A modified Li-He's variational principle for plasma

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Abstract

Purpose – It is extremely difficult to establish a variational principle for plasma. Kalaawy obtained a variational principle by using the semi-inverse method in 2016, and Li and He suggested a modification in 2017. This paper aims to search for a generalized variational formulation with a free parameter.

Design/methodology/approach – The semi-inverse method is used by suitable construction of a trial functional with some free parameters.

 $Findings- {\rm A\ modification\ of\ Li-He's\ variational\ principle\ with\ a\ free\ parameter\ is\ obtained.}$

Originality/value – This paper suggests a new approach to construction of a trial-functional with some free parameters.

Keywords Variational theory, Semi-inverse method, Burger equation, Plasma, Editorial

Paper type Research paper

1. Introduction

In 2016, Kalaawy obtained the following equation for plasma (El-Kalaawy, 2016):

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\frac{2}{3} A u^{3/2} - C \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right] = 0 \tag{1}$$

and derived a variational principle by using the semi-inverse method (He, 2004; He, 2017; Wu and He, 2018) through introducing two special functions.

In 2017, Li and He found another variational principle, which reads (Li and He, 2017):

$$J_{Li-He}(u,\Phi) = \iint \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} + \frac{2}{3} A u^{3/2} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{2} C \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \right)^2 - \frac{2}{5} A u^{5/2} \right\} dxdt \tag{2}$$

where Φ satisfies the following relations:

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} = u \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} = -\frac{2}{3}Au^{3/2} + C\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \tag{4}$$

2. General variational principle with a free parameter

The semi-inverse method is widely used to search for variational principles directly from governing equations (El-Kalaawy, 2016; El-Kalaawy, 2017; Biswas *et al.*, 2017). By the



International Journal of Numerical Methods for Heat & Fluid Flow Vol. 31 No. 5, 2021 pp. 1369-1372 © Emerald Publishing Limited 0961-5539 DOI 10.1108/HFF-66-2019-05/23 HFF semi-inverse method (He, 2004; He, 2017; Wu and He, 2018), we can construct a trialfunctional in the form:

$$J(u,\Phi) = \iiint \left\{ u \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} + \left[\frac{2}{3} A u^{3/2} - C \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right] \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} + F \right\} dxdt$$
(5)

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where F is a known function of u and its derivative, however we cannot identify F, so equation (5) has to be modified as:

$$J_{New}(u,\Phi) = \iiint \left\{ mu \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} + n \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} + aAu^{1/2} \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x}\right)^2 + bAu^{3/2} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} - C \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} + F \right\} dxdt$$
(6)

where *m*, *n*, *a* and *b* are constants.

The stationary conditions of equation (6) are as follows:

$$-m\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - 2n\frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial x \partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[2aAu^{1/2}\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} + bAu^{3/2} - C\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right] = 0$$
(7)

and

$$m\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}aAu^{-1/2}\left(\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \frac{3}{2}bAu^{1/2}\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial x} + C\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial x}\right) + \frac{\delta F}{\delta u} = 0$$
(8)

In view of equations (3) and (4), we have:

$$-(m+2n)\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left[(2a+b)Au^{3/2} - C\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right] = 0$$
(9)

$$mC\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \left(\frac{1}{2}a + \frac{3}{2}b - \frac{2}{3}m\right)Au^{3/2} + C\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\delta F}{\delta u} = 0$$
(10)

Equation (9) should be equivalent to equation (1), this requires:

$$2a + b = 1 \tag{11}$$

$$m + 2n = 1 \tag{12}$$

To identify F in equation (10), we set:

$$m = -1 \tag{13}$$

Equation (10) becomes:

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}a + \frac{3}{2}b + \frac{2}{3}\right)Au^{3/2} + \frac{\delta F}{\delta u} = 0$$
(14)

From equation (14), F can be identified as:

$$F = -\frac{2}{5} \left(\frac{1}{2}a + \frac{3}{2}b + \frac{2}{3} \right) A u^{5/2} = -\frac{2}{5} \left(\frac{13}{6} - \frac{5}{2}a \right) A u^{5/2}$$
(15) Li-He's variational principle

We, therefore, obtain the following variational principle:

$$J_{New}(u,\Phi) = \iiint \left\{ \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} - u \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} + aAu^{1/2} \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \right)^2 + (1-2a)Au^{3/2} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} - C \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} - \frac{2}{5} \left(\frac{13}{6} - \frac{5}{2}a \right) Au^{5/2} \right\} dxdt$$

where *a* is a free parameter.

3. Conclusion

In this paper, we suggest a general construction of a trial functional with some parameters. The semi-inverse method is a powerful tool to establish variational principles from the governing equations. The variational principle is a foundation of the variational iteration method (Anjum and He, 2019; He, 2006), which is now widely applied in fractional calculus (Baleanu et al., 2018; Dogan Durgun and Konuralo, 2018; Inc et al., 2018; Jafari et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2018).

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About the author

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