

# Periodic boundary value problems for functional differential equations

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## Abstract

In this paper, the method of quasilinearization has been extended to periodic boundary value problems of nonlinear functional differential equations. It is shown that monotone iterations converge to the unique solution and this convergence is semi-superlinear.

## 1 Introduction

Put  $C_0 = C(J_0, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $C_1 = C(J \times C_0, \mathbb{R})$  with  $J_0 = [-\tau, 0]$ ,  $J = [0, T]$  for some  $\tau, T > 0$ . Let  $g \in C_0$  and  $g(0) = 0$ . We shall study the following periodic boundary value problems for functional differential equations

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} x'(t) = f(t, x_t), & t \in J, \\ x(s) = g(s) + x(0), & s \in J_0, \quad x(0) = x(T), \end{cases}$$

where  $f \in C_1$ , and for any  $t \in J$ ,  $x_t \in C_0$  is defined by  $x_t(s) = x(t + s)$  for  $s \in J_0$ . Note that  $g$  is given on  $J_0$ . If we take  $g(s) = 0$  on  $J_0$ , then the boundary condition in (1) has the form  $x(s) = x(0) = x(T)$ ,  $s \in J_0$ .

The differential equation from problem (1) is a very general type. It includes, for example, as special cases, ordinary differential equations if  $\tau = 0$ , differential-difference equations, and integro-differential equations too.

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It is known that the method of quasilinearization offers an approach for obtaining approximate solutions of nonlinear differential equations (for details, see, for example [5], [7]). Recently, this method has been extended so as to be applicable to a much larger class of nonlinear problems (see, for example [2], [4]–[10]). The purpose of this paper is to show that it can be applied successfully to periodic boundary value problems of functional differential equations. Under suitable assumptions it is shown that linear iterations converge to the unique solution of our problem and this convergence is semi-superlinear.

## 2 Assumptions

Choose  $M > 0$ , and rewrite the differential equation of (1) as

$$(2) \quad x'(t) = -Mx(t) + Mx(t) + f(t, x_t), \quad t \in J.$$

Then, by variation of parameters formula, equation (2) takes the form

$$x(t) = e^{-Mt} \left\{ x(0) + \int_0^t e^{Ms} [Mx(s) + f(s, x_s)] ds \right\}, \quad t \in J.$$

Since  $x(0) = x(T)$ , it follows that

$$x(0) = \frac{1}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T e^{Ms} [Mx(s) + f(s, x_s)] ds.$$

It shows that problem (1) is equivalent to the following one

$$(3) \quad \begin{cases} x(t) = \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s) e^{Ms} [Mx(s) + f(s, x_s)] ds, & t \in J, \\ x(s) = x(0) + g(s), & s \in J_0, \end{cases}$$

where

$$G(t, s) = \begin{cases} e^{MT} & \text{if } 0 \leq s < t, \\ 1 & \text{if } t \leq s \leq T. \end{cases}$$

A function  $v \in \bar{C} \equiv C(\bar{J}, \mathbb{R}) \cap C^1(J, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\bar{J} = [-\tau, T]$  is said to be a lower solution of problem (1) if

$$\begin{cases} v'(t) \leq f(t, v_t), & t \in J, \\ v(s) = g(s) + v(0), & s \in J_0, \quad v(0) \leq v(T), \end{cases}$$

and an upper solution of (1) if the above inequalities are reversed.

Now, we list the following assumptions for later use.

$$H_1 \quad f \in C_1, \quad g \in C_0, \quad g(0) = 0,$$

$$H_2 \quad y_0, z_0 \in \bar{C} \text{ are lower and upper solutions of problem (1) and } y_0(t) \leq z_0(t) \text{ on } J,$$

$$H_3 \quad \text{the Frechet derivative } f_{\Phi} \text{ exists, is a continuous linear operator satisfying:}$$

- (a)  $|f_{\Phi}(t, \phi)v_t| \leq L \max_{[-\tau, t]} |v(s)|$ ,  $L > 0$  for  $t \in J$ ,  $\phi, v_t \in C_0$ ,
- (b)  $f(t, v_2) \geq f(t, v_1) + f_{\Phi}(t, v_2)(v_2 - v_1)$  for  $t \in J$ ,  $v_1, v_2 \in C_0$  such that  $y_{0,t} \leq v_1 \leq v_2 \leq z_{0,t}$ ,
- (c) if  $v_1 \leq v_2$ ,  $v, v_1, v_2 \in C_0$ , then  $f_{\Phi}(t, v)v_1 \leq f_{\Phi}(t, v)v_2$  for  $y_{0t} \leq v \leq z_{0,t}$ ,  $t \in J$ ,
- (d) if  $v, \bar{v}, V \in C_0$ ,  $V \geq 0$ , then
 
$$f_{\Phi}(t, v)V \geq f_{\Phi}(t, \bar{v})V \text{ for } t \in J, y_{0,t} \leq \bar{v} \leq v \leq z_{0,t},$$
- (e)  $\int_0^T f_{\Phi}(s, u)v_s ds > 0$  if  $u, v_t \in C_0$ ,  $v(s) > 0$ ,  $s \in \bar{J}$ ,

$H_4$  there exist constants  $L_1 > 0$  and  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$  such that the condition

$$|f_{\Phi}(t, v_1) - f_{\Phi}(t, v_2)| \leq L_1 |v_1 - v_2|_0^{\alpha}$$

holds for  $t \in J$ ,  $v_1, v_2 \in C_0$  with  $|v|_0 = \max_{s \in [-\tau, 0]} |v(s)|$ .

### 3 Existence, uniqueness results

In this section we give existence/uniqueness results both for initial and boundary value problems of functional differential equations.

**Theorem 1.** Let Assumption  $H_3(a)$  hold. Assume that  $h \in C_0$ ,  $b \in C(J, \mathbb{R})$ . Then the problem

$$\begin{cases} x'(t) = f_{\Phi}(t, u)x_t + b(t), & t \in J, u \in C_0, x \in \bar{C}, \\ x(s) = h(s), & s \in J_0 \end{cases}$$

has a unique solution.

*Proof.* To show it we can use the Banach fixed point theorem with the norm

$$|v|_* = \max_{t \in J} e^{-Kt} |v(t)| \text{ for } K \geq L.$$

We omit the details.

**Lemma 1.** Let Assumption  $H_3(a, e)$  hold. Then the problem

$$(4) \quad \begin{cases} \alpha'(t) = f_{\Phi}(t, u)\alpha_t, & t \in J, u \in C_0, \alpha \in \bar{C}, \\ \alpha(s) = \alpha(0) = \alpha(T), & s \in J_0 \end{cases}$$

has only zero solution.

*Proof.* Note that  $\alpha(t) = 0$ ,  $t \in \bar{J}$  is a solution of (4). Suppose that problem (4) has another solution  $w$ . Let  $B = \{t_k \in J : w(t_k) = 0\}$ . Assume that  $t_0 \in B$ . If  $t_0 = 0$  or  $t_0 = T$ , then  $w(0) = 0$ . Hence  $w(t) = 0$ ,  $t \in \bar{J}$  since the initial problem has only one solution, by Theorem 1. It is a contradiction. If  $0 < t_0 < T$ , then  $w(t_0) = 0$  showing that  $w(t) = 0$  on  $[t_0, T]$ . Since  $w(T) = 0$  and  $w(T) = w(0)$ , so  $w(t) = 0$  on  $\bar{J}$ . It is a contradiction again. If we assume that  $w(t) > 0$ ,  $t \in \bar{J}$ , then

$$w(t) = w(0) + \int_0^t f_{\Phi}(s, u)w_s ds, \quad t \in J.$$

Note that  $w(T) > w(0)$  because  $\int_0^T f_\Phi(s, u)w_s ds > 0$ , by Assumption  $H_3(e)$ . It is a contradiction. Same argument holds if we assume that  $w(t) < 0$  on  $J$ . It proves that problem (4) has only one solution. It ends the Proof.

The next theorem gives sufficient conditions for the uniqueness of the solution of (1) but it does not guarantee the existence of the solution.

**Theorem 2.** Assume that Assumptions  $H_1, H_3(a, e)$  hold. Then problem (1) has at most one solution.

*Proof.* Assume that problem (1) has two solutions  $x$  and  $y$ . Put  $p = x - y$ . Then  $p(s) = p(0) = p(T)$ ,  $s \in J_0$ . Moreover, by a mean value theorem, we get

$$p'(t) = f(t, x_t) - f(t, y_t) = \int_0^1 f_\Phi(t, sx_t + (1-s)y_t) ds p_t, \quad t \in J.$$

This and Lemma 1 prove that  $p(t) = 0$  on  $\bar{J}$  showing that problem (1) has at most one solution. It ends the Proof.

**Lemma 2.** Let Assumptions  $H_1, H_2$  and  $H_3$  hold. Then, for  $t \in J, u \in \Omega$ , the periodic boundary value problem

$$(5) \quad \begin{cases} p'(t) = f(t, u) + f_\Phi(t, u)[p_t - u], & t \in J, \quad p \in \bar{C}, \\ p(0) = p(T) \quad \text{and} \quad p(s) = g(s) + p(0), & s \in J_0 \end{cases}$$

has a unique solution. The set  $\Omega$  is defined by

$$\Omega = \{\phi \in C_0 : y_{0,t} \leq \phi \leq z_{0,t}, \quad t \in J\}.$$

*Proof.* Using (2) and (3), for  $M > 0$ , we see that problem (5) is equivalent to the following

$$\begin{cases} p(t) = \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s) e^{Ms} [Mp(s) + f_\Phi(s, u)(p_s - u) + f(s, u)] ds \equiv Ap(t), & t \in J, \\ p(s) = p(0) + g(s), & s \in J_0. \end{cases}$$

Assumptions  $H_2$  and  $H_3(b, d)$  imply that

$$y'_0(t) \leq f(t, y_{0,t}) - f(t, u) + f(t, u) \leq f(t, u) + f_\Phi(t, u)[y_{0,t} - u], \quad t \in J,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} z'_0(t) &\geq f(t, z_{0,t}) - f(t, u) + f(t, u) \geq f(t, u) + f_\Phi(t, z_{0,t})[z_{0,t} - u] \\ &\geq f(t, u) + f_\Phi(t, u)[z_{0,t} - u], \quad t \in J. \end{aligned}$$

Knowing that  $y_0(0) \leq y_0(T)$ ,  $z_0(0) \geq z_0(T)$ , and using the above inequalities and the method of integration by substitution, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} Ay_0(t) &= \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s) e^{Ms} \{My_0(s) + f_\Phi(s, u)[y_{0,s} - u] + f(s, u)\} ds \\ &\geq \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s) e^{Ms} [y'_0(s) + My_0(s)] ds \\ &= \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \{e^{MT} [e^{Mt} y_0(t) - y_0(0)] + e^{MT} y_0(T) - e^{Mt} y_0(t)\} \geq y_0(t), \quad t \in J, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} Az_0(t) &= \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s)e^{Ms} \{Mz_0(s) + f_\Phi(s, u)[z_{0,s} - u] + f(s, u)\} ds \\ &\leq \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s)e^{Ms} [z'_0(s) + Mz_0(s)] ds \\ &= \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \left\{ e^{MT} [e^{Mt} z_0(t) - z_0(0)] + e^{MT} z_0(T) - e^{Mt} z_0(t) \right\} \leq z_0(t), \quad t \in J. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $v_1, v_2 \in C(\bar{J}, \mathbb{R})$  and  $y_0(t) \leq v_1(t) \leq v_2(t) \leq z_0(t)$ ,  $t \in \bar{J}$ , so  $y_{0,t} \leq v_{1,t} \leq v_{2,t} \leq z_{0,t}$ ,  $t \in J$ . Then, by Assumption  $H_3(c)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} Av_1(t) &= \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s)e^{Ms} \{Mv_1(s) + f_\Phi(s, u)[v_{1,s} - u] + f(s, u)\} ds \\ &\leq \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s)e^{Ms} \{Mv_2(s) + f_\Phi(s, u)[v_{2,s} - u] + f(s, u)\} ds = Av_2(t) \end{aligned}$$

showing that the operator  $A$  maps the segment  $[y_0, z_0]$  into itself. Since  $A$  is a completely continuous operator on  $[y_0, z_0]$ , so the sequences  $y_{n+1}(t) = Ay_n(t)$ ,  $z_{n+1}(t) = Az_n(t)$  converge to the fixed points  $y, z \in [y_0, z_0]$  of  $A$  and  $y(t) \leq z(t)$  on  $J$ .

Now we are going to show that problem (5) has one solution. Assume that it has two solutions,  $x$  and  $y$ . Set  $q = x - y$ , so  $q(s) = q(0) = q(T)$ ,  $s \in J_0$ . Then

$$\begin{cases} q'(t) = f_\Phi(t, u)q_t, & t \in J, \\ q(s) = q(0) = q(T), & s \in J_0. \end{cases}$$

By Lemma 1, this problem has only zero solution. This proves that  $x(t) = y(t)$  on  $J$ , so problem (5) has a unique solution.

It ends the Proof.

**Lemma 3.** The assertion of Lemma 2 also holds if problem (5) is replaced by the following

$$\begin{cases} p'(t) = f(t, v) + f_\Phi(t, u)[p_t - v], & u, v \in \Omega, u \leq v, p \in \bar{C}, \\ p(s) = g(s) + p(0) \text{ and } p(0) = p(T). \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Obviously, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} y'_0(t) &\leq f(t, y_{0,t}) - f(t, v) + f(t, v) \leq f(t, v) + f_\Phi(t, v)[y_{0,t} - v] \\ &\leq f(t, v) + f_\Phi(t, u)[y_{0,t} - v], \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} z'_0(t) &\geq f(t, z_{0,t}) - f(t, v) + f(t, v) \geq f(t, v) + f_\Phi(t, z_{0,t})[z_{0,t} - v] \\ &\geq f(t, v) + f_\Phi(t, u)[z_{0,t} - v], \quad t \in J. \end{aligned}$$

The rest of this proof is similar to the proof of Lemma 2 with the operator  $A$  defined by

$$Ap(t) = \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s)e^{Ms} [Mp(s) + f_\Phi(s, u)(p_s - v) + f(s, v)] ds, \quad t \in J.$$

We omit the details.

**Lemma 4.** Let Assumptions  $H_1, H_2, H_3$  hold. Let  $u, v \in \bar{C}$  be lower and upper solutions of problem (1) such that  $y_0(t) \leq u(t) \leq v(t) \leq z_0(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ . Then the problems

$$(6) \quad \begin{cases} p'(t) = f(t, u_t) + f_{\Phi}(t, u_t)[p_t - u_t], & t \in J, & p(0) = p(T), & p(s) = g(s) + p(0), & s \in J_0 \\ q'(t) = f(t, v_t) + f_{\Phi}(t, v_t)[q_t - v_t], & t \in J, & q(0) = q(T), & q(s) = g(s) + q(0), & s \in J_0 \end{cases}$$

have their unique solutions  $(p, q)$ . Moreover  $u(t) \leq p(t) \leq q(t) \leq v(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ .

*Proof.* By Lemmas 2 and 3, there exists a unique solution  $(p, q)$  of (6). We need to show that  $p, q \in [u, v]$  and  $p(t) \leq q(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ . Note that, for  $M > 0$ ,

$$p(t) = A(t, u, p), \quad q(t) = B(t, v, q), \quad t \in J,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A(t, u, p) &= \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s) e^{Ms} U(s, u, p) ds, \\ B(t, v, q) &= \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s) e^{Ms} U(s, v, q) ds, \\ U(t, v, p) &= Mp(t) + f_{\Phi}(t, v_t)[p_t - v_t] + f(t, v_t). \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$\begin{cases} p_{n+1}(t) = A(t, u, p_n), & p_0(t) = u(t), & t \in J, \\ q_{n+1}(t) = B(t, v, q_n), & q_0(t) = v(t), & t \in J. \end{cases}$$

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} U(t, u, u) &= Mu(t) + f(t, u_t) \geq Mu(t) + u'(t), \\ U(t, v, v) &= Mv(t) + f(t, v_t) \leq Mv(t) + v'(t) \end{aligned}$$

because  $u, v$  are lower and upper solutions of (1), respectively. Now, using the method of integration by substitution, we get

$$\begin{aligned} p_1(t) &= A(t, u, u) = \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s) e^{Ms} U(s, u, u) ds \\ &\geq \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s) e^{Ms} [Mu(s) + u'(s)] ds \\ &= \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \left\{ (e^{MT} - 1)u(t)e^{Mt} + e^{MT}[u(T) - u(0)] \right\} \geq u(t) = p_0(t), \\ q_1(t) &= B(t, v, v) \leq \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s) e^{Ms} [Mv(s) + v'(s)] ds \\ &= \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \left\{ (e^{MT} - 1)v(t)e^{Mt} + e^{MT}[v(T) - v(0)] \right\} \leq v(t) = q_0(t). \end{aligned}$$

Suppose that  $\alpha(t) \leq \beta(t)$  on  $\bar{J}$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} U(t, u, \alpha) &= M\alpha(t) + f_{\Phi}(t, u_t)[\alpha_t - \beta_t + \beta_t - u_t + v_t - v_t] + f(t, u_t) \\ &\leq M\beta(t) + f_{\Phi}(t, u_t)[\beta_t - v_t] + f_{\Phi}(t, u_t)[v_t - u_t] + f(t, u_t) - f(t, v_t) + f(t, v_t) \\ &\leq U(t, v, \beta) \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_1(t) &= \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s)e^{Ms}U(s, u, u)ds \\
 &\leq \frac{e^{-Mt}}{e^{MT} - 1} \int_0^T G(t, s)e^{Ms}U(s, v, v)ds = q_1(t), \quad t \in J,
 \end{aligned}$$

so

$$p_0(t) \leq p_1(t) \leq q_1(t) \leq q_0(t), \quad t \in J.$$

By mathematical inductions, we are able to show that

$$p_0(t) \leq p_1(t) \leq \dots \leq p_n(t) \leq q_n(t) \leq \dots \leq q_1(t) \leq q_0(t), \quad t \in J.$$

It yields  $p_n \rightarrow p$ ,  $q_n \rightarrow q$ ,  $p, q \in [u, v]$  and  $p(t) \leq q(t), t \in J$ . It ends the Proof.

### 4 Main result

A fundamental result of this paper is the following.

**Theorem 3.** Assume that Assumptions from  $H_1$  until  $H_4$  are satisfied. Then there exist monotone sequences  $\{y_n\}$ ,  $\{z_n\}$  which converge uniformly to the unique solution  $x$  of problem (1) and that convergence is semi-superlinear i.e.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max_{t \in J} |x(t) - y_{n+1}(t)| &\leq a_1 \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1} + a_2 \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0, \\
 \max_{t \in J} |x(t) - z_{n+1}(t)| &\leq a_3 \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0^\alpha |q_{n,t}|_0 + a_4 \max_{t \in J} |q_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1} + a_5 \max_{t \in J} |q_{n,t}|_0
 \end{aligned}$$

for some nonnegative constants  $c_i$  and  $p_n = x - y_n$ ,  $q_n = z_n - x$ .

*Proof.* Let  $y_{n+1}(s) = g(s) + y_{n+1}(0)$ ,  $z_{n+1}(s) = g(s) + z_{n+1}(0)$ ,  $s \in J_0$  and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y'_{n+1}(t) &= f(t, y_{n,t}) + f_\Phi(t, y_{n,t})[y_{n+1,t} - y_{n,t}], \quad y_{n+1}(0) = y_{n+1}(T), \\
 z'_{n+1}(t) &= f(t, z_{n,t}) + f_\Phi(t, y_{n,t})[z_{n+1,t} - z_{n,t}], \quad z_{n+1}(0) = z_{n+1}(T)
 \end{aligned}$$

for  $t \in J$ ,  $n = 0, 1, \dots$ .

Note that the elements  $y_1, z_1$  are well defined, by Lemmas 2 and 3. Lemma 4 asserts that

$$y_0(t) \leq y_1(t) \leq z_1(t) \leq z_0(t), \quad t \in J.$$

Now we prove that  $y_1, z_1$  are lower and upper solutions of problem (1), respectively. By Assumption  $H_3(b, d)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 y'_1(t) &= f(t, y_{0,t}) + f_\Phi(t, y_{0,t})[y_{1,t} - y_{0,t}] - f(t, y_{1,t}) + f(t, y_{1,t}) \\
 &\leq f(t, y_{1,t}) - f_\Phi(t, y_{1,t})[y_{1,t} - y_{0,t}] + f_\Phi(t, y_{0,t})[y_{1,t} - y_{0,t}] \leq f(t, y_{1,t})
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 z'_1(t) &= f(t, z_{0,t}) + f_\Phi(t, y_{0,t})[z_{1,t} - z_{0,t}] - f(t, z_{1,t}) + f(t, z_{1,t}) \\
 &\geq f(t, z_{1,t}) + f_\Phi(t, z_{0,t})[z_{0,t} - z_{1,t}] + f_\Phi(t, y_{0,t})[z_{1,t} - z_{0,t}] \\
 &\geq f(t, z_{1,t}).
 \end{aligned}$$

It proves that  $y_1, z_1$  are lower and upper solutions of (1).

Let us assume that

$$y_0(t) \leq y_1(t) \leq \dots \leq y_{k-1}(t) \leq y_k(t) \leq z_k(t) \leq z_{k-1}(t) \leq \dots \leq z_1(t) \leq z_0(t), \quad t \in J,$$

and let  $y_k, z_k$  be lower and upper solutions of problem (1) for some  $k \geq 1$ . Then, by Lemmas 2 and 3, the elements  $y_{k+1}, z_{k+1}$  are well defined. Moreover, Lemma 4 yields

$$y_k(t) \leq y_{k+1}(t) \leq z_{k+1}(t) \leq z_k(t), \quad t \in J.$$

Hence, by induction, we obtain

$$y_0(t) \leq y_1(t) \leq \dots \leq y_n(t) \leq z_n(t) \leq \dots \leq z_1(t) \leq z_0(t), \quad t \in J$$

for all  $n$ . Employing standard techniques [5], it can be shown that the sequences  $\{y_n\}, \{z_n\}$  converge uniformly and monotonically to the solutions  $y, z$  of (1), so  $y_n \rightarrow y, z_n \rightarrow z$  and  $y(t) \leq z(t)$  on  $J$ . By Theorem 2,  $y = z$ . It means that the sequences  $\{y_n\}, \{z_n\}$  converge to the unique solution  $x$  of problem (1).

It remains only to show that the convergence of  $y_n, z_n$  to the unique solution  $x$  of problem (1) is semi-superlinear. For this purpose, we put

$$p_{n+1}(t) = x(t) - y_{n+1}(t) \geq 0, \quad q_{n+1}(t) = z_{n+1}(t) - x(t) \geq 0 \quad t \in \bar{J}.$$

Note that  $p_{n+1}(s) = p_{n+1}(0) = p_{n+1}(T), q_{n+1}(s) = q_{n+1}(0) = q_{n+1}(T), s \in J_0$ . Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} p_{n+1}(t) &= x(t) - y_{n+1}(t) + y_n(t) - y_n(t) \leq p_n(t) \\ q_{n+1}(t) &= z_{n+1}(t) - x(t) - z_n(t) + z_n(t) \leq q_n(t). \end{aligned}$$

Choose  $M > 0$ . Using Assumptions  $H_3$  and  $H_4$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} p'_{n+1}(t) &= f(t, x_t) - f(t, y_{n,t}) - f_\Phi(t, y_{n,t})[y_{n+1,t} - y_{n,t}] \\ &= \int_0^1 f_\Phi(t, sx_t + (1-s)y_{n,t})p_{n,t}ds - f_\Phi(t, y_{n,t})[p_{n,t} - p_{n+1,t}] \\ &= \int_0^1 [f_\Phi(t, sx_t + (1-s)y_{n,t}) - f_\Phi(t, y_{n,t})]p_{n,t}ds + f_\Phi(t, y_{n,t})p_{n+1,t} \\ &\leq L_1 \int_0^1 s^\alpha |p_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1} ds + f_\Phi(t, y_{n,t})p_{n+1,t} \\ &\leq D + L \max_{s \leq t} p_n(s) + Mp_{n+1}(t) - Mp_{n+1}(t) \\ &\leq D + (L + M) \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0 - Mp_{n+1}(t) \equiv \bar{D} - Mp_{n+1}(t) \end{aligned}$$

with  $D = L_1 \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1}$ . Hence, the differential inequality yields

$$p_{n+1}(t) \leq e^{-Mt} \left[ p_{n+1}(0) + \frac{\bar{D}}{M} (e^{Mt} - 1) \right], \quad t \in J.$$

Since  $p_{n+1}(0) = p_{n+1}(T)$ , we get  $p_{n+1}(0) \leq \frac{\bar{D}}{M}$ , so  $p_{n+1}(t) \leq \frac{\bar{D}}{M}, t \in J$ . Hence, we finally obtain

$$\max_{t \in J} |p_{n+1}(t)| \leq \frac{1}{M} \left[ L_1 \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1} + (L + M) \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0 \right].$$

By a similar way, we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} q'_{n+1}(t) &= f(t, z_{n,t}) - f(t, x_t) + f_{\Phi}(t, y_{n,t})[z_{n+1,t} - x_t + x_t - z_{n,t}] \\ &= \int_0^1 f_{\Phi}(t, sz_{n,t} + (1-s)x_t)q_{n,t}ds + f_{\Phi}(t, y_{n,t})[q_{n+1,t} - q_{n,t}] \\ &= \int_0^1 [f_{\Phi}(t, sz_{n,t} + (1-s)x_t) - f_{\Phi}(t, x_t) + f_{\Phi}(t, x_t) - f_{\Phi}(t, y_{n,t})] q_{n,t}ds \\ &\quad + f_{\Phi}(t, y_{n,t})q_{n+1,t} \leq L_1 [|q_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha} + |p_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha}] q_{n,t} + f_{\Phi}(t, y_{n,t})q_{n+1,t} \\ &\leq P + (L + M) \max_{t \in J} |q_{n,t}|_0 - Mq_{n+1}(t), \quad t \in J, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$P = L_1 \max_{t \in J} [|q_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1} + |p_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha} |q_{n,t}|_0].$$

Consequently

$$\max_{t \in J} |q_{n+1}(t)| \leq \frac{1}{M} \left[ L_1 \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha} |q_{n,t}|_0 + L_1 \max_{t \in J} |q_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1} + (L + M) \max_{t \in J} |q_{n,t}|_0 \right].$$

The proof is complete.

Remark 3. If  $\alpha = 1$ , then the convergence of sequences  $\{y_n\}$  and  $\{z_n\}$  to  $x$  is semi-quadratic.

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