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Posted Date: 21 May 2025

doi: [10.20944/preprints202505.1606.v1](https://doi.org/10.20944/preprints202505.1606.v1)

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Article

Existence and Uniqueness of the Viscous Burgers' Equation Based on Ellis Model

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Abstract: In this paper, we investigate the existence and uniqueness of solutions for the viscous Burgers' equation for the isothermal flow of Ellis fluids $\partial_t u + u \partial_x u = \nu \partial_x (\phi^{-1}(\partial_x u))$ with the initial condition $u(0, x) = u_0$, $0 < x < l$, and the boundary condition $u(t, 0) = u(t, l) = 0$, $0 < t < T$, where $\phi(\tau) = [1 + c|\tau|^{\alpha-1}] \tau$, $0 < c < \infty$, $0 < \alpha < \infty$, ν is the kinematic viscosity, τ is the shear stress, u is the velocity of the fluid and $l, T > 0$. We proved the existence and uniqueness of solution $u \in L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,p}(0, l))$ for $u_0 \in W_0^{1,p}(0, l)$, where $p = 1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}$. Moreover, numerical solutions to the problem are constructed by applying the modeling and simulation package COMSOL® Multiphysics 6.0 to show the images of the solutions.

Keywords: Ellis law; existence and uniqueness; Burgers' Equation; Non-Newtonian fluids; Sobolev Space; COMSOL Multiphysics

1. Introduction

The classical Burgers' equation $\partial_t u + u \partial_x u = \nu \partial_x^2 u$ is a fundamental model in Newtonian fluid dynamics, often used to describe nonlinear wave propagation, turbulence and shock formation [1]. Its extension to non-Newtonian fluids is particularly significant in polymer science as these fluids exhibit complex viscosity behaviors that deviate from classical Newtonian assumptions. Non-Newtonian fluids, such as polymer solutions, colloidal suspensions, and biological substances, have viscosity that varies with the applied shear rate, requiring advanced models to accurately describe their flow characteristics [2]. Incorporating non-Newtonian properties into Burgers' equation enables a more precise representation of fluid behavior, which is crucial for applications in industrial processes, biomedical engineering, and materials science. Some famous fluid problems for Burgers equation have been studied in [3–7]. Recent studies have explored some mathematical properties of Burgers' equation with non-Newtonian viscosity, providing insight into the existence and stability of solutions for such models [8]. The author have recently studied the well-posedness of the initial-boundary value problem of the Burgers' equation $\partial_t u + u \partial_x u = \nu \partial_x (|\partial_x u|^{p-2} \partial_x u)$ for power-law fluids in [9].

Ellis rheological model effectively captures shear-thinning effects, where viscosity decreases as shear rate increases, a phenomenon commonly observed in polymeric and biological fluids. Ellis law in rheology literature can be given by the equation $\dot{\gamma} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \left[1 + \left| \frac{\tau}{\tau_{1/2}} \right|^{\alpha-1} \right] \tau$, in which $\dot{\gamma} = \partial_x u$ is shear rate along x , and τ is the shear stress, typically measured in rotational rheometers, μ_0 is the zero-shear viscosity, α is the measure of shear-thinning behavior ($\alpha > 1$ is shear-thinning), $\tau_{1/2}$ is the shear stress at which the apparent viscosity has dropped to half its zero-shear viscosity value [10]. It is a widely used mathematical model by engineers, see, e.g., [11–13]. The Burgers' equation can be derived from the Navier-Stokes equation [14] for Ellis' law by dropping the pressure gradient, gravitational, external forces, and the incompressible condition, which takes the form $\partial_t u + u \partial_x u = \nu \partial_x (\phi^{-1}(\partial_x u))$.



This equation can be used to model stationary fluid between parallel plates subject to a sudden move with an initiate velocity. Although it is a greatly simplified the Navier-Stokes equations, by studying it mathematically allows for a deeper understanding of shear-thinning fluid dynamics. This study aims to establish rigorous well-posedness for Burgers' equation based on the Ellis rheology model, contributing to a deeper understanding of non-Newtonian fluid mechanics and its engineering and scientific applications. While previous research has explored the mathematical framework of Burgers' equation with non-Newtonian viscosity [7,15], open questions remain regarding the existence, uniqueness and stability of solutions. For this purpose we study the well-posedness and numerical solutions of the Burgers' equation based on Ellis law with initial and boundary conditions:

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u + u \partial_x u = \nu \partial_x (\phi^{-1}(\partial_x u)), & x \in [0, l], t \in [0, T], \\ u(0, x) = u_0(x), & x \in [0, l], \\ u(t, 0) = u(t, l) = 0, & t \in [0, T]. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

In the following we will prove the result concerning the existence and uniqueness of a solution to Problem (1) in the Bochner space $L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,p}(0, l))$, where $p = 1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}$. For definitions and descriptions of the Bochner spaces with application for parabolic and hyperbolic PDEs, see, e.g., [16]. In contrast to the Burgers' problems for power law fluids studies in [9], the Burgers' problem (1) is technically more challenging, due to the fact that the function $\phi^{-1}(\tau)$ has no explicit algebraic expression, and for this we derive lower and upper bounds for the inverse function (see Proposition 6 in Section 2) to allow analysis in proving the existence and uniqueness of solution to the problem.

Multiplying the equation of (1) by a test function $w \in W_0^{1,p}(0, l)$ and integrating formally by parts from 0 to l , we convert the initial-boundary value problem (1) to the following integral identity

$$\int_0^l \partial_t u w dx + \int_0^l u \partial_x u w dx + \nu \int_0^l \phi^{-1}(\partial_x u) \partial_x w dx = 0 \quad (2)$$

for all $w \in W_0^{1,p}(0, l)$ with $p = 1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}$, $t \in (0, T)$.

Definition 1. A function $u \in L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,p}(0, l))$ for which $\partial_t u \in L^2(0, T; L^2(0, l))$ is said to be a weak solution of problem (1) if it satisfies (2) for each $w \in W_0^{1,p}(0, l)$ and a.e. $t \in (0, T)$ and $u(0, x) = u_0$ for all $x \in (0, l)$, $p > 1$ with $p = 1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}$.

The main result of this work is gathered in the following theorem on the existence and uniqueness of the solution for initial-boundary value (1).

Theorem 1. Let $u_0 \in W_0^{1,p}(0, l)$ with $p = 1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}$. Then there exists a unique solution $u \in L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,p}(0, l))$ of (1) such that $\partial_t u \in L^2(0, T; L^2(0, l))$ in the sense of Definition 1.

In Section 2, we state some preliminary information needed to study the well-posedness of the problem (1), formulated in the weak form (2). Section 3 consists of two subsections 3.1 and 3.2. We obtain the existence result in 3.1 and establish the uniqueness of the solution in 3.2. Moreover, in Section 4, we construct the numerical solutions using the COMSOL PDE solver with some numerical manipulations.

2. Preliminary

It is well known that $L^p(0, l)$ and $W^{k,p}(0, l)$ are the standard spaces of Lebesgue and Sobolev, respectively, for $1 < p < \infty$ and $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. For any Banach space X , we define $L^p(0, T; X)$ to be the space of measurable functions $u : (0, T) \rightarrow X$ such that

$$\|u\|_{L^p(0, T; X)} = \left(\int_0^T \|u\|_X^p dt \right)^{1/p} < \infty$$

for $1 < p < \infty$ and $\|u\|_{L^\infty(0,T;X)} = \text{ess sup}_{0 < t < T} \|u\|_X < \infty$ if $p = \infty$. $L^p(0, T; X)$ is a Banach space [17]. The Sobolev space $W^{1,p}(0, 1)$ consists of functions whose weak derivatives are integrable in $L^p(0, 1)$.

$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the inner product of two vectors in $L^2(0, 1)$; that is,

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_0^1 f \bar{g} dx.$$

In the following, we present several propositions that are well-established theorems in the literature, which will be used in Section 3.

Proposition 1 (Jensen's inequality [18]). *Let (Ω, Λ, μ) be a measure space with $0 < \mu(\Omega) < \infty$ and let $\varphi : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a convex function defined on an open interval I in \mathbb{R} if $f : \Omega \rightarrow I$ is such that $f, \varphi \circ f \in L(\Omega, \Lambda, \mu)$, then*

$$\varphi\left(\frac{1}{\mu(\Omega)} \int_{\Omega} f d\mu\right) \leq \frac{1}{\mu(\Omega)} \int_{\Omega} \varphi(f) d\mu.$$

Proposition 2 (Aubin–Lions lemma [19]). *Let X_0, X and X_1 be three Banach spaces with $X_0 \subseteq X \subseteq X_1$. Suppose that X_0 is compactly embedded in X and that X is continuously embedded in X_1 . For $1 \leq p, q \leq \infty$, let*

$$W = \{u \in L^p([0, T]; X_0) \mid \dot{u} \in L^q([0, T]; X_1)\}.$$

- (i) *If $p < \infty$, then the embedding of W into $L^p([0, T]; X)$ is compact.*
- (ii) *If $p = \infty$ and $q > 1$, then the embedding of W into $C([0, T]; X)$ is compact.*

Proposition 3 (Rellich–Kondrachov Compactness Theorem [20]). *Assume U is a bounded open subset of \mathbb{R}^n and ∂U is C^1 . Suppose $1 \leq p < n$. Then*

$$W^{1,p}(U) \subset \subset L^q(U)$$

for each $1 \leq q < p^*$.

Proposition 4 ([21]). *If f is a Lebesgue measurable function defined on a closed, bounded interval $[a, b]$, with its L^p norm for $1 < p < \infty$ defined by*

$$\|f\|_p = \left(\int_a^b |f(x)|^p dx \right)^{1/p}$$

and L^∞ norm

$$\|f\|_\infty = \text{ess. sup. } \{|f(x)| : a \leqq x \leqq b\}.$$

If f_1, f_2, f_3, \dots is a sequence of measurable functions and M is a positive constant such that

$$\|f_n\|_\infty \leqq M \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = f(x)$ a.e. $x \in [a, b]$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f_n - f\|_p = 0$$

for any p satisfying $0 < p < \infty$.

Proposition 5 (The differential form of Gronwall's inequality [20]).

- (i) *Let $\eta(\cdot)$ be a nonnegative, absolutely continuous function on $[0, T]$, which satisfies for a.e. t the differential inequality*

$$\eta'(t) \leq \phi(t)\eta(t) + \psi(t),$$

where $\phi(t)$ and $\psi(t)$ are nonnegative summable functions on $[0, T]$. Then

$$\eta(t) \leq e^{\int_0^t \phi(s)ds} \left[\eta(0) + \int_0^t \psi(s)ds \right]$$

for all $0 \leq t \leq T$.

(ii) In particular, if

$$\eta' \leq \phi \eta \text{ on } [0, T] \text{ and } \eta(0) = 0,$$

then

$$\eta \equiv 0 \text{ on } [0, T].$$

We first introduce the lower bound for the inverse function of ϕ in Ellis law.

Proposition 6. Let $t = \phi(\tau) = \tau(1 + c|\tau|^\alpha)$, $\alpha > 0$ and let $\tau = \phi^{-1}(t)$ be the inverse function. Then $[\phi^{-1}(t)]' = \frac{1}{1 + (1 + c)|\tau|^\alpha}$ and

$$\phi^{-1}(t)t \geq \begin{cases} c_1 t^2 & \text{for } 0 \leq t < 1, \\ c_2 |t|^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}} & \text{for } t \geq 1, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where $c_1 = \frac{1}{1+c}$ and $c_2 = \frac{1}{|1+c|^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}}$ are constant numbers.

Proof. It is obvious that

$$\phi \leq \begin{cases} (1+c)\tau & \text{for } \tau < 1, \\ (1+c)|\tau|^\alpha \tau & \text{for } \tau \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Therefore, for the inverse function the following inequality

$$\phi^{-1}(t) \geq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1+c}t & \text{for } c \leq t < 1+c, \\ \left| \frac{1}{1+c}t \right|^{\frac{1}{\alpha}-1} t & \text{for } 1+c \leq t \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

holds.

The multiplication of both sides of the previous inequalities by t leads us to

$$\phi^{-1}(t)t \geq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1+c}t^2 & \text{for } c \leq t < 1+c, \\ \left| \frac{1}{1+c}t \right|^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} |t|^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}} & \text{for } 1+c \leq t. \end{cases}$$

We split the domain of definition of function in the following way

$$\phi^{-1}(t)t \geq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1+c}t^2 & \text{for } c \leq t < 1, \\ \frac{1}{1+c}t^2 & \text{for } 1 \leq t < 1+c, \\ \frac{1}{|1+c|^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}} |t|^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}} & \text{for } 1+c \leq t < \infty. \end{cases}$$

Further, decreasing the lower bound of $\phi^{-1}(t)t$ gives

$$\phi^{-1}(t)t \geq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1+c}t^2 & \text{for } 0 \leq t < 1, \\ \frac{1}{1+c} |t|^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}} & \text{for } 1 \leq t < 1+c, \\ \frac{1}{|1+c|^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}} |t|^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}} & \text{for } 1+c \leq t < \infty. \end{cases}$$

Finally, we get

$$\phi^{-1}(t)t \geq \begin{cases} c_1 t^2 & \text{for } 0 \leq t < 1, \\ c_2 |t|^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}} & \text{for } t \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

where $c_1 = \frac{1}{1+c}$ and $c_2 = \frac{1}{|1+c|^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}}$.

So, the proof of this proposition is complete. We will prove the existence and uniqueness of the solution in the next Section 3. \square

3. Existence and Uniqueness

In this section, we prove two theorems and some auxiliary lemmas, which we invoke to establish the existence and uniqueness result for the viscous Burgers' equation for the isothermal flow of Ellis fluids with initial and boundary conditions.

3.1. Existence

In this subsection, we will prove the existence of solutions to the problem formulated in the integral equation (2). Firstly, we choose the basis $\{e_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \in L^2(0, l)$ defined as a subset of the eigenfunction of the Laplacian for the Dirichlet problem

$$\begin{cases} -\partial_x^2 e_j = \lambda_j e_j, & j \in \mathbb{N}, \\ e_j = 0, & x \in \{0, l\}, \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where

$$e_j = \sin \frac{j\pi}{l} x, \quad \lambda_j = \left(\frac{j\pi}{l}\right)^2 \quad (6)$$

for $j \in \mathbb{N}$. It's known that $\{e_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an orthonormal basis in $L^2(0, l)$. Then for $f \in L^2(0, l)$, we can write

$$f = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} c_j(t) e_j$$

with $c_j(t) = \left(\int_0^l |f e_j|^2 dx\right)^{1/2} < \infty$, $j = 1, 2, \dots$ and the sequence $\{c_j\}_1^{\infty}$ is converges uniformly in $L^{\infty}(0, T; l^2)$.

Then, we introduce the approximate solution $u_n(t, x)$ by

$$u_n(t, x) = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j(t) e_j, \quad (7)$$

$$u_n(0) = u_{0n} = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j(0) e_j \quad (8)$$

which has to satisfy the approximate problem

$$\int_0^l \partial_t u_n e_j dx + \int_0^l u_n \partial_x u_n e_j dx + \nu \int_0^l \phi^{-1}(\partial_x u_n) \partial_x e_j dx = 0, \quad (9)$$

$$u_n(0) = u_{0n}$$

for all $j = 1, \dots, n$, $t \in [0, T]$.

Remark 1. The coefficients $c_j(0)$ can be chosen such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_{0n} = u(0)$ in $W_0^{1, 1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l)$.

Furthermore, we prove the lemma concerning the solution of approximate problem (9).

Lemma 1. If ϕ is the function specified in Proposition 6. Then the inverse function ϕ^{-1} satisfies the following inequality

$$\int_0^l \phi^{-1}(u_{nx}) u_{nx} dx \geq c_1 \|u_{nx}\|_{L^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0,l)}^2 + c_2 \|u_{nx}\|_{L^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0,l)}^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}},$$

where c_1, c_2 and $\alpha > 0$ are constants from Proposition 6.

Proof. Integration inequality (3) from 0 to 1 gives

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^l \phi^{-1}(u_{nx}) u_{nx} dx &= \int_{A=\{x:|u_{nx}|\geq 1\}} \phi^{-1}(u_{nx}) u_{nx} dx + \int_{B=\{x:|u_{nx}|\leq 1\}} \phi^{-1}(u_{nx}) u_{nx} dx \\ &\geq c_2 \int_A |u_{nx}|^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}} dx + c_1 \int_B |u_{nx}|^2 dx. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Application the Jensen's inequality (see Proposition 1) to the last term on the right-hand side of inequality (10) leads us

$$\left[\int_B c_1 |u_{nx}|^2 dx \right]^{\frac{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}{2}} \geq c_1 \left[\int_B |u_{nx}|^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}} dx \right] = c_1 \|u_{nx}\|_{L^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0,l)}^2.$$

Consequently, using the last inequality to (10), we obtain the desirable estimate

$$\int_0^l \phi^{-1}(u_{nx}) u_{nx} dx \geq c_1 \|u_{nx}\|_{L^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0,l)}^2 + c_2 \|u_{nx}\|_{L^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0,l)}^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}$$

with c_1 and c_2 from Proposition 6. The proof of the lemma is complete. \square

Theorem 2. There exists a positive constant $C_0 > 0$ independent on n , that satisfies the following inequality

$$\|u_n\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2 + \int_0^t \left(C_1 \|u_{nx}\|_{L^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0,l)}^2 + C_2 \|u_{nx}\|_{L^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0,l)}^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}} \right) d\tau \leq C_0$$

for all $t \in [0, T]$.

Proof. Taking $e_j = u_n$ in (9), we obtain

$$\int_0^l u_n \partial_t u_n dx + \int_0^l u_n^2 \partial_x u_n dx + \nu \int_0^l \phi^{-1}(\partial_x u_n) \partial_x u_n dx = 0. \quad (11)$$

The first term of (11) can be written as follows

$$\int_0^l u_n \partial_t u_n dx = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^l u_n^2 dx = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|u_n\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2. \quad (12)$$

Computing the second integral of (11) by the initial condition in (9) leads us to

$$\int_0^l u_n^2 \partial_x u_n dx = \int_0^l \partial_x (u_n^3) dx = u_n^3 \Big|_0^l = 0. \quad (13)$$

By substituting the integrals (12) and (13) into (11) and integrating the equation (11) from 0 to t with respect to τ , we have

$$\|u_n\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2 + \nu \int_0^t \int_0^l \phi^{-1}(\partial_x u_n(\tau)) \partial_x u_n(\tau) dx d\tau = \|u_{n0}\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2.$$

Application of inequality in Proposition 6 to the second term on the left-hand side of the last equation leads us

$$\|u_n\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2 + \int_0^t \left(C_1 \|u_{nx}\|_{L^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0,l)}^2 + C_2 \|u_{nx}\|_{L^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0,l)}^{1+\frac{1}{\alpha}} \right) d\tau \leq C_0$$

with $C_0 = \|u_{n0}\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2$.

The proof of the theorem is complete. \square

Theorem 3. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ problem (9) has at least one solution $u_n, \frac{\partial u_n}{\partial t} \in L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))$.

Proof. Now we represent the approximate equation (9) in the following form

$$\int_0^l \frac{\partial u_n}{\partial t} e_j dx = - \int_0^l u_n \partial_x u_n e_j dx - \nu \int_0^l \phi^{-1}(\partial_x u_n) \partial_x e_j dx \quad (14)$$

for $j = 1, \dots, n$. The integral on the left-hand side of (14) can be written as below

$$\int_0^l \frac{\partial u_n}{\partial t} e_j dx = \int_0^l \sum_{i=1}^n \dot{c}_i(t) e_i e_j dx = \dot{c}_j(t), \quad j = 1, \dots, n. \quad (15)$$

First integral on the right-hand side of (14) is equal to zero

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^l u_n \partial_x u_n e_j dx &= \int_0^l \left(\sum_{i=1}^n c_i(t) e_i \right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^n c_k(t) e'_k \right) e_j dx \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n c_i(t) c_k(t) \int_0^l e_i(x) e_j(x) e'_k(x) dx = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

for $j = 1, \dots, n$, since

$$\int_0^l e_i(x) e_j(x) e'_k(x) dx = 0, \quad i, j, k = 1, \dots, n. \quad (17)$$

We show (17). By (6), we note that

$$e_i(x) e_j(x) e'_k(x) = \frac{k\pi}{l} \sin \frac{i\pi}{l} x \sin \frac{j\pi}{l} x \cos \frac{k\pi}{l} x \quad i, j, k = 1, \dots, n.$$

Then, by well-known formula 402.05 [Dwight]

$$4 \sin A \sin B \cos C = -\cos(A + B - C) + \cos(B + C - A) + \cos(A + C - B) - \cos(A + B + C), \quad (18)$$

we obtain (17).

Thus, substitutions of (15) and (16) into (14) lead us to the following linear ordinary system of n equations with respect to t

$$\dot{c}_j(t) = -\nu \int_0^l \phi^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n c_i(t) e'_i \right) e'_j dx \quad (19)$$

for $j = 1, \dots, n$.

Now we introduce the following notations:

$$\vec{b} := \nu \int_0^l \phi^{-1}(\vec{c} \cdot \vec{e}') \vec{e} dx,$$

where

$$\vec{c}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} c_1(t) \\ c_2(t) \\ \vdots \\ c_n(t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{b} = \begin{pmatrix} \nu \int_0^l \phi^{-1}(\sum_{i=1}^n c_i(t)e'_i) e'_1 dx \\ \nu \int_0^l \phi^{-1}(\sum_{i=1}^n c_i(t)e'_i) e'_2 dx \\ \vdots \\ \nu \int_0^l \phi^{-1}(\sum_{i=1}^n c_i(t)e'_i) e'_n dx \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence, we rewrite system (19) as follows

$$\dot{\vec{c}} = -\vec{b}(\vec{c}). \quad (20)$$

So, ϕ^{-1} in the term $\vec{b}(\vec{c})$ satisfies the Lipschitz condition by Proposition 6. Therefore, the system (20) has a solution $\vec{c}(t) = (c_1(t), c_2(t), \dots, c_n(t))$ by the Existence Theorem for the ODE system. \square

We are now ready to prove the following theorem.

Theorem 4. *There exists a weak solution of the problem (2) such that $u, u_t \in L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))$.*

Proof. By Theorem 3 there exists a weak solution u_n of the approximating problem (9) in $L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))$. We take $W = \{\{u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \in L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l)) \mid \{\partial_t u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \in L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))\}$. We note that $\{u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \in L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))$ by our construction in subsection 3.1. By Theorem 2, the sequence $\{u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ is bounded in $L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))$.

Now we show that $\{\partial_t u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \in L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))$. Equation (7) implies that

$$\partial_t u_n(t, x) = \sum_{j=1}^n \dot{c}_j(t) e_j.$$

Therefore,

$$\|\partial_t u_n\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2 = \langle \partial_t u_n, \partial_t u_n \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^n \dot{c}_j^2 = \|\dot{\vec{c}}\|_{\mathbb{R}^n}^2 \leq C,$$

since the sequence $\{c_j\}_1^\infty$ is converges uniformly in $L^\infty(0, T; l^2)$. The last inequality implies that $\{\partial_t u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ is also bounded in $L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))$. Hence, invoking the Aubin-Lions lemma 2, we conclude that the embedding of W into $L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))$ is compact. Consequently, every sequence in such a bounded set W has convergent subsequence, we denote them still by $\{u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ and $\{\partial_t u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$. Therefore, by Proposition 3 the subsequences $\{u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ and $\{\partial_t u_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ converge to some limit functions $u, u_t \in L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))$. This limit satisfies (1) in the sense of Definition 1. \square

3.2. Uniqueness

In this section, we determine the uniqueness of Theorem 1. Now we prove the uniqueness result.

Theorem 5. *Problem (2) has a unique weak solution.*

Proof. The uniqueness follows from the following argument. Let u_1 and u_2 be two solutions of (2). Let $\hat{u} = u_1 - u_2$. Hence,

$$\int_0^l \hat{u} \partial_t \hat{u} dx + \int_0^l (u_1 \partial_x u_1 - u_2 \partial_x u_2) \hat{u} dx + \nu \int_0^l (\phi^{-1}(\partial_x u_1) - \phi^{-1}(\partial_x u_2)) \partial_x \hat{u} dx = 0.$$

We rewrite the last equation as follows

$$\int_0^l \hat{u} \partial_t \hat{u} dx + \nu \int_0^l (\phi^{-1}(\partial_x u_1) - \phi^{-1}(\partial_x u_2)) \partial_x \hat{u} dx = \int_0^l (u_2 \partial_x u_2 - u_1 \partial_x u_1) \hat{u} dx. \quad (21)$$

We invoke the estimate from Lemma 2.7 in [17] for the term on the right-hand side of the last equation. So, the Cauchy inequality with $\varepsilon = 2\nu$ and the Jensen inequality in Proposition 1 imply that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_0^l (u_2 \partial_x u_2 - u_1 \partial_x u_1) \hat{u} dx &= \int_0^l (2u_2 - u_1) \hat{u} \partial_x \hat{u} dx \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{4\nu} \int_0^l |(2u_2 - u_1) \hat{u}|^2 dx + \nu \int_0^l |\partial_x \hat{u}|^2 dx \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{4\nu} \left[\int_0^l |2u_2 - u_1| |\hat{u}| dx \right]^2 + \nu \|\partial_x \hat{u}\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2 \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{4\nu} \left(2\|u_2\|_{L^\infty(0,T;L^2(0,l))} + \|u_1\|_{L^\infty(0,T;L^2(0,l))} \right)^2 \|\hat{u}\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2 \\
 &\quad + \nu \|\partial_x \hat{u}\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2. \tag{22}
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we show that

$$\nu \int_0^l (\phi^{-1}(\partial_x u_1) - \phi^{-1}(\partial_x u_2)) \partial_x \hat{u} dx \geq \nu \|\partial_x \hat{u}\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2. \tag{23}$$

We introduce the notation $\tau := \phi^{-1}(\partial_x u)$, then $\partial_x u = \phi(\tau)$. Recall that $\phi(\tau) = \tau(1 + c|\tau|^\alpha)$. Hence, the left-hand side of (23) becomes the following

$$\begin{aligned}
 \nu \int_0^l (\tau_1 - \tau_2)(\phi(\tau_1) - \phi(\tau_2)) dx &= \nu \int_0^l (\tau_1 - \tau_2)(\tau_1(1 + |\tau_1|^\alpha) - \tau_2(1 + |\tau_2|^\alpha)) dx \\
 &= \nu \int_0^l [(\tau_1 - \tau_2)^2 + c(|\tau_1|^\alpha \tau_1 - |\tau_2|^\alpha \tau_2)(\tau_1 - \tau_2)] dx.
 \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\nu \int_0^l (\tau_1 - \tau_2)(\phi(\tau_1) - \phi(\tau_2)) dx \geq \nu \int_0^l |\tau_1 - \tau_2|^2 dx,$$

since

$$c(|\tau_1|^\alpha \tau_1 - |\tau_2|^\alpha \tau_2)(\tau_1 - \tau_2) > 0,$$

where we used the fact from [23, page 99] for all α . So, we proved (23).

Further, exploiting the fact (23), computation in (12) and estimate (22) to (21), we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \|\hat{u}\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2 \leq C_3 \|\hat{u}\|_{L^2(0,l)}^2 \tag{24}$$

with $C_3 = \frac{1}{4\nu} \left(2\|u_2\|_{L^\infty(0,T;L^2(0,l))} + \|u_1\|_{L^\infty(0,T;L^2(0,l))} \right)^2$.

Invoking the differential form of Gronwall's inequality (see Proposition 5) to (24), we obtain that $\hat{u} = 0$ on $[0, T]$ if $\hat{u}(0) = 0$. Then $\hat{u} \equiv 0$ on $[0, T]$. Therefore, $u_1 = u_2$, and this establishes the uniqueness of the solution of (2). The proof of the theorem is complete.

□

4. Numerical part

In this section, Problem (1) is solved using the finite element software COMSOL® Multiphysics 6.0. Since the right-hand side of Problem (1) contains the inverse function ϕ^{-1} , which does not have an explicit algebraic expression, a direct numerical implementation presents challenges in using the Equation-Based Modeling in COMSOL. To overcome this obstacle, MATLAB was used to construct a polynomial approximation of $\tau = \phi^{-1}(t)$, allowing for a more convenient numerical formulation. Specifically, for the given data $l = 10$, $[\tau_{\min}, \tau_{\max}] = [0.01, 2]$, a second-order polynomial approximation $\phi^{-1}(t) = -0.0264t^2 + 0.5251t$, $t > 0$, was obtained, which was then extended as an odd function $\phi^{-1}(t) = (-0.0264|t| + 0.5251)t$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$ to fit the Ellis rheology model and incorporated into the PDE

for numerical computation. To apply the software COMSOL®'s mathematical module, the equation in (1) has been written in a standard form for the solver

$$e_a \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + d_a \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (-c \nabla u - \alpha u + \gamma) + \beta \cdot \nabla u + a u = f,$$

where $\nabla = \partial_x$ and $u = u(t, x)$. We construct the numerical solutions of problem (1) taking coefficients $e_a = 0$, $d_a = 1$, $a = 0$, $f = 0$, $\alpha = 0$, $\gamma = 0$, $\beta = u$ and $c = \nu * (-0.0264 * \text{abs}(d(u, x)) + 0.5251)$ in the last equation. The Dirichlet boundary condition is applied on both ends of the computational domain.

Figure 1 shows the simulated solutions that were obtained for Burgers' equation based on an Ellis law model with a small $\nu = 1$. The velocity profile was shown for several instances of time. Since there is no stability and convergence analysis for the initial-boundary value problem, it was also challenging to experimentally find good combinations of the discrete time step size δt and the spatial mesh size δx . For the particular set of data, convergence was obtained and a solution of the problem is obtained for $\delta t = 0.01$ and $\delta x = 0.01$.

It can be observed that within a finite time T , the solution u and its derivative $\partial_x u$ are bounded in $[0, 10]$, as predicted by our theoretical results Theorem 1.

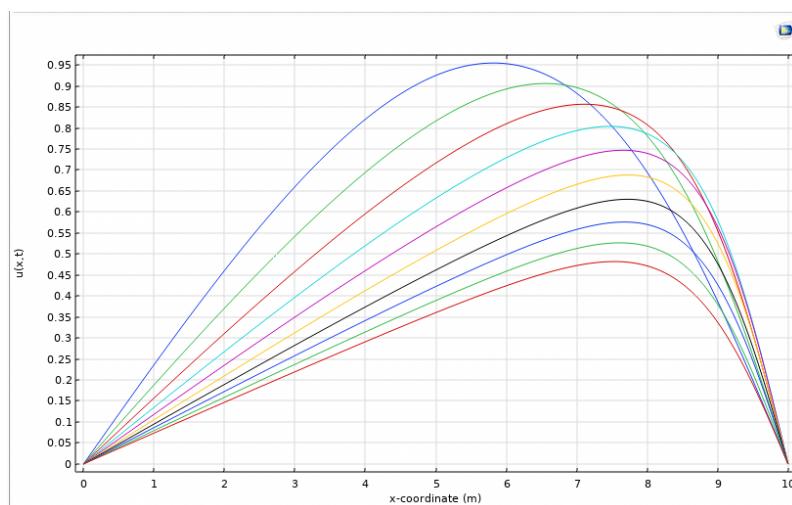


Figure 1. The solution $u(x, t)$ for $0 \leq x \leq 10$ and a sequence of discrete times $t = 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100$, plotted in different colors, as the velocity of the flow of the Ellis law fluid between two parallel plates at $x = 0$ and $x = 10$.

5. Conclusions

In this work, we first established the existence and uniqueness of weak solutions for the viscous Burgers' equation based on the Ellis model, given by $\dot{\gamma} = [1 + c|\tau|^{\alpha-1}] \tau$, for the isothermal flow of non-Newtonian fluids. Using the compact embedding theorem in Bochner spaces and key mathematical properties of the Ellis model, we proved the well-posedness of the initial boundary value problem in $L^2(0, T; W_0^{1,1+\frac{1}{\alpha}}(0, l))$. Second, we developed a constructive algorithm to approximate solutions of the problem. A numerical experiment was conducted in COMSOL® Multiphysics to validate our theoretical findings, providing a computational illustration of the solution's behavior. We note that there is no explicit expression for the inverse function on the right-hand side of (1); therefore, direct numerical implementation poses challenges when using Equation-Based Modeling in COMSOL. This difficulty was addressed by employing MATLAB to construct a polynomial approximation of $\tau = \phi^{-1}(t)$, which allowed for a more convenient numerical formulation. These numerical results contribute to a deeper understanding of the mathematical framework for modeling shear-thinning and shear-thickening non-Newtonian fluids, demonstrating the applicability of mathematical analysis for the Ellis model in non-Newtonian fluid dynamics.

6. Acknowledgments

The work is supported by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan Grant No. AP19676408 "Analysis of dispersive nonlinear partial differential equations in weighted Sobolev spaces".

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