

CONTENTS

- B.N. Biyarov*
Similar transformation of one class of well-defined restrictions..... 8
- M.I. Dyachenko, A.P. Solodov*
Some new approaches in the theory of trigonometric series with monotone coefficients..... 22
- E.H. Khalilov*
Constructive method for solving of one class of curvilinear integral equations of the first kind..... 32
- A. El Mfadel, S. Melliani*
Measure of noncompactness approach to nonlinear fractional pantograph differential equations..... 49
- K.T. Mynbaev, E.N. Lomakina*
Two-weight Hardy inequality on topological measure spaces..... 60
- T. Ozawa, P. Roychowdhury, D. Suragan*
One-dimensional integral Rellich type inequalities..... 86

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MEASURE OF NONCOMPACTNESS APPROACH TO NONLINEAR
FRACTIONAL PANTOGRAPH DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

A. El Mfadel, S. Melliani

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Abstract. The aim of this manuscript is to explore the existence and uniqueness of solutions for a class of nonlinear Ψ -Caputo fractional pantograph differential equations subject to nonlocal conditions. The proofs rely on key results in topological degree theory for condensing maps, coupled with the method of measures of noncompactness and essential tools in Ψ -fractional calculus. To support the theoretical findings, a nontrivial example is presented as an application.

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1 Introduction

The fractional calculus which permits the integration and differentiation of functions with non-integer orders, is one of the fastest-growing fields of mathematics due to the discovery that fractional operators were utilized in mathematical modeling, see [10, 19, 20, 27, 29]. Fractional differential equations, which can be used to model and describe non-homogeneous physical events, have recently attracted a lot of attention, particularly initial and boundary value problems for nonlinear fractional differential equations. Different researchers have found some interesting solutions to initial and boundary value problems for fractional differential equations involving various fractional derivatives, including their existence and uniqueness, such as Riemann-Liouville [23], Caputo [3], Hilfer [24], Erdelyi-Kober [25] and Hadamard [2]. There is a certain type of kernel dependency included in all those definitions. Therefore, a fractional derivative with respect to another function known as the Ψ -Caputo derivative was introduced in order to study fractional differential equations in a general manner. For specific selections of Ψ , we can obtain some well-known fractional derivatives, such as the Caputo, Caputo-Hadamard, or Caputo-Erdelyi-Kober fractional derivatives, which depend on a kernel. From the viewpoint of applications, this approach also seems appropriate. With the help of a good selection of a "trial" function Ψ , the Ψ -Caputo fractional derivative allows some measure of control over the modeling of the phenomenon under consideration. Almeida et al. [5] investigated the existence and uniqueness results for nonlinear fractional differential equations involving a Ψ -Caputo-type fractional derivative by using fixed point theorems and Picard iteration method. For more details, the reader can also consult [7, 16, 17, 18, 28] and references therein. In particular, the pantograph equation was employed as a useful tool to shed light on some of the modern problems originating from several scientific disciplines, including electrodynamics, probability, quantum mechanics, and number theory. However, a substantial investigation on the characteristics of this type of fractional differential equation, both analytical and numerical, has been done, and intriguing findings have been published in [1, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15].

Inspired by the above recent results, in this paper, we investigate the existence and uniqueness of solutions to the following nonlinear pantograph differential equation with Ψ -Caputo type fractional derivatives of order $\beta \in (1, 2)$:

$$\begin{cases} {}^C D_{0+}^{\beta, \Psi} u(t) = h(t, u(t), u(\varepsilon t)), & t \in J = [0, T], \\ u'(0) = 0, \quad u(0) + \omega(u) = u_0, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where ${}^C D_{0+}^{\beta, \Psi}$ is the Ψ -Caputo fractional derivative of u of order β , $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, $T > 0$, $h \in C(J \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$, $u_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\omega : C(J) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a nonlocal term satisfying some given conditions, which will be stated in Section 3. For more details we refer the reader to [14, 15].

To the best of the authors' knowledge, topological degree theory for condensing maps has not been applied to nonlinear pantograph differential equations with Ψ -Caputo fractional derivatives.

The structure of this paper is as follows. In Section 2, we give some basic definitions and preliminary results that we will need to prove our main results. In Section 3, we prove the existence of solutions for pantograph equation (1.1). After that, we give a concrete example to illustrate our main results in Section 4 and the last Section 5 contains conclusions on the results obtained in the paper.

2 Basic concepts

This section deals with some preliminaries and notations which are used throughout this paper. For more details we refer the reader to [4].

Definition 1. [5] Let $q > 0$, $g \in L^1(J, \mathbb{R})$ and $\Psi \in C^n(J, \mathbb{R})$ be such that $\Psi'(t) > 0$ for all $t \in J$. The Ψ -Riemann-Liouville fractional integral of order q of a function g is given by

$$I_{0+}^{q, \Psi} g(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_0^t \Psi'(s) (\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{q-1} g(s) ds, \quad (2.1)$$

where $\Gamma(\cdot)$ is the Euler Gamma function.

Definition 2. [5] Let $q > 0$, $g \in C^{n-1}(J, \mathbb{R})$ and $\Psi \in C^n(J, \mathbb{R})$ such that $\Psi'(t) > 0$ for all $t \in J$. The Ψ -Caputo fractional derivative of order q of a function g is given by

$${}^C D_{0+}^{q, \Psi} g(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-q)} \int_0^t \Psi'(s) (\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{n-q-1} g_{\Psi}^{\{n\}}(s) ds, \quad (2.2)$$

where $g_{\Psi}^{\{n\}}(s) = \left(\frac{1}{\Psi'(s)} \frac{d}{ds} \right)^n g(s)$ and $n = [q] + 1$ ($[q]$ denotes the integer part of the real number q).

Remark 1. In particular, if $q \in]0, 1[$, then we have

$${}^C D_{0+}^{q, \Psi} g(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_0^t (\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{q-1} g'(s) ds,$$

and

$${}^C D_{0+}^{q, \Psi} g(t) = I_{0+}^{1-q, \Psi} \left(\frac{g'(t)}{\Psi'(t)} \right).$$

Proposition 2.1. [5] *Let $q > 0$, if $g \in C^{n-1}(J, \mathbb{R})$, then we have*

- 1) ${}^C D_{0+}^{q,\Psi} I_{0+}^{q,\Psi} g(t) = g(t).$
- 2) $I_{0+}^{q,\Psi} {}^C D_{0+}^{q,\Psi} g(t) = g(t) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{g_{\Psi}^{[k]}(0)}{k!} (\Psi(t) - \Psi(0))^k.$
- 3) $I_{0+}^{q,\Psi}$ is linear and bounded from $\mathcal{C}$ to $\mathcal{C}$.

Proposition 2.2. [5] *Let $\mu > \nu > 0$ and $t \in J$, then*

- 1) $I_{0+}^{\mu,\Psi} (\Psi(t) - \Psi(0))^{\nu-1} = \frac{\Gamma(\nu)}{\Gamma(\mu + \nu)} (\Psi(t) - \Psi(0))^{\mu+\nu-1}.$
- 2) $D_{0+}^{\mu,\Psi} (\Psi(t) - \Psi(0))^{\nu-1} = \frac{\Gamma(\nu)}{\Gamma(\nu - \mu)} (\Psi(t) - \Psi(0))^{\nu-\mu-1}.$
- 3) $D_{0+}^{\mu,\Psi} (\Psi(t) - \Psi(0))^k = 0, \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}.$

Definition 3. [11] Let X be a Banach space with the norm $\|\cdot\|$ and $\mathfrak{B}_X$ be the family of all non-empty and bounded subsets of X . The Kuratowski measure of non-compactness is the mapping $\rho : \mathfrak{B}_X \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ defined by: for any $A \in \mathfrak{B}_X$

$$\rho(A) = \inf \{ r > 0 : A \text{ admits a finite cover by sets of diameter } \leq r \}.$$

Proposition 2.3. [11] *The Kuratowski measure of noncompactness ρ satisfies the following assertions: for any $A, A_1, A_2 \in \mathfrak{B}_X$*

1. $\rho(A) = 0$ if and only if A is relatively compact.
2. $\rho(kA) = |k|\rho(A), \quad k \in \mathbb{R}.$
3. $\rho(A_1 + A_2) \leq \rho(A_1) + \rho(A_2).$
4. If $A_1 \subset A_2$ then $\rho(A_1) \leq \rho(A_2).$
5. $\rho(A_1 \cup A_2) = \max\{\rho(A_1), \rho(A_2)\}.$
6. $\rho(A) = \rho(\bar{A}) = \rho(\text{conv}A)$ where $\bar{A}$ and $\text{conv}A$ denote the closure and the convex hull of A , respectively.

Definition 4. [11] Let $\varphi : \Omega \subset X \rightarrow X$ be a continuous bounded map. We say that φ is ρ -Lipschitz if there exists $l \geq 0$ such that

$$\rho(\varphi(A)) \leq l\rho(A), \quad \text{for every } A \subset \Omega.$$

Moreover, if $l < 1$ then we say that φ is a strict ρ -contraction.

Definition 5. [11] We say that a function ω is ρ -condensing if

$$\rho(\omega(A)) < \rho(A),$$

for every bounded subset A of Ω with $\rho(A) > 0$. In other words

$$\rho(\omega(A)) \geq \rho(A) \Rightarrow \rho(A) = 0.$$

Definition 6. [11] We say that a function $g : \Omega \rightarrow X$ is Lipschitz if there exists $l > 0$ such that

$$\|g(u) - g(v)\| \leq l \|u - v\|, \quad \text{for all } u, v \in \Omega.$$

Moreover, if $l < 1$ then we say that g is a strict contraction.

Lemma 2.1. [11] If $L, F : \Omega \rightarrow X$ are ρ -Lipschitz mappings with the constants l_1 respectively l_2 , then the mapping $F + L : \Omega \rightarrow X$ is ρ -Lipschitz with the constant $l_1 + l_2$.

Lemma 2.2. [11] If $g : \Omega \rightarrow X$ is compact, then g is ρ -Lipschitz with constant $c = 0$.

Lemma 2.3. [11] If $g : \Omega \rightarrow X$ is Lipschitz with constant l , then g is ρ -Lipschitz with the same constant l .

Theorem 2.1. (See Isaia [22]). Let $\mathcal{H} : X \rightarrow X$ be ρ -condensing and

$$\mathcal{E}_\gamma = \{x \in X : x = \gamma \mathcal{H}x \text{ for some } 0 \leq \gamma \leq 1\}.$$

If $\mathcal{E}_\gamma$ is a bounded set in X , then there exists $r > 0$ such that $\mathcal{S}_\gamma \subset B_r = \{x \in X : \|x\| \leq r\}, r > 0$, and we have

$$\deg(I - \delta \mathcal{H}, B_r, 0) = 1, \quad \forall \delta \in [0, 1],$$

where $\deg(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$ denotes the topological degree in the sense of Leray-Schauder.

As a consequence, the operator $\mathcal{H}$ has at least one fixed point and the set of all fixed points of $\mathcal{H}$ lies in B_r .

3 Main results

We start this section by introducing necessary notations and hypotheses on the functions $\omega \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ and $h \in C(J \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$, entering equation (1.1).

- We denote by $\mathcal{C} := C(J, \mathbb{R})$ the space of continuous real-valued functions defined on J provided with the maximum norm

$$\|u\| = \max_{t \in J} |u(t)|.$$

- We denote by B_η the closed ball in $\mathcal{C}$ centred at 0 of radius $\eta > 0$.

(H₁) There exists a constant $L_\omega > 0$ such that

$$|\omega(u) - \omega(v)| \leq L_\omega \|u - v\|, \quad \text{for each } u, v \in \mathcal{C}.$$

(H₂) There exist two constants $K_\omega, M_\omega > 0$ and $q \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$|\omega(u)| \leq K_\omega \|u\|^q + M_\omega \quad \text{for each } u \in \mathcal{C}.$$

(H₃) There exist two constants $K_h, M_h > 0$ and $p \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$|h(t, u(t), u(\varepsilon t))| \leq K_h \|u(t)\|^p + M_h \quad \text{for each } u \in \mathcal{C}, \varepsilon \in (0, 1).$$

Lemma 3.1. A function $u \in \mathcal{C}$ is a solution of (1.1) if and only if u satisfies the following fractional integral equation

$$u(t) = u_0 - \omega(u) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_0^t \Psi'(s) (\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1} h(s, u(s), u(\varepsilon s)) ds, \quad t \in J. \quad (3.1)$$

Proof. Let u be a solution to (1.1), then by applying Ψ -fractional integral $I_{0+}^{\beta, \Psi}$ to both sides of (1.1) we obtain

$$I_{0+}^{\beta, \Psi} {}^C D_{0+}^{\beta, \Psi} u(t) = I_{0+}^{\beta, \Psi} h(t, u(t), u(\varepsilon t)),$$

and by employing Proposition 2.1 we get

$$u(t) = c_0 + (\Psi(t) - \Psi(0))c_1 + I_{0+}^{\beta, \Psi} h(t, u(t), u(\varepsilon t)),$$

where $c_0, c_1 \in \mathbb{R}$, hence,

$$u'(t) = c_1 \Psi'(t) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_0^t (\Psi'(s)(\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1} h(s, u(s), u(\varepsilon s)))'_t ds.$$

Since $u(0) + \omega(u) = u_0$ and $u'(0) = 0$, then $c_0 = u_0 - \omega(u)$ and $c_1 = 0$. Hence, (3.1) holds.

Conversely, by simple calculus, it is clear that if u satisfies (3.1), then (1.1) holds. $\square$

To prove that (3.1) has at least one solution $u \in \mathcal{C}$, we consider two operators $\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{A} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ defined by

$$\mathcal{A}u(t) = u_0 - \omega(u(t)), \quad t \in J, \quad (3.2)$$

and

$$\mathcal{B}u(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_0^t \Psi'(s)(\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1} h(s, u(s), u(\varepsilon s)) ds, \quad t \in J, \quad (3.3)$$

thus (3.1) can be formulated as follows

$$u(t) = \mathcal{F}u(t) := \mathcal{A}u(t) + \mathcal{B}u(t), \quad t \in J. \quad (3.4)$$

Theorem 3.1. *Assume that hypotheses $(H_1) - (H_3)$ are satisfied, then fractional pantograph differential equation (1.1) has at least one solution $u \in C(J, \mathbb{R})$. Moreover, the set of all solutions to (1.1) is bounded in $C(J, \mathbb{R})$.*

In order to prove the Theorem 3.1, we will need to show some lemmas and preliminary results under the assumption that hypotheses $(H_1) - (H_3)$ are satisfied.

Lemma 3.2. *The operator $\mathcal{A}$ is ρ -Lipschitz with the constant L_ω . Moreover, $\mathcal{A}$ satisfies the following inequality:*

$$\|\mathcal{A}u\| \leq |u_0| + K_\omega \|u\|^q + M_\omega, \text{ for every } u \in \mathcal{C}. \quad (3.5)$$

Proof. To prove that the operator $\mathcal{A}$ is Lipschitz with the constant L_ω , we argue as follows.

Let $u, v \in \mathcal{C}$, then we have

$$|\mathcal{A}u(t) - \mathcal{A}v(t)| \leq |\omega(u) - \omega(v)|,$$

by using hypothesis (H_1) we get

$$|\mathcal{A}u(t) - \mathcal{A}v(t)| \leq L_\omega \|u - v\|.$$

Taking supremum over t , we obtain

$$\|\mathcal{A}u - \mathcal{A}v\| \leq L_\omega \|u - v\|,$$

hence, $\mathcal{A}$ is Lipschitz with the constant L_ω . By using Lemma 2.3, it follows that $\mathcal{A}$ is ρ -Lipschitz with the same constant L_ω .

To prove (3.5), let $u \in \mathcal{C}$, then we have

$$|\mathcal{A}u(t)| = |u_0 - \omega(u)| \leq |u_0| + |\omega(u)|,$$

by using assumption (H_2) we get

$$\|\mathcal{A}u\| \leq |u_0| + K_\omega \|u\|^q + M_\omega.$$

□

Lemma 3.3. *The operator $\mathcal{B}$ is continuous and the following inequality holds*

$$\|\mathcal{B}u\| \leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta+1)}(K_\omega \|u\|^p + M_\omega)(\Psi(T) - \Psi(0))^\beta, \quad \forall u \in \mathcal{C}. \quad (3.6)$$

Proof. To prove that the operator $\mathcal{B}$ is continuous, let a sequence $\{u_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathcal{C}$ converge to u in $\mathcal{C}$, it follows that there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $\|u_n\| \leq \delta$ and $\|u\| \leq \delta$. Now let $t \in J$, then we have

$$|\mathcal{B}u_n(t) - \mathcal{B}u(t)| \leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_0^t \Psi'(s)(\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1} |h(s, u_n(s), u_n(\varepsilon s)) - h(s, u(s), u(\varepsilon s))| ds.$$

Since h is continuous, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h(s, u_n(s), u_n(\varepsilon s)) = h(s, u(s), u(\varepsilon s)).$$

On the other hand, by using (H_3) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta)}(\Psi'(s)(\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1} \|h(s, u_n(s), u_n(\varepsilon s)) - h(s, u(s), u(\varepsilon s))\|) &\leq (K_\omega \delta^p + M_\omega) \\ &\times \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta)}(\Psi'(s)(\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1}, \end{aligned}$$

since $s \mapsto \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta)}(\Psi'(s)(\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1})$ is an integrable function on $[0, t]$, then Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem implies that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_0^t \Psi'(s)(\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1} \|h(s, u_n(s), u_n(\varepsilon s)) - h(s, u(s), u(\varepsilon s))\| ds = 0.$$

It follows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \|\mathcal{B}u_n - \mathcal{B}u\| = 0,$$

hence, $\mathcal{B}$ is continuous .

To show (3.6), let $u \in \mathcal{C}$, then we have

$$|\mathcal{B}u(t)| \leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_0^t \Psi'(s)(\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1} |h(s, u(s), u(\varepsilon s))| ds,$$

from (H_3) we obtain

$$|\mathcal{B}u(t)| \leq \frac{(K_\omega \|u\|^p + M_\omega)}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_0^t \Psi'(s)(\Psi(t) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1} ds,$$

Finally, we obtain

$$\| \mathcal{B}u \| \leq \frac{(K_\omega \|u\|^p + M_\omega)(\Psi(T) - \Psi(0))^\beta}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)}.$$

□

Lemma 3.4. $\mathcal{B} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is a compact operator.

Proof. In order to demonstrate the compactness of $\mathcal{B}$ we need to show that $\mathcal{B}B_\eta$ is relatively compact in $\mathcal{C}$ and we use the Arzela-Ascoli Theorem [21]. Let $u \in B_\eta$, then from (3.6) we get

$$\| \mathcal{B}u \| \leq \frac{(K_\omega \eta^p + M_\omega)(\Psi(T) - \Psi(0))^\beta}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)} := \xi.$$

So, it follows that $\mathcal{B}B_\eta \subset B_\xi$. Hence $\mathcal{B}B_\eta$ is bounded.

To prove that $\mathcal{B}B_\eta$ is uniformly equicontinuous, let $u \in \mathcal{B}B_\eta$ and $t_1, t_2 \in J$ such that $t_1 < t_2$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{B}u(t_2) - \mathcal{B}u(t_1)| &\leq \frac{K_\omega \|u\|^p + M_\omega}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \Psi'(s)(\Psi(t_2) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1} ds, \\ |\mathcal{B}u(t_2) - \mathcal{B}u(t_1)| &\leq \frac{K_\omega \eta^p + M_\omega}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \Psi'(s)(\Psi(t_2) - \Psi(s))^{\beta-1} ds, \\ |\mathcal{B}u(t_2) - \mathcal{B}u(t_1)| &\leq \frac{K_\omega \eta^p + M_\omega}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)} (\Psi(t_2) - \Psi(t_1))^\beta, \\ \sup_{u \in \mathcal{B}B_\eta} \sup_{|t_1 - t_2| \leq \delta} |\mathcal{B}u(t_2) - \mathcal{B}u(t_1)| &\leq \frac{K_\omega \eta^p + M_\omega}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)} \sup_{|t_1 - t_2| \leq \delta} |\Psi(t_2) - \Psi(t_1)|^\beta. \end{aligned}$$

Since Ψ is a continuous function on the closed interval J , then we obtain

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0^+} \sup_{u \in \mathcal{B}B_\eta} \sup_{|t_1 - t_2| \leq \delta} |\mathcal{B}u(t_1) - \mathcal{B}u(t_2)| = 0.$$

which shows that $\mathcal{B}B_\eta$ is uniformly equicontinuous.

Hence, $\mathcal{B}B_\eta$ is uniformly bounded and is uniformly equicontinuous. Arzelà–Ascoli Theorem [21] permits us to conclude that $\mathcal{B}B_\eta$ is relatively compact, thus $\mathcal{B}$ is compact. □

Corollary 3.1. $\mathcal{B} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is ρ -Lipschitz with zero constant.

Proof. Since the operator $\mathcal{B}$ is compact and by Lemma [2.2] it follows that $\mathcal{B}$ is ρ -Lipschitz with zero constant. □

Now, we have all tools to establish the proof of Theorem [3.1].

Proof of Theorem [3.1].

Let $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{F} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ be the operators given by equations (3.2), (3.3) and (3.4) respectively.

The operators $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{F}$ are continuous and bounded. Moreover, by using Lemma [3.2] we have that $\mathcal{A}$ is ρ -Lipschitz with constant $L_\omega \in [0, 1)$ and by using Corollary [3.1] we have that $\mathcal{A}$ is ρ -Lipschitz

with zero constant. It follows from Lemma 2.1 that $\mathcal{F}$ is a strict ρ -contraction with constant L_ω .

We consider the following set

$$\mathcal{S}_\gamma = \{u \in \mathcal{C} : u = \gamma \mathcal{F}u \text{ for some } \gamma \in [0, 1]\}.$$

Let us show that $\mathcal{S}_\gamma$ is bounded in $\mathcal{C}$. For this purpose let $u \in \mathcal{S}_\gamma$, then $u = \gamma \mathcal{F}u = \gamma(\mathcal{A}u + \mathcal{B}u)$. It follows that

$$\|u\| = \gamma \|\mathcal{F}u\| \leq \gamma(\|\mathcal{A}u\| + \|\mathcal{B}u\|),$$

by using Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3 we get

$$\|u\| \leq |u_0| + K_\omega \|u\|^q + M_\omega + \frac{(K_h \|u\|^p + M_h)(\Psi(T) - \Psi(0))^\beta}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)}. \quad (3.7)$$

From inequality (3.7) we deduce that $\mathcal{S}_\gamma$ is bounded in $\mathcal{C}$ with $p < 1$ and $q < 1$.

If this is not the case, we suppose that $\xi := \|u\| \rightarrow \infty$. Dividing both sides of (3.7) by ξ , and taking $\xi \rightarrow \infty$, it follows that

$$1 \leq \lim_{\xi \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|u_0| + K_\omega \xi^q + M_\omega + \frac{(\mathbb{K}_\omega \xi^p + M_\omega)(\Psi(T) - \Psi(0))^\beta}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)}}{\xi} = 0,$$

which is a contradiction. By using Theorem 2.1 we conclude that $\mathcal{F}$ has at least one fixed point which is a solution of (1.1) and the set of the fixed points of $\mathcal{F}$ is bounded in $\mathcal{C}$. $\square$

Remark 2. Note that if assumptions (H_2) and (H_3) are formulated for $q = 1$ and $p = 1$, then the conclusions of Theorem 3.1 remain valid provided that

$$K_\omega + \frac{K_h(\Psi(T) - \Psi(0))^\beta}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)} < 1.$$

4 An illustrative example

In this section, we give an example to illustrate the usefulness of our main result. Consider the following problem:

$$\begin{cases} {}^C D_{0+}^{\frac{3}{2}, e^t} u(t) = h(t, u(t), u(\varepsilon t)), & t \in J = [0, 1], \\ u'(0) = 0, \quad u(0) = \sum_{j=1}^{20} \theta_j |u(t_j)|, \quad \theta_j > 0, \quad 0 < t_j < 1, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, 20, \end{cases} \quad (4.1)$$

where $h(t, u(t), u(\varepsilon t)) = \frac{\sin(u(\frac{t}{\sqrt{2}}))}{(9+e^t)\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{|u(t)|}{1+|u(\frac{t}{\sqrt{2}})|} \right)$.

Here $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$, $\beta = \frac{3}{2}$, $T = 1$, $\Psi(t) = e^t$, and $\omega(u) = \sum_{j=1}^{20} \theta_j |u(t_j)|$ with $\sum_{j=1}^{20} \theta_j < 1$. Clearly

$h \in C(J \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ and (H_1) , (H_2) hold with $K_\omega = L_\omega = \sum_{i=j}^{20} \theta_j$, $M_\omega = 0$ and $q = 1$. Indeed, we

can write

$$|\omega(u)| \leq \sum_{j=1}^{20} \theta_j \|u\|,$$

thus, $K_\omega = \sum_{j=1}^{20} \theta_j$, $M_\omega = 0$ and $q = 1$.

Moreover, we have

$$|\omega(u(t)) - \omega(v(t))| = \left| \sum_{j=1}^{20} \theta_j |u(t_j)| - \sum_{j=1}^{20} \theta_j |v(t_j)| \right|,$$

hence,

$$|\omega(u) - \omega(v)| \leq \sum_{j=1}^{20} \theta_j \|u - v\|,$$

thus, in (H_2) , $L_\omega = \sum_{j=1}^{20} \theta_j$.

To prove (H_3) , let $t \in J$ and $u \in \mathbb{R}$, then we have

$$|h(t, u(t), u(\varepsilon t))| = \left| \frac{\sin\left(u\left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{2}}\right)\right)}{(9 + e^t)\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{|u(t)|}{1 + \left|u\left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{2}}\right)\right|} \right) \right|,$$

$$|h(t, u(t), u(\varepsilon t))| \leq \frac{1}{10\sqrt{2}} (|u| + 1).$$

Thus, (H_3) holds with $K_h = M_h = \frac{1}{10\sqrt{2}}$ and $p = 1$.

Consequently, Theorem 3.1 implies that problem (4.1) has at least one solution. Moreover, by inequality (3.7) we have

$$\|u\| \leq \frac{(e - 1)^{(3/2)}}{10\sqrt{2}\Gamma(8/3) - 1} \approx 0.19,$$

thus, the set of all solutions to (4.1) is bounded.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we studied the existence of solutions to nonlinear pantograph differential equations involving Caputo type fractional derivative with respect to another function Ψ . The proofs of our proposed model are based on the topological degree theory for condensing maps. We also provided an example to make our results clear.

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