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SOLVABILITY OF NONLINEAR PROBLEMS AT RESONANCE
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Abstract: This paper deals with the solvability of nonlinear operator equations with finite-dimensional kernel of the linear part and with nonlinearity given by odd real function g with $\int_0^\infty g(z) dz \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$ and with no restrictions on

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t \min_{\tau \in (a, t)} g(\tau).$$

Key words: Noncoercive problems at resonance, weakly nonlinear boundary value problems, vanishing nonlinearities

Classification: 47H15, 35J40

1. **Assumptions.** Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a bounded domain, $H = L^2(\Omega)$ be the real Hilbert space with usual inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and with the norm $\|u\| = \langle u, u \rangle^{1/2}$. Suppose that

$$L: D(L) \subset H \rightarrow H$$

is a symmetric linear operator with dense domain $D(L)$, with nontrivial finite-dimensional nullspace $N(L)$ and closed range $R(L)$. Let

$$H = N(L) \oplus R(L)$$

and suppose that

$$K = (L|_{R(L)})^{-1}: R(L) \rightarrow R(L)$$

(so called the right inverse of L) is completely continuous.

We assume that $N(L)$ has "unique continuation property" in the sense that the only function $w \in N(L)$ vanishing on a

set of positive measure in Ω is $w \equiv 0$.

Let G be the Nemytskii operator associated with continuously differentiable odd bounded function $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $g \neq 0$,

$$G: u \mapsto g \circ u.$$

Obviously G maps H into H and has bounded range.

Let us suppose that

$$(1) \quad c = \|K\| \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}} |g'(z)| < 1,$$

$$(2) \quad \text{there exists } \int_0^{+\infty} g(z) dz.$$

Let us denote $I = \int_0^{+\infty} g(z) dz$ (we admit $I = \pm \infty$).

In distinction from papers [1] and [2] we assume nothing about the limit

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} t \min_{\tau \in \langle a, t \rangle} g(\tau).$$

This paper also generalizes in some sense the results from [3], [4] and [6] because we may have $\dim N(L) > 1$.

2. Theorem. Let $f \in R(L)$. Then the operator equation

$$(3) \quad Lu + G(u) = f$$

has at least one solution.

3. Proof of the theorem. We use the global Lyapunov-Schmidt method. For this purpose we denote P and Q the orthogonal projections from H onto $N(L)$ and $R(L)$, respectively. It is easy to see that the solvability of (3) is equivalent to the solvability of the bifurcation system

$$(3a) \quad v + KQG(w + v) - Kf = 0,$$

$$(3b) \quad PG(w + v) = 0,$$

$w \in N(L), v \in R(L), w = Pu, v = Qu.$

Step 1. For each $w \in N(L)$ there exists exactly one $v(w) \in R(L)$ such that

$$(3a) \quad v(w) + KQG(w + v(w)) - Kf = 0.$$

Define $F(w, \cdot): R(L) \rightarrow R(L),$

$$F(w, \cdot): v \mapsto Kf - KQG(w + v),$$

for each $w \in N(L)$. Then using Hölder inequality we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \|F(w, v_1) - F(w, v_2)\| &\leq \|K\| \|Q\| \sup_{\|u\|=1} \left| \int_{\Omega} [g(w + v_1) - g(w + v_2)] u \right| \\ &\leq \|K\| \sup_{\|u\|=1} \int_{\Omega} |g(w + v_1) - g(w + v_2)| |u| \\ &\leq \|K\| \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}} |g'(z)| \|v_1 - v_2\| = c \|v_1 - v_2\| \end{aligned}$$

holds for each $w \in N(L), v_1, v_2 \in R(L)$. The Banach contraction theorem implies that for each $w \in N(L)$ there exists exactly one $v(w) \in R(L)$ that

$$v(w) = F(w, v(w)).$$

Step 2. There exists $r > 0$ such that for each $w \in N(L)$ it is

$$(4) \quad \|v(w)\| \leq r.$$

The proof follows immediately from the boundedness of G .

Step 3. It is

$$(5) \quad \lim_{\ell \rightarrow +\infty} \text{meas} \{x \in \Omega; |v(w)(x)| \geq \ell\} = 0,$$

uniformly with respect to $w \in N(L)$.

The equality (5) follows from (4).

Step 4. For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$ we have

$$\lim_{\|w\| \rightarrow \infty} \text{meas} \{x \in \Omega; |w(x)| \leq k\} = 0.$$

Suppose on the contrary that there exists $k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$, $w_n \in N(L)$, $\|w_n\| \rightarrow +\infty$ such that

$$\text{meas } \{x \in \Omega; |w_n(x)| \leq k_0\} \geq \varepsilon_0 > 0.$$

Put $\hat{w}_n = w_n / \|w_n\|$. Then we have

$$(6) \quad \text{meas } \{x \in \Omega; |\hat{w}_n(x)| \leq k_0 / \|w_n\|\} \geq \varepsilon_0.$$

Since $\dim N(L) < +\infty$ we can suppose that $\hat{w}_n \rightarrow w_0$ in $L^2(\Omega)$, i.e. by Jęgorov's theorem for each $\eta > 0$ there exists $\Omega' \subset \Omega$, $\text{meas } \Omega' < \eta$ and $\hat{w}_n \rightrightarrows w_0$ (uniformly) on $\Omega \setminus \Omega'$. If we put $\eta = \varepsilon_0/2$ and take the limit for $n \rightarrow +\infty$ in (6), we obtain

$$\text{meas } \{x \in \Omega; |w_0(x)| = 0\} \geq \varepsilon_0/2 > 0,$$

which is a contradiction with $w_0 \in N(L)$ and the unique continuation property of $N(L)$.

Step 5. If $I \in \mathbb{R}$ then it is

$$\lim_{\|w\| \rightarrow +\infty} v(w) = Kf \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{\|w\| \rightarrow +\infty} Lv(w) = g.$$

Using Hölder inequality we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|v(w) - Kf\|^2 &\leq \|K\|^2 \left(\sup_{\|u\| \leq 1} \int_{\Omega} |g(w + v(w))u| \right)^2 \leq \\ &\leq \|K\|^2 \left(\int_{\Omega} |g(w + v(w))|^2 \right); \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{analogously } \|Lv(w) - f\|^2 \leq \left(\int_{\Omega} |g(w + v(w))|^2 \right).$$

Choose $\varepsilon > 0$. Then there exists $k > 0$ such that

$$(7) \quad \left(\sup_{|z| \geq k} |g(z)|^2 \text{meas } \Omega \right) < \varepsilon/2.$$

According to Steps 3 and 4 we obtain the existence of such $\varkappa > 0$ that for $\|w\| \geq \varkappa$ it is

$$(8) \quad \text{meas } \Omega_k = \text{meas } \{x \in \Omega; |w(x) + v(w)(x)| \leq k\} < \varepsilon / (2 \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}} |g(z)|^2).$$

Using (7) and (8) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|v(w) - Kf\|^2 &\leq \|K\|^2 \left\{ \int_{\Omega_k} |g(w + v(w))|^2 \right\} + \\ &+ \left\{ \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_k} |g(w + v(w))|^2 \right\} \leq \|K\|^2 \left\{ \left(\sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}} |g(z)|^2 \text{meas } \Omega_k \right) + \right. \\ &+ \left. \left(\sup_{|z| \geq k} |g(z)|^2 \text{meas } \Omega \right) \right\} < \|K\|^2 \epsilon ; \end{aligned}$$

analogously we obtain $\|Lv(w) - f\|^2 < \epsilon$.

Step 6. Put

$$\varphi(w) = 1/2 \langle Lv(w), v(w) \rangle + \int_{\Omega} dx \int_0^{w+v(w)} g(z) dz - \int_{\Omega} fv(w).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\|w\| \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(w) &= I \text{meas } \Omega - 1/2 \langle f, Kf \rangle, \text{ in the case } I \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and} \\ \lim_{\|w\| \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(w) &= \pm \infty, \text{ if } I = \pm \infty. \end{aligned}$$

We shall prove the assertion for $I \in \mathbb{R}$ and $I = +\infty$ (the case $I = -\infty$ is analogous). Let $I \in \mathbb{R}$. According to Step 5 it is $\lim_{\|w\| \rightarrow \infty} [1/2 \langle Lv(w), v(w) \rangle - \int_{\Omega} fv(w)] = -1/2 \langle f, Kf \rangle$.

Choose $\epsilon > 0$. There exists $k > 0$ such that

$$(9) \quad \left| \int_0^{+k} g(z) dz - I \right| < \epsilon.$$

Let $\epsilon > 0$ be such that (see Steps 3, 4)

$$(10) \quad \text{meas } \Omega_k < \epsilon,$$

for all $w \in N(L)$, $\|w\| \geq \epsilon$. Then for $\|w\| \geq \epsilon$ we obtain using (9) and (10)

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\Omega} dx \int_0^{w+v(w)} g(z) dz - I \text{meas } \Omega \right| &\leq \left| \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_k} dx \int_0^{w+v(w)} g(z) dz - \right. \\ &- I \text{meas } (\Omega \setminus \Omega_k) \left. + \left| \int_{\Omega_k} dx \int_0^{w+v(w)} g(z) dz - I \text{meas } \Omega_k \right| \right. \\ &< \epsilon (\text{meas } \Omega + \int_0^{\infty} |g(z)| dz + I), \text{ which implies} \end{aligned}$$

$$\lim_{\|w\| \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} dx \int_0^{w+v(w)} g(z) dz = I \text{meas } \Omega.$$

Let $I = +\infty$. Then for arbitrary $\ell > 0$ there exists $k > 0$ such that

$$\int_0^{+k} g(z) dz > \ell.$$

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be such that $\text{meas } \Omega_k < \min(1/\ell \int_0^k |g(z)| dz, 1/2 \text{ meas } \Omega)$, for all $w \in N(L)$, $\|w\| \geq \varepsilon$. Thus for $\|w\| \geq \varepsilon$ it is

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} dx \int_0^{w+\nu(w)} g(z) dz &\geq \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_k} dx \int_0^{w+\nu(w)} g(z) dz - \\ - \left| \int_{\Omega_k} dx \int_0^{w+\nu(w)} g(z) dz \right| &\geq \ell \text{meas}(\Omega \setminus \Omega_k) - \\ - \text{meas } \Omega_k \int_0^k |g(z)| dz &\geq 1/2 \ell \text{meas } \Omega - 1/\ell, \text{ which implies} \\ \lim_{\|w\| \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} dx \int_0^{w+\nu(w)} g(z) dz &= +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

This together with Step 2 proves the assertion for $I = +\infty$.

Step 7. The function $v(\cdot): w \mapsto v(w)$ is Fréchet differentiable on $N(L)$. Since $c < 1$ (see (1)), the Fréchet derivative of

$$(v, w) \mapsto v - F(v, w)$$

with respect to the first variable is invertible (lemma of Minty) and the assertion then follows from the implicit function theorem.

According to Step 6 the function $\varphi: N(L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ must attain its maximum or minimum in some point $w_0 \in N(L)$, if $I \in \mathbb{R}$, φ attains its maximum for $I = -\infty$ and minimum for $I = +\infty$. Then

$$(11) \quad \langle \varphi'(w_0), h \rangle = 0$$

for each $h \in N(L)$. On the other hand, it is

$$\langle \varphi'(w_0), h \rangle = 1/2 \langle Lv'(w_0)h, v(w_0) \rangle + 1/2 \langle Lv(w_0), v'(w_0)h \rangle +$$

$$+ \int_{\Omega} g(w_0 + v(w_0))h + \int_{\Omega} g(w_0 + v(w_0))v'(w_0)h - \int_{\Omega} fv'(w_0)h.$$

Since L is symmetric, it is

$$1/2 \langle Lv'(w_0)h, v(w_0) \rangle + 1/2 \langle Lv(w_0), v'(w_0)h \rangle = \langle Lv(w_0), v'(w_0)h \rangle$$

and (because of $v'(w_0)h \in R(L)$ and (3a) holds)

$$\langle Lv(w_0), v'(w_0)h \rangle + \int_{\Omega} g(w_0 + v(w_0))v'(w_0)h = \int_{\Omega} fv'(w_0)h$$

for each $h \in N(L)$. From (11) we obtain that

$$\int_{\Omega} g(w_0 + v(w_0))h = 0,$$

for each $h \in N(L)$, which is nothing else than (3b).

The function $u = w_0 + v(w_0)$ is then the solution of (3).

4. Applications. The results of this paper may be applied, for instance, to the following types of semilinear elliptic boundary value problems:

$$(12) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta u - \lambda_k u + \beta u e^{-u^2} = f & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega; \end{cases}$$

$$(13) \quad \begin{cases} -\Delta u - \lambda_k u + \beta e^{-u^2} \sin u = f & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega; \end{cases}$$

$$(14) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta^2 u - \lambda_k u + \frac{\beta u}{1+u^8} = f & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega; \end{cases}$$

$$(15) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta^2 u - \lambda_k u + g(u) = f & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u = \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases}$$

where g is bounded, odd, continuously differentiable function with compact support in \mathbb{R} .

We put $D(L) = W_0^{1,2}(\Omega)$, resp. $D(L) = W_0^{2,2}(\Omega)$, in the cases (12), (13), resp. (14), (15). The operator L is defined by

$$\langle Lu, v \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \nabla u \nabla v - \lambda_k \int_{\Omega} uv,$$

in cases (12) and (13);

$$\langle Lu, v \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \Delta u \Delta v - \lambda_k \int_{\Omega} uv,$$

in the cases (14) and (15). We suppose that λ_k is any eigenvalue of the Laplace operator Δ , resp. the biharmonic operator Δ^2 , with Dirichlet boundary conditions. Then the operator L satisfies all the assumptions from Section 1. Let us note that the assumption of "unique continuation property" is satisfied according to the result of Sitnikova [7]. The constant $\beta > 0$ depends on Ω and it must be such that the assumption (1) is fulfilled.

5. Remarks. As it was pointed out in Section 1, we assume nothing about the limit

$$(16) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t \min_{\tau \in \langle \alpha, t \rangle} g(\tau).$$

It means that this paper generalizes the results of Fučík, Krbeč [1] and Hess [2]. The price we must pay for this generalization is the assumption (1) which is not very eligible.

This paper generalizes the results of de Figueiredo, Ni [3] and Concalves [6] because we may have $\dim N(L) > 1$ and it need not be necessarily $g(t)t \geq 0$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

Following the proof of the theorem it is obvious that the assumption that g is odd can be replaced by the assumption

$$\int_{-\infty}^0 g(z) dz = - \int_0^{\infty} g(z) dz.$$

Studying the function $\varphi : N(L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and using the

Brouwer degree theory it is possible to prove the existence of multiple solutions of (3) with the right hand side

$$f = f_1 + f_2,$$

$f_1 \in R(L)$ and $f_2 \in N(L)$ with sufficiently small $\|f_2\|$. The sketch of the proof is given in [5].

6. Open problem. According to the author's best knowledge it remains to be an open problem to prove the theorem without the condition (1) which makes restriction on the derivative $|g'(z)|$, $z \in \mathbb{R}$.

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