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Symmetry analysis and conservation laws for the class of time-fractional nonlinear dispersive equation

Gangwei Wang · A. H. Kara · K. Fakhar

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Abstract In this paper, we derive the complete algebra of Lie point symmetries for the class of ~~time-fractional~~ **time-fractional** nonlinear dispersive equation. By means of the classical Lie symmetry method, the associated vector fields are obtained which in turn are utilized for the reduction of the equation. In particular, the conservation laws of the equation are obtained.

Keywords Time-fractional nonlinear dispersive equation · Lie symmetry method · Conservation laws

1 Introduction

Differential equations play an important and central role in many fields. It is well known that Lie theory of

symmetry group provides a systemic, general and efficient method to deal with differential equations. This theory is mainly used for the construction of similarity reductions, group invariant solutions and the conservation laws. In general, Lie symmetries can be used to reduce the order as well number of independent variables of original equation (system of equations) . For further details, readers are referred to [1–11] .

Unlike the case of ~~integral-order~~ **integral-order** partial differential equations (PDEs), symmetries of ~~fractional-order~~ **fractional-order** partial differential equations (FPDEs) have not been investigated extensively. The study of FPDEs through symmetries is quite interesting and significant [12–28] . Therefore, in our present ~~study~~ **study**, we investigate the symmetries of FPDEs and thereby do the analysis. We successfully obtain the reduction in independent and dependent variables. Moreover, we look into the key issue of whether we can identify the FPDEs from which the Lie point symmetries are inherited.

In this paper, we will investigate the class of ~~time-fractional~~ **time-fractional** nonlinear dispersive equation

$$u_t^\alpha + \varepsilon(u^m)_x + \frac{1}{b} \left[u^a (u^b u^a)_x \right]_{xx} = 0, \quad (1)$$

where $u(x, t)$ represents the wave ~~profile~~ **profile**, while a, b, ε and m are constants. Some special cases of (1) have been used to describe physical situations in various fields. If $\alpha = 1, a = 0$, one can get the generalization of the KdV equation. In the special case if $m = 2, a = 0, b = 1$, Eq. (1) reduces to the classical KdV equation, while $m = 3, a = 0, b = 1$, Eq. (1

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) becomes the famous mKdV equation. Further more descriptions of (1) and its applications can be found in [29–32] and references therein.

The paper is divided as follows. In Sect. 2, some definitions and properties of Lie group method to analyze the FPDEs are given. Moreover, the infinitesimal operators of the Lie point symmetries admitted by Eq. (1) are also constructed. In Sect. 3, the conservation laws of the equation are obtained. The main results of the paper are summarized and discussed in the last section.

2 Lie symmetry analysis of the class of the time-fractional nonlinear dispersive equation

In this section, we employ Lie symmetry method to deal with the fractional nonlinear dispersive equation. We first briefly recall the concept of fractional derivative ([33–36] and references therein). In particular, the Riemann–Liouville fractional derivative is defined by

$$D_t^\alpha f(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{\partial^n u}{\partial t^n}, & \alpha = n \in N, \\ \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\alpha)} \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \int_0^t \frac{u(\theta, x)}{(t-\theta)^{\alpha+1-n}} d\theta, & n-1 < \alpha < n, n \in N, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where $\Gamma(z)$ is the Euler gamma function.

Assume that (1) is invariant under the one parameter Lie group of point transformations

$$t^* = t + \varepsilon \tau(x, t, u) + O(\varepsilon^2),$$

$$x^* = x + \varepsilon \xi(x, t, u) + O(\varepsilon^2),$$

$$u^* = u + \varepsilon \eta(x, t, u) + O(\varepsilon^2),$$

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{t}^\alpha} = \frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} + \varepsilon \eta_\alpha^0(x, t, u) + O(\varepsilon^2), \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{x}} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \varepsilon \eta^x(x, t, u) + O(\varepsilon^2),$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{x}^2} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \varepsilon \eta^{xx}(x, t, u) + O(\varepsilon^2),$$

$$\frac{\partial^3 \bar{u}}{\partial \bar{x}^3} = \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} + \varepsilon \eta^{xxx}(x, t, u) + O(\varepsilon^2),$$

where ε is the group parameter, and its associated Lie algebra is spanned by the following vector fields

$$V = \tau(x, t, u) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \xi(x, t, u) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \eta(x, t, u) \frac{\partial}{\partial u}. \quad (4)$$

Here,

$$\tau(x, t, u) = \left. \frac{dt^*}{d\varepsilon} \right|_{\varepsilon=0}, \quad \xi(x, t, u) = \left. \frac{dx^*}{d\varepsilon} \right|_{\varepsilon=0},$$

$$\eta(x, t, u) = \left. \frac{du^*}{d\varepsilon} \right|_{\varepsilon=0}. \quad (5)$$

On the basis of the infinitesimal invariance criterion, one can get

$$pr^{(\alpha,3)} V(\Delta_1)|_{\Delta_1=0} = 0, \quad (6)$$

$$\text{where } \Delta_1 = u_t^\alpha + \left(\varepsilon(u^m)_x + \frac{1}{b} \left[u^a (u^b u^a)_{xx} \right]_x \right).$$

The prolongation operator $pr^{(\alpha,3)} V$ is

$$pr^{(\alpha,3)} V = V + \eta_\alpha^0 \partial_{t^\alpha} u + \eta^x \partial_{u_x} + \eta^{xx} \partial_{u_{xx}} + \eta^{xxx} \partial_{u_{xxx}}, \quad (7)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \eta^x &= \eta_x + (\eta_u - \xi_x)u_x - \tau_x u_t - \xi_u u_x^2 - \tau_u u_x u_t, \\ \eta^{xx} &= \eta_{xx} + (2\eta_{xu} - \xi_{xx})u_x - \tau_{xx} u_t \\ &\quad + (\eta_{uu} - 2\xi_{xu})u_x^2 - 2\tau_{xu} u_x u_t - \xi_{uu} u_x^3 - \tau_{uu} u_x^2 u_t \\ &\quad + (\eta_u - 2\xi_x)u_{xx} - 2\tau_x u_{xt} - 3\xi_u u_{xx} u_x - \tau_u u_{xx} u_t - 2\tau_u u_{xt} u_x, \\ \eta^{xxx} &= \eta_{xxx} + (3\eta_{xuu} - \xi_{xxx})u_x - \tau_{xxx} u_t + 3\eta_{xu} u_x^2 - 3\tau_{xu} u_x u_t + u_x u_t \\ &\quad + (\eta_{uuu} - 3\xi_{xuu})u_x^3 + 3(\eta_{xu} - \xi_{xx})u_{xx} - 3\tau_{xx} u_{xt} - 3\tau_{uu} u_x^2 u_t + 3(\eta_{uu} - 3\xi_{xu})u_x u_{xx} \\ &\quad - 3\tau_{xu} u_{xx} u_t - 6\tau_{uu} u_{xt} u_x - 3\tau_x u_{xxt} \\ &\quad + (\eta_u - 3\xi_x)u_{xxx} - \xi_{xxx} u_x^4 - 6\xi_{uu} u_{xx} u_x^2 - 3\tau_{uu} u_x^2 u_{tx} - \tau_{uuu} u_x^3 u_t - 3u_x^3 u_t \\ &\quad - 3\xi_u u_{xx}^2 - 3\tau_u u_{xx} u_{xt} - 3\tau_u u_{xt} u_{xx} - 3\tau_{uu} u_t u_x u_{xx} - 4\xi_u u_x u_{xxx} - \tau_u u_t u_{xxx}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_\alpha^0 &= \frac{\partial^\alpha \eta}{\partial t^\alpha} + (\eta_u - \alpha D_t(\tau)) \frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} - u \frac{\partial^\alpha \eta_u}{\partial t^\alpha} \\ &\quad + \mu + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\binom{a}{n} \frac{\partial^\alpha \eta_u}{\partial t^\alpha} - \binom{a}{n+1} D_t^{n+1}(\tau) \right] \\ &\quad \times D_t^{\alpha-n}(u) - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \binom{a}{n} D_t^n(\xi) D_t^{\alpha-n}(u_x), \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mu &= \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \sum_{m=2}^n \sum_{k=2}^m \sum_{r=0}^{k-1} \binom{a}{n} \binom{n}{m} \binom{k}{r} \frac{1}{k!} \frac{t^{n-\alpha}}{\Gamma(n+1-\alpha)} \\ &\quad \times [-u]^r \frac{\partial^m}{\partial t^m} [u^{k-r}] \frac{\partial^{n-m+k} \eta}{\partial t^{n-m} \partial u^k}, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

and additional constraint condition is

$$\tau(x, t, u)|_{t=0} = 0. \quad (11)$$

Compared with the Lie symmetry method to ~~integral order~~ ~~integral-order~~ differential equations, it is can be easily seen that constraint condition (11) and formula (9) are critical to FPDEs.

Now, we will study the class of ~~time-fractional~~ ~~time-fractional~~ nonlinear dispersive equation using above Lie symmetry group theory. First, one can get the following assertion

Theorem 1 The symmetry group of the equation is spanned by the following vector fields

$$V_1 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, V_2 = \frac{(a+b-3m+2)t}{\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + ((a+b-m)x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 2u \frac{\partial}{\partial u}. \quad (12)$$

Proof By assuming that Eq. (1) is invariant under the transformation group (3), one can get the symmetry equation as follows

$$\begin{aligned} & \eta_\alpha^0 + (a+b-1)\eta u^{a+b-2} u_{xxx} \\ & + \eta^{xxx} u^{a+b-1} + \varepsilon m(m-1)\eta u^{m-2} u_x \\ & + \varepsilon m \eta^x u^{m-1} + (a+3b-3)(a+b-2)\eta u^{a+b-3} u_x u_{xx} \\ & + (a+3b-3)\eta^x u^{a+b-2} u_{xx} \\ & + (a+3b-3)\eta^{xx} u^{a+b-2} u_x \\ & + (b-1)(a+b-2)(a+b-3)\eta u^{a+b-4} u_x^3 \\ & + 3(b-1)(a+b-2)\eta^x u^{a+b-3} u_x^2 = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Substituting (8) ~~into~~ (11) into (13), and letting all of the powers of derivatives of u to zero, one can have

$$\begin{aligned} & \xi_u = \tau_u = \xi_t = \xi_{xx} = \tau_x = \eta_{uu} = 0, \\ & (\tau_t \alpha - 3\xi_x)u + (a+b-1)\eta = 0, \\ & (\tau_t \alpha + \eta_u - 3\xi_x)u + (a+b-2)\eta = 0, \\ & (\tau_t \alpha + 2\eta_u - 3\xi_x)u + (a+b-3)\eta = 0, \\ & (\tau_t \alpha - \xi_x)u + (m-1)\eta = 0, \\ & \binom{a}{n} \partial_t^n (\eta_u) - \binom{a}{n+1} D_t^{n+1} (\tau) = 0, \\ & \text{for } n = 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

By solving these equations, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \xi &= c_1(a+b-m)x + c_2, \quad \tau = \frac{c_1(a+b-3m+2)t}{\alpha}, \\ \eta &= 2c_1 u, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

here c_1 and c_2 are arbitrary constants. Thus, the corresponding vector fields are

$$V = \frac{c_1(a+b-3m+2)t}{\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + [c_1(a+b-m)x + c_2] \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 2c_1 u \frac{\partial}{\partial u}. \quad (16)$$

or

$$V_1 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, V_2 = \frac{(a+b-3m+2)t}{\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + ((a+b-m)x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 2u \frac{\partial}{\partial u}, \quad (17)$$

which complete the proof. $\square$

In particular, for the symmetry V_2 , we have the characteristic equation

$$\frac{dx}{(a+b-m)x} = \frac{\alpha dt}{(a+b-3m+2)t} = \frac{du}{2u}, \quad (18)$$

which leads to the following similarity variable and the similarity transformation

$$\xi = x t^{\frac{\alpha(a+b-m)}{a+b-3m+2}}, \quad u = t^{\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}} g(\xi), \quad (19)$$

as ~~required~~ ~~required~~.

Theorem 2 The transformation (19) reduces (1) to the following nonlinear ODE of ~~fractional order~~ ~~fractional order~~

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(P^{1-\alpha + \frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, \alpha} \right) g(\xi) \\ & + \varepsilon m g^{m-1} g_\xi + (b-1)(a+b-2) g^{a+b-3} g_\xi^3 \\ & + (a+b-3) g^{a+b-2} g_{\xi\xi} g_\xi + g^{a+b-1} g_{\xi\xi\xi} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

with the ~~Erdelyi-Kober~~ ~~Erdelyi-Kober~~ fractional differential operator $P_\beta^{\tau, \alpha}$ of order [33]

$$(P_\beta^{\tau, \alpha} g) := \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} \left(\tau + j - \frac{1}{\beta} \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \right) (K_\beta^{\tau+\alpha, n-\alpha} g)(\xi), \quad (21)$$

$$n = \begin{cases} [\alpha] + 1, & \alpha \notin N, \\ \alpha & \alpha \in N, \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} & (K_\beta^{\tau, \alpha} g)(\xi) \\ & := \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^\infty (u-1)^{\alpha-1} u^{-(\tau+\alpha)} g(\xi u^{\frac{1}{\beta}}) du, & \alpha > 0, \\ g(\xi), & \alpha = 0, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

is the Erdélyi-Kober fractional integral operator.

Proof We first let $n - 1 < \alpha < n$, $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. Then, in light of the Riemann–Liouville fractional derivative and the similarity transformation, we get

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \left[\frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\alpha)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{n-\alpha-1} \times s^{\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}} g(xs^{-\frac{\alpha(a+b-m)}{a+b-3m+2}}) ds \right]. \quad (24)$$

Under the assumption $v = \frac{t}{s}$, Eq. (24) reduces

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} &= \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \left[t^{n-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}} \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\alpha)} \int_1^\infty (v-1)^{n-\alpha-1} \right. \\ &\quad \times v^{-\left(n-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}+1\right)} g\left(\xi v^{\frac{\alpha(a+b-m)}{a+b-3m+2}}\right) dv \Big] \\ &= \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \left[t^{n-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}} \left(K^{1+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, n-\alpha} g \right) (\xi) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

By using the relation $\xi = xt^{-\frac{\alpha(a+b-m)}{a+b-3m+2}}$, Eq. (25) further simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned} t \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \phi(\xi) &= tx \left(-\frac{\alpha(a+b-m)}{a+b-3m+2} \right) t^{-\frac{\alpha(a+b-m)}{a+b-3m+2}-1} \phi'(\xi) \\ &= -\frac{\alpha(a+b-m)}{a+b-3m+2} \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \phi(\xi). \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Thus, one can get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \left[t^{n-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}} \left(K^{1+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, n-\alpha} g \right) (\xi) \right] \\ &= \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{\partial t^{n-1}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(t^{n-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}} \right. \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left. \left(K^{1+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, n-\alpha} g \right) (\xi) \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{\partial t^{n-1}} \left[t^{n-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}-1} (n-\alpha) \right. \\ &\quad + \frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2} - \frac{\alpha(a+b-m)}{a+b-3m+2} \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \Big] \\ &\quad \times \left(K^{1+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, n-\alpha} g \right) (\xi). \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

Repeating the previous step, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \left[t^{n-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}} \left(K^{1+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, n-\alpha} g \right) (\xi) \right] \\ &= \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{\partial t^{n-1}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(t^{n-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}} \right. \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left. \left(K^{1+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, n-\alpha} g \right) (\xi) \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{\partial t^{n-1}} \left[t^{n-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}-1} (n-\alpha) \right. \\ &\quad + \frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2} - \frac{\alpha(a+b-m)}{a+b-3m+2} \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \Big] \\ &\quad \times \left(K^{1+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, n-\alpha} g \right) (\xi) \\ &= \dots = t^{n-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}} \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} (1-\alpha) \\ &\quad + \frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2} + j - \frac{\alpha(a+b-m)}{a+b-3m+2} \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \Big] \\ &\quad \times \left(K^{1+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, n-\alpha} g \right) (\xi). \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

So we have

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} = t^{-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}} \left(P^{1-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, \alpha} g \right) (\xi). \quad (29)$$

Hence, it is easily found that (1) reduces into the following fractional-order ODE

$$\begin{aligned} \left(P^{1-\alpha+\frac{2\alpha}{a+b-3m+2}, \alpha} g \right) (\xi) + \varepsilon m g^{m-1} g_\xi \\ + (b-1)(a+b-2) g^{a+b-3} g_\xi^3 \\ + (a+b-3) g^{a+b-2} g_{\xi\xi} g_\xi + g^{a+b-1} g_{\xi\xi\xi} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

3 Conservation laws proof.

In this section, we study the conservation laws of the class of time-fractional nonlinear dispersive equation. The Riemann–Liouville left-sided time-fractional derivative will be used as

$${}_0 D_t^\alpha u = D_t^n ({}_0 I_t^{n-\alpha} u), \quad (31)$$

in Eq. (1). Here, D_t is the operator of differentiation with respect to t , $n = [\alpha] + 1$, and ${}_0 I_t^{n-\alpha} u$ is the left-sided time-fractional integral of order $n - \alpha$ defined by [25]

$$({}_0 I_t^{n-\alpha} u)(x, t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{u(\theta, x)}{(t-\theta)^{1-n+\alpha}} d\theta, \quad (32)$$

where $\Gamma(z)$ is the Gamma function.

3.1 Necessary preliminaries

A conserved vector satisfies the following conservation equation

$$D_t(C^t) + D_x(C^x) = 0, \quad (33)$$

where $C^t = C^t(t, x, u, \dots)$, $C^x = C^x(t, x, u, \dots)$. Eq. (33) is called a conservation law for Eq. (1).

A formal Lagrangian for (1) can be introduced as

$$L = v(x, t) \left[u_t^\alpha + \varepsilon (u^m)_x + \frac{1}{b} \left[u^a (u^b u^a (u^b)_{xx})_x \right] \right] \quad (34)$$

Here $v(x, t)$ is a new dependent variable. Considering the formal Lagrangian, an action integral is given by

$$\int_0^T \int_\Omega L(x, t, u, v, D_t^\alpha u, u_x \dots) dx dt. \quad (35)$$

The Euler-Lagrange operator is defined by [25, 26]

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta u} = \frac{\partial}{\partial u} + (D_t^\alpha)^* \frac{\partial}{\partial D_t^\alpha u} - D_x \frac{\partial}{\partial u_x} + D_x^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xx}} - D_x^3 \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xxx}}, \quad (36)$$

where $(D_t^\alpha)^*$ is the adjoint operator of (D_t^α) .

Note that Eq. (1) with the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative can be rewritten in the form of conservation law form (33) with

$$C^t = D_t^{n-1} ({}_0 I_t^{n-\alpha} u), \quad C^x = \varepsilon u^m + \frac{1}{b} u^a (u^b)_{xx}. \quad (37)$$

The adjoint equation is similarly to the case of integer-order nonlinear differential equations [25, 26], so we have the adjoint equation to the nonlinear TFDE (1) as Euler-Lagrange equation

$$\frac{\delta L}{\delta u} = 0. \quad (38)$$

Considered the case of two independent variables t, x , and one dependent variable $u(t, x)$, this fundamental identity can be written as

$$\bar{X} + D_t(\tau)l + D_x(\xi)l = W \frac{\delta}{\delta u} + D_t N^t + D_x N^x, \quad (39)$$

where l is the identity operator, $\frac{\delta}{\delta u}$ is the Euler-Lagrange operator, N^t and N^x are the Noether operators, $\bar{X}$ is an appropriate prolongation for the Lie point generator

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{X} = & \tau \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \xi \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \eta \frac{\partial}{\partial u} + \eta_\alpha^0 \frac{\partial}{\partial D_t^\alpha u} + \eta^x \frac{\partial}{\partial u_x} \\ & + \eta^{xx} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xx}} + \eta^{xxx} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xxx}}, \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

and

$$W = \eta - \tau u_t - \xi u_x. \quad (41)$$

For the case Riemann-Liouville case, Riemann-Liouville time-fractional derivative is used in Eq. (1), the operator N^t is given by [25, 26]

$$\begin{aligned} N^t = & \tau l + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (-1)^k {}_0 D_t^{\alpha-1-k} (W) D_t^k \frac{\partial}{\partial {}_0 D_t^\alpha u} \\ & - (-1)^n J \left(W, D_t^n \frac{\partial}{\partial {}_0 D_t^\alpha u} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

where J is the integral [25, 26]

$$J(f, g) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\alpha)} \int_0^t \int_t^T \frac{f(\tau, x) g(\mu, x)}{(\mu - \tau)^{\alpha+1-n}} d\mu dt. \quad (43)$$

The operator N^x is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} N^x = & \xi l + W \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_x} - D_x \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xx}} + D_x^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xxx}} \right) \\ & + D_x(W) \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xx}} - D_x \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xxx}} \right) \\ & + D_x^2(W) \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xxx}}. \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

For any generator X admitted by Eq. (1) and any solution of this equation, we have:

$$(\bar{X}L + D_t(\tau)L + D_x(\xi)L)|_{(1)} = 0. \quad (45)$$

This equality yields the conservation law

$$D_t(N^t L) + D_x(N^x L) = 0. \quad (46)$$

3.2 Conservation laws

In the previous subsection, we gave some basic definitions. In this subsection, we will present the conservation laws.

For the case, when $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, using (42) and (44), one can get the components of conserved vectors

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_i^t &= \tau L + (-1)^0 {}_0 D_t^{\alpha-1}(W_i) D_t^0 \frac{\partial L}{\partial \{ {}_0 D_t^\alpha u \}} \\
 &\quad - (-1)^1 J \left(W_i, D_t^1 \frac{\partial L}{\partial \{ {}_0 D_t^\alpha u \}} \right) \\
 &= v {}_0 D_t^{\alpha-1}(W_i) + J(W_i, v_t), \\
 C_i^x &= \xi L + W_i \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial u_x} - D_x \frac{\partial L}{\partial u_{xx}} + D_x^2 \frac{\partial L}{\partial u_{xxx}} \right) \\
 &\quad + D_x(W_i) \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial u_{xx}} - D_x \frac{\partial L}{\partial u_{xxx}} \right) + D_x^2(W_i) \frac{\partial L}{\partial u_{xxx}} \\
 &= W_i \left\{ v \left((a+b-3)u^{a+b-2}u_{xx} \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. + 3(b-1)(a+b-2)u^{a+b-3}u_x^2 + \varepsilon mu^{m-1} \right) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - D_x \left[v(a+b-3)u^{a+b-2}u_x \right] + D_x^2 \left(vu^{a+b-1} \right) \right\} \\
 &\quad + D_x(W_i) \left\{ v(a+3b-3)u^{a+b-2}u_x \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - D_x \left(vu^{a+b-1} \right) \right\} + D_x^2(W_i) \left(vu^{a+b-1} \right), \quad (48)
 \end{aligned}$$

where $i = 1, 2$ and functions W_i are

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_1 &= -u_x, \quad W_2 = 2u - \frac{(a+b-3m+2)t}{\alpha} u_t \\
 &\quad - [(a+b-m)x]u_x. \quad (49)
 \end{aligned}$$

Also, when $\alpha \in (1, 2)$, we get the components of conserved vectors

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_i^t &= \tau L + (-1)^0 {}_0 D_t^{\alpha-1}(W_i) D_t^0 \frac{\partial L}{\partial \{ {}_0 D_t^\alpha u \}} \\
 &\quad - (-1)^1 J \left(W_i, D_t^1 \frac{\partial L}{\partial \{ {}_0 D_t^\alpha u \}} \right) \\
 &\quad + (-1)^1 {}_0 D_t^{\alpha-2}(W_i) D_t^1 \frac{\partial L}{\partial \{ {}_0 D_t^\alpha u \}} \\
 &\quad - (-1)^2 J \left(W_i, D_t^2 \frac{\partial L}{\partial \{ {}_0 D_t^\alpha u \}} \right) \\
 &= v {}_0 D_t^{\alpha-1}(W_i) + J(W_i, v_t) \\
 &\quad - v {}_0 D_t^{\alpha-2}(W_i) - J(W_i, v_{tt}), \\
 C_i^x &= \xi L + W_i \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial u_x} - D_x \frac{\partial L}{\partial u_{xx}} + D_x^2 \frac{\partial L}{\partial u_{xxx}} \right) \\
 &\quad + D_x(W_i) \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial u_{xx}} - D_x \frac{\partial L}{\partial u_{xxx}} \right) + D_x^2(W_i) \frac{\partial L}{\partial u_{xxx}} \\
 &= W_i \left\{ v \left((a+b-3)u^{a+b-2}u_{xx} \right. \right.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\quad \left. + 3(b-1)(a+b-2)u^{a+b-3}u_x^2 \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \varepsilon mu^{m-1} \right) - D_x \left[v(a+b-3)u^{a+b-2}u_x \right] \\
 &\quad + D_x^2 \left(vu^{a+b-1} \right) \Big\} \\
 &\quad + D_x(W_i) \left\{ v(a+3b-3)u^{a+b-2}u_x \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - D_x \left(vu^{a+b-1} \right) \right\} + D_x^2(W_i) \left(vu^{a+b-1} \right), \quad (51)
 \end{aligned}$$

where $i = 1, 2$ and functions W_i have the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_1 &= -u_x, \quad W_2 = 2u - \frac{(a+b-3m+2)t}{\alpha} u_t \\
 &\quad - [(a+b-m)x]u_x. \quad (52)
 \end{aligned}$$

4 Concluding remarks and discussion

In this paper, we investigated ~~time-fractional~~ **time-fractional** nonlinear dispersive equation via Lie symmetries and conservation laws. We firstly obtained the Lie point symmetries and perform symmetry reductions. Furthermore, the conservation laws are constructed for the first time in this paper. The obtained results will serve as benchmark in the accuracy testing, comparison of numerical results. There are several issues which need to be pursued further. For example, here we have used classical Lie symmetry method for only two independent x, t and one dependent u variables. It is not clear that, how to derive similar results in the case of time FPDEs with more independent and dependent variables. In addition, for the conservative form $(u)_t^\alpha + \left(\varepsilon u^m + \frac{1}{b} u^a (u^b u^a)_{xx} \right)_x = 0$, one can write the potential system $u = v_x$ and $\varepsilon u^m + \frac{1}{b} u^a (u^b u^a)_{xx} = -v_t^\alpha$, it is also not clear that whether there exists nonlocal symmetry. It is of interest in general to study whether the method of investigating PDEs can be extended to FPDEs. It is worthy of investigating further and these topics will be reported in the future series of research works.

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