

Existence principle for BVPs with state–dependent impulses*

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Abstract

The paper provides an existence principle for the Sturm–Liouville boundary value problem with state–dependent impulses

$$\begin{aligned}z''(t) &= f(t, z(t), z'(t)) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T] \subset \mathbb{R}, \\z(0) - az'(0) &= c_1, \quad z(T) + bz'(T) = c_2, \\z(\tau_i+) - z(\tau_i) &= J_i(\tau_i, z(\tau_i)), \quad z'(\tau_i+) - z'(\tau_i-) = \mathcal{M}_i(\tau_i, z(\tau_i)),\end{aligned}$$

where the points τ_1, \dots, τ_p depend on z through the equations

$$\tau_i = \gamma(z(\tau_i)), \quad i = 1, \dots, p, \quad p \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Provided $a, b \in [0, \infty)$, $c_j \in \mathbb{R}$, $j = 1, 2$, and the data functions f , J_i , \mathcal{M}_i , $i = 1, \dots, p$, are bounded, transversality conditions for barriers γ_i , $i = 1, \dots, p$, which yield the solvability of the problem, are delivered. An application to the problem with unbounded data functions is demonstrated.

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1 Introduction

Impulsive differential equations have attracted lots of interest due to their important applications in many areas such as aircraft control, drug administration,

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and threshold theory in biology [4, 13, 18]. In practical ecological systems, the control measures are taken only when the amount of species reaches a threshold value, rather than the usual impulsive fixed-time control strategy. Studies of real life problems with such *state-dependent impulsive* effects were made in [8, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20].

A very particular case of state-dependent impulses are *impulses at fixed moments*. This is the case that the moments, where impulses act in state variable, are known. The theory of these impulsive problems is widely developed and presents direct analogies with the methods and results for problems without impulses. Important texts in this area are [2, 3, 12, 17, 21].

A different situation arises, when the impulses appear in evolutionary trajectories fulfilling a predetermined relation between state and time variables. This case, which is represented by state-dependent impulses, is studied here. In particular, we investigate the solvability of *boundary value problems with state-depending impulses*. Such problems can be found for example in differential population models, where the densities of populations are subject to given conditions at the beginning and the end of the studied time interval and the impulses, caused by harvesting or fishing, act at the moments depending on the threshold values of the densities. The main reason that such problems are developed substantially less than those with impulses at fixed moments is that new difficulties appear when examining state-dependent impulses. To demonstrate it, we compare these two types of impulses in the Dirichlet problem and show some fundamental differences between them.

1.1 Dirichlet problem with impulses at fixed moments

For $T \in (0, \infty)$ and $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$, consider the Dirichlet problem

$$u''(t) = f(t, u(t), u'(t)), \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T], \quad (1)$$

$$u(0) = A, \quad u(T) = B. \quad (2)$$

Let a finite number of points $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_p < t_{p+1} = T$, $p \in \mathbb{N}$, be given. We investigate the existence of a solution u of problem (1), (2) subject to some impulse conditions at the moments t_1, \dots, t_p .

For example, we choose impulse functions J_i, \mathcal{M}_i , $i = 1, \dots, p$, and define impulse conditions as

$$\begin{cases} u(t_i+) - u(t_i) = J_i(u(t_i)), \\ u'(t_i+) - u'(t_i-) = \mathcal{M}_i(u(t_i)), \end{cases} \quad i = 1, \dots, p. \quad (3)$$

We use the notation $\lim_{t \rightarrow a+} z(t) = z(a+)$, $\lim_{t \rightarrow a-} z(t) = z(a-)$. The impulsive problem (1)–(3) can be transformed to a fixed point problem in a suitable functional space as follows. Consider a set X of functions $u : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} u_{[0]}(t) & \text{if } t \in [0, t_1], \\ u_{[1]}(t) & \text{if } t \in (t_1, t_2], \\ \dots & \\ u_{[p]}(t) & \text{if } t \in (t_p, T], \end{cases}$$

where $u_{[i]} \in C^1([t_i, t_{i+1}])$, $i = 1, \dots, p$. Then X with the norm $\|u\|_\infty + \|u'\|_\infty$, where $\|u\|_\infty = \sup \operatorname{ess}_{t \in [0, T]} |u(t)|$, becomes a Banach space. It is known (see e.g. [16]) that a solution of problem (1)–(3) can be found as a fixed point of an operator $\mathcal{F} : X \rightarrow X$ which is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}u(t) = & \int_0^T G(t, s)f(s, u(s), u'(s)) \, ds + A + (B - A)\frac{t}{T} \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^p \frac{\partial G}{\partial s}(t, t_i)J_i(u(t_i)) + \sum_{i=1}^p G(t, t_i)\mathcal{M}_i(u(t_i)). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Here G is the Green function of the problem $u''(t) = 0$, $u(0) = u(T) = 0$. If f fulfils the Carathéodory conditions on $[0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^2$ and J_i, \mathcal{M}_i , $i = 1, \dots, p$, are continuous on \mathbb{R} , then \mathcal{F} is completely continuous. Therefore, having the Banach space X and the operator \mathcal{F} defined by (4), we can use similar conditions and arguments as for problem (1), (2) without impulses to get a fixed point of \mathcal{F} in X .

1.2 Dirichlet problem with state–dependent impulses

Consider problem (1),(2) and choose a finite number of functions

$$0 < \gamma_1(x) < \gamma_2(x) < \dots < \gamma_p(x) < T \quad \text{for } |x| \leq K, \quad (5)$$

where $K \in (0, \infty)$. Functions γ_i will be called barriers here. We investigate the existence of a solution of problem (1), (2) subject to the impulse conditions

$$\begin{cases} u(\tau_i+) - u(\tau_i) = J_i(u(\tau_i)), \\ u'(\tau_i+) - u'(\tau_i-) = \mathcal{M}_i(u(\tau_i)), \end{cases} \quad i = 1, \dots, p, \quad (6)$$

where the points $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_p \in (0, T)$ depend on u through the equations

$$\tau_i = \gamma_i(u(\tau_i)), \quad i = 1, \dots, p. \quad (7)$$

Hence, τ_i are intersection points of graphs of u with the barriers γ_i , $i = 1, \dots, p$.

1.3 Main differences between impulses at fixed moments and state–dependent impulses

We see that condition (3) contains p points t_1, \dots, t_p which are given before and which are common for all solutions of problem (1)–(3). In contrast to that, conditions (6) and (7) yield the following inconveniences.

(i) Number of points τ_i given by (7). There are continuous functions u and barriers γ such that the equation

$$\tau = \gamma(u(\tau))$$

has infinitely many solutions τ_u . On Figure 1 we see infinitely many intersection

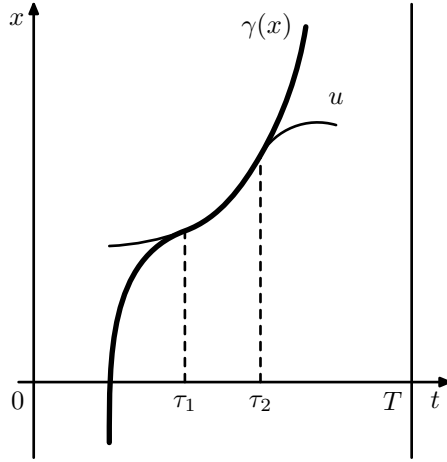


Figure 1: Infinitely many intersection points.

points τ_u of u with γ , which form an interval $[\tau_1, \tau_2]$. In this case $\mathcal{P} : u \mapsto \tau_u$ is a multivalued map.

(ii) Points τ_i need not depend on u continuously. Consider functions in $C([0, T])$ having just one intersection point with γ . Figure 2 shows functions u and v which are close to each other while their intersection points τ_u and τ_v are not. In this case an operator $\mathcal{P} : u \mapsto \tau_u$ can be defined on the set of such functions, but \mathcal{P} is not continuous.

(iii) Beating of solutions. There are functions $f, \gamma, J, \mathcal{M}$ and constants A, A_1 such that a solution u of equation (1) satisfying conditions

$$\begin{cases} u(0) = A, & u'(0) = A_1, \\ u(\tau+) - u(\tau) = J(u(\tau)), \\ u'(\tau+) - u'(\tau-) = \mathcal{M}(u(\tau)), & \tau = \gamma(u(\tau)), \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

has a sequence of intersection points $\{\tau_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ with the barrier γ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_n = \tau^* \in (0, T).$$

Hence, such a solution cannot be extended to T . This phenomenon, which is called beating, is presented on Figure 3. Here, u is a solution of equation $u''(t) = 0$ for $t \in [0, T]$ and satisfies conditions (8), where

$$A \in (-1, 0), \quad A_1 = 0, \quad \mathcal{M} \equiv 0$$

and

$$J(x) = -x^2 - x, \quad \gamma(x) = x + 4 \quad \text{for } |x| < 3.$$

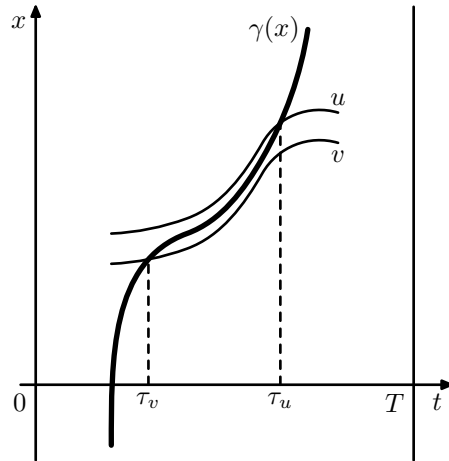


Figure 2: Intersection point τ_u does not depend on u continuously.

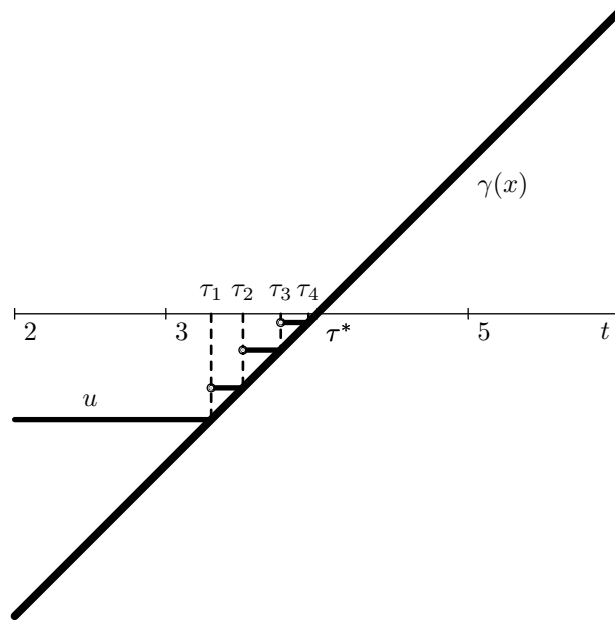


Figure 3: Beating of solution u .

We see that γ fulfils (5) with $K = 3$ provided $T > 7$. Then u is subject to an impulse effect at infinitely many moments τ_n , and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_n = \tau^* = 4$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u(\tau_n) = 0$. Such solution cannot be extended to T .

(iv) Fredholm property. A linear homogeneous problem corresponding to the impulse problem (1)–(3) has the form

$$u''(t) = 0, \quad u(0) = 0, \quad u(T) = 0, \quad (9)$$

because for $J_i = \mathcal{M}_i = 0$, $i = 1, \dots, p$, the impulses in (3) disappear. Since (9) has only the trivial solution, the Green function of (9) exists. It is clear that for continuous and bounded functions f , J_i , \mathcal{M}_i , $i = 1, \dots, p$, and any $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$, the operator \mathcal{F} from (4) has at least one fixed point, and hence problem (1)–(3) is solvable. The same is true if the continuity of f is replaced by the Carathéodory conditions. This Fredholm property of problem (1)–(3) cannot be extended without some additional requirement to problem (1), (2), (6), (7). To demonstrate it, consider for simplicity

$$\begin{aligned} f &\equiv 0, \quad A = -1, \quad B = 0, \quad p = 1, \quad J_1(x) \equiv 1, \quad \mathcal{M}_1(x) \equiv 1, \\ T &\geq 10, \quad K = 4, \quad \gamma_1(x) = 5 + x \text{ for } |x| \leq 4, \end{aligned}$$

that is problem (1), (2), (6), (7) can be written as

$$\begin{cases} u''(t) = 0, & u(0) = -1, & u(T) = 0, \\ u(\tau+) - u(\tau) = 1, & u'(\tau+) - u'(\tau-) = 1, \\ \tau = 5 + u(\tau) & \text{for } \tau \in [1, 9]. \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Note that (9) is again a linear homogenous problem corresponding to (10). We observe that although f , J_1 and \mathcal{M}_1 in (10) are continuous and bounded functions, problem (10) is not solvable. It is obvious, because functions satisfying the equation $u''(t) = 0$ on $[0, T]$ and the condition $u(0) = -1$ form the set $\{ct - 1 : c \in \mathbb{R}\}$.

- Let $c \in (-\infty, -3) \cup (5/9, \infty)$. Then the function $ct - 1$ has no intersection point with γ_1 in $[1, 9]$. But since $cT - 1 \neq 0$, this function cannot be a solution of problem (10).
- Let $c \in [0, 5/9]$. Then there is a unique intersection point $\tau_1 \in [4, 9]$ of the function $ct - 1$ with γ_1 and there is no intersection point of the function $(1 + c)t - \tau_1$ with γ_1 in $(\tau_1, 9]$. We see that the piece-wise linear function

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} ct - 1 & \text{if } t \in [0, \tau_1], \\ (1 + c)t - \tau_1 & \text{if } t \in (\tau_1, T] \end{cases}$$

is subject to the impulse conditions of (10) but it does not vanish at T and so it cannot be a solution of problem (10).

- Let $c \in [-3, 0)$. Then we argue similarly and find that there are at most four points in $[1, 9]$ at which the impulses occur. Denote the largest of them

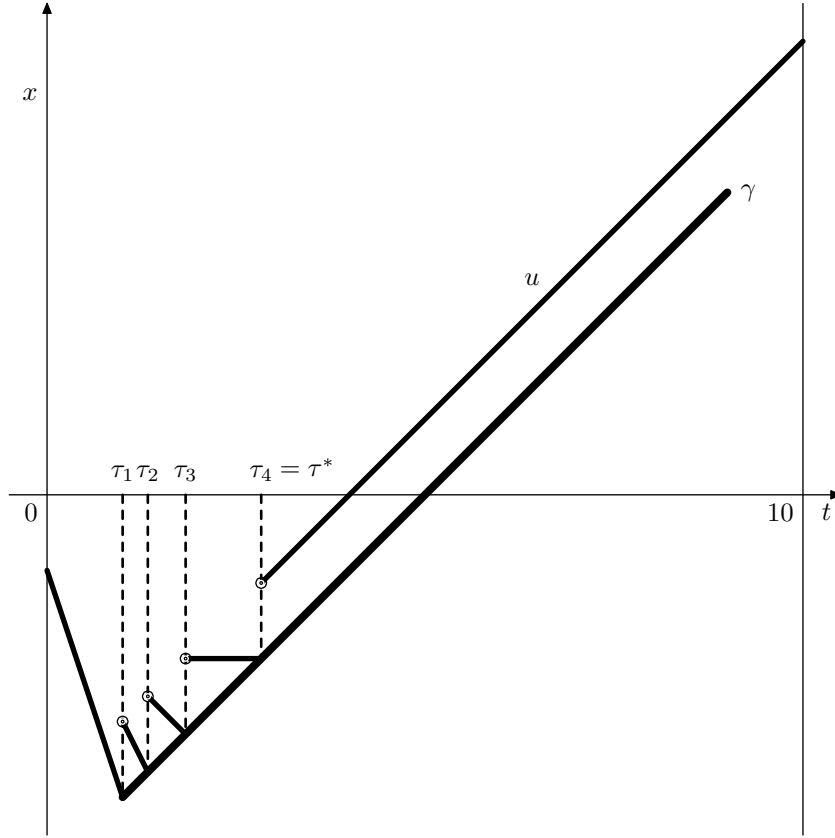


Figure 4: Solution u for $c = -3$.

by τ^* . If we construct a piecewise linear function u which is subject to the impulse conditions of (10), we get $u(\tau^*+) = \tau^* - 4$ and $u'(t) \geq 1$ for $t \in [\tau^*, T]$. Consequently u does not vanish at T and cannot be a solution of (10). See Figure 4 for $c = -3$.

Difficulties (i) – (iv) cause that if we search a transformation of problem (1), (2), (6), (7) to a fixed point problem of a suitable operator \mathcal{F} in some functional space, a choice of this space is not a simple matter. Moreover, to define an operator \mathcal{F} we cannot use a formula analogical to (4) substituting the intersection points τ_i instead of the given points t_i . It is because τ_i need not depend on u continuously and consequently \mathcal{F} defined by (4) with τ_i instead of t_i need not be continuous.

This is the reason that almost all existence results for boundary value problems with state-dependent impulses have been reached for periodic problems. It is known that n -th order periodic problems can be transformed to fixed point problems of corresponding Poincaré maps in \mathbb{R}^n . Hence, the above difficulties

with the construction of a functional space and an operator have been cleared in the *periodic case*. See e.g. [1, 5, 6, 9]. Other types of boundary value problems with state-dependent impulses have been studied very rarely. We managed to find only two papers. In the first one [10], the authors investigated the second order Sturm–Liouville problem through initial problems for multivalued maps. Their result is applicable to a quite special equation (1) where $f(t, x, y)$ vanishes on given regions in dependence on the values of y . The second paper [7] deals with the first order differential inclusion subject to nonlinear boundary conditions.

Our main objective is to derive a general existence principle which will serve as a tool in the investigation of solvability of boundary value problems with state-dependent impulses. To this aim we have delivered an approach which is substantially different from both cited papers and from papers dealing with impulses at fixed moments. We search neither a fixed point of multivalued map nor a fixed point of an operator in some space of discontinuous functions. Instead, considering p barrier functions, we work in the $(p + 1)$ -th Cartesian power of the space $C^1([0, T])$. In more details, we define a convenient subset $\Omega \subset (C^1([0, T]))^{p+1}$. Then, to a given boundary value problem, we determine conditions for the barriers enabling to construct a completely continuous operator $\mathcal{F} : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$ having a fixed point in Ω . A solution of the impulsive problem under consideration is then created from this fixed point. Here, this is done for the Sturm–Liouville boundary value problem, but we can proceed similarly in the case of other regular (and also singular) problems.

Our paper is organized as follows: In Section 2, we formulate the Sturm–Liouville BVP with state-dependent impulses and provide the transversality conditions for barriers γ_i . These conditions ensure unique transverse intersection of graphs of solutions with barriers. In Section 3 we prove the existence of a fixed point of an appropriate fixed point problem. Using this we state the existence principle for our BVP. Section 4 contains the existence result for the Sturm–Liouville BVP with state-dependent impulses and unbounded data functions f , J_i , \mathcal{M}_i , $i = 1, \dots, p$, whose proof is based on the existence principle of Section 3.

2 Transversality conditions

Let $T \in (0, \infty)$, $p \in \mathbb{N}$. We investigate the following second order Sturm–Liouville boundary value problem on the interval $[0, T]$, $T > 0$, subject to p state-dependent impulses

$$z''(t) = f(t, z(t), z'(t)) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T], \quad (11)$$

$$z(0) - az'(0) = c_1, \quad z(T) + bz'(T) = c_2, \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{cases} z(\tau_i+) - z(\tau_i) = J_i(\tau_i, z(\tau_i)), \\ z'(\tau_i+) - z'(\tau_i-) = \mathcal{M}_i(\tau_i, z(\tau_i)), \\ \tau_i = \gamma_i(z(\tau_i)), \quad i = 1, \dots, p, \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} a, b \in [0, \infty), \quad c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \quad f \in \text{Car}([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^2), \\ J_i, \mathcal{M}_i \in C([0, T] \times \mathbb{R}), \quad \gamma_i \in C(\mathcal{D}), \quad \mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}, \quad i = 1, \dots, p. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Definition 1 A function $z : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a solution of problem (11)–(13), if for each $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ there exists a unique $\tau_i \in (0, T)$ such that $\gamma_i(z(\tau_i)) = \tau_i$, $0 = \tau_0 < \tau_1 < \dots < \tau_p < \tau_{p+1} = T$, the restrictions $z|_{[\tau_0, \tau_1]}$, $z|_{(\tau_i, \tau_{i+1}]}$, $i = 1, \dots, p$, have absolutely continuous derivatives, z satisfies (11) for a.e. $t \in [0, T]$ and fulfils conditions (12) and (13).

Here, we denote by $C(J)$ the set of all continuous functions on the interval J , $C^1(J)$ the set of all functions having continuous derivatives on the interval J and $L^1(J)$ the set of all Lebesgue integrable functions on J . For a compact interval J we consider the linear spaces $C(J)$ and $C^1(J)$ equipped with the norms

$$\|x\|_\infty = \max_{t \in J} |x(t)| \quad \text{and} \quad \|x\|^* = \|x\|_\infty + \|x'\|_\infty,$$

respectively. In the paper we work with the linear space

$$X = (C^1([0, T]))^{p+1}$$

equipped with the norm

$$\|(u_1, \dots, u_{p+1})\| = \sum_{i=1}^{p+1} \|u_i\|^* \quad \text{for } (u_1, \dots, u_{p+1}) \in X.$$

It is well-known that the mentioned normed spaces are Banach spaces. Recall that for $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathbb{R}$, a function $f : [a, b] \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies the Carathéodory conditions on $[a, b] \times \mathcal{A}$ (we write $f \in \text{Car}([a, b] \times \mathcal{A})$) if

- $f(\cdot, x) : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is measurable for all $x \in \mathcal{A}$,
- $f(t, \cdot) : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous for a.e. $t \in [a, b]$,
- for each compact set $S \subset \mathcal{A}$ there exists a function $m_S \in L^1([a, b])$ such that $|f(t, x)| \leq m_S(t)$ for a.e. $t \in [a, b]$ and each $x \in S$.

We assume that the data functions f , J_i , \mathcal{M}_i are bounded, that is

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{there exist } m \in L^1([0, T]), A_i, B_i \in (0, \infty) \text{ such that} \\ |f(t, x, y)| \leq m(t) \text{ for a.e. } t \in [0, T] \text{ and all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}, \\ |J_i(t, x)| \leq B_i, |\mathcal{M}_i(t, x)| \leq A_i \text{ for all } t \in [0, T], x \in \mathbb{R}, i = 1, \dots, p. \end{array} \right. \quad (15)$$

In our approach we will exploit the Green function of the linear homogenous BVP

$$\begin{aligned} z''(t) &= 0, \quad t \in [0, T], \\ z(0) - az'(0) &= 0, \quad z(T) + bz'(T) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

which has the form

$$G(t, s) = \begin{cases} g(t, s) & \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq s \leq T, \\ g(s, t) & \text{for } 0 \leq s \leq t \leq T, \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

where

$$g(t, s) = \frac{(a+t)(b+T-s)}{T+a+b}, \quad t, s \in [0, T]. \quad (18)$$

Further put

$$g_1(t) = \frac{b+T-t}{T+a+b}, \quad g_2(t) = \frac{-a-t}{T+a+b}, \quad t \in [0, T] \quad (19)$$

and denote a solution of problem (16), (12) by ℓ . Evidently, there exist positive constants C_0, C_1, C_2, L, L_1 such that for $s, t \in [0, T]$ it holds

$$|g(t, s)| \leq C_0, \quad |g_i(t)| \leq C_1, \quad |g'_i(t)| \leq C_2, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (20)$$

$$|\ell(t)| \leq L, \quad |\ell'(t)| \leq L_1. \quad (21)$$

Finally denote

$$\begin{cases} M = \int_0^T m(t) dt, & K = C_0 M + L + C_0 \sum_{i=1}^p A_i + C_1 \sum_{i=1}^p B_i, \\ K_1 = C_1 M + L_1 + C_1 \sum_{i=1}^p A_i + C_2 \sum_{i=1}^p B_i. \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

Now, we are ready to state the following transversality conditions:

$$0 < \gamma_1(x) < \dots < \gamma_p(x) < T, \quad \gamma_i \in C^1([-K, K]), \quad |\gamma'_i(x)| < \frac{1}{K_1}, \quad (23)$$

$x \in [-K, K], i = 1, \dots, p$, and

$$\begin{cases} \text{for each } i \in \{1, \dots, p\} \\ \text{either } J_i(t, x) = 0 \quad t \in [0, T], x \in [-K, K], & \text{or} \\ \gamma'_i(x) \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad J_i(t, x) \leq 0, \quad t \in [0, T], x \in [-K, K], & \text{or} \\ \gamma'_i(x) \leq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad J_i(t, x) \geq 0, \quad t \in [0, T], x \in [-K, K]. \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

Define a set \mathcal{B} by

$$\mathcal{B} = \{u \in C^1([0, T]) : \|u\|_\infty < K, \|u'\|_\infty < K_1\}. \quad (25)$$

The next lemma states that functions of $\overline{\mathcal{B}}$ have a unique trasverse intersection with each barrier.

Lemma 2 *Let $u \in \overline{\mathcal{B}}, i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and let γ_i satisfy (23). Then there exists a unique $\tau_i \in (0, T)$ such that*

$$\gamma_i(u(\tau_i)) = \tau_i. \quad (26)$$

Proof. Let us take an arbitrary $u \in \bar{\mathcal{B}}$ and $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$. Obviously, the constant τ_i is a solution of the equation

$$\gamma_i(u(t)) = t,$$

i.e. τ_i is a root of the function

$$\sigma(t) = \gamma_i(u(t)) - t, \quad t \in [0, T].$$

According to (23) and (25), we get $\sigma(0) = \gamma_i(u(0)) > 0$, $\sigma(T) = \gamma_i(u(T)) - T < 0$ and

$$\sigma'(t) = \gamma'_i(u(t))u'(t) - 1 \leq |\gamma'_i(u(t))||u'(t)| - 1 < \frac{1}{K_1}K_1 - 1 = 0, \quad t \in (0, T). \quad (27)$$

Therefore σ is strictly decreasing on $[0, T]$ and hence it has exactly one root in $(0, T)$. \square

Due to Lemma 2 we can define functionals $\mathcal{P}_i : \bar{\mathcal{B}} \rightarrow (0, T)$ by

$$\mathcal{P}_i u = \tau_i,$$

where τ_i fulfils (26) for $i = 1, \dots, p$. Now, we will prove their continuity.

Lemma 3 *Let $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and let γ_i satisfy (23). Then the functional \mathcal{P}_i is continuous on $\bar{\mathcal{B}}$.*

Proof. Let us consider $u_n, u \in \bar{\mathcal{B}}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $u_n \rightarrow u$ in $C^1([0, T])$. Choose $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ and denote

$$\sigma_n(t) = \gamma_i(u_n(t)) - t, \quad \sigma(t) = \gamma_i(u(t)) - t, \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T], \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

By Lemma 2, $\sigma_n(\tau_i^n) = 0$ and $\sigma(\tau_i) = 0$, where $\tau_i^n = \mathcal{P}_i u_n$ and $\tau_i = \mathcal{P}_i u$, respectively. According to (23) we get $\sigma_n, \sigma \in C^1([0, T])$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and

$$\sigma_n \rightarrow \sigma \quad \text{in } C([0, T]). \quad (28)$$

We will prove that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_i^n = \tau_i$. Let us take an arbitrary $\epsilon > 0$. Since $\sigma(\tau_i) = 0$ and $\sigma'(\tau_i) < 0$ (cf. (27)), we can find $\xi \in (\tau_i - \epsilon, \tau_i)$ and $\eta \in (\tau_i, \tau_i + \epsilon)$ such that

$$\sigma(\xi) > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma(\eta) < 0.$$

From (28) it follows the existence of $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\sigma_n(\xi) > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_n(\eta) < 0$$

for each $n \geq n_0$. By Lemma 2 and the continuity of σ_n it follows that $\tau_i^n \in (\xi, \eta) \subset (\tau_i - \epsilon, \tau_i + \epsilon)$ for $n \geq n_0$. \square

3 Existence principle

In this section, in order to obtain the existence principle to problem (11)–(13), we assume that conditions (14), (15), (23) and (24) with K and K_1 by (22) are fulfilled. Having the set \mathcal{B} of (25), we construct a fixed point problem in the set $\bar{\Omega}$, where

$$\Omega = \mathcal{B}^{p+1} \subset X. \quad (29)$$

For this purpose we define a functional f_u as follows. Let \mathcal{P}_i , $i = 1, \dots, p$, be the functionals of Lemma 3. We set for a.e. $t \in [0, T]$ and for each $u = (u_1, \dots, u_{p+1}) \in \bar{\Omega}$

$$f_u(t) = \begin{cases} f(t, u_1(t), u'_1(t)) & \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, \mathcal{P}_1 u_1], \\ f(t, u_2(t), u'_2(t)) & \text{for a.e. } t \in (\mathcal{P}_1 u_1, \mathcal{P}_2 u_2], \\ \dots & \dots \\ f(t, u_{p+1}(t), u'_{p+1}(t)) & \text{for a.e. } t \in (\mathcal{P}_p u_p, T]. \end{cases} \quad (30)$$

Note that for each $u_i \in \bar{\mathcal{B}}$ the point $\mathcal{P}_i u_i \in (0, T)$ is uniquely determined. Now, we can define an operator $\mathcal{F} : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow X$ by $\mathcal{F}(u_1, \dots, u_{p+1}) = (x_1, \dots, x_{p+1})$, where

$$\begin{aligned} x_j(t) &= \int_0^T G(t, s) f_u(s) ds + \ell(t) \\ &+ \sum_{j \leq i \leq p} [-g(t, \mathcal{P}_i u_i) \mathcal{M}_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i)) + g_2(t) J_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i))] \\ &+ \sum_{1 \leq i < j} [-g(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, t) \mathcal{M}_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i)) + g_1(t) J_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i))] \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

for $t \in [0, T]$, $j = 1, \dots, p+1$. Here, G , g_1 and g_2 are from (17), (18) and (19) and ℓ is a solution of problem (16), (12).

Lemma 4 *The operator \mathcal{F} has a fixed point in $\bar{\Omega}$.*

Proof. According to (14) and (30), the operator $\mathcal{H} : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow C^1([0, T])$, $(\mathcal{H}u)(t) = \int_0^T G(t, s) f_u(s) ds$ is compact on $\bar{\Omega}$. Since J_i , \mathcal{M}_i are continuous on $[0, T] \times \mathbb{R}$ for $i = 1, \dots, p$ and \mathcal{P}_i , $i = 1, \dots, p$, are continuous on $\bar{\mathcal{B}}$ due to Lemma 3, we get by the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem and the Arzelà–Ascoli theorem that \mathcal{F} is compact on $\bar{\Omega}$. By (15), (20), (21), (22) and (30), we get from (31)

$$|x_j(t)| \leq C_0 M + L + C_0 \sum_{i=1}^p A_i + C_1 \sum_{i=1}^p B_i = K \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T],$$

$j = 1, \dots, p+1$. Differentiating (31), we get

$$\begin{aligned} x'_j(t) &= \int_0^T \frac{\partial G}{\partial t}(t, s) f_u(s) ds + \ell'(t) \\ &+ \sum_{j \leq i \leq p} [-g_1(\mathcal{P}_i u_i) \mathcal{M}_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i)) + g'_2(t) J_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i))] \\ &+ \sum_{1 \leq i < j} [-g_2(\mathcal{P}_i u_i) \mathcal{M}_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i)) + g'_1(t) J_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i))] \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

for $t \in [0, T]$, $j = 1, \dots, p+1$. This yields similarly as before

$$|x'_j(t)| \leq C_1 M + L_1 + C_1 \sum_{i=1}^p A_i + C_2 \sum_{i=1}^p B_i = K_1 \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T],$$

$j = 1, \dots, p+1$. Therefore $x_j \in \bar{\mathcal{B}}$ for $j = 1, \dots, p+1$, and so $(x_1, \dots, x_{p+1}) \in \bar{\Omega}$. Consequently $\mathcal{F}(\bar{\Omega}) \subset \bar{\Omega}$ and the Schauder fixed point theorem yields a fixed point in $\bar{\Omega}$. \square

The main result of this section is contained in the next theorem.

Theorem 5 (*Existence principle for problem (11)–(13).*) *Let assumptions (14), (15), (23) and (24) with K and K_1 by (22) be fulfilled. Then there exists a solution z of problem (11)–(13) such that*

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} |z(t)| \leq K, \quad \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |z'(t)| \leq K_1.$$

Proof. By Lemma 4, there exists $u = (u_1, \dots, u_{p+1}) \in \bar{\Omega}$, which is a fixed point of the operator \mathcal{F} defined in (31). This means that

$$\begin{aligned} u_j(t) &= \int_0^T G(t, s) f_u(s) ds + \ell(t) \\ &+ \sum_{j \leq i \leq p} [-g(t, \mathcal{P}_i u_i) \mathcal{M}_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i)) + g_2(t) J_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i))] \\ &+ \sum_{1 \leq i < j} [-g(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, t) \mathcal{M}_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i)) + g_1(t) J_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i))] \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

for $t \in [0, T]$, $j = 1, \dots, p+1$ and

$$\begin{aligned} u'_j(t) &= \int_0^T \frac{\partial G}{\partial t}(t, s) f_u(s) ds + \ell'(t) \\ &+ \sum_{j \leq i \leq p} [-g_1(\mathcal{P}_i u_i) \mathcal{M}_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i)) + g'_2(t) J_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i))] \\ &+ \sum_{1 \leq i < j} [-g_2(\mathcal{P}_i u_i) \mathcal{M}_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i)) + g'_1(t) J_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i, u_i(\mathcal{P}_i u_i))] \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

for $t \in [0, T]$, $j = 1, \dots, p+1$. Now, for $t \in [0, T]$ define a function z by

$$z(t) = \begin{cases} u_1(t) & t \in [0, \mathcal{P}_1 u_1], \\ u_2(t) & t \in (\mathcal{P}_1 u_1, \mathcal{P}_2 u_2], \\ \dots & \dots \\ u_{p+1}(t) & t \in (\mathcal{P}_p u_p, T], \end{cases} \quad (35)$$

and denote

$$\mathcal{P}_j u_j = \tau_j, \quad j = 1, \dots, p, \quad \tau_0 = 0, \quad \tau_{p+1} = T. \quad (36)$$

Having in mind that ℓ fulfils (12), we get due to (17)–(19), (33) and (34),

$$\begin{aligned} z(0) - az'(0) &= u_1(0) - au_1'(0) = \int_0^T \left(G(0, s) - a \frac{\partial G}{\partial t}(0, s) \right) f_u(s) ds \\ &+ \ell(0) - a\ell'(0) + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq p} [-(g(0, \tau_i) - ag_1(\tau_i))\mathcal{M}_i(\tau_i, u_i(\tau_i)) \\ &+ (g_2(0) - ag_2'(0))J_i(\tau_i, u_i(\tau_i))] = c_1, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} z(T) + bz'(T) &= u_{p+1}(T) + bu_{p+1}'(T) = \int_0^T \left(G(T, s) + b \frac{\partial G}{\partial t}(T, s) \right) f_u(s) ds \\ &+ \ell(T) + b\ell'(T) + \sum_{1 \leq i < p+1} [-(g(\tau_i, T) + bg_2(\tau_i))\mathcal{M}_i(\tau_i, u_i(\tau_i)) \\ &+ (g_1(T) + bg_1'(T))J_i(\tau_i, u_i(\tau_i))] = c_2. \end{aligned}$$

We have proved that z fulfils (12). By Lemma 2, τ_j is a unique point in $(0, T)$ satisfying

$$\tau_j = \gamma_j(u_j(\tau_j)), \quad j = 1, \dots, p.$$

Choose $j \in \{1, \dots, p\}$. In view of (33) and (35) we get

$$\begin{aligned} z(\tau_j+) - z(\tau_j) &= u_{j+1}(\tau_j) - u_j(\tau_j) = (g_1(\tau_j) - g_2(\tau_j))J_j(\tau_j, u_j(\tau_j)) \\ &= J_j(\tau_j, u_j(\tau_j)) = J_j(\tau_j, z(\tau_j)), \end{aligned}$$

and (34), (35) provide

$$\begin{aligned} z'(\tau_j+) - z'(\tau_j-) &= u'_{j+1}(\tau_j) - u'_j(\tau_j) = -(g_2(\tau_j) - g_1(\tau_j))\mathcal{M}_j(\tau_j, u_j(\tau_j)) \\ &= \mathcal{M}_j(\tau_j, u_j(\tau_j)) = \mathcal{M}_j(\tau_j, z(\tau_j)). \end{aligned}$$

We see that z satisfies (13). The first condition in (23) yields $0 < \tau_1 < \tau_2 < \dots < \tau_p < T$. Further we get from (30), (34), (35) and (36)

$$z''(t) = u''_j(t) = f_u(t) = f(t, u_j(t), u'_j(t)) = f(t, z(t), z'(t))$$

for a.e. $t \in (\tau_{j-1}, \tau_j)$, $j = 1, \dots, p+1$. We get that z is a solution of equation (11). Finally, we will show that τ_j , $j = 1, \dots, p$, are unique solutions of equations

$$\tau_j = \gamma_j(z(\tau_j)), \quad j = 1, \dots, p. \quad (37)$$

For this purpose it suffices to prove

$$t \neq \gamma_j(u_{j+1}(t)), \quad t \in (\tau_j, T], \quad j = 1, \dots, p. \quad (38)$$

Choose $j \in \{1, \dots, p\}$. By Lemma 4 and (29), $u_{j+1} \in \bar{B}$ (see (25)) and hence $\|u_{j+1}\|_\infty \leq K$. According to assumption (24) there are three possibilities:

(i) Assume that the first condition in (24) is satisfied. Then $J_j(\tau_j, x) = 0$ for $x \in [-K, K]$ and we get by (13) and (35)

$$u_{j+1}(\tau_j) - u_j(\tau_j) = z(\tau_j+) - z(\tau_j) = 0.$$

Hence τ_j is a solution of the equation

$$t = \gamma_j(u_{j+1}(t)). \quad (39)$$

By Lemma 2, equation (39) has a unique solution in $(0, T)$, which implies (38).

(ii) Assume that the second condition in (24) is satisfied. Then $\gamma'_j(x) \geq 0$ and $J_j(\tau_j, x) \leq 0$ for $x \in [-K, K]$. Put $\sigma(t) = \gamma_j(u_{j+1}(t)) - t$ for $t \in [0, T]$. It follows from (13) and (35) that

$$u_{j+1}(\tau_j) - u_j(\tau_j) = z(\tau_j+) - z(\tau_j) = J_j(\tau_j, z(\tau_j)) \leq 0$$

and

$$\sigma(\tau_j) = \gamma_j(u_{j+1}(\tau_j)) - \tau_j \leq \gamma_j(u_j(\tau_j)) - \tau_j = 0$$

due to (37). The second condition in (23) gives

$$\sigma'(t) = \gamma'_j(u_{j+1}(t))u'_{j+1}(t) - 1 < \frac{1}{K_1}K_1 - 1 = 0$$

for $t \in (\tau_j, T)$. So, (38) is valid.

(iii) The third condition in (24) is dual to the second one, so the proof is similar. \square

4 Unbounded data functions

Assume that condition (15) fails, that is at least one of the data functions f , J_i , \mathcal{M}_i , $i = 1, \dots, p$, in problem (11)–(13) is unbounded. Then the constants K and K_1 , which are needed in the transversality conditions (23) and (24), cannot be obtained by (22). The next lemma gives constants K and K_1 which will serve as a priori estimates of solutions of problem (11)–(13) and which can be used in (23) and (24), provided $f(t, \cdot, \cdot)$, $J_i(t, \cdot)$ and $\mathcal{M}_i(t, \cdot)$, $i = 1, \dots, p$, have at most sublinear growth in large values of their space variables (see Theorem 7).

Lemma 6 (*A priori estimates*) Consider condition (12), where $a, b \in [0, \infty)$, $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$. Let C_0, C_1, C_2 and L, L_1 be constants satisfying (20) and (21), respectively. For $\mathcal{D} = [0, \infty) \times [0, \infty)$, assume that $\tilde{f} \in \text{Car}([0, T] \times \mathcal{D})$ is

nondecreasing in its second and third variable for a.e. $t \in [0, T]$, and $\tilde{J}_i, \tilde{M}_i \in C[0, \infty)$ are nondecreasing for $i = 1, \dots, p$. Finally let

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_0^T \tilde{f}(t, x, x) dt + \tilde{J}_i(x) + \tilde{M}_i(x)}{x} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p. \quad (40)$$

Then there exists $K^* > 0$ such that each $K_1 \in (K^*, \infty)$ satisfies

$$K_1 > C_1 \int_0^T \tilde{f}(t, K, K_1) dt + L_1 + C_1 \sum_{i=1}^p \tilde{M}_i(K) + C_2 \sum_{i=1}^p \tilde{J}_i(K), \quad (41)$$

where $K > K_1$ is a solution of the equation

$$K = \alpha K_1 + |c_1| + \sum_{i=1}^p \tilde{J}_i(K) \quad (42)$$

and

$$\alpha = \max\{a + (p+1)T, 1\}. \quad (43)$$

Proof. First, we will show that for each $K_1 > 0$ equation (42) has at least one solution $K > K_1$. Choose $K_1 > 0$. We see that the function

$$\Phi(K) = \alpha K_1 + |c_1| + \sum_{i=1}^p \tilde{J}_i(K)$$

is continuous on $[0, \infty)$ and $\Phi(K_1) - K_1 > 0$. On the other hand, since $\lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(K)/K = 0$ due to (40), it holds $\Phi(K) - K < 0$ for large K . Hence there exists at least one $K > K_1$ such that $\Phi(K) - K = 0$.

Now, assume on the contrary, that for any $K_1 \in (0, \infty)$ it holds

$$K_1 \leq C_1 \int_0^T \tilde{f}(t, K, K) dt + L_1 + C_1 \sum_{i=1}^p \tilde{M}_i(K) + C_2 \sum_{i=1}^p \tilde{J}_i(K), \quad (44)$$

where $K > K_1$ is a solution of (42). Then (42)–(44) give

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{\alpha K_1 + |c_1| + \sum_{i=1}^p \tilde{J}_i(K)}{K} \leq \alpha \left[\frac{C_1}{K} \int_0^T \tilde{f}(t, K, K) dt \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{L_1}{K} + C_1 \sum_{i=1}^p \frac{\tilde{M}_i(K)}{K} + C_2 \sum_{i=1}^p \frac{\tilde{J}_i(K)}{K} \right] + \frac{|c_1|}{K} + \sum_{i=1}^p \frac{\tilde{J}_i(K)}{K}. \end{aligned}$$

Letting $K_1 \rightarrow \infty$ we get $K \rightarrow \infty$ and, due to (40), the contradiction $1 \leq 0$ follows. \square

We are ready to formulate the main result of this section.

Theorem 7 Let (14) hold and let us assume that there exist functions \tilde{f} , \tilde{J}_i , $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_i$, $i = 1, \dots, p$, satisfying conditions of Lemma 6 and such that

$$|f(t, x, y)| \leq \tilde{f}(t, |x|, |y|) \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [0, T] \text{ and all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (45)$$

$$|J_i(t, x)| \leq \tilde{J}_i(|x|), \quad |\mathcal{M}_i(t, x)| \leq \tilde{\mathcal{M}}_i(|x|) \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T], \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad i = 1, \dots, p. \quad (46)$$

Finally assume that C_1 , C_2 , L_1 are constants from Lemma 6 and that (23), (24) hold with K and K_1 from Lemma 6. Then problem (11)–(13) has a solution z such that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} |z(t)| \leq K, \quad \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |z'(t)| \leq K_1.$$

Proof. Consider the set \mathcal{B} given by (25) with K_1 and K from Lemma 6. It is obvious that Lemma 2 and Lemma 3 are valid. Therefore if we introduce $\bar{\Omega}$ by (29), we can define the operator $\mathcal{F} : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow X$ by (31). Arguing as in the first part of the proof of Lemma 4, we get that \mathcal{F} is compact on $\bar{\Omega}$. Choose $(u_1, \dots, u_{p+1}) \in \bar{\Omega}$. Then $\|u_i\|_\infty \leq K$, $\|u'_i\|_\infty \leq K_1$ for $i = 1, \dots, p+1$. Using (45) and (46), we deduce from (32)

$$|x'_j(t)| \leq C_1 \int_0^T \tilde{f}(t, K, K_1) dt + L_1 + C_1 \sum_{i=1}^p \tilde{\mathcal{M}}_i(K) + C_2 \sum_{i=1}^p \tilde{J}_i(K)$$

for $t \in [0, T]$, $j = 1, \dots, p+1$, and by virtue of (41) we get

$$\|x'_j\|_\infty < K_1, \quad j = 1, \dots, p+1. \quad (47)$$

Arguing as in the proof of Theorem 5, we deduce from (31) that

$$x_1(0) - ax'_1(0) = c_1. \quad (48)$$

In addition, (47) yields

$$\rho := \max\{\|x'_j\|_\infty : j = 1, \dots, p+1\} < K_1. \quad (49)$$

Consequently, by (48) and (49),

$$|x_1(t)| \leq (a+T)\rho + |c_1|, \quad t \in [0, T]. \quad (50)$$

Further, (31) gives

$$x_2(\tau_1) = x_1(\tau_1) + J_1(\tau_1, u_1(\tau_1)),$$

and, due to (46), (49) and (50),

$$|x_2(t)| \leq (a+2T)\rho + |c_1| + \tilde{J}_1(K), \quad t \in [0, T].$$

Similarly we derive

$$|x_{j+1}(t)| \leq (a+(j+1)T)\rho + |c_1| + \sum_{i=1}^j \tilde{J}_i(K), \quad t \in [0, T], \quad j = 1, \dots, p. \quad (51)$$

According to (42), (43), (49) and (51), we get

$$\|x_j\|_\infty \leq K, \quad j = 1, \dots, p+1. \quad (52)$$

The estimates (47) and (52) imply that $(x_1, \dots, x_{p+1}) \in \overline{\Omega}$. Consequently $\mathcal{F}(\overline{\Omega}) \subset \overline{\Omega}$ and the Schauder fixed point theorem yields a fixed point $(u_1, \dots, u_{p+1}) \in \overline{\Omega}$. To get a solution z of problem (11)–(13) we can repeat the proof of Theorem 5. \square

Example 8 Choose for simplicity $T = p = a = b = c_1 = c_2 = 1$ and consider functions

$$\begin{cases} f(t, x, y) = \sin(4t)(\sqrt[3]{x} + \sqrt[3]{y}), & J_1(t, x) = t\sqrt{|x|}, \\ \mathcal{M}_1(t, x) = t^2\sqrt[3]{x}, & t \in [0, 1], x, y \in \mathbb{R}. \end{cases} \quad (53)$$

Then conditions (45) and (46) are satisfied for

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{f}(t, x, y) = |\sin(4t)|(\sqrt[3]{|x|} + \sqrt[3]{|y|}), & \tilde{J}_1(x) = \sqrt{|x|}, \\ \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}_1(x) = \sqrt[3]{|x|}, & t \in [0, 1], x, y \in \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Since

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_0^1 |\sin(4t)|(\sqrt[3]{|x|} + \sqrt[3]{|y|}) dt + \sqrt{|x|} + \sqrt[3]{|x|}}{x} = 0,$$

functions \tilde{f} , \tilde{J}_1 and $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}_1$ fulfil (40). Further, the solution ℓ of problem (16), (12) has here the form $\ell(t) \equiv 1$ and $C_0 = 4/3$, $C_1 = 2/3$, $C_2 = 1/3$ are constants of (20). By Lemma 6, there exist $K_1 > 0$ and $K > K_1$ satisfying (41) and (42) with $\alpha = 3$. Moreover from (42) we get that $K > 1$ and consequently from (41) we obtain $K_1 > 1$. Let us put

$$\gamma(x) = \frac{1}{K_1} \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{x^2 \operatorname{sgn} x}{3K^2} \right) \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (54)$$

Then

$$\gamma'(x) = -\frac{2|x|}{3K^2K_1} \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R},$$

and we can easily check that $0 < \gamma(x) < 1$, $-1/K_1 < \gamma'(x) \leq 0$, $J_1(t, x) \geq 0$ for $t \in [0, 1]$, $x \in [-K, K]$. Therefore (23) and (24) are valid. Choose for example $K_1 = 5$. Then there exists $K \in (20.5, 20.6)$ which is a solution of the equation

$$K - \sqrt{K} - 16 = 0, \quad (55)$$

and which fulfils the inequality

$$5 > \frac{2}{3} \int_0^1 |\sin(4t)|(\sqrt[3]{K} + \sqrt[3]{5}) dt + \frac{2}{3}\sqrt[3]{K} + \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{K}.$$

By Theorem 7, problem (11)–(13) with the data functions given by (53) and (54), where $K_1 = 5$ and $K \approx 20.531$ is a solution of equation (55), has a solution z such that

$$\sup_{t \in [0, T]} |z(t)| < 20.6, \quad \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |z'(t)| \leq 5.$$

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