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ON A CERTAIN SINGULAR BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEM  
FOR LINEAR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS  
WITH DEVIATING ARGUMENTS

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*Dedicated to Professor Jaroslav Kurzweil on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday*

In the interval  $I = [a, b]$  we consider a vector linear differential equation

$$(1) \quad u^{(m)}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m P_i(t)u^{(i-1)}(\tau_i(t)) + q(t)$$

with the following complementary conditions outside  $I$

$$(2_1) \quad u^{(i-1)}(t) = 0 \quad \text{for } t \notin I \quad (i = 1, \dots, m)$$

and the boundary conditions

$$(2_2) \quad u^{(i-1)}(a) = 0 \quad (i = 1, \dots, m-1), \quad u^{(m-1)}(b) = 0,$$

where  $m \geq 2$ , the functions  $\tau_i: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) and the matrix functions  $P_i: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) are measurable,  $n \geq 1$ , and the vector function  $q: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is summable.

A vector function  $u: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is called a solution of the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>), if

(i)  $u$  is absolutely continuous along with its derivatives up to and including the order  $m-1$ ;

(ii) the equation (1) holds almost everywhere in  $I$ , where  $u^{(i-1)}(\tau_i(t)) = 0$  for  $\tau_i(t) \notin I$ ;

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(iii) the boundary conditions (2<sub>2</sub>) are satisfied.

Obviously, if  $a \leq \tau_i(t) \leq b$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) holds almost everywhere in  $I$ , then the conditions (2<sub>1</sub>) are redundant.

We do not exclude from our considerations the case that the matrix functions  $P_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) are not summable in  $I$ . In this sense, the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) is singular. For  $\tau_i(t) \equiv t$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ), problems of this type are discussed in [1]–[7].

In this paper, the results of [8] are used to establish optimal, in a certain sense, conditions guaranteeing unique solvability of the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) and continuous dependence of its solutions on  $P_i$ ,  $\tau_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) and  $q$ .

We use the following notation and definitions:

$\chi_I$ —the characteristic function of the interval  $I$ , i.e.  $\chi_I(t) = 1$  if  $t \in I$  and  $\chi_I(t) = 0$  if  $t \notin I$ ;

$\mathbb{R}$ —the set of the real numbers;

$\mathbb{R}^n$ —the space of the column vectors  $x = (x_i)_{i=1}^n$  with the components  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}$  and the norm

$$\|x\| = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|;$$

$\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ —the space of the  $n \times n$  matrices  $X = (x_{ik})_{i,k=1}^n$  with the components  $x_{ik} \in \mathbb{R}$  and the norm

$$\|X\| = \sum_{i,k=1}^n |x_{ik}|;$$

$r(X)$ —the spectral radius of a matrix  $X$ ;

if  $x = (x_i)_{i=1}^n \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $X = (x_{ik})_{i,k=1}^n \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , then

$$|x| = (|x_i|)_{i=1}^n, \quad |X| = (|x_{ik}|)_{i,k=1}^n;$$

if  $x = (x_i)_{i=1}^n$  and  $y = (y_i)_{i=1}^n \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $X = (x_{ik})_{i,k=1}^n$  and  $Y = (y_{ik})_{i,k=1}^n \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , then

$$x \leq y \Leftrightarrow x_i \leq y_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, n), \quad X \leq Y \Leftrightarrow x_{ik} \leq y_{ik} \quad (i, k = 1, \dots, n);$$

a matrix or vector function is called continuous, summable, etc. if its components are such;

$C(I; \mathbb{R}^n)$ —the space of continuous vector functions  $x: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  with the norm

$$\|x\|_C = \max\{\|x(t)\|: t \in I\};$$

$L(I; \mathbb{R}^n)$ —the space of summable vector functions  $x: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  with the norm

$$\|x\|_L = \int_a^b \|x(t)\| dt.$$

For arbitrary  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  assume

$$(3) \quad \tau_{0i}(t) = \begin{cases} a & \text{for } \tau_i(t) < a, \\ \tau_i(t) & \text{for } a \leq \tau_i(t) \leq b, \\ b & \text{for } \tau_i(t) > b \end{cases}$$

and

$$(4) \quad P_{0i}(t) = \chi_I(\tau_i(t))P_i(t).$$

**Theorem 1.** *Let*

$$(5) \quad \int_a^b [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i} \|P_{0i}(t)\| dt < +\infty \quad (i = 1, \dots, m).$$

Then the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) is uniquely solvable if and only if the problem

$$(6) \quad \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{(m-1-i)!} P_{0i}(t) \int_a^{\tau_{0i}(t)} (\tau_{0i}(t) - s)^{m-1-i} x(s) ds \\ + P_{0m}(t)x(\tau_{0m}(t)),$$

$$(7) \quad x(b) = 0$$

has only the trivial solution.

*Proof.* By (3) and (4), a vector function  $u$  is a solution of the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) if and only if it is a solution of the differential equation

$$(8) \quad u^{(m)}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m P_{0i}(t)u^{(i-1)}(\tau_{0i}(t)) + q(t)$$

with the boundary conditions (2<sub>2</sub>).

Let  $u$  be a solution of the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>). Further, let

$$(9) \quad x(t) = u^{(m-1)}(t)$$

and

$$(10) \quad p(x)(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{(m-1-i)!} P_{0i}(t) \int_a^{\tau_{0i}(t)} (\tau_{0i}(t) - s)^{m-1-i} x(s) ds \\ + P_{0m}(t)x(\tau_{0m}(t)).$$

Then it follows from (2<sub>2</sub>) and (8) that

$$(11) \quad u(t) = \frac{1}{(m-2)!} \int_a^t (t-s)^{m-2} x(s) ds$$

and  $x$  is a solution of the vector functional-differential equation

$$(12) \quad \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = p(x)(t) + q(t)$$

satisfying the condition (7). Obviously, the inverse assertion also holds: if  $x$  is a solution of the problem (12), (7), then the vector function  $u$  defined by (11) is a solution of the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>).

Therefore, the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) has a unique solution if and only if the problem (12), (7) has a unique solution.

It follows from (5) and (10) that  $p: C(I; \mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow L(I, \mathbb{R}^n)$  is a linear operator satisfying, for any  $x \in C(I, \mathbb{R}^n)$ , almost everywhere in  $I$  the inequality

$$\|p(x)(t)\| \leq \eta(t)\|x\|_C,$$

where

$$\eta(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{(m-i)!} \|P_{0i}(t)\| [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i}$$

and

$$\int_a^b \eta(t) dt < +\infty.$$

By Theorem 1.1 from [8], the problem (12), (7) has a unique solution if and only if the homogeneous problem (6), (7) has only the trivial solution.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.** *Let the conditions (5) hold and let*

$$(13) \quad r \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{(m-i)!} \int_a^b [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i} |P_{0i}(t)| dt \right) < 1.$$

*Then the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) has a unique solution.*

**Proof.** It is sufficient to prove, as follows from Theorem 1, that the problem (6), (7) has only the trivial solution. Let  $x = (x_i)_{i=1}^n$  be a solution of that problem. Then

$$(14) \quad x(t) = \int_t^b p(x)(s) ds \quad \text{for } t \in I,$$

where  $p$  is the operator defined by (10).

Put

$$|x|_C = (\|x_i\|_C)_{i=1}^n$$

and

$$(15) \quad A = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{(m-i)!} \int_a^b [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i} |P_{0i}(t)| dt.$$

Then (10) and (14) give

$$|x|_C \leq A|x|_C,$$

i.e.

$$(16) \quad (E - A)|x|_C \leq 0,$$

where  $E$  is the unit matrix. On the other hand, by (13),

$$r(A) < 1.$$

Thus the matrix  $E - A$  is not singular and  $(E - A)^{-1}$  is non-negative. Multiplying (16) by  $(E - A)^{-1}$ , we get

$$|x|_C \leq 0,$$

i.e.  $x(t) \equiv 0$ . □

The following example shows that the condition (13) is optimal in the sense that it cannot be replaced (without further assumptions on  $\tau_1, \dots, \tau_m$ ), for any  $i_0 \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , by the inequality

$$(17) \quad r \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\gamma_i}{(m-i)!} \int_a^b [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i} |P_{0i}(t)| dt \right) \leq 1$$

where  $\gamma_{i_0} = 1$  and  $\gamma_i$  ( $i \neq i_0, i = 1, \dots, m$ ) are arbitrary great positive numbers.

**Example 1.** Let  $0 < \delta < b - a$ ,

$$(18) \quad \tau_{i_0}(t) = b - \delta, P_{i_0}(t) = \begin{cases} \Theta & \text{for } a \leq t \leq b - \delta, \\ (m - i_0)! \delta^{-1} (b - a - \delta)^{i_0 - m} E & \text{for } b - \delta < t \leq b, \end{cases}$$

$$(19) \quad \tau_i(t) \equiv t, P_i(t) \equiv \Theta \quad (i \neq i_0, i = 1, \dots, m) \text{ and } q(t) \equiv 0,$$

where  $\Theta$  and  $E$  are the null and unit  $n \times n$  matrices. Then

$$\frac{1}{(m-i)!} \int_a^b [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i} |P_{0i}(t)| dt = \begin{cases} \Theta & \text{for } i \neq i_0, \\ E & \text{for } i = i_0. \end{cases}$$

Therefore, (13) is violated but (17) holds for  $\gamma_{i_0} = 1$  and any  $\gamma_i > 0$  ( $i \neq i_0, i = 1, \dots, m$ ). On the other hand, in the case considered the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) has infinitely many solutions. This easily follows from (18) and (19): for any  $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the vector function

$$u(t) = cw(t),$$

where

$$(20) \quad w(t) = \begin{cases} (t-a)^{m-1} & \text{for } a \leq t \leq b-\delta, \\ \sum_{i=0}^{m-2} \frac{(t-b+\delta)^i}{i!} w^{(i)}(b-\delta) + \frac{m-1}{\delta} \int_{b-\delta}^t (t-s)^{m-2} (s-b) ds & \text{for } b-\delta < t \leq b, \end{cases}$$

is a solution of the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>).

**Example 2.** Let  $t_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) be fixed points in the interval  $[a, b]$ ,  $\nu_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) arbitrary great positive numbers,

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_i(t) &= (b-a)^{1-\nu_i} |t-t_i|^{\nu_i} + a, \\ P_i(t) &= \frac{(m-i)!}{2mn} (b-a)^{(m-i)(\nu_i-1)-1} |t-t_i|^{-(m-i)\nu_i} E \quad (i = 1, \dots, m), \end{aligned}$$

and  $A$  the matrix defined by (15). Then

$$A = \frac{1}{2n} E, \quad r(A) = \frac{1}{2}$$

and, by Theorem 2, the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) has a unique solution.

Example 2 shows that in Theorem 2, the matrix functions  $P_1, \dots, P_{m-1}$  may have non-integrable singularities of any order at the points of the interval  $[a, b]$ .

**Theorem 3.** Let  $n = 1$ ,

$$(21) \quad \tau_i(t) \geq t \text{ for almost all } t \in [a, b] \quad (i = 1, \dots, m),$$

and

$$(22) \quad \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{(m-i)!} \int_a^b [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i} |P_{0i}(t)| dt \leq \exp \left( - \int_a^b |P_{0m}(t)| dt \right).$$

Then the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) has a unique solution.

*Proof.* First of all, we notice that, by (3) and (21),

$$(23) \quad \tau_{0i}(t) \geq t \quad (i = 1, \dots, m)$$

holds almost everywhere in  $I$ . By Theorem 1 it is sufficient to prove that the problem (6), (7) has only the trivial solution. Suppose the contrary, i.e. that the problem (6), (7) has a non-trivial solution  $x$ . Then there exists  $t_0 \in [a, b]$  such that

$$|x(t_0)| = \max\{|x(s)|: a \leq s \leq b\}, \quad |x(t)| < |x(t_0)| \quad \text{for } t_0 < t \leq b.$$

If we now assume

$$y(t) = \max\{|x(s)|: t \leq s \leq b\},$$

then we shall have

$$(24) \quad y(t) < y(t_0) \text{ if } t_0 < t \leq b, \quad y(t) = y(t_0) \text{ if } a \leq t \leq t_0.$$

On the other hand, with regard to the inequality  $\tau_{0n}(t) \geq t$ , from (6) and (7) we get

$$(25) \quad y(t) \leq z(t) + \int_t^b |P_{0m}(s)|y(s) ds \quad \text{for } a \leq t \leq b,$$

where

$$(26) \quad z(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{(m-1-i)!} \int_t^b \left[ |P_{0i}(s)| \int_a^{\tau_{0i}(s)} (\tau_{0i}(s) - \xi)^{m-1-i} y(\xi) d\xi \right] ds.$$

The function  $z$  is non-increasing. Thus, using Gronwall's lemma, (25) yields the estimate

$$(27) \quad y(t_0) \leq z(t_0) \exp \left( \int_{t_0}^b |P_{0m}(t)| dt \right).$$

Since  $y(t_0)$  is positive, this estimate implies that there exists a set  $I_0 \subset [t_0, b]$  of a positive measure such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{(m-1-i)!} |P_{0i}(t)| > 0 \quad \text{for } t \in I_0.$$

Using this inequality along with the inequalities (23) and (24), we get from (26)

$$z(t_0) < y(t_0) \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{(m-i)!} \int_{t_0}^b [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i} |P_{0i}(t)| dt.$$



However, this estimation together with the conditions (22) and (27) leads to the contradiction

$$y(t_0) < y(t_0),$$

which proves the theorem.  $\square$

As the following example confirms, the condition (22) is optimal in the sense that it cannot be replaced, for any  $i_0 \in \{1, \dots, m-1\}$  and  $\varepsilon \in ]0, 1[$ , by the inequality

$$(28) \quad \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{\gamma_i}{(m-i)!} \int_a^b [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i} |P_{0i}(t)| dt \leq \exp \left( - \int_a^b |P_m(s)| ds \right),$$

where  $\gamma_{i_0} = 1 - \varepsilon$  and  $\gamma_i$  ( $i \neq i_0, i = 1, \dots, m$ ) are arbitrary great positive numbers.

**Example 3.** Let  $\varepsilon \in ]0, 1[$ ,  $i_0 \in \{1, \dots, m-1\}$ ,  $\gamma_{i_0} = 1 - \varepsilon$ . Further, let  $\delta$  be the numbers defined by the equality

$$\left( \frac{b-a-\delta}{b-a} \right)^{m-i_0} = 1 - \varepsilon,$$

and  $w$  the function defined by (20). Finally, let

$$P_i(t) \equiv 0 \quad (i \neq i_0, i = 1, \dots, m),$$

$$P_{i_0}(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } a \leq t \leq b - \delta, \\ (m-1)! \delta^{-1} [w^{(i_0-1)}(b-\delta)]^{-1} & \text{for } b - \delta < t \leq b, \end{cases}$$

$$\tau_i(t) \equiv t \quad (i = 1, \dots, m), \quad q(t) \equiv 0.$$

Then

$$w^{(i_0-1)}(b-\delta) > \frac{(m-1)!}{(m-i_0)!} (b-a-\delta)^{m-i_0},$$

$$0 < P_{0i_0}(t) = P_{i_0}(t) < (m-i_0)! \delta^{-1} (b-a-\delta)^{i_0-m}$$

and

$$\frac{1}{(m-i_0)!} \int_{b-\delta}^b (t-a)^{m-i_0} P_{i_0}(t) dt < \left( \frac{b-a-\delta}{b-a} \right)^{i_0-1} = (1-\varepsilon)^{-1}.$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{1}{(m-i)!} \int_a^b [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i} |P_{0i}(t)| dt \leq \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } i \neq i_0, \\ (1-\varepsilon)^{-1} & \text{for } i = i_0. \end{cases}$$

The inequality (28) is thus satisfied for  $\gamma_{i_0} = 1 - \varepsilon$  and any  $\gamma_i > 0$  ( $i \neq i_0, i = 1, \dots, m-1$ ). The unique solvability of the problem (1), (2) is violated because it has a solution  $u(t) = cw(t)$  for any  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ .

From the inequality

$$\exp(-s) \geq 1 - s \quad \text{for } 0 \leq s \leq 1$$

and from Theorem 3 we obtain

**Corollary.** *If  $n = 1$ , the condition (21) is satisfied, and*

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{(m-i)!} \int_a^b [\tau_{0i}(t) - a]^{m-i} |P_{0i}(t)| dt \leq 1,$$

then the problem (1), (2) has a unique solution.

As example 1 shows, in the above corollary the condition (21) is essential and cannot be omitted.

Along with the equation (1), we consider, for every positive integer  $k$ , the perturbed equation

$$(29) \quad u^{(m)}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m P_{ik}(t) u^{(i-1)}(\tau_{ik}(t)) + q_k(t),$$

where  $\tau_{ik}: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $P_{ik}: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  are measurable, and  $q_k: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is summable.

For arbitrary  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  put

$$\tau_{0ik}(t) = \begin{cases} a & \text{for } \tau_{ik}(t) < a, \\ \tau_{ik}(t) & \text{for } a \leq \tau_{ik}(t) \leq b, \\ b & \text{for } \tau_{ik}(t) > b \end{cases}$$

and

$$P_{0ik}(t) = \chi_I(\tau_{ik}(t)) P_{ik}(t).$$

**Theorem 4.** *Let the condition (5) be satisfied and let there exist a summable function  $\eta: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that the inequalities*

$$(30) \quad \sum_{i=1}^m (\tau_{0ik}(t) - a)^{m-i} \|P_{0ik}(t)\| \leq \eta(t) \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots)$$

hold almost everywhere in  $I$ . Further, let

$$(31) \quad \text{ess sup}\{|\tau_{0ik}(t) - \tau_{0i}(t)|: t \in I\} \rightarrow 0 \text{ if } k \rightarrow +\infty \quad (1, \dots, m),$$

$$(32) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \int_a^t (\tau_{0ik}(s) - a)^{m-i} P_{0ik}(s) ds \\ = \int_a^t (\tau_{0i}(s) - a)^{m-i} P_{0i}(s) ds \quad \text{uniformly on } I \quad (i = 1, \dots, m), \\ \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \int_a^t q_k(s) ds = \int_a^t q(s) ds \quad \text{uniformly on } I.$$

Finally, suppose that the problem (1), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) has a unique solution  $u$ . Then there exists a positive integer  $k_0$  such that the problem (29), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>) has a unique solution  $u_k$  for every  $k \geq k_0$ , and

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} u_k^{(i-1)}(t) = u^{(i-1)}(t) \text{ uniformly on } I \quad (i = 1, \dots, m-1).$$

*Proof.* For arbitrary  $y \in C(I; \mathbb{R}^n)$  and a positive integer  $k$  put

$$(33) \quad \begin{aligned} g_i(y)(t) &= 0 \text{ for } \tau_{0i}(t) = a, \\ g_i(y)(t) &= (m-i)(\tau_{0i}(t) - a)^{i-m} \int_a^{\tau_{0i}(t)} (\tau_{0i}(t) - s)^{m-1-i} y(s) \, ds \\ &\text{for } \tau_{0i}(t) > a \quad (i = 1, \dots, m-1) \end{aligned}$$

$$(34) \quad \begin{aligned} g_{ik}(y)(t) &= 0 \text{ for } \tau_{0ik}(t) = a, \\ g_{ik}(y)(t) &= (m-i)(\tau_{0ik}(t) - a)^{i-m} \int_a^{\tau_{0ik}(t)} (\tau_{0ik}(t) - s)^{m-1-i} y(s) \, ds \\ &\text{for } \tau_{0ik}(t) > a \quad (i = 1, \dots, m-1), \end{aligned}$$

$$(35) \quad g_m(y)(t) = y(\tau_{0m}(t)), \quad g_{mk}(y)(t) = y(\tau_{0mk}(t)),$$

$$(36) \quad p(y)(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{(m-i)!} (\tau_{0i}(t) - a)^{m-i} P_{0i}(t) g_i(y)(t),$$

$$(37) \quad p_k(y)(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{(m-i)!} (\tau_{0ik}(t) - a)^{m-i} P_{0ik}(t) g_{ik}(y)(t).$$

We consider the equation (12) and

$$(38) \quad \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = p_k(x)(t) + q_k(t)$$

with the initial condition (7).

As shown in the proof of Theorem 1, the vector function  $x(t) = u^{(m-1)}(t)$  is the unique solution of the problem (12), (7). As for the problem (29), (2<sub>1</sub>), (2<sub>2</sub>), it is uniquely solvable if and only if the problem (38), (7) is uniquely solvable. The solutions of these problems are connected by the equality

$$u_k(t) = \frac{1}{(m-2)!} \int_a^t (t-s)^{m-2} r_k(s) \, ds.$$

We thus have to prove that there exists a positive integer  $k_0$  such that the problem (38), (7) has a unique solution  $x_k$  for  $k \geq k_0$  and

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} x_k(t) = x(t) \text{ uniformly on } I.$$

By Corollary 1.6 from [8], it is sufficient to prove that

$$(39) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \int_a^t p_k(y)(s) \, ds = \int_a^t p(y)(s) \, ds \text{ uniformly on } I$$

for any absolutely continuous vector function  $y: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ .

By (36) and (37),

$$(40) \quad \left\| \int_a^t [p_k(y)(s) - p(y)(s)] \, ds \right\| \leq \delta_k(y) + \Delta_k(y)(t),$$

where

$$\delta_k = \sum_{i=1}^m \int_a^b (\tau_{0ik}(s) - a)^{m-i} \|P_{0ik}(s)\| \|g_{ik}(y)(s) - g_i(y)(s)\| \, ds,$$

$$\Delta_k(y)(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \left\| \int_a^t [\tau_{0ik}(s) - a)^{m-i} P_{0ik}(s) - (\tau_{0i}(s) - a)^{m-i} P_{0i}(s)] g_i(y)(s) \, ds \right\|.$$

In view of (31)-(35), the following conditions hold almost everywhere in  $I$ :

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \|g_{ik}(y)(t) - g_i(y)(t)\| = 0 \quad (i = 1, \dots, m)$$

and

$$\|g_{ik}(y)(t) - g_i(t)\| \leq 2\|y\|_C \quad (i = 1, \dots, m; k = 1, 2, \dots).$$

Combining this with the condition (30) and applying Lebesgue's theorem about a limit in an integral, we get

$$(41) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \delta_k(y) = 0.$$

On the other hand, in view of Lemma 2.1 from [8], it follows from (30) and (32) that

$$(42) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \Delta_k(y)(t) = 0 \text{ uniformly on } I.$$

Now (39) immediately follows from (40), (41) and (42). □

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