Hindawi Publishing Corporation
Advances in Difference Equations
Volume 2009, Article ID 360871, 17 pages
doi:10.1155/2009/360871

Research Article

Nonlinear Discrete Periodic Boundary Value Problems at Resonance

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Received 25 June 2009; Revised 4 October 2009; Accepted 6 December 2009

Recommended by Kanishka Perera

Let $T \in \mathbb{N}$ be an integer with $T > 2$, and let $\mathbb{T} := \{1, \ldots, T\}$. We study the existence of solutions of nonlinear discrete problems $\Delta^2 u(t-1) + \lambda_k a(t)u(t) + g(t, u(t)) = h(t)$, $t \in \mathbb{T}$, $u(0) = u(T)$, $u(1) = u(T+1)$, where $a, h : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{R}$ with $a > 0$, λ_k is the kth eigenvalue of the corresponding linear eigenvalue problem.

1. Introduction

Initialed by Lazer and Leach [1], much work has been devoted to the study of existence result for nonlinear periodic boundary value problem

$$\begin{gathered} y''(x) + m^2 y(x) + \widehat{g}(x, y(x)) = e(x), \quad x \in (0, 2\pi), \\ y(0) = y(2\pi), \qquad y'(0) = y'(2\pi), \end{gathered} \tag{1.1}$$

where $m \geq 0$ is an integer. Results from the paper have been extended to partial differential equations by several authors. The reader is referred, for detail, to Landesman and Lazer [2], Amann et al. [3], Brézis and Nirenberg [4], Fučík and Hess [5], and Iannacci and Nkashama [6] for some reference along this line. Concerning (1.1), results have been carried out by many authors also. Let us mention articles by Mawhin and Ward [7], Conti et al. [8], Omari and Zanolin [9], Ding and Zanolin [10], Capietto and Liu [11], Iannacci and Nkashama [12], Chu et al. [13], and the references therein.

However, relatively little is known about the discrete analog of (1.1) of the form

$$\begin{gathered} \Delta^2 u(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)u(t)+g(t,u(t))=h(t), \quad t\in\mathbb{T}, \\ u(0)=u(T), \qquad u(1)=u(T+1), \end{gathered} \tag{1.2}$$

where $\mathbb{T}:=\{1,\dots,T\}$, $a,h:\mathbb{T}\to\mathbb{R}$ with $a>0$, $g(t,s):\mathbb{T}\times\mathbb{R}\to\mathbb{R}$ is continuous in s. The likely reason is that the spectrum theory of the corresponding linear problem

$$\begin{gathered} \Delta^2 u(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)u(t)=0, \quad t\in\mathbb{T}, \\ u(0)=u(T), \qquad u(1)=u(T+1) \end{gathered} \tag{1.3}$$

was not established until [14]. In [14], Wang and Shi showed that the linear eigenvalue problem (1.3) has exactly T real eigenvalues

$$\begin{gathered} \mu_0<\mu_1\le\mu_2<\cdots<\mu_{T-2}\le\mu_{T-1}, \quad \text{when } T \text{ is odd}, \\ \mu_0<\mu_1\le\mu_2<\cdots\le\mu_{T-2}<\mu_{T-1}, \quad \text{when } T \text{ is even}. \end{gathered} \tag{1.4}$$

Suppose that these above eigenvalues have $N+1$ different values λ_k, $(k=0,1,\dots,N)$. Then (1.4) can be rewritten as

$$\lambda_0<\lambda_1<\cdots<\lambda_N. \tag{1.5}$$

For each λ_k, we denote its eigenspace by M_k. If $\dim M_k=1$, then we assume that $M_k:=\operatorname{span}\{\varphi_k\}$ in which φ_k is the eigenfunction of λ_k. If $\dim M_k=2$, then we assume that $M_k:=\operatorname{span}\{\varphi_k,\varphi_k\}$ in which φ_k and φ_k are two linearly independent eigenfunctions of λ_k.

It is the purpose of this paper to prove the existence results for problem (1.2) when there occurs resonance at the eigenvalue λ_k and the nonlinear function g may "touching" the eigenvalue λ_{k+1}. To have the wit, we have what follows.

Theorem 1.1. *Let $a,h:\mathbb{T}\to\mathbb{R}$ with $a>0$, $g(t,s):\mathbb{T}\times\mathbb{R}\to\mathbb{R}$ is continuous in s, and for some $r^*<0<R^*$,*

$$\begin{gathered} g(t,x)\ge A(t), \quad \forall x\ge R^*, \\ g(t,x)\le B(t), \quad \forall x\le r^*, \end{gathered} \tag{1.6}$$

where $A,B:\mathbb{T}\to\mathbb{R}$ are two given functions. Suppose for some $1\le k\le N-1$,

$$\dim M_{k+1}=2. \tag{1.7}$$

Assume that for all $\varepsilon>0$, there exist a constant $R=R(\varepsilon)>0$ and a function $b:\mathbb{T}\to\mathbb{R}$ such that

$$|g(t,u)|\le(\Gamma(t)+\varepsilon)a(t)|u|+b(t), \quad t\in\mathbb{T},\ |u|\ge R, \tag{1.8}$$

where $\Gamma : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{R}$ *is a given function satisfying*

$$0 \le \Gamma(t) \le \lambda_{k+1} - \lambda_k, \quad t \in \mathbb{T}, \tag{1.9}$$

and for at least $[T/2] + 2$ *points in* $[1, T]$,

$$\Gamma(t) < \lambda_{k+1} - \lambda_k, \tag{1.10}$$

where $[r]$ *denotes the integer part of the real number* r.

Then (1.2) *has at least one solution provided*

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} h(t)v(t) < \sum_{v(t)>0} g_+(t)v(t) + \sum_{v(t)<0} g_-(t)v(t), \tag{1.11}$$

where $v \in M_k$, $v \neq 0$, *and*

$$g_+(t) = \liminf_{u \to +\infty} g(t,u), \qquad g_-(t) = \limsup_{u \to -\infty} g(t,u). \tag{1.12}$$

In [12], Iannacci and Nkashama proved the analogue of Theorem 1.1 for continuous-time nonlinear periodic boundary value problems (1.1). Our paper is motivated by Iannacci and Nkashama [12]. However, as we will see below, there are big differences between the continuous case and the discrete case. The main tool we use is the Leray-Schauder continuation theorem (see Mawhin [15, Theorem IV.5]).

Finally, we note that when $a(t) \equiv 1$ in (1.2), the existence of odd solutions or even solutions was investigated by R. Ma and H. Ma [16] under some parity conditions on the nonlinearities. The existence of solutions of second-order discrete problem at resonance was studied by Rodriguez in [17], in which the nonlinearity is required to be bounded. For other results on discrete boundary value problems, see Kelley and Peterson [18], Agarwal and O'Regan [19], Rachunkova and Tisdell [20], Yu and Guo [21], Atici and Cabada [22], Bai and Xu [23]. However, these papers do not address the problem under "asymptotic nonuniform resonance" conditions.

2. Preliminaries

Let

$$\widehat{\mathbb{T}} = \{0, 1, \ldots, T+1\}. \tag{2.1}$$

Let

$$D := \left\{ u : \widehat{\mathbb{T}} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid u(0) = u(T),\ u(1) = u(T+1) \right\}. \tag{2.2}$$

Then D is a Hilbert space under the inner product

$$\langle u, v\rangle = \sum_{t=1}^{T} a(t)u(t)v(t), \tag{2.3}$$

and the corresponding norm is

$$\|u\| := \sqrt{\langle u, u\rangle} = \left(\sum_{t=1}^{T} a(t)u(t)u(t)\right)^{1/2}. \tag{2.4}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{gathered}
\langle \varphi_k, \varphi_k\rangle = 0 \quad \text{if } \dim M_k = 2, \\
\langle \psi_j, \psi_k\rangle = 0, \quad \text{for } j, k \in \{0, 1, \ldots, N\},\ j \neq k, \\
\langle \varphi_j, \varphi_k\rangle = 0, \quad \text{for } j, k \in \{0, 1, \ldots, N\},\ j \neq k.
\end{gathered} \tag{2.5}$$

In the rest of the paper, we always assume that

$$\begin{gathered}
\|\psi_k\| = 1, \quad \text{for } k \in \{0, 1, \ldots, N\}, \\
\|\varphi_k\| = 1 \quad \text{if } \dim M_k = 2.
\end{gathered} \tag{2.6}$$

Define a linear operator $L : D \to D$ by

$$\begin{gathered}
(Lu)(t) = -\Delta^2 u(t-1), \quad t \in \mathbb{T}, \\
(Lu)(0) := (Lu)(1), \\
(Lu)(T+1) := (Lu)(T).
\end{gathered} \tag{2.7}$$

Lemma 2.1 (see [16]). *Let $u, w \in D$. Then*

$$\sum_{k=1}^{T} w(k)\Delta^2 u(k-1) = -\sum_{k=1}^{T} \Delta u(k)\Delta w(k). \tag{2.8}$$

Similar to [12, Lemma 3], we can prove the following.

Lemma 2.2 (see [12]). *Suppose that*

(i) *there exist $A, B : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{R}$ and real numbers $r < 0 < R$, such that*

$$\begin{gathered}
g(t, x) \geq A(t), \quad \forall x \geq R, \\
g(t, x) \leq B(t), \quad \forall x \leq r,
\end{gathered} \tag{2.9}$$

(ii) *there exist* $\alpha, \beta : \mathbb{T} \to [0, \infty)$ *and a constant* $B_0 > 0$ *such that*

$$\left|g(t,u)\right| \leq \alpha(t)|u| + \beta(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\ |u| \geq B_0. \tag{2.10}$$

Then for each real number $\kappa > 0$, *there is a decomposition*

$$g(t,x) = q_\kappa(t,x) + e_\kappa(t,x) \tag{2.11}$$

of g *satisfying*

$$0 \leq x q_\kappa(t,x), \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\ x \in \mathbb{R}, \tag{2.12}$$

$$\left|q_\kappa(t,u)\right| \leq \alpha(t)|u| + \beta(t) + \kappa, \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\ |u| \geq \max\{1, B_0\}, \tag{2.13}$$

and there exists a function $\sigma_\kappa : \mathbb{T} \to [0,\infty)$ *depending on* r, R, *and* g *such that*

$$|e_\kappa(t,x)| \leq \sigma_\kappa(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\ x \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{2.14}$$

3. Existence of Periodic Solutions

In this section, we need to give some lemmas first, which have vital importance to prove Theorem 1.1.

For convenience, we set

$$\varphi_k := 0, \quad \text{as } \dim M_k = 1. \tag{3.1}$$

Thus, for any $u \in D$, we have the following Fourier expansion:

$$u(t) = a_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{N}\left[a_i\varphi_i(t) + b_i\varphi_i(t)\right], \quad t \in \mathbb{T}. \tag{3.2}$$

Let us write

$$u(t) = \overline{u}(t) + u^0(t) + \tilde{u}(t), \qquad u^\perp(t) = u(t) - u^0(t), \tag{3.3}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{u}(t) &= a_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1}\left[a_i\varphi_i(t) + b_i\varphi_i(t)\right], \\ u^0(t) &= a_k\varphi_k(t) + b_k\varphi_k(t), \\ \tilde{u}(t) &= \sum_{i=k+1}^{N}\left[a_i\varphi_i(t) + b_i\varphi_i(t)\right]. \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

Lemma 3.1. *Suppose that for* $1 \leq k \leq N-1$, λ_{k+1} *is an eigenvalue of* (1.3) *of multiplicity 2. Let* $\Gamma : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{R}$ *be a given function satisfying*

$$0 \leq \Gamma(t) \leq \lambda_{k+1} - \lambda_k, \quad t \in \mathbb{T}, \tag{3.5}$$

and for at least $[T/2]+2$ *points in* $[1,T]$,

$$\Gamma(t) < \lambda_{k+1} - \lambda_k. \tag{3.6}$$

Then there exists a constant $\delta = \delta(\Gamma) > 0$ such that for all $u \in D$, one has

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2 u(t-1) + \lambda_k a(t)u(t) + \Gamma(t)a(t)u(t)\right]\left[\overline{u}(t) + u^0(t) - \widetilde{u}(t)\right] \geq \delta\left\|u^{\perp}\right\|^2. \tag{3.7}$$

Proof. For $u \in D$,

$$\Delta^2 u(t-1) = -a(t)\sum_{i=1}^{N}\left[a_i\lambda_i\varphi_i(t) + b_i\lambda_i\varphi_i(t)\right]. \tag{3.8}$$

Taking into account the orthogonality of $\overline{u}$, u^0, and $\widetilde{u}$ in D, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2 u(t-1) + \lambda_k a(t)u(t) + \Gamma(t)a(t)u(t)\right]\left[\overline{u}(t) + u^0(t) - \widetilde{u}(t)\right] \\
&\quad= \sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2\overline{u}(t-1) + \lambda_k a(t)\overline{u}(t)\right]\overline{u}(t) + \sum_{t=1}^{T}\Gamma(t)a(t)\left[\overline{u}(t) + u^0(t)\right]^2 \\
&\qquad+ \sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2\widetilde{u}(t-1) + \lambda_k a(t)\widetilde{u}(t) + \Gamma(t)a(t)\widetilde{u}(t)\right]\left[-\widetilde{u}(t)\right] \\
&\qquad+ \sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2 u^0(t-1) + \lambda_k a(t)u^0(t)\right]u^0(t) \\
&\quad= \sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[-(\Delta\overline{u}(t))^2 + \lambda_k a(t)\overline{u}^2(t)\right] + \sum_{t=1}^{T}\Gamma(t)a(t)\left[\overline{u}(t) + u^0(t)\right]^2 \\
&\qquad+ \sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[(\Delta\widetilde{u}(t))^2 - \lambda_k a(t)\widetilde{u}^2(t) - \Gamma(t)a(t)\widetilde{u}^2(t)\right] \\
&\quad\geq (\lambda_k - \lambda_{k-1})\sum_{t=1}^{T}a(t)\overline{u}^2(t) + \sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta\widetilde{u}(t)\right]^2 - \sum_{t=1}^{T}(\lambda_k a(t) + \Gamma(t)a(t))\widetilde{u}^2(t).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

Set

$$\Lambda(\overline{u}) = (\lambda_k - \lambda_{k-1})\sum_{t=1}^{T} a(t)\overline{u}^2(t). \tag{3.10}$$

Then,

$$\Lambda(\overline{u}) \geq \delta_1\|\overline{u}\|^2, \tag{3.11}$$

where δ_1 is a positive constant less than $\lambda_k - \lambda_{k-1}$.

Let

$$\Lambda_\Gamma(\widetilde{u}) = \sum_{t=1}^{T}[\Delta\widetilde{u}(t)]^2 - \sum_{t=1}^{T}(\lambda_k a(t) + \Gamma(t)a(t))\widetilde{u}^2(t). \tag{3.12}$$

We claim that $\Lambda_\Gamma(\widetilde{u}) \geq 0$ with the equality holding only if $\widetilde{u} = A_0\psi_{k+1} + B_0\varphi_{k+1}$, where $A_0, B_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ are constants.

In fact, we have from Lemma 2.1 that

$$\begin{aligned}
\Lambda_\Gamma(\widetilde{u}) &= \sum_{t=1}^{T}[\Delta\widetilde{u}(t)]^2 - \sum_{t=1}^{T}(\lambda_k a(t) + \Gamma(t)a(t))\widetilde{u}^2(t) \\
&= -\sum_{t=1}^{T}\widetilde{u}(t)\Delta^2\widetilde{u}(t-1) - \sum_{t=1}^{T}(\lambda_k a(t) + \Gamma(t)a(t))\widetilde{u}^2(t) \\
&= \sum_{t=1}^{T}\sum_{i=k+1}^{N}\left[a_i\psi_i(t) + b_i\varphi_i(t)\right]\sum_{i=k+1}^{N}\lambda_i a(t)\left[a_i\psi_i(t) + b_i\varphi_i(t)\right] \\
&\quad - \sum_{t=1}^{T}(\lambda_k a(t) + \Gamma(t)a(t))\left(\sum_{i=k+1}^{N}\left[a_i\psi_i(t) + b_i\varphi_i(t)\right]\right)^2 \\
&\geq \sum_{t=1}^{T}\sum_{i=k+1}^{N}\left[a_i\psi_i(t) + b_i\varphi_i(t)\right]\sum_{j=k+1}^{N}\lambda_j a(t)\left[a_j\psi_j(t) + b_j\varphi_j(t)\right] \\
&\quad - \sum_{t=1}^{T}\lambda_{k+1}a(t)\left(\sum_{i=k+1}^{N}\left[a_i\psi_i(t) + b_i\varphi_i(t)\right]\right)\left(\sum_{j=k+1}^{N}\left[a_j\psi_j(t) + b_j\varphi_j(t)\right]\right) \\
&= \sum_{i=k+1}^{N}\sum_{j=k+1}^{N}a_i a_j\lambda_j\sum_{t=1}^{T}a(t)\psi_i(t)\psi_j(t) + \sum_{i=k+1}^{N}\sum_{j=k+1}^{N}b_i b_j\lambda_j\sum_{t=1}^{T}a(t)\varphi_i(t)\varphi_j(t) \\
&\quad - \sum_{i=k+1}^{N}\sum_{j=k+1}^{N}a_i a_j\lambda_{k+1}\sum_{t=1}^{T}a(t)\psi_i(t)\psi_j(t)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&-\sum_{i=k+1}^{N}\sum_{j=k+1}^{N} b_i b_j \lambda_{k+1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} a(t)\varphi_i(t)\varphi_j(t) \\
&= \sum_{j=k+1}^{N} a_j^2\left(\lambda_j-\lambda_{k+1}\right) + \sum_{j=k+1}^{N} b_j^2\left(\lambda_j-\lambda_{k+1}\right) \\
&= \sum_{j=k+1}^{N}\left(a_j^2+b_j^2\right)\left(\lambda_j-\lambda_{k+1}\right) \geq 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

Obviously, $\Lambda_\Gamma(\widetilde{u}) = 0$ implies that $a_{k+2} = \cdots = a_N = b_{k+2} = \cdots b_N = 0$, and accordingly $\widetilde{u}(t) = A_0\varphi_{k+1}(t) + B_0\varphi_{k+1}(t)$ for some $A_0, B_0 \in \mathbb{R}$.

Next we prove that $\Lambda_\Gamma(\widetilde{u}) = 0$ implies $\widetilde{u} = 0$. Suppose to the contrary that $\widetilde{u} \neq 0$.

We note that $\widetilde{u}$ has at most $[T/2]+1$ zeros in $\mathbb{T}$. Otherwise, $\widetilde{u}$ must have two consecutive zeros in $\mathbb{T}$, and subsequently, $\widetilde{u} \equiv 0$ in $[0, T+1]$ by (1.3). This is a contradiction.

Using (3.6) and the fact that $\widetilde{u}$ has at most $[T/2]+1$ zeros in $\mathbb{T}$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
\Lambda_\Gamma(\widetilde{u}) &= \sum_{t=1}^{T}\left(\lambda_{k+1}a(t) - \lambda_k a(t) - \Gamma(t)a(t)\right)[\widetilde{u}(t)]^2 \\
&= \sum_{t\in\mathbb{T}, \widetilde{u}(t)\neq 0} a(t)\left[\lambda_{k+1} - \lambda_k - \Gamma(t)\right][\widetilde{u}(t)]^2 \\
&> 0,
\end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

which contradicts $\Lambda_\Gamma(\widetilde{u}) = 0$. Hence, $\widetilde{u} = 0$.

We claim that there is a constant $\delta_2 = \delta_2(\Gamma) > 0$ such that

$$\Lambda_\Gamma(\widetilde{u}) \geq \delta_2\|\widetilde{u}\|^2. \tag{3.15}$$

Assume that the claim is not true. Then we can find a sequence $\{\widetilde{u}_n\} \subset D$ and $\widetilde{u} \in D$, such that, by passing to a subsequence if necessary,

$$0 \leq \Lambda_\Gamma(\widetilde{u}_n) \leq \frac{1}{n}, \quad \|\widetilde{u}_n\| = 1, \tag{3.16}$$

$$\|\widetilde{u}_n - \widetilde{u}\| \longrightarrow 0, \quad n \longrightarrow \infty. \tag{3.17}$$

From (3.17), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\left|\sum_{t=1}^{T}[\Delta\tilde{u}_n(t)]^2-\sum_{t=1}^{T}[\Delta\tilde{u}(t)]^2\right| &= \left|\sum_{t=1}^{T}[\tilde{u}_n(t+1)-\tilde{u}_n(t)]^2-\sum_{t=1}^{T}[\tilde{u}(t+1)-\tilde{u}(t)]^2\right|\\ &\leq \sum_{t=1}^{T}\left|\tilde{u}_n^2(t+1)-\tilde{u}^2(t+1)\right|+\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left|\tilde{u}_n^2(t)-\tilde{u}^2(t)\right|\\ &\quad +2\sum_{t=1}^{T}(|\tilde{u}_n(t)|\,|\tilde{u}_n(t+1)-\tilde{u}(t+1)|+|\tilde{u}(t+1)|\,|\tilde{u}_n(t)-\tilde{u}(t)|)\\ &\longrightarrow 0.\end{aligned} \tag{3.18}$$

By (3.12), (3.16), and (3.17), we obtain, for $n\to\infty$,

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T}[\Delta\tilde{u}_n(t)]^2\longrightarrow\sum_{t=1}^{T}(\lambda_k a(t)+\Gamma(t)a(t))[\tilde{u}(t)]^2, \tag{3.19}$$

and hence

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T}[\Delta\tilde{u}(t)]^2\leq\sum_{t=1}^{T}(\lambda_k a(t)+\Gamma(t)a(t))[\tilde{u}(t)]^2, \tag{3.20}$$

that is,

$$\Lambda_\Gamma(\tilde{u})\leq 0. \tag{3.21}$$

By the first part of the proof, $\tilde{u}=0$, so that, by (3.19), $\sum_{t=1}^{T}[\Delta\tilde{u}_n(t)]^2\to 0$, a contradiction with the second equality in (3.16).

Set $\delta=\min\{\delta_1,\delta_2\}>0$ and observing that $\|u^\perp\|^2=\|\tilde{u}\|^2+\|\overline{u}\|^2$ the proof is complete. □

Lemma 3.2. *Let Γ be as in Lemma 3.1 and let $\delta>0$ be associated with Γ by that lemma. Let $\varepsilon>0$. Let $p:\mathbb{T}\to\mathbb{R}$ be a function satisfying*

$$0\leq p(t)\leq\Gamma(t)+\varepsilon. \tag{3.22}$$

Then for all $u\in D$, one has

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2u(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)u(t)+p(t)a(t)u(t)\right]\left[\overline{u}(t)+u^0(t)-\tilde{u}(t)\right]\geq(\delta-\varepsilon)\left\|u^\perp\right\|^2. \tag{3.23}$$

Proof. Using the computations in the proof of Lemma 3.1 and (3.22), we obtain

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2 u(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)u(t)+p(t)a(t)u(t)\right]\left[\overline{u}(t)+u^0(t)-\widetilde{u}(t)\right]\\
&\quad=\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2\overline{u}(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)\overline{u}(t)\right]\overline{u}(t)+\sum_{t=1}^{T}p(t)a(t)\left[\overline{u}(t)+u^0(t)\right]^2\\
&\qquad+\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2\widetilde{u}(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)\widetilde{u}(t)+p(t)a(t)\widetilde{u}(t)\right](-\widetilde{u}(t))\\
&\qquad+\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2 u^0(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)u^0(t)\right]u^0(t)\\
&\quad\geq\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[(\Delta\widetilde{u}(t))^2-\left(\lambda_k a(t)+p(t)a(t)\right)(\widetilde{u}(t))^2\right]\\
&\qquad+\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[-(\Delta\overline{u}(t))^2+\lambda_k a(t)(\overline{u}(t))^2\right]\\
&\quad\geq\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[(\Delta\widetilde{u}(t))^2-(\lambda_k a(t)+\Gamma(t)a(t))(\widetilde{u}(t))^2\right]-\sum_{t=1}^{T}\varepsilon a(t)(\widetilde{u}(t))^2\\
&\qquad+\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[-(\Delta\overline{u}(t))^2+\lambda_k a(t)(\overline{u}(t))^2\right]\\
&\quad\geq\delta\left\|u^{\perp}\right\|^2-\varepsilon\|\widetilde{u}\|^2.
\end{aligned}
\tag{3.24}
$$

So that, using (3.7), (3.8), the relation $\widetilde{u}(t)=\sum_{i=k+1}^{N}[a_i\varphi_i(t)+b_i\varphi_i(t)]$, and Lemma 2.1, it follows that

$$
\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[\Delta^2 u(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)u(t)+p(t)a(t)u(t)\right]\left[\overline{u}(t)+u^0(t)-\widetilde{u}(t)\right]\geq(\delta-\varepsilon)\left\|u^{\perp}\right\|^2. \tag{3.25}
$$

□

Proof of Theorem 1.1. The proof is motivated by Iannacci and Nkashama [12].

Let $\delta>0$ be associated to the function Γ by Lemma 3.1. Then, by assumption (1.8), there exist $R(\delta)>0$ and $b:\mathbb{T}\to\mathbb{R}$, such that

$$
|g(t,u)|\leq\left(\Gamma(t)+\left(\frac{\delta}{4}\right)\right)a(t)|u|+b(t), \tag{3.26}
$$

for all $t\in\mathbb{T}$ and all $u\in\mathbb{R}$ with $|u|\geq R$. Hence, (1.2) is equivalent to

$$
\begin{gathered}
\Delta^2 u(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)u(t)+q_1(t,u(t))+e_1(t,u(t))=h(t),\\
u(0)=u(T),\qquad u(1)=u(T+1),
\end{gathered}
\tag{3.27}
$$

where q_1 and e_1 satisfy (2.12) and (2.14) with $\kappa = 1$. Moreover, by (2.13)

$$\left|q_1(t,u)\right| \leq \left(\Gamma(t) + \left(\frac{\delta}{4}\right)\right)a(t)|u| + b(t) + 1, \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\ |u| > \max\{1, R\}. \tag{3.28}$$

Let $\overline{B} > \max\{1, R\}$, so that

$$\frac{b(t)+1}{|u|} < \frac{\delta}{4}a(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\ |u| > \overline{B}. \tag{3.29}$$

It follows from (3.28) and (3.29) that

$$0 \leq u^{-1}q_1(t,u) \leq \left(\Gamma(t) + \frac{\delta}{2}\right)a(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\ |u| \geq \overline{B}. \tag{3.30}$$

Define $\gamma : \mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\gamma(t,u) = \begin{cases} u^{-1}q_1(t,u), & |u| \geq \overline{B}, \\ \overline{B}^{-1}q_1\left(t,\overline{B}\right)\left(\dfrac{u}{\overline{B}}\right) + \left(1 - \dfrac{u}{\overline{B}}\right)\Gamma(t)a(t), & 0 \leq u < \overline{B}, \\ \overline{B}^{-1}q_1\left(t,-\overline{B}\right)\left(\dfrac{u}{\overline{B}}\right) + \left(1 + \dfrac{u}{\overline{B}}\right)\Gamma(t)a(t), & -\overline{B} < u \leq 0. \end{cases} \tag{3.31}$$

So we have

$$0 \leq \gamma(t,u) \leq \left(\Gamma(t) + \frac{\delta}{2}\right)a(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\ u \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{3.32}$$

Define $f : \mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$

$$f(t,u) = e_1(t,u) + q_1(t,u) - \gamma(t,u)u. \tag{3.33}$$

Then there exists $\nu : \mathbb{T} \to [0,\infty)$ such that

$$\left|f(t,u)\right| \leq \nu(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\ u \in \mathbb{R}. \tag{3.34}$$

Therefore, (1.2) is equivalent to

$$\begin{gathered} \Delta^2 u(t-1) + \lambda_k a(t)u(t) + \gamma(t,u(t))u(t) + f(t,u(t)) = h(t), \\ u(0) = u(T), \qquad u(1) = u(T+1). \end{gathered} \tag{3.35}$$

To prove that (1.2) has at least one solution in D, it suffices, according to the Leray-Schauder continuation method [15], to show that all of the possible solutions of the family of equations

$$\begin{gathered}\Delta^2 u(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)u(t)+(1-\eta)\tau a(t)u(t)+\eta\gamma(t,u(t))u(t)+\eta f(t,u(t))=\eta h(t), \quad t\in\mathbb{T},\\ u(0)=u(T), \qquad u(1)=u(T+1)\end{gathered} \tag{3.36}$$

(in which $\eta\in[0,1]$, $\tau\in(0,\lambda_{k+1}-\lambda_k)$ with $\tau<\delta/4$, τ fixed) are bounded by a constant K_0 which is independent of η and u.

Notice that, by (3.32), we have

$$0\le(1-\eta)\tau a(t)+\eta\gamma(t,u)\le\left(\Gamma(t)+\frac{\delta}{2}\right)a(t), \quad t\in\mathbb{T},\ u\in\mathbb{R}. \tag{3.37}$$

It is clear that for $\eta=0$, (3.36) has only the trivial solution. Now if $u\in D$ is a solution of (3.36) for some $\eta\in(0,1)$, using Lemma 3.2 and Cauchy's inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}0&=\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left(\overline{u}(t)+u^0(t)-\widetilde{u}(t)\right)\left(\Delta^2u(t-1)+\lambda_k a(t)u(t)+\left[(1-\eta)\tau a(t)+\eta\gamma(t,u(t))\right]u(t)\right)\\&\quad+\sum_{t=1}^{T}\left(\overline{u}(t)+u^0(t)-\widetilde{u}(t)\right)(\eta f(t,u(t))-\eta h(t))\\&\ge\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right)\left\|u^{\perp}\right\|^2-\zeta\left(\|\overline{u}\|+\|\widetilde{u}\|+\left\|u^0\right\|\right)(\|\nu\|+\|h\|),\end{aligned} \tag{3.38}$$

where

$$\zeta=\left(\frac{\sqrt{T}}{\min_{t\in\mathbb{T}}\sqrt{a(t)}}\right)^2. \tag{3.39}$$

So we conclude that

$$0\ge\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right)\left\|u^{\perp}\right\|^2-\beta\left(\left\|u^{\perp}\right\|+\left\|u^0\right\|\right), \tag{3.40}$$

for some constant $\beta>0$, depending only on a,ν and h (but not on u or η). Taking $\alpha=\beta\delta^{-1}$, we get

$$\left\|u^{\perp}\right\|\le\alpha+\left(\alpha^2+2\alpha\left\|u^0\right\|\right)^{1/2}. \tag{3.41}$$

We claim that there exists $\rho > 0$, independent of u and η, such that for all possible solutions of (3.36)

$$\|u\| < \rho. \tag{3.42}$$

Suppose on the contrary that the claim is false. Then there exists $\{(\eta_n, u_n)\} \subset (0,1) \times D$ with $\|u_n\| \geq n$ and for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\begin{gathered}\Delta^2 u_n(t-1) + \lambda_k a(t) u_n(t) + \left(1-\eta_n\right)\tau a(t) u_n(t) + \eta_n g(t, u_n(t)) = \eta_n h(t),\\ u_n(0) = u_n(T), \qquad u_n(1) = u_n(T+1).\end{gathered} \tag{3.43}$$

From (3.41), it can be shown that

$$\left\|u_n^0\right\| \longrightarrow \infty, \qquad \left\|u_n^{\perp}\right\|\left(\left\|u_n^0\right\|\right)^{-1} \longrightarrow 0, \tag{3.44}$$

and accordingly, $u_n^{\perp}(\|u_n^0\|)^{-1}$ is bounded in D.

Setting $v_n = (u_n/\|u_n\|)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}&\Delta^2 v_n(t-1) + \lambda_k a(t) v_n(t) + \tau a(t) v_n(t)\\ &\quad = \eta_n\left(\frac{h(t)}{\|u_n\|}\right) + \eta_n \tau a(t) v_n(t) - \eta_n\left(\frac{g(t, u_n(t))}{\|u_n\|}\right), \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\\ &\quad v_n(0) = v_n(T), \qquad v_n(1) = v_n(T+1).\end{aligned} \tag{3.45}$$

Define an operator $A : D \to D$ by

$$\begin{gathered}(Aw)(t) := \Delta^2 w(t-1) + \lambda_k a(t) w(t) + \tau a(t) w(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{T},\\ (Aw)(0) := (Aw)(T), \qquad (Aw)(1) := (Aw)(T+1).\end{gathered} \tag{3.46}$$

Then $A^{-1} : D \to D$ is completely continuous since D is finite dimensional. Now, (3.45) is equivalent to

$$v_n(t) = A^{-1}\left[\eta_n\left(\frac{h(\cdot)}{\|u_n\|}\right) + \eta_n \tau a(\cdot) v_n(\cdot) - \eta_n\left(\frac{g(\cdot, u_n(\cdot))}{\|u_n\|}\right)\right](t), \quad t \in \mathbb{T}. \tag{3.47}$$

By (3.26), it follows that $\{(g(\cdot, u_n(\cdot))/\|u_n\|\}$ is bounded. Using (3.47), we may assume that (taking a subsequence and relabeling if necessary) $v_n \to v$ in $(D, \|\cdot\|)$, $\|v\| = 1$ and $v(0) = v(T)$, $v(1) = v(T+1)$.

On the other hand, using (3.41), we deduce immediately that

$$\left\|v_n^{\perp}\right\| \longrightarrow 0, \quad n \longrightarrow \infty. \tag{3.48}$$

Therefore,

$$v(t) = a_k\varphi_k(t) + b_k\psi_k(t), \quad t \in \widehat{\mathbb{T}}. \tag{3.49}$$

Rewrite $v_n = v_n^0 + v_n^{\perp}$, and let, taking a subsequence and relabeling if necessary,

$$v_n^0 \longrightarrow v^*, \quad \text{in } D. \tag{3.50}$$

Set

$$I_+ = \{t \in \mathbb{T} : v^*(t) > 0\}, \qquad I_- = \{t \in \mathbb{T} : v^*(t) < 0\}. \tag{3.51}$$

Since $u(t) \not\equiv 0$ in $\mathbb{T}$, $I_+ \neq \emptyset$ or $I_- \neq \emptyset$.

We claim that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} u_n(t) = \infty, \quad \forall t \in I_+, \tag{3.52}$$

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} u_n(t) = -\infty, \quad \forall t \in I_-. \tag{3.53}$$

We may assume that $I_+ \neq \emptyset$, and only deal with the case $t \in I_+$. The other case can be treated by similar method.

It follows from (3.50) that

$$\left\| v_n^0 - v^* \right\|_{\infty} := \max\left\{ \left| v_n^0(t) - v^*(t) \right| \mid t \in \mathbb{T} \right\} \longrightarrow 0, \quad n \longrightarrow \infty, \tag{3.54}$$

which implies that for all n sufficiently large,

$$v_n^0(t) \geq \frac{1}{2} v^*(t) > 0, \quad \forall t \in I_+. \tag{3.55}$$

On the other hand, we have from (3.44), (3.55), and the fact $\|u_n\| \geq \|u_n^0\|$ that there exists $\overline{N} > 0$ such that for $n > \overline{N}$ and $t \in I_+$,

$$u_n(t) = u_n^0(t) + u_n^{\perp}(t) = \|u_n\| \left(v_n^0(t) + \frac{u_n^{\perp}(t)}{\|u_n\|} \right) \geq \frac{1}{2} \|u_n\| v_n^0(t). \tag{3.56}$$

This together with (3.55) implies that for $n \geq \overline{N}$,

$$u_n(t) \geq \frac{1}{4} \|u_n\| v^*(t), \quad t \in T_+. \tag{3.57}$$

Therefore, (3.52) holds.

Now let us come back to (3.43). Multiplying both sides of (3.43) by v_n^0 and summing from 1 to T, we get that

$$0 \leq \eta_n^{-1}(1-\eta_n)\tau\left\|v_n^0\right\|^2\|u_n\| = \sum_{t=1}^{T}\left[h(t)-g(t,u_n(t))\right]v_n^0(t). \tag{3.58}$$

Combining this with (3.52) and (3.53), it follows that

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T}h(t)v^*(t) \geq \sum_{v(t)>0} g_+(t)v^*(t) + \sum_{v(t)<0} g_-(t)v^*(t). \tag{3.59}$$

However, this contradicts (1.11). □

Example 3.3. By [16], the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of

$$\begin{gathered}\Delta^2 y(t-1)+\lambda y(t)=0,\\ y(0)=y(7), \qquad y(1)=y(8)\end{gathered} \tag{3.60}$$

can be listed as follows:

$$\begin{gathered}\lambda_0=0, \qquad \varphi_0=1,\\ \lambda_1=2-2\cos\frac{2\pi}{7}, \qquad \varphi_1(t)=\sin\frac{2\pi t}{7}, \qquad \varphi_1(t)=\cos\frac{2\pi t}{7},\\ \lambda_2=2-2\cos\frac{4\pi}{7}, \qquad \varphi_2(t)=\sin\frac{4\pi t}{7}, \qquad \varphi_2(t)=\cos\frac{4\pi t}{7},\\ \lambda_3=2-2\cos\frac{6\pi}{7}, \qquad \varphi_2(t)=\sin\frac{6\pi t}{7}, \qquad \varphi_2(t)=\cos\frac{6\pi t}{7}.\end{gathered} \tag{3.61}$$

Let us consider the nonlinear discrete periodic boundary value problem

$$\begin{gathered}\Delta^2 y(t-1)+\lambda_1 y(t)+g(t,y(t))=h(t),\\ y(0)=y(7), \qquad y(1)=y(8),\end{gathered} \tag{3.62}$$

where

$$g(t,s)=(\lambda_2-\lambda_1)\cdot\left|\sin\left[\frac{\pi}{7}\left(t+\frac{5}{2}\right)\right]\right|\cdot\left(s+\frac{s}{1+s^2}\right), \quad (t,s)\in\mathbb{T}\times\mathbb{R}. \tag{3.63}$$

Obviously, $g_+(t)=+\infty$, $g_-(t)=-\infty$, and $\dim M_2=2$. If we take that

$$\Gamma(t)=(\lambda_2-\lambda_1)\cdot\left|\sin\left[\frac{\pi}{7}\left(t+\frac{5}{2}\right)\right]\right|, \tag{3.64}$$

then

$$\Gamma(1) = \lambda_2 - \lambda_1; \qquad \Gamma(j) < \lambda_2 - \lambda_1, \quad \text{for } j = 2, \ldots, 7. \tag{3.65}$$

Now, it is easy to verify that g satisfies all conditions of Theorem 1.1. Consequently, for any 7-periodic function $h : \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{R}$, (3.62) has at least one solution.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the NSFC (no. 10671158), the NSF of Gansu Province (no. 3ZS051-A25-016), NWNU-KJCXGC-03-17, NWNU-KJCXGC-03-18, the Spring-Sun program (no. Z2004-1-62033), SRFDP (no. 20060736001), and the SRF for ROCS, SEM (2006 [311]).

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