

**DETERMINATION OF THE FREQUENCY-AMPLITUDE
RELATION FOR NONLINEAR OSCILLATORS WITH
FRACTIONAL POTENTIAL USING HE'S ENERGY
BALANCE METHOD**

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Abstract—A He's Energy balance method (EBM) is used to calculate the periodic solutions of nonlinear oscillators with fractional potential. Some examples are given to illustrate the effectiveness and convenience of the method. We find this EBM works very well for the whole range of initial amplitudes, and the excellent agreement of the approximate frequencies and periodic solutions with the Exact or other analytical solutions has been demonstrated and discussed. Comparison of the result obtained using this method with that obtained by Exact or other analytical solutions reveal that the EBM is very effective and convenient and can therefore be found widely applicable in engineering and other science.

1. INTRODUCTION

Nonlinear oscillator models have been widely used in many areas of physics and engineering and are of significant importance in mechanical and structural dynamics for the comprehensive understanding and accurate prediction of motion. The study of nonlinear oscillators is of interest to many researchers and various methods of solution have been proposed. Surveys of the literature with numerous references, and useful bibliographies, have been given by Nayfeh [1], Mickens [2], Jordan and Smith [3] and more recently by He [4].

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Various approaches, including the Non-preservative methods [4], homotopy perturbation method [5–9], Lindstedt- Poincaré method [10–12], parameter-expansion method [13–16], Parameterized perturbation method [17, 18], multiple scale method [19–22], and the harmonic balance method (HBM) [23–26] have been developed to study the nonlinear oscillators.

Recently, some approximate variational methods, including approximate energy method [27–31], variational iteration method [32–36] and variational approach [37–40], to solution, bifurcation, limit cycle and period solutions of nonlinear equations have been given much attention. Among these methods, the EBM is considered to be one of powerful methods capable of handling strongly nonlinear behaviors and, it can converge to an accurate periodic solution for smooth nonlinear systems.

The main objective of this paper is to approximately solve nonlinear oscillators with fractional potential by applying the Energy balance method (EBM), and to compare the approximate frequency obtained with the exact one and with other approximate frequency obtained applying the variational approach solution [4] to the same nonlinear oscillators. As we can see, the results presented in this Letter reveal that the method is very effective and convenient for nonlinear oscillators with fractional terms.

2. DESCRIPTION OF ENERGY BALANCE METHOD

In the present paper, we consider a general nonlinear oscillator in the form [29]:

$$u'' + f(u(t)) = 0 \quad (1)$$

in which u and t are generalized dimensionless displacement and time variables, respectively. Its variational principle can be easily obtained:

$$J(u) = \int_0^t \left(-\frac{1}{2}u'^2 + F(u) \right) dt \quad (2)$$

Where $T = 2\pi/\omega$ is period of the nonlinear oscillator, $F(u) = \int f(u)du$.

Its Hamiltonian, therefore, can be written in the form:

$$H = \frac{1}{2}u'^2 + F(u) + F(A) \quad (3)$$

Or:

$$R(t) = \frac{1}{2}u'^2 + F(u) - F(A) = 0 \quad (4)$$

Oscillatory systems contain two important physical parameters, i.e., the frequency ω and the amplitude of oscillation, A . So let us consider such initial conditions:

$$u(0) = A, \quad u'(0) = 0 \quad (5)$$

We use the following trial function to determine the angular frequency ω :

$$u(t) = A \cos(\omega t) \quad (6)$$

Substituting (6) into u term of (4), yield:

$$R(t) = \frac{1}{2}\omega^2 A^2 \sin^2 \omega t + F(A \cos \omega t) - F(A) = 0 \quad (7)$$

If, by chance, the exact solution had been chosen as the trial function, then it would be possible to make R zero for all values of t by appropriate choice of ω . Since Eq. (5) is only an approximation to the exact solution, R cannot be made zero everywhere. Collocation at $\omega t = \pi/4$ gives:

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{2(F(A) - F(A \cos \omega t))}{A^2 \sin^2 \omega t}} \quad (8)$$

Its period can be written in the form:

$$T = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{\frac{2(F(A) - F(A \cos \omega t))}{A^2 \sin^2 \omega t}}} \quad (9)$$

3. NUMERICAL EXAMPLES

Example 1. To illustrate the basic procedure of the present method, we consider an $u^{1/3}$ force nonlinear oscillator [4]:

$$\frac{d^2 u}{dt^2} + \varepsilon u^{1/3} = 0, \quad (10)$$

with the initial conditions

$$u(0) = A, \quad \frac{du}{dt}(0) = 0. \quad (11)$$

For this problem, $f(u) = u^{1/3}$ and $F(u) = \frac{3}{4}\varepsilon u^{4/3}$.

Its variational principle can be easily obtained:

$$J(u) = \int_0^t \left(-\frac{1}{2}u'^2 + \frac{1}{3}\varepsilon u^{4/3} \right) dt \quad (12)$$

Its Hamilton, therefore, can be written in the form

$$H = \frac{1}{2}u'^2 + \frac{3}{4}\varepsilon u^{4/3} = \frac{3}{4}\varepsilon A^{4/3}, \quad (13)$$

or

$$\frac{1}{2}u'^2 + \frac{3}{4}\varepsilon u^{4/3} - \frac{3}{4}\varepsilon A^{4/3} = 0, \quad (14)$$

In Eqs. (13) and (14) the kinetic energy (E) and potential energy (T) can be respectively expressed as $E = u'^2/2$, $T = 3\varepsilon u^{4/3}/4$. Throughout the oscillation, it holds that $H = E + T = \text{constant}$.

Substituting (6) into (14), we obtain :

$$R(t) = \frac{1}{2}A^2\omega^2 \sin^2 \omega t + \frac{3}{4}\varepsilon(A \cos \omega t)^{4/3} - \frac{3}{4}\varepsilon A^{4/3} = 0, \quad (15)$$

We obtain the following result:

$$\omega = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{(-6\varepsilon (A \cos \omega t)^{4/3} + 6\varepsilon A^{4/3})}{A \sin \omega t}}, \quad (16)$$

with $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$, yield:

$$T = \frac{4\pi A \sin \omega t}{\sqrt{(-6\varepsilon (A \cos \omega t)^{4/3} + 6\varepsilon A^{4/3})}}. \quad (17)$$

If we collocate at $\omega t = \pi/4$, we obtain:

$$\omega = \frac{\sqrt{6(-2^{1/3})\varepsilon A^{4/3} + 2A^{4/3}}}{2A}, \quad (18)$$

with $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$, yield:

$$T = \frac{4\pi A}{\sqrt{6(-2^{1/3})\varepsilon A^{4/3} + 2A^{4/3}}}. \quad (19)$$

Example 2. Consider a more complex example in form [4]:

$$u'' + au + bu^3 + cu^{1/3} = 0, \quad u(0) = A, \quad u'(0) = 0, \quad (20)$$

For this problem, $f(u) = au + bu^3 + cu^{1/3}$ and $F(u) = a\frac{u^2}{2} + b\frac{u^4}{4} + 3\varepsilon\frac{u^{4/3}}{4}$.

Its variational form reads

$$J(u) = \int_0^t \left(-\frac{1}{2}u'^2 + a\frac{u^2}{2} + b\frac{u^4}{4} + 3\varepsilon\frac{u^{4/3}}{4} \right) dt \quad (21)$$

Substituting $u(t) = A \cos \omega t$ into (21) and with $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$, we obtain the following results:

$$R(t) = \frac{1}{2}A^2\omega^2 \sin^2 \omega t + \frac{1}{2}aA^2 \cos^2 \omega t + \frac{1}{4}bA^4 \cos^4 \omega t + \frac{3}{4}cA^{4/3} \cos^{4/3} \omega t - \frac{\alpha A^2}{2} - \frac{bA^4}{4} - \frac{3cA^{4/3}}{4} = 0, \quad (22)$$

$$\omega = \frac{\sqrt{4aA^2\sin^2\omega t + 4bA^4\sin^2\omega t - 2bA^4\sin^4\omega t - 6c(A\cos\omega t)^{4/3} + 6cA^{4/3}}}{2A \sin \omega t}, \quad (23)$$

$$T = \frac{4\pi A \sin \omega t}{\sqrt{4aA^2\sin^2\omega t + 4bA^4\sin^2\omega t - 2bA^4\sin^4\omega t - 6c(A\cos\omega t)^{4/3} + 6cA^{4/3}}}. \quad (24)$$

From (23), (24) and $\omega t = \pi/4$, we have:

$$\omega = \frac{\sqrt{4aA^2 + 3bA^4 - 6c2^{1/3}A^{4/3} + 12cA^{4/3}}}{2A}, \quad (25)$$

with $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$, yield:

$$T = \frac{4\pi A}{\sqrt{4aA^2 + 3bA^4 - 6c2^{1/3}A^{4/3} + 12cA^{4/3}}}. \quad (26)$$

If we collocate at $\omega t = \pi/4$ and with $T = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$, we obtain:

$$\omega = \frac{\sqrt{A^2 + 2\gamma \left(\sqrt{4 + 2A^2} - 2\sqrt{1 + A^2} \right)}}{A}, \quad (27)$$

$$T = \frac{2\pi A}{\sqrt{A^2 + 2\gamma \left(\sqrt{4 + 2A^2} - 2\sqrt{1 + A^2} \right)}}. \quad (28)$$

4. DISCUSSION OF EXAMPLES

The exact frequency ω_{ex} for *Example 1*, governed by Eq. (10) can be derived as shown in Eq. (29) and the variational approach frequency ω_{va} for *Example 2*, governed by Eq. (20) can be derived as shown in Eq. (30) [4].

$$\omega_{ex} = \frac{1.070451\varepsilon^{1/3}}{A^{1/3}}, \quad (29)$$

$$\omega_{va} = \sqrt{a + \frac{3}{4}bA^2 + 1.15959526696393cA^{-2/3}}, \quad a = b = c \neq 0. \quad (30)$$

The corresponding analytical approximation results of above examples, are tabulated in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Table 1. Comparison between analytical and the Exact solutions for *Example 1*, when $\varepsilon = 10.0, 1.0$.

| A | $\varepsilon = 0.1$ | | | $\varepsilon = 1.0$ | | |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| | ω | ω_{ex} | $ \omega - \omega_{ex} /\omega_{ex}$ | ω | ω_{ex} | $ \omega - \omega_{ex} /\omega_{ex}$ |
| 0.1 | 0.7178240235 | 0.7292897765 | 0.5938 % | 2.269958874 | 2.306216768 | 1.572 % |
| 0.5 | 0.4197860355 | 0.4264912487 | 0.5938 % | 1.327480002 | 1.348683748 | 1.572 % |
| 1 | 0.3331843972 | 0.3385063283 | 0.5938 % | 1.053621576 | 1.070451000 | 1.572 % |
| 5 | 0.1948474174 | 0.1979597017 | 0.5938 % | 0.6161616353 | 0.6260035423 | 1.572 % |
| 10 | 0.1571207194 | 0.1580592379 | 0.5938 % | 0.4890478141 | 0.4968593409 | 1.572 % |
| 50 | 0.09188475413 | 0.09243360305 | 0.5938 % | 0.2859968965 | 0.2905651053 | 1.572 % |
| 100 | 0.07292897765 | 0.07336459936 | 0.5938 % | 0.2269958874 | 0.2306216768 | 1.572 % |
| 500 | 0.04264912487 | 0.04290387799 | 0.5938 % | 0.1327480002 | 0.1348683748 | 1.572 % |
| 1000 | 0.03385063283 | 0.03405283051 | 0.5938 % | 0.1053621576 | 0.1070451000 | 1.572 % |

Table 2. Comparison between analytical and the Exact solutions for *Example 1*, when $\varepsilon = 10.0, 100.0$.

| A | $\varepsilon = 10.0$ | | | $\varepsilon = 100.0$ | | |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| | ω | ω_{ex} | $ \omega - \omega_{ex} /\omega_{ex}$ | ω | ω_{ex} | $ \omega - \omega_{ex} /\omega_{ex}$ |
| 0.1 | 7.178240235 | 7.292897765 | 1.572 % | 22.69958874 | 23.06216768 | 1.572 % |
| 0.5 | 4.197860355 | 4.264912487 | 1.572 % | 13.27480002 | 13.48683748 | 1.572 % |
| 1 | 3.331843972 | 3.385063283 | 1.572 % | 10.53621576 | 10.70451000 | 1.572 % |
| 5 | 1.948474174 | 1.979597017 | 1.572 % | 6.161616353 | 6.260035423 | 1.572 % |
| 10 | 1.546504978 | 1.571207194 | 1.572 % | 4.890478141 | 4.968593409 | 1.572 % |
| 50 | 0.9044015966 | 0.9188475413 | 1.572 % | 2.859968965 | 2.905651053 | 1.572 % |
| 100 | 0.7178240235 | 0.7292897765 | 1.572 % | 2.269958874 | 2.306216768 | 1.572 % |
| 500 | 0.4197860355 | 0.4264912487 | 1.572 % | 1.327480002 | 1.348683748 | 1.572 % |
| 1000 | 0.3331843972 | 0.3385063283 | 1.572 % | 1.053621576 | 1.070451000 | 1.572 % |

Table 3. Comparison between EBM and the Variational approach for *Example 2*, when $a = b = c = 1$.

| A | $a = b = c = 1$ | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | ω | ω_{va} |
| 0.1 | 2.481977697 | 2.527818119 |
| 0.5 | 1.717469987 | 1.740184688 |
| 1 | 1.691188466 | 1.705753577 |
| 5 | 4.486608425 | 4.488493734 |
| 10 | 8.731504325 | 8.732114705 |
| 50 | 43.31375987 | 43.31380196 |
| 100 | 86.60861115 | 86.06862442 |
| 500 | 433.0138769 | 433.0138778 |
| 1000 | 866.0259875 | 866.0259878 |

Table 4. Comparison between EBM and the Variational approach for *Example 2*, when $a = c = 1$, $b = 10$.

| A | $a = c = 1, b = 10$ | |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | ω | ω_{va} |
| 0.1 | 2.495538677 | 2.541134480 |
| 0.5 | 2.153416624 | 2.171576097 |
| 1 | 3.100019100 | 3.107988943 |
| 5 | 13.74334949 | 13.74396508 |
| 10 | 27.40784254 | 27.40893700 |
| 50 | 136.9345895 | 136.9346028 |
| 100 | 273.8631986 | 273.8632027 |
| 500 | 1369.306765 | 1369.306765 |
| 1000 | 2738.612972 | 2738.612972 |

Table 5. Comparison between EBM and the Variational approach for *Example 2*, when $a = b = 1$, $c = 10$.

| A | $a = b = 1, c = 10$ | |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | ω | ω_{va} |
| 0.1 | 7.248077875 | 7.404805496 |
| 0.5 | 4.336995685 | 4.426615803 |
| 1 | 3.584854846 | 3.653211282 |
| 5 | 4.852478915 | 4.869882959 |
| 10 | 8.853907480 | 8.859925071 |
| 50 | 43.32225689 | 43.32267763 |
| 100 | 86.61128835 | 86.61142093 |
| 500 | 433.0140600 | 433.0140692 |
| 1000 | 866.0260450 | 866.0260481 |

In *Example 1*, it is seen from the Table. 1, that the error percentage of EBM is 0.5983% for $\varepsilon = 0.1$. So from the Tables 1 and 2, the error percentage of the EBM are 1.572% for $\varepsilon = 1.0, 10.0, 100.0$.

For *Example 2*, In case $a = 1$, $c = 0$, Eq. (20) reduces to the well-known Duffing equation, and its approximate frequency reads:

$$\omega = \frac{2\pi A}{\sqrt{1 + 3/4bA^2}}. \tag{31}$$

With the Exact solution is:

$$\omega_{ex} = \frac{2}{\pi\sqrt{1 + bA^2}} \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1 - k \sin^2 x}}, \quad a = c = 0, \tag{32}$$

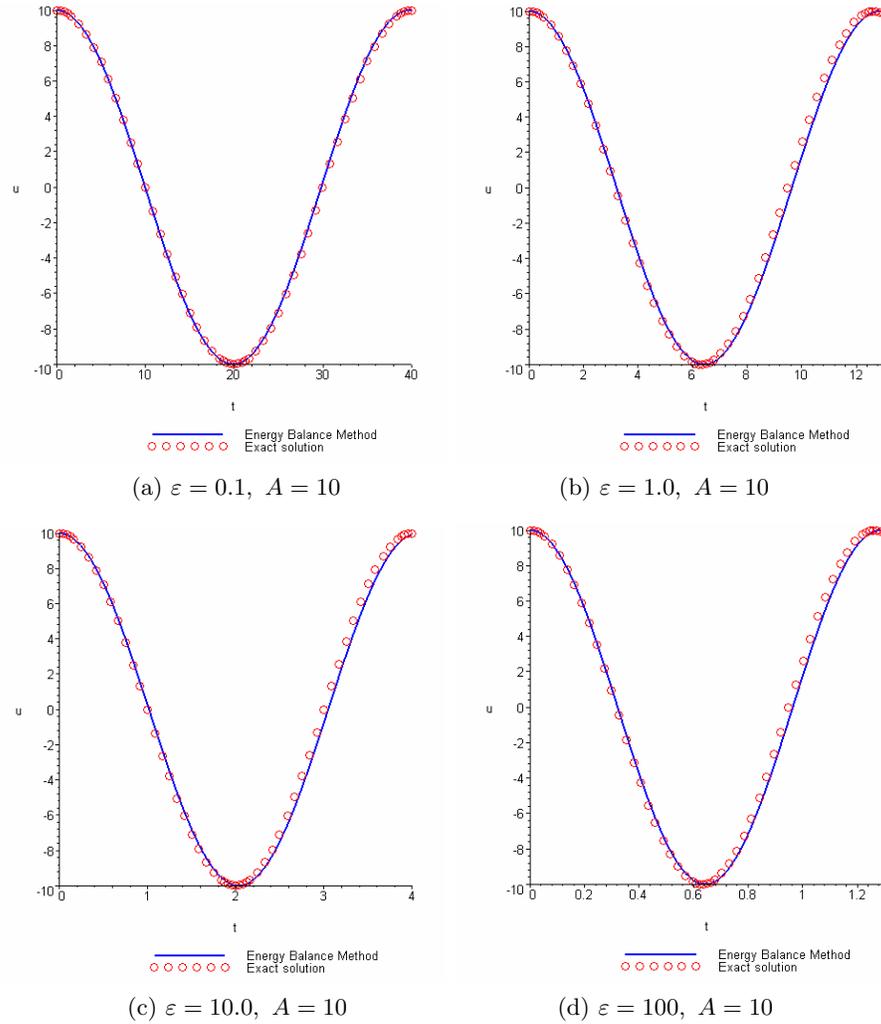


Figure 1. Comparison of the approximate solution (EBM) with the Exact solution for *Example 1*.

Where $k = 0.5bA^2/(1 + bA^2)$.

What is rather surprising about the remarkable range of validity of (31) with is that the approximate frequency, Eq. (31), as $b \rightarrow \infty$ is also of high accuracy.

$$\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\omega_{ex}}{\omega} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1 - 0.5 \sin^2 x}} = 0.9294. \quad (33)$$

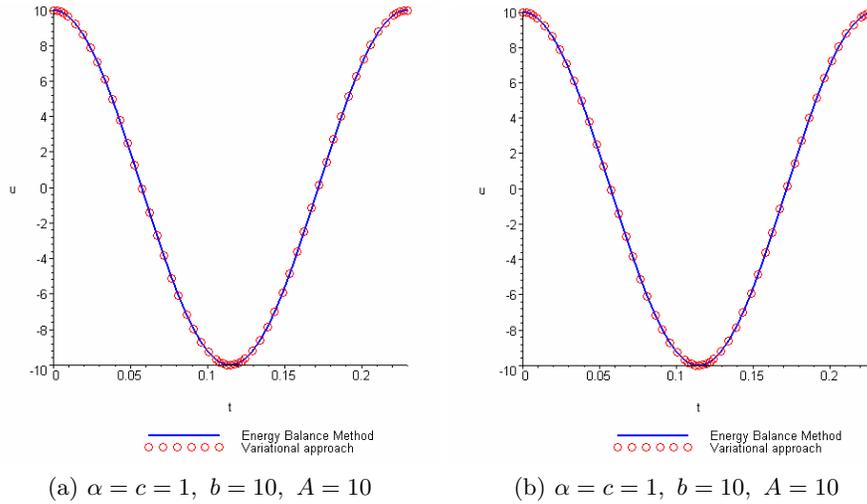


Figure 2. Comparison of the approximate solution (EBM) with the Variational approach solution for *Example 2*.

Therefore, for any value of $b > 0$, it can be easily proved that the maximal relative error of the frequency (31) is less than 7.6%, i.e., $|\omega - \omega_{ex}|/\omega_{ex} < 7.6\%$.

In case $a = 0, c = 0$, Eq. (20) becomes

$$u'' + bu^3 = 0, \tag{34}$$

Its frequency, then, reads

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}bA^2} = 0.866b^{1/2} \tag{35}$$

Its exact frequency [4] is $\omega_{ex} = 0.8472b^{1/2}A$. Therefore, its accuracy reaches 2.2%. In case $a = b = 0$, Eq. (20) turns out to be Eq. (10).

To further illustrate and verify the accuracy of this approximate analytical approach for *Example 1*, comparison of this analytical method with the Exact solution are presented in Figs. 1(a)–(d), for $\varepsilon = 0.1, 1.0, 10.0, 100.0$.

Figs. 2(a), (b) represent the corresponding displacement $u(t)$ in *Example 2*, for $A = 10, a = b, c = 10$. Apparently, it is confirmed that the analytical approximations show excellent agreement with the exact or other analytical approximation solutions.

5. CONCLUSION

We used a very simple but effective method (EBM) for nonlinear oscillators. The method consists of a combination of He's variational approach, to determine frequency and amplitude of the system. These examples have shown that the approximate analytical solutions are in excellent agreement with the corresponding exact solutions. The method can be easily extended to any nonlinear oscillator without any difficulty. Moreover, the present work can be used as paradigms for many other applications in searching for periodic solutions of nonlinear oscillations and so can be found widely applicable in engineering and science.

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