

## Note on the non-increasing solutions of

$$y'' = f(x, y, y').$$

By

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The non-increasing solutions of the ordinary differential equation of the second order,

$$(1) \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = f\left(x, y, \frac{dy}{dx}\right),$$

have been discussed by A. Kneser, A. Mambriani, G. Scorza Dragoni and recently by P. Hartman and A. Wintner etc. . In the following we will give some comments on the same topics.

At first on the increasing solutions of (1), the

**Theorem 1.**<sup>1)</sup> Let  $f(x, y, z)$  be defined and continuous in the domain  $0 \leq x < \infty$ ,  $0 \leq y < \infty$ ,  $-\infty < z < \infty$ . Suppose that, for every  $C > 0$ , there exists a continuous function  $\phi(x, y, z) = \phi_C(x, y, z)$  for the domain

$$\mathcal{A}_C : 0 \leq x \leq C, \quad 0 \leq y \leq C, \quad -k \leq z \leq 0$$

(constant  $k > 0$  may be arbitrarily small) with the continuous first partial derivatives in the interior of  $\mathcal{A}_C$ , and that  $\phi(x, y, z) > 0$  for  $z \neq 0$ ,  $\phi(x, y, 0) = 0$ , moreover that, in the interior of  $\mathcal{A}_C$ , we have

$$(2) \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \leq 0.$$

Then let  $y = y(x)$  be a solution of (1) no  $(0 \leq) a \leq x \leq b$  satisfying the initial conditions

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1) P. Hartman and A. Wintner have proved a theorem like this in American Journal of Mathematics, Vol. 73 (1951). Since their conditions are  $f(x, y, 0) \geq 0$  and  $f(x, y, z) - f(x, y, 0) \geq Mz$ , if we take  $\phi = e^{-2Mx} \cdot z^2$ , then it satisfies evidently (2) and (5), and so their theorem becomes a special case of ours. Hence their condition  $f(x, 0, 0) \equiv 0$  for  $0 \leq x < \infty$  is not necessary. Also their Lemma 1 (p. 391) can be deduced from this theorem.

$$(3) \quad y(a) \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad y'(a) \geq 0,$$

then we have

$$(4) \quad y'(x) \geq 0 \quad \text{for} \quad a \leq x \leq b.$$

Also, let  $\mathcal{A}c$  be the domain  $[0 \leq x \leq C, 0 \leq y \leq C, k \geq z \geq 0]$  and if, instead of (2),  $\phi(x, y, z)$  satisfies

$$(5) \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \geq 0$$

and  $y'(a) > 0$ , then

$$(6) \quad y'(x) > 0 \quad \text{for} \quad a < x \leq b.$$

**Proof.** Now we consider the case (3). By the continuity of  $y(x)$  and the definition of  $f(x, y, z)$ , there exists a positive number  $L$  such as  $0 \leq y(x) \leq L$  for  $a \leq x \leq b$  except the trivial case  $y \equiv 0$ . Take  $C = \max(b, L)$  and consider the function  $\phi(x, y, z)$  corresponding to this  $C$ . Now suppose that  $y'(x)$  is negative at a value of  $x$ . Then, by the continuity of  $y'(x)$ , there exist two values of  $x$ , say  $x = x_1$ , and  $x = x_2$  such that  $y'(x_1) = 0$ ,  $y'(x_2) > -k$  and  $-k < y'(x) < 0$  for  $x_1 < x < x_2$ . In this interval,  $\phi(x, y(x), y'(x)) \equiv 0$  since  $\phi(x, y(x), y'(x))$  is non-increasing with respect to  $x$  and yet  $\phi(x_1, y(x_1), y'(x_1)) = \phi(x_1, y(x_1), 0) = 0$ . This contradicts with  $\phi(x_2, y(x_2), y'(x_2)) > 0$ , for  $y'(x_2) \neq 0$ . Therefore we have (4).

In the case where  $y'(a) > 0$ , also we may conclude that there exist no points such as  $y'(x) = 0$  by (5) in the same way, and so (6) is proved.

For the next theorem, we use

**Lemma 1.** (Okamura's existence theorem<sup>2)</sup>). Let  $f(x, y, z)$  be continuous in the domain

$$\mathcal{L}^* : a \leq x \leq b, \omega(x) \leq y \leq \bar{\omega}(x), -\infty < z < \infty,$$

where, for  $a \leq x \leq b$ ,  $\omega(x)$  and  $\bar{\omega}(x)$  are twice differentiable,  $\omega(x) \leq \bar{\omega}(x)$  and satisfy

$$(7) \quad \omega''(x) \geq f(x, \omega(x), \omega'(x))$$

and

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2) Okamura, "On  $y'' = f(x, y, y')$  (II)". Functional Equations (in Japanese), Vol. 30 (1941), pp. 14-19.

$$(8) \quad \bar{\omega}''(x) \leq f(x, \bar{\omega}(x), \bar{\omega}'(x))$$

respectively. And let  $\phi(x)$  be a function defined on  $a \leq x \leq b$ , satisfying  $\omega(x) \leq \phi(x) \leq \bar{\omega}(x)$  ( $a \leq x \leq b$ ) and

$$(9) \quad |\phi(x') - \phi(x'')| \leq L \cdot |x' - x''| \quad (a \leq x', x'' \leq b),$$

where  $L$  is a constant.

Moreover suppose that there exist four functions  $\Phi_i(x, y, z)$  and  $\Psi_i(x, y, z)$  ( $i=1, 2$ ) such as follows;  $\Phi_1(x, y, z)$  is continuous in  $[a \leq x \leq b, \omega(x) \leq y \leq \phi(x), z \geq K]$  (constant  $K > 0$  may be arbitrarily great) and has continuous first partial derivatives in the interior of this domain.  $\Psi_1, \Phi_2$  and  $\Psi_2$  are the same respectively in  $[a \leq x \leq b, \phi(x) \leq y \leq \bar{\omega}(x), z \geq K]$ ,  $[a \leq x \leq b, \phi(x) \leq y \leq \bar{\omega}(x), z \leq -K]$  and  $[a \leq x \leq b, \omega(x) \leq y \leq \phi(x), z \leq -K]$ . These functions are supposed positive in their definition domains, while in their domains they converge uniformly to zero for  $z \rightarrow \pm \infty$  respectively; and finally in the interior of their respective domains, the inequalities

$$(10) \quad \frac{\partial \Phi_i}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Phi_i}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \Phi_i}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \geq 0$$

and

$$(11) \quad \frac{\partial \Psi_i}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Psi_i}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \Psi_i}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \leq 0$$

hold.

Then, in  $\mathcal{L}^*$ , there exists at least a solution of (1),  $y=y(x)$ , satisfying  $y(a)=\phi(a)$  and  $y(b)=\phi(b)$ .

This lemma is proved by the following idea; We can suppose that  $K > L$ ,  $K > |\bar{\omega}'(x)|$  and  $K > |\omega'(x)|$ , for  $K$  may be great. Let  $M$  be greater than  $K$  and satisfy for  $a \leq x \leq b$ ,  $\omega(x) \leq y \leq \phi(x)$ ,

$$\min \Phi_1(x, y, K) > \max \Phi_1(x, y, M)$$

and for  $a \leq x \leq b$ ,  $\phi(x) \leq y \leq \bar{\omega}(x)$ ,

$$\min \Phi_2(x, y, -K) > \max \Phi_2(x, y, -M);$$

the same with  $\Psi_1$  and  $\Psi_2$ , where we take for  $M$  a common value. Now we define a bounded continuous function  $g(x, y, z)$  as follows. Namely when  $\omega(x) \leq y \leq \bar{\omega}(x)$ ,

$$g(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} f(x, y, M) & \text{for } z > M \\ f(x, y, z) & \text{for } -M \leq z \leq M \\ f(x, y, -M) & \text{for } z < -M, \end{cases}$$

$g(x, y, z) > g(x, \bar{\omega}(x), z)$  for  $y > \bar{\omega}(x)$  and  $g(x, y, z) < g(x, \underline{\omega}(x), z)$  for  $y < \underline{\omega}(x)$ . Then  $g(x, y, z)$  coincides with  $f(x, y, z)$  in  $\mathcal{A} [a \leq x \leq b, \underline{\omega}(x) \leq y \leq \bar{\omega}(x), -M \leq z \leq M]$  and becomes bounded<sup>3)</sup> continuous in  $[a \leq x \leq b, -\infty < y < \infty, -\infty < z < \infty]$ . Hence  $y'' = g(x, y, y')$  has at least a solution  $y = y(x) (a \leq x \leq b)$  such as  $y(a) = \psi(a)$  and  $y(b) = \psi(b)$ , and we see that this solution satisfies  $\underline{\omega}(x) \leq y(x) \leq \bar{\omega}(x)$ . Moreover considering the functions  $\Phi_i(x, y(x), y'(x))$  and  $\Psi_i(x, y(x), y'(x))$ , it will follow that there exist no points satisfying  $y'(x) \geq M$  or  $y'(x) \leq -M$ , by the properties of  $M$  and inequalities (10) and (11). Therefore  $|y'(x)| < M$  and so  $y = y(x)$  lying in  $\mathcal{A}$  is a solution of  $y'' = g = f$ .

Using this lemma and Theorem 1, we obtain the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $f(x, y, z)$  be a continuous function in the domain

$$(12) \quad R : 0 \leq x < \infty, 0 \leq y < \infty, -\infty < z \leq 0$$

and suppose that

$$(13) \quad f(x, 0, 0) \equiv 0 \text{ for } 0 \leq x < \infty$$

and that

$$(14) \quad f(x, y, 0) \geq 0 \text{ for } 0 \leq x < \infty, 0 \leq y < \infty.$$

Moreover suppose that for every  $C > 0$  there exist two functions  $\Phi(x, y, z) = \Phi_C(x, y, z)$  and  $\Psi(x, y, z) = \Psi_C(x, y, z)$  as follows; namely  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  are positive continuous and converge uniformly to zero for  $z \rightarrow -\infty$  in

$$(15) \quad R_C : 0 \leq x \leq C, 0 \leq y \leq C, z \leq -K$$

3) E. g., for  $y > \bar{\omega}(x)$

$$g(x, y, z) = g(x, \bar{\omega}(x), z) + \frac{y - \bar{\omega}(x)}{1 + y - \bar{\omega}(x)},$$

and for  $y < \underline{\omega}(x)$

$$g(x, y, z) = g(x, \underline{\omega}(x), z) - \frac{\underline{\omega}(x) - y}{1 + \underline{\omega}(x) - y}.$$

(constant  $K > 0$  may be arbitrarily great) and, in the interior of  $R_c$ , they have continuous first partial derivatives which satisfy

$$(16) \quad \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \geq 0$$

and

$$(17) \quad \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \leq 0$$

respectively.

Then for  $x_0 > 0$  and  $y_0 > 0$  (1) has at least a solution  $y=y(x)$  on  $0 \leq x \leq x_0$ , satisfying

$$(18) \quad y(0)=y_0 \text{ and } y(x_0)=0.$$

**Proof.** Let  $\underline{\omega}(x) \equiv 0$ ,  $\bar{\omega}(x) \equiv y_0$  and

$$f^*(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} f(x, y, z) & (-\infty < z \leq 0) \\ f(x, y, 0) & (0 < z < \infty). \end{cases}$$

Then  $f^*(x, y, z)$  becomes continuous in  $[0 \leq x \leq x_0, 0 \leq y \leq y_0, -\infty < z < +\infty]$ , and  $\underline{\omega}(x)$ ,  $\bar{\omega}(x)$  satisfy (7) and (8) respectively, for  $\underline{\omega}''(x)=0=f^*(x, \underline{\omega}(x), \underline{\omega}'(x))$  and  $\bar{\omega}''(x)=0 \leq f^*(x, y_0, 0)=f^*(x, \bar{\omega}(x), \bar{\omega}'(x))$ . Let  $\phi(x)=y_0\left(1-\frac{x}{x_0}\right)$  and then  $\phi(x)$  satisfies (9) clearly.

As  $\Phi_2$  and  $\Psi_2$  in Lemma 1, we use  $\Phi_c$  and  $\Psi_c$  corresponding to  $C$  respectively, where  $C=\max(x_0, y_0)$ . For  $z > 0$ , there is a positive number  $M$  such that, for  $0 \leq x \leq x_0, 0 \leq y \leq y_0, 0 \leq f(x, y, 0) \leq \frac{M}{2}$ , hence we have

$$(19) \quad 0 \leq f(x, y, 0) = f^*(x, y, z) \leq \frac{M}{2}(1+z^2) \quad (z > 0).$$

Hence putting

$$\Phi_1(x, y, z) = e^{y - \frac{1}{M} \log(1+z^2)} \quad (z \geq 0),$$

and

$$\Psi_1(x, y, z) = e^{-z} \quad (z \geq 0);$$

clearly  $\Phi_1$  and  $\Psi_1$  satisfy the conditions of Lemma 1. Therefore

$$(20) \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = f^*\left(x, y, \frac{dy}{dx}\right).$$

has at least a solution  $y=y(x)$  passing through  $(x=0, y=y_0)$  and  $(x=x_0, y=0)$ .

Now considering the function  $\phi(x, y, z) = z^2$ , it is continuous in the domain  $\mathcal{L}$  of Theorem 1,  $\phi > 0$  for  $z \neq 0$  and  $\phi = 0$  for  $z = 0$ , and finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} f^*(x, y, z) \\ = 2z \cdot f^*(x, y, z) \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

provided  $z > 0$ . Therefore if  $y'(x)$  is positive at a value of  $x$  say  $x = \xi$ , then by Theorem 1,  $y'(x) > 0$  for  $\xi < x \leq x_0$ ; but this contradicts with  $y(x_0) = 0$  since  $y(\xi) \geq 0$ . Hence  $y'(x) \leq 0$  for  $0 \leq x \leq x_0$  and so Theorem 2 is proved.

From this proof, we see that (13) and (14) are not essential conditions. It is the same with Theorem 3 mentioned below.<sup>4)</sup>

For Theorem 3, the following Lemmas are needed.

**Lemma 2.**<sup>5)</sup> Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a closed bounded domain in  $(x, y)$  plane and  $\mathcal{L}^*$  be the three-dimensional domain of  $(x, y, z)$  such that  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $|z| < \infty$ . Let  $f(x, y, z)$  be a continuous function in  $\mathcal{L}^*$ . Moreover we suppose that there exist two functions  $\phi_i(x, y, z)$  ( $i=1, 2$ ) as follows;  $\phi_1(x, y, z)$  is continuous in the domain  $[(x, y) \in \mathcal{L}, z \geq K]$  ( $K$ : constant) and has continuous first partial derivatives in the interior of the domain, and  $\phi_2(x, y, z)$  is the same in  $[(x, y) \in \mathcal{L}, z \leq -K]$ . These functions are always positive and converge uniformly to zero for  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $z \rightarrow \pm \infty$  and finally, in the interior of their respective domains, the following inequalities

$$\frac{\partial \phi_i}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \phi_i}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \phi_i}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \geq 0 \quad (i=1, 2)$$

hold.

Then for an arbitrary positive number  $a$ , there is another positive number  $\beta(a)$  such that for any solution  $y=y(x)$  of (1) with the initial conditions  $y(x_0) = y_0$  and  $|y'(x_0)| \leq a$ , where  $(x_0, y_0)$  is an arbitrary point in  $\mathcal{L}$ , the inequality  $|y'(x)| < \beta(a)$  always

4) We can modify the Theorems 1, 2, 3, 4 for more general regions of  $y$  and  $y'$ .

5) Okamura, "On  $y''=f(x, y, y')$ ", Functional Equations (in Japanese), Vol. 27 (1941), pp. 29-30.

holds, as long as  $y=y(x)$  lies in the interior of  $\mathcal{L}$  for  $x_0 \leq x$ .

If in place of  $\phi_i$ , there exist similar functions  $\Psi_i(x, y, z)$  ( $i=1, 2$ ) satisfying

$$\frac{\partial \Psi_i}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Psi_i}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \Psi_i}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \leq 0 \quad (i=1, 2),$$

then the above stated inequality holds for  $x_0 \geq x$ .

For consider  $\phi_i(x, y(x), y'(x))$  which is positive at  $x=x_0$  and non-decreasing with  $x$ , then the assumption that  $\beta(u)$  does not exist contradicts with  $\phi_i(x, y, y') \rightarrow 0$  for  $|y'| \rightarrow \infty$  and uniformly for  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{L}$ .

**Lemma 3.**<sup>6)</sup> Let  $\omega(x)$  and  $\bar{\omega}(x)$  be twice differentiable for  $a \leq x \leq b$  and  $\omega(a) > \bar{\omega}(a)$ . Suppose that the function  $f(x, y, z)$  satisfies the same conditions as in Lemma 2 and that there exist  $\phi_i(x, y, z)$  and  $\Psi_i(x, y, z)$  ( $i=1, 2$ ) as in Lemma 2.

Then there exists a positive number  $\gamma$  having the following properties; Every solution curve of (1) with the initial conditions  $\omega(a) \leq y(a) < \bar{\omega}(a)$  and  $y'(a) \geq \gamma$  meets the curve  $y=\bar{\omega}(x)$  for a value of  $x$  in  $a < x < b$ , and every solution curve with the initial conditions  $\omega(a) < y(a) \leq \bar{\omega}(a)$  and  $y'(a) \leq -\gamma$  meets the curve  $y=\omega(x)$  for a value of  $x$  in  $a < x < b$ .

Under the above preparations, we shall prove the following theorem which is an extension of Hartman and Wintner's theorem.

**Theorem 3.** Suppose that  $f(x, y, z)$  satisfies the same conditions as in Theorem 2. Then for every  $y_0 > 0$ , there exists at least a solution of (1) for  $0 \leq x < \infty$ , satisfying the initial condition

$$(21) \quad y(0) = y_0$$

and the inequalities

$$(22) \quad y(x) \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad y'(x) \leq 0.$$

**Proof.** Let  $y_0 > 0$  be fixed and  $y=y(x, x_0)$  be a solution of (1), for  $0 \leq x \leq x_0$ , satisfying (18). Its existence is evident from Theorem 2. We can suppose that  $y(x, x_0) > 0$  for  $0 \leq x \leq x_0$ , for if it be not so, the assertion is clear. Let  $x_0=n$  ( $n=1, 2, \dots$ ), then it follows

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6) Okamura, loc. cit., p. 30. C. f. Nagumo, "Über die Differentialgleichung  $y''=f(x, y, y')$ ," Proc. of Physico-Math. Soc. of Japan, ser 3, vol. 19 (1937), pp. 863-864.

from Lemma 2 and 3 that, for any integer  $k > 0$ , there exists a constant  $M > 0$  corresponding to  $k$  such that

$$0 \geq y'(x, n) \geq -M \text{ for } 0 \leq x \leq k \text{ and } n = k+1, k+2, \dots$$

Hence by equicontinuity,  $y(x, n_1), y(x, n_2), \dots$  tends to a desired solution of (1), if  $n_1, n_2, \dots$  are chosen suitably.

**Remark.** Hartman and Wintner's theorem<sup>7)</sup> is a special case of the above; for we may put

$$\Phi(x, y, z) = e^{-y - \int_0^z \frac{z/tz}{\phi(z)} dz} \quad (z \leq 0)$$

$$\Psi(x, y, z) = e^{y - \int_0^z \frac{z/tz}{\phi(z)} dz} \quad (z \leq 0),$$

e.g.,  $\Phi$  satisfies the conditions clearly, because

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \\ &= e^{-y - \int_0^z \frac{z/tz}{\phi(z)} dz} \left\{ -z - \frac{z}{\phi(z)} \cdot f(x, y, z) \right\} \\ &\geq e^{-y - \int_0^z \frac{z/tz}{\phi(z)} dz} \{-z + z\} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then concerning the solutions of (1) which satisfy (22) for  $0 \leq x < \infty$ , there arises a question, whether the limit relation

$$(23) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) = 0$$

is true or not. About it we have

**Theorem 4.** Let  $f(x, y, z)$  be a continuous function in  $R$ . Suppose that for every pair of constants  $0 < c < C$ , there exists a positive continuous function  $\phi(y, z)$  in  $R^*$  [ $c \leq y \leq C, z \leq -K$ ] ( $K$ : constant) with continuous first partial derivatives in the interior of  $R^*$ , converging uniformly to zero for  $c \leq y \leq C$  when  $z \rightarrow -\infty$  and satisfying, in the interior of  $[0 \leq x < \infty, c \leq y \leq C, z \leq -K]$ , the inequality

7) P. Hartman and A. Wintner, "On the non-increasing solutions of  $y''=f(x, y, y')$ ", American Journal of Math., Vol. 73 (1951), p. 391.



$$(24) \quad \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \geq 0.$$

Moreover suppose that, for every pair of constants  $0 < c' < C'$ , there exists a positive continuous function  $\Psi(x, y, z)$  in  $\bar{R}[\xi \leq x < \infty, c' \leq y \leq C', -C' \leq z \leq 0]$  ( $\xi$ : constant) such that it converges uniformly to zero for  $c' \leq y \leq C', -C' \leq z \leq 0$  when  $x \rightarrow \infty$  and that, in the interior of  $\bar{R}$  (including  $z=0$ ), has continuous first partial derivatives and satisfies

$$(25) \quad \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \geq 0.$$

Then for any solution  $y=y(x)$  of (1) on  $0 \leq x < \infty$  satisfying (22), the relation (23) is true.

**Proof.** For if otherwise, then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) = c > 0$  would hold for a certain solution  $y=y(x)$ . Hence if  $y(0) \leq C, c \leq y(x) \leq C$  for  $0 \leq x < \infty$ . Now we may consider  $y'(0) > -K$ , since  $K$  may be great. Choose  $N (> K > 0)$  such as

$$\min_{c \leq y \leq C} \phi(y, -K) > \max_{c \leq y \leq C} \phi(y, -N),$$

and then we shall have  $-N < y'(x) \leq 0$  for  $0 \leq x < \infty$ . Because if for a value of  $x$ , say  $x=\xi_1$ ,  $y'(\xi_1) \leq -N$  holds, by the continuity of  $y'(x)$ , there are  $\xi_2$  and  $\xi_3$  such that  $y'(\xi_2) = -K, y'(\xi_3) = -N$  and  $-K > y'(x) > -N$  for  $\xi_2 < x < \xi_3$ , and since we have  $\phi(y(\xi_2), y'(\xi_2)) = \phi(y(\xi_2), -K) > 0$  and  $\phi(y(x), y'(x))$  is non-decreasing with  $x$  by (24), it follows that  $\phi(y(\xi_2), -K) \leq \phi(y(\xi_2), -N)$  which contradicts with the choice of  $N$ .

Now choose  $0 < c' < c$  and  $C' > \max(y(0), N)$  and  $\Psi(x, y, z)$  corresponding to  $c'$  and  $C'$ . As  $\Psi(x, y(x), y'(x))$  is non-decreasing with  $x$  by (25) and  $\Psi(\xi, y(\xi), y'(\xi)) > 0$ , we have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \Psi(x, y(x), y'(x)) \geq \Psi(\xi, y(\xi), y'(\xi)) > 0.$$

This contradiction proves the theorem.

**Remark 1.**  $\Psi(x, y, z)$  can be replaced by  $\Psi^*(x, y, z)$  which is positive, tends to infinity ( $x \rightarrow \infty$ ) and satisfies, instead of (25),

$$\frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial y} \cdot z + \frac{\partial \Psi^*}{\partial z} \cdot f(x, y, z) \leq 0.$$

**Remark 2.** Rutting

$$\phi(y, z) = e^{-z^2} \quad (z \leq -K)$$

and

$$\Psi(x, y, z) = e^{-\int_0^x x^{\sigma(x)} dx - y + zz} \quad (0 \leq x < \infty, c' \leq y \leq C', -C' \leq z \leq 0),$$

we obtain Hartman and Wintner's theorem.<sup>8)</sup>

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8) Hartman and Wintner, loc. cit., p. 399.