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## FUNCTIONAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

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*Abstract.* The method of quasilinearization is a well-known technique for obtaining approximate solutions of nonlinear differential equations. In this paper we apply this technique to functional differential problems. It is shown that linear iterations converge to the unique solution and this convergence is superlinear.

*Keywords:* quasilinearization, monotone iterations, superlinear convergence

*MSC 2000:* 34A45

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Consider the functional differential problem

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} x'(t) = f(t, x(t), x_t), & t \in J = [0, T], \\ x_0 = \Phi_0, \end{cases}$$

where  $f \in C(J \times \mathbb{R} \times C, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\Phi_0 \in C$ ,  $C = C(J_0, \mathbb{R})$  with  $J_0 = [-\tau, 0]$  for  $\tau > 0$ , and for any  $t \in J$ ,  $x_t \in C$  is defined by  $x_t(s) = x(t+s)$  for  $s \in J_0$ . According to the above notation  $x_0 \in C$  and  $x_0(s) = x(s)$ ,  $s \in J_0$ . It means that in this case the initial condition  $x_0 = \Phi_0$  means that  $x(s) = \Phi(s)$  on  $J_0$ , where the function  $\Phi$  is given and continuous on  $J_0$ .

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

The method of quasilinearization gives linear iterations which converge monotonically to the unique solution of the initial value problem. Recently, this method has been extended so as to be applicable to a much larger class of nonlinear problems

(see for example [7]). In this paper we extend this method to functional differential problems of type (1). If  $f$  does not depend on the second variable the method of quasilinearization is considered in [7].

## 2. LEMMAS

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

$$\begin{cases} v'(t) \leq f(t, v(t), v_t), & t \in J, \\ v_0 \leq \Phi_0, \end{cases}$$

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

**Lemma 1.** Assume that  $f \in C(J \times \mathbb{R} \times C, \mathbb{R})$  and

1<sup>0</sup>  $f_x$  exists and  $f_x(t, u, v) \leq K$ ,  $K > 0$  for  $(t, u, v) \in \Omega_0$ , where

$$\Omega_0 = \{(t, u, v): t \in J, u \in \mathbb{R}, v \in C \text{ and } y_0(t) \leq u \leq z_0(t), y_{0,t} \leq v \leq z_{0,t}\},$$

2<sup>0</sup> the Fréchet derivative  $f_\Phi$  exists and is a linear operator satisfying

- (a)  $f_\Phi(t, u, \Phi)\Psi \leq L \int_{-\tau}^0 \Psi(s) ds$  if  $\Psi > 0$  for  $L > 0$ , and  $L + e^{-L\tau} > 1 + K$ ,
- (b) if  $v_1, v_2 \in C$  and  $v_1 \leq v_2$ , then

$$f_\Phi(t, u, v)v_1 \leq f_\Phi(t, u, v)v_2 \text{ for } (t, u, v) \in \Omega_0,$$

3<sup>0</sup>  $p \in C(\bar{J}, \mathbb{R}) \cap C^1(J, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $(t, u, v) \in \Omega_0$ , and

$$\begin{cases} p'(t) \leq f_x(t, u, v)p(t) + f_\Phi(t, u, v)p_t, & t \in J, \\ p(s) \leq 0 \text{ on } J_0. \end{cases}$$

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

**Proof.** For  $\varepsilon > 0$  put  $\bar{v}(t) = \varepsilon e^{Lt}$ ,  $t \in \bar{J}$ . Indeed,  $\bar{v}_t > 0$ ,  $t \in J$ . Moreover, basing on 1<sup>0</sup> and 2<sup>0</sup>(a), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} f_x(t, u, v)\bar{v}(t) + f_\Phi(t, u, v)\bar{v}_t &\leq K\bar{v}(t) + L \int_{-\tau}^0 \bar{v}(t+s) ds \\ &= K\varepsilon e^{Lt} + L\varepsilon e^{Lt} \int_{-\tau}^0 e^{Ls} ds = \varepsilon e^{Lt} [K + 1 - e^{-L\tau}]. \end{aligned}$$

Note that using the above relation and 2<sup>0</sup> (a), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{v}'(t) &= \varepsilon L e^{Lt} - f_x(t, u, v)\bar{v}(t) - f_\Phi(t, u, v)\bar{v}_t + f_x(t, u, v)\bar{v}(t) + f_\Phi(t, u, v)\bar{v}_t \\ &\geq f_x(t, u, v)\bar{v}(t) + f_\Phi(t, u, v)\bar{v}_t + \varepsilon L e^{Lt} - \varepsilon e^{Lt}[K + 1 - e^{-L\tau}] \\ &= f_x(t, u, v)\bar{v}(t) + f_\Phi(t, u, v)\bar{v}_t + \varepsilon e^{Lt}[L - K - 1 + e^{-L\tau}] \\ &> f_x(t, u, v)\bar{v}(t) + f_\Phi(t, u, v)\bar{v}_t, \quad t \in J. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $p(0) \leq 0 < \bar{v}(0)$  and  $p(s) < \bar{v}(s)$ ,  $s \in J_0$ . We show that  $p(t) < \bar{v}(t)$  on  $J$ . Suppose that it is not true. Then there exists  $t_1 \in (0, T]$  such that  $p(t_1) = \bar{v}(t_1)$  and  $p(t) < \bar{v}(t)$  on  $[-\tau, t_1)$ , so  $p_t < \bar{v}_t$  on  $[0, t_1)$ . For each  $h > 0$  sufficiently small, we see that  $p(t_1 - h) - p(t_1) < \bar{v}(t_1 - h) - \bar{v}(t_1)$ . Hence  $p'(t_1) \geq \bar{v}'(t_1)$ .

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} f_x(t_1, u, v)p(t_1) + f_\Phi(t_1, u, v)p_{t_1} &\geq p'(t_1) \geq \bar{v}'(t_1) \\ &> f_x(t_1, u, v)\bar{v}(t_1) + f_\Phi(t_1, u, v)\bar{v}_{t_1} \\ &= f_x(t_1, u, v)p(t_1) + f_\Phi(t_1, u, v)\bar{v}_{t_1} \\ &\geq f_x(t_1, u, v)p(t_1) + f_\Phi(t_1, u, v)p_{t_1}. \end{aligned}$$

It is a contradiction. Hence  $p(t) < \bar{v}(t)$  on  $J$ . If now  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , then we obtain  $p(t) \leq 0$  on  $J$ . The proof is complete.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** Assume that

1<sup>0</sup>  $f_1, f_2 \in C(J, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $f \in C(J \times \mathbb{R} \times C, \mathbb{R})$ ,

2<sup>0</sup> the Fréchet derivative  $f_\Phi$  exists and is a linear operator satisfying the condition

$$|f_\Phi(t, u, v)\Psi| \leq L \int_{-\tau}^0 |\Psi(s)| ds, \quad L > 0 \text{ for } (t, u, v) \in \Omega_0 \text{ and } \Psi \in C.$$

Then for  $(t, u, v) \in \Omega_0$ , the problem

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} y'(t) = f_1(t)y(t) + f_\Phi(t, u, v)y_t + f_2(t), & t \in J, \\ y_0 = \Phi_0 \end{cases}$$

has a unique solution  $y \in C(\bar{J}, \mathbb{R}) \cap C^1(J, \mathbb{R})$ .

**P r o o f.** Note that, for  $t \in J$ , problem (2) is equivalent to

$$y(t) = \Phi(0) + \int_0^t e^{\int_s^t f_1(r) dr} [f_\Phi(s, u, v)y_s + f_2(s)] ds \equiv Ay(t).$$

We will show that  $A$  is a contraction mapping. Let us define a norm by

$$|y|_* = \max_{t \in J} [|y(t)|e^{-Mt}] \quad \text{with } M \geq N + L\tau,$$

where  $|f_1(t)| \leq N$ . Put

$$\bar{\Omega} = \{y: y \in C(\bar{J}, \mathbb{R}) \cap C^1(J, \mathbb{R}), \quad y_0 = \Phi_0\}.$$

Then for  $y, \bar{y} \in \bar{\Omega}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} |Ay - A\bar{y}|_* &= \max_{t \in J} e^{-Mt} \int_0^t e^{\int_s^t f_1(r) dr} |f_\Phi(s, u, v)[y_s - \bar{y}_s]| ds \\ &\leq \max_{t \in J} e^{-Mt} \int_0^t e^{N(t-s)} L \int_{-\tau}^0 |y(s+r) - \bar{y}(s+r)| dr ds \\ &\leq L|y - \bar{y}|_* \max_{t \in J} e^{-Mt} \int_0^t e^{N(t-s)} \int_{-\tau}^0 e^{M(s+r)} dr ds \\ &\leq L\tau|y - \bar{y}|_* \max_{t \in J} e^{-(M-N)t} \int_0^t e^{(M-N)s} ds \\ &= \frac{L\tau}{M-N} |y - \bar{y}|_* [1 - e^{-(M-N)T}] \leq [1 - e^{-(M-N)T}] |y - \bar{y}|_*. \end{aligned}$$

Problem (2) has a unique solution, because  $b \equiv 1 - e^{-(M-N)T} < 1$ . The proof is complete.  $\square$

**Theorem 1.** Assume that  $f \in C(J \times \mathbb{R} \times C, \mathbb{R})$  and

- 1<sup>0</sup>  $y_0, z_0 \in C(\bar{J}, \mathbb{R}) \cap C^1(J, \mathbb{R})$  are lower and upper solutions of problem (1) and  $y_0(t) \leq z_0(t)$  on  $J$ ,
- 2<sup>0</sup>  $f_x$  and  $f_{xx}$  exist, are continuous and
  - (a)  $f_x(t, u, v) \leq K$  for  $(t, u, v) \in \Omega_0$ ,
  - (b) if  $v_1, v_2 \in C$ , and  $y_{0,t} \leq v_1 \leq v_2 \leq z_{0,t}$ , then  $f_x(t, u, v_1) \leq f_x(t, u, v_2)$  for  $t \in J$ ,  $u \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $y_0(t) \leq u \leq z_0(t)$ ,
  - (c)  $f_{xx}(t, u, v) \geq 0$  for  $(t, u, v) \in \Omega_0$ ,
- 3<sup>0</sup> the Fréchet derivative  $f_\Phi$  exists and is a linear operator satisfying
  - (a)  $|f_\Phi(t, u, \Phi)v| \leq L \int_{-\tau}^0 |v(s)| ds$ ,  $L > 0$  for  $(t, u, \Phi) \in \Omega_0$ ,  $v \in C$  with the condition  $L + e^{-L\tau} > 1 + K$ ,
  - (b)  $f(t, u, v_2) \geq f(t, u, v_1) + f_\Phi(t, u, v_1)(v_2 - v_1)$  for  $t \in J$ ,  $u \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $v_1, v_2 \in C$  and such that  $y_0(t) \leq u \leq z_0(t)$ ,  $y_{0,t} \leq v_1 \leq v_2 \leq z_{0,t}$ ,
  - (c) if  $v_1 \leq v_2$ ,  $v_1, v_2 \in C$  then  $f_\Phi(t, u, v_1)v_1 \leq f_\Phi(t, u, v_2)v_2$  for  $(t, u, v) \in \Omega_0$ ,

(d) if  $u, \bar{u} \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $v, \bar{v}, V \in C$ ,  $V \geq 0$ , then

$$f_{\Phi}(t, u, v)V \geq f_{\Phi}(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})V \text{ for } t \in J, \quad y_0(t) \leq \bar{u} \leq u \leq z_0(t), \\ y_{0,t} \leq \bar{v} \leq v \leq z_{0,t},$$

$4^0$  there exist constants  $L_1, L_2, L_3 > 0$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 1]$  such that the conditions

$$|f_x(t, u, v_1) - f_x(t, u, v_2)| \leq L_1|v_1 - v_2|_0^{\alpha}, \\ |f_{\Phi}(t, u_1, v_1) - f_{\Phi}(t, u_2, v_2)| \leq L_2|u_1 - u_2| + L_3|v_1 - v_2|_0^{\beta}$$

hold for  $t \in J$ ,  $u, u_1, u_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $v_1, v_2 \in C$  with  $|v|_0 = \max_{s \in [-\tau, 0]} |v(s)|$ .

Then there exist monotone sequences  $\{y_n\}$ ,  $\{z_n\}$  which converge uniformly to the unique solution  $x$  of problem (1) on  $J$  and that convergence is superlinear.

**Proof.** Let  $y_0(t) \leq \bar{u} \leq u \leq z_0(t)$ ,  $y_{0,t} \leq \bar{v} \leq v \leq z_{0,t}$ . Then, by the mean value theorem and  $3^0$  (b), we have

$$f(t, u, v) - f(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v}) = f(t, u, v) - f(t, \bar{u}, v) + f(t, \bar{u}, v) - f(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v}) \\ \geq f_x(t, \xi, v)(u - \bar{u}) + f_{\Phi}(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})(v - \bar{v})$$

with  $\bar{u} < \xi < u$ . Hence, by  $2^0$  (b), (c), we have

$$(3) \quad f(t, u, v) - f(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v}) \geq f_x(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})(u - \bar{u}) + f_{\Phi}(t, \bar{u}, \bar{v})(v - \bar{v}).$$

Let  $y_{n+1,0} = \Phi_0$ ,  $z_{n+1,0} = \Phi_0$  and

$$y'_{n+1}(t) = f(t, y_n, y_{n,t}) + f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[y_{n+1}(t) - y_n(t)] \\ + f_{\Phi}(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[y_{n+1,t} - y_{n,t}], \\ z'_{n+1}(t) = f(t, z_n, z_{n,t}) + f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[z_{n+1}(t) - z_n(t)] \\ + f_{\Phi}(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[z_{n+1,t} - z_{n,t}]$$

for  $t \in J$ ,  $n = 0, 1, \dots$ . Note that the elements  $y_{n+1}$ ,  $z_{n+1}$  are well defined by Lemma 2.

Indeed,  $y_0(t) \leq z_0(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ , by  $1^0$ . Now we are going to show that

$$(4) \quad y_0(t) \leq y_1(t) \leq z_1(t) \leq z_0(t), \quad t \in J.$$

Put  $p = y_0 - y_1$  on  $\bar{J}$ , so  $p(s) = y_0(s) - y_1(s) \leq \Phi(s) - \Phi(s) = 0$ ,  $s \in J_0$ . Then

$$p'(t) \leq f(t, y_0, y_{0,t}) - f(t, y_0, y_{0,t}) - f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_1(t) - y_0(t)] \\ - f_{\Phi}(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_{1,t} - y_{0,t}] \\ = f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})p(t) + f_{\Phi}(t, y_0, y_{0,t})p_t.$$

By Lemma 1 we have  $p(t) \leq 0$  on  $J$  showing that  $y_0(t) \leq y_1(t)$  on  $J$ . By the same argument we can show that  $z_1(t) \leq z_0(t)$  on  $J$ . Next, we let  $p = y_1 - z_1$  on  $\bar{J}$ , so  $p(s) = 0$  on  $J_0$ . By relation (3) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 p'(t) &= f(t, y_0, y_{0,t}) + f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_1(t) - y_0(t)] + f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_{1,t} - y_{0,t}] \\
 &\quad - f(t, z_0, z_{0,t}) - f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[z_1(t) - z_0(t)] - f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[z_{1,t} - z_{0,t}] \\
 &\leq -f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[z_0(t) - y_0(t)] - f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[z_{0,t} - y_{0,t}] \\
 &\quad + f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_1(t) - y_0(t) - z_1(t) + z_0(t)] \\
 &\quad + f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_{1,t} - y_{0,t} - z_{1,t} + z_{0,t}] \\
 &= f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})p(t) + f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})p_t.
 \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 1,  $p(t) \leq 0$  on  $J$ , so  $y_1(t) \leq z_1(t)$  on  $J$ . It proves that (4) holds.

Now we prove that  $y_1, z_1$  are lower and upper solutions, respectively, of problem (1). Relation (3) and conditions 2<sup>0</sup> (b), (c) and 3<sup>0</sup> (d) yield

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_1'(t) &= f(t, y_0, y_{0,t}) + f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_1(t) - y_0(t)] + f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_{1,t} - y_{0,t}] \\
 &\leq f(t, y_1, y_{1,t}) - f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_1(t) - y_0(t)] - f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_{1,t} - y_{0,t}] \\
 &\quad + f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_1(t) - y_0(t)] + f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[y_{1,t} - y_{0,t}] \\
 &= f(t, y_1, y_{1,t})
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 z_1'(t) &= f(t, z_0, z_{0,t}) + f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[z_1(t) - z_0(t)] + f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[z_{1,t} - z_{0,t}] \\
 &\geq f(t, z_1, z_{1,t}) + f_x(t, z_1, z_{1,t})[z_0(t) - z_1(t)] + f_\Phi(t, z_1, z_{1,t})[z_{0,t} - z_{1,t}] \\
 &\quad + f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[z_1(t) - z_0(t)] + f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})[z_{1,t} - z_{0,t}] \\
 &= f(t, z_1, z_{1,t}) + [f_x(t, z_1, z_{1,t}) - f_x(t, y_0, y_{0,t})][z_0(t) - z_1(t)] \\
 &\quad + [f_\Phi(t, z_1, z_{1,t}) - f_\Phi(t, y_0, y_{0,t})][z_{0,t} - z_{1,t}] \\
 &\geq f(t, z_1, z_{1,t}).
 \end{aligned}$$

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

Let us assume that

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

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

$$(5) \quad y_k(t) \leq y_{k+1}(t) \leq z_{k+1}(t) \leq z_k(t), \quad t \in J.$$

Let  $p = y_k - y_{k+1}$  on  $J$ . Then  $p(s) = 0$  on  $J_0$ . Using the mean value theorem and the fact that  $y_k$  is a lower solution of problem (1), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} p'(t) &\leq f(t, y_k, y_{k,t}) - f(t, y_k, y_{k,t}) - f_x(t, y_k, y_{k,t})[y_{k+1}(t) - y_k(t)] \\ &\quad - f_\Phi(t, y_k, y_{k,t})[y_{k+1,t} - y_{k,t}] \\ &= f_x(t, y_k, y_{k,t})p(t) + f_\Phi(t, y_k, y_{k,t})p_t. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 1 yields  $p(t) \leq 0$ , so  $y_k(t) \leq y_{k+1}(t)$  on  $J$ . Similarly, we can show that  $z_{k+1}(t) \leq z_k(t)$  on  $J$ .

Now, if  $p = y_{k+1} - z_{k+1}$  on  $J$ , then  $p(s) = 0$ ,  $s \in J_0$ , and using relation (3) we get

$$\begin{aligned} p'(t) &= f(t, y_k, y_{k,t}) + f_x(t, y_k, y_{k,t})[y_{k+1}(t) - y_k(t)] + f_\Phi(t, y_k, y_{k,t})[y_{k+1,t} - y_{k,t}] \\ &\quad - f(t, z_k, z_{k,t}) - f_x(t, y_k, y_{k,t})[z_{k+1}(t) - z_k(t)] - f_\Phi(t, y_k, y_{k,t})[z_{k+1,t} - z_{k,t}] \\ &\leq -f_x(t, y_k, y_{k,t})[z_k(t) - y_k(t)] - f_\Phi(t, y_k, y_{k,t})[z_{k,t} - y_{k,t}] \\ &\quad + f_x(t, y_k, y_{k,t})[y_{k+1}(t) - y_k(t) - z_{k+1}(t) + z_k(t)] \\ &\quad + f_\Phi(t, y_k, y_{k,t})[y_{k+1,t} - y_{k,t} - z_{k+1,t} + z_{k,t}] \\ &= f_x(t, y_k, y_{k,t})p(t) + f_\Phi(t, y_k, y_{k,t})p_t. \end{aligned}$$

This yields  $y_{k+1}(t) \leq z_{k+1}(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ , so inequality (5) holds.

Hence, by induction, we have

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

for all  $n$ . Employing the standard techniques, it can be shown that the sequences  $\{y_n\}$ ,  $\{z_n\}$  converge uniformly and monotonically to solutions  $y$  and  $z$  of problem (1). Now, we are going to show that problem (1) has a unique solution. To prove it we assume that it has two solutions  $u$  and  $v$ . Set  $p = u - v$ . Then  $p(0) = 0$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} (6) \quad p(t) &= f(t, u, u_t) - f(t, v, u_t) + f(t, v, u_t) - f(t, v, v_t) \\ &= f_x(t, \xi, u_t)p(t) + \int_0^1 f_\Phi(t, v, su_t + (1-s)v_t) ds p_t, \quad t \in J, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\xi$  is between  $u$  and  $v$ . By Lemma 2, equation (6) has a unique solution. Since  $p(t) = 0$ ,  $t \in \bar{J}$  is a solution of (6), hence  $u = v$  on  $\bar{J}$ . This proves that the sequences  $\{y_n\}$ ,  $\{z_n\}$  converge to the unique solution  $x$  of problem (1).

We shall next show that the convergence of  $y_n$ ,  $z_n$  to the unique solution  $x$  of problem (1) is superlinear. For this purpose, we consider

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



Note that  $p_{n+1}(s) = q_{n+1}(s) = 0$  for  $s \in J_0$ . Using the mean value theorem, 2<sup>0</sup> (c), 3<sup>0</sup> (a) and 4<sup>0</sup>, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
p'_{n+1}(t) &= f(t, x, x_t) - f(t, y_n, x_t) + f(t, y_n, x_t) - f(t, y_n, y_{n,t}) \\
&\quad - f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[y_{n+1}(t) - y_n(t)] - f_\Phi(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[y_{n+1,t} - y_{n,t}] \\
&= f_x(t, \xi_1, x_t)p_n(t) + \int_0^1 f_\Phi(t, y_n, sx_t + (1-s)y_{n,t})p_{n,t} \, ds \\
&\quad - f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[p_n(t) - p_{n+1}(t)] - f_\Phi(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[p_{n,t} - p_{n+1,t}] \\
&\leq [f_x(t, x, x_t) - f_x(t, y_n, x_t) + f_x(t, y_n, x_t) - f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})]p_n(t) \\
&\quad + \int_0^1 [f_\Phi(t, y_n, sx_t + (1-s)y_{n,t}) - f_\Phi(t, y_n, y_{n,t})]p_{n,t} \, ds \\
&\quad + f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})p_{n+1}(t) + f_\Phi(t, y_n, y_{n,t})p_{n+1,t} \\
&\leq [f_{xx}(t, \xi_2, x_t)p_n(t) + L_1|p_{n,t}|_0^\alpha]p_n(t) + f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})p_{n+1}(t) \\
&\quad + L_3 \int_0^1 s^\beta |p_{n,t}|_0^{\beta+1} \, ds + L \int_{-\tau}^0 p_{n+1,t}(s) \, ds \\
&\leq [A_1 p_n(t) + L_1 |p_{n,t}|_0^\alpha] p_n(t) + A_2 p_{n+1}(t) + L_3 |p_{n,t}|_0^{\beta+1} \\
&\quad + L \int_{-\tau}^0 p_{n+1,t}(s) \, ds,
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$y_n(t) < \xi_1, \quad \xi_2 < x(t), \quad t \in J, \quad \text{and} \quad |f_{xx}| \leq A_1, \quad |f_x| \leq A_2 \quad \text{on} \quad \Omega_0.$$

Put

$$\begin{aligned}
w'(t) &= [A_1 p_n(t) + L_1 |p_{n,t}|_0^\alpha] p_n(t) + A_2 p_{n+1}(t) + L_3 |p_{n,t}|_0^{\beta+1} \\
&\quad + L \int_{-\tau}^0 p_{n+1,t}(s) \, ds, \quad t \in J,
\end{aligned}$$

and  $w(0) = 0$ . Note that  $w'(t) \geq 0$  on  $J$ . Since  $p_{n+1}(t) \leq w(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ , and  $w$  is nondecreasing in  $t$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
w(t) &= \int_0^t [A_1 p_n^2(s) + L_1 |p_{n,s}|_0^\alpha p_n(s) + L_3 |p_{n,s}|_0^{\beta+1}] \, ds \\
&\quad + A_2 \int_0^t p_{n+1}(s) \, ds + L \int_0^t \int_{-\tau}^0 p_{n+1,s}(r) \, dr \, ds \\
&\leq Dt + A_2 \int_0^t w(s) \, ds + L \int_0^t \int_{-\tau}^0 p_{n+1}(s+r) \, dr \, ds \\
&\leq Dt + A_2 \int_0^t w(s) \, ds + L \int_0^t \int_{-\tau}^0 w(s) \, dr \, ds = Dt + (A_2 + L\tau) \int_0^t w(s) \, ds
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$D = \max_{t \in J} [A_1 |p_n^2(t)| + L_1 |p_{n,t}|_0^\alpha |p_n(t)| + L_3 |p_{n,t}|_0^{\beta+1}].$$

Putting  $u(t) = \int_0^t w(s) ds$  we see that  $u'(t) = w(t)$ ,  $t \in J$ , and  $u(0) = 0$ . By Gronwall's inequality for

$$u'(t) \leq Dt + (A_2 + L\tau)u(t), \quad u(0) = 0,$$

we have

$$u(t) \leq D \int_0^t se^{(A_2 + L\tau)(t-s)} ds, \quad t \in J.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} p_{n+1}(t) &\leq w(t) \leq Dt + (A_2 + L\tau)u(t) \\ &\leq Dt + (A_2 + L\tau)D \int_0^t se^{(A_2 + L\tau)(t-s)} ds \\ &= Dt + (A_2 + L\tau)De^{(A_2 + L\tau)t} \int_0^t se^{-(A_2 + L\tau)s} ds \leq BD, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$B = \frac{1}{A_2 + L\tau} e^{(A_2 + L\tau)T}.$$

Because  $|p_n(t)| \leq |p_{n,t}|_0$ , we finally obtain

$$\max_{t \in J} |p_{n+1}(t)| \leq BA_1 \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0^2 + BL_1 \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1} + BL_3 \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0^{\beta+1}.$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} q'_{n+1}(t) &= f(t, z_n, z_{n,t}) - f(t, x, z_{n,t}) + f(t, x, z_{n,t}) - f(t, x, x_t) \\ &\quad + f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[z_{n+1}(t) - x(t) + x(t) - z_{n,t}] \\ &\quad + f_\Phi(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[z_{n+1,t} - x_t + x_t - z_{n,t}] \\ &= f_x(t, \sigma_1, z_{n,t})q_n(t) + \int_0^1 f_\Phi(t, x, sz_{n,t} + (1-s)x_t)q_{n,t} ds \\ &\quad + f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[q_{n+1}(t) - q_n(t)] + f_\Phi(t, y_n, y_{n,t})[q_{n+1,t} - q_{n,t}] \\ &\leq [f_x(t, z_n, z_{n,t}) - f_x(t, y_n, z_{n,t}) + f_x(t, y_n, z_{n,t}) - f_x(t, y_n, x_t) \\ &\quad + f_x(t, y_n, x_t) - f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})]q_n(t) \\ &\quad + \int_0^1 [f_\Phi(t, x, sz_{n,t} + (1-s)x_t) - f_\Phi(t, y_n, sz_{n,t} + (1-s)x_t) \\ &\quad + f_\Phi(t, y_n, sz_{n,t} + (1-s)x_t) - f_\Phi(t, y_n, x_t) + f_\Phi(t, y_n, x_t) \\ &\quad - f_\Phi(t, y_n, y_{n,t})]q_{n,t} ds \\ &\quad + f_x(t, y_n, y_{n,t})q_{n+1}(t) + f_\Phi(t, y_n, y_{n,t})q_{n+1,t}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
q'_{n+1}(t) &\leq [f_{xx}(t, \sigma_2, z_n(t))[q_n(t) + p_n(t)] + L_1|q_{n,t}|_0^\alpha + L_1|p_{n,t}|_0^\alpha]q_n(t) \\
&\quad + f_x(t, y_n, y_n(t))q_{n+1}(t) \\
&\quad + \int_0^1 [L_2|p_n(t)| + L_3s^\beta|q_{n,t}|_0^\beta + L_3|p_{n,t}|_0^\beta]q_{n,t} \, ds + L \int_{-\tau}^0 q_{n+1,t}(s) \, ds \\
&\leq A_1q_n^2(t) + \frac{1}{2}A_1[q_n^2(t) + p_n^2(t)] + L_1|q_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1} + L_1|p_{n,t}|_0^\alpha|q_{n,t}|_0 + A_2q_{n+1}(t) \\
&\quad + L_2|p_{n,t}|_0|q_{n,t}|_0 + L_3|q_{n,t}|_0^{\beta+1} + L_3|p_{n,t}|_0^\beta|q_{n,t}|_0 + L \int_{-\tau}^0 q_{n+1,t}(s) \, ds \\
&\leq P + A_2q_{n+1}(t) + L \int_{-\tau}^0 q_{n+1,t}(s) \, ds,
\end{aligned}$$

where  $x(t) < \sigma_1 < z_n(t)$ ,  $y_n(t) < \sigma_2 < z_n(t)$  and

$$\begin{aligned}
P &= \max_{t \in J} \left[ \left( \frac{3}{2}A_1 + \frac{1}{2}L_2 \right) |q_{n,t}|_0^2 + \frac{1}{2}(A_1 + L_2) |p_{n,t}|_0^2 + L_1|q_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + L_1|p_{n,t}|_0^\alpha|q_{n,t}|_0 + L_3|q_{n,t}|_0^{\beta+1} + L_3|p_{n,t}|_0^\beta|q_{n,t}|_0 \right].
\end{aligned}$$

Put

$$w'(t) = P + A_2q_{n+1}(t) + L \int_{-\tau}^0 q_{n+1,t}(s) \, ds, \quad w(0) = 0.$$

Note that  $q_{n+1}(t) \leq w(t)$  on  $J$  and  $w$  is nondecreasing in  $t$ . Hence we get

$$\begin{aligned}
w(t) &= Pt + A_2 \int_0^t q_{n+1}(s) \, ds + L \int_0^t \int_{-\tau}^0 q_{n+1,s}(r) \, dr \, ds \\
&\leq Pt + (A_2 + L\tau) \int_0^t w(s) \, ds.
\end{aligned}$$

By Gronwall's inequality we have  $w(t) \leq BP$ ,  $t \in J$ , and hence

$$\begin{aligned}
\max_{t \in J} |q_{n+1}(t)| &\leq \frac{1}{2}B(3A_1 + L_2) \max_{t \in J} |q_{n,t}|_0^2 + \frac{1}{2}B(A_1 + L_2) \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0^2 \\
&\quad + BL_1 \max_{t \in J} |p_{n,t}|_0^\alpha |q_{n,t}|_0 + BL_1 \max_{t \in J} |q_{n,t}|_0^{\alpha+1} \\
&\quad + BL_3 \max_{t \in J} |q_{n,t}|_0^{\beta+1} + BL_3 \max_{t \in J} (|p_{n,t}|_0^\beta |q_{n,t}|_0).
\end{aligned}$$

The proof is complete. □

**Remark 1.** If  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ , then the convergence of sequences  $\{y_n\}$ ,  $\{z_n\}$  is quadratic.

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