



Global entropy solutions for systems modelling polymer flooding in enhanced oil recovery

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we obtain the existence of global entropy solutions for the Cauchy problem of the nonstrictly hyperbolic systems modelling polymer flooding in enhanced oil recovery, under a more flexible condition on the function $\beta(T)$, which models the adsorption of the polymer on rock. This work improves the previous results in the paper Lu (2013), where $\beta(T)$ is limited to $\text{meas}\{T : \beta''(T) = 0\} = 0$ or $\beta(T) = bT$ for a nonnegative constant b .

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1. Introduction

In this short paper, we are concerned with the existence of entropy solutions of the Cauchy problem for the nonstrictly hyperbolic systems modelling polymer flooding in enhanced oil recovery

$$\begin{cases} S_t + f(S, T)_x = 0, \\ (ST + \beta(T))_t + (Tf(S, T) + \alpha(T))_x = 0, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

with bounded measurable smooth initial data

$$(S(x, 0), T(x, 0)) = (S_0(x), T_0(x)), \quad 0 \leq S_0(x) \leq \bar{S}, \quad \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} S_0(x) = \bar{S}, \quad (1.2)$$

where \bar{S} is a positive constant.

System (1.1) first appeared in [1], and the existence of a weak solution of the Cauchy problem (1.1)–(1.2) was well studied in [2–16] when $\beta(T) = 0$ and $\alpha(T) = 0$. When $\alpha(T) = 0$ and $\beta(T) \neq 0$, the Riemann problem of (1.1) was resolved in [17].

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The existence of a weak solution of the Cauchy problem (1.1)–(1.2) for general functions $\beta(T)$ and $\alpha(T)$ was proved in [18] when the following conditions (A) and (B), or (A) and (C) on $f(S, T), \alpha(T)$ and $\beta(T)$ are satisfied (A) meas $\{S : f_{SS}(S, T) = 0\} = 0$ for any fixed T ; (B) $\beta'(T) \geq 0$, meas $\{T : \beta''(T) = 0\} = 0$ or $\beta(T) = bT, b > 0$ or (C) $\beta(T) = 0$ and $\alpha(T) = 0$.

In this paper, instead of the condition (B) or (C), we obtain the existence results under more flexible conditions on $\alpha(T)$ and $\beta(T)$:

(D) $\alpha(T) \in C^1, \beta(T) \in C^2, \beta'(T) \geq 0, |T\alpha'(T)| \leq M(\delta + \beta'(T))$ and $|\beta''(T)| \leq M, |T\beta''(T)| \leq M(\delta + \beta'(T))$ for a positive constant M and any fixed $\delta > 0$, where M could depend on T in any compact set of $(-\infty, \infty)$.

Remark 1. It is easy to check that the following functions $\alpha(T), \beta(T)$ satisfy the condition (D):

$$\alpha(T) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } T \leq 0, \\ \frac{1}{\alpha_0} T^{\alpha_0}, & \text{for } 0 \leq T \leq 1, \\ g(T), & \text{for } T > 1 \end{cases} \tag{1.3}$$

and

$$\beta(T) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } T \leq 0, \\ \frac{1}{\beta_0} T^{\beta_0}, & \text{for } 0 \leq T \leq 1, \\ T - 1 + \frac{1}{\beta_0}, & \text{for } T > 1, \end{cases} \tag{1.4}$$

where $g(T)$ is an arbitrary C^1 smooth function satisfying $g(1) = \frac{1}{\alpha_0}, g'(1) = 1$ and α_0, β_0 are constants satisfying $\alpha_0 \geq \beta_0 - 1, \beta_0 \geq 2$.

Mainly, we have the following existence results in this paper.

Theorem 1.1. Suppose $(S_0(x), T_0(x))$ are bounded, $0 \leq S_0(x) \leq \bar{S}$ and $|T_0(x)| \leq M; \ln \bar{S} - \ln S_0(x) \in L^1(R)$ and $T_0(x)$ is of bounded total variation; $\alpha(T), \beta(T)$ are suitable smooth functions satisfying (D); $f(S, T)$ satisfies (A) and $f(\bar{S}, T) = 0, |\frac{f(S, T)}{S}| \leq M, |\frac{f_T(S, T)}{S}| \leq M$. Then the Cauchy problem (1.1) and (1.2) has a weak entropy solution.

2. The proof of Theorem 1.1

To prove Theorem 1.1, we first study the smooth solutions for the following parabolic system

$$\begin{cases} S_t + (\frac{S-\delta}{S} f(S, T))_x = \varepsilon S_{xx}, \\ (ST + \beta(T))_t + (\frac{S-\delta}{S} T f(S, T) + \alpha(T))_x = \varepsilon (ST + \beta(T))_{xx}, \end{cases} \tag{2.1}$$

with initial data

$$(S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, 0), T^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, 0)) = (\delta + \frac{\bar{S} - \delta}{\bar{S}} S_0(x), T_0(x)), \tag{2.2}$$

where ε, δ are positive, small perturbation constants.

Then

$$\begin{cases} \delta \leq S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, 0) \leq \bar{S}, \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, 0) = \bar{S} \\ 0 \leq \ln \bar{S} - \ln S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, 0) \leq \ln \bar{S} - \ln S_0(x) \in L^1(R). \end{cases} \tag{2.3}$$

Lemma 2.1. If the conditions in Theorem 1.1 are satisfied, then for fixed $\varepsilon > 0, \delta > 0$, the global smooth solution $(S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t), T^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t))$, of the Cauchy problem (2.1) and (2.2) exists, and satisfies

$$\delta \leq S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t) \leq \bar{S}, |T^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t)| \leq M, \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t) = \bar{S}, \text{ for fixed } t, \tag{2.4}$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |T_x^{\varepsilon, \delta}|(x, t) dx \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |T_x^{\varepsilon, \delta}|(x, 0) dx \leq M, \tag{2.5}$$

and

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \ln \bar{S} - \ln S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t) dx + \varepsilon \int_0^t \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(S^{\varepsilon, \delta})^2} (S_x^{\varepsilon, \delta})^2 dx dt \leq |\ln \bar{S} - \ln S_0(x)|_{L^1(R)} + Mt. \tag{2.6}$$

Proof of Lemma 2.1. Since $\delta \leq S_0^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x) \leq \bar{S}$ and $f(\bar{S}, T) = 0$, by applying the maximum principle to the first equation in (2.1), we have $\delta \leq S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t) \leq \bar{S}$.

Substituting the first equation in (2.1) into the second, we may rewrite the second equation in (2.1) as

$$T_t + \frac{(S-\delta)f + \alpha'(T)}{S + \beta'(T)} T_x = \varepsilon T_{xx} + \varepsilon \frac{2S_x + \beta''(T)T_x}{S + \beta'(T)} T_x. \tag{2.7}$$

Then we have the estimates $|T^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t)| \leq M$ by applying the maximum principle to (2.7).

Thus the existence of the viscosity solution for the Cauchy problem (2.1)–(2.2) can be obtained by the standard theory of semilinear parabolic systems (cf. [18]).

By using (2.7) and a technique from [19] or [18], we may obtain the proof of (2.5). To prove (2.6), multiplying the first equation in (2.1) by $-\frac{1}{\bar{S}}$, we have

$$(\ln \bar{S} - \ln S)_t - \frac{1}{\bar{S}} \left(\frac{S-\delta}{S} f(S, T) \right)_x = (\ln \bar{S} - \ln S)_{xx} - \varepsilon \frac{1}{\bar{S}^2} S_x^2, \tag{2.8}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\bar{S}} \left(\frac{S-\delta}{S} f(S, T) \right)_x &= \frac{1}{\bar{S}} \left(\frac{S-\delta}{S} f(S, T) \right)_S S_x + \frac{1}{\bar{S}} \left(\frac{S-\delta}{S} f(S, T) \right)_T T_x \\ &= \left(\int_{\bar{S}}^S \frac{1}{\tau} \left(\frac{\tau-\delta}{\tau} f(\tau, T) \right)_\tau d\tau \right)_x - \int_{\bar{S}}^S \frac{1}{\tau} \left(\frac{\tau-\delta}{\tau} f(\tau, T) \right)_T d\tau T_x + \frac{1}{\bar{S}} \frac{(S-\delta)}{S} f(S, T)_T T_x \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

and

$$\left| \int_{\bar{S}}^S \frac{1}{\tau} \left(\frac{\tau-\delta}{\tau} f(\tau, T) \right)_T d\tau + \frac{1}{\bar{S}} \frac{(S-\delta)}{S} f(S, T)_T \right| \leq M. \tag{2.10}$$

So, integrating (2.8) in $R \times [0, t]$, we obtain the proof of (2.6) due to (2.5).

Lemma 2.2. *If the condition (D) is satisfied, then there exists a subsequence (still labelled $T^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t)$) such that*

$$T^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t) \rightarrow T(x, t) \tag{2.11}$$

a.e. on any bounded and open set $\Omega \subset R \times R^+$. Furthermore, if the condition (A) is satisfied, then there exists a subsequence (still labelled $S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t)$) such that

$$S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t) \rightarrow S(x, t) \tag{2.12}$$

a.e. on any bounded and open set $\Omega \subset R \times R^+$.

Proof of Lemma 2.2. Since $|\frac{T\beta''(T)}{\delta+\beta'(T)}| \leq M$ for any fixed $\delta > 0$, we choose n to be a large odd number such that $|\frac{T\beta''(T)}{\delta+\beta'(T)}| \leq n - 3$, and multiply (2.7) by nT^{n-1} to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (T^n)_t + nT^{n-1} \frac{(S-\delta)f + \alpha'(T)}{S + \beta'(T)} T_x \\ = \varepsilon (T^n)_{xx} - \varepsilon n(n-1)T^{n-2}(T_x)^2 + \varepsilon nT^{n-1} \frac{2S_x + \beta''(T)T_x}{S + \beta'(T)} T_x. \end{aligned} \tag{2.13}$$

Since

$$\begin{cases} \left| \frac{(S-\delta)f + \alpha'(T)}{S + \beta'(T)} T \right| \leq M, \quad nT^{n-1} \frac{2S_x}{S + \beta'(T)} T_x \leq nT^{n-2}(T_x)^2 + nT^n \left(\frac{S_x}{S} \right)^2, \\ \left| nT^{n-1} \frac{\beta''(T)T_x}{S + \beta'(T)} T_x \right| \leq n(n-3)T^{n-2} |(T_x)^2, \end{cases} \tag{2.14}$$

we have from (2.13) and (2.14) that

$$\varepsilon n T^{n-2} (T_x)^2 \leq -(T^n)_t + n T^{n-2} M |T_x| + \varepsilon (T^n)_{xx} + T^n \left(\frac{S_x}{S}\right)^2. \tag{2.15}$$

Let $K \subset R \times R^+$ be an arbitrary compact set and choose $\phi \in C_0^\infty(R \times R^+)$ such that $\phi_K = 1, 0 \leq \phi \leq 1$. Multiplying (2.15) by ϕ and integrating over $R \times R^+$, we obtain immediately

$$\varepsilon T^{n-2} (T_x^{\varepsilon, \delta})^2 \quad \text{are bounded in } L^1_{loc}(R \times R^+). \tag{2.16}$$

Thus, the terms in (2.13)

$$n T^{n-1} \frac{(S-\delta)}{S} f + \alpha'(T) T_x + \varepsilon n(n-1) T^{n-2} (T_x)^2 - \varepsilon n T^{n-1} \frac{2S_x + \beta''(T) T_x}{S + \beta'(T)} T_x \tag{2.17}$$

are bounded in $L^1_{loc}(R \times R^+)$ and

$$\varepsilon (T^n)_{xx} \quad \text{are compact in } H^{-1}_{loc}(R \times R^+), \tag{2.18}$$

which deduce that

$$((T^{\varepsilon, \delta})^n)_t \quad \text{or} \quad ((T^{\varepsilon, \delta})^n)_x + c_x \quad \text{are compact in } H^{-1}_{loc}(R \times R^+) \tag{2.19}$$

for any constant c , by using the Murat’s lemma (cf. [20]).

Finally, since $((T^{\varepsilon, \delta})^n)_x$ or $c_t + ((T^{\varepsilon, \delta})^n)_x$ are bounded in $L^1_{loc}(R \times R^+)$ and so compact in $H^{-1}_{loc}(R \times R^+)$, we may apply the div–curl lemma in the compensated compactness theory [21] to the following special pairs of functions

$$(c, (T^{\varepsilon, \delta})^n), \quad ((T^{\varepsilon, \delta})^n, c) \tag{2.20}$$

to obtain

$$\overline{(T^{\varepsilon, \delta})^n} \cdot \overline{(T^{\varepsilon, \delta})^n} = \overline{(T^{\varepsilon, \delta})^{2n}}, \tag{2.21}$$

which deduces the pointwise convergence of $(T^{\varepsilon, \delta})^n(x, t) \rightarrow T^n(x, t)$ a.e. on any bounded and open set $\Omega \subset R \times R^+$, and so the conclusion (2.11) immediately because n is an odd number, where $\overline{f(\theta^{\varepsilon, \delta})}$ denotes the weak-star limit of $f(\theta^{\varepsilon, \delta})$.

Thanks to the pointwise convergence of $T^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t)$, we may use the Div–Curl Lemma on the scalar conservation equation (the first equation in (2.1)) with a space–time discontinuous flux [18,22] to obtain the pointwise convergence of $S^{\varepsilon, \delta}(x, t)$ in (2.12). Lemma 2.2 is proved.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Letting ε, δ go to zero, we may easily prove from (2.1) that the limit $(S(x, t), T(x, t))$ satisfies

$$\begin{cases} \int_0^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty S \phi_t + f(S, T) \phi_x dx dt + \int_{-\infty}^\infty S_0(x) \phi(x, 0) dx = 0, \\ \int_0^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty ST + \beta(T) \phi_t + (Tf(S, T) + \alpha(T)) \phi_x dx dt + \int_{-\infty}^\infty S_0(x) T_0(x) \phi(x, 0) dx = 0 \end{cases} \tag{2.22}$$

for all test function $\phi \in C_0^1(R \times R^+)$.

Let $C = ST + \beta(T)$. Since $\beta'(T) \geq 0$, then for any fixed $S \in (0, \bar{S}]$, there exists a smooth, inverse function $T = \theta(S, C)$ and system (2.1) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} S_t + \left(\frac{S-\delta}{S} f(S, \theta(S, C))\right)_x = \varepsilon S_{xx}, \\ C_t + \left(\frac{S-\delta}{S} \theta(S, C) f(S, \theta(S, C)) + \alpha(\theta(S, C))\right)_x = \varepsilon C_{xx}. \end{cases} \tag{2.23}$$

Let $(\eta(S, C), q(S, C))$ be any convex entropy–entropy flux pair of the system (cf. [23])

$$\begin{cases} S_t + f(S, \theta(S, C))_x = 0, \\ C_t + (\theta(S, C) f(S, \theta(S, C)) + \alpha(\theta(S, C)))_x = 0. \end{cases} \tag{2.24}$$

Multiplying the first and second equations of the system (2.24) by $\frac{\partial \eta(S,C)}{\partial S}$ and $\frac{\partial \eta(S,C)}{\partial C}$, respectively, then adding the result, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \eta(S, C)_t + q(S, C)_x - \delta \frac{\partial \eta(S,C)}{\partial S} \left(\frac{f(S,\theta(S,C))}{S} \right)_x - \delta \frac{\partial \eta(S,C)}{\partial C} \left(\frac{\theta(S,C)f(S,\theta(S,C))}{S} \right)_x \\ & = \varepsilon \eta(S, C)_{xx} - \varepsilon (\eta_{SS} S_x^2 + 2\eta_{SC} S_x C_x + \eta_{CC} C_x^2) \leq \varepsilon \eta(S, C)_{xx}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.25}$$

Let $\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial v_i}$ be the partial derivatives of the function η with respect to the first and the second variable. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \delta \frac{\partial \eta(S,C)}{\partial S} \left(\frac{f(S,\theta(S,C))}{S} \right)_x + \delta \frac{\partial \eta(S,C)}{\partial C} \left(\frac{\theta(S,C)f(S,\theta(S,C))}{S} \right)_x \\ & = \delta \frac{\partial \eta(S,ST+\beta(T))}{\partial v_1} \left(\left(\frac{f(S,T)}{S} \right)_S S_x + \left(\frac{f(S,T)}{S} \right)_T T_x \right) \\ & \quad + \frac{\partial \eta(S,ST+\beta(T))}{\partial v_2} \left(\left(\frac{Tf(S,T)}{S} \right)_S S_x + \left(\frac{Tf(S,T)}{S} \right)_T T_x \right) \\ & = \delta \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\int_0^S \frac{\partial \eta(S,ST+\beta(T))}{\partial v_1} \left(\frac{f(S,T)}{S} \right)_S + \frac{\partial \eta(S,ST+\beta(T))}{\partial v_2} \left(T \frac{f(S,T)}{S} \right)_S dS \right) \\ & \quad - \delta \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left(\int_0^S \frac{\partial \eta(S,ST+\beta(T))}{\partial v_1} \left(\frac{f(S,T)}{S} \right)_S + \frac{\partial \eta(S,ST+\beta(T))}{\partial v_2} \left(T \frac{f(S,T)}{S} \right)_S dS \right) T_x \\ & \quad + \delta \left(\frac{\partial \eta(S,ST+\beta(T))}{\partial v_1} \left(\frac{f(S,T)}{S} \right)_T + \frac{\partial \eta(S,ST+\beta(T))}{\partial v_2} \left(\frac{Tf(S,T)}{S} \right)_T \right) T_x. \end{aligned} \tag{2.26}$$

Since T_x is locally bounded in $L^1(R \times R^+)$, letting ε, δ go to zero, we may prove from (2.25) and (2.26) that the following entropy condition, for the limit functions $(S(x, t), T(x, t))$ and any convex entropy–entropy flux pair (η, q) ,

$$\int_0^\infty \int_{-\infty}^\infty \eta(S, ST + \beta(T)) \phi_t + q(S, ST + \beta(T)) \phi_x \phi dx dt \geq 0 \tag{2.27}$$

holds, where $\phi \in C_0^\infty(R \times R^+ - \{t = 0\})$ is a non-negative test function. So, we complete the proof of Theorem 1.1.

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