

Department of Mathematics ^{香港城市大學}

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS City University of Hong Kong

Periodic Solutions of the Compressible Euler Equations and the Nonlinear Theory of Sound

by

Prof. Blake Temple University of California, Davis, USA

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ABSTRACT

We prove the existence of a large class of nonlinear sound waves, by which we mean space and time periodic oscillatory solutions of the 3 X 3 compressible Euler equations, in one space dimension. Being perturbations of solutions of a linear wave equation, these solutions provide a rigorous justification for the centuries old theory of Acoustics. In particular, Riemann's celebrated 1860 proof that compressions always form shocks, holds for isentropic flows, but this existence theory establishes that shock-free periodic solutions containing nontrivial compressions and rarefactions always exist under arbitrarily small perturbation of the entropy profile.

This is joint work with Robin Young.



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