

# Periodic Solutions and Global Attraction for N-Dimension Discrete-Time Neural Networks with Time-Varying Delays

Liang Zhang    Yong Wang\*    Hong-Xu Li    Liehui Zhang

## Abstract

In this paper, easily verifiable conditions for the existence and global attraction of periodic solutions of n-dimension nonautonomous discrete-time neural networks with time-varying delays are established by using the well-known Gaines–Mawhin theorem and some analysis techniques. These results obtained are more generalizable than the previously known results. Moreover, an example is provided to illustrate the validity of our results.

## 1 Introduction and Preliminaries

It is well known that artificial neural networks have been widely used to various fields. Such as information processing, continuous and discrete models. Artificial neural networks have been demonstrated by authors to have complex dynamics including asymptotically stable fixed points, periodic orbits, bifurcation and chaotic attractors [2,5,6–10].

Taboas [8] considered the following system of delay differential equations:

$$\begin{cases} x'(t) = -x(t) + \alpha f_1(x(t - \tau), y(t - \tau)), \\ y'(t) = -y(t) + \alpha f_2(x(t - \tau), y(t - \tau)). \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

---

\*Corresponding author

Received by the editors March 2008 - In revised form in May 2010.

Communicated by J. Mawhin.

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification* : 39A10, 92B20.

*Key words and phrases* : Periodic solutions; Global attraction; Neural networks; Gaines–Mawhin theorem.

It arises as a model for a network of two saturating amplifiers (or neurons) with delayed outputs, where  $\alpha > 0$  is a constant,  $f_1, f_2$ , are bounded  $C^3$ -functions on  $R^2$  satisfying:

$$\frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y}(0,0) \neq 0 \text{ and } \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x}(0,0) \neq 0,$$

and the negative feedback conditions  $y f_1(x, y) > 0, y \neq 0; x f_2(x, y) < 0, x \neq 0$ . Taboas showed that there is an  $\alpha_0 > 0$ , such that for  $\alpha > \alpha_0$ , there exists a non-constant periodic solution with period greater than 4. Taboas's investigation received many authors's attention [1,3,5,7]. Baptisini and Taboas [1], Godoy and dos Reis [5] studied the global existence of periodic solutions of system (1.1). Ruan and Wei [7], Chen and Wu [3] investigated the non-constant periodic solutions and slowly oscillating periodic solutions respectively for planar systems with two delays.

Recently, Huang et.al. [6] investigated the following planar systems with time-varying delays:

$$\begin{cases} x'(t) = -a_1(t) + b_1(t)f_1(x(t - \tau_1(t)), y(t - \tau_2(t))) + I_1(t), \\ y'(t) = -a_2(t) + b_2(t)f_2(x(t - \tau_3(t)), y(t - \tau_4(t))) + I_2(t), \end{cases}$$

where  $a_i \in C(R, [0, \infty))$ ,  $b_i, I_i \in C(R, R)$ ,  $f_i \in C(R^2, R)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  are periodic of a common period  $\omega (> 0)$ ,  $\tau_i \in C(R, [0, \infty))$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$  being  $\omega$ -periodic. They proved the existence and exponential stability of periodic solutions for the above system.

The above works considered the continuous planar system. However, owing to the shortcomings of equipment and technology and the needs of people, the connection weight from one neuron to another, input bias of a neuron and self-recurrent bias of a neuron are changing with time and usually are not continuous. Delays in artificial neural networks usually time-varying, and sometimes they vary violently with time due to the finite switching speed of amplifiers and faults in the electrical circuit. They slow down the transmission rate and tend to introduce some degree of instability in circuits. Therefore, a fast response must be required in practical artificial neural-network designs. The technique to achieve fast response troubles many circuit designers [10].

In this paper, we will consider the following  $n$ -dimension nonautonomous discrete-time neural networks with time-varying delays:

$$\Delta y(k) = Ay(k) + B(k)B_\tau(k) + I(k), \quad (1.2)$$

where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & a_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad B(k) = \begin{pmatrix} b_1(k) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & b_2(k) & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & b_n(k) \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} y(k) &= (y_1(k), y_2(k), \dots, y_n(k))^T, \\ I(k) &= (I_1(k), I_2(k), \dots, I_n(k))^T, \\ \Delta y(k) &= (\Delta y_1(k), \Delta y_2(k), \dots, \Delta y_n(k))^T, \\ \Delta y_i(k) &= y_i(k+1) - y_i(k), \\ B_\tau(k) &= (F_1(k), F_2(k), \dots, F_n(k))^T, \\ F_i(k) &= \sum_{j=1}^n f_{ij}(y_1(k - \tau_{i1}(k)), \dots, y_n(k - \tau_{in}(k))), \end{aligned}$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . By using the well-known Gaines–Mawhin theorem and some analysis technique, we will give some easily verifiable conditions for the existence and global attraction of the periodic solutions of system (1.2). The results of this paper are new and they generalize the previously known results. Moreover, an example is given to illustrate the results obtained.

To facilitate the discussion below, we define

$$I_\omega := \{0, 1, \dots, \omega - 1\},$$

and denote

$$\overline{f(k)} = \frac{1}{\omega} \sum_{k=0}^{\omega-1} f(k), \quad \overline{y(k)} = (\overline{y_1(k)}, \overline{y_1(k)}, \dots, \overline{y_n(k)})^T,$$

where  $f(k)$  and  $y_i(k)$  are  $\omega$ -periodic sequences (i.e.,  $f(k + \omega) = f(k)$ ,  $y_i(k + \omega) = y_i(k)$ ), and

$$H(k) = (H_1(k), H_2(k), \dots, H_n(k))^T$$

with

$$H_i(k) = -a_i(k)y_i(k) + b_i(k)F_i(k) + I_i(k)$$

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

In order to explore the existence of periodic solutions of (1.2), we first make some preparations.

Let  $X$  and  $Z$  be Banach spaces. Consider a operator equation:

$$Lx = \lambda Nx, \lambda \in (0, 1)$$

where  $L : \text{Dom} L \cap X \rightarrow Z$  is a linear operator,  $N : X \rightarrow Z$  is a continuous operator and  $\lambda$  is a parameter. Let  $P$  and  $Q$  denote two projectors  $P : X \rightarrow X$  and  $Q : Z \rightarrow Z$  such that  $\text{Im} P = \text{Ker} L$  and  $\text{Im} L = \text{Ker} Q = \text{Im}(I - Q)$ . It follows that  $L|_{\text{Dom} L \cap \text{Ker} P} : (I - P)X \rightarrow \text{Im} L$  is invertible. We denote the inverse of this map by  $Kp$ . If  $\Omega$  is a bounded open subset of  $X$ , the mapping  $N$  is called  $L$ -compact on  $\bar{\Omega}$  if  $QN(\bar{\Omega})$  is bounded and  $Kp(I - Q)N : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow X$  is compact. Because  $\text{Im} Q$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Ker} L$ , there exists an isomorphism  $J : \text{Im} Q \rightarrow \text{Ker} L$ .

Recall that operator  $L$  will be called a Fredholm operator of index zero if  $\dim \text{Ker} L = \text{codim Im} L < \infty$ .

The following lemma is crucial in our discussion, which can be found in [4].

**Lemma 2.1** (Continuation Theorem). *Let  $L$  be a Fredholm mapping of index zero and let  $N$  be  $L$ -compact on  $\bar{\Omega}$ . Suppose*

- (a) for each  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ , every solution  $x$  of  $Lx = \lambda Nx$  is such that  $x \notin \partial\Omega$ ;
- (b)  $QNx \neq 0$  for each  $x \in \partial\Omega \cap \text{Ker}L$ ;
- (c)  $\deg \{JQN, \Omega, 0\} \neq 0$ .

Then the operator equation  $Lx = Nx$  has at least one solution in  $\text{Dom}L \cap \bar{\Omega}$ .

## 2 Existence of periodic solutions

In this section, we are concerned with the existence of periodic solutions of model (1.2). We approach our result by using the well-known Gaines–Mawhin theorem.

**Theorem 2.1.** Assume that the following statement are valid for positive  $\omega$

- (i)  $f_{ij} \in C(R^n, R)$ , are bounded continuous functions, with  $y_i(0) \geq 0$ .
- (ii)  $a_i(k)$ ,  $b_i(k)$ ,  $I_i(k)$ ,  $\tau_{ij}(k)$  are  $\omega$  – periodic with  $a_i(k) > 0$ .

Then model (1.2) has at least one  $\omega$  – periodic solutions for  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

**Proof.** In order to apply Lemma 2.1 to system (1.2), we take

$$X = Z = \{y = \{y(k)\} : y(k) \in R^n, y(k + \omega) = y(k), k \in Z\},$$

with  $\|y\| = \sum_{i=1}^n \max \{|y_i(0)|, |y_i(1)|, \dots, |y_i(\omega - 1)|\}$ . Then  $X$  and  $Z$  are Banach spaces. Define  $L : \text{Dom}L \subset X \rightarrow Z$  by

$$Ly(k) = \Delta y(k).$$

Let  $N : \Omega \in X \rightarrow Z$  is given by

$$Ny(k) = H(k).$$

We then define two projectors  $P$  and  $Q$  by

$$Py(k) = Qy(k) = \overline{y(k)}, y \in X.$$

It is easily verified that  $\text{Ker}L = \{y = \{y(k)\} \in X : y(k) = h \in R^n\}$ ,

$$\text{Im}L = \left\{ y \in X : \sum_{k=0}^{\omega-1} y_i(k) = 0, i = 1, 2, \dots, n \right\}$$

is closed in  $X$  and  $\dim \text{Ker}L = \text{codim} \text{Im}L = n$ . Therefore,  $L$  is a Fredholm mapping of index zero. Furthermore, the generalized inverse  $K_p : \text{Im}L \rightarrow \text{Dom}L \cap \text{Ker}P$  has the form

$$K_p y(k) = \Theta,$$

where  $\Theta = (E_1, \dots, E_n)^T$  with

$$E_i = \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} y_i(l) - \frac{1}{\omega} \sum_{s=0}^{\omega-1} \sum_{l=0}^s y_i(l)$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Thus  $QN : \Omega \rightarrow Z$  has the form

$$QNy(k) = \overline{H(k)}$$

and  $K_p(I - Q)N : \Omega \rightarrow X$  has the form

$$K_p(I - Q)Ny(k) = \Xi,$$

where  $\Xi = (U_1, \dots, U_n)^T$  with

$$U_i = \sum_{k_1=0}^{k-1} H_i(k_1) + \overline{kH_i(k)} + \left( \frac{1-\omega}{2} - k \right) \overline{H_i(k)}.$$

It is easy to see that  $QN$  and  $K_p(I - Q)N$  are continuous, and  $QN(\bar{\Omega})$  is bounded. Since  $X$  is of finite dimension,  $K_p(I - Q)N(\bar{\Omega})$  is relatively compact for any open bounded set  $\Omega \subset X$  by Arzela-Ascoli theorem. Therefore,  $N$  is  $L$ -compact on  $\bar{\Omega}$ .

We now search for an appropriate open bounded subset  $\Omega$  for the application of Lemma 2.1. Corresponding to the operator equation  $Ly = \lambda Ny$ ,  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ , we have

$$\Delta y(k) = \lambda H(k). \quad (2.1)$$

Suppose that  $y \in X$  is a solution of (2.1) for  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ . From (1.2) we have

$$|\Delta y_i(k)| < |a_i(k)y_i(k)| + |b_i(k)F_i(k) + I_i(k)|. \quad (2.2)$$

By virtue of (2.2) and the discrete Gronwall inequality we obtain that for  $k \leq \omega$

$$\begin{aligned} |y_i(k)| &\leq \left( y_i(0) + \sum_{k=0}^{\omega-1} a_i(k) \right) \exp \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\omega-1} |b_i(k)F_i(k) + I_i(k)| \right\} \\ &\leq (y_i(0) + \omega A_i) \exp \{ \omega G_i \} := R_i, \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

where  $A_i = \max \{a_i(k) : k \in I_\omega\}$  and  $G_i = \max \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\omega-1} |b_i(k)F_i(k) + I_i(k)| : k \in I_\omega \right\}$ .

Obviously,  $R_i$  are independent of  $\lambda$  such that  $|y_i(k)| \leq R_i$ . Take  $R > 0$  is so large that

$$R > \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \left| \frac{\mu \overline{b_i(k)F_i(k)} + \overline{I_i(k)}}{\overline{a_i(k)}} \right| : \mu \in [0, 1], k \in I_\omega \right\}.$$

Let  $R_1 + R_2 + \dots + R_n + R = M$  and  $\Omega = \{y \in X : \|y\| < M\}$ . Then  $Ly \neq \lambda Ny$  for  $y \in \partial\Omega \cap \text{Dom}L$  and  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ , which show that the condition (a) in Lemma 2.1 is satisfied.

If  $y \in \partial\Omega \cap \text{Ker}L$ ,  $y \in R^n$  then  $\|y\| = M$ . The above argument show that  $QNy(k) = \overline{H(k)} \neq 0$ . This shows that condition (b) in Lemma 2.1 is satisfied.

Finally we will show that condition (c) in Lemma 2.1 is also satisfied. To this end, we define  $\Phi : \text{Dom}L \times [0, 1] \rightarrow Z$  by

$$\Phi(y, \mu) = \Psi,$$

where  $\Psi = (J_1, \dots, J_n)^T$  with  $J_i = -\overline{a_i(k)y_i(k)} + \overline{I_i(k)} + \mu \overline{b_i(k)F_i(k)}$  for  $\mu \in [0, 1]$ . If  $y \in \partial\Omega \cap \text{Ker}L \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $y$  is a constant vector with  $\|y\| = M$ . It is easy to show that

$$\Phi(y, \mu) \neq 0 \text{ for } \mu \in [0, 1].$$

By the property of invariance under a homotopy, we let  $J = I : \text{Im}Q \rightarrow \text{Ker}L$ , i.e.,  $y \rightarrow y$ . Then we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \deg(JQNy, \Omega \cap \text{Ker}L, \theta) \\ &= \deg(\Phi(y, 1), \Omega \cap \text{Ker}L, \theta) \\ &= \deg(\Phi(y, 0), \Omega \cap \text{Ker}L, \theta), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\theta = (0, 0, \dots, 0)^T$ . By condition (ii) of Theorem 2.1, one can easily show that

$$\deg\{JQNy(k), \Omega \cap \text{Ker}L, \theta\} = \text{sgn}(-1)^n \prod_{i=1}^n \overline{a_i(k)} \neq 0.$$

Hence the condition (c) in Lemma 2.1 is also satisfied.

We have shown that  $\Omega$  verifies all requirements of Lemma 2.1, it follows that model (1.2) has at least one  $\omega$ -periodic solution in  $\text{Dom}L \cap \overline{\Omega}$ . The proof is complete.

### 3 Global attraction of periodic solutions

In the previous section, we have shown that model (1.2) has at least one  $\omega$ -periodic solution  $\bar{y}(k) = (\bar{y}_1(k), \dots, \bar{y}_n(k))^T$  under some easily verified sufficient conditions. We now shall further strengthen the sufficient conditions of Theorem 2.1 to ensure  $\bar{y}(k)$  is the global attractor of all other solutions of model (1.2).

**Theorem 3.1.** *In addition to the assumption (i) – (ii) made in Theorem 2.1, assume further that*

$$(iii) \quad |f_{ij}(y_1, \dots, y_n) - f_{ij}(\bar{y}_1, \dots, \bar{y}_n)| \leq m_{ij1} |y_1 - \bar{y}_1| + \dots + m_{ijn} |y_n - \bar{y}_n|.$$

$$(iv) \quad |1 - a_i(k)| < 1 - n^2 K |b_i(k)|.$$

Where  $m_{ijl}$  are positive constants, and  $K = \max\{m_{ijl}\}$  for  $i, j, l = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Then system (1.2) has a unique  $\omega$ -periodic solution which is globally attractive.

**Proof.** Let  $y(k)$  be a solution of system (1.2). It follows that

$$\Delta y_i(k) = -a_i y_i(k) + b_i(k) F_{\tau_{ij}}(k) + I_i(k). \quad (3.1)$$

Note that (iv) implies  $a_i(k) > 0$ . Hence the assumption (ii) of Theorem 2.1 holds. It follows that system (1.2) has at least one  $\omega$ -periodic solution. Let  $\bar{y}(k)$  is a  $\omega$ -periodic solution of model (1.2). Then we get

$$\Delta \bar{y}_i(k) = -a_i \bar{y}_i(k) + b_i(k) \bar{F}_i(k) + I_i(k). \quad (3.2)$$

where

$$\bar{F}_i(k) = \sum_{j=1}^n f_{ij}(\bar{y}_1(k - \tau_{i1}(k)), \dots, \bar{y}_n(k - \tau_{in}(k))).$$

By (3.1), (3.2) and (iii), a simple calculation gives

$$\begin{aligned} & |y_i(k+1) - \bar{y}_i(k+1)| \\ & \leq |1 - a_i(k)| |y_i(k) - \bar{y}_i(k)| + |b_i(k)| \sum_{j=1}^n |f_{ij}(y_1(k - \tau_{i1}(k)), \dots, y_n(k - \tau_{in}(k))) \\ & \quad - f_{ij}(\bar{y}_1(k - \tau_{i1}(k)), \dots, \bar{y}_n(k - \tau_{in}(k)))| \\ & \leq |1 - a_i(k)| |y_i(k) - \bar{y}_i(k)| + |b_i(k)| \sum_{j=1}^n \{m_{ij1} |y_1(k - \tau_{i1}(k)) - \bar{y}_1(k - \tau_{i1}(k))| \\ & \quad + \dots + m_{ijn} |y_n(k - \tau_{in}(k)) - \bar{y}_n(k - \tau_{in}(k))|\} \\ & \leq |1 - a_i(k)| |y_i(k) - \bar{y}_i(k)| + nK |b_i(k)| \times \\ & \quad \{|y_1(k - \tau_{i1}(k)) - \bar{y}_1(k - \tau_{i1}(k))| + \dots + |y_n(k - \tau_{in}(k)) - \bar{y}_n(k - \tau_{in}(k))|\}. \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$Z_i(k) = \max_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \{|y_i(k) - \bar{y}_i(k)|, |y_i(k - \tau_{ij}(k)) - \bar{y}_i(k - \tau_{ij}(k))|\}.$$

Then we get

$$Z_i(k+1) \leq (|1 - a_i(k)| + n^2 K |b_i(k)|) Z_i(k).$$

By (iv) of Theorem 3.1, we have

$$\alpha = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{|1 - a_i(k)| + n^2 K |b_i(k)|\} < 1.$$

Thus

$$Z_i(k+1) \leq \alpha Z_i(k), \alpha < 1. \quad (3.3)$$

Inequality (3.3) implies that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} Z_i(k) = 0$ . That is

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} |y_i(k) - \bar{y}_i(k)| = 0, \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Therefore,  $\bar{y}(k)$  is the global attractor of all other solutions of model (1.2). The proof of Theorem 3.1 is complete.

## 4 An example

In this section, we give an example to demonstrate the results of Theorem 2.1 and Theorem 3.1.

**Example 4.1.** Consider the following two-dimension nonautonomous discrete-time neural networks with time-varying delays

$$\Delta y_i(k) = -a_i(k)y_i(k) + b_1(k) \sum_{j=1}^2 f_{1j}(y_1(k - \tau_{i1}(k)), y_2(k - \tau_{i2}(k))) + I_i(k), \quad (4.1)$$

where  $i = 1, 2$ ;  $a_1(k) = \frac{1}{4} \sin \frac{k\pi}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $a_2(k) = \frac{1}{3} \cos \frac{k\pi}{2} + \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $b_1(k) = \frac{1}{68} \sin \frac{k\pi}{2}$ ,  $b_2(k) = \frac{1}{68} \cos \frac{k\pi}{2}$ ,  $f_{11}(y_1, y_2) = f_{12}(y_1, y_2) = f_{21}(y_1, y_2) = f_{22}(y_1, y_2) = \cos y_1 + \cos y_2$ ,  $\tau_{11}(k) = \tau_{12}(k) = \sin \frac{k\pi}{2}$ ,  $\tau_{21}(k) = \tau_{22}(k) = \cos \frac{k\pi}{2}$ ,  $I_1(k) = e^{\sin \frac{k\pi}{2}}$ ,  $I_2(k) = e^{\cos \frac{k\pi}{2}}$ .

It is straightforward to check that all the conditions needed in Theorem 2.1 and Theorem 3.1 are satisfied. Hence, model (4.1) has exactly one 4-periodic solution, which is globally attractive.

## 5 Concluding remarks

In this paper,  $n$ -dimension nonautonomous discrete-time neural networks with time-varying delays have been studied. A set of sufficient conditions for the existence and global attraction of the periodic solutions have been obtained. When  $i = 1, 2$ ;  $n = 2$  system (1.2) may be viewed as a discrete analogue of the neural network model considered in [5] (see, the example 4.1). Therefore our results are new.

## 6 Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the National Science Fund (11071042) of China, the Open Fund (PLN1003) of State Key Laboratory of Oil and Gas Reservoir Geology and Exploitation (Southwest Petroleum University), the National Program on Key Basic Research Project (973 Program, Grant No. 2011CB201005), the Sichuan Youth Science and Technology Fund (No. 2011JQ0044), the Scientific Research Fund (10ZB113) of Sichuan Provincial Educational Department and the Science and Technology Innovation Fund of CNPC of China. The authors are grateful to the editor and referees for their careful reading of the manuscript and helpful suggestions on this work.

## References

- [1] M. Baptisini, P. Taboas, On the existence and global bifurcation of periodic solutions to planar differential delay equations, *J. Differential Equations* 127 (1996) 391-425.
- [2] L. Chen, K. Aihara, Chaos and asymptotical stability in discrete-time neural networks, *Physica D* 104 (1997) 284-325.
- [3] Y. Chen, J. Wu, Slowly oscillating periodic solutions for a delayed frustrated network of two neurons, *J. Math. Anal. Appl.* 259 (2001) 188-208.
- [4] R.E. Gaines, J.L. Mawhin, *Coincidence Degree and Nonlinear Differential Equations*, Springer, Berlin, 1977.

- [5] S.M.S. Godoy, J.G. dos Reis, Stability and existence of periodic solutions of a functional differential equation, *J. Math. Anal. Appl.* 198 (1996) 381-398.
- [6] C. Huang, L. Huang, Existence and global exponential stability of periodic solution of two-neuron networks with time-varying delays, *Appl. Math. Lett.* 19 (2006) 126-134.
- [7] S. Ruan, J. Wei, Periodic solutions of planar systems with two delays, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh. Sect. A* 129 (1999) 1017-1032.
- [8] P. Taboas, Periodic solution of a planar delay equation, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh. Sect. A* 116 (1990) 85-101.
- [9] H. Xiang, K.-M. Yan, and B.-Y. Wang, Existence and global stability of periodic solution for delayed discrete high-order Hopfield-type neural networks, *Discrete Dynamics in Nature and Society*, 3 (2005) 281-297.
- [10] L. Zou, Z. Zhou. Periodic solutions for nonautonomous discrete-time neural networks, *Appl. Math. Lett.* 19 (2006) 174-185.

Liang. Zhang: Institute of Applied Mathematics,  
College of Science, Northwest A & F University,  
Yangling, Shaanxi 712100, P. R. China  
email: lzhang1979@yahoo.com.cn

H.-X. Li: College of Mathematics, Sichuan University,  
Chengdu, Sichuan 610064, P. R. China;  
email: hoxuli@sina.com

Y. Wang: State Key Laboratory of Oil and Gas Reservoir Geology  
and Exploitation, Southwest Petroleum University,  
Chengdu, Sichuan 610500, P. R. China  
and  
School of Sciences, Southwest Petroleum University,  
Chengdu, Sichuan 610500, P. R. China;  
email: ywangcn@yahoo.com.cn

Liehui Zhang: State Key Laboratory of Oil and Gas Reservoir Geology  
and Exploitation, Southwest Petroleum University,  
Chengdu, Sichuan 610500, P. R. China.  
email: zhangliehui@vip.163.com.