

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

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# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Fractional calculus' origin



Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz  
1646-1716

Leibniz replied: "It leads to a paradox, from which one day useful consequences will be drawn."



Guillaume de l'Hôpital  
1661-1704

*Fractional calculus* is not a new topic, in reality it has almost the same history as that of the classical one. It goes back to **30 September 1695** when **G. W. l'Hôpital's** and **G. de Leibniz** had some conversations via mail.

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## A timeline of fractional calculus during 1650-1950

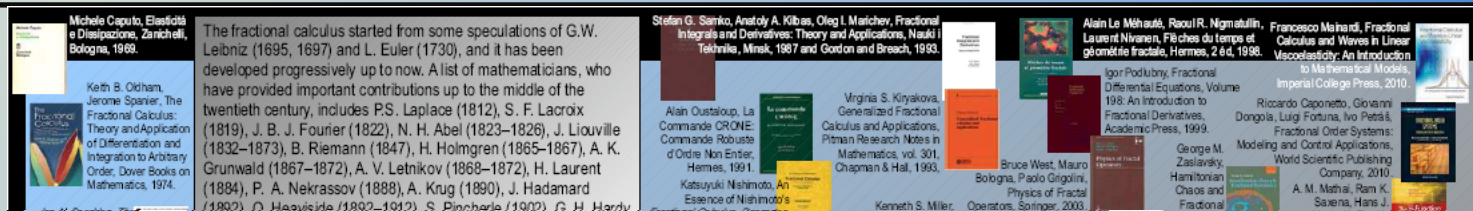


A poster about the old history of fractional calculus, J. A. Tenreiro Machado, Virginia Kiryakova, Francesco Mainardi, *Fractional Calculus and Applied Analysis* 13(4), 447-454, 2010.

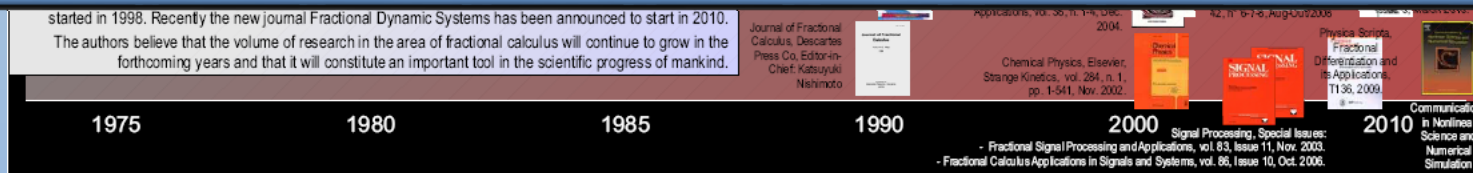


# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## A timeline of fractional calculus during 1975-2010

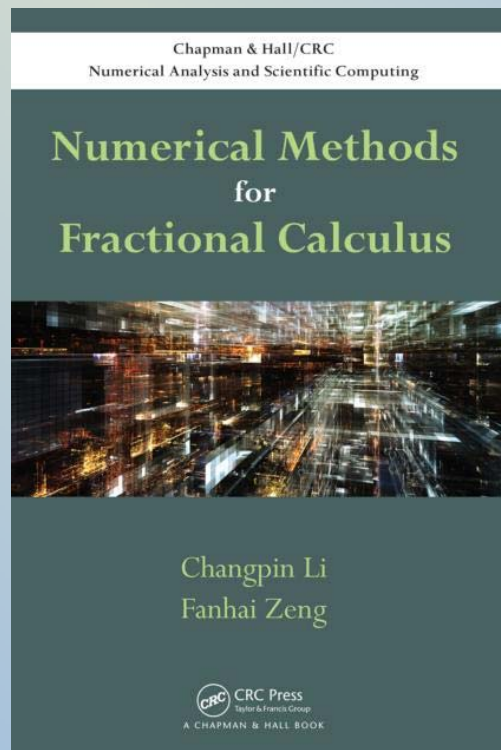


A poster about the recent history of fractional calculus, J. A. Tenreiro Machado, Virginia Kiryakova, Francesco Mainardi, *Fractional Calculus and Applied Analysis* 13(3), 329-334, 2010.



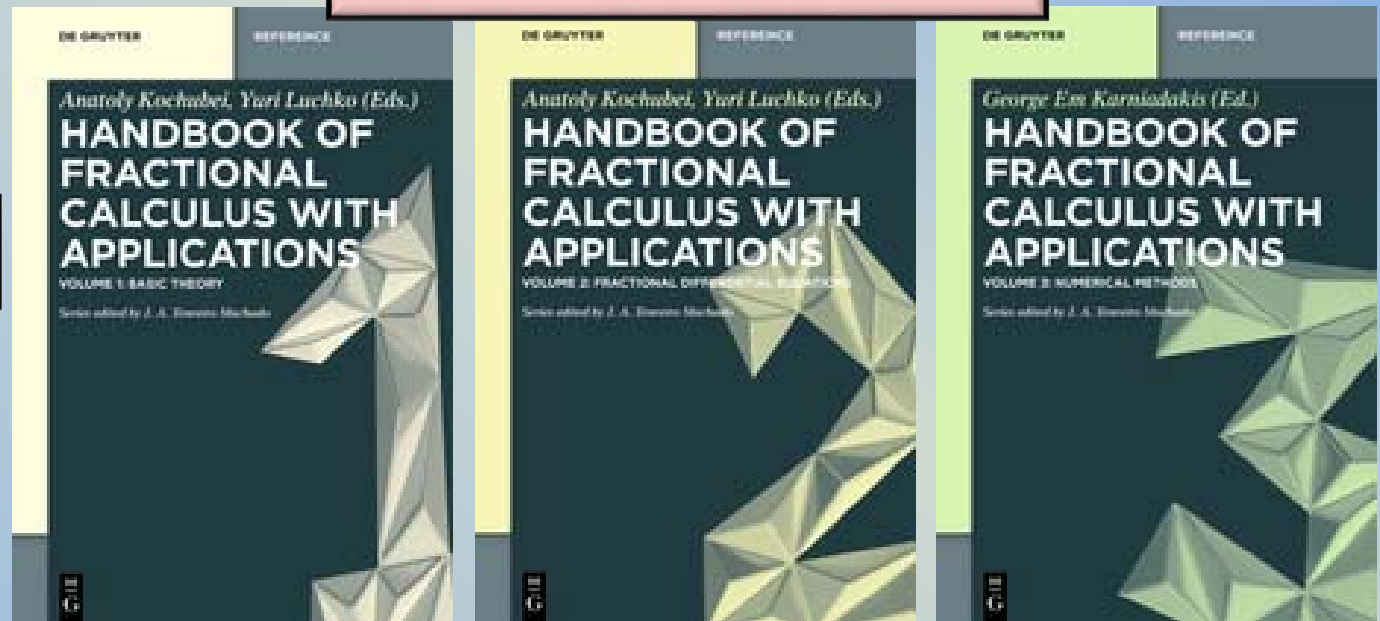


# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs



Main reference

Other references



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

- **Introduction to fractional calculus**
- Numerical methods for fractional integral and derivatives
- Numerical methods for fractional ODEs
- FDM for fractional PDEs
- FEM for fractional PDEs

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### What is *fractional calculus*?

#### Definition

**Fractional calculus**, as its name suggests, refers to fractional integration and fractional differentiation. In other words, the theory of integrals and derivatives of arbitrary order, may unify and generalize the notion of integer-order differentiation and integration. It does not mean the **calculus of fractions**, neither does it mean a **fraction of calculus**.

**Fractional calculus** is often regarded as a branch of mathematical analysis which deals with integro-differential equations where the integrals are of the convolution type and exhibit (weakly singular) kernels of the power-law type.

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

Introduction to fractional calculus

## Fractional calculus

Fractional integration

Riemann-Liouville integral

Fractional differentiation

Grünwald-Letnikov derivative

Riemann-Liouville derivative

Riesz derivative

Caputo derivative



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Riemann-Liouville fractional integral

$n$ -fold definite integral

$$\int_a^x dx \int_a^x dx \cdots \int_a^x f(x) dx = \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \int_a^x (x-t)^{n-1} f(t) dt$$

left- and right-hand sided Riemann–Liouville fractional integrals

$$D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_a^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} f(s) ds$$

$$\alpha > 0$$

$$f \in L^1(a, b)$$

$$\Gamma(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^{s-1} ds$$

$$D_{t,b}^{-\alpha} f(t) = {}_{RL}D_{t,b}^{-\alpha} f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_t^b (s-t)^{\alpha-1} f(s) ds$$

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Riemann-Liouville fractional integral

#### Some useful properties

*left and right Riemann–Liouville fractional integral*

$$D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} D_{a,t}^{-\beta} f(t) = D_{a,t}^{-\beta} D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = D_{a,t}^{-\alpha-\beta} f(t)$$

$\alpha, \beta > 0$

$$D_{t,b}^{-\alpha} D_{t,b}^{-\beta} f(t) = D_{t,b}^{-\beta} D_{t,b}^{-\alpha} f(t) = D_{t,b}^{-\alpha-\beta} f(t)$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow a} D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow b} D_{t,b}^{-\alpha} f(t) = 0, \quad \forall \alpha > 0$$

*If  $f(t)$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$*

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Grünwald-Letnikov fractional derivative

the *original formula* for derivatives of order  $n$

$$D_x^n(f(t)) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j \binom{n}{j} f(x - jh)}{h^n}$$

*left and right Grünwald-Letnikov derivatives*

$${}_G L D_{a,t}^\alpha f(t) = \lim_{\substack{h \rightarrow 0 \\ Nh = t-a}} h^{-\alpha} \sum_{j=0}^N (-1)^j \binom{\alpha}{j} f(t - jh)$$

$$\alpha > 0$$

$${}_G L D_{t,b}^\alpha f(t) = \lim_{\substack{h \rightarrow 0 \\ Nh = b-t}} h^{-\alpha} \sum_{j=0}^N (-1)^j \binom{\alpha}{j} f(t + jh)$$

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative

*left and right Riemann–Liouville derivatives*

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) &= \frac{d^m}{dt^m} \left[ D_{a,t}^{-(m-\alpha)} f(t) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \frac{d^m}{dt^m} \int_a^t (t-s)^{m-\alpha-1} f(s) ds \end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha > 0$$

$$m-1 \leq \alpha < m$$

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{RL}D_{t,b}^{\alpha} f(t) &= (-1)^m \frac{d^m}{dt^m} \left[ D_{t,b}^{-(m-\alpha)} f(t) \right] \\ &= \frac{(-1)^m}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \frac{d^m}{dt^m} \int_t^b (s-t)^{m-\alpha-1} f(s) ds \end{aligned}$$

The left-inverse operators to the corresponding fractional RL integrals



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative

#### Some useful properties

$$D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} \left( {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) \right) = f(t) - \sum_{j=1}^m \left[ {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{\alpha-j} f(t) \right]_{t=a} \frac{(t-a)^{\alpha-j}}{\Gamma(\alpha-j+1)}$$

$m-1 \leq \alpha < m$ ,  $m$  is a positive integer.

$$D_{t,b}^{-\alpha} \left( {}_{RL}D_{t,b}^{\alpha} f(t) \right) = f(t) - \sum_{j=1}^m \left[ {}_{RL}D_{t,b}^{\alpha-j} f(t) \right]_{t=b} \frac{(b-t)^{\alpha-j}}{\Gamma(\alpha-j+1)}$$



$$D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = f(t), \quad D_{t,b}^{-\alpha} {}_{RL}D_{t,b}^{\alpha} f(t) = f(t)$$

$$\left[ {}_{RL}f^{(j)}(a) \right] = D_{a,t}^{-\beta} \left( {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) \right) = {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{\alpha-\beta} f(t) - \sum_{j=1}^m \left[ {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{\alpha-j} f(t) \right]_{t=a} \frac{(t-a)^{\beta-j}}{\Gamma(1+\beta-j)},$$

$${}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{\alpha} D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = f(t)$$

$${}_{RL}D_{t,b}^{\alpha} D_{t,b}^{-\alpha} f(t) = f(t)$$

$$D_{t,b}^{-\beta} \left( {}_{RL}D_{t,b}^{\alpha} f(t) \right) = {}_{RL}D_{t,b}^{\alpha-\beta} f(t) - \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{(b-t)^{\beta-j}}{\Gamma(1+\beta-j)}.$$



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative

#### Some useful properties

$${}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\alpha} \left( {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\beta} f(t) \right) = {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\alpha+\beta} f(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n \left[ {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\beta-j} f(t) \right]_{t=a} \frac{(t-a)^{-\alpha-j}}{\Gamma(1-\alpha-j)}$$

$$m-1 \leq \alpha < m, n-1 \leq \beta < n$$

$${}_R\mathcal{D}_{t,b}^{\alpha} \left( {}_R\mathcal{D}_{t,b}^{\beta} f(t) \right) = {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\alpha+\beta} f(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n \left[ {}_R\mathcal{D}_{t,b}^{\beta-j} f(t) \right]_{t=b} \frac{(b-t)^{-\alpha-j}}{\Gamma(1-\alpha-j)}$$

$$\left[ {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\beta-j} f(t) \right]_{t=a} = \left[ {}_R\mathcal{D}_{b,t}^{\beta-j} f(t) \right]_{t=b} \left[ {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\alpha-k} f(t) \right]_{t=a} = \left[ {}_R\mathcal{D}_{b,t}^{\alpha-k} f(t) \right]_{t=b} = 0$$



$$\begin{aligned} {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\alpha} \left( {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\beta} f(t) \right) &= {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\beta} \left( {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) \right) = {}_R\mathcal{D}_{a,t}^{\alpha+\beta} f(t) \\ {}_R\mathcal{D}_{t,b}^{\alpha} \left( {}_R\mathcal{D}_{t,b}^{\beta} f(t) \right) &= {}_R\mathcal{D}_{t,b}^{\beta} \left( {}_R\mathcal{D}_{t,b}^{\alpha} f(t) \right) = {}_R\mathcal{D}_{t,b}^{\alpha+\beta} f(t) \end{aligned}$$

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Caputo fractional derivative

*left and right Caputo derivatives*

$$\begin{aligned} {}_C D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) &= D_{a,t}^{-(m-\alpha)} \left[ f^{(m)}(t) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \int_a^t (t-s)^{m-\alpha-1} f^{(m)}(s) ds \end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha > 0$$

$$m-1 < \alpha \leq m$$

$${}_C D_{t,b}^{\alpha} f(t) = \frac{(-1)^m}{\Gamma(m-\alpha)} \int_t^b (s-t)^{m-\alpha-1} f^{(m)}(s) ds$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow a} {}_C D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow b} {}_C D_{t,b}^{\alpha} f(t) = 0, \quad \alpha > 0$$

$f(t)$  is sufficiently smooth and  $f^{(m)}$  is bounded

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Caputo fractional derivative

#### Some useful properties

$${}_CD_{a,t}^{\beta} \left( D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) \right) = \begin{cases} D_{a,t}^{-(\alpha-\beta)} f(t), & \beta \leq \alpha \text{ or } \alpha < \beta, \alpha \in \mathbb{N}, \\ {}_CD_{a,t}^{\beta-\alpha} f(t) + \sum_{k=0}^{n-m} \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{\Gamma(k+1+\alpha-\beta)} (t-a)^{k+\alpha-\beta}, & \alpha < \beta, m-1 < \alpha < m, n-1 < \beta < n, m, n \in \mathbb{N}. \end{cases}$$

$${}_CD_{t,b}^{\beta} \left( D_{t,b}^{-\alpha} f(t) \right) = \begin{cases} D_{t,b}^{-(\alpha-\beta)} f(t), & \beta \leq \alpha \text{ or } \alpha < \beta, \alpha \in \mathbb{N}, \\ {}_CD_{t,b}^{\beta-\alpha} f(t) + \sum_{k=0}^{n-m} \frac{f^{(k)}(b)}{\Gamma(k+1+\alpha-\beta)} (b-t)^{k+\alpha-\beta}, & \alpha < \beta, m-1 < \alpha < m, n-1 < \beta < n, m, n \in \mathbb{N}. \end{cases}$$

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Caputo fractional derivative

#### Some useful properties

$${}_C D_{a,t}^{\beta} {}_C D_{a,t}^m f(t) = {}_C D_{a,t}^{m+\beta} f(t), \quad \beta > 0, m \in \mathbb{N}$$

$${}_R L D_{a,t}^m ({}_R L D_{a,t}^{\beta} f(t)) = {}_R L D_{a,t}^{m+\beta} f(t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} {}_C D_{a,t}^m {}_C D_{a,t}^{\beta} f(t) &= {}_R L D_{a,t}^m {}_R L D_{a,t}^{-(n-\beta)} f^{(n)}(t) = {}_R L D_{a,t}^{m-n-\beta} f^{(n)}(t) \\ &= {}_R L D_{a,t}^{m+\beta} f(t) - \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{f^{(j)}(a)}{\Gamma(1+j-m-\beta)} (t-a)^{j-m-\beta} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} {}_R L D_{a,t}^{\beta} ({}_R L D_{a,t}^m f(t)) &= {}_R L D_{a,t}^{\beta+m} f(t) - \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{f^{(m-j)}(a)}{\Gamma(1-\beta-j)} (t-a)^{-\beta-j} \\ &= {}_R L D_{a,t}^{\beta+m} f(t) - \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \frac{f^{(j)}(a)}{\Gamma(1+j-\beta-m)} (t-a)^{j-\beta-m} \end{aligned}$$



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Riesz fractional derivative

*Riesz derivative*

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha f(t)}{\partial |t|^\alpha}$$

$${}_RZD_t^\alpha f(t) = c_\alpha \left( {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^\alpha f(t) + {}_{RL}D_{t,b}^\alpha f(t) \right)$$

$$c_\alpha = -\frac{1}{2\cos(\alpha\pi/2)}, \alpha \neq 2k+1, k=0,1,\dots$$

#### Remark

In the above definitions, the initial value  $a$  is often set to zero. When we say the fractional integral (or Riemann–Liouville integral), the Grünwald–Letnikov derivative, the Riemann–Liouville derivative, and the Caputo derivative, we often mean the **left** fractional integral/derivative.

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Some relations between fractional derivatives

$$f \in C^m[a, b]$$

$${}_{{RL}}D_{a,t}^\alpha f(t) = {}_{{GL}}D_{a,t}^\alpha f(t), \quad {}_{{RL}}D_{t,b}^\alpha f(t) = {}_{{GL}}D_{t,b}^\alpha f(t)$$

$$f \in C^{m-1}[a, t] \text{ and } f^{(m)} \text{ is integrable on } [a, t]$$

$${}_{{RL}}D_{a,t}^\alpha f(t) = {}_{{C}}D_{a,t}^\alpha f(t) + \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} \frac{f^{(k)}(a)(t-a)^{k-\alpha}}{\Gamma(k+1-\alpha)}$$
$$m-1 < \alpha < m$$

$$f^{(k)}(a) = 0 \quad (k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m-1, m-1 < \alpha < m)$$

$${}_{{RL}}D_{a,t}^\alpha f(t) = {}_{{C}}D_{a,t}^\alpha f(t)$$

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Some relations between fractional and ordinary derivatives

$f(t)$  is suitably smooth,  $m - 1 < \alpha < m$ ,  $m$  is a positive integer

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow m^-} {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = f^{(m)}(t), \quad \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow (m-1)^+} {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = f^{(m-1)}(t);$$

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow m^-} {}_CD_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = f^{(m)}(t), \quad \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow (m-1)^+} {}_CD_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = f^{(m-1)}(t) - f^{(m-1)}(0)$$

#### Remark

Obviously, the Riemann–Liouville derivative is reduced to the classical derivative when the fractional order  $\alpha$  approaches an integer for the fixed  $t$ , but it is not the case for the Caputo derivative if the homogeneous initial conditions are not satisfied.

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Some other properties of fractional derivatives

*Leibniz rule*

$$\frac{d^n}{dt^n} (g(t)f(t)) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} g^{(k)}(t) f^{(n-k)}(t)$$

*Leibniz rule for fractional differentiation*

$$f(t) = 1$$

$${}_R L D_{a,t}^{\alpha} (g(t)f(t)) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{\alpha}{k} g^{(k)}(t) f^{(\alpha-k)}(t)$$

$$f^{(\alpha-k)}(t) = {}_R L D_{a,t}^{\alpha-k} f(t)$$


$${}_R L D_{a,t}^{\alpha} g(t) = \frac{(t-a)^{-\alpha}}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} g(t) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \binom{\alpha}{k} \frac{(t-a)^{k-\alpha}}{\Gamma(1-\alpha+k)} g^{(k)}(t)$$



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Some other properties of fractional derivatives

$${}_R L D_{a,t}^{\alpha} g(t) = \frac{(t-a)^{-\alpha}}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} g(t) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \binom{\alpha}{k} \frac{(t-a)^{k-\alpha}}{\Gamma(1-\alpha+k)} g^{(k)}(t)$$

$g(t) = F(h(t))$

$$\frac{d^k}{dt^k} F(h(t)) = k! \sum_{m=1}^k F^{(m)}(h(t)) \sum_{r=1}^k \prod_{r=1}^k \frac{1}{a_r!} \left( \frac{h^{(r)}(t)}{r!} \right)^{a_r}$$

$${}_R L D_{a,t}^{\alpha} F(h(t)) = \frac{(t-a)^{-\alpha}}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} F(h(t)) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \binom{\alpha}{k} \frac{k!(t-a)^{k-\alpha}}{\Gamma(1-\alpha+k)} \sum_{m=1}^k F^{(m)}(h(t)) \sum_{r=1}^k \prod_{r=1}^k \frac{1}{a_r!} \left( \frac{h^{(r)}(t)}{r!} \right)^{a_r}$$

*fractional derivative of a composite function*

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Some other properties of fractional derivatives

$$f(t) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{\Gamma(1+k)} (t-a)^k + D_{a,t}^{-n} f^{(n)}(t)$$

Applying the Riemann–Liouville derivative operator

$${}_R L D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{\Gamma(1+k-\alpha)} (t-a)^{k-\alpha} + D_{a,t}^{\alpha-n} f^{(n)}(t), \quad \alpha < n$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow a+0} {}_R L D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & \alpha < 0, \\ f(a), & \alpha = 0, \\ \infty, & \alpha > 0. \end{cases}$$

$$f(t) = 1$$

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Laplace transform of the RL fractional integral

*Laplace transform of a given function  $f(t)$*

$$F(s) = L\{f(t); s\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t) dt$$

$|f(t)| \leq Me^{\mu t}$  holds for all  $t > T$

$$f(t) * g(t) = \int_0^t f(t-s)g(s) ds = \int_0^t f(s)g(t-s) ds$$

$$L\{f(t) * g(t); s\} = F(s)G(s)$$

$$g(t) = t^{\alpha-1}$$

$$D_{0,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} f(s) ds = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} t^{\alpha-1} * f(t)$$

*Laplace transform of the fractional integral*

$$L\{D_{0,t}^{-\alpha} f(t); s\} = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} L\{t^{\alpha-1} * f(t); s\} = s^{-\alpha} L\{f(t); s\} = s^{-\alpha} F(s)$$



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Laplace transform of the RL fractional derivative

$$L\{f^{(n)}(t); s\} = s^n L\{f(t); s\} - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} s^{n-k-1} f^{(k)}(0) = s^n L\{f(t); s\} - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} s^k f^{(n-k-1)}(0)$$

$$g(t) = D_{0,t}^{-(m-\alpha)} f(t) \quad \longrightarrow \quad {}_{RL}D_{0,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = g^{(m)}(t)$$

$$\longrightarrow L\{{}_{RL}D_{0,t}^{\alpha} f(t); s\} = L\{g^{(m)}(t); s\} = s^m L\{g(t); s\} - \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} s^k g^{(m-k-1)}(0)$$

$$L\{g(t); s\} = L\{D_{0,t}^{-(m-\alpha)} f(t); s\} = s^{-(m-\alpha)} L\{f(t); s\}$$

### *Laplace transform of the Riemann–Liouville derivative*

$$L\{{}_{RL}D_{0,t}^{\alpha} f(t); s\} = s^{\alpha} L\{f(t); s\} - \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} s^k \left[ {}_{RL}D_{0,t}^{\alpha-k-1} f(t) \right]_{t=0}, \quad m-1 \leq \alpha < m$$



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Laplace transform of the Caputo fractional derivative

$${}_CD_{0,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = D_{0,t}^{-(m-\alpha)} g(t), \quad g(t) = f^{(m)}(t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} L\{{}_CD_{0,t}^{\alpha} f(t); s\} &= L\{D_{0,t}^{-(m-\alpha)} g(t); s\} = s^{-(m-\alpha)} L\{g(t); s\} \\ &= s^{-(m-\alpha)} \left[ s^m L\{f(t); s\} - \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} s^{m-k-1} f^{(k)}(0) \right] \\ &= s^{\alpha} L\{f(t); s\} - \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} s^{\alpha-k-1} f^{(k)}(0). \end{aligned}$$

### *Laplace transform of the Caputo derivative*

$$L\{{}_CD_{0,t}^{\alpha} f(t); s\} = s^{\alpha} L\{f(t); s\} - \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} s^{\alpha-k-1} f^{(k)}(0), \quad m-1 < \alpha \leq m$$

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Fourier transform of the RL fractional integral

$$F\{f(t); \omega\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\omega t} f(t) dt$$

$$f(t) * g(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t-s)g(s) ds = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(s)g(t-s) ds$$

$$F\{f(t) * g(t); \omega\} = F\{f(t); \omega\}F\{g(t); \omega\}$$

$$h_+(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{t^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)}, & t > 0, \\ 0, & t = 0. \end{cases}$$

$$0 < \alpha < 1$$

$$F\{h_+(t); \omega\} = (i\omega)^{-\alpha}$$

$$D_{-\infty, t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = h_+(t) * f(t)$$

$$F\{h_+(-t); \omega\} = (-i\omega)^{-\alpha}$$

$$D_{t, \infty}^{-\alpha} f(t) = h_+(-t) * f(t)$$

left

$$F\{D_{-\infty, t}^{-\alpha} f(t); \omega\} = F\{h_+(t) * f(t); \omega\} = F\{h_+(t); \omega\}F\{f(t); \omega\} \\ = (i\omega)^{-\alpha} F\{f(t); \omega\}.$$

$$F\{D_{t, \infty}^{-\alpha} f(t); \omega\} = F\{h_+(-t); \omega\}F\{f(t); \omega\} = (-i\omega)^{-\alpha} F\{f(t); \omega\}$$

right

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Fourier transform of the fractional derivative

If  $f^{(k)}(t)$  ( $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ ) vanish as  $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$

$$F\{f^{(n)}(t); \omega\} = (i\omega)^n F\{f(t); \omega\}$$

$f(t)$  is sufficiently smooth and  $f^{(k)}(-\infty)$  ( $k = 0, 1, \dots, m-1$ ) are bounded

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} {}_{GL}D_{t,\infty}^\alpha f(t) \\ {}_{RL}D_{t,\infty}^\alpha f(t) \\ {}_CD_{t,\infty}^\alpha f(t) \end{array} \right\} = (-1)^m D_{t,\infty}^{-(m-\alpha)} f^{(m)}(t), \quad m-1 < \alpha < m$$

$$\begin{aligned} F\{{}_{RL}D_{-\infty,t}^\alpha f(t); \omega\} &= F\{{}_{RL}D_{-\infty,t}^{-(m-\alpha)} f^{(m)}(t); \omega\} \\ &= (i\omega)^{-(m-\alpha)} F\{f^{(m)}(t); \omega\} = (i\omega)^{-(m-\alpha)} (i\omega)^m F\{f(t); \omega\} \\ &= (i\omega)^\alpha F\{f(t); \omega\}. \end{aligned}$$

$$F\{{}_{RL}D_{t,\infty}^\alpha f(t); \omega\} = (-i\omega)^\alpha F\{f(t); \omega\}$$



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Directional integral and derivative in $\mathbb{R}^2$

*$\alpha$ -th order fractional integral in the direction of  $\theta$*

$$D_{\theta}^{-\alpha} u(x, y) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^{\infty} \xi^{\alpha-1} u(x - \xi \cos \theta, y - \xi \sin \theta) d\xi$$

$$\alpha > 0, \theta \in [0, 2\pi)$$

$$D_0^{-\alpha} u(x, y) = D_{-\infty, x}^{-\alpha} u(x, y),$$

$$D_{\pi/2}^{-\alpha} u(x, y) = D_{-\infty, y}^{-\alpha} u(x, y),$$

$$D_{\pi}^{-\alpha} u(x, y) = D_{x, \infty}^{-\alpha} u(x, y),$$

$$D_{3\pi/2}^{-\alpha} u(x, y) = D_{y, \infty}^{-\alpha} u(x, y).$$

*$\alpha$ -th order fractional derivative in the direction  $\theta$*

$$D_{\theta}^{\alpha} u(x, y) = D_{\theta}^n D_{\theta}^{-(n-\alpha)} u(x, y)$$

$$n - 1 \leq \alpha < n, \theta \in [0, 2\pi)$$

$$D_{\theta}^n u(x, y) = \left( \cos \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right)^n u(x, y)$$



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Directional integral and derivative in $\mathbb{R}^2$

$$\alpha, \beta > 0, \theta \in [0, 2\pi), u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$$

$$D_{\theta}^{-\alpha} D_{\theta}^{-\beta} u(x, y) = D_{\theta}^{-\alpha-\beta} u(x, y)$$

$$\alpha > 0, \theta \in [0, 2\pi), u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$$

$$D_{\theta}^{\alpha} D_{\theta}^{-\alpha} u(x, y) = u(x, y)$$

$$F\{u(x, y); \omega\} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} e^{-i(\omega_1 x + \omega_2 y)} u(x, y) dx dy$$

$$F\{D_{\theta}^{-\alpha} u(x, y); \omega\} = (i\omega_1 \cos \theta + i\omega_2 \sin \theta)^{-\alpha} F\{u(x, y); \omega\}$$

$$u \in C_0^{\infty}(\Omega), \Omega \in \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ and } \alpha > 0$$

$$F\{D_{\theta}^{\alpha} u(x, y); \omega\} = (i\omega_1 \cos \theta + i\omega_2 \sin \theta)^{\alpha} F\{u(x, y); \omega\}$$

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Partial fractional derivative

#### Partial RL derivative of order $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2$

$${}_R L D_{x^{\alpha_1} y^{\alpha_2}}^{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2} u(x, y) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(m - \alpha_1) \Gamma(n - \alpha_2)} \frac{\partial^{m+n}}{\partial x^m \partial y^n} \\ \times \int_0^x \int_0^y (x-s)^{m-\alpha_1-1} (y-\tau)^{n-\alpha_2-1} u(s, \tau) d\tau ds$$

$m-1 < \alpha_1 < m, n-1 < \alpha_2 < n, m, n$  are positive integers

$${}_C D_{x_1^{\alpha_1} x_2^{\alpha_2} \dots x_\ell^{\alpha_\ell}}^{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_\ell} u(x, y)$$

#### Partial Caputo derivative of order $\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_\ell$

$$= \frac{1}{\prod_{k=1}^{\ell} \Gamma(m_k - \alpha_k)} \int_0^{x_1} \dots \int_0^{x_\ell} (x_\ell - \xi_\ell)^{m_\ell - \alpha_\ell - 1} \dots (x_1 - \xi_1)^{m_1 - \alpha_1 - 1} \\ \times \frac{\partial^{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_\ell}}{\partial \xi_1^{m_1} \partial \xi_2^{m_2} \dots \partial \xi_\ell^{m_\ell}} u(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_\ell) d\xi_1 \dots d\xi_\ell,$$

$m_k - 1 < \alpha_k < m_k (k = 1, 2, \dots, \ell), m_k$  are positive integers

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Fractional calculus versus classical calculus

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow (n-1)^+} {}_C D_{0,t}^{\alpha} x(t) = x^{(n-1)}(t) - x^{(n-1)}(0), \quad \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow n^-} {}_C D_{0,t}^{\alpha} x(t) = x^{(n)}(t) \quad \alpha \in (n-1, n)$$

The Caputo derivative is not the mathematical extension of a typical derivative.

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} 1-t, & t \in [0, 1], \\ t-1, & t \in (1, 1+t_0). \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} x'(t) \text{ exists on the domain } [0, 1) \cup (1, 1+t_0] \\ {}_{RL} D_{0,t}^{\alpha} x(t) \text{ } (\alpha \in (0, 1)) \text{ exists on the interval } (0, 1+t_0] \end{array}$$

The RL derivative is not the mathematical generalization of the typical derivative.

#### Remark

Overall, fractional calculus, closely related to classical calculus, is not direct generalization of classical calculus in the sense of rigorous mathematics.



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Geometrical and physical meaning of fractional integral/derivative

Recalling the area of the triangle, it means the viewpoint of physics, it implies the displacement from  $a$  to  $t$  if  $f(x) \geq 0$ . From the velocity at time  $x$ . The geometrical and physical meaning of the derivative is well known. On the other hand,  $D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = \int_a^t f(\tau) dY_\alpha(\tau)$  indicates the velocity at time  $t$ ,  $s''(t)$  the acceleration at time  $t$ . Now, we give a possible interpretation of the fractional calculus.

$$D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = {}_{RL}D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_a^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} f(s) ds$$

$$D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t) = \int_a^t f(\tau) dY_\alpha(\tau)$$

$$Y_\alpha(\tau) = \begin{cases} -\frac{(t-\tau)^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}, & \tau \in [a, t], \\ 0, & \tau < a. \end{cases}$$

This is the standard *Stieltjes integral*.  $Y_\alpha(\tau)$  is a monotonously increasing function in  $(-\infty, t]$ . The positive number  $\alpha$  is an index characterizing the singularity: the smaller  $\alpha$ , the stronger singularity the integral. If  $Y_\alpha(\tau) = \tau$ , the above integral is reduced to a typical one. So  $D_{a,t}^{-\alpha} f(t)$  indicates the generalized area in the sense of length  $Y_\alpha(\tau)$  (geometrical meaning) or the generalized displacement in the sense of  $Y_\alpha(\tau)$  if  $f(t)$  means the velocity at time  $t$  (physical meaning).



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Geometrical and physical meaning of fractional integral/derivative

$${}_R L D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \int_a^t f(\tau) dY_{1-\alpha}(\tau)$$

$$Y_{1-\alpha}(\tau) = \begin{cases} -\frac{(t-\tau)^{1-\alpha}}{\Gamma(2-\alpha)}, & \tau \in [a, t], \\ 0, & \tau < a. \end{cases}$$

Obviously,  $Y_{1-\alpha}(\tau)$  is a monotonously increasing function in  $(-\infty, t]$ . So  ${}_R L D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t)$  indicates the generalized slope in the sense of length  $Y_{1-\alpha}(\tau)$  if  $f(t)$  means the slope (geometrical meaning) or the generalized velocity in the sense of length  $Y_{1-\alpha}(\tau)$  if  $f(t)$  means the velocity (physical meaning). If  $Y_{1-\alpha}(\tau) = \tau$ , it is reduced to the classical case.

$${}_C D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t) = \int_a^t f'(\tau) dY_{1-\alpha}(\tau)$$

$$Y_{1-\alpha}(\tau) = \begin{cases} -\frac{(t-\tau)^{1-\alpha}}{\Gamma(2-\alpha)}, & \tau \in [a, t], \\ 0, & \tau < a. \end{cases}$$

So  ${}_C D_{a,t}^{\alpha} f(t)$  indicates the generalized displacement of the curve  $f(t)$  in the sense of length  $Y_{1-\alpha}(\tau)$  (physical meaning) if  $f(t)$  means the displacement, or represents the generalized curve in the sense of length  $Y_{1-\alpha}(\tau)$  if  $f(t)$  is a curve (geometrical meaning). If  $Y_{1-\alpha}(\tau) = \tau$ , the above integral is reduced to the typical one.

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

Fractional initial value problems

Caputo fractional differential equation

$${}_C D_{0,t}^{\alpha} x(t) = f(x, t), \quad n-1 < \alpha < n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

$${}_C D_{0,t}^{\alpha} x(t) = D_{0,t}^{-(n-\alpha)} D^n x(t) = D_{0,t}^{-(n-\alpha)} x^{(n)}(t)$$

Ordinary differential equation

$$x^{(n)}(t) = {}_{RL} D_{0,t}^{n-\alpha} f(x, t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha - n + 1)} \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^t (t - \tau)^{\alpha-n} f(x(\tau), \tau) d\tau =: F(x, t)$$

Necessary (for being well-posed) initial conditions

$$x^{(k)}(0) = x_0^{(k)}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$$

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Fractional initial value problems

#### RL fractional differential equation

$${}_RLD_{0,t}^{\alpha} x(t) = f(x, t), \quad n-1 < \alpha < n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

$${}_RLD_{0,t}^{\alpha} x(t) = \frac{d^n}{dt^n} {}_RLD_{0,t}^{-(n-\alpha)} x(t)$$

$$\frac{d^n}{dt^n} \left( {}_RLD_{0,t}^{-(n-\alpha)} x(t) \right) = f(x, t)$$

#### Necessary (for being well-posed) initial conditions

$$\frac{d^k}{dt^k} \left( {}_RLD_{0,t}^{-(n-\alpha)} x(t) \right)_{t=0} = {}_RLD_{0,t}^{k+\alpha-n} x(t)|_{t=0} = x_0^{(k)}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$$

# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Two-point fractional boundary value problem

$${}_RLD_{a,x}^{\alpha} y(x) = f(x, y), x \in (a, b), 1 < \alpha < 2$$

#### Necessary (for being well-posed) boundary conditions

- i)  ${}_RLD_{a,x}^{\alpha-2} y(x)|_{x=a} = c_1, {}_RLD_{x,b}^{\alpha-2} y(x)|_{x=b} = c_2,$
- ii)  ${}_RLD_{a,x}^{\alpha-1} y(x)|_{x=a} = c_3, {}_RLD_{x,b}^{\alpha-1} y(x)|_{x=b} = c_4,$
- iii)  ${}_RLD_{a,x}^{\alpha-2} y(x)|_{x=a} = c_1, {}_RLD_{x,b}^{\alpha-1} y(x)|_{x=b} = c_4,$
- iv)  ${}_RLD_{a,x}^{\alpha-1} y(x)|_{x=a} = c_3, {}_RLD_{x,b}^{\alpha-2} y(x)|_{x=b} = c_2.$



# Numerical solution of fractional PDEs

## Introduction to fractional calculus

### Fractional initial-boundary value problem

$${}_RLD_{0,t}^{\alpha} u(x,t) = {}_RLD_{a,x}^{\beta} u(x,t), t > 0, x \in (a,b), \alpha \in (0,1), \beta \in (1,2)$$

i) *Dirichlet type*

**Boundary conditions**

$${}_RLD_{a,x}^{\beta-2} u(x,t)|_{x=a} = \xi_1(t), {}_RLD_{x,b}^{\beta-2} u(x,t)|_{x=b} = \xi_2(t).$$

ii) *Neumann type*

$${}_RLD_{a,x}^{\beta-1} u(x,t)|_{x=a} = \xi_1(t), {}_RLD_{x,b}^{\beta-1} u(x,t)|_{x=b} = \xi_2(t).$$

iii) *Rubin type*

$$\left( {}_RLD_{a,x}^{\beta-1} u(x,t) - \sigma_1 {}_RLD_{a,x}^{\beta-2} u(x,t) \right)_{x=a} = \xi_1(t), \sigma_1 > 0,$$

$$\left( {}_RLD_{x,b}^{\beta-1} u(x,t) + \sigma_2 {}_RLD_{x,b}^{\beta-2} u(x,t) \right)_{x=b} = \xi_2(t), \sigma_2 > 0.$$

$$\alpha \in (1,2)$$

**Initial conditions**

$${}_RLD_{0,t}^{\alpha-2} u(x,t)|_{t=0} = \phi(x), {}_RLD_{0,t}^{\alpha-1} u(x,t)|_{t=0} = \psi(x)$$

**Thanks for your attention**  
**Any question?**