



## A NUMERICAL METHOD TO SOLVE THE VISCOSITY PROBLEM OF THE BURGERS EQUATION

**Gérard ZONGO, Ousséni SO and Geneviève BARRO**

Unité de Formation et de Recherche en Sciences et Technologie

Université de Ouahigouya

01 BV 30263 Ouaga 01

Burkina Faso

e-mail: gerardzongo1@gmail.com

École Normale Supérieure de Koudougou

Burkina Faso

e-mail: soousseni@gmail.com

Université Thomas Sankara

Burkina Faso

e-mail: barro\_genevieve@yahoo.fr

### Abstract

Considering the viscosity problem of the Burgers equation, we give a numerical solution using the Cole-Hopf transformation.

---

Received: January 12, 2024; Accepted: February 27, 2024

2020 Mathematics Subject Classification: 35E05, 35Q35.

Keywords and phrases: Burgers equation, Cole-Hopf transformation, SBA method.

---

How to cite this article: Gérard ZONGO, Ousséni SO and Geneviève BARRO, A numerical method to solve the viscosity problem of the Burgers equation, *Advances in Differential Equations and Control Processes* 31(2) (2024), 153-164.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.17654/0974324324008>

This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Published Online: March 9, 2024

## 1. Introduction

Burgers equation is a partial differential equation which is important in the study of modeling turbulence, mass transport, the modeling of shock-wave formation and the gas dynamics. It was discovered in 1948 by physicist Johannes Martinus Burgers.

In the mathematical literature, we find a set of nonlinear partial differential equation problems. Among these equations, we have the equation of Schrödinger [15, 17], KdV equation [14], Burgers equation [8, 16], Burgers inhomogeneous equation, sine-Gordon [12], and others. Some methods have been invented to solve. We quote the inverse scattering method [3, 6], the decompositional method of Adomian [4, 5, 15], the SBA method [1, 2, 17], Backland transformation [14], the variational iteration method [9-11], and fractional differential equations [13]. In this article, we use the Cole-Hopf transformation to simplify the equation and then use the SBA method to solve it.

In the literature, we find the Burgers inhomogeneous equation that is

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = F(x, t), \quad \nu > 0, \quad (1)$$

where the inhomogeneous term or the source term is the given function  $F(x, t)$ ,  $t$  is the time variable and  $x$  is the space variable.

We have again Burgers equation with evanescent viscosity

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u^\varepsilon}{\partial t} + u^\varepsilon \frac{\partial u^\varepsilon}{\partial x} - \varepsilon \frac{\partial^2 u^\varepsilon}{\partial x^2} = 0, & \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_*^+, \\ u^\varepsilon(x, 0) = u_0(x), & x \in \mathbb{R}, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

There is another equation which does not have source term. It is

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \varepsilon \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = 0, \quad (3)$$

where  $\varepsilon > 0$  is the viscosity term. When  $\varepsilon = 0$ , we get the inviscid equation (3) which will be the subject of our study.

## 2. Application of the SBA Method to the Viscosity Problem of the Burgers Equation

Consider Burgers viscosity equation which is a nonlinear parabolic PDE problem:

$$u_t + uu_x = \varepsilon u_{xx}, \tag{4}$$

where  $\varepsilon > 0$  is the viscosity constant.

Now consider Burgers viscosity problem with an initial value:

$$\begin{cases} u_t + uu_x = \varepsilon u_{xx}, & x \in \mathbb{R}, t > 0, \varepsilon > 0, \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x) = -\frac{2\varepsilon\pi}{L} \cotan\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right), & x \in \mathbb{R}. \end{cases} \tag{5}$$

### 2.1. Operation with the Cole-Hopf transformation

The Cole-Hopf transformation is defined by

$$u = -2\varepsilon \frac{\varphi_x}{\varphi}. \tag{6}$$

By making a change in (6), we find that

$$\begin{cases} u_t = \frac{2\varepsilon(\varphi_t \cdot \varphi_x - \varphi \cdot \varphi_{xt})}{\varphi^2}, \\ u_x = \frac{2\varepsilon(\varphi_x^2 - \varphi \cdot \varphi_{xx})}{\varphi^2}, \\ uu_x = \frac{4\varepsilon^2 \varphi_x(\varphi \cdot \varphi_{xx} - \varphi_x^2)}{\varphi^3}, \\ u_{xx} = -2\varepsilon^2 \frac{2\varphi_x^3 - 3\varphi_x \cdot \varphi_{xx} \cdot \varphi + \varphi^2 \cdot \varphi_{xxx}}{\varphi^3}. \end{cases} \tag{7}$$

By substituting these expressions into (4), we have

$$\varphi = \varphi_t - \varepsilon \varphi_{xx}. \quad (8)$$

Therefore, if  $\varphi$  solves the heat equation  $\varphi_t - \varepsilon \varphi_{xx}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $u(x, t)$  gives by transformation of (6) the solution of the Burgers viscosity equation (4).

To completely transform the problem (4), we still have to work with the initial condition of the function.

To do this, note that (6) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} u &= -2\varepsilon(\log \varphi)_x, \\ (\log \varphi(x, t))_x &= -\frac{u(x, t)}{2\varepsilon}, \\ \int (\log \varphi(x, t))_x dx &= -\int \frac{u(x, t)}{2\varepsilon} dx, \\ \log \varphi(x, t) &= -\int \frac{u(x, t)}{2\varepsilon} dx, \\ \varphi(x, t) &= e^{-\int \frac{u(x, t)}{2\varepsilon} dx}. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

It is clear from (6) that multiplying  $\varphi$  by a constant does not affect  $u$ , so we can write the last equation as

$$\varphi(x, t) = e^{-\int_0^x \frac{u(y, t)}{2\varepsilon} dy}. \quad (10)$$

The initial condition in (5) can therefore be transformed using (9) into

$$\varphi(x, 0) = \varphi_0(x) = e^{-\int \frac{u_0(y)}{2\varepsilon} dy}.$$

We have  $u_0(y) = -\frac{2\varepsilon\pi}{L} \cotan\left(\frac{\pi y}{L}\right)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{u_0(y)}{2\varepsilon} &= \frac{\pi}{L} \frac{\cos\left(\frac{\pi y}{L}\right)}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{L}\right)}, \\ -\int \frac{u_0(y)}{2\varepsilon} dy &= \frac{\pi}{L} \int \frac{\cos\left(\frac{\pi y}{L}\right)}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{L}\right)} dy, \\ -\int \frac{u_0(y)}{2\varepsilon} dy &= \frac{\pi}{L} \left[ \frac{L}{\pi} \ln \left| \sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{L}\right) \right| \right], \\ -\int \frac{u_0(y)}{2\varepsilon} dy &= \ln \left| \sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{L}\right) \right|, \\ e^{-\int \frac{u_0(y)}{2\varepsilon} dy} &= e^{\ln \left| \sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{L}\right) \right|}, \\ e^{-\int \frac{u_0(y)}{2\varepsilon} dy} &= \sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{L}\right), \\ \varphi(y, 0) &= \sin\left(\frac{\pi y}{L}\right). \end{aligned}$$

In summary, we reduced the problem (4) to this one

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_t - \varepsilon\varphi_{xx} = 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}, t > 0, \varepsilon > 0, \\ \varphi(x, 0) = \varphi_0(x) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right), & x \in \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

### 3. Solving the New Equations Using the SBA Method

#### 3.1. The case when $\varphi = 0$

Integrating the heat equation with respect to  $t$ , we obtain

$$\varphi(x, t) = \varphi(x, 0) + \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds. \quad (11)$$

Applying the SBA algorithm, we obtain

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_0^k(x, t) = \varphi^k(x, 0), \forall k \geq 1, \\ \varphi_n^k(x, t) = \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_{n-1}^k(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds, \forall n \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_0^k(x, t) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right), \forall k \geq 1, \\ \varphi_n^k(x, t) = \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_{n-1}^k(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds, \forall n \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

For  $k = 1$ , we have  $\varphi_0^1(x, t) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)$ .

For  $n = 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_1^1(x, t) &= \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_0^1(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds, \\ \frac{\partial \varphi_0^1(x, t)}{\partial x} &= \frac{\pi}{L} \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right), \\ \varphi_1^1(x, t) &= \varepsilon \int_0^t -\left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) ds \\ &= -\varepsilon \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \cdot t. \end{aligned}$$

For  $n = 2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_2^1(x, t) &= \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_1^1(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds, \\ \varphi_2^1(x, t) &= (-1)^2 \varepsilon^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^4 \int_0^t \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \cdot s ds \\ &= (-1)^2 \varepsilon^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^4 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \cdot \frac{t^2}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $n = 3$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_3^1(x, t) &= \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_2^1(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds, \\ \varphi_3^1(x, t) &= \varepsilon \int_0^t (-1)^3 \varepsilon^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^6 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \cdot \frac{s^2}{2} ds \\ &= (-1)^3 \varepsilon^3 \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^6 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \cdot \frac{t^3}{3!}.\end{aligned}$$

So step by step, we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_n^1(x, t) &= (-1)^n \varepsilon^n \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^{2n} \frac{t^n}{n!} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \\ &= (-1)^n \varepsilon^n \left(\left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2\right)^n \frac{t^n}{n!} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \\ &= \frac{\left(-\varepsilon \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 t\right)^n}{n!} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right).\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the approximate solution is

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi^1(x, t) &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \varphi_n^1(x, t) \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\left(-\varepsilon \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 t\right)^n}{n!} \\ &= \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{\left(-\varepsilon \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 t\right)^n}{n!} \\ &= \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\varepsilon \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 t},\end{aligned}$$

$$\varphi(x, t) = e^{-\int \frac{u(x, t)}{2\varepsilon} dx},$$

$$\ln \varphi(x, t) = -\int \frac{u(x, t)}{2\varepsilon} dx,$$

$$\ln \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\varepsilon\left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} = -\int \frac{u(x, t)}{2\varepsilon} dx,$$

$$\int \frac{\pi}{L} \cotan\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\varepsilon\left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} dx = -\int \frac{u(x, t)}{2\varepsilon} dx,$$

$$\frac{\pi}{L} \cotan\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\varepsilon\left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} = -\frac{u(x, t)}{2\varepsilon},$$

$$-\frac{2\varepsilon\pi}{L} \cotan\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\varepsilon\left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 t} = u(x, t),$$

$$u(x, t) = -\frac{2\varepsilon\pi}{L} \cotan\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) e^{-\varepsilon\left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 t}.$$

### 3.2. The case when $\varphi \neq 0$

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_t - \varepsilon\varphi_{xx} = \varphi, & x \in \mathbb{R}, t > 0, \varepsilon > 0, \\ \varphi(x, 0) = \varphi_0(x) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right), & x \in \mathbb{R}, \end{cases}$$

$$\int_0^t \varphi_s(x, s) ds = \varepsilon \int_0^t \varphi_{xx}(x, s) ds + \int_0^t \varphi(x, s) ds,$$

$$\varphi(x, t) = \varphi(x, 0) + \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds + \int_0^t \varphi(x, s) ds.$$



Applying the SBA algorithm, we obtain

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_0^k(x, t) = \varphi^k(x, 0), \forall k \geq 1, \\ \varphi_n^k(x, t) = \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_{n-1}^k(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds + \int_0^t \varphi_{n-1}^k(x, s) ds, \forall n \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_0^k(x, t) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right), \forall k \geq 1, \\ \varphi_n^k(x, t) = \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_{n-1}^k(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds + \int_0^t \varphi_{n-1}^k(x, s) ds, \forall n \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

For  $k = 1$ , we have  $\varphi_0^1(x, t) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)$ .

For  $n = 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_1^1(x, t) &= \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_0^1(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds + \int_0^t \varphi_0^1(x, s) ds \\ &= -\varepsilon \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \cdot t + \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \cdot t. \end{aligned}$$

For  $n = 2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_2^1(x, t) &= \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_1^1(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds + \int_0^t \varphi_1^1(x, s) ds \\ &= \left[1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2\right] \left[ \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \right] \cdot \frac{t^2}{2!}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $n = 3$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_3^1(x, t) &= \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_2^1(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds + \int_0^t \varphi_2^1(x, s) ds \\ &= \left[1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2\right]^2 \left[ \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left(\frac{\pi}{L}\right)^2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \right] \cdot \frac{t^3}{3!}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $n = 4$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_4^1(x, t) &= \varepsilon \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_3^1(x, s)}{\partial x^2} ds + \int_0^t \varphi_3^1(x, s) ds \\ &= \left[ 1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right]^3 \left[ \sin\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \cos\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) \right] \cdot \frac{t^4}{4!}.\end{aligned}$$

So step by step, we arrive at

$$\varphi_n^1(x, t) = \left[ 1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right]^{n-1} \left[ \sin\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \cos\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) \right] \cdot \frac{t^n}{n!}.$$

The solution  $\varphi^1(x, t)$  is therefore written as

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi^1(x, t) &= \sum_{n \geq 1} \varphi_n^1(x, t) + \varphi_0^1(x, t) \\ &= \sin\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) + \frac{\left[ \sin\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \cos\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) \right]}{\left[ 1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right]} \left( e^{\left[ 1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right] t} - 1 \right), \\ \varphi_x &= \frac{\pi}{L} \cos\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) + \frac{\frac{\pi}{L} \left[ \cos\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) + (-1)^2 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \sin\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) \right]}{\left[ 1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right]} \left( e^{\left[ 1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right] t} - 1 \right),\end{aligned}$$

$$u = -2\varepsilon \frac{\varphi_x}{\varphi}$$

$$\begin{aligned}& \frac{-2\varepsilon \pi \cos\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) - \frac{2\varepsilon \pi \left[ \cos\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) + (-1)^2 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \sin\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) \right]}{\left[ 1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right]} \left( e^{\left[ 1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right] t} - 1 \right)}{\sin\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) + \frac{\left[ \sin\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \cos\left( \frac{\pi x}{L} \right) \right]}{\left[ 1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right]} \left( e^{\left[ 1 + (-1)^1 \varepsilon \left( \frac{\pi}{L} \right)^2 \right] t} - 1 \right)}.\end{aligned}$$

### References

- [1] B. Abbo, Nouvel algorithm numérique de résolution des équations différentielles ordinaires (EDO) et des équations aux dérivées partielles (EDP) non linéaires, Thèse de Doctorat unique, Université de Ouagadougou, 2007.
- [2] B. Abbo, B. Some, O. So and G. Barro, A new numerical algorithm for solving nonlinear partial differential equations with initial and boundary conditions, Far East J. Appl. Math. 28(1) (2007), 37-52.
- [3] M. Ablowitz and H. Segur, Solitons and the Inverse Scattering Transform, SIAM, 1981.
- [4] G. Adomian, A review the decomposition method in applied mathematics, J. Math. Anal. Appl. 135 (1988), 501-544.
- [5] G. Adomian, Solving Frontier Problems of Physics: The Decomposition Method, Kluwer Academic Pub., 1994.
- [6] R. K. Dodd et al., Solution and Nonlinear Wave Equations, Academic Press, New York, 1982.
- [7] J.-D. Fournier and U. Frisch, L'équation de burgers déterministe et statistique, Journal de Mécanique Théorique et Appliquée 2(5) (1983), 699-750.
- [8] A. Guesima and N. Daili, Approche numérique de la solution entropique de l'équation d'évolution de burgers par la méthode des lignes, Gen. Math. 17(2) (2009), 99-111.
- [9] Ji-Huan He, A new approach to nonlinear partial differential equations, Commun. Nonlinear Sci. Numer. Simul. 2(4) (1997), 230-235.
- [10] Ji-Huan He, Approximate analytical solution for seepage flow with fractional derivatives in porous media, Comput. Meth. Appl. Mech. Eng. 167 (1998), 57-68.
- [11] Ji-Huan He, Variational iteration method a kind of nonlinear analytical technique: some examples, Int. J. Non-Linear Mech. 34(4) (1999), 699-708.
- [12] Mariana Malard, Sine-Gordon model: renormalization group solution and applications, Brazilian Journal of Physics 43(3) (2013), 182-198.
- [13] Igor Podlubný, Fractional Differential Equations, Academic Press, United States, 1998.
- [14] H. D. Wahlquist and F. B. Estabrook, Bäcklund transformation for solutions of the Korteweg-de Vries equation, Phys. Rev. Lett. 31 (1973), 1386-1390.

- [15] A. M. Wazwaz, A reliable technique for solving linear and nonlinear Schrodinger equations by Adomian decomposition method, *BIMAS* 29(2) (2001), 125-134.
- [16] Hans J. Wospakrik and Freddy P. Zen, *Inhomogeneous Burgers equation and the Feynman-Kac path integral*, 1998.  
<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.solv-int/9812014>.
- [17] Gérard Zongo, Ousséni So, Geneviève Barro, Youssouf Paré and Blaise Somé, A comparison of Adomian's method and SBA method on the nonlinear Schrödinger's equation, *Far East J. Dyn. Syst.* 29(4) (2017), 149-161.