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Fractional evolution equations with infinite delay under Carathéodory conditions

Jiaying Zhou and Hongwei Yin*

*Correspondence:
hongwei-yin@hotmail.com
Department of Mathematics,
Nanchang University, Nanchang,
330031, P.R. China

Abstract

This paper studies fractional evolution equations with infinite delay. We use the means of the successive approximation to establish the existence and uniqueness of mild solutions for this class of equations under global and local Carathéodory conditions. An example is given to illustrate our results.

Keywords: fractional differential equations; infinite delay; Carathéodory condition

1 Introduction

In this paper, we investigate the existence of solutions for a class of fractional differential equations with infinite delay of the form

$$\begin{cases} D_t^\alpha x(t) = Ax(t) + f(t, x_t), & t \in J := [0, T], T > 0, \\ x(t) = \varphi(t), & \varphi(t) \in \mathcal{B}, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where D_t^α is a Caputo fractional derivative of order $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. $x(\cdot)$ takes the value in the Banach space X ; A is the infinitesimal generator of an analytic semigroup $\{S(t), t \geq 0\}$; $x_t : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow X$, $x_t(\theta) = x(t + \theta)$, $\theta \leq 0$, belongs to an abstract phase space \mathcal{B} (specified later); $f : J \times \mathcal{B} \rightarrow X$. Throughout this paper, we employ the norm denoted by $|\cdot|$ for X . The initial data $\varphi = \{\varphi(t) : -\infty < t \leq 0\}$ is a \mathcal{B} -valued function.

Fractional differential equations are well known to describe many sophisticated dynamical systems in physics, fluid dynamics, praxiology, viscoelasticity and engineering. The greatest merit of systems including fractional derivative is their nonlocal property and history memory [1]. For more details on the basic theory of fractional differential equations, one can see the monographs [2, 3]. At present, the existence of solutions for fractional equations were discussed, for example, in [4–6], but these equations are usually assumed to satisfy the Lipschitz condition. Wang and Zhou in [7] addressed the existence of solutions for a class of fractional evolution equations with delay with locally Lipschitz condition. The existence of mild solutions for fractional neutral evolution equations with nonlocal initial condition was obtained by the assumption of Lipschitz condition by Zhou and Jiao in [8]. Besides, Agarwal *et al.* in [9] examined the existence of fractional neutral functional differential equations with Lipschitz condition. At present, some important results of impulsive fractional equations have been obtained. Wang *et al.* in [10, 11] addressed the existence of solutions for impulsive fractional equations. Further, Dabas *et al.* in [12]

investigated the existence of mild solutions for impulsive fractional equations with infinite delay which possess the Lipschitz condition. The existence of solutions for fractional evolution equations with Lipschitz condition was obtained by means of the monotone iterative technique by Mu in [13]. However, as far as we know, there are few works to research the existence of solutions for fractional evolution equations without Lipschitz condition. To fill this gap, this paper studies system (1.1) which has no assumption of Lipschitz condition.

In this paper, we show the existence and uniqueness results for (1.1) by means of the successive approximation. Compared with the earlier related existence results that appeared in [8, 13, 14], there are at least two essential differences:

- (1) the conditions on f are nonlinear case and more general, and they do not need any Lipschitz one and take values in X ;
- (2) the key condition that $\{S(t), t \geq 0\}$ is compact is not required.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we introduce some notations, concepts and basic results. In Section 3, the main results are presented. In Section 4, we give an example to illustrate our results.

2 Preliminaries

First, we introduce some definitions and lemmas on fractional derivation and fractional evolution equation.

Definition 2.1 Caputo's derivative of order q with the lower limit 0 for the function $h : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ can be written as

$$D^q h(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-q)} \int_0^t \frac{h^{(n)}(s)}{(t-s)^{q+1-n}} ds, \quad n-1 < q < n, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+.$$

Obviously, Caputo's derivative of any constant is zero.

Axiom 2.2 \mathcal{B} is a linear space that denotes the family of functions from $(-\infty, 0]$ into X , endowed with the norm $\|u\|_{\mathcal{B}} := \sup_{s \in (-\infty, 0]} |u(s)|$, which satisfies the following axioms:

- (i) if $x : (-\infty, T] \rightarrow X$ is continuous on J and $x_0 \in \mathcal{B}$, then for every $t \in J$, we have $x_t \in \mathcal{B}$ and $\|x_t\|_{\mathcal{B}} \leq \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} |x(s)| + \|x_0\|_{\mathcal{B}}$;
- (ii) for the function $x(\cdot)$ in (i), x_t is a \mathcal{B} -valued continuous function on J ;
- (iii) the space \mathcal{B} is complete.

Definition 2.3 Denote by $\mathcal{L}^2((-\infty, T], X)$ the space of all X -valued continuous mappings $x = \{x(t), -\infty < t < T\}$, such that

- (i) $x_0 \in \mathcal{B}$ and $x(t)$ is continuous on J ;
- (ii) define the norm $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{L}}$ in $\mathcal{L}^2((-\infty, T], X)$

$$\|x\|_{\mathcal{L}}^2 = \|x_0\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + \int_0^T |x(t)|^2 dt < \infty. \tag{2.1}$$

Then $\mathcal{L}^2((-\infty, T], X)$ with norm (2.1) is a Banach space. In the sequel, if there is no ambiguity, we will use $\|\cdot\|$ for this norm.

Definition 2.4 $x(t), t \in J$ is called a mild solution of (1.1) if

(i) the following integral equation is satisfied:

$$x(t) = S_\alpha(t)\varphi(0) + \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} T_\alpha(t-s)f(s, x_s) ds, \tag{2.2}$$

(ii) $x_0 = \varphi \in \mathcal{B}$,

where

$$S_\alpha(t)x = \int_0^\infty \eta_\alpha(\theta)S(t^\alpha\theta)x d\theta, \quad T_\alpha(t)x = \alpha \int_0^\infty \theta\eta_\alpha(\theta)S(t^\alpha\theta)x d\theta,$$

and

$$\eta_\alpha(\theta) = \frac{1}{\pi\alpha} \sum_{n=1}^\infty (-\theta)^{n-1} \frac{\Gamma(1+\alpha n)}{n!} \sin(n\pi\alpha), \quad \theta \in (0, \infty)$$

is the function of Wright type defined on $(0, \infty)$.

Lemma 2.5 [8] *The following properties are valid:*

- (i) $S_\alpha(t)$ and $T_\alpha(t)$ are strongly continuous operators on X ;
- (ii) for any $y \in X$, $S_\alpha(t)$ and $T_\alpha(t)$ are linear and bounded operators on X , i.e., there exists a positive constant M such that

$$|S_\alpha(t)y| \leq M|y|, \quad |T_\alpha(t)y| \leq \frac{M}{\Gamma(\alpha)}|y| \quad \text{for all } y \in X \text{ and } t \in \mathbb{R}^+.$$

In this paper, we will work under the following assumption:

(H1) $f : J \times \mathcal{B} \rightarrow X$ satisfies

- (1a) there exists a function $F_1(t, u) : J \times \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ such that $|f(t, \phi)|^2 \leq F_1(t, \|\phi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2)$ for $\phi \in \mathcal{B}$ and $t \in J$;
- (1b) $F_1(t, u)$ is locally integrable in t for each fixed $u \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and is continuous and monotone nondecreasing in u for each fixed $t \in J$;
- (1c) for any constant $K > 0$, the fractional differential equation

$$D_t^\alpha u(t) = KF_1(t, u(t)), \quad t \in J$$

has a global solution for any initial value u_0 ;

(H2) (2a) there exists a function $F_2(t, u) : J \times \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ such that

$$|f(t, u_1) - f(t, u_2)|^2 \leq F_2(t, \|u_1 - u_2\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2)$$

for all $u_1, u_2 \in \mathcal{B}$ and $t \in J$;

- (2b) $F_2(t, u)$ is locally integrable in t for each fixed $u \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and is continuous and nondecreasing in u for each fixed $t \geq 0$. In addition, $F_2(t, 0) = 0$ and if a non-negative continuous function $z(t)$, $t \in J$ satisfies

$$D_t^\alpha z(t) \leq DF_2(t, z(t)), \quad t \in J,$$

where D is a positive constant, then $z(t) \equiv 0$ for $t \in J$;

(H3) the local condition

(3a) for any integer $N > 0$, there exists a function $F_2^N(t, u) : J \times \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ such that

$$|f(t, u_1) - f(t, u_2)|^2 \leq F_2^N(t, \|u_1 - u_2\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2)$$

for $u_1, u_2 \in \mathcal{B}$ with $\|u_1\|_{\mathcal{B}}, \|u_2\|_{\mathcal{B}} \leq N$ and $t \in J$,

(3b) $F_2^N(t, u)$ is locally integrable in t for each fixed $u \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and is continuous and nondecreasing in u for $t \geq 0$. Moreover, $F_2^N(t, 0) = 0$ and if a nonnegative continuous function $z(t)$, $t \in J$ satisfies

$$D_t^\alpha z(t) \leq DF_2^N(t, z(t)), \quad t \in J,$$

where $D > 0$ is a positive constant, then $z(t) \equiv 0$ for $t \in J$.

3 Main results

In this section, we establish the existence and uniqueness of mild solutions for (1.1). We construct the sequence of successive approximations defined as follows:

- (i) $x^0(t) = S_\alpha(t)\varphi(0)$, $t \in J$,
- (ii)

$$x^n(t) = S_\alpha(t)\varphi(0) + \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} T_\alpha(t-s)f(s, x_s^{n-1}) ds, \quad t \in J, n \geq 1, \quad (3.1)$$

- (iii) $x^n(s) = \varphi(s)$, $-\infty < s \leq 0$, $n \geq 1$.

The first result is the following theorem.

Theorem 3.1 *Let the assumptions of (H1)-(H2) hold. Then there exists a unique mild solution of (1.1) in the sense of the space $\mathcal{L}^2((-\infty, T], X)$.*

Proof In order to prove this theorem, we divide the proof into the following steps.

Step 1. The boundedness of the sequence $\{x^n(t), n \geq 0\}$. From (2.2), we use the Hölder inequality and Lemma 2.5, and we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} |x^n(s)|^2 &\leq 2 \left[|S_\alpha(t)\varphi(0)|^2 + \left| \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} T_\alpha(t-s)f(s, x_s^{n-1}) ds \right|^2 \right] \\ &\leq 2 \left[M^2 \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + \left| \int_0^t (t-s)^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}} (t-s)^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}} T_\alpha(t-s)f(s, x_s^{n-1}) ds \right|^2 \right] \\ &\leq 2M^2 \left[\|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + \frac{T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha+1)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} |f(s, x_s^{n-1})|^2 ds \right] \\ &\leq M_1 \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + M_2 \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} F_1(s, \|x_s^{n-1}\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2) ds, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$M_1 = 2M^2, \quad M_2 = \frac{2M^2 T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha+1)}.$$

Thus, by assumption (H1) we have

$$\sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} |x^n(s)|^2 \leq M_1 \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + M_2 \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} F_1 \left(s, 2 \left(\|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + \sup_{0 \leq r \leq s} |x^{n-1}(r)|^2 \right) \right) ds. \quad (3.2)$$

In view of (3.2), for any $k \geq 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{1 \leq n \leq k} \left\{ \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} |x^n(s)|^2 \right\} \\ & \leq M_1 \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + M_2 \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} F_1 \left(s, 2 \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + 2 \max_{1 \leq n \leq k} \left(\sup_{0 \leq r \leq s} |x^n(r)|^2 \right) \right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

This indicates that

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{1 \leq n \leq k} \left\{ 2 \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + 2 \sup_{0 \leq r \leq s} |x^n(r)|^2 \right\} \\ & \leq 2(M_1 + 1) \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + 2M_2 \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} F_1 \left(s, 2 \left(\|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + \left(\max_{1 \leq n \leq k} \left(\sup_{0 \leq r \leq s} |x^n(r)|^2 \right) \right) \right) \right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

By assumption (H1), it implies that there is a solution u_t satisfying

$$u_t = 2(M_1 + 1) \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + 2M_2 \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} F_1(s, u_s) ds.$$

Since $\|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 < \infty$, we have

$$\max_{1 \leq n \leq k} \left\{ \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} |x^n(s)|^2 \right\} \leq u_t \leq u_T < \infty. \quad (3.3)$$

Further, since k is arbitrary, we have

$$|x^n(t)|^2 \leq u_T \quad \text{for all } 0 \leq t \leq T, n \geq 1. \quad (3.4)$$

So, we obtain

$$\|x^n\|^2 = \|x_0^n\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + \int_0^T |x^n(t)|^2 dt \leq \|x_0^n\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2 + Tu_T,$$

which shows the boundedness of the sequence $\{x^n(t), n \geq 1\}$.

Step 2. The sequence $\{x^n(t), n \geq 1\}$ is a Cauchy sequence. From (3.1) and assumption (H2), for all $m, n \geq 1$ and $t \in J$, we can get that

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} |x^{n+1}(s) - x^{m+1}(s)|^2 \\ & \leq \left| \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} T_{\alpha}(t-s) [f(s, x_s^n) - f(s, x_s^m)] ds \right|^2 \\ & \leq \frac{M^2 T^{\alpha}}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha+1)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} |f(s, x_s^n) - f(s, x_s^m)|^2 ds \\ & \leq \frac{M^2 T^{\alpha}}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha+1)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} F_2(s, \|x_s^n - x_s^m\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2) ds \\ & \leq \frac{M^2 T^{\alpha}}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha+1)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} F_2 \left(s, \sup_{0 \leq r \leq s} |x^n(r) - x^m(r)|^2 \right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$z(t) := \limsup_{n,m \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} |x^n(s) - x^m(s)|^2 \right\}.$$

In view of (3.4), assumption (H2) and the Fatou lemma, we have

$$z(t) \leq \frac{M^2 T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} F_2(s, z(s)) ds.$$

By assumption (H2), we can obtain $z(t) = 0$. As a result, it is known that $\{x^n(t), n \geq 1\}$ is a Cauchy sequence.

Step 3. The existence and uniqueness of the solution for (1.1). Let $n \rightarrow \infty$, it follows that $x^n(t) \rightarrow x(t)$ holds uniformly for $0 \leq t \leq T$. So, taking limits on both sides of (3.1) for $t \in (-\infty, T]$, we have that $x(t)$ is a solution for (1.1). This shows the existence of solution for (1.1). The uniqueness of the solution could be gotten following the same procedure as in Step 2. By Step 1, we can know that $x(t) \in \mathcal{L}^2((-\infty, T], X)$. \square

Next, we prove the existence and uniqueness of mild solutions for (1.1) under the local Carathéodory conditions.

Theorem 3.2 *Let the assumptions of (H1)-(H3) hold. Then there exists a unique mild solution of (1.1) in the sense of the space $\mathcal{L}^2((-\infty, T], X)$.*

Proof Let N be a natural integral and $T_0 \in (0, T)$. Define the sequence of the function $f^N(t, u)$ for $(t, u) \in [0, T_0] \times \mathcal{B}$ as follows:

$$f^N(t, u) = \begin{cases} f(t, u), & \|u\|_{\mathcal{B}} \leq N, \\ f(t, \frac{Nu}{\|u\|_{\mathcal{B}}}), & \|u\|_{\mathcal{B}} > N. \end{cases}$$

Then the function $f^N(t, u)$ satisfies (H3) and the following inequality holds:

$$|f^N(t, u_1) - f^N(t, u_2)|^2 \leq F_2^N(t, \|u_1 - u_2\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2)$$

for $u_1, u_2 \in \mathcal{B}, t \in [0, T_0]$. Therefore, by Theorem 3.1, there exist solutions $x^N(t)$ and $x^{N+1}(t)$ to the following equations, respectively:

$$x^N(t) = S_\alpha(t)\varphi(0) + \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} T_\alpha(t-s) f^N(s, x_s^N) ds, \tag{3.5a}$$

$$x^{N+1}(t) = S_\alpha(t)\varphi(0) + \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} T_\alpha(t-s) f^{N+1}(s, x_s^{N+1}) ds. \tag{3.5b}$$

From (3.5a) and (3.5b), we have

$$x^{N+1}(t) - x^N(t) = \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} T_\alpha(t-s) (f^{N+1}(s, x_s^{N+1}) - f^N(s, x_s^N)) ds. \tag{3.6}$$

Define the stopping times

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_N &:= T_0 \wedge \inf\{t \in J : \|x_t^N\|_{\mathcal{B}} \geq N\}, \\ \sigma_{N+1} &:= T_0 \wedge \inf\{t \in J : \|x_t^{N+1}\|_{\mathcal{B}} \geq N + 1\}, \\ \tau_N &:= \sigma_N \wedge \sigma_{N+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, from (3.6), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\sup_{0 \leq s \leq t \wedge \tau_N} |x^{N+1}(s) - x^N(s)|^2 \\ &\leq \frac{M^2 T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_N} (t - s)^{\alpha-1} |f^{N+1}(s, x_s^{N+1}) - f^N(s, x_s^N)|^2 ds. \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

Noting that $f^{N+1}(s, x_s^N) = f^N(s, x_s^N)$ for $s \in [0, \tau_N]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\sup_{0 \leq s \leq t \wedge \tau_N} |x^{N+1}(s) - x^N(s)|^2 \\ &\leq \frac{M^2 T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_N} (t - s)^{\alpha-1} |f^{N+1}(s, x_s^{N+1}) - f^{N+1}(s, x_s^N)|^2 ds. \end{aligned} \tag{3.8}$$

Therefore, this yields

$$\begin{aligned} &\sup_{0 \leq s \leq t \wedge \tau_N} |x^{N+1}(s) - x^N(s)|^2 \\ &\leq \frac{M^2 T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \int_0^t (t - s)^{\alpha-1} |f^{N+1}(s, x_{t \wedge \tau_N}^{N+1}) - f^{N+1}(s, x_{t \wedge \tau_N}^N)|^2 ds. \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

By (H3), we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} |x^{N+1}(s \wedge \tau_N) - x^N(s \wedge \tau_N)|^2 \\ &\leq \frac{M^2 T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \int_0^t (t - s)^{\alpha-1} F_2^{N+1}(s \wedge \tau_N, \|x_{s \wedge \tau_N}^{N+1} - x_{s \wedge \tau_N}^N\|_{\mathcal{B}}^2) ds \\ &\leq \frac{M^2 T^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} \int_0^t (t - s)^{\alpha-1} F_2^{N+1}\left(s \wedge \tau_N, \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} |x^{N+1}(s \wedge \tau_N) - x^N(s \wedge \tau_N)|^2\right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

By (H3) we have

$$x^{N+1}(t) = x^N(t), \quad t \in [0, T_0 \wedge \tau_N].$$

Since $x(t \wedge \tau_N) = x^N(t \wedge \tau_N)$, it holds that

$$\begin{aligned} x(t \wedge \tau_N) &= S_\alpha(t)\varphi(0) + \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_N} (t - s)^{\alpha-1} T_\alpha f^N(s, x_s^N) ds \\ &= S_\alpha(t)\varphi(0) + \int_0^{t \wedge \tau_N} (t - s)^{\alpha-1} T_\alpha f(s, x_s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Letting $N \rightarrow \infty$ for $t \in J$, we have

$$x(t) = S_\alpha(t)\varphi(0) + \int_0^t (t-s)^{\alpha-1} T_\alpha f(s, x_s) ds,$$

so this proof is finished. □

4 Example

In this section, we provide an example to illustrate our result. Consider the following non-linear fractional partial differential equations with infinite delay:

$$D_t^\alpha u(t, x) = \frac{\partial^2 u(t, x)}{\partial x^2} + u(t, x) \sin t, \quad t \in [0, T], \quad (4.1)$$

with the initial data $u(s) \equiv 1$, for $s \in (-\infty, 0]$. Let $F_1(t, u) = u$ and $F_2(t, u) = u^2$ and they satisfy conditions (H1)-(H3). And we have known that

$$\begin{cases} D_t^\alpha u(t) = u(t), & t \in J, \\ u(s) \equiv 1, & s \in (-\infty, 0], \end{cases}$$

has a unique solution, *i.e.*, $u(t) = t^{\alpha-1} E_{\alpha, \alpha}(t^\alpha)$, where $E_{\alpha, \beta}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{\Gamma(\alpha z + \beta)}$, $t \in J$. In addition,

$$\begin{cases} D_t^\alpha u(t) = u^2(t), & t \in J, \\ u(s) \equiv 0, & s \in (-\infty, 0], \end{cases}$$

possesses a unique solution of 0. Thus, according to Theorems 3.1 and 3.2, system (4.1) has a unique mild solution.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

JZ carried out the main parts of the draft. HY provided the main idea of this paper.

Received: 28 April 2014 Accepted: 10 July 2014 Published: 04 Aug 2014

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10.1186/1687-1847-2014-216

Cite this article as: Zhou and Yin: Fractional evolution equations with infinite delay under Carathéodory conditions. *Advances in Difference Equations* **2014**, **2014**:216

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