

Research Article

Global Positive Periodic Solutions of Generalized n -Species Competition Systems with Multiple Delays and Impulses

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Received 20 April 2013; Accepted 18 June 2013

Academic Editor: M. Victoria Otero-Espinar

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By applying the fixed point theorem in a cone of Banach space, we obtain an easily verifiable necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of positive periodic solutions of two kinds of generalized n -species competition systems with multiple delays and impulses as follows: $x_i'(t) = x_i(t)[a_i(t) - b_i(t)x_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s)x_j(t + s)ds]$, a.e., $t > 0$, $t \neq t_k$, $k \in Z_+$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$; $x_i(t_k^+) - x_i(t_k^-) = \theta_{ik}x_i(t_k)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, $k \in Z_+$; and $x_i'(t) = x_i(t)[a_i(t) - b_i(t)x_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s)x_j(t + s)ds]$, a.e., $t > 0$, $t \neq t_k$, $k \in Z_+$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$; $x_i(t_k^+) - x_i(t_k^-) = \theta_{ik}x_i(t_k)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, $k \in Z_+$. It improves and generalizes a series of the well-known sufficiency theorems in the literature about the problems mentioned previously.

1. Introduction

Let $R = (-\infty, +\infty)$, $R_+ = [0, +\infty)$, $R_- = (-\infty, 0]$, $R^n = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n)^T : x_i \geq 0, 1 \leq i \leq n\}$, $J \subset R$, $Z_+ = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$, respectively, and let $\omega > 0$ be a constant and $C_\omega = \{x \mid x \in C(R, R), x(t + \omega) = x(t)\}$, with the norm defined by $\|x\|_0 = \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} |x(t)|$; $C_\omega^1 = \{x \mid x \in C^1(R, R), x(t + \omega) = x(t)\}$, with the norm defined by $\|x\| = \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \{|x|_0, |x'|_0\}$; $PC = \{x \mid x : R \rightarrow R^+, \lim_{s \rightarrow t} x(s) = x(t), \text{ if } t \neq t_k, \lim_{t \rightarrow t_k^-} x(t) = x(t_k), \lim_{t \rightarrow t_k^+} x(t) \text{ exists}, k \in Z_+\}$; $PC^1 = \{x \mid x : R \rightarrow R^+, x' \in PC\}$; $PC_\omega = \{x \mid x \in PC, x(t + \omega) = x(t)\}$, with the norm defined by $\|x\|_0 = \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} |x(t)|$; $PC_\omega^1 = \{x \mid x \in PC^1, x(t + \omega) = x(t)\}$, with the norm defined by $\|x\| = \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \{|x|_0, |x'|_0\}$; $g^M = \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \{g(t)\}$, $g^L = \min_{t \in [0, \omega]} \{g(t)\}$, for any $g(t) \in PC_\omega$.

The theory of impulsive delay differential equations is emerging as an important area of investigation, since it is a lot richer than the corresponding theory of nonimpulsive delay differential equations. Many evolution processes in nature are characterized by the fact that at certain moments of time they experience abrupt change of state. That was the reason for the development of the theory of impulsive differential equations

and impulsive delay differential equations, see the monographs [1–4]. In recent years, the existence theory of positive periodic solutions of delay differential equations with impulsive effects or without impulsive effects has been an object of active research, which is referred to as [5–12]. However, only a little work has been done on the existence of positive periodic solutions to the high-dimension impulsive differential equations based on the theory in cones. Motivated by this, in this paper, we mainly consider the following two classes of n -species Lotka-Volterra competitive systems with multiple delays and impulses:

$$x_i'(t) = x_i(t) \left[a_i(t) - b_i(t)x_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s)x_j(t + s)ds \right],$$

a.e., $t > 0, t \neq t_k, k \in Z_+, i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$

$$x_i(t_k^+) - x_i(t_k^-) = \theta_{ik} x_i(t_k), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n; k \in Z_+; \tag{1}$$

$$x_i'(t) = x_i(t) \left[a_i(t) - b_i(t) x_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) x_j(t+s) ds \right],$$

a.e., $t > 0, t \neq t_k, k \in Z_+, i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$

$$x_i(t_k^+) - x_i(t_k^-) = \theta_{ik} x_i(t_k), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n; k \in Z_+, \tag{2}$$

where $a_i(t), b_i(t), c_{ij}(t), d_{ij}(t), e_{ij}(t), \tau_{ij}(t), \gamma_{ij}(t) \in PC_\omega, i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n,$ with $\bar{a}_i = (1/\omega) \int_0^\omega a_i(t) dt > 0.$ Moreover, $f_{ij} \in PC, \sigma_{ij} > 0$ is a constant, and $\int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) ds = 1.$ Furthermore, $\Delta x_i(t_k) = x_i(t_k^+) - x_i(t_k^-), i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ (here $x(t_k^+)$ represents the right limit of $x(t)$ at the point t_k); $\theta_k = (\theta_{1k}, \theta_{2k}, \dots, \theta_{nk}) \in C(R_+^n, R_+^n)$; that is, $x_i(t)$ changes decreasingly suddenly at times $t_k.$ We assume that there exists an integer $p > 0$ such that $t_{k+p} = t_k + \omega, \theta_{i(k+p)} = \theta_{ik}, i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$ where $0 < t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_p < \omega.$

References [13, 14], G. Seifert investigated the following periodic single-species population growth models with periodic delay:

$$y'(t) = y(t) [r(t) - a(t) y(t) - b(t) y(t - \tau(t))]. \tag{3}$$

They had assumed that the net birth $r(t),$ the self-inhibition rate $a(t),$ and the delay $\tau(t)$ are continuously differentiable ω -periodic functions, and $r(t) > 0, a(t) > 0, b(t) \geq 0, \tau(t) \geq 0,$ for $t \in R.$ The negative feedback term $-b(t)y(t - \tau(t))$ in the average growth rate of species has a negative time delay (the sign of the time delay term is negative), which can be regarded as the deleterious effect of time delay on a species growth rate. They had derived sufficient conditions for the existence and global attractivity of positive periodic solutions of system (3). But the discussion of global attractivity is only confined to the special case when the periodic delay is constant.

In [15], Freedman and Wu proposed the following periodic single-species population growth models with periodic delay:

$$y'(t) = y(t) [r(t) - a(t) y(t) + b(t) y(t - \tau(t))]. \tag{4}$$

They had assumed that the net birth $r(t),$ the self-inhibition rate $a(t),$ and the delay $\tau(t)$ are continuously differentiable ω -periodic functions, and $r(t) > 0, a(t) > 0, b(t) \geq 0, \tau(t) \geq 0,$ for $t \in R.$ The positive feedback term $b(t)y(t - \tau(t))$ in the average growth rate of species has a positive time delay (the sign of the time delay term is positive), which is a delay due to gestation. They had established sufficient conditions which

guarantee that system (4) has a positive periodic solution which is globally asymptotically stable.

References [16, 17] have studied the following two-species competitive system without delay:

$$\begin{aligned} y_1'(t) &= y_1(t) [r_1(t) - a_1(t) y_1(t) - c_1(t) y_2(t)], \\ y_2'(t) &= y_2(t) [r_2(t) - a_2(t) y_2(t) - c_2(t) y_1(t)]. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

They had derived sufficient conditions for the existence and global attractivity of positive periodic solutions of system (5) by using differential inequalities and topological degree, respectively. In fact, in many practical situations the time delay occurs so often. A more realistic model should include some of the past states of the system. Motivated by the previous ideas, Liu et al. [18] considered two corresponding periodic Lotka-Volterra competitive systems involving multiple delays:

$$\begin{aligned} y_1'(t) &= y_1(t) \left[r_1(t) - a_1(t) y_1(t) + \sum_{i=1}^n b_{1i}(t) y_1(t - \tau_i(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^m c_{1j}(t) y_2(t - \rho_j(t)) \right], \\ y_2'(t) &= y_2(t) \left[r_2(t) - a_2(t) y_2(t) + \sum_{j=1}^m b_{2j}(t) y_2(t - \eta_j(t)) - \sum_{i=1}^n c_{2i}(t) y_1(t - \sigma_i(t)) \right], \\ y_1'(t) &= y_1(t) \left[r_1(t) - a_1(t) y_1(t) - \sum_{i=1}^n b_{1i}(t) y_1(t - \tau_i(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^m c_{1j}(t) y_2(t - \rho_j(t)) \right], \\ y_2'(t) &= y_2(t) \left[r_2(t) - a_2(t) y_2(t) - \sum_{j=1}^m b_{2j}(t) y_2(t - \eta_j(t)) - \sum_{i=1}^n c_{2i}(t) y_1(t - \sigma_i(t)) \right], \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

where $b_{1i}(t), b_{2j}(t) \in C(R, [0, +\infty)), a_1(t), a_2(t), c_{1j}(t), c_{2i}(t) \in C(R, [0, +\infty)), \tau_i(t), \rho_j(t), \eta_j(t), \sigma_i(t) \in C^1(R, [0, +\infty)) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n; j = 1, 2, \dots, m)$ are ω -periodic functions. Here, the intrinsic growth rates $r_k(t) \in C(R, R)$ are ω -periodic functions with $\int_0^\omega r_k(t) dt > 0, k = 1, 2.$ They had derived the same criteria for the existence and globally asymptotic stability of positive periodic solutions of the previous two competitive systems by using Gaines and Mawhin's continuation theorem of coincidence degree theory and by means of a suitable Lyapunov functional. However, to this day, no scholars had done

works on the existence of positive periodic solution of (1) and (2). One could easily see that systems (3)–(6) are all special cases of system (1) and (2).

Throughout the paper, we make the following assumptions:

(H₁) $a_i(t), b_i(t), c_{ij}(t), d_{ij}(t), e_{ij}(t), \tau_{ij}(t), \gamma_{ij}(t) \in PC_\omega, i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, with $\bar{a}_i = (1/\omega) \int_0^\omega a_i(t) dt > 0, \tau = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{\tau_{ij}(t), \gamma_{ij}(t)\}$;

(H₂) $\{t_k\}, k \in Z_+$ satisfies $0 < t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_k < \dots$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} t_k = +\infty$;

(H₃) $\{\theta_{ik}\}$ is a real sequence with $\Delta_{ik} = \theta_{ik} + 1 > 0, i = 1, 2, \dots, n, k \in Z_+$;

(H₄) $\prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik}$ is a ω -periodic function.

To conclude this section, we summarize in the following a few definitions and lemmas that will be needed in our arguments.

Definition 1 (see [1]). A function $x_i : R \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$ is said to be a positive solution of (1) and (2), if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) $x_i(t)$ is absolutely continuous on each (t_k, t_{k+1}) ;
- (b) for each $k \in Z_+, x_i(t_k^+)$ and $x_i(t_k^-)$ exist and $x_i(t_k^-) = x_i(t_k)$;
- (c) $x_i(t)$ satisfies the first equation of (1) and (2) for almost everywhere (for short a.e.) in $[0, \infty) \setminus \{t_k\}$ and satisfies $x_i(t_k^+) = \Delta_{ik} x_i(t_k)$ for $t = t_k, k \in Z_+ = \{1, 2, \dots\}$.

Under the previous hypotheses (H₁)–(H₄), we consider the following two classes of nonimpulsive Lotka-Volterra competitive systems:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{dy_i(t)}{dt} \\ &= y_i(t) \left[a_i(t) - B_i(t) y_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ & \quad - \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(t) \\ & \quad \left. \times \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(t+s) ds \right], \quad \text{a.e., } t \geq 0, \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{dy_i(t)}{dt} \\ &= y_i(t) \left[a_i(t) - B_i(t) y_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ & \quad - \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(t) \\ & \quad \left. \times \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(t+s) ds \right], \quad \text{a.e., } t \geq 0, \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} B_i(t) &= b_i(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik}, \\ C_{ij}(t) &= c_{ij}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \tau_{ij}(t)} \Delta_{ik}, \\ D_{ij}(t) &= d_{ij}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \gamma_{ij}(t)} \Delta_{ik}, \\ E_{ij}(t) &= e_{ij}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \sigma_{ij}} \Delta_{ik}. \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

By a solution $y(t) = (y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T$ of (7) and (8), it means an absolutely continuous function $y(t) = (y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T$ defined on $[-\tau, 0]$ that satisfies (7) and (8).

The following lemmas will be used in the proofs of our results. The proof of the first lemma is similar to that of Theorem 1 in [5].

Lemma 2. *Suppose that (H₁)–(H₄) hold. Then*

- (1) if $y_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are solutions of (7) and (8) on $[-\tau, +\infty)$, then $x_i(t) = \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik} y_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are solutions of (1) and (2) on $[-\tau, +\infty)$;
- (2) if $x_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are solutions of (1) and (2) on $[-\tau, +\infty)$, then $y_i(t) = \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik}^{-1} x_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are solutions of (7) and (8) on $[-\tau, +\infty)$.

Proof. (1) It is easy to see that $x_i(t) = \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik} y_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are absolutely continuous on every interval $(t_k, t_{k+1}]$, $t \neq t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$\begin{aligned} & x_i'(t) - x_i(t) \left[a_i(t) - b_i(t) x_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ & \quad - \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij}(t) \\ & \quad \left. \times \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) x_j(t+s) ds \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik} y_i'(t) - \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik} y_i(t) \\
 &\times \left[a_i(t) - b_i(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik} y_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) \right. \\
 &\quad \times \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \tau_{ij}(t)} \Delta_{ik} y_i(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij}(t) \\
 &\quad \times \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \gamma_{ij}(t)} \Delta_{ik} y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) \\
 &\quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \sigma_{ij}} \Delta_{ik} e_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(t + s) ds \right] \\
 &= \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik} \left\{ y_i'(t) - y_i(t) \right. \\
 &\quad \times \left[a_i(t) - b_i(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik} y_i(t) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \tau_{ij}(t)} \Delta_{ik} y_i \right. \\
 &\quad \times (t - \tau_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij}(t) \\
 &\quad \times \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \gamma_{ij}(t)} \Delta_{ik} y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) \\
 &\quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \sigma_{ij}} \Delta_{ik} e_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \times (t + s) ds \right] \Big\} \\
 &= \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik} \left\{ y_i'(t) - y_i(t) \right. \\
 &\quad \times \left[a_i(t) - B_i(t) y_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(t) y_j \right. \\
 &\quad \times (t - \tau_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) \\
 &\quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(t + s) ds \right] \Big\} \\
 &= 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

On the other hand, for any $t = t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots,$

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_i(t_k^+) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow t_k^+} \prod_{0 < t_j < t} \Delta_{ik} y_i(t) = \prod_{0 < t_j \leq t_k} \Delta_{ik} y_i(t_k), \\
 x_i(t_k) &= \prod_{0 < t_j < t_k} \Delta_{ik} y_i(t_k), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n;
 \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

thus

$$x_i(t_k^+) = \Delta_{ik} x_i(t_k), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots \tag{12}$$

It follows from (10)–(12) that $x_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are solutions of (1). Similarly, if $y_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are solutions of (8), we can prove that $x_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are solutions of (2).

(2) Since $x_i(t) = \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik} y_i(t)$ is absolutely continuous on every interval $(t_k, t_{k+1}]$, $t \neq t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots,$ and in view of (12), it follows that for any $k = 1, 2, \dots,$

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_i(t_k^+) &= \prod_{0 < t_j \leq t_k} \Delta_{ik}^{-1} x_i(t_k^+) = \prod_{0 < t_j < t_k} \Delta_{ik}^{-1} x_i(t_k) = y_i(t_k), \\
 y_i(t_k^-) &= \prod_{0 < t_j < t_k} \Delta_{ik}^{-1} x_i(t_k^-) = \prod_{0 < t_j \leq t_k^-} \Delta_{ik}^{-1} x_i(t_k^-) = y_i(t_k),
 \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

which implies that $y_i(t)$ is continuous on $[-\tau, +\infty)$. It is easy to prove that $y_i(t)$ is absolutely continuous on $[-\tau, +\infty)$. Similar to the proof of (1), we can check that $y_i(t) = \prod_{0 < t_k < t} \Delta_{ik}^{-1} x_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are solutions of (7) on $[-\tau, +\infty)$. Similarly, if $x_i(t), i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$ is a solution of (2), we can prove that $y_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are solutions of (8). The proof of Lemma 2 is completed. \square

In the following section, we only discuss the existence of a periodic solution for (7) and (8).

Definition 3 (see [19]). Let X be a real Banach space and E a closed, nonempty subset of X . E is said to be a cone if

- (1) $\alpha x + \beta y \in E$ for all $x, y \in E$, and $\alpha, \beta > 0$,
- (2) $x, -x \in E$ imply $x = 0$.

Lemma 4 (see Krasnoselskii [20], Deimling [21], and Guo and Lakshmikantham [22]). Let E be a cone in a real Banach space X . Assume that Ω_{r_1} and Ω_{r_2} are open subsets of X with $0 \in \Omega_{r_1} \subset \overline{\Omega_{r_1}} \subset \Omega_{r_2}$, where $\Omega_{r_i} = \{x \in X : \|x\| < r_i\}, i = 1, 2$. Let $T : E \cap (\Omega_{r_2} \setminus \overline{\Omega_{r_1}}) \rightarrow E$ be a continuous and completely continuous operator satisfying

- (1) $\|Tx\| \leq \|x\|$, for any $x \in E \cap \partial\Omega_{r_1}$;
- (2) there exists $\phi \in E \setminus \{0\}$ such that $y \neq Ty + \lambda y$, for any $y \in E \cap \partial\Omega_{r_2}$ and $\lambda > 0$.

Then T has fixed points in $E \cap (\overline{\Omega_{r_2}} \setminus \Omega_{r_1})$. The same conclusion remains valid if (1) holds for any $x \in E \cap \partial\Omega_{r_2}$ and (2) holds for any $y \in E \cap \partial\Omega_{r_1}$ and $\lambda > 0$.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, firstly, we give some definitions and lemmas. Secondly, we derive a necessary and sufficient condition for at least one positive periodic solution of (1) which is established by using the fixed-point theorem in the cone of Banach space under some conditions. In the following section, we also get a necessary and sufficient condition for at least one positive periodic solution of (2) that is also established by applying the fixed-point theorem in the cone of Banach space under some conditions. Finally, as applications, we study some particular cases of system (1) and (2) which have been investigated extensively in the references mentioned earlier.

2. Existence of Periodic Solution of (1)

We establish the existence of positive periodic solutions of (1) by applying Lemma 4. We will first make some preparations and list later a few preliminary results. Let $X = \{y = (y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n) \mid y(t+\omega) = y(t)\}$ with the norm $\|y\| = \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i|_0, |y_i|_0 = \sup_{t \in [0, \omega]} |y_i(t)|$. It is easy to verify that $(X, \|\cdot\|)$ is a Banach space.

We define an operator $\psi : X \rightarrow X$ as follows:

$$(\psi y)(t) = ((\psi y)_1(t), (\psi y)_2(t), \dots, (\psi y)_n(t))^T, \tag{14}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} & (\psi y)_i(t) \\ &= \int_t^{t+\omega} \left\{ G_i(t, \xi) y_i(\xi) \right. \\ & \quad \times \left[B_i(\xi) y_i(\xi) + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \gamma_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(\xi) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(\xi + s) ds \right] \right\} d\xi, \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} G_i(t, \xi) &= \frac{e^{-\int_t^\xi a_i(u) du}}{1 - e^{-\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du}} = \frac{e^{\int_\xi^{t+\omega} a_i(u) du}}{e^{\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du} - 1}, \\ G(t, \xi) &= \text{diag} [G_1(t, \xi), G_2(t, \xi), \dots, G_n(t, \xi)], \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad t \leq \xi \leq t + \omega. \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

It is clear that $G_i(t + \omega, \xi + \omega) = G_i(t, \xi), \partial G_i(t, \xi) / \partial t = a_i(t) G_i(t, \xi), G_i(t, t) - G_i(t, t + \omega) = 1$. In view of (H_1) , we also define for $1 \leq i \leq n$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_i &:= \min_{0 \leq t \leq \xi \leq \omega} |G_i(t, \xi)| = \frac{1}{e^{\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du} - 1}, \\ \beta_i &:= \max_{0 \leq t \leq \xi \leq \omega} |G_i(t, \xi)| = \frac{e^{\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du}}{e^{\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du} - 1}, \\ \alpha &= \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \alpha_i, \quad \beta = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \beta_i, \quad \sigma = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \in (0, 1). \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

Define E to be a cone in X by

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \{y = (y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T \in X : y_i(t) \\ & \geq \sigma |y_i|_0, t \in [0, \omega]\}. \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

We easily verify that E is a cone in X . For convenience of expressions, we define an operator $\varphi : E \rightarrow X$ by

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi y)_i(t) &= y_i(t) \left[B_i(t) y_i(t) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(t) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(t + s) ds \right], \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

The proof of the main result in this paper is based on an application of Krasnoselskii fixed-point theorem in cones. To make use of fixed point theorem in the cone, firstly, we need to introduce some definitions and lemmas.

Lemma 5. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. Then the solutions of (1) are defined on $[-\tau, \infty)$ and are positive.

Proof. By Lemma 2, we only need to prove that the solutions $y_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ of (7) are defined on $[-\tau, \infty)$ and are positive on $[0, \infty)$. From (7), we have that for any $u_i \in C([-\tau, 0], \mathbb{R}^+), i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n,$ and $t > 0,$

$$\begin{aligned} y_i(t) &= u_i(0) \exp \left\{ \int_0^t \left[a_i(\xi) - B_i(\xi) y_i(\xi) \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \gamma_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(\xi) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j \right. \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. \times (\xi + s) ds \right] d\xi \right\}, \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

Therefore, $y_i(t) (i = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ are defined on $[-\tau, \infty)$ and are positive on $[0, \infty)$. The proof of Lemma 5 is complete. \square

Lemma 6. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. Then $\psi : E \rightarrow E$ is well defined.

Proof. In view of the definitions of E and F , for any $y \in E$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\psi y)_i(t) &= \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, \xi) (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi, \\ (\psi y)_i(t+\omega) &= \int_{t+\omega}^{t+2\omega} G_i(t, \xi + \omega) (\varphi y)_i(\xi + \omega) d\xi \\ &= \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, \xi) (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi \\ &= (\psi y)_i(t). \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Therefore, $(\psi y) \in X$. Furthermore, for any $y \in E$, it follows from (15) that

$$|(\psi y)_i|_0 \leq \beta_i \int_0^\omega (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi. \quad (22)$$

On the other hand, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (\psi y)_i(t) &\geq \alpha_i \int_0^\omega (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi \\ &\geq \frac{\alpha_i}{\beta_i} |(\psi y)_i|_0 \\ &\geq \sigma |(\psi y)_i|_0. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Therefore, $\psi y \in E$. The proof of Lemma 6 is complete. \square

Lemma 7. *The operator $\psi : E \rightarrow E$ is continuous and completely continuous.*

Proof. By using a standard argument one can show that ψ is continuous on E . Now, we show that ψ is completely continuous. Let r be any positive constant and $S_r = \{y \in X : |y_i|_0 \leq r\}$ a bounded set. For any $y \in S_r$, by (15) we have

$$\begin{aligned} &|(\psi y)_i|_0 \\ &\leq \beta_i \int_0^\omega (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi \\ &= \beta_i \int_0^\omega y_i(t) \left[B_i(t) y_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n e_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 F_{ij}(s) y_j(t+s) ds \right] d\xi \\ &\leq \omega \beta_i r^2 \left[B_i^M + \sum_{j=1}^n (C_{ij}^M + D_{ij}^M + E_{ij}^M) \right] := R_i. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Therefore, for any $y \in S_r$, we obtain

$$\|\psi y\| = \sum_{i=1}^n |(\psi y)_i|_0 \leq \sum_{i=1}^n R_i := R, \quad (25)$$

which implies that $\psi(S_r)$ is a uniformly bounded set. On the other hand, in view of the definitions of ψ and φ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d[(\psi y)_i(t)]}{dt} &= G_i(t, t+\omega) (\varphi y)_i(t+\omega) - G_i(t, t) (\varphi y)_i(t) \\ &\quad + \int_t^{t+\omega} \frac{dG_i(t, \xi)}{dt} (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi \\ &= -(\varphi y)_i(t) + a_i(t) \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, \xi) (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi \\ &= a_i(t) (\psi y)_i(t) - (\varphi y)_i(t). \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Again, from (15), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{d[(\psi y)_i(t)]}{dt} \right| &\leq a_i^M R_i + r^2 \left[B_i^M + \sum_{j=1}^n (C_{ij}^M + D_{ij}^M + E_{ij}^M) \right] \\ &:= \bar{R}_i \leq M := \max_{i \in [1, n]} \{\bar{R}_i\}, \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

which implies that $d[(\psi y)_i(t)]/dt$, for any $y \in S_r$, is also uniformly bounded. Hence, $\psi(S_r) \subset X$ is a family of uniformly bounded and equicontinuous functions. By the well-known Ascoli-Arzelà theorem, we know that the operator ψ is completely continuous. The proof of Lemma 7 is complete. \square

Lemma 8. *Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. The existence of positive ω -periodic solution of (7) is equivalent to that of nonzero fixed point of ψ in E .*

Proof. Assume that $y = (y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T \in X$ is a periodic solution of (7). Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\left[y_i(t) e^{-\int_0^t a_i(u) du} \right]' \\ &= -e^{-\int_0^t a_i(u) du} y_i(t) \left[B_i(t) y_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(t+s) ds \right], \\ &\quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Integrating the previous equation over $[t, t + \omega]$, we can have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[y_i(\xi) e^{-\int_0^\xi a_i(u) du} \right]_t^{t+\omega} \\ &= - \int_t^{t+\omega} \left\{ e^{-\int_0^\xi a_i(u) du} y_i(\xi) \right. \\ & \quad \times \left[B_i(\xi) y_i(\xi) + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \gamma_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(\xi) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(\xi + s) ds \right] \right\} d\xi, \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

$i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$

Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & y_i(t) e^{-\int_0^t a_i(u) du} \left[1 - e^{-\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du} \right] \\ &= \int_t^{t+\omega} \left\{ e^{-\int_0^\xi a_i(u) du} y_i(\xi) \right. \\ & \quad \times \left[B_i(\xi) y_i(\xi) + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \gamma_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(\xi) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(\xi + s) ds \right] \right\} d\xi, \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

$i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$

which can be transformed into

$$\begin{aligned} y_i(t) &= \int_t^{t+\omega} \left\{ \frac{e^{-\int_0^\xi a_i(u) du}}{e^{-\int_0^t a_i(u) du} \left[1 - e^{-\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du} \right]} y_i(\xi) \right. \\ & \quad \times \left[B_i(\xi) y_i(\xi) + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \gamma_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(\xi) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(\xi + s) ds \right] \right\} d\xi \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_t^{t+\omega} \left\{ G_i(t, \xi) y_i(\xi) \right. \\ & \quad \times \left[B_i(\xi) y_i(\xi) + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(\xi) y_j(\xi - \gamma_{ij}(\xi)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(\xi) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(\xi + s) ds \right] \right\} d\xi \\ &= \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, \xi) (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

Thus, $y_i(t)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$) is a periodic solution for (15).

If $y = (y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T \in X$ and $\psi y = ((\psi y)_1, (\psi y)_2, \dots, (\psi y)_n)^T = y$ with $y \neq 0$, then for any $t = t_k$ derivative the two sides of (15) about t ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d[(\psi y)_i(t)]}{dt} &= G_i(t, t + \omega) (\varphi y)_i(t + \omega) - G_i(t, t) (\varphi y)_i(t) \\ & \quad + \int_t^{t+\omega} \frac{dG_i(t, \xi)}{dt} (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi \\ &= -(\varphi y)_i(t) + a_i(t) \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, \xi) (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi \\ &= a_i(t) y_i(t) - (\varphi y)_i(t) \\ &= y_i(t) \left[a_i(t) - B_i(t) y_i(t) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(t) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(t + s) ds \right] \\ &= \frac{dy_i(t)}{dt}. \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

Hence, $y(t) = (y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T \in X$ is a positive ω -periodic solution of (7). Thus we complete the proof of Lemma 8. \square

Our main result of this paper is as follows.

Theorem 9. Assume (H_1) – (H_4) . Then condition

$$m_0 = \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \bar{B}_i + \sum_{j=1}^n (\bar{C}_{ij} + \bar{D}_{ij} + \bar{E}_{ij}) \right\} > 0 \tag{33}$$

is necessary and sufficient for system (1) to have at least one positive ω -periodic solution.

Proof. (Sufficiency) Let

$$M_0 = \max_{i \in [1, n]} \left\{ \bar{B}_i + \sum_{j=1}^n (\bar{C}_{ij} + \bar{D}_{ij} + \bar{E}_{ij}) \right\}, \quad (34)$$

by condition (33), we know that $M_0 \geq m_0 > 0$. Choose a constant $M \geq M_0$ such that $1/\omega\beta_i M < 1$. Let $r_1 = 1/\omega\beta_i M$ and

$$\Omega_{r_1} = \{y(t) = (y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T \in X : |y_i|_0 < r_1, i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}. \quad (35)$$

For any $y = y(t) \in E \cap \partial\Omega_{r_1}$, $\sigma|y_i|_0 \leq y_i(t) \leq |y_i|_0$, from (15), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & |(\psi y)_i|_0 \\ & \leq \beta_i \int_0^\omega (\varphi y)_i(\xi) d\xi \\ & = \beta_i \int_0^\omega y_i(t) \left[B_i(t) y_i(t) \right. \\ & \quad + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(t) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(t)) \\ & \quad + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(t+s) ds \right] d\xi \\ & \leq \omega\beta_i |y_i|_0 \left[\bar{B}_i + \sum_{j=1}^n (\bar{C}_{ij} + \bar{D}_{ij} + \bar{E}_{ij}) \right] r_1 \\ & \leq \omega\beta_i |y_i|_0 M_0 r_1 \\ & \leq |y_i|_0. \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

Hence, for any $y = y(t) \in E \cap \partial\Omega_{r_1}$, $\sigma|y_i|_0 \leq y_i(t) \leq |y_i|_0$, we have

$$\|\psi y\| = \sum_{j=1}^n |(\psi y)_j|_0 \leq \sum_{j=1}^n |y_j|_0 = \|y\|, \quad (37)$$

which implies that condition (1) in Lemma 4 is satisfied.

On the other hand, we choose $0 < m \leq m_0$ such that $1/\omega\sigma\alpha_i m > 1$. Let $r_2 = 1/\omega\sigma\alpha_i m > 1$ and suppose that $u = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n)^T \in E/\{0\}$. We show that for any $y = y(t) \in E \cap \partial\Omega_{r_2}$ and $\lambda > 0$, $y \neq \psi y + \lambda u$. Otherwise, there exist

$y_0 = y_0(t) \in E \cap \partial\Omega_{r_2}$ and $\lambda_0 > 0$, such that $y_0 = \psi y_0 + \lambda_0 u$. Let $u_{i_0} \neq 0$ ($1 \leq i_0 \leq n$), since $y_{i_0}(t) \geq \sigma|y_{i_0}|_0$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} y_{i_0} &= (\psi y)_{i_0}(t) + \lambda_0 u_{i_0} \\ &= \int_t^{t+\omega} G_{i_0}(t, \xi) (\varphi y)_{i_0}(\xi) d\xi + \lambda_0 u_{i_0} \\ &\geq \omega\sigma\alpha_i |y_{i_0}|_0 \int_0^\omega \left[B_i(t) y_i(t) \right. \\ & \quad + \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(t) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(t)) \\ & \quad + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) \\ & \quad + \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j \\ & \quad \left. \times (t+s) ds \right] dt + \lambda_0 u_{i_0} \\ &\geq \omega\sigma\alpha_i |y_{i_0}|_0 \left[\bar{B}_i + \sum_{j=1}^n (\bar{C}_{ij} + \bar{D}_{ij} + \bar{E}_{ij}) \right] r_2 + \lambda_0 u_{i_0} \\ &\geq \omega\sigma\alpha_i |y_{i_0}|_0 m_0 r_2 + \lambda_0 u_{i_0} \\ &\geq |y_{i_0}|_0 + \lambda_0 u_{i_0} > |y_{i_0}|_0, \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

which is a contradiction. This proves that condition (2) in Lemma 4 is also satisfied. By Lemmas 4 and 8, system (7) has at least one positive ω -periodic solution. From Lemma 2, system (1) has at least one positive ω -periodic solution.

(Necessity) Suppose that (33) does not hold. Then there exists at least an i_0 ($1 \leq i_0 \leq n$) such that

$$\bar{B}_{i_0} = 0, \quad \bar{C}_{i_0 j} = \bar{D}_{i_0 j} = \bar{E}_{i_0 j} = 0, \quad j \in [1, n]. \quad (39)$$

If system (7) has a positive ω -periodic solution $y(t) = (y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T$, then we have

$$\frac{dy_{i_0}(t)}{dt} = a_{i_0}(t) y_{i_0}(t). \quad (40)$$

Integrating the previous equation over $[t, t + \omega]$, we can have

$$0 = \ln \frac{y_{i_0}(t + \omega)}{y_{i_0}(t)} = \int_0^\omega a_{i_0}(t) dt > 0, \quad (41)$$

which is a contradiction. The proof of Theorem 9 is complete. \square

3. Existence of Periodic Solution of (2)

Now, we are at the position to study the existence of positive periodic solutions of (2). By carrying out similar arguments

as in Section 2, it is not difficult to derive sufficient criteria for the existence of positive periodic solutions of (2). For simplicity, we prefer to list later the corresponding criteria for (2) without proof since the proofs are very similar to those in Section 2.

For $(t, \xi) \in R^2, 1 \leq i \leq n$, we define

$$G_i(t, \xi) = \frac{e^{-\int_t^\xi a_i(u) du}}{1 - e^{-\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du}} = \frac{e^{\int_\xi^{t+\omega} a_i(u) du}}{e^{\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du} - 1}, \tag{42}$$

$$G(t, \xi) = \text{diag} [G_1(t, \xi), G_2(t, \xi), \dots, G_n(t, \xi)],$$

$$t \leq \xi \leq t + \omega.$$

It is clear that $G_i(t + \omega, \xi + \omega) = G_i(t, s), \partial G_i(t, \xi)/\partial t = a_i(t)G_i(t, \xi), G_i(t, t) - G_i(t, t + \omega) = 1$. In view of (H_1) , we also define for $1 \leq i \leq n$

$$\alpha_i := \min_{0 \leq t \leq \xi \leq \omega} |G_i(t, \xi)| = \frac{1}{e^{\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du} - 1},$$

$$\beta_i := \max_{0 \leq t \leq \xi \leq \omega} |G_i(t, \xi)| = \frac{e^{\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du}}{e^{\int_0^\omega a_i(u) du} - 1}, \tag{43}$$

$$\alpha = \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \alpha_i, \quad \beta = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \beta_i, \quad \sigma = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \in (0, 1).$$

Let $X = \{y = (y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T \in PC(R, R^n) \mid y(t + \omega) = y(t)\}$ with the norm $\|y\| = \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i|_0, |y_i|_0 = \sup_{t \in [0, \omega]} |y_i(t)|$. It is easy to verify that $(X, \|\cdot\|)$ is a Banach space. Define P to be a cone in X by

$$P = \{y = (y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t))^T \in X : y_i(t) \geq \delta \|y\|_0, t \in [0, \omega]\}. \tag{44}$$

We easily verify that P is a cone in X . We define an operator $A : P \rightarrow X$ as follows:

$$(Ay)(t) = ((Ay)_1(t), (Ay)_2(t), \dots, (Ay)_n(t))^T, \tag{45}$$

where

$$(Ay)_i(t) = \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, \xi) (\phi y)_i(\xi) ds, \tag{46}$$

where

$$(\phi y)_i(t) = y_i(t) \left[B_i(t) y_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n C_{ij}(t) y_j(\xi - \tau_{ij}(t)) + \sum_{j=1}^n D_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) + \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij}(t) \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 f_{ij}(s) y_j(t + s) ds \right],$$

$$i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \tag{47}$$

The proof of the following lemmas and theorems is similar to those in the Section 2, so we all omit the details here.

Lemma 10. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. Then the solutions of (2) are defined on $[-\tau, \infty)$ and are positive.

Lemma 11. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. Then $A : E \rightarrow E$ is well defined.

Lemma 12. The operator $A : E \rightarrow E$ is continuous and completely continuous.

Lemma 13. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. The existence of positive ω -periodic solution of (8) is equivalent to that of nonzero fixed point of A in P .

Theorem 14. Assume (H_1) – (H_4) . Moreover, if the condition

$$l_0 = \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \bar{B}_i + \sum_{j=1}^n (-\bar{C}_{ij} + \bar{D}_{ij} + \bar{E}_{ij}) \right\} > 0 \tag{48}$$

holds, then the system (2) has at least one positive ω -periodic solution.

4. Applications

In this section, as some applications of our main results, we will consider some special cases of systems (1) and (2), which have been investigated extensively in the literature.

Application 1. We consider the following periodic single-species population growth models with periodic delay and impulse:

$$y'(t) = y(t) [r(t) - a(t) y(t) - b(t) y(t - \tau(t))],$$

$$t \in R, t \neq t_k, \tag{49}$$

$$\Delta y(t_k) = \theta_k y(t_k), \quad k \in Z_+,$$

which is a special case of system (1), and where $a(t), b(t), \tau(t) \in C(R, R_+)$ are ω -periodic. Thus from Theorem 9 we have the following.

Theorem 15. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. Then condition:

$$R_1 = \bar{A} + \bar{B} > 0 \tag{50}$$

is necessary and sufficient for system (49) to have at least one positive ω -periodic solution, where

$$A(t) = a(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t} (1 + \theta_k),$$

$$B(t) = b(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \tau(t)} (1 + \theta_k). \tag{51}$$

Application 2. We consider the following periodic single-species population growth models with periodic delay and impulse:

$$y'(t) = y(t) [r(t) - a(t) y(t) + b(t) y(t - \tau(t))],$$

$$t \in R, t \neq t_k, \tag{52}$$

$$\Delta y(t_k) = \theta_k y(t_k), \quad k \in Z_+,$$

which is a special case of system (2), and where $a(t), b(t), \tau(t) \in C(R, R_+)$ are ω -periodic. Thus from Theorem 14 we have the following.

Theorem 16. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. Moreover, if the condition

$$R_2 = \bar{A} - \bar{B} > 0 \tag{53}$$

holds, the system (52) has at least one positive ω -periodic solution, where

$$\begin{aligned} A(t) &= a(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t} (1 + \theta_k), \\ B(t) &= b(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \tau(t)} (1 + \theta_k). \end{aligned} \tag{54}$$

Application 3. We study the following two-species competitive system with impulses:

$$\begin{aligned} y_1'(t) &= y_1(t) [r_1(t) - a_1(t) y_1(t) - c_1(t) y_2(t)], \\ y_2'(t) &= y_2(t) [r_2(t) - a_2(t) y_2(t) - c_2(t) y_1(t)], \\ & \Delta y_i(t_k) = \theta_k y_i(t_k), \quad i = 1, 2, \quad k \in Z_+, \quad t = t_k, \end{aligned} \tag{55}$$

$$\Delta y_i(t_k) = \theta_k y_i(t_k), \quad i = 1, 2, \quad k \in Z_+, \quad t = t_k,$$

which is a special case of system (1), and where $a_i(t), c_i(t) \in C(R, R_+)$ are ω -periodic. Thus from Theorem 9 we have the following.

Theorem 17. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. Then condition

$$R_3 = \min_{1 \leq i \leq 2} \{ \bar{A}_i + \bar{C}_i \} > 0 \tag{56}$$

is necessary and sufficient for system (55) to have at least one positive ω -periodic solution, where

$$\begin{aligned} A_i(t) &= a_i(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t} (1 + \theta_k), \\ C_i(t) &= c_i(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t} (1 + \theta_k), \\ & i = 1, 2. \end{aligned} \tag{57}$$

Application 4. We study the following two-species competitive system with impulses:

$$\begin{aligned} y_1'(t) &= y_1(t) \left[r_1(t) - a_1(t) y_1(t) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n b_{1j}(t) y_1(t - \tau_j(t)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{1j}(t) y_2(t - \rho_j(t)) \right], \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_2'(t) &= y_2(t) \left[r_2(t) - a_2(t) y_2(t) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n b_{2j}(t) y_2(t - \eta_j(t)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{2j}(t) y_1(t - \sigma_j(t)) \right], \\ & \quad t \neq t_k, \end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta y_i(t_k) = \theta_k y_i(t_k), \quad i = 1, 2, \quad k \in Z_+, \quad t = t_k, \tag{58}$$

which is a special case of system (1), and where $a_i(t), b_{ij}(t), c_{ij}(t) \in C(R, R_+), i = 1, 2$, are ω -periodic. Thus from Theorem 9 we have the following.

Theorem 18. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. Then condition

$$R_4 = \min_{1 \leq i \leq 2} \left\{ \bar{A}_i + \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{B}_{ij} + \bar{C}_{ij}) \right\} > 0 \tag{59}$$

is necessary and sufficient for system (58) to have at least one positive ω -periodic solution, where

$$\begin{aligned} A_i(t) &= a_i(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t} (1 + \theta_k), \\ B_{1j}(t) &= b_{1j}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \tau_j(t)} (1 + \theta_k), \\ B_{2j}(t) &= b_{2j}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \eta_j(t)} (1 + \theta_k), \\ C_{1j}(t) &= c_{1j}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \rho_j(t)} (1 + \theta_k), \\ C_{2j}(t) &= c_{2j}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \sigma_j(t)} (1 + \theta_k), \\ & \quad i = 1, 2. \end{aligned} \tag{60}$$

Application 5. We study the following two-species competitive system with impulses:

$$\begin{aligned} y_1'(t) &= y_1(t) \left[r_1(t) - a_1(t) y_1(t) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{1j}(t) y_1(t - \tau_j(t)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{1j}(t) y_2(t - \rho_j(t)) \right], \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_2'(t) &= y_2(t) \left[r_2(t) - a_2(t) y_2(t) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{2j}(t) y_2(t - \eta_j(t)) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{2j}(t) y_1(t - \sigma_j(t)) \right], \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad t \neq t_k, \\
 \Delta y_i(t_k) &= \theta_k y(t_k), \quad i = 1, 2, \quad k \in Z_+, \quad t = t_k,
 \end{aligned} \tag{61}$$

which is a special case of system (2), and where $a_i(t), b_{ij}(t), c_{ij}(t) \in C(R, R_+), i = 1, 2,$ are ω -periodic. Thus from Theorem 14 we have the following.

Theorem 19. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. Moreover, if the condition

$$R_5 = \min_{1 \leq i \leq 2} \left\{ \bar{A}_i + \sum_{i=1}^n (-\bar{B}_{ij} + \bar{C}_{ij}) \right\} > 0 \tag{62}$$

holds, the system (61) has at least one positive ω -periodic solution, where

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_i(t) &= a_i(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t} (1 + \theta_k), \\
 B_{1j}(t) &= b_{1j}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \tau_j(t)} (1 + \theta_k), \\
 B_{2j}(t) &= b_{2j}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \eta_j(t)} (1 + \theta_k), \\
 C_{1j}(t) &= c_{1j}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \rho_j(t)} (1 + \theta_k), \\
 C_{2j}(t) &= c_{2j}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \sigma_j(t)} (1 + \theta_k), \\
 &\qquad\qquad\qquad i = 1, 2.
 \end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

Application 6. We investigate the following n -species competitive systems with impulses:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_i'(t) &= x_i(t) \left[a_i(t) - b_i(t) x_i(t) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij}(t) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \times \int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 K_{ij}(s) x_j(t + s) ds \right], \quad t \neq t_k, \\
 x_i(t_k^+) - x_i(t_k^-) &= \theta_{ik} x_i(t_k), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad k \in Z_+,
 \end{aligned} \tag{64}$$

which is a special case of system (1), and where $a_i(t), b_i(t), c_{ij}(t), d_{ij}(t), \tau_{ij}(t) \in C(R, R_+), i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$ are ω -periodic. Moreover, $K_{ij} \in PC, \sigma_{ij} > 0$ is a constant and $\int_{-\sigma_{ij}}^0 K_{ij}(s) ds = 1.$ Thus from Theorem 9 we have the following.

Theorem 20. Assume that (H_1) – (H_4) hold. Then condition

$$R_6 = \min_{1 \leq i \leq 2} \left\{ \bar{B}_i + \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{C}_{ij} + \bar{D}_{ij}) \right\} > 0 \tag{65}$$

is necessary and sufficient for system (64) to have at least one positive ω -periodic solution, where

$$\begin{aligned}
 B_i(t) &= b_i(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t} (1 + \theta_{ik}), \\
 C_{ij}(t) &= c_{ij}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \tau_{ij}(t)} (1 + \theta_{ik}), \\
 D_{ij}(t) &= d_{ij}(t) \prod_{0 < t_k < t - \sigma_{ij}} (1 + \theta_{ik}).
 \end{aligned} \tag{66}$$

Remark 21. We apply the main results obtained in the previous section to study some examples which have some biological implications. A very basic and important ecological problem associated with the study of population is that of the existence of positive periodic solutions which play the role played by the equilibrium of the autonomous models, meaning that the species is in an equilibrium state. From Theorems 15–20, we see that under the appropriate conditions, the impulsive perturbations do not affect the existence of periodic solution of systems.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the Construct Program of the Key Discipline in Hunan province, NSF of China (nos. 10971229, 11161015), PSF of China (2012M512162), and NSF of Hunan province (nos. 11JJ9002, 12JJ9001, and 13JJ4098).

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