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# General quasilinearization method for systems of differential equations with a singular matrix

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## GENERAL QUASILINEARIZATION METHOD FOR SYSTEMS OF DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS WITH A SINGULAR MATRIX

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**ABSTRACT.** The method of quasilinearization coupled with the method of lower and upper solutions has been very useful in providing an analytical approach to obtaining approximate solutions of non-linear differential equations. In this paper, it is applied to systems of non-linear differential equations with a singular matrix. Sequences of approximate solutions are convergent to the solution and the convergence is quadratic or semiquadratic.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $y_0, z_0 \in C^1(J, \mathbb{R}^m)$  with  $y_0(t) \leq z_0(t)$ ,  $y'_0(t) \leq z'_0(t)$  on  $J$  and define the following set

$$\Omega = \{(t, u, v) : y_0(t) \leq u \leq z_0(t), y'_0(t) \leq v \leq z'_0(t), t \in J, u, v \in \mathbb{R}^m\}.$$

In this paper, the vectorial inequalities mean that the same inequalities hold between their corresponding components.

Assume that  $A$  is a singular square matrix of order  $m$  and  $f \in C(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^m)$ . In this paper we shall study the following system of differential equations

$$Ax'(t) = f(t, x(t), x'(t)), \quad t \in J = [0, b] \quad (1.1)$$

with the initial condition

$$x(0) = x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^m. \quad (1.2)$$

The method of quasilinearization offers an approach for obtaining approximate solutions to non-linear differential equations. It has been generalized in recent years by Lakshmikantham and various coauthors to apply to a wide variety of problems, (see, for example, [5–12] and [3, 4]). In this paper, we apply this technique to problems of type (1.1)–(1.2). We show that it is possible to construct monotone sequences that converge to the solution if  $f$  is replaced by  $f + g$  with  $f + \Phi$  convex and  $g + \Psi$  concave

for some convex function  $\Phi$  and for some concave function  $\Psi$ . This convergence is quadratic or semiquadratic. This paper generalizes the results of [4]. If  $f$  does not depend on the third variable with a unit matrix in the place of  $A$ , then problem (1.1)–(1.2) is considered in [8].

## 2. ASSUMPTIONS

In the place of (1.1)–(1.2), we consider the system of differential equations of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} Ax'(t) &= f(t, x(t), x'(t)) + g(t, x(t), x'(t)) \equiv \mathcal{F}(t, x, x'), \quad t \in J, \\ x(0) &= x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^m, \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

where  $J = [0, b]$  and  $f, g \in C(J \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^m)$ . Note that problem (2.1) is identical with the problem

$$\begin{aligned} x'(t) &= (A + B)^{-1}[\mathcal{F}(t, x, x') + Bx'(t)], \quad t \in J, \\ x(0) &= x_0 \end{aligned}$$

provided that  $B$  is an  $m \times m$  matrix such that  $(A + B)^{-1}$  exists.

A function  $v \in C^1(J, \mathbb{R})$  is said to be a lower solution of problem (2.1) if

$$v'(t) \leq (A + B)^{-1}[\mathcal{F}(t, v(t), v'(t)) + Bv'(t)], \quad t \in J, \quad v(0) \leq x_0,$$

and an upper solution of (2.1) if the inequalities in these relations are reversed.

Let us introduce the following assumptions:

$H_1$ . There exists a square matrix  $B$  of order  $m$  such that the matrix  $A + B$  is non-singular and  $(A + B)^{-1}B \geq 0$ ; moreover, for  $f, g \in C(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^m)$ , function  $\mathcal{F} = f + g$  satisfies the Lipschitz condition with respect to the last variable, so for  $u, \alpha, \bar{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  such that  $y_0(t) \leq u \leq z_0(t)$ ,  $y'_0(t) \leq \alpha$ ,  $\bar{\alpha} \leq z'_0(t)$  on  $J$ , the condition

$$|(A + B)^{-1}[\mathcal{F}(t, u, \alpha) - \mathcal{F}(t, u, \bar{\alpha})]| \leq (A + B)^{-1}B|\alpha - \bar{\alpha}|$$

holds, where  $|\alpha| = (|\alpha_1|, \dots, |\alpha_m|)^T$  for  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .

$H_2$ .  $f_x, g_x, \Phi, \Phi_x, \Phi_y, \Psi, \Psi_x, \Psi_y \in C(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^m)$ ; here  $x$  and  $y$  denote the second and third variable, respectively.

$H_3$ . The matrices  $(A + B)^{-1}F_x$ ,  $(A + B)^{-1}\Phi_x$  are non-decreasing with respect to the second variable, and  $(A + B)^{-1}G_x$ ,  $(A + B)^{-1}\Psi_x$  are non-increasing with respect to the second variable on  $\Omega$  with  $F = f + \Phi$ ,  $G = g + \Psi$ .

$H_4$ .  $(A + B)^{-1}F_x$ ,  $(A + B)^{-1}\Phi_x$  are non-decreasing in the third variable, and  $(A + B)^{-1}G_x$ ,  $(A + B)^{-1}\Psi_x$  are non-increasing in the third variable on  $\Omega$ .

$H_5$ .  $(A + B)^{-1}V(t, y_0, z_0) \geq 0$ ,  $t \in J$  for some function  $V$  defined later [ $(A + B)^{-1}V(t, y_0, z_0) \geq 0$  means that the entries of the matrix  $(A + B)^{-1}V(t, y_0, z_0)$  are non-negative].

$H_6$ . There exist  $m \times m$  matrices  $C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4$  with non-negative entries such that

$$|(A + B)^{-1} [f_x(t, u, v) - f_x(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})]| \leq C_1 \sum_{i=1}^m [|u_i - \bar{u}_i| + |v_i - \bar{v}_i|],$$

$$|(A + B)^{-1} [g_x(t, u, v) - g_x(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})]| \leq C_2 \sum_{i=1}^m [|u_i - \bar{u}_i| + |v_i - \bar{v}_i|],$$

$$|(A + B)^{-1} [\Phi_x(t, u, v) - \Phi_x(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})]| \leq C_3 \sum_{i=1}^m [|u_i - \bar{u}_i| + |v_i - \bar{v}_i|],$$

$$|(A + B)^{-1} [\Psi_x(t, u, v) - \Psi_x(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})]| \leq C_4 \sum_{i=1}^m [|u_i - \bar{u}_i| + |v_i - \bar{v}_i|]$$

for  $y_0(t) \leq u \leq z_0(t), y'_0(t) \leq v, \bar{v} \leq z'_0(t), t \in J$  with  $u, \bar{u}, v, \bar{v} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .

### 3. MAIN RESULTS

The next lemma is a special case of Theorem 1.1.4 from [8].

**Lemma 1.** Assume that  $s_{ij}(t) \geq 0, t \in J$  for  $i \neq j$ , where  $S = [s_{ij}]$  is a continuous square matrix of order  $m$ . Let  $p \in C^1(J, \mathbb{R}^m)$  and

$$p'(t) \leq S(t)p(t), \quad t \in J,$$

$$p(0) \leq 0 = \underbrace{[0, \dots, 0]}_m^T.$$

Then  $p(t) \leq 0$  on  $J$ .

**Lemma 2.** Let assumptions  $H_1$  and  $H_3$  be satisfied. Then, for  $u, v, \bar{u}, \bar{v} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  such that  $y_0(t) \leq u \leq \bar{u} \leq z_0(t), y'_0(t) \leq v \leq \bar{v} \leq z'_0(t), t \in J$ , we have

$$(A + B)^{-1} [\mathcal{F}(t, u, v) - \mathcal{F}(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})] \leq (A + B)^{-1} \{ [-F_x(t, u, v) - G_x(t, \bar{u}, v) + \Phi_x(t, \bar{u}, v) + \Psi_x(t, u, v)](\bar{u} - u) + B(\bar{v} - v) \}.$$

**PROOF.** The mean value theorem and assumption  $H_1$  yield

$$\begin{aligned} & (A + B)^{-1} [\mathcal{F}(t, u, v) - \mathcal{F}(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})] \\ &= (A + B)^{-1} [\mathcal{F}(t, u, v) - \mathcal{F}(t, \bar{u}, v) + \mathcal{F}(t, \bar{u}, v) - \mathcal{F}(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})] \\ &\leq (A + B)^{-1} \left\{ \left[ \int_0^1 \mathcal{F}_x(t, su + (1-s)\bar{u}, v) ds \right] (u - \bar{u}) + B(\bar{v} - v) \right\} \\ &= (A + B)^{-1} \left\{ \int_0^1 [F_x(t, su + (1-s)\bar{u}, v) + G_x(t, su + (1-s)\bar{u}, v) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \Phi_x(t, su + (1-s)\bar{u}, v) - \Psi_x(t, su + (1-s)\bar{u}, v)] ds (u - \bar{u}) + B(\bar{v} - v) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have the assertion of Lemma 2, by using assumption  $H_3$ .  $\square$

Now we are in a position to prove the following result:

**Theorem 1.** *Assume that  $f, g \in C(\Omega, \mathbb{R}^m)$ , and*

- (i)  $y_0, z_0 \in C^1(J, \mathbb{R}^m)$  are lower and upper solutions of problem (2.1) and such that  $y_0(t) \leq z_0(t)$  and  $y'_0(t) \leq z'_0(t)$  on  $J$ ,
- (ii) Assumptions  $H_1$ – $H_6$  hold with

$$V(t, y, z) = F_x(t, y, y') + G_x(t, z, z') - \Phi_x(t, z, z') - \Psi_x(t, y, y').$$

- (iii) *Problem (2.1) has at most one solution.*

*Then, there exist monotone sequences  $\{y_n\}$ ,  $\{z_n\}$  which converge uniformly on  $J$  to the unique solution  $x$  of problem (2.1). Moreover, the convergence is quadratic with respect to  $u$  and it is semiquadratic with respect to  $u'$  for  $u = y_n$  and  $u = z_n$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $y_{n+1}$  and  $z_{n+1}$  be the solutions of the linear initial value problems

$$\begin{aligned} y'_{n+1}(t) &= (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, y_n, y'_n) + B y'_n(t) + V(t, y_n, z_n)[y_{n+1}(t) - y_n(t)] \}, \\ y_{n+1}(0) &= x_0, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} z'_{n+1}(t) &= (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, z_n, z'_n) + B z'_n(t) + V(t, y_n, z_n)[z_{n+1}(t) - z_n(t)] \}, \\ z_{n+1}(0) &= x_0, \end{aligned}$$

for  $n = 0, 1, \dots$ . Note that the sequences  $\{y_n\}$ ,  $\{z_n\}$  are well defined.

First of all, we shall prove that

$$\begin{aligned} y_0(t) &\leq y_1(t) \leq z_1(t) \leq z_0(t), \quad t \in J, \\ y'_0(t) &\leq y'_1(t) \leq z'_1(t) \leq z'_0(t), \quad t \in J. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Let us put  $p = y_0 - y_1$ , so  $p(0) \leq 0$ . Then we see that

$$\begin{aligned} p'(t) &\leq (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, y_0, y'_0) + B y'_0(t) - \mathcal{F}(t, y_0, y'_0) - B y'_0(t) \\ &\quad - V(t, y_0, z_0)[y_1(t) - y_0(t)] \} = (A + B)^{-1} V(t, y_0, z_0) p(t), \quad t \in J. \end{aligned}$$

Assumption  $H_5$  and Lemma 1 yield  $p(t) \leq 0$  on  $J$  proving that  $y_0(t) \leq y_1(t)$  on  $J$ . Since  $(A + B)^{-1} V(t, y_0, z_0) \geq 0$ , and  $p(t) \leq 0$  on  $J$ , then  $p'(t) \leq 0$ , so  $y'_0(t) \leq y'_1(t)$  on  $J$ . By the same way we can show that  $z_1(t) \leq z_0(t)$  and  $z'_1(t) \leq z'_0(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ . Put

$p = y_1 - z_1$ . Then, by Lemma 2 and assumption  $H_4$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 p'(t) &= (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, y_0, y'_0) - \mathcal{F}(t, z_0, z'_0) + B[y'_0(t) - z'_0(t)] \\
 &\quad + V(t, y_0, z_0)[y_1(t) - y_0(t) - z_1(t) + z_0(t)] \} \\
 &\leq (A + B)^{-1} \{ [-F_x(t, y_0, y'_0) - G_x(t, z_0, y'_0) + \Phi_x(t, z_0, y'_0) \\
 &\quad + \Psi_x(t, y_0, y'_0)][z_0(t) - y_0(t)] + B[z'_0(t) - y'_0(t)] \\
 &\quad + V(t, y_0, z_0)[y_1(t) - y_0(t) - z_1(t) + z_0(t)] + B[y'_0(t) - z'_0(t)] \} \\
 &= (A + B)^{-1} \{ [G_x(t, z_0, z'_0) - G_x(t, z_0, y'_0) + \Phi_x(t, z_0, y'_0) \\
 &\quad - \Phi_x(t, z_0, z'_0)][z_0(t) - y_0(t)] + V(t, y_0, z_0)p(t) \} \\
 &\leq (A + B)^{-1} V(t, y_0, z_0)p(t)
 \end{aligned}$$

with  $p(0) = 0$ . Hence, we have  $p(t) \leq 0$ , and then  $p'(t) \leq 0$  on  $J$  which shows that  $y_1(t) \leq z_1(t)$ ,  $y'_1(t) \leq z'_1(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ . This means that (3.1) holds.

In the next step we need to show that  $y_1$  and  $z_1$  are lower and upper solutions of problem (2.1), respectively. By Lemma 2 and assumptions  $H_3$  and  $H_4$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 y'_1(t) &= (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, y_0, y'_0) + B y'_0(t) + V(t, y_0, z_0)[y_1(t) - y_0(t)] \} \\
 &\leq (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, y_1, y'_1) + B y'_1(t) + [-F_x(t, y_0, y'_0) - G_x(t, y_1, y'_0) \\
 &\quad + \Phi_x(t, y_1, y'_0) + \Psi_x(t, y_0, y'_0)][y_1(t) - y_0(t)] + V(t, y_0, z_0)[y_1(t) - y_0(t)] \} \\
 &= (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, y_1, y'_1) + B y'_1(t) + [G_x(t, z_0, z'_0) - G_x(t, y_1, y'_0) \\
 &\quad + \Phi_x(t, y_1, y'_0) - \Phi_x(t, z_0, z'_0)][y_1(t) - y_0(t)] \} \\
 &\leq (A + B)^{-1} [\mathcal{F}(t, y_1, y'_1) + B y'_1(t)],
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 z'_1(t) &= (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, z_0, z'_0) + B z'_0(t) + V(t, y_0, z_0)[z_1(t) - z_0(t)] \} \\
 &\geq (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, z_1, z'_1) + B z'_1(t) + [F_x(t, z_1, z'_1) + G_x(t, z_0, z'_1) \\
 &\quad - \Phi_x(t, z_0, z'_1) - \Psi_x(t, z_1, z'_1)][z_0(t) - z_1(t)] + V(t, y_0, z_0)[z_1(t) - z_0(t)] \} \\
 &= (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, z_1, z'_1) + B z'_1(t) + [F_x(t, z_1, z'_1) - F_x(t, y_0, y'_0) \\
 &\quad + G_x(t, z_0, z'_1) - G_x(t, z_0, z'_0) + \Phi_x(t, z_0, z'_0) - \Phi_x(t, z_0, z'_1) \\
 &\quad + \Psi_x(t, y_0, y'_0) - \Psi_x(t, z_1, z'_1)][z_0(t) - z_1(t)] \} \\
 &\geq (A + B)^{-1} [\mathcal{F}(t, z_1, z'_1) + B z'_1(t)]
 \end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $y_1$  and  $z_1$ , respectively, are lower and upper solutions of problem (2.1). Let us assume that

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{k-1}(t) &\leq y_k(t) \leq z_k(t) \leq z_{k-1}(t), \quad t \in J, \\
 y'_{k-1}(t) &\leq y'_k(t) \leq z'_k(t) \leq z'_{k-1}(t), \quad t \in J,
 \end{aligned}$$

and let  $y_k, z_k$  be lower and upper solutions of problem (2.1) for some  $k \geq 1$ . We shall prove that

$$\begin{aligned} y_k(t) &\leq y_{k+1}(t) \leq z_{k+1}(t) \leq z_k(t), \quad t \in J, \\ y'_k(t) &\leq y'_{k+1}(t) \leq z'_{k+1}(t) \leq z'_k(t), \quad t \in J. \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Put  $p = y_k - y_{k+1}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} p'(t) &\leq (A+B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, y_k, y'_k) + B y'_k(t) - \mathcal{F}(t, y_k, y'_k) - B y'_k(t) \\ &\quad - V(t, y_k, z_k)[y_{k+1}(t) - y_k(t)] \} = (A+B)^{-1} V(t, y_k, z_k) p(t) \end{aligned}$$

with  $p(0) = 0$ . Note that, by assumptions  $H_3$ – $H_5$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (A+B)^{-1} V(t, y_k, z_k) &= (A+B)^{-1} [F_x(t, y_k, y'_k) + G_x(t, z_k, z'_k) - \Phi_x(t, z_k, z'_k) \\ &\quad - \Psi_x(t, y_k, y'_k)] \\ &\geq (A+B)^{-1} [F_x(t, y_0, y'_0) + G_x(t, z_0, z'_0) - \Phi_x(t, z_0, z'_0) \\ &\quad - \Psi_x(t, y_0, y'_0)] \\ &= (A+B)^{-1} V(t, y_0, z_0) \geq 0, \quad t \in J. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Lemma 1,  $p(t) \leq 0$ ,  $p'(t) \leq 0$ ,  $t \in J$ , which shows that  $y_k(t) \leq y_{k+1}(t)$  and  $y'_k(t) \leq y'_{k+1}(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ . Using the same argument we can prove that  $z_{k+1}(t) \leq z_k(t)$ ,  $z'_{k+1}(t) \leq z'_k(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ .

Let  $p = y_{k+1} - z_{k+1}$ . Then  $p(0) = 0$ . Using Lemma 2 and assumption  $H_4$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} p'(t) &= (A+B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, y_k, y'_k) - \mathcal{F}(t, z_k, z'_k) + B[y'_k(t) - z'_k(t)] \\ &\quad + V(t, y_k, z_k)[y_{k+1}(t) - y_k(t) - z_{k+1}(t) + z_k(t)] \} \\ &\leq (A+B)^{-1} \{ [-F_x(t, y_k, y'_k) - G_x(t, z_k, y'_k) + \Phi_x(t, z_k, y'_k) \\ &\quad + \Psi_x(t, y_k, y'_k)][z_k(t) - y_k(t)] \\ &\quad + V(t, y_k, z_k)[y_{k+1}(t) - y_k(t) - z_{k+1}(t) + z_k(t)] \} \\ &= (A+B)^{-1} \{ [G_x(t, z_k, z'_k) - G_x(t, z_k, y'_k) + \Phi_x(t, z_k, y'_k) \\ &\quad - \Phi_x(t, z_k, z'_k)][z_k(t) - y_k(t)] + V(t, y_k, z_k)p(t) \} \\ &\leq (A+B)^{-1} V(t, y_k, z_k)p(t), \quad t \in J. \end{aligned}$$

This proves that  $y_{k+1}(t) \leq z_{k+1}(t)$ , and  $y'_{k+1}(t) \leq z'_{k+1}(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ , so relation (3.2) holds. Hence, by induction, for all  $n$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} y_0(t) &\leq y_1(t) \leq \cdots \leq y_n(t) \leq z_n(t) \leq \cdots \leq z_1(t) \leq z_0(t), \quad t \in J, \\ y'_0(t) &\leq y'_1(t) \leq \cdots \leq y'_n(t) \leq z'_n(t) \leq \cdots \leq z'_1(t) \leq z'_0(t), \quad t \in J. \end{aligned}$$

Employing standard techniques (using the Arzeli theorem and the Lebesgue theorem), it can be shown that  $y_n \rightarrow y$ ,  $y'_n \rightarrow y'$ ,  $z_n \rightarrow z$ ,  $z'_n \rightarrow z'$ ,  $y, z \in C^1(J, \mathbb{R}^m)$ , where  $y$  and  $z$  are solutions of problem (2.1). Hence, by assumption (iii), we have  $y = z = x$  on  $J$  is the unique solution of (2.1).

The order of convergence of sequences  $\{y_n\}$ ,  $\{z_n\}$ ,  $\{y'_n\}$ ,  $\{z'_n\}$  is considered in the next part of our considerations. For this purpose, we put

$$p_{n+1} = x - y_{n+1} \geq 0, \quad q_{n+1} = z_{n+1} - x \geq 0 \quad \text{on } J,$$

and note that  $p_{n+1}(0) = q_{n+1}(0) = 0$  for  $n \geq 0$ . Using the integral mean value theorem and assumptions  $H_1, H_3, H_6$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} p'_{n+1}(t) &= (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, x, x') + Bx'(t) - \mathcal{F}(t, y_n, x') + \mathcal{F}(t, y_n, x') \\ &\quad - \mathcal{F}(t, y_n, y'_n) - V(t, y_n, z_n)[y_{n+1}(t) - x(t) + x(t) - y_n(t)] - By'_n(t) \} \\ &\leq (A + B)^{-1} \left\{ \left[ \int_0^1 \mathcal{F}_x(t, sx + (1-s)y_n, x') ds \right] p_n(t) + 2B|p'_n(t)| \right. \\ &\quad \left. + V(t, y_n, z_n)[p_{n+1}(t) - p_n(t)] \right\} \\ &= (A + B)^{-1} \left\{ \int_0^1 [F_x(t, sx + (1-s)y_n, x') + G_x(t, sx + (1-s)y_n, x') \right. \\ &\quad - \Phi_x(t, sx + (1-s)y_n, x') - \Psi_x(t, sx + (1-s)y_n, x')] ds p_n(t) \\ &\quad \left. + 2B|p'_n(t)| + V(t, y_n, z_n)[p_{n+1}(t) - p_n(t)] \right\} \\ &\leq (A + B)^{-1} \{ [F_x(t, x, x') - F_x(t, y_n, y'_n) + G_x(t, y_n, x') - G_x(t, z_n, z'_n) \\ &\quad + \Phi_x(t, z_n, z'_n) - \Phi_x(t, y_n, x') + \Psi_x(t, y_n, y'_n) - \Psi_x(t, x, x')] p_n(t) \\ &\quad + V(t, y_n, z_n)p_{n+1}(t) + 2B|p'_n(t)| \} \\ &\leq \left\{ (C_1 + C_2 + 2C_3 + 2C_4) \sum_{i=1}^m p_{ni}(t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (C_2 + C_3 + C_4) \sum_{i=1}^m [q_{ni}(t) + |q'_{ni}(t)|] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (C_1 + C_3 + C_4) \sum_{i=1}^m |p'_{ni}(t)| \right\} p_n(t) \\ &\quad + (A + B)^{-1} \{ 2B|p'_n(t)| + V(t, y_n, z_n)p_{n+1}(t) \}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^m p_{ni}(t)p_n(t) &\leq \frac{m}{2} p_n^2(t) + \frac{1}{2} W p_n^2(t), \\ \sum_{i=1}^m q_{ni}(t)p_n(t) &\leq \frac{m}{2} p_n^2(t) + \frac{1}{2} W q_n^2(t), \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$



where  $p_n^2 = [p_{1,n}^2, \dots, p_{m,n}^2]^T$ ,  $W = [w_{ij}]$ ,  $w_{ij} = 1$ ,  $i, j = 1, \dots, m$ . This and previous calculations give

$$p'_{n+1}(t) \leq K p_{n+1}(t) + A_1 p_n^2(t) + A_2 q_n^2(t) + A_3 |p'_n(t)|^2 + A_4 |q'_n(t)|^2 + A_5 |p'_n(t)| \quad (3.4)$$

with  $(A+B)^{-1} f_x \leq K_1$ ,  $(A+B)^{-1} g_x \leq K_2$ ,  $K = K_1 + K_2$  on  $\Omega$ . Here,  $K_1, K_2$  are  $m \times m$  non-negative matrices and

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \frac{1}{2}(C_1 + C_2 + 2C_3 + 2C_4)(mI + W) + (C_2 + C_3 + C_4)m \\ &\quad + (C_1 + C_3 + C_4)\frac{m}{2}, \\ A_2 &= \frac{1}{2}(C_2 + C_3 + C_4)W, \\ A_3 &= \frac{1}{2}(C_1 + C_3 + C_4)W, \\ A_4 &= A_2, \\ A_5 &= 2(A+B)^{-1}B. \end{aligned}$$

There is no loss of generality assuming that  $K^{-1}$  exists such that  $k_{ij} \geq 0$ , where  $k_{ij}$  represents the components of this matrix. Hence, for  $t \in J$ , we have

$$p_{n+1}(t) \leq \int_0^t e^{K(t-s)} [A_1 p_n^2(s) + A_2 q_n^2(s) + A_3 |p'_n(s)|^2 + A_4 |q'_n(s)|^2 + A_5 |p'_n(s)|] ds.$$

This implies

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{t \in J} \|p_{n+1}(t)\| &\leq B_1 \max_{t \in J} \|p_n(t)\|^2 + B_2 \max_{t \in J} \|q_n(t)\|^2 + B_3 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\|^2 \\ &\quad + B_4 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|^2 + B_5 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\|, \quad (3.5) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\|v\|^2 = [|v_1|^2, \dots, |v_m|^2]^T$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , and

$$A_0 = K^{-1} e^{Kb}, \quad B_i = A_0 A_i,$$

for  $i = \overline{1, 5}$ . Combining (3.4) and (3.5) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{t \in J} \|p'_{n+1}(t)\| &\leq \bar{A}_1 \max_{t \in J} \|p_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{A}_2 \max_{t \in J} \|q_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{A}_3 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \bar{A}_4 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{A}_5 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\| \end{aligned}$$

with  $\bar{A}_i = A_i + K B_i$ ,  $i = \overline{1, 5}$ .

Similarly we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 q'_{n+1}(t) &= (A + B)^{-1} \{ \mathcal{F}(t, z_n, z'_n) + Bz'_n(t) - \mathcal{F}(t, x, z'_n) \\
 &\quad + \mathcal{F}(t, x, z'_n) - \mathcal{F}(t, x, x') + V(t, y_n, z_n)[q_{n+1}(t) - q_n(t)] - Bx'(t) \} \\
 &\leq (A + B)^{-1} \left\{ \left[ \int_0^1 \mathcal{F}_x(t, sz_n + (1-s)x, z'_n) ds \right] q_n(t) + 2B|q'_n(t)| \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + V(t, y_n, z_n)[q_{n+1}(t) - q_n(t)] \right\} \\
 &\leq (A + B)^{-1} \{ [F_x(t, z_n, z'_n) - F_x(t, y_n, y'_n) + G_x(t, x, z'_n) - G_x(t, z_n, z'_n) \\
 &\quad + \Phi_x(t, z_n, z'_n) - \Phi_x(t, x, z'_n) + \Psi_x(t, y_n, y'_n) - \Psi_x(t, z_n, z'_n)] q_n(t) \\
 &\quad + V(t, y_n, z_n)q_{n+1}(t) + 2B|q'_n(t)| \} \\
 &\leq \left\{ (C_1 + C_2 + 2C_3 + 2C_4) \sum_{i=1}^m q_{ni}(t) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + (C_1 + C_3 + C_4) \sum_{i=1}^m [p_{ni}(t) + |p'_{ni}(t)| + |q'_{ni}(t)|] \right\} q_n(t) \\
 &\quad + Kq_{n+1}(t) + A_5|q'_n(t)| \\
 &\leq D_1 p_n^2(t) + D_2 q_n^2(t) + D_1 |p'_n(t)|^2 + D_1 |q'_n(t)|^2 + Kq_{n+1}(t) + A_5 |q'_n(t)|,
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_1 &= \frac{1}{2}(C_1 + C_3 + C_4)W, \\
 D_2 &= \frac{3}{2}m(C_1 + C_3 + C_4) + \frac{1}{2}(C_1 + C_2 + 2C_3 + 2C_4)(mI + W).
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max_{t \in J} \|q_{n+1}(t)\| &\leq \bar{B}_1 \max_{t \in J} \|p_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{B}_2 \max_{t \in J} \|q_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{B}_1 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\|^2 \\
 &\quad + \bar{B}_1 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{B}_3 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\bar{B}_1 = A_0 D_1$ ,  $\bar{B}_2 = A_0 D_2$ , and  $\bar{B}_3 = B_5 A$ .

Combining this with the last relation for  $q'_{n+1}$  we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_{n+1}(t)\| &\leq \bar{L}_1 \max_{t \in J} \|p_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{L}_2 \max_{t \in J} \|q_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{L}_1 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\|^2 \\
 &\quad + \bar{L}_1 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{L}_3 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

with  $\bar{L}_1 = D_1 + K\bar{B}_1$ ,  $\bar{L}_2 = D_2 + K\bar{B}_2$ , and  $\bar{L}_3 = A_5 + K\bar{B}_3$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

Let us introduce the following assumptions:

- $H_{17}$  (i)  $(A + B)^{-1}F_x$  is non-decreasing in the third variable on  $\Omega$  and  $V_1 = F_x(t, y, y')$ , or  
(ii)  $(A + B)^{-1}F_x$  is non-increasing in the third variable on  $\Omega$  and  $V_1 = F_x(t, y, z')$ .
- $H_{27}$  (i)  $(A + B)^{-1}G_x$  is non-increasing in the third variable on  $\Omega$  and  $V_2 = G_x(t, z, z')$ , or  
(ii)  $(A + B)^{-1}G_x$  is non-decreasing in the third variable on  $\Omega$  and  $V_2 = G_x(t, z, y')$ .
- $H_{37}$  (i)  $(A + B)^{-1}\Phi_x$  is non-decreasing in the third variable on  $\Omega$  and  $V_3 = \Phi_x(t, z, z')$ , or  
(ii)  $(A + B)^{-1}\Phi_x$  is non-increasing in the third variable on  $\Omega$  and  $V_3 = \Phi_x(t, z, y')$ .
- $H_{47}$  (i)  $(A + B)^{-1}\Psi_x$  is non-increasing in the third variable on  $\Omega$  and  $V_4 = \Psi_x(t, y, y')$ , or  
(ii)  $(A + B)^{-1}\Psi_x$  is non-decreasing in the third variable on  $\Omega$  and  $V_4 = \Psi_x(t, y, z')$ .

The set of all assumptions from  $H_{17}$  to  $H_{47}$  will be denoted by  $H_7$ . Since in any assumptions  $H_{17}$ – $H_{47}$  we have two cases (i) or (ii), so we have 16 possibilities for constructing assumption  $H_7$ . Note that if we choose case (i) in any assumptions  $H_{17}$ – $H_{47}$ , then assumption  $H_7$  is identical with assumption  $H_4$ .

Now we can formulate the following

**Theorem 2.** *Assume that the assumptions of Theorem 1 are satisfied with assumption  $H_7$  instead of  $H_4$  and for*

$$V = V_1 + V_2 - V_3 - V_4.$$

*Then the conclusion of Theorem 1 is true.*

**PROOF.** Since the proof can be constructed on the basis of the proof of the previous theorem, we shall only indicate the necessary changes. We should create assumption  $H_7$ . Let  $H_7$  be produced from assumptions  $H_{17}$ (ii),  $H_{27}$ (ii),  $H_{37}$ (ii), and  $H_{47}$ (ii). Note that the sequences  $\{y_n\}$ ,  $\{z_n\}$  are constructed as before with

$$V(t, y, z) = F_x(t, y, z') + G_x(t, z, y') - \Phi_x(t, z, y') - \Psi_x(t, y, z').$$

Based on the assumption

$$(A + B)^{-1}V(t, y_0, z_0) \geq 0$$

and Lemma 1, it is quite easy to show that  $y_0(t) \leq y_1(t)$ ,  $y'_0(t) \leq y'_1(t)$ ,  $z_1(t) \leq z_0(t)$  and  $z'_1(t) \leq z'_0(t)$  on  $J$ . If we put  $p = y_1 - z_1$ , then, by Lemma 2 and assumptions

$H_{17}(\text{ii})$ ,  $H_{47}(\text{ii})$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 p'(t) &\leq (A+B)^{-1}\{[-F_x(t, y_0, y'_0) - G_x(t, z_0, y'_0) + \Phi_x(t, z_0, y'_0) \\
 &\quad + \Psi_x(t, y_0, y'_0)][z_0(t) - y_0(t)] + B[z'_0(t) - y'_0(t)] \\
 &\quad + V(t, y_0, z_0)[y_1(t) - y_0(t) - z_1(t) + z_0(t)] + B[y'_0(t) - z'_0(t)]\} \\
 &= (A+B)^{-1}\{[F_x(t, y_0, z'_0) - F_x(t, y_0, y'_0) + \Psi_x(t, y_0, y'_0) \\
 &\quad - \Psi_x(t, y_0, z'_0)][z_0(t) - y_0(t)] \\
 &\quad + V(t, y_0, z_0)p(t)\} \leq (A+B)^{-1}V(t, y_0, z_0)p(t), \\
 p(0) &= 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Lemma 1, we have  $p(t) \leq 0$ , and therefore  $p'(t) \leq 0$  on  $J$  which shows that  $y_1(t) \leq z_1(t)$ ,  $y'_1(t) \leq z'_1(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ . It means that (3.1) holds.

In the next step we need to show that  $y_1$  and  $z_1$  are lower and upper solutions of problem (2.1), respectively. Note that, using Lemma 2 and assumptions  $H_3$  and  $H_7$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 y'_1(t) &\leq (A+B)^{-1}\{\mathcal{F}(t, y_1, y'_1) + By'_1(t) + [-F_x(t, y_0, y'_0) - G_x(t, y_1, y'_0) \\
 &\quad + \Phi_x(t, y_1, y'_0) + \Psi_x(t, y_0, y'_0)][y_1(t) - y_0(t)] + V(t, y_0, z_0)[y_1(t) - y_0(t)]\} \\
 &= (A+B)^{-1}\{\mathcal{F}(t, y_1, y'_1) + By'_1(t) + [F_x(t, y_0, z'_0) - F_x(t, y_0, y'_0) \\
 &\quad + G_x(t, z_0, y'_0) - G_x(t, y_1, y'_0) + \Phi_x(t, y_1, y'_0) - \Phi_x(t, z_0, y'_0) + \Psi_x(t, y_0, y'_0) \\
 &\quad - \Psi_x(t, y_0, z'_0)][y_1(t) - y_0(t)]\} \leq (A+B)^{-1}[\mathcal{F}(t, y_1, y'_1) + By'_1(t)],
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 z'_1(t) &\geq (A+B)^{-1}\{\mathcal{F}(t, z_1, z'_1) + Bz'_1(t) + [F_x(t, z_1, z'_1) + G_x(t, z_0, z'_1) \\
 &\quad - \Phi_x(t, z_0, z'_1) - \Psi_x(t, z_1, z'_1)][z_0(t) - z_1(t)] + V(t, y_0, z_0)[z_1(t) - z_0(t)]\} \\
 &= (A+B)^{-1}\{\mathcal{F}(t, z_1, z'_1) + Bz'_1(t) + [F_x(t, z_1, z'_1) - F_x(t, y_0, z'_0) \\
 &\quad + G_x(t, z_0, z'_1) - G_x(t, z_0, y'_0) + \Phi_x(t, z_0, y'_0) - \Phi_x(t, z_0, z'_1) \\
 &\quad + \Psi_x(t, y_0, z'_0) - \Psi_x(t, z_1, z'_1)][z_0(t) - z_1(t)]\} \\
 &\geq (A+B)^{-1}[\mathcal{F}(t, z_1, z'_1) + Bz'_1(t)],
 \end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $y_1$  and  $z_1$  are lower and upper solutions of problem (2.1), respectively.

By induction in  $n$ , we can show that

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_0(t) &\leq y_1(t) \leq \cdots \leq y_n(t) \leq z_n(t) \leq \cdots \leq z_1(t) \leq z_0(t), \quad t \in J, \\
 y'_0(t) &\leq y'_1(t) \leq \cdots \leq y'_n(t) \leq z'_n(t) \leq \cdots \leq z'_1(t) \leq z'_0(t), \quad t \in J
 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $n$ .

Employing standard techniques, it is easy to conclude that  $y_n \rightarrow y$ ,  $y'_n \rightarrow y'$ ,  $z_n \rightarrow z$ ,  $z'_n \rightarrow z'$ ,  $y, z \in C^1(J, \mathbb{R}^m)$ , where  $y$  and  $z$  are solutions of problem (2.1). Hence, by assumption (iii), we have  $y = z = x$  on  $J$  is the unique solution of (2.1).

To show the quadratic and semiquadratic convergence, we set

$$p_{n+1} = x - y_{n+1} \geq 0, \quad q_{n+1} = z_{n+1} - x \geq 0$$

on  $J$ . Note that  $p_{n+1}(0) = q_{n+1}(0) = 0$  for  $n \geq 0$ . The beginning for  $p'_{n+1}$  is the same as in the proof of Theorem 1, so

$$\begin{aligned} p'_{n+1}(t) \leq (A + B)^{-1} & \left\{ \int_0^1 [F_x(t, sx + (1-s)y_n, x') + G_x(t, sx + (1-s)y_n, x') \right. \\ & - \Phi_x(t, sx + (1-s)y_n, x') - \Psi_x(t, sx + (1-s)y_n, x')] ds p_n(t) \\ & \left. + 2B|p'_n(t)| + V(t, y_n, z_n)[p_{n+1}(t) - p_n(t)] \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, using the same argument as in the proof of Theorem 1, we can prove that

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{t \in J} \|p_{n+1}(t)\| \leq \alpha_1 \max_{t \in J} \|p_n(t)\|^2 + \alpha_2 \max_{t \in J} \|q_n(t)\|^2 + \alpha_3 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\|^2 \\ + \alpha_4 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|^2 + \alpha_5 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\| \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{t \in J} \|p'_{n+1}(t)\| \leq \bar{\alpha}_1 \max_{t \in J} \|p_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{\alpha}_2 \max_{t \in J} \|q_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{\alpha}_3 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\|^2 \\ + \bar{\alpha}_4 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{\alpha}_5 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\| \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_1 &= \frac{1}{2}C_1(2mI + W) + \frac{1}{2}C_2(3mI + W) + \frac{1}{2}(C_3 + C_4)(5mI + 2W), \\ \delta_2 &= \frac{1}{2}(C_2 + C_3 + C_4)W, \\ \delta_3 &= \frac{1}{2}(C_3 + C_4)W, \\ \delta_4 &= \frac{1}{2}(C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + C_4)W, \\ \delta_5 &= A_5, \end{aligned}$$

and  $\alpha_i = A_0\delta_i$ ,  $\bar{\alpha}_i = \delta_i + K\alpha_i$ ,  $i = \overline{1, 5}$ , with  $A_0$  and  $K$  defined as in the proof of Theorem 1.

Similarly, we can show that

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{t \in J} \|q_{n+1}(t)\| \leq & \beta_1 \max_{t \in J} \|p_n(t)\|^2 + \beta_2 \max_{t \in J} \|q_n(t)\|^2 + \beta_3 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\|^2 \\ & + \beta_4 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|^2 + \beta_5 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\| \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{t \in J} \|q'_{n+1}(t)\| \leq & \bar{\beta}_1 \max_{t \in J} \|p_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{\beta}_2 \max_{t \in J} \|q_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{\beta}_3 \max_{t \in J} \|p'_n(t)\|^2 \\ & + \bar{\beta}_4 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|^2 + \bar{\beta}_5 \max_{t \in J} \|q'_n(t)\|, \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_1 &= \frac{1}{2}(C_1 + 2C_3 + C_4)W, \\ \eta_3 &= \eta_4 = \frac{1}{2}(C_2 + C_3 + C_4)W, \\ \eta_5 &= A_5, \\ \eta_2 &= \frac{1}{2}C_1(2mI + W) + \frac{1}{2}C_2(3mI + W) + \frac{1}{2}(C_3 + C_4)(5mI + W), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\beta_i = A_0\eta_i, \quad \bar{\beta}_i = \eta_i + K\beta_i$$

for  $i = \overline{1, 5}$ .

It is now easy to construct the proofs of the assertions corresponding to the remaining cases of assumption  $H_7$  following the proof of Theorem 1 and the proof given above. We omit the details. The proof of this theorem is therefore complete.  $\square$

*Remark 1.* Note that if  $v$  is a lower solution of problem (2.1) and  $(A + B)^{-1} \geq 0$ , then  $v$  satisfies the relation

$$Av'(t) \leq \mathcal{F}(t, v(t), v'(t)), \quad t \in J, \quad v(0) \leq x_0.$$

Here,  $(A + B)^{-1} \geq 0$  means that some entries of  $(A + B)^{-1}$  may be equal to zero.

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