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Positive periodic solution for *p*-Laplacian neutral Rayleigh equation with singularity of attractive type

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Abstract

In this paper, we consider a kind of *p*-Laplacian neutral Rayleigh equation with singularity of attractive type,

 $(\phi_{\mathcal{P}}(u(t) - cu(t - \delta))')' + f(t, u'(t)) + g(t, u(t)) = e(t).$

By applications of an extension of Mawhin's continuation theorem, sufficient conditions for the existence of periodic solution are established.

Keywords: Neutral operator; *p*-Laplacian; Periodic solution; Rayleigh equation; Singularity of attractive type

1 Introduction

As is well known, the Rayleigh equation can be derived from many fields, such as physics, mechanics and engineering technique fields, and an important question is whether this equation can support periodic solutions. In 1977, Gaines and Mawhin [1] introduced some continuation theorems and applied this theorem to discussing the existence of solutions for the Rayleigh equation [1, p. 99]

 $u^{\prime\prime} + f(u^{\prime}) + g(t, u) = 0.$

Gaines and Mawhin's work has attracted the attention of many scholars in the field of the Rayleigh equations. More recently, the existence of periodic solutions for Rayleigh equation was extensively studied (see [2–11] and the references therein). Some classical tools have been used to study Rayleigh equation in the literature, including the method of upper and lower solutions [6], the time map continuation theorem [7, 9], fixed point theory [4], the Manásevich–Mawhin continuation theorem [10, 11], and coincidence degree theory [2, 3, 5, 8].

Recently there have been published some results on singular Rayleigh equations [12– 16]. In 2015, Wang and Ma [15] investigated the following singular Rayleigh equation:

$$u'' + f(t, u') + g(u) = p(t),$$

Description Springer

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where *g* had a repulsive singularity at the origin, i.e.,

$$\lim_{u \to 0^+} g(u) = -\infty. \tag{1.1}$$

By applications of the limit properties of the time map, the authors obtained the result of the existence of periodic solution for this equation. Afterwards, by using topological degree theory, Chen and Lu [12] discussed that the existence of periodic solution for the following singular Rayleigh equations:

$$u'' + f(t, u') + \varphi(t)u(t) - \frac{1}{u^r(t)} = h(t).$$
(1.2)

The authors found new methods for estimating a lower priori bounds of periodic solutions to equation (1.2). Recently, Xin and Cheng [16] investigated a kind of neutral Rayleigh equation with singularity of repulsive type,

$$(u(t) - cu(t - \delta))'' + f(t, u'(t)) + g(t, u(t)) = e(t),$$
(1.3)

where $g(t, u) = g_1(t, u) + g_0(u)$ and g_0 had a strong singularity at u = 0, i.e.,

$$\lim_{u \to 0^+} \int_1^u g_0(s) \, ds = +\infty. \tag{1.4}$$

By applications of coincidence degree theory, the authors found the existence of positive periodic solution for equation (1.3).

All the aforementioned results are related to Rayleigh equation or neutral Rayleigh equation with singularity of repulsive type. Naturally, a new question arises: how p-Laplacian neutral Rayleigh equation works on singularity of attractive type? Besides practical interests, the topic has obvious intrinsic theoretical significance. To answer this question, in this paper, we consider a kind of p-Laplacian neutral Rayleigh equation with singularity of attractive type,

$$\left(\phi_p(u(t) - cu(t - \delta))'\right)' + f(t, u'(t)) + g(t, u(t)) = e(t),$$
(1.5)

where p > 1, $\varphi_p(u) = |u|^{p-2}u$ for $u \neq 0$ and $\varphi_p(0) = 0$; $|c| \neq 1$ and δ is a constant with $0 \leq \delta < \omega$; $e : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous periodic functions with $e(t + \omega) - e(t) \equiv 0$ and $\int_0^T e(t) dt = 0$; f is for continuous functions defined on \mathbb{R}^2 and periodic in t with $f(t, \cdot) = f(t + \omega, \cdot)$ and f(t, 0) = 0, $g(t, u) = g_0(u) + g_1(t, u)$, here $g_1 : \mathbb{R} \times (0, +\infty) \to \mathbb{R}$ is an L^2 -Carathéodory function, $g_1(t, \cdot) = g_1(t + \omega, \cdot)$; $g_0 \in C((0, \infty); \mathbb{R})$ has an attractive singularity at the origin, i.e.,

$$\lim_{u \to 0^+} \int_1^u g_0(s) \, ds = -\infty. \tag{1.6}$$

Obviously, the attractive condition (1.6) is in contradiction with the repulsive singularity of (1.1) and (1.4). Therefore, the above methods of [12, 15, 16] are no long applicable to the proof of existence of a periodic solution for (1.5) with singularity of attractive type. So we need to find a new method to get over it.

In this paper, by applications of an extension of Mawhin's continuation theorem in [17] and some analysis techniques, we see the existence of a positive periodic solution for (1.5). Our results improve and extend the results in [12, 15, 16].

2 Preliminary lemmas

For convenience, define

$$C_{\omega}^{1} = \left\{ u \in C^{1}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) : u(t + \omega) = u(t) \right\},$$

which is a Banach space endowed with the norm $\|\cdot\|$ define by $\|u\| = \max\{\|u\|_{\infty}, \|u'\|_{\infty}\}$, for all *x*, and

$$\|u\|_{\infty} = \max_{t\in[0,\omega]} |u(t)|, \qquad \|u'\|_{\infty} = \max_{t\in[0,\omega]} |u'(t)|.$$

Lemma 2.1 (see [18]) If $|c| \neq 1$, then the operator $(Au)(t) := u(t) - cu(t - \delta)$ has a continuous inverse A^{-1} on the space C_{ω} , and satisfying

$$(A^{-1}f)(t) = \begin{cases} f(t) + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} c^j f(t-j\delta), & \text{for } |c| < 1, \forall f \in C_{\omega}, \\ -\frac{f(t+\delta)}{c} - \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{c^{j+1}} f(t+(j+1)\delta), & \text{for } |c| > 1, \forall f \in C_{\omega}. \end{cases}$$

Lemma 2.2 If $|c| \neq 1$, then operator A^{-1} satisfying

$$\int_0^{\omega} \left| \left(A^{-1} f \right)(t) \right|^p dt \leq \frac{1}{|1 - |c||^p} \int_0^{\omega} \left| f(t) \right|^p dt, \quad \forall f \in C_{\omega}, here \ 1 \leq p < \infty.$$

Proof We first consider |c| < 1. From Lemma 2.1, we have

$$\begin{split} \int_0^{\omega} \left| \left(A^{-1} f \right)(t) \right|^p dt &= \int_0^{\omega} \left| \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} c^j f(t-j\delta) \right|^p dt \\ &\leq \int_0^{\omega} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left| c^j f(t-j\delta) \right| \right)^p dt \\ &\leq \frac{1}{(1-|c|)^p} \int_0^{\omega} \left| f(t) \right|^p dt. \end{split}$$

Similarly, for |c| > 1, we can get

$$\int_0^{\omega} |(A^{-1}f)(t)|^p dt \le \frac{1}{(|c|-1)^p} \int_0^{\omega} |f(t)|^p dt.$$

Therefore, we have

$$\int_0^T \left| \left(A^{-1} f \right)(t) \right|^p dt \le \frac{1}{|1 - |c||^p} \int_0^T \left| f(t) \right|^p dt.$$

Lemma 2.3 (see [19]) If $u \in C^1_{\omega}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$, and there exists a point $t^* \in [0, \omega]$ such that $|u(t^*)| < d$, then

$$\|u\|_{\infty} \leq d + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\omega} \left|u(t)\right|' dt$$

and

$$\left(\int_0^{\omega} \left|u(t)\right|^p dt\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq \left(\frac{\omega}{\pi_p}\right) \left(\int_0^{\omega} \left|u'(t)\right|^2 dt\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} + d\omega^{\frac{1}{p}},$$

where $1 \le p < \infty$, $\pi_p = 2 \int_0^{(p-1)/p} \frac{ds}{(1-\frac{s^p}{p-1})^{1/p}} = \frac{2\pi (p-1)^{1/p}}{p \sin(\pi/p)}$.

The following lemma involves the consequences of Theorem 3.1 of [17].

Lemma 2.4 Assume that condition $|c| \neq 1$, Ω is an open bounded set in C^1_{ω} . If: (i) for each $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ the equation

$$\left(\phi_p(Au)'(t)\right)' + \lambda f\left(t, u'(t)\right) + \lambda g\left(t, u(t)\right) = \lambda e(t)$$
(2.1)

has no solution on $\partial \Omega$;

(ii) the equation

$$F(a) := \frac{1}{\omega} \int_0^{\omega} g(t, a) \, dt = 0$$

has no solution on $\partial \Omega \cap \mathbb{R}$ *;*

(iii) the Brouwer degree

 $\deg\{F, \Omega \cap \mathbb{R}, 0\} \neq 0,$

then Eq. (2.1) has at least one periodic solution on $\overline{\Omega}$.

3 Main results: positive periodic solution for (1.5)

In this section, we will consider the existence of a positive periodic solution for (1.5) with singularity.

Theorem 3.1 Assume that the following conditions hold:

- (*H*₁) there exists a positive constant *K* such that $|f(t, v)| \leq K$, for $(t, v) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$;
- (H₂) there exist positive constants D_1 and D_2 with $D_1 > D_2 > 0$ such that g(t, u) < -K for $(t, u) \in \mathbb{R} \times (D_1, +\infty)$ and g(t, u) > K for $(t, u) \in \mathbb{R} \times (0, D_2)$;
- (H_3) there exist positive constants a, b such that

 $-g(t, u) \le au^{p-1} + b, \quad for all \ u > 0.$

Then (1.5) has at least one positive solution with period ω if $\frac{\omega(1+|c|)^{\frac{1}{p}}a^{\frac{1}{p}}}{|1-|c||} < 2^{\frac{p-1}{p}}$.

Proof Firstly, we will claim that the set of all possible ω -periodic solutions of (2.1) is bounded. Let $u(t) \in C^1_{\omega}$ be an arbitrary solution of (2.1) with period ω .

We claim that there exists a point $t_0 \in [0, \omega]$ such that

$$0 < u(t_0) \le D_1. \tag{3.1}$$

Integrating both sides of (2.1) over $[0, \omega]$, we have

$$\int_{0}^{\omega} \left[f(t, u'(t)) + g(t, u(t)) \right] dt = 0.$$
(3.2)

Therefore, from (H_1) , we have

$$-K\omega \leq \int_0^{\omega} g(t, u(t)) dt \leq K\omega.$$

From (H_2), we know that there exist two points t_0 , $\tau \in (0, T)$, such that

$$u(t_0) \le D_1, \text{ and } u(\tau) > D_2.$$
 (3.3)

Since u(t) > 0, $t \in [0, \omega]$, we get $0 < u(t_0) \le D_1$. Equation (3.1) is proved.

Then, from Lemma 2.3, we have

$$\|u\|_{\infty} \le D_1 + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\omega} |u'(s)| \, ds.$$
(3.4)

Multiplying both sides of (2.1) by (Au)(t) and integrating over $[0, \omega]$, we get

$$\int_0^{\omega} (\phi_p(Au)'(t))'(Au)(t) dt + \lambda \int_0^{\omega} f(t, u'(t))(Au)(t) dt + \lambda \int_0^{\omega} g(t, u(t))(Au)(t) dt$$
$$= \lambda \int_0^{\omega} e(t)(Au)(t) dt,$$

i.e.

$$\int_{0}^{\omega} |(Au)'(t)|^{p} dt = \lambda \int_{0}^{\omega} f(t, u'(t))(Au)(t) dt + \lambda \int_{0}^{\omega} g(t, u(t))(Au)(t) dt - \lambda \int_{0}^{\omega} e(t)(Au)(t) dt.$$
(3.5)

From (H_1) , we have

$$\int_{0}^{\omega} |(Au)'(t)|^{p} dt \\
\leq (1+|c|) \int_{0}^{\omega} |f(t,u'(t))| |u(t)| dt + \int_{0}^{\omega} |g(t,u(t))| |u(t)| dt + \int_{0}^{\omega} |e(t)| |u(t)| dt \\
\leq (1+|c|) ||u||_{\infty} \left(\int_{0}^{\omega} |f(t,u'(t))| dt + \int_{0}^{\omega} |g(t,u(t))| dt + \int_{0}^{\omega} |e(t)| dt \right) \\
\leq (1+|c|) ||u||_{\infty} \left(K\omega + ||e||_{\infty} \omega + \int_{0}^{\omega} |g(t,u(t))| dt \right).$$
(3.6)

We get from (H_1) , (H_3) and (3.2)

$$\begin{split} \int_0^{\omega} \left| g(t, u(t)) \right| dt &= \int_{g(t, u(t)) \ge 0} g^+(t, u(t)) dt - \int_{g(t, u(t)) \le 0} g^-(t, u(t)) dt \\ &= -2 \int_{g(t, u(t)) \le 0} g^-(t, u(t)) dt + \int_0^{\omega} f(t, u'(t)) dt \end{split}$$

$$\leq 2a \int_0^{\omega} \left| u(t) \right|^{p-1} dt + 2b\omega + K\omega$$

$$\leq 2a\omega \|u\|_{\infty}^{p-1} + 2b\omega + K\omega, \qquad (3.7)$$

where $g^- := \min\{g(t, u), 0\}$. Substituting (3.4) and (3.7) into (3.6), we have

$$\begin{split} \int_{0}^{\omega} \left| (Au)'(t) \right|^{p} dt &\leq (1+|c|) \|u\|_{\infty} (2a\omega \|u\|_{\infty}^{p-1} + 2b\omega + 2K\omega + \|e\|_{\infty} \omega) \\ &= 2(1+|c|)a\omega \|u\|_{\infty}^{p} + (1+|c|)N_{1}\|u\|_{\infty} \\ &\leq 2(1+|c|)a\omega \left(D_{1} + \frac{1}{2}\int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt\right)^{p} \\ &+ (1+|c|)N_{1} \left(D_{1} + \frac{1}{2}\int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt\right) \\ &= \frac{(1+|c|)a\omega}{2^{p-1}} \left(1 + \frac{2D_{1}}{\int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt}\right)^{p} \left(\int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt\right)^{p} \\ &+ \frac{1}{2}(1+|c|)N_{1} \int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt + (1+|c|)N_{1}D_{1}, \end{split}$$

where $N_1 := 2b\omega + 2K\omega + ||e||_{\infty}\omega$. For a given constant $\zeta > 0$, which is only dependent on k > 0, we have

$$(1+u)^k \le 1 + (1+k)u$$
, for $u \in [0, \zeta]$.

Therefore, we have

$$\begin{split} \int_{0}^{\omega} |(Au)'(t)|^{p} dt &\leq \frac{(1+|c|)a\omega}{2^{p-1}} \left(1 + \frac{2D_{1}p}{\int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt}\right) \left(\int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt\right)^{p} \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} (1+|c|) N_{1} \int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt + (1+|c|) N_{1} D_{1} \\ &= \frac{(1+|c|)a\omega}{2^{p-1}} \left(\int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt\right)^{p} + \frac{(1+|c|)a\omega D_{1}p}{2^{p-2}} \left(\int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt\right)^{p-1} \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} (1+|c|) N_{1} \int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt + (1+|c|) N_{1} D_{1}. \end{split}$$
(3.8)

By application of Lemma 2.1, we have

$$\int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| dt = \int_{0}^{\omega} |(A^{-1}Au')(t)| dt
\leq \frac{\int_{0}^{\omega} |(Au)'(t)| dt}{|1 - |c||}
\leq \frac{\omega^{\frac{1}{q}} (\int_{0}^{\omega} |(Au)'(t)|^{p} dt)^{\frac{1}{p}}}{|1 - |c||},$$
(3.9)

since (Au')(t) = (Au)'(t) and $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$. Apply the inequality

$$(a+b)^k \le a^k + b^k$$
, for $a, b > 0, 0 < k < 1$.

$$\begin{split} \int_{0}^{\omega} \left| u'(t) \right| dt &\leq \frac{\omega^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\frac{(1+|c|)a\omega}{2^{p-1}} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \int_{0}^{\omega} \left| u'(t) \right| dt + \omega^{\frac{1}{q}} \left(\frac{(1+|c|)a\omega D_{1}p}{2^{p-2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_{0}^{\omega} \left| u'(t) \right| dt \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}}}{|1-|c||} \\ &+ \frac{\omega^{\frac{1}{q}} (\frac{1}{2}(1+|c|)N_{1} \int_{0}^{\omega} \left| u'(t) \right| dt)^{\frac{1}{p}} + \omega^{\frac{1}{q}} ((1+|c|)N_{1}D_{1})^{\frac{1}{p}}}{|1-|c||}. \end{split}$$

Since $\frac{\omega(1+|c|)^{\frac{1}{p}}a^{\frac{1}{p}}}{|1-|c||} < 2^{\frac{p-1}{p}}$, it is easy to see that there exists a positive constant M'_1 such that

$$\int_{0}^{\omega} |u'(t)| \, dt \le M_1'. \tag{3.10}$$

From (3.4) and (3.10), we have

$$\|u\|_{\infty} \le D_1 + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\omega} \left| u'(t) \right| dt \le D_1 + \frac{1}{2} M_1' := M_1.$$
(3.11)

As $(Au)(0) = (Au)(\omega)$, there exists $t_1 \in [0, \omega]$ such that $(Au)'(t_1) = 0$, while $\phi_p(0) = 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left|\phi_{p}\left((Au)'(t)\right)\right| &= \left|\int_{t_{1}}^{t}\left(\phi_{p}\left((Au)'(s)\right)\right)'ds\right| \\ &\leq \lambda \int_{0}^{\omega}\left|f\left(t,u'(t)\right)\right|dt + \lambda \int_{0}^{\omega}\left|g\left(t,u(t)\right)\right|dt + \lambda \int_{0}^{\omega}\left|e(t)\right|dt, \end{aligned}$$
(3.12)

where $t \in [t_1, t_1 + \omega]$. In view of (H_1) , (3.7) and (3.12), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \phi_p(Au)' \right\|_{\infty} &= \max_{t \in [0,\omega]} \left\{ \left| \phi_p((Au)'(t)) \right|_{\infty} \right\} \\ &= \max_{t \in [t_1,t_1+\omega]} \left\{ \left| \int_{t_1}^t \left(\phi_p((Au)'(s)) \right)' ds \right| \right\} \\ &\leq \lambda \left(\int_0^{\omega} \left| f\left(t,u'(t) \right| dt + \int_0^{\omega} \left| g\left(t,u(t)\right) \right| dt + \int_0^{\omega} \left| e(t) \right| dt \right) \right. \\ &\leq \lambda (K\omega + 2a\omega \|u\|_{\infty}^{p-1} + 2b\omega + K\omega + \|e\|_{\infty} \omega) \\ &\leq \lambda (2a\omega M_1^{p-1} + 2K\omega + 2b\omega + \|e\|_{\infty} \omega) := \lambda M_2'. \end{aligned}$$
(3.13)

We claim that there exists a positive constant $M_2 > M_2' + 1$ such that, for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\left\| u' \right\|_{\infty} \le M_2. \tag{3.14}$$

In fact, if u' is not bounded, there exists a positive constant M''_2 such that $||u'||_{\infty} > M''_2$ for some $u' \in \mathbb{R}$. Therefore, we have

$$\begin{split} \left\| \phi_p(Au)' \right\|_{\infty} &= \left\| \phi_p(Au') \right\|_{\infty} = \left\| Au' \right\|_{\infty}^{p-1} \\ &= \left(1 + |c| \right)^{p-1} \left\| u' \right\|_{\infty}^{p-1} \ge \left(1 + |c| \right)^{p-1} M_2^{\prime\prime p-1} := M_2^*. \end{split}$$

Then it is a contradiction. So (3.14) holds.

On the other hand, it follows by (2.1) that

$$\left(\phi_p(Au)'(t)\right)' + \lambda f(t, u'(t)) + \lambda \left(g_0(u(t)) + g_1(t, u(t))\right) = \lambda e(t).$$
(3.15)

Multiplying both sides of (3.15) by u'(t) we get

$$\left(\phi_p(Au)'(t) \right)' u'(t) + \lambda f(t, u'(t)) u'(t) + \lambda \left(g_0(u(t)) + g_1(t, u(t)) \right) u'(t)$$

= $\lambda e(t) u'(t).$ (3.16)

Let $\tau \in [0, \omega]$ be as in (3.3), for any $\tau \le t \le \omega$, we integrate (3.16) on $[\tau, t]$ and get

$$\lambda \int_{u(\tau)}^{u(t)} g_0(v) \, dv = \lambda \int_{\tau}^t g_0(u(s)) u'(s) \, ds$$

= $-\int_{\tau}^t (\phi_p(Au)'(s))' u'(s) \, ds - \lambda \int_{\tau}^t f(s, u'(s)) u'(s) \, ds$
 $-\lambda \int_{\tau}^t g_1(s, u(s)) u'(s) \, ds + \lambda \int_{\tau}^t e(s) u'(s) \, ds.$ (3.17)

By (3.7), (3.11) and (3.14), we have

$$\begin{split} \left| \int_{\tau}^{t} (\phi_{p}(Au)'(s))'u'(s) \, ds \right| \\ &\leq \int_{0}^{T} \left| (\phi_{p}(Au)'(s))' \right| \left| u'(s) \right| \, ds \\ &\leq \lambda \left\| u' \right\|_{\infty} \left(\int_{0}^{\omega} \left| f\left(t, u'(t)\right) \, dt + \int_{0}^{\omega} \left| g\left(t, u(t)\right) \right| \, dt + \int_{0}^{\omega} \left| e(t) \right| \, dt \right) \\ &\leq \lambda M_{2} (K\omega + 2a\omega |u|_{\infty}^{p-1} + 2b\omega + K\omega + ||e||_{\infty} \omega) \\ &\leq \lambda M_{2} (2K\omega + 2a\omega M_{1}^{p-1} + 2b\omega + ||e||_{\infty} \omega). \end{split}$$

Moreover, from (H_1) and (3.14)

$$\left| \int_{\tau}^{t} f(s, u'(s)) u'(s) \, ds \right| \leq \int_{0}^{T} \left| f(s, u'(s)) \right| \left| u'(s) \right| \, ds \leq KM_{2}\omega,$$
$$\left| \int_{\tau}^{t} g_{1}(s, u(s)) u'(s) \, ds \right| \leq \int_{0}^{T} \left| g_{1}(s, u(s)) \right| \left| u'(s) \right| \, ds \leq M_{2} |g_{M_{1}}| \sqrt{\omega},$$

where $g_{M_1} = \max_{0 \le u \le M_1} |g_1(t, u)| \in L^2(0, \omega)$.

$$\left|\int_{\tau}^{t} e(s)u'(s)\,ds\right| \leq \int_{0}^{\omega} |e(s)| |u'(s)|\,ds \leq \|e\|_{\infty}\omega M_{2}.$$

With these inequalities we can derive from (3.17) that

$$\left|\int_{u(\tau)}^{u(t)} g_0(\nu) \, d\nu\right| \leq M_2 \big(3K\omega + 2a\omega M_1^{p-1} + 2b\omega + 2\|e\|_{\infty}\omega + |g_{M_1}|\sqrt{\omega}\big).$$

In view of (1.6), we know there exists $M_3 > 0$ such that

$$u(t) \ge M_3, \quad \forall t \in [\tau, \omega]. \tag{3.18}$$

The case $t \in [0, \tau]$ can be treated similarly.

Having in mind (3.11), (3.14) and (3.18), we define

$$\Omega = \left\{ u \in X : E_1 < u(t) < E_2 \text{ and } \left| u'(t) \right| < E_3 \; \forall t \in \mathbb{R} \right\},\$$

where $0 < E_1 < \min\{D_2, M_3\}$, $E_2 > \max\{M_1, D_1\}$ and $E_3 > M_2$. We know that (2.1) has no solution on $\partial \Omega$ as $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ and when $u(t) \in \partial \Omega \cap \mathbb{R}$, $u(t) = E_2$ or $u(t) = E_1$, from (3.4), we know that $E_2 + 1 > D_1$; therefore, from (H_2) we see that

$$\frac{1}{\omega}\int_0^{\omega}g(t,E_2)\,dt<0$$

and

$$\frac{1}{\omega}\int_0^{\omega}g(t,E_1)\,dt>0.$$

So condition (ii) is also satisfied. Set

$$H(u,\mu) = \mu u + (1-\mu)\frac{1}{\omega}\int_0^{\omega} g(t,u)\,dt,$$

where $x \in \partial \Omega \cap \mathbb{R}$, $\mu \in [0, 1]$, we have

$$uH(u,\mu)=\mu u^2+(1-\mu)\frac{u}{\omega}\int_0^{\omega}g(t,u)\,dt\neq 0,$$

and thus $H(u, \mu)$ is a homotopic transformation and

$$\deg\{F, \Omega \cap \mathbb{R}, 0\} = \deg\left\{\frac{1}{\omega} \int_0^{\omega} g(t, u) \, dt, \Omega \cap \mathbb{R}, 0\right\}$$
$$= \deg\{u, \Omega \cap \mathbb{R}, 0\} \neq 0.$$

So condition (iii) is satisfied. In view of Lemma 2.1, there exists a solution with period ω . \Box

4 Example

Example 4.1 Consider the following *p*-Laplacian neutral Rayleigh equation with singularity:

$$\left(\phi_p\left(u(t) - \frac{1}{4}u(t-\delta)\right)'\right)' - \cos^2(2t)\sin u'(t) - \frac{1}{3\pi^4}(\sin 4t + 2)u^3(t) + \frac{1}{u^{\mu}}$$

= sin²(2t), (4.1)

where $\mu \ge 1$ and p = 4, δ is a constant and $0 \le \delta < \omega$.

It is clear that $\omega = \frac{\pi}{2}$, $c = \frac{1}{4}$, $e(t) = \sin^2(2t)$, $f(t, v) = -\cos^2(2t)\sin v$, $g(t, u) = -\frac{1}{3\pi^3}(\sin 4t + 2)u^4(t) + \frac{1}{u^{\mu}(t)}$. Choose K = 1, $D_1 = 2$, $D_2 = 1$, $a = \frac{1}{\pi^4}$, it is obvious that (H_1) , (H_2) and (H_3) hold. Next, we consider

$$\begin{split} & \frac{\omega(1+|c|)^{\frac{1}{p}}a^{\frac{1}{p}}}{2^{\frac{p-1}{p}}|1-|c||} \\ & = \frac{\frac{\pi}{2}(1+\frac{1}{4})^{\frac{1}{4}}(\frac{1}{\pi^4})^{\frac{1}{4}}}{2^{\frac{3}{4}}(1-\frac{1}{4})} \\ & \approx \frac{1.057}{1.783} < 1. \end{split}$$

Therefore, by Theorem 3.1, (4.1) has at least one nonconstant $\frac{\pi}{2}$ -periodic solution.

5 Conclusions

In this article we introduce the existence of a periodic solution for a *p*-Laplacian neutral Rayleigh equation with singularity of attractive type. Due to the attractive condition being in contradiction with the repulsive condition, the methods of [12, 15, 16] are no long applicable to the proof of a periodic solution for equation (1.5) with singularity of attractive singularity. In this paper, we give attractive conditions (1.6) and (H_3), and we see the existence of a periodic solution for (1.5) by applications of the extension of Mawhin's continuation theorem [17]. Moreover, in view of the mathematical points, the results satisfying the conditions of an attractive singularity are valuable to understand the periodic solution for Rayleigh equations.

Acknowledgements

YX, HML and ZBC would like to thank the referee for invaluable comments and insightful suggestions. This work was supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 11501170), Education Department of Henan Province project (No. 16B110006) and Henan Polytechnic University Outstanding Youth Fund (J2016-03).

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

YX, HML and ZBC worked together on the derivation of the mathematical results. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Received: 4 January 2018 Accepted: 7 March 2018 Published online: 14 March 2018

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