

RESEARCH

Open Access



Solvability for some class of multi-order nonlinear fractional systems

Yige Zhao^{1*}, Xinyi Hou¹, Yibing Sun¹ and Zhanbing Bai²

*Correspondence:
zhaoeager@126.com

¹School of Mathematical Sciences,
University of Jinan, Jinan, P.R. China
Full list of author information is
available at the end of the article

Abstract

The existence of some class of multi-order nonlinear fractional systems is investigated in this paper. Some sufficient conditions of solutions for multi-order nonlinear systems are obtained based on fixed point theorems. Our results in this paper improve some known results.

MSC: 34A08; 34B18

Keywords: Nonlinear fractional differential system; Fractional Green's Function; Fixed point theorem; Multi-order

1 Introduction

Fractional calculus has drawn people's attention extensively. This is because of its extensive development of the theory and its applications in various fields, such as physics, engineering, chemistry and biology; see [1–9]. To be compared with integer derivatives, fractional derivatives are used for a better description of considered material properties, and the design of mathematical models by the differential equations of fractional order can more accurately describe the characteristics of the real-world phenomena; see [4, 7, 8]. Recently, many papers about the solvability for fractional equations have appeared; see [10–18].

Furthermore, the study of fractional systems has also been a topic focused on; see [19–25]. Although the coupled systems of fractional boundary value problems have been considered by some authors, coupled systems with multi-order fractional orders are seldom discussed. The orders of the nonlinear fractional systems which are considered in the existing papers belong to the same interval $(n, n + 1]$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}^+$); see [19–24].

Zhao et al. [25] investigated the solvability for nonlinear systems with mixed fractional orders via the Guo–Krasnosel'skii fixed point theorem

$$\begin{cases} -{}^{RL}D_{0^+}^\alpha x(t) = f(t, y(t)), & 0 < t < 1, \\ {}^{RL}D_{0^+}^\beta y(t) = g(t, x(t)), & 0 < t < 1, \\ x(0) = x(1) = x'(0) = y(0) = y(1) = y'(0) = y'(1) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, $3 < \beta \leq 4$, ${}^{RL}D_{0^+}^\alpha$, ${}^{RL}D_{0^+}^\beta$ are the standard Riemann–Liouville fractional derivatives, and $f, g : (0, 1] \times [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ are continuous, $f(t, 0) \equiv 0$, $g(t, 0) \equiv 0$.

However, we can see the fact, in Remark 3.2 [25] that the conditions $f(t, 0) \equiv 0$ and $g(t, 0) \equiv 0$ are too strong for the nonlinear systems. Therefore, we will study some new results for the problem (1) without the conditions $f(t, 0) \equiv 0$ and $g(t, 0) \equiv 0$.

Motivated by all the work above, in this paper we consider the existence of boundary value problem for multi-order nonlinear differential system (1) without the conditions $f(t, 0) \equiv 0$ and $g(t, 0) \equiv 0$. Our analysis relies on the Schauder fixed point theorem and the Banach contraction principle. Some sufficient conditions of the existence of boundary value problem for the multi-order nonlinear fractional differential systems are given. Our results in this paper improve some well-known results in [25]. Finally, we present examples to demonstrate our results.

The plan of the paper is as follows. Section 2 gives some preliminaries to prove our main results. Section 3 considers the solvability of multi-order nonlinear system (1) by the Schauder fixed point theorem and the Banach contraction principle. Section 4 presents illustrative examples to verify our new results, which is followed by a brief conclusion in Sect. 5.

2 Preliminaries

In this section, we give some definitions and lemmas about fractional calculus; see [25–27].

Definition 2.1 ([26]) The Riemann–Liouville fractional derivative of order $\gamma > 0$ of a continuous function $f : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is denoted by

$${}^{RL}D_{0^+}^\gamma x(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n - \gamma)} \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^n \int_0^t \frac{x(s)}{(t - s)^{\alpha - n + 1}} ds,$$

where $n = [\gamma] + 1$, $[\gamma]$ denotes the integer part of the number γ .

Definition 2.2 ([26]) The Riemann–Liouville fractional integral of order $\gamma > 0$ of a function $f : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is denoted by

$$I_{0^+}^\gamma x(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\gamma)} \int_0^t (t - s)^{\gamma - 1} x(s) ds.$$

For the solutions of fractional equations which are expressed based on Green’s function refer to Lemma 2.3 and Lemma 2.5 in [25].

Lemma 2.1 The function $G_1(t, s)$ defined by (2.3) in [25] has the following properties:

- (C1) $G_1(t, s) > 0$, for $t, s \in (0, 1)$;
- (C2) $q_1(t)k_1(s) \leq \Gamma(\alpha)G_1(t, s) \leq (\alpha - 1)k_1(s)$, for $t, s \in (0, 1)$, where $q_1(t) = t^{\alpha - 1}(1 - t)$, $k_1(s) = s(1 - s)^{\alpha - 1}$.

Lemma 2.2 The function $G_2(t, s)$ defined by (2.6) in [25] has the following properties:

- (D1) $G_2(t, s) > 0$, for $t, s \in (0, 1)$;
- (D2) $(\beta - 2)q_2(t)k_2(s) \leq \Gamma(\beta)G_2(t, s) \leq M_0k_2(s)$, for $t, s \in (0, 1)$, where $M_0 = \max\{\beta - 1, (\beta - 2)^2\}$, $q_2(t) = t^{\beta - 2}(1 - t)^2$, $k_2(s) = s^2(1 - s)^{\beta - 2}$.

We recall the following fixed point theorem for our main results.

Lemma 2.3 ([27]) *Let E be a Banach space with $C \subset E$ close and convex. Assume U is a relatively open subset of C with $0 \in U$ and $A : \bar{U} \rightarrow C$ is a continuous compact map. Then either*

- (E1) *A has a fixed point in U ; or*
- (E2) *there exist a $u \in \partial U$, and a $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ with $u = \lambda Au$.*

3 Main results

In this section, we establish the existence of multi-order nonlinear fractional systems (1).

$I = [0, 1]$, and $C(I)$ denotes the space of all continuous real functions defined on I . $P = \{x(t) | x \in C(I)\}$ denotes a Banach space endowed with the norm $\|x\|_P = \max_{t \in I} |x(t)|$. We define the norm by $\|(x, y)\|_{P \times P} = \max\{\|x\|_P, \|y\|_P\}$ for $(x, y) \in P \times P$, then $(P \times P, \|\cdot\|_{P \times P})$ is a Banach space.

Consider the following system:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = \int_0^1 G_1(t, s)f(s, y(s)) ds, \\ y(t) = \int_0^1 G_2(t, s)g(s, x(s)) ds. \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

Then we have the following results.

Lemma 3.1 *Suppose that $f, g : I \times [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ are continuous. Then $(x, y) \in P \times P$ is a solution of (1) if and only if $(x, y) \in P \times P$ is a solution of system (2).*

This proof can be referred to that of Lemma 3.3 in [24], so it is omitted.

Let $T : P \times P \rightarrow P \times P$ be the operator defined by

$$\begin{aligned} T(x, y)(t) &= \left(\int_0^1 G_1(t, s)f(s, y(s)) ds, \int_0^1 G_2(t, s)g(s, x(s)) ds \right) \\ &=: (T_1y(t), T_2x(t)), \quad t \in I. \end{aligned}$$

By the continuity of the functions G_1, G_2, f and g , it implies that T is continuous. Furthermore, from Lemma 3.1, the fixed point of T is equivalent to the solution of system (1).

Next define the following notation:

$$\bar{A} = \left(\int_0^1 \frac{(\alpha - 1)k_1(s)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} ds \right)^{-1}, \quad \bar{B} = \left(\int_0^1 \frac{M_0k_2(s)}{\Gamma(\beta)} ds \right)^{-1}.$$

Theorem 3.1 *Let $f, g : I \times [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ be continuous functions. Assume that the following conditions are satisfied:*

- (H₁) *There exist two nonnegative functions $a_1(t), b_1(t) \in L(0, 1)$ and two nonnegative continuous functions $p(x), q(x) : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ such that $f(t, x) \leq a_1(t) + p(x)$, $g(t, x) \leq b_1(t) + q(x)$;*
- (H₂) *$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{p(x)}{x} < \bar{A}$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{q(x)}{x} < \bar{B}$.*

Then the system (1) has a solution.

Proof Let $e_1 = \frac{1}{2}(\bar{A} - \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{p(x)}{x})$. By hypothesis (H_2) , we find that there exists $c_1 > 0$ such that

$$p(x) \leq (\bar{A} - e_1)x, \quad \text{for } x \geq c_1.$$

Set $M = \max\{p(x) : x \in [0, c_1]\}$. Then there exists $c_2 > c_1$ such that $\frac{M}{c_2} \leq \bar{A} - e_1$, so we get

$$p(x) \leq (\bar{A} - e_1)c_2, \quad \text{for } x \in [0, c_2].$$

Thus, for any $c \geq c_2$ and $u \in [0, c]$, we obtain

$$p(x) \leq (\bar{A} - e_1)c.$$

Let $e_2 = \frac{1}{2}(\bar{B} - \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{q(x)}{x})$. In the same way, there exists $c_3 > 0$ such that, for any $c \geq c_3$ and $x \in [0, c]$, we get

$$q(x) \leq (\bar{B} - e_2)c.$$

Define

$$X = \left\{ (x(t), y(t)) \mid x(t), y(t) \in P, \|(x(t), y(t))\|_{P \times P} \leq c, t \in I \right\},$$

where

$$c = \max \left\{ c_2, c_3, \frac{\bar{A}}{e_1}h_1, \frac{\bar{B}}{e_2}h_2 \right\}$$

and

$$h_1 = \max_{t \in I} \int_0^1 G_1(t, s)a_1(s) ds, \quad h_2 = \max_{t \in I} \int_0^1 G_2(t, s)b_1(s) ds.$$

Observe that X is a ball in the Banach space $P \times P$. Moreover, for any $(x, y) \in X$, $f(t, y(t))$, $g(t, x(t))$ are bounded, and $p(y(t)) \leq (\bar{A} - e_1)c$, $q(x(t)) \leq (\bar{B} - e_2)c$.

Now we verify that $T : X \rightarrow X$. From hypothesis (H_2) , for any $(x, y) \in X$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |T_1 y(t)| &= \left| \int_0^1 G_1(t, s)f(s, y(s)) ds \right| \\ &= \int_0^1 G_1(t, s)f(s, y(s)) ds \\ &\leq \int_0^1 G_1(t, s)a_1(s) ds + \int_0^1 G_1(t, s)p(y(s)) ds \\ &\leq h_1 + (\bar{A} - e_1)c \int_0^1 G_1(t, s) ds \\ &\leq h_1 + (\bar{A} - e_1)c \int_0^1 \frac{(\alpha - 1)k_1(s)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} ds \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq h_1 + (\bar{A} - e_1)cA^{-1} \\ &\leq \frac{e_1}{A}c + \left(1 - \frac{e_1}{A}\right)c = c. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} |T_2x(t)| &\leq h_2 + (\bar{B} - e_2)c \int_0^1 G_2(t,s) ds \\ &\leq h_2 + (\bar{B} - e_2)c \int_0^1 \frac{M_0k_2(s)}{\Gamma(\beta)} ds \\ &\leq h_2 + (\bar{B} - e_2)c\bar{B}^{-1} \\ &\leq \frac{e_2}{B}c + \left(1 - \frac{e_2}{B}\right)c = c. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\|T_1y\|_P \leq c, \|T_2x\|_P \leq c$. That is, we get $\|T(x,y)\|_{P \times P} \leq c$. Notice that $T_1y(t), T_2x(t)$ are continuous on I . Therefore, we obtain $T : X \rightarrow X$.

Next we verify T is a completely continuous operator. In fact, we fix

$$M = \max_{t \in I} f(t, y(t)), \quad N = \max_{t \in I} g(t, x(t)).$$

For $(x, y) \in X, t, \tau \in I, t < \tau$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} &|T_1y(t) - T_1y(\tau)| \\ &= \left| \int_0^1 (G_1(t,s) - G_1(\tau,s))f(s, y(s)) ds \right| \\ &\leq M \left[\int_0^t |G_1(t,s) - G_1(\tau,s)| ds + \int_t^\tau |G_1(t,s) - G_1(\tau,s)| ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_\tau^1 |G_1(t,s) - G_1(\tau,s)| ds \right] \\ &\leq M \left(\int_0^1 \frac{(1-s)^{\alpha-1}(\tau-t)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} ds + \int_0^\tau \frac{(\tau-s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} ds - \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} ds \right) \\ &= \frac{M}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} ((\tau-t) + (\tau^\alpha - t^\alpha)). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$|T_2x(t) - T_2x(\tau)| \leq \frac{N}{\Gamma(\beta+1)} ((\tau^{\beta-2} - t^{\beta-2}) + 2(\tau^{\beta-1} - t^{\beta-1}) + (\tau^\beta - t^\beta)).$$

Since the functions $t^\alpha, t^\beta, t^{\beta-1}, t^{\beta-2}$ are uniformly continuous on I , from the above analysis, TX is an equicontinuous set. Furthermore, $TX \subset X$. Therefore, T is a completely continuous operator. Hence, by Schauder fixed point theorem, the system (1) has one solution. \square

Theorem 3.2 *Let $f, g : I \times [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ be continuous functions. Assume that one of the following conditions is satisfied:*

(H₃) There exist two nonnegative functions $a_2(t), b_2(t) \in L(0, 1)$ such that $f(t, x) \leq a_2(t) + d_1|x|^{\rho_1}$, $g(t, x) \leq b_2(t) + d_2|x|^{\rho_2}$, where $d_i \geq 0, 0 < \rho_i < 1$ for $i = 1, 2$;

(H₄) $f(t, x) \leq d_1|x|^{\rho_1}, g(t, x) \leq d_2|x|^{\rho_2}$ where $d_i > 0, \rho_i > 1$ for $i = 1, 2$.

Then the system (1) has a solution.

Proof Let (H₄) be valid. Then we define

$$Y = \{(x(t), y(t)) | x(t), y(t) \in P, \|(x(t), y(t))\|_{P \times P} \leq r, t \in I\},$$

where

$$r \geq \max \left\{ \left(\frac{2d_1}{A} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\rho_1}}, \left(\frac{2d_2}{B} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\rho_2}}, 2l_1, 2l_2 \right\}$$

and

$$l_1 = \max_{t \in I} \int_0^1 G_1(t, s) a_2(s) ds, \quad l_2 = \max_{t \in I} \int_0^1 G_2(t, s) b_2(s) ds.$$

Next, we verify $T : Y \rightarrow Y$. By hypothesis (H₃), for any $(x, y) \in Y$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |T_1 y(t)| &= \left| \int_0^1 G_1(t, s) f(s, y(s)) ds \right| \\ &= \int_0^1 G_1(t, s) f(s, y(s)) ds \\ &\leq \int_0^1 G_1(t, s) a_2(s) ds + d_1 r^{\rho_1} \int_0^1 G_1(t, s) ds \\ &\leq l_1 + d_1 r^{\rho_1} \int_0^1 \frac{(\alpha - 1)k_1(s)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} ds \\ &= l_1 + d_1 r^{\rho_1} \bar{A}^{-1} \\ &\leq \frac{r}{2} + \frac{r}{2} = r. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} |T_2 x(t)| &\leq l_2 + d_2 r^{\rho_2} \int_0^1 G_2(t, s) ds \\ &\leq l_2 + d_2 r^{\rho_2} \int_0^1 \frac{M_0 k_2(s)}{\Gamma(\beta)} ds \\ &= l_2 + d_2 r^{\rho_2} c \bar{B}^{-1} \\ &\leq \frac{r}{2} + \frac{r}{2} = r. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\|T_1 y\|_P \leq r, \|T_2 x\|_P \leq r$. That is, we have $\|T(x, y)\|_{P \times P} \leq r$. Notice that $T_1 y(t), T_2 x(t)$ are continuous on I . Thus, we get $T : Y \rightarrow Y$.

Next, let (H₄) be valid. Then we choose

$$0 < r \leq \min \left\{ \left(\frac{\bar{A}}{d_1} \right)^{\frac{1}{\rho_1-1}}, \left(\frac{\bar{B}}{d_2} \right)^{\frac{1}{\rho_2-1}} \right\}.$$

Similarly, we can obtain

$$\|T_1y\|_P \leq d_1 r^{\rho_1} \bar{A}^{-1} \leq r, \quad \|T_2x\|_P \leq d_2 r^{\rho_2} \bar{B}^{-1} \leq r.$$

That is, we have $\|T(x, y)\|_{P \times P} \leq r$. And $T_1y(t), T_2x(t)$ are continuous on I . Thus, we get $T : Y \rightarrow Y$. By Theorem 3.1, we see that T is a completely continuous operator. Hence, by the Schauder fixed point theorem, the system (1) has one solution. \square

Theorem 3.3 *Let $f, g : I \times [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ be continuous functions. Assume that one of the following conditions is satisfied:*

- (H₅) *There exist two nonnegative functions $a_3(t), b_3(t) \in L(0, 1)$ such that $|f(t, x_1) - f(t, x_2)| \leq a_3(t)|x_1 - x_2|, |g(t, x_1) - g(t, x_2)| \leq b_3(t)|x_1 - x_2|, t \in [0, 1]$ and f, g satisfies $f(0, 0) = 0, g(0, 0) = 0$.*
- (H₆) *Suppose that $\lambda = \max\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2\} < 1$, where*

$$\lambda_1 = \int_0^1 \frac{(\alpha - 1)k_1(s)a_3(s)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} ds, \quad \lambda_2 = \int_0^1 \frac{M_0k_2(s)b_3(s)}{\Gamma(\beta)} ds.$$

Then the system (1) has a unique solution.

Proof For any $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in P \times P$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} |T_1y_1(t) - T_1y_2(t)| &= \left| \int_0^1 G_1(t, s)f(s, y_1(s)) ds - \int_0^1 G_1(t, s)f(s, y_2(s)) ds \right| \\ &= \int_0^1 G_1(t, s)|f(s, y_1(s)) - f(s, y_2(s))| ds \\ &\leq \int_0^1 G_1(t, s)a_3(s)\|y_1 - y_2\|_P ds \\ &\leq \int_0^1 \frac{(\alpha - 1)k_1(s)a_3(s)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} ds\|y_1 - y_2\|_P \\ &= \lambda_1\|y_1 - y_2\|_P. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} |T_2x_1(t) - T_2x_2(t)| &= \left| \int_0^1 G_2(t, s)g(s, x_1(s)) ds - \int_0^1 G_2(t, s)g(s, x_2(s)) ds \right| \\ &= \int_0^1 G_2(t, s)|g(s, x_1(s)) - g(s, x_2(s))| ds \\ &\leq \int_0^1 G_2(t, s)b_3(s)\|x_1 - x_2\|_P ds \\ &\leq \int_0^1 \frac{M_0k_2(s)b_3(s)}{\Gamma(\beta)} ds\|x_1 - x_2\|_P \\ &= \lambda_2\|x_1 - x_2\|_P. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\|T_1y_1 - T_1y_2\|_P \leq \lambda_1\|y_1 - y_2\|_P, \|T_2x_1 - T_2x_2\|_P \leq \lambda_2\|x_1 - x_2\|_P$.

Therefore, for the Euclidean distance d on \mathbb{R}^2 , we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(T(x_1, y_1), T(x_2, y_2)) &= \sqrt{(T_1y_1 - T_1y_2)^2 + (T_2x_1 - T_2x_2)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{\|T_1y_1 - T_1y_2\|_p^2 + \|T_2x_1 - T_2x_2\|_p^2} \\ &\leq \sqrt{(\lambda_1\|y_1 - y_2\|_p)^2 + (\lambda_2\|x_1 - x_2\|_p)^2} \\ &\leq \lambda\sqrt{\|y_1 - y_2\|_p^2 + \|x_1 - x_2\|_p^2} \\ &= \lambda d((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, T is a contraction since $\lambda < 1$.

By the Banach contraction principle, T has a unique fixed point which is a solution of the system (1). □

Remark 3.1 In this paper, we give some new results for the system (1) without conditions $f(t, 0) \equiv 0$ and $g(t, 0) \equiv 0$. Our results in this paper improve some well-known results in [25].

4 Example

In this section, we will present examples to illustrate the main results.

Example 4.1 Consider the following system:

$$\begin{cases} -{}^{RL}D_{0^+}^{\frac{5}{2}}x(t) = 2t + 28(t - \frac{1}{2})^2y, & 0 < t < 1, \\ {}^{RL}D_{0^+}^{\frac{7}{2}}y(t) = t^2 + 100(t - \frac{1}{2})^2x, & 0 < t < 1, \\ x(0) = x(1) = x'(0) = y(0) = y(1) = y'(0) = y'(1) = 0. \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

Choose $a_1(t) = 3t$, $b_1(t) = 2t^2$ and $p(x) = 7x$, $q(x) = 25x$. So (H_1) holds. Since $\bar{A} = 7.7545$, $\bar{B} = 26.1714$, thus (H_2) holds. By Theorem 3.1, the system (3) has a solution.

Remark 4.1 In Example 4.1 and Example 4.2 of [25], the systems (4.1) and (4.2) with conditions $f(t, 0) \equiv 0$ and $g(t, 0) \equiv 0$ are considered. However, in Example 4.1 of this paper, $f(t, y) = 2t + 28(t - \frac{1}{2})^2y$, $g(t, y) = t^2 + 100(t - \frac{1}{2})^2x$, we can easily see that $f(t, 0) \not\equiv 0$ and $g(t, 0) \not\equiv 0$. Thus, it is clear that one cannot deal with the system (3) of this paper by the method presented [25].

Example 4.2 Consider the following system:

$$\begin{cases} -{}^{RL}D_{0^+}^{\frac{5}{2}}x(t) = (t - \frac{1}{4})^4(y(t))^{\rho_1}, & 0 < t < 1, \\ {}^{RL}D_{0^+}^{\frac{7}{2}}y(t) = (t - \frac{1}{4})^4(x(t))^{\rho_2}, & 0 < t < 1, \\ x(0) = x(1) = x'(0) = y(0) = y(1) = y'(0) = y'(1) = 0, \end{cases} \tag{4}$$

where $0 < \rho_i < 1$ or $\rho_i \geq 1$ for $i = 1, 2$.

Note that $a_2(t) = b_2(t) = 0$ and $d_1 = d_2 = \frac{81}{256}$. By Theorem 3.2, the system (4) has a solution.

5 Conclusion

We have considered the solvability of some class of multi-order nonlinear fractional differential systems in this paper. Some sufficient conditions for multi-order nonlinear differential systems have been established by fixed point theorems. Our results improve the work presented in [25].

In future work, one can study the stability and the stabilization problems for multi-order nonlinear fractional differential systems which concern the existence of solutions.

Acknowledgements

The authors sincerely thank the reviewers for their valuable suggestions and useful comments that have led to the present improved version of the original manuscript.

Funding

This research is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (G61703180, G61773010, G61573215, G61601197), the Natural Science Foundation of Shandong Province (ZR201702200024, ZR2017LF012, ZR2016AL02), the Project of Shandong Province Higher Educational Science and Technology Program (J18KA230, J17KA157), and the Scientific Research Foundation of University of Jinan (1008399, 160100101).

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

The authors declare that the study was realized in collaboration with the same responsibility. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Author details

¹School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Jinan, Jinan, P.R. China. ²College of Mathematics and System Science, Shandong University of Science and Technology, Qingdao, P.R. China.

Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Received: 22 August 2018 Accepted: 15 January 2019 Published online: 23 January 2019

References

1. Podlubny, I.: *Fractional Differential Equations*. Academic Press, Cambridge (1999)
2. Atangana, A., Hammouch, Z., Mophou, G., Owolabi, K.M.: Focus point on modelling complex real-world problems with fractal and new trends of fractional differentiation. *Eur. Phys. J. Plus* **133**(8), 315 (2018)
3. Jajarmi, A., Hajjipour, M., Mohammadzadeh, E., Baleanu, D.: A new approach for the nonlinear fractional optimal control problems with external persistent disturbances. *J. Franklin Inst.* **335**(9), 3938–3967 (2018)
4. Jajarmi, A., Baleanu, D.: A new fractional analysis on the interaction of HIV with CD4⁺ T-cells. *Chaos Solitons Fractals* **113**, 221–229 (2018)
5. Baleanu, D., Jajarmi, A., Hajjipour, M.: On the nonlinear dynamical systems within the generalized fractional derivatives with Mittag-Leffler kernel. *Nonlinear Dyn.* **94**(1), 397–414 (2018)
6. Kumar, D., Singh, J., Baleanu, D.: Analysis of regularized long-wave equation associated with a new fractional operator with Mittag-Leffler type kernel. *Physica A* **492**, 155–167 (2018)
7. Kumar, D., Singh, J., Baleanu, D., Rathore, S.: Analysis of a fractional model of the Ambartsumian equation. *Eur. Phys. J. Plus* **133**, 259 (2018)
8. Kumar, D., Tchier, F., Singh, J.: An efficient computational technique for fractal vehicular traffic flow. *Entropy* **20**(4), 259 (2018)
9. Singh, J., Kumar, D., Baleanu, D., Rathore, S.: An efficient numerical algorithm for the fractional Drinfeld–Sokolov–Wilson equation. *Appl. Math. Comput.* **335**, 12–24 (2018)
10. Zhang, W., Bai, Z., Sun, S.: Extremal solutions for some periodic fractional differential equations. *Adv. Differ. Equ.* **2016**, Article ID 179 (2016)
11. Wang, Y., Liu, L.: Positive solutions for a class of fractional 3-point boundary value problems at resonance. *Adv. Differ. Equ.* **2017**, Article ID 7 (2017)
12. Bai, Z., Sun, W.: Existence and multiplicity of positive solutions for singular fractional boundary value problems. *Comput. Math. Appl.* **63**, 1369–1381 (2012)
13. Bai, Z.: Eigenvalue intervals for a class of fractional boundary value problem. *Comput. Math. Appl.* **64**, 3253–3257 (2012)
14. Zhao, Y., Sun, S., Han, Z., Li, Q.: The existence of multiple positive solutions for boundary value problems of nonlinear fractional differential equations. *Commun. Nonlinear Sci. Numer. Simul.* **16**, 2086–2097 (2011)
15. Zhao, Y., Sun, S., Han, Z., Li, Q.: Positive solutions to boundary value problems of nonlinear fractional differential equations. *Abstr. Appl. Anal.* **2011**, Article ID 390543 (2011)
16. Zhao, Y., Sun, S., Han, Z., Zhang, M.: Positive solutions for boundary value problems of nonlinear fractional differential equations. *Appl. Math. Comput.* **217**, 6950–6958 (2011)

17. Yu, Y., Jiang, D.: Multiple positive solutions for the boundary value problem of a nonlinear fractional differential equation. Northeast Normal University, Jilin (2009)
18. Xu, X., Jiang, D., Yuan, C.: Multiple positive solutions for the boundary value problem of a nonlinear fractional differential equation. *Nonlinear Anal.* **71**, 4676–4688 (2009)
19. Shah, K., Wang, J., Khalil, H., Ali, K.: Existence and numerical solutions of a coupled system of integral BVP for fractional differential equations. *Adv. Differ. Equ.* **2018**, Article ID 149 (2018)
20. Jiang, J., Liu, L.: Existence of solutions for a sequential fractional differential system with coupled boundary conditions. *Bound. Value Probl.* **2016**, Article ID 159 (2016)
21. Wang, Y., Jiang, J.: Existence and nonexistence of positive solutions for the fractional coupled system involving generalized p -Laplacian. *Adv. Differ. Equ.* **2017**, Article ID 337 (2017)
22. Xu, J., O'Regan, D., Zhang, K.: Multiple solutions for a class of fractional Hamiltonian systems. *Fract. Calc. Appl. Anal.* **18**, 48–63 (2015)
23. Feng, W., Sun, S., Han, Z., Zhao, Y.: Existence of solutions for a singular system of nonlinear fractional differential equations. *Comput. Math. Appl.* **62**, 1370–1378 (2011)
24. Su, X.: Boundary value problem for a coupled system of nonlinear fractional differential equations. *Appl. Math. Lett.* **22**, 64–69 (2009)
25. Zhao, Y., Sun, S., Han, Z., Feng, W.: Positive solutions for a coupled system of nonlinear differential equations of mixed fractional orders. *Adv. Differ. Equ.* **2011**, Article ID 1 (2011)
26. Kilbas, A.A., Srivastava, H.H., Trujillo, J.J.: *Theory and Applications of Fractional Differential Equations*. Elsevier, Amsterdam (2006)
27. Isac, G.: *Leray-Schauder Type Alternatives Complementarity Problem and Variational Inequalities*. Springer, New York (2006)

Submit your manuscript to a SpringerOpen[®] journal and benefit from:

- Convenient online submission
- Rigorous peer review
- Open access: articles freely available online
- High visibility within the field
- Retaining the copyright to your article

Submit your next manuscript at ► [springeropen.com](https://www.springeropen.com)
