

Solvability for a higher-order Hadamard fractional differential model with a sign-changing nonlinearity dependent on the parameter ρ

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Abstract Until now most of the results are obtained in the sense of fractional derivatives such as Caputo and Riemann-Liouville, and there are few models using the Hadamard fractional derivatives. In this paper, based on the properties of the Green's function, the existence of positive solutions are obtained for a Hadamard fractional differential equation with a higher-order sign-changing nonlinearity under some conditions by the fixed point theorem, and the existence of positive solutions is dependent on the parameter ρ for the Semipositive problem.

Keywords Semipositive problem; Hadamard fractional differential equation; Positive solution; Parameter

MR Subject Classification: 34B16 · 34B18

1. Introduction

The empirical formulas of some complex mechanical processes are often expressed in the form of power law functions, and the corresponding mechanical constitutive relations do not conform to the standard "gradient" laws, such as Darcy's law, Fourier heat conduction and Fick diffusion. These mechanical processes have obvious memorability, heritability and path dependence, and when describing mechanical processes with these properties, we usually construct nonlinear differential equations with integer order differentiation, and the constructed nonlinear differential equations need to introduce some artificial empirical parameters and assumptions that are inconsistent with the actual situation, and sometimes due to small changes in materials or external conditions, we need to construct a new model. However, fractional-order differential operators can simply and accurately describe mechanical and physical processes with historical memory and spatial global correlation, and the fractional-order derivative modeling is simple, the physical meaning of parameters is clear and the description is accurate, so fractional differential equation is one of the important tools for mathematical modeling of complex mechanics, physics, medicine and other processes. There has been a significant development in the study of fractional differential equations in recent years, for an extensive collection of such literature, readers can refer to [4–7, 9–12, 14–16, 18–25] and the references therein. There are some periodic achievements for Hadamard fractional differential equation, for example [1, 3]. In [3], the authors consider the following BVP:

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$${}^H D_{1+}^\alpha x(t) + \hbar(t, x(t)) = 0, \text{ for a.e. } t \in J = [1, T], \quad 1 < \alpha \leq 2,$$

$$x(1) = 0, {}^H D_{1+}^p x(T) = \sum_{i=1}^n \kappa_i {}^H D_{1+}^p x(\mu_i), \quad 0 < p < 1,$$

where $\hbar : [1, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a given function, $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}, 1 < \mu_i \leq T, j = 1, 2, \dots, n, n \geq 2$, and $(\log T)^{\alpha-p-1} \neq \sum_{i=1}^n \kappa_i (\log \mu_i)^{\alpha-p-1}$, ${}^H D_{1+}^\alpha$ and ${}^H D_{1+}^p$ are the Hadamard fractional derivatives of order α and p , respectively. In [1], Algaoudi got existence results for the following sequential Hadamard type fractional differential equation:

$$\begin{aligned} ({}^H D_{1+}^p + \lambda {}^H D_{1+}^{p-1})x(t) &= f_1(t, x(t), y(t), {}^H D_{1+}^r y(t)), \quad 1 < p \leq 2, 0 < r < 1, \\ ({}^H D_{1+}^q + \lambda {}^H D_{1+}^{q-1})y(t) &= f_2(t, x(t), {}^H D_{1+}^v y(t), y(t)), \quad 1 < q \leq 2, 0 < v < 1, \\ x(1) = 0, x(e) &= {}^H I_{1+}^\gamma y(\eta), \quad \gamma > 0, 1 < \eta < e, \\ y(1) = 0, y(e) &= {}^H I_{1+}^\beta x(\zeta), \quad \beta > 0, 1 < \zeta < e, \end{aligned}$$

where $f_1, f_2 : [1, e] \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are continuous functions, ${}^H D_{1+}^p, {}^H I_{1+}^\gamma$ denote the Hadamard fractional derivative and integral p, γ , respectively. In [2], Arul and Karthikeyan considered fractional differential equation of Hadamard type:

$${}^H D_{b+}^\vartheta x(t) = g(t, x(t), {}^H D^\vartheta x(t)), \quad t \in (b, \tau),$$

with an initial value $x(b) = 0, x(\tau) = \lambda \int_0^\sigma x(s) ds, \sigma \in (b, \tau), \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, where ${}^H D_{b+}^\vartheta$ denotes Hadamard fractional derivative of order $\vartheta, 1 < \vartheta \leq 2$, the authors obtained the existence and uniqueness of solutions for this equation.

Motivated by the excellent results above, in this paper, we consider the following Hadamard fractional differential equation:

$${}^H D_{1+}^\nu u(t) + \varrho \hbar(t, u(t)) = 0, \quad 1 < t < e, \quad (1.1)$$

with nonlocal Hadamard integral boundary conditions

$$u^{(i)}(1) = 0, i \text{ from } 0 \text{ to } n-2, {}^H D_{1+}^{p_0} u(e) = \sum_{i=1}^m \chi_i \int_1^{\eta_i} \rho_i(s) {}^H D_{1+}^{p_i} u(s) dA_i(s), \quad (1.2)$$

where $\nu, p_i \in \mathbb{R}_+^1 = [0, +\infty) (i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m), 0 \leq p_1 \leq p_2 \leq \dots \leq p_m \leq p_0 < \nu - 1, p_0 \geq 1, n \in \mathbb{N}$ (natural number set), $n - 1 < \nu \leq n, \rho_i(s) \in L^1(1, e), 0 < \chi_i \leq 1 (i = 1, 2, \dots, m)$ are parameters, $\hbar(t, x)$ may change sign and may be singular at $t = 1$ or $t = e, A_i$ is a function of bounded variation, $\sum_{i=1}^m \chi_i \int_1^{\eta_i} \rho_i(s) {}^H D_{1+}^{p_i} u(s) dA_i(s)$ denotes the Riemann-Stieltjes integral with respect to $A_i (i = 1, 2, \dots, m)$, and ${}^H D_{1+}^\nu u, {}^H D_{1+}^{p_i} u (i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m)$ are the standard Hadamard derivatives.

Compared with [1-3], positive solution of this paper depends on a parameter and therefore the results we obtained is relatively accurate; compared with [24], the derivatives which we used in this paper are Hadamard fractional derivatives and the questions we considered is semipositone problem; compared with [17, 24], the equation we considered in this paper is a very wide type, and [17, 24] is special cases of this paper, moreover, the positive solutions is dependent on parameter ϱ .

2. Preliminaries and lemmas

For the reader's convenience, we first give some basic definitions and lemmas that are useful for the following research, which can be found in recent literature, for example [13].

Definition 2.1([13]). Let $x : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^1$, the Hadamard fractional integral of order $\nu > 0$ of a function x is given by

$${}^H I_{a^+}^\nu x(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_a^t \left(\ln \frac{t}{s}\right)^{\nu-1} \frac{x(s)}{s} ds.$$

Definition 2.2([13]). Let $x : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^1$, the Hadamard fractional derivative of order $\nu > 0$ of a continuous function x is given by

$${}^H D_{a^+}^\nu x(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\nu)} \left(t \frac{d}{dt}\right)^n \int_a^t \frac{x(s)}{s \left(\ln \frac{t}{s}\right)^{\nu-n+1}} ds,$$

where $n = [\nu] + 1$, $[\nu]$ denotes the integer part of the number ν , provided that the right-hand side is pointwise defined on $(0, \infty)$.

Lemma 2.1([13]). If $\nu, \mu > 0$, then

$$\begin{aligned} {}^H I_a^\nu \left(\ln\left(\frac{t}{a}\right)^{\mu-1}\right) (x) &= \frac{\Gamma(\mu)}{\Gamma(\mu+\nu)} \left(\ln \frac{x}{a}\right)^{\mu+\nu-1}, \\ {}^H D_a^\nu \left(\ln\left(\frac{t}{a}\right)^{\mu-1}\right) (x) &= \frac{\Gamma(\mu)}{\Gamma(\mu-\nu)} \left(\ln \frac{x}{a}\right)^{\mu-\nu-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 2.2([13]). Suppose that $\nu > 0$ and $x \in C[1, \infty) \cap L^1[1, \infty)$, then the solution of Hadamard fractional differential equation ${}^H D_{1^+}^\nu x(t) = 0$ is

$$x(t) = d_1(\ln t)^{\nu-1} + d_2(\ln t)^{\nu-2} + \dots + d_n(\ln t)^{\nu-n}, d_i \in R, i = 0, 1, \dots, n, n = [\nu] + 1.$$

Lemma 2.3([13]). Suppose that $\nu > 0, \nu$ is not natural number. If $x \in C[1, \infty) \cap L^1[1, \infty)$, then

$$x(t) = {}^H I_{1^+}^\nu {}^H D_{1^+}^\nu x(t) + \sum_{k=1}^n d_k (\ln t)^{\nu-k},$$

for $t \in (1, e]$, where $d_k \in R, k = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $n = [\nu] + 1$.

We consider the linear fractional differential equation

$${}^H D_{1^+}^\nu u(t) + g(t) = 0, \quad 1 < t < e, \quad (2.1)$$

with boundary condition (1.2).

Lemma 2.4. Given $g \in L^1(1, e) \cap C(1, e)$, then, BVP (2.1) with boundary conditions (1.2) can be expressed as

$$y(t) = \int_1^e \wp(t, s) \frac{g(s)}{s} ds, \quad t \in [1, e], \quad (2.2)$$

where

$$\wp(t, s) = \wp_1(t, s) + \frac{(\ln t)^{\nu-1}}{\Delta} \sum_{i=1}^m \chi_i \left(\int_0^{\eta_i} \rho_i(s) \wp_{2i}(\tau, s) dA_i(\tau) \right),$$

$$\wp_1(t, s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\nu)} \begin{cases} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\ln \frac{e}{s}\right)^{\nu-p_0-1} - \left(\ln \frac{t}{s}\right)^{\nu-1}, & 1 \leq s \leq t \leq e, \\ (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\ln \frac{e}{s}\right)^{\nu-p_0-1}, & 1 \leq t \leq s \leq e, \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

$$\wp_{2i}(t, s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\nu - p_i)} \begin{cases} (\ln t)^{\nu-p_i-1} \left(\ln \frac{e}{s}\right)^{\nu-p_0-1} - \left(\ln \frac{t}{s}\right)^{\nu-p_i-1}, & 1 \leq s \leq t \leq e, \\ (\ln t)^{\nu-p_i-1} \left(\ln \frac{e}{s}\right)^{\nu-p_0-1}, & 1 \leq t \leq s \leq e, \end{cases} \quad (2.4)$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$, and $\Delta = \frac{\Gamma(\nu)}{\Gamma(\nu-p_0)} - \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\chi_i \Gamma(\nu)}{\Gamma(\nu-p_i)} \int_1^{\eta_i} \rho_i(s) (\ln s)^{\nu-p_i-1} dA_i(s)$.

Proof. This proof is similar to Lemma 2.4 of [8] and we omit it here.

Lemma 2.5. The functions \wp_1 and \wp given by (2.2) have the following properties:

- (1) $\wp_1(t, s) \geq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\nu)} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \ln s (\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\nu-p_0-1}, \forall t, s \in [1, e]$;
- (2) $\wp_1(t, s) \leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\nu-1)} (\ln s) (\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\nu-p_0-1}, \forall t, s \in [1, e]$;
- (3) $\wp_1(t, s) \leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\nu-1)} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} (\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\nu-p_0-1}$;
- (4) $\wp(t, s) \leq J(s), J(s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\nu-1)} (\ln s) (\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\nu-p_0-1} + \frac{1}{\Delta} \sum_{i=1}^m \chi_i \left(\int_1^{\eta_i} \rho_i(s) \wp_{2i}(\tau, s) dA_i(\tau) \right)$ for all $t, s \in [1, e], i = 1, 2, \dots, m$;
- (5) $\frac{1}{\nu-1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} J(s) \leq \wp(t, s) \leq \sigma (\ln t)^{\nu-1}$, where

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\nu)} (\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\nu-p_0-1} \left[\nu - 1 + \frac{1}{\Delta} \sum_{i=1}^m \chi_i \left(\int_0^{\eta_i} \rho_i(s) (\ln s)^{\nu-p_0-1} dA_i(\tau) \right) \right],$$

for $\forall t, s \in [1, e]$.

Proof. The proof is similar to that of Lemma 2.4 of [8] and we omit it here.

Lemma 2.6. Assume that $\chi_i \geq 0$ for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$, $\Delta > 0$, $g \in L^1(1, e) \cap C(1, e)$ and $g(t) > 0$ for all $t \in (1, e)$. Then the solution u of problem (2.1) and (1.2) satisfies the inequality $u(t) \geq \frac{1}{\nu-1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} u(t')$ for all $t, t' \in [1, e]$.

Proof. By means of Lemma 2.5, for all $t, t' \in [1, e]$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} u(t) &= \int_1^e \wp(t, s) \frac{g(s)}{s} ds \geq \int_1^e \frac{1}{\nu-1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} J(s) \frac{g(s)}{s} ds \\ &\geq \frac{1}{\nu-1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \wp(t', s) \frac{g(s)}{s} ds = \frac{1}{\nu-1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} u(t'). \end{aligned}$$

In order to get our main results, the following Guo-Krasnosel'skii fixed point theorem is presented below.

Theorem 2.1. Let E be a Banach space and let $R \subset E$ be a cone in E . Assume Λ_1 and Λ_2 are bounded open subsets of E with $\theta \in \Lambda_1 \subset \bar{\Lambda}_1 \subset \Lambda_2$, and let $A : R \cap (\bar{\Lambda}_1 \subset \Lambda_2) \rightarrow R$ be a completely continuous operator such that

- (i) $\|Av\| \leq \|v\|, v \in R \cap \partial\Lambda_1$ and $\|Av\| \geq \|v\|, v \in R \cap \partial\Lambda_2$,

or

- (ii) $\|Av\| \geq \|v\|, v \in R \cap \partial\Lambda_1$ and $\|Av\| \leq \|v\|, v \in R \cap \partial\Lambda_2$. Then A has a fixed point in $R \cap (\bar{\Lambda}_1 \subset \Lambda_2)$.

3 Main results

In this section, we investigate the solvability for higher-order Hadamard fractional differential model with a sign-changing nonlinearity. First, we propose the assumptions which we will use.

- (H₁) $0 \leq p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_m \leq p_0 < \nu - 1$ and

$$\Delta = \frac{\Gamma(\nu)}{\Gamma(\nu-p_0)} e^{\nu-p_0-1} - \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\chi_i \Gamma(\nu)}{\Gamma(\nu-p_i)} \int_1^{\eta_i} \rho_i(s) (\ln s)^{\nu-\beta_i-1} dA_i(s) > 0.$$

- (H₂) The function $\hbar \in C((1, e) \times [0, \infty), R)$ may be singular at $t = 1$ and (or) $t = e$, and there exist the functions $\theta, \nu \in C((1, e), [0, \infty), \vartheta \in C([1, e] \times [0, \infty), [0, \infty))$ such that $-\theta(t) \leq \hbar(t, x) \leq \nu(t)\vartheta(t, x)$ for all $t \in (1, e)$ and $x \in [0, \infty)$ with $0 < \int_1^e \theta(t) \frac{dt}{t} < \infty, 0 < \int_1^e \omega(t) \frac{dt}{t} < \infty$.

(H₃) There exist $a \in (1, \frac{e-1}{2})$ such that $h_\infty = \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \min_{t \in [a, e-a]} \frac{h(t, u)}{u} = \infty$.

(H₄) There exist $a \in (1, \frac{e-1}{2})$ such that $\liminf_{u \rightarrow \infty} \min_{t \in [a, e-a]} h(t, u) > M_0$, with $M_0 = (2\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s}) / (\ln a)^{\alpha-1} \int_a^{e-a} J(s) \frac{ds}{s}$, and $\vartheta_\infty = \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \max_{t \in [1, e]} \frac{\vartheta(t, u)}{u} = 0$, where J and σ are given in Section 2.

Next, let's consider the following fractional differential equation:

$${}^H D_{1+}^\nu x(t) + \varrho (\bar{h}(t, [x(t) - \varrho \varpi(t)]^*) + \theta(t)) = 0, \quad 1 < t < e, \quad (3.1)$$

with nonlocal Hadamard integral conditions

$$x^{(i)}(1) = 0, \quad i \text{ is from } 0 \text{ to } n-2, \quad {}^H D_{1+}^{p_0} x(e) = \sum_{i=1}^m \chi_i \int_1^{\eta_i} \rho_i(s) {}^H D_{1+}^{p_i} x(s) dA_i(s), \quad (3.2)$$

where $\varrho > 0$ and $\varsigma^*(t) = \varsigma(t)$ if $\varsigma(t) \geq 0$, and $\varsigma^*(t) = 0$ if $\varsigma(t) < 0$. Here, $\varpi(t) = \int_1^e \wp(t, s) \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s}$, $t \in [1, e]$ is the solution of problem

$$\begin{aligned} {}^H D_{1+}^\nu \varpi(t) + \theta(t) &= 0, \quad 1 < t < e, \\ \varpi^{(i)}(1) = 0, \quad i \text{ is from } 0 \text{ to } n-2, \quad {}^H D_{1+}^{p_0} \varpi(e) &= \sum_{i=1}^m \chi_i \int_1^{\eta_i} \rho_i(s) {}^H D_{1+}^{p_i} \varpi(s) dA_i(s). \end{aligned}$$

By (H₁)-(H₂), we get $\varpi(t) \geq 0$ for all $t \in [1, e]$. We will show that there exists a solution x for problem (3.1)-(3.2) with $x(t) \geq \varrho \varpi(t)$ on $[1, e]$ and $x(t) > \lambda \varpi(t)$ on $(1, e)$. Under the circumstances, $u = x - \varrho \varpi$ represents the positive solution to the problem (1.1-1.2). Hence, in the following we shall investigate problem (3.1-3.2).

By means of Lemma 2.4, a positive solution of equation

$$x(t) = \varrho \int_1^e \wp(t, s) (\bar{h}(s, [x(s) - \varrho \varpi(s)]^*) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s} = 0, \quad 1 < t < e,$$

is a positive solution for problem (3.1-3.2).

So let's think about Banach space $X = C([1, e])$ with the superemun norm $\|\cdot\|$, and let's define a cone

$$K = \{x \in X : x(t) \geq \frac{1}{\nu-1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \|x\|, \forall t \in [1, e]\}.$$

For $\varrho > 0$, we introduce the operator $T : X \rightarrow X$, which is defined by

$$Tx(t) = \varrho \int_1^e \wp(t, s) (\bar{h}(s, [x(s) - \varrho \varpi(s)]^*) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s}, \quad 1 < t < e, \quad x \in X.$$

Obviously, if x is the fixed point of the operator T , then x is the solution to the problem (3.1-3.2).

Lemma 3.1. If (H₁-H₂) hold, then the operator $T : K \rightarrow K$ is a completely continuous operator.

Proof. Let $x \in K$ be fixed. By using (H₁-H₂), we deduce that $Tx(t) < \infty$ for all $t \in [1, e]$. Besides, by means of Lemma 2.5, for all $t, t' \in [1, e]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} Tx(t) &\leq \varrho \int_1^e J(s) (\bar{h}(s, [x(s) - \varrho \varpi(s)]^*) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s}, \quad x \in X, \\ Tx(t) &\geq \frac{\varrho}{\nu-1} \int_1^e (\ln t)^{\nu-1} J(s) (\bar{h}(s, [x(s) - \varrho \varpi(s)]^*) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s}, \\ &\geq \frac{1}{\nu-1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} Tx(t'). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $Tx(t) \geq \frac{1}{\nu-1}(\ln t)^{\nu-1}\|Tx\|$ for all $t \in [1, e]$, then we deduce that $Tx \in K$, and therefore, $T(K) \subset K$. By using the standard method, we get the operator $T : K \rightarrow K$ is a completely continuous operator.

Theorem 3.1. Suppose that condition (H_1-H_3) hold, there exists $\varrho^* > 0$, for any $\varrho \in (0, \varrho^*)$, such that boundary value problem (1.1-1.2) has at least one positive solution.

Proof. Let's pick a positive number, such that $R_1 > \sigma(\nu-1) \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} > 0$, and we define the set $\Omega_1 = \{x \in K : \|x\| < R_1\}$.

Let's introduce

$$\varrho^* = \min \left\{ 1, R_1 \left(\Upsilon_1 \int_1^e J(s)(\nu(s) + \theta(s)) \right)^{-1} \right\}$$

with $\Upsilon_1 = \max\{\max_{t \in [1, e], u \in [0, R_1]} \vartheta(t, u), 1\}$.

Let $\varrho \in (0, \varrho^*)$. Since $\varpi(t) \leq \sigma(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s}$ for all $t \in [1, e]$, we deduce for any $x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_1$ and $t \in [1, e]$,

$$[x(t) - \varrho\varpi(t)]^* \leq x(t) \leq \|x\| \leq R_1,$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} & x(t) - \varrho\varpi(t) \\ & \geq \frac{1}{\nu-1}(\ln t)^{\nu-1}\|x\| - \varrho\sigma(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} = (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_1}{\nu-1} - \varrho\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \\ & \geq (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_1}{\nu-1} - \varrho^*\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \geq (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_1}{\nu-1} - \sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

So for any $x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_1$ and $t \in [1, e]$, by (H_2) , we have

$$\begin{aligned} Tx(t) & \leq \varrho \int_1^e J(s) ((\nu(s)\vartheta(s, [x(s) - \varrho\varpi(s)]^*)) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s} \\ & \leq \varrho^*\Upsilon_1 \int_1^e J(s)(\nu(s) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s} \leq R_1 = \|x\|. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we get

$$\|Tx\| \leq \|x\|, \forall x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_1. \quad (3.3)$$

Furthermore, for a , by (H_3) , we pick a positive constant $L > 0$ such that

$$L > 2(\nu-1)^2 \left(\varrho(\ln a)^{2(\nu-1)} \int_a^{e-a} J(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right)^{-1}.$$

By (H_3) , we deduce that there exists a constant $L_0 > 0$ such that

$$\hbar(t, u) \geq Lu, \forall t \in [a, e-a], u \geq L_0. \quad (3.4)$$

Now we define $R_2 = \max\{2R_1, 2(\nu-1)L_0/(\ln a)^{\nu-1}\}$ and let $\Omega_2 = \{x \in K : \|x\| < R_2\}$. Then for any $x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) - \varrho\varpi(t) & \geq \frac{1}{\nu-1}(\ln t)^{\nu-1}\|x\| - \varrho\sigma(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} = (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_2}{\nu-1} - \varrho\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \\ & \geq (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_1}{\nu-1} - \varrho^*\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \geq (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_1}{\nu-1} - \sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} [x(t) - \varrho\varpi(t)]^* & = x(t) - \varrho\varpi(t) \geq \frac{1}{\nu-1}(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_2}{\nu-1} - \varrho\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \\ & \geq \frac{(\ln a)^{\nu-1}R_2}{2(\nu-1)} \geq L_0, \forall t \in [a, e-a]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

Then for any $x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_2$ and $t \in [a, e - a]$, by (3.4) and (3.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} Tx(t) &\geq \varrho \int_a^{e-a} \wp(t, s) (\hbar(s, [x(s) - \varrho\varpi(s)]^*) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s} \\ &\geq \varrho \int_a^{e-a} \wp(t, s) L[x(s) - \varrho\varpi(s)] \frac{ds}{s} \geq \frac{\varrho L}{\nu - 1} \int_a^{e-a} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} J(s) \frac{(\ln a)^{\nu-1} R_2 ds}{2(\nu - 1)} \\ &\geq \frac{\varrho L (\ln a)^{2(\nu-1)} R_2}{2(\nu - 1)^2} \int_a^{e-a} J(s) \frac{ds}{s} \geq R_2 = \|x\|. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we conclude

$$\|Tx\| \geq \|x\|, \forall x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_2. \quad (3.6)$$

By (3.3), (3.6) and Theorem 3.1, we get that T has a fixed point $x_1 \in K \cap (\overline{\Omega}_2 \setminus \Omega_1)$, that is $R_1 \leq \|x_1\| \leq R_2$. Since $\|x_1\| \geq R_1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} x_1(t) - \varrho\varpi(t) &\geq (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{\|x_1\|}{\nu - 1} - \sigma \varrho \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \geq (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_1}{\nu - 1} - \sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \\ &= \Lambda_1 (\ln t)^{\nu-1}, \end{aligned}$$

and so $x_1(t) \geq \varrho\varpi(t) + \Lambda_1 (\ln t)^{\nu-1}$ for all $t \in [1, e]$, where $\Lambda_1 = \frac{R_1}{\nu-1} - \sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s}$.

Let $u_1(t) = x_1(t) - \varrho\varpi(t)$ for all $t \in [1, e]$. Then u_1 is a positive solution of problem (1.1-1.2) with $u_1(t) \geq \Lambda_1 (\ln t)^{\nu-1}$ for all $t \in [1, e]$. This completes the proof of Theorem 3.1.

Theorem 3.2. Assume that (H_1) , (H_2) and (H_4) hold. Then there exists $\varrho_\star > 0$ such that, for any $\varrho \geq \varrho_\star$, the boundary value problem (1.1-1.2) has at least one positive solution.

Proof. By (H_4) , there exists $\Upsilon_2 > 0$ such that

$$\hbar(t, u) \geq 2\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) ds \left((\ln a)^{\nu-1} \int_a^{e-a} J(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right)^{-1}, \forall t \in [a, e - a], u \geq \Upsilon_2.$$

Let's define

$$\varrho_\star = \Upsilon_2 \left((\ln a)^{\nu-1} \sigma \int_a^{e-a} J(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right)^{-1}.$$

Let's assume $\varrho \geq \varrho_\star$. Let $R_3 = 3(\nu - 1)\varrho\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s}$ and $\Omega_3 = \{x \in K : \|x\| < R_3\}$. Then for any $x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_3$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &x(t) - \varrho\varpi(t) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{\nu - 1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \|x\| - \varrho\sigma (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} = (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_3}{\nu - 1} - \varrho\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \\ &\geq 2(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \varrho\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \geq 2(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \varrho_\star\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \\ &= \frac{2\Upsilon_2 (\ln t)^{\nu-1}}{(\ln a)^{\nu-1}} \geq 0, \forall t \in [1, e]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

Hence, for any $x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_3$ and $t \in [a, e - a]$, we get

$$[x(t) - \varrho\varpi(t)]^\star = x(t) - \varrho\varpi(t) \geq \frac{2\Upsilon_2 (\ln t)^{\nu-1}}{(\ln a)^{\nu-1}} \geq \Upsilon_2.$$

Therefore, for any $x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_3$ and $t \in [a, e - a]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
Tx(t) &\geq \varrho \int_a^{e-a} \wp(t, s) \bar{h}(s, [x(s) - \varrho\varpi(s)]^*) \frac{ds}{s} \\
&\geq \varrho \int_a^{e-a} \frac{1}{\nu - 1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} J(s) \bar{h}(s, x(s) - \varrho\varpi(s)) \frac{ds}{s} \\
&\geq \varrho \int_a^{e-a} \frac{1}{\nu - 1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} J(s) \left(2\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \left((\ln a)^{\nu-1} \int_a^{e-a} J(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right)^{-1} \right) \frac{ds}{s} \\
&= \frac{R_3 (\ln t)^{\nu-1}}{(\ln a)^{\nu-1}} \geq R_3.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we conclude

$$\|Tx\| \geq \|x\|, \forall x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_3. \quad (3.8)$$

Furthermore, we consider the positive number

$$\varepsilon = \left(2\varrho \int_1^e J(s) \omega(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right)^{-1},$$

then from (H_4) , we obtain that there exists $\Upsilon_3 > 0$ such that $\vartheta(t, u) \leq \varepsilon u$ for all $t \in [1, e], u \geq \Upsilon_3$. Hence, we have $\vartheta(t, u) \leq \Upsilon_4 + \varepsilon u$, for all $t \in [1, e], u \geq 0$, where $\Upsilon_4 = \max_{t \in [1, e], u \in [0, \Upsilon_3]} \vartheta(t, u)$.

Let's define

$$R_4 > \max \left\{ R_3, 2\varrho \max\{\Upsilon_4, 1\} \int_1^e J(s) (\nu(s) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s} \right\},$$

and let $\Omega_4 = \{x \in K : \|x\| < R_4\}$. Then for any $x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_4$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&x(t) - \varrho\varpi(t) \\
&\geq \frac{1}{\nu - 1} (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \|x\| - \varrho\sigma (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} = (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_4}{\nu - 1} - \varrho\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \\
&\geq (\ln t)^{\nu-1} \left(\frac{R_3}{\nu - 1} - \varrho^* \sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \right) \\
&= 2(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \varrho\sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \\
&\geq 2(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \varrho^* \sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} = 2 \frac{\Upsilon_2 (\ln t)^{\nu-1}}{(\ln a)^{\nu-1}} \geq 0, \forall t \in [1, e].
\end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

Then for any $x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_4$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
Tx(t) &\leq \varrho \int_1^e J(s) ((\nu(s)\vartheta(s, [x(s) - \varrho\varpi(s)]^*)) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s} \\
&\leq \varrho^* \int_1^e J(s) [(\nu(s)(\Upsilon_4 + \varepsilon(x(s) - \varrho\varpi(s)))) + \theta(s)] \frac{ds}{s} \\
&\leq \varrho \max\{\Upsilon_4, 1\} \int_1^e J(s) (\nu(s) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s} + \varrho\varepsilon R_4 \int_1^e J(s) \nu(s) \frac{ds}{s} \\
&\leq \frac{R_4}{2} + \frac{R_4}{2} = R_4 = \|x\| R_1 = \|x\|, \forall t \in [1, e].
\end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\|Tx\| \leq \|x\|, \forall x \in K \cap \partial\Omega_4. \quad (3.10)$$

By (3.8), (3.10) and Theorem 3.1, we conclude that T has a fixed point $x_1 \in K \cap (\bar{\Omega}_4 \setminus \Omega_3)$, so $R_3 \leq \|x_1\| \leq R_4$. In addition, we deduce that for all $t \in [1, e]$,

$$\begin{aligned}
& x_1(t) - \varrho\varpi(t) \\
& \geq x_1(t) - \varrho\sigma(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \\
& \geq \frac{1}{\nu-1}(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \|x_1\| - \varrho\sigma \frac{1}{\nu-1}(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \\
& \geq \frac{1}{\nu-1}R_3 - \varrho\sigma \frac{1}{\Gamma(\nu-1)}(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} = 2\varrho\sigma(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} \\
& \geq 2\varrho_*\sigma(\ln t)^{\nu-1} \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s} = \frac{2\Upsilon_2(\ln t)^{\nu-1}}{(\ln a)^{\nu-1}} \geq 0, \forall t \in [1, e].
\end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

Let $u_1(t) = x_1(t) - \varrho\varpi(t)$, for all $t \in [1, e]$. Then $u_1(t) \geq \bar{\Lambda}_1 \frac{1}{\nu-1}(\ln t)^{\nu-1}$, for all $t \in [1, e]$, where $\bar{\Lambda}_1 = \Upsilon_2/(\ln a)^{\nu-1}$. Hence, we conclude that u_1 is a positive solution of problem (1.1-1.2), which completes the proof of Theorem 3.2.

Theorem 3.3. Assume that $(H_1), (H_2)$ and

(\tilde{H}_4) There exists $a \in (1, \frac{e-1}{2})$ such that $\tilde{h}_\infty = \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \min_{t \in [a, 1-c]} \tilde{h}(t, u) = \infty$ and $\vartheta_\infty = \lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} \max_{t \in [1, e]} \frac{\vartheta(t, u)}{u} = 0$ hold. Then there exists $\varrho_* > 0$ such that, for any $\varrho \geq \tilde{\varrho}_*$, the boundary value problem (1.1, 1.2) has at least one positive solution.

4 Example

In this paper, we consider the following Hadamard fractional differential equation

$${}^H D_{1+}^{\frac{5}{2}} u(t) + \varrho \tilde{h}(t, u(t)) = 0, \quad 1 < t < e, \tag{4.1}$$

with nonlocal Hadamard integral boundary conditions

$$u(1) = u'(1) = 0,$$

$${}^H D_{1+}^{\frac{4}{3}} u(e) = \int_1^e s^{\frac{3}{4}}(1-s)^2 D_{1+}^{\frac{1}{2}} u(s) dA_1(s) + \frac{1}{2} \int_1^{\frac{2}{3}} s^{\frac{7}{8}}(1+s^2)^2 D_{1+}^{\frac{1}{2}} u(s) dA_2(s), \tag{4.2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\wp_1(t, s) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\frac{5}{2})} \begin{cases} (\ln t)^{\frac{3}{2}} (\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\frac{1}{6}} - (\ln \frac{t}{s})^{\frac{3}{2}}, & 1 \leq s \leq t \leq e, \\ (\ln t)^{\frac{3}{2}} (\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\frac{1}{6}}, & 1 \leq t \leq s \leq e, \end{cases} \\
\wp_2(t, s) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(2)} \begin{cases} (\ln t)(\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\frac{1}{6}} - (\ln \frac{t}{s}), & 1 \leq s \leq t \leq e, \\ (\ln t)(\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\frac{1}{6}}, & 1 \leq t \leq s \leq e, \end{cases}
\end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

and

$$\wp(t, s) = \wp_1(t, s) + \frac{(\ln t)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\Delta} \left(\int_1^e s^{\frac{3}{4}}(1-s)^2 \wp_{21}(\tau, s) dA_1(\tau) + \frac{1}{2} \int_1^{\frac{2}{3}} s^{\frac{7}{8}}(1+s^2) \wp_{22}(\tau, s) dA_2(\tau) \right),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta &= \frac{\Gamma(\nu)}{\Gamma(\nu p_0)} e^{\nu-p_0-1} - \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\alpha_i \Gamma(\nu)}{\Gamma(\nu-p_i)} \int_1^{\eta_i} \rho_i(s) (\ln s)^{\nu-p_i-1} dA_i(s) \\
&= \frac{\Gamma(\frac{5}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{7}{6})} e^{\frac{1}{6}} - \frac{\Gamma(\frac{5}{2})}{\Gamma(2)} \int_1^e s^{\frac{3}{4}}(1-s)^2 (\ln s) dA_1(s) - \frac{1}{2} \int_1^{\frac{2}{3}} s^{\frac{7}{8}}(1+s^2) (\ln s) dA_2(s) \approx 1.4563,
\end{aligned}$$

$$J(s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2})}(\ln s)(\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\frac{1}{6}} + \frac{1}{\Delta} \left(\left(\int_1^e s^{\frac{3}{4}}(1-s)^2 \wp_{21}(\tau, s) dA_1(\tau) + \frac{1}{2} \int_1^2 s^{\frac{7}{8}}(1+s^2) \wp_{22}(\tau, s) dA_2(\tau) \right) \right).$$

Example 1. Considering the function

$$\hbar(t, u) = \frac{u^3 + 2u + 1}{t^3 \sqrt{\ln t(1 - \ln t)^2}} + \ln t, t \in (1, e), u \geq 0,$$

then, $\theta(t) = -\ln t$, $\nu(t) = \frac{1}{t^3 \sqrt{\ln t(1 - \ln t)^2}}$ for all $t \in (1, e)$, $\vartheta(t, u) = u^3 + 2u + 1$ for all $t \in [1, e]$ and $u \geq 0$, $\int_1^e \theta(t) \frac{dt}{t} = 1$, $\int_1^e \nu(t) \frac{dt}{t} = \int_1^e \frac{1}{t^2 \sqrt{\ln t(1 - \ln t)}} dt = \int_1^e (\ln t)^{-\frac{1}{2}} (1 - \ln t)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{dt}{t} = B(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) = \pi$. Hence, assumption (H_2) is satisfied. Obviously, for fixed $c \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$, the condition (H_3) is also satisfied ($f_\infty = \infty$).

Moreover, with a few simple calculations, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_1^e J(s)(\nu(s) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s} \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2})}(\ln s)(\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\frac{1}{6}} + \frac{1}{\Delta} \left(\left(\int_1^e s^{\frac{3}{4}}(1-s)^2 \wp_{21}(\tau, s) dA_1(\tau) + \frac{1}{2} \int_1^2 (\ln s)^{\frac{7}{8}}(1 + (\ln s)^2) \wp_{22}(\tau, s) dA_2(\tau) \right) \right) \\ & \times \left(\frac{1}{s^3 \sqrt{\ln s(1 - \ln s)^2}} - \ln s \right) \approx 2.9130. \end{aligned}$$

Choosing $R_1 = 2(R_1 > \sigma \int_1^e \theta(s) \frac{ds}{s})$, and then we obtain $M_1 = 5$ and $\varrho^* \approx 0.3752$, then we have that problem (4.1-4.2) has at least one positive solution for any $\varrho \in (0, \varrho^*)$ by Theorem 3.2.

Example 2. Considering the function

$$\hbar(t, u) = \frac{\sqrt{u+1}}{t^4 \sqrt{(\ln t)^3(1 - (\ln t))}} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{\ln t}}, t \in (1, e), u \geq 0.$$

then, $\theta(t) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\ln t}}$ and $z(t) = \frac{1}{t^4 \sqrt{(\ln t)^3(1 - (\ln t))}}$ for all $t \in (1, e)$, $g(t, u) = \sqrt{u+1}$ for all $t \in [1, e]$ and $u \geq 0$, $\int_1^e \theta(t) \frac{dt}{t} = 1$, $\int_1^e z(t) \frac{dt}{t} = \int_1^e \frac{1}{t^4 \sqrt{(\ln t)^3(1 - (\ln t))}} \frac{dt}{t} = B(-\frac{1}{3}, \frac{3}{4})$. Hence, for $c \in (1, \frac{e-1}{2})$ fixed, the condition (H_2, H_4) are satisfied.

According to some simple computations, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_1^e J(s)(z(s) + \theta(s)) \frac{ds}{s} \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2})}(\ln s)(\ln \frac{e}{s})^{\frac{1}{6}} + \frac{1}{\Delta} \left(\left(\int_1^e s^{\frac{3}{4}}(1-s)^2 \wp_{21}(\tau, s) dA_1(\tau) + \frac{1}{2} \int_1^2 s^{\frac{7}{8}}(1+s^2) \wp_{22}(\tau, s) dA_2(\tau) \right) \right) \\ & \times \left(\frac{1}{t^4 \sqrt{(\ln t)^3(1 - (\ln t))}} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \approx 5.6870. \end{aligned}$$

For $c = \frac{1}{4}$, we have $\int_{\frac{5}{4}}^{e-\frac{1}{4}} J(s) \frac{ds}{s} \approx 0.6830$ and $\Upsilon_0 \approx 80.5420$. Through by the proof process of theorem 3.2, we have that $\Upsilon_2 \approx 8478.3$ and $\varrho_* \approx 560367$. Then we have that the problem (4.1-4.2) has at least one positive solution for any $\varrho \in (0, \varrho^*)$ by Theorem 3.2.

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