

19. Infinitely Many Periodic Solutions for the Equation:

$$u_{tt} - u_{xx} \pm |u|^{s-1} u = f(x, t)$$

By Kazunaga TANAKA

Department of Mathematics, Waseda University

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1. Introduction. In this article we shall study the nonlinear wave equation:

$$(1)_{\pm} \quad v_{tt} - v_{xx} \pm |v|^{s-1} v = f(x, t), \quad (x, t) \in (0, \pi) \times \mathbf{R},$$

$$(2) \quad v(0, t) = v(\pi, t) = 0, \quad t \in \mathbf{R},$$

$$(3) \quad v(x, t + 2\pi) = v(x, t), \quad (x, t) \in (0, \pi) \times \mathbf{R},$$

where $s > 1$ is a constant and $f(x, t)$ is a 2π -periodic function of t .

Our main result is as follows:

Theorem. Assume that $1 < s < 1 + \sqrt{2}$ and $f(x, t) \in L^q_{\text{loc}}([0, \pi] \times \mathbf{R})$ ($q = 1/s + 1$) is a 2π -periodic function of t . Then $(1)_{\pm}$ –(3) possess an unbounded sequence of weak solutions in $L^{s+1}_{\text{loc}}([0, \pi] \times \mathbf{R})$.

To prove our theorem, we convert the problem to a simpler one by a Legendre transformation which is used in H. Brézis, J. M. Coron and L. Nirenberg [2], that is, we use the dual variational formulation for $(1)_{\pm}$ –(3). Next we use a perturbation result of P. H. Rabinowitz [3] asserting the existence of infinitely many critical points of perturbed symmetric functionals.

After completing this work, the author knew announcement of the result of J. P. Ollivry [6]. His result is analogous to ours for $(1)_{+}$ –(3) but under the following conditions:

$$1 < s < 2 \quad \text{and} \quad f(x, t) \in E \quad (\text{see (4)}).$$

Our result obviously contains his result. Moreover our growth restriction $1 < s < 1 + \sqrt{2}$ coincides with the condition which ensures the existence of an unbounded sequence of solutions of the semilinear elliptic equation:

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= |u|^{s-1} u + f(x), & x \in \Omega, \\ u &= 0, & x \in \partial\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

where $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^2$ is a smooth bounded domain (see P. H. Rabinowitz [3]).

2. Outline of the proof of Theorem. We shall only give outline of proof. Details will be published elsewhere.

We shall deal with the case $(1)_{+}$ –(3) (the argument is essentially the same for the case $(1)_{-}$ –(3)).

Let $\Omega = (0, \pi) \times (0, 2\pi)$.

We shall consider the operator $Au = u_{tt} - u_{xx}$ acting on functions in $L^1(\Omega)$ satisfying (2), (3). Denote by N the kernel of A . Consider the space

$$(4) \quad E = \left\{ u \in L^q(\Omega); \int_{\Omega} u \phi = 0 \text{ for all } \phi \in N \cap L^{s+1}(\Omega) \right\}$$

with L^q norm $\|\cdot\|_q$.