A comparative analysis of the RC circuit with local and non-local fractional derivatives

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Received 22 March 2018; accepted 25 May 2018

This work is devoted to investigate solutions to RC circuits using four different types of time fractional differential operators of order $0 < \gamma \leq 1$. The fractional derivatives considered are, Caputo, Caputo-Fabrizio, Atangana-Baleanu and the conformable derivative. It is shown that Atangana-Baleanu fractional derivative (non-local), and the conformable (local) derivative could describe a wider class of physical processes then the Caputo and Caputo-Fabrizio. The solutions are exactly equal for all four derivatives only for the case $\gamma = 1$.

Keywords: Caputo; Caputo-Fabrizio; Atangana-Baleanu; conformable derivative.

PACS: 02.30.Hq; 07.50.Ek

1. Introduction

Fractional calculus (FC), involving derivatives and integrals of non-integer order, is the natural generalization of classical calculus, which during recent decades has become a powerful and widely used method for better modelling and control of processes in many areas of science and engineering [1-5]. The fractional derivative are non-local operators because they are defined using integrals. Therefore, the time fractional derivative contains information about the function at earlier points, thus it possesses a memory effect. Such derivatives consider the history and non-local distributed effects, which are essential for better and more accurate description and understanding of complex and dynamic system behavior [6-18]. Another peculiarity of FC is the inclusion of new degrees of freedom to the system by increasing the information that can be obtained from the nature of the phenomenon in question. Due to the lack of a consistent geometric and physical interpretation of the fractional derivative, several definitions exist [19]. The most useful definitions are the Riemann-Liouville and Caputo fractional derivatives, however, despite the accurate results obtained with the Riemann-Liouville and Caputo fractional derivatives, they have the disadvantage that their kernel has a singularity at the end point of the interval. To avoid this problem, [20] proposed the Caputo-Fabrizio derivative (CF). This is a new fractional-order derivative that does not have any singularity. The main advantage of the CF is that the singular power-law kernel is now replaced by a non-singular exponential kernel, which is easier to use in theoretical analysis, numerical calculations and real-world applications. Based on this new derivative, some interesting studies can be found in [21-26]. However, some researchers have concluded that this operator is not a derivative with fractional order, but instead a filter with fractional parameters [27]. Solutions due to an exponential kernel shows an exponential decay similar to the classical integer order model, therefore, the CF with an exponential kernel has limitations in describing phenomena with non-exponential nature, for example, anomalous relaxation [28]. To correct this deficiency, two fractional derivatives in the Caputo and Riemann-Liouville sense were defined by Atangana-Baleanu (AB) [29], based on the generalized stretched Mittag-Leffler function. These new derivatives have been applied to different systems in [30-33].

All definitions of fractional derivatives satisfy the property of linearity, but properties, such as the product rule, quotient rule, chain rule, mean value theorem and composition rule and so on, are lacking in almost all fractional derivatives. These inconsistencies and many more have raised many problems in real applications and have limited the possibilities to explore these fractional calculations. To avoid these difficulties, [34] proposed to extend the ordinary limit definitions of the derivatives of a function called conformable derivative. This conformable derivative has attracted the interest of researchers, as it seems to satisfy all requirements of the standard derivative [35-43].

In this work we try to analyze the difference between the most important definitions of fractional derivatives in a simple system. In particular, we will applied the Caputo (C), Caputo-Fabrizio (CF), Atangana-Baleanu (AB) fractional derivatives and the conformable derivative (conf), in the study of a RC circuit with DC and AC sources.

2. Some definitions of fractional derivatives

The Caputo fractional derivative of order $\gamma$ is defined by [44]
\[
C \frac{D^\gamma_s}{D_t^\gamma} f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1 - \gamma)} \int_a^t \frac{f(\tau)}{(t - \tau)^\gamma} d\tau,
\]
with \(0 < \gamma \leq 1\) and \(a \in (-\infty, t]\), \(f \in H^1(a, b)\), \(b > a\). By changing the kernel \((t - \tau)^{-\gamma}\) with the function \(e^{-\gamma(t-\tau)/(t-\gamma)}\) and \(1/\Gamma(1 - \gamma)\) with \((M(\gamma))/(1 - \gamma)\), the Caputo-Fabrizio fractional derivative of order \(\gamma\) is obtained:

\[
\text{C} \frac{D^\gamma_s}{D_t^\gamma} f(t) = \frac{M(\gamma)}{(1 - \gamma)} \int_a^t f(\tau) \exp \left[ -\frac{\gamma(t - \tau)}{1 - \gamma} \right] d\tau,
\]
where \((M(\gamma))/1 - \gamma)\) is a normalization function with the property \(M(0) = M(1) = 1\). If \(f(t)\) is a constant function, then the Caputo (1) and Caputo-Fabrizio derivative (2) are zero. However, in contrast to definition (1), the kernel in (2) does not have singularity at \(t = \tau\). This property is of particular interest, because it can describe the full memory effect for a given system. The Laplace transform of the Caputo and Caputo-Fabrizio fractional derivatives \(0 < \gamma \leq 1\) is given by:

\[
\mathcal{L}_{[\text{C} \frac{D^\gamma_s}{D_t^\gamma} f(t)]} = s^\gamma F(s) - s^{\gamma-1} f(0), \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1.
\]
\[
\mathcal{L}_{[\text{CF} \frac{D^\gamma_s}{D_t^\gamma} f(t)]} = \frac{sF(s) - f(0)}{s + \gamma(1 - s)}, \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1.
\]
We have taken the normalization function properties \(M(0) = M(1) = 1\) in (4). In [29], two new fractional derivatives appeared. We will apply one of them, defined as: \(f \in H^1(a, b)\), \(a < b\), \(\gamma \in [0, 1]\), then the Atangana-Baleanu fractional derivative in the Caputo sense (AB) is

\[
\text{AB} \frac{D^\gamma_s}{D_t^\gamma} f(t) = \frac{B(\gamma)}{1 - \gamma} \int_a^t f'(x) E_\gamma \left[ -\frac{\gamma(t - x)^\gamma}{1 - \gamma} \right] dx,
\]
where \(E_\gamma(z)\) is the one parameter Mittag-Leffler function defined in [5]

\[
E_\gamma(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{\Gamma(\gamma n + 1)}.
\]
As can be seen, the Atangana-Baleanu fractional derivative (5) is the natural generalization of the Caputo-Fabrizio derivative (2). The AB derivative has a non-singular and non-local kernel, its Laplace transform is given by [29],

\[
\mathcal{L}_{[\text{AB} \frac{D^\gamma_s}{D_t^\gamma} f(t)]} = \frac{B(\gamma)}{1 - \gamma}
\times \frac{s^\gamma F(s) - s^{\gamma-1} f(0)}{s^\gamma + \frac{\gamma}{1 - \gamma}}, \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1,
\]
where \(B(\gamma)\) has the same properties as in the CF case. Although (1), (2) and (5) are linear operators and possess some fine properties, they do not inherit all the operational behaviours from the typical first derivative, such as product rule, quotient rule, chain rule and semigroup properties. These inconsistencies lead to the development of the local fractional derivative whose most properties coincide with classical integer derivative [34,45-47].

In [34], the conformable derivative definition is given. It is defined as: Let \(f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}\) be a function. Then, the conformable derivative of the order \(\gamma\) is defined by

\[
T_{\gamma} f(t) = \frac{d^n f(t)}{dt^n} = f^{(\gamma)}(t) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \frac{f(t + \epsilon t^{1-\gamma}) - f(t)}{\epsilon}, \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1,
\]
for all \(t > 0\). This expression is a possible generalization of the standard definition of derivative. When \(\gamma = 1\) from (8), we obtain

\[
f^{(\gamma)}(0) = \lim_{t \to 0^+} f^{(\gamma)}(t).
\]
The most important properties of this conformable derivative of order \(\gamma\) are given in [34], we only take the needed expression

\[
T_{\gamma} f(t) = t^{n+1-\gamma} \frac{d^{n+1}}{dt^{n+1}} f(t), \quad \gamma \in [n, n+1],
\]
if \(f(t)\) is \((n + 1)\) differentiable at \(t > 0\).

3. The ordinary RC circuit

The equation governing the behavior of the RC circuit is

\[
\frac{dV(t)}{dt} + \frac{1}{\tau} V(t) = \frac{e(t)}{\tau},
\]
where \(\tau = RC\) is the time constant of the system measured in seconds, \(R\) is the resistance measured in Ohm’s, \(C\) is the capacitance measured in Farads, \(V(t)\) is the voltage on the capacitor and \(e(t)\) is the source. Taking the initial condition as \(V(0) = 0\), and assuming a constant source \(e_0\), the solution of the equation (11) is

\[
V(t) = e_0 \left( 1 - e^{-t/\tau} \right).
\]
This is the equation that describes the behavior (charging in our case) of a RC circuit with constant source, where its components are ideal. The solution (12) exhibits an exponential decay, when \(t \to \infty\) the voltage \(V(t \to \infty) \to e_0\), a constant. In the case of an alternating source with angular frequency \(\omega\) and initial condition \(V(0) = 0\), we get

\[
\frac{dV(t)}{dt} + \frac{1}{\tau} V(t) = \frac{e_0}{\tau} \cos \omega t,
\]
the solution is given by

\[
V(t) = \frac{e_0}{\omega^2 \tau^2 + 1} \left[ \cos \omega t + \omega \tau \sin \omega t - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}} \right].
\]
4. Fractional RC circuit

Our purpose in this section is to obtain a consisting fractional differential equation corresponding to (11). In [48] a systematic way to construct fractional differential equations has been proposed. We transform the ordinary derivative in a fractional derivative in the following way

\[
d\frac{d}{dt} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\tau^{1-\gamma}} \frac{d^{\gamma}}{dt^{\gamma}}, \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1, \quad (15)
\]

where \( \tau = RC \) is the time constant measured in seconds. The term on the left in (15) has dimensions of \( s^{-1} \), and the one on the right is also. Substituting (15) in (11) we obtain the corresponding fractional differential equation for the RC circuit

\[
\frac{d^{\gamma}V}{dt^{\gamma}} + \frac{1}{\tau^{\gamma}} V(t) = \frac{\epsilon(t)}{\tau^{\gamma}}, \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1. \quad (16)
\]

This fractional differential equation has been studied in [49-50]. Our main aim is to analyze this differential equation using different definitions of fractional derivatives including local and non-local, make a comparison of these derivatives and give some conclusions about the way behavior of the solutions.

4.1. RC with Caputo fractional derivative

We consider the fractional differential equation (16) taking into account the Caputo fractional derivative (1), assuming the initial condition be \( V(0) = 0 \) and \( \epsilon(t) = \epsilon_{0} \) is a constant. Then, applying the Laplace transform (3), we obtain

\[
s^{\gamma}V(s) + \frac{1}{\tau^{\gamma}} V(s) = \frac{\epsilon_{0}}{\tau^{\gamma}s}, \quad (17)
\]

and solving for \( V(s) = V(s)_{C} \), we have

\[
V(s)_{C} = \frac{\epsilon_{0}}{s^{\gamma} + \frac{1}{\tau^{\gamma}}}. \quad (18)
\]

Using the Laplace inverse transform [5], we obtain

\[
V(t; \gamma)_{C} = \epsilon_{0} \left[ 1 - E_{\gamma}(-\bar{\tau}^{\gamma}) \right], \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1, \quad (19)
\]

where \( \bar{\tau} = t/\tau \) is a dimensionless parameter. The asymptotic approximations to the Mittag-Leffler function for small \( t \to 0 \) and larger \( t \to \infty \) times, in first approximation, are [51]

\[
E_{\gamma}(-t^{\gamma}) \sim e^{-\bar{\tau}^{\gamma}}, \quad t \to 0, \quad (20)
\]

\[
E_{\gamma}(-t^{\gamma}) \sim \frac{t^{-\gamma}}{\Gamma(1 - \gamma)}, \quad t \to \infty. \quad (21)
\]

As a consequence, the Mittag-Leffler function interpolates for intermediate time \( t \) between the stretched exponential function (20) and the negative power law (21). The stretched exponential function models a very fast decay for small times

\[
V(t; \gamma)_{C} = \epsilon_{0} \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{m+n} \frac{\omega^{2m}a^{n}}{\alpha^{(n+1)\gamma + 2m + 1}}. \quad (24)
\]

Then, the inverse Laplace transform gives

\[
V(t; \gamma)_{C} = \epsilon_{0} \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+n}(\omega\tau)^{2m}}{\Gamma[(n+1)\gamma + 2m + 1]} \times (t^{-\gamma})^{(n+1)\gamma + 2m + 1}, \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1. \quad (25)
\]

We take the highest power of \( s \) as a common factor from the denominator, and then we expand the denominator in an alternating geometric series [52], as a result we obtain

\[
V(s)_{C} = b \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+n}a^{n}}{\omega^{2m} \alpha^{(n+1)\gamma + 2m + 1}}. \quad (23)
\]
4.2. RC with Caputo-Fabrizio fractional derivative

Applying the Caputo-Fabrizio derivative (2) and the Laplace transform (4) to the fractional differential equation (16) with the same conditions $V(0) = 0$, $\epsilon(t) = \epsilon_0$, we get

$$V(s)_{CF} = \frac{b(\gamma + As)}{s(Bs + a\gamma)},$$

(26)

where $a = 1/\tau\gamma$, $b = \epsilon_0/\tau\gamma$, $A = 1 - \gamma$ and $B = 1 + a - a\gamma$.

Then, the inverse Laplace transform gives

$$V(t; \gamma)_{CF} = \epsilon_0 \left[1 - \frac{\tau\gamma}{1 - \gamma + \tau\gamma} e^{-\frac{\tau\gamma t}{1 - \gamma + \tau\gamma}}, \right]$$

$$0 < \gamma \leq 1.$$  

(27)

Then, the CF solution (27) exhibits an exponential decay when $t \to \infty$, like as the ordinary integer model. The CF derivative with an exponential kernel (2) has limitations in describing the behaviour of phenomenon with non-exponential nature [53].

In Fig. (3), similar behavior is shown as in the Caputo case, except that not all the curves start at zero and also change a little after half a second.

In the case of an oscillating source with angular frequency $\omega$, from (16) and after applying the Laplace transform (4), we have

$$\frac{sV(s)}{s + \gamma(1 - s)} + \frac{1}{\tau\gamma} V(s) = \frac{\epsilon_0 s}{\tau\gamma(s^2 + \omega^2)}.$$ 

(28)

Solving with respect to $V(s) = V(s)_{CF}$ we get

$$V(s)_{CF} = \frac{b(1 - \gamma)s(s + B)}{(As + a\gamma)(s^2 + \omega^2)},$$

(29)

where $a = 1/\tau\gamma$, $b = \epsilon_0/\tau\gamma$, $A = 1 + a(1 - \gamma)$ and $B=(\gamma/1-\gamma)$. As before, taking the highest power of $s$ as a common factor from the denominator, then expanding the denominator in an alternating geometric series, we obtain

$$V(s; \gamma)_{CF} = \frac{(1 - \gamma)\epsilon_0}{\tau\gamma(1 - \gamma + \tau\gamma)} \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+n}\gamma m\omega^{2n}}{\tau^m s^{2n+m+1}}$$

$$+ \frac{\gamma\epsilon_0}{\tau\gamma(1 - \gamma + \tau\gamma)} \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+n}\gamma m\omega^{2n}}{\tau^m s^{2n+m+1}}.$$ (30)

Then, the inverse Laplace transform gives the solution

$$V(t; \gamma)_{CF} = \frac{(1 - \gamma)\epsilon_0}{\tau\gamma(1 - \gamma + \tau\gamma)} \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+n}\gamma m\omega^{2n}}{\tau^m \Gamma[2n + m + 1]} t^{2n+m}$$

$$+ \frac{\gamma\epsilon_0}{\tau\gamma(1 - \gamma + \tau\gamma)} \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+n}\gamma m\omega^{2n}}{\tau^m \Gamma[2(n + 1) + m]} t^{2n+m+1},$$

$$0 < \gamma \leq 1.$$ (31)
where

\[ aV(s) = \frac{b}{s}, \]

(32)

From here, we get

\[ V(s) = V(s)_{AB}, \]

(33)

where \( A = (\epsilon_0(1 - \gamma)/\tau\gamma + 1 - \gamma), \ B = (\gamma/1 - \gamma) \) and \( C = (\gamma/\tau\gamma + 1 - \gamma). \) The inverse Laplace transform gives the solution

\[ V(t; \gamma)_{AB} = \epsilon_0 \left[ 1 - \frac{\tau\gamma}{\tau\gamma + 1 - \gamma} \right]^\gamma \times \mathcal{E}_\gamma \left( \frac{\gamma}{\tau\gamma + 1 - \gamma} \right), \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1, \]

(34)

where \( \mathcal{E}_\gamma (\cdot) \) is the one-parametric Mittag-Leffler function (6), with the property (20) for \( t \to 0 \) and (21) for large time \( t \to \infty. \) In Fig. (5) we have plotted the equation (34) for some values of \( \gamma. \) In the case of Atangana-Baleanu derivative, we observe in Fig. (5) a similar behavior as in the previous cases. However, this behavior is closer to that described by the CF derivative with the only difference that after a certain time the voltage decays much slower than in the two previous cases. This could describe a wider class of physical processes.

In the case of an oscillatory source, we have

\[ \frac{1}{1 - \gamma} \cdot \frac{s^n V(s)}{s^n + \frac{C}{1 - \gamma}} + aV(s) = \frac{bs}{s^2 + \omega^2}. \]

(35)

Solving for \( V(s) = V(s)_{AB} \) and taking the inverse Laplace transform, we get

\[ V(t; \gamma)_{AB} = \epsilon_0 (1 - \gamma) \]

\[ \times \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1)^m + \omega^{2m} \gamma n^{m+n+1}}{(1 - \gamma + \tau\gamma)^{n+1} \Gamma[n\gamma + 2(m + 1)]} \]

\[ + \gamma \epsilon_0 \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1)^m + \omega^{2m} \gamma n^{m+n+1}}{(1 - \gamma + \tau\gamma)^{n+1} \Gamma[2m + n + 1]}. \]

(36)

6. RC with conformable fractional derivative

Finally, replacing the expression (10) in the fractional differential equation (16), for the case \( 0 < \gamma \leq 1, \)

\[ \frac{d^\gamma}{dt^\gamma} f(t) = t^{1-\gamma} \frac{df}{dt}(t), \]

(37)

we have the conformable differential equation for the RC circuit

\[ \frac{dV}{dt} + at^{\gamma - 1} V(t) = at^{\gamma - 1} \epsilon(t), \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1, \]

(38)

where \( a = (1/\tau\gamma). \) This equation is a linear non-homogeneous ordinary differential equation with variable coefficient of non-integer power \( 0 < \gamma \leq 1, \) its solution can be found by standard methods. Its solution for the case when the source is a constant \( \epsilon(t) = \epsilon_0, \) has the form

\[ V(\gamma; t)_{\text{conf}} = \epsilon_0 \left[ 1 - \exp \left( -\frac{t}{\gamma} \right) \right], \quad 0 < \gamma \leq 1, \]

(39)

where \( \bar{t} = (t/\tau) \) is a dimensionless parameter. In this case, we have as solution a stretched exponential function (39). In Fig. (7), we show the plot for different values of \( \gamma. \)

We observe, in Fig. (7), a different behavior as in the three previous cases. The conformable derivative strongly
that the derivatives of (C), (CF) and (AB) have a very similar behavior. They have an almost equal crossing time \( t \approx 1 \) s. Also, it is observed that of these three derivatives, the derivative of Atangana-Baleanu could describe a wider class of physical processes, because it is described in terms of Mittag-Leffler function. Finally, the conformable derivative gives as a solution the stretched exponential behavior, the crossing time is \( t_{\text{conf}} \approx 3 \) s. This behavior has been observed in a large number of complex physical processes [53-59]. Similar behaviors are observed in the case of alternating current AC, Figs. (2), (4), (6) and (8).

8. Conclusion

In this work we have studied the behaviour of the RC electrical circuit for DC and AC sources using four different fractional derivatives. The fractional derivatives were: Caputo (C), Caputo-Fabrizio (CF), Atangana-Baleanu (AB) non-local fractional derivatives and the conformable derivative (conf). The (C) fractional derivative has the disadvantage that their kernel has a singularity at the end point of the interval, then to avoid this problem, [20] proposed the (CF) derivative. The main advantage of the CF is that the singular power-law kernel is now replaced by a non-singular exponential kernel, which is easier to use in theoretical analysis, numerical calculations and real-world applications. Solutions due to an exponential kernel shows an exponential decay, similar to the classical integer order model, (14) and (27). Therefore, the CF with an exponential kernel has limitations in describing phenomena with non-exponential nature, for example, anomalous relaxation [28] and stretched exponential relaxation physical processes [53]. To correct this deficiency, two fractional derivatives in the Caputo and Riemann-Liouville sense were defined by Atangana-Baleanu (AB) [29], based on the Mittag-Leffler function, solutions are of the form (34)
with the properties (20) and (21). On the order hand, the conformable derivative was introduced in [34]. This derivative is a natural extension of the ordinary derivative, as a limit, and has the same properties as the ordinary one. This derivative can describe phenomena, such as relaxation processes in complex systems and so on [53-58]. As far as we know, the conformable derivative had not been applied to the RC circuit.

Theoretically, it was shown that the fractional derivative of Atangana-Baleanu and the conformable derivative could describe a wider class of physical processes then of the Caputo and Caputo-Fabrizio, Fig. 9. The solutions are exactly equal for all four derivatives only for the case $\gamma = 1$. A next step in the investigation would be to determine, on a practical level, if there are conditions (for DC and AC sources) for which the exposed fractional models represent reality more accurately than the classical models. This may be done in the optimization of the internal parameters of supercapacitors, in process.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank H.C. Prado Roche and acknowledge the support provided by DAIP, under the project Optimización de los parámetros internos de un super-capacitor CIIC 135/2018, DICIS-University of Guanajuato. D. Filoteo acknowledges the support provided by CONACyT, under grant 477506.