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Periodic solutions for discontinuous perturbations of the relativistic operator



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ABSTRACT

In this paper we study the existence and multiplicity of periodic solutions for discontinuous perturbations of the operator $u \mapsto \left(\frac{u'}{\sqrt{1-|u'|^2}} \right)'$. The results are obtained by reduction to an equivalent non-singular problem and using the non-smooth critical point theory. Some illustrative examples concerning Filippov type solutions are also provided.

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1. Introduction

In this paper we deal with differential inclusions systems of type

$$-(\varphi(u'))' \in \partial F(t, u), \quad u(0) - u(T) = 0 = u'(0) - u'(T), \tag{1.1}$$

where φ is defined by

$$\varphi(y) = \frac{y}{\sqrt{1 - |y|^2}} \quad (y \in B(1)) \tag{1.2}$$

and the mapping $F : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is assumed to satisfy the hypothesis:

- (H_F) (i) $F(\cdot, x) : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is measurable for every $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and $F(\cdot, 0) = 0$;
- (ii) there exists $\alpha \in L^1([0, T]; \mathbb{R})$ such that for all $t \in [0, T]$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^N$, it holds

$$|F(t, x) - F(t, y)| \leq \alpha(t)|x - y|.$$

Here and below, $|\cdot|$ stands for the Euclidean norm on \mathbb{R}^N , $B(\sigma) \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ denotes the open ball of center 0 and radius σ and $\partial F(t, x)$ stands for the generalized Clarke gradient of $F(t, \cdot)$ at $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$.

In recent years the study of boundary value problems involving the relativistic operator

$$u \mapsto \mathcal{R}u := (\varphi(u'))'$$

has captured a special attention. Mainly, the obtained results are concerned with the existence and multiplicity of solutions for problems involving continuous perturbations of \mathcal{R} and less of them deal with discontinuous perturbations – case in which a differential inclusion problem occurs. In this second direction, we refer to paper [4], where the authors deal with the set-valued problem

$$(\varphi(u'))' \in g(t, u, u'), \quad u(0) - u(T) = 0 = u'(0) - u'(T),$$

where g is a multifunction with nonempty, compact and convex-valued. Their approach relies on fixed-point techniques combined with the lower and upper solutions method. Also, we note paper [13] for other results concerning differential inclusions systems involving singular ϕ -Laplacians and based upon topological methods.

Unlike these articles, the method that we shall use in this paper is variational. The main goal is to extend the results obtained in [8] to the non-smooth problem (1.1). In this view, the idea is to reduce the singular problem (1.1) to an equivalent non-singular one to which we can apply the non-smooth critical point theory developed by Chang [2]. In the first result of the paper, the solutions which we obtain appear either as minimizers

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