

SOLVABILITY OF SINGULAR SECOND-ORDER INITIAL-VALUE PROBLEMS

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ABSTRACT. This article concerns the solvability of the initial-value problem $x'' = f(t, x, x')$, $x(0) = A$, $x'(0) = B$, where the scalar function f may be unbounded as $t \rightarrow 0$. Using barrier strip type arguments, we establish the existence of monotone and/or positive solutions in $C^1[0, T] \cap C^2(0, T]$.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this article we study the solvability of the initial value problem (IVP)

$$\begin{aligned}x'' &= f(t, x, x'), \\x(0) &= A, \quad x'(0) = B,\end{aligned}\tag{1.1}$$

where the scalar function $f(t, x, p)$ is defined for $(t, x, p) \in D_t \times D_x \times D_p$, and $D_t, D_x, D_p \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, but there may be sets $X \subseteq D_x$ and $P \subseteq D_p$ such that f is unbounded as $t \rightarrow 0$ and $(x, p) \in X \times P$.

The solvability of various nonsingular and singular second order IVPs has been studied by Aslanov [3], Agarwal and O'Regan [1, 2], Bobisud and O'Regan [4], Bobisud and Lee [5], Cabada et al. [6, 7, 8], Cid [9], Maagli and Masmoudi [13], Rachůnková and Tomeček [14, 15, 16], Yang [17, 18] and Zhao [19]. Yang [17, 18], for example, established the solvability in $C^1[0, 1]$ and $C[0, 1] \times C^2(0, 1)$ in the case $A = B = 0$. In these works the function $f(t, x, p) \in C((0, 1), (0, \infty)^2)$ is allowed to be singular at $t = 0, t = 1, x = 0$ or $p = 0$ and is such that

$$0 < f(t, x, p) \leq k(t)F(x)G(p) \quad \text{for } (t, x, p) \in (0, 1) \times (0, \infty)^2,$$

where k, F and G are suitable functions.

Here we present sufficient conditions guaranteeing monotone and/or positive solutions to (1.1) in $C^1[0, T] \times C^2(0, T]$. They are established by adapting ideas from Kelevedjiev and Popivanov [10] and Kelevedjiev et al. [11] (see also Kelevedjiev [12]), where (1.1) may be singular at $x = A$ and/or $p = B$. The results in these works rely on a combination of a barrier type condition with the assumption that there is a constant $k < 0$ such that

$$f(t, x, p) \leq k\tag{1.2}$$

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on a suitable bounded subset of the domain of f . It turned out, however, that (1.2) is not necessary when (1.1) is singular only at $t = 0$, that is why we pay a special attention to this case.

In our considerations we use two results from [11] for the nonsingular problem

$$\begin{aligned} x'' &= f(t, x, x'), \\ x(a) &= A, \quad x'(a) = B, \end{aligned} \tag{1.3}$$

where $f : D_t \times D_x \times D_p \rightarrow R$, $D_t, D_x, D_p \subseteq R$. They are based on the assumption

(A1) There are constants $T > a$, $m_1, \bar{m}_1, M_1, \bar{M}_1$ and a sufficiently small $\tau > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{M}_1 - \tau &\geq M_1 \geq B \geq m_1 \geq \bar{m}_1 + \tau, \\ [a, T] &\subseteq D_t, [m_0 - \tau, M_0 + \tau] \subseteq D_x, \quad [\bar{m}_1, \bar{M}_1] \subseteq D_p, \\ \text{where } M_0 &= \max\{|m_1|, |M_1|\}(T - a) + |A|, \text{ and } m_0 = -M_0, \\ f(t, x, p) &\in C([a, T] \times [m_0 - \tau, M_0 + \tau] \times [m_1 - \tau, M_1 + \tau]), \\ f(t, x, p) &\leq 0 \quad \text{for } (t, x, p) \in [a, T] \times D_x \times [M_1, \bar{M}_1], \\ f(t, x, p) &\geq 0 \quad \text{for } (t, x, p) \in [a, T] \times D_{M_0} \times [\bar{m}_1, m_1], \\ \text{where } D_{M_0} &= D_x \cap (-\infty, M_0]. \end{aligned}$$

So, we need the following result.

Lemma 1.1 ([11]). *Let (A1) hold and $x \in C^2[a, T]$ be a solution to (1.3). Then*

$$m_0 \leq x(t) \leq M_0, \quad m_1 \leq x'(t) \leq M_1, \quad m_2 \leq x''(t) \leq M_2 \quad \text{for } t \in [a, T],$$

where $m_2 = \min f(t, x, p)$ and $M_2 = \max f(t, x, p)$ for $(t, x, p) \in [a, T] \times [m_0, M_0] \times [m_1, M_1]$.

This lemma was used in the proof of the following theorem.

Theorem 1.2 ([11]). *Let (A1) hold. Then nonsingular IVP (1.3) has at least one solution in $C^2[a, T]$.*

2. EXISTENCE RESULTS

Returning our attention to singular problem (1.1), we assume that

(A2) There are constants $T > 0$, $m_1, \bar{m}_1, M_1, \bar{M}_1$ and a sufficiently small $\tau > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{M}_1 - \tau &\geq M_1 \geq B \geq m_1 \geq \bar{m}_1 + \tau, \\ (0, T] &\subseteq D_t, [\tilde{m}_0 - \tau, \tilde{M}_0 + \tau] \subseteq D_x, \quad [\bar{m}_1, \bar{M}_1] \subseteq D_p, \\ \text{where } \tilde{M}_0 &= \max\{|m_1|, |M_1|\}T + |A|, \text{ and } \tilde{m}_0 = -\tilde{M}_0, \\ f(t, x, p) &\in C((0, T] \times [\tilde{m}_0 - \tau, \tilde{M}_0 + \tau] \times [m_1 - \tau, M_1 + \tau]), \\ f(t, x, p) &\leq 0 \quad \text{for } (t, x, p) \in (0, T] \times D_x \times [M_1, \bar{M}_1], \\ f(t, x, p) &\geq 0 \quad \text{for } (t, x, p) \in (0, T] \times D_{\tilde{M}_0} \times [\bar{m}_1, m_1], \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

$$\text{where } D_{\tilde{M}_0} = D_x \cap (-\infty, \tilde{M}_0].$$

We are now in a position to state our first existence theorem.

Theorem 2.1. *Let (A2) hold. Then (1.1) has at least one solution in $C^1[0, T] \cap C^2(0, T]$ such that*

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 t + A &\leq x(t) \leq M_1 t + A \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T], \\ m_1 &\leq x'(t) \leq M_1 \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We will do the proof in several steps considering the family of nonsingular problems

$$\begin{aligned} x'' &= f(t, x, x'), \\ x(n^{-1}) &= A, \quad x'(n^{-1}) = B, \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

where $n \in N_T = \{n \in N : n^{-1} < T\}$.

Step 1 Construction of a sequence $\{x_n\}$ of $C^2[n^{-1}, T]$ -solutions to (2.2). It is not hard to check that each problem of (2.2) satisfies (A1) for $a = n^{-1}$, $M_0 = \max\{|m_1|, |M_1|\}(T - n^{-1}) + |A| < \tilde{M}_0$, and $m_0 = -M_0$. Thus, according to Theorem 1.2, (2.2) has a solution

$$x_n \in C^2[n^{-1}, T] \quad \text{for each } n \in N_T.$$

In addition, for each $n \in N_T$ Lemma 1.1 guarantees the bounds

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{m}_0 < m_0 \leq x_n(t) \leq M_0 < \tilde{M}_0 \quad \text{for } t \in [n^{-1}, T], \\ m_1 \leq x'_n(t) \leq M_1 \quad \text{for } t \in [n^{-1}, T]. \end{aligned}$$

Step 2 Construction of a $C^2(0, T]$ -solution to the differential equation. Now, we introduce a numerical sequence $\{\theta_i\}$, $i \in N$, having the properties

$$\theta_i \in (0, T), \quad \theta_{i+1} < \theta_i \quad \text{for } i \in N \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \theta_i = 0,$$

and consider the sequence $\{x_n\}$ of $C^2[n^{-1}, T]$ -solutions of family (2.2) only for $n \in N_1 = \{n \in N_T : n^{-1} < \theta_1\}$. Clearly, the bounds

$$\tilde{m}_0 < x_n(t) < \tilde{M}_0 \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_1, T], \tag{2.3}$$

$$m_1 \leq x'_n(t) \leq M_1 \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_1, T], \tag{2.4}$$

independent of $n \in N_1$. In view of (2.1), $f(t, x, p)$ is continuous on the set $[\theta_1, T] \times [\tilde{m}_0, \tilde{M}_0] \times [m_1, M_1]$ and so there is a constant $M_{1,2}$, independent on n , such that

$$|x''_n(t)| \leq M_{1,2} \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_1, T].$$

The obtained bounds for $x_n(t)$, $x'_n(t)$ and $x''_n(t)$ on the interval $[\theta_1, T]$ allows us to apply the Arzela-Ascoli theorem on the sequence $\{x_n\}$ to conclude that there are a subsequence $\{x_{1,n_k}\}$, $k \in N$, $n_k \in N_1$, and a function $x_{\theta_1} \in C^2[\theta_1, T]$ such that

$$\|x_{1,n_k} - x_{\theta_1}\|_1 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{on } t \in [\theta_1, T];$$

that is, the sequences $\{x_{1,n_k}\}$ and $\{x'_{1,n_k}\}$ converge uniformly on $[\theta_1, T]$ to x_{θ_1} and x'_{θ_1} , respectively. Since (2.3) and (2.4) are valid in particular for the elements of $\{x_{1,n_k}\}$ and $\{x'_{1,n_k}\}$, letting $k \rightarrow \infty$, we obtain

$$\tilde{m}_0 \leq x_{\theta_1}(t) \leq \tilde{M}_0 \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_1, T], \tag{2.5}$$

$$m_1 \leq x'_{\theta_1}(t) \leq M_1 \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_1, T]. \tag{2.6}$$

On the other hand, on using that the functions $x_{1,n_k}(t), n_k \in N_1$, are solutions of the differential equation (2.2), we have

$$x'_{1,n_k}(t) = x'_{1,n_k}(\theta_1) + \int_{\theta_1}^t f(s, x_{1,n_k}(s), x'_{1,n_k}(s)) ds, \quad t \in (\theta_1, T].$$

Next, we need to show that the sequence $\{f(s, x_{1,n_k}(s), x'_{1,n_k}(s))\}, n_k \in N_1$, converges uniformly on the interval $[\theta_1, T]$. To this aim we observe at first that since $f(t, x, p)$ is uniformly continuous on the compact set $[\theta_1, T] \times [\tilde{m}_0, \tilde{M}_0] \times [m_1, M_1]$, for each $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a $\delta > 0$ such that

$$|f(t_0, x_0, p_0) - f(t_1, x_1, p_1)| < \varepsilon \quad (2.7)$$

if $(t_0, x_0, p_0), (t_1, x_1, p_1) \in [\theta_1, T] \times [\tilde{m}_0, \tilde{M}_0] \times [m_1, M_1]$ and

$$\sqrt{(t_0 - t_1)^2 + (x_0 - x_1)^2 + (p_0 - p_1)^2} < \delta.$$

Now, from the uniform convergence of $\{x_{1,n_k}\}$ and $\{x'_{1,n_k}\}$ on $[\theta_1, T]$ it follows that there is a $N_{\delta(\varepsilon)}$ with the properties

$$|x_{1,n_k} - x_{\theta_1}| < \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \text{and} \quad |x'_{1,n_k} - x'_{\theta_1}| < \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_1, T]$$

and each $n_k > N_{\delta(\varepsilon)}$. As a result, for $t \in [\theta_1, T]$ we obtain

$$\sqrt{(t - \theta_1)^2 + (x_{1,n_k} - x_{\theta_1})^2 + (x'_{1,n_k} - x'_{\theta_1})^2} < \delta. \quad (2.8)$$

Finally, for $t \in [\theta_1, T]$ and $n_k > N_{\delta(\varepsilon)}$ from (2.3)-(2.6) we obtain

$$(t, x_{1,n_k}(t), x'_{1,n_k}(t)), (t, x_{\theta_1}(t), x'_{\theta_1}(t)) \in [\theta_1, T] \times [\tilde{m}_0, \tilde{M}_0] \times [m_1, M_1]. \quad (2.9)$$

On combining (2.8) and (2.9) with (2.7), we establish that for an arbitrary $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $N_{\delta(\varepsilon)}$ such that for $n_k > N_{\delta(\varepsilon)}$ we have

$$|f(s, x_{1,n_k}(s), x'_{1,n_k}(s)) - f(s, x_{\theta_1}(s), x'_{\theta_1}(s))| < \varepsilon \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_1, T],$$

i.e. the sequence $\{f(s, x_{1,n_k}(s), x'_{1,n_k}(s))\}, n_k \in N_1$, converges uniformly on the interval $[\theta_1, T]$ to $f(s, x_{\theta_1}(s), x'_{\theta_1}(s))$. Then, returning to the integral equation and letting $k \rightarrow \infty$ yield

$$x'_{\theta_1}(t) = x'_{\theta_1}(\theta_1) + \int_{\theta_1}^t f(s, x_{\theta_1}(s), x'_{\theta_1}(s)) ds, \quad t \in (\theta_1, T],$$

from where it follows that $x_{\theta_1}(t)$ is a $C^2[\theta_1, T]$ -solution to the differential equation $x'' = f(t, x, x')$ on $[\theta_1, T]$.

Further, we consider the sequence $\{x_{1,n_k}\}$ on the new interval $[\theta_2, T]$ and for $n_k \in N_2 = \{n_k \in N_T, k \in N : n_k^{-1} < \theta_2\}$. Obviously, for $n_k \in N_2$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{m}_0 &\leq x_{1,n_k}(t) \leq \tilde{M}_0 & \text{for } t \in [\theta_2, T], \\ m_1 &\leq x'_{1,n_k}(t) \leq M_1 & \text{for } t \in [\theta_2, T]. \end{aligned}$$

Besides, there is a constant $M_{2,2}$, independent on n_k , such that

$$|x''_{1,n_k}(t)| \leq M_{2,2} \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_2, T].$$

Having obtained bounds, we apply the Arzela-Ascoli theorem on the sequence $\{x_{1,n_k}\}$ to conclude that there exist a subsequence $\{x_{2,n_k}\}, k \in N, n_k \in N_2$, and a function $x_{\theta_2} \in C^2[\theta_2, T]$ such that

$$\|x_{2,n_k} - x_{\theta_2}\|_1 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{on the new interval } [\theta_2, T].$$

As above we establish also that $x_{\theta_2}(t)$ is a $C^2[\theta_2, T]$ -solution to the differential equation $x'' = f(t, x, x')$ on $[\theta_2, T]$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{m}_0 &\leq x_{\theta_2}(t) \leq \tilde{M}_0 & \text{for } t \in [\theta_2, T], \\ m_1 &\leq x'_{\theta_2}(t) \leq M_1 & \text{for } t \in [\theta_2, T]. \end{aligned}$$

In addition, since $\{x_{2, n_k}\}$ is a subsequence of $\{x_{1, n_k}\}$, then $\{x_{2, n_k}\}$ converges uniformly to x_{θ_1} on the interval $[\theta_1, T]$ which means

$$x_{\theta_2}(t) \equiv x_{\theta_1}(t) \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_1, T].$$

Applying the same procedure repeatedly for $\theta_i \rightarrow 0$, we establish that for each $i \in N$ there exists a function $x_{\theta_i}(t)$ which is a $C^2[\theta_i, T]$ -solution to the equation $x'' = f(t, x, x')$ on the interval $[\theta_i, T]$,

$$\|x_{i, n_k} - x_{\theta_i}\|_1 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{on the interval } [\theta_i, T] \quad (2.10)$$

as $k \rightarrow \infty$ and $n_k \in N_i = \{n_k \in N_T, k \in N : n_k^{-1} < \theta_i\}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{m}_0 &\leq x_{\theta_i}(t) \leq \tilde{M}_0 & \text{for } t \in [\theta_i, T], \\ m_1 &\leq x'_{\theta_i}(t) \leq M_1 & \text{for } t \in [\theta_i, T], \\ x_{\theta_{i+1}}(t) &\equiv x_{\theta_i}(t) & \text{for } t \in [\theta_i, T]. \end{aligned}$$

Thanks to the properties of the functions of $\{x_{\theta_i}\}$, we conclude that there is some function $x_0(t)$ which is a $C^2(0, T]$ -solution to the equation $x'' = f(t, x, x')$ on the interval $(0, T]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{m}_0 &\leq x_0(t) \leq \tilde{M}_0 & \text{for } t \in (0, T], \\ m_1 &\leq x'_0(t) \leq M_1 & \text{for } t \in (0, T], \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

$$x_0(t) \equiv x_{\theta_i}(t) \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_i, T]. \quad (2.12)$$

Step 3 Construction of a $C^1[0, T] \cap C^2(0, T]$ -solution to (1.1). To define a $C[0, T]$ -solution to (1.1) we need to show that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} x_0(t) = A. \quad (2.13)$$

To this aim, we assume firstly on the contrary that for some $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $(0, \delta) \subset [0, T]$ and

$$x_0(t) \notin (A - \varepsilon, A + \varepsilon) \quad \text{for } t \in (0, \delta). \quad (2.14)$$

Returning our attention to the sequence $\{x_n\}$, from $x_n \in C[0, T]$ and $x_n(n^{-1}) = A$ deduce that there is a number n_δ such that for each $n \geq n_\delta, n \in N$, there exists a sufficiently small $\delta_n > n^{-1}$ with the properties $(n^{-1}, \delta_n) \subset (0, \delta)$ and

$$x_n(t) \in (A - \varepsilon/2, A + \varepsilon/2) \quad \text{for } t \in (n^{-1}, \delta_n).$$

On the other hand, there exists a number n^* such that for each $n \geq n^*, n \in N$, there exists some $i^* \in N$ for which

$$[\theta_{i^*}, \theta_{i^*-1}] \subset (n^{-1}, \delta_n) \subset (0, \delta);$$

the assumption that the interval $[\theta_{i^*}, \theta_{i^*-1}]$ does not exist contradicts to the fact that $t = 0$ is an accumulation point of the sequence $\{\theta_i\}$. As a result, for each $n \geq \max\{n_\delta, n^*\}$ there exists $i^* \in N$ such that

$$A - \varepsilon/2 < x_n(t) < A + \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_{i^*}, \theta_{i^*-1}] \subset (0, \delta). \quad (2.15)$$

It is easy to see, for every i^* there is a number n_{i^*} such that (2.15) holds for each $n_k \in N_{i^*}, k \in N$, with $n_k \geq \max\{n_{i^*}, n_\delta, n^*\}$, that is,

$$A - \varepsilon/2 < x_{i^*, n_k}(t) < A + \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_{i^*}, \theta_{i^*-1}] \subset (0, \delta). \quad (2.16)$$

Further, from (2.10) and (2.12) for each $i \in N$ we obtain

$$\|x_{i, n_k} - x_0\|_1 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{on } [\theta_i, T] \text{ when } k \rightarrow \infty \text{ and } n_k \in N_i, \quad (2.17)$$

which means that for each $i \in N$ there is a number \bar{n}_i such that for each $n_k \in N_i$ with $n_k \geq \bar{n}_i$ we have

$$-\varepsilon/2 < x_{i, n_k}(t) - x_0(t) < \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_i, T]$$

or

$$x_{i, n_k}(t) - \varepsilon/2 < x_0(t) < x_{i, n_k}(t) + \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_i, T].$$

In particular, for each $n_k \in N_{i^*}$ with $n_k \geq \max\{n_{i^*}, \bar{n}_{i^*}, n_\delta, n^*\}$, $k \in N$, we obtain

$$x_{i^*, n_k}(t) - \varepsilon/2 < x_0(t) < x_{i^*, n_k}(t) + \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_{i^*}, T].$$

This combined with (2.16) yields

$$A - \varepsilon < x_0(t) < A + \varepsilon \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_{i^*}, \theta_{i^*-1}] \subset (0, \delta),$$

which contradicts to (2.15) and so (2.13) holds.

By exactly the same reasoning applied on the sequence $\{x'_n\}$ we establish

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} x'_0(t) = B.$$

Moreover, now we use that for each $i \in N$ and sufficiently large $n_k \in N_i, k \in N$, (2.17) yields

$$-\varepsilon/2 < x'_{i, n_k}(t) - x'_0(t) < \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{for } t \in [\theta_i, T].$$

Next, introduce the function

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} A & \text{for } t = 0, \\ x_0(t) & \text{for } t \in (0, T]. \end{cases}$$

Clearly, $x'(t) = x'_0(t)$ for $t \in (0, T]$. Besides,

$$x'(0) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x(t) - x(0)}{t - 0} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} x'(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} x'_0(t) = B.$$

Thus, $x' \in C[0, T]$ and so $x(t)$ is a $C^1[0, T] \cap C^2(0, T]$ -solution to (1.1).

The inequalities (2.11) give immediately

$$m_1 \leq x'(t) \leq M_1 \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T],$$

from where by integration from 0 to $t \in (0, T]$ we obtain the bounds for $x(t)$. \square

As an elementary consequence of Theorem 2.1 we obtain results guaranteeing important properties of the solutions.

Theorem 2.2. *Let $B \geq 0$ and let (A2) hold for $m_1 = 0$. Then problem (1.1) has at least one nondecreasing solution in $C^1[0, T] \cap C^2(0, T]$.*

Theorem 2.3. *Let $B > 0$ and let (A2) hold for $m_1 > 0$. Then problem (1.1) has at least one strictly increasing solution in $C^1[0, T] \cap C^2(0, T]$.*

Theorem 2.4. *Let $A > 0$ ($A = 0$), $B \geq 0$ and let (A2) hold for $m_1 = 0$. Then problem (1.1) has at least one positive (nonnegative) nondecreasing solution in $C^1[0, T] \cap C^2(0, T]$.*

Theorem 2.5. *Let $A \geq 0, B > 0$ and let (A2) hold for $m_1 > 0$. Then problem (1.1) has at least one strictly increasing solution in $C^1[0, T] \cap C^2(0, T]$ having positive values for $t \in (0, T]$.*

3. EXAMPLE

Consider the IVP

$$\begin{aligned}x'' &= t^{-\frac{m}{n}} P_k(x'), \\x(0) &= A, \quad x'(0) = B,\end{aligned}$$

where $A \geq 0, B > 0, m, n \in N$, and the polynomial $P_k(p), k \geq 2$, has simple zeros p_1 and p_2 such that $P'_k(p_1) < 0$ and $0 < p_1 < B < p_2$.

Let $\theta > 0$ be so small that $p_1 - \theta > 0, p_1 + \theta < B < p_2 - \theta$ and

$$P_k(p) \neq 0 \quad \text{for } p \in [p_1 - \theta, p_1) \cup (p_1, p_1 + \theta) \cup [p_2 - \theta, p_2) \cup (p_2, p_2 + \theta].$$

Then $P'_k(p_1) < 0$ implies

$$P_k(p) > 0 \quad \text{for } p \in [p_1 - \theta, p_1) \quad \text{and} \quad P_k(p) < 0 \quad \text{for } p \in (p_1, p_1 + \theta].$$

Besides, we see easily that if

$$P_k(p) < 0 \quad \text{for } p \in [p_2 - \theta, p_2),$$

then (A2) holds for an arbitrary $T > 0$,

$$\bar{m}_1 = p_1 - \theta, \quad m_1 = p_1, \quad M_1 = p_2 - \theta, \quad \bar{M}_1 = p_2, \quad \tau = \theta/2,$$

moreover $\tilde{M}_0 = (p_2 - \theta)T + A$, and if

$$P_k(p) < 0 \quad \text{for } p \in (p_2, p_2 + \theta],$$

it is satisfied for an arbitrary $T > 0$,

$$\bar{m}_1 = p_1 - \theta, \quad m_1 = p_1, \quad M_1 = p_2, \quad \bar{M}_1 = p_2 + \theta, \quad \tau = \theta/2,$$

moreover $\tilde{M}_0 = p_2T + A$. So, it follows from Theorem 2.5 that for each $T > 0$ the considered problem has a strictly increasing solution in $C^1[0, T] \cap C^2(0, T]$ which is positive on $(0, T]$.

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