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ADDENDUM

Symmetries and invariant solutions of the two-dimensional variable coefficient Burgers equation

F Güngör

Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Istanbul Technical University, 0626, Istanbul, Turkey

E-mail: gungorf@itu.edu.tr

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Abstract

We present other special functions $s(t)$ leading to the extensions of the principal symmetry algebra (infinite-dimensional) which were not included in our article (Güngör F 2001 *J. Phys. A: Math. Gen.* **34** 4313–4321).

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Recently, we investigated symmetry properties for the two-dimensional generalized Burgers equation [1]

$$(u_t + uu_x - u_{xx})_x + s(t)u_{yy} = 0 \quad s(t) \neq 0. \quad (1)$$

We showed that, for an arbitrary $s(t)$, equation (1) is invariant under an infinite-dimensional Lie algebra whose general element is represented by

$$V = X(f) + Y(g) \quad (2a)$$

$$X(f) = f(t)\partial_x + f'(t)\partial_u \quad (2b)$$

$$Y(g) = g(t)\partial_y - \frac{g'(t)}{2s(t)}y\partial_x - \left(\frac{g'(t)}{2s(t)}\right)'y\partial_u \quad (2c)$$

where $f(t)$ and $g(t)$ are arbitrary smooth functions and the primes denote time derivatives. The commutation relations are

$$\begin{aligned} [X(f_1), X(f_2)] &= 0 & [X(f), Y(g)] &= 0 \\ [Y(g_1), Y(g_2)] &= X\left(\frac{1}{2s}(g_1'g_2 - g_1g_2')\right) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where $[\cdot, \cdot]$ is the Lie bracket. In particular, we showed that the above algebra is further extended in the cases:

Case 1. $s(t) = \sigma t^\alpha$, $\sigma = \text{constant}$ (case I in [1]).

Case 2. $s(t) = \sigma e^{\alpha t}$, $\sigma = \text{constant}$ (case II in [1]).

In this addendum, we would like to point out that, in addition to the above cases, there are further specific functions $s(t)$ for which the symmetry algebra contains one additional basis element. The functions $s(t)$ and corresponding additional generators are presented below:

Case 3. $s(t) = \sigma(1+t^2)^{-3/2} \exp(2\alpha \arctan t)$:

$$C_1 = xt\partial_x + \alpha y\partial_y + (1+t^2)\partial_t + (x-tu)\partial_u. \quad (4)$$

The nonzero commutation relations satisfy

$$[X(f), C_1] = X(tf - (1+t^2)f') \quad [Y(g), C_1] = Y(\alpha g - (1+t^2)g'). \quad (5)$$

Case 4. $s(t) = \sigma t^{-3} \exp(\alpha/t)$, $\alpha \neq 0$:

$$C_2 = xt\partial_x - \frac{1}{2}\alpha y\partial_y + t^2\partial_t + (x-tu)\partial_u. \quad (6)$$

The nonzero commutation relations satisfy

$$[X(f), C_2] = X(tf - t^2f') \quad [Y(g), C_2] = -Y(\frac{1}{2}\alpha g + t^2g'). \quad (7)$$

The subcase $\alpha = 0$ is exceptional in that there are two additional generators:

$$C = xt\partial_x + t^2\partial_t + (x-tu)\partial_u \quad D = D_{-3} = x\partial_x - \frac{3}{2}y\partial_y + 2t\partial_t - u\partial_u \quad (8)$$

with nonzero commutators

$$\begin{aligned} [C, D] &= -2C & [X(f), C] &= X(tf - t^2f') & [Y(g), C] &= -Y(t^2g') \\ [X(f), D] &= X(f - 2tf') & [Y(g), D] &= Y(-\frac{3}{2}g - 2tg'). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Case 5. $s(t) = \sigma(1-t^2)^{-3/2} \left(\frac{1+t}{1-t}\right)^\alpha$:

$$C_3 = xt\partial_x - \alpha y\partial_y + (t^2-1)\partial_t + (x-tu)\partial_u. \quad (10)$$

The nonzero commutation relations satisfy

$$[X(f), C_3] = X(tf + (1-t^2)f') \quad [Y(g), C_3] = Y(-\alpha g + (1-t^2)g'). \quad (11)$$

Case 6. $s(t) = \sigma t^\alpha (t+\beta)^{-\alpha-3}$, $\alpha \neq -3$, $\beta \neq 0$:

$$C_4 = C + \frac{1}{2}\beta D_\alpha \quad D_\alpha = x\partial_x + (\alpha + \frac{3}{2})y\partial_y + 2t\partial_t - u\partial_u \quad (12)$$

and C is as in equation (8). The nonzero commutation relations satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} [X(f), C_4] &= X\left((t + \frac{1}{2}\beta)f - t(t+\beta)f'\right) \\ [Y(g), C_4] &= Y\left(\frac{1}{4}\beta(3+2\alpha)g - t(t+\beta)g'\right). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

We remark that this list completes all possible forms of $s(t)$ extending (2a) by one or two generators. Using the commutation relations (5), (7), (9), (11) and (13) we can easily verify that a general element of the symmetry algebra $X(f) + Y(g) + pC_a$ ($a = 1, 2, 3, 4$) is conjugate, under the adjoint action of the symmetry group of the equation, to C_a if $p \neq 0$, and either to $Y(g)$ or $X(f)$ otherwise (see [1] for details). Moreover, requiring that C_a be embedded into a two-dimensional Lie subalgebra of the symmetry algebra, reductions of (1) with the new coefficients $s(t)$ listed above (cases 3–6) to ordinary differential equations (actually second order) can be performed and hence new exact solutions invariant under two-dimensional Lie point groups can be constructed.

Reference

- [1] Güngör F 2001 Symmetries and invariant solutions of the two-dimensional variable coefficient Burgers equation *J. Phys. A: Math. Gen.* **34** 4313–21