

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Tai-Ping Liu

Academia Sinica, Taiwan
Stanford University

March 20, 2016
Brown University

Hopf-Cole Transformation

- **Hopf, Eberhard** The partial differential equation $u_t + uu_x = \mu u_{xx}$. *Comm. Pure Appl. Math.* 3, (1950), 201-230.
- **Julian D. Cole** On a quasi-linear parabolic equation occurring in aerodynamics. *Quart. Appl. Math.* 9, (1951), 225-236.

Hopf-Cole transformation:

$$\begin{aligned} u_t + uu_x &= \kappa u_{xx} && \text{Burgers equation,} \\ \Rightarrow B_t + \frac{(B_x)^2}{2} &= \kappa B_{xx}, \quad B_x = u, && \text{Hamilton-Jacobi equation,} \\ \text{Introduce Hopf-Cole relation } B(x, t) &= -2\kappa \log[\phi(x, t)], \\ \Rightarrow \phi_t &= \kappa \phi_{xx}, && \text{Heat equation.} \end{aligned}$$

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Solution formula for initial value problem for **Burgers equation**:

$$u(x, t) = u(x, t, \kappa) = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{x-y}{t} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4\kappa t} - \frac{1}{2\kappa} \int_{0-}^y u(z,0) dz} dy}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4\kappa t} - \frac{1}{2\kappa} \int_{0-}^y u(z,0) dz} dy}.$$

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Burgers equation:

- Bateman proposed it for considering shock profile:
Bateman, H. Some recent researches on the motion of fluids, *Monthly Weather Review* 43, (1915), 163-170.
- Burgers proposed it for the study of turbulence:
Burgers, J. M. Application of a model system to illustrate some points of the statistical theory of free turbulence. *Nederl. Akad. Wetensch., Proc.* 43, (1940), 2-12.
- Cole derived the Burgers equation from gas dynamics:

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + \beta \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = \frac{4}{3} \nu^* \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2}.$$

"for w = excess of flow velocity over a sonic velocity, where $\beta = (\gamma + 1)/2$, ν^* = the kinematic viscosity at sonic condition"

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Hopf-Cole Transformation:

- **Hopf**: "The reduction of (1) to the heat equation was known to me since the end of 1946. However, it was not until 1949 that I became sufficiently acquainted with the recent development of fluid dynamics to be convinced that a theory of (1) could serve as an instructive introduction into some of the mathematical problems involved."
- **Friedrichs, K. O.** Formation and decay of shock waves. Communications on Appl. Math. 1, (1948). 211245.
- Hopf was inspired by the works of Burgers on turbulence and Friedrichs' theory of N -waves.
- **Forsyth, A.R.** Theory of Differential Equations, Vol. VI, Cambridge University Press (1906), Page 102, Ex. 3.
- The Hopf-Cole transformation is embedded in this exercise in Forsyth's book.

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Hopf:

- Solution formula for the **inviscid Burgers equation**
 $u_t + (u^2/2)_x = 0$ in the zero dissipation limit $\kappa \rightarrow 0+$:

$$\begin{aligned} F(x, y, t) &= \frac{(x-y)^2}{2t} + \int_{0-}^y u(z, 0) dz, \\ \min_y F(x, y, t) &= F(\xi, t), \\ \lim_{\kappa \rightarrow 0+} u(x, t, \kappa) &= u(\xi, 0). \end{aligned}$$

- **Metastable states:**

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{\kappa \rightarrow 0+} u(x, t, \kappa) \neq \lim_{\kappa \rightarrow 0+} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u(x, t, \kappa).$$

- **Modern theory of hyperbolic conservation laws.**

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Hopf:

$$b_t + \left(\frac{b^2}{2}\right)_x = \kappa b_{xx}, \quad b(x, 0) = A\delta(x), \quad \text{Burgers kernel}$$

By Hopf-Cole transformation,

$$b(x, t; A) = \frac{\frac{\sqrt{\kappa}}{\sqrt{t}}(e^{\frac{A}{2\kappa}} - 1)e^{-\frac{x^2}{4\kappa t}}}{\sqrt{\pi} + \int_{\frac{x}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}}^{\infty} (e^{\frac{A}{2\kappa}} - 1)e^{-y^2} dy}.$$

For initial data with finite mass, a solution of the Burgers equation tends to Burgers kernel:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u(x, t) - b(x, t; A)| dx = O(1)t^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty, \quad A = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(x, 0) dx.$$

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Hopf:

On the other hand, for **inviscid** Burgers equation, the solution tends to **N-waves**:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u(x, t) - N(x, t; p, q)| = O(1)t^{-\frac{1}{2}},$$
$$p = \min_x \int_{-\infty}^x u(x, 0) dx, \quad q = \max_x \int_x^{\infty} u(x, 0) dx, \quad \text{two time invariants}$$
$$N(x, t; p, q) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{t}, & \text{for } -\sqrt{-2pt} < x < \sqrt{2qt}; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{\kappa \rightarrow 0+} u(x, t, \kappa) = N - \text{waves, two time invariants;}$$

$$\neq \lim_{\kappa \rightarrow 0+} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u(x, t, \kappa) \text{ one time invariant.}$$

N-waves represent **metastable states** for the Burgers solutions.

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Outside of gas dynamics:

- Miura, R. M. Korteweg-de Vries equation and generalizations. I. A remarkable explicit nonlinear transformation. *J. Mathematical Phys.* 9 (1968), 1202-1204.



$$V_t - 6VV_x + V_{xxx} = 0, \text{ KdV} \Rightarrow \phi_t - 6\phi^2\phi_x + \phi_{xxx} = 0, \text{ Modified} \\ V = \phi^2 \pm \phi_x, \text{ Miura transformation.}$$

- "It is rare and surprising to find a transformation between two simple nonlinear partial differential equations of independent interest. One is reminded of the Hopf-Cole transformation of quadratically nonlinear Burgers equation into the heat conduction (diffusion) equation. A number of investigators (including us) have attempted unsuccessfully to find a similar simple linearizing transformation for the KdV equation, but a complicated one will be given in VI."

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Outside of gas dynamics:

- Kardar, M.; Parisi, G.; Zhang, Y.-C. Dynamic Scaling of Growing Interfaces *Phys. Rev. Lett.* Vol. 56, Iss. 9 -3 March (1986), 889-892.
- Evolution of the profile of a **growing interface**: the Hamilton-Jacobi equation plus a noise η :

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \nu \nabla^2 h + \frac{\lambda}{2} (\nabla h)^2 + \eta(\mathbf{x}, t).$$

- **Hopf-Cole transform** \Rightarrow linear equation with a source:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial W}{\partial t} = \nu \nabla^2 W + \frac{\lambda}{2\nu} \eta(\mathbf{x}, t) W, \\ W(\mathbf{x}, t) = e^{\frac{\lambda}{2\nu} h(\mathbf{x}, t)}. \end{cases}$$

- **New scaling**, distinct from deterministic dissipation equations comes up due to the noise.
- "We thus have an intriguing connection between evolutions of a hydrodynamic and a growth pattern!"

Hopf-Cole Transformation

- Scalar **convex** hyperbolic conservation law, $f''(u) \neq 0$,

$$u_t + f(u)_x = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_t + \lambda \lambda_x = 0, \text{ inviscid Burgers}, \lambda = f'(u).$$

- System of hyperbolic conservation laws, e.g. **Euler equations in gas dynamics**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u})_x &= 0, \quad \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \mathbf{f}'(\mathbf{u}) \mathbf{r}_j(\mathbf{u}) = \lambda_j(\mathbf{u}) \mathbf{r}_j(\mathbf{u}), \\ \mathbf{l}_j(\mathbf{u}) \mathbf{f}'(\mathbf{u}) &= \lambda_j(\mathbf{u}) \mathbf{l}_j(\mathbf{u}), \quad \mathbf{l}_j(\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{r}_k(\mathbf{u}) = \delta_{jk}, \quad j, k = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

- "Convexity": $\nabla_{\mathbf{u}} \lambda_j(\mathbf{u}) \cdot \mathbf{r}_j(\mathbf{u}) \neq 0$ "**genuine nonlinear**" field, e.g. **acoustic waves**.
- **j -simple waves**: $\mathbf{u}(x, t)$ moves along integral curve of $\mathbf{r}_j(\mathbf{u})$.

$$\lambda_t + \lambda \lambda_x = 0, \quad \lambda(x, t) = \lambda_j(\mathbf{u}(x, t)) \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u})_x = 0.$$

Hopf-Cole Transformation

- Viscous conservation laws, e.g. Compressible Navier-Stokes equations

$$\mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u})_x = (\mathbb{B}(\mathbf{u}, \nu) \mathbf{u}_x)_x.$$

- Dissipation parameters, e.g. $\nu = (\mu, \kappa)$ viscosity and heat conductivity.
- The Burgers equation is used for construction of approximate j -simple waves for each genuinely nonlinear field

$$\lambda_t + \lambda \lambda_x = \kappa \lambda_{xx}, \quad \lambda(x, t) = \lambda_j(\mathbf{u}(x, t)).$$

- Burgers dissipation parameter κ is the diagonal element of the viscosity matrix \mathbb{B} in the characteristic coordinates of the hyperbolic part:

$$\kappa = l_j(\mathbf{u}) \mathbb{B}(\mathbf{u}, \nu) r_j(\mathbf{u}).$$

Hopf-Cole Transformation

- $u_t + f(u)_x = 0$ hyperbolic conservation laws

Solutions of finite mass tends to N -waves at the rate of $t^{-1/4}$ in $L_1(x)$ as consequence of pointwise estimate.

Liu, T.-P. Pointwise convergence to N -waves for solutions of hyperbolic conservation laws. *Bull. Inst. Math. Acad. Sinica* 15, (1987), no. 1, 1-17.

- $u_t + f(u)_x = (\mathbb{B}(u, \nu)u_x)_x$, viscous conservation laws.

Solutions of finite mass tends to Burgers and heat kernels also at the rate of $t^{-1/4}$ in $L_1(x)$ and as consequence of pointwise estimate..

Liu, T.-P.; Zeng, Y. Large time behavior of solutions for general quasilinear hyperbolic-parabolic systems of conservation laws. *Mem. Amer. Math. Soc.* 125 (1997), no. 599, viii+120 pp.

- Open problem: Metastability.

Hopf-Cole Transformation

- Hopf-Cole transformation is used for finding exact expression of Burgers [Nonlinear waves](#).
- The Burgers nonlinear waves is used for construction of approximate nonlinear waves for [system](#) of conservation laws.
- The [linearized Hopf-Cole](#) transformation is used for the explicit construction of [Green's function](#) for Burgers equation linearized around a nonlinear wave.
- The construction is Green's function for systems is based on the Burgers Green's function.
- This is essential for the study of [shock, initial layers](#) for system of conservation laws.

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Burgers shock formation, $\lambda_0 > 0$, using Hopf-Cole:

$$\begin{cases} (u_S)_t + u_S(u_S)_x = \kappa(b_S)_{xx}, \\ u_S(x, 0) = \begin{cases} \lambda_0, & \text{for } x < 0, \\ -\lambda_0, & \text{for } x > 0, \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

$$u_S(x, t) = -\lambda_0 \frac{\operatorname{Erfc}\left(\frac{-x-\lambda_0 t}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}\right) - e^{-\frac{\lambda_0 x}{\kappa}} \operatorname{Erfc}\left(\frac{x-\lambda_0 t}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}\right)}{\operatorname{Erfc}\left(\frac{-x-\lambda_0 t}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}\right) + e^{-\frac{\lambda_0 x}{\kappa}} \operatorname{Erfc}\left(\frac{x-\lambda_0 t}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}\right)}.$$

The thickness T_0 of the initial layer to form Burgers shock profile b_S , the time when the error function Erfc approaches $\sqrt{\pi}$,

$$b_S(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u_S(x, t) = -\lambda_0 \tanh\left(\frac{\lambda_0 x}{2\kappa}\right).$$

$$\frac{\lambda_0 T_0}{\sqrt{4\kappa T_0}} = O(1), \text{ or } T_0 = O(1) \frac{\kappa}{(\lambda_0)^2}.$$

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Burgers rarefaction wave

$$\begin{cases} (h_R)_t + \left(\frac{(h_R)^2}{2}\right)_x = 0, \\ h_R(x, 0) = \begin{cases} -\lambda_0, & \text{for } x < 0, \\ \lambda_0, & \text{for } x > 0; \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

$$b_R(x, t) = \lambda_0 \frac{e^{\frac{\lambda_0 x}{2\kappa}} \operatorname{Erfc}\left(\frac{-x + \lambda_0 t}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}\right) - e^{-\frac{\lambda_0 x}{2\kappa}} \operatorname{Erfc}\left(\frac{x + \lambda_0 t}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}\right)}{e^{\frac{\lambda_0 x}{2\kappa}} \operatorname{Erfc}\left(\frac{-x + \lambda_0 t}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}\right) + e^{-\frac{\lambda_0 x}{2\kappa}} \operatorname{Erfc}\left(\frac{x + \lambda_0 t}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}\right)}.$$

Within the hyperbolic rarefaction wave region,
 $x \in (-\lambda_0 t + M\sqrt{4\kappa t}, \lambda_0 t - M\sqrt{4\kappa t})$, and after initial layer time,
the difference of the Burgers rarefaction wave b_R and the
inviscid rarefaction wave x/t :

$$b_R(x, t) - \frac{x}{t} = O(1) \left[\frac{1}{|x - \lambda_0 t|} + \frac{1}{|x + \lambda_0 t|} \right], \quad t > O(1) \frac{\kappa}{(\lambda_0)^2}.$$

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Linear Hopf-Cole transformation

Burgers equation linearized around a given solution $\bar{u}(x, t)$:

$$\bar{u}_t + \left(\frac{\bar{u}^2}{2}\right)_x = \kappa \bar{u}_{xx}$$

$$\bar{U}_x = \bar{u}, \quad \bar{U}(x, t) = -2\kappa \log[\bar{\phi}(x, t)],$$

$$v_t + (\bar{u}v)_x = \kappa v_{xx}, \quad \text{Burgers equation linearized around } \bar{u}(x, t).$$

Linearize the Hopf-Cole relation $V + \bar{U} = -2\kappa \log[\bar{\phi} + \zeta]$:

$$V = -2\kappa \frac{\zeta}{\bar{\phi}}, \quad \text{linearized Hopf-Cole relation, } \Rightarrow$$

$\zeta_t = \kappa \zeta_{xx}$ and the solution representation to the solution of the linearized Burgers equation:

$$v(x, t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\kappa t}} e^{-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4\kappa t}} \bar{\phi}(y, 0) V(y, 0) \right] dy}{\bar{\phi}(x, t)}.$$

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Green's function for shock profile

Green's function $G_S(x, t; x_0, t - t_0)$ for the shock profile $b_S(x)$ using linearized Hopf-Cole:

$$(G_S)_t + b_S(G_S)_x = \kappa(G_S)_{xx}, \quad G_S(x, 0) = \delta(x - x_0);$$

$$G_S(x, t; x_0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\kappa t}} e^{-\frac{(x-x_0)^2}{4\kappa t}} \frac{e^{\frac{\lambda_0 x_0}{2\kappa}} + e^{-\frac{\lambda_0 x_0}{2\kappa}}}{e^{-\frac{\lambda_0 x}{2\kappa}} + e^{\frac{\lambda_0 x}{2\kappa}}} e^{\frac{(\lambda_0)^2 t}{4\kappa}}.$$

The Green's function as weighted combination of the heat kernel with speeds $\pm\lambda_0$:

$$G_S(x, t; x_0) = \frac{1 + e^{-\frac{\lambda_0 |x_0|}{\kappa}}}{1 + e^{-\frac{\lambda_0 |x|}{\kappa}}} \begin{cases} H(x + \lambda_0 t, t), & \text{for } x > 0, x_0 > 0; \\ e^{-\frac{\lambda_0 |x|}{\kappa}} H(x + \lambda_0 t, t), & \text{for } x < 0, x_0 > 0; \\ H(x - \lambda_0 t, t), & \text{for } x < 0, x_0 < 0; \\ e^{-\frac{\lambda_0 |x|}{\kappa}} H(x - \lambda_0 t, t), & \text{for } x > 0, x_0 < 0. \end{cases}$$

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Green's function for rarefaction waves:

$$G_R(x, t; x_0, t_0) = e^{-\frac{[x-x_0-(\lambda_0(t-t_0))]^2}{4\kappa(t-t_0)}} \frac{\operatorname{Erfc}(\frac{-x_0+\lambda_0 t_0}{\sqrt{4\kappa t_0}}) + \operatorname{Erfc}(\frac{x_0+\lambda_0 t_0}{\sqrt{4\kappa t_0}})}{\operatorname{Erfc}(\frac{-x+\lambda_0 t}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}}) + \operatorname{Erfc}(\frac{x+\lambda_0 t}{\sqrt{4\kappa t}})}.$$

The propagation of waves is around the zero line of the exponential, along **inviscid characteristics** $x = x_0 + \lambda_0(t - t_0)$. The essential support of the information is in the region given by

$$\frac{t(x_0 - t_0 x/t)^2}{4\kappa t_0(t - t_0)} = O(1), \text{ or } |x - \frac{t}{t_0}x_0| = O(1)\sqrt{\kappa(t - t_0)\frac{t}{t_0}},$$

varying from **sub-linear, dissipative scale** $\sqrt{t - t_0}$ for $t - t_0$ small, to **linear, hyperbolic scale** t for $t - t_0$ large.

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Open problem: Riemann problem

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u})_x &= (\mathbb{B}(\mathbf{u}, \nu) \mathbf{u}_x)_x, \\ \mathbf{u}(x, 0) &= \begin{cases} \mathbf{u}_l, & x < 0, \\ \mathbf{u}_r, & x > 0. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$t \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \nu \rightarrow 0$, zero dissipation limit,

$$\mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u})_x = (\mathbb{B}(\mathbf{u}, \nu) \mathbf{u}_x)_x \Rightarrow \mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u})_x = 0.$$

- Hoff, D.; Liu, T.-P. The inviscid limit for the Navier-Stokes equations of compressible, isentropic flow with shock data. *Indiana Univ. Math. J.* 38 (1989), no. 4, 861-915. [single shock, zero mass, using Hopf-Cole for initial layer](#)
- Bianchini, S.; Bressan, A. Vanishing viscosity solutions of nonlinear hyperbolic systems. *Ann. of Math.* (2) 161 (2005), no. 1, 223-342. [general initial values, artificial viscosity, generalized Glimm.](#)

Hopf-Cole Transformation

Boltzmann equation

$$\partial_t f(\mathbf{x}, t, \xi) + \xi \cdot \partial_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x}, t, \xi) = \frac{1}{k} Q(f, f)(\mathbf{x}, t, \xi)$$

Open problem: Riemann problem

$$f(\mathbf{x}, t, \xi) = \begin{cases} M_l(\xi), & x < 0, \\ M_r(\xi), & x > 0. \end{cases}$$

$t \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow k \rightarrow 0$, zero mean free path,

Boltzmann solutions \Rightarrow Euler solutions,

- Yu, S.-H. Initial and shock layers for Boltzmann equation. *Arch. Ration. Mech. Anal.* 211 (2014), no. 1, 1-60. single shock, nonzero mass, use Boltzmann Green's function, Hopf-Cole, etc.