensional integrable system and its algebro-geometric solution. Nonlinear Dyn. **82**, 1211–1220 (2015)
- <span id="page-10-6"></span>24. Shchesnovich, V.S., Yang, J.K.: General soliton matrices in the Riemann–Hilbert problem for integrable nonlinear equations. J. Math. Phys. **44**, 4604–4639 (2003)
- <span id="page-10-17"></span>25. Xu, S.W., He, J.S.: The rogue wave and breather solution of the Gerdjikov–Ivanov equation. J. Math. Phys. **53**, 063507 (2012)
- <span id="page-10-20"></span>26. Yu, J., He, J.S., Han, J.W.: Two kinds of new integrable decompositions of the Gerdjikov–Ivanov equation. J. Math. Phys. **53**, 033510 (2012)
- <span id="page-10-7"></span>27. Zakharov, V.E.,Manakov, S.V., Novikov, S.P., Pitaevskii, L.P.: Theory of Soliton: The inverse Scattering Technique. Nauka, Moscow (1980)
- <span id="page-11-1"></span>28. Zakharov, V.E., Shabat, A.B.: A scheme for integrating the nonlinear equations of mathematical physics by the method of the inverse scattering problem. I. Funct. Anal. Appl. **8**, 226–235 (1974)
- <span id="page-11-2"></span>29. Zakharov, V.E., Shabat, A.B.: Integration of nonlinear equations of mathematical physics by the method of the inverse scattering. II. Funct. Anal. Appl. **13**, 166–174 (1979)
- <span id="page-11-0"></span>30. Zhu, J.Y., Li, Z.: Dressing method for a generalized focusing NLS equation via local Riemann–Hilbert problem. Acta Phys. Pol. B **42**, 1893–1904 (2011)
- <span id="page-11-3"></span>31. Yang, J.J., Zhu, J.Y., Wang, L.L.: Dressing by regularization to the Gerdjikov–Ivanov equation and the higher-order soliton. [arXiv: 1504.03407v2](http://arxiv.org/abs/1504.03407v2) (2015)