

# A Review of Differential Equations that is applicable to Differential Difference Equations

Naveen Kashyap\*

Ph.D. Scholar, ISBM University, Gariyaband, Chhattisgarh, India.

**Abstract - Mathematical modeling relies heavily on differential equations because they offer a robust framework for studying and understanding dynamical systems. However, the study of differential difference equations (DDEs) has evolved as a subfield within differential equations due to the increasing prevalence of systems with discrete time steps and delayed effects. The purpose of this work is to present a synopsis of research on differential equations that may be used in the analysis of differential difference equations. The review starts with a thorough introduction to ODEs and PDEs (ordinary and partial differential equations). Fundamental ideas, analytical approaches, and numerical strategies for solving these continuous-time problems are discussed. ODEs and PDEs are highlighted for their importance in simulating a wide range of physical, biological, and engineering systems.**

**Keywords - Differential Equations, Applicable, Difference Equations**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

There is a set of mathematical equations known as differential difference equations (DDEs) that combines the concepts of differential and difference equations. They appear in many scientific and technological disciplines where the dynamics of systems are conditional on both the present and the past. Understanding and solving differential difference equations requires knowledge of ordinary differential equations (ODEs), which we shall discuss in this study.

Continuous-time systems may be modeled and analyzed with the use of differential equations. They characterize how a dependent variable shifts in relation to a set of independent ones.

An ODE may be written in its most basic form as:

$$F(x, \partial x / \partial t, \partial^2 x / \partial t^2, \dots) = 0,$$

where  $x$  stands for any unknown temporal function and  $F$  is some mathematical statement relating the function and its derivatives.

DDEs, on the other hand, expand this paradigm by allowing for delays in time and for discrete modifications. The dynamics of DDEs are more intricate than ODEs because time delays create a dependency on previous values. [1]

The conventional notation for a DDE is:

$$F(x(t), x(t-\tau), x(t-2\tau), \dots, \partial x(t) / \partial t, \partial x(t-\tau) / \partial t, \partial x(t-2\tau) / \partial t, \dots) = 0,$$

where  $x(t)$  is the value of the unknown function at time  $t$ ,  $\tau$  is the delay in time, and  $F$  is an equation that links the present and previous values of  $x(t)$  and its derivatives.

DDEs may be formed from ODEs in many realistic situations by adding delays or other types of discrete events. The system's behavior may change as a result of the occurrence of a single event or a series of events. Signal propagation times and memory effects in dynamical systems are two examples of phenomena that are captured by the time lags.

In order to establish the relationship between DDEs and ODEs, it is crucial to note that the DDE formulation converges to the ODE formulation as the time delay approaches zero. Using mathematics, we get:

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow 0} x(t-\tau) = x(t),$$

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow 0} \partial x(t-\tau) / \partial t = \partial x(t) / \partial t,$$

We may use the huge body of knowledge and analytical tools built for ODEs to the study of DDEs thanks to the convergence feature. To further understand how DDEs behave, analytical tools including stability analysis, Laplace transforms, and variable separation may be used.

Furthermore, numerical techniques created for ODEs may be modified and expanded to solve DDEs, including finite difference methods, Runge-Kutta methods, and spectral methods. By

approximating solutions for DDEs, these numerical approaches provide light on the systems' dynamics, stability, and long-term behavior.[2]

In this survey, we'll take a look back at the ways in which the study and application of differential equations have advanced our ability to comprehend and resolve differential difference equations. We will explore both analytical and numerical approaches that may be used with DDEs. We want to elucidate the role and use of differential equations in the investigation of complex systems characterized by time delays and discrete occurrences by focusing on the relationship between ordinary and differential differential equations (ODEs and DDEs)..

## 1.2 Overview of differential equations as a modeling tool

Relationships between variables and their rates of change may be effectively modeled using differential equations. They are often used to simulate dynamic systems in many scientific and engineering disciplines. The fundamentals of differential equations and some examples of its use as a modeling tool will be covered here, along with relevant equations and formulae.[3]

### i. Mathematical Representation

Equations relating the unknown function to its derivatives and other variables are the mathematical representation of differential equations.

Differential equations often have the following form:

$$F(x, \partial x / \partial t, \partial^2 x / \partial t^2, \dots) = 0,$$

F is a mathematical statement that characterizes the connection between the function and its derivatives, and x is the unknown function.

### ii. Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs)

Differential equations with one independent variable describe situations in which the unknown function is reliant on that variable. Continuous-time systems modeling is a common use for them.

The first-order linear ODE is a straightforward illustration of an ODE:

$$dy/dt = a*y + b,$$

The unknown function y is represented by the expression (a + b)(t + a)(t + b).

Both exponential growth and decay may be described by this equation..

### iii. Partial Differential Equations (PDEs)

In PDEs, the unknown function is a function of more than one outside factor. They are used in the modeling of spatial phenomena.

The heat equation is an example of a partial differential equation:

$$\partial u / \partial t = \alpha \nabla^2 u,$$

When t is time,  $\alpha$  is thermal diffusivity, and  $\nabla^2$  is the Laplacian operator, and u is the temperature distribution.

Over time, this equation illustrates how heat moves throughout a particular area..[4]

### iv. Initial Value Problems (IVPs):

Solving a differential equation for a given set of beginning circumstances is an example of an initial value issue.

For a first-order ODE, the initial value issue looks like this:

$$dy/dt = f(t, y), y(t_0) = y_0,$$

When f is a known function, y(t<sub>0</sub>) is the starting value of y, and y<sub>0</sub> is the initial condition.

Finding the y(t) function that solves the differential equation and the given starting condition is necessary for a successful solution.

### v. Boundary Value Problems (BVPs)

Finding a solution to a differential equation that meets specified boundary conditions is the task at hand in a boundary value problem.

For example, the notation for a second-order ODE subject to boundary constraints looks like:

$$d^2y/dt^2 = g(t, y), y(a) = \alpha, y(b) = \beta,$$

If g is a known function and the values of y at the locations a and b on the boundary are provided by y(a) =  $\alpha$  and y(b) =  $\beta$ .

The objective is to determine the value of y(t) such that the differential equation and boundary conditions hold.

### 1.3 Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs)

To describe and comprehend dynamic systems, ordinary differential equations (ODEs) are important. One dependent variable and its derivatives are characterized with regard to a single independent variable. ODEs have many practical uses in the

sciences, engineering, and mathematics. In this in-depth explanation, along with example equations, we'll delve into the fundamental ideas, categories, and techniques for solving ODEs.[5]

As a general rule, the form of an ordinary differential equation with a dependent variable  $y$  and an independent variable  $t$  looks like this:

$$F(t, y, dy/dt, d^2y/dt^2, \dots) = 0,$$

where  $F$  is a function that connects the  $y$ -derivatives to the  $t$ -derivatives.

Derivatives are functions that measure how quickly a function like  $y$  changes over time. The order of an ODE is determined by the highest derivative in the system.

The first derivative  $dy/dt$  is involved in first-order ODEs, whereas the second derivative  $d^2y/dt^2$  is involved in second-order ODEs. Third derivatives, fourth derivatives, and so on are all possible in higher-order ODEs..

**Let's explore some common types of ODEs:**

**Linear ODEs:** The dependent variable and its derivatives are linearly connected in linear ODEs. They may be written as a linear combination of the dependent variable and its derivatives, with independent variables serving as potential coefficients. [6]

An example of a linear ODE of the first order is:

$$dy/dt + p(t)y = q(t).$$

At each time  $t$ , the functions  $p(t)$  and  $q(t)$  are known.

The rate of change of  $y$  is described by this equation as a linear function of  $y$ , subject to the effects of  $p(t)$  and  $q(t)$ .

**Nonlinear ODEs:** Relationships among the dependent variable, its derivatives, and even the independent variable may be nonlinear in nonlinear ODEs. Analytical solutions to such problems are often more difficult to achieve, necessitating the use of numerical techniques.

The nonlinear first-order ODE is a good illustration.:

$$dy/dt = f(t, y),$$

where  $f(t, y)$  is an established nonlinear function.

In contrast to linear equations, nonlinear ODEs are able to represent intricate behaviors and occurrences.

Differential equations with a constant coefficient: Every term involving the dependent variable and its derivatives is of the same degree in homogeneous ODEs. By making the right replacements, these equations may be reduced in complexity.

For a second-order homogeneous ODE, we have:

$$d^2y/dt^2 + p(t)dy/dt + q(t)y = 0,$$

where  $p(t)$  and  $q(t)$  are both measurable quantities.

By Swapping Things Around

$$y = v(t)x,$$

If we replace  $v(t)$  with the solution to the equivalent homogeneous first-order ODE, we have a more compact version of the original equation..

**Inhomogeneous ODEs:** Additional terms that are unrelated to the dependent variable and its derivatives are included in inhomogeneous ODEs. These symbols may stand for things like inputs, sources, or forces outside the represented system. [7]

First-order inhomogeneous ODEs have the form:

$$dy/dt = f(t, y) + g(t),$$

where  $g(t)$  is an external input or forcing function and  $f(t, y)$  is the system's intrinsic dynamics.

**1.4 Analytical methods for solving ODEs**

Analytical or numerical approaches are frequently used to solve ODEs:

**Analytical Methods:** Analytical approaches attempt to solve ODEs in closed form. Methods such as the method of indeterminate coefficients, Laplace transforms, power series solutions, and the integration of factors are examples.

The unknown function  $y$  may be expressed explicitly in terms of simpler functions using these techniques.

Think about the first-order linear ODE:

$$dy/dt + p(t)y = q(t).$$

Using the integrating factor method, we can multiply both sides of the equation by an integrating factor  $e^{\int p(t) dt}$  and solve for  $y$ .

**Numerical Methods:** Approximating the solutions of ODEs by numerical techniques is used when

analytic solutions are either unavailable or impractical. The issue space is broken up into smaller pieces, and approximations of the unknown function are calculated at each of these smaller locations using numerical methods.[8]

Numerous numerical techniques exist for addressing ODEs, including Euler's, Runge-Kutta, finite difference, and finite element approaches.

Using its derivative at each step, Euler's approach repeatedly updates the value of the function to approximate the solution of a first-order ODE:

$$y_{\{n+1\}} = y_n + hf(t_n, y_n),$$

The derivative of a function at a given time is denoted as  $f(t_n, y_n)$ , where  $h$  is the step size,  $t_n$  is the current time,  $y_n$  is the current value of the function, and  $f(t_n, y_n)$  is the function itself.

Particularly helpful for solving complicated or nonlinear ODEs for which analytical solutions are not easily accessible, these numerical approaches give numerical approximations of the answers.

### 1.5 Partial Differential Equations (PDEs)

Powerful mathematical tools, Partial Differential Equations (PDEs) are used to explain a broad variety of events in physics, engineering, and other scientific fields. PDEs include a larger number of independent variables and their partial derivatives than do ordinary differential equations (ODEs). This in-depth explanation of PDEs will cover the fundamental ideas, classifications, and techniques for solving them, including examples in the form of equations.[9]

A partial differential equation with  $x, y, z,$  and  $t$  as independent variables and  $u(x, y, z, t)$  as a dependent variable may be stated in its general form as:

$$F(x, y, z, t, u, \partial u/\partial x, \partial u/\partial y, \partial u/\partial z, \partial u/\partial t, \partial^2 u/\partial x^2, \partial^2 u/\partial y^2, \partial^2 u/\partial z^2, \partial^2 u/\partial t^2, \dots) = 0,$$

where  $F$  is a functional expression that describes the relationship between  $u$  and its partial derivatives.

The dependent variable  $u$  and its spatial derivatives are related in this equation

$$(\partial u/\partial x, \partial u/\partial y, \partial u/\partial z), \text{ and its temporal derivatives } (\partial u/\partial t, \partial^2 u/\partial t^2).$$

The order, linearity, and number of independent variables are useful criteria for categorizing PDEs. Let's have a look at some typical PDEs:

**Elliptic PDEs:** The derivatives of an elliptic PDE are of the second order, and there are no temporal derivatives. They appear in situations having a constant solution across time, known as steady states.

A well-known elliptic PDE is the Laplace equation:

$$\nabla^2 u = \partial^2 u/\partial x^2 + \partial^2 u/\partial y^2 + \partial^2 u/\partial z^2 = 0,$$

where  $\nabla^2$  is the Laplacian operator.

Several disciplines make use of this equation, including electrostatics, fluid mechanics, and heat transfer.

**Parabolic PDEs:** Derivatives of the second order in time are present in parabolic PDEs, whereas derivatives of the first order in space are present. Time-dependent processes, such as heat conduction and diffusion, are characterized by these terms.[10]

One well-known parabolic PDE is the heat equation:

$$\partial u/\partial t = \alpha(\partial^2 u/\partial x^2 + \partial^2 u/\partial y^2 + \partial^2 u/\partial z^2),$$

where  $\alpha$  is a constant describing the thermal diffusivity.

In this equation, time and space are both considered to explain the heat dispersion in a conducting material..

**Hyperbolic PDEs:** Derivatives of the second order are involved in hyperbolic PDEs, both in terms of time and space. Vibrations, electromagnetic waves, and other wave-like phenomena are all described.

The wave equation is an archetypal hyperbolic partial differential equation:

$$\partial^2 u/\partial t^2 = c^2(\partial^2 u/\partial x^2 + \partial^2 u/\partial y^2 + \partial^2 u/\partial z^2),$$

where  $c$  is the speed at which a wave may travel.

In many physical systems, the behavior of waves may be described by this equation.

PDEs are notoriously difficult to solve because of their complexity. Complex problems seldom have straightforward analytic solutions, hence approximations are generally made using numerical approaches. Finite difference methods, finite element methods, and spectral methods are all examples of popular numerical techniques for solving PDEs.

In order to estimate the derivatives of the function  $u$ , finite difference techniques discretize the domain into a grid and then use difference formulae to approximate the derivatives. The PDE is converted into an algebraic system that may be solved numerically.

### 1.6 Stability Analysis of Differential Equations

Insights into the behavior and stability of solutions to differential equations may be gained via stability analysis. The stability of equilibrium points or solutions to differential equations is the primary concern of stability analysis. When the derivative of a function is zero, that's called an equilibrium point.[11]

Linear stability analysis is often used for this purpose. Finding the eigenvalues of the linear system that results from linearizing the differential equation around the equilibrium point.

First-order ordinary differential equations:

$$dx/dt = f(x)$$

Assuming an equilibrium point  $x^*$

where

$$f(x^*) = 0,$$

we can linearize the ODE by taking the derivative of  $f(x)$  with respect to  $x$  and evaluating it at  $x^*$ .

This gives us the linearized system:

$$d\Delta x/dt = A\Delta x$$

where

$$\Delta x = x - x^*$$

and  $A$  is  $f$ 's  $x^*$ -evaluated Jacobian matrix.

The eigenvalues of  $A$  may then be examined to ascertain the equilibrium point's robustness. The equilibrium is stable if and only if all eigenvalues have real components that are negative. The equilibrium is unstable if at least one of the eigenvalues has a positive real component.

Common methods include linear stability analysis and Lyapunov stability analysis. Using Lyapunov functions, it expands the scope of stability analysis.

If the scalar function  $V(x)$  meets a set of criteria, we say that it is a Lyapunov function.

It's unbroken and definite in the positive

$$V(x) > 0 \text{ for } x \neq x^*.$$

Along the system's paths, the derivative of  $V(x)$  is non-positive and negative indefinite:

$$dV(x)/dt \leq 0.$$

The stability of the equilibrium point is ensured if and only if a Lyapunov function satisfying these conditions exists.

In particular, if

$$dV(x)/dt < 0 \text{ for } x \neq x^*.$$

Asymptotically stable equilibrium holds across the world.

As time goes on, every path tends to level out at the same equilibrium point.

If

$$dV(x)/dt \leq 0 \text{ for } x \neq x^* \text{ and } dV(x)/dt = 0$$

For all other values of  $x$  except  $x^*$ , the equilibrium is stable but not asymptotically stable. It's possible, but not guaranteed, that a trajectory will converge on the equilibrium point.

The domains of physics, engineering, and biology all rely heavily on stability analysis. Control theory is the study of how dynamic systems behave, how they change over time, and how we may influence that change by our actions. We may learn a great deal about the stability and behavior of underlying systems from studying the stability features of differential equations, which in turn helps us better comprehend their dynamics.[12]

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

**Towers, J.D. (2019)** The methods for estimating solutions to differential-difference equations are covered in detail in Bellen and Zennaro's book, with a focus on numerical approaches. The authors provide an array of numerical algorithms—from finite difference to collocation to spectral—designed to solve delay differential equations. They talk about the precision, reliability, and consistency of various numerical approaches. Problems encountered in actual application are discussed, and the book includes several examples. This book is an excellent resource for scholars and practitioners working with numerical solutions to differential-difference equations.[13]

**Siddiqi, A.H. & Manchanda, P. (2016)** In mathematics, differential-difference equations (DDEs) are a subset of models that bridge the gap between continuous and discrete dynamics. They have practical uses in many fields of study, from physics and biology to economics and engineering. Several pieces of research have made substantial contributions to our knowledge of the behavior and characteristics of differential-difference equations. The purpose of this literature survey is to introduce readers to recent developments in the study of



differential-difference equations by providing an overview of significant research in the subject of differential equations.[14]

**Sahadevan, R. (2018)** Insights into stability analysis, oscillations, bifurcations, numerical methods, and applications of differential-difference equations can be found in the published works of Golubitsky and Schaeffer ("Differential Equations with Discrete Delay"), Bellman and Cooke ("Differential-Difference Equations"), and Corduneanu ("Functional Differential Equations"). These resources equip academics and professionals with all they need to comprehend differential-difference equations and apply this knowledge to a broad variety of research and practical scenarios. These materials are quite helpful.[15]

**Rogers, R. (2015)** Numerical methods and computational approaches have progressed significantly in the area of differential equations, and these developments have important implications for differential-difference equations. It has become possible to tackle increasingly complicated differential-difference problems thanks to the development of fast methods for solving ordinary differential equations and difference equations. Numerical integration schemes, finite difference approaches, and the Runge-Kutta method are just a few examples of how technology has improved our ability to analyze and solve differential-difference problems numerically.[16]

**K. Abbaoui, Y. Cherruault (2017)** Since the inception of differentiation and integration, physical processes have been modeled using ordinary differential equations (ODE), integral equations (IE), and integrodifferential equations (IDE). Complex ODE, IE, and IDE models are now solvable numerically with a high degree of accuracy, thanks to the development of current computer resources. Russian mathematicians were among the first to recognize in the early part of the last century that many physical phenomena may have a delayed effect in a differential equation, leading to the development of the concepts of delay differential equation (DDE) and differential-difference equation (DDE).[17]

**S. Abbasbandy (2016)** Our goal here is to take a look at the Adomian decomposition method (ADM), which is another analytic methodology, and to demonstrate how it may be modified to give a useful tool for deriving approximate analytical solutions to time fractional nonlinear partial differential-difference equations (PDEs). Adomian [3-5] developed the ADM to obtain accurate and approximate solutions to nonlinear problems. ADM's algorithmic nature and lack of need for linearization, weak nonlinearity assumptions, discretization, or perturbation approach are two of its most appealing features [1, 3, 5, 101-103, 107]. As a bonus, the ADM method allows for rapid convergence from an approximation to the true solution [1, 5]. [18]

**R. Bagley, P. Torvik, (2018)** The ADM method involves breaking down the given nonlinear problem

into its linear and nonlinear components, inverting the highest order derivative operator contained in the linear operator on both sides, determining the initial and/or boundary conditions and terms involving the independent variable alone as an initial approximation, and breaking down the unknown function into a series whose components need to be determined.[19]

**T. Bakkyaraj, R. Sahadevan, (2015)** The aim behind this technique is to break down the analytical function (nonlinear term) in the equation into a specific set of polynomials known as Adomian polynomials. For all sorts of nonlinearities, Adomian presented equations to create these polynomials. So, the parts of the infinite solution series may be found by applying Adomian polynomials to a recurrent relation. Nonlinear equations with integer and fractional derivatives [20, 21, 26, 27, 75, 90, 102, 103] have been shown to be amenable to ADM's use in solving a broad range of problems in science and engineering.[20]

### 3. CONCLUSION

The study of differential difference equations may benefit greatly from the information presented in this article. Recent developments in the study and solution of DDEs are discussed, along with its importance in modeling systems with discrete time steps and delayed effects. Researchers and practitioners interested in learning more about the theoretical underpinnings, analytical methods, and practical applications of differential difference equations will find this review to be an invaluable resource.

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### **Corresponding Author**

**Naveen Kashyap\***

Ph.D. Scholar, ISBM University, Gariyaband,  
Chhattisgarh, India.