## SPECTRAL PROPERTIES OF THE LAX OPERATOR FOR THE MATRIX NONLINEAR SCHRÖDINGER SYSTEM

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We discuss spectral properties of the AKNS system associated with the matrix nonlinear Schrödinger system. In particular we consider systems whose coefficients have nontrivial asymptotics. We discuss the location and existence of eigenvalues and we obtain some new results that generalize earlier ones for systems whose coefficients decay at infinity.