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INVERSE SCATTERING FOR SCATTERING DATA WITH POOR REGULARITY OR SLOW DECAY

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1. Introduction. Motivation to study the inverse scattering problem for scattering data with poor regularity or slow decay is an application which will be given in two subsequent papers [**7, 21**] for the Cauchy problem of the Korteweg-deVries equation (KdV) $u_t - 6uu_x + u_{xxx} = 0$ with irregular initial profile as, e.g., a smooth enough box shaped potential or a steplike a smoothed Heavyside function [**4,5**].

If we consider $u(x)$ as a potential for the Schrödinger equation $-y''(x) + u(x)y(x) = k^2y(x)$ we can associate to u, by a well known procedure [**8,9**], the scattering data of which a part is given by the so called scattering matrix (T_+, R_+, T_-, R_-). To find a solution $u(x,t)$ of the KdV $(t > 0)$ it is enough to study the evolution of the scattering in time and to construct $u(x,t)$ by the inverse problem [**3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13**]. Often, however, the evolution of the scattering data, especially R_-, does not stay within the set where the inverse problem was known to be solvable [**4, 5**].

Let us briefly outline the organization of the paper. In §2 we discuss the Marchenko equation in $L_2(R_-)$. In §3 we study the inverse scattering problem under weaker decay and regularity properties of R_- and its Fourier transform than in [**8, 9**].

Let us introduce the following notation. Let f be a complex valued function defined on $\mathbf{R}$. By $\tau_x f$ we denote the translated function $\tau_x f(y) := f(x+y)$ (x and y in $\mathbf{R}$). If $h \neq 0$ we denote by $\Delta_h f$ the differential quotient $(\Delta_h f)(x) := \frac{(f(x+h)-f(x))}{h}$.

Let f be in $L_2(\mathbf{R})$. By $\hat{f}$ we denote the Fourier transform $\hat{f}(k) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{2ikx}dx$. By $\tau_x f$ we define the operator on $L_2(\mathbf{R}_-)$ defined by

$$\tau_x f(g)(y) := \int_{-\infty}^{0} \tau_z f(x+z)g(z)dz \quad (g \text{ in } L_2(\mathbf{R}_-)).$$

By $'$ or ∂_x we denote the derivation with respect to x. For a complex