



POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR MULTI POINT IMPULSIVE BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEMS ON TIME SCALES

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Abstract. In this paper, we consider nonlinear second-order multi-point impulsive boundary value problems on time scales. We establish the criteria for the existence of at least one, two and three positive solutions by using the Leray-Schauder fixed point theorem, the Avery-Henderson fixed point theorem and the five functional fixed point theorem, respectively. An example that supports the theoretical results is also provided.

Keywords. Boundary Value Problems; Fixed Point Theorems; Impulsive Dynamic Equations; Positive Solutions; Time Scales.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. 34B18, 34B37, 34N05.

1. INTRODUCTION

The theory of time scales was introduced by Hilger [1] in his Phd thesis in 1988. A result for a dynamic equation contains simultaneously a corresponding result for a differential equation, one for a difference equation, as well as results for other dynamic equations in arbitrary time scales. We refer the reader to the excellent introductory book by Bohner and Peterson [2] and their edited text [3].

Impulsive problems describe processes which experience a sudden change in their states at certain moments. We refer to the books [4, 5, 6] for the introduction of the theory of impulsive differential equations. The study of impulsive dynamic equations on time scales has also attracted much attention because it provides an unifying structure for differential equations in the continuous cases and finite difference equations in the discrete cases; see, [7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18] and references therein.

In 2007, Yaslan [19] discussed the existence of at least one, two and three positive solutions of the nonlinear boundary value problem on time scales:

$$\begin{cases} u^{\Delta\nabla}(t) + h(t)f(t, u(t)) = 0, & t \in [t_1, t_3] \subset \mathbb{T}, \\ u^{\Delta}(t_1) = 0, & \alpha u(t_3) + \beta u^{\Delta}(t_3) = u^{\Delta}(t_2). \end{cases}$$

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Received October 14, 2018; Accepted January 26, 2019.

In 2014, Karaca, Ozen and Tokmak [20] studied the existence of two or many positive solutions of the nonlinear p -Laplacian impulsive boundary value problem on time scales

$$\begin{cases} -[\phi_p(u^\Delta(t))]^\nabla = f(t, u(t)), & t \in [0, 1] \subset \mathbb{T}, t \neq t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ u(t_k^+) - u(t_k^-) = I_k(u(t_k)) \\ \alpha u(0) - \beta u^\Delta(0) = \int_0^1 u(s) \Delta s, \quad u^\Delta(1) = 0. \end{cases}$$

In 2015, Fen and Karaca [21] considered the nonlinear p -Laplacian impulsive boundary value problem on time scales

$$\begin{cases} -[\phi_p(u^\Delta(t))]^\nabla = f(t, u(t)), & t \in [0, 1] \subset \mathbb{T}, t \neq t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, n \\ u(t_k^+) - u(t_k^-) = I_k(u(t_k)) \\ u^\Delta(0) = 0, \quad \alpha u(1) + \beta u^\Delta(1) = \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} a_i u(\xi_i) \end{cases}$$

and established criteria for the existence of at least one positive solution to the problem.

In this paper, we consider the following boundary value problem (BVP)

$$\begin{cases} y^{\Delta\nabla}(t) + h(t)f(t, y(t)) = 0, & t \in [a, b] \subset \mathbb{T}^*, \\ y(t_k^+) - y(t_k^-) = I_k(y(t_k)), & t \neq t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ y^\Delta(a) = 0, \quad \alpha y(b) + \beta y^\Delta(b) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} y^\Delta(\mu_i), & n \geq 3 \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where $\mathbb{T}^* = \mathbb{T}^k \cap \mathbb{T}_k$, $0 \leq a < t_1 < \dots < t_m \leq \rho(b)$, $\mu_i \in (a, b) \cap \mathbb{T}^*$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2$) with $a < \mu_1 < \dots < \mu_{n-2} < b$ and

(H1) $h \in C_{ld}([a, b], [0, \infty))$ and does not vanish identically on any closed subinterval of $[a, b]$;

(H2) $f \in C([a, b] \times [0, \infty), [0, \infty))$;

(H3) $I_k \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^-)$, $t_k \in [a, b]$ and $y(t_k^+) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} y(t_k + h)$, $y(t_k^-) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} y(t_k - h)$ represent the right and left limits of $y(t)$ at $t = t_k$, $k = 1, \dots, m$.

In this paper, conditions for the existence of at least one positive solutions to BVP (1.1) are first discussed by using the Leray-Schauder fixed-point theorem. Then, we use the Avery-Henderson fixed point theorem to show that the existence of at least two positive solutions for BVP (1.1). Finally, existence result of at least three positive solutions of BVP (1.1) is established as a result of five functionals fixed-point theorem.

2. PRELIMINARIES

We now state and prove several lemmas which are needed later.

Lemma 2.1. *Assume (H3) holds and $\alpha \neq 0$. If $\omega \in C_{ld}[a, b]$ and $\omega(t) \geq 0$ for $t \in [a, b]$, then $y(t)$ is a solution of the following BVP*

$$\begin{cases} y^{\Delta\nabla}(t) + \omega(t) = 0, & t \in [a, b] \subset \mathbb{T}^*, \\ y(t_k^+) - y(t_k^-) = I_k(y(t_k)), & t \neq t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ y^\Delta(a) = 0, \quad \alpha y(b) + \beta y^\Delta(b) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} y^\Delta(\mu_i), & n \geq 3 \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

if and only if $y(t)$ is a solution of the following integral equation

$$y(t) = \int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + r - a \right) \omega(r) \nabla r - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \int_a^{\mu_i} \omega(r) \nabla r - \sum_{t < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) - \int_a^t (r - a) \omega(r) \nabla r. \quad (2.2)$$

Proof. Suppose that y is a solution of BVP (2.1). Then, $y^{\Delta \nabla}(t) = -\omega(t)$ for $t \in [a, b]$. A nabla integration from a to t of both sides of the above equality yields

$$y^{\Delta}(t) - y^{\Delta}(a) = - \int_a^t \omega(r) \nabla r, \text{ i.e., } y^{\Delta}(t) = - \int_a^t \omega(r) \nabla r.$$

Integrating above equality from a to t , we get

$$y(t) - y(a) = - \int_a^t \int_a^s \omega(r) \nabla r \Delta s + \sum_{a < t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)).$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= y(a) - \int_a^t \int_a^r \omega(r) \Delta s \nabla r + \sum_{a < t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) \\ &= y(a) - \int_a^t (r - a) \omega(r) \nabla r + \sum_{a < t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)). \end{aligned}$$

From the second boundary condition, we obtain

$$y(a) = \int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + r - a \right) \omega(r) \nabla r - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \int_a^{\mu_i} \omega(r) \nabla r - \sum_{a < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)).$$

Thus,

$$y(t) = \int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + r - a \right) \omega(r) \nabla r - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \int_a^{\mu_i} \omega(r) \nabla r - \sum_{t < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) - \int_a^t (r - a) \omega(r) \nabla r.$$

Conversely, it is easy to show that $y(t)$ in (2.2) satisfies (2.1). This completes the proof. \square

Lemma 2.2. *If $\alpha > 0$, $\beta \geq n - 2$, $\omega \in C_{ld}[a, b]$ and $\omega(t) \geq 0$ for $t \in [a, b]$, then the unique solution of BVP (2.1) satisfies $y(t) \geq 0$ for $t \in [a, b]$.*

Proof. Since $y^\Delta(t) = -\int_a^t \omega(r) \nabla r \leq 0$, y is non-increasing on $[a, b]$. Therefore, if $y(b) \geq 0$, then $y(t) \geq 0$ for $t \in [a, b]$.

$$\begin{aligned} y(b) &= \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \int_a^b \omega(r) \nabla r - \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_a^{\mu_1} \omega(r) \nabla r - \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_a^{\mu_2} \omega(r) \nabla r - \cdots - \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} \omega(r) \nabla r \\ &\geq \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} \omega(r) \nabla r - \frac{n-2}{\alpha} \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} \omega(r) \nabla r \\ &= \frac{\beta - n + 2}{\alpha} \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} \omega(r) \nabla r \\ &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. □

Let

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \{y : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ is continuous at } t \neq t_k \text{ left continuous at the points } t_k, \\ &\quad \text{for which } y(t_k^-) \text{ and } y(t_k^+) \text{ exist with } y(t_k^-) = y(t_k), k = 1, \dots, m.\}, \end{aligned}$$

which is a Banach space with the norm $\|y\| = \sup_{t \in [a, b]} |y(t)|$. Define the cone $P \subset E$ by

$$P = \{y \in E : y \text{ is concave, non-decreasing and nonnegative on } [a, b], y^\Delta(a) = 0\}. \quad (2.3)$$

Lemma 2.3. Assume $\alpha > 0$, $\beta \geq n - 2$. If $y \in P$, then $y(t)$ in (2.2) satisfies

$$y(t) \geq \frac{b-t}{b} \|y\|, \quad t \in [a, b] \subset \mathbb{T}^*. \quad (2.4)$$

Proof. Since $y(t)$ is nonincreasing on $[a, b]$, we have $\|y\| = y(a)$. Assume $g(t) = y(t) - \frac{b-t}{b} \|y\|$ for $t \in [a, b] \subset \mathbb{T}^*$. From the fact that $g^{\Delta \nabla}(t) = y^{\Delta \nabla}(t) \leq 0$, we know that the graph of g is concave on $[a, b]$. We get

$$g(a) = \frac{a}{b} y(a) \geq 0$$

and

$$g(b) = y(b) \geq 0.$$

Therefore, we have $g(t) \geq 0$ for $t \in [a, b]$ from the concavity of g . Thus, we obtain $y(t) \geq \frac{b-t}{b} \|y\|$ for $t \in [a, b] \subset \mathbb{T}^*$. □

By Lemma 2.1, the solutions of BVP (1.1) are the fixed points of the operator A defined by

$$\begin{aligned} Ay(t) &= \int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + s - a \right) h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \int_a^{\mu_i} h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s - \sum_{t < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) \\ &\quad - \int_a^t (s - a) h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s. \end{aligned}$$

Now, we state the fixed point theorems to prove the main results of this paper.

Theorem 2.4 ([22]). (*Leray-Schauder Fixed Point Theorem*) Let E be a Banach space, and let $A : E \rightarrow E$ be a completely continuous operator. If the set $\{x \in E : x = \lambda Ax, 0 < \lambda < 1\}$ is bounded, then A has at least one fixed point in the closed $T \subset E$, where

$$T = \{x \in E : \|x\| \leq R\}, \quad R = \sup\{\|x\| : x = \lambda Ax, 0 < \lambda < 1\}.$$

Theorem 2.5 ([23]). (*Avery-Henderson Fixed Point Theorem*) Let P be a cone in a real Banach space E . Set

$$P(\phi, r) = \{u \in P : \phi(u) < r\}.$$

Let η and ϕ be increasing, nonnegative continuous functionals on P . Let θ be a nonnegative continuous functional on P with $\theta(0) = 0$ such that, for some positive constants r and M ,

$$\phi(u) \leq \theta(u) \leq \eta(u) \text{ and } \|u\| \leq M\phi(u)$$

for all $u \in \overline{P(\phi, r)}$. Suppose that there exist positive numbers $p < q < r$ such that

$$\theta(\lambda u) \leq \lambda \theta(u), \text{ for all } 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1 \text{ and } u \in \partial P(\theta, q).$$

If $A : \overline{P(\phi, r)} \rightarrow P$ is a completely continuous operator satisfying

- (i) $\phi(Au) > r$ for all $u \in \partial P(\phi, r)$,
- (ii) $\theta(Au) < q$ for all $u \in \partial P(\theta, q)$,
- (iii) $P(\eta, p) \neq \emptyset$ and $\eta(Au) > p$ for all $u \in \partial P(\eta, p)$,

then A has at least two fixed points u_1 and u_2 such that

$$p < \eta(u_1) \text{ with } \theta(u_1) < q \text{ and } q < \theta(u_2) \text{ with } \phi(u_2) < r.$$

Now, we will present the five functionals fixed point theorem. Let ϕ, η, θ be nonnegative continuous convex functionals on the cone P , and γ, ψ nonnegative continuous concave functionals on the cone P . For nonnegative numbers h, p, q, r and d , define the following convex sets:

$$\begin{aligned} P(\phi, r) &= \{x \in P : \phi(x) < r\}, \\ P(\phi, \gamma, p, r) &= \{x \in P : p \leq \gamma(x), \phi(x) \leq r\}, \\ Q(\phi, \eta, d, r) &= \{x \in P : \eta(x) \leq d, \phi(x) \leq r\}, \\ P(\phi, \theta, \gamma, p, q, r) &= \{x \in P : p \leq \gamma(x), \theta(x) \leq q, \phi(x) \leq r\}, \\ Q(\phi, \eta, \psi, h, d, r) &= \{x \in P : h \leq \psi(x), \eta(x) \leq d, \phi(x) \leq r\}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

Theorem 2.6 ([24]). (*Five Functionals Fixed Point Theorem*) Let P be a cone in a real Banach space E . Suppose that there exist nonnegative numbers r and M , nonnegative continuous concave functionals γ and ψ on P , and nonnegative continuous convex functionals ϕ, η and θ on P such that

$$\gamma(x) \leq \eta(x), \|x\| \leq M\phi(x), \forall x \in \overline{P(\phi, r)}.$$

Suppose that $A : \overline{P(\phi, r)} \rightarrow \overline{P(\phi, r)}$ is a completely continuous and there exist nonnegative numbers h, p, k, q , with $0 < p < q$ such that

- (i) $\{x \in P(\phi, \theta, \gamma, q, k, r) : \gamma(x) > q\} \neq \emptyset$ and $\gamma(Ax) > q$ for $x \in P(\phi, \theta, \gamma, q, k, r)$,
- (ii) $\{x \in Q(\phi, \eta, \psi, h, p, r) : \eta(x) < p\} \neq \emptyset$ and $\eta(Ax) < p$ for $x \in Q(\phi, \eta, \psi, h, p, r)$,
- (iii) $\gamma(Ax) > q$, for $x \in P(\phi, \gamma, q, r)$, with $\theta(Ax) > k$,

(iv) $\eta(Ax) < p$, for $x \in Q(\varphi, \eta, p, r)$, with $\psi(Ax) < h$.

Then A has at least three fixed points $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in \overline{P(\varphi, r)}$ such that

$$\eta(x_1) < p, \quad \gamma(x_2) > q, \quad \eta(x_3) > p \quad \text{with } \gamma(x_3) < q.$$

3. MAIN RESULTS

We will apply the Leray-Schauder Fixed Point Theorem to the existence of at least one positive solution for BVP (1.1).

Theorem 3.1. *Assume (H1)-(H3) hold and $\alpha > 0$, $\beta \geq n - 2$. If there exist numbers c_k such that $|I_k(y(t_k))| \leq c_k$, for $k = 1, \dots, m$, then BVP (1.1) has at least one positive solution.*

Proof. For all $y \in P$, we know from (H1), (H2), the definition of A and the proof of Lemma 2.2 that $(Ay)(t) \geq 0$, $(Ay)^\Delta(t) \geq 0$, $(Ay)^{\Delta\nabla}(t) \leq 0$ and $(Ay)^\Delta(a) = 0$. So A is an operator from P to P . It is easy to show that $A : P \rightarrow P$ is completely continuous by using the Arzela-Ascoli theorem. We denote $N(A) := \{y \in P : y = \lambda Ay, 0 < \lambda < 1\}$. Now we show that the set $N(A)$ is bounded. If $T = \{y \in P : \|y\| \leq R\}$ and $R = \sup\{\|y\| : y = \lambda Ay, 0 < \lambda < 1\}$, then

$$|y(t)| = \lambda |Ay(t)| \leq \lambda \sup_{t \in [a, b], y \in T} f(t, y(t)) \left\{ \left(\frac{\beta + n - 2}{\alpha} + b - a \right) \int_a^b h(s) \nabla s \right\} + \lambda \sum_{k=1}^m c_k$$

for all $y \in N(A)$. Then, we obtain $N(A)$ is bounded from (H1) and (H2). By Theorem 2.4, BVP (1.1) has at least one positive solution. \square

Define the constants

$$K := \frac{\alpha}{\beta - n + 2} \left(\int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} h(s) \nabla s \right)^{-1}, \quad (3.1)$$

$$L := \left(\int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + s - a \right) h(s) \nabla s \right)^{-1} \quad (3.2)$$

and

$$M := \left(\int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} \left(\frac{\beta - n + 2}{\alpha} + s - a \right) h(s) \nabla s \right)^{-1}. \quad (3.3)$$

Now, we use the Avery-Henderson fixed point theorem to prove the next theorem.

Theorem 3.2. *Assume (H1)-(H3) hold and $\alpha > 0$, $\beta > n - 2$. Suppose there exist numbers $0 < p < q < r$ such that $\sum_{\mu_{n-2} < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) \geq -\frac{q}{2}$ and the function f satisfies the following conditions:*

- (i) $f(s, y) > rK$ for $(s, y) \in [a, \mu_{n-2}] \times [r, \frac{br}{b - \mu_{n-2}}]$,
- (ii) $f(s, y) < \frac{qL}{2}$ for $(s, y) \in [a, b] \times [0, \frac{bq}{b - \mu_{n-2}}]$,
- (iii) $f(s, y) > pM$ for $(s, y) \in [a, \mu_{n-2}] \times [\frac{b - \mu_{n-2}}{b} p, p]$,

where K , L and M are defined in (3.1), (3.2) and (3.3), respectively. Then BVP (1.1) has at least two positive solutions y_1 and y_2 such that

$$y_1(a) > p \text{ with } y_1(\mu_{n-2}) < q \text{ and } q < y_2(\mu_{n-2}) < r.$$

Proof. Define the cone P as in (2.3). We know that $A : P \rightarrow P$ is completely continuous by using Arzela-Ascoli theorem. Let the nonnegative increasing continuous functionals ϕ , θ and η be defined on the cone P by $\phi(y) := y(\mu_{n-2})$, $\theta(y) := y(\mu_{n-2})$ and $\eta(y) := y(a)$. For each $y \in P$, we have $\phi(y) = \theta(y) \leq \eta(y)$. Using (2.4), we have

$$\|y\| \leq \frac{b}{b - \mu_{n-2}} \phi(y).$$

Moreover, $\theta(0) = 0$. For all $y \in P$, $\lambda \in [0, 1]$, we have $\theta(\lambda y) = \lambda \theta(y)$. We now verify that the remaining conditions of Theorem 2.5 hold.

If $y \in \partial P(\phi, r)$, we see from (2.4) that

$$r = y(\mu_{n-2}) \leq y(s) \leq \|y\| \leq \frac{br}{b - \mu_{n-2}}$$

for $s \in [a, \mu_{n-2}]$. Then, by using hypothesis (i), we find

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(Ay) &= \int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + s - a \right) h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \int_a^{\mu_i} h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s \\ &\quad - \sum_{\mu_{n-2} < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) - \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} (s - a) h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s \\ &\geq \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s - \frac{n-2}{\alpha} \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s \\ &> \frac{\beta - n + 2}{\alpha} \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} h(s) r K \nabla s \\ &= r. \end{aligned}$$

Thus condition (i) of Theorem 2.5 is satisfied.

If $y \in \partial P(\theta, q)$, we have from (2.4) that

$$0 \leq y(s) \leq \|y\| \leq \frac{bq}{b - \mu_{n-2}}$$

for $s \in [a, b]$. Then, from hypothesis (ii), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \theta(Ay) &= \int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + s - a \right) h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \int_a^{\mu_i} h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s \\ &\quad - \sum_{\mu_{n-2} < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) - \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} (s - a) h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s \\ &< \int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + s - a \right) h(s) \frac{qL}{2} \nabla s - \sum_{\mu_{n-2} < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) \\ &\leq q. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, condition (ii) of Theorem 2.5 holds.

Since $0 \in P$ and $p > 0$, we have $P(\eta, p) \neq \emptyset$. If $y \in \partial P(\eta, p)$, we obtain from (2.4) that

$$\frac{b - \mu_{n-2}}{b} p \leq y(\mu_{n-2}) \leq y(s) \leq y(a) = p$$

for $s \in [a, \mu_{n-2}]$. Thus, by hypothesis (iii), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \eta(Ay) &= \int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + s - a \right) h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \int_a^{\mu_i} h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s - \sum_{a < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) \\ &\geq \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} \left(\frac{\beta - n + 2}{\alpha} + s - a \right) h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s \\ &> p. \end{aligned}$$

Since all the conditions of Theorem 2.5 are fulfilled, we conclude that BVP (1.1) has at least two positive solutions y_1 and y_2 such that $y_1(a) > p$ with $y_1(\mu_{n-2}) < q$ and $q < y_2(\mu_{n-2}) < r$. This completes the proof. \square

Now, we apply the five functionals fixed point theorem to the existence of at least three positive solutions for BVP (1.1).

Theorem 3.3. *Assume (H1)-(H3) hold and $\alpha > 0$, $\beta \geq n - 2$. Suppose that there exist constants $0 < p < q < \frac{qb}{b - \mu_{n-2}} < r$ such that $\sum_{a < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) \geq -\frac{p}{2}$ and the function f satisfies the following conditions:*

- (i) $f(s, y) \leq \frac{rL}{2}$ for $(s, y) \in [a, b] \times [0, r]$,
- (ii) $f(s, y) > qN$ for $(s, y) \in [\mu_{n-2}, b] \times [q, \frac{qb}{b - \mu_{n-2}}]$,
- (iii) $f(s, y) < \frac{pL}{2}$ for $(s, y) \in [a, b] \times [0, p]$,

where $N = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \left(\int_a^b h(s) \nabla s \right)^{-1}$ and L is defined in (3.2). Then BVP (1.1) has at least three positive solutions y_1, y_2 and y_3 satisfying

$$y_1(a) < p < y_3(a), \quad y_3(b) < q < y_2(b).$$

Proof. Define the cone P as in (2.3) and define these maps $\gamma(y) = \psi(y) = y(b)$, $\theta(y) = y(\mu_{n-2})$, $\varphi(y) = \eta(y) = y(a)$. Then γ and ψ are nonnegative continuous concave functionals on P , and φ, η and θ are nonnegative continuous convex functionals on P . Let $P(\varphi, r)$, $P(\varphi, \gamma, p, r)$, $Q(\varphi, \eta, d, r)$, $P(\varphi, \theta, \gamma, p, q, r)$ and $Q(\varphi, \eta, \psi, h, d, r)$ be defined by (2.5). It is clear that $\gamma(y) \leq \eta(y)$ and $\|y\| = \varphi(y)$ for all $y \in \overline{P(\varphi, r)}$.

If $y \in \overline{P(\varphi, r)}$, then $y(s) \in [0, r]$ for all $s \in [a, b]$. By hypothesis (i), we find

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(Ay) &= \int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + s - a \right) h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \int_a^{\mu_i} h(s) f(s, y(s)) \nabla s - \sum_{a < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) \\ &\leq \int_a^b \left(\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + s - a \right) h(s) \frac{rL}{2} \nabla s - \sum_{a < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) \\ &< r. \end{aligned}$$

Then, $A : \overline{P(\varphi, r)} \rightarrow \overline{P(\varphi, r)}$.

Now we verify that the remaining conditions of Theorem 2.6.

Let $y_1 = q + \varepsilon_1$ such that $0 < \varepsilon_1 < (\frac{b}{b-\mu_{n-2}} - 1)q$. Since

$$\gamma(y_1) = q + \varepsilon_1 > q,$$

$$\theta(y_1) = q + \varepsilon_1 < \frac{qb}{b-\mu_{n-2}}$$

and

$$\varphi(y_1) = q + \varepsilon_1 < \frac{qb}{b-\mu_{n-2}} < r,$$

we obtain

$$\{y \in P(\varphi, \theta, \gamma, q, \frac{qb}{b-\mu_{n-2}}, r) : \gamma(y) > q\} \neq \emptyset.$$

If $y \in P(\varphi, \theta, \gamma, q, \frac{qb}{b-\mu_{n-2}}, r)$, then we have $q \leq y(s) \leq \frac{qb}{b-\mu_{n-2}}$ for all $s \in [\mu_{n-2}, b]$. By the hypothesis (ii), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(Ay) &= \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \int_a^b h(s)f(s, y(s))\nabla s - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \int_a^{\mu_i} h(s)f(s, y(s))\nabla s \\ &\geq \frac{\beta-n+2}{\alpha} \int_a^{\mu_{n-2}} h(s)f(s, y(s))\nabla s + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \int_{\mu_{n-2}}^b h(s)f(s, y(s))\nabla s \\ &> \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \int_{\mu_{n-2}}^b h(s)qN\nabla s \\ &= q. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, condition (i) of Theorem 2.6 is fulfilled.

Let $y_2 = p - \varepsilon_2$ such that $0 < \varepsilon_2 < (1 - \frac{b}{b-\mu_{n-2}})p$. Since

$$\eta(y_2) = p - \varepsilon_2 < p,$$

$$\psi(y_2) = p - \varepsilon_2 > \frac{bp}{b-\mu_{n-2}}$$

and

$$\varphi(y_2) = p - \varepsilon_2 < r,$$

we find

$$\{y \in Q(\varphi, \eta, \psi, \frac{bp}{b-\mu_{n-2}}, p, r) : \eta(y) < p\} \neq \emptyset.$$

If $y \in Q(\varphi, \eta, \psi, \frac{bp}{b-\mu_{n-2}}, p, r)$, then we obtain $0 \leq y(s) \leq p$ for $s \in [a, b]$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \eta(Ay) &= \int_a^b (\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + s - a)h(s)f(s, y(s))\nabla s - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \int_a^{\mu_i} h(s)f(s, y(s))\nabla s - \sum_{a < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) \\ &< \int_a^b (\frac{\beta}{\alpha} + s - a)h(s)\frac{pL}{2}\nabla s - \sum_{a < t_k < b} I_k(y(t_k)) \\ &\leq p \end{aligned}$$

by the hypothesis (iii). It follows that condition (ii) of Theorem 2.6 holds. The conditions (iii) and (iv) of Theorem 2.6 is clear. This completes the proof. \square

Example 3.4. Let $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}$. Consider the following boundary value problem:

$$\begin{cases} y^{\Delta\nabla}(t) + \frac{y^2 t}{y^2 + 1} = 0, & t \neq \frac{9}{2}, t \in [1, 5] \subset \mathbb{T} \\ y(\frac{9}{2}^+) - y(\frac{9}{2}^-) = -0.001 \\ y^\Delta(1) = 0, \quad y(5) + 5y^\Delta(5) = y^\Delta(3) + y^\Delta(4). \end{cases}$$

If we take $p = 0.71, q = 0.8$ and $r = 22$, then all the conditions in Theorem 3.2 are satisfied. Thus, the BVP has at least two positive solutions y_1 and y_2 satisfying $y_1(1) > 0.71$ with $y_1(4) < 0.8$ and $0.8 < y_2(4) < 22$.

If we take $p = 0.0055, q = 20$ and $r = 180$, then all the conditions in Theorem 3.3 are satisfied. Thus, the BVP has at least three positive solutions y_1, y_2 and y_3 such that

$$y_1(1) < 0.0055 < y_3(1), \quad y_3(5) < 20 < y_2(5).$$

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