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# Existence results for nonlinear fractional differential equations with closed boundary conditions and impulses

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## Abstract

This paper is concerned with the existence and uniqueness of solutions for impulsive nonlinear differential equations of fractional order  $\alpha \in (1, 2]$  with closed boundary conditions. By applying some standard fixed point theorems, we obtain the sufficient conditions for the existence and uniqueness of solutions of the problem at hand. An illustrative example is presented.

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## 1 Introduction

Dynamical systems with impulse effect are regarded as a class of general hybrid systems. Impulsive hybrid systems are composed of some continuous variable dynamic systems along with certain reset maps that define impulsive switching among them. It is the switching that resets the modes and changes the continuous state of the system. There are three classes of impulsive hybrid systems, namely impulsive differential systems [1, 2], sampled data or digital control system [3, 4], and impulsive switched system [5]. Using hybrid models, one may represent time and event-based behaviors more accurately so as to meet challenging design requirements in the design of control systems for problems such as cut-off control and idle speed control of the engine. For more details, see [6] and the references therein.

Fractional calculus (differentiation and integration of arbitrary order) has proved to be an important tool in the modeling of dynamical systems associated with phenomena such as fractals and chaos. In fact, this branch of calculus has found its applications in various disciplines of science and engineering such as mechanics, electricity, chemistry, biology, economics, control theory, signal and image processing, polymer rheology, regular variation in thermodynamics, biophysics, blood flow phenomena, aerodynamics, electrodynamics of complex medium, viscoelasticity and damping, control theory, wave propagation, percolation, identification, fitting of experimental data, *etc.* Fractional derivatives provide an excellent tool for the description of memory and hereditary properties of various materials and processes. With this advantage, the fractional-order models become more realistic and practical than the classical integer-order models in which such effects

are not taken into account. For some recent details and examples, see [7–22] and the references therein.

Impulsive differential equations are found to be important mathematical tools for better understanding of several real world problems in biology, physics, engineering, etc. In fact, the theory of impulsive differential equations of integer order has found its extensive applications in realistic mathematical modeling of a wide variety of practical situations and has emerged as an important area of investigation; for instance, see [23–25] and references therein. The recent surge in developing the theory of differential equations of fractional order has led several researchers to study the fractional differential equations with impulsive effects. For some recent work on impulsive differential equations of fractional order, see [26–31] and the references therein.

In this paper, we investigate the existence of solutions for the following impulsive fractional differential equations with closed boundary conditions:

$$\begin{cases} {}^C D^q x(t) = f(t, x(t)), & 1 < q \leq 2, t \in J', \\ \Delta x(t_k) = I_k(x(t_k)), & \Delta x'(t_k) = I_k^*(x(t_k)), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p, \\ x(T) = \alpha x(0) + \beta Tx'(0), & Tx'(T) = \gamma x(0) + \delta Tx'(0), \quad \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{R}, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where  ${}^C D^q$  is the Caputo fractional derivative,  $f \in C(J \times \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $I_k, I_k^* \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $J = [0, T]$  ( $T > 0$ ),  $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k < \dots < t_p < t_{p+1} = T$ ,  $J' = J \setminus \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_p\}$ ,  $\Delta x(t_k) = x(t_k^+) - x(t_k^-)$ , where  $x(t_k^+)$  and  $x(t_k^-)$  denote the right and the left limits of  $x(t)$  at  $t = t_k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, p$ ), respectively.  $\Delta x'(t_k)$  have a similar meaning for  $x'(t)$ .

Here we remark that the boundary conditions in (1.1) include quasi-periodic boundary conditions ( $\beta = \gamma = 0$ ) and interpolate between periodic ( $\alpha, \delta \rightarrow 1, \beta, \gamma \rightarrow 0$ ) and antiperiodic ( $\alpha = \delta = -1, \beta = \gamma = 0$ ) boundary conditions. For more details and applications of closed boundary conditions, see [14].

## 2 Preliminaries

Let  $J_0 = [0, t_1], J_1 = (t_1, t_2], \dots, J_{p-1} = (t_{p-1}, t_p], J_p = (t_p, T]$ , and we introduce the spaces:  $PC(J, \mathbb{R}) = \{x : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R} | x \in C(J_k), k = 0, 1, \dots, p, \text{ and } x(t_k^+) \text{ exist, } k = 1, 2, \dots, p\}$  with the norm  $\|x\| = \sup_{t \in J} |x(t)|$ , and  $PC^1(J, \mathbb{R}) = \{x : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R} | x \in C^1(J_k), k = 0, 1, \dots, p, \text{ and } x(t_k^+), x'(t_k^+) \text{ exist, } k = 1, 2, \dots, p\}$  with the norm  $\|x\|_{PC^1} = \max\{\|x\|, \|x'\|\}$ . Obviously,  $PC(J, \mathbb{R})$  and  $PC^1(J, \mathbb{R})$  are Banach spaces.

In passing, we remark that  ${}^C D^q x(t)$  indeed stands for  ${}^C D_{t_k^+}^q x(t)$  for  $t$  in the subinterval  $(t_k, t_{k+1}]$ .

**Definition 2.1** A function  $x \in PC^1(J, \mathbb{R})$  with its Caputo derivative of order  $q$  existing on  $J$  is a solution of (1.1) if it satisfies (1.1).

Define

$$\lambda_1(t) = \frac{(1 - \delta)T + \gamma t}{T\Lambda}, \quad \lambda_2(t) = \frac{(1 - \beta)T - (1 - \alpha)t}{\Lambda},$$

where  $\Lambda = (1 - \alpha)(1 - \delta) + \gamma(1 - \beta) \neq 0$ .

**Lemma 2.1** For a given  $y \in C[0, T]$ , a function  $x$  is a solution of the impulsive closed boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} {}^C D^\alpha x(t) = y(t), & 1 < \alpha \leq 2, t \in J', \\ \Delta x(t_k) = I_k(x(t_k)), & \Delta x'(t_k) = I_k^*(x(t_k)), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p, \\ x(T) = \alpha x(0) + \beta Tx'(0), & Tx'(T) = \gamma x(0) + \delta Tx'(0), \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

if and only if  $x$  is a solution of the impulsive fractional integral equation

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} \int_0^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds - \lambda_1(t) \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds \\ \quad + \lambda_2(t) \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + \mathcal{A}, & t \in J_0; \\ \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds - \lambda_1(t) \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds \\ \quad + \lambda_2(t) \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds \\ \quad + \sum_{i=1}^k [\int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds + I_i(x(t_i))] \\ \quad + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (t_k - t_i) [\int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i))] \\ \quad + \sum_{i=1}^k (t - t_k) [\int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i))] \\ \quad + \mathcal{A}, & t \in J_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, p, \end{cases} \quad (2.2)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A} = & -\lambda_1(t) \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds + I_i(x(t_i)) \right] \\ & - \lambda_1(t) \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} (t_p - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right] \\ & - \sum_{i=1}^p [(T - t_p)\lambda_1(t) - \lambda_2(t)] \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof* Let  $x$  be a solution of (2.1). Then, for  $t \in J_0$ , there exist constants  $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \mathcal{I}^q y(t) - c_1 - c_2 t = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{q-1} y(s) ds - c_1 - c_2 t, \\ x'(t) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(q-1)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{q-2} y(s) ds - c_2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

For  $t \in J_1$ , there exist constants  $d_1, d_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_{t_1}^t (t-s)^{q-1} y(s) ds - d_1 - d_2(t - t_1), \\ x'(t) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(q-1)} \int_{t_1}^t (t-s)^{q-2} y(s) ds - d_2. \end{aligned}$$

Then we have

$$x(t_1^-) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_0^{t_1} (t_1-s)^{q-1} y(s) ds - c_1 - c_2 t_1, \quad x(t_1^+) = -d_1,$$

$$x'(t_1^-) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q-1)} \int_0^{t_1} (t_1-s)^{q-2} y(s) ds - c_2, \quad x'(t_1^+) = -d_2.$$

In view of the impulse conditions  $\Delta x(t_1) = x(t_1^+) - x(t_1^-) = I_1(x(t_1))$  and  $\Delta x'(t_1) = x'(t_1^+) - x'(t_1^-) = I_1^*(x(t_1))$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} -d_1 &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_0^{t_1} (t_1-s)^{q-1} y(s) ds - c_1 - c_2 t_1 + I_1(x(t_1)), \\ -d_2 &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(q-1)} \int_0^{t_1} (t_1-s)^{q-2} y(s) ds - c_2 + I_1^*(x(t_1)). \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_{t_1}^t (t-s)^{q-1} y(s) ds + \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_0^{t_1} (t_1-s)^{q-1} y(s) ds \\ &\quad + \frac{t-t_1}{\Gamma(q-1)} \int_0^{t_1} (t_1-s)^{q-2} y(s) ds + I_1(x(t_1)) + (t-t_1)I_1^*(x(t_1)) - c_1 - c_2 t, \quad t \in J_1. \end{aligned}$$

By a similar process, we can get

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds + \sum_{i=1}^k \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds + I_i(x(t_i)) \right] \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (t_k - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right] \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^k (t - t_k) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right] \\ &\quad - c_1 - c_2 t, \quad t \in J_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, p. \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

Using the conditions  $x(T) = \alpha x(0) + \beta Tx'(0)$  and  $Tx'(T) = \gamma x(0) + \delta Tx'(0)$ , we find that

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 &= \frac{1}{\Lambda} \left\{ (1-\delta) \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds - (1-\beta)T \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds \right. \\ &\quad + (1-\delta) \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds + I_i(x(t_i)) \right] \\ &\quad + (1-\delta) \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} (t_p - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right] \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{i=1}^p [(1-\delta)(T-t_p) - (1-\beta)T] \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right] \right\}, \\ c_2 &= \frac{1}{T\Lambda} \left\{ \gamma \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds + (1-\alpha)T \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \gamma \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} y(s) ds + I_i(x(t_i)) \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} (t_p - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \gamma(T - t_p) + (1 - \alpha)T \right] \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} y(s) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right] \Big\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the value of  $c_1, c_2$  in (2.3) and (2.4), we obtain (2.2). Conversely, assume that  $u$  is a solution of the impulsive fractional integral equation (2.2), then by a direct computation, it follows that the solution given by (2.2) satisfies (2.1).  $\square$

### 3 Main results

Define an operator  $\mathfrak{G} : PC(J, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow PC(J, \mathbb{R})$  as

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathfrak{G}x(t) = & \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} f(s, x(s)) ds - \lambda_1(t) \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} f(s, x(s)) ds \\
 & + \lambda_2(t) \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} f(s, x(s)) ds + \sum_{i=1}^k \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} f(s, x(s)) ds + I_i(x(t_i)) \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (t_k - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} f(s, x(s)) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^k (t - t_k) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} f(s, x(s)) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right] \\
 & - \lambda_1(t) \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} f(s, x(s)) ds + I_i(x(t_i)) \right] \\
 & - \lambda_1(t) \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} (t_p - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} f(s, x(s)) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right] \\
 & - \sum_{i=1}^p [(T - t_p)\lambda_1(t) - \lambda_2(t)] \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} f(s, x(s)) ds + I_i^*(x(t_i)) \right]. \tag{3.1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Observe that the problem (1.1) has a solution if and only if the operator  $T$  has a fixed point.

**Lemma 3.1** *The operator  $\mathfrak{G} : PC(J, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow PC(J, \mathbb{R})$  defined by (3.1) is completely continuous.*

*Proof* It is obvious that  $\mathfrak{G}$  is continuous in view of continuity of  $f, I_k$  and  $I_k^*$ .

Let  $\Omega \subset PC(J, \mathbb{R})$  be bounded. Then, there exist positive constants  $L_i > 0$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) such that  $|f(t, x)| \leq L_1, |I_k(x)| \leq L_2$  and  $|I_k^*(x)| \leq L_3, \forall x \in \Omega$ . Thus,  $\forall x \in \Omega$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\mathfrak{G}x(t)| \leq & \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |\lambda_1(t)| \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s))| ds \\
 & + |\lambda_2(t)| \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \sum_{i=1}^k \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (t_k - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^k (t - t_k) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} (t_p - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p [(T - t_p)|\lambda_1(t)| + |\lambda_2(t)|] \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 \leq & L_1 \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} ds + |\lambda_1(t)| L_1 \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} ds + |\lambda_2(t)| L_1 \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} ds \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ L_1 \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} ds + L_2 \right] + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} T \left[ L_1 \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} ds + L_3 \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p T \left[ L_1 \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} ds + L_3 \right] + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ L_1 \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} ds + L_2 \right] \\
 & + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} T \left[ L_1 \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} ds + L_3 \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p [T|\lambda_1(t)| + |\lambda_2(t)|] \left[ L_1 \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} ds + L_3 \right] \\
 \leq & \frac{[1 + p + q(2p - 1)](1 + |\lambda_1(t)|)T^q L_1}{\Gamma(q + 1)} + \frac{(1 + p)|\lambda_2(t)|T^{q-1}L_1}{\Gamma(q)} + p(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|)L_2 \\
 & + [(2p - 1)T(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) + p|\lambda_2(t)|]L_3 \\
 \leq & \max_{t \in J} \left\{ \frac{[1 + p + q(2p - 1)](1 + |\lambda_1(t)|)T^q L_1}{\Gamma(q + 1)} \right. \\
 & + \frac{(1 + p)|\lambda_2(t)|T^{q-1}L_1}{\Gamma(q)} + p(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|)L_2 \\
 & \left. + [(2p - 1)T(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) + p|\lambda_2(t)|]L_3 \right\} := L, \tag{3.2}
 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that  $\|\mathfrak{G}x\| \leq L$ .

On the other hand, for any  $t \in J_k$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq p$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |(\mathfrak{G}x)'(t)| & \leq \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + \frac{|\gamma|}{T|\Lambda|} \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s))| ds \\
 & + \frac{|1-\alpha|}{|\Lambda|} \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(u(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + \frac{|\gamma|}{T|\Lambda|} \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i(u(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + \frac{|\gamma|}{T|\Lambda|} \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} (t_p - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(u(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p \frac{|\gamma| + |1 - \alpha|}{|\Lambda|} \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(u(t_i))| \right] \\
 \leq & L_1 \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} ds + \frac{|\gamma|L_1}{T|\Lambda|} \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} ds + \frac{|1-\alpha|L_1}{|\Lambda|} \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} ds \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ L_1 \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} ds + L_3 \right] + \frac{|\gamma|}{T|\Lambda|} \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ L_1 \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} ds + L_2 \right] \\
 & + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \left[ L_1 \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} ds + L_3 \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p \frac{|\gamma| + |1 - \alpha|}{|\Lambda|} \left[ L_1 \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} ds + L_3 \right] \\
 \leq & \frac{(1+p)|\gamma|T^{q-1}L_1}{|\Lambda|\Gamma(q+1)} + \frac{[(2p-1)|\gamma| + (p+1)|1-\alpha|]T^{q-1}L_1}{|\Lambda|\Gamma(q)} + \frac{(p+1)T^{q-1}L_1}{\Gamma(q)} \\
 & + \frac{p|\gamma|L_2}{T|\Lambda|} + \left[ p + \frac{[(2p-1)|\gamma| + p|1-\alpha|]}{|\Lambda|} \right] L_3 := \bar{L}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, for  $t_1, t_2 \in J_k, t_1 < t_2, 0 \leq k \leq p$ , we have

$$|(Gx)(t_2) - (Gx)(t_1)| \leq \int_{t_1}^{t_2} |(Tx)'(s)| ds \leq \bar{L}(t_2 - t_1).$$

This implies that  $G$  is equicontinuous on all  $J_k, k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, p$ . Thus, by the Arzela-Ascoli theorem, the operator  $G : PC(J, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow PC(J, \mathbb{R})$  is completely continuous.  $\square$

For the sake of convenience, we set the following notations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tau = & (1+p)(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|)I^q a(T) + [(2p-1)T(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) + (1+p)|\lambda_2(t)|]I^{q-1} a(T) \\
 & + p(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|)L_2 + [(2p-1)T(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) + p|\lambda_2(t)|]L_3, \tag{3.3}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\nu = (1+p)(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|)I^q b(T) + [(2p-1)T(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) + (1+p)|\lambda_2(t)|]I^{q-1} b(T). \tag{3.4}$$

**Theorem 3.1** *Assume that*

*(H<sub>1</sub>) there exist nonnegative functions  $a(t), b(t) \in L(0, T)$  and positive constants  $L_i (i = 2, 3)$  such that*

$$|f(t, x)| \leq a(t) + b(t)|x|^\theta, \quad 0 < \theta < 1, \quad |I_k(x)| \leq L_2, \quad |I_k^*(x)| \leq L_3,$$

for  $t \in J, x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $k = 1, 2, \dots, p$ .

Then the problem (1.1) has at least one solution.

*Proof* Define a ball  $\mathcal{B} = \{x \in PC(J, \mathbb{R}) : \|x\| \leq R\}$ , we just need to show that the operator  $\mathfrak{G} : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ , as it has already been proved that the operator  $\mathfrak{G} : PC(J, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow PC(J, \mathbb{R})$  is completely continuous in the previous lemma. Let us choose  $R \geq \max\{2\tau, (2\nu)^{\frac{1}{1-\theta}}\}$ . For any  $x \in \mathcal{B}$ , by the assumption  $(H_1)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\mathfrak{G}x(t)| &\leq \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |a(s) + b(s)| |x(s)|^\theta ds \\
 &\quad + |\lambda_1(t)| \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |a(s) + b(s)| |x(s)|^\theta ds \\
 &\quad + |\lambda_2(t)| \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |a(s) + b(s)| |x(s)|^\theta ds \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^k \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |a(s) + b(s)| |x(s)|^\theta ds + |I_i(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (t_k - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |a(s) + b(s)| |x(s)|^\theta ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^k (t - t_k) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |a(s) + b(s)| |x(s)|^\theta ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 &\quad + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |a(s) + b(s)| |x(s)|^\theta ds + |I_i(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 &\quad + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} (t_p - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |a(s) + b(s)| |x(s)|^\theta ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^p [(T - t_p)|\lambda_1(t)| + |\lambda_2(t)|] \\
 &\quad \times \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |a(s) + b(s)| |x(s)|^\theta ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 &\leq \{(1+p)(1+|\lambda_1(t)|)\} \mathcal{I}^q a(T) \\
 &\quad + [(2p-1)T(1+|\lambda_1(t)|) + (1+p)|\lambda_2(t)|] \mathcal{I}^{q-1} a(T) \\
 &\quad + p(1+|\lambda_1(t)|)L_2 + [(2p-1)T(1+|\lambda_1(t)|) + p|\lambda_2(t)|]L_3 \} \\
 &\quad + \{(1+p)(1+|\lambda_1(t)|)\} \mathcal{I}^q b(T) \\
 &\quad + [(2p-1)T(1+|\lambda_1(t)|) + (1+p)|\lambda_2(t)|] \mathcal{I}^{q-1} b(T) \} R^\theta, \tag{3.5}
 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that

$$\| \mathfrak{G}x \| \leq \tau + \nu R^\theta \leq \frac{R}{2} + \frac{R}{2} = R,$$

where  $\tau$  and  $\nu$  are given by (3.3) and (3.4). So,  $\mathfrak{G} : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ . Thus  $\mathfrak{G} : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  is completely continuous. Therefore, by the Schauder fixed point theorem, the operator  $\mathfrak{G}$  has at least one fixed point. Consequently, the problem (1.1) has at least one solution in  $\mathcal{B}$ .  $\square$



**Theorem 3.2** *Assume that*

$(H_1)$  *there exist nonnegative functions  $a(t), b(t) \in L(0, T)$  and positive constants  $L_i$  ( $i = 2, 3$ ) such that*

$$|f(t, x)| \leq a(t) + b(t)|x|^\kappa, \quad \kappa > 1, \quad |I_k(x)| \leq L_2, \quad |I_k^*(x)| \leq L_3,$$

for  $t \in J, x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $k = 1, 2, \dots, p$ .

Then the problem (1.1) has at least one solution.

*Proof* The proof is similar to that of Theorem 3.1, so we omit it. □

**Theorem 3.3** ([32]) *Let  $E$  be a Banach space. Assume that  $\mathfrak{G} : E \rightarrow E$  is a completely continuous operator and the set  $V = \{x \in E | x = \mu Tx, 0 < \mu < 1\}$  is bounded. Then  $\mathfrak{G}$  has a fixed point in  $E$ .*

**Theorem 3.4** *If  $\sup_{t \in J} v < 1$ . In addition, assume that*

$(H_1')$  *there exist nonnegative functions  $a(t), b(t) \in L(0, T)$  and positive constants  $L_i$  ( $i = 2, 3$ ) such that*

$$|f(t, x)| \leq a(t) + b(t)|x|, \quad |I_k(x)| \leq L_2, \quad |I_k^*(x)| \leq L_3,$$

for  $t \in J, x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $k = 1, 2, \dots, p$ .

Then the problem (1.1) has at least one solution.

*Proof* Let us consider the set

$$V = \{x \in PC(J, \mathbb{R}) | x = \mu \mathfrak{G}x, 0 < \mu < 1\},$$

where the operator  $\mathfrak{G} : PC(J, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow PC(J, \mathbb{R})$  is defined by (3.1). We just need to show that the set  $V$  is bounded as it has already been proved that the operator  $\mathfrak{G}$  is completely continuous in the previous lemma. Let  $x \in V$ , then  $x = \mu \mathfrak{G}x, 0 < \mu < 1$ . For any  $t \in J$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x(t)| &= \mu |\mathfrak{G}x(t)| \\ &\leq \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |\lambda_1(t)| \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s))| ds \\ &\quad + |\lambda_2(t)| \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^k \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i(x(t_i))| \right] \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (t_k - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^k (t - t_k) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} (t_p - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p [(T - t_p)|\lambda_1(t)| + |\lambda_2(t)|] \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i))| \right] \\
 & \leq \tau + \nu \|x\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that  $\|x\|$  is bounded for any  $t \in J$ . So, the set  $V$  is bounded. Thus, by the conclusion of Theorem 3.3, the operator  $\mathfrak{G}$  has at least one fixed point, which implies that (1.1) has at least one solution.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.1** *Assume that functions  $f, I_k, I_k^*$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots$ ) are bounded. Then the nonlinear problem (1.1) has at least one solution.*

**Theorem 3.5** *Assume that*

*(H<sub>2</sub>) there exist a nonnegative function  $K_1(t) \in L(0, T)$  and positive constants  $K_i$  ( $i = 2, 3$ ) such that*

$$\begin{aligned}
 |f(t, x) - f(t, y)| & \leq K_1(t)|x - y|, & |I_k(x) - I_k(y)| & \leq K_2|x - y|, \\
 |I_k^*(x) - I_k^*(y)| & \leq K_3|x - y|,
 \end{aligned}$$

for  $t \in J, x, y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $k = 1, 2, \dots, p$ .

Then the problem (1.1) has a unique solution if

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{H} = \max_{t \in J} \{ & (1 + p)(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|)\mathcal{I}^q K_1(T) \\
 & + [(2p - 1)T(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) + (1 + p)|\lambda_2(t)|]\mathcal{I}^{q-1} K_1(T) \\
 & + p(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|)K_2 + [(2p - 1)T(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) + p|\lambda_2(t)|]K_3 \} < 1.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

*Proof* For  $x, y \in PC(J, \mathbb{R})$ , we can get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |(\mathfrak{G}x)(t) - (\mathfrak{G}y)(t)| \\
 & \leq \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))| ds \\
 & + |\lambda_1(t)| \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))| ds \\
 & + |\lambda_2(t)| \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))| ds \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^k \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))| ds + |I_i(x(t_i)) - I_i(y(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (t_k - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i)) - I_i^*(y(t_i))| \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \sum_{i=1}^k (t - t_k) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i)) - I_i^*(y(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))| ds + |I_i(x(t_i)) - I_i(y(t_i))| \right] \\
 & + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} (t_p - t_i) \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))| ds \right. \\
 & \left. + |I_i^*(x(t_i)) - I_i^*(y(t_i))| \right] + \sum_{i=1}^p [(T - t_p)|\lambda_1(t)| + |\lambda_2(t)|] \\
 & \times \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))| ds + |I_i^*(x(t_i)) - I_i^*(y(t_i))| \right] \\
 \leq & \int_{t_k}^t \frac{(t-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} K_1(s) ds \|x - y\| + |\lambda_1(t)| \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} K_1(s) ds \|x - y\| \\
 & + |\lambda_2(t)| \int_{t_p}^T \frac{(T-s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} K_1(s) ds \|x - y\| + \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} K_1(s) ds + K_2 \right] \|x - y\| \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} T \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} K_1(s) ds + K_3 \right] \|x - y\| \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p T \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} K_1(s) ds + K_3 \right] \|x - y\| \\
 & + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-1}}{\Gamma(q)} K_1(s) ds + K_2 \right] \|x - y\| \\
 & + |\lambda_1(t)| \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} T \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} K_1(s) ds + K_3 \right] \|x - y\| \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^p [T|\lambda_1(t)| + |\lambda_2(t)|] \left[ \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \frac{(t_i - s)^{q-2}}{\Gamma(q-1)} K_1(s) ds + K_3 \right] \|x - y\| \\
 \leq & \{(1+p)(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) \mathcal{I}^q K_1(T) + [(2p-1)T(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) + (1+p)|\lambda_2(t)|] \mathcal{I}^{q-1} K_1(T) \\
 & + p(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) K_2 + [(2p-1)T(1 + |\lambda_1(t)|) + p|\lambda_2(t)|] K_3\} \|x - y\|.
 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, we have  $\|\mathfrak{G}x - \mathfrak{G}y\| \leq \mathcal{H}\|x - y\|$ , where  $\mathcal{H}$  is given by (3.6). As  $\mathcal{H} < 1$ , the conclusion of the theorem follows by the contraction mapping principle. This completes the proof.  $\square$

#### 4 Examples

**Example 4.1** Consider the following impulsive fractional boundary value problem with closed boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases}
 {}^C D^q x(t) = \frac{e^{-\sin^2 x(t)} [2 + \sin 2t + |x(t)|^\rho \ln(1 + 2 \cos^2 t)]}{2 + \cos x(t)}, & 0 < t, t_1 < T, t \neq t_1, \\
 \Delta x(t_1) = 1 - e^{-x^2(t_1)}, & \Delta x'(t_1) = 3 + 2 \sin x(t_1), \\
 x(T) = 2x(0) + 3Tx'(0), & Tx'(T) = 4x(0) + 7Tx'(0),
 \end{cases} \tag{4.1}$$

where  $1 < q \leq 2$ ,  $0 < \rho < 1$  and  $p = 1$ .

In this case,  $a(t) = 2 + \sin 2t$ ,  $b(t) = \ln(1 + 2 \cos^2 t)$ ,  $L_2 = 1$ ,  $L_3 = 5$ , and the conditions of Theorem 3.1 can readily be verified. Thus, by the conclusion of Theorem 3.1, the problem (4.1) has at least one solution.

#### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

#### Authors' contributions

All authors contributed equally in this article. They read and approved the final manuscript.

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