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Nonlinear evolution equations featuring strong dispersion may possess what the authors refer to as *dispersive blow-up*. This is related to the fact that such equations are often ill-posed in  $L^\infty$ -spaces.

The lecture intends to quickly review dispersive blow-up results. It will then turn to potential application of these results to the genesis of oceanic rogue waves and to rogue wave formation in fiber optics cables. (Received August 16, 2010)