

Restricted Flows and the Soliton Equation with Self-Consistent Sources^{*}

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Abstract. The KdV equation is used as an example to illustrate the relation between the restricted flows and the soliton equation with self-consistent sources. Inspired by the results on the Bäcklund transformation for the restricted flows (by V.B. Kuznetsov et al.), we constructed two types of Darboux transformations for the KdV equation with self-consistent sources (KdVES). These Darboux transformations are used to get some explicit solutions of the KdVES, which include soliton, rational, positon, and negaton solutions.

Key words: the KdV equation with self-consistent sources; restricted flows; Lax pair; Darboux transformation; soliton solution

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1 Introduction

The nonlinear evolution equation with sources has many applications in physics, such as hydrodynamics, plasma physics, solid state physics (see, e.g., [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11]). Some $(1+1)$ -dimensional systems of this kind can be written in bi-Hamiltonian form by changing the role of x and t [12, 13]. In recent years, certain equations with self-consistent sources have been studied by the inverse scattering method [1, 3, 5, 6], Darboux transformation [7, 8], and Hirota method [9, 10, 11]. Several types of solutions have been obtained.

In early works on soliton equations with self-consistent sources (SESCSs), since the Lax pairs of these systems were not obtained explicitly, the use of the inverse scattering method was complicated and needed special skills [1]. Because the restricted flows of soliton equations are just the stationary problems of SESCSCs and the Lax pairs of restricted flows can always be deduced from the adjoint representation of soliton equations [14], a natural and simple way to deduce the auxiliary linear problems of SESCSCs was discovered [4], and then a systematical approach to solve SESCSCs by inverse scattering method was developed [5, 6].

The Hirota method has been used to construct several types of solutions for some SESCSCs [9, 10]. Recently, X.B. Hu and his colleagues developed a new procedure to construct some systems with self-consistent sources (see, e.g., [11]). Especially, some discrete systems with sources were studied there.

Darboux transformation is a powerful tool to construct some solutions of the differential equations [15]. Some SESCSCs have been studied by Darboux transformation (see [7, 8] and the

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references therein). In [7], the KdV equation with self-consistent sources (KdVES) is studied by the generalized *binary* Darboux transformation, whose reduction to the form of Darboux transformation for the original KdV equation (*without source*) is not explicit. Some soliton, positon, and negaton solutions of the KdVES are obtained in [7]. W.X. Ma introduced complexiton solution to some soliton equations and showed that the complexiton solution of the KdVES can be obtained by Darboux transformation [8]. Notice the close relation between the restricted flows and the SESCes, and stimulated by the study on the Bäcklund transformations for the restricted flows, which were studied on the basis of Darboux–Crum transformation by V.B. Kuznetsov et al. [16, 17, 18], two types of Darboux transformations for the KdVES are constructed in this paper. The first type of Darboux transformation is not a *binary* Darboux transformation, but it also enables us to obtain the soliton and rational solutions of the KdVES. The second type of Darboux transformation enables us to obtain the positon and negaton solutions of the KdVES. Some special cases of the solutions of the KdVES obtained in this paper reduce to some known solutions in other papers [5, 7].

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, the restricted flows of the KdV hierarchy and the KdV hierarchy with self-consistent sources are constructed. In Section 3, the Lax pair for the restricted flows and the auxiliary linear problems for the KdVES are deduced. In Section 4, two types of Darboux transformations for the KdVES are constructed, then some solutions of the KdVES are obtained. Finally, we summarize the main results of this paper in Section 5.

2 The restricted flows and the KdVES

Consider the Schrödinger equation

$$\phi_{xx} + (\lambda + u)\phi = 0, \quad (2.1)$$

where ϕ and u are functions of x and t , λ is a spectral parameter. Equation (2.1) can be written in the matrix form

$$\begin{pmatrix} \phi \\ \phi_x \end{pmatrix}_x = U \begin{pmatrix} \phi \\ \phi_x \end{pmatrix}, \quad U = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\lambda - u & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.2)$$

The adjoint representation of (2.2) reads [19]

$$V_x = [U, V] \equiv UV - VU. \quad (2.3)$$

Set

$$V = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \begin{pmatrix} a_i & b_i \\ c_i & -a_i \end{pmatrix} \lambda^{-i}.$$

Equation (2.3) yields

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 = b_0 = 0, \quad c_0 = -4, \quad a_1 = 0, \quad b_1 = 4, \quad c_1 = -2u, \\ a_2 = u_x, \quad b_2 = -2u, \quad c_2 = \frac{1}{2}(u_{xx} + u^2), \quad \dots, \end{aligned}$$

and in general for $k = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$a_k = -\frac{1}{2}b_{k,x}, \quad b_{k+1} = Lb_k = -\frac{1}{2}L^{k-1}u, \quad c_k = -\frac{1}{2}b_{k,xx} - b_{k+1} - b_k u, \quad (2.4)$$

where

$$L = -\frac{1}{4}D^2 - u + \frac{1}{2}D^{-1}u_x, \quad D = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \quad DD^{-1} = D^{-1}D = 1.$$

Set

$$V^{(n)} = \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} \begin{pmatrix} a_i & b_i \\ c_i & -a_i \end{pmatrix} \lambda^{n+1-i} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ b_{n+2} & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and take

$$\begin{pmatrix} \phi \\ \phi_x \end{pmatrix}_{t_n} = V^{(n)}(u, \lambda) \begin{pmatrix} \phi \\ \phi_x \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.5)$$

Then the compatibility condition of equations (2.2) and (2.5) gives rise to the KdV hierarchy

$$u_{t_n} = D \frac{\delta H_n}{\delta u} \equiv -2b_{n+2,x}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where $H_n = \frac{4b_{n+3}}{2n+3}$. We have

$$\frac{\delta \lambda}{\delta u} = \phi^2, \quad L\phi^2 = \lambda\phi^2. \quad (2.6)$$

The high-order restricted flows of the KdV hierarchy consist of the equations obtained from the spectral problem (2.1) for N distinct λ_j and the restriction of the variational derivatives for conserved quantities H_n and λ_j [4]

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\delta H_n}{\delta u} - 2 \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\delta \lambda_j}{\delta u} &\equiv -2b_{n+2} - 2 \sum_{j=1}^N \phi_j^2 = 0, \\ \phi_{j,xx} + (\lambda_j + u)\phi_j &= 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, N, \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

where $n = 0, 1, \dots$

The KdV hierarchy with self-consistent sources is given by [4]

$$\begin{aligned} u_{t_n} = D \left[\frac{\delta H_n}{\delta u} - 2 \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\delta \lambda_j}{\delta u} \right] &\equiv D \left[-2b_{n+2} - 2 \sum_{j=1}^N \phi_j^2 \right], \\ \phi_{j,xx} + (\lambda_j + u)\phi_j &= 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, N, \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

where λ_j are distinct.

In this paper, we concentrate on the case $n = 1$ and denote $t \equiv t_1$, the equation (2.8) gives the KdV equation with self-consistent sources (KdVES)

$$u_t = -(6uu_x + u_{xxx}) - 2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \sum_{j=1}^N \phi_j^2, \quad (2.9a)$$

$$\phi_{j,xx} + (\lambda_j + u)\phi_j = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, N. \quad (2.9b)$$

3 The Lax pair for the restricted flows and that for the KdVES

Set $\Phi = (\phi_1, \dots, \phi_N)^T$. According to equations (2.4), (2.6) and (2.7), we denote

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{a}_i &= a_i, \quad \tilde{b}_i = b_i, \quad \tilde{c}_i = c_i, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n+1, \\ \tilde{b}_{n+2+i} &= -\langle \Lambda^i \Phi, \Phi \rangle, \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \\ \tilde{a}_{n+2+i} &= -\frac{1}{2} \tilde{b}_{n+2+i,x} = \langle \Lambda^i \Phi, \Phi_x \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

$$\tilde{c}_{n+2+i} = -\frac{1}{2}\tilde{b}_{n+2+i,xx} - \tilde{b}_{n+3+i} - \tilde{b}_{n+2+i}u = \langle \Lambda^i \Phi_x, \Phi_x \rangle.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} N^{(n)} &\equiv \begin{pmatrix} A^{(n)} & B^{(n)} \\ C^{(n)} & D^{(n)} \end{pmatrix} = \lambda^{n+1} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{a}_k & \tilde{b}_k \\ \tilde{c}_k & -\tilde{a}_k \end{pmatrix} \lambda^{-k} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \begin{pmatrix} a_k & b_k \\ c_k & -a_k \end{pmatrix} \lambda^{n+1-k} + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_j} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_j \phi_{j,x} & -\phi_j^2 \\ \phi_{j,x}^2 & -\phi_j \phi_{j,x} \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

also satisfies the adjoint representation (2.3), i.e.

$$N_x^{(n)} = [U, N^{(n)}]. \quad (3.1)$$

In fact equation (3.1) gives rise to the Lax representation of the restricted flow (2.7).

Since the high-order restricted flows (2.7) are just the stationary equations of the KdV hierarchy with self-consistent sources (2.8), it is obvious that the zero-curvature representation for the KdV hierarchy with self-consistent sources (2.8) is given by

$$U_{t_n} - N_x^{(n)} + [U, N^{(n)}] = 0,$$

with the auxiliary linear problems

$$\begin{pmatrix} \psi \\ \psi_x \end{pmatrix}_x = U \begin{pmatrix} \psi \\ \psi_x \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \psi \\ \psi_x \end{pmatrix}_{t_n} = N^{(n)} \begin{pmatrix} \psi \\ \psi_x \end{pmatrix},$$

or equivalently

$$\psi_{xx} + (\lambda + u)\psi = 0, \quad (3.2a)$$

$$\psi_{t_n} = A^{(n)}\psi + B^{(n)}\psi_x = \sum_{l=0}^{n+1} (a_l\psi + b_l\psi_x)\lambda^{n+1-l} + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_j} \phi_j(\phi_{j,x}\psi - \phi_j\psi_x). \quad (3.2b)$$

In particular, the system (3.2) for $n = 1$ gives the auxiliary linear problem for the KdVES (2.9)

$$\psi_{xx} + (\lambda + u)\psi = 0, \quad (3.3a)$$

$$\psi_t = u_x\psi + (4\lambda - 2u)\psi_x + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{\lambda - \lambda_j} \phi_j(\phi_{j,x}\psi - \phi_j\psi_x). \quad (3.3b)$$

The compatibility condition of (3.3a) and (3.3b) gives the KdVES (2.9) under the assumption (2.9b).

4 The Darboux transformation for the KdVES

The Bäcklund transformation for the restricted flows of KdV hierarchy (2.7) has been studied by Kuznetsov et al. [16, 17, 18]. These transformations can be extended to construct the Darboux transformation for the KdVES. Two types of Darboux transformations and some solutions for the KdVES will be constructed in this section.

In the following, we use $W(g_1, \dots, g_m)$ to denote the Wronskian determinant for functions $g_1(x), g_1(x), \dots, g_m(x)$, i.e.,

$$W(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_m) = \begin{vmatrix} g_1 & g_2 & \cdots & g_m \\ \partial_x g_1 & \partial_x g_2 & \cdots & \partial_x g_m \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \partial_x^{m-1} g_1 & \partial_x^{m-1} g_2 & \cdots & \partial_x^{m-1} g_m \end{vmatrix}.$$

4.1 First type of Darboux transformation for the KdVES

Proposition 1. *Suppose u, ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_N , is a solution of the KdVES (2.9), $\psi, u, \phi_1, \dots, \phi_N$, satisfy the linear problem (3.3). If the functions $f(x, t, \lambda_{N+1})$ and $g(x, t, \lambda_{N+1})$ are two solutions of (3.3) with $\lambda = \lambda_{N+1}$ (where $\lambda_{N+1} \neq \lambda_j$ for $j = 1, \dots, N$), and $W(f, g) \neq 0$, then the following functions satisfy the linear problem (3.3) (with N replaced by $N + 1$)*

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\psi} &= \frac{W(S, \psi)}{S}, & \tilde{u} &= u + 2\partial_x^2 \ln S, & (4.1) \\ \tilde{\phi}_j &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_j - \lambda_{N+1}}} \frac{W(S, \phi_j)}{S}, & j &= 1, \dots, N, & \tilde{\phi}_{N+1} &= \sqrt{\frac{C_t}{W(f, g)}} \frac{W(S, f)}{S}, \end{aligned}$$

where $S = C(t)f(x, t, \lambda_{N+1}) + g(x, t, \lambda_{N+1})$, $C(t)$ is a differentiable function of t , and $C_t = \frac{dC}{dt}$.

Proof. It can be proved by direct computation. ■

It is easy to check that $\tilde{\phi}_j$ ($j = 1, \dots, N + 1$) in (4.1) satisfies (2.9b) under the assumption in Proposition 1. That means, we can use the Darboux transformation (4.1) (with $C(t)$ being variant in t) to obtain a solution of the KdVES (2.9) with N replaced by $N + 1$. If we fix the function $C(t)$ in (4.1) to be a *constant*, then the Darboux transformation (4.1) for the case $N = 0$ reduces to the Darboux transformation for the original KdV equation (*without source*).

4.1.1 Soliton solution

It is easy to see that the KdVES (2.9) with $N = 1$ and $\lambda_1 = 0$ has the following solution

$$u = 0, \quad \phi_1 = \eta(t).$$

With the above u and ϕ_1 , we take two solutions of (3.3) for $\lambda = -k^2$ (where $k > 0$) as

$$f = \exp(kx - a(t)), \quad g = \exp(-kx + a(t)),$$

where $a(t)$ is a differentiable function of t and

$$\frac{da}{dt} = 4k^3 - \frac{\eta(t)^2}{k}. \quad (4.2)$$

Then use the Darboux transformation (4.1) with $C(t) = \exp(-2z(t))$, where $z(t)$ is a differentiable function of t , we get a solution of the KdVES (2.9) with $N = 2$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{u} &= 2k^2 \operatorname{sech}^2(kx - a(t) - z(t)), & \tilde{\phi}_1 &= -\eta(t) \tanh(kx - a(t) - z(t)), & (4.3) \\ \tilde{\phi}_2 &= \sqrt{k \frac{dz}{dt}} \operatorname{sech}(kx - a(t) - z(t)), \end{aligned}$$

where $a(t)$ is given by (4.2). The velocity of propagation of this soliton solution can be modified by the choice of the function $z(t)$ [1, 5]. This phenomena is different with the case of the original KdV equation where the velocity is proportional to the amplitude of soliton. One should notice that $|\tilde{\phi}_1| \rightarrow |\eta(t)|$ when $|x| \rightarrow \pm\infty$, this kind of source is studied less in the references. In addition, if we set $\eta(t) \equiv 0$, the solution (4.3) reduces to the soliton solution obtained in some other papers [1, 5].

4.1.2 Rational solution

The KdVES (2.9) with $N = 0$ has a trivial solution $u = 0$. Take two solutions of (3.3) with $u = 0$ and $\lambda = 0$ as follows

$$f = 1, \quad g = x,$$

then use the Darboux transformation (4.1), we get a solution of the KdVES (2.9) with $N = 1$

$$\tilde{u} = \frac{-2}{(x + C(t))^2}, \quad \tilde{\phi}_1 = \frac{-\sqrt{C_t}}{(x + C(t))}.$$

It is a rational solution, and the poles of the solution are variant with respect to the choice of function $C(t)$.

4.2 Second type of Darboux transformation for the KdVES

In the following, we will construct another type of Darboux transformation for the KdVES (2.9), which enables us to obtain positon and negaton solutions of the KdVES (2.9).

Proposition 2. *Suppose u, ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_N , is a solution of the KdVES (2.9), $\psi, u, \phi_1, \dots, \phi_N$, satisfy the linear problem (3.3). If the functions $f(x, t, \lambda_{N+1})$ and $g(x, t, \lambda_{N+1})$ are two solutions of (3.3) with $\lambda = \lambda_{N+1}$ (where $\lambda_{N+1} \neq \lambda_j$ for $j = 1, \dots, N$), and $W(f, g) \neq 0$, then the following functions satisfy the linear problem (3.3) (with N replaced by $N + 1$)*

$$\tilde{\Psi} = \frac{W(g, T, \Psi)}{W(g, T)}, \quad \tilde{u} = u + 2\partial_x^2 \ln W(g, T), \quad (4.4)$$

$$\tilde{\phi}_j = \frac{1}{\lambda_j - \lambda_{N+1}} \frac{W(g, T, \phi_j)}{W(g, T)}, \quad j = 1, \dots, N, \quad \tilde{\phi}_{N+1} = \sqrt{\frac{C_t}{W(f, g)}} \frac{W(g, T, f)}{W(g, T)},$$

where $T = C(t)f(x, t, \lambda_{N+1}) + \partial_{N+1}g(x, t, \lambda_{N+1})$ and $C(t)$ is a differentiable function of t .

Proof. It can be proved by direct computation. ■

It is easy to check that $\tilde{\phi}_j$ ($j = 1, \dots, N + 1$) in (4.4) satisfies (2.9b) under the assumption in Proposition 2. That means, we can use the Darboux transformation (4.1) (with $C(t)$ being variant in t) to obtain a solution of the KdVES (2.9) with N replaced by $N + 1$.

4.2.1 Positon solution

The KdVES (2.9) with $N = 1$ and $\lambda_1 = 0$ has a trivial solution

$$u = 0, \quad \phi_1 = \sqrt{\frac{d\eta(t)}{dt}},$$

where $\eta(t)$ is a differentiable function of t . With the above u and ϕ_1 , we take two solutions of (3.3) for $\lambda = k^2$ (where $k > 0$) as

$$f = \cos \Theta, \quad g = \sin \Theta, \quad \Theta = kx + 4k^3t - \frac{\eta(t)}{k} + b(k),$$

where $b(k)$ is a differentiable function of k . By using the Darboux transformation (4.4), we get a solution of KdVES (2.9) with $N = 2$

$$\tilde{u} = \frac{32k^2(2k^2\gamma \cos \Theta - \sin \Theta) \sin \Theta}{(4k^2\gamma - \sin(2\Theta))^2}, \quad (4.5)$$

$$\tilde{\phi}_1 = \frac{-\sqrt{\eta_t}(4k^2\gamma + \sin(2\Theta))}{4k^2\gamma - \sin(2\Theta)}, \quad \tilde{\phi}_2 = \frac{4k\sqrt{kC_t}\sin\Theta}{4k^2\gamma - \sin(2\Theta)},$$

where

$$\gamma = C(t) + \frac{1}{2k}\partial_k\Theta.$$

This is a positon solution (see [7] and the references therein). If we set $\phi_1 = 0$, then the solution (4.5) reduces to the one given in [7].

4.2.2 Negaton solution

The KdVES (2.9) with $N = 1$ and $\lambda_1 = 0$ has a trivial solution

$$u = 0, \quad \phi_1 = \sqrt{\frac{d\eta(t)}{dt}},$$

where $\eta(t)$ is a differentiable function of t . With the above u and ϕ_1 , we take two solutions of (3.3) for $\lambda = -k^2$ (where $k > 0$) as

$$f = \cosh\Theta, \quad g = \sinh\Theta, \quad \Theta = kx - 4k^3t + \frac{\eta(t)}{k} + b(k),$$

where $b(k)$ is a differentiable function of k . By using the Darboux transformation (4.4), we get a solution of KdVES (2.9) with $N = 2$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{u} &= \frac{8k^2(2k^2\gamma \cosh\Theta + \sinh\Theta) \sinh\Theta}{(2k^2\gamma + \sinh\Theta \cosh\Theta)^2}, \\ \tilde{\phi}_1 &= \frac{\sqrt{\eta_t}(-2k^2\gamma + \sinh\Theta \cosh\Theta)}{2k^2\gamma + \sinh\Theta \cosh\Theta}, \quad \tilde{\phi}_2 = \frac{2k\sqrt{kC_t}\sinh\Theta}{2k^2\gamma + \sinh\Theta \cosh\Theta}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

where

$$\gamma = C(t) - \frac{1}{2k}\partial_k\Theta.$$

This is a negaton solution (see [7] and the references therein). If we set $\phi_1 = 0$, then the solution (4.6) reduces to the one given in [7] (notice that there is a typo in the expression of negaton solution (4.2b) in [7]).

5 Conclusion

The KdV equation is used as an example to illustrate the relation between the restricted flows and the soliton equation with self-consistent sources (SESCSs). Since the restricted flows is just the stationary problem of the SESCSts and the Lax pair of the restricted flows can always be deduced from the adjoint representation of soliton equations, the auxiliary linear problem for the SESCSts can be easily obtained. Stimulated by the study on the Bäcklund transformation for the restricted flows (by Kuznetsov et al.) [16, 17, 18], two types of Darboux transformations for the KdVES are constructed in this paper. The first type of Darboux transformation is not a *binary* one, whose reduction relation to the form of Darboux transformation for the original KdV equation is shown. By the two types of Darboux transformation, some explicit solutions for the KdVES are obtained, which include soliton, rational, positon, and negation solutions. It is possible to construct complexiton solution of the KdVES by the Darboux transformation in this paper, we will study it in detail in the future work.

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