The Linear, Nonlinear and Partial Differential Equations are not Fractional Order Differential Equations

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Abstract The differential equations were considered as fractional order differential equations in literature. Homotopy Analysis Method was used to obtain analytical solutions of these equations. We applied reverse processes to analytical solutions of some fractional order differential equations, and observed that solutions could not satisfy the corresponding equations. Due to this case, we proposed a new approach for fractional order derivative and it was verified by using this new approach that any differential equations cannot be converted into fractional order differential equations so simply.

Keywords Derivatives, Fractional Calculus, Differential Equations, Fractional Order Differential Equations

MSC Classification: 26A33

1 Introduction

Differential equations are applied to a large set of problems, due to this case, there are many studies on differential equations [1,2,3,4,5]. Some studies are on converting differential equations into fractional order differential equations.

Fractional order derivatives and fractional order differential equations have important roles in rheology, damping laws, diffusion process, etc [6,7,8,9,10]. Partial differential equations, nonlinear differential equations and fractional order differential equations require an effective solutions method. HAM is a candidate method for solving all partial differential equations, nonlinear differential equations and fractional order differential equations [11]. Dehghan and his friends tried to solve nonlinear partial differential equations by using HAM [12].

It is known that these solutions should satisfy the corresponding equations. We applied reverse process to equations and we observed that any differential equation cannot be converted into fractional order differential equation by assuming any order as fractional, since those equations are satisfied by the current conditions; changing the conditions will yield new equations.

The deficiencies in those methods in literature are coming from the fractional order derivative definitions used in the many studies. The methods involving deficiencies yield non-consistent results. Due to this case, there is a method proposed for fractional order derivative in Karci studies [15,16] and by using this method concludes in whether converting any differential equations to fractional order differential equations is valid or not. We saw that converting any differential equations into fractional order differential equations by changing order is not a valid method, since applications of the proposed method in Karci’s papers illustrated that any differential equations cannot be converted into fractional order differential equations so simply.

This paper is organized as follow. Section 2 described the applications of HAM to some famous differential equations considered as fractional order differential equations, Section 3 included results of converting differential equations into fractional order differential equations. Finally, Section 4 finalized this paper.

2. HAM and Some Solutions for Fractional Order Differential Equations

Shijun [11] proposed an analytic method in his Ph.D. dissertation, and it was called as Homotopy Analysis Method (HAM). Dehghan et al [12] used HAM to solve some fractional order differential equations such as Fractional KdV, Fractional K(2,2), Fractional Burgers and Fractional Cubic Boussinesq Equations.

Dehghan et al [12] solved these equations and we will apply these solutions to related equations whether they satisfy these equations or not.

\[
D_\alpha^\alpha u(x,t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\alpha)} \int_0^t (t-\tau)^{n-\alpha-1} u^{(n)}(x,\tau) d\tau, \quad \alpha > 0
\]
2.1. Fractional KdV Equation

The mathematical model of waves on the shallow water surfaces is Korteweg–de Vries equation (KdV equation), and it is a non-linear partial differential equation whose solutions can be exactly and precisely specified. The KdV equation can be considered as

\[ u_t(x,t) + a(u^2)_x(x,t) + bu_{xxx}(x,t) = g(x,t) \]

Some researchers considered this as fractional order differential equation. The fractional KdV equation \[13,14\] is the first equation to be handled in this paper. This equation is shown in Eq.1.

\[ D_t^\alpha u(x,t) + a(u^2)_x(x,t) + bu_{xxx}(x,t) = g(x,t) \tag{1} \]

Assume that \( g(x,t) = 0 \), \( a = -3 \) and \( b = 1 \), the equation in Eq.2 will be obtained.

\[ D_t^\alpha u(x,t) - 3(u^2)_x(x,t) + u_{xxx}(x,t) = 0 \tag{2} \]

and this equation was solved by Dehghan et al. \[12\] using HAM \[11\]. The obtained solution is seen in Eq.3.

\[ u(x,t) = \frac{6x}{1 - 36t}, \quad |36t| < 1, \quad u^2(x,t) = \frac{36x^2}{(1 - 36t)^2} \tag{3} \]

The function symbols \( u \) and \( u(x,t) \) will be used interchange. The derivatives are

\[ -3(u^2)_x = -\frac{216x}{(1 - 36t)^2} \tag{4} \]

\[ u_x = \frac{6}{(1 - 36t)} \Rightarrow u_{xx} = \frac{0}{(1 - 36t)} = 0, \quad \text{so,} \quad u_{xxx} = 0 \tag{5} \]

The parameters for fractional order derivative are \( n = 1 \) and \( \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \)

\[ D_t^\alpha u = \frac{216x}{\Gamma(1/2)} \frac{d}{dt} \left[ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{\tau}{1 - 36t}}} \right) \right] \]

\[ = \frac{216x}{\Gamma(1/2)} \left[ 2\sqrt{1 - \frac{\tau}{1 - 36t}} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{\tau}{1 - 36t}}} \right] \tag{6} \]

Substituting results in Eq.4, Eq.5 and Eq.6 into Eq.2 yields Eq.7.

\[ \frac{216x}{\Gamma(1/2)} \left( \frac{2}{(1 - 36t)^2} \right) + 0 \neq 0 \tag{7} \]

This equation is not same as Eq.2. When \( \alpha = 1 \), \( D_t^\alpha u(x,t) = \frac{216x}{(1 - 36t)^2} \) and

\[ D_t^\alpha u - 3(u^2)_x + u_{xxx} \]

\[ = \frac{216x}{(1 - 36t)^2} + \frac{-216x}{(1 - 36t)^2} + 0 = 0 \tag{8} \]

The results obtained in Eq.7 and Eq.8 demonstrates that any ordinary differential equation, partial differential equation or nonlinear differential equation cannot be converted to fractional order differential equation with the same coefficients and same orders.

2.2. Fractional K (2,2) Equation

A family of nonlinear KdV equations K(m,n) is

\[ u_t(x,t) + (u^m)_x(x,t) + (u^n)_{xxx}(x,t) = 0, \quad m > 0, \quad 1 < n \leq 3. \]

Some researchers also considered this equation as fractional order differential equations. The fractional order K (2,2) equation is the next equation to be handled in this paper \[13\].

\[ D_t^\alpha u(x,t) + (u^2)_x(x,t) + (u^2)_{xxx}(x,t) = 0, \tag{9} \]

The solution of Eq.9 was obtained by Mehdi and his friends and the obtained solution is in Eq.10.

\[ u(x,0) = x, \quad \text{and} \quad 0 < \alpha \leq 1 \tag{10} \]

The derivatives of these solutions are

\[ (u^2)_x = \frac{2x}{(1 + 2t)^{3/2}}, \quad \text{and finally} \quad (u^2)_{xxx} = \frac{0}{(1 + 2t)^{5/2}} = 0 \tag{11} \]

The parameters for fractional order derivative are \( n = 1 \) and \( \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \)

\[ D_t^\alpha u = \frac{2x}{\Gamma(1/2)} \frac{d}{dt} \left[ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{\tau}{(1 + 2t)^2}}} \right) \right] \]

\[ = \frac{2x}{\Gamma(1/2)} \left[ \frac{2\sqrt{1 - \frac{\tau}{(1 + 2t)^2}}}{(1 + 2t)^3} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{\tau}{(1 + 2t)^2}}} \right] \tag{12} \]

The results obtained in Eq.11, Eq.12 and Eq.13 are substituted in Eq.9, and the result in Eq.14 is obtained.
\[ D_t^\alpha u + (u^2)_x + (u^2)_t = 0 \]  
\[ \Rightarrow \frac{12x\sqrt{t}}{\Gamma(1/2)} + \frac{2x}{(1+2t)^{3/2}} + 0 \neq 0 \quad (14) \]

The obtained result is not equal to zero, so, equation is not satisfied. When \( \alpha = 1 \),  
\[ D_t^\alpha u + (u^2)_x + (u^2)_t = 0 \]
\[ \Rightarrow \frac{12x\sqrt{t}}{\Gamma(1/2)} + \frac{2x}{(1+2t)^{3/2}} + 0 = 0 \quad (15) \]

The Eq.14 and Eq.15 illustrates that the ordinary differential equation cannot be converted to fractional order differential equation by substituting any term with fractional order derivative term.

### 2.3. Fractional Burgers' Equation

The mathematical model of gas mechanics and traffic flows is Burgers' equation and this equation is a partial differential equation from fluid mechanics. This equation is also considered as fractional order differential equation. The modified KdV equation [13] is a Burgers' equation  
\[ D_t^\alpha u(x,t) + \frac{1}{2} (u^2)_x (x,t) - (u)_t(x,t) = 0, \quad 0 < \alpha \leq 1 \quad (16) \]

The solution of Eq.16 was obtained by Mehdi and his friends as  
\[ u(x,t) = \frac{x}{1+t} \quad \text{and} \quad u^2(x,t) = \frac{x^2}{(1+t)^2} \quad (17) \]

The derivatives of these solutions are  
\[ (u^2)_x = \frac{2x}{(1+t)^2} \quad (18) \]
\[ u_x = \frac{1}{1+t} \Rightarrow u_{xx} = \frac{0}{1+t} = 0 \quad (19) \]

The parameters are \( n=1 \) and \( \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \).  
\[ D_t^\alpha u = -\frac{2x}{\Gamma(1/2)} \int_0^t \left( \frac{\sqrt{t-\tau}}{(1+\tau)^{3/2}} \right)^2 d\tau \]
\[ = \frac{4x\sqrt{t}}{\Gamma(1/2)} \quad (20) \]

The results obtained in Eq.18, Eq.19 and Eq.20 are substituted in Eq.16, and the result in Eq.21 is obtained.  
\[ D_t^\alpha u + \frac{1}{2} (u^2)_x - (u)_t = 0 \]
\[ \Rightarrow \frac{4x\sqrt{t}}{\Gamma(1/2)} + \frac{x}{(1+t)^{3/2}} - 0 \neq 0 \quad (21) \]

When \( \alpha = 1 \),  
\[ D_t^\alpha u(x,t) = \frac{-x}{(1+t)^2} \quad \text{and} \quad D_t^\alpha u + \frac{1}{2} (u^2)_x - (u)_t = 0 \]
\[ \Rightarrow \frac{-x}{(1+t)^2} + \frac{x}{(1+t)^{3/2}} - 0 = 0 \quad (22) \]

The Eq.21 and Eq.22 illustrates that the ordinary differential equation cannot be converted to fractional order differential equation by substituting any term with fractional order derivative term.

### 2.4. Fractional Cubic Boussinesq Equation

The original Boussinesq equation is  
\[ u_{xx}(x,t) - u_{xxx}(x,t) + 2u_x(x,t) - u_{xxxx}(x,t) = 0 \]
and its fractional order is  
\[ D_t^{2\alpha} u(x,t) - u_{xx}(x,t) + 2u_x(x,t) - u_{xxxx}(x,t) = 0 \quad (23) \]

The solution of Eq.23 was obtained by Mehdi and his friends as  
\[ u(x,t) = \frac{1}{x+t} \quad \text{and} \quad u^3(x,t) = \frac{1}{(x+t)^3} \quad (24) \]

The derivatives of these solutions are  
\[ u_x = \frac{-1}{(x+t)^2} \Rightarrow u_{xx} = \frac{2}{(x+t)^3} \quad (25) \]
\[ u_{xxx} = \frac{-6}{(x+t)^4} \Rightarrow u_{xxxx} = \frac{24}{(x+t)^5} \quad (26) \]
\[ (u^3)_x = \frac{-3}{(x+t)^2} \Rightarrow (u^3)_{xx} = \frac{12}{(x+t)^3} \quad (27) \]

The parameters are \( n=1 \) and \( \alpha = \frac{1}{3} \).  
\[ D_t^{2\alpha} u = -\frac{1}{\Gamma(1/3)} \int_0^\tau \left( \frac{t-\tau}{\sqrt{\tau}} \right)^{2/3} d\tau \]
\[ = \frac{7}{15\Gamma(1/3)} \frac{t^{-2/3}}{x} \quad (28) \]

The results obtained in Eq.25, Eq.26, Eq.27 and Eq.28 are substituted in Eq.23, and the result in Eq.29 is obtained.  
\[ D_t^{2\alpha} u - u_{xx} + 2(u^3)_{xx} - u_{xxxx} = 0 \]
\[ \Rightarrow \frac{7}{15\Gamma(1/3)} \frac{t^{-2/3}}{x} - \frac{2}{(x+t)^{3/2}} \]
\[ + \frac{24}{(x+t)^4} - \frac{24}{(x+t)^5} \]
\[ \Rightarrow \frac{7}{15\Gamma(1/3)} \frac{t^{-2/3}}{x} - \frac{2}{(x+t)^{3/2}} \neq 0 \quad (29) \]

When \( \alpha = 1 \),
\[ D_t^{2+} u(x,t) = D_t^6 \left( D_t^3 u(x,t) \right) = \frac{2}{(x+t)^3} \] and
\[ D_t^{2+} u - u_x + 2(u^3)_x - u_{xxx} = 0 \]
\[ = \frac{2}{(x+t)^3} - \frac{2}{(x+t)^3} + \frac{24}{(x+t)^5} - \frac{24}{(x+t)^5} = 0 \] (30)

The Eq.29 and Eq.30 illustrates that the ordinary differential equation cannot be converted to fractional order differential equation by substituting any term with fractional order derivative term.

3. Conversion of Differential Equations to Fractional Order Differential Equations

The sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 illustrate that any differential equations cannot be converted into fractional order differential equations easily. The solutions of Fractional KdV, Fractional K(2,2), Fractional KdV, Fractional K(2,2), Fractional KdV, Fractional K(2,2) Equations by using Homotopy Analytic Method demonstrate that differential equations cannot be converted into fractional order differential equations. There will be two important reasons for this case.

**Case 1.** Assume that \( x^n + y^n = z^n \), \( n,x,y,z \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \). When \( n = 1 \) or 2 there are solutions for this equations, on the other hand, when \( n > 2 \) there is no solution for this equation. \( n \) can be considered as order of differential equations, and the orders of differential equations are all integers. So, any differential equations cannot be converted into fractional order differential equations without changing the domain of variables of functions.

**Case 2.** The second reason is that deficiencies in definitions of fractional derivative. Instead of definitions for fractional order derivative, a new definition for fractional order derivative \([15,16]\) can be used to demonstrate that differential equations cannot be converted into fractional order differential equations. There will be two important reasons for this case.

**Definition \([15,16]\).** Assume that \( f(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) is a function, \( a \in \mathbb{R} \) and \( L(.) \) be a L’Hospital process. The fractional order derivative of \( f(x) \) can be rephrased as follow
\[ f^{(a)}(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{L \left( \frac{f^a(x+h) - f^a(x)}{(x+h)^a - x^a} \right)}{L \left( \frac{d(f^a(x+h) - f^a(x))}{dh} \right)} \] (31)

where \( a \) is the order of differentiation.

The effect of this definition can be illustrated on the Fractional KdV Equation, Fractional K(2,2) Equation, Fractional Burgers’ Equation and Fractional Cubic Boussinesq Equation.

a) Fractional KdV Equation:
\[ D_t^a u(x,t) - 3(u^3)_x(x,t) + u_{xxx}(x,t) = 0 \] and its solution is \( u(x,t) = \frac{6x}{1 - 36t} \), \( |36t| < 1 \).

The fractional order derivatives with respect to new definition (Eq.31) are
\[ D_t^a u(x,t) : \left( \frac{6x}{t(1 - 36t)} \right)^{\alpha-1} \left( \frac{216x}{1 - 36t} \right) - 3(u^3)_x(x,t) = 0 \]
\[ = 0 \]
\[ u_x(x,t) : \frac{6}{1 - 36t} = 6 \]
\[ u_{xx}(x,t) = 0 \Rightarrow u_{xxx}(x,t) = 0 \]

The obtained derivatives are substituted in differential equation (Eq.2) and the obtained result is
\[ D_t^a u(x,t) - 3(u^3)_x(x,t) + u_{xxx}(x,t) = 0 \]
\[ \left( \frac{6x}{t(1 - 36t)} \right)^{\alpha-1} \left( \frac{216x}{1 - 36t} \right) - 3(u^3)_x(x,t) + u_{xxx}(x,t) = 0 \]
\[ \Rightarrow \left( \frac{6x}{t(1 - 36t)} \right)^{\alpha-1} \left( \frac{216x}{1 - 36t} \right) = 0 \]
\[ \Rightarrow \left( \frac{6x}{t(1 - 36t)} \right)^{\alpha-1} = 1 \]

In order to satisfy this equation, \( \alpha = 1 \). If \( \alpha = 1 \), the differential equation (Eq.2) is not a fractional order differential equation.

b) Fractional K(2,2) Equation:
\[ D_t^a u(x,t) + (u^2)_x(x,t) + (u^2)_x(x,t) = 0 \] and its solution is \( u(x,t) = \frac{x}{1 + 2t} \).

The fractional order derivatives with respect to new definition (Eq.31) are
\[ D_t^a u(x,t) : \left( \frac{2x}{t(1 + 2t)} \right)^{\alpha-1} \left( \frac{2x}{t(1 + 2t)} \right) - \left( \frac{2x}{t(1 + 2t)} \right)^{\alpha-1} \]
\[ (u^2)_x(x,t) : \left( \frac{2}{t(1 + 2t)} \right)^{\alpha-1} \left( \frac{2}{t(1 + 2t)} \right) \]
\[ u_{xx}(x,t) = 0 \]

The obtained derivatives are substituted in differential equation (Eq.9) and the obtained result is

\[ u(x,t) = \frac{6x}{1 - 36t}, \quad |36t| < 1 \]
The Linear, Nonlinear and Partial Differential Equations are not Fractional Order Differential Equations

\[ D^\alpha u(x,t) + \left( u^2 \right)_t(x,t) + \left( u^2 \right)_{xxx}(x,t) = 0 \]

\[ -2x \frac{t^{-\alpha}}{(1 + 2t)t^{\alpha+1}} + 2x \frac{t^{-\alpha}}{(1 + 2t)^2} + 0 = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = 1. \]

In order to satisfy this equation, \( \alpha = 1 \). This means that Fractional K(2,2) Equation (Eq.9) is not a fractional order differential equation.

c) Fractional Burgers’ Equation:

\[ D^\alpha u(x,t) + \frac{1}{2} \left( u^2 \right)_t(x,t) - (u)_{xx}(x,t) = 0 \]

and its solution is \( u(x,t) = \frac{x}{1 + t} \).

The fractional order derivatives with respect to new definition (Eq.31) are

\[ D^\alpha u(x,t) : \left( \frac{x}{t(1+t)} \right)^{\alpha-1} - \frac{x}{(1+t)^2} = - \frac{x^\alpha}{(1+t)^{\alpha+1}} \]

\[ \frac{1}{2} \left( u^2 \right)_t(x,t) : \frac{2x}{2(1+x)^2} = \frac{x}{(1+x)^2} \]

\[ (u)_{xx}(x,t) = \frac{1}{1 + t} \]

\[ -(u)_{xx}(x,t) = 0 \]

The obtained derivatives are substituted in differential equation (Eq.16) and the obtained result is

\[ D^\alpha u(x,t) + \frac{1}{2} \left( u^2 \right)_t(x,t) - (u)_{xx}(x,t) = 0 \]

\[ \Rightarrow 1 \frac{1}{t^{\alpha-1}(x+t)^{2\alpha+1}} - \frac{2}{(x+t)} + \frac{24}{(x+t)^2} + \frac{6}{(x+t)^3} \neq 0 \]

There is no specific \( \alpha \) value to satisfy this equation, so, Fractional Cubic Boussinesq Equation is not a fractional order differential equation.

4. Conclusions

This paper illustrated that there are important points for differential equations. These points can be listed as below.

a) HAM can be used to solve fractional order differential equations. The obtained solution can be differentiated and result must be substituted in fractional order differential equations. This process should satisfy the equation.

b) Dehghan et al issued this case for some differential equations, and they applied HAM to some differential equations and obtained their solutions. They also assumed that these differential equations can be considered as fractional order differential equations.

c) We applied fractional order derivative method to these solutions and substituted into corresponding equations. This process did not satisfy the corresponding equations. These means that any differential equation cannot be considered as fractional order differential equations so simply.

d) We applied the proposed method in Karcı’s papers [15,16] to illustrate that the differentiation order must be equal to 1 for any differential equations, since these equations were obtained by applying differentiation of order 1.

REFERENCES


