

# A Fractional Variational Iteration Approach for Solving Time-Fractional Navier-Stokes Equations

M. Yusif Zair<sup>1</sup>, H. Kamil Jassim<sup>2\*</sup>

**Abstract:** The fractional variational iteration technique (FVIM), a dependable semi-analytic approach for solving multi-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations, is explained in this article. The accuracy, efficiency, and convergence of the provided approach are tested using a variety of demonstrative instances.

**Keywords:** Navier-Stokes equations; Fractional variational iteration method; Atangana-Baleanu fractional derivative.

2020 Mathematics Subject Classification: 34A08; 35A11

**Receive:** 16 May 2022, **Accepted:** 9 June 2022

## 1 Introduction

Many analytical and approximation approaches for solving fractional differential equations have been developed in recent years [1-7,9,11-35]. El-Shahed and Salem [8] added an approximate solution of order  $\alpha$ ,  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$  to the basic Navier-Stokes equations (NSEs) for the first time derivative. They used the Laplace transform, the Fourier sine transform, and the finite Hankel transform to produce precise answers in three different situations.

The NSEs, as well as the continuity equations, are provided by

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + (u \cdot \Delta)u = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \rho + \gamma \nabla^2 u, \quad (1)$$

$$\nabla \cdot u = 0, \quad (2)$$

where  $t$  is the time,  $u$  is the velocity vector,  $\rho$  is the pressure,  $\gamma$  is the kinematics viscosity and  $q$  is the density. This model may be extended by substituting a fractional derivative of order  $\alpha$ ,  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$  for the first-time derivative. The operator equation is then used to construct the time-fractional form of NSEs:

$${}^A B D_t^\alpha u(x, t) + (u \cdot \Delta)u = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \rho + \gamma \nabla^2 u, \quad (3)$$

where  ${}^A B D_t^\alpha u(x, t)$  denotes ABFD of order  $\alpha$ .

<sup>1</sup> Department of Mathematics, University of Thi-Qar, Nasiriyah, Iraq

<sup>2</sup> Corresponding Author: Department of Mathematics, University of Thi-Qar, Nasiriyah, Iraq, [hassankamil@utq.edu.iq](mailto:hassankamil@utq.edu.iq)

Our objective is to illustrate the FVIM and show how to use it with ABDO to solve the Navier-Stokes problem. The remainder of this work is broken down into the sections below. In section 2, you'll find some fractional calculus definitions. The FVIM analysis is carried out in Section 3 utilizing ABDO. Section 4 shows how FVIM may be use. Section 5 is where this effort ends.

## 2 Preliminaries

**Definition 2.1.** The Atangana-Baleanu fractional derivative (ABFD) of order  $\alpha$  defined as follows [10]:

$${}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u(t) = \frac{M(\alpha)}{1-\alpha} \int_a^t E_\alpha \left( \frac{-\alpha(t-x)^\alpha}{\alpha-1} \right) u'(x) dx \quad (2.1)$$

where  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and  $M(\alpha)$  is a normalization function, such that  $M(0) = M(1) = 1$ .

(2.1)'s characteristics and Laplace transform are defined as follows:

1.  ${}^{AB}D_t^\alpha c = 0$ , where  $c$  is a constant.
2.  $L\{{}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u(x, t)\} = \frac{s^\alpha L u(x, t)}{s^\alpha(1-\alpha) + \alpha} - \frac{s^{\alpha-1} u(x, 0)}{s^\alpha(1-\alpha) + \alpha}$ .

**Definition 2.2.** The Atangana-Baleanu fractional integral (ABFI) of order  $\alpha$  defined as follows [10]:

$${}^{AB}I_t^\alpha u(t) = \frac{1-\alpha}{M(\alpha)} u(t) + \frac{\alpha}{M(\alpha)} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_a^t (t-x)^{\alpha-1} u(x) dx \quad (2.2)$$

The properties of (2.2) is defined as follows:

1.  ${}^{AB}I_t^\alpha {}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u(t) = u(t)$ .
2.  ${}^{AB}I_t^\alpha c = \frac{c}{M(\alpha)} \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right)$ .
3.  ${}^{AB}I_t^\alpha t^k = \frac{t^k}{M(\alpha)} \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{\alpha \Gamma(k+1) t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+k+1)} \right)$

## 3 Analysis of FVIM

Consider the following: partial differential equation with fractions

$${}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u(x, t) + R u(x, t) + N u(x, t) = g(x, t), \quad 0 < \alpha \leq 1 \quad (3.1)$$

with the initial conditions

$$u(x, 0) = f(x),$$

where  ${}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u(x, t)$  is ABFD,  $R$  is the linear differential operator,  $N$  denotes the nonlinear term, and  $g(x, t)$  denotes the source term.

The correctional functional for (3.1) is approximately expressed as follows:

$$u_{n+1}(x, t) = u_n(x, t) + {}^{AB}I_t^\alpha \left[ \lambda(\xi) \left( {}^{AB}D_\xi^\alpha u_n(x, \xi) + R \tilde{u}_n(x, \xi) + N \tilde{u}_n(x, \xi) - g(x, \xi) \right) \right], \quad (3.2)$$

where  $\lambda(\xi)$  is general Lagrange's multiplier.  $\tilde{u}_n$  and  $g$  are considered as restricted variations. Putting the relevant adjustment in place and making it functioning and noticing  $\delta \tilde{u}_n = 0$  and  $\delta g = 0$ , we obtain

$$\delta u_{n+1}(x, t) = \delta u_n(x, t) + {}^{AB}I_t^\alpha \left[ \delta \lambda(\xi) \left( {}^{AB}D_\xi^\alpha u_n(x, \xi) \right) \right],$$

or

$$\delta u_{n+1}(x, t) = \delta u_n(x, t) + \lambda(\xi) \delta u_n(x, t) - {}^{AB}I_t^\alpha [\lambda'(\xi) \delta u_n(x, \xi)],$$

which produces the stationary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda'(\xi) &= 0, \\ 1 + \lambda(\xi) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we identified  $\lambda = -1$  and obtain the following variational iteration formula:

$$u_{n+1}(x, t) = u_n(x, t) - {}^{AB}I_t^\alpha \left[ {}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u_n(x, \xi) + R u_n(x, \xi) + N u_n(x, \xi) - g(x, \xi) \right]. \quad (3.3)$$

Finally, we obtain the solution of (3.1) as follows:

$$u(x, t) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n.$$

## 4 Applications of FVIM

**Example 4.1** Consider the fractional NSE below:

$${}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u = p + u_{xx} + \frac{1}{x} u_x, \quad 0 < \alpha \leq 1 \quad (4.1)$$

with initial condition

$$u(x, 0) = 1 - x^2$$

In view of (3.3) and (4.1), we get

$$u_{n+1}(x, t) = u_n(x, t) - {}^{AB}I_t^\alpha \left( {}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u_n(x, t) - p - u_{n,xx} - \frac{1}{x} u_{n,x} \right).$$

Therefore, we obtain the successive approximations as follows:

$$u_0(x, t) = 1 - x^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} u_1(x, t) &= 1 - x^2 - {}^{AB}I_t^\alpha [-p + 2 + 2] \\ &= 1 - x^2 + (p - 4) \left[ 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u_2(x, t) &= 1 - x^2 - (p - 4) \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) - {}^{AB}I_t^\alpha [p - 4 - p + 4] \\ &= 1 - x^2 + (p - 4) \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) \end{aligned}$$

⋮

$$u_n(x, t) = 1 - x^2 + (p - 4) \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right)$$

The solution of (4.1) is

$$u(x, t) = 1 - x^2 + (p - 4) \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right)$$

If  $\alpha = 1$ , then the closed form solution of (4.1) is

$$u(x, t) = 1 - x^2 + (p - 4)t$$

**Example 4.2** Consider the fractional NSE below:

$${}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u = u_{xx} + \frac{1}{x} u_x, \quad 0 < \alpha \leq 1 \quad (4.2)$$

with initial condition

$$u(x, 0) = x$$

From (3.3) and (4.2), we obtain

$$u_{n+1}(x, t) = u_n(x, t) - {}^{AB}I_t^\alpha \left[ {}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u_n - u_{n,xx} - \frac{1}{x} u_{n,x} \right].$$

Therefore, we obtain the successive approximations as follows:

$$u_0(x, t) = x$$

$$u_1(x, t) = x - {}^{AB}I^\alpha \left[ -\frac{1}{x} \right]$$

$$= x + \frac{1}{x} \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right)$$

$$u_2(x, t) = x + \frac{1}{x} \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) - {}^{AB}I^\alpha \left( \frac{1}{x} - \frac{2}{x^3} \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{\xi^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) - \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{x^3} \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{\xi^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) \right)$$

$$= x + \frac{1}{x} \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) + \frac{1}{x^3} \left( (1 - \alpha)^2 + 2(1 - \alpha) \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} + \frac{\alpha^2 t^{2\alpha}}{\Gamma(2\alpha + 1)} \right)$$

⋮

The solution of (4.2) is

$$u(x, t) = x + \frac{1}{x} \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) + \frac{1}{x^3} \left( (1 - \alpha)^2 + 2(1 - \alpha) \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} + \frac{\alpha^2 t^{2\alpha}}{\Gamma(2\alpha + 1)} \right) + \dots$$

If  $\alpha = 1$ , then the closed form solution of (4.2) is

$$u(x, t) = x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1^2 \times 2^2 \times 3^2 \times \dots \times (2n - 3)^2}{x^{2n-1}} \cdot \frac{t^n}{n!}$$

**Example 4.3** Consider the two-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations in time fractional-order:

$${}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u + uu_x + vv_y = p[u_{xx} + u_{yy}] + q$$

$${}^{AB}D_t^\alpha v + uv_x + vv_y = p[v_{xx} + v_{yy}] - q$$

(4.3)

with initial condition

$$\begin{aligned} u(0) &= -\sin(x + y) \\ v(0) &= \sin(x + y). \end{aligned}$$

Using (3.3) and (4.3), we get

$$u_{n+1}(x, y, t) = u_n - {}^{AB}I^\alpha \left[ {}^{AB}D_t^\alpha u_n + (u_n)(u_n)_x + (v_n)(u_n)_y - p[u_{nxx} + u_{nyy}] - q \right]$$

$$v_{n+1}(x, y, t) = v_n -$$

$${}^{AB}I^\alpha \left[ {}^{AB}D_t^\alpha v_n + (u_n)(v_n)_x + (v_n)(v_n)_y - p[(v_n)_{xx} + v_{nyy}] + q \right]$$

Therefore, we obtain the successive approximations as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} u_0 &= -\sin(x + y) \\ v_0 &= \sin(x + y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &= -\sin(x + y) - {}^{AB}I^\alpha [-2p \sin(x + y) - q] \\ &= -\sin(x + y) + 2p \sin(x + y) \left[ 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right] + q \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 &= \sin(x + y) - {}^{AB}I^\alpha [p[-2 \sin(x + y)] + q] \\ &= \sin(x + y) - 2p \sin(x + y) \left[ 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right] - q \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$u_2 = -\sin(x + y) + 2p \sin(x + y) \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) + q \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -{}^{AB}I^\alpha \left[ 2p \sin(x+y) + q - p \left[ 2 \sin(x+y) - 4p \sin(x+y) \left[ 1 - \alpha + \frac{\xi^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right] - q \right] \right] \\
 = & -\sin(x+y) + 2p (\sin x + y) \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) - 4p^2 \sin(x+y) \{ (1-\alpha)^2 + 2(1-\alpha) \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \\
 & + \frac{\alpha^2 t^2}{\Gamma(2\alpha+1)} \} + q \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) \\
 v_2) = & \sin(x+y) \\
 & - 2p \sin(x+y) \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) - q \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) \\
 & - {}^{AB}I^\alpha \left[ \{ [-4p^2 \sin(x+y)] \} + \left[ 1 - \alpha + \frac{\xi^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right] \right] \\
 = & \sin(x+y) - 2p (\sin(x+y)) \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) + 4p^2 \sin(x+y) \{ (1-\alpha)^2 \\
 & + 2(1-\alpha) \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} + \frac{\alpha^2 t^2}{\Gamma(2\alpha+1)} \} - q \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) \\
 & \vdots
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the solution of (4.3) is

$$\begin{aligned}
 u = & -\sin(x+y) + 2p (\sin x + y) \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) - 4p^2 \sin(x+y) \{ (1-\alpha)^2 + 2(1-\alpha) \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \\
 & + \frac{\alpha^2 t^2}{\Gamma(2\alpha+1)} \} + q \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) + \dots \\
 v = & \sin(x+y) - 2p (\sin(x+y)) \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) \\
 & + 4p^2 \sin(x+y) \{ (1-\alpha)^2 + 2(1-\alpha) \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} + \frac{\alpha^2 t^2}{\Gamma(2\alpha+1)} \} - q \left( 1 - \alpha + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \right) + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

If  $\alpha = 1$  and  $q = 0$ , then the closed form solution of (4.3) is

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(x, y, t) &= -e^{-2p t} \sin(x+y) \\
 v(x, y, t) &= e^{-2p t} \sin(x+y)
 \end{aligned}$$

### 5 Conclusion

The fractional-order multi-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations were evaluated using FVIM with ABFO in this research. The Navier-Stokes equations' solutions were given using the FVIM. Within the fractal Lagrange multipliers, which can be ideally defined using fractional variational theory, the iteration functions may be easily produced. The FVIM is demonstrated to be a useful and easy-to-use tool for dealing with PDEs using fractional differential operators.

### References

[1] D. Baleanu, H.K. Jassim, Approximate Solutions of the Damped Wave Equation and Dissipative Wave Equation in Fractal Strings, *Fractal and Fractional*, 3(26) 2019, 1-12.  
 [2] D. Baleanu, H.K. Jassim, Approximate Analytical Solutions of Goursat Problem within Local Fractional Operators, *Journal of Nonlinear Science and Applications*, 9(6) 2016, 4829-4837.

- [3] D. Baleanu, et al., A Modification Fractional Homotopy Perturbation Method for Solving Helmholtz and Coupled Helmholtz Equations on Cantor Sets, *Fractal and Fractional*, 3(30) 2019, 1-8.
- [4] D. Baleanu, et al., Solving Helmholtz Equation with Local Fractional Derivative Operators, *Fractal and Fractional*, 3(43) 2019, 1-13.
- [5] D. Baleanu, et al., A Modification Fractional Variational Iteration Method for solving Nonlinear Gas Dynamic and Coupled KdV Equations Involving Local Fractional Operators, *Thermal Science*, 22(1) 2018, S165-S175.
- [6] D. Baleanu, et al., Exact Solution of Two-dimensional Fractional Partial Differential Equations, *Fractal Fractional*, 4(21) 2020, 1-9 .
- [7] H.A. Euaed, et al., A Novel Method for the Analytical Solution of Partial Differential Equations Arising in Mathematical Physics, *IOP Conf. Series: Materials Science and Engineering*, 928 (042037) 2020, 1-16.
- [8] A.M. El-Shahed, A. Salem, On the generalized Navier–Stokes equations, *Appl. Math. Comput.* 156 (1) 2004, 287–293.
- [9] Z.P. Fan, H.K. Jassim, R.K. Rainna, and X.J. Yang, Adomian decomposition method for three-dimensional diffusion model in fractal heat transfer involving local fractional derivatives, *Thermal Science*, 19(1) 2015, S137-S141.
- [10] J.F. Gómez-Aguilar, et al., Analytical Solutions of the Electrical RLC Circuit via Liouville–Caputo Operators with Local and Non-Local Kernels, *Entropy*, 18(8) 2016, 1-12.
- [11] M.S. Hu, et al. Local fractional Fourier series with application to wave equation in fractal vibrating, *Abstract and Applied Analysis*, 2012 2012, 1-7.
- [12] H.K. Jassim, S.A. Khafif, SVIM for solving Burger’s and coupled Burger’s equations of fractional order, *Progress in Fractional Differentiation and Applications*, 7(1) 2021, 1-6 .
- [13] H.K. Jassim, A new approach to find approximate solutions of Burger’s and coupled Burger’s equations of fractional order, *TWMS Journal of Applied and Engineering Mathematics*, 11(2) 2021, 415-423.
- [14] H.K. Jassim, M.G. Mohammed, S.A. Khafif, The Approximate solutions of time-fractional Burger’s and coupled time-fractional Burger’s equations, *International Journal of Advances in Applied Mathematics and Mechanics*, 6(4) 2019, 64-70 .
- [15] H. Jafari, et al. Local fractional variational iteration method for nonlinear partial differential equations within local fractional operators, *Applications and Applied Mathematics*, 10(2) 2015, 1055-1065.
- [16] H.K. Jassim, et al., Fractional variational iteration method to solve one dimensional second order hyperbolic telegraph equations, *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, 1032(1) 2018, 1-9.
- [17] H. Jafari, et al. On the Approximate Solutions of Local Fractional Differential Equations with Local Fractional Operator, *Entropy*, 18(8) 2016, 1-12.
- [18] H.K. Jassim, J. Vahidi, V.M. Ariyan, Solving Laplace Equation within Local Fractional Operators by Using Local Fractional Differential Transform and Laplace Variational Iteration Methods, *Nonlinear Dynamics and Systems Theory*, 20(4) 2020, 388-396.
- [19] H.K. Jassim, D. Baleanu, A novel approach for Korteweg-de Vries equation of fractional order, *Journal of Applied Computational Mechanics*, 5(2) 2019, 192-198.
- [20] H.K. Jassim, S.A. Khafif, SVIM for solving Burger’s and coupled Burger’s equations of fractional order, *Progress in Fractional Differentiation and Applications*, 7(1) 2021, 1-6.
- [21] H.K. Jassim, M.A. Shareef, On approximate solutions for fractional system of differential equations with Caputo-Fabrizio fractional operator, *Journal of Mathematics and Computer science*, 23 2021, 58-66.
- [22] H.K. Jassim, H.A. Kadhim, Fractional Sumudu decomposition method for solving PDEs of fractional order, *Journal of Applied and Computational Mechanics*, 7(1) 2021, 302-311.
- [23] H. Jafari, et al., Reduced differential transform method for partial differential equations within local fractional derivative operators, *Advances in Mechanical Engineering*, 8(4) 2016, 1-6.
- [24] H. Jafari, et al., Reduced differential transform and variational iteration methods for 3D diffusion model in fractal heat transfer within local fractional operators, *Thermal Science*, 22 2018, S301-S307.
- [25] H.K. Jassim, Analytical Approximate Solutions for Local Fractional Wave Equations, *Mathematical Methods in the Applied Sciences*, 43(2) 2020, 939-947.

- [26] H. K. Jassim, C. Ünlü, S. P. Moshokoa, C. M. Khalique, Local Fractional Laplace Variational Iteration Method for Solving Diffusion and Wave Equations on Cantor Sets within Local Fractional Operators, *Mathematical Problems in Engineering*, 2015 (2015) 1-7.
- [27] Y. Li, L.F. Wang, and S. J. Yuan, Reconstructive schemes for variational iteration method within Yang-Laplace transform with application to fractal heat conduction problem, *Thermal Science*, 17(3) 2013, 715-721.
- [28] J. Singh, et al., An efficient computational technique for local fractional Fokker-Planck equation, *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications*, 555(124525) 2020, 1-8.
- [29] S. Xu, et al. A novel schedule for solving the two-dimensional diffusion in fractal heat transfer, *Thermal Science*, 19(1) 2015, S99-S103.
- [30] A.M. Yang, et al. Local fractional series expansion method for solving wave and diffusion equations Cantor sets, *Abstract and Applied Analysis*, 2013 2013, 1-5.
- [31] X.J. Yang, J.A. Machad, H.M. Srivastava, A new numerical technique for solving the local fractional diffusion equation: Two-dimensional extended differential transform approach, *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, 274 2016, 143-151.
- [32] S.P. Yan, H. Jafari, H.K. Jassim, Local Fractional Adomian Decomposition and Function Decomposition Methods for Solving Laplace Equation within Local Fractional Operators, *Advances in Mathematical Physics*, 2014 2014, 1-7.
- [33] X.J. Yang, Local fractional functional analysis and its applications, *Asian Academic*, Hong Kong, China, 2011.
- [34] C.G. Zhao, et al., The Yang-Laplace Transform for Solving the IVPs with Local Fractional Derivative, *Abstract and Applied Analysis*, 2014 2014, 1-5.
- [35] Y. Zhang, X.J. Yang, C. Cattani, Local fractional homotopy perturbation method for solving nonhomogeneous heat conduction equations in fractal domain, *Entropy*, 17(10) 2015, 6753-6764.