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PERIODIC BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEM  
IN HILBERT SPACE  
FOR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION  
OF SECOND ORDER  
WITH REFLECTION OF THE ARGUMENT

BORIS RUDOLF

ABSTRACT. The differential equation  $-x'' + \alpha^2 x + f(t, x(t), x(-t)) = h(t)$  with periodic boundary conditions is studied. The existence of a solution in case when  $f$  is a completely continuous operator and in case when  $f$  is only continuous and bounded is proved. The connectedness of the set of solutions is studied.

The aim of this paper is to extend the results of Chaitan P. Gupta [1] for the boundary value problems in a Hilbert space involving the reflection of the argument to the case of the periodic boundary conditions.

1. Some preliminary results

We deal with the differential equation

$$-x'' + \alpha^2 x + f(t, x(t), x(-t)) = h(t) \tag{1}$$

with periodic boundary conditions

$$x(-\pi) = x(\pi), \quad x'(-\pi) = x'(\pi), \tag{2}$$

where  $h(t): \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \rightarrow H$ ,  $f(t, x, y): \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \times H \times H \rightarrow H$  and  $H$  is a real Hilbert space with norm  $\|\cdot\|$ .

We assume  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ .

We use the following function spaces:

$$L_1((-\pi, \pi), H) \quad \text{with norm} \quad \|u\|_1 = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \|u(t)\| dt,$$

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$$L_2((-\pi, \pi), H) \quad \text{with norm} \quad \|u\|_2 = \left( \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \|u(t)\|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

$$C((-\pi, \pi), H) \quad \text{with norm} \quad \|u\|_0 = \sup_{t \in (-\pi, \pi)} \|u(t)\|,$$

and assume  $h(t) \in L_1$  and  $f$  is a *completely continuous function*.

In the case  $H = \mathbb{R}$  we obtain the scalar problem (1), (2), for which the homogeneous problem

$$-x'' + \alpha^2 x = 0 \tag{2}$$

has only trivial solution.

That means we can find the Green function

$$G(t, s) = \frac{1}{2\alpha} \frac{1}{e^{2\alpha\pi} - 1} \begin{cases} e^{2\alpha\pi} e^{\alpha(t-s)} + e^{\alpha(s-t)} & -\pi \leq t \leq s \leq \pi \\ e^{\alpha(t-s)} + e^{2\alpha\pi} e^{\alpha(s-t)} & -\pi \leq s \leq t \leq \pi \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

such that the scalar problem (1), (2) is equivalent to the equation

$$x(t) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} G(t, s) [h(s) - f(s, x(s), x(-s))] ds. \tag{4}$$

For reference to our first lemma see [1, p. 377]. (Though this lemma is not explicitly formulated there.)

**LEMMA 1.** *If the scalar problem (1), (2) is equivalent to the equation (4), then also the problem (1), (2) in the Hilbert space  $H$  is equivalent to the equation (4), and the Green function  $G(t, s): \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \times \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is given by (3).*

Using the Lemma 1 we obtain that the existence of a solution to the problem (1), (2) is equivalent to the existence of a fixed point for a completely continuous operator  $T$ .

**LEMMA 2.** *Let  $f: \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \times H \times H \rightarrow H$  be a completely continuous operator and  $h(t) \in L_1((-\pi, \pi), H)$ .*

*Then the problem (1), (2) is equivalent to the operator equation*

$$x = Tx \tag{5}$$

where  $T$  is a completely continuous operator,  $T: C((-\pi, \pi), H) \rightarrow C((-\pi, \pi), H)$ .

**P r o o f.** We define

$$Tx(t) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} G(t, s) [h(s) - f(s, x(s), x(-s))] ds. \tag{6}$$

Continuity of  $G(t, s)$  on  $\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \times \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle$  implies the continuity of the function  $Tx$ , i.e.  $Tx \in C(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, H)$ .

Continuity of the operator  $T$ .

Let  $x_n \rightarrow x$  in  $C(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, H)$ . Then

$$f(t, x_n(t), x_n(-t)) \rightarrow f(t, x(t), x(-t)) \quad \text{for every } t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle.$$

Moreover, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and every  $t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle$  there is

$$\|f(t, x_n(t), x_n(-t))\| \leq M.$$

Then the Lebesgue convergence theorem implies

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} G(t, s)[h(s) - f(s, x_n(s), x_n(-s))] ds &\rightarrow \\ &\rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} G(t, s)[h(s) - f(s, x(s), x(-s))] ds. \end{aligned}$$

From the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} \|Tx_n(t_1) - Tx_n(t_2)\| &\leq \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |G(t_1, s) - G(t_2, s)| (\|h(s)\| + \|f(s, x_n(s), x_n(-s))\|) ds \\ &\leq 2\pi\epsilon (\|h(s)\| + M) \end{aligned}$$

we obtain that  $Tx_n$  converges uniformly to  $Tx$ .

Compactness of  $T$ .

Let  $\{x_n\}$  be bounded in  $C(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, H)$ . Then  $\{Tx_n\}$  is equicontinuous. The set  $\{Tx_n(t), n \in \mathbb{N}\} \subset H$  is a relatively compact set for every  $t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle$ . The *Theorem of Ascoli* [5, p. 18] implies now the complete continuity of the operator  $T$ .

The relative compactness of the set  $\{Tx_n(t), n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is proved in the following way. Denote the integral sum associated with the partition  $[s_0 = -\pi, \dots, s_i, \dots, s_k = \pi]$ ,  $s_{i+1} - s_i = \frac{2\pi}{k}$  as

$$I_k = \sum_{i=0}^k G(t, s_i) f(s_i, x_n(s_i), x_n(-s_i))(s_{i+1} - s_i).$$

The complete continuity of  $f$  and the continuity of  $G$  implies that for every  $t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle$

$$G(t, s_i) f(s_i, x_n(s_i), x_n(-s_i)) \in K,$$

where  $K$  is a compact subset of  $H$ . Then

$$I_k \in \text{conv}(2\pi k)$$

and

$$Tx_n(t) \in \overline{\text{conv}(2\pi k)}$$

where the set  $\overline{\text{conv}(2\pi k)}$  is a compact subset.

The assumption of the complete continuity of the function  $f$  is essential. For further references to the preceding lemma see [6, pp. 281–282].

## 2. The estimations

In this section we derive the inequalities which we use to estimate the norm of a solution to the equation (5).

**LEMMA.** *Let  $y(t) \in AC(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, H)$ ,  $y'(t) \in L_2(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, H)$ ,  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} y(t) dt = 0$  and  $y(t)$  satisfies the periodic boundary conditions (2). Then*

$$\|y(t)\|_0 \leq \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \|y'(t)\|_2. \tag{7}$$

**Proof.** We consider the real function  $z(t) \in AC(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle_2, \mathbb{R})$  such that  $z'(t) \in L_2(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} z(t) dt = 0$ ,  $z(-\pi) = z(\pi)$ ,  $z'(-\pi) = z'(\pi)$ .

The mean value theorem implies the existence of  $t_0 \in (-\pi, \pi)$  such that  $z(t_0) = 0$ .

We consider now the function  $z(t)$  on  $\langle t_0, t_0 + 2\pi \rangle$ , defined by  $z(t) = z(t - 2\pi)$  for  $t > \pi$ . The inequality

$$|z(t)| \leq \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \|z'(t)\|_{L_2}$$

is for such  $z(t)$  derived in [4]. For  $y(t)$  satisfying the assumptions of the lemma, there is  $t_0 \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle$  such that

$$\|y\|_0 = \sup_{t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle} \|y(t)\| = \|y(t_0)\|.$$

The Hahn-Banach theorem implies the existence of  $w \in H$  with  $\|w\| = 1$  such that

$$\|y(t_0)\| = (y(t_0), w).$$

We denote

$$z(t) = (y(t), w)$$

and we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |(y(t), w)|^2 &\leq \frac{\pi}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (y'(t), w)^2 dt \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \|y'(t)\|^2 dt, \\ \|y(t)\|_0 = (y(t_0), w) &\leq \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \|y'(t)\|_2 \end{aligned}$$

The following estimation is in a real case well known as the *Wirtinger inequality* [2, p. 185].

In the rest of this part we assume that  $H$  is a *separable Hilbert space* and  $\{e_i\}$  is an *orthogonal basis* in  $H$ .

**LEMMA 4.** *Let  $y(t) \in C((-\pi, \pi), H)$ . Then*

$$y(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i(t) e_i,$$

where  $a_i(t)$  are uniformly continuous functions and

$$\|y(t)\|_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |a_i(t)|^2 dt.$$

**Proof.** For every  $t_0 \in (-\pi, \pi)$  is  $y(t_0) \in H$ ,  $y(t_0) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i(t_0) e_i$  and  $a_i(t) = (a_i(t) e_i, e_i) = (y(t), e_i)$ . The uniform continuity of  $y(t)$  implies the uniform continuity of  $a_i(t)$ .

For  $y(t) \in H$  we use the Parseval equality

$$\|y(t)\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |a_i(t)|^2.$$

The sequence  $\sum_{i=1}^n |a_i(t)|^2 \rightarrow \|y(t)\|^2$  for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , for every  $t$  and

$$\sum_{i=1}^n |a_i(t)|^2 \leq \|y(t)\|^2.$$

The Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem implies that

$$\|y(t)\|_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |a_i(t)|^2 dt.$$

**LEMMA 5.** *Let  $y(t) \in C^1((-\pi, \pi), H)$ . Then*

$$y'(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a'_i(t) e_i,$$

where  $a'_i(t)$  are uniformly continuous functions and

$$\|y'(t)\|_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |a'_i(t)|^2 dt.$$

*P r o o f.* From the Lemma 4 we obtain that

$$y(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i(t) e_i \quad \text{and}$$

$$y'(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} b_i(t) e_i, \quad \text{where } b_i(t) \text{ are uniformly continuous functions.}$$

Moreover  $y \in C^1$  implies that

$$a_i(t) = (y(t), e_i) \in C^1((-\pi, \pi), \mathbb{R}) \quad \text{and}$$

$$b_i(t) = \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} b_j(t) e_j, e_i \right) = (y'(t), e_i) = a'_i(t).$$

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of the Lemma 4.

**LEMMA 6.** Let  $y(t) \in C^1((-\pi, \pi), H)$ ,  $y(t)$  satisfies (2) and  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} y(t) dt = 0$ .

Then

$$\|y(t)\|_2 \leq \|y'(t)\|_2 \tag{8}$$

**Proof.** Obviously

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} a_i(t) dt = 0 \quad \text{for every } i \in \mathbb{N}$$

and  $a_i(t)$  satisfies (2).

From the Wirtinger inequality we obtain

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |a_i(t)|^2 dt \leq \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |a'_i(t)|^2 dt$$

and the inequality (8) follows now from the Lemmas 4 and 5.

**LEMMA 7.** Let  $H$  be a separable Hilbert space and  $\{e_i\}$  the orthonormal basis in  $H$ . Then  $\{e_i, \cos kt \cdot e_i, \sin kt \cdot e_i\}_{i,k=1}^{\infty}$  is the orthogonal basis in  $L_2((-\pi, \pi), H)$ .

**Proof.** The orthogonality is obvious. We prove the completeness. Let  $y(t) \in C((-\pi, \pi), H)$ . Then  $y(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i(t)e_i$ ,  $a_i(t)$  are uniformly continuous functions and

$$a_i(t) = \frac{a_0^i}{2} + \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k^i \cos kt + b_k^i \sin kt.$$

Supposing

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (y(t), e_i) dt = 0, \quad \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (y(t), \cos kt \cdot e_i) dt = 0, \quad \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (y(t), \sin kt \cdot e_i) dt = 0$$

we obtain  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} a_i(t) dt = 0$ ,  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos kt \cdot a_i(t) dt = 0$ ,  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin kt \cdot b_i(t) dt = 0$  and

then  $a_0^i = 0$ ,  $a_k^i = 0$ ,  $b_k^i = 0$ .

This implies that  $a_i(t) = 0$  for every  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  and then also  $y(t) = 0$ .

Since the space  $C((-\pi, \pi), H)$  is dense in  $L_2((-\pi, \pi), H)$ , then the system  $\{e_i, \cos kt \cdot e_i, \sin kt \cdot e_i\}$  is complete.



**LEMMA 8.** *Let  $y(t) \in C^1(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, H)$ . Then*

$$\|y(t)\|_0 \leq a\|y'(t)\|_2 + b\|y(t)\|_2 \quad a, b \in \mathbb{R} \quad (9)$$

**P r o o f.** The continuity of  $y(t)$  implies that there is  $t_0$  such that

$$\|y(t_0)\| = \sup_{t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle} \|y(t)\| = \|y(t)\|_0.$$

We choose again  $w \in H$ ,  $\|w\| = 1$  such that

$$(y(t_0), w) = \|y(t_0)\|.$$

Then

$$(y(t), w) = (y(t_1), w) + \int_{t_1}^t (y(s), w)' ds = (y(t_1), w) + \sqrt{2\pi}\|y'(t)\|_2.$$

Using the mean-value theorem we take  $t_1 \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle$  such that

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (y(t), w)^2 dt = (y(t_1), w)^2 2\pi$$

and

$$(y(t), w) \leq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi}}\|y(t)\|_2 + \sqrt{2\pi}\|y'(t)\|_2 \quad \text{for every } t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle.$$

### 3. Existence theorems

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $f: \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \times H \times H \rightarrow H$  be completely continuous operator and for every  $(t, x, y) \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \times H \times H$  is*

$$(f(t, x, y), x) \geq -a\|x\|^2 - b\|x\|\|y\|, \quad \text{where } a + |b| < \alpha^2.$$

*Then there is a solution to the problem (1), (2) for every  $h(t) \in L_1(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, H)$ .*

**P r o o f.** The problem (1), (2) is equivalent to the equation

$$x = Tx \quad (5)$$

where  $T$  is a completely continuous operator.

Let  $x$  be a solution to the equation

$$x = \lambda T x \quad \text{for } \lambda \in (0, 1). \tag{10}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} - \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (x''(t), x(t)) dt + \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \alpha^2 (x(t), x(t)) dt + \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \lambda (f(t, x(t), x(-t)), x(t)) dt \\ = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (h(t), x(t)) dt, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\|x'\|_2^2 + \alpha^2 \|x\|_2^2 - (a + |b|)\|x\|_2^2 \leq \|h(t)\|_1 \left( \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi}} \|x\|_2 + \sqrt{2\pi} \|x'\|_2 \right).$$

The last inequality can be rewritten in the form

$$\|x'\|_2^2 - A\|x'\|_2 + (\alpha^2 - (a + |b|))\|x\|_2^2 - B\|x\|_2 \leq 0 \tag{11}$$

where  $A, B$  are constants.

Obviously if (11) is valid then  $\|x\|_2 \leq C_1$  and  $\|x'\|_2 \leq C_2$ ,  $C_1, C_2$  are suitable constants.

Then if  $x$  is a solution to (10), there holds

$$\|x\|_0 \leq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi}} C_1 + \sqrt{2\pi} C_2 = C.$$

The existence of the solution to the equation (5) follows from the *Leray-Schauder theorem*.

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $H$  be a separable Hilbert space,  $f: \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \times H \times H \rightarrow H$  be a completely continuous operator. Suppose that there are  $a, b, c, d, e \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $a + |b| < 1 + \alpha^2$  and*

$$(f(t, x, y), x) \geq -a\|x\|^2 - b\|x\|\|y\| - c\|x\| - d\|y\| - e$$

for every  $(t, x, y) \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \times H \times H$ .

Suppose that either

(i) if  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt = 0$  and  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} y(t) dt = 0$ , then  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(t, x(t), y(t)) dt = 0$ ,

or

(ii)  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (f(t, x(t), x(-t)), x(s)) dt ds \geq 0$ ,

or

(iii)  $\liminf_{\substack{x \in S \\ \|x(t)\|_2 \rightarrow \infty}} \frac{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (f(t, x(t), x(-t)), x(s)) dt ds}{\left\| \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt \right\|^2} > -\alpha^2$ ,

where  $S = \{x(t), \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) \neq 0\}$ ,

holds.

Then there is a solution to the problem (1), (2) for every  $h(t) \in L_1((-\pi, \pi), H)$ ,  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} h(t) dt = 0$ .

**P r o o f.** The problem (1), (2) is equivalent to the equation (5). At first we prove that under the condition (i) there is

$$T(K) \subset K \tag{12}$$

where

$$K = \left\{ x(t) \in C, \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt = 0 \right\}.$$

Operator  $T$  is given by (6) and it is easy to prove that

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} h(t) dt = 0 \quad \text{implies} \quad \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left[ \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} G(t, s) h(s) ds \right] dt = 0.$$

It is obvious now to see that the condition (i) implies (12)

Let  $x(t) \in K$  be a solution to the equation

$$\lambda T x, \quad \lambda \in (0, 1) \tag{10}$$

Then

$$-x''(t) + \alpha^2 x(t) + \lambda f(t, x(t), x(-t)) = \lambda h(t) \tag{13}$$

and

$$\|x'\|_2^2 + \alpha^2 \|x\|_2^2 - a\|x\|_2^2 - |b|\|x\|_2^2 - 2\pi(c+d)\|x\|_0 - \|h(t)\|_1 \|x\|_0 - e \leq 0. \quad (14)$$

We use the inequalities (7) and (8) from Lemmas 3 and 6. Supposing  $\alpha^2 - (a + |b|) < 0$ , we obtain

$$(1 + \alpha^2 - (a + |b|))\|x'\|_2^2 - B\|x'\|_2 - e \leq 0$$

where  $B = (2\pi(c+d) + \|h(t)\|_1)\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}$  is a constant.

The last inequality implies that  $\|x'(t)\|_2 \leq C_1$ , where  $C_1$  is a suitable constant.

In case  $\alpha^2 - (a + |b|) \geq 0$  we argue similarly as in the proof of the preceding theorem.

In both cases we obtain the estimation

$$\|x(t)\|_0 \leq C,$$

and we can use the Leray-Schauder theorem in subspace  $K$ . This theorem implies the existence of a solution  $x(t) \in K$  to the equation (5).

In case that (ii) or (iii) holds, we prove that if  $x(t) \in C((-\pi, \pi), H)$  is a solution to (10) then

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt = 0.$$

Equation (13) implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^2 \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt + \lambda \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(t, x(t), x(-t)) dt &= 0 \quad \text{and} \\ \alpha^2 \left\| \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt \right\|^2 + \lambda \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (f(t, x(t), x(-t)), x(s)) dt ds &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Condition (ii) implies that  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt = 0$ .

Now using the same argumentation as in the preceding part we obtain that for a solution  $x(t)$  to the equation (10) holds

$$\|x(t)\|_0 \leq C.$$

The existence of a solution to the equation (5) follows again from the Leray-Schauder theorem.

Case (iii).

It follows from (15) that

$$-\alpha^2 \left\| \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt \right\|^2 > \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (f(t, x(t), x(-t)), x(s)) dt ds.$$

We use (iii) and choose  $C_1$  such that for every  $x(t)$ ,  $\|x(t)\|_2 > C_1$  is

$$\frac{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (f(t, x(t), x(-t)), x(s)) dt ds}{\left\| \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt \right\|^2} \geq -\alpha^2.$$

Last two inequalities are in a contradiction, which implies that  $\|x(t)\|_2 \leq C_1$  for every solution to (10).

This estimation and the inequality (14) give the inequality

$$\|x'\|_2^2 - A\|x'\|_2 - B \leq 0,$$

where  $A, B$  are constants. From the last inequality we obtain the estimation

$$\|x'\|_2 \leq C_2.$$

Finally, from the inequality (9) follows that

$$\|x\|_0 \leq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi}} C_1 + \sqrt{2\pi} C_2 = C,$$

and we can again use the Leray-Schauder theorem.

#### 4. Existence when $f$ is continuous

The continuity instead of the complete continuity of the operator  $f$  is assumed in this part. The operator  $T$ , defined by (6), is not necessarily completely continuous. Adding other assumptions for the operator  $f$  we can prove the existence and uniqueness of the solution to the problem (1)–(2) also in this case.

In following we assume that

- (A)  $H$  is separable Hilbert space,  $\{e_i\}$  is the orthonormal basis in  $H$ , the operator  $f: \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \times H \rightarrow H$  is continuous and bounded and  $h(t) \in L_2((-\pi, \pi), H)$ .

**THEOREM 3.** *Assume that (A) holds and that for every  $x, y, u, v \in H$  and every  $t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle$*

$$(f(t, x, y) - f(t, u, v), x - u) \geq -a\|x - u\|^2 - b\|x - u\|\|y - v\|, \quad (16)$$

where  $a + |b| < \alpha^2$ .

Then there is a unique solution to the problem (1), (2).

**P r o o f .**

Uniqueness.

Let  $x_1, x_2$  be two solutions to the problem (1), (2),  $x_1, x_2 \in C_1(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, H)$ . Then

$$-(x_1 - x_2)'' + \alpha^2(x_1 - x_2) + f(t, x_1(t), x_1(-t)) - f(t, x_2(t), x_2(-t)) = 0$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \|x'_1 - x'_2\|_2^2 + \alpha^2\|x_1 - x_2\|_2^2 \\ & + \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (f(t, x_1(t), x_1(-t)) - f(t, x_2(t), x_2(-t)), x_1(t) - x_2(t)) dt = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Using (16) we obtain

$$\|x'_1 - x'_2\|_2^2 + (\alpha^2 - a - |b|)\|x_1 - x_2\|_2^2 \leq 0. \quad (17)$$

The last inequality implies that

$$\|x'_1 - x'_2\|_2^2 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \|x_1 - x_2\|_2^2 = 0.$$

Then  $x_1(t) = x_2(t)$  for every  $t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle$ .

Existence.

Denote by  $E_n \subset H$ ,  $E_n = [e_1, \dots, e_n]$  the finite-dimensional subspace of  $H$ , by  $P_n$  the orthogonal projection onto  $E_n$ ,  $F_n = \{x \in L_2, x(t): \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \rightarrow E_n\}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_n$  the orthogonal projection of  $L_2$  onto  $F_n$ , and denote  $x_n = \mathcal{P}_n x$ . (We use simply  $L_2, C$  instead of  $L_2(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, H), C(\langle -\pi, \pi \rangle, H)$ .)

Denote also  $L: D(L) \rightarrow L_2$  the operator  $Lx = -x'' + \alpha^2 x$  and  $N: C \rightarrow C$  the operator  $Nx = f(t, x(t), x(-t))$ , where  $D(L) = \{x \in C, x' \in AC \text{ and } x'' \in L_2\}$ .

Let us consider the problem

$$-x_n''(t) + \alpha^2 x_n(t) + P_n f(t, x_n(t), x_n(-t)) = P_n h(t) \quad (18)$$

$$x_n(-\pi) = x_n(\pi), \quad x_n'(-\pi) = x_n'(\pi). \quad (2)$$

Obviously the operator  $P_n f: \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle \times E_n \times E_n \rightarrow E_n$  is continuous and bounded. Since  $E_n$  is the finite-dimensional subspace,  $P_n f$  is completely continuous.

From the inequality (16) for  $u = v = 0$  we obtain

$$(P_n f(t, x, y), x) \geq -a\|x\|^2 - b\|x\|\|y\| - c\|x\|, \quad (19)$$

where  $c = \max_{t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle} \|P_n f(t, 0, 0)\|$ .

Theorem 1 implies the existence of a solution to the problem (18), (2) and a priori estimations

$$\|x\|_2 \leq C_1, \quad \|x'\|_2 \leq C_2, \quad \|x\|_0 \leq C$$

for the solution, where  $C_1, C_2, C$  are suitable constants independent of  $F_n$ .

The complete continuity of the operator  $T_n: C \rightarrow C$  and the a priori estimations mean that the set of the solution to the problem (18), (2) is compact in  $(C, \|\cdot\|_0)$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Moreover the set of solutions is compact in  $(L_2, \|\cdot\|_2)$ . (These statements are trivial in case when  $T_n x = x$  has a unique solution. The proof is to be used also in a more general case.)

Denote by  $U_n$  the set of solutions to (18), (2) and  $V_n = \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} U_k$ . Obviously  $V_n \supset V_{n+1}$  and  $V_n$  is a bounded set for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Let  $W_n = \overline{V_n}$  be the weak closure of  $V_n$  in  $L_2$ . Then  $W_n$  is weakly compact and  $W_n \supset W_{n+1}$ . Then means there is

$$x_0 \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} W_n$$

and the sequence  $x_n \in V_n$  such that  $x_n \rightharpoonup x_0$ .

Obviously  $\|x_n''\|_2 \leq c$ , where  $c$  is a suitable constant. That means we can choose from  $\{x_n\}$  such subsequence that

$$Lx_n = -x_n'' + \alpha^2 x_n \rightharpoonup v \quad \text{in } L_2.$$

Since the graph of  $L$  is a closed convex set it is weakly closed and  $v = Lx_0$ ,  $x_0 \in D(L)$ .

We prove the inequality

$$\langle (L + N)u - h, u - x_0 \rangle \geq 0. \quad (20)$$

Let  $u \in D(L) \cap F_m$ ,  $x_n \in F_n$  and  $n \geq m$ . Inequality (16) implies

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle (L + N)x - (L + N)y, x - y \rangle \\ &= \|x' - y'\|_2^2 + \alpha^2 \|x - y\|_2^2 + \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (f(t, x(t), x(-t)) - f(t, y(t), y(-t)), x(t) - y(t)) dt \\ & \geq \|x' - y'\|_2^2 + (\alpha^2 - a - |b|) \|x - y\|_2^2 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$0 \leq \langle (L + N)u - (L + N)x_n, u - x_n \rangle = \langle (L + N)u - h, u - x_n \rangle - \langle (L + N)x_n - h, u - x_n \rangle.$$

Since  $H = F_n \oplus F_n^\perp$ ,  $u - x_n \in F_n$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_n((L + N)x_n - h) \in F_n$ , then

$$\langle (L + N)x_n - h, u - x_n \rangle = \langle \mathcal{P}_n((L + N)x_n - h), u - x_n \rangle = 0.$$

The last equality follows from the fact that  $x_n(t)$  is a solution to (18).

Then

$$0 \leq \langle (L + N)u - h, u - x_n \rangle,$$

and for  $n \rightarrow \infty$  we obtain

$$0 \leq \langle (L + N)u - h, u - x_0 \rangle.$$

Now we prove the inequality (20) for every  $u \in D(L)$ .

Using the Fourier series from Lemma 4 and 5 we obtain

$$u(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i(t)e_i, \quad u'(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a'_i(t)e_i, \quad u''(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a''_i(t)e_i$$

where  $a_i(t) = (u(t), e_i) \in C^1((-\pi, \pi), R)$  and  $a''_i(t) \in L_2((-\pi, \pi), R)$ .

We denote

$$u_n(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i(t)e_i.$$



The sequence  $u_n(t) \rightarrow u(t)$  in  $H$  for every  $t \in \langle -\pi, \pi \rangle$ . Since

$$\|u_n(s) - u_n(t)\| = \|P_n u(s) - P_n u(t)\| \leq \|u(s) - u(t)\|,$$

the sequence  $\{u_n\}$  is equicontinuous. The same is true for  $\{u'_n\}$ .

Then

$$u_n \rightrightarrows u, \quad u'_n \rightrightarrows u', \quad \text{and} \quad u''_n \rightarrow u'' \quad \text{in } L_2.$$

As  $u_n \in F_n$  the inequality

$$0 \leq \langle (L + N)u_n - h, u_n - x_0 \rangle \quad \text{is valid.}$$

The fact that  $Lu_n \rightarrow Lu$  and  $Nu_n \rightarrow Nu$  in  $L_2$  implies that

$$0 \leq \langle (L + N)u - h, u - x_0 \rangle \quad \text{for every } u \in D(L).$$

Let now  $v \in D(L)$ ,  $\tau \geq 0$  and  $u = x_0 + \tau v$ . Then

$$0 \leq \langle (L + N)(x_0 + \tau v) - h, v \rangle$$

and for  $\tau \rightarrow 0$

$$0 \leq \langle (L + N)x_0 - h, v \rangle.$$

The density of  $D(L)$  in  $L_2$  implies that

$$(L + N)x_0 = h.$$

**THEOREM 4.** *Assume that (A) holds and that (16) holds for  $a + |b| < 1 + \alpha^2$ . Further assume that (i), (ii), or (iii) holds. Then there is a solution to the problem (1), (2) for every  $h(t)$  such that  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} h(t) dt = 0$ . In the case (i) or (ii) the solution is unique.*

**Proof.** Let  $x, y$  be two solutions to (1), (2). By the same method as in proof of Theorem 2 we obtain in case (i) or (ii) that

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} y(t) dt = 0.$$

Using the inequality (8) in (17) we obtain

$$(1 + \alpha^2 - a - |b|) \|x - y\|_2^2 \leq 0.$$

Then  $\|x - y\|_2^2 = 0$  and since  $x, y \in C^1$ ,  $x(t) = y(t)$  for every  $t$ .

The proof of the existence of a solution is similar to that of Theorem 3, only the existence of a solution to the finite-dimensional problem (18), (2) follows now from Theorem 2.

5. Critical case

Let  $\alpha = 0$  i.e. we consider the problem

$$-x''(t) + f(t, x(t), x(-t)) = h(t) \tag{21}$$

$$x(-\pi) = x(\pi), \quad x'(-\pi) = x'(\pi). \tag{2}$$

The homogeneous problem has a nontrivial solution in this case and there is no Green's function associated to the problem (21), (2).

Instead of (21) we consider the equation

$$-x''(t) + \alpha^2 x(t) + f_1(t, x(t), x(-t)) = h(t), \tag{22}$$

where

$$f_1(t, x, y) = f(t, x, y) - \alpha^2 x. \tag{23}$$

Because the function  $\alpha^2 x$ , as function  $H \rightarrow H$ , is only continuous and bounded (and is not completely continuous), we have the same assumptions for  $f$ , and use the same method as in Theorem 3 and 4.

**THEOREM 5.** *Assume that (A) and the inequality (16) hold for  $a + |b| < 0$ . Then the problem (21), (2) has a unique solution.*

**PROOF.** We use the equation (22), where  $f_1$  is given by (23). Inequality (16) implies that

$$(f_1(t, x, y) - f_1(t, u, v), x - u) \geq -\alpha^2 \|x - u\|^2 - a \|x - u\|^2 - b \|x - u\| \|y - v\|,$$

and obviously  $\alpha^2 + a + |b| < \alpha^2$ .

Theorem 3 implies the existence and uniqueness of the solution to the problem (22), (2) and then also to (21), (2).

**THEOREM 6.** *Assume that (A) and (16) hold for  $a + |b| < 1$ . Assume that (i) or*

(ii') *there is  $\beta > 0$  such that*

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (f(t, x(t), x(-t)), x(s)) dt ds \geq \beta \left\| \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt \right\|^2$$

or

$$(iii') \quad \liminf_{\substack{x \in S \\ \|x(t)\|_2 \rightarrow \infty}} \frac{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (f(t, x(t), x(-t)), x(s)) dt ds}{\left\| \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt \right\|^2} > 0,$$

where  $S = \{x(t), \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) \neq 0\}$  holds.

Then there is a solution to the problem (21), (2) for every  $h(t)$  such that  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} h(t) dt = 0$  and if (i) or (ii') holds, the solution is exactly one.

**P r o o f.** We use again the equation (22). Assumptions (i), (ii') resp. (iii') for the function  $f$  imply that (i), (ii) resp. (iii) is true for the function  $f_1$ . In case (ii) we choose  $\alpha$  such that  $0 < \alpha < \beta$ . Using Theorem 4 we obtain Theorem 6.

### 6. Connectedness of the set of solutions

**LEMMA 9.** Let the assumptions of Theorem 1 hold. Assume that (16) holds for  $a + |b| = \alpha^2$ .

Then the set of solutions to the problem (1), (2) is nonempty, compact and connected. If  $x, y$  are solutions to (1), (2), then  $x - y = \text{const}$ .

We omit the proof of the lemma since it is similar to the one of the following

**THEOREM 7.** Let the assumptions of Theorem 2 hold. Assume that (16) holds for  $a + |b| = \alpha^2 + 1$ .

Then the set of solutions to the problem (1), (2) is nonempty. Moreover it is compact and connected in case (i) or (ii).

**P r o o f.** The existence of a solution follows from Theorem 2. Proving that theorem we have obtained the estimation  $\|x(t)\|_0 < c$  for a solution to the equation

$$x = \lambda T x \quad \lambda \in \langle 0, 1 \rangle, \tag{10}$$

where  $T$  is given by

$$Tx(t) = -L^{-1}Nx(t) + L^{-1}h(t).$$

Moreover for every solution  $x(t) \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) dt = 0$  is valid when (i) or (ii) holds.

For  $x, y$  solutions to (1), (2) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (x'' - y'' + \alpha^2(x - y) + f(t, x(t), x(-t)) - f(t, y(t), y(-t)), x(t) - y(t)) dt \\ &= \|x' - y'\|_2^2 + \alpha^2 \|x - y\|_2^2 + \int_{-\pi}^{-\pi} f(t, x(t), x(-t)) - f(t, y(t), y(-t)), x(t) - y(t) dt \end{aligned}$$

and using the estimation (8) we get

$$(1 + \alpha^2) \|x - y\|_2^2 + \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (f(t, x(t), x(-t)) - f(t, y(t), y(-t)), x(t) - y(t)) dt \leq 0. \quad (24)$$

We use Krasnosel'skij's theorem [7, p. 155]. We choose  $f_n(t, x, y) = \lambda_n f(t, x, y)$ , where  $0 < \lambda_n < 1$  and  $\lambda_n \rightarrow 1$ . Obviously  $f_n$  satisfies the same assumptions as  $f$ , i.e.  $f_n$  is completely continuous and satisfies (i) resp. (ii).

We define the operator  $T_n$  by

$$T_n x(t) = -L^{-1} N_n x(t) + L^{-1} h(t),$$

where

$$N_n x(t) = f_n(t, x, (t), x(-t)).$$

Then the sequence  $\{T_n\}$  and the operator  $T$  satisfies the assumptions of Krasnosel'skij's theorem.

Really, if we choose  $\Omega = \{x(t) \in C, \|x(t)\|_0 < c\}$ , then

$$\sup_{x \in \Omega} \|T_n(x) - T(x)\|_0 \rightarrow 0,$$

the estimation  $\|x\|_0 < c$  implies that the Leray-Schauder degree

$$d(I - T, \Omega, 0) \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad Tx \neq x \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega.$$

Using the estimation (24), we obtain that there is at most one solution to the equation

$$x = T_n x + z \quad \text{for every} \quad z \in C.$$

The Krasnosel'skij theorem implies that the set of solutions is compact and connected.

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BORIS RUDOLF

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