

On Nonlocal Boundary Value Problems for First Order Singular Advanced Differential Equations

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In the present report, the problem on the existence of a solution to the differential equation

$$u'(t) = f(t, u(\tau(t))), \quad (1)$$

satisfying the nonlocal condition

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \ell_i u(t_i) = c_0, \quad (2)$$

is considered.

Below everywhere it is assumed that $f : [a, b[\times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\tau : [a, b[\rightarrow [a, b[$ are continuous functions,

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_i &> 0 \quad (i = 1, \dots, m), \\ t_1 &= a \quad \text{and} \quad t_i < t_{i+1} \quad (i = 1, \dots, m-1) \quad \text{if} \quad m > 2, \end{aligned}$$

c_0 is a positive constant.

The particular case of (2) is the initial condition

$$u(a) = c_0. \quad (2_1)$$

We are mainly interested in the case where the function f has a nonintegrable singularity in the time variable at the point b , i.e. the case where

$$\int_a^b |f(t, x)| dt = +\infty.$$

In this case problems of type (1), (2) (including the initial value problem (1), (2₁)) have not been studied previously (see, [1–7] and the references therein). The results below to some extent fill the existing gap.

Theorem 1. *If the condition*

$$f(t, 0) = 0, \quad f(t, x) \leq 0 \quad \text{for} \quad t \in [a, b[, \quad x > 0 \quad (3)$$

holds, then problem (1), (2) has at least one nonnegative solution.

Remark 1. In Theorem 1, the absolute value of the function f may have an arbitrary order of growth with respect to the phase variable at infinity. For example, if

$$f(t, x) = p(t)(e_n(0) - e_n(x)),$$

where $p : [a, b[\rightarrow]0, +\infty[$ is a continuous function, n is a natural number,

$$e_1(x) = \exp(x), \quad e_{k+1}(x) = \exp(e_k(x)), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots,$$

then problem (1), (2) has at least one nonnegative solution.

Remark 2. In Theorem 1, the restriction $t_1 = a$ is unimprovable in some sense. To verify this, we consider the problem

$$u'(t) = p(t)|u(\tau(t))|^\lambda, \quad (4)$$

$$u(a_0) = c_0, \quad (5)$$

where $a < a_0 < b$, $\lambda > 1$, and $p : [a, b] \rightarrow]-\infty, 0[$ is a continuous function such that

$$(\lambda - 1) \int_a^{a_0} |p(t)| dt \geq c_0^{1-\lambda}.$$

This problem can be obtained from (1), (2) in the case, where

$$m = 1, \quad t_1 = a_0, \quad f(t, x) \equiv p(t)|x|^\lambda.$$

It is obvious that all the conditions of Theorem 1 are satisfied except the condition $t_1 = a$. Nevertheless, problem (4), (5) has no nonnegative solution. Indeed, if we assume that such a solution u exists, then we obtain

$$u(t) > 0, \quad -u'(t)u^{-\lambda}(t) = p(t) \quad \text{for } a < t < b.$$

Hence we get a contradiction

$$c_0^{1-\lambda} = (\lambda - 1) \int_a^{a_0} (-u'(t)u^{-\lambda}(t)) dt + u^{1-\lambda}(a) > (\lambda - 1) \int_a^{a_0} |p(t)| dt > c_0^{1-\lambda}.$$

Under the conditions of Theorem 1, every nonnegative solution to problem (1), (2) is nonincreasing and, therefore, has the limit as $t \rightarrow b$. Theorem 2 below contains the sufficient condition for that limit to be zero. To formulate this theorem, we need to introduce the following notation:

$$r = c_0/\ell_1, \\ f_*(t, x) = \min \{ |f(t, y)| : 0 < x \leq y \leq r \}.$$

Theorem 2. *If along with (3) the condition*

$$\int_a^b f_*(t, x) dt = +\infty \quad \text{for } 0 < x < r$$

holds, then problem (1), (2) has at least one nonnegative solution and the left limit at b of every such solution is equal to zero.

We are able to establish sufficient conditions for the uniqueness of a solution to problem (1), (2) only in the case where the function f is continuous on the set $[a, b] \times \mathbb{R}$. More precisely, the following theorem is valid.

Theorem 3. *Let the function $f : [a, b] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous and let it satisfy condition (3). If, moreover, f is nonincreasing and locally Lipschitz in the phase variable, then problem (1), (2) has a unique nonnegative solution.*

An important particular case of (1) is the equation

$$u'(t) = p(t)f_0(u(\tau(t))), \quad (6)$$

where $p : [a, b[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $f_0 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are continuous functions.

Theorems 1–3 yield the following statements.

Corollary 1. *Let*

$$p(t) \geq 0 \text{ for } a < t < b, \quad f_0(0) = 0, \quad f_0(x) < 0 \text{ for } x > 0. \quad (7)$$

Then problem (6), (2) has at least one nonnegative solution. And if along with (7) the condition

$$\int_a^b p(t) dt = +\infty$$

holds, then the left limit at b of that solution is equal to zero.

Corollary 2. *Let conditions (7) be satisfied. If, moreover, p is continuous on $[a, b]$, and f_0 is nonincreasing, locally Lipschitz function, then problem (6), (2) has a unique nonnegative solution.*

Condition (3) in Theorem 1 is essential and it cannot be replaced by the condition

$$f(t, 0) = 0, \quad f(t, x) \geq 0 \text{ for } t \in [a, b[, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

More precisely, the following propositions are true.

Proposition 1. *Let*

$$f(t, x) \geq p(t)|x|^\lambda \text{ for } t \in [a, a_0], \quad x \in \mathbb{R},$$

where $\lambda > 1$, $a < a_0 < b$, and $p : [a, a_0] \rightarrow]0, +\infty[$ is a continuous function. If, moreover,

$$c_0 > \left((\lambda - 1) \int_a^{a_0} p(t) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\lambda}},$$

then problem (1), (2) has no solution.

Proposition 2. *Let*

$$\begin{aligned} f(t, x) &\geq p(t)|x| \text{ for } t \in [a, a_0], \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \\ \tau(t) &= a_0 \text{ for } t \in [a, a_0], \end{aligned}$$

where $a < a_0 < b$, and $p : [a, a_0] \rightarrow]0, +\infty[$ is a continuous function such that

$$\int_a^{a_0} p(t) dt \geq 1.$$

Then problem (1), (2) has no solution.

At the end, we give the sketch of the proof of our main result.

Sketch of the Proof of Theorem 1. Let n be an arbitrary natural number. Set

$$\begin{aligned} b_{1n} &= b - (b - a)/2n, \quad b_{2n} = b - (b - a)/4n, \quad b_n = b + 1/n, \quad \tau_n(t) = \tau(t) + 1/n, \\ \delta_n(t) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } a \leq t \leq b_{1n}, \\ (b_{2n} - t)/(b_{2n} - b_{1n}) & \text{for } b_{1n} < t < b_{2n}, \end{cases} \\ f_n(t, x) &= \begin{cases} \delta_n(t)f(t, x) & \text{for } a \leq t \leq b_{2n}, \\ 0 & \text{for } t > b_{2n}, \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

and consider the strictly advanced differential equation

$$u'(t) = f_n(t, u(\tau_n(t))). \quad (8)$$

We prove:

1. If the conditions of Theorem 1 are satisfied, then for any positive number x Eq. (8) has a unique solution $u_n(\cdot; x)$, defined on $[a, b_n]$, such that $u_n(b_n; x) = x$;
2. For every n there exists $x_n > 0$ such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \ell_i u_n(t_i; x_n) = c_0;$$

3. From the sequence $(u_n(\cdot; x_n))_{n=1}^{+\infty}$ we can get a uniformly converging on every closed interval contained in $[a, b[$ subsequence $(u_{n_k}(\cdot; x_{n_k}))_{k=1}^{+\infty}$ whose limit is a solution to (1), (2). \square

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