



## Modified simple equation method (MSEM) for solving nonlinear $(3+1)$ -dimensional space-time fractional equations

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### Abstract

In the present paper, modified simple equation method (MSEM) is implemented for obtaining exact solutions of three nonlinear  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional space-time fractional equation, namely three types of modified Korteweg-de-Vries (mKdV) equations. Here, the derivatives are of the type of conformable fractional derivatives. The solving process produces a system of algebraic equations which is possible to be easily with no need of using software for determining unknown coefficients. Results show that this method can supply a powerful mathematical tool to construct exact solutions of mKdV equations and it can be employed for other nonlinear  $(3 + 1)$  - dimensional space-time fractional equations.

**Keywords.** Modified simple equation method (MSEM), Exact solutions,  $(3 + 1)$ - Dimensional fractional equations, Conformable fractional derivative.

**2010 Mathematics Subject Classification.** 65L05, 34K06, 34K28.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In almost every field of science and engineering, including nuclear, plasma, chemical and solid state physics, optical fibers, fluid mechanics, biology, etc. Nonlinear phenomena are revealed. Mathematical modeling of most physics systems results in nonlinear evolution equations (NLEE). Indeed, a lot of NLEEs are broadly utilized to explain these physical phenomena. Accordingly, trying to find solutions to NLEEs is highly essential, and developing efficient methods to get analytic and numerical solutions of such equations have been popular by researchers. For example see [1, 5, 13, 17, 30].

Exact solutions to nonlinear evolution equations play a significant role in nonlinear physical science, because various natural phenomena, such as solitons, vibrations, and propagation with a finite speed can be described by these solutions well [29]. There are abundant powerful methods to obtain the exact solutions of such equations including, Hirota's method [19], extended tanh-function method [2],  $(G'/G)$ -expansion method [6, 25], exp-function method [15, 32], homogeneous balance method [16, 28], modified auxiliary equation method [4], Jacobi elliptic function expansion method [21], optimal perturbation iteration method [27], Weierstrass elliptic function method [14], modified simple equation method (MSEM) [10, 20], generalized projective Riccati equations method [3], and so on.

The KdV equation as a celebrated NLEE plays an important role in modeling various phenomena. It is the governing equation for shallow waves of water interacting weakly and nonlinearly, long internal waves in a density-stratified ocean, ion-acoustic waves in a plasma, and acoustic waves on a crystal lattice. Additionally, it describes a string in the Fermi-Pasta-Ulam-Tsingou problem in the continuum limit. This equation is a famous model for solitons and it is a significant foundation to investigate other equations [9]. Thus, investigating the exact solutions of this equation is significant because they are useful to understand the physics behind them. Also, the higher the dimensions of the model, the more realistic; in literature multiple modifications to the KdV equation have been suggested including, the  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional modified KdV equations by [18] and [31] as follows.

Received: 04 June 2022 ; Accepted: 28 September 2023.

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$$u_t + 6u^2 u_x + u_{xyz} = 0, \quad (1.1)$$

$$u_t + 6u^2 u_y + u_{xyz} = 0, \quad (1.2)$$

$$u_t + 6u^2 u_z + u_{xyz} = 0. \quad (1.3)$$

These equations play an important role in three-dimensional non-linear dispersion problems [26].

Fractional differential equations (FDEs) are generalizations of ordinary differential equations to an arbitrary order. The theory of derivatives and integrals of fractional order allows us to describe physical phenomena more accurately [23]. Many phenomena in engineering, physics, chemistry, biology, and some other sciences may be modeled using FDEs. For example, [7] have transformed the classical model of a cubic isothermal auto-catalytic chemical system (CIACS) into a new fractional form by using three different and special fractional operators. [8] have formulated a fractional optimal control model of spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in Atangana-Baleanu-Caputo derivative sense. [11] have obtained a new model for Chua's circuit by transforming the classical model of Chua's circuit into novel forms of various fractional derivatives. [13] have proposed an optimal perturbation iteration procedure with the Laplace transform to solve the fractional type of damped Burgers' equation which is obtained by remodeling the classical damped Burgers' equation to fractional differential form via the Atangana-Baleanu fractional derivatives described with the help of the Mittag-Leffler function. [26] introduced the conformable fractional order derivative of Equations ((1.1)-(1.3)).

This work aims to employ MSEM to examine exact solutions to three types of (3+1) dimensional fractional modified Korteweg-de-Vries (mKdV) equation introduced by [26].

The outline of the current paper is as follows: The description of the conformable fractional derivative and its properties are presented in Section 2. The MSEM is introduced in Section 3. The method is implemented for the (3 + 1)-dimensional fractional (mKdV) equation in Section 4. In the end, the conclusions are supplied in Section 5.

## 2. THE CONFORMABLE FRACTIONAL DERIVATIVE AND ITS PROPERTIES

In this section, the conformable fractional derivative is defined. Then, some of its properties are presented according to what was first reported by [22].

**Definition 2.1.** [26].

Suppose that  $y : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then the conformable fractional derivative of  $y$  of order  $\alpha$  is described as follows.

$$D_t^\alpha(y(x)) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{y(x + \epsilon x^{1-\alpha}) - y(x)}{\epsilon},$$

for all  $x > 0$  and  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** [22].

If a function  $y : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $\alpha$ -differentiable at  $x_0 > 0$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ , then  $y$  is continuous at  $x_0$ .

*Proof.* [22].

Suppose that  $y$  and  $z$  are  $\alpha$ -differentiable at  $x > 0$  and  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ . Some properties of the conformable fractional derivative is presented in the following [26].

- (i)  $D_x^\alpha(x^c) = cx^{c-\alpha}$  for all  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- (ii)  $D_x^\alpha(a) = 0$ , for all constant functions  $y(x) = a$ .
- (iii)  $D_x^\alpha(ay(x) + bz(x)) = aD_x^\alpha y(x) + bD_x^\alpha z(x)$  for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .



- (vi)  $D_x^\alpha(y(x)z(x)) = D_x^\alpha y(x)(z(x)) + z(x)D_t^\alpha(y(x)).$
- (v)  $D_x^\alpha\left(\frac{y(x)}{z(x)}\right) = \frac{z(x)D_x^\alpha y(x) - y(x)D_x^\alpha z(x)}{z^2(x)}, z(x) \neq 0.$
- (iv) If  $y$  is differentiable then,  $D_x^\alpha(y(x)) = x^{1-\alpha} \frac{dy}{dx}.$

□

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF MSEM

It is well-known that MSEM is employed to solve a nonlinear ordinary differential equation (ODE) as follows [20].

$$Q\left(Y(\xi), \frac{d}{d\xi}Y(\xi), \frac{d^2}{d\xi^2}Y(\xi), \dots\right) = 0, \tag{3.1}$$

where  $Q$  is a polynomial of the unknown function  $Y$  and its derivatives. To solve Eq. (3.1), its solution  $U(\xi)$  is expanded in the following finite series.

$$Y(\xi) = \sum_{j=0}^N c_j \left(\frac{\omega'(\xi)}{\omega(\xi)}\right)^j, \tag{3.2}$$

in which  $c_0, \dots, c_N$  are constants which must be specified, provided that  $c_N \neq 0$ , and  $\omega$  is an unknown function which is specified subsequently, so that  $\omega' \neq 0$ . The simple equation method is basic designed on the presumption that some special functions satisfy some ODEs. These ODEs are attributed as the simplest equations. The simplest equation has two main properties: firstly, the order equation is lesser than the order of Eq. (3.1); secondly, the general solution of this equation is known. This implies that we can obtain the exact solutions  $Y(\xi)$  of (3.2) by a finite series (3.1) in the general solution of the simplest equation [20]

**3.1. Algorithm of MSEM.** To express the algorithm of MSEM, the following general nonlinear fractional differential equation is considered.

$$G(u, D_t^\alpha u, D_x^{\alpha_1} u, D_y^{\alpha_2} u, \dots) = 0, \tag{3.3}$$

where  $\alpha, \alpha_1, \alpha_2$  are fractional orders and  $G$  is a polynomial in  $u$  and its fractional partial derivatives. The principal stages of the MSEM for solving Eq. (3.3) are as follows.

- 1: Substitute the wave transformation (Nuruddeen 2018)

$$u(x, t) = Y(\xi), \quad \xi = a \frac{x^{\alpha_1}}{\alpha_1} + b \frac{y^{\alpha_2}}{\alpha_2} - r \frac{t^\alpha}{\alpha}, \tag{3.4}$$

where  $a, b$  and  $r$  are nonzero constants, into Eq. (3.3). This leads to a reduced ODE of the polynomial form as (3.1).

- 2: Assume that the solution of Eq. (3.1) can be presented by a polynomial in  $\frac{\omega'}{\omega}$  as Eq. (3.2).
- 3: Balance the highest order derivatives with the highest order nonlinear term in Eq. (3.1) to determine the positive integer  $N$  in (3.2). To find out this procedure we focus on the leading terms of (3.1). These are the terms that lead to the least positive  $p$  when a monomial  $Y = a/\xi^p$  is substituted in all the components of the equation. The value of  $N$  is found by the homogeneous balancing between the leading terms.
- 4: Substitute Eq.(3.2) in Eq.(3.1) and collect all terms with the same power of  $\omega^{-i}, i = 0, \dots, N$  together. In this case, a polynomial of  $\frac{\omega'}{\omega}$  and its derivatives is achieved. Then, equate each coefficient to zero. This process results in producing a system of equations that is possible to be solve with no need of software to determine  $c_0, \dots, c_N$  and  $\omega$ . Consequently, an exact solution of Eq. (3.1) and subsequently an exact solution of Eq. (3.3) can be achieved.



## 4. APPLICATION

In this section, by applying the algorithm described in the previous section, some exact solutions for the  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional fractional modified Korteweg-de-Vries (mKdV) equations. Graphical representations are carried out by Maple software.

4.1.  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional modified Korteweg-de-Vries equation (mKdV).

4.1.1. *The first equation.* Consider the first  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional mKdV equation as follows [26]

$$D_t^\alpha u + 6D_x^\alpha u^3 + D_{xyz}^{3\alpha} u = 0. \quad (4.1)$$

Using the wave transformation,

$$u(x, y, z, t) = Y(\xi), \quad \xi = a \frac{x^\alpha}{\alpha} + b \frac{y^\alpha}{\alpha} + c \frac{z^\alpha}{\alpha} - r \frac{t^\alpha}{\alpha}, \quad (4.2)$$

gives

$$-rY' + 6a(Y^3)' + abcY''' = 0. \quad (4.3)$$

Integrating Eq. (4.3) with zero constant of integration leads to

$$-rY + 6aY^3 + abcY'' = 0. \quad (4.4)$$

In addition, we have  $N = 1$  by using the homogeneous balance method. So, Eq. (3.2) has the following form.

$$Y(\xi) = c_0 + c_1 \frac{\omega'(\xi)}{\omega(\xi)}, \quad (4.5)$$

by computing  $Y^3$  and  $Y''$  according to Eq. (4.5), we have

$$Y^3 = c_0^3 + 3c_0^2c_1 \frac{\omega'}{\omega} + 3c_0c_1^2 \left(\frac{\omega'}{\omega}\right)^2 + c_1^3 \left(\frac{\omega'}{\omega}\right)^3, \quad (4.6)$$

and

$$Y'' = c_1 \left( \frac{\omega'''}{\omega} - 3 \frac{\omega'\omega''}{\omega^2} + 2 \left(\frac{\omega'}{\omega}\right)^3 \right). \quad (4.7)$$

Substituting Eqs. (4.5), (4.7) into Eq. (4.4), and then putting all the coefficients of  $\omega^0, \omega^{-1}, \omega^{-2}$ , and  $\omega^{-3}$  equal to zero, leads to:

$$\omega^0 : -rc_0 + 6ac_0^3 = 0, \quad (4.8)$$

$$\omega^{-1} : abcc_1\omega''' - rc_1\omega' + 18ac_0^2c_1\omega' = 0, \quad (4.9)$$

$$\omega^{-2} : 18ac_0c_1^2\omega'^2 - 3abcc_1\omega'\omega'' = 0. \quad (4.10)$$

and

$$\omega^{-3} : 6ac_1^3\omega'^3 + 2abcc_1\omega'^3 = 0. \quad (4.11)$$

By simplifying the equations ((4.8), (4.11)), we have



$$c_0 = \pm \frac{\sqrt{r}}{\sqrt{6a}}, \quad a, r > 0, \tag{4.12}$$

$$abc\omega''' + 2r\omega' = 0, \tag{4.13}$$

$$\omega' = \frac{bc}{6c_0c_1}\omega'', \tag{4.14}$$

and

$$c_1 = \pm \frac{\sqrt{-bc}}{\sqrt{3}}, \quad bc < 0. \tag{4.15}$$

Substituting (4.12) and (4.15) into Eq. (4.14) gives

$$\omega' = -\frac{\sqrt{-abc}}{\sqrt{2r}}\omega''. \tag{4.16}$$

By substituting (4.16) into Eq. (4.13), we have

$$\omega''' + \sqrt{2rd}\omega'' = 0, \tag{4.17}$$

where  $d = \frac{1}{\sqrt{-abc}}$ . A solution of Eq. (4.17) is given by

$$\omega(\xi) = A + Be^{-\gamma\xi}, \tag{4.18}$$

where  $\gamma = \sqrt{2rd}$ , and  $A$  and  $B$  are arbitrary free parameters.

Consequently, substituting Eq. (4.18) for  $\omega(\xi)$  into Eq. (4.4) for  $u(x, y, z, t)$  gives the following exact solution.

$$u(x, y, z, t) = \pm \left( \frac{\sqrt{r}}{\sqrt{6a}} + \frac{\sqrt{-bc}}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{B\gamma e^{-\gamma\left(a\frac{x^\alpha}{\alpha} + b\frac{y^\alpha}{\alpha} + c\frac{z^\alpha}{\alpha} - r\frac{t^\alpha}{\alpha}\right)}}{A + Be^{-\gamma\left(a\frac{x^\alpha}{\alpha} + b\frac{y^\alpha}{\alpha} + c\frac{z^\alpha}{\alpha} - r\frac{t^\alpha}{\alpha}\right)}} \right). \tag{4.19}$$

For  $a = b = r = A = B = 1$  and  $c = -1$ , we have

$$u(x, y, z, t) = \pm \left( \frac{\sqrt{6}}{6} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \frac{\sqrt{2}e^{\frac{-\sqrt{2}}{\alpha}(x^\alpha + y^\alpha - z^\alpha - t^\alpha)}}{1 + e^{\frac{-\sqrt{2}}{\alpha}(x^\alpha + y^\alpha - z^\alpha - t^\alpha)}} \right). \tag{4.20}$$

The solution  $u(x, y, z, t)$  in Eq. (4.21) with positive sign, at  $y = z = t = 1$  and for  $\alpha = 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1$  is represented in Figure 1. Also, the solution  $u(x, y, z, t)$  in Eq. (4.21) at  $y = z = 1$  and for  $\alpha = 1$  is shown in Figure 2.



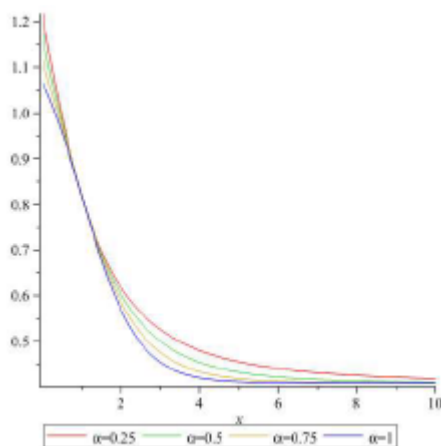


FIGURE 1. The solution  $u(x, 1, 1, 1)$  in Eq. (4.21) for different values of  $\alpha$ .

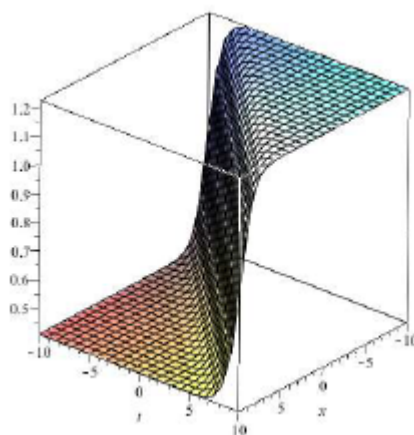


FIGURE 2. The solution  $u(x, 1, 1, t)$  in Eq. (4.21) for  $\alpha = 1$ .

4.1.2. **The second equation.** Consider the second  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional fractional mKdV equation as follows [26].

$$D_t^\alpha u + 6D_y^\alpha u^3 + D_{xyz}^{3\alpha} u = 0. \tag{4.21}$$

Applying the wave transformation (4.2) and integrating the resulting equation with zero constant of integration, gives

$$-rY + 6bY^3 + abcY'' = 0. \tag{4.22}$$

Besides, we obtain  $N = 1$  by homogeneous balancing. So, Eq. (4.22) has a solution as Eq. (4.5). Substituting Eqs. (4.5), (4.6) into Eq. (4.22), and setting all the coefficients of  $\omega^0, \omega^{-1}, \omega^{-2}$ , and  $\omega^{-3}$  equal to zero, leads to:



$$\omega^0 : -rc_0 + 6bc_0^3 = 0, \tag{4.23}$$

$$\omega^{-1} : abcc_1\omega''' - rc_1\omega' + 18bc_0^2c_1\omega' = 0, \tag{4.24}$$

$$\omega^{-2} : 18bc_0c_1^2\omega'^2 - 3abcc_1\omega'\omega'' = 0, \tag{4.25}$$

and

$$\omega^{-3} : 6bc_1^3\omega'^3 + 2abcc_1\omega'^3 = 0. \tag{4.26}$$

From equations ((4.23)-(4.26)), we can get the following results:

$$c_0 = \pm \frac{\sqrt{r}}{\sqrt{6b}}, \quad b, r > 0, \tag{4.27}$$

$$abc\omega''' + 2r\omega' = 0, \tag{4.28}$$

$$\omega' = \frac{ac}{6c_0c_1}\omega'', \tag{4.29}$$

and

$$c_1 = \pm \frac{\sqrt{-ac}}{\sqrt{3}}, \quad ac < 0. \tag{4.30}$$

Substituting (4.27) and (4.30) into Eq. (4.29) gives

$$\omega' = -\frac{\sqrt{-abc}}{\sqrt{2r}}\omega'', \tag{4.31}$$

which is the same as Eq. (4.16). Substituting (4.31) into Eq. (4.28), gives a similar equation as Eq. (4.17). Hence, Eq. (4.21) has a solution as follows.

$$u(x, y, z, t) = \pm \left( \frac{\sqrt{r}}{\sqrt{6b}} + \frac{\sqrt{-ac}}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{B\gamma e^{-\gamma(a\frac{x^\alpha}{\alpha} + b\frac{y^\alpha}{\alpha} + c\frac{z^\alpha}{\alpha} - r\frac{t^\alpha}{\alpha})}}{A + B e^{-\gamma(a\frac{x^\alpha}{\alpha} + b\frac{y^\alpha}{\alpha} + c\frac{z^\alpha}{\alpha} - r\frac{t^\alpha}{\alpha})}} \right). \tag{4.32}$$

For  $b = a = 1, r = 6, A = B = 1$  and  $c = -3$ , we have

$$u(x, y, z, t) = \pm \left( 1 + 2 \frac{e^{-\frac{2}{\alpha}(x^\alpha + y^\alpha - 3z^\alpha - 6t^\alpha)}}{1 + e^{-\frac{2}{\alpha}(x^\alpha + y^\alpha - 3z^\alpha - 6t^\alpha)}} \right). \tag{4.33}$$

The solution  $u(x, y, z, t)$  in Eq. (4.33) with positive sign, at  $x = z = t = 1$  and for  $\alpha = 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1$  is shown in Figure 3. Also, in Figure 4, the solution  $u(x, y, z, t)$  in Eq. (4.33) at  $x = z = 1$  and for  $\alpha = 1$  is plotted.



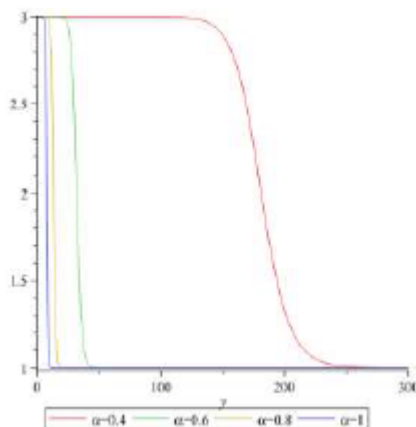


FIGURE 3. The solution  $u(1, y, 1)$  in Eq. (4.33) for different values of  $\alpha$ .

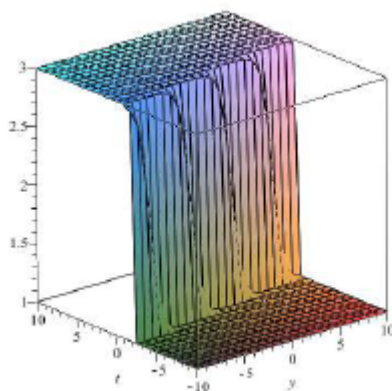


FIGURE 4. The solution  $u(1, y, 1, t)$  in Eq. (4.33) for  $\alpha = 1$ .

4.1.3. **The third equation.** Consider the third (3+1)-dimensional conformable space-time fractional mKdV equation as follows [26].

$$D_t^\alpha u + 6D_z^\alpha u^3 + D_{xyz}^{3\alpha} u = 0. \tag{4.34}$$

Applying the wave transformation (4.2) and integrating the resulting equation with zero constant of integration, gives

$$-rY + 6cY^3 + abcY'' = 0. \tag{4.35}$$

Also, homogeneous balancing results in  $N = 1$ . So, Eq. (4.35) has a solution as Eq. (4.5).

By substituting Eqs. (4.5)-(4.6) into Eq. (4.35), and setting all the coefficients of  $\omega^0, \omega^{-1}, \omega^{-2}$ , and  $\omega^{-3}$  equal to zero, we get:





$$\omega^0 : -rc_0 + 6cc_0^3 = 0, \tag{4.36}$$

$$\omega^{-1} : abcc_1\omega''' - rc_1\omega' + 18cc_0^2c_1\omega' = 0, \tag{4.37}$$

$$\omega^{-2} : 18cc_0c_1^2\omega'^2 - 3abcc_1\omega'\omega'' = 0, \tag{4.38}$$

and

$$\omega^{-3} : 6cc_1^3\omega'^3 + 2abcc_1\omega'^3 = 0. \tag{4.39}$$

Manipulating equations ((4.36), (4.39)), gives the following results.

$$c_0 = \pm \frac{\sqrt{r}}{\sqrt{6c}}, \quad c, r > 0, \tag{4.40}$$

$$abc\omega''' + 2r\omega' = 0, \tag{4.41}$$

$$\omega' = \frac{ab}{6c_0c_1}\omega'', \tag{4.42}$$

and

$$c_1 = \pm \frac{\sqrt{-ab}}{\sqrt{3}}, \quad ab < 0. \tag{4.43}$$

Substituting (4.40) and (4.43) into Eq. (4.42) and then substituting the resulted equation into Eq. (4.41), gives a similar equation as Eq. (4.17). Finally, Eq. (4.34) has a solution as follows.

$$u(x, y, z, t) = \pm \left( \frac{\sqrt{r}}{\sqrt{6c}} + \frac{\sqrt{-ab}}{\sqrt{3}} \frac{B\gamma e^{-\gamma\left(a\frac{x^\alpha}{\alpha} + b\frac{y^\alpha}{\alpha} + c\frac{z^\alpha}{\alpha} - r\frac{t^\alpha}{\alpha}\right)}}{A + B e^{-\gamma\left(a\frac{x^\alpha}{\alpha} + b\frac{y^\alpha}{\alpha} + c\frac{z^\alpha}{\alpha} - r\frac{t^\alpha}{\alpha}\right)}} \right). \tag{4.44}$$

For  $a = 4, c = 0.5, r = 3, A = B = 1$  and  $b = -3$ , we have

$$u(x, y, z, t) = \pm \left( 1 + 2 \frac{e^{\frac{-1}{\alpha}(4x^\alpha - 3y^\alpha + 0.5z^\alpha - 3t^\alpha)}}{1 + e^{\frac{-1}{\alpha}(4x^\alpha - 3y^\alpha + 0.5z^\alpha - 3t^\alpha)}} \right). \tag{4.45}$$

The solution  $u(x, y, z, t)$  in Eq. (4.45) with positive sign, at  $x = y = t = 1$  and for  $\alpha = 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1$  is shown in Figure 1. Also, in Figure 2, the solution  $u(x, y, z, t)$  in Eq. (4.45) at  $x = y = 1$  and for  $\alpha = 1$  is plotted.



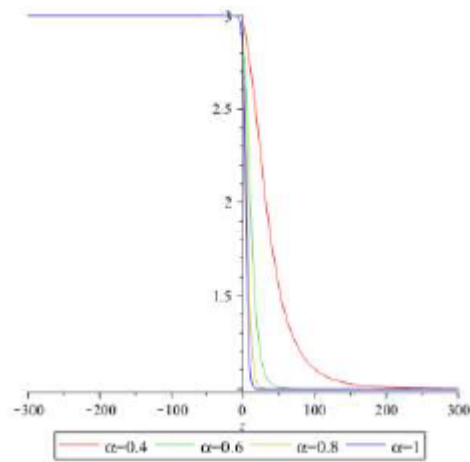


FIGURE 5. The solution  $u(1, 1, z, 1)$  in Eq. (4.45) for different values of  $\alpha$ .

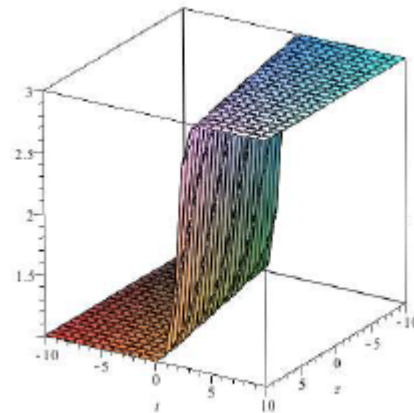


FIGURE 6. The solution  $u(1, 1, z, t)$  in Eq. (4.45) for  $\alpha = 1$ .

## 5. CONCLUSION

In this work, MSEM has been utilized to obtain exact solutions for three types of  $(3 + 1)$  dimensional space-time conformable fractional derivatives mKdV equations. By this method, a system of algebraic equations is derived which is possible to be solved easily with no need of using software. Also, 3-dimensional (3D) and 2-dimensional representations (2D) of all studied three types of  $(3 + 1)$ -dimensional space-time conformable fractional derivatives mKdV equations have been given in Figures 1-6. These figures show the kink soliton solutions for different values of  $\alpha$ , parameters, and variables. Results show that this method can provide a reliable technique for constructing exact solutions for mKdV equations and it can be employed for other nonlinear  $(3 + 1)$  - dimensional space-time fractional equations.



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