



## Eigenvalues and Eigenfunctions of The Periodic Sturm-Liouville Problems with Discontinuities

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**ABSTRACT:** In this study, we examine some spectral properties of a new type periodic eigenvalue problem for the differential equation  $-y'' + q(x)y = \lambda y$ ,  $x \in [a, c) \cup (c, b]$  together with the periodic boundary conditions at the end-points  $x = a, b$  given by  $y(a) = y(b)$ ,  $y'(a) = y'(b)$  and with the interface conditions at the interior point of singularity  $x = c$ , given by  $y(c+) = \alpha y(c-)$ ,  $y'(c+) = \beta y'(c-)$  where  $q(x)$  is the continuous function,  $\alpha, \beta$  are real numbers and  $\lambda$  is complex eigenvalue parameter.

**Keywords** — Periodic Sturm-Liouville problem, Transmission conditions

### 1. Introduction

Eigenvalue problems associated with ordinary differential equations arise in considering physical problems, such as determining the temperature distribution of a heat conducting rod vibration problems of the wire hanging on some internal points, wave and diffusion problems and etc. by the method of separation of variables (see, for example (Woldegerima, 2011)). The typical equation that often occurs in eigenvalue problems is of the form

$$a_1(x) \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + a_2(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + [a_3(x) + \lambda]y = 0 \quad (1.1)$$

If we introduce

$$p(x) = \exp \int \frac{a_2(x)}{a_1(x)} dx, q(x) = \frac{a_3(x)}{a_1(x)} p(x), r(x) = \frac{p(x)}{a_1(x)}$$

into equation (1.1) we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( p(x) \frac{dy}{dx} \right) + (q(x) + \lambda r(x))y = 0 \quad (1.2)$$

which is known as the Sturm-Liouville equation. In terms of the self-adjoint operator

$$\mathfrak{L} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( p \frac{d}{dx} \right) + q$$

the equation (1.2) can be written as

$$\mathfrak{L}[y] + \lambda r(x)y = 0$$

where  $\lambda$  is a spectral parameter independent of  $x$ , and  $p, q$  and  $r$  are real-valued functions of  $x$ . To ensure the existence of solutions, we let  $q$  and  $r$  be continuous and  $p$  be continuously

differentiable in a closed finite interval  $[a, b]$ . Recall that the Sturm-Liouville equation (1.2) is called regular in the interval  $[a, b]$  if the functions  $p(x)$  and  $r(x)$  are positive The Sturm-Liouville equation

$$\frac{d}{dx}(p(x)\frac{dy}{dx}) + (q(x) + \lambda r(x))y = 0, \quad x \in [a, b]$$

in which  $p(a) = p(b)$ , together with the periodic boundary conditions  $y(a) = y(b)$  and  $y'(a) = y'(b)$  is called a periodic Sturm-Liouville system. Not that in different areas of natural sciences many problems arise in the form of boundary value problems involving interior singularities. In recent years, there has been growing interest in boundary- value problems with discontinuous coefficients(see, for example, (Allahverdiev et al., 2013; Kandemir and Mukhtarov, 2018; Mukhtarov and Aydemir, 2015; Panakhov and Sat, 2013; Yücel and Mukhtarov, 2018) and references cited therein).

In this study, we examine some spectral properties of a new type periodic eigenvalue problem for the differential equation

$$-y'' + q(x)y = \lambda y, \quad x \in [a, c) \cup (c, b] \tag{1.3}$$

together with the periodic boundary conditions at the end-points  $x = a, b$  given by

$$y(a) = y(b), \quad y'(a) = y'(b) \tag{1.4}$$

and with the interface conditions at the interior point of singularity  $x = c$ , given by

$$y(c+) = \alpha y(c-), \quad y'(c+) = \beta y'(c-) \tag{1.5}$$

where  $q(x)$  is the continuous function,  $\alpha, \beta$  are real numbers and  $\lambda$  is complex eigenvalue parameter.

## 2. Construction of the in terms of the Left-Hand and Right-Hand Eigensolutions

Let us consider the periodic Sturm-Liouville problem on two disjoint intervals together with additional interface conditions given by (1.3)-(1.5).

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $\lambda\beta = 1$ . Then the discontinuous periodic Sturm-Liouville problem (1.3)-(1.5) is self adjoint.*

Proof. Consider the problem (1.3)-(1.5). Denote by  $Ly$  the differential operator

$$Ly = -y'' + q(x)y$$

Let  $y_1, y_2 \in C^2[a, b]$  that satisfies the given boundary and interface conditions (1.4)-(1.5). We shall show that,

$$\int_a^{c-} [y_1 Ly_2 - y_2 Ly_1] dx + \int_{c+}^b [y_1 Ly_2 - y_2 Ly_1] dx = 0$$

By definition (1.5)

$$Ly_1 = -y_1'' + qy_1$$

$$Ly_2 = -y_2'' + qy_2$$

Multiplying the first equality by  $y_2$  and the second equality by  $y_1$  and then subtracting yields,

$$y_1Ly_2 - y_2Ly_1 = (y_1'y_2 - y_2'y_1)'$$

Now integrating by parts over  $[a, c) \cup (c, b]$  we obtain

$$\int_a^{c-} (y_1Ly_2 - y_2Ly_1)dx = [y_1'(c-)y_2(c-) - y_2'(c-)y_1(c-)] - [y_1'(a)y_2(a) - y_2'(a)y_1(a)]$$

and

$$\int_{c+}^b (y_1Ly_2 - y_2Ly_1)dx = [y_1'(b)y_2(b) - y_2'(b)y_1(b)] - [y_1'(c+)y_2(c+) - y_2'(c+)y_1(c+)]$$

Thus, we get

$$\int_a^{c-} (y_1Ly_2 - y_2Ly_1)dx + \int_{c+}^b (y_1Ly_2 - y_2Ly_1)dx = (y_1'y_2 - y_2'y_1)'|_a^{c-} + (y_1'y_2 - y_2'y_1)'|_{c+}^b$$

Since  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  satisfies the conditions (1.4)-(1.5) we obtain

$$(y_1'y_2 - y_2'y_1)'|_a^{c-} + (y_1'y_2 - y_2'y_1)'|_{c+}^b = 0$$

Consequently,

$$\int_a^{c-} [y_1Ly_2 - y_2Ly_1]dx + \int_{c+}^b [y_1Ly_2 - y_2Ly_1]dx = 0$$

Thus, the discontinuous Periodic Sturm-Liouville Problem (1.3)-(1.5)) is self-adjoint.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $\lambda \cdot \beta = 1$ . Then the eigenvalues of the discontinuous periodic Sturm-Liouville Problem (1.3)-(1.5) are real.*

Proof. Let  $(\lambda, y)$  be any eigenpair. Then we have

$$-y'' + q(x)y = \lambda y$$

$$-\bar{y}'' + q(x)\bar{y} = \bar{\lambda} \bar{y}$$

Multiplying the first equation by  $\bar{y}$  and the second equation by  $y$  and then subtracting yields,

$$(\bar{y}'y - y'\bar{y})' = (\lambda - \bar{\lambda})y\bar{y}$$

Now integrating by parts over  $[a, c) \cup (c, b]$  we obtain

$$(\bar{y}'y - y'\bar{y})|_a^{c-} + (\bar{y}'y - y'\bar{y})|_{c+}^b = (\lambda - \bar{\lambda}) \int_a^{c-} y\bar{y}dx + (\lambda - \bar{\lambda}) \int_{c+}^b y\bar{y}dx$$

Thus, we get

$$(\bar{y}'y - y'\bar{y})|_a^{c-} = [\bar{y}'(c-)y(c-) - y'(c-)\bar{y}(c-)] - [\bar{y}'(a)y(a) - y'(a)\bar{y}(a)]$$

and

$$(\bar{y}'y - y'\bar{y})|_{c+}^b = [\bar{y}'(b)y(b) - y'(b)\bar{y}(b)] - [\bar{y}'(c+)y(c+) - y'(c+)\bar{y}(c+)]$$

Since  $(\lambda, y)$  is eigenpair and  $\alpha, \beta$  are real, then  $(\bar{\lambda}, \bar{y})$  must be the eigenpair of the same problem (1.3)-(1.5). Therefore, we have

$$\bar{y}(a) = \bar{y}(b), \bar{y}'(a) = \bar{y}'(b)$$

$$\bar{y}(c+) = \bar{\alpha}\bar{y}(c-), \bar{y}'(c+) = \bar{\beta}\bar{y}'(c-).$$

Taking in view these equalities, we have

$$(\lambda - \bar{\lambda})\left[\int_a^{c-} y\bar{y}dx + \int_{c+}^b y\bar{y}dx\right] = 0$$

From this it follows that

$$(\lambda - \bar{\lambda}) = 0$$

Thus, the eigenvalues of the periodic Sturm-Liouville (1.3)-(1.5) are real.

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $\lambda_n$  and  $\lambda_m$  are distinct eigenvalues of the discontinuous periodic Sturm-Liouville Boundary Value Problem (1.3)-(1.5) on  $[a, c) \cup (c, b]$ . Then their corresponding eigenfunctions  $y_n$  and  $y_m$  are orthogonal on  $L_2[a, c) \oplus L_2(c, b]$ , that is*

$$\int_a^{c-} y_n(x)y_m(x)dx + \int_{c+}^b y_n(x)y_m(x)dx = 0$$

**Proof.** By assumption

$$-y_m'' + q(x)y_m = \lambda_m y_m$$

$$-y_n'' + q(x)y_n = \lambda_n y_n.$$

Multiplying the first equation by  $y_n$  and the second equation by  $y_m$  and then subtracting yields,

$$(y_n'y_m - y_m'y_n)' = (\lambda_m - \lambda_n)y_m y_n$$

Now integrating by parts over  $[a, c) \cup (c, b]$  we obtain

$$(y_n'y_m - y_m'y_n) \Big|_a^{c-} + (y_n'y_m - y_m'y_n) \Big|_{c+}^b = (\lambda_m - \lambda_n)\left(\int_a^{c-} y_m y_n dx\right) + \int_{c+}^b y_m y_n dx$$

Since  $y_m$  and  $y_n$  satisfy the conditions (1.4)-(1.5) we get

$$\begin{aligned} & [y_n'(c-)y_m(c-) - y_m'(c-)y_n(c-)] - [y_n'(a)y_m(a) - y_m'(a)y_n(a)] \\ + & [y_n'(b)y_m(b) - y_m'(b)y_n(b)] - [y_n'(c+)y_m(c+) - y_m'(c+)y_n(c+)] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently

$$(\lambda_m - \lambda_n)\left[\int_a^{c-} y_m y_n dx + \int_{c+}^b y_m y_n dx\right] = 0.$$

Using  $\lambda_m \neq \lambda_n$  we find

$$\int_a^{c-} y_m y_n dx + \int_{c+}^b y_m y_n dx = 0$$

The proof is complete.

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $y = y_1(x)$  be the solution of the equation  $L_1 y := y'' + q_1(x)y = 0$  satisfying transmission conditions at the point of interaction  $x = c$ , given by*

$$y(c+) = \alpha y(c-), y'(c+) = \beta y'(c-), \tag{2.1}$$

let  $y = y_2(x)$  be the solution of the equation  $L_2y := -y'' + q_2(x)y = 0$  satisfying the same transmission conditions and let  $\lambda\beta = 1$ . If  $q_2(x) < q_1(x)$  on  $[a, c] \cup (c, b]$ , then between any two consecutive zeros of  $y_1(x)$  there is at least one zero of  $y_2(x)$ .

Proof. By assumption

$$y_1'' + q_1(x)y_1 = 0$$

$$y_2'' + q_2(x)y_2 = 0$$

Multiplying the first equation by  $y_2$  and the second equation by  $y_1$  and then subtracting yields,

$$(y_1'y_2 - y_2'y_1)' = (q_2(x) - q_1(x))y_1y_2$$

Let  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  with  $x_1 < x_2$  be consecutive zeroes of  $y_1$ . Now integrating by parts over  $(x_1, x_2)$  we obtain

$$(y_1'y_2 - y_2'y_1)' \Big|_{x_1}^{x_2} = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} (q_2(x) - q_1(x))y_1y_2 dx$$

since  $y_1(x_1) = y_1(x_2) = 0$ ,

$$y_1'(x_2)y_2(x_2) - y_1'(x_1)y_2(x_1) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} (q_2(x) - q_1(x))y_1y_2 dx \tag{2.2}$$

Suppose, it possible, that  $y_2$  does not have a zero on  $(x_1, x_2)$ . Consider the case  $a \leq x_1 < x_2 < c$ . Without loss of generality we can suppose that  $y_1(x) > 0$  and  $y_2(x) > 0$  over  $(x_1, x_2)$ . These conditions ensure that the integral on the right of (2.2) is positive. However, on the left, we have  $y_1'(x_1) > 0$  and  $y_1'(x_2) < 0$ . These conditions ensure that the left side of (2.2) is negative, which presents us with contradiction: right-hand side  $> 0$  and left-hand side  $< 0$ . Thus  $y_2(x)$  is vanish at least once between the zeroes of  $y_1(x)$ . Since the conditions describing  $y_1(x)$  are given, we conclude that  $y_2(x)$  must change sign between  $x = x_1$  and  $x = x_2$ .

The cases  $c < x_1 < x_2 \leq b$  and  $a \leq x_1 < c < x_2 \leq b$  are similar.

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