

## Research Article

# A $k$ -Dimensional System of Fractional Neutral Functional Differential Equations with Bounded Delay

Dumitru Baleanu,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Sayyedah Zahra Nazemi,<sup>4</sup> and Shahram Rezapour<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, King Abdulaziz University, P.O. Box 80204, Jeddah 21589, Saudi Arabia

<sup>2</sup> Department of Mathematics, Cankaya University, Ogretmenler Caddesi 14, Balgat, 06530 Ankara, Turkey

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Space Sciences, Magurele, 76900 Bucharest, Romania

<sup>4</sup> Department of Mathematics, Azarbaijan Shahid Madani University, Azarshahr, Tabriz, Iran

Correspondence should be addressed to Dumitru Baleanu; [dumitru.baleanu@gmail.com](mailto:dumitru.baleanu@gmail.com)

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In 2010, Agarwal et al. studied the existence of a one-dimensional fractional neutral functional differential equation. In this paper, we study an initial value problem for a class of  $k$ -dimensional systems of fractional neutral functional differential equations by using Krasnoselskii's fixed point theorem. In fact, our main result generalizes their main result in a sense.

## 1. Introduction

As you know, many researchers are interested in developing the theoretical analysis and numerical methods of fractional equations, because different applications of this area have been founded in various fields of sciences and engineering (see, e.g., [1–37]). In this paper, we investigate the initial value problem of a  $k$ -dimensional system of fractional neutral functional differential equations with bounded delay:

$$\begin{aligned}
 {}^c D^{\alpha_1} (x_1(t) - g_1(t, \mathbf{x}_t)) &= f_1(t, \mathbf{x}_t), \\
 {}^c D^{\alpha_2} (x_2(t) - g_2(t, \mathbf{x}_t)) &= f_2(t, \mathbf{x}_t), \\
 &\vdots \\
 {}^c D^{\alpha_k} (x_k(t) - g_k(t, \mathbf{x}_t)) &= f_k(t, \mathbf{x}_t), \\
 x_{1_{t_0}} &= \phi_1, \quad x_{2_{t_0}} = \phi_2, \dots, x_{k_{t_0}} = \phi_k,
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where  $t_0 \geq 0$ ,  $a > 0$ , and  $r > 0$  are constants,  $t \in (t_0, \infty)$ ,  $0 < \alpha_i < 1$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,  ${}^c D$  is the standard Caputo's fractional derivative,  $f_i, g_i : [t_0, \infty) \times C([-r, 0], \mathbb{R}^n) \times C([-r, 0], \mathbb{R}^n) \times \dots \times C([-r, 0], \mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  are given functions

( $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ) satisfying some assumptions that will be specified later,  $\mathbf{x}_t = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$ , and  $\phi_i \in C([-r, 0], \mathbb{R}^n)$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . If  $x \in C([t_0 - r, t_0 + a], \mathbb{R}^n)$ , then for each  $t \in [t_0, t_0 + a]$  define  $x_t$  by  $x_t(\theta) = x(t + \theta)$  for all  $\theta \in [-r, 0]$ . One-dimensional version of the problem has been studied by Agarwal et al. (see [4]). We show that the problem (1) is equivalent to an integral equation and by using Krasnoselskii's fixed point theorem, we conclude that the equivalent operator has (at least) a fixed point. This implies that the problem (1) has at least one solution. One can find the following lemma in [38].

**Lemma 1** (Krasnoselskii's fixed point theorem). *Let  $X$  be a Banach space and  $E$  a closed convex subset of  $X$ . Suppose that  $S$  and  $U$  are two maps of  $E$  into  $X$  such that  $Sx + Uy \in E$  for all  $x, y \in E$ . If  $S$  is a contraction and  $U$  is completely continuous, then the equation  $Sx + Ux = x$  has a solution on  $E$ .*

Let  $I$  be an interval in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $X = C(I, \mathbb{R}^n)$  with the norm  $\|x\| = \sup_{t \in I} |x(t)|$ , where  $|\cdot|$  denotes a suitable complete norm on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Consider the product Banach space  $(X^k = \underbrace{X \times X \times \dots \times X}_k, \|\cdot\|_*)$  with the norm  $\|(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)\|_* = \max\{\|x_1\|, \|x_2\|, \dots, \|x_k\|\}$ . The fractional integral of order  $q$

with the lower limit  $t_0$  for a function  $f$  is defined by  $I^q f(t) = (1/\Gamma(q)) \int_{t_0}^t (f(s)/(t-s)^{1-q})ds$  for  $t > t_0$  and  $q > 0$ , provided the right-hand side is pointwise defined on  $[t_0, \infty)$ . Here,  $\Gamma$  is the gamma function. Also, Caputo's derivative of order  $q$  with the lower limit  $t_0$  for a function  $f : [t_0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined by

$${}^c D^q f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-q)} \int_{t_0}^t \frac{f^{(n)}(s)}{(t-s)^{q+1-n}} ds = I^{n-q} f^{(n)}(t) \quad (2)$$

for  $t > t_0$  and  $n-1 < q < n$  ([34]).

### 2. Main Results

Consider the problem (1). Let  $\delta$  and  $\gamma$  be positive constants,  $I_0 = [t_0, t_0 + \delta]$ , and

$$A(\delta, \gamma) = \left\{ (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) : x_{i_{t_0}} = \phi_i, \sup_{t_0 \leq t \leq t_0 + \delta} |x_i(t) - \phi_i(0)| \leq \gamma, \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, k \right\}, \quad (3)$$

where  $x_i \in C([t_0 - r, t_0 + \delta], \mathbb{R}^n)$ . For obtaining our results, we need the following conditions:

(H<sub>1</sub>)  $f_i(t, \varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_k)$  is measurable with respect to  $t$  on  $I_0$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,

(H<sub>2</sub>)  $f_i(t, \varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_k)$  is continuous with respect to  $\varphi_j$  on  $C([-r, 0], \mathbb{R}^n)$  for all  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,

(H<sub>3</sub>) there exist  $\alpha_{i1} \in (0, \alpha_i)$  and a real-valued function  $m_i(t) \in L^{1/\alpha_{i1}}(I_0)$  such that

$$|f_i(t, \mathbf{x}_t)| \leq m_i(t) \quad (4)$$

for all  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) \in A(\delta, \gamma)$ ,  $t \in I_0$ , and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,

(H<sub>4</sub>)  $g_i(t, \mathbf{x}_t) = g_{i1}(t, \mathbf{x}_t) + g_{i2}(t, \mathbf{x}_t)$  for all  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) \in A(\delta, \gamma)$ ,

(H<sub>5</sub>)  $g_{i1}$  is continuous and

$$|g_{i1}(t, \mathbf{x}_t) - g_{i1}(t, \mathbf{y}_t)| \leq l_i \|x - y\|_* \quad (5)$$

for all  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$ ,  $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k) \in A(\delta, \gamma)$ , and  $t \in I_0$ , where  $l_i \in (0, 1)$  is a constant, for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,

(H<sub>6</sub>)  $g_{i2}$  is completely continuous and the family  $\{t \mapsto g_{i2}(t, \mathbf{x}_t) : (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) \in \Lambda\}$  is equicontinuous on  $\underbrace{C(I_0, \mathbb{R}^n) \times C(I_0, \mathbb{R}^n) \times \dots \times C(I_0, \mathbb{R}^n)}_k$  for all

bounded set  $\Lambda$  in  $A(\delta, \lambda)$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ .

**Lemma 2.** *Suppose that there exist  $\delta \in (0, a)$  and  $\gamma \in (0, \infty)$  such that (H<sub>1</sub>)–(H<sub>3</sub>) hold. Then the problem (1) for  $t \in (t_0, t_0 + \delta]$  is equivalent to the equation*

$$x_i(t) = \phi_i(0) - g_i(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k) + g_i(t, \mathbf{x}_t) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha_i-1} f_i(s, \mathbf{x}_s) ds \quad (*)$$

with conditions  $x_{i_{t_0}} = \phi_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$  and  $t \in I_0$ .

*Proof.* It is easy to see that  $f_i(t, \mathbf{x}_t)$  is Lebesgue measurable on  $I_0$  by using conditions (H<sub>1</sub>) and (H<sub>2</sub>) for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Also, a direct calculation shows that  $(t-s)^{\alpha_i-1} \in L^{1/(1-\alpha_i)}([t_0, t])$  for  $t \in I_0$ . By using Holder's inequality and condition (H<sub>3</sub>), we get that  $(t-s)^{\alpha_i-1} f_i(s, \mathbf{x}_s)$  is Lebesgue integrable with respect to  $s \in [t_0, t]$  for all  $t \in I_0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , and  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) \in A(\delta, \gamma)$ , and

$$\int_{t_0}^t |(t-s)^{\alpha_i-1} f_i(s, \mathbf{x}_s)| ds \leq \|(t-s)^{\alpha_i-1}\|_{L^{1/(1-\alpha_i)}([t_0, t])} \|m_i\|_{L^{1/\alpha_i}(I_0)}. \quad (6)$$

It is easy to see that if  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$  is a solution of the problem (1), then  $x$  is a solution of (\*). Now, suppose that  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$  is a solution of the equation (\*) and  $t \in (t_0, t_0 + \delta]$ . Then  $x_{i_{t_0}} = \phi_i$  and  ${}^c D^{\alpha_i}(x_i(t) - g_i(t, \mathbf{x}_t)) = f_i(t, \mathbf{x}_t)$  for all  $t \in (t_0, t_0 + \delta]$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Thus,  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$  is a solution of the problem (1). This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.** *Suppose that there exist  $\delta \in (0, a)$  and  $\gamma \in (0, \infty)$  such that (H<sub>1</sub>)–(H<sub>6</sub>) hold. Then the problem (1) has at least one solution on  $[t_0, t_0 + \eta]$  for some positive number  $\eta$ .*

*Proof.* Since condition (H<sub>4</sub>) holds, the equation (\*) is equivalent to the equation

$$x_i(t) = \phi_i(0) - g_{i1}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k) - g_{i2}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k) + g_{i1}(t, \mathbf{x}_t) + g_{i2}(t, \mathbf{x}_t) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{\alpha_i-1} f_i(s, \mathbf{x}_s) ds \quad (7)$$

and  $x_{i_{t_0}} = \phi_i$  for all  $t \in I_0$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Let  $(\tilde{\phi}_1, \tilde{\phi}_2, \dots, \tilde{\phi}_k) \in A(\delta, \gamma)$  be defined by  $\tilde{\phi}_{i_{t_0}} = \phi_i$  and  $\tilde{\phi}_i(t_0 + t) = \phi_i(0)$  for all  $t \in [0, \delta]$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . If  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$  is a solution of problem (1) and  $x_i(t_0 + t) = \tilde{\phi}_i(t_0 + t) + y_i(t)$  for  $t \in [-r, \delta]$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , then  $x_{i_{t_0+t}} = \tilde{\phi}_{i_{t_0+t}} + y_{i_t}$  for  $t \in [0, \delta]$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Thus,

$$y_i(t) = -g_{i1}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k) - g_{i2}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k) + g_{i1}(t_0 + t, y_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) + g_{i2}(t_0 + t, y_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha_i-1} f_i(t_0 + s, y_{1_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+s}}, y_{2_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+s}}, \dots, y_{k_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+s}}) ds \quad (**)$$

for  $t \in [0, \delta]$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Since  $g_{i1}, g_{i2}$  are continuous and  $x_{i_t}$  is continuous in  $t$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , there exists  $\delta' > 0$  such that  $|g_{i1}(t_0 + t, y_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}})$

$|\tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}} - g_{i1}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k)| < \gamma/3$  and  $|g_{i2}(t_0 + t, y_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) - g_{i2}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k)| < \gamma/3$  for  $0 < t < \delta'$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Put  $\eta = \min_{1 \leq i \leq k} \{\delta, \delta', (\gamma \Gamma(\alpha_i)(1 + \beta_i)^{1-\alpha_{i1}}/3M_i)^{1/(1+\beta_i)(1-\alpha_{i1})}\}$ , where  $\beta_i = (\alpha_i - 1)/(1 - \alpha_{i1}) \in (-1, 0)$  and  $M_i = \|m_i\|_{L^{1/\alpha_{i1}}(I_0)}$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Define

$$E(\eta, \gamma) = \{(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k) : y_i \in C([-r, \eta], \mathbb{R}^n), y_i(s) = 0, \|y_i\| \leq \gamma \text{ for } s \in [-r, 0], i = 1, 2, \dots, k\}. \tag{8}$$

In fact,  $E(\eta, \gamma)$  is a closed, bounded, and convex subset of  $C([-r, \eta], \mathbb{R}^n) \times C([-r, \eta], \mathbb{R}^n) \times \dots \times C([-r, \eta], \mathbb{R}^n)$ . Define the operators  $S$  and  $U$  on  $E(\eta, \gamma)$  by

$$S(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) = \begin{pmatrix} S_1(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) \\ S_2(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) \\ \vdots \\ S_k(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) \end{pmatrix}, \tag{9}$$

$$U(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) = \begin{pmatrix} U_1(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) \\ U_2(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) \\ \vdots \\ U_k(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$S_i(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t \in [-r, 0], \\ -g_{i1}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k) + g_{i1}(t_0 + t, y_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) & t \in [0, \eta], \end{cases}$$

$$U_i(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t \in [-r, 0], \\ -g_{i2}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k) + g_{i2}(t_0 + t, y_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha_i-1} \times f_i(t_0 + s, y_{1_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+s}}, y_{2_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+s}}, \dots, y_{k_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+s}}) ds & t \in [0, \eta], \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . It is easy to check that the operator equation  $y = Sy + Uy$  has a solution  $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)$  if and only if  $y_i$  is a solution for  $(**)$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . In this case,  $x_i(t_0 + t) = y_i(t) + \tilde{\phi}_i(t_0 + t)$  will be a solution of the problem (1) on  $[0, \eta]$ . Thus, the existence of a solution of the problem (1) is equivalent to the existence of a fixed point for the operator

$S + U$  on  $E(\eta, \gamma)$ . Hence, it is sufficient that we show that  $S + U$  has a fixed point in  $E(\eta, \gamma)$ . We prove it in three steps.

*Step I.*  $Sz + Uy \in E(\eta, \gamma)$  for all  $z = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_k), y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k) \in E(\eta, \gamma)$ .

Let  $z, y \in E(\eta, \gamma)$  be given. Then,  $S_i z + U_i y \in C([-r, \eta], \mathbb{R}^n)$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . It is easy to check that  $(Sz + Uy)(t) = 0$  for all  $t \in [-r, 0]$ . Also, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & |S_i z(t) + U_i y(t)| \\ & \leq \left| -g_{i1}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k) + g_{i1}(t_0 + t, z_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, z_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, z_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) \right| \\ & \quad + \left| -g_{i2}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k) + g_{i2}(t_0 + t, y_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) \right| \\ & \quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha_i-1} f_i(t_0 + s, y_{1_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+s}}, y_{2_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+s}}, \dots, y_{k_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+s}}) ds \\ & \leq \frac{2\gamma}{3} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \left( \int_0^t (t-s)^{(\alpha_i-1)/(1-\alpha_{i1})} ds \right)^{1-\alpha_{i1}} \\ & \quad \times \left( \int_{t_0}^{t_0+t} (m_i(s))^{1/\alpha_{i1}} ds \right)^{\alpha_{i1}} \\ & \leq \frac{2\gamma}{3} + \frac{M_i \eta^{(1+\beta_i)(1-\alpha_{i1})}}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)(1+\beta_i)^{1-\alpha_{i1}}} \leq \gamma \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

for all  $t \in [0, \eta]$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Thus,  $\|S_i z + U_i y\| = \sup_{t \in [0, \eta]} |(S_i z)(t) - (U_i y)(t)| \leq \gamma$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Hence,  $Sz + Uy \in E(\eta, \gamma)$  for all  $z, y \in E(\eta, \gamma)$ .

*Step II.*  $S$  is a contraction on  $E(\eta, \gamma)$ .

Let  $y' = (y'_1, y'_2, \dots, y'_k), y'' = (y''_1, y''_2, \dots, y''_k) \in E(\eta, \gamma)$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} & (y'_1 + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y'_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y'_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}), \\ & (y''_1 + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y''_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y''_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) \in A(\delta, \gamma) \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} & |S_i y'(t) - S_i y''(t)| \\ & = \left| g_{i1}(t_0 + t, y'_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y'_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y'_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) - g_{i1}(t_0 + t, y''_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y''_{2_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y''_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) \right| \\ & \leq L_i \|y' - y''\|_* \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . This implies that  $\|Sy' - Sy''\|_* \leq l\|y' - y''\|_*$ , where  $l = \max\{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k\}$ . Since  $0 < l < 1$ ,  $S$  is a contraction on  $E(\eta, \gamma)$ .

Step III.  $U$  is a completely continuous operator.

Suppose that

$$\begin{aligned}
 &U_{i1}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) \\
 &= \begin{cases} 0 & t \in [-r, 0], \\ -g_{i2}(t_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_k) \\ \quad + g_{i2}(t_0 + t, y_{1_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+t}}, y_{2_t} \\ \quad + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+t}}, \dots, y_{k_t} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+t}}) & t \in [0, \eta], \end{cases} \\
 &U_{i2}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k)(t) \\
 &= \begin{cases} 0 & t \in [-r, 0], \\ \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha_i-1} \\ \quad \times f_i(t_0 + s, y_{1_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+s}}, y_{2_s} \\ \quad + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+s}}, \dots, y_{k_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+s}}) ds & t \in [0, \eta], \end{cases} \tag{14}
 \end{aligned}$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . It is clear that

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} U_{11} + U_{12} \\ U_{21} + U_{22} \\ \vdots \\ U_{k1} + U_{k2} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{15}$$

Since  $g_{i2}$  is completely continuous for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ,  $U_{i1}$  is continuous and also  $\{U_{i1}y : y \in E(\eta, \gamma)\}$  is uniformly bounded. By using condition  $(H_6)$ , it is easy to check that  $\{U_{i1}y : y \in E(\eta, \gamma)\}$  is equicontinuous. On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &|U_{i2}y(t)| \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha_i-1} \left| f_i(t_0 + s, y_{1_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+s}}, y_{2_s} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+s}}, \dots, y_{k_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+s}} \right) ds \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \left( \int_0^t (t-s)^{(\alpha_i-1)/(1-\alpha_{i1})} ds \right)^{1-\alpha_{i1}} \\
 &\quad \times \left( \int_{t_0}^{t_0+t} (m_i(s))^{1/\alpha_{i1}} ds \right)^{\alpha_{i1}} \leq \frac{M_i \eta^{(1+\beta_i)(1-\alpha_{i1})}}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)(1+\beta_i)^{1-\alpha_{i1}}}
 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

for all  $t \in [0, \eta]$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . This implies that  $\{U_{i2}y : y \in E(\eta, \gamma)\}$  is uniformly bounded. Now, we prove that  $\{U_{i2}y :$

$y \in E(\eta, \gamma)\}$  is equicontinuous. Let  $0 \leq t_1 < t_2 \leq \eta$  and  $y \in E(\eta, \gamma)$  be given. Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &|U_{i2}y(t_2) - U_{i2}y(t_1)| \\
 &= \left| \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_0^{t_1} [(t_2-s)^{\alpha_i-1} - (t_1-s)^{\alpha_i-1}] \right. \\
 &\quad \times f_i(t_0 + s, y_{1_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+s}}, y_{2_s} \\
 &\quad \left. + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+s}}, \dots, y_{k_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+s}}) ds \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (t_2-s)^{\alpha_i-1} f_i(t_0 + s, y_{1_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+s}}, y_{2_s} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+s}}, \dots, y_{k_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+s}}) ds \right| \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_0^{t_1} [(t_1-s)^{\alpha_i-1} - (t_2-s)^{\alpha_i-1}] \\
 &\quad \times \left| f_i(t_0 + s, y_{1_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+s}}, y_{2_s} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+s}}, \dots, y_{k_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+s}}) \right| ds \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (t_2-s)^{\alpha_i-1} \left| f_i(t_0 + s, y_{1_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{1_{t_0+s}}, y_{2_s} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \tilde{\phi}_{2_{t_0+s}}, \dots, y_{k_s} + \tilde{\phi}_{k_{t_0+s}}) \right| ds \\
 &\leq \frac{M_i}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \left( \int_0^{t_1} [(t_1-s)^{\alpha_i-1} - (t_2-s)^{\alpha_i-1}]^{1/(1-\alpha_{i1})} ds \right)^{1-\alpha_{i1}} \\
 &\quad + \frac{M_i}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \left( \int_{t_1}^{t_2} [(t_2-s)^{\alpha_i-1}]^{1/(1-\alpha_{i1})} ds \right)^{1-\alpha_{i1}} \\
 &\leq \frac{M_i}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \left( \int_0^{t_1} [(t_1-s)^{\beta_i} - (t_2-s)^{\beta_i}] ds \right)^{1-\alpha_{i1}} \\
 &\quad + \frac{M_i}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)} \left( \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (t_2-s)^{\beta_i} ds \right)^{1-\alpha_{i1}} \\
 &\leq \frac{M_i}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)(1+\beta_i)^{1-\alpha_{i1}}} (t_1^{1+\beta_i} - t_2^{1+\beta_i} + (t_2-t_1)^{1+\beta_i})^{1-\alpha_{i1}} \\
 &\quad + \frac{M_i}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)(1+\beta_i)^{1-\alpha_{i1}}} (t_2-t_1)^{(1+\beta_i)(1-\alpha_{i1})} \\
 &\leq \frac{2M_i}{\Gamma(\alpha_i)(1+\beta_i)^{1-\alpha_{i1}}} (t_2-t_1)^{(1+\beta_i)(1-\alpha_{i1})}
 \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Thus,  $\{U_{i2}y : y \in E(\eta, \gamma)\}$  is equicontinuous. Moreover, it is clear that  $U_{i2}$  is continuous for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . This implies that  $U$  is a completely continuous operator. Now, by using Krasnoselskii's fixed point theorem we get that  $S + U$  has a fixed point on  $E(\eta, \gamma)$  and so the problem (1) has a solution  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_k)$ , where

$x_i(t) = \phi_i(0) + y_i(t - t_0)$  for all  $t \in [t_0, t_0 + \eta]$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ .  $\square$

If we put  $g_{i1} = 0$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , then we obtain next result.

**Corollary 4.** *Suppose that there exist  $\delta \in (0, a)$  and  $\gamma \in (0, \infty)$  such that conditions  $(H_1)$ – $(H_3)$  hold,  $g_i$  is continuous for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , and  $|g_i(t, \mathbf{x}_t) - g_i(t, \mathbf{y}_t)| \leq l_i \|x - y\|_*$  for all  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$ ,  $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k) \in A(\delta, \gamma)$ , and  $t \in I_0$ , where  $l_i \in (0, 1)$  is a constant for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Then the problem (1) has at least one solution on  $[t_0, t_0 + \eta]$  for some positive number  $\eta$ .*

If we put  $g_{i2} = 0$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , then we obtain next result.

**Corollary 5.** *Suppose that there exist  $\delta \in (0, a)$  and  $\gamma \in (0, \infty)$  such that conditions  $(H_1)$ – $(H_3)$  hold,  $g_i$  is completely continuous for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , and the family  $\{t \mapsto g_i(t, \mathbf{x}_t) : (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) \in \Lambda\}$  is equicontinuous on  $C(I_0, \mathbb{R}^n) \times C(I_0, \mathbb{R}^n) \times \dots \times C(I_0, \mathbb{R}^n)$  for all bounded set  $\Lambda$  in  $A(\delta, \lambda)$ . Then the problem (1) has at least one solution on  $[t_0, t_0 + \eta]$  for some positive number  $\eta$ .*

### 3. Conclusions

In this work, we study an initial value problem for a class of  $k$ -dimensional systems of fractional neutral functional differential equations by using Krasnoselskii's fixed point theorem. Our result generalizes some old related results in a sense.

### Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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