

1154-35-1040

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When considering the variable mobility case, the Cahn-Hilliard equation can be viewed as either a 4th-order semi-linear partial differential equation or as a system of second order partial differential equations of the form

$$\begin{aligned}u_t &= \nabla \cdot b(u)\nabla w \\w &= f(u) - \alpha\Delta u,\end{aligned}$$

where f is generally taken to be the derivative of a double well potential function, $\alpha > 0$, and the function b is bounded away from zero in the non-degenerate case. Here we analyze a generalization of this equation of the form

$$\begin{aligned}u_t &= \nabla \cdot b(u)\mathbf{K}\nabla w \\w &= f(u) - \alpha\Delta u + \phi.\end{aligned}$$

When viewing this equation from the porous media perspective, u represents density, $b(u)\mathbf{K}$ conductivity, w the gravitational potential, and ϕ the gravity potential. We present various properties of this equation which are demonstrated with numerical examples as well as proving the existence of a weak solution when taking no-flux boundary conditions on both u and w . (Received September 12, 2019)