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**ON A CERTAIN FIVE-POINT BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEM  
FOR SECOND-ORDER NONLINEAR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS  
DEPENDING OF THE PARAMETER**

We obtain sufficient conditions under which the boundary value problem  $x'' = f(t, x, x', \lambda)$ ,  $x(t_0) - x(0) = A$ ,  $x(1) = B$ ,  $x(2) - x(t_1) = C$ , depending on the parameter  $\lambda$ , has unique solution for each  $A, B, C \in \mathbf{R}$ .

Key words: one-parameter second-order differential equation, boundary value problem, multipoint boundary conditions, surjective mapping in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .

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### 1. Introduction

Consider the differential equation

$$(1) \quad x'' = f(t, x, x', \lambda),$$

depending on the parameter  $\lambda$ , together with the boundary conditions

$$(2) \quad x(t_0) - x(0) = A, \quad x(1) = B, \quad x(2) - x(t_1) = C.$$

Here  $f \in C^0(\langle 0, 2 \rangle \times \mathbf{R}^3)$ ,  $0 < t_0 < 1 < t_1 < 2$ ,  $A, B, C \in \mathbf{R}$ .

We say that  $x \in C^2(\langle 0, 2 \rangle)$  is a solution of boundary value problem (BVP for short) (1), (2) if a  $\lambda_0 \in \mathbf{R}$  exists such that  $x$  is a solution of (1) for  $\lambda = \lambda_0$  and  $x$  satisfies (2).

In this paper we will give sufficient conditions under which there exists a unique solution of BVP (1), (2) for each  $A, B, C \in \mathbf{R}$ . To find sufficient conditions we will use a result in [7] based on a surjective mapping in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  (see [2], p. 23, and [8]).

We observe that BVP (1),  $x'(0) = A$ ,  $x(1) = B$ ,  $x(2) = C$  has been studied in [7] and sufficient conditions for the two-parameter differential equation  $y'' + (g(t, \lambda, \mu) + r(t))y = 0$  having a nontrivial solution  $y$  satisfying  $y(t_1) = x(t_2) = y(t_3) = 0$  ( $-\infty < t_1 < t_2 < t_3 < \infty$ ) are stated in [1] and [3].

Some BVPs for differential and functional differential equations depending on the parameter have been considered for example in [4]–[6] using the Schauder linearization technique the Schauder fixed point theorem.

## 2. Lemmas, results

In what follows we shall assume that  $f$  satisfies some of the following assumptions:

(H<sub>1</sub>) The Cauchy problem  $x(0) = x_0$ ,  $x'(0) = x_1$  for equation (1) has a unique solution  $x(t, x_0, x_1, \lambda)$  on  $\langle 0, 2 \rangle$  for each  $(x_0, x_1, \lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ ;

(H<sub>2</sub>)  $f(t, \cdot, y, \lambda)$  is increasing on  $\mathbb{R}$  for each fixed  $(t, y, \lambda) \in \langle 0, 2 \rangle \times \mathbb{R}^2$ ;

(H<sub>3</sub>)  $f(t, x, y, \cdot)$  is increasing on  $\mathbb{R}$  for each fixed  $(t, x, y) \in \langle 0, 2 \rangle \times \mathbb{R}^2$ ;

(H<sub>4</sub>) For each numbers  $S > 0$ ,  $M > 0$  and  $L > 0$  there exists a number  $K > 0$  such that

$$f(t, x, y, \lambda) \geq S \text{ for all } t \in \langle 0, 2 \rangle, x \geq -M, |y| \leq L, \lambda \geq K,$$

$$f(t, x, y, \lambda) \leq -S \text{ for all } t \in \langle 0, 2 \rangle, x \leq M, |y| \leq L, \lambda \leq -K;$$

(H<sub>5</sub>) For each numbers  $L_1 > 0$  and  $K_1 > 0$  there exists a number  $M_1 > 0$  such that

$$f(t, x, y, \lambda) > 0 \text{ for all } t \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle, x \geq M_1, |y| \leq L_1, |\lambda| \leq K_1,$$

$$f(t, x, y, \lambda) < 0 \text{ for all } t \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle, x \leq -M_1, |y| \leq L_1, |\lambda| \leq K_1,$$

(H<sub>6</sub>) For any bounded set  $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  there exists a positive increasing function  $w(z; \mathcal{D})$ ,  $z \in \langle 0, \infty \rangle$ , such that

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{z dz}{w(z; \mathcal{D})} = \infty$$

and

$$|f(t, x, y, \lambda)| \leq w(|y|; \mathcal{D}) \text{ for all } y \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } (t, x, \lambda) \in \langle 0, t_0 \rangle \times \mathcal{D}.$$

The existence and uniqueness of a solution of BVP (1), (2) is given in the following proposition.

*Proposition 1.* Let assumption (H<sub>1</sub>) and the following two assumptions be satisfied:

(H<sub>7</sub>) BVP (1), (2) has at most one solution for each  $(A, B, C) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ ,

(H<sub>8</sub>) If  $\{x(t, x_n, y_n, \lambda_n)\}$  is an arbitrary sequence of solutions of (1) such that the sequences  $\{x(t_0, x_n, y_n, \lambda_n) - x(0, x_n, y_n, \lambda_n)\}$ ,  $\{x(1, x_n, y_n, \lambda_n)\}$  and  $\{x(2, x_n, y_n, \lambda_n) - x(t_1, x_n, y_n, \lambda_n)\}$  are bounded, then the sequences  $\{x_n\}$ ,  $\{y_n\}$  and  $\{\lambda_n\}$  are bounded, too.

Then there exists a unique solution of BVP (1), (2) for each  $(A, B, C) \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and this solution as well as its derivative are continuous functions of the variables  $(t, A, B, C)$  in  $\langle 0, 2 \rangle \times \mathbb{R}^3$ .

*Proof.* The assertion of our proposition follows from Theorem 1 and Corollary 1 in [7]. ■

The following two lemmas give some sufficient conditions which ensure the fulfilment of assumptions (H<sub>7</sub>) and (H<sub>8</sub>).

*Lemma 1.* Suppose assumptions (H<sub>2</sub>)–(H<sub>3</sub>) are fulfilled. Then BVP (1), (2) has at most one solution for each  $(A, B, C) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x_j$  be a solution of (1) for  $\lambda = \lambda_j$  satisfying (2) with  $x = x_j$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ). Setting  $w = x_2 - x_1$ , we have  $w(t_0) - w(0) = w(1) = w(2) - w(t_1) = 0$ . Assume  $\lambda_2 \geq \lambda_1$  and  $a := \max\{w(t); 0 \leq t \leq 2\} > 0$ . Then  $a = w(\tau) > 0$ ,  $w'(\tau) = 0$ ,  $w''(\tau) \leq 0$  for a  $\tau \in (0, 2)$  which contradicts  $w''(\tau) = f(\tau, x_2(\tau), x_2'(\tau), \lambda_2) - f(\tau, x_1(\tau), x_1'(\tau), \lambda_1) > 0$ . Therefore  $a = 0$  and then  $w(1) = w'(1) = 0$ ,  $w''(1) \leq 0$ . Since  $w''(1) = f(1, x_1(1), x_1'(1), \lambda_2) - f(1, x_1(1), x_1'(1), \lambda_1) \geq 0$  we have (cf. (H<sub>3</sub>))  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ . Assume  $b := \min\{w(t); 0 \leq t \leq 2\} = w(\varepsilon) < 0$  for an  $\varepsilon \in (0, 2)$ . Then  $w'(\varepsilon) = 0$ ,  $w''(\varepsilon) \geq 0$  which contradicts  $w''(\varepsilon) = f(\varepsilon, x_2(\varepsilon), x_2'(\varepsilon), \lambda_2) - f(\varepsilon, x_1(\varepsilon), x_1'(\varepsilon), \lambda_1) < 0$ . Hence  $b = 0$  and therefore  $w = 0$ , that is  $x_1 = x_2$ . ■

*Lemma 2.* Suppose assumption (H<sub>4</sub>) is fulfilled. Let  $x(t)$  be a solution of (1) for  $\lambda = \lambda_0$  on  $\langle 0, 2 \rangle$  such that

$$(3) \quad |x(t_0) - x(0)| \leq Q, \quad |x(1)| \leq Q, \quad |x(2) - x(t_1)| \leq Q$$

which a positive constant  $Q$ .

Then  $|\lambda_0| < K$ , where  $K$  corresponds in assumption (H<sub>4</sub>) to

$$(4) \quad S = 2Q \max \left\{ \frac{1}{t_0(1-t_0)^2}, \frac{1}{t_0 t_1(2-t_1)}, \frac{1}{(2-t_1)^2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{t_0} \right) \right\},$$

$$M = Q \max \{2, 1/t_0\}, \quad L = 2S.$$

*Proof.* Suppose  $x$  is a solution of (1) for  $\lambda = \lambda_0$  satisfying (3) with a positive constant  $Q$  and  $K$  corresponds in  $(H_4)$  to  $S$ ,  $M$  and  $L$  defined by (4). Assume  $\lambda_0 \geq K$ . We see that  $Q \geq |x(t_0) - x(0)| = |x'(\xi)| t_0$  for a  $\xi \in (0, t_0)$ , hence

$$(5) \quad |x'(\xi)| \leq Q/t_0 (< L).$$

The next part of the proof we will divide into four cases.

$$1) \text{ Let } x(\xi) \geq M. \text{ Then } x''(\xi) \geq S, \quad x'(t) \geq \min \left\{ x'(\xi) + \frac{2Q(t-\xi)}{t_0(1-t_0)^2}, L \right\} \geq$$

$\geq -Q/t_0 + 2Q(t-\xi)/(t_0(1-t_0)^2)$  for  $t \in \langle \xi, 1 \rangle$  and we have

$$x(1) = x(\xi) + \int_{\xi}^1 x'(s) ds \geq Q/t_0 - Q(1-\xi)/t_0 + Q(1-\xi)^2/(t_0(1-t_0)^2) > Q,$$

a contradiction.

2) Let  $x(\xi) \leq -M$ . Then  $x(\eta) = -M$ ,  $x'(\eta) \geq 0$  for an  $\eta \in \langle \xi, 1 \rangle$  and  $x'(t) \geq \min \{ x'(\eta) + 2Q(t-\eta)/(t_0 t_1(2-t_1)), L \} > 2Q(t-1)/(t_0 t_1(2-t_1))$  for  $t \in \langle \eta, 2 \rangle$ . Therefore

$$x(2) - x(t_1) = \int_{t_1}^2 x'(s) ds > \{ 2Q/(t_0 t_1(2-t_1)) \} \int_{t_1}^2 (s-1) ds = Q/t_0 > Q$$

and we have a contradiction.

3) Let  $|x(t)| \leq M$  for  $t \in \langle \xi, 2 \rangle$ . Then  $x'(t) \geq \min \left\{ x'(\xi) + \frac{2Q(1+(1/t_0))(t-\xi)}{(2-t_1)^2}, L \right\}$  for  $t \in \langle \xi, 2 \rangle$ , hence  $x'(t) > -\frac{Q}{t_0} + \frac{2Q}{(2-t_1)^2}$ .

$\cdot \left( 1 + \frac{1}{t_0} \right) (t-t_1)$  on  $\langle t_1, 2 \rangle$

and

$$x(2) - x(t_1) = \int_{t_1}^2 x'(s) ds > -Q(2-t_1)/t_0 + Q(1+(1/t_0)) = \\ = Q(t_0+t_1-1)/t_0 > Q \text{ whis is impossible.}$$

4) Let  $|x(\xi)| < M$  and  $|x(\varepsilon)| > M$  for an  $\varepsilon \in \langle \xi, 2 \rangle$ . If  $x(\varepsilon) > M$ , then  $x(v) = M$ ,  $x'(v) \geq 0$  for a  $v \in \langle \xi, \varepsilon \rangle$ , therefore  $x'(t) > 0$  on  $\langle v, 2 \rangle$ ,  $x(2) > M$ ,  $x(t_1) > M - Q$ . Since

$$M - 2Q < x(t_1) - x(1) = x'(\rho)(t_1 - 1)$$

for a  $\rho \in (1, t_1)$ , we have  $x'(\rho) > (M - 2Q)/(t_1 - 1) (\geq 0)$  and then

$$x'(t) \geq \min \left\{ x'(\rho) + \frac{2Q}{(2-t_1)^2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{t_0} \right) (t-\rho), L \right\} > \frac{2Q}{(2-t_1)^2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{t_0} \right) (t-t_1)$$

for  $t \in \langle t_1, 2 \rangle$  hence

$$x(2) - x(t_1) = \int_{t_1}^2 x'(s) ds > \frac{2Q}{(2-t_1)^2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{t_0} \right) \int_{t_1}^2 (s-t_1) ds = Q \left( 1 + \frac{1}{t_0} \right) > Q,$$

a contradiction.



If  $x(\varepsilon) < -M$  and  $\xi < \varepsilon < 1$ , then  $x(\eta) = -M$ ,  $x'(\eta) \geq 0$  for an  $\eta \in (\varepsilon, 1)$ , hence

$$x'(t) \geq \min \left\{ x'(\eta) + \frac{2Q(t-\eta)}{t_1 t_0 (2-t_1)}, L \right\} \text{ for } t \in \langle \eta, 2 \rangle.$$

The last inequality yields  $x'(t) > 2Q(t-1)/(t_1 t_0 (2-t_1))$  on  $\langle t_1, 2 \rangle$  and we have

$$x(2) - x(t_1) = \int_{t_1}^2 x'(s) ds > \frac{Q(1-(t_1-1)^2)}{t_1 t_0 (2-t_1)} = \frac{Q}{t_0} > Q,$$

a contradiction. This proves  $x(t) \geq -M$  on  $\langle \xi, 1 \rangle$  and then

$$x'(t) \geq \min \left\{ x'(\xi) + \frac{2Q(t-\xi)}{t_0(1-t_0)^2}, L \right\} \text{ on } \langle \xi, 1 \rangle, \text{ consequently } x'(1) \geq -\frac{Q}{t_0} +$$

$$+ \frac{2Q(t-\xi)}{t_0(1-t_0)^2} > 0. \text{ Therefore } x'(t) \geq \min \left\{ x'(1) + \frac{2Q(t-1)}{(2-t_1)^2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{t_0} \right), L \right\} >$$

$$> \frac{2Q(t-t_1)}{(2-t_1)^2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{t_0} \right) \text{ for } t \in \langle 1, 2 \rangle \text{ and } x(2) - x(t_1) = \int_{t_1}^2 x'(s) ds >$$

$$> \frac{2Q}{(2-t_1)^2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{t_0} \right) \int_{t_1}^2 (s-t_1) ds = Q \left( 1 + \frac{1}{t_0} \right) > Q, \text{ a contradiction.}$$

For  $\lambda_0 \leq -K$  the proof is similar and therefore is omitted. ■

*Lemma 3.* Let assumptions  $(H_5)$  and  $(H_6)$  be satisfied. Let  $x(t)$  be a solution  $f(1)$  for  $\lambda = \lambda_0$  on  $\langle 0, 2 \rangle$  satisfying (3) with a positive constant  $Q$ . Then

$$|x(t)| \leq M_1 + \frac{Q}{t_0}(1+t_0) (= : P) \text{ for } t \in \langle 0, 2 \rangle,$$

where  $M_1 (\geq Q)$  corresponds in assumption  $(H_5)$  to  $L_1 = Q/t_0$ ,  $K_1 \geq |\lambda_0|$ , and

$$|x'(0)| \leq \max \{ Q/t_0, \Psi^{-1}(2P) \},$$

where  $\Psi^{-1}$  denotes the inverse function to  $\Psi$ ,  $\Psi(t) = \int_{Q/t_0}^t \frac{v dv}{w(v; \mathcal{D}_0)}$ ,  $t \in \langle Q/t_0, \infty \rangle$

with  $w(v, \mathcal{D}_0)$  corresponds in assumption  $(H_6)$  to  $\mathcal{D}_0 = \langle -P, P \rangle \times \langle -K_1, K_1 \rangle$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x$  be a solution of (1) for  $\lambda = \lambda_0$  on  $\langle 0, 2 \rangle$  satisfying (3) with a positive constant  $Q$ . Let  $M_1 (\geq Q)$  correspond in condition  $(H_5)$  to  $L_1 = Q/t_0$  and  $K_1 \geq |\lambda_0|$  and set  $\mathcal{D}_0 = \langle -P, P \rangle \times \langle -K_1, K_1 \rangle$ . Assume  $x(0) > M_1 + Q(1+t_0)/t_0$ . By virtue of  $x(1) \leq Q$  we have  $x(\tau) = M_1$  and

$x(t) > M_1$  on  $\langle 0, \tau \rangle$  for a  $\tau \in (0, 1)$ . Assume  $a := \max\{x(t); \tau \leq t \leq 1\} = x(\alpha) > M_1$ ,  $\alpha \in (\tau, 1)$ . Then  $x(\alpha) > M_1$ ,  $x'(\alpha) = 0$ ,  $x''(\alpha) \leq 0$  which contradicts  $x''(\alpha) = f(\alpha, x(\alpha), 0, \lambda_0) > 0$ . Therefore  $a = M_1$  and since  $x(t_0) \geq x(0) - Q$  we have  $\tau \in (t_0, 1)$ . Next we have  $Q \geq x(0) - x(t_0) = -x'(\eta)t_0$ ,  $Q/t_0 < x(t_0) - x(\tau) = -x'(\varepsilon)(\tau - t_0)$  for an  $\eta \in (0, t_0)$  and an  $\varepsilon \in (t_0, \tau)$ , consequently

$$x'(\eta) \geq -Q/t_0, \quad x'(\varepsilon) < -Q/(t_0(\tau - t_0)) < -Q/t_0.$$

Then  $-Q/t_0 = x'(\rho)$ ,  $x''(\rho) \leq 0$  for a  $\rho \in (\eta, \varepsilon)$  which contradicts  $x''(\rho) = f(\rho, x(\rho), x'(\rho), \lambda_0) > 0$ . This proves  $x(0) \leq P$ . If  $x$  has a local maximum at a point  $t = \beta \in (0, 2)$  and  $x(\beta) > P$ , then  $x'(\beta) = 0$ ,  $x''(\beta) \leq 0$  which contradicts  $x''(\beta) = f(\beta, x(\beta), 0, \lambda_0) > 0$ . Therefore  $x(t) \leq P$  on  $\langle 0, 2 \rangle$ .

Similarly we can prove  $x(t) \geq -P$  on  $\langle 0, 2 \rangle$ .

Suppose  $|x'(0)| > \max\{Q/t_0, \Psi^{-1}(2P)\}$ , say  $x'(0) < -\max\{Q/t_0, \Psi^{-1}(2P)\}$ . Since  $Q \geq |x(0) - x(t_0)| = |x'(\xi)|t_0$  for a  $\xi \in (0, t_0)$ , we have  $|x'(\xi)| \leq Q/t_0$ , thus  $x'(t) < -Q/t_0$  on  $\langle 0, \eta \rangle$  ( $\subset \langle 0, \xi \rangle$ ) while  $x'(\eta) = -Q/t_0$ . Set  $T = \min\{x'(t); 0 \leq t \leq \eta\} = x'(v)$  for a  $v \in \langle 0, \eta \rangle$ . With regard to  $(H_6)$ ,  $|x''(t)| = |f(t, x(t), x'(t), \lambda_0)| \leq w(|x'(t); \mathcal{D}_0)$  for  $t \in \langle 0, t_0 \rangle$ , hence

$$\frac{x'(t)|x''(t)|}{w(-x'(t); \mathcal{D}_0)} \geq x'(t) \text{ on } \langle 0, \eta \rangle$$

and

$$\Psi(-T) = \int_{Q/t_0}^{-T} \frac{s ds}{w(s; \mathcal{D}_0)} \leq \int_{\eta}^v \frac{x'(t)|x''(t)|}{w(-x'(t); \mathcal{D}_0)} dt \leq \int_{\eta}^v x'(t) dt = x(v) - x(\eta) \leq 2P.$$

Then  $-x'(0) \leq -x'(v) = -T \leq \Psi^{-1}(2P)$ , a contradiction.  $\blacksquare$

*Lemma 4.* Suppose assumptions  $(H_4)$ – $(H_6)$  are satisfied. Let  $x_k(t)$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$  be a sequence of solutions of (1) for  $\lambda = \lambda_k$  on  $\langle 0, 2 \rangle$  such that

$$|x_k(t_0) - x_k(0)| \leq Q, \quad |x_k(1)| \leq Q, \quad |x_k(2) - x(t_1)| \leq Q, \quad k \in \mathbb{N},$$

where  $Q$  is a positive constant. Then the sequences

$$\{x_k(0)\}, \{x'_k(0)\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{\lambda_k\}$$

are bounded.

*Proof.* With respect to Lemma 2  $|\lambda_k| \leq K$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $K$  corresponds in condition  $(H_4)$  to  $S, M$  and  $L$  defined by (4). Using Lemma 3,  $|x_k(0)| \leq M_1 + Q(1 + t_0)/t_0 (= : P)$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $M_1 (\geq Q)$  corresponds

in condition (H<sub>5</sub>) to  $L_1 = Q/t_0$  and  $K_1 = K$ , and  $|x'_k(0)| \leq \max\{Q/t_0, \Psi^{-1}(2P)\}$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $\Psi^{-1}$  denotes the inverse function to  $\Psi$ ,  $\Psi: \langle Q/t_0, \infty \rangle \rightarrow \langle 0, \infty \rangle$ ,  $\Psi(t) = \int_{Q/t_0}^t \frac{v dv}{w(z; \mathcal{D}_0)}$  with  $w(z; \mathcal{D}_0)$  corresponds in condition (H<sub>6</sub>) to  $\mathcal{D}_0 = \langle -P, P \rangle \times \langle -K_1, K_1 \rangle$ . ■

### 3. Existence and uniqueness theorem

*Theorem 1.* Let assumptions (H<sub>1</sub>)–(H<sub>6</sub>) be satisfied. Then BVP (1), (2) has a unique solution for each  $(A, B, C) \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and this solution as well as its derivative are continuous functions of the variables  $(t, A, B, C) \in \langle 0, 2 \rangle \times \mathbb{R}^3$ .

*Proof.* With regard to Proposition 1 it is sufficient to show that assumptions (H<sub>7</sub>) and (H<sub>8</sub>) are fulfilled. Assumptions (H<sub>2</sub>)–(H<sub>3</sub>) imply (cf. Lemma 1) that assumption (H<sub>7</sub>) is satisfied and assumptions (H<sub>4</sub>)–(H<sub>6</sub>) give conditions guaranteeing the validity of assumption (H<sub>8</sub>) (cf. Lemma 4). ■

*Example 1.* Consider the differential equation

$$(6) \quad x'' = t^2 + x + t|x'| + (1 + |e^t + x'|) \lambda.$$

Equation (6) satisfies all assumptions of Theorem 1 and therefore BVP (6), (2) has a unique solution  $x(t; A, B, C)$  for each  $(A, B, C) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . Furthermore,  $x(t; A, B, C)$  and  $x'(t; A, B, C)$  are continuous functions of the variables  $(t, A, B, C)$  on  $\langle 0, 2 \rangle \times \mathbb{R}^3$ .

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