

## Existence of symmetric positive solutions for a semipositone problem on time scales

S. Gulsan Topal and Arzu Denk \*

### Abstract

This paper studies the existence of symmetric positive solutions for a second order nonlinear semipositone boundary value problem with integral boundary conditions by applying the Krasnoselskii fixed point theorem. Emphasis is put on the fact that the nonlinear term  $f$  may take negative value. An example is presented to demonstrate the application of our main result.

**Keywords:** Positive solution, Symmetric solution, Semipositone problems, Fixed point theorems, Time scales.

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### 1. Introduction

We will be concerned with proving the existence of at least one symmetric positive solution to the semipositone second order nonlinear boundary value problem on a symmetric time scale  $T$  given by

$$(1.1) \quad [g(t)u^\Delta(t)]^\nabla + \lambda f(t, u(t)) = 0, \quad t \in (a, b),$$

$$(1.2) \quad \alpha u(a) - \beta \lim_{t \rightarrow a^+} g(t)u^\Delta(t) = \int_a^b h_1(s)u(s)\nabla s,$$

$$(1.3) \quad \alpha u(b) + \beta \lim_{t \rightarrow b^-} g(t)u^\Delta(t) = \int_a^b h_2(s)u(s)\nabla s,$$

where  $\lambda > 0$  is a parameter,  $\alpha, \beta > 0$ ,  $\nabla$ -differentiable function  $g \in C([a, b], (0, \infty))$  is symmetric on  $[a, b]$ ,  $h_1, h_2 \in L^1([a, b])$  is nonnegative, symmetric on  $[a, b]$  and the continuous function  $f : [a, b] \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow R$  satisfies  $f(b + a - t, u) = f(t, u)$ .

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\*Department of Mathematics, Ege University, 35100 Bornova, Izmir-Turkey.  
Email : f.serap.topal@ege.edu.tr ; arzu.denk@hotmail.com

A class of boundary value problems with integral boundary conditions arise naturally in thermal condition problems [4], semiconductor problems [7], and hydrodynamic problems [5]. Such problems include two, three and multi-point boundary conditions and have recently been investigated by many authors [3, 6, 8, 9].

The present work is motivated by recent paper [3]. In this paper, Boucherif considered the following second order boundary value problem with integral boundary conditions

$$(1.4) \quad x''(t) = f(t, x(t)), \quad 0 < t < 1,$$

$$(1.5) \quad x(0) - cx'(0) = \int_0^1 g_0(s)x(s)ds,$$

$$(1.6) \quad x(1) - dx'(1) = \int_0^1 g_1(s)x(s)ds,$$

where  $f : [0, 1] \times R \rightarrow R$  is continuous,  $g_0, g_1 : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  are continuous and positive,  $c$  and  $d$  are nonnegative real parameters. The author established some excellent results for the existence of positive solutions to problem (1.4) – (1.6) by using the fixed point theorem in cones.

Throughout this paper  $T$  is a symmetric time scale with  $a, b$  are points in  $T$ . By an interval  $(a, b)$ , we always mean the intersection of the real interval  $(a, b)$  with the given time scale, that is  $(a, b) \cap T$ . Other types of intervals are defined similarly. For the details of basic notions connected to time scales we refer to [1, 2].

Now, we present some symmetric definition.

**1.1. Definition.** A time scale  $T$  is said to be symmetric if for any given  $t \in T$ , we have  $b + a - t \in T$ .

**1.2. Definition.** A function  $u : T \rightarrow R$  is said to be symmetric on  $T$  if for any given  $t \in T$ ,  $u(t) = u(b + a - t)$ .

## 2. The Preliminary Lemmas

In this section we collect some preliminary results that will be used in subsequent section.

Throughout the paper we will assume that the following conditions are satisfied:

$$(H_1) \quad \alpha, \beta > 0,$$

$$(H_2) \quad \nabla\text{-differentiable function } g \in C([a, b], (0, \infty)) \text{ is symmetric on } [a, b],$$

(H<sub>3</sub>) the continuous function  $f : [a, b] \times [0, \infty) \rightarrow R$  is semipositone, i.e.,  $f(t, u)$  needn't be positive for all  $(t, u) \in [a, b] \times [0, \infty)$  and  $f(\cdot, u)$  is symmetric on  $[a, b]$  for all  $u \geq 0$ ,

$$(H_4) \quad h_1, h_2 \in L^1([a, b]) \text{ is nonnegative, symmetric on } [a, b] \text{ and } A > 0, \text{ where } A = \mu + (\beta - K)v_1 - \beta v_2, \quad K = \frac{\mu}{\alpha}, \quad \mu = 2\alpha\beta + \alpha^2 \int_a^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)}, \quad v_1 = \int_a^b h_1(\tau)\nabla\tau, \quad v_2 = \int_a^b h_2(\tau)\nabla\tau.$$

The lemmas in this section are based on the boundary value problem

$$(2.1) \quad -[g(t)u^\Delta(t)]^\nabla = p(t), \quad t \in (a, b)$$

with boundary conditions (1.2) – (1.3).

To prove the main result, we will employ following lemmas.

**2.1. Lemma.** *Let  $(H_1), (H_2)$  hold and  $A \neq 0$ . Then for any  $p \in C([a, b])$ , the boundary value problem (2.1) – (1.2) – (1.3) has a unique solution  $u$  given by*

$$u(t) = \int_a^b H(t, s)p(s)\nabla s,$$

where

$$(2.2) \quad H(t, s) = G(t, s) + B_1 \int_a^b G(s, \tau)h_1(\tau)\nabla\tau + B_2 \int_a^b G(s, \tau)h_2(\tau)\nabla\tau$$

$$(2.3) \quad G(t, s) = \frac{1}{\mu} \begin{cases} (\beta + \alpha \int_a^s \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})(\beta + \alpha \int_t^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)}), & a \leq s \leq t \leq b, \\ (\beta + \alpha \int_a^t \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})(\beta + \alpha \int_s^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)}), & a \leq t \leq s \leq b, \end{cases}$$

$$\text{where } \mu = 2\alpha\beta + \alpha^2 \int_a^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)}, B_1 = \frac{K - \beta}{A}, B_2 = \frac{\beta}{A}.$$

**2.2. Lemma.** Assume that  $(H_1)$ ,  $(H_2)$  and  $(H_4)$  hold. Then we have

- (i)  $H(t, s) > 0$ ,  $G(t, s) > 0$ , for  $t, s \in [a, b]$ ,
- (ii)  $H(b + a - t, b + a - s) = H(t, s)$ ,  $G(b + a - t, b + a - s) = G(t, s)$ , for  $t, s \in [a, b]$ ,
- (iii)  $\frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2\gamma \leq H(t, s) \leq H(s, s) \leq \frac{1}{\mu}\gamma D$  and  $\frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2 \leq G(t, s) \leq G(s, s) \leq \frac{1}{\mu}D$ , for  $t, s \in [a, b]$ ,

$$\text{where } D = (\beta + \alpha \int_a^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})^2, \gamma = 1 + B_1v_1 + B_2v_2.$$

*Proof.* It is clear that (i) hold. Now we prove that (ii) and (iii) hold. First, we consider (ii). If  $t \leq s$ , then  $b + a - t \geq b + a - s$ . Using (2.3) and the assumption  $(H_2)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} G(b + a - t, b + a - s) &= \frac{1}{\mu}(\beta + \alpha \int_a^{b+a-s} \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})(\beta + \alpha \int_{b+a-t}^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu}(\beta + \alpha \int_b^s \frac{\Delta(b+a-r)}{g(b+a-r)})(\beta + \alpha \int_t^a \frac{\Delta(b+a-r)}{g(b+a-r)}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu}(\beta + \alpha \int_s^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})(\beta + \alpha \int_a^t \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)}) = G(t, s). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can prove that  $G(b + a - t, b + a - s) = G(t, s)$ , for  $s \leq t$ . Thus we have  $G(b + a - t, b + a - s) = G(t, s)$ , for  $t, s \in [a, b]$ . Now by (2.2), for  $t, s \in [a, b]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} H(b + a - t, b + a - s) &= G(b + a - t, b + a - s) + B_1 \int_a^b G(b + a - s, \tau)h_1(\tau)\nabla\tau \\ &\quad + B_2 \int_a^b G(b + a - s, \tau)h_2(\tau)\nabla\tau \\ &= G(t, s) + B_1 \int_b^a G(b + a - s, b + a - \tau)h_1(b + a - \tau)\nabla(b + a - \tau) \\ &\quad + B_2 \int_b^a G(b + a - s, b + a - \tau)h_2(b + a - \tau)\nabla(b + a - \tau) \\ &= G(t, s) + B_1 \int_a^b G(s, \tau)h_1(\tau)\nabla\tau + B_2 \int_a^b G(s, \tau)h_2(\tau)\nabla\tau \\ &= H(t, s). \end{aligned}$$

So (ii) is established. Now we show that (iii) holds. In fact, if  $t \leq s$ , from (2.3) and the assumption  $(H_2)$ , then we get

$$\begin{aligned}
G(t, s) &= \frac{1}{\mu}(\beta + \alpha \int_a^t \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})(\beta + \alpha \int_s^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)}) \leq \frac{1}{\mu}(\beta + \alpha \int_a^s \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})(\beta + \alpha \int_s^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)}) \\
&= G(s, s) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{\mu}(\beta + \alpha \int_a^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})(\beta + \alpha \int_a^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)}) = \frac{1}{\mu}(\beta + \alpha \int_a^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})^2 = \frac{1}{\mu}D.
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can prove that  $G(t, s) \leq G(s, s) \leq \frac{1}{\mu}D$  for  $s \leq t$ .

Therefore  $G(t, s) \leq G(s, s) \leq \frac{1}{\mu}D$ , for  $t, s \in [a, b]$ . And then, by (2.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
H(t, s) &= G(t, s) + B_1 \int_a^b G(s, \tau)h_1(\tau)\nabla\tau + B_2 \int_a^b G(s, \tau)h_2(\tau)\nabla\tau \\
&\leq G(s, s) + B_1 \int_a^b G(\tau, \tau)h_1(\tau)\nabla\tau + B_2 \int_a^b G(\tau, \tau)h_2(\tau)\nabla\tau \\
&\leq \frac{1}{\mu}D + \frac{1}{\mu}DB_1 \int_a^b h_1(\tau)\nabla\tau + \frac{1}{\mu}DB_2 \int_a^b h_2(\tau)\nabla\tau = \frac{1}{\mu}D(1 + B_1v_1 + B_2v_2) \\
&= \frac{1}{\mu}D\gamma.
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, for  $t, s \in [a, b]$ , we have

$$G(t, s) \geq \frac{1}{\mu}(\beta + \alpha \int_a^a \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})(\beta + \alpha \int_b^b \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)}) = \frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2.$$

And then, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
H(t, s) &= G(t, s) + B_1 \int_a^b G(s, \tau)h_1(\tau)\nabla\tau + B_2 \int_a^b G(s, \tau)h_2(\tau)\nabla\tau \\
&\geq \frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2 + \frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2 B_1 \int_a^b h_1(\tau)\nabla\tau + \frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2 B_2 \int_a^b h_2(\tau)\nabla\tau = \frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2\gamma.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus for  $t, s \in [a, b]$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2\gamma \leq H(t, s) \leq H(s, s) \leq \frac{1}{\mu}\gamma D \text{ and } \frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2 \leq G(t, s) \leq G(s, s) \leq \frac{1}{\mu}D.$$

This completes the proof.

**2.3. Lemma.** *Let  $w$  be the unique positive solution of the boundary value problem*

$$(2.4) \quad [g(t)u^\Delta(t)]^\nabla + 1 = 0$$

with the boundary condition (1.2) – (1.3). Then,

$$w(t) \leq C\delta, \quad t \in [a, b],$$

where

$$(2.5) \quad \delta = \frac{\beta^2}{D}, \quad C = \frac{b-a}{\mu\beta^2}D^2\gamma$$

*Proof.* Using Lemma 2.2, for all  $t \in [a, b]$ , we have

$$w(t) = \int_a^b H(t, s) \nabla s \leq \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma D \int_a^b \nabla s = C\delta.$$

The proof is complete.

Let  $E$  denote the Banach space  $C[a, b]$  with the norm  $\|u\| = \max_{t \in [a, b]} |u(t)|$ . Define the cone  $P \subset E$  by  $P = \{u \in E : u(t) \text{ is symmetric and } u(t) \geq \delta \|u\| \text{ for } t \in [a, b]\}$ .

To obtain the a positive solution of BVP (1.1)–(1.3), the following fixed point theorem is essential.

**2.4. Theorem.** *Let  $E = (E, \|\cdot\|)$  be a Banach space, and let  $P \subset E$  be a cone in  $B$ . Assume  $\Omega_1, \Omega_2$  are bounded open subsets of  $E$  with  $0 \in \Omega_1, \overline{\Omega_1} \subset \Omega_2$ , and let*

$$S : P \cap (\overline{\Omega_2} \setminus \Omega_1) \rightarrow P$$

*be a continuous and completely continuous operator such that, either*

- (a)  $\|Su\| \leq \|u\|, u \in P \cap \partial\Omega_1$ , and  $\|Su\| \geq \|u\|, u \in P \cap \partial\Omega_2$ , or  
 (b)  $\|Su\| \geq \|u\|, u \in P \cap \partial\Omega_1$ , and  $\|Su\| \leq \|u\|, u \in P \cap \partial\Omega_2$ .

*Then  $S$  has a fixed point in  $P \cap (\overline{\Omega_2} \setminus \Omega_1)$ .*

### 3. Main Results

In this section, we apply the Krasnoselskii fixed point theorem to obtain the existence of at least one symmetric positive solution for the nonlinear boundary value problem (1.1)–(1.3).

The main result of this paper is following:

**3.1. Theorem.** *Let  $(H_1) - (H_4)$  hold. Assume that*

(C<sub>1</sub>) *There exists a constant  $M > 0$  such that  $f(t, u) \geq -M$  for all  $(t, u) \in [a, b] \times [0, \infty)$ ,*

(C<sub>2</sub>) *There exist  $f(t, u) \in (a, b)$  such that*

*uniformly on  $[t_1, t_2]$ ,*

(C<sub>3</sub>)  *$r$  is a given positive real number and the parameter  $\lambda$  satisfies*

$$(3.1) \quad 0 < \lambda \leq \eta := \min\left\{\frac{r}{M_1 \|w\|}, \frac{r}{2MC}\right\}$$

where  $M_1 = \max\{f(t, u) + M : (t, u) \in [a, b] \times [0, r]\}$ .

*Then the boundary value problem (1.1)–(1.3) has at least one symmetric positive solution  $u$  such that  $\|u\| \geq \frac{r}{2}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x(t) = \lambda M w(t)$ , where  $w$  is the unique solution of the boundary value problem (2.4)–(1.2)–(1.3).

We shall show that the following boundary value problem

$$(3.2) \quad [g(t)y^\Delta(t)]^\nabla + \lambda F(t, y(t) - x(t)) = 0, \quad t \in (a, b),$$

$$(3.3) \quad \alpha y(a) - \beta \lim_{t \rightarrow a^+} g(t)y^\Delta(t) = \int_a^b h_1(s)y(s)\nabla s,$$

$$(3.4) \quad \alpha y(b) + \beta \lim_{t \rightarrow b^-} g(t)y^\Delta(t) = \int_a^b h_2(s)y(s)\nabla s,$$

where

$$F(t, z) = \begin{cases} f(t, z) + M, & z \geq 0, \\ f(t, 0) + M, & z \leq 0, \end{cases}$$

has at least one positive solution. Thereafter we shall obtain at least one positive solution for the boundary value problem (1.1) – (1.3).

It is well known that the existence of positive solution to the boundary value problem (3.2) – (3.4) is equivalent to the existence of fixed point of the operator  $S$ . So we shall seek a fixed point of  $S$  in our cone  $P$  where the operator  $S : E \rightarrow E$  is defined by

$$Sy(t) = \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s)F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s, \quad t \in [a, b].$$

First, it is obvious that  $S$  is continuous and completely continuous.

Now we shall prove that  $S(P) \subseteq P$ . Let  $y \in P$ . Then, using Lemma 2.2, we get for  $t \in [a, b]$ ,

$$Sy(t) = \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s)F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s \leq \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \gamma D \int_a^b F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s,$$

and so

$$(3.5) \quad \|Sy\| \leq \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \gamma D \int_a^b F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s.$$

Now, using Lemma 2.2 and (3.5), we obtain for  $t \in [a, b]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} Sy(t) &= \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s)F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s \geq \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \beta^2 \gamma \int_a^b F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \delta \gamma D \int_a^b F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s \geq \delta \|Sy\|. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, noticing  $y(t), x(t)$  and  $f(t, u)$  are symmetric on  $[a, b]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} Sy(b+a-t) &= \lambda \int_a^b H(b+a-t, s)F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s \\ &= \lambda \int_a^b H(b+a-t, s)(f(s, y(s) - x(s)) + M)\nabla s \\ &= \lambda \int_b^a H(b+a-t, b+a-s)(f(s, (y-x)(b+a-s)) + M)\nabla(b+a-s) \\ &= \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s)(f(s, (y-x)(s)) + M)\nabla s \\ &= \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s)F(s, (y-x)(s))\nabla s = Sy(t) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $Sy$  is symmetric.

So, we get  $S(P) \subseteq P$ .

Let  $\Omega_1 = \{y \in E : \|y\| < r\}$ . We shall prove that  $\|Sy\| \leq \|y\|$  for  $y \in P \cap \partial\Omega_1$ . If  $y \in P \cap \partial\Omega_1$ , then  $\|y\| = r$ . By definition and (3.1), we find for  $t \in [a, b]$ ,

$$Sy(t) = \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s)F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s \leq \lambda M_1 \int_a^b H(t, s)\nabla s \leq \lambda M_1 \|w\| \leq r.$$

Therefore, we get  $\|Sy\| \leq r = \|y\|$  for  $y \in P \cap \partial\Omega_1$ .

Let  $K$  be a positive real number such that

$$(3.6) \quad \frac{1}{2}\lambda K(t_2 - t_1)\delta\frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2\gamma > 1.$$

In view of  $(C_2)$ , there exists  $N > 0$  such that for all  $z \geq N$  and  $t \in [t_1, t_2]$ ,

$$(3.7) \quad F(t, z) = f(t, z) + M \geq Kz$$

Now, set

$$(3.8) \quad R = r + \frac{2N}{\delta}.$$

Let  $\Omega_2 = \{y \in E : \|y\| < R\}$ . We shall prove that  $\|Sy\| \geq \|y\|$  for  $y \in P \cap \partial\Omega_2$ . If  $y \in P \cap \partial\Omega_2$ , then  $\|y\| = R$ . So from Lemma 2.3 and the fact that  $y \in P$ , we get for  $t \in [a, b]$ ,

$$x(t) = \lambda Mw(t) \leq \lambda MC\delta \leq \lambda MC\frac{y(t)}{R}.$$

This implies for  $t \in [a, b]$ ,

$$y(t) - x(t) \geq \left(1 - \frac{\lambda MC}{R}\right)y(t) \geq \left(1 - \frac{\lambda MC}{R}\right)\delta R,$$

and, from (3.1) and (3.8), we get for  $t \in [t_1, t_2]$ ,

$$(3.9) \quad y(t) - x(t) \geq \frac{1}{2}R\delta \geq N.$$

Thus, by (3.7) and (3.9), we see that for  $t \in [t_1, t_2]$ ,

$$(3.10) \quad F(t, y(t) - x(t)) \geq K(y(t) - x(t)) \geq \frac{1}{2}KR\delta.$$

Considering Lemma 2.2 and (3.10), we get for  $t \in [a, b]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} Sy(t) &= \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s)F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s \geq \lambda\frac{1}{\mu}\beta^2\gamma \int_{t_1}^{t_2} F(s, y(s) - x(s))\nabla s \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2\mu}\lambda KR\delta\beta^2\gamma \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \nabla s \end{aligned}$$

and so by (3.6),

$$\|Sy\| \geq \frac{1}{2\mu}\lambda KR(t_2 - t_1)\delta\beta^2\gamma \geq R.$$

Therefore, we get  $\|Sy\| \geq R = \|y\|$  for  $y \in P \cap \partial\Omega_2$ .

Then it follows from Theorem 2.1 that  $S$  has a fixed point  $y \in P$  such that

$$(3.11) \quad r \leq \|y\| \leq R.$$

Moreover, using (3.1), (3.11) and Lemma 2.3, we obtain for  $t \in [a, b]$ ,

$$(3.12) \quad y(t) \geq \delta \|y\| \geq r\delta \geq 2\lambda MC\delta \geq 2\lambda Mw(t) = 2x(t).$$

Hence,

$$u(t) = y(t) - x(t) \geq 0, \quad t \in [a, b].$$

On the other hand,  $u(t)$  is symmetric on  $[a, b]$  since  $y$  and  $x$  are symmetric.

Now, we shall prove that  $u$  is a positive solution of the boundary value problem (1.1) – (1.3). Since  $y$  is a fixed point of the operator  $S$ ,

$$Sy(t) = y(t), \quad t \in [a, b],$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= Sy(t) = \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s) F(s, y(s) - x(s)) \nabla s \\ &= \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s) (f(s, y(s) - x(s)) + M) \nabla s \end{aligned}$$

Noticing that,

$$w(t) = \int_a^b H(t, s) \nabla s$$

we have for  $t \in [a, b]$ ,

$$y(t) = \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s) f(s, y(s) - x(s)) \nabla s + \lambda Mw(t),$$

or

$$y(t) - x(t) = \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s) f(s, y(s) - x(s)) \nabla s,$$

and hence

$$u(t) = \lambda \int_a^b H(t, s) f(s, u(s)) \nabla s.$$

This shows that  $u$  is a symmetric positive solution of the boundary value problem of (1.1) – (1.3). In addition, from (3.11) and (3.12), it follows that

$$\|u\| \geq \frac{\|y\|}{2} \geq \frac{r}{2}.$$

**3.2. Example.** Let  $T = Z$ . Consider the following boundary value problem

$$(3.13) \quad \left[ \frac{100}{t^2 + 1} u^\Delta(t) \right]^\nabla + \lambda (be^u \cos^2 t - t^2) = 0, \quad t \in (-3, 3),$$

$$(3.14) \quad 25u(-3) - 5 \lim_{t \rightarrow -3^+} \frac{100}{t^2 + 1} u^\Delta(t) = \int_{-3}^3 u(s) \cosh s \nabla s,$$

$$(3.15) \quad 25u(3) + 5 \lim_{t \rightarrow 3^-} \frac{100}{t^2 + 1} u^\Delta(t) = \int_{-3}^3 u(s) \cosh s \nabla s,$$

where  $b > 0$ ,  $\alpha = 25$ ,  $\beta = 5$ ,  $h_1(t) = h_2(t) = \cosh t$ ,  $g(t) = \frac{100}{t^2 + 1}$ ,  $f(t, u(t)) = be^u \cos^2 t - t^2$ . It is obvious that  $f$  satisfies the conditions  $(C_2)$  and  $(H_3)$ .

Now we shall obtain the constants  $M$  and  $M_1$ . Clearly, for all  $(t, u) \in [-3, 3] \times [0, \infty)$ , we get

$$f(t, u) = be^u \cos^2 t - t^2 \geq -t^2 \geq -9 \text{ and so we can choose the constant } M = 9.$$

$$M_1 = \max_{(t,u) \in [-3,3] \times [0,r]} be^u \cos^2 t - t^2 + M = be^r + M.$$

It follows from a direct calculation that

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 = v_2 &= \int_{-3}^3 h_1(s) \nabla s \cong 21.5, \mu = 2\alpha\beta + \alpha^2 \int_{-3}^3 \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)} \cong 406.2, \\ D &= (\beta + \alpha \int_{-3}^3 \frac{\Delta r}{g(r)})^2 \cong 126.6, A = \mu + (\beta - K)v_1 - \beta v_2 \cong 56,87, \\ B_1 &= \frac{K - \beta}{A} \cong 0.198, B_2 = \frac{\beta}{A} \cong 0.088, \gamma = 1 + B_1 v_1 + B_2 v_2 \cong 7.15, \\ C &= \frac{6}{\mu\beta^2} D^2 \gamma \cong 67.71. \end{aligned}$$

Then by Theorem 3.1, we see that the boundary value problem (3.13) – (3.15) has at least one symmetric positive solution  $u$  such that  $\|u\| \geq \frac{r}{2}$  for any  $\lambda \in (0, \eta]$  where  $\eta := \min\{\frac{r}{M_1\|w\|}, \frac{r}{2MC}\}$ ,  $r$  is a given positive number and  $w$  is the unique positive solution of the boundary value problem  $[\frac{100}{t^2 + 1}u^\Delta(t)]^\nabla + 1 = 0$  with the boundary condition (3.14) – (3.15).

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