Numerical Solution for a Class of Linear System of Fractional Differential Equations by the Haar Wavelet Method and the Convergence Analysis

Yiming Chen¹, Xiaoning Han¹ and Lechun Liu¹

Abstract: In this paper, a class of linear system of fractional differential equations is considered. It has been solved by operational matrix of Haar wavelet method which converts the problem into algebraic equations. Moreover the convergence of the method is studied, and three numerical examples are provided to demonstrate the accuracy and efficiency.

Keywords: system of fractional differential equations, haar wavelet, operational matrix, convergence analysis.

1 Introduction

In the past several decades, there has been a great deal of interest in fractional differential equations. Kai Diethelm has analyzed the fractional differential equations theoretically [Kai Diethelm (2004)] and mainly studied Volterra integral equations [Kai Diethelm and Neville, J. F (2012)]; Mark M. Meerschaert has completed the stochastic models for fractional calculus [Mark M Meerschaert and Alla Skorokhod (2010)]; Wen Chen has used fractional derivatives to study anomalous diffusion modeling [Chen, Sun, Zhang and Korosak (2010)]; Changpin Li has done the asymptotical stability analysis of linear fractional differential systems [Li and Zhao (2009)] and studied the numerical algorithm for fractional calculus [Chen and Li (2012)] with An Chen. In recent years, the study of fractional calculus has turned to practical application from pure mathematical theory. Compare with integer order differential equation, fractional differential equation has the advantage that it can describe some natural physics processes and dynamic system processes much better [Chen, Sun, Zhang and Korosak (2010); Chen, Sun and Li (2010); Chen, Baleanu and Tenreiro Machado (2010)] Among all of them above, Haar method is the easier one to calculate. Because the range of Haar wavelet basis function

¹ College of Sciences, Yanshan University, Qinhuangdao, Hebei, China.
only has three numbers: -1 0 and 1, Haar method can transform the fractional differential equations into a linear system of algebraic equations and there are many zero elements in the coefficient matrix. In general, it is not simple to derive the analysis solutions to most of the fractional order differential equations. Therefore, it is vital to develop some reliable and efficient techniques to solve the fractional differential equations. And the numerical solution of fractional differential equations has attached considerable attention from many researchers. During the past decades, an increasing number of numerical schemes are being developed. These methods include finite difference approximation method [Yuste (2006)], fractional linear multi-step method [Ford and Joseph Connolly (2009); Sweilam, Khader and Al-Bar (2007)], collocation method [Rawashdeh (2006); Li (2012)], the Adomian decomposition method [Momani and Odibat (2007); Odibat and Momani (2008)] variational iteration method [Wu and Lee (2010); Odibat and Momani (2006)], and operational matrix method [Saharay (2012); Ü Lepik (2009); Li and Zhao (2010)].

By now, most of the relevant literatures concern about the numerical solution of the fractional differential equations [Rawashdeh (2006); Li (2012); Wu and Lee (2010); Ü Lepik (2009); Li and Zhao (2010); Li and Fan (2012)], the existence and uniqueness of the solutions for system of fractional differential equations [Gao and Jiang (2013); Huang (2012); Duan (2009); Dai and Li (2012)], while the research about the numerical solution of the system of fractional differential equations is relatively fewer than others.

In the present paper, we intend to use the Haar wavelet method to solve a class of linear system of fractional differential equations as following:

\[
\begin{align*}
D^\alpha u(t) &= f_1(t)v(t) + e_1(t) \\
D^\beta v(t) &= f_2(t)u(t) + e_2(t) \\
u(0) &= a, \quad v(0) = b \\
u(T) &= c, \quad v(T) = d
\end{align*}
\]

where \( t \in [0, T] \), \( 0 < \alpha, \beta < 1 \), \( a, b, c \) and \( d \) are known constants, \( f_1(t), f_2(t), e_1(t) \) and \( e_2(t) \) are the functions in the Hilbert space \( L_2[0, T] \). We adopt the Riemann-Liouville and Caputo fractional differential-integral definitions [Kilbas, Srivastava and Trujillo (2006)] as following:

\[
J^\alpha u(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t (t - \tau)^{\alpha - 1} u(\tau) d\tau
\]

\[
D^\alpha u(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(m - \alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{u^{(m)}(\tau)}{(t - \tau)^{\alpha - m + 1}} d\tau, \quad 0 \leq m - 1 < \alpha < m
\]
the relationship between Riemann-Liouville operator and Caputo operator is given by:

\[ I^\alpha D^\alpha u(t) = u(t) - u(0), \quad 0 < \alpha < 1 \]  

(2)

We expand the unknown functions as linear combination of wavelet basis functions with unknown coefficients, the method transforms the system of differential equations into a system of algebraic equations.

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, the formulations of the Haar wavelet basis functions in the Hilbert space \( L^2[0, T] \) are given, and then we get the operational matrix of Haar wavelet through the operational of Block Pulse Functions (BPF). In section 3, Haar wavelet method is used to approximate the system of fractional differential equations. As a result the system of fractional differential equations is converted into algebraic equations. In section 4, the convergence analysis of the Haar wavelet method is given. Numerical examples are given to demonstrate the validity of Haar wavelet method in solving fractional differential equation in Section 5. Section 6 comments on the result.

2 Haar wavelet and the related operational matrix

2.1 Haar function

The Haar wavelet is the function defined in the Hilbert space \( L^2[0, T] \)

\[
h_i(t) = \begin{cases} 
1, & \frac{k}{2^j} T \leq t < \frac{k+1}{2^j} T, \\
-1, & \frac{k+1}{2^j} T \leq t < \frac{k+1}{2^j} T, \\
0, & \text{otherwise.} 
\end{cases}
\]

where \( T \in \mathbb{R}^+, i = 2^j + k, k = 0, 1, 2, \cdots, 2^j - 1, j = 0, 1, 2, \cdots, J \) and \( J \) is a positive integer, so that \( i = 1, 2, 3, \cdots m - 1 m = 2^j + 1 \). Each Haar wavelet \( h_i \) has the support interval \( (2^{-j} kT, 2^{-j} (k+1)T)h_0(t) = 1, t \in [0, T] \).

Any function \( f(t) \) defined on the interval \( [0, T] \) can be expanded into Haar wavelet by

\[
f(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} c_i h_i(t)
\]

(3)

where \( c_i \) are the Haar coefficients. So as to the following integral square error \( \varepsilon \) is minimized

\[
\varepsilon = \int_0^T \left[ f(t) - \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} c_i h_i(t) \right]^2 dt
\]
we can get the explicit formulations of $c_i$

$$c_i = 2^j \int_0^T f(t) h_i(t) \, dt$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

If $f(t)$ is approximated as piecewise constant during each subinterval, (4) may be terminated after $m$ terms, that is

$$f(t) \approx \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} c_i h_i(t) = C_m^T H_m(t)$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

where $C_m$ and $H_m(t)$ are $m$-dimensional row vectors

$C_m = (c_0, c_1, \cdots, c_{m-1})^T$

$H_m(t) = (h_0(t), h_1(t), \cdots, h_{m-1}(t))^T$

Taking the collocation points as following

$$t_i = \frac{2i - 1}{2m}, \quad i = 1, 2, \cdots, m$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

then we defined

$$\Phi_{m \times m} = [H_m(t_1), H_m(t_2), \cdots, H_m(t_m)] = [H_m(\frac{1}{2m}), H_m(\frac{3}{2m}), \cdots, H_m(\frac{2m - 1}{2m})]$$

$\Phi_{m \times m}$ is a $m$-square Haar matrix.

### 2.2 Operational matrix

In this part, we’ll get the operational matrix of Haar wavelet through the operational of Block Pulse Functions (BPF).

The BPF defined as

$$b_i(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & iT/m \leq t < (i + 1)T/m, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise}. \end{cases}$$

where $i = 0, 1, 2, \cdots, (m - 1)$. Then we have

$$H_m(t) = \Phi_{m \times m} B_m(t)$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

where $B_m(t) = [b_0(t), b_1(t), \cdots, b_{m-1}(t)]^T$

In Ref [Li and Sun (2011)], the Block Pulse operational matrix of the fractional order integration $F^\alpha$ has given by

$$(f^\alpha B_m)(t) \approx F^\alpha B_m(t)$$  \hspace{1cm} (8)
Numerical Solution for a Class of Linear System

\[ F^\alpha = \left( \frac{T}{m} \right)^\alpha \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha + 2)} \begin{bmatrix}
1 & \xi_1 & \cdots & \xi_{m-2} & \xi_{m-1} \\
0 & 1 & \xi_1 & \cdots & \xi_{m-3} & \xi_{m-2} \\
0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & \xi_{m-4} & \xi_{m-3} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & \xi_1 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 
\end{bmatrix} \]

where \( \xi_k = (k+1)^{\alpha+1} - 2k^{\alpha+1} + (k-1)^{\alpha+1} \)

Let

\[ (I^\alpha H_m)(t) \approx P_{m \times m}^\alpha H_m(t) \quad (9) \]

the Haar wavelet operational matrix of the fractional order integration \( P_{m \times m}^\alpha \) is a m-square matrix.

Using Eqs. (7) (8) and (9), we have

\[ P_{m \times m}^\alpha H_m(t) \approx (I^\alpha H_m)(t) \approx (I^\alpha \Phi_{m \times m} B_m)(t) = \Phi_{m \times m}(I^\alpha B_m)(t) \approx \Phi_{m \times m} F^\alpha B_m(t) = \Phi_{m \times m} F^\alpha \Phi_{m \times m}^{-1} H_m(t) \]

namely

\[ P_{m \times m}^\alpha \approx \Phi_{m \times m} F^\alpha \Phi_{m \times m}^{-1} \quad (10) \]

### 3 Application of Haar wavelet in system of fractional differential equations

The purpose of this paper is to present the numerical solution of the system of fractional differential equations as Eq.(1)

Let

\[
\begin{align*}
D^\alpha u(t) & \approx C^T_m H(t) \\
D^\beta v(t) & \approx L^T_m H(t)
\end{align*}
\]

by using Eqs(2) (9) and (10), we have

\[
\begin{align*}
u(t) = I^\alpha D^\alpha u(t) + u(0) \\
& \approx I^\alpha C^T_m H(t) + u(0) \\
& = C^T_m (I^\alpha H)(t) + u(0) \\
& = C^T_m P_{m \times m}^\alpha H(t) + u(0) \\
& \approx C^T_m \Phi_{m \times m} F^\alpha \Phi_{m \times m}^{-1} H(t) + u(0) \\
& = C^T_m \Phi_{m \times m} F^\alpha \Phi_{m \times m}^{-1} H(t) + a
\end{align*}
\]
The least squares solution of the above equation 
\( \hat{C}^T_{m} \hat{L}^T_{m} \) which calculated by MATLAB [Ge and Sha (2007); Zhang (2010)] programs can be regarded as the approximate solution. Substituting the values of the coefficients \( \hat{C}^T_{m} \) and \( \hat{L}^T_{m} \) into Eqs.(12) and (13), we get the output response \( u(t) \) and \( v(t) \).
4 Convergence analysis of the Haar wavelet method

In this subsection, the convergence analysis of Haar wavelet method has been employed. In order to illustrate the convergence conveniently [Chen (2012)], let

\[
h(2^j t - k) = \begin{cases} 
1, & k2^{-j} \leq x < (k + 1/2)2^{-j} \\
-1, & (k + 1/2)2^{-j} \leq x < (k + 1)2^{-j} \\
0, & \text{elsewhere}
\end{cases}
\]

\[h_i(t) = 2^{j/2} h(2^j t - k)\]

so we have the orthogonal property of Haar wavelet

\[
\int_0^1 h_i(t) h_i(t) dt = \begin{cases} 
1, & i = l \\
0, & i \neq l
\end{cases}
\]

There are two error estimates has been defined:

(1) If the exact solution of the problem Eq. (1) is known as \(u_{ex}(t)\), \(u_J(t)\) is the numerical solution at the level \(J\) that calculated by Haar wavelet method. Let

\[\Delta^J_{ex}(t_k) = |u_{ex}(t_k) - u_J(t_k)|, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots, m \quad m = 2^{J+1}\]

where \(\{t_k\}\) are the collocation points at the level \(J\). Then we define the global error estimate as

\[\sigma_{ex} = \|\Delta^J_{ex}\|\]

Then we can have

**Theorem 4.1.** Suppose that \(u_J(t) = \sum_{i=0}^m c_i h_i(t)\) is the approximation of \(u_{ex}(t)\), \(u_J(t)\), \(u_{ex}(t)\) and \(\sigma_{ex}\) are defined as above, then the error at \(J\)th level satisfies the following inequality

\[\sigma_{ex} \leq \frac{\sqrt{3}K}{6} 2^{-J}\]

where \(|u_{ex}'(t)| \leq K, \ \forall t \in (0, 1)\) and \(K > 0\)
Proof. From the definition

\[ \sigma_{ex} = \left\| \Delta^x_{ex} \right\| = \left\| \sum_{i=m}^{\infty} c_i h_i(t) \right\| \]

\[ = \left( \int_0^1 \left( \sum_{i=m}^{\infty} c_i h_i(t), \sum_{i=m}^{\infty} c_i h_i(t) \right) dt \right)^{1/2} \]

\[ = \left( \sum_{i=m}^{\infty} \sum_{l=m}^{\infty} c_i c_l \int_0^1 h_i(t) h_l(t) dt \right)^{1/2} \]

\[ = \left( \sum_{i=m}^{\infty} c_i^2 \right)^{1/2} \]  

(17)

Now,

\[ c_i = \int_0^{1/2} 2^{j/2} u_{ex}(t) h(2^j t - k) dt \]

\[ = 2^{j/2} \left( \int_{k2^{-j}}^{(k+1/2)2^{-j}} u_{ex}(t) dt - \int_{(k+1/2)2^{-j}}^{(k+1)2^{-j}} u_{ex}(t) dt \right) \]

applying mean value theorem :

\[ c_i = 2^{j/2} \left[ ((k + 1/2)2^{-j} - k2^{-j}) u_{ex}(\xi_1) - ((k + 1)2^{-j} - (k + 1/2)2^{-j}) u_{ex}(\xi_2) \right] \]

\[ = 2^{-j/2 - 1} (\xi_1 - \xi_2) u'_{ex}(\xi) \]

\[ \leq 2^{-j/2 - 1} 2^{-j} K \]

\[ = 2^{-3j/2 - 1} K \]  

(18)

where \( \xi_1 \in (k2^{-j}, (k + 1/2)2^{-j}) \), \( \xi_2 \in ((k + 1/2)2^{-j}, (k + 1)2^{-j}) \) and \( \xi \in (\xi_1, \xi_2) \)

substituting Eq. (18) for Eq. (17), we have

\[ \sigma_{ex} = \left( \sum_{i=m}^{\infty} c_i^2 \right)^{1/2} = \left( \sum_{i=m}^{\infty} 2^{-3j-2} K^2 \right)^{1/2} \]

\[ = (K^2 \sum_{j=J+1}^{\infty} \sum_{i=2}^{2^{j+1}-1} 2^{-3j-2})^{1/2} \]

\[ = (K^2 \sum_{j=J+1}^{\infty} 2^{-3j-2}(2^{j+1} - 2^j))^{1/2} \]

\[ = \left( \frac{K^2}{4} \sum_{j=J+1}^{\infty} 2^{-2j} \right)^{1/2} \]

\[ = \frac{\sqrt{3} K}{6} 2^{-J} \]  

(19)
(2) Mostly the exact solution is unknown, at the beginning, we solve the problem for the level of $J$, the result is denoted by $u_J(t)$, then repeat these calculation for $J+1$, getting in this way the function $u_{J+1}(t)$, next we define

$$\Delta_J(t_k) = |u_J(t_k) - u_{J+1}(t_k)|$$

the error estimate we shall define as

$$\sigma_J = \|\Delta_J\|$$

**Theorem 4.2.** Suppose that $u_J(t)$, $u_{J+1}(t)$ is the approximate solutions, and $\sigma_J$ is defined as above, then the error at $J$th level satisfies the following inequality

$$\sigma_{ex} \leq \frac{\sqrt{3}K}{4} 2^{-J}$$

where $|u'_{ex}(t)| \leq K$, $\forall t \in (0,1)$ and $K > 0$

**Proof.** From the properties of inequality

$$\Delta_J = |u_J - u_{J+1}| = |u_J - u_{ex} - (u_{J+1} - u_{ex})|$$

$$\leq |u_{ex} - u_J| + |u_{ex} - u_{J+1}| = \Delta_{ex}^J + \Delta_{ex}^{J+1}$$

applying Lemma 6.1, we can see

$$\sigma_J = \|\Delta_J\| \leq \|\Delta_{ex}^J + \Delta_{ex}^{J+1}\| \leq \|\Delta_{ex}^J\| + \|\Delta_{ex}^{J+1}\|$$

$$\leq \frac{\sqrt{3}K}{6} 2^{-J} + \frac{\sqrt{3}K}{6} 2^{-J-1} = \frac{\sqrt{3}K}{4} 2^{-J}$$

(20)

From the Eqs. (19) and (20), it is obvious that the accuracy improves when we increase the level of resolution $J$

Because the value of the exact solution in boundary point has been given, so even if the derivative of exact solution in boundary point does not exist, nor can be an infinite value. So we can always find a suitable $K$ to support the theorems 1, 2.

The derivatives of the selected points in the proof of theorems are the derivatives of interval internal points. So the above two theorems can also be applied to the situation that the derivative of exact solution in boundary point does not exist.
5 Numerical examples

Example 1. Consider the following system of linear fractional differential equations

\[
\begin{align*}
D^{1/2}u(t) &= \frac{8}{3\sqrt{\pi}}t^{-1/2}v(t) + \frac{8}{3\sqrt{\pi}}t^{1/2} \\
D^{1/2}v(t) &= \frac{8}{3\sqrt{\pi}}t^{-1/2}u(t) - \frac{8}{3\sqrt{\pi}}t^{-1} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}}t^{1/2} \\
u(0) &= 1, \ v(0) = 0 \\
u(1) &= 2, \ v(1) = 0
\end{align*}
\]

The exact solutions are given by \(u(t) = t^2 + 1, \ v(t) = t^2 - t\). The comparison between approximate and exact solutions for \(j = 5, \ T = 1\) is presented in Fig.1 and the errors of \(u(t)\) \(v(t)\) for different values of \(m\) are shown in Table 1. In the table we can see the accuracy improved when increasing the level of resolution \(J\).
Table 1: Errors for different values of m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>t</th>
<th>m=32</th>
<th>m=64</th>
<th>m=128</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Δex)u(t)</td>
<td>(Δex)v(t)</td>
<td>(Δex)u(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/16</td>
<td>1.7530e-4</td>
<td>2.0703e-4</td>
<td>1.5502e-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>5.7101e-4</td>
<td>5.8000e-4</td>
<td>3.8471e-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/16</td>
<td>4.1653e-3</td>
<td>4.1696e-3</td>
<td>2.2430e-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/16</td>
<td>7.0810e-3</td>
<td>7.9305e-3</td>
<td>3.7290e-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>1.0747e-2</td>
<td>1.0750e-2</td>
<td>5.5841e-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>1.5164e-2</td>
<td>1.5166e-2</td>
<td>7.8099e-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/16</td>
<td>2.0331e-2</td>
<td>2.0333e-2</td>
<td>1.0407e-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/16</td>
<td>2.0331e-2</td>
<td>2.0333e-2</td>
<td>1.0407e-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example 2. Now, let us consider the following fractional equations:
\[
\begin{align*}
D^{3/4}u(t) &= \frac{8389}{772\Gamma(1/3)}t^{3/4}v(t) - \frac{8389}{386\Gamma(1/3)}t^{3/4} - \frac{767}{77\Gamma(1/3)}t^{9/4} \\
D^{5/4}v(t) &= \frac{1024}{231\Gamma(1/2)}t^{-5/4}u(t) + \frac{1024}{231\Gamma(1/2)}t^{9/4} \\
u(0) &= 0, \quad v(0) = 2 \\
u(1) &= 0, \quad v(1) = 3
\end{align*}
\]

The comparisons between approximate and exact solutions for \( j = 5, T = 1 \) are shown in Fig.2 which demonstrated the numerical solutions approximate the exact solutions in a good way.

Example 3. Consider the differential equations of fractional order
\[
\begin{align*}
D^{3/20}u(t) &= \frac{3}{20} \sin tv(t) + 2\sin(6t) \\
D^{3/10}v(t) &= t \tan(\frac{3}{10}t)u(t) - t^{1\over 2} \cos(10t) \\
u(0) &= 0, \quad v(0) = 0 \\
u(2) &= 1, \quad v(2) = 1/2
\end{align*}
\]

This system of fractional differential equations doesn’t have exact solutions, and the approximate solutions for \( J = 4, T = 2 \) and \( J = 5, T = 2 \) are shown in Fig.3. From Table 2 we can see the errors for different values of \( J \)

6 Conclusions

This article adopts Haar wavelet method to solve a class of linear system of fractional differential equations by combining wavelet function with operational matrix.
Figure 2: The comparison between approximate and exact solutions of Example 2.

Figure 3: The approximate solutions of Example 3 for \( m = 32 \) and \( m = 64 \).
Table 2: Errors for different values of m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>t</th>
<th>m=32</th>
<th>m=64</th>
<th>m=128</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Δ₃)ₓ(t)</td>
<td>(Δ₃)ᵧ(t)</td>
<td>(Δ₄)ₓ(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>0.0116</td>
<td>0.0096</td>
<td>47616e-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>0.0843</td>
<td>0.0204</td>
<td>22328e-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>0.0120</td>
<td>0.0008</td>
<td>39861e-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>0.0899</td>
<td>0.0072</td>
<td>24169e-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>0.0044</td>
<td>0.0354</td>
<td>14697e-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>0.0794</td>
<td>0.0426</td>
<td>20150e-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/8</td>
<td>0.0351</td>
<td>0.0562</td>
<td>82657e-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/8</td>
<td>0.0787</td>
<td>0.0134</td>
<td>23195e-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

of fractional integration. In order to reduce the computation, we transform the initial equations into a linear system of algebraic equations. In fortunately, there are many zero elements in the coefficient matrix. Efficiency of this method is demonstrated by the convergence analysis and three numerical examples. It is obvious that the accuracy improves when we increase the level of resolution J. Usually, it can reach the higher precision, even though J is small.

Acknowledgement: This work is supported by the Natural Foundation of Hebei Province (A2012203407). This work is supported by Qinhuangdao research and development program of science and technology, Adaptive Boundary Element Method of precision rolling process simulation (201201B019). This work is supported by Qinhuangdao Technology Bureau 2013 research and development projects of science and technology (201302A023).

References


17, pp. 3934-3946.


