

**NONLOCAL FRACTIONAL SUM BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEM
FOR A COUPLED SYSTEM OF FRACTIONAL
SUM-DIFFERENCE EQUATIONS**

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ABSTRACT: In this article, we study the existence and uniqueness result for a coupled system of fractional sum-difference equations with nonlocal fractional sum boundary conditions, by using the Banach's fixed point theorem. Finally, we present an example to show the result of this paper.

AMS Subject Classification: 39A05, 39A12

Key Words: existence, fractional sum-difference equations, boundary value problem

Received: March 19, 2018; **Revised:** December 1, 2018;
Published (online): January 4, 2019 **doi:** 10.12732/dsa.v28i1.5
Dynamic Publishers, Inc., Acad. Publishers, Ltd. <https://acadsol.eu/dsa>

1. INTRODUCTION

Discrete fractional calculus and fractional difference equations represent a very new area for researchers. Basic definitions and properties of fractional difference calculus can be found in the book [1]. Scientific advancements in the area of difference equations are naturally motivated because they arise as mathematical models describing many real-life situations, e.g. queuing problems, electrical networks and economics, see [2]-[3] and the references therein. The good papers deal with discrete fractional

boundary value problems, which has helped to build up some of the basic theory in this area, see the papers [4]-[47] and references cited therein.

The systems of discrete fractional boundary value problems have been studied by some authors, the best of our knowledge see the papers [48]-[52]. For examples, Pan *et al.* [48] discussed the system of fractional difference equations

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta^\nu y_1(t) &= f(y_1(t + \nu_1), y_2(t + \mu - 1)), \\ -\Delta^\mu y_2(t) &= g(y_1(t + \nu_1), y_2(t + \mu - 1)), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

for $t \in \mathbb{N}_{0, b+1}$, with the difference boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} y_1(\nu - 2) &= \Delta y_1(\nu + b) = 0, \\ y_2(\mu - 2) &= \Delta y_2(\mu + b) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $1 < \mu, \nu \leq 2$, $0 < \beta \leq 1$, $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are continuous functions.

Recently, Goodrich [51] examined the coupled system of fractional difference equations

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta^{-\nu} x(t) &= \lambda_1 f(t + \nu - 1, y(t + \mu - 1)), \quad t \in \mathbb{N}_{0, b+1}, \\ -\Delta^{-\mu} y(t) &= \lambda_2 g(t + \mu - 1, y(t + \nu - 1)), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

with the nonlinearities satisfying no growth conditions

$$\begin{aligned} x(\nu - 2) &= H_1 \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i y(\xi_i) \right), & x(\nu + b + 1) &= 0, \\ y(\mu - 2) &= H_2 \left(\sum_{j=1}^m b_j x(\zeta_j) \right), & x(\mu + b + 1) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $1 < \nu \leq 2$, $1 < \mu \leq 2$, $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0$, and H_1, H_2 are continuous functions.

The results mentioned above are the motivation for this research. In this paper, we consider the coupled system of nonlinear fractional sum-difference equations

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^{\alpha_1} u_1(t) &= H_1 \left(t + \alpha_1 - 1, t + \alpha_2 - 1, \Delta^{\beta_1} u_1(t + \alpha_1 - \beta_1), u_2(t + \alpha_2 - 1) \right) \\ &\quad + [\Delta^{-\gamma_1} \varphi_1 H_1] (t + \alpha_1 + \gamma_1 - 1), \\ \Delta^{\alpha_2} u_2(t) &= H_2 \left(t + \alpha_1 - 1, t + \alpha_2 - 1, \Delta^{\beta_2} u_2(t + \alpha_2 - \beta_2), u_1(t + \alpha_1 - 1) \right) \\ &\quad + [\Delta^{-\gamma_2} \varphi_2 H_2] (t + \alpha_2 + \gamma_2 - 1), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

subject to nonlocal three-point fractional sum boundary conditions of the form

$$\begin{aligned} u_1(\alpha_1 - 2) &= \phi_1(u_1, u_2), & u_1(T + \alpha_1) &= \lambda_2 \Delta^{-\theta_2} g_2(\eta_2 + \theta_2) u_2(\eta_2 + \theta_2), \\ u_2(\alpha_2 - 2) &= \phi_2(u_1, u_2), & u_2(T + \alpha_2) &= \lambda_1 \Delta^{-\theta_1} g_1(\eta_1 + \theta_1) u_1(\eta_1 + \theta_1), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where $t \in \mathbb{N}_{0, T} := \{0, 1, \dots, T\}$, $\alpha_i \in (1, 2]$, $\beta_i, \gamma_i, \theta_i \in (0, 1]$, $\lambda_i > 0$, $\eta_i \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i - 1, T + \alpha_i - 1}$, $H_i \in C(\mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i - 2, T + \alpha_i} \times \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i - 2, T + \alpha_i} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$, $g_i \in C(\mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i - 2, T + \alpha_i}, \mathbb{R}^+)$, $\phi_i(u_1, u_2)$, and for $\varphi_i : \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i - 2, T + \alpha_i} \times \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i - 2, T + \alpha_i} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ defined

$$[\Delta^{-\gamma_i} \varphi_i H_i](t + \alpha_i + \gamma_i - 1) := \sum_{s=\alpha_i-\gamma_i-1}^{t+\alpha_i-\gamma_i-1} \frac{(t + \alpha_i - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\gamma_i-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_i)} \varphi_i(t + \alpha_i - 1, s + \gamma_i) \times H_i(s + \gamma_i, t + \alpha_j - 1, \Delta^{\beta_i} u_i(s + \gamma_i), u_j(t + \alpha_j - 1)),$$

for $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$ and $i \neq j$.

The plan of this paper is as follows. In the next section, we recall some definitions and basic lemmas. Also we derive a representation for the solution to (3)-(4) by converting the problem to an equivalent summation equation. In Section 3, using this representation, we prove existence and uniqueness of the solutions of boundary value problem (3)-(4) by the help of the Banach fixed point theorem. An example to illustrate our result is presented in the last section.

2. PRELIMINARIES

As the following, there are notations, definitions, and lemmas which are used in the main results.

Definition 2.1. The generalized falling function is defined by $t^\alpha := \frac{\Gamma(t + 1)}{\Gamma(t + 1 - \alpha)}$, for any t and α for which the right-hand side is defined. If $t + 1 - \alpha$ is a pole of the Gamma function and $t + 1$ is not a pole, then $t^\alpha = 0$.

Lemma 2.1. [4] Assume the following generalized falling functions are well defined. If $t \leq r$, then $t^\alpha \leq r^\alpha$ for any $\alpha > 0$.

Definition 2.2. For $\alpha > 0$ and f defined on \mathbb{N}_a , the α -order fractional sum of f is defined by

$$\Delta^{-\alpha} f(t) := \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \sum_{s=a}^{t-\alpha} (t - \sigma(s))^{\alpha-1} f(s),$$

where $t \in \mathbb{N}_{a+\alpha}$ and $\sigma(s) = s + 1$.

Definition 2.3. For $\alpha > 0$ and f defined on \mathbb{N}_a , the α -order Riemann-Liouville fractional difference of f is defined by

$$\Delta^\alpha f(t) := \Delta^N \Delta^{-(N-\alpha)} f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(-\alpha)} \sum_{s=a}^{t+\alpha} (t - \sigma(s))^{-\alpha-1} f(s),$$

where $t \in \mathbb{N}_{a+N-\alpha}$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}$ is chosen so that $0 \leq N - 1 < \alpha \leq N$.

Lemma 2.2. [4] Let $0 \leq N - 1 < \alpha \leq N$. Then

$$\Delta^{-\alpha} \Delta^\alpha y(t) = y(t) + C_1 t^{\alpha-1} + C_2 t^{\alpha-2} + \dots + C_N t^{\alpha-N},$$

for some $C_i \in \mathbb{R}$, with $1 \leq i \leq N$.

The following lemma deals with linear variant of the boundary value problem (3)-(4) and gives a representation of the solution.

Lemma 2.3. *For $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$ and $i \neq j$, let $\alpha_i \in (1, 2]$, $\theta_i \in (0, 1]$, $\lambda_i > 0$ and $\eta_i \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}$ be given constants, $h_i \in C(\mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}, \mathbb{R})$ and $g_i \in C(\mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}, \mathbb{R}^+)$ be given functions, $\phi_i(u_1, u_2)$ be given functionals. Then the problem*

$$\Delta^{\alpha_i} u_i(t) = h_i(t + \alpha_i - 1), \quad t \in \mathbb{N}_{0, T}, \quad (5)$$

$$u_i(\alpha_i - 2) = \phi_i(u_1, u_2), \quad (6)$$

$$u_i(T + \alpha_i) = \lambda_j \Delta^{-\theta_j} g_j(\eta_j + \theta_j) u_j(\eta_j + \theta_j). \quad (7)$$

have the unique solution

$$\begin{aligned} u_1(t_1) = & t_1^{\alpha_1-1} \left\{ \frac{\lambda_1}{\Lambda \Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-2}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} g_1(s) s^{\alpha_1-1} \mathcal{P}(h_1, h_2) \right. \\ & \left. - \frac{\lambda_2}{\Lambda \Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-2}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-1} \mathcal{Q}(h_1, h_2) \right\} \\ & + \frac{t_1^{\alpha_1-2} \phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \sum_{s=0}^{t_1-\alpha_1} (t_1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} h_1(s + \alpha_1 - 1), \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

$$t_1 \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_1-2, T+\alpha_1},$$

$$\begin{aligned} u_2(t_2) = & t_2^{\alpha_2-1} \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{\Lambda} \mathcal{P}(h_1, h_2) - \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Lambda} \mathcal{Q}(h_1, h_2) \right\} \\ & + \frac{t_2^{\alpha_2-2} \phi_2(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} \sum_{s=0}^{t_2-\alpha_2} (t_2 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_2-1} h_2(s + \alpha_2 - 1), \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

$$t_2 \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_2-2, T+\alpha_2},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda = & \frac{\lambda_2 (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-1}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-1} \\ & - \frac{\lambda_1 (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-1}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} g_1(s) s^{\alpha_1-1}, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{P}(h_1, h_2) \\ = & \frac{\phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \frac{\lambda_2 \phi_2(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-2}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-2} \\
 & + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \sum_{s=0}^T (T + \alpha_1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} h_1(s + \alpha_1 - 1) - \frac{\lambda_2}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \times \quad (11) \\
 & \sum_{\xi=\alpha_2}^{\eta_2} \sum_{s=0}^{\xi-\alpha_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(\xi))^{\theta_2-1} (\xi - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_2-1} g_2(s + \alpha_2 - 1) h_2(s + \alpha_2 - 1),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathcal{Q}(h_1, h_2) \\
 & = \frac{\phi_2(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-2} \\
 & - \frac{\lambda_1 \phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)\Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-2}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} g_1(s) s^{\alpha_1-2} \\
 & + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} \sum_{s=0}^T (T + \alpha_2 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_2-1} h_2(s + \alpha_2 - 1) - \frac{\lambda_1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)\Gamma(\theta_1)} \times \quad (12) \\
 & \sum_{\xi=\alpha_1}^{\eta_1} \sum_{s=0}^{\xi-\alpha_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(\xi))^{\theta_1-1} (\xi - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} g_1(s + \alpha_1 - 1) h_1(s + \alpha_1 - 1).
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof. For $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$ and $i \neq j$, by using lemma 2.2 and the fractional sum of order $\alpha \in (1, 2]$ for (5), we obtain

$$u_i(t) = C_{1i} t^{\alpha_i-1} + C_{2i} t^{\alpha_i-2} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \sum_{s=0}^{t-\alpha_i} (t - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_i-1} h_i(s + \alpha_i - 1), \quad (13)$$

for $t \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}$.

The boundary condition (6) implies that

$$C_{2i} = \frac{\phi_i(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)}. \quad (14)$$

Then, we have

$$u_i(t) = C_{1i} t^{\alpha_i-1} + \frac{\phi_i(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} t^{\alpha_i-2} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \sum_{s=0}^{t-\alpha_i} (t - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_i-1} h_i(s + \alpha_i - 1). \quad (15)$$

Taking the fractional sum of order $0 < \theta_i \leq 1$ for (15), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \Delta^{-\theta_i} u(t) \quad (16) \\
 & = \frac{C_{1i}}{\Gamma(\theta_i)} \sum_{s=\alpha_i-2}^{t-\theta_i} (t - \sigma(s))^{\theta_i-1} g_i(s) s^{\alpha_i-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \frac{\phi_i(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \sum_{s=\alpha_i-2}^{t-\theta_i} (t - \sigma(s))^{\theta_i-1} g_i(s) s^{\alpha_i-2} \\
& + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\theta_i)\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \sum_{\xi=\alpha_i}^{t-\theta_i} \sum_{s=0}^{\xi-\alpha_i} (t - \sigma(\xi))^{\theta_i-1} (\xi - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_i-1} g_i(s + \alpha_i - 1) h(s + \alpha_i - 1),
\end{aligned}$$

for $t \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i+\theta_i-2, T+\alpha_i+\theta_i}$. The boundary condition (7) implies

$$\begin{aligned}
& C_{11}(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1} + \frac{\phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2} \\
& + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \sum_{s=0}^T (T + \alpha_1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} h_1(s + \alpha_1 - 1) \\
& = \frac{\lambda_2 C_{12}}{\Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-1}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-1} \\
& + \frac{\lambda_2 \phi_2(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-2}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-2} \\
& + \frac{\lambda_2}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{\xi=\alpha_2}^{\eta_2} \sum_{s=0}^{\xi-\alpha_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(\xi))^{\theta_2-1} (\xi - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_2-1} \\
& g_2(s + \alpha_2 - 1) h(s + \alpha_2 - 1),
\end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
& C_{12}(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1} + \frac{\phi_2(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-2} \\
& + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} \sum_{s=0}^T (T + \alpha_2 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_2-1} h_2(s + \alpha_2 - 1) \\
& = \frac{\lambda_1 C_{11}}{\Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-1}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} g_1(s) s^{\alpha_1-1} \\
& + \frac{\lambda_1 \phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)\Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-2}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} g_1(s) s^{\alpha_1-2} \\
& + \frac{\lambda_1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)\Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{\xi=\alpha_1}^{\eta_1} \sum_{s=0}^{\xi-\alpha_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(\xi))^{\theta_1-1} (\xi - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} \\
& g_1(s + \alpha_1 - 1) h(s + \alpha_1 - 1).
\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

The constants C_{11}, C_{12} can be obtained by solving the system of equations (17) and (18). So

$$C_{11} = \frac{\lambda_1}{\Lambda\Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-2}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} g_1(s) s^{\alpha_1-1} \mathcal{P}(h_1, h_2) \tag{19}$$

$$-\frac{\lambda_2}{\Lambda\Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-2}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-1} \mathcal{Q}(h_1, h_2),$$

and

$$C_{12} = \frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{\Lambda} \mathcal{P}(h_1, h_2) - \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Lambda} \mathcal{Q}(h_1, h_2), \quad (20)$$

where Λ , $\mathcal{P}(h_1, h_2)$ and $\mathcal{Q}(h_1, h_2)$ are defined as (10)-(12), respectively.

Finally, substituting C_{11} and C_{12} into (15), we obtain (8) and (9). \square

3. EXISTENCE AND UNIQUENESS RESULT

Now, we wish to establish the existence result for problem (3)-(4). To accomplish, for each $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$ and $i \neq j$, we let $E_i : C(\mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}, \mathbb{R})$ be the Banach space for all functions on $\mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}$, and clearly that the product space $\mathcal{C} = E_1 \times E_2$ is the Banach space. We set the spaces

$$\mathcal{C}_i = \left\{ (u_1, u_2) \in \mathcal{C} : \Delta^{\beta_i} u_i(t_i - \beta_i + 1) \in E_i \right\}, \quad t_i \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i},$$

and endowed with the norm defined by

$$\|(u_1, u_2)\|_{\mathcal{C}_i} = \|\Delta^{\beta_i} u_i\| + \|u_j\|,$$

where $\|\Delta^{\beta_i} u_i\| = \max_{t_i \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}} |\Delta^{\beta_i} u_i(t_i - \beta_i + 1)|$ and $\|u_j\| = \max_{t_j \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_j-2, T+\alpha_j}} |u_j(t_j)|$.

Obviously, the space $(\mathcal{C}_1 \cap \mathcal{C}_2, \|(u_1, u_2)\|_{\mathcal{C}_1 \cap \mathcal{C}_2})$ is also the Banach space with the norm

$$\|(u_1, u_2)\|_{\mathcal{C}_1 \cap \mathcal{C}_2} = \max \left\{ \|(u_1, u_2)\|_{\mathcal{C}_1}, \|(u_1, u_2)\|_{\mathcal{C}_2} \right\}.$$

Next, let $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{C}_1 \cap \mathcal{C}_2$, we define the operator $\mathcal{T} : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ by

$$(\mathcal{T}(u_1, u_2))(t_1, t_2) = \left((\mathcal{T}_1(u_1, u_2))(t_1, t_2), (\mathcal{T}_2(u_1, u_2))(t_1, t_2) \right), \quad (21)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & (\mathcal{T}_1(u_1, u_2))(t_1, t_2) \\ &= t_1^{\alpha_1-1} \left\{ \frac{\lambda_1}{\Lambda\Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-2}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} g_1(s) s^{\alpha_1-1} \mathcal{P}(H_1^*, H_2^*) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \frac{\lambda_2}{\Lambda\Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-2}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-1} \mathcal{Q}(H_1^*, H_2^*) \right\} \\ & \quad + \frac{t_1^{\alpha_1-2} \phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-1}^{t_1-1} (t_1 + \alpha_1 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} H_1^*, \quad (22) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\mathcal{T}_2(u_1, u_2))(t_1, t_2) \\
&= t_2^{\alpha_2-1} \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{\Lambda} \mathcal{P}(H_1^*, H_2^*) - \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Lambda} \mathcal{Q}(H_1^*, H_2^*) \right\} \\
&+ \frac{t_2^{\alpha_1-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-1}^{t_2-1} (t_2 + \alpha_2 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_2-1} H_2^*, \quad (23)
\end{aligned}$$

where $t_i \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}$, Λ is defined as (9), and

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{P}(H_1^*, H_2^*) &= \frac{\phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2} - \frac{\lambda_2 \phi_2(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_2) \Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-2}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} \times \\
&g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-2} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-1}^{T+\alpha_1-1} (T + 2\alpha_1 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} H_1^* - \frac{\lambda_2}{\Gamma(\alpha_2) \Gamma(\theta_2)} \times \\
&\sum_{\xi=\alpha_2}^{\eta_2} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-1}^{\xi-1} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(\xi))^{\theta_2-1} (\xi + \alpha_2 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_2-1} g_2(s) H_2^*, \quad (24)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{Q}(H_1^*, H_2^*) &= \frac{\phi_2(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-2} - \frac{\lambda_1 \phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1) \Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-2}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} \times \\
&g_1(s) s^{\alpha_1-2} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-1}^{T+\alpha_2-1} (T + 2\alpha_2 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_2-1} H_2^* - \frac{\lambda_1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1) \Gamma(\theta_1)} \times \\
&\sum_{\xi=\alpha_1}^{\eta_1} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-1}^{\xi-1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(\xi))^{\theta_1-1} (\xi + \alpha_1 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} g_1(s) H_1^*, \quad (25)
\end{aligned}$$

with

$$H_1^* = H_1\left(s, t_2, \Delta^{\beta_1} u_1(s - \beta_1 + 1), u_2(t_2)\right) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\gamma_1)} \times \quad (26)$$

$$\sum_{p=\alpha_1-1}^s (s + \gamma_1 - \sigma(p))^{\gamma_1-1} \varphi_1(s, p) H_1\left(p, t_2, \Delta^{\beta_1} u_1(p - \beta_1 + 1), u_2(t_2)\right),$$

$$H_2^* = H_2\left(t_1, s, u_1(t_1), \Delta^{\beta_2} u_2(s - \beta_2 + 1)\right) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\gamma_2)} \times \quad (27)$$

$$\sum_{p=\alpha_2-1}^s (s + \gamma_2 - \sigma(p))^{\gamma_2-1} \varphi_2(s, p) H_2\left(t_1, p, u_1(t_1), \Delta^{\beta_2} u_2(p - \beta_2 + 1)\right).$$

Note that the problem (3)-(4) have solutions if and only if the operator \mathcal{T} has fixed points.

Theorem 3.1. *Assume that $H_i \in C(\mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i} \times \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_2-2, T+\alpha_2} \times \mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R})$, $\varphi_i \in C(\mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i} \times \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_2-2, T+\alpha_2}, [0, \infty))$ with $\tilde{\varphi}_i = \max\{\varphi(t_i-1, s) : (t_i, s) \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i} \times$*

$\mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}, [0, \infty)]$, and $\phi_i \in C(\mathbb{N}_{\alpha_1-2, T+\alpha_1} \times \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_2-2, T+\alpha_2}, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are given functionals. In addition, for each $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$, $i \neq j$, suppose the following:

(H₁) There exist constants $M_1, M_2, N_1, N_2 > 0$ such that, for each $t_i \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}$ and $(u_1, u_2), (v_1, v_2) \in \mathcal{U}$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| H_i(t_i, t_j, \Delta^{\beta_i} u_i(t_i - \beta_i + 1), u_j(t_j) - H_i(t_i, t_j, \Delta^{\beta_i} v_i(t_i - \beta_i + 1), v_j(t_j)) \right| \\ & \leq M_i |\Delta^{\beta_i} u_i - \Delta^{\beta_i} v_i| + N_j |u_j - v_j|. \end{aligned}$$

(H₂) There exist constants $K_1, K_2, L_1, L_2 > 0$ such that, for each $(u_1, u_2), (v_1, v_2) \in \mathcal{U}$,

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi_1(u_1, u_2) - \phi_1(v_1, v_2)| & \leq K_1 |u_1 - v_1| + K_2 |u_2 - v_2|, \\ \text{and } |\phi_2(u_1, u_2) - \phi_2(v_1, v_2)| & \leq L_1 |u_1 - v_1| + L_2 |u_2 - v_2|. \end{aligned}$$

(H₃) $0 < g_i(t_i) < G_i$ for each $t_i \in \mathbb{N}_{\alpha_i-2, T+\alpha_i}$.

Then the problem (3)-(4) has a unique solution provided that

$$\begin{aligned} \chi := \max & \left\{ \left[\max \{ (K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\Theta_1, M_2\Omega_4 \} + \max \{ (K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\Theta_2, M_1\Omega_3 \} \right], \right. \\ & \left. \left[\max \{ (K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\tilde{\Theta}_1, M_2\tilde{\Omega}_4 \} + \max \{ (K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\tilde{\Theta}_2, M_1\tilde{\Omega}_3 \} \right] \right\} \\ & < \frac{1}{2}, \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

where

$$\Theta_1 = \max \{ \Omega_1, \Omega_2, \Omega_4 \}, \quad \tilde{\Theta}_1 = \max \{ \tilde{\Omega}_1, \tilde{\Omega}_2, \tilde{\Omega}_4 \}, \quad (29)$$

$$\Theta_2 = \max \{ \Omega_1, \Omega_2, \Omega_3 \}, \quad \tilde{\Theta}_2 = \max \{ \tilde{\Omega}_1, \tilde{\Omega}_2, \tilde{\Omega}_3 \}, \quad (30)$$

with

$$\Omega_1 = \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{\lambda_1 G_1 \mathcal{A}_1 (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2}}{\Gamma(\theta_1)} + \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{B}_1 \mathcal{A}_2}{(\alpha_1 - 1)\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) + \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)}, \quad (31)$$

$$\Omega_2 = \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{B}_2 \mathcal{A}_1}{(\alpha_2 - 1)\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} + \frac{\lambda_2 G_2 \mathcal{A}_2 (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-2}}{\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right), \quad (32)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_3 = & \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_1 (T + \alpha_1 + \gamma_1)^{\gamma_1-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_1 + 1)} \right] \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{\lambda_1 G_1 \mathcal{A}_1 (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Gamma(\theta_1)} \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. + \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{A}_2 \mathcal{C}_1}{\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) + \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1 + 1)} \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

$$\Omega_4 = \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_2(T + \alpha_2 + \gamma_2)^{\gamma_2-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_2 + 1)} \right] \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{\lambda_2 G_2 \mathcal{A}_2 (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{\Gamma(\theta_2)} + \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{C}_2}{\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) \right\}, \quad (34)$$

$$\tilde{\Omega}_1 = \frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2} (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} + \frac{\lambda_1 G_1 \mathcal{B}_1 (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\alpha_1 - 1} \right) + \frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)}, \quad (35)$$

$$\tilde{\Omega}_2 = \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1} (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} + \frac{\lambda_2 G_2 \mathcal{B}_2 (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{\alpha_2 - 1} \right), \quad (36)$$

$$\tilde{\Omega}_3 = \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_1(T + \alpha_1 + \gamma_1)^{\gamma_1-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_1 + 1)} \right] \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1} (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1 + 1)} + \frac{G_1 \mathcal{C}_1 (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Gamma(\theta_1)} \right) \right\}, \quad (37)$$

$$\tilde{\Omega}_4 = \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_2(T + \alpha_2 + \gamma_2)^{\gamma_2-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_2 + 1)} \right] \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1} (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_2 + 1)} + \frac{G_2 \mathcal{C}_2 (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) + \frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_2 + 1)} \right\}, \quad (38)$$

and

$$\mathcal{A}_i = (\eta_i - \alpha_i + \theta_i)^{\theta_i-1} {}_2F_1(\alpha_i, \alpha_i - \eta_i - 1; \alpha_i - \eta_i - \theta_i; 1), \quad (39)$$

$$\mathcal{B}_i = (\eta_i - \alpha_i + \theta_i)^{\theta_i-1} {}_2F_1(\alpha_i - 1, \alpha_i - \eta_i - 1; \alpha_i - \eta_i - \theta_i - 1; 1), \quad (40)$$

$$\mathcal{C}_i = (\eta_i - \alpha_i + \theta_i - 1)^{\theta_i-1} {}_2F_1(\alpha_i, \alpha_i - \eta_i; \alpha_i - \eta_i - \theta_i + 1; 1). \quad (41)$$

Proof. We shall prove \mathcal{T} is a contraction mapping. Denote that

$$\mathcal{H}_i |(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)| := |H_i(t_i, t_j, \Delta^{\beta_i} u_i(t_i - \beta_i + 1), u_j(t_j) - H_i(t_i, t_j, \Delta^{\beta_i} v_i(t_i - \beta_i + 1), v_j(t_j))|, \quad (42)$$

$$\text{and } \mathcal{H}_i^* |(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)|$$

$$\begin{aligned} &:= \mathcal{H}_i |(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)| + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\gamma_i)} \sum_{p=\alpha_i-1}^s (s + \gamma_i - \sigma(p))^{\gamma_i-1} \varphi_1(s, p) \times \\ &\quad \mathcal{H}_i |(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)| \\ &\leq \left(M_i |\Delta^{\beta_1} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_1} v_1| + N_j |u_2 - v_2| \right) \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_i(T + \alpha_i + \gamma_i)^{\gamma_i-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_i + 1)} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

Let $(u_1, u_2), (v_1, v_2) \in \mathcal{C}$. Then

$$|(\mathcal{T}_1(u_1, u_2))(t_1, t_2) - (\mathcal{T}_1(v_1, v_2))(t_1, t_2)|$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\leq t_1^{\alpha_1-1} \left| \frac{\lambda_1}{\Lambda\Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-2}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} g_1(s) s^{\alpha_1-1} \mathcal{P}(H_1^{**}, H_2^{**}) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \frac{\lambda_2}{\Lambda\Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-2}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-1} \mathcal{Q}(H_1^{**}, H_2^{**}) \right| \\
 &\quad + \frac{t_1^{\alpha_1-2} \phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-1}^{t_1-1} (t_1 + \alpha_1 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} \mathcal{H}_1^* |(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)| \\
 &\leq (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1} \left\{ \frac{\lambda_1 G_1 \mathcal{A}_1 \Gamma(\alpha_1)}{\Lambda\Gamma(\theta_1)} |\mathcal{P}(H_1^{**}, H_2^{**})| + \frac{\lambda_2 G_2 \mathcal{A}_2 \Gamma(\alpha_2)}{\Lambda\Gamma(\theta_2)} |\mathcal{Q}(H_1^{**}, H_2^{**})| \right\} \\
 &\quad + \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2} (K_1 |u_1 - v_1| + K_2 |u_2 - v_2|)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \tag{44} \\
 &\quad + \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha_1 + 1)} (M_1 |\Delta^{\beta_1} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_1} v_1| + N_2 |u_2 - v_2|) \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_1(T + \alpha_1 + \gamma_1)^{\gamma_1-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_1 + 1)} \right],
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 &|\mathcal{P}(H_1^{**}, H_2^{**})| \tag{45} \\
 &= \left| \frac{\phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2} - \frac{\lambda_2 \phi_2(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_2) \Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-2}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-2} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-1}^{T+\alpha_1-1} (T + 2\alpha_1 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} H_1^* |(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)| - \frac{\lambda_2}{\Gamma(\alpha_2) \Gamma(\theta_2)} \times \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \sum_{\xi=\alpha_2}^{\eta_2} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-1}^{\xi-1} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(\xi))^{\theta_2-1} (\xi + \alpha_2 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_2-1} g_2(s) H_2^* |(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)| \right| \\
 &\leq (K_1 |u_1 - v_1| + K_2 |u_2 - v_2|) \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} + (L_1 |u_1 - v_1| + L_2 |u_2 - v_2|) \frac{\lambda_2 G_2 \mathcal{B}_2}{(\alpha_2 - 1) \Gamma(\theta_2)} \\
 &\quad + \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1 + 1)} (M_1 |\Delta^{\beta_1} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_1} v_1| + N_2 |u_2 - v_2|) \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_1(T + \alpha_1 + \gamma_1)^{\gamma_1-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_1 + 1)} \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{\lambda_2 G_2 \mathcal{C}_2}{\Gamma(\theta_2)} (M_2 |\Delta^{\beta_1} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_1} v_1| + N_1 |u_2 - v_2|) \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_2(T + \alpha_2 + \gamma_2)^{\gamma_2-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_2 + 1)} \right],
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 &|\mathcal{Q}(H_1^{**}, H_2^{**})| \tag{46} \\
 &= \left| \frac{\phi_2(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-2} - \frac{\lambda_1 \phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1) \Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-2}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} g_1(s) s^{\alpha_1-2} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-1}^{T+\alpha_2-1} (T + 2\alpha_2 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_2-1} H_2^* |(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)| - \frac{\lambda_1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1) \Gamma(\theta_1)} \times \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \sum_{\xi=\alpha_1}^{\eta_1} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-1}^{\xi-1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(\xi))^{\theta_1-1} (\xi + \alpha_1 - 1 - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} g_1(s) H_1^* |(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)| \right|
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \left(L_1|u_1 - v_1| + L_2|u_2 - v_2| \right) \frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2 - 2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_2)} + \left(K_1|u_1 - v_1| + K_2|u_2 - v_2| \right) \frac{\lambda_1 G_1 \mathcal{B}_1}{(\alpha_1 - 1)\Gamma(\theta_1)} \\
&\quad + \frac{(T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_2 + 1)} \left(M_2 |\Delta^{\beta_2} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_2} v_1| + N_2 |u_2 - v_2| \right) \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_2(T + \alpha_2 + \gamma_2)^{\gamma_2 - 1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_2 + 1)} \right] \\
&\quad + \frac{\lambda_1 G_1 \mathcal{C}_1}{\Gamma(\theta_1)} \left(M_1 |\Delta^{\beta_2} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_2} v_1| + N_2 |u_2 - v_2| \right) \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_1(T + \alpha_1 + \gamma_1)^{\gamma_1 - 1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_1 + 1)} \right].
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting (45) – (46) into (44), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&|(\mathcal{T}_1(u_1, u_2))(t_1, t_2) - (\mathcal{T}_1(v_1, v_2))(t_1, t_2)| \\
&\leq \left(K_1|u_1 - v_1| + K_2|u_2 - v_2| \right) \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1 - 1}}{\Lambda \Gamma(\alpha_1)} \left(\frac{\lambda_1 G_1 \mathcal{A}_1 (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1 - 2}}{\Gamma(\theta_1)} \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{B}_1 \mathcal{A}_2}{(\alpha_1 - 1)\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) + \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1 - 2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \right\} \\
&+ \left(L_1|u_1 - v_1| + L_2|u_2 - v_2| \right) \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1 - 1}}{\Lambda} \left(\frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{B}_2 \mathcal{A}_1}{(\alpha_2 - 1)\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \frac{\lambda_2 G_2 \mathcal{A}_2 (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2 - 2}}{\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) \right\} \\
&+ \left(M_1 |\Delta^{\beta_1} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_1} v_1| + N_2 |u_2 - v_2| \right) \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_1(T + \alpha_1 + \gamma_1)^{\gamma_1 - 1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_1 + 1)} \right] \times \\
&\quad \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1 - 1}}{\Lambda} \left(\frac{\lambda_1 G_1 \mathcal{A}_1 (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1 - 1}}{\alpha_1 \Gamma(\theta_1)} + \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{A}_2 \mathcal{C}_1}{\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) + \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1 + 1)} \right\} \\
&+ \left(M_2 |\Delta^{\beta_2} u_2 - \Delta^{\beta_2} v_2| + N_1 |u_1 - v_1| \right) \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_2(T + \alpha_2 + \gamma_2)^{\gamma_2 - 1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_2 + 1)} \right] \times \\
&\quad \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1 - 1}}{\Lambda} \left(\frac{\lambda_2 G_2 \mathcal{A}_2 (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2 - 1}}{\alpha_2 \Gamma(\theta_2)} + \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{C}_2}{\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) \right\} \\
&= |u_1 - v_1| (K_1 + L_1 + N_1) \Theta_1 + |\Delta^{\beta_2} u_2 - \Delta^{\beta_2} v_2| M_2 \Omega_4 \\
&\quad + |u_2 - v_2| (K_2 + L_2 + N_2) \Theta_2 \\
&\quad + |\Delta^{\beta_1} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_1} v_1| M_1 \Omega_3 \\
&\leq (|u_1 - v_1| + |\Delta^{\beta_2} u_2 - \Delta^{\beta_2} v_2|) \max \{ (K_1 + L_1 + N_1) \Theta_1, M_2 \Omega_4 \} \\
&\quad + (|u_2 - v_2| + |\Delta^{\beta_1} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_1} v_1|) \max \{ (K_2 + L_2 + N_2) \Theta_2, M_1 \Omega_3 \} \\
&\leq \|(u_1, u_2)\|_{\mathcal{C}_2} \max \{ (K_1 + L_1 + N_1) \Theta_1, M_2 \Omega_4 \} \\
&\quad + \|(u_1, u_2)\|_{\mathcal{C}_1} \max \{ (K_2 + L_2 + N_2) \Theta_2, M_1 \Omega_3 \}.
\end{aligned}$$

Then, it implies that

$$\|(\mathcal{T}_1(u_1, u_2))(t_1, t_2) - (\mathcal{T}_1(v_1, v_2))(t_1, t_2)\| \tag{47}$$

$$\leq \|(u_1, u_2)\|_{\mathcal{U}} \left[\max \{ (K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\Theta_1, M_2\Omega_4 \} + \max \{ (K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\Theta_2, M_1\Omega_3 \} \right].$$

Next, taking the fractional difference of order $0 < \beta_1 \leq 1$ for (22)

$$\begin{aligned} & \Delta^{\beta_1}(\mathcal{T}_1(u_1, u_2))(t_1 - \beta_1 + 1, t_2) \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(-\beta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-1}^{t_1+\beta_1} (t_1 - \sigma(s))^{-\beta_1-1} s^{\alpha_1-1} \left\{ \frac{\lambda_1}{\Lambda\Gamma(\theta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-2}^{\eta_1} (\eta_1 + \theta_1 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_1-1} g_1(s) \times \right. \\ & \quad \left. s^{\alpha_1-1} \mathcal{P}(H_1^*, H_2^*) - \frac{\lambda_2}{\Lambda\Gamma(\theta_2)} \sum_{s=\alpha_2-2}^{\eta_2} (\eta_2 + \theta_2 - \sigma(s))^{\theta_2-1} g_2(s) s^{\alpha_2-1} \mathcal{Q}(H_1^*, H_2^*) \right\} \\ & + \frac{\phi_1(u_1, u_2)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)\Gamma(-\beta_1)} \sum_{s=\alpha_1-2}^{t_1+\beta_1} (t_1 - \sigma(s))^{-\beta_1-1} s^{\alpha_1-2} \\ & + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)\Gamma(-\beta_1)} \sum_{\xi=\alpha_1}^{t_1+\beta_1} \sum_{s=0}^{\xi-\alpha_1} (t_1 - \sigma(\xi))^{-\beta_1-1} (\xi - \sigma(s))^{\alpha_1-1} H_1^* |(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)|. \end{aligned} \tag{48}$$

Then, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \Delta^{\beta_1}(\mathcal{T}_1(u_1, u_2))(t_1 - \beta_1 + 1, t_2) - \Delta^{\beta_1}(\mathcal{T}_1(v_1, v_2))(t_1 - \beta_1 + 1, t_2) \right| \\ & \leq \left(K_1|u_1 - v_1| + K_2|u_2 - v_2| \right) \frac{(T - \beta_1 + 2)^{-\beta_1}}{\Gamma(1 - \beta_1)} \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Lambda} \times \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left(\frac{\lambda_1 G_1 \mathcal{A}_1 (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2}}{\Gamma(\theta_1)} + \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{B}_1 \mathcal{A}_2}{\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) + \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-2}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \right\} \\ & + \left(L_1|u_1 - v_1| + L_2|u_2 - v_2| \right) \frac{(T - \beta_1 + 1)^{-\beta_1}}{\Gamma(1 - \beta_1)} \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Lambda} \times \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left(\frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{B}_2 \mathcal{A}_1}{\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \frac{\lambda_2 G_2 \mathcal{A}_2 (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-2}}{\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) \right\} \\ & + \left(M_1|\Delta^{\beta_1} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_1} v_1| + N_2|u_2 - v_2| \right) \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_1(T + \alpha_1 + \gamma_1)^{\gamma_1-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_1 + 1)} \right] \frac{(T - \beta_1 + 1)^{-\beta_1}}{\Gamma(1 - \beta_1)} \times \\ & \quad \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Lambda} \left(\frac{\lambda_1 G_1 \mathcal{A}_1 (T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Gamma(\theta_1)} + \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{A}_2 \mathcal{C}_1}{\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) + \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1}}{\Gamma(\alpha_1 + 1)} \right\} \\ & + \left(M_2|\Delta^{\beta_2} u_2 - \Delta^{\beta_2} v_2| + N_1|u_1 - v_1| \right) \left[1 + \frac{\tilde{\varphi}_2(T + \alpha_2 + \gamma_2)^{\gamma_2-1}}{\Gamma(\gamma_2 + 1)} \right] \times \\ & \quad \frac{(T - \beta_1 + 1)^{-\beta_1}}{\Gamma(1 - \beta_1)} \left\{ \frac{(T + \alpha_1)^{\alpha_1-1}}{\Lambda} \left(\frac{\lambda_2 G_2 \mathcal{A}_2 (T + \alpha_2)^{\alpha_2-1}}{\Gamma(\theta_2)} + \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 G_1 G_2 \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{C}_2}{\Gamma(\theta_1)\Gamma(\theta_2)} \right) \right\} \\ & < |u_1 - v_1| (K_1 + L_1 + N_1) \Theta_1 + |\Delta^{\beta_2} u_2 - \Delta^{\beta_2} v_2| M_2 \Omega_4 \\ & \quad + |u_2 - v_2| (K_2 + L_2 + N_2) \Theta_2 + |\Delta^{\beta_1} u_1 - \Delta^{\beta_1} v_1| M_1 \Omega_3 \\ & \leq \|(u_1 - v_1, u_2 - v_2)\|_{\mathcal{C}_2} \max \{ (K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\Theta_1, M_2\Omega_4 \} \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \|(u_1 - v_1, u_2 - v_2)\|_{\mathcal{C}_1} \max \{(K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\Theta_2, M_1\Omega_3\}.$$

It implies that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Delta^{\beta_1}(\mathcal{T}_1(u_1, u_2))(t_1 - \beta_1 + 1, t_2) - \Delta^{\beta_1}(\mathcal{T}_1(v_1, v_2))(t_1 - \beta_1 + 1, t_2)\| \\ & < \|(u_1 - v_1, u_2 - v_2)\|_{\mathcal{U}} \times \\ & \quad \left[\max \{(K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\Theta_1, M_2\Omega_4\} + \max \{(K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\Theta_2, M_1\Omega_3\} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

By (47) and (49), we can state that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\mathcal{T}_1(u_1, u_2)) - (\mathcal{T}_1(v_1, v_2))\|_{\mathcal{C}_1} \\ & < 2 \|(u_1 - v_1, u_2 - v_2)\|_{\mathcal{U}} \left[\max \{(K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\Theta_1, M_2\Omega_4\} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \max \{(K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\Theta_2, M_1\Omega_3\} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

With the same arguments as before, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\mathcal{T}_2(u_1, u_2)) - (\mathcal{T}_2(v_1, v_2))\|_{\mathcal{C}_2} < \\ & \quad 2 \|(u_1 - v_1, u_2 - v_2)\|_{\mathcal{U}} \left[\max \{(K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\tilde{\Theta}_1, M_2\tilde{\Omega}_4\} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \max \{(K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\tilde{\Theta}_2, M_1\tilde{\Omega}_3\} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

Therefore, by (50) and (51), we can conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\mathcal{T}(u_1, u_2)) - (\mathcal{T}(v_1, v_2))\|_{\mathcal{U}} \\ & < 2 \|(u_1 - v_1, u_2 - v_2)\|_{\mathcal{U}} \times \\ & \quad \max \left\{ \left[\max \{(K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\Theta_1, M_2\Omega_4\} + \max \{(K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\Theta_2, M_1\Omega_3\} \right], \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left[\max \{(K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\tilde{\Theta}_1, M_2\tilde{\Omega}_4\} + \max \{(K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\tilde{\Theta}_2, M_1\tilde{\Omega}_3\} \right] \right\} \\ & < \chi \|(u_1 - v_1, u_2 - v_2)\|_{\mathcal{U}}. \end{aligned} \quad (52)$$

Since $\chi < \frac{1}{2}$, we get that \mathcal{T} is a contraction mapping.

Hence, by Banach fixed point theorem, we get that \mathcal{T} has a fixed point, which is a unique solution of the problem (3)-(4). \square

4. AN EXAMPLE

In this section, we consider an example to illustrate our main result.

Example Consider the following fractional sum boundary value problem

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta^{\frac{3}{2}}u_1(t) &= H_1\left(t + \frac{1}{2}, t + \frac{1}{3}, \Delta^{\frac{1}{3}}u_1\left(t + \frac{4}{3}\right), u_2\left(t + \frac{1}{3}\right)\right) \\
 &+ \left[\Delta^{-\frac{3}{4}}\varphi_1 H_1\right]u_1\left(t + \frac{5}{4}\right), \\
 \Delta^{\frac{4}{3}}u_2(t) &= H_2\left(t + \frac{1}{2}, t + \frac{1}{3}, u_1\left(t + \frac{1}{2}\right)\Delta^{\frac{3}{4}}u_2\left(t + \frac{7}{12}\right)\right) \\
 &+ \left[\Delta^{-\frac{3}{4}}\varphi_2 H_2\right]u_2\left(t + \frac{7}{6}\right), \\
 u_1\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) &= \phi_1(u_1, u_2) = \frac{|u_1|}{2000e^3} \cos^2 |\pi u_1| + \frac{|u_2^2 + 2|^{1-|u_2^2+2|}}{4000\pi^2(u_2^2 + e)}, \\
 u_2\left(-\frac{2}{3}\right) &= \phi_2(u_1, u_2) = \frac{|u_2|}{500e^2} \sin^2 |\pi u_2| + \frac{|u_1^2 + 2|^{1-|u_1^2+1|}}{2000\pi(u_1^2 + e)}, \\
 u_1\left(\frac{11}{2}\right) &= \frac{1}{2}\Delta^{-\frac{1}{4}}\left(12e + \cos(4)\right)^2 u_2(4), \\
 u_2\left(\frac{16}{3}\right) &= \frac{3}{4}\Delta^{-\frac{2}{3}}\left(10e - \sin\left(\frac{15}{4}\right)\right)^3 u_1\left(\frac{15}{4}\right), \tag{53}
 \end{aligned}$$

where $t \in \mathbb{N}_{0,4}$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_1\left(t + \frac{1}{2}, t + \frac{1}{3}, \Delta^{\frac{1}{3}}u_1\left(t + \frac{4}{3}\right), u_2\left(t + \frac{1}{3}\right)\right) &= \frac{e^{-(t+\frac{1}{3})}(|u_2|+1)}{400\left(t+\frac{301}{3}\right)^2(1+\cos^2 u_2\pi)} + \frac{e^{-(t+\frac{1}{2})\pi}\Delta^{\frac{1}{3}}u_1\left(t+\frac{4}{3}\right)}{100e+10\cos^2\left(t+\frac{1}{2}\right)\pi}, \\
 H_2\left(t + \frac{1}{2}, t + \frac{1}{3}, u_1\left(t + \frac{1}{2}\right)\Delta^{\frac{3}{4}}u_2\left(t + \frac{7}{12}\right)\right) &= \frac{e^{-(t+\frac{1}{2})}\left(|u_1|+e^{-\cos^2\left(t+\frac{1}{2}\right)\pi}\right)}{1000\left(e^{\left(t+\frac{1}{2}\right)}+10\right)^2\left(|u_1|+\sin^2\left(t+\frac{1}{2}\right)\pi\right)} \\
 &+ \frac{\arctan\left(\cos^2\left(t+\frac{1}{3}\right)\pi\right)\Delta^{\frac{3}{4}}u_2\left(t_2+\frac{7}{12}\right)}{100\pi\left(t+\frac{10}{3}\right)^2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Here $\alpha_1 = \frac{3}{2}$, $\alpha_2 = \frac{4}{3}$, $\beta_1 = \frac{1}{3}$, $\beta_2 = \frac{3}{4}$, $\gamma_1 = \frac{3}{4}$, $\gamma_2 = \frac{5}{6}$, $\theta_1 = \frac{1}{4}$, $\theta_2 = \frac{2}{3}$, $\eta_1 = \frac{7}{2}$, $\eta_2 = \frac{10}{3}$, $\lambda_1 = \frac{1}{2}$, $\lambda_2 = \frac{3}{4}$, $T = 4$, $\varphi_1(t_1, s) = \frac{\cos^2 t_1 \pi}{\pi(t_1+5)^2} e^{-2|s-t_1+1|}$, $\varphi_2 = \frac{20\pi e^{-3|s-t_2+2|}}{(5\pi+t_2)^2}$, $g_1(t_1) = (10e - \sin t_1)^3$, $g_2(t_2) = (12e + \cos t_2)^2$, and

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_1\left(t_1, t_2, \Delta^{\frac{1}{3}}u_1\left(t_1 + \frac{2}{3}\right), u_2(t_2)\right) &= \frac{e^{-t_2}(|u_2|+1)}{400(t_2+10)^2(1+\cos^2 u_2\pi)} + \frac{e^{-t_1\pi}\Delta^{\frac{1}{3}}u_1\left(t_1+\frac{2}{3}\right)}{1000e^3+10\cos^2 t_1\pi}, \\
 H_2\left(t_1, t_2, u_1(t_1), \Delta^{\frac{3}{4}}u_2\left(t_2 + \frac{1}{4}\right)\right) &= \\
 &= \frac{e^{-t_1}\left(|u_1|+e^{-\cos^2(t_1\pi)}\right)}{1000\left(e^{t_1}+10\right)^2\left(|u_1|+\sin^2 t_1\pi\right)} + \frac{\arctan\left(\cos^2 t_2\pi\right)\Delta^{\frac{3}{4}}u_2\left(t_2+\frac{1}{4}\right)}{100\pi(t_2+3)^2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $t_1 \in \mathbb{N}_{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{11}{2}}$ and $t_2 \in \mathbb{N}_{-\frac{2}{3}, \frac{16}{3}}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{H}_1|(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)| &\leq \\
 \frac{e^{-t_2}}{400(t_2+10)^2} \left| \frac{|u_2|+1}{1+\cos^2 u_2\pi} - \frac{|v_2|+1}{1+\cos^2 v_2\pi} \right| &+ \frac{e^{-t_1\pi}}{100e+10\cos^2 t_1\pi} \left| \Delta^{\frac{1}{3}}u_1 - \Delta^{\frac{1}{3}}v_1 \right| \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{36100}|u_2 - v_2| + \frac{1}{100e} \left| \Delta^{\frac{1}{3}}u_1 - \Delta^{\frac{1}{3}}v_1 \right|, \\
 \mathcal{H}_2|(u_1, u_2) - (v_1, v_2)| &\leq \frac{e^{-t_1}}{1000\left(e^{t_1}+10\right)^2} \left| \frac{|u_1|}{1+|u_1|} - \frac{|v_1|}{1+|v_1|} \right| + \frac{\arctan(1)}{100\pi+(t_2+3)^2} \left| \Delta^{\frac{3}{4}}u_2 - \Delta^{\frac{3}{4}}v_2 \right| \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{12100}|u_1 - v_1| + \frac{9}{19600} \left| \Delta^{\frac{3}{4}}u_2 - \Delta^{\frac{3}{4}}v_2 \right|.
 \end{aligned}$$

So, (H_1) holds with $M_1 = 0.0037$, $M_2 = 0.00046$, $N_1 = 0.0000083$ and $N_2 = 0.000028$.

Also, we get

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi_1(u_1, u_2) - \phi_1(v_1, v_2)| &\leq \frac{1}{2000e^3}|u_1 - v_1| + \frac{1}{4000\pi^2} \left| \frac{\Gamma(|u_2^2+2|+1)}{|u_2^2+2|^2\Gamma(2|u_2^2+2|)} - \frac{\Gamma(|v_2^2+2|+1)}{|v_2^2+2|^2\Gamma(2|v_2^2+2|)} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2000e^3}|u_1 - v_1| + \frac{1}{4000\pi^2}|u_2 - v_2|, \\ |\phi_1(u_1, u_2) - \phi_1(v_1, v_2)| &\leq \frac{1}{5000e^2}|u_1 - v_1| + \frac{1}{2000\pi^3}|u_2 - v_2|, \end{aligned}$$

and $(10e - 1)^3 < g_1(t_1) < (10e + 1)^3$ and $(12e - 1)^2 < g_2(t_2) < (12e + 1)^2$.

So, $(H_2), (H_3)$ hold with $K_1 = K_2 = 0.000025$, $L_1 = 0.000027$, $L_2 = 0.000016$, $g_1 = 17949.37$, $g_2 = 999.79$, $G_1 = 22384.80$ and $G_2 = 1130.26$.

Finally, we can show that

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_1 &= 3606.264, & \Omega_2 &= 5.932, & \Omega_3 &= 16.870, & \Omega_4 &= 83.112, \\ \tilde{\Omega}_1 &= 7.3159, & \tilde{\Omega}_2 &= 0.2641, & \tilde{\Omega}_3 &= 86.092, & \tilde{\Omega}_4 &= 11.257, \end{aligned}$$

and $\Theta_1 = \Theta_2 = 3606.264$, $\tilde{\Theta}_1 = 11.257$, $\tilde{\Theta}_2 = 86.092$.

Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \chi &= \max \left\{ \max \{ (K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\Theta_1, M_2\Omega_4 \} + \max \{ (K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\Theta_2, M_1\Omega_3 \}, \right. \\ &\quad \left. \max \{ (K_1 + L_1 + N_1)\tilde{\Theta}_1, M_2\tilde{\Omega}_4 \} + \max \{ (K_2 + L_2 + N_2)\tilde{\Theta}_2, M_1\tilde{\Omega}_3 \} \right\} \\ &< \max\{0.249 + 0.249, 0.0052 + 0.032\} = \max\{0.476, 0.324\} = 0.476 < \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Theorem 3.1, the boundary value problem 53 has a unique solution. \square

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was funded by King Mongkuts University of Technology North Bangkok. Contract no.KMUTNB-GOV-59-33

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