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ON A CERTAIN TYPE OF FUNCTIONAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

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ABSTRACT. Certain types of advanced functional-differential equations are studied by means of a simple fixed point theorem.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to give an approach to solve certain functional differential equations similar to the following

$$\begin{aligned}u'(x) &= f(u(u(x))), \\ u(0) &= 0,\end{aligned}\tag{1.1}$$

where $f \in C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$. Hence we shall study equations containing the term $u(u(x))$.

To show the existence of solutions of (1.1) we can apply the Leray-Schauder degree theory. But we would like to obtain more. We are interested in the existence of a Picard iteration method for (1.1). Then such a technique will enable us to approximate a solution of (1.1). The difficulty in the derivation of a Lipschitz like inequality for (1.1) is the term $u(u(x))$. Since to obtain this inequality in C^0 -norm we have to use C^1 -norm of u . Thus it is impossible to apply the classical implicit function theorem to (1.1). To overcome this difficulty we use a simple fixed point theorem.

Similarly, we study the equation

$$u(x) = \int_0^1 G(x, t) \cdot f(u(u(t))) dt\tag{1.2}$$

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and the bifurcation problem

$$\begin{aligned} -u''(x) &= \lambda \cdot f(u(1 + u(x))) + u \\ u(0) &= u(\pi) = 0 \end{aligned} \tag{1.3}$$

with $f(0) = 0$, $f'(0) \neq 0$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ is near to 0.

A related problem is studied in [1]. There is also explained a motivation of the investigation of such advanced differential equations. We refer the paper [2] for a philosophical background.

2. A simple fixed point theorem

Let $X \subset C^0([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$ be a closed nonempty subset. Consider an operator $T: X \rightarrow X$ such that

- i) T is continuous.
- ii) $T(X) \subset C^1([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$.
- iii) $\|T(u_1) - T(u_2)\| \leq \alpha(\max\{\|u'_1\|, \|u'_2\|\}) \cdot \|u_1 - u_2\|$
for $u_1, u_2 \in C^1([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$.
- iv) $\|(T(u))'\| \leq \beta(\|u'\|)$,

for α, β continuous functions. Here $\|\cdot\|$ is the C^0 -norm.

THEOREM 2.1. *If there is $r > 0$ such that $\beta(t) \leq r$ and $\alpha(t) < 1$ for each $0 \leq t \leq r$, then there is a u satisfying $u = T(u)$. Moreover, $u_n \rightarrow u$ in C^0 -norm for $u_n = T^n(0)$. This convergence is geometrical.*

Proof. We take

$$Y = \{u \in X, \|u'\| \leq r\}.$$

Then $T(Y) \subset Y$ and

$$\|T(u_1) - T(u_2)\| \leq \gamma \cdot \|u_1 - u_2\|$$

for each $u_1, u_2 \in Y$ with $\gamma = \max_{[0, r]} \alpha$. We know that $\gamma < 1$. Hence T is a contraction and the proof is finished.

Remark 2.2. In our applications usually $\beta(\cdot) = \beta$ is constant and α is increasing. Then the assumptions of this theorem have the form $\alpha(\beta) < 1$.

3. Results

First of all, we need the following estimate for $u_1, u_2 \in C^1([0, 1], [0, 1])$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |u_1(u_1(x)) - u_2(u_2(x))| \\
 & \leq |u_1(u_1(x)) - u_1(u_2(x))| + |u_1(u_2(x)) - u_2(u_2(x))| \\
 & \leq \|u_1'\| \cdot \|u_1 - u_2\| + \|u_1 - u_2\| \\
 & = (1 + \|u_1'\|) \cdot \|u_1 - u_2\|.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Now we shall study the problem (1.1).

THEOREM 3.1. *Let $|f(0)| < 1$. Then there is $c > 0$ such that (1.1) has a solution $u \in C^1([-c, c], [-c, c])$ and $u_n \rightarrow u$ uniformly on $[-c, c]$ for*

$$u_0 = 0, \quad u_{n+1}(t) = \int_0^t f(u_n(u_n(s))) ds, \quad t \in [-c, c].$$

Proof. Since $|f(0)| < 1$, there is $c > 0$ such that

$$|f(t)| < 1 \tag{3.2}$$

for $|t| \leq c$. We take

$$\begin{aligned}
 X &= C^0([-c, c], [-c, c]), \\
 T(u) &= \int_0^t f(u(u(s))) ds.
 \end{aligned}$$

By (3.2) $T(X) \subset X$. If c is sufficiently small, then Remark 2.2 holds and the proof is finished.

Further, we investigate the equation (1.2) under the following assumptions: $G \geq 0$ and it is C^1 -smooth, $f: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is continuous, Lipschitz with the constant M . We put

$$\begin{aligned}
 m &= \max_{[0,1]} f(t), \\
 K &= \max_{[0,1]} \int_0^1 G(x, t) dt, \\
 \tilde{K} &= \max_{[0,1]} \int_0^1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} G(x, t) dt.
 \end{aligned}$$

THEOREM 3.2. *If*

$$\begin{aligned} M \cdot K \cdot (1 + m \cdot \tilde{K}) &< 1, \\ m \cdot K &\leq 1, \end{aligned}$$

then (2.1) has a solution $u: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ and $u_n \rightarrow u$ uniformly on $[0, 1]$ for

$$\begin{aligned} u_0 &= 0, \\ u_{n+1}(x) &= \int_0^1 G(x, t) \cdot f(u_n(u_n(t))) dt, \quad x \in [0, 1]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We take the space $X = C^0([0, 1], [0, 1])$ and

$$Tu = \int_0^1 G(\cdot, t) \cdot f(u(u(t))) dt.$$

Since $m \cdot K \leq 1$, we have $T(X) \subset X$. The first assumption of this theorem ensures the validity of the condition iii) of Section 2. Indeed, by (3.1) we have

$$\|Tu_1 - Tu_2\| \leq M \cdot K \cdot (1 + \|u'_2\|) \cdot \|u_1 - u_2\|.$$

Moreover, it is clear that

$$\|(Tu)'\| \leq \tilde{K} \cdot m.$$

Hence we can choose

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(t) &= m \cdot K \cdot (1 + t), \\ \beta(t) &= \tilde{K} \cdot m. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\alpha(m \cdot \tilde{K}) < 1$ the proof is finished.

Finally we shall solve the bifurcation problem (1.3).

We take $w = v + c \cdot \sin t$, where c is small and

$$v \in X = \left\{ y \in C^0([0, \pi], [-1/2, 1/2]), \int_0^\pi y(t) \cdot \sin t dt = 0 \right\}.$$

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We decompose (1.3) in the following way

$$v = \lambda \cdot \mathcal{K} \cdot \tilde{Q}f(v(1 + v + c \cdot \sin t) + c \cdot \sin(1 + v + c \cdot \sin t)), \quad (3.3)$$

$$0 = Pf(v(1 + v + c \cdot \sin t) + c \cdot \sin(1 + v + c \cdot \sin t)), \quad (3.4)$$

where \mathcal{K} is the "inverse" of $u \rightarrow -u'' - u$, $u(0) = u(\pi) = 0$, $\tilde{Q} = Id - P$ and $Pu = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi u(t) \cdot \sin t \, dt \cdot \sin t$.

For c small we can solve (3.3) by applying Theorem 2.1 to obtain a solution $v(\lambda, c) \in X$. Using the standard arguments we see that v depends on λ, c continuously and $v(0, c) = 0$. We put this solution into (3.4) and have

$$Q(\lambda, c) = Pf(v(\lambda, c)(1 + v(\lambda, c) + c \cdot \sin t) + c \cdot \sin(1 + v(\lambda, c) + c \cdot \sin t)) = 0.$$

Hence $Q(0, c) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi f(c \cdot \sin(1 + c \cdot \sin t)) \, dt$. We have

$$Q(0, 0) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial c} Q(0, 0) = 2 \cdot f'(0) \cdot \sin 1 \neq 0.$$

This implies the existence of a small solution c of $Q(\lambda, c) = 0$ for each λ small. Summing up we obtain

THEOREM 3.3. *Under the above conditions the problem (1.3) has a small nontrivial solution bifurcating from $u_0 = 0$.*

Of course, a similar approach can be applied to the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} -u'' &= f(u'(u(x))), \\ u(0) &= u(1) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

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