

## On The Existence Of Periodic Solutions Of Certain Fourth Order Differential Equations With Dealy

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**Abstract**

We derive existence results for the periodic boundary value problem  $x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + f(\dot{x})\dot{x} + c\dot{x} + g(t, x(x-\tau)) = p(t)$   $x(0) = x(2\pi), \dot{x}(0) = \dot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi)$  using degree theoretic methods. The uniqueness of periodic solutions is also examined.

**Keywords and Phrases:** “Periodic Solutions, Caratheodony Conditions, Fourth Order Differential Equations with delay. 2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: 34B15; 34C15, 34C25.

**1. Introduction**

In this paper we study the periodic boundary value problem

$$x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + f(\dot{x})\dot{x} + c\dot{x} + g(t, x(t-\tau)) = p(t) \tag{1.1}$$

$$x(0) = x(2\pi), \dot{x}(0) = \dot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi)$$

with fixed delay  $\tau \in [0, 2\pi)$  Where  $c \neq 0$  is a constant,  $p: [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g: [0, 2\pi] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are  $2\pi$  periodic in  $t$  and  $g$  satisfies certain Caratheodory conditions.

The unknown function  $x: [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined for  $0 < t < \tau$  by  $x(t-\tau) = x(2\pi-(t-\tau))$

$$\text{The differential equation } x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + h(x)\dot{x} + g(t, x(t-\tau)) = p(t) \tag{1.2}$$

In which  $b < 0$  is a constant was the object of a recent study [6].

Results on the existence and uniqueness of  $2\pi$  periodic solutions were established subject to certain resonant conditions on  $g$ . Fourth order differential equations with delay occur in a variety of physical problems in fields such as Biology, Physics, Engineering and Medicine. In recent year, there have been many publications involving differential equation with delay; see for example [1,2,4,5,6,8,9]. However, as far as we know, there are few results on the existence and uniqueness of periodic solution to [1.1].

In what follows we shall use the spaces  $C([0, 2\pi]), C^k([0, 2\pi])$

and  $L^k([0, 2\pi])$  of continuous,  $k$  times continuously differentiable or measurable real functions whose  $k$ th power of the absolute value is Labesgue integrable.

We shall also make use of the sobolev space defined by

$$H_{2\pi}^k = \{x: [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid x, \dot{x} \text{ are absolutely continuous on } [0, 2\pi] \text{ and, } \ddot{x} \in L^2[0, 2\pi] \text{ with norm } \|x\|_{H_{2\pi}^2} = (\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x^2(t) dt)^2 + \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{i=1}^2 \int_0^{2\pi} |x^{(i)}(t)|^2 dt.$$

$$x^{(i)} = \frac{d^i x}{dt^i}$$

**2. The Linear cases**

In this section we shall first consider the equation:

$$x^{(iv)}(t) + a\ddot{x}(t) + b\dot{x}(t) + c\dot{x}(t) + dx(t-\tau) = 0 \tag{2.1}$$

$$x(0) = x(2\pi), \dot{x}(0) = \dot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi)$$

Where  $a, b, c, d$ , are constants

**Lemma 2.1** Let  $c \neq 0$  and Let  $a/c < 0$  Suppose that:

$$0 < d/c < n, n \geq 1 \tag{2.2}$$

Then (2.1) has no non-trivial  $2\pi$  periodic solution for any fixed  $\tau \in [0, 2\pi)$ .

**Proof**

By substituting  $x(t) = e^{\lambda t}$  with  $\lambda = in, i^2 = -1$ . We can see that the conclusion of the Lemma is true if  $\Phi(n, \tau) = an^3 - cn + d \sin n\tau \neq 0$  for all  $n \geq 1$  and  $\tau \in [0, 2\pi)$  (2.3)

By (2.2) we have

$$c^{-1} \Phi(n, \tau) = \frac{a}{c} n^3 - n + \frac{d}{c} \sin n\tau \leq$$

$$\frac{a}{c} n^3 - n + \frac{d}{c} \leq \frac{a}{c} n^3 < 0$$

Therefore  $\Phi(n, \tau) \neq 0$  and the result follows

If  $x \in L^1 [0, 2\pi]$  we shall write

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) dt, \tilde{x}(t) = x(t) - \bar{x}$$

So that

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \tilde{x}(t) dt = 0$$

We shall consider next the delay equation

$$x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + b\ddot{x} + c\dot{x} + d(t)x(t-\tau) = 0 \quad (2.4)$$

$$x(0) = x(2\pi), \dot{x}(0) = \dot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{\ddot{x}}(0) = \ddot{\ddot{x}}(2\pi)$$

Where  $a, b, c$  are constants and  $d \in L^1_{2\pi}$

Here the coefficient  $d$  in (2.4) is not necessarily constant. We have the following results which apart from being of independent interest are also useful in the non-linear case involving (1.1)

**Lemma 2.2** Let  $c \neq 0$  and let  $a/c < 0$  Set  $\Gamma(t) =$

$$c^{-1}d(t) \in L^1_{2\pi} \text{ Suppose that } 0 < \Gamma(t) < 1 \quad (2.5)$$

Then for arbitrary constant  $b$  the equation (2.4) admits in  $H^1_{2\pi}$  only the trivial solution for every  $\tau \in [0, 2\pi)$ .

We note that  $a$  and  $c$  are not arbitrary.

**Proof**

If  $x \in H^1_{2\pi}$  is a possible solution of (2.4) then on multiplying (2.4) by  $\bar{x} + \tilde{x}(t)$  and integrating over  $[0, 2\pi]$  noting that

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\bar{x} + \tilde{x}(t)) c^{-1} [x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + b\ddot{x}] dt = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{a}{c} \int_0^{2\pi} \ddot{x}^2(t) dt$$

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\bar{x} + \tilde{x}(t)) \{ c^{-1} [x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + b\ddot{x}] + \dot{x} + \Gamma(t)x(t-\tau) \} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{a}{c} \int_0^{2\pi} \ddot{x}^2(t) dt + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\bar{x} + \tilde{x}(t)) [\dot{x} + \Gamma(t)x(t-\tau)] dt \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\bar{x} + \tilde{x}(t)) \{ \dot{x}(t) + \Gamma(t)x(t-\tau) \} dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t) dt + \int_0^{2\pi} \Gamma(t) \dot{\tilde{x}}x(t-\tau) dt + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \Gamma(t) \bar{x}^2 dt \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \Gamma(t) \bar{x} \tilde{x}(t-\tau) dt \end{aligned}$$

Using the identity

$$ab = \frac{(a+b)^2}{2} - \frac{a^2}{2} - \frac{b^2}{2}$$

We get

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t) dt + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \Gamma(t) \bar{x}^2 dt + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \Gamma(t) \bar{x} \tilde{x}(t-\tau) dt$$

$$\begin{aligned} &+ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \Gamma(t) \left\{ \frac{[x(t-\tau) + \tilde{x}(t)]^2}{2} - \frac{\tilde{x}^2}{2} - \frac{\tilde{x}^2(t-\tau)}{2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \bar{x} \tilde{x}(t-\tau) - \frac{\bar{x}^2}{2} \right\} dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t) dt - \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\Gamma(t)}{2} [\tilde{x}^2 + \tilde{x}^2(t-\tau)] dt + \\ &\quad \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\Gamma(t)}{2} \{ [x(t-\tau) + \tilde{x}(t)]^2 + \bar{x}^2 \} dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Using (2.5) we get}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\geq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t) dt - \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\Gamma(t)}{2} [\tilde{x}^2 + \tilde{x}^2(t-\tau)] dt \end{aligned}$$

From the periodicity of  $\tilde{x}$  we have that

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t) dt = \int_0^{2\pi} \dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t-\tau) dt$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\geq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t-\tau) dt - \int_0^{2\pi} \Gamma(t) \tilde{x}^2(t-\tau) dt \right] + \\ &\quad \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t) - \Gamma(t) \dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t-\tau)) dt \right] \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Using (2.5) we can see that the last expression is non-negative hence

$$0 \geq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t-\tau) - \Gamma(t)\tilde{x}^2(t-\tau)) dt \right]$$

$$\geq \delta |\tilde{x}|_{H_{2\pi}^1}^2$$

By Lemma 1 of [8] where  $\delta > 0$  is a constant. This implies  $\tilde{x} = 0$  a.e and that  $x = \bar{x}$ . But a constant map cannot be a solution of (2.4) since  $\Gamma(t) \neq 0$ . Thus  $x = 0$ .

**Theorem 2.1**

Let all the conditions of Lemma 2.2 hold and let  $\delta$  be related to  $\Gamma$  by Lemma 2.2. Suppose further that  $V \in L_{2\pi}^2$  satisfies  $0 \leq V(t) \leq \Gamma(t) + \varepsilon$  a.e  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  where  $\varepsilon > 0$  then

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\bar{x} + \tilde{x}(t)) \{c^{-1}[x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + f(\dot{x})\ddot{x}] + \dot{x} + V(t)x(t-\tau)\} dt$$

$$\geq (\delta - \varepsilon) |\tilde{x}|_{H_{2\pi}^1}^2 \quad (2.7)$$

**Proof**

We have from the proof of Lemma 2.2 that

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\bar{x} + \tilde{x}(t)) \{c^{-1}[x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + f(\dot{x})\ddot{x}] + \dot{x} + V(t)x(t-\tau)\} dt$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t-\tau) - V(t)\tilde{x}^2(t-\tau)) dt \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\tilde{x}^2(t) - V(t)\tilde{x}^2(t)) dt \right)$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t-\tau) - \Gamma(t)\tilde{x}^2(t-\tau)) dt \right) - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \tilde{x}^2(t) dt \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\dot{\tilde{x}}^2(t) - \Gamma(t)\tilde{x}^2(t)) dt \right) - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \tilde{x}^2(t) dt \right)$$

From condition (2.5), Lemma 2.2 and Wirtinger's inequality we have

$$\geq \delta |\tilde{x}|_{H_{2\pi}^1} - \varepsilon |\tilde{x}|_{L_{2\pi}^2} \geq \delta |\tilde{x}|_{H_{2\pi}^1} - \varepsilon |\tilde{x}|_{H_{2\pi}^1} = (\delta - \varepsilon) |\tilde{x}|_{H_{2\pi}^1}$$

**3. The Non Linear Case**

We shall consider the non-linear delay equation

$$x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + f(\dot{x})\ddot{x} + c\dot{x} + g(t, x(t-\tau)) = p(t) \quad (3.1)$$

$$x(0) = x(2\pi), \dot{x}(0) = \dot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{\ddot{x}}(0) = \ddot{\ddot{x}}(2\pi)$$

where  $f: \mathfrak{R} \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  is a continuous function and  $g: [0, 2\pi] \times \mathfrak{R} \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  is such that  $g(\cdot, x)$  is a measurable on  $[0, 2\pi]$  for each  $x \in \mathfrak{R}$  and  $g(t, \cdot)$

is continuous on  $\mathfrak{R}$  for almost each  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ . We assume moreover that for each  $r > 0$

there exists  $Y_r \in L_{2\pi}^1$  such that

$$|g(t, x)| \leq Y_r(t) \quad (3.2)$$

for a.e  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  and all  $x \in [-r, r]$  such a  $g$  is said to satisfy the Caratheodory's condition.

**Theorem 3.1**

Let  $c \neq 0$  and let  $a/c < 0$ . Suppose that  $g$  is a caratheodory function satisfying the inequalities

$$c^{-1}xg(t, x) \geq 0 \quad (|x| \geq r) \quad (3.3)$$

$$\limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{g(t, x)}{cx} \leq \Gamma(t) \quad (3.4)$$

Uniformly a.e  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  where  $r > 0$  is constant and  $\Gamma \in L_{2\pi}^2$  is such that  $0 < \Gamma(t) < 1$ .

Suppose  $p \in L_{2\pi}^2$  is such that  $\bar{p} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} p(t) dt = 0$  then for arbitrary continuous function  $f$  the boundary value problem (3.1) has at least one solution for every  $\tau \in [0, 2\pi]$ .

**Proof**

Let  $\delta > 0$  be related to  $\Gamma$  as in Lemma 2.2 so that by (3.3) and (3.4) there exists a constant  $R_1$  such that for  $|x| \geq R_1$

$$0 \leq \frac{g(t, x)}{cx} \leq \Gamma(t) + \delta/2 \quad (3.5)$$

Define  $\tilde{y}(t, x)$  by

$$\tilde{y}(t, x) = \begin{cases} (cx)^{-1} g(t, x) & \geq \delta/2 |\tilde{x}|_{H^1_{2\pi}}^2 - (\alpha|_2 + |p|_2)(|\bar{x}| + |\tilde{x}|_2) \\ (cR_1)^{-1} g(t, R_1) & \geq \delta/2 |\tilde{x}|_{H^1_{2\pi}}^2 - \beta(|\bar{x}| + |\tilde{x}|_{H^1_{2\pi}}) \\ -(cR_1)^{-1} g(t, -R_1) \\ \Gamma(t) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |x| &\geq R_1 \\ 0 < x < R_1 \\ -R_1 < x < 0 \\ x &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

Then

$$0 < \tilde{y}(t, x) \leq \Gamma(t) + \delta/2 \quad (3.7)$$

for a.e  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  and all  $x \in \mathfrak{R}$ . Moreover the function  $\tilde{y}(t, x)$  satisfy Caratheodory's conditions and  $\tilde{g}: [0, 2\pi] \times \mathfrak{R} \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  defined by

$$\tilde{g}(t, x(t-\tau)) = g(t, x(t-\tau)) - cx(t-\tau)\tilde{y}(t, x(t-\tau)) \quad (3.8)$$

is such that for a.e  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  and all  $x \in \mathfrak{R}$ .

$$|\tilde{g}(t, x(t-\tau))| \leq \alpha(t) \text{ for some } \alpha(t) \in L^2_{2\pi}.$$

Let  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$  be such that

$$\begin{aligned} c^{-1}[x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + \lambda f(\dot{x})\ddot{x}] + \dot{x} + (1-\lambda)\Gamma(t)x(t-\tau) + \lambda\tilde{y}(t, x(t-\tau)) \\ + c^{-1}(1-\lambda)b\ddot{x} + \lambda c^{-1}\tilde{g}(t, x(t-\tau)) - c^{-1}\lambda p(t) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

For  $\lambda = 0$  we obtain (2.1) which by Lemma 2.2 admits only the trivial solution

For  $\lambda = 1$  we get the original equation (1.1). To prove that equation (3.1) has at least one solution, we show according to the Leray-Schauder Method that the possible solution of the family of equations (3.9) are apriori bounded in  $C^3[0, 2\pi]$  independently of  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ .

Notice that by (3.5) one has

$$0 \leq (1-\lambda)\Gamma(t) + \lambda\tilde{y}(t, x(t-\tau)) \leq \Gamma(t) + \delta/2 \quad (3.10)$$

Then using Theorem 2.1 with  $V(t) = (1-\lambda)\Gamma(t) + \lambda\tilde{y}(t, x(t-\tau))$  and Cauchy Schwarz inequality we get

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \\ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\bar{x} + \tilde{x}(t)) \{c^{-1}[x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + \lambda f(\dot{x})\ddot{x}] + \dot{x} + \\ (1-\lambda)\Gamma(t)x(t-\tau) + \lambda\tilde{y}(t, x(t-\tau)) + \lambda\tilde{g}(t, x(t-\tau)) \\ + (1-\lambda)b\ddot{x} - \lambda p(t)\} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$|\tilde{x}|_{H^1_{2\pi}}^2 \leq \frac{2\beta}{\delta} (|\bar{x}| + |\tilde{x}|_{H^1_{2\pi}}) \quad (3.11)$$

With  $\beta > 0$  independent of  $x$  and  $\lambda$ . Integrating (3.9) over  $[0, 2\pi]$  We obtain

$$(1-\lambda) \int_0^{2\pi} \Gamma(t)x(t-\tau)dt = -c^{-1}\lambda \int_0^{2\pi} g(t, x(t-\tau))dt \quad (3.12)$$

Since  $\Gamma(t) > 0$  we derive that

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \Gamma(t)dt = \bar{\Gamma} > 0 \quad (3.13)$$

Hence if  $x(t) \geq r$  for all  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ , (3.3) and (3.12) implies that  $(1-\lambda)\bar{\Gamma} < 0$  contradicting  $\bar{\Gamma} > 0$ . Similarly if  $x(t) \leq -r$  for all  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  we reach a contradiction.

Thus there exists  $a, t_1 \in [0, 2\pi]$  such that

$$|x(t_1)| < r. \text{ Let } t_2 \text{ be such that}$$

$$\bar{x} = x(t_2) = x(t_1) + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \dot{x}(s)ds. \quad \text{This}$$

implies that  $|\bar{x}| \leq r + 2\pi|\tilde{x}|_{H^1_{2\pi}}$

Substituting this in (3.11) we get

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{x}|_{H^1_{2\pi}}^2 &\leq c_1|\tilde{x}|_{H^1_{2\pi}} \\ \text{or } |\tilde{x}|_{H^1_{2\pi}} &\leq c_1, c_1 > 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

Now

$$|x|_{H^1_{2\pi}} \leq |\bar{x}| + |\tilde{x}|_{H^1_{2\pi}} \leq r + (2\pi + 1)c_1 = c_2 \quad (3.15)$$

Thus

$$|\dot{x}|_2 \leq c_3, c_3 > 0 \quad (3.16)$$

From (3.16) we have

$$|x|_{\infty} \leq c_4, c_4 > 0 \quad (3.17)$$

Multiplying (3.9) by  $-\dot{x}(t)$  and integrating over  $[0, 2\pi]$  we have

$$|\ddot{x}|_2^2 \leq |a|^{-1} (|\dot{x}|_2^2 + |1 + \frac{\delta}{2}|\dot{x}|_2|x|_{\infty} + |\alpha|_2|\dot{x}|_2 + |p|_2|\dot{x}|_2)$$

Hence

$$|\ddot{x}|_2 \leq c_5, c_5 > 0 \quad (3.18)$$

And thus

$$|\dot{x}|_{\infty} \leq c_6, c_6 > 0 \quad (3.19)$$

Multiplying (3.9) by  $-\ddot{x}(t)$  and integrating over  $[0, 2\pi]$   
 We get

$$|\ddot{x}|_2^2 \leq |f(\ddot{x})|_\infty |\ddot{x}|_2^2 + |1 + \delta/2| |\ddot{x}|_2 |x|_\infty + |c|^{-1} |\alpha|_2 |\ddot{x}|_2 + |p|_2 |\ddot{x}|_2 + |b| |\ddot{x}|_2$$

Thus

$$|\ddot{x}|_2 \leq c_7, c_7 > 0 \quad (3.20)$$

And hence

$$|\dot{x}|_\infty \leq c_8, c_8 > 0 \quad (3.21)$$

Also

$$|x^{(iv)}|_1 \leq c_9, c_9 > 0 \quad (3.22)$$

Since  $\ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi)$  there exists  $t_0 \in [0, 2\pi]$

Such that  $\ddot{x}(t_0) = 0$  Hence

$$|\ddot{x}|_\infty \leq c_{10}, c_{10} > 0 \quad (3.23)$$

From (3.17), (3.19), (3.22) and (3.23) our result follows.

#### 4. Uniqueness Result

If in (1.1),  $f(\dot{x}) = b$  a constant. The following uniqueness results holds.

##### Theorem 4.1

Let a, b, c, be constants with  $c \neq 0$   $a/c < 0$ .

Suppose g is a caratheodony function satisfying

$$0 < \frac{g(t, x_1(t-\tau)) - g(t, x_2(t-\tau))}{c(x_1 - x_2)} < \Gamma(t)$$

For a.e.,  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  and all  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}$   $x_1 \neq x_2$

where  $\Gamma \in L^2_{2\pi}$

Then the boundary value problem

$$x^{(iv)} + a\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + c\dot{x} + g(t, x(t-\tau)) = p(t)$$

$$x(0) = x(2\pi), \dot{x}(0) = \dot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi), \ddot{x}(0) = \ddot{x}(2\pi)$$

$$(4.1)$$

has art most one solution.

##### Proof

Let  $u = x_1 - x_2$  for any two solutions  $x_1, x_2$  of (4.1).

Then u satisfies the boundary value problem

$$c^{-1}[u^{(iv)} + a\ddot{u} + b\dot{u}] + \dot{u} + \beta(t)u(t-\tau) = 0$$

$$u(0) = u(2\pi), \dot{u}(0) = \dot{u}(2\pi), \ddot{u}(0) = \ddot{u}(2\pi), \ddot{u}(0) = \ddot{u}(2\pi)$$

Where  $\beta(t) \in L^2_{2\pi}$  is defined by

$$\beta(t) = \frac{g(t, x_1(t-\tau)) - g(t, x_2(t-\tau))}{c(x_1 - x_2)}$$

If  $u = x_1 - x_2 \neq 0$  and since  $0 < \beta(t) \leq \Gamma(t)$  for a.e  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  then using the arguments of theorem 2.1 we have that  $u = 0$  and thus  $x_1 = x_2$  a. e.

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