

# Variational Methods for Anti-periodic Traveling Wave Solutions to a Forced Two-dimensional Generalized KdV Equation\*

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**ABSTRACT** Using variational methods, we study the existence of the anti-periodic traveling wave solutions to a forced two-dimensional generalized KdV equation.

**KEYWORDS** variational methods / KdV equation; anti-periodic traveling wave solutions

## 0 Introduction

The two-dimensional KdV equation was first derived by Kadomtsev and Petviashvili in 1970<sup>[1]</sup>, and it is also referred to as the KP equation. In [2], Aizicovici and Wen studied the existence and uniqueness of anti-periodic traveling wave solutions to a forced (inhomogeneous) generalized KP equation with the aid of monotonic method<sup>[3,4]</sup> and Schauder's fixed point theorem.

In this paper, we use the variational methods to study the existence of antiperiodic traveling wave solutions to the KP equation, we allow a broad class of functions  $f(u)$  in the KP equation under investigation, in contrast with  $f(u)$  being monotonically nondecreasing in [2].

## 1 Reduction of the Problem

We consider the generalized inhomogeneous two-dimensional KdV equation (see [1], [2], [5]):

$$\{u_t + [f(u)]_x + \alpha u_{xxx}\}_x + \beta u_{yy} + \bar{g} = 0, \quad (t \geq 0, x, y \in R), \quad (1)$$

where  $f \in C^2(R)$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ , and  $\beta \neq 0$  are given constants, while  $\bar{g}$  denotes a real-valued function of  $x, y$  and  $t$ .

We are interested in the existence of anti-periodic traveling wave solutions to Eq. (1), of the

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form

$$u(x, y, t) = U(z), z = ax + by - ut,$$

where  $a > 0$ , and  $b, w$  are real constants, consequently, we make the natural assumption that  $\tilde{g}$  depends on  $z$  only, i. e.

$$\tilde{g}(x, y, t) = g(ax + by - ut), \text{ with } g: R \rightarrow R$$

Straightforward computations then show that (1) reduced to the fourth-order ordinary differential equation

$$U^{(4)}(z) - cU'(z) + \gamma \frac{d^2}{dz^2} f(U(z)) + g_1(z) = 0, \quad (2)$$

where

$$c = a^{-4}(\alpha a - \beta b^2), \gamma = a^{-1}a^{-2}, g_1(z) = a^{-1}a^{-4}g(z). \quad (3)$$

We consider (2) in conjunction with the anti-periodic condition

$$U(z + T) = -U(z), z \in R, \quad (4)$$

where  $T > 0$  is fixed.

Let  $f \in C^2(R)$  and  $g_1 \in C(R)$ .

Define  $G(z)$  such that  $G'(z) = g_1(z)$ .

It is easily to see that in order to prove the existence of the solution of (2) and (4), it is sufficient to prove the existence of the anti-periodic solution of the following second order ordinary differential equation

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -U''(z) + cU'(z) + F(U(z)) &= G(z), & z \in R \\ U(z + T) &= -U(z), & z \in R \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (5)$$

where

$$F(x) = -\gamma f(x), \quad x \in R$$

More generally, we consider the following second-order anti-periodic boundary value problems:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -\ddot{x} + Ax + V'(x) &= h(t), x \in R^* \\ x(0) &= -x(T) \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (6)$$

where  $A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n}$  is a symmetric matrix,  $T > 0, V \in C^1(R^*, R), h \in L^2(R, R^*)$ .

## 2 Variational Methods and Main Results

Consider the Sobolev space

$$H \equiv H^1([0, T], R^n) \quad (7)$$

On  $H$  we define the following inner product,

$$\langle\langle x, y \rangle\rangle = \int_0^T (\dot{x} \cdot \dot{y} + x \cdot y) dt, \forall x, y \in H.$$

The norm defined by  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  on  $H$  is the usual  $H^1$  norm,

$$\|x\|_H = \left( \int_0^T |\dot{x}|^2 dt + \int_0^T |x|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (8)$$

Define the subspace of  $H$ ,

$$E = \{x \in H | x(0) = -x(T)\}, \quad (9)$$

and define functional  $\mathcal{F}: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  as

$$\mathcal{F}(x) = \int_0^T \left( \frac{1}{2} |\dot{x}|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \langle Ax, x \rangle + V(x) - \langle h, x \rangle \right) dt \quad \forall x \in E \quad (10)$$

Then it is easy to prove the following variational principle,

**Lemma 1.** The critical points of  $\mathcal{F}$  in  $E$  is the solutions of (6).

**Lemma 2.** (Poincaré type inequality [4]) For all  $x \in E$ , we have

$$|x(t)| \leq \frac{1}{2} T^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_0^T |\dot{x}(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T. \quad (11)$$

**Lemma 3.** On  $E$  the usual  $H^1$  norm is equivalent to the following norm  $\|\cdot\|$ ,

$$\|x\| = \left( \int_0^T |\dot{x}|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \forall x \in E \quad (12)$$

**Proof.** By Poincaré type inequality (Lemma 2), we have that for all  $x \in E$

$$\int_0^T |x|^2 dt \leq T \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} |x(t)|^2 \leq \frac{T^2}{4} \int_0^T |\dot{x}|^2 dt, \quad (13)$$

$$\int_0^T |\dot{x}|^2 dt \leq \int_0^T (|\dot{x}|^2 + |x|^2) dt \leq \left( 1 + \frac{T^2}{4} \right) \int_0^T |\dot{x}|^2 dt. \quad (14)$$

**Lemma 4.**  $\mathcal{F}(x)$  is weakly lower semicontinuous, i. e. if  $x_n \rightarrow x$  weakly in  $E$  then

$$\mathcal{F}(x) \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{F}(x_n), \quad (15)$$

**Proof.** Suppose that  $x_n \rightarrow x$  weakly in  $E$ , then

$$\int_0^T |\dot{x}|^2 dt \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T |\dot{x}_n|^2 dt. \quad (16)$$

Moreover, by the Rellich-Kondrachov embedding theorem, we have that  $x_n$  has a subsequence, still denoted by  $x_n$ , such that  $x_n \rightarrow x$  uniformly on  $[0, T]$  and

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \left( \frac{1}{2} \langle Ax_n, x_n \rangle + V(x_n) - \langle h, x_n \rangle \right) dt \\ & \rightarrow \int_0^T \left( \frac{1}{2} \langle Ax, x \rangle + V(x) - \langle h, x \rangle \right) dt. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

By (16), (17), it follows that

$$\mathcal{F}(x) \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{F}(x_n)$$

**Lemma 5.** Considering system (6), suppose

$$\left. \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \langle Ax, x \rangle + V(x) \geq -\frac{\alpha}{2} |x|^2 - M, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ & 1 - \frac{\alpha}{4} T^2 > 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (18)$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $M$  are two positive constants. Then

(i)  $\mathcal{F}(x)$  is coercive in  $E$ , i. e.  $\mathcal{F}(x) \rightarrow \infty$  whenever  $\|x_n\| \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

(ii)  $\mathcal{F}(x)$  is bounded from below in  $E$ .

**Proof.** (i) By the assumption (18) and inequality (13), we have

$$\int_0^T \left( \frac{1}{2} \langle Ax, x \rangle + V(x) \right) dt \geq -\frac{\alpha}{2} \int_0^T |x|^2 dt - MT \geq -\frac{\alpha T^2}{8} \|\dot{x}\|_{L^2}^2 - MT. \quad (19)$$

By Hölder's inequality and inequality (13) we have

$$\int_0^T \langle h, x \rangle dt \leq \|h\|_{L^2} \cdot \|x\|_{L^2} \leq \frac{T}{2} \|h\|_{L^2} \cdot \|\dot{x}\|_{L^2} \quad (20)$$

By (10), (19), (20), we have

$$\mathcal{F}(x) \geq \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha}{8} T^2 \right) \|\dot{x}\|_{L^2}^2 - \frac{T}{2} \|h\|_{L^2} \cdot \|\dot{x}\|_{L^2}. \quad (21)$$

By  $1 - \frac{\alpha}{4} T^2 > 0$ , it follows that  $\mathcal{F}(x_n) \rightarrow \infty$  when  $\|x_n\|_E = \|\dot{x}_n\|_{L^2} \rightarrow \infty$ .

(ii) From (21), it is easy to prove that  $\mathcal{F}$  is bounded from below.

Now we prove our main result.

**Theorem 1** Suppose the condition (18) of Lemma 5 holds, then for any  $0 < T \leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{\alpha}}$ , system (6) has at least an  $T$ -anti-periodic solution.

**Proof.** By Lemma 4 and 11,  $\mathcal{F}(x)$  attains its infimum in  $E$ . Hence by the standard regularity theory, the minimum solution  $x(t)$  is  $C^2(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  solution of (6)<sup>[6,7]</sup>.

**Example 1.** Assume symmetric matrix  $A = (a_{ij})_{n \times n}$  is semipositive definite and  $V(x) = \frac{1}{p} |x|^p$ ,  $p \geq 2$ . Then the condition (18) holds for all  $\alpha > 0$ . Therefore (6) has at least an  $T$ -anti-periodic

solution by Theorem 1. Specially, considering system (5), if  $c \geq 0$ ,  $F(x) = |x|^{-2}x$ ,  $p \geq 2$ , then (5) has at least an  $T$ -anti-periodic solution for any  $T > 0$ .

**Example 2.** Considering system (5), let  $c \geq 0$  and  $F(x) = \cos x$ ,  $x \in R$ , then (5) has at least an  $T$ -anti-periodic solution for any  $T > 0$ . In fact, in Theorem 1, let  $n=1$ ,  $A=c \geq 0$ ,  $V(x) = \int_0^x \cos x dx = \sin x$ . By  $\sin x \geq -1$  for any  $x \in R$ , therefore condition (18) holds for all  $a > 0$ .

**Remark.** In [2], the authors only consider the case that  $F(x)$  must be monotonic. In our Example 2,  $F(x) = \cos x$  is not monotonic in real line.

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## 受迫二维广义 KdV 方程 的反周期行波解的变分方法

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**摘要** 用变分法研究了受迫二维广义 KdV 方程的反周期行波解的存在性。

**关键词** 变分法 / KdV 方程; 反周期行波解

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