

**EXISTENCE AND UNIQUENESS OF SOLUTIONS FOR
SOME NEUTRAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS
WITH STATE-DEPENDENT DELAYS**

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ABSTRACT: In this work, we establish several results about the existence and uniqueness of solutions for some neutral differential equations with state-dependent delays. We assume that the linear part generates a strongly continuous semigroup on a general Banach space.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we study the existence and uniqueness of solutions for neutral differential equations with state-dependent delays of the following form,

$$\frac{d}{dt}(x(t) - g(t, x(t - \eta(t)))) = A(x(t) - g(t, x(t - \eta(t)))) + f(t, x_t, x(t - \tau(t, x_t))),$$

$$t \in [0, T], \quad (1.1)$$

with initial condition

$$x(t) = \varphi(t), \quad t \in [-r, 0], \quad (1.2)$$

where A generates a strongly continuous semigroup $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ on a Banach space E , $f : J \times C([-r, 0], E) \times E \rightarrow E$, $g : J \times E \rightarrow E$ are given functions, and $\varphi : [-r, 0] \rightarrow E$, $\tau : [0, T] \times C([-r, 0], E) \rightarrow [0, r]$ and $\eta : J \rightarrow [0, r]$ are also given continuous functions.

For any function x defined on $[-r, T]$ and any $t \in J$ we denote by x_t the element of $C([-r, 0], E)$ defined by

$$x_t(\theta) = x(t + \theta), \quad \theta \in [-r, 0].$$

Here $x_t(\cdot)$ represents the history of the state from time $t - r$, up to the present time t .

The theory of functional differential equations has emerged as an important branch of nonlinear analysis. It is worth mentioning that several important problems of the theory of ordinary and delay differential equations lead to investigations of functional differential equations of various types, see the books of Hale and Verduyn Lunel [11], Kolmanovskii and Myshkis [17], Wu [26], and the references therein.

Functional differential equation with state-dependent delays appear frequently in applications such as model equations (see, e.g., [3, 4, 6, 21]) and the study of such equations is an active research area (see, e.g., [7, 2, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 23, 25]).

Abstract neutral differential equations arise in many areas of applied mathematics. For this reason, they have largely been studied during the last few decades. The literature related to ordinary neutral differential equations is very extensive, for which we refer the reader to [11] only, which contains a comprehensive description of such equations.

This paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, we will recall briefly some basic definitions and preliminary facts which will be used throughout the following sections. In Section 3 we give one of our main existence results for solutions of (1.1)-(1.2), with the proof based on Banach's fixed point theorem.

In Section 4, we give two other existence results for solutions of (1.1)-(1.2). Their proofs involve the measure of noncompactness paired in one result with a Mönch fixed point theorem and paired in the other result with a Darbo fixed point theorem.

2. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we introduce notations, definitions, and preliminary facts which are used throughout this paper. Let $(E, \|\cdot\|)$ be a Banach space.

$C([-r, T], E)$ is the Banach space of all continuous functions from $[-r, T]$ into E with the norm

$$\|x\|_\infty = \sup_{\theta \in [-r, 0]} \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \|x(t + \theta)\|.$$

$L^1([0, T], E)$ denotes the Banach space of measurable functions $x : [0, T] \rightarrow E$ which are Bochner integrable and is normed by

$$\|x\|_{L^1} = \int_0^T \|x(t)\| dt.$$

In a normed space $(X, \|\cdot\|_X)$, the open ball around a point x_0 with radius R is denoted by $B_X(x_0, R)$, i.e., $B_X(x_0, R) := \{x \in X : \|x - x_0\|_X < R\}$, and the corresponding closed ball, by $\bar{B}_X(x_0, R)$.

Let $B(E)$ be the Banach space of bounded linear operators.

Definition 2.1. A one-parameter family $S(t)$ for of bounded linear operators on a Banach space E is a C_0 -semigroup (or strongly continuous) on E if

- (i) $S(t) \circ S(s) = S(t + s)$, for $t, s \geq 0$, (semigroup property),
- (ii) $S(0) = I$, (the identity on E);
- (iii) the map $t \rightarrow S(t)x$ is strongly continuous, for each $x \in E$, i.e;

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} S(t)(x) = x, \forall x \in E.$$

A semigroup of bounded linear operators $S(t)$, is uniformly continuous if

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \|S(t) - I\| = 0.$$

Here I denotes the identity operator in E .

Theorem 2.2. [24] *If $S(t)$ is a C_0 -semigroup, then there exist $\omega \geq 0$ and $M \geq 1$ such that*

$$\|S(t)\|_{B(E)} \leq M \exp(\beta t), \text{ for } 0 \leq t < \infty$$

Definition 2.3. Let $S(t)$ be a semigroup of class (C_0) defined on E . The infinitesimal generator A of $S(t)$ is the linear operator defined by

$$A(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} = \frac{S(h)(x) - x}{h}, \text{ for } x \in D(A),$$

where $D(A) = \{x \in E \mid \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} = \frac{S(h)(x) - x}{h} \text{ exists in } E\}$.

Let us recall the following property:

Proposition 2.4. *The infinitesimal generator A is a closed, linear and densely defined operator in E . If $x \in D(A)$, then $S(t)(x)$ is a C^1 -map and*

$$\frac{d}{dt} S(t)(x) = A(S(t)(x)) = S(t)(A(x)) \text{ on } [0, \infty).$$

Definition 2.5. ([5]) Let E be a Banach space and Ω_E the family of bounded subsets of E . The Kuratowski measure of noncompactness is the map $\alpha : \Omega_E \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ defined by

$$\alpha(B) = \inf\{\epsilon > 0 : B \subseteq \cup_{i=1}^n B_i \text{ and } \text{diam}(B_i) \leq \epsilon\}.$$

Proposition 2.6. *The Kuratowski measure of noncompactness satisfies the following properties (for more details see [5]).*

- (a) $\alpha(B) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \bar{B}$ is compact (B is relatively compact).
- (b) $\alpha(B) = \alpha(\bar{B})$.
- (c) $A \subset B \Rightarrow \alpha(A) \leq \alpha(B)$.
- (d) $\alpha(A + B) \leq \alpha(A) + \alpha(B)$.
- (e) $\alpha(cB) = |c|\alpha(B); c \in \mathbb{R}$.
- (f) $\alpha(\text{conv} B) = \alpha(B)$.

3. UNIQUENESS OF MILD SOLUTIONS

In this section we give our main existence result for problem (1.1)-(1.2). Before stating and proving this result, we give the definition of its mild solution.

Definition 3.1. We say that a continuous function $x : [-r, T] \rightarrow E$ is a mild solution of problem (1.1), (1.2) if $x(t) = \varphi(t)$, $t \in [-r, 0]$ and

$$x(t) = S(t)[\varphi(0) - g(0, x(-\eta(0)))] + g(t, x(t - \eta(t))) \\ + \int_0^t S(t-s)f(s, x_s, x(s - \tau(s, x_s)))ds, \quad t \in J.$$

Set $C := C([-r, 0], E)$.

Lemma 3.2. (See [15]) Let $a > 0$, $b \geq 0$, $r_1 > 0$, $r_2 \geq 0$, $r = \max\{r_1, r_2\}$, and $v : [0, \sigma] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be continuous and nondecreasing. Let $u : [-r, \sigma] \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be continuous and satisfy the inequality

$$u(t) \leq v(t) + bu(t - r_1) + a \int_0^t u(s - r_2)ds, \quad t \in [0, \sigma].$$

Then $u(t) \leq d(t)e^{ct}$ for $t \in [0, \sigma]$, where c is the unique positive solution of $cbe^{-cr_1} + ae^{-cr_2} = c$, and

$$d(t) = \max \left\{ \frac{v(t)}{1 - be^{-cr_1}}, \max_{-r \leq s \leq 0} e^{-cs}u(s) \right\}, \quad t \in [0, \sigma].$$

Let $\Omega_1 \in C$, $\Omega_2 \in E$ and $\Omega_3 \in E$ be open subsets of their respective spaces. Let $T > 0$ be finite, or $T = \infty$, in which case $[0, T]$ denotes the interval $[0, \infty)$.

We define the set

$$\Pi = \{ \varphi \in C : \varphi \in \Omega_1, \varphi(-\tau(0, \varphi)) \in \Omega_2, \varphi(-\eta(0)) \in \Omega_3 \}.$$

Let us introduce the following hypotheses:

(H₁) A is the generator of a strongly continuous semigroup $S(t)$, $t \in J$ which is compact for $t > 0$ in the Banach space E . Let $M > 0$ be such that

$$\|S(t)\| \leq M \quad \text{for all } t \in J.$$

(H₂) (i) $f : J \times \Omega_1 \times \Omega_2 \rightarrow E$ is continuous;

(ii) $f(t, \psi, u)$ is locally Lipschitz continuous in ψ and u in the following sense: for every finite $\sigma \in (0, T]$, for every closed and bounded subset $M_1 \subset \Omega_1$ of C and closed and bounded subset $M_2 \subset \Omega_2$ of E , there exists a constant $L_1 > 0$ such that

$$\|f(t, \psi_1, u_1) - f(t, \psi_2, u_2)\| \leq L_1 \left(\sup_{\zeta \in [-r, -r_0]} \|\psi_1(\zeta) - \psi_2(\zeta)\| + \|u_1 - u_2\| \right),$$

for every $t \in [0, \sigma]$, $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in M_1$ and $u_1, u_2 \in M_2$,

(H₃) (i) $g : J \times \Omega_3 \rightarrow E$ is continuous;

(ii) $g(t, u)$ is locally Lipschitz continuous in u in the following sense: for every finite $\sigma \in (0, T]$, for every closed and bounded subset $M_3 \subset \Omega_3$ of E , there exists a constant $0 < L_2 < 1$ such that

$$\|g(t, u_1) - g(t, u_2)\| \leq L_2 \|u_1 - u_2\|,$$

for every $t \in [0, \sigma]$ and $u_1, u_2 \in M_3$,

(H₄) there exists a constant $r_0 > 0$, such that

$$r_0 \leq \tau(t, \psi) \leq r, \quad t \in [0, T], \text{ and } \psi \in \Omega_1,$$

(H₅) there exists a constant $L_3 > 0$, such that

$$\|\varphi(\zeta) - \varphi(\bar{\zeta})\| \leq L_3 \|\zeta - \bar{\zeta}\|,$$

for $\zeta, \bar{\zeta} \in [-r, 0]$.

Theorem 3.3. *Assume that assumptions (H₁) – (H₄) hold and let $\gamma \in \Pi$. Then, there exist $\delta > 0$ and $0 < \sigma \leq T$ finite numbers such that*

(i) $P = \bar{B}_C(\gamma, \delta) \subset \Pi$;

(ii) *the problem (1.1)-(1.2) has a unique mild solution on a maximal interval of existence $[-r, T]$ for all $\gamma \in P$.*

Proof: (i) Let $\gamma := \widehat{\varphi} \in \Pi$. Since Ω_1, Ω_2 and Ω_3 are open subsets of their respective spaces, there exists $\delta_1 > 0$ such that $B_C(\widehat{\varphi}, \delta_1) \subset \Omega_1$. Introduce the vectors $w_1 = \widehat{\varphi}(-\tau(0, \widehat{\varphi}))$ and $w_2 = \widehat{\varphi}(-\eta(0))$. Let ε_1 be such that $\bar{B}_E(w_1, \varepsilon_1) \subset \Omega_2$ and $\bar{B}_E(w_2, \varepsilon_1) \subset \Omega_3$.

The map

$$[0, T] \times C \rightarrow E, \quad (t, \psi) \mapsto \psi(-\tau(t, \psi))$$

is continuous, since

$$\begin{aligned} \|\psi(-\tau(t, \psi)) - \bar{\psi}(-\tau(\bar{t}, \bar{\psi}))\| &\leq \|\psi(-\tau(t, \psi)) - \bar{\psi}(-\tau(t, \psi))\| \\ &\quad + \|\bar{\psi}(-\tau(t, \psi)) - \bar{\psi}(-\tau(\bar{t}, \bar{\psi}))\| \\ &\leq \|\psi - \bar{\psi}\| + \|\bar{\psi}(-\tau(t, \psi)) - \bar{\psi}(-\tau(\bar{t}, \bar{\psi}))\| \\ &\rightarrow 0, \text{ as } t \rightarrow \bar{t}, \psi \rightarrow \bar{\psi}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, the map

$$[0, T] \times C \rightarrow E, \quad (t, \psi) \mapsto \psi(-\eta(t))$$

is also continuous; therefore, there exist $\delta_2 \in (0, \delta_1]$ and $T_1 \in (0, T]$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\psi(-\tau(t, \psi)) - w_1\| < \varepsilon_1, \quad \|\psi(-\eta(t)) - w_2\| < \varepsilon_1 \\ \text{for } t \in [0, T_1] \text{ and } \psi \in B_C(\hat{\varphi}, \delta_2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

In particular, we get that for $\varphi \in B_C(\hat{\varphi}, \delta_2)$, it follows $\varphi \in \Omega_1$, $\varphi(-\tau(0, \varphi)) \in \Omega_2$, $\varphi(-\eta(0)) \in \Omega_3$. Therefore, part (i) of the theorem holds for any $0 < \delta \leq \delta_2$.

Fix $\varepsilon_0 > 0$. The continuity of the map $(t, \psi) \mapsto f(t, \psi, \psi(-\tau(t, \psi)))$ yields that there exist $\delta_3 \in (0, \delta_2]$ and $T_2 \in (0, T_1]$ such that

$$\|f(t, \psi, \psi(-\tau(t, \psi))) - f(0, \varphi, \varphi(-\tau(t, \varphi)))\| < \varepsilon_0$$

for $t \in [0, T_2]$, $\psi \in B_C(\hat{\varphi}, \delta_3)$.

Similarly,

$$\|g(t, \psi(-\eta(t))) - g(0, \varphi(-\eta(0)))\| < \varepsilon_0$$

for $t \in [0, T_2]$, $\psi \in B_C(\hat{\varphi}, \delta_3)$.

Define the sets

$$M_2 = \bar{B}_E(w_1, \varepsilon_1), \quad M_3 = \bar{B}_E(w_2, \varepsilon_1).$$

The extension of the function $\psi \in C$ to the interval $[-r, \infty)$ by the constant value $\psi(0)$ will be denoted by

$$\tilde{\psi}(t) = \begin{cases} \psi(t), & t \in [-r, 0], \\ \psi(0), & t \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

We define the following constants

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 &= \|f(0, \varphi, \varphi(-\tau(t, \varphi)))\| + \varepsilon_0, \\ K_2 &= \|g(0, \varphi(-\eta(0)))\| + \varepsilon_0, \\ K_3 &= \|\varphi(0)\|, \\ \beta &= \max\{(M+1)K_3, (M+1)K_2, \sigma MK_1\}, \\ \delta &= \frac{\delta_3}{3}, \\ \sigma &= \min\{T_2, r_0\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, let

$$\max\{3\beta, rL_3\} \leq \delta$$

and

$$E_0 = \{u \in C([-r, \sigma], E), u(t) = \varphi(t) \text{ if } t \in [-r, 0] \text{ and } \sup_{t \in [0, \sigma]} \|u(t) - \varphi(0)\| \leq \delta\}.$$

It is clear that E_0 is a closed set of $C([-r, \sigma], E)$. For $u \in E_0$, $\varphi \in B_C(\widehat{\varphi}, \delta)$, $t \in [0, \sigma]$ and $\zeta \in [-r, 0]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u(t + \zeta) - \widehat{\varphi}(\zeta)\| &\leq \|u(t + \zeta) - \widetilde{\varphi}(t + \zeta)\| + \|\widetilde{\varphi}(t + \zeta) - \widetilde{\varphi}(\zeta)\| \\ &\quad + \|\varphi(\zeta) - \widehat{\varphi}(\zeta)\| \\ &< \delta + rL_3 + \delta \\ &\leq \delta + \delta + \delta \\ &\leq \delta_3, \end{aligned}$$

and hence $\|u_t - \widehat{\varphi}\|_C < \delta_3$. Consequently, $u_t \in B_C(\widehat{\varphi}, \delta_3) \subset \Omega_1$, and so

$$\|f(t, u_t, u(t - \tau(t, u_t)))\| \leq K_1,$$

$$\|g(t, u(t - \eta(t)))\| \leq K_2,$$

and $\psi = u_t$ satisfies (3.1) for $u \in E_0$, $\varphi \in B_C(\widehat{\varphi}, \delta)$, and $t \in [0, \sigma]$. Therefore the definitions of M_2 , M_3 and (3.1) yield

$$u_t(-\tau(u_t)) \in M_2, u_t(-\eta(t)) \in M_3$$

for $t \in [0, \sigma]$, $u \in E_0$, and $\varphi \in B_C(\widehat{\varphi}, \delta)$. Transform the problem (1.1)-(1.2) into a fixed point problem. Consider the operator

$$N : E_0 \rightarrow C([-r, \sigma], E)$$

defined by

$$(Nx)(t) = \begin{cases} \varphi(t), & t \in [-r, 0] \\ S(t)[\varphi(0) - g(0, x(-\eta(0)))] + g(t, x(t - \eta(t))) \\ \quad + \int_0^t S(t-s)f(s, x_s, x(s - \tau(s, x_s)))ds, & t \in J. \end{cases} \tag{3.2}$$

Note that a fixed point of N is a mild solution of (1.1)-(1.2). We will show that

$$N(E_0) \subseteq E_0.$$

Let $v \in E_0$ and $t \in [0, \sigma]$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \|N(v)(t) - \varphi(0)\| &\leq \|S(t)[\varphi(0) - g(0, v(-\eta(0)))] - \varphi(0)\| + \|g(t, v(t - \eta(t)))\| \\ &\quad + \left\| \int_0^t S(t-s)f(s, v_s, v(s - \tau(s, v_s)))ds \right\| \\ &\leq (M + 1)\|\varphi(0)\| + M\|g(0, v(-\eta(0)))\| + \|g(t, v(t - \eta(t)))\| \\ &\quad + M \left\| \int_0^t f(s, v_s, v(s - \tau(s, v_s)))ds \right\| \\ &\leq (M + 1)K_3 + MK_2 + K_2 + MK_1 \int_0^t ds \\ &\leq (M + 1)K_3 + (M + 1)K_2 + M\sigma K_1 \\ &\leq 3\beta \leq \delta. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$N(E_0) \subseteq E_0.$$

On the other hand, let $v, w \in E_0$. Then for $t \in [0, \sigma]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|N(v)(t) - N(w)(t)\| &\leq \|S(t)[g(0, v(-\eta(0))) - g(0, w(-\eta(0)))]\| \\ &\quad + \|g(t, v(t - \eta(t))) - g(t, w(t - \eta(t)))\| \\ &\quad + \left\| \int_0^t S(t-s)[f(s, v_s, v(s - \tau(s, v_s)))] \right\| \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - f(s, w_s, w(s - \tau(s, w_s)))] ds \| \\
 \leq & ML_2 \|v(-\eta(0)) - w(-\eta(0))\| \\
 & + L_2 \|v(t - \eta(t)) - w(t - \eta(t))\| \\
 & + ML_1 \int_0^t \sup_{\zeta \in [-r, -r_0]} \|v_s(\zeta) - w_s(\zeta)\| \\
 & + ML_1 \int_0^t \|v(s - \tau(s, v_s)) - w(s - \tau(s, w_s))\| ds \\
 \leq & ML_2 \|v(-\eta(0)) - w(-\eta(0))\| \\
 & + L_2 \|v(t - \eta(t)) - w(t - \eta(t))\| \\
 & + ML_1 \int_0^t \sup_{\zeta \in [-r, -\sigma]} \|v_s(\zeta) - w_s(\zeta)\| \\
 & + ML_1 \int_0^t \|v(s - \tau(s, v_s)) - w(s - \tau(s, w_s))\| ds.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since $u_t(\zeta) = u(t + \zeta) = \varphi(t + \zeta) = \varphi_t(\zeta)$ for $t \in [0, \sigma]$ and $\zeta \in [-r, -\sigma]$. We have $t - \tau(t, \varphi_t) \leq t - r_0 \leq t - \sigma \leq 0$ for $t \in [0, \sigma]$, so $u_t(-\tau(t, \varphi_t)) = \varphi_t$ for $t \in [0, \sigma]$, and $v(-\eta(0)) = w(-\eta(0)) = \varphi(-\eta(0))$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|N(v)(t) - N(w)(t)\| & \leq ML_2 \|\varphi(-\eta(0)) - \varphi(-\eta(0))\| \\
 & \quad + L_2 \|v(t - \eta(t)) - w(t - \eta(t))\| \\
 & + ML_1 \int_0^t [\|\varphi_s - \varphi_s\| + \|\varphi(s - \tau(s, \varphi_s)) - \varphi(s - \tau(s, \varphi_s))\|] ds \\
 & \leq L_2 \|v(t - \eta(t)) - w(t - \eta(t))\| \\
 & \leq L_2 \sup_{\theta \in [-r, 0]} \sup_{t \in [0, \sigma]} \|v(t + \theta) - w(t + \theta)\| \\
 & \leq L_2 \|v - w\|_\infty.
 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\|N(v) - N(w)\|_\infty \leq L_2 \|v - w\|_\infty.$$

Since $L_2 < 1$, N is a contraction. By the Banach fixed point theorem [8] we conclude that N has a unique fixed point in E_0 and the problem (1.1)-(1.2) has a unique mild solution on $[-r, \sigma]$.

Let $u(t)$ be the unique mild solution of problem (1.1)-(1.2) defined on its maximal interval of existence $[0, T)$, $T > 0$. Assume that $T < \infty$ and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow T^-} \|u(t)\| < \infty.$$

Then, there exists a constant $\rho > 0$ such that $\|u(t)\| \leq \rho$, for $t \in [-r, T)$.

Note that (H_2) and (H_3) imply that

$$\|f(t, \psi, \psi(-\tau(t, \psi))) - f(0, \varphi, \varphi(-\tau(0, \varphi)))\| \leq L_1(\|\psi - \varphi\| + \|\psi(-\tau(t, \psi)) - \varphi(-\tau(0, \varphi))\|)$$

for $t \in [0, \sigma]$, $\psi \in \bar{B}_C(\hat{\varphi}, \delta)$. Similarly,

$$\|g(t, \psi(-\eta(t))) - g(0, \varphi(-\eta(0)))\| \leq L_2\|\psi(-\eta(t)) - \varphi(-\eta(0))\|$$

for $t \in [0, \sigma]$, $\psi \in \bar{B}_C(\hat{\varphi}, \delta)$.

We define the following constants

$$c_1 = \|f(0, \varphi, \varphi(-\tau(0, \varphi)))\| + L_1(\|\varphi\| + \|\varphi(-\tau(0, \varphi))\|),$$

$$c_2 = \|g(0, \varphi(-\eta(0)))\| + L_2\|\varphi(-\eta(0))\|.$$

Let $t \in [0, T)$. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|u(t)\| &\leq \|S(t)[\varphi(0) - g(0, u(-\eta(0)))]\| \\ &\quad + \|g(t, u(t - \eta(t)))\| \\ &\quad + \left\| \int_0^t S(s)f(s, u_s, u(s - \tau(s, u_s)))ds \right\| \\ &\leq M[\|\varphi(0)\| + \|g(0, u(-\eta(0)))\|] + L_2\|u(t - \eta(t))\| + c_2 + Mc_1t \\ &\quad + ML_1 \int_0^t [\|u_s\| + \|u(s - \tau(s, u_s))\|]ds \\ &\leq M[\|\varphi(0)\| + \|g(0, u(-\eta(0)))\|] + L_2\|u(t - \eta(t))\| + c_2 + tMc_1 \\ &\quad + tML_1\|u\|_\infty + ML_1 \int_0^t \|u(s - \tau(s, u_s))\|ds \\ &\leq v(t) + L_2\|u(t - r_1)\| + ML_1 \int_0^t \|u(s - r_2)\|ds \end{aligned}$$

where $r_1 = \eta$, $r_2 = \tau$ and

$$v(t) = M[\|\varphi(0)\| + \|g(0, u(-\eta(0)))\|] + c_2 + tMc_1 + tML_1\|u\|_\infty.$$

By Lemma 3.2, it follows that

$$\|u(t)\| \leq d(t)e^{ct}$$

for $t \in [0, T)$, where c is the unique positive solution of $cL_2e^{-cr_1} + ML_1e^{-cr_2} = c$, and

$$d(t) = \max \left\{ \frac{v(t)}{1-L_2e^{-cr_1}}, \max_{-r \leq s \leq 0} e^{-cs}u(s), \right\}, \quad t \in [0, T).$$

It follows that $\lim_{t \rightarrow T^-} u(t)$ exists. Consequently, $u(t)$ can be extended to T , which contradicts the maximality of $[0, T)$. □

4. EXISTENCE OF MILD SOLUTIONS

In this section we apply a technique based on noncompactness measure assumption on the nonlinear term in proving an existence result for problem (1.1)-(1.2).

We introduce some additional hypotheses:

(H₅) The function $f : J \times C \times E \rightarrow E$ is continuous.

(H₆) (i) There exist constants $c_1 \geq 0$ and $c_2 \geq 0$ such that

$$\|g(t, u)\| \leq c_1\|u\| + c_2, \text{ a.e. } t \in J, u \in E;$$

(ii) the function g is completely continuous and for any bounded set B in Ω , the set $\left\{ t \rightarrow g(t, x(t - \eta(t))) : x \in B \right\}$ is equicontinuous in Ω .

(H₇) There exist $c_3 > 0$, $p \in L^1(J, \mathbb{R}_+)$ and a continuous nondecreasing function $\psi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ such that

$$\|f(t, u, v)\| \leq p(t)\psi(\|u\|) + c_3\|v\|, \text{ for each } u \in C, v \in E \text{ and } t \in J.$$

(H₈) For each bounded $B \subset E$, $B' \subset E$ and $t \in J$ we have

$$\alpha(f(t, B, B')) \leq p(t)\alpha(B) + c_3\alpha(B').$$

(H₉) For each $t \in J$ and bounded $B \subset E$ we have

$$\alpha(g(t, B)) \leq c_1\alpha(B).$$

(H₁₀) There exists $q > 0$ such that

$$M\|\varphi\|_\infty + (M + 1)[c_1q + c_2] + M[\|p\|_{L^1}\psi(q) + Tc_3q] \leq q.$$

Theorem 4.1. *Assume that (H_1) , (H_5) , (H_6) , (H_7) , (H_8) , (H_9) and (H_{10}) hold. Suppose that*

$$[c_1 + M(c_1 + \|p\|_{L^1} + c_3T)] < 1. \tag{4.1}$$

Then the problem (1.1)-(1.2) has at least one mild solution on $[-r, T]$.

Proof: Transform the problem (1.1)-(1.2) into a fixed point problem. Consider the operator

$$N : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$$

defined by

$$(Nx)(t) = \begin{cases} \varphi(t), & t \in [-r, 0] \\ S(t)[\varphi(0) - g(0, x(-\eta(0)))] + g(t, x(t - \eta(t))) \\ \quad + \int_0^t S(t-s)f(s, x_s, x(s - \tau(s, x_s)))ds, & t \in J. \end{cases} \tag{4.2}$$

Note that a fixed point of N is a mild solution of (1.1)-(1.2).

We will show that N satisfies the assumptions of the Mönch fixed point theorem [1, 22].

Consider the set

$$B_q = \{u \in \Omega : \|u\|_\infty \leq q\},$$

where q is the constant defined in (H_{10}) . Clearly, the subset B_q is closed, bounded, and convex.

The proof will be given in several steps.

Step 1: N is continuous.

Using (H_6) , it suffices to show that the operator $N_1 : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$ defined by

$$N_1(x)(t) = \begin{cases} \varphi(t), & t \in [-r, 0] \\ S(t)\varphi(0) + \int_0^t S(t-s)f(s, x_s, x(s - \tau(s, x_s)))ds, & t \in J, \end{cases} \tag{4.3}$$

is continuous.

Let $\{u_n\}$ be a sequence such that $u_n \rightarrow u$ in Ω . Then

$$\|N_1(u_n)(t) - N_1(u)(t)\| \leq \left\| \int_0^t S(t-s)[f(s, u_{ns}, u_n(s - \tau(s, u_{ns}))) - f(s, u_s, u(s - \tau(s, u_s)))]ds \right\|$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\leq M \int_0^t \|f(s, u_{ns}, u_n(s - \tau(s, u_{ns}))) \\
 &\quad - f(s, u_s, u(s - \tau(s, u_s)))\| ds \\
 &\leq M \int_0^t \sup_{\theta \in [-r, 0]} \sup_{s \in [0, T]} \|f(s, u_{ns}, u_n(s + \theta)) \\
 &\quad - f(s, u_s, u(s + \theta))\| ds \\
 &\leq MT \|f(\cdot, u_n, u_n(\cdot)) - f(\cdot, u, u(\cdot))\|_\infty.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since f is a continuous function, we have

$$\|N_1(u_n) - N_1(u)\|_\infty \leq MT \|f(\cdot, u_n, u_n(\cdot)) - f(\cdot, u, u(\cdot))\|_\infty \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Thus N_1 is continuous.

Step 2: N maps B_q into itself.

For each $u \in B_q$, by (H_6) , (H_7) and (H_{10}) , we have for each $t \in [0, T]$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|N(u)(t)\| &\leq \|S(t)[\varphi(0) - g(0, u(-\eta(0)))]\| + \|g(t, u(-\eta(0)))\| \\
 &\quad + \left\| \int_0^t S(t-s) f(s, f(s, u_s, u(s - \tau(s, u_s)))) ds \right\| \\
 &\leq M \|\varphi(0)\| + (M + 1)(c_1q + c_2) + M[\psi(q) \int_0^t p(s) ds + c_3q \int_0^t ds] \\
 &\leq M \|\varphi\|_\infty + (M + 1)[c_1q + c_2] + M\psi(q)\|p\|_{L^1} + MTc_3q.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\|N(u)\|_\infty \leq M \|\varphi\|_\infty + (M + 1)[c_1q + c_2] + M[\psi(q)\|p\|_{L^1} + Tc_3q] \leq q.$$

Step 3: $N(B_q)$ is bounded and equicontinuous.

By Step 2, it is obvious that $N(B_q) \subset B_q$ is bounded. Using (H_6) , it suffices to show that the operator N_1 defined in (3.2) is equicontinuous.

Let $0 < \tau_1, \tau_2 \in J$, $\tau_1 < \tau_2$ and B_q be a bounded set of Ω as in Step 2. Let $u \in B_q$ then for each $t \in J$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|N_1(u)(\tau_2) - N_1(u)(\tau_1)\| &\leq \|S(\tau_2)\varphi(0) - S(\tau_1)\varphi(0)\| \\
 &\quad + \int_0^{\tau_1 - \epsilon} \|S(\tau_2 - s) - S(\tau_1 - s)\| [p(s)\psi(q) + c_3q] ds \\
 &\quad + \int_{\tau_1}^{\tau_1 - \epsilon} \|S(\tau_2 - s) - S(\tau_1 - s)\| [p(s)\psi(q) + c_3q] ds
 \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \int_{\tau_1}^{\tau_2} \|S(\tau_2 - s)\| [p(s)\psi(q) + c_3q] ds.$$

The right-hand side tends to zero as $\tau_2 - \tau_1 \rightarrow 0$, and ϵ sufficiently small, since $S(t)$ is a strongly continuous operator and the compactness of $S(t)$ for $t > 0$ implies the continuity in the uniform operator topology.

Now let V be a subset of B_q such that $V \subset \overline{\text{conv}}(N(V) \cup \{0\})$. V is bounded and equicontinuous and therefore the function $t \rightarrow v(t) = \alpha(V(t))$ is continuous on J . By (H_8) , (H_9) , and the properties of the measure α we have for each $t \in J$,

$$\begin{aligned} v(t) &\leq \alpha(N(V)(t) \cup \{0\}) \\ &\leq \alpha(N(V)(t)) \\ &\leq c_1 [M\alpha(V(-\eta(0))) + \alpha(V(t - \eta(t)))] \\ &\quad + M \int_0^t [p(s)\alpha(V_s) + c_3\alpha(V(s - \tau(s, V_s)))] ds \\ &\leq c_1 [Mv(-\eta(0)) + v(t - \eta(t))] + M \int_0^t [p(s)v_s + c_3v(s - \tau(s, V_s))] ds \\ &\leq c_1(M + 1)\|v\|_\infty + M[\|p\|_{L^1}\|v\|_\infty + c_3T\|v\|_\infty] \\ &\leq [c_1 + M(c_1 + \|p\|_{L^1} + c_3T)]\|v\|_\infty. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\|v\|_\infty (1 - [c_1 + M(c_1 + \|p\|_{L^1} + c_3T)]) \leq 0.$$

Since $[c_1 + M(c_1 + \|p\|_{L^1} + c_3T)] < 1$ it follows that $v(t) = 0$ for each $t \in J$, and then $V(t)$ is relatively compact in E . In view of the Ascoli-Arzelà theorem, V is relatively compact in B_q . As a consequence of the Mönch fixed theorem [1, 22] we deduce that N has a fixed point which is a mild solution of problem (1.1)-(1.2). □

For the next theorem we replace the condition (4.1) by

$$c_1(M + 1) < 1. \tag{4.4}$$

Now, consider the Kuratowski measure of noncompactness α_C defined on the family of bounded subsets of the space $C(J, E)$ by

$$\alpha_C(H) = \sup_{\theta \in [-r, 0]} \sup_{t \in J} e^{-\tau L(t)} \alpha(H(t + \theta)),$$

where $L(t) = \int_0^t \tilde{l}(s) ds$, $\tilde{l}(t) = M(p(t) + c_3)$, $\tau > \frac{1}{1 - c_1(M + 1)}$.

Our next result is based on the Darbo fixed point theorem [10].

Theorem 4.2. *Assume that $(H_1), (H_5), (H_6), (H_8), (H_9)$ and (4.4) are satisfied. Then the problem (1.1)-(1.2) has at least one mild solution on $[-r, T]$.*

Proof: As in Theorem 4.1, we can prove that the operator $N : B_q \rightarrow B_q$ defined in that theorem is continuous and $N(B_q)$ is bounded.

Now we show that the operator $N : B_q \rightarrow B_q$ is a strict set contraction, i.e., there is a constant $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ such that $\alpha(N(H)) \leq \lambda\alpha(H)$ for any $H \subset B_q$. In particular, we need to prove that there exists a constant $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ such that $\alpha_C(N(H)) \leq \lambda\alpha_C(H)$ for any $H \subset B_q$. For each $t \in J$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha((N(H)(t)) &\leq c_1[M\alpha(H(-\eta(0))) + \alpha(H(t - \eta(t)))] \\ &\quad + M \int_0^t [p(s)\alpha(H_s) + c_3\alpha(H(s - \tau(s, H_s)))]ds \\ &\leq c_1[M\alpha(H(-\eta(0))) + \alpha(H(t - \eta(t)))] \\ &\quad + M \int_0^t e^{\tau L(s)} e^{-\tau L(s)} [p(s)\alpha(H_s) + c_3\alpha(H(s - \tau(s, H_s)))]ds \\ &\leq c_1[M\alpha(H(-\eta(0))) + \alpha(H(t - \eta(t)))] \\ &\quad + M \sup_{\theta \in [-r, 0]} \sup_{s \in J} e^{-\tau L(s)} \alpha(H(s + \theta)) \int_0^t e^{\tau L(s)} [p(s) + c_3]ds \\ &\leq c_1[M\alpha(H(-\eta(0))) + \alpha(H(t - \eta(t)))] + \alpha_C(H) \int_0^t \tilde{l}(s)e^{\tau L(s)} ds \\ &\leq c_1[M\alpha(H(-\eta(0))) + \alpha(H(t - \eta(t)))] + \alpha_C(H) \int_0^t \left(\frac{e^{\tau L(s)}}{\tau}\right)' ds \\ &\leq c_1[M\alpha(H(-\eta(0))) + \alpha(H(t - \eta(t)))] + \alpha_C(H) \frac{1}{\tau} e^{\tau L(t)}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-\tau L(t)} \alpha((N(H)(t)) &\leq c_1 e^{-\tau L(t)} [M\alpha(H(-\eta(0))) + \alpha(H(t - \eta(t)))] + \alpha_C(H) \frac{1}{\tau} \\ &\leq c_1 [M + 1] \sup_{\theta \in [-r, 0]} \sup_{s \in J} e^{-\tau L(s)} \alpha(H(s + \theta)) + \alpha_C(H) \frac{1}{\tau}. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\alpha_C(NH) \leq \left[c_1(M + 1) + \frac{1}{\tau} \right] \alpha_C(H).$$

So, the operator N is a set contraction. By the Darbo fixed point theorem [10] we deduce that N has a fixed point which is a mild solution of problem (1.1)-(1.2). □

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