# EXACT SOLUTIONS FOR A DIRAC-TYPE EQUATION WITH N-FOLD DARBOUX TRANSFORMATION\*

Jinting Ha<sup>1</sup>, Huiqun Zhang<sup>1</sup> and Qiulan Zhao<sup>2,†</sup>

**Abstract** Based on matrix spectral problems associated with the real special orthogonal Lie algebra  $so(3,\mathbb{R})$ , a Dirac-type equation is derived by virtue of the zero-curvature equation. Further, an N-fold Darboux transformation for the Dirac-type equation is constructed by means of the gauge transformation. Finally, as its application, some exact solutions and their figures are obtained via symbolic computation software (Maple).

**Keywords** Dirac-type equation, the Lie algebra  $so(3,\mathbb{R})$ , Darboux transformation, exact solutions.

MSC(2010) 35Q51, 37K40.

### 1. Introduction

Nonlinear evolution equations is a research focus in the domains of physics and nonlinear sciences such as quantum mechanics, fluid mechanics, fiber-optics, oceanography, astronomy, meteorology and communication. Numerous integrable equations [38] in solitary theory like the AKNS equation, the BPT equation, and the WKI equation have been researched. At present, with the rapid progress of computer softwares, all kinds of approaches to solving soliton equations have developed which include the homogenous balance method [39, 40], the tanh method [17, 35], the Jacobi elliptic function method [20], the extended-tanh-function method [8, 28], the transformed rational function method [31,49], the exp-function method [12,13], the tanh-coth method [42], the F-expansion method [55], the Hirota bilinear method [14], the Lie symmetry analysis [3,4,7] and the multiple exp-function method [30], etc. By means of these abundant methods, various exact solutions are obtained which contain traveling wave solutions, soliton solutions, rational solutions, periodic solutions, lump solutions [6, 33, 34, 41, 46], lump-kink solutions [50, 51], interaction solutions [21,22], algebro-geometric solutions [15,23], complexiton solutions [24,49], the solutions of algebraic Rossby solitary waves [11,45] and so on. Besides the methods mentioned above, the Darboux transformation [9, 10, 25, 32, 44, 53] is a powerful

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>the corresponding author. Email address:qlzhao@sdust.edu.cn(Q. Zhao)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Qingdao University, Shandong, 266071, Qingdao, China

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>College of Mathematics and Systems Science, Shandong University of Science and Technology, Shandong, 266590, Qingdao, China

<sup>\*</sup>The authors were supported by the Nature Science Foundation of China (No. 11701134) and the Science and Technology Plan Project of the Educational Department of Shandong Province of China (No. J16LI12, No. J15LI54).

way for solving soliton equations by finding a gauge transformation between corresponding Lax pairs. Due to its effectiveness and uniqueness, it is widely used in continuous and discrete integrable systems [5, 47, 52]. As a result, one-soliton solutions, two-soliton solutions, even N-soliton solutions can be obtained.

It is well-known that the Dirac equation is a significant research subject which can be used to describe the interactions of relativistic fermions, the dynamics of elementary molecules, and the gap solitons in optics, etc. In respect of the Dirac hierarchy, a generalized Dirac soliton hierarchy with bi-Hamiltonian structure and its integrable couplings have been generated [43, 48]. In respect of the Dirac equation, it has been researched with various approaches such as the tridiagonal matrix representation approach [1], Krylov subspace methods [2], Bosonic symmetries [37], etc.

In the Ref [26], a Dirac-type hierarchy is resulted from the real special orthogonal Lie algebra so(3, $\mathbb{R}$ ). Its bi-Hamiltonian structure and Liouville integrability are presented. When taking n=2 in the Dirac-type hierarchy into account, we have the Dirac-type equation [26]

$$p_t = -q_{xx} - \frac{1}{2}p^2q - \frac{1}{2}q^3,$$
  

$$q_t = p_{xx} + \frac{1}{2}p^3 + \frac{1}{2}pq^2,$$
(1.1)

where p = p(x,t), q = q(x,t) are two functions with regard to two variables x and t. For the Dirac-type equation, solvability of Dirac-type equations have been studied [16]. In this paper, we aim mainly at exploring exact solutions of the Dirac-type equation by using Darboux transformation.

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, based on the spectral problems associated with  $so(3,\mathbb{R})$ , the gauge transformation is introduced so as to construct an N-fold Darboux transformation. In section 3, some explicit solutions of the Dirac-type equation are obtained by applying Darboux transformation. Then, the figures are plotted with the assistance of Maple. At last, in section 4, this paper is summarized.

### 2. An N-fold Darboux transformation

It is well-known that the real special orthogonal Lie algebra  $so(3,\mathbb{R})$  has a basis,

$$e_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \ e_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \ e_{3} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (2.1)

In the section, we shall generate a Darboux transformation for Eq. (1.1). The matrix spectral problems are presented as follows,

$$\phi_x = U\phi, \ \phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 \\ \phi_2 \\ \phi_3 \end{pmatrix}, \ U = \lambda e_1 + p e_2 + q e_3, \tag{2.2}$$

$$\phi_t = V\phi, \ V = (-\lambda^2 + \frac{1}{2}p^2 + \frac{1}{2}q^2)e_1 + (-p\lambda - q_x)e_2 + (-q\lambda + p_x)e_3,$$
(2.3)

where

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & q & \lambda \\ -q & 0 & -p \\ -\lambda & p & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad V = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -q\lambda + p_x & -\lambda^2 + \frac{1}{2}p^2 + \frac{1}{2}q^2 \\ q\lambda - p_x & 0 & p\lambda + q_x \\ \lambda^2 - \frac{1}{2}p^2 - \frac{1}{2}q^2 & -p\lambda - q_x & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

p = p(x,t), q = q(x,t) are two potentials,  $\lambda$  is a spectral parameter. Through the zero-curvature equation,  $U_t - V_x + [U, V] = 0$ , the Dirac-type equation Eq. (1.1) can be proved by direct computation.

We first introduce a gauge transformation for the spectral problems Eqs. (2.2) and (2.3),

$$\hat{\phi} = T\phi, \ T = \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} \ T_{12} \ T_{13} \\ T_{21} \ T_{22} \ T_{23} \\ T_{31} \ T_{32} \ T_{33} \end{bmatrix},$$
(2.4)

suppose

$$\begin{split} T_{11} &= \lambda^N + \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{11}^{(i)} \lambda^i, \ T_{12} = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{12}^{(i)} \lambda^i, \\ T_{13} &= \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{13}^{(i)} \lambda^i, \\ T_{21} &= \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{21}^{(i)} \lambda^i, \ T_{22} = \lambda^N + \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{22}^{(i)} \lambda^i, \\ T_{23} &= \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{23}^{(i)} \lambda^i, \\ T_{31} &= \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{31}^{(i)} \lambda^i, \ T_{32} = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{32}^{(i)} \lambda^i, \\ T_{33} &= \lambda^N + \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{33}^{(i)} \lambda^i, \end{split}$$

N is a natural number and  $A_{mn}^{(i)}(m, n = 1, 2, 3, 0 \le i \le N - 1)$  are the functions of x and t, which are determined later. We can easily see that the determinant of the matrix T is a 3Nth-order polynomial of  $\lambda$  by calculation. As a result,  $detT = \prod_{j=1}^{3N} (\lambda - \lambda_j)$ , where  $\lambda = \lambda_j (1 \le j \le 3N)$  are the roots of detT. Let  $\psi = (\psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3)^T$ ,  $\varphi = (\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3)^T$ ,  $X = (X_1, X_2, X_3)^T$  are three basic solutions of the spectral problems Eqs. (2.2) and (2.3), which are linearly dependent. With the aid of the gauge transformation Eq. (2.4), we can get  $(\hat{\psi}, \hat{\varphi}, \hat{X}) = T(\psi, \varphi, X)$ are linearly dependent as  $\lambda = \lambda_j (1 \le j \le 3N)$ . We introduce constants  $\alpha_j^{(1)}$  and  $\alpha_j^{(2)}$  to obtain the following linear algebraic systems,

$$\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{11}^{(i)} + \alpha_j^{(1)} A_{12}^{(i)} + \alpha_j^{(2)} A_{13}^{(i)} = -\lambda_j^N,$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{21}^{(i)} + \alpha_j^{(1)} A_{22}^{(i)} + \alpha_j^{(2)} A_{23}^{(i)} = -\lambda_j^N \alpha_j^{(1)},$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_{31}^{(i)} + \alpha_j^{(1)} A_{32}^{(i)} + \alpha_j^{(2)} A_{33}^{(i)} = -\lambda_j^N \alpha_j^{(2)},$$
(2.5)

with

$$\alpha_j^{(1)} = \frac{\psi_2 + \gamma_j^{(1)}\varphi_2 + \gamma_j^{(2)}\mathbf{X}_2}{\psi_1 + \gamma_j^{(1)}\varphi_1 + \gamma_j^{(2)}\mathbf{X}_1}, \ \alpha_j^{(2)} = \frac{\psi_3 + \gamma_j^{(1)}\varphi_3 + \gamma_j^{(2)}\mathbf{X}_3}{\psi_1 + \gamma_j^{(1)}\varphi_1 + \gamma_j^{(2)}\mathbf{X}_1}, \ (1 \le j \le 3N).$$
(2.6)

Under the gauge transformation Eq. (2.4), Eqs. (2.2) and (2.3) are transformed into a new spectral problem

$$\hat{\phi}_x = \hat{U}\left(\hat{p}, \hat{q}, \lambda\right) \hat{\phi}, \ \hat{\phi}_t = \hat{V}\left(\hat{p}, \hat{q}, \lambda\right) \hat{\phi}, \tag{2.7}$$

where

$$\hat{U} = (T_x + TU)T^{-1}, \ \hat{V} = (T_t + TV)T^{-1}.$$
 (2.8)

The gauge transformation Eq. (2.4) is called the Darboux transformation if the new spectral problem Eq. (2.7) is the same form as Eq. (2.2).

**Proposition 2.1.** The matrix  $\hat{U}$  defined by Eq. (2.8) has the same type as U, in which the transformation relation between old potentials and new ones is presented by

$$\hat{p} = p + A_{12}^{(N-1)}, \ \hat{q} = q + A_{23}^{(N-1)}.$$
 (2.9)

**Proof.** Assume  $T^{-1} = \frac{T^*}{detT}$  and

$$(T_x + TU)T^* = \begin{pmatrix} B_{11}(\lambda) \ B_{12}(\lambda) \ B_{13}(\lambda) \\ B_{21}(\lambda) \ B_{22}(\lambda) \ B_{23}(\lambda) \\ B_{31}(\lambda) \ B_{32}(\lambda) \ B_{33}(\lambda) \end{pmatrix},$$
 (2.10)

obviously,  $B_{sl}(\lambda_j)(1 \leq s, l \leq 3, 1 \leq j \leq 3N) = 0$ . In addition,  $B_{13}(\lambda)$  and  $B_{31}(\lambda)$ are (3N + 1)th-order polynomials of  $\lambda$ .  $B_{12}(\lambda)$ ,  $B_{21}(\lambda)$ ,  $B_{23}(\lambda)$  and  $B_{32}(\lambda)$  are (3N)th-order polynomials of  $\lambda$ .  $B_{11}(\lambda)$ ,  $B_{22}(\lambda)$ ,  $B_{33}(\lambda)$  are (3N - 1)th-order polynomials of  $\lambda$ . Thus through calculation, we can prove that  $B_{11} = B_{22} = B_{33} = 0$ and Eq. (2.10) is rewritten in the following form

$$(T_x + TU)T^* = (detT)C(\lambda), \qquad (2.11)$$

with

$$\begin{pmatrix} C_{11}^{(0)} & C_{12}^{(0)} & C_{13}^{(1)}\lambda + C_{13}^{(0)} \\ C_{21}^{(0)} & C_{22}^{(0)} & C_{23}^{(0)} \\ C_{31}^{(1)}\lambda + C_{31}^{(0)} & C_{32}^{(0)} & C_{33}^{(0)} \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $C_{sl}^{(k)}(s, l = 1, 2, 3, k = 0, 1)$  are independent of  $\lambda$ . By comparing the coefficients of  $\lambda$  in Eq. (2.11), we have

$$\begin{split} C_{11}^{(0)} &= 0, \ C_{12}^{(0)} = q - A_{32}^{(N-1)} = \hat{q}, \ C_{13}^{(1)} = 1, \ C_{13}^{(0)} = 0, \\ C_{21}^{(0)} &= -q - A_{23}^{(N-1)} = -\hat{q}, \ C_{22}^{(0)} = 0, \ C_{23}^{(0)} = A_{21}^{(N-1)} - p = -\hat{p}, \\ C_{31}^{(1)} &= -1, \ C_{31}^{(0)} = 0, \ C_{32}^{(0)} = p + A_{12}^{(N-1)} = \hat{p}, \ C_{33}^{(0)} = 0. \end{split}$$

It is easy to see  $\hat{U} = C(\lambda)$ , which means  $\hat{U}$  has the same type with U. The proof is completed.

**Proposition 2.2.** The matrix  $\hat{V}$  defined by Eq. (2.8) has the same type as V by means of the transformation Eq. (2.9).

1

**Proof.** Let

$$(T_t + TV)T^* = \begin{pmatrix} G_{11}(\lambda) \ G_{12}(\lambda) \ G_{13}(\lambda) \\ G_{21}(\lambda) \ G_{22}(\lambda) \ G_{23}(\lambda) \\ G_{31}(\lambda) \ G_{32}(\lambda) \ G_{33}(\lambda) \end{pmatrix},$$
(2.12)

obviously,  $G_{sl}(\lambda_j)(1 \le s, l \le 3, 1 \le j \le 3N) = 0$ . In addition,  $G_{13}(\lambda)$  and  $G_{31}(\lambda)$ are (3N + 2)th-order polynomials of  $\lambda$ .  $G_{12}(\lambda)$ ,  $G_{21}(\lambda)$ ,  $G_{23}(\lambda)$  and  $G_{32}(\lambda)$  are (3N+1)th-order polynomials of  $\lambda$ .  $G_{11}(\lambda)$ ,  $G_{22}(\lambda)$ ,  $G_{33}(\lambda)$  are (3N-1)th-order polynomials of  $\lambda$ . Thus through calculation, we can prove that  $G_{11} = G_{22} = G_{33} =$ 0 and Eq. (2.12) is rewritten in the following form

$$(T_t + TV)T^* = (detT)D(\lambda), \qquad (2.13)$$

with

$$\begin{pmatrix} D_{11}^{(0)} & D_{12}^{(1)}\lambda + D_{12}^{(0)} & D_{13}^{(2)}\lambda^2 + D_{13}^{(1)}\lambda + D_{13}^{(0)} \\ D_{21}^{(1)}\lambda + D_{21}^{(0)} & D_{22}^{(0)} & D_{23}^{(1)}\lambda + D_{23}^{(0)} \\ D_{31}^{(2)}\lambda^2 + D_{31}^{(1)}\lambda + D_{31}^{(0)} & D_{32}^{(1)}\lambda + D_{32}^{(0)} & D_{33}^{(0)} \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $D_{sl}^{(k)}(s, l = 1, 2, 3, k = 0, 1, 2)$  are independent of  $\lambda$ . By comparing the coefficients of  $\lambda$  in Eq. (2.13), we arrive at

$$\begin{split} D_{11}^{(0)} &= 0, \ D_{12}^{(1)} = -q + A_{32}^{(N-1)} = -\hat{q}, \ D_{12}^{(0)} = \hat{p}_x, \ D_{13}^{(2)} = -1, \ D_{13}^{(1)} = 0, \\ D_{13}^{(0)} &= \frac{1}{2}\hat{p}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\hat{q}^2, \ D_{21}^{(1)} = q + A_{23}^{(N-1)} = \hat{q}, \ D_{21}^{(0)} = -\hat{p}_x, \ D_{22}^{(0)} = 0, \\ D_{23}^{(1)} &= -A_{21}^{(N-1)} + p = \hat{p}, \ D_{23}^{(0)} = \hat{q}_x, \\ D_{31}^{(2)} &= 1, \ D_{31}^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{2}\hat{p}^2 - \frac{1}{2}\hat{q}^2, \ D_{31}^{(0)} = 0, \\ D_{32}^{(1)} &= -A_{12}^{(N-1)} - p = \hat{p}, \ D_{32}^{(0)} = -\hat{q}_x, \ D_{33}^{(0)} = 0, \end{split}$$

which completes the proof.

**Proposition 2.3.** Under the Darboux transformation Eqs. (2.4) and (2.9), every solution (p,q) can be turned into a new solution  $(\hat{p},\hat{q})$ , where T is uniquely determined by the linear algebraic system Eq. (2.5).

## 3. Exact solutions of the Dirac-type equation

In the section, we shall utilize the Darboux transformation Eqs. (2.4) and (2.9) to gain new solutions of Eq. (1.1). In order to calculate conveniently, we choose N=1 in Eqs. (2.4), (2.5) and (2.6) which are shown as follows,

$$\hat{\phi} = T\phi, \ T = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda + A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{13} \\ A_{21} & \lambda + A_{22} & A_{23} \\ A_{31} & A_{32} & \lambda + A_{33} \end{bmatrix},$$
(3.1)

and

$$A_{11} + \alpha_j^{(1)} A_{12} + \alpha_j^{(2)} A_{13} = -\lambda_j,$$
  

$$A_{21} + \alpha_j^{(1)} A_{22} + \alpha_j^{(2)} A_{23} = -\lambda_j \alpha_j^{(1)},$$
  

$$A_{31} + \alpha_j^{(1)} A_{32} + \alpha_j^{(2)} A_{33} = -\lambda_j \alpha_j^{(2)},$$
  
(3.2)

with

$$\alpha_{j}^{(1)} = \frac{\psi_{2} + \gamma_{j}^{(1)}\varphi_{2} + \gamma_{j}^{(2)}X_{2}}{\psi_{1} + \gamma_{j}^{(1)}\varphi_{1} + \gamma_{j}^{(2)}X_{1}}, \ \alpha_{j}^{(2)} = \frac{\psi_{3} + \gamma_{j}^{(1)}\varphi_{3} + \gamma_{j}^{(2)}X_{3}}{\psi_{1} + \gamma_{j}^{(1)}\varphi_{1} + \gamma_{j}^{(2)}X_{1}} \ (1 \le j \le 3).$$
(3.3)

From Eq. (3.2), we can make use of Cramer law to obtain

$$A_{12} = \frac{\Delta_1}{\Delta}, \ A_{23} = \frac{\Delta_2}{\Delta}, \tag{3.4}$$

with

$$\Delta = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & \alpha_1^{(1)} & \alpha_1^{(2)} \\ 1 & \alpha_2^{(1)} & \alpha_2^{(2)} \\ 1 & \alpha_3^{(1)} & \alpha_3^{(2)} \end{vmatrix}, \quad \Delta_1 = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -\lambda_1 & \alpha_1^{(2)} \\ 1 & -\lambda_2 & \alpha_2^{(2)} \\ 1 & -\lambda_3 & \alpha_3^{(2)} \end{vmatrix}, \quad \Delta_2 = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & \alpha_1^{(1)} & -\lambda_1 \alpha_1^{(1)} \\ 1 & \alpha_2^{(1)} & -\lambda_2 \alpha_2^{(1)} \\ 1 & \alpha_3^{(1)} & -\lambda_3 \alpha_3^{(1)} \end{vmatrix}.$$
(3.5)

Hence, Eq.(2.9) is rewritten as

$$\hat{p} = p + \frac{\Delta_1}{\Delta}, \ \hat{q} = q + \frac{\Delta_2}{\Delta}.$$
(3.6)

It should be noted that we should make sure  $\Delta \neq 0$  with selecting suitable constants  $\lambda_j, \gamma_j^{(l)} (j = 1, 2, 3, l = 1, 2)$ . Above all, we select the seed solutions p = 0, q = 0. Then the Lax pairs Eqs.

(2.2) and (2.3) can be simplified down to

$$\phi_{1x} = \lambda \phi_3, \ \phi_{3x} = -\lambda \phi_1, 
\phi_{1t} = -\lambda^2 \phi_3, \ \phi_{3t} = -\lambda^2 \phi_1.$$
(3.7)

Hence we can figure out three basic solutions, that is,

$$\psi(\lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} \sin(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x) \\ 0 \\ -\cos(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \varphi(\lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x) \\ 0 \\ \sin(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x) \end{bmatrix}, \quad X(\lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.8)$$

From Eqs. (3.3) and (3.8), we have

$$\alpha_j^{(1)} = \frac{\gamma_j^{(2)}}{\sin(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x) + \gamma_j^{(1)} \cos(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x)},$$

$$\alpha_j^{(2)} = \frac{-\cos(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x) + \gamma_j^{(1)} \sin(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x)}{\sin(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x) + \gamma_j^{(1)} \cos(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x)}.$$
(3.9)

For example, we substitute  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1$ ,  $\lambda_3 = -1$ ,  $\gamma_1^{(2)} = 0$ ,  $\gamma_1^{(1)} = \gamma_3^{(2)} = 1$ ,  $\gamma_2^{(1)} = \gamma_2^{(2)} = \gamma_3^{(1)} = -1$ , into Eqs. (3.5) and (3.9), then we arrive at an exact

real solution by using Eq. (3.6). The plots of  $\hat{p}$  and  $\hat{q}$  of Eq. (1.1) are presented respectively in Figs. 1 and 2.

In addition, we can get another three basic solutions according to Eq. (3.7),

$$\psi(\lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} e^{i(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x)} \\ 0 \\ -ie^{i(\lambda^2 t - \lambda x)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \varphi(\lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} ie^{i(\lambda x - \lambda^2 t)} \\ 0 \\ -e^{i(\lambda x - \lambda^2 t)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad X(\lambda) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.10)$$

Choosing  $\lambda_1 = i$ ,  $\lambda_2 = -i$ ,  $\lambda_3 = 0$ ,  $\gamma_1^{(1)} = \gamma_3^{(1)} = -i$ ,  $\gamma_2^{(1)} = i$ ,  $\gamma_1^{(2)} = \gamma_2^{(2)} = \gamma_3^{(2)} = 1$  for obtaining an another explicit complex solution.

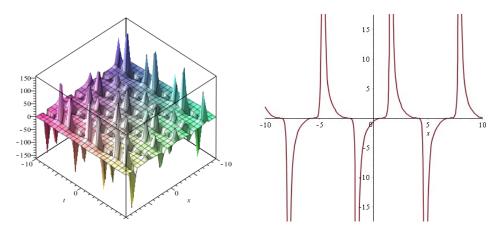
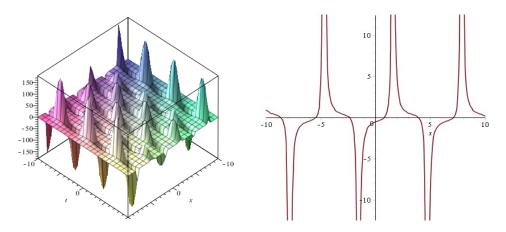


Figure 1. Plots of the intensity distribution  $\hat{p}$  and the solution  $\hat{p}$  at t = 0 of Eq. (1.1) with  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1$ ,  $\lambda_3 = -1$ ,  $\gamma_1^{(2)} = 0$ ,  $\gamma_1^{(1)} = \gamma_3^{(2)} = 1$ ,  $\gamma_2^{(1)} = \gamma_2^{(2)} = \gamma_3^{(1)} = -1$ .



**Figure 2.** Plots of the intensity distribution  $\hat{q}$  and the solution  $\hat{q}$  at t = 0 of Eq. (1.1) with  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1$ ,  $\lambda_3 = -1$ ,  $\gamma_1^{(2)} = 0$ ,  $\gamma_1^{(1)} = \gamma_3^{(2)} = 1$ ,  $\gamma_2^{(1)} = \gamma_2^{(2)} = \gamma_3^{(1)} = -1$ .

#### 4. Concluding Remarks

In this paper, we have researched the Darboux transformation of the Dirac-type equation Eq. (1.1) based on matrix spectral problems associated with  $so(3,\mathbb{R})$ . With the help of Maple, some explicit solutions, for example, real solutions and complex solutions have been obtained which are in accord with physical phenomena. It is noteworthy that many integrable soliton hierarchies can be derived from the the real special orthogonal Lie algebra  $so(3,\mathbb{R})$  such as AKNS type, KN type and WKI type [36]. Further consideration, super integrable hierarchies with super-Hamiltonian structures [29] can be thoroughly studied in order to apply the Darboux transformation to generated soliton equations. According to the above analysis, the Darboux transformation will leave us wide research space. In addition, the binary nonlinearization [18, 19, 27, 54] of the Dirac-type equation is worth studying.

Acknowledgements. The authors are grateful to the anonymous referees for their useful suggestions which improve the contents of this article.

### References

- A. D. Alhaidari, H. Bahlouli and I.A. Assi, Solving Dirac equation using the tridiagonal matrix representation approach, Phys. Lett. A., 2016, 380, 1577– 1581.
- [2] R. Beerwerth and H. Bauke, Krylov subspace methods for the Dirac equation, Comput. Phys. Commun., 2015, 188, 189–197.
- [3] G. W. Bluman and S. Kumei, Symmetries and Differential Equations, Springer-Verlag, World Publishing Corp, 1989.
- [4] B. J. Cantwell, Introduction to Symmetry Analysis, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2002.
- [5] J. C. Chen, Z. Y. Ma, Y. H. Hu, Nonlocal symmetry, Darboux transformation and soliton-cnoidal wave interaction solution for the shallow water wave equation, J. Math. Anal. Appl., 2018, 460, 987–1003.
- [6] S. T. Chen and W. X. Ma, Lump solutions to a generalized Bogoyavlensky-Konopelchenko equation, Front. Math. China, 2018, 13(3), 525–534.
- [7] H. H. Dong, et al, A new integrable symplectic map and the lie point symmetry associated with nonlinear lattice equations, J. Nonlinear. Sci. Appl., 2016, 9, 5107–5118.
- [8] E. G. Fan, Extended tanh-function method and its applications to nonlinear equations, Phys. Lett. A., 2000, 277, 212–218.
- [9] X. G. Geng, J. Shen and B. Xue, A new nonlinear wave equation: Darboux transformation and soliton solutions, Wave Motion, 2002, 35, 71–90.
- [10] C. H. Gu and Z. X. Zhou, On Darboux transformations for soliton equations in high-dimensional spacetime, Lett. Math. Phys., 1994, 32, 1-10.
- [11] M. Guo, et al, A new ZK-ILW equation for algebraic gravity solitary waves in finite depth stratified atmosphere and the research of squall lines formation mechanism, Comput. Mathe. Appli., 2018, 75, 3589–3603.

- [12] J. H. He and M. A. Abdou, New periodic solutions for nonlinear evolution equations using exp-function method, Chaos Solitons Fractals., 2007, 34, 1421– 1429.
- [13] J. H. He and X. H. Wu, Exp-function method for nonlinear wave equations, Chaos Solitons Fract., 2006, 30, 700–708.
- [14] R. Hirota, The Direct Method in Soliton Theory, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2004.
- [15] Y. Hou, E. G. Fan and Z. J. Qiao, The algebro-geometric solutions for the Fokas-Olver-Rosenau-Qiao (FORQ) hierarchy, J. Geo. Phys., 2017, 117, 105– 133.
- [16] Q. C. Ji and K. Zhu, Solvability of Dirac type equations, Adv. Math., 2017, 320, 451–474.
- [17] H. B. Lan and K. L. Wang, Exact solutions for two nonlinear equations: I, J. Phys. A: Math. Gen., 1990, 23, 3923–3928.
- [18] X. Y. Li, et al, Binary Bargmann symmetry constraint associated with 3 × 3 discrete matrix spectral problem, J. Nonlinear. Sci. Appl., 2015, 8(5), 496–506.
- [19] X. Y. Li and Q. L. Zhao, A new integrable symplectic map by the binary nonlinearization to the super AKNS system, J. Geo. Phys., 2017, 121, 123–137.
- [20] S. K. Liu, et al, Jacobi elliptic function expansion method and periodic wave solutions of nonlinear wave equations, Phys. Lett. A., 2001, 289, 69–74.
- [21] W. X. Ma, Diversity of interaction solutions to the (2 + 1)-dimensional Ito equation, Comput. Math. Appl., 2018, 75, 289–295.
- [22] W. X. Ma, Abundant lumps and their interaction solutions of (3 + 1)dimensional linear PDEs, J. Geom. Phys., 2018, 133, 10–16.
- [23] W. X. Ma, Trigonal curves and algebro-geometric solutions to soliton hierarchies I, P. Roy. Soc. A., 2017, 473, 20170232.
- [24] W. X. Ma, Complexiton solutions to the Korteweg-de Vries equation, Phys. Lett. A., 2002, 301, 35–44.
- [25] W. X. Ma, Darboux transformations for a Lax integrable system in 2n dimensions, Lett. Math. Phys., 1997, 39, 33–49.
- [26] W. X. Ma, A soliton hierarchy associated with so(3,ℝ), Appl. Math. Comput., 2013, 220, 117–122.
- [27] W. X. Ma, An explicit symmetry constraint for the Lax pairs and the adjoint Lax pairs of AKNS systems, Phys. Lett. A., 1994, 185, 277–286.
- [28] W. X. Ma and B. Fuchssteiner, Explicit and exact solutions to a Kolmogorov-Petrovskii-Piskunov equation, Int. J. Non-Linear Mech., 1996, 31, 329–338.
- [29] W. X. Ma, J. S. He and Z. Y. Qin, A supertrace identity and its applications to superintegrable systems, J. Math. Phys., 2008, 49, 033511.
- [30] W. X. Ma, T. W. Huang and Y. Zhang, A multiple exp-function method for nonlinear differential equations and its application, Phys. Scr., 2010, 82, 065003.
- [31] W. X. Ma and J. H. Lee, A transformed rational function method and exact solutions to the 3 + 1 dimensional Jimbo-Miwa equation, Chaos Solitons Fract., 2009, 42, 1356–1363.

- [32] W. X. Ma and Y. J. Zhang, Darboux transformations of integrable couplings and applications, Rev. Math. Phys., 2018, 30, 1850003.
- [33] W. X. Ma and Y. Zhou, Lump solutions to nonlinear partial differential equations via Hirota bilinear forms, J. Differ. Equations, 2018, 264(4), 2633–2659.
- [34] S. Manukure, Y. Zhou and W. X. Ma, Lump solutions to a (2 + 1)-dimensional extended KP equation, Comput. Math. Appl., 2018, 75, 2414–2419.
- [35] E. J. Parkes and B. R. Duffy, An automated tanh-function method for finding solitary wave solutions to non-linear evolution equations, Comput. Phys. Commun., 1996, 98, 288–300.
- [36] S. F. Shen, et al, New soliton hierarchies associated with the Lie algebra so(3,ℝ) and the bi-Hamiltonian structures, Rep. Math. Phys., 2015, 75, 113–133.
- [37] V. M. Simulik and I. Yu. Krivsky, Bosonic symmetries of the Dirac equation, Phys. Lett. A., 2011, 375, 2479–2483.
- [38] G. Z. Tu, The trace identity, a powerful tool for constructing the Hamiltonian structure of integrable systems, J. Math. Phys., 1989, 30, 330–338.
- [39] M. L. Wang, Solitary wave solutions for variant Boussinesq equations, Phys. Lett. A., 1995, 199, 169–172.
- [40] M. L. Wang, Exact solutions for a compound KdV-Burgers equation, Phys. Lett. A., 1996, 213, 279–287.
- [41] H. Wang, Lump and interaction solutions to the (2+1)-dimensional Burgers equation, Appl. Mathe. Lett., 2018, 85, 27–34.
- [42] A. M. Wazwaz, The tanh-coth method for solitons and kink solutions for nonlinear parabolic equations, Appl. Math. Comput., 2007, 188, 1467–1475.
- [43] X. X. Xu, An integrable coupling hierarchy of Dirac integrable hierarchy, its Liouville integrability and Darboux transformation, J. Nonlinear Sci. Appl., 2017, 10, 3328–3343.
- [44] B. Xue, F. Li and H. Y. Wang, Darboux transformation and conservation laws of a integrable evolution equations with 3 × 3 Lax pairs, Appl. Math. comput., 2015, 269, 326–331.
- [45] H. W. Yang, et al, A new ZK-BO equation for three-dimensional algebraic Rossby solitary waves and its solution as well as fission property, Nonlinear Dyn., 2018, 91, 2019–2032.
- [46] J. Y. Yang, W. X. Ma and Z. Y. Qin, Lump and lump-soliton solutions to the (2 + 1)-dimensional Ito equation, Anal. Math. Phys., 2018, 8, 427–436.
- [47] H. X. Yang, X. X. Xu and H. Y. Ding, Two hierarchies of lattice soliton equations associated with a new discrete eigenvalue problem and Darboux transformation, Phys. Lett. A., 2015, 338, 117–127.
- [48] Y. J. Ye, et al, A generalized Dirac soliton hierarchy and its bi-Hamiltonian structure, Appl. Math. Lett., 2016, 60, 67–72.
- [49] H. Q. Zhang and W. X. Ma, Extended transformed rational function method and applications to complexiton solutions, Appl. Math. Comput., 2014, 230, 509–515.
- [50] J. B. Zhang and W. X. Ma, Mixed lump-kink solutions to the BKP equation, Comput. Math. Appl., 2017, 74, 591–596.

- [51] H. Q. Zhao and W. X. Ma, Mixed lump-kink solutions to the KP equation, Comput. Math. Appl., 2017, 74, 1399–1405.
- [52] Q. L. Zhao, X. Y. Li and F. S. Liu, Two integrable lattice hierarchies and their respective Darboux transformations, Appl. Math. Comput., 2013, 219(10), 5693–5705.
- [53] Q. Zhao and L. H. Wu, Darboux transformation and explicit solutions to the generalized TD equation, Appl. Math. Lett., 2017, 67, 1–6.
- [54] Q. L. Zhao and X. Y. Li, A Bargmann system and the involutive solutions associated with a new 4-Order lattice hierarchy, Anal. Math. Phys., 2016, 6(3), 237–254.
- [55] Y. B. Zhou, M. L. Wang and Y. M. Wang, Periodic wave solutions to a coupled KdV equations with variable coefficients, Phys. Lett. A., 2003, 208, 31–36.