A Search for Higher-Dimensional Integrable
Modified KdV Equations – The Painlevé
Approach

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Abstract

It is shown here that the possibility of the existence of new (2 + 1) dimensional integrable
equations of the modified KdV equation using the Painlevé test.

1 Introduction

A central and active topic in the theory of integrable systems is to study as many higher
dimensional integrable systems as possible. In this paper we will give (2 + 1) dimensional
integrable equations of the modified KdV(mKdV) equation via the Painlevé test. Let us
first recall here that the mKdV equation in (1 + 1) dimensions reads

$$v_t + v_{xxx} + \frac{3}{2} v^2 v_x = 0, \quad (1)$$

where $v = v(x, t)$ and a subscript denotes partial differentiation, e.g., $v_x = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$, $v_{xx} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2}$ etc. Higher dimensional integrable equations are not usually unique, in the sense that there exist several equations that reduce to a given one under dimensional reduction. It is known, for instance, that

$$v_t + v_{xxx} + v^2 v_z + v_x \left( \partial_x^{-1} v v_z \right) = 0 \quad (2)$$

and

$$v_t + v_{xxx} + \frac{3}{4} v_x \partial_z^{-1} \left( v \left( \partial_z^{-1} v_x \right)_x \right) + \frac{3}{4} \left( \partial_z^{-1} v_x \right) \left( v \partial_z^{-1} v_x \right)_x$$

$$- \frac{3}{4} v_x \left( \partial_z^{-1} v_x \right)^2 = 0 \quad (3)$$

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are the higher-dimensional mKdV equations\cite{1, 2, 3}, where $v = v(x, z, t)$ and $\partial_x^{-1}v \equiv \int vdx$. It is easy to check equation (2) and (3) are reduced to equation (1), setting $z = x$. Equation (2) has a generalized form given by

$$v_t + v_{xxx} + Av^2v_z + Bvv_x \left( \partial_x^{-1}vv_z \right) + Cvv_x \left( \partial_x^{-1}v_z \right) = 0,$$

where $A$, $B$ and $C$ are numerical parameters. Only if

$$A + B/2 + C \neq 0,$$

one can check setting $z = x$ reduces equation (4) to the mKdV equation, which is different from the coefficients of equation (1). However nobody knows whether equation (4) is integrable or not.

In [4], Ablowitz, Ramani and Segur presented the following conjecture: every nonlinear ordinary differential equation (NODE) obtained by an exact reduction of a completely integrable nonlinear partial differential equation (NPDE) possesses the Painlevé property, namely its general solution can have no movable singular points other than poles. They propose to exploit it as a test (the Painlevé test) whether a given NPDE is completely integrable. In [5] Weiss, Tabor and Carnevale proposed a more direct approach without recourse to the reduction to an NODE. Their test is to construct solutions to the NPDE having poles and sufficient number of arbitrary functions. It is an interesting problem to apply this integrability test to higher-dimensional equations. Our goal in this paper is to show equation (4) with (5) satisfies the Painlevé property possibly under some conditions on the numerical parameters $A$, $B$ and $C$.

This paper organized as follows. In Section 2 we investigate the conditions on the numerical parameters using so-called the WTC method. As a result, we will obtain 3 conditions or Case (i)-Case (iii). In Section 3 we briefly introduce the Soliton solution for Case (i). Section 4 is devoted to summary.

## 2 A Search for integrability– The Painlevé Approach

In this section we perform the Painlevé test as formulated by Weiss, Tabor and Carneval (so-called the WTC method)\cite{5} for finding the conditions for three numerical parameters of equation (4). For that we need to rewrite equation (4) for taking away the term of $\partial_x^{-1}$ of it. A suitable system to be analyzed is

$$u_x - Bvv_z = 0,$$

$$w_x - Cv_z = 0,$$

$$v_t + v_{xxx} + Av^2v_z + Bvv_x + Cvv_xw = 0,$$

with the condition

$$A + B/2 + C \neq 0,$$

where $u = u(x, z, t)$, $v = v(x, z, t)$ and $w = w(x, z, t)$. The Painlevé test essentially amounts to find solutions to equations (6), (7) and (8) having the forms

$$u = \sum_{j=0} \alpha u_j \phi^{j+\alpha}, \quad v = \sum_{j=0} \beta v_j \phi^{j+\beta}, \quad w = \sum_{j=0} \gamma w_j \phi^{j+\gamma}$$

(10)
with the movable singularity manifold determined by
\[ \phi = \phi(x, z, t) = 0, \quad \phi_x \neq 0, \tag{11} \]
where \( u_j = u_j(x, z, t), \) \( v_j = v_j(x, z, t), \) \( w_j = w_j(x, z, t), \) \( u_0 \neq 0, \) \( v_0 \neq 0, \) \( w_0 \neq 0 \) and \( \alpha - \gamma \) are negative integers (so-called leading order). Here \( \phi \) and \( u_j(x, z, t) - w_j(x, z, t) \) are analytic functions of \( (x, z, t) \) in a neighborhood of the manifold (11). Note that the solutions (10) contain a sufficient number of arbitrary functions. By the leading order analysis, namely requiring
\[ u \sim u_0 \phi^\alpha, \quad v \sim v_0 \phi^\beta, \quad w \sim w_0 \phi^\gamma, \tag{12} \]
we obtain
\[ \alpha = -2, \quad \beta = \gamma = -1, \tag{13} \]
as leading orders with
\[ u_0 = \frac{B}{2} \frac{\phi_z}{\phi_x} v_0^2, \quad w_0 = C \frac{\phi_z}{\phi_x} v_0 \quad \text{and} \quad v_0^2 = -\frac{6 \phi_x^2}{A + B/2 + C}. \tag{14} \]
Thus the substitution of the solutions (10) with (13) into equations (6)-(8) leads to three recursion formula. And then collecting terms of the formula involving \( u_j - w_j \), it is found that
\[ (j - 2) \phi_x u_j - B(j - 2) v_j = f_1, \tag{15} \]
\[ (j - 1) \phi_x w_j - C(j - 1) \phi_z v_j = f_2, \tag{16} \]
\[ v_0 \phi_x u_j - G(j) v_j + v_0^2 \phi_x w_j = f_3, \tag{17} \]
where
\[ G(j) = \frac{12A + 6C + j(A + B/2 + C)(j - 1)(j - 5)}{A + B/2 + C}, \tag{18} \]
and \( f_i \) \( (i = 1, 2, 3) \) is each a function of \( u_{j-1}, \ldots, u_0, \) \( v_{j-1}, \ldots, v_0, \) \( w_{j-1}, \ldots, w_0 \) and \( \phi. \) In matrix form, equations (15)-(17) are written as
\[ \begin{bmatrix} (j - 2) \phi_x & -B(j - 2) & 0 \\ 0 & -C(j - 1) \phi_z & (j - 1) \phi_x \\ v_0 \phi_x & -G(j) & v_0^2 \phi_x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_j \\ v_j \\ w_j \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ f_3 \end{bmatrix}. \tag{19} \]
Resonances, which are values of \( j \) for which the recursion formula is not defined, occurs when
\[ \det \begin{bmatrix} (j - 2) \phi_x & -B(j - 2) & 0 \\ 0 & -C(j - 1) \phi_z & (j - 1) \phi_x \\ v_0 \phi_x & -G(j) & v_0^2 \phi_x \end{bmatrix} = 0. \tag{20} \]
Trivial algebra yields the resonances
\[ j = \pm 1, \ 2, \ 3, \ 4. \tag{21} \]
The resonance \( j = -1 \) in (21) corresponds to the arbitrary singularity manifold \( \phi = 0. \) To complete the Painlevé test one must verify the compatibility conditions at the
resonances. Explicitly this means that equations (15)-(17) must vanish identically with no constraints on the arbitrary functions $\phi$ and one of $\{u_j, v_j, w_j\}$ associated with $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ respectively. To simplify the calculations, we used the reduced manifold ansatz of Kruskal (see [6] for details):

$$
\phi = x + \rho(z, t), \quad u_j = u_j(z, t), \quad v_j = v_j(z, t) \quad \text{and} \quad w_j = w_j(z, t). \quad (22)
$$

At this point, we have narrowed down our investigation of possible the Painlevé property to the following:

**Case (i)** $A = B \neq 0$: The resonance conditions at $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ require that one of $\{u_1, v_1, w_1\}$, one of $\{u_2, v_2, w_2\}$, one of $\{u_3, v_3, w_3\}$ and one of $\{u_4, v_4, w_4\}$ should be arbitrary respectively. This case corresponds to equation (2), which is different from the coefficients.

**Case (ii)** $A = B + C$ and $3B + 4C \neq 0$: The resonance conditions at $j = 1, 2, 4$ require that one of $\{u_1, v_1, w_1\}$, one of $\{u_2, v_2, w_2\}$ and one of $\{u_4, v_4, w_4\}$ should be arbitrary respectively. And $v_3$ can be chosen an arbitrary function corresponding to $j = 3$.

**Case (iii)** $A = B + C/2$ and $B + C \neq 0$: The resonance conditions at $j = 1, 3, 4$ require that one of $\{u_1, v_1, w_1\}$, one of $\{u_3, v_3, w_3\}$ and one of $\{u_4, v_4, w_4\}$ should be arbitrary respectively. And $v_2$ can be chosen an arbitrary function corresponding to $j = 2$.

We used MATHEMATICA to handle the calculation for the existence of arbitrary functions. Therefore equation (4) has the Painlevé property only for above parametric restriction Case (i)-Case (iii).

### 3 Soliton solution of Case (i)

For Case (i) or $A = B$, equation (4) is written as

$$
v_t + v_{xxx} + Av^2v_z + Av_x\left(\partial_x^{-1}vv_z\right) = 0,
$$

with $A$ being a non-zero numerical parameter.

This equation has Soliton solution [2]. Let us in this section mention briefly them.

For that we describe this equation in terms of the coupled system,

$$
\rho_x + Av^2 = 0, \quad (24)
$$

$$
v_t + v_{xxx} - \rho_xv_z - \frac{1}{2}v_x\rho_z. \quad (25)
$$

By the transformation of the dependent variables

$$
v = \left[\log\left(\frac{F}{G}\right)\right]_x, \quad (26)
$$

and

$$
\rho = \left[\log(FG)\right]_x, \quad (27)
$$
then equations (24) and (25) are reduced to the bilinear forms [2],

\[
\mathcal{D}_x^2 F \cdot G = 0
\]

and

\[
(\mathcal{D}_t - \mathcal{D}_x^2 \mathcal{D}_z) F \cdot G = 0,
\]

where Hirota’s derivative \( \mathcal{D} \) operating on \( F \cdot G \) is defined by

\[
\mathcal{D}_n^0 F(x) \cdot G(x) \equiv (\partial_{x_1} - \partial_{x_2})^n F(x_1)G(x_2) \mid_{x_1=x_2=x}.
\]

\[
F = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{N} \eta_{i_1 \cdots i_n} \exp(\lambda_{i_1} + \cdots + \lambda_{i_n}),
\]

\[
G = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{N} (-1)^n \eta_{i_1 \cdots i_n} \exp(\lambda_{i_1} + \cdots + \lambda_{i_n}),
\]

\[
\lambda_j = p_j x + q_j z + r_j t + s_j,
\]

\[
q_j = p_j^2 q_j,
\]

\[
\eta_{j,k} = \frac{(p_j - p_k)^2}{(p_j + p_k)^2},
\]

\[
\eta_{i_1 \cdots i_n} = \eta_{i_1,i_2} \cdots \eta_{i_1,i_n} \cdots \eta_{i_{n-1},i_n}.
\]

\[\text{N soliton solution to equations (28) and (29) are speculated from the conventional Hirota’s direct method,}\]

\[\text{where } p_j, q_j, r_j \text{ and } s_j \text{ are arbitrary constants. In [1, 7, 8], it was shown that equation (23) has also the Lax pair.}\]

\[\text{4 Summary}\]

The present analysis shows that equation (4) passes the Painlevé test in the sense of WTC method with Kruskal’s ansatz only under Case (i)-Case (iii). Case (i) corresponds to equation (2). Except for Case (i), the Lax pair, Hirota’s bilinear form and Soliton solution for equations of Case (ii) and Case (iii) have not been constructed yet. Further study on this topic continues.

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