

# Exact Solutions of the Cubic Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation with a Trapping Potential by Reduced Differential Transform Method

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**Abstract:** In this paper, the nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) equation with cubic nonlinearity will be studied. The reduced differential transform method (RDTM) will be used to obtain approximate analytical solutions for this equation. The proposed technique, which does not require linearization, discretization or perturbation, gives the solution in the form of convergent power series with elegantly computed components. Therefore, the solution procedure of the RDTM is simpler than other traditional methods. This method can successfully be applied to a large class of problems.

**Keywords:** Nonlinear Schrödinger equation with cubic nonlinearity, Reduced differential transform method, Exact solutions, Approximate solutions..

## 1 Introduction

A considerable amount of research work has been devoted for the study of nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) equations with a variety of nonlinearities [1-5]. The NLS equation describes numerous nonlinear physical phenomena in the field of nonlinear science such as optical solitons in optical fibres, solitons in the mean-field theory of Bose-Einstein condensates, rogue waves in the nonlinear oceanography, etc. One of the NLS equation with trapping potential, Gross-Pitaevskii equation attracts extreme interests recently. This equation describing the dynamics of Bose-Einstein Condensate at extremely low temperature. More details are presented [6-8].

Many powerful methods, numerical and analytical, have been presented to solve NLS equations like the inverse scattering method [9, 10], Lax pairs [11], Backlund transformation, Hirota bilinear forms [12], Adomian decomposition method (ADM) [13, 14], homotopy perturbation method (HPM) [15-17], the variational iteration method (VIM) [18, 19], differential transform method (DTM) [20-22], and homotopy analysis method (HAM) [23], first integral method [24, 25] and some others.

The reduced differential transform method (RDTM) was

first proposed by Keskin [26] to look for exact solutions of PDEs. In recent years, Keskin and Oturanc [27-29] developed the reduced differential transform method (RDTM) for the fractional differential equations and showed that RDTM is the easily useable semi analytical method and gives the exact solution for both the linear and nonlinear differential equations. The solution obtained by the reduced differential transform method is an infinite power series for initial value problems, which can be, in turn, expressed in closed form, the exact solution. Recently, this useful method is widely used in many papers such as in [30-36] and the reference therein. In this paper, we consider the nonlinear Schrödinger equation with a cubic nonlinearity, with the following initial condition

$$i \frac{\partial u(X, t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 u + V_d(X)u + \beta_d |u|^2 u,$$

$$X \in R^d, t \geq 0, i^2 = -1, u(X, 0) = f(X) X \in R^d.$$

Where  $u(X, t)$  is a complex function,  $V_d(X)$  is the trapping potential and  $\beta_d$  is a constants [37].

The aim of this paper is to obtain the exact solution of this equation by using the RDTM and it is shown that the computational size of this method is small compared with those of ADM, HPM, VIM and DTM.

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The paper is arranged as follows. In Section 2, we describe briefly the reduced differential transform method (RDTM). In Section 3, we apply this method to the cubic nonlinear Schrödinger (CNLS) equations. In Section 4, some conclusions are given.

## 2 Analysis of the Method

Consider a function of two variables  $u(x, t)$  and suppose that it can be represented as a product of two single-variable functions, i.e.,  $u(x, t) = f(x)g(t)$ . Based on the properties of one dimensional differential transform, the function  $u(x, t)$  can be represented as follows:

$$u(x, t) = \left( \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} F(i)x^i \right) \left( \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} G(j)t^j \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} U_k(x)t^k, \tag{1}$$

where  $U_k(x)$  is called  $t$ -dimensional spectrum function of  $u(x, t)$ . The basic definitions of RDTM are introduced as follows [26-29]:

**Definition 2.1.** If function  $u(x, t)$  is analytic and differentiated continuously with respect to time  $t$  and space  $x$  in the domain of interest, then let

$$U_k(x) = \frac{1}{k!} \left[ \frac{\partial^k}{\partial t^k} u(x, t) \right]_{t=0}, \tag{2}$$

where the  $t$ -dimensional spectrum function  $U_k(x)$  is the transformed function. In this paper, the lowercase  $u(x, t)$  represents the original function, while the uppercase  $U_k(x)$  stands for the transformed function.

**Definition 2.2.** The differential inverse transform of  $U_k(x)$  is defined as follows:

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} U_k(x)t^k. \tag{3}$$

Then, combining Eqs. (2) and (3) we write

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} \left[ \frac{\partial^k}{\partial t^k} u(x, t) \right]_{t=0} t^k, \tag{4}$$

from the above definitions, it can be found that the concept of the RDTM is derived from the power series expansion. To illustrate the basic concepts of the RDTM, consider the following nonlinear partial differential equation written in an operator form

$$Lu(x, t) + Ru(x, t) + Nu(x, t) = g(x, t), \tag{5}$$

with initial condition

$$u(x, 0) = f(x), \tag{6}$$

where  $L = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ ,  $R$  is a linear operator which has partial derivatives,  $Nu(x, t)$  is a nonlinear operator and  $g(x, t)$  is an inhomogeneous term.

According to the RDTM, we can construct the following iteration formula:

$$(k + 1)U_{k+1}(x) = G_k(x) - RU_k(x) - NU_k(x), \tag{7}$$

where  $U_k(x)$ ,  $RU_k(x)$ ,  $NU_k(x)$  and  $G_k(x)$  are the transformations of the functions  $Lu(x, t)$ ,  $Ru(x, t)$ ,  $Nu(x, t)$  and  $g(x, t)$  respectively.

From initial condition (6), we write

$$U_0(x) = f(x). \tag{8}$$

Substituting (8) into (7) and by straightforward iterative calculation, we get the following  $U_k(x)$  values. Then, the inverse transformation of the set of values  $\{U_k(x)\}_{k=0}^n$  gives the  $n$ -terms approximation solution as follows:

$$\tilde{u}_n(x, t) = \sum_{k=0}^n U_k(x)t^k. \tag{9}$$

Therefore, the exact solution of the problem is given by

$$u(x, t) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{u}_n(x, t). \tag{10}$$

The fundamental mathematical operations performed by RDTM can be readily obtained and are listed in Table 1.

## 3 Applications

In this section, we illustrate the RDTM for solving the cubic nonlinear Schrödinger equations.

**Example 1:** We first consider the following one-dimensional Schrödinger equation

$$i \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + (\cos^2 x)u + |u|^2 u, \quad t \geq 0, \tag{11}$$

subject to the initial condition

$$u(x, 0) = \sin x. \tag{12}$$

According to the RDTM and Table 1, the differential transform of Eq. (11) reads

$$(k + 1)U_{k+1}(x) = \frac{1}{2}i \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} U_k(x) - i(\cos^2 x)U_k(x) + N(U_k(x)), \tag{13}$$

where the  $t$ -dimensional spectrum functions  $U_k(x)$  is the transformed function.  $N(U_k(x))$  is the transformed form of the nonlinear terms.

From initial condition (12), we write

$$U_0(x) = \sin x. \tag{14}$$

Table 1. Reduced differential transformation	
Functional Form	Transformed Form
$u(x, t)$	$U_k(x) = \frac{1}{k!} [\frac{\partial^k}{\partial t^k} u(x, t)]_{t=0}$
$w(x, t) = u(x, t) \pm v(x, t)$	$W_k(x) = U_k(x) \pm V_k(x)$
$w(x, t) = \alpha u(x, t)$	$W_k(x) = \alpha U_k(x)$ ( $\alpha$ is a constant)
$w(x, t) = x^m t^n$	$W_k(x) = x^m \delta(k - n), \quad \delta(k) = \begin{cases} 1, & k = 0 \\ 0, & k \neq 0 \end{cases}$
$w(x, t) = x^m t^n u(x, t)$	$W_k(x) = x^m U_{k-n}(x)$
$w(x, t) = u(x, t)v(x, t)$	$W_k(x) = \sum_{r=0}^k V_r(x)U_{k-r}(x) = \sum_{r=0}^k U_r(x)V_{k-r}(x)$
$w(x, t) = \frac{\partial^r}{\partial t^r} u(x, t)$	$W_k(x) = (k + 1) \dots (k + r)U_{k+r}(x) = \frac{(k+r)!}{k!} U_{k+r}(x)$
$w(x, t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} u(x, t)$	$W_k(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} U_k(x)$

Substituting Eq. (14) into Eq. (13) and by straightforward iterative steps, we can obtain

$$U_1(x) = -\frac{3i}{2} \sin x,$$

$$U_2(x) = \frac{(-\frac{3i}{2})^2}{2!} \sin x,$$

$$U_3(x) = \frac{(-\frac{3i}{2})^3}{3!} \sin x, \dots$$

and so on, in the same manner, the rest of components can be obtained by using MAPLE software. Taking the inverse transformation of the set of values  $\{U_k(x)\}_{k=0}^n$  gives  $n$ -terms approximation solutions as follows:

$$\tilde{u}_n(x, t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} U_k(x)t^k$$

$$= U_0(x) + U_1(x)t + U_2(x)t^2 + U_3(x)t^3 + \dots$$

$$= (1 - \frac{3it}{2} + \frac{(-\frac{3it}{2})^2}{2!} + \frac{(-\frac{3it}{2})^3}{3!} + \dots) \sin x.$$

Therefore, the exact solution of the problem is readily obtained as follows:

$$u(x, t) = e^{-\frac{3it}{2}} \sin x. \tag{15}$$

**Example 2:** We next consider the following two-dimensional Schrödinger equation

$$i \frac{\partial u(X, t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{2} (\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}) + V(X)u + |u|^2 u, \tag{16}$$

where  $X = (x, y) \in [0, 2\pi] \times [0, 2\pi]$  and  $V(X) = 1 - \sin^2 x \sin^2 y$ , with initial conditions

$$u(X, 0) = \sin x \sin y. \tag{17}$$

According to the RDTM and Table 1, the differential transform of Eq. (16) reads

$$(k + 1)U_{k+1}(X) = \frac{1}{2} i (\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2})U_k(X) - iV(X)U_k(X) + N(U_k(X)), \tag{18}$$

where the  $t$ -dimensional spectrum functions  $U_k(X)$  is the transformed function.  $N(U_k(X))$  is the transformed form of the nonlinear terms.

From initial conditions (17), we write

$$U_0(X) = \sin x \sin y. \tag{19}$$

Substituting Eq. (19) into Eq. (18) and by straightforward iterative steps, we can obtain

$$U_1(X) = -2i \sin x \sin y,$$

$$U_2(X) = \frac{(-2i)^2}{2!} \sin x \sin y,$$

$$U_3(X) = \frac{(-2i)^3}{3!} \sin x \sin y, \dots$$

and so on, in the same manner, the rest of components can be obtained by using MAPLE software. Taking the inverse

transformation of the set of values  $\{U_k(X)\}_{k=0}^n$  gives  $n$ -terms approximation solutions as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{u}_n(X, t) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} U_k(X)t^k \\ &= U_0(X) + U_1(X)t + U_2(X)t^2 + U_3(X)t^3 + \dots \\ &= (1 - 2it + \frac{(-2it)^2}{2!} + \frac{(-2it)^3}{3!} + \dots) \sin x \sin y. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the exact solution of the problem is readily obtained as follows:

$$u(x, y, t) = e^{-2it} \sin x \sin y. \tag{20}$$

**Example 3:** We finally consider the following three-dimensional Schrödinger equation

$$i \frac{\partial u(X, t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right) + V(X)u + |u|^2 u \tag{21}$$

where  $X = (x, y, z) \in [0, 2\pi] \times [0, 2\pi] \times [0, 2\pi]$  and  $V(X) = 1 - \sin^2 x \sin^2 y \sin^2 z$ , with initial conditions

$$u(X, 0) = \sin x \sin y \sin z. \tag{22}$$

According to the RDTM and Table 1, the differential transform of Eq. (21) reads

$$\begin{aligned} (k+1)U_{k+1}(X) &= \frac{1}{2} i \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} \right) U_k(X) - iV(X)U_k(X) + N(U_k(X)), \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

where the  $t$ -dimensional spectrum functions  $U_k(X)$  is the transformed function.  $N(U_k(X))$  is the transformed form of the nonlinear terms.

From initial conditions (22), we write

$$U_0(X) = \sin x \sin y \sin z. \tag{24}$$

Substituting Eq. (24) into Eq. (23) and by straightforward iterative steps, we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} U_1(X) &= -\frac{5i}{2} \sin x \sin y \sin z, \\ U_2(X) &= \frac{(-5i)^2}{2!} \sin x \sin y \sin z, \\ U_3(X) &= \frac{(-5i)^3}{3!} \sin x \sin y \sin z, \dots \end{aligned}$$

and so on, in the same manner, the rest of components can be obtained by using MAPLE software. Taking the inverse transformation of the set of values  $\{U_k(X)\}_{k=0}^n$  gives  $n$ -terms approximation solutions as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{u}_n(X, t) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} U_k(X)t^k \\ &= U_0(X) + U_1(X)t + U_2(X)t^2 + U_3(X)t^3 + \dots \\ &= \left( 1 - \frac{5it}{2} + \frac{(-5it)^2}{2!} + \frac{(-5it)^3}{3!} + \dots \right) \sin x \sin y \sin z. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the exact solution of the problem is readily obtained as follows:

$$u(x, y, z, t) = e^{\frac{-5it}{2}} \sin x \sin y \sin z. \tag{25}$$

Comparing our results with the solutions obtained by HPM and DTM [15, 20], we can see that the results are the same.

### 4 Conclusion

In this work, we obtained exact solutions of nonlinear Schrödinger equations with cubic nonlinearity by using the reduced differential transform method. The results indicate the efficiency and reliability of the method and furthermore the comparison of the methods with other analytical methods available in the literature shows that although the results of these methods are the same, RDTM is much easier, more convenient and efficient than them and is a powerful mathematical tool for handling linear and nonlinear PDEs.

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