

# Solving nonlinear oscillators using a modified homotopy analysis method

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**Abstract.** In this paper, a new algorithm called the modified homotopy analysis method (MHAM) is presented to solve a nonlinear oscillators. The proposed scheme is based on the homotopy analysis method (HAM), Laplace transform and Padé approximants. Several illustrative examples are given to demonstrate the effectiveness of the present method. Results obtained using the scheme presented here agree well with those derived from the modified homotopy perturbation method (MHPM). The results reveal that the MHAM is an effective and convenient for solving nonlinear differential equations.

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**Keywords:** Nonlinear oscillators, homotopy analysis method, Laplace transform; Padé approximants.

## 1. Introduction

The study of nonlinear oscillators is of crucial importance in all areas of physics and engineering, as well as in other disciplines. It is very difficult to solve nonlinear problems and, in general, it is often more difficult to get an analytic approximation than a numerical one to a given nonlinear problem. Several methods have been used to find approximate solutions to strongly nonlinear oscillators. Such methods include variational iteration method [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7], Adomian decomposition method [8, 9], differential transform method [10], and harmonic balance based methods [11, 12, 13, 14, 15]. Surveys of the literature with multitudinous references and useful bibliographies have been given in Refs. [16, 17]. Recently, Momani et al [18], proposed a powerful analytic method, namely modified homotopy perturbation method. This method is based on the homotopy perturbation method, the Laplace transformation and Padé approximants. The approximate solution of the MHPM displays the periodic behavior which is characteristic of the oscillatory equations. The homotopy analysis method (HAM) [19] yields rapidly convergent series solutions by using few

iterations for both linear and nonlinear differential equations. The HAM was successfully applied to solve many nonlinear problems such as Riccati differential equation of fractional order [20], fractional KdV-Burgers-Kuramoto equation [21], systems of fractional algebraic-differential equations [22], and so on. In this paper, we developed a symbolic algorithm to find the solution of nonlinear oscillators by a modified homotopy analysis method (MHAM). The MHAM is based on the homotopy analysis method (HAM), Laplace transform and Padé approximants. Finally, we make a numerical comparison between our method and the MHPM. The structure of this paper is as follows. In section 2 we describe the homotopy analysis method and briefly discuss Padé approximants. In Section 3 we present three examples to show the efficiency and simplicity of the method.

## 2. Homotopy analysis method

The HAM has been extended by many authors to solve linear and nonlinear fractional differential equations [19, 20, 21, 22]. In this section the basic ideas of the homotopy analysis method are introduced. To show the basic idea, let us consider the following nonlinear oscillator equation

$$y''(t) + c_1 y(t) + c_2 y^2(t) + c_3 y^3(t) = \epsilon F(t, y(t), y'(t)), \quad t \geq 0, \quad (2.1)$$

subject to the initial conditions

$$y(0) = a, \quad y'(0) = b, \quad (2.2)$$

where  $c_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , are positive real numbers and  $\epsilon$  is a parameter (not necessarily small). We assume that the function  $F(t, y(t), y'(t))$  is an arbitrary nonlinear function of its arguments. Now, we can construct the so-called zero-order deformation equations of the equation (2.1) by

$$(1 - q)L[\phi(t; q) - y_0(t)] = q \hbar \left[ \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \phi(t; q) + c_1 \phi(t; q) + c_2 \phi^2(t; q) + c_3 \phi^3(t; q) - \epsilon F(t, \phi(t; q), \frac{d}{dt} \phi(t; q)) \right], \quad (2.3)$$

where  $q \in [0, 1]$  is an embedding parameter,  $L$  is an auxiliary linear operator satisfy  $L(0) = 0$ ,  $y_0(t)$  is an initial guess satisfies the initial condition (2.2),  $\hbar \neq 0$  is an auxiliary parameter and  $\phi(t; q)$  is an unknown function. Obviously, when  $q = 0$  and when  $q = 1$ , we have  $\phi(t; 0) = y_0(t)$  and  $\phi(t; 1) = y(t)$ . Thus as  $q$  increasing from 0 to 1,  $\phi(t; q)$  varies from  $y_0(t)$  to  $y(t)$ . Expanding  $\phi(t; q)$  in Taylor series with respect to  $q$ , one has

$$\phi(t; q) = y_0(t) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} y_m(t) q^m, \quad (2.4)$$

where

$$y_m(t) = \frac{1}{m!} \frac{\partial^m \phi(t; q)}{\partial q^m} \Big|_{q=0}. \quad (2.5)$$

If the auxiliary parameter  $h$  and the initial guess  $y_0(t)$  are so properly chosen, then the series (2.4) converges at  $q = 1$ , one has

$$y(t) = y_0(t) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} y_m(t). \tag{2.6}$$

Define the vector

$$\vec{y}_m(t) = \{y_0(t), y_1(t), \dots, y_m(t)\}. \tag{2.7}$$

Differentiating the zero-order deformation equation (2.3)  $m$  times with respect to  $q$ , then setting  $q = 0$  and finally dividing them by  $m!$ , we have the so-called  $m$ th-order deformation equations

$$L[y_m(t) - \chi_m y_{(m-1)}(t)] = \hbar \mathfrak{R}_m(\vec{y}_{m-1}(t)), \tag{2.8}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{R}_m(\vec{y}_{m-1}(t)) &= y''_{m-1}(t) + c_1 y_{m-1}(t) + c_2 \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} y_i(t) y_{m-i-1}(t) \\ &+ c_3 \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} y_{m-i-1}(t) \sum_{j=0}^i y_j(t) y_{i-j}(t) \\ &- \frac{\epsilon}{(m-1)!} \frac{\partial^{m-1}}{\partial q^{m-1}} [F(t, \phi(t; q), \frac{d}{dt} \phi(t; q))] |_{q=0}, \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

and

$$\chi_m = \begin{cases} 0, & m \leq 1 \\ 1, & m > 1. \end{cases} \tag{2.10}$$

The  $m$ th-order approximation of  $y(t)$  is given by  $y(t) = \sum_{i=0}^m y_i(t)$ . This power series can be transformed into Padé series easily. Padé series is defined in the following

$$a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots = \frac{p_0 + p_1 x + \dots + p_M x^M}{1 + q_1 x + \dots + q_L x^L}. \tag{2.11}$$

Multiply both sides of (2.11) by the denominator of right-hand side in (2.11). We have

$$\begin{aligned} a_l + \sum_{k=l}^M a_{l-k} q_k &= p_l, \quad (l = 0, 1, \dots, M), \\ a_l + \sum_{k=l}^L a_{l-k} q_k &= 0, \quad (l = M + 1, \dots, M + L). \end{aligned} \tag{2.12}$$

Solving the linear equation in (2.12), we have  $q_k$  ( $k = 1, \dots, L$ ), and substituting into (2.11), we have  $p_k$  ( $l = 1, \dots, L$ ) [23]. We use Mathematica to obtain diagonal Padé approximants of various orders, such as [2/2] or [4/4].

### 3. Numerical results

To demonstrate the effectiveness of the method we consider the following three examples of nonlinear oscillator equation.

#### 3.1. Example 1

Consider the following Helmholtz equation

$$y''(t) + 2y(t) + y^2(t) = 0, \quad t > 0, \tag{3.1}$$

subject to the initial conditions

$$y(0) = 0.1, \quad y'(0) = 0. \tag{3.2}$$

We start with initial approximation

$$y_0(t) = 0.1. \tag{3.3}$$

In view of the algorithm presented in the previous section, if we select the auxiliary linear operator as

$$L = \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \tag{3.4}$$

we can construct the homotopy as

$$y_m(t) = \chi_m y_{(m-1)}(t) + \hbar \int_0^t (t - \tau) \mathfrak{R}_m(\vec{y}_{m-1}(t)) d\tau, \tag{3.5}$$

where

$$\mathfrak{R}_m(\vec{y}_{m-1}(t)) = y''_{m-1}(t) + 2y_{m-1}(t) + \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} y_i(t)y_{m-i-1}(t). \tag{3.6}$$

Using formula (3.5), the fifth-term approximate solution for equation (3.1) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) = & 0.1 + 0.42\hbar t^2 + 0.63\hbar^2 t^2 + 0.42\hbar^3 t^2 + 0.105\hbar^4 t^2 + 0.1155\hbar^2 t^4 \\ & + 0.154\hbar^3 t^4 + 0.05775\hbar^4 t^4 + 0.00711667\hbar^3 t^6 + 0.0053375\hbar^4 t^6 \\ & + 0.000142083\hbar^4 t^8. \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

Setting  $\hbar = -1$  in Eq (3.7), then we have

$$y(t) = 0.1 - 0.105t^2 + 0.0925t^4 - 0.00177917t^6 + 0.000142083t^8. \tag{3.8}$$

In order to improve the accuracy of the homotopy analysis solution of the Helmholtz equation we need to implement the following technique. First applying the Laplace transformation to the previous series solution, then we get

$$\tilde{y}_m(s) = \frac{0.1}{s} - \frac{0.21}{s^3} + \frac{0.462}{s^5} - \frac{1.281}{s^7} + \frac{5.7288}{s^9}. \tag{3.9}$$

Now, let  $s = \frac{1}{t}$  in (3.9), then we have

$$\tilde{y}_m(t) = 0.1t - 0.21t^3 + 0.462t^5 - 1.281t^7 + 5.7288t^9.$$

The [4/4] Padé approximation gives

$$\left[ \frac{4}{4} \right] = \frac{0.1t + 1.27t^3}{1 + 14.8t^2 + 26.46t^4}.$$

Recalling  $t = 1/s$ , we obtain  $[4/4]$  in terms of  $s$

$$\left[ \frac{4}{4} \right] = \frac{1.27s + 0.1s^3}{26.46 + 14.8s^2 + s^4}.$$

By using the inverse Laplace transformation to the  $[4/4]$  Padé approximation, we obtain the same solution obtained in Momani et al. [18] using the modified homotopy perturbation method

$$y(t) = 0.0998141 \cos(1.4423t) + 0.000185858 \cos(3.56648t). \tag{3.10}$$

Figure 1 shows the series solution (3.10) exhibit the periodic behavior which is characteristic of the oscillatory Helmholtz equation (3.1) and (3.2).

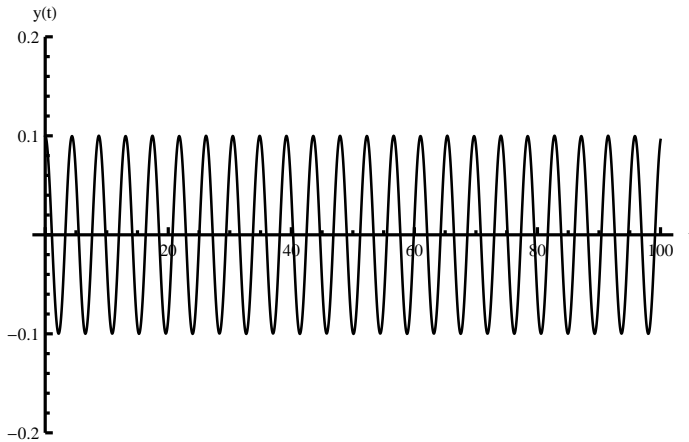


Figure 1. Plots of Eq. (3.10)

### 3.2. Example 2

Consider the following nonlinear equation

$$y''(t) + y(t) = -0.1y^2(t)y'(t), \quad t > 0, \tag{3.11}$$

subject to the initial conditions

$$y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 0. \tag{3.12}$$

Select the initial guess as

$$y_0(t) = 1, \tag{3.13}$$

and the auxiliary linear operator (3.4), then we have the homotopy (3.5) where

$$\Re_m(\vec{y}_{m-1}(t)) = y''_{m-1}(t) + y_{m-1}(t) + 0.1 \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} y'_{m-i-1}(t) \sum_{j=0}^i y_j(t)y_{i-j}(t). \tag{3.14}$$

Using formula (3.5), the fifth-term approximate solution for equation (3.11) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) = & 1 + 2\hbar t^2 + 3\hbar^2 t^2 + 2\hbar^3 t^2 + 0.5\hbar^4 t^2 + 0.1\hbar^2 t^3 + 0.133\hbar^3 t^3 \\ & + 0.05\hbar^4 t^3 + 0.25\hbar^2 t^4 + 0.34\hbar^3 t^4 + 0.126\hbar^4 t^4 + 0.027\hbar^3 t^5 \\ & + 0.020008\hbar^4 t^5 + 0.00555556\hbar^3 t^6 + 0.0045694\hbar^4 t^6 \\ & + 0.001369\hbar^4 t^7 + 0.0000248\hbar^4 t^8. \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

Setting  $\hbar = -1$  in Eq (3.15), then we have

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) = & 1 - 0.5t^2 + 0.01667t^3 + 0.0413t^4 - 0.00666t^5 \\ & - 0.00098611t^6 + 0.0013691t^7 + 0.0000248t^8. \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

Applying the Laplace transformation to the previous series solution, then we get

$$\tilde{y}_m(s) = \frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{s^3} + \frac{0.1}{s^4} + \frac{0.99}{s^5} - \frac{0.799}{s^6} - \frac{0.71}{s^7} + \frac{6.9}{s^8} + \frac{1}{s^9}. \quad (3.17)$$

Let  $s = \frac{1}{t}$  in (3.17), then we have

$$\tilde{y}_m(t) = t - t^3 + 0.1t^4 + 0.99t^5 - 0.799t^6 - 0.71t^7 + 6.9t^8 + t^9.$$

The  $[4/4]$  Padé approximation gives

$$\left[ \frac{4}{4} \right] = \frac{t + 0.3335t^2 + 9.16122t^3 + 0.313787t^4}{1 + 0.3335t + 10.1612t^2 + 0.547287t^3 + 9.13787t^4}.$$

Recalling  $t = 1/s$ , we obtain  $[4/4]$  in terms of  $s$

$$\left[ \frac{4}{4} \right] = \frac{0.313787 + 9.16122s + 0.3335s^2 + s^3}{9.13787 + 0.547287s + 10.1612s^2 + 0.3335s^3 + s^4}.$$

By using the inverse Laplace transformation to the  $[4/4]$  Padé approximation, we obtain the same solution obtained in Momani et al. [18] using the modified homotopy perturbation method

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) = & e^{(-0.013-0.999i)t}((0.5 + 0.0111i) + (0.5 - 0.0111i)e^{-1.99it}) \\ & + e^{(-0.15-3.02i)t}((0.0003 - 0.002i) + (0.0003 + 0.002i)e^{-6it}). \end{aligned} \quad (3.18)$$

The equation (3.11) called the ‘‘unplugged’’ van der Pol, and all its solutions are expected to oscillate with decreasing to zero. Figure 2 shows the series solution (3.18) of the oscillatory nonlinear equation (3.11) and (3.12).

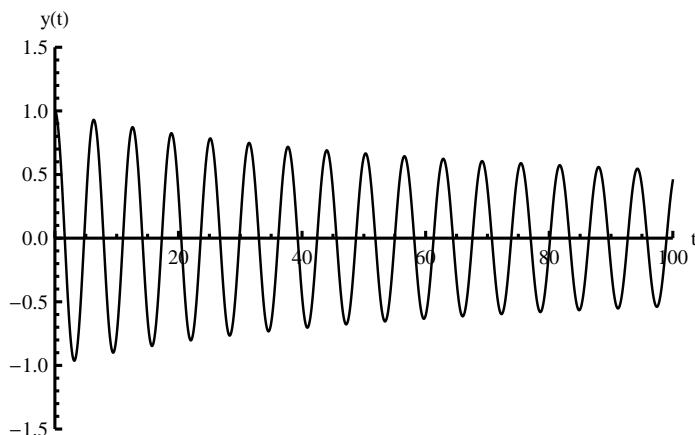


Figure 2. Plots of Eq. (3.18)

### 3.3. Example 3

Consider the following nonlinear equation

$$y''(t) + y(t) + 0.45y^2(t) = y(t)y'(t), \quad t > 0, \tag{3.19}$$

subject to the initial conditions

$$y(0) = 0.1, \quad y'(0) = 0. \tag{3.20}$$

Take

$$y_0(t) = 0.1, \tag{3.21}$$

and the auxiliary linear operator (3.4), then we have the homotopy (3.5) where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{R}_m(\vec{y}_{m-1}(t)) &= y''_{m-1}(t) + y_{m-1}(t) + 0.45 \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} y_i(t)y_{m-i-1}(t) \\ &\quad - \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} y'_i(t)y_{m-i-1}(t). \end{aligned} \tag{3.22}$$

The fifth-term approximate solution for equation (3.19) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= 0.1 + 0.21\hbar t^2 + 0.31\hbar^2 t^2 + 0.21\hbar^3 t^2 + 0.05\hbar^4 t^2 \\ &\quad - 0.01\hbar^2 t^3 - 0.0139\hbar^3 t^3 - 0.005\hbar^4 t^3 + 0.0285\hbar^2 t^4 \\ &\quad + 0.038\hbar^3 t^4 + 0.014\hbar^4 t^4 - 0.0019\hbar^3 t^5 - 0.0014\hbar^4 t^5 \\ &\quad + 0.0008536\hbar^3 t^6 + 0.000665\hbar^4 t^6 - 0.0000524\hbar^4 t^7 \\ &\quad + 8.1389 \times 10^{-6}\hbar^4 t^8. \end{aligned} \tag{3.23}$$

Setting  $\hbar = -1$  in Eq (3.23), then we have

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= 0.1 - 0.05t^2 - 0.00174t^3 + 0.0047t^4 + 0.00046t^5 \\ &\quad - 0.0001889t^6 - 0.0000524t^7 + 8.1 \times 10^{-6}t^8. \end{aligned} \tag{3.24}$$

Applying the Laplace transformation to the previous series solution, then we get

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{y}_m(s) = & \frac{0.1}{s} - \frac{0.1045}{s^3} - \frac{0.01045}{s^4} + \frac{0.11286}{s^5} + \frac{0.0554373}{s^6} \\ & - \frac{0.136028}{s^7} - \frac{0.264279}{s^8} + \frac{0.32816}{s^9}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.25}$$

Let  $s = \frac{1}{t}$  in (3.25), then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{y}_m(t) = & 0.1t - 0.104t^3 - 0.01045t^4 + 0.11286t^5 + 0.0554372t^6 \\ & - 0.136028t^7 - 0.264279t^8 + 0.32816t^9. \end{aligned}$$

The [4/4] Padé approximation gives

$$\left[ \frac{4}{4} \right] = \frac{0.1t + 0.0643181t^2 + 90.570534t^3 - 0.0226522t^4}{1 + 0.643181t + 6.75034t^2 + 0.550102t^3 + 5.99272t^4}.$$

Recalling  $t = 1/s$ , we obtain [4/4] in terms of  $s$

$$\left[ \frac{4}{4} \right] = \frac{-0.0226522 + 0.570534s + 0.0643181s^2 + 0.1s^3}{5.99272 + 0.550102s + 6.75034s^2 + 0.643181s^3 + s^4}.$$

By using the inverse Laplace transformation to the [4/4] Padé approximation, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) = & e^{(-0.3-2.4i)t}((0.0001 + 0.0003i) - (0.0001 - 0.0003i)e^{-4.7it}) \\ & + e^{(-1.02i)t}((0.05 - 0.001i)e^{0.01t} + (0.05 + 0.001i)e^{(0.01+2.1i)t}). \end{aligned} \tag{3.26}$$

The above results are in excellent agreement with the results obtained by Momani et al. [18] using the modified homotopy perturbation method. Figure 3 shows the series solution (3.26) of the oscillatory nonlinear equation (3.19) and (3.20).

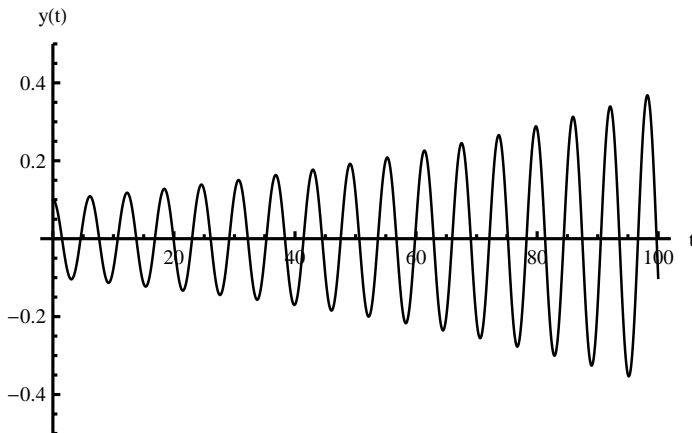


Figure 3. Plots of Eq. (3.26)



## 4. Conclusions

In this work, we proposed an efficient modification of the HAM which introduces an efficient tool for solving nonlinear oscillatory equations. The modified algorithm has been successfully implemented to find approximate solutions for many problems. The comparison of the result obtained by MHAM with that obtained by MHPM confirms our belief of the efficiency of our techniques. The basic idea described in this paper is expected to be further employed to find periodic solutions to nonlinear fractional oscillatory equations.

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