

Research Article

The Monotone Iterative Technique for Three-Point Second-Order Integrodifferential Boundary Value Problems with p -Laplacian

Bashir Ahmad and Juan J. Nieto

Received 18 December 2006; Revised 1 February 2007; Accepted 23 April 2007

Recommended by Donal O'Regan

A monotone iterative technique is applied to prove the existence of the extremal positive pseudosymmetric solutions for a three-point second-order p -Laplacian integrodifferential boundary value problem.

Copyright © 2007 B. Ahmad and J. J. Nieto. 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.

1. Introduction

Investigation of positive solutions of multipoint second-order ordinary boundary value problems, initiated by Il'in and Moiseev [1, 2], has been extensively addressed by many authors, for instance, see [3–6]. Multipoint problems refer to a different family of boundary conditions in the study of disconjugacy theory [7]. Recently, Eloe and Ahmad [8] addressed a nonlinear n th-order BVP with nonlocal conditions. Also, there has been a considerable attention on p -Laplacian BVPs [9–18] as p -Laplacian appears in the study of flow through porous media ($p = 3/2$), nonlinear elasticity ($p \geq 2$), glaciology ($1 \leq p \leq 4/3$), and so forth.

In this paper, we develop a monotone iterative technique to prove the existence of extremal positive pseudosymmetric solutions for the following three-point second-order p -Laplacian integrodifferential boundary value problem (BVP):

$$\begin{aligned} (\psi_p(x'(t)))' + a(t) \left\{ f(t, x(t)) + \int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} K(t, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} &= 0, \quad t \in (0, 1), \\ x(0) = 0, \quad x(\eta) = x(1), \quad 0 < \eta < 1, \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

where $p > 1$, $\psi_p(s) = s|s|^{p-2}$. Let ψ_q be the inverse of ψ_p .

2 Boundary Value Problems

In passing, we note that the monotone iterative technique developed in this paper is an application of Amann's method [19] and the first term of the iterative scheme may be taken to be a constant function or a simple function. The details of the monotone iterative method can be found in [20–27] and for the abstract monotone iterative method, see [28, 29]. To the best of the authors' knowledge, this is the first paper dealing with the integrodifferential equations in the present configuration. In fact, this work is motivated by [11, 17, 18]. The importance of the work lies in the fact that integrodifferential equations are encountered in many areas of science where it is necessary to take into account aftereffect or delay. Especially, models possessing hereditary properties are described by integrodifferential equations in practice. Also, the governing equations in the problems of biological sciences such as spreading of disease by the dispersal of infectious individuals, the reaction-diffusion models in ecology to estimate the speed of invasion, and so forth are integrodifferential equations.

2. Terminology and preliminaries

Let $E = C[0, 1]$ be the Banach space equipped with norm $\|x\| = \max_{0 \leq t \leq 1} |x(t)|$ and let P be a cone in E defined by $P = \{x \in E : x \text{ is nonnegative, concave on } [0, 1], \text{ and pseudosymmetric about } (1 + \eta)/2 \text{ on } [0, 1]\}$.

Definition 2.1. A functional $\gamma \in E$ is said to be concave on $[0, 1]$ if $\gamma(tu + (1 - t)v) \geq t\gamma(u) + (1 - t)\gamma(v)$, for all $u, v \in [0, 1]$ and $t \in [0, 1]$.

Definition 2.2. A function $x \in E$ is said to be pseudosymmetric about $(1 + \eta)/2$ on $[0, 1]$ if x is symmetric over the interval $[\eta, 1]$, that is, $x(t) = x(1 - (t - \eta))$ for $t \in [\eta, 1]$.

Throughout the paper, it is assumed that

- (A₁) $f : [0, 1] \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is continuous nondecreasing in x , and for any fixed $x \in [0, \infty)$, $f(t, x)$ is pseudosymmetric in t about $(1 + \eta)/2$ on $(0, 1)$;
- (A₂) $K : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is continuous nondecreasing in x , and for any fixed $(\zeta, x) \in [0, 1] \times [0, \infty)$, $K(t, \zeta, x)$ is pseudosymmetric in t about $(1 + \eta)/2$ on $(0, 1)$;
- (A₃) $a(t) \in L(0, 1)$ is nonnegative on $(0, 1)$ and pseudosymmetric in t about $(1 + \eta)/2$ on $(0, 1)$. Further, $a(t)$ is not identically zero on any nontrivial compact subinterval of $(0, 1)$.

LEMMA 2.3. Any $x \in P$ satisfies the following properties:

- (i) $x(t) \geq 2(1 + \eta)^{-1} \|x\| \min\{t, (1 - (t - \eta))\}$, $t \in [0, 1]$;
- (ii) $x(t) \geq 2\eta(1 + \eta)^{-1} \|x\|$, $t \in [\eta, (1 + \eta)/2]$;
- (iii) $\|x\| = x((1 + \eta)/2)$.

Proof. (i) For any $x \in P$, we define

$$x_\eta = \begin{cases} x(t), & t \in [0, 1], \\ x(1 - (t - \eta)), & t \in [1, 1 + \eta], \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

and note that x_η is nonnegative, concave, and symmetric on $[0, 1 + \eta]$ with $\|x_\eta\| = \|x\|$. From the concavity and symmetry of x_η , it follows that

$$x_\eta \geq \begin{cases} 2(1 + \eta)^{-1} \|x_\eta\| t, & t \in \left[0, \frac{1 + \eta}{2}\right], \\ 2(1 + \eta)^{-1} \|x_\eta\| (1 - (t - \eta)), & t \in \left[\frac{1 + \eta}{2}, 1 + \eta\right], \end{cases} \quad (2.2)$$

which, in view of $x_\eta(t) = x(t)$ on $[0, 1]$, yields

$$x(t) \geq 2(1 + \eta)^{-1} \|x\| \min \{t, (1 - (t - \eta))\}, \quad t \in [0, 1]. \quad (2.3)$$

The proof of (ii) is similar to that of (i) while (iii) can be proved using the properties of the cone P . □

Let us define an operator $\Omega : P \rightarrow E$ by

$$(\Omega x)(t) = \begin{cases} \int_0^t \Psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw, & t \in \left[0, \frac{1 + \eta}{2}\right], \\ \int_0^\eta \Psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\ + \int_t^1 \Psi_q \left[\int_{(1+\eta)/2}^w a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_{(1+\eta)/2}^v K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw, & t \in \left[\frac{1 + \eta}{2}, 1\right]. \end{cases} \quad (2.4)$$

Obviously, $(\Omega x) \in E$ is well defined and x is a solution of problem (1.1) if and only if $\Omega x = x$. Now, we prove the following lemma which plays a pivotal role to prove the main result.

LEMMA 2.4. *Assume that (A_1) , (A_2) , and (A_3) hold. Then $\Omega : P \rightarrow P$ is continuous, compact, and nondecreasing.*

Proof. The nondecreasing nature of Ω follows from the fact that f and K are nondecreasing in x and that a is nonnegative. Now, for any $x \in P$, let $y = \Omega x$. Then

$$y'(t) = \Psi_q \left[\int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right], \quad (2.5)$$

$$(\Psi_p((y'(t))))' = -a(t) \left\{ f(t, x(t)) + \int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} K(t, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} \leq 0, \quad (2.6)$$

that is, $y = \Omega x$ is concave. To show that Ω is compact, we take a set $A \subset P$. For $x \in A$, let $y = \Omega x$, which is bounded in E as the nonlinear functions f and K are continuous.

4 Boundary Value Problems

The expression for $(\Omega x)'$ is given by (2.5). If A is bounded, then the set $\{(\Omega x)' : x \in A\}$ is bounded, and hence ΩA is equicontinuous. By the Arzela-Ascoli theorem, ΩA is relatively compact. Now, we show that (Ωx) is pseudosymmetric about $(1 + \eta)/2$ on $[0, 1]$. For that, we note that $(1 - (t - \eta)) \in [(1 + \eta)/2, 1]$ for all $t \in [\eta, (1 + \eta)/2]$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\Omega x)(1 - (t - \eta)) \\
 &= \int_0^\eta \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 & \quad + \int_{1-(t-\eta)}^1 \psi_q \left[\int_{(1+\eta)/2}^w a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_{(1+\eta)/2}^v K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 &= \int_0^\eta \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 & \quad - \int_t^\eta \psi_q \left[\int_{(1+\eta)/2}^{1-(w-\eta)} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_{(1+\eta)/2}^v K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 &= \int_0^\eta \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 & \quad + \int_\eta^t \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_{(1+\eta)/2}^{1-(v-\eta)} K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 &= \int_0^\eta \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_{(1+\eta)/2}^v K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 & \quad + \int_\eta^t \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 &= \int_0^t \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, x(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw = (\Omega x)(t).
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

Next, we show that (Ωx) is nonnegative. By the symmetry of (Ωx) on $[(1 + \eta)/2, 1]$, it follows that $(\Omega x)'((1 + \eta)/2) = 0$. The concavity of (Ωx) implies that $(\Omega x)'(t) \geq 0$, $t \in [0, (1 + \eta)/2]$. Therefore, $(\Omega x)(1) = (\Omega x)(\eta) \geq (\Omega x)(0) = 0$. Consequently, we have $(\Omega x)(t) \geq 0$ as (Ωx) is concave. Hence we conclude that $\Omega P \subseteq P$. \square

3. Main result

THEOREM 3.1. *Assume that (A_1) , (A_2) , and (A_3) hold. Further, there exist positive numbers θ_1 and θ_2 such that $\theta_2 < \theta_1$ and*

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} \left\{ f(t, \theta_1) + \int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} K(t, \zeta, \theta_1) d\zeta \right\} \leq \psi_p(\theta_1 \Theta_1), \\
 & \inf_{\eta \leq t \leq (1+\eta)/2} \left\{ f(t, 2\eta(1 + \eta)^{-1}\theta_2) + \int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} K(t, \zeta, 2\eta(1 + \eta)^{-1}\theta_2) d\zeta \right\} \geq \psi_p(\theta_2 \Theta_2),
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

where

$$\Theta_1 = \frac{1}{\int_0^{(1+\eta)/2} \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) dv \right] dw}, \quad \Theta_2 = \frac{1}{\int_\eta^{(1+\eta)/2} \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) dv \right] dw}. \quad (3.2)$$

Then there exist extremal positive, concave, and pseudosymmetric solutions α^*, β^* of (1.1) with $\theta_2 \leq \|\alpha^*\| \leq \theta_1$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Omega^n \alpha_0 = \alpha^*$, where $\alpha_0(t) = \theta_1$, $t \in [0, 1]$, and $\theta_2 \leq \|\beta^*\| \leq \theta_1$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \beta_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Omega^n \beta_0 = \beta^*$, where $\beta_0(t) = 2\theta_2(1 + \eta)^{-1} \min\{t, (1 - (\eta - t))\}$, $t \in [0, 1]$.

Proof. We define

$$P[\theta_2, \theta_1] = \{\alpha \in P : \theta_2 \leq \|\alpha\| \leq \theta_1\}, \quad (3.3)$$

and show that $\Omega P[\theta_2, \theta_1] \subseteq P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$. Let $\alpha \in P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$, then

$$0 \leq \alpha(t) \leq \max_{0 \leq s \leq 1} \alpha(s) = \|\alpha\| \leq \theta_1. \quad (3.4)$$

By Lemma 2.3(ii), we have

$$\min_{\eta \leq t \leq (1+\eta)/2} \alpha(t) \geq 2\eta(1 + \eta)^{-1} \|\alpha\| \geq 2\eta(1 + \eta)^{-1} \theta_2. \quad (3.5)$$

Now, by assumptions (A₁) and (A₂), and (3.1), for $t \in [\eta, (1 + \eta)/2]$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq f(t, \alpha(t)) + \int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} K(t, \zeta, \alpha(\zeta)) d\zeta \leq f(t, \theta_1) + \int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} K(t, \zeta, \theta_1) d\zeta \\ &\leq \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} \left\{ f(t, \theta_1) + \int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} K(t, \zeta, \theta_1) d\zeta \right\} \leq \psi_p(\theta_1 \Theta_1), \\ f(t, \alpha(t)) &+ \int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} K(t, \zeta, \alpha(\zeta)) d\zeta \\ &\geq f(t, 2\eta(1 + \eta)^{-1} \theta_2) + \int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} K(t, \zeta, 2\eta(1 + \eta)^{-1} \theta_2) d\zeta \\ &\geq \inf_{\eta \leq t \leq (1+\eta)/2} \left\{ f(t, 2\eta(1 + \eta)^{-1} \theta_2) + \int_t^{(1+\eta)/2} K(t, \zeta, 2\eta(1 + \eta)^{-1} \theta_2) d\zeta \right\} \geq \psi_p(\theta_2 \Theta_2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

By Lemma 2.4, $(\Omega\alpha) \in P$. Therefore, by Lemma 2.3(iii), $\|(\Omega\alpha)\| = (\Omega\alpha)((1 + \eta)/2)$. Note that θ_j and Θ_j are constants and $\psi_q(\psi_p(\theta_j \Theta_j)) = \theta_j \Theta_j$, $j = 1, 2$. Now, we use (3.2)–(3.6)

6 Boundary Value Problems

to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|(\Omega\alpha)\| &= (\Omega\alpha)\left(\frac{1+\eta}{2}\right) \\
 &= \int_0^{(1+\eta)/2} \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, \alpha(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, \alpha(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 &\geq \int_\eta^{(1+\eta)/2} \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, \alpha(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, \alpha(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 &\geq \int_\eta^{(1+\eta)/2} \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \psi_p(\theta_2 \Theta_2) dv \right] dw \\
 &= \int_\eta^{(1+\eta)/2} \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) dv \right] dw \psi_q[\psi_p(\theta_2 \Theta_2)] \\
 &= \int_\eta^{(1+\eta)/2} \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) dv \right] dw (\theta_2 \Theta_2) = \theta_2,
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

where we have used the fact that $\psi_q(s_1 s_2) = \psi_q(s_1) \psi_q(s_2)$ as $\psi_q(s) = s^{1/(p-1)}$ for $s > 0$. Similarly, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|(\Omega\alpha)\| &= (\Omega\alpha)\left(\frac{1+\eta}{2}\right) \\
 &= \int_0^{(1+\eta)/2} \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \left\{ f(v, \alpha(v)) + \int_v^{(1+\eta)/2} K(v, \zeta, \alpha(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} dv \right] dw \\
 &\leq \int_0^{(1+\eta)/2} \psi_q \left[\int_w^{(1+\eta)/2} a(v) \psi_p(\theta_1 \Theta_1) dv \right] dw = \theta_1.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.8}$$

Thus, it follows that $\theta_2 \leq \|(\Omega\alpha)\| \leq \theta_1$ for $\alpha \in P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$. Hence, $\Omega P[\theta_2, \theta_1] \subseteq P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$.

Now, we set $\alpha_0(t) = \theta_1$ ($\in P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$), $t \in [0, 1]$, and $\alpha_1 = \Omega\alpha_0$ ($\in P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$). We denote

$$\alpha_{n+1} = \Omega\alpha_n = \Omega^{n+1}\alpha_0, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \tag{3.9}$$

In view of the fact that $\Omega P[\theta_2, \theta_1] \subseteq P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$, it follows that $\alpha_n \in P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$ for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Since Ω is compact by Lemma 2.4, therefore, we assert that the sequence $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ has a convergent subsequence $\{\alpha_{n_k}\}_{k=1}^\infty$ such that $\alpha_{n_k} \rightarrow \alpha^*$.

Since $\alpha_1 \in P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$, therefore, $0 \leq \alpha_1(t) \leq \|\alpha_1\| \leq \theta_1 = \alpha_0(t)$, $t \in [0, 1]$. Applying the nondecreasing property of Ω , we have $\Omega\alpha_1 \leq \Omega\alpha_0$, which implies that $\alpha_2 \leq \alpha_1$. Hence by induction, we obtain $\alpha_{n+1} \leq \alpha_n$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Thus, $\alpha_n \rightarrow \alpha^*$. Taking the limit $n \rightarrow \infty$ in (3.9) yields $\Omega\alpha^* = \alpha^*$. Since $\|\alpha^*\| \geq \theta_2 > 0$ and α^* is a nonnegative concave function on $[0, 1]$, we conclude that $\alpha^*(t) > 0$, $t \in (0, 1)$.

Now, we set $\beta_0(t) = 2\theta_2(1 + \eta)^{-1} \min\{t, (1 - (\eta - t))\}$, $t \in [0, 1]$, and note that $\|\beta_0\| = \theta_2$, $\beta_0 \in P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$. Letting $\beta_1 = \Omega\beta_0$ ($\in P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$), we define

$$\beta_{n+1} = \Omega\beta_n = \Omega^{n+1}\beta_0, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \tag{3.10}$$

By Lemma 2.3(i), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_1(t) &\geq \|\beta_1\|2(1 + \eta)^{-1} \min\{t, (1 - (\eta - t))\} \\ &\geq 2\theta_2(1 + \eta)^{-1} \min\{t, (1 - (\eta - t))\} = \beta_0(t), \quad t \in [0, 1]. \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

Again, using the nondecreasing property of Ω , we get $\Omega\beta_1 \geq \Omega\beta_0$, that is, $\beta_2 \geq \beta_1$. Employing the arguments similar to $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$, it is straightforward to show that $\beta_{n_k} \rightarrow \beta^*$ and $\beta^*(t) > 0$, $t \in (0, 1)$.

Now, utilizing the well-known fact that a fixed point of the operator Ω in P must be a solution of (1.1) in P , it follows from the monotone iterative technique [20] that α^* and β^* are the extremal positive, concave, and pseudosymmetric solutions of (1.1). This completes the proof. \square

Remark 3.2. In case the Lipschitz condition is satisfied by the functions involved, the extremal solutions α^* and β^* obtained in Theorem 3.1 coincide, and then (1.1) would have a unique solution in $P[\theta_2, \theta_1]$.

Example 3.3. Let us consider the boundary value problem

$$\begin{aligned} (|x'|^3 x')'(t) + a(t) \left\{ f(t, x(t)) + \int_t^{2/3} K(t, \zeta, x(\zeta)) d\zeta \right\} &= 0, \quad t \in (0, 1), \\ x(0) = 0, \quad x\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) &= x(1), \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

where $a(t) = t^{-1/2}(4/3 - t)^{-1/2}$, $f(t, x(t)) = (x(t))^3 + \ln[1 + (x(t))^2]$, $K(t, \zeta, x(\zeta)) = x(\zeta) + \ln[1 + (x(\zeta))^3]$. It can easily be verified that $a(t)$ is nonnegative and pseudo-symmetric about $2/3$ on $(0, 1)$, $f(t, x(t))$ and $K(t, \zeta, x(\zeta))$ are continuous and nondecreasing in x . Moreover, we observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\lim}_{u \rightarrow 0} \inf_{t \in [1/3, 2/3]} \frac{f(t, u(t)) + \int_t^{2/3} K(t, \zeta, u(\zeta)) d\zeta}{\psi_5(u)} \\ = \overline{\lim}_{u \rightarrow 0} \inf_{t \in [1/3, 2/3]} \frac{u^3 + \ln[1 + u^2] + \int_t^{2/3} [u + \ln(1 + u^3)] d\zeta}{u^4} = +\infty, \\ \overline{\lim}_{u \rightarrow +\infty} \inf_{t \in [0, 1]} \frac{f(t, u(t)) + \int_t^{2/3} K(t, \zeta, u(\zeta)) d\zeta}{\psi_5(u)} \\ = \overline{\lim}_{u \rightarrow +\infty} \inf_{t \in [0, 1]} \frac{u^3 + \ln[1 + u^2] + \int_t^{2/3} [u + \ln(1 + u^3)] d\zeta}{u^4} = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

Thus, by Theorem 3.1, there exist extremal positive, concave, and pseudosymmetric solutions for the boundary value problem (3.12).

Acknowledgments

The research of the second author was partially supported by Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia and FEDER, Project MTM2004-06652-C03-01, and by Xunta de Galicia and FEDER, Project PGIDIT05PXIC20702PN. The authors are very grateful to the referee for valuable and detailed suggestions and comments to improve the original manuscript.

References

- [1] V. A. Il'in and E. I. Moiseev, "Nonlocal boundary value problem of the first kind for a Sturm-Liouville operator in its differential and finite difference aspects," *Differential Equations*, vol. 23, no. 7, pp. 803–811, 1987.
- [2] V. A. Il'in and E. I. Moiseev, "Nonlocal boundary-value problem of the second kind for a Sturm-Liouville operator," *Differential Equations*, vol. 23, no. 8, pp. 979–987, 1987.
- [3] C. P. Gupta, "Solvability of a three-point nonlinear boundary value problem for a second order ordinary differential equation," *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, vol. 168, no. 2, pp. 540–551, 1992.
- [4] W. C. Lian, F. H. Wong, and C. C. Yeh, "On the existence of positive solutions of nonlinear second order differential equations," *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*, vol. 124, no. 4, pp. 1117–1126, 1996.
- [5] R. Ma, "Positive solutions of a nonlinear three-point boundary-value problem," *Electronic Journal of Differential Equations*, no. 34, pp. 1–8, 1999.
- [6] R. Ma and N. Castaneda, "Existence of solutions of nonlinear m -point boundary-value problems," *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, vol. 256, no. 2, pp. 556–567, 2001.
- [7] W. A. Coppel, *Disconjugacy*, vol. 220 of *Lecture Notes in Mathematics*, Springer, New York, NY, USA, 1971.
- [8] P. W. Eloe and B. Ahmad, "Positive solutions of a nonlinear n th order boundary value problem with nonlocal conditions," *Applied Mathematics Letters*, vol. 18, no. 5, pp. 521–527, 2005.
- [9] J.-Y. Wang and D.-W. Zheng, "On the existence of positive solutions to a three-point boundary value problem for the one-dimensional p -Laplacian," *Zeitschrift für Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik*, vol. 77, no. 6, pp. 477–479, 1997.
- [10] X. He and W. Ge, "A remark on some three-point boundary value problems for the one-dimensional p -Laplacian," *Zeitschrift für Angewandte Mathematik und Mechanik*, vol. 82, no. 10, pp. 728–731, 2002.
- [11] R. Avery and J. Henderson, "Existence of three positive pseudo-symmetric solutions for a one-dimensional p -Laplacian," *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, vol. 277, no. 2, pp. 395–404, 2003.
- [12] Y. Guo and W. Ge, "Three positive solutions for the one-dimensional p -Laplacian," *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, vol. 286, no. 2, pp. 491–508, 2003.
- [13] X. He and W. Ge, "Twin positive solutions for the one-dimensional p -Laplacian boundary value problems," *Nonlinear Analysis*, vol. 56, no. 7, pp. 975–984, 2004.
- [14] J. Li and J. Shen, "Existence of three positive solutions for boundary value problems with p -Laplacian," *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, vol. 311, no. 2, pp. 457–465, 2005.
- [15] Z. Wang and J. Zhang, "Positive solutions for one-dimensional p -Laplacian boundary value problems with dependence on the first order derivative," *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, vol. 314, no. 2, pp. 618–630, 2006.
- [16] Y. Wang and C. Hou, "Existence of multiple positive solutions for one-dimensional p -Laplacian," *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, vol. 315, no. 1, pp. 144–153, 2006.

- [17] D.-X. Ma, Z.-J. Du, and W.-G. Ge, "Existence and iteration of monotone positive solutions for multipoint boundary value problem with p -Laplacian operator," *Computers & Mathematics with Applications*, vol. 50, no. 5-6, pp. 729–739, 2005.
- [18] D.-X. Ma and W. Ge, "Existence and iteration of positive pseudo-symmetric solutions for a three-point second order p -Laplacian BVP," *Applied Mathematics Letters*, 2007.
- [19] H. Amann, "Fixed point equations and nonlinear eigenvalue problems in ordered Banach spaces," *SIAM Review*, vol. 18, no. 4, pp. 620–709, 1976.
- [20] G. S. Ladde, V. Lakshmikantham, and A. S. Vatsala, *Monotone Iterative Techniques for Nonlinear Differential Equations*, vol. 27 of *Monographs, Advanced Texts and Surveys in Pure and Applied Mathematics*, Pitman, Boston, Mass, USA, 1985.
- [21] J. J. Nieto, Y. Jiang, and Y. Jurang, "Monotone iterative method for functional-differential equations," *Nonlinear Analysis*, vol. 32, no. 6, pp. 741–747, 1998.
- [22] A. S. Vatsala and J. Yang, "Monotone iterative technique for semilinear elliptic systems," *Boundary Value Problems*, vol. 2005, no. 2, pp. 93–106, 2005.
- [23] Z. Drici, F. A. McRae, and J. Vasundhara Devi, "Monotone iterative technique for periodic boundary value problems with causal operators," *Nonlinear Analysis*, vol. 64, no. 6, pp. 1271–1277, 2006.
- [24] I. H. West and A. S. Vatsala, "Generalized monotone iterative method for initial value problems," *Applied Mathematics Letters*, vol. 17, no. 11, pp. 1231–1237, 2004.
- [25] D. Jiang, J. J. Nieto, and W. Zuo, "On monotone method for first and second order periodic boundary value problems and periodic solutions of functional differential equations," *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, vol. 289, no. 2, pp. 691–699, 2004.
- [26] J. J. Nieto and R. Rodríguez-López, "Monotone method for first-order functional differential equations," *Computers & Mathematics with Applications*, vol. 52, no. 3-4, pp. 471–484, 2006.
- [27] B. Ahmad and S. Sivasundaram, "The monotone iterative technique for impulsive hybrid set valued integro-differential equations," *Nonlinear Analysis*, vol. 65, no. 12, pp. 2260–2276, 2006.
- [28] J. J. Nieto, "An abstract monotone iterative technique," *Nonlinear Analysis*, vol. 28, no. 12, pp. 1923–1933, 1997.
- [29] E. Liz and J. J. Nieto, "An abstract monotone iterative method and applications," *Dynamic Systems and Applications*, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 365–375, 1998.

Bashir Ahmad: Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, King Abdulaziz University,
P.O. Box 80203, Jeddah 21589, Saudi Arabia
Email address: bmuhammed@kau.edu.sa

Juan J. Nieto: Departamento de Análisis Matemático, Facultad de Matemáticas,
Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, 15782 Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Email address: amnieto@usc.es