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Approximate solutions and Hyers–Ulam stability for a system of the coupled fractional thermostat control model via the generalized differential transform

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Abstract

In this paper, we consider a new coupled system of fractional boundary value problems based on the thermostat control model. With the help of fixed point theory, we investigate the existence criterion of the solution to the given coupled system. This property is proved by using the Krasnoselskii's fixed point theorem and its uniqueness is proved via the Banach principle for contractions. Further, the Hyers–Ulam stability of solutions is investigated. Then, we find the approximate solution of the coupled fractional thermostat control system by using a numerical technique called the generalized differential transform method. To show the consistency and validity of our theoretical results, we provide two illustrative examples.

MSC: Primary 26A33; 34A08; secondary 34B15; 65R20

Keywords: Approximate solutions; Fixed point; Coupled system; GDT-method; Stability analysis; Thermostat control model

1 Introduction

Fractional calculus is the most important field of applied mathematics that extends all existing integer-order operators to arbitrary-order ones. This importance is due to the high accuracy of fractional operators in modeling of many real-world phenomena in the context of different fractional boundary value problems. Some instances regarding applications of fractional differential equations (FDEqs) can be seen in various fields of science such as aerodynamics, physics, bioengineering, image processing, biochemistry viscoelasticity, biophysics, electrochemistry, mathematical biology, etc. (see [1–3]). In the last few decades, an extensive area of studies in relation to the existence/nonexistence theory of solutions to the aforementioned FDEqs has got much attention from mathematicians. Diverse results and theoretical findings can be followed in the literature regarding the existence theory for different structures of FDEqs; for more analysis and review, see [4–33]. Because of the modeling of most of the applied processes in the framework of coupled

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systems of arbitrary order FDEqs, many researchers have been focused on the establishment of the existence theory for such systems. In such a direction, plenty of research manuscripts can be observed in the literature, see [34–38]. Recently, Shah, Wang, Khalil, and Khan [39] devoted their focus to establishing some results on the following category of coupled systems of integral fractional boundary value problems (FBVPs) for FDEqs with movable boundary conditions (BCs) given as

$$\begin{cases} {}^c\mathcal{D}^\sigma x(t) = f(t, y(t)) & (\forall t \in I := [0, 1]), \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^\delta y(t) = g(t, x(t)) & (\forall t \in I := [0, 1]), \\ x(0) = 0, \quad y(0) = 0, \\ x(1) = \int_0^a x(r) \, dr, \quad y(1) = \int_0^b y(r) \, dr, \end{cases}$$

in which $f, g \in C(I \times [0, \infty))$, $1 < \sigma, \delta \leq 2$, and $0 < a, b < 1$. More recently, Alrabaiah et al. [40] implemented a qualitative study of a nonlinear system of coupled integral pantograph delay FDEqs as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{D}_0^{\alpha_1} x(t) + f_1(t, x(at), y(t), \mathcal{D}_0^{\beta_1} y(t)) = 0 & (\forall t \in I := [0, 1]), \\ \mathcal{D}_0^{\alpha_2} y(t) + f_2(t, x(t), y(at), \mathcal{D}_0^{\beta_2} x(t)) = 0, \\ x(0) = 0, \quad x(1) = \int_0^1 \psi(r)x(r) \, dr, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y(1) = \int_0^1 \psi(r)y(r) \, dr, \end{cases}$$

where $1 < \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \leq 2$, $0 < \beta_1, \beta_2, a < 1$, $f_1, f_2 : \mathbb{I} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are nonlinear and $\psi : (0, 1) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is bounded. In that work, Alrabaiah et al. proved, with the help of fixed point theorems, their desired results and then checked the Hyers–Ulam stability for the mentioned system [40].

In 2021, for the first time, Thabet et al. [41] formulated a new coupled system of three-point integral pantograph FDEqs in the context of the Caputo conformable operators as

$$\begin{cases} {}^{CC}\mathcal{D}_{t_0}^{q, \eta_1} x(t) = f_1(t, y(t), y(\lambda t)) & (t \in [t_0, T], t_0 \geq 0), \\ {}^{CC}\mathcal{D}_{t_0}^{q, \eta_2} y(t) = f_2(t, x(t), x(\lambda t)), \\ x(t_0) = 0, \quad a_1 x(T) + a_2 {}^{RC}\mathcal{I}_{t_0}^{q, \theta} x(c) = m_1, \\ y(t_0) = 0, \quad b_1 y(T) + b_2 {}^{RC}\mathcal{I}_{t_0}^{q, \theta} y(d) = m_2, \end{cases}$$

where ${}^{CC}\mathcal{D}_{t_0}^{q, \eta_j}$ denotes the Caputo conformable derivatives of order $\eta_j \in (1, 2)$ with $q \in (0, 1]$ for $j = 1, 2$, ${}^{RC}\mathcal{I}_{t_0}^{q, \theta}$ is the RL-conformable integral of order $\theta > 0$, $c, d \in (t_0, T)$, $a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2, m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{R}$, $0 < \lambda < 1$, and $f_j : [t_0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are continuous for $j = 1, 2$.

Other aspects in relation to the stability analysis and numerical methods to FDEqs have been investigated by many mathematicians in recent years. Most of the time, finding exact solutions to nonlinear BVPs is challenging and sometimes it is a difficult task. Hence, these issues motivated researchers to search for the best approximate solutions for given nonlinear BVPs. To achieve such an aim, mathematicians utilized different techniques and procedures like homotopy methods [42], q -homotopy analysis transform method [43], decomposition methods [44, 45], integral transform techniques [46], etc.

One of the strongest approaches to find numerical solutions to linear and nonlinear BVPs of FDEqs is the generalized differential transform method (GDT-method). In various papers, this transform has been applied to solve and analyze nonlinear BVPs of FDEqs for

approximate solutions; see [47, 48]. Note that there is no classical standard method to analyze nonlinear BVPs of FDEqs for getting solutions explicitly. This is due to the complexity of fractional calculus involved in the supposed BVPs. Accordingly, a reliable method is needed to search for approximate solutions in the context of series in relation to the given FBVPs. On the other hand, it is also applicable if, along with the approximate solutions, their stability is investigated. That’s why analysis of the stability of existing FDEqs has received great attention. In other words, it gives a better result in different applications like optimization, economics, numerical analysis, physics, where obtaining the exact solution is a quite difficult task; see [49–51].

Amongst the important models of physio-electrical type, we choose and study a fractional model of thermostat control. A thermostat is a measurement tool that measures and regulates the temperature of an arbitrary physical system and takes actions subject to its temperature which is maintained near an appropriate and desired degree. This instrument is applied in any controlling devices and industrial systems, including building central heating, air conditioners, water heaters, ovens, refrigerators, car engines, and even medical incubators, which raise or decrease the temperature.

The study of the mathematical model of a thermostat control was implemented by Infante and Webb [52] in 2006, which is insulated at $t = 0$ via the controller at the time $t = 1$ and is given as

$$\begin{cases} x''(t) + f(t, x(t)) = 0 & (\forall t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ x'(0) = 0, \quad x(b) + kx'(1) = 0, \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

where $b \in \mathbb{I}$ is a real constant and $k > 0$. The performance of the thermostat is interpreted by this 2nd-order mathematical model in such a way that at the moment $t = b$, the system’s heat is added or discharged based on the temperature detected by the existing sensors. Infante et al. analyzed some results on the solution’s existence for the suggested model by utilizing the fixed point index theory. In the next years, Nieto and Pimentel [53] transformed the above ordinary thermostat model to a new model of the fractional type as follows:

$$\begin{cases} {}^c\mathcal{D}^\gamma x(t) + f(t, x(t)) = 0 & (\forall t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ x'(0) = 0, \quad x(b) + k {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\gamma-1}x(1) = 0, \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

and extended the obtained results in the paper published by Infante et al. to the more general and accurate findings. Note that in that model, ${}^c\mathcal{D}^\gamma$ is the Caputo derivative of order $\gamma \in (1, 2]$.

In this paper, we focus our intention on some qualitative aspects of possible solutions for a system of the coupled fractional thermostat model. In more precise words, we consider the following construction of a coupled thermostat model inspired by the model (1) as follows:

$$\begin{cases} {}^c\mathcal{D}^\sigma x(t) + K(t, y(t)) = 0 & (\forall t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^\delta y(t) + M(t, x(t)) = 0 & (\forall t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^1 x(0) = 0, \quad {}^c\mathcal{D}^1 y(0) = 0, \\ p {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\sigma-1}x(1) + x(b) = 0, \quad q {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\delta-1}y(1) + y(c) = 0, \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

in which $\sigma \in (1, 2], \delta \in (1, 2], 0 < \sigma - 1 \leq 1, 0 < \delta - 1 \leq 1, b, c \in (0, 1), p, q > 0$, and ${}^c\mathcal{D}^1 = \frac{d}{dt}$. Along with these, the existing mappings $K, M : \mathbb{I} \times \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ are continuous and ${}^c\mathcal{D}^\zeta$ denotes the derivation operator of order $\zeta \in \{1, \sigma, \sigma - 1, \delta, \delta - 1\}$ in the sense of Caputo.

To prove the existence and uniqueness of solutions to the above coupled fractional system of thermostat control boundary value problems, we use the existing notions in fixed point theory. In other words, we use the Krasnoselskii’s fixed point theorem for proving the existence result, and we use the Banach contraction principle for establishing the uniqueness result. Also, the Hyers–Ulam stability of solutions of the coupled system (3) is investigated. For the first time, we find the approximate solutions of the coupled system of the nonlinear fractional boundary value problems arising in the thermostat control model (3) with the aid of some numerical algorithms based on the GDT-method. This leads to the novelty and originality of our research. The established findings are demonstrated by illustrating examples in this regard. We remark that this system is an applied model of a real process, and one can extend it to more general structures via integral multipoint BCs. The basic motivation of the current research is that we implement our numerical methods based on differential transforms to obtain approximate solutions of a new model of a mechanical instrument which is more applicable in different levels of engineering and this makes our findings useful and applicable.

The rest of the paper is arranged as follows: Primitive notions and relations are assembled in Sect. 2. Results regarding aspects of existence and uniqueness of solutions are derived in Sect. 3. Results regarding Hyers–Ulam stability criterion are proved in Sect. 4. Section 5 is devoted to introducing some algorithms of the GDT-method based on the existing system (3). Different cases are investigated in simulative examples (along with the relevant graphs) provided in Sect. 6. Lastly, Sect. 7 is devoted to conclusive remarks.

2 Primitive notions

As the notions of the Riemann–Liouville integral and Caputo derivative have a key task in our research, we provide them at this moment.

Definition 2.1 ([2, 54]) Let $\sigma > 0$. The σ th Riemann–Liouville integral for a mapping $x : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{I}^\sigma x(t) = \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} x(r) dr,$$

if the integral’s value is finite.

Definition 2.2 ([2, 54]) Let $k - 1 < \sigma < k$. For a continuous mapping $x : \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the σ th Riemann–Liouville derivation operator is defined by

$$\mathcal{D}^\sigma x(t) = \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^k \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{k-\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(k-\sigma)} x(r) dr,$$

if the integral’s value is finite.

Definition 2.3 ([2, 54]) Let $k - 1 < \sigma < k$. For an absolutely continuous mapping x on $\mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$, the σ th Caputo derivation operator is introduced as

$${}^c\mathcal{D}^\sigma x(t) = \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{k-\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(k-\sigma)} x^{(k)}(r) dr,$$

if the integral's value is finite.

Proposition 2.4 ([1]) Let $k - 1 < \sigma < k$. Then $\forall x \in C^{k-1}(0, \infty)$, the relation

$$\mathcal{I}^\sigma ({}^c\mathcal{D}^\sigma x)(t) = x(t) + m_0 + m_1 t + m_2 t^2 + \dots + m_{k-1} t^{k-1},$$

holds for some $m_0, m_1, \dots, m_{k-1} \in \mathbb{R}$.

3 Results of existence

We here compute and derive the equivalent system of coupled integral equations corresponding to the coupled thermostat control model (3) and, further, we present required criteria for the existence of solutions to the mentioned FBVP system (3).

It is a well-known notion that $\mathfrak{B} = \{x(t) : x(t) \in C(\mathbb{I})\}$ is a Banach space when equipped with the norm $\|x\|_{\mathfrak{B}} = \max_{t \in \mathbb{I}} |x(t)|$. Consequently, $\mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}$ will be a product Banach space which is equipped with norm $\|(x, y)\|_{\mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}} = \max\{\|x\|_{\mathfrak{B}}, \|y\|_{\mathfrak{B}}\}$.

Proposition 3.1 Let $\sigma \in (1, 2]$, $\sigma - 1 \in (0, 1]$, $b \in (0, 1)$, $p > 0$, and $g \in C_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{I})$. A function x^* , which a solution to the linear thermostat model

$$\begin{cases} {}^c\mathcal{D}^\sigma x(t) + g(t) = 0 & (t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^1 x(0) = 0, & p {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\sigma-1} x(1) + x(b) = 0, \end{cases} \tag{4}$$

is given by the integral equation

$$x(t) = - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} g(r) dr + \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} g(r) dr + p \int_0^1 g(r) dr. \tag{5}$$

Proof If x^* satisfies the fractional thermostat linear equation (4), then ${}^c\mathcal{D}^\sigma x^*(t) + g(t) = 0$ holds. By integrating the latter equation and by virtue of $1 < \sigma \leq 2$, we get

$$x^*(t) = - \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^t (t-r)^{\sigma-1} g(r) dr + m_0 + m_1 t, \tag{6}$$

in which it is necessary that we find coefficients $m_0, m_1 \in \mathbb{R}$. On the other hand, the properties of the Caputo derivative yield

$${}^c\mathcal{D}^1 x^*(t) = - \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma-1)} \int_0^t (t-r)^{\sigma-2} g(r) dr + m_1 \tag{7}$$

and

$${}^c\mathcal{D}^{\sigma-1} x^*(t) = - \int_0^t g(r) dr + m_1 \frac{t^{2-\sigma}}{\Gamma(3-\sigma)}. \tag{8}$$

Using the condition ${}^c\mathcal{D}^1x(0) = 0$ and (7), we figure out that $m_1 = 0$. Moreover, the equations (6), (8), and the condition ${}^p\mathcal{D}^{\sigma-1}x(1) + x(b) = 0$ imply that

$$-p \int_0^1 g(r) \, dr - \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^b (b-r)^{\sigma-1} g(r) \, dr + m_0 = 0,$$

and thus we reach

$$m_0 = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^b (b-r)^{\sigma-1} g(r) \, dr + p \int_0^1 g(r) \, dr.$$

At last, we substitute the obtained coefficients m_0 and m_1 into (6), and so (6) becomes

$$x^*(t) = - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} g(r) \, dr + \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} g(r) \, dr + p \int_0^1 g(r) \, dr,$$

thus, this argument is finished. □

With due attention to the above proposition, we can formulate here an equivalent structure of coupled integral equations to the investigated system of coupled BVPs for the fractional thermostat model (3) in the next proposition.

Proposition 3.2 *Let $\sigma \in (1, 2]$, $\delta \in (1, 2]$, $\sigma - 1 \in (0, 1]$, $\delta - 1 \in (0, 1]$, $b, c \in (0, 1)$, $p, q > 0$, and $K, M \in C_{\mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}}(\mathbb{I} \times \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0})$. Then an equivalent configuration of the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model*

$$\begin{cases} {}^c\mathcal{D}^\sigma x(t) + K(t, y(t)) = 0 & (t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^\delta y(t) + M(t, x(t)) = 0 & (t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^1 x(0) = 0, \quad {}^c\mathcal{D}^1 y(0) = 0, \\ {}^p\mathcal{D}^{\sigma-1} x(1) + x(b) = 0, \quad {}^q\mathcal{D}^{\delta-1} y(1) + y(c) = 0, \end{cases} \tag{9}$$

is provided by the coupled integral equations

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, y(r)) \, dr + \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, y(r)) \, dr \\ \quad + p \int_0^1 K(r, y(r)) \, dr, \\ y(t) = - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, x(r)) \, dr + \int_0^c \frac{(c-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, x(r)) \, dr \\ \quad + q \int_0^1 M(r, x(r)) \, dr, \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

for any $t \in \mathbb{I}$.

Thanks to the above proposition and for the sake of our subsequent arguments, we aim to introduce two operators $g_1 : \mathfrak{B} \rightarrow \mathfrak{B}$ and $g_2 : \mathfrak{B} \rightarrow \mathfrak{B}$ which take forms

$$\begin{aligned} (g_1 y)(t) &= - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, y(r)) \, dr + p \int_0^1 K(r, y(r)) \, dr \\ &\quad + \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, y(r)) \, dr \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 (g_2x)(t) = & - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, x(r)) \, dr + q \int_0^1 M(r, x(r)) \, dr \\
 & + \int_0^c \frac{(c-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, x(r)) \, dr.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{12}$$

So, we find the system of coupled operator equations in a format as follows:

$$\begin{cases}
 x(t) = g_1y(t), \\
 y(t) = g_2x(t).
 \end{cases}
 \tag{13}$$

Hence, on the product space, we define $g^* : \mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B} \rightarrow \mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}$ as $g^*(x, y) = (g_1y, g_2x)$. In the sequel, we deal with the fixed points of g^* . For this we exploit Banach’s and Krasnoselskii’s fixed point theorems.

Theorem 3.3 ([55]) *Let \mathcal{X} be a nonempty complete metric space and $\Psi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ a contraction mapping. Then we can find a unique point $z \in \mathcal{X}$ with $\Psi(z) = z$.*

Theorem 3.4 ([55]) *Let $\Sigma \neq \emptyset$ be a bounded, closed and convex set in a Banach space \mathcal{X} . Suppose that $g_1, g_2 : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ are two operators such that*

- (i) $g_1(x) + g_2(y) \in \Sigma, \forall x, y \in \Sigma,$
- (ii) g_1 is a contraction mapping,
- (iii) g_2 is compact and continuous.

Then there exists $z \in \Sigma$ such that $z = g_1z + g_2z$.

Now, in relation to the proofs of the main theorems, the following hypotheses are needed:

- (H1) $K, M : \mathbb{I} \times \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ are continuous, for $t \in \mathbb{I}$ and $x, \hat{x}, y, \hat{y} \in \mathbb{R}.$
- (H2) $\exists 0 < C_K \in \mathbb{R}$ which satisfies

$$|K(t, x) - K(t, \hat{x})| \leq C_K |x - \hat{x}|,$$

for $t \in \mathbb{I}$ and $x, \hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}.$

- (H3) There exists a real positive constant C_M which satisfies

$$|M(t, y) - M(t, \hat{y})| \leq C_M |y - \hat{y}|,$$

for $t \in \mathbb{I}$ and $y, \hat{y} \in \mathbb{R}.$

The following notations are used for convenience of calculations:

$$\delta_1 = p + \frac{1 + b^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma + 1)}, \quad \delta_2 = q + \frac{1 + c^\delta}{\Gamma(\delta + 1)}.$$

Now, everything is ready to start the establishment of the first main theorem.

Theorem 3.5 *Assume (H1)–(H3) along with the assumptions $C_K\delta_1 < 1$ and $C_M\delta_2 < 1$ are fulfilled. Then the considered system of coupled BVPs for the fractional thermostat model (3) admits a unique solution.*

Proof First, let us choose

$$\varrho \geq \max \left\{ \frac{\delta_1 \theta_1}{1 - C_K \delta_1}, \frac{\delta_2 \theta_2}{1 - C_M \delta_2} \right\},$$

where $\theta_1 = \max_{t \in \mathbb{I}} |K(t, 0)|$ and $\theta_2 = \max_{t \in \mathbb{I}} |M(t, 0)|$, and set

$$\mathcal{E} = \{(x, y) \in \mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B} : \|(x, y)\|_{\mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}} \leq \varrho\},$$

which is bounded, closed, and convex. Let $(x, y) \in \mathcal{E}$, then, in view of (H1) and (H2), we can write

$$\begin{aligned} |g_1 y(t)| &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^t (t-r)^{\sigma-1} |K(r, y(r))| \, dr + p \int_0^1 |K(r, y(r))| \, dr \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^b (b-r)^{\sigma-1} |K(r, y(r))| \, dr \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^t (t-r)^{\sigma-1} (|K(r, y(r)) - K(r, 0)| + |K(r, 0)|) \, dr \\ &\quad + p \int_0^1 (|K(r, y(r)) - K(r, 0)| + |K(r, 0)|) \, dr \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^b (b-r)^{\sigma-1} (|K(r, y(r)) - K(r, 0)| + |K(r, 0)|) \, dr \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^t (t-r)^{\sigma-1} (\varrho C_K + \theta_1) \, dr + p \int_0^1 (\varrho C_K + \theta_1) \, dr \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^b (b-r)^{\sigma-1} (\varrho C_K + \theta_1) \, dr \\ &\leq (\varrho C_K + \theta_1) \left(\frac{t^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma + 1)} + p + \frac{b^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma + 1)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\|g_1 y\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq (\varrho C_K + \theta_1) \left(p + \frac{1 + b^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma + 1)} \right) \leq (\varrho C_K + \theta_1) \delta_1 \leq \varrho. \tag{14}$$

In a similar way, we show that

$$|g_2 x(t)| \leq (\varrho C_M + \theta_2) \left(\frac{t^\delta}{\Gamma(\delta + 1)} + q + \frac{c^\delta}{\Gamma(\delta + 1)} \right).$$

Thus,

$$\|g_2 x\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq (\varrho C_M + \theta_2) \left(q + \frac{1 + c^\delta}{\Gamma(\delta + 1)} \right) \leq (\varrho C_M + \theta_2) \delta_2 \leq \varrho. \tag{15}$$

Hence, from (14) and (15), it follows that

$$\|g^*(x, y)\|_{\mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}} \leq \varrho.$$

Hence $g^*(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq \mathcal{E}$.

Now, we show that g^* is a contraction operator. Let $(x, y), (\widehat{x}, \widehat{y}) \in \mathcal{E}$ and $t \in \mathbb{I}$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |g_1 y(t) - g_1 \widehat{y}(t)| &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^t (t-r)^{\sigma-1} |K(r, y(r)) - K(r, \widehat{y}(r))| \, dr \\
 &\quad + p \int_0^1 |K(r, y(r)) - K(r, \widehat{y}(r))| \, dr \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^b (b-r)^{\sigma-1} |K(r, y(r)) - K(r, \widehat{y}(r))| \, dr \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^t (t-r)^{\sigma-1} C_K |y(r) - \widehat{y}(r)| \, dr \\
 &\quad + p \int_0^1 C_K |y(r) - \widehat{y}(r)| \, dr \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^b (b-r)^{\sigma-1} C_K |y(r) - \widehat{y}(r)| \, dr \\
 &\leq C_K \left(\frac{t^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma+1)} + p + \frac{b^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma+1)} \right) \|y - \widehat{y}\|_{\mathfrak{B}}. \tag{16}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then, (16) leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|g_1 y - g_1 \widehat{y}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} &\leq C_K \left(p + \frac{1 + b^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma+1)} \right) \|y - \widehat{y}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \\
 &\leq C_K \delta_1 \|y - \widehat{y}\|_{\mathfrak{B}}. \tag{17}
 \end{aligned}$$

By the same calculation techniques used to get (16), we find

$$\|g_2 x - g_2 \widehat{x}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq C_M \delta_2 \|x - \widehat{x}\|_{\mathfrak{B}}. \tag{18}$$

Now, by exploiting (17) and (18), together with the assumptions $C_K \delta_1 < 1$ and $C_M \delta_2 < 1$, we arrive at

$$\|g^*(x, y) - g^*(\widehat{x}, \widehat{y})\|_{\mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}} \leq \|(x, y) - (\widehat{x}, \widehat{y})\|_{\mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}}.$$

Hence, g^* is a contraction operator. Then, from Theorem 3.3, our system of coupled BVPs for the fractional thermostat model (3) admits a unique solution, and this ends the proof. \square

To follow the required arguments, we define four new operators as follows:

$$\begin{cases}
 \widehat{\Phi}_1 y(t) = - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, y(r)) \, dr, \\
 \widehat{\Psi}_1 y(t) = \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, y(r)) \, dr + p \int_0^1 K(r, y(r)) \, dr, \\
 \widehat{\Phi}_2 x(t) = - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, x(r)) \, dr, \\
 \widehat{\Psi}_2 x(t) = \int_0^c \frac{(c-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, x(r)) \, dr + q \int_0^1 M(r, x(r)) \, dr.
 \end{cases} \tag{19}$$

From the system (19), it follows that $g_1 = \widehat{\Phi}_1 + \widehat{\Psi}_1$ and $g_2 = \widehat{\Phi}_2 + \widehat{\Psi}_2$, therefore the operator g^* can be rewritten as $g^* = \widehat{\Phi} + \widehat{\Psi}$, in which $\widehat{\Phi}$ and $\widehat{\Psi}$ are expressed as follows:

$$\widehat{\Phi}(x, y) = (\widehat{\Phi}_1 y, \widehat{\Phi}_2 x) \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{\Psi}(x, y) = (\widehat{\Psi}_1 y, \widehat{\Psi}_2 x).$$

In addition, we suppose that the following hypothesis holds:

(H4) There are four real positive constants $\Upsilon_K, \Upsilon_M, \Omega_K, \Omega_M$ that satisfy

$$|K(t, y(t))| \leq \Upsilon_K \|y\|_{\mathfrak{B}} + \Omega_K \quad \text{and} \quad |M(t, x(t))| \leq \Upsilon_M \|x\|_{\mathfrak{B}} + \Omega_M,$$

for each $t \in \mathbb{I}$ and any $x, y \in \mathfrak{B}$.

Theorem 3.6 *Let the hypotheses (H1)–(H4) be satisfied. If, in addition, the conditions*

$$\frac{C_K(p\sigma + b^\sigma)}{\Gamma(\sigma + 1)} < 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{C_M(q\delta + c^\delta)}{\Gamma(\delta + 1)} < 1 \tag{20}$$

hold, then the considered system of coupled BVPs for the fractional thermostat model (3) admits a solution.

Proof Since K and M are continuous functions, then we have the same for the operator g^* . Let \mathbb{D} be a bounded subset of $\mathfrak{E} \in \mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}$. Then, based on the hypothesis (H4), we have, for all $(x, y) \in \mathbb{D}$,

$$\begin{aligned} |\widehat{\Phi}_1 y(t)| &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^t (t-r)^{\sigma-1} |K(r, y(r))| \, dr \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^t (t-r)^{\sigma-1} (\Upsilon_K \|y\|_{\mathfrak{B}} + \Omega_K) \, dr, \end{aligned}$$

which leads to

$$\|\widehat{\Phi}_1 y\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq \frac{\Upsilon_K \|y\|_{\mathfrak{B}} + \Omega_K}{\Gamma(\sigma + 1)}. \tag{21}$$

A similar argument gives us

$$\|\widehat{\Phi}_2 x\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq \frac{\Upsilon_M \|x\|_{\mathfrak{B}} + \Omega_M}{\Gamma(\delta + 1)}. \tag{22}$$

In view of (21) and (22), the boundedness of $\widehat{\Phi}(\mathbb{D})$ is ensured.

Now, we show that $\widehat{\Phi}$ is an equicontinuous operator. For this, let $\tau_1, \tau_2 \in \mathbb{I}$, where $\tau_1 < \tau_2$ and $(x, y) \in \mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} &|\widehat{\Phi}_1 y(\tau_1) - \widehat{\Phi}_1 y(\tau_2)| \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \left| - \int_0^{\tau_1} (\tau_1 - r)^{\sigma-1} K(r, y(r)) \, dr + \int_0^{\tau_2} (\tau_2 - r)^{\sigma-1} K(r, y(r)) \, dr \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \left[\int_0^{\tau_1} ((\tau_2 - r)^{\sigma-1} - (\tau_1 - r)^{\sigma-1}) |K(r, y(r))| \, dr \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \int_{\tau_1}^{\tau_2} (\tau_2 - r)^{\sigma-1} |K(r, y(r))| \, dr \Big] \\
 & \leq \frac{\Upsilon_K \|y\|_{\mathfrak{B}} + \Omega_K}{\Gamma(\sigma + 1)} (\tau_2^\sigma - \tau_1^\sigma). \tag{23}
 \end{aligned}$$

By the same arguments used to get (23), one can find the following result:

$$|\widehat{\Phi}_2 x(\tau_1) - \widehat{\Phi}_2 x(\tau_2)| \leq \frac{\Upsilon_M \|x\|_{\mathfrak{B}} + \Omega_M}{\Gamma(\delta + 1)} (\tau_2^\delta - \tau_1^\delta). \tag{24}$$

The inequalities (23) and (24) imply that $|\widehat{\Phi}_1 y(\tau_1) - \widehat{\Phi}_1 y(\tau_2)| \rightarrow 0$ and $|\widehat{\Phi}_2 x(\tau_1) - \widehat{\Phi}_2 x(\tau_2)| \rightarrow 0$, when $\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2$. Then, by using the Arzela–Ascoli theorem, we conclude that the operator $\widehat{\Phi}$ is continuous and compact.

Now, to complete checking the hypotheses of Theorem 3.4, it remains to show that $\widehat{\Psi}$ is a contraction operator. So, if we take $(y, \widehat{y}) \in \mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\widehat{\Psi}_1 y(t) - \widehat{\Psi}_1 \widehat{y}(t)| & \leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \int_0^b (b - r)^{\sigma-1} |K(r, y(r)) - K(r, \widehat{y}(r))| \, dr \\
 & \quad + p \int_0^1 |K(r, y(r)) - K(r, \widehat{y}(r))| \, dr \\
 & \leq \frac{C_K |y - \widehat{y}| (p\sigma + b^\sigma)}{\Gamma(\sigma + 1)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\|\widehat{\Psi}_1 y - \widehat{\Psi}_1 \widehat{y}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq \frac{C_K (p\sigma + b^\sigma)}{\Gamma(\sigma + 1)} \|y - \widehat{y}\|_{\mathfrak{B}}. \tag{25}$$

With the same calculation method, we arrive at the following estimate:

$$\|\widehat{\Psi}_2 x - \widehat{\Psi}_2 \widehat{x}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq \frac{C_M (q\delta + b^\delta)}{\Gamma(\delta + 1)} \|x - \widehat{x}\|_{\mathfrak{B}}. \tag{26}$$

Hence, from (25) and (26), together with the assumption (20), we have that $\widehat{\Psi}$ is a contraction operator. Now, all the assumptions of Theorem 3.4 are fulfilled. So, this ensures that g^* admits at least one fixed point which is also a solution of the considered system of coupled BVPs for the fractional thermostat model (3). □

4 Results for Hyers–Ulam stability

Fractional differential equations have been extensively studied from different angles. Among these, stability analysis in the Hyers–Ulam sense is an important aspect that gained proper attention from researchers [56–58]. Based on the fundamental definition of Hyers–Ulam stability of a system, the notion was later modified to more general types, and their results were successfully applied to various problems [59–61]. In this section, we will adopt a number of sufficient conditions to review the Hyers–Ulam-type stability results for the considered system of coupled BVPs for the fractional thermostat model (3).

Definition 4.1 ([57, 58]) Let $g^* : \mathfrak{B} \rightarrow \mathfrak{B}$ be an operator, where \mathfrak{B} is a Banach space. We say that the operator equation

$$g^*y = y \tag{27}$$

is Hyers–Ulam stable if for the given inequality ($\forall t \in \mathbb{I}$)

$$|y(t) - g^*y(t)| \leq \epsilon,$$

$\exists \omega_{g^*} > 0$ so that for any $y \in C(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{R})$ satisfying equation (27), one can find the solution $\widehat{h} \in C(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{R})$ of (27) uniquely, provided that $\forall t \in \mathbb{I}$,

$$|y(t) - \widehat{h}(t)| \leq \omega_{g^*}\epsilon.$$

Definition 4.2 ([57, 58]) Let us consider two operators $g_j : \mathfrak{B} \rightarrow \mathfrak{B}, j \in \{1, 2\}$. Based on Definition 4.1, we say that the coupled system

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = g_1y(t), \\ y(t) = g_2x(t), \end{cases} \tag{28}$$

is Hyers–Ulam-stable if for the following systems of inequalities:

$$\begin{cases} |x(t) - g_1y(t)| \leq \epsilon_1, & t \in \mathbb{I}, \\ |y(t) - g_2x(t)| \leq \epsilon_2, & t \in \mathbb{I}, \end{cases} \tag{29}$$

one can find two positive constants $\omega_{g_1}, \omega_{g_2}$ so that for each (x, y) satisfying (28), a solution $(\widehat{h}, \widetilde{h})$ of above system (28) exists uniquely, provided that $\forall t \in \mathbb{I}$,

$$\begin{cases} |x(t) - \widehat{h}(t)| \leq \omega_{g_1}\epsilon_1, \\ |y(t) - \widetilde{h}(t)| \leq \omega_{g_2}\epsilon_2. \end{cases}$$

For establishing the formal theorems on the Hyers–Ulam stability for the considered system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (3), we indicate the following conditions first.

Remark 4.3 Suppose that $\exists \varphi, \chi \in C(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{R})$ which depend on x and y , respectively, and satisfy

$$(1) \quad |\varphi(t)| \leq \epsilon_1, \quad |\chi(t)| \leq \epsilon_2, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{I},$$

and

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} {}^c\mathcal{D}^\sigma x(t) + K(t, y(t)) + \varphi(t) = 0, \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^\delta y(t) + M(t, x(t)) + \chi(t) = 0, \end{cases}$$

$\forall t \in \mathbb{I}$.

Lemma 4.4 Assume that $(x, y) \in (C(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{R}))^2$ is a solution of the inequality system (29). Then we have the following system of inequalities:

$$\begin{cases} |x(t) - g_1 y(t)| \leq \eta_1 \epsilon_1, & t \in \mathbb{I}, \\ |y(t) - g_2 x(t)| \leq \eta_2 \epsilon_2, & t \in \mathbb{I}, \end{cases}$$

where $\eta_1 = \frac{1+b^\sigma+p\Gamma(\sigma+1)}{\Gamma(\sigma+1)}$, $\eta_2 = \frac{1+c^\delta+q\Gamma(\delta+1)}{\Gamma(\delta+1)}$, and g_1, g_2 are the operators defined by (11) and (12), respectively.

Proof In accordance with (2) in Remark 4.3, we have $\forall t \in \mathbb{I}$,

$$\begin{cases} {}^c\mathcal{D}^\sigma x(t) + K(t, y(t)) + \varphi(t) = 0, \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^\delta y(t) + M(t, x(t)) + \chi(t) = 0, \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^1 x(0) = 0, \quad {}^c\mathcal{D}^1 y(0) = 0, \\ p {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\sigma-1} x(1) + x(b) = 0, \quad q {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\delta-1} y(1) + y(c) = 0. \end{cases} \tag{30}$$

Thanks to the Proposition 3.2, the solution of problem (30) can be reformulated immediately as

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, y(r)) \, dr + \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, y(r)) \, dr \\ \quad + p \int_0^1 K(r, y(r)) \, dr - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \varphi(r) \, dr \\ \quad + \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \varphi(r) \, dr + p \int_0^1 \varphi(r) \, dr, \\ y(t) = - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, x(r)) \, dr + \int_0^c \frac{(c-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, x(r)) \, dr \\ \quad + q \int_0^1 M(r, x(r)) \, dr - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} \chi(r) \, dr \\ \quad + \int_0^c \frac{(c-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} \chi(r) \, dr + q \int_0^1 \chi(r) \, dr. \end{cases} \tag{31}$$

Since $t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]$, from (31) we have, on the one hand,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| x(t) - \left[- \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, y(r)) \, dr + \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, y(r)) \, dr \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + p \int_0^1 K(r, y(r)) \, dr \right] \right| \\ &= \left| - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \varphi(r) \, dr + \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} \varphi(r) \, dr + p \int_0^1 \varphi(r) \, dr \right| \\ &\leq \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} |\varphi(r)| \, dr + \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} |\varphi(r)| \, dr + p \int_0^1 |\varphi(r)| \, dr \\ &\leq \left(\frac{t^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma+1)} + \frac{b^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma+1)} + p \right) \epsilon_1 \\ &\leq \frac{1+b^\sigma+p\Gamma(\sigma+1)}{\Gamma(\sigma+1)} \epsilon_1 = \eta_1 \epsilon_1, \quad t \in \mathbb{I}, \end{aligned}$$

which means that

$$|x(t) - g_1 y(t)| \leq \eta_1 \epsilon_1, \quad t \in \mathbb{I}.$$

On the other hand, with the same arguments, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| y(t) - \left[- \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, x(r)) \, dr + \int_0^c \frac{(c-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, x(r)) \, dr \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + q \int_0^1 M(r, x(r)) \, dr \right] \right| \\ & \leq \frac{1 + c^\delta + q\Gamma(\delta + 1)}{\Gamma(\delta + 1)} \epsilon_2 = \eta_2 \epsilon_2, \quad t \in \mathbb{I}, \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$|y(t) - g_2 x(t)| \leq \eta_2 \epsilon_2, \quad t \in \mathbb{I},$$

and this concludes the proof. □

Theorem 4.5 *Assume that the hypotheses (H2), (H3) hold. If*

$$\max \left\{ \frac{\eta_1 \epsilon_1 + \delta_1 C_K \eta_2 \epsilon_2}{1 - \delta_1 \delta_2 C_K C_M}, \frac{\eta_2 \epsilon_2 + \delta_2 C_M \eta_1 \epsilon_1}{1 - \delta_1 \delta_2 C_K C_M} \right\} < 1,$$

where $\delta_1 \delta_2 C_K C_M < 1$, then the solution of the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (9) is Hyers–Ulam-stable.

Proof Taking any solution $(x, y) \in (C(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{R}))^2$ of the system of inequalities defined by

$$\begin{cases} |{}^c \mathcal{D}^\sigma x(t) + K(t, y(t))| \leq \epsilon_1, & t \in \mathbb{I}, \\ |{}^c \mathcal{D}^\delta y(t) + M(t, x(t))| \leq \epsilon_2, & t \in \mathbb{I}, \end{cases}$$

and the unique solution $(\widehat{h}, \widetilde{h})$ belonging to $(C(\mathbb{I}, \mathbb{R}))^2$ of the following system:

$$\begin{cases} {}^c \mathcal{D}^\sigma \widehat{h}(t) + K(t, \widetilde{h}(t)) = 0, & t \in \mathbb{I}, \\ {}^c \mathcal{D}^\delta \widetilde{h}(t) + M(t, \widehat{h}(t)) = 0, & t \in \mathbb{I}, \\ {}^c \mathcal{D}^1 \widehat{h}(0) = 0, \quad {}^c \mathcal{D}^1 \widetilde{h}(0) = 0, \\ p {}^c \mathcal{D}^{\sigma-1} \widehat{h}(1) + \widehat{h}(b) = 0, \quad q {}^c \mathcal{D}^{\delta-1} \widetilde{h}(1) + \widetilde{h}(c) = 0, \end{cases} \tag{32}$$

and from Proposition 3.2, together with (10), the solution of (32) can be represented by

$$\begin{cases} \widehat{h}(t) = - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, \widetilde{h}(r)) \, dr + \int_0^b \frac{(b-r)^{\sigma-1}}{\Gamma(\sigma)} K(r, \widetilde{h}(r)) \, dr \\ \quad + p \int_0^1 K(r, \widetilde{h}(r)) \, dr = g_1 \widetilde{h}(t), \\ \widetilde{h}(t) = - \int_0^t \frac{(t-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, \widehat{h}(r)) \, dr + \int_0^c \frac{(c-r)^{\delta-1}}{\Gamma(\delta)} M(r, \widehat{h}(r)) \, dr \\ \quad + q \int_0^1 M(r, \widehat{h}(r)) \, dr = g_2 \widehat{h}(t). \end{cases} \tag{33}$$

In view of (33), we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
 |x(t) - \widehat{h}(t)| &= |x(t) - g_1 \widetilde{h}(t)| \\
 &= |x(t) - g_1 y(t) + g_1 y(t) - g_1 \widetilde{h}(t)| \\
 &\leq |x(t) - g_1 y(t)| + |g_1 y(t) - g_1 \widetilde{h}(t)|.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{34}$$

Exploiting Lemma 4.4, with some computations, we obtain

$$\|x - \widehat{h}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq \eta_1 \epsilon_1 + \delta_1 C_K \|y - \widetilde{h}\|_{\mathfrak{B}}.
 \tag{35}$$

With the same calculation, we get

$$\|y - \widetilde{h}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq \eta_2 \epsilon_2 + \delta_2 C_M \|x - \widehat{h}\|_{\mathfrak{B}}.
 \tag{36}$$

So

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\delta_1 C_K \\ -\delta_2 C_M & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \|x - \widehat{h}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \\ \|y - \widetilde{h}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \end{bmatrix} \leq \begin{bmatrix} \eta_1 \epsilon_1 \\ \eta_2 \epsilon_2 \end{bmatrix}.
 \tag{37}$$

Since $\delta_1 \delta_2 C_K C_M < 1$, from (35), (36), and (37), we get, after simple computations, the following estimates:

$$\begin{cases} \|x - \widehat{h}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq \frac{\eta_1 \epsilon_1 + \delta_1 C_K \eta_2 \epsilon_2}{1 - \delta_1 \delta_2 C_K C_M}, \\ \|y - \widetilde{h}\|_{\mathfrak{B}} \leq \frac{\eta_2 \epsilon_2 + \delta_2 C_M \eta_1 \epsilon_1}{1 - \delta_1 \delta_2 C_K C_M}, \end{cases}$$

which give

$$\|(x, y) - (\widehat{h}, \widetilde{h})\|_{\mathfrak{B} \times \mathfrak{B}} \leq \max \left\{ \frac{\eta_1 \epsilon_1 + \delta_1 C_K \eta_2 \epsilon_2}{1 - \delta_1 \delta_2 C_K C_M}, \frac{\eta_2 \epsilon_2 + \delta_2 C_M \eta_1 \epsilon_1}{1 - \delta_1 \delta_2 C_K C_M} \right\}.$$

Hence the solution of the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (9) is Hyers–Ulam-stable. □

5 GDT-method for approximation of solutions

In many situations, the explicit solution of boundary problems for classical nonlinear differential equations is difficult and sometimes impossible. Then, it would be quite difficult or impossible to find the exact solutions of FBVPs with FDEqs. Therefore, it has become necessary to think about new methods to solve such problems. In this work we are interested in a numerical method, called the differential transform method, which was presented by Zhou in [62], which was extended to its generalized form by Odibat and Momani in [63] and named the GDT-method. It is an iterative method which gives us analytical solutions in the form of the Taylor series expansion to fractional differential equations with boundary or initial conditions. Now, we will apply the GDT-method to find an approximate solution to our system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (3). Note that this technique is based on the generalized Taylor’s formula. The GDT of the s th

derivative of two given functions $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ of one variable is defined by (see [64])

$$\begin{cases} x^*(s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\varrho s + 1)} [({}^c\mathcal{D}^\varrho)^s x(t)]_{t=0}, \\ y^*(s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\varrho s + 1)} [({}^c\mathcal{D}^\varrho)^s y(t)]_{t=0}, \end{cases} \tag{38}$$

where $({}^c\mathcal{D}^\varrho)^s = \underbrace{{}^c\mathcal{D}^\varrho \cdot {}^c\mathcal{D}^\varrho \dots {}^c\mathcal{D}^\varrho}_{s\text{-times}}$; and their inverses are defined as

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = \sum_{s=0}^\infty x^*(s) t^{s\varrho}, \\ y(t) = \sum_{s=0}^\infty y^*(s) t^{s\varrho}. \end{cases}$$

Then the approximate solution of our problem (3) is written as finite series of the analytical polynomial forms,

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = \sum_{s=0}^N x^*(s) t^{s\varrho}, \\ y(t) = \sum_{s=0}^N y^*(s) t^{s\varrho}, \end{cases} \tag{39}$$

where ϱ is named the order of the differential transformation and must be taken such that $l\varrho = 1$, $m\varrho = \sigma$, and $n\varrho = \delta$ with $l, m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, and $x^*(s)$, $y^*(s)$ are the GDT of $x(t)$ and $y(t)$, respectively, expressed by

$$\begin{cases} x^*(s + m) = \frac{\Gamma((s+m)\varrho - \sigma + 1)}{\Gamma((s+m)\varrho + 1)} K^*(s, y^*(s)), \\ y^*(s + n) = \frac{\Gamma((s+n)\varrho - \delta + 1)}{\Gamma((s+n)\varrho + 1)} M^*(s, x^*(s)), \end{cases} \tag{40}$$

where $K^*(s, y^*(s))$ and $M^*(s, x^*(s))$ denote the ϱ th-order differential transformations of $K(s, y(s))$ and $M(s, x(s))$, respectively.

Since ${}^c\mathcal{D}^1 x(0) = 0$ and ${}^c\mathcal{D}^1 y(0) = 0$, their differential transforms give $x^*(l) = 0$, $y^*(l) = 0$, and $x^*(s) = 0$, for all s that satisfy $0 < s\varrho < 1$ or $l < s < m$, and also $y^*(s) = 0$, for all s that satisfy $0 < s\varrho < 1$ or $l < s < n$, and finally, $x^*(0) = \widehat{c}$, $y^*(0) = \widetilde{c}$, where \widehat{c} and \widetilde{c} are two undetermined real constants which can be evaluated using the second initial condition of problem (3).

Thanks to the recursive relationship (40), the solution $(x(t), y(t))$ of the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (3) can be written as the following finite series:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = \sum_{s=0}^N x_{\widehat{c}, \widetilde{c}}^*(s) t^{s\varrho}, \\ y(t) = \sum_{s=0}^N y_{\widehat{c}, \widetilde{c}}^*(s) t^{s\varrho}, \end{cases} \tag{41}$$

where $x_{\widehat{c}, \widetilde{c}}^*(s)$, $y_{\widehat{c}, \widetilde{c}}^*(s)$ are coefficients depending on \widehat{c} and \widetilde{c} which can be determined using the second initial condition of problem (3).

From (41), we can write

$$\begin{cases} x(b) = \sum_{s=0}^N x_{\widehat{c}, \widetilde{c}}^*(s) b^{s\varrho}, \\ y(c) = \sum_{s=0}^N y_{\widehat{c}, \widetilde{c}}^*(s) c^{s\varrho}, \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\sigma-1} x(1) = \frac{\varrho}{\Gamma(2-\sigma)} \sum_{s=0}^N s x_{\widehat{c}, \widetilde{c}}^*(s) \int_0^1 (1-\lambda)^{1-\sigma} \lambda^{\varrho s-1} d\lambda, \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\delta-1} y(1) = \frac{\varrho}{\Gamma(2-\delta)} \sum_{s=0}^N s y_{\widehat{c}, \widetilde{c}}^*(s) \int_0^1 (1-\lambda)^{1-\delta} \lambda^{\varrho s-1} d\lambda. \end{cases} \tag{42}$$

Therefore (42) gives us the following system of equations:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{p\varrho}{\Gamma(2-\sigma)} \sum_{s=0}^N s x_{\widehat{c},\widetilde{c}}^*(s) \int_0^1 (1-\lambda)^{1-\sigma} \lambda^{\varrho s-1} d\lambda + \sum_{s=0}^N x_{\widehat{c},\widetilde{c}}^*(s) b^{s\varrho} = 0, \\ \frac{q\varrho}{\Gamma(2-\delta)} \sum_{s=0}^N s y_{\widehat{c},\widetilde{c}}^*(s) \int_0^1 (1-\lambda)^{1-\delta} \lambda^{\varrho s-1} d\lambda + \sum_{s=0}^N y_{\widehat{c},\widetilde{c}}^*(s) c^{s\varrho} = 0. \end{cases} \tag{43}$$

Now, we solve (43) with respect to \widehat{c} and \widetilde{c} and replace their values in (41), and ultimately we find our desired approximate solution of the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (3).

6 Some simulative examples

Example 6.1 Consider the following system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model:

$$\begin{cases} {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\frac{5}{4}}x(t) + \frac{2|y(t)|}{(5+t)^2(1+e^t|y(t)|)} = 0 & (t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\frac{3}{2}}y(t) + \frac{e^{-t}|x(t)|}{\pi^2+|x(t)|} = 0 & (t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^1x(0) = 0, \quad {}^c\mathcal{D}^1y(0) = 0, \\ 10^c\mathcal{D}^{\frac{1}{4}}x(1) + x(b) = 0, \quad 8^c\mathcal{D}^{\frac{1}{2}}y(1) + y(c) = 0. \end{cases} \tag{44}$$

In this example, we have $\sigma = \frac{5}{4}, \delta = \frac{3}{2}, p = 10, q = 8$, and

$$K(t, y(t)) = \frac{2|y(t)|}{(5+t)^2(1+e^t|y(t)|)}, \quad M(t, x(t)) = \frac{e^{-t}|x(t)|}{\pi^2+|x(t)|}.$$

Then,

$$|K(t, y) - K(t, \widehat{y})| \leq \frac{2}{25} |y - \widehat{y}|, \quad |M(t, x) - M(t, \widehat{x})| \leq \frac{1}{\pi^2} |x - \widehat{x}|.$$

So, $C_K = \frac{2}{25}$ and $C_M = \frac{1}{\pi^2}$. We have also

$$C_K\delta_1 = \frac{2}{25} \left(p + \frac{1+b^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma+1)} \right) = \frac{2}{25} \left(10 + \frac{1+b^{\frac{5}{4}}}{\Gamma(\frac{9}{4})} \right),$$

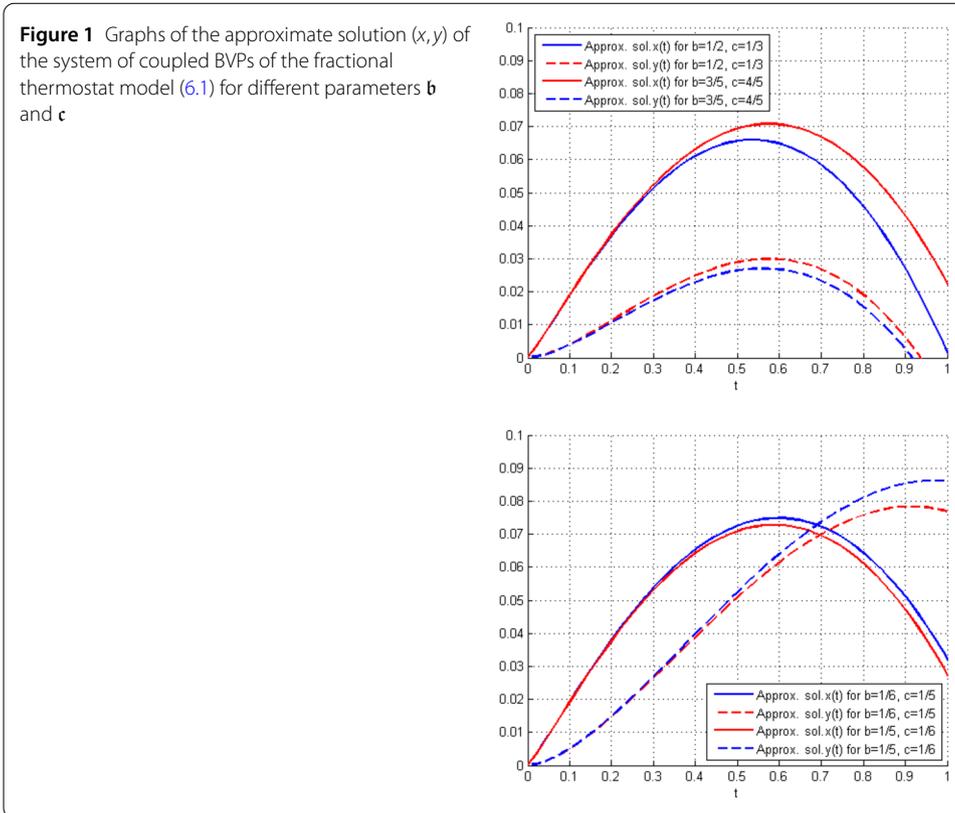
$$C_M\delta_2 = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \left(q + \frac{1+c^\delta}{\Gamma(\delta+1)} \right) = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \left(8 + \frac{1+c^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{5}{2})} \right).$$

It is simple to check that for all $0 < b, c < 1$, we have $C_K\delta_1 < 1$ and $C_M\delta_2 < 1$. Now, all the assumptions of Theorem 3.5 are fulfilled. Consequently, the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.1) admits a unique solution.

Now, we are looking for an approximate solution to the problem (6.1) by GDT-method. For this, we choose $\varrho = \frac{1}{4}$, which gives immediately $n = 6, m = 5$, and $l = 4$.

By applying the recursive relation (40) to the given FBVP (6.1), we arrive at

$$\begin{cases} x^*(s+5) = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{5}{4}+1)}{\Gamma(\frac{5}{4}+\frac{9}{4})} K^*(s, y^*(s)), \\ y^*(s+6) = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2}+1)}{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2}+\frac{5}{2})} M^*(s, x^*(s)). \end{cases} \tag{45}$$



Then we get the following initial conditions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x^*(0) &= \widehat{c}, & x^*(1) &= 0, & x^*(2) &= 0, & x^*(3) &= 0, & x^*(4) &= 0, \\
 y^*(0) &= \widetilde{c}, & y^*(1) &= 0, & y^*(2) &= 0, & y^*(3) &= 0, & y^*(4) &= 0, \\
 y^*(5) &= 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

In view of (43), we find

$$\begin{cases}
 \frac{5}{2\Gamma(0.75)} \sum_{s=0}^N s x_{c,\widehat{c}}^*(s) \int_0^1 (1-\lambda)^{\frac{1}{4}} \lambda^{\frac{s}{4}-1} d\lambda + \sum_{s=0}^N x_{c,\widehat{c}}^*(s) b^{\frac{s}{4}} = 0, \\
 \frac{2}{\Gamma(0.5)} \sum_{s=0}^N s y_{c,\widetilde{c}}^*(s) \int_0^1 (1-\lambda)^{\frac{1}{2}} \lambda^{\frac{s}{4}-1} d\lambda + \sum_{s=0}^N y_{c,\widetilde{c}}^*(s) c^{\frac{s}{4}} = 0.
 \end{cases} \tag{46}$$

Now we will calculate various approximate solutions of our system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.1) by changing the values of parameters b and c . In this case, one can see the obtained approximate solutions in Fig. 1 graphically.

First case: $b = \frac{1}{2}, c = \frac{1}{3}$.

By using the recursive algorithm (45) truncated at $s = 10$ and after calculating constants \widehat{c} and \widetilde{c} from (46), we obtain the approximate solution $(x(t), y(t))$ for the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.1) such that

$$\begin{cases}
 x(t) = 0.8826t^{1.25} - 0.8629t^{1.5} + 0.5510t^{1.75} - 0.5404t^2 \\
 \quad + 0.1207t^{2.25} - 0.1486t^{2.5}, \\
 y(t) = 0.5510t^{1.75} - 0.4540t^2 + 0.3929t^{2.25} - 0.4058t^{2.5}.
 \end{cases} \tag{47}$$

Second case: $b = \frac{3}{5}, c = \frac{4}{5}$.

The approximate solution $(x(t), y(t))$ for the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.1) is given by

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 0.8826t^{1.25} - 0.8627t^{1.5} + 0.5510t^{1.75} - 0.5407t^2 \\ \quad + 0.1207t^{2.25} - 0.1188t^{2.5}, \\ y(t) = 0.5510t^{1.75} - 0.4581t^2 + 0.3929t^{2.25} - 0.3756t^{2.5}. \end{cases} \tag{48}$$

Third case: $b = \frac{1}{6}, c = \frac{1}{5}$.

The approximate solution $(x(t), y(t))$ for the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.1) is given by

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 0.8826t^{1.25} - 0.8527t^{1.5} + 0.5510t^{1.75} - 0.5375t^2 \\ \quad + 0.1207t^{2.25} - 0.1181t^{2.5}, \\ y(t) = 0.5510t^{1.75} - 0.4527t^2 + 0.3929t^{2.25} - 0.3951t^{2.5}. \end{cases} \tag{49}$$

Fourth case: $b = \frac{1}{5}, c = \frac{1}{6}$.

The approximate solution $(x(t), y(t))$ for the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.1) is given by

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 0.8826t^{1.25} - 0.8589t^{1.5} + 0.5510t^{1.75} - 0.5378t^2 \\ \quad + 0.1207t^{2.25} - 0.1182t^{2.5}, \\ y(t) = 0.5510t^{1.75} - 0.4524t^2 + 0.3929t^{2.25} - 0.3840t^{2.5}. \end{cases} \tag{50}$$

Remark 6.2 Note that $(0, 0)$ is the unique solution of the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.1). On the other hand, we can show that the approximate solution (x, y) obtained in (47) by the GDT-method for all $t \in (0, 1)$ satisfies the hypotheses of Theorem 4.5. Therefore (x, y) is Hyers–Ulam stable. We have the same results for (x, y) obtained in (48), (49), and (50).

Example 6.3 Consider the following system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model:

$$\begin{cases} {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\frac{5}{4}}x(t) + \frac{|y(t)|}{|y(t)| + 5e^{-t}} = 0 \quad (t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\frac{5}{4}}y(t) + \frac{|x(t)|}{\pi^2(3 + 3|x(t)|)} = 0 \quad (t \in \mathbb{I} := [0, 1]), \\ {}^c\mathcal{D}^1x(0) = 0, \quad {}^c\mathcal{D}^1y(0) = 0, \\ 15{}^c\mathcal{D}^{\frac{1}{4}}x(1) + x(b) = 0, \quad 20{}^c\mathcal{D}^{\frac{1}{4}}y(1) + y(c) = 0. \end{cases} \tag{51}$$

In the present example, we have $\sigma = \delta = \frac{5}{4}, p = 15, q = 20$, and

$$K(t, y(t)) = \frac{|y(t)|}{|y(t)| + 5e^{-t}}, \quad M(t, x(t)) = \frac{|x(t)|}{\pi^2(3 + 3|x(t)|)}.$$

Then, $C_K = \frac{1}{20}$, and $C_M = \frac{1}{3\pi^2}$. We have also

$$C_{K\delta_1} = \frac{1}{20} \left(p + \frac{1 + b^\sigma}{\Gamma(\sigma + 1)} \right) = \frac{1}{20} \left(15 + \frac{1 + b^{\frac{5}{4}}}{\Gamma(\frac{9}{4})} \right) < 1, \quad \text{for all } b \in (0, 1),$$

and

$$C_{M\delta_2} = \frac{1}{3\pi^2} \left(q + \frac{1 + c^\delta}{\Gamma(\delta + 1)} \right) = \frac{1}{3\pi^2} \left(20 + \frac{1 + c^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{5}{2})} \right) < 1, \quad \text{for all } c \in (0, 1).$$

Therefore, Theorem 3.5 ensured that the system of coupled BVPs (6.3) has a unique solution. By the same arguments used in Example 6.1, we find the approximate solutions (x, y) of the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.3) by the GDT-method as follows:

First case: $b = \frac{1}{3}, c = \frac{1}{4}$.

The approximate solution $(x(t), y(t))$ for the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.3) is given by

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 0.2900t^{1.25} - 0.2832t^{1.5} + 0.1082t^{1.75} - 0.2655t^2 \\ \quad + 0.0400t^{2.25} - 0.0392t^{2.5}, \\ y(t) = 0.6526t^{1.25} - 0.6362t^{1.5} + 0.2758t^{1.75} - 0.2374t^2 \\ \quad + 0.0900t^{2.25} - 0.0880t^{2.5}. \end{cases} \tag{52}$$

Second case: $b = \frac{1}{4}, c = \frac{1}{3}$.

The approximate solution $(x(t), y(t))$ for the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.3) is given by

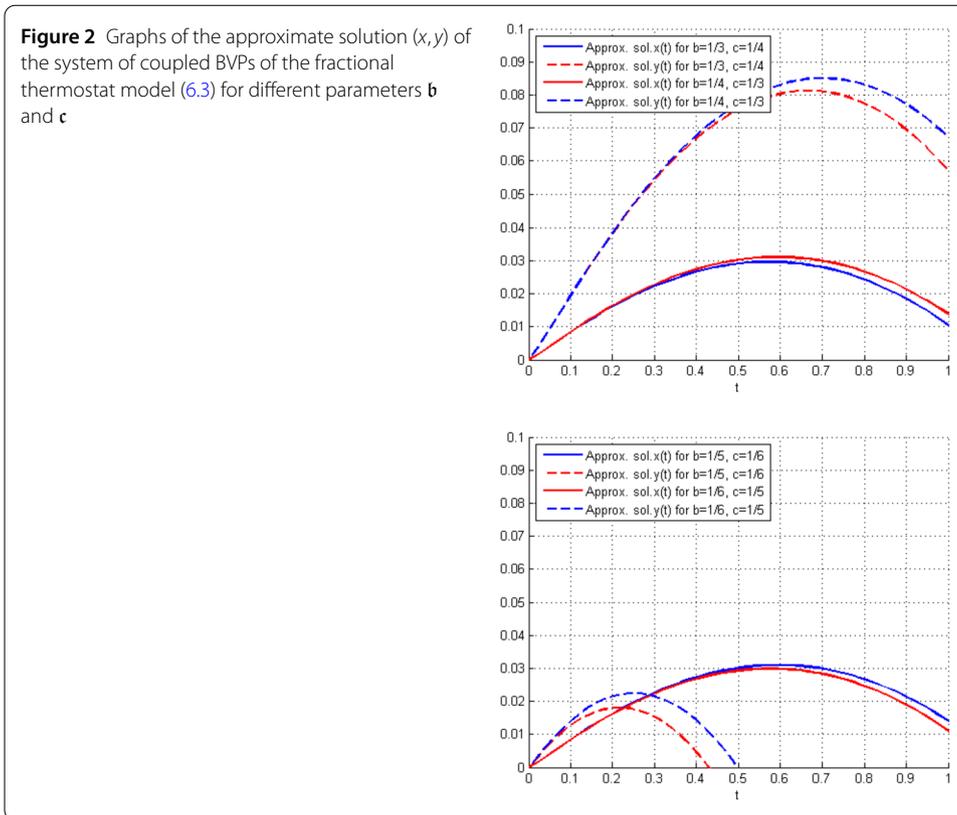
$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 0.2900t^{1.25} - 0.2802t^{1.5} + 0.1082t^{1.75} - 0.1054t^2 \\ \quad + 0.0400t^{2.25} - 0.0388t^{2.5}, \\ y(t) = 0.6526t^{1.25} - 0.6368t^{1.5} + 0.2758t^{1.75} - 0.2372t^2 \\ \quad + 0.0900t^{2.25} - 0.0773t^{2.5}. \end{cases} \tag{53}$$

Third case: $b = \frac{1}{5}, c = \frac{1}{6}$.

The approximate solution $(x(t), y(t))$ for the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.3) is given by

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 0.2900t^{1.25} - 0.2820t^{1.5} + 0.1082t^{1.75} - 0.1030t^2 \\ \quad + 0.0400t^{2.25} - 0.0391t^{2.5}, \\ y(t) = 0.6526t^{1.25} - 0.7591t^{1.5} + 0.1217t^{1.75} - 0.2370t^2 \\ \quad + 0.0900t^{2.25} - 0.0880t^{2.5}. \end{cases} \tag{54}$$

Fourth case: $b = \frac{1}{6}, c = \frac{1}{5}$.



The approximate solution $(x(t), y(t))$ for the system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (6.3) is given by

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 0.2900t^{1.25} - 0.2828t^{1.5} + 0.1082t^{1.75} - 0.1053t^2 \\ \quad + 0.0400t^{2.25} - 0.0391t^{2.5}, \\ y(t) = 0.6526t^{1.25} - 0.7197t^{1.5} + 0.1217t^{1.75} - 0.2370t^2 \\ \quad + 0.0900t^{2.25} - 0.0915t^{2.5}. \end{cases} \tag{55}$$

By changing the values of parameters b and c as above, one can see the obtained approximate solutions in Fig. 2 graphically.

Remark 6.4 Now we simulate schemes for some different values of parameters b and c and calculate the absolute difference in the boundary conditions to test the correctness of results using the following expressions:

$$E_x = \left| {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\sigma-1}x(1) - \left(-\frac{1}{p}x(b)\right) \right|, \quad E_y = \left| {}^c\mathcal{D}^{\delta-1}y(1) - \left(-\frac{1}{q}y(c)\right) \right|.$$

In this case, the absolute difference in the boundary conditions for different choices of b and c and different scale level ε are presented in Tables 1–4.

Table 1 Absolute error in boundary conditions of $x(t)$ of Example 6.1 for different values of parameters b and c

Parameter values	$s = 10$	$s = 15$	$s = 20$
$b = 1/2, c = 1/3$	1.3600×10^{-2}	0.9200×10^{-2}	0.1800×10^{-2}
$b = 3/5, c = 4/5$	3.7300×10^{-2}	2.5300×10^{-2}	0.7400×10^{-2}
$b = 1/6, c = 1/5$	3.5000×10^{-2}	2.3100×10^{-2}	0.6500×10^{-2}
$b = 1/5, c = 1/6$	3.9800×10^{-2}	2.5600×10^{-2}	0.8200×10^{-2}

Table 2 Absolute error in boundary conditions of $y(t)$ of Example 6.1 for different values of parameters b and c

Parameter values	$s = 10$	$s = 15$	$s = 20$
$b = 1/2, c = 1/3$	5.9500×10^{-2}	2.4300×10^{-2}	0.7300×10^{-2}
$b = 3/5, c = 4/5$	8.7800×10^{-2}	8.1600×10^{-2}	2.4200×10^{-2}
$b = 1/6, c = 1/5$	6.8900×10^{-2}	5.09900×10^{-2}	1.7900×10^{-2}
$b = 1/5, c = 1/6$	8.8500×10^{-2}	7.1300×10^{-2}	3.9400×10^{-2}

Table 3 Absolute error in boundary conditions of $x(t)$ of Example 6.3 for different values of parameters b and c

Parameter values	$s = 10$	$s = 15$	$s = 20$
$b = 1/3, c = 1/4$	1.9100×10^{-2}	1.1000×10^{-2}	0.8200×10^{-2}
$b = 1/4, c = 1/3$	0.1500×10^{-2}	0.1000×10^{-2}	0.0900×10^{-2}
$b = 1/5, c = 1/6$	0.5500×10^{-2}	0.3100×10^{-2}	0.1200×10^{-2}
$b = 1/6, c = 1/5$	1.2700×10^{-2}	0.9800×10^{-2}	0.5400×10^{-2}

Table 4 Absolute error in boundary conditions of $y(t)$ of Example 6.3 for different values of parameters b and c

Parameter values	$s = 10$	$s = 15$	$s = 20$
$b = 1/3, c = 1/4$	3.4200×10^{-2}	1.2500×10^{-2}	0.7200×10^{-2}
$b = 1/4, c = 1/3$	4.7100×10^{-2}	2.8800×10^{-2}	0.9800×10^{-2}
$b = 1/5, c = 1/6$	9.7800×10^{-2}	7.3100×10^{-2}	2.1200×10^{-2}
$b = 1/6, c = 1/5$	7.1300×10^{-2}	5.0100×10^{-2}	0.3400×10^{-2}

7 Conclusion

In this work some existence and uniqueness results have been obtained by using the Banach and Krasnoselskii’s fixed point theorems. Also some necessary conditions for Hyers–Ulam stability of solutions of a given system of coupled BVPs of the fractional thermostat model (3) have been discussed. In addition, some approximate solutions by the GDT-method have been found, and some illustrative examples have been presented as applications of the GDT-method on some problems as in (3). These examples show that this numerical method can give us a good and accurate approximate solution for nonlinear FBVP of FDEqs. In the next works, we are going to implement such an analysis (theoretical and numerical) for other nonlinear fractional systems of FDEqs arising in different applied models featuring generalized fractional operators.

Acknowledgements

The first and fourth authors were supported by Azarbaijan Shahid Madani University. The authors express their gratitude to dear unknown referees for their helpful suggestions which improved the final version of this paper.

Funding

Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials

Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Authors' contributions

The authors declare that the study was realized in collaboration with equal responsibility. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Received: 27 June 2021 Accepted: 23 August 2021 Published online: 25 September 2021

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