



# New approach for the Fornberg–Whitham type equations



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## ABSTRACT

This paper applies the reproducing kernel Hilbert space method to the solutions of three types of Fornberg–Whitham equations: original, modified and time fractional. Comparison with Adomian decomposition method, homotopy analysis method and the variational iteration method shows the validity and applicability of the technique.

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## 1. Introduction

The Fornberg–Whitham equation has caught much attention in recent years. Recently, there has been much work focusing on finding travelling wave solutions for this equation [1]. Eq. (1.1) was used to study the qualitative behaviour of wave-breaking [2]. Modifying the nonlinear term  $u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$  in Eq. (1.1) to  $u^2 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$ , He et al. proposed in [3] the modified Fornberg–Whitham equation. Possible travelling wave solutions of Eq. (1.1) were given in [4] and were classified in [5]. A linear dispersive Fornberg–Whitham equation was investigated in [6] where smooth and non-smooth travelling wave solutions were acquired. The global existence of solution to the viscous Fornberg–Whitham equation was shown in [7]. The boundary control of it was investigated in [8]. The variational iteration method (VIM) for the time-fractional Fornberg–Whitham equation was investigated by Saka et al. in [9].

In this paper, we consider the Fornberg–Whitham equation [10], modified Fornberg–Whitham equation [3] and time-fractional Fornberg–Whitham equation [9] of the forms:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = u \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} - u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + 3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad (1.1)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = u \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} - u^2 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + 3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad (1.2)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial u^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha} - \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = u \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} - u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + 3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}. \quad (1.3)$$

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The reproducing kernel Hilbert space method (RKHS) [11] is implemented for solving these equations. Numerical experiments are shown to verify the efficiency of the RKHS. The method is implemented for three numerical examples. The linear and nonlinear problems are solved by using RKHS.

The theory of reproducing kernels [12] was used for the first time at the beginning of the 20th century by Zaremba. Some researchers investigate much problems by RKHS recently [11]. For more details see [13–19].

This paper is prepared as follows. Section 2 gives useful reproducing kernel functions. The representation in  $W(\Omega)$  and a related linear operator are presented in Section 3. Section 4 presents the main results. The exact and approximate solutions of Eq. (1.2) and an iterative method are developed for the kind of problems in the reproducing kernel Hilbert space. We prove that the approximate solution converges uniformly to the exact solution. Numerical experiments are shown in Section 5. Applied examples are given in Section 6. Some conclusions are given in the final section.

## 2. Reproducing kernel functions

We give some useful reproducing kernel functions in this space.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $P \neq \emptyset$ . A function  $Z : P \times P \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called a *reproducing kernel function* of the Hilbert space  $H$  if and only if

- (a)  $Z(\cdot, x) \in H$  for all  $x \in P$ ,
- (b)  $\langle \varrho, Z(\cdot, x) \rangle = \varrho(x)$  for all  $x \in P$  and all  $\varrho \in H$ .

**Definition 2.2.**  $H_2^1[0, 1]$  is defined by:

$$H_2^1[0, 1] = \{v \in AC[0, 1] : v' \in L^2[0, 1]\}.$$

$$\langle v, g \rangle_{H_2^1} = v(0)g(0) + \int_0^1 v'(t)g'(t)dt, \quad v, g \in H_2^1[0, 1],$$

and

$$\|v\|_{H_2^1} = \sqrt{\langle v, v \rangle_{H_2^1}}, \quad v \in H_2^1[0, 1],$$

are the inner product and the norm for  $H_2^1[0, 1]$ , respectively.

**Lemma 2.3.** Reproducing kernel function  $q_s$  of reproducing kernel space  $H_2^1[0, 1]$  is presented by [11, page 123]:

$$q_s(t) = \begin{cases} 1+t, & t \leq s, \\ 1+s, & t > s. \end{cases}$$

**Definition 2.4.**  $F_2^2[0, 1]$  is given as:

$$F_2^2[0, 1] = \{v \in AC[0, 1] : v' \in AC[0, 1], v'' \in L^2[0, 1], v(0) = 0\}.$$

$$\langle v, g \rangle_{F_2^2} = \sum_{i=0}^1 v^{(i)}(0)g^{(i)}(0) + \int_0^1 v''(t)g''(t)dt, \quad v, g \in F_2^2[0, 1],$$

and

$$\|v\|_{F_2^2} = \sqrt{\langle v, v \rangle_{F_2^2}}, \quad v \in F_2^2[0, 1],$$

are the inner product and the norm of  $F_2^2[0, 1]$ , respectively.

**Lemma 2.5.** Reproducing kernel function  $r_s$  of  $F_2^2[0, 1]$  is given by [11, page 148]:

$$r_s(t) = \begin{cases} st + \frac{1}{2}st^2 - \frac{1}{6}t^3, & t \leq s, \\ ts + \frac{1}{2}ts^2 - \frac{1}{6}s^3, & t > s. \end{cases}$$

**Definition 2.6.** We define the space  $W_2^4[0, 1]$  by

$$W_2^4[0, 1] = \{v \in AC[0, 1] : v', v'', v^{(3)} \in AC[0, 1], v^{(4)} \in L^2[0, 1]\}.$$

$$\langle v, g \rangle_{W_2^4} = \sum_{i=0}^3 v^{(i)}(0)g^{(i)}(0) + \int_0^1 v^{(4)}(x)g^{(4)}(x)dx, \quad v, g \in W_2^4[0, 1],$$

and

$$\|v\|_{W_2^4} = \sqrt{\langle v, v \rangle_{W_2^4}}, \quad v \in W_2^4[0, 1],$$

are the inner product and the norm of  $W_2^4[0, 1]$ , respectively.

**Theorem 2.7.** Reproducing kernel function  $B_y$  of the reproducing kernel space  $W_2^4[0, 1]$  is acquired as:

$$B_y(x) = \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^8 c_i(y)x^{i-1}, & x \leq y, \\ \sum_{i=1}^8 d_i(y)x^{i-1}, & x > y, \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} c_1(y) &= 1, & c_2(y) &= y, & c_3(y) &= \frac{1}{4}y^2, & c_4(y) &= \frac{1}{36}y^3, \\ c_5(y) &= \frac{1}{144}y^3, & c_6(y) &= -\frac{1}{240}y^2, & c_7(y) &= \frac{1}{720}y, \\ c_8(y) &= -\frac{1}{5040}, & d_1(y) &= 1 - \frac{1}{5040}y^7, & d_2(y) &= y + \frac{1}{720}y^6, \\ d_3(y) &= \frac{1}{4}y^2 - \frac{1}{240}y^5, & d_4(y) &= \frac{1}{36}y^3 + \frac{1}{144}y^4, \\ d_5(y) &= 0, & d_6(y) &= 0, & d_7(y) &= 0, & d_8(y) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

**Proof.** Let  $v \in W_2^4[0, 1]$  and  $0 \leq y \leq 1$ . We get

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v, B_y \rangle_{W_2^4} &= \sum_{i=0}^3 v^{(i)}(0)B_y^{(i)}(0) + \int_0^1 v^{(4)}(x)B_y^{(4)}(x)dx \\ &= v(0)B_y(0) + v'(0)B_y'(0) + v''(0)B_y''(0) + v^{(3)}(0)B_y^{(3)}(0) \\ &\quad + v^{(3)}(1)B_y^{(4)}(1) - v^{(3)}(0)B_y^{(4)}(0) - v''(1)B_y^{(5)}(1) + v''(0)B_y^{(5)}(0) \\ &\quad + v'(1)B_y^{(6)}(1) - v'(0)B_y^{(6)}(0) - \int_0^1 v'(x)B_y^{(7)}(x)dx, \end{aligned}$$

by Definition 2.6 and integrating by parts three times. After substituting the values of  $B_y(0)$ ,  $B_y'(0)$ ,  $B_y''(0)$ ,  $B_y^{(3)}(0)$ ,  $B_y^{(4)}(0)$ ,  $B_y^{(5)}(0)$ ,  $B_y^{(6)}(0)$ ,  $B_y^{(4)}(1)$ ,  $B_y^{(5)}(1)$ , and  $B_y^{(6)}(1)$  into the above equation we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v, B_y \rangle_{W_2^4} &= v(0)1 + v'(0)y + v''(0)\left(\frac{y^2}{2}\right) + v^{(3)}(0)\left(\frac{y^3}{6}\right) + v^{(3)}(1)0 - v^{(3)}(0)\left(\frac{y^3}{6}\right) - v''(1)0 + v''(0)\left(-\frac{y^2}{2}\right) \\ &\quad + v'(1)0 - v'(0)y - \int_0^1 v'(x)B_y^{(7)}(x)dx \end{aligned}$$

thus we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v, B_y \rangle_{W_2^4} &= v(0) - \int_0^1 v'(x)B_y^{(7)}(x)dx \\ &= v(0) - \int_0^y v'(x)B_y^{(7)}(x)dx - \int_y^1 v'(x)B_y^{(7)}(x)dx \\ &= v(0) - \int_0^y v'(x)(-1)dx - \int_y^1 v'(x)0dx \\ &= v(0) + v(y) - v(0) \\ &= v(y). \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Definition 2.8.** The binary space  $W(\Omega)$  is defined by

$$W(\Omega) = \left\{ v : \frac{\partial^4 v}{\partial x^3 \partial t} \text{ is completely continuous in } \Omega = [0, 1] \times [0, 1], \frac{\partial^6 v}{\partial x^4 \partial t^2} \in L^2(\Omega), v(x, 0) = 0 \right\}.$$

$$\langle v, g \rangle_W = \sum_{i=0}^3 \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \frac{\partial^i}{\partial x^i} v(0, t) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \frac{\partial^i}{\partial x^i} g(0, t) \right] dt + \sum_{j=0}^1 \left\langle \frac{\partial^j}{\partial t^j} v(x, 0), \frac{\partial^j}{\partial t^j} g(x, 0) \right\rangle_{W_2^4}$$

$$+ \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} v(x, t) \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} g(x, t) \right] dt dx$$

and

$$\|v\|_W = \sqrt{\langle v, v \rangle_W}, \quad v \in W(\Omega),$$

are the inner product and the norm of  $W(\Omega)$ , respectively.

**Lemma 2.9.** Reproducing kernel function  $K_{(y,s)}$  of  $W(\Omega)$  is given by [11, page 148]:

$$K_{(y,s)} = B_y r_s.$$

**Definition 2.10.** The binary space  $\widehat{W}(\Omega)$  is defined by

$$\widehat{W}(\Omega) = \left\{ v : \frac{\partial^3 v}{\partial x^3} \text{ is completely continuous in } \Omega = [0, 1] \times [0, 1], \frac{\partial^5 v}{\partial x^4 \partial t} \in L^2(\Omega), \right\}.$$

$$\langle v, g \rangle_{\widehat{W}} = \sum_{i=0}^3 \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^i}{\partial x^i} v(0, t) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^i}{\partial x^i} g(0, t) \right] dt + \langle v(x, 0), g(x, 0) \rangle_{W_2^4}$$

$$+ \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} v(x, t) \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} g(x, t) \right] dt dx,$$

and

$$\|v\|_{\widehat{W}} = \sqrt{\langle v, v \rangle_{\widehat{W}}}, \quad v \in \widehat{W}(\Omega),$$

are the inner product and the norm of  $\widehat{W}(\Omega)$ , respectively.

**Lemma 2.11.** Reproducing kernel function  $G_{(y,s)}$  of  $\widehat{W}(\Omega)$  is given as [11, page 148]:

$$G_{(y,s)} = B_y q_s.$$

### 3. Exact and approximate solutions in $W(\Omega)$

Solutions of Eqs. (1.1)–(1.3) are presented in the  $W(\Omega)$  in this section.  $L : W(\Omega) \rightarrow \widehat{W}(\Omega)$  is defined by

$$Lv = \frac{\partial v}{\partial t}(x, t) - \frac{\partial^3 v}{\partial x^2 \partial t}(x, t) + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}(x, t) \left( 1 + A^2 \frac{1}{\cosh^4(cx)} + \frac{6Ac^2}{\cosh^2(cx)} - \frac{18Ac^2 \sinh^2(cx)}{\cosh^4(cx)} \right)$$

$$+ v(x, t) \left( -\frac{4A^2 c \sinh(cx)}{\cosh^5(cx)} - \frac{16Ac^3 \sinh(cx)}{\cosh^3(cx)} + \frac{24Ac^3 \sinh^3(cx)}{\cosh^5(cx)} \right).$$

After homogenizing the initial condition, (1.2) changes to the

$$\begin{cases} Lv = M(x, t, v(x, t), v_x(x, t), v_{xx}(x, t), v_{xxx}(x, t)), & (x, t) \in \Omega, \\ v(x, 0) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (3.1)$$

where

$$v(x, t) = u(x, t) - u(x, 0) = u(x, t) - A \frac{1}{\cosh^2(cx)},$$

$$A = \frac{3}{4} (\sqrt{15} - 5), \quad c = \frac{1}{20} \left( \sqrt{10(5 - \sqrt{15})} \right),$$

$$M(x, t, v(x, t), v_x(x, t), v_{xx}(x, t), v_{xxx}(x, t))$$

$$= -v^2(x, t) \left( v_x(x, t) + \frac{2Ac \sinh(cx)}{\cosh^3(cx)} \right) - 2A \frac{1}{\cosh^2(cx)} v(x, t) v_x(x, t) + v(x, t) v_{xxx}(x, t)$$

$$+ 3v_x(x, t) v_{xx}(x, t) + \frac{2A^3 c \sinh(cx)}{\cosh^7(cx)} + \frac{28A^2 c^3 \sinh(cx)}{\cosh^5(cx)} - \frac{60A^2 c^3 \sinh^3(cx)}{\cosh^7(cx)} + \frac{2Ac \sinh(cx)}{\cosh^3(cx)},$$

for convenience, we again write  $u$  instead of  $v$  in (3.1). In a similar way same things can be shown for model problem (1.1) and (1.3).

**Lemma 3.1.**  $L$  is a bounded linear operator.

**Proof.** Let  $u \in W(\Omega)$  and  $(x, t) \in \Omega$ . By Lemma 2.9, we get

$$u(x, t) = \langle u, K_{(x,t)} \rangle_W,$$

and thus

$$\begin{aligned} Lu(x, t) &= \langle u, LK_{(x,t)} \rangle_W, & \frac{\partial}{\partial x} Lu(x, t) &= \left\langle u, \frac{\partial}{\partial x} LK_{(x,t)} \right\rangle_W, \\ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} Lu(x, t) &= \left\langle u, \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} LK_{(x,t)} \right\rangle_W, & \frac{\partial^3}{\partial x^3} Lu(x, t) &= \left\langle u, \frac{\partial^3}{\partial x^3} LK_{(x,t)} \right\rangle_W, \\ \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} Lu(x, t) &= \left\langle u, \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} LK_{(x,t)} \right\rangle_W, & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} Lu(x, t) &= \left\langle u, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} LK_{(x,t)} \right\rangle_W, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} Lu(x, t) &= \left\langle u, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} LK_{(x,t)} \right\rangle_W, & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} Lu(x, t) &= \left\langle u, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} LK_{(x,t)} \right\rangle_W, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^3}{\partial x^3} Lu(x, t) &= \left\langle u, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^3}{\partial x^3} LK_{(x,t)} \right\rangle_W, & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} Lu(x, t) &= \left\langle u, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} LK_{(x,t)} \right\rangle_W. \end{aligned}$$

Hence there exist  $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6, a_7, a_8, a_9, a_{10} > 0$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} |Lu(x, t)| &\leq a_1 \|u\|_W, & \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial x} Lu(x, t) \right| &\leq a_2 \|u\|_W, \\ \left| \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} Lu(x, t) \right| &\leq a_3 \|u\|_W, & \left| \frac{\partial^3}{\partial x^3} Lu(x, t) \right| &\leq a_4 \|u\|_W, \\ \left| \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} Lu(x, t) \right| &\leq a_5 \|u\|_W, & \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial t} Lu(x, t) \right| &\leq a_6 \|u\|_W, \\ \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} Lu(x, t) \right| &\leq a_7 \|u\|_W, & \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} Lu(x, t) \right| &\leq a_8 \|u\|_W, \\ \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^3}{\partial x^3} Lu(x, t) \right| &\leq a_9 \|u\|_W, & \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} Lu(x, t) \right| &\leq a_{10} \|u\|_W. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Lu, Lu \rangle_{\widehat{W}} &= \sum_{i=0}^3 \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^i}{\partial x^i} Lu(0, t) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \frac{\partial^i}{\partial x^i} Lu(0, t) \right] dt + \langle Lu(x, 0), Lu(x, 0) \rangle_{W_2^4} \\ &\quad + \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} Lu(x, t) \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} Lu(x, t) \right] dt dx \\ &\leq N \|u\|_W^2, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$N = a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2 + a_4^2 + a_5^2 + a_6^2 + a_7^2 + a_8^2 + a_9^2 + a_{10}^2.$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

Now, choose a countable dense subset  $\{(x_1, t_1), (x_2, t_2), \dots\}$  in  $\Omega$  and define

$$\varphi_i = G_{(x_i, t_i)}, \quad \Psi_i = L^* \varphi_i,$$

where  $L^*$  is the adjoint operator of  $L$ . The orthonormal system  $\{\widehat{\Psi}_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  of  $W(\Omega)$  can be derived from the process of Gram–Schmidt orthogonalization of  $\{\Psi_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  as

$$\widehat{\Psi}_i = \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} \Psi_k.$$

**Theorem 3.2.** Assume that  $\{(x_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is dense in  $\Omega$ . Then  $\{\Psi_i(x, t)\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is a complete system in  $W(\Omega)$ , and

$$\Psi_i = LK_{(x_i, t_i)}(x, t).$$

**Proof.** We have

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi_i &= L^* \varphi_i = \langle L^* \varphi_i, K_{(x,t)} \rangle_W = \langle \varphi_i, LK_{(x,t)} \rangle_{\widehat{W}} \\ &= \langle LK_{(x,t)}, G_{(x_i,t_i)} \rangle_{\widehat{W}} = LK_{(x,t)}(x_i, t_i) \\ &= LK_{(x_i,t_i)}(x, t).\end{aligned}$$

Clearly  $\Psi_i \in W(\Omega)$ . If

$$\langle u, \Psi_i \rangle_W = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots,$$

then

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= \langle u, \Psi_i \rangle_W = \langle u, L^* \varphi_i \rangle_W \\ &= \langle Lu, \varphi_i \rangle_{\widehat{W}} = Lu(x_i, t_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots\end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\{(x_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is dense in  $\Omega$ . Hence,  $Lu = 0$ . From the existence of  $L^{-1}$ , it follows that  $u = 0$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.3.** If  $\{(x_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is dense in  $\Omega$ , then the solution of (3.1) is given by

$$u = \sum_{i=1}^\infty \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} M(x, t, v(x, t), v_x(x, t), v_{xx}(x, t), v_{xxx}(x, t)) \widehat{\Psi}_i. \quad (3.2)$$

**Proof.** By Theorem 3.2  $\{\Psi_i(x, t)\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is a complete system in  $W(\Omega)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned}u &= \sum_{i=1}^\infty \langle u, \widehat{\Psi}_i \rangle_W \widehat{\Psi}_i = \sum_{i=1}^\infty \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} \langle u, \Psi_k \rangle_W \widehat{\Psi}_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^\infty \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} \langle u, L^* \varphi_k \rangle_W \widehat{\Psi}_i = \sum_{i=1}^\infty \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} \langle Lu, \varphi_k \rangle_{\widehat{W}} \widehat{\Psi}_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^\infty \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} \langle Lu, G_{(x_k,t_k)} \rangle_{\widehat{W}} \widehat{\Psi}_i = \sum_{i=1}^\infty \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} Lu(x_k, t_k) \widehat{\Psi}_i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^\infty \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} M(x_k, t_k, v(x_k, t_k), v_x(x_k, t_k), v_{xx}(x_k, t_k), v_{xxx}(x_k, t_k)) \widehat{\Psi}_i. \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

Approximate solution  $u_n$  can be acquired as:

$$u_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} M(x_k, t_k, v(x_k, t_k), v_x(x_k, t_k), v_{xx}(x_k, t_k), v_{xxx}(x_k, t_k)) \widehat{\Psi}_i. \quad (3.3)$$

Obviously

$$\|u_n(x, t) - u(x, t)\|_W \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty.$$

**Theorem 3.4.** If  $u \in W(\Omega)$  then

$$\|u_n(x, t) - u(x, t)\|_W \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Moreover a sequence  $\|u_n(x, t) - u(x, t)\|_W$  is monotonically decreasing in  $n$ .

**Proof.** We have

$$\|u_n(x, t) - u(x, t)\|_W = \left\| \sum_{i=n+1}^\infty \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} M(x_k, t_k, v, v_x, v_{xx}, v_{xxx}) \widehat{\Psi}_i(x, t) \right\|_W,$$

by (3.2) and (3.3). Therefore

$$\|u_n(x, t) - u(x, t)\|_W \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty.$$

In addition

$$\begin{aligned}\|u_n(x, t) - u(x, t)\|_W^2 &= \left\| \sum_{i=n+1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} M(x_k, t_k, v, v_x, v_{xx}, v_{xxx}) \widehat{\Psi}_i(x, t) \right\|_W^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=n+1}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{k=1}^i \beta_{ik} M(x_k, t_k, v, v_x, v_{xx}, v_{xxx}) \widehat{\Psi}_i(x, t) \right)^2.\end{aligned}$$

Clearly,  $\|u_n(x, t) - u(x, t)\|_W$  is monotonically decreasing in  $n$ .  $\square$

#### 4. The method implementation

- (i) If (3.1) is linear then the analytical solution of (3.1) can be obtained directly by (3.2).
- (ii) If (3.1) is nonlinear then the solution of (3.1) can be acquired by the following iterative method.

We construct an iterative sequence  $u_n$ , putting,

$$\begin{cases} \text{any fixed } u_0 \in W, \\ u_n = \sum_{i=1}^n A_i \widehat{\Psi}_i, \end{cases} \quad (4.1)$$

where

$$\begin{cases} A_1 = \beta_{11} M(x_k, t_k, v(x_k, t_k), v'(x_k, t_k), v''(x_k, t_k), v^{(3)}(x_k, t_k)) \\ A_2 = \sum_{k=1}^2 \beta_{2k} M(x_k, t_k, v_{k-1}(x_k, t_k), v'_{k-1}(x_k, t_k), v''_{k-1}(x_k, t_k), v^{(3)}_{k-1}(x_k, t_k)), \\ \dots \\ A_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \beta_{nk} M(x_k, t_k, v_{k-1}(x_k, t_k), v'_{k-1}(x_k, t_k), v''_{k-1}(x_k, t_k), v^{(3)}_{k-1}(x_k, t_k)). \end{cases} \quad (4.2)$$

**Theorem 4.1.** Suppose that  $\|u_n\|$  defined by (4.1) is bounded and (3.1) has a unique solution. If  $\{(x_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  is dense in  $\Omega$ , then  $u_n$  converges to the analytical solution  $u$  of (3.1), and

$$u = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \widehat{\Psi}_i,$$

where  $A_i$  is given by (4.2).

**Proof.** First, we prove the convergence of  $u_n$ . From (4.1), and the orthonormality of  $\{\widehat{\Psi}_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ , we infer that

$$\|u_{n+1}\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} A_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n A_i^2 + A_{n+1}^2 = \|u_n\|^2 + A_{n+1}^2 \geq \|u_n\|. \quad (4.3)$$

By (4.3),  $\|u_n\|$  is nondecreasing, and by the assumption,  $\|u_n\|$  is bounded. Thus  $\|u_n\|$  is convergent. By (4.3) there exists a constant  $c$  such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i^2 = c.$$

This implies that

$$\{A_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty} \in \ell^2.$$

If  $m > n$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}\|u_m - u_n\|^2 &= \left\| \sum_{k=n}^{m-1} u_{k+1} - u_k \right\|^2 \leq \sum_{k=n}^{m-1} \|u_{k+1} - u_k\|^2 \\ &= \sum_{k=n}^{m-1} A_{k+1}^2 \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty.\end{aligned}$$

The completeness of  $W(\Omega)$  shows that there exists  $\widehat{u} \in W(\Omega)$  such that  $u_n \rightarrow \widehat{u}$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Now, we prove that  $\widehat{u}$  solves (3.1). Taking limits in (3.3), we get

$$\widehat{u} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \widehat{\Psi}_i.$$

Note that

$$L\widehat{u} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i L\widehat{\Psi}_i$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (L\widehat{u})(x_k, t_k) &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i L\widehat{\Psi}_i(x_k, t_k) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \langle L\widehat{\Psi}_i, G_{(x_k, t_k)} \rangle_{\widehat{W}} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \langle L\widehat{\Psi}_i, \varphi_k \rangle_{\widehat{W}} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \langle \widehat{\Psi}_i, L^* \varphi_k \rangle_W \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i \langle \widehat{\Psi}_i, \Psi_k \rangle_W. \end{aligned}$$

In view of (4.2), we get

$$L\widehat{u}(x_l, t_l) = M(x_l, t_l, v_{l-1}(x_l, t_l), v'_{l-1}(x_l, t_l), v''_{l-1}(x_l, t_l), v^{(3)}_{l-1}(x_l, t_l)).$$

Since  $\{(x_i, t_i)\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  is dense in  $\Omega$ , for each  $(y, s) \in \Omega$ , there exists a subsequence  $\{(x_{n_j}, t_{n_j})\}_{j=1}^{\infty}$  such that

$$(x_{n_j}, t_{n_j}) \rightarrow (y, s), \quad j \rightarrow \infty.$$

We know that

$$L\widehat{u}(x_{n_j}, t_{n_j}) = M(x_{n_j}, t_{n_j}, v_{n_j-1}(x_{n_j}, t_{n_j}), v'_{n_j-1}(x_{n_j}, t_{n_j}), v''_{n_j-1}(x_{n_j}, t_{n_j}), v^{(3)}_{n_j-1}(x_{n_j}, t_{n_j})).$$

Let  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . By the continuity of  $M$ , we have

$$(L\widehat{u})(y, s) = M(y, s, \widehat{u}(y, s), \widehat{u}'(y, s), \widehat{u}''(y, s), \widehat{u}^{(3)}(y, s))$$

which indicates that  $\widehat{u}$  satisfies (3.1). This completes the proof.  $\square$

## 5. Numerical results

We implement RKHSM to solve the Fornberg–Whitham type equations in this section.

**Example 5.1.** Regard the Fornberg–Whitham equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = u \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} - u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + 3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad (5.1)$$

with the initial condition

$$u(x, 0) = \exp\left(\frac{x}{2}\right). \quad (5.2)$$

The exact solution of (5.1)–(5.2) is given as [1]

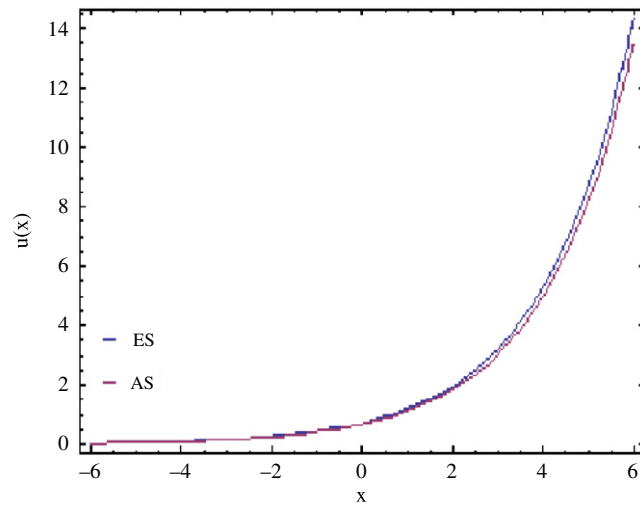
$$u(x, t) = \exp\left(\frac{x}{2} - \frac{2t}{3}\right).$$

After homogenizing the initial condition and using the above method we obtain Tables 6.2–6.7 and Figs. 6.1–6.3.

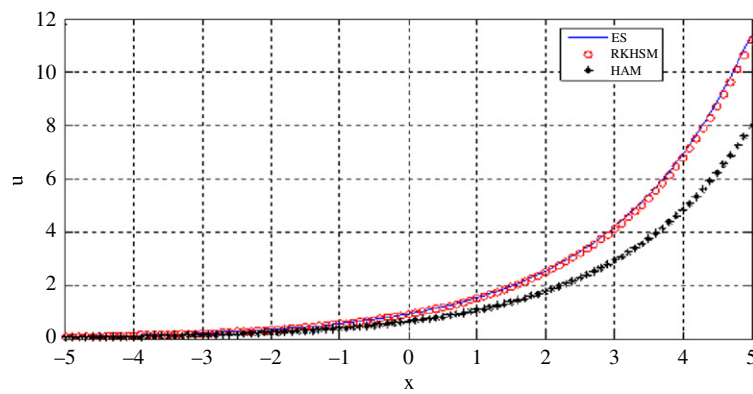
**Example 5.2.** Consider the modified Fornberg–Whitham equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = u \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} - u^2 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + 3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad (5.3)$$

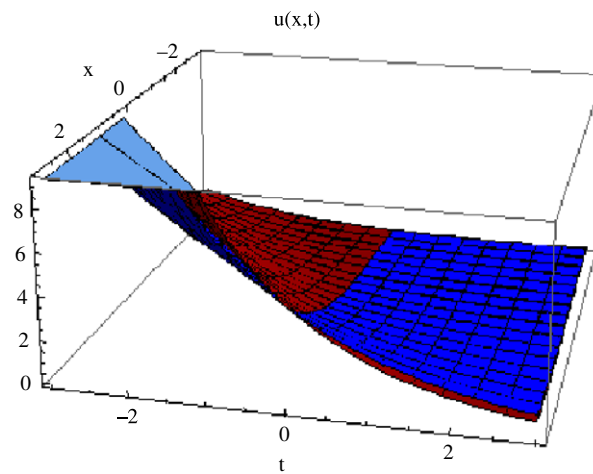




**Fig. 6.1.** Graph of numerical results for Example 5.1 for  $t = 0.5$ .



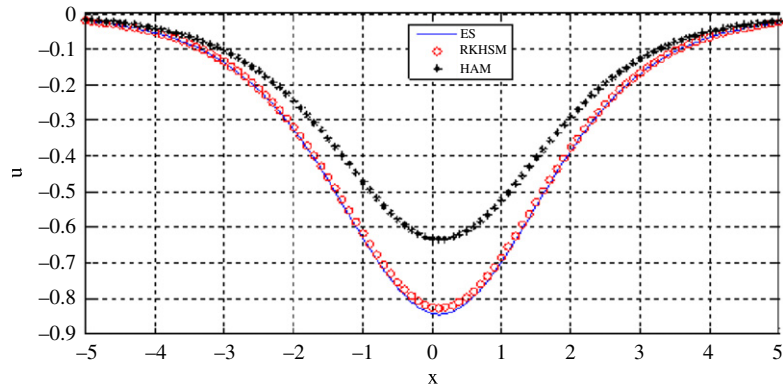
**Fig. 6.2.** Comparing Exact solution, RKHSM solution and HAM solution for Example 5.1.



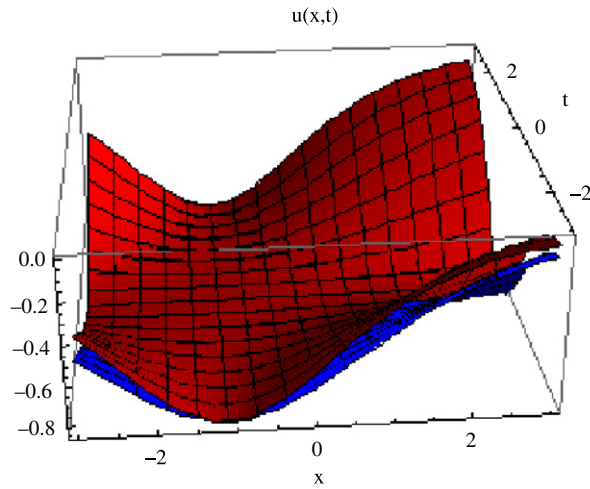
**Fig. 6.3.** Exact solution (red) and approximate solution (blue) for Example 5.1. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

with the following initial condition

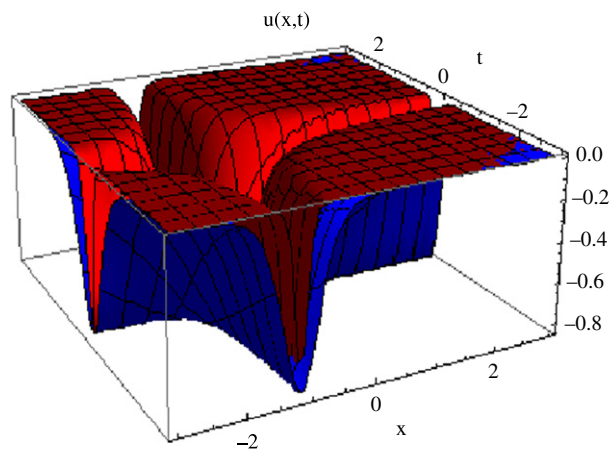
$$u(x, 0) = \frac{3}{4} \left( \sqrt{15} - 5 \right) \frac{1}{\cosh^2(cx)}, \quad (5.4)$$



**Fig. 6.4.** Comparing Exact solution, RKHSM solution and HAM solution for Example 5.2.



**Fig. 6.5.** Exact solution (red) and approximate solution (blue) for Example 5.2 for  $c = \frac{1}{20}\sqrt{10(5 - \sqrt{15})}$ . (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)



**Fig. 6.6.** Exact solution (red) and approximate solution (blue) for Example 5.2 for  $c = 3$ . (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

with a constant

$$c = \frac{1}{20}\sqrt{10(5 - \sqrt{15})}.$$

**Table 6.1**AS of time-fractional Fornberg–Whitham equation for different values of  $\alpha$ .

$x$	$t$	ES	AS ( $\alpha = 1$ )	AS ( $\alpha = 0.8$ )
0.5	0.5	1.226725886172430997	1.2262057215610587843	1.1094455573085193724
0.5	1.0	0.878987506933924995	0.8768593429364480377	0.8398155516046179367
0.5	1.5	0.629822070321352942	0.6297200724277173582	0.7320367199169766663
0.5	2.0	0.451287233475656278	0.4553945611874197522	0.6920988617168632507
1.0	0.5	1.575147217154194640	1.5741302021100485542	1.4726243142711092894
1.0	1.0	1.128642299854152098	1.1252665169645424226	1.0915991091061473071
1.0	1.5	0.808707546283511231	0.8080724206913721037	0.9140411806502195614
1.0	2.0	0.579464278009437630	0.5875111670008122211	0.8999273234729346186
1.5	0.5	2.022529061850951194	2.0224283957894948425	1.8986915152626067478
1.5	1.0	1.449205399361638518	1.4474489401188910281	1.3874001034878765475
1.5	1.5	1.038401044095206491	1.0381243170021222153	1.1734666922694023940
1.5	2.0	0.744046861026729428	0.7560475355569940629	1.0509899370798853388

**Table 6.2**

AS (first line) and ES (second line) for Example 5.1.

$x$	$t$				
	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1
−4	0.1184418296	0.1036571291	0.09071795752	0.0793939229	0.06948345158
	0.1184418291	0.1036571286	0.09071795329	0.0793939323	0.06948345120
−2	0.3219582712	0.2817692908	0.2465969625	0.2158150882	0.1888756014
	0.3219582716	0.2817692890	0.2465969639	0.2158150835	0.1888756028
0	0.8751733265	0.7659283443	0.6703200419	0.5866462264	0.5134171179
	0.8751733191	0.7659283383	0.6703200460	0.5866462195	0.5134171190
2	2.378967729	2.082009080	1.822118795	1.594669790	1.395612434
	2.378967730	2.082009084	1.822118800	1.594669758	1.395612425
4	6.466704758	5.659487451	4.95303249	4.3347619	3.79366789
	6.466704753	5.659487458	4.95303242	4.33476182	3.79366789

The exact solitary wave solution of (5.3)–(5.4) is given as [3]

$$u(x, t) = \frac{3}{4}(\sqrt{15} - 5) \frac{1}{\cosh^2(c(x - (5 - \sqrt{15})t))}.$$

After homogenizing the initial condition and using the above method, we obtain Tables 6.8–6.11 and Figs. 6.4–6.6.

**Remark 5.3.** In Tables 6.2–6.1, we abbreviate the exact solution and the approximate solution with ES and AS, respectively. AE stands for the absolute error, i.e., the absolute value of the difference of the exact solution and the approximate solution, while RE indicates the relative error, i.e., the absolute error divided by the absolute value of the exact solution.

## 6. Applied examples

In this section, we research the nonlinear time-fractional Fornberg–Whitham equation [9] by the reproducing kernel method.

$$\frac{\partial u^\alpha}{\partial t^\alpha} - \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = u \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} - u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + 3 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}, \quad t > 0, \quad 0 < \alpha \leq 1, \quad (6.1)$$

subject to initial condition

$$u(x, 0) = \frac{4}{3} \exp\left(\frac{x}{2}\right), \quad (6.2)$$

where  $u(x, t)$  is the fluid velocity,  $\alpha$  is constant and lies in the interval  $(0, 1]$ ,  $t$  is the time and  $x$  is the spatial coordinate. After homogenizing the initial condition and using the above method, we obtain approximate solutions of (6.1)–(6.2) for different values of  $\alpha$  and show them by Table 6.1.

## 7. Conclusion

In this study, Fornberg–Whitham, modified Fornberg–Whitham and time-fractional Fornberg–Whitham equations were investigated by RKHSM. The obtained results show that this technique can solve the problem impressively. The results that we acquired were compared with the results that were obtained by ADM, HAM and VIM. Numerical experiments on test examples show that our proposed method is of high accuracy, supporting the theoretical results. It has been shown that the obtained results are uniform convergent and the operator that was used is a bounded linear operator.

**Table 6.3**AE (first line) and RE (second line) for [Example 5.1](#) for different values of  $x$  and  $t$ .

$x$	$t$				
	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1
-4	$5 \times 10^{-10}$	$5 \times 10^{-10}$	$4.23 \times 10^{-9}$	$9.40 \times 10^{-9}$	$3.8 \times 10^{-10}$
	$4.221 \times 10^{-9}$	$4.82 \times 10^{-9}$	$4.66 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.18 \times 10^{-7}$	$5.46 \times 10^{-9}$
-2	$4 \times 10^{-10}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-9}$	$4.7 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-9}$
	$1.242 \times 10^{-9}$	$6.38 \times 10^{-9}$	$5.6772 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.177 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.412 \times 10^{-9}$
0	$7.4 \times 10^{-9}$	$6.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$4.1 \times 10^{-9}$	$6.9 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-9}$
	$8.455 \times 10^{-9}$	$7.833 \times 10^{-9}$	$6.116 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.1761 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.142 \times 10^{-9}$
2	$1 \times 10^{-9}$	$4 \times 10^{-9}$	$5 \times 10^{-9}$	$3.2 \times 10^{-8}$	$9 \times 10^{-9}$
	$4.203 \times 10^{-10}$	$1.921 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.74 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.006 \times 10^{-8}$	$6.4487 \times 10^{-9}$
4	$5 \times 10^{-9}$	$7 \times 10^{-9}$	$7.2 \times 10^{-8}$	$8.0 \times 10^{-8}$	$4 \times 10^{-9}$
	$7.7319 \times 10^{-10}$	$1.236 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.453 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.845 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.054 \times 10^{-9}$

**Table 6.4**CPU time(s) for [Example 5.1](#).

$x$	$t$				
	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1
-4	0.390	0.359	0.453	0.390	0.374
-2	0.406	0.437	0.468	0.500	0.484
0	0.561	0.422	0.437	0.421	0.453
2	0.359	0.374	0.359	0.358	0.358
4	0.344	0.374	0.406	0.375	0.437

**Table 6.5**A comparison between RKHSM (first line) and HAM [1] (second line) for [Example 5.1](#).

$x$	$t$				
	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1
-4	5E-10	5E-10	4.23E-9	9.40E-9	3.8E-10
	2.22193E-5	9.47416E-6	4.83886E-5	6.71560E-5	5.36314E-5
-2	4E-10	1.8E-9	1.4E-9	4.7E-9	1.4E-9
	6.03987E-5	2.57532E-5	1.31533E-4	1.82549E-4	1.45785E-4
0	7.4E-9	6.0E-9	4.1E-9	6.9E-9	1.1E-9
	1.64180E-5	7.00049E-5	3.57546E-4	4.96219E-4	3.96285E-4
2	1E-9	4E-9	5E-9	3.2E-8	9E-9
	4.46289E-4	1.90293E-4	9.71910E-4	1.34886E-3	1.07721E-3
4	5E-9	7E-9	7E-8	8.0E-8	4E-9
	1.21314E-4	5.17269E-4	2.64192E-3	3.66659E-3	2.92817E-3

**Table 6.6**ES and AS for ADM, HAM and RKHSM for [Example 5.1](#) when  $t = 5$ .

$x$	$u_{\text{exact}}$	$u_{\text{ADM}}$	$u_{\text{HAM}}$	$u_{\text{RKHSM}}$
-4	0.004827949995	0.0031719207	0.0048752608	0.0048279514
-2	0.01312372874	0.0086221743	0.0132523327	0.0131237255
0	0.03567399336	0.0234374990	0.0360235773	0.0356740033
2	0.09697196790	0.0637097231	0.0979222379	0.096971949
4	0.2635971382	0.1731809521	0.2661802682	0.263597291

**Table 6.7**AE for ADM, HAM and RKHSM for [Example 5.1](#) when  $t = 5$ .

$x$	$ u_{\text{exact}} - u_{\text{ADM}} $	$ u_{\text{exact}} - u_{\text{HAM}} $	$ u_{\text{exact}} - u_{\text{RKHSM}} $
-4	1.65602E-3	4.73109E-5	1.405E-9
-2	4.50155E-3	1.28604E-4	3.24E-9
0	1.22364E-2	3.49584E-4	9.94E-9
2	3.32622E-2	9.50270E-4	1.89E-8
4	9.04161E-2	2.58313E-3	1.528E-7

**Table 6.8**AS (first line) and ES (second line) for [Example 5.2](#) for different values of  $x$  and  $t$ .

$t$	$x = 2.5$	$x = 5$	$x = 7.5$	$x = 10$
0.02	−0.7144249843	−0.4504779212	−0.2349678714	−0.1107643868
	−0.7144249598	−0.4504780048	−0.2349678528	−0.1107643186
0.04	−0.7165464263	−0.4528101955	−0.2364825099	−0.1115481917
	−0.7165463773	−0.4528101891	−0.2364825808	−0.1115481838
0.06	−0.7186566715	−0.4551474661	−0.2380051612	−0.1123371196
	−0.7186566519	−0.4551474665	−0.2380051672	0.1123371717
0.08	−0.7207556337	−0.4574897077	−0.2395356954	−0.1131312117
	−0.7207555967	−0.4574897553	−0.2395356248	−0.1131313100
0.1	−0.7228430209	−0.4598370439	−0.2410739190	−0.1139306377
	−0.7228430251	−0.4598369728	−0.2410739688	−0.1139306254

**Table 6.9**AE (first line) and RE (second line) for [Example 5.2](#).

$t$	$x = 2.5$	$x = 5$	$x = 7.5$	$x = 10$
0.02	$2.45 \times 10^{-8}$	$8.36 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.86 \times 10^{-8}$	$6.82 \times 10^{-8}$
	$3.429331 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.855806 \times 10^{-7}$	$7.915976 \times 10^{-8}$	$6.157217 \times 10^{-7}$
0.04	$4.90 \times 10^{-8}$	$6.4 \times 10^{-9}$	$7.09 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.9 \times 10^{-9}$
	$6.838357 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.413395 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.998106 \times 10^{-7}$	$7.082141 \times 10^{-8}$
0.06	$1.96 \times 10^{-8}$	$4. \times 10^{-10}$	$6.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$5.21 \times 10^{-8}$
	$2.72731 \times 10^{-8}$	$8.78836 \times 10^{-10}$	$2.520953 \times 10^{-8}$	$4.637823 \times 10^{-7}$
0.08	$3.70 \times 10^{-8}$	$4.76 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.06 \times 10^{-8}$	$9.83 \times 10^{-8}$
	$5.133501 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.04046 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.947369 \times 10^{-7}$	$8.689018 \times 10^{-7}$
0.1	$4.2 \times 10^{-9}$	$7.11 \times 10^{-8}$	$4.98 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.23 \times 10^{-8}$
	$5.81039 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.5462 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.065756 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.079604 \times 10^{-7}$

**Table 6.10**CPU time(s) for [Example 5.2](#).

$t$	$x = 2.5$	$x = 5$	$x = 7.5$	$x = 10$
0.02	0.842	0.874	0.718	0.780
0.04	0.858	0.796	0.842	0.748
0.06	1.030	0.780	0.718	0.734
0.08	0.842	0.873	0.764	0.765
0.1	0.827	0.811	0.765	0.718

**Table 6.11**A comparison between RKHSM (first line) and variational iteration method [20] (second line) for [Example 5.2](#).

$t$	$x = 2.5$	$x = 5$	$x = 7.5$	$x = 10$
0.02	2.45e−8	8.36e−8	1.86e−8	6.82e−8
	1.180e−4	2.124e−5	2.805e−5	5.528e−6
0.04	4.90E−8	6.4e−9	7.09e−8	7.9e−9
	2.363e−4	4.797e−5	5.772e−5	1.084e−5
0.06	1.96e−8	4.e−10	6.0e−9	5.21e−8
	3.547e−4	8.029e−5	8.902e−5	1.591e−5
0.08	3.70e−8	4.76e−8	7.06e−8	9.83e−8
	4.731e−4	1.183e−4	1.220e−4	2.071e−5
0.1	4.2e−9	7.11e−8	4.98e−8	1.23e−8
	5.914e−4	1.622e−4	1.565e−4	2.524e−5

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