

SPECTRAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
MATRIX-VALUED AKNS EQUATION

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We will discuss spectral problems arising in the study of the matrix-valued AKNS system. The main focus will be on results that can be obtained under minimal local assumptions and for matrix coefficients that have nonvanishing and different asymptotics as  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$ . In addition to giving a partial review of prior work on this subject we will describe some recent results and problems that might warrant further study.