

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# A unified fixed point approach to study the existence of solutions for a class of fractional boundary value problems arising in a chemical graph theory

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## Abstract

A theory of chemical graphs is a part of mathematical chemistry concerned with the effects of connectedness in chemical graphs. Several researchers have studied the solutions of fractional differential equations using the concept of star graphs. They employed star graphs because their technique requires a central node with links to adjacent vertices but no edges between nodes. The purpose of this paper is to extend the method's range by introducing the concept of an octane graph, which is an essential organic compound having the formula  $C_8H_{18}$ . In this manner, we analyze a graph with vertices annotated by 0 or 1, which is influenced by the structure of the chemical substance octane, and formulate a fractional boundary value problem on each of the graph's edges. We use the Schaefer and Krasnoselskii fixed point theorems to investigate the existence of solutions to the presented boundary value problems in the framework of the Caputo fractional derivative. Finally, two examples are provided to highlight the importance of our results in this area of study.

## OPEN ACCESS

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## 1 Introduction

Chemical graph theory is concerned with all elements of graph theory's application to chemistry. In contrast to graph theory, the term chemical emphasizes that one may rely on the intuitive understanding of several concepts and theorems in chemical graph theory rather than precise mathematical proofs. On the other hand, graph theory is used to mathematically portray the structural properties of chemical compounds to understand them. A substance's physical properties, such as its boiling point, are related to its geometric structure.

The concept of chemical indices is one of the most fundamental ideas in chemical graph theory. This is done by associating a numerical value with a graph structure that frequently has some relationship with the characteristics of the relevant molecules. As a result, these chemical indices are often presented as identifiers of chemical components. From a graph-theoretical standpoint, investigating such a chemical index often entails researching its behavior in

various graphs, particularly minima and maxima, as well as upper and lower limits in terms of various graph characteristics.

Graph theory is closely connected to topology (in fact, it is one-dimensional topology [1]), probability, group theory, matrix theory, set theory, numerical analysis, and combinatorics. It has been used in a wide range of subjects, including psychology [2] and nuclear physics [3], economics [4] and theoretical physics [5], biomathematics [6] and linguistics [7], technology [8] and anthropology [9], sociology [10] and zoology [11], biology [12] and engineering [13], computer science [14] and geography [15], and so on.

Chemical graph theory has grown significantly in popularity in recent years (for the detail, see [16–18]). Numerous factors contribute to graph theory’s growing prominence in chemistry (see [19–21]). First, few concepts in the natural sciences are more closely related to the concept of a graph than the institutional formula of a chemical compound (see [22]). Thus, it would seem that (chemical) graph theory provides the natural language of chemistry through which scientists interact. Second, graph theory enables researchers to make many intuitive assumptions about the composition and reactivity of diverse substances using simple principles. Thirdly, graph theory may describe, classify, and categorize a vast range of chemical interactions (for the detail, see [23–25]). Lastly, graphs provide practical tools for the computer-assisted synthesis design (see [26, 27]).

In [28], Lumer modified the specified local operators on ramification spaces and investigated the solutions of evolution equations on graphs. After that, some researchers examined the solutions of differential equations on graphs by using different methods (for the detail, see [29, 30]).

However, there are just a few research on boundary value problems with graphs in which particular fixed point methods have shown the existence of solutions (see [31, 32]). In such studies, the authors utilized the concept of a star graph, which has only one junction node (see Fig 1). Since then, various authors have used notable methods to extend the problem in different directions see [33–38] and the references within.

The methods described in [31, 32] for determining the origin at edges other than the junction node  $\tilde{w}_0$  are inadequate since graphs might contain several junction nodes in general (for examples, see Figs 2 and 3).

Additionally, the authors of [31, 32] treated the length of each edge as a variable, but the length of all edges may be considered constant from the start. Here, we use a novel approach in which we assign a value of 0 or 1 to the vertices of the proposed graph with  $|\tilde{e}_k| = 1$ , for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$  (see Fig 4).

By utilizing the ideas mentioned above, here, we investigate the existence of solutions to the boundary value problem, which is stated for each  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$  by

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{D}^p y_k(s) = \mathcal{Z}_k(s, y_k(s), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(s), y'_k(s), y''_k(s)) & (s \in [0, 1]), \\ \mu_1 y_k(0) + \mu_2 (\mathcal{D}^q y_k(0)) = \mu_3 \int_0^1 y_k(\zeta) d\zeta, \\ \mu_1 y_k(1) + \mu_2 (\mathcal{D}^q y_k(1)) = \mu_3 \int_0^1 y_k(\zeta) d\zeta, \end{cases} \tag{1.1}$$

where  $y_k : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is an unknown function,  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3 \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$  with  $\mu_3 \neq \mu_1$ ,  $\mathcal{D}^p$  and  $\mathcal{D}^q$  represent the Caputo fractional derivative of orders  $p \in (1, 2]$  and  $q \in (0, 1)$ , respectively. Also,  $\mathcal{Z}_k : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a continuously differentiable function for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$ .

In this way, the orientation of the linked edge determines the label given to each vertex. When we proceed along a random edge, the starting and ending vertex labels are interpreted

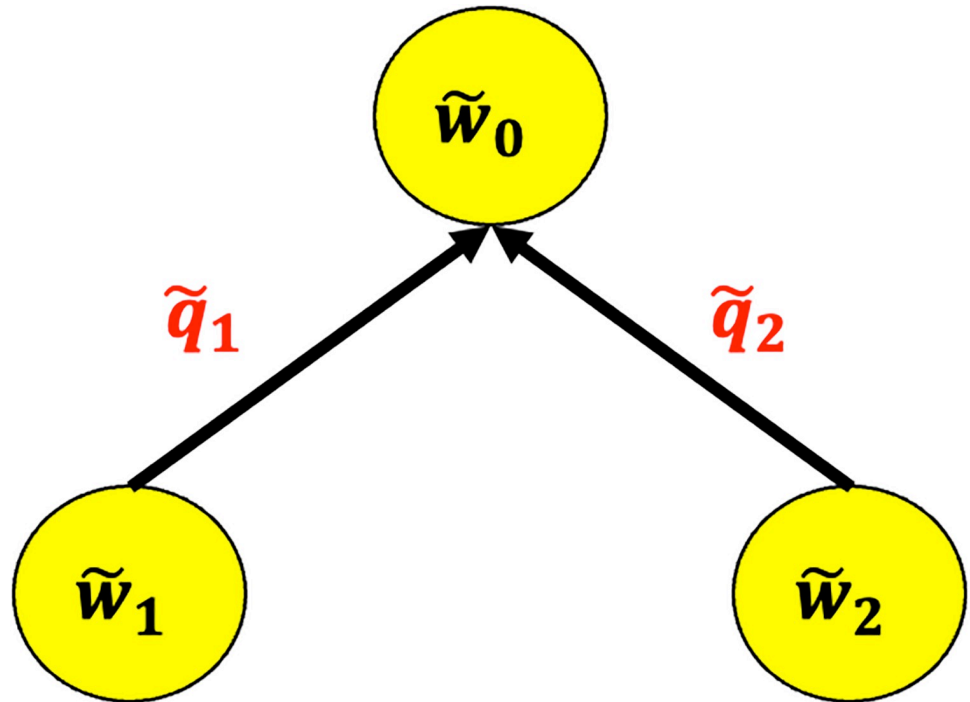


Fig 1. A structure of a star graph  $G^*$  having one junction node and two edges.

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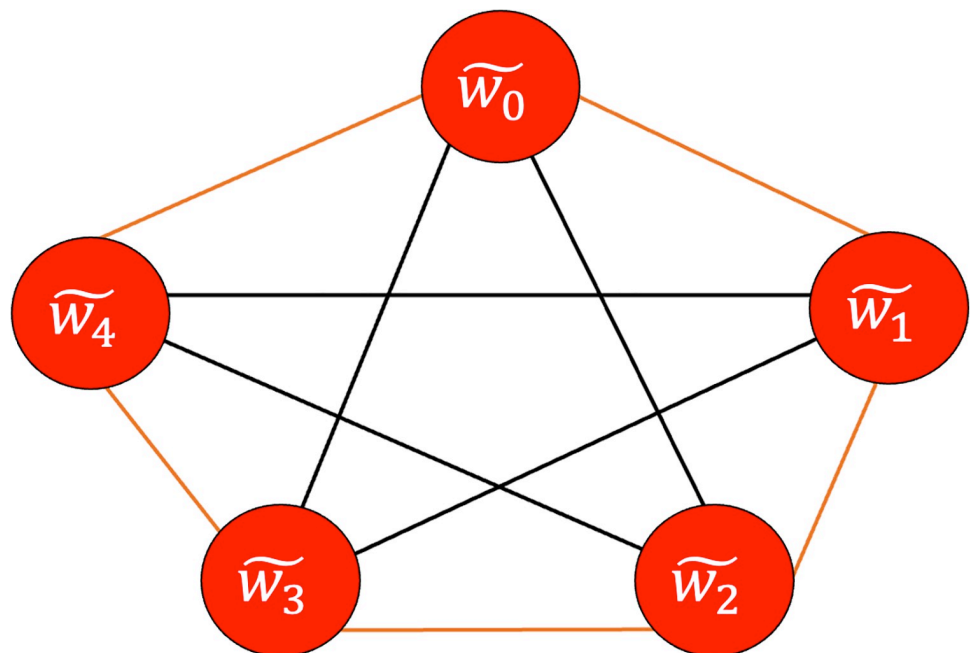
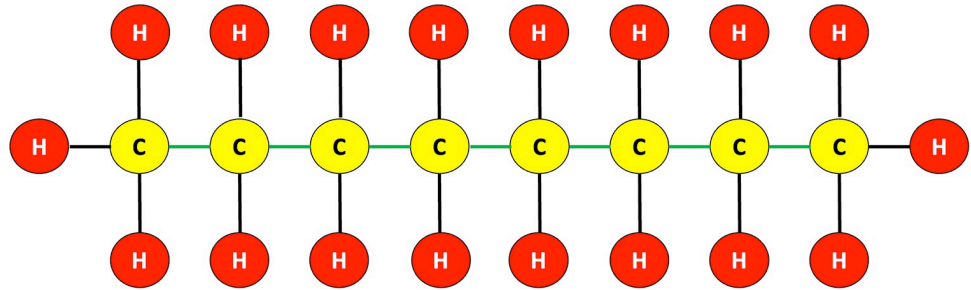


Fig 2. An example of a non-planar graph.

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**Fig 3. Chemical bonds of an octane compound  $C_8H_{18}$  having more than one junction nodes.**

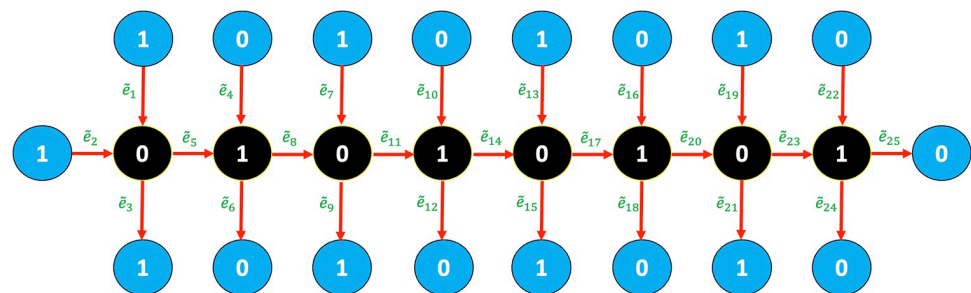
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0270148.g003>

as 0 and 1, and vice versa. As a consequence, some vertices may have the labels 0 and 1, and the origin of each edge is not constant; it fluctuates depending on the path of motion along the border. We are not obliged to normalize the length of each edge using the provided adjustment, and we may also pick one of the associated edge's two vertices as the origin using such procedures.

There are two points on each edge where unknown functions' boundary values and their  $q$ -derivatives are linearly combined. This study shows that the anonymous functions' integral is a multiple of these combinations. Additionally, it is worth noting that the solutions derived for the proposed boundary value problem (1.1) can be applied in various chemical graph theory applications. As a result, we assert that this generic concept may be beneficial to future work by young scholars.

On the other hand, numerous advanced fractional modeling techniques are discussed in the literature, notably (but not limited to) the well-known Caputo and Riemann–Liouville operators (for the detail, see [39–45]). This decade has seen the introduction of several novel modifications of the Hadamard, Caputo–Hadamard, and Hilfer operators and numerous simulation efforts using these new operators (for the detail, see [46–50]). Fabrizio and Caputo suggested a new formulation of a fractional framework without singularity six years ago (see [51]). Shortly after this work, Nieto and Losada concentrated on significant computational aspects (see [52]). The inclusion of nonsingular operators resulted in many research publications on fractional modeling (for example, see [53–55]).

This study aims to establish the existence of solutions to the specified boundary value problem (1.1) by using well-known fixed point techniques. Finally, two examples are presented to emphasize the significance of our results in this field of study.



**Fig 4. A structure of an octane compound  $C_8H_{18}$  with labeled vertices 0 or 1.**

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## 2 Preliminaries

The succeeding results will be needed in the following sections.

**Definition 2.1** ([51]). Let  $p > 0$ . The Caputo fractional derivative of order  $p$  for a function  $\mathcal{Z} \in C^{\chi}([a, b], \mathbb{R})$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{D}^p \mathcal{Z}(s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\chi - p)} \int_0^s (s - \varsigma)^{\chi - p - 1} \mathcal{Z}^{(\chi)}(\varsigma) d\varsigma \quad (\chi - 1 < p < \chi, \chi = [p] + 1).$$

For  $p > 0$ , the general solution of  $\mathcal{D}^p y(s) = 0$  is given as

$$y(s) = z_0 + z_1 s + z_2 s^2 + \dots + z_{n-1} s^{n-1},$$

where  $z_k \in \mathbb{R}, k = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$  ( $n - 1 < p < n, n = [p] + 1$ ).

**Lemma 2.2.** Suppose that  $\psi \in C([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$ . Then  $y^* : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a solution of

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{D}^p y(s) = \psi(t) & (s \in [0, 1]), \\ \mu_1 y(0) + \mu_2 (\mathcal{D}^q y(0)) = \mu_3 \int_0^1 y(\varsigma) d\varsigma, \\ \mu_1 y(1) + \mu_2 (\mathcal{D}^q y(1)) = \mu_3 \int_0^1 y(\varsigma) d\varsigma, \end{cases} \tag{2.1}$$

if and only if  $y^*$  is a solution of the integral equations stated below

$$\begin{aligned} y(s) = & \int_0^s \frac{(s - \varsigma)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \psi(\varsigma) d\varsigma + \left( \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_3 - \mu_1} \right) \int_0^1 \int_0^\varsigma \frac{(\varsigma - \tau)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \psi(\tau) d\tau d\varsigma \\ & + \left( \frac{\Gamma(2 - q)(\mu_3 - 2t(\mu_3 - \mu_1))}{2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2 - q))} \right) \times \\ & \left[ \frac{\mu_1}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-1} \psi(\varsigma) d\varsigma + \frac{\mu_2}{\Gamma(p - q)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-q-1} \psi(\varsigma) d\varsigma \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

*Proof.* Let  $y^* : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a solution of (2.1). Also, there are constants  $z_0, z_1 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$y^*(s) = \int_0^s \frac{(s - \varsigma)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \psi(\varsigma) d\varsigma + z_0 + z_1 s. \tag{2.3}$$

Using the boundary conditions for (2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} z_0 = & \left( \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_3 - \mu_1} \right) \int_0^1 \int_0^\varsigma \frac{(\varsigma - \tau)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \psi(\tau) d\tau d\varsigma - \left( \frac{\mu_1 \mu_3 \Gamma(2 - q)}{2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2 - q))} \right) \times \\ & \left\{ \int_0^1 \frac{(1 - \varsigma)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \psi(\varsigma) d\varsigma + \int_0^1 \frac{(1 - \varsigma)^{p-q-1}}{\Gamma(p - q)} \psi(\varsigma) d\varsigma \right\}, \\ z_1 = & \left( \frac{\Gamma(2 - q)}{\mu_1 \Gamma(2 - q) + \mu_2} \right) \left\{ \mu_1 \int_0^1 \frac{(1 - \varsigma)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \psi(\varsigma) d\varsigma + \mu_2 \int_0^1 \frac{(1 - \varsigma)^{p-q-1}}{\Gamma(p - q)} \psi(\varsigma) d\varsigma \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the values of  $z_0$  and  $z_1$  in (2.3), we get the solution (2.2). On the converse part, it is clear that  $y^*$  can be consider as a solution for (2.1) if  $y^*$  is a solution of (2.3).

We now present the Krasnoselskii and Schaefer fixed point theorems, respectively.

**Theorem 2.3** ([56]). Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a closed, bounded, convex, and nonempty subset of a Banach space  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{U}_1, \mathcal{U}_2 : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  are two operators satisfying the following conditions:

1.  $\mathcal{U}_1 a + \mathcal{U}_2 b \in \mathcal{P}$  for all  $a, b \in \mathcal{P}$ ;

- 2.  $\mathcal{U}_1$  is compact and continuous on  $\mathcal{P}$ ;
- 3.  $\mathcal{U}_2$  is a contraction mapping on  $\mathcal{P}$ , that is, there is an  $\varrho \in [0, 1)$  such that

$$\| \mathcal{U}_2 a - \mathcal{U}_2 b \| \leq \varrho \| a - b \|$$

for all  $a, b \in \mathcal{P}$ .

Then  $\mathcal{U}_1 + \mathcal{U}_2$  has a fixed point.

**Theorem 2.4** ([56]). Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a Banach space. If  $\mathcal{U} : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  is a completely continuous function, that is,  $\mathcal{U}$  is continuous and totally bounded, then either the set  $\{a \in \mathcal{B} : a = \eta \mathcal{U} a \text{ for some } \eta \in (0, 1)\}$  is unbounded or  $\mathcal{U}$  has at least one fixed point in  $\mathcal{B}$ .

### 3 Main results

We define the Banach space  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}} = \{y : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} : y, \mathcal{D}^q y, y', y'' \in C([0, 1], \mathbb{R})\}$  having the norm

$$\| y \|_{\tilde{\mathcal{B}}} = \sup_{s \in [0,1]} |y(s)| + \sup_{s \in [0,1]} |\mathcal{D}^q y(s)| + \sup_{s \in [0,1]} |y'(s)| + \sup_{s \in [0,1]} |y''(s)|.$$

Furthermore, it is obvious that  $\mathcal{B} = \tilde{\mathcal{B}}^{25}$  is a Banach space with

$$\| y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) \|_{\mathcal{B}} = \sum_{k=1}^{25} \| y_k \|_{\tilde{\mathcal{B}}}.$$

Also, by addressing Lemma 2.2, we can define an operator  $\mathcal{U} : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  for each  $(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) \in \mathcal{B}$  by

$$\mathcal{U}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) := (\mathcal{U}_1(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}), \mathcal{U}_2(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}), \dots, \mathcal{U}_{25}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25})), \tag{3.1}$$

where for each  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$ ,  $\mathcal{U}_k : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{B}}$  is defined for each  $(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k) \in \mathcal{B}$  by

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{U}_k(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25})(s) \\ = & \int_0^s \frac{(s - \varsigma)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma)) d\varsigma \\ & + \left( \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_3 - \mu_1} \right) \int_0^1 \int_0^\varsigma \frac{(\varsigma - \tau)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{Z}_k(\tau, y_k(\tau), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\tau), y'_k(\tau), y''_k(\tau)) d\tau d\varsigma \\ & + \left( \frac{\Gamma(2 - q)(\mu_3 - 2t(\mu_3 - \mu_1))}{2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2 - q))} \right) \times \\ & \left[ \frac{\mu_1}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-1} \mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma)) d\varsigma \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{\mu_2}{\Gamma(p - q)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-q-1} \mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma)) d\varsigma \right] \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

for all  $s \in [0, 1]$ .

For the ease of calculations, we use the following abbreviations:

$$\mathcal{M}_0^* = \frac{(p+1) + \frac{|\mu_3|}{|\mu_3 - \mu_1|}}{\Gamma(p+2)} + \left( \frac{\Gamma(2-q)|2\mu_1 - \mu_3|}{|2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q))|} \right) \times \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right), \tag{3.3}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_1^* = \frac{1}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(2-q)|\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q)|} \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right), \tag{3.4}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_2^* = \frac{1}{\Gamma(p)} + \frac{1}{|\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q)|} \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right), \tag{3.5}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_3^* = \frac{1}{\Gamma(p-1)}, \tag{3.6}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_0^* = \frac{\frac{|\mu_3|}{\Gamma(p+2)|\mu_3 - \mu_1|}}{\Gamma(p+2)|\mu_3 - \mu_1|} + \left( \frac{\Gamma(2-q)|2\mu_1 - \mu_3|}{|2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q))|} \right) \times \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right), \tag{3.7}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_1^* = \frac{1}{\Gamma(2-q)|\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q)|} \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right), \tag{3.8}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_2^* = \frac{1}{|\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q)|} \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right). \tag{3.9}$$

**Theorem 3.1** Consider the fractional boundary value problem (1.1). Assume that  $\mathcal{Z}_1, \mathcal{Z}_2, \dots, \mathcal{Z}_{25} : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are continuous functions and there are constants  $\mathcal{Q}_k > 0$ , for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$  with

$$|\mathcal{Z}_k(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| \leq \mathcal{Q}_k$$

for all  $z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \mathbb{R}, s \in [0, 1]$ . Then (1.1) has a solution.

*Proof.* The fixed points of  $\mathcal{U}$  given in (3.1) exist if and only if (1.1) has a solution, as shown by the consequence of (3.2). To demonstrate this, we must first prove that  $\mathcal{U}$  is completely continuous.

As  $\mathcal{Z}_1, \mathcal{Z}_2, \dots, \mathcal{Z}_{25}$  are continuous, therefore  $\mathcal{U} : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  is continuous too. Let  $\mathcal{O} \in \mathcal{B}$  be a bounded set and  $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) \in \mathcal{B}$ , so for each  $s \in [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |(\mathcal{U}_k y)(s)| \\
 \leq & \int_0^s \frac{(s-\zeta)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta + \frac{|\mu_3|}{|\mu_3 - \mu_1|} \int_0^1 \int_0^\zeta \frac{(\zeta-\tau)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \\
 & \times |\mathcal{Z}_k(\tau, y_k(\tau), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\tau), y'_k(\tau), y''_k(\tau))| d\tau d\zeta + \frac{\Gamma(2-q)|\mu_3 - 2t(\mu_3 - \mu_1)|}{|2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q))|} \times \\
 & \left[ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1-\zeta)^{p-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q)} \right. \\
 & \left. \times \int_0^1 (1-\zeta)^{p-q-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta \right] \\
 \leq & \int_0^s \frac{(s-\zeta)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{Q}_k d\zeta + \frac{|\mu_3|}{|\mu_3 - \mu_1|} \int_0^1 \int_0^\zeta \frac{(\zeta-\tau)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{Q}_k d\tau d\zeta + \frac{\Gamma(2-q)}{2|\mu_3 - \mu_1|} \\
 & + \frac{|\mu_3 - 2t(\mu_3 - \mu_1)|}{|\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q)|} \times \left[ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1-\zeta)^{p-1} \mathcal{Q}_k d\zeta + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q)} \int_0^1 (1-\zeta)^{p-q-1} \mathcal{Q}_k d\zeta \right] \\
 \leq & \mathcal{Q}_k \left[ \frac{(p+1) + \frac{|\mu_3|}{|\mu_3 - \mu_1|}}{\Gamma(p+2)} + \frac{\Gamma(2-q)|2\mu_1 - \mu_3|}{|2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q))|} \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right) \right] \\
 = & \mathcal{Q}_k \mathcal{M}_0^*,
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{M}_0^*$  is given in (3.3). Also,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |(\mathcal{D}^q \mathcal{U}_k y)(s)| \\
 \leq & \int_0^s \frac{(s-\zeta)^{p-q}}{\Gamma(p-q)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta + \frac{s^{1-q}}{\Gamma(2-q)|\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q)|} \\
 & \times \left[ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1-\zeta)^{p-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q)} \times \right. \\
 & \left. \int_0^1 (1-\zeta)^{p-q-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta \right] \\
 \leq & \mathcal{Q}_k \left[ \frac{1}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(2-q)|\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-q)|} \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right) \right] \\
 = & \mathcal{Q}_k \mathcal{M}_1^*
 \end{aligned}$$



and

$$\begin{aligned}
 |(\mathcal{U}'_k y)(s)| &\leq \int_0^s \frac{(s-\zeta)^{p-2}}{\Gamma(p-1)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta + \frac{1}{|\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2-q)|} \\
 &\quad \times \left[ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1-\zeta)^{p-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q)} \int_0^1 (1-\zeta)^{p-q-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta \right] \\
 &\leq \mathcal{Q}_k \left[ \frac{1}{\Gamma(p)} + \frac{1}{|\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2-q)|} \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right) \right] \\
 &= \mathcal{Q}_k \mathcal{M}_2^*
 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $s \in [0, 1]$ , where  $\mathcal{M}_1^*$  and  $\mathcal{M}_2^*$  are defined in (3.4) and (3.5), respectively. Similarly,

$$|(\mathcal{U}''_k y)(s)| \leq \mathcal{Q}_k \mathcal{M}_3^*$$

for all  $s \in [0, 1]$ , where  $\mathcal{M}_3^*$  is given in (3.6). Therefore

$$\| \mathcal{U}_k y \|_{\mathcal{B}} \leq \mathcal{Q}_k (\mathcal{M}_0^* + \mathcal{M}_1^* + \mathcal{M}_2^* + \mathcal{M}_3^*).$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \| \mathcal{U} y \|_{\mathcal{B}} &= \sum_{k=1}^{25} \| \mathcal{U}_k y \|_{\mathcal{B}} \\
 &\leq \sum_{k=1}^{25} \mathcal{Q}_k (\mathcal{M}_0^* + \mathcal{M}_1^* + \mathcal{M}_2^* + \mathcal{M}_3^*) \\
 &< \infty,
 \end{aligned}$$

which reveals that  $\mathcal{U}$  is uniformly bounded.

To prove the equicontinuity of the operator  $\mathcal{U}$ , we let  $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) \in \mathcal{O}$  and  $s_1, s_2 \in [0, 1]$  with  $s_1 < s_2$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &|(\mathcal{U}_k y)(s_2) - (\mathcal{U}_k y)(s_1)| \\
 &= \int_0^{s_1} \frac{(s_2-\zeta)^{p-1} - (s_1-\zeta)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta \\
 &\quad + \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \frac{(s_2-\zeta)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta \frac{s_2 - s_1}{|\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2-q)|} \times \\
 &\quad + \left[ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1-\zeta)^{p-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q)} \times \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \int_0^1 (1-\zeta)^{p-q-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that if  $s_1 \rightarrow s_2$  then, independently, the right-hand side of the above equation converges to zero. Also

$$\lim_{s_1 \rightarrow s_2} |(\mathcal{D}^q \mathcal{U}_k y)(s_2) - (\mathcal{D}^q \mathcal{U}_k y)(s_1)| = 0,$$

and

$$\lim_{s_1 \rightarrow s_2} |(\mathcal{U}'_k y)(s_2) - (\mathcal{U}'_k y)(s_1)| = 0, \quad \lim_{s_1 \rightarrow s_2} |(\mathcal{U}''_k y)(s_2) - (\mathcal{U}''_k y)(s_1)| = 0.$$

Hence, we deduce that the operators  $\mathcal{U}_k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$ ) are equicontinuous, which implies that  $\mathcal{U}$  is equicontinuous. The Arzela–Ascoli theorem now entails the complete continuity of the operator.

Further, we define a set

$$\Upsilon := \{ (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) \in \mathcal{B} : (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) = \eta \mathcal{U}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}), \eta \in (0, 1) \}$$

on  $\mathcal{B}$ . Now, we will prove that  $\Upsilon$  is bounded. For this, let  $(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) \in \Upsilon$ . Then, we can write

$$(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) = \eta \mathcal{U}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}),$$

and so

$$y_k(s) = \eta (\mathcal{U}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}))(s),$$

for all  $s \in [0, 1]$  and  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} & |y_k(s)| \\ & \leq \eta \left[ \int_0^s \frac{(s-\varsigma)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma + \frac{|\mu_3|}{|\mu_3 - \mu_1|} \int_0^1 \int_0^\varsigma \frac{(\varsigma - \tau)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \right. \\ & \quad \left. |\mathcal{Z}_k(\tau, y_k(\tau), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\tau), y'_k(\tau), y''_k(\tau))| d\tau d\varsigma + \frac{\Gamma(2-q)|\mu_3 - 2t(\mu_3 - \mu_1)|}{|2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2-m))|} \times \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left\{ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1-\varsigma)^{p-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q)} \int_0^1 (1-\varsigma)^{p-q-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma \right\} \right] \\ & \leq \eta \mathcal{Q}_k \mathcal{M}_0^*, \end{aligned}$$

and by similar computations, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{D}^q y_k(s)| & \leq \eta \mathcal{Q}_k \mathcal{M}_1^*, \\ |y'_k(s)| & \leq \eta \mathcal{Q}_k \mathcal{M}_2^*, \\ |y''_k(s)| & \leq \eta \mathcal{Q}_k \mathcal{M}_3^*, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{M}_0^* - \mathcal{M}_3^*$  are given in (3.3)–(3.6). Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \|y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25})\|_{\mathcal{B}} & = \sum_{k=1}^{25} \|y_k\|_{\mathcal{B}} \\ & \leq \eta \sum_{k=1}^{25} \mathcal{Q}_k (\mathcal{M}_0^* + \mathcal{M}_1^* + \mathcal{M}_2^* + \mathcal{M}_3^*) \\ & < \infty, \end{aligned}$$

which demonstrates the boundedness of the operator  $\Upsilon$ . Now, using Lemma 2.2 and Theorem

2.4, it is clear that the operator  $\mathcal{U}$  has a fixed point. Consequently, (1.1) does indeed have a solution.

We shall now investigate the solution of (1.1) by applying various conditions.

**Theorem 3.2** Consider the fractional boundary value problem (1.1). Suppose that  $\mathcal{Z}_1, \dots, \mathcal{Z}_{25} : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are continuous functions and there are bounded continuous functions  $\mathcal{K}_1, \dots, \mathcal{K}_{25} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_{25} : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  and nondecreasing continuous functions  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{25} : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  such that

$$|\mathcal{Z}_k(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| \leq \mathcal{R}_k(s)\sigma_k(|z_1| + |z_2| + |z_3| + |z_4|)$$

and

$$|\mathcal{Z}_k(s, z_1^*, z_2^*, z_3^*, z_4^*) - \mathcal{Z}_k(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| \leq \mathcal{K}_k(s)(|z_1^* - z_1| + |z_2^* - z_2| + |z_3^* - z_3| + |z_4^* - z_4|)$$

for all  $s \in [0, 1]$ ,  $z_1^*, z_2^*, z_3^*, z_4^*, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$ . If

$$\mathcal{M} := (\mathcal{L}_0^* + \mathcal{L}_1^* + \mathcal{L}_2^*) \sum_{k=1}^{25} \|\mathcal{K}_k\| < 1,$$

then (1.1) has a solution, where  $\|\mathcal{K}_k\| = \sup_{s \in [0,1]} |\mathcal{K}_k(s)|$  and the constants  $\mathcal{L}_0^* - \mathcal{L}_2^*$  are given in (3.7)–(3.9), respectively.

*Proof.* For each  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$ , let  $\|\mathcal{R}_k\| = \sup_{s \in [0,1]} |\mathcal{R}_k(s)|$  and for suitable constants  $\varpi_k$ , we have

$$\varpi_k \geq \sum_{k=1}^{25} \sigma_i(\|y_k\|_{\mathcal{B}_k}) \|\mathcal{R}_k\| \{\mathcal{M}_0^* + \mathcal{M}_1^* + \mathcal{M}_2^* + \mathcal{M}_3^*\}, \tag{3.10}$$

where  $\mathcal{M}_0^* - \mathcal{M}_3^*$  are given in (3.3)–(3.6). We define a set

$$\mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k} := \{y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) \in \mathcal{B} : \|y\|_{\mathcal{B}} \leq \varpi_k\},$$

where  $\varpi_k$  is defined in (3.10). It is obvious that  $\mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$  be a closed, nonempty, bounded, and convex subset of  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}_1 \times \mathcal{B}_2 \times \dots \times \mathcal{B}_{25}$ . Now, we have  $\mathcal{U}_1$  and  $\mathcal{U}_2$  which are define on  $\mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$  as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{U}_1(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25})(s) &:= (\mathcal{U}_1^{(1)}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25})(s), \dots, \mathcal{U}_1^{(25)}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25})(s)), \\ \mathcal{U}_2(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25})(s) &:= (\mathcal{U}_2^{(1)}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25})(s), \dots, \mathcal{U}_2^{(25)}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25})(s)), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)}y)(s) = \int_0^s \frac{(s-\varsigma)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y_k'(\varsigma), y_k''(\varsigma)) d\varsigma \tag{3.11}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\mathcal{U}_2^{(k)}y)(s) \\
 = & \left( \frac{\mu_3}{\mu_3 - \mu_1} \right) \int_0^1 \int_0^\varsigma \frac{(\varsigma - \tau)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{Z}_k(\tau, y_k(\tau), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\tau), y'_k(\tau), y''_k(\tau)) d\tau d\varsigma \\
 & + \left( \frac{\Gamma(2 - q)\mu_3 - 2t(\mu_3 - \mu_1)}{2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2 - q))} \right) \times \\
 & \left[ \frac{\mu_1}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-1} \mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma)) d\varsigma \right. \\
 & \left. + \frac{\mu_2}{\Gamma(p - q)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-q-1} \mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma)) d\varsigma \right]
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

for all  $s \in [0, 1]$  and  $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) \in \mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$ .

Let  $\tilde{\sigma}_k = \sup_{y_k \in \mathcal{B}_k} \sigma_k(\|y_k\|_{\mathcal{B}_k})$ . Now, for every  $z = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{25}), y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{25}) \in \mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)}z + \mathcal{U}_2^{(k)}y)(s)| \\
 \leq & \int_0^s \frac{(s - \varsigma)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, z_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q z_k(\varsigma), z'_k(\varsigma), z''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma + \frac{|\mu_3|}{|\mu_3 - \mu_1|} \int_0^1 \int_0^\varsigma \frac{(\varsigma - \tau)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \\
 & |\mathcal{Z}_k(\tau, y_k(\tau), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\tau), y'_k(\tau), y''_k(\tau))| d\tau d\varsigma + \frac{\Gamma(2 - q)|\mu_3 - 2t(\mu_3 - \mu_1)|}{|2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2 - q))|} \times \\
 & \left[ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p - q)} \right. \\
 & \left. \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-q-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma \right] \\
 \leq & \int_0^s \frac{(s - \varsigma)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{R}_k(\varsigma) \sigma_k(|z_k(\varsigma)| + |\mathcal{D}^q z_k(\varsigma)| + |z'_k(\varsigma)| + |z''_k(\varsigma)|) d\varsigma + \frac{|\mu_3|}{|\mu_3 - \mu_1|} \\
 & \int_0^1 \int_0^\varsigma \frac{(\varsigma - \tau)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{R}_k(\tau) \sigma_k(|y_k(\tau)| + |\mathcal{D}^q y_k(\tau)| + |y'_k(\tau)| + |y''_k(\tau)|) d\tau d\varsigma \\
 & + \frac{\Gamma(2 - q)|\mu_3 - 2t(\mu_3 - \mu_1)|}{|2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2 - q))|} \times \\
 & \left[ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-1} \mathcal{R}_k(\varsigma) \sigma_k(|y_k(\varsigma)| + |\mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma)| + |y'_k(\varsigma)| + |y''_k(\varsigma)|) d\varsigma \right. \\
 & \left. + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p - q)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-q-1} \mathcal{R}_k(\varsigma) \sigma_k(|y_k(\varsigma)| + |\mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma)| + |y'_k(\varsigma)| + |y''_k(\varsigma)|) d\varsigma \right] \\
 \leq & \|\mathcal{R}_k\| \tilde{\sigma}_k \left[ \frac{(p + 1) + \frac{|\mu_3|}{|\mu_3 - \mu_1|}}{\Gamma(p + 2)} + \frac{\Gamma(2 - q)|2\mu_1 - \mu_3|}{|2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1\Gamma(2 - m))|} \right. \\
 & \left. \times \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p + 1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p - q + 1)} \right) \right] \\
 = & \|\mathcal{R}_k\| \tilde{\sigma}_k \mathcal{M}_0^*,
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |\mathcal{D}^q \mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} z(s) + \mathcal{D}^q \mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} y(s)| \\
 & \leq \int_0^s \frac{(s-\varsigma)^{p-q-1}}{\Gamma(p-m)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, z_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q z_k(\varsigma), z'_k(\varsigma), z''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma + \frac{s^{1-q}}{\Gamma(2-q)|\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2-m)|} \\
 & \quad \left[ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1-\varsigma)^{p-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q)} \int_0^1 (1-\varsigma)^{p-q-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma \right] \\
 & \leq \| \mathcal{R}_k \| \tilde{\sigma}_k \left[ \frac{1}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(2-q)|\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2-q)|} \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right) \right] \\
 & = \| \mathcal{R}_k \| \tilde{\sigma}_k \mathcal{M}_1^*.
 \end{aligned}$$

By using similar computations, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} z)'(s) + (\mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} y)'(s)| \\
 & \leq \int_0^s \frac{(s-\varsigma)^{p-2}}{\Gamma(p-1)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, z_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q z_k(\varsigma), z'_k(\varsigma), z''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma + \frac{1}{|\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2-q)|} \\
 & \quad \left[ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1-\varsigma)^{p-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q)} \int_0^1 (1-\varsigma)^{p-q-1} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma \right] \\
 & \leq \| \mathcal{R}_k \| \tilde{\sigma}_k \left[ \frac{1}{\Gamma(p)} + \frac{1}{|\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2-m)|} \left( \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right) \right] \\
 & = \| \mathcal{R}_k \| \tilde{\sigma}_k \mathcal{M}_2^*,
 \end{aligned}$$

also

$$|(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} z)''(s) + (\mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} y)''(s)| \leq \| \mathcal{R}_k \| \tilde{\sigma}_k \mathcal{M}_3^*.$$

This yields that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \| \mathcal{U}_1 z + \mathcal{U}_2 y \|_{\mathcal{B}} & = \sum_{k=1}^{25} \| \mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} z + \mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} y \|_{\mathcal{B}_k} \\
 & \leq \| \mathcal{R}_k \| \tilde{\sigma}_k (\mathcal{M}_0^* + \mathcal{M}_1^* + \mathcal{M}_2^* + \mathcal{M}_3^*) \\
 & \leq \varpi_k,
 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\mathcal{U}_1 z + \mathcal{U}_2 y \in \mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$ . Additionally, continuity of  $\mathcal{Z}_k$  entails the continuity of  $\mathcal{U}_1$ .

We now need to demonstrate that  $\mathcal{U}_1$  is uniformly bounded. This is why, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)(s)| & \leq \int_0^s \frac{(s-\varsigma)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\varsigma, y_k(\varsigma), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma), y'_k(\varsigma), y''_k(\varsigma))| d\varsigma \\
 & \leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(p+1)} \| \mathcal{R}_k \| \sigma_k (|y_k(\varsigma)| + |\mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma)| + |y'_k(\varsigma)| + |y''_k(\varsigma)|).
 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $y \in \mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$ . Also,

$$\begin{aligned} |(\mathcal{D}^q \mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)(s)| &\leq \int_0^s \frac{(s-\zeta)^{p-q-1}}{\Gamma(p-m)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \|\mathcal{R}_k\| \sigma_k(|y_k(\zeta)| + |\mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta)| + |y'_k(\zeta)| + |y''_k(\zeta)|), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)'(s)| &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(p)} \|\mathcal{R}_k\| \sigma_k(|y_k(\zeta)| + |\mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta)| + |y'_k(\zeta)| + |y''_k(\zeta)|), \\ |(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)''(s)| &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(p-1)} \|\mathcal{R}_k\| \sigma_k(|y_k(\zeta)| + |\mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta)| + |y'_k(\zeta)| + |y''_k(\zeta)|), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $y \in \mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{U}_1 y\|_{\mathcal{B}} &= \sum_{k=1}^{25} \|\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y\|_{\mathcal{B}} \\ &\leq \left\{ \frac{p^2+1}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(p-q+1)} \right\} \sum_{k=1}^{25} \|\mathcal{R}_k\| \sigma_k(\|y_k\|_{\mathcal{B}}). \end{aligned}$$

It shows that the operator  $\mathcal{U}_1$  is uniformly bounded on  $\mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$ . Here, we need to prove the compactness of  $\mathcal{U}_1$  on  $\mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$ . For this, let  $s_1, s_2 \in [0, 1]$  with  $s_1 < s_2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} &|(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)(s_2) - (\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)(s_1)| \\ &\leq \left| \int_0^{s_2} \frac{(s_2-\zeta)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta)) d\zeta \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_0^{s_1} \frac{(s_1-\zeta)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta)) d\zeta \right| \\ &\leq \left| \int_0^{s_1} \frac{(s_2-\zeta)^{p-1} - (s_1-\zeta)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta)) d\zeta \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \frac{(s_2-\zeta)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta)) d\zeta \right| \\ &\leq \int_0^{s_1} \frac{(s_2-\zeta)^{p-1} - (s_1-\zeta)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta \\ &\quad + \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \frac{(s_2-\zeta)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} |\mathcal{Z}_k(\zeta, y_k(\zeta), \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\zeta), y'_k(\zeta), y''_k(\zeta))| d\zeta \\ &\leq \left\{ \frac{s_2^p - s_1^p - (s_2 - s_1)^p}{\Gamma(p+1)} + \frac{(s_2 - s_1)^p}{\Gamma(p+1)} \right\} \|\mathcal{R}_k\| \sigma_k(\|y_k\|_{\mathcal{B}}). \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $|(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)(s_2) - (\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)(s_1)| \rightarrow 0$  as  $s_1 \rightarrow s_2$ . Also, we have

$$\lim_{s_1 \rightarrow s_2} |(\mathcal{D}^q \mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)(s_2) - (\mathcal{D}^q \mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)(s_1)| = 0,$$

and

$$\lim_{s_1 \rightarrow s_2} |(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)'(s_2) - (\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)'(s_1)| = 0, \quad \lim_{s_1 \rightarrow s_2} |(\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)''(s_2) - (\mathcal{U}_1^{(k)} y)''(s_1)| = 0.$$

Hence, we deduce that the operators  $\mathcal{U}_k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$ ) are equicontinuous, which implies that  $\mathcal{U}$  is equicontinuous. The Arzela-Ascoli theorem indeed reveals the compactness of the operator  $\mathcal{U}_1$  on  $\mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$ .

Lastly, we need to prove that  $\mathcal{U}_2$  is a contraction mapping. For this, let  $y, z \in \mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$ . Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & |(\mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} z)(s) - (\mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} y)(s)| \\ & \leq \frac{|\mu_3|}{|\mu_3 - \mu_1|} \int_0^1 \int_0^\varsigma \frac{(\varsigma - \tau)^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \mathcal{K}_k(\tau) (|z_k(\tau) - y_k(\tau)| + |\mathcal{D}^q z_k(\tau) - \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\tau)|) \\ & \quad + |z'_k(\tau) - y'_k(\tau)| + |z''_k(\tau) - y''_k(\tau)| d\tau d\varsigma + \frac{\Gamma(2 - m) |\mu_3 - 2t(\mu_3 - \mu_1)|}{|2(\mu_3 - \mu_1)(\mu_2 + \mu_1 \Gamma(2 - m))|} \\ & \quad \left[ \frac{|\mu_1|}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-1} \mathcal{K}_k(\varsigma) (|z_k(\varsigma) - y_k(\varsigma)| + |\mathcal{D}^q z_k(\varsigma) - \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma)|) + |z'_k(\varsigma) - y'_k(\varsigma)| \right. \\ & \quad + |z''_k(\varsigma) - y''_k(\varsigma)| d\varsigma + \frac{|\mu_2|}{\Gamma(p - m)} \int_0^1 (1 - \varsigma)^{p-m-1} \mathcal{K}_k(\varsigma) (|z_k(\varsigma) - y_k(\varsigma)| \\ & \quad \left. + |\mathcal{D}^q z_k(\varsigma) - \mathcal{D}^q y_k(\varsigma)|) + |z'_k(\varsigma) - y'_k(\varsigma)| + |z''_k(\varsigma) - y''_k(\varsigma)| d\varsigma \right] \\ & \leq \| \mathcal{K}_k \| \mathcal{L}_0^* \| z_k - y_k \|_{\tilde{\mathcal{B}}} \end{aligned}$$

for each  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 25$ , where  $\mathcal{L}_0^*$  is given in (3.7). Also, by the similar computations, we have

$$\sup_{s \in [0,1]} |(\mathcal{D}^q \mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} z)(s) - (\mathcal{D}^q \mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} y)(s)| \leq \| \mathcal{K}_k \| \mathcal{L}_1^* \| z_k - y_k \|_{\tilde{\mathcal{B}}}.$$

$$\sup_{s \in [0,1]} |(\mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} z)'(s) - (\mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} y)'(s)| \leq \| \mathcal{K}_k \| \mathcal{L}_2^* \| z_k - y_k \|_{\tilde{\mathcal{B}}},$$

$$\sup_{s \in [0,1]} |(\mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} z)''(s) - (\mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} y)''(s)| \leq 0.$$

where  $\mathcal{L}_1^*$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2^*$  are given in (3.8) and (3.9), respectively. Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \| \mathcal{U}_2 z - \mathcal{U}_2 y \|_{\mathcal{B}} & = \sum_{k=1}^{25} \| \mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} z - \mathcal{U}_2^{(k)} y \|_{\tilde{\mathcal{B}}} \\ & \leq (\mathcal{L}_0^* + \mathcal{L}_1^* + \mathcal{L}_2^*) \sum_{k=1}^{25} \| \mathcal{K}_k \| \| z_k - y_k \|_{\tilde{\mathcal{B}}}, \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\| \mathcal{U}_2 z - \mathcal{U}_2 y \|_{\mathcal{B}} \leq \mathcal{M} \| z - y \|_{\mathcal{B}}.$$

As  $\mathcal{M} < 1$ , which means that  $\mathcal{U}_2$  is a contraction on  $\mathcal{O}_{\varpi_k}$ . We deduce that  $\mathcal{U}$  possesses a fixed point that is a solution to the fractional boundary value problem (1.1) as a consequence of Theorem 2.3.

### 4 Examples

In this section, we present the following two examples to illustrate the relevance of our key findings.

**Example 4.1** Consider the system of differential equations given below

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^{1.5}y_1(s) &= \frac{e^s \arctan y_1(s)}{5000} + 0.0002e^s \sin(\mathcal{D}^{0.08}y_1(s)) + \frac{30e^s[y_1'(s)]^2}{150000(1 + [y_1'(s)]^2)} \\ &\quad + \frac{e^s \sinh^{-1} y_1''(s)}{5000}, \\ \mathcal{D}^{1.5}y_2(s) &= 0.008s \sin y_2(s) + \frac{160s[\mathcal{D}^{0.08}y_2(s)]^2}{2000 + 2000[\mathcal{D}^{0.08}y_2(s)]^2} + \frac{8s \sinh^{-1} y_2'(s)}{1000} \\ &\quad + \frac{80s \sin y_2''(s)}{1000}, \\ \mathcal{D}^{1.5}y_3(s) &= \frac{e^s [y_3(s)]^2}{2500(1 + [y_3(s)]^2)} + 0.0004e^s \sin(\mathcal{D}^{0.08}y_3(s)) + \frac{2e^s \sinh^{-1} y_3'(s)}{5000} \\ &\quad + \frac{8e^s \arctan y_3''(s)}{20000}, \end{aligned} \right. \tag{4.1}$$

with boundary conditions

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} 2y_1(0) + 8(\mathcal{D}^{0.08}y_1(0)) &= 10 \int_0^1 y_1(\zeta) d\zeta \\ 2y_1(1) + 8(\mathcal{D}^{0.08}y_1(1)) &= 10 \int_0^1 y_1(\zeta) d\zeta \\ 2y_2(0) + 8(\mathcal{D}^{0.08}y_2(0)) &= 10 \int_0^1 y_2(\zeta) d\zeta \\ 2y_2(1) + 8(\mathcal{D}^{0.08}y_2(1)) &= 10 \int_0^1 y_2(\zeta) d\zeta \\ 2y_3(0) + 8(\mathcal{D}^{0.08}y_3(0)) &= 10 \int_0^1 y_3(\zeta) d\zeta \\ 2y_3(1) + 8(\mathcal{D}^{0.08}y_3(1)) &= 10 \int_0^1 y_3(\zeta) d\zeta \end{aligned} \right. \tag{4.2}$$

where  $p = 1.5, q = 0.08, \mu_1 = 2, \mu_2 = 8$  and  $\mu_3 = 10$ .

Let  $\mathcal{Z}_1, \mathcal{Z}_2, \mathcal{Z}_3 : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are continuous functions given by

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \mathcal{Z}_1(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) &= \frac{e^s \arctan z_1}{5000} + 0.0002e^s \sin z_2 \\ &\quad + \frac{30e^s [z_3']^2}{150000(1 + [z_3']^2)} + \frac{e^s \sinh^{-1} z_4''}{5000}, \\ \mathcal{Z}_2(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) &= 0.008s \sin z_1 + \frac{160s [z_2]^2}{2000 + 2000 [z_2]^2} \\ &\quad + \frac{8s \sinh^{-1} z_3'}{1000} + \frac{80s \sin z_4''}{1000}, \\ \mathcal{Z}_3(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) &= \frac{e^s [z_1]^2}{2500(1 + [z_1]^2)} + 0.0004e^s \sin z_2 \\ &\quad + \frac{2e^s \sinh^{-1} z_3'}{5000} + \frac{8e^s \arctan z_4''}{20000}, \end{aligned} \right.$$



for all  $s \in [0, 1], z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \mathbb{R}$ , whereas  $\mathcal{Z}_4, \mathcal{Z}_5, \dots, \mathcal{Z}_{25} : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are zero functions. For each  $s \in [0, 1], z_1^*, z_2^*, z_3^*, z_4^*, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & |\mathcal{Z}_1(s, z_1^*, z_2^*, z_3^*, z_4^*) - \mathcal{Z}_1(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| \\ & \leq \frac{e^s}{5000} \left( |\arctan z_1^* - \arctan z_1| + |\sin z_2^* - \sin z_2| + \left| \frac{[z_3^*]^2}{1 + [z_3^*]^2} - \frac{[z_3]^2}{1 + [z_3]^2} \right| \right. \\ & \quad \left. + |\sinh^{-1} z_4^* - \sinh^{-1} z_4| \right) \\ & \leq \frac{e^s}{5000} (|z_1^* - z_1| + |z_2^* - z_2| + |z_3^* - z_3| + |z_4^* - z_4|), \\ & |\mathcal{Z}_2(s, z_1^*, z_2^*, z_3^*, z_4^*) - \mathcal{Z}_2(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| \\ & \leq \frac{8s}{1000} \left( |\sin z_1^* - \sin z_1| + \left| \frac{[z_2^*]^2}{1 + [z_2^*]^2} - \frac{[z_2]^2}{1 + [z_2]^2} \right| + |\sinh^{-1} z_3^*(s) - \sinh^{-1} z_3(s)| \right. \\ & \quad \left. + |\sin z_4^* - \sin z_4| \right) \\ & \leq \frac{8s}{1000} (|z_1^* - z_1| + |z_2^* - z_2| + |z_3^* - z_3| + |z_4^* - z_4|), \\ & |\mathcal{Z}_3(s, z_1^*, z_2^*, z_3^*, z_4^*) - \mathcal{Z}_3(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| \\ & \leq \frac{e^s}{2500} \left( \left| \frac{[z_1^*]^2}{1 + [z_1^*]^2} - \frac{[z_1]^2}{1 + [z_1]^2} \right| + |\sin z_2^* - \sin z_2| + |\sinh^{-1} z_3^* - \sinh^{-1} z_3| \right. \\ & \quad \left. + |\arctan z_4^* - \arctan z_4| \right) \\ & \leq \frac{e^s}{2500} (|z_1^* - z_1| + |z_2^* - z_2| + |z_3^* - z_3| + |z_4^* - z_4|). \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $\mathcal{K}_1(s) = \frac{e^s}{5000}, \mathcal{K}_2(s) = \frac{8s}{1000}, \mathcal{K}_3(s) = \frac{e^s}{2500}$ , and  $\mathcal{K}_4(s) = \mathcal{K}_5(s) = \dots = \mathcal{K}_{25}(s) = 0$ , where  $\|\mathcal{K}_1\| = \frac{1}{5000}, \|\mathcal{K}_2\| = \frac{8}{1000}, \|\mathcal{K}_3\| = \frac{1}{2500}$ , and  $\|\mathcal{K}_4\| = \|\mathcal{K}_5\| = \dots = \|\mathcal{K}_{25}\| = 0$ . Let  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{25} : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are identity functions. Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{Z}_1(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| & \leq \frac{e^s}{5000} \left( |\arctan z_1| + |\sin z_2| + \left| \frac{[z_3]^2}{1 + [z_3]^2} \right| + |\sinh^{-1} z_4| \right) \\ & \leq \frac{e^s}{5000} (|z_1| + |z_2| + |z_3| + |z_4|) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $s \in [0, 1], z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \mathbb{R}$ . Also,

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{Z}_2(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| & \leq \frac{8s}{1000} \left( |\sin z_1| + \left| \frac{[z_2]^2}{1 + [z_2]^2} \right| + |\sinh^{-1} z_3| + |\sin z_4| \right) \\ & \leq \frac{8s}{1000} (|z_1| + |z_2| + |z_3| + |z_4|) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\mathcal{Z}_3(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| &\leq \frac{e^s}{2500} \left( \left| \frac{[z_1]^2}{1 + [z_1]^2} \right| + |\sin z_2| + |\sinh^{-1} z_3| + |\arctan z_4| \right) \\
 &\leq \frac{e^s}{2500} (|z_1| + |z_2| + |z_3| + |z_4|),
 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $s \in [0, 1], z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Moreover, the continuous functions  $\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2, \dots, \mathcal{R}_{25} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are defined by

$$\mathcal{R}_1(s) = \frac{e^s}{5000}, \quad \mathcal{R}_2(s) = \frac{8s}{1000}, \quad \mathcal{R}_3(s) = \frac{e^s}{2500}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{R}_4(s) = \mathcal{R}_5(s) = \dots = \mathcal{R}_{25}(s) = 0.$$

Also,

$$\mathcal{L}_0^* \simeq 0.6741, \quad \mathcal{L}_1^* \simeq 0.8155 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{L}_2^* \simeq 0.7902,$$

and so

$$\mathcal{L}_0^* + \mathcal{L}_1^* + \mathcal{L}_2^* \simeq 2.2798.$$

Hence

$$\mathcal{M} := (\mathcal{L}_0^* + \mathcal{L}_1^* + \mathcal{L}_2^*) (\|\mathcal{K}_1\| + \|\mathcal{K}_2\| + \|\mathcal{K}_3\|) \simeq 0.0219 < 1.$$

It can be seen that all the conditions of Theorem 3.2 are satisfied, therefore, the proposed problem (4.1)–(4.2) has a solution.

**Example 4.2** Consider the system of fractional differential equations given below

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{D}^{1.75} y_1(s) &= \frac{16s}{1000} \sinh^{-1} y_1(s) + \frac{48[\mathcal{D}^{0.3} y_1(s)]^2 s}{3000 + 3000[\mathcal{D}^{0.3} y_1(s)]^2} + 0.016s \sinh^{-1} y_1'(s) \\
 &\quad + \frac{64s[\sin y_1'(s)]^2}{4000(1 + [\sin y_1'(s)]^2)} \\
 \mathcal{D}^{1.75} y_2(s) &= \frac{51[\sin y_2(s)]^2 e^s}{9000(1 + [\sin y_2(s)]^2)} + \frac{17e^s}{3000} \sin(\mathcal{D}^{0.3} y_2(s)) \\
 &\quad + \frac{34[\arctan y_2'(s)]^2 e^s}{6000 + 6000[\arctan y_2'(s)]^2} + \frac{85e^s}{15000} \sinh^{-1} y_2'(s) \\
 \mathcal{D}^{1.75} y_3(s) &= 0.0016s \arctan y_3(s) + \frac{32s[\mathcal{D}^{0.3} y_3(s)]^2}{20000(1 + [\mathcal{D}^{0.3} y_3(s)]^2)} + \frac{8s}{5000} \sinh^{-1} y_3'(s) \\
 &\quad + \frac{16s[\sin y_3'(s)]^2}{10000 + 10000[\sin y_3'(s)]^2}
 \end{aligned} \right. \tag{4.3}$$

with boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} \frac{3}{11}y_1(0) + \frac{17}{38}(\mathcal{D}^{0.3}y_1(0)) = \frac{11}{51} \int_0^1 y_1(\varsigma)d\varsigma \\ \frac{3}{11}y_1(1) + \frac{17}{38}(\mathcal{D}^{0.3}y_1(1)) = \frac{11}{51} \int_0^1 y_1(\varsigma)d\varsigma \\ \frac{3}{11}y_2(0) + \frac{17}{38}(\mathcal{D}^{0.3}y_2(0)) = \frac{11}{51} \int_0^1 y_2(\varsigma)d\varsigma \\ \frac{3}{11}y_2(1) + \frac{17}{38}(\mathcal{D}^{0.3}y_2(1)) = \frac{11}{51} \int_0^1 y_2(\varsigma)d\varsigma \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{3}{11}y_3(0) + \frac{17}{38}(\mathcal{D}^{0.3}y_3(0)) = \frac{11}{51} \int_0^1 y_3(\varsigma)d\varsigma \\ \frac{3}{11}y_3(1) + \frac{17}{38}(\mathcal{D}^{0.3}y_3(1)) = \frac{11}{51} \int_0^1 y_3(\varsigma)d\varsigma \end{cases} \tag{4.4}$$

where  $p = 1.75, q = 0.3, \mu_1 = \frac{3}{11}, \mu_2 = \frac{17}{38}$  and  $\mu_3 = \frac{11}{51}$ . Let  $\mathcal{Z}_1, \mathcal{Z}_2, \mathcal{Z}_3 : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are continuous functions given by

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{Z}_1(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) = \frac{16s}{1000} \sinh^{-1} z_1 + \frac{48[z_2]^2 s}{3000 + 3000[z_2]^2} \\ \quad + 0.016s \sinh^{-1} z_3 + \frac{64s[\sin z_4]^2}{4000(1 + [\sin z_4]^2)}, \\ \mathcal{Z}_2(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) = \frac{51e^s[\sin z_1]^2}{9000(1 + [\sin z_1]^2)} + \frac{17e^s}{3000} \sin z_2 \\ \quad + \frac{34[\arctan z_3]^2 e^s}{6000 + 6000[\arctan z_3]^2} + \frac{85e^s}{15000} \sinh^{-1} z_4, \\ \mathcal{Z}_3(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) = 0.0016s \arctan z_1 + \frac{32s[z_2]^2}{20000(1 + [z_2]^2)} \\ \quad + \frac{8s}{5000} \sinh^{-1} z_3 + \frac{16[\sin z_4]^2 s}{10000 + 10000[\sin z_4]^2}, \end{cases}$$

for all  $s \in [0, 1], z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \mathbb{R}$ , whereas  $\mathcal{Z}_4, \mathcal{Z}_5, \dots, \mathcal{Z}_{25} : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are

zero functions. For each  $s \in [0, 1]$ ,  $z_1^*, z_2^*, z_3^*, z_4^*, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |\mathcal{Z}_1(s, z_1^*, z_2^*, z_3^*, z_4^*) - \mathcal{Z}_1(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| \\
 \leq & \frac{16s}{1000} \left( |\sinh^{-1} z_1^* - \sinh^{-1} z_1| + \left| \frac{[z_2^*]^2}{1 + [z_2^*]^2} - \frac{[z_2]^2}{1 + [z_2]^2} \right| \right. \\
 & \left. + |\sinh^{-1} z_3^* - \sinh^{-1} z_3| + \left| \frac{[\sin z_4^*]^2}{1 + [\sin z_4^*]^2} - \frac{[\sin z_4]^2}{1 + [\sin z_4]^2} \right| \right) \\
 \leq & \frac{16s}{1000} (|z_1^* - z_1| + |z_2^* - z_2| + |z_3^* - z_3| + |z_4^* - z_4|), \\
 & |\mathcal{Z}_2(s, z_1^*, z_2^*, z_3^*, z_4^*) - \mathcal{Z}_2(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| \\
 \leq & \frac{17e^s}{3000} \left( \left| \frac{[\sin z_1^*]^2}{1 + [\sin z_1^*]^2} - \frac{[\sin z_1]^2}{1 + [\sin z_1]^2} \right| + |\sin z_2^* - \sin z_2| \right. \\
 & \left. + \left| \frac{[\arctan z_3^*]^2}{1 + [\arctan z_3^*]^2} - \frac{[\arctan z_3]^2}{1 + [\arctan z_3]^2} \right| + |\sinh^{-1} z_4^* - \sinh^{-1} z_4| \right) \\
 \leq & \frac{17e^s}{3000} (|z_1^* - z_1| + |z_2^* - z_2| + |z_3^* - z_3| + |z_4^* - z_4|), \\
 & |\mathcal{Z}_3(s, z_1^*, z_2^*, z_3^*, z_4^*) - \mathcal{Z}_3(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| \\
 \leq & \frac{8s}{5000} \left( |\arctan z_1^* - \arctan z_1| + \left| \frac{[z_2^*]^2}{1 + [z_2^*]^2} - \frac{[z_2]^2}{1 + [z_2]^2} \right| \right. \\
 & \left. + |\sinh^{-1} z_3^* - \sinh^{-1} z_3| + \left| \frac{[\sin z_4^*]^2}{1 + [\sin z_4^*]^2} - \frac{[\sin z_4]^2}{1 + [\sin z_4]^2} \right| \right) \\
 \leq & \frac{8s}{5000} (|z_1^* - z_1| + |z_2^* - z_2| + |z_3^* - z_3| + |z_4^* - z_4|).
 \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $\mathcal{K}_1(s) = \frac{16s}{1000}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}_2(s) = \frac{17e^s}{3000}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}_3(s) = \frac{8s}{5000}$ , and  $\mathcal{K}_4(s) = \mathcal{K}_5(s) = \dots = \mathcal{K}_{25}(s) = 0$ , where  $\|\mathcal{K}_1\| = \frac{16}{1000}$ ,  $\|\mathcal{K}_2\| = \frac{17}{3000}$ ,  $\|\mathcal{K}_3\| = \frac{8}{5000}$ , and  $\|\mathcal{K}_4\| = \|\mathcal{K}_5\| = \dots = \|\mathcal{K}_{25}\| = 0$ . Let  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{25} : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be identity functions. Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\mathcal{Z}_1(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| & \leq \frac{16s}{1000} \left( |\sinh^{-1} z_1| + \left| \frac{[z_2]^2}{1 + [z_2]^2} \right| + |\sinh^{-1} z_3| + \left| \frac{[\sin z_4]^2}{1 + [\sin z_4]^2} \right| \right) \\
 & \leq \frac{16s}{1000} (|z_1| + |z_2| + |z_3| + |z_4|).
 \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\mathcal{Z}_2(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| & \leq \frac{17e^s}{3000} \left( \left| \frac{[\sin z_1]^2}{1 + [\sin z_1]^2} \right| + |\sin z_2| + \left| \frac{[\arctan z_3]^2}{1 + [\arctan z_3]^2} \right| + |\sinh^{-1} z_4| \right) \\
 & \leq \frac{17e^s}{3000} (|z_1| + |z_2| + |z_3| + |z_4|)
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\mathcal{Z}_3(s, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4)| &\leq \frac{8s}{5000} \left( |\arctan z_1| + \left| \frac{[z_2]^2}{1 + [z_2]^2} \right| + |\sinh^{-1} z_3| + \left| \frac{[\sin z_4]^2}{1 + [\sin z_4]^2} \right| \right) \\
 &\leq \frac{8s}{5000} (|z_1| + |z_2| + |z_3| + |z_4|),
 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $s \in [0, 1]$ ,  $z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Furthermore, the continuous functions  $\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2, \dots, \mathcal{R}_{25} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are defined by

$$\mathcal{R}_1(s) = \frac{16s}{1000}, \quad \mathcal{R}_2(s) = \frac{17e^s}{5000}, \quad \mathcal{R}_3(s) = \frac{8s}{5000}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{R}_4(s) = \mathcal{R}_5(s) = \dots = \mathcal{R}_{25}(s) = 0.$$

Also,

$$\mathcal{L}_0^* \simeq 1.803, \quad \mathcal{L}_1^* \simeq 0.819 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{L}_2^* \simeq 0.745,$$

and so

$$\mathcal{L}_0^* + \mathcal{L}_1^* + \mathcal{L}_2^* \simeq 3.367.$$

Hence

$$\mathcal{M} := (\mathcal{L}_0^* + \mathcal{L}_1^* + \mathcal{L}_2^*) (\|\mathcal{K}_1\| + \|\mathcal{K}_2\| + \|\mathcal{K}_3\|) \simeq 0.077 < 1.$$

It can be seen that all the conditions of Theorem 3.2 are fulfilled, hence, the boundary value problem (4.1)–(4.2) has a solution.

### 5 Conclusion and open problems

Chemical graph theory is a branch of mathematics in which graphs represent the molecular structures of chemical compounds, and specific mathematical challenges are studied using theoretical and analytical methodologies. In recent decades, the fast growth of this subject has resulted in the development of various ground-breaking and novel ideas and techniques for conducting such research. Several researchers have used the structure of star graphs to investigate the solutions of fractional differential equations. They used star graphs because their approach requires a center node with interconnections to nearby vertices but no node-to-node connections. Since, in general, the graphs can have several junction nodes, therefore in this article, we introduced the idea of an octane graph. We have analyzed a graph with vertices labeled by 0 or 1, which is inspired by a graph representation of the octane compound, and formulated fractional differential equations on each of its edges. The existence of solutions results to the suggested fractional differential equation have been investigated by utilizing the Krasnoselskii and Schaefer fixed point theorems. In the end, we presented two examples to demonstrate the importance of our findings.

Here, we give the following open problems for the interested readers.

Problem 1: Can we extend this idea to the circular ring type graphs?

Problem 2: Can we use another method that can guarantee the conclusion of the proposed results?

We also pose the stability of the proposed fractional differential equation (1.1) as an open problem.

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