Review Article

Travelling Wave Solutions of Wu–Zhang System via Dynamic Analysis

Hang Zheng,1,2 Yonghui Xia,1 Yuzhen Bai,3 and Guo Lei2

1Department of Mathematics, Zhejiang Normal University, Jinhua 321004, China
2Department of Mathematics and Computer, Wuyi University, Wuyishan 354300, China
3School of Mathematical Sciences, Qufu Normal University, Qufu 273165, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Yonghui Xia; xiadoc@163.com

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In this paper, based on the dynamical system method, we obtain the exact parametric expressions of the travelling wave solutions of the Wu–Zhang system. Our approach is much different from the existing literature studies on the Wu–Zhang system. Moreover, we also study the fractional derivative of the Wu–Zhang system. Finally, by comparison between the integer-order Wu–Zhang system and the fractional-order Wu–Zhang system, we see that the phase portrait, nonzero equilibrium points, and the corresponding exact travelling waves all depend on the derivative order $\alpha$. Phase portraits and simulations are given to show the validity of the obtained solutions.

1. Introduction

Recently, many authors made some efforts on nonlinear partial differential equations (NPDEs) (see [1–14]). Wu and Zhang [15] proposed the equation of the form

\[
\begin{align*}
\epsilon_t + \epsilon u_x + u v_y &+ v_x = 0, \\
u_t + u u_x + v u_y + v_y &+ 0 = 0, \\
v_t + (v u)_x &+ (u v)_y + \frac{1}{3} (u_{xxx} + u_{xyy} + u_{xxy} + u_{yyy}) = 0,
\end{align*}
\]

(1)

where $\epsilon$ and $u$ denote the surface velocity of water along the $x$-direction and the $y$-direction, respectively, and $v$ means the elevation of water. Through some transformations, equation (1) reduces into the (1+1)-dimensional dispersive long wave equation (Wu–Zhang system) as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
u_t &+ u u_x - v_x = 0, \\
v_t &+ u u_y - v_y - \frac{1}{3} u_{xxx} = 0.
\end{align*}
\]

(2)

In fact, the Wu–Zhang system can describe the nonlinear water wave availability, and many engineers apply it in harbor and coastal design. For mathematical physics, one of the most important topics is to find the exact solutions. Many authors proposed various methods to solve the Wu–Zhang system numerically. We summarize as follows: the first integral method [16], extended tanh-function method [17], characteristic function method [18], modified Conte’s invariant Painlevé expansion method and truncation of the WTC’s approach [19–21], elliptic function rational expansion method [22], generalized extended tanh-function method [23], generalized extended rational expansion method [24], and so on.

However, different from the aforementioned methods [16–24], in this paper, we apply the dynamical system method to study the bifurcation and exact solutions of NPDEs. Dynamical system method is quite different from the mentioned methods, and it has many successful applications [25–39]. Another purpose is to study exact solutions of the fractional-order Wu–Zhang system [16]. It takes the form
where $u_\xi$ and $v_\xi$ denote the first-order derivative with respect to $\xi$, respectively, and $u_{\xi\xi\xi}$ means the third-order derivative with respect to $\xi$. We substitute (4) and (5) into system (2); then, (2) turns into

$$
\begin{align*}
lu_\xi &= u_{\xi\xi} + v_\xi, \\
lu_\xi &= u_{\xi\xi} + v_\xi + \frac{1}{3}u_{\xi\xi\xi}.
\end{align*}
$$

(6)

Then, by integration over both sides of the first equation (6) and setting constant of integration to zero, hence, we have $\nu(\xi) = l u_\xi - (1/2)u^2(\xi)$. Substituting it into the second equation of (6), we have the following ordinary differential equation (ODE):

$$
u_{\xi\xi\xi} - \frac{3}{2}u^2_{\xi\xi} + 9lu_\xiu_{\xi} - 3l^2u_\xi = 0.
$$

(7)

Integrating both sides on (7), it follows that

$$
u_{\xi\xi\xi} = \frac{3}{2}u^3_{\xi\xi} + 9lu_\xiu_{\xi} - 3l^2u_\xi = c. \tag{8}
$$

Obviously, equation (8) reduces to the planar dynamical system:

$$
\frac{du}{d\xi} = y,
$$

$$
\frac{dy}{d\xi} = \frac{3}{2}u^3 - 9lu_\xiu_{\xi} + 3l^2u + c. \tag{9}
$$

Meanwhile, the first integral is written as

$$
H(u, y) = \frac{1}{2}y^2 - \frac{3}{8}u^4 + \frac{3}{2}lu_\xi - \frac{3}{2}l^2u^2 - cu = h. \tag{10}
$$

We let $g(u) = (3/2)u^3 - (9/2)lu_\xi + 3l^2u + c$, then, $g'(u) = (9/2)u^2 - 9lu_\xi + 3l^2$. Obviously, the roots of $g(u)$ are $0$ depend on the parameter group $(l, c)$ taking different values. (i) If $c > (\sqrt{3}/3)l^3(1 > 0)$ or $c < - (\sqrt{3}/3)l^3(1 > 0)$ or $c > - (\sqrt{3}/3)l^3(1 < 0)$ or $c < (\sqrt{3}/3)(l > 0)$ or $l < 0$, then $g(u)$ has only one real root $u_i$; (ii) if $c = \pm (\sqrt{3}/3)l^3(l > 0)$ or $l > 0$, then $g(u)$ has two real roots: $u_i$ and $u_k(u_i < u_k)$; and (iii) if $(-\sqrt{3}/3)l^3 < c < (\sqrt{3}/3)(l > 0)$ or $(\sqrt{3}/3)l^3< c < - (\sqrt{3}/3)l^3(l < 0)$, then $g(u)$ has three real roots: $u_i, u_k$, and $u_s(u_s < u_i < u_k)$.

Furthermore, noting that

$$
f(u_j, y_j) = \det M(u_j, y_j) = -g'(u) = \left(-\frac{9}{2}u^2 - 9lu_\xi + 3l^2\right),
$$

(11)

where $M(u_j, y_j)$ is the coefficient matrix of the linearized system of (9) at an equilibrium point $E_j (j = 1, 2, \ldots, 6)$, $E_j = (u_j, 0)$. Using the theory of equilibrium points (see [42]), it is easy to compute that $f(u_j, 0) < 0$ (saddle point) (see Figure 1(a)), $f(u_j, 0) = 0$ (cusp point) (see Figure 1(b)) or $f(u_j, 0) < 0$ (saddle point) (see Figure 1(c)), and $f(u_j, 0) < 0$ (saddle point) (see Figure 1(d)). Then, we draw the bifurcation of phase portraits of system (9) by Maple (see Figure 1).

From (10), we set integral constant $h$ be fixed, which yields

$$
y^2 = \frac{3}{4}u^4 - 3lu_\xi^3 + 3l^2u^2 + 2cu + 2h = \frac{3}{4}G(u). \tag{12}
$$

Then, we integrate over a branch of the curve from initial value $u(t_0) = u_0$. That is,

$$
\xi = \int_{t_0}^{t} \sqrt{\frac{4}{3G(s)}} ds. \tag{13}
$$

Let $h_j = H(u_j, 0)(j = 1, 2, \ldots, 6)$; for the phase portraits, according to the parameters, we get $h_1 < h_2$ and $h_5 < h_4 < h_6$, respectively. Then, we just consider Figure 1(d) as follows:

(i) Firstly, if $h \in (h_5, h_4)$, we get the green curve. It corresponds to a family of periodic orbits of system (9) surrounding $E_5(u_5, 0)$. Then, $G(u) = (\lambda_1 -
\[ (\lambda_1 - u)(\lambda_2 - u)(\lambda_3 - u)(\lambda_4 - u) \]

\[ \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \text{and} \lambda_4 \text{ are the points of intersection of the green curve with the} \]

\[ u \text{-axis in Figure 1(d)). Using the formula (see 254.00} \]

\[ \text{in [43])}, \text{when} \lambda_4 < \lambda_3 \leq u < \lambda_2 < \lambda_1, \text{then we have} \]

\[ \int_{\lambda_1}^{u} \frac{ds}{\sqrt{(\lambda_1 - s)(\lambda_2 - s)(\lambda_3 - s)(\lambda_4 - s)}} = gsn^{-1}(\sin \phi, k_1) \]

\[ = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \xi, \]

\[ (14) \]

where \[ g = 2/\sqrt{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)} \]

\[ k_1^2 = ((\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)(\lambda_1 - \lambda_4))/((\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)). \]

Consequently, on the basis of (14),

\[ sn^{-1}(\sin \phi, k_1) = (\sqrt{3}/2g)\xi; \]

by virtue of

\[ \varphi = \sin^{-1} \sqrt{((\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)(u - \lambda_3))/((\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)(u - \lambda_4))}, \]

it leads us to

\[ \sin \phi = sn(\omega_1 \xi, k_1) = \sqrt{((\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)(u - \lambda_3))/((\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)(u - \lambda_4))}, \]

where \[ \omega_1 = \sqrt{3(\lambda_1 - \lambda_3)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)/4}. \]

Therefore, the parametric expression for the periodic orbit of system (9) is given by (see Figure 2(a))

\[ u(\xi) = \frac{\lambda_1(\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)sn^2(\omega_1 \xi, k_1) - \lambda_3(\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)sn^2(\omega_1 \xi, k_1) - (\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)}, \]

(15)

where \[ sn(\xi, k) \text{ is the Jacobian elliptic function. Correspondingly, the exact periodic wave solutions of} \]

\[ \text{equation (2) (see Figure 2(b)) can be written as} \]

\[ \text{Figure 1: Bifurcation of phase portraits of system (9). (a) One equilibrium point. (b, c) Two equilibrium points. (d) Three equilibrium points. Parameters: (a) } c = 4, I = \sqrt{3}, \text{ (b)} c = 3, I = \sqrt{3}, \text{ (c) } c = -3, I = \sqrt{3}, \text{ and (d) } c = 0.2, I = \sqrt{3}. \]
Periodic wave of (9) and exact periodic wave solutions of (2) when \( c = 0.2 \) and \( l = \sqrt{3} \). (a) Periodic wave. (b) Exact periodic wave solutions.

\[
\begin{align*}
    u(x,t) &= \frac{\lambda_4(\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)\sin^2(\omega_1 x - lt) + \lambda_3(\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)}{\omega_1(\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)\cos^2(\omega_1 x - lt) + (\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)}.
\end{align*}
\]

Through the above analysis, we get the following theorems:

**Theorem 1.** If the parameter group \((l, c)\) satisfies 
\[-(\sqrt{3}/3)^3 < c < (\sqrt{3}/3)^3 (l > 0)\]  \( \text{or} \) \[-(\sqrt{3}/3)^3 < c < - (\sqrt{3}/3)^3 (l < 0)\] and level curves are defined by \( h \in (h_5, h_2) \), then equation (2) has the periodic wave solutions with the exact parametric expression given by (16).

**Theorem 2.** If the parameter group \((l, c)\) satisfies 
\[-(\sqrt{3}/3)^3 < c < (\sqrt{3}/3)^3 (l > 0)\]  \( \text{or} \) \[-(\sqrt{3}/3)^3 < c < - (\sqrt{3}/3)^3 (l < 0)\] and level curves are defined by \( h = h_4 \), then equation (2) has the solitary wave solutions with the exact parametric expression given by (20).

### 3. Exact Solutions of Fractional-Order Wu–Zhang System (3)

Secondly, we consider the fractional-order system. Here, we use the conformable fractional derivative proposed by Khalil et al. [44]. Different from (4), taking \( \xi = x - lt^\alpha \), we have

\[
\begin{align*}
    D_l^\alpha u(x,t) &= t^{1-\alpha}\frac{\partial u(x,t)}{\partial t} = t^{1-\alpha}\frac{\partial u(\xi)}{\partial \xi} = t^{1-\alpha}u_\xi, \\
    D_l^\alpha v(x,t) &= t^{1-\alpha}\frac{\partial v(x,t)}{\partial t} = t^{1-\alpha}\frac{\partial v(\xi)}{\partial \xi} = t^{1-\alpha}v_\xi.
\end{align*}
\]
Fractional-order case depends on the fractional parameter group \( l, c, \alpha \). Consequently, the equilibrium points \( E_i (\tilde{u}_i, 0) \) (\( i = 1, 2, \ldots, 6 \)) of system (25) change with the fractional \( \alpha \). Similarly, we let \( \hat{\eta} (u) = (3/2)u^3 - (9/2)lu^2 + 3l^2u^2u + c \); then, \( \hat{\eta} (u) = (9/2)u^2 - 9luu + 3l^2u^2 \). The roots of \( \hat{\eta} (u) = 0 \) also depend on the parameter group \((l, c, \alpha)\) taking different values. (i) If \( c > (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 \) (\( l > 0 \)) or \( c < (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 \) (\( l < 0 \)), then \( \hat{\eta} (u) \) has only one real root \( \tilde{u}_1 \); (ii) if \( c = (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 \) (\( l > 0 \) or \( l < 0 \)), then \( \hat{\eta} (u) \) has two real roots: \( \tilde{u}_4 \) and \( \tilde{u}_5 \) (\( \tilde{u}_4 < \tilde{u}_5 \)); and (iii) if \( - (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 < c < (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 \) (\( l > 0 \)) or \( (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 < c < - (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 \) (\( l < 0 \)), then \( \hat{\eta} (u) \) has three real roots: \( \tilde{u}_4, \tilde{u}_5, \tilde{u}_6 \) (\( \tilde{u}_4 < \tilde{u}_5 < \tilde{u}_6 \)).

Then, as the same discussion as before, we set \( \bar{h}_2 = \bar{h}_3 \) and \( \bar{h}_5 < \bar{h}_4 < \bar{h}_6 \). Obviously, it has the similar representation of periodic orbits \((15)\) of the form

\[
\hat{u} (\xi) = \frac{\lambda_4 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_3) \sin^2 (\tilde{\omega}_1 \xi, \tilde{k}_1) - \lambda_3 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)}{\lambda_2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_3) \sin^2 (\tilde{\omega}_1 \xi, \tilde{k}_1) - (\lambda_2 - \lambda_4)}.
\]

We also get similar parametric representation for a homoclinic orbit \((25)\) when level curves are defined by \( \tilde{h} = \tilde{h}_4 \) as follows:

\[
\hat{u} (\xi) = \frac{2 (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) (\lambda_3 - \lambda_4)}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_3) \cosh (\tilde{\omega}_2 \xi) - (\lambda_2 + \lambda_3 - 2\lambda_4)}.
\]

For the fractional-order situation, we have the similar theorems:

**Theorem 3.** If the parameter group \((l, c, \alpha) (0 < \alpha < 1)\) satisfies \( - (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 < c < (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 \) (\( l > 0 \)) or \( (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 < c < - (\sqrt[3]{3})l^2\alpha^3 \) (\( l < 0 \)) and level curves are defined by \( \tilde{h} \in (\tilde{h}_5, \tilde{h}_6) \), then equation (3) has the periodic wave solutions with the exact parametric expression given by \((28)\).
Figure 4: Phase portraits of system (9) and (25) when $c = 0.2$ and $l = \sqrt{3}$. (a) $\alpha = 1$, $E_4(u_4, 0)$, $E_5(u_5, 0)$, and $E_6(u_6, 0)$. (b) $\alpha = 1/2$, $E_4(\bar{u}_4, 0)$, $E_5(\bar{u}_5, 0)$, and $E_6(\bar{u}_6, 0)$.

Figure 5: Comparison between the integer-order and fractional-order Wu–Zhang system when $c = 0.2$ and $l = \sqrt{3}$. (a) $\alpha = 1$ solitary wave. (b) $\alpha = 1$ exact solitary wave solutions. (c) $\alpha = 1/2$ solitary wave. (d) $\alpha = 1/2$ exact solitary wave solutions.
Theorem 4. If the parameter group \((l, c, \alpha)(0 < \alpha < 1)\) satisfies \(-((\sqrt[4]{3}/3)l)^{\alpha} c < ((\sqrt[4]{3}/3)l)^{\alpha} (l > 0)\) or \(-((\sqrt[4]{3}/3)l)^{\alpha} c < h = h_0\), then equation (3) has the solitary wave solutions with the exact parametric expression given by (30).


In this part, we compare the phase portraits and exact solutions of case (ii) for the integer-order and fractional-order Wu–Zhang system. Under the same parameters \(c = 0.2\) and \(l = \sqrt{3}\), we take different derivative orders \(\alpha = 1\) and \(\alpha = 1/2\), respectively. According to different \(\alpha\), we obtain the different phase portraits of system (9) and system (25).

Obviously, we see that the nonzero equilibrium points are related to the derivative order \(\alpha\). The equilibrium points amount to \(E_1(3.4414364477, 0), E_2(1.0524405702, 0),\) and \(E_3(-0.02180899881, 0)\) in Figure 4(a). Nevertheless, in Figure 4(b), the equilibrium points amount to \(E_4(1.6236627178, 0), E_5(1.0524405702, 0),\) and \(E_6(-0.07802707677, 0)\). We find that the level curves defined by the first integral \(h\) (periodic orbits and homoclinic orbits) all rely on \(\alpha\). Thus, the corresponding exact parametric representations of the Wu–Zhang system also change along with \(\alpha\).

The exact solitary wave solution of the integer-order Wu–Zhang system is obtained by (see Figure 5(b))

\[
u(x, t) = \lambda_1 - \frac{2(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)\cosh(\omega_2(x - lt)) - (\lambda_2 + \lambda_3 - 2\lambda_1)}
\]

(31)

However, for the fractional-order Wu–Zhang system, the exact solitary wave solutions can be written as (see Figure 5(d))

\[
u(x, t) = \lambda_1 - \frac{2(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)}{(\lambda_2 - \lambda_3)\cosh(\omega_2(x - lt^{\alpha})) - (\lambda_2 + \lambda_3 - 2\lambda_1)}
\]

(32)

We compare Figure 5(a) with Figures 5(c) and 5(b) with Figure 5(d), respectively. Certainly, the height and opening size of the solitary wave are different. The height of the solitary wave of the integer-order Wu–Zhang system is 3.3 in Figures 5(a) and 5(b), while the height of the solitary wave of the fractional-order Wu–Zhang system is almost 1.65 in Figures 5(c) and 5(d). Meanwhile, opening size of the integer order is less than the fractional order. Thus, the height and opening size of the solitary wave all depend on the derivative order \(\alpha\).

5. Conclusion

This paper has studied the bifurcation and exact solutions of the Wu–Zhang system. We employ the dynamical system method to obtain the solitary wave solutions and periodic wave solutions. Moreover, we studied the integer-order and fractional-order Wu–Zhang system in a united way. We find that the bifurcation of phase portraits, nonzero equilibrium points, and exact solutions for the integer-order and fractional-order Wu–Zhang system all depend on the derivative order \(\alpha\).

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Authors’ Contributions

H. Zheng carried out the computations and figures in the proof. L. Guo helped to replot the figures and participated in the revision. Y. Xia conceived the study and designed and drafted the manuscript. Y. Bai participated in the discussion of the project. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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