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# NEW TRAVELLING WAVE SOLUTIONS OF TWO NONLINEAR PHYSICAL MODELS BY USING A MODIFIED TANH-COTH METHOD

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## Abstract

In this work, a modified tanh – coth method is used to derive travelling wave solutions for  $(2 + 1)$ -dimensional Zakharov-Kuznetsov (ZK) equation and  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional Burgers equation. A new variable is used to solve these equations and established new travelling wave solutions.

**Keywords:** tanh-coth method; travelling wave solution;  $(2 + 1)$ -dimensional Zakharov-Kuznetsov equation;  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional Burgers equation .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The tanh – coth method is a powerful technique to solve nonlinear wave and evolution equations for travelling solutions. Nonlinear wave phenomena appears in many areas of the natural sciences, such as fluid dynamics [1], chemical kinetics involving reactions [2], population dynamics [3], solid state physics [4], etc... In the recent years, such problems has increased interest. As a result of this, a whole range of solution methods was developed [5-8] and the tanh – coth method is one of these solution methods. This technique was used by Huibin and Kelin first [8] and then developed by Malfliet and Hereman [9,12], Senthilvelan [13], Fan [14], Wazwaz [15] and others [16-19].

Generally, in the tanh – coth method, tanh function is used as a new variable, since all derivatives of tanh are represented by tanh itself. Also, Senthilvelan used tan and cot functions as a new variable [13]. As is well known, these are particular solutions of the Riccati equations  $Y' = 1 - Y^2$  and  $Y' = 1 + Y^2$  .

One could extend the tanh method to solve nonlinear wave equations depending on more than two variables. When solving these equations, Malfliet suggested the new coordinate  $\eta = kx + ly + mz - Vt$  in 3-dimensional space, where  $k, l, m$  are nonzero real numbers and  $Y = \tanh \eta$  [10]. Also this was modified to  $\xi = x + y + z - Vt$  and  $Y = \tanh(\mu\xi)$  by Wazwaz [15], where  $\mu$  is the wave number.

The Zakharov-Kuznetsov (ZK) equation is given by

$$u_t + au_x + (\nabla^2 u)_x = 0 \quad (1)$$

and it is a generalization of the KdV equation. The ZK equation governs the behavior of weakly nonlinear ion-acoustic waves in a plasma comprising cold ions and hot isothermal electrons in the presence of a uniform magnetic field [20,21]. Wazwaz employed the tanh – coth method to solve the Zakharov-Kuznetsov equation in the  $(2+1)$  dimensions, two spatial and one time variables, and established solitary wave, travelling wave, solitons and periodic solutions [22].

$(3 + 1)$ -dimensional integrable Burgers equation is given by

$$\begin{aligned} u_t &= u_{xx} + u_{yy} + u_{zz} + \alpha uu_y + \beta vu_x + \gamma wu_x \\ u_x &= v_y \\ u_z &= w_y \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\gamma$  are nonzero constants. This class of equations may describe the flow of particles in a lattice fluid past an impenetrable obstacle [23,24] and it has applications in gas dynamics and in plasma dynamics [25]. For more details we refer the reader to [26-29] and references therein.

Wazwaz considered solutions in a moving coordinate frame, so that the PDEs considered become ODEs. Independent variable

$$Y = \tanh(\mu\xi), \quad \xi = x + y + z - Vt \quad (3)$$

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leads to the change of derivatives

$$\frac{d}{d\xi} = \mu(1 - Y^2) \frac{d}{dY} \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} = \mu^2(1 - Y^2) \left( -2Y \frac{d}{dY} + (1 - Y^2) \frac{d^2}{dY^2} \right) \quad (5)$$

and so on other derivatives. The tanh – coth method admits the use of a finite expansion of tanh function

$$U(\mu\xi) = S(Y) = \sum_{k=0}^N a_k Y^k + \sum_{k=1}^N b_k Y^{-k} \quad (6)$$

where  $M$  is a positive integer that will be determined by using the balancing procedure [15].

In this article, we used  $Y = \frac{ke^{2\mu\xi} - 1}{ke^{2\mu\xi} + 1}$  instead of  $Y = \tanh(\mu\xi)$  as a new variable to establish new travelling wave solutions for nonlinear two physical models (2 + 1)-dimensional Zakharov-Kuznetsov (ZK) equation and (3 + 1)-dimensional Burgers equation using a modified tanh – coth method. Mathematica and Maple facilitate the tedious algebraic calculations.

## 2. OUTLINE OF THE METHOD

We want to investigate one or more dimensional nonlinear wave and evolution equations. This kind of equations is commonly written as

$$u_t = [u, u_x, u_{xx}, \dots] \quad \text{or} \quad u_{tt} = [u, u_x, u_{xx}, \dots] \quad (7)$$

A pde like (7) can be converted to an ODE

$$-V \frac{dU}{d\xi} = \left[ U, \frac{dU}{d\xi}, \frac{d^2U}{d\xi^2}, \dots \right] \quad \text{or} \quad V^2 \frac{dU}{d\xi} = \left[ U, \frac{dU}{d\xi}, \frac{d^2U}{d\xi^2}, \dots \right] \quad (8)$$

upon using a wave variable  $\xi = x + y + \dots - Vt$  so that  $u(x, y, \dots, t) = U(\xi)$ . Here  $V$  represents the velocity of the travelling wave. Eq. (8) is then integrated as long as all terms contain derivatives where integration constants are considered zeros. Introducing a new independent variable

$$Y = \frac{ke^{2\mu\xi} - 1}{ke^{2\mu\xi} + 1}, \quad \xi = x + y + \dots - Vt \quad (9)$$

and the quantity  $u(x, y, \dots, t)$  is replaced by  $U(\xi)$  leads to derivatives

$$\frac{dU}{d\xi} = \frac{4k\mu e^{2\mu\xi}}{(ke^{2\mu\xi} + 1)^2} = \mu(1 - Y^2) \frac{dU}{dY} \quad (10)$$

$$\frac{d^2U}{d\xi^2} = \mu^2(1 - Y^2) \left( -2Y \frac{dU}{dY} + (1 - Y^2) \frac{d^2U}{dY^2} \right) \quad (11)$$

$$\frac{d^3U}{d\xi^3} = 2\mu^3(1 - Y^2)(3Y^2 - 1) \frac{dU}{dY} - 6\mu^3Y(1 - Y^2)^2 \frac{d^2U}{dY^2} + \mu^3Y(1 - Y^2)^3 \frac{d^3U}{dY^3} \quad (12)$$

⋮

$\mu$  represents the wave number and it is inversely proportional to the width of the wave. Depending on the problem under study,  $V$  and  $\mu$  will be determined or will remain a free and arbitrary parameters. The derivatives that obtained by us above by introducing a new independent variable in (9) are the same as those found by Hereman [9], Malfliet [12], Wazwaz [15] and others [13,14]. The tanh – coth method admits the use of the finite expansion

$$U(\xi) = S(Y) = \sum_{k=0}^N a_k Y^k + \sum_{k=1}^N b_k Y^{-k} \quad (13)$$

where  $N$  is a positive integer and  $0 \leq k \leq N$ . Substituting (13) into the ODE (8) results in an algebraic equation in powers of  $Y$ . To determine  $N$ , we usually balance the linear terms of highest order in the resulting

equation with the highest order nonlinear terms. We then collect all coefficients of powers of  $Y$  in the resulting equation where these coefficients have to vanish. This will give a system of algebraic equations involving the parameters  $a_k$  and  $b_k$  ( $0 \leq k \leq N$ ),  $\mu$  and  $V$ . Having determined these parameters we obtain an analytic solution  $u(x, y, \dots, t)$  in a closed form.

In the following, we will apply the described method to two examples.

### 3. THE ZAKHAROV-KUZNETSOV EQUATION

The (2+1)-dimensional Zakharov-Kuznetsov (ZK) equation is given by

$$u_t + auu_x + b(u_{xx} + u_{yy})_x = 0, \quad (14)$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are constants. Using the wave variable  $\xi = x + y - Vt$  transforms the PDE (14) into the ODE

$$-VU' + \frac{a}{2}(U^2)' + 2bU''' = 0 \quad (15)$$

where by integrating (15) and neglecting the constant of integration we obtain

$$-VU + \frac{a}{2}U^2 + 2bU'' = 0. \quad (16)$$

Balancing  $U^2$  with  $U''$  in (16) gives  $N = 2$ . The tanh-coth method admits the use of the finite expansion

$$U(\xi) = S(Y) = \sum_{k=0}^2 a_k Y^k + \sum_{k=1}^2 b_k Y^{-k} \quad (17)$$

where  $Y = \frac{ke^{2\mu\xi} - 1}{ke^{2\mu\xi} + 1}$ . Substituting (17) into (16), collecting the coefficients of  $Y$  and setting it equal to zero we find system of equation

$$\begin{aligned} Y^8 & : aa_2^2 + 24ba_2\mu^2 = 0, \\ Y^7 & : 8ba_1\mu^2 + 2aa_1a_2 = 0, \\ Y^6 & : aa_1^2 - 32ba_2\mu^2 - 2Va_2 + 2aa_0a_2 = 0, \\ Y^5 & : 2ab_1a_2 - 2Va_1 - 8ba_1\mu^2 + 2aa_0a_1 = 0, \\ Y^4 & : aa_0^2 - 2Va_0 + 8bb_2\mu^2 + 8ba_2\mu^2 + 2ab_1a_1 + 2ab_2a_2 = 0, \\ Y^3 & : 2ab_1a_0 - 2Vb_1 - 8bb_1\mu^2 + 2ab_2a_1 = 0, \\ Y^2 & : ab_1^2 - 32bb_2\mu^2 - 2Vb_2 + 2ab_2a_0 = 0, \\ Y^1 & : 8bb_1\mu^2 + 2ab_1b_2 = 0, \\ Y^0 & : ab_2^2 + 24bb_2\mu^2 = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Solving this system by using Maple or Mathematica we find the following sets of solutions

$$a_0 = -\frac{16b\mu^2}{a}, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = -\frac{24b\mu^2}{a}, \quad b_1 = 0, \quad b_2 = -\frac{24b\mu^2}{a}, \quad V = -32b\mu^2, \quad (19)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{48b\mu^2}{a}, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = -\frac{24b\mu^2}{a}, \quad b_1 = 0, \quad b_2 = -\frac{24b\mu^2}{a}, \quad V = 32b\mu^2, \quad (20)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{8b\mu^2}{a}, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = 0, \quad b_1 = 0, \quad b_2 = -\frac{24b\mu^2}{a}, \quad V = -8b\mu^2, \quad (21)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{24b\mu^2}{a}, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = 0, \quad b_1 = 0, \quad b_2 = -\frac{24b\mu^2}{a}, \quad V = 8b\mu^2, \quad (22)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{8b\mu^2}{a}, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = -\frac{24b\mu^2}{a}, \quad b_1 = 0, \quad b_2 = 0, \quad V = -8b\mu^2, \quad (23)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{24b\mu^2}{a}, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = -\frac{24b\mu^2}{a}, \quad b_1 = 0, \quad b_2 = 0, \quad V = 8b\mu^2, \quad (24)$$

where  $\mu$  is left as a free parameter. These sets give the solutions respectively

$$u_1 = -\frac{16b\mu^2}{a} - \frac{24b\mu^2}{a} \left( \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+32b\mu^2t)} - 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+32b\mu^2t)} + 1} \right)^2 - \frac{24b\mu^2}{a} \left( \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+32b\mu^2t)} + 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+32b\mu^2t)} - 1} \right)^2, \quad (25)$$

$$u_2 = \frac{48b\mu^2}{a} - \frac{24b\mu^2}{a} \left( \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y-32b\mu^2t)} - 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y-32b\mu^2t)} + 1} \right)^2 - \frac{24b\mu^2}{a} \left( \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y-32b\mu^2t)} + 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y-32b\mu^2t)} - 1} \right)^2, \quad (26)$$

$$u_3 = \frac{8b\mu^2}{a} - \frac{24b\mu^2}{a} \left( \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+8b\mu^2t)} + 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+8b\mu^2t)} - 1} \right)^2, \quad (27)$$

$$u_4 = \frac{24b\mu^2}{a} - \frac{24b\mu^2}{a} \left( \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y-8b\mu^2t)} + 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y-8b\mu^2t)} - 1} \right)^2, \quad (28)$$

$$u_5 = \frac{8b\mu^2}{a} - \frac{24b\mu^2}{a} \left( \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+8b\mu^2t)} - 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+8b\mu^2t)} + 1} \right)^2, \quad (29)$$

$$u_6 = \frac{24b\mu^2}{a} - \frac{24b\mu^2}{a} \left( \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y-8b\mu^2t)} - 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y-8b\mu^2t)} + 1} \right)^2. \quad (30)$$

The (2+1)-dimensional Zakharov-Kuznetsov (ZK) equation was solved by Wazwaz [15] using the tanh-coth method and he obtained solutions

$$u_1(x, y, t) = \frac{3V}{a} \operatorname{sech}^2 \left[ \frac{1}{6} \sqrt{\frac{3V}{b}} (x + y - Vt) \right], \quad \frac{V}{b} > 0, \quad (31)$$

$$u_2(x, y, t) = -\frac{V}{a} \left\{ 1 - 3 \tanh^2 \left[ \frac{1}{6} \sqrt{-\frac{3V}{b}} (x + y - Vt) \right] \right\}, \quad \frac{V}{b} < 0, \quad (32)$$

$$u_3(x, y, t) = -\frac{V}{a} \left\{ 1 - 3 \coth^2 \left[ \frac{1}{6} \sqrt{\frac{3V}{b}} (x + y - Vt) \right] \right\}, \quad \frac{V}{b} > 0, \quad (33)$$

$$u_4(x, y, t) = \frac{3V}{4a} \left\{ 2 + \tanh^2 \left[ \frac{1}{12} \sqrt{-\frac{3V}{b}} (x + y - Vt) \right] + \coth^2 \left[ \frac{1}{12} \sqrt{-\frac{3V}{b}} (x + y - Vt) \right] \right\}, \quad \frac{V}{b} < 0, \quad (34)$$

$$u_5(x, y, t) = \frac{3V}{4a} \left\{ 2 - \tanh^2 \left[ \frac{1}{12} \sqrt{\frac{3V}{b}} (x + y - Vt) \right] - \coth^2 \left[ \frac{1}{12} \sqrt{\frac{3V}{b}} (x + y - Vt) \right] \right\}, \quad \frac{V}{b} > 0, \quad (35)$$

$$u_6(x, y, t) = \frac{3V}{2a} \left\{ 1 - 2 \coth^2 \left[ \frac{1}{6} \sqrt{\frac{3V}{b}} (x + y - Vt) \right] \right\}, \quad \frac{V}{b} > 0. \quad (36)$$

These results can be obtained by setting  $k = 1$  in (25-30). So comparing our results with Wazwaz's results, it can be seen easily that our solutions are more general.

#### 4. (3+1) DIMENSIONAL BURGERS EQUATION

Now we will apply the tanh – coth method to the (3+1)-dimensional Burgers equation:

$$\begin{aligned} u_t &= u_{xx} + u_{yy} + u_{zz} + \alpha uu_y + \beta vu_x + \gamma wu_x \\ u_x &= v_y \\ u_z &= w_y \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

where  $\alpha, \beta, \theta$  are nonzero constants. Using the wave variable  $\xi = x + y + z - Vt$  transforms the system (37) into a system of ODEs given by

$$\begin{aligned} VU' + \alpha UU' + \beta VU' + \gamma WU' + 3U'' &= 0 \\ U' &= V' \\ U' &= W'. \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

Integrating (38) and neglecting the constant of integration we obtain

$$U = V = W. \quad (39)$$

So the first equation in (38) can be written as

$$VU' + \frac{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}{2} (U^2)' + 3U'' = 0. \quad (40)$$

Integrating (40) and neglecting the constant of integration again we obtain

$$VU + \frac{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}{2} U^2 + 3U' = 0. \quad (41)$$

Balancing  $U^2$  with  $U'$  in (41) gives  $N = 1$ . The tanh – coth method admits the use of the finite expansion

$$U(\xi) = S(Y) = \sum_{k=0}^1 a_k Y^k + \sum_{k=1}^1 b_k Y^{-k} \quad (42)$$

where  $Y = \frac{ke^{2\mu\xi} - 1}{ke^{2\mu\xi} + 1}$ . Substituting (42) into (41), we obtain

$$V \left( a_0 + a_1 Y + b_1 \frac{1}{Y} \right) + \frac{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}{2} \left( a_0 + a_1 Y + b_1 \frac{1}{Y} \right)^2 + 3\mu (1 - Y^2) \frac{d}{dY} \left( a_0 + a_1 Y + b_1 \frac{1}{Y} \right) = 0. \quad (43)$$

Collecting the coefficients of  $Y$  and setting it equal to zero we find system of equation

$$\begin{aligned} Y^4 & : a_1^2 \alpha - 6a_1 \mu + a_1^2 \beta + a_1^2 \gamma = 0 \\ Y^3 & : 2Va_1 + 2a_0 a_1 \alpha + 2a_0 a_1 \beta + 2a_0 a_1 \gamma = 0 \\ Y^2 & : 6a_1 \mu + 6b_1 \mu + a_0^2 \alpha + a_0^2 \beta + a_0^2 \gamma + 2Va_0 + 2a_1 b_1 \alpha + 2a_1 b_1 \beta + 2a_1 b_1 \gamma = 0 \\ Y^1 & : 2Vb_1 + 2a_0 b_1 \alpha + 2a_0 b_1 \beta + 2a_0 b_1 \gamma = 0 \\ Y^0 & : b_1^2 \alpha - 6b_1 \mu + b_1^2 \beta + b_1^2 \gamma = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

and solving this system we find the following sets of solutions

$$a_0 = \frac{12\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}, \quad a_1 = b_1 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}, \quad V = -12\mu, \quad (45)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{-12\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}, \quad a_1 = b_1 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}, \quad V = 12\mu, \quad (46)$$

$$a_0 = a_1 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}, \quad b_1 = 0, \quad V = 6\mu, \quad (47)$$

$$a_0 = b_1 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad V = -6\mu, \quad (48)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{-6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad b_1 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}, \quad V = 6\mu, \quad (49)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad b_1 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}, \quad V = -6\mu, \quad (50)$$

where  $\mu$  is left as a free parameter. These sets give the solutions respectively

$$u_1 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma} \left( 2 + \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z+12\mu t)} - 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z+12\mu t)} + 1} + \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z+12\mu t)} + 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z+12\mu t)} - 1} \right), \quad (51)$$

$$u_2 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma} \left( -2 + \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z-12\mu t)} - 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z-12\mu t)} + 1} + \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z-12\mu t)} + 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z-12\mu t)} - 1} \right), \quad (52)$$

$$u_3 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma} \left( 1 + \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z-6\mu t)} - 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z-6\mu t)} + 1} \right), \quad (53)$$

$$u_4 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma} \left( 1 + \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z+6\mu t)} + 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z+6\mu t)} - 1} \right), \quad (54)$$

$$u_5 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma} \left( -1 + \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z-6\mu t)} + 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z-6\mu t)} - 1} \right), \quad (55)$$

$$u_6 = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma} \left( 1 + \frac{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z+6\mu t)} + 1}{ke^{2\mu(x+y+z+6\mu t)} - 1} \right). \quad (56)$$

In [15], Wazwaz investigated the  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional Burgers equation and obtained single kink solutions by using the tanh – coth method as follows :

$$u_{1,2} = \pm\lambda [1 \pm \tanh \mu (x + y + z \mp \lambda (\alpha + \beta + \gamma) t)] \quad (57)$$

$$u_{3,4} = \pm\lambda [1 \pm \coth \mu (x + y + z \mp \lambda (\alpha + \beta + \gamma) t)] \quad (58)$$

$$u_{5,6} = \pm\lambda [1 \pm \tanh \mu (x + y + z \mp 2\lambda (\alpha + \beta + \gamma) t)] \pm \lambda [1 \pm \coth \mu (x + y + z \mp 2\lambda (\alpha + \beta + \gamma) t)] \quad (59)$$

As can be seen easily, if one set  $k = 1$  and  $\lambda = \frac{6\mu}{\alpha + \beta + \gamma}$  in (51-56) then the solutions in (57-59) are obtained. For instance, if we consider  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 6$ ,  $\mu = 1$  in (57) we find  $\lambda = 1$  and  $u_1 = 1 + \tanh (x + y + z - 6t)$ . For the same values, in (53) we obtain  $u_3 = 1 + \frac{ke^{2(x+y+z-6t)}-1}{ke^{2(x+y+z-6t)}+1}$ . Using the fact that  $\tanh x = \frac{e^{2x}-1}{e^{2x}+1}$ , we can say for  $k = 1$  these are the same solutions. However, different solutions will be obtained for different  $k$  values.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The  $(2+1)$ -dimensional Zakharov-Kuznetsov (ZK) equation and the  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional Burgers equation have been investigated.  $Y = \frac{ke^{2\mu\xi}-1}{ke^{2\mu\xi}+1}$  was introduced as a new variable to obtain travelling wave solutions of these equations. With the help of this ansatz can be obtained exact solutions of many other equations.

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