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Research Article

Periodic Solutions for Second-Order Ordinary Differential Equations with Linear Nonlinearity

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By using minimax methods in critical point theory, we obtain the existence of periodic solutions for second-order ordinary differential equations with linear nonlinearity.

1. Introduction and Main Results

Consider the second-order ordinary differential systems

$$\begin{gathered}\ddot{u}(t) + m^2\omega^2 u(t) + \nabla F(t, u(t)) = 0, \quad \text{a.e. } t \in [0, T], \\ u(0) - u(T) = \dot{u}(0) - \dot{u}(T) = 0,\end{gathered} \tag{1}$$

where $T > 0$, $\omega = 2\pi/T$, m is a nonnegative integer; and $F : [0, T] \times R^N \to R$ satisfies the following assumption:

(A) $F(t, x)$ is measurable in t for every $x \in R^N$ and continuously differentiable in x for a.e. $t \in [0, T]$, and there exist $a \in C(R^+, R^+)$ and $b \in L^1([0, T], R^+)$ such that

$$|F(t, x)| \le a(|x|)\, b(t), \qquad |\nabla F(t, x)| \le a(|x|)\, b(t), \tag{2}$$

for all $x \in R^N$ and a.e. $t \in [0, T]$, where R^+ is the set of all nonnegative real numbers.

In the case of $m = 0$, the existence of periodic solutions for problem (1) is obtained in articles [1–17] with many solvability conditions, such as the coercive type potential condition (see [1]), the convex type potential condition (see [2]), the periodic type potential conditions (see [3]), the even type potential condition (see [4]), the subquadratic potential condition in Rabinowitz's sense (see [5]), the bounded nonlinearity condition (see [6]), the subadditive condition (see [7]), the sublinear nonlinearity condition (see [9, 15]), and the linear nonlinearity condition (see [13, 14, 16, 17]).

In the case of $m \neq 0$, Mawhin and Willem [6] prove that problem (1) has at least one solution under the bounded nonlinearity condition; that is, $|\nabla F(t, x)| \le g(t)$ for some $g \in L^1(0, T)$, each $x \in R^N$, and a.e. $t \in [0, T]$ when

$$\int_0^T F(t, a\cos m\omega t + b\sin m\omega t)\, dt \longrightarrow +\infty \text{ as } |(a, b)| \longrightarrow \infty \text{ in } R^{2N} \tag{3}$$

or

$$\int_0^T F(t, a\cos m\omega t + b\sin m\omega t)\, dt \longrightarrow -\infty \text{ as } |(a, b)| \longrightarrow \infty \text{ in } R^{2N}. \tag{4}$$

Under the sublinear nonlinearity condition, that is, there exist $f, g \in L^2[0, T]$ and $\alpha \in [0, 1)$, such that

$$|\nabla F(t, x)| \le f(t)\, |x|^\alpha + g(t), \tag{5}$$

for $x \in R^N$ and a.e. $t \in [0, T]$, Han [18] proves that problem (1) has at least one solution when

$$|(a, b)|^{-2\alpha} \int_0^T F(t, a\cos m\omega t + b\sin m\omega t)\, dt \longrightarrow +\infty \text{ as } |(a, b)| \longrightarrow \infty \text{ in } R^{2N} \tag{6}$$

or

$$|(a,b)|^{-2\alpha}\int_0^T F(t, a\cos m\omega t + b\sin m\omega t)\,dt \longrightarrow -\infty \text{ as } |(a,b)| \longrightarrow \infty \text{ in } R^{2N}. \quad (7)$$

Recently, when $m = 0$, Zhao and Wu [13, 14] and Meng and Tang [16, 17] also prove the existence of solutions for problem (1) under linear nonlinearity condition; that is, there exist $f, g \in L^1([0,T], R^+)$ such that

$$|\nabla F(t,x)| \le f(t)|x| + g(t). \quad (8)$$

In this paper, motivated by the results mentioned above, we investigate the existence of periodic solutions of problem (1) in the case of $m \ge 1$.

Let H_T^1 be a Hilbert space defined by

$$H_T^1 = \{u : [0,T] \longrightarrow R^N \mid u \text{ is absolutely continuous, } u(0) = u(T) \text{ and } \dot{u} \in L^2(0,T)\}, \quad (9)$$

with the norm

$$\|u\| = \left(\int_0^T |u(t)|^2 dt + \int_0^T |\dot{u}(t)|^2 dt\right)^{1/2}, \quad (10)$$

for $u \in H_T^1$.

Let

$$H^0 = \{a\cos m\omega t + b\sin m\omega t : a \in R^N, b \in R^N\},$$

$$\overline{H} = \left\{\sum_{k=1}^{m-1} a_k \cos k\omega t + b_k \sin k\omega t : a_k \in R^N, b_k \in R^N, 1 \le k \le m-1\right\}, \quad (11)$$

$$\widetilde{H} = \left\{u \in H_T^1 : \int_0^T u(t)\cos k\omega t\,dt = \int_0^T u(t)\sin k\omega t\,dt = 0,\ 1 \le k \le m\right\};$$

then $H_T^1 = H^0 \oplus \overline{H} \oplus \widetilde{H}$ ([6]). For all $u \in H_T^1$, we have $u = u^0 + \overline{u} + \widetilde{u}$, where $u^0 \in H^0, \overline{u} \in \overline{H}$, and $\widetilde{u} \in \widetilde{H}$. It is easy to obtain

$$\|\dot{\overline{u}}\|_2^2 \le (m-1)^2\omega^2\|\overline{u}\|_2^2, \quad \forall \overline{u} \in \overline{H}, \quad (12)$$

$$\|\dot{\widetilde{u}}\|_2^2 \ge (m+1)^2\omega^2\|\widetilde{u}\|_2^2, \quad \forall \widetilde{u} \in \widetilde{H}. \quad (13)$$

Furthermore, we have $\|u\|_\infty \le C_0\|u\|$ for some $C_0 > 0$ and all $u(t) \in H_T^1$ (see, [6, Proposition 1.3]).

Our main results are the following theorems.

Theorem 1. *Suppose that (A) and* (8) *hold and*

(i)

$$(2+a)C_0^2\int_0^T f(t)\,dt < \min\left\{\frac{(2m+1)\omega^2}{1+(m+1)^2\omega^2}, \frac{(2m-1)\omega^2}{1+(m-1)^2\omega^2}\right\}, \quad (14)$$

where a is a parameter and satisfies $a > 1/2$;

(ii)

$$\lim_{u\in H^0, \|u\|\to\infty} \inf \|u\|^{-2}\int_0^T F(t,u)\,dt > C_0^2\int_0^T f(t)\,dt + \frac{5C_0^2}{2a-1}\int_0^T f(t)\,dt + \frac{1}{2a-1}. \quad (15)$$

Then problem (1) *has at least one solution.*

Theorem 2. *Suppose that (A),* (8) *and (i) hold and*

(iii)

$$\lim_{u\in H^0, \|u\|\to\infty} \sup \|u\|^{-2}\int_0^T F(t,u)\,dt < -\left[\frac{5C_0^2}{2a-1}\int_0^T f(t)\,dt + C_0^2\int_0^T f(t)\,dt + \frac{m^2\omega^2}{2a-1}\right]. \quad (16)$$

Then problem (1) *has at least one solution.*

Remark 3. (i) It is worth noting that, in the case of $m = 0$, one solution was obtained by Tang [9] and Han [15] under the sublinear nonlinearity condition.

(ii) It is also worth noting that the sublinear nonlinearity condition in [15, 18] is different from that of [9].

2. Proof of Main Results

Let

$$J(u) = \frac{1}{2}\int_0^T |\dot{u}(t)|^2 dt - \frac{m^2\omega^2}{2} \times \int_0^T |u(t)|^2 dt - \int_0^T F(t,u(t))\,dt, \quad (17)$$

for any $u \in H_T^1$. It follows from assumption (A) that the functional J on H_T^1 is continuously differentiable; moreover we obtain

$$\langle J'(u), v\rangle = \int_0^T (\dot{u}(t), \dot{v}(t))\,dt - m^2\omega^2 \times \int_0^T (u(t), v(t))\,dt - \int_0^T (\nabla F(t,u(t)), v(t))\,dt \quad (18)$$

for any $u, v \in H_T^1$. It is well known that the solutions of problem (1) correspond to the critical points of J (see [6]).

For the sake of convenience, we denote

$$M_1 = \int_0^T f(t)\,dt, \qquad M_2 = \int_0^T g(t)\,dt. \tag{19}$$

Proof of Theorem 1. Firstly, we assert that the functional J satisfies (PS) condition. Let $\{u_n\}$ be a sequence in H_T^1 such that $\{J(u_n)\}$ is bounded and $J'(u_n) \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$. By the proof of [6] Proposition 4.1, we only need to prove that $\{u_n\}$ is bounded. On one hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\|\overline{u}_n\| \\
&\quad \geq \left\langle J'(\dot{u}_n), -\dot{\overline{u}}_n \right\rangle = -\int_0^T \left[\left(\dot{u}_n, \dot{\overline{u}}_n\right) - m^2\omega^2 (u_n, \overline{u}_n) \right. \\
&\qquad\qquad \left. - \left(\nabla F(t, u_n), \overline{u}_n\right) \right] dt \\
&\quad = -\int_0^T \left|\dot{\overline{u}}_n\right|^2 dt + m^2\omega^2 \\
&\qquad \times \int_0^T |\overline{u}_n|^2 dt + \int_0^T \left(\nabla F(t, u_n), \overline{u}_n\right) dt \\
&\quad \geq \left[m^2 - (m-1)^2\right]\omega^2 \\
&\qquad \times \int_0^T |\overline{u}_n|^2 dt - \int_0^T f(t) \left|u_n^0 + \overline{u}_n + \tilde{u}_n\right| |\overline{u}_n|\, dt \\
&\qquad - \int_0^T g(t) |\overline{u}_n|\, dt \\
&\quad \geq \frac{(2m-1)\omega^2}{1+(m-1)^2\omega^2} \|\overline{u}_n\|^2 - C_0^2 M_1 \|\overline{u}_n\|^2 \\
&\qquad - C_0^2 M_1 \|\overline{u}_n\| \|\tilde{u}_n\| - C_0^2 M_1 \|\overline{u}_n\| \left\|u_n^0\right\| - C_0 M_2 \|\overline{u}_n\| \\
&\quad \geq \left(\frac{(2m-1)\omega^2}{1+(m-1)^2\omega^2} - 2C_0^2 M_1 \right) \\
&\qquad \times \|\overline{u}_n\|^2 - \frac{C_0^2 M_1}{2} \|\tilde{u}_n\|^2 - \frac{C_0^2 M_1}{2} \left\|u_n^0\right\|^2 - C_0 M_2 \|\overline{u}_n\|.
\end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{C_0^2 M_1}{2} \left(\|\tilde{u}_n\|^2 + \left\|u_n^0\right\|^2 \right) \\
&\quad \geq \left(\frac{(2m-1)\omega^2}{1+(m-1)^2\omega^2} - (2+a) C_0^2 M_1 \right) \\
&\qquad \times \|\overline{u}_n\|^2 - (C_0 M_2 + 1) \|\overline{u}_n\| \\
&\qquad + a C_0^2 M_1 \|\overline{u}_n\|^2 \\
&\quad \geq a C_0^2 M_1 \|\overline{u}_n\|^2 + C_1,
\end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

where $C_1 = \min_{s\in[0,\infty)}\{(((2m-1)\omega^2/(1+(m-1)^2\omega^2)) - (2+a)C_0^2 M_1)s^2 - (C_0 M_2 + 1)s\}$.

Since (14), so $-\infty < C_1 < 0$. Then

$$\|\overline{u}_n\|^2 \leq \frac{\|\tilde{u}_n\|^2}{2a} + \frac{\left\|u_n^0\right\|^2}{2a} + C_2, \tag{22}$$

where $C_2 = -C_1/aC_0^2 M_1 > 0$.

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\tilde{u}_n\| &\geq \left\langle J'(u_n), \tilde{u}_n \right\rangle \\
&\geq \left(\frac{(2m+1)\omega^2}{1+(m+1)^2\omega^2} - 2C_0^2 M_1 \right) \\
&\quad \times \|\tilde{u}_n\|^2 - \frac{C_0^2 M_1}{2} \|\overline{u}_n\|^2 \\
&\quad - \frac{C_0^2 M_1}{2} \left\|u_n^0\right\|^2 - C_0 M_2 \|\tilde{u}_n\|.
\end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{C_0^2 M_1}{2} \left(\|\overline{u}_n\|^2 + \left\|u_n^0\right\|^2 \right) \\
&\quad \geq \left(\frac{(2m+1)\omega^2}{1+(m+1)^2\omega^2} - (2+a) C_0^2 M_1 \right) \\
&\qquad \times \|\tilde{u}_n\|^2 - (C_0 M_2 + 1) \|\tilde{u}_n\| \\
&\qquad + a C_0^2 M_1 \|\tilde{u}_n\|^2 \\
&\quad \geq a C_0^2 M_1 \|\tilde{u}_n\|^2 + C_3,
\end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

where $0 > C_3 = \min_{s\in[0,\infty)}\{(((2m+1)\omega^2/(1+(m+1)^2\omega^2)) - (2+a)C_0^2 M_1)s^2 - (C_0 M_2 + 1)s\}$.

Then

$$\|\tilde{u}_n\|^2 \leq \frac{\|\overline{u}_n\|^2}{2a} + \frac{\left\|u_n^0\right\|^2}{2a} + C_4, \tag{25}$$

where $C_4 = -C_3/aC_0^2 M_1 > 0$.

From (22) and (25), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\overline{u}_n\|^2 &\leq \frac{1}{2a-1} \left\|u_n^0\right\|^2 + C_5, \\
\|\tilde{u}_n\|^2 &\leq \frac{1}{2a-1} \left\|u_n^0\right\|^2 + C_5,
\end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

where $C_5 = \max\{(4a^2 C_2 + 2aC_4)/(4a^2 - 1), (4a^2 C_4 + 2aC_2)/(4a^2 - 1)\}$.

By (8), (26) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left|\int_0^T F(t,u_n) - F\left(t,u_n^0\right) dt\right| \\
&= \left|\int_0^T \int_0^1 \nabla F\left(t, u_n^0 + s\left(\overline{u}_n + \widetilde{u}_n\right), u_n - u_n^0\right) ds\, dt\right| \\
&\le \int_0^T \int_0^1 f(t)\left|u_n^0 + s\left(\overline{u}_n + \widetilde{u}_n\right)\right| \left|u_n - u_n^0\right| dt \\
&\quad + \int_0^T \int_0^1 g(t)\left|u_n - u_n^0\right| dt \\
&\le C_0^2 M_1 \left\|u_n^0\right\|^2 + \frac{5}{2} C_0^2 M_1 \left\|\overline{u}_n\right\|^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{5}{2} C_0^2 M_1 \left\|\widetilde{u}_n\right\|^2 + C_0 M_2 \left(\left\|\overline{u}_n\right\| + \left\|\widetilde{u}_n\right\|\right) \\
&\le \left(C_0^2 M_1 + \frac{5C_0^2 M_1}{2a-1}\right)\left\|u_n^0\right\|^2 \\
&\quad + 2C_0 M_2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{2a-1}}\left\|u_n^0\right\| + 5C_5 C_0^2 M_1 + 2\sqrt{C_5} C_0 M_2.
\end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

It follows from (26), (27), and the boundedness of $J(u_n)$ that

$$\begin{aligned}
J(u_n) &= \frac{1}{2}\int_0^T \left|\dot{u}_n\right|^2 dt - \frac{m^2\omega^2}{2}\int_0^T \left|u_n\right|^2 dt - \int_0^T F(t,u_n)\, dt \\
&\le \frac{1}{2}\left(\left\|\overline{u}_n\right\|^2 + \left\|\widetilde{u}_n\right\|^2\right) \\
&\quad - \int_0^T F(t,u_n) - F\left(t,u_n^0\right) dt - \int_0^T F\left(t,u_n^0\right) dt \\
&\le \left(C_0^2 M_1 + \frac{5C_0^2 M_1}{2a-1} + \frac{1}{2a-1}\right) \\
&\quad \times \left\|u_n^0\right\|^2 + 2C_0 M_2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{2a-1}}\left\|u_n^0\right\| \\
&\quad - \int_0^T F\left(t,u_n^0\right) dt + 5C_5 C_0^2 M_1 + 2\sqrt{C_5} C_0 M_2 \\
&= \left\|u_n^0\right\|^2 \left[C_0^2 M_1 + \frac{5C_0^2 M_1}{2a-1} + \frac{1}{2a-1}\right. \\
&\qquad + 2C_0 M_2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{2a-1}}\left\|u_n^0\right\|^{-1} \\
&\qquad \left. - \left\|u_n^0\right\|^{-2} \int_0^T F\left(t,u_n^0\right) dt\right] \\
&\quad + 5C_5 C_0^2 M_1 + 2\sqrt{C_5} C_0 M_2.
\end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

The above inequality and (15) imply that $\{u_n^0\}$ is bounded. Hence $\{u_n\}$ is bounded by (26).

Secondly, we assert that

(J_1) $J(u) \to +\infty$ as $\|u\| \to \infty$ in $\widetilde{H}$, which implies that $\inf_{u\in\widetilde{H}} J(u) > -\infty$;

(J_2) $J(u) \to -\infty$ as $\|u\| \to \infty$ in $H^0 \oplus \overline{H}$,

for all $u \in H^0 \oplus \overline{H}$; that is, $u = u^0 + \overline{u}$; then by (8) and (12) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
J(u) &= \frac{1}{2}\int_0^T |\dot{u}(t)|^2 dt - \frac{m^2\omega^2}{2}\int_0^T |u(t)|^2 dt \\
&\quad - \int_0^T F(t,u(t))\, dt \\
&= \frac{1}{2}\left(\int_0^T \left|\dot{\overline{u}}(t)\right|^2 dt - m^2\omega^2 \int_0^T |\overline{u}(t)|^2 dt\right) \\
&\quad - \int_0^T \left[F\left(t,u^0 + \overline{u}\right) - F\left(t,u^0\right)\right] dt - \int_0^T F\left(t,u^0\right) dt \\
&\le \frac{1}{2}(1-2m)\,\omega^2 \|\overline{u}\|_2^2 \\
&\quad - \int_0^T \int_0^1 \left(\nabla F\left(t,u^0 + s\overline{u}\right), \overline{u}\right) dt - \int_0^T F\left(t,u^0\right) dt \\
&\le \frac{1}{2}(1-2m)\,\omega^2 \|\overline{u}\|_2^2 + \int_0^T f(t)\,|\overline{u}(t)|^2 dt \\
&\quad + \int_0^T f(t)\,|\overline{u}(t)|\left|u^0\right| dt \\
&\quad + \int_0^T g(t)\,|\overline{u}(t)|\, dt - \int_0^T F\left(t,u^0\right) dt \\
&\le \frac{1}{2}(1-2m)\,\omega^2 \|\overline{u}\|_2^2 + C_0^2 M_1 \|\overline{u}\|^2 \\
&\quad + C_0^2 M_1 \left\|u^0\right\| \|\overline{u}\| + C_0 M_2 \|\overline{u}\| - \int_0^T F\left(t,u^0\right) dt \\
&\le \frac{1}{2}(1-2m)\,\omega^2 \|\overline{u}\|_2^2 + C_0^2 M_1 \|\overline{u}\|^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{C_0^2 M_1}{2a}\left\|u^0\right\|^2 + \frac{aC_0^2 M_1}{2}\|\overline{u}\|^2 \\
&\quad + C_0 M_2 \|\overline{u}\| - \int_0^T F\left(t,u^0\right) dt \\
&< \frac{1}{2}(1-2m)\,\omega^2 \|\overline{u}\|_2^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{(2+a)\,C_0^2 M_1}{2}\left[1 + (m-1)^2\omega^2\right]\|\overline{u}\|_2^2 \\
&\quad + C_0 M_2 \left[(m-1)\,\omega + 1\right]\|\overline{u}\|_2 \\
&\quad + C_0^2 M_1 \left\|u^0\right\|^2 - \int_0^T F\left(t,u^0\right) dt
\end{aligned}$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
&= \left\{ \frac{1}{2}(1-2m)\omega^2 + \frac{(2+a)C_0^2M_1}{2}\left[1+(m-1)^2\omega^2\right]\right\} \\
&\quad \times \|\overline{u}\|_2^2 + C_0M_2\left[(m-1)\omega+1\right]\|\overline{u}\|_2 \\
&\quad + \left\|u^0\right\|^2\left[C_0^2M_1 - \left\|u^0\right\|^{-2}\int_0^T F\left(t,u^0\right)dt\right],
\end{aligned} \tag{29}
$$

for $\|u\| \to \infty$ in X if and only if $\|\overline{u}\|_2 \to \infty$ or $\|u^0\| \to \infty$. So, by $m \geq 1$, (14), and (15), we obtain $J(u) \to -\infty$ as $\|u\| \to \infty$ in X.

Let $u \in \widetilde{H}$; then by (8) and (13), we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
J(u) &= \frac{1}{2}\int_0^T |\dot{u}(t)|^2 dt - \frac{m^2\omega^2}{2}\int_0^T |u(t)|^2 dt \\
&\quad - \int_0^T F(t,u(t))\,dt \\
&\geq \frac{1}{2}\left(1-\frac{m^2\omega^2}{(m+1)^2\omega^2}\right)\int_0^T \left|\dot{\tilde{u}}(t)\right|^2 dt \\
&\quad - \int_0^T \left[F(t,\tilde{u}) - F(t,0)\right]dt - \int_0^T F(t,0)\,dt \\
&\geq \frac{1}{2}\frac{2m+1}{(m+1)^2}\times\frac{(m+1)^2\omega^2}{1+(m+1)^2\omega^2}\|\tilde{u}\|^2 \\
&\quad - \int_0^T\int_0^1 \left(\nabla F(t,s\tilde{u}),\tilde{u}\right)dt - \int_0^T F(t,0)\,dt \\
&\geq \frac{1}{2}\frac{(2m+1)\omega^2}{1+(m+1)^2\omega^2}\|\tilde{u}\|^2 \\
&\quad - \int_0^T f(t)|\tilde{u}|^2 dt - \int_0^T g(t)|\tilde{u}|\,dt - \int_0^T F(t,0)\,dt \\
&\geq \left(\frac{1}{2}\frac{(2m+1)\omega^2}{1+(m+1)^2\omega^2} - C_0^2M_1\right) \\
&\quad \times \|\tilde{u}\|^2 - C_0M_2\|\tilde{u}\| - \int_0^T F(t,0)\,dt.
\end{aligned} \tag{30}
$$

So, by (14), J is bounded from below on $\widetilde{H}$.

Hence, by Rabinowitz's Saddle point Theorem (see [19, Theorem 4.6]), we obtain that the problem (1) has at least one solution. □

Proof of Theorem 2. The proof of Theorem 2 is similar to the proof of Theorem 1, so we omit it here. □

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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