

**SOME NOVEL RESULTS OF T -PERIODIC SOLUTIONS FOR
RAYLEIGH TYPE EQUATION WITH DOUBLE DEVIATING
ARGUMENTS**

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In this work, we study the following Rayleigh equation with double deviating arguments:

$$x''(t) + f(t, x'(t)) + g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) + g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) = e(t).$$

Some criteria to guarantee the existence and uniqueness of periodic solutions of this equation is given by using Mawhin's continuation theorem and some new techniques. Our results are new and complement some known results.

Keywords: Periodic solution; Existence and uniqueness; Deviating argument; Rayleigh equation.

MSC2010: 34B15; 34K13.

1. Introduction

In this present paper, we investigate the existence and uniqueness of the periodic solutions of the following Rayleigh equation with double deviating arguments

$$x''(t) + f(t, x'(t)) + g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) + g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) = e(t), \quad (1.1)$$

where $\tau_1, \tau_2 \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$; $f, g_1, g_2 \in C(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R})$; $\tau_1(t), \tau_2(t)$, $f(t, x)$, $g_1(t, x)$, $g_2(t, x)$ are T -periodic functions with respect to t , $T > 0$; $f(t, 0) = 0$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$; $e \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$, and $e(t)$ is a T -periodic function.

As it is well known, the Rayleigh equation can be derived from many fields, such as physics, mechanics and engineering technique fields, and an important question is whether this equation can support periodic solutions. During the past several years, many authors have contributed to the theory of this equation with respect to existence of periodic solutions. For example, in 1977, Gaines and Mawhin [2] introduced some continuation theorems and applied them to discussing the existence of solutions of differential equations. In particular, a specific example is provided in [2, p. 99] on how T -periodic solutions can be obtained by means of these theorems for the Rayleigh equation

$$x''(t) + f(x'(t)) + g(t, x(t)) = 0. \quad (1.2)$$

In this direction, the researchers in [1, 3, 5–9, 11–16, 18, 19] continued to discuss the Rayleigh equation and got some new results on the existence of periodic solutions of (1.1), and

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generalized the results in [2]. Wang et al. [20–36] studied the existence and uniqueness of the solution of the seepage equation. Ma et al. [37–60] studied the existence of the solution of the seepage equation. However, as far as we know, much fewer authors have considered the uniqueness of periodic solutions for Rayleigh equation (1.1), the main difficulty lies in the middle term $f(t, x'(t))$ of (1.1), the existence of which obstructs the usual method of finding some sufficient conditions to guarantee the uniqueness of periodic solutions for Liénard equation or Duffing equation from working. For instance, if $x(t)$ is a T -periodic solution to Duffing type p -Laplacian equation

$$(\varphi_p(x'(t)))' + Cx'(t) + g(t, x(t)) = e(t), \quad (1.3)$$

then $\int_0^T Cx'(t)dt = 0$, which is very useful to get some criteria for securing the uniqueness of T -periodic solutions to (1.3) in [17]. But for (1.1), the corresponding middle term formula $\int_0^T f(t, x'(t))dt = 0$ no longer holds, generally. Hence, it is essential to continue to study the periodic solutions of (1.1) in this case.

The main purpose in this work is to give some criteria to guarantee the existence and uniqueness of periodic solutions to (1.1). Some sufficient conditions for securing the existence and uniqueness of T -periodic solutions of (1.1) are obtained by using Mawhin's continuation theorem and some new techniques. Our results are new and complement the previously known results. An illustrative example will be provided to demonstrate the applications of our results in Section 4.

2. Lemmas

Let us start with some notations. Define

$$|x|_\infty = \max_{t \in [0, T]} |x(t)|, \quad |x'|_\infty = \max_{t \in [0, T]} |x'(t)|, \quad |x|_k = \left(\int_0^T |x(t)|^k dt \right)^{1/k}.$$

Let

$$C_T^1 := \{x \in C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) : x \text{ is } T\text{-periodic}\}$$

and

$$C_T := \{x \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) : x \text{ is } T\text{-periodic}\},$$

which are two Banach spaces with the norms

$$\|x\|_{C_T^1} = \max\{|x|_\infty, |x'|_\infty\}, \quad \|x\|_{C_T} = |x|_\infty.$$

The following lemmas will be useful to prove our main results in Section 3.

Lemma 2.1. *If $x \in C^2(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ with $x(t+T) = x(t)$, then*

$$|x'|_2^2 \leq \left(\frac{T}{2\pi} \right)^2 |x''|_2^2.$$

Proof. Lemma 2.1 is a direct consequence of the Wirtinger inequality, and see [4, 10] for its proof.

Consider the homotopic equation of (1.1)

$$x''(t) + \lambda f(t, x'(t)) + \lambda g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) + \lambda g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) = \lambda e(t), \quad (2.1)$$

where $\lambda \in (0, 1)$.

We have the following results.

Lemma 2.2. *Assume that the following conditions are satisfied:*

(H₁): *one of the following conditions holds*

(1): $(g_i(t, u) - g_i(t, v))(u - v) > 0$ *for all* $t, u, v \in \mathbb{R}, u \neq v, i = 1, 2$,

(2): $(g_i(t, u) - g_i(t, v))(u - v) < 0$ *for all* $t, u, v \in \mathbb{R}, u \neq v, i = 1, 2$;

(H₂): *there exists a constant $D \geq 0$ such that one of the following conditions holds*

(1): $x(g_1(t, x) + g_2(t, x) - e(t)) > 0$, for all $t \in \mathbb{R}, |x| \geq D$,

(2): $x(g_1(t, x) + g_2(t, x) - e(t)) < 0$, for all $t \in \mathbb{R}, |x| \geq D$.

If $x(t)$ is a T -periodic solution of (2.1), then:

$$|x|_\infty \leq D + \frac{\sqrt{T}}{2} |x'|_2. \quad (2.2)$$

Proof. Let $x(t)$ be an arbitrary T -periodic solution of (2.1). Set

$$x(\bar{t}_{\max}) = \max_{t \in \mathbb{R}} x(t), x(\bar{t}_{\min}) = \min_{t \in \mathbb{R}} x(t), \quad \text{where } \bar{t}_{\max}, \bar{t}_{\min} \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Then we have

$$x'(\bar{t}_{\max}) = 0, x''(\bar{t}_{\max}) \leq 0; x'(\bar{t}_{\min}) = 0, x''(\bar{t}_{\min}) \geq 0. \quad (2.3)$$

By (2.1) and $f(t, 0) = 0$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, (2.3) leads to

$$\begin{aligned} & g_1(\bar{t}_{\max}, x(\bar{t}_{\max} - \tau_1(\bar{t}_{\max}))) + g_2(\bar{t}_{\max}, x(\bar{t}_{\max} - \tau_2(\bar{t}_{\max}))) - e(\bar{t}_{\max}) \\ &= -\frac{x''(\bar{t}_{\max})}{\lambda} \geq 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & g_1(\bar{t}_{\min}, x(\bar{t}_{\min} - \tau_1(\bar{t}_{\min}))) + g_2(\bar{t}_{\min}, x(\bar{t}_{\min} - \tau_2(\bar{t}_{\min}))) - e(\bar{t}_{\min}) \\ &= -\frac{x''(\bar{t}_{\min})}{\lambda} \leq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

Since $g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) + g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) - e(t)$ is a continuous function in \mathbb{R} , it follows from (2.4) and (2.5) that there exists a constant $t_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$g_1(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1))) + g_2(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1))) - e(t_1) = 0. \quad (2.6)$$

Now we show that the following claim is true.

Claim. If $x(t)$ is a T -periodic solution of (2.1), then there exists a constant $t_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$|x(t_2)| \leq D. \quad (2.7)$$

Assume, by way of contradiction, that (2.7) does not hold. Then

$$|x(t)| > D \quad \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (2.8)$$

which, together with H_2 and (2.6), implies that one of the following relations holds:

$$x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1)) > x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1)) > D, \quad (2.9)$$

$$x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1)) > x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1)) > D, \quad (2.10)$$

$$x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1)) < x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1)) < -D, \quad (2.11)$$

$$x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1)) < x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1)) < -D. \quad (2.12)$$

Suppose that (2.9) holds, in view of $(H_1)(1)$, $(H_1)(2)$, $(H_2)(1)$ and $(H_2)(2)$, we will consider fours cases as follows:

Case (i): If $(H_1)(1)$ and $(H_2)(1)$ hold, according to (2.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &< g_1(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1))) + g_2(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1))) - e(t_1) \\ &< g_1(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1))) + g_2(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1))) - e(t_1), \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts that (2.6). This contradiction implies that (2.7) is true.

Case (ii): If $(H_1)(2)$ and $(H_2)(1)$ hold, according to (2.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &< g_1(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1))) + g_2(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1))) - e(t_1) \\ &< g_1(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1))) + g_2(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1))) - e(t_1), \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts that (2.6). This contradiction implies that (2.7) is true.

Case (iii): If $(H_1)(1)$ and $(H_2)(2)$ hold, according to (2.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &> g_1(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1))) + g_2(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1))) - e(t_1) \\ &> g_1(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1))) + g_2(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1))) - e(t_1), \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts that (2.6). This contradiction implies that (2.7) is true.

Case (iv): If $(H_1)(2)$ and $(H_2)(2)$ hold, according to (2.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &> g_1(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1))) + g_2(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1))) - e(t_1) \\ &> g_1(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_1(t_1))) + g_2(t_1, x(t_1 - \tau_2(t_1))) - e(t_1), \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts that (2.6). This contradiction implies that (2.7) is true.

Suppose that (2.10)(or (2.11), or (2.12)) holds; using methods similar to those used in Case(i)–(iv), we can show that (2.7) is true. This completes the proof of the above claim.

Let $t_2 = kT + \tilde{t}_2$, where $\tilde{t}_2 \in [0, T]$ and k is an integer. Then noticing $x(t) = x(t + T)$ and (2.7), for any $t \in [\tilde{t}_2, \tilde{t}_2 + T]$, we obtain

$$|x(t)| = \left| x(\tilde{t}_2) + \int_{\tilde{t}_2}^t x'(s) ds \right| \leq D + \int_{\tilde{t}_2}^t |x'(s)| ds$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} |x(t)| &= \left| x(\tilde{t}_2 + T) + \int_{\tilde{t}_2+T}^t x'(s) ds \right| \\ &\leq D + \left| - \int_t^{\tilde{t}_2+T} x'(s) ds \right| \\ &\leq D + \int_t^{\tilde{t}_2+T} |x'(s)| ds. \end{aligned}$$

Combining above two inequalities, we get

$$|x(t)| \leq D + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T |x'(s)| ds.$$

Using Schwarz inequality yields

$$\begin{aligned} |x|_\infty &= \max_{t \in [\tilde{t}_2, \tilde{t}_2 + T]} |x(t)| \\ &\leq D + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T |x'(s)| ds \\ &\leq D + \frac{1}{2} |1|_2 |x'|_2 = D + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{T} |x'|_2. \end{aligned} \tag{2.13}$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 2.2. \square

Lemma 2.3. *Let (H_1) hold. Suppose there exist some nonnegative constants C_0, C_1 and C_2 such that*

- (H₃): $|f(t, u) - f(t, v)| \leq C_0 |u - v|$, for all $t, u, v \in \mathbb{R}$,
- (H₄): $|g_i(t, u) - g_i(t, v)| \leq C_i |u - v|$, for all $t, u, v \in \mathbb{R}, i = 1, 2$,
- (H₅): $C_0 \frac{T}{2\pi} + (C_1 + C_2) \frac{T^2}{4\pi} < 1$.

Then (1.1) has at most one T -periodic solution.

Proof. Suppose that $x_1(t)$ and $x_2(t)$ are two T -periodic solutions of (1.1). Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &[x_1(t) - x_2(t)]'' + [f(t, x_1'(t)) - f(t, x_2'(t))] \\ &+ [g_1(t, x_1(t - \tau_1(t))) - g_1(t, x_2(t - \tau_1(t)))] \\ &+ [g_2(t, x_1(t - \tau_2(t))) - g_2(t, x_2(t - \tau_2(t)))] = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{2.14}$$

Set $Z(t) = x_1(t) - x_2(t)$, then, from (2.14), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & Z''(t) + [f(t, x'_1(t)) - f(t, x'_2(t))] \\ & + [g_1(t, x_1(t - \tau_1(t))) - g_1(t, x_2(t - \tau_1(t)))] \\ & + [g_2(t, x_1(t - \tau_2(t))) - g_2(t, x_2(t - \tau_2(t)))] = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.15)$$

Since $Z(t) = x_1(t) - x_2(t)$ is a continuous T -periodic function in \mathbb{R} , there exist two constants $t_{max}, t_{min} \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$Z(t_{max}) = \max_{t \in [0, T]} Z(t) = \max_{t \in \mathbb{R}} Z(t), \quad Z(t_{min}) = \min_{t \in [0, T]} Z(t) = \min_{t \in \mathbb{R}} Z(t). \quad (2.16)$$

Then we have

$$Z'(t_{max}) = x'_1(t_{max}) - x'_2(t_{max}) = 0, \quad Z''(t_{max}) \leq 0, \quad (2.17)$$

and

$$Z'(t_{min}) = x'_1(t_{min}) - x'_2(t_{min}) = 0, \quad Z''(t_{min}) \geq 0. \quad (2.18)$$

In view of (2.15)–(2.18), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & g_1(t_{max}, x_1(t_{max} - \tau_1(t_{max}))) - g_1(t_{max}, x_2(t_{max} - \tau_1(t_{max}))) \\ & + g_2(t_{max}, x_1(t_{max} - \tau_2(t_{max}))) - g_2(t_{max}, x_2(t_{max} - \tau_2(t_{max}))) \\ = & -Z''(t_{max}) - [f(t_{max}, x'_1(t_{max})) - f(t_{max}, x'_2(t_{max}))] \\ = & -Z''(t_{max}) \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.19)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & g_1(t_{min}, x_1(t_{min} - \tau_1(t_{min}))) - g_1(t_{min}, x_2(t_{min} - \tau_1(t_{min}))) \\ & + g_2(t_{min}, x_1(t_{min} - \tau_2(t_{min}))) - g_2(t_{min}, x_2(t_{min} - \tau_2(t_{min}))) \\ = & -Z''(t_{min}) - [f(t_{min}, x'_1(t_{min})) - f(t_{min}, x'_2(t_{min}))] \\ = & -Z''(t_{min}) \leq 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2.20)$$

which implies there exists a constant $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} & g_1(t_0, x_1(t_0 - \tau_1(t_0))) - g_1(t_0, x_2(t_0 - \tau_1(t_0))) \\ & + g_2(t_0, x_1(t_0 - \tau_2(t_0))) - g_2(t_0, x_2(t_0 - \tau_2(t_0))) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.21)$$

From (H₁) and (2.21), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & Z(t_0 - \tau_1(t_0))Z(t_0 - \tau_2(t_0)) \\ = & (x_1(t_0 - \tau_1(t_0)) - x_2(t_0 - \tau_1(t_0)))(x_1(t_0 - \tau_2(t_0)) - x_2(t_0 - \tau_2(t_0))) \\ \leq & 0, \end{aligned}$$

which implies there exists a constant $t_{00} \in \mathbb{R}$, such that

$$Z(t_{00}) = 0$$

Set $t_{00} = nT + \tilde{t}_0$, where $\tilde{t}_0 \in [0, T]$ and n is an integer. Noticing $Z(t + T) = Z(t)$, we get

$$Z(\tilde{t}_0) = Z(nT + \tilde{t}_0) = Z(t_{00}) = 0. \quad (2.22)$$

Hence, for any $t \in [\tilde{t}_0, \tilde{t}_0 + T]$, we obtain

$$|Z(t)| = \left| Z(\tilde{t}_0) + \int_{\tilde{t}_0}^t Z'(s)ds \right| \leq \int_{\tilde{t}_0}^t |Z'(s)|ds$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}|Z(t)| &= \left| Z(\tilde{t}_0 + T) + \int_{\tilde{t}_0 + T}^t Z'(s)ds \right| \\ &= \left| - \int_t^{\tilde{t}_0 + T} Z'(s)ds \right| \leq \int_t^{\tilde{t}_0 + T} |Z'(s)|ds.\end{aligned}$$

Combining above two inequalities, we get

$$|Z(t)| \leq \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T |Z'(s)|ds.$$

Using Schwarz inequality yields

$$|Z|_\infty = \max_{t \in [\tilde{t}_0, \tilde{t}_0 + T]} |Z(t)| \leq \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T |Z'(s)|ds \leq \frac{1}{2} \|1\|_2 |Z'|_2 = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{T} |Z'|_2. \quad (\mathbf{2.23})$$

Multiplying $Z''(t)$ and (2.15) and then integrating it from 0 to T , by Lemma 2.1, (H₃), (H₄), (2.23) and Schwarz inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}|Z''|_2^2 &= - \int_0^T [f(t, x'_1(t)) - f(t, x'_2(t))] Z''(t) dt \\ &\quad - \int_0^T [g_1(t, x_1(t - \tau_1(t))) - g_1(t, x_2(t - \tau_1(t)))] Z''(t) dt \\ &\quad - \int_0^T [g_2(t, x_1(t - \tau_2(t))) - g_2(t, x_2(t - \tau_2(t)))] Z''(t) dt \\ &\leq \int_0^T |f(t, x'_1(t)) - f(t, x'_2(t))| |Z''(t)| dt \\ &\quad + \int_0^T |g_1(t, x_1(t - \tau_1(t))) - g_1(t, x_2(t - \tau_1(t)))| |Z''(t)| dt \\ &\quad + \int_0^T |g_2(t, x_1(t - \tau_2(t))) - g_2(t, x_2(t - \tau_2(t)))| |Z''(t)| dt \\ &\leq \int_0^T C_0 |x'_1(t) - x'_2(t)| |Z''(t)| dt \\ &\quad + \int_0^T C_1 |x_1(t - \tau_1(t)) - x_2(t - \tau_1(t))| |Z''(t)| dt \\ &\quad + \int_0^T C_2 |x_1(t - \tau_2(t)) - x_2(t - \tau_2(t))| |Z''(t)| dt \\ &\leq \int_0^T C_0 |Z'(t)| |Z''(t)| dt + \int_0^T C_1 |Z(t - \tau_1(t))| |Z''(t)| dt \\ &\quad + \int_0^T C_2 |Z(t - \tau_2(t))| |Z''(t)| dt\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq C_0 \left(\int_0^T |Z'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_0^T |Z''(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \\
&\quad + C_1 \left(\int_0^T |Z(t - \tau_1(t))|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_0^T |Z''(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \\
&\quad + C_2 \left(\int_0^T |Z(t - \tau_2(t))|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_0^T |Z''(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \\
&\leq C_0 |Z'|_2 |Z''|_2 + (C_1 + C_2) \sqrt{T} |Z|_\infty |Z''|_2 \\
&\leq \left[C_0 \frac{T}{2\pi} + (C_1 + C_2) \frac{T^2}{4\pi} \right] |Z''|_2^2
\end{aligned} \tag{2.24}$$

Since $Z(t)$, $Z'(t)$ and $Z''(t)$ are continuous T -periodic functions, by Lemma 2.1, (H₅) and (2.23), we get

$$Z(t) = Z'(t) = Z''(t) = 0, \quad \text{for any } t \in [\tilde{t}_0, \tilde{t}_0 + T].$$

Thus, $x_1(t) \equiv x_2(t)$, for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Hence, (1.1) has at most one T -periodic solution. This completes the proof. \square

Lemma 2.4. *Suppose (H₁)–(H₅) hold.*

Then the set of T -periodic solutions of (2.1) is bounded in C_T^1 .

Proof. Let $S \subset C_T^1$ be the set of T -periodic solutions of (2.1). If $S = \emptyset$, the proof is ended. Suppose $S \neq \emptyset$, and let $x \in S$. Since $f(t, 0) = 0$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, by Lemma 2.1, Lemma 2.2, (H₃), (H₄), (2.1) and Schwarz inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
|x''|_2^2 &= -\lambda \int_0^T f(t, x'(t)) x''(t) dt - \lambda \int_0^T g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) x''(t) dt \\
&\quad - \lambda \int_0^T g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) x''(t) dt + \lambda \int_0^T e(t) x''(t) dt \\
&= -\lambda \int_0^T [f(t, x'(t)) - f(t, 0)] x''(t) dt \\
&\quad - \lambda \int_0^T [g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) - g_1(t, 0) + g_1(t, 0)] x''(t) dt \\
&\quad - \lambda \int_0^T [g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) - g_2(t, 0) + g_2(t, 0)] x''(t) dt \\
&\quad + \lambda \int_0^T e(t) x''(t) dt
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \int_0^T |f(t, x'(t)) - f(t, 0)| |x''(t)| dt \\
&\quad + \int_0^T |g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) - g_1(t, 0)| |x''(t)| dt \\
&\quad + \int_0^T |g_1(t, 0)| |x''(t)| dt \\
&\quad + \int_0^T |g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) - g_2(t, 0)| |x''(t)| dt \\
&\quad + \int_0^T |g_2(t, 0)| |x''(t)| dt + \int_0^T |e(t)| |x''(t)| dt \\
&\leq \int_0^T C_0 |x'(t)| |x''(t)| dt + \int_0^T C_1 |x(t - \tau_1(t))| |x''(t)| dt \\
&\quad + G_1 \int_0^T |x''(t)| dt + \int_0^T C_2 |x(t - \tau_2(t))| |x''(t)| dt \\
&\quad + G_2 \int_0^T |x''(t)| dt + |e|_\infty \int_0^T |x''(t)| dt \\
&\leq C_0 \left(\int_0^T |x'(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_0^T |x''(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \\
&\quad + C_1 \left(\int_0^T |x(t - \tau_1(t))|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_0^T |x''(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \\
&\quad + C_2 \left(\int_0^T |x(t - \tau_2(t))|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_0^T |x''(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \\
&\quad + (G_1 + G_2 + |e|_\infty) \left(\int_0^T 1^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_0^T |x''(t)|^2 dt \right)^{1/2} \\
&\leq C_0 |x'|_2 |x''|_2^2 + (C_1 + C_2) \sqrt{T} |x|_\infty |x''|_2 \\
&\quad + (G_1 + G_2 + |e|_\infty) |1|_2 |x''|_2 \\
&\leq \frac{C_0}{2\pi} T |x''|_2^2 + (C_1 + C_2) \sqrt{T} (D + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{T} |x'|_2) |x''|_2 \\
&\quad + (G_1 + G_2 + |e|_\infty) \sqrt{T} |x''|_2 \\
&\leq \left[C_0 \frac{T}{2\pi} + (C_1 + C_2) \frac{T^2}{4\pi} \right] |x''|_2^2 + G_3 \sqrt{T} |x''|_2, \tag{2.25}
\end{aligned}$$

where $G_1 = \max\{|g_1(t, 0)| : t \in [0, T]\}$, $G_2 = \max\{|g_2(t, 0)| : t \in [0, T]\}$ and $G_3 = G_1 + G_2 + |e|_\infty + (C_1 + C_2)D$.

By (H₅) and (2.25), there exists a constant $M_0 > 0$ such that

$$|x''|_2 < M_0. \tag{2.26}$$

Since $x(0) = x(T)$, there exists a constant $\tilde{t} \in [0, T]$ such that $x'(\tilde{t}) = 0$. For any $t \in [\tilde{t}, \tilde{t}+T]$, by Schwarz inequality, we have

$$|x'(t)| = \left| x'(\tilde{t}) + \int_{\tilde{t}}^t x''(s) ds \right| \leq \int_0^T |x''(s)| ds \leq |1|_2 |x''|_2 = \sqrt{T} |x''|_2,$$

which implies

$$|x'|_\infty = \max_{t \in [\bar{t}, \bar{t}+T]} |x'(t)| \leq \sqrt{T} |x''|_2. \quad (2.27)$$

By Lemma 2.1, Lemma 2.2, (2.26) and (2.27), there exists a constant $M > M_0$ such that

$$|x|_\infty < M \text{ and } |x'|_\infty < M.$$

This completes the proof. \square

The following Mawhin's continuation is useful in obtaining the existence of T -periodic solutions of (1.1).

Let X and Y be real Banach spaces and let $L : D(L) \subset X \rightarrow Y$ be a Fredholm operator with index zero, here $D(L)$ denotes the domain of L . This means that $\text{Im}L$ is closed in Y and $\dim \text{Ker}L = \dim(Y/\text{Im}L) < +\infty$. Consider the supplementary subspaces X_1, Y_1 of X, Y respectively, such that $X = X_1 \oplus \text{Ker}L$ and $Y = Y_1 \oplus \text{Im}L$ and let $P : X \rightarrow \text{Ker}L$ and $Q : Y \rightarrow Y_1$ be the natural projections. Clearly, $\text{Ker}L \cap (D(L) \cap X_1) = \{0\}$, thus the restriction $L_P := L_{D(L) \cap X_1}$ is invertible. Denote by L_P^{-1} the inverse of L_P .

Let Ω be an open bounded subset of X with $D(L) \cap \Omega \neq \emptyset$. A map $N : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow Y$ is said to be L -compact in $\bar{\Omega}$, if $QN(\bar{\Omega})$ is bounded and the operator $L_P^{-1}(I - Q)N : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow X$ is compact.

Lemma 2.5. ([2, p. 40]) *Let X and Y be two Banach spaces. Suppose that $L : D(L) \subset X \rightarrow Y$ is a Fredholm operator with index zero and $N : X \rightarrow Y$ is L -compact on $\bar{\Omega}$, where Ω is an open bounded subset of X . Moreover, assume that all the following conditions are satisfied:*

- (i) $Lx \neq \lambda Nx$, for all $x \in \partial\Omega \cap D(L)$, $\lambda \in (0, 1)$;
- (ii) $Nx \in \text{Im}L$, for all $x \in \partial\Omega \cap \text{Ker}L$;
- (iii) the Brouwer degree $\deg\{JQN, \Omega \cap \text{Ker}L, 0\} \neq 0$,

where $J : \text{Im}Q \rightarrow \text{Ker}L$ is an isomorphism.

Then equation $Lx = Nx$ has at least one solution on $\bar{\Omega} \cap D(L)$.

3. Main results

Now we are in the position to give our main results.

Theorem 1. *Suppose (H_1) – (H_5) hold. Then (1.1) has a unique T -periodic solution.*

Proof. By Lemma 2.4, there exists a constant $M > D$ such that, for any T -periodic solution $x(t)$ of (2.1)

$$|x|_\infty < M \text{ and } |x'|_\infty < M. \quad (3.1)$$

Set

$$\Omega = \{x : x \in C_T^1, |x|_\infty < M, |x'|_\infty < M\}. \quad (3.2)$$

Define a linear operator $L : D(L) \subset C_T^1 \rightarrow C_T$ by setting

$$D(L) = \{x : x \in C_T^1, x'' \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})\}$$

and for $x \in D(L)$,

$$Lx = x''. \quad (3.3)$$

We also define a nonlinear operator $N : C_T^1 \rightarrow C_T$ by setting

$$Nx = -f(t, x'(t)) - g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) - g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) + e(t), \quad (3.4)$$

Then, (2.1) is equivalent to the following operator equation

$$Lx = \lambda Nx, \quad \lambda \in (0, 1). \quad (3.5)$$

It is easy to see that

$$\text{Ker}L = \mathbb{R} \text{ and } \text{Im}L = \left\{ x : x \in C_T, \int_0^T x(s)ds = 0 \right\},$$

Then, L is a Fredholm operator with index zero.

Also let projectors $P : C_T^1 \rightarrow \text{Ker } L$ and $Q : C_T \rightarrow C_T / \text{Im } L$ defined by

$$Px = x(0) \quad \text{where } x \in C_T^1$$

and

$$Qx = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T x(s) ds \quad \text{where } x \in C_T,$$

Hence, $\text{Im } P = \text{Im } Q = \text{Ker } L = \mathbb{R}$ and $\text{Ker } Q = \text{Im } L$.

Define the isomorphism as follows

$$J : \text{Im } Q \rightarrow \text{Ker } L, \quad J(x) = x. \quad (3.6)$$

Let

$$L_P := L_{D(L) \cap \text{Ker } P} : D(L) \cap \text{Ker } P \rightarrow \text{Im } L,$$

Then, from [8], L_P has a continuous inverse L_P^{-1} on $\text{Im } L$ defined by

$$(L_P^{-1}x)(t) = -\frac{t}{T} \int_0^T (t-s)x(s) ds + \int_0^t (t-s)x(s) ds, \quad (3.7)$$

In view of (3.2) and (3.7), N is L -compact on $\bar{\Omega}$. Note that (2.1) is equivalent to (3.5), by Lemma 2.4 and (3.5), the set of T -periodic solutions of (3.5) is bounded in C_T^1 . Hence, there exists a sufficient large positive constant M such that, the operator equation $Lx \neq \lambda Nx$ (where $\lambda \in (0, 1)$) for all $x \in \partial\Omega$, where M and Ω were defined by (3.1) and (3.2) respectively; which implies that the operator equation $Lx \neq \lambda Nx$ (where $\lambda \in (0, 1)$) for all $x \in \partial\Omega \cap D(L)$, and the condition (i) of Lemma 2.5 is satisfied.

In view of (H₂)(1) and (H₂)(2), we will consider two cases as follows:

Case(i): If (H₂)(1) holds. Since

$$QNx = -\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T [f(t, x'(t)) + g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) + g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) - e(t)] dt;$$

for any $x \in \partial\Omega \cap \text{Ker } L$, $x = M$ or $x = -M$; and $f(t, 0) = 0$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, we obtain

$$QN(M) = -\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T [g_1(t, M) + g_2(t, M) - e(t)] dt < 0 \quad (3.8)$$

and

$$QN(-M) = -\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T [g_1(t, -M) + g_2(t, -M) - e(t)] dt > 0 \quad (3.9)$$

which implies the condition (ii) of Lemma 2.5 is satisfied.

Moreover, define

$$\begin{aligned} H(x, \mu) &= -\mu x + (1 - \mu) QN x \\ &= -\mu x - (1 - \mu) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T [f(t, x'(t)) + g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) \\ &\quad + g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) - e(t)] dt, \end{aligned}$$

in view of (3.8) and (3.9), we get

$$xH(x, \mu) < 0, \quad \text{for all } x \in \partial\Omega \cap \text{Ker } L \text{ and } \mu \in [0, 1].$$

Hence, $H(x, \mu)$ is a homotopic transformation, together with (3.6) and by using homotopic invariance theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \deg\{JQN, \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} &= \deg\{QN, \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} \\ &= \deg\{-x, \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} \neq 0, \end{aligned}$$

so condition (iii) of Lemma 2.5 is satisfied.

Case(ii): If $(H_2)(2)$ holds. Since

$$QNx = -\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T [f(t, x'(t)) + g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) + g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) - e(t)] dt;$$

for any $x \in \partial\Omega \cap \text{Ker } L$, $x = M$ or $x = -M$; and $f(t, 0) = 0$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, we obtain

$$QN(M) = -\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T [g_1(t, M) + g_2(t, M) - e(t)] dt > 0 \quad (3.10)$$

and

$$QN(-M) = -\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T [g_1(t, -M) + g_2(t, -M) - e(t)] dt < 0 \quad (3.11)$$

which implies the condition (ii) of Lemma 2.5 is satisfied.

Moreover, define

$$\begin{aligned} H(x, \mu) &= \mu x + (1 - \mu) QN x \\ &= \mu x - (1 - \mu) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T [f(t, x'(t)) + g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) \\ &\quad + g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) - e(t)] dt, \end{aligned}$$

in view of (3.10) and (3.11), we get

$$xH(x, \mu) > 0, \quad \text{for all } x \in \partial\Omega \cap \text{Ker } L \text{ and } \mu \in [0, 1].$$

Hence, $H(x, \mu)$ is a homotopic transformation, together with (3.6) and by using homotopic invariance theorem, we have

$$\deg\{JQN, \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} = \deg\{QN, \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} = \deg\{x, \Omega \cap \text{Ker } L, 0\} \neq 0,$$

so condition (iii) of Lemma 2.5 is satisfied. Therefore, it follows from Lemma 2.5 that there exists a T -periodic solution $x(t)$ of (1.1). The uniqueness of this $x(t)$ is guaranteed by Lemma 2.3. This completes the proof. \square

Remark 1. If $f(t, 0) \neq 0$, the problem of the existence and uniqueness of T -periodic solutions to (1.1) can be converted to the following equation

$$x''(t) + f_1(t, x'(t)) + g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) + g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) = e_1(t), \quad (3.12)$$

where $f_1(t, x'(t)) = f(t, x'(t)) - f(t, 0)$, $e_1(t) = e(t) - f(t, 0)$. As $f_1(t, 0) = 0$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$, (3.12) can be studied by Theorem 1 in this paper.

Remark 2. To our knowledge, except [7, 18], [1–3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11–16, 19] only considered the existence of periodic solutions of many kinds of delay Rayleigh equations. In [7], Li and Huang discussed the existence and uniqueness of periodic solutions of a Rayleigh equation without any delays; in [18], Zhou et al. investigated the existence and uniqueness of periodic solutions of the following Rayleigh equation with a deviating argument :

$$x''(t) + f(x'(t)) + g(t, x(t - \tau(t))) = p(t), \quad (3.13)$$

and got some results as follows (for convenience of comparison, here we state their main results in a somewhat different form):

Theorem A. Suppose (A_1) (or (A_2)) and (A_3) hold. Then (3.13) has a unique T -periodic solution.

Theorem B. Suppose (A_1) (or (A_2)) and (A_4) hold. Then (3.13) has a unique T -periodic solution.

If $f(t, x') = f(x')$ and $g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) = 0$, we can see that (1.1) reduces to (3.13) and the condition (H_3) equals the condition (A_0) ; on the other hand, it is easy to see that the condition (H_5) is weaker than the inequality $C_1 \frac{T}{2\pi} + b \frac{T^2}{2\pi} < 1$ in the condition (A_3) , so

Theorem 1 improves Theorem A. If $f(t, x') \neq f(x')$ or $g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) \neq 0$, Theorem 1 have new meaning.

4. Example and remark

In this section, we apply the main results obtained in previous sections to an example.

Example 4.1. Consider the following Rayleigh equation with two deviating arguments

$$x''(t) + f(t, x'(t)) + g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) + g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) = e(t), \quad (4.1)$$

where $T = 2\pi$, $\tau_1(t) = \sin t$, $\tau_2(t) = \cos t$, $f(t, x'(t)) = \frac{1}{20(1+\sin^2 t)}x'(t)$

$\arctan x'(t)$, $g_1(t, x(t - \tau_1(t))) = \frac{1}{30(1+\cos^2 t)}x(t - \sin t)$, $g_2(t, x(t - \tau_2(t))) = \frac{1}{20}(2 + \sin t) \arctan(x(t - \cos t) + 1)$ and $e(t) = \sin^2 t$.

Set $C_0 = \frac{\pi+1}{40}$, $C_1 = \frac{1}{30}$, $C_2 = \frac{3}{20}$, and let D be big enough. Then it is easy to check that all the conditions of Theorem 1 in this paper hold, which implies (4.1) has a unique 2π -periodic solution.

Remark 3. (4.1) is a very simple version of Rayleigh equation with two deviating arguments, all the results in [1–3, 5–9, 11–16, 18, 19] and the references therein cannot be applicable to (4.1) for securing the existence and uniqueness of 2π -periodic solutions, which implies the results in this paper are new and they complement the previously known results.

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