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# Explicit and Exact Traveling Wave Solutions of the Cahn–Allen Equation Using the MSE Method

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**Abstract:** By using the modified simple equation method, we study the Cahn–Allen equation, which arises in many scientific applications such as mathematical biology, quantum mechanics, and plasma physics. As a result, the existence of solitary wave solutions of the Cahn–Allen equation is obtained. Exact explicit solutions in terms of hyperbolic solutions of the associated Cahn–Allen equation are characterized with some free parameters. Finally, the variety of structures and graphical representations make the dynamics of the equations visible and provide the mathematical foundation in mathematical biology, quantum mechanics and plasma physics.

**Keywords:** the modified simple equation method; Cahn–Allen equation; soliton solution; kink type solutions

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## 1. Introduction

The mathematical modeling of events in nature can be explained by differential equations. It is well-known that various types of the physical phenomena in the fields of fluid mechanics, quantum mechanics, electricity, plasma physics, chemical kinematics, propagation of shallow water waves and optical fibers are modeled by nonlinear evolution equations, and the appearance of solitary wave solutions in nature is somewhat frequent. However, the nonlinear process is one of the major challenges and not easy to control because the nonlinear characteristics of the system abruptly change due to some small changes in parameters including time. Thus, this issue becomes more difficult and hence a crucial solution is needed. The solutions of these equations have crucial impact in mathematical physics and engineering. The variety of solutions of NLEEs, which are mutual different operating mathematical techniques, is very important in many fields of science such as fluid mechanics, optical fibers, technology of space, control engineering problems, hydrodynamics, meteorology, plasma physics, applied mathematics. Advanced nonlinear techniques are important for solving inherent nonlinear problems, particularly those involving dynamical systems and allied areas. In recent years, there have been big improvements in finding the exact solutions of NLEEs. Many powerful methods have been established and enhanced, such as the modified extended Fan sub-equation method [1], the homogeneous balance method [2,3], the Jacobi elliptic function expansion [4], the Backlund transformation method [5,6], the Darboux transformation method [7], the Adomian decomposition method [8–9], the auxiliary equation method [10,11], the  $(G'/G)$ -expansion method [12–18], the  $\text{Exp}(-\phi(\xi))$ -expansion method [19], the sine-cosine method [20–22], the tanh method [23], the F-expansion method [24,25], the exp-function method [26,27], the modified simple equation method [28–30], the first integral method [31], the simple equation method [32], the bilinear method [33], the transformed rational function method [34], and so on. Most of the above methods are dependent on computational software except the MSE method.

The objective of this paper is to look for new exact traveling wave solutions including topological soliton, single soliton solutions of the well-recognized Cahn–Allen equation [30,31] via the MSE method.

## 2. Description of the MSE Method

Consider a general form of a nonlinear evolution equation,

$$H(u, u_t, u_x, u_{xt}, u_{xx}, \dots) = 0, \quad (1)$$

where  $u(\xi) = u(x, t)$  is an unknown function,  $H$  is a polynomial of  $u(x, t)$  and its partial derivatives in which the highest order derivatives and nonlinear terms are involved. In the following, we present the main steps of the method:

**Step 1:** Combine the real variables  $x$  and  $t$  by a compound variable  $\xi$ :

$$u(\bar{r}, t) = u(\xi), \quad \xi = \bar{P} \cdot \bar{r} \pm Wt. \quad (2)$$

Here,  $\bar{P} = l\hat{i} + m\hat{j} + n\hat{k}$  and  $\bar{P} = x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}$  where  $l, m, n$  are the constant magnitudes along the axes of  $x, y, z$  respectively,  $\mu$  is wave number and  $W$  is the speed of the traveling wave.

This travelling wave transformation permits us to reduce Equation (1) to the following ordinary differential equation (ODE):

$$G(u, u', u'' \dots) = 0, \quad (3)$$

where  $G$  is a polynomial in  $u(\xi)$  and its derivatives, wherein  $u'(\xi) = \frac{du}{d\xi}$ ,  $u''(\xi) = \frac{d^2u}{d\xi^2}$  and so on.

**Step 2:** We also consider that the Equation (3) has the formal solution:

$$u(\xi) = \sum_{i=0}^n A_i \left( \frac{S'(\xi)}{S(\xi)} \right)^i, \quad (4)$$

where  $A_i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq n$ ) are constants to be determined, and  $S(\xi)$  is also unknown function to be evaluated.

**Step 3:** The value of positive integer  $n$  in Equation (4) can be determined by taking into account the homogeneous balance between the highest order nonlinear terms and the derivatives of highest order occurring in Equation (3). If the degree of  $u(\xi)$  is  $D(u(\xi)) = n$ , then the degree of the other expression will be  $u(\xi)$  as follows:

$$D\left(\frac{d^p u(\xi)}{d\xi^p}\right) = n + p, \quad D\left(u^p \left(\frac{d^q u(\xi)}{d\xi^q}\right)^s\right) = np + s(n + q)$$

**Step 4:** Inserting Equation (4) into Equation (3), we get a polynomial of  $(S'(\xi)/S(\xi))$  and its derivatives and  $(S(\xi))^{-i}$ , ( $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ ). In the resultant polynomial, we equate all the coefficients of  $(S(\xi))^{-i}$ , ( $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) to zero. This technique produces a system of algebraic and differential equations that can be solved receiving  $A_i$  ( $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ ),  $S(\xi)$  and the value of the other needful parameters. This completes the determination of the solution to the Equation (1).

**Remark.** In comparison, in the modified simple equation method with the simple equation method [32], it is seen that the simple equation method gets help from an auxiliary equation (the Riccati equation), but the modified simple equation method can perform directly without help from an auxiliary equation. On the other hand, the simple equation method yields results that are a special case from the modified equation method.

## 3. Traveling Wave Solution of the Cahn–Allen Equation

Let us consider the nonlinear parabolic partial differential equation given by:

$$u_t = u_{xx} - u^m + u; \quad (5)$$

for  $m=3$ , Equation (5) becomes the Cahn–Allen equation [29,30]. This equation arises in many scientific applications such as mathematical biology, quantum mechanics and plasma physics. To solve this example, we can use transformation  $\xi = kx + wt$  (where  $k$  and  $W$  are the wave number and the wave speed, respectively), and then Equation (5) becomes ordinary differential equation:

$$wu' - k^2 u'' + u^3 - u = 0. \quad (6)$$

Balancing  $u^3$  with  $u''$  then gives  $n = 1$ :

$$u(\xi) = A_0 + A_1 \frac{S'(\xi)}{S(\xi)} \quad (7)$$

$$u'(\xi) = A_1 \frac{S''(\xi)}{S(\xi)} - A_1 \left( \frac{S'(\xi)}{S(\xi)} \right)^2 \quad (8)$$

$$u''(\xi) = A_1 \frac{S'''(\xi)}{S(\xi)} - 3A_1 \frac{S''(\xi)S'(\xi)}{S^2(\xi)} + 2A_1 \left( \frac{S'(\xi)}{S(\xi)} \right)^3 \quad (9)$$

Putting Equations (6)–(9) in Equation (6) and equating coefficients of like powers of  $\frac{S'(\xi)}{S(\xi)}$ , we get:

Coefficient of  $(S(\xi))^0$ :

$$A_0^3 - A_0 = 0; \quad (10)$$

Coefficient of  $(S(\xi))^{-1}$ :

$$-k^2 A_1 S'''(\xi) + 3A_0^2 A_1 S'(\xi) + w A_1 S''(\xi) - A_1 S'(\xi) = 0; \quad (11)$$

Coefficient of  $(S(\xi))^{-2}$ :

$$-w A_1 (S'(\xi))^2 + 3k^3 A_1 S'(\xi) S''(\xi) + 3A_0 A_1^2 (S'(\xi))^2 = 0 \quad (12)$$

and Coefficient of  $(S(\xi))^{-3}$ :

$$A_1 (A_1^2 - 2k^2) (S'(\xi))^3 = 0 \quad (13)$$

From Equation(10), we achieve  $A_0 = 0, 1, -1$  and from Equation(13),  $A_1 \neq 0$  thus  $A_1 = \pm\sqrt{2}k$ ,

$$\frac{S'''}{S''} = \frac{3k^2(3A_0^2 - 1) + w(w - 3A_0 A_1)}{k^2(w - 3A_0 A_1)} \quad (14)$$

Integrating, we have

$$S'' = c_1 \exp\left(\frac{3k^2(3A_0^2 - 1) + w(w - 3A_0A_1)}{k^2(w - 3A_0A_1)} \xi\right) \quad (15)$$

From Equation (12),

$$S' = \frac{3c_1k^2}{w - 3A_0A_1} \exp\left(\frac{3k^2(3A_0^2 - 1) + w(w - 3A_0A_1)}{k^2(w - 3A_0A_1)} \xi\right) \quad (16)$$

and

$$S = \frac{3c_1k^4}{3k^2(3A_0^2 - 1) + w(w - 3A_0A_1)} \exp\left(\frac{3k^2(3A_0^2 - 1) + w(w - 3A_0A_1)}{k^2(w - 3A_0A_1)} \xi\right) + c_2 \quad (17)$$

Using Equations (16) and (17), we attain

$$u = A_0 + \frac{3c_1A_1k^2}{w - 3A_0A_1} \times \frac{\exp\left(\frac{3k^2(3A_0^2 - 1) + w(w - 3A_0A_1)}{k^2(w - 3A_0A_1)} \xi\right)}{\frac{3c_1k^4}{3k^2(3A_0^2 - 1) + w(w - 3A_0A_1)} \exp\left(\frac{3k^2(3A_0^2 - 1) + w(w - 3A_0A_1)}{k^2(w - 3A_0A_1)} \xi\right) + c_2} \quad (18)$$

where  $\xi = k\left(x \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}t\right)$  with  $w = \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}k$ . Here,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are arbitrary constants.

**Case-I:** For set  $A_0 = 0$ ,  $A_1 = \pm\sqrt{2}k$ , we get

$$u = \pm \frac{3\sqrt{2}c_1k^3}{w} \times \frac{\exp\left(\frac{w^2 - 3k^2}{k^2w} \xi\right)}{\frac{3c_1k^4}{w^2 - 3k^2} \exp\left(\frac{w^2 - 3k^2}{k^2w} \xi\right) + c_2} \quad (19)$$

where  $\xi = k\left(x \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}t\right)$  with  $w = \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}k$ .

If  $c_2 = \frac{3k^4c_1}{w^2 - 3k^2}$ , then

$$u = \pm \frac{w^2 - 3k^2}{\sqrt{2}wk} \left\{ 1 + \tanh\left(\frac{w^2 - 3k^2}{2wk^2} \xi\right) \right\} \quad (20)$$

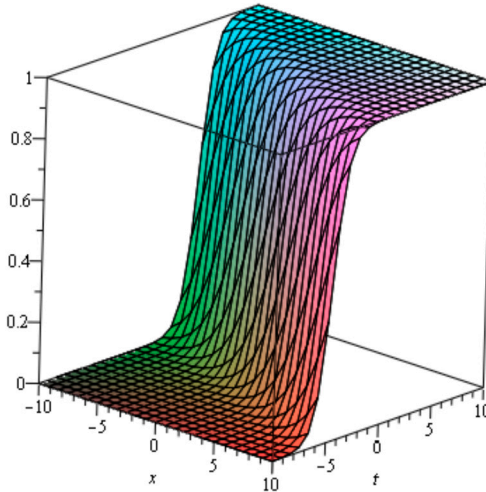
where  $\xi = k\left(x \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}t\right)$ , with  $w = \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}k$ .

If  $c_2 = -\frac{3k^4c_1}{w^2 - 3k^2}$ , then

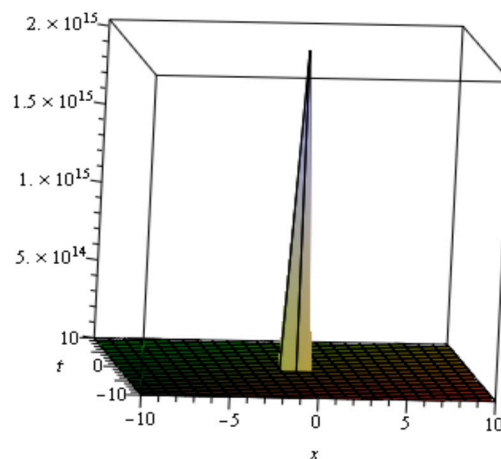
$$u = \pm \frac{w^2 - 3k^2}{\sqrt{2}wk} \left\{ 1 + \coth\left(\frac{w^2 - 3k^2}{2wk^2} \xi\right) \right\} \quad (21)$$

where  $\xi = k\left(x \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}t\right)$ .

Since  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are arbitrary constants, for other choices of  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , it might yield many new and more general exact solutions of the nonlinear Cahn–Allen equation without any aid of symbolic computation software. The solutions  $u(x,t)$  obtained in Equations (20) and (21) are represented in the following figures: (see Figures 1 and 2).



**Figure 1.** Kink wave of Equation (20) with  $k = 1$ .



**Figure 2.** Single soliton solution of Equation(21) with  $k = 1$ .

**Case-II:** For set  $A_0 = \pm 1$ ,  $A_1 = \pm\sqrt{2}k$ , we get

$$u = \pm 1 \pm \frac{3\sqrt{2}c_1 k^3}{w - 3\sqrt{2}k} \times \frac{\exp\left(\frac{6k^2 + w(w - 3\sqrt{2}k)}{k^2(w - 3\sqrt{2}k)}\xi\right)}{\frac{3c_1 k^4}{6k^2 + w(w - 3\sqrt{2}k)} \exp\left(\frac{6k^2 + w(w - 3\sqrt{2}k)}{k^2(w - 3\sqrt{2}k)}\xi\right) + c_2}, \quad (22)$$

where  $\xi = k\left(x \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}t\right)$  with  $w = \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}k$ . Here,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are arbitrary constants.

If  $c_2 = \frac{3k^4 c_1}{6k^2 + w(w - 3\sqrt{2}k)}$ , then

$$u = \pm 1 \pm \frac{\sqrt{2}\{6k^2 + w(w-3\sqrt{2}k)\}}{k(w-3\sqrt{2}k)} \left\{ 1 + \tanh \left( \frac{6k^2 + w(w-3\sqrt{2}k)}{k^2(w-3\sqrt{2}k)} \xi \right) \right\} \quad (23)$$

where  $\xi = k(x \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}t)$ , with  $w = \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}k$ .

If  $c_2 = -\frac{3k^4c_1}{6k^2 + w(w-3\sqrt{2}k)}$ , then

$$u = \pm 1 \pm \frac{\sqrt{2}\{6k^2 + w(w-3\sqrt{2}k)\}}{k(w-3\sqrt{2}k)} \left\{ 1 + \tanh \left( \frac{6k^2 + w(w-3\sqrt{2}k)}{k^2(w-3\sqrt{2}k)} \xi \right) \right\} \quad (24)$$

where  $\xi = k(x \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}t)$ , with  $w = \pm \frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}k$ .

Since  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are arbitrary constants, for other choices of  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , it might yield many new and more general exact solutions of the nonlinear Cahn–Allen equation without any aid of symbolic computation software.

The solutions  $u(x, t)$  obtained in Equation(23) are similar to Figure 1, and Equation (24) is similar to Figure 2 and omitted for convenience.

Again with commercial software, we can find some solutions of the Cahn–Allen equation (solving from Equations (11) and (12)).

For  $A_0 = 0$ ,  $A_1 = \pm\sqrt{2}k$ , we get  $S(\xi) = a + b \exp(\pm\xi / \sqrt{2}k)$ .

And thus,

$$u(x, t) = \pm \frac{b}{a \left\{ \cosh \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2}k} \mp \sinh \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2}k} \right\} + b} \quad \text{with } \xi = k(x \pm 3t / \sqrt{2}). \quad (25)$$

If we consider  $a/b = \exp(2c)$ , then Equation(25) reduces to well known solution:

$$u(x, t) = \pm \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 1 + \tanh \left( \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}x + \frac{3}{2}t + c \right) \right\} \quad (26)$$

For  $A_0 = 1$ ,  $A_1 = \pm\sqrt{2}k$ , we get  $S(\xi) = a + b \exp(\pm\xi / \sqrt{2}k)$ ,

and thus,

$$u(x, t) = 1 - \frac{b}{a \left\{ \cosh \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2}k} \pm \sinh \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2}k} \right\} + b} \quad \text{with } \xi = k(x \pm 3t / \sqrt{2}). \quad (27)$$

If we consider  $a/b = \exp(2c)$ , then Equation(26) reduces to well known solution:

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 1 + \tanh \left( \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}x + \frac{3}{2}t + c \right) \right\} \quad (28)$$

For  $A_0 = -1$ ,  $A_1 = \pm\sqrt{2}k$ , we get  $S(\xi) = a + b \exp(\mp\xi / \sqrt{2}k)$ ,

and thus,

$$u(x, t) = -1 - \frac{b}{a \left\{ \cosh \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2k}} \mp \sinh \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2k}} \right\} + b} \text{ with } \xi = k \left( x \mp 3t / \sqrt{2} \right). \quad (29)$$

If we consider  $a/b = \exp(2c)$ , then Equation(26) reduces to well known solution:

$$u(x, t) = -\frac{1}{2} \left\{ 1 + \tanh \left( \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} x + \frac{3}{2} t + c \right) \right\}. \quad (30)$$

Since  $a$  and  $b$  are arbitrary constants, for other choices of  $a$  and  $b$ , it might yield many new and more general exact solutions of the nonlinear Cahn–Allen equation. When we choose  $a/b = \exp(2c)$ , we get special type solutions like Equations (28) and (30), but if we choose  $a$  and  $b$  in different ways, we can get different types of solutions. Thus, Equations (28) and (30) are special types of our solutions.

Graphs of Equations (25), (27) and (29) represent kink type like Figure 1 both for positive/negative values of the arbitrary constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  like single solitons such as Figure 2 for their opposite values.

#### 4. Comparison

In this section, we compare our solution with some well-known methods, namely the exp-function method and the first integral method as follows:

**(a) Comparison with Exp-method Reference [27]:** Ugurlu [27] obtained some solutions of the Cahn–Allen equation via the exp-function method, in which solutions  $u_8, u_9$  are identical with Equation (25) when  $b = 1, a = b_0$ , and the other solutions are different from their solutions (for more, see Ref. [27]).

**(b) Comparison with First Integral method Reference [31]:** Tascan and Bekir [31] obtained some solutions of the Cahn–Allen equation via the first integral method, in which Equation(3.20) is identical with Equation (25) (when, in our study,  $a = b = 1, k = -1/\sqrt{2}$ , and, in their study,  $c_0 = 0$ )  $u_8, u_9$  is identical with Equation (25) when  $b = 1, a = b_0$ , and the other solutions are different from their solutions. On the contrary, by using the MSE method in this article, we obtained four solutions without calculations.

#### 5. Conclusions

In this article, we have successfully implemented the MSE method to find the exact traveling wave solutions of the Cahn–Allen equation. Comparing the MSE method to other methods, we claim that the MSE method is straight forward, efficient, and can be used in many other nonlinear evolution equations. In the existing methods, such as the  $(G'/G)$ -expansion method, the exp-function method, and the tanh-function method, it requires making use of symbolic computation software, such as Mathematica or Maple-13 to facilitate complex algebraic computations. To solve non-linear evolution equations via the MSE method, no auxiliary equations are needed. On the other hand, via the MSE method, the exact and solitary wave solutions to these equations have been achieved without using any symbolic computation software because the method is very simple and has easy computations.

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**Author Contributions:** HOR proposed the algorithm. MZA developed, analyzed and implement the methods. MRI contributed to the implementation of the methods. All authors approved the final manuscript.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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