NONCONSTANT PERIODIC SOLUTIONS OF A NONLINEAR DELAY EQUATION

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The delay differential equation

$$x'(t) = -ax(t) + bf(x(t-1))$$
(E)

is considered where a > 0, b > 0 and a continuously differentiable function $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ satisfying f(0) = 0, $f'(\xi) > 0$ for $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$. It is well-know that if 0 is hyperbolic then it has a neighborhood in which there exists no nontrivial periodic orbit. By using the exponential dichotomy constants, we focus on the estimation of the optimal size of this neighborhood. The aim is to construct the neighborhood as large as possible in order to be able to carry out a verified numerical step for equation (E).

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