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# An existence and uniqueness theorem for fuzzy H-integral equations of fractional order

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#### Abstract

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We present an existence and uniqueness theorem for H- integral equations of fractional order involving fuzzy set valued mappings of a real variable whose values are normal, convex, upper semi continuous and compactly supported fuzzy sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . The method of successive approximation is the main tool in our analysis.

*Keywords:* Fuzzy mapping, fractional orders, Riemann-Liouville H-differentiability, Fuzzy H-integral equation, Hausdorff metric, successive approximation.

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### **1** Introduction

Dubois and Prade [10] introduced the concept of integration of fuzzy functions. Alternative approaches were later suggested by Goetschel and Voxman [13], Kaleva [15], Nanda [21] and others. While Goetschel and Voxman preferred a Riemann integral type approach, Kaleva chose to define the integral of fuzzy function, using the Lebesgue-type concept of integration. For more information about integration of fuzzy functions and fuzzy integral equations, for instance, see [2, 8, 10, 13, 15, 21, 22, 24, 25] and references therein. On the other hand, the first serious attempt to give a logical definition of a fractional derivative is due to Liouville, see [14] and references therein. Now, the fractional calculus topic is enjoying growing interest among scientists and engineers, see [1, 8, 14, 16, 18, 23, 26].

By means of the fuzzy integral due to Kaleva [15], we investigate the fractional fuzzy integral equation, for the fuzzy set-valued mappings of a real variable whose values are normal, convex, upper semi-continuous and compactly supported fuzzy sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . We consider the fuzzy integral equation of Riemann-Liouville fractional order generalized H-differentiability this equation takes the form

$$y(t) = f(t) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \int_0^t \frac{g(s, y(s))}{(t-s)^q} \, ds,$$
(1.1)

where  $f : [0, T] \to E^n$  and  $g : [0, T] \times E^n \to E^n$ , and  $q \in (0, 1)$ . The definition of  $E^n$  is given in Section 2.

The paper is organized as follows: in Section 2 auxiliary facts and results are given which will be used later. In Section 3, the Riemann-Liouville H-differentiability is proposed for fuzzy-valued function and the some of important results of it are provided. In Section 4 the main theorem on the existence and uniqueness of solutions of equation (1.1) is given.

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#### 2 Auxiliary facts and results

This section is devoted to collect some definitions and results which will be needed further on.

**Definition 2.1.** Let X be a nonempty set. A *fuzzy set* A in X is characterized by its membership function A :  $X \rightarrow [0,1]$  and A(x), called the membership function of fuzzy set A, is interpreted as the degree of membership of element x in fuzzy set A for each  $x \in X$ .

The value zero is used to represent complete non-membership, the value one is used to represent complete membership and values between them are used to represent intermediate degrees of membership. Let  $P_k(\mathbb{R}^n)$  denote the collection of all nonempty compact convex subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and define the addition and scalar multiplication in  $P_k(\mathbb{R}^n)$  as usual. Let A and B be two nonempty bounded subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . The distance between A and B is defined by the Hausdorff metric

$$H_d(A,B) = \max\left\{\sup_{a\in A} d(a,B), \sup_{b\in B} d(b,A)\right\}$$

where  $d(b, A) = \inf\{d(b, a) : a \in A\}$ . It is clear that  $(P_k(\mathbb{R}^n), d)$  is a complete metric space [17].

A fuzzy set  $u \in E^n$  is a function  $u : \mathbb{R}^n \to [0, 1]$  for which

- (*i*) *u* is normal, i.e., there exists an  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $u(x_0) = 1$ ,
- (*ii*) *u* is fuzzy convex, i.e., for *x*,  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\beta \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$u(\beta x + (1 - \beta)y) \ge \min(u(x), u(y))$$

(*iii*) *u* is upper semi-continuous, and

(*iv*) the closure of  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : u(x) > 0\}$ , denoted by  $[u]^0$ , is compact.

For  $0 < \gamma \leq 1$ , the  $\alpha$ -level set  $[u]^{\gamma}$  is define by  $[u]^{\gamma} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : u(x) \geq \gamma\}$ . Then from (i) - (iv), it follows that  $[u]^{\gamma} \in P_k(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for all  $0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$ .

We define the supremum metric D on  $E^n$  by

$$D(u,\overline{u}) = \sup_{0 < \gamma \le 1} H_d([u]^{\gamma}, [\overline{u}]^{\gamma})$$

for all  $u, \overline{u} \in E^n$ .  $(E^n, D)$  is a complete metric space.

# 3 Riemann-Liouville Fractional H-differentiability

Now, we define fuzzy Riemann-Liouville fractional derivatives of order  $0 \le r \le 1$  for fuzzy-valued function *f* which is a direct extension of strongly generalized H-differentiability in the fractional literature [9].

**Definition 3.2.** Let  $x, y \in E$ . If there exists  $z \in E$  such that x = y + z, then z is called the H-difference of x and y, it is denoted by  $z = x \ominus y$ .

*The sign*  $\ominus$  *always stands for H-difference, also not that*  $x \ominus y \neq x + (-1)y$ *.* 

Also, we define some notations which are used throughout the paper.

•  $L_p^F(a,b), 1 \le p < \infty$  is the set of all fuzzy-valued measurable and p-integrable functions f on [a, b] where

$$||f||_p = \left(\int_0^1 (d(f(t), 0))^p dt\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

- $C^{F}[a, b]$  is a space of fuzzy-valued functions which are continuous on [a, b].
- *AC<sup>F</sup>*[*a*, *b*] denotes the set of all fuzzy-valued functions which are absolutely continuous.

**Definition 3.3.** Let  $f : [a,b] \to E$ ,  $x_0 \in (a,b)$  and  $\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \int_a^x \frac{f(t)}{(x-t)^q} dt$ . We say that f(x) is fuzzy Riemann-Liouville fractional H-differentiable about order  $0 \le q \le 1$  at  $x_0$ , if there exists an element  $\binom{RL}{a+f}(x_0) \in C^F, 0 \le q \le 1$  such that for all  $0 \le r \le 1, h > 0$ 

$${^{RL}D_{a^+}^q}f)(x_0) = \lim_{h \to 0^+} \frac{\Phi(x_0 + h) \ominus \Phi(x_0)}{h} = \lim_{h \to 0^+} \frac{\Phi(x_0) \ominus \Phi(x_0 - h)}{h}$$

or

$$({}^{RL}D^{q}_{a^{+}}f)(x_{0}) = \lim_{h \to 0^{+}} \frac{\Phi(x_{0}) \ominus \Phi(x_{0}+h)}{-h} = \lim_{h \to 0^{+}} \frac{\Phi(x_{0}-h) \ominus \Phi(x_{0})}{-h}.$$

For sake of simplicity, we say that a fuzzy-valued function f is  $R^{L}(1,q)$ -differentiable if it is differentiable as in the definition 3.3 case (*i*), and is  $R^{L}(2,q)$ -differentiable if it is differentiable as in Definition 3.3 case (*ii*).

**Definition 3.4.** Let  $f \in L^1(a, b)$ ,  $0 \le a < b < \infty$ , and let 0 < q < 1 be a real number. The fractional integral of order *q* of Riemann-Liouville type is defined by (see; [16, 23]).

$$\mathbf{I}^{q} f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_{0}^{t} \frac{f(s)}{(t-s)^{1-q}} \, ds.$$

Let us consider the *r*-cut representation of fuzzy valued function *f* as  $f(x;r) = [f(x;r), \overline{f}(x;r)]$  for  $0 \le r \le 1$ , then we can indicate the Riemann-Liouville integral of fuzzy-valued function *f* based on its lower and upper functions as follows:

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $f : [a, b] \to E$  be a fuzzy-valued function. The fuzzy Riemann-Liouville integral of f can be expressed as follows:

$$(I^{q}f)(x;r) = [(I^{q}f)(x;r), (I^{q}\overline{f})(x;r)], 0 \le r \le 1$$

where

$$(I^{q}\underline{f})(x;r) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_{a}^{x} \frac{\underline{f}(t;r)}{(x-t)^{1-q}} dt$$
$$(I^{q}\overline{f})(x;r) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_{a}^{x} \frac{\overline{f}(t;r)}{(x-t)^{1-q}} dt.$$

Now, we define fuzzy Riemann-Liouville fractional derivatives of order  $0 \le r \le 1$  for fuzzy-valued function *f* which is a direct extension of strongly generalized H-differentiability [9] in the fractional literature. Also, we denote by  $C^F$  the space of all fuzzy-valued functions which are continuous on [a, b] and we assume that all fuzzy-valued functions in this work are placed in  $C^F$ . We define the fuzzy Riemann-Liouville H-integrals of fuzzy-valued function as follows:

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let*  $f : [0, T] \to E^n$ ,  $x_0 \in [0, T]$  *and*  $0 \le q \le 1$  *such that for all*  $0 \le r \le 1$ .

(1) if f(x) be a <sup>*RL*</sup>(1, *q*) differentiable fuzzy-valued function, then

$$({}^{RL}D_0^q f)(x_0;r) = [{}^{RL}D_0^q \underline{f}(x_0;r), {}^{RL}D_0^q \overline{f}(x_0;r)],$$

(2) if f(x) be a <sup>*RL*</sup>(2, *q*) differentiable fuzzy-valued function, then

$$({}^{RL}D_0^q f)(x_0;r) = [{}^{RL}D_0^q \overline{f}(x_0;r), {}^{RL}D_0^q \underline{f}(x_0;r)].$$

Where

$${}^{(RL}D_0^q \underline{f})(x_0) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \frac{d}{dx} \int_0^x \frac{f(t)}{(x-t)^q} dt \mid_{x=x_0}$$

$$({}^{RL}D_0^q\overline{f})(x_0) = \ominus \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \frac{d}{dx} \int_0^x \frac{f(t)}{(x-t)^q} dt \mid_{x=x_0}$$

Rewrite Eq.(1.1) in the form

$$y(t) = f(t) + {}^{RL} I_0^q g(t, y(t)), \ t \ge 0,$$
(3.2)

where  ${}^{RL}I_0^q$  is the standard Riemann-Liouville fractional H-integral operator. Notice that, since f is assumed to be integrable and  $(x - t)^{q-1}$  is a crisp function, we deduce that  $\frac{f(t)}{(x-t)^{1-q}}$  is integrable and then, the existence of integral (1.1) is proved.

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let*  $f : [a, b] \to E$ ,  $x_0 \in (a, b)$  *and*  $0 \le q \le 1$  *for all*  $0 \le r \le 1$ , *we have* 

(1) *if* f *is*  $^{RL}(1,q)$  *H-integrable then* 

$${}^{RL}I^{q}_{0}(f)(x_{0};r) = [{}^{RL}I^{q}_{0}f(x_{0};r), {}^{RL}I^{q}_{0}\overline{f}(x_{0};r)]$$

(2) *if* f *is*  $^{RL}(2,q)$  *H-integrable then* 

$${}^{RL}I_0^q f(x_0;r) = [{}^{RL}I_0^q \overline{f}(x_0;r), {}^{RL}I_0^q \underline{f}(x_0;r)]$$

In this paper, we prove an existence and uniqueness theorem of a solution to the fuzzy integral equation (1.1). The method of successive approximation is the main tool in our analysis.

## 4 Main Theorem

In this section, we will study Eq(1.1) assuming that the following assumptions are satisfied, Let *L* and *T* be positive numbers:

 $(a_1)$   $f: [0, T] \rightarrow E^n$  is continuous and bounded.

 $(a_2)$   $g: [0, T] \times E^n \to E^n$  is continuous and satisfies the Lipschitz condition, i.e.,

$$D(g(t, y_2(t)), g(t, y_1(t))) \le L D(y_2(t), y_1(t)), t \in [0, T],$$

where  $y_i : [0, T] \to E^n, i = 1, 2.$ 

 $(a_3)$   $g(t, \hat{0})$  is bounded on [0, T].

Now, we are in a position to state and prove our main result in paper

**Theorem 4.4.** Let the assumptions  $(a_1) - (a_3)$  be satisfied. If

$$T < \left(\frac{\Gamma(2-q)}{L}\right)^{\frac{1}{1-q}},$$

then Eq(1.1) has a unique solution y on [0, T] defined as the following:

(1) In the case RL(1;q) differentiability, the successive iterations

$$y_0(t) = f(t)$$
  

$$y_{n+1}(t) = f(t) + {^{RL}I_0}^q g(t, y_n(t)), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$
(4.3)

(2) In the case RL(2; q) differentiability, the successive iterations

$$\hat{y}_0(t) = f(t) 
\hat{y}_{n+1}(t) = f(t) \ominus^{RL} I_0^{\ q} g(t, \hat{y}_n(t)), \ n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$
(4.4)

are uniformly convergent to y on [0, T].

*Proof.* (1) Case (1): If f is  ${}^{RL}(1;q)$  differentiable First we prove that  $y_n$  are bounded on [0, T]. We have  $y_0 = f(t)$  is bounded, thanks  $(a_1)$ . Assume that  $y_{n-1}$  is bounded. From (4.3) we have

$$\begin{array}{lll} D(y_n(t), \hat{0}) &=& D\left(f(t) + {}^{RL} I_0^q g(t, y_{n-1}(t)), \, \hat{0}\right) \\ &\leq & D\left(f(t), \, \hat{0}\right) + D\left({}^{RL} I_0^q g(t, y_{n-1}(t)), \, \hat{0}\right) \\ &\leq & D\left(f(t), \, \hat{0}\right) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \int_0^t D\left(\frac{g(s, y_{n-1}(s))}{(t-s)^q}, \, \hat{0}\right) \, ds \\ &\leq & D\left(f(t), \, \hat{0}\right) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \, \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} D(g(t, y_{n-1}(t)), \, \hat{0}) \, \int_0^t \, \frac{ds}{(t-s)^q}. \end{array}$$

But

$$D(g(t, y_{n-1}(t)), \hat{0}) \leq D(g(t, y_{n-1}(t)), g(t, \hat{0})) + D(g(t, \hat{0}), \hat{0})$$
  
$$\leq L D(y_{n-1}(t), \hat{0}) + D(g(t, \hat{0}), \hat{0}).$$

So

$$D(y_n(t), \hat{0}) \leq D(f(t), \hat{0}) + \frac{T^{1-q}}{\Gamma(2-q)} \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} [L D(y_{n-1}(t), \hat{0}) + D(g(t, \hat{0}), \hat{0})]$$
  
$$\leq D(f(t), \hat{0}) + \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} D(y_{n-1}(t), \hat{0}) + \frac{T^{1-q}}{\Gamma(2-q)} \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} D(g(t, \hat{0}), \hat{0}).$$

This proves that  $y_n$  is bounded. Therefore,  $\{y_n\}$  is a sequence of bounded functions on [0, T]. Second we prove that  $y_n$  are continuous on [0, T]. For  $0 \le t \le \tau \le T$ , we have

$$\begin{array}{lll} D(y_n(t),y_n(\tau)) & \leq & D(f(t),f(\tau)) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \; D\left(\int_0^t \frac{g(s,y_{n-1}(s))}{(t-s)^q} \; ds, \int_0^\tau \frac{g(s,y_{n-1}(s))}{(\tau-s)^q} \; ds\right) \\ & \leq & D\left(f(t),f(\tau)\right) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} D\left(\int_t^\tau \frac{g(s,y_{n-1}(s))}{(\tau-s)^q} \; ds, \int_0^t \frac{g(s,y_{n-1}(s))}{(\tau-s)^q} \; ds\right) \\ & & + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} D\left(\int_t^\tau \frac{g(s,y_{n-1}(s))}{(\tau-s)^q} \; ds, \hat{0}\right) \\ & \leq & D\left(f(t),f(\tau)\right) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \int_0^t D\left(\frac{g(s,y_{n-1}(s))}{(t-s)^q}, \frac{g(s,y_{n-1}(s))}{(\tau-s)^q}\right) \; ds \\ & & + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \int_t^\tau D\left(\frac{g(s,y_{n-1}(s))}{(\tau-s)^q}, \hat{0}\right) \; ds \\ & \leq & D\left(f(t),f(\tau)\right) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} D(g(t,y_{n-1}(t)), \hat{0}) \\ & & \int_0^t \left|(t-s)^{-q} - (\tau-s)^{-q}\right| \; ds \\ & & + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} D(g(t,y_{n-1}(t)), \hat{0}) \int_t^\tau \frac{ds}{(\tau-s)^q} \; ds \\ & \leq & D\left(f(t),f(\tau)\right) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \left[\left|t-\tau\right|^{(1-q)} - \left|t^{(1-q)} - \tau^{(1-q)}\right|\right] \\ & & \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} D(g(t,y_{n-1}(t)), \hat{0}) \\ & & + \frac{1}{\Gamma(2-q)} \; \left|t-\tau\right|^{\alpha} \; \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} D(g(t,y_{n-1}(t)), \hat{0}) \end{array}$$

$$\leq D(f(t), f(\tau)) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(2-q)} [2 |t-\tau|^{(1-q)} - |t^{(1-q)} - \tau^{(1-q)}|] \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} D(g(t, y_{n-1}(t)), \hat{0}) \leq D(f(t), f(\tau)) + \frac{1}{\Gamma(2-q)} [2 |t-\tau|^{(1-q)} - |t^{(1-q)} - \tau^{(1-q)}|] \sup_{0 \leq t \leq T} [L D(g(y_{n-1}(t)), \hat{0}) + D(g(t, \hat{0}), \hat{0})].$$

The last inequality, by symmetry, is valid for all  $t, \tau \in [0, T]$  regardless whether or not  $t \leq \tau$ . Thus,  $D(y_n(t), y_n(\tau)) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \tau$ . Therefore, the sequence  $\{y_n\}$  is continuous on [0, T]. For  $n \geq 1$ , we have

$$D(y_{n+1}(t), y_n(t)) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} D\left(\int_0^t \frac{g(s, y_n(s))}{(t-s)^q} ds, \int_0^t \frac{g(s, y_{n-1}(s))}{(t-s)^q} ds\right)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \int_0^t D\left(\frac{g(s, y_n(s))}{(t-s)^q}, \int_0^t \frac{g(s, y_{n-1}(s))}{(t-s)^q}\right) ds$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \int_0^t D\left(g(s, y_n(s)), g(s, y_{n-1}(s))\right) \frac{ds}{(t-s)^q}$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(g(t, y_n(t)), g(t, y_{n-1}(t))) \int_0^t \frac{ds}{(t-s)^q}$$

$$\leq \frac{L T^{(1-q)}}{\Gamma(2-q)} \sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(y_n(t), y_{n-1}(t))$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{L T^{(1-q)}}{\Gamma(2-q)}\right)^2 \sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(y_{n-1}(t), y_{n-2}(t))$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{L T^{(1-q)}}{\Gamma(2-q)}\right)^n \sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(y_1(t), y_0(t)). \tag{4.5}$$

But

$$\begin{array}{lll} D(y_1(t), y_0(t)) & = & \displaystyle \frac{1}{\Gamma((1-q))} \ D\left(\int_0^t \frac{g(s, f(s))}{(t-s)^q} \ ds, \hat{0}\right) \\ & \leq & \displaystyle \frac{1}{\Gamma((1-q))} \int_0^t D\left(\frac{g(s, f(s))}{(t-s)^q}, \hat{0}\right) \ ds \\ & \leq & \displaystyle \frac{1}{\Gamma((1-q))} \sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(g(t, f(t)), \hat{0}) \int_0^t \frac{ds}{(t-s)^q}. \end{array}$$

Thus

$$\sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(y_1(t), y_0(t)) \le \frac{T^{(1-q)}}{\Gamma(2-q)} [LM+N] := R,$$

where

$$M = \sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(f(t), \hat{0})$$
 and  $N = \sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(g(t, \hat{0}), \hat{0})$ 

Therefore (4.5) takes the form

$$D(y_{n+1}(t), y_n(t)) \le R \left(\frac{L T^{(1-q)}}{\Gamma(2-q)}\right)^n.$$
(4.6)

Next, we show that for each  $t \in [0, T]$  the sequence  $\{y_n(t)\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $E^n$ . Let  $m_1$ ,  $m_2$  be such that  $m_2 > m_1$  and  $t \in [0, T]$ . Then, by using (4.6), we have

The right hand side of the last inequality tends to zero as  $m_1$ ,  $m_2 \rightarrow \infty$ . This implies that  $\{y_n(t)\}$  is a Cauchy sequence. Consequently, the sequence  $\{y_n(t)\}$  is convergent, thanks to the completeness of the metric space  $(E^n, D)$ . If we denote  $y(t) = \lim_{n \to \infty} y_n(t)$ , then y(t) satisfies (1.1). It is continuous and bounded on [0, T]. To prove the uniqueness, let x(t) be a continuous solution of (1.1) on [0, T]. Then

$$x(t) = f(t) + {}^{RL}I^{q}g(t, x(t)), t \ge 0.$$

Now, for  $n \ge 1$ , we have

$$D(x(t), y_n(t)) = D\left({}^{RL}I^{1-q}g(t, x(t)), {}^{RL}I^{1-q}g(t, y_n(t))\right)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \int_0^t D\left(\frac{g(s, x(s))}{(t-s)^q}, \int_0^t \frac{g(s, y_n(s))}{(t-s)^q}\right) ds$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \int_0^t D\left(g(s, x(s)), g(s, y_n(s))\right) \frac{ds}{(t-s)^q}$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-q)} \sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(g(t, x(t)), g(t, y_n(t))) \int_0^t \frac{ds}{(t-s)^q}$$

$$\leq \frac{L T^{1-q}}{\Gamma(2-q)} \sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(x(t), y_n(t))$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\leq \left(\frac{L T^{1-q}}{\Gamma(2-q)}\right)^n \sup_{0 \le t \le T} D(x(t), y_0(t)).$$

Since  $\frac{L T^{1-q}}{\Gamma(2-q)} < 1$ 

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} y_n(t) = x(t) = y(t), \ t \in [0, T].$$

This completes the proof.

(2) Case (2): If *f* is  $R^{L}(2;q)$  differentiable, with the same argument as above, we can prove that the solution is (4.4) with

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\hat{y}_n(t)=\hat{x}(t)=\hat{y}(t), \ t\in[0,T].$$

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