



Fractional power series method for solving fractional differential equation

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Abstract:

we use fractional power series method (FPSM) to solve some linear or nonlinear fractional differential equations. Compared to the other method, the FPSM is more simple, direct and effective.

Keyword: fractional power series: fractional differential equation: Caputo fractional derivative.

1. Introduction

Many phenomena in applied sciences and engineering can be described successfully by using fractional order differential equation [1-7]. But fractional order differential equations are usually hard to solve analytically and exact solution are rather difficult to be obtained. So it is very important to find efficient methods for solving these equations.

Various researchers have introduced new methods in the literature. These methods include variational iteration method (VIM) [1], homotopy perturbation method (HPM) [2], homotopy analysis method (HAM) [3], DGJ method [5], Adomian decomposition method (ADM) [4], and other methods [7].

In this paper, we will use fractional power series method (FPSM) [10] to solve some fractional differential equations. Compared to the above method, the FPSM is more simple and effective.

2. Basic definitions

Definition 1. ([6]) A power series representation of the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (t-t_0)^{n\alpha} = c_0 + c_1 (t-t_0)^\alpha + c_2 (t-t_0)^{2\alpha} + \dots, \quad (1)$$

where $0 \leq m-1 < \alpha \leq m, m \in \mathbb{N}^+$ and $t \geq t_0$ is called a fractional power series (FPS) about t_0 , where t is a variable and c_n are the coefficients of the series.

Definition 2. ([7]) The fractional derivative of $f(x)$ in Caputo sense is defined as

$$D^\alpha f(x) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \int_0^x (x-s)^{m-\alpha-1} f^{(m)}(s) ds, \quad (2)$$

for $m-1 < \alpha \leq m, m \in \mathbb{N}^+, x > 0$.

In addition, we also need the following property:



Theorem 1. ([6]) Suppose that the FPS $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n t^{n\alpha}$ has radius of convergence $R > 0$. If $f(t)$ is a function defined

by $f(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n t^{n\alpha}$ on $0 \leq t < R$, then for $m-1 < \alpha \leq m$ and $0 \leq t < R$, we have:

$$D^\alpha f(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \frac{\Gamma(n\alpha + 1)}{\Gamma((n-1)\alpha + 1)} t^{(n-1)\alpha}. \quad (3)$$

3. Illustrative examples

In this section, the applicability of FPSM shall be demonstrated by two test examples.

3.1 Example 1

First, we consider the fractional telegraph equation in the form [8]:

$$D_x^\alpha u = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u, \quad (4)$$

with the initial conditions

$$u(0, t) = e^{-t}, \quad u'_x(0, t) = 0. \quad (5)$$

Where $1 < \alpha \leq 2$ is a parameter describing the order of the fractional space derivative. To apply FPSM, suppose that the solution of (4) takes the form:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k(t) x^{\alpha k} = a_0(t) + a_1(t) x^\alpha + a_2(t) x^{2\alpha} + \dots. \quad (6)$$

Using (5), we have $a_0(t) = e^{-t}$. Next we determine the $a_k(t)$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots$).

From Theorem 1, we obtain

$$D_x^\alpha u(x, t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_k(t) \Gamma(\alpha k + 1)}{\Gamma(\alpha(k-1) + 1)} x^{\alpha(k-1)}. \quad (7)$$

On the other hand,

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial^2 a_0(t)}{\partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^2 a_1(t)}{\partial t^2} x^\alpha + \frac{\partial^2 a_2(t)}{\partial t^2} x^{2\alpha} + \dots, \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial a_0(t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial a_1(t)}{\partial t} x^\alpha + \frac{\partial a_2(t)}{\partial t} x^{2\alpha} + \dots. \quad (9)$$

Substituting (6), (7), (8) and (9) into (4), and comparing the coefficients of x^α in the both side, we get



$$a_k(t) = \frac{e^{-t}}{\Gamma(\alpha k + 1)}, \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Thus we obtain the solution

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-t}}{\Gamma(\alpha k + 1)} x^{\alpha k}.$$

The exact solution to (4) when $\alpha = 2$ is given as:

$$u(x, t) = e^{-t} \cosh hx.$$

3.2 Example 2

Now, we consider the fractional Riccati equation that is frequently encountered in optimal control problem [7]:

$$D^\beta u(t) = 2u(t) - u^2(t) + 1, \quad 0 < \beta < 1, \quad 0 < t < 1, \quad (10)$$

with the initial condition $u(0) = 0$.

To apply FPSM, we suppose that the solution of (4) takes the form:

$$u(t) = a_0 + a_1 t^\beta + a_2 t^{2\beta} + a_3 t^{3\beta} + \dots \quad (11)$$

Using the initial condition $u(0) = 0$, we have $a_0 = 0$. Next we determine the a_k ($k = 1, 2, \dots$).

By Theorem 1, we get

$$D^\beta u = a_1 \frac{\Gamma(\beta + 1)}{\Gamma(1)} + a_2 \frac{\Gamma(2\beta + 1)}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)} t^\beta + a_3 \frac{\Gamma(3\beta + 1)}{\Gamma(2\beta + 1)} t^{2\beta} + \dots \quad (12)$$

Substitute (11) and (12) into (10), yields that:

$$\begin{aligned} & a_1 \frac{\Gamma(\beta + 1)}{\Gamma(1)} + a_2 \frac{\Gamma(2\beta + 1)}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)} t^\beta + a_3 \frac{\Gamma(3\beta + 1)}{\Gamma(2\beta + 1)} t^{2\beta} + \dots \\ & = 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k t^{\beta k} - \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k t^{\beta k} \right)^2 + 1. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

The equating of the coefficients of $t^{\beta k}$ in both side of (13), leads to the following:

$$a_1 = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)},$$



$$a_2 = \frac{2}{\Gamma(2\beta+1)},$$

$$a_3 = \frac{4\Gamma^2(1+\beta) - \Gamma(1+2\beta)}{\Gamma^2(1+\beta)\Gamma(1+3\beta)},$$

and so on.

Thus the solution can be obtained. For example, when $\beta = 0.5$, we have the solution as

$$u = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}}t^{\frac{1}{2}} + 2t + \frac{16(\pi-1)}{3\pi^{3/2}}t^{\frac{3}{2}} - \frac{\pi-4}{\pi}t^2 + \dots$$

which agrees with the results of this problem obtained in [7].

4. Conclusion

we have used FPSM to solve some linear or nonlinear fractional differential equations. Compared to the other method, the FPSM is more simple, direct and effective.

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