

# Positive periodic solutions of periodic neutral Lotka–Volterra system with state dependent delays <sup>☆</sup>

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## Abstract

By using a fixed point theorem of strict-set-contraction, some new criteria are established for the existence of positive periodic solutions of the following periodic neutral Lotka–Volterra system with state dependent delays

$$\frac{dx_i(t)}{dt} = x_i(t) \left[ r_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t)x_j(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)x'_j(t - \sigma_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right], \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

where  $r_i, a_{ij}, b_{ij}, c_{ij} \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^+)$  ( $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) are  $\omega$ -periodic functions and  $\tau_{ij}, \sigma_{ij} \in C(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, \mathbb{R})$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) are  $\omega$ -periodic functions with respect to their first arguments, respectively.

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**Keywords:** Positive periodic solution; Neutral functional differential equation; Lotka–Volterra system;  $k$ -Set contraction

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## 1. Introduction

Recently, by using the continuation theorem developed by Gaines and Mawhin [1], Yang and Cao [2] studied the existence of positive periodic solutions for the following neutral Lotka–Volterra system with delays

$$\frac{dN_i(t)}{dt} = N_i(t) \left[ a_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_{ij}(t) N_j(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) N_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t)) - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) N'_{ij}(t - \gamma_{ij}(t)) \right], \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $a_i, \beta_{ij}, b_{ij}, c_{ij}, \tau_{ij}, \gamma_{ij}$  are nonnegative continuous  $\omega$ -periodic functions. However, the verification of the important assumption that the operator  $N: X \rightarrow X$  is  $L$ -compact is incomplete. The reason why the verification is incomplete is the same as that pointed out by Lu and Ge in [3]. Also, by using an existence theorem for neutral functional differential equations developed in [4,5], Fang [6] studied the existence of positive periodic solutions of (1.1). Under the transformation  $N_i(t) = e^{x_i(t)}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , Fang first rewrote the above equation in the following form

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ x_i(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{c_{ij}(t)}{1 - \tau'_{ij}(t)} e^{x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t))} \right]' \\ &= a_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_{ij}(t) e^{x_j(t)} - \sum_{j=1}^n \left( b_{ij}(t) - \left( \frac{c_{ij}(t)}{1 - \tau'_{ij}(t)} \right)' \right) e^{x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t))}, \\ & \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

and made use of the existence theorem to obtain the existence of at least one periodic solution  $x^*(t) = (x_1^*(t), x_2^*(t), \dots, x_n^*(t))^T$  of (1.2). Then he claimed that  $N^*(t) = (e^{x_1^*(t)}, e^{x_2^*(t)}, \dots, e^{x_n^*(t)})^T$  is a positive periodic solution of (1.1). Unfortunately, according to his proof, he only proved that (1.2) has at least one continuous periodic solution  $x^*(t)$  satisfying that

$$x_i^*(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{c_{ij}(t)}{1 - \tau'_{ij}(t)} e^{x_j^*(t - \tau_{ij}(t))}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

are differentiable. However, in general,  $x^*(t)$  is not differentiable. So,  $N^*(t)$  is not necessarily a solution of (1.1).

The main purpose of this paper is by using a fixed point theorem of strict-set-contraction to establish new criteria to guarantee the existence of positive periodic solutions of the following neutral Lotka–Volterra system with state dependent delays

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx_i(t)}{dt} = x_i(t) & \left[ r_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) x_j(t) - \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right. \\ & \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) x'_j(t - \sigma_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right], \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \end{aligned} \quad (1.3)$$

where  $r_i, a_{ij}, b_{ij}, c_{ij} \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^+)$  ( $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) are  $\omega$ -periodic functions and  $\tau_{ij}, \sigma_{ij} \in C(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, \mathbb{R})$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) are  $\omega$ -periodic functions with respect to their first arguments, respectively. Obviously, (1.1) is a special case of system (1.3).

For convenience, we introduce the notation

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_i &:= e^{-\int_0^\omega r_i(s) ds}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \\ M_{ij} &= \int_0^\omega [\delta_j a_{ij}(s) + \delta_j b_{ij}(s) - c_{ij}(s)] ds, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ \hat{M}_{ij} &= \int_0^\omega [a_{ij}(s) + b_{ij}(s) + c_{ij}(s)] ds, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ f^M &= \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \{f(t)\}, \quad f^m = \min_{t \in [0, \omega]} \{f(t)\},\end{aligned}$$

where  $f$  is a continuous  $\omega$ -periodic function.

Throughout this paper, we assume that:

- (H<sub>1</sub>)  $\delta_i := e^{-\int_0^\omega r_i(s) ds} < 1, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$
- (H<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta_j a_{ij}(t) + \delta_j b_{ij}(t) - c_{ij}(t) \geq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m.$
- (H<sub>3</sub>)  $(1 + r_i^m) \frac{\delta_i^2 M_{ij}}{1 - \delta_i} \geq \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \{a_{ij}(t) + b_{ij}(t) + c_{ij}(t)\},$   
 $i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m.$
- (H<sub>4</sub>)  $\frac{\hat{M}_{ij}(r_i^M - 1)}{\delta_i(1 - \delta_i)} \leq \min_{t \in [0, \omega]} \{\delta_j a_{ij}(t) + \delta_j b_{ij}(t) - c_{ij}(t)\},$   
 $i = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m.$
- (H<sub>5</sub>)  $\left[ \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{1 - \delta_i}{\delta_i^2 \min_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{M_{ij}\}} \right\} \right] \left[ \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}^M \right\} \right] < 1.$

## 2. Preliminaries

In order to obtain the existence of a periodic solution of system (1.3), we first make the following preparations:

Let  $E$  be a Banach space and  $K$  be a cone in  $E$ . The semi-order induced by the cone  $K$  is denoted by “ $\leq$ .” That is,  $x \leq y$  if and only if  $y - x \in K$ . We also use the notations  $\nless$  and  $\nless$  that mean  $x \nless y$  if and only if  $y - x \notin K$  and  $x \nless y$  if and only if  $x - y \notin K$ , respectively. In addition, for a bounded subset  $A \subset E$ , let  $\alpha_E(A)$  denote the (Kuratowski) measure of non-compactness defined by

$$\alpha_E(A) = \inf \left\{ \delta > 0: \text{there is a finite number of subsets } A_i \subset A \right. \\ \left. \text{such that } A = \bigcup_i A_i \text{ and } \text{diam}(A_i) \leq \delta \right\},$$

where  $\text{diam}(A_i)$  denotes the diameter of the set  $A_i$ .

Let  $E, F$  be two Banach spaces and  $D \subset E$ , a continuous and bounded map  $\Phi : D \rightarrow F$  is called  $k$ -set contractive if for any bounded set  $S \subset D$  we have

$$\alpha_F(\Phi(S)) \leq k\alpha_E(S).$$

$\Phi$  is called strict-set-contractive if it is  $k$ -set-contractive for some  $0 \leq k < 1$ .

The following lemma cited from Refs. [7,8] which is useful for the proof of our main results of this paper.

**Lemma 2.1.** [7,8] *Let  $K$  be a cone of the real Banach space  $X$  and  $K_{r,R} = \{x \in K : r \leq \|x\| \leq R\}$  with  $R > r > 0$ . Suppose that  $\Phi : K_{r,R} \rightarrow K$  is strict-set-contractive such that one of the following two conditions is satisfied:*

- (i)  $\Phi x \not\leq x, \forall x \in K, \|x\| = r$  and  $\Phi x \not\leq x, \forall x \in K, \|x\| = R$ .
- (ii)  $\Phi x \not\geq x, \forall x \in K, \|x\| = r$  and  $\Phi x \not\geq x, \forall x \in K, \|x\| = R$ .

Then  $\Phi$  has at least one fixed point in  $K_{r,R}$ .

In order to apply Lemma 2.1 to system (1.3), we set

$$C_\omega^0 = \{x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T : x \in C^0(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n), x(t + \omega) = x(t)\}$$

with the norm defined by  $\|x\| = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|_0$  where  $|x_i|_0 = \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \{|x_i(t)|\}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , and

$$C_\omega^1 = \{x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T : x \in C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^n), x(t + \omega) = x(t)\}$$

with the norm defined by  $\|x\|_1 = \max\{\|x\|, \|x'\|\}$ . Then  $C_\omega^0, C_\omega^1$  are all Banach spaces. Define the cone  $K$  in  $C_\omega^1$  by

$$K = \{x : x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)^T \in C_\omega^1, x_j(t) \geq \delta_j |x_j|_1, t \in [0, \omega], j = 1, 2, \dots, n\}, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $|x_j|_1 = \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \{|x_j(t)|, |x'_j(t)|\}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

Let the map  $\Phi$  be defined by

$$(\Phi x)(t) = ((\Phi_1 x)(t), (\Phi_2 x)(t), \dots, (\Phi_n x)(t))^T, \quad (2.2)$$

where  $x \in K, t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (\Phi_i x)(t) = & \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, s) x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s) x_j(s) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(s) x_j(s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right. \\ & \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(s) x'_j(s - \sigma_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right] ds \end{aligned}$$

and

$$G_i(t, s) = \frac{e^{-\int_t^s r_i(\theta) d\theta}}{1 - e^{-\int_0^\omega r_i(\theta) d\theta}}, \quad s \in [t, t + \omega], i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

It is easy to see that  $G_i(t + \omega, s + \omega) = G_i(t, s)$  and

$$\frac{\delta_i}{1 - \delta_i} \leq G_i(t, s) \leq \frac{1}{1 - \delta_i}, \quad s \in [t, t + \omega], i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

In the following, we will give some lemmas concerning  $K$  and  $\Phi$  defined by (2.1) and (2.2), respectively.

**Lemma 2.2.** Assume that  $(H_1)$ – $(H_3)$  hold.

- (i) If  $\max\{r_i^M, i = 1, 2, \dots, n\} \leq 1$ , then  $\Phi : K \rightarrow K$  is well defined.
- (ii) If  $(H_4)$  holds and  $\min\{r_i^M, i = 1, 2, \dots, n\} > 1$ , then  $\Phi : K \rightarrow K$  is well defined.

**Proof.** For any  $x \in K$ , it is clear that  $\Phi x \in C^1(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ . In view of (2.2), for  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\Phi_i x)(t + \omega) &= \int_{t+\omega}^{t+2\omega} G_i(t + \omega, s) x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s) x_j(s) \right. \\
 &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(s) x_j(s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \\
 &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(s) x'_j(s - \sigma_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right] ds \\
 &= \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t + \omega, u + \omega) x_i(u + \omega) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(u + \omega) x_j(u + \omega) \right. \\
 &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(u + \omega) x_j(u + \omega - \tau_{ij}(u + \omega, x_1(u + \omega), \dots, x_n(u + \omega))) \\
 &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(u + \omega) x'_j(u + \omega - \sigma_{ij}(u + \omega, x_1(u + \omega), \dots, x_n(u + \omega))) \right] du \\
 &= \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, u) x_i(u) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(u) x_j(u) \right. \\
 &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(u) x_j(u - \tau_{ij}(u, x_1(u), \dots, x_n(u))) \\
 &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(u) x'_j(u - \sigma_{ij}(u, x_1(u), \dots, x_n(u))) \right] du \\
 &= (\Phi_i x)(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.
 \end{aligned}$$

That is,  $(\Phi x)(t + \omega) = (\Phi x)(t)$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . So  $\Phi x \in C_\omega^1$ . In view of  $(H_2)$ , for  $x \in K$ ,  $t \in [0, \omega]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) x_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) x'_j(t - \sigma_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t)))
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\geq \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t)x_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(u, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \\
&\quad - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)|x'_j(t - \sigma_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t)))| \\
&\geq \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_j a_{ij}(t)|x_j|_1 + \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_j b_{ij}(t)|x_j|_1 - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)|x_j|_1 \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^n [\delta_j a_{ij}(t) + \delta_j b_{ij}(t) - c_{ij}(t)]|x_j|_1 \\
&\geq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

Therefore, for  $x \in K$ ,  $t \in [0, \omega]$ , we find

$$\begin{aligned}
|\Phi_i x|_0 &\leq \frac{1}{1 - \delta_i} \int_0^\omega x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s)x_j(s) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(s)x_j(s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(s)x'_j(s - \sigma_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right] ds
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
(\Phi_i x)(t) &\geq \frac{\delta_i}{1 - \delta_i} \int_t^{t+\omega} x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s)x_j(s) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(s)x_j(s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(s)x'_j(s - \sigma_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right] ds \\
&= \frac{\delta_i}{1 - \delta_i} \int_0^\omega x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s)x_j(s) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(s)x_j(s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(s)x'_j(s - \sigma_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right] ds \\
&\geq \delta_i |\Phi_i x|_0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

Now, we show that  $(\Phi_i x)'(t) \geq \delta_i |(\Phi_i x)'|_0$ ,  $t \in [0, \omega]$ . From (2.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(\Phi_i x)'(t) &= G_i(t, t + \omega)x_i(t + \omega) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t + \omega)x_j(t + \omega) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t)x_j(t + \omega - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t + \omega), \dots, x_n(t + \omega))) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)x'_j(t + \omega - \sigma_{ij}(t, x_1(t + \omega), \dots, x_n(t + \omega))) \right]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& -G_i(t, t)x_i(t) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t)x_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right. \\
& \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)x'_j(t - \sigma_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right] + r_i(t)(\Phi_i x)(t) \\
& = r_i(t)(\Phi_i x)(t) - x_i(t) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t)x_j(t) \right. \\
& \quad + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \\
& \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)x'_j(t - \sigma_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right], \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \tag{2.5}
\end{aligned}$$

It follows from (2.3) and (2.5) that if  $(\Phi_i x)'(t) \geq 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , then

$$(\Phi_i x)'(t) \leq r_i(t)(\Phi_i x)(t) \leq r_i^M(\Phi_i x)(t) \leq (\Phi_i x)(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \tag{2.6}$$

On the other hand, from (2.4), (2.5) and  $(H_3)$ , if  $(\Phi_i x)'(t) < 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
& -(\Phi_i x)'(t) \\
& = x_i(t) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t)x_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t)x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right. \\
& \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)x'_j(t - \sigma_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right] - r_i(t)(\Phi_i x)(t) \\
& \leq |x_i|_1 \sum_{j=1}^n [a_{ij}(t) + b_{ij}(t) + c_{ij}(t)] |x_j|_1 - r_i^m(\Phi_i x)(t) \\
& \leq (1 + r_i^m) \frac{\delta_i^2}{1 - \delta_i} |x_i|_1 \sum_{j=1}^n \left\{ \int_0^\omega [\delta_j a_{ij}(s) + \delta_j b_{ij}(s) - c_{ij}(s)] |x_j|_1 ds \right\} - r_i^m(\Phi_i x)(t) \\
& = (1 + r_i^m) \int_t^{t+\omega} \frac{\delta_i}{1 - \delta_i} \delta_i |x_i|_1 \sum_{j=1}^n [\delta_j a_{ij}(s) + \delta_j b_{ij}(s) - c_{ij}(s)] |x_j|_1 ds - r_i^m(\Phi_i x)(t) \\
& \leq (1 + r_i^m) \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, s)x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s)x_j(s) \right. \\
& \quad + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(s)x_j(s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \\
& \quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(s)x'_j(s - \sigma_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right] ds - r_i^m(\Phi_i x)(t)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq (1+r_i^m) \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t,s)x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s)x_j(s) \right. \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t)x_j(s-\tau_{ij}(s,x_1(s),\dots,x_n(s))) \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)x'_j(s-\sigma_{ij}(t,x_1(s),\dots,x_n(s))) \right] ds - r_i^m(\Phi_i x)(t) \\
&= (1+r_i^m)(\Phi_i x)(t) - r_i^m(\Phi_i x)(t) \\
&= (\Phi_i x)(t), \quad i=1,2,\dots,n.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

It follows from (2.6) and (2.7) that  $|(\Phi_i x)'|_0 \leq |\Phi_i x|_0$ ,  $i=1,2,\dots,n$ . So  $|\Phi_i x|_1 = |\Phi_i x|_0$ ,  $i=1,2,\dots,n$ . By (2.4) we have  $(\Phi_i x)(t) \geq \delta_i |\Phi_i x|_1$ ,  $i=1,2,\dots,n$ . Hence,  $\Phi x \in K$ . The proof of (i) is complete.

(ii) In view of the proof of (i), we only need to prove that  $(\Phi_i x)'(t) \geq 0$ ,  $i=1,2,\dots,n$ , imply

$$(\Phi_i x)'(t) \leq (\Phi_i x)(t), \quad i=1,2,\dots,n.$$

From (2.3), (2.5), (H<sub>2</sub>) and (H<sub>4</sub>), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
(\Phi_i x)'(t) &\leq r_i(t)(\Phi_i x)(t) - \delta_i |x_i|_1 \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t)x_j(t) \right. \\
&\quad + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t)x_j(t-\tau_{ij}(t,x_1(t),\dots,x_n(t))) \\
&\quad \left. - \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t)|x'_j(t-\tau_{ij}(t,x_1(t),\dots,x_n(t)))| \right] \\
&\leq r_i(t)(\Phi_i x)(t) - \delta_i |x_i|_1 \sum_{j=1}^n [\delta_j a_{ij}(t) + \delta_j b_{ij}(t) - c_{ij}(t)] |x_j|_1 \\
&\leq r_i^M(\Phi_i x)(t) - \delta_i |x_i|_1 \frac{r_i^M - 1}{\delta_i(1-\delta_i)} \sum_{j=1}^n \int_0^\omega [a_{ij}(s) + b_{ij}(s) + c_{ij}(s)] |x_j|_1 ds \\
&\leq r_i^M(\Phi_i x)(t) - (r_i^M - 1) \int_t^{t+\omega} \frac{1}{1-\delta_i} |x_i|_1 \\
&\quad \times \sum_{j=1}^n [|x_j|_1 a_{ij}(s) + |x_j|_1 b_{ij}(s) + |x_j|_1 c_{ij}(s)] ds \\
&\leq r_i^M(\Phi_i x)(t) - (r_i^M - 1) \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t,s)x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s)x_j(s) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(s)x_j(s-\tau_{ij}(s,x_1(s),\dots,x_n(s))) \right]
\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
& + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(s) \left| x'_j(s - \sigma_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right| \Big] ds \\
& \leq r_i^M (\Phi_i x)(t) - (r_i^M - 1) \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, s) x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s) x_j(s) \right. \\
& \quad + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(s) x_j(s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \\
& \quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(s) x'_j(s - \sigma_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right] ds \\
& = r_i^M (\Phi_i x)(t) - (r_i^M - 1) (\Phi_i x)(t) \\
& = (\Phi_i x)(t), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.
\end{aligned}$$

The proof of (ii) is complete.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3.** Assume that  $(H_1)$ – $(H_3)$  hold and  $R \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{\sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}^M\} < 1$ .

- (i) If  $\max\{r_i^M, i = 1, 2, \dots, n\} \leq 1$ , then  $\Phi: K \cap \bar{\Omega}_R \rightarrow K$  is strict-set-contractive.
- (ii) If  $(H_4)$  holds and  $\min\{r_i^M, i = 1, 2, \dots, n\} > 1$ , then  $\Phi: K \cap \bar{\Omega}_R \rightarrow K$  is strict-set-contractive.

Here  $\Omega_R = \{x \in C_\omega^1: \|x\|_1 < R\}$ .

**Proof.** We only need to prove (i), since the proof of (ii) is similar. It is easy to see that  $\Phi$  is continuous and bounded. Now we prove that  $\alpha_{C_\omega^1}(\Phi(S)) \leq (R \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{\sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}^M\}) \alpha_{C_\omega^1}(S)$  for any bounded set  $S \subset \bar{\Omega}_R$ . Let

$$\eta = \alpha_{C_\omega^1}(S).$$

Then, for any positive number  $\varepsilon < (R \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{\sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}^M\})\eta$ , there is a finite family of subsets  $\{S_i\}$  satisfying  $S = \bigcup_i S_i$  with  $\text{diam}(S_i) \leq \eta + \varepsilon$ . Therefore

$$\|x - y\|_1 \leq \eta + \varepsilon \quad \text{for any } x, y \in S_i. \quad (2.8)$$

As  $S$  and  $S_i$  are precompact in  $C_\omega^0$ , it follows that there is a finite family of subsets  $\{S_{ij}\}$  of  $S_i$  such that  $S_i = \bigcup_j S_{ij}$  and

$$\|x - y\| \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{for any } x, y \in S_{ij}. \quad (2.9)$$

In addition, for any  $x \in S$  and  $t \in [0, \omega]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
|(\Phi_i x)(t)| &= \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, s) x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s) x_j(s) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(s) x_j(s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right] ds
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) x'_j \left( s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s)) \right) \Big] ds \\
& \leq \frac{R^2}{1 - \delta_i} \int_0^\omega \sum_{j=1}^n [a_{ij}(s) + b_{ij}(s) + c_{ij}(s)] ds := H_i
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
|(\Phi_i x)'(t)| &= \left| r_i(t)(\Phi_i x)(t) - x_i(t) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) x_j(t) \right. \right. \\
& \quad + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \\
& \quad \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) x'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right] \right| \\
& \leq r_i^M H_i + R^2 \sum_{j=1}^n (a_{ij}^M + b_{ij}^M + c_{ij}^M), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\|(\Phi x)\| \leq \sum_{i=1}^n H_i$$

and

$$\|(\Phi x)'\| \leq \sum_{i=1}^n (r_i^M H_i) + R^2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n (a_{ij}^M + b_{ij}^M + c_{ij}^M).$$

Applying the Arzela–Ascoli theorem, we know that  $\Phi(S)$  is precompact in  $C_\omega^0$ . Then, there is a finite family of subsets  $\{S_{ijk}\}$  of  $S_{ij}$  such that  $S_{ij} = \bigcup_k S_{ijk}$  and

$$\|\Phi x - \Phi y\| \leq \varepsilon \quad \text{for any } x, y \in S_{ijk}. \quad (2.10)$$

From (2.3), (2.5) and (2.8)–(2.10) and  $(H_2)$ , for any  $x, y \in S_{ijk}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|(\Phi_i x)' - (\Phi_i y)'\| \\
&= \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \left\{ \left| r_i(t)(\Phi_i x)(t) - r_i(t)(\Phi_i y)(t) \right. \right. \\
& \quad - x_i(t) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) x_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right. \\
& \quad \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) x'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right] \right. \\
& \quad \left. + y_i(t) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) y_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))) \right] \right|
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) y'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))) \Big] \Big\} \\
\leq & \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \left\{ |r_i(t) [(\Phi_i x)(t) - (\Phi_i y)(t)]| \right\} \\
& + \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \left\{ \left| x_i(t) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) x_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right. \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) x'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right] \right. \\
& \left. - y_i(t) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) y_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))) \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) y'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))) \right] \right| \Big\} \\
\leq & r_i^M |(\Phi_i x) - (\Phi_i y)|_0 \\
& + \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \left\{ \left| x_i(t) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) x_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right. \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) x'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) \right] \right. \\
& \left. - \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) y_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))) \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) y'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))) \right] \right| \Big\} \\
& + \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \left\{ \left| \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) y_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))) \right. \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) y'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))) \right] [x_i(t) - y_i(t)] \right| \Big\} \\
\leq & r_i^M \varepsilon + |x_i|_0 \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^n [a_{ij}(t) |x_i(t) - y_i(t)| \right. \\
& + b_{ij}(t) |x_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) - y_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t)))| \\
& \left. + c_{ij}(t) |x'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t))) - y'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t)))| \right\} \\
& + \max_{t \in [0, \omega]} \left\{ \left| \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t) y_j(t) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) y_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))) \right. \right. \right.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(t) y'_j(t - \tau_{ij}(t, y_1(t), \dots, y_n(t))) \Big] [x_i(t) - y_i(t)] \Big\| \\
& \leq r_i^M \varepsilon + R \left( \sum_{j=1}^n [a_{ij}^M + b_{ij}^M] \right) \varepsilon + |x_i|_0 \left( \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}^M \right) (\eta + \varepsilon) \\
& + R \left( \sum_{j=1}^n [a_{ij}^M + b_{ij}^M + c_{ij}^M] \right) \varepsilon \\
& = |x_i|_0 \left( \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}^M \right) \eta + \hat{H}_i \varepsilon,
\end{aligned} \tag{2.11}$$

where

$$\hat{H}_i = r_i^M + 2R \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}^M + 2R \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}^M + 2R \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}^M, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

From (2.10) and (2.11) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\Phi x - \Phi y\|_1 & \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|_0 \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}^M \right) \eta + \varepsilon \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{H}_i \\
& = R \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}^M \right\} \eta + \varepsilon \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{H}_i \quad \text{for any } x, y \in S_{ijk}.
\end{aligned}$$

As  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrary small, it follows that

$$\alpha_{C_\omega^1}(\Phi(S)) \leq \left( R \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}^M \right\} \right) \alpha_{C_\omega^1}(S).$$

Therefore,  $\Phi$  is strict-set-contractive. The proof of Lemma 2.3 is complete.  $\square$

### 3. Main result

Our main result of this paper is as follows:

**Theorem 3.1.** Assume that (H<sub>1</sub>)–(H<sub>3</sub>), (H<sub>5</sub>) hold.

- (i) If  $\max\{r_i^M, i = 1, 2, \dots, n\} \leq 1$ , then system (1.3) has at least one positive  $\omega$ -periodic solution.
- (ii) If (H<sub>4</sub>) holds and  $\min\{r_i^M, i = 1, 2, \dots, n\} > 1$ , then system (1.3) has at least one positive  $\omega$ -periodic solution.

**Proof.** We only need to prove (i), since the proof of (ii) is similar. Let  $R = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{1 - \delta_i}{\delta_i^2 \min_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{M_{ij}\}} \right\}$  and  $0 < r < \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{\delta_i(1 - \delta_i)}{\max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{M_{ij}\}} \right\}$ . Then we have  $0 < r < R$ . From Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3, we know that  $\Phi$  is strict-set-contractive on  $K_{r,R}$ . In view of (2.5), we see that if there exists  $x^* \in K$  such that  $\Phi x^* = x^*$ , then  $x^*$  is one positive  $\omega$ -periodic solution of system (1.3). Now, we shall prove that condition (ii) of Lemma 2.1 holds.

First, we prove that  $\Phi x \not\geq x$ ,  $\forall x \in K$ ,  $\|x\|_1 = r$ . Otherwise, there exists  $x \in K$ ,  $\|x\|_1 = r$  such that  $\Phi x \geq x$ . So  $\|x\| > 0$  and  $\Phi x - x \in K$ , which implies that

$$(\Phi_i x)(t) - x_i(t) \geq \delta_i |\Phi_i x - x_i|_1 \geq 0 \quad \text{for any } t \in [0, \omega], \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (3.1)$$

Moreover, for  $t \in [0, \omega]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\Phi_i x)(t) &= \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, s) x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s) x_j(s) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(t) x_j(s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(s) x'_j(s - \sigma_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right] ds \\ &\leq \frac{1}{1 - \delta_i} |x_i|_0 \sum_{j=1}^n \int_0^\omega [a_{ij}(s) + b_{ij}(s) + c_{ij}(t)] |x_j|_1 ds \\ &\leq \frac{1}{1 - \delta_i} \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{\hat{M}_{ij}\} |x_i|_0 \sum_{j=1}^n |x_j|_1 \\ &= \frac{\max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{\hat{M}_{ij}\}}{1 - \delta_i} r |x_i|_0 \\ &< \delta_i |x_i|_0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

From (3.1) and (3.2), we find

$$\|x\| \leq \|\Phi x\| < \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \{\delta_i\} \|x\| < \|x\|,$$

which is a contradiction. Finally, we prove that  $\Phi x \not\leq x$ ,  $\forall x \in K$ ,  $\|x\|_1 = R$  also holds. For this case, we only need to prove that

$$\Phi x \not\leq x, \quad x \in K, \quad \|x\|_1 = R.$$

Suppose, for the sake of contradiction, that there exists  $x \in K$  and  $\|x\|_1 = R$  such that  $\Phi x \leq x$ . Thus  $x - \Phi x \in K \setminus \{0\}$ . Furthermore, for any  $t \in [0, \omega]$ , we have

$$x_i(t) - (\Phi_i x)(t) \geq \delta_i |x_i - \Phi_i x|_1 > 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (3.3)$$

In addition, for any  $t \in [0, \omega]$ , we find

$$\begin{aligned} (\Phi_i x)(t) &= \int_t^{t+\omega} G_i(t, s) x_i(s) \left[ \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(s) x_j(s) + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}(s) x_j(s - \tau_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}(s) x'_j(s - \sigma_{ij}(s, x_1(s), \dots, x_n(s))) \right] ds \\ &\geq \frac{\delta_i}{1 - \delta_i} \delta_i |x_i|_1 \sum_{j=1}^n |x_j|_1 \int_0^\omega [\delta_j a_{ij}(s) + \delta_j b_{ij}(s) - c_{ij}(s)] ds \\ &= \frac{\delta_i^2}{1 - \delta_i} |x_i|_1 \sum_{j=1}^n M_{ij} |x_j|_1, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|\Phi x\| &= \sum_{i=1}^n |(\Phi_i x)|_0 \\
 &\geq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\delta_i^2}{1-\delta_i} |x_i|_1 \sum_{j=1}^n M_{ij} |x_j|_1 \\
 &\geq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\delta_i^2 \min_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{M_{ij}\}}{1-\delta_i} |x_i|_1 \sum_{j=1}^n |x_j|_1 \\
 &\geq \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{\delta_i^2 \min_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{M_{ij}\}}{1-\delta_i} \right\} \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|_1 \sum_{j=1}^n |x_j|_1 \\
 &\geq \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ \frac{\delta_i^2 \min_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{M_{ij}\}}{1-\delta_i} \right\} R^2 = R.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

From (3.3) and (3.4), we obtain

$$\|x\| > \|\Phi x\| \geq R,$$

which is a contradiction. Therefore, condition (ii) of Lemma 2.1 holds. By Lemma 2.1, we see that  $\Phi$  has at least one nonzero fixed point in  $K_{r,R}$ . Therefore, system (1.3) has at least one positive  $\omega$ -periodic solution. The proof of Theorem 3.1 is complete.  $\square$

**Example.** Consider the following system

$$\begin{cases}
 x'_1(t) = x_1(t) \left[ \frac{1 + \cos t}{4\pi} - (5 - 2 \sin t)x_2(t) - (2 + \sin t)x_1(t - \tau_{11}(t)) \right. \\
 \quad \left. - \frac{1 - \sin t}{20} x'_2(t - \sigma_{12}(t)) \right], \\
 x'_2(t) = x_2(t) \left[ \frac{1 - \sin t}{20} - (3 - 2 \cos t)x_1(t) - (4 - \sin t)x_2(t - \tau_{21}(t)) \right. \\
 \quad \left. - \frac{2 - \cos t}{10} x_1(t - \sigma_{21}(t)) \right],
 \end{cases} \tag{3.5}$$

where  $\tau_{11}, \tau_{21}, \sigma_{12}, \sigma_{21} \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$  are  $2\pi$ -periodic functions. Obviously,

$$\begin{aligned}
 r_1(t) &= \frac{1 + \cos t}{4\pi}, & r_2(t) &= \frac{1 - \sin t}{20}, & a_{11}(t) &= 0, & a_{12}(t) &= 5 - 2 \sin t, \\
 a_{21}(t) &= 3 - 2 \cos t, & a_{22}(t) &= 0, & b_{11}(t) &= 2 + \sin t, & b_{12}(t) &= 0, \\
 b_{21}(t) &= 0, & b_{22}(t) &= 4 - \sin t, & c_{11}(t) &= 0, & c_{12}(t) &= \frac{1 - \sin t}{20}, \\
 c_{21}(t) &= \frac{2 - \cos t}{10}, & c_{22}(t) &= 0, & r_1^m &= 0, & r_2^m &= 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta_1 &= e^{-\frac{1}{2}} < 1, & \delta_2 &= e^{-\frac{\pi}{10}} < 1, & M_{11} &= 4\pi \delta_1 = 7.6219, \\
 M_{12} &= 10\pi \delta_2 - \frac{\pi}{10} = 22.946, & M_{21} &= 6\pi \delta_1 - \frac{2\pi}{5} = 10.176,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$M_{22} = 8\pi\delta_2 = 18.357,$$

$$\min_{1 \leq j \leq 2} \{M_{1j}\} = M_{11} = 7.6219, \quad \min_{1 \leq j \leq 2} \{M_{2j}\} = M_{21} = 10.176,$$

$$\delta_1 a_{11}(t) + \delta_1 b_{11}(t) - c_{11}(t) = \delta_1 b_{11}(t) = \delta_1 (2 + \sin t) > 0,$$

$$\delta_1 a_{21}(t) + \delta_1 b_{21}(t) - c_{21}(t) = \delta_1 (3 - 2 \cos t) - \frac{2 - \cos t}{10} \geq e^{-\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1}{10} > 0,$$

$$\delta_2 a_{12}(t) + \delta_2 b_{12}(t) - c_{12}(t) = 5\delta_2 - \frac{1}{20} - \left(2\delta_2 - \frac{1}{20}\right) \sin t \geq 3\delta_2 > 0,$$

$$\delta_2 a_{22}(t) + \delta_2 b_{22}(t) - c_{22}(t) = \delta_2 (4 - \sin t) \geq 0,$$

$$(1 + r_1^m) \frac{\delta_1^2 M_{11}}{1 - \delta_1} > \pi > 3 = \max_{t \in [0, 2\pi]} \{a_{11}(t) + b_{11}(t) + c_{11}(t)\},$$

$$(1 + r_1^m) \frac{\delta_1^2 M_{12}}{1 - \delta_1} > 3\pi > 7.1 = \max_{t \in [0, 2\pi]} \{a_{12}(t) + b_{12}(t) + c_{12}(t)\},$$

$$(1 + r_2^m) \frac{\delta_2^2 M_{21}}{1 - \delta_2} > 2\pi > 5.3 = \max_{t \in [0, 2\pi]} \{a_{21}(t) + b_{21}(t) + c_{21}(t)\},$$

$$(1 + r_2^m) \frac{\delta_2^2 M_{22}}{1 - \delta_2} > 5\pi > 5 = \max_{t \in [0, 2\pi]} \{a_{22}(t) + b_{22}(t) + c_{22}(t)\},$$

$$\left\{ \frac{1 - \delta_1}{\delta_1^2 \min_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{M_{ij}\}} \right\} = \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{1}{2}}}{4\pi e^{-\frac{3}{2}}} = 0.14033,$$

$$\left\{ \frac{1 - \delta_2}{\delta_2^2 \min_{1 \leq j \leq n} \{M_{ij}\}} \right\} = \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{\pi}{10}}}{e^{-\frac{\pi}{5}} (6\pi e^{-\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{2\pi}{5})} = 0.04966,$$

$$c_{11}^M + c_{12}^M = c_{12}^M = \frac{1}{10} < 1, \quad c_{21}^M + c_{22}^M = c_{22}^M = \frac{3}{10} < 1.$$

Hence

$$\left[ \max_{1 \leq i \leq 2} \left\{ \frac{1 - \delta_i}{\delta_i^2 \min_{1 \leq j \leq 2} \{M_{ij}\}} \right\} \right] \left[ \max_{1 \leq i \leq 2} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^2 c_{ij}^M \right\} \right] < 1.$$

Therefore, (H<sub>1</sub>)–(H<sub>3</sub>), (H<sub>5</sub>) hold and  $r_i^M \leq 1$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . According to Theorem 3.1, system (3.5) has at least one positive  $2\pi$ -periodic solution.

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