

# THE BOUNDEDNESS FOR SOLUTIONS OF A CERTAIN TWO-DIMENSIONAL FRACTIONAL DIFFERENTIAL SYSTEM WITH DELAY\*

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**Abstract** In this paper, we study the components-wise upper bounds for solutions of two-dimensional fractional differential system with delay. Prior to the main results, we derive some results on two-dimensional nonlinear integral inequalities, then we investigate upper bounds of solutions basing on the obtained inequalities, finally, an example is given to illustrate the theoretical results.

**Keywords** Fractional differential system, delay, integral inequality, components-wise upper bounds.

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## 1. Introduction

Recently, fractional differential equations, which are regarded as the generalization of the traditional differential equations dealing with nonnegative integer order, have drawn more and more attention due to their widespread application. Numerous numerical and analytical results have been given for various differential equations with physical background [8, 9, 16, 18, 19, 23], biological [24] or ecological economic [17] implications. The study of the qualitative properties for solutions of fractional differential systems has become a very vital branch of the theory of differential equations [1, 3, 5, 12].

Integral inequalities play a fundamental role in the qualitative study of various differential equations and integral equations [6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 20], especially Gronwall-Bellman inequality. There has been an increasing interest in this area of research to satisfy the needs of colorful applications of these inequalities. Many authors have paid considerable attention to integral inequalities with weakly singular kernels and obtained some inspiring results [4, 13, 22].

On the other hand, due to the transmission of the signal or the mechanical transmission, fractional differential systems with delay have gained scholar's attention [2, 21, 25, 26]. Čermák et al. [2] investigated stability and asymptotic properties of the following equation

$$D^\beta y(t) = ay(t) + by(t - \tau).$$

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Ye and Gao [21] researched Henry-Gronwall type retarded integral inequalities and their applications to Caputo fractional differential equations with delay

$$\begin{cases} D^\beta x(t) = f(t, x(t-r)), & t \in [t_0, T), \\ x(t) = \varphi(t), & t \in [t_0-r, t_0] \end{cases}$$

and

$$\begin{cases} D^\beta y(t) = f(t, y(t), y(t-r)), & t \in [t_0, T), \\ y(t) = \varphi(t), & t \in [t_0-r, t_0]. \end{cases}$$

Zhao and Meng [25] studied properties for solutions of Riemann-Liouville fractional differential system with delay

$$\begin{cases} D^\alpha x(t) = f(t, x(t-\tau), y(t-\tau)), \\ D^\alpha y(t) = g(t, x(t-\tau), y(t-\tau)), & t \in [t_0, +\infty), \\ D^{\alpha-1}x(t) = \xi, \\ D^{\alpha-1}y(t) = \eta, & t \in [t_0-\tau, t_0]. \end{cases}$$

Motivated by the work in [21] and [25], in this paper, we deal with the following nonlinear two-dimensional fractional differential system with delay

$$\begin{cases} D^\alpha x(t) = f(t, x(t), y(t), x(t-r), y(t-r)), \\ D^\alpha y(t) = g(t, x(t), y(t), x(t-r), y(t-r)), & t \in [t_0, +\infty), \\ x(t) = \varphi(t), \\ y(t) = \psi(t), & t \in [t_0-r, t_0], \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where  $f, g \in C([t_0, +\infty) \times R^4, R)$ . Besides,  $D^\alpha$  is the fractional derivative (in the sense of Caputo) of order  $\alpha > 0$ , and  $\varphi, \psi$  are known continuously differentiable functions on  $[t_0-r, t_0]$  up to order  $n$  ( $n = -[-\alpha]$ ). In what follows, we denote  $M_1 = \max_{t \in [t_0-r, t_0]} |\varphi(t)|$ ,  $M_2 = \max_{t \in [t_0-r, t_0]} |\psi(t)|$  and  $\varphi^{(k)}(t_0) = m_k$ ,  $\psi^{(k)}(t_0) = n_k$ ,  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1$  and

$$\begin{bmatrix} m(t) \\ n(t) \end{bmatrix}_{p_2}^{p_1} = \begin{bmatrix} m^{p_1}(t) \\ n^{p_2}(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad p_1, p_2 \in R.$$

This paper is organized as follows: In Section 2, some basic definitions and useful lemmas of two-dimensional nonlinear integral inequalities are provided. In Section 3, we discuss the upper bounds for solutions of two-dimensional fractional differential system with delay. In Section 4, an example is given to illustrate our results.

## 2. Preliminaries

In this section, we recall and set the following lemmas which will be used in our proof.

**Lemma 2.1** (Lemma 2.1, [10]). *Let  $a \geq 0, p \geq q \geq 0$  and  $p \neq 0$ , then*

$$a^{\frac{q}{p}} \leq \frac{q}{p} K^{\frac{q-p}{p}} a + \frac{p-q}{p} K^{\frac{q}{p}}$$

for any  $K > 0$ .

**Lemma 2.2** ([11]). *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be non-negative real numbers. Then for  $\sigma > 1$ ,*

$$\left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^\sigma \leq n^{\sigma-1} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\sigma.$$

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $a_i, b_{ij} (j = 1, 2)$  and  $c_{ij} (j = 3, 4) \in C([t_0, \infty), \mathbb{R}_+), i = 1, 2, \mathbb{R}_+ = [0, +\infty)$ ;  $\phi_i \in C([t_0 - r, t_0], \mathbb{R}_+), a_i(t_0) = \phi_i(t_0), r > 0$  be a constant. If  $u_i \in C([t_0 - r, +\infty), \mathbb{R}_+)$  and*

$$\begin{cases} u_1^{p_1}(t) \leq a_1(t) + \int_{t_0}^t \left[ b_{11}(s)u_1^{q_{11}}(s) + b_{12}(s)u_2^{q_{12}}(s) \right. \\ \quad \left. + c_{13}(s)u_1^{q_{13}}(s-r) + c_{14}(s)u_2^{q_{14}}(s-r) \right] ds, \\ u_2^{p_2}(t) \leq a_2(t) + \int_{t_0}^t \left[ b_{21}(s)u_1^{q_{21}}(s) + b_{22}(s)u_2^{q_{22}}(s) \right. \\ \quad \left. + c_{23}(s)u_1^{q_{23}}(s-r) + c_{24}(s)u_2^{q_{24}}(s-r) \right] ds, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty), \\ u_1^{p_1}(t) \leq \phi_1(t), \\ u_2^{p_2}(t) \leq \phi_2(t), \quad t \in [t_0 - r, t_0], \end{cases}$$

where  $p_i$  and  $q_{ij}$  are constants satisfying  $p_1, p_2 \geq q_{ij} > 0$  and  $p_i \neq 0$ , then for any  $K_j > 0 (j = 1, 2, 3, 4)$ , we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1^{p_1}(t) \\ u_2^{p_2}(t) \end{bmatrix} \leq B(t) + G(t), \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

that is to say

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1(t) \\ u_2(t) \end{bmatrix} \leq \left[ B(t) + G(t) \right]^{\frac{1}{p_1}}, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

where

$$G(t) = \begin{cases} \exp \left\{ \int_{t_0+r}^t [H_1(\tau) + H_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} \int_{t_0}^{t_0+r} \exp \left\{ \int_s^{t_0+r} H_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} [H_1(s)B(s) \\ + L_1(s) + \Phi(s)] ds + \int_{t_0+r}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t [H_1(\tau) + H_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} [H_1(s)B(s) \\ + H_2(s)B(s-r) + L_1(s) + L_2(s)] ds, \quad t \in [t_0 + r, +\infty), \\ \int_{t_0}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t H_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} [H_1(s)B(s) + L_1(s) + \Phi(s)] ds, \quad t \in [t_0, t_0 + r], \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

$$B(t) = \begin{bmatrix} a_1(t) \\ a_2(t) \end{bmatrix}, \tag{2.2}$$

$$H_1(t) = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11}(t) \frac{q_{11}-p_1}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{11}-p_1}{p_1}} & b_{12}(t) \frac{q_{12}-p_2}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{12}-p_2}{p_2}} \\ b_{21}(t) \frac{q_{21}-p_1}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{21}-p_1}{p_1}} & b_{22}(t) \frac{q_{22}-p_2}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{22}-p_2}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{2.3}$$

$$H_2(t) = \begin{bmatrix} c_{13}(t) \frac{q_{13}-p_1}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{13}-p_1}{p_1}} & c_{14}(t) \frac{q_{14}-p_2}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{14}-p_2}{p_2}} \\ c_{23}(t) \frac{q_{23}-p_1}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{23}-p_1}{p_1}} & c_{24}(t) \frac{q_{24}-p_2}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{24}-p_2}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{2.4}$$

$$L_1(t) = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{11}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{11}}{p_1}} + b_{12}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{12}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{12}}{p_2}} \\ b_{21}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{21}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{21}}{p_1}} + b_{22}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{22}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{22}}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{2.5}$$

$$L_2(t) = \begin{bmatrix} c_{13}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{13}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{13}}{p_1}} + c_{14}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{14}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{14}}{p_2}} \\ c_{23}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{23}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{23}}{p_1}} + c_{24}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{24}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{24}}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{2.6}$$

$$\Phi(t) = \begin{bmatrix} c_{13}(t) \phi_1^{\frac{q_{13}}{p_1}}(t-r) + c_{14}(t) \phi_2^{\frac{q_{14}}{p_2}}(t-r) \\ c_{23}(t) \phi_1^{\frac{q_{23}}{p_1}}(t-r) + c_{24}(t) \phi_2^{\frac{q_{24}}{p_2}}(t-r) \end{bmatrix}. \tag{2.7}$$

**Proof.** For  $t \in [t_0, +\infty)$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , let

$$z_i(t) = \int_{t_0}^t \left[ b_{i1}(s) u_1^{q_{i1}}(s) + b_{i2}(s) u_2^{q_{i2}}(s) + c_{i3}(s) u_1^{q_{i3}}(s-r) + c_{i4}(s) u_2^{q_{i4}}(s-r) \right] ds,$$

then  $z_i(t) \geq 0$  is nondecreasing,

$$z'_i(t) = b_{i1}(t) u_1^{q_{i1}}(t) + b_{i2}(t) u_2^{q_{i2}}(t) + c_{i3}(t) u_1^{q_{i3}}(t-r) + c_{i4}(t) u_2^{q_{i4}}(t-r) \tag{2.8}$$

and

$$u_i^{p_i}(t) \leq a_i(t) + z_i(t), \quad u_i(t) \leq \left[ a_i(t) + z_i(t) \right]^{\frac{1}{p_i}}. \tag{2.9}$$

For  $t \in [t_0 + r, +\infty)$  and any  $K_j > 0 (j = 1, 2, 3, 4)$ , by (2.8), (2.9) and Lemma 2.1 we get

$$\begin{aligned} z'_i(t) &\leq b_{i1}(t) \left[ a_1(t) + z_1(t) \right]^{\frac{q_{i1}}{p_1}} + b_{i2}(t) \left[ a_2(t) + z_2(t) \right]^{\frac{q_{i2}}{p_2}} \\ &\quad + c_{i3}(t) \left[ a_1(t-r) + z_1(t-r) \right]^{\frac{q_{i3}}{p_1}} + c_{i4}(t) \left[ a_2(t-r) + z_2(t-r) \right]^{\frac{q_{i4}}{p_2}} \\ &\leq b_{i1}(t) \left\{ \frac{q_{i1}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{i1}-p_1}{p_1}} \left[ a_1(t) + z_1(t) \right] + \frac{p_1 - q_{i1}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{i1}}{p_1}} \right\} \\ &\quad + b_{i2}(t) \left\{ \frac{q_{i2}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{i2}-p_2}{p_2}} \left[ a_2(t) + z_2(t) \right] + \frac{p_2 - q_{i2}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{i2}}{p_2}} \right\} \\ &\quad + c_{i3}(t) \left\{ \frac{q_{i3}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{i3}-p_1}{p_1}} \left[ a_1(t-r) + z_1(t-r) \right] + \frac{p_1 - q_{i3}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{i3}}{p_1}} \right\} \\ &\quad + c_{i4}(t) \left\{ \frac{q_{i4}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{i4}-p_2}{p_2}} \left[ a_2(t-r) + z_2(t-r) \right] + \frac{p_2 - q_{i4}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{i4}}{p_2}} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq b_{i1}(t) \frac{q_{i1}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{i1}-p_1}{p_1}} a_1(t) + b_{i2}(t) \frac{q_{i2}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{i2}-p_2}{p_2}} a_2(t) \\
&\quad + c_{i3}(t) \frac{q_{i3}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{i3}-p_1}{p_1}} a_1(t-r) + c_{i4}(t) \frac{q_{i4}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{i4}-p_2}{p_2}} a_2(t-r) \\
&\quad + b_{i1}(t) \frac{p_1 - q_{i1}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{i1}}{p_1}} + b_{i2}(t) \frac{p_2 - q_{i2}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{i2}}{p_2}} \\
&\quad + c_{i3}(t) \frac{p_1 - q_{i3}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{i3}}{p_1}} + c_{i4}(t) \frac{p_2 - q_{i4}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{i4}}{p_2}} \\
&\quad + \left[ b_{i1}(t) \frac{q_{i1}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{i1}-p_1}{p_1}} + c_{i3}(t) \frac{q_{i3}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{i3}-p_1}{p_1}} \right] z_1(t) \\
&\quad + \left[ b_{i2}(t) \frac{q_{i2}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{i2}-p_2}{p_2}} + c_{i4}(t) \frac{q_{i4}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{i4}-p_2}{p_2}} \right] z_2(t), \quad i = 1, 2. \tag{2.10}
\end{aligned}$$

Denote

$$W(t) = \begin{bmatrix} z_1(t) \\ z_2(t) \end{bmatrix},$$

then we derive from (2.10) that

$$W'(t) \leq H_1(t)B(t) + H_2(t)B(t-r) + L_1(t) + L_2(t) + [H_1(t) + H_2(t)]W(t),$$

where  $B(t), H_1(t), H_2(t), L_1(t), L_2(t)$  are defined as (2.2)-(2.6).

Thus for  $t \in [t_0 + r, +\infty)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
W(t) &\leq \exp \left\{ \int_{t_0+r}^t [H_1(\tau) + H_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} W(t_0 + r) + \int_{t_0+r}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t [H_1(\tau) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + H_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} [H_1(s)B(s) + H_2(s)B(s-r) + L_1(s) + L_2(s)] ds. \tag{2.11}
\end{aligned}$$

When  $t \in [t_0, t_0 + r]$ , for  $K_1, K_2 > 0$ , we derive from (2.8), (2.9) and Lemma 2.1 that

$$\begin{aligned}
z'_i(t) &\leq b_{i1}(t) \left[ a_1(t) + z_1(t) \right]^{\frac{q_{i1}}{p_1}} + b_{i2}(t) \left[ a_2(t) + z_2(t) \right]^{\frac{q_{i2}}{p_2}} \\
&\quad + c_{i3}(t) \phi_1^{\frac{q_{i3}}{p_1}}(t-r) + c_{i4}(t) \phi_2^{\frac{q_{i4}}{p_2}}(t-r) \\
&\leq b_{i1}(t) \left\{ \frac{q_{i1}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{i1}-p_1}{p_1}} \left[ a_1(t) + z_1(t) \right] + \frac{p_1 - q_{i1}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{i1}}{p_1}} \right\} \\
&\quad + b_{i2}(t) \left\{ \frac{q_{i2}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{i2}-p_2}{p_2}} \left[ a_2(t) + z_2(t) \right] + \frac{p_2 - q_{i2}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{i2}}{p_2}} \right\} \\
&\quad + c_{i3}(t) \phi_1^{\frac{q_{i3}}{p_1}}(t-r) + c_{i4}(t) \phi_2^{\frac{q_{i4}}{p_2}}(t-r), \quad i = 1, 2.
\end{aligned}$$

Denote  $\Phi(t)$  as (2.7), then we obtain

$$W'(t) \leq H_1(t)B(t) + L_1(t) + \Phi(t) + H_1(t)W(t), \quad t \in [t_0, t_0 + r],$$

it follows that

$$W(t) \leq \int_{t_0}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t H_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} [H_1(s)B(s) + L_1(s) + \Phi(s)] ds, \quad t \in [t_0, t_0 + r]. \tag{2.12}$$

Define  $G(t)$  as (2.1), then by (2.9), (2.11) and (2.12) we get

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1(t) \\ u_2(t) \end{bmatrix} \leq \left[ B(t) + G(t) \right]^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \frac{1}{p_2}, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty).$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 2.3. □

### 3. Main results and proofs

In this section, we deal with the upper bounds for solutions of two-dimensional fractional differential system with delay (1.1). Firstly, we expose the result on the following retarded integral inequalities.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $a_i, b_{ij}, c_{ij}, \phi_i, p_i, q_{ij}$  be defined as in Lemma 2.3 and  $\alpha > 0$  be a constant. If  $u_i \in C([t_0 - r, +\infty), R_+)$  and*

$$\begin{cases} u_1^{p_1}(t) \leq a_1(t) + \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} \left[ b_{11}(s)u_1^{q_{11}}(s) + b_{12}(s)u_2^{q_{12}}(s) \right. \\ \quad \left. + c_{13}(s)u_1^{q_{13}}(s-r) + c_{14}(s)u_2^{q_{14}}(s-r) \right] ds, \\ u_2^{p_2}(t) \leq a_2(t) + \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} \left[ b_{21}(s)u_1^{q_{21}}(s) + b_{22}(s)u_2^{q_{22}}(s) \right. \\ \quad \left. + c_{23}(s)u_1^{q_{23}}(s-r) + c_{24}(s)u_2^{q_{24}}(s-r) \right] ds, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty), \\ u_1^{p_1}(t) \leq \phi_1(t), \\ u_2^{p_2}(t) \leq \phi_2(t), \quad t \in [t_0 - r, t_0), \end{cases}$$

then for any  $K_j > 0 (j = 1, 2, 3, 4)$ , we have

(i) when  $\alpha > \frac{1}{2}$ , denote

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1(t) \\ u_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\frac{t}{p_1}} \bar{u}_1^{\frac{1}{2}}(t) \\ e^{\frac{t}{p_2}} \bar{u}_2^{\frac{1}{2}}(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

then we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} \bar{u}_1(t) \\ \bar{u}_2(t) \end{bmatrix} \leq \left[ \bar{B}(t) + \bar{G}(t) \right]^{\frac{1}{p_1}} \frac{1}{p_2}, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

where

$$\bar{G}(t) = \begin{cases} \exp \left\{ \int_{t_0+r}^t [\bar{H}_1(\tau) + \bar{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} \int_{t_0}^{t_0+r} \exp \left\{ \int_s^{t_0+r} \bar{H}_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} \left[ \bar{H}_1(s)\bar{B}(s) \right. \\ \quad \left. + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{\Phi}(s) \right] ds + \int_{t_0+r}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t [\bar{H}_1(\tau) + \bar{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} \left[ \bar{H}_1(s)\bar{B}(s) \right. \\ \quad \left. + \bar{H}_2(s)\bar{B}(s-r) + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{L}_2(s) \right] ds, \quad t \in [t_0 + r, +\infty), \\ \int_{t_0}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t \bar{H}_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} \left[ \bar{H}_1(s)\bar{B}(s) + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{\Phi}(s) \right] ds, \quad t \in [t_0, t_0 + r], \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{B}(t) &= 5e^{-2t} \begin{bmatrix} a_1^2(t) \\ a_2^2(t) \end{bmatrix}, \\ \bar{H}_1(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \bar{b}_{11}(t) \frac{q_{11}-p_1}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{11}-p_1}{p_1}} & \bar{b}_{12}(t) \frac{q_{12}-p_2}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{12}-p_2}{p_2}} \\ \bar{b}_{21}(t) \frac{q_{21}-p_1}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{21}-p_1}{p_1}} & \bar{b}_{22}(t) \frac{q_{22}-p_2}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{22}-p_2}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \bar{H}_2(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \bar{c}_{13}(t) \frac{q_{13}-p_1}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{13}-p_1}{p_1}} & \bar{c}_{14}(t) \frac{q_{14}-p_2}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{14}-p_2}{p_2}} \\ \bar{c}_{23}(t) \frac{q_{23}-p_1}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{23}-p_1}{p_1}} & \bar{c}_{24}(t) \frac{q_{24}-p_2}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{24}-p_2}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \bar{L}_1(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \bar{b}_{11}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{11}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{11}}{p_1}} + \bar{b}_{12}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{12}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{12}}{p_2}} \\ \bar{b}_{21}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{21}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{21}}{p_1}} + \bar{b}_{22}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{22}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{22}}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \bar{L}_2(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \bar{c}_{13}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{13}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{13}}{p_1}} + \bar{c}_{14}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{14}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{14}}{p_2}} \\ \bar{c}_{23}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{23}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{23}}{p_1}} + \bar{c}_{24}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{24}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{24}}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \bar{\Phi}(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \bar{c}_{13}(t) \bar{\phi}_1^{\frac{q_{13}}{p_1}}(t-r) + \bar{c}_{14}(t) \bar{\phi}_2^{\frac{q_{14}}{p_2}}(t-r) \\ \bar{c}_{23}(t) \bar{\phi}_1^{\frac{q_{23}}{p_1}}(t-r) + \bar{c}_{24}(t) \bar{\phi}_2^{\frac{q_{24}}{p_2}}(t-r) \end{bmatrix}, \\ \bar{b}_{ij}(t) &= \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)}{2^{2\alpha-1}} e^{2(\frac{q_{ij}}{p_j}-1)t} b_{ij}^2(t), \quad \bar{c}_{i3}(t) = \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)e^{-\frac{2q_{i3}r}{p_1}}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} e^{2(\frac{q_{i3}}{p_1}-1)t} c_{i3}^2(t), \quad \bar{c}_{i4}(t) = \\ &= \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)e^{-\frac{2q_{i4}r}{p_2}}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} e^{2(\frac{q_{i4}}{p_2}-1)t} c_{i4}^2(t), \quad \bar{\phi}_i(t) = 5e^{-2t} \phi_i^2(t); \end{aligned}$$

(ii) when  $0 < \alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}$ , set  $p = 1 + \alpha$ ,  $q = 1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}$  and

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1(t) \\ u_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\frac{t}{p_1}} \tilde{u}_1^{\frac{1}{q}}(t) \\ e^{\frac{t}{p_2}} \tilde{u}_2^{\frac{1}{q}}(t) \end{bmatrix}, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

then we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{u}_1(t) \\ \tilde{u}_2(t) \end{bmatrix} \leq \left[ \tilde{B}(t) + \tilde{G}(t) \right]^{\frac{1}{p_1}}, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{G}(t) &= \begin{cases} \exp \left\{ \int_{t_0+r}^t [\tilde{H}_1(\tau) + \tilde{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} \int_{t_0}^{t_0+r} \exp \left\{ \int_s^{t_0+r} \tilde{H}_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} \left[ \tilde{H}_1(s) \tilde{B}(s) \right. \\ \left. + \tilde{L}_1(s) + \tilde{\Phi}(s) \right] ds + \int_{t_0+r}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t [\tilde{H}_1(\tau) + \tilde{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} \left[ \tilde{H}_1(s) \tilde{B}(s) \right. \\ \left. + \tilde{H}_2(s) \tilde{B}(s-r) + \tilde{L}_1(s) + \tilde{L}_2(s) \right] ds, \quad t \in [t_0+r, +\infty), \\ \int_{t_0}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t \tilde{H}_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} \left[ \tilde{H}_1(s) \tilde{B}(s) + \tilde{L}_1(s) + \tilde{\Phi}(s) \right] ds, \quad t \in [t_0, t_0+r], \end{cases} \\ \tilde{B}(t) &= 5^{q-1} e^{-qt} \begin{bmatrix} a_1^q(t) \\ a_2^q(t) \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{H}_1(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{b}_{11}(t) \frac{q_{11}-p_1}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{11}-p_1}{p_1}} & \tilde{b}_{12}(t) \frac{q_{12}-p_2}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{12}-p_2}{p_2}} \\ \tilde{b}_{21}(t) \frac{q_{21}-p_1}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{q_{21}-p_1}{p_1}} & \tilde{b}_{22}(t) \frac{q_{22}-p_2}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{q_{22}-p_2}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \tilde{H}_2(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{c}_{13}(t) \frac{q_{13}-p_1}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{13}-p_1}{p_1}} & \tilde{c}_{14}(t) \frac{q_{14}-p_2}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{14}-p_2}{p_2}} \\ \tilde{c}_{23}(t) \frac{q_{23}-p_1}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{q_{23}-p_1}{p_1}} & \tilde{c}_{24}(t) \frac{q_{24}-p_2}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{q_{24}-p_2}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \tilde{L}_1(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{b}_{11}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{11}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{p_1-q_{11}}{p_1}} + \tilde{b}_{12}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{12}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{p_2-q_{12}}{p_2}} \\ \tilde{b}_{21}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{21}}{p_1} K_1^{\frac{p_1-q_{21}}{p_1}} + \tilde{b}_{22}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{22}}{p_2} K_2^{\frac{p_2-q_{22}}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \tilde{L}_2(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{c}_{13}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{13}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{p_1-q_{13}}{p_1}} + \tilde{c}_{14}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{14}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{p_2-q_{14}}{p_2}} \\ \tilde{c}_{23}(t) \frac{p_1-q_{23}}{p_1} K_3^{\frac{p_1-q_{23}}{p_1}} + \tilde{c}_{24}(t) \frac{p_2-q_{24}}{p_2} K_4^{\frac{p_2-q_{24}}{p_2}} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \tilde{\Phi}(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{c}_{13}(t) \tilde{\phi}_1^{\frac{q_{13}}{p_1}}(t-r) + \tilde{c}_{14}(t) \tilde{\phi}_2^{\frac{q_{14}}{p_2}}(t-r) \\ \tilde{c}_{23}(t) \tilde{\phi}_1^{\frac{q_{23}}{p_1}}(t-r) + \tilde{c}_{24}(t) \tilde{\phi}_2^{\frac{q_{24}}{p_2}}(t-r) \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{b}_{ij}(t) &= \frac{5^{q-1} \Gamma_{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2)}{p^{\alpha}} e^{q(\frac{q_{ij}}{p_j}-1)t} b_{ij}^q(t), \tilde{c}_{i3}(t) = \frac{5^{q-1} \Gamma_{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2) e^{-\frac{qq_{i3}r}{p_1}}}{p^{\alpha}} e^{q(\frac{q_{i3}}{p_1}-1)t} c_{i3}^q(t), \tilde{c}_{i4}(t) = \\ & \frac{5^{q-1} \Gamma_{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2) e^{-\frac{qq_{i4}r}{p_2}}}{p^{\alpha}} e^{q(\frac{q_{i4}}{p_2}-1)t} c_{i4}^q(t), \tilde{\phi}_i(t) = 5^{q-1} e^{-qt} \phi_i^q(t). \end{aligned}$$

**Proof.** (i) Assume  $\alpha > \frac{1}{2}$ . For  $t \in [t_0, +\infty)$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , by Cauchy-Schwarz inequality we get

$$\begin{aligned} u_i^{p_i}(t) &\leq a_i(t) + \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} e^s e^{-s} b_{i1}(s) u_1^{q_{i1}}(s) ds \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} e^s e^{-s} b_{i2}(s) u_2^{q_{i2}}(s) ds \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} e^s e^{-s} c_{i3}(s) u_1^{q_{i3}}(s-r) ds \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} e^s e^{-s} c_{i4}(s) u_2^{q_{i4}}(s-r) ds \\ &\leq a_i(t) + \left[ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{2(\alpha-1)} e^{2s} ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t b_{i1}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_1^{2q_{i1}}(s) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad + \left[ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{2(\alpha-1)} e^{2s} ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t b_{i2}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_2^{2q_{i2}}(s) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad + \left[ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{2(\alpha-1)} e^{2s} ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t c_{i3}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_1^{2q_{i3}}(s-r) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad + \left[ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{2(\alpha-1)} e^{2s} ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t c_{i4}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_2^{2q_{i4}}(s-r) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq a_i(t) + \left[ \frac{e^{2t}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} \Gamma(2\alpha-1) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t b_{i1}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_1^{2q_{i1}}(s) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad + \left[ \frac{e^{2t}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} \Gamma(2\alpha-1) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t b_{i2}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_2^{2q_{i2}}(s) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ \left[ \frac{e^{2t}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} \Gamma(2\alpha - 1) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t c_{i3}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_1^{2q_{i3}}(s-r) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
 &+ \left[ \frac{e^{2t}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} \Gamma(2\alpha - 1) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t c_{i4}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_2^{2q_{i4}}(s-r) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Using Lemma 2.2 with  $n = 5, \sigma = 2$  yields that

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_i^{2p_i}(t) \leq &5 \left[ a_i^2(t) + \frac{e^{2t}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} \Gamma(2\alpha - 1) \int_{t_0}^t b_{i1}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_1^{2q_{i1}}(s) ds \right. \\
 &+ \frac{e^{2t}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} \Gamma(2\alpha - 1) \int_{t_0}^t b_{i2}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_2^{2q_{i2}}(s) ds \\
 &+ \frac{e^{2t}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} \Gamma(2\alpha - 1) \int_{t_0}^t c_{i3}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_1^{2q_{i3}}(s-r) ds \\
 &\left. + \frac{e^{2t}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} \Gamma(2\alpha - 1) \int_{t_0}^t c_{i4}^2(s) e^{-2s} u_2^{2q_{i4}}(s-r) ds \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Set  $\bar{u}_i(t) = e^{-\frac{2}{p_i}t} u_i^2(t)$ ,  $\bar{a}_i(t) = 5e^{-2t} a_i^2(t)$ ,  $\bar{b}_{ij}(t) = \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)}{2^{2\alpha-1}} e^{2(\frac{q_{ij}}{p_j}-1)t} b_{ij}^2(t)$ ,  $\bar{c}_{i3}(t) = \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)e^{-\frac{2q_{i3}r}{p_1}}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} e^{2(\frac{q_{i3}}{p_1}-1)t} c_{i3}^2(t)$ ,  $\bar{c}_{i4}(t) = \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)e^{-\frac{2q_{i4}r}{p_2}}}{2^{2\alpha-1}} e^{2(\frac{q_{i4}}{p_2}-1)t} c_{i4}^2(t)$ , then for  $t \in [t_0, +\infty)$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bar{u}_i^{p_i}(t) \leq &\bar{a}_i(t) + \int_{t_0}^t \left[ \bar{b}_{i1}(s) \bar{u}_1^{q_{i1}}(s) + \bar{b}_{i2}(s) \bar{u}_2^{q_{i2}}(s) \right. \\
 &\left. + \bar{c}_{i3}(s) \bar{u}_1^{q_{i3}}(s-r) + \bar{c}_{i4}(s) \bar{u}_2^{q_{i4}}(s-r) \right] ds. \tag{3.1}
 \end{aligned}$$

For  $t \in [t_0 - r, t_0)$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , we have

$$\bar{u}_i^{p_i}(t) = e^{-2t} u_i^{2p_i}(t) \leq 5e^{-2t} \phi_i^2(t). \tag{3.2}$$

Applying Lemma 2.3 to (3.1) and (3.2) obtains the desired conclusion.

(ii) Assume  $0 < \alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}$ . For  $t \in [t_0, +\infty)$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , by Hölder's inequality with the index  $p = 1 + \alpha$  for  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_i^{p_i}(t) \leq &a_i(t) + \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} e^s e^{-s} b_{i1}(s) u_1^{q_{i1}}(s) ds \\
 &+ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} e^s e^{-s} b_{i2}(s) u_2^{q_{i2}}(s) ds \\
 &+ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} e^s e^{-s} c_{i3}(s) u_1^{q_{i3}}(s-r) ds \\
 &+ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} e^s e^{-s} c_{i4}(s) u_2^{q_{i4}}(s-r) ds \\
 \leq &a_i(t) + \left[ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{p(\alpha-1)} e^{ps} ds \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t b_{i1}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_1^{qq_{i1}}(s) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 &+ \left[ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{p(\alpha-1)} e^{ps} ds \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t b_{i2}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_2^{qq_{i2}}(s) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{q}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \left[ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{p(\alpha-1)} e^{ps} ds \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t c_{i3}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_1^{qqi3}(s-r) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 & + \left[ \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{p(\alpha-1)} e^{ps} ds \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t c_{i4}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_2^{qqi4}(s-r) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 \leq & a_i(t) + \left[ \frac{e^{pt}}{p\alpha^2} \Gamma(\alpha^2) \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t b_{i1}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_1^{qqi1}(s) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 & + \left[ \frac{e^{pt}}{p\alpha^2} \Gamma(\alpha^2) \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t b_{i2}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_2^{qqi2}(s) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 & + \left[ \frac{e^{pt}}{p\alpha^2} \Gamma(\alpha^2) \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t c_{i3}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_1^{qqi3}(s-r) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 & + \left[ \frac{e^{pt}}{p\alpha^2} \Gamma(\alpha^2) \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \left[ \int_{t_0}^t c_{i4}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_2^{qqi4}(s-r) ds \right]^{\frac{1}{q}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 2.2 implies that

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_i^{qp_i}(t) \leq & 5^{q-1} a_i^q(t) + 5^{q-1} \left[ \frac{e^{qt}}{p^\alpha} \Gamma^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2) \int_{t_0}^t b_{i1}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_1^{qqi1}(s) ds \right. \\
 & + \frac{e^{qt}}{p^\alpha} \Gamma^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2) \int_{t_0}^t b_{i2}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_2^{qqi2}(s) ds \\
 & + \frac{e^{qt}}{p^\alpha} \Gamma^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2) \int_{t_0}^t c_{i3}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_1^{qqi3}(s-r) ds \\
 & \left. + \frac{e^{qt}}{p^\alpha} \Gamma^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2) \int_{t_0}^t c_{i4}^q(s) e^{-qs} u_2^{qqi4}(s-r) ds \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\tilde{u}_i(t) = e^{-\frac{q}{p_i}t} u_i^q(t)$ ,  $\tilde{a}_i(t) = 5^{q-1} e^{-qt} a_i^q(t)$ ,  $\tilde{b}_{ij}(t) = \frac{5^{q-1} \Gamma^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2)}{p^\alpha} e^{q(\frac{q_{ij}}{p_j}-1)t} b_{ij}^q(t)$ ,  $\tilde{c}_{i3}(t) = \frac{5^{q-1} \Gamma^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2) e^{-\frac{qq_{i3}r}{p_1}}}{p^\alpha} e^{q(\frac{q_{i3}}{p_1}-1)t} c_{i3}^q(t)$ ,  $\tilde{c}_{i4}(t) = \frac{5^{q-1} \Gamma^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2) e^{-\frac{qq_{i4}r}{p_2}}}{p^\alpha} e^{q(\frac{q_{i4}}{p_2}-1)t} c_{i4}^q(t)$ , then for  $t \in [t_0, +\infty)$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{u}_i^{p_i}(t) \leq & \tilde{a}_i(t) + \int_{t_0}^t \left[ \tilde{b}_{i1}(s) \tilde{u}_1^{q_{i1}}(s) + \tilde{b}_{i2}(s) \tilde{u}_2^{q_{i2}}(s) \right. \\
 & \left. + \tilde{c}_{i3}(s) \tilde{u}_1^{q_{i3}}(s-r) + \tilde{c}_{i4}(s) \tilde{u}_2^{q_{i4}}(s-r) \right] ds. \tag{3.3}
 \end{aligned}$$

For  $t \in [t_0 - r, t_0)$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , we have

$$\tilde{u}_i^{p_i}(t) = e^{-qt} u_i^{p_i q}(t) \leq 5^{q-1} e^{-qt} \phi_i^q(t). \tag{3.4}$$

Applying Lemma 2.3 to (3.3) and (3.4) obtains the conclusion and this proves the theorem.  $\square$

Next we consider the estimate of the components-wise for solutions of nonlinear two-dimensional fractional differential system with delay (1.1).

**Theorem 3.2.** *If  $f, g \in C([t_0, +\infty) \times R^4, R)$  and satisfy the following condition:*

$$\begin{cases} |f(t, m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4)| \leq b_{11}(t) |m_1|^{k_{11}} + b_{12}(t) |m_2|^{k_{12}} + c_{13}(t) |m_3|^{k_{13}} + c_{14}(t) |m_4|^{k_{14}}, \\ |g(t, m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4)| \leq b_{21}(t) |m_1|^{k_{21}} + b_{22}(t) |m_2|^{k_{22}} + c_{23}(t) |m_3|^{k_{23}} + c_{24}(t) |m_4|^{k_{24}}, \end{cases} \tag{3.5}$$

where  $b_{ij}, c_{ij} \in C([t_0, +\infty), R_+)$ ,  $k_{ij} \in (0, 1]$  are constants,  $i = 1, 2, j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , then for any solution  $(x(t), y(t))$  of the system (1.1) and  $K_j > 0 (j = 1, 2, 3, 4)$ , we have

(i) when  $\frac{1}{2} < \alpha \leq 1$ , denote

$$\begin{bmatrix} |x(t)| \\ |y(t)| \end{bmatrix} = e^t \begin{bmatrix} |x(t)|^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ |y(t)|^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

then we get

$$\begin{bmatrix} |x(t)| \\ |y(t)| \end{bmatrix} \leq \bar{B}(t) + \bar{G}(t), \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

where

$$\bar{G}(t) = \begin{cases} \exp \left\{ \int_{t_0+r}^t [\bar{H}_1(\tau) + \bar{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} \int_{t_0}^{t_0+r} \exp \left\{ \int_s^{t_0+r} \bar{H}_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} \left[ \bar{H}_1(s) \bar{B}(s) \right. \\ \left. + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{\Phi}(s) \right] ds + \int_{t_0+r}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t [\bar{H}_1(\tau) + \bar{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} \left[ \bar{H}_1(s) \bar{B}(s) \right. \\ \left. + \bar{H}_2(s) \bar{B}(s-r) + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{L}_2(s) \right] ds, t \in [t_0+r, +\infty), \\ \int_{t_0}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t \bar{H}_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} \left[ \bar{H}_1(s) \bar{B}(s) + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{\Phi}(s) \right] ds, t \in [t_0, t_0+r], \end{cases}$$

$$\bar{B}(t) = 5e^{-2t} \begin{bmatrix} M_1^2 \\ M_2^2 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{H}_1(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{b}_{11}(t)k_{11}K_1^{k_{11}-1} & \bar{b}_{12}(t)k_{12}K_2^{k_{12}-1} \\ \bar{b}_{21}(t)k_{21}K_1^{k_{21}-1} & \bar{b}_{22}(t)k_{22}K_2^{k_{22}-1} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{H}_2(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{c}_{13}(t)k_{13}K_3^{k_{13}-1} & \bar{c}_{14}(t)k_{14}K_4^{k_{14}-1} \\ \bar{c}_{23}(t)k_{23}K_3^{k_{23}-1} & \bar{c}_{24}(t)k_{24}K_4^{k_{24}-1} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{L}_1(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{b}_{11}(t)(1-k_{11})K_1^{k_{11}} + \bar{b}_{12}(t)(1-k_{12})K_2^{k_{12}} \\ \bar{b}_{21}(t)(1-k_{21})K_1^{k_{21}} + \bar{b}_{22}(t)(1-k_{22})K_2^{k_{22}} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{L}_2(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{c}_{13}(t)(1-k_{13})K_3^{k_{13}} + \bar{c}_{14}(t)(1-k_{14})K_4^{k_{14}} \\ \bar{c}_{23}(t)(1-k_{23})K_3^{k_{23}} + \bar{c}_{24}(t)(1-k_{24})K_4^{k_{24}} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{\Phi}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{c}_{13}(t)\bar{\phi}_1^{-k_{13}}(t-r) + \bar{c}_{14}(t)\bar{\phi}_2^{-k_{14}}(t-r) \\ \bar{c}_{23}(t)\bar{\phi}_1^{-k_{23}}(t-r) + \bar{c}_{24}(t)\bar{\phi}_2^{-k_{24}}(t-r) \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{b}_{ij}(t) = \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)}{2^{2\alpha-1}\Gamma^2(\alpha)} e^{2(k_{ij}-1)t} b_{ij}^2(t), \quad \bar{c}_{i3}(t) = \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)e^{-2k_{i3}r}}{2^{2\alpha-1}\Gamma^2(\alpha)} e^{2(k_{i3}-1)t} c_{i3}^2(t), \quad \bar{c}_{i4}(t) = \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)e^{-2k_{i4}r}}{2^{2\alpha-1}\Gamma^2(\alpha)} e^{2(k_{i4}-1)t} c_{i4}^2(t), \quad \bar{\phi}_i(t) = 5e^{-2t} M_i^2;$$

(ii) when  $0 < \alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}$ , let  $p = 1 + \alpha, q = 1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}$  and

$$\begin{bmatrix} |x(t)| \\ |y(t)| \end{bmatrix} = e^t \begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{|x(t)|}^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ \widetilde{|y(t)|}^{\frac{1}{q}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

then we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{|x(t)|} \\ \widetilde{|y(t)|} \end{bmatrix} \leq \widetilde{B}(t) + \widetilde{G}(t), \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

where

$$\widetilde{G}(t) = \begin{cases} \exp \left\{ \int_{t_0+r}^t [\widetilde{H}_1(\tau) + \widetilde{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} \int_{t_0}^{t_0+r} \exp \left\{ \int_s^{t_0+r} \widetilde{H}_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} \left[ \widetilde{H}_1(s) \widetilde{B}(s) \right. \\ \left. + \widetilde{L}_1(s) + \widetilde{\Phi}(s) \right] ds + \int_{t_0+r}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t [\widetilde{H}_1(\tau) + \widetilde{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} \left[ \widetilde{H}_1(s) \widetilde{B}(s) \right. \\ \left. + \widetilde{H}_2(s) \widetilde{B}(s-r) + \widetilde{L}_1(s) + \widetilde{L}_2(s) \right] ds, t \in [t_0 + r, +\infty), \\ \int_{t_0}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t \widetilde{H}_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} \left[ \widetilde{H}_1(s) \widetilde{B}(s) + \widetilde{L}_1(s) + \widetilde{\Phi}(s) \right] ds, \quad t \in [t_0, t_0 + r], \end{cases}$$

$$\widetilde{B}(t) = 5^{q-1} e^{-qt} \begin{bmatrix} M_1^q \\ M_2^q \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\widetilde{H}_1(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{b}_{11}(t) k_{11} K_1^{k_{11}-1} & \widetilde{b}_{12}(t) k_{12} K_2^{k_{12}-1} \\ \widetilde{b}_{21}(t) k_{21} K_1^{k_{21}-1} & \widetilde{b}_{22}(t) k_{22} K_2^{k_{22}-1} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\widetilde{H}_2(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{c}_{13}(t) k_{13} K_3^{k_{13}-1} & \widetilde{c}_{14}(t) k_{14} K_4^{k_{14}-1} \\ \widetilde{c}_{23}(t) k_{23} K_3^{k_{23}-1} & \widetilde{c}_{24}(t) k_{24} K_4^{k_{24}-1} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\widetilde{L}_1(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{b}_{11}(t)(1 - k_{11}) K_1^{k_{11}} + \widetilde{b}_{12}(t)(1 - k_{12}) K_2^{k_{12}} \\ \widetilde{b}_{21}(t)(1 - k_{21}) K_1^{k_{21}} + \widetilde{b}_{22}(t)(1 - k_{22}) K_2^{k_{22}} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\widetilde{L}_2(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{c}_{13}(t)(1 - k_{13}) K_3^{k_{13}} + \widetilde{c}_{14}(t)(1 - k_{14}) K_4^{k_{14}} \\ \widetilde{c}_{23}(t)(1 - k_{23}) K_3^{k_{23}} + \widetilde{c}_{24}(t)(1 - k_{24}) K_4^{k_{24}} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\widetilde{\Phi}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{c}_{13}(t) \widetilde{\phi}_1^{k_{13}}(t-r) + \widetilde{c}_{14}(t) \widetilde{\phi}_2^{k_{14}}(t-r) \\ \widetilde{c}_{23}(t) \widetilde{\phi}_1^{k_{23}}(t-r) + \widetilde{c}_{24}(t) \widetilde{\phi}_2^{k_{24}}(t-r) \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\widetilde{b}_{ij}(t) = \frac{5^{q-1} \Gamma_{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2)}{p^{\alpha} \Gamma^q(\alpha)} e^{q(k_{ij}-1)t} b_{ij}^q(t), \quad \widetilde{c}_{i3}(t) = \frac{5^{q-1} \Gamma_{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2) e^{-qk_{i3}r}}{p^{\alpha} \Gamma^q(\alpha)} e^{q(k_{i3}-1)t} c_{i3}^q(t), \quad \widetilde{c}_{i4}(t) = \frac{5^{q-1} \Gamma_{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}(\alpha^2) e^{-qk_{i4}r}}{p^{\alpha} \Gamma^q(\alpha)} e^{q(k_{i4}-1)t} c_{i4}^q(t), \quad \widetilde{\phi}_i(t) = 5^{q-1} e^{-qt} M_i^q;$$

(iii) when  $\alpha > 1$ , denote

$$\begin{bmatrix} |x(t)| \\ |y(t)| \end{bmatrix} = e^t \begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{|x(t)|}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \widetilde{|y(t)|}^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

then we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} |x(t)| \\ |y(t)| \end{bmatrix} \leq \bar{B}(t) + \bar{G}(t), \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty),$$

where

$$\bar{G}(t) = \begin{cases} \exp \left\{ \int_{t_0+r}^t [\bar{H}_1(\tau) + \bar{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} \int_{t_0}^{t_0+r} \exp \left\{ \int_s^{t_0+r} \bar{H}_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} [\bar{H}_1(s)\bar{B}(s) \\ + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{\Phi}(s)] ds + \int_{t_0+r}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t [\bar{H}_1(\tau) + \bar{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau \right\} [\bar{H}_1(s)\bar{B}(s) \\ + \bar{H}_2(s)\bar{B}(s-r) + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{L}_2(s)] ds, t \in [t_0 + r, +\infty), \\ \int_{t_0}^t \exp \left\{ \int_s^t \bar{H}_1(\tau) d\tau \right\} [\bar{H}_1(s)\bar{B}(s) + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{\Phi}(s)] ds, t \in [t_0, t_0 + r], \end{cases}$$

$$\bar{B}(t) = 5e^{-2t} \begin{bmatrix} \left[ M_1 + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{|m_j|}{j!} (t - t_0)^j \right]^2 \\ \left[ M_2 + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{|n_j|}{j!} (t - t_0)^j \right]^2 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{H}_1(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{b}_{11}(t)k_{11}K_1^{k_{11}-1} & \bar{b}_{12}(t)k_{12}K_2^{k_{12}-1} \\ \bar{b}_{21}(t)k_{21}K_1^{k_{21}-1} & \bar{b}_{22}(t)k_{22}K_2^{k_{22}-1} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{H}_2(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{c}_{13}(t)k_{13}K_3^{k_{13}-1} & \bar{c}_{14}(t)k_{14}K_4^{k_{14}-1} \\ \bar{c}_{23}(t)k_{23}K_3^{k_{23}-1} & \bar{c}_{24}(t)k_{24}K_4^{k_{24}-1} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{L}_1(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{b}_{11}(t)(1 - k_{11})K_1^{k_{11}} + \bar{b}_{12}(t)(1 - k_{12})K_2^{k_{12}} \\ \bar{b}_{21}(t)(1 - k_{21})K_1^{k_{21}} + \bar{b}_{22}(t)(1 - k_{22})K_2^{k_{22}} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{L}_2(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{c}_{13}(t)(1 - k_{13})K_3^{k_{13}} + \bar{c}_{14}(t)(1 - k_{14})K_4^{k_{14}} \\ \bar{c}_{23}(t)(1 - k_{23})K_3^{k_{23}} + \bar{c}_{24}(t)(1 - k_{24})K_4^{k_{24}} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{\Phi}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{c}_{13}(t)\bar{\phi}_1^{-k_{13}}(t-r) + \bar{c}_{14}(t)\bar{\phi}_2^{-k_{14}}(t-r) \\ \bar{c}_{23}(t)\bar{\phi}_1^{-k_{23}}(t-r) + \bar{c}_{24}(t)\bar{\phi}_2^{-k_{24}}(t-r) \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\bar{b}_{ij}(t) = \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)}{2^{2\alpha-1}\Gamma^2(\alpha)} e^{2(k_{ij}-1)t} b_{ij}^2(t), \quad \bar{c}_{i3}(t) = \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)e^{-2k_{i3}r}}{2^{2\alpha-1}\Gamma^2(\alpha)} e^{2(k_{i3}-1)t} c_{i3}^2(t), \quad \bar{c}_{i4}(t) = \frac{5\Gamma(2\alpha-1)e^{-2k_{i4}r}}{2^{2\alpha-1}\Gamma^2(\alpha)} e^{2(k_{i4}-1)t} c_{i4}^2(t), \quad \bar{\phi}_i(t) = 5e^{-2t} M_i^2.$$

**Proof.** The system (1.1) is equivalent to the fractional integral system

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{m_j}{j!} (t - t_0)^j + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} f(s, x(s), y(s), x(s-r), y(s-r)) ds, \\ y(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{n_j}{j!} (t - t_0)^j \\ \quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} g(s, x(s), y(s), x(s-r), y(s-r)) ds, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty), \\ x(t) = \varphi(t), \\ y(t) = \psi(t), \quad t \in [t_0 - r, t_0]. \end{cases}$$

When  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ , we derive from (3.5) that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} |x(t)| \leq M_1 + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} \left[ b_{11}(s)|x(s)|^{k_{11}} + b_{12}(s)|y(s)|^{k_{12}} \right. \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad \left. + c_{13}(s)|x(s-r)|^{k_{13}} + c_{14}(s)|y(s-r)|^{k_{14}} \right] ds, \\ |y(t)| \leq M_2 + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} \left[ b_{21}(s)|x(s)|^{k_{21}} + b_{22}(s)|y(s)|^{k_{22}} \right. \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad \left. + c_{23}(s)|x(s-r)|^{k_{23}} + c_{24}(s)|y(s-r)|^{k_{24}} \right] ds, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty), \\ |x(t)| \leq M_1, \\ |y(t)| \leq M_2, \quad t \in [t_0 - r, t_0]. \end{array} \right. \quad (3.6)$$

When  $\alpha > 1$ , we have

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} |x(t)| \leq M_1 + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{|m_j|}{j!} (t-t_0)^j + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} \left[ b_{11}(s)|x(s)|^{k_{11}} + b_{12}(s)|y(s)|^{k_{12}} \right. \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad \left. + c_{13}(s)|x(s-r)|^{k_{13}} + c_{14}(s)|y(s-r)|^{k_{14}} \right] ds, \\ |y(t)| \leq M_2 + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{|n_j|}{j!} (t-t_0)^j + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} \left[ b_{21}(s)|x(s)|^{k_{21}} + b_{22}(s)|y(s)|^{k_{22}} \right. \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad \left. + c_{23}(s)|x(s-r)|^{k_{23}} + c_{24}(s)|y(s-r)|^{k_{24}} \right] ds, \quad t \in [t_0, +\infty), \\ |x(t)| \leq M_1, \\ |y(t)| \leq M_2, \quad t \in [t_0 - r, t_0]. \end{array} \right. \quad (3.7)$$

Applying Theorem 3.1 to (3.6) and (3.7) yields the desired conclusion.  $\square$

### 4. An illustrative example

**Example 4.1.** Consider the following fractional differential system

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} D^{\frac{7}{8}} x(t) = f\left(t, x(t), y(t), x(t-1), y(t-1)\right), \\ D^{\frac{7}{8}} y(t) = g\left(t, x(t), y(t), x(t-1), y(t-1)\right), \quad t \in [3, +\infty), \\ x(t) = \Gamma\left(\frac{7}{8}\right), \\ y(t) = \Gamma\left(\frac{7}{8}\right), \quad t \in [2, 3], \end{array} \right. \quad (4.1)$$

where  $f(t, x, y, z, w) = g(t, x, y, z, w) = \frac{2^{\frac{3}{8}}\Gamma(\frac{7}{8})}{\sqrt{5}\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})} t^{\frac{1}{2}} [e^{\frac{1}{2}t}(x^{\frac{1}{2}} + y^{\frac{1}{2}}) + e^{\frac{1}{2}(t+1)}(z^{\frac{1}{2}} + w^{\frac{1}{2}})]$ .

It is obvious that  $|f(t, x, y, z, w)| = |g(t, x, y, z, w)| \leq \frac{2^{\frac{3}{8}}\Gamma(\frac{7}{8})}{\sqrt{5}\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})} t^{\frac{1}{2}} [e^{\frac{1}{2}t}(|x|^{\frac{1}{2}} + |y|^{\frac{1}{2}}) + e^{\frac{1}{2}(t+1)}(|z|^{\frac{1}{2}} + |w|^{\frac{1}{2}})]$ ,  $t \in [3, +\infty)$ . From (4.1) and Theorem 3.2 combining with the arbitrariness of  $K_j (j = 1, 2, 3, 4)$ , let  $K_j = 1$ , then we obtain  $\bar{b}_{ij}(t) = \bar{c}_{ij}(t) = t$ ,  $\bar{\phi}_i(t) = 5e^{-2t}\Gamma^2(\frac{7}{8})$ ,  $i = 1, 2, j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ . Thus  $\bar{H}_1(t) = \bar{H}_2(t) =$

$$\frac{1}{2}t \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \bar{L}_1(t) = \bar{L}_2(t) = t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \bar{\Phi}(t) = 2\sqrt{5}\Gamma(\frac{7}{8})te^{-(t-1)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Set

$$\begin{bmatrix} |x(t)| \\ |y(t)| \end{bmatrix} = e^t \begin{bmatrix} |x(t)|^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ |y(t)|^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{bmatrix}, \quad t \in [3, +\infty),$$

then we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} |x(t)| \\ |y(t)| \end{bmatrix} \leq \bar{B}(t) + \bar{G}(t), \quad t \in [3, +\infty),$$

where

$$\bar{B}(t) = 5e^{-2t}\Gamma^2\left(\frac{7}{8}\right) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

for  $t \in [3, 4]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{G}(t) &= \int_3^t \exp\left\{\int_s^t \bar{H}_1(\tau) d\tau\right\} \left[\bar{H}_1(s)\bar{B}(s) + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{\Phi}(s)\right] ds \\ &\leq \left[\frac{1}{2}\Gamma^2\left(\frac{7}{8}\right) + 21\sqrt{5}\Gamma\left(\frac{7}{8}\right) + 4\right] e^{\frac{7}{4}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}; \end{aligned}$$

for  $t \in [4, +\infty)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{G}(t) &= \exp\left\{\int_4^t [\bar{H}_1(\tau) + \bar{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau\right\} \int_3^4 \exp\left\{\int_s^4 \bar{H}_1(\tau) d\tau\right\} \left[\bar{H}_1(s)\bar{B}(s) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{\Phi}(s)\right] ds + \int_4^t \exp\left\{\int_s^t [\bar{H}_1(\tau) + \bar{H}_2(\tau)] d\tau\right\} \left[\bar{H}_1(s)\bar{B}(s) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \bar{H}_2(s)\bar{B}(s-1) + \bar{L}_1(s) + \bar{L}_2(s)\right] ds \\ &\leq \left[21\Gamma^2\left(\frac{7}{8}\right) + 42\sqrt{5}\Gamma\left(\frac{7}{8}\right) + 12\right] e^{\frac{1}{2}t^2 - \frac{25}{4}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

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