

## Research Article

# Positive Solutions for Third-Order Boundary-Value Problems with the Integral Boundary Conditions and Dependence on the First-Order Derivatives

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By using a fixed point theorem in a cone and the nonlocal third-order BVP's Green function, the existence of at least one positive solution for the third-order boundary-value problem with the integral boundary conditions  $x'''(t) + f(t, x(t), x'(t)) = 0$ ,  $t \in J$ ,  $x(0) = 0$ ,  $x''(0) = 0$ , and  $x(1) = \int_0^1 g(t)x(t)dt$  is considered, where  $f$  is a nonnegative continuous function,  $J = [0, 1]$ , and  $g \in L[0, 1]$ . The emphasis here is that  $f$  depends on the first-order derivatives.

## 1. Introduction

Third-order boundary-value problems for differential equations play a very important role in a variety of different areas of applied mathematics and physics. Recently, third-order boundary-value problems have been many scholars' research object. For example, heat conduction, chemical engineering, underground water flow, thermoelasticity, and plasma physics can produce boundary-value problems with integral boundary conditions [1–3]. For more information about the general theory of integral equations and their relation with boundary-value problems, we refer readers to the books of Corduneanu [4] and Agarwal and O'Regan [5].

Moreover, boundary-value problems with integral boundary conditions constitute a very interesting and important class of problems. They include two, three, multipoint, and nonlocal boundary-value problems as special cases. Such kind of BVPs in Banach space has been studied by some researchers [6–8].

By the fixed point index theory in cones [9], Zhang et al. [10] investigated the multiplicity of positive solutions for a class of nonlinear boundary-value problems of fourth-order differential equations with integral boundary conditions in ordered Banach spaces. Feng et al. [11] investigated the existence and multiplicity of positive solutions for a class of nonlinear boundary-value problems of second-order

differential equations with integral boundary conditions in ordered Banach spaces. Guo et al. [12] investigated the existence of positive solutions for the third-order boundary-value problems with integral boundary conditions and dependence on the second derivatives. In [13], by using the fixed point theorem of cone expansion and compression of norm type, Zhang and Ge proved the existence and multiplicity of symmetric positive solutions for the fourth-order boundary-value problems with integral boundary conditions. By using Krasnoselskii's fixed point theorem, Wang et al. [14] investigated the existence and nonexistence of positive solutions for a class of fourth-order nonlinear differential equation with integral boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned}x^{(4)}(t) &= \omega(t) f(t, x(t), x''(t)), \quad 0 < t < 1, \\x(0) &= \int_0^1 h_1(s) x(s) ds, \\x(1) &= \int_0^1 k_1(s) x(s) ds, \\x''(0) &= \int_0^1 h_2(s) x''(s) ds, \\x''(1) &= \int_0^1 k_2(s) x''(s) ds,\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

where the arguments are based on Krasnoselskii’s fixed point theorem for operators on a cone.

However, Zhao et al. [15] investigated the following third-order boundary-value problem with integral boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} x'''(t) + f(t, x(t)) &= \theta, \quad t \in J, \\ x(0) = \theta, \quad x''(0) &= \theta, \\ x(1) &= \int_0^1 g(t) x(t) dt, \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

under the assumptions

- (1)  $J = [0, 1]$ , and  $\theta$  is the zero element of  $E$ ,
- (2)  $f : C([0, 1] \times P, P)$ , and  $g \in L[0, 1]$  is nonnegative,

where  $P$  is a cone in the real Banach  $E$ .

All the above works were done under the assumption that the first-order derivative  $x'$  is not involved explicitly in the nonlinear term  $f$ . In this paper, we are concerned with the existence of positive solutions for the third-order boundary-value problem with the integral boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} x'''(t) + f(t, x(t), x'(t)) &= 0, \quad t \in J, \\ x(0) = 0, \quad x''(0) &= 0, \\ x(1) &= \int_0^1 g(t) x(t) dt. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Throughout, we assume

- $(H_1)$   $J = [0, 1]$ ,  $f : [0, 1] \times R^2 \rightarrow R^+$  is continuous,  $g \in L[0, 1]$ ,  $g(t) \geq 0$ , and  $\sigma \in [0, 1]$ , where  $\sigma = \int_0^1 sg(s)ds$ .

To show the existence of positive solutions for (3), we define two positive continuous convex functionals. Then, by using the fixed point theorem [16] in a cone and the nonlocal third-order BVP’s Green function, we give some new criteria for the existence of positive solutions for (3).

## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $Y = C[0, 1]$  be the Banach space equipped with the norm  $\|x\|_0 = \max_{t \in [0, 1]} |x(t)|$ .

**Lemma 1** (see [15]). *Suppose  $(H_1)$  holds. Then for any  $y(t) \in C[0, 1]$ , the problem*

$$\begin{aligned} x'''(t) + y(t) &= 0, \quad t \in J, \\ x(0) = 0, \quad x''(0) &= 0, \\ x(1) &= \int_0^1 g(t) x(t) dt \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

has a unique solution

$$x(t) = \int_0^1 H(t, s) y(s) ds, \tag{5}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} H(t, s) &= G(t, s) + \frac{t}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau, s) g(\tau) d\tau, \\ G(t, s) &= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}t(1-s)^2 - \frac{1}{2}(t-s)^2, & 0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1, \\ \frac{1}{2}t(1-s)^2, & 0 \leq t \leq s \leq 1. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

**Lemma 2** (see [15]). *For  $t, s \in [0, 1]$ , one has  $0 \leq G(t, s) \leq \max_{0 \leq t, s \leq 1} G(t, s) \leq 1/8$ .*

*Remark 3.* When  $t, s \in (0, 1)$ , it is easy to check that  $G(t, s) > 0$ .

In addition, for  $0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1$ , the maximum of  $G(t, s)$  occurs at  $t = (1 + s^2)/2$ .

**Lemma 4** (see [15]). *Choose  $\delta \in (0, 1/2)$  and  $J_\delta = [\delta, 1 - \delta]$ ; then for all  $t \in J_\delta, v, s \in [0, 1]$ , one has*

$$G(t, s) \geq \rho G(v, s), \tag{7}$$

where  $\rho = 4\delta^2(1 - \delta)$ .

*Remark 5.* For  $0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1$ , denote  $G(t, s) = G_1(t, s)$ . Notice that  $G_1(t, s)$  is concave with respect to  $t$ ; we have

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{t \in J_\delta, 0 \leq s \leq t} G_1(t, s) &= \min \{G_1(\delta, s), G_1(1 - \delta, s)\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\delta^2(1 - \delta). \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

**Lemma 6** (see [15]). *Assume that  $(H_1)$  holds; then*

- (i)  $H(t, s) \leq (1/2)\gamma, t \in [0, 1]$ ,
- (ii)  $H(t, s) \geq \rho H(v, s), t \in J_\delta, v, s \in [0, 1]$ ,

where  $\gamma = (1 + \int_0^1 (1-s)g(s)ds)/(1 - \sigma)$ .

**Lemma 7.** *If  $y \in C[0, 1], y(t) \geq 0$ , then the unique solution  $x(t)$  of problem (4) satisfies*

$$\min_{t \in J_\delta} x(t) \geq \rho \|x\|_0. \tag{9}$$

*Proof.* By Lemmas 4 and 6 and (5), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{t \in J_\delta} x(t) &= \min_{t \in J_\delta} \int_0^1 H(t, s) y(s) ds \\ &\geq \rho \int_0^1 H(v, s) y(s) ds \\ &\geq \rho x(v). \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

For  $v \in [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\min_{t \in J_\delta} x(t) \geq \rho x(v). \tag{11}$$

So,

$$\min_{t \in J_\delta} x(t) \geq \rho \max_{v \in [0, 1]} x(v) = \rho \max_{v \in [0, 1]} |x(v)| = \rho \|x\|_0. \tag{12}$$

The proof is completed.  $\square$

Let  $X$  be a Banach space and  $K \subset X$  a cone. Suppose  $\alpha, \beta : X \rightarrow R^+$  are two continuous convex functionals satisfying  $\alpha(\lambda x) = |\lambda|\alpha(x), \beta(\lambda x) = |\lambda|\beta(x)$ , for  $x \in X, \lambda \in R, \|x\| \leq M \max\{\alpha(x), \beta(x)\}$ , for  $x \in X$ , and  $\alpha(x) \leq \alpha(y)$  for  $x, y \in K, x \leq y$ , where  $M > 0$  is a constant.

**Theorem 8** (see [16]). *Let  $r_2 > r_1 > 0, L > 0$  be constants and*

$$\Omega_i = \{x \in X : \alpha(x) < r_i, \beta(x) < L\}, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (13)$$

*two bounded open sets in  $X$ . Set*

$$D_i = \{x \in X : \alpha(x) = r_i\}, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (14)$$

*Assume  $T : K \rightarrow K$  is a completely continuous operator satisfying*

$$(A_1) \alpha(Tx) < r_1, x \in D_1 \cap K; \alpha(Tx) > r_2, x \in D_2 \cap K;$$

$$(A_2) \beta(Tx) < L, x \in K;$$

$$(A_3) \text{ there is a } p \in (\Omega_2 \cap K) \setminus \{0\} \text{ such that } \alpha(p) \neq 0 \text{ and } \alpha(x + \lambda p) \geq \alpha(x), \text{ for all } x \in K \text{ and } \lambda \geq 0.$$

*Then  $T$  has at least one fixed point in  $(\Omega_2 \setminus \overline{\Omega_1}) \cap K$ .*

### 3. Main Results

Let  $X = C^1[0, 1]$  be the Banach space equipped with the norm  $\|x\| = \max_{t \in [0,1]} |x(t)| + \max_{t \in [0,1]} |x'(t)|$ , and  $K = \{x \in X : x(t) \geq 0, \min_{t \in J_\delta} x(t) \geq \rho \|x\|_0\}$  is a cone in  $X$ .

Define two continuous convex functionals  $\alpha(x) = \max_{t \in [0,1]} |x(t)|$  and  $\beta(x) = \max_{t \in [0,1]} |x'(t)|$ , for each  $x \in X$ ; then  $\|x\| \leq 2 \max\{\alpha(x), \beta(x)\}$  and  $\alpha(\lambda x) = |\lambda|\alpha(x), \beta(\lambda x) = |\lambda|\beta(x)$ , for  $x \in X, \lambda \in R; \alpha(x) \leq \alpha(y)$  for  $x, y \in K, x \leq y$ .

In the following, we denote

$$\eta_0 = \frac{1}{8} + \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau, s) g(\tau) d\tau \right] ds, \quad (15)$$

$$\eta_1 = \max_{v \in [0,1]} \int_\delta^{1-\delta} H(v, s) ds,$$

$$\eta_2 = \frac{2}{3} + \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau, s) g(\tau) d\tau \right] ds.$$

We will suppose that there are  $L > b > \rho b > c > 0$  such that  $f(t, x, y)$  satisfies the following growth conditions:

$$(H_2) f(t, x, y) < c/\eta_0, \text{ for } (t, x, y) \in [0, 1] \times [0, c] \times [-L, L],$$

$$(H_3) f(t, x, y) \geq b/\rho\eta_1, \text{ for } (t, x, y) \in [\delta, 1-\delta] \times [\rho b, b] \times [-L, L],$$

$$(H_4) f(t, x, y) < L/\eta_2, \text{ for } (t, x, y) \in [0, 1] \times [0, b] \times [-L, L].$$

Let

$$f^*(t, x, y) = \begin{cases} f(t, x, y), & (t, x, y) \in [0, 1] \times [0, b] \times (-\infty, \infty), \\ f(t, b, y), & (t, x, y) \in [0, 1] \times (b, \infty) \times (-\infty, \infty), \end{cases}$$

$$f_1(t, x, y) = \begin{cases} f^*(t, x, y), & (t, x, y) \in [0, 1] \times [0, \infty) \times [-L, L], \\ f^*(t, x, -L), & (t, x, y) \in [0, 1] \times [0, \infty) \times (-\infty, -L], \\ f^*(t, x, L), & (t, x, y) \in [0, 1] \times [0, \infty) \times [L, \infty). \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

We denote

$$(Tx)(t) = \int_0^1 H(t, s) f_1(s, x, x') ds, \quad (17)$$

$$(Tx)'(t) = \int_0^1 \frac{\partial H(t, s)}{\partial t} f_1(s, x, x') ds.$$

**Lemma 9.** *Suppose  $(H_1)$  holds. Then  $T : K \rightarrow K$  is completely continuous.*

*Proof.* For  $x \in K$ , by Lemmas 2 and 4, it is obviously that  $Tx \geq 0$ .

By Lemma 7, we have

$$\min_{t \in J_\delta} Tx(t) \geq \rho \|Tx\|_0. \quad (18)$$

So, we can get  $T(K) \subset K$ .

In the following, we will show that  $T : K \rightarrow K$  is completely continuous.

At first we show that  $T : K \rightarrow K$  is continuous.

Let  $x_n, x^* \in K$ , it satisfies  $\|x_n - x^*\| \rightarrow 0, (n \rightarrow \infty)$ , and then there is a constant  $M_0 > 0$ , such that  $\max_{t \in [0,1]} \{|x_n(t)|, |x^*(t)|, |x'_n(t)|, |x'^*(t)|\} \leq M_0$ ; then

$$|(Tx_n)(t) - (Tx^*)(t)| = \left| \int_0^1 H(t, s) f_1(s, x_n, x'_n) ds - \int_0^1 H(t, s) f_1(s, x^*, x'^*) ds \right|$$

$$\leq \int_0^1 H(t, s) \left| f_1(s, x_n, x'_n) - f_1(s, x^*, x'^*) \right| ds,$$

$$|(Tx'_n)'(t) - (Tx^*)'(t)| = \left| \int_0^1 \frac{\partial H(t, s)}{\partial t} f_1(s, x, x'_n) ds - \int_0^1 \frac{\partial H(t, s)}{\partial t} f_1(s, x^*, x'^*) ds \right|$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \int_0^1 \left| \frac{\partial H(t,s)}{\partial t} \right| \left| f_1(s,x,x'_n) - f_1(s,x^*,x^{*'}) \right| ds \\ &< \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{1}{2}(1-s)^2 + (1-s) \right] \\ &\quad \times \left| f_1(s,x,x'_n) - f_1(s,x^*,x^{*'}) \right| ds \\ &\quad + \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s)g(\tau) d\tau \right] \\ &\quad \times \left| f_1(s,x,x'_n) - f_1(s,x^*,x^{*'}) \right| ds. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

By  $f$  which is uniformly continuous on  $[0, 1] \times [-M_0, M_0] \times [-M_0, M_0]$ , we get

$$\|Tx_n - Tx^*\| \rightarrow 0, \quad (n \rightarrow \infty). \tag{20}$$

Next we show that  $T : K \rightarrow K$  is compact.

Let  $B \subset K$  be bounded; then there is  $M > 0$ , such that  $\|x\| \leq M$ . For  $x \in B$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |(Tx)(t)| &= \left| \int_0^1 H(t,s) f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &\leq \int_0^1 \frac{1}{2} \gamma f_1(s,x,x') ds \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1 + \int_0^1 (1-s)g(s) ds}{1-\sigma} ds \times C^*, \end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

where  $C^* = \max\{|f_1(t,x,x')|; t \in [0, 1], x \in B\}$ .

Consider

$$\begin{aligned} |(Tx)'(t)| &= \left| \int_0^1 \frac{\partial H(t,s)}{\partial t} f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &= \left| \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{\partial G(t,s)}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s)g(\tau) d\tau \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &< \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{1}{2}(1-s)^2 + (1-s) \right] ds \\ &\quad + \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s)g(\tau) d\tau \right] ds \times C^* \\ &= \left[ \frac{2}{3} + \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s)g(\tau) d\tau \right] ds \right] \times C^*. \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

It is clear that  $T(B)$  is a bounded set in  $K$ , because  $H(t,s)$  is uniformly continuous on  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ , for  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta \in (0, \varepsilon)$ , such that  $|H(t_1,s) - H(t_2,s)| < \varepsilon$ , and for  $t_1, t_2 \in [0, 1], |t_1 - t_2| < \delta$ .

For  $x \in B$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} &|(Tx)(t_1) - (Tx)(t_2)| \\ &= \left| \int_0^1 H(t_1,s) f_1(s,x,x') ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_0^1 H(t_2,s) f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &\leq \int_0^1 |H(t_1,s) - H(t_2,s)| ds \times C^* \leq \varepsilon C^*, \\ &|(Tx)'(t_1) - (Tx)'(t_2)| \\ &= \left| \int_0^1 \frac{\partial H(t,s)}{\partial t} \Big|_{t=t_1} f_1(s,x,x') ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_0^1 \frac{\partial H(t,s)}{\partial t} \Big|_{t=t_2} f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &= \left| \int_0^1 \frac{\partial G(t,s)}{\partial t} \Big|_{t=t_1} f_1(s,x,x') ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_0^1 \frac{\partial G(t,s)}{\partial t} \Big|_{t=t_2} f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &= \left| \int_0^{t_1} (s-t_1) f_1(s,x,x') ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_0^{t_2} (t_2-s) f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} |(t_1-t_2)(t_1+t_2)| \times C^* \leq \varepsilon C^*. \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

Therefore  $T(B)$  is equicontinuous. Using the Arzela-Ascoli theorem, a standard proof yields  $T : K \rightarrow K$  which is completely continuous.  $\square$

**Theorem 10.** Suppose  $(H_1)$ – $(H_4)$  hold. Then BVP (3) has at least one positive solution  $x(t)$  satisfying

$$c < \alpha(x) < b, \quad \beta(x) < L. \tag{24}$$

*Proof.* Take

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_1 &= \{x \in X : |x(t)| < c, |x(t)'| < L\}, \\ \Omega_2 &= \{x \in X : |x(t)| < b, |x(t)'| < L\}, \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

two bounded open sets in  $X$ , and

$$D_1 = \{x \in X : \alpha(x) = c\}, \quad D_2 = \{x \in X : \alpha(x) = b\}. \tag{26}$$

By Lemma 9,  $T : K \rightarrow K$  is completely continuous, and there is a  $p \in (\Omega_2 \cap K) \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $\alpha(p) \neq 0$  and  $\alpha(x + \lambda p) \geq \alpha(x)$  for all  $u \in K$  and  $\lambda \geq 0$ .

By  $(H_2)$ , for  $x \in D_1 \cap K$  and  $\alpha(x) = c$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(Tx) &= \max_{t \in [0,1]} \left| \int_0^1 H(t,s) f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &= \max_{t \in [0,1]} \left| \int_0^1 \left[ G(t,s) + \frac{t}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s) g(\tau) d\tau \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &< \int_0^1 \left[ \max_{t \in [0,1]} G(t,s) + \frac{t}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s) g(\tau) d\tau \right] \\ &\quad \times f_1(s,x,x') ds \\ &< \left[ \int_0^1 \frac{1}{8} ds + \int_0^1 \left( \frac{t}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s) g(\tau) d\tau \right) ds \right] \\ &\quad \times \frac{c}{\eta_0} \\ &= \left[ \frac{1}{8} + \int_0^1 \left( \frac{t}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s) g(\tau) d\tau \right) ds \right] \\ &\quad \times \frac{c}{\eta_0} = c. \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

By Lemma 7, for  $x \in D_2 \cap K$  and  $\alpha(x) = b$ , there is  $x(t) \geq \rho\alpha(x) = \rho b, t \in J_\delta$ .  
So, by  $(H_3)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(Tx) &= \max_{t \in [0,1]} \left| \int_0^1 H(t,s) f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &> \int_\delta^{1-\delta} H(t,s) f_1(s,x,x') ds \\ &> \rho \int_\delta^{1-\delta} H(v,s) ds \times \frac{b}{\rho\eta_1}. \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

For  $v \in [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\alpha(Tx) > \rho \int_\delta^{1-\delta} H(v,s) ds \times \frac{b}{\rho\eta_1}. \tag{29}$$

So,

$$\alpha(Tx) > \rho \max_{v \in [0,1]} \int_\delta^{1-\delta} H(v,s) ds \times \frac{b}{\rho\eta_1} = b. \tag{30}$$

By  $(H_4)$ , for  $x \in K$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(Tx) &= \max_{t \in [0,1]} \left| \int_0^1 \frac{\partial H(t,s)}{\partial t} f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &< \left| \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{\partial G(t,s)}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s) g(\tau) d\tau \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \left| \int_0^t \left( \frac{1}{2}(1-s)^2 - (t-s) \right) f_1(s,x,x') ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_t^1 \frac{1}{2}(1-s)^2 f_1(s,x,x') ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s) g(\tau) d\tau \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times f_1(s,x,x') ds \right| \\ &< \left[ \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1}{2}(1-s)^2 + (1-s) \right) ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s) g(\tau) d\tau \right) ds \right] \times \frac{L}{\eta_2} \\ &= \left[ \frac{2}{3} + \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \int_0^1 G(\tau,s) g(\tau) d\tau \right) ds \right] \\ &\quad \times \frac{L}{\eta_2} = L. \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

Theorem 8 implies there is  $x \in (\Omega_2 \setminus \bar{\Omega}_1) \cap K$  such that  $x = Tx$ . So,  $x(t)$  is a positive solution for BVP (3) satisfying

$$c < \alpha(x) < b, \quad \beta(x) < L. \tag{32}$$

Thus, Theorem 10 is completed.  $\square$

### 4. Example

*Example 1.* Consider the following boundary-value problem

$$\begin{aligned} x'''(t) + f(t,x(t),x'(t)) &= 0, \quad 0 < t < 1, \\ x(0) = 0, \quad x''(0) &= 0, \\ x(1) &= \int_0^1 x(t) dt, \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

where

$$f(t,x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{t}{3}x + 2x + |\cos y|, & (t,x,y) \in [0,1] \times [0,0.5] \times [-3667,3667], \\ \frac{109t}{3}(x-0.5) + 25742(x-0.5) + \frac{t}{6} + 1 + |\cos y|, & (t,x,y) \in [0,1] \times [0.5,0.6] \times [-3667,3667], \\ \frac{t}{3}(11-x) + 222(x+11) + |\cos y|, & (t,x,y) \in [0,1] \times [0.6,11] \times [-3667,3667]. \end{cases} \tag{34}$$

In this problem, we know that  $g(t) = 1$ ; then we can get  $\sigma = \int_0^1 sg(s)ds = 1/2$ . Choose  $\delta = 1/8 \in (0, 1/2)$ ; then  $\rho = 4\delta^2(1-\delta) = 7/128$ .

Furthermore, we obtain

$$\eta_0 = \frac{5}{24}, \quad \rho\eta_1 = \frac{35}{8192}, \quad \eta_2 = \frac{3}{4}. \quad (35)$$

If we take  $c = 0.5$ ,  $b = 11$ , and  $L = 3667$ , then we get  $\rho b \approx 0.601 > 0.6$ :

$$f(t, x, y) = \frac{t}{3}x + 2x + |\cos y| \leq 2.17 < \frac{c}{\eta_0} \approx 2.4, \quad (36)$$

for  $(t, x, y) \in [0, 1] \times [0, 0.5] \times [-3667, 3667]$ ,

$$f(t, x, y) = \frac{t}{3}(11 - x) + 222(x + 11) + |\cos y| \geq 2575.2 > \frac{b}{\rho\eta_1} \approx 2574.1, \quad (37)$$

for  $(t, x, y) \in [\delta, 1 - \delta] \times [\delta b, 11] \times [-3667, 3667]$ ,

$$f(t, x, y) \leq 4888.8 < \frac{L}{\eta_2} \approx 4889.3, \quad (38)$$

for  $(t, x, y) \in [0, 1] \times [0, 11] \times [-3667, 3667]$ .

Then all the conditions of Theorem 10 are satisfied. Therefore, by Theorem 10 we know that boundary-value problem (33) has at least one positive solution  $x(t)$  satisfying

$$0.5 < \alpha(x) < 11, \quad \beta(x) < 3667. \quad (39)$$

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