

## Lie symmetry analysis, exact solutions and conservation laws for the time fractional modified Zakharov–Kuznetsov equation

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**Abstract.** In this work, Lie symmetry analysis (LSA) for the time fractional modified Zakharov–Kuznetsov (mZK) equation with Riemann–Liouville (RL) derivative is analyzed. We transform the time fractional mZK equation to nonlinear ordinary differential equation (ODE) of fractional order using its point symmetries with a new dependent variable. In the reduced equation, the derivative is in Erdelyi–Kober (EK) sense. We obtained exact traveling wave solutions by using fractional  $D_{\xi}^{\alpha}G/G$ -expansion method. Using Ibragimov’s nonlocal conservation method to time fractional nonlinear partial differential equations (FNPDEs), we compute conservation laws (CLs) for the mZK equation.

**Keywords:** modified Zakharov–Kuznetsov equation, Lie symmetry, Riemann–Liouville fractional derivative, exact solutions, conservation laws.

### 1 Introduction

LSA is one of the most efficient method for investigating the exact solutions of nonlinear partial differential equations (NLPDEs) arising in mathematics, physics and many other fields of science and engineering. It is well known that there is no general method for solving NLPDEs, however, LSA is one of the more powerful method for reaching new exact and explicit solutions for NLPDEs [9, 11, 28, 31–33, 42, 44, 45, 55, 56, 60].

Moreover, fractional calculus has been applied to analyze many complex nonlinear physical phenomena and dynamic processes in physics, engineering, electromagnetics, viscoelasticity, electrochemistry [3, 12, 23, 26, 35, 36, 38, 43, 46, 47, 54, 57, 65]. As far as we know, the study of symmetry analysis for FNPDEs and their group properties are very few in the literature [10, 13, 24, 25].

Furthermore, CLs possess an important role in the analysis of NLPDEs from physical viewpoint [55]. If the considered system has CLs, then its integrability will be possible [29]. More detail about CLs and their construction can be found in [2, 30, 37, 53].

Time fractional NLPDEs comes from classical NLPDEs by replacing its time derivative with fractional derivative. In the present work, we study Lie symmetry analysis, exact traveling wave solutions using fractional  $D_t^\alpha G/G$ -expansion method and Ibragimov's nonlocal CLs [30] of the time fractional mZK equation given by

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} + u^2 u_x + u_{xxx} + u_{xyy} = 0, \quad (1)$$

where  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ , and  $\alpha$  is the order of the fractional time derivative, while  $u(x, y, t)$  implies the electrostatic wave potential in plasmas, that is, a function of the spatial variables  $x, y$  and the temporal variable  $t$ .

The term  $\partial^\alpha u / \partial t^\alpha$  in (1) is the fractional temporal evolution (FTE) term. FTE is very significant since it yields a history of the problem, and also it gets rid of the slowness of evolution. For instance, when the order of the fractional derivative parameter can be controlled externally, the evolution of the soliton can be manifested artificially [4, 16, 17, 21, 48–51]. This important feature is being globally applied in several areas of physics and engineering. One immediate example is the temporal evolution of solitons in optical fibers, which can be slowed to address Internet bottleneck that is a growing problem in Internet industry [6, 14, 19, 20, 22, 39].

If  $\alpha = 1$ , (1) reduces to the classical mZK equation. The ZK and mZK equations determine the behaviour of weakly nonlinear ion-acoustic waves in incorporated hot isothermal electrons and cold ions in the presence of the uniform magnetic field [1, 5, 7, 8, 15, 34, 40, 41, 52, 58, 59, 64]. The mZK equation interprets an anisotropic two-dimensional generalization of the KdV equation and can be analysed in magnetized plasma for a tiny amplitude Alfvén wave at a critical angle to the uninterrupted magnetic field [1, 5, 7, 8, 15, 34, 40, 41, 52, 58, 59, 64].

## 2 Preliminaries

Basic definitions and theorems for the RL fractional derivative can be found in [61, 66]. Consider a FNPDEs of the form

$$\partial_t^\alpha u = F(t, x, y, u, u_x, u_{xx}, \dots) \quad (0 < \alpha < 1). \quad (2)$$

Given a one-parameter Lie group of infinitesimal transformations are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{t} &= t + \epsilon \xi^2(x, t, y, u) + O(\epsilon^2), & \tilde{x} &= x + \epsilon \xi^1(x, t, y, u) + O(\epsilon^2), \\ \tilde{y} &= y + \epsilon \xi^3(x, t, y, u) + O(\epsilon^2), & \tilde{u} &= u + \epsilon \eta(x, t, y, u) + O(\epsilon^2), \end{aligned} \quad (3a)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial^\alpha \tilde{u}}{\partial \tilde{t}} &= \frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} + \epsilon \eta_\alpha^0(x, t, y, u) + O(\epsilon^2), \\
 \frac{\partial \tilde{u}}{\partial \tilde{x}} &= \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \epsilon \eta^x(x, t, y, u) + O(\epsilon^2), \\
 \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{u}}{\partial \tilde{x}^2} &= \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \epsilon \eta^{xx}(x, t, y, u) + O(\epsilon^2), \\
 \frac{\partial^3 \tilde{u}}{\partial \tilde{x}^3} &= \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^3} + \epsilon \eta^{xxx}(x, t, y, u) + O(\epsilon^2),
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3b}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \eta^x &= D_x(\eta) - u_x D_x(\xi^1) - u_t D_t(\xi^2), \\
 \eta^{xx} &= D_x(\eta^x) - u_{xt} D_x(\xi^1) - u_{xx} D_t(\xi^2), \\
 \eta^{xxx} &= D_x(\eta^{xx}) - u_{xxt} D_x(\xi^1) - u_{xxx} D_t(\xi^2).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4}$$

Here  $D_x = \partial/\partial x + u_x \partial/\partial u + u_{xx} \partial/\partial u_x + \dots$ .

The corresponding Lie algebra of symmetries consists of a set of vector fields defined by

$$X = \xi^1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \xi^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \xi^3 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \eta \frac{\partial}{\partial u}.
 \tag{5}$$

The vector field (5) is a Lie point symmetry of (2), provided

$$P^{\alpha,3}{}_r X(\nabla)|_{\nabla=0} = 0.$$

Also, the invariance condition [27] reads

$$\xi^2(x, t, y, u)|_{t=0} = 0,
 \tag{6}$$

and the  $\alpha$ th extended infinitesimal related to RL fractional time derivative with (6) is given by [27, 62]

$$\begin{aligned}
 \eta_\alpha^0 &= \frac{\partial^\alpha \eta}{\partial t^\alpha} + (\eta_u - \alpha D_t(\xi^2)) \frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} - u \frac{\partial^\alpha \eta_u}{\partial t^\alpha} + \mu - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \binom{\alpha}{n} D_t^n(\xi^1) D_t^{\alpha-n}(u_x) \\
 &+ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \binom{\alpha}{n} \frac{\partial^\alpha \eta_u}{\partial t^\alpha} - \binom{\alpha}{n+1} D_t^{n+1}(\xi^2) \right] D_t^{\alpha-n}(u),
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{7}$$

where

$$\mu = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \sum_{m=2}^n \sum_{k=2}^m \sum_{r=0}^{k-1} \binom{\alpha}{n} \binom{n}{m} \binom{k}{r} \frac{1}{k!} \frac{t^{n-\alpha}}{\Gamma(n+1-\alpha)} [-u]^r \frac{\partial^m}{\partial t^m} [u^{k-r}] \frac{\partial^{n-m+k}}{\partial t^{n-m} \partial u^k}.$$

### 3 Lie symmetries and reduction for (1)

Suppose that (1) is an invariant under (3), we have that

$$\bar{u}_t^\alpha + \bar{u}^2 \bar{u}_x + \bar{u}_{xxx} + \bar{u}_{xyy} = 0,
 \tag{8}$$

thus,  $u = u(x, t, y)$  satisfies (1). Using (3) in (8), we obtain the invariant equation

$$\eta_\alpha^0 + 2uu_x\eta + u^2\eta^x + 2\eta^{xxx} = 0. \quad (9)$$

Substituting the values of  $\eta_\alpha^0$ ,  $\eta^x$  and  $\eta^{xxx}$  from (4) and (7) into (9) and isolating coefficients in partial derivatives with respect to  $x$  and power of  $u$ , the determining equations are obtained. Solving the obtained determining equation, we get

$$\xi^1 = c_1 + x\alpha c_6, \quad \xi^2 = c_5 + 3tc_6, \quad \xi^3 = 0, \quad \eta = -\alpha uc_6,$$

where  $c_1$ ,  $c_5$  and  $c_6$  are arbitrary constants. Thus, infinitesimal symmetry group for (1) is spanned by the three vector fields

$$X_1 = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \quad X_2 = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}, \quad X_3 = x\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 3t \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - u\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial u}.$$

In particular, for the symmetry  $X_3$ , the similarity variables for the infinitesimal generator  $X_3$  can be obtained from the following equation:

$$\frac{dx}{\alpha x} = \frac{dt}{3t} = -\frac{du}{\alpha u},$$

which yields the similarity transformation and similarity variable

$$u = t^{\alpha/3} f(\xi), \quad \xi = xt^{-\alpha/3} \quad (10)$$

as required.

**Theorem 1.** *The similarity transformation (10) reduces (1) to the nonlinear ODE of fractional order as below:*

$$(P_{3/\alpha}^{1-2\alpha/3, \alpha} f)(\xi) + f^2 f_\xi + 2f_{\xi\xi\xi} = 0$$

with the EK fractional differential operator [38]

$$(P_\beta^{\xi^2, \alpha} f) = \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} \left( \xi^2 + j - \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{d}{d\xi} \right) (K_\beta^{\xi^2 + \alpha, n-\alpha} f)(\xi), \quad (11)$$

$$n = \begin{cases} [\alpha] + 1, & \alpha \notin \mathbb{N}, \\ \alpha, & \alpha \in \mathbb{N}, \end{cases}$$

where

$$(K_\beta^{\xi^2, \alpha} f)(\xi) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^\infty (u-1)^{\alpha-1} u^{-(\xi^2+\alpha)} f(\xi u^{1/\beta}) du, & \alpha > 0, \\ f(\xi), & \alpha = 0, \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

is the EK fractional integral operator [18, 63].

*Proof.* Let  $n-1 < \alpha < 1$ ,  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ . Based on the RL fractional derivative in (10), we get

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \left[ \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\alpha)} \int_1^t (t-s)^{n-\alpha-1} s^{\alpha/3} f(xs^{-(\alpha/3)}) ds \right]. \quad (13)$$

Let  $v = t/s$ ,  $ds = -t/v^2 dv$ . Thus, (13) becomes

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \left[ t^{n-\alpha/3} \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\alpha)} \int_1^\infty (v-1)^{n-\alpha-1} v^{-(n+1-2\alpha/3)} f(\xi v^{\alpha/3}) dv \right]. \quad (14)$$

Applying EK fractional integral operator (12) in (14), we have

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} [t^{n-2\alpha/3} (K_{3/\alpha}^{1-\alpha/3, n-\alpha} f)(\xi)]. \quad (15)$$

We simplify the right-hand side of (15). Considering  $\xi = xt^{-\alpha/3}$ ,  $\phi \in (0, \infty)$ , we acquire

$$t \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \phi(\xi) = t x \left( -\frac{\alpha}{3} \right) t^{-\alpha/3-1} \phi'(\xi) = -\frac{\alpha}{3} \xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \phi(\xi).$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} [t^{n-2\alpha/3} (K_{3/\alpha}^{1-\alpha/3, n-\alpha} f)(\xi)] \\ &= \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{\partial t^{n-1}} [t^{n-2\alpha/3} (K_{3/\alpha}^{1-\alpha/3, n-\alpha} f)(\xi)] \\ &= \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{\partial t^{n-1}} \left[ t^{n-2\alpha/3-1} \left( n + \frac{\alpha}{3} - \frac{\alpha}{3} \xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \right) (K_{3/\alpha}^{1-\alpha/3, n-\alpha} f)(\xi) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Repeating  $n-1$  times, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} [t^{n-2\alpha/3} (K_{3/\alpha}^{1-\alpha/3, n-\alpha} f)(\xi)] \\ &= \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{\partial t^{n-1}} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (t^{n-2\alpha/3} (K_{3/\alpha}^{1-\alpha/3, n-\alpha} f)(\xi)) \right] \\ &= \frac{\partial^{n-1}}{\partial t^{n-1}} \left[ t^{n-\alpha/3-1} \left( n + \frac{\alpha}{3} - \frac{\alpha}{3} \xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \right) (K_{3/\alpha}^{1-\alpha/3, n-\alpha} f)(\xi) \right] \\ &\quad \vdots \\ &= t^{-\alpha/3} \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{2\alpha}{3} + j - \frac{\alpha}{3} \xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \right) (K_{3/\alpha}^{1-\alpha/3, n-\alpha} f)(\xi) \right]. \quad (16) \end{aligned}$$

Applying EK fractional differential operator (11) in (16), we get

$$\frac{\partial^n u}{\partial t^n} [(t^{n-\alpha/3} (K_{3/\alpha}^{1-\alpha/3, n-\alpha} f)(\xi))] = t^{-\alpha/3} (P_{3/\alpha}^{1-2\alpha/3, \alpha} f)(\xi). \quad (17)$$

Substituting (17) into (15), we obtain

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha u}{\partial t^\alpha} = t^{-2\alpha/3} (P_{3/\alpha}^{1-2\alpha/3, \alpha} f)(\xi).$$

Thus, (1) can be reduced into a fractional order ODE

$$(P_{3/\alpha}^{1-2\alpha/3, \alpha} f)(\xi) + f^2 f_\xi + 2f_{\xi\xi\xi} = 0.$$

The proof of the theorem is complete.  $\square$

## 4 Exact traveling wave solutions

In this section, the exact traveling wave solutions for (1) will be presented. For this aim, we consider the fractional derivative appears in (1) in the sense of modified RL derivative [35, 36].

### 4.1 Description of the $D_\xi^\alpha G/G$ -expansion method

The description of the  $D_\xi^\alpha G/G$ -expansion method is presented in detail in [67]. Using the same steps as in [67], we present the application of  $D_\xi^\alpha G/G$ -expansion method to (1) in the following subsections.

### 4.2 Application

In this subsection, we apply  $D_\xi^\alpha G/G$ -expansion method to (1). Using the travelling wave transformation  $\xi = x + y - ct$ , we reduce (1) to the nonlinear fractional ODE below:

$$c^\alpha D_\xi^\alpha u + u^2 D_\xi^\alpha u + 2D_\xi^{3\alpha} u = 0. \quad (18)$$

Balancing the highest order derivative term  $D_\xi^{3\alpha} u$  with nonlinear term  $u^2 D_\xi^\alpha u$  in (18), we get  $n = 1$  [13] and therefore

$$u(\xi) = a_0 + a_{-1} \left( \frac{G(\xi)}{D_\xi^\alpha G(\xi)} \right) + a_1 \left( \frac{D_\xi^\alpha G(\xi)}{G(\xi)} \right). \quad (19)$$

Substitute (19) into (18) collecting the coefficients of  $(D_\xi^\alpha G(\xi)/G(\xi))^i$ ,  $i = (0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots)$  and equating them to zero. A set of algebraic systems is obtained in  $a_0, a_{-1}, a_1$ . Solving the obtained algebraic systems with *Mathematica 9*, we obtain the following cases:

*Case 1:*  $a_0 = 0, \lambda = 0, c^\alpha = -8\mu, a_1 = \pm 2i\sqrt{3}, a_{-1} = (8\mu + 4\mu)i\sqrt{3}/6$ .

If  $\mu < 0$ , we have

$$u_1(x, t, y) = \frac{1}{6}(8\mu + 4\mu)i\sqrt{3} \left( \frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{c_1 \cosh(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \sinh(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta)}{c_1 \sinh(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \cosh(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta)} \right] \right)^{-1} \\ + 2i\sqrt{3} \left( \frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{c_1 \cosh(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \sinh(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta)}{c_1 \sinh(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \cosh(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta)} \right] \right).$$

When  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 \neq 0$ , we get

$$u_2(x, t, y) = \frac{1}{6}(8\mu + 4\mu)i\sqrt{3} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta\right) \right]^{-1} + 2i\sqrt{3} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta\right) \right],$$

when  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $c_2 = 0$ , we obtain

$$u_3(x, t) = \frac{1}{6}(8\mu + 4\mu)i\sqrt{3} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \coth\left(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta\right) \right]^{-1} + 2i\sqrt{3} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \coth\left(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2}\eta\right) \right].$$

If  $\mu > 0$ , we get

$$u_4(x, t, y) = \frac{1}{6}(8\mu + 4\mu)i\sqrt{3} \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{-c_1 \cos(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \sin(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta)}{c_1 \sin(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \cos(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta)} \right] \right)^{-1} + 2i\sqrt{3} \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{c_1 \cos(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \sin(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta)}{c_1 \sinh(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \cosh(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta)} \right] \right).$$

When  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 \neq 0$ , we acquire

$$u_5(x, t, y) = \frac{1}{6}(8\mu + 4\mu)i\sqrt{3} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \tan\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta\right) \right]^{-1} + 2i\sqrt{3} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \tan\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta\right) \right],$$

when  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $c_2 = 0$ , we have that

$$u_6(x, t, y) = \frac{1}{6}(8\mu + 4\mu)i\sqrt{3} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \cot\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta\right) \right]^{-1} + 2i\sqrt{3} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \cot\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2}\eta\right) \right],$$

where  $\eta = \xi^\alpha / \Gamma(1 + \alpha)$  and  $\xi = x + y - ct$ .

Case 2:  $c^\alpha = (-24\mu + a_0^2)/3$ ,  $\lambda \neq 0$ ,  $a_1 = 2a_0/\lambda$ ,  $a_{-1} = 2\mu a_0/\lambda$ .

If  $\mu < 0$ , we obtain

$$u_7(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{c_1 \cosh(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \sinh(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2}\eta)}{c_1 \sinh(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \cosh(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2}\eta)} \right] - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right)^{-1} + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{c_1 \cosh(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \sinh(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2}\eta)}{c_1 \sinh(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2}\eta) + c_2 \cosh(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2}\eta)} \right] - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right).$$

When  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 \neq 0$ , we acquire

$$u_8(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \tanh \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right]^{-1} \\ + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \tanh \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right],$$

when  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $c_2 = 0$ , we get

$$u_9(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \coth \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right]^{-1} \\ + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \coth \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right].$$

If  $\mu > 0$ , we have

$$u_{10}(x, t, y) \\ = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{-c_1 \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)}{c_1 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)} \right] - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right)^{-1} \\ + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{c_1 \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)}{c_1 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)} \right] - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right).$$

When  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 \neq 0$ , we obtain

$$u_{11}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \tan \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right]^{-1} \\ + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \tan \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right], \quad (20)$$

when  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $c_2 = 0$ , we get

$$u_{12}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \cot \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right]^{-1} \\ + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \cot \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right],$$

where  $\eta = \xi^\alpha / \Gamma(1 + \alpha)$  and  $\xi = x + y - ct$ .

Case 3:  $c^\alpha = (12\mu + a_0^2)/3$ ,  $\lambda \neq 0$ ,  $a_1 = 2a_0/\lambda$ ,  $a_{-1} = 0$ .

If  $\mu < 0$ , we get

$$u_{13}(x, t, y) \\ = a_0 + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{c_1 \cosh\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \sinh\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)}{c_1 \sinh\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \cosh\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)} \right] - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right).$$



When  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 \neq 0$ , we obtain

$$u_{14}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \tanh \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right], \quad (21)$$

when  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $c_2 = 0$ , we have

$$u_{15}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \coth \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right].$$

If  $\mu > 0$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} u_{16}(x, t, y) \\ = a_0 + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \left[ \frac{-c_1 \cosh\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \sinh\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta\right)}{c_1 \sinh\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \cosh\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta\right)} \right] - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

When  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 \neq 0$ , we obtain that

$$u_{17}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \tan \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right],$$

when  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $c_2 = 0$ , we acquire

$$u_{18}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \cot \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right],$$

where  $\eta = \xi^\alpha / \Gamma(1 + \alpha)$  and  $\xi = x + ct$ .

Case 4:  $a_0 = 0$ ,  $\lambda = 0$ ,  $c^\alpha = 4\mu$ ,  $a_1 = 0$ ,  $a_{-1} = \pm 2i\sqrt{3}\mu$ ,  $\mu \neq 0$ .

If  $\mu < 0$ , we get

$$u_{19}(x, t, y) = 2i\sqrt{3}\mu \left( \frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{c_1 \cosh\left(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \sinh\left(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)}{c_1 \sinh\left(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \cosh\left(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)} \right] \right)^{-1},$$

when  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 \neq 0$ , we get

$$u_{20}(x, t, y) = 2i\sqrt{3}\mu \left[ \frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \tanh\left(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) \right]^{-1},$$

when  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $c_2 = 0$ , we have

$$u_{21}(x, t, y) = 2i\sqrt{3}\mu \left[ \frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \coth\left(\frac{\sqrt{-4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) \right]^{-1}.$$

If  $\mu > 0$ , we get

$$u_{22}(x, t, y) = 2i\sqrt{3}\mu \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{-c_1 \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)}{c_1 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)} \right] \right)^{-1}.$$

When  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 \neq 0$ , we obtain

$$u_{23}(x, t, y) = 2i\sqrt{3}\mu \left[ \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \tan \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) \right]^{-1},$$

when  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $c_2 = 0$ , we get

$$u_{24}(x, t, y) = 2i\sqrt{3}\mu \left[ \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \cot \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) \right]^{-1},$$

where  $\eta = \xi^\alpha / \Gamma(1 + \alpha)$  and  $\xi = x + y - ct$ .

Case 5:  $\mu \neq 0$ ,  $c^\alpha = 2\lambda^2 + 4\mu + a_0^2$ ,  $a_1 = 0$ ,  $\lambda \neq 0$ ,  $a_{-1} = 2\mu a_0 / \lambda$ .

If  $\mu < 0$ , we get

$$u_{25}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \left[ \frac{-c_1 \cosh\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \sinh\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)}{c_1 \sinh\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \cosh\left(\frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta\right)} \right] - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right)^{-1}.$$

When  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 \neq 0$ , we obtain that

$$u_{26}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \tanh \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right]^{-1},$$

when  $c_1 \neq 0$ , and  $c_2 = 0$ , we obtain

$$u_{27}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \coth \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right]^{-1}.$$

If  $\mu > 0$ , we get

$$u_{28}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \left[ \frac{-c_1 \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta\right)}{c_1 \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta\right) + c_2 \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}}{2} \eta\right)} \right] - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right)^{-1}.$$

When  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 \neq 0$ , we get

$$u_{29}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \tan \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right]^{-1},$$

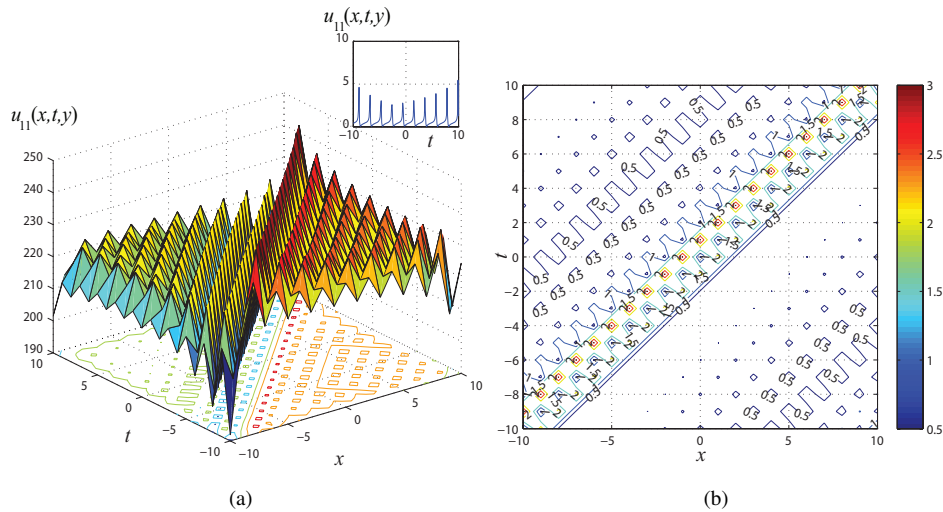
when  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $c_2 = 0$ , we have

$$u_{30}(x, t, y) = a_0 + \frac{2\mu a_0}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \cot \left( \frac{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 4\mu}}{2} \eta \right) - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right]^{-1},$$

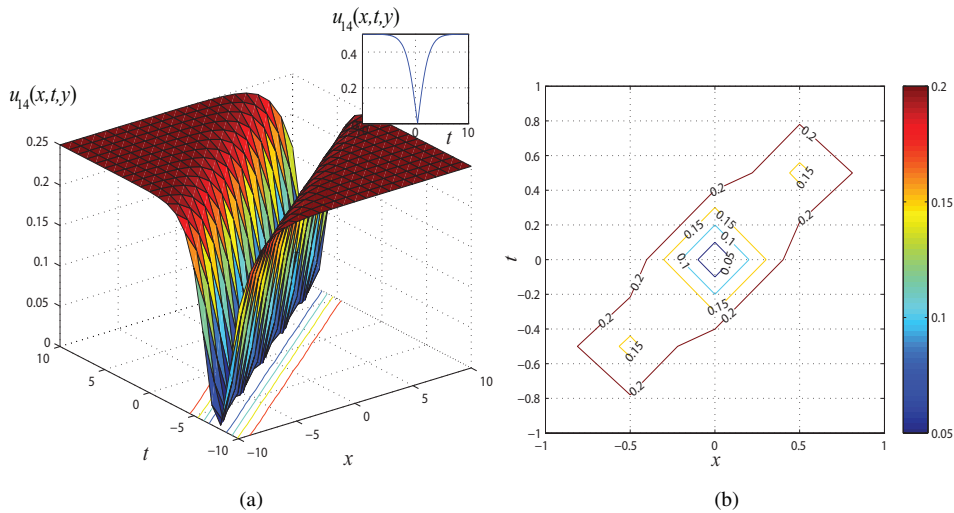
where  $\eta = \xi^\alpha / \Gamma(1 + \alpha)$  and  $\xi = x + y - ct$ .

### 4.3 Graphical and physical explanation of the obtained solutions

Herein, we present some three-dimensional, two-dimensional and contour plots of some of the obtained results. The construction of the figures is carried out by taking suitable values of the parameters in order to see the mechanism of the original (1). One can see that the obtained solutions possess solutions like periodic wave, bell-shaped, kink-type and singular solitons. We take solutions (20) and (21) and illustrate them in Figs. 1, 2, respectively.



**Figure 1.** Solution (20) with  $a_0 = 1$ ,  $\mu = 0.75$ ,  $\lambda = 1.5$ ,  $\alpha = 0.8$ : (a) 3D and 2D plot; (b) contour plot.



**Figure 2.** Solution (21) with  $a_0 = 1$ ,  $\mu = 0.5$ ,  $\lambda = 0.1$ ,  $\alpha = 0.5$ : (a) 3D and 2D plot; (b) contour plot.

## 5 Conservation laws for (1)

For more details on CLs and their constructions, see [30, 37, 53]. Using the descriptions and basics definitions for CLs presented in [3], the CLs for (1) corresponding to the order of  $\alpha$  are given as follows:

*Case 1.* When  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , the components of the conserved vectors are

$$\begin{aligned} C_i^t &= \xi^2 L + (-1)^0 {}_oD_t^{\alpha-1}(W_i) D_t^0 \frac{\partial L}{\partial({}_oD_t^\alpha u)} - (-1)^1 J\left(W_i, D_t^1 \frac{\partial L}{\partial({}_oD_t^\alpha u)}\right) \\ &= v_o D_t^{\alpha-1}(W_i) + J(W_i, v_t), \\ C_i^x &= \xi^1 l + W_i \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u_x} - D_x \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xx}} + D_x^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xxx}} \right) \\ &\quad + D_x(W_i) \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xx}} - D_x \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xxx}} \right) + D_x^2(W_i) \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{xxx}} \right) \\ &= W_i(u^2 v + 2D_x^2 v) - D_x(W_i)(D_x v) + D_x^2(W_i)v, \end{aligned}$$

where  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , and the functions  $W_i$  are given by

$$W_1 = -u_x, \quad W_2 = -u_t, \quad W_3 = -u\alpha - 3tu_t - \alpha xu_x.$$

*Case 2.* When  $\alpha \in (1, 2)$ , the components of the conserved vectors are

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

where  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , and the functions  $W_i$  are given by

$$W_1 = -u_x, \quad W_2 = -u_t, \quad W_3 = -u\alpha - 3tu_t - \alpha xu_x.$$

## 6 Concluding remarks

In this research, Lie symmetry analysis of (1) using RL derivative was investigated. We obtained point symmetries for the governing equation and reduced it to a fractional nonlinear ODE. An exact solutions for the reduced ODE are obtained using  $D_\xi^\alpha G/G$ -expansion method. The obtained solutions include hyperbolic, trigonometric and rational solutions. We computed the CLs for the governing equation by using new conservation theorem. The obtained solutions and CLs might be very vital for interpreting some physical phenomena in different fields of applied mathematics.

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