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A Novel Method for Linear Systems of Fractional Ordinary Differential Equations with Applications to Time-Fractional PDEs

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents an efficient numerical technique for solving multi-term linear systems of fractional ordinary differential equations (FODEs) which have been widely used in modeling various phenomena in engineering and science. An approximate solution of the system is sought in the form of the finite series over the Müntz polynomials. By using the collocation procedure in the time interval, one gets the linear algebraic system for the coefficient of the expansion which can be easily solved numerically by a standard procedure. This technique also serves as the basis for solving the time-fractional partial differential equations (PDEs). The modified radial basis functions are used for spatial approximation of the solution. The collocation in the solution domain transforms the equation into a system of fractional ordinary differential equations similar to the one mentioned above. Several examples have verified the performance of the proposed novel technique with high accuracy and efficiency.

KEYWORDS

System of FODEs; numerical solution; Müntz polynomial basis; time fractional PDE; BSM collocation method.

1 Introduction

A novel numerical method for solving a linear system of fractional ordinary differential equations (FODEs).

$$\widehat{\mathbf{A}} D_t^{(\alpha)} [\Upsilon(t)] + \sum_{k=1}^K \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [\Upsilon(t)] = \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) \Upsilon(t) + \mathbf{F}(t), 0 \leq t \leq T, \quad (1)$$

is proposed in this paper. Here: $n - 1 < \alpha \leq n$; $0 \leq \alpha_k < \alpha$; positive integer n defines the maximal order of the time derivative in the equation and so, defines the number of the initial conditions of the problem; $\Upsilon(t) = [\Upsilon_1(t), \Upsilon_2(t), \dots, \Upsilon_N(t)]^T$ is the N -vector of unknowns; $\widehat{\mathbf{A}}$ is a constant non-singular $N \times N$ matrix and $\widehat{\mathbf{A}}_k(t)$, $\widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t)$ are time-dependent $N \times N$ matrices; $\mathbf{F}(t) = [f_1(t), f_2(t), \dots, f_N(t)]^T$. The operator $D_t^{(\alpha)}$ denotes the Caputo fractional derivative defined



by [1,2]:

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} [f(t)] = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{d_t^{(m)} f(\tau) d\tau}{(t-\tau)^{\alpha-m+1}}, & m-1 < \alpha < m, \\ d_t^{(m)} f(t), & \alpha = m, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where $m \in \mathcal{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$, and $\Gamma(z)$ denotes the gamma function. In particular, for the power functions we get:

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} [t^z] = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } z \in \mathcal{N}_0 \text{ and } z < n, \\ \frac{\Gamma(z+1)}{\Gamma(z+1-\alpha)} t^{z-\alpha}, & \text{if } z \in \mathcal{N}_0 \text{ and } z \geq n \text{ or } z \notin \mathcal{N}_0 \text{ and } z > n-1, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where $\mathcal{N}_0 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$.

The equations similar to (1) often arise in the modeling of various physical phenomena such as the models of pollution in systems of lakes [3–5], of processing the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) data [6], of the spread of infections [7,8], and also in modeling the nuclear magnetic resonance [9,10]. Recently such problems have become very relevant due to the widespread use of the fractional-order mathematical model of the COVID-19 disease [11–14].

Besides, as is shown below, based on this technique an effective method for solving multi-term time fractional partial differential equations (TFPDEs) of the type

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} [v(x, t)] + \sum_{k=1}^K a_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [v(x, t)] = b(t) L(x) [v(x, t)] + f(x, t), \quad (4)$$

can be developed. Here $a_i(t)$ and $b(t)$ are smooth enough functions and

$$L(x) [v(x, t)] = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(c(x) \frac{\partial v(x, t)}{\partial x} \right) = c(x) \frac{\partial^2 v(x, t)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial c(x)}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v(x, t)}{\partial x} \quad (5)$$

is a spatial differential operator of the second order defined for $0 \leq x \leq 1$. The function $c(x)$ has the physical sense of the diffusivity as the transport problem is considered. Let us note that Eq. (4) includes many different known equations as particular cases. For example:

- the time-fractional sub-diffusion equation [15]

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} u(x, t) = a \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t)}{\partial x^2} + f(x, t), 0 < \alpha < 1, a > 0, \quad (6)$$

- the time-fractional telegraph equation [16–18]

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} u(x, t) + \alpha_1 D_t^{(\alpha-1)} u(x, t) + \alpha_2 u(x, t) = \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t)}{\partial x^2} + f(x, t), \quad (7)$$

- the multi-term time-fractional diffusion and diffusion-wave equations [19–21]

$$D_t^{(\mu)} u(x, t) + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i D_t^{(v_i)} u(x, t) = K_e \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t)}{\partial x^2} + f(x, t), 0 < v_i < \mu < 2, \alpha_i, K_e > 0, \quad (8)$$

- the time-fractional modified anomalous sub-diffusion equation [22–26]

$$\frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial t} = \left[\alpha_1 D_t^{(1-v_1)} + \alpha_2 D_t^{(1-v_2)} \right] \frac{\partial^2 u(x, t)}{\partial x^2} + f(x, t), 0 < v_1, v_2 < 1, \alpha_1, \alpha_2 > 0. \quad (9)$$

It has been shown by many researchers that the fractional equations are more suitable for modeling some real-world applications compared with the equations of the integral order. The reviews of some real-world applications of the fractional equations were provided by Almeida et al. [27] and Sun et al. [28], in physics [29], solid mechanics [30], and fluid mechanics [31]. The application of fractional equations can also be noted in the recently published books [32,33] and we refer readers to them and to the references therein.

The exact solutions of the fractional equations are critically important for revealing complex physical phenomena. Some well-known analytical methods have been proposed for this goal: the Laplace transform method [34,35], the Green function method [36], the Fourier transform method [37], the variational iteration method [38], the Adomian decomposition method [39], the method of separating variables [40], etc.

However, because analytical solutions are available only for a narrow class of fractional problems, a great number of numerical techniques have been developed. Currently, the finite difference (FD) and finite element (FE) techniques are still the most useful tools in this field.

A survey of the FD methods for solving FODEs and fractional PDEs was presented by Li et al. in [41]. Some non-standard FD techniques were proposed to solve complex fractional systems in [42–44]. The fast FD methods for the fractional equations were proposed for solving 2D/3D space-fractional diffusion equations in [45,46]. Similar fast FD techniques were proposed for distributed-order space-fractional problems in [47], for parameters identifying problems governed by fractional equations in [48], for time-dependent space-fractional diffusion equations with fractional boundary conditions in [49], for the nonlinear fractional wave equation in [50], for fractional equations with singularity in [51], etc. The FE techniques also are the most commonly used for solving fractional equations. The FE approach was used to solve 1D fractional equations in [52,53] and for 2D fractional equations in [54–56]. Many works focus on the error analysis of the FE methods such as [57–59].

Recently meshless methods have become the focused issues of the researchers in science and engineering. The meshless methods can be divided into two groups: the pure collocation techniques [60–63] and the methods based on the integration [64–67]. To improve the accuracy of the meshless methods combinations with semi-analytical techniques have been proposed. The Laplace transform method has been coupled with the Adomian decomposition method in [68]. The analytical and semi-analytical solutions of the time-fractional Cahn–Allen equation have been studied by Khater et al. in [69]. A semi-analytical solution for the time-fractional diffusion equation has been developed by Kazem et al. in [70]. The homotopy analysis transform method [71] and the fundamental solution method [72] belong to the same group of techniques. Five semi-analytical techniques for solving the fractional nonlinear telegraph equation have been studied in [73].

In this paper, a new semi-analytical meshless technique—the backward substitution method (BSM) [74,75] is proposed to solve multi-term linear systems of FODEs. Based on the method provided a flexible and efficient numerical technique is constructed to solve the TFPDE (4). Applying the collocation approach, the original TFPDE is transformed into the system of FODEs which can be handled by the proposed new technique. The performance of this approach has been thoroughly examined by typical numerical examples. The test results are compared with the exact solutions and with the data obtained by other numerical techniques.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. The detailed scheme of the BSM for solving the system of FODEs is formulated in Section 2. The scheme for solving the TFPDEs is presented in Section 3. The numerical examples are given in Section 4. Finally, some conclusions are briefly discussed in Section 5.

2 Backward Substitution Method for FODEs

In this section, we propose a novel numerical scheme for solving the system (1) subjected to the initial conditions (ICs):

$$\Upsilon(0) = \Upsilon_0, \partial_t \Upsilon(0) = \Upsilon_1, \dots, \partial_t^{(n-1)} \Upsilon(0) = \Upsilon_{n-1}. \quad (10)$$

Let us define a new vector-function $\mathbf{P}(t)$ which satisfies the relation

$$\mathbf{P}(t) = \Upsilon(t) - \Theta_{n-1}(t), \quad (11)$$

where

$$\Theta_{n-1}(t) = \Upsilon_0 + \Upsilon_1 t + \dots + \Upsilon_{n-1} \frac{t^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}, \quad (12)$$

is a known vector function of time. Substituting the relation (11) into the governing Eq. (1), one gets the equation for the new variable $\mathbf{P}(t)$

$$\widehat{\mathbf{A}} D_t^{(\alpha)} [\mathbf{P}(t)] + \sum_{k=1}^K \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [\mathbf{P}(t)] = \mathbf{F}_1(t) + \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) \mathbf{P}(t), \quad (13)$$

where

$$\mathbf{F}_1(t) = \mathbf{F}(t) + \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) \Theta_{n-1}(t) - \sum_{k=1}^K \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [\Theta_{n-1}(t)]. \quad (14)$$

It should be noted that $D_t^{(\alpha)} [\Theta_{n-1}(t)] = 0$ because $n-1 < \alpha \leq n$. The new system is subjected to the zero ICs:

$$\mathbf{P}(0) = \mathbf{0}, \partial_t \mathbf{P}(0) = \mathbf{0}, \dots, \partial_t^{(n-1)} \mathbf{P}(0) = \mathbf{0}. \quad (15)$$

Let us rewrite the system in the form:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{A}} D_t^{(\alpha)} [\mathbf{P}(t)] = \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) \mathbf{P}(t) + \mathbf{F}_1(t) - \sum_{i=1}^I \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_i(t) D_t^{(\alpha_i)} [\mathbf{P}(t)]. \quad (16)$$

Let $\varphi_m(t)$ be the system of basis functions on $[0, T]$ which are chosen in such a way that the right-hand side of Eq. (16) can be represented in the form of the series

$$\widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) \mathbf{P}(t) + \mathbf{F}_1(t) - \sum_{k=1}^K \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [\mathbf{P}(t)] = \widehat{\mathbf{A}} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{q}_m \varphi_m(t), \quad (17)$$

where $\mathbf{q}_m = [q_{m,1}, \dots, q_{m,N}]^T$ are N -vectors to be determined.

Throughout the paper, we use the generalized power functions or the Müntz polynomials basis (MPB) [76,77]. A fractional derivative of a Müntz polynomial is again a Müntz polynomial. This is a crucial feature of this base for using it in the collocation methods for Fractional Differential Equations (FDEs). So, we take

$$\varphi_m(t) = t^{\delta_m}, \delta_m = \sigma(m-1), 0 < \sigma \leq 1, m = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (18)$$

as the basis functions and the solution is sought in the class of functions which can be approximated by the MPB and for which there exist fractional derivatives of the original Eq. (1).

Here σ is the parameter of the MPB. The BSM which uses the Müntz polynomials has been developed for solving single FODE in [78–80]. The results show that the Müntz polynomials provide quite an accurate approximation of the solution in the range of $0.10 \leq \sigma \leq 0.3$. Throughout the paper, we use σ from this interval.

Under the condition (17) the system (16) can be written in the form:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{A}}D_t^{(\alpha)}[\mathbf{P}(t)] = \widehat{\mathbf{A}} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{q}_m \varphi_m(t). \tag{19}$$

Suppose that the matrix $\widehat{\mathbf{A}}$ is invertible. So, we obtain the reduced matrix equation

$$D_t^{(\alpha)}[\mathbf{P}(t)] = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{q}_m \varphi_m(t). \tag{20}$$

As it follows from Eq. (3) the analytical expression

$$\Phi_m(t) = \frac{\Gamma(\delta_m + 1)}{\Gamma(\delta_m + \alpha + 1)} t^{\delta_m + \alpha}, \tag{21}$$

satisfies the FODE

$$D_t^{(\alpha)}[\Phi_m(t)] = t^{\delta_m} = \varphi_m(t). \tag{22}$$

Because $n - 1 < \alpha \leq n$ the function $\Phi_m(t)$ satisfies zero ICs

$$\Phi_m(0) = 0, \partial_t \Phi_m(0) = 0, \dots, \partial_t^{(n-1)} \Phi_m(0) = 0. \tag{23}$$

Therefore, the linear combination

$$\mathbf{P}_{\infty}(t) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{q}_m \Phi_m(t), \tag{24}$$

is the semi-analytical solution of Eq. (20) for any \mathbf{q}_m . It satisfies zero ICs Eq. (15). Let us emphasize: in general case, Eqs. (13) and (20) are different ones. However, if the relation (17) is fulfilled, they are identical. In this case $\mathbf{P}_{\infty}(t)$ is also the solution of (13) for any sequence \mathbf{q}_m . So, to get the vectors \mathbf{q}_m we substitute $\mathbf{P}_{\infty}(t)$ into the relation (17) and get the infinite system:

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{q}_m \Phi_m(t) - \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_1(t) \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{q}_m \Phi_m^{(\alpha_1)}(t) - \\ \dots - \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_K(t) \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{q}_m \Phi_m^{(\alpha_K)}(t) + \mathbf{F}_1(t) = \widehat{\mathbf{A}} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{q}_m \varphi_m(t), \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

or

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left[\widehat{\mathbf{A}} \varphi_m(t) + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_1(t) \Phi_m^{(\alpha_1)}(t) + \dots + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_K(t) \Phi_m^{(\alpha_K)}(t) - \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) \Phi_m(t) \right] \mathbf{q}_m = \mathbf{F}_1(t). \tag{26}$$

If the Eq. (26) is fulfilled at any time moment $t \in [0, T]$, then the vector function $\mathbf{P}_{\infty}(t)$ given in (24) is the exact solution of the problem (13), (15) if it exists. Then the sum (11) is the exact solution of the original problem (1), (10).

In practical calculations, we consider the truncated series

$$\mathbf{P}_M(t) = \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{q}_m \Phi_m(t), \quad (27)$$

as an approximate solution of the problem (13), (15). It satisfies the truncated analog of the system (20):

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} [\mathbf{P}_M(t)] = \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{q}_m \varphi_m(t). \quad (28)$$

and the unknown vectors \mathbf{q}_m are obtained by applying the collocation procedure to the truncated analog of (26):

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=1}^M \left[\widehat{\mathbf{A}} \varphi_m(t_j) + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_1(t_j) \Phi_m^{(\alpha_1)}(t_j) + \dots + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_K(t_j) \Phi_m^{(\alpha_K)}(t_j) - \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t_j) \Phi_m(t_j) \right] \mathbf{q}_m \\ = \mathbf{F}_1(t_j) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{f}_j, j = 1, \dots, N_c, \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

where N_c is the number of the collocation nodes $t_j \in [0, T]$. We use the Gauss-Chebyshev collocation points:

$$t_j = 0.5T [1 + \cos(\pi(2j-1)/2N_c)] \in [0, T], j = 1, 2, \dots, N_c. \quad (30)$$

The collocation system (29) can be written in the compact form:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{C}}\mathbf{Q} = \mathcal{F}, \quad (31)$$

where

$$\mathbf{Q} = [\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2, \dots, \mathbf{q}_M]^T = [q_{1,1}, \dots, q_{1,N_c}, q_{2,1}, \dots, q_{2,N_c}, \dots, q_{M,1}, \dots, q_{M,N_c}]^T, \quad (32)$$

$$\mathcal{F} = [\mathbf{f}_1, \mathbf{f}_2, \dots, \mathbf{f}_{N_c}]^T = [f_{1,1}, \dots, f_{1,N_c}, f_{2,1}, \dots, f_{2,N_c}, \dots, f_{N_c,1}, \dots, f_{N_c,N_c}]^T. \quad (33)$$

The collocation matrix $\widehat{\mathbf{C}}$ contains $N_c M$ blocks

$$\widehat{\mathbf{C}} = \begin{bmatrix} \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{1,1} & \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{1,2} & \dots & \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{1,m} & \dots & \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{1,M} \\ \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{2,1} & \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{2,2} & \dots & \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{2,m} & \dots & \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{2,M} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{N_c,1} & \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{N_c,2} & \dots & \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{N_c,m} & \dots & \widehat{\mathbf{C}}_{N_c,M} \end{bmatrix} \quad (34)$$

Here M is the number of the Müntz polynomials $\varphi_m(t)$ and N_c is the number of the collocation points in the time interval $[0, T]$.

The matrices $\widehat{\mathbf{A}}, \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_i(t_j), \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t_j)$ are square matrices of the size $N \times N$ and so, their combinations with the scalar coefficients $\varphi_m(t_j), \Phi_m^{(\alpha_i)}(t_j), \Phi_m(t_j)$,

$$\mathbf{C}_{j,m} = \widehat{\mathbf{A}} \varphi_m(t_j) + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_1(t_j) \Phi_m^{(\alpha_1)}(t_j) + \dots + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_K(t_j) \Phi_m^{(\alpha_K)}(t_j) - \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t_j) \Phi_m(t_j), \quad (35)$$

are also the $N \times N$ square matrices. Let us note that to obtain a stable solution of the collocation system the number of the collocation points N_c is taken twice as large as the number of the Müntz polynomials M : $N_c = 2M$. Finally, we get the over-determined linear system (31) with the collocation matrix $\widehat{\mathbf{C}}$ which contains $2M^2$ square $N \times N$ blocks $\mathbf{C}_{j,m}$ $j = 1, \dots, 2M, m = 1, \dots, M$. The matrix

$\widehat{\mathbf{C}}$ has $2NM$ rows and NM columns. The collocation system is solved by the standard least squares procedure.

So, the algorithm of the solution of the system (31) is as follows:

Step 1. Choose the parameter of the Müntz polynomials basis, σ .

Step 2. Choose the number of the Müntz polynomials M in the approximate solution.

Step 3. Define the functions $\varphi_m(t)$ and $\Phi_m(t)$, $m = 1, \dots, M$ (see (21)).

Step 4. Calculate the collocation matrix $\widehat{\mathbf{C}}$ using (34) and (35).

Step 5. Calculate the vector of the right hand side \mathcal{F} using (29), (33).

Step 6. Solve the collocation system (31) for \mathbf{Q} and find the vectors \mathbf{q}_m , $m = 1, \dots, M$ which form \mathbf{Q} (see (32)).

Step 7. Getting the functions $\Phi_m(t)$ $m = 1, \dots, M$ and the vectors \mathbf{q}_m , $m = 1, \dots, M$ obtain the approximate solution $\mathbf{P}_M(t)$ (see (27)).

Step 8. Obtain the approximate solution of the original problem (1), (10) as the sum $\Upsilon_M(t) = \mathbf{P}_M(t) + \Theta_{n-1}(t)$ (see (11)).

3 Numerical Scheme for TFPDEs

Let us consider the TFPDE of the form:

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} [v(x, t)] + \sum_{k=1}^K a_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [v(x, t)] = b(t) L(x) [v(x, t)] + f(x, t), x \in [0, 1], t \in [0, T], \quad (36)$$

subjected to the Dirichlet boundary conditions (BCs)

$$v(0, t) = g_0(t), v(1, t) = g_1(t), \quad (37)$$

where $L(x)$ is a spatial differential operator given in (5). The ICs are determined as follows:

$$v(x, 0) = v_0(x), \partial_t v(x, 0) = v_1(x), \dots, \partial_t^{(n-1)} v(x, 0) = v_{n-1}(x). \quad (38)$$

Let us define the new function

$$u(x, t) = v(x, t) - \Psi_{n-1}(x, t), \quad (39)$$

where

$$\Psi_{n-1}(x, t) = v_0(x) + v_1(x) t + \dots + \frac{t^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} v_{n-1}(x).$$

This function satisfies the equation

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} [u] + \sum_{k=1}^K a_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [u] = f_1 + b(t) L(x) [u], \quad (40)$$

under the BCs

$$u(0, t) = g_0(t) - \Psi_{n-1}(0, t) \equiv h_0(t), \quad (41)$$

$$u(1, t) = g_1(t) - \Psi_{n-1}(1, t) \equiv h_1(t). \quad (42)$$

and zero ICs

$$u(x, 0) = 0, \partial_t u(x, 0) = 0, \dots, \partial_t^{(n-1)} u(x, 0) = 0. \quad (43)$$

Here

$$f_1(x, t) = f(x, t) + L(x) [\Psi_{n-1}(x, t)] - \sum_{k=1}^K a_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [\Psi_{n-1}(x, t)]. \quad (44)$$

Note: The last terms in (44) can be expressed in the analytical form. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^I a_i(t) D_t^{(\alpha_i)} [\Psi_{n-1}] &= v_1(x) \sum_{\alpha_k \leq 1}^K a_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [t] + \frac{1}{2} v_2(x) \sum_{\alpha_k \leq 2}^K a_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [t^2], \dots, \\ &+ \frac{1}{(n-1)} v_{n-1}(x) \sum_{\alpha_k \leq n-1}^K a_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [t^{n-1}], \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

where the derivative $D_t^{(\alpha_i)} [t^j]$ can be written using (3). The previous term in (44) can be written as follows:

$$L(x) [\Psi_{n-1}(x, t)] = L(x) [v_0(x)] + L(x) [v_1(x)] t + \dots + \frac{t^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} L(x) [v_{n-1}(x)]. \quad (46)$$

So, (44) is the analytical expression.

Let us define the function $u_g(x, t)$

$$u_g(x, t) = h_0(t) + x(h_1(t) - h_0(t)), \quad (47)$$

which satisfies the BCs (41), (42) and introduce the new variable $w(x, t)$:

$$w(x, t) = u(x, t) - u_g(x, t). \quad (48)$$

The function $w(x, t)$ is the solution of the TFPDE

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} [w(x, t)] + \sum_{k=1}^K a_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [w(x, t)] = b(t) L(x) [w(x, t)] + f_2(x, t), \quad (49)$$

where

$$f_2(x, t) = f_1(x, t) + L(x) [u_g(x, t)] - D_t^{(\alpha)} [u_g(x, t)] - \sum_{k=1}^K a_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [u_g(x, t)]. \quad (50)$$

It is easily to prove that the function $w(x, t)$ satisfies zero ICs and BCs:

$$w(x, 0) = 0, \partial_t w(x, 0) = 0, \dots, \partial_t^{(n-1)} w(x, 0) = 0, \quad (51)$$

$$w(0, t) = w(1, t) = 0. \quad (52)$$

Let us choose a set of linearly independent functions $\psi_i(x)$, $i = 1, \dots, N$ defined in $[0, 1]$. For this goal we mainly use the Multiquadric radial basis function (MQ-RBF) throughout the paper. The

centers ζ_j of the RBF are distributed in the solution region $[0, 1]$:

$$\psi_j(x) = \sqrt{(x - \zeta_j)^2 + c^2}, \tag{53}$$

where c is the shape parameter. We place the centers of the RBFs at the Gauss-Chebyshev points

$$\zeta_j = 0.5[1 + \cos(\pi(2j - 1)/2N)] \in [0, 1], j = 1, 2, \dots, N. \tag{54}$$

Based on the numerical experiments carried out we fix the shape parameter $c = 0.5$ in all the calculations.

We define the modified basis functions

$$\phi_j(x) = \psi_j(x) + b_{j,0} + b_{j,1}x, \tag{55}$$

where the coefficients $b_{j,0}, b_{j,1}$ are chosen to satisfy BCs:

$$\phi_j(0) = \phi_j(1) = 0. \tag{56}$$

As a result we get the linear system

$$b_{j,0} = -\psi_j(0), \tag{57}$$

$$b_{j,0} + b_{j,1} = -\psi_j(1), \tag{58}$$

for each pair of the coefficients $b_{j,0}, b_{j,1}$. The system can be solved easily in the analytical form. So, the modified basis functions $\phi_j(x)$ and their linear combinations satisfy zero boundary condition (56).

We seek the solution of the Eq. (49), in the form of the linear series over the modified basis functions $\phi_j(x)$

$$w_N(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^N \phi_j(x) \Upsilon_j(t). \tag{59}$$

Substituting Eq. (59) into Eq. (49) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^N \phi_j(x) \left\{ D_t^{(\alpha)} [\Upsilon_j(t)] + a_1(t) D_t^{(\alpha_1)} [\Upsilon_j(t)] + \dots + a_K(t) D_t^{(\alpha_K)} [\Upsilon_j(t)] \right\} = \\ = b(t) \sum_{j=1}^N L(x) [\phi_j(x)] \Upsilon_j(t) + f_2(x, t). \end{aligned} \tag{60}$$

Let $x_i \in [0, 1], i = 1, \dots, N$ be the collocation points distributed inside the solution domain. Applying the collocation procedure at these points, we get the system of the FODEs:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^N \phi_j(x_i) \left\{ D_t^{(\alpha)} [\Upsilon_j(t)] + a_1(t) D_t^{(\alpha_1)} [\Upsilon_j(t)] + \dots + a_K(t) D_t^{(\alpha_K)} [\Upsilon_j(t)] \right\} = \\ = b(t) \sum_{j=1}^N L(x_i) [\phi_j(x_i)] \Upsilon_j(t) + f_2(x_i, t), \end{aligned} \tag{61}$$

We take the centers of the RBFs as the collocation points: $x_i = \zeta_i$. Let us rewrite the system of the FODEs in the vector form:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{A}} D_t^{(\alpha)} [\Upsilon(t)] + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_1(t) D_t^{(\alpha_1)} [\Upsilon(t)] + \dots + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_K(t) D_t^{(\alpha_K)} [\Upsilon(t)] = \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) \Upsilon(t) + \mathbf{F}(t), t \in [0, T], \quad (62)$$

where $\widehat{\mathbf{A}}, \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_i(t), \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t)$ are $N \times N$ matrices with the components

$$\widehat{\mathbf{A}} = [\phi_j(x_i)]_{i,j=1}^N, \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_k(t) = a_k(t) \widehat{\mathbf{A}}, \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) = b(t) [L(x_i) [\phi_j(x_i)]]_{i,j=1}^N, \quad (63)$$

and $\Upsilon(t) = [\Upsilon_1(t), \Upsilon_2(t), \dots, \Upsilon_N(t)]^T$, $\mathbf{F}(t) = [f_2(x_1, t), f_2(x_2, t), \dots, f_2(x_N, t)]^T$ are N -vectors. Note that the derivatives in the term $L(x_j) [\phi_l(x_j)]$ can be obtained in the analytical form

$$\partial_x \phi_j(x) = \frac{x - \zeta_j}{\psi_j(x)} + c_{j,1}, \partial_{xx} \phi_j(x) = \frac{1}{\psi_j(x)} - \frac{(x - \zeta_j)^2}{(\psi_j(x))^3}. \quad (64)$$

So, the system (62) takes the same form as the linear system of FODEs (1) and can be solved by the algorithm described in Section 2. It should be noted that taking into account (51), the vector $\Upsilon(t)$ satisfies zero ICs:

$$\Upsilon(0) = \mathbf{0}, \partial_t \Upsilon(0) = \mathbf{0}, \dots, \partial_t^{(n-1)} \Upsilon(0) = \mathbf{0}. \quad (65)$$

It means that $\Theta_{n-1}(t) = \mathbf{0}$ (see (11)) and $\Upsilon(t) = \mathbf{P}(t)$. Using M the Müntz polynomials, we get the approximate solution in the form:

$$w_{N,M}(x, t) = \sum_{j=1}^N \phi_j(x) P_{M_j}(t), \quad (66)$$

where $P_{M_j}(t)$ is j^{th} component of the vector $\mathbf{P}_M(t)$ given in (27). Then, the approximate solution of the original problem (36)–(38) can be written in the form

$$\begin{aligned} v_{N,M}(x, t) &= u_{N,M}(x, t) + \Psi_{n-1}(x, t) = w_{N,M}(x, t) + u_g(x, t) + \Psi_{n-1}(x, t) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^N \phi_j(x) P_{M_j}(t) + u_g(x, t) + \Psi_{n-1}(x, t). \end{aligned} \quad (67)$$

3.1 Nonlinear Problem

Let us consider TFPDE (4) with a nonlinear term

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} [v(x, t)] + \sum_{k=1}^K a_k(t) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [v(x, t)] = b(t) L(x) [v(x, t)] + G(v) + f(x, t). \quad (68)$$

Let $v^0(x, t)$ be a function considered as the initial approximate solution. Linearization of the function $G(v)$ in the vicinity of $v^0(x, t)$

$$G(v) \simeq G(v^0) + \frac{\partial G}{\partial v}(v^0) [v - v^0] = \frac{\partial G}{\partial v}(v^0) v + G(v) - \frac{\partial G}{\partial v}(v^0) v^0$$

transforms (68) into a sequence of linear TFPDEs each of those can be solved by the technique described above. As a result, we get the iteration procedure. The iterations are stopped with the control of the error $\max_{x,t} |v(x, t) - v^0(x, t)|$ or after achieving the prescribed number of iterations.

4 Numerical Examples

In this section several numerical examples are provided to show the accuracy of the proposed scheme. To demonstrate the performance of this technique we consider the different types of errors for systems of FODEs and TFPDEs.

$$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_k, N_t) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq N_t} |\Upsilon_{k,ex}(t_i) - \Upsilon_{k,M}(t_i)|, \tag{69}$$

$$e_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_k, N_t) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} (\Upsilon_{k,ex}(t_i) - \Upsilon_{k,M}(t_i))^2}. \tag{70}$$

The errors (69), (70) are used in solving systems of the FODEs to estimate the approximate solution of each component of the vector $\Upsilon(t) = [\Upsilon_1(t), \Upsilon_2(t), \dots, \Upsilon_N(t)]^T$ (see Eq. (1)).

$$E_{\max}(t, N_t) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq N_t} |v_{N,M}(x_i, t) - v_{ex}(x_i, t)|, \tag{71}$$

$$E_{\text{RMS}}(t, N_t) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} \left[(v_{ex}(x_i, t) - v_{N,M}(x_i, t))^2 + \left(\frac{\partial v_{ex}}{\partial x}(x_i, t) - \frac{\partial v_{N,M}}{\partial x}(x_i, t) \right)^2 \right]}. \tag{72}$$

The errors (71), (72) are used in solving TFPDE (36) with the BCs (37) and the ICs (38). The error $E_{\text{RMS}}(t, N_t)$ also includes the error in the approximation of the first derivative of the solution. The subscript *ex* of *v* indicates the comparison with the analytical solution or with the data taken from the literature. The subscript *N, M* of *v* defines the numerical solution. For (1+1) dimensional problems $N_t = 4N$. The numerical experiments show that this relation guarantees the accuracy in the calculation of the errors. To carry out convergence research, we define the convergence order (CO).

$$CO = \frac{\log(E_{\max}(N_1) / E_{\max}(N_2))}{\log(N_1 / N_2)}. \tag{73}$$

4.1 Numerical Experiments for Systems of FODEs

Example 4.1 Let us consider the system given in [35]

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = \widehat{\mathbf{B}} \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \end{bmatrix}, \widehat{\mathbf{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 2, & -1 \\ 4, & -3 \end{bmatrix}, 0 < \alpha \leq 1, \tag{74}$$

with the general exact solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} E_\alpha(t^\alpha) + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} E_\alpha(-2t^\alpha), \tag{75}$$

where $E_\alpha(t)$ is the one parameter Mittag-Leffler function

$$E_\alpha(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^j}{\Gamma(\alpha j + 1)},$$

and c_1 and c_2 are free parameters which define the ICs. We solve this problem by the suggested scheme for $\alpha = 0.25, 0.5$ and 0.75 . The obtained results are reported in Table 1. We use the parameter of the MPB $\sigma = 0.3$ and $N_t = 50000$ test points distributed randomly inside $[0, 1]$ to calculate the errors (69), (70).

Table 1: The behaviour of the errors with increasing of M for different α

M	10	20	40	60	80
$\alpha = 0.25$					
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1)$	39.1	4.38	8.28E-4	1.21E-7	1.35E-8
$e_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_1)$	0.475	4.35E-2	7.87E-6	1.93E-9	1.90E-9
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_2)$	40.9	2.17	6.41E-4	7.32E-9	5.38E-8
$e_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_2)$	0.486	3.50E-2	7.11E-6	1.14E-7	7.57E-9
$\alpha = 0.5$					
$E_{\max}(\Upsilon_1)$	1.54	5.06E-2	1.73E-5	2.73E-9	4.23E-10
$E_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_1)$	8.00E-2	2.48E-3	4.91E-7	1.21E-10	1.03E-11
$E_{\max}(\Upsilon_2)$	1.72	2.96E-2	2.14E-5	1.51E-9	8.22E-10
$E_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_2)$	8.17E-2	2.25E-3	5.16E-7	1.10E-10	1.35E-11
$\alpha = 0.75$					
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1)$	8.84E-2	7.26E-4	6.31E-7	2.09E-10	3.09E-12
$e_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_1)$	3.20E-2	4.36E-4	3.30E-8	7.78E-11	1.01E-12
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_2)$	1.01E-1	4.00E-3	2.96E-6	3.94E-10	2.41E-12
$e_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_2)$	3.27E-2	4.07E-4	1.43E-7	6.84E-11	9.54E-13

Example 4.2 Let us consider the system described in [35]

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \\ \Upsilon_3(t) \end{bmatrix} = \widehat{\mathbf{B}} \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \\ \Upsilon_3(t) \end{bmatrix}, \widehat{\mathbf{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1, & 1, & 1 \\ 2, & 1, & -1 \\ 0, & -1, & 1 \end{bmatrix}, 0 < \alpha \leq 1, \tag{76}$$

with the general exact solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \\ \Upsilon_3(t) \end{bmatrix} = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} E_\alpha(-t^\alpha) + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} E_\alpha(2t^\alpha) \tag{77}$$

$$+ c_3 \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} t^\alpha \partial_t E_\alpha(2t^\alpha) + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} E_\alpha(2t^\alpha) \right\}, \tag{78}$$

where $\partial_t E_\alpha(t)$ is the first derivative of the one parameter of the Mittag-Leffler function

$$\partial_t E_\alpha(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(j+1)t^j}{\Gamma(\alpha(j+1)+1)},$$

and c_1, c_2, c_3 are free parameters which define the ICs. We solve this problem by the suggested scheme for $\alpha = 0.5$ and $c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = 1$. The obtained results are reported in [Table 2](#).

Table 2: The behavior of the errors with the increasing of M

M	50	100	150	200
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1)$	10.5	6.62E-7	2.12E-11	1.45E-12
$e_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_1)$	3.72	2.34E-7	3.47E-12	4.83E-13
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_2)$	65.6	1.97E-5	1.63E-10	5.91E-12
$e_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_2)$	21.4	7.10E-6	5.55E-11	1.52E-12
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_3)$	55.0	2.04E-5	1.52E-10	3.98E-12
$e_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_3)$	17.7	7.33E-6	5.18E-11	1.00E-12
CPU, sec.	0.35	1.31	3.32	5.34

Example 4.3 Consider the following initial value problem for the inhomogeneous Bagley–Torvik equation [81]

$$\frac{d^2 V(t)}{dt^2} + D_t^{(3/2)} [V(t)] + V(t) = t + 1, V(0) = 1, \frac{dV(0)}{dt} = 1, \tag{79}$$

with the exact solution $V(t) = t + 1$. As it is shown in [82] the original Bagley–Torvik equation can be rewritten as the system of FODEs of order 1/2

$$D_t^{(1/2)} \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \\ \Upsilon_3(t) \\ \Upsilon_4(t) \end{bmatrix} = \widehat{\mathbf{B}} \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \\ \Upsilon_3(t) \\ \Upsilon_4(t) \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{F}(t), \widehat{\mathbf{B}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0, & 1, & 0, & 0 \\ 0, & 0, & 1, & 0 \\ 0, & 0, & 0, & 1 \\ -1, & 0, & 0, & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{F}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ t + 1 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{80}$$

with the initial condition

$$\Upsilon_1(0) = 1, \Upsilon_2(0) = 0, \Upsilon_3(0) = 1, \Upsilon_4(0) = 0, \tag{81}$$

where the solution of the original Bagley–Torvik equation $V(t) = \Upsilon_1(t)$. It can be easily proved that the exact solution of the system (80) is

$$\Upsilon_{ex}(t) = [1 + t, 2t^{1/2}/\sqrt{\pi}, 1, 0]^T. \tag{82}$$

According to the method described above, the approximate solution can be written in the form:

$$\Upsilon_M(t) = \Upsilon_{ex}(0) + \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{q}_m \Phi_m(t), \tag{83}$$

where

$$\Phi_m(t) = \frac{\Gamma(\delta_m + 1)}{\Gamma(\delta_m + 3/2)} t^{\delta_m + 1/2}, \delta_m = \sigma(m - 1). \tag{84}$$

As it follows from (82), (83)

$$\Upsilon_M(t) - \Upsilon_{ex}(0) = [t, 2t^{1/2}/\sqrt{\pi}, 0, 0]^T = \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{q}_m \Phi_m(t).$$

Thus, the approximate solution (83) contains the exact solution $\Upsilon_{ex}(t)$, if the sequence $\Phi_m(t)$, $m = 1, \dots, M$ contains the functions $t^{1/2}$ and t . As it follows from (84), this condition is fulfilled when the sequence $\delta_m + 1/2 = \sigma(m - 1) + 1/2$, $m = 1, \dots, M$ contains the values 1/2 and 1. For example, if $\sigma = 1/2$, then $\delta_m + 1/2 = 1/2, 1, 3/2, \dots$ and the expression (83) contains the exact solution $\Upsilon_{ex}(t)$ beginning from $M = 2$. For $\sigma = 1/4$, we get the sequence $\delta_m + 1/2 = 1/2, 3/4, 1, \dots$ and for $\sigma = 0.1$, we get the sequence $\delta_m + 1/2 = 1/2, 1/2 + 0.1, 1/2 + 0.2, 1/2 + 0.3, 1/2 + 0.4, 1/2 + 0.5 = 1, \dots$. Thus, for $\sigma = 1/4$ the exact solution $\Upsilon_{ex}(t)$ is included in (83) beginning from $M = 3$ and for $\sigma = 0.1$ beginning from $M = 6$.

The data placed in Table 3 demonstrate that if the approximate solution (83) contains the exact solution $\Upsilon_{ex}(t)$, then the method calculates it up to the machine precision.

Table 3: The behavior of the errors with the growth of M for different parameter σ

M	1	2	3	4	5	6
$e_{\max}(V), \sigma = 0.5$	0.202	4.44E-16	2.22E-16	4.44E-16	6.66E-16	6.66E-16
$e_{\max}(V), \sigma = 0.25$	0.202	2.83E-2	2.22E-16	4.44E-16	4.44E-16	4.44E-16
$e_{\max}(V), \sigma = 0.1$	0.202	4.48E-2	9.43E-3	1.95E-3	1.92E-4	8.88E-16
M	5	10	20	50	100	150
$e_{\max}(V), \sigma = \pi/20$	9.94E-6	3.97E-8	1.03E-9	1.28E-10	1.55E-11	4.85E-12

The data placed in the last rows of Table 3 correspond to the general case when the information of the solution is absent. We take $\sigma = \pi/20$ and there are no sequences $\Phi_m(t)$, $m = 1, \dots, M$ which contain the functions $t^{1/2}$ and t . As a result, the error decreases slowly and gradually. The method also provides a high accuracy but with larger values of M .

The same problem has been studied in [81] on the time interval $t \in [0, 5]$ using fractional linear multistep methods based on the Adams-type predictor-corrector technique. As demonstrated in the paper, the errors depend on time step size Δt . For time step $\Delta t = 0.5$ $e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1) = -0.15131473519232$, and for $\Delta t = 0.0625$ $e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1) = -0.00562770408881$. These data also are placed in Table C.3 of [2]. Note that the component $\Upsilon_1(t)$ corresponds to the solution of the original Bagley–Torvik equation (79).

Table 4 shows the results of the calculation by the proposed method on the time interval $t \in [0, 5]$ with the parameter of the MPB $\sigma = \pi/20$. It is obvious that the method presented provides a much more accurate solution. With a special choice of parameter σ the accuracy is even higher. For example, if $\sigma = 0.25$, $M = 3$, then $e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1) = 4.44E-15$ and $e_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_1) = 1.91E-15$.

Table 4: The behavior of the errors of the solution on the time interval $[0, 5]$ with the growth of M for $\sigma = \pi/20$

M	5	10	15	20	25
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1)$	4.37E-5	5.58E-8	1.29E-9	1.07E-9	4.03E-10
$e_{\text{RMS}}(\Upsilon_1)$	3.40E-6	4.11E-9	1.08E-10	9.00E-11	3.70E-11
CPU (s)	0.09	0.16	0.27	0.35	0.45

Example 4.4 Let us consider the multi-term system with time-dependent matrices

$$\widehat{\mathbf{A}}D_t^{(\sqrt{3})} \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \end{bmatrix} + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_1(t) D_t^{(\pi/2)} \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \end{bmatrix} + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_2(t) D_t^{(0.75)} \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \end{bmatrix} + \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_3(t) D_t^{(0.25)} \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) \begin{bmatrix} \Upsilon_1(t) \\ \Upsilon_2(t) \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{F}(t). \tag{85}$$

The ICs are

$$\Upsilon_1(0) = 1, \Upsilon_2(0) = 0. \tag{86}$$

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$$\widehat{\mathbf{A}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1, & 0.1 \\ 0.1, & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_1(t) = \frac{1}{1+t}\widehat{\mathbf{A}}, \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_2(t) = \frac{t}{1+t^2}\widehat{\mathbf{A}}, \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_3(t) = \frac{t^2}{1+t^3}\widehat{\mathbf{A}},$$

$$\widehat{\mathbf{B}}(t) = e^t \begin{bmatrix} 1, & -0.1 \\ -0.1, & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \tag{87}$$

The vector $\mathbf{F}(t)$ corresponds to the exact solution

$$\Upsilon_{ex}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \exp(t) \\ \sin(t) \end{bmatrix}. \tag{88}$$

The data placed in [Table 5](#) demonstrate the behavior of the error of the approximate solution with the growth of M for $\sigma = 0.1, 0.2$ and 0.3 . The method converges quite fast for all σ .

Table 5: The behavior of the errors with the growth of M for different σ

M	10	20	30	50	100	150
$\sigma = 0.1$						
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1)$	7.31E-3	5.6E-4	9.08E-6	1.86E-9	2.17E-13	4.31E-14
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_2)$	1.16E-3	3.13E-5	4.38E-7	6.14E-10	3.73E-14	8.53E-15
$\sigma = 0.2$						
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1)$	7.48E-5	2.32E-7	5.01E-10	1.62E-10	3.42E-11	1.28E-11
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_2)$	5.13E-6	4.83E-8	2.79E-11	1.11E-11	1.88E-12	5.88E-12
$\sigma = 0.3$						
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1)$	7.00E-7	1.17E-8	4.33E-9	1.35E-9	1.92E-9	5.20E-9
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_2)$	2.59E-7	7.32E-10	2.71E-10	9.39E-11	1.44E-10	3.07E-9

Similar to (83), (84), the approximate solution can be written in the form:

$$\Upsilon_M(t) = \Upsilon_{ex}(0) + \partial_t \Upsilon_{ex}(0) t + \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{q}_m \Phi_m(t). \tag{89}$$

where

$$\Phi_m(t) = \frac{\Gamma(\delta_m + 1)}{\Gamma(\delta_m + \sqrt{3} + 1)} t^{\delta_m + \sqrt{3}}. \quad (90)$$

In this case we use the additional information that the components of the solution $\Upsilon_1(t)$, $\Upsilon_2(t)$ are analytical functions and can be approximated by the polynomials $1, t, t^2, \dots, t^{M+1}$. If we set $\delta_m = m + 1 - \sqrt{3}$, then $\Phi_m(t) \sim t^{m+1}$ and so, the exact solution $\Upsilon_{ex}(t)$ belongs to linear span of the polynomials $1, t, t^2, \dots, t^{M+1}$.

Table 6 demonstrates a dramatic decrease in the errors with the growth of M for this special choice of δ_m when an additional information on the solution is added.

Table 6: The behavior of the proposed numerical scheme with the growth of M for $\delta_m = m + 1 - \sqrt{3}$

M	3	5	10	15
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_1)$	3.08E-4	2.36E-7	2.44E-15	1.33E-15
$e_{\max}(\Upsilon_2)$	1.57E-4	1.26E-7	6.66E-16	3.33E-16

4.2 Numerical Experiments for TFPDEs

Example 4.5 Let us consider the multi-term TFPDE [83]

$$D_t^{(\alpha)}[v] + D_t^{(0.2)}[v] = \partial_{xx}v + f(x, t), \quad 0 \leq x, t \leq 1. \quad (91)$$

Here the source term $f(x, t)$, IC and BCs conform to the exact solution $v(x, t) = (1 + t^2)(x^2 - x)$.

Fig. 1 and Table 7 show the behavior of the errors of the approximate solution as the functions of N (see (59)) with the fixed M . For $M = 10$ the errors decrease with the growth of N in the whole range $2 \leq N \leq 26$. This means that the error of the spatial approximation is the dominant error. While for $M = 5$ the accuracy does not improve for $N > 10$. Therefore, in this case, the dominant error is the error in the solution of the system of FODEs in time. Fig. 1 shows that all the curves $E_{\max}(N)$, $E_{\text{RMS}}(N)$ originally lay on the same curve. They move away from this curve depending on the value of M when the error due to approximation in time becomes dominant.

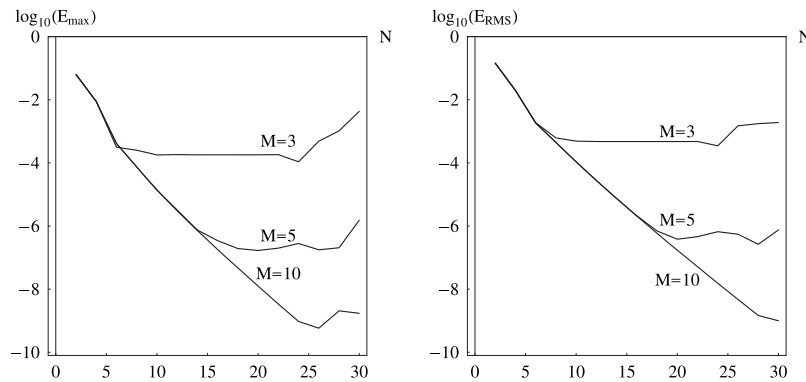


Figure 1: The maximal absolute E_{\max} (left) and E_{RMS} (right) errors as functions of the number of RBFs used in the approximate solution. $\alpha = 0.95$, $\sigma = 0.3$

Table 7: The E_{\max} , E_{RMS} , and CO vs. N at $t = 1$ with $M = 10$, $\sigma = 0.3$

N	$\alpha = 0.95$			$\alpha = 0.5$			$\alpha = 0.25$		
	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO
4	8.77E-3	1.96E-2	2.8	9.07E-3	2.02E-2	2.8	9.22E-3	2.06E-2	2.8
8	7.45E-5	4.45E-4	5.9	7.47E-5	4.45E-4	5.97	7.48E-5	4.46E-4	5.99
12	3.05E-6	2.76E-5	8.3	3.05E-6	2.76E-5	8.25	3.05E-6	2.76E-5	8.25
16	1.81E-7	2.07E-6	10.4	1.81E-7	2.07E-6	10.4	1.81E-7	2.07E-6	10.4
20	1.24E-8	1.71E-7	12.6	1.24E-8	1.71E-7	12.6	1.24E-8	1.71E-7	12.6
24	9.49E-10	1.52E-8	14.5	9.54E-10	1.52E-8	14.6	9.22E-10	1.52E-8	14.8
26	5.80E-10	4.72E-9	6.1	6.74E-10	4.68E-9	4.34	5.89E-10	4.65E-9	5.6

[83], Table 1	$E_{\max} = 4.20E-4$	$E_{\max} = 2.08E-5$	$E_{\max} = 3.90E-6$
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Fig. 2 and Table 8 show the behavior of the errors as functions of M with the fixed N . It is evident that the proposed scheme converges fast with the increase of M . For the larger M more accurate results can be obtained. The same problem was studied by Jin et al. in [83] using the Galerkin FE method and FD discretization of the time-fractional derivatives. Using $h = 2^{-10}$ mesh size and the time step size $\tau = 1/160$, they obtained the data placed in the last row of Table 7. The comparison shows that the method presented provides a much more accurate solution.

Example 4.6 Let us consider the multi-term TFPDE

$$D_t^{(\pi/4)} [v] + \frac{t}{1+t} D_t^{(0.5)} [v] + \frac{t^2}{1+t^2} D_t^{(0.25)} [v]$$

$$= \sinh(t) D_t^{(0.2)} [L(x) [v]] + \cosh(t) D_t^{(0.1)} [L(x) [v]] + (1+t^2) L(x) [v] + f(x, t), 0 \leq x, t \leq 1,$$

with the spatial operator $L(x) [v(x, t)] = \partial_x (\cos(x) \partial_x v(x, t))$. The Dirichlet BCs and IC conform to the exact solution $v(x, t) = \sin(x + t)$.

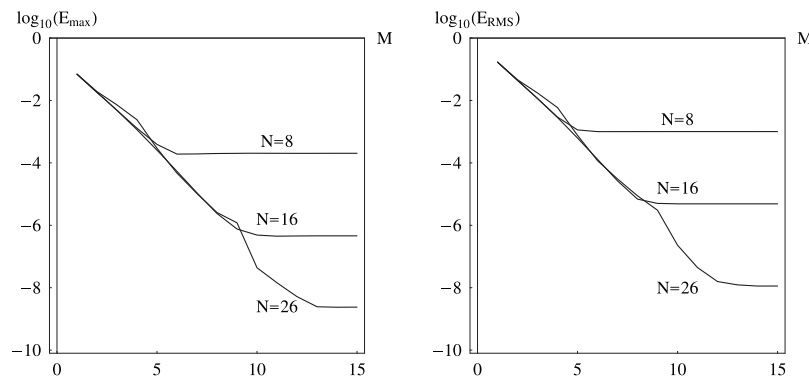


Figure 2: The maximal absolute E_{\max} (left) and E_{RMS} (right) errors vs. M with fixed N . $\alpha = 0.95$, $\sigma = 0.3$

Table 8: The TFPDE (91) with $\alpha = 0.95$. The E_{\max} , E_{RMS} , and CO vs. M at $t = 1$ with $N = 26$ and $\sigma = 0.3$

M	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	CPU, sec.
2	5.43E-3	1.33E-2	2.4	0.5
4	1.16E-5	5.34E-5	13.0	0.8
6	7.85E-9	4.13E-8	17.1	1.2
8	1.25E-9	5.41E-9	7.5	1.8
10	5.80E-10	4.72E-9	0.3	2.3

Table 9 shows the errors, convergence order, and CPU time as the functions of N with the fixed M . The data also are illustrated by the graphics in Fig. 3. With increasing of N the proposed method converges fast, and we can obtain the errors around 10^{-9} with $M = 10$ and $N = 20$. It should also be noted that with a small number of $N = 4$, the computed errors are around 10^{-3} , which should be sufficient for engineering applications.

Table 9: The E_{\max} , E_{RMS} , and CO vs. N at $t = 1$ with $M = 10$

N	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	CPU, sec.
4	2.43E-3	5.55E-3	3.7	0.5
8	2.96E-5	1.17E-4	5.8	0.9
12	9.79E-7	6.01E-6	9.2	1.5
16	4.50E-8	4.04E-7	11.1	2.4
20	3.52E-9	3.10E-8	9.7	3.1
24	1.53E-9	4.62E-9	0.03	3.7
26	4.17E-9	6.77E-9	–	4.1

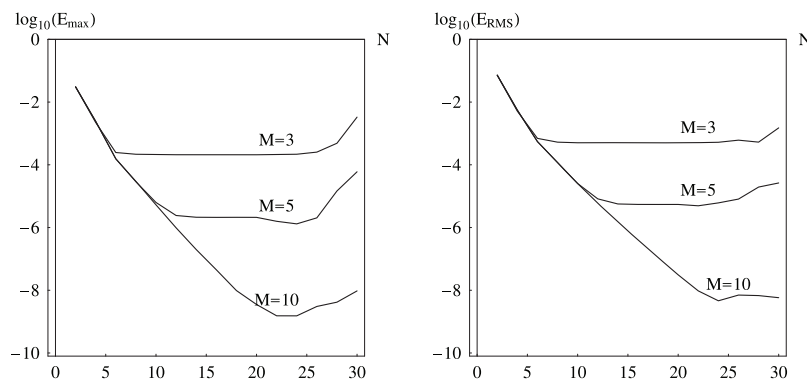


Figure 3: The maximal absolute E_{\max} (left) and E_{RMS} (right) errors vs. N for different M

Table 10 and Fig. 4 show the errors vs. M with the fixed N to verify the performance of the proposed scheme. The order of convergence is larger than 3.

Table 10: The E_{\max} , E_{RMS} , and CO vs. the M at $t = 1$ with $N = 26$, $\sigma = 0.3$

M	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	CPU, sec.
2	1.31E-3	3.18E-3	1.6	0.8
4	1.28E-5	7.33E-5	10	1.3
6	9.44E-7	2.95E-6	4.2	2.5
8	7.01E-8	2.01E-7	12.7	3.2
10	3.05E-9	7.03E-9	5.7	4.6
12	4.26E-10	1.01E-9	7.0	6.2

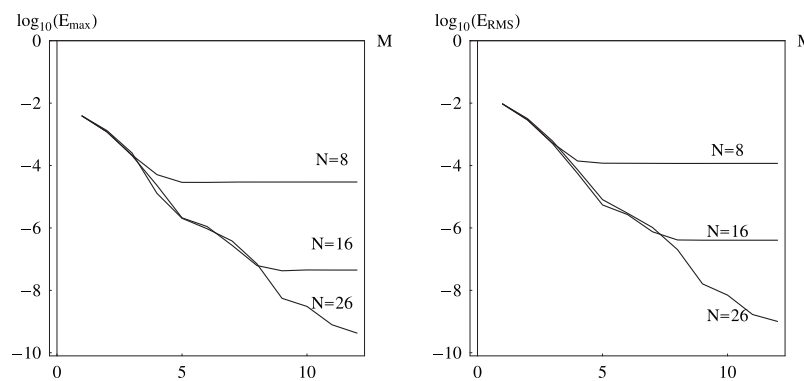


Figure 4: The maximal absolute E_{\max} (left) and E_{RMS} (right) errors vs. M for different fixed N

Example 4.7 In the following examples we consider three cases for $\alpha > 1$ to verify the performance of the proposed scheme.

Case 1: Consider the following equation:

$$D_t^{(\pi/2)} [v] + \frac{1}{1+t} D_t^{(e/2)} [v] + \frac{t}{1+t^2} D_t^{(\pi/4)} [v] + \frac{t^2}{1+t^3} D_t^{(e/4)} [v] = \partial_{xx}^2 v + f(x, t), 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq t \leq T. \tag{92}$$

Here we have $1 < \alpha < 2$ and the equation needs two ICs

$$v(x, 0) = \cos x, \frac{\partial v(x, 0)}{\partial t} = -\sin x.$$

The boundary conditions are

$$v(0, t) = \cos(t), v(1, t) = \cos(t + 1).$$

The exact solution of the problem is $v(x, t) = \cos(x + t)$.

Case 2: Consider the following equation:

$$D_t^{(\sqrt{5})} [v] + \frac{\cos t}{1+t} D_t^{(e/2)} [v] + \frac{\sin t}{1+t^2} D_t^{(\pi/4)} [v] + \frac{t^2}{1+t^3} D_t^{(e/4)} [v] = e^t L(x) [v] + f(x, t), 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq t \leq T,$$

with the spatial operator $L(x)[u(x, t)] = \partial_x (\cosh(x) \partial_x u(x, t))$. Here we have $2 < \alpha < 3$ and the equation needs three ICs

$$v(x, 0) = \sin x, \frac{\partial v(x, 0)}{\partial t} = \cos x, \frac{\partial^2 v(x, 0)}{\partial t^2} = -\sin x.$$

The boundary conditions are

$$v(0, t) = \sin(t), v(1, t) = \sin(t + 1).$$

The exact solution of the problem is $v(x, t) = \sin(x + t)$.

Case 3: Consider the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} D_t^{(\pi)} [v] + \frac{\cosh t}{1+t} D_t^{(\sqrt{5})} [v] + \frac{\sinh t}{1+t^2} D_t^{(e/2)} [v] + \frac{t^2}{1+t^3} D_t^{(\pi/4)} [v] \\ = e^t L(x) [v] + f(x, t), 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq t \leq T, \end{aligned} \quad (93)$$

with the spatial operator $L(x)[v(x, t)] = \partial_x (\sinh(x) \partial_x v(x, t))$. Here we have $3 < \alpha < 4$ and the equation needs four ICs

$$v(x, 0) = \sin x, \frac{\partial v(x, 0)}{\partial t} = \cos x, \frac{\partial^2 v(x, 0)}{\partial t^2} = -\sin x, \frac{\partial^3 v(x, 0)}{\partial t^3} = -\cos x. \quad (94)$$

The boundary conditions are

$$v(0, t) = \sin(t), v(1, t) = \sin(t + 1). \quad (95)$$

The exact solution of the problem is $v(x, t) = \sin(x + t)$.

Tables 11, 12 show the errors with increasing of N with the fixed M . It is evident that the proposed scheme provides very accurate results. Furthermore, for a small number of N , we can also get moderately accurate results with errors around 10^{-6} . For larger N the proposed scheme converges faster. The accuracy of the proposed method is also demonstrated in Fig. 5. Finally, Table 13 shows the error when the Gaussian RBF $\exp\left(-\left(\frac{x}{c}\right)^2\right)$ is used in spatial approximation. For a small number of N the Gaussian RBF provides a more accurate solution than the MQ-RBF. For large N both RBFs provide the results with errors of the same level of accuracy.

Table 11: The E_{\max} , E_{RMS} , and CO vs. the N at $t = 1$ with $M = 10$, $\sigma = 0.3$

N	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	CPU
10	2.37E-6	9.16E-7	5.62	0.8
14	1.00E-7	3.45E-8	10.0	1.0
18	5.31E-9	1.85E-9	12.5	1.2
22	9.32E-10	4.96E-10	4.4	1.4
26	5.46E-10	3.23E-10	–	1.6

Table 12: The E_{\max} , E_{RMS} , and CO vs. the N at the time moment $t = 1$ with $M = 25$

N	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	CPU
8	4.19E-6	1.93E-6	5.51	1.7
12	1.61E-7	5.66E-8	8.29	2.3
16	7.61E-9	2.64E-9	10.7	3.0
20	4.74E-10	1.56E-10	12.7	4.7
24	6.17E-11	2.39E-11	7.53	6.9

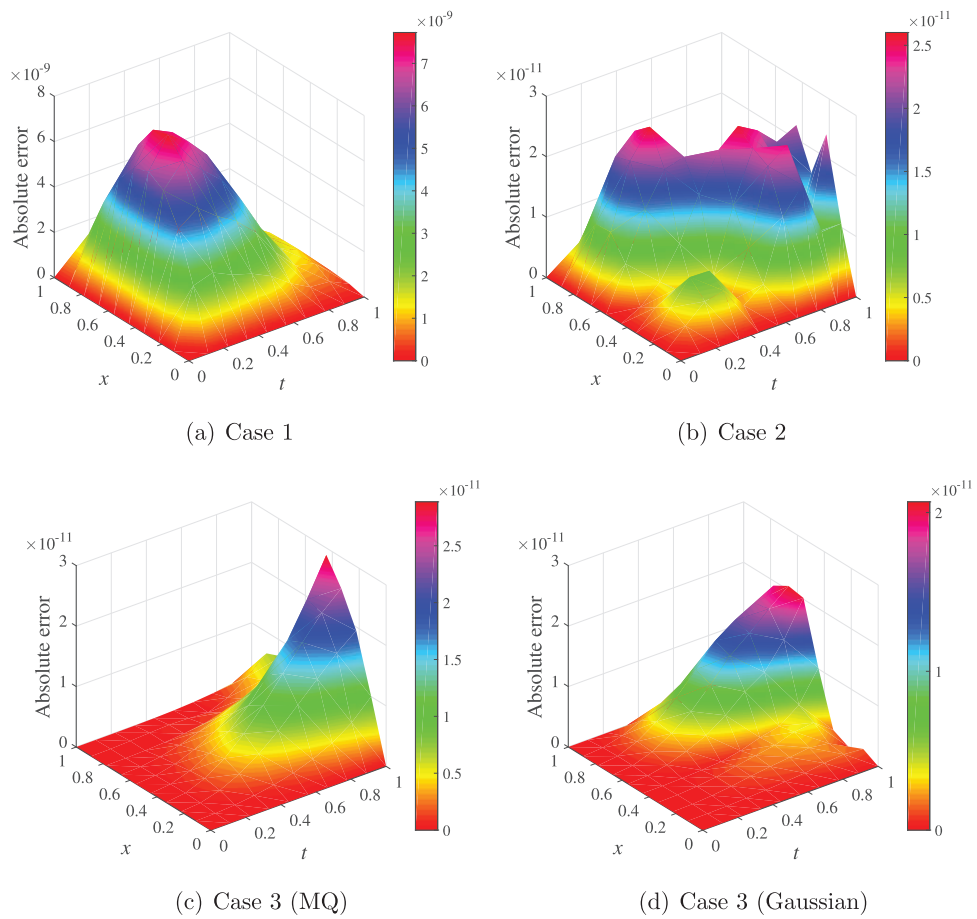


Figure 5: The domain absolute errors

Table 13: The errors vs. N at $t = 1$ with $M = 25$ using the MQ and the Gaussian as the basis functions

N	$MQ\ c = 0.5$		Gaussian $c = 1$	
	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}
8	6.39E-7	2.62E-7	9.11E-10	4.69E-10
12	1.22E-7	4.79E-8	2.26E-10	1.37E-10
16	3.53E-9	1.36E-9	9.38E-11	5.91E-11
20	1.52E-10	5.52E-11	2.95E-10	1.85E-10
24	3.53E-11	1.75E-11	3.57E-11	2.13E-11

Example 4.8 Consider the nonlinear time-fractional the Huxley-Burgers' equation of the following form:

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} [v] = \partial_{xx} v + v(1 - v)(v - \gamma) + f(x, t), 0 \leq x, t \leq 1.$$

The Dirichlet BCs and IC conform to the exact solution $v(x, t) = x^3(t + 1)$.

Tables 14, 15 and Fig. 6 show the behaviour of the errors with the growth of N and the fixed M . The data are obtained after 3 iterations of the quazilinearization procedure. The same problem was considered by Hadhoud et al. in [84] using a numerical technique based on the cubic B-spline collocation method and the mean value theorem for integrals. The maximal absolute errors obtained there for the mesh size $\Delta x = 0.01$ and the time step $\Delta t = 0.01$ are shown in the last rows of the tables. The last columns of the tables contain the data corresponding to $\alpha = 1$, i.e., to the solution of the equation of the integer order. These data demonstrate that the proposed method can be used for solving equations of fractional order as well as equations of integer order without any modification of the algorithm.

Table 14: The errors concerning the change of the number of modified RBF N at time moment $t = 1$ with $\gamma = 0.1, M = 12$

N	$\alpha = 0.5$			$\alpha = 0.75$			$\alpha = 1$	
	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	CPU, sec.	E_{\max}
4	1.48E-2	3.40E-2	3.7	1.48E-2	3.40E-2	2.7	0.6	1.49E-2
8	2.43E-4	1.04E-3	5.8	2.43E-4	1.04E-3	5.3	1.6	2.49E-4
12	9.09E-6	5.83E-5	9.2	9.09E-6	5.83E-5	8.9	3.3	9.09E-6
16	4.50E-7	4.15E-6	11.1	4.51E-7	4.15E-6	11.0	5.6	4.50E-7
20	2.80E-8	3.22E-7	9.7	2.83E-8	3.32E-7	12.9	7.9	2.82E-8
24	2.24E-9	2.86E-8	0.03	2.83E-9	2.86E-8	10.8	9.7	2.31E-9

[84], Table 4, $E_{\max} = 4.32419E-5$ $E_{\max} = 4.33585E-5$

Example 4.9 Consider the TFPDE

$$D_t^{(\alpha)} [v] = \partial_{xx} v + f(x, t), 0 \leq x, t \leq 1.$$

Table 15: The errors concerning the change of the number of modified RBF N at time moment $t = 1$ with $\gamma = 0.5$, $M = 12$

N	$\alpha = 0.5$			$\alpha = 0.75$			$\alpha = 1$	
	E_{max}	E_{RMS}	CO	E_{max}	E_{RMS}	CO	CPU, sec.	E_{max}
4	1.48E-2	3.39E-2	2.7	1.48E-2	3.39E-2	2.7	0.6	1.48E-2
8	2.45E-4	1.04E-3	5.3	2.46E-4	1.04E-3	5.4	1.6	2.46E-4
12	9.10E-6	5.83E-5	8.9	9.10E-6	5.83E-5	8.9	3.3	9.11E-6
16	4.50E-7	4.15E-6	11.0	4.51E-7	4.15E-6	11.0	5.6	4.51E-7
20	2.80E-8	3.32E-7	13.0	2.82E-8	3.32E-7	12.9	7.9	2.82E-8
24	2.20E-9	2.87E-8	14.2	2.64E-9	2.87E-8	11.7	9.7	2.32E-9

[84], Table 5, $E_{max} = 1.30516E-5$ $E_{max} = 1.30943E-5$

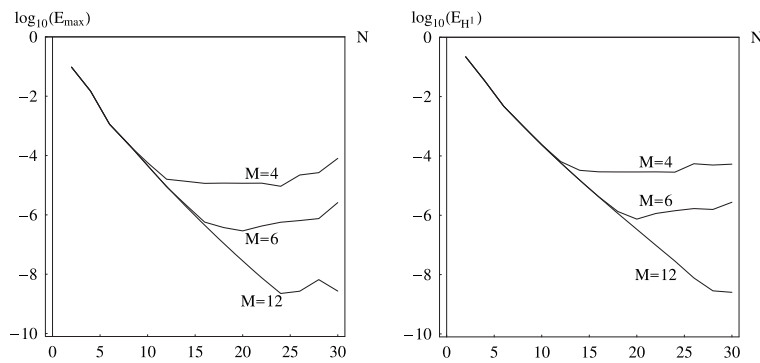


Figure 6: The maximal absolute E_{max} (left) and E_{RMS} (right) errors as functions of the number of the RBFs N used in the approximate solution. The data correspond to $\alpha = 0.5$, $\gamma = 0.1$

The source function $f(x, t)$, Dirichlet BCs $v(0, t) = v(1, t) = 0$ and IC $v(x, 0) = 0$ conform the exact solution $v(x, t) = x^4(1-x)t^\alpha$ with the strong singularity at $t = 0$.

Table 16 shows the behavior of the errors with the growth of N with the fixed $M = 12$ and with the parameter of the MPB $\sigma = 0.3$. The same problem was considered by Ferrás et al. in [85] using a numerical technique based on the combination of the method of lines with the hybrid collocation method. The maximal absolute errors obtained there are shown in the last row of the table.

Table 16: The errors concerning the change of the number of modified RBF N at time moment $t = 1$ with $M = 12$

N	$\alpha = 1/3$			$\alpha = 1/6$			CPU, sec.
	E_{max}	E_{RMS}	CO	E_{max}	E_{RMS}	CO	
8	9.3253E-4	4.3268E-3	5.56018	9.3218E-4	4.3260E-3	5.55793	0.32
16	2.2861E-6	2.2668E-5	10.49099	2.2860E-6	2.2677E-5	10.49066	0.47

(Continued)

Table 16 (continued)

N	$\alpha = 1/3$			$\alpha = 1/6$			CPU, sec.
	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	E_{\max}	E_{RMS}	CO	
20	1.5849E-7	1.9733E-6	12.49289	1.5841E-7	1.9733E-6	12.49788	0.56
24	1.4215E-8	1.8169E-7	12.94107	1.4084E-8	1.8204E-7	13.94107	0.96
	[85], Table 7, $E_{\max} = 8.93\text{E-}5$			$E_{\max} = 7.04\text{E-}5$			

5 Conclusion

This paper presents a new meshless technique for solving multi-term linear systems of fractional equations. These systems have been used in modeling various phenomena in different branches of engineering and science. Using substitution (11), we transform the original system into the one for the vector variable $\mathbf{P}(t)$ which satisfies zero ICs. Then $\mathbf{P}(t)$ is sought in the form of the finite series over the Müntz polynomials basis. Applying the collocation procedure in the domain, we get the linear algebraic system solved by the standard numerical procedure. Then, on the base of this technique, the method of solving the TFPDE has been developed. The collocation at the centers of the RBF transforms the TFPDE into a system of FODEs similar to the one considered in Section 2.

In the authors' opinion, the main results achieved in the paper are: (1) The effective method for solving systems of the FODEs with time-dependent coefficients has been developed and tested. (2) On the base of this technique the method of solving TFPDEs of the high fractional order has been proposed. The method has been tested on the problems with the highest derivative of the orders: $1 < \alpha < 2$, $2 < \alpha < 3$ and $3 < \alpha < 4$. (3) The technique has been extended to nonlinear the Huxley-Burgers' TFPDE. It should be stressed that the proposed method can be used for solving both equations of fractional and integer order without any modification of the algorithm.

Some remarks: (1) In this paper the MQ-RBF is mainly used for spatial approximation. However, the last example demonstrates that the Gaussian RBF is suitable for this purpose. The other global RBFs, compactly supported RBFs and B-splines also can be used for spatial approximation in the framework of the proposed technique. (2) Only the Dirichlet BCs are considered in this study. However, the proposed technique can be extended to the problems with the boundary conditions of the general type by some modification of the Eqs. (56)–(58). (3) Only $(1 + 1)$ dimensional problems have been considered. However, using multidimensional RBSs, this approach can be extended to the $(2 + 1)$ and $(3 + 1)$ dimensional problems.

It should be remarked that the limitation of the presented technique is caused by the fast growth of the size of the collocation matrix $\widehat{\mathbf{C}}$ of the linear system (31) with the growth of N and M . Because $\widehat{\mathbf{C}}$ is the dense matrix the problem of ill-conditioning also arises.

To overcome this problem we presuppose the use of a localized scheme of the spatial approximation based on the compactly supported radial basis functions (CSRBF) in the future to avoid dense and ill-conditioning matrices.

To overcome the problems of calculations on the large time interval $[0, T_{\max}]$, we think of using the approach developed in [86].

Let $[0, T_{\max}]$ represent a sum of the subintervals:

$$[0, T_{\max}] = [0, T] \cup [T, 2T] \cup \dots \cup [(L-1)T, LT].$$

Solving the Eq. (1) in the first subinterval $[0, T]$, we use the ICs (10) of the original problem. As a result of the solution we get the vectors

$$\Upsilon_0^1 = \Upsilon(T), \Upsilon_1^1 = \partial_t \Upsilon(T), \dots, \Upsilon_{n-1}^1 = \partial_t^{(n-1)} \Upsilon(T),$$

which can be used as the initial data for solving the equation in the second subinterval $[T, 2T]$. Applying the transform

$$t = \tau + T,$$

We get the equation for the unknown vector $\Upsilon^2(\tau)$ defined on the interval $\tau \in [0, T]$:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{A}} D_t^{(\alpha)} [\Upsilon^2(\tau)] + \sum_{k=1}^K \widehat{\mathbf{A}}_k(\tau + T) D_t^{(\alpha_k)} [\Upsilon^2(\tau)] = \widehat{\mathbf{B}}(\tau + T) \Upsilon^2(\tau) + \mathbf{F}(\tau + T), 0 \leq \tau \leq T,$$

with the ICs

$$\Upsilon^2(0) = \Upsilon_0^1, \partial_t \Upsilon^2(0) = \Upsilon_1^1, \dots, \partial_t^{(n-1)} \Upsilon^2(0) = \Upsilon_{n-1}^1.$$

Then, the vectors $\Upsilon^2(T), \partial_t \Upsilon^2(T), \dots, \partial_t^{(n-1)} \Upsilon^2(T)$ are used as the ICs for solving on the interval $t \in [2T, 3T]$, etc. So, we solve the original equation at the same time interval $\tau \in [0, T]$ with the time-dependent coefficients computed at the shifted time $\tau + IT$. The calculations are continued till $t = LT = T_{\max}$. We can choose T small enough to reduce the value M and so the size of the collocation matrix. It is worth emphasizing that in the paper mentioned above the system of 3 FODEs has been solved on the time interval $[0, T_{\max}] = [0, 5000]$. All these items mentioned above will be the subjects of the further study.

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