

The Asymptotic Behavior of Solutions of a Fractional Integro-differential Equation

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Abstract: In this paper, we study the asymptotic behavior of solutions for an initial value problem with a nonlinear fractional integro-differential equation. Most of the existing results in the literature assume the continuity of the involved kernel. We consider here a kernel that is not necessarily continuous, namely, the kernel of the Riemann-Liouville fractional integral operator that might be singular. We determine certain sufficient conditions under which the solutions, in an appropriate underlying space, behave eventually like power functions. For this purpose, we establish and generalize some well-known integral inequalities with some crucial estimates. Our findings are supported by examples and numerical calculations.

Key-Words: Fractional differential equation, Caputo fractional derivative, Riemann-Liouville fractional integral, initial value problem, asymptotic behavior, integral inequalities

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1 Introduction

The fractional integro-differential equation is a differential equation with arbitrary non-integer orders of derivatives and integrals. It is a generalization of the classical integro-differential equation of integer order. During the last few decades, many investigations have shown that fractional integro-differential equations can be mathematical models for several phenomena, processes and systems. Therefore, the theory of fractional differential equation attracted many researchers in engineering, physics, economy and other sciences.

In this article we are concerned with the asymptotic behavior of solutions for the following initial value problem

$$\begin{cases} ({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)'(t) = f(t, u(t), (I_{0+}^\beta u)(t)), t \geq 0, \\ u(0) = u_0, ({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)(0) = u_1, u_0, u_1 \in \mathbb{R}. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

The derivative ${}^C D_{0+}^\alpha$ represent the Caputo fractional derivative of order $0 < \alpha < 1$. The operator I_{0+}^β is the Riemann-Liouville fractional integral of order $\beta > 0$. The definitions of the Caputo fractional derivative and the Riemann-Liouville fractional integral are given in next section.

We use the fractional calculus theory and tools to treat the terms involving fractional derivatives and integrals. The associated Volterra integral equation corresponding to (1) is derived. We make use of some known or ad-hoc integral inequalities with some crucial estimates to the involved terms.

From both the theoretical and practical points of view, it is of great importance to have an idea about the behavior of solutions at large time-variable values. The importance of studying the asymptotic behavior of solutions of Problem (1) comes from the need to answer the following question "How do its solutions, which cannot be found explicitly behave as $t \rightarrow \infty$?"

It is known from the definition of fractional derivative that all the history of the state is taken into account through a convolution with (possibly) a singular kernel. Additionally, in our case, the nonlinear term involves an additional singularity, namely, the singular kernel of the Riemann-Liouville integral operator. Because of all these features, it is difficult to apply the existing approaches and methods in the literature for integer order to the noninteger order case.

The study of the linear asymptotic behavior of the solutions for linear and nonlinear differential equations is important in many fields like fluid mechanics, differential geometry, bidimensional gravity, Jacobi fields, etc. see, e.g., [16]. For instant, the existence of asymptotically linear solutions is related to many analytic properties like existence of nonoscillatory, monotonic, bounded, square integrable solutions and eventually positive (negative) solutions.

As a result, the topic of the asymptotic behavior of solutions for differential and integro-differential equations of integer and non-integer orders attracted many researchers e.g. see [8, 11–13, 15, 17, 19, 20].

In [8], Băleanu *et al.* studied the asymptotic be-

havior of solutions to the fractional differential equation

$$D_{0+}^{\alpha} x'(t) + f(t, x) = 0, \quad 0 < \alpha < 1, \quad t > 0,$$

under the condition $|f(t, x)| \leq \phi\left(t, \frac{|x|}{(1+t)^{\alpha}}\right)$, $t \geq 0$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$, where D_{0+}^{α} is the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative of order α , $f : [0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function and $\phi : [0, \infty) \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is a continuous function and it is assumed to be nondecreasing in the second argument. They proved that the solution can be expressed asymptotically as $c_1 + c_2 t^{\alpha} + O(t^{\alpha-1})$ when $t \rightarrow \infty$, $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.

Medved showed in [19] that all solutions of the initial value problem

$$\begin{cases} {}^C D_{a+}^{\alpha+1} x(t) = f(t, x(t)), \quad t \geq a > 1, \quad 0 < \alpha < 1, \\ x(a) = c_1, \quad x'(a) = c_2, \end{cases}$$

are asymptotic to a line for large values of t .

The authors of [17] considered the case when the source function f depends on the solution and its Caputo fractional derivative of a sub-order, namely

$$\begin{cases} {}^C D_{a+}^{\alpha} u(t) = f\left(t, u(t), {}^C D_{a+}^{\beta} u(t)\right), \quad t \geq a, \\ u'(a) = u_0. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where $a > 0$ and $0 < \beta < \alpha < 1$. It has been shown that there exists a real number b such that any global solution of Problem (2) is asymptotic to bt^{β} . For more kinds of asymptotic behaviors of solutions for other classes of fractional differential equations, the reader is advised to see the papers [4, 5, 9, 18, 19] and the references therein. Recently, the present author investigated the boundedness, power-type decay and asymptotic behavior of solutions for the following initial value problems with nonlinear fractional integro-differential equations

$$\begin{cases} ({}^C D_{0+}^{\alpha} u)'(t) = f\left(t, u(t), \int_0^t k(t, s, u(s)) ds\right), \\ u(0) = u_0, \quad {}^C D_{0+}^{\alpha} u(0^+) = u_1, \quad u_0, u_1 \in \mathbb{R}, \end{cases}$$

and

$$\begin{cases} {}^C D_{0+}^{\alpha} u = f\left(t, {}^C D_{0+}^{\beta} u, \int_0^t k(t, s, {}^C D_{0+}^{\gamma} u) ds\right), \\ I_{0+}^{1-\alpha} u(0^+) = a_1, \quad D_{0+}^{\alpha} u(0^+) = a_2, \quad a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \end{cases}$$

where $t > 0$, $0 \leq \beta \leq \alpha < 1$ and $0 \leq \gamma \leq \alpha < 1$. Several different conditions are assumed on the source function f and the kernel k such as

$$\begin{aligned} |f(t, x, y)| &\leq h(t)p(|x|) + l(t)q(|y|), \\ |k(t, s, x)| &\leq w(s)r(|x|), \\ |k(t, s, x)| &\leq w(t, s)r(|x|), \quad \text{or} \\ |k(t, s, x)| &\leq w(s)r\left(\frac{|x|}{t^{\alpha-\gamma-1}}\right), \end{aligned}$$

for some functions h, l, p, q, r and w , see [4–6].

In all of the above papers, the continuity of the kernel k on $[0, \infty)$ is assumed. In this paper we treat a kernel that is not necessarily continuous, namely, the kernel of the fractional integral operator I_{0+}^{β} that might be singular.

The well-posedness of solutions for a general class of fractional integro-differential equations of the type we deal with in this paper are established in [3].

In appropriate underlying spaces (such as the space of solutions we introduce in (6)), the continuity of the nonlinear term guarantees the local existence of solutions (see [1–3, 7]). The local existence will be assumed throughout this paper. As our main concern is the asymptotic behavior of all possible solutions, we do not need the uniqueness of solutions.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we present some preliminary results. In particular, we list the basic definitions and properties of the involved fractional integrals and derivatives. Our main results are introduced in Section 3. As an application, we provide a supporting example with numerical calculations in Section 4. In the last section, we discuss and summarize our findings.

2 Preliminaries

In this section we introduce the definitions of the involved fractional derivative and integral and some of their basic properties. Bihari's Inequality and Pinto's lemma of nonlinear integral inequalities are presented at the end of this section.

Definition 1 *The integral*

$$({}^I_{a+}^{\alpha} f)(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_a^t (t-\tau)^{\alpha-1} f(\tau) d\tau, \quad a < t < b, \quad (3)$$

is the Riemann-Liouville fractional integral of order $\alpha > 0$, provided the right-hand side exists.

Definition 2 *The derivative*

$$({}^C D_{a+}^{\alpha} f)(t) = (I_{a+}^{1-\alpha} Df)(t). \quad (4)$$

is the Caputo fractional derivative of order $0 \leq \alpha < 1$. In particular, ${}^C D_{a+}^0 f = f$, ${}^C D_{a+}^1 f = Df$.

The Riemann-Liouville fractional integral I_{a+}^{α} possesses the semigroup property as shown below.

Lemma 3 [14] *Let $\alpha > 0$, $\beta > 0$, then*

$$I_{a+}^{\alpha} I_{a+}^{\beta} f = I_{a+}^{\alpha+\beta} f,$$

almost everywhere in $[a, b]$ for $f \in L^p(a, b)$. When $f \in C[a, b]$, then this relation holds at every point in $[a, b]$.

The Riemann-Liouville fractional integral of a power function yields a certain coefficient multiplied by that power function with the order of the fractional integral added to the power.

Lemma 4 [14] If $\alpha \geq 0, \beta > 0$, then for $t > a$,

$$\left(I_{a^+}^\alpha (\tau - a)^{\beta-1} \right) (t) = \frac{\Gamma(\beta)}{\Gamma(\beta + \alpha)} (t - a)^{\beta + \alpha - 1}.$$

The next lemma is about the composition of The Riemann-Liouville fractional integral and the Caputo fractional derivative.

Lemma 5 [14] Let $0 < \alpha \leq 1$. If $f \in C^1[a, b]$, then

$$\left(I_{a^+}^\alpha {}^C D_{a^+}^\alpha f \right) (t) = f(t) - f(a), \quad t \in (a, b]. \quad (5)$$

In [4], We proved the following lemma that treats the limit of $\frac{1}{t^\alpha} \left(I_{a^+}^{\alpha+1} f \right) (t)$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Lemma 6 [4] Let $f \in L^1(t_0, \infty)$, $t_0 \geq 0$ and x and y be real-valued functions defined on $[t_0, \infty)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^\alpha} \int_{t_0}^t (t - \tau)^\alpha f(\tau, x(\tau), y(\tau)) d\tau \\ = \int_{t_0}^\infty f(\tau, x(\tau), y(\tau)) d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 7 [10] (Bihari's Inequality) Let y and h be nonnegative continuous functions on $[a, \infty)$ and g be positive on $(0, \infty)$ and continuous nondecreasing function on $[0, \infty)$. If

$$y(t) \leq c + \int_a^t h(\tau)g(y(\tau))d\tau, \quad t \in [a, \infty),$$

where the constant c is positive, then

$$y(t) \leq G^{-1} \left[G(c) + \int_a^t h(\tau)d\tau \right], \quad t \in [a, b_1],$$

where

$$G(v) = \int_{v_0}^v \frac{ds}{g(s)}, \quad v > 0, v_0 > 0,$$

G^{-1} is the inverse function of G and b_1 is chosen so that

$$G(c) + \int_a^t h(\tau)d\tau \in \text{Domain} (G^{-1}),$$

for all $t \in [a, b_1]$.

As an extension for Bihari's inequality to a finite number of nonlinearities, Pinto proved, in [21], the following lemma.

Lemma 8 [21] Let $y, h_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ be nonnegative and continuous functions on $[a, b]$. Let $g_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ be nonnegative continuous and nondecreasing functions on $[0, \infty)$ such that $g_1 \propto g_2 \propto \dots \propto g_n$ ($g_n/g_{n-1}, \dots, g_2/g_1$ are nondecreasing). Assume that c is a positive real number. If

$$y(t) \leq c + \sum_{i=1}^n \int_a^t h_i(\tau)g_i(y(\tau))d\tau, \quad t \in [a, b],$$

then, for $t \in [a, b_1]$,

$$y(t) \leq G_n^{-1} \left(G_n(y_{n-1}) + \int_a^t h_n(\tau)d\tau \right),$$

where

1. $G_i(v) = \int_{v_i}^v \frac{ds}{g_i(s)}, v > 0, v_i > 0, i = 1, \dots, n$ and G_i^{-1} is the inverse function of G_i .
2. The constants c_i are given by $y_0 = c$ and $y_i = G_i^{-1} \left(G_i(y_{i-1}) + \int_a^{b_1} h_i(\tau)d\tau \right), i = 1, \dots, n - 1$.
3. The number $b_1 \in [a, b]$ is the largest number such that

$$\int_a^{b_1} h_i(\tau)d\tau \leq \int_{y_{i-1}}^\infty \frac{ds}{g_i(s)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

3 Main Results

This section is devoted to the study of the asymptotic behavior of solutions for Problem (1).

By a solution u for Problem (1), we mean a function $u : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, that satisfies the equation and the initial conditions in (1) and is in the space $C^{\alpha,1}[0, \infty)$ defined by

$$C^{\alpha,1}[0, \infty) = \left\{ u \in C[0, \infty), ({}^C D_{0^+}^\alpha u)' \in C[0, \infty) \right\}. \quad (6)$$

The following result can be considered as a fractional version of L'Hospital's rule specified for the solution of Problem (1).

Lemma 9 Let u be a solution of Problem (1) with $f \in L^1(0, \infty)$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u(t)}{t^\alpha} &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{({}^C D_{0^+}^\alpha u)(t)}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \left(u_1 + \int_0^\infty f(s, u, I_{0^+}^\beta u) ds \right), \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\left| \frac{u(t)}{t^\alpha} \right| \leq c_1 + c_2 \int_0^t \left| f(s, u(s), (I_{0^+}^\beta u)(s)) \right| ds, \quad (8)$$

for all $t \geq 1$, where

$$c_1 = |u_0| + \frac{|u_1|}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}, \quad c_2 = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}.$$

Proof. Integrating both sides of the equation in (1) over the interval $[0, t]$ gives

$$({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)(t) = u_1 + \int_0^t f(s, u(s), (I_{0+}^\beta u)(s)) ds. \quad (9)$$

Applying I_{a+}^α to both sides of equation (9) yields with help of Lemmas 3, 4 and 5,

$$u(t) = u_0 + \frac{u_1 t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} + (I_{0+}^{\alpha+1} f(s, u, I_{0+}^\beta u))(t). \quad (10)$$

Now, we divide both sides of (10) by t^α , to obtain for $t > 0$,

$$\frac{u(t)}{t^\alpha} = \frac{u_0}{t^\alpha} + \frac{u_1}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} + \frac{(I_{0+}^{\alpha+1} f(s, u, I_{0+}^\beta u))(t)}{t^\alpha}.$$

The limit (7) follows from (9) and Lemma 6.

It is clear that the relationship (10) implies the following estimate on $|u(t)|$ for all $t > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} |u(t)| &\leq |u_0| + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} (|u_1| t^\alpha \\ &\quad + \int_0^t (t-s)^\alpha |f(s, u, I_{0+}^\beta u)| ds) \\ &\leq |u_0| + \frac{|u_1| t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \\ &\quad + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \int_0^t |f(s, u, I_{0+}^\beta u)| ds. \end{aligned}$$

Dividing by t^α , $t \geq 1$, gives the inequality (8) and completes the proof. ■

Before presenting our results we start with the following two hypotheses on the nonlinear function f .

(A₁) $f(t, x, y)$ is a continuous function in $E = \{(t, x, y) : t \geq 0, x, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and there are functions $h : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ with $t^{2\alpha+\beta}h(t) \in L^1(1, \infty)$, and g_i , $i = 1, 2$ continuous nondecreasing on $[0, \infty)$ and positive on $(0, \infty)$ with $g_i(y) \leq xg_i(\frac{y}{x})$, $x \geq 1, y > 0$ and $\int_{t_0}^t \frac{d\tau}{(g_1 g_2)(\tau)} \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for any $t_0 > 0$ such that

$$|f(t, x, y)| \leq h(t)g_1(|x|)g_2(|y|), \quad (t, x, y) \in E.$$

(A₂) $f(t, x, y)$ is a continuous function in $E = \{(t, x, y) : t \geq 0, x, y \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and there are functions $h_1, h_2 : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ with $t^\alpha h_1(t) \in$

$L^1(1, \infty)$, $t^{\alpha+\beta}h_2(t) \in L^1(1, \infty)$ and functions g_i , $i = 1, 2$ continuous nondecreasing on $[0, \infty)$ and positive on $(0, \infty)$ with $g_i(y) \leq xg_i(\frac{y}{x})$, $x \geq 1, y > 0$, $\int_{t_0}^t \frac{d\tau}{g_i(\tau)} \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for any $t_0 > 0$ and $g_1 \propto g_2$ such that

$$|f(t, x, y)| \leq h_1(t)g_1(|x|) + h_2(t)g_2(|y|),$$

where $(t, x, y) \in E$.

For examples about functions satisfying the above hypotheses, see Example 14.

Lemma 10 If u is a solution for the problem (1) and the function f satisfies (A₁), then

$$\frac{|u(t)|}{t^\alpha} \leq y(t), \quad \frac{|(I_{0+}^\beta u)(t)|}{t^{\alpha+\beta}} \leq y(t), \quad (11)$$

for all $t \geq 1$ where

$$y(t) = c_1 + c_2 \int_0^t h(s)g_1(|u(s)|)g_2(|(I_{0+}^\beta u)(s)|) ds, \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 &= \max \left\{ |u_0| + \frac{|u_1|}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}, \frac{|u_0|}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)} + \frac{|u_1|}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta + 1)} \right\}, \\ c_2 &= \left\{ \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}, \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta + 1)} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Firstly, we integrate both sides of the equation of (1) over $[0, t]$, to get

$$({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)(t) = u_1 + \int_0^t f(s, u(s), (I_{0+}^\beta u)(s)) ds. \quad (13)$$

Next, applying I_{a+}^α to both sides of equation (13) gives for, $t \geq 0$,

$$u(t) = u_0 + \frac{u_1 t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} + (I_{0+}^{\alpha+1} f(s, u, I_{0+}^\beta u))(t),$$

and

$$|u(t)| \leq |u_0| + \frac{|u_1| t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} + \frac{t^\alpha \int_0^t |f(s, u, I_{0+}^\beta u)| ds}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}. \quad (14)$$

For $t \geq 1$, (14) implies that

$$\frac{|u(t)|}{t^\alpha} \leq |u_0| + \frac{|u_1|}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} + \frac{\int_0^t |f(s, u, I_{0+}^\beta u)| ds}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}.$$

From condition (A_1) , we have for all $t \geq 1$,

$$\frac{|u(t)|}{t^\alpha} \leq |u_0| + \frac{|u_1|}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \int_0^t h(s)g_1(|u|)g_2\left(|I_{0+}^\beta u|\right) ds. \quad (15)$$

Also, for all $t \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left(I_{0+}^\beta u\right)(t) &= I_{0+}^\beta \left(u_0 + \frac{u_1 s^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} + \left(I_{0+}^{\alpha+1} f\left(\tau, u, I_{0+}^\beta u\right)\right)(s)\right)(t) \\ &= \frac{u_0 t^\beta}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)} + \frac{u_1 t^{\alpha+\beta}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta + 1)} + \left(I_{0+}^{\alpha+\beta+1} f\left(\tau, u, I_{0+}^\beta u\right)\right)(t), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left|\left(I_{0+}^\beta u\right)(t)\right| &\leq \frac{|u_0| t^\beta}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)} + \frac{t^{\alpha+\beta}}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta + 1)} \\ &\quad \left(|u_1| + \int_0^t f\left(s, u, I_{0+}^\beta u\right) ds\right). \end{aligned}$$

For $t \geq 1$, we deduce that

$$\frac{\left|\left(I_{0+}^\beta u\right)(t)\right|}{t^{\alpha+\beta}} \leq \frac{|u_0|}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)} + \frac{|u_1|}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta + 1)} + \frac{\int_0^t h(s)g_1(|u|)g_2\left(|I_{0+}^\beta u|\right) ds}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta + 1)} \quad (16)$$

for all $t \geq 1$. The result is obtained from (15) and (16). ■

The next theorem represents the main result of this section.

Theorem 11 Suppose that the function f satisfies (A_1) , then there exists a real number k such that any solution of Problem (1) is asymptotic to kt^α as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof. Differentiating the expression y , given by (12), we obtain

$$y'(t) = c_2 h(t)g_1(|u(t)|)g_2\left(\left|I_{0+}^\beta u\right|(t)\right), t \geq 0.$$

We concluded from (11) and the monotonicity of g_1 and g_2 , that

$$y'(t) \leq c_2 t^{2\alpha+\beta} h(t)g_1(y(t))g_2(y(t)). \quad (17)$$

Integrating both sides of (17) over $[1, t]$ leads to

$$y(t) \leq y(1) + c_2 \int_1^t s^{2\alpha+\beta} h(s)g_1(y(s))g_2(y(s)) ds. \quad (18)$$

The functions h and $g = g_1 g_2$ satisfy the hypotheses of Bihari's Inequality (Lemma 7), thus

$$y(t) \leq G^{-1}\left(G(c) + c_2 \int_1^t s^{2\alpha+\beta} h(s) ds\right) := c_3 < \infty, \quad (19)$$

for all $t \geq 1$, where G^{-1} is the inverse of $G(s) = \int_{s_0}^s \frac{d\tau}{(g_1 g_2)(\tau)}$, $s_0 > 0$, $c = y(1)$ and $c_3 > 0$ is a constant.

Recalling (12) and (13), we deduce, for all $t \geq 0$,

$$\frac{|({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)(t)|}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \leq y(t).$$

In view of the relation (11), we get, for all $t \geq 1$,

$$\frac{|({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)(t)|}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}, \frac{|u(t)|}{t^\alpha}, \frac{\left|I_{0+}^\beta u\right|(t)}{t^{\alpha+\beta}} \leq c_3. \quad (20)$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_0^t \left|f\left(s, u(s), \left(I_{0+}^\beta u\right)(s)\right)\right| ds \\ &\leq \int_0^t h(s)g_1(|u(s)|)g_2\left(\left|I_{0+}^\beta u\right|(s)\right) ds \\ &\leq \int_0^1 h(s)g_1(|u(s)|)g_2\left(\left|I_{0+}^\beta u\right|(s)\right) ds \\ &\quad + \int_1^t s^{2\alpha+\beta} h(s)g_1\left(\frac{|u(s)|}{s^\alpha}\right)g_2\left(\frac{\left|I_{0+}^\beta u\right|(s)}{s^{\alpha+\beta}}\right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

The integral

$$\int_0^1 h(s)g_1(|u(s)|)g_2\left(\left|I_{0+}^\beta u\right|(s)\right) ds$$

is finite by the continuity of the integrands over $[0, 1]$. Also,

$$\int_1^t s^{2\alpha+\beta} h(s)g_1\left(\frac{|u(s)|}{s^\alpha}\right)g_2\left(\frac{\left|I_{0+}^\beta u\right|(s)}{s^{\alpha+\beta}}\right) ds$$

is uniformly bounded by (20) and the assumption $t^{2\alpha+\beta} h(t) \in L^1(1, \infty)$.

Hence the integral

$$\int_0^t f\left(s, u(s), \left(I_{0+}^\beta u\right)(s)\right) ds$$

is absolutely convergent and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^t f\left(s, u(s), \left(I_{0+}^\beta u\right)(s)\right) ds < \infty.$$

Therefore, in view of Lemma 6 and Lemma 9, there exists a real number k such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)(t)}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} = \frac{u_1 + \int_0^\infty f(s, u, I_{0+}^\beta u) ds}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} = k,$$

and consequently $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u(t)}{t^\alpha} = k$, which the desired result. ■

The next theorem shows that the same conclusion can be obtained with the hypothesis (A₂).

Theorem 12 Suppose that the function f satisfies (A₂), then there exists a real number c such that any solution of Problem (1) is asymptotic to ct^α as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof. An analogous process to the proof of Lemma 10, we have

$$\frac{|u(t)|}{t^\alpha}, \frac{|(I_{0+}^\beta u)(t)|}{t^{\alpha+\beta}} \leq v(t), \quad (21)$$

for all $t \geq 1$, where

$$v(t) = c_1 + c_2 \int_0^t h_1(s)g_1(|u(s)|)ds + c_2 \int_0^t h_2(s)g_2(|I_{0+}^\beta u|) ds, \quad t \geq 0, \quad (22)$$

Also, we obtain from (13) and (22) that

$$\frac{|({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)(t)|}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \leq v(t) \text{ for all } t \geq 0. \quad (23)$$

From (22) and (21), we deduce that

$$v'(t) \leq c_2 t^\alpha h_1(t)g_1(v(t)) + c_2 t^{\alpha+\beta} h_2(t)g_2(v(t)),$$

and consequently,

$$v(t) \leq v(1) + c_2 \int_1^t s^\alpha h_1(s)g_1(v(s))ds + c_2 \int_1^t s^{\alpha+\beta} h_2(s)g_2(v(s))ds. \quad (24)$$

As the functions h_1, h_2, g_1 and g_2 satisfy the hypotheses of Lemma 8, then (24) gives, for all $t \geq 1$,

$$v(t) \leq G_2^{-1} \left(G_2(v_1) + \int_1^t s^{\alpha+\beta} h_2(s)ds \right) := c_4, \quad (25)$$

$v_1 = G_1^{-1} \left(G_1(v_0) + \int_1^t s^\alpha h_1(s)ds \right)$, where G_i^{-1} is the inverse of $G_i(s) = \int_{s_0}^s \frac{d\tau}{g_i(\tau)}$, $s_0 > 0, v_0 = v(1)$ and $0 < c_4 < \infty$ is a constant.

Now, the estimates (21) and (23) yields

$$\frac{|({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)(t)|}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}, \frac{|u(t)|}{t^\alpha}, \frac{|(I_{0+}^\beta u)(t)|}{t^{\alpha+\beta}} \leq c_4, \quad (26)$$

for all $t \geq 1$ and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^t |f(s, u(s), (I_{0+}^\beta u)(s))| ds \\ & \leq \int_0^t [h_1(s)g_1(|u|) + h_2(s)g_2(|I_{0+}^\beta u|)] ds \\ & \leq \int_0^1 [h_1(s)g_1(|u|) + h_2(s)g_2(|I_{0+}^\beta u|)] ds \\ & + \int_1^t s^\alpha h_1(s)g_1\left(\frac{|u|}{s^\alpha}\right) ds \\ & + \int_1^t s^{\alpha+\beta} h_2(s)g_2\left(\frac{|I_{0+}^\beta u|}{s^{\alpha+\beta}}\right) ds \end{aligned}$$

is uniformly bounded. The rest of the proof is quite similar to that of Theorem 11. ■

Remark 13 The ordering and the monotonicity conditions on the functions g_1 and g_2 can be omitted using the functions

$$\psi_1(t) := \max_{s \in [0, t]} \{g_1(s)\} \text{ and}$$

$$\psi_2(t) := \max_{s \in [0, t]} \left\{ \frac{g_2(s)}{\psi_1(s)} \right\} \psi_1(t).$$

Note that the two functions ψ_1 and ψ_2 are nondecreasing nonnegative on $[0, \infty)$, $g_i(t) \leq \psi_i(t)$, $i = 1, 2$ for all $t \in [0, \infty)$ and $\psi_1 \propto \psi_2$.

4 Applications

Our results can be applied to a variety of functions that appear in the literature. The next example shows that the class of the function in the hypothesis (A₂) is not empty and all the conditions of Theorem 12 are fulfilled. This example is followed by some numerical illustration.

Example 14 Consider the following fractional integro-differential equation

$$\begin{aligned} ({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)'(t) &= t^{\mu_1} e^{-t} (|u(t)|)^{\lambda_1} \\ &+ t^{\mu_2} e^{-t} \left((I_{0+}^\beta |u|)(t) \right)^{\lambda_2}, \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

where $t > 0, 0 < \alpha < 1, \beta > 0, 0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq 1$ and $\mu_1, \mu_2 > 0$.

If we take

$$h_i(t) = t^{\mu_i} e^{-\rho_i t}, \quad g_i(t) = t^{\lambda_i}, \quad 0 < \rho_i \leq 1, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

All the conditions of Theorem 12 are fulfilled

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_1^\infty t^\alpha h_1(t) dt < \int_0^\infty t^\alpha h_1(t) dt \\ & = \int_0^\infty t^{\alpha+\mu_1} e^{-\rho_1 t} dt = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \mu_1 + 1)}{\rho_1^{\alpha+\mu_1+1}} < \infty, \\ & \int_1^\infty t^{\alpha+\beta} h_2(t) dt < \int_0^\infty t^{\alpha+\beta} h_2(t) dt \\ & = \int_0^\infty t^{\alpha+\beta+\mu_2} e^{-\rho_2 t} dt = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta + \mu_2 + 1)}{\rho_2^{\alpha+\beta+\mu_2+1}} \\ & < \infty, \\ & \int_{t_0}^\infty \frac{dt}{g_i(t)} = \int_{t_0}^\infty \frac{dt}{t^{\lambda_i}} = \infty, \\ & g_i(v) = v^{\lambda_i} \leq u^{1-\lambda_i} v^{\lambda_i} = u g_i\left(\frac{v}{u}\right), u \geq 1, \\ & v, t_0 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

We conclude that every solution of (27) with $u(0) = u_0$ and $({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u)(0^+) = u_1$, is asymptotic to ρt^α when $t \rightarrow \infty$, $\rho \in \mathbb{R}$.

For treating the problem in Example 14 numerically, we use the iterative scheme

$$\begin{aligned} u_n(t) = & u_0 + \frac{u_1 t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} + I_{0+}^{\alpha+1} \left(s^{\mu_1} e^{-t} \right. \\ & \left. (|u_{n-1}|)^{\lambda_1} + s^{\mu_2} e^{-s} \left(I_{0+}^\beta |u_{n-1}| \right)^{\lambda_2} \right), \end{aligned}$$

$n = 1, 2, \dots$ The curve of the first iteration shows, for $\mu_1 = 1, \mu_2 = 2, \mu_3 = 3, \alpha = \frac{1}{2}, \beta = 2, \lambda_1 = 0, \lambda_2 = 1$, and $u_0 = u_1 = 1$, that the graph of u_1 (red curve) is asymptotic to the curve ρt^α (black curve)

where $\rho = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha u_1)}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} = \frac{28}{\sqrt{\pi}}$.

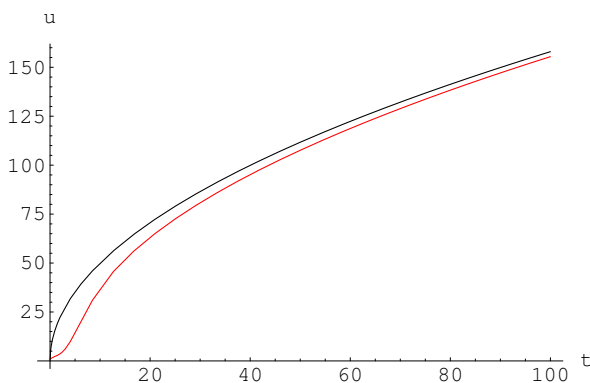


Figure 1: $\mu_1 = 1, \mu_2 = 2, \mu_3 = 3, \alpha = \frac{1}{2}, \beta = 2, \lambda_1 = 0, \lambda_2 = 1$ and $u_0 = u_1 = 1$

5 Discussion and Conclusion

In this paper, we considered an initial value problem with a fractional integro-differential equation involving the Caputo fractional derivative on the left-hand side. The nonlinear source function in the right-hand side depends on the solution and the Riemann-Liouville fractional integral operator of the solution. In general, the solution of Problem (1) cannot be found explicitly.

Unlike most of the existing results, we do not require the continuity of the involved kernel. We assumed the boundedness of the nonlinear term by sums or products of continuous functions of time, in certain Lebesgue spaces, and nondecreasing functions of the states. Under these conditions, we have found that the solutions of Problem (1) behave eventually like the solutions of the associated linear equation with a zero right-hand side.

Our results open many possible directions for future works. The fractional derivative we have considered is of Caputo type, $D({}^C D_{0+}^\alpha)$ where $D = \frac{d}{dt}$ and $0 < \alpha < 1$. Indeed, it would be interesting to consider higher order derivatives such as the fractional derivative ${}^C D_{0+}^\alpha$, $1 < \alpha < 2$ without splitting it into two derivatives, one usual and one fractional.

Other types of fractional derivatives can be considered in future studies. The asymptotic behavior of solutions can be investigated under other kinds of boundedness and growth conditions on the nonlinearities.

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