

# Improved Local Wellposedness of Cauchy Problem for Generalized KdV-BO Equation

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**Abstract** In this paper we prove that the Cauchy problem associated with the generalized KdV-BO equation  $u_t + u_{xxx} + \lambda \mathcal{H}(u_{xx}) + u^2 u_x = 0$ ,  $x \in R$ ,  $t \geq 0$  is locally wellposed in  $\widehat{H}_x^s(R)$  for  $\frac{4}{3} < r \leq 2$ ,  $b > \frac{1}{r}$  and  $s \geq s(r) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2r}$ . In particular, for  $r = 2$ , we reobtain the result in [3].

**Keywords** KdV-BO equation; Cauchy problem; local wellposedness.

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## 1. Introduction

We investigate the initial value problem (IVP) of the generalized KdV-BO (Korteweg-de Vries-Benjamin-Ono) equation:

$$u_t + u_{xxx} + \lambda \mathcal{H}(u_{xx}) + u^k u_x = 0, \quad x \in R, \quad t \geq 0, \quad (1)$$

$$u(0, x) = u_0(x), \quad x \in R, \quad (2)$$

where  $\lambda > 0$  and  $\mathcal{H}$  denotes the usual Hilbert transform. The integro-differential equation (1) models the unidirectional propagation of long waves in a two-fluid system, where the lower fluid with greater density is infinitely deep and the interface is subject to capillarity. It was derived by Benjamin<sup>[1]</sup> to study gravity-capillary surface waves of solitary type on deep water.

Linares<sup>[2]</sup> showed that there exists a local and global solution for the IVP (1)–(2) with initial data in  $L^2$  with constant coefficient  $\lambda > 0$  if  $k = 1$ .

Guo and Huo<sup>[4]</sup> proved that IVP (1)–(2) is locally wellposed with data in  $H^s(R)$  for  $s > -\frac{1}{8}$ , if  $k = 1$ ;  $s \geq \frac{1}{4}$ , if  $k = 2$ .

Notice that in equation (1), the dispersive term  $u_{xxx}$  plays the most important role and the Benjamin-Ono  $\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})$  term can be treated as a nonlinear term. Therefore, we expect the IVP (1)–(2) has the similar wellposedness to that of the modified KdV equation:

$$v_t + v_{xxx} + v^k v_x = 0, \quad x \in R, \quad t \geq 0, \quad (3)$$

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$$v(0, x) = v_0(x), \quad x \in R. \tag{4}$$

Indeed, from this point of view, Huo and Guo<sup>[3]</sup> proved that IVP (1)–(2) is locally wellposed with data in  $H^s(R)$  for  $s > -\frac{3}{4}$ , if  $k = 1$ ;  $s \geq \frac{1}{4}$ , if  $k = 2$ ;  $s > -\frac{1}{6}$ , if  $k = 3$ . Moreover, the solutions of IVP (1)–(2) converge to the solutions of IVP (3)–(4) if  $\lambda$  tends to zero.

Though for  $k = 1$ , Guo and Huo in [4] improved the well-posedness of IVP (1)–(2) a great deal, it did not improve the wellposedness for the case of  $k = 2$ . As Grünrock did in [5], by proving the wellposedness of IVP (1)–(2) in  $\widehat{H}_r^s$ , we manage to improve the result of the case  $k = 2$  to some extent. To this end, let us recall some definitions first.

**Definition 1**<sup>[5]</sup> For  $s \in R, 1 \leq r \leq \infty$ , we define the space  $\widehat{H}_s^r$  by

$$\widehat{H}_s^r = \{f \in S'(R) : \|f\|_{\widehat{H}_s^r} < \infty\}$$

with

$$\|f\|_{\widehat{H}_s^r} := \|\langle \xi \rangle^s \widehat{f}\|_{L_{\xi}^{r'}},$$

where  $\langle \xi \rangle = (1 + |\xi|), \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{r'}$ .

**Definition 2**<sup>[5]</sup> For  $s, b \in R, 1 \leq r \leq \infty$ , we define the space  $X_{s,b}^r$  to be the completion of the Schwartz function space on  $R^2$  with respect to the norm

$$\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r} = \|\langle \xi \rangle^s \langle \tau - \xi^3 \rangle^b \widehat{u}\|_{L_{\xi\tau}^{r'}} = \left( \int d\xi d\tau \langle \xi \rangle^{sr'} \langle \tau \rangle^{b'r'} |\mathcal{F}(U(\cdot)f)(\tau, \xi)|^{r'} \right)^{\frac{1}{r'}}$$

where  $\langle \xi \rangle = (1 + |\xi|), \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{r'}$ .  $\mathcal{F}u = \widehat{u}(\tau, \xi)$  denotes the Fourier transform in variables  $t$  and  $x$  of  $u$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{F}_{(\cdot),u}$  the Fourier transform in the  $(\cdot)$  variable.  $U(t) = \mathcal{F}_x^{-1} e^{it\xi^3} \mathcal{F}_x$  is the unitary operator associated with the Airy equation.

Deduced directly from the definition, the embedding relation

$$\|u\|_{X_{s_1,b_1}^r} \leq \|u\|_{X_{s_2,b_2}^r}$$

holds if  $s_1 \leq s_2, b_1 \leq b_2$ ; for  $r = 2$ , we reobtain Bourgain space  $X_{s,b}$ .<sup>1</sup>

For  $b > \frac{1}{r}$ , we have

$$X_{s,b}^r \subset C(R, \widehat{H}_s^r).$$

Let  $\psi \in C_0^\infty(R)$  with  $\psi \equiv 1$  on  $[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$  and  $\text{supp}\psi \subseteq (-1, 1)$ . Denote  $\psi_\delta(t) = \psi(\frac{t}{\delta})$ . Then the time restricted space is defined by

$$X_{s,b}^r(\delta) := \{f = \tilde{f}|_{[-\delta,\delta] \times R} = \psi_\delta(t)\tilde{f} : \tilde{f} \in X_{s,b}^r\},$$

endowed with the norm

$$\|f\|_{X_{s,b}^r(\delta)} := \inf\{\|\tilde{f}\|_{X_{s,b}^r} : \tilde{f}|_{[-\delta,\delta] \times R} = f\}.$$

Our main result reads as follows (for  $k = 2$ ):

**Theorem** Let  $\frac{4}{3} < r \leq 2$ . Then for any  $b > \frac{1}{r}$  and  $s \geq s(r) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2r}$ , there exist  $T =$

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<sup>1</sup>We call  $X_{s,b}$  Bourgain space because it was first introduced by Bourgain in [7]. The norm of  $X_{s,b}$  is given by  $\|u\|_{X_{s,b}} = \|\langle \xi \rangle^s \langle \tau - \xi^3 \rangle^b \widehat{u}(\tau, \xi)\|_{L_{\xi\tau}^2}$ .

$T(\|u_0\|_{\widehat{H}_s^r}) > 0$  and a unique solution  $u \in C([0, T], \widehat{H}_s^r) \cap X_{s,b}^r$  of IVP (1)–(2) with  $u_0(x) \in \widehat{H}_s^r$ . Moreover, for any given  $t \in (0, T)$ , the mapping  $u_0(x) \rightarrow u(t, x)$  is Lipschitz continuous from  $\widehat{H}_s^r$  to  $C([0, T], \widehat{H}_s^r)$ .

In the sequel,  $C$  will denote a constant which may differ at each appearance, possibly depending on the dimension or other parameters.

## 2. Estimate of the Benjamin-Ono term

In this section, we concentrate on the estimate of Benjamin-Ono term  $\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})$ .

**Lemma 1** *Let  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $b' + 1 > b > 0 > b' > -\frac{1}{r'}$ , and  $b - b' > \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $1 < r < \infty$ . We have*

$$\|\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} \leq C\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r}. \tag{5}$$

To prove this lemma, we prove the following preliminary lemma in advance. We agree on that the eigenfunction  $\chi_{|\tau| \sim |\xi|^3}$  equals 1 if  $|\tau| \sim |\xi|^3$ ; equals 0, otherwise. Define the operator  $\mathcal{P}$  by  $\mathcal{P}f(t, x) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}\chi_{|\tau| \sim |\xi|^3}\mathcal{F}f(\tau, \xi)$ .

**Lemma 2** *Let  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $b' + 1 > b > 0 > b' > -\frac{1}{r'}$ , and  $b - b' > \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $1 < r < \infty$ . Assume that the Fourier transform  $\mathcal{F}f = \hat{f}(\tau, \xi)$  of  $f$  is supported in  $\{(\tau, \xi) : |\xi| > 1\}$ . Then there holds that*

$$\|\mathcal{P}f\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} \leq C\|f\|_{X_{s-2,b}^r}.$$

**Proof** We have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{P}f\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} &= \left( \int d\xi d\tau \langle \xi \rangle^{sr'} \langle \tau \rangle^{b'r'} |\mathcal{F}[U(\cdot)\mathcal{P}f](\tau, \xi)|^{r'} \right)^{\frac{1}{r'}} \\ &= \left( \int d\xi d\tau \frac{\langle \xi \rangle^{2r'}}{\langle \tau \rangle^{(b-b')r'}} \langle \xi \rangle^{(s-2)r'} \langle \tau \rangle^{br'} |\mathcal{F}[U(\cdot)\mathcal{P}f](\tau, \xi)|^{r'} \right)^{\frac{1}{r'}} \\ &\leq \left( \int d\xi d\tau \frac{\langle \xi \rangle^{2r'} \chi_{|\tau| \sim |\xi|^3}}{\langle \tau \rangle^{(b-b')r'}} \langle \xi \rangle^{(s-2)r'} \langle \tau \rangle^{br'} |\mathcal{F}[U(\cdot)\mathcal{P}f](\tau, \xi)|^{r'} \right)^{\frac{1}{r'}} \\ &\leq \left( \int d\xi d\tau \langle \xi \rangle^{(s-2)r'} \langle \tau \rangle^{br'} |\mathcal{F}[U(\cdot)\mathcal{P}f](\tau, \xi)|^{r'} \right)^{\frac{1}{r'}} \\ &= C\|f\|_{X_{s-2,b}^r}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. □

### Proof of Lemma 1

**Case 1** If the Fourier transform  $\mathcal{F}\mathcal{H}(\partial_{xx}u)$  is supported in  $\{(\tau, \xi) : |\xi| \leq 1\}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} &= \left\| \frac{\langle \xi \rangle^s}{\langle \tau - \xi^3 \rangle^{-b'}} \mathcal{F}\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})(\tau, \xi) \right\|_{L_{\tau,\xi}^{r'}} \\ &= \left\| \frac{\xi|\xi|}{\langle \tau - \xi^3 \rangle^{b-b'}} \langle \xi \rangle^s \langle \tau - \xi^3 \rangle^b \hat{u}(\tau, \xi) \right\|_{L_{\tau,\xi}^{r'}} \\ &\leq C\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r}. \end{aligned}$$

**Case 2** If the Fourier transform  $\mathcal{F}\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})$  is supported in  $\{(\tau, \xi) : |\xi| \geq 1\}$ , we rewrite  $\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})$  as  $\mathcal{H}(u_{xx}) = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{H}(u_{xx}) + (1 - \mathcal{P})\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})$  and estimate the two terms respectively.

For  $\mathcal{PH}(u_{xx})$ , by Lemma 2, we have

$$\|\mathcal{PH}(u_{xx})\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} \leq C\|\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})\|_{X_{s-2,b}^r} \leq C\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r}.$$

For  $(1 - \mathcal{P})\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})$ , it is clear that  $\mathcal{F}(1 - \mathcal{P})\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})$  is supported in

$$\{(\tau, \xi) : |\tau| \ll |\xi|^3 \text{ or } |\tau| \gg |\xi|^3\},$$

correspondingly, we have either  $|\tau - \xi^3| \sim |\xi|^3$  or  $|\tau - \xi^3| \gg |\xi|^3$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(1 - \mathcal{P})\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} \\ &= \left\| \frac{\xi|\xi|}{\langle \tau - \xi^3 \rangle^{b-b'}} \langle \xi \rangle^s \langle \tau - \xi^3 \rangle^b \chi_{|\tau - \xi^3| \sim |\xi|^3} \text{ or } |\tau - \xi^3| \gg |\xi|^3} \hat{u}(\tau, \xi) \right\|_{L_{\tau\xi}^{r'}} \\ &\leq C\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, collecting all the estimates together, we obtain

$$\|\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} \leq \|\mathcal{PH}(u_{xx})\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} + \|(1 - \mathcal{P})\mathcal{H}(u_{xx})\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} \leq C\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r}.$$

### 3. Proof of the main results

In order to smooth the proof of the main result, let us recall some facts as lemmas first.

**Lemma 3**<sup>[5]</sup> 1) For  $\phi \in \widehat{H}_s^r$ , we have

$$\|\psi(t)S(t)\phi\|_{X_{s,b}^r} \leq C_\psi\|\phi\|_{\widehat{H}_s^r}.$$

2) Assume  $1 < r < \infty$  and  $b' + 1 \geq b \geq 0 \geq b' > -\frac{1}{r'}$ . Then

$$\left\| \psi_\delta(t) \int_0^t S(t-t')f(t')dt' \right\|_{X_{s,b}^r} \leq C\delta^{1+b'-b}\|f\|_{X_{s,b'}^r}.$$

**Lemma 4**<sup>[5]</sup> Let  $\frac{4}{3} < r \leq 2$  and  $s \geq s(r) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2r}$ . Then for all  $b' < \frac{1}{2r} - \frac{5}{8}$  and  $b > \frac{1}{r}$  the estimate

$$\|(\Pi_{i=1}^3 u_i)_x\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} \leq C\Pi_{i=1}^3 \|u_i\|_{X_{s,b}^r}$$

holds true.

**Lemma 5** Let  $\frac{4}{3} < r \leq 2$  and  $s \geq s(r) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2r}$ . Then for all  $b' < \frac{1}{2r} - \frac{5}{8}$  and  $b > \frac{1}{r}$  the estimates

$$\|u^2 u_x\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} \leq C\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r}^3 \tag{6}$$

and

$$\|u^2 u_x - v^2 v_x\|_{X_{s,b'}^r} \leq C[\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r}^2 + \|v\|_{X_{s,b}^r}^2]\|u - v\|_{X_{s,b}^r} \tag{7}$$

hold true.

**Proof** Inequality (6) is a direct result of Lemma 4. Inequality (7) follows from Lemma 4 and

$$\begin{aligned} 3(u^2 u_x - v^2 v_x) &= (u^3 - v^3)_x = [(u - v)(u^2 + uv + v^2)]_x \\ &= [(u - v)u^2]_x + [(u - v)uv]_x + [(u - v)v^2]_x. \end{aligned}$$

**Sketch of proof of the Theorem** Take  $b = \frac{1}{r} + \varepsilon$ ,  $b' = -\frac{1}{r'} + 2\varepsilon$ , for  $0 < \varepsilon < \frac{1}{2r'}$ . Then  $b' + 1 > b > 0 > b' > -\frac{1}{r'}$ , and  $b - b' > \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $b > \frac{1}{r}$ .

For  $u \in X_{s,b}^r(\delta)$  with extension  $\tilde{u} \in X_{s,b}^r$ , define operator

$$\mathcal{T}(u) = \psi(t)U(t)u_0 - i\psi_\delta(t) \int_0^t U(t - \tau)F(u(\tau))d\tau,$$

then extension of  $\mathcal{T}(u)$  is given by

$$\tilde{\mathcal{T}}(u) = \psi(t)U(t)u_0 - i\psi_\delta(t) \int_0^t U(t - \tau)F(\tilde{u}(\tau))d\tau,$$

where  $F(\tilde{u}(\tau)) = (\tilde{u}^3)_x + \lambda\mathcal{H}(\tilde{u}_{xx})$ .

By Lemma 3 and the first inequality of Lemma 5, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{T}(u)\|_{X_{s,b}^r(\delta)} &\leq \|\psi(t)U(t)u_0\|_{X_{s,b}^r} + \|\psi_\delta(t) \int_0^t U(t - \tau)F(\tilde{u}(\tau))d\tau\|_{X_{s,b}^r} \\ &\leq C\|u_0\|_{\widehat{H}_s^r} + C\delta^{1-b+b'}\|\tilde{u}\|_{X_{s,b}^r}^3 + C\delta^{1-b+b'}\|\tilde{u}\|_{X_{s,b}^r}. \end{aligned}$$

This holds for all extension  $\tilde{u} \in X_{s,b}^r$  of  $u \in X_{s,b}^r(\delta)$ . Hence

$$\|\mathcal{T}(u)\|_{X_{s,b}^r(\delta)} \leq C\|u_0\|_{\widehat{H}_s^r} + C\delta^{1-b+b'}\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r(\delta)}^3 + C\delta^{1-b+b'}\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r(\delta)}. \tag{8}$$

Similarly, by Lemma 3 and the second inequality of Lemma 5, for given  $u \in X_{s,b}^r(\delta)$ ,  $v \in X_{s,b}^r(\delta)$ , we obtain

$$\|\mathcal{T}(u) - \mathcal{T}(v)\|_{X_{s,b}^r(\delta)} \leq C\delta^{1-b+b'}(\|u\|_{X_{s,b}^r(\delta)}^2 + \|v\|_{X_{s,b}^r(\delta)}^2)\|u - v\|_{X_{s,b}^r(\delta)} + C\delta^{1-b+b'}\|u - v\|_{X_{s,b}^r(\delta)}. \tag{9}$$

Inequalitis (8) and (9) show that for  $R = 2C\|u_0\|_{\widehat{H}_s^r}$  and  $\delta^{1-b+b'} < \min\{\frac{1}{4CR^2}, \frac{1}{2}\}$ , the mapping  $\mathcal{T}$  is a contract mapping of the closed ball of radius  $R$  in  $X_{s,b}^r(\delta)$  into itself. The Banach fixed point theorem now guarantees the existence of a solution of  $\mathcal{T}(u) = u$ . Because of  $b > \frac{1}{r}$ , any solution  $u \in X_{s,b}^r(\delta)$  also belongs to  $C([0, \delta], \widehat{H}_s^r)$ . Finally, the statement about continuous dependence can be shown in a straightforward manner using the same estimates as the above.

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