

Research Article

Existence of Oscillatory Solutions of Second Order Delay Differential Equations with Distributed Deviating Arguments

Youjun Liu,¹ Jianwen Zhang,² and Jurang Yan³

¹ College of Mathematics and Computer Sciences, Shanxi Datong University, Datong, Shanxi 037009, China

² Institute of Applied Mechanics and Biomedical Engineering, Taiyuan University of Technology, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030024, China

³ School of Mathematical Sciences, Shanxi University, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030006, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Jianwen Zhang; zjw9791@126.com

Received 9 June 2013; Revised 25 October 2013; Accepted 13 November 2013

Academic Editor: Elena Litsyn

Copyright © 2013 Youjun Liu et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Under weaker hypothesis, we use the Schauder-Tychonoff theorem to obtain new sufficient condition for the global existence of oscillatory solutions for forced second order nonlinear delay differential equations with distributed deviating arguments.

1. Introduction

In this paper, we study the existence of oscillatory solutions for the nonlinear second order delay differential equations with the perturbed term

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[r(t) \Phi(x'(t)) \right]' + \int_a^b p(t, \tau) f(x(t - \tau)) d\tau \\ & = q(t), \quad t \geq t_0. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Under the following conditions:

- (1) $r \in C^1([t_0, \infty), R^+)$, $p \in C([t_0, \infty) \times [a, b], R)$, $q \in C([t_0, \infty), R)$, $f_i \in C([t_0, \infty), R)$;
- (2) $\Phi \in C^1(R, R)$, $\Phi(u)$ is increasing function for all $u \in R$, $\Phi^{-1}(u)$ satisfies the local Lipschitz condition.

During the past three decades, the investigation of oscillatory theory for delay differential equations and delay dynamic equations has attracted attention of numerous researchers due to their significance in theory and applications. We mention here the monographs of Myshkis [1], Norkin [2], Shevelo [3], and Agarwal et al. [4]. The oscillation properties of second order delay differential equations were considered also in Koplatadze et al. [5], Shmul'yan [6], and Skubachevskii [7]. Distances between adjacent zeros of oscillating solutions are estimated in [8, 9] for delay and for neutral second

order equation in [10]. Distances between zero of solution and zero of its derivative were estimated in [11]. Based on oscillation properties, asymptotic properties of second order delay differential equations were studied in [12]. For related work, we refer the reader to the references [13–24]. However, to the best of our knowledge, the existence of oscillatory solutions for differential equation with distributed deviating arguments has been scarcely investigated. Thus, the research presents its significance.

As usual, a solution of (1) is a function $x(t)$ defined on $[t_0 - b, \infty)$ such that $x(t)$ and $r(t)\Phi(x'(t))$ are continuously differentiable on $[t_0 - b, \infty)$ and $[t_0, \infty)$ and (1) holds. Our attention will be restricted to the solution $x(t)$ of (1) which satisfy $\sup |x(t)| > 0$, for $t \geq t_0 - b$. Such a solution is said to be oscillatory if it has a sequence of zeros tending to infinity. Otherwise, it is said to be nonoscillatory.

The purpose of this paper is to prove a general result for (1) on the existence of oscillatory solutions. Throughout this paper, we will use the following notations. For a constant $\gamma > 0$, $\theta_\gamma = \max_{|x| \leq \gamma} |f(x)|$, $t \geq t_0$, L_γ denote the local Lipschitz constants of functions $\Phi^{-1}(u)$.

2. The Main Results

Lemma 1 (see [13]). *Let X be a locally convex space, $K \subset X$ nonempty and convex, $S \subset K$, and S compact. Given a*

continuous map $F : K \rightarrow S$, there exists $\tilde{x} \in S$ such that $F(\tilde{x}) = \tilde{x}$.

Theorem 2. Assume that there exist $\eta, \gamma > 0$ such that $r(t) > \eta$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{r(t)} \int_t^\infty q(s) ds \text{ is integrable on } [t_0, \infty), \\ \frac{\theta_\gamma}{r(t)} \int_t^\infty \int_a^b p(s, \tau) d\tau ds \text{ is integrable on } [t_0, \infty); \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

moreover, there exist two sequences $\{t_n\}, \{s_n\}$ with $t_n \rightarrow \infty, s_n \rightarrow \infty$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_n}^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) + \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right) ds < 0, \\ \int_{s_n}^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right) ds > 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Then (1), has an oscillatory solution $x(t)$ defined on $[t_0, \infty)$ with $|x| \leq \gamma$, and $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0$.

Proof. The proof is based on an application of the well-known Schauder-Tychonoff fixed point theorem. From (2), for any $\gamma > 0$, we have to choose a large $T_\gamma \geq T$ such that for all $t \geq T_\gamma$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) + \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right) ds \leq \gamma, \\ \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right) ds \geq -\gamma. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Let $C[t_0 - b, \infty)$ denote the locally convex space of all continuous functions with topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets of $[t_0 - b, \infty)$. Let $S = \{x \in C[t_0 - b, \infty), |x(t)| \leq \gamma\}$. Clearly, S is a close convex subset of $C[t_0 - b, \infty)$.

Introduce an operator F by

$$\begin{aligned} (Fx)(t) = \begin{cases} \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \\ \quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) \right. \\ \quad \left. \left. - \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right. \right. \\ \quad \left. \left. \times f(x(t-\tau)) d\tau \frac{1}{r(s)} \right) du \right) ds, & t > T_\gamma, \\ (Fx)(T_\gamma), & t_0 - b \leq t \leq T_\gamma. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

It is easy to see that, for any $x \in S$, $(Fx)(t)$ is well defined on $[t_0 - b, \infty)$ continuously.

From (4), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (Fx)(t) &\leq \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right) ds \leq \gamma, \\ &\quad t \geq t_0 - b, \\ (Fx)(t) &\geq \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \theta_\gamma \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \times \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right) ds \geq -\gamma, \\ &\quad t \geq t_0 - b. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Hence, $|(Fx)(t)| \leq \gamma$. Thus, we have $FS \subset S$ and Fx is uniformly bounded on S .

Let $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \in S$ be any sequence and $x_0 \in S$ with $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x_0$. Let T_1 be large constant with $T_1 > T$, for any $\epsilon > 0$ so that

$$\int_{T_1}^\infty \frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(\int_a^b p(s, \tau) d\tau \right) du ds < \frac{\epsilon}{3\theta_\gamma L_\gamma}. \quad (7)$$

From the compactness of the domain of f_i , there exists a large $N(\epsilon) > 0$ and a constant $\delta(\epsilon) > 0$; let $t \in [t_0 - b, T_1]$ and $n \geq N$ when $|x_n - x_0| < \delta(\epsilon)$,

$$\max_{t_0 - b \leq t \leq T_1} \{|f(x_n(t-\tau)) - f(x_0(t-\tau))|\} \leq \frac{\epsilon}{3L_\gamma M}, \quad (8)$$

where $M = \int_{t_0-b}^{T_1} (s - t_0 + b/r(s)) \int_a^b p(s, \tau) d\tau ds$. By virtue of (1)–(8), we have that for any $t \geq t_0 - b$ and $|x_n - x_0| < \delta$,

$$\begin{aligned} &|(Fx_n)(t) - (Fx_0)(t)| \\ &= \left| \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \right. \\ &\quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \times f(x_n(t-\tau)) d\tau \right) du \right) ds \\ &\quad - \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \\ &\quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \times f(x_0(t-\tau)) d\tau \right) du \right) ds \Big| \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \leq \int_t^\infty \left| \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \right. \\
& \quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right. \\
& \quad \quad \times f(x_n(t - \tau)) d\tau \Big) du \Big) ds \\
& \quad - \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \\
& \quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right. \\
& \quad \quad \times f(x_0(t - \tau)) d\tau \Big) du \Big) ds \Big| ds \\
& \leq L_\gamma \int_t^\infty \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \\
& \quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(\left| \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right| \right. \\
& \quad \quad \times |f(x_n(u - \tau)) \\
& \quad \quad \quad - f(x_0(u - \tau))| d\tau \Big) du \Big) ds \\
& \leq L_\gamma \int_{t_0-b}^{T_1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \\
& \quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(\left| \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right| \right. \\
& \quad \quad \times |f(x_n(u - \tau)) \\
& \quad \quad \quad - f(x_0(u - \tau))| d\tau \Big) du \Big) ds \\
& \quad + L_\gamma \int_{T_1}^\infty \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \\
& \quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(\left| \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right| \right. \\
& \quad \quad \times |f(x_n(u - \tau)) \\
& \quad \quad \quad - f(x_0(u - \tau))| d\tau \Big) du \Big) ds \\
& \leq L_\gamma \int_{t_0-b}^{T_1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} (s - t_0 + b) \right. \\
& \quad \times \left(\left| \int_a^b p(s, \tau) \right| \right. \\
& \quad \quad \times |f(x_n(s - \tau)) \\
& \quad \quad \quad - f(x_0(s - \tau))| d\tau \Big) ds
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + 2\theta_\gamma L_\gamma \int_{T_1}^\infty \frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(\int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \Big) ds \\
& < \frac{\epsilon}{3} + \frac{2\epsilon}{3} = \epsilon.
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

The continuity of F on S is proved.

Moreover, for all $t_2, t_1 > t_0 - b$,

$$\begin{aligned}
& (Fx)(t_2) - (Fx)(t_1) \\
& = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \\
& \quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right. \\
& \quad \quad \times f(x(t - \tau)) d\tau \Big) du \Big) ds \\
& \leq \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) + \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right) ds \\
& \leq \alpha(t_2 - t_1),
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

where $\alpha = \sup_{t \geq t_0} \Phi^{-1}(1/r(s)) \int_t^\infty (q(u) + \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau) du$;

$$\begin{aligned}
& (Fx)(t_2) - (Fx)(t_1) \\
& = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \\
& \quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) + \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right. \\
& \quad \quad \times f(x(t - \tau)) d\tau \Big) du \Big) ds \\
& \geq \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right) ds \\
& \geq \beta(t_2 - t_1),
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

where $\beta = \inf_{t \geq t_0} \Phi^{-1}(1/r(s)) \int_t^\infty (q(u) - \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau) du$. Thus,

$$|(Fx)(t_2) - (Fx)(t_1)| \leq M |t_2 - t_1|, \tag{12}$$

where $M = \max\{|\alpha|, |\beta|\}$. This implies that Fx is equicontinuous. Hence, by the Ascoli-Arzelà Theorem, the operator is

completely continuous on S . By Lemma 1, there exists $\tilde{x} \in S$ satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}(t) &= (F\tilde{x})(t) \\ &= \begin{cases} \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \right. \\ \quad \times \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) \right. \\ \quad \left. - \int_a^b p(u, \tau) \right. \\ \quad \left. \times f(\tilde{x}(t - \tau)) d\tau \right) du \Big) ds, & t \geq T, \\ (F\tilde{x})(T), & t_0 - b \leq t < T. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

On the other hand, from (3), we find

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}(t_n) &\leq \int_{t_n}^\infty \Phi^{-1} \\ &\quad \times \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) + \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right) ds < 0, \\ \tilde{x}(s_n) &\geq \int_{s_n}^\infty \Phi^{-1} \\ &\quad \times \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right) ds > 0, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

which implies that $\tilde{x}(t)$ is a bounded oscillatory solution of (1) and $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{x}(t) = 0$. The proof is complete. \square

Corollary 3. Assume that (2) of Theorem 2 holds, and specially $\Phi(u) = u^\alpha$, $\alpha \geq 1$ is the ratio of two positive odd integers, there exist two increasing divergent sequences $\{t_n\}$ and $\{s_n\}$, t_n, s_n such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_n}^\infty \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) + \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right)^{1/\alpha} ds &< 0, \\ \int_{s_n}^\infty \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \theta_\gamma \int_a^b p(u, \tau) d\tau \right) du \right)^{1/\alpha} ds &> 0. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Then, (1) has an oscillatory solution $x(t)$ defined on $[t_0, \infty)$ with $|x| \leq \gamma$, and $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0$.

3. Remark

When $r(t) \equiv 1$, $\Phi(u) = u$, $f(v) = v$, and $q(t) = 0$. Let $s = t - \tau$, (1) becomes

$$x''(t) - \int_{t-b}^{t-a} k(t, s) x(s) ds = 0. \quad (16)$$

According to the results of this paper, $\int_t^\infty \int_a^b k(u, u - \tau) d\tau du$ is integrable on $[t_0, \infty)$, and there exist two sequences $\{t_n\}$, $\{s_n\}$ with $t_n \rightarrow \infty$, $s_n \rightarrow \infty$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_n}^\infty \left(\int_s^\infty \int_a^b k(u, u - \tau) d\tau du \right) ds &< 0, \\ \int_{s_n}^\infty \left(\int_s^\infty \int_a^b k(u, u - \tau) d\tau du \right) ds &> 0. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Equation (16) has oscillatory solution.

In paper [14], it was demonstrated that the inequality $b(b-a) \max_{0 \leq s \leq t < \infty} k(t, s) \leq 2/e$ implied the existence of positive solutions. Neither of the two conditions can be deduced from each other. Moreover, when $k(t, s) = s/1 + t^2 (s = t - \tau)$ is bounded, but $\int_t^\infty \int_a^b k(u, u - \tau) d\tau du$ cannot exist. Likewise, when $k(t, s) = 5/1 + t^2$ and $b(b-a) \geq 2/e$ claim, $\int_t^\infty \int_a^b k(u, u - \tau) d\tau du$ can exist, but $b(b-a) \max_{0 \leq s \leq t < \infty} k(t, s) \leq 2/e$ cannot be hold.

4. Examples

Example 1. Consider second order delay differential equations

$$\begin{aligned} (e^{-t} x'(t))' + \frac{2}{e^{2\pi} + e^\pi} \int_\pi^{2\pi} e^{-2t} x(t - \tau) d\tau \\ = e^{-2t} (\sin t - 3 \cos t) + e^{-3t} (\cos t + \sin t). \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Here, $r(t) = e^{-t}$, $\Phi(u) = u$, $f(v) = v$, $p(t, \tau) = 2/((e^{2\pi} + e^\pi)e^{-2t})$, $a = \pi$, $b = 2\pi$, and $q(t) = e^{-2t}(\sin t - 3 \cos t) + e^{-3t}(\cos t + \sin t)$.

It is easy to see that $r(t) \geq \eta > 0$.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} Q(t) &:= \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \\ &\quad \times \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) + \frac{2\gamma}{e^{2\pi} + e^\pi} \int_\pi^{2\pi} e^{-2u} d\tau \right) du \right) ds \\ &= \int_t^\infty e^s \int_s^\infty \left(e^{-2u} (\sin u - 3 \cos u) + e^{-3u} (\cos u + \sin u) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{2\pi\gamma}{e^{2\pi} + e^\pi} e^{-2u} \right) du ds \\ &= e^{-t} \sin t + \frac{4}{25} e^{-2t} \left(\cos t + \frac{3}{4} \sin t \right) - \frac{\pi\gamma}{e^{2\pi} + e^\pi} e^{-t}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(t) &:= \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \\
 &\quad \times \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) - \frac{2\gamma}{e^{2\pi} + e^\pi} \int_\pi^{2\pi} e^{-2u} d\tau \right) du \right) ds \\
 &= \int_t^\infty e^s \int_s^\infty \left(e^{-2u} (\sin u - 3 \cos u) + e^{-3u} (\cos u + \sin u) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \frac{2\pi\gamma}{e^{2\pi} + e^\pi} e^{-2u} \right) du ds \\
 &= e^{-t} \sin t + \frac{4}{25} e^{-2t} \left(\cos t + \frac{3}{4} \sin t \right) + \frac{\pi\gamma}{e^{2\pi} + e^\pi} e^{-t}. \quad (19)
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $t_n = (2n - 1)\pi$, $s_n = (2n + 1)\pi$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q(t_n) &= -e^{-t_n} \left(\frac{4}{25} e^{-t_n} + \frac{\pi\gamma}{e^{2\pi} + e^\pi} \right) < 0, \\
 P(s_n) &= e^{-s_n} \left(\frac{4}{25} e^{-s_n} + \frac{\pi\gamma}{e^{2\pi} + e^\pi} \right) > 0. \quad (20)
 \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see from (19) that there exists a $N = 1$ such that for all $n \geq N$, $Q(t_n) < 0$ and $P(t_n) > 0$. Thus, by Theorem 2, (18) has an oscillatory solution $x(t)$ on $[t_0, \infty)$ and $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0$. It is not difficult to check that (18) has the oscillatory solution $x(t) = e^{-t} \sin t$.

Example 2. Consider second order delay differential equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left(e^{-t} (x'(t))^{1/3} \right)' + \frac{6}{7\gamma^3} \int_1^2 \tau^2 e^{-2t} x^3(t - \tau) d\tau \\
 = e^{-2t} (\cos t - 2 \sin t). \quad (21)
 \end{aligned}$$

Here, $r(t) = e^{-t}$, $\Phi(u) = u^{1/3}$, $p(t, \tau) = (6/7\gamma^3)\tau^2 e^{-2t} f(v) = v^3$, $a = 1$, $b = 2$, and $q(t) = e^{-2t}(\cos t - 2 \sin t)$. It is easy to see that $r(t) \geq \eta > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q(t) &:= \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) + \frac{6}{7} \int_1^2 \tau^2 e^{-2u} d\tau \right) du \right) ds \\
 &= \int_t^\infty \left(e^s \int_s^\infty e^{-2u} (\cos u - 2 \sin u) + 2e^{-2u} du \right) ds \\
 &= \frac{1}{6} e^{-3t} \sin^2 t (-\sin t - \cos t) + e^{-3t} (-3 \sin t - \cos t) \\
 &\quad - \frac{3}{13} e^{-3t} \sin t (-3 \sin t - 2 \cos t) + \frac{19}{39} e^{-3t},
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(t) &:= \int_t^\infty \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{r(s)} \int_s^\infty \left(q(u) + \frac{6}{7} \int_1^2 \tau^2 e^{-2u} d\tau \right) du \right) ds \\
 &= \int_t^\infty \left(e^s \int_s^\infty e^{-2u} (\cos u - 2 \sin u) - 2e^{-2u} du \right) ds \\
 &= \frac{1}{6} e^{-3t} \sin^2 t (-\sin t - \cos t) + e^{-3t} (-3 \sin t - \cos t) \\
 &\quad + \frac{3}{13} e^{-3t} \sin t (-3 \sin t - 2 \cos t) + \frac{7}{39} e^{-3t}. \quad (22)
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $t_n = 2n\pi$, $s_n = (2n + 1)\pi$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$Q(t_n) = -\frac{20}{39} e^{-3t_n}, \quad P(s_n) = \frac{46}{39} e^{-3s_n}. \quad (23)$$

It is easy to see from (22) that there exists a $N = 1$ such that for all $n \geq N$, $Q(t_n) < 0$ and $P(s_n) > 0$. Thus, by Theorem 2, (21) has an oscillatory solution $x(t)$ on $[t_0, \infty)$ and $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0$.

Acknowledgments

The author thanks both referees for a careful reading of the paper and useful suggestions that helped to improve the presentation. This research is supported by Natural Sciences Foundation of China (no. 11172194), Natural Sciences Foundation of Shanxi Province (no. 2010011008), and Scientific Research Project Shanxi Datong University (no. 2011 K3).

References

- [1] A. D. Myshkis, *Linear Differential Equations with Delayed Argument*, Nauka, Moscow, Russia, 1972.
- [2] S. B. Norkin, *Differential Equations of the Second Order with Retarded Argument*, vol. 31, American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, USA, 1972, Translations of Mathematical Monographs.
- [3] N. V. Shevelo, *Oscillation of Solutions of Differential Equations with Retarded Argument*, Naukova dumka, Kyiv, Ukraine, 1978.
- [4] R. P. Agarwal, L. Berezhansky, E. Braverman, and A. Domoshnitsky, *Nonoscillation Theory of Functional Differential Equations with Applications*, Springer, New York, NY, USA, 2012.
- [5] R. Koplatadze, G. Kvinikadze, and I. P. Stavroulakis, "Oscillation of second order linear delay differential equations," *Functional Differential Equations*, vol. 7, no. 1-2, pp. 121-145, 2000.
- [6] M. G. Shmul'yan, "On the oscillating solutions of a linear second order differential equation with retarding argument," *Differentsial'nye Uravnenia*, vol. 31, pp. 622-629, 1995.
- [7] A. L. Skubachevskii, "Oscillating solutions of a second order homogeneous linear differential equation with time-lag," *Differentsial'nye Uravnenia*, vol. 11, pp. 462-469, 1975.
- [8] N. V. Azbelev, "The zeros of the solutions of a second order linear differential equation with retarded argument," *Differentsial'nye uravnenia*, vol. 7, pp. 1147-1157, 1971.
- [9] Yu. I. Domshlak, "Comparison theorems of Sturm type for first- and second-order differential equations with sign-variable deviations of the argument," *Ukrainskii Matematicheskii Zhurnal*, vol. 34, no. 2, pp. 158-163, 1982.

- [10] A. I. Domoshnitskiĭ, "Extension of the Sturm theorem to equations with retarded argument," *Differentsial'nye Uravnenia*, vol. 19, no. 9, pp. 1475–1482, 1983.
- [11] A. Domoshnitsky, "Sturm's theorem for equations with delayed argument," *Georgian Mathematical Journal*, vol. 1, no. 3, pp. 299–309, 1993.
- [12] A. Domoshnitsky, "Unboundedness of solutions and instability of differential equations of the second order with delayed argument," *Differential and Integral Equations*, vol. 14, no. 5, pp. 559–576, 2001.
- [13] D. Xia, Z. Wu, S. Yan, and W. Shu, *Real Variable Function and Functional Analysis*, Higher Education Press, Beijing, China, 1978, (Chinese).
- [14] S. M. Labovskii, "A condition for the nonvanishing of the Wronskian of a fundamental system of solutions of a linear differential equation with retarded argument," *Differentsial'nye Uravnenia*, vol. 10, pp. 426–430, 1974.
- [15] R. Koplatadze, "On oscillatory properties of solutions of functional-differential equations," *Memoirs on Differential Equations and Mathematical Physics*, vol. 3, pp. 1–177, 1994.
- [16] I. Györi and G. Ladas, *Oscillation Theory of Delay Differential Equations*, The Clarendon Press, Oxford, UK, 1991.
- [17] L. H. Erbe, Q. Kong, and B. G. Zhang, *Oscillation Theorem for Functional Differential Equations*, vol. 190, Marcel Dekker, New York, NY, USA, 1995.
- [18] J. Yan, "Existence of oscillatory solutions of forced second order delay differential equations," *Applied Mathematics Letters*, vol. 24, no. 8, pp. 1455–1460, 2011.
- [19] W.-T. Li and P. Zhao, "Oscillation theorems for second-order nonlinear differential equations with damped term," *Mathematical and Computer Modelling*, vol. 39, no. 4–5, pp. 457–471, 2004.
- [20] W.-T. Li and X. Li, "Oscillation criteria for second-order nonlinear differential equations with integrable coefficient," *Applied Mathematics Letters*, vol. 13, no. 8, pp. 1–6, 2000.
- [21] W.-T. Li, "Oscillation of certain second-order nonlinear differential equations," *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, vol. 217, no. 1, pp. 1–14, 1998.
- [22] W.-T. Li and R. P. Agarwal, "Interval oscillation criteria related to integral averaging technique for certain nonlinear differential equations," *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, vol. 245, no. 1, pp. 171–188, 2000.
- [23] P. Wang, "Oscillation criteria for second-order neutral equations with distributed deviating arguments," *Computers & Mathematics with Applications*, vol. 47, no. 12, pp. 1935–1946, 2004.
- [24] Z. Xu and P. Weng, "Oscillation of second order neutral equations with distributed deviating argument," *Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics*, vol. 202, no. 2, pp. 460–477, 2007.

