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ASYMPTOTIC STABILITY FOR NONLINEAR QUADRATIC FRACTIONAL INTEGRAL EQUATIONS

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Abstract

In this article the authors studied a local asymptotic attractivity and stability result for a hybrid nonlinear fractional integral equations under the mixed weaker partially Lipschitz and compactness type conditions. Our investigations is to prove that the comparable solutions of the considered hybrid nonlinear fractional integral equation are uniformly locally ultimately attractive and asymptotically stable on unbounded intervals of the real line. We base our theory on a recent measure theoretic fixed point theorem of Dhage (2014) in partially ordered spaces.

1. Introduction

This article is to investigate the qualitative analysis of the following nonlinear quadratic fractional integral equation (in short QFIE),

$$x(t) = q(t) + \left[f(t, x(t)) \right] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t, s)}{(t - s)^{1 - \alpha}} g(s, x(\lambda s)) ds \right)$$
(1.1)

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for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_+ = [0, \infty)$, where $q : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$, $k : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$ and $f, g : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ are continuous, $\lambda \in (0, 1]$ and $1 \le \alpha < 2$ and Γ is the Euler's gamma function.

By a solution of the QFIE (1.1) we mean a function $x \in C(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$ that satisfies the equation (1.1), where $C(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$ is the space of continuous real-valued functions on \mathbb{R}_+ . The QFIE (1.1) is more general and includes several nonlinear quadratic integral. For example, if $\alpha = 1$, and $J = [0, T] \subset \mathbb{R}_+$, then it reduces to the quadratic integral equation

$$x(t) = q(t) + \left[f(t, x(t)) \right] \left(\int_0^t k(t, s) g(s, x(\lambda s)) \, ds \right), \ t \in J,$$
 (1.2)

which is studied in Zhu et.al. [16] for monotonicity of the solutions on the bounded interval J of \mathbb{R} . This equation (1.2) is also studied in [8] by Mule D. V. and Ahirrao B. R. for approximate positive solution in partially ordered normed linear space. In this paper we studied qualitative analysis of the nonlinear quadratic fractional integral equation (1.1), which is more general than equations studied in [10]. Throughout this paper we study some local existence results for the above QFIE (1.1) and prove that solutions are locally attractive in the long period of time t. Our analysis will be carried out in a measure theoretic fixed point theorem of Dhage (2013) in partially ordered Banach space and it is shown that the sequence of successive approximations constructed in a certain way converges to the solution of QFIE (1.1) under certain mixed Lipschitz and compactness type conditions on the nonlinearities involved in it.

2. Auxiliary Results

Let $(E, \leq, \|\cdot\|)$ be a partially ordered normed linear space. We frequently need the concept of regularity of E in what follows. It is known that E is **regular** if $\{x_n\}$ is a nondecreasing (resp. nonincreasing) sequence in E such that $x_n \to x^*$ as $n \to \infty$, then $x_n \leq x^*$ (resp. $x_n \geq x^*$) for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. The conditions guarantying the regularity of the partially ordered normed linear space E may be found in Carl and Heikkilä [4] and the references therein.

The following definitions are frequently used in the subsequent part of this paper.

A subset S of E is called **partially bounded** if every chain C in S is bounded. Again S is called a **uniformly partially bounded** if all chains in S are bounded with a unique constant.

Note that every bounded subset of a partially ordered normed linear space is uniformly

partially bounded and uniformly partially bounded set in E is partially bounded, but the converse implications may hold.

Definition 2.1: A mapping $\mathcal{T}: E \to E$ is called **isotonic** or **monotonic** if it is either a monotone nondecreasing or monotone non-increasing, that is, if $x \leq y$ implies $\mathcal{T}x \leq \mathcal{T}y$ or $\mathcal{T}x \succeq \mathcal{T}y$ for all $x, y \in E$.

Definition 2.2 [6]: A mapping $\mathcal{T}: E \to E$ is called **partially continuous** at a point $a \in E$ if for $\epsilon > 0$ there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that $\|\mathcal{T}x - \mathcal{T}a\| < \epsilon$ whenever x is comparable to a and $\|x - a\| < \delta$. \mathcal{T} is called partially continuous on E if it is partially continuous at every point of it. It is clear that if \mathcal{T} is a partially continuous on E, then it is continuous on every chain C contained in E. T is called **partially bounded** if $\mathcal{T}(C)$ is a bounded subset of E for all totally ordered sets or chains C in E.

If C is a chain in E, then C' denotes the set of all limit points of C in E. The symbol \overline{C} stands for the closure of C in E defined by $\overline{C} = C \cup C'$. Thus set \overline{C} is called a closed chain in E. Thus, \overline{C} is the intersection of all closed chains containing C. Clearly, inf C, sup $C \in \overline{C}$ provided inf C and sup C exist. The sup C is an element $z \in E$ such that for every $\epsilon > 0$ there exists a $c \in C$ such that $d(c, z) < \epsilon$ and $x \leq z$ for all $x \in C$. Similarly, inf C is defined in the same way.

In what follows, we denote by $\mathcal{P}_{cl}(E)$, $\mathcal{P}_{bd}(E)$, $\mathcal{P}_{rcp}(E)$, $\mathcal{P}_{ch}(E)$, $\mathcal{P}_{bd,ch}(E)$, $\mathcal{P}_{rcp,ch}(E)$ the family of all nonempty and closed, bounded, relatively compact, chains, bounded chains and relatively compact chains of E respectively. Now we introduce the concept of partially measure of noncompactness in E on the lines of usual classical theory.

We accept the following definition of partially measure of noncompactness given in Dhage [6].

Definition 2.3: A mapping μ^p : $\mathcal{P}_{bd,ch}(E) \to \mathbb{R}_+ = [0,\infty)$ is said to be a partially measure of noncompactness in E if it satisfies the following conditions:

$$1 \emptyset \neq (\mu^p)^{-1}(\{0\}) \subset \mathcal{P}_{rcp,ch}(E),$$

$$2 \mu^p(\overline{C}) = \mu^p(C)$$

- 3 μ^p is nondecreasing, i.e., if $C_1 \subset C_2 \Rightarrow \mu^p(C_1) \leq \mu^p(C_2)$
- 4 If $\{C_n\}$ is a sequence of closed chains from $\mathcal{P}_{bd,ch}(E)$ such that $C_{n+1} \subset C_n$ (n = 1, 2, ...) and if $\lim_{n \to \infty} \mu^p(C_n) = 0$, then the intersection set $\overline{C}_{\infty} = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n$ is nonempty.

The partially measure μ^p of noncompactness is called **sublinear** if it satisfies

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$$\mu^p(C_1 + C_2) \le \mu^p(C_1) + \mu^p(C_2)$$
 for all $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{P}_{bd,ch}(E)$ and

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$$\mu^p(\lambda C) = |\lambda| \mu^p(C)$$
 for $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.

Remark 2.1: The family of sets described in 1 is said to be kernel of the measure of noncompactness μ^p and is defined as

$$\ker \mu^p = \{ C \in \mathcal{P}_{bd,ch}(E) \mid \mu^p(C) = 0 \}.$$

Clearly, ker $\mu^p \subset \mathcal{P}_{rcp,ch}(E)$. Observe that the intersection set C_{∞} from condition (4) is a member of the family ker μ^p . In fact, since $\mu^p(C_{\infty}) \leq \mu^p(C_n)$ for any n, we infer that $\mu^p(C_{\infty}) = 0$. This yields that $C_{\infty} \in \ker \mu^p$. This simple observation will be essential in our further investigations.

Definition 2.4: A mapping $T: E \to E$ is called a partially k-set-contraction if there exists a constant k > 0 such that for any bounded chain C of E, T(C) is a bounded chain and $\mu^p(T(C)) \le k \, \mu^p(C)$.

We need the following definition in what follows.

Definition 2.5 [6]: The order relation \leq and the metric d on a non-empty set E are said to be **compatible** if $\{x_n\}$ is a monotone, that is, monotone a nondecreasing or monotone nonincreasing sequence in E and if a subsequence $\{x_{n_k}\}$ of $\{x_n\}$ converges to x^* implies that the whole sequence $\{x_n\}$ converges to x^* . Similarly, given a partially ordered normed linear space $(E, \leq, \|\cdot\|)$, the order relation \leq and the norm $\|\cdot\|$ are said to be compatible if \leq and the metric d defined through the norm $\|\cdot\|$ are compatible. The following applicable hybrid fixed point theorem for monotone mappings proved in Dhage [6] is the key tool for proving the main existence results of this paper.

Theorem 2.1 [7]: Let S be a non-empty, closed and partially bounded subset of a regular partially ordered complete normed linear space $(E, \preceq, \|\cdot\|)$ such that the order relation \preceq and the norm $\|\cdot\|$ are compatible in every compact chain C of E. Let $\mathcal{T}: S \to S$ be a partially continuous, nondecreasing and partially k-set-contraction with k < 1. If there exists an element $x_0 \in S$ such that $x_0 \preceq \mathcal{T} x_0$ or $x_0 \succeq \mathcal{T} x_0$, then \mathcal{T} has a fixed point x^* and the sequence $\{\mathcal{T}^n x_0\}$ of successive iterations converges to x^* .

Proof: The proof is given in Dhage [9] and so we omit the details.

Remark 2.2: The regularity of E and the partial continuity of T in above Theorem 2.1 may be replaced with a stronger condition of the continuity of the operator T on E.

Remark 2.3: If the set S of solutions to the above operator equation is a chain, then all the solutions belonging to S are comparable. Further, if $\mu^p(S) > 0$, then $\mu^p(S) = \mu^p(TS) \le \psi(\mu^p(S)) < \mu^p(S)$ which is a contradiction. Consequently, $S \in \ker \mu^p$. This simple fact has been utilized in the study of qualitative properties of the dynamic systems under consideration. See Dhage ([6], [7]), Dhage and Dhage *et.al.* [11].

Remark 2.4: Suppose that the order relation \leq is introduced in E with the help of an order cone \mathcal{K} which is a non-empty closed set \mathcal{K} in E satisfying (i) $\mathcal{K} + \mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathcal{K}$, (ii) $\lambda \mathcal{K} \subseteq \mathcal{K}$ and (iii) $\{-\mathcal{K}\} \cap \mathcal{K} = \{0\}$ (cf. [13]). Then the order relation \leq in E is defined as $x \leq y \iff y - x \in \mathcal{K}$. The element $x_0 \in E$ satisfying $x_0 \leq \mathcal{T}x_0$ in above Theorem 2.1 is called a lower solution of the operator equation $x = \mathcal{T}x$. If the operator equation $x = \mathcal{T}x$ has more than one lower solution and the set of all these lower solutions are comparable, then the corresponding set S of the solutions to above operator equation is a chain and hence all solutions in S are comparable. To see this, let x_0 and y_0 be any two lower solutions of the above operator equation such that $x_0 \leq y_0$ and let x^* and y^* respectively be the corresponding solutions under the conditions of Theorem 2.1. Now, by definition of \leq , one has $y_0 - x_0 \in \mathcal{K}$ and from the monotone nondecreasing nature of \mathcal{T} it follows that $\mathcal{T}^n y_0 - \mathcal{T}^n x_0 \in \mathcal{K}$. Since \mathcal{K} is closed, we have that $y^* - x^* \in \mathcal{K}$ or $x^* \leq y^*$.

For our purpose we introduce a handy tool for the partial measure of noncompactness in the space $BC(\mathbb{R}_+,\mathbb{R})$ which is useful in the study of the solutions of certain nonlinear integral equations. To define this partial measure of noncompactness, let us fix a nonempty and bounded chain X in the partially ordered Banach space $BC(\mathbb{R}_+,\mathbb{R})$ and a positive real number T. For a fixed element $x \in X$ and a real number $\epsilon \geq 0$ denote by $\omega^T(x,\epsilon)$ the modulus of continuity of the function x on the interval [0,T] defined by

$$\omega^{T}(x,\epsilon) = \sup\{|x(t) - x(s)| : t, s \in [0,T], |t - s| \le \epsilon\}.$$

Next, let us put

$$\omega^{T}(X, \epsilon) = \sup \{ \omega^{T}(x, \epsilon) : x \in X \} ,$$

$$\omega_{0}^{T}(X) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \omega^{T}(X, \epsilon)$$

and

$$\omega_0(X) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \omega_0^T(X) \ . \tag{2.1}$$

The partial Hausdorff measure of noncompactness β^p in the function space $C([0,T],\mathbb{R})$ of continuous real-valued functions defined on closed and bounded interval [0,T], is very much useful in the applications to nonlinear differential and integral equations and it can be shown that

$$\beta^p(X) = \frac{1}{2}\omega_0^T(X)$$

for all bounded chain X in $C([0,T],\mathbb{R})$. Similarly, ω_0 is a handy tool of partial measure of noncompactness in the ordered Banach space $BC(\mathbb{R}_+,\mathbb{R})$ useful for practical applications to nonlinear differential and integral equations.

Now, for a fixed number $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and a fixed bounded chain X in $BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$, let us denote

$$X(t) = \{x(t) : x \in X\}.$$

Let

$$\delta_a(X(t)) = |X(t)| = \sup\{|x(t)| : x \in X\},$$

$$\delta_a^T(X(t)) = \sup_{t \ge T} \delta_a(X(t)) = \sup_{t \ge T} |X(t)|$$

and

$$\delta_a(X) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \delta_a^T(X(t)) = \limsup_{t \to \infty} |X(t)|. \tag{2.2}$$

The details of the function δ_a appear in Dhage [6]. Finally, let us consider the function μ_a^p defined on the family of bounded chains in $BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$ by the formula

$$\mu_a^p(X) = \omega_0(X) + \delta_a(X). \tag{2.3}$$

It can be shown that the function μ_a^p is a partial measure of noncompactness in the space $BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$. The components ω_0 and δ_a are called the characteristic values of the partial measure of noncompactness μ_a^p in $BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$.

Remark 2.5: The kernel ker μ_a^p of the partial measure of noncompactness μ_a^p consists of all nonempty and bounded chains X of the Banach space $BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$ such that functions from X are locally equicontinuous on \mathbb{R}_+ and the thickness of the bundle formed by functions from X tends to zero at infinity. This particular characteristic of ker μ_a^p has been useful in establishing the local attractivity and local asymptotic stability of

the comparable solutions for the fractional integral equations on \mathbb{R} .

3. Attractivity and Stability Results

Our considerations will be placed in the Banach space $BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$ consisting of the all real functions x = x(t) which are defined, continuous and bounded on \mathbb{R}_+ . This space is equipped with the standard supremum norm

$$||x|| = \sup\{|x(t)|: t \in \mathbb{R}_+\}.$$
 (3.1)

Define the order relation \leq in $BC(\mathbb{R}_+,\mathbb{R})$ as follows. Let $x,y\in BC(\mathbb{R}_+,\mathbb{R})$. Then

$$x \le y \iff x(t) \le y(t) \tag{3.2}$$

for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$. It is clear that $(BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}), \leq, ||\cdot||)$ is a regular partially ordered Banach space which is also a lattice (cf. Nieto and Lopez [15]).

The following lemma follows immediately by an application of Arzellá-Ascoli theorem. **Lemma 3.1**: Let $(BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}), \leq, \|\cdot\|)$ be a partially ordered Banach space with the norm $\|\cdot\|$ and the order relation \leq defined by (3.1) and (3.2) respectively. Then the

norm $\|\cdot\|$ and the order relation \leq are compatible in every partially compact subset of $BC(\mathbb{R}_+,\mathbb{R})$.

Proof: The proof of the lemma appears in Dhage [7]. Since it is not well-known, we give the details of it. Let S be a partially compact subset of $BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$ and let $\{x_n\}$ be a monotone nondecreasing sequence of points in S. Then we have

$$x_1(t) \le x_2(t) \le \dots \le x_n(t) \le \dots , \tag{*}$$

for each $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$.

Suppose that a subsequence $\{x_{n_k}\}$ of $\{x_n\}$ is convergent and converges to a point x in S. Then the subsequence $\{x_{n_k}(t)\}$ of the monotone real sequence $\{x_n(t)\}$ is convergent. By monotone characterization, the whole sequence $\{x_n(t)\}$ is convergent and converges to a point x(t) in \mathbb{R} for each $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$. This shows that the sequence $\{x_n\}$ converges point-wise to x in S. To show the convergence is uniform, it is enough to show that the sequence $\{x_n(t)\}$ is equicontinuous. Since S is partially compact, every chain or totally ordered set and consequently $\{x_n\}$ is an equicontinuous sequence by Arzelá-Ascoli theorem. Hence $\{x_n\}$ is convergent and converges uniformly to x. As a result $\|\cdot\|$ and \leq are compatible in S. This completes the proof.

In order to introduce further concepts used in the paper let us assume that Ω is a nonempty chain of the space $BC(\mathbb{R}_+,\mathbb{R})$. Moreover, let Q be an operator defined on Ω with values in $BC(\mathbb{R}_+,\mathbb{R})$.

Consider the operator equation of the form

$$x(t) = Qx(t), \ t \in \mathbb{R}_+ \ . \tag{3.3}$$

Definition 3.1: We say that comparable solutions of the equation (3.3) are **locally** asymptotically stable or locally asymptotically attractive to the line x(t) = c for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ if there exists an open ball $\mathbb{B}(x_0, r)$ in the space $BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$ such that for arbitrary comparable solution x = x(t) of the equation (3.3) belonging to $\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r) \cap \Omega$ we have that

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} [x(t) - c] = 0 . {(3.4)}$$

In the case when limit (3.4) is uniform with respect to the set $\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r) \cap \Omega$, i.e. when for each $\epsilon > 0$ there exists T > 0 such that

$$|x(t) - c| \le \epsilon \tag{3.5}$$

for all $x \in \overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r) \cap \Omega$ being the comparable solutions of (3.3) and for $t \geq T$, we will say that the comparable solutions of the operator equation (3.3) are **uniformly locally** asymptotically attractive or uniformly locally asymptotically stable to the line x(t) = c defined on \mathbb{R}_+ .

The equation (1.1) will be considered under the following assumptions:

- (H₁) The function $q: \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous and bounded. Moreover, $\lim_{t \to \infty} q(t) = 0$.
- (H₂) The function k is continuous and nonnegative on $\mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+$.
- (H₃) f and g define the functions $f, g: J \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}_+$. Moreover, f(t, 0) = 0 for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$.
- (H_4) There exists a constant L > 0 such that

$$0 \le f(t,x) - f(t,y) \le L(x-y)$$

for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ with $x \geq y$.

- (H₅) g(t,x) is nondecreasing in x for each $t \in J$.
- (H₆) There exists an element $u \in C(J, \mathbb{R})$ such that

$$u(t) \leq q(t) + \left[f(t,u(t)) \right] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} \ g(s,u(\lambda s))) \, ds \right)$$

for all $t \in J$.

(H₇) There exists a continuous function $b: \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$ such that $g(t,x) \leq b(t)$ for $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Moreover, we assume that

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} b(s) ds = 0.$$

Remark 3.1: If we define the function $v: \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$ by

$$v(t) = \int_0^t \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} \ b(s) \, ds, \tag{3.6}$$

then it is continuous on \mathbb{R}_+ and which further in view of hypothesis (H₇) implies that the number $V = \sup_{t>0} v(t)$ exists.

The hypotheses (H_1) through (H_7) are standard and have been widely used in the literature on nonlinear differential and integral equations. The hypothesis (H_3) is considered recently in Nieto and Lopez [15]. Now we formulate the main existence results for the integral equation (1.1) under above mentioned natural conditions.

Theorem 3.1: Assume that the hypotheses (H₁) through (H₇) hold. Furthermore if $\frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} < 1$, then the fractional QFIE (1.1) has at least one solution x^* in the space $BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$ and the sequence $\{x_n\}$ of successive approximations defined by

$$x_{n+1}(t) = q(t) + \left[f(t, x_n(t)) \right] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t, s)}{(t - s)^{1 - \alpha}} g(s, x_n(\lambda s)) ds \right), \ t \in \mathbb{R}_+, \quad (3.7)$$

for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $x_0 = u$ converges monotonically to x^* . Moreover, the comparable solutions of the QFIE (1.1) are uniformly locally asymptotically attractive and stable to zero on \mathbb{R}_+ .

Proof: We seek the solutions of the HFIE (1.1) in the function space $BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$ of continuous and bounded real-valued functions defined on \mathbb{R}_+ . Set $E = BC(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R})$. Then, in view of Lemma 3.1, every compact chain in E possesses the compatibility property with respect to the norm $\|\cdot\|$ and the order relation \leq in E.

Define the operator Q defined on the space E by the formula

$$Qx(t) = q(t) + \left[f(t, x(t))\right] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{k(t, s)}{(t - s)^{1 - \alpha}} g(s, x(\lambda s)) ds\right)$$
(3.8)

for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Observe that in view of our assumptions, for any function $x \in E$, the function Qx is continuous on \mathbb{R}_+ . As a result, Q defines a mapping $Q: E \to E$. We show that Q satisfies all the conditions of Theorem 2.1 on E. This will be achieved in a series of following steps:

Step I: Q is a nondecreasing on E.

Let $x, y \in E$ be such that $x \leq y$. Then by hypothesis (H_3) - (H_4) , we obtain

$$Qx(t) = q(t) + \left[f(t, x(t)) \right] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t, s)}{(t - s)^{1 - \alpha}} g(s, x(\lambda s)) ds \right)$$

$$\leq q(t) + \left[f(t, y(t)) \right] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t, s)}{(t - s)^{1 - \alpha}} g(s, y(\lambda s)) ds \right)$$

$$= Qy(t)$$

for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$. This shows that Q is a nondecreasing operator on E.

Step II: Q maps a closed and partially bounded set into itself. Define an open ball $\mathbb{B}(x_0, r)$, where $r = \frac{\|x_0\| + \|q\|}{1 - \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)}}$. Let X be a chain in $\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r)$ and let $x \in X$ be arbitrary. If $x \geq \theta$, then for arbitrarily fixed $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ we obtain:

$$|x_{0}(t) - Qx(t)| \leq |x_{0}(t)| + ||q|| + [|f(t, x(t))|] \times \\ \times \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{k(t, s)}{(t - s)^{1 - \alpha}} |g(s, x(\lambda s))| ds\right) \\ \leq |x_{0}(t)| + ||q|| + [|f(t, x(t)) - f(t, 0)|] \times \\ \times \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{k(t, s)}{(t - s)^{1 - \alpha}} b(s) ds\right) \\ \leq |x_{0}(t)| + ||q|| + L |x(t)| \frac{v(t)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \\ \leq ||x_{0}|| + ||q|| + L ||x|| \frac{V}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \\ \leq ||x_{0}|| + ||q|| + \frac{LVr}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \\ \leq ||x_{0}|| + ||q|| + \frac{LVr}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$$

$$\leq r.$$
(3.9)

Similarly, if $x \leq \theta$, then it can be shown that $|x_0(t) - Qx(t)| \leq r$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Taking the suremum over t, we obtain $||x_0 - Qx|| \leq r$ for all $x \in X$. This means that the operator Q transforms any bounded chain X into a bounded chain QX in E. More precisely, we infer that the operator Q transforms the chain X belonging to $\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r)$ into the chain Q(X) contained in the ball $\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r)$. As a result, Q defines a mapping $Q: \mathcal{P}_{ch}(\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r)) \to \mathcal{P}_{ch}(\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r))$ and that Q is partially bounded on $S = \overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r)$ into itself.

Step III: Q is a partially continuous on S.

Now we show that the operator Q is a partially continuous on the ball $\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r)$. To do this, let us fix an arbitrary $\epsilon > 0$ and take $x, y \in X \subset \overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r)$ such that $x \geq y$ and $||x - y|| \leq \epsilon$. Then we get:

$$\begin{split} \left|Qx(t)-Qy(t)\right| &\leq \left| [f(t,x(t))] \Big(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} \ g(s,x(\lambda s)) \, ds \Big) \right| \\ &- [f(t,y(t))] \Big(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} \ g(s,y(\lambda s)) \, ds \Big) \right| \\ &\leq \left| [f(t,x(t))] \Big(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} g(s,x(\lambda s)) \, ds \Big) \right| \\ &- [f(t,y(t))] \Big(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} \ g(s,y(\lambda s)) \, ds \Big) \right| \\ &+ \left| [f(t,y(t))] \Big(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} \ g(s,x(\lambda s)) \, ds \Big) \right| \\ &- [f(t,y(t))] \Big(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} \ g(s,y(\lambda s)) \, ds \Big) \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(t,x(t))-f(t,y(t))| \int_0^t \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} \ b(s) \, ds \\ &+ \frac{2}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(t,y(t))| \int_0^t \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} \ b(s) \, ds \\ &\leq \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |x(t)-y(t)| + \frac{2Lr}{\Gamma(\alpha)} v(t). \end{split}$$

Hence, by virtue of hypothesis (B₆), we infer that there exists T>0 such tha $v(t) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{\frac{2Lr}{\Gamma(\alpha)}}$ for $t \geq T$. Thus, for $t \geq T$ we derive that

$$|Qx(t) - Qy(t)| < \left(\frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} + 1\right)\epsilon$$
 (3.10)

Further, let us assume that $t \in [0, T]$. Then, evaluating as above with the Similar arguments, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \left|Qx(t)-Qy(t)\right| & \leq & \left|[f(t,x(t))]\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}}\ g(s,x(\lambda s))\,ds\right)\right| \\ & -[f(t,y(t))]\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}}\ g(s,y(\lambda s))\,ds\right) \right| \\ & \leq & \left|[f(t,x(t))]\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}}\ g(s,x(\lambda s))\,ds\right)\right| \\ & -[f(t,y(t))]\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}}\ g(s,y(\lambda s))\,ds\right) \right| \\ & + \left|[f(t,y(t))]\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}}\ g(s,x(\lambda s))\,ds\right)\right| \\ & -[f(t,y(t))]\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)}\int_{0}^{t}\frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}}\ g(s,y(\lambda s))\,ds\right) \right| \\ & \leq & \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)}|f(t,x(t))-f(t,y(t))|\int_{0}^{t}\frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}}\ b(s)\,ds \\ & + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)}|f(t,y(t))|\int_{0}^{t}\frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}}\ |g(s,x(\lambda s))-g(s,y(\lambda s))|\,ds \\ & \leq & \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)}|x(t)-y(t)|+\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)}|f(t,y(t))|\int_{0}^{t}\frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}}\ \omega_{r}^{T}(g,\epsilon)\,ds \\ & < & \epsilon+\frac{C\ MT^{p}}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}\omega_{r}^{T}(g,\epsilon)\ , \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

where we have denoted

$$C = \sup\{k(t,s) \ : \ t,s \in [0,T]\},$$

$$M = \sup\big\{f(t,y): \ t \in [0,T] \ \text{ and } y \in [-r,r]\big\} \ ,$$

and

$$\omega_r^T(g,\epsilon) = \sup\{|g(s,x) - g(s,y)| : t, s \in [0,T], \ x, y \in [-r,r], \ |x - y| \le \epsilon\} \ .$$

Now, from the uniform continuity of the function g(s,x) on the set $[0,T] \times [-r,r]$ we derive that $\omega_r^T(g,\epsilon) \to 0$ as $\epsilon \to 0$. Now, linking ((3.10), (3.11)) and the above established facts we conclude that the operator Q maps partially continuously the ball $\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0,r)$ into itself.

Step IV: Q is a k-set-contraction w.r.t. the characteristic value ω_0 .

Further on let us take a chain X belonging to the ball $\mathbb{B}(x_0, r)$. Next, fix an arbitrary T > 0 and $\epsilon > 0$. Let us choose $x \in X$ and $t_1, t_2 \in [0, T]$ with $|t_2 - t_1| \le \epsilon$. Without loss of generality we may assume that $x(t_1) \ge x(t_2)$. Then, taking into account our assumptions, we get:

$$\begin{split} \left|Qx(t_1) - Qy(t_2)\right| &\leq |q(t_1) - q(t_2)| \\ &+ \left|[f(t_1, x(t_1))] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^{t_1} \frac{k(t_1, s)}{(t_1 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ g(s, x(\lambda s)) \, ds\right) \right. \\ &- [f(t_2, y(t_2))] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^{t_2} \frac{k(t_2, s)}{(t_2 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ g(s, y(\lambda s)) \, ds\right) \right| \\ &\leq |q(t_1) - q(t_2)| \\ &+ \left|[f(t_1, x(t_1))] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^{t_1} \frac{k(t_1, s)}{(t_1 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ g(s, x(\lambda s)) \, ds\right) \right. \\ &- [f(t_2, y(t_2))] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^{t_1} \frac{k(t_2, s)}{(t_2 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ g(s, y(\lambda s)) \, ds\right) \right| \\ &+ \left|[f(t_2, y(t_2))] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^{t_1} \frac{k(t_1, s)}{(t_1 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ g(s, x(\lambda s)) \, ds\right) \right. \\ &- [f(t_2, y(t_2))] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^{t_2} \frac{k(t_2, s)}{(t_2 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ g(s, y(\lambda s)) \, ds\right) \right| \\ &\leq |q(t_1) - q(t_2)| \\ &+ \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(t_1, x(t_1)) - f(t_2, x(t_2))| \left(\int_0^{t_1} \frac{k(t_1, s)}{(t_1 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ b(s) \, ds\right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(t_2, y(t_2))| \left|\int_0^{t_1} \frac{k(t_1, s)}{(t_1 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ |g(s, x(\lambda s))| \, ds \right. \\ &- \int_0^{t_2} \frac{k(t_2, s)}{(t_2 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ |g(s, x(\lambda s)) \, ds\right| \\ &+ \left|\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{t_2}^{t_1} \frac{k(t_2, s)}{(t_2 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ g(s, x(\lambda s)) \, ds\right| \\ &\leq |q(t_1) - q(t_2)| + |f(t_1, x(t_1)) - f(t_2, x(t_2))| v(t_1) \\ &+ \frac{M}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \left|\int_0^{t_1} \frac{k(t_1, s)}{(t_1 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ g(s, x(\lambda s)) \, ds - \int_0^{t_2} \frac{k(t_2, s)}{(t_2 - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ g(s, x(\lambda s)) \, ds\right| \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq |q(t_{1}) - q(t_{2})| + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(t_{1}, x(t_{1})) - f(t_{2}, x(t_{2}))| v(t_{1})
+ \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{0}^{T} \left| \frac{k(t_{1}, s)}{(t_{1} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} - \frac{k(t_{2}, s)}{(t_{2} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \right| b(s) ds
+ \left| \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{t_{2}}^{t_{1}} \frac{k(t_{2}, s)}{(t_{2} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} g(s, x(\lambda s)) ds \right|
\leq |q(t_{1}) - q(t_{2})|
+ \frac{V}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(t_{1}, x(t_{1})) - f(t_{2}, x(t_{2}))|
+ \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{0}^{T} \left| \frac{k(t_{1}, s)}{(t_{1} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} - \frac{k(t_{2}, s)}{(t_{2} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \right| b(s) ds
+ \frac{G_{r}^{T}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |t_{1} - t_{2}|,$$
(3.12)

where

$$G_r^T = \sup\{|\tilde{g}(t,s,x)| : t \in [0,T], s \in [0,T], x \in [-r,r]\}$$

which does exists in view of the fact that the function

$$\tilde{g}(t, s, x) = \frac{k(t, s)}{(t - s)^{1 - \alpha}} g(s, x)$$

is continuous on compact $[0,T] \times [0,T] \times [-r,r]$. Now combining the inequalities (3.11) and (3.12) we obtain,

$$|Qx(t_{2}) - Qx(t_{1})| \leq |q(t_{1}) - q(t_{2})| + \frac{V}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |f(t_{1}, x(t_{1})) - f(t_{2}, x(t_{1}))| + \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |x(t_{1}) - x(t_{2})| + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{0}^{T} \left| \frac{k(t_{1}, s)}{(t_{1} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} - \frac{k(t_{2}, s)}{(t_{2} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \right| b(s) ds + \frac{G_{r}^{T}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |t_{1} - t_{2}|$$

$$\leq \omega^{T}(q, \epsilon) + \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \omega^{T}(x, \epsilon) + \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \omega_{r}^{T}(f, \epsilon) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{0}^{T} \left| \frac{k(t_{1}, s)}{(t_{1} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} - \frac{k(t_{2}, s)}{(t_{2} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \right| b(s) ds + \frac{G_{r}^{T}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |t_{1} - t_{2}|,$$

$$(3.13)$$

where we have denoted

$$\omega^{T}(q,\epsilon) = \sup\{|q(t_2) - q(t_1)| : t_1, t_2 \in [0,T], |t_2 - t_1| \le \epsilon\},$$

$$\omega^{T}(x,\epsilon) = \sup\{|x(t_2) - x(t_1)| : t_1, t_2 \in [0,T], |t_2 - t_1| \le \epsilon\}$$

and

$$\omega_r^T(f,\epsilon) = \sup\{|f(t_2,x) - f(t_1,x)|: t_1, t_2 \in [0,T], |t_2 - t_1| \le \epsilon, x \in [-r,r]\}.$$

From the above estimate we derive the following one:

$$\omega^{T}(Q(X), \epsilon) \leq \omega^{T}(q, \epsilon) + \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \omega^{T}(X, \epsilon) + \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \omega_{r}^{T}(f, \epsilon)
+ \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{0}^{T} \left| \frac{k(t_{1}, s)}{(t_{1} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} - \frac{k(t_{2}, s)}{(t_{2} - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \right| b(s) ds
+ \frac{G_{r}^{T}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \epsilon.$$
(3.14)

Observe that $\omega_r^T(f,\epsilon) \to 0$ and $\left| \frac{k(t_1,s)}{(t_1-s)^{1-\alpha}} - \frac{k(t_2,s)}{(t_2-s)^{1-\alpha}} \right| \to 0$ as $\epsilon \to 0$, which is a simple consequence of the uniform continuity of the functions f and $\frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}}$ on the sets $[0,T]\times[-r,r]$ and $[0,T]\times[0,\beta_T]$ respectively. Moreover, from the uniform continuity of q on [0,T], it follows that $\omega^T(q,\epsilon) \to 0$ as $\epsilon \to 0$. Thus, linking the established facts with the estimate (3.14) we get

$$\omega_0^T(Q(X)) \le \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \omega_0^T(X)$$
.

Consequently, we obtain

$$\omega_0(Q(X)) \le \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \,\omega_0(X) \ .$$
 (3.15)

Step V: Q is a k-set-contraction w.r.t. characteristic value δ_c .

Next, we show that Q is k-set-contraction with respect to the characteristic value δ_a . Now, taking into account our assumptions, for arbitrarily fixed $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and for $x \in X$ with $x \geq 0$, we deduce the following estimate:

$$\begin{aligned} |(Qx)(t)| &\leq |q(t)| + |f(t,x(t)) - f(t,0)| \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t,s)}{(t-s)^{1-\alpha}} b(s) \, ds\right) \\ &\leq |q(t)| + L |x(t)| \frac{v(t)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \\ &\leq |q(t)| + \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} |x(t)|. \end{aligned}$$

From the above inequality it follows that

$$|QX(t)| \leq |q(t)| + \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)}|X(t)|$$

for each $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Therefore, taking limit superior over $t \to \infty$, we obtain

$$\delta_{a}(QX) = \limsup_{t \to \infty} |Q(X(t))|
\leq \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \limsup_{t \to \infty} |X(t)|
= \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \delta_{a}(X).$$
(3.16)

Step VI: Q is a partially k-set-contraction on S.

Further, using the measure of noncompactness μ_a^p defined by the formula (2.3) and keeping in mind the estimates (3.15) and (3.16), we obtain

$$\begin{split} \mu_c^p(QX) &= \omega_0(QX) \, + \, \delta_a(QX) \\ &\leq \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \, \omega_0(X) \, + \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \, \delta_a(X) \\ &= \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \, \mu_a^p(X). \end{split}$$

This shows that Q is a partially nonlinear k-set-contraction on S with $k = \frac{LV}{\Gamma(\alpha)} < 1$. Again, by hypothesis (H₅), there exists an element $x_0 = u \in S$ such that $x_0 \leq Qx_0$, that is, x_0 is a lower solution of the QFIE (1.1) defined on \mathbb{R}_+ .

Thus Q satisfies all the conditions of Theorem 2.1 on S. Hence we apply it to the operator equation Qx = x and deduce that the operator Q has a fixed point x^* in the ball $\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r)$. This further implies that x^* is a solution of the fractional integral equation (??) and the sequence $\{x_n\}$ of successive approximations defined by

$$x_{n+1}(t) = q(t) + \left[f(t, x_n(t)) \right] \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{k(t, s)}{(t - s)^{1 - \alpha}} \ g(s, x_n(\lambda s)) \, ds \right)$$

for each $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$ converges monotonically to x^* . Moreover, taking into account that the image of every chain X under the operator Q is again a chain Q(X) contained in the ball $\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r)$ we infer that the set $\mathcal{F}(Q)$ of all fixed points of Q is contained in $\overline{\mathbb{B}}(x_0, r)$. If the set $\mathcal{F}(Q)$ contains all comparable solutions of the equation (1.1), then we conclude from Remark 2.3 that the set $\mathcal{F}(Q)$ belongs to the family ker μ_a^p . Now, taking into

account the description of sets belonging to ker μ_a^p (given in Section 2) we deduce that all comparable solutions of the equation (1.1) are uniformly locally ultimately attractive on \mathbb{R}_+ . This completes the proof.

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