

Title : A New Definition of Fractional Derivative
 Author(s) : R. Khalil, M. Al Horani, A. Yousef and M. Sababheh
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 Student : Miss Sirunya Thanompolkrang Student ID: 59910295
 Advisor : Assistant Professor Dr.Duangkamol Poltem

Abstract

In this work, a new definition of fractional derivative and fractional integral are proposed. The authors obtain many useful theorems, and they also give some applications to fractional differential equations.

Keywords: Conformable, Fractional derivative, Fractional integral

Introduction

Fractional derivative is as old as calculus. The most popular of fractional derivative are Riemann-Liouville and Caputo [1-4]. In this work , the authors propose a new definition of fractional derivative and fractional integral as follows.

Definition 1. Given a function $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then the “conformable fractional derivative” of f of order α is defined by

$$T_{\alpha}(f)(t) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t + \varepsilon t^{1-\alpha}) - f(t)}{\varepsilon}, \quad \forall t > 0, \alpha \in (0,1).$$

If f is α - differentiable in the interval $(0, a)$ for some $a > 0$ and $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} f^{(\alpha)}(t)$ exists, then define $f^{(\alpha)}(0) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} f^{(\alpha)}(t)$.

Definition 2. Let $\alpha \in (n, n + 1]$, and f be an n -differentiable at t , where $t > 0$. Then the conformable fractional derivative of f of order α is defined as

$$T_{\alpha}(f)(t) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{f^{([\alpha]-1)}(t + \varepsilon t^{[\alpha]-\alpha}) - f^{([\alpha]-1)}(t)}{\varepsilon},$$

where $[\alpha]$ is the smallest integer greater than or equal to α .

Definition 3. The α - fractional integral of a function f starting from $a \geq 0$ is defined by

$$I_{\alpha}^a(f)(t) = I_{\alpha}^a(t^{\alpha-1} f) = \int_a^t \frac{f(x)}{x^{1-\alpha}} dx,$$

where the integral is the usual Riemann improper integral, and $\alpha \in (0,1)$.

Methodology

As a consequence of the above definitions, we obtain the following useful theorem.

Theorem 1. Let $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ and f, g be α - differentiable at a point $t > 0$. Then

1. $T_\alpha(af + bg) = aT_\alpha(f) + bT_\alpha(g), \forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}$.

2. $T_\alpha(t^p) = pt^{p-\alpha}, \forall p \in \mathbb{R}$.

3. $T_\alpha(\lambda) = 0$, for all constant function $f(t) = \lambda$.

4. $T_\alpha(fg) = fT_\alpha(g) + gT_\alpha(f)$.

5. $T_\alpha\left(\frac{f}{g}\right) = \frac{gT_\alpha(f) - fT_\alpha(g)}{g^2}, g \neq 0$.

6. If f is differentiable, then $T_\alpha(f)(t) = t^{1-\alpha} \frac{df}{dt}(t)$.

Theorem 2. $T_\alpha I_\alpha^a(f)(t) = f(t)$, for $t \geq a$, where f is any continuous function in the domain of I_α .

Results

The definitions and theorems are applied to solve conformable fractional differential equation as follows.

Example 1. Solve $y^{(\frac{1}{2})} + y = x^2 + 2x^{(\frac{3}{2})}$, $y(0) = 0$.

The particular solution is $y(x) = x^2$.

Example 2. Solve $y^{(\frac{1}{2})} + \sqrt{xy} = xe^{-x}$.

The general solution is $y(x) = \frac{2}{3}x^{(\frac{3}{2})}e^{-x} + ce^{-x}$.

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(Miss Sirunya Thanompolkrang)
Student

(Assistant Professor Dr.Duangkamol Poltem)
Advisor