



# A numerical solution of variable order diffusion and wave equations

Nematollah Kadkhoda<sup>a,\*</sup>, Hossein Jafari<sup>b,c</sup>, Roghayeh Moallem Ganji<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Basic Sciences, Bozorgmehr University of Qaenat, Qaenat, Iran.

<sup>b</sup> Department of Mathematics, University of Mazandaran, Babolsar, Iran.

<sup>c</sup> Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Africa, UNISA0003, South Africa.

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## Abstract

In this work, we consider variable order diffusion and wave equations. The derivative is described in the Caputo sense of variable order. We use the Genocchi polynomials as basic functions and obtain operational matrices via these polynomials. These matrices and collocation method help us to convert variable order diffusion and wave equations to an algebraic system. Some examples are given to show the validity of the presented method.

*Keywords:* Variable order diffusion and wave equations, Genocchi polynomials, Operational matrix, Collocation method.

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## 1. Introduction

Differential equations have been successfully applied in physics and engineering such as earthquake analysis, bio-chemical, electric circuits, controller design, signal processing, viscoelasticity and so on [1]. During last few decades, several approximation and numerical methods have been applied for solving class of differential equations, for example the homotopy analysis method [15], Variational iteration method [16], Bernstein polynomials [17, 26], Legendre polynomials [6, 9], Bernoulli polynomials [21], Chebyshev polynomials [5, 8, 20], Genocchi polynomials (GPs) [22, 23]. In recent years using of fractional partial differential equations (FPDEs) in mathematical models has become increasing popular. For solving these types of equations have been proposed different methods [3, 12, 13, 14].

In 1993, Samko and Ross [24] have introduced the variable order derivative operator just as a generalization of the fractional order derivative and studied some of its main properties. In this operator, the order of derivative is a function of independent variables such as time and space variables. Soon after, a variety of definitions has been offered for variable order derivative and integral

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\*Corresponding author: [kadkhoda@buqaen.ac.ir](mailto:kadkhoda@buqaen.ac.ir)

operators such as Riemann-Liouville (RL)[10], Coimbra [25], Caputo [30], Caputo and Fabrizio [30] and Atangana–Baleanu–Caputo [30] derivatives. Therefore, many problems in various field can be modeling via systems of variable order ordinary/ partial/ integro-differential equations. Since derivative operator has a kernel of the variable order, it is not simply task to obtain the solution of such equations. Therefore, developing an effective numerical algorithms for solving such equations is importance. Some researchers have proposed several approximation and numerical methods for solving such equations, for example Li and Wu, Yang *et al.* used the reproducing kernel method for solving the variable order fractional functional boundary value problems [19, 29]. Heydari et al. applied Chebyshev wavelets for solving multi-term variable-order time fractional diffusion-wave equation [13]. Ganji and Jafari applied Jacobi polynomials to obtain solution the multi-variable orders differential equations [4]. Yu and Ertürk applied a finite difference method to variable order fractional integro-differential equations [28]. Ganji *et al.* applied the fifth-kind Chebyshev polynomials to obtain solution variable orders differential equations [8]. Hassani and Naraghirad solved variable-order time fractional Burgers equation via generalized polynomials [12]. Jiang and Guo applied the reproducing kernel method for solving two-dimensional variable-order anomalous sub-diffusion equation [18]. Jafari *et al.* used operational matrix (OM) based on Bernstein polynomials for solving variable order differential equations [17].

In this work, we study the following type of variable order diffusion and wave equations

$$\partial_t^{\kappa(x,t)} X(x,t) + \xi(x,t) \partial_x^{\nu(x,t)} X(x,t) = F(x,t, X(x,t)), \quad (1.1)$$

with the initial and boundary conditions

$$X(x,0) = f_0(x), \quad X(0,t) = f_1(t), \quad X(1,t) = f_2(t), \quad 0 < x, t < 1, \quad (1.2)$$

where  $0 < \kappa(x,t) \leq 1$ ,  $1 < \nu(x,t) \leq 2$ .  $\xi(x,t) \in L^2([0,1] \times [0,1])$  is given known function.  $X(x,t)$  is an unknown function to be determined.  $\partial_t^{\kappa(x,t)} X(x,t)$  and  $\partial_x^{\nu(x,t)} X(x,t)$  are the time-fractional and the space-fractional derivatives of variable order which are defined [7]

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t^{\kappa(x,t)} X(x,t) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\kappa(x,t))} \int_0^t (t-s)^{-\kappa(x,t)} \partial_s' X(x,s) ds, \\ \partial_x^{\nu(x,t)} X(x,t) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(2-\nu(x,t))} \int_0^x (x-s)^{1-\nu(x,t)} \partial_s^2 X(s,t) ds. \end{aligned}$$

This work is organized in five sections. Section (2) Genocchi polynomials with their properties are reviewed. We proposed a numerical scheme for solving variable order diffusion and wave equations in Section (3). Section (4) shows many numerical examples and Section (5) consists of a brief summary.

## 2. The Genocchi polynomials and their properties

In this section, we recall some basic properties of GPs and explain how to approximate a function in terms of these basis functions and obtain the OMs based on the GPs. Finally, we discuss convergence analysis using the GPs.

### 2.1. The GPs

The Genocchi numbers ( $g_i$ ) and GPs ( $G_i(t)$ ) are respectively given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2x}{e^x + 1} &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} g_i \frac{x^i}{i!}, \quad |x| < \pi, \\ \frac{2xe^{xt}}{e^x + 1} &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} G_i(t) \frac{x^i}{i!}, \quad |x| < \pi. \end{aligned}$$

The analytic form of the GPs of degree  $i$  is defined by

$$G_i(t) = \sum_{k=0}^i \binom{i}{k} g_{i-k} t^k.$$

It is easy to show the GPs satisfy the following properties

$$\begin{aligned} G_i(1) + G_i(0) &= 0, & i > 1, \\ \frac{dG_i(t)}{dt} &= iG_{i-1}(t), & i \geq 1, \\ \int_0^1 G_i(t)G_j(t)dt &= \frac{2(-1)^i i! j!}{(i+j)!} g_{i+j}, & i, j \geq 1. \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

### 2.2. Function approximation

Any arbitrary function  $X(x, t)$  in  $L^2((0, 1) \times (0, 1))$  can be approximated in terms of the GPs as

$$X(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} c_{ij} G_i(x) G_j(t) = \varphi(x)^T C \varphi(t). \tag{2.2}$$

By taking only the first  $n + 1$  terms in (2.2),  $X(x, t)$  can be approximated as

$$X(x, t) \simeq X_n(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} c_{ij} G_i(x) G_j(t) = \varphi(x)^T C \varphi(t), \tag{2.3}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(x) &= [G_1(x), G_2(x), \dots, G_{n+1}(x)]^T, \\ \varphi(t) &= [G_1(t), G_2(t), \dots, G_{n+1}(t)]^T, \end{aligned}$$

and  $C$  can be computed by

$$C = Q^{-1} \langle \varphi(x), \langle X_n(x, t), \varphi(t) \rangle \rangle Q^{-1},$$

where  $Q = [q_{ij}]$  is an  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  matrix whose elements are given by (2.1).

### 2.3. The OMs based on the GPs

In order to introduce the operational matrix, we first rewrite the basis vectors  $\varphi(x)$  and  $\varphi(t)$  in terms of the Taylor basis functions as

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(x) &= AT_n(x), \\ \varphi(t) &= AT_n(t), \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} T_n(x) &= [1, x, \dots, x^n]^T, \\ T_n(t) &= [1, t, \dots, t^n]^T, \end{aligned}$$

are the Taylor basis vectors and  $A = [a_{i,j}]$ ,  $i, j = 1, \dots, n + 1$ , with

$$a_{i,j} = \begin{cases} \binom{i}{j-1} g_{i-j+1}, & i \geq j, \\ 0, & i < j. \end{cases}$$

1) By applying the first order derivative to both sides of (2.4), we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \varphi(t) = D\varphi(t),$$

where  $D$  is the operational matrix of derivative based on the GPs given by

$$D = A \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & M & 0 \end{bmatrix} A^{-1}.$$

Also, for the  $i$ -th order derivative of the vector  $\varphi(t)$ , we have

$$\frac{d^i \varphi(t)}{dt^i} = D^i \varphi(t), \quad i \geq 2.$$

Similarly, we can write

$$\frac{d^i \varphi(x)}{dx^i} = D^i \varphi(x), \quad i \geq 2.$$

2) By applying the derivative operator of variable order,  $p - 1 \leq \zeta(x, t) \leq p$ , to both sides of (2.4) yields

$$\partial_t^{\zeta(x,t)} \varphi(t) = \partial_t^{\zeta(x,t)} (AT_n(t)) = A \partial_t^{\zeta(x,t)} T_n(t) = A \partial_t^{\zeta(x,t)} [1 \ t \ \dots \ t^{p-1} \ t^p \ \dots \ t^n]^T. \quad (2.5)$$

The Caputo derivative of variable order of the function  $t^i$  is given by

$$\partial_t^{\zeta(x,t)} t^i = \begin{cases} \frac{\Gamma(i+1)}{\Gamma(i-\zeta(x,t)+1)} t^{i-\zeta(x,t)}, & i \in N \text{ and } i \geq \lceil \zeta(x,t) \rceil \text{ or } i \notin N \text{ and } i > \lfloor \zeta(x,t) \rfloor, \\ 0, & i \in N \cup \{0\} \text{ and } i < \lceil \zeta(x,t) \rceil. \end{cases} \quad (2.6)$$

By utilizing (2.6) in (2.5), we obtain

$$\partial_t^{\zeta(x,t)} \varphi(t) = A [0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0 \ \frac{\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma(p+1-\zeta(x,t))} t^{p-\zeta(x,t)} \ \dots \ \frac{\Gamma(n+1)}{\Gamma(n+1-\zeta(x,t))} t^{n-\zeta(x,t)}]^T = A \Psi_t T_n(t),$$

where

$$\Psi_t = [\rho_t^{i,j}], \quad i, j = 0, 1, \dots, n,$$

with

$$\rho_t^{i,j} = \begin{cases} \frac{\Gamma(i+1)}{\Gamma(i+1-\zeta(x,t))} t^{-\zeta(x,t)}, & i = j \ \& \ i \geq p, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

From (2.4), we have

$$\partial_t^{\zeta(x,t)} \varphi(t) = A \Psi_t A^{-1} \varphi(t) = \Omega_t \varphi(t),$$

where  $\Omega_t = A \Psi_t A^{-1}$  is called the OM of the Caputo derivative of variable order based on the GPs. Similarly, we can write

$$\partial_x^{\zeta(x,t)} \varphi(x) = A \Psi_x A^{-1} \varphi(x) = \Omega_x \varphi(x).$$

2.4. Convergence analysis

Here our aim is to obtain an analytic expression for the error norm of the best approximation of a smooth function  $X(x, t) \in I = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  by its expansion in terms of double GPs. Consider

$$\Pi_n = span\{G_i(x) G_j(t), i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n + 1\}.$$

Let that  $P_n$  is the interpolating polynomials to  $X$  at points  $(x_i, t_j)$ , where  $x_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n + 1$  and  $t_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, n + 1$  are the roots of  $(n + 1)$ -degree shifted Chebysheve polynomials on  $[0, 1]$ . Then [2, 11, 13, 27]

$$\begin{aligned} X(x, t) - P_n(x, t) &= \frac{1}{(n + 1)!} \frac{\partial^{n+1} X(\xi, t)}{\partial x^{n+1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n+1} (x - x_i) + \frac{1}{(n + 1)!} \frac{\partial^{n+1} X(x, \eta)}{\partial t^{n+1}} \prod_{j=1}^{n+1} (t - t_j) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{((n + 1)!)^2} \frac{\partial^{2n+2} X(\xi', \eta')}{\partial x^{n+1} \partial t^{n+1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n+1} (x - x_i) \prod_{j=1}^{n+1} (t - t_j), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\xi, \xi', \eta, \eta' \in [0, 1]$ . Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |X(x, t) - P_n(x, t)| &\leq \max_{(x,t) \in I} \left| \frac{\partial^{n+1} X(\xi, t)}{\partial x^{n+1}} \right| \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n+1} |x - x_i|}{(n + 1)!} \\ &\quad + \max_{(x,t) \in I} \left| \frac{\partial^{n+1} X(x, \eta)}{\partial t^{n+1}} \right| \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{n+1} |t - t_j|}{(n + 1)!} \\ &\quad + \max_{(x,t) \in I} \left| \frac{\partial^{2n+2} X(\xi', \eta')}{\partial x^{n+1} \partial t^{n+1}} \right| \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n+1} |x - x_i| \prod_{j=1}^{n+1} |t - t_j|}{((n + 1)!)^2}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

Since  $X(x, t)$  is a smooth function on  $I$ , then there exist constants  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  and  $\sigma_3$ , such that

$$\max_{(x,t) \in I} \left| \frac{\partial^{n+1} X(x, t)}{\partial x^{n+1}} \right| \leq \sigma_1, \quad \max_{(x,t) \in I} \left| \frac{\partial^{n+1} X(x, t)}{\partial t^{n+1}} \right| \leq \sigma_2, \quad \max_{(x,t) \in I} \left| \frac{\partial^{2n+2} X(x, t)}{\partial x^{n+1} \partial t^{n+1}} \right| \leq \sigma_3. \tag{2.8}$$

By substituting (2.8) into (2.7) and employing the estimates for Chebysheve interpolation nodes, we have

$$|X(x, t) - P_n(x, t)| \leq \frac{1}{(n + 1)!2^{2n+1}} \left( \sigma_1 + \sigma_2 + \frac{\sigma_3}{(n + 1)!2^{2n+1}} \right). \tag{2.9}$$

Since  $X_n$  is the best approximation of  $X$  in  $\Pi_n$ , that is

$$\|X(x, t) - X_n(x, t)\|_2 \leq \|X(x, t) - X^*(x, t)\|_2,$$

where  $X^*$  is any arbitrary polynomial in  $\Pi_n$ . Then, using (2.9) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|X(x, t) - X_n(x, t)\|_2^2 &= \int_0^1 \int_0^1 |X(x, t) - X_n(x, t)|^2 dx dt \\ &\leq \int_0^1 \int_0^1 |X(x, t) - P_n(x, t)|^2 dx dt \\ &= \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1}{(n+1)!2^{2n+1}} \left( \sigma_1 + \sigma_2 + \frac{\sigma_3}{(n+1)!2^{2n+1}} \right) \right)^2 dx dt \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{(n+1)!2^{2n+1}} \left( \sigma_1 + \sigma_2 + \frac{\sigma_3}{(n+1)!2^{2n+1}} \right) \right)^2. \end{aligned} \tag{2.10}$$

By taking the square root of both sides of (2.10) yields

$$\|X(x, t) - X_n(x, t)\|_2 \leq \frac{1}{(n + 1)!2^{2n+1}} \left( \sigma_1 + \sigma_2 + \frac{\sigma_3}{(n + 1)!2^{2n+1}} \right).$$

### 3. Proposed method for solving the equation (1.1)

. To find solution  $X(x, t)$ , do the following steps

**Step 1.** Consider the equation (1.1) under the initial and boundary conditions (1.2).

**Step 2.** Approximate the unknown function ( $X(x, t)$ ) as (2.3) and substitute in the equations (1.1) and (1.2).

**Step 3.** Calculate the OMs and substitute in the equation (1.1).

• The outline of steps 2 and 3 are as

$$\varphi(x)^T C \Delta_t \varphi(t) + \xi(x, t) (\Pi_x \varphi(x))^T C \varphi(t) = F(x, t, \varphi(x)^T C \varphi(t)),$$

$$\varphi(x)^T C \varphi(0) = f_0(x),$$

$$\varphi(0)^T C \varphi(t) = f_1(t), \quad \varphi(1)^T C \varphi(t) = f_2(t),$$

where

$$\Delta_t = \begin{cases} D, & \kappa(x, t) = 1, \\ \Omega_t, & 0 < \kappa(x, t) < 1, \end{cases} \quad \Pi_x = \begin{cases} D^2, & v(x, t) = 2, \\ \Omega_x, & 1 < \kappa(x, t) < 2. \end{cases}$$

**Step 4.** Calculate the residual function.

• The residual function can be calculated as

$$R(x, t) = \varphi(x)^T C \Delta_t \varphi(t) + \xi(x, t) (\Pi_x \varphi(x))^T C \varphi(t) - F(x, t, \varphi(x)^T C \varphi(t)).$$

**Step 5.** Let  $x_i = \frac{i}{n}$  and  $t_j = \frac{j}{n}$  for  $i, j = 0, 1, \dots, n$  be the collocation points, then solve obtained system and obtain the unique coefficients. Finally, substitute the results into step 2.

• By solving below system, coefficients  $c_{ij}$  can be calculated.

$$R(x_i, t_j) = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(x_i)^T C \varphi(0) &= f_0(x_i), & i &= 0, 1, \dots, n, \\ \varphi(0)^T C \varphi(t_j) &= f_1(t_j), & \varphi(1)^T C \varphi(t_j) &= f_2(t_j), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

### 4. Test Examples

We present three examples to compare the approximate solution with exact solution. The absolute errors are defined as

$$Error = |X(x, t) - \varphi(x)^T C \varphi(t)|, \quad (x, t) \in [0, 1] \times [0, 1].$$

**Example 4.1.** Consider the following problem

$$\frac{\partial^{\kappa(x,t)} X(x, t)}{\partial t^{\kappa(x,t)}} - \frac{\partial^2 X(x, t)}{\partial x^2} = \frac{2 x t^{2-\kappa(x,t)}}{\Gamma(3 - \kappa(x, t))},$$

where  $\kappa(x, t) = \sin(xt)$  and with the exact solution  $X(x, t) = xt^2$  and

$$X(x, 0) = 0, \quad X(0, t) = 0, \quad X(1, t) = t^2, \quad 0 < x, t < 1.$$

By using the presented method, we obtained the approximate solution. The numerical results are shown in Figure 1 and Table 1.

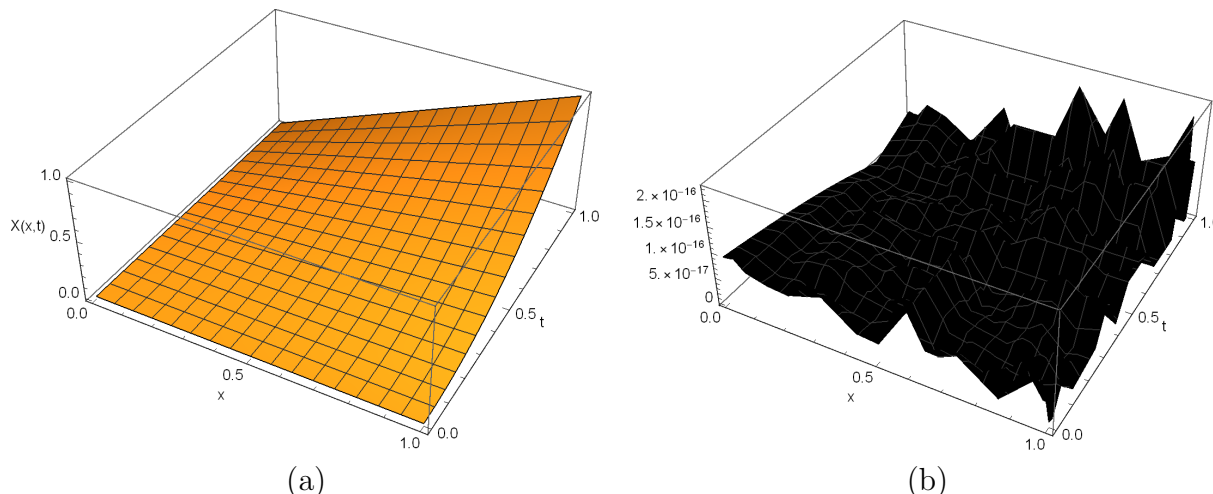


Figure 1: (a) The exact solution (b) The absolute error ( $n = 3$ ).

Table 1: Comparison absolute error for various  $\kappa(x, t)$  ( $n = 3$ ).

$(x, t)$	$\kappa(x, t) = \frac{1-(xt)^4}{5}$	$\kappa(x, t) = x^2t^2$	$\kappa(x, t) = \cos(xt)$
(0.1, 0.1)	$2.146720e - 17$	$4.098284e - 17$	$7.567731e - 17$
(0.3, 0.3)	$1.040834e - 18$	$1.387779e - 17$	$3.469447e - 18$
(0.5, 0.5)	$5.551115e - 17$	$8.326673e - 17$	0
(0.7, 0.7)	$5.551115e - 17$	$1.110223e - 16$	$5.551115e - 17$
(0.9, 0.9)	$1.110223e - 16$	0	$1.110223e - 16$

**Example 4.2.** Consider the following problem

$$\frac{\partial^{\kappa(x,t)} X(x, t)}{\partial t^{\kappa(x,t)}} + \frac{\partial^{v(x,t)} X(x, t)}{\partial x^{v(x,t)}} = \frac{x^2 t^{1-\kappa(x,t)}}{\Gamma(2 - \kappa(x, t))} + \frac{2 t x^{2-v(x,t)}}{\Gamma(3 - v(x, t))},$$

and

$$X(x, 0) = 0, \quad X(0, t) = 0, \quad X(1, t) = t, \quad 0 < x, t < 1,$$

where  $\kappa(x, t)$  and  $v(x, t)$  are  $\sin(xt)$  and  $1 + \cos(xt)$  respectively. We applied the presented method for solving this example. The exact solution ( $X(x, t) = x^2t$ ) and the absolute error are shown in Figure 2.

**Example 4.3.** Consider the following problem

$$\frac{\partial^{\kappa(x,t)} X(x, t)}{\partial t^{\kappa(x,t)}} - \frac{1}{2} x^2 \frac{\partial^2 X(x, t)}{\partial x^2} = x^2 e^t \left( \frac{\Gamma(\sin(xt)) - \Gamma(\sin(xt), t)}{\Gamma(\sin(xt))} - 1 \right),$$

where  $\kappa(t) = 1 - \sin(xt)$  and

$$X(x, 0) = x^2, \quad X(0, t) = 0, \quad X(1, t) = e^t, \quad 0 < x, t < 1.$$

By applying the presented method, we obtained the approximate solution. The exact solution ( $X(x, t) = x^2e^t$ ) and the absolute error are shown in Figure 3 and Table 2.

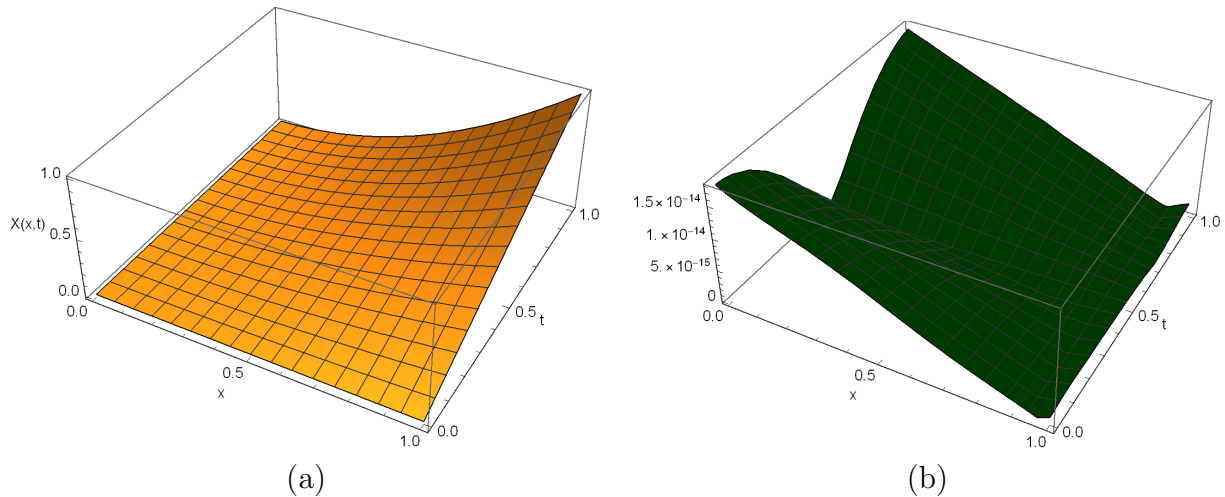


Figure 2: (a) The exact solution (b) The absolute error ( $n = 5$ ).

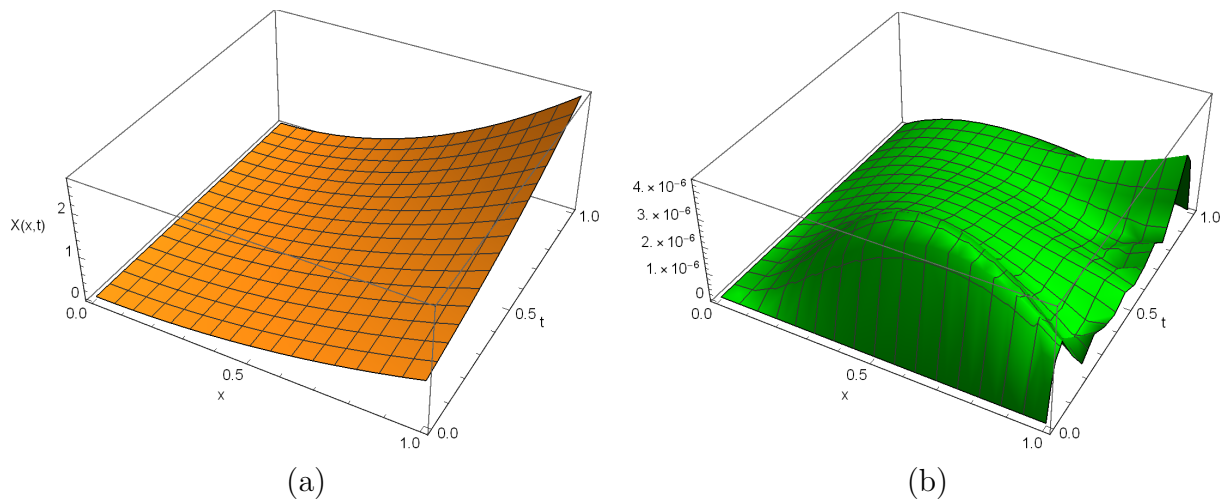


Figure 3: (a) The exact solution (b) The absolute error ( $n = 5$ ).

## 5. Conclusion

The purpose of the current paper was to numerical solutions of variable order diffusion and wave equations by using operational matrix based on Genocchi polynomials. First, we approximated the unknown functions and its derivatives in terms of the Genocchi basis. Then, we substituted these approximations in variable order diffusion and wave equations, and got an algebraic system. By applying collocation method, we obtained the approximate solution.

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Table 2: Comparison absolute error for various  $n$  ( $\kappa(x, t) = 1 - \sin(xt)$ ).

$(x, t)$	$n = 2$	$n = 3$	$n = 4$	$n = 5$
(0.1, 0.1)	$8.803923e - 4$	$1.049905e - 4$	$5.514766e - 6$	$2.517008e - 7$
(0.3, 0.3)	$5.303140e - 3$	$4.959848e - 4$	$3.289236e - 5$	$2.045076e - 6$
(0.5, 0.5)	$6.105720e - 3$	$3.335951e - 4$	$2.313688e - 5$	$1.728718e - 6$
(0.7, 0.7)	$1.699835e - 3$	$1.584021e - 4$	$1.811637e - 5$	$6.000226e - 7$
(0.9, 0.9)	$8.182640e - 3$	$7.047627e - 4$	$3.447973e - 5$	$1.846946e - 6$

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