

# Bifurcations and Traveling Wave Solutions of a Generalized b-Family of Novikov Equation

Cheng Wei, Heng Su\*, Xiaojing Zhao

School of Mathematics and Computing Science, Guilin University of Electronic Technology, Guilin, China

Email: \*suheng@guet.edu.cn, 2068307808@qq.com, 1348424643@qq.com

**How to cite this paper:** Wei, C., Su, H. and Zhao, X.J. (2025) Bifurcations and Traveling Wave Solutions of a Generalized b-Family of Novikov Equation. *Advances in Pure Mathematics*, 15, 711-717.

<https://doi.org/10.4236/apm.2025.1511037>

**Received:** March 14, 2025

**Accepted:** October 31, 2025

**Published:** November 3, 2025

Copyright © 2025 by author(s) and Scientific Research Publishing Inc. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0).

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



Open Access

## Abstract

The Novikov equation is an important shallow water wave model with broad applications in fields, such as fluid mechanics and physics. In this paper, a generalized b-family of Novikov equation is studied by the bifurcation theory method of dynamical system. Firstly, this model is transformed into a planar Hamiltonian system through the traveling wave transformation. Then, the phase portraits of the planar dynamical system under different parameters are then generated using Maple. And two new types of implicit traveling wave solutions are obtained.

## Keywords

A Generalized b-Family of Novikov Equation, Traveling Wave Solution, Bifurcation Theory

## 1. Introduction

In this paper, we study the following generalized b-family of Novikov equation

$$u_t - u_{xxt} + (b+1)u^{2n}u_x = buu_xu_{xx} + u^2u_{xxx}, \quad (1)$$

where  $b \in R$ ,  $n \in N^+$ . When  $n=1$ ,  $b=3$ , the Equation (1) becomes the classical Novikov equation [1]. The Equation (1) has been extensively investigated, which has led to significant findings in this field (see, e.g., [2]-[6]). When  $n=1$ ,  $b=-2m$ ,  $m \in Z^+$ , Meng and He [7] studied the equation by the bifurcation theory. Moreover, when  $n=1$  and arbitrary real number  $b$ , Li and Wen [8] obtained the bifurcations and many exact traveling wave solutions for the modified Novikov equation.

The investigation of exact solutions of nonlinear evolution equations plays an important role in nonlinear mathematical physics. Some new and important methods for obtaining exact solutions of nonlinear evolution equations have been

presented. Especially, Li introduced a new powerful method based on the bifurcation theory method of dynamical systems (see, e.g., [9]). This method has been used to study of travelling wave solutions of many classes of wave equations (see, e.g. [10]-[14]). The main goal of this paper is to show that Equation (1) has some traveling wave solutions by using the bifurcation theory of planar dynamical systems in [9].

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we discuss bifurcations of phase portraits. In Section 3, the parametric expressions of traveling wave solutions are obtained. A conclusion is given in Section 4.

## 2. Bifurcations of Phase Portraits

Firstly, make the following traveling wave transformation

$$u(x, t) = \varphi(\xi) = \varphi(ax - ct), \quad a \neq 0, \quad c > 0. \quad (2)$$

Substitute (2) into (1), then (1) is transformed into the following ODE:

$$-c\varphi' + a^2c\varphi''' + a(b+1)\varphi^{2n}\varphi' = a^3b\varphi\varphi'\varphi'' + a^3\varphi^2\varphi'''. \quad (3)$$

where “'” =  $\frac{d}{d\xi}$ . Integrating the above Equation (3) yields:

$$(a^3\varphi^2 - a^2c)\varphi'' = -c\varphi + \frac{a(b+1)}{2n+1}\varphi^{2n+1} - \frac{1}{2}a^3(b-2)(\varphi(\varphi')^2 - \int(\varphi')^2 d\varphi). \quad (4)$$

Setting  $\frac{d\varphi}{d\xi} = g$ , then  $\frac{dy^2}{d\varphi} = 2\varphi''$ . Thus, the equivalent form of Equation (4)

below is achievable:

$$\frac{1}{2}(a^3\varphi^2 - a^2c)\frac{dy^2}{d\varphi} = -c\varphi + \frac{a(b+1)}{2n+1}\varphi^{2n+1} - \frac{1}{2}a^3(b-2)(\varphi y^2 - \int y^2 d\varphi). \quad (5)$$

Taking the derivative of the two sides of the above Equation (5) yields:

$$\frac{1}{2}(a^3\varphi^2 - a^2c)\frac{d^2y^2}{d\varphi^2} + \frac{1}{2}a^3b\varphi\frac{dy^2}{d\varphi} = -c + a(b+1)\varphi^{2n}. \quad (6)$$

Let  $g = \frac{dy^2}{d\varphi}$ , then the equation is transformed into a first-order ordinary differential equation:

$$\frac{dg}{d\varphi} = -\frac{b\varphi}{\varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a}}g + \frac{-2c + 2a(b+1)\varphi^{2n}}{a^3\left(\varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a}\right)}. \quad (7)$$

Using the method of constant variation and  $b = 2$ , it infers

$$g = \left(-\frac{2c}{a^3}\varphi + \frac{6}{a^2(2n+1)}\varphi^{2n+1}\right)\left(\varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a}\right)^{-1}. \quad (8)$$

According to (8) and  $\frac{dy^2}{d\varphi} = g$ , it has the first integral of (1):

$$\begin{aligned}
H(\varphi, y) &= y^2 + \frac{c}{a} \ln \left| \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right| \\
&\quad - \frac{3}{(2n+1)a^2} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} C_n^k \left( \frac{c}{a} \right)^{n-k} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right)^k + \left( \frac{c}{a} \right)^n \ln \left| \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right| \right] \quad (9) \\
&= h.
\end{aligned}$$

The following singular systems can be obtained from (9):

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\varphi}{d\xi} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial y} = 2y, \\ \frac{dy}{d\xi} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial \varphi} = \left( \frac{6}{(2n+1)a^2} \varphi^{2n+1} - \frac{2c}{a} \varphi \right) \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right)^{-1}. \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Let  $M(\varphi_i, y_i)$  be the coefficient matrix of the linearized system of (10). At this point, the determinant of  $M(\varphi_i, y_i)$  has the form

$$J(\varphi_i, y_i) = -4 \frac{\left( \frac{3}{a^2} \varphi_i^{2n} - \frac{c}{a} \right) \left( \varphi_i^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right) - 2\varphi_i \left( \frac{3}{(2n+1)a^2} \varphi_i^{2n+1} - \frac{c}{a} \varphi_i \right)}{\left( \varphi_i^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right)^2}. \quad (11)$$

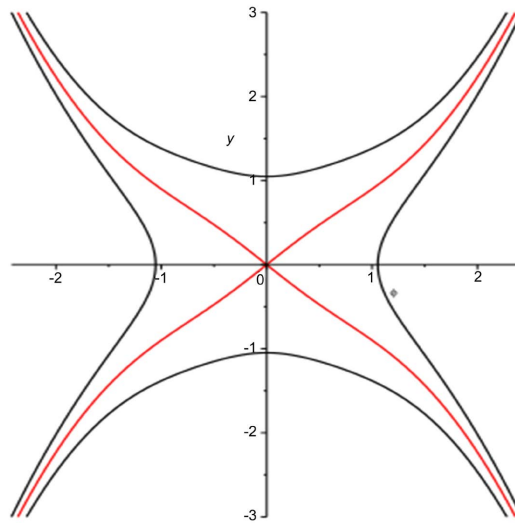
By the theory of planar dynamical systems (see, e.g., [9] [15]), we know that for an equilibrium point of a planar integrable system, if  $J < 0$ , then the equilibrium point is a saddle point; if  $J > 0$  and  $\text{Trace}(M(\varphi_i, y_i)) = 0$ , then it is a center point; if  $J > 0$  and  $(\text{Trace}(M(\varphi_i, y_i)))^2 - 4J(\varphi_i, y_i) > 0$ , then it is a node point; if  $J = 0$  and the index of the equilibrium point is 0, then it is a cusp, otherwise, it is a higher order equilibrium point. Based on the theoretical analysis above, we have obtained the following proposition.

**Proposition 1.** 1) When  $n = 2, a < 0, c > 0$ , the origin  $E_0(0, 0)$  is the only equilibrium point of the system (10) which is a saddle point. The phase portraits of system (10) with  $n = 2, a = -1, c = 1$  is shown in **Figure 1(a)** by mathematical software Maple 18.

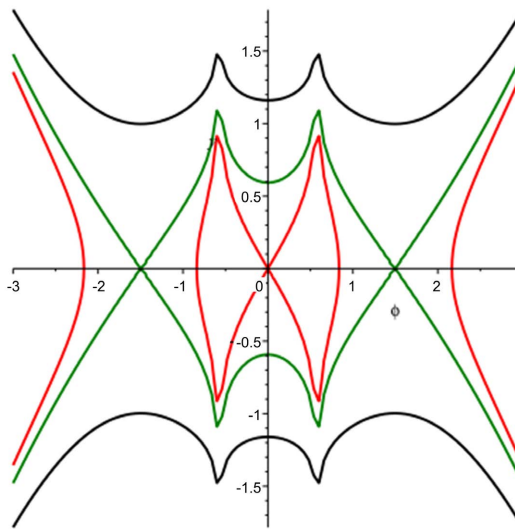
2) When  $n = 2, a > 0, c > 0$ , the system (10) has three equilibrium points  $E_0(0, 0)$ ,  $E_1\left(-\sqrt[4]{\frac{5}{3}ac}, 0\right)$ ,  $E_2\left(\sqrt[4]{\frac{5}{3}ac}, 0\right)$ . The phase portraits of system (10) with  $n = 2, a = 3, c = 1$  is shown in **Figure 1(b)** by mathematical software Maple 18.

**Proposition 2.** 1) When  $n = 3, a < 0, c > 0$ , the origin  $E_0(0, 0)$  is the only equilibrium point of the system (10) which is a saddle point. The phase portraits of system (10) with  $n = 3, a = -1, c = 1$  is shown in **Figure 1(c)** by mathematical software Maple 18.

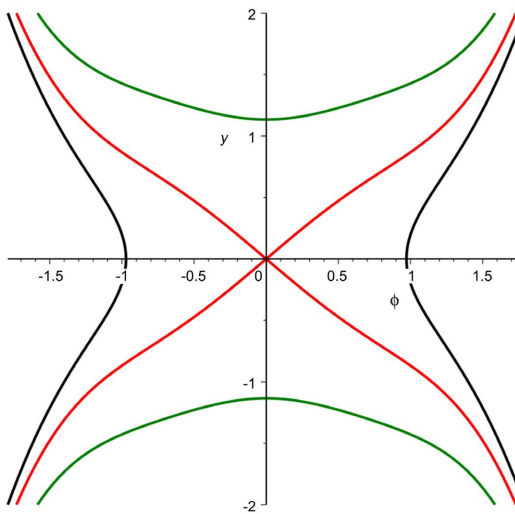
2) When  $n = 3, a > 0, c > 0$ , the system (10) has three equilibrium points  $E_0(0, 0)$ ,  $E_3\left(-\sqrt[6]{\frac{7}{3}ac}, 0\right)$ ,  $E_4\left(\sqrt[6]{\frac{7}{3}ac}, 0\right)$ . The phase portraits of system (10) with  $n = 3, a = 3, c = 1$  is shown in **Figure 1(d)** by mathematical software Maple 18.



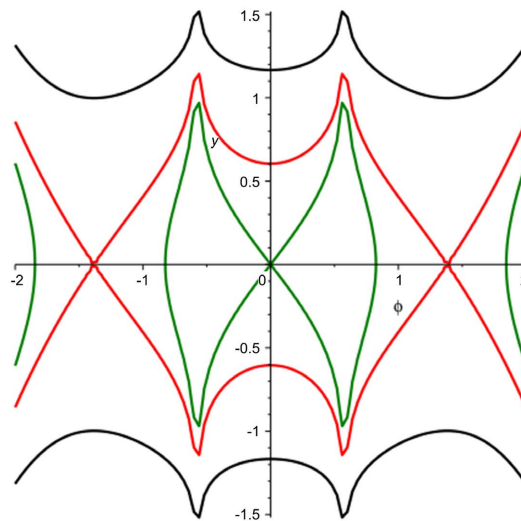
(a)  $n = 2, a = -1, c = 1$



(b)  $n = 2, a = 3, c = 1$



(c)  $n = 3, a = -1, c = 1$



(d)  $n = 3, a = 3, c = 1$

**Figure 1.** The phase portraits of system (10) under different parameter conditions.

### 3. Parametric Expressions of Traveling Wave Solutions of Equation (1)

In this section, by using the bifurcations of phase portraits in **Figure 1** and the direct integration method, two new types of implicit traveling wave solutions of the Equation (1) are obtained.

**Case1.** When  $n = 2$ , we deduce from (9) that

$$y^2 = h - \frac{c}{a} \ln \left| \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right| + \frac{3}{5a^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right)^2 + \frac{2c}{a} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right) + \frac{c^2}{a^2} \ln \left| \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right| \right]. \quad (12)$$

In view of (12) and the first Equation of (10), it obtains

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\phi} \frac{d\phi}{\sqrt{h - \frac{c}{a} \ln \left| \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right| + \frac{3}{5a^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right)^2 + \frac{2c}{a} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right) + \frac{c^2}{a^2} \ln \left| \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right| \right]}} = 2|\xi|.$$

**Case2.** When  $n = 3$ , from (9) we find

$$y^2 = h - \frac{c}{a} \ln \left| \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right| + \frac{3}{7a^2} \left[ \frac{1}{3} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right)^3 + \frac{3c}{2a} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right)^2 + \frac{3c^2}{a^2} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right) + \frac{c^3}{a^3} \ln \left| \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right| \right].$$

Then substituting it into the first Equation of (10), we can obtain the following parametric expressions of traveling wave solutions of (1)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\phi} \frac{d\phi}{\sqrt{h + \left( \frac{3c^3}{7a^5} - \frac{c}{a} \right) \ln \left| \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right| + \frac{3}{7a^2} \left[ \frac{1}{3} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right)^3 + \frac{3c}{2a} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right)^2 + \frac{3c^2}{a^2} \left( \varphi^2 - \frac{c}{a} \right) \right]}} = 2|\xi|.$$

### 4. Conclusion

In this paper, a generalized b-family of Novikov equation is studied by the bifur-

cation theory method of dynamical systems (see, e.g., [9]). By applying the traveling wave transformation combined with sophisticated computations, the first integral and its associated planar dynamical system are obtained. When  $n = 2$  and  $n = 3$ , the phase portraits of system (10) are obtained by mathematical software Maple 18. Then by using **Figure 1** and the direct integration method, two new types of implicit traveling wave solutions of the Equation (1) are obtained which enriched the results of this equation.

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the district-level college students' innovation and entrepreneurship training program (Grant No. S202310595231).

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

## References

- [1] Novikov, V. (2009) Generalizations of the Camassa-Holm Equation. *Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and Theoretical*, **42**, Article ID: 342002. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1751-8113/42/34/342002>
- [2] Zhao, L. and Zhou, S. (2010) Symbolic Analysis and Exact Travelling Wave Solutions to a New Modified Novikov Equation. *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, **217**, 590-598. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amc.2010.05.093>
- [3] Wen, Z. and Shi, L. (2018) Dynamics of Bounded Traveling Wave Solutions for the Modified Novikov Equation. *Dynamic Systems and Applications*, **27**, 581-591.
- [4] Wei, M. (2018) Bifurcations of Traveling Wave Solutions for a Modified Novikov's Cubic Equation. *Qualitative Theory of Dynamical Systems*, **18**, 667-686. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12346-018-0306-z>
- [5] Mi, Y. and Mu, C. (2013) On the Cauchy Problem for the Modified Novikov Equation with Peakon Solutions. *Journal of Differential Equations*, **254**, 961-982. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jde.2012.09.016>
- [6] Lai, S. and Wu, M. (2013) The Local Strong and Weak Solutions to a Generalized Novikov Equation. *Boundary Value Problems*, **2013**, Article No. 134. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1687-2770-2013-134>
- [7] Meng, Q. and He, B. (2015) Periodic Wave Solutions and Their Limit Forms of the Modified Novikov Equation. *Mathematical Problems in Engineering*, **2015**, Article ID: 627269. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2015/627269>
- [8] Li, H. and Wen, Z. (2022) Bifurcation Analysis and Dynamics of Abundant Traveling Waves of the Modified Novikov Equation. *Mathematical Methods in the Applied Sciences*, **46**, 4563-4572. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mma.8780>
- [9] Li, J. (2019) Bifurcations and Exact Solutions in Invariant Manifolds for Nonlinear Wave Solutions. Science Press.
- [10] Zhong, Y., Lu, R. and Su, H. (2023) Exact Traveling Wave Solutions of the Generalized Fractional Differential mBBM Equation. *Advances in Pure Mathematics*, **13**, 167-173. <https://doi.org/10.4236/apm.2023.133009>
- [11] Zhang, K., Zhang, Z. and Yuwen, T. (2022) Phase Portraits and Traveling Wave Solutions of a Fractional Generalized Reaction Duffing Equation. *Advances in Pure Mathematics*

- 
- Mathematics*, **12**, 465-477. <https://doi.org/10.4236/apm.2022.127035>
- [12] Shi, Z., Nie, L. and Li, J. (2025) Exact Solutions of Two High Order Derivative Non-linear Schrödinger Equations: Dynamical System Method. *Journal of Applied Analysis & Computation*, **15**, 1820-1829. <https://doi.org/10.11948/20240451>
- [13] Wu, R., Chen, G. and Li, J. (2024) Bifurcations and Exact Solutions of Optical Soliton Models in Fifth-Order Weakly Nonlocal Nonlinear Media. *International Journal of Bifurcation and Chaos*, **34**, Article ID: 2450064. <https://doi.org/10.1142/s0218127424500640>
- [14] Li, J. and Dai, Y. (2024) Bifurcations and Exact Traveling Wave Solutions for the Model of Slightly Dispersive Quasi-Incompressible Hyperelastic Materials. *Qualitative Theory of Dynamical Systems*, **24**, Article No. 10. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12346-024-01167-w>
- [15] Guckenheimer, J. and Holmes, P. (1983) *Nonlinear Oscillations, Dynamical Systems and Bifurcations of Vector Fields*. Springer-Verlag.