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Discussed here are systems of nonlinear, dispersive wave equations. Recent theory has shown that in general, they have more than one class of solitary-wave solutions. The theory also indicates that not all of them are stable.

Using a numerical scheme based upon discontinuous Galerkin ideas, we investigate what happens to unstable waves under small perturbations. This leads to a conjecture about necessary and sufficient conditions for stability and for global well-posedness of the associated initial-value problem. (Received August 22, 2015)