

# Exact traveling wave solutions of nonlinear variable coefficients evolution equations with forced terms using the generalized $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$ -expansion method

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*Abstract:* The exact traveling wave solutions of the nonlinear variable coefficients Burgers-Fisher equation and the generalized Gardner equation with forced terms can be found in this article using the generalized  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$ -expansion method. As a result, hyperbolic, trigonometric and rational function solutions with parameters are obtained. When these parameters are taken special values, the solitary wave solutions are derived from the hyperbolic function solutions. It is shown that the proposed method is direct, effective and can be applied to many other nonlinear evolution equations in the mathematical physics.

*Key-Words:* Nonlinear evolution equations; Generalized  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$ -expansion method; Variable coefficients Burgers-Fisher equation with the forced term; Variable coefficients generalized Gardner equation with the forced term, Exact solutions.

## 1 Introduction

The investigation of the exact solutions of nonlinear evolution equations (NLEEs) plays an important role in the study of nonlinear physical phenomena. It becomes one of the most exciting and extremely active areas of research investigation. In the past several decades, many effective methods for obtaining exact solutions of NLEEs have been presented, such as the inverse scattering method [1], the Hirota's bilinear method [2], the Bäcklund transformation [3], the Painlevé expansion [4], the sine-cosine method [5], the homogeneous balance method [6], the homotopy perturbation method [7–9], the variational iteration method [10–13], the Adomian decomposition method [14], the tanh function method [15,16], the algebraic method [17,18], the Jacobi elliptic function expansion method [19,20], the F-expansion method [21,22], the auxiliary equation method [23,24], the Exp-function method [25,26], the  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$ -expansion method [27–42] and so on. However, to our knowledge, most of aforementioned methods are related to the constant-coefficient models. Recently, the study of variable-coefficients NLEEs is attracted much attention because most of real nonlinear physical equations

possess variable coefficients. Very recently, Wang et al. [31] first introduced the  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$ -expansion method to look for traveling wave solutions of NLEEs. This method is based on the assumptions that the traveling wave solutions can be expressed by a polynomial in  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$ , where  $G$  satisfies the following second order linear ordinary differential equation:

$$G'' + \lambda G' + \mu G = 0, \quad (1)$$

and  $\lambda, \mu$  are arbitrary constants. The objective of this article is to apply the generalized  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$ -expansion method to improve the work made in [31]. Zhang et al [35] first proposed the generalized  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$ -expansion method to construct exact solutions of the mKdV equation with variable coefficients. As applications of the proposed method, we will consider the following two models:

I. The nonlinear Burgers-Fisher equation with variable coefficients and forced term [32] has the form:

$$u_t - d(t)u_{xx} + a(t)uu_x + b(t)(u^2 - u) = R(t), \quad (2)$$

where  $d(t)$ ,  $a(t)$ ,  $b(t)$  and  $R(t)$  are arbitrary differentiable functions of  $t$ . The function  $R(t)$  is called the forced term of Eq. (2). It is obvious that Eq. (2) is the Burgers-Fisher equation for  $R(t) = 0$ ,  $d(t)$ ,  $a(t)$  and  $b(t)$  are constants. It is the variable coefficient Fisher equation when  $d(t) = R(t) = 0$ , which is used to describe nonlinear phenomena such as thermonuclear fusion and hydronium physics etc. It is also the variable coefficient Burgers equation when  $b(t) = R(t) = 0$ , which often emerged in Mathematics and Physics.

II. The nonlinear generalized Gardner equation with variable coefficients and forced term has the form:

$$u_t + a(t)uu_x + b(t)u^2u_x + h(t)u_{xxx} + d(t)u_x + f(t)u = F(t), \quad (3)$$

where  $a(t)$ ,  $b(t)$ ,  $h(t)$ ,  $d(t)$ ,  $f(t)$  and  $F(t)$  are arbitrary differentiable functions of  $t$ . The function  $F(t)$  is called the forced term of Eq. (3). This equation is the variable coefficients generalized Gardner equation when  $F(t) = 0$ , see reference [43]. It is widely used in various branches of physics, such as plasma physics, fluid physics and quantum field theory. It also describes a variety of wave phenomena in plasma and solid state. Finally, it includes considerably interesting equations, such as KdV equation, mKdV equation and Gardner equation.

## 2 Description of the generalized $(\frac{G'}{G})$ -expansion method

For a given NLEE with independent variables  $X = (x, y, z, t)$  and dependent variable  $u$ , we consider the PDE

$$Q(u, u_t, u_x, u_y, u_z, u_{xt}, u_{yt}, u_{zt}, u_{tt}, u_{xx}, \dots) = 0. \quad (4)$$

The solution of Eq. (4) can be expressed by a polynomial in  $(\frac{G'}{G})$  as follows:

$$u(X) = \alpha_0(X) + \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i(X) \left( \frac{G'(\xi)}{G(\xi)} \right)^i, \quad \alpha_m(X) \neq 0, \quad (5)$$

where  $G = G(\xi)$  satisfies Eq. (1) while  $\xi = \xi(X)$  and  $\alpha_i(X)$  are all analytic functions of  $X$  to be determined later and  $' \equiv \frac{d}{d\xi}$ . To determine  $u(X)$  explicitly, we consider the following four steps:

**Step1.** Determine the positive integer  $m$  by balancing the highest order nonlinear term(s) and the highest order partial derivatives of  $u(X)$  in Eq. (4).

**Step2.** Substitute (5) along with Eq. (1) into Eq. (4) and collect all terms with the same order of  $(\frac{G'}{G})$  together, the left-hand side of Eq. (4) is converted into a polynomial in  $(\frac{G'}{G})$ . Then set each coefficient of this polynomial to zero to derive a set of over-determined differential equations for  $\alpha_0(X)$ ,  $\alpha_i(X)$  and  $\xi(X)$ .

**Step3.** Solve the system of over-determined differential equations obtained in Step2 for  $\alpha_i(X)$ , ( $i = 0, 1, \dots, m$ ) and  $\xi(X)$  by the use of *Maple* or *Mathematica*.

**Step4.** Use the results obtained in above steps to derive a series of fundamental solutions of Eq. (4) depending on  $(\frac{G'}{G})$  since the solutions of Eq. (1) have been well known for us, then we can obtain the exact solutions of Eq. (4).

## 3 Applications

In this section, we determine the exact traveling wave solutions of the nonlinear Burgers-Fisher equation and the nonlinear generalized Gardner equation with variable-coefficients and the forced terms which are attracted much attention.

### 3.1 Example 1. The variable-coefficient Burgers-Fisher equation with the forced term

In order to obtain the exact solutions of Eq. (2), we assume that the solution of this equation can be written in the form

$$u(x, t) = v(x, t) + \int R(t)dt, \quad (6)$$

where  $v(x, t)$  is a differentiable function of  $x, t$  while  $R(t)$  is an integrable function of  $t$ . Substituting (6)

into Eq. (2), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 v_t &= d(t)v_{xx} + a(t)vv_x + a(t)\beta(t)v_x \\
 &+ b(t)\{v^2 + [2\beta(t) - 1]v\} \\
 &+ b(t)\beta(t)[\beta(t) - 1] = 0,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{7}$$

where

$$\beta(t) = \int R(t)dt.
 \tag{8}$$

By balancing  $v_{xx}$  with  $vv_x$  in Eq. (7), we get  $m = 1$ . In order to search for explicit solutions, we suppose that Eq. (7) has the following formal solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
 v(x, t) &= \alpha_0(t) + \alpha_1(t) \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right), \\
 \alpha_1(t) &\neq 0,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{9}$$

where  $G = G(\xi)$  satisfies Eq. (1) and  $\xi = p(t)x + q(t)$ . The functions  $p(t)$  and  $q(t)$  are differentiable functions of  $t$  to be determined. From (1) and (9) we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 v_t &= -\alpha_1(t)[xp(t)' + q(t)'] \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^2 \\
 &- \{\lambda\alpha_1(t)[xp(t)' + q(t)'] - \alpha_1(t)'\} \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right) \\
 &- \mu\alpha_1(t)[xp(t)' + q(t)'] + \alpha_0(t)',
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{10}$$

$$v_x = -\alpha_1(t)p(t) \left[ \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^2 + \lambda \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right) + \mu \right],
 \tag{11}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 v_{xx} &= \alpha_1(t)p(t)^2 \left[ 2 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^3 + 3\lambda \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^2 \right. \\
 &+ \left. [\lambda^2 + 2\mu] \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right) + \mu\lambda \right],
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{12}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 v_{xxx} &= -\alpha_1(t)p(t)^3 \left[ 6 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^4 + 12\lambda \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^3 \right. \\
 &+ \left. [7\lambda^2 + 8\mu] \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^2 + \lambda(\lambda^2 + 8\mu) \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right) \right. \\
 &+ \left. \mu(\lambda^2 + 2\mu) \right],
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{13}$$

where  $' = \frac{d}{dt}$ . Substituting (9)–(12) into Eq. (7) and collecting all terms with the same order of  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$  together, the left-hand side of Eq. (7) is converted into a polynomial in  $x^i \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^j$ , ( $i = 0, 1, j = 0, 1, 2, 3$ ). Setting each coefficient of this polynomial to zero, we get the following set of over-determined differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x^0 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^3 &: -2d(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)^2 \\
 &- a(t)\alpha_1(t)^2p(t) = 0, \\
 x^0 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^2 &: -\alpha_1(t)q(t)' - 3\lambda d(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)^2 \\
 &- \lambda a(t)\alpha_1(t)^2p(t) + b(t)\alpha_1(t)^2 \\
 &- a(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)[\alpha_0(t) + \beta(t)] = 0, \\
 x^0 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^1 &: -\lambda\alpha_1(t)q(t)' + \alpha_1(t)' - b(t)\alpha_1(t) \\
 &- (\lambda^2 + 2\mu)d(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)^2 \\
 &- \lambda a(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)[\alpha_0(t) + \beta(t)] \\
 &- \mu a(t)\alpha_1(t)^2p(t) \\
 &+ 2b(t)\alpha_1(t)[\alpha_0(t) + \beta(t)] = 0, \\
 x^0 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^0 &: -\mu\alpha_1(t)q(t)' + \alpha_0(t)'
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& -\mu\lambda d(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)^2 + 2b(t)\alpha_0(t)\beta(t) \\
& -\mu a(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)[\alpha_0(t) + \beta(t)] \\
& -b(t)[\alpha_0(t) + \beta(t)] + b(t)\alpha_0(t)^2 \\
& +b(t)[\alpha_0(t)^2 + \beta(t)^2] = 0,
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
x^1 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^2 & : -\alpha_1(t)p(t) = 0, \\
x^1 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^1 & : -\lambda\alpha_1(t)p(t) = 0, \\
x^1 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^0 & : -\mu\alpha_1(t)p(t) = 0. \tag{14}
\end{aligned}$$

Solving the system (14) by the *Maple* or *Mathematica*, we have

**case1.**

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_0(t) & = \frac{-c_1\lambda d(t)}{a(t)} - \frac{1}{4} \int b(t) \left\{ \left[ \frac{a(t)S(t)}{b(t)d(t)} \right]^2 \right. \\
& \left. + \frac{4c_1^2(\lambda^2 - 4\mu)d(t)^2}{a(t)^2} - 1 \right\} dt, \\
\alpha_1(t) & = \frac{-2c_1 d(t)}{a(t)}, \quad p(t) = c_1, \\
\beta(t) & = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{a(t)S(t)}{b(t)d(t)} + \frac{1}{4} \int b(t) \left\{ \left[ \frac{a(t)S(t)}{b(t)d(t)} \right]^2 \right. \\
& \left. + \frac{4c_1^2(\lambda^2 - 4\mu)d(t)^2}{a(t)^2} - 1 \right\} dt,
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
q(t) & = -2c_1 \int \frac{b(t)d(t)}{a(t)} dt \\
& - \frac{c_1}{2} \int \left[ a(t) - \frac{S(t)a(t)^2}{b(t)d(t)} \right] dt + c_2,
\end{aligned}$$

$$a(t) = a(t), \quad b(t) = b(t), \quad d(t) = d(t), \tag{15}$$

where  $S(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \left[ \frac{d(t)}{a(t)} \right]$  and  $c_1, c_2$  are arbitrary constants such that  $c_1 \neq 0$ .

**case2.**

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_0(t) & = \frac{1}{2}(1 + c_2\lambda) \\
& - \frac{1}{4}[c_2^2(\lambda^2 - 4\mu) - 1] \int b(t)dt, \\
\alpha_1(t) & = c_2, \quad p(t) = c_1, \quad a(t) = \frac{-2c_1 d(t)}{c_2}, \\
\beta(t) & = \frac{1}{4}[c_2^2(\lambda^2 - 4\mu) - 1] \int b(t)dt, \\
q(t) & = c_2 \int b(t)dt + \frac{c_1^2}{c_2} \int d(t)dt + c_3, \\
b(t) & = b(t), \quad d(t) = d(t), \tag{16}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $c_1, c_2, c_3$  are arbitrary constants such that  $c_1, c_2 \neq 0$ . Let us now write down the exact solutions corresponding to case1. The exact solutions corresponding to case 2 are similar which are omitted here. Substituting (15) into (9), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
v(x, t) & = \frac{-c_1 d(t)}{a(t)} \left\{ \lambda + 2 \left( \frac{G'(\xi)}{G(\xi)} \right) \right\} \\
& - \frac{1}{4} \int b(t) \left\{ \left[ \frac{a(t)S(t)}{b(t)d(t)} \right]^2 \right. \\
& \left. + \frac{4c_1^2(\lambda^2 - 4\mu)d(t)^2}{a(t)^2} - 1 \right\} dt. \tag{17}
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting (17) into (6), we have the solution of Eq. (2) in the form

$$\begin{aligned}
u(x, t) & = \frac{-c_1 d(t)}{a(t)} \left\{ \lambda + 2 \left( \frac{G'(\xi)}{G(\xi)} \right) \right\} \\
& - \frac{1}{4} \int b(t) \left\{ \left[ \frac{a(t)S(t)}{b(t)d(t)} \right]^2 \right.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \left. \frac{4c_1^2(\lambda^2 - 4\mu)d(t)^2}{a(t)^2} - 1 \right\} dt \\
 & + \beta(t),
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{18}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \xi = & c_1 \left\{ x - 2 \int \frac{b(t)d(t)}{a(t)} dt \right. \\
 & \left. - \frac{1}{2} \int \left[ a(t) - \frac{S(t)a(t)^2}{b(t)d(t)} \right] dt \right\} \\
 & + c_2.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{19}$$

From the general solution of Eq. (1) we can find the ratio  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$ . Consequently, we have the following exact solutions of Eq. (2):

(I) If  $\lambda^2 - 4\mu > 0$ , we obtain the hyperbolic function solution in the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x, t) = & \frac{-c_1 d(t) \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{a(t)} \times \\
 & \left( \frac{A \cosh\left(\frac{\xi}{2} \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}\right) + B \sinh\left(\frac{\xi}{2} \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}\right)}{A \sinh\left(\frac{\xi}{2} \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}\right) + B \cosh\left(\frac{\xi}{2} \sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}\right)} \right) \\
 & - \frac{1}{4} \int b(t) \left\{ \left[ \frac{a(t)S(t)}{b(t)d(t)} \right]^2 \right. \\
 & \left. + \frac{4c_1^2(\lambda^2 - 4\mu)d(t)^2}{a(t)^2} - 1 \right\} dt + \beta(t).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{20}$$

(II) If  $\lambda^2 - 4\mu < 0$ , we have the trigonometric function solution in the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x, t) = & \frac{-c_1 d(t) \sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{a(t)} \times \\
 & \left( \frac{-A \sin\left(\frac{\xi}{2} \sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}\right) + B \cos\left(\frac{\xi}{2} \sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}\right)}{A \cos\left(\frac{\xi}{2} \sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}\right) + B \sin\left(\frac{\xi}{2} \sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}\right)} \right) \\
 & - \frac{1}{4} \int b(t) \left\{ \left[ \frac{a(t)S(t)}{b(t)d(t)} \right]^2 \right. \\
 & \left. - \frac{4c_1^2(4\mu - \lambda^2)d(t)^2}{a(t)^2} - 1 \right\} dt + \beta(t).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{21}$$

(III) If  $\lambda^2 - 4\mu = 0$ , we get the rational function solution in the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x, t) = & \frac{-2c_1 B d(t)}{a(t)(A + B\xi)} + \beta(t) \\
 & - \frac{1}{4} \int b(t) \left\{ \left[ \frac{a(t)S(t)}{b(t)d(t)} \right]^2 - 1 \right\} dt,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{22}$$

where  $A$  and  $B$  are arbitrary constants. Finally, we note that, if  $\mu = 0, \lambda > 0, B = 0$  and  $A \neq 0$  then we deduce from (20) that

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x, t) = & \frac{-c_1 \lambda d(t)}{a(t)} \coth\left(\frac{\lambda \xi}{2}\right) + \beta(t) \\
 & - \frac{1}{4} \int b(t) \left\{ \left[ \frac{a(t)S(t)}{b(t)d(t)} \right]^2 \right. \\
 & \left. + \left[ \frac{2c_1 \lambda d(t)}{a(t)} \right]^2 - 1 \right\} dt,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{23}$$

while if  $\mu = 0, \lambda > 0, B \neq 0$  and  $B^2 > A^2$  then we deduce from (20) that

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x, t) = & \frac{-c_1 \lambda d(t)}{a(t)} \tanh\left(\xi_0 + \frac{\lambda \xi}{2}\right) + \beta(t) \\
 & - \frac{1}{4} \int b(t) \left\{ \left[ \frac{a(t)S(t)}{b(t)d(t)} \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{2c_1 \lambda d(t)}{a(t)} \right]^2 \right. \\
 & \left. - 1 \right\} dt,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{24}$$

where  $\xi_0 = \tanh^{-1}\left(\frac{A}{B}\right)$ . Note that (23) and (24) represent the solitary wave solutions of the Burgers-Fisher equation (2).

### 3.2 Example 2. The generalized variable-coefficient Gardner equation with the forced term

In order to obtain the exact solutions of Eq. (3), we assume that the solution of this equation can be written in the form

$$u(x, t) = \omega(x, t) + \int F(t) dt,
 \tag{25}$$

where  $\omega(x, t)$  is a differentiable function of  $x, t$  while  $F(t)$  is an integrable function of  $t$ . Substituting (25) into Eq. (3), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_t + [a(t) + 2b(t)k(t)]\omega\omega_x + b(t)\omega^2\omega_x \\ + [d(t) + a(t)k(t) + b(t)k(t)^2]\omega_x \\ + h(t)\omega_{xxx} + f(t)[\omega + k(t)] = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

where

$$k(t) = \int F(t)dt. \quad (27)$$

By balancing  $\omega_{xxx}$  with  $\omega^2\omega_x$  in Eq. (26), we get  $m = 1$ . In order to search for explicit solutions, we deduce that Eq. (26) has the same formal solution (9). Substituting (9)–(13) into Eq. (26) and collecting all terms with the same order of  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$  together, the left-hand side of Eq. (26) is converted into a polynomial in  $x^i \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^j$ , ( $i = 0, 1, j = 0, \dots, 4$ ). Setting each coefficient of this polynomial to zero, we get the following set of over-determined differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned} x^0 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^4 : -b(t)\alpha_1(t)^3 p(t) \\ -6h(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)^3 = 0, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^0 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^3 : -a(t)\alpha_1(t)^2 p(t) - \lambda b(t)\alpha_1(t)^3 p(t) \\ -2b(t)\alpha_1(t)^2 p(t)[\alpha_0(t) + k(t)] \\ -12\lambda h(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)^3 = 0, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^0 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^2 : -\alpha_1(t)q(t) - d(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t) \\ -\lambda a(t)\alpha_1(t)^2 p(t) \\ -a(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)[\alpha_0(t) + k(t)] \\ -\mu b(t)\alpha_1(t)^3 p(t) \\ -2\lambda b(t)\alpha_1(t)^2 p(t)[\alpha_0(t) + k(t)] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -2b(t)\alpha_0(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)k(t) \\ -b(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)[\alpha_0(t)^2 + k(t)^2] \\ -(7\lambda^2 + 8\mu)h(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)^3 = 0, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^0 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^1 : -\lambda\alpha_1(t)q(t) - \lambda d(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t) \\ -\lambda a(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)[\alpha_0(t) + k(t)] \\ -2\mu b(t)\alpha_1(t)^2 p(t)[\alpha_0(t) + k(t)] \\ -\lambda b(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)[\alpha_0(t)^2 + k(t)^2] \\ -\lambda(\lambda^2 + 8\mu)h(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)^3 \\ -2\lambda b(t)\alpha_0(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)k(t) \\ +f(t)\alpha_1(t) - \mu a(t)\alpha_1(t)^2 p(t) \\ +\alpha_1(t) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^0 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^0 : -\mu\alpha_1(t)q(t) - \mu\lambda d(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t) \\ -\mu a(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)[\alpha_0(t) + k(t)] \\ -\mu(\lambda^2 + 2\mu)h(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)^3 \\ -\mu b(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)[\alpha_0(t)^2 + k(t)^2] \\ +f(t)[\alpha_0(t) + k(t)] \\ -2\mu b(t)\alpha_0(t)\alpha_1(t)p(t)k(t) \\ +\alpha_0(t) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

$$x^1 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^2 : -\alpha_1(t)p(t) = 0,$$

$$x^1 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^1 : -\lambda\alpha_1(t)p(t) = 0,$$

$$x^1 \left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)^0 : -\mu\alpha_1(t)p(t) = 0.$$

(28)

Solving the system (28) by the *Maple* or *Mathematica*, we have

$$\alpha_0(t) = \gamma(t) \left[ c_2c_3 - \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right],$$

$$\alpha_1(t) = c_3\gamma(t), \quad p(t) = c_1, \quad h(t) = \frac{-c_3^2 b(t)\gamma(t)}{6c_1^2},$$

$$a(t) = b(t) [c_3 (\lambda - 2c_2) \gamma(t) - 2k(t) + 2\gamma(t) \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt],$$

$$q(t) = c_1 \left\{ \int b(t)\gamma(t)^2 \left[ \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right]^2 dt - 2 \int b(t)\gamma(t) \left[ c_3 \left( c_2 - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right) \gamma(t) + k(t) \right] \times \left[ \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right] dt + \frac{c_3^2}{6} (\lambda^2 + 2\mu + 6c_2^2 - 6c_2\lambda) \int b(t)\gamma(t)^2 dt + c_3 (2c_2 - \lambda) \int b(t)\gamma(t)k(t) dt + \int b(t)k(t)^2 dt - \int d(t)dt \right\},$$

$$d(t) = d(t), \quad f(t) = f(t), \quad k(t) = k(t),$$

$$b(t) = b(t), \tag{29}$$

where  $\gamma(t) = e^{-\int f(t)dt}$  and  $c_1, c_2, c_3$  are arbitrary constants such that  $c_1, c_3 \neq 0$ . Substituting (29) into (9), we have

$$\omega(x, t) = \gamma(t) \left\{ c_3 \left( \frac{G'(\xi)}{G(\xi)} \right) + c_2c_3 - \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right\}. \tag{30}$$

Substituting (30) into (25), we have the solution of Eq. (3) in the form

$$u(x, t) = \gamma(t) \left\{ c_3 \left( \frac{G'(\xi)}{G(\xi)} \right) + c_2c_3 - \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right\} + k(t), \tag{31}$$

where

$$\xi = c_1 \left\{ x + \int b(t)\gamma(t)^2 \left[ \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right]^2 dt - 2 \int b(t)\gamma(t) \left[ c_3 \left( c_2 - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right) \gamma(t) + k(t) \right] \times \left[ \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right] dt + \frac{c_3^2}{6} (\lambda^2 + 2\mu + 6c_2^2 - 6c_2\lambda) \int b(t)\gamma(t)^2 dt + c_3 (2c_2 - \lambda) \int b(t)\gamma(t)k(t) dt + \int b(t)k(t)^2 dt - \int d(t)dt \right\}. \tag{32}$$

Consequently, we have the following three types of exact solutions of Eq. (3):

(I) If  $\lambda^2 - 4\mu > 0$ , we obtain the hyperbolic function solution in the form

$$u(x, t) = \gamma(t) \left\{ c_3 \left[ \frac{-\lambda}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \times \left( \frac{A \cosh\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}\right) + B \sinh\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}\right)}{A \sinh\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}\right) + B \cosh\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}\right)} \right) \right] + c_2c_3 - \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right\} + k(t). \tag{33}$$

(II) If  $\lambda^2 - 4\mu < 0$ , we have the trigonometric function solution in the form

$$u(x, t) = \gamma(t) \left\{ c_3 \left[ \frac{-\lambda}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \times \left( \frac{-A \sin\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}\right) + B \cos\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}\right)}{A \cos\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}\right) + B \sin\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}\right)} \right) \right] + c_2 c_3 - \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right\} + k(t). \quad (34)$$

(III) If  $\lambda^2 - 4\mu = 0$ , we get the rational function solution in the form

$$u(x, t) = \gamma(t) \left[ c_3 \left( \frac{B}{A + B\xi} - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right) + c_2 c_3 - \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right] + k(t). \quad (35)$$

where  $A$  and  $B$  are arbitrary constants. Finally, we note that, if  $\mu = 0$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $B = 0$  and  $A \neq 0$  then we deduce from (33) that

$$u(x, t) = \gamma(t) \left\{ \frac{-c_3 \lambda}{2} \left[ 1 - \coth\left(\frac{\lambda \xi}{2}\right) \right] + c_2 c_3 - \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right\} + k(t), \quad (36)$$

while if  $\mu = 0$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $B \neq 0$  and  $B^2 > A^2$  then we deduce from (33) that

$$u(x, t) = \gamma(t) \left\{ \frac{-c_3 \lambda}{2} \left[ 1 - \tanh\left(\xi_0 + \frac{\lambda \xi}{2}\right) \right] + c_2 c_3 - \int \frac{f(t)k(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt \right\} + k(t), \quad (37)$$

where  $\xi_0 = \tanh^{-1}\left(\frac{A}{B}\right)$ . Note that (36) and (37) represent the solitary wave solutions of the generalized Gardner equation (3).

**Remark.** All solutions of this article have been checked with the *Maple* by putting them back into the original equations (2) and (3).

## 4 Conclusions

In this article, the generalized  $\left(\frac{G'}{G}\right)$ -expansion method is applied to obtain more general exact solutions for NLEEs. By using this method we have successfully obtained exact solutions with parameters of the variable coefficients Burgers-Fisher equation with the forced term and the variable coefficients generalized Gardner equation with the forced term. When these parameters are taken special values, the solitary wave solutions are derived from the hyperbolic solutions.

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