

A NEW SUFFICIENT CONDITION FOR PERIODIC SOLUTIONS OF WEAKLY NONLINEAR DIFFERENTIAL SYSTEMS

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1. We shall deal here with systems of differential equations of the form

$$(1) \quad \ddot{y}_j + \sigma_j^2 y_j = \epsilon f_j(y_1, \dots, y_n, \dot{y}_1, \dots, \dot{y}_n, \epsilon, t), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

where ϵ is a small real parameter, $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$ are real positive numbers, and each f_j is a real valued function periodic in the real variable t of period $2\pi/\omega$, $\omega > 0$. In a previous paper R. A. Gambill and J. K. Hale [6] have given sufficient conditions for the existence of periodic solutions of (1) (and more general systems), whose dominant terms have periods in a rational ratio with $2\pi/\omega$ (harmonics, subharmonics, ultra-subharmonics). Also, a number of examples and applications were given in [6]. The aim of the present paper is to prove a new general statement which contains as particular cases two of the various theorems proved in [6].

We shall use exactly the same method used in [6]. This method has been successively developed by L. Cesari, J. K. Hale and R. A. Gambill, in a series of papers concerning boundedness of solutions of linear differential systems with periodic coefficients [1; 4; 5; 8], cycles of autonomous weakly nonlinear differential systems [9], and harmonics and subharmonics of periodic weakly nonlinear differential systems [6]. The method will be reviewed below so as to make the present paper independent.

For bibliographical indications on the vast subject we refer to the papers quoted in the bibliography.

2. Summarization of the results. We shall say that a vector function $f(x, t)$, $f = (f_1, \dots, f_n)$, of the real vector $x = (x_1, \dots, x_N)$, and of the real variable t belongs to the class $A[\omega]$, $\omega > 0$, if for every t , $-\infty < t < +\infty$, each component f_j of f is analytic in a neighborhood U of $x = (0, \dots, 0)$ independent of t , and the power series expansion of f_j in x_1, \dots, x_N is convergent in U , and its coefficients are periodic functions of t of period $T = 2\pi/\omega$.

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Consider the system of differential equations (1), or, in matrix form,

$$\ddot{y} + Dy = \epsilon f(y, \dot{y}, \epsilon; t), \quad (\cdot = d/dt),$$

where (a) $y = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$, $f = (f_1, \dots, f_n)$, $D = \text{diag}(\sigma_1^2, \dots, \sigma_n^2)$, (b) ϵ is real and $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$ are positive numbers, (c) $f \in A[\omega]$, that is, for every t , f_j is analytic in $y_1, \dots, y_n, \dot{y}_1, \dots, \dot{y}_n, \epsilon$ for $|y_j| < C$, $|\dot{y}_j| < C$, $|\epsilon| < \epsilon_0$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, where C, ϵ_0 are independent of t , and the power series expansions, convergent for the same y_j, \dot{y}_j, ϵ , have coefficients periodic in t of period $T = 2\pi/\omega$.

Let m be any integer, $0 \leq m \leq n$, and let $y = (u, w)$, $u = (y_1, \dots, y_m)$, $w = (y_{m+1}, \dots, y_n)$, $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$, $b = (b_1, \dots, b_n)$, a_j, b_j positive integers, $c = (c_1, \dots, c_n)$, $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n)$. Certain functions $H_l(a, b, c, \sigma, \omega, \epsilon)$, analytic in ϵ , $|\epsilon| < \epsilon_0$, will be determined (§4) for which the following theorem holds:

THEOREM. *If (A) $f_j(u, -w, -\dot{u}, \dot{w}, \epsilon, -t) = f_j(u, w, \dot{u}, \dot{w}, \epsilon, t)$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$; (B) $f_j(u, -w, -\dot{u}, \dot{w}, \epsilon, -t) = -f_j(u, w, \dot{u}, \dot{w}, \epsilon, t)$, $j = m+1, \dots, n$, and if, for ϵ sufficiently small, the system of equations*

$$(2) \quad \frac{a_l}{b_l} \omega + \epsilon H_l(a, b, c, \sigma, \omega, \epsilon) = \sigma_l, \quad l = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

has a solution for some real nonzero c and σ , then (1) has a solution $y(\epsilon, t) \in A[\omega/b_1 \dots b_n]$ with $y_j(0, t) = c_j \sigma_j^{-1} \cos(a_j \omega t / b_j)$, $y_j(\epsilon, -t) = y_j(\epsilon, t)$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$, $y_j(0, t) = c_j \sigma_j^{-1} \sin(a_j \omega t / b_j)$, $y_j(\epsilon, -t) = -y_j(\epsilon, t)$, $j = m+1, \dots, n$.

If $\sigma_l = a_l \omega / b_l$ and there exists a nonzero c_0 such that $H_l(a, b, c_0, \sigma, \omega, 0) = 0$, $l = 1, \dots, n$, and the determinant,

$$(3) \quad \left| \partial H_l(a, b, c_0, \sigma, \omega, 0) / \partial c_j \right| \neq 0,$$

then, for ϵ sufficiently small, system (2) certainly has a nonzero solution c_0 .

It is interesting to note that condition (3) may be satisfied even in cases where the Jacobian obtained by applying Poincaré's periodicity condition [3] is identically zero. An example is given in [6, p. 389]. This example will be discussed in more detail in §5.

The theorem above can also be considered as determining the numbers σ_j when a_j, b_j, c_j are given. Finally, the same theorem holds even when f is independent of t (autonomous case). Then system (2) determines relations between the basic "periods," $2\pi b_l / a_l \omega$, of the dominant terms of the solutions and their "amplitudes," c_j .

The theorem above for $m = n$ reduces to Theorems (5.3, i) and (5.3, iii) of [6], and for $m = 0$ to theorems (5.3, ii) and (5.3, iv) of [6].

It may be pointed out that the functions $H_j(a, b, c, \sigma, \omega, 0)$ are given by

$$(4) \quad \begin{cases} H_j(a, b, c, \sigma, \omega, 0) = \frac{1}{c_j T} \int_0^T f_j(y_0, \dot{y}_0, 0, t) \cos \frac{a_j}{b_j} \omega t dt, & j = 1, \dots, m, \\ H_j(a, b, c, \sigma, \omega, 0) = \frac{1}{c_j T} \int_0^T f_j(y_0, \dot{y}_0, 0, t) \sin \frac{a_j}{b_j} \omega t dt, & j = m + 1, \dots, n, \end{cases}$$

where $T = 2\pi b_1 \cdots b_n / \omega$ and $y_0 = (c_1 \sigma_1^{-1} \cos a_1 \omega t / b_1, \dots, c_m \sigma_m^{-1} \cos a_m \omega t / b_m, c_{m+1} \sigma_{m+1}^{-1} \sin a_{m+1} \omega t / b_{m+1}, \dots, c_n \sigma_n^{-1} \sin a_n \omega t / b_n)$.

3. Review of the method. We will refer here, as in [6], to a system of first order ordinary equations of the form

$$(5) \quad \dot{z} = Az + \epsilon q(z, \epsilon, t)$$

where $A = \text{diag} (\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N)$, ρ_1, \dots, ρ_N , are complex numbers, $z = (z_1, \dots, z_N)$, $q = (q_1, \dots, q_N)$, and $q \in A[\omega]$. First consider the auxiliary system

$$(6) \quad \dot{z} = Bz + \epsilon q(z, \epsilon, t),$$

where $B = \text{diag} (i\tau_1, \dots, i\tau_N)$, and each τ_j is a rational multiple of ω . Since $q \in A[\omega]$,

$$(7) \quad q(z, \epsilon, t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \epsilon^k q^{(k)}(z, t), \quad q^{(k)}(z, t) \in A[\omega].$$

Let $s_j^{(r,k)}$ denote the coefficient of ϵ^{r-1} , $r = 1, 2, \dots$ when z in $q_j^{(k)}(z, t)$ is replaced by $z = x^{(0)}(t) + \epsilon x^{(1)}(t) + \dots$, where each $x^{(r)}(t)$ is independent of ϵ . Moreover, let the corresponding coefficient of ϵ^{r-1} in $q_j(z, t, \epsilon)$ be denoted by $s_j^{(r)}$. Since only the case in which each $s_j^{(r,k)}$ is a periodic function of t of some period T will be considered, define

$$(8) \quad \begin{cases} d_j S_j^{(r,k)} = M[e^{-i\tau_j t} s_j^{(r,k)}], \\ d_j S_j^{(r)} = M[e^{-i\tau_j t} s_j^{(r)}], & j = 1, 2, \dots, N, \\ S^{(r)} = \text{diag} (S_1^{(r)}, \dots, S_N^{(r)}), \end{cases}$$

where d_1, \dots, d_N are nonzero complex constants and $M[\cdot]$ denotes the ordinary mean value for periodic functions. It is clear that

$$\begin{aligned}
 s_j^{(r)} &= s_j^{(r,0)} + s_j^{(r-1,1)} + \dots + s_j^{(1,r-1)}, \\
 S_j^{(r)} &= S_j^{(r,0)} + S_j^{(r-1,1)} + \dots + S_j^{(1,r-1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

$j = 1, 2, \dots, N.$

We now define the method of successive approximations as follows:

$$(9) \quad \begin{cases} z^{(0)} = x^{(0)} = (d_1 e^{i\tau_1 t}, \dots, d_N e^{i\tau_N t}), \\ z^{(r)} = z^{(0)} + e^{Bt} \int e^{-Bt} \left[\sum_{k=1}^r \epsilon^k S^{(k)} - \left(\sum_{k=1}^r \epsilon^k S^{(k)} \right) z^{(r-1)} \right] dt \\ \hspace{15em} (\text{mod } \epsilon^{r+1}), \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, \end{cases}$$

where $s^{(k)} = (s_1^{(k)}, \dots, s_N^{(k)})$, $z^{(r)} = x^{(0)} + \epsilon x^{(1)} + \dots + \epsilon^r x^{(r)}$, $e^{Bt} = \text{diag } (e^{i\tau_1 t}, \dots, e^{i\tau_N t})$, and the above integrations are performed so as to obtain the unique primitive of mean value zero. It is clear that each $z^{(r)}$ defined by (9) is periodic in t , the period being determined by the numbers τ_j . If we replace $z^{(r)}$ by its expression in terms of the $x^{(k)}$ and equate coefficients of powers of ϵ , we obtain

$$(10) \quad \begin{cases} x^{(0)} = (d_1 e^{i\tau_1 t}, \dots, d_N e^{i\tau_N t}), \\ x^{(r)} = e^{Bt} \int e^{-Bt} [s^{(r)} - (S^{(1)} x^{(r-1)} + \dots \\ \hspace{10em} + S^{(r-1)} x^{(1)}) S^{(r)} x^{(0)}] dt \hspace{10em} r = 1, 2, \dots. \end{cases}$$

It is then shown in [6] that the method of successive approximations defined above converges to a solution of the system of equations

$$(11) \quad \dot{z} = [B - \epsilon h(\tau, d, \epsilon)]z + \epsilon q(z, \epsilon, t),$$

where $\tau = (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_N)$, $d = (d_1, \dots, d_N)$, $h = \text{diag } (h_1, \dots, h_N)$, and

$$(12) \quad h(\tau, d, \epsilon) = S^{(1)}(d) + \epsilon S^{(2)}(\tau, d) + \epsilon^2 S^{(3)}(\tau, d) + \dots,$$

where $S^{(r)}(\tau, d)$ is defined by (8). Consequently, the function z satisfying (11) will be a solution of (5) if the system of equations

$$(13) \quad i\tau_k - \epsilon h_k(\tau, d, \epsilon) = \rho_k, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, N,$$

has a solution for some ρ_1, \dots, ρ_N and nonzero d_1, \dots, d_N .

4. Proof of theorem. If, in (1), we make the transformations $y_j = v_{2j-1}$, $\dot{y}_j = v_{2j}$, $v_{2j-1} = (2i\sigma_j)^{-1}(z_{2j-1} + z_{2j})$, $v_{2j} = 2^{-1}(z_{2j-1} - z_{2j})$, then (1) is transformed into the system of first order equations

$$(14) \quad \dot{z} = Az + \epsilon q(z, \epsilon, t),$$

where $A = \text{diag } (i\sigma_1, -i\sigma_1, \dots, i\sigma_n, -i\sigma_n)$ and

Since $s_{2j-1}^{(r+1)}(t)$ is the coefficient of ϵ^r in the expansion of $q_{2j-1}(z^{(r)}, \epsilon, t)$, we have

$$(18) \quad \begin{cases} s_{2j-1}^{(r)}(-t) = s_{2j-1}^{(r)}(t), & j = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ s_{2k-1}^{(r)}(-t) = -s_{2k-1}^{(r)}(t), & k = m + 1, \dots, n, r = 1, 2, \dots, v. \end{cases}$$

Furthermore, since $q_{2j-1} = -q_{2j}$, it follows that $s_{2j-1}^{(r)} = -s_{2j}^{(r)}$ and

$$(19) \quad \begin{cases} s_{2j-1}^{(r)}(-t) = -s_{2j}^{(r)}(t), & j = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ s_{2k-1}^{(r)}(-t) = s_{2k}^{(r)}(t), & k = m + 1, \dots, n, r = 1, 2, \dots, v. \end{cases}$$

From the preceding relations we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_{2j-1}^{(r)} &= \frac{1}{d_{2j-1}T} \int_0^T e^{-i\tau_{2j-1}t} s_{2j-1}^{(r)}(t) dt \\ &= -\frac{1}{d_{2j}T} \int_0^T e^{i\tau_{2j}t} s_{2j}^{(r)}(t) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{d_{2j}T} \int_0^{-T} e^{-i\tau_{2j}t} s_{2j}^{(r)}(t) dt \\ &= -\frac{1}{d_{2j}T} \int_0^T e^{-i\tau_{2j}t} s_{2j}^{(r)}(t) dt \\ &= -S_{2j}^{(r)}, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m, r = 1, 2, \dots, v. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $S_{2k-1}^{(r)} = -S_{2k}^{(r)}$, $k = m + 1, \dots, n$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, v$. From (10),

$$\begin{aligned} x_{2j-1}^{(v)}(-t) &= -e^{-i\tau_{2j-1}t} \int e^{i\tau_{2j-1}t} [s_{2j-1}^{(v)}(-t) \\ &\quad - \{S_{2j-1}^{(1)} x_{2j-1}^{(v-1)}(-t) + \dots + S_{2j-1}^{(v)} x_{2j-1}^{(0)}(-t)\}] dt \\ &= e^{i\tau_{2j}t} \int e^{-i\tau_{2j}t} [s_{2j}^{(v)}(t) \\ &\quad - \{S_{2j}^{(1)} x_{2j}^{(v-1)}(t) + \dots + S_{2j}^{(v)} x_{2j}^{(0)}(t)\}] dt \\ &= x_{2j}^{(v)}(t), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $x_{2k-1}^{(v)}(-t) = -x_{2k}^{(v)}(t)$, $k = m + 1, \dots, n$, and the induction on the $x_i^{(r)}$ is completed. If the assertion is true for $x_i^{(r)}$ for all r , then the other relations must also hold for all r and the lemma is proved.

Using the above lemma and the fact that $S_{2l-1}^{(r)} = \overline{S_{2l}^{(r)}}$ for $l = 1, 2, \dots, n$ and all r , it follows that each $S_{2l-1}^{(r)}$ and, therefore, from

(12), each h_{2l-1} is purely imaginary. By using the above transformation formulas, it follows that the solution obtained in this manner has the properties mentioned in the Theorem. Furthermore, if we put $H_l(a, b, c, \sigma, \omega, \epsilon) = I(h_{2l-1})$, $l=1, 2, \dots, n$ and apply (8), then the H_l satisfy (4), and the theorem is proved. The details are as in [6, pp. 368, 375], and we refer to this paper for the sake of brevity.

5. **Example.** Consider the system of differential equations

$$(20) \quad \begin{aligned} \dot{x} + \sigma_1^2 x &= \epsilon \alpha x + \epsilon A \cos t \cdot x + \epsilon \beta x^3 + \epsilon \gamma xy^2, \\ \dot{y} + \sigma_2^2 y &= \epsilon \delta y + \epsilon B \cos \omega t \cdot y + \epsilon \mu y^3 + \epsilon \nu x^2 y, \end{aligned}$$

where $\epsilon > 0$ is a small parameter, and $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \mu, \nu, A, B, \sigma_1, \sigma_2$ are real constants and ω is a rational number. This is the same as example 9.1 of [6]. We discuss this example again in order to show how more results may be obtained using the previous theorem.

Let us make the transformations in §4 and apply the preceding algorithm to the auxiliary system of (20), taking the zeroth approximation to be $(a_1 e^{i\tau_1 t}, -\bar{a}_1 e^{-i\tau_1 t}, a_2 e^{i\tau_2 t}, -\bar{a}_2 e^{-i\tau_2 t})$ where $\tau_1 = k_1/m_1, \tau_2 = k_2\omega/m_2$. Following the same discussion as in [6], it is easy to see that for $\tau_1 \neq \tau_2, \tau_1 \neq 1/2, \tau_2 \neq \omega/2$,

$$\begin{aligned} S_1^{(1)} &= (2i\sigma_1)^{-1} [\alpha + 3\beta(4\sigma_1^2)^{-1} |a_1|^2 + \gamma(2\sigma_2^2)^{-1} |a_2|^2], \\ S_3^{(1)} &= (2i\sigma_2)^{-1} [\delta + \nu(2\sigma_1^2)^{-1} |a_1|^2 + 3\mu(4\sigma_2^2)^{-1} |a_2|^2] \end{aligned}$$

and $S_1^{(1)}, S_3^{(1)}$ are purely imaginary for every a_1, a_2 . Consequently, the classical Jacobian vanishes. However, since system (20) satisfies the conditions (A) and (B) for $m=0, 1, 2$, we know from the preceding lemma that for any a_1, a_2 purely imaginary, a_1 purely imaginary, a_2 real, or a_1, a_2 real, the real parts of the determining equations (16), $i\tau_j - \epsilon S_{2j-1}^{(1)} - \epsilon^2 S_{2j-1}^{(2)} - \dots = i\sigma_j, j=1, 2$, are identically zero and, thus, if $\sigma_j = \tau_j, j=1, 2$, then the determining equations are $S_1^{(1)} + \epsilon S_1^{(2)} + \dots = 0, S_3^{(1)} + \epsilon S_3^{(2)} + \dots = 0$. These equations have a real solution

$$(21) \quad \begin{cases} (|a_1| \sigma_1^{-1})^2 = -4(3\mu\alpha - 4\gamma\delta)(9\mu\beta - 16\gamma\nu)^{-1} + O(\epsilon), \\ (|a_2| \sigma_2^{-1})^2 = -4(3\beta\delta - 4\nu\alpha)(9\mu\beta - 16\gamma\nu)^{-1} + O(\epsilon), \end{cases}$$

provided that ϵ is sufficiently small and the right hand members of (21) are > 0 . This condition is certainly satisfied for some values of the constants in (20). If we interchange the two equations in (20), then conditions (A) and (B) are again satisfied for $m=1$. Thus, for a_2 purely imaginary and a_1 real, the conditions of the preceding lemma are satisfied and the equations (21) will have a solution for some

$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \mu, \nu$. Consequently, by the theorem, there are four different types of periodic solutions (x, y) of (20) each having the same amplitude for $\epsilon = 0$; namely (i) x, y even, (ii) x even, y odd (iii) x odd, y even, (iv) x, y odd.

The exceptional cases $\tau_1 \neq \tau_2, \tau_1 \neq 1/2, \tau_2 \neq \omega/2$ may be treated in the same manner except (21) will contain the constants A and B .

For the autonomous case, i.e., $A = B = 0$, the preceding discussion applies if $\tau_1 = k_1/m_1, \tau_2 = k_2\omega/m_2, \tau_1 \neq \tau_2, \omega$ rational and one obtains the same relations (21) for $|a_1|, |a_2|$. Therefore, for some values of $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \mu, \nu$, and $A = B = 0$, there are also four periodic solutions of (20) each having the same amplitude for $\epsilon = 0$.

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