

Travelling-wave solutions for some fractional partial differential equation by means of generalized trigonometry functions

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Abstract

Making use of a Fan's sub-equation method and the Mittag-Leffler function with aid of the symbolic computation system Maple we construct a family of traveling wave solutions of the Burgers and the KdV equations. The obtained results include periodic, rational and soliton-like solutions.

Keywords: *Euler function, Mittag-Leffler function, TW-solution, Generalized trigonometry functions, Fractional derivative.*

1 Introduction

Recently it was found that many physical, chemical, biological and medical processes are governed by fractional differential equations (FDEs). As mathematical models of the phenomena, the investigation of exact solutions of (FDEs) will help one to understand these phenomena more precisely. On the other hand the investigation of the exact travelling wave solutions for nonlinear partial differential equations plays a crucial role in the study of nonlinear physical phenomena. Such solutions when they exist can help us to understand the complicated physical phenomena modeled by these equations [2]. Many powerful methods for obtaining exact solutions of nonlinear partial differential

equations have been presented such as, Homotopy method [12], Hirota’s bilinear method [7], Backlund transformation, homogeneous balance method [15], projective Riccati method [13], the sine-cosine method [14] etc.

In the present paper we aim to find exact solitary wave solutions of some nonlinear fractional partial differential equation with modified Riemann-Liouville-Jumarie derivatives. Using a sub-equation method [17] we obtain three types of solutions for the studied equations namely; two generalized hyperbolic function solutions, two generalized trigonometric function solutions and one rational solution.

2 Preliminaries

There are different definitions for fractional derivatives for more details see [11] and the references therein. In this paper we use the modified Riemann-Liouville derivative defined by Jumarie [8]

$$D_x^\alpha f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \int_0^x (x-s)^{-\alpha-1} (f(s) - f(0)) ds, & \text{for } \alpha < 0, \\ \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \frac{d}{dx} \int_0^x (x-s)^{-\alpha} (f(s) - f(0)) ds, & \text{for } 0 < \alpha < 1, \\ \left[f^{(\alpha-n)}(x) \right]^{(n)}, & \text{for } n \leq \alpha < n+1, \quad n \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

In the following we shall outline the main idea of the fractional-Riccati equation method. For a given nonlinear fractional equation say

$$F(u, u_x, u_t, D_x^\alpha u, D_t^\alpha u, \dots) = 0, \quad 0 < \alpha \leq 1, \tag{1}$$

where $D_x^\alpha u$ and $D_t^\alpha u$ are modified Riemann-Liouville derivatives of u with respect to x and t respectively.

To determine the solution $u = u(x, t)$ explicitly, we first introduce the following transformations

$$u = U(\xi) \quad \text{with} \quad \xi = kx + ct. \tag{2}$$

which yields

$$F(U, U', U'', D_\xi^\alpha U, D_\xi^{2\alpha} U, \dots) = 0, \tag{3}$$

Next we introduce a new variable $\varphi = \varphi(\xi)$ which is a solution of the fractional Riccati equation

$$D_\xi^\alpha \varphi = \sigma + \varphi^2, \quad 0 < \alpha \leq 1. \tag{4}$$

Then we propose the following series expansion as a solution of (1)

$$u(x, t) = U(\xi) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i \varphi^i, \quad (5)$$

where the positive integer n can be found via the balancing of the highest derivative term with the nonlinear term in equation (3). In a recent paper by Zhang et al.[17] a set of five different solutions to equation (4) was introduced as follows

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -\sqrt{-\sigma} \tanh_{\alpha}(\sqrt{-\sigma}\xi), \quad \sigma < 0 \\ -\sqrt{-\sigma} \coth_{\alpha}(\sqrt{-\sigma}\xi), \quad \sigma < 0 \\ \sqrt{\sigma} \tan_{\alpha}(\sqrt{\sigma}\xi), \quad \sigma > 0 \\ -\sqrt{\sigma} \cot_{\alpha}(\sqrt{\sigma}\xi), \quad \sigma > 0. \\ -\frac{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}{\xi^{\alpha} + \omega}, \quad \omega = \text{const.} \quad \sigma = 0, \end{array} \right. \quad (6)$$

where the generalized hyperbolic and trigonometric functions [6] are expressed by the following

$$\begin{aligned} \tanh_{\alpha}(x) &= \frac{E_{\alpha}(x^{\alpha}) - E_{\alpha}(-x^{\alpha})}{E_{\alpha}(x^{\alpha}) + E_{\alpha}(-x^{\alpha})}, \\ \coth_{\alpha}(x) &= \frac{E_{\alpha}(x^{\alpha}) + E_{\alpha}(-x^{\alpha})}{E_{\alpha}(x^{\alpha}) - E_{\alpha}(-x^{\alpha})}, \\ \tan_{\alpha}(x) &= \frac{E_{\alpha}(ix^{\alpha}) - E_{\alpha}(-ix^{\alpha})}{i(E_{\alpha}(ix^{\alpha}) + E_{\alpha}(-ix^{\alpha}))}, \\ \cot_{\alpha}(x) &= \frac{i(E_{\alpha}(ix^{\alpha}) + E_{\alpha}(-ix^{\alpha}))}{E_{\alpha}(ix^{\alpha}) + E_{\alpha}(-ix^{\alpha})}, \end{aligned}$$

where E_{α} denotes the Mittag-Leffler function, given as

$$E_{\alpha}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{\Gamma(\alpha k + 1)}.$$

3 Applications

In this section we give two illustrative examples, namely Burgers and the KdV equations.

3.1 Example.1

The Burgers equation [3] is considered as one of the fundamental model equations in fluid mechanics. The equation demonstrates the coupling between diffusion and convection processes. Consider the following Burgers equation with fractional-order derivatives

$$D_t^\alpha u + uD_x^\alpha u - \nu D_x^{2\alpha} u = 0. \tag{7}$$

where ν is a constant that defines the kinematic viscosity. If the viscosity $\nu = 0$, the equation is called inviscid Burgers equation [16]. Our main task is to seek travelling wave solutions to equation (7). Using the wave transformation (2), we reduce equation (7) to an ODE

$$c^\alpha D_\xi^\alpha U + k^\alpha U D_\xi^\alpha U - \nu k^{2\alpha} D_\xi^{2\alpha} U = 0. \tag{8}$$

By (4) and balancing the terms $D^{2\alpha}u$ with the term $uD^\alpha u$ in (8), we obtain $n = 1$. Substituting equation (5) in (8) with $n = 1$ and collecting all coefficients of φ^i , $i = 0, \dots, 3$ we get the following system of algebraic equations for a_0 and a_1 ,

$$\begin{cases} k^\alpha a_1^2 - 2\nu k^{2\alpha} a_1 = 0, \\ c^\alpha a_1 + k^\alpha a_0 a_1 = 0, \\ k^\alpha a_1^2 \sigma - 2\nu k^{2\alpha} a_1 \sigma = 0, \\ c^\alpha a_1 \sigma + k^\alpha a_1 a_0 \sigma = 0, \end{cases} \tag{9}$$

we find that

$$a_0 = -\frac{c^\alpha}{k^\alpha} \quad a_1 = 2\nu k^\alpha. \tag{10}$$

Accordingly we obtain

- Two hyperbolic function solutions:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= -\frac{c^\alpha}{k^\alpha} - 2\nu k^\alpha \sqrt{-\sigma} \tanh_\alpha(\sqrt{-\sigma}(kx + ct)) \quad \sigma < 0, \\ u(x, t) &= -\frac{c^\alpha}{k^\alpha} - 2\nu k^\alpha \sqrt{-\sigma} \coth_\alpha(\sqrt{-\sigma}(kx + ct)) \quad \sigma < 0, \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

- Two trigonometric function solutions:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= -\frac{c^\alpha}{k^\alpha} + 2\nu k^\alpha \sqrt{\sigma} \tan_\alpha(\sqrt{\sigma}(kx + ct)) \quad \sigma > 0, \\ u(x, t) &= -\frac{c^\alpha}{k^\alpha} - 2\nu k^\alpha \sqrt{\sigma} \cot_\alpha(\sqrt{\sigma}(kx + ct)) \quad \sigma > 0, \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

- One rational solution:

$$u(x, t) = -\frac{c^\alpha}{k^\alpha} - 2\nu k^\alpha \frac{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)}{(kx + ct)^\alpha + \omega} \quad \sigma > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \omega = \text{const.} \quad (13)$$

3.2 Example.2

The Korteweg-deVries (KdV) equation arises in the study of shallow water waves [16]. In particular, the KdV equation is used to describe long waves traveling in canals. It is formally proved that this equation has solitary waves as solutions, hence it can have any number of solitons [5][16]. Consider the following fractional KdV equation with fractional-order derivatives

$$D_t^\alpha u + 6uD_x^\alpha u + D_x^{3\alpha} u = 0, \quad (14)$$

Similarly, we use the wave transformation (2), we reduce equation (14) to an ODE

$$c^\alpha D_\xi^\alpha U + 6k^\alpha U D_\xi^\alpha U + k^{3\alpha} D_\xi^{3\alpha} U = 0, \quad (15)$$

Thanks to (4) and the balancing of the terms $D_\xi^{3\alpha} U$ with the term $U D_\xi^\alpha U$ in (15), we obtain $n = 2$. By substituting equation(5) in (15) with $n = 2$ and collecting all coefficients of φ^i , $i = 0, \dots, 5$ we get the following system of algebraic equations for a_0, a_1 , and a_2 ,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 12k^\alpha a_2^2 + 24k^{3\alpha} a_2 = 0, \\ 18k^\alpha a_1 a_2 + 6k^{3\alpha} a_1 = 0, \\ 2a_2 c^\alpha + 12k^\alpha a_0 a_2 + 12k^\alpha a_2^2 \sigma + 6k^\alpha a_1^2 + 40k^{3\alpha} a_2 \sigma = 0, \\ 8k^{3\alpha} a_1 \sigma + 6k^\alpha a_0 a_1 + 18k^\alpha a_1 a_2 \sigma + c^\alpha a_1 = 0, \\ 2c^\alpha a_2 \sigma + 16k^{3\alpha} a_2 \sigma^2 + 12k^\alpha a_0 a_2 \sigma + 6k^\alpha a_1^2 \sigma = 0, \\ c^\alpha a_1 \sigma + 2k^{3\alpha} a_1 \sigma^2 + 6k^\alpha a_0 a_1 \sigma = 0. \end{array} \right. \quad (16)$$

From the output of Maple, we get a solution namely

$$a_0 = -\frac{8k^{3\alpha} \sigma + c^\alpha}{6k^\alpha} \quad a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = -2k^{2\alpha}.$$

In view of this we obtain

- Two hyperbolic functions solution:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= -\frac{8k^{3\alpha}\sigma + c^\alpha}{6k^\alpha} + 2k^{2\alpha}\sigma \tanh_\alpha^2(\sqrt{-\sigma}(kx + ct)) \quad \sigma < 0, \\ u(x, t) &= -\frac{8k^{3\alpha}\sigma + c^\alpha}{6k^\alpha} + 2k^{2\alpha}\sigma \coth_\alpha^2(\sqrt{-\sigma}(kx + ct)) \quad \sigma < 0, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

- Two trigonometric function solutions:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, t) &= -\frac{8k^{3\alpha}\sigma + c^\alpha}{6k^\alpha} - 2k^{2\alpha}\sigma \tan_\alpha^2(\sqrt{\sigma}(kx + ct)) \quad \sigma > 0, \\ u(x, t) &= -\frac{8k^{3\alpha}\sigma + c^\alpha}{6k^\alpha} - 2k^{2\alpha}\sigma \cot_\alpha^2(\sqrt{\sigma}(kx + ct)) \quad \sigma > 0, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

- One rational solution:

$$u(x, t) = -\frac{c^\alpha}{6k^\alpha} - \frac{2k^{2\alpha}\Gamma^2(\alpha + 1)}{((kx + ct)^\alpha + \omega)^2} \quad \omega = \text{const.} \quad \sigma = 0. \quad (19)$$

4 Conclusion

In this paper we give some exact analytical solutions including the generalized hyperbolic function solutions, generalized trigonometric function solutions and rational solutions by using a sub-equation method. It can be concluded that the improved sub-equation method can be used for solving other nonlinear fractional partial differential equations with nonlinear terms of any order. All solutions obtained in this paper have been checked by Maple software.

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