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Consider the fractional boundary value problem

$$-D_{0+}^{\nu} \mathbf{u}(t) = \Lambda f(t, \mathbf{u}), \quad t \in (0, 1),$$

$$\mathbf{u}^{(j)}(0) = 0, \quad j = 0, \dots, n-2, \quad [D_{0+}^{\alpha} \mathbf{u}(t)]_{t=1} = 0,$$

where $m \geq 1$ and $n \geq 3$ are integers, $n-1 < \nu \leq n$, $1 \leq \alpha \leq n-2$, $\mathbf{u}(t) = (u_1(t), \dots, u_m(t))^T$, $f(\mathbf{u}) = (f_1(\mathbf{u}), \dots, f_m(\mathbf{u}))^T$, $\Lambda = \text{diag} [\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m]$, and D_{0+}^{β} is the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative of order β . Criteria for the existence and uniqueness of positive solutions are obtained and the dependence of positive solutions on Λ is discussed. Some recent results from mixed monotone operator theory are used in the proofs. (Received September 16, 2010)