

**EXISTENCE OF SOLUTIONS FOR RIEMANN-LIOUVILLE  
TYPE COUPLED SYSTEMS OF FRACTIONAL  
INTEGRO-DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS AND  
BOUNDARY CONDITIONS**

AHMED ALSAEDI, SHOROG ALJOUDI, BASHIR AHMAD

**ABSTRACT.** In this article, we study a boundary value problem of coupled systems of nonlinear Riemann-Liouville fractional integro-differential equations supplemented with nonlocal Riemann-Liouville fractional integro-differential boundary conditions. Our results rely on some standard tools of the fixed point theory. An illustrative example is also discussed.

1. INTRODUCTION

Fractional calculus is regarded as an important mathematical modelling tool for describing dynamical systems involving phenomena such as fractal and chaos. The subject started with the speculations of Leibniz (1697) and Euler (1730) about fractional-order derivatives and developed into an important branch of mathematical analysis with the passage of time. It deals with differential and integral operators of arbitrary (non-integer) order. An important and useful feature characterizing fractional-order differential and integral operators (in contrast to integer-order operators) is their nonlocal nature that accounts for the past and hereditary behavior of materials and processes involved in the real world problems. In addition to the extensive applications of fractional-order differential equations in various disciplines of technical and applied sciences, there has been a great focus on developing the theoretical aspects, and analytic and numerical methods for solving fractional order differential equations. For applications of fractional calculus in engineering and physics, we refer the reader to the texts [22, 24, 30], while some recent results on fractional differential equations can be found in [1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 14, 16, 19, 23, 29, 35, 37, 39].

Coupled systems of fractional-order differential equations appear in the mathematical formulation of several real world phenomena and processes. Examples of the occurrence of fractional systems include disease models [7, 9, 10, 26, 27], anomalous diffusion [25, 32], ecological models [18], synchronization of chaotic systems [12, 13, 38], nonlocal thermoelasticity [28], etc. For details concerning the

---

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 34A08, 34B10, 34B15.

*Key words and phrases.* Riemann-Liouville; fractional derivative; coupled system; nonlocal integral conditions; existence of solutions.

©2016 Texas State University.

Submitted June 3, 2016. Published August 10, 2016.

theoretical development of coupled systems of fractional-order differential equations supplemented with a variety of boundary conditions, for instance, see [4, 5, 6, 17, 21, 31, 33, 34, 36].

In this article, we study the existence of solutions for a Riemann-Liouville coupled system of nonlinear fractional integro-differential equations given by

$$\begin{aligned} D^\alpha u(t) &= f(t, u(t), v(t), (\phi_1 u)(t), (\psi_1 v)(t)), \quad t \in [0, T], \\ D^\beta v(t) &= g(t, u(t), v(t), (\phi_2 u)(t), (\psi_2 v)(t)), \quad 1 < \alpha, \beta \leq 2. \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

subject to coupled Riemann-Liouville integro-differential boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} D^{\alpha-2} u(0^+) &= 0, \quad D^{\alpha-1} u(0^+) = \nu I^{\alpha-1} v(\eta), \quad 0 < \eta < T, \\ D^{\beta-2} v(0^+) &= 0, \quad D^{\beta-1} v(0^+) = \mu I^{\beta-1} u(\sigma), \quad 0 < \sigma < T, \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

where  $D^{(\cdot)}$ ,  $I^{(\cdot)}$  denote the Riemann-Liouville derivatives and integral of fractional order  $(\cdot)$ , respectively,  $f, g : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are given continuous functions,  $\nu, \mu$  are real constants, and

$$\begin{aligned} (\phi_1 u)(t) &= \int_0^t \gamma_1(t, s) u(s) ds, & (\phi_2 u)(t) &= \int_0^t \gamma_2(t, s) u(s) ds, \\ (\psi_1 v)(t) &= \int_0^t \delta_1(t, s) v(s) ds, & (\psi_2 v)(t) &= \int_0^t \delta_2(t, s) v(s) ds, \end{aligned}$$

with  $\gamma_i$  and  $\delta_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) being continuous function on  $[0, T] \times [0, T]$ .

The rest of the article is organized as follows. In Section 2, we recall some preliminary concepts of Riemann-Liouville calculus and prove an auxiliary lemma. Section 3 contains the existence and uniqueness results. Though we use the standard methodology (Leray-Schauder alternative to prove the existence of solutions and Contraction mapping principle to obtain the uniqueness result), yet its exposition to the given problem is new. Indeed our results are new and contribute to the existing literature on fully Riemann-Liouville type nonlinear nonlocal coupled systems of fractional integro-differential equations and boundary conditions.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

This section is devoted to some basic concepts of fractional calculus concerning Riemann-Liouville derivatives and integrals [20]. We also present an auxiliary lemma related to linear variant of the given problem.

**Definition 2.1.** The Riemann-Liouville fractional integral of order  $\rho > 0$  for a continuous function  $u : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined as

$$I^\rho u(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\rho)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\rho-1} u(s) ds,$$

provided the integral exists.

**Definition 2.2.** For a continuous function  $u : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , the Riemann-Liouville derivative of fractional order  $\rho$ ,  $n = [\rho] + 1$  ( $[\rho]$  denotes the integer part of the real number  $\rho$ ) is defined as

$$D^\rho u(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\rho)} \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^n \int_0^t (t-s)^{n-\rho-1} u(s) ds = \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^n I^{n-\rho} u(t),$$

provided it exists.

For  $\rho < 0$ , we use the convention that  $D^\rho u = I^\rho u$ . Also, for  $\beta \in [0, \rho]$ , we have  $D^\beta I^\rho u = I^{\rho-\beta}$ . Note that for  $\lambda > -1$ ,  $\lambda \neq \rho - 1, \rho - 2, \dots, \rho - n$ , we have

$$D^\rho t^\lambda = \frac{\Gamma(\lambda + 1)}{\Gamma(\lambda - \rho + 1)} t^{\lambda-\rho} \text{ and } D^\rho t^{\rho-i} = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

In particular, for the constant function  $u(t) = 1$ , we obtain

$$D^\rho 1 = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1 - \rho)} t^{-\rho}, \quad \rho \notin \mathbb{N}.$$

For  $\rho \in \mathbb{N}$ , we obtain, of course,  $D^\rho 1 = 0$  because of the poles of the gamma function at the points  $0, -1, -2, \dots$ . For  $\rho > 0$ , the general solution of the homogeneous equation  $D^\rho u(t) = 0$  in  $C(0, T) \cap L(0, T)$  is

$$u(t) = c_0 t^{\rho-n} + c_1 t^{\rho-n-1} + \dots + c_{n-2} t^{\rho-2} + c_{n-1} t^{\rho-1},$$

where  $c_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$ , are arbitrary real constants. Further, we always have  $D^\rho I^\rho u = u$ , and

$$I^\rho D^\rho u(t) = u(t) + c_0 t^{\rho-n} + c_1 t^{\rho-n-1} + \dots + c_{n-2} t^{\rho-2} + c_{n-1} t^{\rho-1}. \tag{2.1}$$

To define the solution for problem (1.1)-(1.2), we consider the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $h_1, h_2 \in C[0, T] \cap L[0, T]$ . Then the integral solution for the linear system of fractional differential equations:*

$$D^\alpha u(t) = h_1(t), \quad D^\beta v(t) = h_2(t), \tag{2.2}$$

supplemented with the boundary conditions (1.2) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} u(t) = & \frac{\nu \Gamma(\beta) t^{\alpha-1}}{\Delta} \left\{ \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta - s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha - 1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s - \tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} h_2(\tau) d\tau \right) ds \right. \\ & + \frac{\mu \eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)} \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma - s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta - 1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s - \tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} h_1(\tau) d\tau \right) ds \left. \right\} \\ & + \int_0^t \frac{(t - s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} h_1(s) ds, \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} v(t) = & \frac{\mu \Gamma(\alpha) t^{\beta-1}}{\Delta} \left\{ \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma - s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta - 1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s - \tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} h_1(\tau) d\tau \right) ds \right. \\ & + \frac{\nu \sigma^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)} \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta - s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha - 1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s - \tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} h_2(\tau) d\tau \right) ds \left. \right\} \\ & + \int_0^t \frac{(t - s)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} h_2(s) ds, \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

where

$$\Delta = \Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta) - \frac{\nu \mu \Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)(\eta \sigma)^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{(\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1))^2} \neq 0. \tag{2.5}$$

*Proof.* Using the formula (2.1), the general solution of the system (2.2) can be written as

$$u(t) = a_0 t^{\alpha-2} + a_1 t^{\alpha-1} + I^\alpha h_1(t), \tag{2.6}$$

$$v(t) = b_0 t^{\beta-2} + b_1 t^{\beta-1} + I^\beta h_2(t), \tag{2.7}$$

where  $a_i, b_i$ , ( $i = 0, 1$ ) are unknown arbitrary constants. From (2.6) and (2.7), we have

$$D^{\alpha-1}u(t) = a_1\Gamma(\alpha) + Ih_1(t), \quad (2.8)$$

$$D^{\beta-1}v(t) = b_1\Gamma(\beta) + Ih_2(t), \quad (2.9)$$

$$D^{\alpha-2}u(t) = a_0\Gamma(\alpha-1) + a_1\Gamma(\alpha)t + I^2h_1(t), \quad (2.10)$$

$$D^{\beta-2}v(t) = b_0\Gamma(\beta-1) + b_1\Gamma(\beta)t + I^2h_2(t). \quad (2.11)$$

Using the given conditions:  $D^{\alpha-2}u(0^+) = 0 = D^{\beta-2}v(0^+)$  in (2.10)-(2.11), we find that  $a_0 = 0, b_0 = 0$ . Thus (2.6) and (2.7) take the form

$$u(t) = a_1t^{\alpha-1} + I^\alpha h_1(t), \quad (2.12)$$

$$v(t) = b_1t^{\beta-1} + I^\beta h_2(t). \quad (2.13)$$

Using the coupled integral boundary conditions:  $D^{\alpha-1}u(0^+) = \nu I^{\alpha-1}v(\eta)$  and  $D^{\beta-1}v(0^+) = \mu I^{\beta-1}u(\sigma)$  in (2.8) and (2.9), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(\alpha)a_1 - \frac{\nu\Gamma(\beta)\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)}b_1 &= \nu I^{\alpha+\beta-1}h_2(\eta), \\ \frac{\mu\Gamma(\alpha)\sigma^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)}a_1 - \Gamma(\beta)b_2 &= -\mu I^{\alpha+\beta-1}h_1(\sigma). \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

Solving the system (2.14), we find that

$$a_1 = \frac{\nu}{\Delta} \left\{ \Gamma(\beta)I^{\alpha+\beta-1}h_2(\eta) + \frac{\mu\Gamma(\beta)\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)}I^{\alpha+\beta-1}h_1(\sigma) \right\}, \quad (2.15)$$

$$b_1 = \frac{\mu}{\Delta} \left\{ \Gamma(\alpha)I^{\alpha+\beta-1}h_1(\sigma) + \frac{\nu\Gamma(\alpha)\sigma^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)}I^{\alpha+\beta-1}h_2(\eta) \right\}, \quad (2.16)$$

where  $\Delta$  is given by (2.5). Substituting the values of  $a_1$  and  $b_1$  (from (2.15) and (2.16)) in (2.12) and (2.13), we obtain the solution (2.3)-(2.4). Note that the converse follows by direct computation. This completes the proof.  $\square$

The following lemma contains certain estimates that we need in the sequel. We do not provide the proof as it is based on simple computation.

**Lemma 2.4.** For  $h_1, h_2 \in C[0, T] \cap L[0, T]$  with  $\|h_1\| = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |h_1(t)|$  and  $\|h_2\| = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |h_2(t)|$ , we have

- (i)  $\left| \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma-s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} h_1(\tau) d\tau \right) ds \right| \leq \frac{\sigma^{\alpha+\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)} \|h_1\|.$
- (ii)  $\left| \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta-s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} h_2(\tau) d\tau \right) ds \right| \leq \frac{\eta^{\alpha+\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)} \|h_2\|.$
- (iii)  $\left| \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} h_1(s) ds \right| \leq \frac{T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} \|h_1\|.$
- (iv)  $\left| \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} h_2(s) ds \right| \leq \frac{T^\beta}{\Gamma(\beta+1)} \|h_2\|.$

3. EXISTENCE AND UNIQUENESS OF SOLUTIONS

Denote by  $X = \{x : x \in C([0, T], \mathbb{R})\}$  and  $Y = \{y : y \in C([0, T], \mathbb{R})\}$  the spaces equipped respectively with the norms  $\|x\|_X = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |x(t)|$  and  $\|y\|_Y = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |y(t)|$ . Observe that  $(X, \|\cdot\|_X)$  and  $(Y, \|\cdot\|_Y)$  are Banach spaces. In consequence, the product space  $(X \times Y, \|\cdot\|_{X \times Y})$  is a Banach space endowed with the norm  $\|(x, y)\|_{X \times Y} = \|x\|_X + \|y\|_Y$  for  $(x, y) \in X \times Y$ .

By Lemma 2.3, we define an operator  $F : X \times Y \rightarrow X \times Y$  associated with the problem (1.1)-(1.2) as follows:

$$F(u, v)(t) := (F_1(u, v)(t), F_2(u, v)(t)), \tag{3.1}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} F_1(u, v)(t) = & \frac{\nu\Gamma(\beta)t^{\alpha-1}}{\Delta} \left\{ \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta-s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha-1)} \right. \\ & \times \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} g(\tau, u(\tau), v(\tau), (\phi_2u)(\tau), (\psi_2v)(\tau)) d\tau \right) ds \\ & + \frac{\mu\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma-s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta-1)} \\ & \times \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} f(\tau, u(\tau), v(\tau), (\phi_1u)(\tau), (\psi_1v)(\tau)) d\tau \right) ds \Big\} \\ & + \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} f(s, u(s), v(s), (\phi_1u)(s), (\psi_1v)(s)) ds, \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_2(u, v)(t) = & \frac{\mu\Gamma(\alpha)t^{\beta-1}}{\Delta} \left\{ \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma-s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta-1)} \right. \\ & \times \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} f(\tau, u(\tau), v(\tau), (\phi_1u)(\tau), (\psi_1v)(\tau)) d\tau \right) ds \\ & + \frac{\nu\sigma^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta-s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha-1)} \\ & \times \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} g(\tau, u(\tau), v(\tau), (\phi_2u)(\tau), (\psi_2v)(\tau)) d\tau \right) ds \Big\} \\ & + \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} g(s, u(s), v(s), (\phi_2u)(s), (\psi_2v)(s)) ds. \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

For computational convenience, we set

$$\lambda = 1 + \gamma_0, \quad \bar{\lambda} = 1 + \bar{\gamma}_0, \tag{3.4}$$

$$\theta = 1 + \delta_0, \quad \bar{\theta} = 1 + \bar{\delta}_0, \tag{3.5}$$

$$\varepsilon_1 = T^{\alpha-1} \left\{ \frac{|\nu\mu|\Gamma(\beta)(\eta\sigma)^{\alpha+\beta-1}}{|\eta|\Delta|\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)} + \frac{T}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} \right\}, \tag{3.6}$$

$$\varepsilon_2 = \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)\eta^{\alpha+\beta-1}T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}, \tag{3.7}$$

$$\bar{\varepsilon}_1 = \frac{|\mu|\Gamma(\alpha)\sigma^{\alpha+\beta-1}T^{\beta-1}}{|\Delta|\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}, \tag{3.8}$$

$$\bar{\varepsilon}_2 = T^{\beta-1} \left\{ \frac{|\nu\mu|(\eta\sigma)^{\alpha+\beta-1}\Gamma(\alpha)}{|\sigma|\Delta|\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} + \frac{T}{\Gamma(\beta+1)} \right\}, \tag{3.9}$$

$$\Omega_1 = \varpi_0(\varepsilon_1 + \bar{\varepsilon}_1) + \kappa_0(\varepsilon_2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_2), \quad (3.10)$$

$$\Omega_2 = \lambda \max\{\varpi_1, \varpi_3\}(\varepsilon_1 + \bar{\varepsilon}_1) + \bar{\lambda} \max\{\kappa_1, \kappa_3\}(\varepsilon_2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_2), \quad (3.11)$$

$$\Omega_3 = \theta \max\{\varpi_2, \varpi_4\}(\varepsilon_1 + \bar{\varepsilon}_1) + \bar{\theta} \max\{\kappa_2, \kappa_4\}(\varepsilon_2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_2). \quad (3.12)$$

Observe that problem (1.1)-(1.2) has solutions if and only if the operator equation  $F(u, v) = (u, v)$  has a fixed point.

Now we are ready to present our first existence result, which is based on Leray-Schauder alternative.

**Lemma 3.1** (Leray-Schauder alternative [15]). *Let  $F : E \rightarrow E$  be a completely continuous operator. Let  $V(F) = \{x \in E : x = \lambda F(x) \text{ for some } 0 < \lambda < 1\}$ . Then either the set  $V(F)$  is unbounded or  $F$  has at least one fixed point.*

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $f, g : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be continuous functions and there exist real constants  $\varpi_i, \kappa_i \geq 0$  ( $i = 1, \dots, 4$ ) and  $\varpi_0, \kappa_0 > 0$  such that*

$$(H1) \quad \begin{aligned} &|f(t, u(t), v(t), (\phi_1 u)(t), (\psi_1 v)(t))| \leq \varpi_0 + \varpi_1|u| + \varpi_2|v| + \varpi_3|\phi_1 u| + \varpi_4|\psi_1 v|, \\ &|g(t, u(t), v(t), (\phi_2 u)(t), (\psi_2 v)(t))| \leq \kappa_0 + \kappa_1|u| + \kappa_2|v| + \kappa_3|\phi_2 u| + \kappa_4|\psi_2 v|, \end{aligned}$$

*for all  $(u, v) \in X \times Y$ .*

*Further it is assumed that  $\max\{\Omega_2, \Omega_3\} < 1$ , where  $\Omega_2$  and  $\Omega_3$  are given by (3.11) and (3.12) respectively. Then problem (1.1)-(1.2) has at least one solution on  $[0, T]$ .*

*Proof.* In the first step, we show that the operator  $F : X \times Y \rightarrow X \times Y$  defined by (3.1) is completely continuous. By continuity of the functions  $f$  and  $g$ , we deduce that the operators  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  respectively given by (3.2) and (3.3) are continuous. In consequence, the operator  $F$  is continuous. Next we show that the operator  $F$  is uniformly bounded. For that, let  $\mathcal{A} \subset X \times Y$  be a bounded set. Then, for any  $(u, v) \in \mathcal{A}$ , there exist positive constants  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  such that  $|f(t, u(t), v(t), (\phi_1 u)(t), (\psi_1 v)(t))| \leq L_1$ ,  $|g(t, u(t), v(t), (\phi_2 u)(t), (\psi_2 v)(t))| \leq L_2$ , for all  $(u, v) \in \mathcal{A}$ . Then, for any  $(u, v) \in \mathcal{A}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} &|F_1(u, v)(t)| \\ &\leq \frac{\Gamma(\beta)|\nu|t^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta-s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha-1)} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} |g(\tau, u(\tau), v(\tau), (\phi_2 u)(\tau), (\psi_2 v)(\tau))| d\tau \right) ds \\ &\quad + \frac{|\mu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma-s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta-1)} \\ &\quad \times \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(\tau, u(\tau), v(\tau), (\phi_1 u)(\tau), (\psi_1 v)(\tau))| d\tau \right) ds \Big\} \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(s, u(s), v(s), (\phi_1 u)(s), (\psi_1 v)(s))| ds, \\ &\leq \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ L_2 \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta-s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} d\tau \right) ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{|\mu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}L_1}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma-s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} d\tau \right) ds \right\} + L_1 \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} ds, \\ &\leq T^{\alpha-1}L_1 \left\{ \frac{|\nu\mu|(\eta\sigma)^{\alpha+\beta-1}\Gamma(\beta)}{|\eta|\Delta|\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)} + \frac{T}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} \right\} + \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)\eta^{\alpha+\beta-1}T^{\alpha-1}L_2}{|\Delta|\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}, \end{aligned}$$

which, on taking the norm for  $t \in [0, T]$  and using the notation (3.7), yields

$$\|F_1(u, v)\| \leq \varepsilon_1 L_1 + \varepsilon_2 L_2. \tag{3.13}$$

In a similar manner, we can find that

$$|F_2(u, v)(t)| \leq \frac{|\mu|\Gamma(\alpha)T^{\beta-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ \frac{L_1\sigma^{\alpha+\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)} + \frac{|\nu|L_2(\eta\sigma)^{\alpha+\beta-1}}{\sigma\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \right\} + \frac{L_2T^\beta}{\Gamma(\beta+1)},$$

which together with (3.8) and (3.9) implies

$$\|F_2(u, v)\| \leq \bar{\varepsilon}_1 L_1 + \bar{\varepsilon}_2 L_2. \tag{3.14}$$

From the inequalities (3.13) and (3.14), we infer that  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are uniformly bounded, and hence the operator  $F$  is uniformly bounded.

Next, we show that  $F$  is equicontinuous. Let  $t_1, t_2 \in [0, T]$  with  $t_1 < t_2$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & |F_1(u, v)(t_2) - F_1(u, v)(t_1)| \\ & \leq \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)|t_2^{\alpha-1} - t_1^{\alpha-1}|}{|\Delta|} \left\{ \frac{L_2\eta^{\alpha+\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)} + \frac{|\mu|(\eta\sigma)^{\alpha+\beta-1}L_1}{\eta\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)} \right\} \\ & \quad + \frac{L_1}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} (2(t_2 - t_1)^\alpha + |t_2^\alpha - t_1^\alpha|). \end{aligned}$$

Obviously  $|F_1(u, v)(t_2) - F_1(u, v)(t_1)| \rightarrow 0$  as  $t_2 \rightarrow t_1$ .

In a similar manner, one can show that  $|F_2(u, v)(t_2) - F_2(u, v)(t_1)| \rightarrow 0$  as  $t_2 \rightarrow t_1$ . Thus the operator  $F$  is equicontinuous in view of equicontinuity of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ . Therefore, by Arzela-Ascoli's theorem, we deduce that the operator  $F$  is compact (completely continuous).

Finally, we consider a set  $V(F) = \{(u, v) \in X \times Y : (u, v) = \lambda F(u, v) ; 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1\}$  and show that it is bounded. Let  $(u, v) \in V$ . Then  $(u, v) = \lambda F(u, v)$ . For any  $t \in [0, T]$ , we have  $u(t) = \lambda F_1(u, v)(t)$ ,  $v(t) = \lambda F_2(u, v)(t)$ . Using the assumption (H1) together with the notation (3.4) and (3.5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & |u(t)| \\ & \leq |\lambda| |F_1(u, v)(t)| \leq |F_1(u, v)(t)| \\ & \leq \frac{\Gamma(\beta)|\nu|t^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta-s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} [\kappa_0 + \kappa_1|u(\tau)| + \kappa_2|v(\tau)| \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + \kappa_3|(\phi_2u)(\tau)| + \kappa_4|(\psi_2v)(\tau)|] d\tau \right) ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{|\mu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma-s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} [\varpi_0 + \varpi_1|u(\tau)| + \varpi_2|v(\tau)| \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + \varpi_3|(\phi_1u)(\tau)| + \varpi_4|(\psi_1v)(\tau)|] d\tau \right) ds \right\} \\ & \quad + \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} [\varpi_0 + \varpi_1|u(s)| + \varpi_2|v(s)| + \varpi_3|(\phi_1u)(s)| + \varpi_4|(\psi_1v)(s)|] ds \\ & \leq \frac{\Gamma(\beta)|\nu|t^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta-s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} [\kappa_0 + (\kappa_1 + \bar{\gamma}_0\kappa_3)|u(\tau)| \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + (\kappa_2 + \bar{\delta}_0\kappa_4)|v(\tau)|] d\tau \right) ds \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{|\mu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma-s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} [\varpi_0 + (\varpi_1 + \gamma_0\varpi_3)|u(\tau)| \right. \right. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + (\varpi_2 + \delta_0 \varpi_4) |v(\tau)| d\tau \Big) ds \Big\} \\
& + \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} [\varpi_0 + (\varpi_1 + \gamma_0 \varpi_3) |u(s)| + (\varpi_2 + \delta_0 \varpi_4) |v(s)|] ds, \\
\leq & \frac{|\nu| \Gamma(\beta) T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ [\kappa_0 + \bar{\lambda} \max\{\kappa_1, \kappa_3\}] \|u\|_X \right. \\
& + \bar{\theta} \max\{\kappa_2, \kappa_4\} \|v\|_Y \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta-s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} d\tau \right) ds \\
& + \frac{|\mu| \eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma-s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta-1)} \left( [\varpi_0 + \lambda \max\{\varpi_1, \varpi_3\}] \|u\|_X \right. \\
& \left. + \theta \max\{\varpi_2, \varpi_4\} \|v\|_Y \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} d\tau \right) ds \Big\} \\
& + [\varpi_0 + \lambda \max\{\varpi_1, \varpi_3\}] \|u\|_X + \theta \max\{\varpi_2, \varpi_4\} \|v\|_Y \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} ds, \\
\leq & T^{\alpha-1} \left\{ \frac{|\nu\mu| (\eta\sigma)^{\alpha+\beta-1} \Gamma(\beta)}{\eta|\Delta| \Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1) \Gamma(\alpha+\beta)} + \frac{T}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} \right\} [\varpi_0 + \lambda \max\{\varpi_1, \varpi_3\}] \|u\|_X \\
& + \theta \max\{\varpi_2, \varpi_4\} \|v\|_Y \\
& + \frac{|\nu| \Gamma(\beta) \eta^{\alpha+\beta-1} T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta| \Gamma(\alpha+\beta)} [\kappa_0 + \bar{\lambda} \max\{\kappa_1, \kappa_3\}] \|u\|_X + \bar{\theta} \max\{\kappa_2, \kappa_4\} \|v\|_Y,
\end{aligned}$$

which, on taking the norm for  $t \in [0, T]$  and using (3.7), yields

$$\begin{aligned}
\|u\|_X \leq & \varepsilon_1 [\varpi_0 + \lambda \max\{\varpi_1, \varpi_3\}] \|u\|_X + \theta \max\{\varpi_2, \varpi_4\} \|v\|_Y + \varepsilon_2 [\kappa_0 \\
& + \bar{\lambda} \max\{\kappa_1, \kappa_3\}] \|u\|_X + \bar{\theta} \max\{\kappa_2, \kappa_4\} \|v\|_Y.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.15}$$

Similarly, with the aid of notation (3.4), (3.5) and (3.9), one can obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\|v\|_Y \leq & \bar{\varepsilon}_1 [\varpi_0 + \lambda \max\{\varpi_1, \varpi_3\}] \|u\|_X + \theta \max\{\varpi_2, \varpi_4\} \|v\|_Y + \bar{\varepsilon}_2 [\kappa_0 \\
& + \bar{\lambda} \max\{\kappa_1, \kappa_3\}] \|u\|_X + \bar{\theta} \max\{\kappa_2, \kappa_4\} \|v\|_Y.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.16}$$

From (3.15) and (3.16), we find that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|u\|_X + \|v\|_Y \\
& \leq \varpi_0 (\varepsilon_1 + \bar{\varepsilon}_1) + \kappa_0 (\varepsilon_2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_2) \\
& \quad + \left[ \lambda \max\{\varpi_1, \varpi_3\} (\varepsilon_1 + \bar{\varepsilon}_1) + \bar{\lambda} \max\{\kappa_1, \kappa_3\} (\varepsilon_2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_2) \right] \|u\|_X \\
& \quad + \left[ \theta \max\{\varpi_2, \varpi_4\} (\varepsilon_1 + \bar{\varepsilon}_1) + \bar{\theta} \max\{\kappa_2, \kappa_4\} (\varepsilon_2 + \bar{\varepsilon}_2) \right] \|v\|_Y, \\
& \leq \Omega_1 + \max\{\Omega_2, \Omega_3\} \|(u, v)\|_{X \times Y},
\end{aligned} \tag{3.17}$$

which, in view of  $\|(u, v)\|_{X \times Y} = \|u\|_X + \|v\|_Y$ , yields

$$\|(u, v)\|_{X \times Y} \leq \frac{\Omega_1}{1 - \max\{\Omega_2, \Omega_3\}},$$

where  $\Omega_1, \Omega_2, \Omega_3$  are respectively given by (3.10), (3.11) and (3.12). This shows that  $V(F)$  is bounded. Thus, by Lemma 3.1, the operator  $F$  has at least one fixed point. Consequently, the problem (1.1)-(1.2) has at least one solution on  $[0, T]$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

Our next result deals with the uniqueness of solutions for problem (1.1)-(1.2) and relies on Banach’s contraction mapping principle. For computational convenience, we introduce the notation:

$$\Lambda = \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ \xi_1(1 + \bar{\gamma}_0) + \xi_2(1 + \bar{\delta}_0) + \frac{|\mu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)} \left[ \zeta_1(1 + \gamma_0) + \zeta_2(1 + \delta_0) \right] \right\} + \bar{\zeta}_1(1 + \gamma_0) + \bar{\zeta}_2(1 + \delta_0), \tag{3.18}$$

$$\Lambda_1 = \frac{|\mu|\Gamma(\alpha)T^{\beta-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ \zeta_1(1 + \gamma_0) + \zeta_2(1 + \delta_0) + \frac{|\nu|\sigma^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)} \left[ \xi_1(1 + \bar{\gamma}_0) + \xi_2(1 + \bar{\delta}_0) \right] \right\} + \bar{\xi}_1(1 + \bar{\gamma}_0) + \bar{\xi}_2(1 + \bar{\delta}_0), \tag{3.19}$$

where

$$\zeta_1 = \max \left\{ |I^{\alpha+\beta-1}M_1(\sigma)|, |I^{\alpha+\beta-1}M_3(\sigma)| \right\},$$

$$\zeta_2 = \max \left\{ |I^{\alpha+\beta-1}M_2(\sigma)|, |I^{\alpha+\beta-1}M_4(\sigma)| \right\}, \tag{3.20}$$

$$\bar{\zeta}_1 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left\{ |I^\alpha M_1(t)|, |I^\alpha M_3(t)| \right\},$$

$$\bar{\zeta}_2 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left\{ |I^\alpha M_2(t)|, |I^\alpha M_4(t)| \right\}, \tag{3.21}$$

$$\xi_1 = \max \left\{ |I^{\alpha+\beta-1}N_1(\eta)|, |I^{\alpha+\beta-1}N_3(\eta)| \right\},$$

$$\xi_2 = \max \left\{ |I^{\alpha+\beta-1}N_2(\eta)|, |I^{\alpha+\beta-1}N_4(\eta)| \right\}, \tag{3.22}$$

$$\bar{\xi}_1 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left\{ |I^\beta N_1(t)|, |I^\beta N_3(t)| \right\},$$

$$\bar{\xi}_2 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left\{ |I^\beta N_2(t)|, |I^\beta N_4(t)| \right\}, \tag{3.23}$$

$$\gamma_0 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left| \int_0^t \gamma_1(t, s) ds \right|, \quad \bar{\gamma}_0 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left| \int_0^t \gamma_2(t, s) ds \right|, \tag{3.24}$$

$$\delta_0 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left| \int_0^t \delta_1(t, s) ds \right|, \quad \bar{\delta}_0 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left| \int_0^t \delta_2(t, s) ds \right|, \tag{3.25}$$

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_1 \varrho_1 + \varepsilon_2 \varrho_2, \quad \bar{\varepsilon} = \bar{\varepsilon}_1 \varrho_1 + \bar{\varepsilon}_2 \varrho_2, \quad \varrho_1 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |f(t, 0, 0, 0, 0)|,$$

$$\varrho_2 = \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |g(t, 0, 0, 0, 0)|, \tag{3.26}$$

where  $\varepsilon_i, \bar{\varepsilon}_i (i = 1, 2)$  are respectively given by (3.6)–(3.9).

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $f, g : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be continuous functions and there exist positive functions  $M_i(t), N_i(t) \geq 0 (i = 1, \dots, 4)$  such that*

$$|f(t, u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4) - f(t, v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4)| \leq \sum_{i=1}^4 M_i(t) |u_i - v_i|,$$

$$|g(t, u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4) - g(t, v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4)| \leq \sum_{i=1}^4 N_i(t) |u_i - v_i|,$$

for all  $t \in [0, T]$ ,  $u_i, v_i \in \mathbb{R}$ . In addition, assume that  $\Lambda < \frac{1}{2}$  and  $\Lambda_1 < \frac{1}{2}$ , where  $\Lambda$  and  $\Lambda_1$  are given by (3.18) and (3.19) respectively. Then boundary value problem (1.1)-(1.2) has a unique solution on  $[0, T]$ .

*Proof.* Let us fix  $r \geq \max\{2\varepsilon/(1 - 2\Lambda), 2\bar{\varepsilon}/(1 - 2\Lambda_1)\}$ , where  $\Lambda, \Lambda_1$ , and  $\varepsilon, \bar{\varepsilon}$  are respectively given by (3.18), (3.19) and (3.26). Firstly, we show that  $FB_r \subset B_r$ , where  $B_r = \{(u, v) \in X \times Y : \|(u, v)\|_{X \times Y} \leq r\}$  and  $F$  is given by (3.1). For  $(u, v) \in B_r$ , note that

$$\begin{aligned} & |f(t, u(t), v(t), (\phi_1 u)(t), (\psi_1 v)(t))| \\ & \leq |f(t, u(t), v(t), (\phi_1 u)(t), (\psi_1 v)(t)) - f(t, 0, 0, 0, 0)| + |f(t, 0, 0, 0, 0)| \\ & \leq M_1(t)|u(t)| + M_2(t)|v(t)| + M_3(t)|(\phi_1 u)(t)| + M_4(t)|(\psi_1 v)(t)| + \varrho_1 \\ & \leq M_1(t)|u(t)| + M_2(t)|v(t)| + \gamma_0 M_3(t)|u(t)| + \delta_0 M_4(t)|v(t)| + \varrho_1 \\ & \leq [M_1(t) + \gamma_0 M_3(t)]|u(t)| + [M_2(t) + \delta_0 M_4(t)]|v(t)| + \varrho_1 \\ & \leq (M_1(t) + M_2(t) + \gamma_0 M_3(t) + \delta_0 M_4(t))\|(u, v)\|_{X \times Y} + \varrho_1 \\ & \leq (M_1(t) + M_2(t) + \gamma_0 M_3(t) + \delta_0 M_4(t))r + \varrho_1. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, one can obtain

$$|g(t, u(t), v(t), (\phi_2 u)(t), (\psi_2 v)(t))| \leq (N_1(t) + N_2(t) + \bar{\gamma}_0 N_3(t) + \bar{\delta}_0 N_4(t))r + \varrho_2.$$

Then, using the notation (3.20), (3.21), (3.22) and (3.26), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & |F_1(u, v)(t)| \\ & \leq \frac{\Gamma(\beta)T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta-s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} (N_1(\tau) + N_2(\tau) \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + \bar{\gamma}_0 N_3(\tau) + \bar{\delta}_0 N_4(\tau))r + \varrho_2 \right) d\tau \right\} ds \\ & \quad + \frac{|\nu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma-s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta-1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s-\tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} (M_1(\tau) + M_2(\tau) + \gamma_0 M_3(\tau) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \delta_0 M_4(\tau))r + \varrho_1 \right) d\tau \right\} ds \\ & \quad + \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} (M_1(s) + M_2(s) + \gamma_0 M_3(s) + \delta_0 M_4(s))r + \varrho_1 \Big) ds \\ & \leq \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ I^{\alpha+\beta-1} (N_1(\eta) + \bar{\gamma}_0 N_3(\eta))r + I^{\alpha+\beta-1} (N_2(\eta) + \bar{\delta}_0 N_4(\eta))r \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{\eta^{\alpha+\beta-1}\varrho_2}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{|\mu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \left[ I^{\alpha+\beta-1} (M_1(\sigma) + \gamma_0 M_3(\sigma))r + I^{\alpha+\beta-1} (M_2(\sigma) + \delta_0 M_4(\sigma))r \right] \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{\rho_1|\mu|(\eta\sigma)^{\alpha+\beta-1}}{\eta\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-1)} \right\} + I^\alpha (M_1(t) + \gamma_0 M_3(t))r + I^\alpha (M_2(t) + \delta_0 M_4(t))r \\ & \quad + \frac{\varrho_1 T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq r \left\{ \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left( \xi_1(1 + \bar{\gamma}_0) + \xi_2(1 + \bar{\delta}_0) + \frac{|\mu|\zeta_1\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)}(1 + \gamma_0) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \frac{|\mu|\zeta_2\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)}(1 + \delta_0) \right) + \bar{\zeta}_1(1 + \gamma_0) + \bar{\zeta}_2(1 + \delta_0) \right\} \\ &\quad + \varrho_1 \left[ \frac{|\mu\nu|\Gamma(\beta)(\eta\sigma)^{\alpha+\beta-1}T^{\alpha-1}}{\eta|\Delta|\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)} + \frac{T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \right] + \varrho_2 \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)\eta^{\alpha+\beta-1}T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)}, \end{aligned}$$

which, in view of (3.18) and (3.26), implies

$$\|F_1(u, v)\|_X \leq \Lambda r + \varepsilon \leq \frac{r}{2}. \tag{3.27}$$

Analogously, using (3.19) and (3.26), we can obtain

$$\|F_2(u, v)\|_Y = \Lambda_1 r + \bar{\varepsilon} \leq \frac{r}{2}. \tag{3.28}$$

From the estimates (3.27) and (3.28), it clearly follows that

$$\|F(u, v)\|_{X \times Y} = \|F_1(u, v)\|_X + \|F_2(u, v)\|_Y \leq r,$$

and hence  $FB_r \subset B_r$ .

Now we show that the operator  $F$  is a contraction. For that, let  $u_i, v_i \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . Then, for each  $t \in [0, T]$ , it follows by (3.20)-(3.22) that

$$\begin{aligned} &|F_1(u_1, v_1)(t) - F_1(u_2, v_2)(t)| \\ &\leq \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ \int_0^\eta \frac{(\eta - s)^{\alpha-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha - 1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s - \tau)^{\beta-1}}{\Gamma(\beta)} |g(\tau, u_1(\tau), v_1(\tau), (\phi_2 u_1)(\tau), \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. (\psi_2 v_1)(\tau)) - g(\tau, u_2(\tau), v_2(\tau), (\phi_2 u_2)(\tau), (\psi_2 v_2)(\tau))| d\tau \right) ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{|\mu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)} \int_0^\sigma \frac{(\sigma - s)^{\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\beta - 1)} \left( \int_0^s \frac{(s - \tau)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(\tau, u_1(\tau), v_1(\tau), (\phi_1 u_1)(\tau), \right. \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. (\psi_1 v_1)(\tau)) - f(\tau, u_2(\tau), v_2(\tau), (\phi_1 u_2)(\tau), (\psi_1 v_2)(\tau))| d\tau \right) ds \right\} \\ &\quad + \int_0^t \frac{(t - s)^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(s, u_1(s), v_1(s), (\phi_1 u_1)(s), (\psi_1 v_1)(s)) \\ &\quad - f(s, u_2(s), v_2(s), (\phi_1 u_2)(s), (\psi_1 v_2)(s))| ds \\ &\leq \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left\{ I^{\alpha+\beta-1} \left( N_1(\eta) + \bar{\gamma}_0 N_3(\eta) \right) \|u_1 - u_2\|_X \right. \\ &\quad \left. + I^{\alpha+\beta-1} \left( N_2(\eta) + \bar{\delta}_0 N_4(\eta) \right) \|v_1 - v_2\|_Y \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{|\mu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)} \left[ I^{\alpha+\beta-1} \left( M_1(\sigma) + \gamma_0 M_3(\sigma) \right) \|u_1 - u_2\|_X \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + I^{\alpha+\beta-1} \left( M_2(\sigma) + \delta_0 M_4(\sigma) \right) \|v_1 - v_2\|_Y \right] \right\} \\ &\quad + I^\alpha \left( M_1(t) + \gamma_0 M_3(t) \right) \|u_1 - u_2\|_X + I^\alpha \left( M_2(t) + \delta_0 M_4(t) \right) \|v_1 - v_2\|_Y \\ &\leq \left\{ \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left[ \xi_1(1 + \bar{\gamma}_0) + \frac{|\mu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}\zeta_1}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)}(1 + \gamma_0) \right] + \bar{\zeta}_1(1 + \gamma_0) \right\} \|u_1 - u_2\|_X \\ &\quad + \left\{ \frac{|\nu|\Gamma(\beta)T^{\alpha-1}}{|\Delta|} \left[ \xi_2(1 + \bar{\delta}_0) + \frac{|\mu|\eta^{\alpha+\beta-2}\zeta_2}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta - 1)}(1 + \delta_0) \right] + \bar{\zeta}_2(1 + \delta_0) \right\} \|v_1 - v_2\|_Y, \end{aligned}$$

which yields

$$\|F_1(u_1, v_1) - F_1(u_2, v_2)\|_X \leq \Lambda[\|u_1 - u_2\|_X + \|v_1 - v_2\|_Y], \quad (3.29)$$

where we have used (3.18). Similarly, we can find that

$$\|F_2(u_1, v_1) - F_2(u_2, v_2)\|_Y \leq \Lambda_1[\|u_1 - u_2\|_X + \|v_1 - v_2\|_Y], \quad (3.30)$$

where we have used (3.19). Thus, from (3.29) and (3.30), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|F(u_1, v_1) - F(u_2, v_2)\|_{X \times Y} \\ &= \|F_1(u_1, v_1) - F_1(u_2, v_2)\|_X + \|F_2(u_1, v_1) - F_2(u_2, v_2)\|_Y \\ &\leq (\Lambda + \Lambda_1)[\|u_1 - u_2\|_X + \|v_1 - v_2\|_Y], \end{aligned}$$

which implies that  $F$  is a contraction in view of the given condition  $\Lambda + \Lambda_1 < 1$ . Hence, by Banach's fixed point theorem, the operator  $F$  has a unique fixed point which corresponds to the unique solution of the problem (1.1)-(1.2) on  $[0, T]$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Example.** Consider the boundary-value problem

$$\begin{aligned} D^{3/2}u(t) &= \frac{\sqrt{t^2+1}}{10} + \frac{t^2}{15}|u(t)| + \frac{t^2}{10}\tan^{-1}v(t) \\ &\quad + \frac{t}{25}\int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{1/2}}{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2})}u(s)ds + \frac{1}{25}\int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{1/3}}{\Gamma(\frac{4}{3})}v(s)ds, \\ D^{5/4}v(t) &= \frac{e^t}{80}(|\sin u(t)| + 1) + \frac{1}{20}|v(t)| \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{80}\int_0^t \frac{e^{-(s-t)}}{50}u(s)ds + \frac{t}{20}\int_0^t \frac{e^{-(s-t)/2}}{140}v(s)ds, \quad 0 < t < 1 \\ D^{-1/2}u(0^+) &= 0, \quad D^{1/2}u(0^+) = -I^{1/2}(1/2), \\ D^{-3/4}v(0^+) &= 0, \quad D^{1/4}v(0^+) = -2I^{1/4}(1/4). \end{aligned} \quad (3.31)$$

Here,  $\alpha = 3/2$ ,  $\beta = 5/4$ ,  $v = -1$ ,  $\mu = -2$ ,  $\eta = 1/2$ ,  $\sigma = 1/4$ ,  $T = 1$ ,  $\gamma_1 = (t-s)^{1/2}/\Gamma(3/2)$ ,  $\delta_1 = (t-s)^{1/3}/\Gamma(4/3)$ ,  $\gamma_2 = e^{-(s-t)}/50$ ,  $\delta_2 = e^{-(s-t)/2}/140$ ,  $M_1(t) = t^2/15$ ,  $M_2(t) = t^2/10$ ,  $M_3(t) = t/25$ ,  $M_4(t) = 1/25$ ,  $N_1(t) = e^t/80$ ,  $N_2(t) = 1/20$ ,  $N_3(t) = 1/80$ ,  $N_4(t) = t/20$ . Using the given data, we find that  $\gamma_0 \simeq 0.75225$ ,  $\delta_0 \simeq 0.83988$ ,  $\bar{\gamma}_0 \simeq 0.03437$ ,  $\bar{\delta}_0 \simeq 0.00927$ ,  $\Delta \simeq 1.20312$ ,  $\zeta_1 \simeq 0.00489$ ,  $\zeta_2 \simeq 0.00733$ ,  $\bar{\zeta}_1 \simeq 0.05015$ ,  $\bar{\zeta}_2 \simeq 0.07523$ ,  $\xi_1 \simeq 0.01006$ ,  $\xi_2 \simeq 0.01480$ ,  $\bar{\xi}_1 \simeq 0.11841$ ,  $\bar{\xi}_2 \simeq 0.04413$ . Further,  $\Lambda \simeq 0.26689 < 1/2$ , and  $\Lambda_1 \simeq 0.21388 < 1/2$ . Thus, by Theorem 3.3, problem (3.31) has a unique solution on  $[0, 1]$ .

## REFERENCES

- [1] B. Ahmad, J. J. Nieto; Riemann-Liouville fractional integro-differential equations with fractional nonlocal integral boundary conditions, *Bound. Value Probl.* (2011), 2011:36, 9 pp.
- [2] B. Ahmad, J. J. Nieto; Riemann-Liouville fractional differential equations with fractional boundary conditions, *Fixed Point Theory* **13** (2012), 329-336.
- [3] B. Ahmad, S. K. Ntouyas; Initial value problems of fractional order Hadamard-type functional differential equations, *Electron. J. Differential Equations* 2015, No. 77, 9 pp.
- [4] B. Ahmad, J. J. Nieto; Existence results for a coupled system of nonlinear fractional differential equations with three-point boundary conditions, *Comput. Math. Appl.* **58** (2009), 1838-1843.

- [5] B. Ahmad, S. K. Ntouyas; Existence results for a coupled system of Caputo type sequential fractional differential equations with nonlocal integral boundary conditions, *Appl. Math. Comput.* **266** (2015), 615-622.
- [6] S. Aljoudi, B. Ahmad, J. J. Nieto, A. Alsaedi; A coupled system of Hadamard type sequential fractional differential equations with coupled strip conditions, *Chaos Solitons Fractals* **91** (2016), 39-46.
- [7] A. A. M. Arafa, S. Z. Rida, M. Khalil; Fractional modeling dynamics of HIV and CD4+ T-cells during primary infection, *Nonlinear Biomed Phys.* (2012), 6:1, 7 pages.
- [8] Z. B. Bai, W. Sun; Existence and multiplicity of positive solutions for singular fractional boundary value problems, *Comput. Math. Appl.* **63** (2012), 1369-1381.
- [9] A. Carvalho, C. M. A. Pinto; A delay fractional order model for the co-infection of malaria and HIV/AIDS, *Int. J. Dynam. Control*, (2016) DOI 10.1007/s40435-016-0224-3.
- [10] Y. Ding, Z. Wang, H. Ye; Optimal control of a fractional-order HIV-immune system with memory, *IEEE Trans. Contr. Sys. Techn.* **20** (2012), 763-769.
- [11] Y. Ding, Z. Wei, J. Xu, D. O'Regan; Extremal solutions for nonlinear fractional boundary value problems with  $p$ -Laplacian, *J. Comput. Appl. Math.* **288** (2015), 151-158.
- [12] M. Faieghi, S. Kuntanapreeda, H. Delavari, D. Baleanu; LMI-based stabilization of a class of fractional-order chaotic systems, *Nonlinear Dynam.* **72** (2013), 301-309.
- [13] Z. M. Ge, C. Y. Ou; Chaos synchronization of fractional order modified Duffing systems with parameters excited by a chaotic signal, *Chaos Solitons Fractals* **35** (2008), 705-717.
- [14] J. R. Graef, L. Kong, Q. Kong; Application of the mixed monotone operator method to fractional boundary value problems, *Fract. Calc. Differ. Calc.* **2** (2011), 554-567.
- [15] A. Granas, J. Dugundji; *Fixed Point Theory*, Springer-Verlag, New York, 2003.
- [16] J. Henderson, N. Kosmatov; Eigenvalue comparison for fractional boundary value problems with the Caputo derivative, *Fract. Calc. Appl. Anal.* **17** (2014), 872-880.
- [17] J. Henderson, R. Luca; Nonexistence of positive solutions for a system of coupled fractional boundary value problems, *Bound. Value Probl.* (2015), 2015:138, 12 pp.
- [18] M. Javidi, B. Ahmad; Dynamic analysis of time fractional order phytoplankton-toxic phytoplankton-zooplankton system, *Ecological Modelling*, 318 (2015), 8-18.
- [19] M. Jia, H. Zhang, Q. Chen; Existence of positive solutions for fractional differential equation with integral boundary conditions on the half-line, *Bound. Value Probl.* (2016), 2016:104, 16 pp.
- [20] A. A. Kilbas, H. M. Srivastava, J. J. Trujillo; *Theory and Applications of Fractional Differential Equations*, North-Holland Mathematics Studies, 204. Elsevier Science B. V., Amsterdam, 2006.
- [21] M. Kirane, B. Ahmad, A. Alsaedi, M. Al-Yami; Non-existence of global solutions to a system of fractional diffusion equations, *Acta Appl. Math.* **133** (2014), 235-248.
- [22] J. Klafter, S. C. Lim, R. Metzler (Editors); *Fractional Dynamics in Physics*, World Scientific, Singapore, 2011.
- [23] B. Li, S. Sun, Y. Li, P. Zhao; Multi-point boundary value problems for a class of Riemann-Liouville fractional differential equations, *Adv. Difference Equ.* (2014), 2014:151, 11 pp.
- [24] R.L. Magin; *Fractional Calculus in Bioengineering*, Begell House Publishers, 2006.
- [25] R. Metzler, J. Klafter; The random walks guide to anomalous diffusion: a fractional dynamics approach, *Phys. Rep.* **339** (2000), 1-77.
- [26] N. Nyamoradi, M. Javidi, B. Ahmad; Dynamics of SVEIS epidemic model with distinct incidence, *Int. J. Biomath.* **8** (2015), no. 6, 1550076, 19 pp.
- [27] I. Petras, R. L. Magin; Simulation of drug uptake in a two compartmental fractional model for a biological system, *Commun Nonlinear Sci Numer Simul.* **16** (2011), 4588-4595.
- [28] Y. Z. Povstenko; *Fractional Thermoelasticity*, Springer, New York, 2015.
- [29] F. Punzo, G. Terrone; On the Cauchy problem for a general fractional porous medium equation with variable density, *Nonlinear Anal.* **98** (2014), 27-47.
- [30] J. Sabatier, O. P. Agrawal, J. A. T. Machado (Eds.); *Advances in Fractional Calculus: Theoretical Developments and Applications in Physics and Engineering*, Springer, Dordrecht, 2007.
- [31] B. Senol, C. Yeroglu; Frequency boundary of fractional order systems with nonlinear uncertainties, *J. Franklin Inst.* **350** (2013), 1908-1925.
- [32] I. M. Sokolov, J. Klafter, A. Blumen; Fractional kinetics, *Phys. Today* **55** (2002), 48-54.

- [33] J. Sun, Y. Liu, G. Liu; Existence of solutions for fractional differential systems with antiperiodic boundary conditions, *Comput. Math. Appl.* **64** (2012), 1557-1566.
- [34] J. Tariboon, S. K. Ntouyas, W. Sudsutad; Coupled systems of Riemann-Liouville fractional differential equations with Hadamard fractional integral boundary conditions, *J. Nonlinear Sci. Appl.* **9** (2016), 295-308.
- [35] P. Thiramanus, S. K. Ntouyas, J. Tariboon; Existence of solutions for Riemann-Liouville fractional differential equations with nonlocal Erdlyi-Kober integral boundary conditions on the half-line, *Bound. Value Probl.* (2015), 2015:196, 15 pp.
- [36] J. R. Wang, Y. Zhang; Analysis of fractional order differential coupled systems, *Math. Methods Appl. Sci.* **38** (2015), 3322-3338.
- [37] C. Zhai, L. Xu; Properties of positive solutions to a class of four-point boundary value problem of Caputo fractional differential equations with a parameter, *Commun. Nonlinear Sci. Numer. Simul.* **19** (2014), 2820-2827.
- [38] F. Zhang, G. Chen C. Li, J. Kurths; Chaos synchronization in fractional differential systems, *Phil Trans R Soc A* **371** (2013), 20120155.
- [39] L. Zhang, B. Ahmad, G. Wang; Successive iterations for positive extremal solutions of nonlinear fractional differential equations on a half line, *Bull. Aust. Math. Soc.* **91** (2015), 116-128.

AHMED ALSAEDI

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY, P.O. BOX 80203, JEDDAH 21589, SAUDI ARABIA

*E-mail address:* [aalsaedi@hotmail.com](mailto:aalsaedi@hotmail.com)

SHOROG ALJOUDI

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY, P.O. BOX 80203, JEDDAH 21589, SAUDI ARABIA

*E-mail address:* [sh-aljoudi@hotmail.com](mailto:sh-aljoudi@hotmail.com)

BASHIR AHMAD

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, FACULTY OF SCIENCE, KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY, P.O. BOX. 80203, JEDDAH 21589, SAUDI ARABIA

*E-mail address:* [bashirahmad.qau@yahoo.com](mailto:bashirahmad.qau@yahoo.com)