

Some Results on the Oscillation of a Class of Generalized Fractional Integro-Differential Equations

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ABSTRACT

In this study, we analyze the oscillatory behavior of solutions to a specific class of fractional integro-differential equations. First, we derive sufficient conditions that ensure nonoscillatory solutions exhibit a well-defined asymptotic behavior. Building on this result, we establish a series of oscillation theorems that provide deeper insight into the qualitative nature of solutions. To validate our theoretical findings, we present a concrete example that demonstrates the applicability of our main results. These contributions aim to advance the theoretical framework of fractional equations, offering new perspectives on their dynamic behavior and potential applications in mathematical modeling.

Keywords: Fractional integro-differential equation, Riemann-Liouville Derivative, Riemann-Liouville Integral, Oscillation

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Introduction

Fractional calculus is an extension of classical differentiation and integration to arbitrary order. Its history is as old as the classical calculus. Fractional derivatives and integrals have been shown to be better than classical tools for describing many real-life phenomena in science and engineering. Hence, many and varied sectors of engineering and science, including fluid mechanics, electromagnetics, electrochemistry, biological population models, viscoelasticity, signals processing, and signals optics use fractional calculus.

Fractional differential equations have recently attracted considerable attention. The study of fractional differential equations is interdisciplinary and is encountered in diverse fields such as plasma physics, biomathematics, fluid dynamics, mathematical biology, control systems, elasticity, biotechnology, quantum mechanics, optics, and complex systems. Since the derivatives there are of fractional order, they can approximate real data more flexibly, see [1].

The variety of fractional operators is what distinguishes fractional calculus from other mathematical disciplines. This allows the scientists working on modeling real life phenomena to choose the best operator for their model. To model real life phenomena more accurately, researchers have needed several other fractional operators in addition to the Riemann-Liouville and Caputo ones. An interested reader can look at [2-7] for some newly introduced fractional operators. These operators are defined as particular cases of fractional operators depending on a kernel function.

Oscillation is a substantial aspect of the qualitative behavior of solutions of differential and difference equations. Its theory is important to study the oscillatory phenomena in technology and natural and social sciences. A major problem in oscillation theory is proving the existence or non-existence of an oscillatory solution to a given equation or system. Additionally, the behavior of other solutions relative to a particular oscillatory (non-oscillatory) solution is also studied. Many articles on theoretical aspects of oscillation theory are published every year. Surprisingly, this significant area of research has substantial applications and is not entirely theoretical. Oscillation theory has important applications in physics, biology, ecology, physiology, etc. Studying oscillations provides a better understanding of the dynamics of solutions of equations that model applied problems encountered in engineering, technology, and science. Despite its importance, when we look at the literature, we see that there are few studies related to the oscillation of fractional differential and difference equations. As far as we know, Grace et al. [8] first studied the oscillation for a fractional differential equation. After that, corresponding results for ordinary differential and difference equations have been extended to fractional differential and difference equations, see [9-19]. There is also very little research on the oscillation theory of fractional integro-differential equations, see [20-23]. This work investigates the oscillatory behavior of solutions to a fractional Volterra integro-differential equation using the method introduced in [24]. We believe that our study will inspire further research on fractional integro-differential equations. We consider the fractional integro-differential equation

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} D_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} x(t) &= \mathfrak{z}(t) - \int_a^t \mathcal{M}(t, v) \mathcal{Y}(v, x(v)) dv, t \geq a \geq 0, 0 < \mu < 1, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow a^+} I_a^{1-\mu, \mathfrak{S}} x(t) &= b_1, \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{1}$$

where, $\mathfrak{z}, \mathcal{M}$, and \mathcal{Y} are continuous, $b_1 \in \mathbb{R}$, and $D_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}}$ and $I_a^{1-\mu, \mathfrak{S}}$ are the left fractional general derivative and integral operators in the Riemann-Liouville setting, respectively.

We concentrate only on those solutions of Eq. (1) not identically zero eventually. Henceforth, we mean such solutions. Such solutions are called oscillatory if they are not eventually of one sign and nonoscillatory otherwise. The equation itself is oscillatory in case all its solutions oscillate.

$$I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} \theta(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu)} \int_a^t (\mathfrak{S}(t) - \mathfrak{S}(v))^{\mu-1} \mathfrak{S}'(v) \theta(v) dv \tag{2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} D_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} \theta(t) &= {}_{\mathfrak{S}}D_t^n I_a^{n-\mu, \mathfrak{S}} \theta(t) \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(n-\mu)} {}_{\mathfrak{S}}D_t^n \int_a^t (\mathfrak{S}(t) - \mathfrak{S}(v))^{n-\mu-1} \mathfrak{S}'(v) \theta(v) dv, \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

respectively, where $n = [\mu]$ and

$${}_{\mathfrak{S}}D_t^n = \left(\frac{1}{\mathfrak{S}'(t)} \frac{d}{dt} \right)^n.$$

In the special cases $\mathfrak{S}(t) = t$ and $\mathfrak{S}(t) = \ln t$ in Eq. (2) and Eq. (3), we have the Riemann-Liouville and Hadamard fractional operators, respectively.

We assume throughout that $\mathfrak{S}(t) > 0 \forall t \in I$.

Lemma 1 [26] Let $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ with $Re(\mu) > 0$, $n = -[-Re(\mu)]$, $\theta \in L(a, b)$, and $(I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} \theta)(t) \in AC_{\mathfrak{S}}^n[a, b]$. Then,

$$I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} D_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} \theta(t) = \theta(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{(I_a^{j-\mu, \mathfrak{S}} \theta)(a^+)}{\Gamma(\mu-j+1)} (\mathfrak{S}(t) - \mathfrak{S}(a))^{\mu-j}. \tag{4}$$

Lemma 2 [27] Let $\mu, \nu \in \mathbb{C}$ with $Re(\mu) > 0$ and $Re(\nu) > 0$. Then

$$I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} (\mathfrak{S}(t) - \mathfrak{S}(a))^{\nu-1} = \frac{\Gamma(\nu)}{\Gamma(\nu+\mu)} (\mathfrak{S}(t) - \mathfrak{S}(a))^{\nu+\mu-1}. \tag{5}$$

Lemma 3 [28] For non-negative real numbers \mathcal{K} and \mathcal{R} ,

$$\mathcal{K}^\alpha - (1 - \alpha)\mathcal{R}^\alpha - \alpha\mathcal{K}\mathcal{R}^{\alpha-1} \leq 0, \quad 0 < \alpha < 1. \tag{6}$$

The equality holds if and only if $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{R}$

Main Results

We assume that the following hypotheses are met:

(H1) $\mathfrak{z}: [a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous;

(H2) $\mathcal{M}: [a, \infty) \times [a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous and there exist continuous functions $\zeta_1, \zeta_2: [a, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ such that

$$0 \leq \mathcal{M}(t, v) \leq \zeta_1(t)\zeta_2(v) \text{ for } t \geq v \geq a;$$

(H3) $\mathcal{Y}: [a, \infty) \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous and there exists a continuous function $\eta: [a, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ and a real number α , $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ such that

$$0 < x\mathcal{Y}(t, x) \leq \eta(t)|x|^{\alpha+1} \text{ for } t \geq a, x \neq 0;$$

For a given continuous function $\xi: [a, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$, we define

$$q_{\pm}(t) := \mathfrak{z}(t) \pm (1 - \alpha)\alpha^{\alpha/(1-\alpha)} \zeta_1(t) \int_a^t \xi^{\alpha/(\alpha-1)}(v) \zeta_2^{1/(1-\alpha)}(v) \eta^{1/(1-\alpha)}(v) dv, \quad 0 < \alpha < 1.$$

To begin, we provide sufficient conditions for each nonoscillatory solution of Eq. (1) to fulfill

$$x(t) = O(\mathfrak{S}^\mu(t)) \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

Theorem 1 Let $0 < \alpha < 1$ and the hypotheses (H1)–(H3) hold. Assume that

PRELIMINARIES

We now present some basic definitions and important lemmas. Let $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ with $Re(\mu) > 0$, $I = (a, b)$ be an interval, and $\mathfrak{S} \in C^1(I)$ be an increasing function with $\mathfrak{S}'(t) \neq 0 \forall t \in I$. The left fractional integral and derivative in the Riemann-Liouville sense of a function θ with respect to another function \mathfrak{S} are defined in [25, 26] as

$$\zeta_1(t) \leq M_1 \text{ for } t \geq a \tag{7}$$

for some real number $M_1 > 0$ and

$$\int_a^\infty \mathfrak{S}^\mu(v)\xi(v) dv < \infty. \tag{8}$$

If

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\mathfrak{S}^\mu(t)} I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}}[q_+(t)] < \infty, \text{ and } \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\mathfrak{S}^\mu(t)} I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}}[q_-(t)] > -\infty, \tag{9}$$

then every nonoscillatory solution $x(t)$ of Eq. (1) satisfies

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x(t)|}{\mathfrak{S}^\mu(t)} < \infty. \tag{10}$$

Proof 1 Assume that $x(t)$ is a nonoscillatory solution of Eq. (1), say $x(t) > 0$ for $t \geq T_1$, for some $T_1 \geq a$. From Eq. (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} D_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} x(t) &= \mathfrak{z}(t) - \int_a^t \mathcal{M}(t, v)\mathcal{Y}(v, x(v)) dv \\ &= \mathfrak{z}(t) - \int_a^{T_1} \mathcal{M}(t, v)\mathcal{Y}(v, x(v)) dv - \int_{T_1}^t \mathcal{M}(t, v)\mathcal{Y}(v, x(v)) dv. \end{aligned}$$

Let $L := \min\{\mathcal{Y}(t, x(t)) : t \in [a, T_1]\} \leq 0$ and $\kappa := -L \int_a^{T_1} \zeta_2(v) dv \geq 0$.

Since $\mathcal{M}(t, v)\mathcal{Y}(v, x(v)) \geq L\mathcal{M}(t, v) \geq L\zeta_1(t)\zeta_2(v)$, $a \leq v \leq T_1$,

we have

$$\int_a^{T_1} \mathcal{M}(t, v)\mathcal{Y}(v, x(v)) dv \geq L\zeta_1(t) \int_a^{T_1} \zeta_2(v) dv$$

and

$$- \int_a^{T_1} \mathcal{M}(t, v)\mathcal{Y}(v, x(v)) dv \leq -L\zeta_1(t) \int_a^{T_1} \zeta_2(v) dv = \kappa\zeta_1(t).$$

In view of $\mathcal{M}(t, v)\mathcal{Y}(v, x(v)) > 0$, we have

$$- \int_{T_1}^t \mathcal{M}(t, v)\mathcal{Y}(v, x(v)) dv < 0$$

and

$$- \int_{T_1}^t \mathcal{M}(t, v)\mathcal{Y}(v, x(v)) dv < 0 \leq \zeta_1(t) \int_{T_1}^t \zeta_2(v)\eta(v)x^\alpha(v) dv.$$

Thus, we get

$$\begin{aligned} D_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} x(t) &\leq \mathfrak{z}(t) + \kappa\zeta_1(t) + \zeta_1(t) \int_{T_1}^t \zeta_2(v)\eta(v)x^\alpha(v) dv \\ &= \mathfrak{z}(t) + \kappa\zeta_1(t) + \zeta_1(t) \int_{T_1}^t (\zeta_2(v)\eta(v)x^\alpha(v) - \xi(v)x(v)) dv + \zeta_1(t) \int_{T_1}^t \xi(v)x(v) dv. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

In (6), by setting $\mathcal{K} := (\zeta_2\eta)^{1/\alpha}x$ and $\mathcal{R} := \left(\frac{1}{\alpha}\xi(\zeta_2\eta)^{-1/\alpha}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha-1}}$, we get

$$\zeta_2(v)\eta(v)x^\alpha(v) - \xi(v)x(v) \leq (1 - \alpha)\alpha^{\alpha/(1-\alpha)}\xi^{\alpha/(\alpha-1)}(v)\zeta_2^{1/(1-\alpha)}(v)\eta^{1/(1-\alpha)}(v).$$

Hence, inequality (11) gives

$$D_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} x(t) \leq q_+(t) + \kappa\zeta_1(t) + \zeta_1(t) \int_a^t \xi(v)x(v) dv, \quad t \geq a$$

and in view of (7),

$$D_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} x(t) \leq q_+(t) + \kappa M_1 + M_1 \int_a^t \xi(v)x(v) dv, \quad t \geq a. \tag{12}$$

Now, applying $I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}}$ to (12) and using (4) and (5) with $\nu = 1$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &\leq \frac{b_1}{\Gamma(\mu)} (\mathfrak{S}(t) - \mathfrak{S}(a))^{\mu-1} + \frac{\kappa M_1}{\Gamma(\mu + 1)} (\mathfrak{S}(t) - \mathfrak{S}(a))^\mu + I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}}[q_+(t)] \\ &\quad + M_1 I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}} \left[\int_a^t \xi(v)x(v) dv \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

By interchanging the order of integration, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_a^{\mu, \ominus} \left[\int_a^t \xi(v)x(v) dv \right] &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu)} \int_a^t \ominus'(v)(\ominus(t) - \ominus(v))^{\mu-1} \int_a^v \xi(u)x(u) dudv \\
 &= \int_a^t \xi(u)x(u) \int_u^t \frac{\ominus'(v)(\ominus(t)-\ominus(v))^{\mu-1}}{\Gamma(\mu)} dv du \\
 &= \int_a^t \xi(u)x(u) I_u^{\mu, \ominus}(1) du \\
 &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} \int_a^t (\ominus(t) - \ominus(u))^{\mu} \xi(u)x(u) du.
 \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Using (14) in (13), it follows

$$x(t) \leq \frac{b_1}{\Gamma(\mu)} (\ominus(t) - \ominus(a))^{\mu-1} + \frac{\kappa M_1}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} (\ominus(t) - \ominus(a))^{\mu} + I_a^{\mu, \ominus} [q_+(t)] + \frac{M_1}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} \ominus^{\mu}(t) \int_a^t \xi(v)x(v) dv$$

and hence,

$$\frac{x(t)}{\ominus^{\mu}(t)} \leq c_1 + \frac{M_1}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} \int_a^t \ominus^{\mu}(v)\xi(v) \frac{x(v)}{\ominus^{\mu}(v)} dv, \quad t \geq t_1 > a,$$

where taking into account (9), $c_1 > 0$ is an upper bound for

$$\frac{b_1}{\Gamma(\mu)} \frac{(\ominus(t) - \ominus(a))^{\mu-1}}{\ominus^{\mu}(t)} + \frac{\kappa M_1}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} \frac{(\ominus(t) - \ominus(a))^{\mu}}{\ominus^{\mu}(t)} + \frac{I_a^{\mu, \ominus} [q_+(t)]}{\ominus^{\mu}(t)}.$$

Proceeding as in the proof of the well-known Gronwall's inequality, we obtain

$$\frac{x(t)}{\ominus^{\mu}(t)} \leq \left(c_1 + \frac{M_1}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} \int_a^{t_1} \xi(v)x(v) dv \right) e^{\frac{M_1}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} \int_{t_1}^t \ominus^{\mu}(v)\xi(v) dv}, \quad t \geq t_1,$$

and using (8),

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x(t)}{\ominus^{\mu}(t)} < \infty.$$

If $x(t) < 0$, then we set $y := -x$. It follows that y satisfies Eq. (1) with $\mathfrak{z}(t)$ replaced by $-\mathfrak{z}(t)$ and $\mathcal{Y}(t, x)$ by $-\mathcal{Y}(t, -y)$, respectively. Continuing in the same manner, we obtain

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-x(t)}{\ominus^{\mu}(t)} < \infty.$$

The proof is accomplished.

Now, by using the asymptotic result in Theorem 1, we will construct theorems for the oscillation of Eq. (1) in Theorems 2 and 4. We will provide sufficient conditions in Theorem 3 that, for the case where $\alpha = 1$, nonoscillatory solutions of Eq. (1) fulfill (10).

Theorem 2 Let $0 < \alpha < 1$ and the hypotheses (H1)–(H3) hold. Assume that (7) and (9) are satisfied and that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} I_a^{\mu, \ominus} [\zeta_1(t)] < \infty \tag{15}$$

and

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \ominus^{\mu}(t) \int_a^t \ominus^{\mu}(v)\xi(v) dv < \infty. \tag{16}$$

If

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} I_a^{\mu, \ominus} [q_+(t)] = -\infty, \quad \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} I_a^{\mu, \ominus} [q_-(t)] = \infty, \tag{17}$$

then Eq. (1) is oscillatory.

Proof 2 Let $x(t)$ be a nonoscillatory solution of Eq. (1), say $x(t) > 0$ for $t \geq T_1$ for some $T_1 \geq a$. The proof when $x(t) < 0$ is similar.

Continuing as in the proof of Theorem 1, we obtain

$$x(t) \leq \frac{b_1}{\Gamma(\mu)} (\ominus(t) - \ominus(a))^{\mu-1} + I_a^{\mu, \ominus} [q_+(t)] + \kappa I_a^{\mu, \ominus} [\zeta_1(t)] + \frac{M_1}{\Gamma(\mu+1)} \ominus^{\mu}(t) \int_a^t \ominus^{\mu}(v)\xi(v) \frac{x(v)}{\ominus^{\mu}(v)} dv. \tag{18}$$

Moreover, (16) implies (8), and hence the result of Theorem 1 holds. Together with (15), this indicates that the last two integrals of (18) are bounded. Taking limit inferior on both sides and using (17) yields a contradiction with the fact that $x(t)$ is eventually positive. The proof is completed.

Corollary 1 Let $0 < \alpha < 1$ and the hypotheses (H1)–(H3) hold. Assume that (7), (15), and (16) are satisfied and that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\ominus^{\mu}(t)} I_a^{\mu, \ominus} [\mathfrak{z}(t)] < \infty, \quad \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\ominus^{\mu}(t)} I_a^{\mu, \ominus} [\mathfrak{z}(t)] > -\infty,$$

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^t \frac{\ominus'(v)(\ominus(t)-\ominus(v))^{\mu-1}}{\Gamma(\mu)} \zeta_1(v) \int_a^v \xi^{\alpha/(1-\alpha)}(u) \zeta_2^{1/(1-\alpha)}(u) \eta^{1/(1-\alpha)}(u) du dv < \infty.$$

If

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}}[\mathfrak{z}(t)] = -\infty \text{ and } \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}}[\mathfrak{z}(t)] = \infty, \tag{19}$$

then Eq. (1) is oscillatory.

Analogously, when $\alpha = 1$, we can easily prove the following theorems.

Theorem 3 Let $\alpha = 1$ and the hypotheses (H1)-(H3) hold. Besides (7), assume that

$$\int_a^\infty \mathfrak{S}^\mu(v)\eta(v)\zeta_2(v) dv < \infty.$$

If

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}}[\mathfrak{z}(t)]}{\mathfrak{S}^\mu(t)} < \infty \text{ and } \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{I_a^{\mu, \mathfrak{S}}[\mathfrak{z}(t)]}{\mathfrak{S}^\mu(t)} > -\infty, \tag{20}$$

then, every nonoscillatory solution of Eq. (1) satisfies (10).

Theorem 4 Let $\alpha = 1$ and the hypotheses (H1)-(H3) hold. Assume that (7), (15), (19), and (20) are satisfied. If

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathfrak{S}^\mu(t) \int_a^t \mathfrak{S}^\mu(v)\eta(v)\zeta_2(v) dv < \infty,$$

then, Eq. (1) is oscillatory.

Example 1 Let $\alpha = 1$. Consider the integro-differential equation

$$\begin{cases} D_1^{1/2,t} x(t) = \frac{1}{t} - \int_1^t \frac{x(v)}{tv^2} dv, t \geq 1, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow 1^+} I_1^{1/2,t} x(t) = 1. \end{cases} \tag{21}$$

We have $\mu = 1/2, a = 1, \mathfrak{S}(t) = t, \mathfrak{z}(t) = \frac{1}{t}, \mathcal{M}(t, v) = \frac{1}{t}$ and $\mathcal{Y}(t, x) = \frac{x}{t^2}$. Let's take $\zeta_1(t) = \frac{1}{t}, \zeta_2(v) = 1$, and $\eta(t) = \frac{1}{t^2}$. It is clear that $\zeta_1(t)$ is bounded from above. We have

$$\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{v^{3/2}} dv = 2 < \infty$$

$$\text{and } I_1^{1/2,t} \left[\frac{1}{t} \right] = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1/2)} \int_1^t (t-v)^{-1/2} \frac{1}{v} dv = \frac{2 \ln \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{t-1}{t}} \right) + \ln t}{\sqrt{\pi t}},$$

which implies that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{I_1^{1/2,t} \left[\frac{1}{t} \right]}{t^{1/2}} = 0 < \infty \text{ and } \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{I_1^{1/2,t} \left[\frac{1}{t} \right]}{t^{1/2}} = 0 > -\infty.$$

Hence, all the conditions of Theorem 3 are satisfied, and every nonoscillatory solution of Eq. (21) has the asymptotic property (10).

Conclusions

In this study, we analyzed the oscillatory behavior of solutions to a class of fractional integro-differential equations. Firstly, in Theorem 1, we gave sufficient conditions under which every nonoscillatory solution of Eq. (1) satisfies the asymptotic property (10). Afterward, by using the asymptotic result obtained in Theorem 1, we established theorems for the oscillation of Eq. (1) in Theorems 2 and 4. In Theorem 3, we presented sufficient conditions under which every nonoscillatory solution of Eq. (1) satisfies (10) for the case $\alpha = 1$. To reinforce the theoretical results, we presented a concrete example that illustrates the applicability and effectiveness of our main findings. These contributions deepen the understanding of fractional integro-differential equations and provide a foundation for further exploration in this area.

Conflict of interests

There are no conflicts of interest in this work.

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