EXISTENCE AND MULTIPLICITY OF POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR MULTIPoint BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEMS

DEHONG JI*, YITAO YANG, WEIGAO GE

ABSTRACT. This paper deals with the multipoint boundary value problem for one dimensional p-Laplacian

$$(\phi_p(u'))'(t) + f(t, u(t)) = 0, \ t \in (0, 1),$$

subject to the boundary value conditions:

$$u'(0) - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i u(\xi_i) = 0, \ u'(1) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i u(\eta_i) = 0.$$  

Using a fixed point theorem for operators on a cone, we provide sufficient conditions for the existence of multiple (at least three) positive solutions to the above boundary value problem.

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1. Introduction

In this paper, we consider the existence and multiplicity of positive solutions for multipoint boundary value problem (BVP for short)

$$(\phi_p(u'))'(t) + f(t, u(t)) = 0, \ t \in (0, 1),$$

$$u'(0) - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i u(\xi_i) = 0, \ u'(1) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i u(\eta_i) = 0,$$

where $\phi_p(s) = |s|^{p-2} s, \ p > 1, \ (\phi_p)^{-1} = \phi_q, \ \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$.

In this article, we assume that:

$$(H_1) \ 0 < \xi_1 < \xi_2 < \cdots < \xi_n < 1, \ 0 < \eta_1 < \eta_2 < \cdots < \eta_n < 1, \ \xi_i < \eta_i, \ \alpha_i > 0 \ \text{for} \ i = 1, 2, \cdots, n; \ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i \xi_i < 1, \ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i (1 - \eta_i) < 1;$$

$$(H_2) \ f \in C([0, 1] \times [0, \infty), (0, \infty)).$$

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The study of multipoint boundary value problems for linear second-order ordinary differential equations was initiated by Li'in and Moiseer [1][2]. Then Gupta [5] studied three-point boundary value problems for nonlinear ordinary differential equations. Since then, there has been much current attention focused on the study of nonlinear multipoint boundary value problems, see [3-4,6,9,13,14]. In paper [5], the author studied the existence of solutions for the generalized multipoint boundary value problem
\[ x''(t) = f(t, x(t), x'(t)) + r(t), \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1, \]
\[ x(0) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \alpha_i x(\xi_i), \quad x'(1) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \beta_i x'(\eta_i), \]
where \( 0 < \xi_1 < \xi_2 < \cdots < \xi_{n-2} < 1 \), \( 0 < \eta_1 < \eta_2 < \cdots < \eta_{n-2} < 1 \), \( \alpha_i, \beta_i \in R \) and \( (1 - \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \alpha_i)(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \beta_i) \neq 0 \). The author established some existence results for the above BVP.

Recently, Wang [12] considered the multipoint BVP for the one dimensional \( p \)-Laplacian
\[ (\phi_p(u'))' + f(t, u(t)) = 0, \quad t \in (0, 1), \]
\[ \phi_p(u'(0)) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} a_i \phi_p(u'(\xi_i)), \quad u(1) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} b_i u(\xi_i), \]
where \( \xi_i \in (0, 1) \) with \( 0 < \xi_1 < \xi_2 < \cdots < \xi_{n-2} < 1 \) and \( a_i, b_i \) satisfy \( a_i, b_i \in [0, \infty) \), \( 0 < \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} a_i < 1 \), and \( \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} b_i < 1 \). Using a fixed point theorem in a cone, the authors provided sufficient conditions for the existence of multiple positive solutions to the above boundary value problem. Ma [7] obtained the existence of monotone positive solutions for the following BVP
\[ (\phi_p(u'))' + q(t)f(t, u) = 0, \quad t \in (0, 1), \]
\[ u'(0) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i u'(\xi_i), \quad u(1) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \beta_i u(\xi_i), \]
where \( \xi_i \in (0, 1) \) and \( 0 \leq \alpha_i, \beta_i < 1 \) satisfy \( 0 \leq \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i, \sum_{i=1}^{n} \beta_i < 1 \). The main tool is the monotone iterative technique.

However, to the best of our knowledge, no work has been done for BVP (1), (2). The aim of this paper is to fill the gap in the relevant literatures. In this paper, a positive solution \( u(t) \) of BVP (1),(2) means a solution \( u(t) \) of BVP (1),(2) satisfying \( u(t) > 0, \quad 0 < t < 1 \).

To obtain positive solutions of (1) and (2), the following fixed point theorem in cones is fundamental.

**Lemma 1.** [10, 11] Let \( K \) be a cone in a Banach space \( X \). Let \( D \) be an open bounded subset of \( X \) with \( D_k = D \cap K \neq \emptyset \) and \( \overline{D_k} \neq \emptyset \). Assume that \( T : \overline{D_k} \rightarrow K \) is a compact map such that \( x \neq Tx \) for \( x \in \partial D_k \). Then the following results hold:

1. If \( \|Tx\| \leq \|x\| \), \( x \in \partial D_k \), then \( \tau_k(T, D_k) = 1 \).
(2) If there exists \( e \in K \setminus \{0\} \) such that \( x \neq Tx + \lambda e \) for all \( x \in \partial D_k \) and all \( \lambda > 0 \), then \( i_k(T, D_k) = 0 \).

(3) Let \( U \) be open in \( X \) such that \( \overline{U} \subset D_k \). If \( i_k(T, D_k) = 1 \) and \( i_k(T, U_k) = 0 \), then \( T \) has a fixed point in \( D_k \setminus \overline{U_k} \). The same result holds if \( i_k(T, D_k) = 0 \) and \( i_k(T, U_k) = 1 \).

2. Preliminary

Let \( E = C[0, 1] \), then \( E \) is a Banach space with the norm \( \|u\| := \max_{0 \leq t \leq 1} |u(t)| \).

We denote
\[
C^+([0, 1]) = \{ u \in C[0, 1] : u(t) \geq 0, \ t \in [0,1] \}.
\]

**Lemma 2.** Let \((H_1), (H_2)\) hold. Then for \( x \in C^+([0,1]) \), the problem
\[
(\phi_p(u'))'(t) + f(t, x(t)) = 0, \ t \in (0,1),
\]
\[
u'(0) - \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i u(\xi_i) = 0, \quad \nu'(1) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i u(\eta_i) = 0,
\]
has a solution
\[
u(t) = \frac{\phi_q(A_x) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i \int_{\xi_i}^{1} \phi_q(A_x - \int_{0}^{s} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau)ds}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i} - \int_{t}^{1} \phi_q \left( A_x - \int_{0}^{s} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau \right) ds,
\]
where \( A_x \) satisfies
\[
\phi_q(A_x) + \phi_q(A_x - \int_{0}^{1} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i \int_{\xi_i}^{\eta_i} \phi_q(A_x - \int_{0}^{s} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau)ds = 0,
\]
then there exists a unique \( A_x \in (0, \int_{0}^{1} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau) \) satisfying (8). This implies that there is a unique \( \sigma_x \in (0, 1) \) such that \( A_x = \int_{0}^{\sigma_x} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau \).

**Proof.** For any \( x \in C^+([0,1]) \), define
\[
H_x(c) = \phi_q(c) + \phi_q(c - \int_{0}^{1} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i \int_{\xi_i}^{\eta_i} \phi_q(c - \int_{0}^{s} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau)ds.
\]

Then, \( H_x : R \rightarrow R \) is continuous and strictly increasing.
\[
H_x(0) < 0, \quad H_x \left( \int_{0}^{1} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau \right) > 0,
\]
implies the existence of a unique \( c = A_x \in (0, \int_{0}^{1} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau) \) such that \( H_x(A_x) = 0 \). Then the existence of \( \sigma_x \in (0, 1) \) is obvious. \( \Box \)
Lemma 3. Let \((H_1), (H_2)\) hold. Then for \(x \in C^+[0, 1]\), the solution of BVP (5), (6) can also be expressed:

\[
u(t) = \frac{\phi_q(B_x + \int_0^t f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau) - \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \int_{\xi_i} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau}{\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i} + \int_0^t \phi_q(B_x + \int_\tau^1 f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau)ds,
\]

where \(B_x\) satisfies

\[
\phi_q(B_x) + \phi_q(B_x + \int_0^t f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau) + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \int_{\xi_i} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau)ds = 0,
\]

then there exists a unique \(B_x \in (-\int_0^1 f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau, 0)\) satisfying (10). This implies that there is a unique \(\tau_x \in (0, 1)\) such that \(B_x = -\int_{\tau_x}^1 f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau\).

Proof. The proof is similar to lemma 2, we omit it here.

Lemma 4. Let \((H_1), (H_2)\) hold. Then for \(x \in C^+[0, 1]\), the unique solution \(u(t)\) of BVP (5), (6) has the following properties:

(i) \(u(t)\) is concave on \((0, 1)\);
(ii) \(u(t) > 0\);
(iii) there exists a unique \(t_0 \in (0, 1)\), s.t \(u'(t_0) = 0\);
(iv) \(\sigma_x = \tau_x = t_0\).

Proof. Suppose that \(u(t)\) is a solution of BVP (5), (6), then

(i) \((\phi_p(u'))'(t) = -f(t, x(t)) \leq 0\), \(\phi_p(u')\) is nonincreasing, so \(u'(t)\) is nonincreasing, this implies that \(u(t)\) is concave.

(ii) From lemma 2 and 3, we can get \(u'(0) > 0, \quad u'(1) < 0\). Furthermore, since

\[
\alpha_1 u(\xi_1) - \alpha_1 u(0) = \alpha_1 \int_0^{\xi_1} u'(s)ds \leq \alpha_1 \xi_1 u'(0) = \alpha_1 \xi_1 \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(\xi_i),
\]

\[
\alpha_2 u(\xi_2) - \alpha_2 u(0) = \alpha_2 \int_0^{\xi_2} u'(s)ds \leq \alpha_2 \xi_2 u'(0) = \alpha_2 \xi_2 \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(\xi_i),
\]

\[
\alpha_n u(\xi_n) - \alpha_n u(0) = \alpha_n \int_0^{\xi_n} u'(s)ds \leq \alpha_n \xi_n u'(0) = \alpha_n \xi_n \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(\xi_i),
\]

using \((H_1)\) and \(u'(0) = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(\xi_i) > 0, \quad u'(1) = -\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(\eta_i) < 0\), we have

\[
\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(\xi_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(0) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(\xi_i) \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \xi_i < \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(\xi_i),
\]

i.e., \(\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(\xi_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(0) < \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i u(\xi_i)\), which implies that \(u(0) > 0\). Similarly, we can prove that \(u(1) > 0\). Therefore, we get \(u(t) > 0, \quad t \in [0, 1]\).

(iii) \(u'(0) > 0, \quad u'(1) < 0\) imply that there is a \(t^* \in (0, 1)\), such that \(u'(t^*) = 0\).
If there exist \( t_1, t_2 \in (0, 1), \ t_1 < t_2 \), such that \( u'(t_1) = 0 = u'(t_2) \), then
\[
0 = \phi_p(u'(t_2)) - \phi_p(u'(t_1)) = -\int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(s, x(s))ds < 0,
\]
this is a contradiction.

(iv) From Lemma 2 and 3, we have \( u'(t) = \phi_q(\int_{\sigma_u}^{\sigma_x} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau) \) and \( u'(t) = \phi_q(\int_{\sigma_u}^{\sigma_x} f(\tau, x(\tau))d\tau) \), so \( u'(\sigma_u) = u'(\tau_x) = u'(t_0) = 0 \). Therefore, \( \sigma_x = \tau_x = t_0 \). \( \square \)

**Lemma 5.** Let
\[
K = \{ u \in E : u(t) \geq 0, \ u \text{ is concave on } [0, 1] \}.
\]

Define an operator \( T : K \to E \) by
\[
(Tu)(t) = \begin{cases}
\phi_q(\int_0^{\sigma_u} f(\tau, u(\tau))d\tau) + \sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i \int_0^{\xi_i} \phi_q(\int_{\xi_u}^{\xi_i} f(\tau, u(\tau))d\tau)ds \\
\sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i \\
+ \int_{\sigma_u}^{t} \phi_q(\int_{\sigma_u}^{\sigma_x} f(\tau, u(\tau))d\tau)ds, \\
0 \leq t \leq \sigma_u,
\end{cases}
\]
\[
\phi_q(\int_0^{\sigma_u} f(\tau, u(\tau))d\tau) + \sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i \int_{\xi_u}^{\xi_i} \phi_q(\int_{\xi_u}^{\xi_i} f(\tau, u(\tau))d\tau)ds \\
\sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i \\
+ \int_{\sigma_u}^{\xi_i} \phi_q(\int_{\sigma_u}^{\sigma_x} f(\tau, u(\tau))d\tau)ds, \\
\sigma_u \leq t \leq 1.
\]

Then \( T : K \to K \) is completely continuous.

**Proof.** It is easy to check that \( K \) is a cone in \( E \). From Lemma 4, it is easy to see that \( (Tu)(t) \geq 0, \ (Tu)'(0) - \sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i(Tu)(\xi_i) = 0, \ (Tu)'(1) + \sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i(Tu)(\eta_i) = 0, \) and \( (\phi_p(Tu)'(t))' = -f(t, u(t)) \leq 0, \) this shows \( T(K) \subset K \). It is easy to see that \( T : K \to K \) is completely continuous. \( \square \)

**Lemma 6.** \([8]\) Let \( u \in K \), and \( \theta \in (0, \frac{1}{2}) \) is a constant. Then
\[
u(t) \geq \theta \| u \|, \quad t \in [\theta, 1 - \theta].
\]

Let \( \theta \in (0, \frac{1}{2}) \) is a constant, and we define
\[
\gamma_1 = \left[ \theta(\frac{1}{2} - \theta)^q \right] \frac{q + \sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i \xi_i^q + \sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i}{q \sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i},
\gamma = \theta \left[ \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \theta \right]^q \right] \frac{q + \sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i \xi_i^q + \sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i}{q \sum_{i=1}^{n}\alpha_i},
\Omega_\rho = \{ u \in K : \| u \| < \gamma \rho \},
K_\rho = \{ u \in K : \min_{\theta \leq t \leq 1-\theta} u(t) < \gamma \rho \}
\]
\[
= \{ u : u \in C[0, 1], \ u(t) \geq 0, \ u \text{ is concave on } [0, 1], \gamma \| u \| \leq \min_{\theta \leq t \leq 1-\theta} u(t) < \gamma \rho \}.\]
Lemma 7. [11] $\Omega_\rho$ has the following properties:

(a) $\Omega_\rho$ is open relative to $K$.
(b) $K_{\gamma \rho} \subset \Omega_\rho \subset K_\rho$.
(c) $u \in \partial \Omega_\rho$ if and only if $\min_{0 \leq t \leq 1-\theta} u(t) = \gamma \rho$.
(d) If $u \in \partial \Omega_\rho$, then $\gamma \rho \leq u(t) \leq \rho$ for $t \in [\theta, 1-\theta]$.

Now for convenience we introduce the following notations. Let

$$f_{\gamma \rho}^\rho = \min \left\{ \frac{f(t, u)}{\phi_p(\rho)} : t \in [\theta, 1-\theta], u \in [\gamma \rho, \rho] \right\},$$

$$f_0^\rho = \max \left\{ \frac{f(t, u)}{\phi_p(\rho)} : t \in [0, 1], u \in [0, \rho] \right\},$$

$$f_{1-\alpha} = \lim_{\alpha \to 1^-} \sup \left\{ \frac{f(t, u)}{\phi_p(u)} : t \in [0, 1] \right\},$$

$$f_\alpha = \lim_{\alpha \to 0^+} \inf \left\{ \frac{f(t, u)}{\phi_p(u)} : t \in [\theta, 1-\theta] \right\} \quad (\alpha := \infty \text{ or } 0^+),$$

$$\frac{1}{m} = q + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \xi_i^q + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i, \quad \frac{1}{M} = \theta(\theta - \gamma)^q.$$

Lemma 8. It is easy to see that $0 < m, M < \infty$ and $M_0 = M_\rho^1 = \theta m < m$.

Lemma 9. If $f$ satisfies the condition:

$$f_0^\rho < \phi_p(m), \quad (12)$$

then $i_k(T, K_\rho) = 1$.

Proof. By (11) and (12), we have for $u(t) \in \partial K_\rho$,

$$(Tu)(t) \leq \frac{\phi_q(\int_0^1 f(t, u(t))d\tau) + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \int_0^1 \phi_q(\int_s^t f(t, u(t))d\tau)ds}{\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i}$$

$$+ \int_0^1 \phi_q(\int_s^1 f(t, u(t))d\tau)ds$$

$$< m_0 \left( \frac{\phi_q(\int_0^1 1d\tau) + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \int_0^1 \phi_q(\int_0^1 1d\tau)ds}{\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i} + \int_0^1 \phi_q(\int_s^1 1d\tau)ds \right)$$

$$= m_0 \frac{q + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \xi_i^q + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i}{q \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i} = \rho.$$

This implies that $\|Tu\| < \|u\|$ for $u(t) \in \partial K_\rho$. By lemma 1.1 (1), we have $i_k(T, K_\rho) = 1$. \qed

Lemma 10. If $f$ satisfies the condition:

$$f_{\gamma \rho}^\rho > \phi_p(M_\gamma), \quad (13)$$

then $i_k(T, \Omega_\rho) = 0$. 

Proof. Let \( e(t) \equiv 1 \) for \( t \in [0, 1] \). Then \( e \in \partial K_1 \), we claim that
\[
u \not\in Tu + \lambda e, \quad \nu \in \partial \Omega_p, \quad \lambda \geq 0.
\]
In fact, if not, there exist \( u_0 \in \partial \Omega_p \) and \( \lambda_0 \geq 0 \) such that \( u_0 = Tu_0 + \lambda_0 e \). In the following, we shall discuss it from two perspectives.
(i) If \( \sigma_u \in \left[ \frac{1}{2}, 1 \right) \). By (11), (13) and lemma 7 (d), we have that for \( t \in [\theta, 1-\theta] \),
\[
\begin{align*}
u_0(t) &= Tu_0(t) + \lambda_0 e(t) \geq \theta \|Tu_0(t)\| + \lambda_0 \\
&\geq \theta \int_{\sigma_u}^{\sigma_u} \phi_\gamma \left( \int_{\tau}^{\sigma_u} f(\tau, u_0(\tau)) d\tau \right) d\sigma + \lambda_0 \\
&\geq \theta \int_{0}^{1} \phi_\gamma \left( \int_{\tau}^{1} f(\tau, u_0(\tau)) d\tau \right) d\sigma + \lambda_0 > \theta \rho M \gamma \int_{\theta}^{1} \phi_\gamma \left( \int_{\tau}^{1} d\tau \right) d\sigma + \lambda_0 \\
&= \theta \rho M \gamma \frac{(1-\theta)^q}{q} + \lambda_0 = \gamma \rho + \lambda_0.
\end{align*}
\]
(ii) If \( \sigma_u \in (0, \frac{1}{2}) \). By (11), (13) and lemma 7 (d), we have that for \( t \in [\theta, 1-\theta] \),
\[
\begin{align*}
u_0(t) &= Tu_0(t) + \lambda_0 e(t) \geq \theta \|Tu_0(t)\| + \lambda_0 \\
&\geq \theta \int_{\sigma_u}^{1} \phi_\gamma \left( \int_{t}^{\sigma_u} f(\tau, u_0(\tau)) d\tau \right) d\sigma + \lambda_0 \\
&\geq \theta \int_{0}^{1-\theta} \phi_\gamma \left( \int_{t}^{1} f(\tau, u_0(\tau)) d\tau \right) d\sigma + \lambda_0 > \theta \rho M \gamma \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{1-\theta} \phi_\gamma \left( \int_{\tau}^{1} d\tau \right) d\sigma + \lambda_0 \\
&= \theta \rho M \gamma \frac{(1-\theta)^q}{q} + \lambda_0 = \gamma \rho + \lambda_0.
\end{align*}
\]
Thus, in all cases, this imply that \( \gamma \rho > \gamma \rho + \lambda_0 \), which is a contradiction. Hence, by lemma 1 (2), it follows that \( i_k(T, \Omega_p) = 0 \). \( \square \)

3. Main result

We now give our results on the existence of multiple positive solutions of BVP (1) and (2).

Theorem 1. Assume \( (H_1), (H_2) \) hold. In addition, the following condition \( (H_3) \) holds:
\( (H_3) \) There exist \( \rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3 \in (0, \infty) \), with \( \rho_1 < \gamma \rho_2 < \rho_2 < \rho_3 \) such that
\[
f^{\rho_1}_0 < \phi_p(m), \quad f^{\rho_2}_{\gamma \rho_2} > \phi_p(M \gamma), \quad f^{\rho_3}_{\gamma \rho_3} \leq \phi_p(m).
\]
Then problem (1) and (2) has three positive solutions in \( K \).
Assume \( (H_1), (H_2) \) hold. In addition, the following condition \( (H_4) \) holds:
\( (H_4) \) There exist \( \rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3 \in (0, \infty) \), with \( \rho_1 < \rho_2 < \gamma \rho_3 \) such that
\[
f^{\rho_1}_{\gamma \rho_1} > \phi_p(M \gamma), \quad f^{\rho_2}_0 < \phi_p(m), \quad f^{\rho_3}_{\gamma \rho_3} \geq \phi_p(M \gamma).
\]
Then problem (1) and (2) has two positive solutions in \( K \).
The proof is similar to that given for Theorem 2.10 in [11], we omit it here. As a special case of Theorem 1, we obtain the following result.

**Corollary 1.** Assume $(H_1), (H_2)$ hold. In addition, if there exists $\rho \in (0, \infty)$, such that the following condition $(H_5)$ holds:

$$0 \leq f^0 < \phi_p(m), \quad f^0_{\gamma p} > \phi_p(M\gamma), \quad 0 \leq f^\infty < \phi_p(m).$$

Then problem (1) and (2) has three positive solutions in $K$.

Assume $(H_1), (H_2)$ hold. In addition, if there exists $\rho \in (0, \infty)$, such that the following condition $(H_6)$ holds:

$$\phi_p(M) < f_0 \leq \infty, \quad f^0_p < \phi_p(m), \quad \phi_p(M) < f^\infty \leq \infty.$$

Then problem (1) and (2) has two positive solutions in $K$.

**Proof.** We show that $(H_5)$ implies $(H_3)$. It is easy to verify that $0 \leq f^0 < \phi_p(m)$ implies that there exists $\rho_1 \in (0, \gamma \rho)$ such that $f^0_{\gamma p} < \phi_p(m)$. Let $k \in (f^\infty, \phi_p(m))$. Then there exists $r > \rho$ such that $\max_{t \in [0,1]} f(t, u) \leq k\phi_p(u)$ for $u \in [r, \infty)$ since $0 \leq f^\infty < \phi_p(m)$. Let

$$\beta = \max \left\{ \max_{t \in [0,1]} f(t, u) : \ 0 \leq u \leq r \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_3 > \phi_p \left( \frac{\beta}{\phi_p(m) - k} \right).$$

Then we have

$$\max_{t \in [0,1]} f(t, u) \leq k\phi_p(u) + \beta \leq k\phi_p(\rho_3) + \beta < \phi_p(m)\phi_p(\rho_3) \quad \text{for} \quad u \in [0, \rho_3].$$

This implies that $f^0_p < \phi_p(m)$ and $(H_3)$ holds. Similarly, $(H_6)$ implies $(H_4)$. \qed

By an argument similar to that of Theorem 1 we obtain the following results.

**Theorem 2.** Assume $(H_1), (H_2)$ hold. In addition, one of the following conditions holds:

$(H_7)$ There exist $\rho_1, \rho_2 \in (0, \infty)$ with $\rho_1 < \gamma \rho_2$ such that $f^0_{\gamma p} \leq \phi_p(m), f^0_{\gamma^2 p} \geq \phi_p(M\gamma)$,

$(H_8)$ There exist $\rho_1, \rho_2 \in (0, \infty)$ with $\rho_1 < \rho_2$ such that $f^0_{\gamma p} \geq \phi_p(M\gamma), f^0_{\gamma^2 p} \leq \phi_p(m)$.

Then problem (1) and (2) has a positive solution in $K$.

As a special case of Theorem 2 we obtain the following results.

**Corollary 2.** Assume $(H_1), (H_2)$ hold. In addition, one of the following conditions holds:

$(H_9) \ 0 \leq f^0 < \phi_p(m), \quad \phi_p(M) < f^\infty \leq \infty$, 

$(H_{10}) \ 0 \leq f^\infty < \phi_p(m), \quad \phi_p(M) < f_0 \leq \infty$.

Then problem (1) and (2) has a positive solution in $K$. 
REFERENCES


Dehong Ji is now works in Tianjin University of Technology. Her doctoral supervisor is Weigao Ge. Her research interests focus on the existence of boundary value problem for differential equations and difference equations.

College of Science, Tianjin University of Technology, Tianjin 300384, P. R. China

Yitao Yang is now works in Tianjin University of Technology. His research interests focus on applied mathematics.

College of Science, Tianjin University of Technology, Tianjin 300384, P. R. China

Weigao Ge is a professor and doctoral supervisor of Applied Mathematics of Beijing Institute of Technology. His research is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Doctoral Program Foundation of Education Ministry of China. His research interests focus on the existence of boundary value problem for differential equations and difference equations.

Department of Applied Mathematics, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, P. R. China

Yitao Yang is now works in Tianjin University of Technology. His research interests focus on applied mathematics.

College of Science, Tianjin University of Technology, Tianjin 300384, P. R. China

Weigao Ge is a professor and doctoral supervisor of Applied Mathematics of Beijing Institute of Technology. His research is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Doctoral Program Foundation of Education Ministry of China. His research interests focus on the existence of boundary value problem for differential equations and difference equations.