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Implicit coupled Hilfer–Hadamard fractional differential systems under weak topologies

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Abstract

In this article, we present some existence of weak solutions for a coupled system of implicit fractional differential equations of Hilfer–Hadamard type. Our approach is based on Mönch’s fixed point theorem associated with the technique of measure of weak noncompactness.

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1 Introduction

In recent years, fractional calculus and fractional differential equations are emerging as a useful tool in modeling the dynamics of many physical systems and electrical phenomena, which has been demonstrated by many researchers in the fields of mathematics, science, and engineering; see [3, 4, 18, 19, 22, 23, 30, 31, 35–40]. Recently, considerable attention has been given to the existence of solutions of initial and boundary value problems for fractional differential equations with Hilfer fractional derivative [15, 16, 18, 20, 32, 34] and other problems with Hilfer–Hadamard fractional derivative [28, 29].

The measure of weak noncompactness was introduced by De Blasi [14]. The strong measure of noncompactness was developed first by Banaś and Goebel [8] and subsequently developed and used in many papers; see, for example, Akhmerov et al. [6], Álvarez [7], Benchohra et al. [12], Guo et al. [17], and the references therein. In [12, 26], the authors considered some existence results by the technique of measure of noncompactness. Recently, several researchers obtained other results by the technique of measure of weak noncompactness; see [2, 4, 10, 11] and the references therein.

Consider the following coupled system of implicit Hilfer–Hadamard fractional differential equations:

$$\begin{cases} ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_1)(t) = f_1(t, u_1(t), u_2(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_1)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_2)(t)), \\ ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_2)(t) = f_2(t, u_1(t), u_2(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_1)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_2)(t)), \end{cases} \quad t \in I, \quad (1)$$

with the initial conditions

$$\begin{cases} ({}^H I_1^{1-\gamma} u_i)(t)|_{t=1} = \phi_1, \\ ({}^H I_1^{1-\gamma} u_2)(t)|_{t=1} = \phi_2, \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

where $I := [1, T], T > 1, \alpha \in (0, 1), \beta \in [0, 1], \gamma = \alpha + \beta - \alpha\beta, \phi_i \in E, f_i : I \times E^k \rightarrow E, i = 1, 2,$ are given continuous functions, E is a real (or complex) Banach space with norm $\| \cdot \|_E$ and dual E^* , such that E is the dual of a weakly compactly generated Banach space $X,$ ${}^H I_1^{1-\gamma}$ is the left-sided mixed Hadamard integral of order $1 - \gamma,$ and ${}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta}$ is the Hilfer–Hadamard fractional derivative of order α and type $\beta.$ In this paper, we prove the existence of weak solutions for a coupled system of implicit fractional differential equations of Hilfer–Hadamard type.

2 Preliminaries

Let C be the Banach space of all continuous functions v from I into E with the supremum (uniform) norm

$$\|v\|_\infty := \sup_{t \in I} \|v(t)\|_E.$$

As usual, $AC(I)$ denotes the space of absolutely continuous functions from I into $E.$ We define the space

$$AC^1(I) := \{w : I \rightarrow E : w' \in AC(I)\},$$

where $w'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} w(t), t \in I.$ Let

$$\delta = t \frac{d}{dt}, \quad n = [q] + 1,$$

where $[q]$ is the integer part of $q > 0.$ Define the space

$$AC_\delta^n := \{u : [1, T] \rightarrow E : \delta^{n-1}(u) \in AC(I)\}.$$

Let $\gamma \in (0, 1].$ By $C_\gamma(I), C_\gamma^1(I),$ and $C_{\gamma, \ln}(I)$ we denote the weighted spaces of continuous functions defined by

$$C_\gamma(I) = \{w : (1, T] \rightarrow E : \bar{w} \in C\},$$

where $\bar{w}(t) = t^{1-\gamma} w(t), t \in (1, T],$ with the norm

$$\|w\|_{C_\gamma} := \sup_{t \in I} \|\bar{w}(t)\|_E,$$

$$C_\gamma^1(I) = \{w \in C : w' \in C_\gamma\}$$

with the norm

$$\|w\|_{C_\gamma^1} := \|w\|_\infty + \|w'\|_{C_\gamma},$$

and

$$C_{\gamma, \ln}(I) = \{w : I \rightarrow E : \tilde{w} \in C\},$$

where $\tilde{w}(t) = (\ln t)^{1-\gamma} w(t), t \in I$, with the norm

$$\|w\|_{C_{\gamma, \ln}} := \sup_{t \in I} \|\tilde{w}(t)\|_E.$$

We further denote $\|w\|_{C_{\gamma, \ln}}$ by $\|w\|_C$.

Define the weighted product space $\mathcal{C} := C_{\gamma, \ln}(I) \times C_{\gamma, \ln}(I)$ with the norm

$$\|(w_1, w_2)\|_{\mathcal{C}} := \|w_1\|_C + \|w_2\|_C.$$

In the same way, we can define the the weighted product space $\overline{\mathcal{C}} := (C_{\gamma, \ln}(I))^n$ with the norm

$$\|(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n)\|_{\overline{\mathcal{C}}} := \sum_{k=1}^n \|w_k\|_C.$$

Let $(E, w) = (E, \sigma(E, E^*))$ be the Banach space E with weak topology.

Definition 2.1 A Banach space X is said to be weakly compactly generated (WCG) if it contains a weakly compact set whose linear span is dense in X .

Definition 2.2 A function $h : E \rightarrow E$ is said to be weakly sequentially continuous if h takes each weakly convergent sequence in E to a weakly convergent sequence in E (i.e., for any (u_n) in E with $u_n \rightarrow u$ in (E, w) , we have $h(u_n) \rightarrow h(u)$ in (E, w)).

Definition 2.3 ([27]) The function $u : I \rightarrow E$ is said to be Pettis integrable on I if and only if there is an element $u_J \in E$ corresponding to each $J \subset I$ such that $\phi(u_J) = \int_J \phi(u(s)) \, ds$ for all $\phi \in E^*$, where the integral on the right-hand side is assumed to exist in the Lebesgue sense (by definition $u_J = \int_J u(s) \, ds$).

Let $P(I, E)$ be the space of all E -valued Pettis-integrable functions on I , and let $L^1(I, E)$ be the Banach space of Bochner-integrable measurable functions $u : I \rightarrow E$. Define the class

$$P_1(I, E) = \{u \in P(I, E) : \varphi(u) \in L^1(I, \mathbb{R}) \text{ for every } \varphi \in E^*\}.$$

The space $P_1(I, E)$ is normed by

$$\|u\|_{P_1} = \sup_{\varphi \in E^*, \|\varphi\| \leq 1} \int_1^T |\varphi(u(x))| \, d\lambda x,$$

where λ is the Lebesgue measure on I .

The following result is due to Pettis [27, Thm. 3.4 and Cor. 3.41].

Proposition 2.4 ([27]) *If $u \in P_1(I, E)$ and h is a measurable and essentially bounded E -valued function, then $uh \in P_1(I, E)$.*

In what follows, the symbol “ \int ” denotes the Pettis integral.

Now, we give some results and properties of fractional calculus.

Definition 2.5 ([3, 22, 30]) The left-sided mixed Riemann–Liouville integral of order $r > 0$ of a function $w \in L^1(I)$ is defined by

$$(I_1^r w)(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(r)} \int_1^t (t-s)^{r-1} w(s) \, ds \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I,$$

where Γ is the (Euler) gamma function defined by

$$\Gamma(\xi) = \int_0^\infty t^{\xi-1} e^{-t} \, dt, \quad \xi > 0.$$

Notice that, for all $r, r_1, r_2 > 0$ and $w \in C$, we have $I_0^r w \in C$ and

$$(I_1^{r_1} I_1^{r_2} w)(t) = (I_1^{r_1+r_2} w)(t); \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I.$$

Definition 2.6 ([3, 22, 30]) The Riemann–Liouville fractional derivative of order $r > 0$ of a function $w \in L^1(I)$ is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} (D_1^r w)(t) &= \left(\frac{d^n}{dt^n} I_1^{n-r} w \right)(t) \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-r)} \frac{d^n}{dt^n} \int_1^t (t-s)^{n-r-1} w(s) \, ds \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I, \end{aligned}$$

where $n = [r] + 1$, and $[r]$ is the integer part of r .

In particular, if $r \in (0, 1]$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (D_1^r w)(t) &= \left(\frac{d}{dt} I_1^{1-r} w \right)(t) \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-r)} \frac{d}{dt} \int_1^t (t-s)^{-r} w(s) \, ds \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I. \end{aligned}$$

Let $r \in (0, 1]$, $\gamma \in [0, 1)$, and $w \in C_{1-\gamma}(I)$. Then the following expression leads to the left inverse operator:

$$(D_1^r I_1^r w)(t) = w(t) \quad \text{for all } t \in (1, T].$$

Moreover, if $I_1^{1-r} w \in C_{1-\gamma}^1(I)$, then the following composition is proved in [30]:

$$(I_1^r D_1^r w)(t) = w(t) - \frac{(I_1^{1-r} w)(1^+)}{\Gamma(r)} t^{r-1} \quad \text{for all } t \in (1, T].$$

Definition 2.7 ([3, 22, 30]) The Caputo fractional derivative of order $r > 0$ of a function $w \in L^1(I)$ is defined by

$$({}^c D_1^r w)(t) = \left(I_1^{n-r} \frac{d^n}{dt^n} w \right)(t)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-r)} \int_1^t (t-s)^{n-r-1} \frac{d^n}{ds^n} w(s) ds \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I.$$

In particular, if $r \in (0, 1]$, then

$$\begin{aligned} ({}^c D_1^r w)(t) &= \left(I_1^{1-r} \frac{d}{dt} w \right)(t) \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-r)} \int_1^t (t-s)^{-r} \frac{d}{ds} w(s) ds \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I. \end{aligned}$$

Let us recall some definitions and properties of Hadamard fractional integration and differentiation. We refer to [22] for more details.

Definition 2.8 ([22]) The Hadamard fractional integral of order $q > 0$ for a function $g \in L^1(I, E)$ is defined as

$$({}^H I_1^q g)(x) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_1^x \left(\ln \frac{x}{s} \right)^{q-1} \frac{g(s)}{s} ds,$$

provided that the integral exists.

Example 2.9 Let $0 < q < 1$. Then

$${}^H I_1^q \ln t = \frac{1}{\Gamma(2+q)} (\ln t)^{1+q} \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, e].$$

Remark 2.10 Let $g \in P_1(I, E)$. For every $\varphi \in E^*$, we have

$$\varphi({}^H I_1^q g)(t) = ({}^H I_1^q \varphi g)(t) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I.$$

Similarly to the Riemann–Liouville fractional calculus, the Hadamard fractional derivative is defined in terms of the Hadamard fractional integral as follows.

Definition 2.11 ([22]) The Hadamard fractional derivative of order $q > 0$ applied to a function $w \in AC_\delta^n$ is defined as

$$({}^H D_1^q w)(x) = \delta^n ({}^H I_1^{n-q} w)(x).$$

In particular, if $q \in (0, 1]$, then

$$({}^H D_1^q w)(x) = \delta ({}^H I_1^{1-q} w)(x).$$

Example 2.12 Let $0 < q < 1$. Then

$${}^H D_1^q \ln t = \frac{1}{\Gamma(2-q)} (\ln t)^{1-q} \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, e].$$

It has been proved (see, e.g., Kilbas [21, Thm. 4.8]) that, in the space $L^1(I, E)$, the Hadamard fractional derivative is the left-inverse operator to the Hadamard fractional

integral, that is,

$$({}^H D_1^q)({}^H I_1^q w)(x) = w(x).$$

From [22, Thm. 2.3] we have

$$({}^H I_1^q)({}^H D_1^q w)(x) = w(x) - \frac{({}^H I_1^{1-q} w)(1)}{\Gamma(q)} (\ln x)^{q-1}.$$

Similarly to the Hadamard fractional calculus, the Caputo–Hadamard fractional derivative is defined as follows.

Definition 2.13 The Caputo–Hadamard fractional derivative of order $q > 0$ applied to a function $w \in AC_\delta^n$ is defined as

$$({}^{Hc} D_1^q w)(x) = ({}^H I_1^{n-q} \delta^n w)(x).$$

In particular, if $q \in (0, 1]$, then

$$({}^{Hc} D_1^q w)(x) = ({}^H I_1^{1-q} \delta w)(x).$$

Hilfer [18] studied applications of the generalized fractional operator having the Riemann–Liouville and the Caputo derivatives as particular cases (see also [20, 32]).

Definition 2.14 Let $\alpha \in (0, 1), \beta \in [0, 1], w \in L^1(I)$ and $I_1^{(1-\alpha)(1-\beta)} w \in AC^1(I)$. The Hilfer fractional derivative of order α and type β of w is defined as

$$(D_1^{\alpha,\beta} w)(t) = \left(I_1^{\beta(1-\alpha)} \frac{d}{dt} I_1^{(1-\alpha)(1-\beta)} w \right)(t) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I. \tag{3}$$

Properties Let $\alpha \in (0, 1), \beta \in [0, 1], \gamma = \alpha + \beta - \alpha\beta$, and $w \in L^1(I)$.

1. The operator $(D_1^{\alpha,\beta} w)(t)$ can be written as

$$(D_1^{\alpha,\beta} w)(t) = \left(I_1^{\beta(1-\alpha)} \frac{d}{dt} I_1^{1-\gamma} w \right)(t) = (I_1^{\beta(1-\alpha)} D_1^\gamma w)(t) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I.$$

Moreover, the parameter γ satisfies

$$\gamma \in (0, 1], \quad \gamma \geq \alpha, \quad \gamma > \beta, \quad 1 - \gamma < 1 - \beta(1 - \alpha).$$

2. For $\beta = 0$, generalization (3) coincides with the Riemann–Liouville derivative and for $\beta = 1$, with the Caputo derivative:

$$D_1^{\alpha,0} = D_1^\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad D_1^{\alpha,1} = {}^c D_1^\alpha.$$

3. If $D_1^{\beta(1-\alpha)} w$ exists and is in $L^1(I)$, then

$$(D_1^{\alpha,\beta} I_1^\alpha w)(t) = (I_1^{\beta(1-\alpha)} D_1^{\beta(1-\alpha)} w)(t) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I.$$

Furthermore, if $w \in C_\gamma(I)$ and $I_1^{1-\beta(1-\alpha)}w \in C_\gamma^1(I)$, then

$$(D_1^{\alpha,\beta} I_1^\alpha w)(t) = w(t) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I.$$

4. If $D_1^\gamma w$ exists and is in $L^1(I)$, then

$$(I_1^\alpha D_1^{\alpha,\beta} w)(t) = (I_1^\gamma D_1^\gamma w)(t) = w(t) - \frac{I_1^{1-\gamma}(1^+)}{\Gamma(\gamma)} t^{\gamma-1} \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I.$$

Based on the Hadamard fractional integral, the Hilfer–Hadamard fractional derivative (introduced for the first time in [28]) is defined as follows.

Definition 2.15 Let $\alpha \in (0, 1), \beta \in [0, 1], \gamma = \alpha + \beta - \alpha\beta, w \in L^1(I)$, and ${}^H I_1^{(1-\alpha)(1-\beta)} w \in AC^1(I)$. The Hilfer–Hadamard fractional derivative of order α and type β applied to a function w is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} w)(t) &= ({}^H I_1^{\beta(1-\alpha)} ({}^H D_1^\gamma w))(t) \\ &= ({}^H I_1^{\beta(1-\alpha)} \delta ({}^H I_1^{1-\gamma} w))(t) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in I. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

This new fractional derivative (4) may be viewed as interpolation of the Hadamard and Caputo–Hadamard fractional derivatives. Indeed, for $\beta = 0$, this derivative reduces to the Hadamard fractional derivative, and, for $\beta = 1$, we recover the Caputo–Hadamard fractional derivative:

$${}^H D_1^{\alpha,0} = {}^H D_1^\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad {}^H D_1^{\alpha,1} = {}^{Hc} D_1^\alpha.$$

From [29, Thm. 21] we have the following lemma.

Lemma 2.16 Let $f_i : I \times E^4 \rightarrow E, i = 1, 2$, be such that $f_i(\cdot, u, v, \bar{u}, \bar{v}) \in C_{\gamma, \ln}(I)$ for any $u, v, \bar{u}, \bar{v} \in C_{\gamma, \ln}(I)$. Then system (1)–(2) is equivalent to the problem of obtaining the solution of the coupled system

$$\begin{cases} g_1(t) = f_1(t, \frac{\phi_1}{\Gamma(\gamma)}(\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_1)(t), \frac{\phi_2}{\Gamma(\gamma)}(\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_2)(t), g_1(t), g_2(t)), \\ g_2(t) = f_2(t, \frac{\phi_1}{\Gamma(\gamma)}(\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_1)(t), \frac{\phi_2}{\Gamma(\gamma)}(\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_2)(t), g_1(t), g_2(t)), \end{cases}$$

and if $g_i(\cdot) \in C_{\gamma, \ln}$ are the solutions of this system, then

$$\begin{cases} u_1(t) = \frac{\phi_1}{\Gamma(\gamma)}(\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_1)(t), \\ u_2(t) = \frac{\phi_2}{\Gamma(\gamma)}(\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_2)(t). \end{cases}$$

Definition 2.17 ([14]) Let E be a Banach space, let Ω_E be the set of bounded subsets of E , and let B_1 be the unit ball of E . The De Blasi measure of weak noncompactness is the map $\mu : \Omega_E \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ defined by

$$\mu(X) = \inf\{\varepsilon > 0 : \text{there exists a weakly compact set } \Omega \subset E \text{ such that } X \subset \varepsilon B_1 + \Omega\}.$$

The De Blasi measure of weak noncompactness satisfies the following properties:

- (a) $A \subset B \Rightarrow \mu(A) \leq \mu(B)$,
- (b) $\mu(A) = 0 \Leftrightarrow A$ is weakly relatively compact,
- (c) $\mu(A \cup B) = \max\{\mu(A), \mu(B)\}$,
- (d) $\mu(\overline{A}^w) = \mu(A)$, where \overline{A}^w denotes the weak closure of A ,
- (e) $\mu(A + B) \leq \mu(A) + \mu(B)$,
- (f) $\mu(\lambda A) = |\lambda| \mu(A)$,
- (g) $\mu(\text{conv}(A)) = \mu(A)$,
- (h) $\mu(\bigcup_{|\lambda| \leq h} \lambda A) = h \mu(A)$.

The next result follows directly from the Hahn–Banach theorem.

Proposition 2.18 *If E is a normed space and $x_0 \in E - \{0\}$, then there exists $\varphi \in E^*$ with $\|\varphi\| = 1$ and $\varphi(x_0) = \|x_0\|$.*

For a given set V of functions $v : I \rightarrow E$, let us denote

$$V(t) = \{v(t) : v \in V\}; \quad t \in I \quad \text{and} \quad V(I) = \{v(t) : v \in V, t \in I\}.$$

Lemma 2.19 ([17]) *Let $H \subset C$ be a bounded equicontinuous subset. Then the function $t \rightarrow \mu(H(t))$ is continuous on I ,*

$$\mu_C(H) = \max_{t \in I} \mu(H(t)),$$

and

$$\mu\left(\int_I u(s) \, ds\right) \leq \int_I \mu(H(s)) \, ds,$$

where $H(t) = \{u(t) : u \in H\}$, $t \in I$, and μ_C is the De Blasi measure of weak noncompactness defined on the bounded sets of C .

For our purpose, we will need the following fixed point theorem.

Theorem 2.20 ([25]) *Let Q be a nonempty, closed, convex, and equicontinuous subset of a metrizable locally convex vector space $C(I, E)$ such that $0 \in Q$. Suppose $T : Q \rightarrow Q$ is weakly sequentially continuous. If the implication*

$$\overline{V} = \overline{\text{conv}}(\{0\} \cup T(V)) \Rightarrow V \quad \text{is relatively weakly compact} \tag{5}$$

holds for every subset $V \subset Q$, then the operator T has a fixed point.

3 Existence of weak solutions

Let us start by the definition of a weak solution of problem (1).

Definition 3.1 By a weak solution of the coupled system (1)–(2) we mean a coupled measurable functions $(u_1, u_2) \in C$ such that $({}^H I_1^{1-\gamma} u_i)(1^+) = \phi_i, i = 1, 2$, and the equations $({}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} u_i)(t) = f_i(t, u_1(t), u_2(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} u_1)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} u_2)(t))$ are satisfied on I .

We further will use the following hypotheses.

- (H₁) The functions $v \rightarrow f_i(t, v, w, \bar{v}, \bar{w}), w \rightarrow f_i(t, v, w, \bar{v}, \bar{w}), \bar{v} \rightarrow f_i(t, v, w, \bar{v}, \bar{w}),$ and $\bar{w} \rightarrow f_i(t, v, w, \bar{v}, \bar{w}), i = 1, 2,$ are weakly sequentially continuous for a.e. $t \in I,$
- (H₂) For all $v, w, \bar{v}, \bar{w} \in E,$ the functions $t \rightarrow f_i(t, v, w, \bar{v}, \bar{w}), i = 1, 2,$ are Pettis integrable a.e. on $I,$
- (H₃) There exist $p_i, q_i \in C(I, [0, \infty))$ such that, for all $\varphi \in E^*,$

$$|\varphi(f_i(t, u, v, \bar{u}, \bar{v}))| \leq \frac{p_i(t)\|u\|_E + q_i(t)\|v\|_E}{1 + \|\varphi\| + \|u\|_E + \|v\|_E + \|\bar{u}\|_E + \|\bar{v}\|_E}$$

for a.e. $t \in I$ and all $u, v, \bar{u}, \bar{v} \in E,$

- (H₄) For all bounded measurable sets $B_i \subset E, i = 1, 2,$ and all $t \in I,$ we have

$$\mu(f_i(t, B_1, B_2, {}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} B_1, {}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} B_2), 0) \leq p_1(t)\mu(B_1) + q_1(t)\mu(B_2)$$

and

$$\mu(0, f_2(t, B_1, B_2, {}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} B_1, {}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} B_2)) \leq p_2(t)\mu(B_1) + q_2(t)\mu(B_2),$$

where ${}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} B_i = \{{}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} w : w \in B_i\}, i = 1, 2.$

Set

$$p_i^* = \sup_{t \in I} p_i(t) \quad \text{and} \quad q_i^* = \sup_{t \in I} q_i(t), \quad i = 1, 2.$$

Theorem 3.2 *Assume that the hypotheses (H₁)–(H₄) hold. If*

$$L := \frac{(p_1^* + p_2^* + q_1^* + q_2^*)(\ln T)^\alpha}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)} < 1, \tag{6}$$

then the coupled system (1)–(2) has at least one weak solution defined on I.

Proof Consider the operators $N_i : C_{\gamma, \ln} \rightarrow C_{\gamma, \ln}, i = 1, 2,$ defined by

$$(N_i u_i)(t) = \frac{\phi_i}{\Gamma(\gamma)} (\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_i)(t),$$

where $g_i \in C_{\gamma, \ln}, i = 1, 2,$ are defined as

$$g_i(t) = f_i \left(t, \frac{\phi_1}{\Gamma(\gamma)} (\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_1)(t), \frac{\phi_2}{\Gamma(\gamma)} (\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_2)(t), g_1(t), g_2(t) \right).$$

Consider the operator $N : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ such that, for any $(u_1, u_2) \in \mathcal{C},$

$$(N(u_1, u_2))(t) = ((N_1 u_1)(t), (N_2 u_2)(t)). \tag{7}$$

First, notice that the hypotheses imply that, for each $g_i \in C_{\gamma, \ln}, i = 1, 2,$ the function

$$t \mapsto \left(\ln \frac{t}{s} \right)^{\alpha-1} g_i(s)$$

is Pettis integrable over I , and

$$t \mapsto f_i \left(t, \frac{\phi_1}{\Gamma(\gamma)} (\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_1)(t), \frac{\phi_2}{\Gamma(\gamma)} (\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_2)(t), g_1(t), g_2(t) \right)$$

for a.e. $t \in I$ is Pettis integrable. Thus, the operator N is well defined. Let $R > 0$ be such that $R > L_1 + L_2$, where

$$L_i := \frac{(p_i^* + q_i^*)(\ln T)^{1-\gamma+\alpha}}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)}, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

and consider the set

$$Q = \left\{ (u_1, u_2) \in C : \|(u_1, u_2)\|_C \leq R \text{ and } \|(\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma} u_i(t_2) - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma} u_i(t_1)\|_E \leq L_i \left(\ln \frac{t_2}{t_1} \right)^\alpha + \frac{p_i^* + q_i^*}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^{t_1} \left| (\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma} \left(\ln \frac{t_2}{s} \right)^{\alpha-1} - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma} \left(\ln \frac{t_1}{s} \right)^{\alpha-1} \right| ds, i = 1, 2 \right\}.$$

Clearly, the subset Q is closed, convex, and equicontinuous. We will show that the operator N satisfies all the assumptions of Theorem 2.20. The proof will be given in several steps.

Step 1. N maps Q into itself. Let $(u_1, u_2) \in Q, t \in I$, and assume that $(N(u_1, u_2))(t) \neq (0, 0)$. Then there exists $\varphi \in E^*$ such that $\|(\ln t)^{1-\gamma} (N_i u_i)(t)\|_E = |\varphi((\ln t)^{1-\gamma} (N_i u_i)(t))|, i = 1, 2$. Thus, for any $i \in \{1, 2\}$, we have

$$\|(\ln t)^{1-\gamma} (N_i u_i)(t)\|_E = \varphi \left(\frac{\phi_i}{\Gamma(\gamma)} + \frac{(\ln t)^{1-\gamma}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^t \left(\ln \frac{t}{s} \right)^{\alpha-1} g_i(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right),$$

where $g_i \in C_{\gamma, \ln}$ are defined as

$$g_i(t) = f_i \left(t, \frac{\phi_1}{\Gamma(\gamma)} (\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_1)(t), \frac{\phi_2}{\Gamma(\gamma)} (\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_2)(t), g_1(t), g_2(t) \right).$$

Then from (H_3) we get

$$|\varphi(g_i(t))| \leq p_i^* + q_i^*.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\ln t)^{1-\gamma} (N_i u_i)(t)\|_E \\ & \leq \frac{(\ln t)^{1-\gamma}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^t \left(\ln \frac{t}{s} \right)^{\alpha-1} |\varphi(g_i(s))| \frac{ds}{s} \\ & \leq \frac{(p_i^* + q_i^*)(\ln T)^{1-\gamma}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^t \left(\ln \frac{t}{s} \right)^{\alpha-1} \frac{ds}{s} \\ & \leq \frac{(p_i^* + q_i^*)(\ln T)^{1-\gamma+\alpha}}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)} \\ & = L_i. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we get

$$\|N(u_1, u_1)\|_C \leq L_1 + L_2 < R.$$

Next, let $t_1, t_2 \in I$ be such that $t_1 < t_2$, and let $u \in Q$ be such that

$$(\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_2) - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_1) \neq 0.$$

Then there exists $\varphi \in E^*$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_2) - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_1)\|_E \\ &= |\varphi((\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_2) - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_1))| \end{aligned}$$

and $\|\varphi\| = 1$. Then, for any $i \in \{1, 2\}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_2) - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_1)\|_E \\ &= |\varphi((\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_2) - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_1))| \\ &\leq \varphi \left((\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma} \int_1^{t_2} \left(\ln \frac{t_2}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} \frac{g_i(s)}{s\Gamma(\alpha)} ds - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma} \int_1^{t_1} \left(\ln \frac{t_1}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} \frac{g_i(s)}{s\Gamma(\alpha)} ds \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $g_i \in C_{\gamma, \ln}$ are defined as

$$g_i(t) = f_i \left(t, \frac{\phi_1}{\Gamma(\gamma)} (\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_1)(t), \frac{\phi_1}{\Gamma(\gamma)} (\ln t)^{\gamma-1} + ({}^H I_1^\alpha g_2)(t), g_1(t), g_2(t) \right).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_2) - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_1)\|_E \\ &\leq (\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left(\ln \frac{t_2}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} \frac{|\varphi(g_i(s))|}{s\Gamma(\alpha)} ds \\ &\quad + \int_1^{t_1} \left| (\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma} \left(\ln \frac{t_2}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma} \left(\ln \frac{t_1}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} \right| \frac{|\varphi(g_i(s))|}{s\Gamma(\alpha)} ds \\ &\leq (\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left(\ln \frac{t_2}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} \frac{p_i(s) + q_i(s)}{s\Gamma(\alpha)} ds \\ &\quad + \int_1^{t_1} \left| (\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma} \left(\ln \frac{t_2}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma} \left(\ln \frac{t_1}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} \right| \frac{p_i(s) + q_i(s)}{s\Gamma(\alpha)} ds. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_2) - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma}(N_i u_i)(t_1)\|_E \\ &\leq L_i \left(\ln \frac{t_2}{t_1}\right)^\alpha \\ &\quad + \frac{p_i^* + q_i^*}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^{t_1} \left| (\ln t_2)^{1-\gamma} \left(\ln \frac{t_2}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} - (\ln t_1)^{1-\gamma} \left(\ln \frac{t_1}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} \right| ds. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $N(Q) \subset Q$.

Step 2. N is weakly sequentially continuous. Let $\{(u_n, v_n)\}_n$ be a sequence in Q , and let $(u_n(t), v_n(t)) \rightarrow (u(t), v(t))$ in $(E, \omega) \times (E, \omega)$ for each $t \in I$. Fix $t \in I$. Since for any $i \in 1, 2$, the function f_i satisfies assumption (H_1) , we have that $f_i(t, u_n(t), v_n(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} u_n)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} v_n)(t))$ converges weakly uniformly to $f_i(t, u(t), v(t), (D_0^{\alpha, \beta} u)(t), (D_0^{\alpha, \beta} v)(t))$. Hence the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem for Pettis integral implies that $(N(u_n, v_n))(t)$ converges weakly uniformly to $(N(u, v))(t)$ in (E, ω) for each $t \in I$. Thus $N(u_n, v_n) \rightarrow N(u, v)$. Hence $N : Q \rightarrow Q$ is weakly sequentially continuous.

Step 3. Implication (5) holds. Let V be a subset of Q such that $\bar{V} = \overline{\text{conv}}(N(V) \cup \{(0, 0)\})$. Obviously,

$$V(t) \subset \overline{\text{conv}}(NV)(t) \cup \{(0, 0)\}, \quad t \in I.$$

Further, as V is bounded and equicontinuous, by [13, Lemma 3] the function $t \rightarrow \mu(V(t))$ is continuous on I . From $(H_3), (H_4)$, Lemma 2.19, and the properties of the measure μ , for any $t \in I$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\mu((\ln t)^{1-\gamma} V(t)) \\ &\leq \mu((\ln t)^{1-\gamma} (NV)(t) \cup \{(0, 0)\}) \\ &\leq \mu((\ln t)^{1-\gamma} (NV)(t)) \\ &\leq \mu(\{((\ln t)^{1-\gamma} (N_1 v_1)(t), (\ln t)^{1-\gamma} (N_2 v_2)(t)) : (v_1, v_2) \in V\}) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^t \left(\ln \frac{t}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} \mu(\{(\ln s)^{1-\gamma} (f_1(s, v_1(s), v_2(s), \\ &\quad ({}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} v_1)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} v_2)(t)), 0) : (v_1, v_2) \in V\}) \frac{ds}{s} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^t \left(\ln \frac{t}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} \mu(\{(\ln s)^{1-\gamma} (0, f_2(s, v_1(s), v_2(s), \\ &\quad ({}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} v_1)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} v_2)(t))) : (v_1, v_2) \in V\}) \frac{ds}{s} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^t \left(\ln \frac{t}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} [p_1(s) \mu(\{(\ln s)^{1-\gamma} (v_1(s), 0) : (v_1, 0) \in V\}) \\ &\quad + q_1(s) \mu(\{(\ln s)^{1-\gamma} (0, v_2(s)) : (0, v_2) \in V\})] \frac{ds}{s} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^t \left(\ln \frac{t}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} [p_2(s) \mu(\{(\ln s)^{1-\gamma} (v_1(s), 0) : (v_1, 0) \in V\}) \\ &\quad + q_2(s) \mu(\{(\ln s)^{1-\gamma} (0, v_2(s)) : (0, v_2) \in V\})] \frac{ds}{s}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} &\mu((\ln t)^{1-\gamma} V(t)) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^t \left(\ln \frac{t}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} (p_1(s) + q_1(s) + p_2(s) + q_2(s)) \\ &\quad \times \mu((\ln s)^{1-\gamma} V(s)) \frac{ds}{s} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_1^t \left(\ln \frac{t}{s}\right)^{\alpha-1} (p_1(s) + q_1(s) + p_2(s) + q_2(s)) \\ &\quad \times \sup_{s \in I} \mu((\ln s)^{1-\gamma} V(s)) \frac{ds}{s} \\ &\leq \frac{(p_1^* + p_2^* + q_1^* + q_2^*)(\ln T)^\alpha}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)} \sup_{t \in I} \mu((\ln t)^{1-\gamma} V(t)). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\sup_{t \in I} \mu((\ln t)^{1-\gamma} V(t)) \leq L \sup_{t \in I} \mu((\ln t)^{1-\gamma} V(t)).$$

From (6) we get $\sup_{t \in I} \mu((\ln t)^{1-\gamma} V(t)) = 0$, that is, $\mu(V(t)) = 0$ for each $t \in I$. Then by [24, Thm. 2] V is weakly relatively compact in \mathcal{C} . From Theorem 2.20 we conclude that N has a fixed point, which is a weak solution of the coupled system (1)–(2). \square

As a consequence of the theorem, we get the following corollary.

Corollary 3.3 *Consider the following system of implicit Hilfer–Hadamard fractional differential equations:*

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} &({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_1)(t) \\ &= f_1(t, u_1(t), u_2(t), \dots, u_n(t), \\ &\quad ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_1)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_2)(t), \dots, ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_n)(t)), \\ &({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_2)(t) \\ &= f_2(t, u_1(t), u_2(t), \dots, u_n(t), \\ &\quad ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_1)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_2)(t), \dots, ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_n)(t)), \\ &\vdots \\ &({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_n)(t) \\ &= f_n(t, u_1(t), u_2(t), \dots, u_n(t), \\ &\quad ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_1)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_2)(t), \dots, ({}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta} u_n)(t)), \end{aligned} \right. \quad t \in I, \tag{8}$$

$$({}^H I_1^{1-\gamma} u_i)(t)|_{t=1} = \phi_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \tag{9}$$

$I := [1, T], T > 1, \alpha \in (0, 1), \beta \in [0, 1], \gamma = \alpha + \beta - \alpha\beta, \phi_i \in E, f_i : I \times E^{2n} \rightarrow E, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, are given continuous functions, E is a real (or complex) Banach space with norm $\|\cdot\|_E$ and dual E^* , such that E is the dual of a weakly compactly generated Banach space X , ${}^H I_1^{1-\gamma}$ is the left-sided mixed Hadamard integral of order $1 - \gamma$, and ${}^H D_1^{\alpha,\beta}$ is the Hilfer–Hadamard fractional derivative of order α and type β .

Assume that the following hypotheses hold:

- (H₀₁) The functions $v_j \rightarrow f_i(t, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_j, \dots, v_{2n}), i = 1, \dots, n, j = 1, \dots, 2n$, are weakly sequentially continuous for a.e. $t \in I$,
- (H₀₂) For each $v_j \in E, j = 1, \dots, 2n$, the functions $t \rightarrow f_i(t, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_j, \dots, v_{2n}), i = 1, 2$, are Pettis integrable a.e. on I ,

(H₀₃) There exist $p_{ij} \in C(I, [0, \infty))$ such that, for all $\varphi \in E^*$, we have

$$|\varphi(f_i(t, v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{2n}))| \leq \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n p_{ij}(t) \|v_j\|_E}{1 + \|\varphi\| + \sum_{j=1}^n \|v_j\|_E}$$

for a.e. $t \in I$ and each $v_i \in E, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$,

(H₀₄) For all bounded measurable sets $B_i \subset E, i = 1, \dots, n$, and for each $t \in I$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\mu(0, \dots, f_j(t, B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n, {}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} B_1, {}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} B_2, \dots, {}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} B_n), \dots, 0) \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n p_{ij}(t) \mu(B_i), \quad j = 1, \dots, n, \end{aligned}$$

where ${}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} B_i = \{{}^H D_1^{\alpha, \beta} w : w \in B_i\}, i = 1, \dots, n$.

If

$$L^* := \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n p_{ij}^* (\ln T)^\alpha}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)} < 1,$$

where

$$p_{ij}^* = \sup_{t \in I} p_{ij}(t), \quad i, j = 1, \dots, n,$$

then the coupled system (8)–(9) has at least one weak solution defined on I .

4 An example

Let

$$E = l^1 = \left\{ u = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, \dots), \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |u_n| < \infty \right\}$$

be the Banach space with the norm

$$\|u\|_E = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |u_n|.$$

As an application of our results, we consider the coupled system of Hilfer–Hadamard fractional differential equations

$$\begin{cases} ({}^H D_1^{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} u_n)(t) = f_n(t, u(t), v(t), ({}^H D_1^{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} u_n)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} v_n)(t)), \\ ({}^H D_1^{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} v_n)(t) = g_n(t, u(t), v(t), ({}^H D_1^{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} u_n)(t), ({}^H D_1^{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} v_n)(t)), \end{cases} \quad t \in [1, e], \tag{10}$$

$$({}^H I_1^{\frac{1}{4}} u)(t)|_{t=1} = ({}^H I_1^{\frac{1}{4}} v)(t)|_{t=1} = (0, 0, \dots, 0, \dots), \tag{11}$$

where

$$f_n(t, u(t), v(t)) = \frac{ct^2}{1 + \|u(t)\|_E + \|v(t)\|_E + \|\bar{u}(t)\|_E + \|\bar{v}(t)\|_E} \frac{u_n(t)}{e^{t+4}}, \quad t \in [1, e],$$

and

$$g_n(t, u(t), v(t)) = \frac{ct^2}{1 + \|v(t)\|_E + \|v(t)\|_E + \|\bar{u}(t)\|_E + \|\bar{v}(t)\|_E} \frac{u_n(t)}{e^{t+4}}, \quad t \in [1, e],$$

with

$$u = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, \dots), \quad v = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n, \dots) \quad \text{and} \quad c := \frac{e^3}{16} \sqrt{\pi}.$$

Set

$$f = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n, \dots) \quad \text{and} \quad g = (g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n, \dots).$$

Clearly, the functions f and g are continuous.

For all $u, v, \bar{u}, \bar{v} \in E$ and $t \in [1, e]$, we have

$$\|f(t, u(t), v(t), \bar{u}(t), \bar{v}(t))\|_E \leq ct^2 \frac{1}{e^{t+4}} \quad \text{and} \quad \|g(t, u(t), v(t), \bar{u}(t), \bar{v}(t))\|_E \leq ct^2 \frac{1}{e^{t+4}}.$$

Hence, hypothesis (H_3) is satisfied with $p_i^* = ce^{-3}$ and $q_i^* = 0, i = 1, 2$. We will show that condition (6) holds with $T = e$. Indeed,

$$\frac{(p_1^* + q_1^* + p_2^* + q_2^*)(\ln T)^\alpha}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)} = \frac{4ce^{-3}}{\sqrt{\pi}} = \frac{1}{4} < 1.$$

Simple computations show that all conditions of Theorem 3.2 are satisfied. It follows that the coupled system (10)–(11) has at least one weak solution defined on $[1, e]$.

5 Conclusion

In the recent years, implicit functional differential equations have been considered by many authors [1, 5, 9, 33]. In this work, we give some existence results for coupled implicit Hilfer–Hadamard fractional differential systems. This paper initiates the application of the measure of weak noncompactness to such a class of problems.

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