Research Article

Convergence of Variational Iteration Method for Second-Order Delay Differential Equations

Hongliang Liu, Aiguo Xiao, and Lihong Su

Hunan Key Laboratory for Computation and Simulation in Science and Engineering and Key Laboratory of Intelligent Computing and Information Processing of Ministry of Education, Xiangtan University, Xiangtan, Hunan 411105, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Hongliang Liu; hlh@xtu.edu.cn

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This paper employs the variational iteration method to obtain analytical solutions of second-order delay differential equations. The corresponding convergence results are obtained, and an effective technique for choosing a reasonable Lagrange multiplier is designed in the solving process. Moreover, some illustrative examples are given to show the efficiency of this method.

1. Introduction

The second-order delay differential equations often appear in the dynamical system, celestial mechanics, kinematics, and so forth. Some numerical methods for solving second-order delay differential equations have been discussed, which include 0-method [1], trapezoidal method [2], and Runge-Kutta-Nyström method [3]. The variational iteration method (VIM) was first proposed by He [4, 5] and has been extensively applied due to its flexibility, convenience, and efficiency. So far, the VIM is applied to autonomous ordinary differential systems [6], pantograph equations [7], integral equations [8], delay differential equations [9], fractional differential equations [10], the singular perturbation problems [11], and delay differential-algebraic equations [12]. Rafei et al. [13] and Marinca et al. [14] applied the VIM to oscillations. Tatari and Dehghan [15] consider the VIM for solving second-order initial value problems. For a more comprehensive survey on this method and its applications, the readers refer to the review articles [16–19] and the references therein. But the VIM for second-order delay differential equations has not been considered.

The article apply the VIM to second-order delay differential equations to obtain the analytical or approximate analytical solutions. The corresponding convergence results are obtained. Some illustrative examples confirm the theoretical results.

2. Convergence

2.1. The First Kind of Second-Order Delay Differential Equations. Consider the initial value problems of second-order delay differential equations

\[ y''(t) = f(t, y(t), y(\alpha(t))), \quad t \in [0, T], \]
\[ y'(t) = \varphi'(t), \quad t \in [-\tau, 0], \]
\[ y(t) = \varphi(t), \quad t \in [-\tau, 0], \]

where \( \varphi(t) \) is a differentiable function, \( \alpha(t) \in C^1[0, T] \) is a strictly monotone increasing function and satisfies that \( -\tau \leq \alpha(t) \leq t \) and \( \alpha(0) = -\tau \), there exists \( t_1 \in [0, T] \) such that \( \alpha(t_1) = 0 \), and \( f: \mathbb{D} = [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \) is a given continuous mapping and satisfies the Lipschitz condition

\[ \|f(t, u_1, \nu) - f(t, u_2, \nu)\| \leq \beta_0 \|u_1 - u_2\|, \]
\[ \|f(t, u, \nu) - f(t, u, \nu_1)\| \leq \beta_1 \|\nu - \nu_1\|, \]

where \( \beta_0, \beta_1 \) are Lipschitz constants; \( \|\cdot\| \) denotes the standard Euclidean norm.
Now the VIM for (1) can read
\[ y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^t \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y_m''(\xi) - \tilde{f}(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
\[ 0 < t < t_1; \]
\[ y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_{t_1}^t \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y_m''(\xi) - \tilde{f}(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
\[ t > t_1, \tag{4} \]
where \( y_m(t) = \varphi(t) \) for \( t \in [-\tau, 0] \); \( \tilde{f} \) denotes the restrictive variation, that is, \( \delta \tilde{f} = 0 \). Thus, we have
\[ \delta y_{m+1}(t) \]
\[ = \delta y_m(t) + \int_0^t \delta \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y_m''(\xi) - \tilde{f}(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
\[ 0 < t < t_1. \tag{5} \]

Using integration by parts to (4), we have
\[ \delta y_{m+1}(t) \]
\[ = \delta y_m(t) + \int_0^{t_1} \delta \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y_m''(\xi) - \tilde{f}(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi \]
\[ + \int_{t_1}^t \delta \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y_m''(\xi) - \tilde{f}(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
\[ = \delta y_m(t) + \delta \lambda(t, \xi) y_m'(\xi) \bigg|_{\xi=t} \]
\[ - \frac{\partial \lambda(t, \xi)}{\partial \xi} y_m'\bigg|_{\xi=t} + \int_0^t \frac{\partial^2 \lambda(t, \xi)}{\partial \xi^2} \delta y_m(\xi) d\xi. \tag{6} \]
From the above formula, the stationary conditions are obtained as
\[ \frac{\partial^2 \lambda(t, \xi)}{\partial \xi^2} = 0, \]
\[ 1 - \frac{\partial \lambda(t, \xi)}{\partial \xi} \bigg|_{\xi=t} = 0, \tag{7} \]
\[ \lambda(t, \xi) \bigg|_{\xi=t} = 0. \]
Moreover, the general Lagrange multiplier
\[ \lambda(t, \xi) = \xi - t \tag{8} \]
can be readily identified by (7). Thus, the variational iteration formula can be written as
\[ y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^t (\xi - t) \left[ y_m''(\xi) - f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
\[ 0 < t < t_1; \]
\[ y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^{t_1} (\xi - t) \left[ y_m''(\xi) - f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi \]
\[ + \int_{t_1}^t (\xi - t) \left[ y_m''(\xi) - f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \tag{9} \]
\[ t > t_1. \]

**Theorem 1.** Suppose that the initial value problems (1) satisfy the condition (2), and \( y(t), y_i(t) \in C^2[0, T], i = 1, 2, \ldots. \) Then the sequence \( \{y_m(t)\}_{m=1}^{\infty} \) defined by (9) and (10) with \( y_0(t) \) converges to the solution of (1).

**Proof.** From (1), we have
\[ y(t) = y(t) + \int_0^t (\xi - t) \left[ y''(\xi) - f(\xi, y(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
\[ 0 < t < t_1; \tag{11} \]
\[ y(t) = y(t) + \int_0^{t_1} (\xi - t) \left[ y''(\xi) - f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi \]
\[ + \int_{t_1}^t (\xi - t) \left[ y''(\xi) - f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \tag{12} \]
\[ t > t_1. \]
Let \( E_i(t) = y_i(t) - y(t), i = 0, 1, \ldots. \) If \( t \leq 0, \) then \( E_i(t) = 0, i = 0, 1, \ldots. \) From (9) and (11), we have
\[ E_{m+1}(t) = E_m(t) \]
\[ + \int_0^t (\xi - t) \left[ E_m''(\xi) - f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
\[ 0 < t < t_1. \tag{13} \]
From (10) and (12), we have

\[
E_{m+1}(t) = E_m(t) + \int_0^t (\xi - t) \left[ E''_m(\xi) - (f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) - f(\xi, y(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] \, d\xi \\
= E_m(t) + \int_0^t (\xi - t) \left[ E''_m(\xi) - f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] \, d\xi, \quad 0 < t < t_1;
\]

Using integration by parts, we have

\[
E_{m+1}(t) = E_m(t) + \int_0^t (\xi - t) E''_m(\xi) \, d\xi \\
- \int_0^t (\xi - t) \left[ f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) - f(\xi, y(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] \, d\xi, \quad t > t_1.
\]

Since \( [\alpha^{-1}(\xi)]' \) is bounded, \( M = \max_{\tau \leq \xi \leq T} (\alpha^{-1}(\xi))' \) is bounded. Moreover, it follows from (2) and the inequality \( |\xi - t| \leq T \) that

\[
\|E_{m+1}(t)\| \leq \int_0^t |t - \xi| \|f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) - f(\xi, y(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi)))\| \, d\xi \\
\leq \int_0^t T\beta_0 \|y_m(\xi) - y(\xi)\| \, d\xi \\
= \int_0^t T\beta_0 \|E_m(\xi)\| \, d\xi, \quad 0 < t < t_1;
\]

\[
\|E_{m+1}(t)\| \leq \int_0^t |t - \xi| \|f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) - f(\xi, y(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi)))\| \, d\xi \\
+ \int_{t_1}^t |t - \xi| \|f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) - f(\xi, y(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi)))\| \, d\xi \\
\leq \int_0^t T\beta_0 \|y_m(\xi) - y(\xi)\| \, d\xi \\
+ \int_{t_1}^t T \max \{\beta_i, \|E_m(\alpha(\xi))\|\} \|f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi)))\| \, d\xi
\]

\[
\leq \int_0^t T\beta_0 \|E_m(\xi)\| \, d\xi + \int_{t_1}^t T\beta_1 \|E_m(\alpha(\xi))\| \, d\xi \\
\leq \int_0^t T\beta_0 \|E_m(\xi)\| \, d\xi + \int_{t_1}^t T\beta_1 \|E_m(\alpha(\xi))\| \, d\xi
\]

\[
\leq T\beta \int_0^t \|E_m(\xi)\| \, d\xi + \int_{t_1}^t T\beta_1 \|E_m(\alpha(\xi))\| \, d\xi, \quad t > t_1,
\]

where \( \beta = \max \beta_i, i = 1, 2 \). Moreover,

\[
\|E_{m+1}(t)\| \leq (T\beta)^2 \int_0^t \|E_{m-1}(s_2)\| \, ds_2 \, ds_1 \\
\leq (T\beta)^3 \int_0^t \|E_{m-2}(s_3)\| \, ds_3 \, ds_2 \, ds_1 \\
\leq (T\beta)^4 \int_0^t \|E_{m-3}(s_4)\| \, ds_4 \, ds_3 \, ds_2 \, ds_1 \\
\cdots
\]

\[
\leq (T\beta)^{m+1} \int_0^t \|E_0(s_{m+1})\| \, ds_{m+1} \cdot \cdots \cdot ds_2 \, ds_1,
\]
where \( \|E_0(t)\| \) is constant. Therefore, we have
\[
\|E_{m+1}(t)\| \leq \|E_0(t)\| \frac{(TM\beta)^{m+1}}{(m+1)!} \rightarrow 0, \quad (m \rightarrow \infty).
\]
(19)

2.2. The Second Kind of Second-Order Delay Differential Equations. Consider the initial value problems of second-order delay oscillation differential equations
\[
y''(t) = -\omega^2 y(t) - f(t, y(t), y(\alpha(t))), \quad t \in [0, T],
\]
\[
y'(t) = \varphi'(t), \quad t \in [-\tau, 0],
\]
\[
y(t) = \varphi(t), \quad t \in [-\tau, 0],
\]
(20)

where \( \varphi(t) \) is a differentiable function, \( \alpha(t) \in C^1[0, T] \) is a strictly monotone increasing function and satisfies that \(-\tau \leq \alpha(t) \leq t \) and \( \alpha(0) = -\tau \), there exists \( t_1 \in [0, T] \) such that \( \alpha(t_1) = 0 \), \( \alpha(t) \) is a constant, and \( f : D = [0, T] \times R \times R \rightarrow R \) is a given continuous mapping and satisfies the Lipschitz condition
\[
\|f(t, u_1, v) - f(t, u_2, v)\| \leq \kappa_0 \|u_1 - u_2\|,
\]
\[
\|f(t, u, v_1) - f(t, u, v_2)\| \leq \kappa_1 \|v_1 - v_2\|,
\]
(21)

where \( \kappa_0, \kappa_1 \) are Lipschitz constants.

Now the VIM for (20) can read
\[
y_{m+1}(t) = y_{m}(t) + \int_{0}^{t} \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_{m}(\xi) + \omega^2 y_{m}(\xi) \right] d\xi
\]
\[
\quad + f(\xi, y_{m}(\xi), y(\alpha(\xi)))
\]
\[
+ \int_{t_1}^{t} \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_{m}(\xi) + \omega^2 y_{m}(\xi) \right] d\xi,
\]
\[
0 < t < t_1;
\]
(22)

\[
y_{m+1}(t) = y_{m}(t)
\]
\[
+ \int_{0}^{t} \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_{m}(\xi) + \omega^2 y_{m}(\xi) \right] d\xi
\]
\[
+ f(\xi, y_{m}(\xi), y(\alpha(\xi)))
\]
\[
+ \int_{t_1}^{t} \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_{m}(\xi) + \omega^2 y_{m}(\xi) \right] d\xi,
\]
\[
t > t_1;
\]
(23)

where \( y_m(t) = \varphi(t) \) for \( t \in [-\tau, 0] \); \( \bar{f} \) denotes the restrictive variation, that is, \( \delta \bar{f} = 0 \). Thus, we have
\[
\delta y_{m+1}(t) = \delta y_{m}(t)
\]
\[
+ \int_{0}^{t} \delta \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_{m}(\xi) + \omega^2 y_{m}(\xi) \right] d\xi
\]
\[
+ f(\xi, y_{m}(\xi), y(\alpha(\xi)))
\]
\[
= \delta y_{m}(t) + \int_{0}^{t} \delta \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_{m}(\xi) + \omega^2 y_{m}(\xi) \right] d\xi, \quad 0 < t < t_1.
\]
(24)

Using integration by parts to (23), we have
\[
\delta y_{m+1}(t) = \delta y_{m}(t)
\]
\[
+ \int_{0}^{t} \delta \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_{m}(\xi) + \omega^2 y_{m}(\xi) \right] d\xi
\]
\[
+ f(\xi, y_{m}(\xi), y(\alpha(\xi)))
\]
\[
= \delta y_{m}(t) + \int_{0}^{t} \delta \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_{m}(\xi) + \omega^2 y_{m}(\xi) \right] d\xi
\]
\[
\quad + \lambda(t, \xi) \delta y'_{m}(\xi)|_{\xi=t} + \int_{0}^{t} \omega^2 \lambda(t, \xi) \frac{\delta^2 \lambda(t, \xi)}{\delta \xi^2} \delta y_{m}(\xi) d\xi.
\]
(25)

From the above formula, the stationary conditions are obtained as
\[
\omega^2 \lambda(t, \xi) + \frac{\delta^2 \lambda(t, \xi)}{\delta \xi^2} = 0,
\]
\[
1 - \frac{\partial \lambda(t, \xi)}{\partial \xi}|_{\xi=t} = 0,
\]
\[
\lambda(t, \xi)|_{\xi=t} = 0.
\]
(26)

Moreover, the general Lagrange multiplier
\[
\lambda(t, \xi) = \frac{1}{\omega} \sin \omega(\xi - t)
\]
(27)
can be readily identified by (26). Thus, the variational iteration formula can be written as
\[ y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^t \frac{1}{\omega} \sin \omega (\xi - t) \left[ y''_m(\xi) + \omega^2 y_m(\xi) + f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
for \(0 < t < t_1; \quad y_{m+1}(t)
\]
\[ = y_m(t) + \int_0^{t_1} \frac{1}{\omega} \sin \omega (\xi - t) \left[ y''_m(\xi) + \omega^2 y_m(\xi) + f(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
for \(t > t_1, \quad (28)\)

**Theorem 2.** Suppose that the initial value problems (20) satisfy the condition (21), and \(y(t), y_i(t) \in C^2[0, T], i = 1, 2, \ldots\). Then the sequence \(\{y_m(t)\}_{m=1}^{\infty}\) defined by (28) with \(y_0(t)\) converges to the solution of (20).

**Proof.** The proof process is similar that in Theorem 1. \(\square\)

### 2.3. The Third Kind of Second-Order Delay Differential Equations.

In order to improve the iteration speed, we modify the above iterative formulas and reconstruct the Lagrange multiplier. Consider the initial value problems of second-order delay differential equations
\[ y''(t) + a(t) y'(t) + b(t) y(t) + N(t, y(t), y(\alpha(t))) = 0, \]
for \(t \in [0, T], \quad y'(t) = \varphi'(t), \quad t \in [-\tau, 0], \]
\[ y(t) = \varphi(t), \quad t \in [-\tau, 0], \quad (29)\]

where \(\varphi(t)\) is a differentiable function, \(\alpha(t) \in C^1[0, T]\) is a strictly monotone increasing function and satisfies that \(-\tau \leq \alpha(t) \leq t\) and \(\alpha(0) = -\tau\), there exists \(t_1 \in [0, T]\) such that \(\alpha(t_1) = 0, \alpha(t), b(t)\) are bounded functions, and \(N : D = [0, T] \times R \times R \rightarrow R\) is a given continuous mapping and satisfies the Lipschitz condition
\[ \|N(t, u_1, v) - N(t, u_2, v)\| \leq \gamma_0 \|u_1 - u_2\|, \]
\[ \|N(t, u, v) - N(t, u, v_1)\| \leq \gamma_1 \|v - v_1\|, \quad (30)\]

where \(\gamma_0, \gamma_1\) are Lipschitz constants.

Now the VIM for (29) can read
\[ y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^t \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_m(\xi) + a(\xi) y'_m(\xi) + b(\xi) y_m(\xi) + \bar{N}(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
for \(0 < t < t_1; \quad (31)\)
\[ y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^{t_1} \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_m(\xi) + a(\xi) y'_m(\xi) + b(\xi) y_m(\xi) + \bar{N}(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi \]
\[ + \int_t^{t_1} \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_m(\xi) + a(\xi) y'_m(\xi) + b(\xi) y_m(\xi) + \bar{N}(\xi, y_m(\xi), y_m(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \quad t > t_1, \quad (32)\]

where \(y_m(t) = \varphi(t)\) for \(t \in [-\tau, 0]\); \(\bar{N}\) denotes the restrictive variation, that is, \(\delta \bar{N} = 0\). Thus, we have
\[ \delta y_{m+1}(t) = \delta y_m(t) + \int_0^t \delta \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_m(\xi) + a(\xi) y'_m(\xi) + b(\xi) y_m(\xi) + \bar{N}(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \]
for \(0 < t < t_1; \quad (33)\)

Using integration by parts to (32), we have
\[ \delta y_{m+1}(t)
\]
\[ = \delta y_m(t) + \int_0^{t_1} \delta \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_m(\xi) + a(\xi) y'_m(\xi) + b(\xi) y_m(\xi) + \bar{N}(\xi, y_m(\xi), \varphi(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi \]
\[ + \int_{t_1}^{t} \delta \lambda(t, \xi) \left[ y''_m(\xi) + a(\xi) y'_m(\xi) + b(\xi) y_m(\xi) + \bar{N}(\xi, y_m(\xi), y_m(\alpha(\xi))) \right] d\xi, \quad (34)\]
Note that
\[
\frac{\lambda_1(t, \xi)}{\sqrt{W(t, 0)}} = \frac{\lambda_2(t, \xi)}{\sqrt{W(t, 0)}}.
\]
Equation (40) can be expressed as
\[
\lambda(t, \xi) = -e^{-\int_0^\xi a(\zeta) d\zeta} \left[ u_1(\xi) u_2(t) - u_2(\xi) u_1(t) \right].
\]
Substituting (42) into (31) and (32), we obtain
\[
y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^t e^{-\int_0^{\xi(t)} a(\zeta) d\zeta} \left[ u_1(\xi(t)) u_2(t) - u_2(\xi(t)) u_1(t) \right]
\[
\times \left[ y_m'(\xi(t)) + a(\xi(t)) y_m'(\xi(t)) + b(\xi(t)) y_m(\xi(t)) + N(\xi(t), y_m(\xi(t)), \phi(\alpha(\xi(t)))) \right] d\xi,
\]
\[0 < t < t_1;
\]
\[
y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^t e^{-\int_0^\xi a(\zeta) d\zeta} \left[ u_1(\xi(t)) u_2(t) - u_2(\xi(t)) u_1(t) \right]
\[
\times \left[ y_m''(\xi(t)) + a(\xi(t)) y_m'(\xi(t)) + b(\xi(t)) y_m(\xi(t)) + N(\xi(t), y_m(\xi(t)), \phi(\alpha(\xi(t)))) \right] d\xi,
\]
\[t > t_1.
\]
\[\text{Theorem 3. Suppose that the initial value problems (29) satisfy the condition (30), and } y(t), y(\xi(t)) \in C^2([0, T]), \text{ and } \gamma(t) \in C^2([0, T]). \text{ Then the sequence } \{y_i(t)\}_{i=1}^{\infty} \text{ defined by (43) and (44) with } \gamma_0(t) \text{ converges to the solution of (29).}
\]
\[\text{Proof. The proof process is similar to that in Theorem 1.}\]

\[\text{3. Illustrative Examples}\]

In this section, some illustrative examples are given to show the efficiency of the VIM for solving second-order delay differential equations.

\[\text{Example 4. Consider the initial value problem of second-order delay differential equation with pantograph delay}\]
\[y''(t) = -y\left(\frac{t}{2}\right) - y^2(t) + \sin^4(t) + \sin^2\left(\frac{t}{2}\right) + 8, \quad t > 0,\]
\[
\phi'(0) = 0, \quad \phi(0) = 2,
\]
\[\text{(45)}\]
with the exact solution \( y(t) = \frac{5 - \cos 2t}{2} \). Using the VIM given in formulas (9) and (10), we construct the correction functional

\[
y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^t (\xi - t) \left( y''_m(\xi) + y_m \left( \frac{\xi}{2} \right) + y^2_m(\xi) - \sin^4(\xi) \right) - \sin^2(\xi) - 8 \, d\xi, \quad m = 1, 2, \ldots.
\]  

(46)

We take \( y_0(t) = 2 \) as the initial approximation and obtain that

\[
y_1(t) = \frac{5}{4} + \frac{23}{16} t^2 + \frac{1}{2} \cos t + \frac{5}{16} \cos^2 t - \frac{1}{16} \cos^4 t,
\]

\[
y_2(t) = -\frac{989}{512} + \frac{815}{512} t^2 + \frac{23}{1536} t^4 + \frac{1}{2} t \sin \left( \frac{\xi}{2} \right) + \frac{5}{16} \cos^2 t - \frac{1}{256} t \sin t
d + \frac{157}{512} \cos^2 t - \frac{1}{16} \cos^4 t,
\]

\[
y_3(t) = -\frac{252541}{2048} + \frac{9781}{49125} t^4 + \frac{23}{1536} t^4 + \frac{1}{256} t \sin t
d + \frac{14}{15} t \sin \left( \frac{\xi}{2} \right) + \frac{121}{2048} t \sin t
+ \frac{1}{256} t \sin t \cos t + \frac{1}{256} t^2 \sin \left( \frac{\xi}{2} \right) + \frac{39}{8} \cos \left( \frac{\xi}{2} \right)
+ \frac{1393}{2048} \cos t + \frac{157}{512} \cos^2 t - \frac{1}{16} \cos^4 t
+ \frac{1}{16} \cos^4 t.
\]

(47)

The exact and approximate solutions are plotted in Figure 1, which shows that the method gives a very good approximation to the exact solution.

Example 5. Consider the second-order delay differential equation

\[
y''(t) = -16y(t) + y^2 \left( \frac{t}{4} \right) - \sin^2 t, \quad t > 0,
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\varphi'(0) &= 4, \\
\varphi(0) &= 0.
\end{align*}
\]  

(48)

Using the VIM given in formulas (28), we construct the correction functional

\[
y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^t \left( \frac{1}{4} \sin(4\xi - 4t) \left( y''_m(\xi) + 16y_m(\xi) - y^2_m \left( \frac{\xi}{4} \right) \right) + \sin^2(\xi) \right) \, d\xi, \quad m = 1, 2, \ldots.
\]  

(49)

We take \( y_0(t) = 4t \) as the initial approximation, and obtain that

\[
y_1(t) = -0.0390625 + 0.0625t^2 + \sin(4t)
+ 0.04166666667 \cos(2t)
- 0.002604166667 \cos(4t),
\]

\[
y_2(t) = 0.00613912861 - 3.998216869t + 0.1805413564t^2
- 0.4340277778t^3 + o(t^4)
+ 0.006666666667 t - 0.52083333333t + o(t^2) \sin t
+ (-0.1946373457 - 0.5555555556t + o(t^2)) \cos t
- 0.1085069444 \sin(2t) - 2 \cos(4t),
\]

(50)
Example 6. Consider the second-order delay differential equation
\[ y''(t) = -\frac{2}{t} y'(t) + 16 y^2 \left(\frac{t}{2}\right) + 6 - t^4, \quad t > 0, \]
\[ \phi'(0) = 0, \]
\[ \phi'(0) = 0, \]
with the exact solution \( y(t) = t^2 \). From (35), we can solve that \( \lambda(t, \xi) = -\xi + \xi^2/t \). Using the VIM given in formulas (43) and (44), we construct the correction functional
\[ y_{m+1}(t) = y_m(t) + \int_0^t \left( -\xi + \frac{\xi^2}{t} \right) \left( y''_m(\xi) + \frac{2}{\xi} y'_m(\xi) - 16 y_m^2 \left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right) \right) d\xi, \]
\[ - 6 + \xi^2, \quad m = 1, 2, \ldots. \]

We take \( y_0(t) = 2t \) as the initial approximation and obtain that
\[ y_1(t) = -\frac{1}{42} t^6 + t^2, \]
\[ y_2(t) = t^2 + \frac{4}{21} t^6 - \frac{1}{1760} t^{10} + \frac{1}{1935360} t^{14}, \]
\[ \vdots \]

We use the iterative formulas (9) and (43) for Example 6, respectively. When the iteration number \( n = 2 \), the corresponding relative errors are showed in Table 1.

Table 1 shows that the iteration speed of the iterative formula (43) for Example 6 is much faster than that of iterative formula (9). This demonstrates that it is important to choose a reasonable Lagrange multiplier.

4. Conclusion

In this paper, we apply the VIM to obtain the analytical or approximate analytical solutions of second-order delay differential equations. Some illustrative examples show that this method gives a very good approximation to the exact solution. The VIM is a promising method for second-order delay differential equations.

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