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Second-Order Parabolic Partial Differential Equations > Newell–Whitehead Equation

$$2. \quad \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + aw - bw^3.$$

Newell–Whitehead equation.

1°. Solutions with $a > 0$ and $b > 0$:

$$w(x, t) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{a}{b}} \frac{C_1 \exp(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2a}x) - C_2 \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2a}x)}{C_1 \exp(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2a}x) + C_2 \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2a}x) + C_3 \exp(-\frac{3}{2}at)},$$
$$w(x, t) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{a}{b}} \left[\frac{2C_1 \exp(\sqrt{2a}x) + C_2 \exp(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2a}x - \frac{3}{2}at)}{C_1 \exp(\sqrt{2a}x) + C_2 \exp(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2a}x - \frac{3}{2}at) + C_3} - 1 \right],$$

where $C_1, C_2,$ and C_3 are arbitrary constants.

2°. Solutions with $a < 0$ and $b > 0$:

$$w(x, t) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{|a|}{b}} \frac{\sin(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2|a|x} + C_1)}{\cos(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2|a|x} + C_1) + C_2 \exp(-\frac{3}{2}at)}.$$

3°. Solution with $a > 0$ (generalizes the first solution of Item 1°):

$$w = [C_1 \exp(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2a}x + \frac{3}{2}at) - C_2 \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2a}x + \frac{3}{2}at)]U(z),$$
$$z = C_1 \exp(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2a}x + \frac{3}{2}at) + C_2 \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2a}x + \frac{3}{2}at) + C_3,$$

where $C_1, C_2,$ and C_3 are arbitrary constants, and the function $U = U(z)$ is determined by the autonomous ordinary differential equation $aU''_{zz} = 2bU^3$ (whose solution can be written out in implicit form).

4°. Solution with $a < 0$ (generalizes the solution of Item 2°):

$$w = \exp(\frac{3}{2}at) \sin(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2|a|x} + C_1)V(\xi),$$
$$\xi = \exp(\frac{3}{2}at) \cos(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2|a|x} + C_1) + C_2,$$

where C_1 and C_2 are arbitrary constants, and the function $V = V(\xi)$ is determined by the autonomous ordinary differential equation $aV''_{\xi\xi} = -2bV^3$ (whose solution can be written out in implicit form).

5°. Solutions with $a = 0$ and $b > 0$:

$$w(x, t) = \pm \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}} \frac{2C_1x + C_2}{C_1x^2 + C_2x + 6C_1t + C_3}.$$

6°. Self-similar solution with $a = 0$:

$$w(x, t) = t^{-1/2}f(\xi), \quad \xi = xt^{-1/2},$$

where the function $f(\xi)$ is determined by the ordinary differential equation $f''_{\xi\xi} + \frac{1}{2}\xi f'_{\xi} + \frac{1}{2}f - bf^3 = 0$.

7°. Solution with $a = 0$:

$$w(x, y) = xu(z), \quad z = t + \frac{1}{6}x^2,$$

where the function $u(z)$ is determined by the autonomous ordinary differential equation $u''_{zz} - 9bu^3 = 0$.

References

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