A New Riccati Equation Rational Expansion Method and Its Application

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A Riccati equation rational expansion (RERE) method is presented by a general ansatz, which is a direct and unified algebraic method for constructing multiple and more general travelling wave solutions of nonlinear partial differential equations. It can be implemented in a computer algebraic system. The proposed method is applied to consider the shallow long wave approximation equation and leads to a rich variety of exact solutions, including rational form solitary wave solutions, triangular periodic wave solutions and rational wave solutions.

Key words: Travelling Wave Solution; Riccati Equation Rational Expansion Method; Rational Form Solitary Wave Solutions.

1. Introduction

In recent years, nonlinear partial differential equations (NPDEs) were widely used to describe many important dynamic processes in physics, mechanics, chemistry, biology, etc. In particular, the wave phenomena observed in fluids, plasmas and elastic media are often modelled by solitary wave solutions. The exact solution of NPDEs, even nonlinear ordinary differential equations (NODEs), in closed form, has been a major concern for mathematicians and physicists. With the development of soliton theory there has been a great amount of activities aiming at finding methods for exact solutions of nonlinear differential equations, such as the Bäcklund transformation, Darboux transformation, Cole-Hopf transformation, various tanh methods, variable separation approach, Painlevé method, similarity reduction method [1–14]. Among these, the tanh function method provides a straightforward and effective algorithm to obtain such particular solutions of many nonlinear differential equations. Recently, much work has been concentrated on the various extensions and applications of the tanh function method [6–14]. The appeal and success of these methods lies in the fact that one circumvents integration to get explicit solutions. This is possible because soliton solutions are essentially of a localized nature. Writing soliton solutions of a nonlinear equation as the sum of polynomials in exponential solutions [6–7] or as polynomials of some solutions of the Riccati equation [8–14], the equation is transformed into a nonlinear system of algebraic equations. This system can be solved with the help of symbolic computation. Generally speaking, an ansatz and a subequation is considered as the more appropriate, the more general and more formal solution of NPDEs it serves to obtain.

The present work is motivated by the desire to present a new subequation method, named Riccati equation rational expansion (RERE) method, by proposing a more general ansatz. It is more general than the ansatz in the tanh function method [6–7], the extended tanh function method [8], the improved extended tanh function method [9–11], the projective Riccati equation method [12] and the general projective Riccati equation method [13–14], because it can be used to obtained more types and general formal solutions, which not only lead to results which could also be obtained by using the above mentioned methods [6–14], but also other types of solutions. For illustration, we apply the RERE method to solve and successfully construct new and more general solutions including rational formal solitary wave solutions, triangular periodic solutions and rational wave solutions for the equation of the shallow long wave approximation (SLA), i.e.,

$$\begin{align*}
\mu_x - \mu u_x - v_x + \frac{\mu v_x}{2} &= 0, \\
v_x - \mu_x v - \mu v_x - \frac{v x}{2} &= 0,
\end{align*}$$

(1.1)
which was found by Whitham [15] and Broer [16]. The symmetries and conservation laws of the system (1.1) have been discussed by Kuperschmidt [17]. By using the homogenous balance method, Zhang [18] obtained multiple soliton solutions of the system. Yan and Zhang [19] used the sine-cosine method to obtain three families of soliton solutions. Chen and Zheng [20] used the generalized extended tanh-function method to construct new explicit exact solutions of the SLA equations. Wang et al. [21] used a general projective Riccati equation method to obtain new exact travelling wave solutions for the SLA equations.

This paper is organized as follows: In Section 2 we summarize the RERE method. In Section 3 we apply the RERE method to the SLA equations and derive many rational formal solitary wave solutions, triangular periodic solutions and rational wave solutions. Finally conclusions will be presented.

2. Summary of the Riccati Equation Rational Expansion Method

In the following we outline the main steps of our method:

**Step 1.** Given a nonlinear partial differential equation system for some physical fields \(u_i(x,y,t)\) in three variables \(x, y, t,\)
\[
F_i(u_i, u_{ix}, u_{iy}, u_{it}, u_{ixx}, u_{iy}, u_{ixy}, \cdots) = 0, \tag{2.1}
\]
we use the wave transformation
\[
u_i(x,y,t) = U_i(\xi), \quad \xi = k(x + ly + \lambda t), \tag{2.2}
\]
where \(k, l\) and \(\lambda\) are constants to be determined later, the nonlinear partial differential equation (2.1) is reduced to a nonlinear ordinary differential equation (NODE):
\[
G_i(U_i, U_i', U_i'', \cdots) = 0. \tag{2.3}
\]

**Step 2.** We introduce a new ansatz in terms of a finite rational formal expansion:
\[
U_i(\xi) = a_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{m} a_j \phi_j(\xi) + b_j \phi_j^{-1}(\xi), \tag{2.4}
\]
where \(\phi(\xi)\) shall satisfy the NODE
\[
\phi' - (R + \phi^2) = \frac{d\phi}{d\xi} - (R + \phi^2) = 0. \tag{2.5}
\]
Here \(R, a_0, a_{ij}, b_{ij}\) and \(b_{ij} (i = 1, 2, \cdots; j = 1, 2, \cdots, m_i)\) are constants to be determined later.

**Step 3.** We define the degree of \(U_i(\xi)\) as
\[
D[U_i(\xi)] = n_i, \tag{2.6}
\]
which gives rise to the degrees of other expressions as
\[
D[U_i^j(\xi)] = n_i + \alpha, \tag{2.7}
\]
\[
D[U_i^j(U_i^j(\xi))] = n_i + \alpha + \beta. \tag{2.8}
\]
From this we can determine the value of \(m_i\) in (2.4). If \(n_i\) is a nonnegative integer, then we first make the transformation \(U_i = e^{\alpha x^i}\).

**Step 4.** Substitute (2.4) into (2.3) along with (2.5) and then set all coefficients of \(\phi^{-2}(\xi), (\sqrt{R + \phi^2}(\xi))/\phi(\xi)\) to zero to get an over-determined system of nonlinear algebraic equations with respect to \(k, \mu_1, \mu_2, a_{0i}, a_{ij}\) and \(b_{ij} (i = 1, 2, \cdots; j = 1, 2, \cdots, m_i).\)

**Step 5.** Solving this over-determined system of nonlinear algebraic equations by use of Maple, we end up with the explicit expressions for \(k, \mu_1, \mu_2, a_{0i}, a_{ij}\) and \(b_{ij} (i = 1, 2, \cdots; j = 1, 2, \cdots, m_i).\)

**Step 6.** It is well known that the general solutions of (2.5) are:
\[
1) \text{if } R < 0, \quad \phi(\xi) = \sqrt{-1} \tanh(\sqrt{-R} \xi), \tag{2.7}
\]
\[
\phi(\xi) = -\sqrt{-R} \coth(\sqrt{-R} \xi), \tag{2.8}
\]
\[
2) \text{if } R = 0, \quad \phi(\xi) = \frac{1}{\xi}. \tag{2.9}
\]
\[
3) \text{if } R > 0, \quad \phi(\xi) = \sqrt{R} \tan(\sqrt{R} \xi), \tag{2.10}
\]
\[
\phi(\xi) = -\sqrt{R} \cot(\sqrt{R} \xi). \tag{2.11}
\]
Thus, according to (2.2), (2.4), (2.7)–(2.11) and the conclusions in Step 5, we can obtain the following rational formal travelling-wave solutions of (2.1):
1) If $R < 0$,
\[
\begin{align*}
  u_i &= a_{i0} + \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} a_{ij} \left( -\sqrt{R} \tanh \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right) \right)^{j-1} \pm b_{ij} \left( -\sqrt{R} \tanh \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right) \right)^{j} \sqrt{R} \sech \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right), \\
  u_i &= a_{i0} + \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} a_{ij} \left( -\sqrt{R} \coth \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right) \right)^{j-1} \pm b_{ij} \left( -\sqrt{R} \coth \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right) \right)^{j} \sqrt{R} \csch \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right),
\end{align*}
\]
(2.10)

2) If $R = 0$,
\[
\begin{align*}
  u_i &= a_{i0} + \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} (-1)^j \left( a_{ij} \mp b_{ij} \right),
\end{align*}
\]
(2.11)

3) If $R > 0$,
\[
\begin{align*}
  u_i &= a_{i0} + \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} a_{ij} \left( \sqrt{R} \tan \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right) \right)^{j} \pm b_{ij} \left( \sqrt{R} \tan \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right) \right)^{j-1} \sqrt{R} \sec \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right),
  \\
  u_i &= a_{i0} + \sum_{j=1}^{m_i} a_{ij} \left( -\sqrt{R} \cot \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right) \right)^{j} \pm b_{ij} \left( -\sqrt{R} \cot \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right) \right)^{j-1} \sqrt{R} \csc \left( \sqrt{R} \xi \right),
\end{align*}
\]
(2.12)

where $\xi = k(x + ly + \lambda t)$ and $i = \sqrt{-1}$.

**Remark:** The ansatz proposed here is more general than the ansatz in the tanh function method [6–7], the extended tanh function method [8], the improved extended tanh function method [9–11], the Riccati equations method [12] and the general projective Riccati equations method [13–14]. For some specific values of the parameters in (2.4), the above methods are recovered by the RERE method.

These values are as follows:

1) Setting $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = b_1 = 0$, we just recover the solutions obtained by the extended tanh function method [8].

2) Setting $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = 0$, we just recover the solutions obtained by the improved extended tanh function method [9–11];

3) Setting $\mu_1 = 0$ and $\mu_2 \neq 0$, we just recover the solutions obtained by the Projective Riccati method [12–14];

4) The other solutions obtained here are, to our knowledge, all new formally exact solutions of NPDEs.

### 3. The Shallow Long Wave Approximate Equation

Let us consider the shallow long wave approximation (SLA), i.e. (1.1).
Substituting (3.3) along with (2.5) into (3.1), yields a set of algebraic equations for $\phi_i(\xi)(\sqrt{R + \phi^2(\xi)})^j$, $(i = 0, 1, \ldots; j = 0, 1)$. Setting the coefficients of these terms to zero yields a set of overdetermined algebraic equations with respect to $a_0$, $a_1$, $b_1$, $A_0$, $A_1$, $B_1$, $A_2$, $B_2$, $\mu_1$, $\mu_2$ and $k$.

By use of the Maple software package “Charsets” by Dongming Wang, which is based on the Wu-elimination method [22], solving the over-determined algebraic equations, we get rich results. However, for simplification, we only choose one example obtained by solving the over-determined algebraic equations as illustration, and from that case we obtain a family of solutions as a characteristic example. At the same time, the properties of general solitary wave solutions are shown by some figures (Figs. 1–3).

**Example case:**

$$k = -2\frac{a_1}{R + 1}, \quad \mu_1 = \pm 1, \quad a_0 = -\frac{a_1R - \lambda - \lambda R}{R + 1},$$

where $R = -2$, $\lambda = 1$, $b_1 = 2$. 

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**Fig. 1.** The solitary wave solution $u_1$ of an SLA equation. Fig. 1a, the real part; Fig. 1b, the imaginary part and Fig. 1c, the modulus, where $R = -2$, $\lambda = 1$, $b_1 = 2$.

**Fig. 2.** The solitary wave solution $v_1$ of an SLA equation. Fig. 2a, the real part; Fig. 2b, the imaginary part and Fig. 2c, the modulus, where $R = -2$, $\lambda = 1$, $b_1 = 2$.

**Fig. 3.** The solitary wave solutions $u_2$ and $v_2$ of an SLA equation, where $R = -2$, $\lambda = 1$, $b_1 = 2$. 

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\[ \mu_2 = \pm 1, \quad b_1 = a_1, \quad A_0 = \frac{a_1^2 R}{(R+1)(R-1)}, \quad A_1 = B_1 = -\frac{4a_1^2 R}{(R+1)(R-1)}, \quad A_2 = B_2 = 2\frac{a_1^2}{R-1}. \] (3.4)

From that case, we obtain the following family of solutions for (1.1):

\[
\begin{align*}
    u_1 &= -a_1 R + \lambda + \lambda R \\
    v_1 &= 2 \frac{a_1^2 R}{(R+1)(R-1)} + 4 \frac{a_1^2 R}{(R-1)^2} (\pm \sqrt{-R} \tanh(\sqrt{-R} \xi) \pm \sqrt{-R} \coth(\sqrt{-R} \xi) + 1) \pm \sqrt{-R} \tanh(\sqrt{-R} \xi) \pm \sqrt{-R} \coth(\sqrt{-R} \xi) + 1),
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
    u_2 &= -a_1 R + \lambda + \lambda R \\
    v_2 &= 2 \frac{a_1^2 R}{(R+1)(R-1)} + 4 \frac{a_1^2 R}{(R-1)^2} (\pm \sqrt{-R} \coth(\sqrt{-R} \xi) \pm \sqrt{-R} \csch(\sqrt{-R} \xi) + 1) \pm \sqrt{-R} \coth(\sqrt{-R} \xi) \pm \sqrt{-R} \csch(\sqrt{-R} \xi) + 1),
\end{align*}
\]

where \( \xi = k(x + \lambda t), k \) is determined by (3.4), \( R < 0, \) \( a_1 \) and \( \lambda \) are arbitrary constants.

### 4. Summary and Conclusions

In this paper we have presented the RERE method. The method leads to more solutions than the methods described in [6–14]. The SLA equation (1) is chosen to illustrate the method such that many new families such as solitary wave solutions, triangular periodic wave solutions and rational wave solutions are obtained. The algorithm can also be applied to other NLPDEs. As mentioned in Section 2, further work about various extensions and improvements of the RERE method is necessary to find more general ansatizes or more general subequations. As we have seen, one needs to solve many algebraic equations to get the desired polynomial or rational solitary wave solutions (even for simple NLPDEs or NODEs). This is the reason for the success of the symbolic mathematical computation discipline and of the computer software symbolic systems like Maple or Mathematica, which allow to perform complicated and tedious algebraic calculations.

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