Understand TCM Classic Formulas by Case Studies

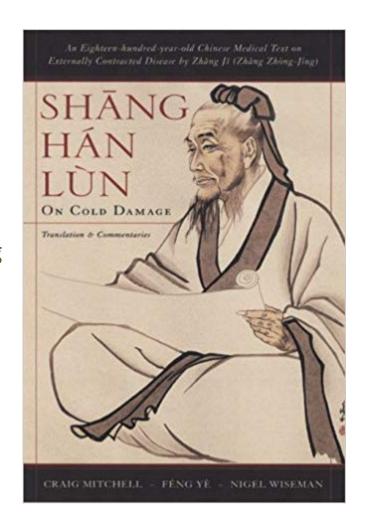
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Reference Book

- Shang Han Lun on Cold Damage Translation and Commentaries
 - Auther: Craig Mitchell,
 Chung-Ching Chang, Feng
 Ye
 - Publisher: ParadigmPublications (MA); 1edition (January 1999)
 - Language: English
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Definition of Classic Formulas

- Classic Formulas is the translation of "經方", it's first mentioned in the book "漢書" which is written about 1800 years ago.
- "漢書"《藝文志》: "經方十一家, 二百七十四卷, 經方者, 本草石之寒溫, 量疾病之淺深, 假藥味之滋, 因氣感之宜, 辨五苦六辛, 致水火之齊, 以通閉結, 反之於平。"

Definition of Classic Formulas

- The Classic Formulas are now well known as the formulas written in books from Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD) to Tang Dynasty (618 AD – 907 AD).
- Among these books, the most important ones are Zhang Zhong-Jing's 《 Shang Han Lun 》 《 Jin Qui Yao Lue 》 and Sun Si-Miao's 《 Bei Ji Qian Jin Yao Fang 》 《 Qian Jin Yi Fang 》

About Shang Han Lun

- (Shang Han Lun), known in English
 as the Treatise on Cold Damage Disorders
 or the Treatise on Cold Injury, is a Chinese
 medical treatise that was compiled by
 Zhang Zhong-Jing sometime before the
 year 220, at the end of the Han dynasty.
- The 《Shang Han Lun 》 has 398 sections with 113 herbal prescriptions, organized into the Six Divisions corresponding to the six stages of disease.

About Shang Han Lun

- Names for Six Divisions:
 - Tai Yang (太陽, Greater Yang)
 - Yang Ming (陽明, Yang Brightness)
 - Shao Yang (少陽, Lesser Yang)
 - Tai Yin (太陰, Greater Yin)
 - Shao Yin (少陰, Lesser Yin)
 - Jue Yin (厥陰, Reverting Yin)

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Male
 - Age: 7 years old
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Severe Food Allergy Reaction
 - Patient ate the cookie which contains tree nuts.

- Symptoms:
 - Hives
 - Redness of the skin
 - Itchy eyes
 - Dry throat
 - Stomach pain/bloating
 - Nausea
 - Swelling of the lips and tongue
 - Shortness of breath

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Float, Rapid
 - Hot skin
 - Restless

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 4: On the first day of cold damage, Greater Yang contracts [the disease]. If the pulse is tranquil, this means no passage; a strong desire to vomit, if [there is] agitation and vexation, and the pulse is rapid and urgent, means passage.

傷寒一日,太陽受之。脈若靜者,為不傳;頗欲 吐,若躁煩,脈數急者,為傳也

Line 33: When in Greater Yang and Yang Brightness combination disease, diarrhea is absent, [and] only retching [is present], Pueraria Decoction Plus Pinellia governs. (Ge Gan Jia Ban Xia Tang 葛根加半夏湯)

太陽與陽明合病,不下利,但嘔者,葛根加半夏湯主之。

 Line 180: In disease of Yang Brightness, the stomach domain is replete.

陽明之為病,胃家實是也。

- Line 182: Question: What are the outward signs of Yang Brightness?

Answer: [There is] generalized heat [effusion], spontaneous sweating, and no aversion to cold, but aversion to heat.

問曰:陽明病外證云何?答曰:身熱、汗自出,不惡寒,反惡熱者。

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Female
 - Age: 17
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Cold/Flu for more than a week
 - Patient suffered by fever and low energy. Had been treated with Ge Gen Tang (葛根湯) and Yin Qiao San (銀翹散) but no effect.

- Symptoms:
 - Fever (in the beginning)
 - Low energy
 - Headache
 - Bad Appetite
 - Dry throat (preferred warm water)
 - Aversion to Cold

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Float, a little Rapid, Weak,
 and String
 - Tongue: Thin, White

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 1: In disease of the Great Yang, the pulse is floating, the head and nape are stiff and painful, and [there is] aversion of cold.
 - 太陽之為病,脈浮,頭項強痛而惡寒。
 - Line 263: In disease of Lesser Yang, [there is] a bitter taste in the mouth, dry throat and dizzy vision.
 - 少陽之為病,口苦、咽乾、目眩也。

Line 96: When in cold damage, [there has lasted of] five or six days [or] wind strike, [there is] alternating [aversion to] cold and heat [effusion], [the person] suffers from fullness in the chest and rib-side, taciturnity with no desire for food or drink, heart vexation and frequent retching, or possibly [there is] vexation in the chest and no retching, or thirst or pain in the abdomen, or a hard glomus under the ribside, or palpitations below the heart with inhibited urination, or absent of thirst with mild generalized heat, or cough; [then] Minor Burpleurum Decoction governs. (Xiao Chai Hu Tang 小柴胡湯)

傷寒五六日,中風,往來寒熱,胸脇苦滿,默默不欲飲食,心煩喜嘔,或胸中煩而不嘔,或渴、或腹中痛,或脇下痞硬,或心下悸,小便不利,或不渴,身有微熱,或咳者,小柴胡湯主之。

Combination Disease

- Combination Disease from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》
 - Tai Yang (Greater Yang) and Yang Ming (Yang Brightness):
 - Line 32, Line 33, Line 48.
 - Tai Yang (Greater Yang) and Shao Yang (Lesser Yang) :
 - Line 172, Line 142, Line 150, Line 171
- Is there any other combinations?

Combination Formulas

- Promote Sweating Mildly for Tai Yang and Yang Ming combination
 - Line 48
- 3 Combination formulas from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》
 - Line 33: Gui Zhi Ma Huang Ge Ban Tang (桂枝麻黃 各半湯)
 - Line 25: Gui Zhi Er Ma Huang Yi Tang (桂枝二麻黃一湯)
 - Line 27: Gui Zhi Er Yue Bi Yi Tang (桂枝二越婢一 湯)

Ratios of Combination Formulas

- Gui Zhi Ma Huang Ge Ban Tang (桂枝麻 黃各半湯)
 - 1/3 Gui Zhi Tnag + 1/3 Ma Huang Tang
- Gui Zhi Er Ma Huang Yi Tang (桂枝二麻 黃一湯)
 - 5/12 Gui Zhi Tnag + 2/9 Ma Huang Tang
- Gui Zhi Er Yue Bi Yi Tang (桂枝二越婢一湯)
 - 1/4 Gui Zhi Tnag + 1/8 Yue Bi Tang

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Female
 - Age: 50+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Sever Cough
 - Asthma

- Symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Headache
 - Cough with phlegm, watery type
 - Aversion to Cold

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Float and Rapid, Weak, Slippery

Tongue: Thick, White Coating

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 40: When in cold damage the exterior has not resolved and [there is] water Qi below the heart, with dry retching, heat effusion and cough, and possibly thirst or diarrhea, or dysphagia, or inhibited urination and lesser abdominal fullness, or panting, Minor Green-Blue Dragon Decoction governs.

 (Xiao Qing Long Tang 小青龍湯)

傷寒表不解,心下有水氣,乾嘔發熱而咳,或 渴、或利、或噎、或小便不利,少腹滿,或喘 者,小青龍湯主之。

Common Formula for Flu/Cold

Ephedra amount comparison

- Ge Gen Tang 葛根湯: 3 Liang 三兩

- Ma Huang Tang 麻黃湯: 3 Liang 三兩

- Xiao Qing Long Tang 小青龍湯: 3 Liang 三兩

- Ma Xing Gan Shi Tang 麻杏甘石湯: 4 Liang 四兩

- Da Qing Long Tang 大青龍湯: 6 Liang 六兩

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Male
 - Age: 40+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Palpitation
 - Low Blood Pressure

- Symptoms:
 - Dizziness
 - Insomnia
 - Weak
 - Low Blood Pressure (84/57, HR 85)

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Weak, Thin and Hollow

Tongue: Thin, White Coating

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 64: When copious sweating has been promoted and the person's hand are crossed over the heart and there are palpitations below the heart, with a desire for pressure, Cinnamon Twig and Licorice Decoction governs. (Gui Zhi Gan Cao Tang 桂枝甘草湯)

發汗過多,其人叉手自冒心,心下悸,欲得按者,桂枝甘草湯主之。

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Male
 - Age: 19
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Fever
 - Vomit right after eat or drink

- Symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Thirsty
 - Nausea

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Float and Big, Slippery

Tongue: Thick, White Coating

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 71: When in Great Yang disease, after sweating promoted and issues, [if there is] dryness in the stomach, vexation and agitation with insomnia, and a desire to drink water, giving a small amount of water will harmonize the stomach Qi so that recover [will ensure]. If the pulse is floating and [there is] inhibited urination, slight heat, and dispersion-thirst, Poria (Hoelen) Five Powder governs. (Wu Ling Sa 五苓散)

太陽病,發汗後,大汗出,胃中乾,煩燥不得眠,欲得飲水者,少少與飲之,令胃氣和則愈。若脈浮,小便不利,微熱消渴者,五苓散主之。

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 72: When sweating has already been promoted, the pulse is floating and rapid, and [there is] vexation and thirst, Poria (Hoelen) Five Powder governs.

 (Wu Ling Sa 五苓散)

發汗已,脈浮數,煩燥者,五苓散主之。

- Line 73: When in cold damage [there is] sweating and thirst, Poria (Hoelen) Five Powder governs.
(Wu Ling Sa 五苓散) [If] thirst absent, Poria (Hoelen) and Licorice Decoction governs. (Fu Ling Gan Cao Tang 茯苓甘草湯)

傷寒汗出而渴者,五苓散主之,不渴者,茯苓甘草湯主之。

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 74: When in wind strike [the person has] heat effusion, unresolved after six or seven days and vexation, [so that][there is] an exterior and an interior pattern [marked by] thirst with a desire to drink water and immediate vomiting of ingested fluids, [this] is called water counterflow. [for which] Poria (Hoelen) Five Powder govens. (Wu Ling San 五苓散)

中風發熱, 六七日不解而煩, 有表裡症, 渴欲飲水, 水入則吐者, 名曰水逆, 五苓散主之。

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Female
 - Age: 20+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Flu/Cold
 - Vertigo when moving the head

- Symptoms:
 - Low-Grade Fever
 - Dizzy
 - Thirsty
 - Chest tightness
 - Urination Difficulty

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Deep and String,

Tongue: Thick, White Coating

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 67: When in cold damage, after vomiting or precipitation, [there is] counterflow fullness below the heart, the Qi surges upward to the chest, [the person experiences] dizzy head upon standing, and the pulse is sunken and tight, [if] sweating is promoted, the channels will be stirred and there will be quivering and trembling then Poria(Hoelen), Cinnamon Twig, Ovate Atractylodes, and Licorice Decoction governs. (Ling Gui Zhu Gan Tang 苓桂朮甘湯)

傷寒,若吐若下後,心下逆滿,氣上衝胸,起則頭眩,脈沈緊,發汗則動經,身為振振搖者,茯苓桂枝白朮甘草湯主之。

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Female
 - Age: 20+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Vertigo for 3 weeks
 - Feel dizzy even while lying down
 - Need assist to get up

- Symptoms:
 - Drowsy
 - Thirsty
 - Heavy Limbs
 - Urination Difficulty
 - Headache
 - Nausea

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Deep and Weak,

Tongue: Thick, White Coating; Pale

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 82: When in Great Yang Disease, sweating has been promoted and sweat issues [but the disease] does not resolve, the person still has heat effusion, and [there are] palpitation below the heart, dizzy head, generalized twitching, and [the person is] quivering and about to fall. True Warrior Decoction governs. (Zhen Wu Tang 真武湯)

太陽發汗,汗出不解,其人仍發熱,心下悸,頭眩,身瞤動,振振欲擗地者,真武湯主之。

Formulas for Dizziness

- Ling Gui Zhu Gan Tang 苓桂朮甘湯
- Wu Ling San 五苓散
- Xiao Chai Hu Tang 小柴胡湯
- Zhen Wu Tang 真武湯
- Dang Gui Shao Yao San 當歸芍藥散

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Male
 - Age: 40+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Lose Weight
 - Super Large Appetite

- Symptoms:
 - Feel hungry every 2-3 hours
 - Quivery when feel hungry
 - Feel hot
 - Bad Temper
 - Thirsty
 - Irritable

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Float, Big and Slippery

Tongue: Thin, White Coating

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 176: When in cold damage, the pulse is floating and slippery, this [means there is] heat in the exterior and cold in the interior. White Tiger Decoction governs. (Bai Hu Tang 白虎湯)

傷寒,脈浮滑,此表有熱,裡有寒,白虎湯主 之。

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 170: When in cold damage, the pulse is floating, [and there is] heat effusion [and] sweating is absent, the exterior has not resolved; one cannot give White Tiger Decoction; If [there is] thirst with a desire for fluids and no exterior signs, White Tiger Decoction Plus Ginseng governs. (Bai Hu Jia Ren Shen Tang 白虎加人參湯)

傷寒,脈浮,發熱無汗,其表不解,不可與白虎湯;渴欲飲水,無表症者,白虎加人參湯主之

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Female
 - Age: 40+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Urinary Tract Infection

- Symptoms:
 - Frequent urination
 - Pain and Burning sensation with urination
 - Itching
 - Backache

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Float, String and Thin

Tongue: Thin, White Coating

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 223: If the pulse is floating and [there is] heat effusion, thirst with a desire to drink water, and inhibited urination, [then] Polyporus Decoction governs. (Zhu Ling Tang 豬苓湯)

若脈浮發熱,渴欲飲水,小便不利者,豬苓湯主之。

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Male
 - Age: 40+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Stomach ache for 3 ~ 4 years

- Symptoms:
 - Pain around the belly button
 - Pain around both the rib side
 - Bad Appetite
 - Dry throat
 - Bitter taste in mouth

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Deep and String

Tongue: No Coating

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 266: When originally [there was] Greater Yang disease was unresolved and [thereby] shifted into the Lesser Yang, [there is] hardness and fullness under the rib-side, dry retching and inability to eat, and alternating [aversion to] cold and heat [effusion]. When [neither] vomiting [treatment not] precipitation has yet [been used] and the pulse is sunken and tight, [one should] give Minor Bupleurum Decoction. (Xiao Chai Hu Tang 小柴胡 湯)

本太陽病,不解,轉入少陽者,脇下硬滿,乾嘔 不能食,往來寒熱,尚未吐下,脈沈緊者,與小 柴胡湯。

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 101: [When] in cold damage [or] wind strike, there are [Minor] Bupleurum [Decoction] signs, only one sign [means that] this is [the pattern], they do not all have to be present. Whenever a[Minor] Bupleurum [Decoction] disease pattern [is treated by[precipitation, if the [Minor] Bupleurum [Decoction] does not ceased, [one can] give [Minor] Bupleurum [Decoction] again. [There] will be steaming and quivering, then heat effusion and sweating again, by which [the disease] resolves.

傷寒中風,有柴胡證,但見一證便是,不必悉 具。凡柴胡病證而下之,若柴胡證不罷者,復與 柴胡湯,必蒸蒸而振,卻復發熱汗出而解。

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Female
 - Age: 20+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Stomach ache

- Symptoms:
 - Pain around the belly button(Umbilical)
 - Belching
 - Fullness in abdomen
 - Acid Reflux
 - Constipation
 - Rumbling in abdomen

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Moderate and Weak

Tongue: Thick, White Coating

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 273: In disease of the Greater Yin, [there is] abdominal fullness and vomiting, inability to get food down, severe spontaneous diarrhea, and periodic spontaneous abdominal pain, and if precipitation [is used], there will be hard bind below the chest.

太陰之為病,腹滿而吐,食不下,自利益甚,時腹自痛,若下之,必胸下結硬。

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 279: When originally there was Greater Yang disease, but the physician used precipitation, and consequently [there is] abdominal fullness with periodic pain, this belongs to Greater Yin [disease]. Cinnamon Twig Decoction Plus Peony (桂枝加芍藥湯) governs; If [there is] great repletion pain, Cinnamon Twig Decoction Plus Rhubarb (桂枝加大黄湯) governs.

本太陽病,醫反下之,因爾腹滿時痛者,屬太陰也,桂枝加芍藥湯主之;大實痛者,桂枝加大黃湯主之。

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Male
 - Age: 40+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Cold/Flu

- Symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Aversion to cold
 - Cold limbs
 - Fatigue
 - Drowsy

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Deep, Thin and Weak

Tongue: Thick, White Coating

 What will be your TCM diagnosis and treatment/prescription?

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 281: In disease of the Lesser Yin, the pulse is faint and fine and [there is]a desire only to sleep
 少陰之為病,脈微細,但欲寐也。
 - Line 285: When in Lesser Yin disease, the pulse is fine, sunken and rapid. The disease is the interior and on cannot promote sweating.

少陰病,脈沈細數,病為在裡,不可發汗。

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 286: When in Lesser Yin disease, the pulse is faint, one cannot promote sweating, because Yang [will] collapse. [If] Yang is already vacuous and the cubit pulse is weak and rough, then one cannot precipitation.

少陰病,脈微,不可發汗,亡陽故也;陽已虚,尺脈弱濇者,復不可下也。

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 316: When Lesser Yin disease has not ceased [after] two or three days, and at four or five days [there is] abdominal pain, inhibited urination, heaviness and pain in limbs, and spontaneous diarrhea, it means [there is] water Qi, and the person may cough, or have uninhibited urination, or diarrhea, or retching; [therefore] True Warrior Decoction governs. (Zhen Wu Tang 真武湯)

少陰病, 二三日不已, 至四五日, 腹痛, 小便不利, 四肢沈重疼痛, 自下利者, 此為有水氣, 其人或咳, 或小便利, 或下利, 或嘔者, 真武湯主之。

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Female
 - Age: 50+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Chronicle Headache for 13 years
 - Vertigo

- Symptoms:
 - Headache
 - Dizziness
 - Nausea
 - Bad Appetite
 - Insomnia

Case Studies - Case 13

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: String, Thin and Weak

Tongue: Pale, No Coating

Case Studies - Case 13

- Lines from 《 Shang Hun Lun 》:
 - Line 326: In disease of the Reverting Yin, [there is]dispersion-thirst, Qi surging upward to the heart, pain and the heat in the heart, hunger with no desire to eat, vomiting of roundworms after eating, and [if] precipitation [is used], [there will be] incessant diarrhea.

厥陰之為病,消渴,氣上撞心,心中疼熱,飢而不欲食,食則吐蚘,下之利不止。

Line 378: When [there is] dry retching, ejection of drool and foam, and headache, Evodia Decoction governs. (Wu Zhu Yu Tang 吳茱萸湯)

乾嘔, 吐涎味, 頭痛者, 吳茱萸湯主之。

Test Case

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Male
 - Age: 60+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Ventricular hypertrophy
 - Edema

Test Case

- Symptoms:
 - Short of Breath
 - Can not lay down
 - Fatigue
 - Palpitation
 - Legs Swelling
 - Insomnia
 - Bad Appetite
 - Constipation

Test Case

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Rapid and Weak

Tongue: Thin, Light White Coating

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Female
 - Age: 30+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Constipation
 - Pain around the belly button(Umbilical)

- Symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Stomach Ache
 - No bowel movement for several days
 - Bad Appetite
 - Acid Reflux
 - Hand/Foot sweating
 - Bitter taste in mouth

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Deep, Rapid with strength

Tongue: Thick, Dry and Dark yellow
 Coating

- Patient info:
 - Gender: Male
 - Age: 60+
- Subjective Patient Complaints:
 - Cold/Flu
 - Fever

- Symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Headache
 - Lower Back Pain
 - Aversion to Cold
 - Fatigue

- TCM diagnosis:
 - Pulse: Deep, Thin and Weak

Tongue: Pale with Thin, Dark Brown
 Coating

Q&A