

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Magnetic field diffusion in ferromagnetic materials: fractional calculus approaches

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ABSTRACT

The paper addresses diffusion approximations of magnetic field penetration of ferromagnetic materials with emphasis on fractional calculus applications and relevant approximate solutions. Examples with applications of time-fractional semi-derivatives and singular kernel models (Caputo time fractional operator) in cases of field independent and field-dependent magnetic diffusivities have been developed: Dirichlet problems and time-dependent boundary condition (power-law ramp). Approximate solutions in all these cases have been developed by applications of the integral-balance method and assumed parabolic profile with unspecified exponents. Two versions of the integral method have been successfully implemented: SDIM (single integration applicable to time-fractional semi-derivative model) and DIM (double-integration model to fractionalized singular memory models). The fading memory approach in the sense of the causality concept and memory kernel effect on the model constructions have been discussed.



1. Introduction

There are many natural phenomena which can be modelled in diffusion approximations. Here magnetic field diffusions in solid ferromagnetics is considered with attempts to apply approximate solution based on synergism of fractional calculus and the integral-balance method in different versions. The main idea is to demonstrate the feasibility of both the fractional calculus approach and the integral solution.

In the context of the main idea of this communication magnetic diffusion of a field with parallel lines (see Figure 1) is taken as example. Two basic cases considering field-independent and field-dependent diffusions with fixed (Dirichlet) and time dependent (power-law) boundary conditions are chosen as test examples. Moreover, the problem of magnetic field diffusion with memory is discussed with either the common time fractional operator of Caputo with singular kernel or from

the more fundamental fading memory principle allowing different memory functions to be used.

1.1. Magnetic field transport in conducting media

The field transport in magnetizable and conducting media can be presented as superposition of the fundamental processes of advection and diffusion as key parts of describing behaviour of magnetic field in materials. In homogeneous (and ideal) materials, the magnetic field \mathbf{B} , the electric field \mathbf{E} and the material velocity (mainly in the case of plasma) \mathbf{v} are related by the following constitutive relationship [1]

$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} = 0 \quad (1)$$

It is worthy to mention, that if the material is not ideal, that is when the material resistance is finite then the right-hand side of (1) we have [1]

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$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} = D_\mu (\nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \quad (2)$$

where $D_\mu = \sigma/\mu$ (σ is the material resistivity, μ is magnetic permeability) is the magnetic diffusivity. In such a case the magnetic field induction equation is [1]

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) + \nabla \times (D_\mu \nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \quad (3)$$

If a pure resistive magnetic diffusion is considered then Eq. (3) reduces to [1]

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (D_\mu \nabla \times \mathbf{B}) \quad (4)$$

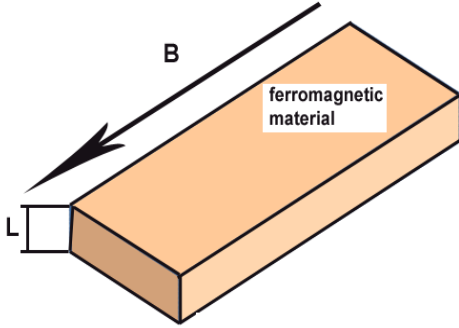


Figure 1. Schematic presentation of magnetic field with straight lines applied to a ferromagnetic material

The physics behind these relationships means that the changes in the magnetic field lines in time can be due to two principle causes: magnetic field advection (if the material is flowing as plasma or highly conductive fluid) and its diffusion through the material. Hence, as in the classical transport theory we assume a superposition of two transport mechanism: advection and diffusion. If the magnetic diffusivity D_μ is uniform (spatially independent), then it is possible to express (3), as [1]

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) + D_\mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{B} \quad (5)$$

That is, the magnetic field flux velocity \mathbf{w} is related to the temporal change of the induction \mathbf{B} by the relation [1]

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{w} \times \mathbf{B}) \quad (6)$$

and \mathbf{w} is termed *flux transporting velocity* [1] In a particular case considered in this article if the pure resistive material is at issue, then $\mathbf{E} = \eta \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$ and the ideal Ohm law holds (see (1))

the magnetic flux velocity is practically equal to the velocity of the medium (flowing conductive medium) \mathbf{v} and (1) becomes

$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B} = \nabla F \quad (7)$$

and F is an arbitrary function of integration [1]

1.2. Magnetic field diffusion with straight field lines

1.2.1. Medium with field independent permeability

If one-dimensional case is considered then equation (4) reduces to the following diffusion equation [1–5] with constant magnetic diffusivity.

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(D_\mu \frac{\partial B}{\partial x} \right) \quad (8)$$

With uniform magnetic diffusivity $D_\mu = D_{\mu 0} = \sigma/\mu = \text{const.}$ (σ is the resistivity of the material, $\mu = dB/dH = f(B)$ is the field dependent permeability of the material) and a sharp unit step at the boundary $x = 0$ (Dirichlet problem), that is (i.e. for the case $\mu = dB/dH = f(B) = k_B = \text{const.}$) we get

$$B(x, 0) = \begin{cases} +B_0, & x > 0 \\ -B_0, & x < 0 \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

The case is relevant to an infinitesimally thin current sheet [1]. If the field is maintained fixed at two boundary points of a finite domain ($\pm L$) obeying the conditions $B(L, t) = -B(-L, t) = B_0$, the solution of (8) with $D_\mu = D_{\mu 0}$ is [1]

$$B(x, t) = \underbrace{B_0 \frac{x}{L}}_{\text{stationary profile}} + \underbrace{2 \frac{B_0}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} \exp \left[-k^2 \pi^2 \left(\frac{D_{\mu 0}}{L^2} t \right) \right] \sin \left(k \pi \frac{x}{L} \right)}_{\text{transient term}} \quad (10)$$

The solution means very rapidly establishment of the magnetic field stationary profile $B_0(x/L)$. Moreover, taking into account the finite Ohmic heating $(j^2/\sigma) = (D_{\mu 0}/\mu)(B_0/L)^2$ per unit length of the medium due the continuous supply of magnetic energy through the boundaries with a rate $(D_{\mu 0} B_0^2/\mu L)$ [1]

1.2.2. Medium with field dependent permeability

Commonly the power-law approximation [2] describes the magnetic field induction dependent on the field intensity, namely

$$\bar{B} = \frac{B(H)}{B_s} = \left(\frac{H}{H_s} \right)^\gamma, \quad 0 < \gamma < 1 \quad (11)$$

where B_s and H_s are corresponding to the point of magnetic saturation (specific characteristics for every magnetic material that can be used as characteristic scales). Actually, this permits the diffusion equation to be presented in a dimensionless form as [2, 6]

$$\frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial t} = D_\mu^{\bar{B}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\bar{B}^\beta \frac{\partial \bar{B}}{\partial x} \right) \quad (12)$$

where $\beta = \frac{1-\gamma}{\gamma}$, $D_\mu^{\bar{B}} = \frac{\sigma}{\mu_s B_s^\beta}$, $\mu_s = \frac{B_s}{H_s}$.

Equation (12) is a degenerate parabolic equation because of the power-law diffusivity $D_\mu = D_\mu^{\bar{B}} \bar{B}^\beta$; in such a case the solution has a finite speed in contrast to model (8) where the solution speed is infinite. Hereafter, for the sake of simplicity of the expressions we will omit the symbol \bar{B} and will use only B .

1.3. Aim and motivation notes

The following part of this article demonstrates how fractional calculus can be applied to solve magnetic diffusion models with either field-independent or field-dependent diffusivity. The assumption behind these models and the approximate solutions developed is there is no changes in the material resistivity (that is, no Joules effects as result of the magnetic field changes exist). The only magnetic field effect on the material property considered is the power-law dependence of the magnetic diffusivity as implicit performance of the field dependent magnetic permeability. The fractional calculus approach envisages two directions: 1) Semi-derivative approach to the parabolic model (8), and 2) Fractionalization of the magnetic diffusion equation through a constitutive flux-gradient relationship with singular memory. In addition, the general problem of the causality principle in modelling of non-local diffusion and the fading memory approach are discussed. In general, the models and the solutions developed consider the magnetic material as a semi-infinite with a boundary condition at $x = 0$ since we are interested in the laws behind the magnetic field front propagation; before reaching the physical limit L of the medium as in solution

(10). This approach allows straightforwardly seeing what would be the transient solution of the magnetic diffusion problem if memory formalism would be implemented in the diffusion model.

1.4. Paper organization

In what follows fractional semi-derivative diffusion model is developed by splitting the model (8) in section 2 and demonstrating two solutions with fixed (Dirichlet) (section 2.1.1) and time-ramp boundary condition (section 2.1.2). Further, time-fractional models of magnetic diffusions are developed (section 3) through a constitutive equation with singular memory (section 3.1) with two problem solved (section 4): Dirichlet problem (section 4.2.1) and ramp (power-law) time-dependent boundary condition (section 4.2.2) solved by application of the Double-integration Method (DIM) (section 4.1) in the general case of of field-independent magnetic diffusivity. The model counterparts with field-dependent magnetic diffusivity are solved in sections (4.3) by preliminary transform of the diffusion term in two cases: Dirichlet problem (section 4.3.1) and ramp boundary condition (section 4.3.2). The fading memory principle and the causality concept are discussed in sections 5) and 5.1.1, respectively, thus allowing to construct a more general model of magnetic diffusion (section 5.1.2) and a qualitative analysis of the different kernel functions on it (section 5.1.3).

2. Fractional calculus to magnetic diffusion problem

Here we address three principle problems :

- Fractional calculus solution by semi-derivatives of the problem with constant magnetic diffusivity with fixed and time-dependent boundary conditions
- Fractional models of magnetic diffusion with singular memories as counterparts of the integer-order models (8) and (12).
- Fractional models based on the causality principle and fading memory concept

2.1. Fractional calculus solution by semi-derivatives: general approach

Consider the model (8) which can be presented as product of two operators

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{\partial^{1/2} B}{\partial t^{1/2}} - \sqrt{D_\mu} \frac{\partial B}{\partial x} \right) \times \\ & \times \left(\frac{\partial^{1/2} B}{\partial t^{1/2}} + \sqrt{D_\mu} \frac{\partial B}{\partial x} \right) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where

$$\frac{\partial^{1/2} B}{\partial t^{1/2}} = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1/2)} \frac{d}{dt} \int_0^u \frac{B(x,t)}{\sqrt{t-u}} du - \frac{B(x,0)}{\sqrt{\pi t}} \quad (14)$$

is a Riemann-Liouville derivative of order $1/2$. In (13) only the second term has a physical meaning [7,8]. Hence, the time-fractional equivalent of (8) is [9]

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^{1/2} B}{\partial t^{1/2}} &= -\sqrt{D_\mu} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \Rightarrow \\ \frac{\partial^{1/2} B(0,t)}{\partial t^{1/2}} &= -\sqrt{D_\mu} \frac{\partial B(0,t)}{\partial x} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Applying the operator $D_t^{-1/2}$ to both sides of (15) we get (16)

$$B(0,t) = -\sqrt{D_\mu} \frac{\partial^{-1/2}}{\partial t^{-1/2}} \left[\frac{\partial B(0,t)}{\partial x} \right] \quad (16)$$

With initial condition $B(x,0) = 0$, applying a single integration with respect to the spatial coordinate x and using the Leibniz rule for differentiation under the integral sign we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_0^\delta B(x,t) dx = \sqrt{D_\mu} \frac{\partial^{1/2} B(0,t)}{\partial t^{1/2}} \quad (17)$$

The upper terminal of the integral in (17) defines a sharp front of magnetic field penetration into the medium with conditions (Goodman's boundary condition [10, 11])

$$B(\delta) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial B}{\partial x}(\delta) = 0 \quad (18)$$

Equation (17) is the principle equation of **Semi-Derivative Integral Method-single integration** (SDIM-1) [12]. The exact solution of this problem (8) is well-known [13], namely

$$B_{exact} = 1 - \operatorname{erf}(\eta/2) \quad (19)$$

where $\eta = x/\sqrt{D_\mu t}$ is the Boltzmann similarity variable. The approximate solution developed in this work applies an assumed general parabolic profile with unspecified exponent

$$B_a = B_s(1 - x/\delta)^n \quad (20)$$

This assumed profile satisfies all boundary conditions (18) for any values of the exponent n [11].

2.1.1. SDIM solution: Dirichlet problem

With the assumed parabolic profile (20) and applying the Goodman boundary conditions we get $B_a(0,t) = B_s = 1$. Now, replacing $B(x,t)$ in the integral relation (17) by the approximate profile (20) the result is

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_0^\delta \left(1 - \frac{x}{\delta}\right)^n dx = \sqrt{D_\mu} \frac{D^{1/2}}{\partial t^{1/2}} C \quad (21)$$

The integration of (21) with the initial condition $\delta(t=0) = 0$ yields

$$\frac{1}{n+1} \frac{d\delta}{dt} = \sqrt{D_\mu} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi t}} \Rightarrow \delta_B = \sqrt{D_\mu t} \frac{2(n+1)}{\sqrt{\pi}} \quad (22)$$

Hence the approximate distribution $B_a(x,t)$ of the magnetic field in the material is

$$B_a(x,t) = B_s \left(1 - \frac{x}{\sqrt{D_\mu t} \frac{2(n+1)}{\sqrt{\pi}}} \right)^n \quad (23)$$

Hence, in terms of Boltzmann similarity variable $\eta = x/\sqrt{D_\mu t}$ the front is defined by the equality $\eta = 2(n+1)/\sqrt{\pi}$ (i.e. when $x = \delta_B$) since at this point $B_a = 0$. The optimal solution of this problem, i.e. solution with minimal mean squared error of approximation over the entire magnetic field penetration layer is $n_{opt} = 2.248$ (similar problem was resolved in [12]). Comparative numerical simulations are presented in Figure 2.

That is, the dimensionless penetration depth corresponding to the optimal solution is $\delta_B/\sqrt{D_\mu t} = \frac{2(n+1)}{\sqrt{\pi}} \approx 3.665$. Here $\sqrt{D_\mu t}$ plays a role of a length scale. Taking into account that $D_\mu = (\sigma/\mu)$ any Joule heating can change the magnetic diffusivity, as well changes in μ due to temperature effects on the material resistivity and magnetic permeability, correspondingly.

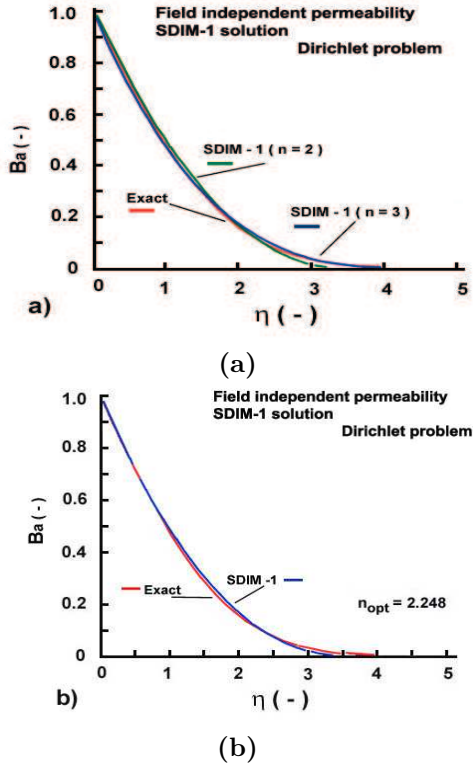


Figure 2. Approximate profiles developed by SDIM-1 approach and Dirichlet problem: for stipulated exponent $n = 2$ (a) and optimal $n_{opt} = 2.248$ (b), compared to exact solutions

2.1.2. SDIM solution: Time-dependent boundary condition

Let us consider a generalized ramp time-dependent boundary condition $b_0 t^{m/2}$ with $m \geq 0$ at $x = 0$. This problem has an exact solution [13] (Chaptert 2) expressed through the error function (in terms of the process parameters discussed here), namely

$$B_e = b_0 \Gamma\left(\frac{m}{2} + 1\right) (4t)^{m/2} i^m \Phi\left(\frac{x}{2\sqrt{D_\mu t}}\right) \quad (24)$$

which can be applied only by either numerical solution or tabulated data.

With the generalized parabolic profile (20) and the Goodman's boundary conditions we get

$$B_a(0, t) = B_s = b_0 t^{m/2}, \quad B_a(\delta) = B_\infty = 0, \quad \frac{\partial B_a}{\partial x}(x = \delta) = 0 \quad (25)$$

That is, the assumed profile is

$$B_a = b_0 t^{m/2} \left(1 - \frac{x}{\delta}\right)^n \quad (26)$$

Now, applying the relation (17) the result is

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_0^\delta b_0 t^{m/2} \left(1 - \frac{x}{\delta}\right)^n dx = \sqrt{D_\mu} \frac{D^{1/2}}{\partial t^{1/2}} \left(b_0 t^{m/2}\right) \quad (27)$$

The integration of eq. (27) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \left(b_0 t^{m/2} \frac{\delta}{n+1} \right) &= \\ &= \sqrt{D_\mu} \left[b_0 \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{m}{2} + 1\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{m}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right)} t^{m/2-1/2} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

The integration of (28) with the initial condition $\delta(t=0) = 0$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_B &= \sqrt{D_\mu} t \frac{2(n+1)}{(m+1)} G_m \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\delta_B}{\sqrt{D_\mu} t} &= C_{m(B)}^n = \frac{2(n+1)}{(m+1)} G_m \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

where $G_m = \frac{\Gamma(m/2+1)}{\Gamma(m/2+1/2)}$ is a constant. Then, the approximate filed induction profile is

$$\begin{aligned} B_a(x, t) &= b_0 t^{m/2} \left(1 - \frac{x}{\sqrt{D_\mu} t \frac{2(n+1)}{(m+1)} G_m}\right)^n = \\ &= b_0 t^{m/2} \left(1 - \frac{\eta}{\frac{2(n+1)}{(m+1)} G_m}\right)^n \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

Hence, the front is defined by the condition $\eta = \frac{2(n+1)}{(m+1)} G_m$. The optimal values of the exponent n depend on the rate of the surface magnetization, i.e. on the values of m . The minimization of the squared mean error of approximation for different values of m yields optimal exponents summarized in Table 1. Plots of the approximate solutions are shown in Figure 3.

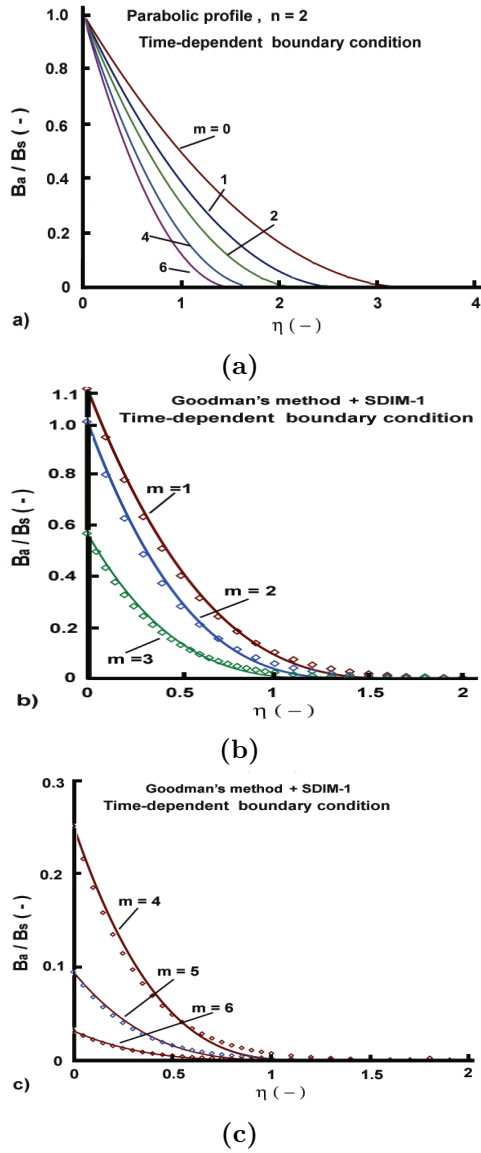


Figure 3. Normalized magnetic field profiles developed by SDIM-1 for different values of the parameter m of the surface ramping magnetization: a) SDIM-1 solution with stipulated parabolic profile exponent $n = 2$; b, c) SDIM-1 solutions with optimal exponents: Comparison with exact solutions (tabulated) from [13]

Table 1. SDIM-1:Optimal exponents for different values of m

m	1	2	3	4	5	6
n (optimal)	1.336	1.618	1.822	1.919	2.158	2.302

3. Fractional models of magnetic diffusion: simplified approach

Here we address magnetic diffusion equation with memory. Precisely, the memory function used to

model is power-law with allows the fractional Caputo derivative to be applied.

3.1. Magnetic flux with memory: general approach

Let us consider a finite speed of the diffusion magnetic field into the material which cannot be assured by the parabolic model (8). In such a case following the causality principle that the reaction should follow the cause, a time shift between them can be presented through a convolution integral, that is

$$j_\mu(x, t) = \underbrace{-D_\mu \nabla B(x, t)}_{\text{instantaneous (long times)}} - \underbrace{-D_{\mu_1} \int_0^\infty R(t - \tau) \nabla B(x, t - \tau) d\tau}_{\text{relaxation (memory effect)}} \quad (31)$$

with a memory $R(t)$ controlled by a fractional parameter α , $0 < \alpha < 1$. In (31) the first term is relevant to long times where the relaxation disappears, known also as *instantaneous term*. If only this term is considered we get the parabolic model (8) with infinite speed of the solution. Now, we will omit this term in order to develop a model of magnetic diffusion of subdiffusion type. Applying the continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} j_\mu \quad (32)$$

as well as omitting the term $-D_\mu \nabla B(x, t)$ (and for the sake of simplicity getting $D_{\mu_1} = D_\mu$) we get a general relationship

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = D_\mu \int_0^\infty R(t - \tau) \frac{\partial^2 B(x, t - \tau)}{\partial x^2} d\tau \quad (33)$$

The function of $R(t)$ depends strongly on the physics of the magnetization and the material properties itself.

4. Fractional models of magnetic diffusion: Singular memory approach

As first example we will address a singular power law memory. In such a case the memory integral in (33) becomes a Riemann-Liouville integral of order α , namely

$$I_t^\alpha = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t (t-\tau)^{\alpha-1} \frac{\partial^2 B(x, \tau)}{\partial x^2} d\tau = \quad (34)$$

$$= D_t^{-\alpha} \left[\frac{\partial^2 B(x, \tau)}{\partial x^2} \right], \quad 0 < \alpha < 1$$

and the flux-gradient relationship can be expressed as

$$j_\mu = -D_\mu I_t^\alpha \left(\frac{\partial B}{\partial x} \right) \quad (35)$$

Then, the application of the continuity equation yields

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = D_\mu I_t^\alpha \left(\frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial x^2} \right) = D_\mu \left[D_t^{-\alpha} \left(\frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial x^2} \right) \right] \quad (36)$$

Applying the operator $D_t^{\alpha-1}$ to both sides of (36) and recalling the semi group properties of the fractional derivatives and integrals (here we consider Caputo time-fractional derivative) we get

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha B}{\partial t^\alpha} = D_\mu \frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial x^2} \quad (37)$$

which the well-known time-fractional diffusion (subdiffusion equation) with boundary and initial conditions

$$\begin{aligned} B(0, t) &= B_s(t), \quad t \geq 0, \\ B(x, 0) &= B_\infty = 0, \quad x > 0 \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

Now, the magnetic diffusivity has a dimension $[D_\mu] = [m^2/\text{sec}^\mu]$. With D_μ independent of the time and space as well magnetic field independent, the linear problem is (37) with which the double integration method will be demonstrated next.

4.1. Double integration method (DIM)

The first step of DIM is the integration of (37) from 0 to x [14]

$$\int_x^\delta \frac{\partial^\alpha B}{\partial t^\alpha} dx = D_\mu \frac{\partial B(x, t)}{\partial x} - D_\mu \frac{\partial u(0, t)}{\partial x} \quad (39)$$

Taking into account that the single integration from 0 to δ can be presented as a sum $\int_0^\delta f(x) dx =$

$\int_0^x f(x) dx + \int_x^\delta f(x) dx = -D_\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x=0)$ we can obtain

$$\int_x^\delta \frac{\partial^\alpha B}{\partial t^\alpha} dx = -D_\mu \frac{\partial B(x, t)}{\partial x} \quad (40)$$

The second step of DIM is the integration of (40) from 0 to δ

$$\int_0^\delta \left(\int_x^\delta \frac{\partial^\alpha B}{\partial t^\alpha} dx \right) dx = D_\mu B(0, t) \quad (41)$$

Equation (41) is the principle relationship of the double integration method when the differential equation is of a fractional order [14]

4.2. Field independent magnetic permeability

Now, we will apply the integral-balance solutions to the time-fractional magnetic diffusion equation in two cases : fixed boundary condition (Dirichlet problem and time-ramping boundary condition (power-law).

4.2.1. Dirichlet problem

Now, we will apply DIM to (37) with assumed generalized parabolic profile. In this case we have

$$\frac{\partial B_a(x, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{x}{\delta^2} n \left(1 - \frac{x}{\delta} \right)^{n-1} \frac{d\delta}{dt} \quad (42)$$

and incorporating this approximation in to the Caputo derivative one obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^\delta \left[\int_x^\delta {}_C D_t^\alpha B_a(x, t) dx \right] dx = \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{1}{(t-\tau)^\alpha} \frac{1}{(n+1)(n+2)} \frac{d\delta^2}{dt} d\tau \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

$$\int_0^\delta \left[\int_x^\delta {}_C D_t^\alpha B_a(x, t) dx \right] dx = \frac{D_t^\alpha (\delta^2)}{N_C}, \quad (44)$$

$$N_C = (n+1)(n+2)$$

$${}_C D_t^\alpha \delta^2 = D_\mu [(n+1)(n+2)] \quad (45)$$

Therefore, the fractional integrations (with the physical condition $\delta(t = 0) = 0$) results in

$${}_C D_t^\alpha \delta(t) = \sqrt{D_\mu t^\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)}} \quad (46)$$

Therefore the approximate solution is

$$B_a = \left(1 - \frac{x}{\sqrt{D_\mu t^\alpha} F_n j_\alpha}\right)^n,$$

$$F_n = \sqrt{(n+1)(n+2)}, \quad j_\alpha = 1/\sqrt{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \quad (47)$$

The solution defines a non-Boltzmann similarity $\eta_\mu = x/\sqrt{D_\mu t^\alpha}$. Numerical simulations are presented in Figure 4. For more details related to the optimization of the solution and the technology of DIM to fractional subdiffusion models see the extended analysis in [14].

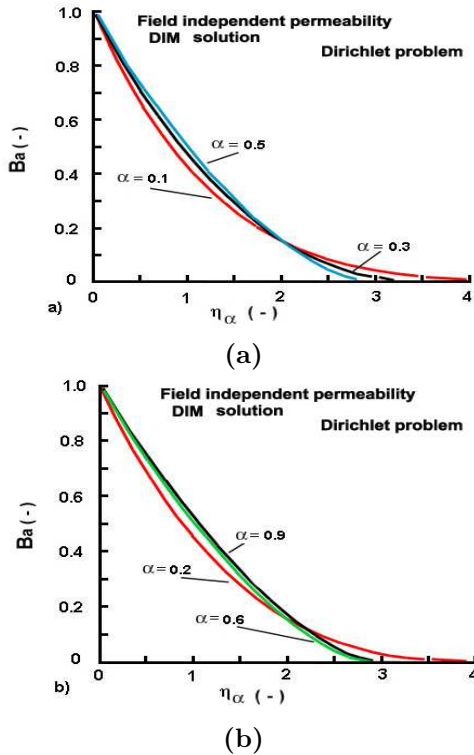


Figure 4. DIM solutions to the magnetization of field-independent material with Dirichlet Boundary condition, with : stipulated exponent of the parabolic profile $n = 2$ (a) and optimal exponent $n_{opt} = 2.248$ (b), compared to exact solutions

4.2.2. Time-dependent boundary condition

With time-dependent (power-law) boundary condition $B_a(0, t) = B_s = b_0 t^{m/2}$ the generalized parabolic profile (20) with the Goodman’s boundary conditions (25) we get the assumed profile (26). Then, with the integral relation (41) we get

$$\int_0^\delta \left(\int_x^\delta \frac{\partial^\mu B_a}{\partial t^\mu} dx \right) dx = D_\mu B(0, t) = D_\mu b_0 t^{m/2} \quad (48)$$

With (42) incorporated in (48) we have

$$\int_0^\delta \left(\int_x^\delta \frac{\partial^\mu}{\partial t^\mu} \left[(b_0 t^{m/2}) \times \frac{\partial B_a}{\partial t} \right] dx \right) dx = \quad (49)$$

$$= D_\mu b_0 t^{m/2}$$

The integration in left-hand side of (49) yields

$${}_C D_t^\mu \left(\delta^2 b_0 t^{m/2} \right) = D_\mu \left(b_0 t^{m/2} \right) N_C, \quad (50)$$

$$N_C = (n+1)(n+2)$$

$$\delta^2 b_0 t^{m/2} = D_\mu N_C G_m^\alpha b_0 t^{m/2+\alpha},$$

$$G_m^\alpha = \left(\frac{\Gamma(m/2+1)}{\Gamma(\alpha+m/2+1)} \right)$$

$$\delta^2 = D_\mu t^\alpha N_C G_m^\alpha \Rightarrow \delta_m^\alpha = \sqrt{D_\mu t^\alpha} \sqrt{N_C G_m^\alpha} \quad (51)$$

Hence , the approximate solution is

$$B_{a,m}^\alpha = b_0 t^{m/2} \left(1 - \frac{x}{\sqrt{D_\mu t^\alpha} \sqrt{N_C} \sqrt{G_m^\alpha}} \right)^n \quad (52)$$

This solution defines a non-Boltzmann similarity variable $\eta_\alpha = x/\sqrt{D_\mu t^\alpha}$. Numerical simulations with various values of the fractional order α and the non-linear parameter β are shown in Figure 5.

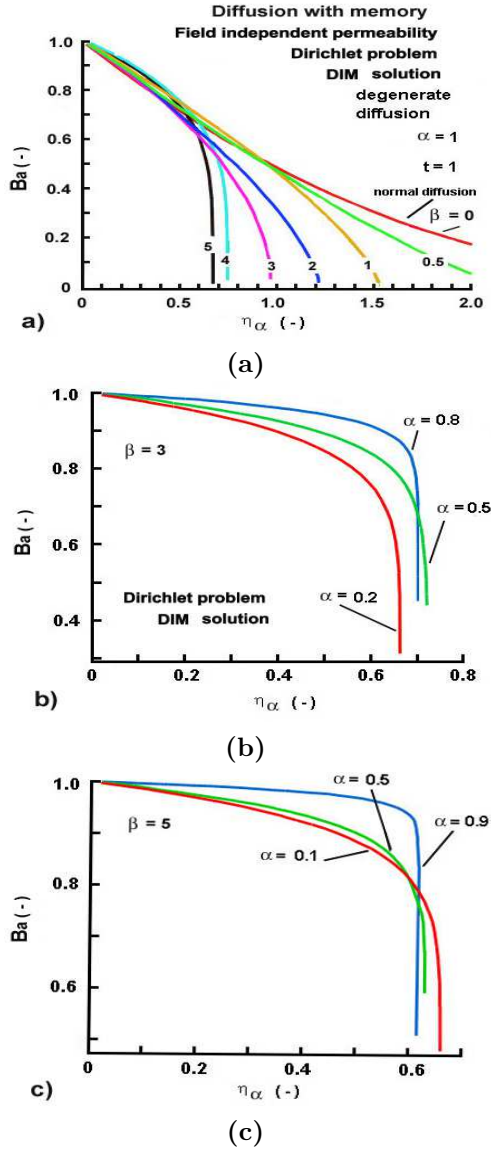


Figure 5. Approximate profiles for stipulated exponent $n = 2$ (a) and optimal $n_{opt} = 2.248$ (b) compared to exact solutions

4.3. Field dependent magnetic permeability

The application of the integral method needs a preliminary treatment of the of the diffusion term in the right-hand side of (12), namely [15, 16]

$$D_\mu^B B^m \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{D_\mu^B}{\beta + 1} \frac{\partial B^{\beta+1}}{\partial x} \quad (53)$$

Therefore, the result (53) can be considered as a non-linear counterpart of the constitutive equation (32), namely

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = \frac{D_\mu^B}{\beta + 1} \int_0^\infty R(t - \tau) \frac{\partial^2 B^{\beta+1}(x, t - \tau)}{\partial x^2} d\tau \quad (54)$$

With a singular (power-law) memory function, similarly to transformations done in 3.1 we get a fractional analogue of (37) with non-linear diffusion term (similar problem was solved in [16]).

$$\frac{\partial^\alpha B}{\partial t^\alpha} = D_\mu^B \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \frac{\partial^2 B^{\beta+1}}{\partial x^2} \quad (55)$$

Then applying DIM we have

$$\int_0^\delta \int_x^\delta \frac{\partial^\alpha B(x, t)}{\partial t^\alpha} dx dt = \frac{D_\mu^B}{\beta + 1} B^{\beta+1}(0, t) \quad (56)$$

This is the principle DIM integral relationship when the diffusion term has a power-law non-linearity.

4.3.1. Dirichlet problem: Approximate solution

With Caputo time-fractional derivative and the assumes parabolic profile (20) as well as by help of (41) the integration in LHS of Eq.(56) yields

$${}_C D_t^\alpha \delta^2 = D_\mu^B \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{\beta + 1} \quad (57)$$

That is

$$\delta^2 = D_\mu^B \frac{N_C}{(\beta + 1) \Gamma(\alpha + 1)} t^\alpha \quad (58)$$

Hence, the penetration depth is

$$\delta_B^\alpha = \sqrt{D_\mu^B t^\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{N_C}{(\beta + 1) \Gamma(\alpha + 1)}} \quad (59)$$

and the approximate solution of (55) can be expressed as

$$B_a(x, t) = \left(1 - \frac{x}{\sqrt{D_\mu^B t^\alpha} \sqrt{\frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{(\beta+1)\Gamma(1+\alpha)}}} \right)^n \quad (60)$$

The solution defines a new similarity variable $\eta_\alpha = x / \sqrt{D_\mu^B t^\alpha}$. For $\alpha = 1$ it reduces to the classical Boltzmann similarity variable $\eta_{\alpha=1} = x / \sqrt{D_\mu^B t}$.

**4.3.2. Time-dependent boundary condition:
Approximate solution**

From (56) it follows that the right-hand side is $\frac{D_\mu^B}{\beta+1} B^{\beta+1}(0, t)$. Then, if the boundary condition is of power law type $B_s = B(0, t) = b_0 t^{m/2}$ we have

$$\frac{D_\mu^B}{\beta+1} B^{\beta+1}(0, t) = \frac{D_\mu^B}{\beta+1} (b_0 t^{m/2})^{\beta+1} \quad (61)$$

Therefore the DIM integral solutions is

$$\int_0^\delta \int_x^\delta \frac{\partial^\alpha B(x, t)}{\partial t^\alpha} dx dx = \frac{D_\mu^B}{\beta+1} (b_0 t^{m/2})^{\beta+1} \quad (62)$$

Now, repeating the integration in the left-hand side of (62), as in (48) and (49) we get

$${}_C D_t^\mu \left(\delta^2 b_0 t^{m/2} \right) = \frac{D_\mu^B}{\beta+1} b_0^{\beta+1} t^{m(\beta+1)/2} N_C \quad (63)$$

The fractional integration in (63) yields

$$\delta^2 b_0 t^{m/2} = \frac{D_\mu^B}{\beta+1} G_{\alpha, \beta}^m N_C b_0^{\beta+1} t^{m(\beta+1)/2 + \alpha} \quad (64)$$

where

$$G_{\alpha, \beta}^m = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{m(\beta+1)}{2} + 1\right)}{\Gamma\left(\alpha + \frac{m(\beta+1)}{2} + 1\right)} \quad (65)$$

The re-arrangement in (65) results in

$$\delta^2 = \frac{D_\mu^B}{\beta+1} G_{\alpha, \beta}^m N_C b_0^\beta t^{\left[\frac{m}{4}(\beta-1) + \alpha\right]} \quad (66)$$

In a more useful form we have

$$\delta = \sqrt{D_\mu^B t^{\frac{m(\beta-1)+4\alpha}{4}}} \sqrt{\frac{G_{\alpha, \beta}^m N_C b_0^\beta}{\beta+1}} \quad (67)$$

The exponent $\frac{m(\beta-1)+4\alpha}{4}$ in (67) should be positive since we have to assure a positive growth of the front δ . Therefore, the condition that should

be obeyed is $\beta > 1 - 4\alpha/m$. Taking into account that $0 < \alpha < 1$ and $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, then the condition imposed on β is satisfied.

To clarify this point, since $\beta = (1 - \gamma)/\gamma$ where $0 < \gamma < 1$ ($\gamma = 0.22$ for steel [2] for example) we have always $\beta > 1$. In the particular case with steel magnetization ($\gamma = 0.22$) we get $\beta = 3.545$. In such a case the diffusion model (12) is a degenerate diffusion equation with convex solutions moving as almost sharp waves [15, 16]. In such a case the exponent of the parabolic profile (20) is $n = 1/\beta < 1$ [15]. It is noteworthy to mention that that the parabolic profile (20) with $n < 1$ generate convex profiles, while for $n > 1$ the profiles are concave. Profile of approximate solutions showing competitive actions of the subdiffusion behaviour (through the fractional parameter α) and the diffusion non-linearity (through the exponent β) are shown in Figure 6

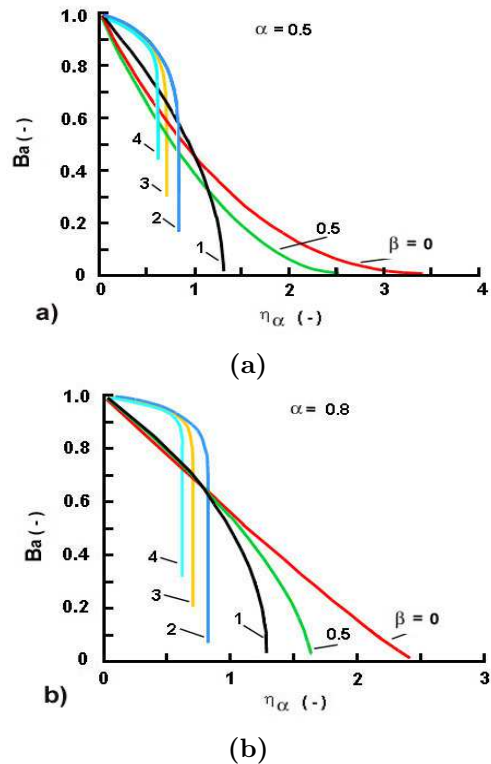


Figure 6. DIM solutions to the magnetization of field-dependent material with time-dependent boundary condition and optimal exponents [16] showing how the value of the exponent β deforms the solution profile towards a rectangular wave with sharp front: a) Case with $\alpha = 0.5$, b), case with $\alpha = 0.8$

5. Fractional models by fading memory approach

5.1. Fading memory principle

For simple materials [17–21], the fading memory concept relating the flux to its gradient of a certain transported quantity A , is modelled by the following integro-differential equation

$$j_A(x, t) = -D_{A0} \frac{\partial A}{\partial x}(x, t) - D_{A1} \int_{-\infty}^t R(t - \tau) \frac{\partial A}{\partial x}(x, \tau) d\tau \quad (68)$$

This is the Boltzmann linear superposition functional [20] with a memory kernel $R(t, z)$. In (68) D_{A0} and D_{A1} are transport (diffusion) coefficients (diffusivities). In fact, we assume a linear superposition of two fluxes

$$j_A(x, t) = \underbrace{j_{A0}}_{\text{instantaneous flux}} + \underbrace{j_{A1}}_{\text{transient flux with finite speed}} \quad (69)$$

Actually, the convolution integral in (68) is Stieltjes integral but because there is a restriction imposed on $R(t, z)$ to be casual function, i.e. $R(t < 0, z) = 0$ we may set the lower terminal to $t = 0$. Thus, the gradient of the flux j_A can be presented in a general form as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} j(x, t) = -D_{A0} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} A(x, t) - D_{A1} \int_0^t R(t - \tau) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} A(x, \tau) d\tau \quad (70)$$

In (69) the first term is the long time, or instantaneous diffusion term, while the second is relevant to the finite speed of the diffusion wave of $A(x, t)$. This is a general linear expression of the fading memory principle since the transport coefficients are constants.

If now the quantity A is replaced by the magnetic field induction $B(x, t)$ we get the formulation (31). Moreover, if there is no flux relaxation and the speed is infinite, then the second term in (68) (as well as in (69) and (70)) is zero and the result is the classical $j_A(x, t) = -D_{A0} \frac{\partial A}{\partial x}(x, t)$ which gets different names as Fick's (diffusion), Fourier (heat conduction) or Newton law (diffusion of momentum) laws.

The main idea behind the fading memory principle is to assure the causality of the models of dynamic systems (changing in time) as it is explained next

5.1.1. Causality principle

In all applied cases the chronological condition allows the causal relation to be satisfied (i.e. the time-shift between cause and effect) [22], i.e. *always the cause precedes the effect*. The principle conditions of the causality principle are [22]:

- **Primitive causality:** *The effect cannot precede the cause.*
- **Relativistic causality:** *No signal can propagate with velocity greater than the speed of the light in the vacuum.* It could be considered as a macroscopic causality condition.

Further, the causality concept means that the functions describing transients should be: *vanishing over a range of values of its arguments* (as the memory functions in the convolution integrals).

If we consider the physical system of the magnetic field diffusion with a time-dependent cause) $B_s(t)$ and the corresponding effect $B(x, t)$ the following conditions are obeyed [22].

C1: Linearity. This corresponds to the superposition principle in its simple version implying that the output is a linear functional of the input

$$B(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R(t, \tau) B_s(\tau) d\tau \quad (71)$$

C2: Time-translation invariance. In this case the linear functional can be expressed as

$$B(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R(t - \tau) B_s(\tau) d\tau = R(t) * B_s(t) \quad (72)$$

C3: Primitive causality condition. *The input cannot precede the output.* As consequence, $R(\tau)$ should be a casual function. Moreover, this is equivalent to setting the lower terminal in the (71) and (72) equal to zero, as mentioned in preceding point related to the fading memory concept.

Now, we can turn on magnetic field diffusion models with memories.

5.1.2. Fading memory in magnetic field diffusion

The fading memory concept was touched earlier with equation (31). Actually, we immediately

jumped to the model where instantaneous term (long time term) does not exist thus entering into the area supported by the concept of the Continuous Time Random Walk (CTRW) where long time term does not exist. This was done especially in order to demonstrate how time-fractional Caputo derivative can be implemented in a diffusion model with respect to the non-locality, i.e. the causality principle. Moreover, the models with the Caputo derivative are more familiar and the solutions developed can be easily understood. This models, could be applied (not in the scope of this work) to composite magnetic media where small magnetic particles (of nano or macro sizes) are dispersed (almost homogeneously) is non-magnetic matrix; the gaps between the magnetic kernels are zones with high resistances with respect to the magnetic field lines, such as gaps and obstacles in porous media where fractional modelling is widely applied.

However, let us consider the case where all terms of (31) take place. In the context of the magnetic field diffusion, this precisely means that after the initial relaxation and disappearance of the send term, there is continuous magnetic energy supply through the boundary $x = 0$; the simple example is the Dirichlet problem. In such a case the complete model is

$$j_B(x, t) = -D_{B0} \frac{\partial B}{\partial x}(x, t) - D_{B1} \int_{-\infty}^t R(t - \tau) \frac{\partial B}{\partial x}(x, \tau) d\tau \quad (73)$$

If the memory function is chosen to be singular power-law then the second term becomes the Riemann-Liouville fractional integral (34) and the flux-gradient relationship has be presented by an extended version of (35), namely

$$j_B = -D_{B0} \frac{\partial B}{\partial x} - D_{B1} I_t^\alpha \left(\frac{\partial B}{\partial x} \right) \quad (74)$$

After application of the continuity equation (32) we get

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = D_{B0} \frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial x^2} + D_{B1} I_t^\alpha \left(\frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial x^2} \right) \quad (75)$$

Here the non-locality is presented by the last term. This construction shows the main idea how non-locality has to be implemented at the level of constitutive equation. We will discuss a magnetic diffusion equation with exponential kernel next.

5.1.3. Memory kernel effect on the fractional model

Now, let us follows the main line drawn in the preceding point of this section and consider that flux gradient relationship contains all elements of the fading memory functional but now the convolution integral has exponential memory kernel, namely

$$j_B = -D_{B0} \int_0^t \delta_D(z) \frac{\partial B(x, z)}{\partial x} dz - D_{B1} \frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^t e^{-\frac{(t-z)}{\tau}} \frac{\partial B(x, z)}{\partial x} dz \quad (76)$$

where the first term is the instantaneous one since the memory kernel is the Dirac delta δ_D , while the second term has exponential memory as in the classical Cattaneo concept. This flux-gradient construction was investigated in [23] and resulted in a diffusion equation with a non-local damping term expressed through the Caputo-Fabrizio time-fractional derivative (78)

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = D_{B0} \frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial x^2} + D_{B1} (1 - \alpha) {}^{CF}D_t^\alpha \left[\frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial x^2} \right] \quad (77)$$

solved in semi-infinite [25, 26] and finite domains [27].

In (77), the operator ${}^{CF}D_t^\alpha$ is the Caputo-Fabrizio time fractional derivative of order α [24]

$${}^{CF}D_t^\alpha B(x, t) = \frac{M(\alpha)}{1 - \alpha} \int_0^t \exp \left[-\frac{\alpha(t-s)}{1 - \alpha} \right] \frac{dB(x, s)}{ds} ds \quad (78)$$

and the relaxation time τ in (76) is related to the fractional order α as $\tau(0, \infty) = (1 - \alpha)/\alpha$, $0 < \alpha < 1$ (see extended analysis in [28]). Moreover, the concept expressed by (76) is valid even in the case when the material exhibits spatial memory and leads to a spatial Caputo-Fabrizio derivative with exponential kernel [28, 29]. It is obvious, that the non-locality is not lost despite the use of exponential kernel since the last term in (77) is responsible for this.

Similarly, any other relaxation functions invoked by the type of the relaxations in the observed physical problems, may form kernels of non-local

terms, but this problem is more general and beyond the scope of this work (some examples are available in [30]).

6. Conclusion

This study addressed the magnetic field diffusion model solved in various situations by tools of fractional derivatives. The main results can be outlined as:

- The semi-derivative approach to the parabolic model (8) with Dirichlet boundary condition, and especially with time ramping (power-law) boundary condition allows a direct relation between the function and the gradient, and easy integration of the boundary condition. Moreover, the approximate integral-balance solution needs only a single integration step.
- The integral-balance method by the technology of double integration (DIM) allows straightforward approximate solutions of magnetic diffusion with field-dependent diffusivity (with negligible Joules effects, i.e. unchanged material resistivity). The solutions, sharp and almost rectangular waves, are moving with finite speeds (due to the degenerate nature of the model).
- The magnetic field diffusion with memory was demonstrated on the basis of a singular memory kernel (power-law allowing the Caputo time-fractional derivative to be applied). This fractionalization behaviour is analogue of the CTRW concept and allows easy the approximate integral-balance solutions to be applied.
- The fading memory approach and the causality principle were used to formulate a general approach to implement non-locality in constitutive equation, and consequently to conservation laws; in the present case to the magnetic diffusion model.
- The problems and solutions presented demonstrate a variety of approaches where the fractional calculus can be applied efficiently for solving diffusion models, and particularly to the problems related to the magnetic field (straight lines) diffusion in ferromagnetic materials. This is only a step towards solutions of more complex problems and we see the use of the fractional calculus is promising.

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