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# Nonlinear Spectrum and Fixed Point Index for a Class of Decomposable Operators

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**Abstract:** We study a class of nonlinear operators that can be written as the composition of a linear operator and a nonlinear map. We obtain results on fixed point index based on parameters that are related to the definitions of nonlinear spectra. As a particular case, existence of positive solutions for a second-order differential equation with separated boundary conditions is proved. The result also provides a spectral interval for the corresponding Hammerstein integral operator.

**Keywords:** boundary value problem; cone; fixed point index; nonlinear spectrum; stably-solvable map

**MSC:** 47H10; 34B10



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## 1. Introduction

Nonlinear spectral theory has been shown to have applications in the study of existence of solutions for operator equations, particularly in integral equations [1,2]. On the other hand, fixed point index is well known as a popular technique to prove existence and multiplicity of positive solutions for Boundary Value Problems (BVPs). For example, a common method in studying differential equations with various boundary conditions is to convert the problem to an integral equation using the Green's function, then apply a fixed point theorem. Usually, the integral equation can be written as composition of a bounded linear operator and a nonlinear map.

In this paper, we are interested in operators in the form  $LF : P \rightarrow P \subset E$ , where  $L$  is a linear operator,  $F$  is a nonlinear map, and  $P$  is an order cone of the Banach space  $E$ . We obtain results on fixed point index of the nonlinear operator  $LF$  based on parameters that are related to the nonlinear spectra. We also extend the continuation principle for stably-solvable maps to the operator  $LF$  on a cone. The stably-solvable property is a key concept in the definition of nonlinear spectra [3,4]. As a particular case, we prove existence of positive solutions for a second-order differential equation with separated boundary conditions [5] and thus obtain a spectral interval for the Hammerstein integral operator.

Let  $E, F$  be Banach spaces and  $f : E \rightarrow F$  be a continuous nonlinear map. The Furi–Martelli–Vignoli-spectrum (fmv-spectrum) [3,4] is defined by two parameters  $d(f), \omega(f)$  and the stably-solvable property. Later, the Feng-spectrum [1,6] was introduced with the parameters  $\omega(f), \nu(f)$  and  $m(f)$ . It is shown that the Feng-spectrum ( $\sigma_F(f)$ ) contains all eigenvalues of the operator  $f$ .

We briefly review definitions of the related parameters. Let  $\alpha(\Omega)$  denote the Measure of Noncompactness of  $\Omega \subset E$  [1]. Then,

$$\alpha(f) = \inf\{k \geq 0 : \alpha(f(\Omega)) \leq k\alpha(\Omega) \text{ for every bounded } \Omega \subset E\},$$

$$\omega(f) = \sup\{k \geq 0; \alpha(f(\Omega)) \geq k\alpha(\Omega) \text{ for every bounded } \Omega \subset E\},$$

$$m(f) = \sup\{k \geq 0 : \|f(x)\| \geq k\|x\| \text{ for all } x \in E\},$$

$$d(f) = \liminf_{\|x\| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|f(x)\|}{\|x\|}, \quad |f| = \limsup_{\|x\| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|f(x)\|}{\|x\|},$$

where  $|f|$  is called the quasinorm of  $f$ .

**Definition 1.** The nonlinear map  $f : E \rightarrow F$  is stably-solvable if and only if given any compact map  $h : E \rightarrow F$  with  $|h| = 0$ , the equation

$$f(x) = h(x)$$

has a solution in  $E$ .

Next, an order cone of Banach space introduces a partial order for the space so that positive solutions can be studied.

**Definition 2.** Let  $E$  be a Banach space,  $P$  is a subset of  $E$ .  $P$  is called an order cone iff:

- (i)  $P$  is closed, nonempty, and  $P \neq \{0\}$ ;
- (ii)  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}, a, b \geq 0, x, y \in P \Rightarrow ax + by \in P$ ;
- (iii)  $x \in P$  and  $-x \in P \Rightarrow x = 0$ .

Let  $P$  be an order cone of the Banach space  $E$ . For  $r > 0$ , denote  $P_r = \{u \in P, \|u\| < r\}$ , and  $\partial P_r = \{u \in P, \|u\| = r\}$ .

The following two lemmas on fixed point index [7] have been applied to prove existence of solutions for boundary value problems [8] and many other applications [7,9].

**Lemma 1.** Let  $N : P \rightarrow P$  be a completely continuous mapping. If

$$Nu \neq \mu u, \text{ for all } u \in \partial P_r, \text{ and all } \mu \geq 1,$$

then the fixed point index  $i(N, P_r, P) = 1$ .

**Lemma 2.** let  $N : P \rightarrow P$  be a completely continuous mapping and satisfy  $Nu \neq u$  for  $u \in \partial P_r$ . If  $\|Nu\| \geq \|u\|$ , for  $u \in \partial P_r$ , then the fixed point index  $i(N, P_r, P) = 0$ .

## 2. Stably-Solvable Maps and Fixed Point Index

Let  $E$  be a Banach space and  $P \subset E$  be an order cone. We consider the linear homeomorphism  $L : E \rightarrow E$ . It is known that [4,6]

$$m(L) \geq \frac{1}{\|L^{-1}\|}, \quad \omega(L) \geq \frac{1}{\|L^{-1}\|}, \quad d(L) = \frac{1}{\|L^{-1}\|}.$$

Let  $F : P \rightarrow P$  be a nonlinear map. We use the following notations,

$$d(F)_P = \liminf_{x \in P, x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|F(x)\|}{\|x\|}, \quad |F|_P = \limsup_{x \in P, x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|F(x)\|}{\|x\|},$$

$$d(F)_0 = \liminf_{x \in P, x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\|F(x)\|}{\|x\|}, \quad |F|_0 = \limsup_{x \in P, x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\|F(x)\|}{\|x\|}.$$

The stably-solvable maps on a cone  $P \subset E$  are defined below.

**Definition 3.** The nonlinear map  $F : P \rightarrow P$  is stably-solvable on the cone  $P$  if and only if given any compact map  $h : P \rightarrow P$  with  $|h|_P = 0$ , the equation

$$f(x) = h(x)$$

has a solution  $x \in P$ .

The following theorem is an extension of the continuation principle for stably-solvable maps to the class of decomposable operators  $LF : P \rightarrow P$ .

**Theorem 1.** If  $F : P \rightarrow P$  is stably-solvable on the cone  $P$  and  $L : P \rightarrow P$  is bijective.

- (1)  $LF$  is also stably-solvable on  $P$ .
- (2) Assume that  $h : P \times [0, 1] \rightarrow P$  is compact such that  $h(x, 0) = 0$  for all  $x \in P$ . Let

$$S = \{x \in P : LF(x) = h(x, t) \text{ for some } t \in [0, 1]\}.$$

If  $F(S)$  is bounded, then the equation

$$LF(x) = h(x, 1)$$

has a solution  $x \in P$ .

**Proof.** (1) If  $h : P \rightarrow P$  is a compact operator with  $|h|_P = 0$ . Then,  $L^{-1}h : P \rightarrow P$  is compact and  $|L^{-1}h|_P \leq \|L\||h|_P = 0$ . Therefore, the equation

$$F(x) = L^{-1}h(x)$$

has a solution  $x \in P$ . Thus  $LF(x) = h(x)$  has a solution. By definition,  $LF$  is stably-solvable on  $P$ .

- (2) Consider the operator  $L^{-1}h : P \times [0, 1] \rightarrow P$ .  $L^{-1}h$  is compact and  $L^{-1}h(x, 0) = 0$ . Let

$$S = \{x \in P : F(x) = L^{-1}h(x, t) \text{ for some } t \in [0, 1]\}.$$

As  $F$  is stably-solvable on  $P$ ,  $S = \{x \in P : LF(x) = h(x, t) \text{ for some } t \in [0, 1]\}$ , and  $F(S)$  is bounded by assumption (2), the equation  $F(x) = L^{-1}h(x, 1)$  has a solution  $x \in P$ . Thus  $LF(x) = h(x, 1)$  has a solution.  $\square$

Our next result is on the fixed point index of the nonlinear operator  $LF$  based on the parameters such as  $|F|_P$  and  $d(F)_P$  that are related to the definition of the fmν-spectrum [4].

**Theorem 2.** Assume that  $L : E \rightarrow E$  is a linear homeomorphism and  $F : P \rightarrow P$  is a nonlinear map such that the composition  $LF : P \rightarrow P$  is completely continuous.

- (1) If  $|F|_P < d(L^{-1})$ , then there exists  $R_1 > 0$  such that for all  $R > R_1$ ,  $i(LF, P_R, P) = 1$ .
- (2) If  $|F|_0 < d(L^{-1})$ , then there exists  $r_1 > 0$  such that for all  $r < r_1$ ,  $i(LF, P_r, P) = 1$ .
- (3) If  $d(F)_P d(L) > 1$ , then there exists  $R_2 > 0$  such that for all  $R > R_2$ ,  $i(LF, P_R, P) = 0$ .
- (4) If  $d(F)_0 d(L) > 1$ , then there exists  $r_2 > 0$  such that for all  $r < r_2$ ,  $i(LF, P_r, P) = 0$ .

**Proof.** Define

$$O_1 = \{x \in P : LF(x) = \mu x, \mu \geq 1\},$$

and

$$O_2 = \{x \in P : \|F(x)\| \leq \|L^{-1}\| \|x\|\}.$$

We prove that under condition (1),  $O_1$  is bounded. Condition (2) ensures that  $O_1$  is bounded below. Thus, there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that for  $u \in E$ ,  $\|u\| < \delta$ , then  $u \notin O_1$ . Similarly, under condition (3),  $O_2$  is bounded. Condition (4) implies  $O_2$  is bounded below.

We only prove (1) and (4). (2) and (3) can be proved following the similar ideas.

Under condition (1), assume  $O_1$  is unbounded. Then, there exist  $x_n \in O_1$  such that  $\|x_n\| \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

$$\|L\| \|F(x_n)\| \geq \|LF(x_n)\| = \|\mu_n x_n\| \geq \|x_n\|. \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{\|F(x_n)\|}{\|x_n\|} \geq \frac{1}{\|L\|}. \tag{2}$$

Therefore,  $|F|_P = \limsup_{x \in P, \|x\| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|F(x)\|}{\|x\|} \geq \frac{1}{\|L\|}$ . This contradicts the condition  $|F|_P < d(L^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\|L\|}$ .

On the other hand, if condition (4) holds, assume there exists  $x_n \in O_2$  such that  $\|x_n\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . We have

$$\frac{\|F(x_n)\|}{\|x_n\|} \leq \|L^{-1}\|.$$

Thus,

$$d(F)_0 = \liminf_{x \in P, \|x\| \rightarrow 0} \frac{\|F(x)\|}{\|x\|} \leq \|L^{-1}\| = \frac{1}{d(L)}.$$

This contradicts the assumption  $d(F)_0 d(L) > 1$ .

Next, if  $O_1$  is bounded, we can select  $R$  large enough such that

$$LFx \neq \mu x, \text{ for all } x \in \partial P_R, \text{ and all } \mu \geq 1.$$

By Lemma 1, we have  $i(LF, P_R, P) = 1$ .

On the other hand, if  $O_1$  is bounded below, we can select  $r$  small enough such that

$$LFx \neq \mu x, \text{ for all } x \in \partial P_r, \text{ and all } \mu \geq 1.$$

Again by Lemma 1, we have  $i(LF, P_r, P) = 1$ .

If  $O_2$  is bounded, we can select  $R$  large enough such that  $\|F(x)\| > \|L^{-1}\| \|x\|$  for  $x \in \partial P_R$ . Then,  $LF(x) \neq x$  for all  $x \in \partial P_R$ . Otherwise, if there exists  $x_0 \in \partial P_R$  such that  $LF(x_0) = x_0$ , we would get the contradiction  $F(x_0) = L^{-1}(x_0)$  and  $\|F(x_0)\| = \|L^{-1}(x_0)\| \leq \|L^{-1}\| \|x_0\|$ . Next,

$$\|LFx\| \geq \frac{1}{\|L^{-1}\|} \|F(x)\| \geq \|x\|, \text{ for all } x \in \partial P_R.$$

By Lemma 2, we have  $i(LF, P_R, P) = 0$

Similarly, if  $O_2$  is bounded below, we can select  $r$  small enough such that

$$\|LFx\| \geq \|x\|, \text{ for all } x \in \partial P_r.$$

By Lemma 2, we have  $i(LF, P_r, P) = 0$

The proof is complete.  $\square$

Theorem 2 can be used to prove existence of positive solutions for nonlinear operator equations involving a parameter.

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $L$  and  $F$  be defined as Theorem 2. Assume that*

$$d(F)_0 > \|L^{-1}\| \text{ and } |F|_P < \frac{1}{\|L\|}.$$

*Then, the operator equation  $\lambda LF(x) = x$  has a positive solution  $x \in P$  for  $1 \leq \lambda < \frac{d(L^{-1})}{|F|_P}$ .*

**Proof.** The condition  $d(F)_0 > \|L^{-1}\|$  implies  $d(F)_0 d(L) > 1$  and  $|F|_P < \frac{1}{\|L\|}$  ensures  $\frac{d(L^{-1})}{|F|_P} > 1$ . For  $\lambda \geq 1$ , we have  $d(F)_0 d(\lambda L) = \lambda d(F)_0 d(L) \geq d(F)_0 d(L) > 1$ . By Theorem 2 (4), there exists  $r > 0$  small enough such that  $i(\lambda LF, P_r, P) = 0$ . On the other side, if  $\lambda < \frac{d(L^{-1})}{|F|_P}$ , then  $|F|_P < \frac{d(L^{-1})}{\lambda} = d((\lambda L)^{-1})$ . By Theorem 2 (1), there exists  $R > 0$  large enough such that  $i(\lambda LF, P_R, P) = 1$ . Therefore, there exists a fixed point  $\lambda LF(x) = x, x \in \Omega_R \setminus \overline{\Omega}_r$ , where  $\Omega_R = \{x : x \in P, \|x\| < R\}$ .  $\square$

As the Feng-spectrum contains all eigenvalues and it is closed [6], the following result on spectral interval follows from Theorem 3.

**Corollary 1.** *Under the conditions of Theorem 3, the nonlinear operator  $LF$  has the spectral interval*

$$[\|L\||F|_P, 1] \subset \sigma_F(LF).$$

### 3. Positive Solutions and Spectral Interval for BVPs

In this section, we study the following second-order differential equation with separated boundary conditions:

$$u''(t) + \lambda f(t, u(t)) = 0, \quad t \in [0, 1], \tag{3}$$

$$\theta u(0) - \alpha u'(0) = 0, \tag{4}$$

$$\gamma u(1) + \beta u'(1) = 0, \tag{5}$$

where  $\theta, \alpha, \beta > 0, \gamma \geq 0, \lambda > 0$ , and  $f : [0, 1] \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  is continuous and non-negative. When  $\lambda = 1$ , problem (3)–(5) was studied in [9] under the conditions that  $\alpha > 0, \beta > 0$  and  $\theta\gamma + \theta\beta + \alpha\gamma > 0$ . Conditions (4) and (5) are an extension of the boundary conditions  $\alpha u(0) - \beta u'(0) = 0, u'(1) = 0$  studied in [10], and a special case of the non-local boundary value problem involving linear functionals  $au(0) - bu'(0) = \alpha[u], u'(1) = \beta[u]$  [5,11,12]. Equation (5) can also be seen as the limiting case of the basic three-point boundary value problem [13],  $\sigma u'(1) + u(\eta) = 0$ , as  $\eta \rightarrow 1^-$ . It is known that the three-point boundary value problem can be explained as a model of a thermostat with a temperature controller [13–15].

In the following, we prove existence of positive solutions of BVP (3)–(5) using Lemmas 1 and 2 and obtain a spectral interval for the corresponding Hammerstein integral operator that can be written as the composition of a linear operator  $L$  and a nonlinear map  $F$ .

Notice that existence of a solution for (3)–(5) is equivalent to the existence of a fixed point for the following Hammerstein operator [5]:

$$N(\lambda, u)(t) = \lambda \int_0^1 G(t, s)f(s, u(s))ds, \tag{6}$$

where the Green’s function

$$G(t, s) = \begin{cases} \frac{(\alpha + \theta s)(\gamma + \beta - \gamma t)}{\theta(\gamma + \beta) + \alpha\gamma} & 0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1, \\ \frac{(\alpha + \theta t)(\gamma + \beta - \gamma s)}{\theta(\gamma + \beta) + \alpha\gamma} & 0 \leq t \leq s \leq 1. \end{cases} \tag{7}$$

Let  $C[0, 1]$  denote a Banach space of continuous functions with the norm

$$\|u\| = \max\{|u(t)| : t \in [0, 1]\}.$$

We use the cone  $P$  with parameter  $0 < c_0 < 1$ :

$$P = \{u \in C[0, 1] : u(t) \geq c_0\|u\|, \text{ for } t \in [0, 1]\},$$

$$c_0 = \begin{cases} \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \theta}, & \text{if } \gamma = 0, \\ \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \theta}, & \text{if } \gamma \neq 0, \frac{\beta}{\gamma} - \frac{\alpha}{\theta} \geq 1, \\ \frac{\beta}{\beta + \gamma}, & \text{if } \gamma \neq 0, \frac{\beta}{\gamma} - \frac{\alpha}{\theta} \leq -1, \\ \frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha + \theta)(\gamma + \beta)}, & \text{if } \gamma \neq 0, -1 < \frac{\beta}{\gamma} - \frac{\alpha}{\theta} < 1. \end{cases} \tag{8}$$

Define the operators  $L$  and  $F: C[0, 1] \rightarrow C[0, 1]$ :

$$(Lu)(t) = \int_0^1 G(t, s)u(s)ds, \quad (Fu)(t) = f(t, u(t)), \quad u \in C[0, 1]. \tag{9}$$

Then,  $N(\lambda, u) = \lambda(LF)(u)$ . Note that the linear operator  $L$  is not a homeomorphism on the space  $C[0, 1]$ . However, we will show that  $L : P \rightarrow P$  and is injective on  $P$ . Following Lemma 2.1 of [5], we know that the Green’s function  $G$  satisfies the strong positivity condition [9]:

$$c_0G(s, s) \leq G(t, s) \leq G(s, s), \text{ for } 0 \leq t, s \leq 1. \tag{10}$$

For  $\forall u \in P$ , (10) ensures that

$$\begin{aligned} c_0\|N(\lambda, u)\| &\leq c_0 \int_0^1 \lambda G(s, s)f(s, u(s))ds \\ &\leq \int_0^1 \lambda G(t, s)f(s, u(s))ds = N(\lambda, u). \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

Therefore,  $N(\lambda, P) \subset P$ .

We first prove a property of the linear operator  $L$  that is related to the so-called  $u_0$ -positive linear operator on a cone [16], that later was generalized to  $u_0$ -positive linear operator relative to a pair of cones [9,17]. The following lemma shows that  $L$  actually satisfies stronger conditions than the requirements of  $u_0$ -positive linear operators.

**Lemma 3.** Let  $L$  be defined by (9). Then  $L : P \rightarrow P$  is completely continuous and satisfies

$$k_1u(1) \leq Lu \leq k_2u(1), \text{ for any } u \in P, \tag{12}$$

for some  $k_1, k_2 > 0$ .

**Proof.** For  $\forall u \in P$ , by property (10), we have

$$c_0\|Lu\| \leq c_0 \int_0^1 G(s,s)u(s)ds \leq \int_0^1 G(t,s)u(s)ds = Lu,$$

So  $L(P) \subset P$ . Moreover,

$$c_0u(1) \leq c_0\|u\| \leq u(t) \leq \|u\| \leq \frac{u(1)}{c_0}, \quad t \in [0,1].$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \left(c_0^2 \int_0^1 G(s,s)ds\right)u(1) &= \int_0^1 c_0G(s,s)c_0u(1)ds \\ &\leq \int_0^1 G(t,s)c_0\|u\|ds \leq \int_0^1 G(t,s)u(s)ds \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 G(t,s)u(s)ds &\leq \int_0^1 G(t,s)\|u\|ds \\ &\leq \int_0^1 G(t,s)\frac{u(1)}{c_0}ds \leq \left(\frac{1}{c_0} \int_0^1 G(s,s)ds\right)u(1). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $k_1 = c_0^2 \int_0^1 G(s,s)ds, k_2 = \frac{1}{c_0} \int_0^1 G(s,s)ds$ , then

$$k_1u(1) \leq Lu \leq k_2u(1).$$

Applying the Ascoli-Arzela theorem, we can prove that  $L$  is completely continuous.  $\square$

**Remark 1.** The constants  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  (12) can be calculated using (7) and (8).

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 G(s,s)ds &= \frac{\frac{1}{6}\theta\gamma + \frac{1}{2}\theta\beta + \frac{1}{2}\alpha\gamma + \alpha\beta}{(\theta\gamma + \theta\beta + \alpha\gamma)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3\alpha\beta - \theta\gamma}{3(\theta\gamma + \theta\beta + \alpha\gamma)} \\ &\begin{cases} = \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } \theta\gamma = 3\alpha\beta, \\ < \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } \theta\gamma > 3\alpha\beta, \\ > \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } \theta\gamma < 3\alpha\beta. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

As

$$k_1 = c_0^2 \int_0^1 G(s,s)ds, \quad k_2 = \frac{1}{c_0} \int_0^1 G(s,s)ds,$$

$k_1 > \frac{c_0^2}{2}$  if  $\theta\gamma < 3\alpha\beta$  and  $k_2 < \frac{1}{2c_0}$  if  $\theta\gamma > 3\alpha\beta$ . If  $\theta\gamma = 3\alpha\beta$ , then  $k_1 = \frac{c_0^2}{2}$  and  $k_2 = \frac{1}{2c_0}$ . In the special case,  $\alpha = \theta$  and  $\gamma = \beta$ , we can calculate that  $k_1 = \frac{13}{288}$  and  $k_2 = \frac{26}{9}$  for the boundary conditions  $u(0) - u'(0) = 0, u(1) + u'(1) = 0$ .

Next, property (12) ensures that

$$c_0k_1\|u\| \leq Lu \leq k_2\|u\|, \text{ for any } u \in P. \tag{13}$$

For  $u \in P$ , if  $L(u) = 0$ , then  $u = 0$ . Therefore,  $L$  is injective on  $P$ . The spectral radius of  $L$ ,  $r(L) > 0$  [9]. We now prove existence of a positive solution for problem (3)–(5) which implies a spectral interval for the operator  $LF$ . The proof follows similar ideas as that of [8].

**Theorem 4.** Assume that  $f(t, x) > 0$  for  $x > 0$ . Denote

$$d(f) = \liminf_{x \rightarrow \infty} \min_{t \in [0,1]} \frac{f(t, x)}{x}, \quad |f|_0 = \limsup_{x \rightarrow 0} \max_{t \in [0,1]} \frac{f(t, x)}{x}.$$

If  $d(f) = \infty, 0 < |f|_0 < \infty$ , then BVP (3) has at least one positive solution for  $\lambda \in \left(0, \frac{1}{|f|_0 r(L)}\right)$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\lambda < \frac{1}{|f|_0 r(L)}$ . Select  $\epsilon > 0$  small enough such that  $\lambda(|f|_0 + \epsilon)r(L) < 1$ . Assume  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\frac{f(t,x)}{x} < |f|_0 + \epsilon$  for  $x \in (0, 2\delta)$ . Therefore, we have  $N(\lambda, u) \neq \mu u$  for  $u \in \partial P_\delta$ , and  $\mu \geq 1$ . Otherwise, there exist  $u_0 \in \partial P_\delta$  and  $\mu_0 \geq 1$  such that  $N(\lambda, u_0) = \mu_0 u_0$ . Then

$$\mu_0 u_0(t) = N(\lambda, u_0)(t) \leq \lambda(|f|_0 + \epsilon) \int_0^1 G(t, s) u_0(s) ds = \lambda(|f|_0 + \epsilon) Lu_0(t).$$

Thus  $Lu_0(t) \geq \frac{\mu_0}{\lambda(|f|_0 + \epsilon)} u_0(t)$ , this implies  $r(L) \geq \frac{\mu_0}{\lambda(|f|_0 + \epsilon)}$ . As  $\lambda(|f|_0 + \epsilon)r(L) < 1$ , we have a contradiction. By Lemma 1,  $i(N, P_\delta, P) = 1$ .

On the other hand, select  $M$  large enough such that

$$\lambda M c_0 \int_0^1 G(1, s) ds > 1.$$

As  $d(f) = \infty$ , there exists  $M_1 > 0$ , such that  $\frac{f(t,x)}{x} > M$  for  $x > M_1$ . We take  $M_1 > \max\{c_0, 2\delta\}$  and let  $R = \frac{M_1}{c_0}$ . For  $u \in \partial P_R$ , we have

$$u(t) \geq c_0\|u\| = M_1 \text{ for } t \in [0, 1].$$

Therefore,

$$\|N(\lambda, u)\| \geq \lambda \int_0^1 G(1, s) f(s, u(s)) ds \geq \lambda M c_0 \|u\| \int_0^1 G(1, s) ds > \|u\|.$$

By Lemma 2,  $i(N, P_R, P) = 0$ . From the property of fixed point index,

$$i(N, P_R \setminus \bar{P}_\delta, P) = i(N, P_R, P) - i(N, P_\delta, P) = -1$$

Therefore,  $N$  has a fixed point in  $P_R \setminus P_\delta$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.** Theorem 4 implies that the decomposable nonlinear operator  $LF$  has a spectral interval  $[|f|_0 r(L), \infty) \subset \sigma_F(LF)$  and the spectral radius  $r(LF) = \infty$  [6].

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