

## Non Probabilistic Solution of Fuzzy Fractional Fornberg-Whitham Equation

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**Abstract:** Fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation has a vast application in physics. There exist various investigations for the above problem by considering the variables and parameters as crisp/exact. In practice, we may not have these parameters exactly but those may be known in some uncertain form. In the present paper, these uncertainties are taken as interval/fuzzy and the authors proposed here a new method viz. that of the double parametric form of fuzzy numbers to handle the uncertain fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation. Using the single parametric form of fuzzy numbers, original fuzzy fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation is converted first to an interval based fuzzy differential equation. Next this equation is transformed to crisp form by applying the proposed double parametric form of fuzzy numbers. Finally it has been solved using homotopy perturbation method (HPM). Present method performs very well in terms of computational efficiency. The reliability of the method is shown by obtaining an approximate numerical solution for different cases. Results are given in term of plots and are also compared in special cases.

**Keywords:** Triangular fuzzy number, Gaussian fuzzy number,  $r$ -cut, Double parametric form of fuzzy number, fuzzy fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation, HPM.

### 1 Introduction

Fractional order differential equations have become an important research area due to its wide range of application in science and engineering. Many important works have been reported regarding fractional calculus in the last few decades. Several excellent books related to this have also been written by different authors representing the scope and various aspects of fractional calculus such as in [Podlubny

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(1999); Miller and Ross (1993); Oldham and Spanier (1974); Samko et al. (1993); Kiryakova (1993)]. These books also give an extensive review on fractional derivative and its applications which may help the reader for understating the basic concepts of fractional calculus and its application. Most fractional differential equations do not have exact analytic solutions. As regards, many authors have developed various numerical methods to solve fractional differential equations [Li (2014); Chen et al. (2014); Pang et al. (2014)].

Study of travelling wave problem plays a very important role in many areas of physics. The Fornberg-Whitham equation is a type of traveling wave solutions called kink-like or antikink like wave solutions. This equation is analyzed by various authors [Abidi and Omrani (2010); Lu (2011); Fornberg and Whitham (1978); Nuseir (2012); He et al. (2010); Zhou and Tian (2009); Zhou and Tian (2008); Mahmoudi and Kazemian (2012); Sakar and Erdogan (2013); Sakar and Erdogan (2012); Merdan et al. (2012)]. Abidi and Omrani (2010) applied homotopy analysis method for solving the Fornberg-Whitham equation and compared with Adomian's decomposition method. Variational iteration method is used by Lu (2011) to obtain the approximate solution of Fornberg-Whitham equation. Fornberg and Whitham (1978) studied numerical and theoretical study of Fornberg-Whitham equation. A new exact solution of modified Fornberg-Whitham equation is obtained by Nuseir (2012). Bifurcation theory and the method of phase portraits analysis are done by He et al. (2010) for the study of modified Fornberg-Whitham equation. Zhou and Tian (2009) investigated a new travelling wave solution viz. periodic and solitary wave solution. Also Zhou and Tian (2008) used bifurcation method to study the solution of Fornberg-Whitham equation. The homotopy analysis method is successfully implemented by Mahmoudi and Kazemian (2012) to obtain an approximate analytical solution. Sakar and Erdogan (2013) compared the solution obtained by the homotopy analysis method and Adomian's decomposition method for the solution of time fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation. Sakar and Erdogan (2012) used variational iteration method for the solution of time-fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation. Differential transformation method is used by Merdan et al. (2012) to obtain numerical solution. Behera and Chakraverty (2013) successfully applied homotopy perturbation method to obtain the numerical solution of fractionally damped beam equation. Fractional B-Spline method was implemented by Jafari et al (2013) to get the numerical solution of fractional differential equations. Also Jafari et al. (2013) applied homotopy analysis method for solving fractional Abel differential equation. We may observe from the above cited papers that the parameters and initial conditions are considered as crisp in their investigations. But in actual practice, rather than the particular value, only uncertain or vague estimates about the variables and parameters are known. Because those are

found in general by some observation, experiment or experience. So, to handle these uncertainties and vagueness, one may use fuzzy parameters and variables in the governing differential equations.

As such, both uncertainty and fractional differential equations play a vital role in real life problems. Some recent contributions to the theory of fuzzy differential equation and fuzzy fractional differential equations can be found in [Khashtan et al. (2011); Bede et al. (2007); Jafari et al. (2012); Malinowski (2013); Akin et al. (2013); Agarwal et al. (2010); Arshad and Lupulescu (2011a); Arshad and Lupulescu (2011b); Jeong (2010); Wang and Liu (2011); Allahviranloo et al. (2012); Khodadadi and Celik (2013); Mohammed (2011); Salahshour et al. (2012); Salah et al. (2013); Behera and Chakraverty (2014); Ahmad et al. (2013); Allahviranloo et al. (2013); Tapaswini and Chakraverty (2013); Ghaemi et al. (2013)]. The concept of fuzzy fractional differential equation was introduced recently by Agrawal et al. (2010). Arshad and Lupulescu (2011a) proved some results on the existence and uniqueness of solutions of fuzzy fractional differential equations based on the concept of fuzzy differential equations of fractional order introduced by Agrawal et al. (2010). Arshad and Lupulescu (2011b) investigated the fractional differential equation with the fuzzy initial condition. Jeong (2010) discussed existence and uniqueness results for fuzzy fractional differential equations with infinite delay. Boundary value problem for fuzzy fractional differential equations with finite delay has been solved by Wang and Liu (2011). They established the existence of a solution by contraction mapping principle. Based on Riemann–Liouville H-differentiability, Allahviranloo et al. (2012) studied explicit solutions of fuzzy/uncertain fractional differential equations. Variational iteration method is applied by Khodadadi and Celik (2013) for the solution of fuzzy fractional differential equations. Mohammed et al. (2011) applied differential transform method for solving fuzzy fractional initial value problems. Salahshour et al. (2012) developed Riemann–Liouville differentiability by using Hukuhara difference called Riemann–Liouville H-differentiability and solved fuzzy fractional differential equations by Laplace transforms. Recently Salah et al. (2013) applied homotopy analysis transform method for the solution of fuzzy fractional heat equation. In Salah et al. (2013), the authors have solved fuzzy fractional differential equation by solving lower and upper bound problems separately to get the solution bounds. Behera and Chakraverty (2014) successfully applied HPM method to find uncertain impulse response of imprecisely defined fractional order mechanical system. Zadeh’s Extension Principle is used by Ahmad et al. (2013) for the solution of fuzzy fractional differential equations. Allahviranloo et al. (2013) solved the fuzzy fractional differential equations under generalized fuzzy Caputo derivative. Numerical solution of fuzzy arbitrary order predator-prey system is obtained by

Tapaswini and Chakraverty (2013). Ghaemi et al. (2013) solved a fuzzy fractional kinetic equation of acid hydrolysis reaction.

HPM is found to be a powerful tool for the analysis of linear and non-linear physical problems. HPM was first developed by He (1999; 2000) and then many authors applied this method to solve various linear and non-linear functional equations of scientific and engineering problems. The solution is considered as the sum of infinite series, which converges rapidly. In the homotopy technique (in topology), a homotopy is constructed with an embedding parameter  $p \in [0, 1]$  which is considered as a “small parameter”. Very recently homotopy perturbation method has been applied to a wide class of physical problems [Chen and Jiang (2010); Yazdi (2012); Abolarin (2013); Tapaswini and Chakraverty (2013a); Tapaswini and Chakraverty (2013b)].

In the present analysis, HPM is used for the numerical solution of uncertain nonlinear fractional Fornberg-Whitham Equation subject to fuzzy initial condition. Uncertainty in the initial condition is defined in term of triangular and Gaussian fuzzy numbers. Literature review reveals that fuzzy fractional differential equations are always converted to two crisp fractional differential equations in general to obtain the solution bounds. But in this paper, a new approach is proposed based on a double parametric form of fuzzy numbers as defined in Definition 2.4 where fractional fuzzy differential equation has been converted to a single crisp parametric fractional differential equation. Finally the corresponding single crisp parametric fractional differential equation may be solved by any known numerical method symbolically to obtain the solution in the double parametric form. Then substituting the parametric values one may obtain the final solution bounds.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, some basic preliminaries related to the present investigation are given. HPM is applied with the proposed technique in Section 3 to solve fuzzy fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation. In Section 4, uncertain solutions for different type of fuzzy initial condition are given. Next numerical results and discussions are presented. Finally in the last section conclusions are drawn.

## 2 Preliminaries

In this section, we present some notations, definitions and preliminaries which are used further in this paper [Zimmermann (2001); Jaulin et al. (2001); Hanss (2005); Ross (2004)].

### Definition 2.1 Fuzzy number

A fuzzy number  $\tilde{U}$  is a convex normalised fuzzy set  $\tilde{U}$  of the real line  $R$  such that

$$\{\mu_{\tilde{U}}(x) : R \rightarrow [0, 1], \forall x \in R\}$$

where,  $\mu_{\tilde{U}}$  is called the membership function of the fuzzy set and it is piecewise continuous.

**Definition 2.2** Triangular fuzzy number

A triangular fuzzy number  $\tilde{U}$  is a convex normalized fuzzy set  $\tilde{U}$  of the real line  $R$  such that

1. there exists exactly one  $x_0 \in R$  with  $\mu_{\tilde{U}}(x_0) = 1$  ( $x_0$  is called the mean value of  $\tilde{U}$ ), where  $\mu_{\tilde{U}}$  is called the membership function of the fuzzy set,
2.  $\mu_{\tilde{U}}(x)$  is piecewise continuous.

We denote an arbitrary triangular fuzzy number as  $\tilde{U} = (a, b, c)$ . The membership function  $\mu_{\tilde{U}}$  of  $\tilde{U}$  is then defined as follows

$$\mu_{\tilde{U}}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq a \\ \frac{x-a}{b-a}, & a \leq x \leq b \\ \frac{c-x}{c-b}, & b \leq x \leq c \\ 0, & x \geq c \end{cases}$$

**Definition 2.3** Gaussian fuzzy number

Let us now define an arbitrary asymmetrical Gaussian fuzzy number,  $\overset{\leftrightarrow}{\tilde{U}} = (m, \sigma_l, \sigma_r)$ . The membership function  $\mu_{\tilde{U}}$  of  $\tilde{U}$  may be written as follows

$$\mu_{\tilde{U}}(x) = \begin{cases} \exp[-(x-m)^2/2\sigma_l^2] & \text{for } x \leq m \\ \exp[-(x-m)^2/2\sigma_r^2] & \text{for } x \geq m \end{cases} \quad \forall x \in R$$

where, the modal value is denoted as  $m$  and  $\sigma_l, \sigma_r$  denote the left-hand and right-hand spreads (fuzziness) corresponding to the Gaussian distribution.

For symmetric Gaussian fuzzy number the left-hand and right-hand spreads are equal i.e.  $\sigma_l = \sigma_r = \sigma$ . So the symmetric Gaussian fuzzy number may be written as  $\tilde{U} = (m, \sigma, \sigma)$  and corresponding membership function may be defined as

$$\mu_U(x) = \exp\{-\gamma(x-m)^2\} \quad \forall x \in R$$

where,  $\gamma = 1/2\sigma^2$ .

**Definition 2.4** Single parametric form of fuzzy numbers

The triangular fuzzy number  $\tilde{U} = (a, b, c)$  can be represented by an ordered pair of functions through  $r$ - cut approach viz.  $[\underline{u}(r), \bar{u}(r)] = [(b-a)r+a, -(c-b)r+c]$  where,  $r \in [0, 1]$ .

Similarly, for symmetric Gaussian fuzzy number  $U = (m, \sigma, \sigma)$  in parametric form is written as

$$U = [\underline{u}(r), \bar{u}(r)] = \left[ m - \sqrt{-\frac{(\log_e r)}{\gamma}}, m + \sqrt{-\frac{(\log_e r)}{\gamma}} \right].$$

The  $r$ -cut form is known as parametric form or single parametric form of fuzzy numbers.

It may be noted that the lower and upper bounds of the fuzzy numbers satisfy the following requirements

1.  $\underline{u}(r)$  is a bounded left continuous non-decreasing function over  $[0, 1]$
2.  $\bar{u}(r)$  is a bounded right continuous non-increasing function over
3.  $\underline{u}(r) \leq \bar{u}(r), 0 \leq r \leq 1$ .

**Definition 2.5** Double parametric form of fuzzy number

Using the parametric form as discussed in Definition 2.3 we have  $\tilde{U} = [\underline{u}(r), \bar{u}(r)]$ . Now one may write this as crisp number with double parametric form as  $\tilde{U}(r, \beta) = \beta(\bar{u}(r) - \underline{u}(r)) + \underline{u}(r)$  where  $r$  and  $\beta \in [0, 1]$ .

**Definition 2.6** Fuzzy arithmetic

For any two arbitrary fuzzy number  $\tilde{x} = [\underline{x}(r), \bar{x}(r)]$ ,  $\tilde{y} = [\underline{y}(r), \bar{y}(r)]$  and scalar  $k$ , the fuzzy arithmetic is defined as follows,

1.  $\tilde{x} = \tilde{y}$  if and only if  $\underline{x}(r) = \underline{y}(r)$  and  $\bar{x}(r) = \bar{y}(r)$
2.  $\tilde{x} + \tilde{y} = [\underline{x}(r) + \underline{y}(r), \bar{x}(r) + \bar{y}(r)]$
3.  $\tilde{x} \times \tilde{y} = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \min(\underline{x}(r) \times \underline{y}(r), \underline{x}(r) \times \bar{y}(r), \bar{x}(r) \times \underline{y}(r), \bar{x}(r) \times \bar{y}(r)), \\ \max(\underline{x}(r) \times \underline{y}(r), \underline{x}(r) \times \bar{y}(r), \bar{x}(r) \times \underline{y}(r), \bar{x}(r) \times \bar{y}(r)) \end{array} \right]$
4.  $k\tilde{x}(r) = \begin{cases} [k\bar{x}(r), k\underline{x}(r)], & k < 0 \\ [k\underline{x}(r), k\bar{x}(r)], & k \geq 0 \end{cases}$

**3 Double parametric based fuzzy fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation**

First we convert the fuzzy fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation in-to an interval based fuzzy fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation using single parametric form of fuzzy numbers. Then the interval based differential equation is reduced to crisp

differential equation by using double parametric form of fuzzy numbers. Next, we have applied HPM to obtain the solution in double parametric form.

Let us now consider the fuzzy fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 &D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}(x, t) + D_x \tilde{u}(x, t) + D \tilde{u}(x, t) D_x \tilde{u}(x, t) \\
 &= D \tilde{u}(x, t) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}(x, t) + 3 D_x \tilde{u}(x, t) D_{xx} \tilde{u}(x, t) + D_{xxt} \tilde{u}(x, t),
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where,  $t > 0, 0 < \alpha \leq 1, x > 0$ , with fuzzy initial condition

$$\tilde{u}(x, 0) = \tilde{\delta} e^{\frac{1}{2}x}$$

where  $D_t^\alpha = \frac{\partial^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha}$  is the Caputo derivative of order  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ .  $\tilde{u}(x, t)$ ,  $t$  and  $x$  are uncertain fluid velocity, time and spatial coordinate respectively.

Here the initial condition has been taken as fuzzy with an idea that the condition may actually be uncertain viz. due to the error in observation or experiment etc. where we may take the error or uncertainty in term of fuzzy triangular or Gaussian membership functions. As such, this will make the governing differential equation as uncertain and the corresponding outcome or the output (result) will be in uncertain form. This way we may have the actual essence of the uncertainty. So, we need to have efficient methods to handle these problems.

According to the single parametric form we may write the above fuzzy fractional Fornberg- Whitham equation (Eq. (1)) as

$$\begin{aligned}
 &[D_t^\alpha \underline{u}(x, t; r), D_t^\alpha \bar{u}(x, t; r)] + [D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r), D_x \bar{u}(x, t; r)] \\
 &+ [\underline{u}(x, t; r) D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r), \bar{u}(x, t; r) D_x \bar{u}(x, t; r)] \\
 &= [\underline{u}(x, t; r) D_{xxx} \underline{u}(x, t; r), \bar{u}(x, t; r) D_{xxx} \bar{u}(x, t; r)] \\
 &+ 3 [D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_{xx} \underline{u}(x, t; r), D_x \bar{u}(x, t; r) D_{xx} \bar{u}(x, t; r)] \\
 &+ [D_{xxt} \underline{u}(x, t; r), D_{xxt} \bar{u}(x, t; r)],
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

subject to fuzzy initial condition

$$[\underline{u}(x, 0; r), \bar{u}(x, 0; r)] = [\underline{\delta}(r), \bar{\delta}(r)] e^{\frac{1}{2}x}.$$

Using the double parametric form (as discussed in Definition 2.4), Eq. (2) can be

expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \{\beta (D_t^\alpha \bar{u}_t^\alpha(x, t; r) - D_t^\alpha \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + D_t^\alpha \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} \\
 & + \{\beta (D_x \bar{u}(x, t; r) - D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} \\
 & + \{\beta (\bar{u}(x, t; r) D_x \bar{u}(x, t; r) - \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} = \\
 & \{\beta (\bar{u}(x, t; r) D_{xxx} \bar{u}(x, t; r) - \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_{xxx} \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_{xxx} \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} \\
 & + 3 \{\beta (D_x \bar{u}(x, t; r) D_{xx} \bar{u}(x, t; r) - D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_{xx} \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_{xx} \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} \\
 & + \{\beta (D_{xxt} \bar{u}(x, t; r) - D_{xxt} \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + D_{xxt} \underline{u}(x, t; r)\},
 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

subject to the fuzzy initial condition

$$\{\beta (\bar{u}(x, 0; r) - \underline{u}(x, 0; r)) + \underline{u}(x, 0; r)\} = \{\beta (\bar{\delta}(r) - \underline{\delta}(r)) + \underline{\delta}(r)\} e^{\frac{1}{2}x} \text{ where, } r, \beta \in [0, 1].$$

Let us now denote  $\{\beta (D_t^\alpha \bar{u}(x, t; r) - D_t^\alpha \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + D_t^\alpha \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} = D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta)$ ,

$$\{\beta (D_x \bar{u}(x, t; r) - D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} = D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta),$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \{\beta (\bar{u}(x, t; r) D_x \bar{u}(x, t; r) - \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} \\
 & = \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \{\beta (\bar{u}(x, t; r) D_{xxx} \bar{u}(x, t; r) - \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_{xxx} \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_{xxx} \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} \\
 & = \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \{\beta (D_x \bar{u}(x, t; r) D_{xx} \bar{u}(x, t; r) - D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_{xx} \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + D_x \underline{u}(x, t; r) D_{xx} \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} \\
 & = D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\{\beta (D_{xxt} \bar{u}(x, t; r) - D_{xxt} \underline{u}(x, t; r)) + D_{xxt} \underline{u}(x, t; r)\} = D_{xxt} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta)$$

$$\{\beta (\bar{u}(x, 0; r) - \underline{u}(x, 0; r)) + \underline{u}(x, 0; r)\} = \tilde{u}(x, 0; r, \beta) \text{ and } \{\beta (\bar{\delta}(r) - \underline{\delta}(r)) + \underline{\delta}(r)\} = \tilde{\delta}(r, \beta).$$

Substituting these in Eq. (3) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) + D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & = \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & + 3 D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) + D_{xxt} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta),
 \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

with initial condition

$$\tilde{u}(x, 0; r, \beta) = \tilde{\delta}(r, \beta) e^{\frac{1}{2}x}.$$

Solving the corresponding crisp differential equation (Eq. (4)) one may get the solution as  $\tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta)$ . To obtain the lower and upper bounds of the solution in single parametric form, we put  $\beta = 0$  and  $1$  respectively which may be represented as  $\tilde{u}(x, t; r, 0) = \underline{u}(x, t, r)$  and  $\tilde{u}(x, t; r, 1) = \bar{u}(x, t, r)$ .

**Solution by HPM [He (1999; 2000)] using proposed methodology**

We have applied HPM to solve Eq. (4). According to HPM, we may construct a simple homotopy for an embedding parameter  $p \in [0, 1]$ , as follows

$$(1 - p)D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) + p \left[ \begin{array}{l} D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) + D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) \\ - \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) - 3D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) \\ - D_{xxt} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) \end{array} \right] = 0, \tag{5}$$

or

$$D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) + p \left[ \begin{array}{l} D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) - \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) \\ - 3D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) - D_{xxt} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) \end{array} \right] = 0. \tag{6}$$

In the changing process from 0 to 1, viz. for  $p = 0$ , Eq. (5) or (6) gives  $\tilde{u}_t^\alpha(x, t; r, \beta) = 0$  where as for  $p = 1$ , we have the original system

$$D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}_t^\alpha(x, t; r, \beta) + D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) - \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) - 3D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) - D_{xxt} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) = 0$$

This is called deformation in topology. Moreover  $D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta)$  and

$$D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) - \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) - 3D_x \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) - D_{xxt} \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta)$$

are called homotopic. Next, we can assume the solution of Eq. (5) or (6) as a power series expansion in  $p$  as

$$\tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) = \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) + p\tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) + p^2\tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) + p^3\tilde{u}_3(x, t; r, \beta) + \dots, \tag{7}$$

where,  $\tilde{u}_i(x, t; r, \beta)$  for  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$  are functions yet to be determined. Substituting Eq. (7) into Eq. (5) or (6) and equating the terms with the identical powers of  $p$ , we have

$$p^0 : D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) = 0, \tag{8}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 p^1 : & D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) + D_x \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & - \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) - 3D_x \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & - D_{xxt} \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) = 0,
 \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 p^2 : & D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) + D_x \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & + \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) - \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & - \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) - 3D_x \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & - 3D_x \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) - D_{xxt} \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) = 0,
 \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 p^3 : & D_t^\alpha \tilde{u}_3(x, t; r, \beta) + D_x \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & + \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) D_x \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & - \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) - \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & - \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xxx} \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) - 3D_x \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & - 3D_x \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) \\
 & - 3D_x \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) D_{xx} \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) - D_{xxt} \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) = 0,
 \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

and so on.

Choosing initial approximation  $\tilde{u}(x, 0; r, \beta)$  and applying the operator  $J^\alpha$  (the inverse operator of Caputo derivative  $D^\alpha$ ) on both sides of Eqs. (8) to (11) one may obtain the following equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) &= \tilde{\delta}(r, \beta) e^{x/2}, \\
 \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) &= -\frac{\tilde{\delta}(r, \beta)}{2} e^{x/2} \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}, \\
 \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) &= -\frac{\tilde{\delta}(r, \beta)}{8} e^{x/2} \frac{t^{2\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(2\alpha)} + \frac{\tilde{\delta}(r, \beta)}{4} e^{x/2} \frac{t^{2\alpha}}{\Gamma(2\alpha + 1)}, \\
 \tilde{u}_3(x, t; r, \beta) &= -\frac{\tilde{\delta}(r, \beta)}{32} e^{x/2} \frac{t^{3\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(3\alpha - 1)} + \frac{\tilde{\delta}(r, \beta)}{8} e^{x/2} \frac{t^{3\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(3\alpha)} - \frac{\tilde{\delta}(r, \beta)}{8} e^{x/2} \frac{t^{3\alpha}}{\Gamma(3\alpha + 1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

and so on.

Now substituting these terms in Eq. (7) with  $p \rightarrow 1$  we get the approximate solution of Eq. (4) as

$$\tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) = \tilde{u}_0(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}_1(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}_2(x, t; r, \beta) + \tilde{u}_3(x, t; r, \beta) + \dots \tag{12}$$

The above series obtained by HPM converges very rapidly and only few terms are required to get the approximate solutions. The proof may be found in [He (1999; 2000)].

**4 Solution bounds for different fuzzy initial conditions**

In this section we have considered different fuzzy initial conditions as discussed in the following cases to find the uncertain solution bounds for fuzzy fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation.

**Case 1:** Triangular fuzzy initial condition viz.

$$\tilde{u}(x, 0; r, \beta) = \{\beta(0.4 - 0.4r) + (0.2r + 0.8)\} e^{x/2} = \tilde{\delta}(r, \beta) e^{x/2}.$$

The solution can be written as

$$\tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) = \{\beta(0.4 - 0.4r) + (0.2r + 0.8)\} e^{x/2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{2\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(2\alpha)} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{t^{2\alpha}}{\Gamma(2\alpha+1)} - \frac{1}{32} \frac{t^{3\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(3\alpha-1)} + \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(3\alpha)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha}}{\Gamma(3\alpha+1)} \right) \tag{13}$$

To obtain the solution bounds in single parametric form, we may substitute  $\beta = 0$  and 1 for lower and upper bounds of the solution respectively. So we get

$$\tilde{u}(x, t; r, 0) = \underline{u}(x, t; r) = (0.2r + 0.8) e^{x/2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{2\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(2\alpha)} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{t^{2\alpha}}{\Gamma(2\alpha+1)} - \frac{1}{32} \frac{t^{3\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(3\alpha-1)} + \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(3\alpha)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha}}{\Gamma(3\alpha+1)} \right) \tag{14}$$

and

$$\tilde{u}(x, t; r, 1) = \bar{u}(x, t; r) = (1.2 - 0.2r) e^{x/2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{2\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(2\alpha)} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{t^{2\alpha}}{\Gamma(2\alpha+1)} - \frac{1}{32} \frac{t^{3\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(3\alpha-1)} + \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(3\alpha)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha}}{\Gamma(3\alpha+1)} \right) \tag{15}$$

One may note that in the special case when  $r = 1$  the results (crisp) obtained by the proposed method are exactly same as that of the solution obtained by Sakar & Erdogan [17]

**Case 2:** Gaussian fuzzy initial condition viz.

$$\tilde{u}(x, 0; r, \beta) = \left\{ \beta \left( 0.2\sqrt{-2\log_e r} \right) + \left( 1 - 0.1\sqrt{-2\log_e r} \right) \right\} e^{x/2} = \tilde{\delta}(r, \beta) e^{x/2}.$$

Again, by applying the proposed procedure, we get the solution as

$$\begin{aligned} & \tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta) \\ &= \left\{ \beta \left( 0.2 \sqrt{-2 \log_e r} \right) + \left( 1 - 0.1 \sqrt{-2 \log_e r} \right) \right\} e^{x/2} \left( \begin{array}{l} 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{2\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(2\alpha)} \\ + \frac{1}{4} \frac{t^{2\alpha}}{\Gamma(2\alpha+1)} - \frac{1}{32} \frac{t^{3\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(3\alpha-1)} \\ + \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(3\alpha)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha}}{\Gamma(3\alpha+1)} \end{array} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Putting  $\beta = 0$  and 1 in  $\tilde{u}(x, t; r, \beta)$  we get the lower and upper bounds of the fuzzy solutions respectively as

$$\begin{aligned} & \underline{u}(x, t; r, 0) = \underline{u}(x, t; r) \\ &= \left( 1 - 0.1 \sqrt{-2 \log_e r} \right) e^{x/2} \left( \begin{array}{l} 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{2\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(2\alpha)} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{t^{2\alpha}}{\Gamma(2\alpha+1)} \\ - \frac{1}{32} \frac{t^{3\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(3\alpha-1)} + \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(3\alpha)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha}}{\Gamma(3\alpha+1)} \end{array} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \bar{u}(x, t; r, 1) = \bar{u}(x, t; r) \\ &= \left( 1 + 0.1 \sqrt{-2 \log_e r} \right) e^{x/2} \left( \begin{array}{l} 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{2\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(2\alpha)} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{t^{2\alpha}}{\Gamma(2\alpha+1)} \\ - \frac{1}{32} \frac{t^{3\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(3\alpha-1)} + \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(3\alpha)} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{t^{3\alpha}}{\Gamma(3\alpha+1)} \end{array} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

The solution obtained by the proposed method for  $r = 1$  is again found to be exactly same as that of (crisp result) Sakar and Erdogan (2013)

## 5 Numerical results and discussions

Numerical results for fuzzy fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation with different fuzzy initial conditions are computed. Obtained results of the present analysis are compared with the existing solution of Sakar & Erdogan (2013) in special cases to show the validation of the proposed analysis. Computed results are depicted in term of plots.

Triangular and Gaussian fuzzy solutions for Cases 1 and 2 are depicted in Figs. 1 and 2 respectively by varying the time  $t$  from 0 to 3 and  $x = 1$  with  $\alpha = 0.3$ . Next, interval solutions for  $x = 1$  in both the cases have been given in Figs. 3 to 4 for  $x = 1$  and  $\alpha = 0.3, 0.7, 0.9, 1$ . It may be worth mentioning that in both the cases, present results exactly agree with the solution of Sakar & Erdogan (2013) in special case of  $r = 1$  Also it is interesting to note from Figs. 3 and 4 that the left and right bounds of the uncertain fluid velocity that is  $\tilde{u}(x, t)$  (with particular values of  $\alpha, r$  and  $x$ ) gradually decreases with the increase of the fractional order  $\alpha$  and time  $t$ .

Figs. 5 and 6 show for particular values of  $r = 0.2$  and  $t = 1$ , the uncertain fluid velocity increases with increase in  $x$  and decreases with the increase of fractional order  $\alpha$ .

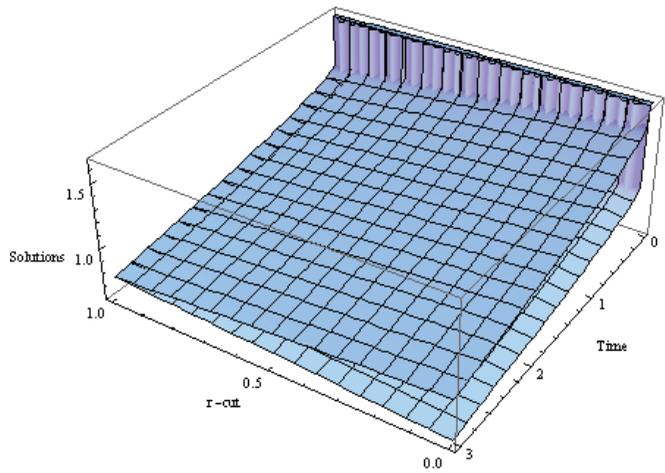


Figure 1: Fuzzy solution for Case 1.

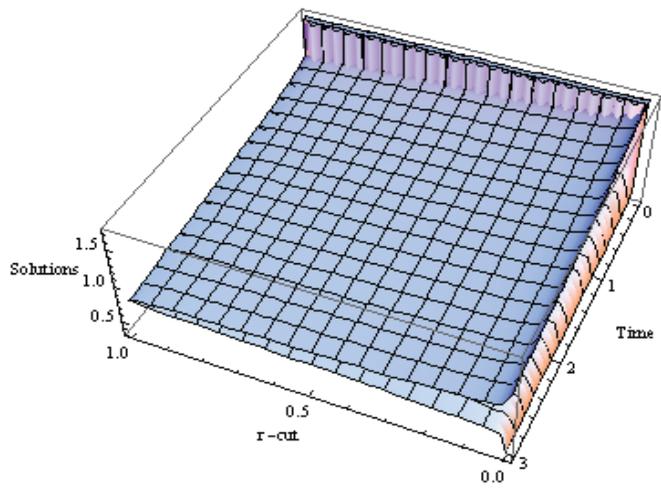
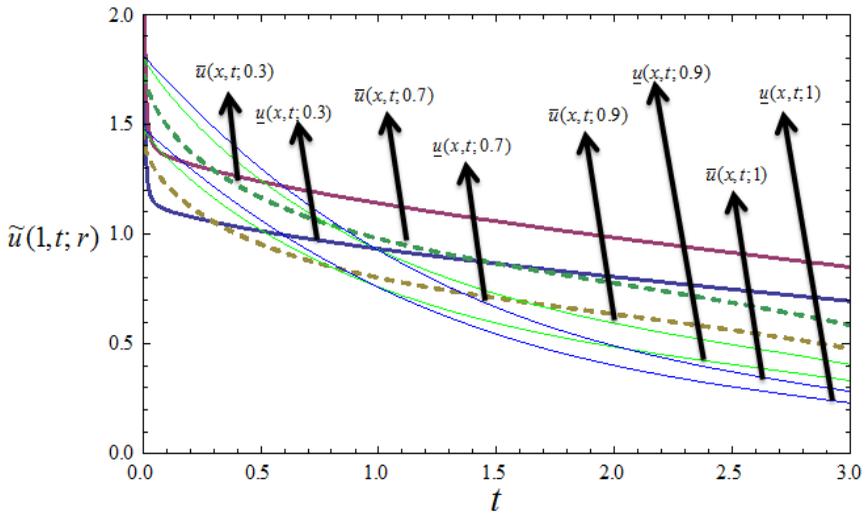
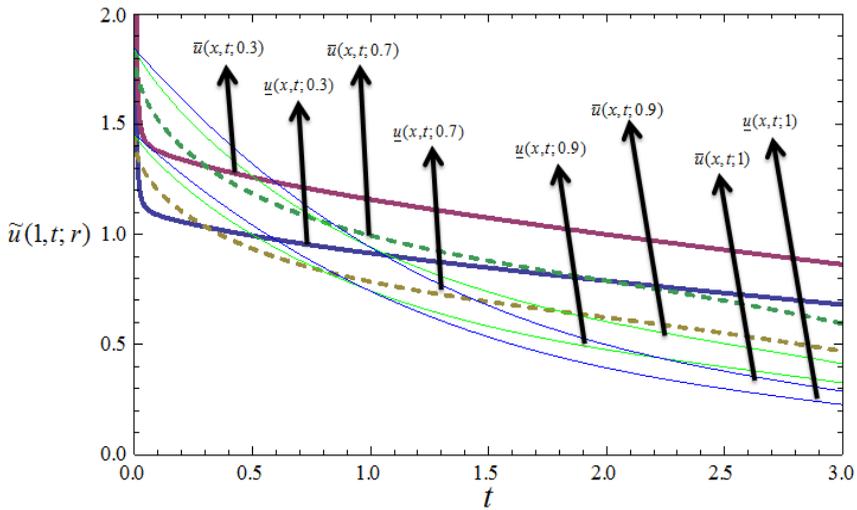


Figure 2: Fuzzy solution for Case 2.

Figure 3: Interval solutions for Case 1 at  $x = 1$ .Figure 4: Interval solutions for Case 2 at  $x = 1$ .

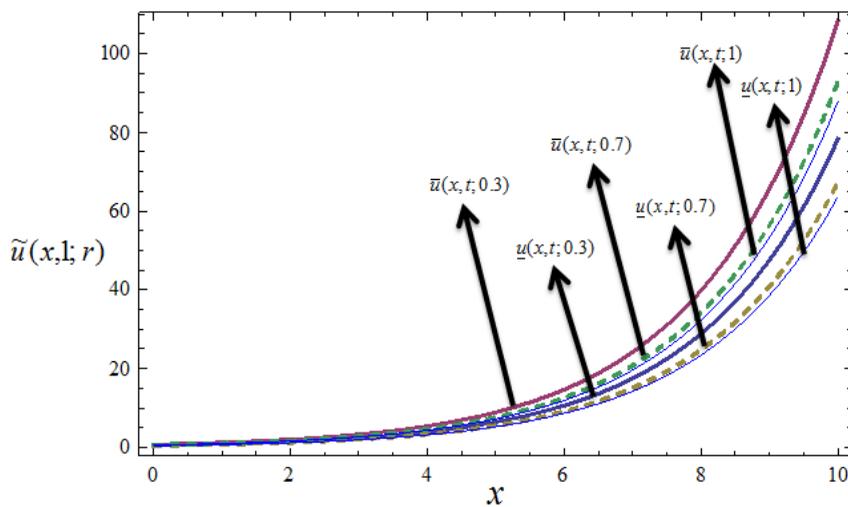


Figure 5: Interval solutions for Case 1 at  $t = 1$ .

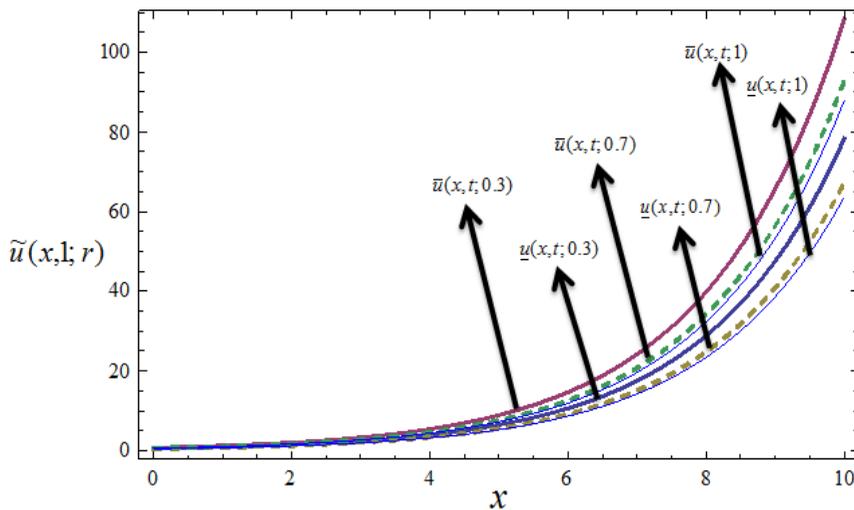


Figure 6: Interval solutions for Case 2 at  $t = 1$ .

## 6 Conclusions

In this paper double parametric form of fuzzy numbers has been successfully employed for the solution of fuzzy fractional Fornberg-Whitham equation with triangular and Gaussian fuzzy initial condition using the homotopy perturbation method. The double parametric form approach is found to be easy and straight-forward. It is interesting to note in both the examples that the lower solution is equal to the upper solution when  $r = 1$ . Though the solution by HPM is of the form of an infinite series but it can be written in a closed form. The main advantage of HPM may also be seen in the process of solution of uncertain differential equations that it has the capability to achieve exact solution and rapid convergence with few terms.

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