

## Research Article

# Existence and Uniqueness of Periodic Solution for Nonlinear Second-Order Ordinary Differential Equations

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Received 22 May 2010; Accepted 6 March 2011

Academic Editor: Kanishka Perera

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We study periodic solutions for nonlinear second-order ordinary differential problem  $x'' + f(t, x, x') = 0$ . By constructing upper and lower boundaries and using Leray-Schauder degree theory, we present a result about the existence and uniqueness of a periodic solution for second-order ordinary differential equations with some assumption.

## 1. Introduction

The study on periodic solutions for ordinary differential equations is a very important branch in the differential equation theory. Many results about the existence of periodic solutions for second-order differential equations have been obtained by combining the classical method of lower and upper solutions and the method of alternative problems (The Lyapunov-Schmidt method) as discussed by many authors [1–10]. In [11], the author gives a simple method to discuss the existence and uniqueness of nonlinear two-point boundary value problems. In this paper, we will extend this method to the periodic problem.

We consider the second-order ordinary differential equation

$$x'' + f(t, x, x') = 0. \quad (1.1)$$

Throughout this paper, we will study the existence of periodic solutions of (1.1) with the following assumptions:

(H<sub>1</sub>)  $f$ ,  $f_x$ , and  $f_{x'}$  are continuous in  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ , and

$$f(t, x, x') = f(t + 2\pi, x, x'), \quad (1.2)$$

(H<sub>2</sub>)

$$\begin{aligned}
 N^2 &< \alpha - \frac{\gamma^2}{4} \leq \beta < (N+1)^2, \\
 \sin \frac{\pi \sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{4N} &< \sqrt{1 - \frac{\gamma^2}{4\alpha}} \quad \text{if } N > 0, \\
 \gamma &< \frac{4(N+1)}{\pi} \left[ 1 - \frac{\beta}{(N+1)^2} \right],
 \end{aligned} \tag{1.3}$$

where  $N$  is some positive integer,

$$\alpha = \inf_{\mathbb{R}^3} (f_x), \quad \beta = \sup_{\mathbb{R}^3} (f_x), \quad \gamma = \sup_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f_{x'}|. \tag{1.4}$$

The following is our main result.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Assume that (H<sub>1</sub>) and (H<sub>2</sub>) hold, then (1.1) has a unique  $2\pi$ -periodic solution.*

## 2. Basic Lemmas

The following results will be used later.

**Lemma 2.1** (see [12]). *Let  $x \in C^1([0, h], \mathbb{R})$  ( $h > 0$ ) with*

$$x(0) = x(h) = 0, \quad x(t) > 0 \quad \text{for } t \in (0, h), \tag{2.1}$$

*then*

$$\int_0^h |x(t)x'(t)| dt \leq \frac{h}{4} \int_0^h x'^2(t) dt, \tag{2.2}$$

*and the constant  $h/4$  is optimal.*

**Lemma 2.2** (see [12]). *Let  $x \in C^1([a, b], \mathbb{R})$  ( $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $a < b$ ) with the boundary value conditions  $x(a) = x(b) = 0$ , then*

$$\int_a^b x^2(t) dt \leq \frac{(b-a)^2}{\pi^2} \int_a^b x'^2(t) dt. \tag{2.3}$$

*Consider the periodic boundary value problem*

$$\begin{aligned}
 x'' + p(t)x' + q(t)x &= 0, \\
 x(0) = x(2\pi), \quad x'(0) &= x'(2\pi).
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

**Lemma 2.3.** Suppose that  $p, q$  are  $L^2$ -integrable  $2\pi$ -periodic function, where  $p, q$  satisfy the condition  $(H_2)$ , with

$$\alpha = \inf_{[0, 2\pi]} q(t), \quad \beta = \sup_{[0, 2\pi]} q(t), \quad \gamma = \sup_{[0, 2\pi]} |p(t)|, \quad (2.5)$$

then (2.4) has only the trivial  $2\pi$ -periodic solution  $x(t) \equiv 0$ .

*Proof.* If on the contrary, (2.4) has a nonzero  $2\pi$ -periodic solution  $x(t)$ , then using (2.4), we have

$$\left( e^{\int_{t_0}^t p(s) ds} x' \right)' + e^{\int_{t_0}^t p(s) ds} q(t)x = 0, \quad (2.6)$$

where  $t_0 \in [0, 2\pi]$  is undetermined.

Firstly, we prove that  $x(t)$  has at least one zero in  $(0, 2\pi)$ . If  $x(t) \neq 0$ , we may assume  $x(t) > 0$ . Since  $x(t)$  is a  $2\pi$ -periodic solution, there exists a  $t_0 \in [0, 2\pi]$  with  $x'(t_0) = 0 = x'(t_0 + 2\pi)$ . Then,

$$0 = \int_{t_0}^{t_0+2\pi} \left( e^{\int_{t_0}^t p(s) ds} x' \right)' dt = - \int_{t_0}^{t_0+2\pi} e^{\int_{t_0}^t p(s) ds} q(t)x dt < 0, \quad (2.7)$$

we could get a contradiction.

Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $x(0) = x(2\pi) = 0$ ,  $x'(0) = x'(2\pi) = A > 0$ ; then there exists a sufficiently small  $\delta > 0$  such that  $x(\delta/2) > 0$ ,  $x(2\pi - \delta/2) < 0$ . Since  $x(t)$  is a continuous function, there must exist a  $t' \in [\delta/2, 2\pi - \delta/2]$  with  $x(t') = 0$ .

Secondly, we prove that  $x(t)$  has at least  $2N + 2$  zeros on  $[0, 2\pi]$ . Considering the initial value problem

$$\varphi'' - \gamma\varphi' + \alpha\varphi = 0, \quad \varphi(0) = 0, \quad \varphi'(0) = A. \quad (2.8)$$

Obviously,

$$\varphi(t) = \frac{2A}{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}} e^{\gamma t/2} \sin \frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{2} t \quad (2.9)$$

is the solution of (2.8) and

$$\varphi'(t) = 2A \sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{4\alpha - \gamma^2}} e^{\gamma t/2} \sin \left( \frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{2} t + \theta \right), \quad (2.10)$$

where  $\theta \in (0, \pi/2]$  with  $\sin \theta = \sqrt{(4\alpha - \gamma^2)/4\alpha}$ . Since

$$N < \frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{2} < N + 1 \quad (2.11)$$

holds under the assumptions of  $(H_2)$ , there is a  $t_0 \in (0, \pi)$ , such that

$$\frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{2}t_0 + \theta = \pi, \quad \text{i.e., } \frac{\pi}{2} \leq \frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{2}t_0 < \pi. \quad (2.12)$$

Now, let  $N > 0$ . By the conditions  $(H_2)$ , (2.11), and (2.12), we have

$$\sin \frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{2}t_0 = \sin \theta = \sqrt{\frac{4\alpha - \gamma^2}{4\alpha}} > \sin \frac{\pi\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{4N}, \quad (2.13)$$

$$\frac{\pi}{2} < \frac{\pi\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{4N} < \pi. \quad (2.14)$$

Since  $\sin t$  is decreasing in  $[\pi/2, \pi)$ , we have  $0 < t_0 < \pi/2N$ . Therefore,

$$\varphi'(t) > 0, \quad \varphi(t) > 0, \quad \text{for } t \in (0, t_0), \quad \varphi'(t_0) = 0. \quad (2.15)$$

We also consider the initial value problem

$$\psi'' + \gamma\psi' + \alpha\psi = 0, \quad \psi(t_0) = \varphi(t_0), \quad \psi'(t_0) = 0. \quad (2.16)$$

Clearly,

$$\psi(t) = 2\sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}\varphi(t_0)e^{-\gamma(t-t_0)/2} \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{2}(t - t_0) + \theta\right) \quad (2.17)$$

is the solution of (2.16), where  $\theta$  is the same as the previous one, and

$$\psi'(t) = -\frac{2\alpha}{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}\varphi(t_0)e^{-\gamma(t-t_0)/2} \sin \frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{2}(t - t_0). \quad (2.18)$$

Hence, there exists a  $t_1 \in (0, 2\pi)$  with  $t_1 - t_0 \in (0, \pi)$ , such that

$$\frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{2}(t_1 - t_0) + \theta = \pi. \quad (2.19)$$

Then,

$$\varphi(t_1) = 0. \quad (2.20)$$

From (2.12) and (2.19), it follows that

$$\frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{4} t_1 = \pi - \theta, \quad \text{i.e., } \frac{\pi}{2} \leq \frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{4} t_1 < \pi. \quad (2.21)$$

By (H<sub>2</sub>) and (2.21), we have

$$\sin \frac{\sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{4} t_1 = \sin \theta = \sqrt{\frac{4\alpha - \gamma^2}{4\alpha}} > \sin \frac{\pi \sqrt{4\alpha - \gamma^2}}{4N}. \quad (2.22)$$

Since  $\sin t$  is decreasing on  $[\pi/2, \pi)$ , we have  $0 < t_1 < \pi/N$ , and

$$\psi'(t) < 0, \quad \psi(t) > 0, \quad \text{for } t \in (t_0, t_1). \quad (2.23)$$

We now prove that  $x(t)$  has a zero point in  $(0, t_1]$ . If on the contrary  $x(t) > 0$  for  $t \in (0, t_1]$ , then we would have the following inequalities:

$$x(t) \leq \varphi(t), \quad \text{for } t \in [0, t_0], \quad (2.24)$$

$$x(t) \leq \varphi(t), \quad \text{for } t \in [t_0, t_1]. \quad (2.25)$$

In fact, from (2.4), (2.8), and (2.15), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (\varphi'(t)x(t) - \varphi(t)x'(t))' \\ &= \varphi''(t)x(t) + \varphi'(t)x'(t) - \varphi'(t)x'(t) - \varphi(t)x''(t) \\ &= (\gamma\varphi'(t) - \alpha\varphi(t))x(t) - \varphi(t)(-p(t)x'(t) - q(t)x(t)) \\ &= (\gamma + p(t))\varphi'(t)x(t) + (-p(t))(\varphi'(t)x(t) - \varphi(t)x'(t)) + (q(t) - \alpha)\varphi(t)x(t) \\ &\geq (-p(t))(\varphi'(t)x(t) - \varphi(t)x'(t)), \end{aligned} \quad (2.26)$$

with  $t \in [0, t_0]$ . Setting  $y = \varphi'(t)x(t) - \varphi(t)x'(t)$ , and since

$$y' \geq -p(t)y, \quad (2.27)$$

we obtain

$$\left( y e^{\int_0^t p(s) ds} \right)' \geq 0, \quad t \in [0, t_0]. \quad (2.28)$$

Notice that  $\varphi(0) = x(0) = 0$ , which implies

$$y(0) = 0, \quad ye^{\int_0^t p(s)ds} \geq 0, \quad t \in [0, t_0]. \quad (2.29)$$

So, we have

$$\varphi'(t)x(t) - \varphi(t)x'(t) \geq 0, \quad t \in [0, t_0], \quad \text{i.e.,} \quad \left(\frac{\varphi(t)}{x(t)}\right)' \geq 0, \quad t \in (0, t_0]. \quad (2.30)$$

Integrating from 0 to  $t \in (0, t_0]$ , we obtain

$$0 \leq \int_0^t \left(\frac{\varphi(s)}{x(s)}\right)' ds = \frac{\varphi(t)}{x(t)} - \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\varphi(t)}{x(t)} = \frac{\varphi(t)}{x(t)} - \frac{\varphi'(0)}{x'(0)}. \quad (2.31)$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{\varphi(t)}{x(t)} \geq 1, \quad t \in (0, t_0], \quad (2.32)$$

which implies (2.24). By a similar argument, we have (2.25). Therefore,  $0 < x(t_1) \leq \varphi(t_1) = 0$ , a contradiction, which shows that  $x(t)$  has at least one zero in  $(0, t_1]$ , with  $t_1 < \pi/N$ .

We let  $x(t^1) = 0$ ,  $t^1 \in (0, t_1]$ . If  $t^1 + t_1 < 2\pi$ , then from a similar argument, there is a  $t^2 \in (t^1, t^1 + t_1)$ , such that  $x(t^2) = 0$  and so on. So, we obtain that  $x(t)$  has at least  $2N + 2$  zeros on  $[0, 2\pi]$ .

Thirdly, we prove that  $x(t)$  has at least  $2N + 3$  zeros on  $[0, 2\pi]$ . If, on the contrary, we assume that  $x(t)$  only has  $2N + 2$  zeros on  $[0, 2\pi]$ , we write them as

$$0 = t^0 < t^1 < \dots < t^{2N+1} = 2\pi. \quad (2.33)$$

Obviously,

$$x'(t^i) \neq 0, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, 2N + 1. \quad (2.34)$$

Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $x'(t^0) > 0$ . Since

$$x'(t^i)x'(t^{i+1}) < 0, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, 2N, \quad (2.35)$$

we obtain  $x'(t^{2N+1}) < 0$ , which contradicts  $x'(t^{2N+1}) = x'(t^0) > 0$ . Therefore,  $x(t)$  has at least  $2N + 3$  zeros on  $[0, 2\pi]$ .

Finally, we prove Lemma 2.3. Since  $x(t)$  has at least  $2N + 3$  zeros on  $[0, 2\pi]$ , there are two zeros  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$  with  $0 < \xi_2 - \xi_1 \leq \pi/(N + 1)$ . By Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\xi_1}^{\xi_2} x'^2(t) dt &= - \int_{\xi_1}^{\xi_2} x(t) x''(t) dt = \int_{\xi_1}^{\xi_2} p(t) x(t) x'(t) dt + \int_{\xi_1}^{\xi_2} q(t) x^2(t) dt \\ &\leq \left[ \frac{\gamma}{4} (\xi_2 - \xi_1) + \frac{\beta}{\pi^2} (\xi_2 - \xi_1)^2 \right] \int_{\xi_1}^{\xi_2} x'^2(t) dt. \end{aligned} \quad (2.36)$$

From  $(H_2)$ , it follows that

$$\frac{\gamma}{4} (\xi_2 - \xi_1) + \frac{\beta}{\pi^2} (\xi_2 - \xi_1)^2 \leq \frac{\pi\gamma}{4(N + 1)} + \frac{\beta}{(N + 1)^2} < 1. \quad (2.37)$$

Hence,

$$\int_{\xi_1}^{\xi_2} x'^2(t) dt = 0, \quad (2.38)$$

which implies  $x'(t) = 0$  for  $t \in [\xi_1, \xi_2]$ . Also  $x(\xi_1) = 0$ . Therefore,  $x(t) \equiv 0$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ , a contradiction. The proof is complete.  $\square$

### 3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Firstly, we prove the existence of the solution. Consider the homotopy equation

$$x'' + \alpha x = \lambda(-f(t, x, x') + \alpha x) \equiv \lambda F(t, x, x'), \quad (3.1)$$

where  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$  and  $\alpha = \inf_{\mathbb{R}^3} (f_x)$ . When  $\lambda = 1$ , it holds (1.1). We assume that  $\Phi(t)$  is the fundamental solution matrix of  $x'' + \alpha x = 0$  with  $\Phi(0) = I$ . Equation (3.1) can be transformed into the integral equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ x' \end{pmatrix}(t) = \Phi(t) \left( \begin{pmatrix} x(0) \\ x'(0) \end{pmatrix} + \int_0^t \Phi^{-1}(s) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \lambda F(s, x(s), x'(s)) \end{pmatrix} ds \right). \quad (3.2)$$

From  $(H_1)$ ,  $x(t)$  is a  $2\pi$ -periodic solution of (3.2), then

$$(I - \Phi(2\pi)) \begin{pmatrix} x(0) \\ x'(0) \end{pmatrix} = \Phi(2\pi) \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi^{-1}(s) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \lambda F(s, x(s), x'(s)) \end{pmatrix} ds. \quad (3.3)$$

For  $(I - \Phi(2\pi))$  is invertible,

$$\begin{pmatrix} x(0) \\ x'(0) \end{pmatrix} = (I - \Phi(2\pi))^{-1} \Phi(2\pi) \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi^{-1}(s) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \lambda F(s, x(s), x'(s)) \end{pmatrix} ds. \quad (3.4)$$

We substitute (3.4) into (3.2),

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ x' \end{pmatrix}(t) &= \Phi(t)(I - \Phi(2\pi))^{-1}\Phi(2\pi) \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi^{-1}(s) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \lambda F(s, x(s), x'(s)) \end{pmatrix} ds \\ &\quad + \Phi(t) \int_0^t \Phi^{-1}(s) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \lambda F(s, x(s), x'(s)) \end{pmatrix} ds. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

Define an operator

$$P_\lambda : C^1[0, 2\pi] \longrightarrow C^1[0, 2\pi], \quad (3.6)$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} P_\lambda \left[ \begin{pmatrix} x \\ x' \end{pmatrix} \right](t) &\equiv \Phi(t)(I - \Phi(2\pi))^{-1}\Phi(2\pi) \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi^{-1}(s) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \lambda F(s, x(s), x'(s)) \end{pmatrix} ds \\ &\quad + \Phi(t) \int_0^t \Phi^{-1}(s) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \lambda F(s, x(s), x'(s)) \end{pmatrix} ds. \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

Clearly,  $P_\lambda$  is a completely continuous operator in  $C^1[0, 2\pi]$ .

There exists  $B > 0$ , such that every possible periodic solution  $x(t)$  satisfies  $\|x\| \leq B$  ( $\|\cdot\|$  denote the usual normal in  $C^1[0, 2\pi]$ ). If not, there exists  $\lambda_k \rightarrow \lambda_0$  and the solution  $x_k(t)$  with  $\|x_k\| \rightarrow \infty$  ( $k \rightarrow \infty$ ).

We can rewrite (3.1) in the following form:

$$x_k'' + \alpha x_k = -\lambda_k \int_0^1 f_{x'}(t, x_k, \theta x_k') d\theta x_k' - \lambda_k \int_0^1 f_x(t, \theta x_k, 0) d\theta x_k - \lambda_k f(t, 0, 0) + \lambda_k \alpha x_k. \quad (3.8)$$

Let  $y_k = x_k / \|x_k\|$  ( $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ), obviously  $\|y_k\| = 1$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots$ ). It satisfies the following problem:

$$y_k'' + \alpha y_k = -\lambda_k \int_0^1 f_{x'}(t, x_k, \theta x_k') d\theta y_k' - \lambda_k \int_0^1 f_x(t, \theta x_k, 0) d\theta y_k - \lambda_k f(t, 0, 0) / \|x_k\| + \lambda_k \alpha y_k, \quad (3.9)$$

in which we have

$$\frac{f(t, 0, 0)}{\|x_k\|} \longrightarrow 0 \quad (k \longrightarrow \infty). \quad (3.10)$$

Since  $\{y_k\}, \{y_k'\}$  are uniformly bounded and equicontinuous, there exists continuous function  $u(t), v(t)$  and a subsequence of  $\{k\}_1^\infty$  (denote it again by  $\{k\}_1^\infty$ ), such that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} y_k(t) = u(t)$ ,  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} y_k'(t) = v(t)$  uniformly in  $\mathbb{R}$ . Using (H<sub>1</sub>) and (H<sub>2</sub>),  $\{\int_0^1 f_x(t, \theta x_k, 0) d\theta\}_1^\infty$  and



$\{\int_0^1 f_{x'}(t, x_k, \theta x'_k) d\theta\}_1^\infty$  are uniformly bounded. By the Hahn-Banach theorem, there exists  $L^2$ -integrable function  $p(t)$ ,  $q(t)$ , and a subsequence of  $\{k\}_1^\infty$  (denote it again by  $\{k\}_1^\infty$ ), such that

$$\int_0^1 f_x(t, \theta x_k, 0) d\theta \xrightarrow{\omega} q(t), \quad \int_0^1 f_{x'}(t, x_k, \theta x'_k) d\theta \xrightarrow{\omega} p(t), \quad (3.11)$$

where  $\xrightarrow{\omega}$  denotes “weakly converges to” in  $L^2[0, 2\pi]$ . As a consequence, we have

$$u''(t) + \alpha u(t) = -\lambda_0 p(t) u'(t) - \lambda_0 q(t) u(t) + \lambda_0 \alpha u(t), \quad (3.12)$$

that is,

$$u''(t) + \lambda_0 p(t) u'(t) + (\lambda_0 q(t) + (1 - \lambda_0) \alpha) u(t) = 0. \quad (3.13)$$

Denote that  $\tilde{p}(t) = \lambda_0 p(t)$ ,  $\tilde{q}(t) = \lambda_0 q(t) + (1 - \lambda_0) \alpha$ , then we get

$$|\tilde{p}(t)| = \lambda_0 |p(t)| \leq \gamma, \quad \lambda_0 \alpha + (1 - \lambda_0) \alpha \leq \tilde{q}(t) \leq \lambda_0 \beta + (1 - \lambda_0) \alpha, \quad (3.14)$$

which also satisfy the condition  $(H_2)$ . Notice that  $\tilde{p}(t)$  and  $\tilde{q}(t)$  are  $L^2$ -integrable on  $[0, 2\pi]$ , so  $u(t)$  satisfies Lemma 2.3. Hence, we have  $u(t) \equiv 0$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ , which contradicts  $\|u\| = 1$ . Therefore,  $PC^1[0, 2\pi]$  is bounded.

Denote

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega &= \left\{ x \in C^1[0, 2\pi], \|x\| < B + 1 \right\}, \\ h_\lambda(x) &= x - P_\lambda x. \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

Because  $0 \notin h_\lambda(\partial\Omega)$  for  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ , by Leray-Schauder degree theory, we have

$$\deg(x - Px, \Omega, 0) = \deg(h_1(x), \Omega, 0) = \deg(h_0(x), \Omega, 0) \neq 0. \quad (3.16)$$

So, we conclude that  $P$  has at least one fixed point in  $\Omega$ , that is, (1.1) has at least one solution.

Finally, we prove the uniqueness of the equation when the condition  $(H_1)$  and  $(H_2)$  holds. Let  $x_1(t)$  and  $x_2(t)$  be two  $2\pi$ -periodic solutions of the problem. Denote  $x_0(t) = x_1(t) - x_2(t)$ ,  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ , then  $x_0(t)$  is a solution of the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} x'' + \int_0^1 f_{x'}(t, x_2 + x_0, x'_2 + \theta x'_0) d\theta x' + \int_0^1 f_x(t, x_2 + \theta x_0, x'_2) d\theta x &= 0, \\ x(0) &= x(2\pi), \quad x'(0) = x'(2\pi). \end{aligned} \quad (3.17)$$

By Lemma 2.3, we have  $x_0(t) \equiv 0$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ .

Let  $\tilde{x}(t + 2k\pi) = x(t)$ ,  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We have

$$\tilde{x}''(t + 2k\pi) = x''(t) = -f(t, x, x') = -f(t, \tilde{x}, \tilde{x}') = -f(t + 2k\pi, \tilde{x}, \tilde{x}'), \quad (3.18)$$

with  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Denote  $\tilde{x}(t + 2k\pi)$  ( $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ ) by  $x(t)$  ( $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ). So,  $x(t)$  is the solution of the problem (1.1). The proof is complete.

#### 4. An Example

Consider the system

$$x'' + \frac{2}{3} \sin tx' + 6x + \cos x = p(t), \quad (4.1)$$

where  $p(t) = p(t + 2\pi)$  is a continuous function. Obviously,

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= \inf_{\mathbb{R}^3} (f_x) = \inf_{\mathbb{R}^3} (6 - \sin x) = 5, \\ \beta &= \sup_{\mathbb{R}^3} (f_x) = \sup_{\mathbb{R}^3} (6 - \sin x) = 7, \\ \gamma &= \sup_{\mathbb{R}^3} |f_{x'}| = \sup_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left| \frac{2}{3} \sin t \right| = \frac{2}{3} \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

satisfy Theorem 1.1, then there is a unique  $2\pi$ -periodic solution in this system.

#### Acknowledgments

The author expresses sincere thanks to Professor Yong Li for useful discussion. He would like to thank the reviewers for helpful comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

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